

Moccasin Track News

Volume 3 issue 5

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September-October 2008

Notes from GATOTA President:

Our next meeting is slated for the Etowah Indian Mounds, 1 p.m., Sat., Sept. 13. We normally meet in the mornings, but this time we're scheduling around a presentation that will be given by Dr. Max E. White, author of *The Archaeology and History of the Native Georgia Tribes*, an articulate, concise, and reader-friendly introduction to the rich history of native peoples of the Southeast. White, associate professor of anthropology at Piedmont College, will speak at 2:30 p.m., following the membership meeting.

Here's the latest rundown on several TOTA-related projects. Please contact me at wjeffbishop@yahoo.com if you have any questions or input on any of these important topics:

1. Tomorrow (which is Friday, Aug. 22 as I write this article) I am scheduled to meet with Drs. Brian LaHaie, Alfred Vick, and Dean Dan Nadenicek of the University of Georgia's Landscape Architecture Department to discuss how students at UGA might help us develop visualizations for our proposed Brainerd Road trail project from Cedartown to Chattanooga. These visualizations will be used in the presentations we will make to city and county governments to gain letters of endorsement that we will then use as support in grant applications. I will provide an update of our meeting to the membership on Sept. 13.

2. Speaking of grant applications, thanks to Myra Reidy, Linda Baker, the Funk Heritage Center

in Waleska, and the Georgia Humanities Council, on Tuesday, August 26, from 4-6 p.m. there will be a free grant writing workshop. Participants in the workshop will learn the basics of grant writing and how to prepare competitive applications – a skill we desperately need to develop within TOTA-GA. Please attend, if you can, and help us obtain more funding for wayside exhibits, interpretation, and trail development in Georgia. Registration is free, but required. Please contact Dr. Joseph Kitchens, (770)720-5970 or Ms. Arden Williams, (800)523-6202.

3. The latest on the Cedartown wayside exhibits, straight from the mouth of the interpretive specialist at the National Park Service who has been working with us on this project, Andrea Sharon: "I wanted to bring you up to date on the Cedartown wayside exhibit project. I have been slowly digging out of the backlog of projects and have one more for the El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro NHT to finish up in the next two weeks. Once that is off my desk, I can then turn my attention to the Cedartown project. I do have all your old emails with text, etc. Once I can lay those out in draft form I will email a PDF to you for your review. This will also give us the basis for the RFP for the graphics." Andrea said she plans to retire from the NPS in Jan. '09, so she plans to "do my best to finish up this project, or at least get to the stage where my replacement can pick it up without starting from scratch." Encouraging news.

4. We are in the process of

developing a TOTA Speakers Bureau. This has become necessary because we are now being inundated with requests for speaking engagements all over North Georgia. This is certainly a good thing, because it indicates there's an interest in the subject of Indian Removal and Native American culture and history, but we don't need to send the same one or two people trekking all over the state. Please, if you have an interest in public speaking and would like to represent our organization at events like Rotary Club meetings, Kiwanis, historical society meetings, school functions, etc., let us know your subject area of expertise and give us a rundown of what your presentation would be all about (as well as some of your qualifications). The TOTA board will then "enroll" you in the speakers bureau and send you out and about when we get a request from your area. Please contact Linda Baker at badnil@alltel.net or myself at the email listed above with your inquiries. We'd love to have you on board.

5. Aug. 30 and 31 is the Rome Running Waters Pow Wow, and we will have a booth at this event, thanks to our fundraising chair, Peggy Stanfield. If you think you can help her out, please contact Peggy at pjstanfi@yahoo.com. This comes from Peggy: "Linda Fletcher and I will go to the park Friday afternoon and start the set up process. She is bringing her tent.

Linda said Pam Bennett asked that her table be next to ours - that will be great ... Call me at 404 788-5744 if you need to reach me. I don't know (continued on page 4)

The Trail of Tears Association – September Meeting

By Linda Baker

The next meeting of the Georgia Chapter of the Trail of Tears Association will be held on Saturday, September 13, 2008 at the Etowah Indian Mounds Historic Site in Cartersville. PLEASE NOTE – the meeting will start at 1:00 p.m. This is a departure from our usual 10:30 a.m. meeting time. At 2:30 p.m., the Site museum will present a lecture by noted historian Dr. Max White on pre-historic Creek and Cherokee Indians of north Georgia. The GA TOTA meeting is free and open to the public; however, there is a fee to visit the site and hear the lecture. The admission fee is \$4 for adults, \$3.50 for senior citizens and \$2.50 for children ages 6 to 18.

Dr. White is a native Georgian and has done research in the areas of archaeology, history, ethnohistory and cultural anthropology. He is also the author of several articles in professional journals and has written two books. The Etowah Mounds Site was the home to several thousand Native Americans between 1000 AD and 1550 AD. This is referred to as the Mississippian Culture time period and it ends at around the time of Hernando DeSoto's arrival in what is now the southeastern United States. The Etowah site symbolizes a society rich in ritual. One of the mounds is 63 feet high with a flat top which was used as a platform for the home of the priest-chief. Other mounds were used for burial – nobility were buried in elaborate clothing accompanied by the items they would need in the afterlife. The museum contains many of the artifacts found during early excavation of the site: shell beads, feathers, hair and body ornaments and two stone effigies which recently traveled to several museums around the country.

The Etowah Indian Mounds Site has also initiated a project to replace the current ground cover in the area with native grasses. A combination of 8 grasses and numerous wildflowers that in the past dotted nearby fields will be planted in the next 5 to 10 years. Currently there are eight 8-foot by 8-foot plots with various grasses and wildflower specimens on display so visitors can get an idea of what the finished landscape will look like.

The Trail of Tears Association and its major partner, the National Park Service, are dedicated to identifying and preserving sites associated with the removal of Native Americans from the Southeast. We are also committed to educating the public about this tragic period in our country's history. The TOTA was created to support the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail established by an act of Congress in 1987. The Association consists of nine state chapters representing the nine states that the Cherokees and other tribes traveled through on their way to present-day Arkansas and Oklahoma. The forced removal of the Cherokees was completed in 1838.

You need not be a member to attend our chapter meetings nor have Indian heritage, just an interest and desire to learn more about this fascinating subject. For more information about the TOTA, visit the National website at www.nationaltota.org or the Georgia Chapter website at www.gatrailoftears.org. For questions about the TOTA or the September meeting, contact Linda Baker at 770-704-6338 or badnil@alltel.net.

The Etowah Indian Mounds Site is located in Cartersville. Take I-75 to Exit 288 (Main Street). Go west 2.5 miles to downtown Cartersville. Cross the railroad tracks and continue for a short way on GA 113. Follow the signs that will point the way to the Site. For more information, contact the Etowah Mounds Site at 770-387-3747. HOPE YOU CAN ATTEND!!

Membership Renewals:

All TOTA members will soon get their membership renewal forms for 2009 in the mail. On the form there are several membership categories in addition to the basic \$25 membership fee. Please be advised that if you join at one of the higher categories, the extra money you send will stay with National TOTA. GA TOTA will still get only \$10 back which is what we get back from the basic membership fee. If you want to make an extra donation to the Georgia Chapter, there will be a space on the form to do that so please read the form carefully to make sure that your wishes are carried out.

SRC, ARTOTA to offer pre-conference Research Day

A research day at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock's Sequoyah Research Center will kick-off the September 22-25, 2008, conference of the Trail of Tears Association.

Sponsored by TOTA's Arkansas chapter, the schedule at SRC will include Cherokee Trail of Tears presentations with new information on the people of the Benge Detachment and on the route of the Bell Detachment as clarified by military journals from Muscogee Removal. There will also be opportunities for researchers to exchange information about the many removal routes traveled by southeast tribes. Details will be provided with the conference schedule. Workshop sessions are free, but pre-registration will be required.

Throughout the TOTA conference, SRC will be open 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and, by then, will be located in new quarters in Suite 500 of University Plaza at the northeast corner of Asher and University avenues, now part of the UALR campus.

SRC has amassed the largest collection of primary Indian Removal documents outside of the National Archives. The collection includes microfilm, photocopies, transcriptions, and site reports as well as TOTA's archives. Some of the most recent additions were located by members of the Oklahoma chapter during two 2007 research trips to Washington, D.C., funded by the National Park Service's Challenge Cost Share program. An every-name index of all non-microfilm Cherokee Removal documents currently at SRC will be ready by the conference.

At its new location SRC will also have a gallery to display selections from the Dr. J.W. Wiggins Native American Art Collection. Watch for more details to be posted at www.ualr.edu/sequoyahcenter.

Dear TOTA Colleagues - Thank you so very much for your donation to Georgia Battlefields Association in memory of Charlie. He was devoted to preserving Georgia Civil War historic sites and your contribution to GBA will assist with that process.

Sincerely, Linda Geiger

If you haven't seen this year's production of "Unto These Hills," now's the time to take the family to Cherokee for an unforgettable evening of song and dance, plus discounted rates. When you purchase a general admission adult ticket, you receive two children's tickets absolutely free (a \$16 value). Call 800-438-1601 for more information. The infamous drama will give its last performance of the 2008 season on

August 30, at 7:30 p.m., so don't miss this



Events of Interest:

New Echota State Park :

will be hosting the annual Frontier Day celebration on October 18, 2008, 9 AM to 4:30 PM. Please try to attend as it is an educational and enjoyable event! Also volunteers are needed so if you can help out, please contact New Echota at 706-624-1321.

Sweetwater Creek State Park

September 20-21, 2008

Commemorate life in New Manchester, a Civil War-era mill community, with history tours of the ruins alongside the beautiful rapids of Sweetwater Creek. There will be Civil War reenactors,

artifact displays and living history presentations, as well as an arts and crafts show with food for sale. \$3 parking. (770) 732-5871.

Running Water Powwow - Cherokee Homecoming 19th Annual Running Water Powwow sponsored by: Native American Preservation Association of Georgia and will be held at: Ridge Ferry Park. Cherokee Homecoming and Ripe Corn Festival, on the banks of the Oostanaula River. Contact info: Frank Blair 706-232-1714 or 706-506-8336, FMBlair@aol.com.

Be sure to check out other events at gastateparks.org.

(continued from page 1—president’s message)

how difficult this is, but I am sure I won't have the doctor's permission to do anything with my right arm (*Peggy had rotator cuff surgery for the 2nd time*) that week-end. Physical therapy is still going at a snail’s pace to prevent another tear. Volunteers to man the booth are Linda Fletcher, Linda Geiger, Linda Baker, Leslie & Rod, Cailey and David, Katrina Stanfield Estes, Phil Jones (probably just Sunday), and me of course. Anyone else, we will welcome you. Just let me know what day and hours are best for you and I'll work out a schedule so we don't exhaust anyone.”

6. I have set up a TOTA-GA Facebook page. On Facebook, just type in “Trail of Tears Association” and it should pop up. I haven’t had a chance to do much with it yet, but I will work on it in the coming weeks. I also plan to have a TOTAbase workshop sometime this fall to guide folks through the use of our online database. I’m still looking for someplace to host this event where we can set up computer work stations.

7. Congratulations to our founder, Dola Davis, for her re-appointment to office as one of our two reps on the National TOTA board. We are thankful for her willingness to serve. (Speaking of National, don’t forget about our upcoming National TOTA conference, September 22-25, at Little Rock, Arkansas. We’ll have more info at our meeting.)

8. Congratulations also to the Pamela Bennett and the Friends of Red Clay for a wonderful event they held last month. If you missed it, you really missed something special.

As usual, there’s a lot going on, and never enough time (or space!) to talk about it all. (For instance, I didn’t even get around to our CCSP for the Georgia fort sites. More on that later!) Please get involved! We have a list of ways to volunteer on our website, at www.gatrailoftears.org. Just log into TOTAbase and then click onto the box that says “We Need You to Volunteer.” (If you don’t have a username and password yet, just email treasurer@gatrailoftears.org and Linda Geiger will set you up ... if you ask nicely. ☺)

Thanks for your interest and support of TOTA and its Georgia chapter. Together we can accomplish great things. With Congress expected to incorporate Georgia into the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail officially this fall, there will be much to do!

Peace and blessings,
Jeff Bishop

GATOTA needs local researchers:

Are you an amateur historian or do you like to read about the local history of your county? We need your help. The Georgia Chapter of the Trail of Tears is looking for ordinary people to form a committee in their county to do research on the history of that county or to pick the brain of their local historical society to find records, maps, and the local legends or folklore concerning the Native American heritage. We are not just limited to the Cherokee removal but all five of the Civilized Tribes history and that portion that affects Georgia. The last five or six years we have uncovered information that dispels the myths and misconceptions of many historical writers of the earliest documentation of the state.

Many records are located in the state archives or in the National Archives in Washington DC. *But* we have learned over time that some of these important records are located at local historical society offices/archives or even in locked collections in the local libraries. How can you help? Ask questions. Dig through these records. Find the oldest pictures taken by the old timers. Just as the stash of newspapers from the 1830’s were found last year in Canton Georgia so too are dozens maybe more of such items to be found if we just ask.

Old pictures? We are certain that there are pictures around of old historical sites that are now long gone. Once it is gone there is no recouping it, except through pictures. Modern technology allows us the ability to photograph or copy these pictures for posterity. Many of the older generation have such pictures passed down to them and sometimes they don’t know what they have. Get to know people in your county or town and ask around about who might have such items.

Sometimes we look at things with blind eyes. We can thank J.B. Tate of Cartersville for being curious enough to double check on something that caught his eye one day. He was curious about an old looking book in a case at the Bartow County Historical Society offices and asked to see it. It turned out to be the first edition of the poems of John Rollin Ridge. The copyright had lapsed and GATOTA had an opportunity to reproduce this book with a historical preface researched and written by J. B. Tate and Wanda Patterson in 2005.

Since then we have come across two more books that we can reproduce with annotated and updated information that will dispel some of the incorrect facts.

When reading about the local history remember to check the bibliography and for mention of local papers or collections that might have been used to put the book together. In George Gordon Ward’s book on Gilmer County it was noticed that a store ledger had been referred to and Leslie Thomas decided to track it down. It was still in the hands of a descendant and in beautiful condition to be copied. It referred to the months prior to removal and was invaluable towards learning the types of items used by the militia prior and during removal.

If you can help email Leslie at aeriehollow@ellijay.com or give her a call... 706-635-3864.

Georgia Chapter of the Trail of Tears Association

Minutes – July 12, 2008
Meeting at the Sweetwater Creek State Park Interpretive Center
Lithia Springs, Georgia

Jeff Bishop, President, called the meeting to order at 10:35 AM. There were 25 attendees, including 10 visitors. Jeff welcomed first time visitors and new members and asked them to introduce themselves. Jeff welcomed Jerra Quinton, Executive Director of the National Trail of Tears Association.

Jeff introduced our guest speaker, Michael Wren, GA TOTA member and researcher of Alabama and Georgia native history. The theme of Michael's talk was "Rebuilding a Community". It has been said that the Trail of Tears began at every Cherokee doorstep. But what did a Cherokee homestead look like? What did a Cherokee "town" look like? Michael explained that we can reconstruct pre-removal Cherokee life by using several tools: valuation records, emigration rolls, censuses, books about Cherokee history, registers of payments etc. Much of this information is on the TOTAbase which can be accessed only by GA TOTA members.

Secretary's Report – Linda Baker

The minutes of the May membership meeting were accepted as written in the July/August newsletter posted prior to the July meeting. *(The newsletter is available to read at www.gatrailoftears.org. If you do not have computer access, the newsletter will continue to be mailed to you. If you would prefer to have the hard copy mailed to you, contact Leslie Thomas at 706-635-3864 or aeriehollow@ellijay.com).*

Treasurer's Report – Linda Geiger

There was no Treasurer's report as Linda Geiger was not present. Linda's husband Charles passed away on June 22nd. In his memory, the GA Chapter Sunshine Fund made a donation to the Georgia Battlefields Association. Charles was passionate about Civil War history and preserving and interpreting Civil War sites.

Vice-President's Report – Leslie Thomas

Leslie announced that we need researchers from all north GA counties. These volunteers need to research historical records at their local libraries, churches and other archives as well as form alliances with their local historical societies, civic groups and government entities. If you are willing to be a researcher for your county, please contact Leslie.

Old Business – none

New Business

Jeff recognized visitor Eddie Lanham who gave a brief overview of his effort to get the McIntosh Trail designated as a Georgia scenic byway. This trail is named after the famous Creek Chief William McIntosh.

Jeff thanked the following members who attended city and county commission meetings in order to accept the 170th Anniversary proclamation on behalf of the Georgia Chapter: Linda Baker, Doris Blaylock, Shirley Brown, Mimi Jo Butler, Jean Cox, Tommy Cox, Joan Dooley, Linda Fletcher, Cailey Fowler, David Gomez, Beth Grubbs, Jim Lay, Myra Reidy, Ansley Saville, Marvin Sowder, J. B. Tate, Leslie and Rod Thomas, Linda Turner and Rev. Charles Walker.

Jerra spoke about the 13th annual Trail of Tears Conference to be held in Little Rock, Arkansas from Sept. 22 - 25, 2008. All members should have received registration packets by now. More information can be found at www.nationaltota.org. August 25th is the deadline to get the special group rate at the Doubletree Hotel. Everyone is welcome to attend this conference. The registration fee is higher for non-members.

Cailey Fowler has accepted the Board's appointment as Preservation Chair. If you would like to help Cailey with this effort, please contact her at 706-234-0537 or f_marlin@bellsouth.net.

On June 14th, the Board held a special all-day work session. The primary accomplishment was a review of the

Chapter Bylaws Template given to us by National TOTA. We documented the changes we would like made to the template as well as the changes we would make specifically for the Georgia chapter. Both versions have been reviewed by the entire Board and sent to Jerra and the National Bylaws committee.

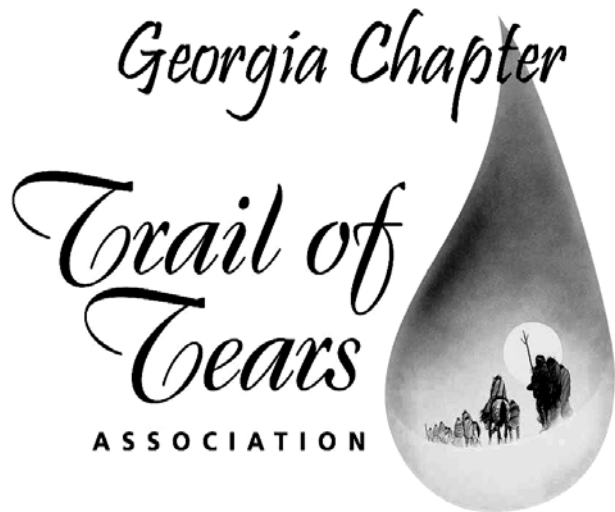
Jeff announced that he submitted an application to the National Park Service for a grant which would support the work needed to locate removal camp and fort sites. The grant is \$60,000 which is twice as much as Jeff asked for. Jeff had to find \$30,000 in matching funds in order to get the extra \$30,000 which he did. We need to thank Jeff for his hard work and success getting this grant. **Way to go, Jeff!!**

Jerra announced that the Wamp legislation (Rep. Zach Wamp of Tennessee is the primary sponsor of this bill), which will extend the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail into Georgia, should be passed in August. Once Georgia is included in the Trail, it will be easier to get sites certified.

At the May Board meeting, the subject of Georgia TOTA endorsement was brought up. From time to time, we have groups or individuals who want to use the GA TOTA to lend credibility or bring attention to their cause or event. Any group or individual who wants endorsement from the GA Chapter needs to present their case to the Board at a membership or Board meeting.

Jeff recognized Doug Mabry who recently received a Preservation Achievement award from the Historic Preservation Division of the GA Dept. of Natural Resources for saving the Pine Mountain Gold Mine district in Villa Rica from destruction and turning it into a park and education center. Doug said that the gold museum also references the Creek and Cherokee history of the area.

Jerra asked GA members to please keep track of their time spent on TOTA activities. These volunteer hours are very important when applying for federal funds. Jerra needs all forms sent to her before the end of 2008. If you need a *(continued page 6)*



119 Rising Star Road
Ellijay, GA. 30536

Jeff Bishop—President
Leslie Thomas—Vice President/
Programs/Newsletter
Linda Baker—Secretary/Publicity
Linda Geiger—Treasurer
Dola Davis—National Director
Tommy Cox—National Director
<http://www.gatrailoftears.com>.

You are receiving this newsletter because you have not indicated you have email computer service. GATOTA is going green and only mailing newsletters to members without computer access. If you do have computer access and would like to help us go paperless and save the postage please email Leslie Thomas at aeriehollow@ellijay.com.

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sample volunteer log sheet, please contact Linda Baker at 770-704-6338 or badnil@alltel.net.

The next meeting of the GA Chapter will be on September 13th at the Etowah Indian Mounds Historic Site in Cartersville.

Please note: The business meeting will start at 1:00 PM. At 2:30 PM noted historian Dr. Max White will speak on pre-historic Creek and Cherokee Indians of north GA. Regular admission will be charged to attend this lecture. For more information about the event, visit www.georgiastateparks.org.

Marvin Sowder has accepted the Board's appointment as 2008 Nominations Chair. Dola Davis' term as National TOTA Board representative ends this year; however, she can serve again and has indicated the willingness to do so for another 4-year term. If you would like to nominate yourself or someone for this position, please contact Marvin at 706-278-3925 or msowder@dalton.net.

Thank you to all who donated to the Sunshine Fund at this meeting - \$9.23 was collected. Thank you also to Tommy and Kathy Cox who donated two \$25 Walmart gift cards to the Sunshine Fund at the May Board meeting. The current balance is \$18.97.

Door prizes donated by Marvin and Linda and Bob Baker were handed out.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 PM. There was no Board meeting on this date.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Baker, Secretary