

May-June 2009  
Volume 4, Issue 3

# Moccasin Track News

## *At last, things seem to be moving into high gear.*

1. Georgia is now officially part of the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail! The bill was signed into law just a few weeks ago. This is the culmination of years of effort on the part of many different groups, and it will add 2,845 miles of new trail, including about 400 miles in Georgia. The primary focus in the first phase of these additions in Georgia will be interpreting the 15 Removal fort and campsites and the routes taken between them. Wayside exhibits will be placed at sites where we can arrange to obtain landowner permission.

2. One of these fort/camp sites, Cedartown, is well on its way to being interpreted. Dr. Sarah Hill has agreed to take the lead on this project, and with the help of new National Park Service Trail Historian Frank Connor, things seem to be moving ahead briskly. Approximately five wayside exhibits will be placed at the Cedartown park, where the Removal camp was located. Dr. Hill completed wording for the text of the exhibits this week, and we hope for it to be placed at the park this year, after suffering a number of delays and setbacks in previous years. This should be a great “showpiece” for us, and a model for how we may interpret other fort/camp sites.

3. Officials in LaFayette have also expressed interest in working with us to interpret Fort Cumming. Cailey Fowler met with LaFayette officials recently – the good news is that the probable fort site is on public property, just like Cedartown. This may be a good candidate for our next round of interpretation and wayside

exhibits. Stay tuned.

4. Archaeologist Erin Andrews has agreed to work with us to develop a plan of action on our recently approved fort/camp site archaeology project. Having limited funds, the idea is to get the most possible “bang for the buck” by working with public colleges and universities, non-profit groups, and with professional archaeologists who are willing to donate some time and expertise. Archeology will help us to confirm fort and camp locations that have been otherwise difficult to nail down. We look forward to working with Erin and her colleagues on these projects.

5. Linda Woodward Geiger is taking the lead on working with the Atlanta History Center to preserve a highly important newspaper collection on microfilm. We’re very excited about this project, which will make a large number of rare 19<sup>th</sup> century newspapers available to researchers for the first time.

6. On June 20, due to massive interest, we will be sponsoring a workshop on Cherokee genealogy at New Echota. Thanks to our vice-president, Leslie Thomas, and to Linda Woodward Geiger for taking this on. This will be a great chance for us to provide some good information to our current members and to reach out to possible new members, as well.

7. As I write this, I am preparing to head to Nashville to help re-write the Trail of Tears Association’s strategic plan. This is appropriate given the newly approved expansion, and I can’t

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wait to share the things we come up with.

8. Congratulations are in order to our friends and members up at Red Clay (Pam Bennett, Linda Fletcher, Linda Turner, the Cavenders, etc.)! What a wonderful event the Joint Council was. Linda Baker and I thoroughly enjoyed our visit. If only we could have arranged a booth! If you're interested in helping to volunteer to man a booth at one of these events, please let us know! We could definitely use some volunteer help.

9. Congratulations to the producers of the new PBS documentary, "We Shall Remain". It may just be the best documentary on the Trail of Tears that's ever been made. Certainly we all enjoyed the "sneak preview" in Atlanta earlier this month. We feel privileged to have been included in such a high-quality production, and we hope it will help educate the public about the events that led up to Indian Removal in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

I'll see everyone at the May meeting! As you can see, there's a lot to discuss, and much to be excited about!

**Jeff Bishop**  
**GATOTA**  
**President**

*The Georgia Chapter received a thank you note from Kathy and Tommy Cox for the donation made by the Chapter's Sunshine Fund in memory of Kathy's father, Mr. E. G. Fowler who passed away in January. The donation was made to Mr. Fowler's church, Pleasant Valley Baptist Church in Waycross, GA.*

## **Trail of Tears at the Old Stone Church**

The next meeting of the Georgia Chapter of the Trail of Tears Association will be held on Saturday, May 9, 2009 at 10:30 a.m. at the Old Stone Church in Ringgold, GA. The speaker will be Dr. Sarah Hill – historian, author of an award-winning book on Southeastern Cherokee women and independent researcher of Southeastern Indian history and culture. She is currently writing a book about the removal of the Cherokee Nation from Georgia. Dr. Hill spent several years researching the camps and forts used during Cherokee removal from Georgia in 1838 and wrote a document in 2005 for the National Park Service called Cherokee Removal: Forts along the Georgia Trail of Tears. Since that report was finished, she has found more information and will bring us up to date on this subject.

The Old Stone Church was built in 1850. During the Civil War it was used as a hospital by both the Union and Confederate armies. Bloodstains are still visible on the wooden floor; the pews, which were turned into water troughs for the horses, still bear the marks of the horses' teeth. The building has been preserved and is now a museum and the home of the Catoosa County Historical Society. It contains Civil War and Native American artifacts and information.

In addition to the Stone Church, there are other interesting historic sites in Ringgold. The Whitman-Anderson House was built in 1858 and was used as the headquarters of General Sherman during the Battle of Ringgold Gap. The Ringgold Railroad Depot, also made of stone, has also been preserved. It was built in 1849 and is one of the few surviving antebellum depots in the state. Just two miles north of Ringgold along the RR tracks is a monument to the "General", the locomotive captured by James Andrews and Union soldiers at Big Shanty (now Kennesaw). The monument is located at the site where the "General" ran out of fuel and the Union mission was foiled. Portions of the original Old Federal Road are also still visible near Ringgold.

The Trail of Tears Association was created to support the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail established by an act of Congress in 1987. The TOTA is dedicated to identifying and preserving sites associated with the removal of Native Americans from the Southeast. The Association consists of nine state chapters representing the nine states that the Cherokee and other tribes traveled through on their way to Indian Territory (now Oklahoma).

Our meetings are free and open to the public. You need not have Native American ancestry to attend our meetings, just an interest and desire to learn more about this fascinating and tragic period in our country's history. For more information about the TOTA, visit the National TOTA website at [www.nationaltota.org](http://www.nationaltota.org) and the Georgia Chapter website at [www.gatrailoftears.org](http://www.gatrailoftears.org). For further information about the May meeting, contact Leslie Thomas at 706-635-3864 or [aeriehollow@ellijay.com](mailto:aeriehollow@ellijay.com).

**Georgia Chapter of the Trail of Tears Association**  
**Minutes – March 14, 2009**  
**Meeting at the Historic Train Depot, Newnan, Georgia**

Jeff Bishop, President, called the meeting to order at 10:35 AM. There were 45 attendees, including 28 visitors mainly from the Newnan area. Jeff introduced Elizabeth Beers, History Center Coordinator, who welcomed us and gave us a brief talk about the role of Newnan during the Civil War and the historic exhibits at the Depot. Jeff welcomed first time visitors and new members and asked them to introduce themselves.

Jeff introduced the guest speaker, Chris Haveman, Creek Indian specialist. He is currently a graduate student at Auburn University majoring in History with a focus on Creek Indian removal. Mr. Haveman told us about the pivotal moments in Creek Indian removal: the role of Creek Chief William McIntosh; the many emigrations over a period of several years; and the tragic events on the way to Indian Territory.

After a short break, the business meeting resumed at 11:45 AM.

The minutes of the January 2009 membership meeting were approved as recorded in the March/April newsletter and made available to membership prior to the March meeting.

Linda Geiger, Treasurer, presented the March financial report. The balance on 1/1/09 was \$12,645.45. Total income since Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> was \$1197.50, from membership dues and donations. Total expense since Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> was \$460.07 primarily due to the cost of newsletters and the honorarium we are now giving to our presenters. The balance as of March 14 is \$13,382.88. The Treasurer's Report was approved without revision. The Total Income in 2008 reported at the January meeting was incorrect; the correct amount is \$2718.73.

President's Report – Jeff Bishop

Jeff asked members to contact their U.S. Congressmen and urge them to vote for the Trail of Tears expansion, one provision of which is to include Georgia in the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail.

*(Secretary update: The Omnibus Public Lands Bill, which included the Trail of Tears expansion, has been passed by the House and Senate and was signed by President Obama into law!)*

Jeff asked members to please volunteer their time to the Chapter in any way they can. GA TOTA needs researchers in every county in north Georgia, people to help staff our booth at various events, people who can research and/or write grants etc. Contact Jeff at [wjeffbishop@yahoo.com](mailto:wjeffbishop@yahoo.com) or Secretary Linda Baker at [badnil@windstream.net](mailto:badnil@windstream.net) if you are willing to help out.

Jeff welcomed Board member JB Tate back following JB's back surgery. JB spoke about his successful efforts to save the Corra Harris property in Bartow County following the decision by the current owner, Jodie Hill, that he would no longer be able to care for it. The Corra Harris home (built around a Cherokee cabin) and grounds are now under the stewardship of Kennesaw State University. Thank you, JB!

JB also told us that member and former Chapter Secretary Wanda Patterson is seriously ill at Emory University Hospital. The Sunshine Fund will send a card and flowers.

Jeff announced that the GA Chapter has withdrawn from the project to digitize removal records found in the Treasury Dept. in Washington DC by researcher Stephen Dennis due to the enormous size and scope of the project. Mr. Dennis has recently become a Chapter member and is writing the history of LaFayette and Walker County, GA. Jeff will keep us informed of further developments. The Alabama Chapter may continue to pursue the project.

Jeff asked for announcements from the floor.

Fundraising Chair Peggy Stanfield announced that we would have a booth at the Rednation Pow Wow in Winston, GA on March 21-22. Thank you to member Ron Black for telling us about the pow wow and getting free booth space for us. Peggy has also procured free booth space at the Rome and Cedartown pow wows coming up later this year. Please contact Peggy at [pjstanfi@yahoo.com](mailto:pjstanfi@yahoo.com) if you are willing to help man our booths at these events.

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Member Michael Wren announced that the next meeting of the Alabama Chapter TOTA would be on April 4<sup>th</sup> at Lake Guntersville State Park which is also going to be the site of the TOTA National Conference October 5-8, 2009.

Treasurer Linda Geiger's speaking engagements have included speaking to the Dept. of Defense in Savannah, to the historical society in Tunnel Hill and an upcoming talk at the Cobb County Library on March 24<sup>th</sup>. She also will be one of the guest speakers at the Funk Heritage Center Genealogy Workshop on March 21<sup>st</sup>.

Linda Geiger and Michael Brubaker of the Atlanta History Center are currently working on applying for a grant to microfilm the Magruder collection of newspapers and other documents found in the attic of the Magruder family home in Canton, GA. The collection is now housed at the Atlanta History Center. Dr. Sarah Hill has already spent a lot of time examining and making copies of some of the articles.

Doug Mabry announced that he is working on a documentary about Banning Mills. Banning Mills has been preserved and is currently a retreat center in Whitesburg, GA. Banning was a thriving mill town in the late 1800s and had up to 10 mills operating, including textile and paper mills.

Jeff said he would be speaking at the Chieftains Museum in Rome on March 19<sup>th</sup> about Running Waters, home of Major Ridge's son John Ridge.

#### Vice-President's Report – Leslie Thomas

The next GA TOTA membership meeting is on Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 AM at the Old Stone Church in Ringgold, GA. Dr. Sarah Hill will be our guest speaker. Please check the GA website at [www.gatrailoftears.org](http://www.gatrailoftears.org) for details or contact Leslie at 706-635-3864 or [aeriehollow@ellijay.com](mailto:aeriehollow@ellijay.com).

Leslie also said that she has redone the GA Chapter trifold brochure to include photos of the 4 currently certified sites in Georgia: Chieftains Museum/Major Ridge Home, John Ross house in Rossville, Chief Vann House and New Echota State Historic Sites.

#### Secretary's Report – Linda Baker

Linda reported on membership renewals for 2009. Almost half of the 2008 membership has not yet renewed for 2009. We expect to receive more renewals before the end of March and hopefully will have better news at the May meeting. Membership Chair Marvin Sowder will call those members without emails to remind them to renew and Linda will email a reminder to the members with emails. Members not renewing by March 31<sup>st</sup> will lose their access to the online research database TOTAbase as well as to all the historical documents and information located on the GA Chapter website.

Linda talked about the PBS documentary *We Shall Remain* – this is a 5-part series spanning 300 years of Native American history. The third episode is about the Trail of Tears and Georgia Public Broadcasting has invited TOTA members and guests to attend a special screening of it on March 24<sup>th</sup>. Much of the Trail of Tears episode was filmed in Georgia, notably at the Chief Vann House and New Echota. The series will air on GPB every Monday at 9:00 PM from April 13 to May 11. The Trail of Tears episode will air on April 27<sup>th</sup>.

Linda thanked visitor Billy Avery for bringing a new book to our attention, *From Georgia Tragedy to Oklahoma Frontier*, about Chilly McIntosh, son of Creek Chief William McIntosh. The book was written by Billie Jane McIntosh, great-great granddaughter of Chilly McIntosh.

#### Other Announcements

Thank you to all who donated very generously to the Sunshine Fund. The prior balance of \$34.07 was used for a memorial donation for Kathy Cox's father and get-well gift for JB Tate. The new balance is \$63.86.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 PM. A board meeting was held following lunch.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Linda Baker*, Secretary

## **Announcements:**

### **Eastern Band Museum Cherokee North Carolina**

#### **Museum Courses July 2009**

Cherokee History and Culture Institute July 7-13 Dr. Barbara Duncan and Cherokee presenters

Cherokee Language Immersion July 14-31 Bo Taylor and Cherokee elders

Cherokee History and Culture—Level II Intensive Seminar July 22-28 Dr. Barbara Duncan

Call for more information 828-497-3481

#### **Warriors of AniKituhwa Schedule 2009**

The Warriors of AniKituhwa are official Cultural Ambassadors of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, sponsored by the Museum of the Cherokee Indian.

May 23: **Fading Voices Festival**, Snowbird Community

June 13: **Cherokee Voices Festival** will feature more than twenty-five enrolled tribal members demonstrating the best of traditional arts and crafts: river cane baskets, stamped pottery, wood carving, stone carving, blowgun making, and more. In addition, The Warriors of AniKituhwa will perform the Cherokee War Dance/Welcome Dance and other traditional dances with audience participation. Continuous performances of traditional dance, storytelling, gospel music, and flute music will go on from 10 am to 5 pm. Indian dinners will be available at noon. Living history reenactors will demonstrate at their encampments throughout the day.

The festival is open free to the public, and is sponsored by the North Carolina Arts Council and Museum of the Cherokee Indian. The museum is a Primary Arts Organization for the N.C. Arts Council. 828-497-3481

July 17-18: **Festival of Native Peoples**

Sept 18-19: **Southeast Tribes Cultural Arts Celebration**

#### **New Echota State Park Genealogy Seminar**

June 20, 2009 - 9 a.m. until 12 noon. New Echota will host a Native American Genealogy Seminar sponsored by the Georgia Chapter of the Trail of Tears Association.

Linda Woodward-Geiger, Certified Genealogist, Lecturer and Leslie Thomas, Vice President of the GATOTA have put together a much requested workshop on "Finding Your Native American Indian Roots". Registration is necessary to insure your seat since space is limited. There will be a fee of \$15, which includes entrance to the park. You may register online at [gatrailoftears.org](http://gatrailoftears.org) using paypal or send your check payable to *TOTA, Georgia Chapter* for \$15.00 and mail to GATOTA-Treasurer, Linda Geiger 10718 Big Canoe, Jasper, GA. 30143.

**GEORGIA CHAPTER OF THE  
TRAIL OF TEARS ASSOCIATION**

119 Rising Star Rd.  
Ellijay, GA. 30536



**We're on the Web!**

See us at:

**gatrailoftears.org**

**Jeff Bishop**

President

**Leslie Thomas**

V. P., Programs, &  
Newsletter Editor

**Linda Baker**

Secretary/Publicity

**Linda Geiger**

Treasurer

**Dola Davis**

National Director

**Tommy Cox**

National Director

*You are receiving this newsletter because you have not indicated you have email computer service. GATOTA has gone green and mails newsletters to new members and those without computer access. If you would like to help us go green, contact*

*Leslie at:*

*aeriefollow@ellijay.com*

Events of Interest:

*May 2 & 3rd 2009 "old mill pond" Intertribal gathering at Aragon, Georgia (between Rome and Rockmart) Contact Jerry Stroup 770-748-8816 for more info. If you can help man the booth on behalf of the GATOTA please contact Peggy Stanfield at 404-788-5744*

Dahlonega Gold Museum

Saturday June 6, 2009

Peek back at life in the 1830s with demonstrations on gold panning, blacksmithing, shingle making, pioneer tools, candle making, folk toys, spinning, pine needle basket making and more. \$3.50-\$5. 706-864-2257.

Etowah Mounds State Park

June 6, 2009, 10-4

Site archaeologists Adam King and Kent Reilly will discuss recent findings at Etowah Indian Mounds. Afterward, climb the top of a mound and walk along the Etowah River. This is an American Hiking Society's National Trails Day event. \$2.50-\$5. 770-387-3747.

June 27, 2009, 10-4

Cherokee artist Tommy Wildcat will perform a flute concert. Dancers and drummers will provide entertainment throughout the day while inviting participation from the public. Wear your dancing shoes. Admission is \$2.50-\$5. 770-387-3747.

Chief Vann House Days

July 25, 2009

Watch crafts from the 1800s at the best-preserved Cherokee Indian home. Cherokee tribal members along with local demonstrators show the art of blacksmithing, candle making, weaving, spinning, quilting, doll making, chair and basket weaving, and more. \$3.50 - \$5. 706-695-2598.

*Check out the websites for more events.*