

Moccasin Track News

Volume 4 Issue 6

November-December 2009

We've been very focused this year, to wit:

1st Objective: To get placed officially onto the National Trail of Tears Historic Trail by act of Congress. We wrote letters, placed phone calls. MISSION ACCOMPLISHED.

2nd Objective: Preserve State Archaeologist's position, which was threatened with elimination. We wrote letters, placed phone calls. MISSION ACCOMPLISHED.

3rd Objective: Restore hours / positions to Vann House / Etowah / Echota. We've written letters and sent emails and made phone calls, to no avail. The Cherokee Nation stepped in to make a cash offer, to no avail. (it was a one time offer and the DNR didn't feel it would help the overall situation) STILL IN PROCESS.

4th Objective: Get archaeological project off the ground. We've sat down and mapped out the project with Erin Andrews and her staff members. Now she is in talks with LaFayette officials to visit the Ft. Cumming site, which should occur shortly. MISSION ACCOMPLISHED (see related article last page).

5th Objective: Get wayside exhibits up in Cedartown. We've made great strides, and have the wording for the signs finished. Now we're just waiting on the NPS to get its new interpretive specialist in place, which will happen in mid-October. Then the interpretive specialist will help us select an artist, design the waysides, etc. We've been promised that Cedartown will be her top priority. STILL IN PROCESS (will be happening at the Cedartown City Council meeting)

6th Objective: Take the newsletter off Leslie's hands. Now we've got the blog, which may make the newsletter unnecessary. MISSION ACCOMPLISHED. (still mailing to those without email or computer access)

7th Objective: Get waysides up at Ft. Cumming, modeled on Cedartown. This should be a top priority once we get Cedartown moving forward and once we have the archaeology finished.

8th Objective: Prioritize road signs. We now have Mike Wren to head up this effort.

We've had a lot of media coverage this year, and we're even working for the first

time to save an endangered structure. We're also working with Dr. Georgiana DeWeese to get some definitive dates on a number of other structures.

So I would say we're doing quite well. Of course, there's always more to do, and always room for improvement. But let's not beat ourselves up. Stay positive. This is a slow process, by nature, since so many parties are involved. Let's just all keep our eyes on the prize. This has been an especially tough year, because we've been forced to be "reactionary," going from crisis to crisis, putting out fires. Next year shouldn't be nearly so full of "shocks to the system."

Jeff Bishop, president

The policy of the National Trail of Tears Association is to keep all donations above the basic membership fee UNLESS you specify on the form that you want all or part of your donation to go back to your state chapter. If you wish all or part of your donation to be returned to the Georgia Chapter, please be sure to enter that information on your 2010 renewal form. Thank you to all who made donations in 2009!

November Trail of Tears Meeting

By Linda Baker

The next meeting of the Georgia Chapter of the Trail of Tears Association will be held on Saturday, November 14, 2009 at 10:30 a.m. at the Marsh House in LaFayette, GA. The speaker will be Jeff Bishop, President of the GA Chapter. Fort Cumming, one of Georgia's Cherokee removal stockades, was located in what is now LaFayette. Jeff will share some of the history of this site and bring us up to date on current research being done. Our goal is to get this fort site certified on the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. We also want to interpret the site so that citizens and visitors will know the story of Cherokee removal. The GA TOTA business meeting will follow Jeff's talk and we will announce the results of the election of officers for 2010.

The Marsh House was built in 1836 by Spencer and Ruth Marsh and was constructed with slave labor. To the Cherokees, Spencer Marsh was a friend and was known as Estachee. Ninatoya, a Cherokee woman, was also a servant in the Marsh home. She was forcibly removed in 1838 in spite of Marsh's attempts to keep her in Georgia. During the Civil War, the family moved south to escape the fighting in the area. They returned after the war to find blood-soaked floors, hoof prints in the floors and bullet holes in the walls and windows. The house remained in the same family for 150 years. The house is now

owned by Walker County and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

There is no charge to attend the meeting and tour the house. The Marsh House is located at 308 N. Main St. in LaFayette, GA. From the Rome area, take Hwy. 27 North and then take Business 27 into downtown LaFayette. Bus. 27 becomes North Main Street and the Marsh House will be on the right side of the road.

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 and the Georgia Chapter website at www.gatrailoftears.org. For further information about the November meeting, contact Leslie Thomas at 706-635-3864 or aeriehollow@ellijay.com.

Georgia Chapter of the Trail of Tears Association

Minutes – September 12, 2009

Meeting at the New Echota State Historic Site near Calhoun, Georgia

Vice-President Leslie Thomas opened the meeting at 10:35 AM. There were 40 attendees including 13 visitors. Leslie introduced guest speaker David Gomez, Site Manager of New Echota. David informed us about the budget process that resulted in staff and operating cuts. He said that he was optimistic that no further cuts would be made to the historic sites. He also said that New Echota is fortunate to have the support of the Gordon County Historical Society, Gordon County Commissioners, the Cherokee Nation and the Eastern Band of Cherokee. He welcomes more volunteer involvement and to that end has initiated the formation of a Friends of New Echota organization. Former New Echota employee Donna Myers will be the first President. There are several ways to help New Echota: visit often and bring family and friends; join the Friends of Georgia State Parks or Friends of New Echota; volunteer to help with special events; work in the library or at the front desk; help with grounds maintenance. More information will be forthcoming; in the meantime, contact Donna at newechotafriends@yahoo.com if you would like to help in any way.

Special events coming up at New Echota are the free service day at all state parks and historic sites on September 26, Frontier Day on October 17 and the annual candlelight tour on December 5. Please note that the Chief Vann House and Etowah Indian Mounds State Historic Sites have experienced similar cutbacks and also welcome your help and support.

Business Meeting

President Jeff Bishop called the business meeting to order at 11:30 AM.

The minutes of the July meeting were approved without revision as posted in the September newsletter. Secretary Linda Baker received no further corrections to the May meeting minutes as posted in the July newsletter so the May minutes are also approved.

Treasurer Linda Geiger presented the financial report. The balance in our Treasury as of September 8, 2009 was \$13,815.37. (con't next page)

(con't from page 2)

President's Report – Jeff Bishop

Jeff thanked everyone who helped with the GA TOTA booth at the Rome pow wow on Labor Day weekend.

Jeff announced the new blog site www.trailofthetrail.blogspot.com. On this site you will find information about upcoming events and other announcements, information about the activities and projects of the Chapter and a whole lot more.

Rev. Charles Walker has given permission to the GA Chapter to reprint his books for fundraising and also to make sure that the public continues to have the opportunity to enjoy Rev. Walker's research and sketches. Thank you Rev. Walker and also to Doug Mabry and Linda Geiger for their efforts in making this happen.

Jeff introduced the current officers running for re-election and urged membership to vote (election results will be announced at the November 14 membership meeting).

Jeff urged members and friends to continue to contact their elected representatives with concerns about the cutbacks at historic sites and all issues that have a negative impact on our mission to preserve the sites and history related to removal of Native Americans from Georgia (Jeff said letters are more likely to be read than emails).

Michael Wren has been added to the GA TOTA Board of Directors. His primary task will be working on signage for removal sites. Please contact Michael at michael.wren@comcast.net if you are willing to help and/or know of sites where GA TOTA needs to put signs. There are 4 categories of National Park Service signs and there also will be interpretive signage such as that to be placed in Cedartown. See the blog for more information re: signs.

Several possible Cherokee-era buildings are now being tested by dendrochronologist Dr. Georgina DeWeese to verify their age. These include the Gaines Loop Road house, Bannister Bray house, Marvin Taylor house and Johnston house. Please contact Preservation Officer Cailey Fowler at caychase@yahoo.com if you know of other structures which should be tested. The Gaines Loop Road house is in danger of being torn down so we need to work fast and possibly move it to a permanent location.

Other announcements:

Members Doris Blaylock, Linda Fletcher, Linda Turner and friends will have a Trail of Tears exhibit at the Cherokee Capital Fair in Calhoun from September 12 to 19 – in previous years, they have won top prizes for their eye-catching and informative displays and have donated proceeds to GA TOTA;

GA TOTA will have a booth at the Cedartown pow wow October 10 and 11;

This may be the last year for the Prater's Mill festival – the dates are October 10 and 11;

GA TOTA member Susan Springfield will be showing and selling her photographs of historic sites in Cherokee County at the Great Frame Up store in Canton from October 3 to 31 – TOTA members will receive a 10% discount on all purchases.

Vice-President's Report – Leslie Thomas

The next meeting will be on November 14 at the Marsh House in LaFayette, GA. Details will be posted on www.gatrailoftears.org and also in the November newsletter.

Leslie talked about the I-3/Corridor K project. There are several proposed routes connecting Savannah, GA to Knoxville, TN that would cut through the north Georgia mountains and the Smoky Mountain National Park. This proposed highway would also cut through what was once the Cherokee Nation. You can find out more information about this potential highway at <http://www.lumpkincoalition.org/Stop%20I-3.htm> and also a sample letter of protest to write to your elected representatives.

Secretary's Report – Linda Baker

Linda announced that we have exceeded our 2008 membership figures – we now have 180 members, 13 more than we had in 2008.

Linda read a note from Linda Turner to the GA Chapter thanking the chapter for the flowers, cards and prayers following the tragic death of her son in July.

Well-known artist Billy Mack Steele has granted permission to the GA Chapter to reproduce two of his paintings in any manner we wish for fundraising purposes.

Door prizes brought by Tommy and Kathy Cox were given out.

Thank you to all who contributed to the Sunshine Fund. \$15.83 was collected. After taking out money for the bereavement flowers, the balance is now \$33.40.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Baker, Secretary

Events of Interest:

November 14 & 15, 2009 - **Veterans Day Pow Wow and Indian Festival**, Boling Park, Canton, Georgia Saturday 11 a.m. until 9 p.m. Sunday Noon until 6 p.m. \$9 Adults, \$5 Military Veterans, \$5 Kids 6 to 12 Kids 5 and under FREE - Benefiting Cherokee Horse Rescue & My Brothers Keeper. For more information call 770-735-6275.

November 14, 2009 the Funk Heritage Center will be honoring Native American Month with music, crafts and other activities. This is a free afternoon event so you can attend the GA TOTA meeting in the morning and then come to the Funk Museum for this special annual program. The Funk Heritage Center is located on the campus of Reinhardt College in Waleska, GA. For directions and more information, call 770-720-5967.

GaTOTA member Norma Hornack will be presenting 3 puppet shows for Native American month at the **Gritters Library in Marietta**. The shows are on Nov 4, 11 and 18 all at 3:30 PM. The subjects will be Cherokee myths, Trail of Tears and the story of Squanto. These are family programs. For more information call 770-528-2524.

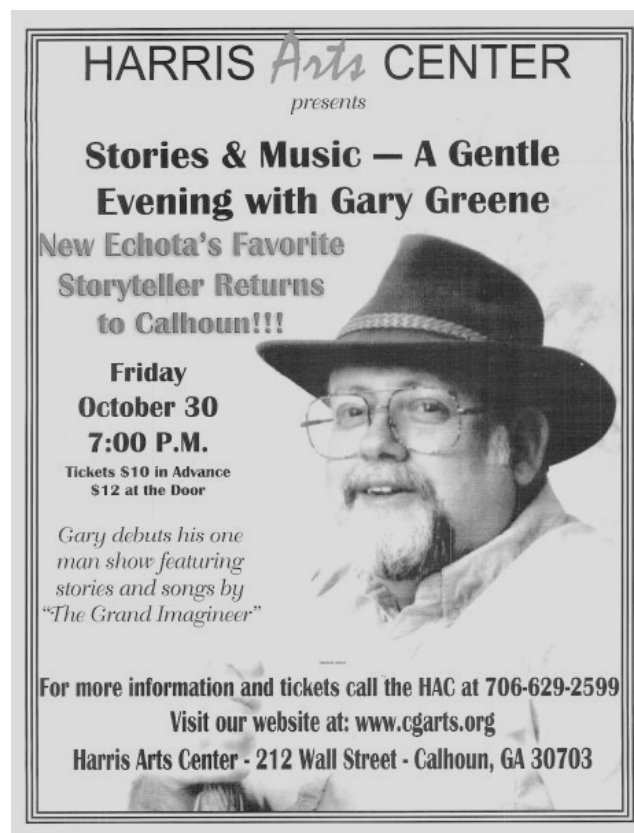
Chieftains Museum October 31st has a special Hallowed Haunting Evening planned. 8 p.m. begins with story time. 9 p.m. scarier stories not recommended for young children. Afterwards there is special treat – a paranormal investigative team will reveal their findings conducted on the museum grounds recently. Adults \$5.00 and Students \$2.00. For more information call 706-291-9494

Historic Westville in Forsyth County, November 14th

The location is outside of the town of Lumpkin Georgia, not to be confused with Lumpkin County in North Georgia. This “town that never was” is located south of Columbus Georgia on highway 27 and east of Providence Canyon. This is a town that was created out of historic houses dating from the 1850’s that were to be torn down. John Word West developed the town from 1932 to 1934 by moving the historic houses to land he owned. His dream was far from being completed when he died in 1961. So Stewart County and Joseph Mahan the curator of Columbus’ Museum Westville was completed in 1966. After years of restoration and hard work it was opened to the public in 1970. The town has historic houses, barns, and living history that includes a general store, black smith shop, sorghum mill, and much more.

During this special event, encounter early Native Americans of the southeast and hear stories of their culture and history; warm your hands on Hernando DeSoto’s campfire while he tells you about his explorations; experience the Battle of Bloody Marsh with James

Oglethorpe; meet Mary Musgrove; see early frontiersmen fire their muskets; enter the world of the Creek Indians in a traditional hunting camp; learn the Cherokee syllabary with Sequoyah; hear stories of Chief John Ross from his descendants; learn from Cherokee blacksmiths: engage with the stories of an enslaved African woman. In Westville’s 1850s town, with more than 35 original structures, you can help out with daily chores, see skilled craftsmen such as woodworkers and cordwainers, ride in a mule-drawn wagon, attend a one-room school house, watch cane syrup being made, and much more. Public Day Saturday November 14, 10 a.m.– 5p.m. Admission \$12, 5 and under free (888)733-1850 for more information. If you can’t make it to this event plan to visit soon. It makes a great school field trip.



HARRIS Arts CENTER
presents

Stories & Music – A Gentle Evening with Gary Greene

New Echota’s Favorite Storyteller Returns to Calhoun!!!

**Friday
October 30
7:00 P.M.**

Tickets \$10 in Advance
\$12 at the Door

Gary debuts his one man show featuring stories and songs by “The Grand Imagineer”

For more information and tickets call the HAC at 706-629-2599

Visit our website at: www.cgarts.org

Harris Arts Center - 212 Wall Street - Calhoun, GA 30703

Learn Landscape painting at **Sweetwater Creek State Park**... 770-732-5871

Be sure to check out the Christmas events and tree lightings at the state parks.

Dahlonega Gold Museum – Dec. 6th, 9-4, 706-864-2257
Vann House – Dec. 11 & 12, Candlelight tour
706-695-2598

Red Top Mountain – December 12th 10-4, 770-975-4226
There doesn’t appear to be other events during Christmas scheduled at New Echota or Etowah Mounds at this time.

Jerry L. Clark Archives Debut

Any Cherokee researcher who's not a member of the Georgia chapter of the Trail of Tears Association is missing out, in my opinion, because this week we debuted the newest feature, "The Jerry L. Clark Archives."

Clark, a Texan with Oklahoma parents, is an archivist employed more than 30 years with the National Archives and Records Administration in Washington, DC. He is also a registered citizen of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma and a long-time student of Cherokee history and genealogy.

Clark played a key role as a speaker at the Pre-TOTA Conference - Research Workshop at the Guntersville State Park Lodge, October 5, 2009, hosted by the Alabama Chapter of the Trail of Tears Association. Discussions between Jerry and Mike Wren led to this wealth of research being made available on our online database, "The TOTAbase."

Here's a brief listing of some of the goodies you'll find on this new page:

Excel spreadsheets include:

- * Record Group 75, Entry 606 - Preliminary Inventory (Mississippi Choctaw)
- * Record Group 75, Entries 198-216 - Preliminary

- * Record Group 75, Entries 217-251 - Preliminary Inventory (Removal Records of Cherokee) Removal Detachments
- * Cherokee Removal Detachments with Additional Information
- * Cherokee Removal Detachments - Chart Removal Physicians and Medical Reports
- * Medical Reports - Cherokee Internment Camps
- * Doctors in the Trail of Tears Detachments
- * Doctors in the Removal Camps
- * Doctors - Biographical Information
- * Doctors - Medical Training & Education
- * Other Doctors in the Removal
- Additional Resources
- * Meteorological Conditions during the Removal
- * B B Cannon's Journal
- * Record Group 75, Entry 236 - Death of Doublehead (Caleb Starr)
- * Chronology of the Trail of Tears
- * John Gunter Family - Biographical Information
- * Pvt. John G. Burnett - Fact or Fiction

Thanks so much, Jerry, for sharing this treasure trove of information with us. Jeff Bishop

McIntosh Trail Scenic By-way

The McIntosh Trail Scenic Byway project is still moving forward, according to Paul Jarrell, associate planner with the Three Rivers Regional Development Commission.

Jarrell presented a map at a historic preservation open house meeting sponsored by the Three Rivers RDC in Newnan, GA Tuesday afternoon at the Newnan Carnegie Library.

The McIntosh Trail is the oldest road through the area and dates back to the days of Creek Chief William McIntosh. "At 100 miles, it will be one of our longest scenic byways in the state of Georgia," Jarrell said.

The byway will begin at the Indian Springs Hotel near Flovilla, Georgia and will end at either the McIntosh Reserve or at Blackjack Mountain, near the Alabama / Georgia border.

"Every component the state is looking for is included in this proposed scenic byway," Jarrell said. "It has important historical components and great vistas, and in many areas it will be very closely aligned with the actual historical trail."

That's especially true in the westernmost section running from Whitesburg to the Alabama border, he said, on what was at one time called the "Five-Notch Road."

"That portion along Highway 5 is one of the closest to the original route," he said. "We've tried to get this as close to the original route as possible."

But there are some major re-routes to avoid some blighted and heavily developed areas -- most especially as the trail goes through Newnan, Georgia, he said.

"Newnan is really the only real break we have in the byway," he said. "And we're trying to avoid Highway 16 because of some possible widening that may occur."

That's why the byway will be routed along Poplar Road southwest of Newnan instead of traveling down the original road, which was more closely aligned with modern-day Turkey Creek Road, he said.

"We think this is the best possible scenario," said Jarrell. "Hopefully what we're seeing here will be the final product."

The pre-application for official Scenic Byway status was approved in July, he said.

"It's a slow process, and that's just one of the hoops you have to go through," said Jarrell.

"We think the end product will be a great tourism product and will bring some attention to the history of this region."

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

C/O 119 Rising Star Rd.
Ellijay, GA. 30536

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: aeriehollow@ellijay.com

We're on the Web!

See us at:

gatrailoftears.org

Hello All,

Good news! Next Saturday, October 31 from 9 am to 2 pm, my team of archaeologists (including students and professional archaeologists from Georgia State University) and I will be working on the Fort Cumming site in LaFayette. We will have our work cut out for us since we will be excavating a trench along the north-south axis of the possible location of the fort on the City of LayFayette's Water Works property. I would like to welcome you to join us if you are able; however, if you plan to come out, please SIGN AND RETURN a liability waiver (call about this) as soon as possible to me or Ms. Catherine Edgemon at the City of LaFayette. These waivers MUST be completed before folks can work at the site. Please contact me if you are interested in coming out, as I will need a head count to make sure we have enough work to go around. Lastly, we will definitely need help in the latter half of the afternoon since we will have to backfill the trench that we excavate.

Please make sure to pack a lunch, wear warm clothes, work gloves, and CLOSED-TOED shoes (boots are preferable). Contact me for questions at sydnire@hotmail.com or 678*327-4150 (cell).

Thank you and I look forward to touching base will you all.
Erin Andrews

(Ms. Andrews is heading up our archaeology project regarding the removal forts in Georgia for the National Park Service)