

# Moccasin Track News

Volume 1 Issue 6 January – February, 2012

## President's Letter to the Membership

Merry Christmas, Everyone!

Want a great way to start the New Year? How about this: GA TOTA chapter member Bill Barker has procured a \$5,000 grant from the Tillotson Foundation to erect Trail of Tears signs in Chattooga County along the corridor of the National Historic Trail. The National Park Service has indicated a willingness to match some of these funds, so it looks like this could go a long way toward getting the Trail of Tears “on the ground” in Georgia.

Signs will likely be placed along the old Broom Town Road, where Cherokees came from Ft. Likens in Alabama, through Georgia, to camps in Tennessee.

In other news, we're looking forward to our next GA chapter meeting, which will be held Jan. 14 at the Cumming Playhouse in Cumming, GA. Don Shadburn will speak about his new book, *Upon Our Ruins: A Study in Cherokee History and Genealogy*. The new 785-page tome will include:

- \*27 chapters of Cherokee-related history and genealogy

- \*Ninety pages of appendices

- \*Wills and Estate Records (1760-1889)

- \*Cherokee Reservation and Spoilation Claims (1837-1845)

- \*Georgia Citizenship Acts (1838-1845)

- \*Cherokee Georgia Census Schedules (1830)

- \*Letters by Major Ridge's granddaughter Emily McNeir (1906)

- \*A roster of 134 intermarried white men and women with Indian spouses

- \*New information on mixed-blood Cherokee families and Indian countrymen from the Carolinas, Georgia, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Alabama, Virginia, Tennessee, and Texas, with over 200 contributors

- \*Illustrations, an index, endnotes, all within a film-laminated hardcase.

The GA TOTA board plans to meet in late January to discuss plans for the new year, which will likely involve setting new research priorities, the development of new sign plans for the National Park Service, and applying for new grants, including a grant to put together a Trail of Tears-themed “traveling trunk.”

I hope everyone has a great holiday season, a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year! I'll see you in Cumming in January.

Jeff Bishop  
President

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## Forsyth Author to Speak to the Trail of Tears Association

**By Linda Baker**

The next meeting of the Georgia Chapter of the Trail of Tears Association will be held at 10:30 AM on Saturday, January 14, 2012 at the Cumming Playhouse in Cumming, Forsyth County, GA. The 1923 Cumming School was restored and reopened to the public in July 2004. In 2000 the school was placed on the National Register of Historic Places through the efforts of the Historical Society of Forsyth County under the leadership of Annette Bramblett. In addition to the Playhouse, this historic building houses the Historical Society headquarters, the Bell Research Center, a 2000-book library of Southern history, replicas of 1930s – 1950s classrooms and a garden of native plants.

The speaker at this meeting will be Don Shadburn, Forsyth County historian, author and retired teacher. Some of his books are *Pioneer History of Forsyth County, Georgia, Cherokee Planters in Georgia, 1832 – 1838* and *Unhallowed Intrusion: A History of Cherokee Families in Forsyth County, Georgia*. *Unhallowed Intrusion* received the first Lilla Mills Hawes Award presented by the Georgia Historical Society for the most outstanding regional history published in 1993 – 1994. His latest book is hot off the presses and is titled *Upon Our Ruins: A Study in Cherokee History and Genealogy*. This work represents 27 chapters of history and genealogy on many of the mixed-blood Cherokee families and Indian countrymen primarily in the Carolinas, Georgia, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Alabama, Virginia, Tennessee and Texas. Find out more about Mr. Shadburn and his books at [www.donshadburn.com](http://www.donshadburn.com).

The Trail of Tears Association and its major partner, the National Park Service, are dedicated to identifying and preserving sites associated with the forced 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 Cherokee and other tribes traveled through on their way to present-day Arkansas and Oklahoma.

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. There is no fee to attend. For more information about the TOTA, visit the National website at [www.nationaltota.org](http://www.nationaltota.org) or the Georgia Chapter website at [www.gatrailoftears.org](http://www.gatrailoftears.org). For questions about the January meeting, contact Leslie Thomas at [aeriehollow@ellijay.com](mailto:aeriehollow@ellijay.com) or by phone at 770-757-0931.#

The Cumming Playhouse is located at 101 School Street in downtown Cumming. For directions call

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770-781-9178 or visit the Playhouse website at [www.playhousecumming.com](http://www.playhousecumming.com). HOPE YOU CAN ATTEND!!

## **Georgia Chapter of the Trail of Tears Association**

**Minutes – November 12, 2011**

**Meeting at the Chieftains Museum/Major Ridge Home Rome, Georgia\**

President Jeff Bishop called the meeting to order at 10:30 AM. There were 36 attendees.

Jeff and Vice-President Leslie Thomas were reelected unanimously by members present. There were no other nominees. They will each serve another 2 year term.

Ruth Demeter, president of the Chieftains Board of Directors, gave an informative and inspiring talk about future plans for the Chieftains site. A brand-new interpretive center will be built and the current home will be restored to the way it looked when Major Ridge lived there. There are also plans to restore the grounds and put other buildings up that would have been there at the time. A capital campaign will be launched in 2012 to raise the funds needed for this massive overhaul.

### **Business Meeting**

The minutes from the September 2011 GA TOTA membership meeting were approved as written in the November 2011 newsletter. Secretary Linda Baker gave the Treasury report. The balance on January 1, 2011 was \$10,744.26. Total income since January 1 was \$7000.20. Total expenses were \$4180.59. The balance as of this date is \$13,563.87.

Leslie will be resubmitting a grant request to the National Endowment for the Humanities. This grant will help pay for further research, signage and artwork at the Georgia certified sites. Bill Barker has applied for a grant from the Tillotson Menlo Charitable Foundation to fund research and signage in Chattooga County. Bill also spoke about his recent research efforts in Chattooga County. He is certain that Sequoyah finished the syllabary and gave demonstrations of the new written language while living in what was then known as Chattooga Town.

Jeff is working on a grant from the Georgia Humanities Council which would be used to fund the development of “traveling trunks”; these would then be available to schools to help educate students about the southeastern Indians and their forced removal in the 1830s.

There were 35 GA TOTA members at the 2011 TOTA National Conference in Cherokee, NC. A

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photo of those attending can be found on the GA TOTA website [www.gatrailoftears.org](http://www.gatrailoftears.org). Next year's conference will be held in Norman, OK and will be co-hosted by the Chickasaw Nation; dates yet to be announced.

A motion was made by Jeff to advance \$2000 out of our Treasury payable to our archaeologist, Ron Hobgood, for the work he has done at the removal fort sites. GA TOTA will be reimbursed by National TOTA at a later date. The motion was seconded and passed by members present.

Jeff said that we hope to get the Running Waters home site in Floyd County certified soon. This was the home of John Ridge, son of Major Ridge.

Donna Myers, president of the Friends of New Echota, spoke about their very successful Frontier Day event in October. The Christmas Candlelight Tour will be held on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Members of GA TOTA will be decorating the print shop. Donna also announced that a 2012 New Echota calendar is available for purchase. For more information, call 706-624-1321.

Billy Wayne Abernathy gave a report on the log cabin in Cave Spring. His opinion is that the cabin is Cherokee-built. The Green Hotel that was built around the cabin is being dismantled. This has revealed some structural problems that need to be addressed before work can continue. It also appears that the cabin is larger than originally thought. Results from our dendrochronologist, Dr. Georgina DeWeese, are pending. These findings should pinpoint the age of the logs. (As a side note, Dr. DeWeese and her husband just added a baby boy to their family.)

Eugenia Cavender reported on activities at Red Clay State Park. The recent pow wow was a success and the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Trail of Lights will be held on December 17<sup>th</sup>.

Linda Fletcher showed us a necklace made by GA TOTA member Reavis Harmon that is designed to hold our GA TOTA membership cards. Contact Linda at [lbeap10@yahoo.com](mailto:lbeap10@yahoo.com) if you are interested in buying one.

Jeff said that the National Park Service is interested in doing more signage and interpretation at the Cedartown removal site. In the meantime, other sites, such as the Thomas Woodward house in Floyd County, are in danger of being lost forever. Go to the GA TOTA blog at [www.trailofthetrail.blogspot.com](http://www.trailofthetrail.blogspot.com) to read about some of the sites in north Georgia that need to be researched and certified before they too are lost forever. Jeff also said he welcomes input regarding any sites that we should be researching; Eugenia Cavender mentioned the Moravian springs at Spring Place. Contact Jeff at 404-788-3265 or at [wjeffbishop@yahoo.com](mailto:wjeffbishop@yahoo.com).

Thank you to Sarah Hill for purchasing a hard drive for the Bandy Heritage Center to hold our digitized

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archives.

Linda Baker asked everyone to keep Gail Tate King, president of the AL TOTA chapter, in their thoughts and prayers as she copes with cancer and a recent operation. Linda also said that John Dobson recently passed away. John and Trudy Dobson are founding members of the Native American Preservation Association. This is the organization that puts on the Running Waters Pow Wow in Rome every Labor Day weekend. NAPA gives GA TOTA a free booth every year at this event. Our sincere sympathy to Trudy and family.

Thank you to all who contributed a total of \$20 to the Sunshine Fund.

Following the meeting, Ruth Demeter and Chieftains archaeologist Dave Davis gave attendees a tour of the house and grounds.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Baker, Secretary

## **Note to All Volunteers for GaTOTA:**

If you have been doing research or have helped out GaTOTA at special events or done any type of volunteer work for us - please remember to fill out a "Trail of Tears Association Volunteer Activity Log". WHY? Because your time and efforts count towards our matching grant applications. The recent Cedartown to Cave Springs signage was done by a matching grant. Your time is important to us. You can mail the form to Myra Reidy, P.O. Box 91, Cumming, GA 30028. Form is enclosed in this mailing.

## **Mark Your Calendar for 2012 GaTOTA Meetings:**

**January 14th = Historical Society of Forsyth County - Don Shadburn speaker.**

**March 10th = New Echota - Dr. Donna Myers of the Friends Organization and John Latty, author of Buffington's Company of Mounted Militia speakers.**

**May 12th = New Echota's 50th Anniversary Celebration**

**May 19th = Change of normal date for GaTOTA Meeting = McIntosh Park, picnic with guest speaker Dr. Barbara Kawulich who will talk about the Creeks.**

**July 14th = Paulding County Historical Society, Dallas GA. - Mark Millican speaker on John Sevier's history in Georgia**

**September 8th = Marietta Georgia Library, Cobb County. - Michael Hitt will speak on the Cobb County involvement Cherokee and Creek.**

**November 10th = Chattooga County Historical Society - Speaker TBA.**

**There will also be a day-long seminar planned TBA.**

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## UPDATES

CHRISTMAS AT CHIEFTAINS/Major Ridge Home

**December 2-Jan 14th - check their website for more information <http://chieftainmuseum.org/>**

**Reminder to Support Our State Historic Parks.** Why not plan a visit this month to your local historic state park? It is a great, affordable outing for you and your loved ones.

### Georgia Chapter TOTA Officers 2012

**Jeff Bishop, President and National Director**

**Leslie Thomas, Vice-President and Communication Chair**

**Linda Baker, Secretary and Publicity**

**Linda Geiger, Treasurer**

**If you have received a paper copy of this newsletter, then you are not on the email distribution for this publication. If you would like to be added to this list, please contact the newsletter editor, Myra Reidy, at [myrareidy@live.com](mailto:myrareidy@live.com). Or, you are welcome to phone call or text her at 678-428-2726.**

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**TO:**