

March 2015



CHIEFTAINS MUSEUM / MAJOR RIDGE HOME

The Ridge Report

Chieftains Herb & Plant Sale Scheduled for April 11-12th

It's time to dust off your gardening gloves—
the 2015 Herb & Plant Sale is almost here!

This year's sale will take place on April 11th and 12th at the Coosa Valley Fairgrounds, with sale hours from 8am-4pm on Saturday and 12pm-3pm on Sunday. A preview for current members of the museum will be held on Friday April 10th from 6:30-8:30pm.

Plant Sale Co-chairs Ruth Forrester and Susan Hortman have once again outdone themselves with their choice of plants for the sale. This year will feature over 150 varieties of plants, all delivered fresh from the growers the day before the event begins. The selection and quality of plants available will provide every gardener with a chance to refresh their yards and gardens after a long, cold winter. This year's sale will feature new varieties of plants as well as your timeless favorites, including herbs, organic vegetables, native plants, perennials, annuals, & shrubs.

For plant-lovers of all levels, Floyd County Master Gardeners will be available at the sale to answer your gardening questions and provide guidance for your purchases, which can then be potted by Nan Henson and her team of volunteers. Bring your own clean containers to the sale, or purchase containers there for "one-stop" shopping that will provide you with beautiful pots ready to be displayed at your home.

Remember, all proceeds from the sale go towards the museum, allowing us to continue our mission to preserve and interpret the history of the 19th century Cherokee through the home and property of the Ridge family and to provide educational programs for our community.

Credit and debit cards will be accepted in addition to checks and cash.

So mark April 11th and 12th on your calendars and come start your garden with us at the 2015 Herb & Plant Sale!



Chieftains Herb & Plant Sale at the Coosa Valley Fairgrounds.

Cherokee Remembrance Orchard Dedicated February 20th

In celebration of Georgia Arbor Day on February 20th, Chieftains Museum/Major Ridge Home hosted a dedication ceremony for the new Cherokee Remembrance Orchard on the museum campus in conjunction with Keep Rome Floyd Beautiful. The orchard commemorates both the Cherokee history of the property as well as remembering those who helped found and maintain the museum, preserving the past for the future in our community.



Evan Moreno plants fruit trees before the dedication.



The Floyd County Master Gardeners at the dedication.

The land was sacred to the Cherokee people who once lived where Rome stands today. While Major Ridge occupied the property (1819-1837), he operated a farm of over 200 acres of land which included crops such as wheat and corn, gardens, and extensive orchards of over 1,000 fruit trees.

The orchard is one of the new initiatives for the museum to create a learning experience for visitors both inside and outside of the historic house. Along with future plantings on the property, the orchard has started an outdoor classroom that the museum can use to educate visitors in a new and exciting way.



Executive Director Heather Shores at the dedication.



Future natural learning spaces will include an ornamental garden, a small vineyard, a kitchen garden, a medicinal garden, and examples of crops grown by Ridge and other Cherokee farmers.

To donate to any of the new outdoor classroom projects, contact the museum at (706) 291-9494.

The start of Spring brings blooms to our fruit trees!

Hospitality & Tourism: It's Elementary!

Third graders at both Main Elementary School and East Central Elementary School learned about the role of museums in the hospitality and tourism industry with Chieftains Museum Executive Director Heather Shores in February and March.

Shores visited each school by invitation from Counselor Miriam Holland Loveless, who organized a series of presentations about careers for her students. Each grade on the elementary level is given a “career cluster” with themes that allow students to learn about a variety of jobs for their future. For students in third grade, “Hospitality & Tourism” is one major theme in their career cluster.

Visiting with these students not only provided them with a chance to learn more about how museums work, but also provided the museum with a keen insight into what students in this age group think about museums and what they like to see.

Armed with a new knowledge about Chieftains, these third graders may be the next generation of museum visitors and scholars that keep our past alive.



Executive Director Heather Shores teaches third graders about museums.



New Sculpture Honors Cherokee History in Cedartown



New public art piece entitled "Removal."

Earlier this month, the City of Cedartown dedicated its latest public art piece, “Removal” at Big Springs Park. Created by local chainsaw artist Jeremy Smith, the sculpture was commissioned by the city as well as the Trail of Tears Association.

Carved from a tree stump using the “subtractive sculpting” method, Smith created the image of three Cherokee figures, a man, woman, and girl, to represent the anger, sadness, and fear experienced by the Cherokee people during their removal in 1838. The park where the sculpture stands was once the site of a removal camp where Cherokee were forced to stay after they were rounded up from their homes.

One of Smith’s earlier sculptures, “The Brave,” was displayed at the museum in summer 2014. To learn more about Jeremy Smith and his artwork, you can visit his Facebook page.

A Model Museum

Chieftains is excited to unveil the newest feature of our permanent exhibit for spring 2015—models of the historic house!

Created by Bob Harris and inspired by the research of the National Park Service, these four models chronicle the architectural development of this National Historic Landmark from its beginning as a two-story log cabin to the structure of the house today.

Each model was created with meticulous detail, giving visitors the opportunity to see the museum in a way they never have before, adding a greater level of understanding about the way the house appeared through different eras of its history.

Thank you Bob Harris for being such a “model” history lover
and creating our newest treasures!



Model of the original cabin

History Explorer's Camp Proposed for July 2015

Chieftains Museum, in conjunction with the Rome Area History Museum and the Oak Hill & Martha Berry Museum, has submitted a grant to the Georgia Humanities Council to fund a History Explorer's Camp for four days in July 2015.

This camp will provide field trips, living history, crafts, and activities to 20 local students, grades 2-4, who would like to learn more about the history of their community and its people. Topics covered in the camp will focus on Rome and Floyd County set into the context of state and national history and will range from Cherokee history to early 20th century Georgia.

Admission to the camp is \$60 per student, but four scholarships will be available to local students with a recommendation from their teachers.

Grants from the Georgia Humanities Council will be awarded in April or May 2015. Stay tuned to the museum's website at www.chieftainmuseum.org for more information!

Collections Corner

All of these objects were found on the Chieftains property and date from approximately 1825.

These objects were owned and used by the Ridge family in their daily lives. While the Cherokee were not commonly thought of as a people of high status, the Ridge family was an exception, with Major Ridge being the third wealthiest Cherokee in the area.

These objects also illustrate the assimilation of the Ridge family into white culture like many Cherokee who chose to live like their white neighbors.



Lustreware Vase imported from England.



Metal utensils with wooden handles and a coin silver spoon engraved with John Ridge's initials.



Hand-painted china plate



Rough wheel-thrown Georgia pottery was made by settlers and sold for kitchen use. Notice the patterns on each piece.

Many types of everyday items were sold at trading posts in 19th century Georgia, especially in areas located near rivers or prominent roadways.

In addition to goods, news was also exchanged at trading posts, giving local settlers a chance to socialize with their neighbors. The trading post operated by Major Ridge was located near the house and operated by his business partner, a white settler named George Lavender, who also operated Ridge's Ferry across the Oostanaula River.

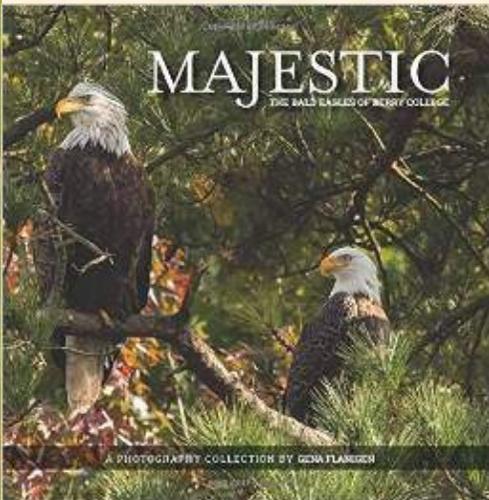
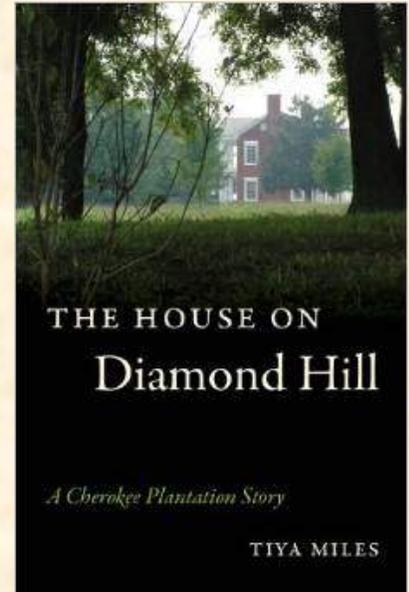
Items, like the pottery to the left, are typical of items that were sold at trading posts and used by 19th century families, including the Ridge family.

Gift Shop Features New Selections

Spring has “sprung” in the Chieftains Museum gift shop, with new books growing on our shelves! Come by to stock your bookshelf with great selections on everything from Cherokee plants & history to native wildlife, including these new volumes:

The House on Diamond Hill: A Cherokee Plantation Story by Tiya Miles

A Professor at the University of Michigan, Tiya Miles tells the story of Diamond Hill, the plantation founded by James Vann in the 19th century. Today, the Vann House is an historic site operated by the Georgia Parks system.

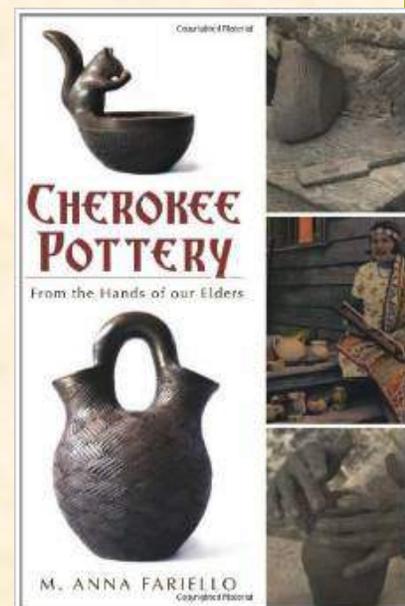


Majestic: The Bald Eagles of Berry College by Gena Flanigen

This collection of images by local wildlife photographer Gena Flanigen captures the beauty and spirit of our famous Berry College eagles in stunning color. Prints of some of Flanigen’s work are also available in the museum gift shop.

Cherokee Pottery: From the Hands of Our Elders by M. Anna Fariello

An Associate Professor at Western Carolina University, Fariello explores the centuries-old Cherokee tradition of creating pottery that is still practiced in North Carolina today. Featuring historic photographs as well as detailed images of pottery pieces, this book combines the history and beauty of this native craft.





CHIEFTAINS MUSEUM/MAJOR RIDGE HOME

501 Riverside Parkway
Rome, GA 30161

Phone: 706.291.9494
Email: chmuseum@bellsouth.net



We're on the Web!

Visit us at chieftainmuseum.org

Don't forget—Mother's Day is May 10th!

Give your mom the gift of heritage with a membership to Chieftains Museum. Memberships start at \$35 and provide entry to member-exclusive events, free admission to the museum for a year, and a 10% discount in our gift shop.

And don't just give Mom a card! Visit our gift shop to find unusual gifts that will make you her favorite child!



Have You Renewed?

Be sure to renew your membership to the museum for 2015!

Memberships are good for January 1—December 31 each year and give you free admission to the museum, a 10% discount in our gift shop, and invitations to exclusive member events throughout the year.

Contact the museum to find out how you can continue to be a part of the excitement at Chieftains!

Upcoming Events

April 11-12:

2015 Chieftains Herb & Plant Sale

June 20:

“Shine in the Pines” Moonshine Festival

TBA:

History Explorers Camp