

September 2014

## Calling All 8<sup>th</sup> Graders!



The Chieftains Museum Essay Contest is underway! Open to all eight grade students currently attending a city, private, or county school in Floyd County, the Chieftains Essay Contest has been established to encourage young people to connect with the history of northwest Georgia and the relationship between European settlers and the Cherokee who had farms, homes, and businesses here.

This year's topic asks students to discuss the decision of the Cherokee to fight for the United States in the War of 1812, giving the reasons for this allegiance, or write in opposition, giving other possible strategies for dealing with the United States during the War of 1812.

All essays are due at the museum by 5p.m. on October 24, 2014. Cash prizes of \$75, \$50, and \$25 will be given for the top three essays chosen by a judging panel.

For details, visit the museum website at [www.chieftainmuseum.org](http://www.chieftainmuseum.org).

## Geocaching the Past



Rome will welcome people from 36 states and 2 foreign countries October 15-19<sup>th</sup> for the *Going Caching MMXIV* geocaching mega-event. A popular recreational activity, geocaching involves hunting and finding hidden objects using GPS coordinates from a website. More than 1.4 million caches have been hidden around the world since 2000, with over 4 million people seeking to find them worldwide.

For the October event, several caches will be placed in and around Rome, including a special cache at Chieftains during the event, and a permanent cache behind the museum near the Oostanaula River. Attendees of *Going Caching MMXIV* will receive discounted admission to the museum with their event credentials.

To learn more about geocaching, create a free account, or learn more about the October event, visit [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com) and [www.goingcaching.com](http://www.goingcaching.com).

## Low Country Boil & Barbeque a Success



The annual Low Country Boil & Barbeque fundraiser held on August 21<sup>st</sup> was a great success again this year! Guests were able to bid on a variety of silent and live auction items. The highest bid of the evening went towards the purchase of a moonshine tasting party for 20 guests at the home of Bob & Susan Hortman. Thanks to everyone who came out to support the museum this year!

Stay tuned for more fundraising events as we close out 2014 and look towards the New Year.

*Potted arrangements by Nan Henson were sold throughout the night.*

*Guests enjoying catering by Two Can Do at the 2014 Low Country Boil & Barbeque.*



*Items donated for the silent auction portion of the event.*

## Camera Club “DIGS” the Museum!

Chieftains proudly hosted members of the DIGS Snap Happy Camera Club at the museum this summer. Group members received a tour of the museum, then spent time photographing various aspects of the buildings and campus. Look for photographs from camera club members in future projects for Chieftains!

DIGS is a non-profit organization formed to provide safe housing, work and leisure opportunities for adults with developmental challenges in Rome and Floyd County. For more information, visit the DIGS website at [www.digsrome.org](http://www.digsrome.org).



*Members of the DIGS Snap Happy Camera Club pose in front of the museum.*

## Life's a Party at Chieftains!

Earlier this month, the museum campus played host to two celebrations for the City of Rome. On September 6<sup>th</sup>, Chieftains was the location of the closing party for the Rome International Film Festival, drawing actors, directors, and film enthusiasts to the campus, many of whom had never before visited the museum.



One week later, on September 12<sup>th</sup>, Chieftains helped the Junior Service League celebrate the organization's 80<sup>th</sup> year with a kick-off party on the museum grounds. Founded in 1934, the Junior Service League opened Chieftains as a museum in 1971—certainly something to celebrate!

*Current JSL President Ashley Evans poses with past presidents of the organization at the 80th anniversary party at Chieftains.*

# Forward March Program Brings History to Life



On September 19-20<sup>th</sup>, museum visitors traveled back in time to discover Georgia's role in the War of 1812 with the *Forward March: The Cherokee in the War of 1812* program at the museum. Sponsored through a grant from the Georgia Humanities Council, this program commemorated the bicentennial of the Battle of Horseshoe Bend, the March 1814 battle where Cherokee warriors, including Major Ridge, played a prominent role. The event began on Friday evening with a lecture, "The Cherokee in the Creek War

Interpreter Glen Kyle exhibits a weapons firing during the event.

Photo credit: Rome Photo Club/Andy Brock

(1813-1814): Forging an Alliance with Andrew Jackson," by Dr. Susan Abram from Western Carolina University. The program continued on

Saturday, September 20<sup>th</sup> with a living history experience on the museum campus. Interpreter Glen Kyle exhibited the uniforms and equipment of War of 1812 soldiers. Visitors learned to march like soldiers and watched as interpreters fired reproduction weapons. Museum visitors also toured the museum to learn more about the role of Major Ridge and the Cherokee in the conflict through a special *Georgia and the War of 1812* exhibition. Both days of the *Forward March* program were free and open to the public and drew 152 visitors to the museum.



Even the smallest "soldier" gets a chance to participate in the marching demonstration.



Children enjoyed learning about the War of 1812 and how soldiers lived during the war.



## Berry College Students Serve at Chieftains

On September 6<sup>th</sup>, twenty first-year students from Berry College spent three hours completing projects at Chieftains as part of the college's annual First-Year Service Day. Students dusted cobwebs, cleaned windows, cleaned restrooms, trimmed hedges, swept, mopped, and changed light bulbs in the museum, the Grizzard Center, and the public restroom building on the museum campus. This work allowed Chieftains to complete several projects in one day that would normally take weeks to finish. Many thanks to the students and staff of the Office of First-Year Experience at Berry College for their wonderful help!



*Berry College students cleaned inside and outside the museum and the Grizzard Center during the First-Year Service day.*



## Free Event Scheduled for November 8<sup>th</sup>

The museum will host a free event from 10:30am-4:30pm on Saturday, November 8<sup>th</sup> sponsored by the Floyd/Rome Retired Educators' Association. "Stories Through the Ages" will focus on the rich heritage of story-telling in northwest Georgia, from Cherokee myths to modern folk tales. The program features story-tellers, children's activities, and free tours of the museum.

For more information, visit the museum's website at [www.chieftainmuseum.org](http://www.chieftainmuseum.org).

## Collections Corner

Maintaining the structural integrity of an historic house that is nearly 200 years old has its challenges. In 2013, Chieftains Museum received a grant from the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Division to make several repairs and conduct further research on the house.

As a result, areas of fallen and missing plaster were replaced using historic methods, an historic paint analysis was completed of the interior, and portions of the exterior of the house are currently getting a fresh coat of paint.

During the repair process, sections of historic plaster were uncovered from the upstairs room. The section of plaster in the picture to the right still contains horse hair used to reinforce the material when it was made, as well as a twig that was caught in the material as it was created outside.

Visit the museum to see these repairs and our new exhibit!



Historic plaster found during repairs with original horse hair.

*Historic plaster on display in the museum. Note the strands of horse hair protruding from the edges.*



*The ceiling in this room is an example of grant money at work in the museum. Almost the entire ceiling of this room was missing plaster prior to the repair. It took 750 pounds of plaster to repair the ceiling. This room had been closed off for years, but is now open to the public.*



**CHIEFTAINS MUSEUM/MAJOR  
RIDGE HOME**

501 Riverside Parkway  
Rome, GA 30161

Phone: 706.291.9494  
Email: [chmuseum@bellsouth.net](mailto:chmuseum@bellsouth.net)



**We're on the Web!**

**Visit us at [chieftainmuseum.org](http://chieftainmuseum.org)**



## Come be a Santa's Helper at Chieftains!

On Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am– 12:00pm, Chieftains will host a “Santa’s Helpers Workshop” at the museum. This event gives children an opportunity to craft ornaments and gifts for friends and loved ones at different stations throughout the museum. They can also write and send a letter to Santa using our Magic Mailbox!

Families are asked to pre-register for this event by December 8, 2014. Admission is \$5 per child, with free entry for adults.

For registration forms or more information, visit the museum’s website at [www.chieftainmuseum.org](http://www.chieftainmuseum.org)



## Upcoming Events

- October 15-19:** *Going Caching MMXIV* event in Rome
- October 25-26:** 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Chiaha Harvest Fair, look for our table in the Children’s Tent!
- November 8:** “Stories Through the Ages” free event, sponsored by the Rome/Floyd Retired Educators’ Association
- December 7:** Membership Brunch
- December 13:** Santa’s Helpers Workshop