

January 2014

## Director's Notes



This year provided some exciting opportunities for the museum as I came to know the institution and its supporters.

Old exhibits were removed and improved and a new exhibition has been written to take their place. The museum received a \$13,800 grant from the Georgia Department of Natural Resources for repairs to the interior and exterior of the house, which has already begun. We also attracted new and returning audiences through program offerings both at the museum and the community through the year, some of which are featured in this newsletter.

As we enter into a new year, the museum faces new challenges and projects; we are referring to 2014 as our "year of change." Some of our priorities include completing the grant match for repairs to the house as well as some additional improvements that need to be made, such as gutter replacement and moving one of our HVAC units to the ground floor. Other priorities will provide new experiences at the museum, including design and fabrication of our new exhibit, establishing a dedicated children's art and activity space in the house, and offering new programs for families in the community.

I hope that you will take an opportunity to visit the museum in the coming year and become involved with our institution, whether as a member, supporter, or advocate.

Here's to a new year at Chieftains Museum!

Heather Shores  
Executive Director



## Trail of Tears Art Contest

To heighten awareness and understanding of the history of the Cherokee and their forced removal in 1838, Chieftains Museum/Major Ridge Home is hosting an art contest for 8th-12th grade students and college students as part of the commemoration of the 175th Anniversary of the Trail of Tears. Sponsored by the Chiaha Guild of Arts & Crafts, artwork will be accepted at the museum from January 31, 2014—March 31, 2014. Winners will be announced April 2014. Cash awards will be given for the winners in each category.

For more information, please contact the museum at (706) 291-9494 or email us at [chmuseum@bellsouth.net](mailto:chmuseum@bellsouth.net).

CHIEFTAINS MUSEUM / MAJOR RIDGE HOME

# The Ridge Report



# 2013 Grants & Sponsorships

- **\$13,800 matching grant awarded from the Georgia Department of Natural Resources for historic preservation repairs to museum.**
- **\$1,000 grant awarded from Georgia Power to sponsor a Floyd Free Day and to make repairs to the Grizzard Center for Cherokee Studies.**
- **\$200 grant awarded from Floyd/Rome Retired Educators Association to sponsor a Floyd Free Day.**
- **\$150 grant awarded by an anonymous donor to fund the 8th grade essay contest.**
- **\$300 Chiaha Art Education Grant awarded by the Chiaha Guild of Arts & Crafts for Trail of Tears art contest in 2014.**
- **\$5,000 from the Junior Service League of Rome as a donation to our operating fund.**



## 2013 Programming

### Floyd Free Day



Residents of Floyd County were invited to our Floyd Free Day on November 2nd to take part in a Scavenger Hunt, to make a craft, and to learn about the Ridge family at the museum. We offered free admission sponsored by the Floyd/Rome Retired Educators Association. We were pleased that 101 visitors attended the event!



### Holiday Open House



The public was invited to celebrate the start of the holiday season at Chieftains on November 15th. We featured beautiful decorations provided by Crandel Allmon of Pineapple Place and had a reception for guests.



## 8th Grade Essay Contest

Last Fall, Chieftains Museum held an essay contest for local 8th graders. The essay topic focused on Major Ridge, William McIntosh, and Indian Removal. Winners were chosen by a panel of judges from over 50 entries and awarded their prizes on December 2nd. The top three winners received a certificate and a cash prize, with Honorable Mentions to other finalists.



Chieftains Executive Director Heather Shores with St. Mary's winners (from left) Mary Anna Fricks, Vincent Johnson, Griffin Brumbelow, and teacher Mrs. Lynn Denson.

(At right) Armuchee Middle School essay contest winners pose with Chieftains Executive Director Heather Shores (at center). Winners include (in random order): Ansley Reynolds, Dylan McLaughlin, Celine Chan, Molly McWhorter, Brandy Ann Wacker, Natalie Daniel, Alane Rogers, and Trinity Sorber.



## Restoring the Past!

Improvements to the museum began this fall with plaster repairs on both floors of the house. Funded through a grant from the Georgia Department of Natural Resources/Historic Preservation Division, these repairs give a new face to several areas of the museum. Plaster work was conducted by Charles Goulding of The British Brush in Kingston, Georgia. Goulding has extensive experience with historic preservation and is considered a master of original plaster repair.

Before Repair



After Repair



Other improvements funded through the Georgia DNR grant include repair of a plaster ceiling on the second floor of the house, historic paint analysis to Ridge period interior and exterior walls to determine original colors and finishes, and painting of the exterior of the house. Be sure to drop by to see our repairs throughout the spring and summer of 2014!

CHIEFTAINS MUSEUM/  
MAJOR RIDGE HOME

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**We're on the Web!**

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

## Contest Winners Announced

*Chieftains is excited to announce the winners of our newsletter naming contest! We would like to thank Cathy Dollar and Nicholle Harrison for suggesting "The Ridge Report" as our new title. Thanks to everyone who participated for their wonderful suggestions and for making this process fun! Please be sure to check out our future newsletters that will be released bi-monthly.*

## Upcoming Events

**February 24, 2014**– Historian Dr. Tim Alan Garrison lecture at Berry College, "Culpability for the Trail of Tears: The Trail of Andrew Jackson."

**March 13, 2014**– Dr. Sarah H. Hill lecture at Berry College, "Cherokees, Georgians, and the Trail of Tears from Rome, 1838."

\*Both lectures will take place at the Krannert Center Ballroom E on the Berry College Campus at 7:00 pm.

**March 27, 2014**– Heather Shores lecture to Atlanta War of 1812 Society

**March 29, 2014**– Rome International Festival 11:00-3:00 pm

**March 31, 2014**– Final day for artwork to be submitted for the Trail of Tears contest

**April 11, 2014**– Herb & Plant Sale Preview for members

**April 12-13, 2014**– Herb & Plant Sale