

November 2015



CHIEFTAINS MUSEUM / MAJOR RIDGE HOME

# The Ridge Report

## Major Ridge Honored at Veterans Plaza

The annual Veteran's Day event at Myrtle Hill Cemetery included one of Rome's oldest soldiers this year—Major Ridge.

Dedicated in 2000 at the base of the cemetery, Veterans Plaza features monuments commemorating local participation in the U.S. military as well as over 3,000 bricks engraved with the names of veterans. On a tour of the plaza, Chieftains Executive Director Heather Shores noticed that Major Ridge did not have a brick recognizing his role as a veteran of the U.S. Army.

Ridge was one of approximately 500 Cherokee to fight for the United States in the War of 1812 & Creek War of 1813-1814 on what was then the American frontier. Responsible for recruiting most of the Cherokee volunteers, Ridge fought directly under General Andrew Jackson at the Battle of Horseshoe Bend in Alabama in 1814. This battle is credited with ending the Creek War and could not have been won by the United States without their Native American allies.

By working with the Myrtle-Hill/Oak Hill Memorial Association and the Rome Convention & Visitors Bureau, Chieftains Museum was able to have an engraved brick dedicated to the service of Major Ridge placed in the plaza in 2015, making him forever a part of our local veteran's memorial.

Chieftains Museum/Major Ridge Home salutes all of those who gave some or all in service to our country.



*Veterans Plaza at Myrtle Hill Cemetery*

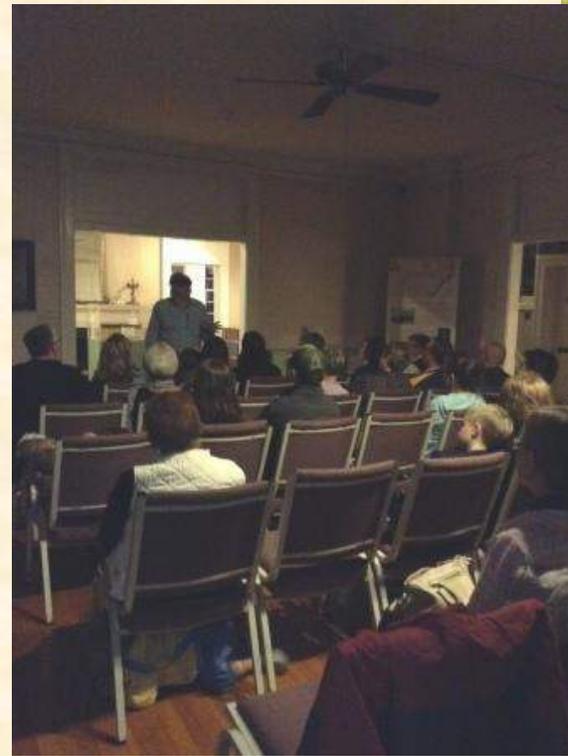
## Treasure Hunts and Spooky Nights Bring New Audiences to Chieftains

October's chills brought new thrills for the museum, both on campus and in the community. Over 200 children and families stopped by our table at the Chiaha Harvest Fair to create Halloween masks and learn about the Booger Mask and Booger Dance in Cherokee culture.

This year's "Going Caching: A Roman Renaissance" brought new faces to the Chieftains campus. The event drew participants from all over the world. Chieftains was a featured location in this "GPS Treasure Hunt," with both an inside and an outside "cache." Over 400 people toured the museum as part of the event, with many more of the 1,000 registered participants competing to find the outside "cache," which will be a permanent feature on the campus. Go to the "Going Caching" website and register, then come and find our treasure at the museum!

The Chieftains "Halloween Spooktacular" rounded out the month on Halloween night. Visitors were treated to family-friendly spooky stories by the Ridge & Valley Tellers, then got to explore the museum at night. This event also acted as the debut for the "Haweis Cherokee Mission School," a new art activity area inside the museum.

Visit our website at [www.chieftainmuseum.org](http://www.chieftainmuseum.org) to see what events are happening next!



*Terrell Shaw tells spooky stories to the crowd on Halloween night.*

## 2016 Promises New Projects and New Experiences at Chieftains

As 2015 comes to a close, we have a chance to look back on all of the projects completed in 2015. The final phase of our exterior painting was completed, bringing the historic house up to National Park Service standards. We opened the "Haweis Cherokee Mission School" art activity area inside the museum. Bob Harris created and donated four models of the house we now have on display. Our museum campus saw much improvement with the help of Floyd County Master Gardeners and the Horticulture Department at Georgia Northwest Technical College, including the Cherokee Remembrance Orchard, a Three Sisters Garden in summer, and the start of the Major Ridge Demonstration Garden. The museum also hosted 2,600 visitors, an increase from 2014. Among those visitors were 622 preK-college students from six different counties across two states.



As with the end of every year, however, we also look to the future and the new projects we would like to complete in 2016. These projects range from improving our facilities and campus to providing educational programs for our community. The museum needs to protect its fresh paint with new gutters on the house. We also need to improve accessibility on our campus with new stairs to the river and a brick walkway at the museum. Our campus will continue to improve and change with a new fence around our archaeology dig area and the continued development of the Major Ridge Demonstration Garden. We hope to continue our "Free Days" for the public in 2016 as well as host guest speakers, a summer camp for children, and create new activity stations in our current exhibit.

Thanks to all of you who helped complete our projects, volunteered for programs, and donated to the museum in 2015. The future looks bright for the museum, but only with your help! To find out how you can help in 2016, contact the museum at (706) 291-9494.

## Collections Corner

### Cherokee Gaming Stones

Games are an important part of Cherokee culture that the people retained despite European influence. Cherokee gaming stones like those pictured here were made from hard quartz and perfectly finished. These stones were considered very valuable because they were difficult to make from such hard material. These stones belonged to the town as a whole and were used to play games like chunky.



*These Cherokee gaming stones are currently on display in the museum.*

## December Events To Offer Holiday Cheer

With only a few short weeks until Christmas, we are ready to get the holiday season into full swing at the museum!

After several years, Chieftains will once again sponsor a float in conjunction with the Junior Service League of Rome for the **Rome Christmas Parade** scheduled for December 1<sup>st</sup>. The float will feature a simulated Cherokee Mission School classroom to fit with the parade theme of “A Colonial Christmas.” Make sure you wave as we go by!

Current museum members will be treated to our annual **Membership Brunch** on Sunday, December 6. The champagne brunch is scheduled from 11:30am-1:30pm at the museum and will feature delicious selections from Two Can Do Catering. Guests at the brunch will also see first-hand the projects completed in the museum and on the grounds in 2015. Be sure to renew your membership and join us on December 6<sup>th</sup>.

Chieftains will once again host a “**Christmas Free Day**” this year at the museum. This year’s program will take place from 12:00pm-4:00pm on Saturday, December 19<sup>th</sup>. Visitors will enjoy free admission and hot cocoa to celebrate the holiday season as they tour the museum decorated with a Moravian Christmas theme provided by Pineapple Place in Rome. Children’s crafts will also be available so that every “elf” can take home a present for family or friends.

Contact the museum at (706) 291-9494 or visit our website for details on all of these events.

We hope you will all join us for a month of Christmas cheer at Chieftains!



## Special Moments from the Chiaha Harvest Fair



CHIEFTAINS MUSEUM/MAJOR RIDGE HOME

501 Riverside Parkway  
Rome, GA 30161

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



We had over 200 children make creative Halloween masks at our table in the Children's Tent at Chiaha. Thanks to everyone who came by to see us this year!



**We're on the Web!**  
Visit us at [chieftainmuseum.org](http://chieftainmuseum.org)

## It's Membership Time Again!

Remember that our membership year at Chieftains ends on December 31, 2015. As we start into the busy fall and holiday season, make sure you renew your membership for the 2016 calendar year. You can renew your membership anytime by contacting the museum or, if you are currently a 2015 member of the museum, you may renew at our annual Membership Brunch scheduled for December 6, 2015.

## Upcoming Events

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| <b>December 1st:</b>  | Rome Christmas Parade                  |
| <b>December 6th:</b>  | Annual Membership Brunch, 11:30-1:30pm |
| <b>December 19th:</b> | Christmas Free Day, 12:00-4:00pm       |