

## Chieftains Hosts Award-Winning Author in Rome on October 22<sup>nd</sup>

Fall 2019



Chieftains Museum/Major Ridge Home is proud to partner with One Book Many Voices in Rome as well as the Rome Area Council for the Arts, the Georgia Chapter of the Trail of Tears Association, and Duke Hospitality to bring an evening of Cherokee culture and literary exploration to our community with Cherokee musician Tommy Wildcat and author Charles Frazier on October 22, 2019 at the Rome City Auditorium.



The 2019 community read chosen by the local One Book Many Voices is the novel *Thirteen Moons* by author Charles Frazier. Set in the mountains of North Carolina in the 19th century, *Thirteen Moons* tells the story of Will Cooper, an orphaned “bound boy” who is given a map and a key to operate a trading post deep inside the boundaries of what was then the Cherokee Nation. Will’s experiences as an adopted Cherokee and his love of a girl named Claire drive a narrative that depicts the lives and culture of a people forced to deal with the constraints of the U.S. government who ultimately lose the battle to remain in their homeland. Published in 2006, *Thirteen Moons* was a New York Times bestseller and named a best book of the year by the Los Angeles Times, Chicago Tribune, and St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

Charles Frazier grew up in the mountains of Western North Carolina and is the author of four novels. *Cold Mountain* (1997), his highly acclaimed first novel, was an international bestseller, won the National Book Award in 1997, and was adapted into an Academy Award-winning film by Anthony Minghella in 2003. His latest novel, *Varina*, an instant New York Times bestseller released in April of 2018, is a fictional reimagining of the life of Varina Howell Davis before, during, and after the American Civil War.

Chieftains Museum/Major Ridge Home is partnering with One Book Many Voices to bring Charles Frazier to Rome for an evening with the author on October 22nd, 2019 at the Rome City Auditorium. The evening will begin with a performance by Cherokee musician and Cherokee National Treasure Tommy Wildcat at 6:30pm, followed by a presentation by Charles Frazier at 7pm. Tickets for this event are \$5 each and are currently on sale at Chieftains Museum, the Rome-Floyd County Library, and Dogwood Books in downtown Rome.

This event is part of the museum’s 2019 calendar of events to commemorate the 200th anniversary of Cherokee leader Major Ridge coming to the house that is now the museum.

For more information, contact the museum at (706) 291-9494 or visit our website at [www.chieftainmuseum.org](http://www.chieftainmuseum.org).

CHIEFTAINS MUSEUM/MAJOR RIDGE HOME

THE RIDGE REPORT

## Chieftains Museum to Display New Frankie Welch Exhibit



Beginning Saturday, November 2, 2019, Chieftains Museum/Major Ridge Home will present “Style with Substance: The Designs of Frankie Welch,” a temporary exhibition made possible through the support of Mohawk Industries.

Chieftains Museum/Major Ridge Home is partnering with the Welch family along with the Rome Area History Museum to feature a selection of Mrs. Welch’s work that represents her career and influences with particular emphasis on her connection and work related to Georgia, the Rome community and Native American history.

Textile designer Frankie Welch is a native of Rome, who grew up with a keen interest in fashion and sewing. She moved to Alexandria, Virginia in 1952 with her husband, William, whose work in a variety of government agencies granted her access to the political scene in Washington, D.C. Mrs. Welch became a private

fashion consultant and personal shopper for Washington’s high society, opening her own clothing store in 1963. Frankie Welch is best known for creating over 4,000 designs for scarves, dresses, and accessories for companies, political campaigns, and government initiatives, including her famous “Cherokee Alphabet Scarf.” Mrs. Welch also designed items for several First Ladies including Betty Ford, Lady Bird Johnson, Rosalyn Carter, Nancy Reagan, and Barbara Bush. Her work has been sold and featured in venues all over the world and resides in several museum collections today, including the Smithsonian.

The exhibition will be open to the public and available with the purchase of regular admission from November 2, 2019 through February 29, 2020 during museum operating hours, Wednesday-Saturday from 10am-5pm.

The exhibition is the last in a series of programs to be presented by Chieftains Museum in 2019 to commemorate the 200th anniversary of Major Ridge coming to the house that is now the museum.



## Chieftains Hosts Workshop as Part of the Georgia Statewide Historic Preservation Conference



On September 18, 2019 Chieftains Museum became a learning lab for participants in the Georgia Statewide Historic Preservation Conference sponsored by The Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation, the Georgia Historic Preservation Division (HPD), and the Georgia Alliance of Preservation Commissions (GAPC). This three-day conference included preservation presentations, tours, workshops, social events, and professional networking.

The workshop at Chieftains focused on a problem faced by many historic buildings—plaster repair. With the help of local plaster artisan Charles Goulding, twenty-four conference participants learned the theories, techniques and implementation of proper plaster repair for historic structures. Nearly a lost art, finding experts to conduct historic plaster repair using authentic materials is a challenge in Georgia, one that Chieftains hopes to meet by working with professionals like Mr. Goulding.

The statewide preservation conference is an annual event that brings together preservationists, non-profits, planners, architects, historians, architectural historians, archaeologists, city and county administrators, historic preservation commission members and students from across Georgia. Chieftains was honored to be a part of this important preservation event in Rome.

## 2020 Membership Drive Now Underway!

### The “Preserving the Past, Protecting the Future” 2020 membership drive is now under way and we can use your help!



In 2019 we have focused on commemorating the 200th anniversary of Major Ridge coming to the house that is Chieftains Museum. As part of this anniversary, we hosted a number of dynamic programs both at the museum and in our community. This calendar of events helped us strengthen our current partnerships and forge new relationships with other organizations including the Oklahoma History Center, Atlanta Afro-American Historical & Genealogical Society, Antonio J. Waring Archaeological Laboratory, Rome Area Council for the Arts, Museum of the Cherokee Indian, Georgia Chapter of the Trail of Tears Association, Rome Historic Preservation Commission, Northwest Georgia History Center, Rome Area History Museum, and our local One Book, Many Voices committee. Support from these organizations allowed us to bring Cherokee history to life in our community like never before. All of this was accomplished as we welcomed visitors and school children both near and far to learn the story of Major Ridge and the history of the Cherokee in our area.

Rome was also the host city for the Georgia Statewide Historic Preservation Conference in September, where valuable information was gathered about how to maintain and improve historic structures like Chieftains, a National Historic Landmark. With this in mind, we look forward to 2020 as we shift our focus from one of commemoration to preservation.

We encourage you to be the first to share our vision by becoming part of our Preserving the Past...Protecting the Future membership campaign. Each member of the museum is so important to the preservation of this non-profit National Historic Landmark and the fulfillment of our mission that we urge you to help us reach our goals in 2020 through your renewed or new support. Your support will not only help us operate and preserve the buildings, grounds and programs at the museum, but will demonstrate the importance of Chieftains Museum and our history to the rest of the community.

You can renew your membership today by visiting the museum website at [www.chieftainmuseum.org](http://www.chieftainmuseum.org) where you can either download our 2020 membership form to send in with your payment or renew directly online through our PayPal link. We also hope you will encourage your family and friends to become a part of the excitement next year by becoming members and remember—Chieftains memberships make great holiday gifts that will keep giving all year long!

## Collections Corner

### “Indian Necklace” Designed by Frankie Welch



Frankie Welch began designing this type of jewelry to sell in her store in Virginia in the 1970s. Inspired by Native American culture and materials, Welch designed various pieces like the one shown above. In 1973, EPM Publications released her book entitled, “Indian Jewelry.”

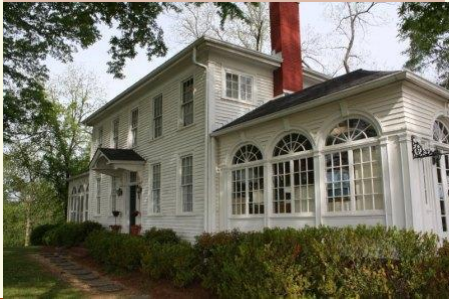
Donated to the museum by Peggy Welch Williams, Frankie’s daughter, this piece will be on display at Chieftains Museum during the “Style with Substance: The Designs of Frankie Welch” exhibit coming in November 2019.

  
*Chieftains Museum*  
MAJOR RIDGE HOME

**CHIEFTAINS MUSEUM/MAJOR RIDGE HOME**

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**We're on the Web!**

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

## Upcoming Events

**October 22nd: One Book Many Voices Event with Charles Frazier**

**November 2, 2019-**

**February 29, 2020 Frankie Welch Exhibit, “Style with Substance”**

**December 3rd: Giving Tuesday Event (online)**