

The "Standing Tall" 2021 membership drive is now under way and we can use your help!

Fall 2020

The year 2020 has been an unexpected and challenging year for all of us. There is no doubt that this year marks a significant moment in time both for the United States and the world at large. Along with other businesses and nonprofit organizations, museums have felt the strain of lost revenue and visitation due to the COVID-19 crisis. As a whole, the humanities have been faced with finding new ways to connect audiences with our message in order to fulfill our mission and stay a relevant, constant community resource in a world where so much has been uncertain.



Chieftains Museum/Major Ridge Home was forced to close to the public in March 2020 due to the health crisis. However, your support along with the efforts of the Board of Directors and staff of the museum have kept the museum alive as we developed new ways to bring the story of the Ridge family and the Cherokee people in our community.

During the closure, museum staff attended webinars through regional and national organizations for museum professionals to learn how organizations across the country were working through quarantine. Chieftains developed our "Summer Camp in a Bag" program and provided free, online activities to the public in order to provide fun educational tools for families and students in quarantine. The museum also received financial support through loans and grants provided as part of the CARES Act in conjunction with national, state, and local organizations. With in-person fundraising an impossibility, Chieftains took our annual Herb & Plant Sale online in April and hosted our first BBQ to Go Sale in August, both of which proved to be successful. The museum re-opened to the public in July 2020 with new operating hours and health protocols in place to keep our visitors and staff safe. None of this would have been possible without the support of our volunteers and our community.

However, our work is not done. Even as the health crisis improves in some areas, the world will continue to feel the effects of 2020 long after the year is over. With reduced visitation, no school tours or in-person programs in the foreseeable future, Chieftains Museum/Major Ridge Home needs your support as a member to keep the story of Major Ridge and the Cherokee people alive.

We encourage you to become part of our Standing Tall 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 and we urge you to help us reach our goals in 2021 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 provide the museum with funding to establish new and exciting digital programs and events to share our story with the world.

You can renew your membership and review your membership benefits for 2021 by visiting our website at www.chieftainsmuseum.org. By renewing your membership for next year, you will have exclusive access to members-only virtual events we are planning for 2021.

If you have any questions about your membership, feel free to contact the museum at (706) 291-9494. I hope we can get together again in 2021. Until then, know that we are working hard to make sure this story continues. The Cherokee word for "leader" means someone the people trust to hold them and not let them fall. Thank you for Standing Tall and being leaders in our community.

CHIEFTAINS MUSEUM / MAJOR RIDGE HOME

THE RIDGE REPORT

Chieftains Goes Virtual for K-12 Students



As so many of our students enter a new school year through virtual learning, Chieftains Museum has “gone digital” in order to provide students and teachers with access to online museum experiences.

In addition to our annual online curriculum guide, the museum has worked with three schools this semester to provide virtual or hybrid field trips for students.

Chieftains served as a resource to help Darlington as part of the school’s Indigenous Peoples Day commemoration the week of October 12th. Darlington Middle and High School teachers explored Cherokee history with their students in class on October 13th based on information from the Chieftains online curriculum guide. On Thursday, October 15th, Executive Director Heather Shores gave a presentation on local Cherokee history, the life of Major Ridge, and Cherokee Removal to students both on campus in the Darlington Chapel and worldwide through Zoom. To close the week, students on campus worked in groups to contribute to an art project centered on Cherokee history that will be displayed at Chieftains in the future.

The museum has also hosted fully online presentations with schools outside of Floyd County in October. Second grade students at A.L. Burrell Elementary School in Marietta learned about Cherokee daily life through archaeological items in the Chieftains collection via a Zoom session with Heather Shores on October 22nd. Eighth grade students at The Museum School in Decatur learned about the life of Major Ridge remotely with Chieftains as a virtual field trip on October 26th.

Chieftains hopes to offer these virtual experiences to even more teachers and students in Spring of 2021 in order to continue our commitment to distance learning in the new year.

Georgia Trust “Fall Ramble” 2020 Comes to Chieftains

On October 17th, Chieftains Museum welcomed visitors from all over Georgia and out of state as part of the “Fall Ramble” event for the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation. Held in fall and spring each year, each “Ramble” takes place in a different location, highlighting historic sites and houses in the host city. As host city for the October event, Rome put together an itinerary of 19 locations for “Ramble” participants in Rome and Cave Spring, ranging from private homes to museums to public spaces that tell the story of our local history.

The Georgia Trust registered 245 participants for the event earlier this month, bringing a wide range of new faces to Chieftains Museum and our community. Proceeds from the “Ramble” go directly to the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation to continue their work. Founded in 1973, the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation works for the preservation and revitalization of Georgia’s diverse historic resources and advocates their appreciation, protection and use.

Chieftains would like to thank the City of Rome and the Georgia Trust for including the museum in this event! For more information on the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation, visit their website at georgiatrust.org.



THE
GEORGIA TRUST
for HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Christmas Fundraiser Includes Local Artwork to Support Chieftains



Chieftains will host a holiday fundraiser to garner support for the museum at the end of this difficult year. In previous years, the museum has earned a substantial income each fall season from on-site field trips for K-12 and college students from both local schools and institutions as far away as Atlanta. This financial landscape changed, however, with the COVID-19 crisis that has kept students at a virtual distance in fall 2020.

To help sustain the museum, Chieftains will host a holiday fundraiser selling Christmas cards and ornaments created exclusively for the museum by local artist Judy Frasure. Visitors to the museum may have seen Frasure's artwork for sale in the form of notecards in the gift shop since 2019. Frasure's work features pen and ink drawings of all types of flora and fauna, each hand-painted by the artist to highlight watercolor elements. Ms. Frasure also created a line of notecards for Chieftains with designs taken from the art of textile designer Frankie Welch as part of our "Style With Substance" in-house exhibition last fall.

For the 2020 holiday fundraiser, Frasure has created designs the focus on Cherokee history and culture. One design, titled "Cherokee Christmas," depicts a wreath made from plants important to the Cherokee and the Moravians, a missionary group that ministered to the Cherokee and introduced them to the Christmas holiday as early as the mid-1700s. The words "Merry Christmas" are shown on this design both in English and the Cherokee language. The second design represents a hand-folded paper Moravian star, a symbol of Advent in the Moravian Church. Each design contains information on the back both about the design and the connection it has to the Cherokee people.

Chieftains will sell notecards and ornaments in both designs for the holiday fundraiser. Notecards come in a pack of six and sell for \$10.00; ornaments will sell for \$8.00 each. The museum will also sell combination packs of ornaments and cards together as well as a Moravian Star craft kit that will show customers how to fold their own paper stars.

Stay tuned to the Chieftains website and social media pages for updates on pricing combination and dates for the holiday fundraiser. All items can be purchased in-person at the museum gift shop or online via the Chieftains online store. These items will make wonderful gifts for your friends and family as well as in your own home. All proceeds from the fundraiser will go directly to the operation of the museum.

For more information, please visit our website at www.chieftainmuseum.org.

Chieftains Opens New Online Shopping Experience



CHIEFTAINS MUSEUM/MAJOR RIDGE HOME

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We're on the Web!

Visit us at chieftainmuseum.org

Starting November 2, 2020, Chieftains Museum will offer a new online shopping experience for customers both near and far interested in the Major Ridge Home and Cherokee history.

Museum Manager Kamil McElwee has been hard at work create a virtual store on the Chieftains website that will allow customers to purchase items from our gift shop with the click of a button and have them shipped to them all over the world.

The museum's online store will feature smaller items like postcards and jewelry along with more expensive items such as academic books on Cherokee history and culture. We look forward to offering this online experience from the museum!



Upcoming Events

Stay tuned to our website (www.chieftainmuseum.org) for information on our 2021 events!