

# CHATTAHOOCHEE TRACINGS

Newsletter of the Historic Chattahoochee Commission

VOLUME 32

FALL 2002

## HCC PRESENTS 2002 ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

The Historic Chattahoochee Commission (HCC) recognized two individuals, three communities and two organizations for their work in various tourism, preservation and history programs at its 20th Annual Supper Meeting in Columbus, Georgia on September 26th. A beautiful four-inch bronze medallion sculpted with the relief of a Chattahoochee River steamboat was presented to Alabama State Senator Ted Little of Auburn, Alabama and Georgia Secretary of State Cathy Cox of Atlanta, Georgia. Special award plaques were presented to the Town of Clayton, Alabama; City of Richland, Georgia and the City of Eufaula, Alabama in cooperation with the Eufaula-Barbour County Chamber of Commerce and the Eufaula-Barbour County Historic Foundation.

Senator Little was recognized for his resolute and vigorous support of the heritage-tourism needs of the Chattahoochee Valley during his many years of service in the Alabama Legislature. While he has always been a champion of the Historic Chattahoochee Commission's program of work, Senator Little has also taken an interest in local tourism and preservation projects in his district. He helped secure funding for the restoration of the historic Salem-Shotwell covered bridge over a decade ago. More recently he has supported the media familiarization tour conducted by the Auburn-Opelika Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Victorian Front Porch Christmas sponsored by the North Opelika Historic Association

and other important projects and various programs undertaken by the Auburn and Opelika Arts Association groups.

Secretary Cox was recognized for the important role she has played in fostering



*Doug Purcell, Dora Little, Rebecca Beasley, Cathy Cox, Paige Green & Olan Faulk*

an appreciation for the history of Georgia and the Chattahoochee Valley. A native of Bainbridge, Secretary Cox served in the Georgia House of Representatives from 1993-1996 representing Miller, Seminole, Early and Decatur Counties. Like Senator Little, she was a staunch supporter of the Historic Chattahoochee Commission's program needs. In 1998 she was elected as the first woman Secretary of State in Georgia. Her love of public service and history came from her father, Walter Cox who also served in the Georgia General Assembly and as Mayor of Bainbridge. Through the operation of the Georgia Archives, a division of the Office of Secretary of State, Cathy has consistently worked to ensure that Georgia's documentary heritage is preserved and that her citizens are made aware of Georgia's rich history.

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## EIGHT ORGANIZATIONS TO RECEIVE HCC SEED GRANTS

Eight Chattahoochee Valley organizations are to receive matching grant monies under the Historic Chattahoochee Commission's (HCC) Seed Grant Program. This program was established seventeen years ago to assist in the funding and development of various heritage tourism projects within the Commission's eighteen county bi-state region. Applications from qualifying non-profit organizations are reviewed on a competitive basis. Grants awarded this year ranged from \$487.50 to \$3,500.

- Southwest Georgia Regional Library System in Bainbridge, Georgia will receive \$3,500 to digitize the popular "Southwest Georgia Anthology" and reprint it for distribution at the Bainbridge-Decatur County Chamber of Commerce, Main Street Bainbridge and the branch libraries. The funds will also be used to digitize the historical program book, "Decatur County Sesquicentennial, 1823-1973" and a five tape video of Jack Wingate and Andy Porter doing a history of Decatur County and Lake Seminole.
- Dale County Genealogical & Historical Society will receive \$3,000 for the survey of cemeteries and burial plots in Dale County. This survey will include both Caucasian and African-American cemeteries.
- Shorter Cemetery Commission in Eufaula, Alabama will receive \$1,480 for the partial restoration and repair of monuments in the historic Shorter Cemetery which were vandalized earlier in 2002.
- Green Grove Missionary Baptist Church in Stewart County will receive \$2,500 for repairs and renovation of this property which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
- Abbeville Chamber of Commerce will receive \$487.50 to design and print a promotional brochure for the City of Abbeville. This publication will feature the

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# HCC ANNOUNCES 2002 CHATTAHOOCHEE VALLEY THREATENED LANDMARKS LIST

The Historic Chattahoochee Commission (HCC) has identified two historic properties as Chattahoochee Valley Threatened Landmarks for 2002, according to executive director Douglas C. Purcell. This endangered property list was announced at the Commission's 20th Annual Supper Meeting in Columbus, Georgia on September 26th. The purpose of the program is to help focus attention on buildings, structures and sites that are in danger of being lost. It is hoped that this designation will encourage property owners, caretakers or others to take a renewed interest in the rehabilitation of these threatened landmarks. The Chattahoochee Valley's two most vulnerable historic sites in 2002 are:

- **Moulthrop House--Eufaula, Barbour County, Alabama**

A once-stately Queen Anne house surrounded by pecan trees and significant outbuildings, the Moulthrop House was completed in 1899 using bricks produced by Robert H. Moulthrop and Sons Brick Company. The Moulthrop House and 24.5 acres sit perched on the edge of Lake Eufaula/Walter F. George. As a result, the property is currently being offered for sale at a high price, with the home being advertised of "no value."



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## HCC PRESENTS 2002 ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

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Cathy spearheaded the construction of the new state archives building in the City of Morrow, which is scheduled to open April 23, 2003. The new facility will provide better care for records and enhance its service to Georgia's citizens.

The Town of Clayton, Alabama was recognized for its vision in preserving and restoring the historic Clayton Depot as a municipal complex to benefit the citizens of Clayton. The original Clayton Depot was built by the Central of Georgia Railroad in 1889. It was destroyed by fire in 1912 and then rebuilt before being heavily damaged by fire again in 1928. It operated as a carload freight depot until 1980 when the facility was abandoned. Under the leadership of Mayor Rebecca Beasley the depot was restored with \$385,000 in grants and donations and opened on December 9, 1999 for use as a town hall while providing office space for the Clayton Water Works and Sewer Board and the Clayton Rescue Squad. One room is also reserved for use as a historical museum. The Mayor of Clayton, Rebecca Beasley, accepted the award for the Town of Clayton.

The City of Richland, Georgia was recognized for its vision in rescuing and restoring the old Richland Depot as a multi-purpose facility to benefit the citizens of Richland. Like the Clayton Depot, the Richland station was abandoned by the railroad in the 1980's. Richland Mayor Olan Faulk and his predecessor Adolph McLendon helped spearhead a \$531,000 fundraising campaign to restore the 1913 building for the offices of the Richland City Hall, a welcome center, railroad museum and a community meeting room. The renovated building was dedicated on April 27, 2002. The Mayor of Richland, Olan Faulk, accepted the award for the City of Richland.

The City of Eufaula, Alabama, Eufaula-Barbour County Chamber of Commerce and the Eufaula-Barbour County Historic Foundation were recognized for their vision in rehabilitating the old Central of Georgia Freight Depot as a multi-purpose facility to benefit the citizens of Eufaula and Barbour County. Built about 1890, this facility served Eufaula and the surrounding area until the late 1980's when it was abandoned. Under the leadership of Mayor Jay Jaxon and the late Alabama Speaker James S. Clark, in cooperation with the Chamber and Historic Foundation over \$1,000,000 was raised and pledged to renovate the building for use as offices for the Chamber of Commerce, Visitors Bureau and the Barbour County Heritage Museum. Now known as the James S. Clark Center the grand opening of the renovated freight depot took place on April 16, 2002. Paige Green, Director of Tourism for the Eufaula-Barbour County Tourism Council, accepted the award for the City of Eufaula.

## EIGHT ORGANIZATIONS TO RECEIVE HCC SEED GRANTS

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city's historic sites and will encourage tourists to visit while enjoying other area attractions.

- Columbus State University Archives, Simon Schwob Memorial Library will receive \$2,025 to provide enhanced access to the Louise Gunby Jones Dubose Collection, the Anne Fannie Gorham Diary and selected oral history interviews with local mill workers through the compilation of digital finding aids available via the World Wide Web. In order to complete the project, CSU will establish an Archival Digital Lab. The completed project will consist of a finding aid tagged and coded using Encoded Archival Description, digital images of selected documents in the collections and text of selected documents in the collection.

- Lee County Historical Society will receive \$3,500 to help fund the rehabilitation and renovation of the Historic Trade Center in Loachapoka which houses the Lee County Historical Society and Museum. The work will include the restoration of the historic signs on the interior walls, roof replacement, repair of termite damage, termite treatment and painting of the first floor and part of the second floor.

- The Downtown Group in Dothan, Alabama will receive \$3,000 for the design and painting of the Fort Scott mural as another component of the ongoing Wiregrass Festival of Murals project. The Fort Scott mural will be the twelfth mural in the Wiregrass Festival of Murals program.

Over the last seventeen years the HCC has distributed over \$89,000 to 56 different groups in its eighteen county region.

### NEWSLETTER

The Historic Chattahoochee Commission (HCC), an agency of the states of Alabama and Georgia, is involved in the promotion of tourism and historic preservation throughout the lower Chattahoochee Valley.

Chattahoochee Tracings is published quarterly and is free to interested citizens. Requests for the newsletters and changes of address should be directed to HCC, P.O. Box 33, Eufaula, Alabama 36072-0033. (334) 687-9755 or P.O. Box 942, LaGrange, Georgia 30241, (706) 845-8440, e-mail hcc@alalinc.net, Web Page www.hcc-al.ga.org.

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# GUEST COLUMN

## COLUMBUS AND THE VALLEY IN THE CIVIL WAR DRIVING TOUR

by Matt Young

This is a joint effort by Port Columbus Naval Museum and the Historic Columbus Foundation to develop a driving tour of Columbus and the Valley with a Civil War theme. The Civil War saw drastic changes in and around the City of Columbus. Before the war, Columbus had been a modest size town that was principally engaged in making corn meal, and spinning and shipping cotton. It was the third largest city in Georgia, having a population of some 6,000 white citizens and 3,500 slaves.

In 1860, a total of 955 people worked in Columbus industries, 43% of them women. The city directory of 1859-1860 lists 46 grocers, 26 dry goods merchants, 14 bars, 8 cotton brokers, three slave dealers, three music stores, two gunsmiths, two book stores, 32 law firms, and 15 physicians, but only one bank. With the outbreak of war



Capt. Matthew Young

factories turning out goods for the Confederate cause.

By 1865, Columbus was second only to Richmond in production of war material for the Confederacy and was the largest Southern producer of shoes, swords, and

jean wool material for uniforms during the war. While almost all of the industries were destroyed by Federal troops in 1865, many were rebuilt and still exist in some form today. Other sites have been completely replaced, and now only the memory of their existence remains.

In addition to

being a supplier of equipment, Muscogee County also contributed some 25 companies of soldiers to the war effort, and many men who went off to war in 1861 and 1862 never returned. Those who did were never to same. Among the distinguished officers and men from Muscogee County were: Major General Henry L. Benning (wounded at the Wilderness); Brigadier General Paul Semmes (killed at Gettysburg); Colonel Wesley Hodges of the 17th Georgia; Colonel Payton Colquitt (killed at Chickamauga); Lt. Col. Seaborn Jones Jr. (son of City Mills owner); and Lieutenant Colonel John Pemberton (inventor of Coca-Cola). As an example, the Columbus Guards went off to war with a company of 120 men, and less than 20 were left to surrender at Appomattox with General Lee.

The Driving Tour has forty different stops on it. Most are in Downtown Columbus, but several are also in Phenix City. We initially designed it to be a guided tour with a tour guide riding on each bus that made the trip. However, we feel that we could make it a self-guided tour with very little modification. What this enterprise really needs is funding for advertising, and funding to develop a handout brochure or guide book for tourists. We believe, that with a little development, this driving tour can be one of the area's premiere attractions that could draw large numbers of people to our area.



Columbus, Georgia - 1860

## HCC ANNOUNCES 2002 CHATTAHOOCHEE VALLEY THREATENED LANDMARKS LIST

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The house, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is restorable and would make a wonderful estate. It could also form the centerpiece of new development at the site, a practice regularly carried out in other states but slow to catch on in Alabama. It is endangered due to neglect and vandalism.

### • Old New Hope School--Fredonia, Chambers County, Alabama

This frame school building was constructed by Samuel Smith on a two-acre site during 1927-28 adjacent to New Hope Missionary Baptist Church. Old New Hope School was one of 386 Rosenwald schools constructed in Alabama from 1912-1932. At one time there were 26 Rosenwald schools in Chambers County. The New Hope School building is the last surviving Rosenwald school in the county. Recently the New Hope School Restoration Committee has been formed to raise funds to renovate the building for use as a community center. The Old New Hope School was listed on the

National Register of Historic Places November 29, 2001 along with all the other remaining Rosenwald school buildings in the State of Alabama. While the building is in the process of being rescued it will be endangered until the renovation work is completed and the building is occupied.

By designating these two properties as Chattahoochee Valley Threatened Landmarks, the HCC is committed to working with property owners to provide whatever assistance is available to preserve and protect them for the enjoyment and benefit of future generations. A matching grant of \$500 is being offered to the property owners to help them take care of an immediate renovation need. In order to qualify for the grant the property owners must match the HCC's grant and follow the "Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Rehabilitation of Historic Buildings." Grants are awarded on a reimbursable basis after all proper receipts have been received and verified.



# CHATTAHOOCHEE TRACE

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Information for inclusion in the Calendar of Events must be received by the first of the month preceding the event. Events will be listed as space permits.

## NOVEMBER 2002

- November 1** **A TASTE OF EUFAULA, MAIN STREET EUFAULA'S ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DINNER:** Farmers Market, Eufaula, Alabama. Updates will be given on the progress of Main Street for the year. 6 PM (CST). A fun-filled evening with entertainment, raffle items, scrumptious cuisine & door prizes. Ticket price: \$12. For more information call Julie Turner at (334) 616-6170.
- Nov. 1 thru November 3** **28th ANNUAL NATIONAL 100:** East Alabama Motor Speedway, Phenix City, Alabama. For more information call (334) 297-2594.
- Nov. 1 thru November 9** **NATIONAL PEANUT FESTIVAL:** 5622 US Highway 231 S, Dothan, Alabama. Held to honor farmers and all aspects of agriculture and agribusiness. For more information contact Carrie Cavender at (334) 793-4323.
- November 2** **GEOLOGY DAY:** Providence Canyon State Park, Lumpkin, Georgia. A geology professor will lead a discussion on the identification of minerals, rocks, and fossils, the formation and ages of the geological periods and an assortment of information and trivia on the science of geology itself. For more information call (229) 838-6202.
- November 2** **STEEPLECHASE:** Callaway Gardens, Pine Mountain, Georgia. Racing by beautiful thoroughbreds is only a part of this "day in the country" set against the backdrop of the picturesque Pine Mountain Ridge. The infield is packed with entertainment from terrier races to the annual "Taste of the Chase" celebration featuring a variety of music, food and Southern artists. For more information call the Steeplechase office at (706) 324-6252.
- November 2** **PAINTING WITH DEBRA JACKSON QUILLEN:** Callaway Gardens, Pine Mountain Georgia. Glass painting workshop. Learn to stamp and paint on glass as you create a night light. After lunch create a dimensional painting worthy of a frame. Fee: \$45. For more information call 1-800-CALLAWAY.
- November 2** **SUNPRINTING ON FABRIC:** The Columbus Museum Uptown. 1004 Broadway, Columbus, Georgia. Learn how to use the sun as an art tool. Create greeting cards, book bags, or a unique scarf. Ages 7-12. Fee required. For more information call (706) 221-7580.
- November 3** **FALA DAY:** Roosevelt's Little White House, 401 Little White House Road, Warm Springs, Georgia.
- An annual tribute to FDR's Scottie, presented by the Scottie Club of Greater Atlanta and the Order of Tartan dancers. For more information call (706) 655-5870.
- Nov. 7 thru November 23** **A TUNA CHRISTMAS:** Opus Nostrum Dinner Theatre, 115 West Church Street, Headland, Alabama. Suitable for the entire family and fully accessible for the disabled. Door opens at 6 PM; dinner at 7 PM and the play begins at 7:30 PM (CST). Admission charged. For more information call John McLeod at (334) 693-0846.
- November 9** **CREATIVE CLAY WITH DEBRA JACKSON QUILLEN:** Callaway Gardens, Pine Mountain Georgia. Polymer Clay. Learn basic techniques as you create a piece of jewelry and a photo transfer with this new, incredible medium. Bring a clear, close up photograph of a loved one or pet for the transfer process. Photo transfers will be hand-tinted. Fee: \$50. For more information call 1-800-CALLAWAY.
- November 9** **POLOROID EMULSION TRANSFER:** The Columbus Museum Uptown. 1004 Broadway, Columbus, Georgia. Learn to float a transparency-like film image away from its support backing and apply it to an alternative surface. Virtually any surface, including 3-D surfaces such as paper, glass, or metal can be used. No photographic knowledge necessary. Bring your 35mm slides, or use those provided. Ages: Adults (Teens may apply). Fee required. For more information call (706) 221-7580.
- November 9** **A TRIBUTE TO THE DIAZ FAMILY:** The Columbus Symphony Orchestra performs Bach, Mozart & Brahms. Columbus RiverCenter, 10th Street and Broadway, Columbus, Georgia. 7:30 PM (EST), Bill Heard Theatre. For more information and ticket prices call (706) 256-3600.
- Nov. 9 & 10** **FITNESS SERIES MOUNTAIN BIKE RACE:** Callaway Gardens, Pine Mountain, Georgia. For detailed information or to register call Dave Johnson Enterprises at (770) 565-5208.
- November 10** **EARLY AMERICANS:** Oxbow Meadows, 3535 South Lumpkin Road, Columbus, Georgia. 2-3PM (EST). Back by popular demand, anthropologist & earthskills instructor Russell Cutts will discuss the culture & history of Native Americans in Georgia. See displays of stone artifacts & reproductions of tools that provided a living from the land. A great program for the whole family. For information call (706) 687-4090.

- Nov. 10 thru Jan. 5, 2003 COVER UP: A SAMPLING OF AMERICAN TEXTILES.** The Columbus Museum, 1251 Wynnton Road, Columbus, Georgia. This exhibition features beautifully crafted 19th and 20th century traditional patch and pattern quilts. Also on display are a number of exceptional pre-Civil War Southern marking stitch and verse samplers. For more information call (706) 649-0713.
- November 12 THE ABCs AND Ds OF OUR HOMETOWN HOUSE: ALL ABOUT BLUE GRASS, CALICO AND DENIM.** Fendall Hall, 917 West Barbour Street, Eufaula, Alabama. Down-home dinner and the stompin' strains of The Dean Osborne Band. Be ready to tap your toes to Blue Grass and have fun with friends. Tickets \$35 per person. For more information call Dawn Thomas at (334) 687-8469.
- November 12 AMERICAN FLAG PIN:** The Columbus Museum, 1251 Wynnton Road, Columbus, Georgia. Celebrate America by stitching a beautiful American flag pin. 2 PM - 5 PM (EST). For registration & information call (706) 649-0713.
- Nov. 13 & 20 EXPLORING WATERCOLOR:** The Columbus Museum Uptown, 1004 Broadway, Columbus, Georgia. This watercolor class is ideal for those looking to explore a soothing and versatile medium. Learn various way to manipulate the paint and achieve several different textures, while you strengthen your artistic ability. Beginners welcome! Ages: Teens-Adults. Fee required. For more information call (706) 221-7580.
- November 14 HISTORIC COLUMBUS FOUNDATION ANNUAL MEETING:** Columbus RiverCenter For The Performing Arts, 10th Street and Broadway, Columbus, Georgia. 5:30 PM (EST). For more information call (706) 322-0756.
- November 16 LOS ANGELES GUITAR QUARTET:** Columbus RiverCenter, 10th Street and Broadway, Columbus, Georgia. 7:30 PM (EST), Legacy Hall. For more information and ticket prices call (706) 256-3600.
- Nov. 16 thru Jan. 5, 2003 DORI & JOSEPH DeCAMILLIS ROADSCAPES:** The Wiregrass Museum of Art, 126 Museum Avenue, Dothan, Alabama. The collaborative paintings of the couple's adventures on the road. Lecture Hall Gallery. Reception will be December 17 at 7:00 PM (CST). Book signing and gallery talk, November 18th at 10:30 AM (CST). For more information call (334) 794-3871.
- November 16 HOLIDAY IN THE SOUTH BAZAAR:** Fort Rucker, Alabama. For more information call Velma Bastin at (334) 774-4074.
- November 16 ALABAMA ARTISTS' TEMPERA PAINTING WORKSHOP:** The Wiregrass Museum of Art, 126 Museum Avenue, Dothan, Alabama. Students may choose realism, impressionism or abstract expressionism as the style for their work. 10:30 AM til 12:00 PM (CST). Free to members and \$2 for non-members. Ages 7-17. For more information call (334) 794-3871.
- November 16 LIGHT UP PINE MOUNTAIN CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL:** Pine Mountain, Georgia. Entertainment, food, Christmas crafters and more. 10 AM - 6 PM (EST). For more information call (706) 663-8850.
- November 18 NNENNA FREELON:** Enterprise High School, Enterprise, Alabama. Grammy-nominated jazz vocalist fuses jazz, soul and gospel into a keenly sculptured eclectic performance. For more information call the Coffee Arts Alliance at (334) 393-2797.
- November 18 FARM CITY WEEK AND BANQUET:** Ozark Civic Center, College Street, Ozark, Alabama. Recognition of agribusiness, including poster contest, petting zoo and banquet. Admission charged. For more information call the Ozark Chamber of Commerce at (334) 774-9321.
- November 19 ANGELS:** The Columbus Museum, 1251 Wynnton Road, Columbus, Georgia. Get a jump on your holiday decorations by stitching an angel. You can take this design home and make many angels. 2 PM - 5 PM (EST). For registration and information call (706) 649-0713.
- Nov. 22 thru December 27 FANTASY IN LIGHTS:** Callaway Gardens, Pine Mountain, Georgia. Since 1992, this outdoor light and sound show has glittered with holiday magic for millions of people. Families from across the southeast have added Fantasy in Lights to their list of memorable holiday traditions. Experience the 11th annual Fantasy in Lights with its eight million lights creating more than a dozen beautiful scenes. Admission charged. For more information call 1-800-CALLAWAY.
- November 23 THANKSGIVING PROGRAM:** Roosevelt's Little White House, 401 Little White House Road, Warm Springs, Georgia. An annual event marking the one holiday which FDR usually celebrated in Warm Springs. For more information call (706) 655-5870.
- Nov. 23 thru Feb. 2, 2003 I-TING CHOU: SHRINES ALONG THE SILK ROAD.** The Wiregrass Museum of Art, 126 Museum Avenue, Dothan, Alabama. Intricate hand-built ceramic Asian shrines. Dove Gallery for Decorative Arts. For more information call (334) 794-3871.
- November 23 GET A JUMP ON CHRISTMAS:** USA Factory Stores, I-85, exit 62, 1220 Fox Run Parkway, Opelika, Alabama. Santa, Rudolph and Frosty will arrive with lots of goodies for the kids. Photographs taken and activities available. 10 AM- 5PM (CST). For more information call Amy Flowers-Uphold at (334) 749-0561.
- November 23 CLAY COUNTY LIBRARY USED BOOK SALE:** Corner of Bluff Street and Commerce Street, Fort Gaines, Georgia. For more information call the library at (229) 768-2248.
- November 23 29TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS AT THE FORT:** Fort Gaines, Georgia. Sponsored by the Fort Gaines Home and Garden Club. 10 AM - 4 PM (EST). Basket making, Christmas crafts, jewelry, ceramics, needlework, cane syrup, woodwork, furniture, sweatshirts, entertainment, food and much more. For information call (229) 732-6092.

# CHATTAHOOCHEE FOLKWAYS

## SOUTHERN INDIAN REUNION

By Fred Fussell, *Folklorist*

In planning for this year's Southern Indian Reunion on October 4-5 at the Chattahoochee Indian Heritage Center, the following comments were offered by Gary White Deer in answer to inquiries regarding the nature and meaning of the event's program content. White Deer served as program planning consultant and as master of ceremonies for the Reunion. Gary White Deer is an art graduate of Haskell Indian Nations University and is a practicing studio artist. White Deer is also respected nationally and internationally as a cultural preservationist, consultant, lecturer, presenter and interpreter of Native American traditions. He lives with his wife, Sarah, and family in Ada, Oklahoma.

**FCF:** What are your personal goals for the Southern Indian Reunion?

**GWD:** I am convinced that it is possible to teach folks how to discover the ultimate Indian secret; that we are, in fact, people. I can understand how abandoning expectations of Indians as being either, rare, fascinating creatures or as red devils may be difficult. The festivals in years past at CSU laid a lot of essential groundwork for presenting Southeastern Indians as people, by allowing us the opportunity to interpret our own cultures at a major public venue.

There is a saying making the rounds in Indian Country today: *we are all related*. We should now build upon what the public has already become familiar with by further promoting the idea that we are all "history kin" or "heritage kin"; certainly we are all "Children of the Chattahoochee."

I also like the idea of experimenting with new ways to present or reinforce this basic message, including examining cultural blends and comparisons. Anything we can do to remove the standard barrier between audiences and performers so that we may interact as equal participants in a genuine reunion event helps the process along.

Although we should never ignore or minimize past or current injustices, we must also understand that there is no such thing as collective guilt; there is only collective responsibility. We have a responsibility to respect and regard one another as people, as fellow humans having similar hearts, minds, and spirits.

As I see it, the process of discovering that Indians are people (while having a good time doing it) breaks down as a presentation message this way:

1. *We are all related*
2. *We all share a sense of place (the Lower Chattahoochee Valley)*
3. *We all have wonderful things to learn*

*from one another*

4. *We all compliment and validate each other when we speak the truth.*

Indian cultures have their own eloquent voices, and those voices should be heard. However, I feel that non-Indians can certainly be very effective contributors as co-presenters of Indian cultures, just as Indians may be very effective co-presenters of non-Indian cultures. Together we may all interact and share.



Gary White Deer

**FCF:** What's the importance of demonstrating and selling handmade crafts and other homemade items at the Reunion?

**GWD:** Its not just the making of things that has importance, it's the ideas that those things are tied to that really matter. A good friend recently reminded me that if you take away the songs, dances, baskets, ballsticks, and so forth, then what you are left with are ideas; that is, the worldviews to which cultural expressions are tied.

If there are no ideas, no overarching worldviews to be understood, then mere craft has very limited value. It has been my experience that simply presenting cultural expressions without articulating the ideas they represent only serves to reinforce stereotypes of Indians as colorful, inarticulate, and romantic primitives.

**FCF:** Who should be invited to participate in the "Reunion?"

**GWD:** There are many voices out there claiming to be Indian. For our purposes, if someone does not have grass-roots tribal

community credibility, or if their community is not really tribal, that is, if it is devoid of essential characteristics such as language, visual identity, or longstanding traditional lifeways, then such a person can not honestly represent and articulate a tribal worldview. They may strike a chord with an outside audience, but it may also be a false chord.

The same holds true for artisans. If craft is not part of someone's communal ethos, then it is merely craft, with very little intrinsic value. A "knowledgeable" Indian voice therefore is someone with traditional grass-roots community credibility and viable understanding of tradition, someone who can articulate the ideas and worldviews to which cultural traditions are tied.

**FCF:** What are your feelings about sharing Indian culture?

**GWD:** Songs, tribal designs, and ceremonial patterns are intangibles that nevertheless have proprietary rights. For example, the physical pattern for placement of the dance arbors, fireplace, and ball-pole at the Southern Indian Reunion grounds is *intellectual property*. Non-Indians or other Indians not of the tribes whose cultural lifeways are so represented may not properly use such songs, designs, and patterns without first asking those to whom they belong.

Such cultural intangibles are often tied to ceremony, and while we are not replicating ceremony at Reunion, we need to be careful when using intellectual properties. At last year's Reunion, the Tallahassee chief asked me to announce, "This is the way it is back home"; in other words, the patterns for the dance ground and ball ground were used properly and correctly.

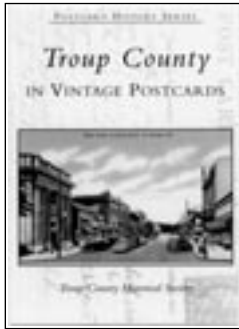
What we are ultimately talking about is parity of esteem in human relations, something far beyond "Indian Showtime". I like the cakewalk, Gospel choir, the dance company and the bluegrass band at this year's Reunion for that reason. They were cultural contributions from another branch of heritage cousins.

Those who call the region an ancestral homeland, and those who now call it home have become related through the lands, skies, and waters of the Lower Chattahoochee Valley. There is a healing spirit within the act of coming home together each year to invoke and celebrate shared and living heritages, one that allows us to look to the past, but also to the coming days.

# TOURISM AND PRESERVATION NEWS

The Troup County Historical Society has released its newest publication, Troup County in Vintage Postcards, which was published by Arcadia Publishing Company of Charleston, South Carolina. The soft-bound book sales for \$19.99. The authors of the book are Kaye Minchew, F. Clark

Johnson, Chris Cleveland, and Stephen Johnson. Over 200 postcards are included. The volume includes something for everyone-old cars, great bridges, historic buildings, a wide variety of houses, floods, commercial



structures around the county, schools and colleges, churches and much more. Dating primarily from 1905-1940, postcards depict LaGrange, West Point, and Hogansville plus nearby Valley, Alabama.

Ron Starnes, director of the Lower Chattahoochee Regional Development Center retired in June after 41 years of planning and administrative experience, 29 years as director of the center, which serves city and county governments throughout the region. He and his wife, Shirley, plan to split time between Columbus and a condominium in Ocean Springs, Mississippi. During his tenure, RDC member governments have received more than \$148 million in grants with the agency's assistance, which includes preparing grant applications, administering grant programs and providing technical assistance.

The Cullars Rotation experiment (circa 1911) on the campus of Auburn University has been nominated for the National Register of Historical Places. It is the oldest soil fertility study in the South, and one of America's oldest, continuous field crop experiments. If accepted for the National Register, it will join the nearby Old Rotation experiment (circa 1896) as one of only four field crop research sites to receive this honor. The Cullars Rotation is located on property that is known as the Alvis Field on South College Street and Woodfield Drive in Auburn.

The Gardens at Callaway, one of the country's leading botanical centers, has built a \$12.6 million environmentally friendly conference center. The Southern Pine, a 54,000 square-foot convention center aims to bring meeting groups closer to nature and is expected to be the first

certified "green" conference center in the United States. "We believe now more than ever that people want experiences in and close to nature," said George Fischer, Callaway's president. The Southern Pine, which includes two ballrooms, a business center, retail shops and a 150-seat dining hall, blends into the surrounding pine forest with extensive use of glass, allowing meeting rooms to look out onto landscaped terraces and courtyards. Heart pine floors and indoor and outdoor stone fireplaces enhance the woodlands feel along with a series of connected meeting spaces that illustrate a "village in a garden design." The center is located near the main entrance, with access to Callaway's golf, tennis and fishing resort.

The Wiregrass Museum of Art in Dothan has announced the appointment of Esther Hockett as Director effective October 1. Ms. Hockett succeeds founding director Sam Kates who is retiring. Ms. Hockett is widely known in the museum community as the former director of the Midwestern Museum Association and the Southeastern Museum Association.



*Esther Hockett*

A new book published by Westville Village replays the funny, interesting, and dramatic memories of the people of Stewart County. The collection is called, *Pot Liquor: Tales and Recollections told by the People of Stewart County, Georgia*. Fred C. Fussell, a folklorist who was on Westville's staff from 1969 to 1976, edited the book. The 162 stories included in the book were collected by a local group of volunteers in the last several years of the twentieth century. Anyone with memories of the county and a willingness to talk into a tape recorder was invited to sit for a couple of hours and talk. Others wrote out their stories for the project. Most of the stories date from the 1920s, '30s, and '40s, but material from as far back as antebellum times and as recently as the 1990s is included. Early readers of the 165-page book report that they enjoyed the flow of stories so much that they finished reading it in one or two sittings. The book is interspersed with twenty black-and-white photos by Fred Fussell, mostly from the early 1970s. *Pot Liquor* is available for \$19.25 at Westville and bookstores. It can be purchased through the mail for \$22. Contact Westville at Post Office Box 1850, Lumpkin, Georgia, 31815, or call

(229) 838-6310 or e-mail [director@westville.org](mailto:director@westville.org).

Larry Smith and Judy Tye, plus six other individuals have formed the new Henry County Historical Group, Inc. (a tax-free-not-for-profit) organization dedicated to the dissemination of information about the history of Henry County, Alabama. For more information on this new organization contact Mr. Smith at [tumbletontom@aol.com](mailto:tumbletontom@aol.com).

The Eufaula/Barbour County Chamber of Commerce is currently seeking vintage postcards of Barbour County for possible inclusion in a post card book of Eufaula and Barbour County. Postcards will be returned to the lender upon requested. Address and phone number must be included for return. The post card book will be sold to visitors and local citizens at various outlets such as Shorter Mansion and the Eufaula/Barbour County Chamber of Commerce. Books will be pre-sold to cover the cost of printing. The ultimate success of the project will depend on the number of postcards that can be located and the number of books that are pre-sold. Acknowledgement will be given to everyone contributing postcards in the publication. Postcards showing any type of scenery, event, or historic location in Barbour County will be considered for inclusion. For more information on this project contact Paige Green, Tourism Director at the Eufaula/Barbour County Chamber of Commerce at (334) 687-6664 or Sherrie Walker in Clayton, Alabama at (334) 775-9176.

Chattahoochee County Georgia has acquired River Bend Park on the Chattahoochee River. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which has operated the park for years, recently returned the signed contract transferring the park to the county according to County Manager Doug Westberry. Part of the park that is a wildlife management area under lease to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources will not come under the county's control until next year. The commission is looking into ways to improve the park, including providing electricity and water, and plans to open areas to camping. The park, 10 miles from downtown Cusseta, is accessed by a paved road. The park will soon get special attention. Officials of Georgia's nongame species program have determined the park land has such a good variety of birds that it will be featured in a new brochure for the Southern Rivers Birding Trail expected to be published in mid-November. Birds identified on the tract include bald eagles, Canada geese and blue heron, and range from birds frequently seen around water to wood-land species.

*(Continued On Page Eight)*

# TOURISM AND PRESERVATION NEWS

(Continued From Page Seven)

An exotic aquatic plant first identified in Lake Eufaula/Lake Walter F. George five or six years ago could become a threat to the lake after being found this year in many locations along a 50-mile stretch on both sides of the lake, a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers official said recently. The plant, hydrilla, is believed to have been introduced here through the aquarium industry, said O.B. "Buck" Earnest Jr., operations manager for the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint River system. "It's a tropical plant found in South America and Asia," he said. "It escaped into public waters as people dumped aquariums or flushed dead fish and hydrilla down toilets. It moved into Lake Seminole in the 1960s and just exploded there. It has been introduced either accidentally or intentionally." "You can't swim in it. You can't boat in it. You can't sail or run a boat through it. You can fish around the edge of it. If you were to buy a lot on the lake and you couldn't get your boat up to the bank, you wouldn't have a whole lot of fun there," said Mr. Earnest. It can also have a significant impact on the fishery, as it grows very thick and sucks up nutrients the fish need to grow, develop properly and stay healthy, he said. Hydrilla in patches the size of a desk to areas close to 15-20 acres have been found along stretches of the lake from the Corps of Engineers offices at Fort Gaines, Georgia, to points near the Eufaula National Wildlife near Eufaula.

## BUILDINGS IN THE NEWS

The Historic Columbus Foundation has provided an additional \$10,000 grant to Shannon and Terry Wilson for the rehabilitation of the Alma Thomas House in Columbus. This is in addition to a \$10,000 grant awarded by the Foundation

in 1999. The additional grant monies were needed because the house suffered a damaging fire in January 2001 destroying much of the renovation work that had been completed by the Wilsons. This historic house was the home of America's foremost African-American female artist, Alma Thomas. The Thomas family lived in the prominent neighborhood of Rose Hill until 1907, when they moved to Washington D.C. to facilitate their children's higher education. Mr. and Mrs. Wilson plan to eventually have museum rooms open to the public by appointment.

Fendall Hall, a house museum preserved by the State of Alabama Historical Commission, (AHC), is a treasure for Eufaula because of its architecture, the interior murals, and family history as it relates to local and state history. The purpose of the museum is to educate the public and provide a glimpse of the Victorian Era, as lived by one of Eufaula's first families, the Young Family. To help support Fendall Hall's purpose, Friends of Fendall Hall Inc., a non-profit corporation made up of 18 board members, assist the AHC locally to oversee the activities conducted at the museum. On August 1, the Board of Friends of Fendall Hall kicked off a membership drive by inviting individuals in the community to join as Friends of Fendall Hall. As Friends, contributors will help support the museum by preserving history, providing facilities for civic and social gatherings, developing tourism in Eufaula, and enhancing awareness and education about the museum. To become actively involved in this community-wide effort, interested individuals are encouraged to complete and mail an application to Fendall Hall, 917 West Barbour Street, Eufaula, Alabama, 36027 or by calling Dawn Thomas, Interim Site Director, at Fendall Hall at (334) 687-8469.

Westville's planned visitor center will be named The Griffin B. Bell Visitors Center. Bell was U.S. Attorney General in

President Jimmy Carter's administration. President and Mrs. Carter are Honorary Chairs of Westville's "History Alive Drive," of which the visitors center is a major component. Judge Bell's ties with Stewart County, Westville's home, are deeply rooted. All lines of his family flow through the county's early history. His great, great-grandfather, James Griffin, owned land and lived near Union in the northwestern part of the county. James Griffin died in 1849 and is buried in the old Union Baptist Cemetery. To this day, this excellent farmland is known locally as Bell Bottom. James Griffin's son, James Alamo Griffin (Griffin Bell's great-grandfather), was born in 1840. He married Mary Elizabeth Prather, whose father (Richard Prather) was Judge Bell's great, great-grandfather. Prather owned land three miles north of Louvale in the north-central part of the county.

Representative Bob Hanner and Senator George Hooks announced recently that Chattahoochee County has been selected from a field of more than forty applicants to receive a grant in the amount of \$4,500, which will be used to prepare for a restoration of the Chattahoochee County Jail. The money will come from the Georgia Heritage Grant Program, which is administered by the Historic Preservation Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and seeks to encourage counties and cities to preserve Georgia's rich heritage. The two-story, brick Chattahoochee County Jail was constructed in 1902 and used until the 1970s. Having already completed an exterior renovation of the building, the new funds will be used to produce a rehabilitation plan for the interior of the jail. Once completed, the historic building will be used by the citizens of Chattahoochee County as an archival facility and museum. A historical marker, detailing the history of the jail, sponsored by the Chattahoochee Historical Society and the Historic Chattahoochee Commission, was dedicated in Cusseta on September 14.

Historic Chattahoochee Commission  
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