

Trail of Tears Meeting at Indian Spring Museum

The next meeting of the Georgia Chapter of the Trail of Tears Association will be held at the Indian Spring Hotel/Museum in Flovilla, GA on Saturday, March 13, 2010 at 10:30 AM. Our speaker will be Dr. Barbara Kawulich, associate professor at the University of West Georgia where she teaches diversity courses to preservice teachers and research to graduate education students. She will give us a presentation on the Muscogee (Creek) people, focusing on cultural issues related to the role of the women of that nation. Her doctoral dissertation (1998) was an ethnographic study of Muscogee women's perceptions of work, and she has continued her research with Creek women since that time. Her most recent publication related to Creek women addressed their perceptions of the leadership roles that they hold in today's Creek Nation.

The following information about the hotel is excerpted from the website: "The Indian Spring Hotel was built in 1823 as an Inn by Chief William McIntosh and his cousin, Joel Bailey, who also operated it. In 1825, a two-story addition was built. The addition included the Tavern known as the Treaty Room and a large ballroom above it. The hotel is unique and extremely significant to the history of the state of Georgia. It is the only known antebellum mineral springs hotel in Georgia still standing. Its history yields much data on the culture, society and architecture of Georgia throughout the 19th century. The Federal style architecture, hand-planed wide boards, wooden pegs and handmade bricks clearly indicate an early 19th century construction date. The foundation was made of native stone. Indians had been coming to the springs for many decades prior to 1800. They believed in the medicinal value of the water. No permanent structures were built near the waters due to the fear that crying children and talking women would scare the "healing spirits" away from the waters. However, William McIntosh built a cabin here in 1800."

We hope you will come to the March meeting and learn more about the history of Indian Springs, the Creek people and the projects currently being worked on by the Trail of Tears Association. Our meetings are open to the public and usually there is no fee; however, this museum will be charging \$3 per person. You need not have Native American ancestry, just an interest and desire to learn more about this fascinating and tragic event known as the "Trail of Tears". The telephone number for the Indian Spring Hotel/Museum is 770-775-5350. From I-75 southbound, take exit #205 at Griffin/Jackson; go east approx. 8 miles; proceed south on Ga. Hwy. 42 six miles south of Jackson. Follow the signs to Indian Springs State Park. From I-75 northbound, take exit #188 at Forsyth; proceed north for 12 miles on Ga. Hwy. 42.

For more information about the Trail of Tears Association, visit the National website at www.nationaltota.org, the Georgia website at www.gatrailoftears.org or contact Linda Baker at 770-704-6338 or at badnil@windstream.net. You can also find out more about Trail of Tears Association activities by visiting our blog at www.trailofthetrail.blogspot.com.