Free Symposium Scheduled for September 21, 2013

History Beneath Our Feet: Archaeology and the Cherokee Trail of Tears will be the topic of a free symposium hosted by the Funk Heritage Center. It will bring together archaeologists who have worked in the field of Cherokee archaeology for comments and discussion with the audience. Executive Director of the Center Dr. Joseph Kitchens said, “The objective is to encourage a general audience to learn how archaeology has enhanced our understanding of Cherokee history, especially the story of the Trail of Tears. We hope the audience will have a clearer idea how such scholarship informs our present by reinterpreting our shared past.”

The event will be held from 9 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, September 21 and an optional luncheon will follow.

2013 marks the 175th anniversary of the Trail of Tears when thousands of Cherokee Indians in Georgia were forced to leave their homes in 1838. Speakers will take this occasion to evaluate what we know about the historic Cherokee of northwest Georgia. They will discuss how that knowledge is derived from both historical documents and archaeological studies. This subject touches the national conscience. Attitudes about the environment, cultural diversity, political equality and social justice are all enhanced by reflection on the tragic era of Indian removal. It is the story of how Native Americans survived, endured, and now constitutes one of our living American cultures. (See September Symposium—Page 3)

Native American Day
November 9, 2013

November is Native American month and each year, the Funk Heritage Center holds a free event to honor Georgia's first people. 2013 is the 175th anniversary of the Trail of Tears when Georgia’s Cherokee Indians were forced to leave their homes in 1838. A special film on the topic will be shown throughout the day. In the afternoon, the Georgia Chapter of the Trail of Tears will provide a program in the theater.

The Bennett History Museum will be open at no charge all day. Pioneer interpreters will welcome visitors to the historic log cabins in the Appalachian Settlement from 10 a.m. until noon. Scouts of all ages enjoy touring the museum and learning about the Southeastern Indians. All scouts in uniform will receive a free hot dog and drink.

Visit our website for additional information about this free public event at www.reinhardt.edu/funkheritage.
Children Enjoyed June Summer Camp

A parent who completed our camp evaluation said, “This was such a wonderful experience for my son! He has learned so much about the rich heritage of this area. He would love to step back in time and live like the early settlers and Indians. The staff provided instruction and education in a way that transferred their passion for Canton heritage and history to the kids. The price was a steal for the amount of fun and adventure my son experienced during the camp.”

Life Along the Etowah was the theme for the June camp. Pictured with Diane Minick, director of the Upper Etowah River Alliance, are nineteen children ages 12 through 12 who attended. Diane presented an afternoon camp. Pictured with “I have always had an interest in the American Indians. When I discovered the Funk Heritage Center, I knew that this would be a wonderful opportunity to learn more about the history of Indians in the Southeast and share with museum visitors. Not only have I learned a lot in the past few years, but they have thoroughly enjoyed giving group presentations to both young and old. Furthermore, the staff at the center is a joy to work with. I hope to be a part of the Funk Heritage Center for a long time.”

Tom McElhinny

Funk Book Club

Meetings, second Tuesday 2:00-3:30 p.m. Book Club meetings are open to the public.

August 13, 2013 — Outcasts United: An American Town, a Refugee Team and One Woman’s Quest to Make a Difference, by Warren St. John


October 8, 2013 — Black Water Rising, by Attica Locke

November 12, 2013 — Poetry (Members’ Choice)

September Symposium (cont’d)

Symposium presenters have been chosen because of their professional involvement with teaching, preserving and studying Cherokee history and archaeology. Dr. Jeremy McGouirk is an accomplished archaeologist for T.R.C. Solutions in Chapel Hill, NC. He participated in the excavation of the Canton Walmart site in 1995, known to archaeologists as the “Hickory Log Site.” He hopes this will have an impact on our visitation, of course, and also help better serve our region’s school students.

Today, ours is a multicultural society, but our history is a mixed bag of racism and conflict on the one hand, admiration and empathy on the other. In this sense, the Trail of Tears story is much like our collective history, defined by the struggle for human rights, sectional conflict, westward expansion, and the disposition of our natural resources. It is an exciting story, full of vivid ideals and personalities, and we look forward to helping a new generation understand it.

Dr. Joseph Kitchens

Director’s Corner……

The Funk Heritage Center relies on volunteers who contribute thousands of hours of service each year! Volunteer docents provide guided tours for children and adults. Gardeners and carpenters help with museum landscaping and improvements. Living history volunteers provide programs in the Appalachian Settlement!

Become a volunteer! Call 770-720-5970


The mission of the Funk Heritage Center is to tell the story of the early Appalachian settlers and Southeastern Indians through educational programming and the collection, care and exhibition of art and artifacts.

Cherokee Trail of Tears 175th Anniversary

The Indian Removal Act of 1830 mandated the removal of all American Indian tribes east of the Mississippi River to lands in the West. This tragic chapter in American and Cherokee history became known as the Trail of Tears. The National Park Service Trail of Tears commemorates the removal of the Cherokee and the paths that Cherokee detachments followed westward. It promotes a greater awareness of the Trail’s legacy and the effects of the United States’ policy of American Indian removal.

The Funk Heritage Center is listed on the National Park Service Trail of Tears as an interpretive site. Visit nps.gov/ptrl/index.htm to learn more about the history of the removal.

Smithsonian Museum Day

Saturday, September 28

We will participate in the annual Smithsonian Museum Day again this year. Museums throughout the country open their doors to the public to visit at no cost. Visit us on Museum Day and bring a friend. Obtain a free pass by going to www.smithsonianmag.com. Complete the form below for additional information and print the pass to bring to the museum.

We hope to see you here with a friend!

Dr. Russell Townsend is the Historic Preservation Officer for the Eastern Band of Cherokee in North Carolina. He holds a Ph.D. in anthropology and works closely with archaeologists and historians in the study of the Cherokee in the southeast.

Mr. Jeff Bishop is a Graduate Research Assistant at the Center for Public History at the University of Georgia. He is Assistant Professor of Anthropology at West Georgia State University and continues his research on Cherokee Indian archaeology.

Tom McElhinny

Thank you, Volunteers!

In each issue of our newsletter, we feature a volunteer who explains their reason for selecting the Funk Heritage Center for their volunteer work. Tom McElhinny became a docent at Funk about 10 years ago and is a guide for both adult and children’s tours.

“I have always had an interest in the American Indians. When I discovered the Funk Heritage Center, I knew that this would be a wonderful opportunity to learn more about the history of Indians in the Southeast and share that knowledge with museum visitors. Not only have I learned a lot in the past few years, but they have thoroughly enjoyed giving group presentations to both young and old. Furthermore, the staff at the center is a joy to work with. I hope to be a part of the Funk Heritage Center for a long time.”

Tom McElhinny

Scout Saturdays

Programs for both Boy and Girl Scouts of all ages are available at the Heritage Center One Saturday each month. They are designed to meet the needs of various ages and children. All programs begin at 10 a.m. and last until noon. Indian Lore programs will help a scout meet their merit badge requirements.

Scouts will see a 15 minute film on the Southeastern Indians and then go to the Hall of the Ancients. Here they will learn how and where the Indians lived, clan relationships, language, and artifacts. Before leaving, the group will play Indian games. The fee is $8 plus tax per scout with a $50 minimum for a group. There is no charge for the leader and one assistant leader. Call for information or check our website at www.reinhardt.edu/funkheritage.