June 29, 2001

A leader in the Cherokee Nation, Chief Ridge chose to settle in the 1800’s with his wife, Susanna, on the banks of the Oostanaula River near the place where three rivers meet. The home was called “Chief- tain.” Chief Ridge, who had been given the title “Major” by Andrew Jackson, agreed to sign the Treaty of New Echota in 1835 and left his home in Rome a year before “The Trail of Tears.” The Cherokee called their home in North Georgia “the Enchanted Land.” More than twenty distinct groups of Cherokee Indians headed west along three separate routes. Today the general term “The Trail of Tears” is applied to all these routes; however, to the Cherokee, only the northern land route was called “The Trail Where They Cried.”

The museum, built by Monrovian and Cherokee craftsmen, is a treasure. A large collection of books on Major Ridge and the Cherokee Nation in Georgia are available at the museum. The period furniture and many artifacts, some found on the site as a result of ar- cheological digs, make the museum a favorite stop for group tours and those interested in the history of the Cherokee Nation.

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Members of the organization continue to search for pieces of history with regard to “the Chieftain” and the Cherokee people. The museum, built by Monrovian and Cherokee craftsmen, is a treasure. A large collection of books on Major Ridge and the Cherokee Nation in Georgia are available at the museum. The period furniture and many artifacts, some found on the site as a result of archeological digs, make the museum a favorite place for school groups and those interested in the history of the Cherokee Nation.

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