



The Cherokee Tribe of GA

By Lisa M Bell

On the edge of the Okefenokee Swamp sits the Tribal Grounds of the Cherokee of Georgia. Where the tribe hosts a Pow Wow or a celebration in the spring and fall. There is dancing in colorful outfits call Regalia, crafts people selling their crafts, food and a whole bunch of fun!

I first met Jane and Tim Winkler at the Camden County Library when they gave a short presentation about the Cherokee and then had the children play the drums and dance. Jane is a wealth of knowledge about Native American History. She was even able to tell me why, on my DNA test, no Native American DNA was detected but I might still be part Native American due to the appearance of the word “Other,” on my results.

Jane invited me to the Tribe’s public monthly meeting, and I thought I would check it out. I went through some quaint country roads in both Florida and Georgia. Finally, I crossed over a skinny part of the St. Marys River and there I was in St. George, Georgia. I turned down a dirt road and passed a building and passed some lush green trees that shrouded the seven-sided Council House.

I saw some campers, and more buildings and then there was the group chatting. One of whom was named “Beaver” he came up to my car and growled at me. At first, I wasn’t sure what to think but then I realized he was just having fun.

The rest of the group was just as much fun. Some spoke of doing crafts for the upcoming Pow Wow and others talked about the dancing. I learned the Pow Wow's are a big part of the Cherokee of Georgia's funding.

The Center Poles for the Seven-Sided Council House came all the way from North Carolina (their main tribal area). The building is used for ceremonies, so don't just walk in, get permission first! The seven sides of the building represent the seven clans of the Cherokee: Bird, Paint, Blue, Wolf, Deer, Wild Potato and Long Hair. The symbols are carved into the wood.

With the dancing, the museum, food and culture the Pow Wow should be fun and educational. I do hope you will come.

Please check it out on October 2-4, 2025. Admission and parking are free.

In the meantime, you can check out some articles that will tell you:

How & why did the Cherokee come so far south?

Why St. George?

What is the Camden connection?

What is the treaty of Coleraine?

Here are some of the sources I used, check them out to answer the questions.

<https://readtheplaque.com/plaque/treaty-of-coleraine#gsc.tab=0>

<https://wardepartmentpapers.org/s/home/item/54090>

https://www.georgiahistory.com/ghmi_marker_updated/treaty-of-coleraine/

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Treaty_of_Colerain

<https://sgamag.com/>

The URL for Robert Latimer Hurst's article did not come up for me but here is the URL Listed <http://www.usgwarchives.net/ga/gafiles.htm>. I have a copy and will send to you if you email me at Lisa@LisaMBell.com and ask.