

## Cherokee Indians Hold New Car Raffle To Raise Funds For Building Historical Museum In Georgia

The Georgia Tribe of Eastern Cherokee, a State recognized tribe in North Georgia announced today the beginning of their first annual NEW Ford Thunderbird Charity Raffle.

(PRWEB) November 17, 2004 -- The Georgia Tribe of Eastern Cherokee, a State recognized tribe in North Georgia announced today the beginning of their first annual NEW Ford Thunderbird Charity Raffle. The raffle is being held to help and assist people of the Cherokee descent and the general public in learning about and preserving the History, Culture and Traditions of the Cherokee people, especially in Georgia.

Their hope is to build and establish a modern day Museum, Council Grounds and audio visual learning Center for all Georgians and visitors to learn from and enjoy the History and Culture of its Cherokee people, past and present, the Greatest Indian Tribe in North America, and a member of the original five civilized Tribes.

Many people are unaware that the Georgia Cherokee primary area of residence is in North Georgia, north of the Chattahoochee River, which comprises the original area occupied by their Cherokee ancestors prior to the forced removal of many of their kinsmen in 1838, known as the infamous Trail of Tears.

The story that ALL Cherokees were removed in 1838 is a myth even though it was a horrible event and many thousands of Cherokee died. Many whites has come into the Cherokee country of north Georgia for over 35 years prior to the removal in 1838. Many came as gold miners and fortune seekers and as a result of the Cherokee land and Gold lotteries a full decade prior to the 1838 removal. Most of the early white settlers were single white men who married Cherokee wives and produced large families of mix blood children. As a result of that fact, the families having a white as the head of household were exempt from removal and were in fact NOT removed as history has led most to believe.

The whites that did travel west with their families did so voluntarily. Resulting in many thousands of mixed blood families remaining in Georgia and the other southern states. The story that only a small group of people who hid in North Carolina was the only Cherokee left in the Southeast is not correct. Yes, a small group was left in North Carolina, but with the permission of that state. Over the years many Cherokee of mixed blood and those full bloods who hid and took refuge in the Mountains of North Georgia did migrate to the area which is now Cherokee, NC, known as the Qualla Boundary, the home of our kinsmen the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. Many residents of the boundary can trace their ancestry back to the Georgia area.

Only 5000 raffle tickets will be sold at \$25 each and the drawing will be held on February 28, 2005. The winner does not need to be present to win.

For more information visit www.cherokeeindians.com

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