



Chief Corner

Dear Tribal Members:

We had a very successful 2013. I trust your holidays were thankful and joyous and that you began 2014 with the eagerness that comes from knowing that there is so much still to do. I hope your winter months were warm amidst the snowy coldness. Certainly a **good time** to stay inside **and** do beadwork projects...

Together we (ECSIUT, Reedy River) will tell the Native story through a thought-provoking exhibition the upcoming **“Traditions, Change, and Celebration: Native Artists of the Southeast”** (opening 8/6/ 2014). This exhibition will be on display until July 2015 at the McKissick Museum at the University South Carolina’s historic horseshoe. We will also share pieces of Patrick and Elaine Langley’s collection and handi--craft in tribute and honor to the Reedy River Sachem and the descendant of the Cherokee Woman that gave the land for Greenville to become a city. I hope that you all will join us at the McKissick Museum on **Saturday, August 23, for the Opening Reception and Festival from 10-4.**

And we’re bringing to the forefront long overdue conversations addressing Native stereotypes and their pervasiveness in our culture. We have embarked on changing the **SC Public School Curriculum Standards** and working on a Resource in partnership with the **SC Department of Education**. The development of this Website will take the most of this year to accomplish and we look forward to its proposed launch in November 2014. **Richard L. Guerzon** of the Wassamasaw Indian Tribe of Varnertown is helping us with the development and design of this important website/resource.

On March 26, I will represent the Tribe at the USC-Lancaster Native American Indian Studies Week – Native Leaders Roundtable. If any tribal members would like to attend these activities and wants a full schedule, please know that you are invited and I can provide you with the specific information if you contact the tribal office.

(continued on page 6)

Upcoming Events

39th Annual Edisto Natchez-Kusso Powwow
Friday, May 9th & Saturday, May 10, 2014
Four Holes Indian Organization
Community Center
1125 Ridge Road
Ridgeville, SC 29472

With Fed Recognition In Sight, Pamunkey Chief Says ‘No Comments, Please!’

Vincent Schilling (Indian Country Today Media Network)
1/24/14

Last week, ICTMN reported that Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs Kevin K. Washburn announced the Pamunkey Indian Tribe is one step closer to becoming the first tribe from Virginia to be federally recognized. Though this announcement is a good sign for the Pamunkey, there are still a few more steps for the Pamunkey to take and Federal Recognition for the tribe is not 100 percent guaranteed.

RELATED: [Pamunkey Indian Tribe One Step Closer to Federal Recognition](#)

After last week’s announcement from the U.S. Department of the Interior that the Pamunkey Indian Tribe was acknowledged as a federally recognized tribe, the Pamunkey now has to play a waiting game. Currently, a public comment period will now be open for 180 days after which the Pamunkey tribe has an additional 60 days to respond to any comments.

According to the Pamunkey Chief Kevin Brown, no comments are the best comments. “We do not want anyone to write letters or give any comments at all,” Brown says.

“We are now in the public comment period and a lot of people have been calling me because I guess they have heard the news through Indian country and they ask me what they can do or if they can write letters of support.”

Brown says the time for positive remarks were two years ago. He said that if anyone comments now, it would only delay the process because they would have to wait an additional 60 days.

(continued on the next page)

Being Indian is an attitude, a state of mind, a way of being in harmony with all things and all beings. It is allowing the heart to be the distributor of energy on this planet; to allow feelings and sensitivities to determine where energy goes; bringing aliveness up from the Earth and from the Sky, putting it in and giving it out from the heart. (Brooke Medicine Eeale)

Shilling (cont.)

"The reason I say this is because after this 180 day waiting period, we have a 60 day response. We can waive this response period of 60 days if there are no comments. Even if someone writes a positive letter, we still have to respond and we will not be able to waive the response period. We are keeping our fingers crossed that we receive no comments positive or negative. That will move up our final report 60 days sooner," Brown says.

Mark Tilden (Navajo) of Tilden McCoy + Dilweg LLP is the tribal attorney for the Pamunkey. According to Tilden, with all of the waiting periods and possible responses from third parties, the Pamunkey will probably see Federal Recognition in about one year's time.

Tilden has seen and helped other tribes in their bid to be recognized and says the Pamunkey stand a good chance. "I think there is a strong likelihood. Yet having said that I think we need to wait and see if there are any third-party comments to the proposed findings and what those proposed comments entail.

"Unlike other tribes, the Pamunkey Tribe was able to go through this process relatively quicker than others. They filed their petition in 2010. It has been a good 3 1/2 years for the Pamunkey. Where other tribes have reached this point after decades," Tilden said. "We have gone through this relatively quickly in comparison to other tribes but I still think they have the burden of going through stringent standards combined with a very costly process."

Brown says he remembers the long process to state and federal recognition and the associated costs.

"It's been about 25 years," Brown said. "We started back in 1981 and we dropped it because we ran out of money. Our paperwork sat in boxes for six or seven years. Then we began working with Mark Tilden. It's been a long haul.

"We received some monies from grants back in the '90s, but we couldn't have done this without the Native American Rights Fund (NARF) – they spent money on us out of their general fund and a lot of people donated from all over the country through NARF to help with our federal recognition. They backed us the whole way. I know we've spent over \$2 million dollars," Brown said. "I've read that some tribes spent between \$50 and \$60 million and they still were denied."

Brown says he is prepared to wait out and finish the process in which the tribe will still have to wait for a final decision by Washburn after the comments and rebuttal periods.

"Right now we are really happy and excited where we're at, but it really means nothing. We still have to get a final decision. There are tribes that have had a good and positive preliminary report but then for one reason or another they get a negative final decision," Brown said. "This is not a 100 percent guarantee right now."

Related: [Federal Recognition: Can the BIA's Acknowledgment Process Be Fixed?](#)

RELATED: [Judge Denies Schaghticoke Appeal](#)

The [Pointe-au-Chien Indian Tribe](#)'s story is one of the saddest tales of federal government neglect and bureaucratic red tape.

Local News

Greasy Rock

by: Dr. Bill James
'Degotoga'

This is the first of what hopefully will be many updates on the Greasy Rock Intertribal.

In Eastern Tennessee's Hancock County, near the area of Newman's Ridge, Sneedsville, and Vardy, there is an area of historical significance. A rock that at one time served as a skinning platform for Native Americans, as well as, long hunters. This area became a popular location and came to be known simply as, "Greasy Rock."

During the late 1800's and early 1900's, individuals and families began to migrate from Eastern Tennessee to South Carolina, Kentucky, Ohio, and numerous other locations. The very thing that brought their ancestors to this area took these descendants away – work and a better life. Many years after my great-grandmother, Lena Sexton Gibson, left Newman's Ridge for Union, South Carolina, some of the many descendants of Lena Sexton Gibson became enrolled members of the Cherokees of South Carolina. After years of family meetings in both South Carolina and Tennessee, hours of research reading reams of paper, and countless discussions, this core group had become members of the state recognized organization with ties to the same geographic home.

Two years and 77 members later, Dr. Will M. Goins agreed to the formation of an intertribal organization comprised of members of this family group. No other structure represented the strength and resolve of these people better than the "Greasy Rock". Likewise, no other name seemed more fitting.

The purpose of the Greasy Rock Intertribal is central to all people of Native ancestry, to maintain our culture, regroup our family, and share knowledge held by our elders. This could not have been realized in a greater scenario than when Dr. Will M. Goins presented our oldest elder, Oakie Collins, a letter accepting him into the Cherokees of South Carolina.

At 92, Oakie has lived a life longer than most expect, but one harder than most have experienced. Oakie had been unable to embrace his heritage for 92 years, but at this very moment his heritage was validated.

The Greasy Rock Intertribal will meet in the Vardy Valley of Tennessee each summer and in South Carolina each fall. I have the honor of being spokesperson for my family, but the real people of influence are: my great-grandmother Lena Sexton Gibson, who brought a family of small children to South Carolina never denying her heritage; my mother, Katherine Tucker James, who spent 50 years piecing the genealogical puzzle together; my uncle, Alfred Tucker and my aunt, Mary Alice Tucker Carter, who knew who they were and never allowed the lack of tribal cards to convince them they were anything other than Indian; Cleland Thorpe and Tony Collins, who carry the torch in Tennessee; and my cousin, Landon 'Bud' Carter, who has been unparalleled in drive to promote our ancestry.

I am Indian, "If you have one drop of Indian blood in your veins, then you are Indian."

(Black Elk, Lakota Sioux)

Obituary

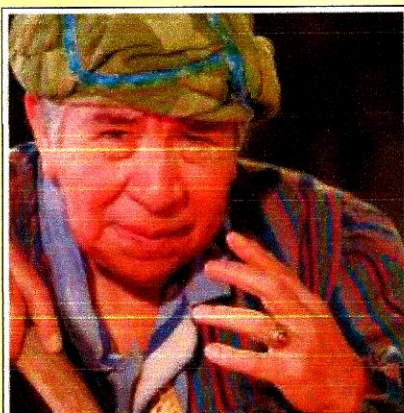
Mike Crowe, Sr.

The Tsalagi nation lost a beloved member. Thank you, Mike Crowe Sr., for your service to our country, and to the Cherokee Historical Association. Shown below playing Sequoyah in our outdoor drama, "Unto These Hills".

Mike (Mitchell) S. Crowe, 72, of the Yellowhill community made his journey Thursday, January 9, 2014. A native of Cherokee, he was the son of Katie Jessan of Cherokee and the late Richard Robin Welch. He was a man who done many things in his life and never met a stranger.

He was preceded in death by his two brothers, Robert Dennis (Denny) Crowe and Dwight Ossie Crowe. He is survived by his four children, Michelle Trevino of Washington State, Candice Ledford, Michael H. Crowe, and Malia Crowe all of Cherokee; numerous grandchildren; two sisters, Mary Ann Rich and Martha Sherrill of Cherokee; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held at Yellowhill Baptist Church with Ray Kinsland and Rev. James (Red) Bradley officiating. Burial was in the Crowe Family Cemetery with military graveside rites being conducted by the Steve Youngdeer American Legion Post 143, Cherokee, NC.



Members of the Greasy Rock Intertribal met in Vardy, TN. Here they are gathered in front of Mahala Mullins' cabin. (Photo courtesy of Tony Collins)

Mark your calendar for the *50th Landmark Conference of the Confederation of SC Local Historical Societies.*

March 26 – 28, 2014

Calhoun County Museum and Cultural Center, 313 Butler Street, St. Matthews, S.C.

For more information contact Becky Slayton, Treasurer, P.O. Box 21, Roebuck, SC 29376
reslayton@gmail.com

Early Bird Registration Deadline – 2/15/2014

Wisdom and peace come when you start living the life the Creator intended for you.

(Geronimo, Apache)

State News and EBCI

Native American Awareness Day

The South Carolina Commission for Minority Affairs sponsored the **1st Annual South Carolina Native American Heritage Awareness Day Celebration** at the SC State House North Steps on Monday, November 18, 2013 from 12:00pm until 1:00pm.

Special Presentations by elected leaders and Native American Leaders included the formal reading of State and City of Columbia Proclamations, the National Native American Heritage Month Concurrent Resolution and cultural presentations. Speakers from several Native American Indian Tribe and entities spoke about their cultural heritage and its significance to future generations of Native American Indian people. Speakers included: Chief Ralph Oxendine-Sumter Tribe of Cheraw Indians, Dr. Will Moreau Goins-Eastern Cherokee, Southern Iroquois and United Tribes, Mr. Rod Beck-Catawba Indian Nation, Mr. Thomas J. Smith-SC Commission for Minority Affairs, Rep. Dennis Moss, Vice Chief Peggy Scott-Santee Indian Organization, 2nd Chief Phil White-Waccamaw Indian People and others.



From l to r: Rep. Steve Moss, Katherine T. James, Rep. Dennis Moss and Will Goins

National Native American Heritage Month events are celebrated all over the United States to honor the contributions and heritage of the FIRST Americans. According to the Native American Heritage Month website (<http://nativeamericanheritagemonth.gov/about/index.html>).

At the conclusion of the ceremony, all participants were invited to a luncheon held in honor of the 1st Native Awareness Day held in South Carolina. During the luncheon, Clan Mother, Katherine T. James' birthday was celebrated with cake and singing. Earlier in the year, Rep. Dennis Moss and Rep. Steve Moss presented her with a framed copy of the legislation in honor of her birthday and her dedication to the genealogy of Native American people.

Dr. Bill James, Jr., Katherine T. James, and Dr. Will Goins



When all the trees have been cut down, when all the animals have been hunted, when all the waters are polluted, when all the air is unsafe to breathe, only then will you discover you cannot eat money.

State Legislative News

http://www.scstatehouse.gov/query.php?search=DOC&searchtext=Native%20American&category=LEGISLATION&session=120&conid=7443779&result_pos=&keyval=1204360&numrows=10

Use the link above to find full information concerning two bills that have been introduced which would alter the way Native American groups can be recognized in the State of South Carolina. Both the house and senate bills limits the recognition of Native American Groups with South Carolina. Below are summaries of the information. ECSIUT does NOT SUPPORT any CHANGES to the present law:

Session 120 – (2012-2014) S611

Summary: Minority Affairs Commission

...OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 1-31-60, SO AS TO REQUIRE THAT THE COMMISSION FOR MINORITY AFFAIRS ELIMINATE ELIGIBILITY FOR A NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN GROUP TO RECEIVE OFFICIAL RECOGNIZED STATUS IN THIS STATE, AND TO REPEAL.....

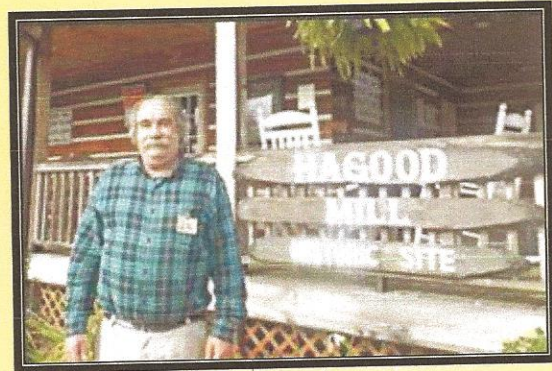
HI 4360

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Miss Cherokee 2013 Madison Crowe



HAGOOD MILL SITE MANAGER ED BOLT DIES

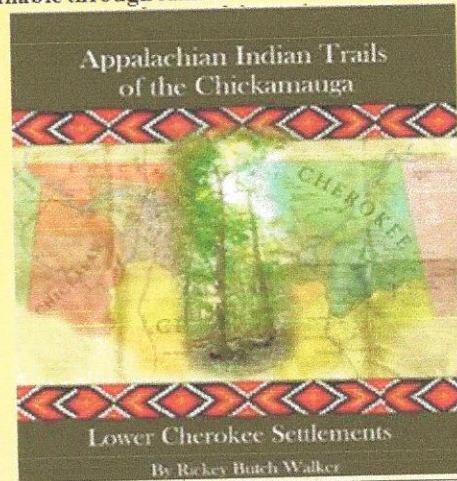


Hagood Mill site manager, Ed Bolt, died unexpectedly at age 60 in December 2013.

Bolt was a graduate of North Greenville College and retired from Alice Manufacturing after 25 years of service. He served as curator of the Pickens County Museum before becoming site manager at Hagood Mill. He is survived by his wife, Michelle, two sons, two daughters and two grandchildren. Memorials may be made to the Hagood Mill Fund, c/o the Pickens County Museum, 307 Johnson St., Pickens, SC 29671.

Pickens County Museum director, Allen Coleman, said, "He was a person who really affected us deeply, making us part of what we are today. What you see at Hagood Mill is a result of his vision and that of those in Pickens County, both of which made the site a tourism destination."

A new book you may find of interest.
It is available through Amazon.



If I want my people to be free, Americans have to be free.

(Russell Means)

State Legislative News

http://www.scstatehouse.gov/query.php?search=DOC&searchtext=Native%20American&category=LEGISLATION&session=120&conid=7443779&result_pos=&keyval=1204360&numrows=10

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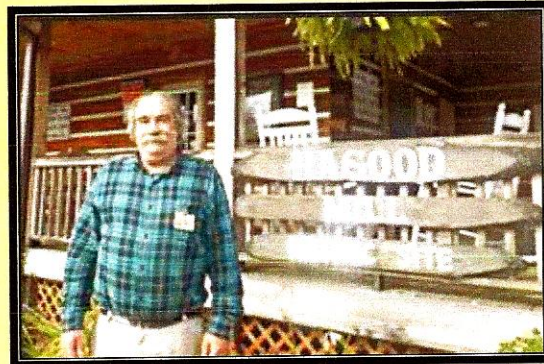
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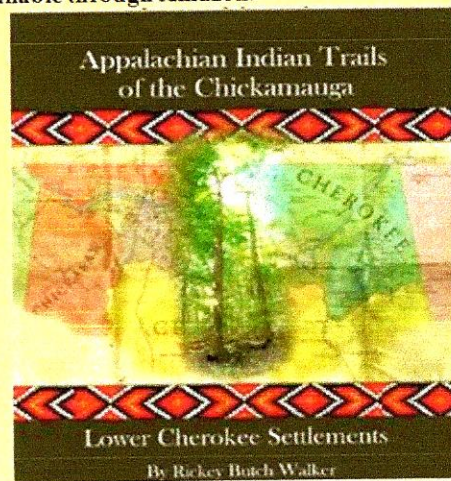


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(Russell Means)

Chief Corner

(continued)

On March 24, I will serve as the **Chair of the SC American Indian Advisory Committee** for CMA at *the Advisory Committee Training* which was postponed due to snow. The training session, was originally scheduled for Thursday, January 30, 2014, will be convened at the SC Department of Archives and History, 8301 Parklane Road, Columbia, SC 29223. The training session will begin promptly at 10:00 a.m. Members of each of the Commission's advisory committees (Native American, Hispanic/Latino, African American and Minority Business) are all to be trained. The training session, which will be conducted by the Weathers Group, will cover topics of interest including the purpose, the role, and the mission of the agency's advisory committees as defined by the legislation that provides for their existence. Realizing the need for a greater understanding of the roles and responsibilities of the advisory committees and how they should interact with the Commission's Board of Commissioners. **ECSIUT had requested this special training for all the advisory committees in February 2008 in a letter to CMA. So it does look like we are still getting things accomplished that will help benefit all citizens of SC, Native, Latino and African American, as well.**

Hope you all received the holiday greetings and the new - enrollment identification that had been redesigned.

This spring begins the Powwow season...so happy Dancin'!

Sincerely,

Dr. Will Moreau Goins

Miss Cherokee Runner-up, Paige Jackson



Runner-up Paige Jackson



Groundbreaking ceremony of the new Harrah's Casino, the \$110 million casino will be located on tribal land outside the town limits of Murphy.



When you were born, you cried and the world rejoiced. Live your life so that when you die, the world cries and you rejoice. (Cherokee saying)