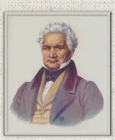
1800's Forward ➡



MAJOR RIDGE

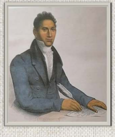
Ca-nung-da-cla-geh... "The Ridge"

1771—1839

The Ridge, born before the signing of the Declaration of Independence was a three-fourths Cherokee / one-fourth Scott tribal leader who during his 68-year lifespan spearheaded the changing of the once savage Cherokee Nation into what would become one of the most civilized tribes in all of North America.

By the 1830's The Ridge, now with the rank of major, had become a very wealthy planter and entrepreneur with a large plantation located on the left bank of the Oostanaula River just upstream from what is now the town of Rome, GA. On March 28, 1837 Major Ridge left for his new home west of The Mississippi .

A full account of the Ridge Family and the Cherokee Removal can be found in the book, CHEROKEE TRAGEDY by Thurman Wilkins.



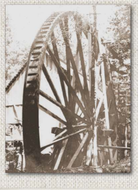
JOHN RIDGE

Skah-tle-loh-skee ... "Yellow Bird"

1802— 1839

John Ridge, son of Major Ridge, was schooled at the Foreign Mission Seminary at Cornwall, Connecticut where he became proficient in both the spoken and written English language. He married a New England lady and returned home in 1825.

Back home in "Ridge Valley" he established a large plantation he named "Running Waters". There, he built a large two-story house which still stands today (2021) and is the home of the Thad Rush Family. John and his father, Major, were among the first people in the area to produce cotton on a commercial scale at their respective plantations. John Ridge left Running Waters for his new home in the West in September of 1837.



WATER POWERED GIN

THIS OLD POTOGRAPH shows the cotton gin facility that was still on the old Running Waters plantation shortly before its giant waterwheel was dismantled and moved to Berry Schools in 1930.

ALTHOUGH NO HARD EVIDENCE is available it is almost certain that John Ridge would have erected this facility in conjunction with his and his peoples' large cotton industry at the time. In fact, the size and design of the giant waterwheel suggest that it was custom built to power a cotton gin.

IN ADDITION, the wheel powered a grist mill for the grinding of cornmeal and flour, which it still does today at its Berry College location.

For more information, go to www. wattersdistrictcouncil.org LOCAL HISTORY, History of the Ridge/Hermitage Waterwheel.

THE SCHOOL AT RUNNING WATERS

HAVING RECEIVED HIS OWN education through the American Board of Commissioners of Foreign Missions (ABCFM) and the Moravian missionaries, John Ridge felt it most important to school his people in the proficiencies of English and the European type civilization. So he built a small school house, at Running Waters and brought in Miss Sophia Sawyer as its administrator. There were some 25 students "scholars" in the school made up, mostly, of Indian children plus a few of the servant's children.

RIDGE's SON gives the following account on the school:

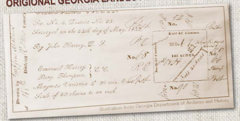
> *"On a hill some 200 yards distant* [from the Ridge house] *stood the school house, built at my father's expense for use as a missionary. Miss Sophie Sawyer, who made her home with our family and taught my father's children and all who chose for her instruction. I went to this school until I was ten years of age — which was in 1837."* — John Rollin Ridge

Sophia Sawyer

MISS SAWYER, a missionary teacher from New England, was brought to John Ridge's home in the 1830's to be over the School he had established there at Running Waters. She migrated to the Arkansas Territory with the Ridges and their seven children in 1837.

IN 1839, SAWYER FOUNDED the Fayetteville Female Seminary, where prominent white and Cherokee children were students. Its status was a significant factor in Fayetteville's reputation as a center of superior education.

ORIGIONAL GEORGIA LANDLOT DRAW ON LOT # 67



Sec. No. 3, District No. 23.
Surveyed on the 24th day of May, 1832.
By John Harvey, D. S.
Emanuel Harvey, } C. C.
Benj. Thompson, }
Magnetic Variation 4° 30 min. East
Scale of 20 chains to an inch.

Drawn by Griffin Mathis of Wilkes County District

No. 54
East 40 Chains
No. 67
160 ACRES
North 40 Chains
No. 68
No. 66
No. 78

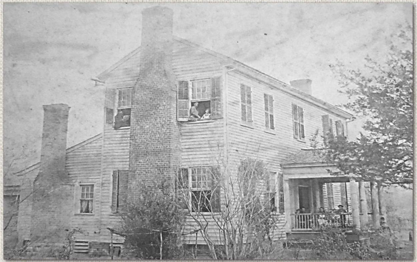
Illustration from Georgia Department of Archives and History

ABOVE IS A COPY of the surveyor plat for Lot 67, 23rd Sec., 3rd Dist. of Cherokee, Georgia (now Floyd Co.). Lot 67 was drawn by Mr. Griffith Mathis of Wilks County, GA from his $18.00 ticket in the 1833 Georgia Land Lottery.

LOT 67 WAS A PORTION of John Ridge's Running Waters plantation which included John Ridge's house. Note: the sketched-in, two-story house on the NW side of what was then the Ridge Toll Road (now the Calhoun Road).

ON NOVEMBER 25th OF 1833 Mathis sold this property to one John Rush of Merriweather County, Georgia for a sum of $800.00.

RUNNING WATERS PLANTATION HOUSE AS IT LOOKED IN THE EARLY 1900's



THIS OLD PHOTOGRAPH shows the original plantation home that John Ridge built as it appeared some 100 years after its construction. As of today (2021) this house is still standing, and is the only building left of Ridge's "Running Waters Plantation". The place has been kept in an excellent state of repair, and is currently the headquarters of Crestview Farms and the home of the Thad Rush Family.

> *"The home was a large two-storied house on a high hill with a large clear spring at the foot of the hill and an extensive farm stretching a way down into the valley, with a fine orchard on the left. The beautiful spring, whose crystal stream purled away to the Oostanaula, was called Tan-tra-ta-rara, or Running Waters, and gave the estate its name".*

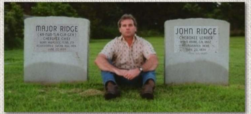
JOHN RIDGE'S SON, Yellow Bird, remembers the place as thus:

THE FARMSTED INCLUDED two smokehouses, a corncrib and a two-story stable with an adjoining shed. There were also worker quarters for the farm's "servants". At the height of development Running Waters included seven cultivated fields, totaling some 419 acres. Much of this was planted in cotton as a cash crop. The farm's extensive orchards included 493 peach, 100 apple, 9 cherry, 6 quince and 7 pear trees.

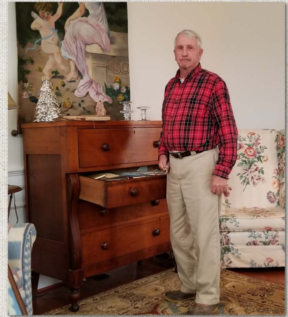
THE HERMITAGE

JOHN RIDGE AND HIS PARTY stopped off in Tennessee at The Hermitage, President Andrew Jackson's home, during their migration to Arkansas Territory. It is recorded that they were all very well-received by the President. Contrary to popular belief, President Jackson was a very good friend of the Cherokees. "The Ridge" fought in two campaigns under Jackson, and received the rank of Major... afterwards in which he used the title as a first name. The Ridges had also met with President Jackson on various occasions in Washington during his presidency.

INTERESTINGLY WE FIND that Col. Joseph Watters fought in the same wars under Jackson along with Major Ridge. Watters gave his new homeplace in Ridge Valley the name Hermitage in admiration of our Seventh President.



SCREENWRITER NOVELIST AND AUTHOR David Marion Wilkinson sits between the Ridges' gravestones in Polson Cemetery, which is located southeast of Grove, Okla. near the Oklahoma /Missouri state line in Delaware County. Major Ridge at 68 and son John at 37 were both killed in 1839 by their own people at their new home in "Indian Territory" (later Oklahoma) ... only having moved there some two years earlier.

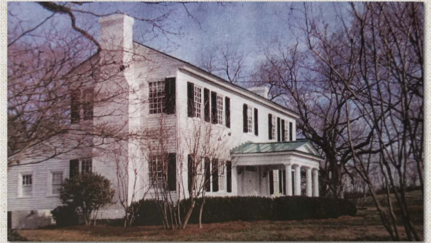


TODAY (2021) THAD RUSH, great, great grandson of John Rush, stands in front of a set of chest-of-drawers that his ancestor placed in his Running Waters home nearly 200 years ago. Thad says he was told that when the Union Soldiers were pillaging the place in 1864 that they tried to get into this chest, but were unsuccessful because of it being locked as evidenced by the scarred marks above the keyhole.

MR. JOHN RUSH's LEDGER and other papers are still in the chest. Over the years additional pictures and historical materials have been added. A large portion of what is displayed on this particular wall panel came from this historical piece of furniture.

DIRECTLY BEHIND THE CHEST is a tapestry painting done by Thad's mother, Ms. Merriam Watters Rush when she was only seventeen years old.

MAJOR PIONEERING FAMILIE

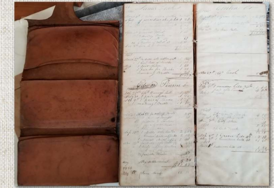


THE ORIGINAL JOHN RIDGE HOME AS IT APPEARS IN 2021

AFTER HAVING PURCHASED the Ridge property, a forty year-old John Rush and his wife Martha and their seven children moved into this house in 1840. Since then the house has been continuously occupied by the Rush and/or Watters Families. Today (2021) the great, great grandson of both John Rush and Joseph Watters... Mr. S. Thad Rush and Family reside here.

THIS OLD HOUSE is approaching her 200th birthday from the time it was built by John Ridge in the early 1820's. And, thanks to its present owner ... it is looking better than ever!

JOHN RUSH LEDGER, 1840's



UPON MOVING TO RUNNING WATERS, John Rush built his tannery and leather works across the road from his house. He operated this business until General Sherman's army came through in 1864 and completely destroyed the tannery after having taken most all objects of any value.

SEEN ABOVE IS A PHOTO of a document pouch that Rush made from leather he had tanned. Thad Rush now has this pouch, and the leather is still as soft and pliable as it must have been back when it belonged to his great, great grandfather Rush!

ALSO, SHOWN IN THIS PHOTO is a ledger kept by Mr. Rush, showing his prices for items and services of the day. In one his last ledgers is recorded what Sherman's troops confiscated as being:

"300 bushels of corn, 750 dozen sheaves of oats, 39 bushels of threshed oats, 30 bushels of barley, 150 bushels of wheat, 75 bushels of sweet potatoes, 25 bushels of irish potatoes, 15 bushels of wheat brand, 500 pounds of bacon, 6 milk cows with calves, 20 head of stock cattle, 20 head of hogs and 1 sorrel mare."

"They also burned the tannery house with 5 bales of cotton weighing 2,800 pounds, tore up the closed carriage and took 1 buggy and harness."

JOSEPH WATTERS

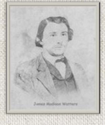
JOSEPH WATTERS... son of Pvt. Joseph James Watters of the Continental Army, came here with his wife Sarah and children in the 1830's during the time of the Cherokee Removal. Watters had fought in the Indian Wars under Andrew Jackson, and was a great admirer of Jackson. So, he named his new Georgia homeplace "Hermitage" after Jackson's Tennessee plantation "The Hermitage".

WATTERS IMMEDIATELY constructed his two-story house on the west side of what was then the Ridge Toll Road (now, Calhoun Road). After nearly two hundred years the house still remains, and is owned by one of Watters' great, great, great, granddaughters, Regina Laney.

THREE OF JOSEPH's CHILDREN

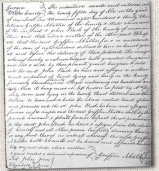
ANDREW JACKSON WATTERS
1826—1905

SUSAN ANTOINETTE WATTERS
1839—1911



JAMES MADISON WATTERS
1843—1926

MATHIS-TO-RUSH DEED, 1833



Georgia } This indenture made and entered int
Walker County } this twenty fifth day of Nov in the year
of our Lord one thousand eight hundred & thirty thre
between Griffin Mathes of the County & State above writ
of the one part & John Rush of the County of [illegible]
then and State above written of the other part Witness
eth that the said Griffin Mathes for & in consideratio
of the sum of eight hundred dollars to him in hand pai
at and before the delivery of these presents the receip
whereof hereby is acknowledged hath granted Bargained
and sold & doth by these presents grant bargain & sell
unto the said John Rush his heirs and assigns a certain
tract or parcel of land lying and being in the County
formerly Cherokee now County Floyd containing one hundred an
sixty Acres it being more or less known in plat by No (Sy
sixty seven and lying in the twenty third district and thir
Section to have and to hold the above mented tract of lan
and premises unto the sd John Rush his heirs and assigns
forever in fee simple and the said Griffin Mathes doth by th
presents warrant & shall forever defend the said premises
to the said John Rush his heirs & assigns from the claim
of himself and all other persons lawfully claiming the sam
or any part thereof in witness whereof the said Griffin
Mathes hath hereunto set his hand and affixed his seal
the day and date above written
Signed sealed & delivered in presence of } Griffin Mathes (Sea
Test John Jones
Elizabeth her x mark Jones

THE ABOVE HANDWRITTEN INSTRUMENT is the deed whereby Griffith Mathis, in 1833, transferred his 160-acre Lot # 67 property to John Rush for a sum of $800.00 .

AS IT TURNED OUT Lot 67 was the part of John Ridge's Running Waters plantation that included John Ridge's house. Rush's purpose in acquiring this property was to establish a tannery. So, when John and Martha Rush arrived, the Ridge Family, along with all their workers and livestock, were still at Running Waters. They would not be leaving until September of 1839.

NEVERTHELESS, having officially acquired the property, Rush set about building his tannery and getting it ready to do business. The records show that Rush paid Ridge $1,745.00 ($50,971.00 in 2021 Dollars) for his unharvested crops. Ridge also was paid by the Federal Government for the "improvements" he had made to Running Watters a sum total of $19,742.00 ($576,664.00 in 2021 dollars).

RIDGE AND HIS PARTY left Running Waters in September of 1839, arriving in the Arkansas Territory some seven weeks later after having visited retired President Andrew Jackson at The Hermitage on the way out. Upon arriving Ridge found the new territory to be very promising. He wrote: "The country there is best adapted for agriculture and water privileges. It is superior to any country I ever saw in the U. S."

IN THE MEANTIME, John Rush moved into the Ridge House where his descendants still reside until this day.

GREAT GRAND CHILDREN OF JOHN RUSH AND JOSEPH WATTERS

THE LATE LOVICK RUSH and his wife, Meriam Watters Rush posed for this photograph on the front steps of the old John Ridge home where they both spent their final years.

WITHIN THIS ONE SCENE, all three of the pioneer family names of which this display panel is titled are grouped together into a perfect, but rare coincidental home and family alignment.

THE THAD RUSH FAMILY, 2021

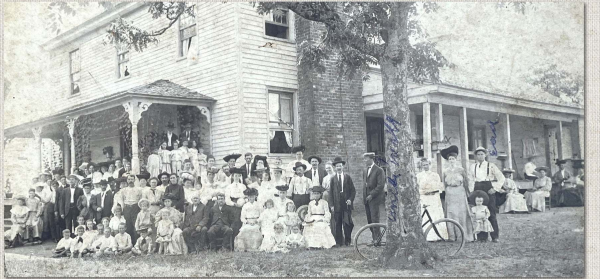
THAD RUSH is a fifth generation descendent of both John Rush and Joseph Watters, thereby making his three children and eight grandchildren sixth and seventh generation descendants of Rush and Watters.

SHOWN HERE, from left to right, are: Will Burnes, Tony Burnes, Rush Burnes, Lucy Rush Burnes, Miriam Burnes, Thad Rush, Nancy Rush, Britton Echols, Sally Rush Echols, Sam Echols, Molly Echols, Leigh Rush, Maia Rush (in arms) Hanna Rush, Luke Rush and Joe Rush.

J. T.

GRANDSON OF JOSEPH WAT
Anna and their four children... lef

S OF THE WATTERS DISTRCT… RIDGE, RU



GATHERING OF THE WATTERS FAMILY AT THE JOSEPH WATTERS HOME ON JUNE 14th, 1905

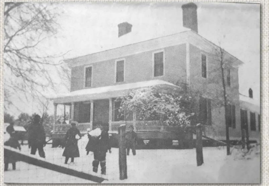
JOHN AND ELIZABETH WATTERS produced thirteen children, ten boys and three girls. At the time of this photograph their oldest child would have been 89 years-old and the youngest 62. This thirteen-child starting base and decades-long time frame accounts for such a large family gathering as seen here. Not so unusual, one of the girls was named after her mother and a boy after his father.

However, and most interestingly three of the boys were named after U. S. Presidents… George Washington Watters, Andrew Jackson Watters and James Madison Watters. Even more interesting is that these three "president" boys all married girls of the Winn Family… Mattie Winn, Elizabeth Winn and Sarah Winn. All ten of the Watters Boys volunteered and fought with the Confederate Army during the Civil War with two of them losing their lives.

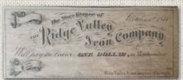
"TOM" WATTERS FAMILY

TERS… Tom Watters is shown here with his with wife
ft-to-right: Meriam, Rebecca, Annie Vance and Thad.

ANNA WATTERS along with daughters, Meriam and Annie Vance.



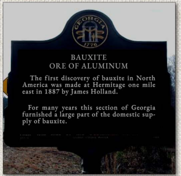
A SNOW STORM had hit Hermitage in 1918 when this photo was taken. Here, can be seen the home of J. T. "Tom" Watters. This building had once been the Hermitage Hotel. As Mister Tom was an official with the Hermitage based Republic Mining Company and its parent 'ALCOA' (Aluminum Company of America) he lived, and remained, in this company-owned house until the end of his life.



The Store Keeper of
THE Ridge Valley Iron Company
Will pay the Bearer ONE DOLLAR, in Merchandise
October 1st [illegible]
Ridge Valley Iron Company of Georgia

RIDGE VALLEY IRON COMPANY was one of the first industries established in the area after the Cherokee Removal in the 1830's. The iron-rich soils and hardwood forest for the making of charcoal were the perfect combination for the production of pig iron.

AFTER THE DISCOVERY OF BAUXITE in 1887, Ridge Valley Iron became Republic Mining Company, a wholly - owned subsidiary of the newly created Aluminum Company of America (ALCOA)



GEORGIA 1776

BAUXITE
ORE OF ALUMINUM

The first discovery of bauxite in North America was made at Hermitage one mile east in 1887 by James Holland.

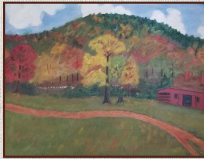
For many years this section of Georgia furnished a large part of the domestic supply of bauxite.

THE STORY IS THAT MR. HOLLAND was digging a well when he found what he thought to be iron ore. So, he took a sample over to the metallurgist at Ridge Valley Iron, only to find that it wasn't iron ore, at all. James Holland had just made the first discovery in America of bauxite (aluminum ore)!

JAMES W. HOLLAND, SR. of Hermitage, Georgia is the first person in America, and the second in the world, to discover bauxite.

THAD WATTERS, son of W. T. 'Tom' Watters, worked in the bauxite industry with the ALCOA Company in its mine development activities in Arkansas and British Guiana.

A YOUNG MERIAM WATTERS about to become Meriam Rush, poses in her wedding attire in 1929.



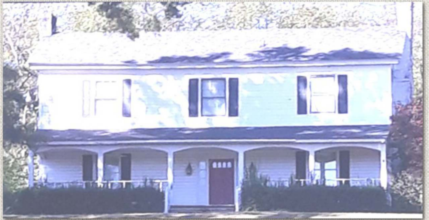
HERMITAGE BLACKSMITH SHOP… painted by Meriam Watters Rush, great granddaughter of Joseph Watters.

USH AND WATTERS

BROTHERS TOM AND WILL WATTERS, grandsons of Joseph Watters, were officials of Ridge Valley Iron and Republic Mining companies throughout those companies developing years.

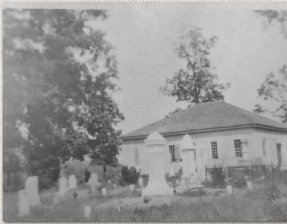
REBECCA WATTERS WEST

Rebecca was one of Tom Watters' three daughters and the a great granddaughter of Joseph Watters. She was married to Frank West, and they lived in the old Joseph Watters home along with their daughter Ann during the 1940's and 50's.



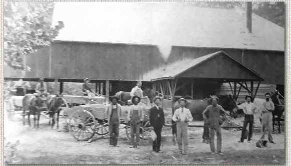
THE JOSEPH WATTERS HOUSE AS OF TODAY… 2021

THE ORIGINAL HOUSE built by Joseph Watters in the early 1830's still stands today… in a very excellent state or repair. The place has been lived in by Watters decedents continually for its nearly two hundred year existence. Its most recent descendent is that of Watters' great, great, great, granddaughter, Regina Gaines Laney.

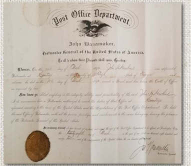


ORIGINAL RUSH CHAPEL BUILDING
BUILT IN 1838

BOTH JOHN RUSH AND JOSEPH WATTERS were charter members of Rush Chapel Methodist Church.



REPUBLIC MINING's DRYING PLANT at Hermitage in the early 1900's. Bauxite ore was loaded onto tram track cars which free-coasted one and a half miles down to a Southern Railroad siding at Shannon where it was then railed to ALCOA's plant in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania.



Post Office Department.

John Wanamaker,

Postmaster General of the United States of America,

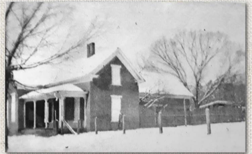
To all to whom these Presents shall come, Greeting:

Whereas,

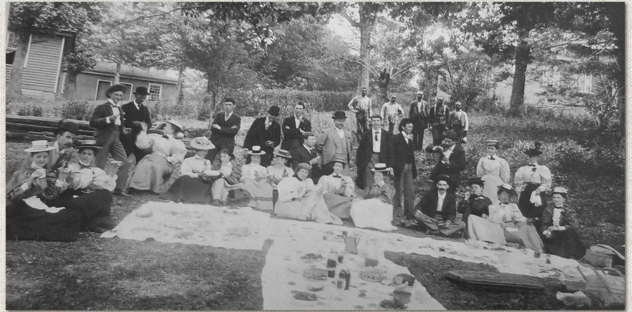
Now know ye,

In testimony whereof

THE HERMITAGE POST OFFICE was commissioned in March of 1835 with Joseph Watters as its first postmaster. John H. Hawkins (above) became postmaster in1892, Tom Watters in 1901 and lastly, Tom's daughter Meriam Watters Rush, who served until the Post Office's closing on January 31, 1949.



OLD COMPANY STORE and Hermitage Post Office building as photographed in the Winter of 1918.



"DINNER ON THE GROUND"

Here, we find a large group of the Watters Family gathering for an old-time picnic.

RUSH AND WATTERS

OUR FATHER
BORN
FEB. 24, 1792
DIED
MAR. 1, 1866

JOHN RUSH

Born
In Lincoln Co. N. C.
Feb. 24, 1797
Died in Floyd Co. Ga.
Feb. 1, 1872

JOSEPH WATTERS

BORN
Feb. 24, 1792
DIED
Mar. 1, 1866

THESE TWO GENTLEMEN were both laid to rest in family cemeteries on their own respective homeplaces, both within seeing distance of their houses. Both were born on the same day of the month... February 24th. Both established their homes on property that had once been Running Waters Plantation. They each were founders and charter members of Rush Chapel Methodist Church. Both died on a first day of the month at the age of seventy-four.

IT HAS BEEN SAID that Mr. Rush and Mr. Watters died with broken spirits after having suffered through the devastation of the Civil War, 1861—1865. They both had seen their businesses destroyed, their farm goods taken and their homes ransacked by the Union Army. In addition they had lost children in that terrible conflict.

NEVERTHELESS... these great men's spirits continue on through their progeny as shown in the chart to the right. Without there having been a Major Ridge, John Rush and Joseph Watters... there would be no chart! to the right. →

- IMPACT -

OF THE PIONEERING FAMILIES OF RIDGE, RUSH AND WATTERS

From the hills and cotton fields of Ridge Valley, Georgia to the lands of Arkansas and Oklahoma... from the bauxite mines of Hermitage to those of Arkansas and South America, and through the pursuits of agriculture, manufacturing, education, and statesmanship these pioneers, along with their posterity, have made and continue to make a worthwhile and positive impact upon the many lives of their fellow-man and civilization, itself.

- **MAJOR RIDGE ...** never learned how to read or write the English language, but yet he became one of the greatest orators of his time. Ridge fought under Col. Andrew Jackson and was given the rank of Major. He also held the rank of Chief in the Cherokee Nation, and likely had more to do with educating and civilizing his people than any other Indian leader in American history.

- **JOHN RIDGE...** Major Ridge's son, was well educated, and became a practicing lawyer and Cherokee leader and spokesman. John was also a very successful farmer, building his large Running Waters Plantation into one of the most proficient farming operations in Georgia.

- **JOHN ROLLIN RIDGE...** John Ridge's son, after moving to NE Oklahoma, became a very famous writer and journalist, often penning under the name "Yellow Bird".

- **ELIAS BOUDINOT...** 'Gallegina Uwati'. Elias, was Major Ridge's nephew who translated the New Testament into the Cherokee language. Boudinot also established and published the Cherokee Phoenix, a bilingual newspaper written in both English and the newly formed Cherokee language.

- **STAN WATIE...** Major Ridge's nephew and the brother to Elias Boudinot, became chief of the Cherokee Nation in 1862. He also organized the Cherokee Native American Regiment to fight with the CSA Army during the Civil War... where he served as a brigadier general. Watie was the last Confederate General of the War to surrender, some two months after Lee's surrender at Appomattox.

- **JOHN RUSH...** acquired John Ridge's Running Waters homeplace where he established a tannery. His tannery was destroyed some twenty years later by Sherman's Union Army. John Rush, also, was one of the founders in 1838 of Rush Chapel Methodist Church, which still bares his name to this day.

- **J. P. RUSH...** grandson of John Rush was a local historian and writer who at one time published the Floyd County Times newspaper.

- **LOVICK RUSH...** great grandson of John Rush was distinguished as having served his country in both world wars... WWI and WWII.

- **S. THAD RUSH...** great, great, grandson of both John Rush and Joseph Watters owns and operates, along with son Joe, the Crestview Angus Farms, a large purebred cattle and poultry operation. Crestview is actually part of the old Running Waters Plantation that was originally established and owned by Cherokee leader, John Ridge.

- **COL. JOSEPH WATTERS...** was one of the first white settlers to come to the area in the 1800's. He built his house for his 15-member family, which still stands today alongside the "Calhoun Road". Col. Watters served during the "Indian Wars" under Andrew Jackson, of whom he greatly admired... so much so that he named one of his sons "Andrew Jackson Watters" and his newly acquired holdings, he named Hermitage after Jackson's plantation "The Hermitage" which was, and still is, located in the State of Tennessee.

- **THOMAS G. WATTERS...** son of Joseph Watters, served as Sheriff of Floyd County during the 1850's and 60's.

- **J. T. "TOM" WATTERS...** grandson of Joseph Watters owned and farmed a large portion of what had been Running Waters Plantation. He also was with the Ridge Valley Iron Works Company when bauxite was discovered and the company became Republic Mining, a subsidiary of the newly formed ALCOA. "Mr. Tom" remained an official of ALCOA for over fifty years. He was also instrumental in getting the giant Ridge Gin waterwheel donated to Berry Schools in 1930.

- **W. T. "WILL" WATTERS...** was a brother to Tom. Will also owned and operated a portion of the old Running Waters Plantation adjacent to Tom's farm. Just like his brother, Will was associated with the beginning of ALCOA and its bauxite mining operations at Hermitage.

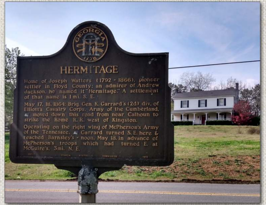
- **THAD WATTERS...** son of J. T. and great, grandson of Joseph Watters became an official with ALCOA and helped the Company expand its operations into both Arkansas and British Guiana, South America.

- **ANNIE VANCE WATTERS...** Thad Watters' sister became a science and biology teacher at Model High School where she was loved by all her students and affectionally know as "Miss Annie".

- **MERIAM WATTERS RUSH...** another of the J. T. Watters children, and mother of Thad Rush, was a teacher and artist. She also served as Post Mistress of the Hermitage Post Office until it closed in 1949.

- **TOMMY WATTERS...** son of Thad Watters attended and graduated from Georgia Institute of Technology with a degree in textile engineering. Afterwards, Thad founded, owned and operated the Rome, Georgia company of Integrated Products, Inc.

- **SALLY RUSH ECHOL...** great, great, great, granddaughter of both John Rush and Joseph Watters, became an athletic marvel at Model High School where she is now a teacher and head coach of Model's "Lady Blue Devils" basketball program.



HERMITAGE

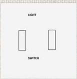
Home of Joseph Watters (1792 - 1866), pioneer settler in Floyd County; an admirer of Andrew Jackson, he named it "Hermitage." A settlement of that name is 1 mi. S. E.

May 17, 18, 1864: Brig. Gen. K. Garrard's (2d) div. of Elliott's Cavalry Corps, Army of the Cumberland, moved down this road from near Calhoun to strike the Rome R. R. west of Kingston.

Operating on the right wing of McPherson's Army of the Tennessee, Garrard turned S. E. here & reached Barnsley's - noon, May 18, in advance of McPherson's troops which had turned E. at McGuire's, 3mi. N. E.

GEORGIA HISTORICAL MARKER recognizes the founding of Hermitage and "pioneer settler" Joseph Watters. Watters' Home can be seen in the background. Continually owned by the Watters decedents for nearly 200 years, the property is now that of Watters' great, great, great, granddaughter Regina Gaines Laney.

"MISS ANNIE"

ANNIE VANCE WATTERS, beloved teacher of science and biology at Model High School in the mid-1900's.