

HERMITAGE... PRIOR 1930

BERRY SCHOOLS... 2020



HISTORICAL RIDGE VALLEY MILL AND GIN

Hermitage, Georgia

Rome Georgia artist, Frank Murphy, portrays this scene as it would have appeared in the 1870's... some forty years after the Cherokee Removal. It is recorded that in the 1830's the Cherokee's owned and operated seven cotton gins. One of these, most likely, would have been the water driven gin shown here in Murphy's painting.

This mill was located one half mile southwest of Hermitage Spring on Cherokee Indian, John Ridge's farm, which he called "Running Waters". After the Cherokee Removal the gin was owned and operated by early white settlers until about 1913 when its giant forty-two-foot waterwheel stopped turning, and the gin fell silent.

However, in 1930 the great wheel was donated to Berry Schools where it was then re-erected to power a grist mill. Now, in the Year of 2020, after nearly 200 years, this historical treasure is still in a prime state of operation on the Berry College Campus. From time-to-time, and on special occasions, the big wheel can be seen turning the mill stones and grinding corn into pure, stone-ground, corn meal.

More information at: www.wattersdistrictcouncil.org/ridge-mill

