

It All Started with a Tree

Don & Diane Wells 2019

Diane Minick had asked me to come take a look at a tree she thought was a Marker Tree that she had found in their community home-owners development. I met with Diane and her husband Ronnie on December 5, 2018 and we drove to a greenspace area of their community. My assumption as I began this investigation would be to check out the tree, make a determination on its authenticity, and record the data. I didn't expect to find much more Indian culture. WRONG!!

The tree was in fact a Marker tree marking the graves of two Cherokee Indians who were quite young. The Hickory Log Cherokee village was located 1.25 miles to the NW across the Etowah River to the north so these people were likely from that village. Their date of death was 1838 so they were probably resisting arrest and were shot during the Cherokee removal as they were being taken to the Fort Buffington collection fort, SE of this location. There were two energy lines associated with the tree so it is assumed that someone buried these Indians on an Energy line to help them reach the afterlife. After collecting the data on the tree, using the dowsing rods, I asked the question, "Is there any other sacred sites nearby and got a yes response." The rods led us back to the south along a small creek to a 40-foot waterfall. At the base of the waterfall, the rods confirmed the location of a sacred site which had two upwelling energy lines. I attempted to interpret this sacred site and got no positive responses to any of my questions. Finally, Diane and Ronnie suggested I ask if this is a birthing site and to that question, I got a yes response. The only birthing places we had found previously were in CO and I can't remember if they were near water. Weeks later, reading a book by Stephan Schwartz, I learned that an Indian Medicine Man was quoted as saying Indian woman prefer giving birth near running water. Since finding this birthing site in Canton, GA related to the Cherokee, we have discovered two others, one of Uchee Indian culture and one of Creek Indian culture.

In this community greenspace, we also found several other graves that were Cherokee woman so this must have been a sacred site for the woman.

Upon returning to the Minick home on this first visit, it was determined that there may be graves in their back yard but there was insufficient time to research those at that time so a return visit was put into the planning schedule. In hind sight, this was probably good because it took several more hours to research the community considering every thing that was found.

I returned for the second round of the investigation on January 25, 2019. Again, assuming we would find some graves related to the Cherokee Hickory Log village, we set out to search the Minick's acreage. The first grave we located was that of a Medicine Man. Medicine Men's graves are very distinctive in that they usually have a circle of rocks around the grave site. The Medicine Man died in 1813 at age 47. We located his wife buried next to him who died in 1820 at age 54. In trying to determine tribal affiliation assuming these were Cherokee, the rods did not give a definite yes or no so we walked away assuming Cherokee. WRONG!!

I next asked about more graves and was led to the SE along a small creek. I thought there may be a Ceremonial Burial site here so I asked and got a yes response and was led to the site along the

creek. The site had two energy lines as normal. Using the rods to interpret the site, I asked if it was Cherokee (no); was it Creek (no); was it Yamasee (no); was it Uchee (no). Lastly, I asked if it was Hitchiti and got a yes! Hitchiti? What the heck? Where did the Hitchiti come from and now was the Medicine Man really Hitchiti. That got a yes response. So, the Ceremonial Burial site was Hitchiti and there was a common grave field nearby with four graves. So, if we have a Ceremonial Burial site being Hitchiti and a Hitchiti Medicine Man, then there has to be a village nearby. Using the rods, I asked where the village was located and was led to the west along the creek for a little over 0.1 mile where we found the village site on a flat piece of land adjacent to the creek. The village was interpreted as being a satellite town dated from 1806 to 1835 with approximately 17 families. Although it was a satellite village, we located a Ceremonial Healing site there with two upwelling energy lines.

Having found a Hitchiti satellite village with a Healing site and Burial site nearby, then there has to be a Hitchiti Principle village in the near vicinity. That question got a yes response with the rods pointing to the north and upon further questioning we determined the village was less than ½ mile to the north on the Etowah River. We drove to that site and found not only a Hitchiti Principle village located along the creek and river, but also a Creek Principle village. The Hitchiti village was located at this site from 1806-1835 like the satellite village. Prior to the Hitchiti village being at this location, there was a Creek village located here from around 1750 to 1790. The Creeks suffered a smallpox epidemic and left after burying their dead.

An interesting finding associated with this investigation is that located across the Etowah River and less than 0.5 miles to the NW was the Cherokee village of Hickory Log determined through archaeological records. However, there is no record showing the Hitchiti where located on the south bank of the river. But, based on our findings, the Hitchiti were present at the same time. The Cherokee and Indian tribes of the Creek Confederacy such as the Hitchiti were not on the best of friendly terms. However, they must have got along as there are no known report of battles in this area.

Thus, we started this investigating researching a tree and ended up with a new sacred site category for birthing and two unknown Hitchiti villages that existed in the area at the same time of the Cherokee and a Creek village that existed before the Cherokee arrived. There may be more in the area but that remains to be found when time permits. This investigation reminds me to never assume anything when searching Indian sites and to pay attention to the reading the signs.