

# GEORGIA

## Georgia Tribe of Eastern Cherokees

State recognized  
Cherokee  
Lumpkin County, Georgia

Georgia Tribe of Eastern Cherokees  
Route 3, Box 1362  
Dawsonville, GA 30534  
(706) 864-3805

Total area	0 acres
Individually owned	40 acres
Members in area (tribe, 1995)	approx. 1,000
Tribal enrollment (tribe, 1995)	3,500

### LOCATION AND LAND STATUS

The Georgia Tribe of Eastern Cherokees has no tribal land base as of 1995. The only land remaining in Indian ownership is part of a 640-acre parcel that was allotted to an individual named Young Daniel Davis pursuant to treaties of 1817 and 1819 with the Cherokee Tribe. When the State of Georgia offered Cherokee lands by lottery in 1832, Young Davis obtained a 40-acre tract of his allotment upon which his home stood; his descendants have retained family ownership of this portion of their ancestors' allotment for more than 160 years. The land is located in Dahlonega, northern Georgia near the Etowha River and the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains.

### CULTURE AND HISTORY

The Georgia Tribe of Eastern Cherokees consists of descendants of the Cherokee Indians who managed to escape that infamous Trail of Tears which characterized the forcible removal of their tribe in the 1830s. In 1979, the Governor of the State of Georgia issued a proclamation recognizing the continued existence of the Georgia Tribe of Eastern Cherokees. The tribe has continuously resided in the State of Georgia, and is seeking federal recognition.

Throughout the intervening one and one-half century, many of the Georgia Cherokees have maintained enrollment on the rolls of the Eastern Cherokee Tribe of North Carolina, which is a federally recognized tribe. The Cherokee language is spoken only by a few of the Georgia Cherokee elders.

### GOVERNMENT

Prior to their recognition as a tribe by the Governor of Georgia in 1979, the Georgia Cherokees had adopted a corporate form of governance. Since their recognition, they have adopted a constitutional form of government and are governed by a nine-member council. Tribal meetings are held in Dahlonega or in buildings made available by Lumpkin County.

### COMMUNITY FACILITIES

The Georgia Cherokees have no tribal or community facilities, but as of 1995 are negotiating with Lumpkin County for tribal facilities of their own. Their meetings are held mostly in the Lumpkin County Seniors Center building.

## Tama Tribal Town

State recognized  
Creek  
Grady County, Georgia

Lower Muskogee Creek Tribe-East of the Mississippi Inc.  
Route 1, Tama Tribal Town  
Cairo, Georgia 31728  
(912) 762-3165

Total area	78 acres
Tribal enrollment (1995)	1,500

### LOCATION AND LAND STATUS

The Tama Tribal Town serves as the land base for the entire Lower Muskogee Creek Tribe, even though there are ten other tribal towns throughout the southeastern U.S. The town is located three miles west of Cairo. Like the Georgia Tribe of Cherokee, the Lower Muskogee Creek Tribe was recognized in a governor's proclamation in 1979 and by the Georgia Legislature in 1993.

### GOVERNMENT

The tribe is lead by a principal chief, executive committee, and the tribal council. The executive committee includes six members. The council is composed of members from the eleven different tribal towns located throughout Georgia, Alabama, and Florida. The government has two full-time employees.

### TOURISM AND RECREATION

The tribe will open a gift shop by the beginning of 1996.

