

SeCCI Represented At Geneology Jamboree

The quaint village of Cumberland Gap, Tennessee was the scene of the 3rd annual Geneology Jamboree and Pioneer Day. The event spanned three days and people came from many states to attend the event. Cumberland Gap is a very historic town as it marks the spot where there is a natural dip in the Cumberland Mountains which the settlers used as a portal into the West under the direction of Daniel Boone. For thousands of years before that the American Indians used the trail through the gap and called it "The Warriors' Trail". Cherokees, Shawnees, Iroquois and other Native Americans used the trail for both war and for trading purposes.

Now days, the town of Cumberland Gap is a quiet town with several old and restored houses, a few stores, a tiny post office, and an endless supply of fresh pure water that comes out of a cave in the mountain above the town. The Geneology Jamboree activities happened June 6, 7, and 8, 2013, and a site was erected by Rick Runningbear and wife Carole to represent the SeCCI and the Bear Spirit Band.

The event is geared toward those who seek to trace their ancestral roots. In this area live many persons who can trace part of their roots back to Native Americans, the Cherokee tribe in particular. During the three days of this event many people visited the booth of the SeCCI expressing an interest in the Cherokee culture and the part their ancestors had in it.

arrived. Also Native style wood sculptures including a totem pole carved by hand by Rick Runningbear were on display.



Above: Inside his booth, Rick engages two interested persons inquiring into their Cherokee heritage.

The Bear Spirit Band plans to participate next year in this ever growing event at Cumberland Gap, as it has proved to be an excellent opportunity to get exposure to the public and represent the Southeastern Cherokee Council as a teaching tribe that seeks to preserve the Old Ways and Traditions of the "Tsalagi" (the Real People). In contrast to Cherokee descendants of the 1800's who tried to conceal the fact that they were Indians, now days, native descendants are proud of their Native roots and seek to trace their family trees as it relates to Cherokee and other Native bloodlines.



Above: Rick Runningbear Dunifer explaining Cherokee culture to visitors to the SeCCI booth.

A few left over copies of CHEROKEE TALKING LEAVES were given out to interested persons, as well as other educational materials explaining Cherokee ceremonies and ways of tracing one's Cherokee genealogy. The sound of Native music could be heard from the speakers within the booth as visitors



Above: Outward view from the SeCCI/Bear Spirit Band booth at the Geneology Jamboree.