



Upcoming Events at Sprewell Bluff:

Friends of The Bluff Trail Sweep—
March 2, 2019
June 1, 2019
August 10, 2019
November 2, 2019

**The Widow Maker Sunrise to Sunset
Ultra Marathon & Whisky Still 5K—**
March 30th, 2019

**3rd Annual - Three Rivers Throwdown
Kayak Bass Fishing Tournament—**
May 11th, 2019

Flint River Poker Float -
May 18th, 2019

The Bluff Spooky Trail—
October 18th & 19th, 2019

Sunset Yoga—
Spring and Fall of 2019

Follow us on



700 Sprewell Bluff Rd.
Thomaston, GA 30286

706-601-6711

Open: 7:00 am – Dark

Trading Post: 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Sprewell Bluff is operated by
Upson County.

There is a \$5.00 parking fee
for visiting Sprewell Bluff.



*The History Of
Sprewell Bluff Park*

The Creek Nation was a Native American tribe that originally lived on the Flint River. They inhabited much of Georgia in the early 1800s, to also include other rivers such as the Ocmulgee River and the Chattahoochee River. This was until their lands were taken through cessions through multiple treaties, theft, and secretive arrangements by Creek leaders and federal agents. They then were removed to Oklahoma either by choice or force in the Trail of Tears along with other Indian tribes such as the Cherokee, Seminole, and Choctaw in the 1830s.

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This portion of the State was originally inhabited for thousands of years by a loose confederation of tribes commonly referred to as the Creek Nation. A village located in present day Albany was known as "Thronateeska," which in the Creek language means "flint," and the river passing by the village also became known by that name. The Creek were hunters, planters, and traders who were dependent upon the river and stream ecology and the wildlife of the region.

Europeans came to the region in the mid-16th century, first the Spanish and later the English. By 1700, the English were surpassing the Spanish for power in the region, especially with the establishment of Savannah by Oglethorpe. After the successful conclusion of the revolution and the invention of the cotton gin in 1790 by Eli Whitney, the pressure for westward expansion was profound as the demand for good cotton land intensified. By 1820, the Western Frontier reached the Flint River, and in 1825 the Creek ceded all of their lands between the Flint and Chattahoochee Rivers to the United States.

The area boomed under a growing cotton economy. Large plantations, textile



Tomochichi—Leader of Yamacraw Creek Village

mills, and gins were common. The population grew and Talbotton and Thomaston grew to be social and cultural centers of the region. Former Indian trails became major transportation routes, including Old Alabama Road, which was the stagecoach route between Columbus and Augusta, crossing the Flint River at Sprewell Bluff. The area grew and prospered until the Civil War.

The region was largely spared during the Civil War from constant fighting. A Confederate campground was established at Thundering Springs in Upson County, and is known as the Boy Scout's Camp Thunder today. According to the historical marker located near the site, on April 16, 1865, Wilson's Cavalry sized the City of Columbus. On the 17th, Minty's division was sent to secure a route to the City of Macon. Minty sent the 4th Michigan & 3rd Ohio Cavalry to secure the Flint River crossing at Double Bridge. Double Bridges at Owens Island was guarded by fifty Georgia Cavalry reserves, under Major N. C. Osborn. Pritchard, under cover of darkness and with overwhelming forces seized the island and the two bridges. Wilson's Raiders followed on April 18-19 via Talbotton, Belleview, Pleasant Hill, and Thomaston. They even



Bellwood Hall—Kendall Home

stopped at Bellwood Hall for 3 days where a prominent family at the time, the Kendalls lived. They stole their supplies, horses, and jewelry. Unfortunately, the beautiful home burned down in the late 1800s.

As throughout the South, the post-war years were difficult for the region. Since the fighting and subsequent destruction largely bypassed the area, the textile mills became operational once again and enjoyed a brief recovery. The population of the area peaked during the 1880's and then began a steady decline. The cotton economy was effectively dead by 1900.

After 1900, the region remained rural and agricultural with much of the land used for timber. The area remained largely unchanged for much of the 20th century. In the early 1970's, with the growth of the Metropolitan Atlanta region, the US Army Corps of Engineers proposed the construction of a reservoir with the dam to be located at Sprewell Bluff. After a cost benefit analysis, then Governor Jimmy Carter personally intervened, blocking the Corps of Engineers plans. As a result, the Flint River is one of only 40 rivers in the United States that flows unimpeded for more than 200 miles. Today, "the Flint River continues to flow freely through one of the most naturally beautiful and ecologically diverse sections of Georgia."

Sprewell Bluff Park Upson County, Georgia

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