Georgia’s state flower, the Cherokee Rose, was chosen in 1916. The flower is a beautiful symbol of the pain and suffering of the “Trail Where they Cried,” which is also known as the “Trail of Tears.”

According to Cherokee legend, the mothers of the Cherokee Indians grieved so much on the trail that the chiefs prayed for a sign to lift the mothers’ spirits and give them strength to care for their children. From that day forward, a beautiful new flower, a rose, grew wherever a mother’s tear fell to the ground.

The Cherokee Rose is white, representing the mothers’ tears, and it has a gold center, representing the gold taken from the Cherokee lands. The seven leaves on each stem represent the seven Cherokee clans that made the long journey on the “Trail of Tears.” To this day, the Cherokee Rose prospers along the route of the “Trail of Tears.”