

**Charles Phelps Taft Research Center
at the University of Cincinnati
Center Fellowship Grant Application**

Each section (I-IV) should be placed at the start of a new page. All required materials must be included in a single document, uploaded to the electronic submissions system, no later than 5PM on the published day of the deadline. Intradepartmental review and two external letters of support are required for this program. Applicants should submit their application with enough time to receive all letters of support prior to the close of the deadline. Taft does not accept an obligation to review applications that have not received the required letters of support by the close of the deadline.

I. General Information

- a. **Name:** XXXXXXXX
- b. **M#:** XXXXXXXX
- c. **Department:** XXXXXXXX
- d. **Position:** Associate Professor
- e. **Project title:** *Cherokee of the Cumberland.*
- f. **Potential external funding that might arise from this project:** *Cherokee of the Cumberland* is a proposed anthropological book project about an overlooked community of Native Americans living in a remote region of the southeastern United States. This book will use a compilation of archival records, ethnohistories, and archaeological data to write a culture history of this poorly known Indigenous community. Completion of this book during a Taft Center Fellowship will enable me to apply for subsequent funding from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Native American Scholars Initiative (NASI) and the American Philosophical Society's Center for Native American and Indigenous Research (CNAIR). These funding sources aim to promote greater collaboration between Native American scholars, archives, and Indigenous communities.
- g. **Intended results of funded research, e.g., concrete plans for publication or conference presentations:** Following completion of the Taft Center Fellowship, the book manuscript, *Cherokee of the Cumberland*, will be submitted for review to a *Native American Studies* press for publication (e.g., University of California Press, 2120 Berkeley Way, Berkeley, CA 94720; University of Nebraska Press, 312 North 14th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska 68588; University of Arizona Press, 1230 N. Park Ave., Suite 102, Tucson, AZ 85719; and University of Chicago Press, 5801 South Ellis, Chicago, Illinois 60637).

II. Taft Grant History Please list your grant history with Taft for the last 5 years, in reverse chronological order. Please list project title, the name, date, and amount of award, as well as development of the project subsequent to the grant, e.g. publication.

Taft grant history (last 5 years)

2019. Taft Travel Research Grant, *The Impact of the CE 535-536 Weather Event on Ancestral Puebloan Culture*, \$1,650.00.

2019. Taft Research Support Grant *Evaluating the Impact of the CE 535-536 Weather Event on Ancestral Puebloans*, \$2,340.00.

2019. Taft Domestic Conference Travel Grant *Stable Carbon Isotope Enrichment of Archaeological Soil Organic Matter from Zea mays*, SAA Annual Meeting, Albuquerque, NM, \$1200.00.

2019. Taft International Conference Travel Grant *Climatic and Human Impacts of Catastrophic Volcanic Events during the late Holocene*. INQUA, Dublin, Ireland, \$2,206.00.

2018. Charles Phelps Summer Fellowship. "The impact of maize on Native American agricultural soil." \$8,000.00

2017. Charles Phelps Taft Research Travel Grant. "Mineralogical and Elemental Sourcing Anthropogenic Sediments from Ancient Water Management Systems in the Dune Dam area of Chaco Canyon, New Mexico." \$900.00

2017. Charles Phelps Taft Research Grant. Mineralogical and Elemental Sourcing Anthropogenic Sediments from Ancient Water Management Systems in the Dune Dam area of Chaco Canyon, New Mexico." \$2,300.00.

2016. Charles Phelps Taft Travel Grant. International Conference Travel Grant. "Removing Coal Contaminants from Chaco Canyon Radiocarbon Samples." \$1,684.00.

Resulting Publications:

Resulting Books:

2018. Ruth Morgan, Janet Clinger, Kenneth Barnett Tankersley, Barbara S. Lehmann. *Piqua Shawnee: Cultural Survival in their Homeland*, Community Works West, Berkley, CA.

2016. Tankersley, K. B. and R. Newman Dr. *Charles Louis Metz and the American Indian Archaeology of the Little Miami River Valley*. Little Miami Publishing Company, Milford, Ohio.

Edited Volume

2018. Case Studies in Archaeological approaches to Holocene economies. *Journal of Archaeological Science-Reports* Volume 22.

Resulting Peer-reviewed Book Chapters:

2015. Fire and Water: The Archaeological Significance of Tikal's Quaternary Sediments. *The Archaeology of Tikal* edited by David Lentz. Cambridge University Press, pp. 186-211.

2015. Agroforestry Practices of the Ancient Maya at Tikal: Resilience and Management of an Essential Resource. *The Archaeology of Tikal* edited by David Lentz. Cambridge University Press, pp. 152-185.

Resulting Peer-reviewed Journal Articles

2019. The impact of maize (*Zea mays*) on the stable carbon isotope values of archaeological soil organic matter. *Journal of Archaeological Science: Reports* 24:324–329.

2019. The impact of soil salinity on maize agriculture: An experimental archaeology approach. *North American Archaeologist* 40(1)
doi.org/10.1177/0197693119840086

2018. Positive Platinum anomalies at three late Holocene high magnitude volcanic events in Western Hemisphere sediments. *Nature - Scientific Reports* DOI:10.1038/s41598-018-29741-8.

2018. Geochronology and Paleoenvironmental Framework For The Oldest Archaeological Site In The West Indies, Banwari Trace, Trinidad. *Latin American Antiquity* doi:10.1017/laq.2018.49.

2018 An introduction to archaeological approaches to Holocene economies. *Journal of Archaeological Science-Reports* 22:298.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jasrep.2018.07.021>.

2018. Evidence of an ancient (2000 years ago) goiter attributed to iodine deficiency in North America. *Medical Hypotheses* 118:6–8.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.mehy.2018.06.011>

2018. VWater Uncertainty, Ritual Predictability, and Agricultural Canals at Chaco Canyon, New Mexico. *Antiquity* doi.org/10.15184/aqy.2018.114.

2018. Soil analysis in discussions of agricultural feasibility for ancient civilizations: A critical review and reanalysis of the data and debate from Chaco Canyon, New Mexico. *PLOS ONE* <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0198290>

2018 An introduction to archaeological approaches to Holocene economies. *Journal of Archaeological Science-Reports*
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jasrep.2018.07.021>.

2017 Geochemical, economic and ethnographic approaches to the evaluation of soil, salinity, and water management in Chaco Canyon, New Mexico. *Journal of Archaeological Science Reports*. 12:378-383.

2017 Micro-flotation removal of coal contaminants from archaeological radiocarbon samples from Chaco Canyon, New Mexico, USA. *Journal of Archaeological Science Reports* 12:66–73.

2016 Evaluating soil salinity and water management in Chaco Canyon, New Mexico. *Journal of Archaeological Science: Reports*: 9:94–104.

2016 Stable carbon isotope values ($\delta^{13}\text{C}$) of purslane (*Portulaca oleracea*) and their archaeological significance. *Journal of Archaeological Science: Reports* 7:189-194.

2016 Catastrophic Volcanism and its Implication

for Agriculture in the Maya Lowlands. *Journal of Archaeological Science: Reports* 5:465-470.

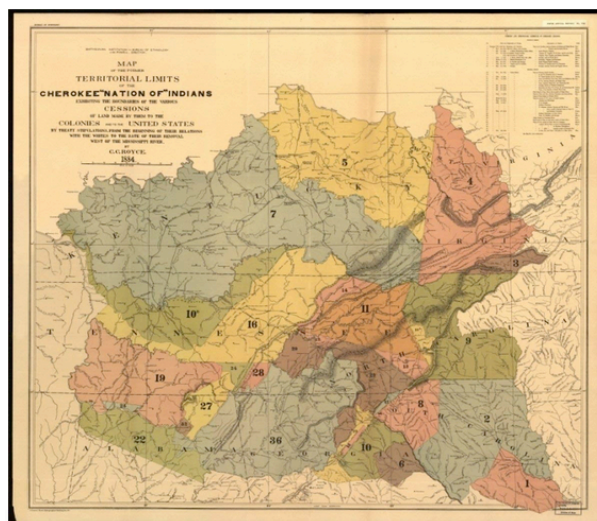
III. Project Proposal (1000 to 1400 words)

Introduction

I am applying for a Taft Center Fellowship for a planned anthropological book project, *Cherokee of the Cumberland*. The proposed book is about an overlooked community of Native Americans living in a remote region of the southeastern United States. If funded, the Taft Center Fellowship will provide me with the much needed writing time and the interdisciplinary intellectual humanities community needed to write the book manuscript and prepare it for publication. The book will be an innovative culture history of the Cherokee who have lived in physiographic area of the Cumberland Mountains, Cumberland Plateau, and Cumberland River valley for more than 14,000 years.

Justification

The proposed Taft Center Fellowship book project, *Cherokee of the Cumberland*, will be a publishable work and a significant contribution in the field of anthropology. While books on the Cherokee have been written since the eighteenth century (e.g., Timberlake 1765; Kenney and Hall 1836; Mooney 1891; Brown 1938), they focused on the original southern territorial limits of the Cherokee Nation including the states of Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama, and North Carolina. More recent books have concentrated on the forced removal of the Cherokee to Oklahoma (i.e., the Trail of Tears) and their subsequent survival and cultural adaptation to the western United States (e.g., Foreman 1932; King 1979; McLoughlin 1986; Ehle 1988; Green and Perdue 1995; Perdue 1998; Fitzgerald and Conley 2002). The original northern territorial limits of the Cherokee Nation, which include the Cumberland region of Kentucky and Virginia have been largely ignored. This situation has led to a geographic and cultural bias in our anthropological interpretations of the Cherokee.



The landscape of the Cumberland region of Kentucky and Virginia is known as karst, defined by characteristic topographic features such as sinkholes, sinking streams, springs, and caves. While the Cherokee call themselves *AniYvwiya*, the Principal People, the word Cherokee, *Tsalagi*, comes from the Choctaw word *Choluk*, which means cave. The Mohawk word for the Cherokee is *Oyata'ge'ronoñ*, which means people who live in caves. The Catawba word for Cherokee is *Mañterañ*, people who come out of caves.

Archaeologically, the caves of the Cumberland region of Kentucky and Virginia are filled with evidence of ancient Cherokee exploration, mineral mining, and ceremonial activity (Tankersley 1996). One of the most distinctive Cherokee symbols found inscribed in charcoal on the walls of caves of this region is the “Booger Mask” (below). These ritual masks are worn by male dancers known as “Boogers” during the traditional Cherokee “Booger Dance.” The ceremony is performed in the dark during the late fall or early winter.



John Wesley Powell's *Linguistic Map of North America* (above) shows that Cherokee, an Iroquoian language, was spoken in the Cumberland region of Kentucky and Virginia in 1881. It is still spoken by families of Cherokee heritage in Harlan, Clay, and Jackson counties Kentucky and in adjacent Scott County, Virginia. Many of these families also maintain Cherokee traditions and customs.

In addition to contemporary Cherokee cultural practices, this area contains a plethora of detailed recorded oral histories and written local histories about the lives of little known figures in Cherokee history, military history against the Cherokee, the missionary movement, racism, nationalism, and a lack of ethical restraint (e.g., Addington 1972; American State Papers 1789-1813, Bird 1792; Brown 1936, 1971; Cole 1978; Collins 1847; Dickey 1898; Draper 1755-1815; Evans 1976; Kutsche 1986; McDowell 1970; Miller 1906; Rowland 1917; Seiver 1796-1801; Starr 1922; Walker-Burns n.d.; Washington 1792; Wilson 1978, 2002). For more than 20 years, I have amassed an extensive collection of oral histories, local written histories, and

archaeological site data from the Cumberland mountains, river valley, and plateau areas. These collections provide an ethnohistorical goldmine for writing the culture history of the Cherokee who have lived in this area for more than 14,000 years. This information will be used to diachronically reconstruct the culture and livelihoods of the Cherokee in this region. Unfortunately, I have not had the much needed uninterrupted writing time and the interdisciplinary intellectual humanities community environment needed to write the book manuscript and prepare it for publication.

Established Record of Research

For some four decades, I have conducted research on Native Americans in eastern North America. This research has resulted in more than 160 peer-review publications and has been featured on the *National Geographic Channel*, the *Discovery Channel*, the *History Channel*, the *Animal Planet*, the *Weather Channel*, *BBC Nature*, *NOVA*, and *PBS*. My two most recent books (2018 *Piqua Shawnee: Cultural Survival in their Homeland*, co-authored with Ruth Morgan, Janet Clinger, and Barbara S. Lehmann, and 2016 *Dr. Charles Louis Metz and the American Indian Archaeology of the Little Miami River Valley*, co-authored with Robert Newman) used comparable compilations of oral and local histories and archaeological data to write innovative ethno- and culture histories.

Contribution to the Scholarly Literature

The book project, *Cherokee of the Cumberland*, will bridge the gap in Cherokee scholarly literature that has either focused on the original southern territory of the Cherokee Nation, the forced relocation of Cherokee from their ancestral homelands to the Indian Territory west of the Mississippi River in 1831 known as the Trail of Tears, or the establishment of the Cherokee Nation in Oklahoma. This book project will focus on a group of Native Americans who refused to move, retreating into the wilderness of the Cumberland region, inter-marrying with white traders and settlers. In some cases, family members escaped the removal process and found their way back to live in their homeland. Their survival depended upon their ability to suppress their culture and heritage publicly, generation after generation. Despite almost two centuries of cultural concealment, the Cherokee of the Cumberland have survived in this region for more than 14,000 years.

Contributions to a Multidisciplinary Intellectual Environment

If funded, the Taft Center Fellowship will permit me to regularly interact with members of the Taft Research Center and other Taft Fellows. In addition to sustained quality writing time, the Taft Center Fellowship will provide me with opportunities to participate in synergistic, multidisciplinary, and innovative discussions and seminars on a wide variety of humanistic subjects. The intellectual environment and

interdisciplinary community of the Taft Research Center is crucial to the success of my proposed book project, *Cherokee of the Cumberland*, because it will give me invaluable insights into timeless humanitarian questions that extend far beyond my traditional anthropological training and perspectives. As a Native American anthropologist, I also believe that I can contribute positively to both the intellectual environment and cultural diversity of the Taft Center Fellows.

Proposed Project Schedule

Semester	Dates	Writing Assignment
Fall 2020 (Attend regularly-scheduled seminar luncheons at the Taft Research Center)	August-September 2020	Chapter 1. Geographic and Cultural Setting of the Cumberland Region.
	October 2020	Chapter 2. People of the Cave (Mythology and Oral Histories)
	November 2020	Chapter 3. Prehistory of the Cumberland Region (Cherokee Archaeology)
	December 2020	Chapter 4. Early History of the Cumberland Region (European Contact to the 18 th Century – European Conflicts)
Spring 2021 (Participate in Taft Center events and prepare a research presentation for the annual Taft Symposium)	January 2021	Chapter 5. Escaping Removal (19 th Century – Cultural Suppression)
	February 2021	Chapter 6. Survival and Adaptation (20 th and 21 st Century – Revitalization and Recognition)
	March 2021	Chapter 7. Conclusion
	April 2021	Introduction, Preface, Table of Contents, and Index
	May 2021	Final Editing and Submission

Proposed Format for Final Publication

Following completion of the Taft Center Fellowship, the book manuscript, *Cherokee of the Cumberland*, will be submitted for review to a *Native American Studies* press for publication (e.g., University of California Press, 2120 Berkeley Way, Berkeley, CA 94720; University of Nebraska Press, 312 North 14th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska 68588; University of Arizona Press, 1230 N. Park Ave., Suite 102, Tucson, AZ 85719; and University of Chicago Press, 5801 South Ellis, Chicago, Illinois 60637).

References Cited:

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Cole, E. C. 1978 Family Legend from the War of 1812: George Brock. *Knox County, Kentucky Kinfolks* 2(3):16-17.

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