

# Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act FY 2003 Grant Proposal

Please read the [Proposal Guidelines](#) carefully before completing this form. An electronic version of this form is available by contacting the National NAGPRA Program at (202) 354-2200, or via e-mail at [NAGPRA\\_Grants@nps.gov](mailto:NAGPRA_Grants@nps.gov). The form is also available on-line at [www.cr.nps.gov/nagpra/GRANTS](http://www.cr.nps.gov/nagpra/GRANTS)

## SECTION 1. PROJECT INFORMATION

### A. Type of Grant Proposal: *(Check one only)*

- |                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | 1. Tribal Documentation Award (not to exceed \$75,000) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 2. Tribal Repatriation Award (not to exceed \$15,000)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | 3. Museum Documentation Award (not to exceed \$75,000) |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | 4. Museum Repatriation Award (not to exceed \$15,000)  |

### B. Project Summary: Briefly summarize your project in the space provided.

The Delaware Tribe of Indians, a federally recognized tribe, is requesting a NAGPRA Tribal Repatriation Award to be used to cover expenses for some tribal officials and members to return to Ellis Island in New York for a reburial ceremony.

### C. Native American Collection:

**(Museum Applicants Only)** – provide approximate numbers for items in the following categories)

- |                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| <input type="text"/> | Total number of items in your Native American collection.  |
| <input type="text"/> | Number of Indian tribes, Alaska Native villages or corporations, or Native Hawaiian organizations possibly affiliated with items in your collection. |
| <input type="text"/> | Number of Native American human remains in your possession or control (specify if these are individual bones or sets of remains).                    |



**D. Project Authorizer:** This person also signs the SF-424.

Name: Joe Brooks

Title: Chief

Form of Address: Mr.

E-Mail Address: shattalenno@msn.com

Address: Delaware Tribe of Indians,  
220 NW Virginia Ave.  
Bartlesville OK 74003

Telephone: ( 918 ) 336-5272

Fax: ( 918) 336-5513

**E. Project Director:** Who will be responsible for the overall supervision and management of the grant?

Name: Brice Obermeyer

Title: Director, Delaware Tribal NAGPRA Project

Form of Address: Mr.

E-Mail Address:

Address: NAGPRA Project, Delaware Tribe of Indians  
220 NW Virginia Ave.  
Bartlesville OK 74006

Telephone: (918) 336-5272

Fax: (918) 336-5513

**F. Fiscal Management:** Who will be responsible for the fiscal management of the grant?

Name: Darla Burwell

Title: Interim Financial Manager

Form of Address: Mrs.

E-Mail Address: dburwell@delawaretribe.org

Address: Delaware Tribe of Indians  
220 NW Virginia Ave.  
Bartlesville OK 74006

Telephone: (918) 336-5272, ext. 339

Fax: (918) 336-5513



## SECTION 2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

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All applicants must submit narrative responses to each of the four questions on the following pages. The response to each question must not exceed the space provided. Use a print size that is large enough to read comfortably (10 point or higher is recommended).

### **A. GRANT OBJECTIVES.** What are the objectives of this project? Be specific.

The Delaware Tribe of Indians is a federally recognized tribe with the tribal headquarters located in Bartlesville, Oklahoma. We are also known as Lenape which is our name for ourselves in our language. We have approximately 11,000 members, and are governed by an elected seven-member Council. We have also established an entity under 501(c)(3) as a non-profit organization. Our original homeland was a region of approximately 22,000 square miles that is now southeastern New York, all of New Jersey, eastern Pennsylvania, and the northern part of the State of Delaware.

On June 28, 1987, members of three Delaware Indian tribes came to Ellis Island to honor remains of their ancestors excavated during the restoration of the former immigration station.

Led by two elders in their 80s, the 26 men, women and children accompanied the bones, wrapped in buckskin, to a grassy field overlooking the harbor. There, the elders and the leaders of the three tribes said prayers asking the dead to pardon those who disturbed the graves and pledging their reburial.

The half-hour ceremony was suggested by the National Park service which has a policy of consulting with Indians anytime remains are disturbed at sites under the agency's jurisdiction.

Not following the ceremony with a burial was unusual but the tribes wanted to perform the ritual now, in deference to the elders, and because we did not know how many of them would be with us even a year from now.

To our dismay, it was discovered by a tribal member about two years ago that the remains were not reinterred, but were stored in a filing cabinet there on Ellis Island.

Our chief and an elder had a meeting with Chuck Smythe and other NPS officials, as well as representatives of other federally recognized Delaware groups, on January 28, 2003 to discuss the reburial.

### **The objectives of the Delaware Tribe NAGPRA Repatriation Grant are:**

1. To return to Ellis Island to properly rebury the human remains.



## SECTION 2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION (CONTINUED)

- B. PROJECT ACTIVITIES.** How will the grant objectives be achieved? Be specific. Describe the activities that the participants will carry out, and how the activities support the grant objectives.

### 2 Project Description

See 2-D, Schedule of Completion for details

**The objectives of the Delaware Tribe NAGPRA Repatriation Grant will be achieved as follows:**

## SECTION 2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION (CONTINUED)

- C. PERSONNEL QUALIFICATIONS.** Who will carry out the Project Activities? List all project personnel, including consultants. Describe their responsibilities and the amount of time each will dedicate to the project. If particular individuals have already been identified to participate in the project, briefly describe how their experience and qualifications are appropriate to successfully achieve the stated objectives. If you plan to hire new personnel or consultant(s), describe the criteria that will be used to competitively select these individuals or services. **Attach brief resumes for project personnel (or position descriptions for personnel still to be chosen) in Section 6.**

**Resume of our new NAGPRA director, Brice Obermeyer, is attached.**

## SECTION 2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION (CONTINUED)

- D. SCHEDULE OF COMPLETION.** All applicants must submit a schedule for completing each project activity discussed in the Project Description. The project schedule may cover up to 18 months.

### Project Schedule

ACTIVITY	BEGIN	END
1. Our chief and an elder met with NPS officials on January 28, 2003 to discuss reburial		
2. It is decided to have the reburial on May 1, 2003	May 1, 2003	May 1, 2003
3. Two of our tribal veterans will fly to New York on April 29	April 29	April 29
4. On the morning of April 30 the two veterans will prepare the site on Ellis Island for the reburial	April 30	April 30
5. Other tribal members of the tribal council, some elders, other tribal members, and the NAGPRA director will fly to Ellis Island on April 30	April 30	April 30
6. On May 1 the reburial will take place, but this will not be open to the public	May 1	May 1
7. All the people will return to Oklahoma on May 2	May 2	May 2

## SECTION 3. BUDGET

Each cost item should clearly show how the total charge for that item was determined. If more space is needed, please follow the budget format on a separate sheet of paper. All major costs should be listed in budget categories similar to those listed below, and all cost items should be explained in the Budget Summary and Justification (Section 4).

**A. SALARIES AND WAGES.** Provide the names and/or titles of key project personnel.



Name/Title of Position	Full Time Monthly Salary	% FTE	No. of Months	Grant Funds	Match / Cost Share (if any)	Total
N/A						

**B. FRINGE BENEFITS.** If more than one rate is used, list each rate and the wage or salary base.

Rate	Salary or Wage Base	Grant Funds	Match / Cost Share (if any)	Total
N/A				

**C. CONSULTANT FEES.** This should include payments for professional and technical consultants, and stipends for elders participating in the project.

Name and type of Consultant	# of Days	Daily Rate of Compensation	Grant Funds	Match / Cost Share (if any)	Total
N/A					

**D. TRAVEL AND PER DIEM.** For each trip, indicate the number of persons traveling, the total days they will be in travel status, and the total subsistence and transportation costs for that trip. Per diem rates shall not exceed maximum Federal rates. To view current Federal per diem rates, visit [www.policyworks.gov](http://www.policyworks.gov), and follow the links to travel information.

From/To	No. of People	No. of Travel Days	Per diem (lodging and meals) per person per day	Total per diem (lodging and meals) for this trip	Transportation costs (airfare and mileage) per person	<b>Total transportation costs</b> (airfare and mileage) <b>for this trip</b>	Grant Funds	Match / Cost Share (if any)	Total
Tulsa -> New York City	2	3	\$ 258	\$ 1,548	\$ 400	\$ 800	\$ 2,348	\$ 0	\$ 2,348
Tulsa -> New York City	13	2	\$258	\$ 6,708	\$ 400	\$ 5,200	\$11,908	\$	\$11,908
Subtotal							\$14,256	\$	\$14,256



**E. SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS.** Include consumable supplies and materials to be used in the project and any items of expendable equipment, i.e., equipment costing less than \$500 or with an estimated useful life of less than two years. Equipment costing more than that should be listed in the Other Costs category (Category G, below).

Item	# of items	Cost	Grant Funds	Match / Cost Share (if any)	Total
Materials to build box to hold remains for reburial	1	\$170	\$170	0	\$170
Subtotal			\$ 170	\$ 0	\$ 170

**F. SERVICES.** This should include the cost of duplication and printing, long distance telephone calls, equipment rental, postage, and other services not previously listed.

Item	Method of Computation	Grant Funds	Match / Cost Share (if any)	Total
N/A				

**G. OTHER COSTS.** List stipends, equipment items in excess of \$500, and other items not previously listed. Note that equipment items worth less than \$500 or that have a useful life of less than 2 years must be listed in the Supplies and Materials category.

Item	Cost	Grant Funds	Match / Cost Share (if any)	Total
NONE				
Subtotal				

**H. INDIRECT COSTS.** If indirect costs will be charged to the grant, complete the table below with your current approved indirect cost rate and the direct costs it will be applied to. A copy of your most recent indirect cost rate must be attached if indirect costs will be requested. Only indirect costs up to 25% of the grant may be charged to the grant. \*

* The Direct Costs from items 1 -- 6 to which the indirect cost rate applies	Current Approved Indirect Cost Rate Percentage (%)	Indirect Cost Rate Amount
TO BE WAIVED	%	\$0

\* NOTE: Indirect costs may be applied only to eligible direct costs in accordance with your approved rate. Most indirect cost rates exclude contracts or pass-through funds above a certain amount. Please check your rate and apply it accordingly.



## SECTION 4. BUDGET SUMMARY AND JUSTIFICATION

BUDGET SUMMARY			
Category	Grant Funds	Match / Cost Share (if any)	Total
A. Salaries and Wages	N/A	N/A	N/A
B. Fringe Benefits	N/A	N/A	N/A
C. Consultant Fees	N/A	N/A	N/A
D. Travel and Per Diem	\$ 14,256	\$ 0	\$14,256
E. Supplies and Materials	\$ 170	\$ 0	\$170
F. Services	N/A	N/A	N/A
G. Other Costs	N/A	N/A	N/A
H. Indirect Costs	WAIVED	WAIVED	WAIVED
TOTAL PROJECT COSTS	\$ 14,426	\$ 0	\$14,426

**Budget Justification.** Provide a brief justification of all cost items, including matching funds, listed in the budget. Be specific and explain why these items are necessary to accomplish the grant objectives. If the project involves travel costs, include a brief summary of each trip (for example, Project Director and two tribal elders will fly from Hometown to Someplace and stay three days to examine Someplace Museum's collection). Use an additional sheet, if necessary. **Note: Travel is not permitted to components of the Smithsonian Institution. If purchasing or renting computer equipment or other large budget items, justify their necessity and provide three cost quotes for each such item.**

### NAGPRA Budget Justification

**Travel Expenses:** Our travel expenses will constitute the major portions of the grant.

**Supplies:** The supplies will consist of materials used in construction of a box for reburial of human remains.

**Indirect Costs:** Our Indirect Cost has been waived by the Tribal Council.



## SECTION 6. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

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All applicants must submit certain documents in support of the project proposal. Supporting documents should be attached to the application form in the order listed.

- A. Letters of Commitment, stating specific responsibilities, from participating Indian tribes, Alaska Native villages or corporations, or Native Hawaiian organizations, if relevant.

See attached letter from The Delaware Nation.

- B. Letters of Commitment, stating specific responsibilities, from participating museums, if relevant.

None requested.

- C. Brief resumes (lengthy vitae or publication lists should not be submitted) for all project personnel or detailed positions descriptions and search criteria if personnel have not yet been chosen. A competitive selection process must be documented for hiring of personnel.

See Resume attached for new NAGPRA Director

- D. Letters of Commitment from project consultants, if they have been selected.

See letter from Charles W. Smythe of the National Park Service

- E. Other documents.

Article concerning Lenape reburial at Ellis Island in 1987



# Resume

Jan. 2003

**Brice Obermeyer**

4332 S. Elm Ave.

Broken Arrow, OK 74011

Phone: (918) 451-5979

briceobermeyer@yahoo.com

## Education

- 2002 A.B.D. University of Oklahoma. Degree: Anthropology. Dissertation Research: Rituals of Race: Delaware Identity in Eastern Oklahoma.
- 1999 MA. University of Oklahoma. Degree: Anthropology. Areas of Interest: Native American Ethnography, Ethnohistory and Archaeology.
- 1997 B.S. University of Evansville. Evansville, IN. Degree: Sociology with a Concentration in Anthropology and a minor in History. *Magna Cum Laude*. Thesis: Tourism on the Havasupai Reservation.

## Community Involvement and Cultural Resource Management Experience

- 2001/2002 Dissertation Fieldwork: Delaware Tribal Identity in Northeastern Oklahoma
- Funded through internal grants
  - Position: Principal Investigator
  - 18 months working with tribal members: conduct interviews, participate in community events
  - Archival Research
  - Delaware Oral History Project: February 2002
- 2001/2002 African American Community Review of Genetic Research.
- Funded through National Institute of Health (NIH)
  - Position: Graduate Research Assistant/Ethnographer
  - Ethnographic Fieldwork: facilitate work groups, conduct interviews with community members, participate in community events.
- 1998/2000 Oklahoma Archaeological Survey
- Position: Graduate Research Assistant/Cultural Resource Management
  - Review construction projects on public or Indian lands for possible impact to archaeological and cultural sites
  - Salvage negatively impacted archaeological sites.
  - Mitigate and access the significance/integrity of archaeological sites
- 1998/2000 Cojeen Archaeological Services
- Position: Crew Member
  - Performed archaeological surveys on public land throughout Oklahoma
  - Excavated archaeological sights to access their significance and salvage archaeological record from possible negative impact.
- 1999 Jones and Plummer Archaeological Survey
- Funded through internal grants
  - Position: Principal Investigator



- Four-Day archaeological survey of portions of Southwestern KS.
- Crew – 15 Archaeologists (advocational, students and professional) and Volunteers.

### **Research and Conference Grants**

- 2001 Applied for Dissertation Improvement Grant through the Wenner Gren Foundation.
- 2002 Graduate Student Senate Conference and Creative Exhibition Grant.  
Reimbursement for expenses at the American Anthropological Association Conference.
- 2000 Phillips Fund for Native American Research Grant. Archival Research on the reorganization of Pojoaque Pueblo.
- 2000 Graduate Student Senate Conference and Creative Exhibition Grant.  
Reimbursement for expenses at the Plains Anthropological Conference.
- 2000 Graduate Student Senate Research and Creative Activity Grant.  
Archaeological Survey of portions of Southwestern KS.
- 1999 Graduate Student Senate Conference and Creative Exhibition Grant. Reimbursement for expenses at the Southeastern Archaeological Conference.

### **Papers Presented**

- 2002 “Delaware Country: tribal identity and political struggle in the cultural landscape of northeastern Oklahoma.” Plains Anthropological Conference; Oklahoma City, OK.
- 2002 “Ignorant of the Things of the Past: ethnographic negotiation and Delaware lived experience.” American Anthropological Association Conference, New Orleans, LA. Session: Presentist Histories of Americanist Anthropology: Case Studies from Oklahoma.
- 2001 “Fly Over Country: the significance of historic roads in understanding the Protohistoric period on the Southern Plains.” Caddo/Flint Hills Conference, University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK.
- 2000 “The Coronado Expedition and the Jones and Plummer Trail: Recommendations based on the Results of an Archaeological Survey in Southwestern Kansas.” Joint Midwest Archaeological/Plains Anthropological Conference; St Paul, MN.
- 2000 “Prehistoric and Historic Trails on the Southern High Plains.” Flint Hills Conference; Wichita State University, Wichita, KS.
- 1999 “The Coronado Expedition: A Preliminary Investigation of the Historic Trails in the Oklahoma/Texas Panhandle for Clues in Reconstructing Coronado’s Route to Quivera.” Presented at the Plains Anthropological Conference; Sioux Falls, SD.
- 1999 “Further Evidence for Ceremonial Feasting at Toqua: The Green Corn Ceremony in the Archaeological Record.” Southeastern Archaeological Conference; Pensacola, FL.

### **Teaching Experience**

- 2002/2003 Adjunct Faculty; Warner Southern College, Lake Wales, FL
- Anthropology 2000: Introduction to Anthropology
- 2000/2001 Instructor, Graduate Teaching Assistant: University of Oklahoma.
- Anthropology 2203: Peoples of the World
  - Anthropology 1823: Religion in Everyday Life



**References:**

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## ELLIS ISLAND ARTICLE

**Delaware Indian News**

**October 1987**

# Delawares Return To Ellis Island

Members of three Delaware Indian tribes came to Ellis Island June 28, 1987 to honor remains of their ancestors excavated during the restoration of the former immigration station.

Led by two elders in their 80s, the 26 men, women and children accompanied the bones, wrapped in buckskin, to a grassy field overlooking the harbor. There, the elders and the leaders of the three tribes said prayers asking the dead to pardon those who disturbed the graves and pledging their reburial.

Afterward, cedar brought from their homes in Oklahoma and Ontario was burned. An elder, stirring the smoke with an eagle feather, wafted it around each participant to chase any evil spirits that may have gathered as a result of coming into contact with the dead.

The half-hour ceremony was suggested by the National Park service which has a policy of consulting with Indians anytime remains are disturbed at sites under the agency's jurisdiction.

In addition to paying their respects, the ritual also served as an uncommon reunion for the Delaware tribes whose forebears used the island as a place to clam and fish.

Several recalled that their ancestors lived in what is now the metropolitan area for eons until only two or three centuries ago when they began moving West after the arrival of European settlers.

"This New Jersey coast was our homeland," explained Edward (Leonard) Thompson, 83, elder of the Delaware Tribe of Eastern Oklahoma. For the Delaware, Ellis Island was called Oyster or



Gull Island and it was only three acres in size compared to its present 27.5 acres.

It was in the Island's original section that the remains were found in 1985 and last year as contractors were checking the structural integrity of a support column in the basement of the Main Building.

Rather than a cemetery, the bones and teeth were probably buried in fill that had been brought from another section of the island for the wooden immigration station that opened in 1892 and burned five years later, said John Pousson a staff archaeologist for the Park Service.

The earth was disturbed again when the present brick building was constructed and opened in 1900, Pousson said.

The complex was the first stop for 16 million immigrants from 1892 to its closing in 1954.

The 32 buildings then fell into despair and were vandalized. Some restoration was undertaken in the late 1970s when the Main Building was reopened to tours. But the work of transforming the five most historic buildings into a museum to the immigration experience did not begin until two years ago when the Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation Inc. began soliciting contributions to restore both landmarks.

Ellis Island, closed to the public in 1984, is to reopen in 1989.

The remains were first identified as prehistoric by Harry Shapiro chairman emeritus of the American Museum of Natural History's anthropology department.

The finding was subsequently confirmed by Jean DeRousseau, an associate professor of anthropology at New York University.

In an interview last week, she said the finding was primarily based on "the degree and wear pattern" of the teeth. She said the teeth had "massive wear" indicating a diet comprised of wild and not cultivated food sources.

Grooves on the enamel also indicated the teeth were used to refine hides and sinews for other uses, DeRousseau said.

Numerous bone fragments including parts of a skull, jaw, backbone, leg, and arm are believed to have belonged to a 25 to 35-year-old man, Pousson said.

Teeth and an upper arm fragment are believed to be those of two women in their late teens or early 20s.

The cause of death has not been determined although markings on the female arm bone point to some kind of infectious disease, Pousson said.

Although results of a carbon-dating test are still not in, Pousson said the remains are believed to be those of people who lived 500 to 900 years ago.

Michael Adlerstein, the Park Service architect supervising the restoration of the Main Building, said the remains will be reinterred sometime next year and a memorial erected.

Edgar French, the president of the Delaware Tribe of Western Oklahoma, said not following the ceremony with a burial was unusual but the tribes wanted to perform the ritual now, in



deference to the elders.

"We don't know whether they'll be here a year from now," French said of Thompson and 86-year-old elder Willy Snake.

He said it took almost a year of research to come up with the rite used yesterday. The task was complicated further by the use of the Delaware language which in a nation of about 10,000 is spoken by so very few these days.

But the effort was important, French said.

"The ceremony has got a lot of meaning for us," he said. But mostly, "We really just wanted to come back here and take care of these bones. They've been disturbed once before and they've been disturbed again and now we want to put them to rest," French said.

"The belief is that when the bones were disturbed the spirit has been disturbed," explained, Annette Ketchum, one of the women who stood watch over the bones during the smoke purification rite.

"We quiet them down by talking to them and telling them they will be put back in the ground with respect," she continued.

Although many of her tribe are now Christians, ancient ceremonies continue to be "part of our heritage and culture," explained Ketchum, a member of the Delaware Tribe of Eastern Oklahoma.

"Delawares were monotheistic and believed in a creator God although they didn't always know his name was Jesus," Ketchum explained.

"Christ didn't take away our culture and heritage," she continued. "It's important for us because, if we don't know, our children and grandchildren won't know."

Indeed, Jenifer Pechonick, 10, a costumed Eastern Oklahoma, Delaware who took part in the ceremony, said she found it inspiring.

"I never thought that when I came to New York it would be to honor people that were ancestors of ours on Ellis Island," the fifth grader said.

The ceremony took place within view of the shining towers of lower Manhattan.

That island, they say, was purchased by the Dutch from the Indians for beads and other trinkets said to have had a value of \$24.

With a wry smile, French noted, however, that the story really could not be verified in tribal histories.