



Museum of the  
Cherokee People

# Reading List

Non-  
Fiction

## THE CHEROKEE PERSPECTIVE

Edited by Laurence French  
(Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians)  
and Jim Hornbuckle (Eastern Band  
of Cherokee Indians)

Under the direction of Laurence French  
and Charles Jim Hornbuckle, students  
interviewed Cherokee elders and  
received help from the American Indian  
Historical Society in order to gain an  
accurate history and assessment of the  
tribe, which has a long misunderstood  
history.

## PEOPLE OF KITUWAH: THE OLD WAYS OF THE EASTERN CHEROKEES

By John D. Loftin and Benjamin E.  
Frey (Eastern Band of Cherokee  
Indians)

This book provides a window into not  
only what the Eastern Cherokees  
perceive and understand—their notions  
of space and time, marriage and love,  
death and the afterlife, healing and  
traditional medicine, and rites and  
ceremonies—but also how their religious  
life evolved both before and after the  
calamitous coming of colonialism.

## NATIVE WOMEN OF COURAGE

By Kelly Fournel (Manitoba Metis)  
From heroines of the past to women  
making history today, this exciting work  
of non-fiction reminds readers of the  
extraordinary contributions of Native  
American women to our daily lives and to  
our country's social fabric.

## SOUNDS OF TOHI: CHEROKEE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING IN SOUTHERN APPALACHIA

By Lisa J. Lefler and Thomas N.  
Belt (Cherokee Nation)

Lefler and Belt discuss several critical  
cultural concepts that explain the science  
of relationships with this world, with the  
spirit world, and with people. They  
explore tohi, the Cherokee concept of  
health, which offers a more pervasive  
understanding of relationships in life as  
balanced and moving forward in a good  
way.

## HISTORY OF THE CHEROKEE INDIANS

By Emmet Starr (Cherokee Nation)

Originally published in 1921, History of  
the Cherokee Indians, a reference  
originally created “for the purpose of  
perpetuating some of the facts relative to  
the Cherokee tribe, that might otherwise  
be lost,” in the words of author Emmet  
Starr. The result is a straightforward  
history of the Cherokee tribe with  
especial attention upon the 1800’s.

## CHEROKEE NARRATIVES: A LINGUISTIC STUDY

By Durbin Feeling (Cherokee  
Nation), William Pulte, and  
Gregory Pulte

These stories capture the voices of tribal  
elders and form a living record of the  
Cherokee Nation and Eastern Band of  
Cherokee Indians' oral tradition.

## NOTABLE NATIVE PEOPLE: 50 INDIGENOUS LEADERS, DREAMERS, AND CHANGEMAKERS FROM PAST AND PRESENT

By Adrienne Keene (Cherokee  
Nation)

Celebrate the lives, stories, and  
contributions of Indigenous artists,  
activists, scientists, athletes, and other  
changemakers in this beautifully  
illustrated collection.

## CHEROKEE EARTH DWELLERS: STORIES AND TEACHINGS OF THE NATURAL WORLD

By Christopher Teuton (Cherokee  
Nation) and Hastings Shade  
(Cherokee Nation)

Positioning our responsibilities as  
humans to our more-than-human  
relatives, this book presents teachings  
about the body, mind, spirit, and  
wellness that have been shared for  
generations.

## BY THE FIRE WE CARRY: THE GENERATIONS-LONG FIGHT FOR JUSTICE ON NATIVE LAND

By Rebecca Nagle (Cherokee  
Nation)

Here Rebecca Nagle recounts the  
generations-long fight for tribal land and  
sovereignty in eastern Oklahoma. By  
chronicling both the contemporary legal  
battle and historic acts of Indigenous  
resistance, By the Fire We Carry stands  
as a landmark work of American history.

## **BRAIDING SWEETGRASS: INDIGENOUS WISDOM, SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE, AND THE TEACHINGS OF PLANTS**

**By Robin Wall Kimmerer  
(Potawatomi Nation)**

Drawing on her life as an indigenous scientist, and as a woman, Kimmerer shows how other living beings—asters and goldenrod, strawberries and squash, salamanders, algae, and sweetgrass—offer us gifts and lessons, even if we've forgotten how to hear their voices.

## **NATIVE AMERICAN DNA: TRIBAL BELONG AND THE FALSE PROMISE OF GENETIC SCIENCE**

**By Kim Tallbear (Sisseton  
Wahpeton Oyate)**

Because today's DNA testing seems so compelling and powerful, increasing numbers of Native Americans have begun to believe their own metaphors: "in our blood" is giving way to "in our DNA." Kim TallBear shows how Native American claims to land, resources, and sovereignty that have taken generations to ratify may be seriously—and permanently—undermined.

## **"ALL THE REAL INDIANS DIED OFF": AND 20 OTHER MYTHS ABOUT NATIVE AMERICANS**

**By Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz and  
Dina Gilio-Whitaker (Colville  
Confederated Tribes)**

In this enlightening book, scholars and activists Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz and Dina Gilio-Whitaker tackle a wide range of myths about Native American culture and history that have misinformed generations.

## **THE SEVEN CIRCLES: INDIGENOUS TEACHINGS FOR LIVING WELL**

**By Chelsey Luger (Turtle Mountain  
Band of Chippewa Indians) and  
Those Collins (On Akimel  
O'odham, Seneca-Cayuga, and  
Osage)**

Luger and Collins share intimate stories from their life journeys growing up in tribal communities, from the Indigenous tradition of staying active and spiritually centered through running and dance, to the universal Indigenous emphasis on a light-filled, minimalist home to create sacred space.

## **THE GREAT VANISHING ACT: BLOOD QUANTUM AND THE FUTURE OF NATIVE NATIONS**

**Edited by Norbert S. Hill Jr.  
(Oneida Nation) and Kathleen  
Ratteree**

The Indian Reorganization Act of 1934 was the US government's attempt to define who "Indians" were. Among the criteria the act set was a blood quantum, which declared that "Indians" were "all other persons of one-half or more Indian blood". Today, many tribes wrestle with the legacy of blood quantum and "Indian" identity, as they work to manage tribal enrollment and social services.

## **PROJECT 562: CHANGING THE WAY WE SEE NATIVE AMERICA**

**By Matika Wilbur (Swinish, Tulalip)**

This is a multi-year national photography project dedicated to photographing over 562 federally recognized Tribes, urban Native communities, Tribes fighting for federal recognition and Indigenous role models in what is currently-known-as the United States, resulting in an unprecedented repository of imagery and oral histories that accurately portrays contemporary Native Americans.

## **THE POWER OF STYLE: HOW FASHION AND BEAUTY ARE BEING USED TO RECLAIM CULTURES**

**By Christian Allaire (Ojibwe)**

As a fashion-obsessed Ojibwe teen, Christian Allaire rarely saw anyone that looked like him in the magazines or movies he looked to for inspiration. Now the Fashion and Style Writer for Vogue, he is working to change that—because clothes are never just clothes.

## **THE REDISCOVERY OF AMERICA: NATIVE PEOPLES AND THE UNMAKING OF U.S. HISTORY**

**By Ned Blackhawk (Western  
Shoshone)**

Blackhawk's retelling of U.S. history acknowledges the enduring power, agency, and survival of Indigenous peoples, yielding a truer account of the United States and revealing anew the varied meanings of America.

## **HELD BY THE LAND: A GUIDE TO INDIGENOUS PLANTS FOR WELLNESS**

**By Leigh Joseph (Squamish Nation)**

This beautiful, full-color guide to Indigenous plants will give you new insights into the power of everyday plants.

