

ANNUAL REPORT, FISCAL YEAR 2000

OFFICE OF THE STATE ARCHAEOLOGIST



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Office of the State Archaeologist, St. Paul

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Office of the State Archaeologist

Fort Snelling History Center
St. Paul, MN 55111

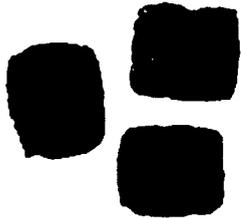
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Cover - Fort Snelling viewed from Mendota, ca. 1850

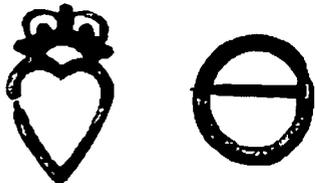
**MINNESOTA FUR TRADE ERA
ARTIFACTS - EARLY 19th CENTURY**



Gunflints (French)



Flintlock mechanism (British)



Trade silver brooches (British)



Leg trap (American)

INTRODUCTION

This report describes the twelve-month period of operations for the Office of the State Archaeologist beginning July 1, 1999, and ending June 30, 2000 (fiscal year 2000).

The story of Minnesota's past spans thousands of years, from a time when the area's first peoples hunted elephants along the margins of continental glaciers, through the historic period of logging, farming and milling. This fascinating story continues through today.

Archaeological sites evidence the physical remains of peoples and cultures from the distant as well as the recent past. Comprised of tools, remnants of structures, refuse, and other evidence of past activities and human occupation, these remains are generally buried by natural processes or later human activities. *The study of archaeological sites, by excavation and other techniques, is critical to an understanding of Minnesota's heritage because it is our main source of knowledge about the prehistoric past, and because it provides information on aspects of the more recent past which are not otherwise recorded.* The State's archaeological resources are non-renewable.

The State of Minnesota has supported efforts to identify, protect and interpret its archaeological resources for over 100 years. Beginning with surveys to identify American Indian earthworks and campsites in the late 1800s, this involvement continues today as an element of both private and public construction processes; in support of State archaeological sites such as Grand Mound, the Jeffers rock art site, and Fort Snelling; in university-level

archaeology education; via Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCMR) grants in support of archaeology projects; and other means.

The Legislature created the Office of the State Archaeologist in 1963.

PROGRAM MISSION STATEMENT

The Office of the State Archaeologist's mission is to foster, among its diverse public, an appreciation of the State's archaeological resources through research, stewardship and education; to provide quality technical information, support and service to individuals and agencies; and to promote, among archaeologists, the very highest standards of professional conduct.

PROGRAM PROFILE

The Office of the State Archaeologist (OSA) is charged in statute with sponsoring, conducting and directing research into the prehistoric and historic archaeology of Minnesota; protecting and preserving archaeological sites, objects and data; disseminating archaeological information through the publication of reports and articles; identifying, authenticating and protecting human burial sites; reviewing and licensing archaeological fieldwork conducted within the state; and enforcing provisions of MS 138.31-138.42.

OSA clients include, but are not limited to:

- ▶ local, state and federal agencies;
- ▶ cultural resource management firms;
- ▶ professional and avocational archaeologists
- ▶ representatives of Minnesota's tribal communities;

- ▶ builders and development associations;
- ▶ county historical societies;
- ▶ the State Historic Preservation Office;
- ▶ private homeowners;
- ▶ local heritage preservation commissions;
- ▶ educators and school districts;
- ▶ other public and private agencies and individuals.

MN STATUTES 138.31-.42: THE "FIELD ARCHAEOLOGY ACT"

Under provisions of MS 138.31-.42, the review of archaeological projects and qualifications of prospective licensees is one of the central functions of the office. The following indicates the number of licenses issued for each of the past four calendar years (*note: the convention of reporting license figures on a calendar year basis rather than a fiscal year basis has been adopted since it better reflects activities during the annual "archaeological field season" which, in Minnesota, extends from approximately April through November of any given year*); figures include the number of project proposals reviewed (the number of project reviews exceeds number of licenses since, in some instances, projects are bundled onto one license via the "Multiple Project" licensing process):

- ▶ 1999 123 licenses / 259 reviews
- ▶ 1998 93 licenses / 283 reviews
- ▶ 1997 125 licenses / 361 reviews
- ▶ 1996 128 licenses / 494 reviews

Only one individual was identified as having initiated

field investigations without having first obtained licensure required under provisions of the Field Archaeology Act during the 1999 field season.

Project Reports and Site Forms

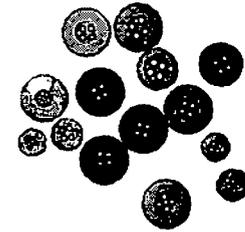
Timely review and processing of site forms and related project reports are crucial to the development of a coherent and comprehensive state site database. All members of the archaeological community as well as the clients they serve depend on an up-to-date system.

During FY2000, a total of 333 archaeological site forms were reviewed, approved and entered into the State's archaeological site database by the OSA; this figure includes 252 newly-recorded sites and 81 updates for previously identified sites. Of these, the OSA completed 10 forms for newly-identified sites and completed an additional 8 site updates for previously recorded sites. Scores of other site forms were also reviewed, but the materials or features reported on these forms did not meet criteria for inclusion in the State's archaeological site database.

MN STATUTES 307.08: THE "PRIVATE CEMETERIES ACT"

The "Private Cemeteries Act" includes provisions for the protection of burials 50 years and older which occur outside of platted cemeteries on either public or private lands. Activities conducted under provisions of MS 307.08 include the investigation of burials and burial areas, and the recovery of human remains unearthed by natural or cultural activities. Under provisions of MS 307.08, investigation and authentication of burial sites are conducted under the

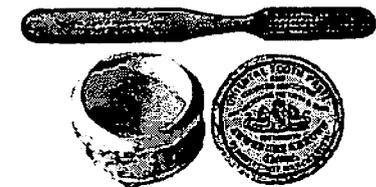
DOMESTIC ARTIFACTS OF LATE-19th CENTURY MINNESOTA



Shell and bone buttons



Scissors and thimble



Toothbrush with toothpaste jar and lid

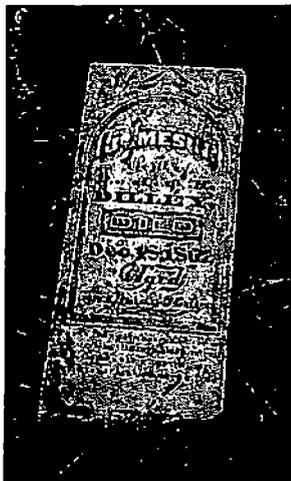


Shaving mug

HISTORIC PERIOD BURIALS IN MINNESOTA



1882 headstone, abandoned cemetery,
Le Sueur County



1867 headstone (detail), abandoned cemetery,
Dakota County

sole auspices of the State through the OSA.

Prompt assessment and resolution of such cases is critical to the timely completion of public and private development projects.

Investigations conducted during the period included identification and assessment of reported American Indian and EuroAmerican remains and / or burial sites. The OSA provided related technical information, support and service to members of the public; Federal, State and local agencies; private developers; tribal communities; archaeologists involved in issues potentially impacting burial sites; and others.

Of the 100 outstanding (i.e., no follow-up initiated) OSA burial investigation cases noted as of February 1995, none remain outstanding as of this year.

Many OSA burial cases focus on resolution of more urgent and / or complex investigations, which typically require more intensive and long-term case management. In the past 12 months, the OSA has been directly involved in 87 burial site authentication / investigation cases; five of these cases are on-going. In all such investigations, the OSA relies on methods and techniques which are objective, replicable and definitive. Significantly, many such cases result in negative findings, i.e., the reported burials are determined to have been destroyed, or are determined to not represent burials or related features.

During this period, the OSA has additionally responded to hundreds of requests for burial site information by landowners, developers, tribal interests, agencies of government, CRM professionals, legislators, and other interested parties.

The Native American Graves Protection Act (NAGPRA) and MS 307.08

Enactment of the Federal Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) in November of 1990 effectively superseded state law, precluding repatriation (i.e., return) and reburial under provisions of MS 307.08.

In a January of 1998, the OSA presented an innovative proposal before the NAGPRA Review Committee, National Park Service, in Washington, DC. This proposal described a model for repatriating Minnesota's "culturally unidentifiable" Native American remains and associated grave goods to the tribal communities presently residing in the geographic areas from which the remains and materials originated. *In October of 1999, these remains and associated grave goods were repatriated to Indian peoples.*

HIGHWAY 55 / HIAWATHA AVENUE

OSA has had a central role in resolving archaeological issues related to the continuing Highway 55 controversy. Upon OSA's recommendation, the Minnesota Department of Transportation implemented a geoarchaeological assessment of a portion of the corridor which included a grove of four trees alleged to be "ancient and sacred" by interests which opposed the planned development. The area of the trees was further claimed to be the location of pre- or protohistoric American Indian burials. Geoarchaeological investigations demonstrated *unequivocally* that the trees were established in historic times in soils used to in-fill an existing wetland and precluded the possibility of prehistoric or

early historic burials at this location.

Opponents of the project continue to pursue challenges to the project in federal court. The most recent court rulings have favored the State's position and Highway 55 project development plans.

PUBLIC EDUCATION

The OSA provides interested groups and individuals with information about the State's archaeological past and the process of archaeological research.

OSA audiences during FY2000 included:

Professional

- ▶ *Mortuary Practices and Patterns in Prehistoric Minnesota.* Lecture, Department of Anthropology, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis.

Public Outreach

- ▶ *Rock Art and Earthworks in Southern Minnesota.* Public presentation sponsored by the Western Hennepin County Pioneer Museum, Long Lake, MN.
- ▶ *The Petroglyph Sites of Southwestern Minnesota.* Public presentation sponsored by the Indian History Club of Kandiyohi County, Willmar, MN.
- ▶ *Ancient Mounds in Minnesota.* Public lecture in conjunction with Iowa Archaeology Month, Cherokee, Iowa.

- ▶ *Artifact Identification.* Minnesota Flintknappers Convention, Pine City, MN
- ▶ *Methods and Techniques of Archaeological Investigation.* Park Elementary School, Hutchinson, MN.
- ▶ *Minnesota's Prehistoric Cultures.* Friendship Village Retirement Center, Bloomington, MN.
- ▶ *Ten Thousand Years of Minnesota History.* Edina Community Education Services, Edina, MN.
- ▶ *How We Do Archaeology in Minnesota.* Oak Grove Intermediate School, Bloomington, MN.
- ▶ *The Dig: Archaeological Methods.* Kimball Elementary School, Kimball, MN.

Other OSA public education initiatives during the fiscal year included:

- ▶ *Minnesota Archaeology Week.* Identification and coordination of state-wide public education events (cf. Appendix) and poster concept and design (featuring PaleoIndian culture history and teacher lesson plan).

Minnesota Archaeology Week activities are underwritten in part with funds from a number of OSA's partner agencies including: the University of Minnesota; the Minnesota Humanities Commission; the Minnesota Department of Transportation; the United States Fish & Wildlife Service; the Natural

STATE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT LEGISLATION

MS 138.51: *"It is in the public interest to provide for the preservation of historic sites, buildings, structures, and antiquities of state and national significance for the inspiration, use, and benefit of the people of the state".*

The "Field Archaeology Act of 1963" (MS 138.31-.42): *"The state of Minnesota reserves to itself the exclusive right and privilege of field archaeology on state sites, in order to protect and preserve archaeological and scientific information, matter, and objects".*

The "Private Cemeteries Act" (MS 307.08): *"... all human burials and human skeletal remains shall be accorded equal treatment and respect for human dignity ... (t)he state archaeologist shall authenticate all burial sites for purposes of this section ...".*

The "Outdoor Recreation Act of 1975" (MS 86A): *"... the unique natural, cultural and historical resources of Minnesota provide abundant opportunities for outdoor recreation and education, and ... should be made available to all the citizens of Minnesota now and in the future".*

The "Minnesota Environmental Rights Act" (MS 116B) *"... each person is entitled by right to the protection of air, water, land and other natural resources within the state ..."; natural resources are defined to include historical resources.*

FEDERAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT LEGISLATION

The "National Historic Preservation Act of 1966" (PL 89-665): *Established a national historic preservation policy; created the National Register of Historic Places and the Cabinet level Advisory Council on Historic Preservation; and established the Section 106 process, which requires a consideration of cultural resources for undertakings that are federally funded, licensed, or permitted.*

The "National Environmental Policy Act of 1969" (PL 91-190): *Requires that archaeological and other historic resources be considered during the environmental assessment process and in environmental impact studies.*

The "Archaeological Resource Protection Act of 1979" (PL 96-95): *Established criminal and civil penalties for disturbing prehistoric and historic archaeological sites on Federal and Indian lands, and for sale, transport or receipt of archaeological resources excavated or removed from public lands or Indian lands or in violation of State or local law.*

The "Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act" (PL101-601): *Mandates the repatriation (return) of Native American or Native Hawaiian human remains, associated funerary items, or items of cultural patrimony held by agencies receiving Federal funds.*

Resources Conservation Service; the Council for Minnesota Archaeology; the Institute for Minnesota Archaeology; and the Science Museum of Minnesota.

- ▶ *Cultural Heritage Tourism Task Force.* The Minnesota Office of Tourism, Department of Trade and Economic Development, has partnered with OSA and other public and private agencies to develop and promote Minnesota's heritage tourism industry. Among other activities, the Office of Tourism and the Task Force are working to coordinate the "Governor's Conference on Tourism" (January, 2001), which will be highlighting heritage tourism.

PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS

In addition to the activities described above, OSA activities during the year included the following:

- ▶ A state-wide pre- and protohistoric mortuary practices and patterns study (per interagency agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation). This on-going research has already proven useful for anticipating, identifying, and avoiding potential burial areas in advance of construction / development projects.

Status: research on-going; publication of results late FY2001.

- ▶ Continuing development of an interactive website which provides local governments / land managers direct access to burial site location information (per interagency agreement with the Land Management Information Center, Minnesota

Planning). Access to such information will provide enhanced protection of these sensitive areas.

Status: prototype nearing completion; implementation late FY2001.

- ▶ OSA is hosting the Joint Midwest Archaeological and Plains Anthropological Conference in November of 2000. Minnesota's archaeological community has not hosted a regional conference since 1977.

(Joint Conference activities are underwritten in part with funds from a number of OSA's partner agencies including: the University of Minnesota; the Minnesota Humanities Commission; the Minnesota Department of Transportation; the Council for Minnesota Archaeology; the Institute for Minnesota Archaeology; and numerous private agencies.)

Status: planning is on-going.

- ▶ Publication of *Archaeology in Minnesota: 1998 Project Report Summaries*, which provides a synopsis of public and private archaeological investigations licensed by and / or submitted for review to OSA. Distributed to members of the state's archaeological community, copies are also available for distribution to other interested parties.

PROGRAM CHALLENGES

OSA's personnel resources (division head; one staff position) are presently insufficient to fully meet legislative mandates. As Division Head, the State

Archaeologist is necessarily involved in major tasks such as program development, budgeting, licensing, and project review and implementation. Too frequently, the State Archaeologist is involved in routine technical or clerical tasks while essential, legislatively-mandated program issues are not fully realized.

As in past years,

- ▶ *the public's growing interest in heritage issues brings increasing requests for assistance in developing archaeology education programming;*
- ▶ *the State's academic community is urging that the OSA become more directly involved in sponsoring and conducting fundamental research into the prehistoric and historic archaeology of Minnesota;*
- ▶ *the development community (both public and private) is demanding more aggressive and definitive responses to burial investigation issues potentially impacting construction processes;*

and

- ▶ *State agencies and other units of government are requesting more direct and on-going involvement by OSA in archaeological issues which impact on agency activities (e.g., Trunk Highway 197 [City of Bemidji], Highway 55 [Minneapolis]).*

Additional staff and program operations support are required to better meet these needs.

PROGRAM INITIATIVES

Public Education

Public education initiatives for the year will focus on:

- ▶ further enhancement of the OSA website (www.admin.state.mn.us/osa/), with a commitment to establishing it as a "one-stop" clearinghouse for access to information on state, regional, national, and global archaeology, related educational resources, archaeology legislation, and heritage tourism;
- ▶ expansion of Minnesota Archaeology Week (MAW) events and activities, with the OSA continuing in its central role as organizer and promoter of MAW events.

Research

Planned activities for the year include:

- ▶ continuing research on the mortuary practices and patterns of prehistoric and protohistoric Indian peoples.

Publications

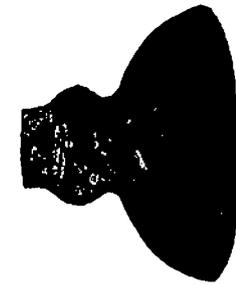
Publication efforts during FY2000 will include:

- ▶ work on a planned volume describing prehistoric projectile points will continue;
- ▶ preparation and distribution of the second annual summary volume of archaeological investigations in Minnesota.

AGRICULTURAL ARTIFACTS OF LATE 19TH CENTURY MINNESOTA



Mattock



Broad-axe

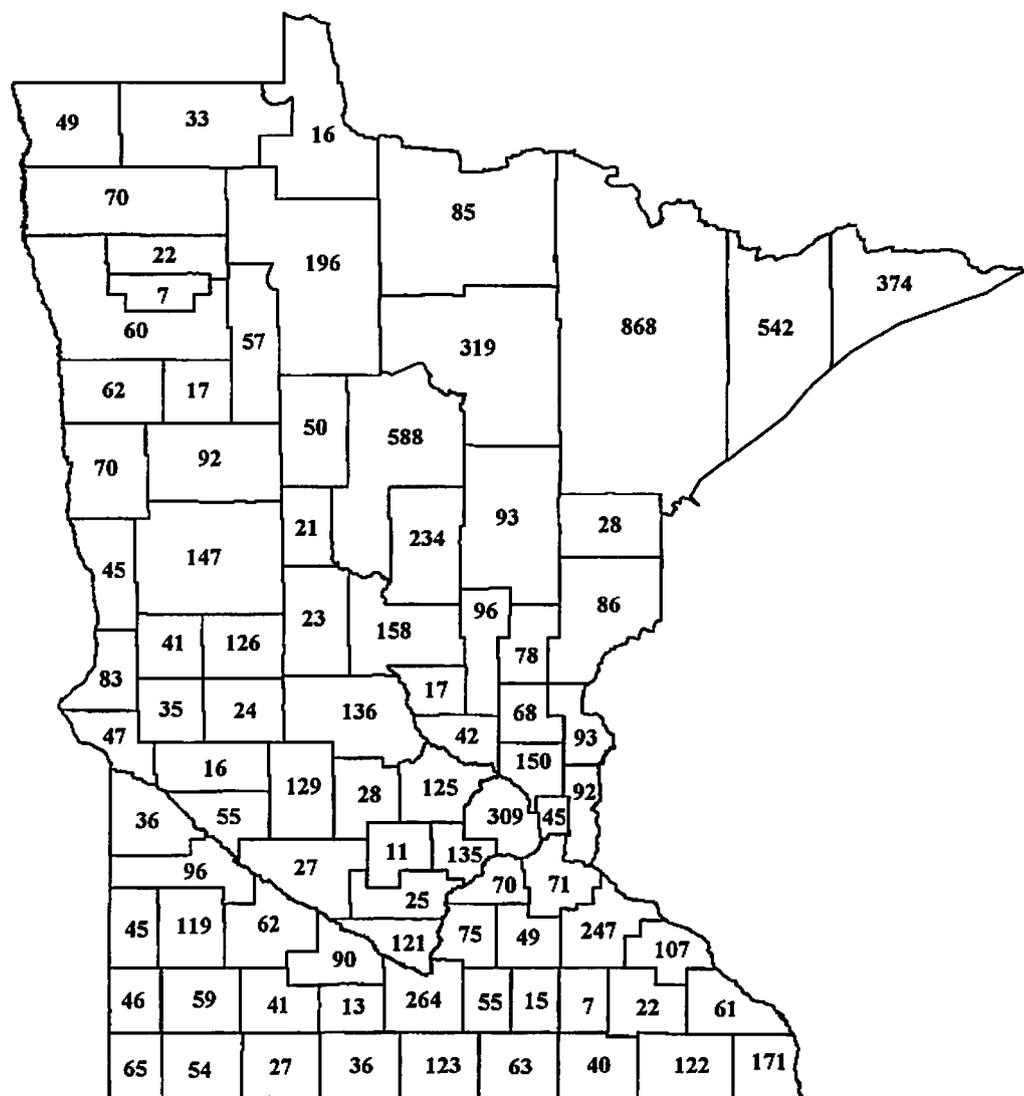


Oxshoe

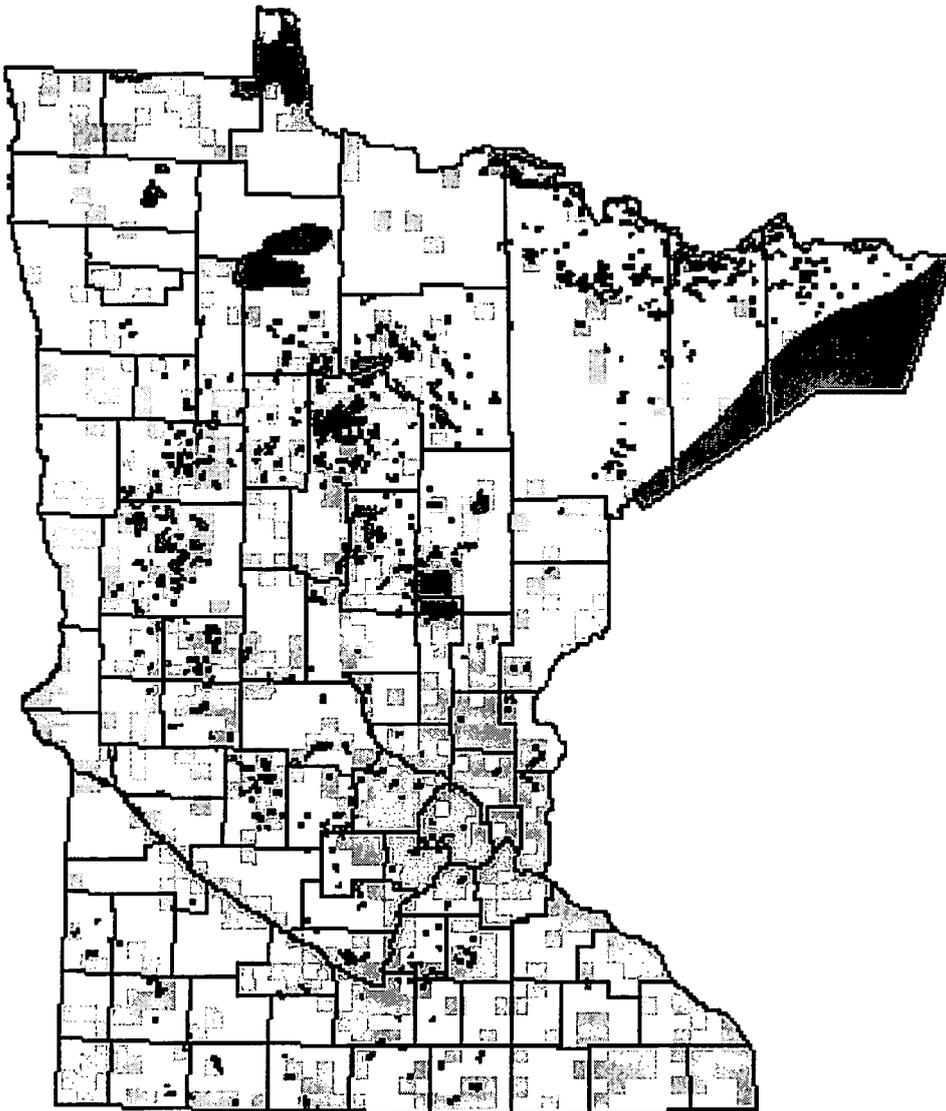


Hoe

APPENDIX A



APPENDIX B



(light gray areas are Townships which evidence recorded prehistoric earthworks and / or unplatted burials)

DISTRIBUTION OF PREHISTORIC EARTHWORKS AND UNPLATTED BURIALS IN MINNESOTA, 2000

Section 307.08 of Minnesota's "Private Cemeteries Act" (MS 307) affords all human burial grounds and remains older than 50 years, and located outside of platted or identified cemeteries, protection from unauthorized disturbance. This statute applies to burials on either public or private lands or waters, and includes prehistoric Indian burial mounds as well as historic cemeteries.

Under provisions of this statute, the Office of the State Archaeologist (OSA) is charged with identifying, authenticating and protecting these burial areas. The OSA maintains a database of such sites.

Efforts to protect burial sites emphasize "preservation-in-place", that is, maintaining the burial area in its original location and condition.

In the event that a burial is either known or suspected to be associated with American Indian peoples, the OSA works in concert with representatives of Minnesota's tribal communities to ensure the integrity of such burial sites.

Anyone planning construction activities who is concerned about the potential for encountering such burials is encouraged to contact the OSA for additional information and assistance. The OSA may be available for on-site visits to identify burial features and areas.

If such burials are accidentally uncovered in the course of construction or other activities:

- excavation should cease;
- secure the area;
- contact OSA as soon as possible.

If there is any reason to suspect that the remains may be part of a crime scene, secure the area and notify your local law enforcement agency immediately!

APPENDIX C

MINNESOTA ARCHAEOLOGY WEEK - 2000 Events

Free and open to the public, these events were attended by 1600 participants statewide.

Big Stone County

Odessa, Big Stone National Wildlife Refuge.

If Granite Could Speak ... A Walk Back in Time, featured an interpretive tour past ancient granite outcrops, Native American petroglyphs, and other archaeological marvels in the company of the refuge manager.

Cottonwood County

Jeffers, Jeffers Petroglyphs Site.

Flint Knapping: Prehistoric Tool Making, provided participants with an opportunity to tour the Jeffers Petroglyphs (rock art) site and see a demonstration of stone tool making by a skilled flintknapper.

Dakota County

Mendota, Historic District.

A **Special Tour of Quarry Island** provided a two-hour guided tour of two of Minnesota's metro-area archaeological sites: Quarry Island, also known as Wakan or High Rock Island, and the Faribault House. Visitors viewed evidence of drilling and rough stone shaping that took place during the early 19th century, learned about the geology of the area, and examined the residential stonework of the historic Faribault house, which was built using rock from the quarry.

Faribault County

Winnebago, Winnebago Area Museum.

The museum hosted an **Open House** to view the museum's extensive archaeological collection of artifacts relating to the prehistory of the region.

Goodhue County

Red Wing, Cannon Valley Trail and the Institute for Minnesota Archaeology.

Manned by personnel from the Institute for Minnesota Archaeology, the **Archaeology Interpretation Station on the Cannon Valley Trail** provided trailside information about the archaeology of the region and the nearby Red Wing Archaeological preserve.

Red Wing, Anderson Center and Hemisphere Field Services.

People and Plants: Toward an Understanding of the Role of Plants in Ancient Cultures, a public lecture by archaeologist Ronald Schirmer presented an ethnographic model useful for interpreting archaeological evidence of the role of plants in culture and culture change.

Hennepin County

Minneapolis, Historic Fort Snelling.

Archaeological Excavations at Historic Fort Snelling provided an opportunity to view on-going archaeological excavations outside of the walls of the fort, and query a professional archaeologist (Robert Clouse, Archaeology Department Head for the Minnesota Historical Society) about techniques of archaeological investigation, historic artifacts, and the history of Fort Snelling.

Houston County

Caledonia, Houston County Historical Society.

Discovery Day provided an opportunity for local residents and others to have their Native American artifacts identified and discussed by local avocational archaeologists.

Lake County

Finland, Finland Minnesota Historical Society.

In the program **Fur Trade Archaeology**, David Cooper, archaeologist and Chief of Resource Manager at Grand Portage National Monument presented a discussion and slide presentation on the history of the North West Company fur trade post at Grand Portage and discussed several decades of archaeological excavations at this site and along Minnesota's North Shore.

Morrison County

Little Falls, Institute for Minnesota Archaeology.

In **Canoe Trek Through Time**, Douglas Birk of the Institute for Minnesota Archaeology led a canoe trek on the Nokasippi to Little Elk River segment of the Mississippi River, and discussed the diverse cultural and natural resources found along this 13 mile stretch of the river.

Nicollet County

St. Peter, Treaty Site History Center.

In **"Surveying the Past": An Archaeological Perspective on Traverse des Sioux**, Robert Clouse, head of the Minnesota Historical Society Archaeology Department, presented an illustrated lecture on the archaeological investigations at the Traverse des Sioux site.

Otter Tail County

Fergus Falls, Otter Tail County Historical Society.

In the program **The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) from an American Indian Perspective**, Jim Jones, of the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council discussed current information about NAGPRA and shared his perspectives on the archaeology of Otter Tail County.

Pine County

Pine City, Minnesota Historical Society.

Stepping back to a rite of spring almost 200 years ago when Ojibwe families came together to make maple syrup, **Maple Sugaring at the North West Company Fur Post** provided an opportunity to hear the snap of the open fire, watch the steam roll off the kettle, smell the sweet boiling sap, and sample the finished product!

Ramsey County

St. Paul, Science Museum of Minnesota, the University of Minnesota - College of Liberal Arts Scholarly Events Fund, and the Institute for Minnesota Archaeology.

In **The Flight of the Huron**, the Sixth Annual Elden Johnson Memorial Lecture, Charles E. Cleland, Professor Emeritus of Anthropology, Michigan State University, recounted an incident during the Iroquois Wars when a small group of refugee "Tobacco" Huron fled west to the relative safety of the Great Lakes forests. Describing archaeological excavations at three related sites in addition to historic accounts, Cleland shared insights about the successful adaptive strategies of these refugees during difficult years.

St. Paul, Minnesota Historical Society.

At the **Archaeological Collections and Objects Conservation Open House**, tours of collection storage areas and the objects conservation lab provided a behind-the-scenes look at the storage system, notable collections in the objects conservation laboratory, and recently excavated and conserved archaeological objects from the site of the new Science Museum of Minnesota, the St. Cloud State University campus library site, and the new Mill Ruins Museum and Historic Site [Minneapolis].

St. Paul, Science Museum of Minnesota and the Maya Society of Minnesota.

In **Path to the Lost Cities: In the Footsteps of Maya Explorers**, Payne Johnson (noted Mayanist and photojournalist) presented a public lecture and slide show on his arduous five-year project to retrace the route (1839-1842) of American explorer John Lloyd Stephens and English artist Frederick Catherwood through unmapped mountains and tropical forests of Guatemala, Honduras, Chiapas, and the far reaches of the Yucatan.

St. Paul, Hamline University and the Maya Society of Minnesota.

Workshop on John Lloyd Stephens and Frederick Catherwood featured Payne Johnson leading an informal discussion of the lives of Stephens and Catherwood following their historic expedition of 1839-1842, and a rare slide showing of Catherwood's portfolio of watercolor paintings from the expedition.

St. Paul, Science Museum of Minnesota.

Artifact Identification Day provided an opportunity for metro-area amateurs to have professional archaeologists examine and identify their artifacts.

St. Louis County

Duluth, Archaeometry Laboratory, University of Minnesota-Duluth

10,000 Years in Duluth: Archaeological Research at the Fish Lake Dam Site featured a discussion of an area archaeological site which evidences almost continuous occupation from the PaleoIndian through Woodland periods - over 10,000 years!

Duluth, Northern Lakes Archaeological Society

Reception and Poster Session, the kick-off event for Duluth-Superior Archaeology Week, showcased recent research in the western lake Superior region.

Duluth, Northern Lakes Archaeological Society and Barnes & Noble Bookstore

Archaeology Night included a demonstration of flint knapping, pottery making and information on regional archaeology.

Boulder Lake Reservoir, Northern Lakes Archaeological Society and Minnesota Power

The **Archaeology Festival at Boulder Lake**, included demonstrations of flint knapping, pottery making, atlatl throwing and other activities.

All illustrations are by the Minnesota Office of the State Archaeologist unless noted otherwise below.

Cover: "Fort Snelling", ca. 1850, by Edward K. Thomas, courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society

Page 3: Shaving mug, toothpaste jar and lid, courtesy of the 106 Group, Ltd.