

First Annual Report of the State Archaeologist

July 1, 1963 - June 30, 1964

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A. Introduction

This is the initial annual report of the State Archaeologist as required in the 1963 Minnesota Field Archaeology Act. The report summarizes the activities of the State Archaeologist for the period from July 1, 1963 through June 30, 1964, and also presents suggestions for needed future work in Minnesota archaeology. The report does not include a summary of activities of the archaeologists employed by the Minnesota Historical Society. During the period from January 1, 1964 through March 31, 1964, Loren Johnson of the Minnesota Historical Society served as Acting State Archaeologist while the State Archaeologist was on leave. He reported no significant activities during that period.

B. Archaeological Excavation Permits

No requests for permits to survey or excavate archaeological sites on non-federal, publically owned lands were received during this year.

C. Archaeological Field Research

Field research conducted by the State Archaeologist during the past year falls into three categories, 1) site excavation, 2) site survey, and 3) salvage archaeology.

1) Site excavation

Excavations at the Hoffman Mound site (21 DL 1) immediately north of Alexandria, Minnesota, were conducted by a group of University of Minnesota students during the summer of 1963. The main excavations centered on a large burial mound which proved to be stratified, containing upper level Kathio focus burials, a middle zone with burials most similar to the Clom River focus mounds of western Wisconsin, and a lowest level Malmo focus component. The owners of the mound, Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Hoffman, requested that the central excavation be left open for construction of a site museum on their property. This was done and the site map and copies of excavation photographs were given to the Hoffmans for display purposes. The excavated materials, however, are in the collections of the Anthropology Museum, University of Minnesota.

In June of 1964, excavation began at the Itasca State Park bison site under a grant from the Louis W. and Maud Hill Family Foundation to the University of Minnesota. This site was previously tested by A. E. Jenks, L. A. Wilford and Samuel Eddy of the University of Minnesota in 1934 and proved to show *Bison occidentalis* in association with human cultural materials. The site is potentially very important and the present excavations are being conducted as a joint archaeological-ecological research project under the direction of the State Archaeologist and Professor H. E. Wright, Jr., Department of Geology, University of Minnesota. Excavation and analysis of archaeological and palynological remains is being done by C. T. Shay, Research Associate, Department of Anthropology, University of Minnesota. Several experts in soils, vertebrate paleontology, paleobotany, etc., will analyze specific sections of the excavated materials. Excavation will continue through the summer of 1964.

2) Site Survey

The University of Minnesota field party excavating the Hoffman Mounds also conducted a site survey along the proposed right-of-way for Interstate Highway 94 across Douglas County. No sites within the proposed right-of-way were located, though several new sites adjacent to the proposed highway were found. The same group also surveyed a few locations on major lakes in Douglas County and located additional new habitation sites. These survey records and site identifications are on file at the Anthropology Laboratory, University of Minnesota. Unfortunately, limitations of time and finances made it impossible to survey the many miles of additional new highway right-of-way projected for Minnesota.

Preliminary tests were made at the Orwell Farm Site in southwestern Otter-tail County indicating a probable Mississippian site (probably Cambria) of considerable size and importance. Additional testing and mapping of this site will be done in the late summer of 1964. Surveys within the boundaries of Lake Carlos State Park in Douglas County indicate a small camp site now underlying the present public camp grounds. The material recovered in test excavations shows a late Woodland site related to a very late prehistoric archaeological focus as yet poorly defined and unnamed. As this is one of two such habitation sites known, for this focus, extensive excavations at the Lake Carlos State Park site would be very informative.

3) Salvage Archaeology

Archaeological site salvage, usually brought on by construction activities, and quite unpredictable, took place at two locations in the spring of 1964. Excavations of footings for an addition to the house occupied by Daniel McMillan of Wayzata (Hennepin County) intruded into a large burial pit. University of Minnesota graduate students under the direction of the State Archaeologist excavated the burial pit which proved to be Kathio focus and which probably was a central burial pit under a mound which had previously been destroyed. The site (21 HE 97) will be described and the paper published in the fall issue of the Minnesota Archaeological Newsletter published by the Department of Anthropology, University of Minnesota.

Stripping of an area for a housing development on the southeast shore of Albert Lea removed a series of burial mounds which had been mapped previously (site 21 FE 2) but which had not been excavated. The construction activities were brought to our attention by Mr. Russell Harding, a teacher in the Albert Lea Junior High School. Two separate excavations of small burial pits at the site by C. T. Shay of the University of Minnesota disclosed probable Middle Woodland burials of unknown cultural affiliation. Unfortunately, the public was aware of the site before the archaeologist arrived and most of the cultural materials were taken from the site. Mr. Harding is making an effort to locate and photograph these materials so that our documentation of the site will be more complete.

Excavation began on June 15 at the Shakopee Mound group, 21 SC 1, adjacent to Highway 101 between Savage and Shakopee. Eighteen of the 44 remaining mounds in the group will be destroyed by highway construction activities later this year and the University of Minnesota is attempting to salvage as many of these mounds as possible before they are destroyed. Excavation

is being done under the State Archaeologist using a crew of University students enrolled in a summer session field techniques in archaeology course. Excavation will continue through July 17.

D. Publications

Lacking a formal archaeological series publication for Minnesota, articles and monographs dealing with Minnesota archaeology are placed with various journals and other publication outlets. A large backlog of pertinent archaeological manuscripts in the Anthropology Museum, University of Minnesota, remains unpublished. Those articles published during the past year include:

Johnson, Elden. "Twenty New Radiocarbon Dates From Minnesota Archaeological Sites." Minnesota Archaeologist, Vol. 26, No. 2, 34-39, Minneapolis, 1964.

"Copper Artifacts and Glacial Lake Agassiz Beaches." Minnesota Archaeologist, Vol. 26, No. 1, 4-22. Minneapolis, 1964.

Johnson, Elden and Leland R. Cooper. "Sandy Lake Ware and its Distribution." American Antiquity, Vol. 29, No. 4, 474-479. Salt Lake City, 1964.

Shay, Creighton T. "A Preliminary Report on the Itasca Bison Site." Proceedings, Minnesota Academy of Science, Vol. 31, No. 1, 24-27. Minneapolis, 1963.

Wilford, Lloyd A. "Burials at the Eck Site." Minnesota Archaeological Newsletter, No. 5, Spring, 1964. Minneapolis.

An unpublished, but very important Ph.D. thesis from the University of Minnesota, was completed in 1963. The thesis is titled "Some Ethno-zoological Implications of Mammalian Faunas From Minnesota Archaeological Sites," and was written by Paul W. Lukens, Jr., now teaching at Wisconsin State College, Superior, Wisconsin.

Manuscripts completed during the past year by Elden Johnson include "The Great Oasis Focus," to be submitted to the Society for American Archaeology, Archives for Archaeology (microcard series), and "Minnesota Mississippian Sites, Their Natural Settings," to be submitted to the Plains Anthropologist. A joint monograph by Lloyd A. Wilford, Professor Emeritus, University of Minnesota, and Elden Johnson, is titled "Mounds of the Rainy River" and waits only the final illustrations. No publication outlet has been found, as yet.

E. Financing

The work of the State Archaeologist is done under a nine-month academic appointment in the Department of Anthropology, University of Minnesota, supplemented by a single summer session appointment under which the field techniques in archaeology class is taught. The additional summer field

research activities are done without pay. Field expenses are carried under a very modest research budget supplied to the Department of Anthropology by the University administration. Special funds of a limited nature have been supplied by the Graduate School of the University for urgent salvage projects. There are no funds to support a publication series in Minnesota archaeology. This aspect of support for the work of the State Archaeologist presents serious drawbacks to an effective archaeological program.

F. Research, Survey and Publication Needs

During the past year, the State Archaeologist prepared a preliminary report on archaeological research needs for submission to the Minnesota Outdoor Recreation Resources Commission. This report emphasized prehistoric archaeological research needs in connection with the development of Minnesota state parks. In addition to the research needs described in that report, we badly need a systematic county by county site survey. The site location files in the Anthropology Museum, University of Minnesota, list over 1,500 prehistoric archaeological sites in the state, yet there are many times that number of sites which are of potential importance and which should be documented. With the acceleration of construction in Minnesota and the associated destruction of archaeological sites, much of our prehistoric archaeological heritage will be lost unless immediate steps are taken. Such a site survey program could be accomplished by graduate students specializing in prehistoric archaeology working in teams during each of the following ten summers and could be accomplished for under \$3,000.00 per year.

It is also necessary to stimulate archaeological research by other Minnesota institutions. To this date, only the Science Museum of St. Paul, Hamline University, the Minnesota Historical Society, and the University of Minnesota have been actively engaged in archaeological research in Minnesota. Each of the several state and private colleges in Minnesota should be encouraged to enter this field of research as they add individuals skilled in archaeology to their faculties.

June 30, 1964