

ANNUAL REPORT
STATE ARCHAEOLOGIST'S OFFICE
July 1932-July 1933

The State Archaeologist's Office has been heavily involved in activities pertaining to projects done under state licenses issued under the Field Archaeology Act, and response to burial situations under the Private Cemeteries Act.

OFFICE REVIEW

Eleven licenses were issued under the Field Archaeology Act. This is about the same number as last year, and represents a decline from previous years when 20-25 licenses were issued per year. Comments on site work done under these licenses were made as necessary, both by telephone and letter. A number of field reviews were conducted, discussed below.

Twenty-two new sites were added to the official state site file. This represents a considerable decline from previous years, mainly due to the termination of the Statewide Survey and the general decline in survey activity in the state.

The Private Cemeteries Act, MN Statutes 307.09, was amended during the legislative session. Provisions were added to increase penalties under the act (to a gross misdemeanor), and to make state agencies responsible for retaining the services of a qualified archaeologist in burial situations. Lynda Weiss, a legislative intern, was primarily responsible for getting the technical aspects of the law change through the legislature, and both the State Archaeologist and Assistant State Archaeologist worked closely with her throughout the session.

The State Archaeologist gave nine public talks during the year to diverse groups such as Audubon societies, state parks interpretive programs, firewardens, and school classes. Most were to groups outside the metro areas. In addition, numerous interviews were given with the media, including Minnesota Public Radio, radio stations in Bemidji, Grand Rapids, Red Wing, and Winona, and newspapers in Sleepy Eye, Red Wing, Winona, Fergus Falls, and Park Rapids.

The State Archaeologist attended a number of meetings, as necessary, including a meeting of RP-3 participants hosted by the Corps of Engineers, a quarterly meeting of the Indian Affairs Intertribal Board, and a meeting of County zoning administrators.

Peer Review was continued, with the State Archaeologist assuming the coordinating function. Some 19 reports have been subject to review, and the results are being summarized for presentation to the Council for Minnesota Archaeology and the Director of the Minnesota Historical Society.

In addition, the State Archaeologist reviewed permit requests, project proposals, and survey reports for agencies including the Department of Natural Resources, the Corps of Engineers and the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

FIELD REVIEW

Field reviews were conducted of work being done under the following state licenses:

L82-3 and L83-2 to L. Peterson	21-GD-56 21-GD-4 and 45 (Bryan) 21-KC-2 (McKinstry) 21-CA-29 (Kabakona)
L83-3 to E. Johnson and C. Dobbs	21-GD-4 and 45 (Bryan)
L83-10 to G. Peters	Big Rice, St. Louis Co.
L82-10 to E. Johnson and J. Streiff	Vineland area, Mille Lacs Co.
L82-1 to E. Johnson and J. Streiff	DNR State Parks, survey

These licenses involved mitigation on a burial site (GD-56), mitigation through major excavation on a Mississippian village and burial site (GD-4 and 45), and testing on a major Laurel culture site (KC-2) and a large multi-component village site (Big Rice).

PRIVATE CEMETERIES ACT ACTIVITIES (MN Statutes 307.08)

Most activity centered around this legislation. Twelve situations resulted in field review, and burial materials were received from six additional sites. In addition, the Assistant State Archaeologist continued the analysis of burial materials previously turned over to the State Archaeologist's Office by the Minnesota Historical Society. Ultimate aim of this analysis is to prepare materials for reburial as coordinated with the Indian Affairs Intertribal Board.

In addition to the cases which were given field review, ten additional burial ground cases requiring records checks and agency coordination were handled through this office. Some of these cases needed field review as well, but due to time and budget constraints, this could not be accomplished. There is also a pressing need to work with county and local zoning officials and planners to integrate consideration of burial grounds into the planning process in order to forestall future emergencies. With our present lack of funds, however, we are unable to do more than respond to emergency situations.

Cases given field review included WN-25 (Jilks site), HE-24 (Allis-Eden Prairie Mounds), HE-20 (Kempton Mound Group), KH-8 (Green Lake), AK-29 (Big Sandy), GD-52 (Red Wing Industrial Park), GD-4 (Bryan), GD-56, alleged historic burials near Vineland in Mille Lacs county, an unnumbered burial on Steamboat Lake in Hubbard county, unnumbered burials near Elbow Lake on the White Earth Reservation, and the Mission Point burial ground on the Leech Lake Reservation.

Burial materials received by the State Archaeologist's Office included KC-3 (Grand Mound), CO-9 (Talcott Lake burial), HU-1 (Hogback), an unnumbered burial from the Heiderscheidt gravel pit near Sleepy Eye in Brown county, an unnumbered burial from Swan Lake in Nicollet county, and an unnumbered burial from the Washington County Historical Society.

All but one of these cases occurred on private property. Consequently, changes in the Cemeteries Act did not have much effect, and costs had to be born by the State Archaeologist and Assistant State Archaeologist. The single case involving state property (DNR managed at Elbow Lake within the White Earth Reservation boundary) is still in process. The Department of Natural Resources has indicated, however, that they will not pay for the rescue of burials which were eroding out of this site, regardless of the changes in the law. Therefore, the State Archaeologist, assisted by two volunteers, has assumed responsibility in this emergency. The volume of material recovered from this rescue is considerable, and analysis of the skeletal material, most of which is fragmentary, will require a major effort by the Assistant State Archaeologist. Associated material, including a restorable Blackduck vessel, is also considerable and will require analysis during the winter. Reburial is planned for next spring.

The State Archaeologist's Office is indebted to Bob Clouse and Les Peterson of the Minnesota Historical Society for their frequent and excellent assistance. Corps of Engineers archaeologist Sandy Blaylock's assistance is also gratefully acknowledged. The concern and interest of these colleagues, particularly in the handling of emergency field cases, has been important to the functioning of this office.

The Indian Affairs Intertribal Board, represented by Earl Sargent, has worked closely with us as usual. Their decisions have provided a necessary framework of process and policy for the implementation of the Cemeteries Act.

FUNDING

The lack of funding continues to hamper the effective working of the State Archaeologist's Office. Follow-up work, particularly on burial cases, is usually not possible and our response must be restricted to extreme situations. We are frequently unable to respond to cases which really need field work and are forced to either postpone work until the situation becomes critical or make decisions on less than adequate data.

The situation is critical. Although the Minnesota Indian Affairs Intertribal Board funds a liaison for the implementation of the Private Cemeteries law and, thus, MIAIB has a funded representative, lack of funding for the State Archaeologist seriously restricts the effectiveness of work and places a financial burden on the State Archaeologist and Assistant State Archaeologist which has become intolerable. In addition, the MIAIB suffers because of a tight budget which prevents adequate funding for the travel and field costs of their representative.

Our estimate of costs for implementing the Private Cemeteries Act is approximately \$1500 per case. At even the conservative estimate of 20 cases per year, this would show a need for \$30,000. Considering that it is unlikely that the legislature would appropriate such a sum during a non-appropriation session (upcoming in 1984), a request for emergency funding of \$12,000 directly to the State Archaeologist's Office and \$3,000 to the MIAIB would be more appropriate. The implementation of the Private Cemeteries Act is a function performed by the State Archaeologist--that is not duplicated by any other agency and one which has reached emergency proportions. The Council for Minnesota Archaeology legislative committee recently met and has endorsed the concept of working for such funding in the upcoming session, and the Director of the Historical Society has also indicated his support.

Although funding has become a perennial and still unresolved topic of each annual report, we hope that part of this dilemma can be resolved by focusing on the unique functions of the State Archaeologist's Office and working for funding of these.

Dr. Christy A. Hohman-Caine, State Archaeologist
Dr. Barbara O'Connell, Assistant State Archaeologist

Office of the State Archaeologist
Hamline University
St. Paul, MN 55104