

ANNUAL REPORT, FISCAL YEAR 2001

OFFICE OF THE STATE ARCHAEOLOGIST



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Office of the State Archaeologist, St. Paul

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Fiscal Year 2001**



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Cover - Late PaleoIndian Hunters, ca. 8000-6000 BC

**PALEOINDIAN PROJECTILE POINTS,
ca. 10,000-6000 BC**



*Clovis,
ca. 10,000-8500 BC*



*Folsom,
ca. 8800-8200 BC*



*Hell Gap,
ca. 8000-6000 BC*

INTRODUCTION

This report describes the twelve-month period of operations for the Office of the State Archaeologist beginning July 1, 2000, and ending June 30, 2001 (fiscal year 2001).

The story of Minnesota's past spans thousands of years, from a time when the area's first peoples hunted mammoths along the margins of continental glaciers, through the historic period of logging, farming and milling. This record of human achievement and adaptation continues 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 per MS 307.08 (section of the *Private Cemeteries Act*);
- ▶ reviewing and licensing archaeological fieldwork conducted within the state;
- ▶ and enforcing provisions of MS 138.31-138.42 (the *Field Archaeology Act*).

OSA clients include, but are not limited to: government agencies; 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 academic institutions; 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 licensed projects for each of the past three 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). These projects variously include rather straightforward site reconnaissance/identification investigations (phase I), site evaluations which assess site character, integrity and National Register eligibility (phase II), data recovery/formal investigations (phase III), and other specialized field research (e.g., geophysical, geoarchaeological, etc.):

- ▶ 2000 282 licensed projects
- ▶ 1999 259 licensed projects
- ▶ 1998 283 licensed projects

No individuals were identified as having initiated field investigations without having first obtained licensure required under provisions of the *Field Archaeology Act* during the 2000 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 upon an up-to-date system.

In FY 2001, a total of 281 archaeological site (including burial site) forms were reviewed, approved and entered into the State's archaeological site database by the OSA; this figure includes 215 newly-recorded sites and 61 updates for previously identified sites. Of these, the OSA completed 11 forms for newly-identified sites and completed an additional 3 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.

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

MN STATUTES 307.08: THE "PRIVATE CEMETERIES ACT"

The "Private Cemeteries Act" includes provisions for the protection of burials 50 years and older which

ARCHAIC PROJECTILE POINTS, ca. 6000-1000 BC



*Oxbow,
ca. 2700-1000 BC*

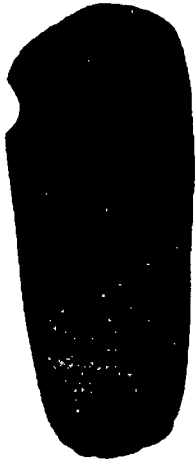


*Table Rock,
ca. 3000-1000 BC*

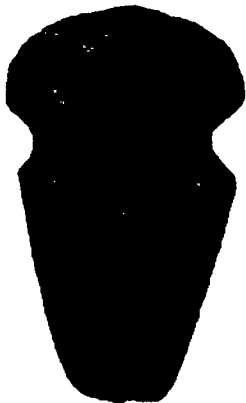


*Raddatz,
ca. 3000-1000 BC*

**ARCHAIC STONE AXES,
ca. 6000-1000 BC**



3/4 grooved axe



Full grooved axe

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 is conducted under the sole auspices of 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.

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 59 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 burial 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 scores of requests for burial site information by landowners, developers, tribal

interests, agencies of government, CRM professionals, legislators, and other interested parties.

PUBLIC EDUCATION

In addition to regularly responding to general inquiries about Minnesota's archaeology (and, frequently, examining and identifying artifacts), the OSA provides interested groups and individuals with information about the State's archaeological past and the process of archaeological research through public presentations.

OSA audiences during FY 2001 included:

Professional

- ▶ *The Sacred and the Profane: Reconciling Native American and Scientific Perspectives.* Presentation to Breck School faculty in daylong workshop "The Creative Energy of Multi-Culturalism: Questioning the Assumptions and Identifying the Hidden Messages in Learning Institutions", Brooklyn Center, MN.
- ▶ *Minnesota OSA: Policies, Legislation and Case Studies.* Lecture, Department of Anthropology, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis.
- ▶ *Minnesota Archaeology, Burial Sites Preservation, and Related Legislation.* Cultural Resources Training Program, USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Deep Portage, MN.

Public Outreach

- ▶ *Artifact Identification.* Minnesota Flintknappers

Convention, Pine City, MN.

- ▶ *Exploring Archaeology.* Park Elementary School, Hutchinson, MN.
- ▶ *Even Farm Kids can Become Archaeologists.* Kimball Elementary School, Kimball, MN.

Other OSA public education initiatives during the year included:

- ▶ *Minnesota Archaeology Week.* Coordination and promotion of program and events; development of poster concept and design, featuring Archaic period culture history and teacher lesson plan (cf. also Appendix C).

Minnesota Archaeology Week activities are underwritten in part with funds from a number of OSA's partner agencies including: the Council for Minnesota Archaeology; the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Tribal Historic Preservation Office and the Leech Lake Heritage Sites Program; the Minnesota Department of Transportation; the Minnesota Humanities Commission; the National Park Service, Midwest Archaeological Center; the Natural Resources Conservation Service; the Shakopee Mdewakanton Dakota Community Cultural Resources Department; the University of Minnesota, Department of Anthropology and the College of Liberal Arts; and the United States Fish & Wildlife Service.

- ▶ *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 worked to coordinate the "Governor's Conference on Tourism" (January, 2001), which highlighted 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.

Research is nearing completion; publication of results scheduled for late FY 2002.

- ▶ 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.

Prototype nearing completion; implementation scheduled for FY 2002.

- ▶ OSA hosted the Joint Midwest Archaeological and Plains Anthropological Conference in November, 2000. Minnesota's archaeological community had not hosted a conference since

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.*

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.*

1977. Conference attendance was open to avocationalists and members of the public. Total attendance, including interested members of the public, exceeded 700 individuals.

- ▶ Publication of *Archaeology in Minnesota: 2000 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 INITIATIVES

Public Education

Public education initiatives in FY 2002 will focus on:

- ▶ Presentation of a professional paper in a symposium describing *Mn/Model*, the Minnesota Department of Transportation's predictive model of archaeological site location, at the Society for American Archaeology's 67th Annual Meeting, Denver, 2002;
- ▶ On-going enhancement of the OSA website (www.admin.state.mn.us/osa/), a "one-stop" clearinghouse for access to information on state, regional, national, and global archaeology, educational resources, archaeology legislation, and heritage tourism;
- ▶ Continuing expansion of Minnesota Archaeology Week (MAW) events and activities, with the OSA continuing in its central role as organizer and promoter of state-wide MAW events.

Research

Planned activities for the year include:

- ▶ completion and submittal of National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) nomination for reported Dakota Conflict era (~1863) sod fort located in the Hutchinson area;
- ▶ initiation of research for Jeffers Rock Art District NRHP documentation.

Publications

Publication efforts during FY 2002 will include:

- ▶ Completion of work on a volume describing the prehistoric projectile points of Minnesota will continue. Publication FY 2003;
- ▶ Preparation and distribution of *Archaeology in Minnesota: 2001 Project Report Summaries*, the fourth annual volume summarizing archaeological investigations in Minnesota;
- ▶ Publication of the results of the pre- and protohistoric mortuary practices and patterns study, and consolidation of the related interactive/searchable database (per interagency agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation). This on-going research has already proven useful in sensitive land use planning efforts to identify and avoid potential burial areas in advance of construction/development projects.

Research is nearing completion. Publication is scheduled for late FY 2002.

OFFICE OF THE LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR (OSA PROGRAM AUDIT)

The Office of the Legislative Auditor (OLA) concluded its program audit of OSA during FY 2001.

The "key recommendations" outlined in OLA's audit report (released in April of 2001) include the following:

- ▶ *"... the Office of the State Archaeologist should continue to receive its funding primarily from a General Fund appropriation (and) the Legislature should direct the office to determine the feasibility of charging fees to supplement its budget."*
- ▶ *"The Legislature should require the Department of Administration, on behalf of the archaeologist's office, to adopt administrative rules regulating archaeological activities, and require that parties use the contested case provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act to resolve disputes."*

Per OLA's recommendation, the 2001 Legislature directed the Management Analysis Division of the Department of Administration to assess the feasibility of collecting fees for services provided by the OSA, and to provide the Legislature with this information by July 15, 2002.



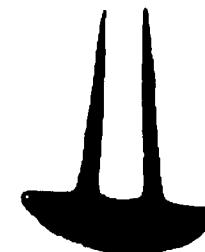
ARCHAIC COPPER ARTIFACTS, ca. 6000-1000 BC



Socketed spear point

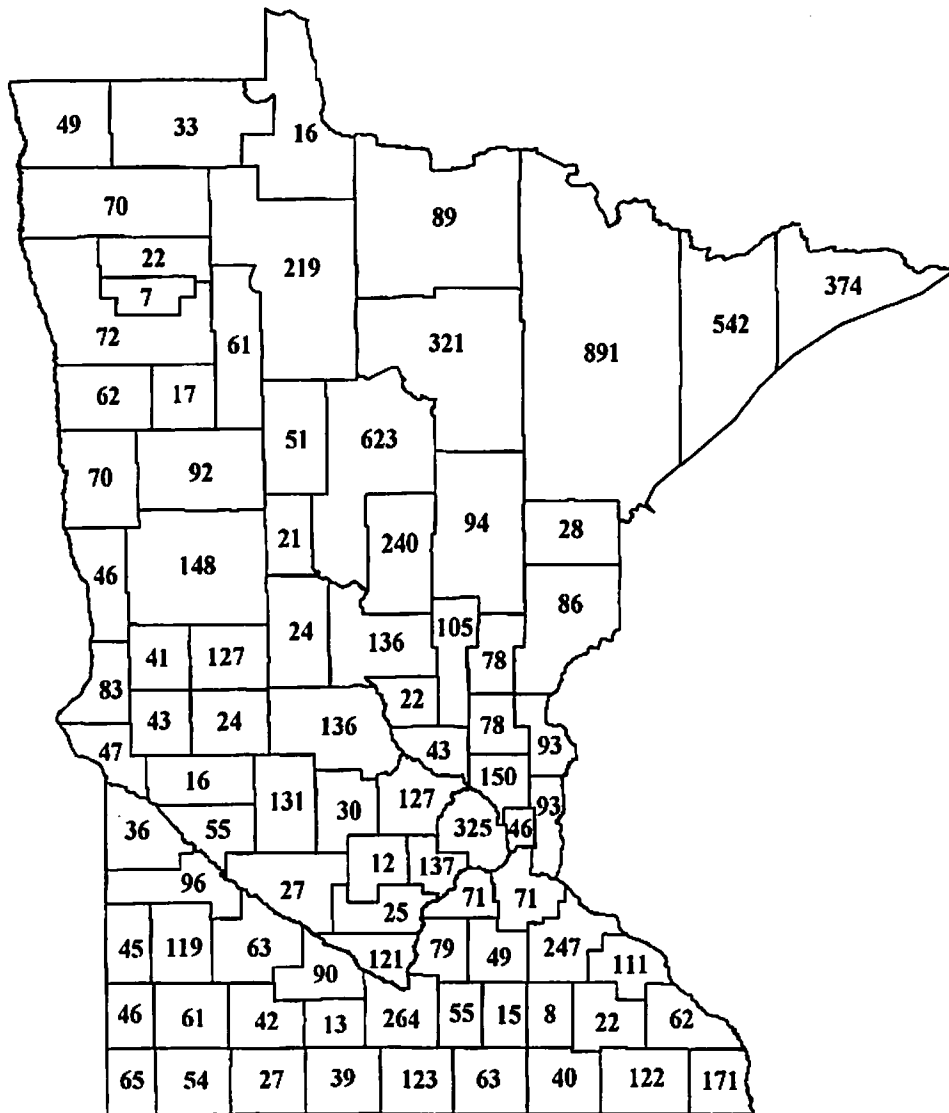


Barbed & tanged spear point



Double-tanged ulu knife

APPENDIX A



(number of recorded archaeological sites per county)

DISTRIBUTION OF RECORDED ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES IN MINNESOTA, 2001

The cultural sequence in the region begins with PALEOINDIAN (ca. 10,000 to 6000 BC). As glaciers receded from the Upper Midwest, migratory groups of people settled throughout the area's open woodlands and succeeding grasslands, hunting native herding animals such as bison and mastodon, and likely exploiting available small-game, fish and plant resources as well.

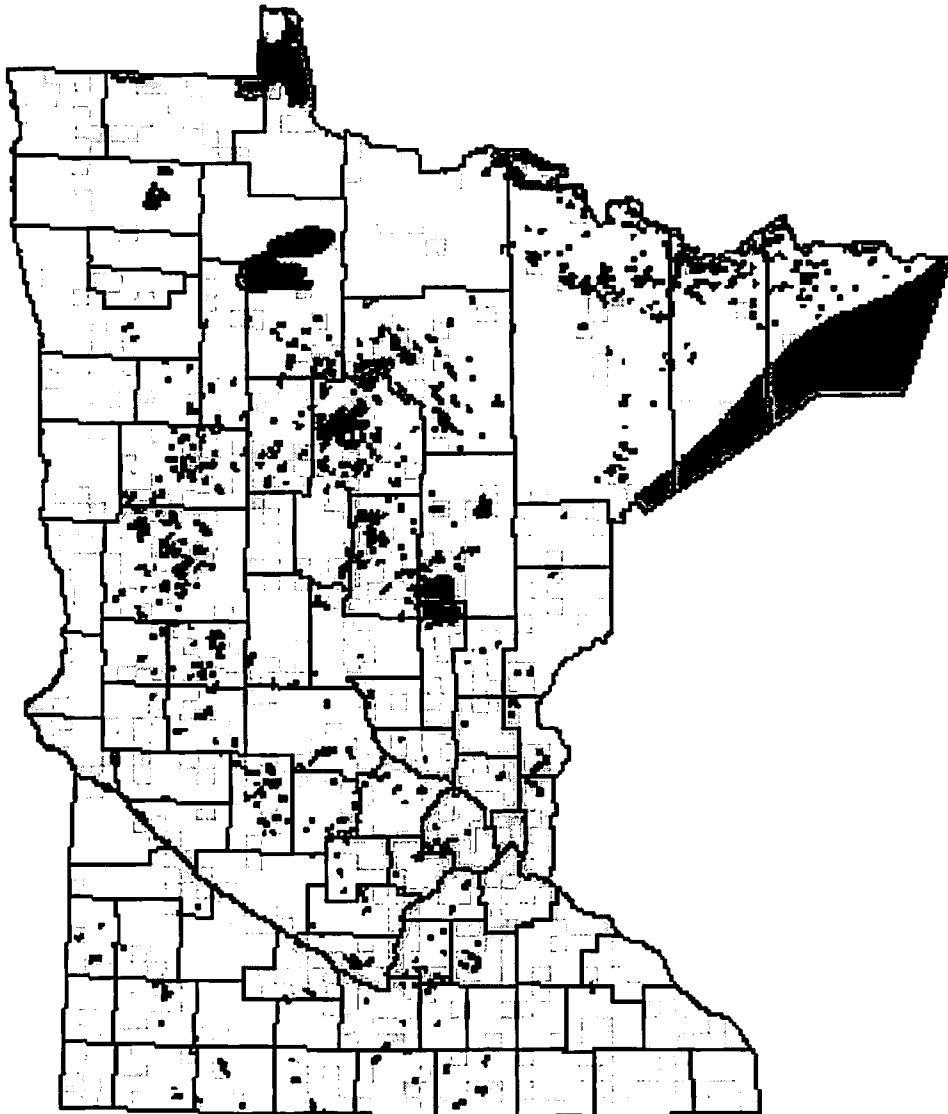
The ARCHAIC period (ca. 6000 to 1000 BC) was characterized by a continued reliance on large game hunting (bison, deer, elk and moose) and increasingly diversified technologies. This diversification of culture and associated technologies reflects more highly regionalized adaptation to local environmental conditions as climatic trends began to shift to a cooler, wetter configuration, a pattern which continues to this day.

The WOODLAND period (ca. 1000 BC to historic contact) in the area may have been associated with incipient plant domestication, but hunting coupled with intensive plant gathering provided the bulk of subsistence needs. An especially significant technological innovation of the Woodland peoples is the development of ceramics. Earthwork (mound) construction frequently associated with mortuary activity also developed at this time.

Evidence of ONEOTA / PLAINS VILLAGE occupation (ca. 900 AD to historic contact) is reported for areas of southern Minnesota. These peoples appear to have developed a blended subsistence strategy based on simple agriculture, gathering and bison hunting.

Early in the HISTORIC period (ca. 1630 to present), western portions of the State were occupied by Yankton Dakota, while Santee Dakota occupied the east. Ojibwa peoples had largely displaced Dakota in the northeast by the mid-1700s. French fur traders had moved into the region by the late 1600s, to be succeeded, in turn, by English and American traders. EuroAmerican settlement of the area accelerated in the early 1800s with the establishment of Fort Snelling at the confluence of the Minnesota and Mississippi Rivers.

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, 2001

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 in the immediate area should cease;
- ▶ the area should be secured;
- ▶ 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 - 2001 Events

Free and open to the public, these state-wide events annually celebrate Minnesota's archaeological and historic past.

BECKER COUNTY

Detroit Lakes, Becker County Museum

Archaeology and Historic Preservation in Western Minnesota

Four poster exhibits reviewed aspects of archaeology and the need to preserve sites, highlighting archaeology in western Minnesota. The exhibits were created by students at Minnesota State University - Moorhead under the guidance of Dr. Michael Michlovic.

BLUE EARTH COUNTY

Mankato, Blue Earth County Historical Society

Archaeology in Blue Earth County

Professor Michael Scullin of Minnesota State University, Mankato gave a presentation on archaeological investigations of Blue Earth County area Native American sites dating from 1000 to 1350 AD.

CASS COUNTY

Hackensack, Deep Portage Conservation Reserve

2001: An Earth Odyssey - The Future of Anthropological Research

The 23rd annual UM anthropology undergraduate conference provided a forum for students and faculty to give a variety of public presentations in an informal setting. Participants included a number of renowned national and international scholars.

CHIPPEWA COUNTY

Montevideo, Pioneerland Library

Local Collections on Display

The library provided visitors with an opportunity to view local prehistoric artifacts from a number of private collections.

CLAY COUNTY

Moorhead, Clay County Historical Society

Archaeology at the Historical Probstfield Farm

The Society hosted a display illustrating archaeological work conducted in 1997 by Minnesota State University - Moorhead at the Probstfield Farm, a farmstead built in 1868 by Randolph Probstfield, the first permanent EuroAmerican settler in the area.

CLEARWATER COUNTY

Itasca State Park, Forest Inn at Itasca State Park

Stone Tool Chipping: Who We Were and Who We Are Today

Terry Larson of the Mississippi Headwaters Board demonstrated the art of making stone tools and discussed what the study of stone tools can teach us about the past.

COOK COUNTY

Grand Marais, Johnson Heritage Post

Shipwreck Archaeology on Western Lake Superior

David Cooper of the National Park Service provided a slide presentation on Lake Superior underwater archaeology, part of a day-long local history event sponsored by the Cook County Historical Society and the North Shore Assembly.

FARIBAULT COUNTY

Winnebago, Winnebago Area Museum

Open House at the Winnebago Area Museum

The museum hosted an opportunity to view its extensive collection of archaeological materials relating to the prehistory of the area.

FILLMORE COUNTY

Rushford, *Rushford Area Historical Society, Tenborg Community Center*

If it's Tuesday, this must be Fillmore County: Caves, Mounds, and other Early U of M Fieldwork

The Rushford area, formerly known as "Trail City" because of the many Indian trails that crossed this area, has numerous caves, rockshelters and mounds that have been investigated. Archaeologists from the Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center at the University of WI - La Crosse discussed early archaeological field work in the area and identified artifacts for members of the public.

HENNEPIN COUNTY

Fort Snelling State Park, *The Shakopee Mdewakanton Dakota Community, Minnesota DNR, and the 106 Group Ltd.*

Building Partnerships: Preservation of Dakota Cultural Sites

Tribal, state agency and private sector representatives discussed lessons learned regarding partnerships and cooperative programming in the preservation and management of Dakota cultural resources. *Canceled due to flooding.*

Minneapolis, *Pillsbury Auditorium, Minneapolis Institute of Arts*

THE 7th ANNUAL ELDEN JOHNSON MEMORIAL LECTURE,

Vikings in Ireland: The Archaeological Evidence

Dr. Patrick Wallace, director of the National Museum of Ireland, Dublin, presented the annual Elden Johnson Lecture as the keynote speech for an international conference on Irish archaeology held in the Twin Cities.

HOUSTON COUNTY

Caledonia, *City Auditorium*

Gopher State Archaeological Society Artifact Show

Participants had an opportunity to view private collections of artifacts from

Minnesota and the surrounding states.

LAKE COUNTY

Finland, *Finland Minnesota Historical Society*

Wings of White, Great Lakes Schooners and Ship Wrecks

David Cooper, archaeologist and Chief of Resource Management at Grand Portage National Monument presented a program about early ships and Great Lakes shipwrecks at the Finland Minnesota Historical Society's spring meeting.

MILLE LACS COUNTY

Princeton, *Mille Lacs County Historical Society, Depot Museum*

"Swords into Plowshares": an evening with the Author

The Mille Lacs County Historical Society hosted an event to introduce Dean B. Simmons, author of a book about Minnesota's POW camps of World War II. Afterwards the audience shared their memories of the POWs that were in the Princeton area.

OTTER TAIL COUNTY

Fergus Falls, *Otter Tail County Historical Society*

View and Do: Laurel Culture Pottery

Participants learned the characteristics of ancient pottery, and then made their own clay Laurel Culture vessel and compared it with ones made at the Grand Mound site.

RAMSEY COUNTY

St. Paul, *Minnesota Historical Society, History Center*

MHS Museum Collections Storage: A Behind the Scenes Tour

Tours by Chuck Diesen, of the Minnesota Historical Society, provided a "behind the scenes" visit the MHS artifact storage facility and a chance to examine some of the archaeological collections not currently on public exhibit.

St. Paul, *Institute for Minnesota Archaeology (IMA)*

The Adams Site Complex and Trenton Terrace Survey

Dan Wendt of IMA lead a discussion about continuing research on the Adams Site, a late prehistoric Oneota village site in the Red Wing area.

St. Paul, Institute for Minnesota Archaeology (IMA)

The Headless Bison Calf from the Fingerson Mound

David Mather of Loucks Associates spoke about current research on the headless bison calf from the Fingerson Mound site in Pope County, Minnesota.

ST. LOUIS COUNTY

Duluth, St. Louis County Historical Society, the Depot

Archaeology of Northeast Minnesota

Archaeologist David Woodward of the Superior National Forest presented highlights of recent archaeological excavations in the SNF.

Duluth, Northern Lakes Archaeological Society

Northern Lakes Archaeology Society Reception

The kick-off event for Duluth Superior Archaeology Week, this reception showcased recent research in the region.

Duluth, Northern Lakes Archaeological Society

Archaeology Night

Featured a demonstration of flint-knapping and pottery making.

Duluth, Northern Lakes Archaeological Society and Glensheen

Archaeology Festival

The event included demonstrations of flint-knapping, pottery and basket making, and atlatl dart throwing.

SCOTT COUNTY

Shakopee, Shakopee Mdewakanton Dakota Community, Scott County Historical Society, MN Department of Natural Resources, and the 106 Group Exhibit Opening and Reception: "Dakota Presence in the River Valleys"

Featured the opening of a new exhibition describing the Shakopee Mdewakanton Dakota Community's cultural preservation and documentation projects in the Minnesota and Mississippi River Valleys.

SHERBURNE COUNTY

Becker, Sherburne County Historical Society and St. Cloud State University

Archaeological Survey of an Early Twentieth Century Homestead

Archaeologists from St. Cloud State University and historian Kurt Kragness from the Sherburne County Historical Society joined with local volunteers to document how homesteaders lived by studying an abandoned farmstead.

SWIFT COUNTY

Benson, Swift County Historical Society

Archaeology in the Midwest

Scott Anfinson of the Minnesota Historical Society discussed the archaeology of the region, early archaeological studies in the area, and current issues in archeology.

Whitewater State Park, Whitewater State Park

Minnesota's Mounds

Minnesota once had more than 10,000 earthen mounds constructed by Native Americans. Archaeologists from the Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center at the University of Wisconsin - La Crosse described the early investigations of these mounds, discussed how the mounds fit within the Woodland culture in southeastern Minnesota's blufflands, and described issues related to the protection and preservation of these prehistoric earthworks.

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

Cover: "PaleoIndian Hunters", courtesy of the New York State Museum, Albany