

# Report of the State Archaeologist (Fiscal Year 2020)

February 2021

This report summarizes the activities of the Office of the State Archaeologist (OSA) as directed by Minnesota Statute 138.38 which states that the State Archaeologist complete a report of activities “annually and also upon leaving office.” This report covers Fiscal Year 2020 (July 2019 through June 2020).

The Office of the State Archaeologist is housed in the Community Services Division of the Department of Administration. The Office of the State Archaeologist (OSA) has three staff members (Amanda Gronhovd, Bruce Koenen, and Jennifer Tworzyanski).

The OSA leases office space from the Minnesota Historical Society (MHS) and are housed in the Kellogg Center, located at 328 W Kellogg Blvd, St. Paul, MN.

## Introduction

The Office of the State Archaeologist (OSA) strives to preserve archaeological sites and un-platted burials, encourage communication between state agencies, foster collaboration between the archaeological and tribal communities, assist with development planning, and promote archaeological research and education in Minnesota. We work with developers, tribal representatives, governmental agencies, educators, and the public to identify, preserve, and interpret our archaeological resources.

Between July 2019 and June 2020, 296 new archaeological sites were entered into the OSA site files. Archaeological sites are recorded in all 87 Minnesota counties, and dozens of previously unknown sites are discovered each year.

## Statutes and Duties

The Field Archaeology Act (MS 138.31 - .42) established the position of State Archaeologist in 1963. The State Archaeologist is a state civil service employee appointed by the Commissioner of Administration. Currently, Amanda Gronhovd serves as the Minnesota State Archaeologist, and Bruce Koenen and Jennifer Tworzyanski assist the state archaeologist.

The Office of the State Archaeologist manages the State’s archaeological sites on behalf of the citizens of Minnesota. Two statutes primarily define the duties of the State Archaeologist: The Field Archaeology Act (MS 138.31-.42), and Private Cemeteries Act (MS 307.08).

### Field Archaeology Act (MS 138.31-42)

The Field Archaeology Act (MS 138.31-42) established the position of Minnesota’s State Archaeologist and gives the state “the exclusive right and privilege of field archaeology on state sites, in order to protect and preserve archaeological and scientific information, matter, and objects” (MS 138.32). In other words, the State Archaeologist is charged with managing

Minnesota's archaeological resources located on public (non-federal) land for the citizens of the state. The Field Archaeology Act defines the duties of the State Archaeologist as:

- Sponsoring, engaging in, and directing archaeological research within Minnesota; (138.35 Subd 2 [a])
- Cooperating with state agencies, the MHS and the University of Minnesota to preserve, protect, and interpret archaeological sites and data; (138.35 Subd 2 [b and f])
- Protecting and encouraging the preservation of archaeological sites located on private property; (138.35 Subd 2 [c])
- Identifying, protecting, and preserving archaeological sites and data; (138.35 Subd 2 [d and e])
- Reviewing proposed development plans on public land, and making recommendations for the preservation of archaeological or historic sites;
- Disseminating archaeological information; (138.35 Subd 2 [g])
- Approving licensing of qualified individuals to conduct archaeological projects on state sites; (138.35 Subd 2 [h]) and (138.36 Subd 2)
- Informing and partnering with the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council (MIAC) when development is proposed in areas thought to contain American Indian archaeological, historic, or religious sites; and (138.40 Subd 3)
- Enforcing the *Field Archaeology Act* (138.35 Subd 2 [i]).

#### **Private Cemeteries Act (MS 307.08)**

The Private Cemeteries Act protects all human burials and burial grounds that are more than 50 years old and are located outside officially platted, recorded, or identified cemeteries. This statute applies to cemeteries located on public and private property. Duties assigned the State Archaeologist under the Private Cemeteries Act include:

- Assessing whether a specific location is a "burial" or "burial grounds"; (307.08, Subd. 3a)
- Granting permission for disturbances, posting, and signage within non-Indian cemeteries (307.08, Subd. 3);
- Collaborating with MIAC to help protect, preserve, and manage the burial grounds, if the individuals within the cemetery are ethnically American Indian; (307.08, Subd. 7)
- Maintaining unrecorded cemetery data; (307.08, Subd. 11) and

- Reviewing development plans which might impact unrecorded burials to help determine whether known or suspected cemetery sites are not within proposed development projects (307.08, Subd.10).

The State Archaeologist is given additional duties in rules implementing Minnesota Water Law (MS 103F), the Minnesota Environmental Policy Act (MS 116D), the Coroner and Medical Examiner law (MS 390.25, Subd. 5), and the Legacy Amendment Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund (MS 129D.17).

In addition to the duties outlined in Minnesota Statutes, the Office of the State Archaeologist also:

- Helps guide the *Statewide Survey of Historical and Archaeological Sites*;
- Assigns official state site numbers to archaeological sites;
- Maintains archaeological site files, burial files, and archaeological research documents and reports;
- Fosters collaboration and research between professional archaeologists, tribal communities, governmental agencies, and the public;
- Provides education to and answers questions from the public regarding archaeological resources; and
- Offers training opportunities to the archaeological professional community.

### **Specific Measures During Fiscal Year 2020**

- Archaeological licenses issued: 113
- Archaeological site forms reviewed: 356
- New archaeological sites added to the site files: 296
- Archaeological reports reviewed: 125
- Development projects reviewed: >393
- Number of archaeological sites recorded in the OSA files: 20,249
- Sites visited as part of the *Field Archaeology Act* (MS 138.31-42) and the *Private Cemeteries Act* (MS 307.08) projects:
  - Mission Creek (21SL1246), Duluth, MN
  - A poor farm cemetery, Duluth, MN
  - Indian Mounds Regional Park, St. Paul, MN

- Whitefish Creek, Mille Lacs, MN
- Mound site, Mille Lacs, MN
- Mound site, Frazee, MN
- Mound site, Mound, MN
- Mound site, Ottertail, MN
- Possible historic cemetery site, Chatfield, MN
- Vasa Mounds, Marine on St. Croix, MN
- Malmo Mounds, Mille Lacs, MN
- Possible cemetery site, Mille Lacs, MN

## **Online Access and Electronic Files**

### OSA Portal

Phase I of the OSA on-line Portal system for accessing site data is complete, and Phase II is underway. The Portal is a secure website for accessing Minnesota's archaeological site information, and streamline the archaeological site form submission process.

The public version of the OSA is online. The public version of the Portal allows individuals to view the number of recorded sites in a one square mile section, but does not give information about the site or its specific location.

Numerous professionals have also received the training required to access the Portal. At the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of FY19 the Portal had 169 users. By the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of FY20 the Portal had 218 users : an increase of 78% over the previous fiscal year. The professional level access allows archaeologists to create, edit, and submit site forms on-line, and allows them to view:

- A site map showing site locations;
- Site information; and
- Scanned versions of archaeological site forms.

Phase II of the Portal system was completed, resulting in the inclusion of the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council (MIAC) areas of concern. This allows researchers and land managers to see areas of Native American cultural concern in addition to archaeological sites. The Portal upgrade also included the addition of land manager access which will allow land managers (e.g. counties, cities, etc.) to see more detailed information than the public, but with less access than cultural resource professionals. This tool will help land managers with planning and development projects. Other Phase II upgrades included:

- Updating site language to encourage consultation with MIAC;
- Adding GIS layer metadata;
- Creating a user's guide under the "help" tab, within select drop-down menus;
- Adding administrative tools to allow editing site entries;
- Developing a communications tool which allows Portal administrators to send emails to all current users.

## **Collaboration**

The Office of the State Archaeologist continues to collaborate with MIAC on development reviews, projects, and education. The OSA and MIAC consult on all potential American Indian cemetery sites prior to and during initial investigation, as per MS 307.08 Subd 7. The OSA also coordinates with the State Historic Preservation (SHPO) Office and MIAC regarding Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) reviews.

OSA is also collaborating closely with MnDOT on proposed MnDOT construction projects. This includes the Mission Creek burial recovery project, located near Duluth. Other governmental entities involved in this project include MIAC, SHPO, the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, the US Army Corps of Engineers, the City of Duluth, and the Department of Natural Resources. In addition to the Mission Creek burial recovery, the OSA has also been assisting MnDOT with a burial recovery related to Whitefish Creek, in Garrison, MN.

## **Rose Hill Cemetery**

On Tuesday, September 26, 2017, skeletal remains were encountered during the excavation of a residential basement near Hastings, MN. The developer called the Dakota County Sheriff's Department, who confirmed that the remains were human. On Wednesday September 27<sup>th</sup> Amanda Gronhovd received a message from the Hennepin County Medical Examiner that the human remains appeared to be from an unrecorded or abandoned cemetery and over 50 years old. The State Archaeologist went to the site where she met with Dakota County law enforcement. The burial consisted of skeletonized human remains and coffin hardware, including a nameplate that indicated that the person was Robert Caleff, who died in 1856.

On Thursday September 28<sup>th</sup> Amanda Gronhovd and a volunteer archaeologist (Tim Tumberg) returned to the site to monitor the continuing basement excavation, during which a second burial was encountered. This burial was located adjacent to Robert Caleff's burial and consisted of a cast iron coffin with a glass viewing plate. The coffin contained a very well-preserved woman, Henrietta Caleff; Robert's wife. According to historic documents, Henrietta died on January 19, 1863, and both Robert and Henrietta died of "consumption," an historic term which usually indicates tuberculosis.

Since the recovery in September 2017, the Hennepin County Medical Examiner's Office had stored Henrietta and her coffin in a cooler. During this time the OSA consulted with the descendants of Henrietta and Robert Caleff regarding the disposition of the remains. The family indicated that if research could be conducted using the remains of Robert or Henrietta, that they would be interested in having that research pursued.

Thus, the OSA consulted with Dr. Anthony Baughn, Associate Professor in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology at the University of Minnesota, Dr. Glen Hanson, Assistant Professor of Medicine in Department of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine at the University of Minnesota, and Medical Director for the Clinical Microbiology and Molecular Diagnostics Laboratory at the Hennepin County Medical Center, and Dr. Sarah Drawz, Pathologist with the Hennepin County Medical Center regarding tuberculosis-related research. However, to conduct this research, it was necessary to conduct an autopsy of Henrietta including tissue procurement for analysis.

On October 21-22, 2019, the OSA and the group of experts conducted the autopsy of Henrietta Caleff and procured tissue for medical research. In addition to the assembled team, several other medical professionals assisted with this research, including the HCMC radiology department. Research relating to Henrietta Caleff is on-going.

On April 16, 2020 Henrietta and Robert Caleff were laid to rest in Oakwood Cemetery (Hastings, MN) where many members of the Caleff family are buried. The service was attended by several Caleff descendants, as well as Amanda Gronhovd, Mike Burakowski (Hennepin County Medical Examiner's Office), and Jeremy Jackson (historian).

## **Legacy Grants**

### **Historic Human Remains Project**

The OSA continues to work with a team from Hamline University to complete the Historic Human Remains Project. The collection of human remains held by the OSA consists of approximately 98 individuals, none of whom are believed to be American Indian. Some of these remains were acquired when an individual burial was unearthed, while others were found when unrecorded or forgotten cemeteries were impacted, resulting the disturbance of numerous burials. The purpose of the grant is to identify as many of the individuals as possible and return them to their relatives, or communities of origin.

The team currently includes experts from Hamline University, The Smithsonian Museum Conservation Institute, DNA Solutions, inc., Parabon NanoLabs, the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension Missing Persons Clearinghouse, Hennepin County Medical Examiner's Office, , and PaleoDNA at Lake Head University. Together the team is using historic and genealogical research, osteological analysis, DNA, Isotope analysis, and facial reconstruction to identify as many of individuals held by the OSA as possible.

### **Statewide Survey of Historical and Archaeological Sites**

In 2008, the voters of Minnesota approved a constitutional amendment that increased the state sales tax by three-eighths of one percent for 25 years. A portion of this revenue goes to

the *Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund*, which is dedicated to the preservation of the state's arts and cultural heritage. Out of this funding, the *Statewide Survey of Historical and Archaeological Sites* was initiated.

Representatives from the MHS, MIAC and Office of the State Archaeologist serve as the Statewide Survey's Oversight Board. Seven projects were managed by the Oversight Board between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020. These include:

1. Pope County Survey, awarded to ArchaeoPhysics and Arnott Consulting; This project was due by June 30, 2018 but has not been completed
2. Archaeological Survey of the Fort Snelling Area, awarded to Two Pines Resource Group, LLC (completed during FY20)
3. Wadena County Survey, awarded to the Science Museum of Minnesota (completed during FY20)
4. Watonwan County Survey, awarded to Augustana (completed during FY20)
5. Development of a *Handbook to Minnesota Precontact Ceramics*
6. Todd County Survey, awarded to Two Pines Resource Group, LLC
7. Minnesota Southeastern Coulee sites, awarded to Commonwealth Heritage Group

### **COVID-related OSA work**

Since mid-March 2020 OSA staff have primarily been teleworking. Because of social distancing, the governor's Stay at Home order, and work-site limitations, researchers have not been able to access some important OSA files. For archaeological work to continue, the OSA started conducting background research for professionals, as well as creating a searchable database of archaeological reports and scanning these reports so researchers can ultimately conduct their own research, remotely.