

Minnesota Archaeological Society

NEWSLETTER



Late Summer 2008

Elliot Park Neighborhood Archaeology Project Update

Kent Bakken

The Elliot Park Neighborhood Archaeology Project is gearing up for the fifth season of excavating an urban historic site in the historic Elliot Park neighborhood in the southeast corner of downtown Minneapolis. This year we're excavating at 722-724 East 17th Street, on property owned by Aeon Homes.

Aeon is a nonprofit developer that specializes in affordable and supportive housing. Aeon (formerly Central Community Housing Trust) started in the Elliot Park neighborhood over 20 years ago, and many of their early projects involved rescuing and renovating historic apartment and townhouse blocks. In a few months they will be moving ahead with developing supportive housing at the site we'll be excavating. The project will include moving an 1892 brick duplex two lots east, renovating the house to include 10 units as part of the supportive housing complex, and then constructing a new building with an additional 51 units.



Our research will focus on the yard around the brick duplex, and especially the back yard –where all the action was, as we've been learning. We also hope to do some testing in a narrow unpaved strip along the very back of four other adjacent lots. We expect to excavate 12 to 15 shovel tests and 6 to 8 test units.

Don't forget that in addition to excavators and screeners, we also need help with cleaning, sorting, and rebagging artifacts in our field lab; with photography, mapping, and other site documentation; with greeting visitors and answering questions; with hauling gear, running errands, and any number of other jobs. There's some way for everybody to be involved.

And an update on the results from our first four seasons:

Volunteers at the Evolutionary Anthropology Labs, University of Minnesota, have finished processing all the artifacts from 2005, 2006 and 2007. Everything has been cataloged, plus Gretchen Anderson from the Science Museum of Minnesota taught lab volunteers about artifact curation techniques so everything has been carefully packaged for long term storage. U of M Ph.D. student Dave Tennison also instructed the lab volunteers on flotation techniques, and all the soil samples from the 2007 excavations have been processed.

At Fort Snelling, volunteer extraordinary Kathy Knight (with help from other volunteers) completed processing of about three-quarters of the artifacts from our 2004 excavations. We hope to find volunteers to complete work on those materials in the near future.

As most of you know, we also published a preliminary general report on the project in the 2007 *Minnesota Archaeologist*. We hope to have one or two more reports in the 2008 volume.

We continue to receive requests to make presentations about the project. Recent requests have included Hamline University, the Minneapolis Central Library, Augustana Care Residences (in the Elliot Park neighborhood), the Archaeological Institute of America, the University of Minnesota, the Hennepin History Museum and others.

So, we hope you'll keep the Elliot Park project in mind, and join us in August as we continue to explore life in the early years of Minneapolis's history.

The Minnesota Archaeologist to be Indexed Online Through EBSCO Publishing

Starting with the upcoming 2008 issue of *The Minnesota Archaeologist*, researchers may be able to access articles at their local library. EBSCO Publishing provides serial content in the form of online bibliographic and full text databases to libraries and other organizations, by subscription, and has requested participation of our journal as representative of archaeology in Minnesota. As a sister company to EBSCO Subscription Services (ESS, the world's largest subscription agency,) the company leases the content to subscribing libraries. Currently EBSCO Publishing licenses 75,000+ titles each year.

*Monroe Killy is looking for a copy of
Volume 25 Issue #3
of
The Minnesota Archaeologist;*

*if anyone has one who could spare it for
a founding father,
please contact Anna Morrow,
anmorrow@earthlink.com
or 612 922-7006.*

*In addition, the Society is looking for
copies of the very early MnArchs, 1935
through the 1970s, if anyone would care
to donate.*

Newletters Matter

Receiving your newsletter by e-mail?? Have you upgraded your membership for 2008? Not sure? Contact Anna at anmorrow@earthlink.com or 612 922 7006.

Also, has your e-mail address changed? Let us know so you won't miss the newsletter!

Receiving your newsletter by snail-mail? Check the mailing label. If it does not say 08 (or higher) please upgrade your membership now. Questions? Contact Anna at above. THANKS!!!
The mailing address remains MAS, Fort Snelling History Center, St. Paul, MN 55111.

Membership cost: Individual, \$25.00; Senior or Student, \$15.00; Household: \$30.00; Institution anywhere: \$40.00 US; Canada individual: \$35.00 US; Sustaining Member: \$100.00, and Benefactor \$250.00.

ON MAY 11, 2008, MINNESOTA REACHED ITS 150TH ANNIVERSARY AS THE 32ND STATE IN THE USA

A Short History of Minnesota Statehood: Celebrate Sesquicentennial

December 10, 1856 Henry M. Rice, delegate to Congress from the territory of Minnesota, introduces a bill in the House of Representatives "authorizing the citizens of the Territory of Minnesota to hold a convention for the purpose of forming a constitution, preparatory to her admission as a State into the Union"

February 26, 1857 H.R. 642, known as the "enabling act," passes Congress and is signed by the president. Among other provisions, this act calls for a constitutional convention to draft a constitution.

May 23, 1857 Minnesota Territorial Legislature appropriates \$30,000 for the expenses of a constitutional convention of 108 delegates

July 13, 1857 Constitution convention begins. Intense rivalry between the convention's Democratic and Republican factions prevented the entire body of delegates from convening in one place and drafting a single constitution. Each party conducts own convention. *[NOTE: This date was also the 70th anniversary of the passage of the Northwest Ordinance from which Minnesota gained much of its fundamental governmental principles and a substantial portion of its territory.]*

August 28, 1857 After bitter debate, both factions approve the conference committee's proposed language. However, the members of each faction refuse to sign a single document that contained the signatures of the other faction's members.

August 29, 1857 Fifty-three Republican members sign one document of 39 pages and fifty-one Democratic members sign one document of 37 pages. Although the two documents were intended to be identical and to have the same meaning, the copyists, who worked feverishly through the night of August 28, 1857, to prepare the two documents for signature, created numerous differences. A detailed comparison of the two versions shows over 300 punctuation, grammatical, and wording differences. No substantive differences in meaning or interpretation are present.

October of 1857 Census, authorized by enabling act, is completed; population of the territory was 150,037.

October 13, 1857 An election was held on for voters to accept or reject the constitution. The result: 30,055 for acceptance and 571 for rejection. *(The ballots used for this purpose were printed to provide only for affirmative votes. A voter who wished to reject the constitution had to alter his ballot and write in a negative vote.)*

December 3, 1857 The Minnesota legislature, without waiting for congressional approval, promptly passed two amendments to the constitution.

January 11, 1858 President Buchanan transmits Minnesota Constitution (Democratic version) to the Senate and notifies House of his action.

January 26, 1858 Committee on Territories reports out a bill of admission as S. 86.

April 7, 1858 S. 86 passes Senate

April 15, 1858 In the meantime, the two amendments to the Constitution passed by the MN legislature are ratified by voters at a special election.

Also see <http://nativeamericanminn150.org/about> for discussion about Native Americans in Minnesota, the site of the Sesquicentennial Advisory Committee for Native American Partnering (SACNAP)
The Minnesota Historical Society has its own calendar of events for the sesquicentennial year at <http://events.mnhs.org/calendar/Results.cfm?TypeID=23&CFID=326314&CFTOKEN=81871390&HP=Yes>

May 11, 1858 **Minnesota becomes the thirty-second state of the union.** After much debate in both houses, Congress passes S. 86 and the President signs the act that admits Minnesota into the union. There is substantial authority that Congress saw both the 1857 democratic and republican constitutions as well as the amended constitution.

May 24, 1858 The state officers take their oaths of office and Minnesota's state government begins to function. Although Congress and the President admitted Minnesota to the union on May 11, 1858, word did not reach St. Paul until almost two weeks later. Minnesota had no telegraph lines or railroads, so a telegram was sent to Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, and carried up the Mississippi River to St. Paul by Steamboat.

From <http://www.mn150years.org/timeline.html>, the official home site of the Minnesota Sesquicentennial Commission. Please see this site for complete calendar listings of activities around the state.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Minneapolis Riverfront Walking Tours

Mill City Museum

704 South Second Street, Minneapolis, MN 55401

Phone: 612-341-7555, E-mail: mcm@mnhs.org

Dates: July 5, 2008, July 6, 2008, July 20, 2008, July 26, 2008, July 27, 2008, Aug. 2, 2008, Aug. 3, 2008, Aug. 10, 2008, Aug. 17, 2008, Aug. 24, 2008, Aug. 30, 2008, Aug. 31, 2008, Sept. 6, 2008, Sept. 7, 2008, Sept. 14, 2008, Sept. 21, 2008, Sept. 27, 2008, Sept. 28, 2008

Time: 11 a.m. Saturdays, 1 p.m. Sundays

Fee: \$12 adults, \$10 seniors and college students, \$8 children 6-17 and MHS members.

Reservations: required, call 612-341-7555

Walk the Minneapolis riverfront and learn about its dramatic past and bright future. Participants will visit the historic district at St. Anthony Falls, which was once the milling center of the world and is now a growing cultural, recreational, and residential neighborhood. A guide from Mill City Museum will lead visitors onto the Stone Arch Bridge for a spectacular view of the falls, the historic buildings surrounding it, and downtown Minneapolis. The guide also will tell stories of the people who have worked and lived in the area and how it has changed over the years. Each tour begins and ends at Mill City Museum where participants can visit the museum gallery (included in the price of the tour), and enjoy refreshments at the Mill City Museum Café.

Program & Booksigning

Deborah Morse-Kahn

Lake Superior's Historic North Shore: A Guide

Linden Hills Library History Room

2900 West 43rd Street, Minneapolis MN 55410

(612) 630-6750

Thursday, July 17, 6:30-8:00 PM

Deborah Morse-Kahn is a public historian and photojournalist who has written extensively about people and place in the Upper Midwest. She holds a masters degree in American Regional Studies, and brings the skills of archaeology, sociology and archives into her daily work. Best known locally for her first book, *Edina: Chapters in the City History* (1998), she has an archaeology specialization in rock art and effigy mound culture in the Upper Midwest and authored *A Guide to the Archaeology Parks of the Upper Midwest* in 2003.

Rod Johnson Flintknapping Demonstration

N.S.P. Open House, National Parks Service

St. Croix Falls, WI

July 19, 2008, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Minneapolis Central Library 150 Years

300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, MN 55401

(612) 630-6000

July 22

6-7 p.m.: Before Minneapolis: The Land, Native People

7:20-8:20 p.m.: American Indians 20th Century Relocating to Minnesota Cities

Celebrate the city's sesquicentennial with a summer/fall program series at Minneapolis Central Library featuring local historians, authors and educators. July's program highlights the native land and people, and their relocation to Minnesota cities. MAS will participate.

Join us for the social hour! Before the programs (5-6 p.m.), visit with local authors available for book sale and signing, and historical and ethnic groups and organizations. A box dinner may be ordered for \$15 by calling 612-630-6081.

Rod Johnson Flintknapping Demonstration

Wild River St. Park, Taylors Falls, MN

Saturday, July 26, 2008, 2-4 p.m.

Rod Johnson Flintknapping Demonstration

Trail Day, Goodhugh County Parks & Rec.

Welsh Station, Red Wing, MN

Saturday, August 2, 2008, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Elliot Park Neighborhood Archaeology Project

722/724 E 17th Street. Minneapolis

Aug 13-17, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Join EPNA for another year of fascinating excavation in one of the oldest neighborhoods in downtown Minneapolis (see front page article). Contact Kent Bakken, bakk0029@tc.umn.edu for more information.

Rod Johnson Flintknapping Demonstration

Trail Day, Goodhugh County Parks & Rec.

Welsh Station, Red Wing, MN

Saturday, September 6, 2008, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

ORIGINS: First Nations Theatre from around the World: A Talk with David Milroy and Harriet Nordlund.

UMN Institute for Advanced Studies

131 Nolte Center 315 Pillsbury Drive S.E.

Minneapolis, MN 55455

Phone: 612-626-5054

September 11, 2008

David Milroy is from the Palyku people of the Pilbara in Western Australia and has been involved in theatre in for a number of years as a musician, director and writer. He

has won numerous awards in Australia for his work in the theatre. Harriet Nordlund is the founder and former Artistic Director of Beaivváš Sámi Teáhter—the Norwegian National Sámi Theatre Company – and a director for numerous plays for Sami and national theatre companies in Sweden and Norway. Cosponsored by the Department of Anthropology, the Department of English, and the Department of Theater Arts and Dance.

Rod Johnson Flintknapping Demonstration

Heritage Days, New Richmond Historical Society
Heritage Park, New Richmond, WI
Sunday, September 21, 2008, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Rod Johnson Flintknapping Demonstration

Archaeology Day, Mille Lacs Kathio State Park
Onamia, MN
Saturday, September 27, 2008, all day

Washburn A Mill Tour

Mill City Museum
704 South Second Street, Minneapolis, MN 55401
Phone: 612-341-7555, E-mail: mcm@mnhs.org
**Dates: Oct. 4, 2008, Oct. 18, 2008, Nov. 1, 2008,
Nov. 15, 2008, Dec. 13, 2008, Dec. 27, 2008**
Time: 1 p.m.

**Fee: \$12 adults, \$10 seniors and college students, \$8
children ages 6-17 and MHS members.**

Reservations: required, call 612-341-7555

Take an in-depth look at the historic Washburn A Mill complex and the award-winning Mill City Museum building on this guided tour. A museum interpreter will take visitors into the building's many nooks and crannies, highlighting the lives of the men and women who worked there, how the building functioned during its peak flour milling years and the many changes to the building over time. Also covered will be the challenges of preserving the 120-year-old, fire-damaged building; its art, architecture and interior design; and the St. Anthony Falls Historic District. The tour includes the museum gallery, the Flour Tower show, and the new film "Minneapolis in 19 Minutes Flat."

66th Plains Anthropology Conference

Laramie, Wyoming
University of Wyoming Conference Center, Hilton
Garden Inn:

<http://www.uwconferencecenter.com/index1.html>

For more information contact Denise Marquiss,
Coordinator, Conferences and Marketing, University of
Wyoming, Department 3972, 1000 E. University Ave.,
Laramie, Wyoming 82071, 307 766-3362, email:
Marquiss@uwyo.edu

The 40th Algonquian Conference

Radisson University Hotel
615 Washington Ave SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414
(612) 379-8888

October 23-26, 2008

Co-sponsored by CLA, the Department of American Indian Studies, Anthropology, History, and the Linguistics program, this is an international meeting for researchers working in the area of Algonquian studies. We invite papers on all topics including anthropology, archeology, art, biography, education, ethnography, ethnobotany, folklore, geography, history, language education, linguistics, literature, music, politics, psychology, religion and sociology,

There will be a reception on Thursday night October 23rd. Presentations will begin Friday morning, October 24th and will finish Sunday afternoon October 26th. The due date for submissions is September 3, 2008.

For more information contact John D. Nichols,
Department of American Indian Studies, University of
Minnesota-Twin Cities, 19 Scott Hall, 72 Pleasant St.
S.E., Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455 USA, email:
jdn.umn.edu

NEWS & NOTES

Taste of History Day Camp

Mill City Museum
704 South Second Street, Minneapolis, MN 55401
Phone: 612-341-7555, E-mail: mcm@mnhs.org
**Dates: Aug. 4, 2008, Aug. 5, 2008, Aug. 6, 2008,
Aug. 7, 2008**

Time: 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Fee: \$225; \$200 for MHS members

Reservations: required, register online

Children ages 10-12 enjoy a taste of the past while experiencing five metro area historic sites in four days. They will spend the week learning how foods and food preparation have changed throughout history. Participants will bake bread, hike the riverfront and tour the Washburn A Mill at Mill City Museum; help bring in the harvest at the Oliver Kelley Farm; bake cookies and take a tour at the Alexander Ramsey House; and cook over a hearth fire and learn about what it was like to be a soldier at Historic Fort Snelling. Campers will also explore the "Open House: If These Walls Could Talk" exhibit at the Minnesota History Center. Early drop-off at 8:30 am is available for free and late pick-up from 3:30 to 5 pm available for additional fee.

**Send your MAS news and notices to the Editor:
Deborah Schoenholz, 2615 Emerson Ave. S.
Minneapolis, MN 55408, schoe030@umn.edu**

Volunteer Opportunities

MAS members who would like to put in some hands-on time have several opportunities this year. To get more information about these current projects, please contact the individuals listed.

Archaeology Lab Night: Every Thursday evening, volunteers gather at the MHS Archaeology Lab, located at Fort Snelling History Center, to process and analyze artifacts excavated from archaeological sites around the state. No specific time commitment is required; you can tailor your participation to your schedule. For more information, please contact Volunteer Services at the Minnesota Historical Society: **651-297-2605** or volunteerservices@mnhs.org.

MAS Newsletter Editor: The Society is looking for someone who would enjoy putting together our quarterly newsletter and sending it to our membership, electronic and print. Costs are covered by the Society. The newsletter conveys important news and upcoming events to the archaeological community and maintains a prominent spot in the Upper Midwest as a venue for communication among interested persons and institutions. Please contact Debbie Schoenholz at schoe030@tc.umn.edu or **612-374-5886** if you are interested in this fun and rewarding position.



Minnesota Archaeological Society
Fort Snelling History Center
St. Paul MN 55111