

Minnesota Archaeology and Cemeteries







An archaeological site is any place where there are physical remains of past human activities.



A Brief History of Minnesota...

Pre-contact (Prehistoric)

► About 14,000 years ago to about 350 years ago (AD 1650) Contact Period ▶ 1650 to 1837 ▶ Post-Contact ► 1837 to present





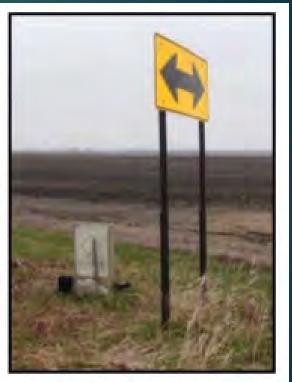
In addition to people *living* in the area that is now Minnesota for thousands of years, they also **died** here

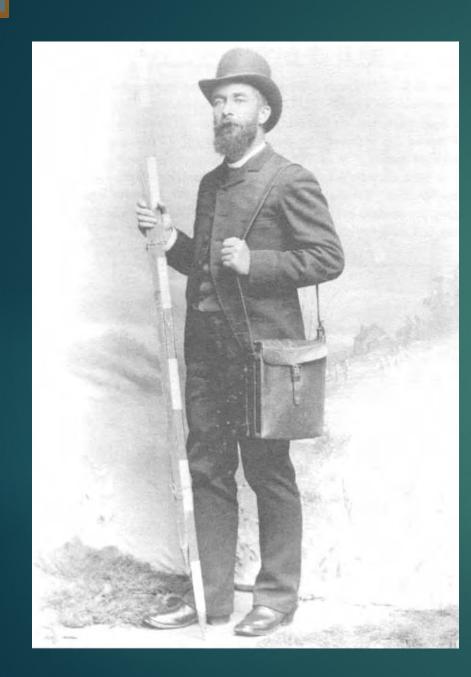


2,323 burial sites which includes 12,500 mounds

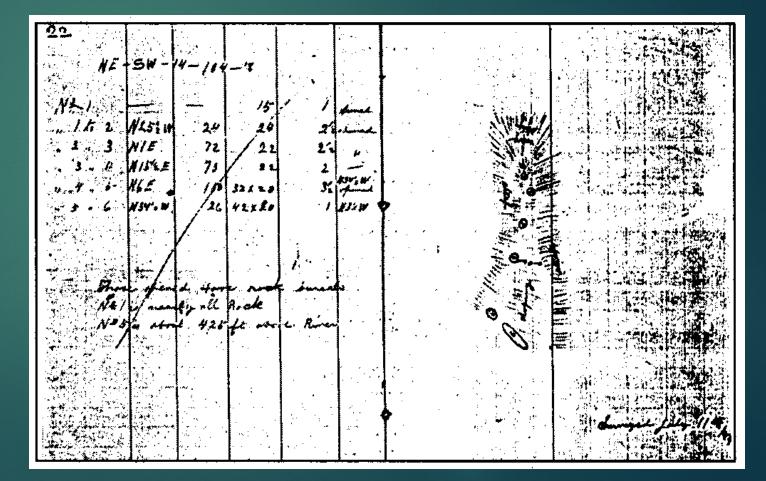


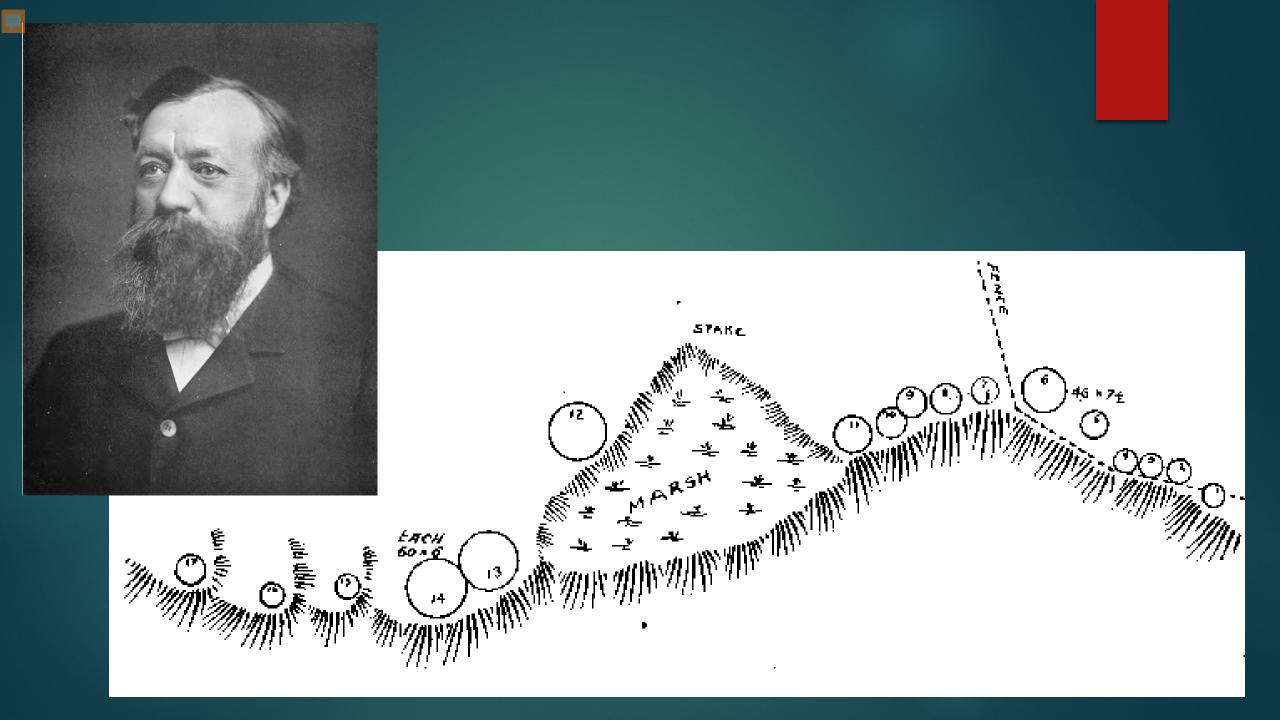






T.H. Lewis and the Northwestern Archaeological Survey 1881 - 1895





Minnesota Archaeology and Cemetery Legislation

Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund (MS 129D.17)

Minnesota Water Law (MS 103F)

> Coroner, Medical Examiner Law (MS 390.25, Subd. 5)

Minnesota Environmental Policy Act (MS 116D)

The Two Most Important Laws ...in Minnesota archaeology

Field Archaeology Act (MS 138.31-42)





Private Cemeteries Act (MS 307.08)

Field Archaeology Act (MS 138.31-42)

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Intended to "protect and preserve" archaeological sites on public land

Field Archaeology Act

- Establishes the State
 Archaeologist
- Prohibits unlicensed archaeology
- > Defines penalties





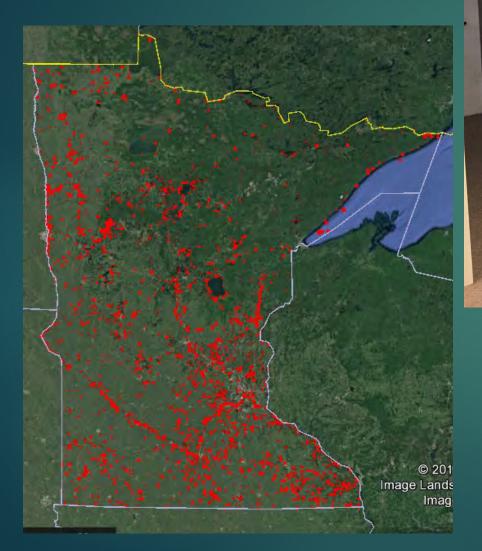




Duties of the State Archaeologist

- Promote research
- Approve qualifications for licensing
- Public outreach (answer questions, give presentations, etc.)
- Offer continuing education for professional archaeologists
- Maintain site files
- Review proposed development projects

Site Files

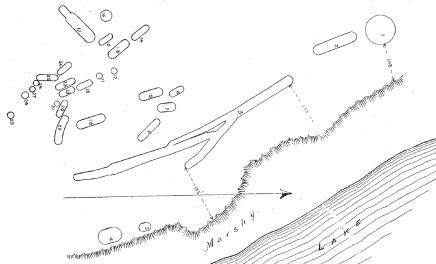




We currently have 20,530 recorded archaeological sites

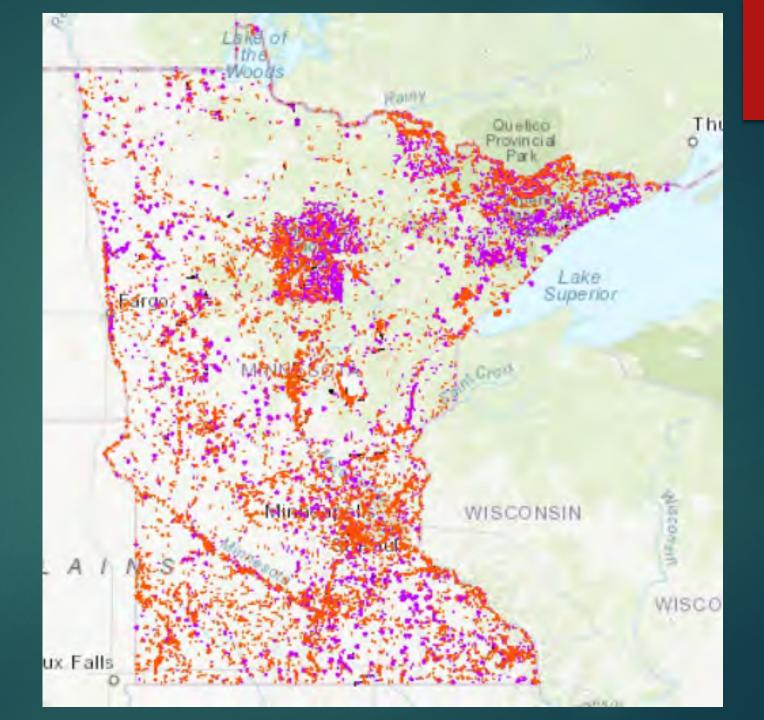
Site Files, Reports, Resources, Research, and Burial Files



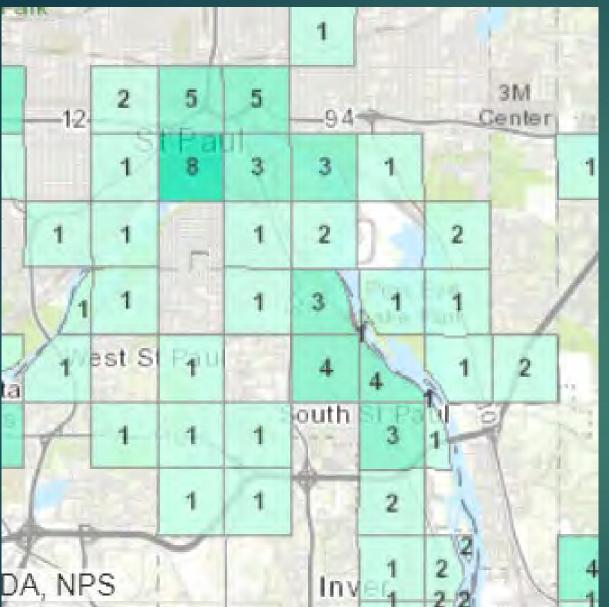


We have 2,323 burial sites

OSA Portal



Public

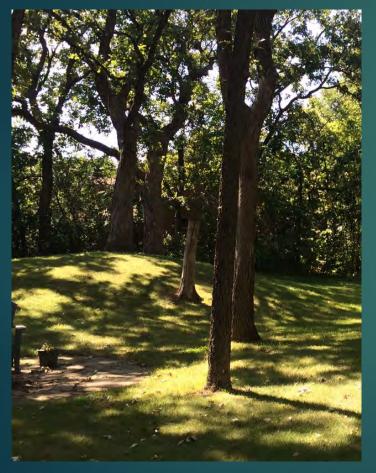


Professional

Graphic removed – contained not public information

https://osa.gisdata.mn.gov/OSAportal/

Private Cemeteries Act MS 307.08



Legislative Intent

"...without reference to their ethnic origins, cultural backgrounds, or religious affiliations"



Minnesota Private Cemeteries Act (MS 307.08)



Human remains over 50 years old

- Outside recorded cemeteries
- Applies <u>everywhere</u> in Minnesota
- Felony to disturb cemeteries





Inadvertent discoveries

- 1. Call law enforcement
- 2. Law enforcement will assess to determine if it's a crime scene
- 3. If not, the Medical Examiner or Coroner will call OSA





Not American Indian Ancestry

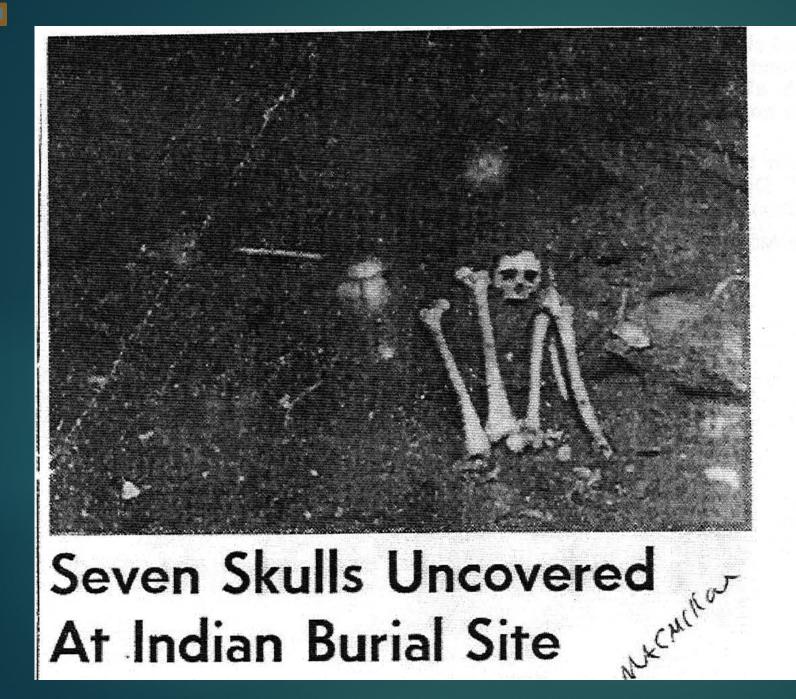
American Indian Ancestry



Unknown Ancestry

Indian Affairs Council

Known American Indian Cemetery



Human remains uncovered during construction



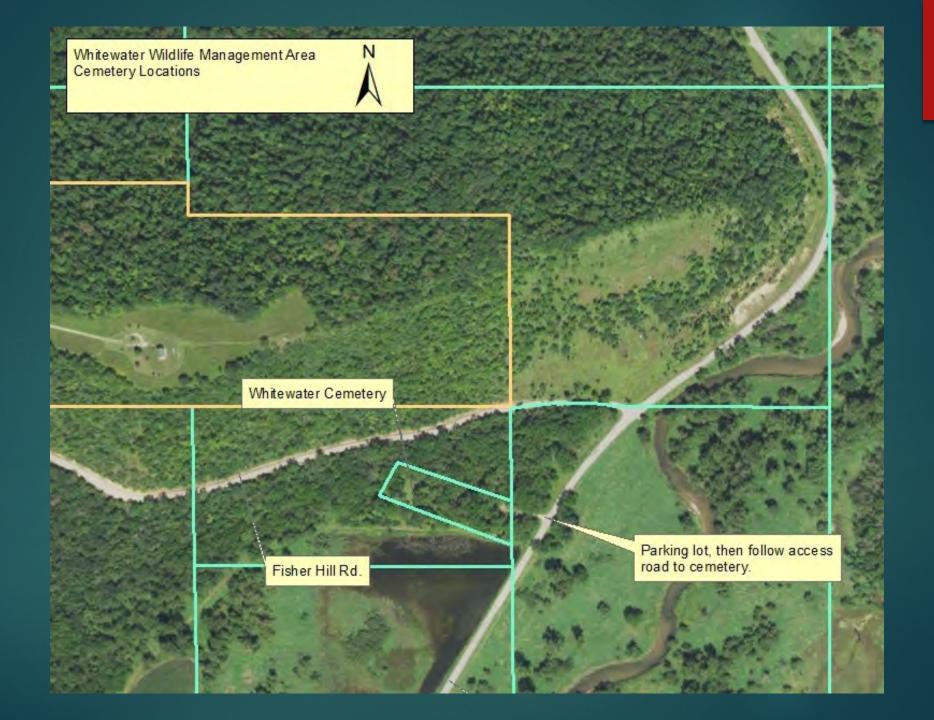
2016

- Property sold
- Consultation with
 OSA and MIAC
- House demolished
- OSA and MIAC monitored all earthmoving

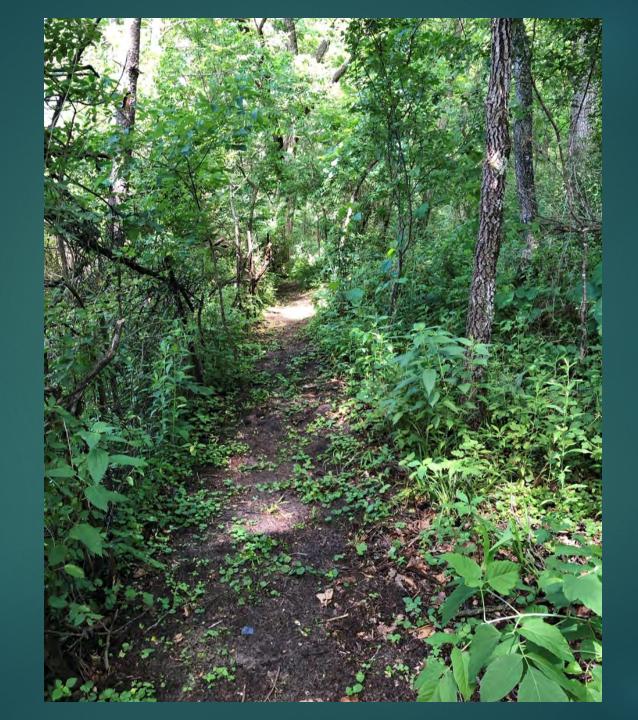




Unplatted Historic Cemetery with Headstones



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Subd. 2.**Felony; gross misdemeanor.** a.A person who intentionally, willfully, and knowingly does any of the following is guilty of a **felony**:

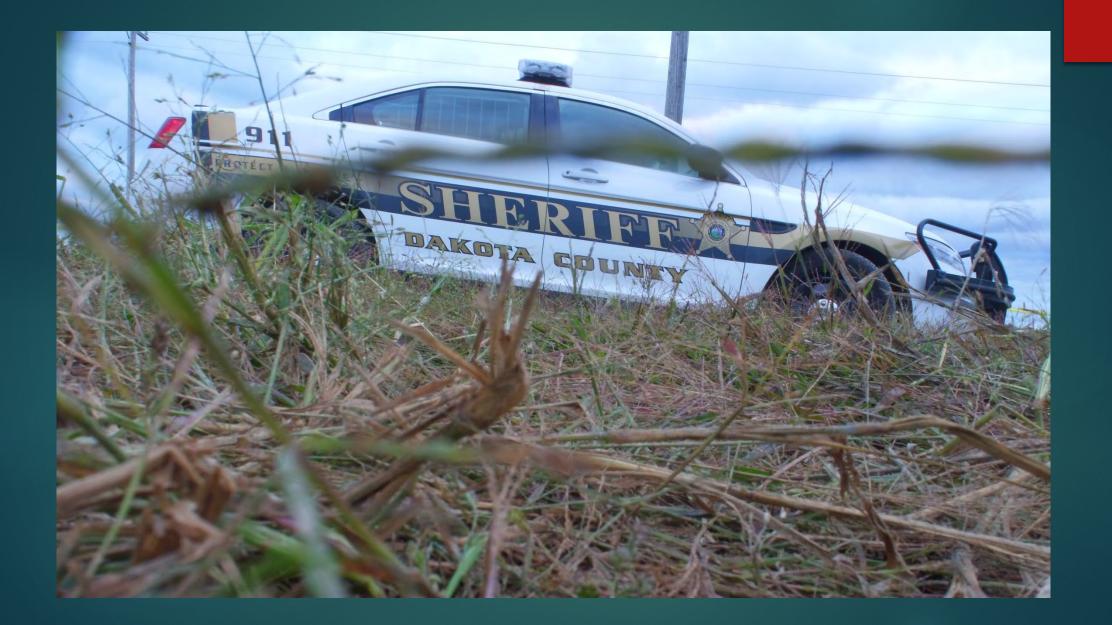
 destroys, mutilates, or injures human burials or human burial grounds; or
 without the consent of the appropriate authority, disturbs human burial grounds or removes human remains. Subd. 2.Felony; gross misdemeanor (continued).
b. A person who, without the consent of the appropriate authority and the landowner, intentionally, willfully, and knowingly does any of the following is guilty of a gross misdemeanor:

- removes any tombstone, monument, or structure placed in any public or private cemetery or authenticated human burial ground; or
- removes any fence, railing, or other work erected for protection or ornament, or <u>any tree, shrub, or plant or grave</u> <u>goods and artifacts within the limits of a public or private</u> <u>cemetery or authenticated human burial ground</u>; or
- 3. discharges any firearms upon or over the grounds of any public or private cemetery or authenticated burial ground.



Unplatted Historic Cemetery without Headstones

Hastings, Minnesota Fall 2017



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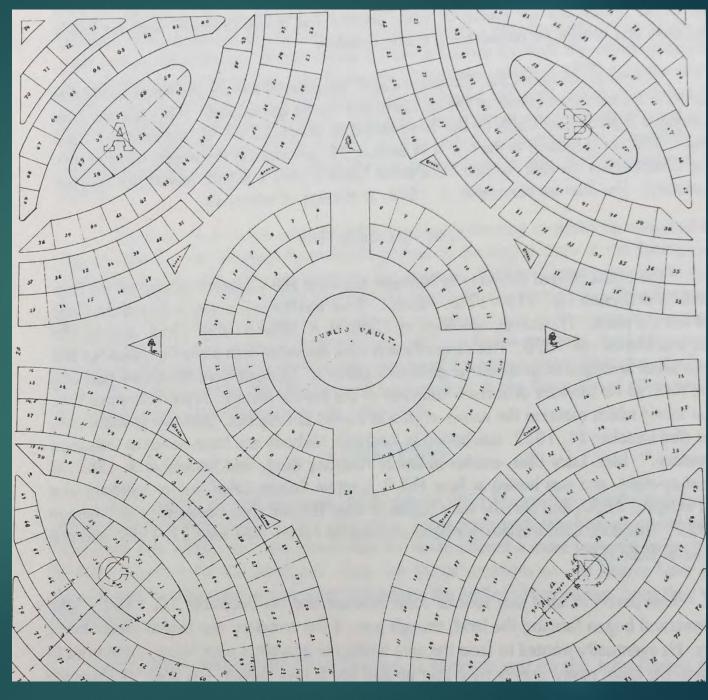


by Matthew A. Miller in May, 1858, and the plat date was March 16, 1859. This cemetery was very elaborate with plans for walkways and green areas arranged in an aesthetic geometric pattern. This cemetery site is now part of a farm field, so no markers or surface remnants of the burials remain. A few references have been found which mention the names of people buried at Rose Hill. Jedidiah Jewett Caleff, who died October 11, 1857, was buried at Rose Hill; his body was later moved to Oakwood Cemetery.⁷⁴ Mrs. Lucy Bliss, mother-in-law Anthony Reed, died November 3, 1857, at age sixty-eight, and was buried at Rose Hill.⁷⁵ Captain Robert Caleff (son of Jedidiah) who died in April, 1860, and his wife were buried at Rose Hill and their bodies were still there in 1898.⁷⁶ Theodore Chamberlain, husband of Caroline Felton, died June 27, 1859, and was buried at Rose Hill.

This parcel of land was sold to John Bloomstrand on December 10, 1898. John Bloomstrand began farming the land, though part of the cemetery was fenced off for many years. He eventually wanted to farm the area where the gravesites were located, and prior to plowing the land, many graves were dug up and the bodies moved. The body of Theodore Chamberlain (above) was moved to Oakwood Cemetery about the time by his son, William.⁷⁷ About 1910, Carl Bloomstrand was plowing the land in the centery with one horse and a walking plow when an old grave site caved in and the horse's back feet fell down several feet. The horse was so spooked that he would never walk in that field again!

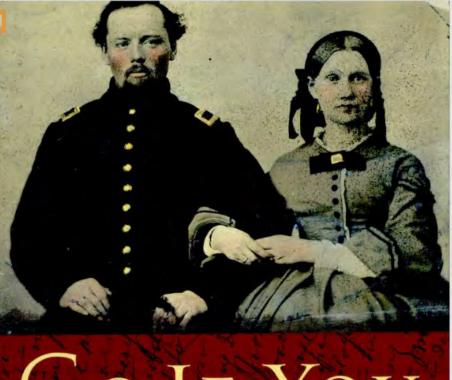
ROSE HILL CEMETERY (1857)

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Go IF You Think It Your Duty andrea r. foroughi

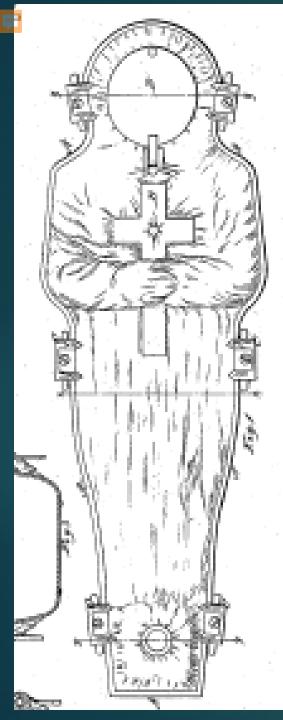
N Minnesota Couple's Civil War Letters

What would I give to-night if my hubble was here. It is so lonely. But that is not and will not be the case, so I must do the next best and write you a few lines. Aunt Henrietta died the evening after you left in the morning. She was buried yesterday. Rob sent after me the next morning, so you see that I have been away from home most of the time since you've been gone. Poor Rob really feels very badly....⁵ You dont know what a dreary lonely day I put in the day you went away.⁶ It does seem

DIED .- In this city, on the 19th inst., Mita. H. G. CALLEFF, of Consumption; sged any years.

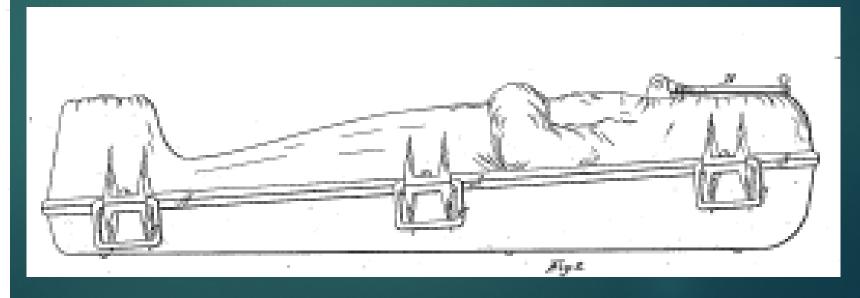
"DIED – In this city, on the19th inst., Mrs. H. G. CALIFF, of Consumption; aged fifty years."





Fisk Cast Iron Coffin

Almond Fisk patented the first cast-iron casket in 1848. It was shaped like a sarcophagus, weighed over 300 pounds, and cost up to \$100. Wooden coffins sold for \$1 to \$3. (*Patent No. 5920, November 14, 1848*)





Identified and worked with descendants

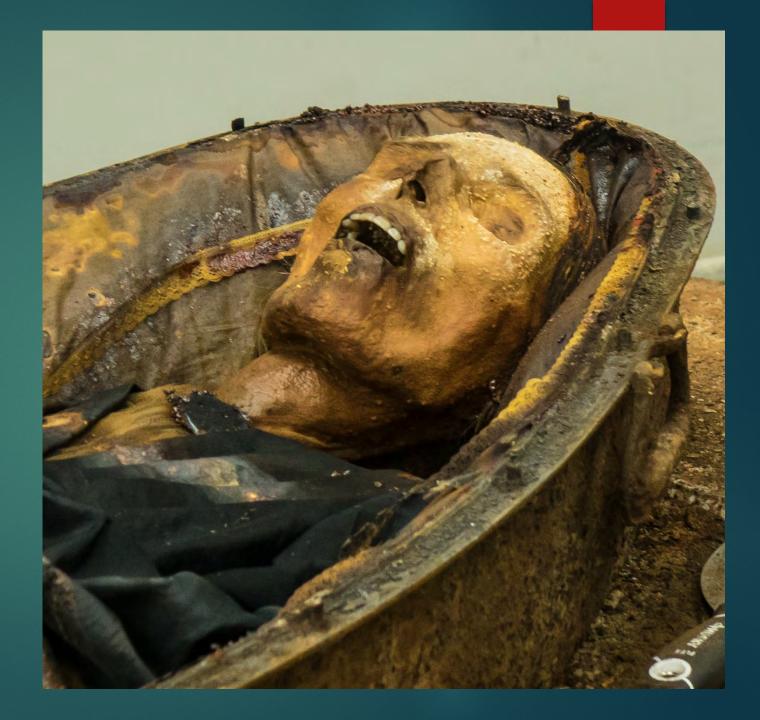
<u>Robert:</u>

- Biological Profile
 - > Age at death
 - ➤ Stature
 - > Ancestry
 - Biological sex
 - Pathologies



<u>Henrietta:</u>

- Autopsy
- CT Scan
- Tissue procurement
- Physical documentation
- Tuberculosis research





Questions?

Resources

- OSA Portal
 <u>https://osa.gisdata.mn.gov/OSAportal/</u>
- OSA Project Review submission email
 <u>OSA.Project.Reviews.ADM@state.mn.us</u>
- OSA website
 <u>https://mn.gov/admin/archaeologist/</u>