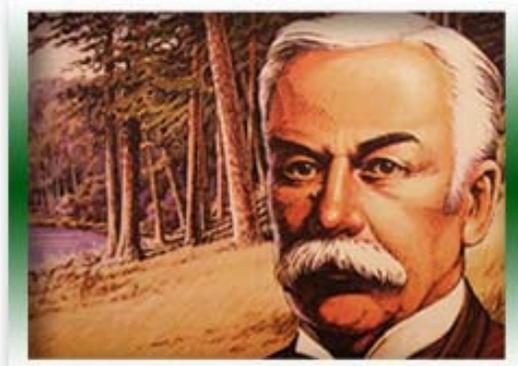


Petaga Point Archaeological Site



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**Mille Lacs
Kathio
State
Park**



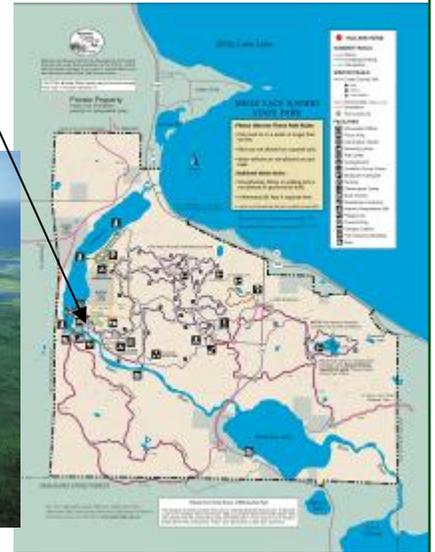
Onamia, Minnesota



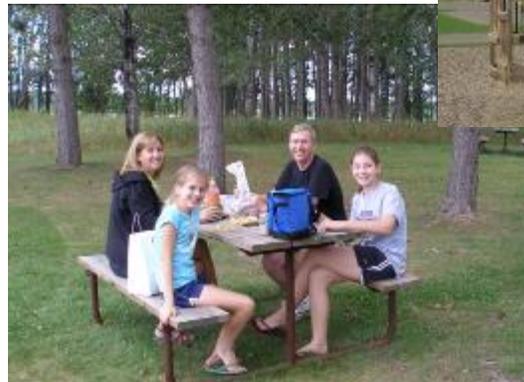
Where in the World is Petaga Point?



The **Petaga Point Archaeological Site** is located in Mille Lacs Kathio State Park. The site is on a peninsula formed where the Rum River exits Ogechie Lake.



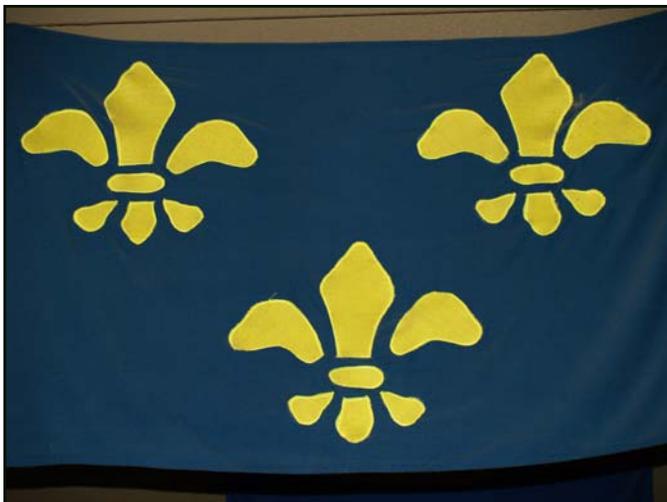
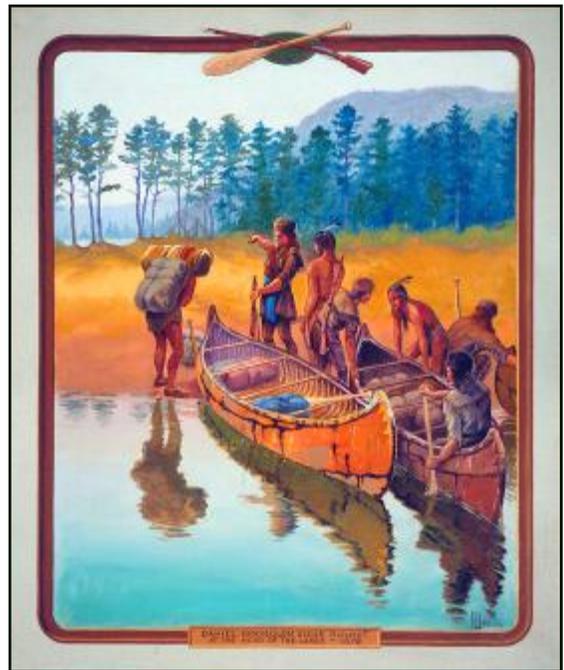
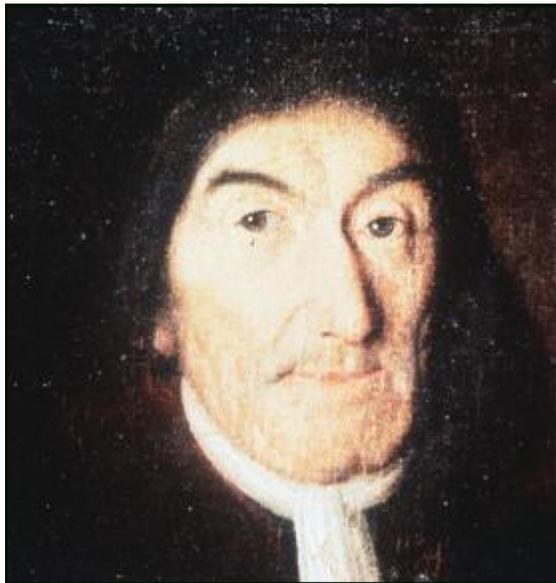
Today a portion of the site is used as the Mille Lacs Kathio State Park Picnic Area.



History of the Site



Exploration



Duluth

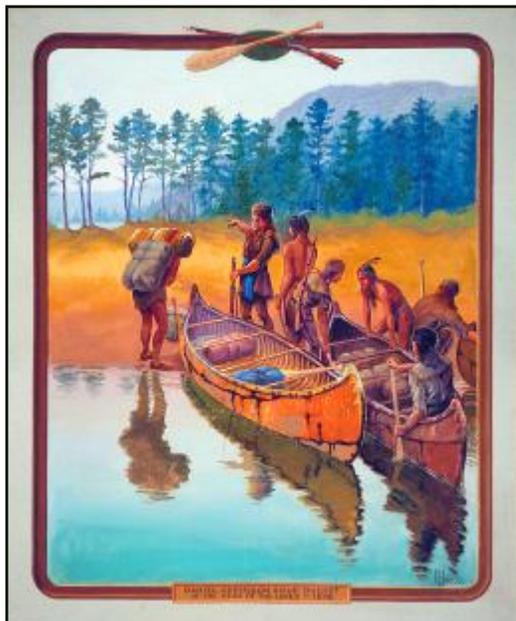


Image courtesy Minnesota Historical Society

In 1679 Daniel Greysolon, Seieur Dulhut (now spelled Duluth) visited the Mille Lacs region on an exploratory mission for France's King Louis XIV. In a memoir describing his North American travels, Duluth wrote: "On the second of July, 1679, I had the honor to set up the arms of his Majesty in the great village of the Nadouecioux called Izatys, where no Frenchman had ever been." Many historians believe that this large Dakota village was located in the northern part of the park, where the Rum River flows out of Mille Lacs Lake. Duluth and other European explorers knew the vicinity of today's Mille Lacs Kathio State Park to be an important population, political and spiritual center of the Dakota nation.



Father Louis Hennepin



Image courtesy Minnesota Historical Society

Hennepin is best known for documenting an epic journey into North America in 1679 - 1680. This expedition was under the leadership of Rene Robert Cavalier, Seieur De LaSalle, who, like Duluth, operated under the auspices of King Louis XIV.

Hennepin traveled across the Great Lakes and then by river to what is now Minnesota. Hennepin stayed with the Mdewakanton Dakota at Mille Lacs from May through September of 1680. On this epic journey, Hennepin saw and wrote about what are now the Canadian provinces of Quebec and Ontario, as well as the states of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Iowa and Minnesota. His journal was published as a book in 1683, under the title of Description of Louisiana. In this book he described the landscape of the Mille Lacs region, Dakota houses and villages. Hennepin wrote of being fed wild rice cooked with dried blueberries in a ceramic vessel. He wrote also of being treated for fever in a sweat lodge and of going on a canoe trip and communal bison hunt on the Rum River.

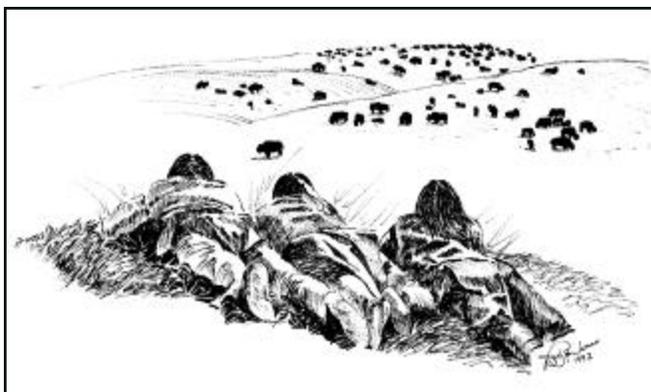
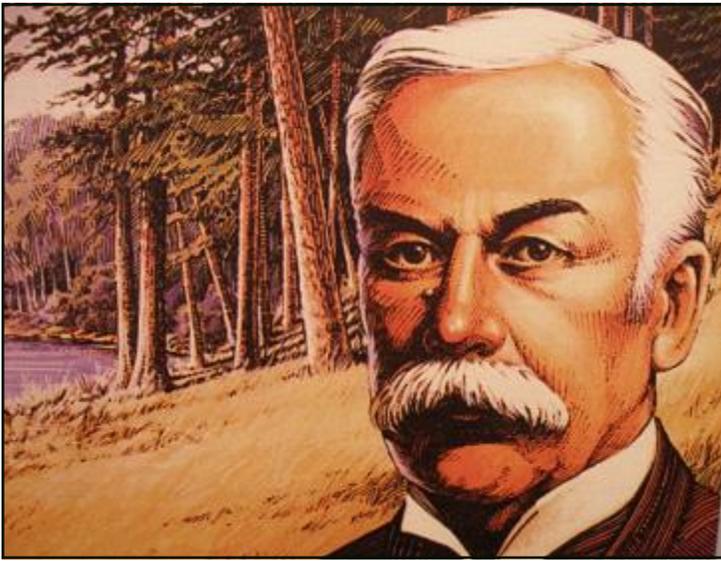


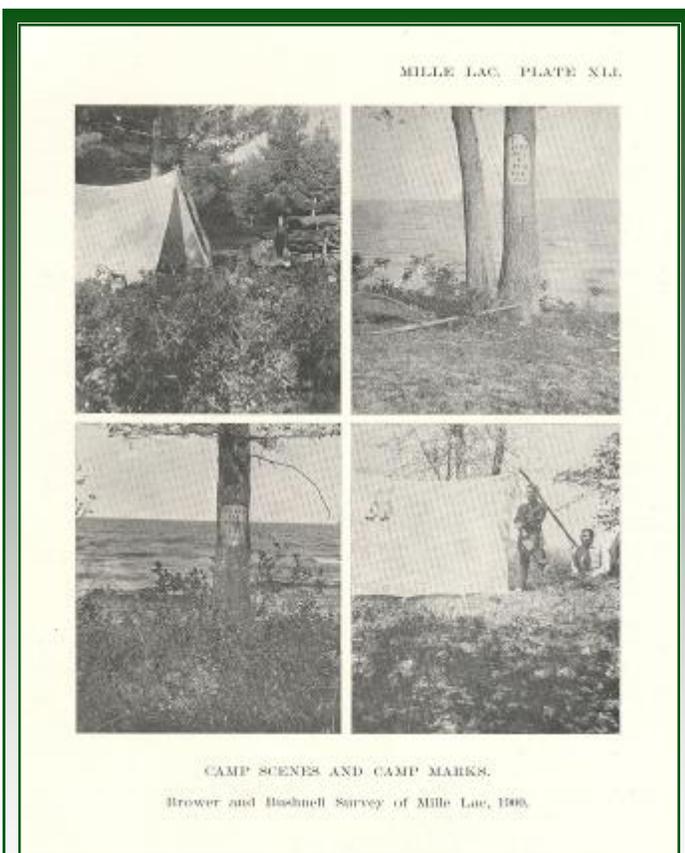
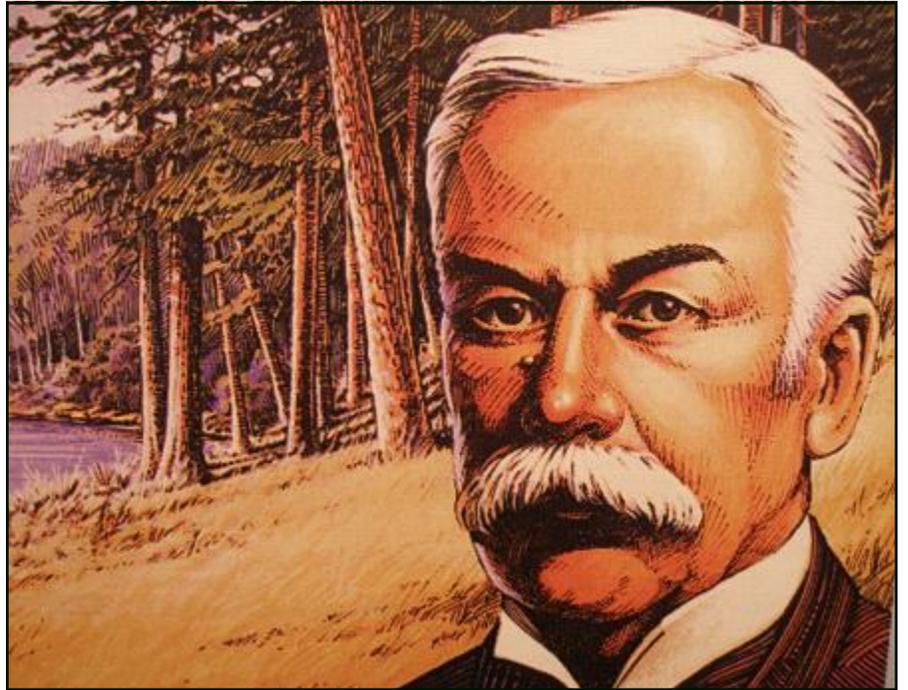
Image courtesy Minnesota Historical Society

Archaeologists Explore Kathio

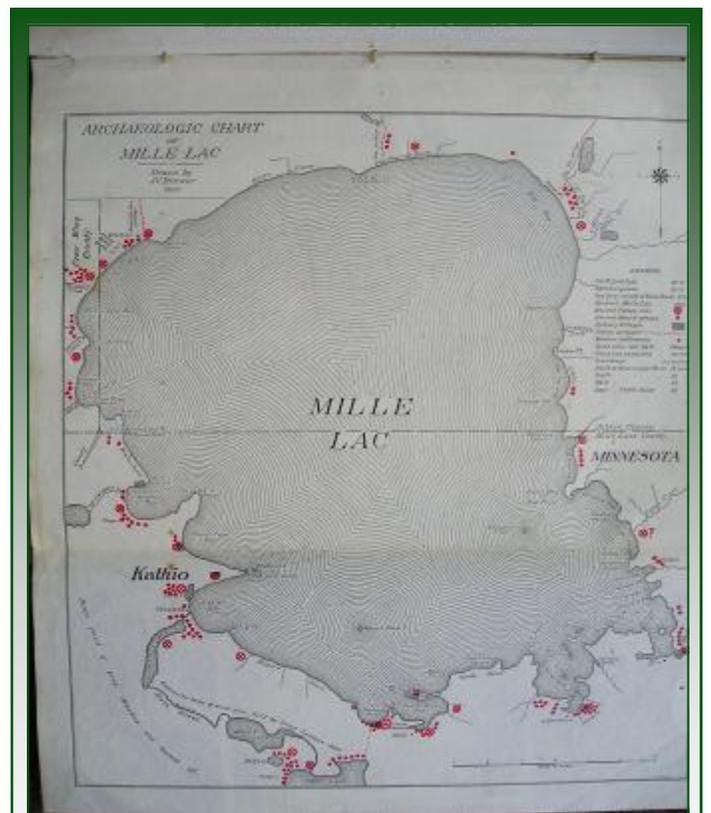


Jacob Brower

Jacob Brower is often called the “father” of the Minnesota State Park system for his efforts to preserve pine forest at Itasca. Brower was also the first person to conduct archaeological work in the Mille Lacs region. In the 1890s Brower circled Mille Lacs Lake, conducting surveys and mapping sites of ancient villages and cemeteries along the shore. He noted a concentration of archaeological sites in the area that is now Mille Lacs Kathio State Park. Brower’s pioneering work informed and inspired later archaeologists who would find the Mille Lacs vicinity a veritable treasure trove of knowledge about the ancient past.



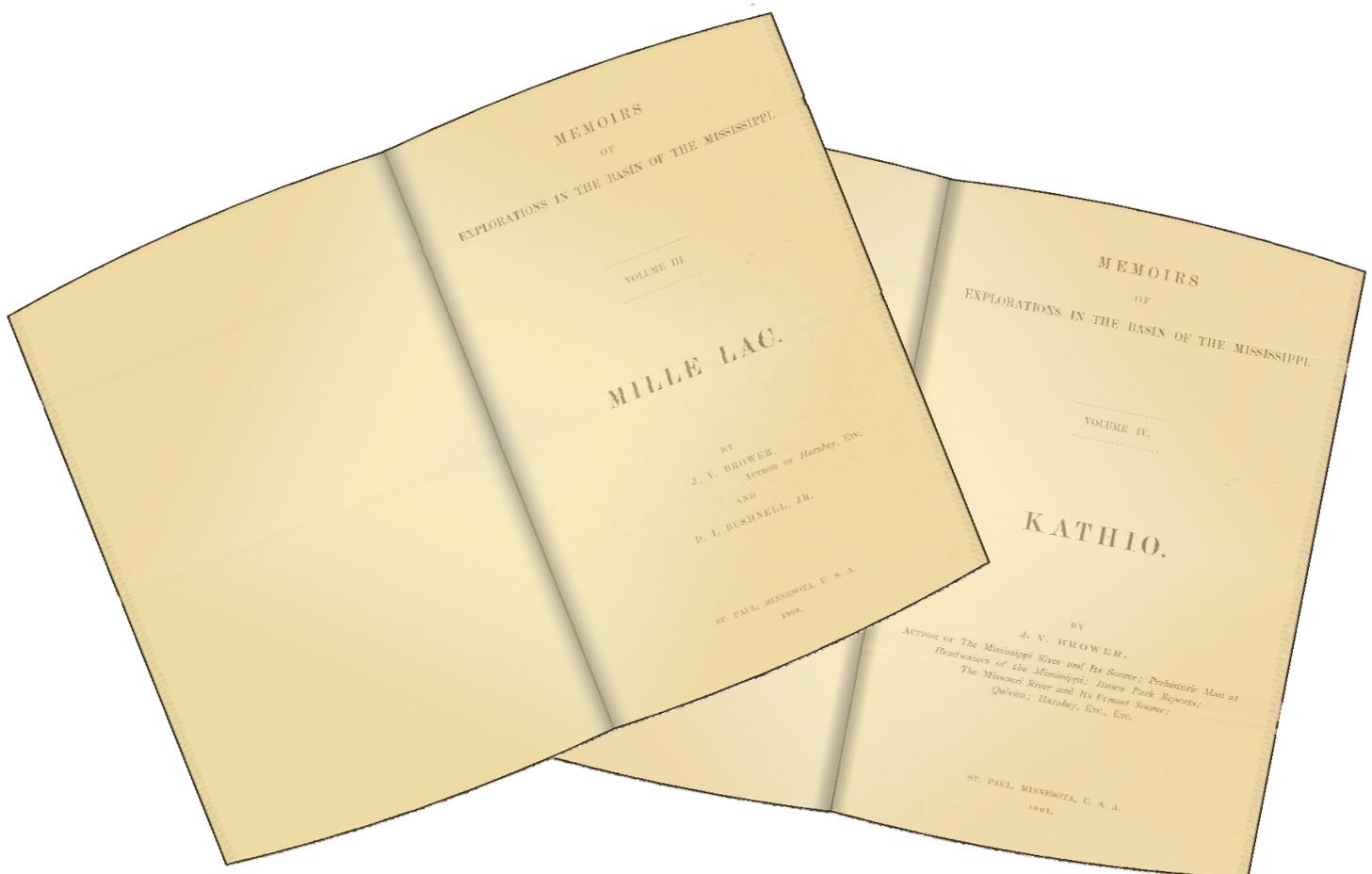
This photo plate from Brower & Bushnell’s book shows two camps and “camp markers” that they carved into trees on their Mille Lacs expeditions.



Brower made sketch maps of sites around Mille Lacs, forming this map which appears in the 1900 publication Memoirs of Explorations in the Basin of the Mississippi Volume III, Mille Lac by Jacob Brower and David Bushnell.

Excerpt from Brower's field notes:

Saturday, May 19, 1900: Camp is located facing Outlet Bay, and the old site of Kathio seems to extend along the shore a considerable distance, and many mounds, some of which are larger than any yet observed, are grouped in irregular detached order over a shore line distance nearly or quite two miles long, indicating that the old town was situated on both sides of Rum River at the outlet of Mille Lac. An exploration of Shaub-aush-kung Point determined its character to be a glacial hill extending toward the main recess of Mille Lac, forming the point and Robbins Island. Evidences of ancient and recent Indian occupancy, from this camp to Shore View Bay at Mi-gi-zi's village, are ample; stone hoes, cores, pot shards, arrow points and flint blades having been scattered along near Ojibway bark lodges and in small corn fields of the present time. An exploration to Sah-ging Point and First (Ogechie) Lake resulted in the discovery of many additional mounds and several earthen lodge-circles.



We are fortunate to have two original Jacob Brower books, Memoirs of Explorations in the Basin of the Mississippi Volume III, Mille Lac, and Volume IV, Kathio. These two books were donated to Mille Lacs Kathio State Park by Jim Pluimer, in memory of Dave Capps.

1933 University of Minnesota: Albert Jenks & Lloyd Wilford

The first university-sponsored archaeological investigation at Kathio was conducted in 1933 by University of Minnesota Professor Albert Jenks, with the assistance of graduate student Lloyd Wilford. Wilford would later become a professor at the U of M, well known for his studies of ancient cultures of the Mille Lacs region. On their Mille Lacs expedition in June



and July of 1933, Jenks and Wilford conducted excavations and surveys of several sites in the area that would later become Mille Lacs Kathio State Park. These early investigations helped Wilford develop an understanding of what he termed the *Mille Lacs Aspect*, a local manifestation of the Woodland Period designation of the eastern United States. Wilford returned in 1949 and worked at Mille Lacs sites through the 1950s.

Excerpts from Lloyd Wilford's field diary, 1933:

June 28, 1933: Spent the night at the Ekholm cottage on Mille Lacs and today travelled to Kathio. This site is not exactly determined, but is likely on the high land north of the point where the Rum River leaves Mille Lacs. On this land now are a school house, a row of cottages and further north an area of unpatented government land, on which are Chippewa burials and where they still camp. Called on Mr. Ayers who lives at the Indian Trading Post one mile north. He has found several old flint lock rifles in his garden and believes that it was here that the first big battle (of Kathio) occurred."

June 30, 1933: Spent day in scouting area to N & NW along moraine. First visited 2 sites on S and E side of Rice Lake (Ogechie). Siouan potsherds and mounds are to be found here."

Wilford's diary includes descriptions of excavations at the Ayers Trading Post, known today as the Indian School Site, 21ML6, the Ricing Site, 21ML5, the Brower Site, 21ML1, and the Aquipaguetin Island Site, 21ML2. A 1949 memo by Wilford notes another 1933 excavation on the east side of the lake, possibly at what is today known as the Wilford site, 21ML12.

Although Wilford makes no mention in his diary of investigating the vicinity of Petaga Point, the University of Minnesota Artifact Collections, now housed at the Minnesota Historical Society, includes a collection of ceramic pot sherds, accession number 45, noted to have been picked up on the surface by University of Minnesota Professor Albert Jenks at the "south end of Ogechie Lake" in 1933. At present we do not have sufficient documentation to know if these artifacts came directly from the Petaga Point archaeological site.

A 1949 memo by Lloyd Wilford includes this interesting entry...

"June 1 to 4, 1949: At Trading Post at Mille Lacs, saw Mr. and Mrs. Harry Ayers and spent a great deal of time with them. They will give me a cabin to live in, if we desire to dig in the vicinity this summer, and will be glad to have our party with them....Mr. Ayers and I spent much time around Ogechie Lake looking for sites of which he has known in the past....the old Moore farm (is located) at the south end of Ogechie Lake, on the east side of the outlet...Formerly there was a road leading off from the Stein Road at the bridge where the Rum River empties into Shakopee Lake. This road ran along the north side of the river up to Ogechie Lake, but is now impassible, except that it may be negotiated by jeep or some types of truck in dry weather. At times this river road can be reached from Asmus'. Mr. Ayers reported that more copper artifacts were plowed up on the Moore farm than at any other area in the vicinity of Mille Lacs. The farm is now abandoned."

The Moore Family Homestead

In 1922 John and Judith Moore moved their family from near Milaca, Minnesota to the peninsula that would come to be known as the Petaga Point Archaeological Site. The family built a house and outbuildings and began to live from the landscape on the shores of Ogechie Lake. They grew crops and raised livestock. Their subsistence farming was supplemented by hunting, fishing, gathering berries and nuts from the forest and harvesting wild rice from Ogechie Lake.



A copy of this photograph of the John and Judith Moore family was given to historian Sara Hanson by Jacklyn Jones, a descendent of the Moore's who resides in California.

In 1997 historian Sara Hanson interviewed Francis (Moore) Bartlett about living at Petaga Point. Francis shared vivid memories of the landscape and her family's efforts to survive the hardship of the Depression era. She lived with her parents at Petaga Point from the time the family first arrived in 1922 until she got married and moved a few miles away in 1927. Francis continued to help with chores at the Moore family homestead on her frequent visits from the northwest end of Ogechie Lake where she lived with her husband Floyd Bartlett. The Moore Family lived on the peninsula until 1939.

"My mother would say, 'Well, we'd like fish for supper.' I'd get in the boat and...we never had a motor or anything like that, just oars and an old cane pole. We'd stick the old cane pole under and just troll with no bait on it or anything and I'd go down to that first bend there with the high bank and get great big northerns, far more than we could even eat for supper.

— Francis Bartlett, 1997, interview conducted by Sara Marcoe Hanson.

The Moore Family Homestead



This 1939 aerial photograph shows the outline of the Moore's farm fields, as well as the roadway leading from Shakopee Lake Road to their home. An open field of the neighboring Del Warren farmstead can also be seen, in the lower right.

Minnesota State Parks archaeologists composed this overlay of the 1939 aerial photo, showing current picnic area facilities in relation to the historic features of the Moore homestead.

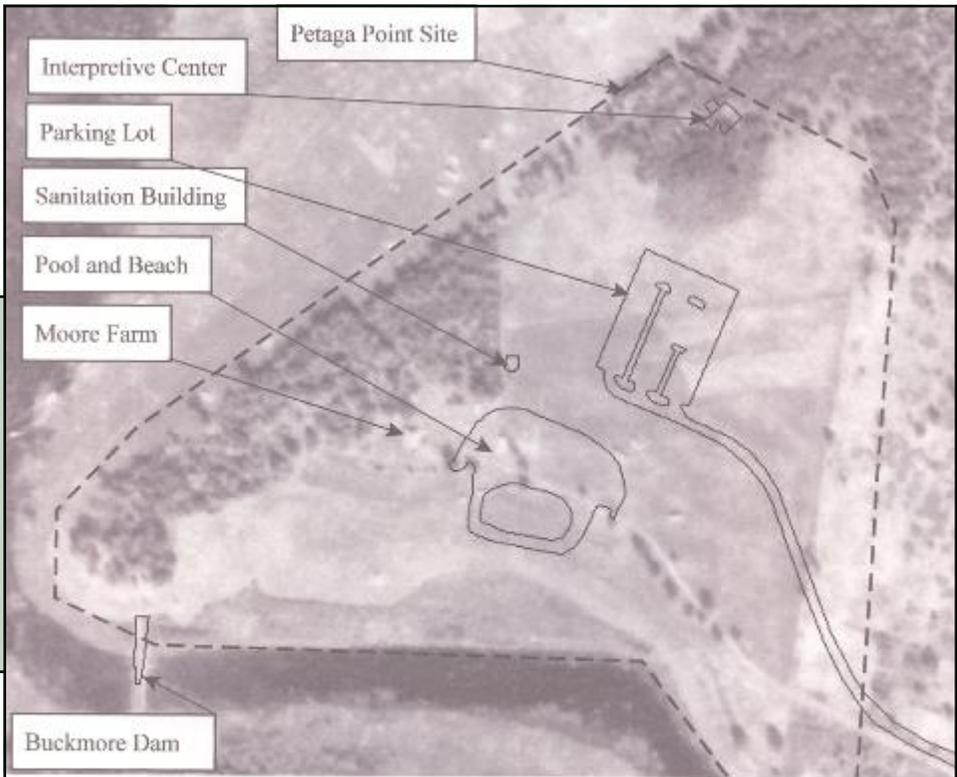


Figure . Image of the 1939 aerial photograph showing the development of the Moore Farmstead overlain with the existing state park picnic area development at the Petaga Point site (21ML11), Mille Lacs Kathio State Park. Note extremely low water level of Ogechie Lake in the upper left portion of the photograph.

The Moore Family Homestead

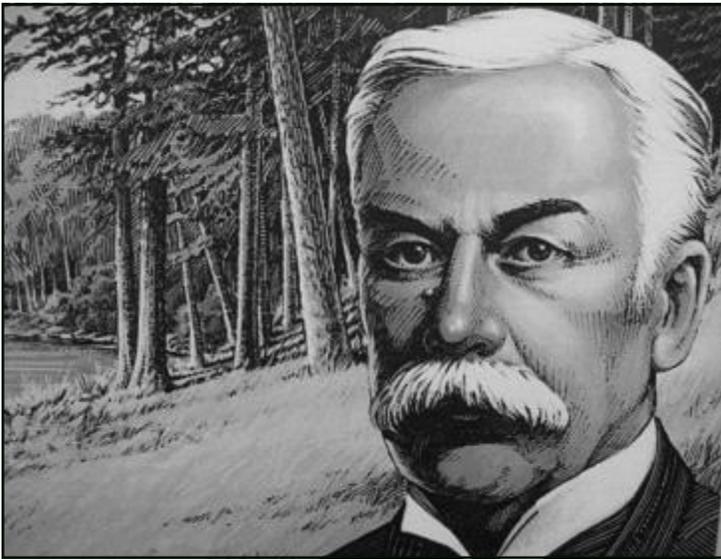


In this 1950s aerial photograph, the abandoned Moore house can be seen. The spruce trees in front of the house were planted by John Moore when his family first moved to the peninsula in 1922. Today, these tall trees can be seen on the edge of the mowed grass of the Mille Lacs Kathio State Park picnic area. A copy of this photograph was provided by Neva Bridgewater. The original photograph is part of her collection of memorabilia from the efforts of citizens to form Mille Lacs Kathio State Park. Neva's father, Howard Welty, was a leader in this effort.

It is interesting to compare the 1950s photo with this one, taken in 2000:



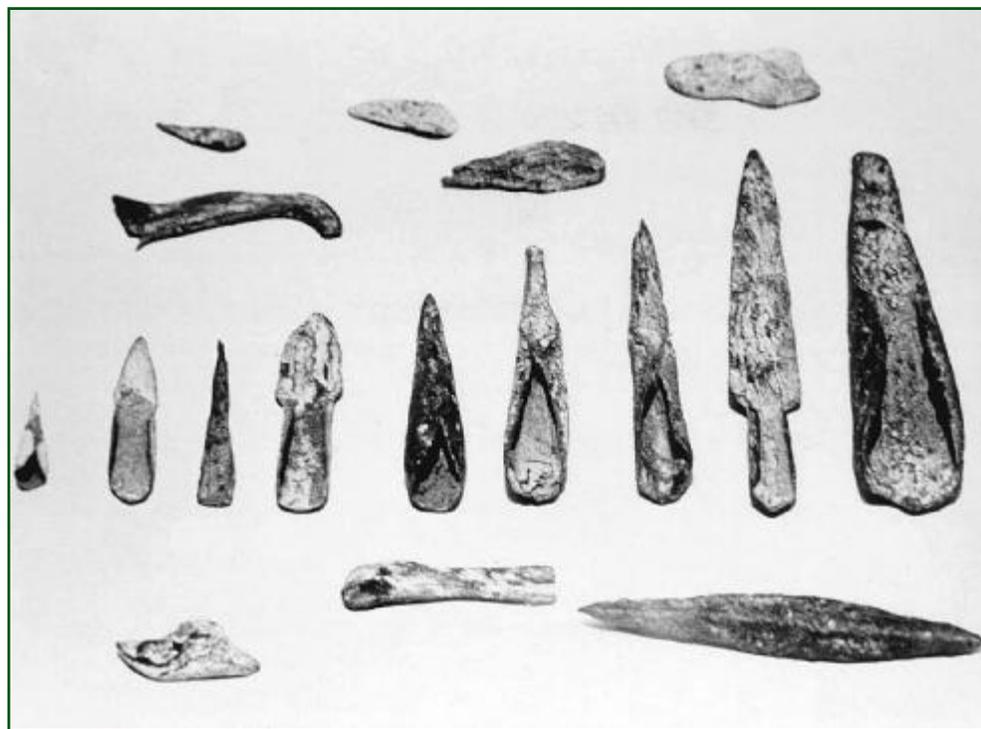
Archaeological Investigations at Petaga Point



1936 Minnesota Archaeological Society

In 1936, the journal *Minnesota Archaeologist* included a brief article about visiting archaeological sites where Mille Lacs Kathio State Park is today. The article was written by Dr. Wesley Hiller, who was among several members of the Minnesota Archaeological Society on the expedition. Following is an excerpt from the article:

“The region visited embraced, roughly speaking, the three lakes formed by the Rum River immediately after it leaves Mille Lacs.....At the first site, along the left bank of Lake Kathio (Ogechie), we picked up a number of shards, a few scrapers, and three or four triangular arrow heads.....Our next stop took us to the farm of the Moore family, run by a father and two sons. This is the most important one from our standpoint. Their farm is located on the left bank of the Rum River where it leaves Lake Kathio. To say the least it was a delightful surprise to view seventeen pieces of worked and unworked copper from one Minnesota site.....These pieces were all picked up here over a period of several years. The lot also included a five-inch flint spearhead and a number of mauls and miscellaneous arrow points. The largest (copper) spear head was between five and six inches long with a blunt point. A clasp on the side was evidently to fasten it on the wooden spear shaft. The next spear head was a very fine example of workmanship. It was longer, narrower and lighter in weight than the first one. The blade was flattened on one side and ridged on the other from tip to shaft. Two clasps extended the length of the shaft. The remaining points varied in size down to one inch. Some had clasps. Some had been made of a section of a circular piece of copper that had been rolled into a conical point.”



On this trip, Minnesota Archaeological Society member Monroe Killy photographed the Moore family's collection of copper artifacts. The current whereabouts of these artifacts is not known. The photograph taken by Monroe Killy is in the collections of the Minnesota Historical Society.

1936 Minnesota Archaeological Society



This photograph was taken by Monroe Killy in the 1930s, when he also photographed the Moore artifact collection. This picture, taken from south of the Rum River looking north onto Ogechie Lake, shows a dam of rocks and earth where the present concrete dam is located. Note the fenced farm field in the area now covered by Ogechie Lake. Portions of the lake bed were grazed during the drought years of the 1930s. The concrete structure known as the Buck Moore Dam

was built in the 1952. The dam was named after John's son Hugh, whose nickname was Buck. Hugh took over the operation of the family farm in the 1930s. The original photograph is in the collections of the Minnesota Historical Society.

Mille Lacs Kathio Becomes a State Park



Mille Lacs Kathio State Park became a reality in 1957, after countless hours of volunteer effort by local citizens. In this photo, provided by Neva Bridgewater, Governor Orville Freeman signs the bill creating the park. Pictured standing behind Governor Freeman are, from left to right: Mille Lacs County Commissioner Elmer Hanson, Kathio State Park Board President Howard Welty, Minnesota Department of Conservation Commissioner George Selke, Kathio State Park Board member Ray Cash, Kathio State Park Board member Verner Nelson.

1965 University of MN/Hamline University: Leland Cooper

Professor Leland R. Cooper of Hamline University conducted excavations at Petaga Point in the summer of 1965. This survey was a preliminary investigation for the long-range Mille Lacs Research Project directed by Professor Elden Johnson of the University of Minnesota. As well as field notes, maps and sketches of the excavations, the crew took photographs of their process and findings. Shown below are a few copies of the images stored with the artifact collections at Ft. Snelling History Center.

Cooper's crew encountered a concentration of rock, which was thought to be associated with a living area, perhaps a prehistoric house.

The opening of Trench #1, the first excavation trench of the project.



This photo shows the wall profile of an excavation unit, with soil layers and artifacts labeled.



1966 University of Minnesota: Elden Johnson & Peter Bleed

In 1966 the University of Minnesota conducted archaeological research at Petaga Point. Test excavations were conducted across the peninsula. Of particular interest were stone spear points, stone tools and copper tools



dating to over 3,000 years ago. Along with copper spear points, knives, and other tools were copper fragments left from the manufacture of the tools. A fire hearth and a possible house floor from this little-known tradition called the Eastern Archaic were also discovered. Graduate student Peter Bleed fo-

ocused his master's thesis on this early component of the site. In 1969 Bleed's thesis was edited into a Minnesota Historical Society publication, The Archaeology of Petaga Point: The Preceramic Component.

County and number ML 11
 Site name Petaga Point
 Negative number 1689
 Description Crew 1966



Looking east down the baseline



The U of M excavation crew took many photographs to document their investigation. These photographs and negatives are stored with the artifacts at the Minnesota Historical Society's Ft. Snelling History center. Shown below are some copies of contact prints from the reference file. The negatives are in protected storage, and are being digitally scanned for better reference images.



County and number ML 11
 Site name Petaga Point
 Negative number 1692
 Description View of feature #3-trench from the east looking west. Lake Ojochis in background.



1966 University of Minnesota: Elden Johnson & Peter Bleed

Historic Ojibwe wild ricing features were also discovered at Petaga Point. For two centuries descendants of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe used the peninsula to process and store wild rice harvested in Ogechie Lake. Ricing features include parching, threshing and storage pits.

Thousands of fragments of ancient pottery were also uncovered in the excavations. From these ceramics, Elden Johnson and his colleagues identified five ceramic wares that formed the basis for ongoing attempts at a ceramic typology for the region. He identified wares from different time periods, labeling them St. Croix Stamped, Onamia, Kathio, Sandy Lake and Ogechie.



St. Croix Vessel
Ca A.D. 500-800.
Replica by Grant Goltz, on display at the Kathio Interpretive Center.



Onamia Vessel
Ca A.D. 800-1000. Replica by Grant Goltz, on display at the Kathio Interpretive Center.



Sandy Lake Vessel
Ca. 1000-Contact. Replica by Grant Goltz, on display at the Kathio Interpretive Center.



Kathio Vessel Ca. A.D. 800-1300
Replica by Grant Goltz, on display at the Kathio Interpretive Center.

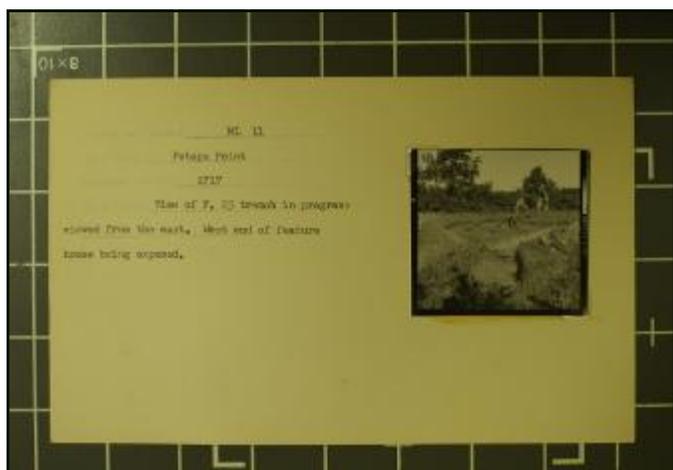


Ogechie Vessel
Ca. 1400-Contact. Replica by Grant Goltz, on display at the Kathio Interpretive Center.

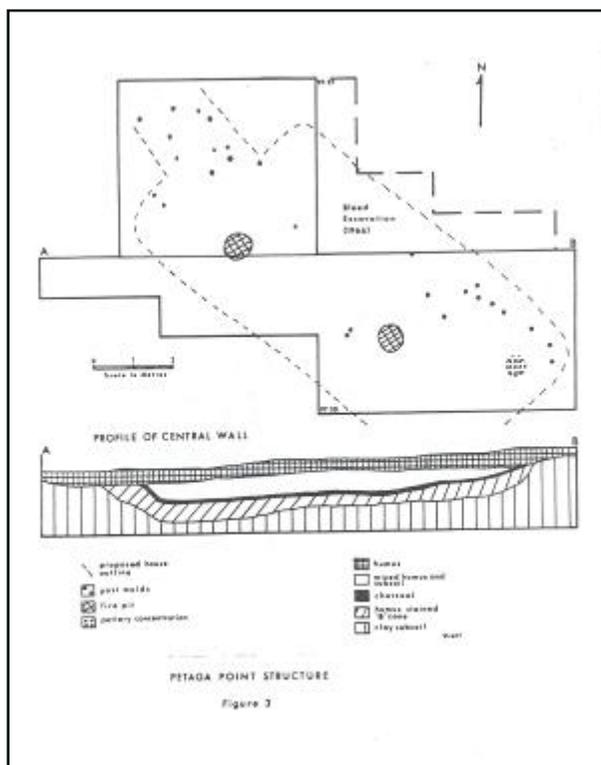


1967 University of Minnesota: Elden Johnson

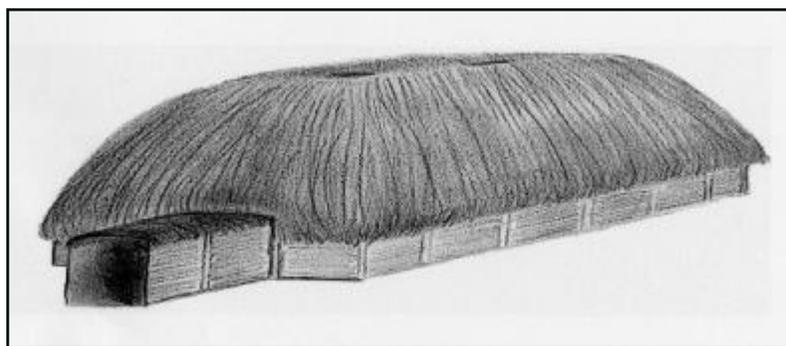
In the last days of the 1966 excavations a feature was discovered that suggested the presence of an ancient house structure. Professor Johnson returned to excavate the possible house feature the following summer. He and his crew uncovered the floor and what appeared to be the burned remains of a house structure. The rectangular house measured 6 by 11 meters with an additional 2-meter entrance passage. The shape, position of the hearth and post-mold pattern suggested a floor unlike the bark lodges of the 16th-17th century Dakota occupations of nearby sites. This house had a striking similarity to house forms of the Middle-Missouri tradition from the prairies to the west. From associated ceramic and lithic artifacts, Johnson attributed the occupation to the Kathio Focus, estimating the date of occupation to be A.D. 1200-1250. The house feature was within a sub-surface depression in a fallow field from the abandoned Moore homestead. Nearby were four other depressions. Preliminary tests suggested they also were houses, perhaps from a village cluster.



The house feature , showing a charcoal layer on the floor.



Plan view and soil profile drawing from the house feature excavated by Johnson in 1967



The typical conception of a Middle Missouri House is from the western prairies, where prairie grasses were used to make a thatched roof. At the time of occupation, the Kathio Focus house at Petaga Point was in forest setting. Although later houses in the area were covered with tree bark, it is not known what covered the house at Petaga Point around the year A.D. 1200.

In 1999, the Minnesota State Parks Cultural Resources Program of the Minnesota Historical Society conducted an archaeological excavation to test and mitigate the impact of expansion to the park's Interpretive Center. In 2002 St. Cloud University conducted an archaeological field school survey to test for Petaga Point site boundaries in the vicinity of the Interpretive Center. In both the 1999 investigation, led by M.H.S. archaeologist Dave Radford, and in the 2002 project, directed by SCSU Professor Debra Gold, fragments of an early form of pottery, known as Malmo Ware, were uncovered. These investigations revealed that people were living or camping on the peninsula as early as 200 B.C. to A.D. 500.



Reconstructed Malmo Ware vessel from Ottertail County. Photo courtesy University of Minnesota.



Timeline: 9,000 Years on the Peninsula

10,000 years ago central Minnesota was a spruce and tundra landscape at the edge of melting glacial lobes. Glacial ice remained at the southern end of Ogechie Lake, so Ogechie was a bay of a larger and deeper Mille Lacs Lake, rather than a lake unto itself. As the climate warmed about 8,000 years ago, water found its way through the ice blockage at Petaga Point, which became the headwaters of the Rum River as we know it today.



About 9,000 years ago people began to harvest resources from the Mille Lacs landscape. Spear points from this era, known as the Paleoindian Period, have been discovered at several sites in the Mille Lacs region, including one from a site adjacent to Petaga Point. These points, of the late Paleoindian Plano tradition, have been associated with the hunting of extinct forms of bison. Likely, daily lives of these people involved much more than just hunting, but the archaeological evidence from so long ago is sparse. Only the most durable items from their culture, those made of stone, survive thousands of years in the forest soils.

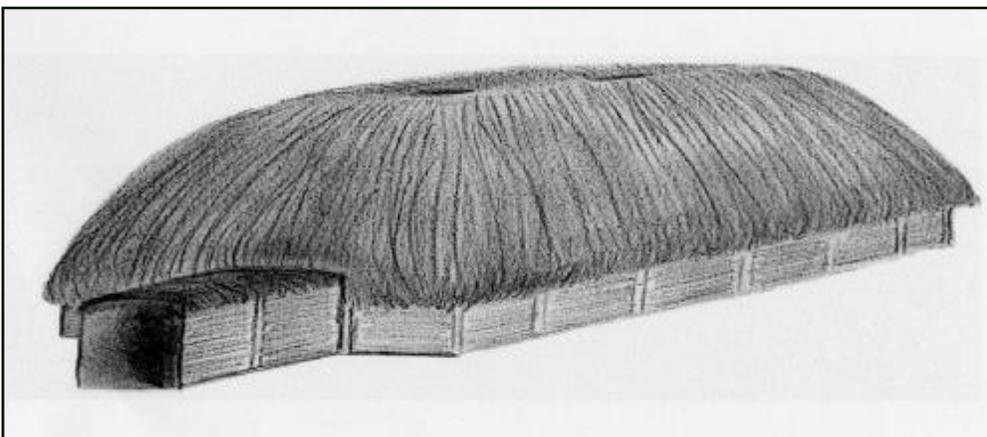


Petaga Point Archaeological Site has revealed evidence that people were living and making tools of stone and copper on the peninsula between the Rum River and Ogechie Lake about 3,500 years ago.

Timeline: 9,000 Years on the Peninsula



By about 2,200 years ago people had begun to settle along the shore of the lake, and the first ceramic vessels appear in the archaeological record.



800 years ago a house, perhaps one of five in a village, stood along the banks of the river on the south side of the peninsula. The inhabitants made sophisticated ceramic cooking and storage vessels, hunted with the bow and arrow and harvested plants from the lake and forest. Some scholars think that these ancient occupants of Petaga Point were some of the ancestors of the people who would form the Dakota nation.



At the time European explorers DuLuth and Hennepin visited the region, villages of Dakota people were scattered across the landscape that is now the park.

Timeline: 9,000 Years on the Peninsula



Around A.D. 1750, people of the Ojibwe nation moved into the area, displacing the Dakota, who moved south and west. The Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe brought their own rich cultural tradition as they moved from the east, settling along the shores of Mille Lacs. Ogechie Lake thus continued to supply the needs of yet another group of people, providing fish, wild rice and other foods.



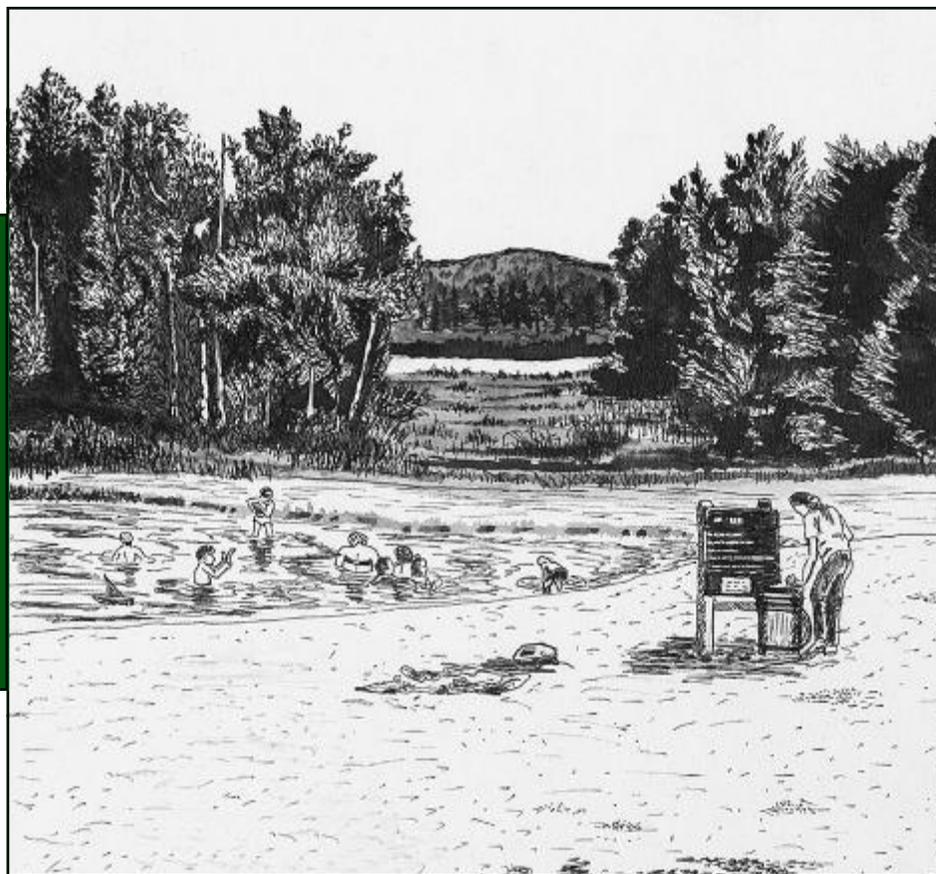
In the late 1800s the timber industry came to the area to harvest pines that grew along the lakes and river. Trees were cut in the winter and in spring were floated down the river to sawmills.

Timeline: 9,000 Years on the Peninsula

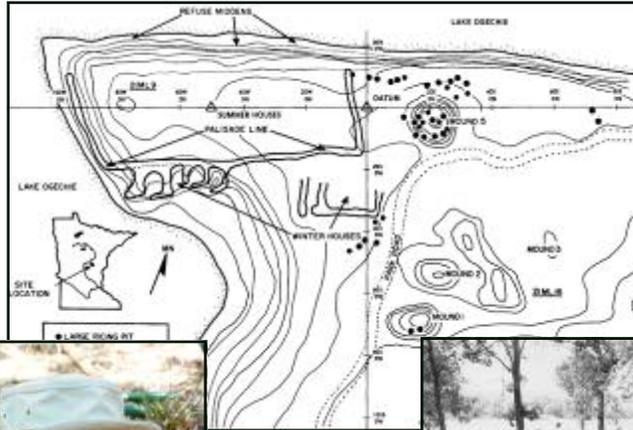


Following the logging, families attempted small-scale farming in the “cutover.” John and Judith Moore were among these adventurous “pioneers,” beginning their life on Petaga Point in 1922. They farmed the peninsula and gathered resources from the surrounding landscape until 1939.

In 1957 Mille Lacs Kathio State Park was established, and Petaga Point was developed in to the park’s picnic area. In 1964 the area’s rich heritage was recognized with the establishment of the Kathio National Historic Landmark District. Petaga Point is one of the focal sites of the Landmark, which commemorates 9,000 years of human heritage.



The Kathio Artifact Inventory and Analysis Project



The Kathio Artifact Inventory and Analysis Project



Elden Johnson and the University of Minnesota's Mille Lacs Research Project

During the 1960s and 1970s Professor Elden Johnson of the University of Minnesota directed archaeological "field school" investigations at Mille Lacs Kathio State Park. In a long-range research effort to learn more about the ancient history of the region, many sites were discovered and excavated. Thousands of artifacts were collected, under the plan that they would be analyzed and written about at a later time. Several site reports and master's theses were written and this information added greatly to our understanding of the prehistoric heritage of the Mille Lacs region. However, due to Elden Johnson's untimely death from cancer in 1992, much of this valuable information was never compiled and made available to scholars and other members of the public. Artifacts from numerous excavations were moved from the University of Minnesota to temporary storage at the Minnesota Historical Society's Fort Snelling History Center.



The Kathio Artifact Inventory and Analysis Project

Minnesota State Parks and the Minnesota Historical Society are working together to inventory, analyze and make available the valuable information from excavation artifacts, maps, photographs and field documentation.



Staff from Kathio State Park and the Archaeology Department of the Minnesota Historical Society are working together to direct the inventory and analysis of the collections.



Collections of arrow points, pottery and other artifacts are prepared for analysis.



Original field notes and photographs from the excavations are organized and copied for summary reports and access by researchers.



The Kathio Artifact Inventory and Analysis Project

Goals of our project include:

- A complete inventory of the collections
- Specialist analysis of ceramic, stone and bone artifacts
- Specialist analysis and dating of soil and charcoal samples
- Summarization of these data into site reports
- Incorporation of information into a public interpretation plan
- Replication of selected artifacts for display at Mille Lacs Kathio State Park
- Incorporation of information into displays and signs at the park's interpretive center and at archaeological sites
- Popular publication of results in print and electronic media



Special thanks to the following college interns whose diligent work on the collections inventory will help make our research and public education goals a reality!

Matthew Finneman, St. Cloud State University

Jillian Gramling, Scripps College

Caroline Miller, Hamilton College

Jessica Sticka, University of Texas at Dallas

Stephanie Wojtanowicz, Hamline University



The first phase of our project was to work on the materials from University of Minnesota excavations at Petaga Point. These investigations took place in 1933, 1965, 1966 and 1967. Each of these projects, by year, has its own collection. All the artifacts, soil and charcoal samples, field notes, site maps and photos from these excavations at the Petaga Point Archaeological Site have been inventoried, organized and prepared for specialist analyses. In our next project phase the ceramic artifacts, thousands of pieces, will be analyzed and categorized by a ceramics specialist. This pottery is from the 1933, 1965, 1966 and 1967 excavations. The largest among these collections is that from 1966. This is the collection from which the original ceramic types and wares for the region were derived, yet it has never undergone a complete analysis.

The Artifact Collections

The Sites

University of Minnesota archaeologists conducted archaeological research at Mille Lacs Kathio from 1933 through 1976. Some of these projects were small surveys while others were large excavations. Each archaeological site discovered is assigned a “site number,” which is actually a combination of numbers and letters. The site number for Petaga Point is 21ML11. The number 21 represents the state of Minnesota (alphabetical order before Alaska and Hawaii became states) ML represents Mille Lacs County and the number 11 notes that it was the eleventh site to be registered in Mille Lacs County Minnesota.

The Collections

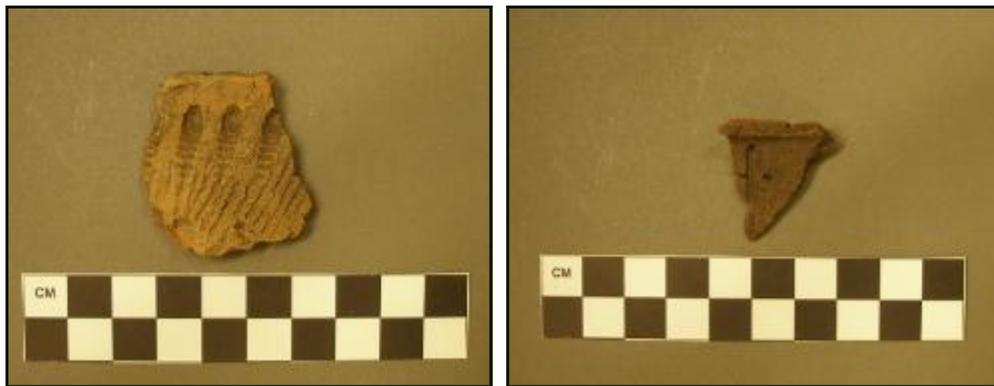
Artifacts from each discrete research excavation, survey or project are kept together as an individual collection. Each of these collections has been assigned a number, known as an accession number. The University of Minnesota assigned sequential numbers to their collections. For instance, the artifact collection from the 1933 excavations at Petaga Point has accession number 45, and the 1966 Petaga Point collection is accession number 578. Artifacts in each collection receive further numbers, separated by decimal points. These permanent identification numbers provide a reference to where each artifact was found, what it is associated with, material types and other research information.



In future phases of our project, individual artifacts from each accession will be photographed using Minnesota Historical Society professional standards. On the following pages are preliminary photographs of some of the artifacts from accession 45 and accession 578.

Artifacts from Surface Collection at the South End of Ogechie Lake, 1933: Accession 45

The artifacts in the collection from Jenks and Wilford's 1933 surface investigation at the south end of Ogechie Lake are ceramic, consisting mostly of pieces from the rim of pottery vessels. Among these artifacts are also a small "strap handle" from an Ogechie Ware vessel, and a decorated fragment from a ceramic smoking pipe bowl. Below are a few photographs from this collection.



Artifacts from Excavations at Petaga Point, 1965 and 1966: Accession 578

The artifacts from both the excavations in 1965 and 1966 are recorded under the accession number 578. The details in the artifact numbers following the decimal points after the accession number identify them as being from the 1965 or 66 excavation, as well as where in the site each artifact was found. Although many artifacts were discovered during the 1965 investigations, the 1966 excavations were done on a larger scale, and the collection therefore contains many more artifacts.

Following are some photos of artifacts from the large collection from investigations at Petaga Point in the summer of 1966, as well as a few ceramic pieces from 1965:

Among the chipped stone artifacts are spear points, knives, scrapers, bifaces, and a wide variety of arrow points:

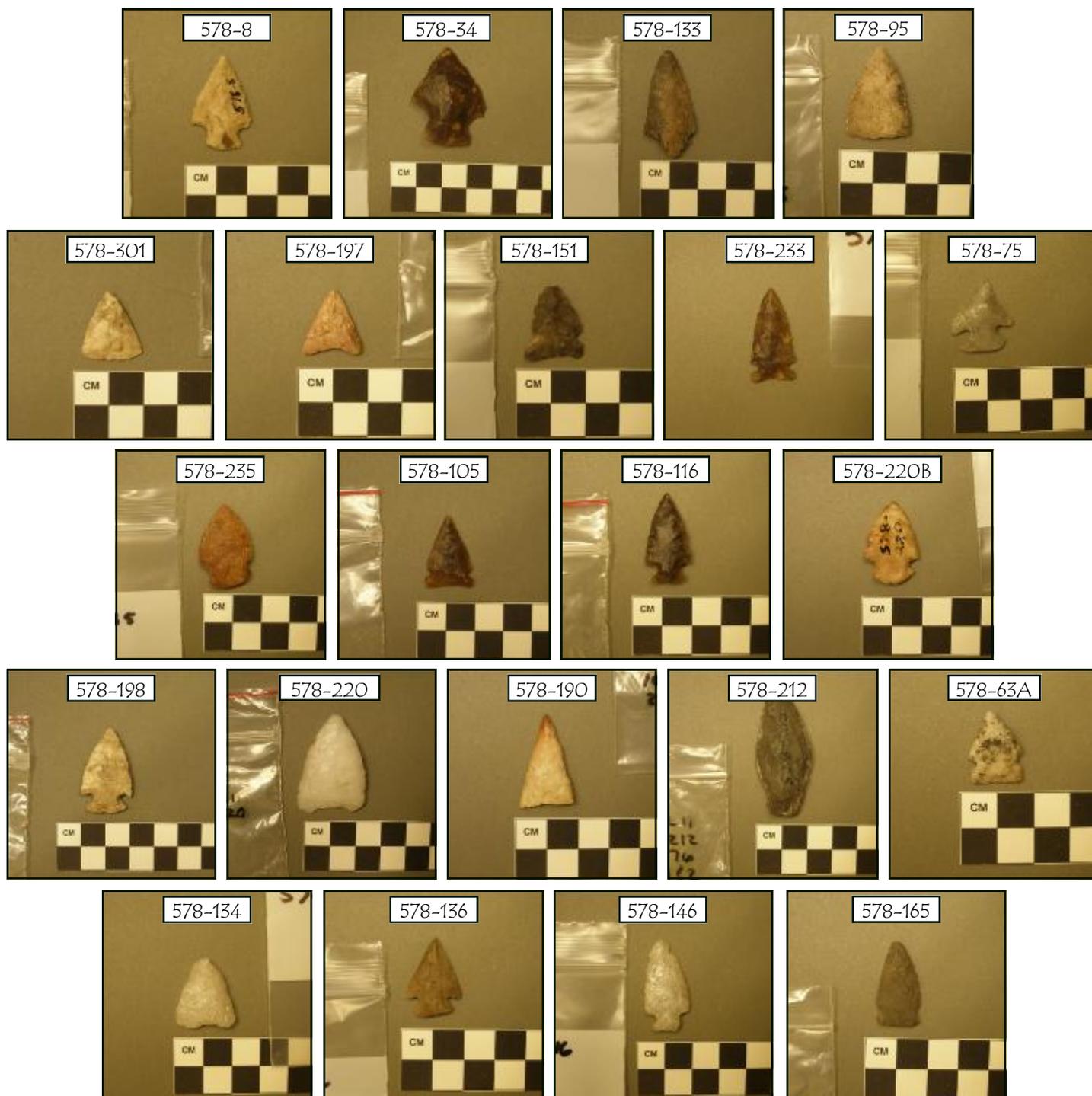


Scrapers:



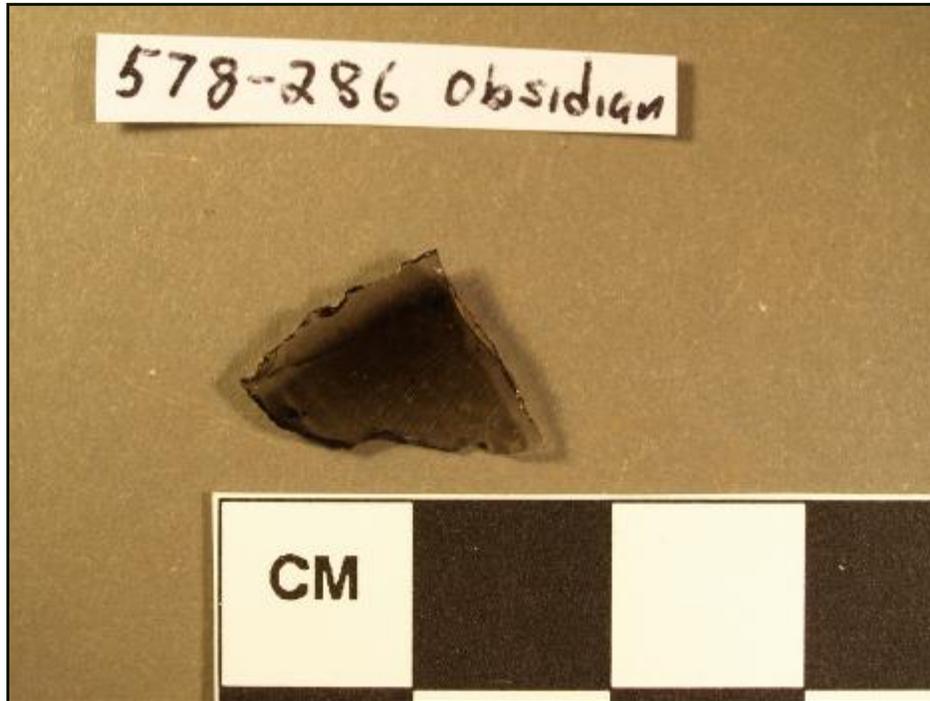
Artifacts from Excavations at Petaga Point, 1965 and 1966: Accession 578

Selected photos of arrow points from the large collection:



Artifacts from Excavations at Petaga Point, 1965 and 1966: Accession 578

Thousands of stone flakes from the making of ancient stone tools were also uncovered. Among these was a flake of obsidian. In 2007 scientific testing was conducted on obsidian flakes from Minnesota archaeological sites, to determine quarry sites. This obsidian flake, artifact number 578-286 from Petaga Point, was sourced to Obsidian Cliffs in Yellowstone National Park.



Early Historic Period artifacts were also recovered. Among these artifacts are small glass beads, which were found in the ash and charcoal of a wild rice parching pit feature.



Artifacts from Excavations at Petaga Point, 1965 and 1966: Accession 578

In the artifact collections from the 1965 and 1966 excavations are over 12,000 pieces of broken pottery, which are known to American archaeologists as ceramic “sherds.” From this collection, Elden Johnson and his associates derived the initial typology of prehistoric ceramic wares and types for the region. On this page are photos of ceramic sherds from the rim (top edge) of prehistoric vessels.



Artifacts from Excavations at Petaga Point, 1965 and 1966: Accession 578

Among the many fascinating finds of the 1966 research at Petaga Point were copper artifacts and features from the Late Archaic period, around 1,500 B.C. Below are some photos of copper artifacts from Petaga Point.

Among the copper artifacts uncovered at Petaga Point are spear or dart tips, awls or the tips of flint-chipping tools, an ulu-style knife blade and a possible fish-spear point.



Also discovered were fragments of copper, thought to be trimming debris from the making of tools.



Roughly-made stone "choppers" are among other Late Archaic component artifacts from Petaga Point.



Recent Research and Public Education at the Petaga Point Site

Each year, on the last Saturday in September, The Minnesota Archaeological Society hosts *Kathio Archaeology Day* at Petaga Point.



The Minnesota Archaeological Society presents a full day of demonstrations, displays and activities.

Demonstrations include flint knapping, pottery making, spears & spear-throwing, ancient watercraft and children's activities. Archaeologists are on hand to identify artifacts. Displays include artifact collections and projects by the Minnesota Historical Society, St. Cloud State University and Office of the State Archaeologist.

Ongoing Research Excavation at Petaga Point



Each year three days of excavation are done at Petaga Point Archaeological Site. One square meter is excavated during these days, two for observation by school classes and one day for public observation, on Kathio Archaeology Day. The site is closed after a single 1-square meter excavation unit is completed, then reopened the following year. Conducting and teaching about this long-range excavation are National Register Archaeologist David Mather and Kathio State Park Naturalist Jim Cummings. Research questions address the possible house features discovered by Elden Johnson in 1967.



Public Education



Exhibits in the Kathio Interpretive Center, located at Petaga Point, interpret archaeological research to park visitors.

Through hikes, site tours talks and canoe tours, state park interpretive staff convey research information to the visiting public



Interpretive signs located across the site inform visitors about 9,000 years of human heritage on the peninsula.

Want to learn more about Minnesota archaeology?

The Minnesota Archaeological Society

www.mnarchaeologicalsociety.org

Minnesota Archaeology: Minnesota Office of the State Archaeologist

www.osa.admin.state.mn.us/mnarch/mnoverview.html

Minnesota Prehistory: Minnesota State University, Mankato

www.mnsu.edu/emuseum/prehistory/minnesota/

From Site to Story: The Upper Mississippi's Buried Past

www.fromsitetostory.org

From our neighbors to the south and east:

Iowa Office of the State Archaeologist

www.uiowa.edu/~osa/

Wisconsin Historical Society, Office of the State Archaeologist

<http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/archaeology/osa/>

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