

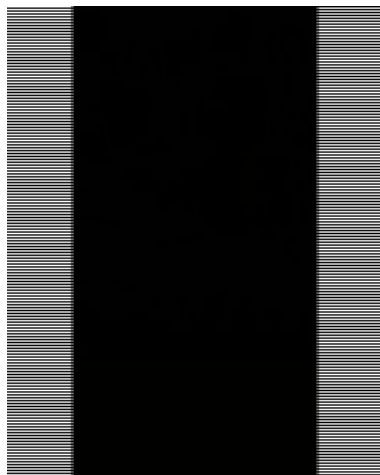
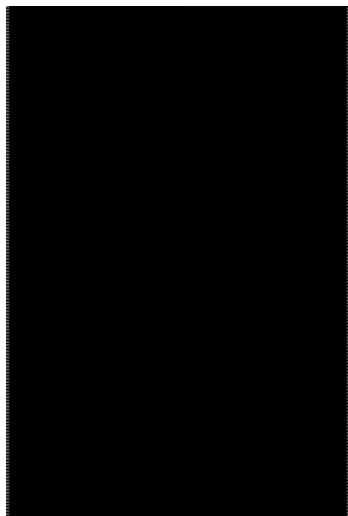
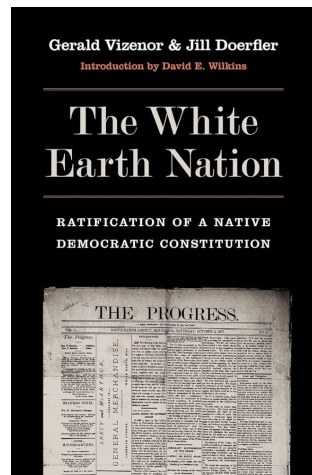
Efforts to Engage: Responding to the Requests and Needs
of American Indian Nations at the University of Minnesota
Duluth Archives


A Round Table Discussion

Who are we?

- Jill Doerfler, Professor and Department Head, American Indian Studies, University of Minnesota Duluth
- Seanna Stinnett, Administrative Associate & Graduate Program Coordinator, American Indian Studies, University of Minnesota Duluth
- Morgan Olson, Tribal Archivist, Bois Forte Heritage Museum
- Daniel Anderson, Bois Forte Band Member and Fond du Lac Reservation Education Division Administrator (Retired)
- Perceval Calderwood, Archives Assistant, Kathryn A. Martin Library Archives and Special Collections, University of Minnesota Duluth
- Aimee Brown, Archivist, Kathryn A. Martin Library Archives and Special Collections, University of Minnesota Duluth

Jill Doerfler





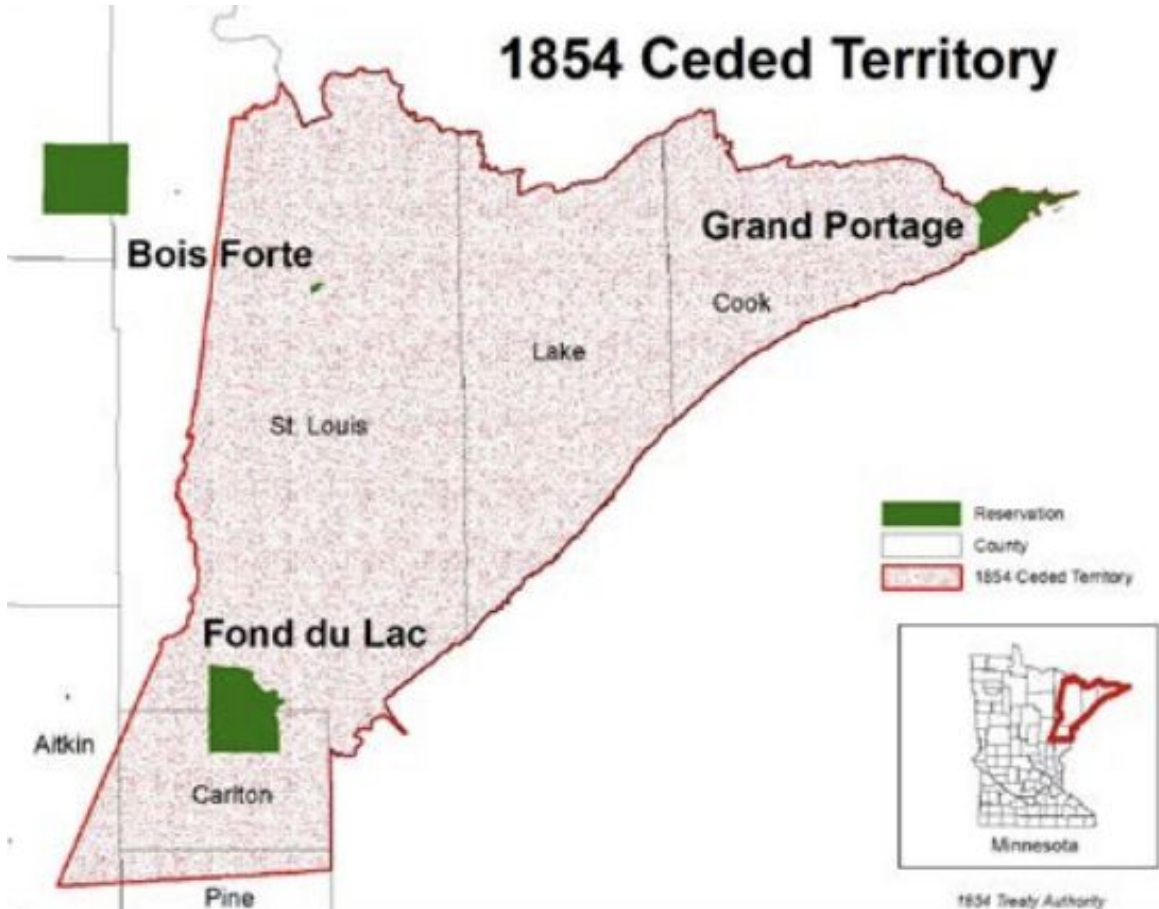
The Congress shall have the power to...regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes.

– Article 1, Section 8, U.S. Constitution

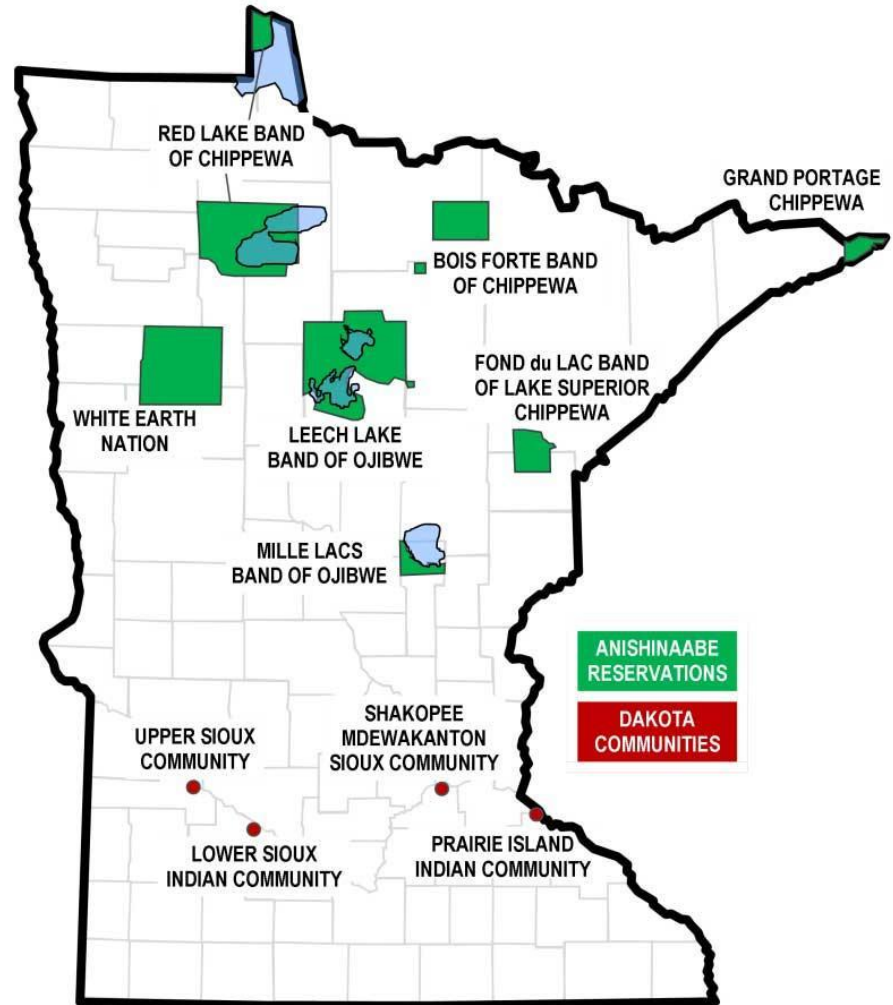


- US has a nation to nation relationship with American Indian nations
- 1778-1871: US signed 370 treaties with American Indian nations
- According to the US treaties are “the supreme law of the land”

- Legally binding agreements between nations.
- Treaties are American Indian nations giving rights to the US and (often) selling land
- American Indian nations also often specifically and explicitly reserved their existing rights and reserving specific tracts of land



Federally Recognized American Indian nations in the state of Minnesota today



Land Grant / Land Grab University

- 1862 Morrill Act: Expropriated Indigenous lands form the foundation of the US land grant University system
- The Morrill Act turned nearly 11 million acres of land expropriated from tribal nations into seed money for higher education
- Money made from land sales must be used in perpetuity, meaning those funds still remain on university ledgers to this day and continue to generate revenue

UMD Land Acknowledgement:

We collectively acknowledge that the University of Minnesota Duluth is located on the traditional, ancestral, and contemporary lands of Indigenous people. The University resides on land that was cared for and called home by the Ojibwe people, before them the Dakota and Northern Cheyenne people, and other Native peoples from time immemorial. Ceded by the Ojibwe in an 1854 treaty, this land holds great historical, spiritual, and personal significance for its original stewards, the Native nations and peoples of this region. We recognize and continually support and advocate for the sovereignty of the Native nations in this territory and beyond. By offering this land acknowledgment, we affirm tribal sovereignty and will work to hold the University of Minnesota Duluth accountable to American Indian peoples and nations.



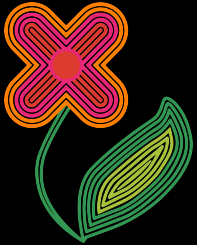
Fond du Lac Ojibwe Heritage Collection: Jimmy Jackson, Sr., Ojibwe Medicine Man

Seanna Stinnett,
UMD American Indian Studies Alum & Staff



Seanna Stinnett

- UMD alumna
 - B.A. in American Indian Studies and Public History, and a Certificate in Museum Studies
- Now works for UMD American Indian Studies as staff
- Nishnaabekwe (Ojibwe, Odawa, & Potawatomi) of Walpole Island First Nation (located northeast of Detroit across the border)
- Born and raised in and around Detroit, Michigan.



What was the project?



Fond du Lac Heritage Collection: Jimmy Jackson, Sr., Ojibwe Medicine Man

- Collection consists of:
 - *A Gift to One: A Gift to Many*
 - Over three dozen digitized tapes
 - Other materials
- Given to the Archives for management by the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa.
- Raw footage was to be reviewed to flag potentially culturally sensitive materials for consideration by the UMD American Indian Archives Advisory Council.
 - Fall 2021: Familiarising myself with the Protocols for Native American Archival Materials
 - Spring 2022: Review of the documentary footage and generation of my report to the American Indian Archives Advisory Council.

Results of the Review

- Most of the reviewed footage was culturally relevant, but didn't seem culturally sensitive.
 - Largely general explanations of what a medicine man does, surface-level Anishinaabe culture, elements of culture generally known to the public.
 - Much of this footage ended up in the final documentary.
- Flagged for potential restrictions were in-depth discussions of sensitive subjects, such as:
 - How to fast and fasting experiences
 - Other detailed discussions of "closed" practices
- Identified untranscribed Ojibwemowin words, phrases, and longer dialogue and either transcribed what I could understand or flagged for future transcription.

Project Outcomes



- Authored a report of my recommendations based on the Protocols for NA Archival Materials and my own evaluations to the American Indian Archives Advisory Council.
- In late September of 2022, I had the privilege of personally getting to make a presentation about my report to the American Indian Archives Advisory Council as a contract library assistant with the KAML Archives.
- It was a deep honor to get to work with the materials in this collection in consideration of their importance to the Fond du Lac Band of as a repository of Mr. Jackson's deep spiritual knowledge.

An Ojibwe Perspective on Archives

- The Ojibwe are known as the “Keepers of Writing”
 - Use of birch bark scrolls
- Oral histories and stories
- Similar concepts on preserving materials and knowledge, just executed in different ways
 - Storytellers, drum keepers, piper carriers, etc. vs. archivists, collection managers, etc.

An Ojibwe Perspective on Archives

- Protocols for Native American Archival Materials, an Ojibwe Focus
 - Relationship building
 - Understanding each others values, perspectives, and ways of doing things
 - Ojibwe people value community, elders, and knowledge keepers
 - Some knowledge is for community members only
 - Allow tribal groups room for sovereignty in decision making
 - THPOs and tribal councils being able to choose who represents themselves
 - Be open to a variety of perspectives, but be as specific as possible with material
 - Multiple groups represented at the UMD Archives Advisory Council
 - Acknowledge customs and traditions
 - Ask first
 - Present tobacco, gifts, ect. in exchange for knowledge

Materials created by Robert Reed

Collection contents:

- Photographs and a short film created by Robert Reed
- Created in relationship with the Boshey family
 - Depicting both the Boshey and Reed families
- Later used for a pamphlet and a lecture given by Reed at Winona Teachers College

Subject matter:

- Boshey family photos
- Wild ricing
 - Harvesting and processing the rice
 - Camp work, activities, and leisure time
- Canoe building
- Reed family

Temporarily loaned to the UMD Archives for processing (rehousing, metadata creation)



University of Minnesota Duluth American Indian Archives Advisory Council

2018	Archives staff attended the International Conference of Indigenous Archives, Libraries, and Museums at the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community owned Mystic Lake Event Center
2018	Archives staff started learning more about the Protocols for Native American Archival Materials (PNAAM)
2020	A researcher suggested that we contact Tonya Kjerland who was a Research Specialist for the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa. Tonya suggested that the UMD Archives form an Advisory Council that included people outside of the University who represented regional American Indian Nations
2022	UMD Library Director Matt Rosendahl sent an invitation to join the Advisory Council to the Tribal Chairs of the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Bois Forte Band of Chippewa, and Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, as well as UMD representatives from the American Indian Studies department and the American Indian Learning Resource Center.
2022	First annual meeting of the Advisory Council (9/23/2022) in person at UMD.

Why did the UMD Archives want to work with an Advisory Council?

- To develop better relationships with American Indian nations in our region
- To work toward addressing the archives' history of harmful practices which contribute to the oppression of American Indian nations and peoples
- To support the recommendations of the [Towards Recognition and University-Tribal Healing—TRUTH—project](#) and the [Protocols for Native American Archival Materials](#)
- To support the work of the [University of Minnesota's Office of Native American Affairs](#)
- To seek advice on the repatriation/repatriation of materials to Tribal Governments in consultation with them as well as shared stewardship, temporary custody, and other cooperative arrangements
- To support compliance with the [Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act \(NAGPRA\)](#)
- To improve descriptions of archival materials created by and/or about Indigenous people
- To learn more about how to treat these materials in a respectful culturally appropriate manner.
- To make these materials more accessible to the people they were created by and/or about

Suggestions for planning for an Advisory Council:

- Read the [Protocols for Native American Archival Materials](#) and related case studies but remember that every American Indian nation, and community is unique.
- Offer compensation and travel expenses for Council members
- Be aware that officials and administrators from tribal governments that you invite to serve on an Advisory Council are often very busy and get many similar requests
- Work with the timelines that work for the Advisory Council members
- Ask Council members what would be helpful to them
- Educate yourselves about the history and culture of the Tribal Nations represented in your archives on an ongoing basis

List of Presenters

- Jill Doerfler, Professor and Department Head, [American Indian Studies](#), University of Minnesota Duluth doerflj@d.umn.edu 218 726 7192
- Daniel Anderson, Bois Forte Band Member and Fond du Lac Reservation Education Division Administrator (Retired)
- Seanna Stinnett, Administrative Associate & Graduate Program Coordinator, [American Indian Studies](#), University of Minnesota Duluth, stinn008@d.umn.edu 218-726-7332
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- Aimee Brown, Archivist, Kathryn A. Martin Library Archives and Special Collections, University of Minnesota Duluth, brow5142@d.umn.edu 218-726-8622

[Sources for More Information](#)

