

Over the Earth they
Roamed: American
Indians in Minnesota

Presented by the

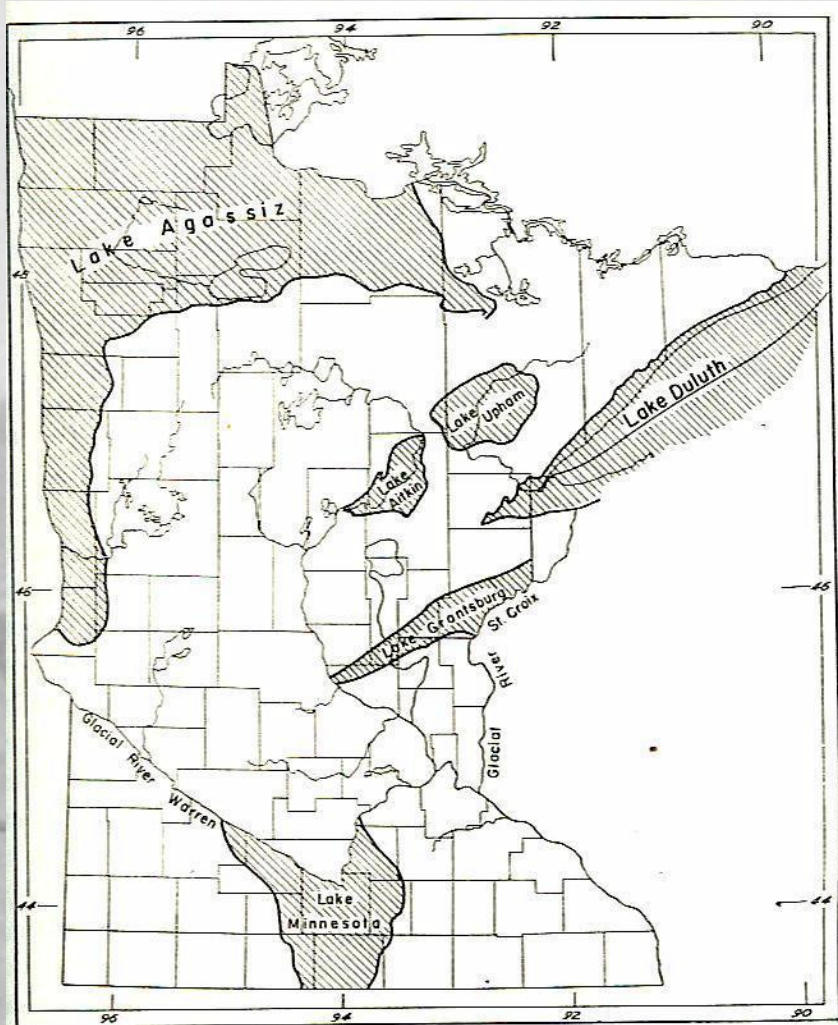
CARVER COUNTY
historical society

Ages of Ice and Water

- 1.2 million years ago – 14,000 years ago
 - Minnesota is covered by a series of Glaciers
- Glaciers retreated leaving series of Glacial lakes
 - Lake Agassiz
 - Glacial River Warren
 - Drainage for Agassiz,
 - Formed Minnesota River Valley



Glacial Lakes



Former major glacial lakes and rivers of Minnesota (MGS Bul. 37)

Lake Agassiz



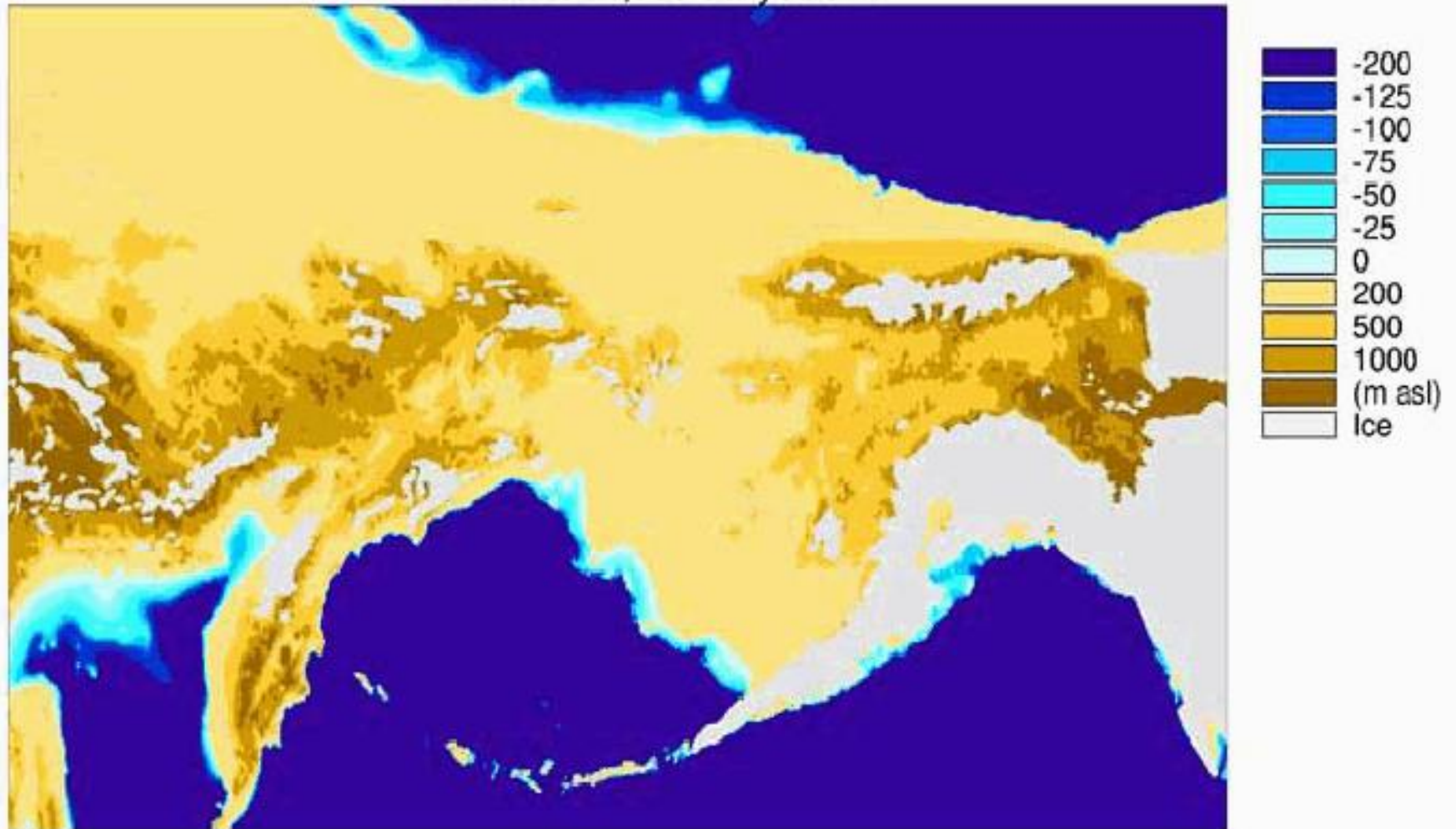
Beringia

- 25,000 – 12,000 years ago
 - Land bridge from eastern Siberia to Alaska
- Human Migration Theory
 - Theory that claims that humans migrated from Siberia to North America via Beringia
 - Controversial in Christian and Native American beliefs
 - Linked to “Out of Africa” theory



PALE Paleoenvironmental Atlas of Beringia

Coastline 21,000 Cal years BP



First Peoples – Paleo-Indians

- 12,000 – 8,000 years ago
 - Archeological Evidence (spear points) give evidence of inhabitants
 - Came as the Wisconsin Age ended and the Glaciers retreated
 - Landscape was completely untouched and raw
 - Came following large herd of big game (nomadic)



Archaic Period

- 8,000 – 2,500 years ago
- Hunters and foragers
- Characterized by use of copper and notched or stemmed projectiles
- More sedentary of a lifestyle
- Regionalization of family groups



Woodland

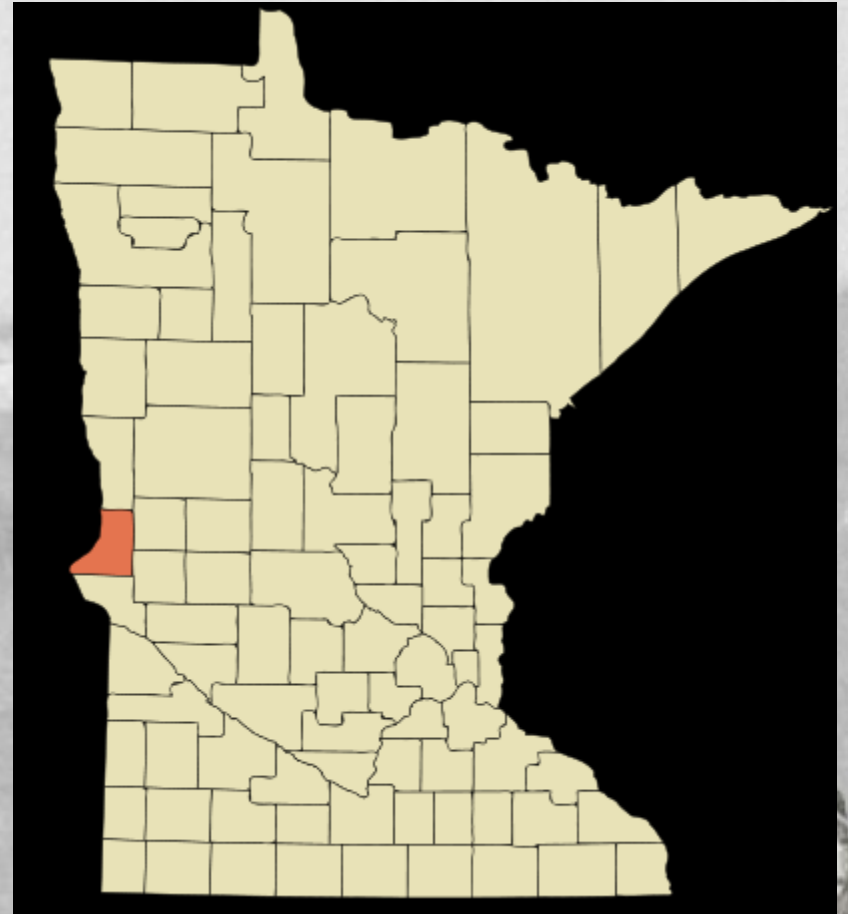
2,500 – 300 years ago

- Characterized by complexes of burial mounds
 - 107 in Carver County
- Technological advances
 - Bows and Arrows
 - Pottery
- Development of villages and social structure



Brown's Valley Man

- Among oldest human remains found in North America
- Dated to be about 9,000 years old
- Oldest human remains found in Minnesota



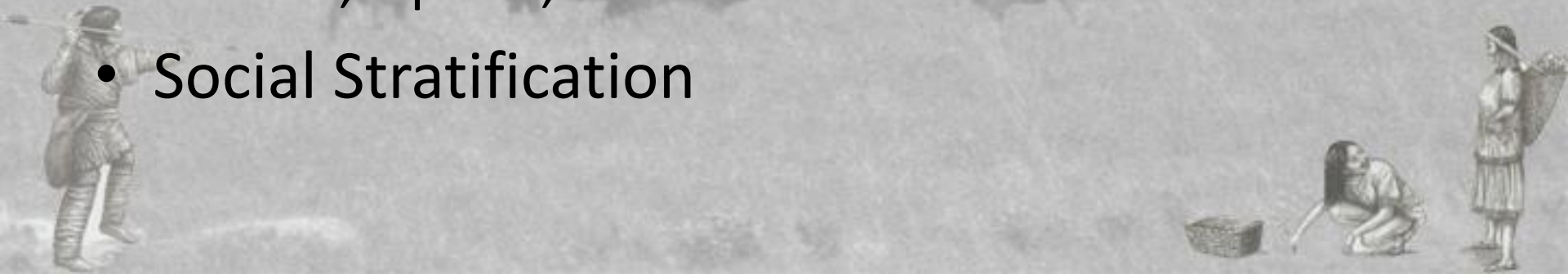
Indian Mounds Park



Mississippian

1000 - 300 years ago

- Technological
 - Potter Globular
 - Smaller projectile points
 - Gardening implements
- Permanent Village sites
- Intensive farming
 - Corn, squash, beans
- Social Stratification



Cahokia



Dakota Origins

- Creation theory
 - Natural spiritual connection to all things (living and non-living)
- Originally inhabited areas as far north as Mille Lacs
 - 1745 – After Battle of Kathio Dakota are pushed out of Mille Lacs area by Ojibwe
 - Sioux name origin



Lifestyles

- Semi Nomadic
 - Buffalo hunts
 - Bedded down in winters
 - Portable houses (Teepees)
- Complex social structure
 - Chiefs, medicine men, warriors lodge
- Gender roles
 - Men – hunting, warriors
 - Women – took care of home, gatherers/farmers, raise children



Dakota nation consisted of 7 Different tribes and over 20,000 people



Europeans in the Wilderness

- 1659 – Groseilliers and Radisson reach west shore of superior
- 1683 – Father Louis Hennepin returns to France
- 1766 – Jonathan Carver's journey among the Dakota (supposedly)
- 1805 – Zebulon Pike purchases land for Ft. Snelling



Fur Trade

- Based on complex gift giving system
- Fur post at Little Rapids
 - Run by Jean Babtiste Faribault
- Dakota traded furs for European supplies and gifts



Treaty of Traverse des Sioux

- July 1851
- Treaty giving Minnesota southern portion of state in exchange for reservations and reparations
- Catalyst to Dakota Conflict
 - Traders Papers



The signing of the Treaty of Traverse des Sioux



Lacrosse



Reservation Life

- Starvation
- Push by government to take up farming
 - “Cut hairs”
- Restrictions on hunting
 - Led to reliance on annuities
- Increased tension between Dakota and settlers



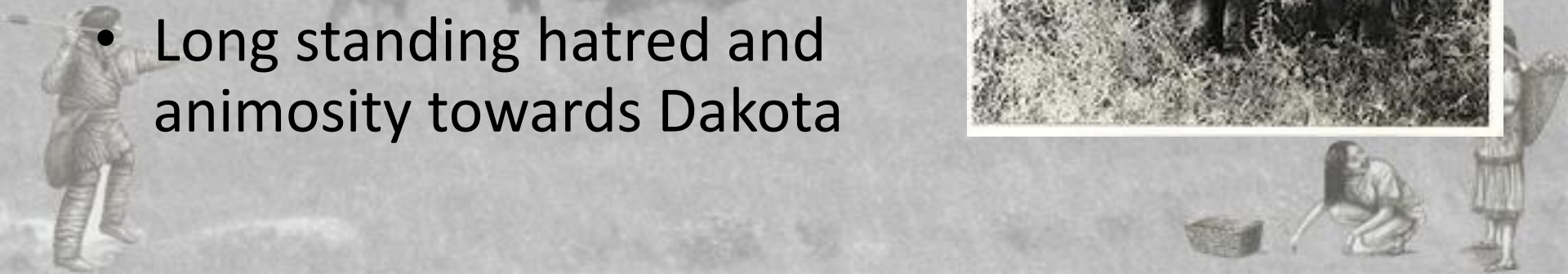
Let Them Eat Grass

- 1862 – tempers erupted over broken promises and starvation
- Led by Chief Little Crow Dakota warriors attacked settlements along Minnesota River
- Quelled by Henry Sibley
- Dakota tried at Fort Snelling
– 38 executed at Mankato



After effects

- Seen as spark for “Indian Wars”
- Many Dakota removed from Minnesota
- Strict government regulation
- Dakota eventually moved back and current reservations established
- Long standing hatred and animosity towards Dakota



Kill the Indian, Save the Man

- Systemic attempt by government to “civilize” Dakota
 - Boarding schools
 - Allotment
- Eventually schools are dissolved and Dakota were able to return home



Current Conditions

- People of Dakota descent living in many different regions of Minnesota
- Federal Reservations still often neglected by government agencies
 - Dakota offered financial assistance for higher education
- Casinos provide revenue for improvements
 - Roads, schools, tribal government
- Dakota maintain Sovereign status
 - Allowed to maintain own court system, police force, and government

