

*Compiled by Ann Vack*

The first four oldest cultures found in Pine County are The Prehistoric People, The Archaic Culture, The Woodland Culture, and The Mississippian Culture.

The first Minnesotans, including Pine County, were the Prehistoric People. Remaining evidence of these people are found through-out the county.

The Archaic Culture is the beginning of regional cultural variation, use of different raw materials for food and tools. Most distinctive culture complex of the period, "Old Copper Culture," began about 5000 B.C. Remains of the Archaic Culture are found in Pine County. Copper tools, stone artifacts and large round oval-shaped depressions, remains of prehistoric house structures.

The Woodland Culture, 1000 B.C. to 1700 A.D., pottery and burials in earth mounds. Beginning of agriculture, use of wild rice. Scraper used to scrape hides, for clothing, perhaps for dwellings. Rim and pot sherds are abundance surface finds through-out the county. Pine County have many earth Mounds, one of the finest examples of group mounds are the Stumne Mounds, purchased by the Minnesota Historical Society, located five miles west of Pine City.

There are some remains of the Mississippian Culture 1000 A.D. to 1700 A.D. Stone artifacts are found in the county.

Sioux occupied this area, after the Chippews or Ojibway obtained guns from the traders, they forced the Sioux to the southern part of the state. When the first white man or traders came to this area, the exact date is not known. Once this region had belonged to France. In 1763, the French government unwillingly gave it to England. Became a part of the original national domain, the Northwest Territory.

Five gunflints or "Gunspalls" 1650-1675 type were found on a site in the county. There is no doubt by 1700 that traders found their way to this region.

*Blind* *La Prairie*  
1780-85 a French Canadian trader (born in Montreal) had a site in the Pokegama area for 60 years. He married or lived with a Indian woman and had a large family. (Later in years, one of his daughters married a Mr. Connors, another trader of the Pokegama area.)

1802-03 Mr. Reaume, charge of Northwest Company quaters had a wintering post on the Serepent (Snake) river.

Jan. 1830 Jedediah ~~Dright~~ Steven visited the Indians in the Snake River and Pokegama area. He visited Connor's house. Steven gives account of hos visit in his papers, possession of Minn. Historical Society.

John B. Cadott had a location on the Snake River in 1830.

*Research. Henry H. Sibley Paper  
1815-45 - Catalogue No 227*

*1804-05 - A french trader erected a post on the banks of Snake River*  
*1816-183 Thomas Connor had a trading post on <sup>the outlet of</sup> Pokegama Lake. Cleared land + had garden + farm. See Oyer's letters. Steven. More. Vack files.*

1832 the population of the Fall of St. Croix and Snake River area: 80 men, 88 woman, and 133 children (Indians) and 38 persons of mixed blood all ages and sexes.

In 1832 statistical facts to the fur trade in the Snake River area: 1 trading post established by the Indian Department. 2 clerks licensed to trade. 8 interpreters, boatmen and company employed by the clerks. Total number of white persons engaged in the trade was 10. Trader who recieved licenses for year ending Sept. 30, 1832 was Thomas Connor.

1834 Thomas Connor spent part of the year at Yellow Lake. He hoped to join the Pokegama and Yellow Lake Indian trade.

May, 1835 Rev. Frederick Ayer visited Pokegama. On Oct. 16, Rev. Ayer and Rev. Seymour visited Pokegama again to meet with Indians in council confirmed a grant of land to the Presbyterian Mission by the Snake River Chief. A new route was found by the two missionaries (perhaps with the Indian and traders aid,) to St. Peter, with  $2\frac{1}{2}$  days travel by water, Snake and Rum Rivers with exception of 6 miles portage connection of the two rivers. Transportation charges for materials to Pokegoma from St. Peter was \$88.80 by the American Fur Co.

On May 5, 1836 Rev. Frederick Ayer and wife Elizabeth established a Presbyterian Mission on Pokegoma Lake. (Ausmus farm, Pokegama township 39N. R.22 W. sec.25. N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of N.E. $\frac{1}{4}$ ) School was made of bark. House out of logs, filled crevices with clay inside and out. Stone fireplaces. Mud chimney and the roof was covered with bark. 12 scholars attended. 4 teachers, 2 males and 2 females.

1837 Treaty at Fort Snelling. This area was included purchased from the Indians by the U.S. Government.

1837 Beginning of logging near Chengwatana and Snake River Area.

1837 Larger building was erected at the Mission to be used as a school and for meetings. Connors withdrawns his children from the Mission school. Rev. Ayer hired a man to perform the labor for the Mission, wages paid \$166.00 a year with addition of his board at \$1.50 a week, total sum of \$244.00 a yr.

Rev. Wm. Boutwell arrived at Pokegoma Mission, in the spring of 1838.

1839--Rev. Ayer engaged the Principal Chief of Pokegoma, as his Amanuensis to write to the Solux Chief in the St. Peter vicinity proposing smoking to-gether the pipe of peace. The missionaries at Pokegoma feared of great distrubance between the Indians.

1839 (Dec) Jeremiah Russell, employed by the Indian Bureau, arrived at Pokegoma to teach the Indians to clear and cultivate the land.

VASH COLLECTION

1840 Jeremiah Russell established a blacksmith across the lake on the land between the lake and the back waters of the Snake River, near the outlet of the lake to The Snake River, on the old Connor's post and farm.

Rev. Ayer and Missionaries spelled Pokegama (Pokegoma)

1840 Wages paid by the lumbering Co. \$24.00 to \$30.00 a month.

1841 Mr. Russell aids the Indians in agriculture.

May 24, 1841. Battle of Pokegoma, two Indian girls were killed, one Sioux killed and several wounded. Remains of the girls buried on Mission grounds. (During 1910-12 clamming, reports of remains of skeletons found in nets, dragging the nets for clams between the island and the shore, where the Mission were located.

July 5, 1841 the commissioners held a meeting and established voting precincts as follow: Gray Cloud 3. Mouth of St. Croix 3. Marine Mills 3. Falls of St. Croix 3. Pokegama 3. Judges of the election, Jereimah Russell, E. Myers, and Edmund L. Ely.

Aug. 1841 Mr. Russell and Rev. Ayer route to St. Peter to inquire from the Sioux Agent if he could prevent further attacks on the Pokegoma Indians. No resurance was given, the Indians at Pokegoma fled to the north leaving their homes and gardens, the winter of 1841 not a single Indian remained.

Aug. 26, 1841 Rev. Boutwell's youngest child taken ill, the following day Mr. Ely's oldest (3 years) child taken ill, both the children died Ely's Sept 2. and Rev. Boutwell's (20 months) Sept. 6. Bury on the mission grounds.

Winter of 1841 25x40 ft. lumbering log shanty, was build on the Snake River, the log openings of the shanty was filled with moss and clay to keep the warmth in. Logging was a booming business.

1842, May 23 Rev. Ayer and family leave Pokegoma for Oberlin? His request was granted to leave Pokegoma.

1845 Governor Wm. Holcombe helped to locate the first road from Sunrise to Rush Lake unto Russell's farm on Pokegama. Road follow mostly the old Indian Trail, from Sunrise to Rush Lake, to Pokegama Lake onto Mille Lac.

1846 W.H.C. Folsom visit Chengwatana (Chang-Wah-o-Dona) Pine trees near by. (Land of Pines.) He decribe as an ancient place of resort of half-bloods and white men with Indian wives.

1847 Henry Rust, Trader was murdered at his post on the Ground House River, he was buried at Pokegama Mission.

1847 Pokegoma Prebyterian Mission was abandon by Rev. Boutwell and Mr. Edmound Ely.

*Not remarked to the title of Rev*

1847 Boston Co. located a mineral permit for mile square on the Kettle River Rapids.

1848 Chengwatana Dam was built and first sawmill by Elam Greely.

1848 David Dale Owens, government geologist, reported Trap rock, rich in copper on the banks of the Kanabec (Snake) River near Chegwatana.

1848 some of the earlier settlers in Chengwatana were: Duane Porter, George Goodwin, Herman Trott, Louis Ayd, John Hutchinson.

1848 First settlement was made by Elam Greely, who had a farm on banks of the Kanabec (Snake) River, located N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 10, township 38, Range 22. He built a large barn on this farm and a station. - Pine Co. Register Record  
Ohio from U.S. Land Office

July 7, 1849 Governor Alex (?) Ramsey, by proclamation fixed the following council districts for the territory, which had not then been divided into counties: Marine Mills, Falls of St. Croix, Rush Lake, Rice and Snake River precincts and the Little Canada settlement, Pine County, before the organization of the Territory was included within the limits of St. Croix County. (Wisconsin?)

August 1849 Census of Snake River Territory: 58 males, 24 females. Total 82.

1850 Royal C. Gray at age of 18 was located on the Greely's farm, where he farmed and kept a public house at the Greely station, until 1860. Township Royalton was named after him.

1851 A tomahawk (from the 1841 Pokegama Battle) was taken to Boston Nat. Soc. by Rev. Boutwell.

1852 Chengwatana had several log houses, hotel and a postoffice. A stage route was established from St. Paul to Superior City.

1853, January Knauer's survey the first Government Roadline northwest along the east shore of Rush Lake, to Snake River where it crossed near the outlet of Pokegama Lake, followed north and northwest to the Kettle River. This survey plans were abandon in 1854-55, a new route was surveyed.

1854-55, Winter of Simpson survey a new route for the Government Road thru' Chengwatana, number of miles were saved rerouting this road.

1855 The first wooded bridge was built, wrecked a year later by high water, location of this bridge would be east side of Cross Lake, about where the present bridge crosses to-day. (1972) - Bridge Plans Wash. files

March 31, 1856 Pine County was organized. Chengwatana became a County Seat. Efforts were made to platt village site on old Indian village of Chengwatana, survey by Judd, Walker and Danial A. Robertson, ad change the name to Allhambra, but the name was not accepted. Name of Chengwatana remained. At the organization of the county, the first commissioners were: Herman Trott, George Staples and Royal C. Gray.