



Photo courtesy of Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

# Ĥaĥa Wakpadaŋ / Bassett Creek Oral History Project

In the Dakota language, Ĥaĥa Wakpadaŋ is the name for Bassett Creek. American Indians have lived, worked, and played in areas surrounding the creek for thousands of years.

In 2021, Valley Community Presbyterian Church (VCPC) received a grant to conduct oral history interviews with American Indians who are connected to the creek's watershed. The interviews explored how Native people experience the area as part of their historic and contemporary cultures.

VCPC developed the project in partnership with cultural advisors, the Hennepin History Museum, and Dr. Kasey Keeler, a scholar of American Indian history from the University of Wisconsin—Madison.

## What is included in the interviews?

Common themes include environmental conservation, education, socioeconomic, housing, and more. Each interview was recorded and transcribed.

## When did the interviews occur?

Dr. Keeler interviewed each narrator between April and August 2022.

## How long are the interviews?

Interviews typically lasted 1-2 hours. Each narrator received compensation for their time.

## How will the interviews be shared?

The recordings and transcriptions are available at the Hennepin History Museum. Narrators chose how widely their stories would be shared through other channels, like webpages.

## How will VCPC and Dr. Keeler use the interviews?

VCPC will use the interviews to strengthen its relationships with Native communities and support Native-led initiatives.\* Dr. Keeler will use the interviews to support her research about the history of suburban American Indians.

For more information, please contact project manager Crystal Boyd at [crystalboydconsulting@gmail.com](mailto:crystalboydconsulting@gmail.com)



\*As a faith congregation opening hearts, opening minds, and opening lives to God, Valley Community Presbyterian Church (VCPC) seeks to honor the important stories and lived experiences of its members and neighbors. VCPC sits on the ancestral and contemporary land of the Dakota people, for whom the land holds historical, spiritual, political, and cultural significance.

We acknowledge the ongoing injustices that we have committed against the Dakota people and pledge to interrupt this legacy. We will educate ourselves about Indigenous history and recognize, support, and advocate for our Native neighbors.



This project is made possible through funding from Valley Community Presbyterian Church, the University of Wisconsin—Madison, and the people of Minnesota through a grant funded by the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.





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# Thank You!

## Narrators

Sydney Beane  
 Ben Blackhawk  
 Brad Blackhawk  
 Eric Buffalohead  
 Roxanne Gould  
 Sam Majhor  
 Jim Rock  
 Tawnya Stewart  
 Grant Two Bulls  
 Cathee Vick  
 Debbi Williams  
 David Wilson  
 Diane Wilson  
 Ben Yawakie

## Cultural Advisors

Brenda Child  
 Darlene St. Clair

## Project Personnel

Kasey Keeler, project lead  
 Sarah Lundquist, transcriptionist  
 Margo Mandel, transcriptionist

## VCPC Land Acknowledgment Task Force

Rev. Richard Buller  
 Mariah Messer, VCPC staff  
 Jen Biggs, task force lead  
 Crystal Boyd, project manager  
 Lyn Boyd  
 Jan Fedora  
 Jeanine Miakotina  
 Julie Westerlund

## VCPC Staff

William Glasper  
 Hunter Sheldon  
 Sheila Sheldon

## Project Partners

John Crippen, Hennepin History Museum  
 Larry Johnson, photographer  
 Michele Pollard, Hennepin History Museum  
 Teresa Martin, GV Historical Society  
 Kyle Scott, GV Historical Society  
 Stan Waldhauser, photographer



Photo credit: Stan Waldhauser



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