



MEET THE PEOPLE

BURIAL 146 A Short Life

Based on long-bone measurements, it seems likely that this infant was a girl of African descent. She measured 30 inches long and weighed 18.7 pounds when she died.

She experienced nutritional stress shortly after birth, and again when she was about four months old, based on the growth-arrest lines visible in her baby teeth. She died before she had reached her second birthday.

At death, her grieving parents had placed her arms along her sides, and then wrapped her in a shroud held in place with machine-made pins. This child was among the few buried at the Old Frankfort Cemetery whose rectangular wooden coffin was lined with velveteen, held in place with brass tacks. The style of pins and the use of late-cut machine-made nails in the construction of her coffin show she died after 1835.

Despite her short life, a great deal of effort and expense went into preparing her grave. The bottom and sides had been lined with bricks and rocks, which created a stone vault (see page 63). After her coffin was placed inside, the vault was sealed with large limestone rocks and fragments of a headstone, discarded, perhaps, because a quarryman had broken it before he was finished making it. This stone vault provided the excellent protection her family had intended for the tiny coffin. When her grave was discovered over 160 years later, it had not filled-up with soil.

She was buried in the western quarter of the Upper Area, in a cluster of other graves. The range in age and sex of the people buried in this grave cluster suggests it could have been a family plot.