



MEET THE PEOPLE

BURIAL 192c A Working Woman

This woman died in her early thirties. In life, she stood 5 feet 3 inches tall and weighed 125 pounds. Mitochondrial DNA extracted from the pulp of her teeth shows that she was of West African heritage. She is depicted here with braided hair, since in her day, this hairstyle was common for women of African descent.

During her life, she consumed a fair amount of corn-based products, but somewhat less than others of African descent buried in the Cemetery. Her teeth were in fairly good shape, and she had few cavities. From the many stress lines on her teeth, we know she experienced some kind of nutritional stress at ages 2, 3, and 4. Extensive arthritis in her back reflects the heavy labor she undertook throughout her life.

Prior to wrapping her in a shroud, her loved ones laid her arms alongside her body and placed her hands across her waist. She may have been buried wearing a dress, but evidence of buttons or hooks is lacking. Her relatives pinned her shroud together with swirled-head pins, indicating she died before 1835.

Her simple hexagonal wooden coffin was placed in a stone-lined grave shaft, and then covered with large limestone slabs. She was buried in the northern half of the Lower Area, directly below Burial 192b, a large robust man of African descent (see page 68). Was this man her father? Her husband?