



## MEET THE PEOPLE

### BURIAL 174 An Accident

In life, this man of European descent stood 5 feet 7 inches tall and weighed 166 pounds. He was over 50 years old when he died.

Unlike most of the people buried in the Cemetery, he enjoyed a more diverse diet that included greater quantities of foods made from wheat and barley, like bread and soup. This suggests he may have been somewhat better off than others buried in the Old Frankfort Cemetery. He had lost most of his teeth, and those few that remained were quite worn, reflecting his advanced age. Given his poor dental health, it is likely that eating solid foods would have been difficult for him.

Clear, sharp muscle markers on his bones show that, like others buried within the Cemetery, he had worked at hard physical labor throughout his life. This hard work contributed to extensive arthritis in his neck and back, and to the collapse of some of the vertebrae in his lower back.

Sometime during his life, Burial 174 was in some sort of an accident, perhaps because of the nature of the work he did. This fall took place long before his death, since the fractures had healed. Perhaps he stumbled at work; maybe he was in a fight. But wherever it happened and for whatever reason, he checked his fall with his left hand, landing on and fracturing his left wrist and several ribs. An injury like this would have required about six weeks to heal.

After placing him in his coffin, his relatives laid his arms alongside his body, with his hands resting on his pelvis. Four brass coin buttons and five one-hole bone buttons found near his waist indicate he was buried wearing pants and an undergarment. The fact that no shirt, vest, or coat buttons were found in his chest area suggests he may have been buried wearing a buttonless pullover shirt. As with the rest of the people buried in this graveyard, there was no evidence that he was buried wearing shoes. The absence of straight pins suggests that his family did not wrap his body in a shroud, or did not need pins to hold it in place.

His coffin was a simple hexagonal one, made of eastern red cedar. The shape of his coffin, coupled with the presence of brass coin buttons and one-hole bone buttons, suggests he died before 1835. In order to protect his coffin, his family lined the sides of his grave shaft with limestone slabs. After they lowered the coffin into the grave, they placed several limestone slabs over it.

He was buried in the southwestern corner of the Lower Area. His grave was disturbed during excavation of the grave for Burial 175, a 35-45 year old woman of mixed heritage.