



MEET THE PEOPLE

BURIAL 232 A Sickly Teenager

This girl of African descent died in her early teens. She stood 5 feet 2 inches tall and weighed 132 lbs.

Relative to other people of African descent, she ate an average amount of corn-based foods. Despite this sugary and starchy diet, however, her teeth had few cavities. Her age at death explains why her teeth were not too worn.

She was sick for most of her life and may have died of malnutrition. Her bones suggest she likely was a sickly baby. Between the ages of 1 and 5, she experienced a great deal of nutritional stress, as reflected in tooth enamel defects. This could have been caused by chronic malnutrition/under-nutrition or disease. This stress continued throughout her life, indicated by the numerous Harris lines on her upper and lower leg bones. She was horribly bowlegged, which is a sign of childhood rickets likely caused by a Vitamin D deficiency. She also suffered from anemia and multiple infections.

She was one of the few people buried in the Old Frankfort Cemetery wearing jewelry. She wore two necklaces: one of 29 rounded red glass beads and the other of 34 *gadroned*, or fluted, blue glass beads (see photo, opposite). On her right finger, she wore a brass ring with a diamond-shaped cut-out on the front of the band (see photo, opposite). Surprisingly, given the fact that she was wearing jewelry, investigators found no buttons or pins in her grave. This suggests she may have been buried wearing a dress that lacked buttons. Alternatively, she could have been wrapped in a blanket that needed no pins to hold it in place.

At her death, her family arranged her arms across her chest. Her wooden coffin was buried near the northwest corner of the Lower Area. The nails used in her coffin suggest she died after 1835. Long afterwards, the Capital City Brewery foundation was dug nearby.