

Dawn of the Dead
A Review of
Archaeological Mortuary Research in Georgia



LAMAR Institute Publication Series,
Report Number 187

The LAMAR Institute
Savannah
2014
Revised Edition

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By Daniel T. Elliott, J. Mark Williams, and W. Dean Wood

[Note: Authored by the Historic Cemetery Committee, Georgia Council of Professional Archaeologists, composed of Daniel T. Elliott, J. Mark Williams, and W. Dean Wood, November, 2000. Edited for format and minor grammatical errors by Daniel T. Elliott.]

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Preface

This 2014 revision of the 2000 Georgia Council of Professional Archaeologists committee report has been edited for format and grammar. Otherwise the original content of the report is unchanged and it reflects the state of knowledge of mortuary archaeology in Georgia in 2000. The passage of 14 years has included many changes and developments on this subject, including increased use of ground penetrating radar for cemetery surveys, listing of many hundreds of historic cemeteries in the Georgia Archaeological Site File (GASF), numerous cemetery archaeological excavations and relocations, and increased recognition and stewardship advice by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT), and other historic preservation groups regarding historic cemeteries in this state. A reassessment of the state of the art in Georgia's mortuary archaeology will probably be needed in the near future. A pending GDOT historic context study on historic cemeteries promises to enlighten us all. –D.Elliott, April 29, 2014.

Introduction

Georgia contains the remains of hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of dead humans buried in its soil. Most of these people cannot be identified as specific individuals and, consequently, they can only be classified as anonymous. Since their descendants cannot be identified with any degree of specificity, the public must assume the responsibility for insuring their memory for future generations. In many cases, this responsibility has been shirked, either through accident or unintentional destruction, or through wanton destruction by persons or groups who were not interested in the “rights” of the dead. In other cases public need necessitated the exhumation and removal of many individuals from their originally intended resting place to a more satisfactory site (viewed from the modern perspective).

Anonymous graves can be grouped into two broad categories: prehistoric and historic. The historic burials usually exhibit traits of Christian burial practices, while the prehistoric graves reflect a Native American religious mindset. At the boundary between these two categories is a gray area of proto-historic burials--some with Christian-like traits and others without. One of the more notable Native American graves was that of Tomochichi, who was buried with honors in one of Savannah's squares, only to later have his remains disturbed by a memorial to another “famous” Georgian. Many of the abandoned cemeteries in Georgia contained graves whose occupants are identified by markers, or who, based on early tombstone transcriptions, were known to inhabit a particular cemetery.

Although historians and genealogists have been interested in Georgia's cemeteries for centuries, scholars have only recently begun to attempt to grasp the enormity, scale, and complexity of this cemetery dataset. In the mid-1990s Ted Brooke compiled a bibliography and an inventory of published county cemetery books in Georgia and since that publication Brooke has gathered additional information on many more cemeteries in Georgia (Brooke 1989, 1995; personal communication November 1999). Brooke's data is based on published and unpublished accounts, many of which have not been “ground-truthed” to determine if the information is accurate or if the cemeteries remain in existence. Since his important publication, the number of county-level cemetery inventory studies has swelled and, as of 1999, more than 130 of Georgia's

159 counties have published cemetery books. These studies vary greatly in comprehensiveness, detail, and quality, but particularly good examples include the inventories of Oglethorpe and Towns counties (Ted O. Brooke, personal communication, November, 1999). A relatively recent addition to the cemetery database is information that is stored on the internet, which is discussed in more detail later in this report.

Interest in mortuary research also has gained momentum among archaeologists and anthropologists worldwide. A recent bibliography of archaeologically-oriented mortuary studies compiled by Edward Bell contained citations for approximately 1,600 reports (1994). A review of this compilation reveals the general state of mortuary studies in Georgia immediately prior to passage of a 1993 law. Few studies were reported from Georgia.

Legal Status of Historic Cemeteries

Georgia's historic cemeteries are protected by state and federal laws. In order for them to be protected, however, it is important that their locations be documented. Prior to 1993 most cemetery relocations in Georgia were conducted by non-archaeologists and little, if any, documentation was required. Since 1993, the treatment of historic cemeteries has changed significantly.

A query of Georgia laws was conducted on the Internet, which identified more than one dozen state laws that may pertain to historic cemeteries. Of these, *Abandoned Cemeteries and Burial Grounds Act* (Georgia Code Ann. §36-72-16) is the most relevant to this discussion. Historic cemeteries also may fall under the regulation of NAGPRA and Section 106 Compliance. Historic cemeteries on Federal property may also be protected under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), which protects archaeological sites that are potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

Prior to 1992 historic cemeteries, with the exception of those containing the graves of very famous individuals, were largely excluded from consideration for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). A 180 degree turn-around in this policy was effected with the release of revised guidelines, which outlined the criteria of eligibility for nominating historic cemeteries to the NRHP (Boland and Potter 1992). While not all cemeteries may be eligible for listing, each should be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Presently, 32 historic cemeteries in Georgia are specifically listed in the NRHP. Other cemeteries are likely included within larger historic property definitions such as churches, districts, forts, and plantations and these were not tallied. Many others are recorded in the Georgia Archaeological Site File as potentially eligible for listing in the NRHP, but few, if any, of these have been actually nominated. On nearly all of the listed cemetery sites, however, the cemeteries were not considered as contributing elements in the historical significance of the property. Archaeology was not conducted on most of these cemeteries, nor was it usually considered in assessing eligibility.

A query of a recent CD-version of the Georgia Archaeological Site files (September, 1999), which included information on 33,390 archaeological sites, yielded 457 historic cemetery sites. Of these, 327 had historic cemetery listed as "Site Type 1", which suggests that the cemetery was the primary reason that the site was recorded. Of this subgroup, 97 are listed as ineligible for inclusion in the NRHP. Of these 97 sites, however, only one was examined beyond the survey

level and it (9Eb177) was described as “destroyed”. Two of the 97 sites were listed as “razed” and conditions at two others were listed as “unknown”.

Of the 2,528 archaeological sites in Georgia that have been test excavated or fully excavated, only nine list historic cemetery as their “Site Type 1”. Four of these were recommended as eligible for listing in the NRHP eligibility status for three was unknown, one was listed as “removed”, and only one was listed as ineligible.

Fifty-six sites in the Georgia files listed historic cemetery as “Site Type 2”, and of these 12 were recommended as eligible for listing in the NRHP, eligibility status of 22 were listed as “unknown”, one (9Jo238, the Cook Cemetery located on the outskirts of Old Clinton) was listed as “removed” from the NRHP, and the rest (21) were classified as ineligible for the inclusion in the NRHP. Of these 21 ineligible sites, only three (9Lo18, 9Jo19, and 9FL142) were examined beyond the survey level and the first two of these were listed as “razed”.

Thirty-four sites listed historic cemetery as “Site Type 3” and of these, only five were listed as ineligible for listing in the NRHP. Only one of the five however, 9Ri309, had been test excavated. It should be cautioned that some of these site file data are incorrect. For example, Site 9Ch737 on Skidaway Island is listed as ineligible, whereas it was actually described in the excavation report as potentially eligible (Smith et al. 1988).

Forty sites listed historic cemetery as “Site Type 4” and of these 10 were classified as ineligible for inclusion in the NRHP. Two of the sites in this group were excavated (9Li42 and 9BL20) and one was test excavated (9Tp674).

A total of 180 cemeteries in the “Site Type 1” category are located on Federal property. Of these, 64 are listed as ineligible for inclusion in the NRHP but none of these went beyond the survey level. The remaining 116 cemeteries are either eligible or potentially eligible for listing in the NRHP.

Formal Documentation of Historic Cemetery Projects

A query of the report and manuscript titles on file at the Georgia Archaeological Site Files (current as of 1998) for key words including “cemetery, graveyard, and burial” yielded surprisingly few results. The reports and manuscripts that had these words in the titles included: Wood et al. (1986), Garrow and Symes (1987), Smith (1987), and South (1977). Obviously, many other cemeteries are described in reports whose titles do not contain these keywords and without examining each report, which was not attempted in this study, it is difficult to determine their contents on this relevant issue. The various private archaeology firms and government agencies were queried for unpublished documents relating to historic cemeteries, which yielded a mixed response. Most unpublished studies in the state are cemetery delineations, which were almost never documented by a report. Cemetery removal projects were better documented, although most of these reports are not on file at the Georgia Archaeological Site Files or the Georgia Historic Preservation Division.

Other Sources of Georgia Cemetery Information

Georgia cemetery information is found in a wide variety of sources, which include: the Library of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Family History Library of the Church of Jesus

Christ of Latter-day Saints, and publications of various Confederate memorial organizations (including Daughters of the Confederacy and the Sons of Confederate Veterans).

In their Geographic Name Information Server (GNIS) database, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) provides locational information on thousands of cemeteries in Georgia, which are identified cartographically. This same dataset also is available from other sources, including Yale University. These data includes named cemeteries that appear on USGS maps and does not include cemeteries marked only by a symbol. Nevertheless, they represent the single largest source of cemetery information presently available.

The Internet presented an entirely new avenue for sharing information on historic cemeteries in Georgia. The GaGenWeb is the most rapidly growing database of historic cemetery epitaph data in Georgia. This compilation, which is organized by county, can be accessed online at <http://www.rootsweb.com/~gagenweb>. The Georgia Tombstone Transcription Project is a subset of the GaGenWeb, whose webmaster is Linda Sanders. Other interesting website on historic cemeteries include: Saving Graves (<http://www.savinggraves.com/usa/ga>); Cemetery Records Online (<http://www.interment.net/us/ga/index.htm>); Tomb with a View (<http://members.aol.com/TombView>); Saving Southern Cemeteries (<http://www.angelfire.com/ga2/cemetery>); and the Association for Gravestone Studies (<http://www.gravestonestudies.org>). The internet data is, of course, subject to constant change which includes updates, additions, and deletions.

The rapid expansion of Internet websites devoted to historic cemeteries in Georgia and those websites having significant content on cemeteries in Georgia is flabbergasting. Cemetery coverage in this dataset is erratic, however, with some counties well represented by nearly exhaustive cemetery lists, some with only piecemeal information, and others not represented at all. This online arena promises to greatly expand the database and make information on historic cemeteries in Georgia widely available to the public and scholars.

Nineteenth Century Studies

Public fascination with historic period graves in Georgia began in the middle nineteenth century and was rooted in national patriotism and hero worship. The earliest studies sought to locate specific military leaders of the Revolutionary War period. This era of research was closely linked with the creation and dedication of monuments to Georgia's fallen war dead. The best examples of these early investigations are from the Savannah area and several examples are cited in the following discussion.

The French and American Siege of Savannah of early October, 1779 resulted in a sizable number of military dead. Although body counts vary, all agree that several hundred soldiers died in the assault on the Spring Hill Redoubt. Although some of the allied casualties were taken to Greenwich Plantation (later to become part of Bonaventure Cemetery) for burial, several graves were created near the battle site. Several newspaper accounts of these land altering activities included important clues to the whereabouts of the war dead. The earliest located thus far read as follows:

“LIBERTY COUNTY, Dec. 20, 1842.

“To W. H. Bulloch, Esq.

“Dear Sir:- I enclose you the annexed communication in regard to the erection of a monument, to the memory of the officers and soldiers who fell whilst attempting to storm the works of the British at Savannah, Oct. 9, 1779. It is an enterprise which must ensure the good will of all; and you will much oblige a subscriber by giving the following brief remarks a place in your columns.

“Respectfully, H.

“Approaching the city, a short time since, by the Ogechee road, a few hundred paces in the rear of the old barracks, a small mound was pointed out to me, as one of the spots where the ashes of those heroes repose who fell, October 9, 1779, in the ever memorable siege of Savannah. The rude tumuli which was hastily erected over their remains, amid the gloomy silence which pervaded our stricken ranks, are now almost obliterated and levelled to the ground by the peltings of the thousand storms, which have beat upon them for more than sixty years. Citizens of Savannah, why do the bones of those gallant spirits whose lifeblood once watered your now prosperous soil moulder on without tablet or inscription, with no requiem but the sighing of the mournful pines, and destined ere long to be lost in the tide of oblivion? The lofty column which rears its marble head, towering high o’er the summit of Bunker, tells truly where the gallant Warren and his brave compatriots fell, and proclaims the truth, that although long departed, still they live fresh in their country’s memory. Did Jasper and the hundred who with him shared a bloody grave, fight in a less nobler cause, or come to a more inglorious end than they whose deeds that proud monument perpetuates? Every southerner will quickly answer no. Let us then as soon as the iron hand that fetters our energies is relaxed, and things glide on in their wonted channel, speedily erect a memorial worthy of their exalted fame, ere every landmark which shows their resting place be swept away by the corroding hand of time. There are many in the country who would, I am persuaded, contribute liberally to such an object at any time that a subscription may be opened; for surely there can be no project originated, calculated in such a degree to touch the chord of patriotism and make it to vibrate, as an appeal in behalf of those whose blood was shed freely as a ransom for our liberties. The Green and Pulaski monument is an evidence that our citizens are already imbued with this noble spirit; and we sincerely hope that in succeeding ages, the stranger’s inquiry will not be in vain for the last home of the brave who died in battle beneath your walls.

H.” (*Daily Georgian*, December 30, 1842:p.2, c.7).

A second newspaper article less than three years later contained a description of more than 30 British graves that were being disturbed by railroad laborers:

Revolutionary Relics

During the last two or three days, the laborers engaged in excavating the earth near the Central Rail Road Depot, have disinterred a number of skeletons, supposed to be the remains of British officers and soldiers, slain at the hard fought siege of Savannah, in October, 1779. They were buried in the vicinity of the Spring Hill redoubt, where was the heat of the action.

The graves of thirty and more tenants have been disturbed by the improvements of the day, and decayed skulls and other bones exposed to the inspection of the curious. We have in our possession pieces of plaid, composing part of the uniform of one of the slain; also some buttons, indicating by the stamp on them, that they belonged to soldiers of the 79th and 90th Regiments. A small piece of gold [] was also found, and a buckle, &c. Further excavations will probably lead to other discoveries. Col. Maitland’s regiment was the 71st (*The Georgian*, January 23, 1845:p.2, c.4).

The reference to the 79th and 90th Regiments is problematic, since neither regiment partook in the action. A follow-up article appeared one month later:

More Revolutionary Relics.

The laborers at the Rail Road Depot, on Tuesday, disinterred the remains of other officers or soldiers who were buried during the siege of Savannah. Numerous bones and skulls were exposed to the light of day- also, a portion of a military cap, several belt buckles with portions of the belts- a small gold buckle, probably a shoe buckle, an ivory comb, and last, not least, a moiety, apparently of a pistareen as the larger portion of the letters of the word *Hispaniarum* are visible. This piece of silver coin has a hole bored in it indicating that it was divided as a keepsake, or memento of love or affectionate regard for

some friend, from whom the wearer was separated. Both he who wore it and she for whom it was worn have been numbered with the dead, while curious eyes at this day can only conjecture the use of this mutilated coin, which perhaps served as a talisman to nerve the brave soldier in the deadly conflict (*Daily Georgian*, February 27, 1845:p.2, c.4).

A third newspaper article, which carries a residual tone of anti-Union sympathy characteristic of the Reconstruction era, appeared 16 years later:

Revolutionary Relics--Discovery of Human Bones, Old Coins, & c.

On Saturday last, while the workmen were engaged in excavating for the foundation of the new Freight Depot for the Savannah and Charleston Railroad, a number of interesting and curious relics of the past were discovered, which carry us back to the first rebellion in 1776 and by violent contrast to struggles more recent for the same great principles of self-government. The new freight depot is being built in the yard of the Central Railroad, south of the passenger depot. At this point was unearthed the bones of several human beings, and amongst them a human skull, to which was still adhering a bunch of hair, plaited in three plaits.

This skull evidently was that of an Indian, or one of the old school gentlemen of the period. There were also found a number of coins which, from their position (being in a pile together), had been in a bag or purse which had passed away into mother earth, saving the metal behind. Amongst the coin were two one dollar silver pieces and five Spanish quarters, bearing dates from 1754 to 1776.

Some of the bones were found in a regularly made grave, and it is reasonable to suppose had the excavation been continued more of these relics of the past would have been brought to light. Who knows but that old "Tomochichi" himself may not claim these remnants of mortality as his own, or that some of the distinguishing old "Rebs" who followed the noble Count Pulaski at the siege of Savannah may not quietly sleep at this spot, even amid the continual bustle and noise of the iron horse as it daily goes and comes.

This spot is a portion of the hill upon which, during the siege of Savannah in 1779, the Americans had erected a redoubt, and the conclusion is not harsh to suppose that the remains found are those of some of the first "Rebs" who died gallantly during battle for the right of self government. We hope the coin will be collected and preserved and that the Georgia Historical Society will through some light upon this interesting inquiry (*Savannah Morning News*, June 6, 1870:p.3, c.2).

The most famous casualty to result from the storming of the Spring Hill Redoubt was Casimir Pulaski to whom Savannah later erected a monument. Although mortally wounded, Pulaski was taken on board a ship where he lingered a few days before his death and burial.

Nathanael Greene, another American war hero and later owner of Mulberry Plantation in Chatham County, was buried in a family crypt in Savannah's Colonial cemetery. A search for his remains in the late nineteenth century was funded by the Rhode Island legislature (Rhode Island General Assembly 1903). This study positively identified the remains of Greene, a native of Rhode Island where he was subsequently reburied. This well-funded study was ahead of its time in the way it incorporated historical research, archival records, archaeological evidence, forensic research, and logical deduction to locate and identify Greene's remains.

Early Twentieth Century Studies

Cemetery relocations were conducted prior to inundation of U.S. Army Corps of Engineer lakes Allatoona, Clark Hill, Hartwell, Lanier, Russell, Seminole, and Walter F. George. These cemetery relocation projects were handled under contract with local mortuaries. Although some information was recorded on the geographic plan of the graves, tombstone type, name, birth and death dates, and corresponding plan of the relocated cemetery, the excavation was crude and nonscientific by modern archaeological standards.

The nineteenth century fascination with important historical persons, particularly military heroes, continued throughout the twentieth century and occasionally these projects involved archaeologists. Button Gwinnett, an American officer and signator of the Declaration of Independence was exhumed in Savannah in the late 1950s by Lewis Larson and others. Although no apparent report of the Button Gwinnett excavation was written, the excavation was photo-documented (see Marmaduke and Dolores B. Floyd papers, Georgia Historical Society).

A portion of the eighteenth century cemetery at Fort King George near Darien was excavated in the 1950s. Although many burials were exhumed, a complete report of these excavations was not completed (cited in Thomas 1993:26; William Kelso personal communication, May 9, 1999).

The reverence for Georgia's Revolutionary War heroes continued through the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s. William Few, an American Army officer who was buried in Augusta, was exhumed for the American Bicentennial. Colonel Maitland, an officer in the 71st Highland Regiment, who was killed in the 1779 Siege of Savannah, was exhumed in Savannah in 1982, although documentation for this was not located (Ed Brumby personal communication, September, 1999). The suspected remains of Casimir Pulaski were removed by the City of Savannah from his monument during repairs. Pulaski's skeletal remains were examined by a forensic anthropologist.

The tradition of memorializing the graves of military veterans continues to the present day with the efforts of private societies, such as the DAR, Daughters of the Confederacy (DAC), and the Sons of Confederate Veterans, to name only a few. This memorialization is also implemented at the federal level by the Veterans Affairs, which is authorized to spend public funds to mark the graves of previously unrecognized veterans. In many instances, the burials are relocated to national cemeteries.

Processural-Era Studies

Ceramics and buttons were recovered from three burials in the Cunningham Field Mound D on St. Catherine's Island. These nineteenth century burials were later described as the result of work by the American Museum of Natural History, New York (South 1976; Thomas et al. 1977).

The American Museum of Natural History conducted archaeological research at a Spanish mission site on St. Catherine's Island and from 1982-1986 a total of 431 "Christianized" Native American burials was excavated from the mission (Larsen 1992). D. H. Thomas and others have described these findings (see for example, Thomas 1988).

Several cemetery delineation and relocation projects were conducted prior to transportation developments in the metropolitan Atlanta area in the 1970s and 1980s. One of the first modern archaeological excavations of a historic Euro-American grave in Georgia was that of solitary Confederate Civil war soldier who was relocated prior to widening of Columbia Drive in DeKalb County in the Metropolitan Atlanta area, as reported by Georgia DOT archaeologist Rowe Bowen (1981). Bowen's study combined careful historical study and excavation to weave a convincing story of the death and burial of Jacob R. Wheeler, who, without this careful research, might otherwise have been simply known as anonymous.

Cemetery relocation in the Atlanta area resulted from the Atlanta and North Georgia Railway Construction in a pauper's section of Oakland Cemetery, Fulton County by Roy Dickens and Robert Blakely (Dickens

1982). The historic preservation advocates for Oakland Cemetery have maintained a proactive role in preserving and promoting this important historic cemetery (c.f., Zaworski 1997).

Prior to the construction of Marta's East Line, the relocation of the cemetery associated with the Nancy Creek Primitive Baptist Church was conducted by a grave removal firm in cooperation with an anthropological study by Garrow & Associates (Garrow 1985).

A small cemetery relocation project in rural Laurens County was monitored by University of Georgia anthropologist Marvin T. Smith in the late 1970s (Smith 1979). Although the archaeological component of this project was severely constrained, it was an important early contribution to cemetery studies in the interior coastal plain.

At the request of the landowner and descendants of the original Georgia Salzburgers a search was mounted in the early 1980s for first cemetery at Old Ebenezer in rural Effingham County. Old Ebenezer was occupied from 1734 to 1736 and, based on historical records many Salzburger immigrants died and were buried there. Tools that were brought to bear on the search included aerial reconnaissance courtesy of the 24th Army, remote sensing by Texas A & M anthropologists, and mechanical stripping directed by Armstrong State University Anthropologist Larry Babits (Larry Babits personal communication, June, 1994). Although Babits and his colleagues detected a large magnetic anomaly in the field, which was interpreted as remains of Old Ebenezer, no historic graves were identified by that project. A subsequent visit to the Old Ebenezer site by archaeologists with the LAMAR Institute provided no new information on the potential cemetery site (Elliott 1990a).

Cemetery relocation was conducted at the Mt. Gilead Baptist Church Cemetery in Muscogee County after graves were accidentally discovered during a U.S. Army construction project (Schnell 1983, 1984; Wood et al. 1986). This large, unmarked cemetery, whose burial population dated ca. 1832 to 1849, was documented by a multi-disciplinary effort involving archaeology, physical anthropology, historical research, and analytical chemistry. The Mt. Gilead project stands as a landmark study for the multi-disciplinary approach to historic cemetery investigations. The archaeological team worked closely with a cemetery removal company (Richardson Corporation) in completing this work.

An unusual historic cemetery project was the salvage recovery of many human remains from the Old Georgia Medical College in Augusta. There, workmen who were renovating the basement of the building uncovered human remains. Archaeologists and physical anthropologists investigated the site, which was determined to be the jumbled remains of many human skeletons, which were robbed from local cemeteries in the nineteenth century to provide medical students with human cadavers (Blakely and Harrington 1997).

Cemetery delineation and test excavation project was conducted in 1989 and 1990 by the LAMAR Institute, Historic Effingham Society, and Georgia Salzburger Society at Bethany Cemetery in rural Effingham County (Elliott 1990). Historical research had narrowed the search for the colonial cemetery to a 2-acre plot of ground, where the cemetery was likely located. Systematic shovel testing, heavy equipment trench and stripping, and shovel scraping were employed over two seasons to relocate 22 graves and refine the extent of the cemetery. One suspected grave was test excavated and a middle nineteenth century interment was confirmed. The cemetery likely contains many dozens of additional graves but these were not delineated. Two other large cemeteries that were part of the Ebenezer colony were recorded in early surveys

of the Ebenezer Mill District (Smith 1986). Sue Moore's excavated an isolated historic grave in southwestern Effingham County, possibly a murdered Salzburger woman (Sue Moore personal communication, January, 1991).

A cultural resource assessment was conducted in advance of proposed river bank stabilization at Greenwich Cemetery in Savannah, Georgia (Wayne and Dickinson 1990). Elsewhere in Savannah, the Colonial Cemetery has been investigated by a series of researchers and work there has included inventory, mapping, and excavation of four family crypts (Trinkley and Hacker 1999a, 1999b).

In addition, many intensive archaeological surveys that have been conducted under Section 106 compliance and Section 110 inventory have resulted in the location and recordation of many historic cemeteries. These are too numerous to list. The information that was recorded about these cemeteries by the various firms and individuals varies widely. At one end of the spectrum some researchers completely ignored them, as they were deemed to be outside the domain of archaeological interest, while at the other end other researchers carefully recorded epitaph information on individual graves in the cemeteries and prepared detailed plan maps. Most studies fell somewhere in between. In many cases the cemeteries were mentioned in the survey report but no archaeological site forms were completed for them. As a result, many may have escaped scrutiny and would not readily appear in a query of the site file data.

As Edward Bell's bibliography demonstrates, cemeteries can be used to address a wide variety of research topics (Bell 1994). An excellent example of cemetery research in Georgia is seen in the work of Diane Combs. Diane Combs (1978, 1986) studied gravestone art in Georgia and South Carolina, focusing primarily on cemeteries in the coastal cities, which was where the greatest concentration of tombstones with eighteenth and early nineteenth century iconography were located. Although Combs' study was nonintrusive and did not involve archaeological methods, it certainly had anthropological content and is important work for developing an understanding of the psychology behind early funerary-related sites. Her research is also important in demonstrating the types of serious anthropology research that can be conducted in Georgia using gravestones, cemetery art, and epitaph data.

Modern Era Studies (or projects conducted after 1992)

The year 1993 was a watershed for historic cemetery research in Georgia after legislation was enacted (Georgia Code Ann. §36-72-16). This state law authorized cemetery delineations and relocations and outlined methods for implementation under the supervision of professional archaeologists. Other Georgia laws that are relevant to historic cemeteries include: Dead Bodies (Georgia Code Ann. §31-21-5-6, 45), and Protection of American Indian Human Remains and Burial Objects (Georgia Code Ann. §44- 12-260, et seq.).

The management of historic cemeteries on Federal property is the responsibility of the appropriate federal agency. Native American burials, regardless if they are christianized Native Americans, fall under the purview of the Native American Grave Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) (Public Law 101-601-November 16, 1990). It should be noted, however, that the 1993 Georgia law is not applicable on federally owned property.

Cemetery Delineations

Cemetery delineations comprise the greatest volume of archaeological studies on historic cemeteries in Georgia since passage of the 1993 burial law. The Laboratory of Archaeology report files at the University of Georgia include less than a dozen reports written in the seven years since that law was enacted that deal with delineation or excavation of historic cemeteries.

Archaeological investigation of historic cemeteries prior to 1993 was quite erratic and many cemeteries were relocated without archaeological supervision. Since 1993, more than 100 cemeteries have been delineated in Georgia using archaeological techniques. Most of these have been in the metropolitan Atlanta region.

The leader in cemetery delineation, measured in terms of total projects conducted (n=65), is TRC Garrow (formerly Garrow & Associates). Their experience in cemetery delineations is too numerous to itemize here but it includes work primarily in the metropolitan Atlanta region.

The firm of New South Associates has conducted a number of cemetery studies since the Georgia burial statute was enacted. Cemetery delineation or monitoring projects conducted by New South since 1993 include: Golf West, Cousins Properties, First Union/Augusta (Olympia Development), Gresham (Rockdale County), Holly Springs (Cobb County), J. M. Huber, McGowan, Humphrey Hills, Hog Mountain Church, Toomey, Concord, Edwards, Northwest Parkway, SR120/Duluth, Sugarloaf Farms, Founder's Parkway, Temco Tract, Stillwater, Stone Mountain, Panthersville Road (DeKalb County), Weiss (Gwinnett County), and Kennedy Cemetery (Tom Wheaton personal communication, July, 2000).

As of December, 1999, the firm of R. S. Webb Associates had conducted ten cemetery delineations in Cobb County, and one each in Gwinnett, Forsyth, Fulton, and Pickens counties. These include the following cemeteries: Lithia Springs Road, an anonymous grave site in Cobb County, Turner-Sewell, Potterstone (Gwinnett County), Moon, Sardis Baptist Church (Kennesaw), Noonday (aka Settlers Memorial Cemetery), Allatoona, Harmony Grove (Shallowford Road), Shiloh Road (Kennesaw), Ceciero Brooks Homeplace (Pickens County), Shipp (Collegiate Drive), Silver Creek/Strickland (Forsyth County), and Thompson (State Bridge Rd., Fulton County). Although several grave excavation projects were conducted in neighboring states, no cemetery removal or relocation projects have been undertaken in Georgia by R. S. Webb Associates (Mary Elizabeth Gantt personal communication, December 16, 1999).

Southeastern Archeological Services had completed 38 cemetery delineations in about 20 Georgia counties. Reports of this work include: Braley (1995, 1997); Braley and Ledbetter (1993); Braley and Moffat (1995); and Gresham (1995a, 1995b, 1999a, 1999b).

Site 9Me509, located on an upland landform between Randall and Upatoi creeks in Muscogee County, Georgia, was a small cemetery inadvertently discovered by a soldier excavating a foxhole at the Fort Benning Military Reservation. This cemetery was delineated by Brockington and Associates but was not excavated (Gardner 1997). Other cemetery delineations were conducted by Brockington and Associates, but no information was available for these projects.

Southern Research has conducted only one cemetery delineation, which was the Cook family cemetery in Jones County (Weisman 1999). Southern Research has located and recorded numerous cemeteries in their surveys of more than 55,000 acres at the Fort Benning Military Reservation. While the locations of most of these were previously known, several unknown

cemeteries were located, several misplaced ones were located, and epitaph and geographical data were recorded for others.

A late nineteenth or early twentieth century cemetery was discovered during archaeological excavations by the LAMAR Institute at Fort Argyle (9BN28) in Bryan County, Georgia (Elliott 1997). This cemetery, located on Federal property, is located immediately outside of the walls of a colonial fort. This example points to a pattern linking cemeteries to early fort sites. Several other forts, including Fort King George, Fort Mount Pleasant (Goldwire-Morel cemetery), and Fort Frederica, all have cemeteries in close proximity to the fort ruins (William Kelso, personal communication May, 1999). While many of these graves are civilians and may postdate the military occupation, a sizable portion of these graves may represent soldiers stationed at their respective garrisons.

Research at Savannah's Colonial cemetery has spanned many decades since the cemetery was closed to interments in the middle 1800s. The recent work at this large cemetery is summarized in Trinkley and Hacker (1999a). Excavation projects in this cemetery include the search for Nathaniel Greene, Button Gwinnett, and the Chicora Foundation's recent examination of four family vaults (Trinkley and Hacker 1999b). By their recent estimate, this cemetery may contain more than 10,000 graves.

Cemetery Relocations

Man-made reservoirs are a major disruptor of historic cemetery sites in Georgia. USCOE cemetery relocation reports for Hartwell, Clark Hill, and Russell Reservoirs are on file at the USCOE Savannah District, Real Estate Division in Savannah. Similar documents may exist for USCOE lakes that are managed by the Mobile District, but these were not researched for this monograph. A general inventory of historic cemeteries and test excavations at the Floyd cemetery (9Br258) in the USCOE's Allatoona Lake was conducted by Brockington and Associates (Butler and Roberts 1996). A comprehensive plan for the management of historic cemeteries in the USCOE lakes by the Mobile District is being developed (Ernest Seckinger personal communication November, 1999).

Elliott examined government documents pertaining to the relocation of 51 historic cemeteries in the USCOE's Clark Hill/Strom Thurmond Reservoir (which includes 41 cemeteries in Georgia). Elliott attempted to summarize these data, which were documented in a series of typed reports (See for example, USCOE 1953). The location information that was provided for the cemeteries in the USCOE reports was not specific enough to allow an accurate pinpointing of the cemetery sites on a detailed topographic map but their general locations were noted in his report (Elliott 1995:156-162). Subsequent documents indicate that not all of the historic burials were removed from at least one of these cemeteries in Lake Clark Hill. At the Old Petersburg cemetery, which had been relocated to an upland site in Elbert County, three to four additional graves were reported exposed in February, 1989 when the lake level dropped significantly because of drought. These included the identified grave of Robert Davies Roundtree, an infant who died on July 18, 1802, which was marked by a tombstone (Meier 1989; Coleman 1989; McCullough 1989). Although Petersburg was the second largest town in Georgia at the beginning of the nineteenth century, only 52 graves were exhumed from the Old Petersburg graveyard prior to construction of the reservoir. Although no mortality statistics are available for Petersburg, by conservative estimate, 400 people probably died in town during Petersburg's heyday (Elliott

1988; Rita Elliott personal communication November 8, 1999). Interestingly, historic cemeteries were not considered archaeological sites (or part of the archaeological researcher's domain) when Clark Hill lake was built and none were recorded by archaeologists Carl Miller or Joseph Caldwell, nor were any considered as important historic sites by the project's historian.

Following the accidental disturbance of a historic cemetery during the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' construction of a boat ramp in Talbot County, Georgia six graves were excavated. These graves spanned the time range from ca. 1825 to 1920 (Garrow and Symes 1987). These graves may be associated with a Smith family cemetery, which was approximately 180 feet from the excavated graves.

Expansion of kaolin mines in the counties that form Georgia's Kaolin Belt, have destroyed many acres and several cemeteries have been relocated in that section of central Georgia. A cemetery, located at Deepstep, Georgia, facing impact by this industrial development, was excavated by Southeastern Archeological Services (Gresham 1991; Braley 1992). Similar studies by that CRM firm in adjacent areas soon followed (Braley and Ledbetter 1993; Braley and Moffat 1995; Braley 1995).

Sue Moore and students with Georgia Southern University have delineated two cemeteries in the Wrightsboro vicinity of McDuffie County (Moore 1991, 1996).

With the passage of the 1993 burial law a new "sub-industry" was created in Georgia, that of archaeological cemetery removal services. Since 1993, burials from more than 25 cemeteries have been removed by (or under the supervision of) archaeologists. The leader in this work, measured in terms of total projects conducted (n=15), is TRC Garrow. Projects conducted by them include: Attaway and Collins-Loyd (Cobb County), Fuller (Calhoun, Ga.), Gordon County Multi-Facility, Greenwood Industrial Park (Amis), Hopewell (Fulton County), Jefferson (Jefferson, Ga.), Killian Hill Road, Lawrenceville, Pleasant Hill, and Snellville (Gwinnett County), Nancy Creek (DeKalb County), Martin (Douglas County), Pine Ridge (Butts County), and a cemetery in Clarke County.

Approximately six projects conducted by New South have involved grave removal. These include: Hubert Properties, Mitchell Bridge Road, J.M. Huber Cemetery, Apalachee Farms, Weiss (Gwinnett County), and First Union/Augusta (Olympia Development) (Tom Wheaton personal communication, July, 2000).

Southeastern Archeological Services has conducted 12 grave removal projects, including: Deepstep A.M.E. Church, Ennis, and the Franklin property (Washington County), Frances T. McWilliams property (Wilkinson County), Mt. Gilead (Muscogee County), Brassel (Jackson County), Owens (Hall County), Parland (Glynn County), Redfield (Jones County), Theophilus Flowers (Troup County), Tompkins-Hunter (Columbia County), and Wages-Oldham (Barrow County) (Braley 1992; Braley and Ledbetter 1993; Braley and Moffat 1995; Gresham 1999a, 1999b, 2000). Another five cemetery relocation projects, located in five counties, are currently in progress.

Southern Research Historic Preservation Consultants has conducted one cemetery removal, which was the Cook family cemetery in Jones County (Weisman 1999). The Cook cemetery was located on the outskirts of Clinton, Georgia.

A solitary late nineteenth or early twentieth century hexagonal wooden coffin, which was discovered eroding from a potential development was removed from Hutchison Island, Chatham County, in 1992 and a report describing the remains was prepared for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District, by Southeastern Archeological Services (Elliott and Harrington 1994).

Distribution of Historic Cemeteries in Georgia

How common are historic cemeteries across Georgia's landscape? Of course they are very common but a precise answer to this simple question is not easily derived. As of May, 2000, the USGS, GNIS database contains 5,584 entries for cemeteries in Georgia, which reflects a statewide frequency distribution of one cemetery per 4,120 acres. Of these, only three fall within the boundaries of Fort Benning. The GNIS dataset is comprised of named cemeteries that appear, or have appeared, on federal maps.

As the GNIS data suggests, however, this estimate probably under-represents the actual frequency distribution by a substantial margin. In urban areas the frequency of cemeteries is probably much higher, because that is where most of the people were. The frequency distribution is influenced by other factors such as: transportation routes and transportation mode, land ownership patterns, rural community population distributions, the length of time a particular region of the site was available for non-Native American settlement, and the religious affiliation and burial practices of the community.

The Fort Benning Military Reservation, below Columbus, is a well studied region that may approximate the frequency of cemeteries in the Fall Line and Sand Hills provinces. Fort Benning contains approximately 182,000 acres (including lands in Alabama) and approximately 75 cemeteries have been identified within its confines. This number combines information derived from historical inventories and intensive archaeological surveys. Most of the reservation has been intensively surveyed for archaeological sites and the number of cemetery sites on the unsurveyed portion is not expected to increase significantly. From these data a conservative estimate of one cemetery per 2,500 acres is to be expected for these physiographic regions. The close proximity to a large urban center (Columbus) would be expected to affect the distribution and frequency of cemeteries, although, as the distribution map illustrates, this effect may not be all that significant. Given the amount of remaining unsurveyed land on Fort Benning, plus the heavy impacts to many areas caused by 80 years of military training, it is not unreasonable to expect that the actual frequency of historic cemeteries within the 182,000 acres is considerably higher than 75 cemeteries. A more accurate estimate of the frequency of historic cemeteries in these physiographic zones would be on the order of one cemetery per 1,500 acres. The frequency in the piedmont may be substantially higher. Other regions, such as portions of the interior coastal plain, may have substantially lower cemetery frequency distributions. If one accepts the premise that the observed distribution of 1:2,500 acres approximates the state average, then one can project that more than 9,203 historic cemeteries exist in Georgia's more than 23 million acres. If the state frequency is closer to 1:1,500 acres, then an estimate of 15,338 cemeteries is derived for the state. This probably represents a conservative estimate since the eastern part of the state was settled nearly 100 years more than the western part, where Fort Benning is located.

Recommendations of the Historic Cemetery Committee

Historic cemetery research is an important anthropological and archaeological endeavor and the information generated by cemetery studies, sparked largely by recent state legislation, has important scientific and historical value. Cemeteries are widely distributed in Georgia and we provide a conservative estimate of over 15,000 statewide. Of these, possibly two-thirds are undocumented. Here are a few facts about Georgia's historic cemeteries:

- at least 15,000 cemeteries exist in Georgia;
- 457 cemeteries are recorded in the GASF site files;
- 32 cemeteries are listed in the NRHP;
- 5,584 cemeteries are available in the USGS GNIS files;
- at least 100 cemeteries have been delineated by archaeologists, and;
- graves from 25 cemeteries have been excavated by archaeologists for relocation.

Information on cemeteries is available from many different sources but no central clearinghouse for this information has been established. While reporting is requisite for cemetery excavation and relocation projects, the legal statute is vague concerning the final disposition of this information. Consequently, no central clearinghouse for these cemetery reports exists in Georgia. While numerous agencies in the state may have a need for this information, it is presently difficult, if not impossible to access. We recommend that the Georgia Archaeological Site Files (GASF) be established as the primary repository for reports on cemetery delineations and cemetery excavations in Georgia. Completed state archaeological site forms for each cemetery site also should be submitted to the GASF as part of the reporting process. While in some instances for cemetery delineations the paper trail consists of a short letter report, copies of these also should be filed with the GASF. Copies of reports and letter reports of cemetery projects also should be submitted to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Division. The project's principal investigator is responsible for assuring that reports of this work are properly filed. Since the above recommendations are not mandated by state law, the GCPA should lobby to incorporate them as modifications to the existing statute.

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