CHAPTER III

CEMETERY SITE ARCHAEOLOGY 38CH920

INTRODUCTION

Archaeological site 38CH920, an abandoned Union Army cemetery, was found in the south-central portion of Folly Island (Figure 1.2, 3.1). It covered an open, small sandy knoll surrounded by mixed deciduous and coniferous vegetation (Figure 3.2). The site had remained undeveloped, although it had been logged three times. The knoll is part of an interior dune ridge, ranging in elevation from 7.55 ft to 10.89 ft (3.32 m) above MSL. These elevations have, however, only a relative association to the contemporary site topography. Since the cemetery was discovered after construction of a roadbed had started, elevations recorded during the archaeological investigations can only be compared to the developer's maps for some indication of the cemetery's original topography. Further discussion of this problem is presented below. In any case, the destruction of the topsoil (A horizon) and original surface by bulldozers left the site area like a loose sandy beach. The new surface consisted of pure sandy subsoil, and until SCIAA arrived, subject to constant change by heavy equipment travel. Therefore, the provenience of artifacts and features found in the upper 20 cm of the entire site must be treated with caution.

A 0/0 point was established on the highest site elevation (10.89 ft or 3.32 m MSL), and magnetic north/south, east/west lines were drawn. The on-site datum was tied to a nail driven into a tree off-site. This elevation nail was 42' from magnetic North, and 26.30 m from the 0/0 point. It was placed by professional surveyors. The nail, which is still in place, is 10.04 ft or 3.06 m above MSL. Because the loose sandy soil on site made it difficult to take consistent elevation readings, the instrument height of the transit was monitored closely and checked daily against the fixed elevation nail. Later, professional surveyors tied the 0/0 point into the developer's project control points 1540 and 1054 located along W. Indian Ave. (1054 is at 301,545.83606 Northing, 2,324,211.39887 Easting, State Coordinate System). The 0/0 point can be relocated by bearing 153.31° (MN) from point 1054 to 1540, distance 650.88 ft (or 333° MN from 1540 to 1040). Using the line struck from 1054 to 1540, turn 265°, distance 591.69 ft, to a random point. From this random point, turn 170°, distance 230.67 ft, to the 0/0 point.

Fieldwork began with two simultaneous excavation techniques. Open block excavations were begun immediately around Burial 1, exposed by grading, while other archaeologists systemically explored the site with screened 50 x 50 cm shovel tests at 2 m grid intervals. The shovel testing was not entirely satisfactory in locating burials, so the search methodology was changed to slot trenching along the lines of the established grid. The trench dirt was screened through 1/4 in hardware cloth. The trenches were 30 cm (a shovel width) in size, and varied in length depending on the size of the exposed road cut.

Block excavations consisted of 2 x 2 m units, placed where burials were discovered. These units were sometimes expanded in 1 x 2 or 2 x 2 m blocks as needed. Fifty-four square meters were exposed in this manner.

RESULTS

Beach sand deposits, with little natural stratigraphy, characterized the subsoil at 38CH920. A 50 x 50 cm unit control was excavated in an undisturbed area of the site (12S/0W), and except for the addition of topsoil, no visible differences were observed between the undisturbed and disturbed areas. Munsell color coding at the site indicated that the sands began as a light yellowish brown (10YR6/4) on the surface and became more coarse and slightly gray with increasing depth (Figure 3.3). This change was so slight that the Principal Investigator could distinguish no Munsell value or chroma differences and probably was the result of differences in moisture content. Indeed, it was often difficult to distinguish archaeological back-filled shovel tests in exposed block excavations once the soils dried. Irregular dark banding of the sands appeared randomly in some of the test unit profiles. These bands were more pronounced on the dune at 38CH964, where it was easy to see angled wind-blown dune deposits, which overlay deeply buried horizontal Late Holocene beach-face deposits (Mark Brooks, personal communication April 3, 1989).

Shovel Tests

Ninety-one shovel tests were excavated. Most were spaced at two meter intervals across the site. The shovel tests ranged in depth from 80 cm to one meter below the surface. The interval was reduced to one meter where the burial density was greatest, and increased to four meters when no cultural manifestations were revealed (Figure 3.1). The shovel tests were used to find burials, and when artifacts or bone were discovered, a block excavation unit
was superimposed over the shovel test. Materials from positive shovel tests were incorporated into the burial findings where possible. Some shovel tests did not reveal a burial but did recover artifacts. Forty-three artifacts, found in shovel tests (Appendix F), could not be associated with a burial. They include 21 nails located at 10S/12W (depth 50-70 cm), rubber blanket fragments at 4S/14W (depth 0-20 cm), an iron four-hole button and 10 nails at 10S/14W (depth 0-20 cm), a pale-green bottle glass fragment at 4S/16W (surface), a clear glass medicine bottle rim at 6S/19W (depth 0-40 cm), six nails at 4S/20W (depth 0-25 cm), another nail at ON/23W (depth 0-25 cm), and an unidentified metal object (two joining fragments) at 10S/23W (surface). The large number of nails at 10S/12W and 10S/14W would imply the presence of a burial, but no bone was discovered. This southwest area was in the lowest elevation on the site and the artifacts perhaps represent trash deposits or an empty grave.

Slot Trenches
Seven slot trenches were dug to a depth of 80 to 95 cm below the surface. They were located along the 7W, 9W, 11W, 16W, 19W, 21W, and 22W lines (Figure 3.1). The interval along the 7W line from 0 to 4S was excavated to only 20 cm. Like shovel tests, the slot trenches were used to discover burials, and the artifacts located during trench excavation usually could be incorporated as part of a burial. Only eight trench artifacts were not associated with a burial. They were six dark olive-green bottle fragments found along the trench at 7W, and two olive-green bottle fragments found along trench 9W.

Beyond the established grid, two other slot trenches were placed on the next southerly ridge from the immediate site area. These trenches, placed perpendicular to each other to form a "T", were 60 m and 244' (magnetic) southwest of the 0/0 point. The depth of these trenches was from 65 to 80 cm. The fill of these trenches was not screened. No burials or artifacts were found in these two trenches (12 m and 8 m in length).

Burials
In the individual burial descriptions that follow, an effort has been made to determine what articles of military and civilian attire are represented by surviving material. (A full discussion of uniform components and their associated hardware is found in Chapter V.) The disturbed nature of most of the burials made this effort an imperfect process of elimination. In only two cases (Burials 5 and 14) could the artifact assemblage be considered intact, and both of these individuals, ironically, were virtually unclothed. Artifacts in all other burials were subject to removal by several agents, including historic reburial efforts, road grading, and relic collecting. These agents also disturbed the original placement of many artifacts within the burials, providing the archaeologist with only a general provenience. The artifacts listed in the individual burial descriptions include only those diagnostics that aided feature interpretation. For a complete artifact inventory see Appendix F.

**BURIAL 1 (1.5S/20W)**

**Type:** primary interment  
**Position:** extended, supine  
**Orientation:** east-west, head to west  
**Condition:**  
Preservation: fair to good  
Articulation: poor, only humeri and lower legs in correct anatomical position  
Completeness: Poor; badly disturbed due to road construction, no cranium [unless otherwise specified, assume no cranium for remaining burials]

**Skeletal Data:**  
Sex: male Age: 19-22 years  
Stature: 168.8 (+/- 3.78) cm or ~5'6"  
Strength: moderate  
Pathology: 2 Harris lines, tibia infection (healed)

**Diagnostic Artifacts:** 2 large eagle buttons, 1 small eagle button, 9 four-hole iron buttons, 1 four-hole bone button, 8 rubber blanket grommets, rubber blanket fragments, 1 forage cap strap fragment

**Grave:** 200 cm e/w x 75 cm n/s (6.53 ft x 2.46 ft)

Discussion: This first burial was found from 20 to 40 cm below the surface, but it had been partially exposed by construction and discovered by relic collectors. A 2 x 2 m unit was opened over the burial as the first excavation activity. A light grave stain was visible, but neither coffin nor nails were recovered. The individual was wrapped in a rubber blanket for burial, as indicated by both grommets and blanket fragments. Clothing was uncertain, but probably included either a uniform coat or sack coat (suggested by large eagle buttons), uniform trousers (suggested by iron buttons), and a forage cap (suggested by the strap fragment). A civilian shirt was suggested by a single four-hole bone button. No evidence was found of drawers or shoes. A fragment of a ball-clay pipe also was found in the burial.

most of thoracic, pelvic areas, and
Figure 3.1: Site 38CH920, General Site Map.
BURIAL 2 (OS/20W)
Type: primary interment
Position: extended, supine, hands across abdomen
Orientation: east-west, head to west
Condition:
Preservation: fair to good
Articulation: partial, upper body only
Completeness: most of lower body missing or disturbed
Skeletal Data:
Sex: male Age: 21-23
Stature: 172.69 (+/- 3.94) cm or ~ 5' 8"
Strength: slight
Pathology: 3 slight Linear Enamel Hypoplasia (LEH), Schmorl's nodes, healed femur infection
Diagnostic Artifacts: 1 large eagle button, 7 four-hole iron buttons, 9 rubber blanket grommets, rubber blanket fragments, 1 forage cap buckle.
Grave: ?, skeletal remains and stain appear to be 200 cm e/w x 75 cm n/s (6.53 ft x 2.46 ft)
Discussion: Found approximately 50 cm (20 in) north of the Burial 1 grave stain, this burial also was first found near the surface (24 cm) and was highly disturbed. Most of the right side of the skeleton was disturbed, while the left half was much more complete (Figure 3.4). A grave feature was seen, but no wood or coffin nails were found in association with the burial. Grommets and fragments indicate that this individual was wrapped in a rubber blanket. The single large eagle button (found resting on the sternum) could be from either a uniform coat or a sack coat. Uniform trousers and a forage cap were evident. There was no evidence for drawers or shoes.

BURIAL 3 (2.5S/20W)
Type: primary interment
Position: extended, supine
Orientation: east-west, head to west
Condition:
Preservation: fair to good
Articulation: most of cervical vertebrae, lower legs, upper arms articulated
Completeness: poor; no cranium,
femurs missing

**Skeletal Data:**
- **Sex:** male  
- **Age:** 16-18  
- **Stature:** 169.02 (+/-3.78) cm or ~5'6"  
- **Strength:** marked

**Pathology:** Spina Bifida, LEH

**Diagnostic Artifacts:** 2 large eagle buttons, 2 small eagle buttons, 2 four-hole iron buttons, 2 four-hole bone buttons, 12 rubber blanket grommets, sheet brass number "5", rubber blanket fragments, wood coffin fragments, 2 forage cap strap fragments, 1 iron suspender buckle  

**Grave:** 7 skeletal remains within 175 cm e/w x 75 cm n/s (5.74 ft x 2.46 ft)

**Discussion:** This burial was located approximately 60 cm (24 in) south of the Burial 1 grave stain, first appearing at 25 cm below the surface. This individual was wrapped in a rubber blanket and buried in a wooden coffin. Attire probably included either a uniform coat or sack coat, uniform trousers, a forage cap, a civilian shirt with bone buttons, and suspenders. There was no evidence of drawers or shoes. The most interesting artifact from this burial was a small, sheet-brass "5" insignia, apparently the by-product of stencil manufacture, with an attachment device soldered to the back. It is reasonable to speculate that this is half of a non-regulation "55" regimental forage cap insignia, handcrafted by a soldier (see Chapters II and V).

**BURIALS 4 AND 6 (6S/14W AND 5S/19W)**  
**Type:** unknown B4, B6  
**Position:** unknown B4, B6  
**Orientation:** unknown B4, B6  
**Condition:**  
- **Preservation:** both fair  
- **Articulation:** no articulated remains found for either  
- **Completeness:** poor, badly disturbed

**Skeletal Data:**  
- **Sex:** males  
- **Age:** No. 4, 24-32; No. 6, 23+  
- **Stature:** 169.02 (+/-3.78) cm or ~5'6"  
- **Strength:** marked  
- **Pathology:** Spina Bifida, LEH

**Diagnostic Artifacts:** 2 large eagle buttons, 2 small eagle buttons, 2 four-hole iron buttons, 2 forage cap buckle, 1 brass suspender buckle, 1 iron eye from a hook and eye cloth-

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**Figure 3.3:** Site 38CH920, Representative soil profile.

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reconstructing attachment, coffin wood fragments.

Grave: B4 at least 138 cm e/w by x 40 cm n/s (4.52 ft x 1.31 ft), B6 unknown

Discussion: These two burials were found so disturbed by grading that excavators were unable to sort artifacts and bone in the field. Furthermore, feature stains were very indistinct during excavation. Bone material from Burial 4 first appeared near the surface at 25 cm, and only after complete exposure of both burials was it possible to reconstruct that Burial 6 was first seen at 58 cm below the disturbed surface. At the base of both burials, two grave outlines were partially discerned. Based on reconstruction, they appear to have been approximately 20 cm apart. Skeletal analysis confirmed two individuals. Both interments appear to have been in coffins, but without rubber blanket shrouds. However, in a shovel test at 4S/14W, north of Burial 6, rubber blanket fragments were found in the first 20 cm and may be part of these burials. Despite the very disturbed condition of the burials, the quantity and variety of artifacts present allow determinations of their attire with some precision. Both were buried in nine-

Figure 3.4: Site 38CH920, Burial 2.
I --- --- - - I
[89x820]I
[88x799]Ir
[137x799]..-
[151x790]__ -_______ - - - I
[505x652].
[0x0],
[57x731]ton uniform coats rather than sack coats. Both apparently wore uniform trousers, and at least one forage cap and one pair of suspenders were indicated. There was no evidence for either drawers or shoes.

BURIAL 5 (7.5S/19W)
Type: primary interment
Position: extended, supine, hands across abdomen
Orientation: east-west, head to west
Condition:
Preservation: very good
Articulation: very good, undisturbed
Completeness: complete, including cranium
Skeletal Data:
Sex: male Age: 35-40 Stature: 171.09 (+/- 3.53) cm or -5' 7"
Strength: marked
Pathology: caries, tibia infection, Schmorl's nodes
Diagnostic Artifacts: 9 four-hole iron buttons, coffin fragments
Grave: 230 cm e/w x 75 cm n/s (7.5 ft x 2.46 ft)
Discussion: The grave stain of this burial was first seen at 2.01 m MSL, and the skeletal material was found at 1.86 m MSL, or approximately 48 cm below the disturbed surface. The stain continued into the west wall of the unit and joined with another stain at Burial 12 (see also Burial 12). One of only two complete skeletons found at this site, the burial was in excellent condition (Figure 3.5). Analysis of the skulls of this burial and Burial 14 provided the strongest evidence of black racial affinity among the burials at 38CH920 (see Appendix A). The coffin was poorly preserved, but it was clearly hexagonal, with nails still in place. No rubber blanket grommets or material fragments were present. Uniform trousers were represented by exactly the correct number (nine) of iron buttons. It is possible that a pull-over shirt or a shirt with wooden buttons also was worn by this soldier. This speculation, of course, might apply to any of the burials. However, it seems particularly apt in the case of a soldier buried in a substantial coffin, but unshrouded, and otherwise half-naked (see also Burial 14). No shoes were suggested in this burial.

BURIAL 7 (7.25S/16W)
Type: primary interment
Position: extended, supine
Orientation: east-west, head to west
Condition:
Preservation: fair to good
Articulation: partial, upper body only
Completeness: lower body missing or disturbed
Skeletal Data:
Sex: male Age: 20-24 Stature: 153.05 (+/- 4.43) cm or 5' 0"
Strength: moderate
Pathology: Schmorl's nodes
Diagnostic Artifacts: 4 four-hole iron buttons, 1 four-hole bone button, 14 rubber blanket grommets and fragments, wood coffin fragments and nails
Grave: none seen (coffin and skeletal stain only 200 cm x 40 cm, 6.5 ft x 1.3 ft)
Discussion: First discovered 36 cm below the surface, this was another highly disturbed burial; the spinal column was articulated, but severely curved in the grave (Figure 3.6). Only the upper chest area was found in situ. This individual was interred in a hexagonal coffin and shrouded in at least one rubber blanket. Uniform trousers and possibly a civilian shirt are the only other articles of clothing suggested.

BURIAL 8 (7S/22W)
Type: primary interment
Position: extended, supine
Orientation: east-west, head to west
Condition:
Preservation: fair to good
Articulation: very poor, only feet and right fibula articulated
Completeness: poor, badly disturbed
Skeletal Data:
Sex: male Age: 30-35 Stature: short Strength: marked
Pathology: Caries, abscess, Schmorl's nodes
Diagnostic Artifacts: 2 large eagle buttons, 2 four-hole iron buttons, 1 gilt-brass button, whittled lead scraps, wood coffin fragments

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Discussion: Skeletal material was first seen approximately 85 cm below the surface. Therefore, while this burial was highly disturbed, the agent of disturbance could not have been construction. The bone inside the coffin was very jumbled due to partial exhumation (see Chapter III: Interpretations), looting, or some other agent. No rubber blanket shroud was present. This soldier was buried in either a uniform coat or a sack coat and uniform trousers. The article of clothing represented by the civilian brass button is unknown, as is an explanation for the lead scraps present in the burial (these are not impacted bullet fragments). No drawers or shoes were indicated.

BURIAL 9 (5.5S/16W)
Type: primary interment
Position: extended, prone
Orientation: east-west, head to east
Condition:
Preservation: fair to good
Articulation: partial; cervical and thoracic vertebrae, and some ribs articulated
Completeness: poor, badly disturbed
Skeletal Data:
Sex: male  Age: 19-21
Stature: 174.43 (+/- 3.94) cm or ~5' 9"
Strength: slight
Pathology: Schmorl’s nodes
Diagnostic Artifacts: 1 large eagle button, 7 four-hole iron buttons, 1 four-hole bone button, wood coffin fragments and nails, rubber blanket fragments, 7 rubber blanket grommets
Grave: not visible

Discussion: This burial was originally found by relic collectors and had been disturbed by construction. SCIAA’s excavations encountered it at around 20 cm from the disturbed surface. The most interesting attributes of the burial was that it was oriented with the head to the east, and was found in a prone position, unlike any of the others. Oyster shell and bottle fragments were found in association with the burial. Burial 9 was part of a complex of disturbed graves including Burials 4 and 6. The individual represented here was interred in a coffin with a rubber blanket shroud. Attire included either a uniform coat or sack coat, uniform trousers, and possibly a civilian shirt. No drawers or shoes were indicated.

BURIAL 10 (3S/10W)
Type: primary interment
Position: extended, supine
Orientation: east-west, head to west
Condition:
Preservation: fair to good
Articulation: partial, vertebrae and lower legs articulated
Completeness: poor, upper body badly disturbed
Skeletal Data:
Sex: male  Age: 23-25
Stature: 172.53 (+/- 3.78) cm or ~5' 8"
Strength: moderate
Pathology: fused little toe
Diagnostic Artifacts: 2 four-hole iron buttons
Grave: not visible

Discussion: This individual was buried in neither coffin nor rubber blanket. The remains were first seen at approximately 28 cm below the surface. A grave stain was not observed except immediately around the skeleton. It is possible that a small shallow grave was prepared, just

Figure 3.6: Site 38CH920, Burial 7.
large enough to accommodate the body. Uniform trousers were the only article of clothing suggested by the artifacts, although heavy disturbance may have removed many diagnostic artifacts.

BURIAL 11 (5S/10W)
Type: primary interment
Position: extended, supine
Orientation: east - west, head to west
Condition:
Preservation: fair to good
Articulation: poor, parts of rib cage and vertebrae articulated
Completeness: poor, badly disturbed

Skeletal Data:
Sex: male
Age: 20-25
Strength: large feet
Pathology: LEH-1
Diagnostic Artifacts: 11 large eagle buttons, 3 small eagle buttons, 10 four-hole iron buttons, 3 four-hole white glass buttons, 2 rubber blanket grommets, 2 hooks and 1 eye fasteners, 2 Confederate .577/.58 Pritchett-pattern bullets, 1 unfired percussion cap

Grave: 200 cm e/w x 50 cm n/s (6.5 ft x 1.6 ft)

Discussion: Part of the heavy disturbance around this shallow (28 cm below the surface) burial was caused by tree roots. The burial contained oyster shell, as did Burial 9. There was no coffin, but a rubber blanket shroud was probably present. The massive disturbance to this burial was especially unfortunate as the artifact assemblage was the most complete found at 38CH920. This individual was dressed in a uniform coat, uniform trousers, and either drawers or a civilian shirt, as evidenced by white glass buttons. No shoes were indicated. The unfired Confederate bullets and fired percussion cap recovered within the burial were of special interest. These may have been battlefield souvenirs, buried with the soldier in his trousers pocket.

BURIAL 12 (8.5S/21W)
Type: primary interment
Position: extended, supine
Orientation: east - west, head to west
Condition:
Preservation: fair to good
Articulation: poor, only lower leg and both feet articulated
Completeness: very poor

Skeletal Data:
Sex: male
Age: 25-30
Stature: 166 (+/- 3.94) cm or -5' 5''
Strength: ?
Pathology: Tibia infection, pipe smoker, hand fracture, LEH-2
Diagnostic Artifacts: melted bullet lead, wood coffin fragments and nails

Grave: 200 cm e/w x 75 cm n/s (6.5 ft x 2.4 ft)

Discussion: This burial had a very distinct coffin stain. However, most of the coffin had deteriorated by the time it was exposed, although fragments of wood were collected beginning only a few cm below the surface. Many of the 143 nails and wood fragments were found in situ along the distinct outline of the coffin stain. The human remains, however, were very incomplete. Also missing were any clothing-related artifacts originally present. The presence of a melted lead bullet in the burial remains unexplained.

BURIAL 13 (1S/11W)
Type: primary interment
Position: extended, supine
Orientation: east - west, head to west
Condition:
Preservation: fair to good
Articulation: poor, vertebral column, some ribs, humeri and feet articulated
Completeness: very poor, disturbed

Skeletal Data:
Sex: male
Age: 25-30
Stature: 170.01 (+/- 4.43) cm or -5' 7''
Strength: extreme
Pathology: Schmorl’s nodes, os acromiali
Diagnostic Artifacts: 1 large eagle button, 6 four-hole iron buttons, 5 four-hole black glass buttons

Grave: 200+ cm e/w x 50 cm n/s (6.5 ft x 1.6 ft), distinct stain

Discussion: Like many of the other burials, the cranium and lower body were missing, with the feet remaining in articulated position. The skeletal material first appeared
approximately 36 cm below the surface. This burial was interred without a coffin or rubber blanket shroud. Clothing included either a uniform coat or a sack coat, uniform trousers, and either a civilian shirt or drawers, as evidenced by the black glass buttons. Shoes were not indicated. (See also the discussion of Burial 18.)

BURIAL 14 (7.5S/10W)
Type: primary interment
Position: extended, supine, hands across abdomen
Orientation: east-west, head to west
Condition:
Preservation: very good
Articulation: excellent
Completeness: complete
Skeletal Data:
Sex: male Age: 30-35
Stature: 167.64 (+/- 3.53) cm or ~5'10"
Strength: extreme
Pathology: LEH-2, slight infection
Diagnostic Artifacts: 3 four-hole iron buttons
Grave: 200 cm e/w x 50 cm n/s (6.5 ft x 1.4 ft)

Discussion: This complete, well-preserved skeleton was one of the more deeply buried ones, appearing at 2.11 m MSL or 68 cm below the disturbed surface (Figure 3.7). The burial was without coffin or rubber blanket shroud. Like Burial 5, Burial 14 was completely intact but very poorly clothed. Only uniform trousers are indicated (but see discussion of Burial 5). This interment was the last recovered by the Institute during the May 1987 excavations.

BURIAL 15 (6N/10W)
Type: primary interment
Position: extended, supine, hands across chest
Orientation: east-west, head to west
Condition:
Preservation: very good
Articulation: good, most bone articulated
Completeness: poor; cranium, half lower legs missing
Skeletal Data:
Sex: male Age: 17-18
Stature: 176.96 (+/- 3.53) cm or ~5'10"
Strength: moderate
Pathology: tibia, healed trauma/infection
Diagnostic Artifacts: 13 four-hole iron buttons, coffin (?) wood fragments
Grave: 160+ cm e/w x 50 cm n/s (5.2 ft x 1.4 ft)

Discussion: This was the first of the burials recovered by Carolina Archaeological Services, Inc. The information presented here is from their report (Anthony and Drucker 1988) and from field notes, which they kindly supplied. Burial 15 was discovered when ditches were excavated for sewer lines (Figure 3.8). It had been impacted by the construction efforts, but much of the burial remained for archaeological excavation. Wood fragments were found in association with the grave feature and CAS states that, “Both [Burials 15 and 16] appear to have been placed in wooden coffins, presumably with a simple ‘pinched toe’ design similar to those excavated by SCIAA” (Anthony and Drucker 1988: 5). There were no coffin nails found. No rubber blanket grommets or fragments were reported by CAS, although the presence of more than the normal number of four-hole iron buttons found on a pair of uniform trousers may indicate a rubber blanket was present and possibly removed (see below). Nevertheless, trousers were the only clothing evidenced.

BURIAL 16 (8N/10W)
Type: primary interment
Position: extended, supine, hands across abdomen
Orientation: east-west, head to west
Condition:
Preservation: very good
Articulation: good, most bone articulated
Completeness: poor; cranium, half lower legs missing
Skeletal Data:
Sex: male Age: 25-30
Stature: 164.65 (+/- 3.53) cm or ~5' 5"
Strength: extreme
Pathology: femur infection, fibula trauma
Diagnostic Artifacts: 2 four-hole bone buttons, 3 four-hole iron buttons, 3 four-hole white glass buttons, 1 large
four-hole white glass button

**Grave: not visible**

Discussion: This burial was found opposite Burial 15, approximately 16 cm below the surface (Figure 3.8). It had been more heavily impacted by construction than Burial 15. Like Burial 15, it may have been in a coffin, but no nails were recovered. The variety of four-hole buttons suggest uniform trousers, drawers, and a civilian shirt. No shoes or coat were indicated.

**BURIAL 17 (7N/10W)**

- **Type:** unknown
- **Position:** unknown
- **Orientation:** unknown
- **Condition:**
  - Preservation: good
  - Articulation: unknown
  - Completeness: poor; most missing

**Skeletal Data:**

- **Sex:** male
- **Age:** 16-19
- **Stature:** 167.07 (+/-4.43) cm or -5'6"
- **Strength:** moderate
- **Pathology:** slight infection
- **Diagnostic Artifacts:** 1 small eagle button, 1 hard rubber button, 4 four-hole iron buttons, 1 fired U.S. .577/.58 cal. bullet (all recovered from modern ditch fill)

**Grave: not visible**

Discussion: This burial was situated between Burials 15 and 16. It was completely impacted by construction of the pipeline ditch and the bone and artifacts collected were from this modern feature. No grave or coffin stain was preserved in this essentially destroyed burial, and no nails or rubber blanket components were found. If the buttons recovered can be considered 'in association,' then clothing articles may have included a uniform coat or forage cap, uniform trousers, and possibly a civilian shirt. No evidence was seen for shoes. The disturbance to this burial is particularly unfortunate as its general provenience included the most intriguing artifact from any of the burials: a fired U.S. rifle-musket bullet. The impact surface of the bullet exhibits neither wood grain nor soil particle impressions that are typical of most fired Civil War bullets. However, there was no evidence that the individual represented by Burial 17 was struck by this projectile. The association of the bullet with the burial is speculative, and no wound was seen on any recovered bone. While two members of the 55th Massachusetts were shot to death by fellow Union soldiers on Folly Island, both of these deaths post-dated the probable use of this cemetery (see below).
BURIAL 18 (~OS/10W)

Type: unknown
Position: unknown
Orientation: unknown
Condition:
  Preservation: good
  Articulation: ?
  Completeness: poor, only two femurs

Skeletal Data:
  Sex: male    Age: 23-30
  Stature: 175.01 (+/- 3.94) cm or 
            5' 9"
  Strength: marked
Pathology: infection
Diagnostic Artifacts: none
Grave: not visible

Discussion: Burial 18 was represented by only two femurs found while CAS monitored construction of a ditch across, and perpendicular to, the road and SCIAA's site (Figure 3.1). The femurs were found in a redeposited context in the upper 10 cm...approximately six meters south of the row of graves [CAS burials]" (Anthony and Drucker 1988: 5). This places these two femurs very close to Burial 13 which was missing its femurs. However, osteological analysis indicates that the femurs recovered represent a separate individual rather than the individual in Burial 13.

Miscellaneous Human Bone

Both SCIAA and CAS recovered miscellaneous bone from disturbed contexts, or on the surface, which could not be placed with any of the above burials. These materials include six unidentified rib fragments, one cervical and two thoracic vertebra, one lumbar vertebra, one humerus, two metacarpals, seven hand phalanges, eight foot phalanges, and, finally, a maxilla fragment. The number of individuals represented by this collection was impossible to estimate, but was obviously more than one.

Miscellaneous Features and Artifacts

Carolina Archaeological Services, Inc. excavations also discovered what is interpreted as an empty grave (CAS Feature 1). This grave was located 38 cm south of

Figure 3.8: Site 38CH920, Burials 15 and 16. (Carolina Archaeological Services, Inc.)

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Burial 15. It was approximately 30 cm deep and 102 cm wide (Anthony and Drucker 1988:5). The length was not evident. No artifacts were found in association with this feature. Carolina Archaeological Services, Inc. also recovered artifacts from mixed contexts including a faceted hard-rubber pipe with ceramic insert (see Chapter V). Finally, the Institute recovered a four-hole bone button from the surface.

Extent of Cemetery Coverage by Archaeologists

As discussed previously, the Institute’s immediate goal in its May 1987 (Phase I) excavations was to remove all burials within the roadway, before their certain destruction by further road development or by relic collectors. Investigation beyond the roadway was not of immediate concern as the wooded nature of the surrounding area provided some protection against looting. Furthermore, arrangements were made with the developer for SCIAA to recover any other burials that might be encountered in these, as yet, unimpacted areas. Investigation of the cemetery was as extensive as possible given the conditions of sustaining unplanned and nonfunded salvage excavations. Shovel testing, slot trenching, and block excavation combined to cover the area as seen in Figure 3.1, leaving the space (later examined by CAS, Figure 3.1) for planned mechanical stripping during SCIAA’s last two days in the field. The stripping did not occur because the mechanical equipment did not arrive and, unfortunately, burials were present. Given this result, an obvious question arises as to how many more graves may remain undiscovered.

This question cannot be answered with certainty, however, an examination of Figure 3.1 and the following discussion may help to alleviate concerns. First, there is little likelihood of graves within the immediate site area encompassed by W 4 to W 27 and N 9 to S 10, because this area was extensively investigated by SCIAA and CAS before the ridge was leveled by the final road development. If undiscovered graves exist in the roadway, they must be buried very deep, are now protected by the asphalt road, and cannot be looted. They are perhaps best left in place. This explanation also follows for the next western ridge examined using slot trenches, with totally negative results. Further the site was later bounded by the construction of sewer lines, which, when new burials were discovered, CAS was retained to investigate.

Carolina Archaeological Services, Inc. later extended their excavation block, using a backhoe, an additional 6 m to the north and found nothing (Anthony and Drucker 1988:3). Parallel to the road, on both sides of the road and bounding 38CH920, sewer lines had been excavated prior to the arrival of CAS. No burials were discovered, except as described above. These trenches would have certainly uncovered further burials if such were present.

During Phase III investigations, SCIAA returned to the site area and further tested it using a backhoe on the southern remnant of the ridge containing 38CH920 (Figure 3.1). Two large areas, approximately 2 x 4 m each, were scraped down slowly with a backhoe. No burials or artifacts were discovered from these excavations. Carolina Archaeological Services, Inc. also investigated the same area with four shovel tests during the summer of 1987 (Drucker and Jackson 1988: 37) and found no burials.

In summary, while SCIAA cannot be sure that all of the burials from the abandoned cemetery have been excavated, certainly most of them have been removed. The site area has been heavily investigated. Still, should burials be discovered around or near 38CH920, a legal agreement exists to insure that they will be protected, excavated, and reburied. The SHPO, the developer, and SCIAA have agreed that the Institute will be notified if the developer or future property owners near the site discover burials any time in the future. The Institute will excavate the burials, and have them re-interred. These arrangements are written into the property deeds of sale.

INTERPRETATIONS

Despite the disturbances encountered at this site, some valuable insights have been gained concerning burial of black Union soldiers during the siege of Charleston. The best supported interpretation of 38CH920 is that it was an abandoned brigade cemetery which contained members of the 55th Massachusetts and the 1st North Carolina Colored Infantry regiments, who were buried there as a result of death due to sickness or disease. The project area is the general location of the November 1863 through February 1884 winter encampment of these and other Union military units. The cemetery was adjacent to the campground of the 55th Massachusetts. The following discussion presents evidence for this interpretation, along with a site analysis regarding burial patterning. In this section free use is made of three kinds of data (archaeological, historical and physical), integrating the evidence as needed in these interpretations. Further information regarding the physical anthropology is provided in Appendix A.
Burial Patterning

The first area of investigation was to reveal, from the physical evidence of archaeology, the burial practices used on Folly Island. Though almost every aspect of the Civil War has been investigated by historians, historical data concerning burial practices have not been thoroughly researched. The subject is occasionally discussed in soldier's letters or diaries, but has not been discussed, in detail, by historians. Noted historian on the lives of Civil War soldiers, Francis Lord, has stated that burial was rather informally handled during the war (personal communication January 24, 1989). Burial of soldiers who died in hospitals was done by a regimental detail, or by the individual's friends.

Still, the army has regulations for everything and, officially, it was the duty of the regimental surgeon to bury those who died in the regimental hospital:

Should a soldier die in camp or regimental hospital, the Surgeon should notify his Commanding Officer and forward to him an inventory of his effects, with the disease from which he died and the date of death, select a place for burial and see that he is decently buried and his grave carefully marked. The duties thus far pointed out are obligatory, and no excuse can be made for their nonperformance in camp (Otis and Huntington 1883: 910).

The regimental surgeon was also responsible for the morning sick call and seeing that the camp was inspected daily.

Coates (1977), who has written on battlefield burial, reproduced a watercolor from the National Archives entitled "Sketch of Mode of digging and filling Graves." This sketch has no date, and most regrettably, no scale. However, it does show a row of graves in profile, all of equal depth and evenly spaced. The sketch caption details the process of filling graves, using dirt from one grave to fill another. This was "To ensure the least handling of earth, and therefore the most economical mode of digging a row of graves, it will be found most expedient to throw the earth from the first grave out upon the bank at h, there to remain until the row is finished" (Coates 1977: 19). Further, "...the earth dug from each grave, being used to fill the preceding [sic] one, until the end of the row is reached, when the earth from a left at h is wheeled or carted to fill up the last grave h" (Coates 1977: 19).

Despite these regulations and recommendations, Coates supports Lord's statements that burial was rather informally handled. His figure caption below the watercolor states "The type of burial recommended by the U.S. Govt. but seldom used" (Coates 1977: 19). This was especially true after combat. With large numbers of dead lying on the battlefield, "The means of burial used by the army at the time was, by necessity, fast and crude" (Coates 1977: 20). Further,

Attempts were made to mark the graves of those whose identification was known, but those who could not be readily identified and the bodies of most of the enemy were simply placed in a single shallow grave or trench and covered over (Coates 1977: 20).

Often, soldiers were buried on the battlefield where they fell. Marking the graves was done by placing a board at the head of the grave. Some of these headboards were carved and/or penciled-in with the name, and possibly regiment, of the individual. Coates (1977: 20) states that sometimes a sheet-brass stencil, which soldiers often obtained from sutlers to mark equipment, was nailed to the grave headboard to identify the individual buried (note that our Burial 3 had a number blank from such a stencil). As stated, trenches were used to bury multiple fatalities.

The above cited manner of digging graves, of course, presupposes that more than one individual was to be buried. In a hospital situation, where deaths occur over a longer time span and individually, one can assume that trenches were not often used. Actual burial patterning and mortuary practices in a hospital situation could have been very consistent, if the regimental surgeon took his duties seriously, or less consistent, if different regimental details were used for each burial and the surgeon did not carefully supervise. If friends buried their comrades, even greater variation in burial patterning would be likely. Supporting evidence for such variation was found among historical accounts by soldiers on Folly Island. A Captain in the Third New Hampshire Volunteer Infantry stated:

The word "buried" may mean much or little, and the variation is largely governed by circumstances. It may mean a hastily-dug and shallow excavation, the dumping into it of a comrade's body, a rapid movement to push back the earth that had been removed, and the disappearance from the spot of the living. That only, and nothing more, happened thousands of times under varying conditions.

When a regiment or company was encamped for any considerable time in one place, a suitable burial spot was selected near by and the dead buried in it, and almost always with ceremony (Eldredge 1893: 1003).
From Eldredge’s description, one might assume that regulations were followed in the creation and maintenance of a hospital cemetery. But it would also appear that, while there was an approved method, the actual method varied according to circumstances. This is where archaeology can be of valuable service, in providing solid physical evidence of the actual burial behavior.

BURIAL PATTERNING: GRAVE DEPTHS AND LOCATION

To determine the degree of regulation at the Folly Island cemetery, the placement and depth of individual graves needed to be analyzed. However, because of the heavy disturbance to the burials by road construction, the results presented below in determining vertical and horizontal patterning must be viewed with caution, and are inconclusive. For instance, to discern how deep the original graves were dug, the original surface elevations were needed. Unfortunately these elevations were not known, as the bulldozer had cleared the surface prior to SCIAA’s arrival at the site. Still, to offer some insight into this question, an exercise was conducted to measure the grave depths at Folly Island.

To determine this original surface an attempt was made to analyze the developer’s map of the pre-construction surface in relation to the topographic map produced by the Institute’s archaeologists (Figure 3.9). The original ridge elevations, according to the developer’s project map range from nine to twelve-plus ft MSL (2.74 m to 3.65 m MSL). The general topography, including the gentle slope from northeast to southwest was consistent with SCIAA’s topographic map, which ranges from 2.4 m to 3.32 m MSL. It would appear that construction activities prior to SCIAA’s arrival consisted of shaving approximately 30 cm (1.5 ft) off the ridge and removing the trees. However, the highest elevation recorded by SCIAA (the 0/0 point), was not the highest elevation on the original ridge, which was removed. So initially there was a ridge top which may have had more than 30 cm shaved from its original MSL elevation.

Having assumed that, except for the ridge top, the ridge was shaved with some consistency, the burial depths were then examined in three-dimensional space. The hypothesis made was that if graves were dug to a consistent, regulated depth below the original surface, the base of the graves would be found at a consistent MSL depth roughly parallel to the northeast to southwest slope (Figure 3.9) observed and recorded in the field. Burials which were begun at roughly the same MSL elevation (ie. a flat surface) should end at the same MSL depth, if the soldiers digging the graves were ordered to dig them according to some regulated depth. Comparing the MSL elevations at the bases of the burials with that of the general topographic elevations produces the results shown in Table 3.1. While

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Burial</th>
<th>Top/Base</th>
<th>Surface</th>
<th>Depth Below Surface</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B-1</td>
<td>2.60/2.44</td>
<td>-2.84</td>
<td>.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-2</td>
<td>2.60/2.44</td>
<td>-2.84</td>
<td>.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-3</td>
<td>2.59/2.33</td>
<td>-2.84</td>
<td>.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-4</td>
<td>2.28/1.85</td>
<td>-2.60</td>
<td>.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-5</td>
<td>2.01/-1.80</td>
<td>-2.49</td>
<td>.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-6</td>
<td>2.23/2.03</td>
<td>-2.60</td>
<td>.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-7</td>
<td>2.21/?</td>
<td>-2.57</td>
<td>?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-8</td>
<td>1.66/1.46</td>
<td>-2.58</td>
<td>1.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-9</td>
<td>2.36/2.16</td>
<td>-2.56</td>
<td>.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-10</td>
<td>2.62/2.23</td>
<td>-2.90</td>
<td>.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-11</td>
<td>2.52/2.05</td>
<td>-2.80</td>
<td>.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-12</td>
<td>1.97/1.29</td>
<td>-2.00</td>
<td>.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-13</td>
<td>2.64/2.29</td>
<td>-3.00</td>
<td>.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-14</td>
<td>2.11/1.75</td>
<td>-2.70</td>
<td>.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-15</td>
<td>2.36/2.02</td>
<td>-2.60</td>
<td>.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-16</td>
<td>2.44/1.93</td>
<td>-2.60</td>
<td>.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-17</td>
<td>2.38/?</td>
<td>-2.6</td>
<td>?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-18</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>-3.00</td>
<td>?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The evidence above does not support the contention that the soldiers were digging graves at a consistent depth below the surface. Interestingly, two general burial depths are seen in Table 3.1. Burials 4, 5, 6, 10, 11, 13, 15, and 16 are within a range of 67 to 75 cm (~2.2-2.4 ft) below the disturbed surface. Another four 1, 2, 3, 9 cluster at 40 to 51 cm (~1.5 ft) below this surface. No explanation is offered for this observation, unless the contemporary surface was vastly different and much more irregular than the developer’s map indicated.

In any case, adding 30 cm (1.5 ft) to the depths discussed above still places the base of these burials approximately 105 cm or 3.5 to 4 ft below the surface as surveyed and recorded on the developer’s project map. The deepest burial (Burial 12) can be projected at 150 cm,
Figure 3.9: Site 39CH920, Topographic map.
or approximately 5 ft deep. Whatever the original grave depths were, the evidence would indicate that they were more shallow than six feet deep, as folklore would have them.

Despite the questionable accuracy of this data, the grave shallowness does have an archaeological correlate. Nine military graves in a Civil War cemetery at Port Hudson, Louisiana were found at maximum depths of 102 to 148 cm, with one additional grave at 63 cm (Owsley et al. 1988: 61). Seven of these graves clustered within a range of 106 to 116 cm below the surface. On the other hand, at the St. Peter Street Cemetery in New Orleans, Louisiana, a different pattern is indicated. This was a civilian cemetery dating ca. 1725-1789 (Owsley & Orser 1985). Like the cemetery at Folly Island, the original surface was lost to construction. However, ten adult graves ranged from 120 to 240 cm in base grave depth. Interestingly, the mean depths for the males in this cemetery was 203 cm and for females, 220 cm (Owsley and Orser 1985: 93). At Cedar Grove in Arkansas, 72 graves were recovered in a black civilian cemetery dating ca. 1890 to 1927. There again, the original surface was lost. While adult graves were at varying depths at Cedar Grove, most appeared to be around 2 m, with children's graves more shallow (Trubowitz in Rose 1985: 20, 30).

One might be tempted to conclude that military graves tend to be shallower than civilian graves. This might be an interesting hypothesis to test in the future. However, a more likely explanation for why the Folly Island graves lacked depth is that the soldiers dug shallow graves so that ground water would not intrude upon the body. For instance, Lt. Frank Heimer, a member of the white 144th New York Volunteer Infantry, related that when he took sick, he became concerned about where he might be laid to rest on Folly Island. Heimer stated, "You will also remember that after digging about eighteen inches in the cemetery the bottom fell out and water filled the grave. Well, when on the third week I got worse I thought my time had come and I did not want to be buried in a water hole. I began to look around for a better spot" (McKee 1903: 133). (Heimer's full description of death and his sickness is priceless reading and has been reproduced for the reader's interest in Appendix D.) Site 38CH920 appears to have been an ideal location for a cemetery as the Institute's burial excavations did not encounter the water table. The water table was encountered at 38CH964 and 38CH966.

Another method of analyzing the degree to which the cemetery met military regulations was to examine the horizontal burial distribution. Figure (3.1) indicates four to six rows of graves running north to south, with a definite trend from northwest to southeast across, and down, the ridge slope. Drawing a line through the centers of these graves, it would appear that from the west, row 1 would consist of Burials 8 and 12. Row 2 would include Burials 1, 2, 3, 5 with a large gap between Burials 5 and 3, although perhaps Burial 5 was intended to be a separate row. Burials 4, 6, 7, 9, may be two separate rows. A definite row is seen along a line from 10, 11, 13, 14 and 18(?). A line running north from this latter row would not necessarily intercept CAS Burials 15, 16, 17 and CAS Feature 1. One explanation for the gaps between these burials is that originally burials were present in the gaps but were removed. The issue of post-war exhumation is discussed below. It is possible that empty graves were present, but were not visible to the archaeologists. Another explanation is that the graves were placed around trees which existed at the time of burial.

The distance between adjacent burials was also inconsistent. This inconsistency was partly the result of the archaeologists inability to discern grave outlines. However, it appears that Burials were generally either 40 cm or 120-140 cm apart. For instance, Burials 1, 2, and 3 are approximately 40 cm apart (~1 1/2 ft?). Burials 15, 16, 17, and Feature 1 appear to have similar spacing, but the disturbances in this area preclude precise measurements. Meanwhile, Burials 10, 11, 14 were 120 and 140 cm apart (~3 1/2 ft?). Burials 7 and 9 were 120 cm apart.

The above patterning has archaeological correlates. The investigation of the Bryan Cemetery near New Bern, North Carolina revealed similar patterns (Phelps 1979). This cemetery, active from 1865 to 1930, was a black civilian cemetery containing some 522 graves, over a 12 acre area. The cemetery was stripped of its topsoil to locate the graves for later removal. Of interest, the plan of the cemetery clearly shows the same loose, overlapping rows of graves seen at 38CH920 (see Figure 8, Phelps 1979: 20). Further the same drifting of the rows from northwest to southeast occurs, and the spacing was also irregular. The pattern at the Port Hudson military cemetery was inconclusive but tends toward more carefully aligned graves (Owsley et al. 1988). At Cedar Grove the rows were distorted as at the Bryan Cemetery and 38CH920, but trend toward the northeast rather than northwest (Rose 1985: 21).

The patterns discussed above, as stated previously, were hardly conclusive or even clear enough to arrive at definite conclusions with any real authority. However, given all of the above data, it is tentatively concluded that the graves were dug intermittently, with perhaps enough time between burial episodes for surface markings to be confusing to the burial details. Thus, rows were not neatly organized, nor were distances between the burials tightly controlled (Figure 3.1). One could speculate, for instance, that the row containing Burials 1, 2, 3, was created within a short time. (Interestingly, two soldiers from the 55th Massachusetts who died in December of 1863 were buried on the same day and another shortly afterward, see below.)
Likewise, clusters composed of Burials 15, 16, and 17, Burials 10, 11, 13, 14, Burials 8, 12, and Burials 4 and 6, may have had a similar history. Burials 7 and 9 appear to have been dug at different times, and their row intrudes upon, or was intruded by the row formed by Burials 4 and 6. Burials 4 and 6 intrude upon one another and Burial 5 intrudes upon, or is intruded by 12.

However the cemetery developed, the loose rows, the inconsistency in distance between graves, the varying depths, the corroborative evidence from Bryan Cemetery, all suggest that the graves were not dug as a single episode. It is clearly evident that the burial details were not closely supervised, and that burial at 38CH920 was rather casual or informal. This data supports the conclusions drawn by Lord and Coates. Further, this pattern supports the contention that death, and burial, occurred randomly through time, as would be expected if the soldiers were dying of diseases in a hospital over several months time.

BURIAL PATTERNS: MORTUARY PRACTICES

While the patterning discussed above is not conclusively definitive, patterns exist for mortuary practices exhibited within the graves. Tables 3.2 and 3.3, along with the data previously discussed in the Burials section of this chapter, present the results of this analysis. First, where grave shaft size could be recorded, it appears to be fairly consistent at 200 cm in length by -75 cm in width (6.56 ft x 2.46 ft). Depressions from 16 Civil War graves at Port Hudson averaged 189.6 cm x 54.6 cm (Owsley et al. 1985: 73). Grave shafts at the black Cedar Grove cemetery, where adults and children were interred, ranged from 90 cm to 260 cm in length, and 50 cm to 120 cm in width, the mean being 186 cm x 90 cm (6.1 ft to 1.67 ft) (Trubowitz in Rose 1985: 20).

Table 3.2: Grave and Coffin Size (in cm), 38CH920

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Burial</th>
<th>Grave Shaft</th>
<th>Coffin</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B-1</td>
<td>200 x 75</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-2</td>
<td>200 x 75</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-4</td>
<td>-138 x 40</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-5</td>
<td>230 x 75</td>
<td>185 x 40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-7</td>
<td></td>
<td>195 x 40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-8</td>
<td>200 x 175</td>
<td>187 x 52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-11</td>
<td>200 x 50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-12</td>
<td>200 x 75</td>
<td>195 x 40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-13</td>
<td>200 x 50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-14</td>
<td>200 x 50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-15</td>
<td>160 x 50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Only four coffins were complete enough to be measured (Table 3.2), and were from 185 cm to 195 cm in length, and from 40 cm to 52 cm in maximum width (approximately 6+ ft x 1 1/2 ft). All were hexagonal. CAS reports that Burials 15 and 16 also had hexagonal coffins (Anthony and Drucker 1988: 93). At the Port Hudson military cemetery, nine coffins with distinguishable form were hexagonal, their mean length and width being 189.6 cm x 54.6 cm (Owsley et al. 1985: 73). The coffins from the 18th century New Orleans cemetery were smaller, the mean size of male coffins being 174.29 cm in length and 46 cm in width (Owsley and Orser 1985: 93).

Disregarding Burials 4/6, 17 and 18, which were too damaged for most analysis, there was remarkable consistency in the position and orientation of the skeletons (Table 3.3). All but one of the remaining burials were laid in the ground in an extended, supine position, oriented east/west with head to the west. Only Burial 9 was different, being discovered in a prone position with head to the east. Placement of the hands was discernable in five burials (Burials 2, 5, 14, 15, and 16). In all cases except Burial 15, were across the abdomen. The hands in Burial 15 were placed across the chest.

Eight individuals, plus Burial 4/6 were buried in coffins. In seven graves rubber blankets were used as a burial shroud (Table 3.3). Four of the coffin burials had a shroud. Three shroud burials had no coffins, and three other burials had neither shroud nor coffin, so it would not appear that rubber blankets were necessarily a substitute for a coffin. Curiously, Burials 5, 8, and 12, which cluster in the same location, each have coffins but no rubber blanket shrouds (Figure 3.1, Table 3.3). Seven of the individuals, plus Burials 4/6, were buried in uniform or sack coats (Table 3.3). Fifteen were probably buried with trousers. Burial 17 probably had both a sack coat and trousers. Burial 12 was possibly nude, and it appears Burials 14 and 15 were only trousers. Nine individuals probably had civilian attire under their coats. No definite evidence of drawers was found, however, the four-hole white glass buttons recovered in several burials could be evidence for either a shirts or drawers.

In light of these patterns, it is interesting to note that the black soldiers would not voluntarily wear a dead man's clothing. Charles Bowditch, a white officer with the 55th Massachusetts, wrote to his father from Folly Island on February 6, 1864:

> The negroes are the hardest people to reason with that you can imagine. Last night I had a talk with one of my men, a very respectable inhabitant of Connecticut, and one who has received a very good high school education. I asked him how it was that his class refused so earnestly to wear the clothes of a man who had died. He couldn't tell exactly, but said that he had a suit of...
clothes of his father' [sic] and grandfather's and that he would sooner go naked than wear them. I tried to argue with him, but it was not [sic] use; the superstition was too deeply imbedded in his mind to be easily eradicated (Bowditch 1924: 469-70).

Still, this "superstition" does not appear to have extended to shoes. While the recovered soldiers were almost all clothed in some manner, there was no evidence of shoes in any of the burials. This pattern can not be explained simply as the result of the shoes being removed later during the burials' (probable) historic exhumation (see below). Archaeological evidence shows that Burials 1 through 14 had foot bones present. Eight of these burials (Burials 3, 5, 7, 8, 10, 12, 13, 14) were found with the foot bone very well-articulated (the other two showed evidence of articulation). There was no way the people exhuming the bones could have removed shoes without disturbing this bone. Therefore, shoes were definitely not part of the burial clothing. Furthermore, Colonel (then Major) Fox, the 55th Massachusetts' Regimental Adjutant, noted that shoes were a problem. He stated that, "There are some 15 more or less in the regiment who wear No. 12 and two who wear No. 13, and it is with great difficulty we can keep them from having to go barefooted" (Fox, 1863-1865: November 17, 1863).

BURIAL PATTERNING: CAUSE OF DEATH

The interpretation that the soldiers at 38CH920 died from disease and camp sicknesses in the regimental hospital is, to date, mostly based on negative evidence. First, there is no historical documentation of combat on Folly Island, other than random artillery shots fired against or from long range Confederate batteries on John's Island, and supporting fire during the amphibious landing on Morris Island (see Chapter II). It would be a rare occurrence, indeed, for the bodies of combat victims on James and Morris Islands to be transported to Folly Island for burial. Wounded from the assault on Battery Wagner were brought over from Morris Island, but were probably placed in the Post Hospital, since their regiments were still camped on Morris Island. Further, while deaths from wounds was a possibility, no physical evidence of bone shatter, shrapnel, fired Confederate bullets, or amputation has been seen in the physical analysis (see Appendix A). Evidence that the soldiers were members of the 55th Massachusetts and 1st North Carolina Regiments will be presented below. Both of these regiments have been pinpointed in the area, along with their regimental hospitals. Both had many documented disease-related deaths. All of the above evidence leads SCIAA archaeologists to believe that the soldiers in this cemetery died due to sickness rather than combat wounds. As been discussed, the variety of burial patterns revealed further supports this hypothesis.

BURIAL PATTERNING: HISTORIC EXUMATION

One of the most consistent patterns seen at 38CH920 regards missing skeletal parts. It was obvious during excavation that road construction was not the primary agent of disturbance within the graves themselves. Of the 19 individuals recovered (18 burials, plus miscellaneous human bone found on the ground surface, totaling at least 19 individuals), only two, Burials 5 and 14, had complete skeletons, including skulls. After skulls, the next most common missing skeletal elements were the two innomina­tes, which, with the sacrum, comprise the pelvic area. Only Burials 1, 5, and 14 had complete pelvic regions. The chest area of many skeletons was also half missing or greatly disturbed. Yet in all of the burials, except Burials 4/6, 17, and 18 (burials very badly, or totally disturbed by road construction), at least some bone remained articulated in the grave. This disturbance pattern can not be fully explained by road construction, or natural occurrences like animal activity, tree roots or flooding. Sometime after the burial of these soldiers, the bone appear to have been deliberately exhumed.

Many possible disturbance agents were considered as explanations for the missing skeletal elements, including voodoo, and relic collecting. However, the most logical explanation was that the graves were opened and skeletal remains were removed sometime after the war as part of the general effort by the U.S. Government to rebury soldiers in national cemeteries. There is overwhelming historic documentation of this practice at other locations in the South. Reburial started during the war at battlefields like Gettysburg, and by 1883, a quarter of a million Union soldiers had been reburied in 79 national cemeteries (Sylvia & O'Donnell 1978: 82). According to Sylvia and O'Donnell, who reference Lord (1960: 328), the government received 34 bids for such work ranging from $1.59 to $8.00 per body. At Gettysburg, one "Mr. F. W. Bre­secker [was contracted] to remove bodies from the field for reburial at the rate of $1.59 each, with no more than 100 to be moved on one day" (Coates 1977:21). The authors cannot refrain from noting that even in the 1860s, the U.S. Government awarded the low bid. To be completely fair, this was not always the case. At Fort Pillow, for instance, the cost of exhuming 258 Union battlefield casualties and reburying them at a fort cemetery was $7.00 per body; the total cost plus head-posts and fencing was $2,145.65 (Mainfort 1980: 89). These soldiers were later exhumed and moved yet again to the national cemetery in Memphis (Mainfort 1980: 88). (Mainfort's reburial information was found in the National Archives, in Record Group 92.)

The authors have made an attempt to locate documentation concerning the removal of the 38CH920 cemetery,
but to date, none has not be found. Eldredge states that the soldiers who were members of his regiment (3rd New Hampshire Infantry) and died on Folly Island, were removed and re-interred at the Beaufort National Cemetery, in Beaufort South Carolina (Eldredge 1893: 1004-1005). The authors visited this cemetery and found the graves of soldiers from the 55th Massachusetts. The records at the cemetery do not indicate the location from which the Beaufort soldiers were originally recovered. Some were likely casualties of the battle of Honey Hill and others may be from hospitals at Hilton Head or Beaufort. Still, Eldredge’s evidence implies that the 38CH920 burials may also have been taken to Beaufort.

In any case, it is obvious that the contractor for the Folly Island burial removal was careless, taking only partial remains, and in at least two cases, missing entire burials (Burials 5 and 14). The observed patterns of disturbance at 38CH920 are clearly explained by such carelessness, for which there is also solid supporting historical evidence. For instance, an often reproduced photograph shows exactly this pattern at the battlefield at Cold Harbor, Virginia (Figure 3.10). While this photograph was historically labeled as depicting a burial party at work, in actuality, the random pattern of the burials shown make it much more likely to be rebural party, excavating soldiers killed during the battle. Furthermore, Bresecker relates this grisly scene at Gettysburg: “Many of the undertakers who were removing bodies, also performed their work in the most careless manner, invariably leaving the graves open and often leaving particles of bones and hair lying scattered around...” (Bresecker, in Coates 1977: 21). No doubt this was what happened at 38CH920. Perhaps the burials were easily discovered by the presence of still existing markers, or were located by probing. Then, it appears that a small hole was dug to remove the skull, and another to remove the pelvic area. The rubber blankets probably had not deteriorated much at that time and were convenient for grasping and removing portions of bodies.

To further support the proposed exhumation scenario consider J. T. Trowbridge’s (1866) book describing his visits to various battlefields throughout the South, immediately after the war. The following long passage is from his visit to the Chickamauga battlefield:

Driving southward along the Lafayette Road we soon reached the site of Cloud Spring Hospital, in the rear of the battlefield....There were indications that here the work of disinterment was about to begin. Shovel and picks were ready on the ground; and beside the long, low trenches of the dead waited piles of yellow pine coffins spattered with rain. (Later) The Dyer Farm was beyond; upon which we found two hundred colored soldiers encamped, in a muddy village of winter huts near the ruins of the burned farm-house. ...The camp was a strange spectacle. The men were cooking their dinners or

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<td>-</td>
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<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>N/N</td>
<td>Y/Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>N/N</td>
<td>Y/Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y(possible)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>N/N</td>
<td>Y/Y</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>Y/N</td>
<td>Y/Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y(possible)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>N/N</td>
<td>Y/Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>Across Ab.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Y(possible)</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>Across Chest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
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<td>?</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Across Ab.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
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<td>?</td>
<td>N/N</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>Y(possible)</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3.3: Mortuary Patterns at 38CH920
...more than nine tenths of the bodies taken from Chickamauga were unknown. Some had been buried in trenches; some singly; some laid side by side, and covered with a little earth, perhaps not more than six inches deep, leaving feet and skull exposed; and many had not been buried at all. Throughout the woods were scattered these lonely graves. The method of finding them was simple. A hundred men were deployed in a line, a yard apart, each examining half a yard of ground on both sides of him, as they proceeded. Thus was swept a space five hundred yards in breadth. Trees were blazed or stakes set along the edge of this space, to guide the company on its return. In this manner the entire battlefield had been or was to be searched. When a grave was found, the entire line was halted until the teams came up and the body was removed. Many graves were marked with stakes, but some were to be discovered only by the raised

drying their clothes around out-door fires of logs which filled the air with smoke. Nearby were piles of coffins,—some empty, some containing the remains of soldiers that had just been disinterred.

...There were two hundred and seventeen soldiers in camp. At first they had a horror of the work for which they were detailed. All the superstition of the African was roused within them at sight of the mouldering dead. They declared that the skulls moved, and started back with shrieks. An officer, to encourage them, unconcernedly took out the bones from a grave and placed them carefully in a coffin. They were induced to imitate his example. In a few hours they chatted or whistled and sang at their work; and in a few days it was common to see them perform their labor and eat their luncheons at the same time,—lay bones into the coffin with one hand, and hold with the other the hardtack they were nibbling.
or disturbed appearance of the ground. Those bodies which had been buried in trenches were but little decomposed; while of those buried singly in boxes not much was left but the bones and a handful of dust (Trowbridge 1866: 264-266).

The scene, so graphically painted by Trowbridge at Chickamauga, was repeated throughout the South after the war. In summary, it is extremely likely that the burials at 38CH920 were exhumed sometime after the war. The patterns seen archaeologically are convincingly explained by this activity and historical documents support this contention. Furthermore, it is very possible that the soldiers were taken to, and reburied at, the Beaufort National Cemetery.

Identity of Remains

One of the intriguing problems posed in this study was the identification of the regiment(s) represented at the cemetery. Even more intriguing was the possibility of identifying individuals by name, but this goal, without recovering an I.D. tag, was virtually impossible. The buttons recovered through excavation demonstrate that the individuals buried at 38CH920 were Union soldiers. Also, archaeological excavations recovered a sheet-brass numeral “5,” which apparently was used as a regimental insignia. Beyond this, historic documents and especially maps, were used to establish the regimental identity of the troops. The combination of historical, archaeological, and physical data clearly supports the conclusion that the soldiers were members of the 55th Massachusetts Volunteer Regiment and the 1st North Carolina Colored Infantry. Both of these regiments were members of Wild’s African Brigade, on Folly Island from August 1863. Also two members of the 2nd United States Colored Infantry probably were buried in 38CH920. Much information regarding the 55th Massachusetts and 1st North Carolina has already been provided in Chapter II. In the discussion below, some of this data is repeated with the purpose of identifying the location of the winter camp.

RACIAL IDENTITY

Physical anthropology studies have not been completed, but the data indicates that the remains are of black males aged 16 to 40 (see Appendix A). The racial identity of most of the burials was not conclusive. This was because only two skulls (both definitely black males) were found: skulls provide the best evidence of racial identity. However, the non-cranial data from the other burials was suggestive of black physical traits. As stated previously, historical evidence demonstrates that the cemetery was most likely a black brigade cemetery. Given the social climate of the period, it is highly unlikely that white soldiers would be buried in a black brigade cemetery. In a combat situation where blacks and whites fought together, mixed racial burials might have occurred, as the soldiers were quickly buried where they fell. However, when the soldiers were buried in a planned cemetery, the burials would certainly have been racially segregated. For instance, at Fort Pillow, soldiers were collected or exhumed from the battlefield and when reburied, “The white men were buried on the east side of the cemetery and the colored men on the west” (Colburn in Mainfort 1980: 89).

REGIMENTAL IDENTITY

The two black skulls, a general knowledge of social conditions in the 1860s, and the eagle buttons recovered, all point to the conclusion that the burials are of black Union soldiers. There were many black regiments on the island at various times during the siege of Charleston. These units include:

1) 21st U.S.C.I. (Colored Infantry, also called 3rd and 4th S.C. C.I.),
2) 33rd U.S.C.I. (1st S.C.C.I.),
3) 34th U.S.C.I. (2nd S.C.C.I.),
4) 1st N.C.C.I. (North Carolina Colored Infantry, who in February 1864 became the 35th U.S.C.I.),
5) Elements of the 2nd N.C.C.I. (became the 36th U.S.C.I.),
6) Elements of the 3rd N.C.C.I., (became the 37th U.S.C.I.),
7) Elements of the 2nd U.S.C.I.,
8) 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Regiment, and,
9) 55th Massachusetts Volunteer Regiment.

The details of their service in the siege of Charleston eliminate most of the above listed black regiments from further consideration. Dyer (1908: 1727) records that the 21st U.S.C.I. served on Folly and Morris Islands from April 1864 to February 1865. However, the Official Records of the War of The Rebellion indicate that they were camped on Morris Island until at least October 31, 1864 (O.R., Vol. 35, Part 2: 321). On February 20, 1865 they were detached from Morris Island to Charleston. Therefore the 21st U.S.C.I. never camped on Folly Island, but simply performed fatigue duty there.

The 33rd U.S.C.I. was only on duty at Folly Island from July to November 1864, and briefly in December of
that same year (Dyer 1908: 1729). This was after the winter encampment of 1863/1864, which existed in the project area (see below). The 34th U.S.C.I. arrived on Folly Island on April 13th, 1864, to be quickly transferred to Morris Island (Dyer 1908: 1729).

The 2nd and 3rd N.C.C.I. both had small detachments on Folly Island from July 1863 to December 1863 (Dyer 1908: 1472). Another small detachment of black soldiers on Folly Island was from the 2nd U.S.C.I. They were on Folly Island from August to December 1863, and are more fully discussed below. The 54th Massachusetts had duty on Folly and Morris Islands from April to November 1864 (Dyer 1908: 1266), but apparently did not camp on Folly Island. Thus it appears that all of the units discussed were on Folly Island for only relatively short periods, or were there after the 1863/64 winter encampment which was located in the project area. Certainly, all of the above units could have had small detachments camping on Folly Island anytime during their participation in the siege.

Two units, which were brigaded together as Wild's African Brigade, camped on Folly Island for significant lengths of time, and were there long enough to suffer large numbers of casualties from disease. They were the 55th Massachusetts Volunteer Regiment and the 1st North Carolina Colored Infantry. The 55th Massachusetts was on Folly Island from July 1863 to February 1864 (Dyer 1908: 1266-67). After two months, they returned to Folly Island and remained there from April until November of 1864. The 1st North Carolina was also on Folly Island beginning in July 1863 and remained until February 1864. Then they became the 35th U.S.C.I and left Folly Island with the 55th Massachusetts (Dyer 1908: 1472). The 1st North Carolina did not return to Folly Island, although their sick may have remained on the island.

There is very little information available on the 1st North Carolina. No regimental history exists. Almost all the documentation the authors could locate concerning this unit was found in the National Archives in the form of original documents. However, the unit was brigaded together with the 55th Massachusetts during their service on Folly Island from July 1863 to February 1864. This means that they camped, shared officers on brigade duties, and performed picket duties together. During November 1863 they moved, together, to the project area to make camp (see Special Order No. 52, Chapter II).

To this point, the authors have continually referred to the critical period of the winter camp of Folly Island which was occupied from November 1863 to February 1864. The reason for this is that the historical data overwhelmingly suggests that the project area was the location of this camp (see also Chapter II). The published version of the 55th Massachusetts Regimental history states that in November the unit moved inland to:

...a spot on the west slope of a wooded ridge, in the middle of the island, on the road leading from the Campbell House to the beach. This ridge was the third from the sea—the bluff over the beach being the first—and only a gentle rise or two of wooded ground separated it from the marshes bordering on Folly River. A good location for cold weather; it would have been decidedly unhealthy in summer, when the health of the troops could only be preserved by encamping as near as possible to the beach, exposed to the sea breeze. This camp was gradually improved, a parade ground cleared in front, and soon made, if not the best regimental camp on the island, certainly the best ever occupied there by the regiment (Fox 1868: 16).

Engineer A. Becker, of the 103rd N.Y., produced a military map of Folly Island dated October 5, 1863, by order of General Vogdes (Figure 2.2). This map was completed, unfortunately, one month before the 55th Massachusetts moved to the interior of the island. Still, examination of a detail of this map in conjunction with a U.S.G.S. topographic map (Figures 3.11, 3.12), and the above description, clearly places the 55th Massachusetts winter camp in the project area. Further, a sketch of that camp (Figure 2.4), drawn by Colonel (then Major) Fox, allows the authors to precisely place the camp and the cemetery site in close proximity.

In fully presenting this argument, some points of reference are needed. The present Seabrook house (Figure 3.11) is in the location of the Campbell or White house marked on the Becker military map (Figure 3.12). The road shown on the military map going east from the White house still exists today as Hudson Ave. and is on the U.S.G.S. map. Finally, small path leading from the beach to the Hudson Ave. on the U.S.G.S. topographic map is the remnant of the road on the military map leading from the beach to the White house (E.M. Seabrook, personal communication 1989).

With these reference points, 38CH920 and the camp of the 55th Massachusetts can be placed in virtually the same location. The above historical description by Major Fox places the 55th Massachusetts three ridges back along the road to the Campbell or White house. Counting three ridges from the beach places the camp east of the location of Battery E, 3rd U.S. Artillery, depicted on the military map (Figure 3.12).

There was some discrepancy in the documents as to the number of ridges back from the beach that the 55th Massachusetts camped. The published regimental history, which is a compilation of Major Fox's letters and journals, stated that the regiment camped three ridges...
back from the beach. Curiously, Fox’s letters to his wife stated:

*Wednesday Nov. 4*, 2 1/2 o’clock P.M.
Have just returned from our new camping ground. For a winter location it is much better than the one where we now are. The camp will be in the woods, the officers tents on a little ridge, the second from the sea, the fronts as now, toward the marsh, but with an old cotton field, which will make a fine parade ground, and a ridge of land covered with brush and dwarf palmetto, between us and it (Fox 1863-1865: Nov. 4, 1863)

However, a draft version of the regimental history stated:

The 8th day of Nov. the Brigade Camp was changed to a spot previously selected on the slope of the wood ridge in the middle of the Island, on the North side of the road leading from the Campbell (or White) House to the beach. This ridge was the third or farthest in land from the sea, the beach bluff being the first, an had only a gentle rise or two of wooded ground between it and the marsh bordering on Folly River. A good location in cold weather, it would have been decidedly unhealthy in summer (Fox 1866, MS: 36).

This final description clears up the discrepancy between the two other documents. It eliminates the problem of the second or third ridge. However the ridges were counted, the camp was on the farthest ridge from the sea. Several additional documents support this location. For instance, a letter from W.L. Brown, regimental surgeon of the 55th Massachusetts to Surgeon General Dale of Massachusetts stated, “The camp is now located midway between Stono Inlet and Pawnee Landing, to the rear of General Gillmore’s headquarters [see Figure 2.2]. We occupy a dense wood; and the water got here is of better quality that found to the north end of the island” (Brown to Dale Dec. 6, 1863).

All the available information indicates that the camp was south of a cotton field, with the front of the camp toward a marsh, and Company K on the left by a road. This places the camp of the 55th Massachusetts precisely as indicated on Figures 2.4 and 3.12. The road on the left flank of the 55th camp is clearly the same path marked on the U.S.G.S. topographic map (Figure 3.11), which places the cemetery near the right rear of the 55th camp. This was the location of the regimental hospital and chaplain (Figure 2.4). A very logical location for a camp cemetery, and supported by Eldredge’s regimental history which stated, “When a regiment or company was encamped for any considerable time in one place, a suitable burial spot was selected near by and the dead buried in it...” (Eldredge 1893: 1003).

One piece of historical documentation indicated that 38CH920 was a brigade rather than regimental cemetery, linking both the 55th Massachusetts and the 1st North Carolina to the project area. The Morning Reports of the 1st North Carolina indicated that on February 3, 1864, Private Primus Rin died in the 1st N.C.C.I. regimental hospital. This reference indicates that each regiment had its own hospital. However, the next entry stated that on February 4, 1864, Private Rin was buried in the brigade cemetery (Morning Report, 1st North Carolina: February 4, 1864). This was the only documentary evidence mentioning a cemetery for the two units during the winter camp. It must be assumed that 38CH920 was the brigade cemetery.

In summary, there is a very tight link between the camp location of the 55th Massachusetts and 38CH920. While the camp of the 1st North Carolina has not been located, it must be nearby because both regiments used same cemetery and they were brigaded together. Verification of these findings has been provided by the collector who first discovered the site. He found a stencil of Private Harrison Peril, Company K of the 55th Massachusetts west of the cemetery, in the direction of the Seabrook property (Campbell or White House location) (Robert Bohm, personal communication 1989).

**INDIVIDUAL IDENTITIES**

Throughout this project there has been strong interest in identifying, by name, the individuals buried in the cemetery. The evidence presented above strongly suggests the identity of the regiments included in the cemetery, and it would seem logical that the names of those individuals buried there could be discerned. In reality, this task is impossible to achieve with any certainty, given the documentary and physical evidence found to date. Most likely, the soldiers whose remains are represented by the burials will remain forever unknown.

A very tentative list of possible individuals is provided in Table 3.4. This table lists 25 individuals of the 55th Massachusetts and 1st North Carolina, who died between November 14, 1863 to February 13, 1864. Also included are two unknowns from the 2nd United States Colored Infantry, bringing the total to 27 possible individuals represented among the (at least ) 19 soldiers recovered during the excavation of 38CH920.
The list is highly speculative for several reasons. First, determining the date for the first probable internment at 38CH920 is difficult. The winter camp was being established during November of 1863. Sometime during that period, the regimental hospitals were sufficiently completed to treat patients at the winter camp. On November 11th and 13th, Fox notes:

*Wednesday Nov. 11th.* The regiment is gradually collecting at this place, a large number of convalescents having come down today with much of the baggage.

*Friday Nov. 13th.* To-day we fixed up two hospital tents quite nicely, and built a stable, or rather a frame to be covered with canvas, for the horses... (Fox 1863-1865: n.p.).

For this reason the authors chose to start the list at November 14, 1863, assuming that those very sick and likely to die could not have arrived until after the hospital was operating. No evidence has been found to indicate when the 1st North Carolina hospital was established, however, two 1st North Carolina soldiers died on November 13th.

The date at which to end this death list is even more speculative. The two regiments left the island together on February 13, 1864, the camp being struck on the 12th (Fox 1868: 21). However, the very sick clearly remained on the island: “On leaving Folly Island, a number of the men who had been exposed in Virginia to the small-pox, were left behind...” (Fox 1868: 21). No evidence for what happened to the regimental hospitals after the regiments left the island in February has been found.

### Table 3.4: Possible Individuals Buried at 38CH920
(Died, Folly Island November 14, 1863, to February 13, 1864)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Rank</th>
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<th>Co.</th>
<th>Cause</th>
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<td>Edwin Barber</td>
<td>Pvt.</td>
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<td>E</td>
<td>Disease</td>
<td>12/15/63</td>
<td>A,B</td>
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<td>Samuel Fields</td>
<td>Corp.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>11/27/63</td>
<td>A,B</td>
</tr>
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<td>Albert Johnson</td>
<td>Pvt.</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td>Pneumonia</td>
<td>11/28/63</td>
<td>A,B</td>
</tr>
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<td>Richard Gentry</td>
<td>Pvt.</td>
<td></td>
<td>H</td>
<td>Typhoid</td>
<td>11/19/63</td>
<td>A,B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hiram Wood</td>
<td>Pvt.</td>
<td></td>
<td>I</td>
<td>Typhoid</td>
<td>12/22/63</td>
<td>A,B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Bryant</td>
<td>Pvt.</td>
<td></td>
<td>K</td>
<td>Disability</td>
<td>11/21/63</td>
<td>A,B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stephen Maddox</td>
<td>Corp.</td>
<td></td>
<td>A</td>
<td>Pneumonia</td>
<td>1/31/64</td>
<td>A,B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles Cole</td>
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<td></td>
<td>B</td>
<td>Typhoid</td>
<td>12/20/63</td>
<td>A,B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>B</td>
<td>Typhoid</td>
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<td>A,B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>B</td>
<td>Typhoid</td>
<td>12/23/63</td>
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<td>?</td>
<td>12/7/63</td>
<td>C</td>
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<td>2nd*</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>12/7/63</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Bird</td>
<td>Serg.</td>
<td>55th</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Pneumonia</td>
<td>?***</td>
<td>A,B</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jordan Burton</td>
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<td>55th</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Consumpt.</td>
<td>?***</td>
<td>A,B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Henry</td>
<td>Pvt.</td>
<td>55th</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>Typhoid</td>
<td>?***</td>
<td>A,B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Samuel Thomas</td>
<td>Serg.</td>
<td>55th</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>Disease</td>
<td>?***</td>
<td>A,B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stanley Tadton</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>K</td>
<td>Sickness</td>
<td>12/26/63</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warren Miles</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>Typhoid</td>
<td>12/21/63</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jackson Benson</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>Smallpox</td>
<td>2/10/64</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Issac Coleman</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>Consumpt.</td>
<td>2/4/64</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeffery Johnson</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>12/26/63</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frank Newby</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>Deblity</td>
<td>12/31/63</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primus Rin</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>Typhoid</td>
<td>2/5/64</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Taylor Lee</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>Consumpt.</td>
<td>2/10/64</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alfred Mack</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>K</td>
<td>Sickness</td>
<td>11/27/63</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elisha Gibbs</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>K</td>
<td>Sickness</td>
<td>1/28/64</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A= Fox 1868, B= Fox 1866,ms, C= Brown to Dale Jan. 1864, D= 1st N.C.C.I. Descriptive Rolls

**2nd U.S.C.I.**

Both the published and draft versions of the regimental history state six individuals died in December, Regimental Surgeon Brown states 5 (Brown to Dale January 12, 1864)

***Published version of the Regimental History states these individuals died in June, draft clearly shows they actually died in January.

****Regimental histories state he died in 1862, however, Lt. Garrison diary indicates 1863.
Figure 3.11: Enlarged detail of U.S.G.S. 7.5 min. James Island topographic map, 1959 (photorevised 1979), with Civil War features superimposed on project area. A = White house (Seabrook), B = Hudson Ave. (road to beach), C = 55th Mass. camp, 38CH920, D = cotton field, E = former location Gillmore HQ, F = unnamed creek (common reference point).
bly would have been buried at 38CH920. If the hospitals were moved, the use of the cemetery may have ceased. As stated in the history, the 55th Massachusetts later returned to the island and a total of 63 men died during their entire Folly Island service. Interestingly, there were no recorded deaths due to disease in the 55th Massachusetts from February until around April of 1864. In the 1st North Carolina, deaths continued among those left on Folly Island, though the unit never returned. Obviously, the sick from the 1st North Carolina remained on Folly Island for some time, but how long or where, remains to be researched.

To further induce uncertainty into this list, the authors found discrepancies in the various historic documents pertaining to the 55th Massachusetts. A total of ten men died of disease in November 1863 according to the monthly statistical summaries in both the draft and published versions of the regimental histories (Fox 1866, MS: n.p.; Fox 1868: 111). Nine died in regimental hospital, and the other individual died elsewhere (Fox 1866, MS: n.p.). However, both the draft and published histories rosters (which accounts for individuals by name) name only nine individuals who died that November. A diary kept by Lt. Garrison (an officer of the 55th Massachusetts) may account for this discrepancy. Garrison recorded that Sergeant Samuel P. Thomas of the regiment died of disease on November 17, 1863 (Soule n.d.: n.p.). While both the published and draft versions of the regimental history state that Thomas’s death occurred in November 1864 (Fox 1866, MS: n.p.; Fox 1868: 116), the authors have decided to include Thomas in the Table 3.4 list, because Garrison’s diary appears to have been written in November 1863 and not after the war from memory.

Still another problem in compiling this list was that, in December, both the draft and published regimental histories monthly statistical summaries of deaths state that six men died in the regimental hospital. However, Regimental Surgeon Brown’s letter report to Massachusetts Surgeon General Dale states that only five died in December (Brown to Dale, January 12, 1864). The roster’s of both the draft and published histories name only five individuals, supporting Brown. The sixth man remains unaccounted. This individual has been listed as an unknown.

Brown also states that “In addition to the number of deaths in our own regiment, two privates of Co. A, 2nd Reg. U.S. Col’d Infantry, died in our hospital. They were on detached service; and as the Post Hospital on Folly Island has been broken up, they had no other place to go” (Brown to Dale, January 12, 1864). Officially, the 2nd U.S.C.I. were assigned to the Department of the Gulf and never on Folly Island. However, Bright (1973: 212-213) mentions that, indeed, Company A, of the 2nd U.S.C.I. was placed on detached service on Folly Island from August 1863 to December 1863. Actually, the 2nd U.S.C.I. had not even been formally organized as a regiment when Company A was detached from its assembly area in Virginia and sent to Folly Island (Dyer 1908: 1723). This kind of ambiguity typifies the difficulty in deriving an accurate list of individuals possibly represented among the 38CH920 burials, and also the difficulty in trying to pinpoint the location of any one regiment at a particular time. In any case, these two 2nd U.S.C.I. troopers have been included in the table as unknowns.

Three members of the 55th Massachusetts (Bird, Burton, and Henry) were recorded in the published regimental history as dying in June of 1864 (Fox 1868: 130, 134). However, this is clearly a misprint as the handwriting in the draft looks much more like “Jan” (see Fox 1866, MS: n.p.), and both monthly statistical summaries agree that a total of four deaths occurred in January 1864, as does Brown’s summary reports to Massachusetts Surgeon General Dale (Brown to Dale, April 2, 1864). Including Private Maddox, whose January death is not disputed, all four January deaths in the 55th Massachusetts are accounted for and listed in Table 3.4.

**SUMMARY 38CH920**

A rather detailed history of 38CH920 has been revealed through a combination of archaeological, historical, and physical anthropological data. The best evidence points to this cemetery being a brigade cemetery for two black regiments during the winter camp of 1863 to 1864. From approximately November 14, 1863 to at least February 13, 1864, the 55th Massachusetts and the 1st North Carolina buried their dead in this cemetery. How many were buried is still uncertain as well as their names. Perhaps this information could be found through additional archival research. Sometime after the war the burials were exhumed rather carelessly. Two soldiers were missed entirely, and the partial remains of many others were left behind.

The archaeological patterns, although not precise because of the high degree of disturbance, do support the historical documents. Further, they imply that the cemetery was not neatly maintained. Mortuary patterns indicate that the soldiers were buried in a variety of ways, from being carefully wrapped in a shroud and placed in a coffin to simply placed in the ground with a minimum of clothing. Almost all were buried on their backs with hands across the abdomen or chest. The physical anthropological data has been collected and some preliminary analysis completed. Future physical anthropological analysis of these remains should produce intriguing results.
Figure 3.12: Detail of Vodges-Becker Map of 1863 (see Figure 2.2) with additional Civil War features superimposed. (National Archives.) A = White house (Seabrook), B = road to beach (Hudson Ave.), C = 55th Mass. camp, 38CH920, D = cotton field, E = Gilmore HQ, F = unnamed creek (common reference point).