THE AFRICAN BURIAL GROUND: AN AMERICAN DISCOVERY

Part One - The Search

File: PART-1.FN2
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Total Running Time: 28:30
Program Starts at: 01:00:00
Note to Readers: This script provides information regarding the owner of each flat art image used. It also references this information to the camera original or source videotape. This information is inserted prior to the pertinent block of dialogue in this script and the SMPTE time code of the edited master is provided. The following key is utilized:

RTC is the record or program time code in: hr:min:sec
Source Rl: indicates the source reel number
Tc: is the time code of the source videotape in: hr:min:sec

FADE-UP - TEXT SCREEN

"THIS PROGRAM CONTAINS IMAGES OF HUMAN SKELETAL REMAINS WHICH MAY BE DISTURBING TO SOME VIEWERS."

TEASE MONTAGE:
RTC = 01:00:07, Source Rl:110-Tc:10:00:50 - Watercolor, "On The Slave Deck Of The Albanoz" by Lieutenant Godfrey Meynell, c.1840 - ©National Maritime Museum - Greenwich
RTC = 01:00:20, Source Rl: 112-Tc:12:05:10 - Engraving, Africans being branded into slavery - ©New York Public Library
RTC = 01:00:30, Source Rl:112-Tc:12:14:24 - Watercolor - Slave market in New York, c.1643 - ©The Grangers Collection

OSSIE DAVIS - VOICE UNDER

OC: 103-03:08:12 OS: Our children // do not know.
And when I say "our children", I mean our white children and our black children do not know // the dimensions of racism. They do not know the consequences of slavery. They do not know the special circumstances that attended the black presence in America, and, therefore, // it's not easy for them, or for the rest of us, to understand // why black folks // in some ways // have a special claim on the attention of American society.

RT: 103-03:10:27:05 +:20
LOWER THIRD: ADAM CLAYTON POWELL, IV, MEMBER, NY CITY COUNCIL:
RTC = 01:00:40, Source Rl:116-Tc:16:21:41 - Photograph, skeletal remains in-situ - ©Chester Higgins, Jr.

You leave our people alone. You let them rest in peace. // 18-18:16:10 And if these reasonable and just demands are not met, // then, // at the very least, // we should do everything that we can to stop the construction of this building! <loud cheering - SPLIT UNDER NEXT BITE>

LOWER THIRD: MAYA ANGELOU, AUTHOR & POET:
RTC = 01:01:05, Source Rl:110-Tc:10:04:50 - Painting, "Plantation Burial" by Antrobus, 1860 - ©The Historic New Orleans Collection

VU/OC: 132-12:07:33 MA: In the little village in Arkansa in which I grew up there is a black burial ground and it was in existence during slavery. // 12:08:33 I never thought that there'd --- something would emerge in New York City

VOICE OVER MONTAGE:
RTC = 01:01:25, Source Rl:112-Tc:12:02:50 - Engraving, enslaved Africans - in interior of ship - ©New-York Historical Society
RTC = 01:01:42, Source Rl:108-Tc:08:17:03 - "Am I Not A Man And A Brother" ©Library of Congress

VO: I have friends who describe the Atlantic Ocean as their Auschwitz, and they do so because it's their belief that many of their ancestors are dead in the Atlantic Ocean. The Middle Passage speaks to this, that arduous journey that Africans took against their will. // It all really deals with that place that separated us from our homeland. □

TITLE SCREENS OVER SHOT OF WATER (REQUIRES DT OR MATCHED DISSOLVE - EXTEND SHOT FOR 18.5 SECONDS FOR TITLES RL88-08:03:18)

THE AFRICAN BURIAL GROUND: AN AMERICAN EXPERIENCE: PART ONE - THE SEARCH

NARRATED BY: RUBY DEE & OSSIE DAVIS
WRITTEN BY: CHRISTOPHER MOORE
MUSIC BY: LONETTE MCKEE & BRYANT MCNEIL & JAMSHIED SHARIFI
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER: J. PETER GLAWS, III
PRODUCED AND DIRECTED BY: DAVID KUTZ
SHOT PANS FROM WATER TO NEW YORK CITY SKYLINE AT SUNRISE. AS SKYLINE IS REVEALED - LONG DISSOLVE TO EXTERIOR CENTRAL PARK.

VO: New York City -- on Manhattan Island -- was once -- a primeval garden -- of ancient woods, rocky out-crops, rolling hills and fresh water lakes.

DISSOLVE IN EARLIEST HISTORIC VIEWS OF MANHATTAN ISLAND
RTC = 01:02:27, Source Rl:110-Tc:10:05:41 - Etching, Earliest View of New Amsterdam, c.1651 - ©New York Public Library

VO: The Dutch were the first Europeans to settle here and with their presence the native people were pushed outside the new walls - and a written history began.

MONTAGE CONTINUES:

VO: As the English arrived and the culture changed the island Manhattan was also transform physically as the hills were leveled, the coastline expanded and the lakes filled.

MONTAGE CONTINUES:
RTC = 01:02:58, Source Rl:111-Tc:11:07:13 - Painting, "Portrait Of John Jay" by Trumbull - ©New York City Art Archive
RTC = 01:03:01, Source Rl:111-Tc:11:07:44 - Painting, "Portrait Of Alexandra Hamilton" by Trumbull - ©New York City Art Archive
RTC = 01:03:04, Source Rl:117-Tc:17:15:22 - Engraving, Prince William at the Collect Pond - Leo Herschkowitz Collection
RTC = 01:03:14, Source Rl:118-Tc:18:08:34 - Engraving, bird's eye view of New York City, c.1830 - ©Museum of the City of N.Y.

VO: The written and visual record also grew. -- There are many images of the founding fathers, -- but few images of the men and women who built its foundation.

New York finally emerged as a great city of the United States. Its written history is long but also incomplete.
OC:  57-17:21:20  TJD:  History is a subject that relies primarily on the written record. Thus, it has a tendency to over represent literate elites and to under represent those persons who are not literate. // 17:12:47 African Americans would not have as much documented history as other groups because African Americans were not the producers of documents. // 17:13:07 More than that, the documents that were produced by African Americans were not preserved in systematic ways.

OC:  32-12:04:43  NR:  When you think about // the way in which history is recorded, it tends to focus on people who can either write themselves or who are important enough to be written about.

VO:  African-Americans were nearly 20% of the population of colonial New York and in the historical record largely missing or distorted. □ Most of these African-Americans were enslaved. □

VO:  In the summer of 1991, an unexpected and remarkable discovery deep beneath Manhattan's streets offered a new chance to reclaim some of this "lost" history. □
OC: 34-14:20:24 JS: There is references to the area in terms of black cemetery, but // I didn't know what that meant. // I assumed that there was a cemetery that apparently was in what was then the southern part of the Collect, // which was in fact the freshwater pond that was there at the outset back in 16th, 17th century. // (14:20:54) I kept thinking, I wonder what they're going to find."

VOICE OVER MONTAGE:

VO: On the architectural drawing board a 34 story federal office building was being planned; it was to be built on land purchased from the City of New York by the United States government. //

RTC = 01:05:50, Source Rl:110-Tc:10:08:20 to 08:45 - Map, Earliest known map showing location of Burial Ground by Lyne, c.1730 ©New York Public Library

OC: 30-10:11:00 WD: When did we know about the Negro Burial Ground, as it is called in the old papers. In the environmental impact statement which the government is required to do, they turned up a map that showed the existence of the, quote, "Negro Burial Ground", and the map clearly showed that the burial ground extended -- not only covered the site of the 290 Broadway building, but extended for many blocks. //
The feeling, however, was, and there were many references to this in the documentation, that while the cemetery had existed, that it was no more in existence. {add RT}

JEAN HOWSON, ARCHEOLOGIST:

OC: 25-05:10:54 JH: When test excavations were begun, we were hopeful that we might find some remains from the burial ground, but we weren't particularly optimistic. // Every single lot within that block had had a building built on it in the 19th or 20th century. // RT // 04:11:26 When you looked at it, your initial reaction was "There can't possibly be anything left." // RT

VOICE OVER MONTAGE:
RTC = 01:06:21, Source Rl:108-Tc:08:07:12 - photograph, Broadway Site prior to excavation, by Bernstein Associates - acquired from Tishman Foley Partners
RTC = 01:06:24, Source Rl:100-Tc:20:27:11, photograph, early stage of archeological dig by Dennis Seckler provided by John Milner Associates
RTC = 01:06:29, Source Rl:108-Tc:08:01:14 - Plan of Archeological Site - Historic Conservation and Interpretation provided by Edwards and Kelsey

VO: Archeological testing for remains or evidence of the burial ground continued at the site through the summer of 1991. As the summer neared an end, no conclusive evidence of the burial ground had been found. But one location showed promise. •

JEAN HOWSON:
INTERWEAVE - RTC = 01:06:40, Source Rl:117-Tc:17:19:54 - Map, Showing Location of Republican Alley - ©N.Y.C Municipal Archive

OC: 24-04:12:53 JH: In the very corner of an alley that existed on the lot, called Republican Alley, that had always been an alley even since it was first developed in the late eighteenth century. We knew no buildings had
ever stood on that alley, so we felt that would be a good place to start.

WILLIAM DIAMOND:

OC: 30-10:12:58  WD: And there, we thought there may be one, two, or three graves. The government never foresaw the amount of skeletons that would be found there, and it is very important for us to understand that had we foreseen this, we perhaps would have taken a different course of action.

VOICE OVER MONTAGE:

VO: Early in October of 1991, came first word of a discovery to the public. Within days the official announcement was made; 11 bodies had been found.

CUT TO OCT 4, 1991; FOX-TV "EXCLUSIVE" REPORT - INCLUDE DIGITAL EFX WITH "FOX-NEWS" LOGO. {original footage property of Fox News}

FOX ANNOUNCER VO:

VO+: From Fox Five this is the ten o'clock news.

LOWER THIRD: BOB PLUNKETT, ANCHOR, FOX 5 NEWS:

OC+: It's a graveyard right in the heart of downtown and it's already surprising some historians. Jeff Weiser has more in the exclusive report.

JEFF WEISER, REPORTER, VOICE OVER FOX B-ROLL

VO+: There are graves being literally uncovered in Lower Manhattan. While government officials have withheld comment and have sealed the site from the public, Fox News has learned, that archeologist have discovered a historic site at this location at 290 Broadway where a federal office building is scheduled to be build between Duane and Reade Streets.
B-ROLL - MID-HIGH ANGLE - PAN DOWN BROADWAY TO ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE
INTERWEAVE - RTC = 01:0:10, Source Rl:108-Tc:08:02:21 - Hypothetical Elevation of Archeological Site - Historic Conservation and Interpretation provided by Edwards and Kelsey

VO: There, more than 20 feet below Manhattan's streets, was a remnant of the oldest cemetery of African-American men, women and children ever found in a North American city. The cemetery was in use from the early seventeen hundreds and perhaps earlier.

WILLIAM DIAMOND:
INTERWEAVE - RTC = 01:08:28, Source Rl:100-Tc:20:14:15 - photography, first skeletal remains discovered, in-situ - by Dennis Seckler as an employee of Historic Conservation and Interpretation provided by John Milner Associates

OC: 30-10:15:18 WD: The first decision we were faced with was how to remove the skeletons. And I gave the instruction that they would be treated as a -- as a very important archaeological find, no different than a find of this nature would be in the ancient world.

VOICE OVER MONTAGE:
RTC = 01:08:37, Source Rl:110-Tc:10:10:14 - Map, Engraving derived from Maerschalckm, c.1763 ©New York Public Library

VO: The discovery sent historians scurrying, trying to determine why the surface of the cemetery was so deep below the city, and how the burial ground itself had been buried and undetected for more than 200 years. //

At first, archaeologists thought they might find as many as 20 or 30 bodies -- but as work proceeded -- it soon became apparent that many more would be found. //

LOWER THIRD: DR. MICHAEL BLAKEY, ANTHROPOLOGIST HOWARD UNIV., PROJECT SCIENCE DIRECTOR

OC: 120-20:22:41 MB: It was // {very tight} according to
the early reports, thought to be a very small site with a very small sample of // individuals, of skeletons.

JEAN HOWSON:

OC: 25-05:11:37 JH: It wasn't until we found out, through excavations, that the original ground surface in that area sloped down quite sharply from Broadway towards the east, towards the freshwater pond that had been there, that we knew that the ground surface was still intact underneath all of those later buildings and that the burials beneath that ground surface were still there. // 05:15:37 We knew there would be hundreds, hundreds of intact burials on this site.

VO: By December of 1991, more than one hundred individuals were found. A month later the skeletal count was nearing 200.

VOICE OVER MONTAGE:
RTC = 01:10:10, Source Rl:118-Tc:18:06:19 - Lithograph, view of New Amsterdam, extrapolated from the Castelli Plan - ©Museum of the City of N.Y.

VO: Broadway // one of America's most famous boulevards // was once a hilly wagon path west of the Collect Pond. // This fresh water lake bordered farm land and the burial ground // which was outside the city limits. // Since blacks were considered outcasts // they could not be buried in the all white cemeteries. □
VOICE OVER MONTAGE:
RTC = 01:10:24, Source Rl:118-Tc:18:13:05 - Watercolor, Beekman Street, c.1860 - ©Museum of the City of N.Y.

VO: After the revolutionary war, the city's industrial growth caused the pond to become polluted.
The hilly area around Broadway was leveled and as the earth was moved to fill in the pond it also covered the burial ground.

LOWER THIRD: MICHAEL PARRINGTON, HISTORICAL ARCHEOLOGIST, PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

MP: 4-04:18:57 This was an area of the city was reserved mainly for African Americans. // VU-107:07:01:26 In the eighteenth century, black people were not allowed to be buried in consecrated ground, so this area was reserved for them. // RT NEEDED APX 04:00 // {03:04:13} VU-107:07:01:41 As you can see, we're over 20 feet below grade level here and in order to get down to these depths we use a variety of equipment. We use these very large backhoes // VU-107-07:01:58 to get down the 20-or-so feet until we get down to the level where the burials start to exist. Then we use smaller hand tools, such as shovels and trowels, and eventually we get down to the real intricate work where we're using dental picks and small brushes and a variety of small equipment like that.

INTERWEAVE - DIG "B-ROLL"

VO: The unearthing of the burial ground will provide new information of great importance to both archeologist and historians.
JAMES SHENTON - INTERWEAVE B-ROLL - RT-14:16:53:00+01:15

OC: 34-14:16:58  JS: As a historian, when I start thinking about the question of the relationship with archaeology, I'm aware of something, that they are providing information which is going to oblige myself and other historians to begin understanding that we have a vast new source of evidence at our disposal which we don't fully know how to use. // And, archaeologists are, therefore, going to be in the position of having to instruct us. So, // the archaeologists simply saying, "Look, we dig, we find and this is what we find and this is what we can more or less tell you about the nature, for example, of the way in which these people lived.  RT-34-14:07:05:08+01:21

MICHAEL PARRINGTON

OC: MP: {05:14:58} VU-107:07:00:52  This site is the first eighteenth century urban African American burial ground that's ever been excavated. No other burial ground from this time period has ever been examined. I would say that this is one of the most important // 5-05:15:31 historic sites to be excavated in the United States.

NAN ROTHSHILD

OC: 32-12:16:47  NR: What's exciting about skeletons is that they provide access to a level of information that is not available in any other way. We can analyze bones and we can find out, // what people's health was, what their diet was, what sorts of diseases they died of. // We can tell at what age men died and what age women died and // we can get a lot of really direct information about people's lives // It's a very direct and // meaningful kind of information.

MICHAEL BLAKEY

OC: 120-20:12:00  MB: Just as a living population // provides a special insight on a living society // 120-20:12:22 the presence of the people themselves does tell us a great deal.
JAMES SHENTON
INTERWEAVE -

OC: 34-14:17:51 This kind of information brings it down into the nitty-gritty level of life, and that is the life of most people. // What I think has primarily been the traditional problem amongst historians, historians, until social history was invented, tended to think about the people who were important because they counted, they were the ones who made history and the fact is they // were the froth. // In short, they were the people who like to think they made history.

MICHAEL PARRINGTON
LIVE ACTION SHOTS: CHILD ON PEDESTAL: RL2, MOTHER & CHILD: RL22

OC: {05:11:49} VU-107:07:00:33 MP: I think in looking at the site, what we have to bear in mind is that this is a very historically obscure group of people. We know virtually nothing about them from historical sources, so their physical remains are, in effect, documents that are telling us about the past.

INTERWEAVE - RTC = 01:14:21, Source Rl:100-Tc:20:20:01 - photograph, skeletal remains in-situ by Dennis Seckler as an employee of Historic Conservation and Interpretation provided by John Milner Associates

MP: 04:23:45 We've excavated almost 300 individuals on the site, and out of that population around 45% appear to be children or young infants. Thirty percent are infants below the age of two and the further 15% or so are children below the age of puberty. Of the remainder, around two-thirds of the adults are male and around one-third are female.
B-ROLL OF MOTHER AND CHILD IN SITU - RL22-02:20:31:15

VO: In this burial, of a woman and child - the woman is buried with her infant - her arm was found shaped around its remains.


VO: As the wood of a coffin decomposes it leaves in the soil a dark line. This subtle deposit is the first sign of the location of a burial.

MICHAEL PARRINGTON:

2-02:09:32 MP: You can also see the organic staining here from the coffin which continues down right to the bottom of the grave pit. // You can see nails here that would have been used to // nail down the lid.

B-ROLL OF ARCHEOLOGICAL DIG

VO: Excavating the area is very difficult because there are a large number of graves very close together. Some are on top of each other.

MICHAEL PARRINGTON - INTERWEAVE B-ROLL

{01:28:16} VU-107:07:02:42 MP: We have a protocol which we use to try and define where in the coffin the burial actually is. And initially we try and uncover the top of the head and then we try and uncover the legs, and this gives us a sense for where precisely in the coffin the individual is.

MICHAEL BLAKEY - INTERWEAVE WRAPPING BONES: RL 85 (TC:05)

OC: 86-06:11:04:25 MB: It's important to get // as much information as possible in the field // taking data from the skeleton in situ - that is in place // because as you may be able to see these remains are very fragile and it's // not possible to avoid fragmentation // of
the bones as they are removed and wrapped.

VOICE OVER - INTERWEAVE B-ROLL

VO: The two most fundamental characteristics of a human being are age and sex. These are the initial properties that anthropologists, scientists who study human culture, try to determine when excavating a burial site.

MICHAEL BLAKEY - INTERWEAVE B-ROLL AND:

{06:16:17} VU-107:07:03:38 MB: One examines the teeth for a variety of reasons. Teeth give some indication of age. And, they also provide indicators of pathology and nutritional stress. {06:16:17} So for children you determine age in large part by the extent of their development. // RT-86-06:12:24:10+01:00 // VU-107:07:04:12 Aging is also influenced by the environment the work stresses that individual under went. In a young person the vertebral body would be flat - more or less - straight across the margins - but here you see the margins are elevated and actually they lip or fold over.

VOICE OVER

VO: Dr. Blakey's field analysis suggests a man in his 30's. The ridge of bone or "lipping" of the spine, caused perhaps from years of work and strain -- is more like someone in their 80's.
MICHAEL BLAKEY - INTERWEAVE B-ROLL - SKELETON ILLUSTRATIONS & PHOTOGRAPHS

{06:25:40} VU-107-07:04:43 MB: I would be inclined to think that this degree of lipping is more of an environmental .. stress related phenomena. // 06:25:14:14 This is a lot of lipping for someone in their 30's. RT-86-06:26:53:14+:18

MICHAEL PARRINGTON

MP: 02:09:00 How are the bones?

CHARLANE GROSS - NO LOWER THIRD ID

{scene continues} OC: 02:09:02 CG: Not very good. You can see how soft the ribs are in here. The ends of the bones are also very soft in the areas where the bone thins out. // 2-02:11:18 There's been some -- some tooth loss // before death. RT-2-02:10:08:22+01:15

VOICE OVER - INTERWEAVE B-ROLL AND:
RTC = 01:17:56, Source Rl:127-Tc:06:49:02 - Drawing, site plan produced by John Milner Associates

VO: The skeletal remains can also indicate the sex of an individual which helps develop a demographic profile, a set of vital statistics, about the population. // In this excavation, twice as many adult men as women have been found. □

MICHAEL PARRINGTON - INTERWEAVE WITH B-ROLL AND:
RTC = 01:18:08, Source Rl:100-Tc:20:11:54 - photograph, skeletal remains in-situ by Dennis Seckler as an employee of Historic Conservation and Interpretation provided by John Milner Associates

{04:28:10} VU-107:07:04:58 MP: The way sex is determined is based on a number of factors. One is differences in the shape of the pelvis. There's an area called the sciatic notch, which has a different shape in males and females. There's an area called the pubic symphysis. There are differences in the shape of that in males and females. // RT-107-07:05:48:23+02:15
OC: 07:26:02  BW: This is possibly a female individual and she would have been about eighteen and very robust. // 07:27:41 I do find that they lived in a much more physical world than we ever will and they were stronger individuals and more hardy individuals, and although their lives were so hard, it would // be very nice to be that powerful as they were, // even though they were perhaps abused for being that robust.

VOICE OVER MONTAGE - RTC = 01:18:54, Source Rl:100-Tc:20:12:23 - photograph, skeletal remains in-situ by Dennis Seckler as an employee of Historic Conservation and Interpretation provided by John Milner Associates;
RTC = 01:19:00, Source Rl:100-Tc:20:16:35 - ibid.

VO: The condition of the skeletons varies greatly. Some are virtually intact while others have nearly completely vanished through the natural decomposition process.

In some cases, burials have been intruded upon when another person was buried very close by and some were disturbed by building construction in the eighteen-hundreds. •

MICHAEL PARRINGTON - INTERWEAVE B-ROLL

{03:18:06} VU-107:07:07:13 In conducting an excavation, any kind of excavation, // 3-03:18:10:27 {split pic back to cover VU} in essence what you're doing is destroying the material's context as you remove it from the ground. So what we have to do is make as complete a record as possible // 107-07:07:32 And in this case what we're doing is making a very detailed scale drawing of this burial. So that, theoretically, we could in fact reconstruct this burial ground completely. // 3-03:21:27 In essence, we know the precise location // in space of every individual buried here.
OC: 12:20:11  NR: The other kinds of information that you can get from cemetery populations have to do with the way people are treated at death. // 12:20:34  Were men buried the same way that women were? Were children buried the same way? If they're // bodies are oriented in a certain direction, are all of the people oriented that way? Are the coffins different from one to another?" And so on.

VOICE OVER - SUNRISE SHOT DISSOLVE TO MAP {shot rolls backwards}

VO: The overwhelming number of burials were discovered with the head oriented to the west. (□)

MICHAEL PARRINGTON - INTERWEAVE B-ROLL

OC: 05:08:47  MP: All of the burials that we've discovered so far were oriented with the head to the west. // VU-107-07:07:57  The theory being that on the day of judgment these individuals would sit up in their graves and face the -- the rising sun, but they're also facing Jerusalem, and in the case of the African Americans here, they're also facing Africa.

VOICE OVER - COFFIN AND SKELETAL REMAINS OF CHILDREN

VO: Special interest is taken in the number of children found - since about half of the burial ground population is under 12 years of age. (□)

MICHAEL BLAKEY

OC: 122:02:00:32  MB: We know that // children were imported // as slaves directly from Africa. // We know that certainly those who were born in New York // as slaves // lived at the convenience of the people who presumed to own them.
B-ROLL

VO: Most of the bodies uncovered, were not accompanied by grave goods or material possessions. // Their clothing at the time of burial was often // just a simple shroud. (□)

MICHAEL PARRINGTON


{04:16:22} VU-107-07:08:16 MP: In the very early stages of the project we found one individual who had military buttons from a British marine officer's coat. And we've had three examples, so far, where coins have been placed in the individual's eyes. And this is a cultural practice where pennies were placed over the eyes to keep'em closed at the time of death. And then these coins were thought to have unlucky connotations because they had been in contact with the dead. So they were buried with them.

VOICE OVER - CUT TO:


VO: Most were buried in plain wooden coffins, some ten to fifteen percent were placed in the earth with no coffin at all. •

MICHAEL PARRINGTON

INTERWEAVE - RTC = 01:21:57, Source Rl:100-Tc:20:17:57 - photograph, musket ball in-situ by Dennis Seckler as an employee of Historic Conservation and Interpretation provided by John Milner Associates

{04:22:41} VU-107:07:08:48 MP: There's not much evidence on the site of any kind of violence. We had one individual who had a musket ball in her ribs, and that presumably was the cause of death. But apart from that, I've seen very little evidence of the kinds of
fractures that might be associated with violence, such as fractures of the bones of the hands or of the rib area.

LOWER THIRD:  DR. SPENCER TURKEL, FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGIST
{room tone @ RL46- 06:06:46:23 +:27}

OC: RL46 - 06:06:55:29 ST: We take careful measurements in the field in case there's damage to the bones as they are transported or excavated. And ah, we also get preliminary analysis to age, sex and race from our assessments.

INTERWEAVE B-ROLL OF DIG

VO: Determining the race of an individual from their skeletal remains is a difficult and problematic issue. (□)

MICHAEL PARRINGTON - INTERWEAVE AND MONTAGE OF B-ROLL PLUS:

{04:29:27} VU-107-07 MP: We determine racial characteristics by looking at various differences that are apparent. Usually in the cranium, in the skull of an individual, there are certain characteristics which indicate or suggest that people were of African ancestry or caucasian or oriental or whatever. // 05:00:55 Out of the, you know, the total population that we've looked at so far, by far the majority seem to be of African ancestry. // 107-07:10:45 We have a couple of examples of individuals who may or may not be white. I mean there's some degree of dispute about that. And they may be individuals of, mixed race.
MICHAEL BLAKEY - INTERWEAVE B-ROLL END WITH:

VU: 107-07:08:06 MB: The determination of race is very complex and troubled issue. In essence race does not exists in nature. It is a // social construct that has been imposed upon populations. // That in essence involves taking a few characteristics and defining whole populations in terms of those characteristics. So that if one defines a negroid as an individual who is more prognathic that is to say who has a more forward projecting lower face then you can measure that in the skeleton // and in that sense you can assign the individual to a particular race - with all of the overlap and ambiguities that would even come with that kind of definition. // 07:12:42 But we can come up with a fairly close approximations of the facts. And ah, that is a very long way from the paucity of information that we presently have on the life of Africans in this area during the 18th-century.

LOWER THIRD: JOHN BLUME, FIELD ARCHEOLOGIST
INTERWEAVE B-ROLL AND:

OC: 22-02:09:27 JB: This individual as far as we can tell now is a female and is wearing, she was buried with two beaded bracelets. // 02:09:47 On the right wrist there was a bracelet consisting of alternating green and white beads. // 02:11:11 On the left hand you can see a few dark beads here and they continue up in here. Dark blue kind of rounded glass beads with some white glass beads on the strand. //

VO: Through the archeological process and later analysis the significance of field reported information can change. // It was later determined // that the beads where not parts of a bracelet but were actually a lace of beads around her waist. // For the scientists, such personal information adds a human dimension to their work with the remains.

JOHN BLUME - INTERWEAVE B-ROLL, END WITH - RTC = 01:26:03, Source Rl:112-Tc:12:04:57 - Engraving, African life prior to enslavement - ©New York Public Library

JB: 22-02:14:24 This individual has filed front incisors, both the upper front and the lower front incisors. The first incisor, the one right here, is filed into a gradual, like an hour glass - a gradual hour glass. //RT-22:02:13:02:20+01:00 {REPEATS APX FOUR TIME}// And the second //RT// incisor which would be right here, is filed into a peg shape where both sides are just filed into a point, but its more like a dull peg. // 02:15:00 This indicates tribal affiliations to West Africa where this was the practice of among certain tribes.

MICHAEL PARRINGTON - CUT AWAY RL 10

{05:16:21} VU-107:07:13:56 MP: From my own perspective as a father of young children, I find it sometimes very moving to look down on the remains of young infants and children and // 5-05:16:35 speculate on what might have happened to them if they'd lived.

MICHAEL BLAKEY - INTERWEAVE B-ROLL - CUT AWAY - skull-RL 48

{07:13:21} VU-107:07:14:21 MB: One gets a general impression of his face as being I think very pleasant. I think that this man would have had fairly striking features - and in the development of his brow - a fairly strong brow as they would - as they sometimes say.
This is just the sort of thing one thinks about while doing the science while sitting at the side of - of an ancestor. Trying to understand who that person was - how they lived - what life was like for him or her.

WIDE SHOTS OF SITE - "empty" site: RL85, moving boxes: RL47, Sunset: RL 102

VO: In October 1992, some 200 years after the cemetery had been closed, the archeological dig was permanently stopped due to community and political pressures. More than four hundred individual skeletons had been removed from this small preserved area of the cemetery which was once much larger. Experts estimate over ten thousand men, women and children were once buried here. At the peak 65 archeologist worked to reclaim this historical site. Soon, laboratory examinations would begin to reveal even more.

The discovery will have a profound impact on our historical perspective of those buried and will constantly remind us of those enslaved unwilling American immigrants who were nearly forgotten.

TEXT CLOSING TITLE:

FULL PRODUCTION CREDITS
MAY BE FOUND AT
THE END OF SEGMENT TWO

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program ends at: RTC = 01:28:29
apx 30-second count-down to start of Part Two