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Archaeological Investigations at Morgan Chapel Cemetery (41BP200), A Historic Cemetery in Bastrop County, Texas

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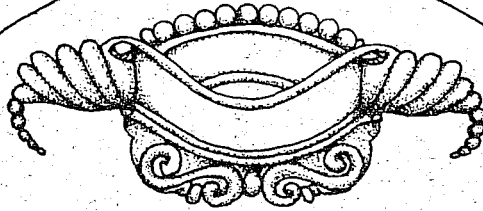
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Archaeological Investigations at Morgan Chapel Cemetery (41BP200), A Historic Cemetery in Bastrop County, Texas

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS
AT
MORGAN CHAPEL CEMETERY (41 BP 200),
A HISTORIC CEMETERY IN
BASTROP COUNTY, TEXAS

Anna J. Taylor, Anne A. Fox, and I. Wayne Cox

With Appendices By
Virginia K. Massey and
Richard G. Holloway

Center for Archaeological Research
The University of Texas at San Antonio
Archaeological Survey Report, No.146

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The following information is provided in accordance with General Rules of Practice and Procedure, Chapter 41.11 (Investigation Reports), Texas Antiquities Committee:

1. Type of investigation: Archaeological investigation at the Morgan Chapel Cemetery;
2. Project name: CPS-Butler, Phase III: Morgan Chapel Cemetery;
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ABSTRACT

During August 1984, archaeologists from the Center for Archaeological Research (CAR), The University of Texas at San Antonio, and City Public Service (CPS) of San Antonio relocated the burials from Morgan Chapel Cemetery (41 BP 200), in Bastrop County, Texas. Twenty-one burials, of which 13 were unmarked, were located, exposed, recorded, and removed for reinterment in the nearby McDade and Ridgeway Cemeteries. The nature of the clay subsoil at the site obscured grave outlines, which made detection of unmarked burials quite difficult. This situation resulted in a decision by CPS, following consultation with representatives of the Texas Historical Commission and the CAR-UTSA archaeologists, to remove all the soil from the 3.055 acres of cemetery property to a depth of six feet. The excavation procedures utilized during the cemetery removal, and problems encountered during this process, are detailed to aid other archaeologists involved in similar projects. Descendants of the deceased and also other local informants provided details about the identification and location of burials. Information concerning the burial customs and physical condition of the people of this area was gained as a result of the project. Because the cultural deposits and features associated with Morgan Chapel Cemetery were removed during the cemetery operations, and no *in situ* cultural deposits remain, the site is no longer considered to be a significant cultural resource. The suggestion is therefore made that the site not be recommended for nomination as a State Archeological Landmark, or listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Investigations were done in compliance with Texas state statutes governing cemeteries.

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The archaeological field crew included the field director, A. J. Taylor, and I. Wayne Cox, both research associates (CAR-UTSA); Elizabeth Craig, Jeff Huebner, and Kevin Jolly, archaeological assistants (CAR-UTSA); and Darla Cox of San Antonio, who volunteered to assist with the excavations. Virginia Massey, of Texas A&M University, was the physical anthropologist for the project. Richard G. Holloway, of Texas A&M University, analyzed the wood remains. Anne Fox (CAR-UTSA) provided valuable advice concerning excavations at the cemetery, and analyzed fabric samples from the burials. Dr. Donald R. Lewis (CAR-UTSA) provided information concerning the nature of the soils at the site, and the soil test results. David Hafernik and Bruce Ellis did the drafting for the report, and Margaret Greco did the artifact illustrations. Special thanks are due to Mary Lou Ellis, administrative secretary, Sharon Quirk, editor, and Ann Young, typist (all from the CAR-UTSA), all of whom provided much support and aid throughout the project. Thomas R. Hester (principal investigator) and Jack D. Eaton and Kenneth M. Brown (co-principal investigators) supervised the project.

INTRODUCTION

From August 5 through August 28, 1984, archaeologists from the Center for Archaeological Research, The University of Texas at San Antonio (CAR-UTSA), and a physical anthropologist from Texas A&M University, assisted by representatives from The State Agency for Historic Preservation of the Texas Historical Commission (THC), monitored and assisted in the relocation of all burials from Morgan Chapel Cemetery (41 BP 200) in Bastrop County, Texas (Fig. 1). The 3.055-acre property within which the cemetery was located was to be sold by the Methodist Church to City Public Service (CPS) of San Antonio. This anticipated transfer of property prompted the cemetery removal, as prescribed by Texas law, since CPS anticipates mining lignite in this area, which would adversely affect the cemetery (see Texas Historical Commission 1981:2).

The Methodist Church was also concerned with the maintenance of the graves at Morgan Chapel Cemetery, which had been neglected in recent times, and favored the removal of the burials to cemeteries which were maintained. The cemetery relocation project was an extension of the CPS-Butler, Phase III project, which was conducted by Kenneth Brown (1986) of the CAR-UTSA. Archaeological investigations were conducted during the cemetery relocation in compliance with Texas state statutes governing cemeteries. Representatives from the THC observed the cemetery relocation in anticipation of later federal involvement in this area. The investigations were carried out under Texas Antiquities Committee Permit No. 364. At the time of the investigation, no federal action was pending. However, eventually there will be federal involvement, and this report will come under federal review. At that time, this project would be in compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Environmental Policy Act, Executive Order 11593 or any other pertinent federal law.

At the request of CPS the archaeologists and the physical anthropologist participated in relocating the cemetery burials, with the direction of THC personnel to ensure complete documentation and removal of the burials. The excavation techniques utilized to detect the cemetery graves were determined by CPS in consultation with the archaeologists. Morgan Chapel Cemetery was found to contain a total of 21 burials of which only eight were marked.

Since the participation of archaeologists in the relocation of historic cemeteries is a relatively recent development, it is hoped that the recounting of the procedures employed as the cemetery excavations developed will be useful to other archaeologists and planners who participate in future investigations of this nature. In deference to the feelings of the descendants of the exhumed individuals, photographs of the exposed burials are not included in this report. Photographs were taken of each burial, however, and are on file with the other records for the project at the CAR-UTSA. Samples taken of coffin and vault wood, and of fabric from the burials, are curated at the CAR-UTSA. A glossary of certain terms used in the burial descriptions is provided at the end of this report.

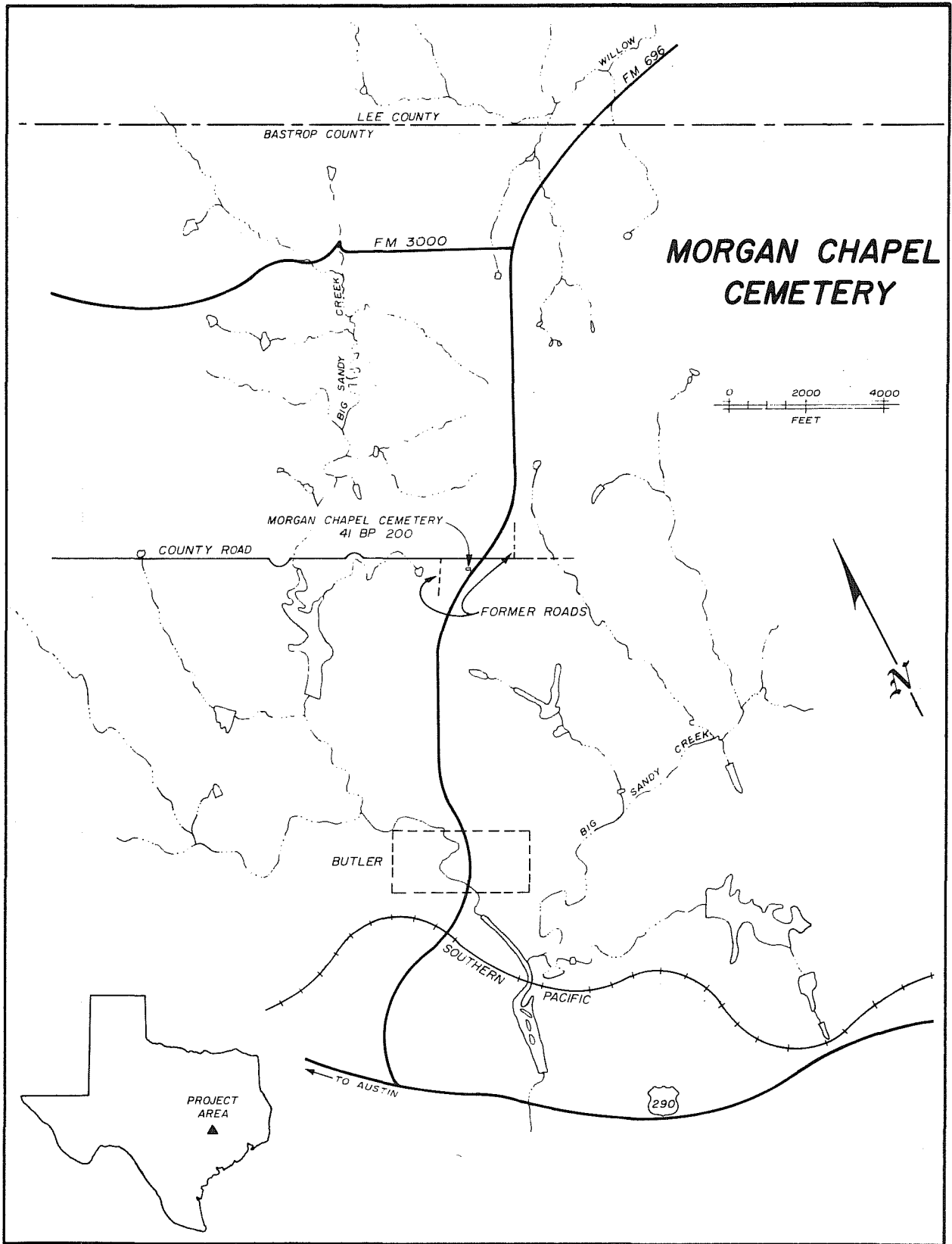


Figure 1. Map of the General Morgan Chapel Cemetery (41 BP 200) Area.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The project area is in Bastrop County, which is predominantly within the Post Oak Belt or Savanna geographic region, with the western edge of the county occurring within the Blackland Prairie. Bastrop County is mainly within the Oak-Hickory Forest vegetation region, though the western part is in the Blackland Prairie. The average annual precipitation is 34 inches (Gould 1969; Arbingast *et al.* 1973; Pool 1975).

The area soils include Demona, Axtell, Crockett, Tabor, and Sayers loamy fine sands and fine sandy loams, with Axtell soils occurring in the project area. These loose sandy upland soils developed on a compact clay or sandy clay substrate that varies in color from a bright orange to a blue gray and is mottled with orange. Axtell soils have a surface layer of fine sandy loam; and lower layers of acid, mottled clay or sandy clay with moderate to high shrink-swell potential. The project area substrate is the Calvert Bluff formation (Bureau of Economic Geology 1974; United States Department of Agriculture 1979:3, 6-9, Tables 6, 9, Map Sheet 4.). Elevations in the area range from 470 to 560 feet above mean sea level (MSL).

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The project area was mainly settled by Anglo-Americans, many of whom came from the upland South. Wends, a group of Slavs in Germany, most of whom were Lutherans, predominantly settled to the east of the project area, in much of Lee County. Germans and Swedes settled to the northwest in Williamson County, and to the west in northeastern Travis County (Webb Vol. 2 1952:879; Arbingast *et al.* 1973:42; Brown 1986).

Morgan Chapel Cemetery was located to the south of Morgan Chapel in a grove of medium- to large-sized oak trees (Fig. 2,a). The church and the associated cemetery were located on a gentle southern slope, approximately 1.45 miles east of Sandy Creek (Fig. 1). The site was along the northwest side of FM 696, and was approximately 370 feet south of an improved dirt road. A county road, which was abandoned after FM 696 was built, was located 750 feet west of the church (Fig. 3). Morgan Chapel was approximately 1.9 miles south-southwest of the former Mt. Pleasant Church (the Mt. Pleasant structure burned to the ground in 1984). Morgan Chapel was a small Methodist Church which was probably founded in the 1870s, and was named after the Reverend Daniel Morgan of Elgin (McCrary 1955:40). The church was established by 1869, and the earliest recorded burial was that of Jane Ivy (Grave H) in 1891. Among the builders of the church were William Cruse, who was buried in the Morgan Chapel Cemetery (Grave A), and John Myers, the husband of Caroline Myers (Grave G) who was also buried there. The church and cemetery were reportedly located on donated community property (Casey 1980). Morgan Chapel was part of a three church circuit visited by a traveling minister. Like the nearby Mt. Pleasant Church, Morgan Chapel also served as a school during the 1880s and the 1890s (Kelly and Roemer 1981:14-18; Brown 1986).

The Newby Funeral Home, Inc., in Elgin has records (dated 1911-1950) of four Morgan Chapel Cemetery burials. The records were kept by the former Miller

Figure 2. View of Morgan Chapel Cemetery (41 BP 200) Before Excavations, and of an Exposed Dug Vault.

- a, view of Morgan Chapel Cemetery prior to excavations with the Ivy and Myers family plot in the foreground, and the Cruse family plot in the background; the Grave E brick false crypt, and Grave F are visible in the right central part of the photograph. Facing southeast;
- b, view of the Grave M collapsed dug vault planking. The head of the coffin is exposed and is in the lower central part of the photograph. Facing east.



a



b

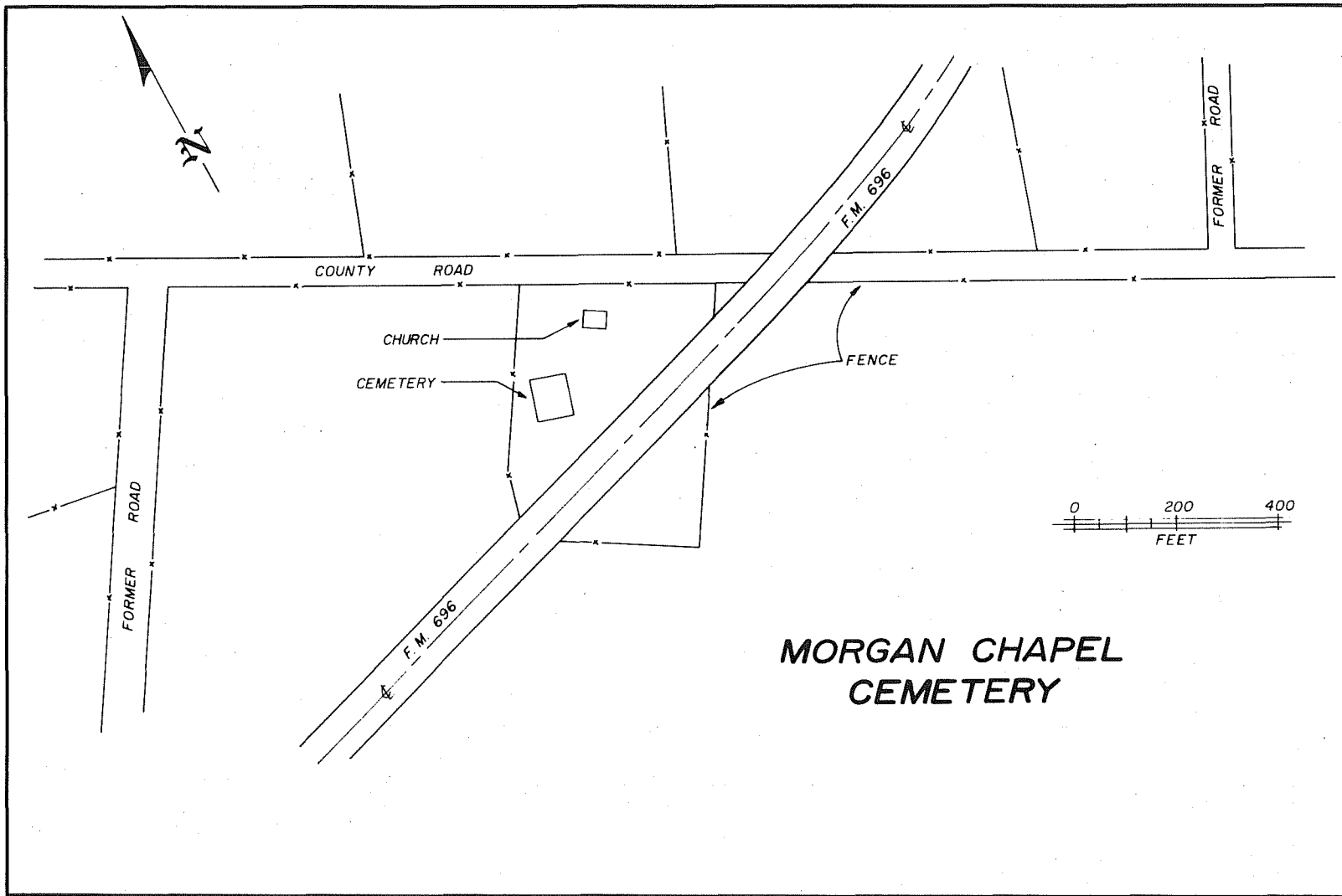


Figure 3. Map of the Immediate Morgan Chapel Cemetery (41 BP 200) Vicinity.

Funeral Home of Elgin, Texas, which was established during the early 1900s and continued in business until 1966, when it became the Newby Funeral Home, Inc. (Newby 1984). The names of those individuals buried in the Morgan Chapel Cemetery, and associated information are as follows:

- (1) Beatrice Finnagin, 20 years old, white, appendicitis, September 24, 1924;
- (2) W. F. Cruse, 81 years old, white, old age, April 5, 1924;
- (3) Infant of Duke Dunbar, stillborn, December 11, 1926;
- (4) Baby Dunbar (Duke Dunbar), stillborn, October 2, 1937.

A family plot for five members of the Dunbar family was also reported by H. D. Dunbar (Odiorne 1983) for the cemetery. Those individuals and associated information are as follows:

- (1) Virginia Elizabeth Hewitt Biggers, 36 years old, 1866-1902;
- (2) Mable Elizabeth Dunbar, 2 years and 4 months old, June 13, 1906-October 22, 1908;
- (3) Barney Elbert Dunbar, 9 months old, November 25, 1908-August 8, 1909;
- (4) Junior Dunbar, stillborn, December 11 or 12, 1926;
- (5) Baby Dunbar, stillborn, October 2, 1937.

Virginia Biggers was the grandmother of Mable, Barney, and Junior Dunbar, and was either the grandmother or great-grandmother of Baby Dunbar. The Dunbar burials were lined with brick and tile, and were grouped together in a row, according to H. D. Dunbar (Odiorne 1983). The line of burials was described to the CAR-UTSA archaeologists and the CPS representatives by H. D. Dunbar (the grandson of Virginia Biggers) as being east to west, which would make the alignment of the graves north to south, in contrast to the standard east to west orientation. J. Biggers (another relative of the Dunbar family), however, recalled that the orientation of the graves was east to west. The graves were described at various times as being northwest, south, southwest, or west of the Cruse family plot (Graves A-D) and Grave F; the exact location varied between informants (a total of four locations was given), but the graves were consistently denoted as being in the western vicinity of the cemetery. At least four of the five burials had wooden coffins, according to H. D. Dunbar (1984; Odiorne 1983; Biggers 1984; Casey 1984; *Elgin Courier* 1984e).

The location and number of graves in the Morgan Chapel Cemetery reported by local informants highly differed, with the highest estimate reported to the archaeologists as 110 burials (see *Austin American-Statesman* 1984; *The Bastrop Advertiser & County News* 1984a, 1984b; *The Bastrop County Times* 1984). Burials were reported by local residents as being to the east, south, and west of where the 21 burials were found. Brickworkers and their families, especially children, were reportedly buried in Morgan Chapel Cemetery (Casey 1980). A Mexican man, hired to cut wood for a local inhabitant in the 1920s, reportedly died at that time and was buried in an isolated area east of the other burials in Morgan Chapel Cemetery, which might currently be beneath Highway 696 or along the highway right of way (Casey 1980, 1984). A few people mentioned hearing accounts of burials, (possibly Hispanic) located beneath Highway 696, including stories of

portions of the highway sinking--supposedly because of underlying burials (Casey 1980; Kelly and Roemer 1981:15).

Alton Greenhaw of McDade recalled attending the funeral of an infant who was buried at the Morgan Chapel Cemetery. The infant's coffin was taken to the graveyard in the Greenhaw's surrey, and was carried on the laps of Greenhaw's brothers. The name of the infant's parents may have been King, and they divorced after the baby was born (Elgin Courier 1984b).

Ela Casey of Elgin remembered the burial of a baby in Morgan Chapel Cemetery, which belonged to a family (name unknown) that was only passing through the area. Mrs. Casey and her mother helped with the funeral preparations and attended the services at the church (Casey 1984).

The latest burial at the cemetery for which there are records was a stillborn infant, possibly the son of Duke Dunbar, who died on October 2, 1937 (Miller Funeral Home Records 1911-1950). This burial was reportedly placed in the Dunbar family plot (Odiorne 1983; Dunbar 1984). It was possibly after this final burial, perhaps in the 1940s or 1950s (Biggers 1984), that cemetery maintenance ceased. Records indicate that the church disbanded in the 1930s, and the wooden structure was sold for scrap lumber in 1941 (McCrary 1955:40).

Local informants told the archaeologists that a "squatter" named Phillips settled on the property in the late 1940s or 1950s, after the church was abandoned, with hopes of claiming the land. During his stay, hogs were kept within the cemetery area, and gravestones were removed from their place and dumped in a nearby gully south of the cemetery (Hoerman 1980; McWilliams 1984).

By the time that the CAR-UTSA archaeologists visited the site (Kelly and Roemer 1981; Brown 1986), it was overgrown with brush, and the graves were barely visible. There were two family plots located, one for four members of the Cruse family (Graves A-D) and the other for Jane Ivy (Grave H) and her daughter Caroline Myers (Grave G); all were defined by ornate iron fences. Interestingly, the iron fence around the Cruse family plot had a gate along the southern side of the plot, but there was no gate or any other entrance way into the fence around the Ivy and Myers plot. When the fence surrounding the Ivy and Myers plot was removed, remains of an earlier iron fence were found, so perhaps the original fence around this plot was not closed. There was a space between the central graves (Graves B and C) in the Cruse family plot, which was suspected to contain an additional burial, but it proved to be only an empty space between graves. Bricks were placed around the exterior of the fence around the Cruse family plot. Another iron fence, which was stolen sometime between 1950 and 1960, was reportedly west of the Ivy (Grave H) and Myers (Grave G) family plot (Biggers 1984), and a wooden fence was reported to have formerly been around an unknown man's grave (Casey 1984).

Stray bricks and two major patches of volunteer irises were found in the vicinity of the remaining marked graves (see Fig. 4). One juniper tree was located along the western part of the concentration of burials. A rough north to south alignment of large post oak trees near the eastern limits of the concentration of burials may have once marked one side of the cemetery.

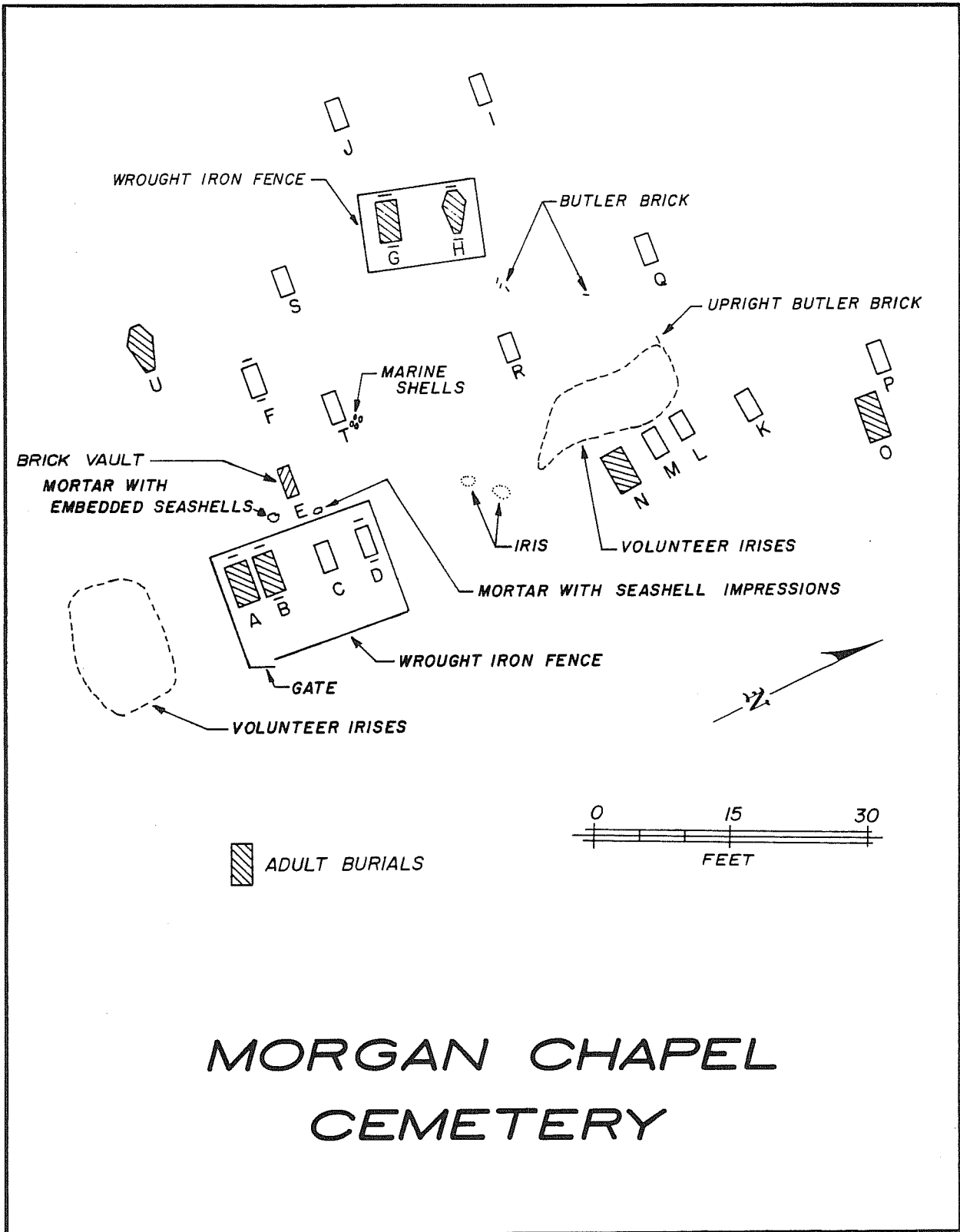


Figure 4. Map of Morgan Chapel Cemetery (41 BP 200) Showing Grave Locations, Coffin Forms, Age Groups, and Features.

A concentration of rough sandstone blocks and parts of a concrete foundation were located a short distance north-northeast of the cemetery, and may mark the former location of Morgan Chapel. A brick cistern with sandy concrete mortar, which was located on the north-central side of the property, appears to date after 1930, and would be associated with the later occupation of the site.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Archaeological investigations of historic cemeteries in Texas are quite limited. Only a few Spanish colonial aboriginal cemeteries, which were associated with missions, have been investigated. The burials at such sites are generally intermixed due to the practice of burying individuals within a certain limited area which was consecrated, such as beneath a church floor or in a churchyard. Schuetz (1968:202-215, Figs. 23, 25, 26, Plate 10; 1969:116-124) has reported the excavation of at least 63 mission Indian burials from Mission San Juan Capistrano in San Antonio, Texas, which date ca. 1763-1785. Most of the burials were young and middle-aged adults, though there were a few elderly individuals and approximately 10 infants. Variability in the ethnic types present at the mission, and also a high occurrence of diseases, were indicated in the skeletal material. Individuals were usually buried in an extended, supine position facing east, though a few faced west, and the forearms were folded across the chest. Some individuals were clothed when buried, and a few had religious medals, rosaries, crosses, or crucifixes. They were placed without a coffin beneath the church floor.

Additional excavations at Mission San Juan Capistrano, reported by Schuetz (1974:24-35, 49, Figs. 10-14), uncovered 92 individuals of which 51 (55.4%) were adults, and 41 (44.6%) were children. These burials appear to date from 1793 to 1862. All burials (except one with a hexagonal wooden coffin) had rectangular wooden coffins constructed with square cut nails. At least two coffins, which contained infants, had painted exteriors. All but one burial were placed in an extended, supine position facing south toward the church altar. Some individuals were clothed when buried and had grave goods such as Indian potsherds, flint tools, shell, and animal bone; none had any religious paraphernalia. Two burials included metal points which may have been the cause of death for those individuals. Skeletal analysis indicates a racial admixture for the group, with 10 (10.9%) individuals identified as being definitely Indians, five (5.4%) as possible Indians, one (1.1%) as a definite Caucasian, and the remainder (82.6%) were of uncertain race.

Gilmore (1969:60-61, 76-81, Figs. 5, 6) reports the excavation of 11 burials, which included two (18.2%) infants, from Mission San Juan Xavier in Milam County, Texas. This site dates from 1746 to 1755. At least one of the individuals had been reburied. Most of the burials were extended and supine. With the exception of two infants, all the individuals had one or both arms semiflexed, and four (36.4%) had their legs crossed at the ankles or knees. Eight (72.7%) of the burials were oriented north to south facing north, and three (27.3%) were oriented east to west facing west. Grave goods were found with four (36.4%) individuals, but no religious items were included, and some individuals may have been clothed when buried. Grave pits were small, appearing to have been dug barely large enough to contain the body. No

evidence of coffins was found. The burials may have been placed beneath a church or in a churchyard, though this is not certain.

There are also reports of isolated historic Plains Indian burials in Texas (Moorman and Jelks 1953; Newcomb 1958; Suhm 1962; Ray and Jelks 1964; Parsons 1967; Bennett 1968; Hester 1968; Word and Fox 1975; Taylor 1975a; LeVine and Freeman 1982:314-316, Table 6). These individual burials were generally placed beneath an overhang or in a small shelter, with numerous European and aboriginally made grave goods such as horse trappings, beaded clothing, and weapons, and also animal bones.

Carter and Ragsdale (1976:30-52, 98, citing Morris 1975 and Coates Field Service Files 1974-1975) mention the relocation of 150 graves from the middle 1800s, located in several rural family cemeteries of a small German community, Biegel's Settlement, in Fayette County, Texas. These cemeteries included the Biegel-December Cemetery (41 FY 94) and the Kroll family child grave (41 FY 95). It does not appear, however, that archaeologists were involved in the cemetery relocation activities.

Numerous Mexican soldiers were excavated from a mass grave (41 CF 3) at the Resaca de la Palma battlefield by Collins, Hester, and Ellzey (n.d.; Hester 1978:71, Fig. 5). The burials date to May 9, 1846, during the Mexican War.

The relocation of 22 graves with 23 individuals (one grave contained a young adult female and an infant) from the Laredo Cemetery (41 WB 22) in Webb County, Texas, was reported by McReynolds (1981a, 1981b). These burials date to the late 1800s and early 1900s, and were possibly both Hispanic and Anglo-American, and at least some of the burials were affiliated with the Catholic Church. Six of the 23 burials removed were damaged or destroyed by construction activities; 13 additional graves were detected but were not exhumed.

Fox (1984) reported the relocation of 34 graves in five historic rural cemeteries (41 LK 73, 41 MC 4, 41 MC 6, 41 MC 18, and 41 MC 66) at Choke Canyon Reservoir in Live Oak and McMullen Counties, Texas. The burials date from 1860 to 1913, with most from 1858 to 1880.

Morgan Chapel Cemetery was first documented by photographs and mapping, by Roemer in 1980 (Kelly and Roemer 1981:14-18), during a survey of the area by the CAR-UTSA for CPS. Brown (1986) did more detailed documentation of the site during a later survey for CPS by the CAR-UTSA. This later investigation included preparing a plane table map, photographing the headstones and noting details, searching for signs of unmarked graves, and also monitoring the clearing of brush and debris that had accumulated at the site.

FIELD WORK

METHODOLOGY

Since Morgan Chapel Cemetery was previously recorded by the CAR-UTSA archaeologists (Kelly and Roemer 1981:14-18; Brown 1986), the authors were able to utilize that research and the existing base map of the cemetery during the grave removals. A transit operated by the archaeologists was used to map exposed features during the first part of the project. A professional surveyor, who used a theodolite, was employed to map the site and features during the later part of the project. Each burial was assigned a consecutive alphabetic designation, continuing the grave designation system used by Kelly and Roemer (1981), and Brown (1986).

On August 3, a work crew cleared the brush from the cemetery area in preparation for the excavations. During the cemetery removal, which began on August 6, certain personnel were present whenever excavations were being conducted. A representative from CPS, usually Cindy Soulé; a representative from the Newby Funeral Home, Inc., J. E. McIntire; and the CAR-UTSA archaeologists were present throughout the project. The legal representative for the Methodist Church, James Odiorne, was also present during the first part of the project, and was then replaced by various Methodist ministers from the area. The CPS representatives, the morticians, the Methodist Church representatives, and the construction personnel all cooperated with the archaeologists and provided numerous helpful suggestions during the cemetery removal. Descendants of the deceased were permitted to view the excavations of the burials, and most were quite interested in the procedure. These relatives were able to provide some information about the identity, age, occupation, and also sometimes maladies of certain individuals buried at the cemetery. They, in addition to various other local informants--some of whom were demonstrating against the cemetery removal, also told us what they could remember about the count and location of burials at Morgan Chapel Cemetery (see *Austin American-Statesman* 1984; *Elgin Courier* 1984a, 1984c).

The excavation procedure for the marked burials consisted of the removal of upper grave fill from marked graves with a Bobcat backend loader that had a scoop. Once wood from a vault, coffin box, or coffin was encountered with the scoop, a shovel was then used to remove the remaining grave fill. In many of the burials a deposit of light gray sand was above and around the vault and coffin; whenever this sandy deposit was encountered, machine excavations were halted, and hand excavations began. During the later part of the project, the machine operator also removed the soil surrounding the burial, leaving it isolated on a pedestal, a technique that made excavation much easier than when the archaeologist worked in a narrow trench. The burials were then carefully exposed (Fig. 2,b) with tools such as trowels, small picks, and brushes, and were recorded. For each burial a burial form was completed, photographs were taken, and elevation readings were taken for the top of the burial (the top of the vault, the coffin box, or the coffin), and the bottom of the grave as marked by the bottom of the coffin. Samples were taken of gray sandy soil associated with some of the burials, wood from the vault planking, coffin box, coffin, and also fabric. After this procedure, the burials were carefully removed, and the remains were placed on cotton padding for protection during analysis. After the remains had been

adequately examined, they were then put into individual, modern coffins. Personal field journals were kept daily by the two senior archaeologists. A maximum time of one work day was spent on each burial, with the time varying from roughly three to eight hours. This amount of time allowed to excavate and record historic burials appears to be quite generous in comparison to that allowed archaeologists during other similar projects (see Ferguson 1983:57; Fox 1984:9, 12, 15, 24, 32, 34). Graves detected at the end of the work day were located on the site map, marked with a flagged pole, and were then refilled. To avoid any possible accidents which might result from curiosity seekers attempting to examine the site at night, none of the grave pits were left open overnight.

Originally the work was planned to detect unmarked graves by scraping away the sandy topsoil with a machine blade to expose the outline of the remaining grave pits. This procedure was successfully used by Phelps (1979:15-17), Blakely and Beck (1982:182-184), and Fox (1984) to detect unmarked graves. After the first grave was excavated, however, it was apparent that the nature of the clay subsoil was such that outlines of the graves were obscured; this made the detection of the unmarked grave pits very difficult.

The site was covered with an 8- to 12-inch-thick deposit of sandy loam. The subsoil was a compact red brown sandy clay with fine yellow and orange mottling. With increased depth the color of the clay changed from red brown to gold, with a few lenses of black and light gray clay also occurring. Natural pockets of sand were noted in the lower layers of clay. The clay at the site is a paleustalf which appears to have a high shrink-swell potential, and may have resulted in the obliteration of the grave pit outlines (United States Department of Agriculture 1979:3, Table 6).

An abrasive, light gray sandy material was observed around the vault planking and coffins in some of the graves. It was not evident whether this material was naturally occurring sand that had been shoveled into or seeped into the grave, or if it was lime that was deliberately added to the burial to prevent contamination. Samples of this material were taken from some of the burials and analyzed. The calcium counts of the material reported in the soils test are presented later in this report.

Since the bones from the graves were poorly preserved and quite fragile, perhaps at least partly due to the acidic nature of the cemetery soils, they usually were examined by the physical anthropologist while *in situ*. Although bone was present in all the graves, it was often crushed, especially in infant and child burials. Once the skeletal material was retrieved, it was further analyzed by the physical anthropologist. The morticians, who were quite cooperative, were in charge of the skeletal remains and kept them in the funeral home after work hours; the physical anthropologist and archaeologists were given access to the remains, however, if further analysis was necessary. The grave goods and coffin hardware were also curated by the morticians, and were available for additional examination if necessary. Samples of the vault planking and/or coffin wood were collected from 18 of the 21 graves (though all the graves did have wooden coffins) by the archaeologists for later analysis (see Holloway, Appendix B), but the personal effects and coffin hardware were returned to the morticians to be placed in a new coffin with the respective individual's remains. The burials from Morgan

Chapel Cemetery were relocated in either the nearby McDade Cemetery or the Ridgeway Cemetery.

After August 8, all the marked graves (A-H) were exhumed, and the decision was made at the suggestion of the Texas Historical Commission representative to extend trenches across areas of the site where graves were reported or suspected, using mechanical trenchers. Certain areas were suspect because of the presence of volunteer irises that may have been planted on or near graves, and loose brick that may have formerly been set around the edges of graves; for instance, Graves B, C, D, and F had bricks outlining them (Kelly and Roemer 1981:15; Brown 1986). It was originally thought that grave pits could be detected in the trench profiles. A smaller trencher, a Ditch Witch, was initially used, which cut a trench roughly 12 inches wide and 3 feet deep. The larger trencher, a Vermeer T-600D, was then used to cut the majority of the trenches at the site; it cut a trench approximately 14 inches wide and 5 feet deep, which provided a more accessible profile for the archaeologists to examine and to excavate more rapidly than the smaller trencher. More than 1700-linear feet of trenches were dug within less than a two-acre area of the cemetery property, with an archaeologist following the trencher, watching for signs of coffin wood or coffin hardware in the backdirt, and walking in each trench to examine the sides of the trench for signs of grave pits. It was found that the trencher excavated in a manner that resulted in a clean cut on one side of each trench, while the opposite side was covered with fine dust that masked the profile; as a result, only one side of the trench could be examined for grave pits. When a suspected grave pit was located, the archaeologist put a wooden stake with flagging tape into the ground by the location, or placed a pole with flagging tape into the trench by the possible grave pit, to serve as a reference point. A backhoe was then used to excavate the marked area to determine if it actually was a grave. The extent of the trenching was recorded on the site map.

Three unmarked graves (I-K) were located by trenching, and two of these (Graves J and K) were disturbed by the trencher. Another grave (O) was later found to have been disturbed by trenching, but was not spotted during this phase of the project. Numerous oaks were in the cemetery, and the root action of these trees and of previous trees created areas of disturbance with a mixture of light tan sand and clay that occasionally resembled grave pits, and added to the difficulty of detecting graves. Several suspected grave pits, which were excavated with a backhoe, were found to be areas that had been subjected to root action.

CPS discussed the results of the excavations with the THC representatives at this point, to determine what methods might be employed to ensure the satisfaction of the THC personnel (and also the local residents) that all burials, marked and unmarked, were located and removed from the cemetery. It was the wish of the CPS representatives to take whatever steps were necessary to locate all the Morgan Chapel Cemetery burials during this phase. It was the opinion of the THC that some grave pits, especially those for infant burials which are much shorter might be undetected using the trencher; the distance between parallel trenches was approximately 3 to 3.5 feet, although it was wider in a few areas with dense tree growth where the trencher went around trees. Therefore, there was a chance that burials would be missed, extensive as the trenching might be. The THC representatives expressed the

opinion that the only method which would ensure that all the Morgan Chapel Cemetery burials were located and removed, would be to excavate the entire cemetery. This procedure, however, was considered to be more extensive than was necessary, and was not recommended by the THC representatives.

The decision was then made by CPS on August 14, to excavate all of the 3.055 acres of the Methodist Church property, which extended well beyond the cemetery limits, to make certain that all burials were located and removed. This would include a total of approximately 30,000 cubic yards of dirt. At this time it was decided that the excavations would extend to a depth of six feet, since the general belief is that most graves are dug to this depth. Contrary to this belief, however, the depth of most graves is 5.5 feet or less--at least in Texas, according to J. E. McIntire (1984), a mortician of long standing.

The heavy machinery used for the large-scale excavations included the following: one John Deere 410 backhoe, one Caterpillar D6 with rippers and tilt blade, one Caterpillar D7 with rippers and tilt blade, two Caterpillar 120 graders, three Caterpillar 613 paddle-wheel scrapers, and one Case 4690 tractor with an 18-yard bucket. The machine operators stated that this equipment was capable of stripping the soil in three- to four-inch-thick layers. With this assurance the archaeologists were of the opinion that this technique could be utilized without substantial risk of damaging the remaining burials; evidence of the vault planking and coffin wood, which was more than three to four inches above the burials, could be spotted before the burials were damaged. Additionally, with the continued monitoring of the excavations by the archaeologists, none of the burials should go undetected.

Arrangements were made to have a registered surveyor replace the archaeologists to map the property boundaries and features, and to monitor the excavation depths. The surveyor recorded the depths of Graves P-U, while the depths of Graves A-R were previously recorded by members of the archaeological crew. The operation of a transit by the archaeologists had been made more difficult by the expansion of the project area to include the entire church property, and became even more difficult once the blading operations began and the original datum points and reference points were removed. The presence of a registered surveyor, then, was welcomed at the site by the archaeologists. When differences in the elevation of burials were encountered during the writing of this report, the elevation readings of the surveyor were used in preference to those made by the archaeologists since the surveyor had a more secure datum point, a more sophisticated instrument, and more experience and training in mapping than did the archaeologists. The surveyor noted (Soulé 1984) that his readings for the grave elevations were consistently lower, or deeper, than those recorded by the archaeologists. He suggested that the differences in readings might be caused by the different elevations of the surveying stations, with the archaeologists having a higher station than the surveyor. The actual depth below ground surface could not be measured during the later part of the project since the original ground surface had been removed; general elevations taken of the ground surface at the site were used to estimate the depths of later burials below the ground surface.

The later stage of the project began with the removal of all the vegetative ground cover at the site, including numerous oak trees. The trees were removed using bulldozers (see *The Bastrop Advertiser & County News* 1984b; *Elgin Courier* 1984d). Since this activity was considered to not be sub-surface excavation, and unlikely to affect the burials, the archaeologists gave their consent for the construction crew to continue clearing ground cover during the evening after the regular work hours with no archaeologists present, in order to expedite the project. This decision, however, resulted in the county judge being contacted that night by local people who reported that the cemetery was being dug up without the presence of any archaeologists or morticians. The county judge and county sheriff appeared at the site the next morning to investigate the matter. After some discussion with the archaeologists, they were assured that no excavations had occurred there without proper supervision. We in turn decided not to approve any such activities at the site without our presence to avoid any future incidents of this sort.

With the approval of the archaeologists, the top 2.5 to 3 feet of sandy loam and underlying clay were rapidly removed with heavy machinery in levels measuring approximately one foot thick. This action, which sped up the excavation process, was approved since no vault planking, coffin boxes, or coffins had been located above 2 feet 9 inches. Below the 2.5 to 3 feet level, a blade was used to peel away the basal clay in three to four inch layers. Two archaeologists followed the machinery, watching the exposed ground surface for evidence of vault or coffin wood while riding Honda 200M three-wheelers that were provided by the contractors for this purpose. The three-wheelers proved to be effective for transporting the archaeologists across the site while permitting them to view the ground surface at close range; an advantage of using these vehicles was that they provided a means for the archaeologists to keep pace with, and also to move rapidly out of the way of, the heavy machinery.

Ten graves (L-U) were located during the machinery blading. It should be noted that none of these later burials were damaged by the blading. The location of wood from the vault or coffin, or a concentration of light gray sand above the coffin provided a reliable means of detecting the burial before it could be harmed by machine excavations. A few pieces of petrified wood were exposed during the blading of the sandy topsoil. A local resident suggested that the petrified wood may have served as markers for some of the graves (Weaver 1984). The former placement of the petrified wood could not be determined, however, to check if this suggestion was correct.

The last burials were removed on August 21. The archaeologists continued to monitor excavations of the property through August 28, when a depth of six feet below ground surface was achieved for all of the property. Backfilling operations then began, which the archaeologists did not consider necessary to monitor. This decision was questioned by certain local residents and county officials of the area, who were of the opinion that removal of earth from the backfill pile to the former cemetery area should be considered excavation, and should accordingly be monitored by archaeologists, morticians, and church representatives. Additionally, a relative of certain deceased individuals reportedly buried in Morgan Chapel Cemetery, remained unconvinced that his relatives were recovered as no burials were found as he recalled their

location and arrangement (see *Elgin Courier* 1984e; *The Bastrop Advertiser & County News* 1984b). These matters were resolved to the extent that the refilling operations were permitted to resume and were completed without monitoring.

THE BURIALS

Brief descriptions of the eight marked graves (A-H) in Morgan Chapel Cemetery were previously presented in Kelly and Roemer (1981). Additional details of these burials are included in Brown (1983, 1986). The grave locations and features in the cemetery are shown in Figure 4. Selected burial data are provided in Tables 1-3, and a glossary defining certain terms is provided at the end of the report. The burial descriptions are presented in alphabetical order rather than necessarily in the order in which they were exhumed.

Preservation of the skeletal remains for the 21 burials ranged from moderately poor to extremely poor; the state of preservation of the bone was probably affected by the acidic nature of the clay subsoil at the site. Bone was present in all the burials with the exception of Graves J and K, which were badly disturbed by trenching. An analysis of the skeletal remains is presented separately by Massey (Appendix A).

The coffin, vault planking, and coffin box, all of which were wooden, were fairly well preserved, although the weight of the grave fill crushed them. An analysis of the coffin, coffin box, and vault samples is presented by Holloway (Appendix B).

Much of the coffin hardware, which was made of iron, white metal, and cupreous metal, was badly corroded and brittle. All the adult coffins had six handles, while the infant and child coffins had four handles.

Fragments of fabric were preserved in some burials. The fabric samples were examined by Anne Fox using a binocular microscope with various magnification (see the glossary for explanation of the terms used). The higher the count of threads to the inch, the finer the weave of the resulting fabric. The reader should note that the present colors of these fabrics are probably not the same as the original fabric colors.

The age and sex of the individuals described below were obtained from gravestone inscriptions, the coffin and vault planking size, burial goods, and observations made by Massey (Appendix A).

Grave A

Grave A was identified from the headstone as the burial of William F. Cruse, a Civil War Confederate veteran who died in 1924 at the age of 81 years. Relatives of Cruse stated that he was a part-time carpenter, and he may have constructed some of the coffins at this cemetery. Brown (1986) reports that Samuel Cruse, the father of William F. Cruse, was also a carpenter. Further information concerning William Cruse is provided in Brown (*ibid.*). A gabled marble headstone with the design of a gothic cross with a circular wreath

TABLE 1. LISTING OF THE MORGAN CHAPEL CEMETERY BURIALS BY AGE, SEX, BIRTH, AND DEATH DATES, AND ASSOCIATED BURIAL GOODS

Grave	Age	Sex	Birth and Death Dates	Burial Goods
A	81 years	Male	1843-1924	-
B	65.5 years	Female	1848-1914	hair comb
C	1-2 years	?	?	-
D	Infant	Female	1897	button
E	Subadult	?	?	-
F	11-12 months	Female	1891-1892	-
G	71 years	Female	1833-1904	-
H	79 years	Female	1812-1891	-
I	7-11 months	?	?	-
J	Infant	?	?	-
K	Infant	?	?	-
L	4-8 months	?	?	safety pin
M	1.5-2.5 years	?	?	-
N*	Adult	Male(?)	?	-
O	Adult	?	?	-
P	6 months or less	?	?	-
Q	12-15 years	?	?	-
R	Infant	?	?	beads, buttons
S	Infant	?	?	safety pin
T	Infant	?	?	-
U	Adult	Female(?)	?	reddish brown cuffs of a plain weave cotton fabric with clips, button, garment hook

* = This individual was buried face down.

? = unknown

TABLE 2. LISTING OF THE MORGAN CHAPEL CEMETERY BURIALS BY PRESENCE OF GRAY SANDY SOIL, COFFIN BOX OR VAULT PLANKING, COFFIN SHAPE, PAINTED COFFIN, LINED COFFIN, AND GLASS FRONT OR SEALER

Grave	Gray Sand	Box or Vault	Coffin Shape	Painted Coffin	Lined Coffin	Glass Front
A	-	Vault	R	-	-	-
B	X	Box	R	-	**	-
C	X	Box	RC	-	**	X
D	X	Vault	R	-	-	-
E	X	Vault	R	X	-	-
F	?	Vault	R	X	X	X
G	?	Vault	RC	-	**	X
H	-	Vault	H	-	-	X
I	X	-	R	X	X	X
J	X	Vault	R	X	-	-
K	?	Vault	R	-	-	-
L	?	Vault	R	-	-	X
M	?	Vault	R	-	-	X
N	?	Box	R	-	?	-
O	X	Vault	R	-	?	-
P	X	Vault	R	-	X	-
Q	X	Vault	R	-	X	-
R	X	Vault	R	X	-	X
S	X	-	R	-	?	-
T	X	Vault	R	X	?	-
U	X	Box and Vault	H	X*	?	-

? = Unknown

X = Presence of trait

- = Absence of trait

R = Rectangular coffin

H = Hexagonal coffin

RC = Rectangular coffin with canted corners

* = The coffin interior and exterior were painted. The other coffins were painted on the exterior only.

** = The coffin exterior was covered with fabric.

TABLE 3. LISTING OF THE MORGAN CHAPEL CEMETERY BURIALS BY COFFIN MEASUREMENTS; THE DEPTH (BELOW GROUND SURFACE) OF THE VAULT, COFFIN BOX OR COFFIN TOP; AND THE DEPTH (BELOW GROUND SURFACE) OF THE COFFIN BOTTOM

Grave	Coffin Measurements Width x Length	Depth of Vault/Box or Coffin Top	Depth of Coffin Bottom
A	2 feet 7.5 inches x 7 feet	4 feet	5 feet 2 inches
B	10 inches to 1 foot 2 inches x 5 feet 8 inches	4 feet 6 inches	5 feet 1 inch
C	1 foot 1 inch x 3 feet 5 inches	4 feet 5 inches	4 feet 9 inches
D	1 foot 3.5 inches x 2 feet 10 inches	4 feet	4 feet 11 inches
E	1 foot 6 inches x 4 feet 9 inches	4 feet 4.5 inches	4 feet 9 inches
F	9 inches x 3 feet	4 feet 4 inches	5 feet
G	1 foot 2 inches to 1 foot 5 inches x 6 feet	4 feet 5 inches	5 feet
H	1 foot 6.5 inches x 6 feet 0.5 inches	3 feet 5 inches	4 feet 11 inches
I	1 foot x 2 feet 8 inches	3 feet 8 inches	4 feet 8 inches
J	?	?	4 feet 10 inches
K	?	2 feet 9 inches	3 feet 9.5 inches
L	1 foot 2 inches x 3 feet	3 feet 3 inches	4 feet 2.5 inches
M	1 foot x 3 feet 8 inches	3 feet 6.5 inches	4 feet 3.5 inches
N*	1 foot 6 inches x 6 feet 2 inches	3 feet 8 inches	4 feet 3 inches
O	?	3 feet 5 inches	?
P	1 foot x 2 feet 4 inches	4 feet 8.5 inches	4 feet 11 inches
Q	2 feet 5 inches x 6 feet 4 inches	4 feet 3.5 inches	4 feet 11 inches
R	9 inches x 2 feet 9 inches	4 feet 7 inches	5 foot 1 inch
S	1 foot x 2 feet 5 inches	4 feet 2.5 inches	5 feet
T	10.5 inches x 2 feet 6 inches	4 feet	4 feet 8.5 inches
U	?	5 feet 6 inches	6 feet 2.5 inches

* = This individual was buried face down.

? = Unknown

Measurements for the top and bottom of coffins are the depths below modern ground surface.

element within a circle marked the grave. The headstone base was made of brick. The inscription on the headstone read "WILLIAM F. CRUSE, CO. C, WALLER'S REGT., TEXAS CAV., C.S.A." Loose brick was also present at the foot of the grave. During the grave pit excavations, a metal temporary grave marker was unearthed which had the inscription, "died April 7 - 81 yrs 4 mo - ___" (last part obliterated). (Note: this date differs slightly from that of April 5, 1924, in the Miller Funeral Home Records [1911-1950].) Irises grew on the grave.

The grave had a dug vault. The rectangular, pine coffin was the largest found in the cemetery. Hardware for the coffin included six two-piece white metal handles that once had wooden grips (Fig. 5,a). Small, flat pieces of iron, which were probably used to construct the coffin, were also found. The skeletal remains were disturbed by small burrowing animals, and bone preservation was poor. No burial goods were found.

Grave B

Grave B contained the remains of Ann M. Cruse, the wife of William F. Cruse (Grave A); she was buried north of her husband's grave. She died in January 1914, at the age of 65.5 years. The sandstone headstone, a squared column, was placed over the grave pit, indicating it was not added until the grave outline was obscured. The headstone inscription read "ANN M. CRUSE, BORN JULY 4, 1848, DIED JAN. 10, 1914, SHE IS AT REST IN HEAVEN." The upper face of the headstone shows a flying dove carrying an olive branch, and an open gates of heaven motif. A floral design extends around the headstone. The headstone base is also inscribed "CRUSE." The grave had a sandstone footstone with the inscription "A. M. C." Two rows of machine pressed brick, one with angled bricks and the other with flat laid bricks, outlined the grave. Irises grew across the grave.

Enclosing the coffin was a pine coffin box which was a minimum of 22 inches wide, and was roughly the same length of the coffin. The rectangular coffin was narrow and tapered toward the feet, and the exterior was covered with dark brown fabric. The fabric covering the coffin exterior was nonwoven and consisted of parallel rows of single ply wool fibers with a z-twist. The method of bonding the fiber was not apparent; no warp was present, and there were 24 threads to the inch. The coffin hardware consisted of four-part white metal decorative handles that once had wooden grips (Fig. 5,b). One handle bore the inscription "patd - July 10 - 1908, S & Co, 1874." White metal rosette studs (Fig. 5,c), a white metal plaque inscribed "IN GOD'S LOVE," and decorative iron thumbscrews were attached to the coffin exterior; one thumbscrew was inscribed "Ptd June 20, 1--6." A composition hair comb (Fig. 5,d) was found by the skull, and the individual's arms were folded across the chest.

Grave C

Grave C was outlined with a single row of angled, machine pressed bricks. The burial was of a child approximately one to two years of age. This individual was in the Cruse family plot, and may have had the surname of

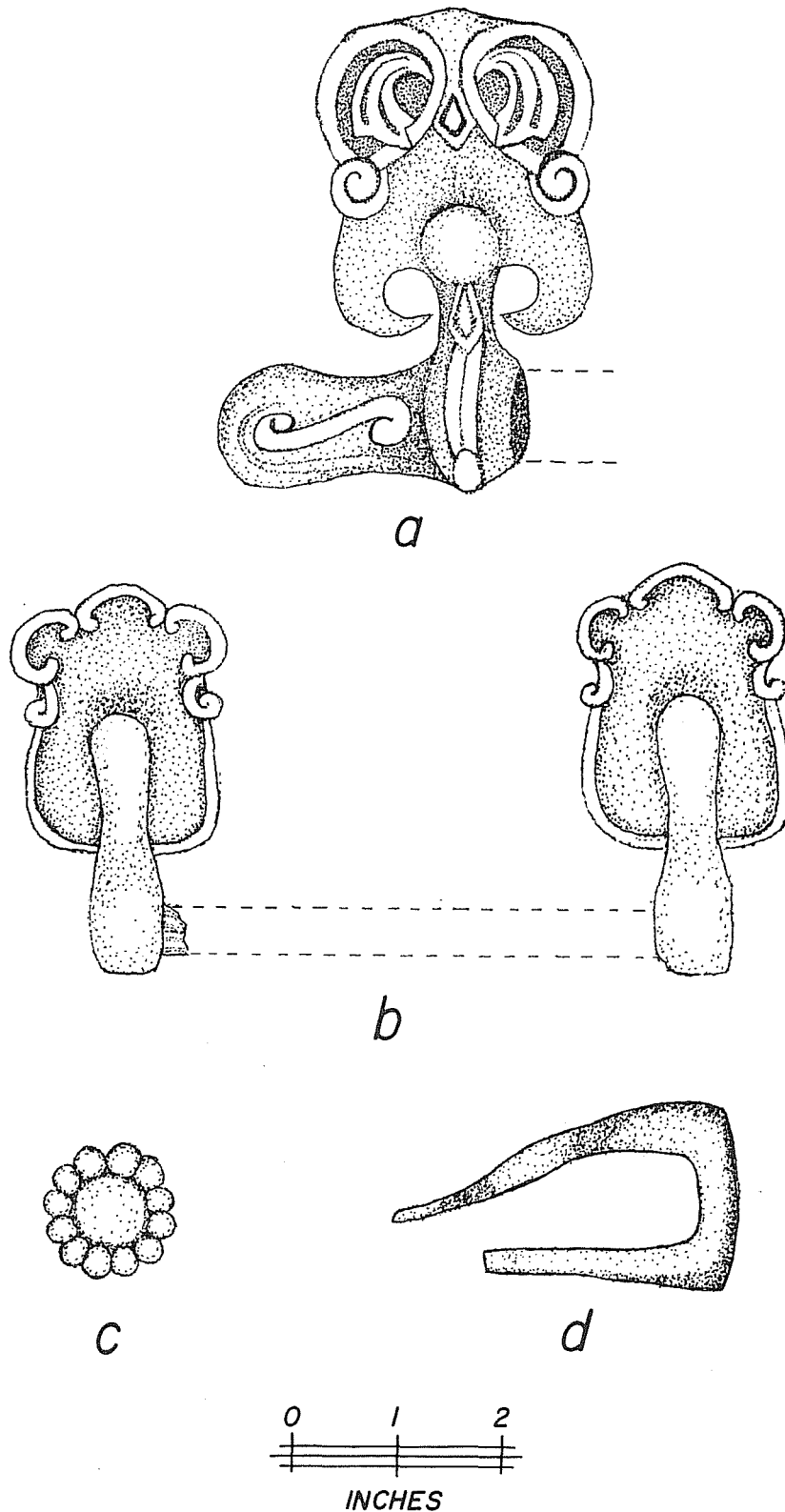


Figure 5. Coffin Hardware from Graves A and B. a, the left part of a two-piece white metal handle with a wooden grip from Grave A; the grip is indicated by dashed lines; b, the right and left parts of a four-piece white metal handle with a wooden grip, from Grave B; the grip is indicated by dashed lines; c, a white metal rosette stud from Grave B; d, a composition haircomb from the cranial region of Grave B.

Baker or Butler. According to a relative, Leroy Creel (1984) of McDade, the child may have been related to Ann M. Cruse (Grave B). Brown (1986) observed a fallen marble column at the foot of the grave, which was no longer in place when the cemetery relocation began.

The rectangular hardwood coffin was enclosed in a thin, wooden coffin box which was probably made of pine. The coffin had canted corners and a wooden lid, and was covered with light tan fabric. The fabric covering the coffin exterior was cotton woven in a diamond weave, and bore the imprint of the metal plaque that was on top of the coffin. The warp was z-twisted with 80 threads to the inch, while the weft was z-twisted with 56 threads to the inch. The coffin also had a rectangular glass front with canted corners, which measured 5.75 inches by 20-21 inches, and was 0.09 inches thick. The coffin hardware included white metal handles (Fig. 6,a), white metal decorative studs, and a cast white metal plaque with the inscription "OUR DARLING." The infant's hands were folded across the abdomen. No burial goods were found.

Grave D

Grave D contained an infant, possibly stillborn, daughter of Joshaway and Jennie Browning, and granddaughter of William F. and Ann M. Cruse. This individual was buried in the Cruse family plot. The grave was marked by a sandstone headstone with the inscription "INFANT DAU. OF JOSHAWAY & JENNIE BROWNING, BORN AUG. 27, 1897." The headstone had a scroll design, and was set into a concrete base. A plain sandstone footstone, which was dislocated, was by the grave. A double border of machine pressed bricks, with one row angled and the other flat, outlined the grave.

The grave had a dug vault. Either the vault planking or the coffin were made of pine. The coffin was rectangular and had white metal handles, white metal and iron thumbscrews, hollow half-hemispherical studs, and a cupreous plaque inscribed "OUR DARLING." Extra long iron nails were used to construct the coffin. A small, four-hole, white button was associated with this burial.

Grave E

Judging from the size of the coffin and the fragility of the skeletal material, the burial in Grave E was a young subadult. An unmarked, handmade brick false crypt with a sandstone foundation was above the burial. The top of the crypt, which was at least seven courses tall, was capped with concrete into which *Chione cancellata* shells, the cross-barred venus, from the Texas coast were embedded. The crypt measured 5 feet 0.5 inches by 2 feet 11.25 inches, and was approximately 18.5 inches tall. No name or dates were found associated with this burial. Elia Casey of Elgin, however, remembered the individual as being a child of the Cassel or Kessel family (Casey 1980). The brick crypt was filled with sand.

The grave pit was filled with clay similar to that in the other graves. The grave had a dug vault with vault planking that measured 2 feet 6 inches by 5 feet 1 inch. The coffin was rectangular, and the exterior was painted with

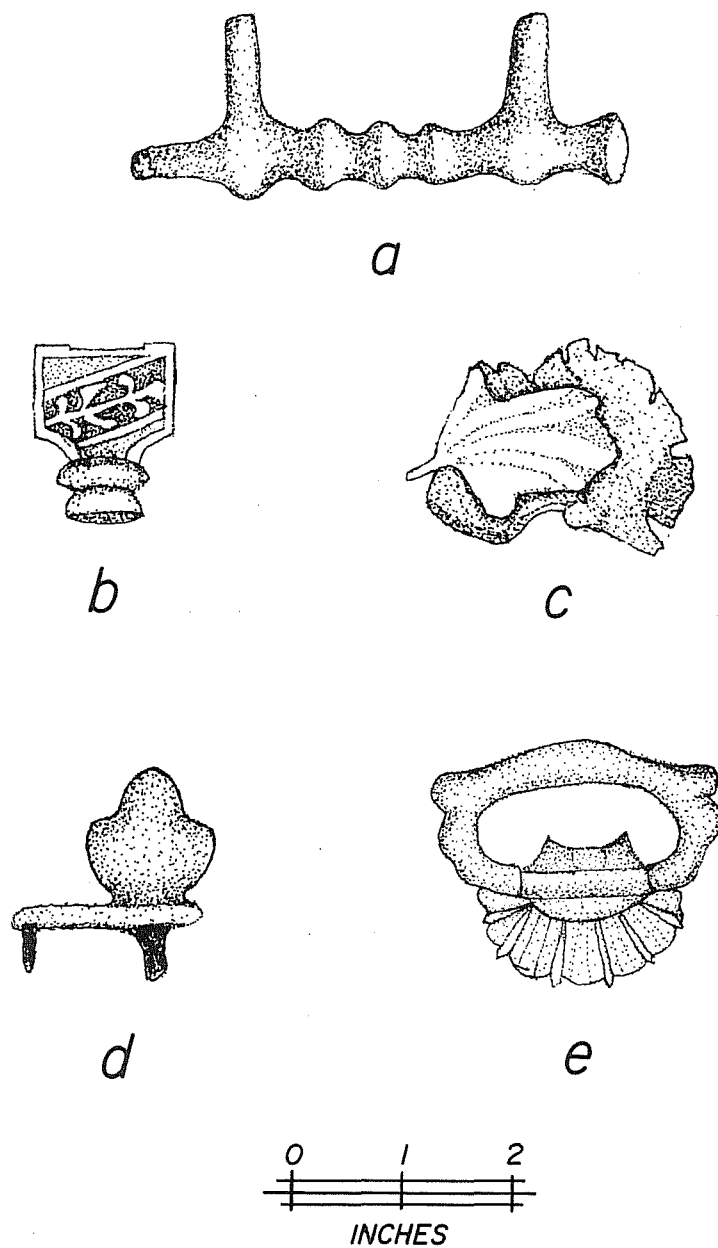


Figure 6. Coffin Hardware from Graves C, E, G, H, and K. a, a white metal handle from Grave C; b, a white metal decorative thumbscrew from Grave E; c, an iron, leaf-shaped stud from Grave G; d, a trilobed iron thumbscrew from Grave H; e, a white metal handle from Grave K.

white gesso or paint. White metal handles, white metal and iron decorative thumbscrews (Fig. 6,b), and an inscribed cupreous plaque that was too badly broken to read the inscription, were with the coffin. The weight of the grave fill had compressed the burial to the extent that it was only approximately 1.5 inches thick, measuring from the top to the bottom of the coffin. Although the other burials also were compressed, this burial exhibited the most extreme compression. No burial goods were found.

Grave F

Grave F contained the infant daughter of D. P. and M. E. Johnson, Dasha Lee Johnson. The infant died at the age of 11 months and 20 days. The grave had a marble headstone with an arched top, which had the inscription "DASHA LEE, DAU. OF D. P. & M. E. JOHNSON, BORN JULY 29, 1891, DIED JUNE 20, 1892, BUDED ON EARTH TO BLOOM IN HEAVEN." The headstone also had a carving of a flying dove carrying a branch, which was within a circular outline with a dotted border. The footstone was also marble, and was engraved "D. L. J." The grave was bordered with a single row of handmade bricks which Brown (1986) observed had been removed from the nearby Grave E brick crypt.

The grave had a dug vault. The coffin exterior was painted with white gesso or paint and had a slightly tapered oval glass front that measured 6 inches by 14 inches. The rectangular coffin had a wooden lid. The wood collected from this grave could not be identified. Hardware with the coffin consisted of hollow half-hemispherical studs, white metal and iron thumbscrews--one which was inscribed "AT REST," white metal handles, and a metal plaque inscribed "OUR DARLING." A doubled cotton fabric lined the coffin. The cloth was twilled with an over 3, under 1 pattern, and the fabric warp was z-twisted with 64 threads to the inch. A fragment of a copper tack shank, and the hole for another tack which was one inch away from the first tack, were found in a remnant of the coffin fabric. The tacks were probably used to attach the cloth to the coffin interior. No burial goods were found.

Grave G

Grave G, located in a fenced plot near (Grave H) Jane Ivy, contained the remains of Caroline Myers, the daughter of Jane Ivy (Grave H) and wife of John Myers. Caroline Myers died at the age of 71 years. The square obelisk marble headstone was inscribed "CAROLINE M., WIFE OF JOHN MYERS, BORN APR. 18, 1833, DIED MAR. 4, 1904," and also had the verse:

Fold her, O Father, in Thine
arms,
And let her henceforth be
A messenger of love between
Our human hearts and thee.

The base of the headstone was inscribed "MYERS." Designs on the headstone consisted of a circular ornament, a sheaf of wheat, a gothic cross centered in a diamond design, five-sided flowers known as "witches feet" (Jordan 1982:Fig. 5-32; Brown 1986), and a lily. A marble footstone, engraved with

"C. M. M." also marked the grave. A terra-cotta flower pot and purple glass were found in the vicinity of this grave and the Ivy (H) grave.

The grave had a dug vault. An unidentified material, which was thought to possibly have been part of a hinge or a broken lowering strap for the coffin, was against the south side of the coffin. A sample of the material was examined in the laboratory, but could not be identified; it did not appear to be fabric or leather, however. The pine coffin was narrow and rectangular with canted corners, and the exterior was covered with fabric. The fabric on the coffin exterior was a matted wool fabric identical to that found in Grave B. A cluster of what appeared to be dark brown hair was found in the abdominal region of the skeleton; the material was identified as nonhuman hair (it was flattened in cross section), and probably served as padding between the coffin and the coffin lining. The coffin had an oval glass front that measured 12-14 inches by 28 inches. Coffin hardware consisted of cast white metal handles that once had wooden grips, iron thumbscrews, and a leaf-shaped decorative stud (Fig. 6,c). No burial goods were found.

Grave H

Jane Ivy, the mother of Joseph Ivy and Caroline Myers (Grave G) was buried in Grave H. She died at the age of 79 years. The marble headstone, which had fallen, was inscribed "MY MOTHER, IN MEMORY OF JANE IVY, BORN AUG. 4, 1812, DIED JULY 10, 1891," and had the verse:

Dearest mother, thou hast left us,
And thy loss we deeply feel,
But 'tis God that hath bereft us,
He can all our sorrows heal,
Yet again we hope to meet thee,
When the day of life has fled,
When in heaven with joy to greet thee,
Where no farewell tear is shed.

A geometric design formed of triangles framed the name, and scroll symbols and a rose framed by an oval line, with a series of small triangles, also decorated the headstone. A marble footstone inscribed with "J. I." also marked the grave.

The grave had a dug vault. The hexagonal, hardwood coffin had an oval glass front that measured 10 inches by 24 inches. Coffin hardware consisted of hollow half-hemispherical studs, white metal and iron thumbscrews (Fig. 6,d), and white metal handles. No burial goods were found.

Grave I

An infant, approximately nine months of age at the time of death was buried in Grave I. The rectangular coffin was painted with white gesso on the exterior, and was lined with fabric (no sample was recovered for analysis). The coffin had an oval glass front that measured 12 inches by 32 inches. The

coffin hardware consisted of hollow half-hemispherical studs, two white metal handles, and iron nails. No burial goods were found.

Grave J

Grave J was extensively disturbed by two trenches. The size of the coffin (rectangular) indicated an infant or small child was buried here. The grave had a dug vault. The coffin exterior was painted with white gesso or paint. Either the vault planking or the coffin was made of pine. Hardware with the coffin consisted of hollow half-hemispherical metal studs, iron thumbscrews, and white metal handles. No burial goods were found.

Grave K

Grave K was disturbed by trenching. The burial was of an infant or young child, judging by the dimensions of the pine vault planking for the dug vault, which measured 2 feet 5 inches by 2 feet 10 inches. The rectangular coffin, which may have been built of pine, was less than 1 foot 4 inches wide, the width of the exploratory trench. Ornate white metal handles (Fig. 6,e) were the only evidence of hardware from the coffin. No burial goods were found.

Grave L

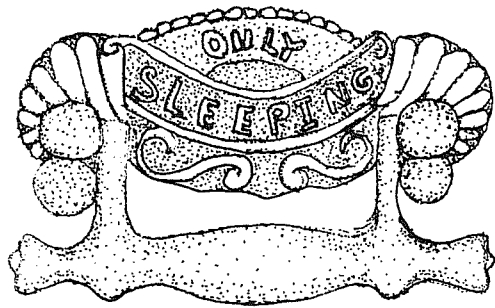
Grave L contained an infant, approximately six months of age. The grave had a dug vault. Either the vault planking or the rectangular coffin was made of cf. Salicaceae. The coffin had a rectangular glass front with canted corners that measured 5.73 inches by 21 inches. The side of the coffin was 12 inches high. The coffin hardware consisted of iron nails, star-shaped cupreous studs, white metal and iron thumbscrews, two-piece white metal handles with the inscription "ONLY SLEEPING" (Fig. 7,a), and a white metal plaque with the inscription "OUR LOVED ONE" (Fig. 7,b). A safety pin with attached fabric, which was located in the abdomen area and probably served to fasten a diaper, was the only personal item found with the burial. The fabric attached to the pin was actually three layers of fabric. One layer was a tan cotton fabric twilled in an over 3, under 1 pattern; the warp and the weft were both z-twisted with 48 threads to the inch. Another layer was a poorly preserved cotton fabric--the analysis was done from impressions left as a consolidated mineral coating, plus occasional strands of original fabric; the warp and the weft were both z-twisted with 72 threads to the inch. The other layer was a wool fabric in a plain weave; the warp and weft were both z-twisted with 32 threads to the inch. These probably represent, in order as described, a diaper, gown, and receiving blanket.

Grave M

Grave M contained a child of approximately two years of age. The rectangular coffin, which may have been pine, was in a dug vault. The pine vault planking measured 3 feet 11 inches by 2 feet 5 inches, and was 11 inches

Figure 7. Coffin Hardware from Graves L, N, O, and T.

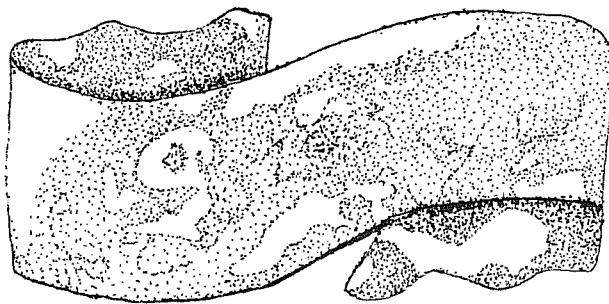
- a, a white metal two-piece handle with the inscription "ONLY SLEEPING," from Grave L;
- b, a white metal plaque with the inscription "OUR LOVED ONE," from Grave L;
- c, a cast white metal plaque with an indecipherable inscription, from Grave N;
- d, a white metal two-piece handle, from Grave O;
- e, a decorative white metal thumbscrew, from Grave T.



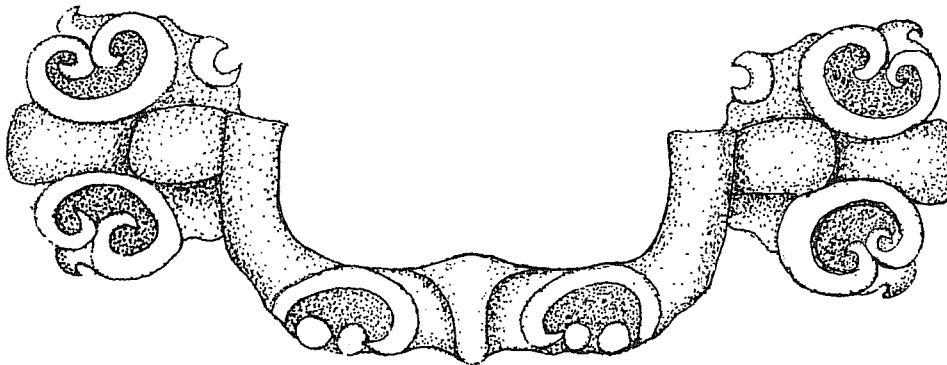
a



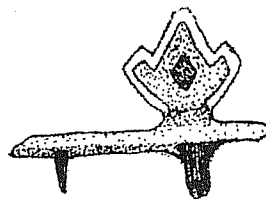
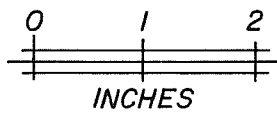
b



c



d



e

above the top of the coffin. On the top of the coffin was a tapered ovoid glass front that measured 7 inches by 2 feet 3 inches. Also associated with the coffin were white metal ornaments, or studs, shaped like calla lilies (Fig. 8,c), iron thumbscrews (Fig. 8,a,b), two-piece white metal handles with the inscription "OUR DARLING" (Fig. 8,e), and a white metal plaque with the inscription "OUR DARLING" (Fig. 8,d). The individual's hands were crossed across the waist area. No burial goods were found.

Grave N

Grave N contained an adult, possibly male. Unlike the other burials, this individual was buried with the face down. As noted by Massey (Appendix A), the downward positioning of the face may be either deliberate or accidental. The rectangular coffin was enclosed in a coffin box, rather than having a dug vault. The coffin was lined with what was thought to be remnant purple fabric. Analysis of this material determined that this purple material was not fabric--or at least there was no remaining fabric or fabric imprints, and also did not appear to be paint or gesso. It may have been a dye or stain which impregnated a thin layer of soil, though the source of the dye is unknown. The thumbscrews for the coffin box and coffin were iron, and the one-piece coffin handles were iron also. A cast white metal plaque with an inscription (Fig. 7,c), which was indecipherable due to the corroded condition of the metal, was also with the coffin. The individual's arms were folded beneath the region of the chest. No burial goods were found.

Grave O

Grave O contained a robust adult of unknown sex. This burial was disturbed by trenching, and the skeletal material was further disturbed by rodent activity. The grave had a dug vault with vault planking which measured 1 foot by 2 feet 11.5 inches. The rectangular pine coffin was lined with the same purple substance that was in Grave N, but in this case it appeared to contain some fibers which could not be identified and had no particular patterning. The coffin hardware consisted of metal studs, iron thumbscrews, two-piece white metal handles (Fig. 7,d), and a cast white metal plaque with an inscription that we could not decipher due to the poor condition of the metal. The individual's femur had been injured and healed before death. No burial goods were found.

Grave P

Grave P contained an infant approximately six months of age or less. The grave had a dug vault which measured 1 foot by 2 feet 1 inch. The rectangular pine coffin was lined with fabric (no sample was taken for analysis). The coffin hardware consisted of iron latches, iron hinges, white metal handles, and a white metal plaque inscribed "OUR DARLING." No burial goods were found.

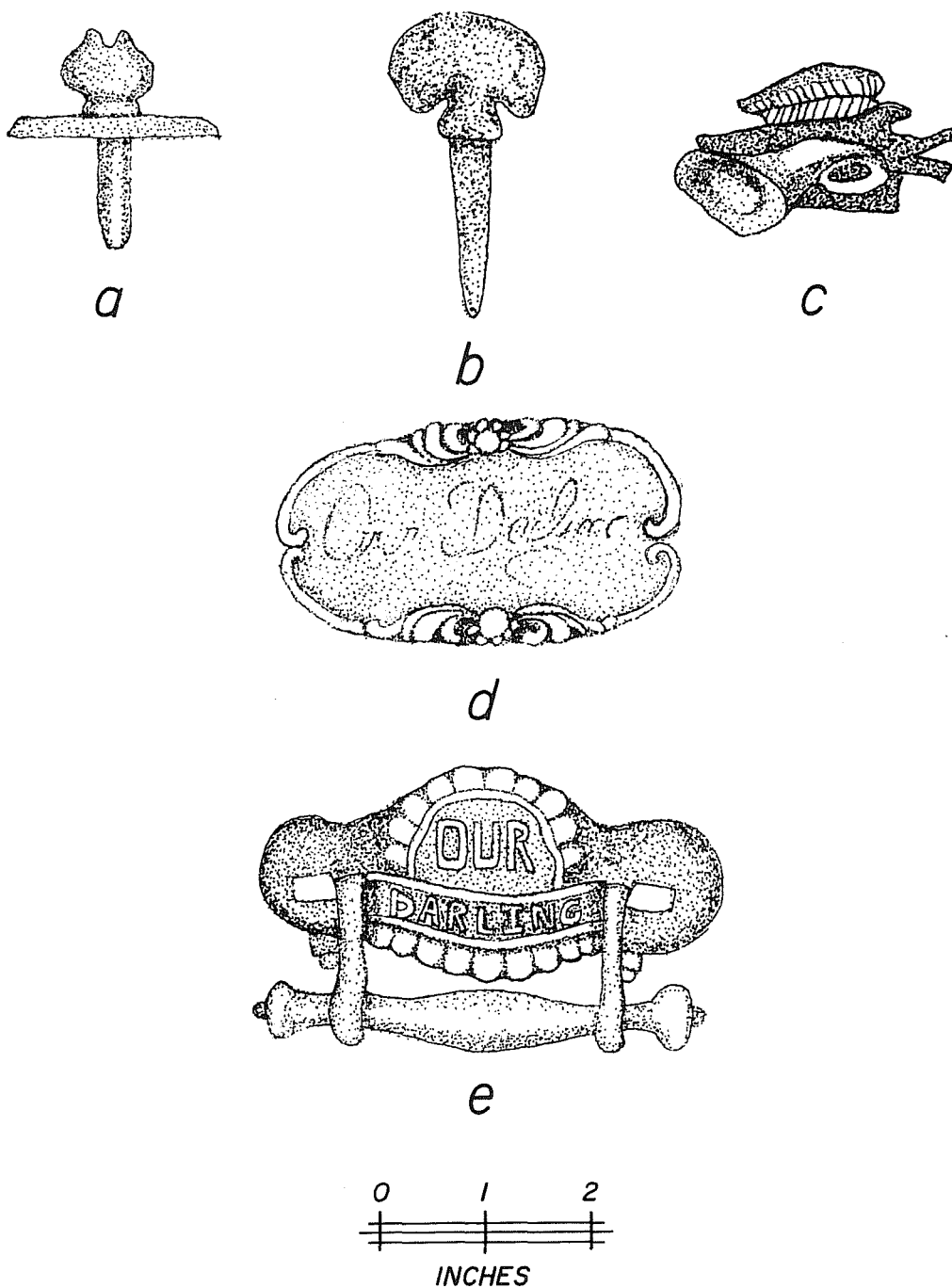


Figure 8. Coffin Hardware from Grave M. a, b, two types of decorative iron thumbscrews, from Grave M; c, a white metal ornament, or stud, shaped like a calla lily, from Grave M; d, a white metal plaque with the inscription "OUR DARLING"; e, a white metal two-piece handle with the inscription "OUR DARLING," from Grave M.

Grave Q

Grave Q contained an adolescent of approximately 12 to 15 years of age. The grave had a dug vault with pine vault planking that measured 2 feet 7 inches by 5 feet 9 inches. The rectangular pine coffin was within the size range for an adult, rather than the size range for a child. The side of the coffin measured 1 foot 1 inch high. The coffin was lined with cream-colored fabric (a sample was not taken for analysis), and dark brown fuzzy fibers were associated with the skeletal material. The brown material was made of thin layers of felted wool fibers melded together. The material had no discernible weave or pattern. The coffin hardware consisted of poorly preserved, rosette-shaped, cupreous studs; iron thumbscrews; and white metal handles. The skeletal material had been disturbed by rodent activity. No burial goods were found.

Grave R

Grave R contained an infant, possibly a newborn. The rectangular coffin was placed in a dug vault. The pine vault planking measured 2 feet 5 inches by 3 feet 7 inches. The coffin may have been built of cherry wood. The coffin exterior was painted with white gesso or paint, and had a glass front that was narrow and long with rounded sides and corners. Corrugated iron fasteners, in place of nails, were set into the corners of the coffin. A few square nails were also associated with the coffin. Metal studs, a white metal latch, and white metal handles with the inscription "OUR DARLING" constituted the coffin hardware. Ten small turquoise-colored glass beads, some of which were still strung on a wire, were found near the area of the neck; the beads appeared to have been part of a decorative pin. Three white glass, four-hole buttons, 0.75 inches in diameter, and two half-hemispherical bead metal studs were also associated with the individual.

Grave S

Grave S contained an infant, probably newborn. The pine coffin was rectangular. Hardware with the coffin consisted of only iron tacks and numerous iron nails. Associated with the skeletal remains was an impression of a plain weave cotton fabric of which some fibers were preserved and were clinging to an unidentified smooth, thin material. An impression of coffin wood was on the opposite side of the unidentified material. The cotton fabric was z-twisted, and the warp and weft had 64 threads to the inch. A safety pin, which probably served as a diaper pin, was found in the area of the abdomen.

Grave T

Grave T contained an infant. The coffin was in a dug vault with pine planking that measured 1 foot 8 inches by 2 feet. The preserved side of the coffin, which may have been cherry wood, was 9.5 inches high. The exterior of the coffin was painted with white gesso or paint. A thin, purple stain similar to the purple stain in Graves N, O, and U, was inside the coffin.

The coffin hardware consisted of cupreous half-hemispherical studs (one inch in diameter), white metal and iron decorative thumbscrews (Fig. 7,e), and a cupric plaque inscribed "OUR DARLING."

Grave U

Grave U contained a tall adult, and the clothing found with the burial suggests the individual was female. This was the deepest burial in the cemetery, with a depth of 6 feet 2.5 inches. The hexagonal cherry wood coffin was placed within a coffin box, and was in a dug vault. The pine vault planking was very well preserved, and was 3 feet by 6 feet, with the individual planks 7.5 inches by 3 feet. Some vault planks were curved on one side, indicating they were cut from an unshaped log. The side of the coffin was 10 inches high. The exterior of the coffin was painted with white gesso or paint. The coffin interior was painted gold. A purple stain like that found in Graves N and O (originally thought to be fabric) was found against the gold paint inside the coffin. The coffin hardware consisted of hollow half-hemispherical metal studs, two-piece white metal handles (Fig. 9,b), white metal and iron thumbscrews, small flat iron pieces, and a cupreous plaque inscribed "AT REST" (Fig. 9,a), which was over the chest area. A small, four-hole white glass button was located in the throat area. On the wrists, which were folded across the pelvic area, were well-preserved cuffs which had metal snaps (Fig. 9,c). The reddish brown cuffs were made of a double layer of very fine plain weave cotton fabric which was laminated with a stiffener; the material readily split into two layers, exposing the fabric, and the warp and weft were both z-twisted with 80 threads to the inch. Two long, slender cupreous clips were associated with the cuffs. Also associated with the burial was a plain weave wool fabric which was z-twisted; the warp had 48 threads to the inch, and the weft had 32 threads to the inch. A third fabric, possibly wool, was attached to the previously mentioned wool fabric, and had a plain weave with 80 threads to the inch for both the warp and weft. A metal hook used to fasten clothing was found in the waist area.

OBSERVATIONS

Although the blading of any cemetery or other archaeological site, is not advised as a general practice, this method proved to be less damaging and more reliable for locating burials at Morgan Chapel Cemetery, than did trenching. However, in cemetery sites where grave outlines can be distinguished, blading of the topsoil to expose grave pits would be the most advisable technique for locating unmarked graves.

Some of the burials reported for Morgan Chapel Cemetery by local informants were not found during the removal operations. Three to four of the unmarked graves (L, M, N, and possibly K) were grouped together--Graves O and P may have also been included in this grouping (Fig. 4)--and may have marked a family plot similar to the Cruse family plot (Graves A-D), and the Ivy and Myers plot (Graves G-H). Graves L, M, and N were noted to all be placed roughly 41 inches apart with the western end of the coffins aligned, with Grave K a short distance to the north, and Graves O and P also nearby to the north. The volunteer irises in the eastern part of the cemetery may all have

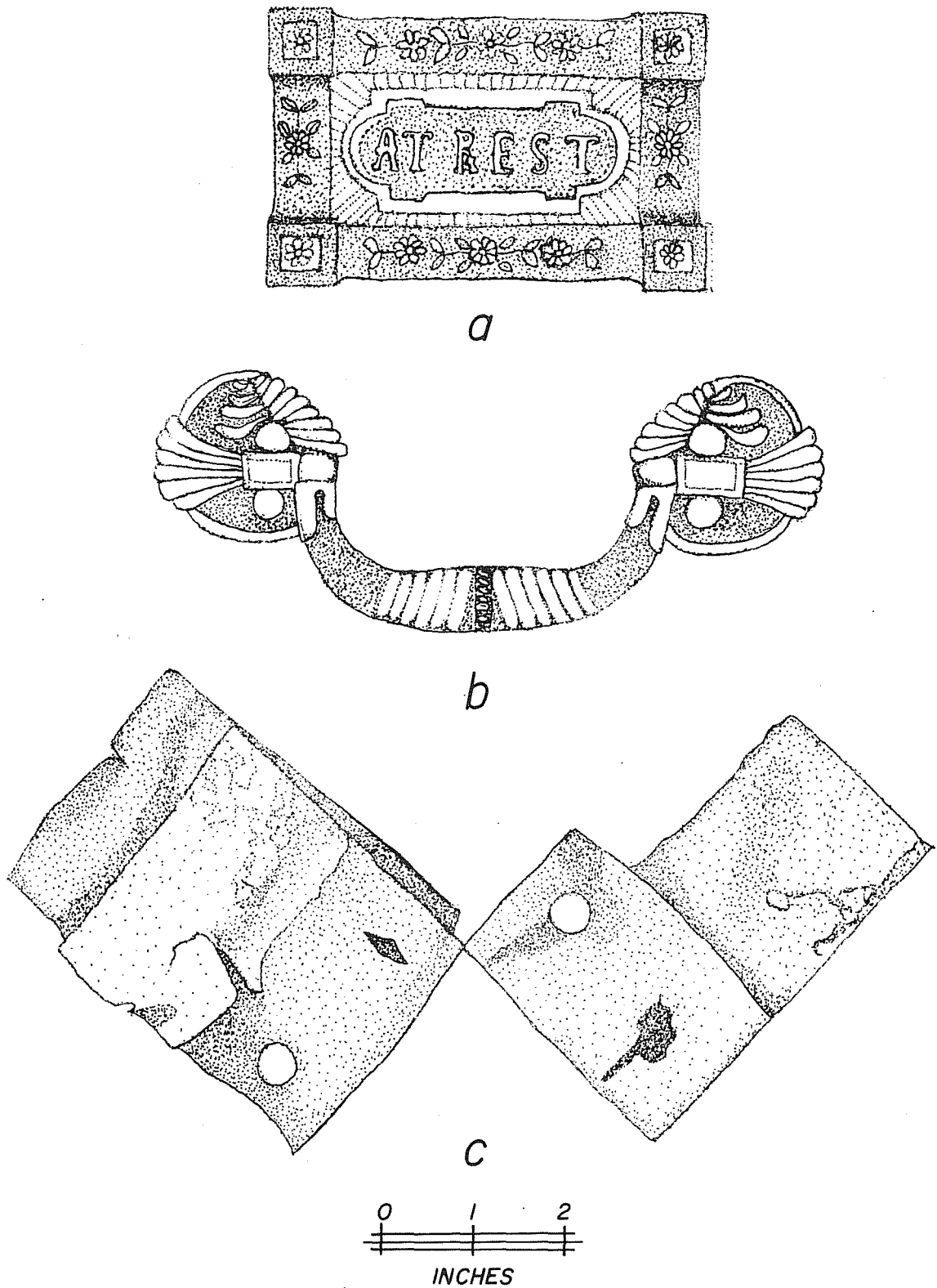


Figure 9. Metal Hardware from Grave U. a, a cupreous plaque inscribed "AT REST," from Grave U; b, a two-piece metal handle from Grave U; c, two cotton cuffs with metal buttons found on the wrists, from Grave U.

been originally planted to mark the graves in the Cruse family plot, or perhaps the northern bed of irises was planted to mark Graves K-N, and possibly also Graves O and P. Although it is possible, considering the results of the osteological analysis, that burials in Graves K-P may have been members of the Dunbar family, which were reportedly buried together in a family plot at Morgan Chapel Cemetery, this is not certain. The location of these graves is on the northern side rather than the reported southwestern to western side of the cemetery. The skeleton in Grave N was tentatively identified as that of a male and, if so, was not that of H. D. Dunbar's grandmother, Virginia Elizabeth Hewitt Biggers, though the possibility that the remains are the grandmother has not been ruled out entirely (Appendix A; Massey 1984). It should be noted that the remains in Grave O included a femur which showed signs of trauma which occurred prior to death, which may correspond to reports that Virginia Elizabeth Hewitt Biggers was injured in a train wreck prior to her death (Dunbar 1984).

Burial Customs

Before the advent of commercial "funeral homes," the corpse was "laid out" by the local people. Friends of the deceased kept a watch over the body, made the coffin, and dug the grave. Since the body was not embalmed, burial usually occurred the day after the death. The corpse was often transported to the cemetery in a wagon, with a quilt or layer of hay in the wagon bed to absorb some of the shock (Killen 1974:248). If there was no preacher residing in the vicinity, the friends and family conducted the burial, and a memorial service was held later when a preacher was in the area. The cemetery was maintained at certain times of the year by relatives of the deceased, during which time grave mounds were rebuilt, the ground cover was cut or removed, and flowers and other commemorative items were placed on the graves. Unfortunately, with the depopulation of rural areas, the maintenance of rural cemeteries has declined or ceased (Jordan 1976:154, 1982:25-28; Taylor 1975b; Fox 1984:52, citing Roberts 1950:160 and Wigginton 1973:304-323). In nearby Elgin, Texas, the Miller Funeral Home was founded in the 1900s, indicating that commercial preparation of the deceased began in this area by at least the early 1910s or 1900s (Newby 1984).

Cemeteries

Of the eight marked graves at Morgan Chapel Cemetery, six (28.6%; Graves A-D, G-H) were in the two family plots (Fig. 4). Others were clustered together, and may have been in a family plot. The five burials of Dunbar family members that were reported for the cemetery, but were not positively identified, were reportedly placed together in a family plot. Burials within the marked family plots were placed in a single row. The wide spacing of the burials in these marked family plots may indicate that the families anticipated burying additional family members in Morgan Chapel Cemetery. Jordan (1976:156-157) observed that multifamily rural cemeteries in north Texas were usually divided into family plots.

The alignment and centering of Graves E and F in relation to graves in the Cruse family plot is noted by Brown (1986), who observes that this spatial

arrangement may indicate kinship between these individuals. Tombstone inscriptions, however, show that Grave F, Dasha Lee Johnson, predates Graves A and B, William F. and Ann Cruse. Also, if Brown's (1986) speculation that Grave E is one of the earliest burials in the cemetery is correct, then Grave F may also predate the Cruse burials and could not have been placed relative to them. It is possible that Graves E and F, and the burials in the Cruse family plot (A-D), were all aligned in relation to Grave H, Jane Ivy, the earliest reported burial in the cemetery; or perhaps the other graves were aligned with Graves E and F.

There are several small rural cemeteries in the vicinity of Morgan Chapel Cemetery, some of which are strictly family cemeteries and are not affiliated with any church (Casey 1980). Carter and Ragsdale (1976:98) note that the German family cemeteries of Biegel's Settlement in Fayetteville County, Texas, were predominantly located "along old roads in the pastures, generally on a rise and under large oak trees." The small historic cemeteries in McMullen and Live Oak Counties, Texas, reported by Fox (1984) were likewise located in rural settings.

Rural cemeteries of the late 1800s and early 1900s, such as Morgan Chapel Cemetery, are unlike the crowded, unsanitary graveyards which prevailed prior to the middle to late 1800s. Graveyards of the 1600s and early 1700s in the northeastern United States were directly connected with a church, and burials were crowded into the limited designated area, often with no regard to location of previous burials. During the later 1700s, small family plots with designated individual graves first occurred; at that time in the South, individual family plots were often used instead of community burial grounds (see Fox and Livingston 1979:9, Fig. 4,b; Freeman and Fawcett 1980:127, 131; Fox 1983:156), but often did not survive changes in landowners and were obliterated for other uses. Cemeteries with designated lots first occurred during the early 1800s. Rural cemeteries, some of which were not affiliated with a church, also developed during this period as a necessity in sparsely settled frontier areas far from any church. Transportation of the dead to the nearest church in isolated frontier locations was quite difficult if not impossible. Burial in a cemetery associated with a church eventually was not considered as being particularly advantageous. Such burial in unsanctified ground appears to be a continuation of the dissenter British Protestant tradition which opposes the consecration of burial grounds (French 1974:71-72; Jordan 1976:157, 1980:228, 1982:33-34; Fox 1984:47, citing Deetz 1977:90).

Fences

The two marked family plots at Morgan Chapel Cemetery were delineated by ornamental iron fencing (Figs. 2,a; 4). Another large iron fence, west of the Ivy (Grave H) and Myers (Grave G) family plot, and a wooden fence, around a single grave, were also reported for the cemetery (Biggers 1984; Casey 1984).

The practice of fencing family plots and cemeteries with ornamental ironwork dates to the 1840s. Such fencing is common in cemeteries in Texas and the rural South which date to the middle to late 1800s and early 1900s (French

1974:83; Jordan 1980:228, 246, 248, 1982:38, 98-100). Four of the five cemeteries described by Fox (1984:52) had wooden, stone, and iron fences or walls.

Graves

Morgan Chapel Cemetery was overgrown with brush, and grave mounding was not evident. The neglected state of the cemetery prevents any definite statement concerning whether or not grave mounds were present or if the cemetery was scraped. Many cemeteries in the South have grave mounds which serve to drain water, and to mark the location of the graves. The use of grave mounds appears to be a custom which originated in Britain. Scraped or bare earth cemeteries are present throughout the South (Jordan 1976:153-154, 1980:234, 1982:14-16), and at least one such cemetery has been reported near Morgan Chapel Cemetery (Stuard 1984). The custom of graveyard scraping may have originated in Africa (Jordan 1982:14, 16).

Grave depths at Morgan Chapel Cemetery varied from 3 feet 9.5 inches to 6 feet 2.5 inches. The average grave depth was 4 feet 8 inches for infants (one year of age or less), 4 feet 9 inches for children, and 5 feet 1 inch for adults (Table 3). This confirms McIntire's (1984) statement that graves are usually dug to 5.5 feet or less below ground surface. Fox (1984:49) reported more shallow average grave depths for the graves in five south Texas cemeteries with 3 feet 3 inches to 3 feet 11 inches for infant and child graves, and 4 feet 4 inches for adult graves. A hard subsoil of unconsolidated sandstone was encountered at a relatively shallow depth in those cemeteries, however, which probably affected the grave depths.

Rogers and McReynolds (1981:88), Blakely and Beck (1982:186), and Fox (1984:49) observed that the grave pit size roughly correlated with the coffin size, and the coffin size also related to the individual's size. Although the grave pit outlines could not be distinguished at Morgan Chapel Cemetery, the coffin size and individual's size were observed to be closely related. The false crypt associated with Grave E also approximated the size of the coffin and the individual's size; the moderate size of the crypt (4 feet 4 inches in length) led Brown (1986) to speculate, correctly, that the burial was that of a child.

Sixteen (76.2%) of the 21 graves at Morgan Chapel Cemetery had dug vaults (Figs. 2,a; 10,f,g, this report; Blakely and Beck 1982:188, Fig. 8.5), and four (19.0%) had boxes into which the coffins were placed; one of these four coffins also had a dug vault. The remaining two (9.5%) burials were protected solely by coffins (Table 2); it is possible that a thin coffin box may have been present with these burials, and may have gone unnoticed. One grave (Grave U) had vault planking with extremely well-preserved planks made of unshaped logs and a wooden box that contained the coffin. In graves with dug vaults, the central part of the vault planking had collapsed from the weight of the overlying grave fill. Often the sides of the wooden coffins had collapsed inward, which resulted in the coffin handles being located in the central part of the burial. The collapse and crushing of coffins from the overburden sometimes made the identification of coffin form difficult. No octagonal-shaped coffins were identified, but it is possible that some of the

coffins recorded as being rectangular or hexagonal forms, may have instead been octagonal.

The coffin was lowered into the grave, and into the dug vault if one was present, with buggy lines from which the buckles had been stripped, or with patent straps which attached to a bracket on the side of the coffin. The buggy lines or patent straps were slipped out from around the coffin once it was set into place. Next, wooden planking was placed across the shelf or step of the grave pit formed by the dug vault, at right angles to the long axis of the grave (Figs. 2,b; 10,f,g). The grave was then ready to be filled (Clark 1974:232). The vault planking served as a protective covering to help prevent the collapse of the wooden coffin under the weight of the grave fill. After 1930, wooden vault planks reportedly were replaced by metal supports for burials with wooden coffins (Blakely and Beck 1982:188; Fox 1984:49).

In many of the graves light tan sand and silty black clay had sifted and washed into the lower grave pit around the coffin and the vault. A light gray, abrasive material was also observed above and around 13 (61.9%) burials (Table 2); however, it may have been with more of the burials, since this trait was not systematically noted until the later part of the project. This material may have been quicklime which would have been added to avoid contamination, particularly in cases when there was a longer than usual delay between death and burial (McIntire 1984). Results of soil tests for the gray sandy material from Graves I, J, M, O, and P, and also a comparative sample of naturally occurring sand from the site (Table 4), show that the levels of calcium in the samples of gray sandy material are much higher than that for the *in situ* sand, which would be expected for lime, although these results do not definitely prove that this material was lime (Lewis 1984). At the Laredo Cemetery, McReynolds (1981b:34) noted that one coffin had lime scattered within it. The lime was speculated to have been used to guard against contamination, particularly in instances when individuals died of disease.

TABLE 4. LISTING OF THE CALCIUM LEVELS FOR THE GRAY SANDY SOILS FROM GRAVES I, J, M, O, AND P, AT MORGAN CHAPEL CEMETERY

Grave	Calcium
I	1040 high
J	4000 very high
M	680 medium
O	2840 high
P	920 medium
C.S.*	560 low

*C.S. = Comparative sample of naturally deposited, *in situ* sand from Morgan Chapel Cemetery.

The soil test results were obtained from the Soil Testing Laboratory of the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, Texas A&M University System, College Station, Texas.

Grave Markers

The absence of tombstones or markers on many of the graves at Morgan Chapel Cemetery may be at least partially due to the deterioration of wooden grave markers, or the displacement of unworked petrified wood grave markers, and it is possible that some of the graves may have had wooden markers. Unworked stone and wooden markers are found with older burials in Texas and in the South (Jordan 1982:41-47). Many of the graves in the rural north Texas cemeteries examined by Jordan (1976:157) had no markers, and a few had old wooden markers which had survived. As mentioned earlier, some gravestones may have been removed by an occupant of the site during the early 1950s. Of the 34 graves described by Fox (1984:51-52), only nine (26.5%) had stone grave markers, one had a wooden marker, and others had only unmarked fieldstones.

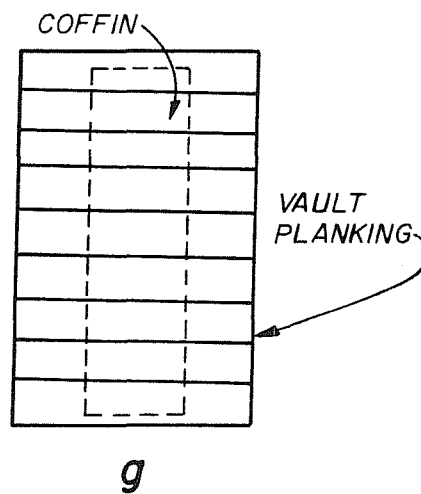
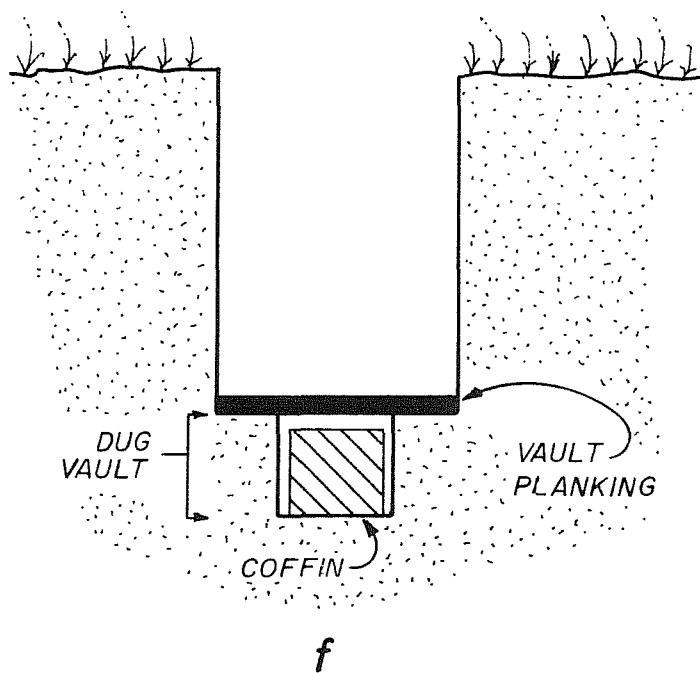
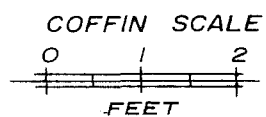
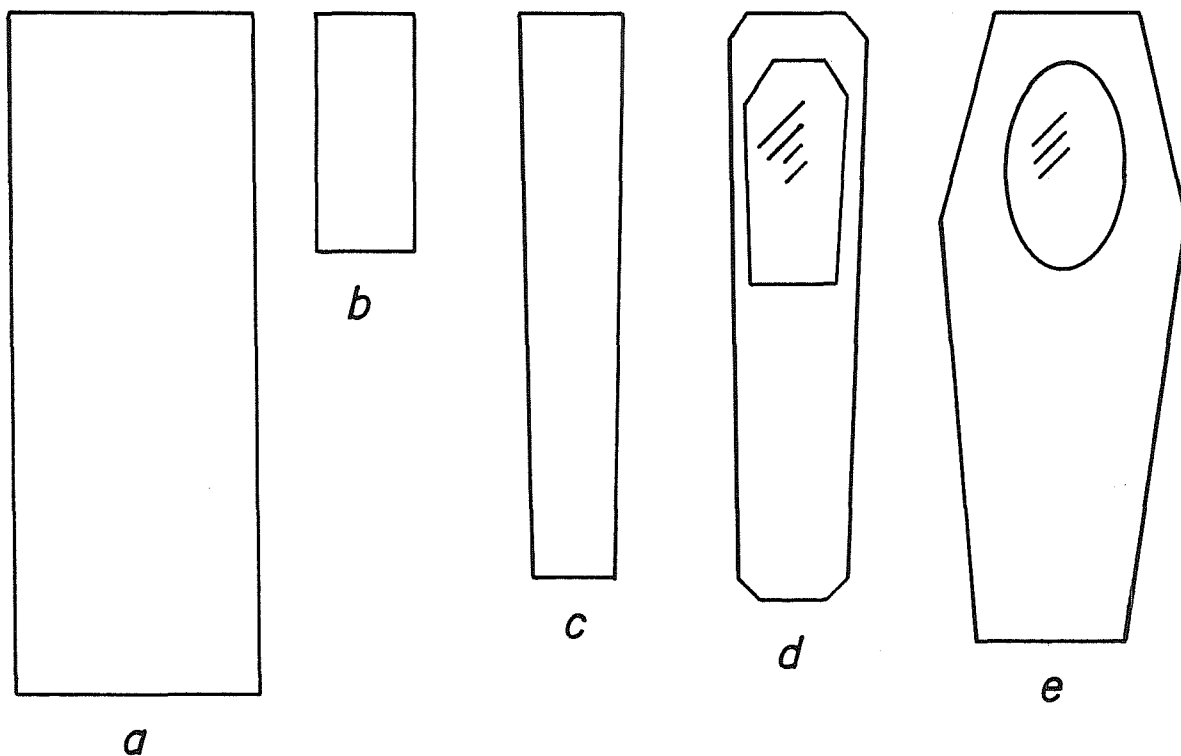
Five (23.8%) of the graves at Morgan Chapel Cemetery had headstones, and all appeared to have been commercially made. One grave had a brick false crypt. The headstone and footstone inscriptions all faced east, unlike the Anglo Protestant gravestone inscriptions observed by Jordan (1976:158) in north Texas, which usually faced west. The gravestones were similar to those described by Jordan (1976:157), in that they were "modest in size and [the] epitaphs [were] short and to the point." Inscriptions and decorations on the headstones included the deceased's name and/or initials, their relationship to others (daughter, mother), date of birth, date of death, commemorative verses, Gothic crosses, scrolls, gates of heaven, doves which sometimes carried an olive branch, a wreath, a sheaf of wheat, and floral designs which included a rose, lilies, and "witches' feet." The graves in the Cruse family plot (Graves A-D) were outlined with one to two rows of brick, and the family plot was also outlined with brick. The use of brick on these and other graves in the cemetery is probably due to the proximity of the Butler Brick Company to the cemetery, though this custom is not uncommon in the rural South (Jordan 1980:228, 246, 248). In some areas of the South, brick crypts may be symbols of family wealth. Also, the covering of graves with concrete may occur when families anticipate that the grave will not be maintained, and the concrete covering then serves as a more permanent grave mound that does not require periodic maintenance (Jordan 1976:154). The construction of a brick vault would appear to be less of a sign of wealth at Morgan Chapel Cemetery, which is in a brick manufacturing area, than it might be elsewhere. Perhaps the vault was intended to serve as a long-term grave mound. False crypts, though uncommon, do occur throughout the southern United States (Jordan 1976:154, 1982:18-10). Eleven (32.4%) of the 34 graves exhumed from cemeteries in Live Oak and McMullen Counties in south Texas had false crypts or cairns built of sandstone or limestone slabs (Fox 1984:51-52).

The shell decoration on the Grave E false crypt is similar to one of the types of central Texas shell-decorated graves described by Clark (1972:33). This particular grave type is covered with a concrete mound embedded with shells which are placed concave side down. The shells are usually arranged over the entire concrete mound. Such graves were made by both amateur and professional cement finishers, and are found throughout the South. Kelly and Highley (1979:26, Fig. 2,a) observed shell-covered grave mounds in the Asher Cemetery (41 KA 53) in Karnes County, Texas, which date from 1905 to 1926. Brown (1986) suggests that the style of Grave E, with the handmade brick

Figure 10. Coffin Shapes and a Dug Vault Grave from Morgan Chapel Cemetery (41 BP 200).

Coffin shapes:

- a-d, rectangular forms, Graves A, P, B, G (c, d, with tapered sides and d, with canted corners);
- e, hexagonal coffin, Grave H (d, e, glass fronts, or sealers, which were placed over the upper half of the coffin);
- f, schematic cross section, Grave M;
- g, plan view of a child burial in a dug vault, Grave M.



crypt and shell decoration, indicates that it is one of the oldest burials in the cemetery.

Additional decoration of the Morgan Chapel Cemetery graves included a terracotta flowerpot and a few pieces of purple glass found in the sandy topsoil of the Myers and Ivy (Graves G and H) family plot. Beds of volunteer irises were growing in the vicinity of the Cruse family plot, and a cedar sapling was located south of the Myers and Ivy plot. In the rural South, the decoration of graves with objects is not uncommon. This custom may have originated in Africa and the British Isles. Southern cemeteries are also traditionally decorated with various trees and flowers, a custom which may have originated in the Middle East and the ancient Mediterranean. Irises and evergreen trees such as the cedar are particularly common in southern cemeteries (Jordan 1976:154-156, 1980:242-243, 1982:19, 21, 28-30). Freeman and Fawcett (1980:128, 131) reported that a double row of cedars was planted at the Brackenridge Cemetery, a rural family cemetery in Jackson County, Texas, which dates from 1856 to 1878.

Orientation

All 21 of the burials in Morgan Chapel Cemetery were oriented east to west, with the head to the west (Fig. 4). This orientation is standard for southern rural burials, and is based upon the belief that the deceased should be oriented so as to rise to face the rising sun on the day of judgment (Hill 1968:86-88; Jordan 1980:246, 1982:30; Fox 1984:49, citing Puckle 1926:149). The location of Ann Cruse (Grave B), on the north side of her husband, William F. Cruse (Grave A), is customary in southern rural cemeteries. This positioning may be based upon a British folk belief that Eve was created from Adam's right side; it also duplicates the position a couple takes during wedding vows, with the woman on the left side of the man (Jordan 1980:247, 1982:30-31). The face downward placement of the corpse in Grave N, as stated earlier in this report, may be deliberate or accidental. Local residents told the archaeologists that a suicide was buried at Morgan Chapel Cemetery, and also that it was common to bury suicides face downward. Further investigations concerning the suicide victim, however, indicated that the individual was interred in another local cemetery rather than in Morgan Chapel Cemetery (Casey 1984; McWilliams 1984). The face downward burial of an adult male was reported for a Negro cemetery in Philadelphia which dates approximately 1823-1841; the significance of the positioning of the burial was not reported, however (Wittkofski 1984). The only published account that the authors could locate, of the deliberate burial of individuals face downward, was for some executed Federal deserters during the Civil War. The deserters' graves were often unmarked as well, to further indicate the individual's disgrace (Robertson 1984:155).

The orientation of the south Texas burials from Choke Canyon Reservoir reported by Fox (1984:42, 49) was east to west with the head to the west, with the exception of one infant burial in which the head was to the east; the placement of this burial was thought to be an error rather than deliberate. At the Laredo Cemetery, all of the burials but one were oriented east to west, but the placement of the head was variable, with seven (31.8%) having their head to the east and 15 (68.2%) with their head to the west.

The remaining burial, an adult, was oriented north to south, and the peculiar placement of the individual was speculated to be due to the time period in which the burial occurred, or because of the amount of space remaining in the cemetery at the time of burial (McReynolds 1981b:38, 62; Herrington and McReynolds 1981:Table 5). In rural southern cemeteries, graves aligned north to south generally denote wrongdoers or, particularly, suicides. This tradition appears to have originated in Europe, and is mainly restricted to the British Isles (Jordan 1980:246, 1982:30). Another means of distinguishing suicides, or victims of violent or accidental deaths, from other burials was to bury the corpse at a crossroads (Hill 1968:89; Farberow 1975:3). In some traditions, it was also the practice to inter suicide victims or "persons of a morally problematic nature" face downward, to indicate that the individual died from "morally questionable circumstances" (Willis 1984).

Coffins

All the Morgan Chapel Cemetery burials were in wooden coffins. Nineteen (90.5%) of the coffins were rectangular in form (Figs. 4; 10,a-d), with two of the rectangular coffins having canted corners (Figs. 4; 10,d). The remaining two (9.5%) coffins were hexagonal shaped (see Figs. 4; 10,e, this report; Blakely and Beck 1982:Fig. 8.6). The earliest dated burial (Grave H) at Morgan Chapel Cemetery, dates to 1891, and has a hexagonal coffin; the other hexagonal coffin occurs with an unmarked grave (U) and is not dated, although the coffin form may indicate that it was one of the earlier burials at the site. The infant burials all had rectangular coffins. All the coffins described by Fox (1984:50), which date from 1860 to 1913, were wooden. The majority of the adult coffins from Choke Canyon (Fox *ibid.*) were hexagonal, although a few were rectangular, and the coffins with the smallest infants were all rectangular. The Laredo Cemetery coffins, which date to the late 1800s and early 1900s, were predominantly hexagonal (McReynolds 1981b:62).

During the Spanish colonial period in Texas, prior to 1800, coffins do not appear to have been used in mission burials (Fox 1984:50). Hexagonal wooden coffins, which were also known as "truncated diamond," "pigeon toed," or "toe pincher" coffins, were the earliest style of coffin, and were first used during colonial times in the northeastern United States. In certain isolated areas of Texas, coffins were not used until as late as 1853 (Olmsted 1978:319). Hexagonal coffins were later replaced by octagonally shaped coffins. Rectangular, or straight-sided, coffins, which were referred to as caskets, appeared after 1850, and eventually replaced the octagonal shaped coffins. Octagonal wooden coffins then became limited to the burial of individuals of the lower socioeconomic class.

Coffins were inexpensive and were usually constructed upon request by a local carpenter or cabinetmaker until the time of the Civil War, and in some places in the rural South until 1915. The coffins were made of cedar, cherry, spruce, pine, walnut, or oak boards held together with long steel tacks. The coffin exterior might be partially covered with black cloth, and have dark stained wood. Coffin hardware was obtained wholesale by local rural stores, and was often sold in assembled bundles with four handles and plaques with

inscriptions such as "AT REST," or "OUR DARLING" (see Figs. 5-9). Gray, white, and black lining for coffins was sold at the store by the yard. The predominant color for the coffin lining was black. After the Civil War, or after 1915 in some parts of the rural South, the cost of coffins rose considerably, and the number of coffin shops and varieties of coffins increased dramatically. Funeral homes, and the practice of embalming may have also become popular at this time (Whilden and Cox 1973:306, 311-313; Clark 1974:228-236; McReynolds 1981a:93-94, citing Harmer 1963:90-91, 106-107 and Coffin 1976:107; Rogers and McReynolds 1981:85; Aliaga 1984; and Fox 1984:50-51). McReynolds (1981a:95) attributes the increase in coffin styles and cost to a change in public attitude toward burials, with the purpose of coffins changing from simply being a burial receptacle to also becoming a means of displaying status.

The wood used to construct the coffins at Morgan Chapel Cemetery included pine (*Pinus*), possibly cherry (cf. *Prunus*), and an unidentified hardwood (Angiosperm; Holloway, Appendix B). The two adult coffins from which samples were taken (Graves H and U) were both hexagonal shaped, and both were made of cherry wood, which may indicate that these two coffins both date to the early usage of the cemetery around the turn of the century. The other cherry wood coffins were rectangular, as were all the subadult coffins. The remainder of the sampled coffins were made of pine, with the possible exception of Grave L, which may have been Salicaceae. All the sampled vault planking was pine. The usage of cherry wood for coffins was unexpected since all the identified wood samples reported by Rogers and McReynolds (1981) for the Laredo Cemetery, and by Aliaga (1984) for the Choke Canyon cemeteries, were pine species.

There was considerable variability in coffin size at Morgan Chapel Cemetery (Tables 1 and 3). Coffins for infants and very young children one year of age or younger were rectangular, and averaged 1 foot by 2 feet in size. Child coffins had an average size of 1 foot 4 inches by 4 feet 3 inches; however, this average includes Grave Q which had an adult-sized coffin. If the Grave Q coffin is omitted, then the child coffins average 1 foot 1 inch by 3 feet 8.5 inches in size. Adult coffins averaged 1 foot 7 inches by 6 feet 2 inches. Some adult coffins (Graves B, G, H, O) were very narrow, especially in comparison to the Grave A coffin, and appear to have been made for a close fit. The close correlation noted between coffin size and the size of the individual may indicate that the coffins were locally made for a specific individual, as is suggested by Rogers and McReynolds (1981:88). This would support accounts by local informants that William F. Cruse (Grave A) constructed some of the coffins. The later introduction of mass produced, machine made coffins would also have added to the variability in coffin size. The length of vault planking was also closely correlated to the coffin length, although the vault planking width was much wider than the coffin. The grave was probably dug only slightly longer than the coffin, to avoid unnecessary digging in the hard clay subsoil, but it would have been dug wider than the coffin to allow for elbow room while digging and to provide a shelf to support the vault planking. The vault planking was probably roughly the same size as the grave pit.

The exterior of seven (33.3%) coffins was painted white with gesso or paint, and one had a gold painted interior in addition to a white gesso exterior

(Table 2). Two (9.1%) coffins from the Laredo Cemetery were painted, one of which was a dull red with yellowish ivory trim (McReynolds 1981b:43; Rogers and McReynolds 1981:Table 6).

Glass fronts or sealers, were present in eight (38.1%) burials (Table 2). The glass extended much of the length for infant burials; for adults, it covered only the upper half or third of the coffin (Fig. 10,d,e). The glass was cut into rectangular and ovoid shapes. There was a wooden lid on many coffins with glass viewing plates, which closed over the glass and wooden top. Patents for wooden coffins with glass viewing plates were filed between 1860 and 1900 in the United States, and were more expensive than the plain style of coffins. The purpose of the glass fronts on coffins may have been only for decoration, although there is some speculation that it may have truly served as a sealer on the coffin since embalming may have not been practiced, or may have been poorly developed at this time (Combes 1972; Dickens and Blakely 1979; McReynolds 1981a:93, citing Coffin 1976:101, 1981b:15, 43; and Blakely and Beck 1982:188-189, 199-200, citing Kline and Kline n.d.). No glass fronts were found in any of the south Texas burials reported by Fox (1984). One coffin (4.5%) from the Laredo Cemetery had an oval glass front (McReynolds 1981b:43-44, 50, Figs. 14, 17).

Ornate coffin furnishings such as metal studs, white metal or iron handles and thumbscrews, and white metal or cupreous plaques (Figs. 5-9), were found with all the intact burials at Morgan Chapel Cemetery; and iron nails, used to construct the coffin, were found in all the graves. There was a wide range of designs exhibited in the coffin hardware. In contrast, only five (22.7%) of the 22 coffins described for the Laredo Cemetery had any coffin hardware (McReynolds 1981b:Table 3). No coffin hardware was found with any of the 34 burials reported by Fox (1984).

Grave Inclusions

Very few personal effects were found with the Morgan Chapel Cemetery burials (see Table 1); 15 (71.4%) burials had no evidence of personal articles, two (9.5%) burials had only diaper pins, and one (4.8%) burial had only a hair comb. The lack of grave goods in many of the burials may indicate that those individuals were buried in shrouds, or winding sheets, without shoes.

From the 1860s through the 1910s in the rural South, it was not unusual to bury an individual in a shroud made of bleached cotton fabric (Clark 1974:234-236; see Fox 1984:53). Of the 22 burials in the Laredo Cemetery, only 12 (54.5%) had any personal effects (McReynolds 1981b:Tables 3 and 4). Several of the burials reported by Fox (1984:53), however, had grave inclusions, although no personal effects were found with many burials. There were straight pins in many of the burials with no inclusions, which Fox (*ibid.*) suggests were used to secure shrouds or winding sheets. Copper pins found with adult female and child burials were interpreted as indicating shroud burials at an early 1800s Negro cemetery in Philadelphia (Wittkofski 1984). According to Blakely and Beck (1982:188), it is not unusual for corpses to be buried without shoes.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Twenty-one burials at Morgan Chapel Cemetery (41 BP 200) were relocated. These burials were all located in a concentrated area (Fig. 4) near a former church site. The known dates of the burials range from 1891 to 1937, a total of 46 years.

The results of Massey's (Appendix A) osteological analysis of the burials indicate there were seven (33.3%) adults (Graves A, B, G, H, N, O, U), of which one (4.8%) male (Grave A), one (4.8%) probable male (Grave N), and one (4.8%) female (Grave B) were identifiable as to sex. There were also one (4.8%) adolescent (Grave Q), one (4.8%) young child (Grave M), and 12 (57.1%) infants (Graves C, D, E, F, I, J, K, L, P, R, S, T).

Additional information concerning the burials was provided by headstones, informants, and data recovered by excavation for Graves A-H, which either had surface markers or were in delineated family plots (Fig. 4, Tables 1-3). For these eight marked graves there were four adults (Graves A, B, G, H), one subadult (Grave E), and three infants (Graves C, D, F). According to sex the adults were one male (Grave A) and three females (Graves B, G, H), and they ranged in age from 65.5 to 81 years. The subadult (Grave E) was of unknown age and sex. Of the three infants, two were female (Graves D, F), and the sex of one (Grave C) is unknown.

Data from the Miller Funeral Home Records (1911-1950) and informants (Casey 1980, 1984; Odiorne 1983; Dunbar 1984; **Elgin Courier** 1984b, 1984e) concerning 13 remaining burials, which were unmarked and unidentified (Graves I-U), described nine individuals, specifically--Beatrice Finnagin, Virginia Elizabeth Hewitt Bigger, Mable Elizabeth Dunbar, Barney Elbert Dunbar, Junior Dunbar, Baby Dunbar, a Mexican woodcutter, the King infant, and the infant of a transient family. By age groups, these reported individuals total three adults, one male and two females; one female child; and five infants, two male and three of unknown sex.

A comparison of Massey's (Appendix A) findings for the unmarked graves (Graves I-U) with data from the funeral home records and from informants' descriptions of specific individuals shows that three adults were recovered from unmarked graves, which correlates with the total of three adults mentioned in records and accounts, for which the grave associations are unknown. Only one unmarked child burial was recovered, and one child was mentioned in the funeral home records. Nine unidentified infant burials were recovered, but only five infants for which the grave locations were unknown were reported.

Styles of grave decoration, coffin form, and materials used in some of the unmarked burials may indicate whether they date to the early or late period of utilization of the cemetery. The handmade brick crypt with shell decoration which overlies Grave E may indicate that it is an early burial. The hexagonal cherry wood coffin, an earlier form, and the rough cut vault planks in Grave U may indicate that it is also one of the earlier burials in the cemetery. The cherry wood and other hardwood coffins (Graves C, H, R, T, and U) identified by Holloway (Appendix B) may also mark the earlier coffins at the site, though it might rather be a sign of affluence, or indicate a

particular craftsman. The location of Morgan Chapel Cemetery and the styles of burials which were recorded are quite similar to other cemeteries and burials throughout the rural South.

We believe that the participation of archaeologists in the relocation of historic cemeteries is worthwhile, and can result in the recovery of much information concerning the health, mortuary customs, and attitudes toward death of historic peoples. The information gained from Morgan Chapel Cemetery illustrated burial customs during the turn of the century, including the usage of wooden coffins, some of which were handmade, glass fronts on coffins, possibly shrouds or winding sheets, and wooden vaulting. This project in particular also demonstrated some of the difficulties in public relations, legal matters, and methodology which archaeologists are likely to face during the recovery of historic burials.

Morgan Chapel Cemetery (41 BP 200) is no longer considered by the archaeologists to be a significant cultural resource, based upon the lack of remaining *in situ* cultural deposits and features at the site. It is suggested, therefore, that the cemetery not be recommended for nomination as a State Archeological Landmark, or for the National Register of Historic Places.

GLOSSARY

bonding: The process of pressing fibers into sheets or webs that are held together by adhesive.

burial goods: Personal effects placed with a burial.

casket: A term that may refer to a rectangular burial receptacle with perpendicular sides which came into style after 1850 (McReynolds 1981a:93, citing Coffin 1976:101, 1981b:65; Blakely and Beck 1982:188).

canted: A slanted edge or surface. In this report, canted is used to describe the corners of coffins and glass fronts which were angled. Some reports may use the term mitered instead of canted.

coffin: A term which may refer to hexagonal, or truncated, burial receptacles (McReynolds 1981a:93, citing Coffin 1976:101, 1981b:65). In this report, coffin refers to burial receptacles of various shapes, not just hexagonal forms.

coffin box: A thin wooden receptacle which served as a vault, containing the coffin.

composition: An early form of plastic.

cupreous: Any of various metal alloys, such as brass, containing high percentages of copper.

dug vault: A burial chamber formed by digging a narrow pit the size of the coffin in the bottom of the wider grave pit (Clark 1974:232).

ear piece: The part of a coffin handle that attaches to the coffin, and is located on either end of the actual handle section (McReynolds 1981b:65, citing Rogers and Bros. 1882).

false crypt: A structure built over subsurface burials that does not contain the corpse but rather serves as a permanent grave mound (Jordan 1976:154, 1982:18).

family plot: An area reserved within a cemetery for members of a family group.

gesso: A mixture of plaster of Paris and glue, often used to prepare a surface for painting.

glass front: A cut glass plate, which might be of various forms, placed on top of the upper part of a coffin to provide a viewing window of the corpse. Also referred to as a glass sealer or a bust window (McReynolds 1981a:93, citing Coffin 1976:101, 1981b:15, 43; Blakely and Beck 1982:188-189, 199-200, citing Kline and Kline n.d., Combes 1972, and Dickens and Blakely 1979).

grave mound: Elongated earthen mounds which overlie graves.

laminating: Joining layers of cloth together with such substances as glue or resin to form one fabric.

lime: Calcium oxide, a white caustic lumpy powder sometimes used for waste treatment, or any of various forms of calcium oxide differing chiefly in water content and percentage of such materials as silica, alumina, and iron; also called lime, quicklime, unslaked lime, or calx.

nonwoven fabric: This term is used in this report to denote a fabric made of parallel threads bonded in some fashion and applied as a decorative finish to the outside of a coffin.

plain weave: A weave in which the weft thread passes over one warp thread, then under the next, alternating across the cloth.

plaque: A metal plate attached onto the upper part of the coffin lid. These plaques were often ornate and were inscribed with sayings such as "OUR DARLING" or "AT REST."

scraped cemetery: Cemeteries cleared of vegetation; also referred to as bare earth cemeteries (Jordan 1976:153-154, 1980:234, 1982:14-16).

shroud: A cloth used to wrap a corpse for burial; also referred to as a burial robe or a winding sheet (Clark 1974:234-236; Fox 1984:53).

studs: Ornamental metal tacks attached to the coffin exterior (McReynolds 1981b:65, citing Rogers and Bros. 1882).

thumbscrews: A vertical piece of coffin hardware used in conjunction with a horizontal screw plate to fasten down the coffin lid or the coffin box lid (McReynolds 1981a:65, citing Rogers and Bros 1882). In this report, thumbscrew refers to both the screw plate and thumbscrews since both items were consistently used together on the Morgan Chapel Cemetery coffins.

twilled weave: A weave in which the weft threads are interlaced with the warp to produce a diagonal pattern across the fabric, creating a stronger, heavier fabric than a plain weave.

vault: A burial chamber, especially when underground.

vault planking: Wooden planks placed across the shelf or step of the grave pit formed by the dug vault (Clark 1974:232); also referred to as grave arches (Blakely and Beck 1982:188; Fox 1984:49).

vertisols: Generally, clayey soils with low hydraulic conductivity, and a high content of swelling clay. Deep, wide cracks are formed when vertisols are partially dried. At Morgan Chapel Cemetery, the surface horizons were strongly self-mulching (Soil Survey Staff 1975:375-377, 428).

volunteer: Refers to plants that are self-sown or have reseeded themselves. In this report, this term refers to irises which have perpetuated themselves long after they were originally planted.

warp: The thread that runs lengthwise in a woven fabric.

weft: The thread that runs crosswise in a woven fabric.

white metal: Any of various whitish alloys containing high percentages of tin or lead, such as pewter; or possibly zinc.

z-twisted: A right-hand twisted thread, one in which the twist is away from you and the fibers lie from the upper right to the lower left across the thread.

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APPENDIX A

AN OSTEOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF THE BURIALS FROM MORGAN CHAPEL CEMETERY

Virginia K. Massey

An osteological analysis was requested for the skeletal remains from the Morgan Chapel Cemetery in order, first, to ensure that the individuals in marked graves could be properly identified for reburial, and second, to provide information about deceased persons in unmarked graves in the hope that they too might be identified. In both cases, data was sought about age, sex, size, and any other physical attributes that might be of use to family members (LaVerne Herrington, Texas Historical Commission [THC], personal communication with Jack Eaton). Additionally, the THC suggested that information be sought which would illuminate the health conditions of the past population or provide information about early Texas communities.

A study of this kind has a value not limited to the immediate project. Although at first glance it may appear only to describe the individuals buried in a particular graveyard, the information might later be combined with that derived from other cemeteries in the area or from the same time period to portray the larger population. We would then be able to address questions about the living community, and perhaps its afflictions, as well. Did women live longer than men? What ages were most dangerous for children? Was severe malnutrition widespread, and at what ages were most individuals vulnerable to it? For all these inquiries, mortuary data can help supply answers.

In order to achieve these ends data was sought about the following characteristics of each individual: sex, age at death, stature, and pathology. Traits evaluated were those which could be assessed in the field in a limited amount of time and considering the state of preservation of the bone. Sex was determined in adult individuals where possible by the following criteria: rugosity of the skull, mandible, and postcranial skeleton (Krogman 1962; Bass 1971; Stewart 1979; Brothwell 1981); size and shape of the pelvis (Krogman 1962; Bass 1971); and by discriminant function analysis of the talus and calcaneus (Steele 1976). Evaluation of sex was not attempted for subadults because reliable indicators of gender do not appear on immature disarticulated skeletons. Age was determined, in subadults, largely by comparing their tooth development with that portrayed in Schour and Massler's (1944) chart. Further indicators of age in subadults which were evaluated are the fusion of vertebral elements and of certain bones of the cranium. Indicators of advancing age in adults consisted of premortem tooth loss, dental attrition, and signs of arthritis on the articular surfaces of bones. The pathologies noted were dental disease, arthritis, signs of fracture or other injury to bone, and any signs of infection. Selected skeletal elements were also examined for porosity, and the parietal bones were evaluated for the thinning which sometimes accompanies old age, but these traits were not found.

Many of these traits can be noted only in relatively undamaged skeletons. Here preservation was expected to be good, because the burials were less than 100 years old, and good preservation of bone was noted at the slightly older

Choke Canyon cemeteries (Fox 1984). Unfortunately, the actual condition of bone recovered from this graveyard was disappointingly poor. In several of the infant burials, only traces of bone were present; in others, only small fragments were preserved. Adult burials were better preserved, because adult bone is heavier and more mineralized, yet even these were extensively eroded because of the local soil conditions. Often bone could be seen in the soil but was too eroded to be removed intact. The articular ends of most long bones had long since disintegrated. The relatively fragile pubic portion of the innominate, from which can be derived the most reliable evidence in adults for age (McKern and Stewart 1957; Gilbert and McKern 1973) as well as sex, was not preserved in any burial.

The results of the unexpectedly poor preservation were diminished certainty where sex was to be assigned and reduced precision in age assessment. The age of adults between 17 and 40 or 50 could have been estimated in increments of two to twenty years by using information from the pubic symphysis. But here, because no pubic symphyses were preserved, our best indicators of age were dental attrition and premortem tooth loss, which informed of only two age categories: adult and old adult. Fortunately, the best indicators of subadults' age at death, teeth and tooth buds, were recovered from several of these burials. Age estimates for subadult individuals in burials where no teeth were preserved were derived from other sources such as the size of the coffin or the size and texture of the bone.

Indicators of sex in the skeleton stem from the childbearing capacity of the female pelvis and the greater muscular development of the male. Since no complete pelvises were preserved, rugosity of the skeleton was the best indicator of sex. In the cranium, traits considered male were obliteration of frontal and parietal eminences, larger mastoid processes, a more pronounced external occipital protuberance, zygomatic crests extending posteriorly over the external auditory meatus, more rounded orbital rims, more pronounced browridges and more protuberant glabella. The male mandible generally has a square chin and everted gonial angles. The reverse of these traits occurs in the female cranium and mandible: frontal and parietal eminences are pronounced, the mastoid processes are smaller, the external occipital protuberance is smoother, the zygomatic crests end anterior to the external auditory meatus, the orbital rims are sharper, the brow ridges are smaller, and the glabella less protuberant. The female mandible tends to have a rounded or pointed chin and inverted gonial angles. Postcranially, marks of muscle attachment are more pronounced in the male than in the female. The male femoral head is larger, and the dimensions of the talus and calcaneus are distinctive enough that discriminant analysis can be used to distinguish up to 89% of male and female skeletons. The male innominate is heavier and has a larger acetabulum, while the female innominate is more likely to have a preauricular sulcus and an elevation of the sacroiliac articular surface.

Size of the individuals in this sample could not be calculated because none of the long bones were sufficiently complete. Even the best-preserved bones, from Burial U, lacked the landmarks required to estimate their lengths from fragments (Steele 1970). Since calculation of stature is based on long bone lengths (Trotter and Gleser 1952), size could not be calculated with

precision. However, subjective impressions of size were recorded in the hope that they may aid in the identification of unknown individuals.

Pathology looked for in these incomplete skeletons included dental disease and bone lesions. Common forms of dental disease are caries ("cavities") and loss of teeth before death. A less frequent type of dental pathology is enamel hypoplasia, characterized by pitted enamel, often with horizontal grooves, which results from a local growth disturbance while the enamel is being laid down on the developing tooth bud (Colby, Kerr, and Robinson 1971). A dental cary is known by a hole with rounded margins in the tooth. Premortem tooth loss may be detected by resorption of alveolar bone. Finally, subperiosteal bone deposition characterizes lesions in the bone itself.

Another difficulty encountered in examining the material concerned the length of time the skeletal material was available for study. The law required that all burials be covered by sundown. This meant that, for adult burials, most of the day would be spent excavating the burial and exposing the skeleton. The skeletal material could not be removed from the grave and studied until relatively late in the working day. If it had been necessary to re-enter the remains before sundown on the same day that they were excavated, much osteological data would have gone unrecorded and unanalyzed. Fortunately, through the kind cooperation of City Public Service, the Newby Funeral Home, and especially the home's representative, Mr. J. E. McIntire, the skeletal remains were lawfully stored in the funeral home overnight. They were returned to the site every morning for as long as it took to complete the analysis, permitting study that approximated the thorough studies possible in the laboratory. The one way in which the time limitations most affected the thoroughness of the study concerned the limited time which could be devoted to conserving the material in the field. If more time had been available to stabilize the bone in the field, then more complete skeletal material would have been available for analysis.

Table 5 summarizes the osteological findings from the Morgan Chapel Cemetery. There were 21 burials of which seven were adults, one was an adolescent, one was a young child, and 12 were infants. One adult was determined to be male, one was female, and one was probably male; for the rest sex could not be determined. More detailed descriptions of each burial follow.

GRAVE A

William F. Cruse

The skeletal remains of this individual identified as William F. Cruse were badly eroded, and only fragments were recovered. Much of the bone was covered with an adherent blackish material which could not be removed either by dry or wet brushing. Therefore, the surface condition of the bone could not be assessed for porosity or lesions. Much of the skeleton was represented in fragments, including long bones, cranial, and dental remains. Miscellaneous and unidentifiable fragments were also recovered.

TABLE 5. A SUMMARY OF THE OSTEOLOGICAL FINDINGS FROM MORGAN CHAPEL CEMETERY

Grave	Sex	Age at Death	Headstone Identification or Other Data
A	male	adult	William F. Cruse
B	female	adult	Ann M. Cruse
C	unknown	1-2 years	(believed to be Baker child)
D	no skeletal remains recovered		Browning infant daughter
E	no skeletal remains recovered		coffin (4 feet 9 inches)
F	unknown	<1 year	Dasha Lee Johnson (daughter)
G	unknown	adult	Caroline Myers
H	unknown	adult	Jane Ivy
I	unknown	9 months \pm 2 months	-
J	no skeletal remains recovered		probably infant
K	no skeletal remains recovered		infant vault
L	unknown	6 months \pm 2 months	young child
M	unknown	2 years \pm 6 months	-
N	male (?)	adult	dorsal side up
O	unknown	adult	trauma to femur
P	unknown	6 months or less	-
Q	unknown	12-15 years	adolescent enamel hypoplasia
R	unknown	newborn	-
S	unknown	probably newborn	-
T	unknown	infant	-
U	unknown	adult	very tall

Fortunately, the following material was recovered which permitted assessment of sex as male: the everted left gonial angle of the mandible, the broad epicondylar area of the distal humerus, the large left mastoid process, and a large partial acetabulum. Further, the long bone fragments appeared quite robust.

The nearly complete mandibular body was recovered in three fragments. A left molar remained in the jaw; its size and position suggested that it was a third molar. It was very worn obliquely, the occlusal surface reduced to the surface of the bone at its distal edge. Alveolar resorption indicated premortem loss of all other molars. Although no other mandibular teeth were recovered, the sharp outlines of six anterior partial alveoli signified that these teeth may still have been present at the time of death. The central portion of the mandible lacked the alveolar area, so it was difficult to determine which teeth these alveoli represent. One on the left side looked large enough to have held a canine; the others seemed too small. Loss of molars and some premolars may have resulted in drifting of the remaining teeth.

Premortem loss of five mandibular molars, and the extreme wear found on the remaining lower molar, suggest that this individual was an old adult at the time of death, as the headstone indicates.

GRAVE B

Ann M. Cruse

Most of this individual's skeleton, identified as Ann M. Cruse, was represented by fragments. Occipital and parietal fragments of the skull, parts of the mandible, and several loose teeth were recovered. The teeth were five mandibular molars and two mandibular premolars. The presence of these teeth indicates that there could not have been extensive premortem tooth loss, at least in the mandible. These molars did have caries, though. Two of the lower molars have occlusal caries; one has a large lesion, and the other has three small ones. A lower molar and a lower premolar had one interproximal cary each at the cemento-enamel junction. Another molar had an interproximal cary in the middle of that surface.

Calculus was present on the occlusal surfaces of three lower molars, suggesting an absence of chewing friction for some time before death. Mrs. Cruse's granddaughter, Ms. Glenna Dunigan, recalls that her grandmother suffered from heart trouble and dropsy for some years before death, but Ms. Dunigan does not remember if her grandmother ate soft food or a normal diet during her last years. Another possibility is that the three teeth with calculus are from the same side and that Mrs. Cruse favored one side while chewing.

Both mastoids were present and their small size, compared to those found in Grave A, suggests that this individual was female, as indeed headstone and living relatives confirm. The teeth indicate that this individual was an adult at time of death, but age cannot be estimated more precisely.

GRAVE C

Twelve teeth and tooth buds were recovered from Grave C in addition to many small fragments of the cranium and long bone. Identifiable cranial fragments consisted of partial petrosal portions of each temporal.

It is fortunate that so many teeth were preserved, because the development of teeth can indicate the individual's age at death. Here, age has been estimated from Schour and Massler's (1944) chart at one or two years of age at time of death.

GRAVE D

Browning Infant

No remains were recovered from the Browning infant from Grave D.

GRAVE E

No skeletal remains were recovered from a child's burial in Grave E.

GRAVE F

Dasha Lee Johnson

The sparse remains of the individual in Grave F consisted of fragments of eggshell-thin cranial bone, some of which appeared to be from the frontal. Since no teeth or tooth buds were recovered, age could not be assessed with much exactness, but the thinness of the cranial bone is consistent with an age at death of less than one year, as recorded on the headstone for this female infant.

GRAVE G

Caroline Myers

An outline of a skeleton was easily visible in the soil of Grave G, but the bone was so very fragile that much of the bone disintegrated when removal from the grave was attempted. Preservation was good for bones of the cranium but extremely poor for all else. No indicators of sex, and few of age, were preserved. Although traces of the innominates could be seen *in situ*, the pubic symphysis was not visible.

The shape of the mandible was not easy to determine, because the outer cortex was gone. Presence or absence of teeth could not be determined, although the central portion of the mandible was not as thin as edentulous mandibles commonly are. Further, the right mandibular fossa was not as shallow as one might expect in an edentulous skull.

A great deal of cranial bone was recovered in medium-sized fragments. No parietal thinning was seen. The bone surface was too obscured by dirt to determine porosity or degree of suture fusion.

Facial bone was badly disintegrated, and even the mandible could not be removed from the grave in recognizable fragments. Only two teeth were recovered, both right upper molars. These teeth showed little wear and no caries. Their good condition suggests that other teeth were present at time of death but were not preserved.

The only indicator of age was a bit of lipping seen on one vertebral centrum. Lipping is usually not seen on the vertebrae of young adults, but it does not indicate an exact age.

GRAVE H

Jane Ivy

The bones recovered from Grave H were fragments of the cranium, a tibia, vertebrae, and an unidentifiable long bone, all poorly preserved. Neither jaws nor teeth were preserved.

None of the elements which could indicate gender, such as the innominates, the mandible, and the mastoid processes, were recovered. Nothing was found that could indicate age at death.

GRAVE I

The sparse skeletal remains of the individual in Grave I consisted of a fragment of the symphyseal portion of the mandible as well as a few long bone fragments, unidentifiable fragments, and teeth. The mandible contained three permanent tooth buds, the development of which suggests an age at death of nine months, plus or minus two months.

GRAVE J

Since no skeletal remains were recovered from Grave J, it was probably that of an infant or small child. Adult bone in this cemetery, although poorly preserved, did not seem to disintegrate entirely.

GRAVE K

No skeletal remains were recovered from Grave K, which is thought to be that of an infant or small child because the vault is 34 inches long.

GRAVE L

Grave L was found to be that of a child placed in an extended position in a glass-topped coffin. Several fragments of long bone, the cranium, and the mandible were recovered. Dental remains consisted of a major part of the mandible and loose teeth. Development of the dentition suggests an age at death of six months, plus or minus two months. Other indicators of age were the basilar and left exoccipital portions of the occipital bone which were still unfused, signifying an age of five years or less. The unfused neural arches suggest that the child was less than two years old at time of death.

GRAVE M

A glass-topped coffin was found in Grave M containing a child placed in an extended position with hands crossed at the waist. Portions of the right tibia and talus adhered to the glass when it was removed.

Fragments of many parts of the skeleton were recovered from this burial, including the cranium, some bones of the arm, ribs, the separate bones of the innominates, and some dental remains. These consisted of a segment of the mandibular symphysis which contained partial crypts. Also present was a fragment of the right ascending ramus, including part of the mandibular condyle. Several deciduous teeth and permanent tooth buds were recovered. The upper deciduous posterior premolar and the upper permanent molar buds had well-formed Carabelli's cusps. The lower molar buds had pronounced buccal pits. Dental development indicates an age at death of two years, plus or minus six months.

GRAVE N

The skeleton in Grave N was found dorsal side up with the palate up and the disarticulated mandible on its side next to the skull. Most of the bones of the skeleton were represented, at least by fragments. Articular ends were generally lost, and the sacrum, metatarsals, and pedal phalanges were not recovered. Much of the skeleton, though visible *in situ*, disintegrated upon removal. Many characteristics diagnostic of age and sex were unfortunately not seen: the mastoids were missing, the basicranium region containing the basilar suture could not be found, the pelvis was crushed, and the vertebral centra were not recovered. The chin, however, was quite robust in appearance, which may indicate that the individual was male. Preservation was not good enough to assess pathology of the bone.

The dental examination revealed no premortem tooth loss and only slight wear. An osteological examination indicated that this individual was probably male, and that he may have been in the prime of life when he died.

Mr. J. E. McIntire, a mortician, believes that the unusual position of the body within the coffin was caused by falling and shifting during transport to the cemetery over bumpy roads. Another possibility is that the coffin could have been temporarily malpositioned when it was lowered into the grave. In

either case, the coffin fell or shifted, and so did the body within it. Repositioning the coffin did not reposition the body.

An alternative explanation was offered by Mr. Arthur von Rosenberg of City Public Service. He was informed by a resident that during the time period this cemetery was in use, it was the custom to bury suicides face down. Although the only known local suicide of this period was buried in the McDade Cemetery, it is possible that one was buried here, unrecorded and forgotten.

GRAVE O

No cranial remains were recovered from Grave O, and only a small part of the left ascending ramus of the mandible was preserved. Moreover, this burial had been disturbed, possibly by rodents, before excavation, and the bones were not in anatomical position. Fragments of postcranial bones were found, among them remnants of the left femur which showed signs of severe trauma. Unfortunately, no indicators of sex or age were recovered.

The left femoral shaft recovered bore at its medial distal end a large cylindrical deposit of smooth subperiosteal bone. This cylindrical deposit so dramatically altered the shape of the shaft that the specimen barely resembled a normal femur. On the unaltered portion of the distal femur shaft a bony spur approximately 15 mm long projected at a right angle and appeared to represent an ossified muscle attachment. Additionally, the linea aspera showed signs of possible infection along its length. Based upon these observations, it seems likely that this individual suffered an injury to the left femur long enough before death for considerable healing to have occurred.

GRAVE P

Very little bone was recovered from this burial in Grave P--just a few splinters and a part of a petrosal. Six deciduous tooth buds were recovered, the development of which suggests an age at death of six months or less.

GRAVE Q

Only cranial remains were recovered from Grave Q. Most mandibular permanent teeth, including buds for the third molars, were recovered as well as all but the third molar buds of the maxillary dentition. Both upper central incisors showed pronounced shoveling. Very slight shoveling was seen on the upper lateral incisors. Uneven enamel and shallow hypoplastic lines appeared on several teeth, suggesting interruptions in enamel development which may have been caused by severe illness, malnutrition, or injury to the deciduous precursors. Also, the right lower first molar had a large occlusal cary, and smaller caries were present on the upper first molars.

The development of the teeth suggests an age at death of 12 to 15 years. Sex could not be determined.

GRAVE R

The individual's remains in Grave R consisted of several deciduous tooth buds and small fragments of cranial bone. The development of the teeth indicates that the infant died at birth.

GRAVE S

Skeletal remains from Grave S consisted of fragments of both petrosals, both humeri, part of a femur, and some unidentifiable fragments. No teeth were recovered from this infant burial. The casket was only 29 inches long. The fine-textured, porous appearance of the bone and the size of the long bone fragments are consistent with an age assessment of newborn.

GRAVE T

Three small fragments of bone comprised the skeletal remains found in Grave T. These fragments were not identifiable, but the largest piece looked like part of a long bone end. The fragments were porous and had the appearance of infant bone.

GRAVE U

Most of the skeleton was represented in the preserved remains found in Grave U, albeit in large fragments. The calotte was complete but the face was gone. The mandible was represented by fragments which could be reconstructed to form a nearly complete corpus, although some of the alveolar portion was broken off.

It is ironic that this skeleton, which was better preserved than any other in this sample, should have shown such equivocal traits for sex and age at death. The long bones were gracile but quite long and obviously were from a very tall individual. The talus and calcaneus were unquestionably male by discriminant analysis, a method which can correctly distinguish up to 89% of male and female skeletons, yet one might expect the results to indicate male sex when the analysis is applied to very tall persons of either gender. The innominate, under ideal conditions a very good indicator of sex, lacked the female signs of a preauricular sulcus and an elevation of the sacroiliac articulation, and it had a masculine heaviness and robusticity, but its sciatic notch was of a moderate angle. The mandible was gracile and had a rounded chin; its left gonial angle was everted; the right, inverted. The cranium was gracile, but frontal eminences were not prominent. The mastoid processes were small, and the zygomatic crest ended anterior to the exterior auditory meatus.

As for indicators of age, the same uncertainty prevailed. The pubic symphysis was not preserved. The articular ends of bones were not sufficiently preserved to show signs of arthritis or its absence. There was considerable premortem tooth loss, but some of the remaining teeth showed very little wear. Age can only be assessed as adult.

The only pathology seen was dental; resorbed alveolar bone in the mandibular fragments declare premortem tooth loss, but the extent of this loss is unknown because only part of the alveolar bone was recovered. Just two molars were recovered, one which was so extensively damaged by caries that only the enamel shell of two-thirds of the crown survived. The other molar, single-rooted, had occlusal caries but showed little wear.

It is of course possible that some unknown pathology contributed at once to the great stature of this individual, to his or her dental disease, and to the androgynous qualities of the remaining skeleton.

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APPENDIX B

ANALYSIS OF WOOD REMAINS FROM THE MORGAN CHAPEL CEMETERY, 41 BP 200

Richard G. Holloway

INTRODUCTION

During recent excavations by personnel of the Center for Archaeological Research, The University of Texas at San Antonio (CAR-UTSA), for the relocation of Morgan Chapel Cemetery (41 BP 200), a total of 21 graves was located. Twenty-eight wood samples were collected from 18 (85.7%) of the 21 graves. Of the wood samples, six (67.9%) were designated as originating from vault planking, and 13 (46.4%) were from coffins (all the coffins at Morgan Chapel Cemetery were wooden). No notation was made in the field designating whether nine (32.1%) of the wood samples were from vault planking or coffins, only the grave from which they were taken was noted. Since Grave 0 contained neither a coffin box or vault planking, the wood sample from Grave 0 is assumed to be from the coffin. The wood samples were bagged separately and sent to the Department of Anthropology at Texas A&M University for analysis.

METHODS AND MATERIALS

The wood samples were slowly dried at the Texas A&M laboratory to remove ground moisture. Fresh transverse surfaces were exposed by the "snap method" of Leney and Casteel (1975). Transverse sections provide the most diagnostic features for wood identification to the genus level and thus were used throughout this study. Comparisons of the transverse sections of the samples from Morgan Chapel Cemetery with published identification keys to wood anatomy such as those by Panshin and deZeeuw (1980), and Dale (1968), as well as with modern reference material available at Texas A&M University, allowed identifications to the genus level. The results of this analysis are presented in Table 6.

RESULTS

Wood samples were obtained of six (37.5%) of the 16 graves with dug vaults at the site. All of these vault planking specimens were composed of a species of *Pinus* (pine).

Thirteen wood samples were taken of 11 (28.6%) of the 21 coffins at Morgan Chapel Cemetery. Of the 13 samples of coffin wood, eight (61.5%) were *Pinus* (pine). However, this represents only six (54.5%) of the 11 sampled coffins, since three samples were taken of the Grave A coffin wood. Three (23.1%) samples, or 27.3% of the sampled coffins, were composed of a hardwood which most closely resembled *Prunus* (cherry; Fig. 11,a,b). The remaining two (15.4%) coffin wood samples, or 18.2% of the 11 sampled coffins, could not be identified other than being composed of a hardwood (Angiosperm).

Of the nine wood samples unidentified as to whether they were of vault planking, a coffin box, or coffin wood, seven (77.8%) were composed of *Pinus*

TABLE 6. RESULTS OF BURIAL WOOD ANALYSIS, 41 BP 200

Grave	Sex	Age at Death	Vault Planking	Coffin Wood	Sample Location Unknown
A	male	81 years	-	Pinus (3 samples)	-
B	female	65.5 years	-	Pinus	Pinus
C	unknown	1-2 years	-	Not identified (Angiosperm)	Pinus
D	female	infant	-	-	Pinus
E	unknown	sub-adult	-	-	-
F	female	11-12 months	-	-	unknown
G	female	71 years	-	Pinus	-
H	female	79 years	-	Not identified (Angiosperm)	-
I	unknown	9 months \pm 2 months	-	-	-
J	unknown	infant	-	-	Pinus
K	unknown	infant	Pinus	-	Pinus
L	unknown	6 months \pm 2 months	-	-	cf. Salicaceae
M	unknown	2 years \pm 6 months	Pinus	-	Pinus
N	male?	adult	-	-	-
O	unknown	adult	-	Pinus	-
P	unknown	6 months or less	-	Pinus	-
Q	unknown	12-15 years	Pinus	Pinus	-
R	unknown	newborn	Pinus	cf. Prunus	-
S	unknown	probably newborn	-	Pinus	-
T	unknown	infant	Pinus	cf. Prunus	-
U	female?	adult	Pinus	cf. Prunus	-

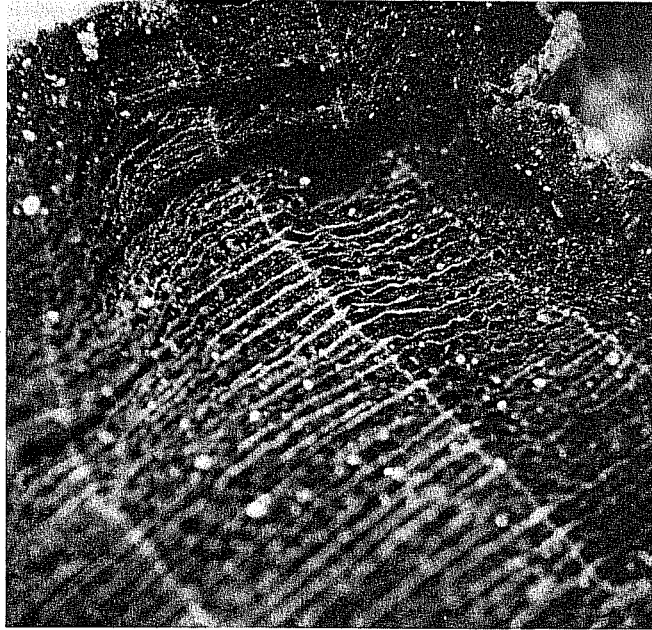
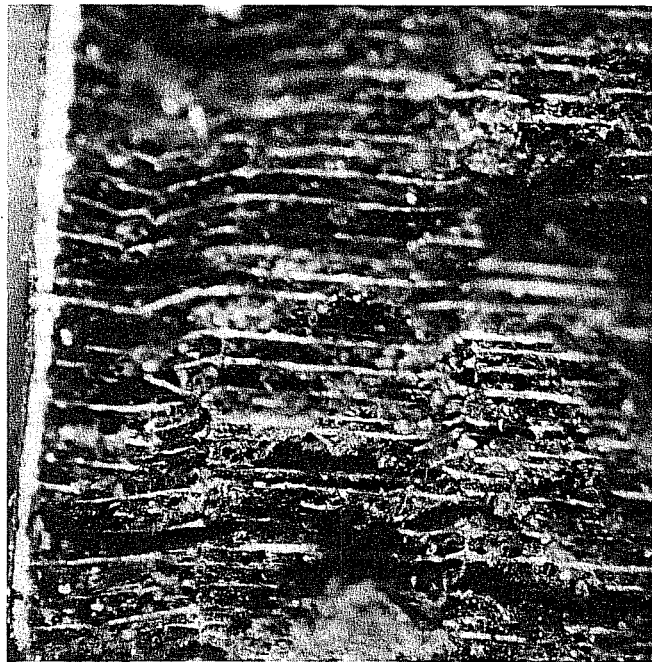
*a**b*

Figure 11. Microphotographs of the Coffin Wood Sample of cf. *Prunus* from Grave U. a, photographed at 300X; b, photographed at 400X.

(pine). One (11.1%) wood sample, Grave L, closely resembled Salicaceae which is the willow family and includes poplar (**Populus palmeri**), quaking aspen (**Populus tremuloides**), and willow (**Salix**). The remaining wood sample could not be identified.

COMMENTS

Four (80%) of the five sampled graves with hardwood coffins were those of infants; the fifth, Grave U, was an adult. Not all the infants, however, were buried in hardwood coffins. Two infants, Graves P and S, were buried in **Pinus** (pine) coffins. Since only one of the graves (H) with a hardwood coffin was identified by a grave marker, there is no clear relationship between those individuals with hardwood coffins and those with pine coffins. It is interesting to speculate as to the causes for the variability in the types of coffin wood. Those individuals with hardwood coffins may be related, or infants below a certain age may have been afforded slightly different burial ceremonies or treatment. The later speculation, however, at this stage appears indefensible due to the variation and inconsistency of coffin wood types for infants and adults. At the present stage of knowledge concerning the individuals buried at Morgan Chapel Cemetery, though, we can only speculate.

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