

The St. George's Caye Archaeology Project:

Results of the 2015 Field Season

Edited by
James F. Garber



Texas State University

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Chapter 1. Introduction

James F. Garber

St. George's Caye played a vital role in the history and development of Belize as an independent nation. This small caye is one of hundreds of islands off the coast of Belize that are part of large reef system, the second largest in the world. Its predominant role in the early history of the English settlement was due to its position and shape. The reef system forms an offshore barrier that protects the coast. Because of the difficulties of navigation, these waters provided safe haven for merchants, buccaneers, and pirates that sailed the Caribbean. To access the mainland and harbors at the mouths of the rivers, one must navigate narrow passages through the reef and then follow a complex system of channels. In order to reach the Belize River, the country's main river system, one must pass by St. George's Caye, thus its strategic location guarding the port (Figure 1.1). Additionally, the caye is crescent shaped making it ideal for careening ships on its leeward side (Figure 1.2).

The Battle of St. George's Caye on September 10, 1798 represents the end of Spain's attempts to conquer the territory that is now known as Belize. Although this battle happened over 200 years ago, it still plays a large role in Belizean culture, as seen during the annual September Celebrations when people all over the country honor the Battle of St. George's Caye. The fact that the caye is featured on the Belize five-dollar bill is an indicator of its importance (Figure 1.3). The front side depicts a medallion from the tomb of Thomas Potts one of the Bay Settlements early leaders

and the back side features a 1764 map of the caye, the Thomas Potts tomb, the Biddle house, and a “bathing crawl”.

While much has been written about the history of St. Georges Caye, the first capital of Belize, there has been little archaeology done on the island. With this in mind, we initiated the St. George’s Caye Archaeology Project in 2009. The results of the 2015 field season are presented in the pages that follow.

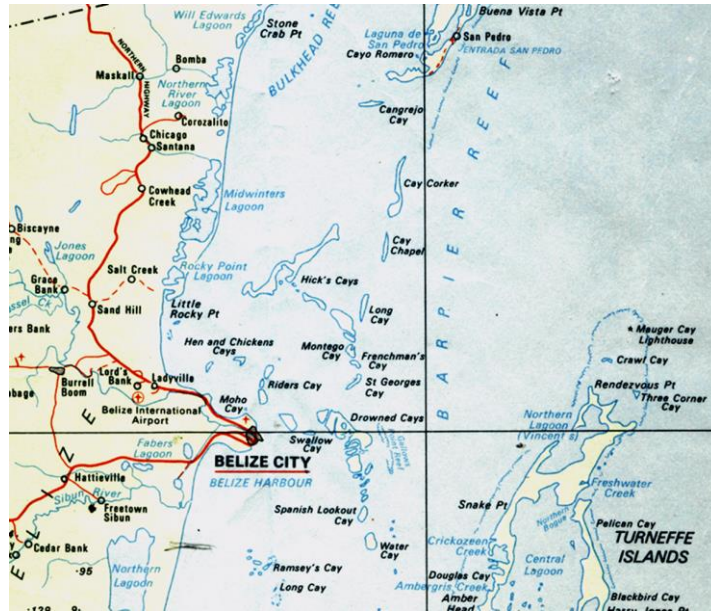


Figure 1.1. Map of Belize coast showing location of St. George's Caye.



Figure 1.2. Satellite image of St. George's Caye.



Figure 1.3. Belize 5 dollar bill. Front side depicts a medallion from Thomas Potts' tomb, backside shows a 1764 map of the cayes, the Thomas Potts tomb, the Biddle house, and a bathing "crawl". This style bill was introduced in 1990.

Chapter 2. Field Investigations on St. George's Caye: Results of the 2015 Field Season

J. Heath Bentley, James F. Garber, Lauren C. Springs, and Lauren A. Sullivan

Cemetery Excavations

Investigations for the 2015 field season on St. George's Caye primarily occurred in the southeast portion of the island's cemetery. Excavations were conducted in an attempt to fulfill two major objectives: 1) to locate the remaining unexcavated above-ground sarcophagi that are illustrated on an 1864 map of the cemetery (Figure 2.1) and; 2) to locate the extent of a portion of the cemetery that was previously eroded by storm surge and then filled with dredged sand.

Trench

Based on personal accounts by residents of St. George's Caye, a portion of the south section of the cemetery was once deeply eroded in 1961 by hurricane storm surge, which created a channel through that part of the cemetery. This channel was thought to have demolished and relocated many of the burials that were present in the area, which includes several above-ground sarcophagi, particularly that of Thomas Potts. In order to ascertain the extent that this channel cut through the cemetery, we decided to excavate a one-meter-wide trench along the north-south axis through the southeast portion of the cemetery (Figure 2.2).

The south end of the trench was located 60-70 cm north of the inside of the south cemetery wall. It extended in a straight line parallel with the west cemetery wall for 9.6 meters where it connected with XU57 of the 2015 excavation block. The ground surface of the cemetery is covered with a thick layer of grass, with a 5 cm deep humic layer that

is composed of a dark sandy loam with a high organic content located directly beneath it. The southern end of the trench was composed of white-grey sand with a high clay content and modern refuse dispersed throughout and extended horizontally for 3.9 meters. This was followed by an area of light colored sand that continued to the north-south midpoint of XU57. These soils began immediately below the humic layer, were present throughout the vertical extent of the trench, and persisted to the lowest depth of the trench. The trench was excavated to a depth of 100-120 cm below surface. The bottom of the trench was an approximately consistent depth throughout. A long copper grounding rod was forced vertically into the sediment at the bottom of the trench in an attempt to locate any subsurface obstructions, specifically the remnants of any sarcophagi that might be present at the bottom of the former channel. No significant obstructions were encountered, and a dense layer of matrix prevented the rod from extending deeper than about three meters beneath the bottom of the trench.

The soils mentioned above are identical to the fill sand that has been encountered across much of the island's surface, and which was the result of dredged fill in order to fill areas that were inundated due to the sudden erosional effects of hurricane storm surge. The northernmost extent of this matrix is punctuated by a distinct soil change around the midpoint of XU57, which will be discussed in greater detail below. Stump and root remains from mangrove trees were present from about 15 cm to 60 cm below surface in XUs 48, 52 (Garber et al. 2015), and 60. These trees generally grow in shallowly inundated areas along coastlines and the banks of channels. The presence of these tree remains corresponds with the edge of the abrupt soil change in XU57. This suggests that the north bank of the channel that was scoured through the cemetery was

present at about the midpoint of XU57, and was oriented at a northeast-southwest angle, where the mangrove remains might have grown along the shallow waters along the bank of the channel.

2015 Excavation Block

Intensive excavations during the 2015 field season focused on an excavation block that had dimensions that ranged from six to eight square meters. This area was located south of the cemetery entrance, immediately south and adjacent to the 2014 excavation block. This area was selected based on the predicted locations of above-ground sarcophagus burials that were depicted on the 1864 map of the cemetery. Distances between sarcophagi shown on the map were used to determine the location of sarcophagi in relation to those that were excavated during previous field seasons. The predicted location of these sarcophagi was further supported by the location of a series of dense anomalies that were encountered through subsurface probing during the 2010 field season (Garber 2011). Elevations for all units, with the exception of XU62, during the 2015 field season were measured from subdatum SD2015-1, which was established at ground surface approximately two centimeters north of the northwest corner of XU55. A description of the excavation units placed in the cemetery during the 2015 field season follows below.

XU55

This 2x2 meter excavation unit was placed directly south of and adjacent to XU49 from the 2014 field season. The placement for this unit was chosen in order to excavate a collection of bricks that were present in the southern portion of XU49. XU55 was placed with two subsequent units to the south of it (XU56 & XU57) in order to assess and

excavate the extent of preserved human burials and other historic material north of the previously mentioned filled channel.

Level 1 began at ground surface and extended for roughly 20 cm below subdatum. A thick carpet of grass was present on the surface, followed immediately by a layer of dark, organic sandy loam. About five centimeters below surface the matrix changed to light tan loamy sand with minimal clay content and marine shell and micro-marine shell fragments accounting for about 60% of the matrix. Grass roots and a moderate amount of small-to-medium sized tree roots were present throughout the level. A moderate quantity of small brick and gravel fragments were present throughout. Remains from this level included: two small pieces of burnt wood, one small partial brick, one fish bone, one small fragment of burned animal bone, small quantities of modern bottle glass and metal, one piece of plastic, one ceramic sherd and a possible top of a gate-post.

Level 2 began with a matrix change to a dense layer of light grey sandy clay that extended down for five cm until it changed again to dark tan sandy clay with 30% marine shell inclusions and minimal intrusion from tree roots. A collection of brick was located 41.9 cm below subdatum at about the midpoint along the unit's east boundary. Two whole conch shells were found in the northwest corner of the unit, while three historic glass bottle bases were found among other historic glass bottle sherds and ceramic sherds scattered throughout the unit. A hot sauce bottle and other modern refuse were found throughout the unit. A human long bone was found at the approximate center of the unit 48.5 cm below subdatum, with other fragments of human and animal bone recovered throughout the level. Level 2 was terminated 45-50 cm below subdatum.

Level 3 began with a soil change to light brown loamy sand with 80% micro marine shell inclusions. Level 3 included the excavation of two burials, Burial 40 and Burial 44. Burial 40 included the remains of a brick sarcophagus and was completely within the confines of XU55. The Burial 40 sarcophagus remains consisted of a floor of a single flat course of brick with collapsed brick around the top and sides. A horizontal brick layer was found along the surface of the foot of the sarcophagus with a northwest-southeast orientation. The proximal portions of two well preserved femur and several bones of the hands belonging to Burial 44 were present and arranged with a westward orientation in the northeast corner of XU55. Bones of the pelvis and upper skeleton were not present. Collapsed whole bricks from the Burial 40 sarcophagus are present immediately west of the proximal ends of the two femurs. Two whole queen conch shells were present in the northwest corner of the unit along with a scattered collection of burnt wood and animal bone. Historic glass including a bottle bottom, ceramic sherds, metal fragments and a ceramic pipe bowl with a maker's mark comprised much of the historic material recovered from the excavation of this level. A collection of large sea turtle bones were recovered from among a collection of whole bricks in the northeast corner of XU55, lower than the bottom of the brick Burial 40 sarcophagus. These pieces were found alongside a historic free-blown bottleneck with the lip intact and an intact whole free-blown bottle. The bricks in this corner were found alongside those designated as Burial 40. These bricks were all yellow in color with a longitudinal depression on one of the horizontal surfaces. They differed from the bricks that were used in the construction of the Burial 40 sarcophagus. The Burial 40 bricks were slightly larger, dark red in color and were flat on all surfaces. Some of the yellow bricks in the northeast corner were

connected to each other but did not appear to be aligned in any significant formation.

XU55 was terminated 70 cm below subdatum at the bottom of level 3 when the matrix became void of cultural material.

XU56

This 2x2 meter excavation unit was placed directly south of and adjacent to XU55 in order to continue excavations of the predicted locations of the historic sarcophagi and to determine the extent that the hurricane channel dislocated the cemetery's southern burials.

Level 1 began at ground surface, on a slight southern downward slope about 5-12 cm below SD2015-1. Thick grass was present on the surface followed by the same matrix composition that was present in level 1 of XU55, with moderate intrusion from small-to-medium sized tree roots throughout. A small quantity of cement and gravel were present throughout, along with four conch shell fragments, a crab claw and two modern bottle glass sherds. Level 1 ended 18-23 cm below subdatum.

Level 2 began with a dense layer of grey sandy clay that was present throughout the unit and encompassed the upper 5 cm below the surface of the level. A layer of tan sand with an increased content of marine shell fragments (60% inclusion) immediately followed. Moderate tree root intrusion was present throughout, and was denser in the southeast corner of the unit. A copper chain, of about 13 cm in length, was found positioned in a straight line with an east-west orientation about midway along the northern unit boundary at a depth of 44 cm below subdatum (Figure 2.3). This chain is similar to decorative chain surrounding grave markers seen in pre-hurricane Hattie photos. At 51 cm below subdatum, 100 cm east of the west unit boundary, and 34 cm

south of the north unit boundary, a human mandible with teeth was present. Two portions of sea turtle long bone with butcher marks were located at the base of the level, approximately midway along the west unit boundary, along with four whole conch shells and scattered fragments of conch shell. A small collection of scattered, unaligned bricks was located immediately south of this collection in the southwest corner of the unit. The matrix around this collection was carbon stained in the southwest corner. This collection of brick, conch and turtle bone continued west outside of the west unit boundary. A high quantity of brick and mortar fragments, a minimal amount of modern plastic, animal bone fragments, historic ceramics and glass, burnt shell and wood fragments, modern aluminum cans, a cuff link, at least two broken fragments of chert pebble and four ceramic pipe stems were recovered within this level. Level 2 ended 54 cm below surface.

Level 3 contained a matrix composition consistent with that of level 2 with the exception of an increased quantity of marine shell fragment inclusions and the addition of carbon staining in the matrix that immediately surrounds the human burials. Portions of three burials were present in the unit. These include Burials 41, 42, and 43. Beneath the collection of conch shell and turtle bone mentioned in the Level 2 description was the distal portion of Burial 41. Burial 41 was a juvenile burial with its lower end present in XU56. Three square copper nails were found in the sediment forming an outline around the skull, which suggests that this person was buried in a coffin. A dentalium was found associated with Burial 41, and two gold earrings were recovered from the sediment alongside the skull (Figure 2.4). A human skull that is assumed to belong to Burial 43 was found along the southern side of the feet of Burial 41. The top elevation for the central portion of Burial 41 measured 52 cm below subdatum. A portion of the vertebrae,

pelvis and legs of Burial 43 were present in the northeast corner of XU56, and the remains of its lower end extended beyond the east boundary of XU56. A whole conch shell was located beside the south side of the pelvis of Burial 43. Most of Burial 43, with the exception of the cranium and upper vertebrae, was located in the southern portion of XU56 and extended west beyond the west boundary of XU56. This burial was halfway overlapped by a collection of disconnected bricks that continued south to the southwest portion of XU56 along the west side of Burial 42. Two carbon stained needle pins were found in the matrix alongside the lower legs of Burial 42. A metal button, a piece of lead grape shot, a glass stem, a brass square nail and an iron spike were found associated with this burial. The bottom of a historic bottle was located near the southeast corner of the unit. Artifacts recovered throughout the unit at this level included: two historic glass bottle necks, several large fragments of historic bottle glass, several fragment of animal bone, several large historic ceramic sherds, several large fragments of dark stone, scattered human bone and teeth that were not associated with burials, and various small fragments of metal. A possible coin, a small glass ball, three shell buttons, a small blue glass gem, an iron square nail with 19 square nail pieces, a copper tack and a ceramic pipe bowl were recovered throughout this level. XU56 was terminated at the bottom of Level 3, 68 cm below subdatum and below the level of the burials after the matrix ceased to produce cultural material.

XU57

This 2x2 meter excavation unit was placed immediately south of and adjacent to XU56 and adjoins the trench on this unit's southern boundary. The fill sand that was

present in the trench was not encountered in XU56, and this led to the prediction that we would find the end of the fill sand and the edge of the filled channel in this unit.

Level 1 began at ground surface, about 10-14 cm below subdatum and had a matrix composition similar to that of Level 1 in XU55 and XU56 in the north half of the unit. Small fragments of human and animal bone, metal, plastic, modern glass and historic ceramics were present throughout the level. Level 1 ended 28 cm below subdatum.

Level 2 began with a matrix change to gray sandy clay with 60% marine shell fragment inclusions, that changed to tan sand after five cm below the top of the level. One large tree root was present with a high quantity of small roots throughout the level. About 20 fragments of historic bottle glass and nine historic ceramic sherds were present along with a small fragment of human bone and many small pieces of metal. Brick and mortar fragments were scattered throughout the north portion of the level along with fragments of animal bone. One animal long bone shaft was present in the northeast portion of the unit, 34 cm below subdatum. A ceramic pipe with a maker's mark was also recovered from this level. Level 2 ended 40 cm below subdatum.

Level 3 contained dark tan sand in the northern portion. A very distinct soil change occurs at about the midpoint of the unit on its north-south axis. The soil change occurs as a visible horizontal line, oriented east-to-west, where the two different soil types meet. The soil on the south portion of the unit is light gray, coarse sand with a high quantity of marine shell fragment inclusions, consistent with the matrix composition from the trench. The soil in the northern portion of the unit is similar to that which was encountered in XUs 55 and 56. The soil in the northern portion of the unit contained

historic material, while that in the southern portion yielded modern refuse throughout, similar to the fill sand encountered in the trench and in other areas of the caye. Modern refuse was recovered throughout the southern portion of Level 3 in the fill sand. Artifacts that were recovered from the northern portion of the unit include: a large quantity of animal bone fragments, brown and grey historic ceramic sherds, blue and white painted ceramic sherds, a ceramic pipe stem, two ceramic pipe bowls, two iron square nails, an iron spike, a metal screw with a plate, various small metal fragments, a large quantity of historic bottle glass, five square nails, a square spike and a moderate amount of human bone fragments. Two long bones of a lower human leg were found in the south sidewall towards the southwest corner 60 cm below subdatum. These bones were in anatomical position relative to each other and were oriented to the west, as is typical of all burials in the cemetery. This was likely the partial remains of a burial that remained on the edge of the channel. This burial was not excavated and was not investigated further. XU57 was terminated 85 cm below subdatum after the matrix discontinued to produce cultural material.

XU58

This 2x2 meter excavation unit was placed immediately west and adjacent to XU56 in order to expand excavation of the partial burials that were excavated in XU56.

Level 1 and Level 2 were excavated together as one lot in order to quickly bypass the overburden that lies on top of the historic material that would be excavated in level 3. Level 1-2 began at ground surface, about four centimeters below subdatum and had a matrix composition that contained a dark humic layer in the upper five centimeters and was followed by tan loamy sand. This was followed by the same layer of grey sandy clay

that was encountered in the previous units, that was then followed by light tan sand with a high quantity of marine shell fragment inclusions. Several fragments of aluminum, cloth, plastic and modern bottle glass were encountered in the upper 10-15 cm of the level. The material recovered throughout Levels 1 & 2 was scattered horizontally and vertically assumingly out of context. This material included: large and small fragments of brick & mortar, a few conch shell fragments, yellow brick fragments, historic bottle glass that included one bottle bottom, two whole conch shells, one human tooth, one other fragment of human bone, a moderate quantity of animal bone fragments, historic ceramics of varying types which included several pieces of dense dark gray sherds, a glass stem swirl (Figure 2.5) and three ceramic pipe stems. Levels 1 & 2 ended 35 cm below surface where historic material was encountered.

Level 3 included matrix that was composed of tan sand with 60% marine shell fragment inclusions and very minimal presence of tree roots. A dense layer of course light tan sand with very little marine shell fragment inclusions was present across the southernmost 50 cm of the unit at this level. Level 3 began with a moderately dense deposit of whole and partial bricks, whole and partial conch shells, and animal bone fragments that was most abundantly concentrated in the eastern half of the unit. Whole, partial and fragmented bricks were scattered throughout the unit with no particular alignment. High quantities of historic ceramic sherds were recovered, and thin fragments of metal were scattered throughout in no particular alignment. In the eastern portion of the unit, two pieces of slate were recovered. Five square nails, two of which had red painted heads, were recovered in the east-central region of the unit among the above mentioned artifacts. A small concentration of dark gray clay was present in the southeast

corner of the unit. A few fragments of dense dark grey ceramic sherds were recovered at this level. High quantities of animal bone, historic ceramic sherds, which included plate sherds, a dark green historic bottle neck and a bottom. A high quantity of historic glass sherds was found throughout this level. These included pale green and dark green pieces, some of which were coated with an orange/tan patina. The skull of Burial 42 was located within the eastern boundary of XU58, and was found with the bottom of a clear glass bottle with a pontil scar in between the upper and lower jaws, with the bottom facing down. A ceramic pipe stem was also found within the interior of the skull, which suggests that these two artifacts were deposited through natural formation processes. The central and pedal portions of Burials 45 and 46 and the cranial portions of Burial 42 were present in this level. XU58 was terminated at the end of level 3 with a matrix change to light tan sterile sand at 79 cm below subdatum.

XU59

This 2x2 meter excavation unit was placed immediately north of and adjacent to XU58 and directly west of and adjacent to XU55. Placement for this unit was chosen in order to expand excavation and locate additional burials that were indicated on the 1864 cemetery map (Figure 2.1).

Levels 1 & 2 were excavated together as a single lot for the same reason mentioned above in the XU58 Level 1& 2 description. Level 1 began at ground surface 0-4 cm below subdatum. Beneath the thick layer of grass that covered the surface, was a dark, humic sandy loam that encompassed the uppermost five cm. This was followed by a layer of tan sand with marine shell fragment inclusions. Below this was a thin layer of dense gray sandy clay that was immediately followed by tan sand. Sherds of modern

bottle glass, Styrofoam and plastic fragments were encountered in the uppermost 10-15 cm of the unit, while a few scattered sherds of modern glass occurred deeper than this. Historic bottle glass sherds, animal bone fragments, human bone, metal, conch shell fragments, and brick fragments were present throughout the unit. Gray, white and white ceramic sherds were recovered throughout the level. A ceramic pipe bowl and a bone button were also recovered from these levels. Levels 1 & 2 ended 19 cm below subdatum.

Level 3 began just below the appearance of historic material and had a matrix that consisted of light tan sand with marine shell fragment inclusions and minimal presence of small tree roots. Level 3 began at the top of a collection of whole and partially scattered, disconnected bricks. This consisted of a collection of 11 whole and partial bricks that were most heavily concentrated toward the northeast region of the unit, along with a whole queen conch shell. A high quantity of small brick and mortar fragments were scattered throughout the unit. Scattered human and animal bone fragments were distributed throughout the level, which included a human long bone shaft near the northeast region of the unit. A moderate quantity of pale green historic bottle glass, some with an orange/tan patina were found throughout the level. Additional artifacts included metal fragments and historic ceramic sherds, two shell buttons, fragments of marble possibly from a slab top gravestone. Level 3 included the excavation of the central and pedal portions of Burials 47 and 48, and the entirety of Burial 49. XU59 was terminated at the bottom of Level 3, with a matrix change to light tan culturally sterile sand at 79 cm below subdatum.

XU60

This 1x3 meter excavation unit was placed directly east of and adjacent to XU55 and the northern half of XU56 in order to expand excavations to fully expose and recover Burials 43 and 44 from XUs 55 and 56.

Levels 1 & 2 were excavated together as a single lot for the same reason described in the XU58 description. Level 1 began at ground surface, 3-8.5 cm below subdatum on a slight downward eastern slope. The ground surface was covered in a thick bed of grass that was followed by a five-centimeter deep dark brown humic layer. A layer of tan sand with 50% marine shell fragment inclusions began immediately below the humic layer. A layer of dense gray sandy clay was encountered that was five centimeters thick. The matrix below this consisted of tan sand, very similar to the sand layer that was present above the clay layer. A large mangrove root was found that had grown in from the east unit boundary, which suggests that there is a large buried stump not far beyond that boundary. Two whole bricks were recovered at the north end of the unit which were likely part of the remains of the Burial 40 sarcophagus. Cultural material recovered from these two levels included: a small plastic human figurine, a small quantity of modern and historic glass sherds, historic ceramic sherds, and fragments of human and animal bone. The top of a historic glass bottle was uncovered at the base of Levels 1 & 2, but much of it was held beneath the bottom of these levels. Full excavation and recovery of this artifact was spared for the excavation of Level 3. Levels 1 & 2 ended 39 cm below subdatum.

Level 3 consisted of tan sand with marine shell fragment inclusions and began on top of a layer of scattered bricks in the north end of the unit. These included whole and

partial bricks. The legs of Burial 44 were present in the northern portion of the unit and straddle the boundary between XU60 and XU55. The lower legs and feet of Burial 43 were present in the southern portion of the unit, as this burial straddled the boundary between XU56 and XU60. A moderate quantity of animal bone, historic bottle glass, ceramics, metal fragments, a ceramic pipe bowl, and two square nails were recovered from this level. XU60 was terminated at a matrix change to light tan sterile sand at the bottom of level 3, 75 cm below subdatum.

XU61

This 1x2 meter excavation unit was placed directly west of and adjacent to XU50 from the 2014 field season and directly north of and adjacent to the western half of XU59. This unit was established in order to further investigate historic burials located in this area of the cemetery.

Level 1 and 2 were excavated together as one single lot for the reasons listed in the XU58 description above. Level 1 began at ground surface on a northward slight uphill slope seven centimeters above subdatum. Following the excavation of the humic layer in the upper five centimeters, the matrix in the level consisted of tan sand, that was followed by a thin layer of sandy clay with increased marine shell inclusions, that was then followed by a layer of tan sand. Historic and modern bottle glass sherds were recovered from this level, along with fragments of metal and fragments of human and animal bone were dispersed throughout the level. A minimal quantity of ceramic sherds, all of them smaller than one centimeter in diameter, was recovered from these levels. Three glass balls, one metal button snap, one brass snap, two bone buttons and one iron

nail were recovered from within these two units. Scattered whole and partial bricks were present at the bottom of the level. Levels 1 and 2 ended 60 cm below subdatum.

Level 3 began after the appearance of historic artifacts and encompassed a matrix that was composed of light tan sand with 60% marine shell fragment inclusions. Two burials designated Burial 50 and 52 were located within this unit. Collapsed whole and partial bricks were present in the northern portion of the unit above and alongside the right femur of Burial 50. Burial 50 consisted of the lower skeleton of an individual, from the pelvis down. The remainder of the burial was buried beyond the west boundary of the unit, and any expansion of the excavation unit to recover the complete burial may have compromised the structural integrity of the ground that supports the cemetery's modern above-ground sarcophagus. Burial 52 was also partially included in the south end of XU61. The right side of the pelvis and right leg bones of Burial 52 were in the reverse of the correct lateral position as if that part of the remains had been flipped. The top of a humerus was found along the east sidewall in proximity to Burial 52 but there was no evidence to suggest that it was associated with that burial. A high quantity of historic bottle glass, ceramic and metal fragments were recovered throughout the level. Two coconut shell buttons, two iron coffin tacks and a shell were found associated with Burial 50. Two pieces of lead grape shot were found immediately south of Burial 50. XU61 was terminated at the bottom of Level 3 when the matrix became void of historic material 81 cm below subdatum.

XU62

This 1.5x3.5 m unit was established directly west of and adjacent to XU58 and the southern 3/4s of XU59 in order to fully excavate and recover burials that were

encountered in XUs 58 and 59. Elevations for this unit were measured off of SD2015-2, a subdatum established at ground level at the midpoint of XU62 and two centimeters west of its western boundary.

Levels 1 & 2 were excavated together as one single lot for the reasons listed above in the XU58 description. Ground surface of this unit was covered with a thick layer of grass that was immediately followed by a layer of dark brown sandy loam with high organic content that ended about five centimeters below subdatum. This was followed by a layer of tan coarse sandy loam. Modern refuse was present throughout the unit in the uppermost 20 cm, which included an aluminum circular fan blade. A high quantity of brick and mortar fragments, human and animal bone fragments, historic bottle glass, metal fragments and ceramic sherds were recovered in the lower 15-20 cm of this level. Fragments of human bone were concentrated mostly towards the midpoint of the western unit boundary and the northeast corner. A historic wine bottle was recovered along the north portion of the west unit boundary. A ceramic pipe fragment and a bone button were also recovered from this level. Level 1 and 2 ended 49 cm below subdatum.

Level 3 had a matrix that consisted of tan sand with marine shell fragment inclusions and moderate presence of small tree root throughout. The central and cranial portions of Burials 45, 46, 47, and 48 were all present in this unit, and were oriented to the west. Burials 45 and 46 both straddle the boundary between XU62 and XU58, and burials 47 and 48 straddle the boundary between XUs 62 and 59. A small single layer of brick that formed a 20x20 cm square was located above Burial 46, and is believed to be the remains of a brick sarcophagus. This collection of brick was designated Burial 51. Burial 48 consisted of a single layer brick sarcophagus and included one brick with one

rounded corner that was associated with it. Scattered bricks and human bone fragments that were above the level of the burials and were not connected directly to specific burials were not associated with them. A whole conch shell was recovered from the northeast corner of the unit. Historic bottle glass sherds, ceramic sherds, and metal fragments were found scattered throughout the level. Two shell buttons and an obsidian blade were also found at this level. Two shell buttons and two bone buttons were found associated with Burial 45. Two other shell buttons were found, one associated with Burial 46, and the other with Burial 49. XU62 was terminated at culturally sterile soil below the level of the burials at 70 cm below subdatum.

Offshore Testing

Three offshore test pits were placed in shallow water in the predicted location of the historic turtle corral designated TC2 (Garber 2015) in order to further investigate a subsurface collection of ballast stone that was located during the 2009 field season (Garber 2010). This area lies east of the Goode and Mistre properties. A description of each offshore test pit follows below.

OT25

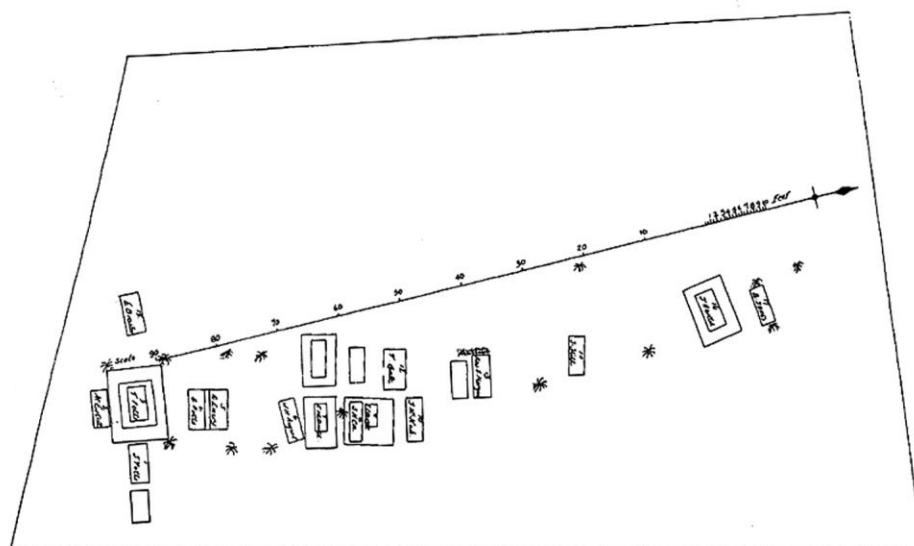
This test pit was placed 18 meters east of the sea wall and 8.6 meters north of the northern extension of the Mistre dock. It was excavated to a depth of 60 cm below the seafloor and produced a high quantity of dark ballast stone fragments, one historic ceramic sherd, three historic bottle glass sherds, and six small animal bone fragments, which included two fragments of marine turtle bone.

OT26

This test pit was placed 16 meters east of the seawall and 3.9 meters north of the Mistre dock. It was excavated to 65 cm below the seafloor and produced fragments of burned wood, one historic bottle glass sherd and five fragments of animal bone, which included at least one fragment of marine turtle bone.

OT27

This test pit was placed 9.75 meters east of the seawall and 9.9 meters north of the Mistre dock. It was excavated to 57 cm below the seafloor and produced one large ballast stone with additional ballast stone fragments, three small historic ceramic sherds, three small historic bottle glass sherds and four animal bone fragments, three of which were the remains of marine turtle bone.



*A Plan
of
The Cemetery at Saint Georges Key.
Surveyed and Drawn on a scale of Ten feet to an Inch, by
Robt. Hume, Surveyor
August 29th 1872.*

Figure 2.1. 1872 map of St. George's Caye cemetery.

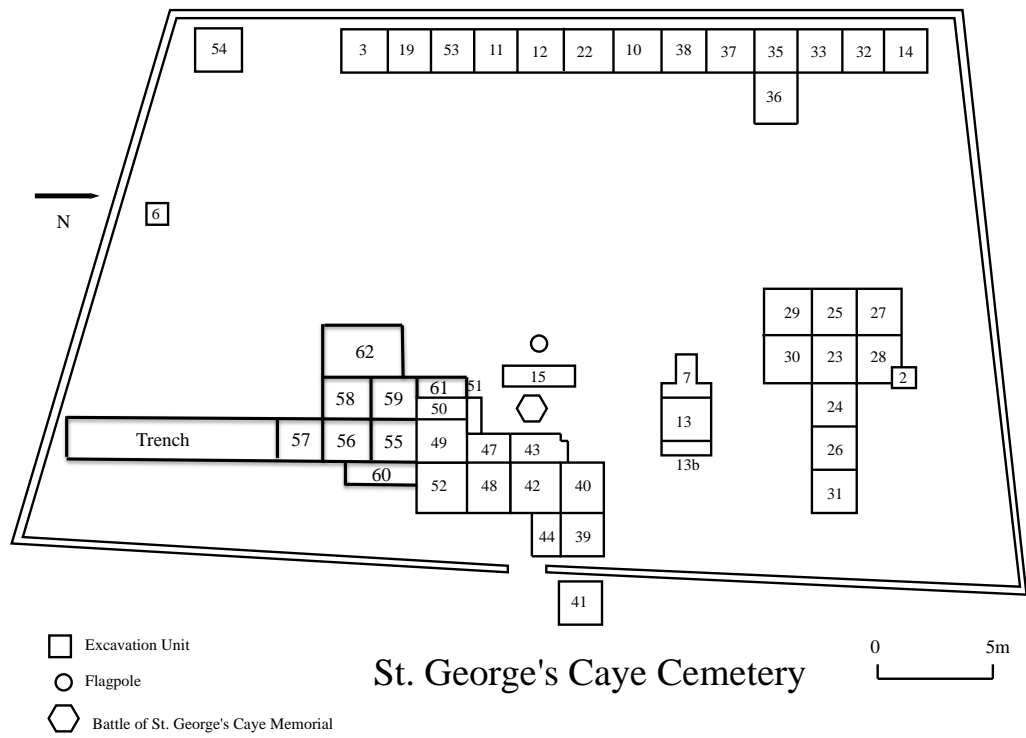


Figure 2.2. Plan map of Excavation Units (XU) in St. George's Caye cemetery.



Figure 2.3. Photo of Decorative Copper Chain recovered in XU56.



Figure 2.4. Gold Earrings recovered from XU56, Burial 41.



Figure 2.5. Latticino wine glass stem recovered from XU58.

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