

WE CARRY  
THEIR  
BONES

*wm*

WILLIAM MORROW

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*Designed by Elina Cohen*

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## APPENDIX

The following forty-six names are a list of the men and boys positively and presumptively identified from the Boot Hill burial ground. Positive identifications based on DNA are indicated in bold. Presumptive identifications are listed on the site diagram on the last page of this book's photo insert. DC stands for Death Certificate. The burial number corresponds to the grave number excavated. The site diagram in the photo insert also shows the burial layout and has the corresponding numbers.

DATE OF DEATH	NAME	AGE	ANCESTRY	DC	CIRCUMSTANCES	BURIAL NUMBER
11/18/1914	Bennett Evans	Adult	White	No	Fire	25, 50, 51, & 52
11/18/1914	Charles Evans	Adult	White	No	Fire	25, 50, 51, & 52
11/18/1914	Harry Wells	-	White	No	Fire	11, 12, 25, 50, 51, 52, & 55
2/28/1916	Sim Williams	18	Colored	No	Unknown	30 or 40
5/25/1916	Tillman Mohind	17	Colored	No	Unknown	30 or 40
1916	James Joshua	-	Colored	No	Unknown	30 or 40
4/16/1918	Thomas Adkins	12	Colored	No	Unknown	45
10/6/1918	Lee Goolsby	13	White	No	Escape/ Unknown	43
10/23/1918	George Grissam	6	Colored	No	Paroled Labor/ Unconscious	19
10/25/1918	Willie Adkins	13	Colored	No	Unknown	20
<b>11/4/1918</b>	<b>Loyd Dutton</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>White</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Unknown</b>	<b>42</b>
11/6/1918	Ralph Whiddon	16	White	No	Unknown	41, 44, or 45
11/6/1918	Hilton Finley	16	White	No	Unknown	41, 44, or 45
11/8/1918	Puner Warner	16	White	No	Unknown	41, 44, or 45
ca. 1918	Wilber Smith	10	Colored	No	"Reported Flu"	47
2/12/1919	Joe Anderson	17	Colored	No	Unknown	
5/9/1919	Leonard Simmons	13	Colored	No	Unknown	
12/12/1920	Nathaniel Sawyer	12	Colored	No	Unknown	

DATE OF DEATH	NAME	AGE	ANCESTRY	DC	CIRCUMSTANCES	BURIAL NUMBER
2/26/1921	Arthur Williams	12	Colored	No	Unknown	
<b>1921</b>	<b>Sam Morgan</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>White</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Paroled/ Unknown</b>	<b>26</b>
7/9/1921	John H. Williams	15	Colored	No	"... Accident"	33
4/15/1922	Schley Hunter	16	White	Yes	Pneumonia/ Influenza	2
12/31/1922	Calvin Williams	15	Colored	No	Unknown	
8/19/1924	Charlie Overstreet	15	Colored	Yes	Tonsillectomy	
12/4/1924	Clifford Miller	15	Colored	No	Unknown	
5/16/1925	Edward Fonders	18	Colored	Yes	Drowning	
12/18/1925	Walter Askew	12	Colored	No	Unknown	
1/30/1926	Nollie Davis	15	Colored	Yes	Lobar Pneumonia	
4/8/1929	Robert Rhoden	15	Colored	Yes	Pneumonia	
10/15/1929	Samuel Bethel	16	Colored	Yes	Tuberculosis	
1/5/1932	Lee Smith	17	Colored	Yes	Rupture of Lung	
4/10/1932	James Brinson	12	Colored	Yes	Pneumonia/ Influenza	
4/21/1932	Lee Underwood	16	Colored	Yes	Pneumonia/ Influenza	
4/22/1932	Fred Sams	15	Colored	Yes	Pneumonia/ Influenza	
4/22/1932	Archie J. Shaw Jr.	12	Colored	No	Influenza	
5/9/1932	Joe Stephens	15	Colored	Yes	Influenza	
<b>10/26/1934</b>	<b>Thomas Varnadoe</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>White</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Lobar Pneumonia</b>	<b>53</b>
2/23/1935	Richard Nelson	12	Colored	Yes	Pneumonia/ Influenza	3
2/24/1935	Robert Cato	12	Colored	Yes	Pneumonia/ Influenza	5
<b>3/4/1935</b>	<b>Grady Huff</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>White</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Nephritis/ Hernia</b>	<b>54</b>
3/16/1935	Joshua Backey	14	Colored	No	Blood Poison	6
4/30/1936	James Hammond	14	Colored	Yes	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	7
<b>7/15/1937</b>	<b>Robert Stephens</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>Colored</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Knife Wounds</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>1/24/1941</b>	<b>George Owen Smith</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>White</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Escaped/ Unknown</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>8/31/1944</b>	<b>Earl Wilson</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>Colored</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Blunt Trauma</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>10/7/1952</b>	<b>Billey Jackson</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>Colored</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Escaped/ Pyelonephritis</b>	<b>24</b>

## ABBREVIATIONS

ACLU	American Civil Liberties Union
CFO	Chief Financial Officer
COD	Cause and/or Circumstances of Death
DC	Death Certificate
DEP	Department of Environmental Protection
DHR	Division of Historical Resources
DJJ	Department of Juvenile Justice
DNA	Deoxyribonucleic Acid
FDLE	Florida Department of Law Enforcement
FEMORS	Florida Emergency Mortuary Operations Response System
FIS	Florida Industrial School for Boys
FSB	Florida School for Boys
GIS	Geographic Information System
GPR	Ground-Penetrating Radar
HCSO	Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office
ID	Identification
IFAAS	Institute for Forensic Anthropology and Applied Sciences
JJOC	Jackson Juvenile Offender Center
KKK	Ku Klux Klan
mtDNA	Mitochondrial Deoxyribonucleic Acid
NAACP	National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
NAFTA	North American Free Trade Agreement
NamUs	National Missing and Unidentified Persons System
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
PRIDE	Prison Rehabilitative Industries and Diversified Enterprises Inc.
UID	Unidentified Persons
UNT	University of North Texas
USF	University of South Florida

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A memorial service at Boot Hill in the 1950s. The only documented death and burial after 1950 in the school's records was Billey Jackson's, in 1952. Witnesses who attended Jackson's funeral did not recognize the people in this photo or recall a service of this size. They also said there were two other burials at Boot Hill circa 1951–52, thus contradicting the official record.



Inside one of the small isolation cells within the White House, where the doors and windows were once barred. All boys, regardless of their perceived race, were brought to this building for punishment.

FLORIDA INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL FOR BOYS					
COLORED					
DATE	NAME OF BOY	D-P-R	SENTENCE	EXPIRATION	No. Boys Present
7/15	Chas. Lowry	Escaped			169
7/18	John Austin	Recd.			170
7/19	Wm. McKinley	Recd.			169
8/14	Tom Cole	Escaped			168
7/14	Tom Cole	Recd.			169
7/19	John Austin	Escaped			168
7/20	Ben Williams	Dismissed			167
7/24	Jas. Wilson	Escaped			166
7/25	Grant Duke	Recd.			
7/25	Arion Clark				

The ledger maintained by the school recorded each boy's name, his offense, and dates of entry and release. It also showed dates when any of the boys tried to run away and the dates of their capture. During the flu epidemic in 1918, the release date column for many boys said "mother carried him home." It's unknown if this meant they were ill or deceased.



A speaker from the Black Boys of Dozier at a press conference in front of the old dorms on the former north side of the reform school. Protesters gathered as he spoke about his experience while incarcerated at the school and urged state leaders to allow the excavation of the burial ground.



US senator Bill Nelson (D-Florida), Ovell Krell (George Owen's sister), and I look at historic maps of the property to jog Ovell's memory about the location of the burial ground. She was brought there in 1941 when her parents planned to visit the school to look for Owen after he ran away. Instead, they were notified that his body was found under a house two miles away from school grounds. He was buried on the school property before the family could arrive to claim his body.



Ben Montgomery, a reporter from the *St. Petersburg Times*, interviews Glen Varnadoe. Glen's father and his uncle, Thomas Varnadoe, were sent to Dozier in 1934 for having trespassed in a neighbor's yard, but Thomas never came home and remained missing.



Boot Hill Burial Ground. Christian Wells, University of South Florida (USF) archaeologist, records changes in the soil seen in the test trench in search of graves. The trench was used to ground-truth results interpreted from ground-penetrating radar (GPR) data, yet was shallow enough not to disturb any burial present. The crosses were put up to commemorate the thirty-one children the school officials said died here. The crosses did not correspond to the graves, which were spread out under the road and in the woods. We found more graves than names of boys who should have been buried there.



The crew excavates a burial. The team divides the tasks of troweling, recording, measuring, and bagging to expose the remains, collect evidence, and carefully preserve all of the findings.

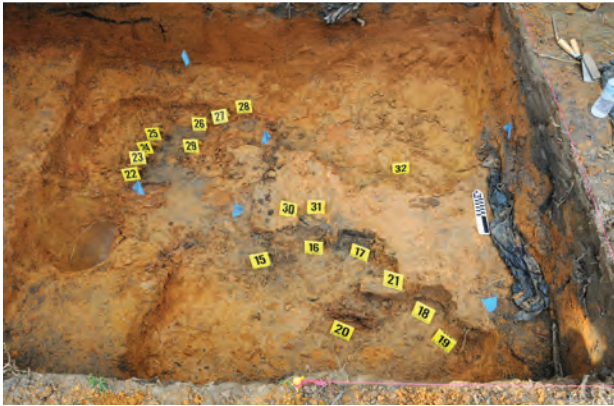


Mike Hurley and I look for bone fragments as fire hoses force water and soil through two screen layers of mesh. Anything larger than one eighth of an inch remains on top of the screen surface for analysis: burned brick and glass, buttons, marbles, broken ceramics, and bone.

The excavation is well under way. Sheriff David Gee, from Hillsborough County, flew his helicopter up to visit the site and crew. Students flagged material artifacts and bones as they were unearthed from this shallow grave.







Yellow numbers and blue flags help mark the bones and artifacts, such as nails and coffin wood, through the mud and water on the bottom of the first grave.



This rusted belt buckle recovered from the grave was compared to historic photographs from the school to date the grave. That would help us determine who was buried there.

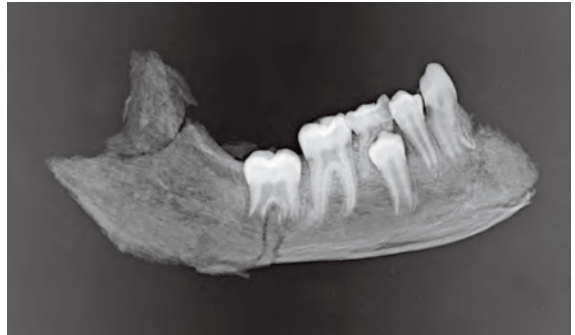


A facial approximation was created from reconstructed cranial fragments. The bones are glued back together and scanned. A digital face is drawn over the bones, following their anatomy to create a close likeness of the boy.



An excavated grave reveals the remains of a small boy with his arms across his chest. Boys as young as five were sent to the school in its early days.

A radiograph of a mandible excavated from Boot Hill showing the partial dental eruption of a nine-to-eleven-year-old child. We had so little to work with to identify remains, but every piece of evidence told a story.



Marbles and buttons recovered from the excavation. The marbles—the only objects found resembling a toy—reminded all of us of the innocence of youth.



My sons, Reid and Sean, cool off during excavation of the dormitory, which burned in the early days of the school. Having the boys around made the work all the more significant and meaningful.





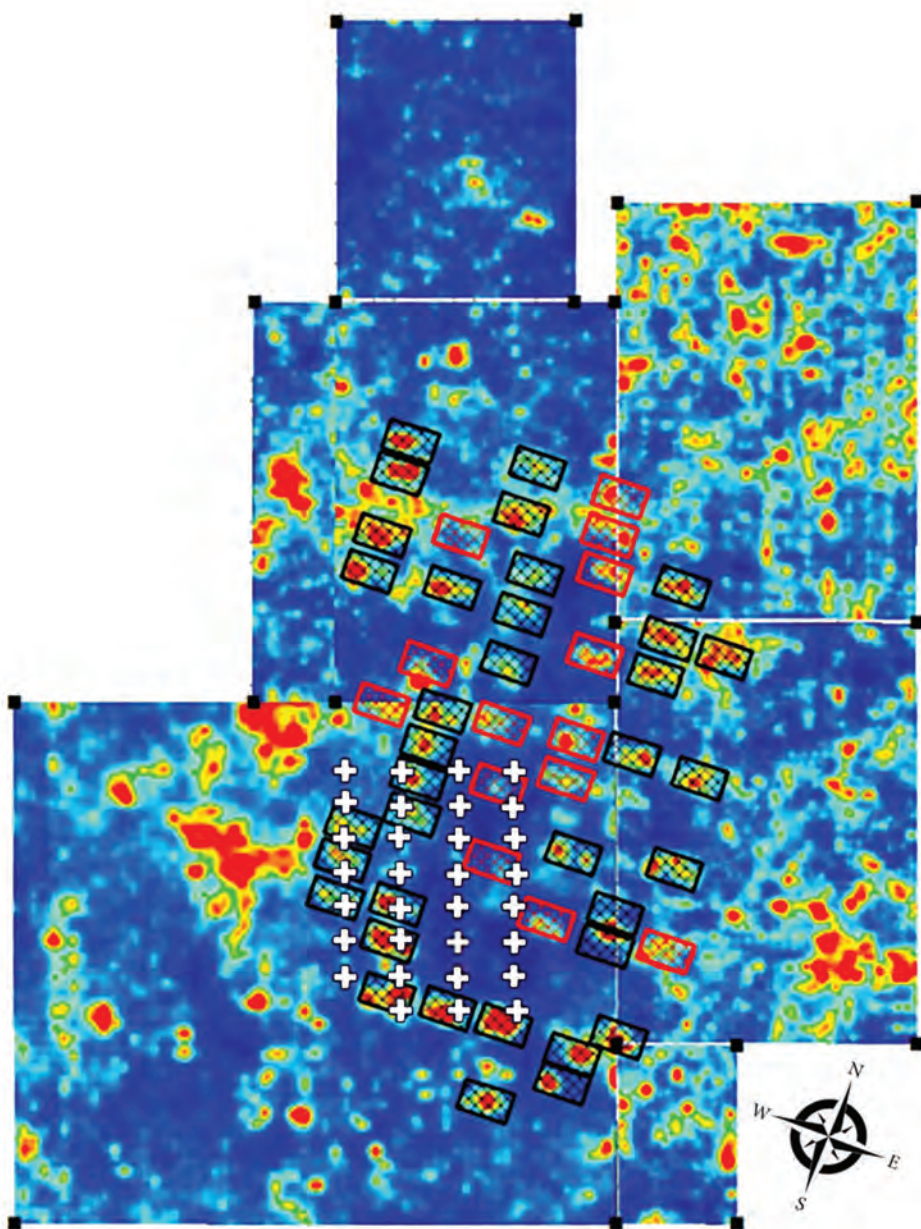
My colleague Dr. Greg Berg flags burials revealed by dark soil stains against the red clay after the Gradall excavator removed the topsoil.



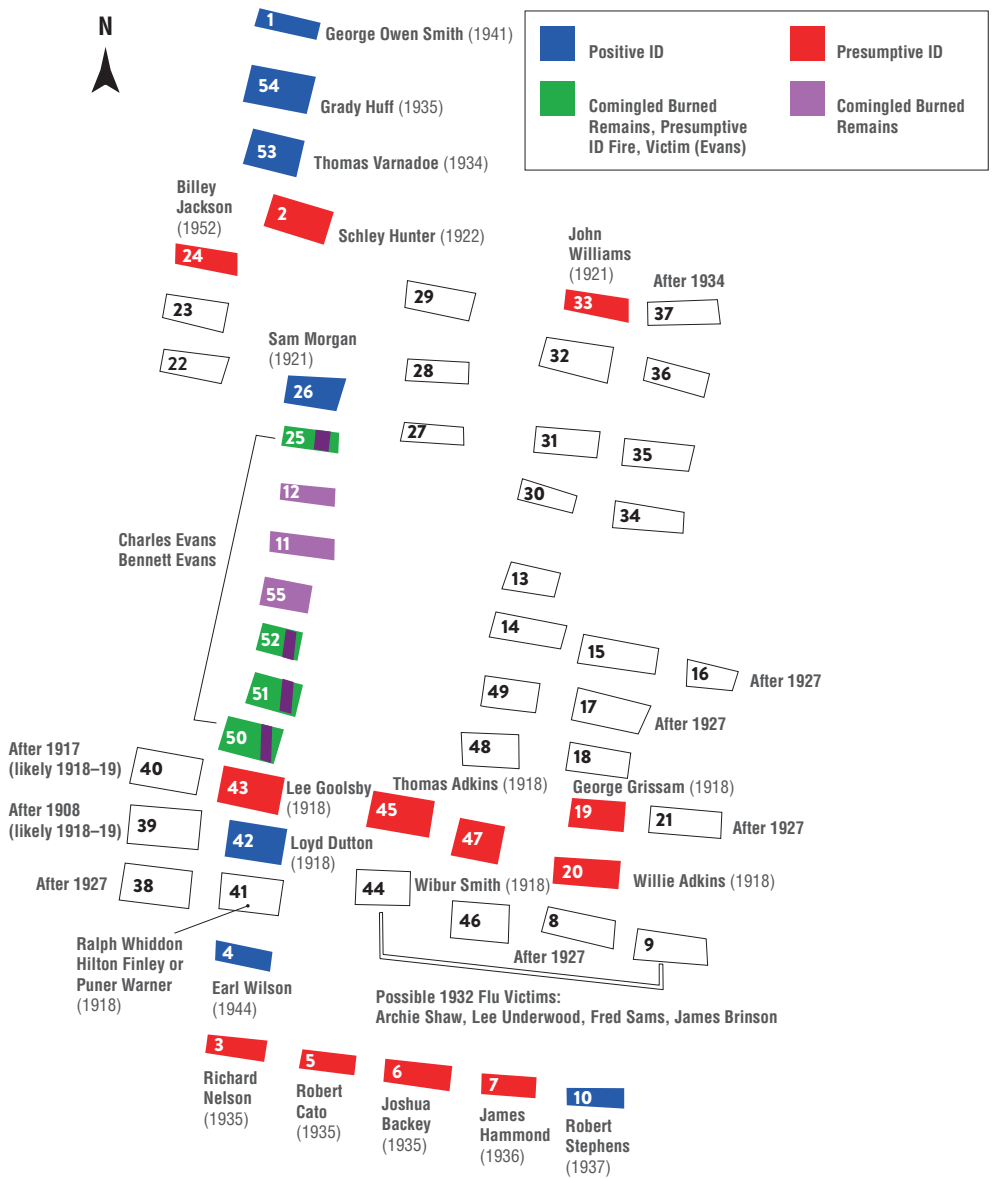
Aerial view of the Boot Hill cemetery on the 1,400-acre campus during excavation. We ultimately uncovered fifty-five graves.



Last day of excavation, and I was glad this phase was done. I had no idea then that there was much more work to be done. I'd spend several more years working on the project.



This illustration shows results of a ground-penetrating radar image overlaid with white crosses as they were arranged and rectangular boxes of the burials excavated. Only thirteen of the graves were in the area marked by the crosses when we started and even they did not line up.



Site diagram showing burials excavated and names of those identified.