



Tulsa Race Massacre Investigation:

Report on Results of July 2020

Excavations and Proposed Next Steps

Public Meeting

Monday,
September 14,
2020

Historical Background: Oaklawn Cemetery

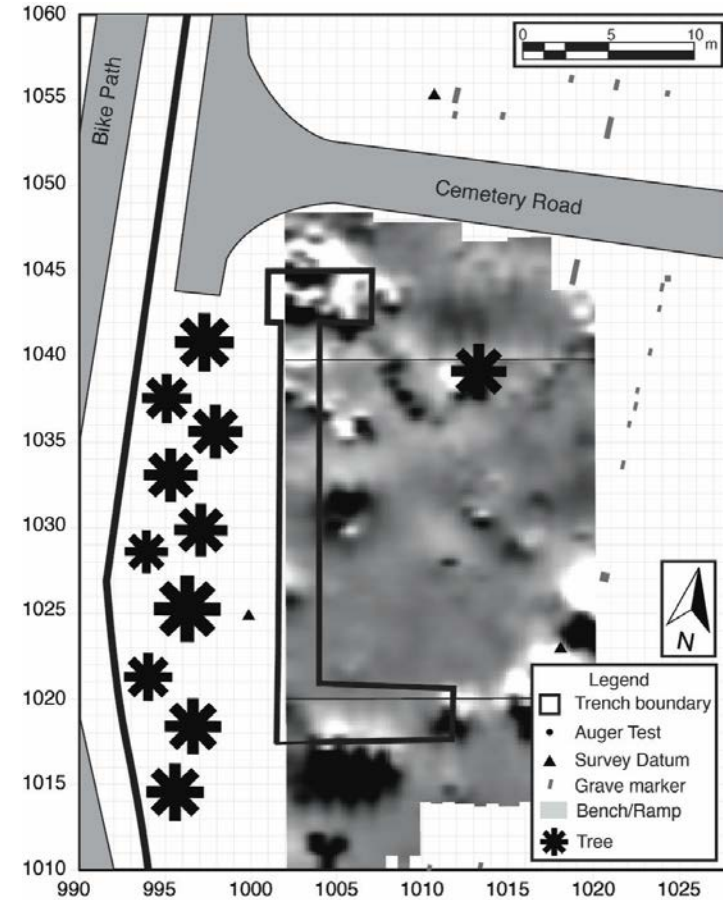
Scott Ellsworth

Overview of Results from July 2020 Excavations

- Did not locate a mass grave or human remains in the area of the geophysical anomaly at the north end of the Sexton Area
 - Secondarily deposited historic/modern artifacts; road and construction debris
- Expanded excavations to the south
- Conducted mechanical coring to the east and south
- Did not identify a mass grave or human remains in other excavation trenches



Oaklawn Excavations: July 2020



Trench A/B Domestic Artifacts



Silver-plated Roger Brothers Windsor pattern fork, late 19th/early 20th c.



Armour's Top Notch Chicago juice bottle, 1921+



Homer Laughlin-style molded decal plate rim, 1930-1950



Pepsodent Antiseptic mouthwash, 1937



Owens-Illinois Glass Company flask-style bottle base, 1929-1934



Whitall-Tatum Glass Co. bottle base, 1924-1938



Brush-McCoy Pottery Co. mixing bowl, 1928-1934

Trench A Grave Decorations



Metal frame from temporary
grave marker



Brush-McCoy yellowware pottery corn
pitcher, 1912-1925



Porcellaneous ware,
early/mid 20th c.



Owens-Illinois Glass Company
jar, 1934



Hand-painted porcellaneous
ware, early/mid 20th c.



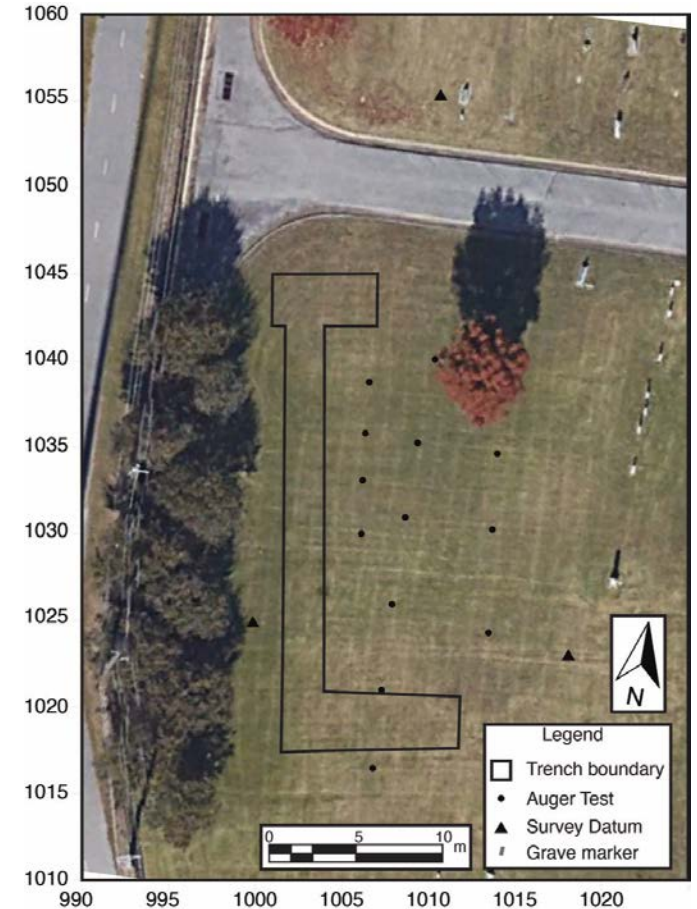
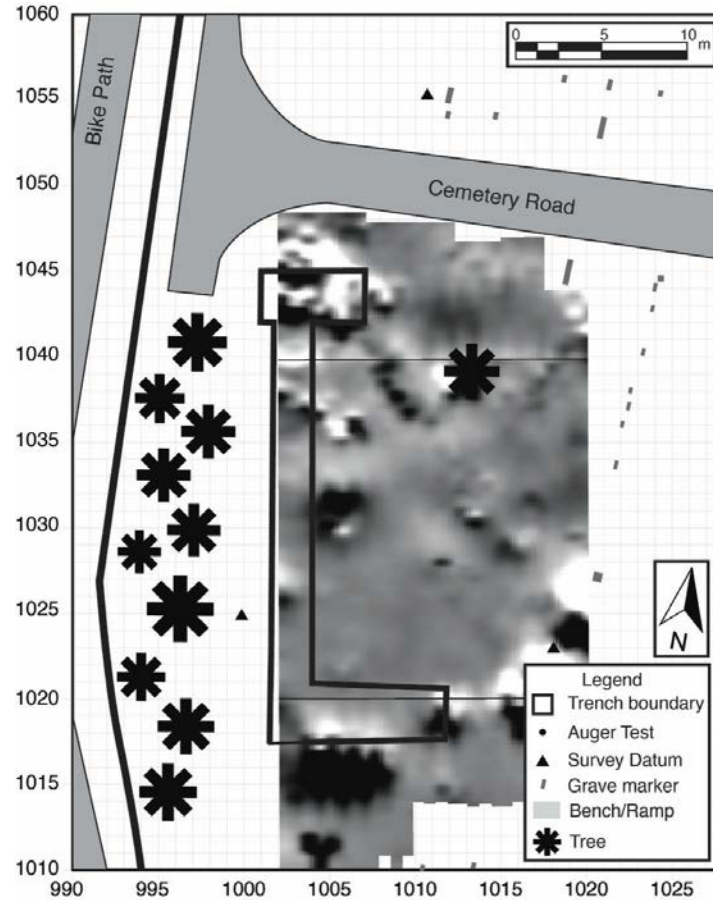
Porcellaneous ware,
early/mid 20th c.

Overview of Results from July 2020 Excavations

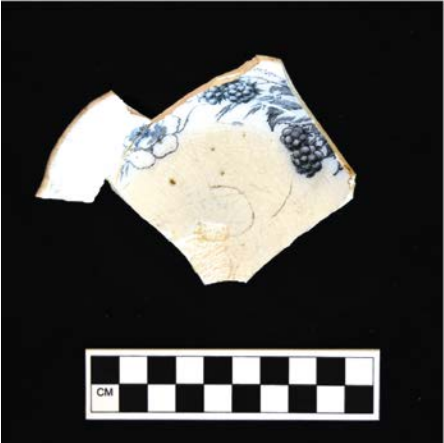
- Identified road remnants
- Identified a deeply-buried, low-lying boggy area at south end of Trench B
 - late- 19th and early 20th-century artifacts
 - Corresponds to another geophysical anomaly
 - No human remains
 - Only excavated the northern-most portion
- Collected data pertaining to landform development over time in this location
 - Relict streams (north/west and south)
 - Identified the approximate elevation of the 1921 ground surface, which is substantially lower than the modern era.



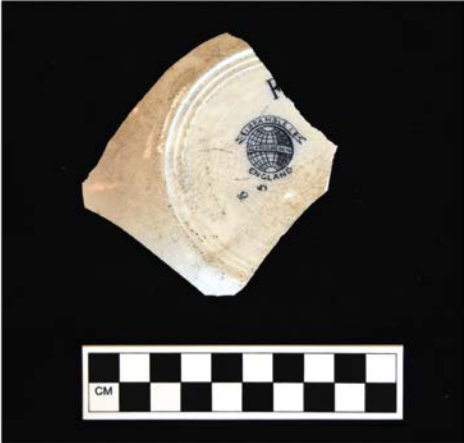
Feature 3: Deeply-buried early 20th-Century midden



Feature 3 Artifacts



Bowl made in England, 1891-1897



Adolphus Busch beer bottle base, 1905-1917



Turn mold made Bottle base, 1880-1915



Plates made in England, 1883-1889



Safety Valve Fruit Jar Co., 1895-1918



Maclaren's Imperial Cheese Jar, early 20th century



City of Tulsa: Mayor G. T. Bynum, Deputy Mayor Amy Brown, Nick Doctor, Michelle Brooks, Terry Ball, Mark Hogan, Tim McCorkle, Streets and Stormwater Division staff

Cultural monitors (Public Oversight Committee): Brenda Alford (Chair), Kavin Ross (Greenwood Tribune), Chief Egunwale (African Ancestral Society), Turner Wentworth-Hunt and LeeAnne Wendt (Muscogee [Creek] Nation)

Physical Investigation Committee: Scott Ellsworth (Chair), Phoebe Stubblefield, Angela Berg, Carlos Zambrano, Alicia Odewale, Leslie Rankin-Hill, Amanda Regnier, Scott Hammerstedt, Kary Stackelbeck, Bob Brooks

Other Field Crew/Advisors: Leland Bement (OAS), Debra Green (OAS), Kent Buehler (OAS-Retired), Jessica Cerezo-Roman (OU-Dep't. of Anthropology), Greg Maggard (ODOT-CRP), Heather Walsh-Haney (Florida Gulf Coast University), Robert Pickering (TU-Retired), Betsy Warner

Results from
Additional
Geophysical
Survey in
Clyde Eddy
area

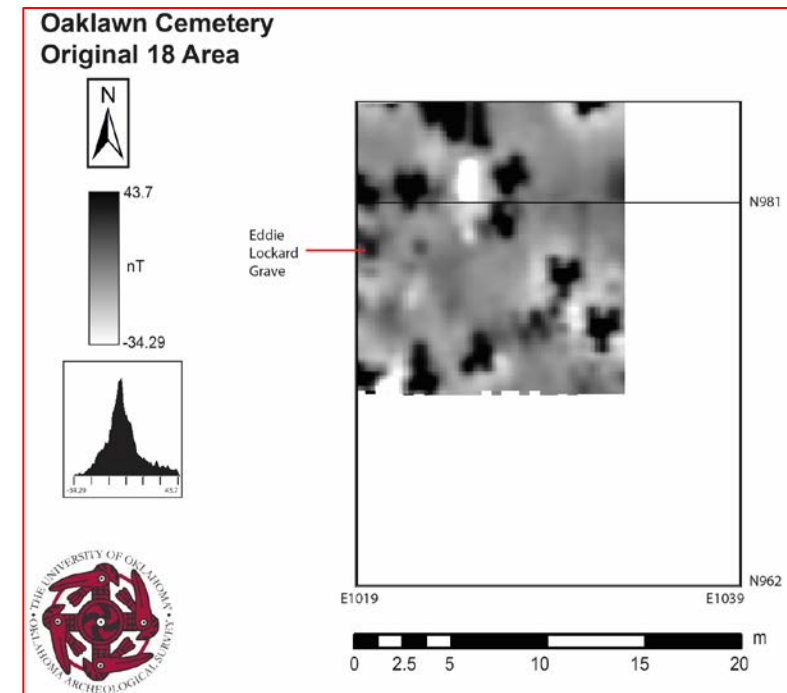
- [Switch to Scott H. presentation](#)

Proposed Next Steps...

- Excavation of possible individual grave shafts within the Original 18 area
- Soil coring in Clyde Eddy area and possible mechanical excavations (pending results)

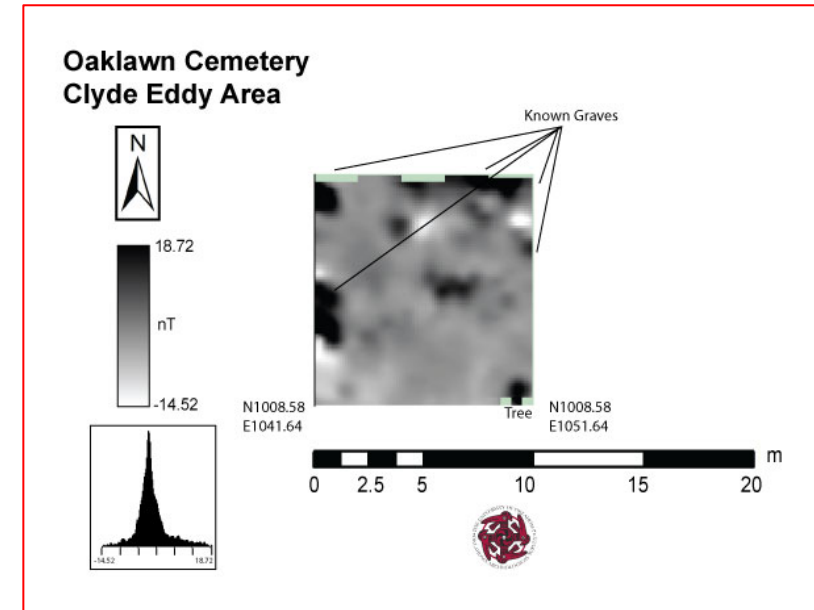
Excavation in Original 18 Area

- Why dig here?
- Use backhoe to remove overburden
- If human remains present, expose and examine in place
- Document the following as condition and preservation allow:
 - Minimum number of individuals (MNI)
 - Sex
 - Age at death
 - Evidence of trauma (?)
 - Likely ethnicity (?)
- Document associated artifacts/burial furniture
- Determine individuals who might be candidates for exhumation and further study



Investigations in Clyde Eddy

- Hand-held coring/augering to assess soils and potential presence of graves
- Perhaps move to mechanical excavation pending results of coring
- If so, mechanical stripping to remove overburden in area of interest
- If human remains present, expose and document in place (as discussed for Original 18 above)



Physical Investigation Committee Recommendations

- Proposed fieldwork in Original 18 area
- Proposed fieldwork in Clyde Eddy area
 - completed concurrently
- Monitors present throughout
- Plan appropriately for security of areas of interest

Additional Geophysical Survey Work

- The Canes
- Rolling Oaks
 - Agreement worked out; on hold because of COVID

Topics for Future Discussions

- Disinterment/Re-interment Process
- Potential for DNA studies
- Future transfer of artifacts



Discussion and Q&A