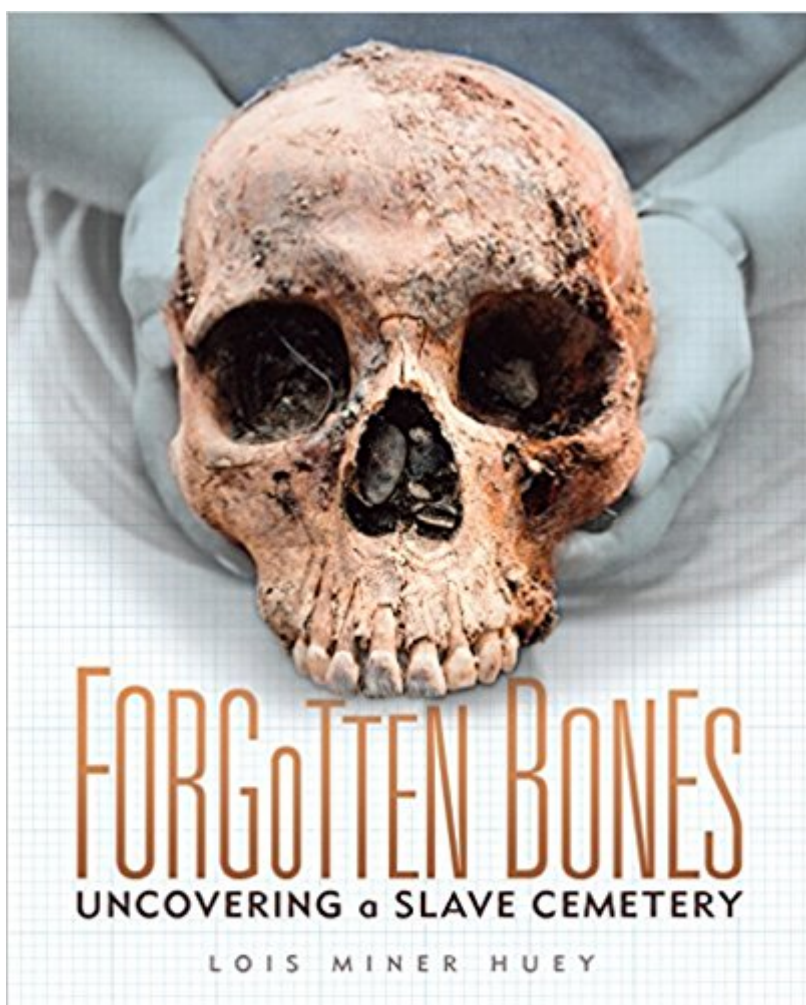


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# Forgotten Bones: Uncovering A Slave Cemetery (Nonfiction - Grades 4-8)



## Synopsis

When a skeleton's head rolled off a dirt pile, all work came to a halt at a construction project in upstate New York. Archaeologists began excavating and found thirteen skeletons. Further investigation revealed that the bones were those of eighteenth-century African American slaves who had worked at the nearby Schuyler farm. Find out what these skeletons tell us about slavery and daily life long ago.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 1030 (What's this?)

Library Binding: 112 pages

Publisher: Millbrook Pr Trade (October 1, 2015)

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Product Dimensions: 8.4 x 0.4 x 10.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 5 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,295,683 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #98 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Archaeology](#) #524 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > United States > State & Local](#) #761 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > United States > Colonial & Revolutionary](#)

Age Range: 10 - 13 years

Grade Level: 4 - 8

## Customer Reviews

Gr 5-7 • Readers' interest in this volume will be piqued from the stunning cover image of a 200-year-old skull. The book explains how archaeologists in Albany, NY, excavated a slave cemetery and analyzed artifacts using DNA evidence, soil testing, and historical puzzle-solving. Though the science and technology are sophisticated, the descriptions are written in plain, accessible language. The organization is easy to follow. Photographs, illustrations, and diagrams on every page bring the subject to life by clarifying visually how artifacts are examined. The author adopts an objective tone, though she doesn't avoid discussing the realities of slavery, emphasizing in the last two chapters evidence of the physical abuse, malnutrition, and disease that resulted from the brutal conditions. Readers may be surprised to discover that there was slavery in

the North in the 18th century, and they will appreciate seeing how much archaeologists can learn from seemingly small details. VERDICT A solid choice for libraries that serve middle school students, this title will appeal to some would-be archaeologists and is a great addition to classrooms as well. —Amy Thurow, New Glarus School District, WI

Lois Miner Huey is an archaeologist for the state of New York. She also writes nonfiction articles and books for kids, focusing on history and archaeology. Her most recent book was *Ick! Yuck! Eew! Our Gross American History*. Huey lives near Albany, New York, in a very old house with her archaeologist husband and three clean cats.

this review is NOT about the book, it's about the format. I made the mistake of buying the Kindle version. Usually, I have no problem with books on the ereader, but I cannot get the font on this one large enough or dark enough to read. I tried reading it on my galaxy (I have a Nook with a Kindle app) and that was awful, so was reading on the iPhone. I'm going to have to read it on my Mac laptop and, still the font is too small. I've learned for books with lots of images and colors on the pages, buy the real thing. I promise to come back and leave a review for the book. I'm looking forward to reading it, well, I was...

If you like archaeological books, this is for you. Designed for teens, but has good info on this dig, how they figure things out from digs, and even has the facial reconstructions (which is a feature I really like). I had seen this book in the school library where I work, so I knew what I was ordering.

Very interesting. Great book!

Summary: When construction workers near Albany, New York, dug up a human skull, police, town officials, and archaeologists were all called in. The skull was determined to be over a century old. Construction was halted, and an archaeological site was set up. More skeletons were found, indicating a cemetery had been there. Since there were no markers and it was far away from the main house of the farm that had been there in the 1800s, the archaeologists were fairly certain it had been a slave cemetery. This book looks at how scientists, historians, and artists worked together to learn the history of the people who had been buried there, as well as in two other slave cemeteries in New York City and Portsmouth, New Hampshire. Using clues from the bones, DNA, and artifacts found on or near the bodies, much could be learned about the people, where

they came from, what their lives were like, and even what their faces looked like. Back matter includes an author's note, glossary, bibliography, and places to visit to learn more. 112 pages; grades 5-7. Summary: A fascinating blend of science and history, covering both the history of slavery in the northern United States, and the science of how the skeletons contributed to this knowledge. Cons: A picture of a slave being burned alive near the end of the book could be disturbing to some readers. From my blog: [...]

Thank you to NetGalley and Lerner for the arc of *Forgotten Bones* by Lois Miner Huey! A wonderful and informative book for young readers, geared toward middle school age or younger, *Forgotten Bones* is full of interesting facts. The information includes slave treatment findings, facial reconstruction and comparisons to other burial sites. The DNA studies showed where the buried slaves descended from and that in itself is worth reading the book! Great informational text!

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