

Bone Found in Historical Cemetery

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It's not often you find a full crime scene at a cemetery, but that's exactly why APD, the medical examiners office and city officials were at Evergreen Cemetery Wednesday afternoon.

A bone was found on the north side of the cemetery, while fox 7 was investigating another story. Devon Woods, an expert on historical cemeteries, was showing us these mounds of dirt that had been dug out to make new graves when our photographer spotted the bone -- that could be an animal's or a human's-- dug up out of an old, long forgotten grave.

Woods says the cemetery dates back to the late 1800's and part of it was once known as Highland Park Cemetery.

"If you look at the history, oral and recorded, some of the indians that were killed by the settlers wer buried in this Highland Park area, and there were also the paupers buried here."

Back in the 1990's, human bones were discovered after washing out of the ground of a nearby creek. A retaining wall was built to stop that from happening again.

Back then, Woods says graves weren't marked as clearly as they are now so people like Evelyn Williams can visit her loved ones.

"It's been a long, long time this cemetery has been here. It was here before i was born and it's still here."

Williams' father, brother, grandmother and uncle are buried alongside each other in the part of the cemetery next to 12th street. Williams' sister, and aunts and uncles buried in other parts of the cemetery. She says the city's record keeping should be so spot-on, there should be no question as to whether the bone was dug up from another grave.

"It's important that they keep track of where the loved ones are buried. We don't want them to be re-burying on top of other people."

The Travis County Medical Examiner's Office has yet to complete it's investigation of the bone.

For questions or comments about this story, email jaemes.irby@foxtv.com.