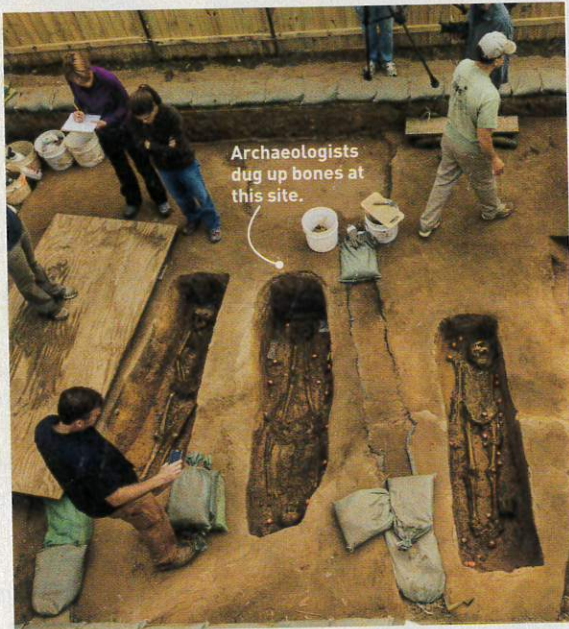


Found: Leaders of Jamestown



Four skeletons recently unearthed in Jamestown—the first permanent British settlement in America—could shed new light on the colony's chaotic beginnings.

Using forensic testing, researchers identified the remains as belonging to Robert Hunt, Ferdinando Wainman, William West, and Gabriel Archer. The men were among the leaders of the Virginia settlement, which was founded in 1607.

Hunt, thought to be the first Protestant minister in the Americas, died in 1608. Wainman, a cousin of Virginia's governor at the

time, died in the summer of 1610. The cause of each man's death is unknown.

West, also related to Virginia's governor, died in a skirmish with Powhatan Indians in 1610. Archer, an early explorer, died during the harsh winter of 1609–1610. It was known as the "starving time," when some desperate settlers resorted to cannibalism to survive.

Experts are continuing to study the remains. They hope to identify whether the men have any living descendants, explains anthropologist Douglas Owsley. "It's a real detective mystery," he says.