

## **Burr's Hill Archeological Excavation by Charles Read Carr in 1913**

In 1913, Charles Read Carr, a resident of Warren, RI, and Director of the George Hail Free Library, undertook the first and only systematic archaeological excavations ever conducted at Burr's Hill, a natural gravel bank overlooking the eastern shore of the Warren River. His purpose was to assemble materials for ethnological exhibit at the Library.

He kept a notebook in which he recorded daily the course of excavations at the hill, noting, wherever possible, the depth of the burial, position of the skeleton, and nature of the associated graver contents. His notes also detail the donation and purchase of additional items taken from the site prior to his work.

Carr intended to publish a monograph on the site but never completed it and died on January 11, 1918. Items from the excavation were housed in a small museum (George Whipple Greene) on the second floor of the Library, at the Haffenreffer Museum of Anthropology in Bristol, at the Museum of the American Indian Heye Foundation in New York City, and at several other museums. Burr's Hill was purchased from the Providence, Warren, and Bristol Railroad which had used the site for gravel to build a Providence to Bristol Railroad, completed in 1851, and smoothed and graded for a public park and ballfield. The hill where Carr's excavations took place, however, remain undisturbed today.

A monograph detailing Carr's work and an archaeological analysis of the grave contents edited by Susan G. Gibson (*Burr's Hill: A 17<sup>th</sup> Century Wampanoag Burial Ground in Warren, RI*) was published by Brown University in 1980.

Carr's original notebook, field notes and several pages of his own archaeological research is maintained at the Cornell University Library in Ithaca, NY. Some of the field notes can be seen on-line at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/90616109@N00/albums/72157691619496261>



Photo of Burr's Hill prior to its excavation in 1922