



0. ARE THESE ROMANOV-FAMILY BONES? - Story
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This image depicts some of the bones, *in situ*, which Ryabov and Avdonin found in 1979. They kept their finding quiet for many years, but after the fall of communism (in the USSR), President Boris Yeltsin ordered the bones to be disinterred and studied (to determine whether they belonged to the murdered Romanovs and their four helpers). Image online via SearchFoundationInc.org.

What do the bones that Ryabov and Avdonin found in 1979 tell us? President Yeltsin ordered their disinterment and the remains have been studied by Russian and American teams. Dr. William R. Maples, head of the American team, discusses his findings in *Dead Men Do Tell Tales*.

After a great deal of study, including DNA samples from Queen Elizabeth II's husband, Prince Philip (whose grandmother was Princess Victoria of Hess, Alexandra's sister), Dr. Maples is sure the remains belong to the Romanov family.

The DNA evidence is "almost 99 percent" which, coupled with strong skeletal evidence, makes it virtually certain the bones belong to the Romanovs and their staff. Except, in the original grave, there were absolutely no skeletal remains for two people: Alexei and (it was believed, at the time) Anastasia.

Do the missing remains give further credence to the claims of Anna Anderson and "Heino?" Maybe. Maybe not, according to Dr. Maples. In his final report, he recommends that

...the site around the pit be carefully excavated and searched for the remains of the two bodies Yurovsky said he burned. I believe such a dig might well turn up the calcined remains of Anastasia and Alexei. (Page 267, *Dead Men Do Tell Tales*.)

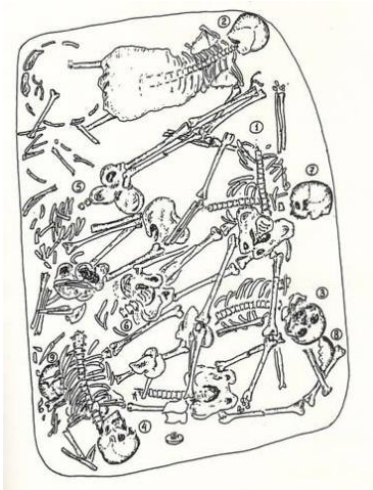
While speculation continued, for a time, about the Tsar's two youngest children, the rest of the family members were finally laid to rest. Even President Yeltsin paid tribute.

See [Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:](http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/ARE-THESE-ROMANOV-FAMILY-BONES-Nicholas-and-Alexandra)

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The Bones

Image online, courtesy [The History Notes](#) website.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/The-Bones>



Disinterment of the Bones

Image online, courtesy the [inspectorpekkala.com](#) website.

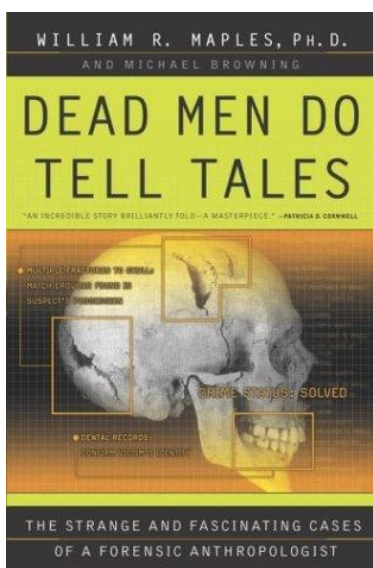
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The Remains

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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Dead Men Do Tell Tales - by William R. Maples

Image online, courtesy [amazon.com](#) website.

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