



Smithsonian
National Museum of Natural History

Biography

Karin S. Bruwelheide

Kari Bruwelheide received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Luther College in Decorah, Iowa and a M.A. in Physical Anthropology from the University of Nebraska in 1992. Since 1992, she has worked at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History as a Physical Anthropologist, Bioarchaeologist, and Forensic Anthropologist with an emphasis on forensic examination of modern and historic remains including skeletal studies of 17th and 18th-century American colonists, iron coffin burials and Civil War military remains. She has assisted Dr. Douglas Owsley with high profile forensic cases including the Waco Branch Davidian compound and Croatian war dead from the former Yugoslavia.

Her research is currently focused on human skeletal remains found in the Chesapeake region of Virginia and Maryland from the early colonial period. The results of this research were presented in an exhibition at the Smithsonian's Museum of Natural History entitled "Written in Bone: Forensic Files of the 17th-Century Chesapeake." Ms. Bruwelheide was co-curator of the exhibition which opened February 7, 2009, and continues through January 6, 2014.

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