



Is There A Correlation Between Coffin Handles and Coffin Size?

Alexander Soto

Department of Sociology and Anthropology, The College of New Jersey



Introduction

As part of our ongoing effort of reconstructing the past in Arch St. our team focuses more on the material culture. Our research examines various coffin handles within the 18th-19th century collection. From this came a question on whether or not there was an correlation between coffin handles and the actual size of the coffins. Our main concern is that a large portion of our coffins has have deteriorated due to time and exposure to the elements.

Figure 1: An fully intact coffin taken from the excavation site



Methodology

The materials used in this research were obtained from the cemetery of the First Baptist Church (FBCP) of Philadelphia on Arch Street. The two types of coffin handles we compared were the copper alloy and wrought iron.

After examining the raw data collected we began to construct a scatterplot graph to determine the exact relationship between these two artifacts. Our sampling size is 18 cooper alloy and 56 wrought iron. We then began to sort each one numerically from least to greatest.

Figure 2: A picture taken of one of our coffin handles



Data

Figure 3: Scatterplot graph constructed based on the data collected from the First Baptist Church Copper Alloy collection.

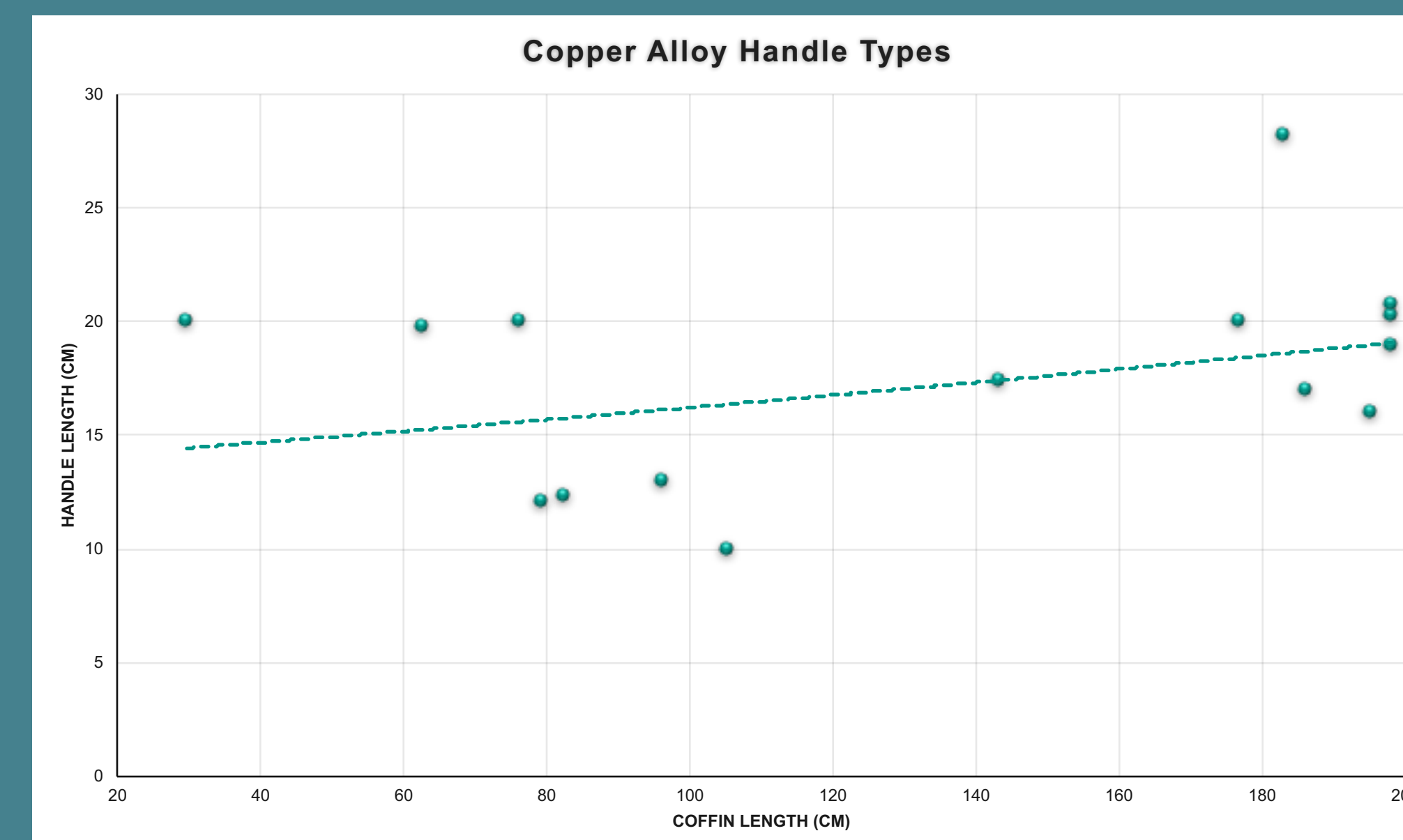
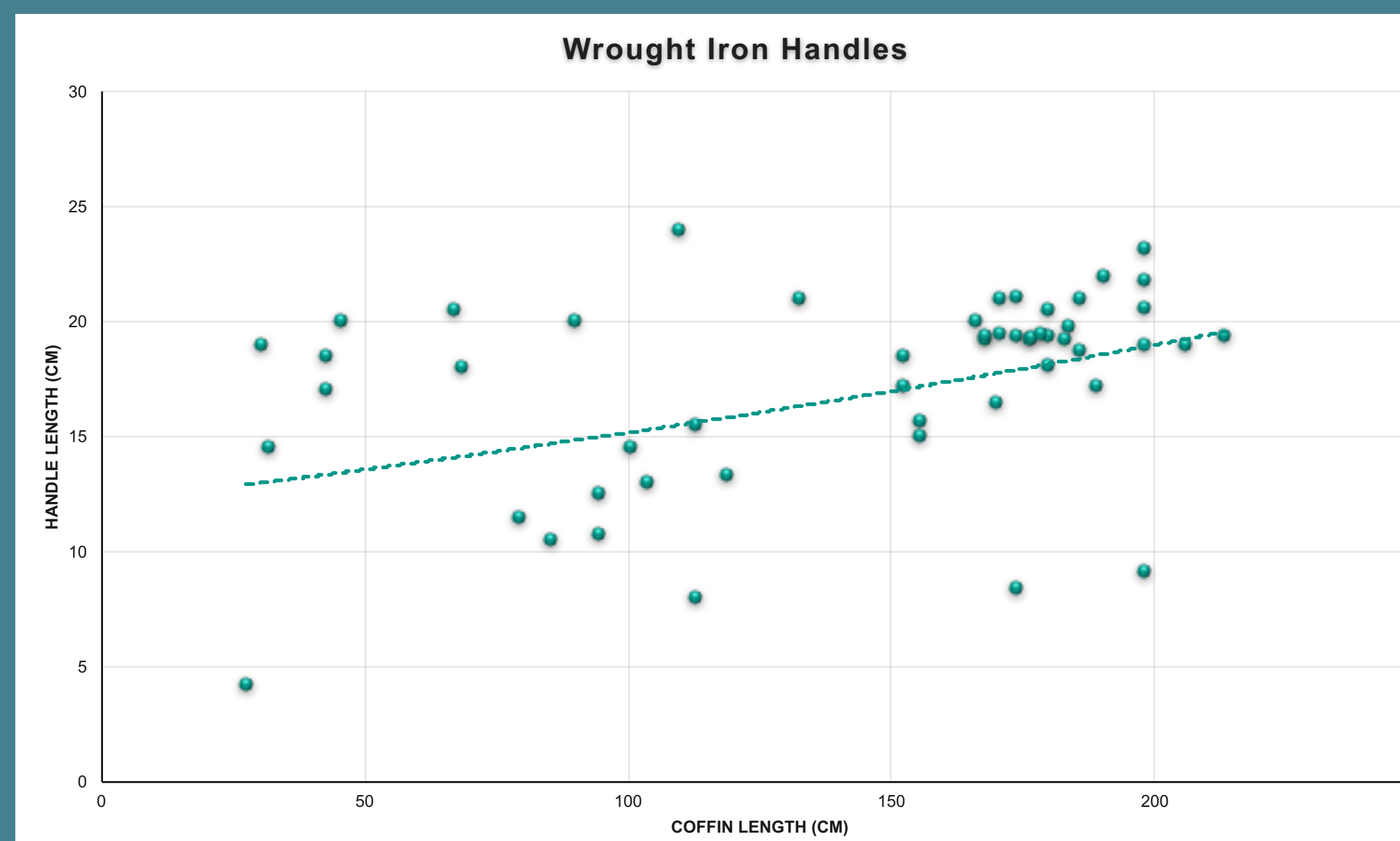


Figure 4: Scatterplot graph constructed based on the data collected from the First Baptist Church Wrought Iron collection.



Discussion

Data reveals that there is a positive relationship between coffin handles and coffin size. This can provide useful information to all the other researchers in the site With this newfound information we can move forward to test further speculations about the individuals buried there.

Although it was not our primary objective given the information collected we can speculate the ages of the individuals buried. Based on the length of the coffin we can provide age ranges that could assist biological anthropologists in age estimation. This newfound information can improve our data collection as now we are not as heavily reliant on complete coffin handles.



Figure 5: In situ coffin during 2017 excavations

Conclusions

- Based our findings we were able to prove that there is in fact a relationship the coffin handles and the actual size of the coffins.
- We hope that this information may prove useful to other members conducting research on burial grounds with decayed coffins.

Acknowledgments

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