skeleton standing in a pit and enclosed by a vault of water-worn boulders. Nine other stone vaults covered squatting skeletons, but several seated skeletons were without vaults. Two prone skeletons lacked vaults. Both vaults and skeletons showed traces of fire scarring, apparently from fires built after the enclosing. The pit was eventually filled in and mounded over at a height of about 18 inches. Gravegoods included soapstone pipes and polished celts. A nearby triangular pit cemetery contained several vaulted burials, mostly seated, and a mass grave of at least ten individuals. A central individual's gravegoods included rolled, cylindrical copper beads, iron tools, shell beads, and a large, engraved shell gorget. The other individuals associated with the central figure were accompanied by copper points, mica plates, polished stone celts, and pigments (Thomas 1887:61-73).

The burial customs described by Rogan and Thomas seem to make up an association peculiar to the upper Yadkin and may, in fact, have been slightly exaggerated, or at least mildly stretched out of true proportion. The large, distinct burial pits containing individual rock cairns covering seated skeletons, scarred by fire and then covered by low mounds, do not seem to have nearby parallels. Stone burial enclosures are reported by Lewis and Kneberg (1970:144, 179) for the Dallas phase of Hiwassee Island in eastern Tennessee, but these burials consisted of stone slabs, not rounded boulders. The Dallas slabs enclosed prone, flexed bodies scattered throughout a village site, not seated and concentrated in a mound or cemetery. Webb (1938:9-10) reported stone-covered graves in the Norris Basin in eastern Tennessee, but these were free-standing mounds of stone built up from the natural land surface. The Peachtree Mound and village site (Setzler and Jennings 1941:33-34) in southwestern North Carolina contained four stone-surrounded burials, but these were intrusive placements of cubical, slab sided graves with stone floors. None of the above examples from other areas were reported with signs of fire associated with burial.

"Scorched tombs" have been reported from Hiwassee Island's Hamilton Focus (Lewis and Kneberg 1970:137), which has also been associated with the Connestee phase (late Middle Woodland) of the Appalachian summit (Dickens 1976:9-15). Keel (1976:225) dates the Connestee at A.D. 200 to A.D. 650. These burials are covered with mounds, but the tombs consist of prone, extended burials covered with fire-scarred logs. Additionally, the mounds are built up from an area scraped bare of humus but not deeply excavated. Log tombs were placed in the center of the cleared area and covered with a small soil mound. Additional burials without tombs were simply set on the surface of the ground or against an earlier mound and covered with their own small mounds. Eventually, a single, large mound was formed. Five burials of the Pisgah phase at the Warren Wilson site in western North Carolina (assigned by Dickens to the early Mississippian A.D. 1000-1450 of the Appalachian summit) had fires built over them, but these burials (four log tombs and one pit) had been placed under house floors. The fires were apparently domestic hearths and not special funeral fires (Dickens 1976: 9-15, 125). A scorched pit burial was also reported by Ayers (1965) from the New River basin in Grayson County, southwestern Virginia. A partly flexed pit burial in a rock shelter was found with a sheet of schist over the head, a bone awl in the right hand, and quartz blades near the left