Bones Of Man, Child Uncovered On Green By Surprised Workers

A group of human bones unearthed on the New Haven Green Wednesday have been identified as the remains of two individuals, it was learned today.

Dr. William U. Gardner, professor of anatomy at the Yale School of Medicine, said the bones belonged to an adult individual about five-feet, three-inches tall, and a child about five years old.

“They've been there a long time,” Dr. Gardner said. He said he could not elaborate on the exact age of the bones, and there is no test which could determine the age precisely.

The bones, which number about six intact ones and a number of fragments, were unearthed Wednesday much to the surprise of Park Department employees who were engaged in restoring the storm-toppled Lincoln Oak on the Upper Green.

The 50-foot high oak was partially uprooted by 60-mile-an-hour gusts from Hurricane Esther last Thursday. It was planted on Feb. 12, 1909, by the Women’s Relief Corps, auxiliary of the Admiral Foote Post, Grand Army of the Republic, to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln.

Dr. Gardner said it was more difficult to determine the age of the adult remains, but that the individual was probably between 20 and 30 years old at the time of death.

Harold Doheny, assistant park superintendent, said the bones were uncovered shortly before noon Wednesday. At the scene of the discovery were Samuel Fazio and Ray Anderson, Park Department employees, and Earl Lyons, assistant superintendent of trees.

Dr. Gardner said the only fragment of the child was a lower jaw bone. The child's age could be determined, he said, by the state of growth of teeth in the jaw.