

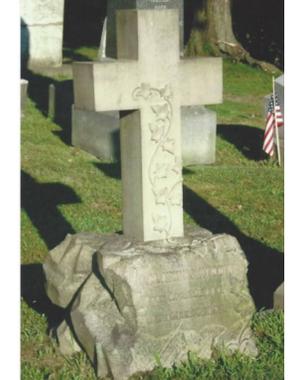
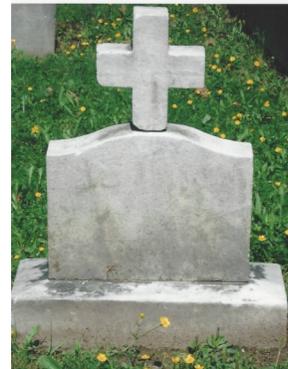
Cemetery Crosses

The Charles Baber Cemetery has no restriction on the size, shape, or type of grave markers used as long as they stay within the plot boundaries. The marker used is a matter of ethnic, religious, or personal preference. One of the most common grave markers is the cross. The cross, used as a religious Christian symbol and its association with Christ, dates back to the second century. Charles Baber Cemetery is filled with a variety of crosses.

Cross markers can be laying flat on the ground, or in the ground, or standing upright on a base, or attached to a marker, or acting as an adornment to a marker. They can also be outset or raised from their marker.



The 3 crosses shown below are Celtic/Irish in design. They are one of the most ancient of cruciform and were used by the Celtic Christians in Great Britain and Ireland. They vary in ornateness with the far left having additional Christian symbols carved within the upper part, while the Celtic cross on the far right is plain.



The Maltese cross symbol below was adopted by the military as a Cross of Valor. This memorial marker bears the words "The strife is over, the battle won". With its distinctive wedge shaped arms, it looked like fish tails or four arrow heads.



The fish tail symbol was adopted by the early Christian church and was used as a Hospitaller Cross or a Crusader Cross. It is often called the Iron Cross and can be distinguished by the depth of the "V" shape in the arms and tail. This is also the symbol of a Christian organization called "The International Order of the King's Daughters and Sons" with Christ being the king.

Cemetery Crosses

Some crosses, known as Graded Calvary, have three steps leading up to a Latin cross which can represent the hill of Calvary or more often, faith, hope, and love. Some family plots require all memorial markers to be crosses with the patriarch's (or the husband's) cross being larger than the other crosses. In other cases, the cross markers for the whole family may be the same size.



The Latin cross is the most common of all cruciform reminding us of the supreme sacrifice offered by Jesus. The cross can be empty to remind us of the resurrection and the hope of eternal

life. Or the cross can have the corpus, a symbol used by the Catholic Church in contrast to the Protestant denominations who often use the bare cross. The rugged cross can be chunky and 3 tiered signifying Calvary. Or it can have markings like the engraved flowers below etched into the base.



The cross to the left has a house or portal bearing the person's name and the Fleur-de-lis (the Trinity). It is the 3rd part of the base (Trinity). The roof of the house is in three overlapping layers (Trinity). The house with the cross behind it signify being in the house of God. The crosses bear the names "mother and father" which also signifies the parents being in the embrace of God.

The cross on the far right is the Fleurie with the liliform end caps of this cross reminding us of the Trinity, as does the picture with the 2 crosses

with their three pointed trefoil end caps. They bear the IHS letters which is the most common Christogram derived from the first three letters of the Latin name of Jesus or if seen as IHC, it is the Greek name of Jesus. IHS is sometimes interpreted in Latin as meaning Iesus Hominum Salvator—"Jesus, Savior of men". Interpretations known as backronyms, consider IHS as "I Have Suffered" or "In His Service".

