

FAMILY PLOTS

In the 1800s and the 1900s, many of the burial plots purchased at the Charles Baber Cemetery were large family plots of several generations. The type of plot varied from family to family and from one century to the next. The family plots of the 1800s and early 1900s, tended to have iron rail fencing (Graeff) or short stone or concrete walls enclosing the plot. Once the family plot was enclosed, the formation of the memorial markers were of two types: One type prominently places the patriarchs, like Baber (1885) and Yuengling (1872), [inside the main entrance] with a large dominant marker, like an obelisk, in the center bearing their name on it. Smaller markers were used for all the other family members. The smaller markers can vary in size and style or they can be the same size and shape. The second type, like the Donaldson (1872) plot which is also at the main entrance, has a large ornate obelisk or monolith in the center of the plot and all family members have the same type or size of memorial markers.

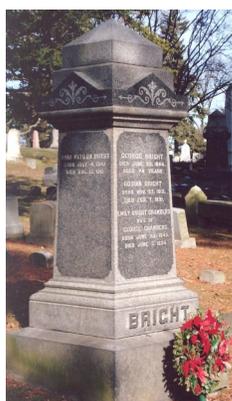


By the mid and late 1900s, the family plots, while still prevalent, tended not to be boxed or fenced in. They were of three types. One type contained a large block, pedestal, or eclectic

central monument bearing the family name with the individual markers, either similar or varying in size and style, centered, squared off or lined up in rows around the central monument. The Kear, Luther, and Smelly plots have the central monument with the family name on it, and the individual markers lined up on the sides. Kear has added a flair with hostas in a center pedestal and with matching hostas at each marker. The second type of family plot doesn't have a central monument, or the dominant family marker is only inches taller than other markers. This type has the markers usually lined up in a row, like the Eisenhuth/Lewis markers with the red flowers. The Shippen plot has a concrete perimeter, but the stones (hip and box tomb) do not have a dominant patriarchal stone.



A third type of family plot contains a central pedestal or eclectic memorial marker with the individual names scripted into the central monument like Bright (pedestal) and Thompson (eclectic). They may have smaller individual markers with a first name or no name around the central marker. Others contain no individual markers, just the central memorial marker with all the names on it.



Large family plots are not prevalent today, most likely because the grown children tend to no longer remain within the state or county of their birth; and because cremations replace the need for in-ground burials and offer other choices for the disposition of one's ashes, such as columbarium niches.