

RELIGIOUS ICONS ON MEMORIAL MARKERS

There are many types and styles of memorial markers found at the Charles Baber Cemetery dating back to 1845, when the cemetery was first opened for burials. In the early 1800s, the markers were thin narrow tablets or slabs with the name and date of birth and of death on it. By the mid and late 1800s, other styles and shapes were used like the cradle, chest, box, and hip. In the 1900s, they became larger, boxier, and heavier. They were influenced by the art revival periods and by the Industrial Revolution with the invention of steam power that allowed the hard stone to be shaped and polished. These new styles were the monoliths, blocks, pedestals, obelisks, and eclectic. Also family mausoleums came into being. By the late 1900s and into the 21st century, developing technology allowed personalized sketching\etching on the memorial markers. Throughout this time period from the 1900s forward, a central Christian theme still bears witness on memorial markers. Besides the cross, other religious icons can be seen on Baber Cemetery's memorial makers. Markers of the late 1880s and early 1900s were shaped into cherubs, angels, the Virgin Mary, and Christ on the

Cross. These markers date from 1889 of the cherub, to 1912 of Christ on the cross, to 1918 of the child angel, to the 1921 marker of the Virgin Mary with two angelic children or cherubs at her feet.



Once etching came into vogue in the late 1900s and with the aid of computers, the religious icons could be etched with detail. And the etching could be colored and layered as seen in the 1979 picture of Jesus with the crown of thorns on his head.



By the 21st century, advanced computerized technology allowed the styling, shaping, and etchings on memorial markers to become a fine piece of art work. There are many beautiful memorial markers at Baber Cemetery for anyone to see who has the time to walk leisurely among the markers.

