

With a desire to maintain our cemetery in a neat and satisfactory condition in memory of those who are laid there to rest, the following guidelines have been adopted. There is some money now held in trust for the care of the cemetery. For this we are indeed grateful. It is hoped that those individuals who have requested space for burial will provide in their wills for sufficient funds to properly maintain the cemetery,

1. All members of Western Quarterly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends are entitled to purchase grave spaces. The property committee, provided there are sufficient spaces for members in the foreseeable future, may sell spaces to members of other Monthly Meetings and, under special conditions—such as a close relative buried in the graveyard or a resident of the London Britain area—to persons not members of the Religious Society of Friends.

2. **Gravesite guidelines:**

- a. Only headstones may be erected at the graves. **A headstone must receive the written advance approval of the London Britain Property Committee before it is installed in the graveyard.**
- b. A headstone of marble or granite, marked with the names of deceased and dates, shall be placed to mark the grave within six months after burial. The stone shall be of plain design in keeping with the cemetery. No stone shall be higher than 12 inches above ground nor with a base larger than 12 inches by ~~22~~ 24 inches, except that a stone marking two graves side-by-side may have a base 14 inches by 44 inches. The stone shall be placed on a concrete foundation resting on the end of the vault, or where no vault is used, starting 30 inches ~~under-ground~~ **underground**. The foundation shall taper to 3 inches wider on each side at the bottom than at the top.

- c. A flat marker, level with or less than one-half inch above the ground is preferred, as this eases the task of maintaining the graveyard.
- d. The headstone must receive the advance approval of the members of the property committee before it is placed in the graveyard.
- e. The method of digging must be approved by the property committee before the grave is dug. The committee will supply, on request, the name of a local contractor whose method has been approved.
- f. Any existing headstones which interfere with the digging of the grave shall be removed and replaced by, and at the expense of, the owner of the space in which the grave is dug.
- g. All graves and spaces shall be level with existing aisles.
- h. All markers shall be set in line with the other markings in the graveyard. The committee reserves the right to reset and realign all markers.
- i. No planting of any kind shall be made without the permission of the committee. The committee reserves the right to remove same, and to remove all decorations after a reasonable time.
- j. **In keeping with Friends' tradition of simple grave markers, "eternal lights" and other permanent or semi-permanent ornaments are not to be installed. The London Britain Property Committee may restrict the use of future technologies and trends in the graveyard in keeping with Friends' spiritual principles and practices.**
- k. **Interment of loved ones ~~soon after death~~ are to be made soon after death in accordance with current Pennsylvania regulations. Interment may be made, with or without vaults, in decorative coffins, plain, biodegradable coffins, or shrouds. Cremated remains may be interred with or without a vault at any time.**
- l. In the case of cremations, it is permissible to place two cremations within a single grave space. Otherwise, only a single burial per space is permitted.

3. **Costs and charges:**

- a. The following charges shall be in effect for future grave spaces, due at the time of request for space:

For each grave space (approximately 40 by 96 inches):

Members of record of Western Quarterly Meeting \$200.00
Other members of the Religious Society of Friends \$350.00
All others ~~\$500.00~~ \$1,500.00

- b. All costs associated with a burial are the responsibility of the owner of the grave space.
- c. A receipt shall be given by the committee for money received for grave space to the person(s) selecting a space. The location of the space or spaces reserved for them shall be designated by a number recorded on the graveyard chart and meeting records. This designation will be shown on the receipt. **The committee will be responsible for marking the burial location prior to the preparation of the site for interment.**
- d. The members of Western Quarterly Meeting have an ongoing commitment to the maintenance of the graveyard through the meeting. Others are encouraged to make a similar commitment through a gift or legacy. All monies received for grave space, legacies or gifts shall be added to the Trust Funds for the cemetery. The proceeds from such funds are to be used for the care of the cemetery.

4. These guidelines may be changed at any time following review by the property committee with recommended changes approved by Western Quarterly Meeting.

July, 1991 Revised June 2020

London Britain Meetinghouse

Western Quarterly Meeting
Religious Society of Friends



London Britain Friends

Meetinghouse

1834

GRAVEYARD GUIDELINES

Revised June 2020

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