

Makefield/Yardley Friends Cemetery Committee

Policies and Regulations for Burial Grounds

The Makefield/Yardley Friends Cemetery (Burial Ground) is located at Makefield Monthly Meeting, 877 Dolington Road, Newtown PA 18940. The entrance is at the South Gate of the Burial Ground. The Burial Ground is divided into sections:

Section A is located immediately to the right inside the entrance gate,

Section B is located immediately to the left inside the entrance gate.

Section 1 is located on the left at the far north,

Section 2 is located on the left between Section 1 and Section B,

Section 3 is located on the right at the far north,

Section 4 is located on the right between Section 3 and Section A,

Only Sections 2 and 4 are open for burials.

The Makefield/Yardley Friends Cemetery Committee is the joint committee of Makefield Monthly Meeting and Yardley Monthly Meeting holding responsibility for the Burial Ground. Burial rights may only be reserved by or for members or long-time attenders of Makefield Monthly Meeting, Yardley Monthly Meeting or other Bucks Quarterly Meetings. Exceptions may be granted by the Committee and individual determinations may be made.

Any person desiring to acquire a burial site should contact one of the Burial Ground Liaisons (i.e. Committee Members). Availability of burial sites and personal preferences for burial sites will be discussed and augmented by viewing available burial sites in person. Once a location has been selected, a Certificate of Burial Rights should be requested from a Burial Grounds Liaison along with a check made out to **Makefield/Yardley Friends Cemetery Committee** for the required contribution amount. Upon completion of this process a Certificate of Burial Right will be issued.

Choosing a Plot / Purchasing the Burial Rights to a Plot (Certificate of Burial Rights)

Choosing the location of a plot is based on the anticipated method of interment. A contribution to the Makefield/Yardley Friends Cemetery Committee shall be made to secure the Burial Rights to a plot. Contribution rates are determined at 3 category prices:

- \$250: Members of Makefield Monthly Meeting or Yardley Monthly Meeting,
- \$500: Members of Quaker Meetings other than Makefield or Yardley Monthly Meeting,
- \$750: Non-members of a Quaker Meeting.

Plots of the Burial Ground are 3 feet 6 inches wide by 7 feet length and accommodate one casket/coffin or up to three cremated remains.

Arranging for a Burial

The arrangements for the burial and cost of the burial is separate from the purchase of Plot and the arrangements and costs are borne by Purchaser or your designee. An administrative/grave opening fee of \$150 for research and recordkeeping, measuring and marking the gravesite, coordinating with the funeral director, gravedigger and monument company is due at the time the burial takes place. The fee shall apply to each burial in the plot and shall be made payable to the Makefield/Yardley Friends Cemetery Committee for deposit into its fund.

A Disposition/Transit Permit (Burial Permit) or Certificate of Cremation -- which are different from the Certificate for Burial Right issued by Makefield/Yardley Burial Ground -- is to be received by Makefield/Yardley Friends Cemetery Committee Liaison on or before the time of any burial.

Makefield/Yardley Friends Cemetery Committee

Traditional Casket Burials/Cremation Burials

For all traditional casket/coffin burials the family must employ the services of the Committee-approved gravedigger with payment for the gravedigger due at the time of interment.

- Family/Responsible-Party must possess a Certificate of Burial Right
- All caskets/coffins must be enclosed in a concrete vault, the cost of which is the responsibility of the family.

For all cremations with urn burial the family must employ the services of the Committee-approved gravedigger with payment for the gravedigger due at the time of interment.

- Family/Responsible-Party must possess a Certificate of Burial Right
- Concrete Vaults are not needed for urns
- If only ashes that are not placed in an Urn are to be interred, then the family may take responsibility for the burial themselves.

All burials must have a member of the Makefield/Yardley Friends Cemetery Committee present at the interment.

Nontraditional/Naturalistic Burials

An area has been set aside for Nontraditional/Naturalistic burials (also known as Green Burials) in Section 4, Rows 12,13,14. Burials in this area must meet the following requirements to conform with a more naturalistic interment.

- Family/Responsible-Party must possess a Nontraditional Certificate of Burial Right
- Casket and any other shroud/covering must be of a natural material
- No embalmed or cremated remains
- No Vault
- Minimum burial depth of 4 feet to maintain at least 2 feet of cover
- Family/Responsible-Party or Undertaker must provide a plan of action for excavation, backfill, graveside set-up and grave restoration (mechanical digging equipment may be used if requested by the Family/Responsible-Party).

All burials must have a member of the Makefield/Yardley Friends Cemetery Committee present at the interment.

Headstone (Monument) Guidelines

Headstones should be installed once the ground has settled (approx. 6 months-9 months) but within one year, however, a headstone is not required. The maximum number of headstones is 2 per plot. Careful consideration of the implications of future burials should be made at the time of headstone purchase.

Each new Headstone/Monument shall be on a poured concrete base foundation at least 24 inches deep and shall extend at least 2 inches but not more than 4 inches beyond the Headstone. Such base foundation shall be flush with the ground. The cost of the base foundation and the Headstone/Monument are the responsibility of the site owner.

- Any upright Headstone/Monument must be no more than 15 inches high, 6 inches thick (front to back), and 18 inches wide.
- Any flat or sloped monument must be no more than 12 inches high, 12 inches thick (front to back), and 18 inches wide.
- Headstone/Monuments covering 2 plots may be double the width stated above (maximum 36 inches).

Headstones should be simple in form, consistent with other surrounding headstones and must be set on an appropriate foundation base as noted above and which meets current grave-

Makefield/Yardley Friends Cemetery Committee

marker standards for accommodating the Headstone. Natural stones such as granite, marble or limestone are permitted in all sections. All base foundations and Headstone shall be installed by a Makefield/Yardley Friends Cemetery Committee approved contractor and paid for in advance.

Coordination of Headstone placement and changes to existing Headstones takes place between the monument company and the Burial Ground Liaisons, who will ensure that the company chosen is in possession of Makefield/Yardley Friends Cemetery Committee Regulations and Policies. All Headstone designs must be reviewed to ensure compliance with current practices.

Plantings and other Tributes

In keeping with Quaker testimonials of simplicity, equality, and stewardship (i.e. respect for the earth), fresh flowers are welcome but plastic flowers, flower pots, and solar lights are not permitted. Trees and shrubs are not permitted to be planted on individual plots. Fresh-cut flowers will be removed after a reasonable length of time as determined by this committee.

Wreaths and other small seasonal decorations may be put out for holidays provided they do not contain any plastic or other non-biodegradable material. Wreaths and seasonal decorations will be removed after a reasonable length of time, approximately 30 days past the holiday. The American Legion places metal flag-holders on the graves of those who chose to participate in armed conflicts and flags are placed in them throughout the year. Flags are removed at the discretion of the Makefield/Yardley Friends Cemetery Committee.

Transfer of Burial Rights

Makefield/Yardley Friends Cemetery Committee retains ownership of the Burial Ground and plots. Burial rights may not be resold or transferred without written approval from the Makefield/Yardley Friends Cemetery Committee. Burial rights are granted for a period of 30 years; these rights shall be deemed abandoned and revert back to the Makefield/Yardley Friends Cemetery Committee if no interments are made within this time frame. These rights can be extended for an additional 30 years through arrangement with the Burial Ground Liaisons. Families who wish to make a donation toward the upkeep and improvements of the Burial Ground may consult with the Burial Ground Liaisons or the Clerks of the Makefield Monthly or Yardley Monthly Meetings.

The Makefield/Yardley Friends Cemetery Committee has oversight of the Burial Ground with Burial Ground Liaisons coordinating all aspects of activity. Burial Ground Liaisons, together with the Makefield/Yardley Friends Cemetery Committee, shall have the authority to waive all or any portion of these Regulations and Policies at their discretion.

On behalf of Makefield/Yardley Friends Cemetery Committee

Signed Jules Simon
Committee Clerk:

Date: 02/19/2021