

KEY TO USING THE BURIAL GROUND (BG) MATERIALS

The main source of information about people buried in our **Burial Grounds (BG)** is the Register of Burials. This comes in two forms: the **BG Numerical Register** and the **BG Alphabetic Register**; a third, **BG Membership Register** will be added later.

The Numerical register is essentially based on the **BG Book** maintained in our Meeting Office, which is a hand-written record of burials. In the BG Book each person buried, herein called the “decedent,” is assigned a number, in order of burial, starting with #1, Solomon Jones, buried in January 1860, with the most recent being #587, Peter Javscas, July 2017 (at the top of the list). These numbers are always signaled by the use of the symbol #. Sometimes the number varies from the straightforward, through (usually) the addition of letters, e.g., #495A. These were added to the BG Book late, because, during the period of a particular BG committee, the names were not put in at all, and had to be added after-the-fact at a later time by a subsequent BG Committee.

The BG Book includes information about the decedent’s parents, date of death (not date of burial), age at death, membership in meeting, and location of the burial site. There is a space for additional notes, sometimes used.

The digital **BG Numerical Register** contains all this same information, with corrections where appropriate, plus date of birth, name of spouse, and names of family members who are also buried here. It also contains notations that tell you which on-line genealogical websites are sources of information about the decedent.

The digital **BG Alphabetical register** is just the same register recast in alphabetical order of the decedent. This, of course, is the register to use if you are looking for a particular name.

The digital **Membership register** (to be added) will be in numerical order, and will contain, in particular, information about the decedent’s membership in Friends in the course of his or her life.

Using Ctrl-F (Control-F): When using one of these registers, if you are seeking information about a particular name, or a particular burial #, or a particular year, please know that the FIND function works. If you hold down both Control and F keys, a box appears. Type in only a single name (e.g., “Mason”) until you’ve become accustomed to the organization and presentation of names; less than the full name (“Maso”) can work quite well, but more (“S Mason”) usually doesn’t work. Especially beware of typing in both first and last names (e.g., Sam Mason), as that often does not get you what you want. If you are looking specifically for a buried individual, those names are in Column B; by clicking on the “B” at the top of the column, you highlight the column; then if you click on Ctrl-F the FIND function is limited to this column.

Names: Care has been taken to include all known names of the individuals buried. Middle names and maiden names provide a rich source of information about the links between families; this record is intended to be a resource for genealogical studies.

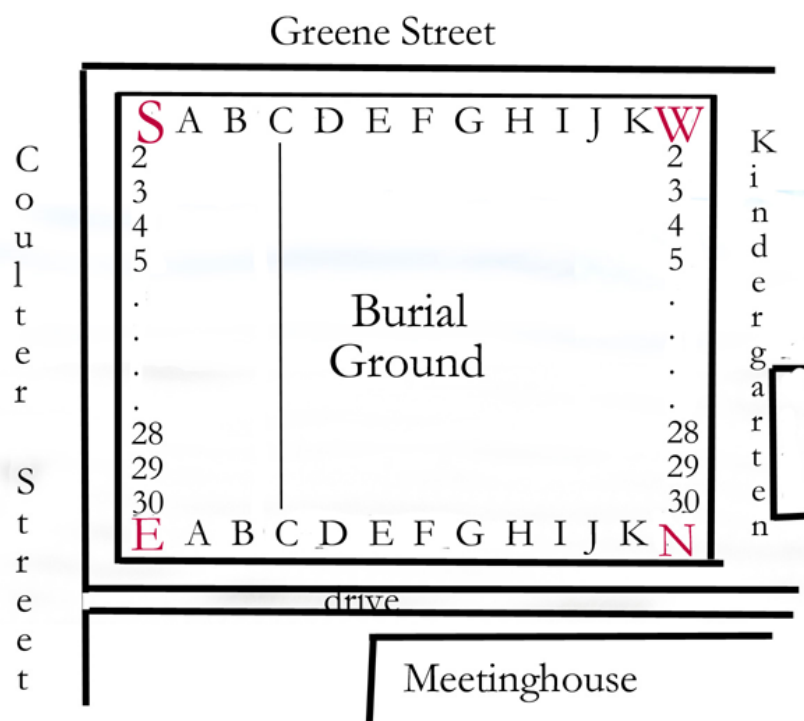
Parents’ names: These are mostly first and surnames only, and Mother’s name is given as her maiden name. With one exception, all parents were married. In a few cases, no parents are listed. When parents also are buried here, parent names are followed by (#). It is surprising how often parents’ names were

incomplete, and even wrong. When the BG book is corrected, the correct name appears in the digital BG Register, and a comment is made in the comments window about what the written BG Book said.

Dates: Dates of birth and death are important identifiers, and are sometimes less certain than we would like. Dates of death recorded in our BG Book are probably pretty accurate so long as the burial was a whole-body burial, taking place within a few days. Errors can creep in when, as in more recent years, months and even years can intervene between death and interment. No citation of birth date or death date, wherever found, however, can be guaranteed, and disagreement between genealogical sites about birth dates and death dates is not unusual.

Membership: Most of the burials here are reported to be members of Germantown Meeting. Thus, **Yes** is the most common designation: yes, this individual was a member of our meeting at the time of death. **No**, of course, means not. In a few cases, I have indicated the relationship to a member of meeting (e.g., “child of a member”, implying that the buried individual was not a member), and in some other cases the BG Book indicated to which other meeting the individual belonged (e.g., “Arch Street Meeting”). Surprisingly, this information sometimes turns out to be wrong or really misleading. Because of this, a third register will be placed here eventually which will give a fuller account of the membership stories of the decedents and their families.

Location: The location of a BG burial site is indicated in two ways: the long (traditional) way and a short way (based on the traditional). Both are based on the grid that defines the organization of the BG, which is a large open field bordered by Coulter Street, Greene Street, the Kindergarten and its playground, and the exit drive past the meetinghouse.



As you can see, the grid is laid out with marker posts set around the four edges. Alphabetic posts (B-C-D...H-I-J) line the two edges parallel to Greene Street, starting with B at the corner defined by the intersection of Coulter and Greene, progressing to J furthest away from Coulter. Numerical posts (2-3-4...28-29-30) line the two edges parallel to Coulter Street, starting with 2 by that same corner, leading to 30 furthest away from Greene. Note that a line starting in the Coulter/Greene corner and going to its opposite diagonal runs almost due North: this is important, for it means we can label the four corners North, South, East and West (in red) with reasonable accuracy.

Burial Sites are designated by the rows defined by the posted letters and numbers. A typical location might be, for instance "C-D/8-9", meaning at the intersection of the rows defined by the C and D posts, vertically, and the 8 and 9 posts horizontally. When we go out to find such a location, we start by stringing a line from the C post along Greene Street to the C post along the opposite drive, as shown in the map above.

We then string a line across the two 8 posts, and insert a marker flag where the two strings cross. This defines the corner C-8. We can then define the whole rectangular area by measurements, knowing that the alphabetic posts are 15 feet apart and the numerical posts are 7 feet apart. The space defined by C-D/8-9, then is as below.

	C	G R E E N E	D
8			
C O U L T E R		SOUTH C-D/8-9/S or C8S	WEST C-D/8-9/W or C8W
		C-D/8-9/E or C8E EAST	C-D/8-9/N or C8N NORTH
9			

The overall space designated by C-D/8-9 includes four specific burial sites, defined by the cardinal directions (as indicated above). Once we locate any corner with our strings, we can measure out the desired burial site. Each burial site is 3.5 feet by 7 feet. One burial site may accommodate one (or possibly two) full-body burials, or four cremation interments. (If two full-body burials are anticipated, the first will be buried at double depth, the second buried above the first.) Headstones are always located at the end of the site furthest from Coulter Street. If four urns are anticipated, they will be buried in sequence from headstone toward Coulter Street.

A specific burial site, then, might be C-D/8-9/S in the original nomenclature. This has been simplified in the present Map through using the first letter (C), the first number (8) and the compass point (S) to make: C8S.

The **BG MAP** is a spreadsheet representation of the burial ground itself. Each cell represents a specific burial site denoted by its simplified locator code (e.g., **G5E**). The following portion of the BG

MAP shows nine cells or nine burial sites. Each shows its locator code (G5E). If it contains interments, this will be shown by the burial # (**536**) with name (Herbert Hadley). Multiple names mean multiple uses of the site (mostly cremations). Reservations are also shown (e.g., "Res Rhoads"). The notation **No#** in H6S means that Margaret Reeve Cary is listed on the headstone, but is not actually buried here (and therefore has no burial number).

G5E **536** Herbert Hadley
537 Sara Hadley
562 Ruthanna Davis Hadley G5N

H5E **551** Stephen Grellet
 Cary **584** Elizabeth
 Summers Cary

G6S

G6W

H6S **462** Charles Reed Cary
No# Margaret Reeve Cary

G6E **549** Jonathan Evans
 Rhoads

G6N Res Rhoads

H6E **318** Grace H Cary

Relationships: In this cell I put in all (I hope) the decedent's first-degree relatives who are also buried here, starting with spouse, whose name appears (if known) whether or not the spouse also is buried here. Spousal information will appear as: (if the decedent is male) "H[usband] of ...", giving the wife's maiden name (and if the decedent is female, "W[ife] of ...").

Children follow spouse, as: decedent is "F[ather] of..., ..., etc, or "M[other] of ...". No attempt was made to include children who were not buried here except in instances where supplementary information, put in parentheses following the name, leads to another slightly more remote individual who is buried here. (E.g, F of William (F of Henry(#X)), or the decedent is Father of William who is Father of Henry, burial number #X).

Siblings follow children, formulated as "Br[other] of ..." or "Sis[ter] of ...".

Also in this cell may appear supplementary information from the **Headstone (HS)**, such as "HS says 'E Perot Morris'" to show how the decedent wished to be remembered.

In some cases, a note is written into this space in the BG Book; where relevant (often), this is written here in quotation marks.

Finally, information about the nature of the burial (full-body versus cremation) appears, and in case of cremation, then the "position" is given: 1 is closest to the headstone, 2, 3 and 4 are successively closer to Coulter Street, according to BG protocols.

Sources: In this cell and the next I make notations about the internet resources I used in finding information. Full explanation of how to access these is in another document that will be placed on this website: **BG Internet Resources**. In this cell, I will use initials (of the decedent, the decedent's parents, or the decedent's spouse) followed by a website source. If, for instance, the decedent is Able Baker, his father is Charles Baker, his mother is Dorothy Edwards, and his wife is Florence Goodwin (you can see I am creating names with the initials A,B,C,D,E, F and G), then I might indicate the sources to be: "AB

Rweb, CB,DE Rash, AB&FG Anc.” These notations can be read as: Able Baker has an entry in Rweb; Charles Baker and Dorothy Edwards are both entered in Rash (as married); Able Baker and Florence Goodwin can be Googled in Ancestry (as “Able Baker, Florence Goodwin, Ancestry”).

These various genealogic sites are:

Rweb: Rootsweb, a Quaker-specific genealogic source that includes membership information; it draws its data specifically from the 6-volume Hinshaw Genealogic Encyclopedia, which in turn got its data from reading the meeting for business minutes of all the local monthly meetings of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, from 1685 on. For more information about using this site, see **BG Internet Resources**.

Rash: Pennock website accessed through the Rash Surname Index, a mostly Quaker source;

Anc: Ancestry, a general genealogic website;

MyHeritage: an occasionally useful general website

Findagrave: a data base of burials, but includes only a handful of ours

Wikitree: an occasionally useful general website

Certain families of our BG population have full-fledged **family genealogies** that have been put on line; these are generally challenging to access and use, but perhaps (only perhaps) are more trustworthy about their information than the general genealogic websites, which appear to vacuum up uncritically all sorts of data.