

2. Charles and Emma Mattern Kessler

Finding Grandma Mary

One of the things we wanted to do in Pittsburgh was to visit Grandma Mary's grave. This became even more desirable when Aunt Dorothy told us that Mary wanted and indeed was buried with Grandpa Phillip. Our Mary Beth only had a vague remembrance of where the cemetery was, Aunt Dorothy was a little more helpful but not precise. She remembered is that it was after the Squirrel Hill tunnel, and was probably the Homestead cemetery.



Lynn by Grandpa Felipe and Grandma Mary's grave

Tracking down Grandma Mary's used our investigative skills to the max. The phone calls, questions, follow-ups, and persistence required were indicative of our efforts over much of the weekend. I was impressed with both Lynn's and Mary's willingness to talk to total strangers (like the garage mechanic in Mabel) and their persistence in finding the answers we needed. We eventually located the place: Calvary Cemetery, Section 14, Row 4, Grave 75.

The cemetery, overlooking downtown Pittsburgh, was truly lovely with its rolling hills and large trees. We felt fortunate as the caretaker had left us a map of how to find the grave; we also were able to buy flowers just blocks from the cemetery. We felt God's presence as we journeyed through the cemetery to find the grave. It was good to be there.



Lynn in the Tustin House ruins

On the way out of Pittsburgh, we drove over to Tustin Street. Fortunately, while much in Pittsburgh had changed, the fact that Grandma still had a big advertisement billboard over her lot had not. Although the house had been demolished, we poked around the ruins for a short while. We stood where the garden where Grandma proudly planted her flowers. We stood where the kitchen with the big gas stove stood. Then we hit the road to head back South.