

## Exploring the Cemetery: CSI (Cemetery Scene Investigation)

As you drive into the cemetery from Church Street, there is a gravestone on your left, about 2/3 of the way back, that says "Bender." That's it - no other information - no names or dates. Checking the cemetery file cards was not helpful since they merely declared that some of the gravesites in lot 104 were "full."



So, who is buried in lot 104? Skimming the Lititz Record for something else, I found an obituary notice for Robert William Bender, just two months old, who was buried in the cemetery in September 1918. Checking for his parents, William McKinley Bender and Maggie (Steinmetz) Bender, I discovered that they were also buried in the cemetery, location unknown. Add in a sister Dorothy, who died in 1935 at age 11, of polio, and Maggie Steinmetz Bender's mother, Barbara (Bealor) Steinmetz, and you start to get a sense of who must be in the plot.

Because the burials were posted on findagrave.com, I heard from a descendant who could confirm that this plot is indeed that of this Bender family. In addition to the people mentioned above, the lot probably contains the remains of an infant that died in 1939 or 1940.

Here is a screen shot of my database entries for this lot; the dates are dates of interment. I'm not sure who is buried where.

Main S6	104		Bender, Wm.	Bender	Robert William	Sept. 24, 1918
Main S6	104		Bender, Wm.	Bender	Dorothy	Apr. 21, 1935
Main S6	104		Bender, Wm.	Bender	William	Mar. 9, 1987
Main S6	104		Bender, Wm.	Bender	Maggie	Oct. 29, 1990
Main S6	104		Bender, Wm.	Steinmetz	Barbara	June 24, 1934
Main S6	104		Bender, Wm.	Bender	inf	1939-40

William McKinley Bender was the son of Franklin Ruhl Bender and his wife, Annie (Stark) Bender, who are also both buried in the cemetery, as are Annie's parents, William and Elizabeth (Zwalley) Stark.



William and Maggie Bender