

Introduction

My topic was figuring out how the financial situation of the county and country affected the size of tombstones and researched how these tombstones changed over the years.

Research Question & Background

This source shows what each style of gravestone looks like (1). Symbols and tombstone art had a lot of significance and meaning behind it (2). It is important to preserve cemeteries and gravestones for the people of the past, and for the people of the future (3). This is about the history of government gravestones and how marked graves became important during the civil war (4).

How did gravestones change throughout the years, and how did the financial situation of the country affect that?

Methods

Materials & Location

You will need a phone to take pictures of the graves, and a laptop or computer to transfer the data too. The location of the cemetery I got the data from is 48° 59'38"N 122° 42'29"W.

Procedure

I went to the cemetery and took pictures of a group of tombstones. I went home with the data and made a table to sort through them. So, I sorted the data by date, size, and the motif. From there I was able to make some conclusions.



Figure 1. Here I am taking a photo of a gravestone while my friend sits in the background contemplating why she tagged along.

Tombstones and the Economy

Sam Sibley

ANTH 204: Archaeology

Descriptive Title for your Table

Date	Size	Motif	Location
1882	Big - Pillar	Floral Pattern	
1884	Big - Pillar	Floral Pattern	
1887	Big - Pillar	Floral Pattern	
1888	Big - Cylinder on	Floral Pattern	
1891	Big - Cylinder on	Cross and a Bowl	
1892	Big - Pillar	Cross	
1893	Small - Cylinder	Floral Pattern	
1894	Big - Pillar	Cross	
1895	Big - Pillar	Floral Pattern	
1896	Big - Pillar	Floral Pattern	
1897	Big - Pillar	Floral Pattern	
1898	Big - Pillar	Floral Pattern	
1899	Big - Pillar	Floral Pattern	
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2024	Big - Pillar	Floral Pattern	

Table 1. My data

Descriptive Title for your Figure

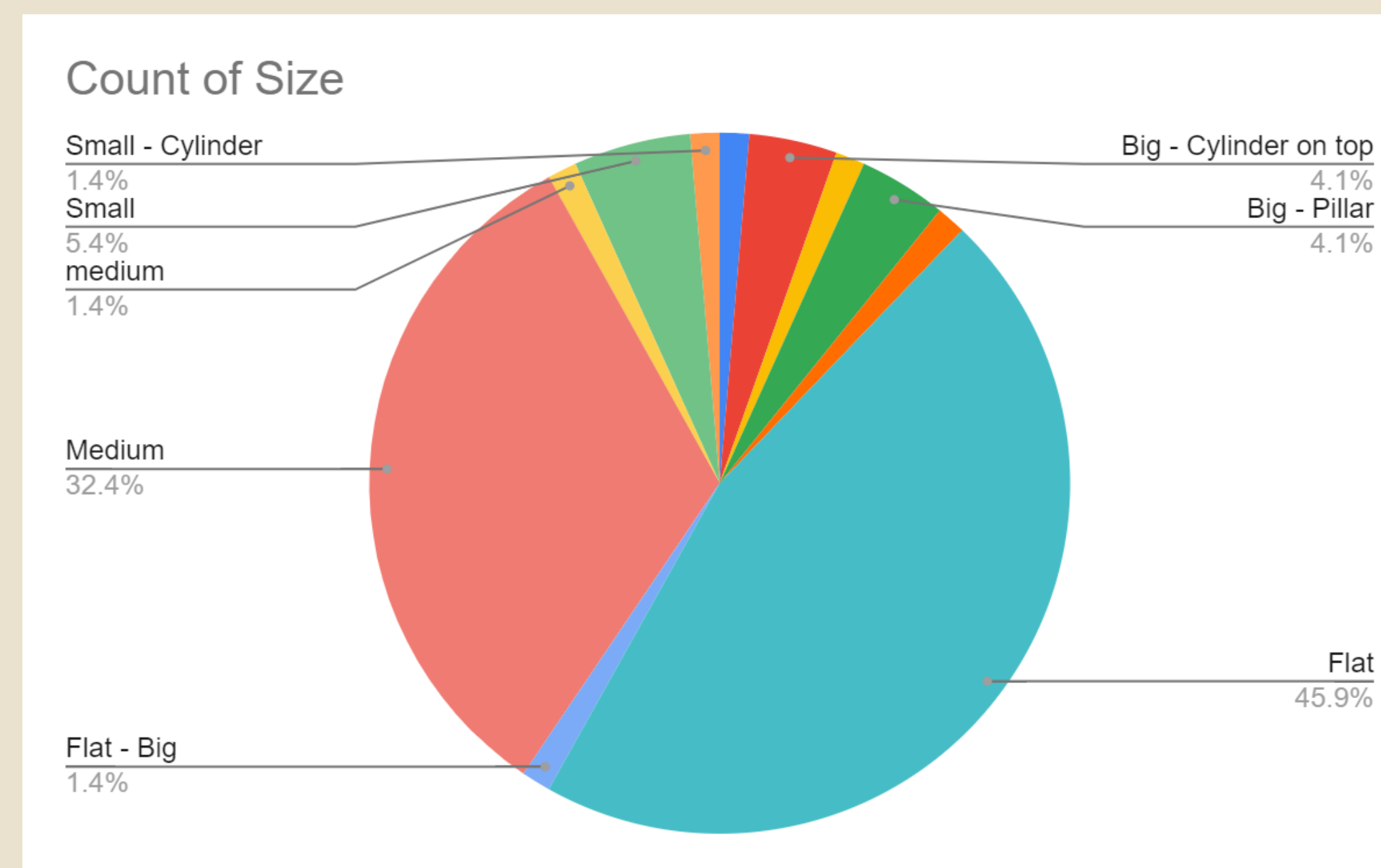


Figure 2. How many sizes there were and how common they are.

Discussion (or separated into: Interpretations, Implications & Limitations)

I found that many people chose to do Flat lodger gravestones because it is a cheaper option. That throughout the years gravestones had many stylistic changes, and that the size of the stone showed the time period it was based on the economic struggles or thriving of the time.

In my area there were a lot of Lodger gravestones, rounded gravestones, and obelisks for family gravestones (https://dahp.wa.gov/sites/default/files/Gravestone_Shapes_0.PDF). Which helps me know that in my area most people can only afford Lodger gravestones because they are much smaller and cheaper. Rounded and obelisks are more expensive and harder to come by in my town.

There are many things I could have done differently. I could have gotten a larger sample and organized my data differently. When looking at the gravestones size was not the only indicator of the times. The stylistic choices showed what decade it was and how the new decades took inspiration.

For future research there should be a larger sample size, and more diversity in data.

Acknowledgements

Shout out to Jennifer Zovar for helping me narrow down what I wanted to do and supporting us through this class.

References/ Work Cited

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