

Cemetery Symbolism

©2025 Tina Beaird

Literal & Occupational Symbols



Reverend holding Bible (minister's grave)



Head with Angel Wings



Family Crests (Buell Family)



Organ donor emblem



Family



Nurse



Farm tractor



Train car



Fire Department



Painter, Artist

Organizational & Military Symbols



Modern Woodmen of America



Shriners



Masons



Order of the Eastern Star (Women's Auxiliary to the Masons)



International Order of the Odd fellows I.O.O.F



Daughters of Rebekah (Women's Auxiliary to I.O.O.F.)



Order of the Moose



U.S. Veteran



Veterans of Foreign Wars VFW marker



American Legion marker



Military branch of Service



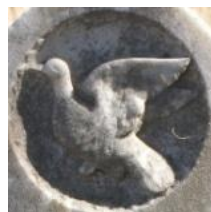
Grand Army of the Republic (Civil War Union Veteran Organization)



Flags

Patriotism, military service

Figurative/Suggestive Symbols: Infants/Children



Dove

Purity, childhood



Lamb

Childhood, innocence

Figurative/Suggestive Symbols



Finger pointing to Heaven

Soul rising to Heaven,
two fingers pointing up; hand of God



Laurel Wreath

Victory, eternity, triumph, immortality, chastity



Holding Hands

Matrimony, heavenly welcome, earthly farewell



Anchor

Seafaring or Hope; one of the 7 Virtues



Bell

Marriage, church affiliation



Book

Open book: Book of life/bible/register of the dead; Closed book: a finished life/long life



Broken Tree

Life cut short



Broken Pillar

Life cut short



Broken Rose/bud

Fragility of life (usually on children's stones)



Draping

Mourning, loss; Victorian way of 'softening' the harshness of the grave



Heart

Love, courage, joy



Shield

Protection, faith, military service



Shell

Resurrection, femininity, fertility, prosperity



Torch

Guidance, enlightenment



Weeping Willow

Grief, sorrow, immortality

Figurative/Suggestive Symbols: Nature



Acanthus Leaves

Journey to death, triumph of eternal life



Acorns

Spiritual growth; prosperity, fruitfulness,



Calla Lily (with Anthurium)

Love, marriage, safety, majestic beauty



Clematis

Ingenuity/Skillfulness



Daffodils

Love, hope, rebirth & new life



Day Lily

Innocence, purity, virginity, surrender to God's will and grace, renewal, resurrection



Fern

Humility, frankness, sincerity



Ivy

Immortality, fidelity, attachment, friendship, undying affection



Lily of the Valley

Innocence, purity, virginity



Madonna Lilies

Purity, chastity



Oak Tree

Prosperity, fruitfulness,



Oak Leaves

Strength, endurance, eternity, honor, liberty, hospitality, faith and virtue.



Olive Branch

Peace, fruitfulness, strength, victory



Palm Frond

Victory, triumph over death



Pinecones

Immortality and incorruptibility



Primrose

Eternal Love, Memory, Youth, hope and sadness



Thistle

Earthly sorrow



Tulips

Rebirth, eternal life, vulnerability



Violets

Humility



Bushel of Wheat

Long and fruitful life, typically more than 70 yrs;
immortality, resurrection

Figurative/Suggestive Symbols: Animals



Squirrel

Strife and confusion, one of Satan's animals



Cat

Historic: Darkness, laziness Modern: No
symbolic meaning other than being a cat lover



Feather

Ascent to heaven, justice,



Hummingbird

Mostly decorative can mean heart of warrior

Christian Religious Symbolism



Angel

Guardian, Messenger of God



Jesus and his flock

Christian symbol, protection



Chalice

Oneness with God, Eucharist, faith



Crown

Christian symbol for God or faith



Dogwood

Christianity, Devine sacrifice, Resurrection



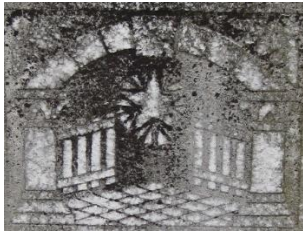
Grapes

Eucharistic wine



Faith

One of the 7 Virtues. Depicted as a woman holding a cross, chalice or candle.



Heavenly Gates

Ascension into Heaven



Sunrise

God



Lamp

Wisdom, faithfulness, holiness



Passionflower Sacrifice & Redemption Devotion to faith



Praying Hands

Christian reminder of faith or piety



Thorns

Christ's crown of thorns, grief

Jewish Symbols



Star of David

Divine protection



Cohanim hands

Symbol of the ancient tribe of Aaron, hands form an opening to direct the radiance of God down to earth, symbol for the Cohen family



Mosaic Decalogue

10 Commandments



Menorah

Righteous, symbol for the Temple of Solomon



po nikbar

Hebrew words for "Here Lies"