

CEMETERY SYMBOLS



Have you ever wandered through a cemetery and wondered about the meanings of the designs carved on old gravestones? Thousands of different religious and secular symbols and emblems have adorned tombstones through the ages, indicating attitudes towards death and the hereafter, membership in a fraternal or social organization, or an individual's trade, occupation or even ethnic identity. While many of these tombstone symbols have fairly simple interpretations, it is not always easy to determine their meaning and significance. We were not present when these symbols were carved into the stone and can't claim to know our ancestors' intentions. They may have included a particular symbol for no other reason than because they thought it was pretty. **(Draw a line matching symbol to its meaning.)**

1. Alpha and omega
2. American Flag
3. Anchor
4. Angel
5. Ben. & Prot. Order of Elks
6. Book
7. Calla Lily
8. Celtic Cross
9. Column Broken
10. Daughters of Rebekah
11. Dove
12. Draped Urn
13. Eastern Orthodox Cross
14. Hand pointing finger
15. Horseshoe
16. Ivy & vines
17. Knights of Pythias
18. Laurel Wreath
19. Lion
20. Oak Leaves & Acorns
21. Olive Branch
22. Sleeping Child
23. Sphinx
24. Square & Compass
25. Torch inverted
26. Tree Trunk
27. Wheel
28. Woodmen of the World

- faith and reason
- spirituality
- victory, distinction, eternity
- cycle of Life
- eternity
- Christ
- death Victorian era of child
- hope of heaven
- seamanship
- wisdom and peace
- feminine virtues
- friendship, fidelity and rebirth
- majestic beauty, marriage
- fraternal organization
- protection from evil
- King of Jews, balance scale...
- someone that died young
- life in the next realm
- courage, pride, military veteran
- transport of soul to heaven
- guarding tomb
- friendship and charity
- courage and bravery
- immortality
- brevity of life
- Strength, honor, longevity
- book of life, learning, scholar
- a fraternal organization