

Meanings of Carvings & Symbols

Acorn	Protection, life, immortality
Anchor, broken chain	End of earthly life
Anchors and Ships	Hope or Seafaring Profession
Anchor, wrapped vines	Firm Christian faith
Angel, flying	Rebirth, Resurrection
Angel, trumpeting	Resurrection
Angel, weeping	Grief and Mourning
Arches	Victory in Death
Arrows	Mortality
Bird	External Life
Bird, flying	Resurrection
Book or Bible Open	Deceased Teacher, Minister
Bouquets/Flowers	Condolences, grief, sorrow
Breasts	Nourishment of the soul, the church
Bridge	Linking between earthly & heavenly realms
Broken Column	Loss of head of family
Broken Ring	Family Circle Severed
Buds/Rosebud	Morning of Life or Renewal of Life
Bugles	Resurrection and the military
Butterfly	Short Lived; early death
Portals	Passageway to eternal journey
Bugles	Resurrection and the Military
Candle being Snuffed	Time, Mortality
Cherub	Angelic
Coffin, Father Time, Picks/Shovels, Darts	Mortality
Cenotaph	indicates an empty grave, with the stone erected in honor or memory of a person buried elsewhere; often erected in honor of a person lost at sea
Columns & Doors	Heavenly Entrance
Compass & Set Square	Freemason Symbolism
Consort	Her husband survived her
Corn	Ripe Old Age
Cross	Emblem of Faith
Crossed Swords	High-ranking military person
Crown	Christian Righteousness and heavenly reward
Crucifix	Usually Catholics, Christ's suffering & death

Cup of Chalice	The Sacraments
Darts	Mortality
Doves	Soul, purity, innocence, affection, gentleness
Dove, Flying	Resurrection
Dove & Olive Branch	Peace
Dove w/7 Stars above & ribbon with D.O.R.	Daughters of The Revolution
Drapes	Mourning, Mortality
Father Time	Mortality, Grim Reaper
Flame of Light	Life, Resurrection
Flowers	Brevity or early Existence, sorrow
Flower w/ severed stem	Shortened life
Flying Birds	Flight of the Soul
Fruits	Eternal plenty
Full-Blown Rose	Prime of Life
Garlands	Victory in death
Gourds, Pomegranates	Nourishment of the soul; the church
Grim Reaper	Death Personified
Grapes & Grapevines	Sacrifice
Hands of God Chopping	Sudden Death
Hand Point Up	Pathway to Heaven, Heavenly reward
Hands, clasped	Goodbyes said at death
Hand Touching a Book	Word of God is the way to Salvation
Handshakes	Farewell to earthly existence
Harp	Praise to the Maker
Hearts	Soul in bliss or love of Christ
Horns	Resurrection
Hourglass	Swiftness of time
Hourglass w/Wings	Time Flying, short life
of Time	Mortality
Imps	Friendship and Immortality
Ivy	Mystery, Opening & Closing; solution to a problem
Key	Innocence
Lamb	Fame or Victory
Laurel	Emblem of Innocence and Purity
Lily or Lily of Valley	Jewish symbol of divine wisdom
Menorah	Beginning of Life
Morning Glory	Maturity, Ripe Old Age
Oak Leaves & Acorn	Deceased Teacher, Minister, etc.
Open Book/Bible	Celestial body & reward of resurrection
Orb	Veterans of Foreign Wars member
Orb & Cross w/ V.F.W.	4 th Degree Knight in the Knights of Columbus
Orb & Cross w/Dove Over	

Pall	Morality
Palm Branch	Signifies Victory and Rejoicing
Pick & Shovel	Death, Mortality
Pine Cone	Immortality & Fertility
Poppy	Sleep
Portals	Passageway to eternal journey
Relict	the woman was a widow at time of death
Ring Broken	Family Circle Severed
Rod or Staff	Comfort for the bereaved
Rooster	Awakening, Resurrection
Roses	Brevity of earthly existence
Rose Open	Prime of Life
Rosary	Catholic
Scales	Justice, Balance
Scythe	Death, the divine Harvest
Seashell	Resurrection, Life Everlasting, Life's Pilgrimage
Sheaf of Wheat	Ripe for Harvest, Divine Harvest, Time
Shells	Pilgrimage of Life
Skull	Mortality
Skull/Crossed Bones	Death
Skeleton	Life's Brevity
Snake, tail in Mouth	Everlasting Life in Heaven
Spade	Mortality, Death
Stars & Stripes	Around Eagle Eternal Vigilance, Liberty
Star, upside down	Order of the Eastern Star (wives of Freemasons)
Star of David	Symbol of Judaism & State of Israel
Sun Rising	Renewed Life
Sun Shining	Life Everlasting
Sun Setting	Death
Suns	Resurrection
Swallow	Hope, Fertility, Renewal of Life, Resurrection
Thistles	Remembrance
Tombs	Mortality
Torch Urn with Blaze	Undying Friendship
Torch Inverted	Life Extinct
Trees	Life
Tree Stump w/Ivy	Head of Family; Immortality
Trumpeters	Heralds of the Resurrection
Urn with Blaze	Undying friendship
Urn w/Wreath or Crepe	Mourning
V.D.M.	Verbi dei minister – Minister of the Word of God
Weeping Willow	Emblem of Sorrow
Wreath on Skull	Victory of Death over Life
Wheat Strands or Sheaves	Divine Harvest

Willows
Winged Effigies
Yew Leaves

Earthly Sorrow
Flight of the Soul
Eternal Life