



Madison County Genealogical Society



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Meaning of Monument Carvings

Anchor/Ships	Hope or Seafaring profession
Angel, Flying	Rebirth, Resurrection
Angel, Trumpeting	Resurrection
Angel, Weeping	Grief and Mourning
Arch	Victory in Death
Arches	Victory in Death
Bay leaves	Mourning
Bird	Eternal Life
Bird, Flying	Resurrection
Book	Representation of a holy book: i.e. the Bible
Bouquets/Flowers	Condolences, grief, sorrow
Broken Column	Loss of Head of Family
Broken Ring	Family Circle Severed
Bugles	Resurrection and the Military
Butterfly	Short-lived, Early Death
Cherub	Angelic
Columns and Doors	Heavenly entrance
Corn	Ripe Old Age
Cross	Emblem of Faith
Crown	Glory of life after death
Cypress	Mourning
Dove	Innocence, Gentleness, Affection, Purity
Dove	Purity, Devotion
Dove, Flying	Resurrection
Drapes	Mourning, Mortality
Flower	Fragility of life
Flower, Severed Stem	Shortened life
Flying Birds	Flight of the Soul
Fruits	Eternal plenty
Garland or Wreath	Victory in death
Garlands	Victory in death
Hand of God Chopping	Sudden Death
Hand, Pointing up	Pathway to Heaven, Heavenly reward
Hands, Clapsed	The goodbyes said at death
Handshakes	Farewell

Harp	Praise to the Maker
Heart	Love, Love of God, Abode of the soul, Mortality
Hearts	Soul in Bliss or Love of Christ
Ivy	Friendship and Immortality
Ivy	To show conviviality (sociable)
Lamb	Innocence
Laurel	Fame or Victory
Laurel	A distinction in the arts
Lily or Lily of Valley	Emblem of Innocence and Purity
Morning Glory	Beginning of Life
Oak	Strength
Oak Leaves & Acorn	Maturity, Ripe Old Age
Olive	Peace or victory
Open Book/Bible	Deceased Teacher, Minister, etc.
Pall	Mortality
Palm Branch	Signifies Victory and Rejoicing
Poppy	Sleep
Portals	Passageway to eternal journey
Rod or Staff	Comfort for the bereaved
Rooster	Awakening, Resurrection
Roses	Brevity of earthly existence
Scythe	Death, The divine harvest
Severed Branch	Mortality
Sheaf of Wheat	Ripe for Harvest, Diving Harvest, Time
Sun Rising	Renewed life
Sun Setting	Death
Sun Shining	Life everlasting
Thistle	Scottish descent
Tree	Life
Tree Sprouting	Life everlasting
Tree Stump	Life interrupted
Tree Stump with Ivy	Head of Family; Immortality
Tree Trunk	Brevity of life
Tree Trunk Leaning	Short interrupted life
Trees	Life
Weeping Willow	Emblem of Sorrow
Weeping Willow Tree	Mourning, Grief, Nature's lament
Wheat Strands or Sheaves	The divine harvest
Willow	Breavement
Willows	Earthly Sorrow
Wreath	Victory
Yew	Immortality

CEMETERY ABBREVIATIONS

Am. Leg	American Legion
Am. Leg Aux	American Legion Auxiliary
DAR	Daughter of the American Revolution
FLT	Friendship, Love and Truth
GAR	Grand Army of the Republic (Veterans of the Civil War)
IOOF	Oddfellows (3 link chain insignia)
RNA	Royal Neighbors of America
Vet	Veteran
VFW	Veterans of Foreign Wars
WPA	Work Progress Administration Project 1938-1941
WRC	Womens's Relief Corp (Auxiliary of the GAR)
WW I	World War 1
WW II	World War 2

MILITARY ABBREVIATIONS

ARTY	Artillery
BN	Battalion
BRIG	Brigade
BTRY	Battery
CAPT	Captain
CAV	Cavalry
CO	Company
COR	Corporal
CPL	Corporal
ENGRS	Engineers
FA	Field Artillery
FLD ART	Field Artillery
INF	Infantry
LT	Lieutenant
LT	Light
MAJ	Major
PFC	Private First Class
PVT	Private
QM	Quartermaster
REG	Regiment
SGT	Sergeant
SQ	Squadron