

Cemetery Iconography



Debi Hacker
Chicora Foundation, Inc.
P.O. Box 8664
Columbia, SC 29202-8664
803-787-6910
www.chicora.org

Symbolism Can Be Found Almost Anywhere in the Cemetery . . .

On the Grave Marker



In the Ironwork of Fences & Gates . . .



On the Mausoleums or Family Tombs . . .



American Symbolism is often based on religious beliefs or current culture



Skull

Ephemeral nature of human life; represents the mortal body



Skull With Wings

The mortal body lies here,
but the soul has flown to heaven



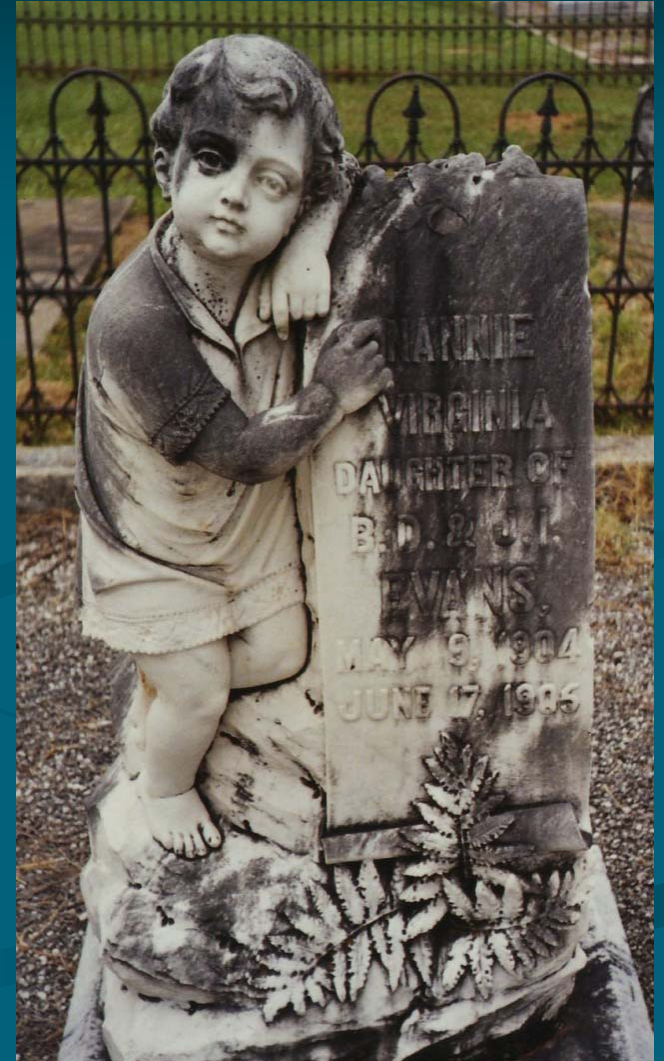
Soul Effigies

The soul flying to Heaven – reflecting a growing belief in a greater chance for salvation (1740's)



Figure Portrait

Representing the actual person

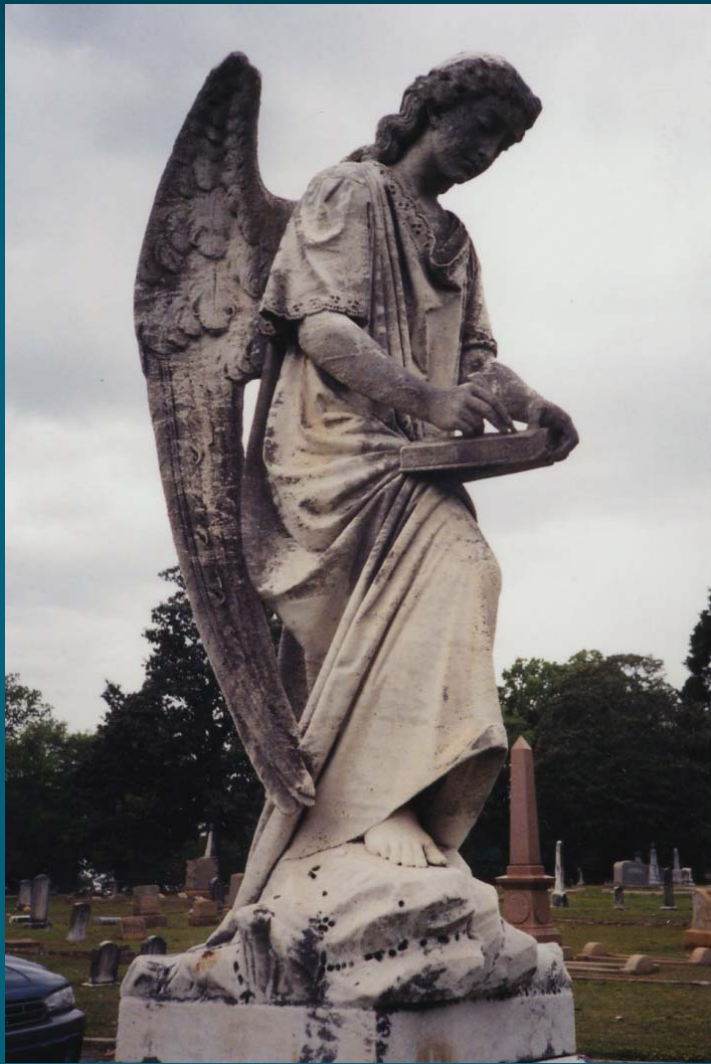


Cherubs

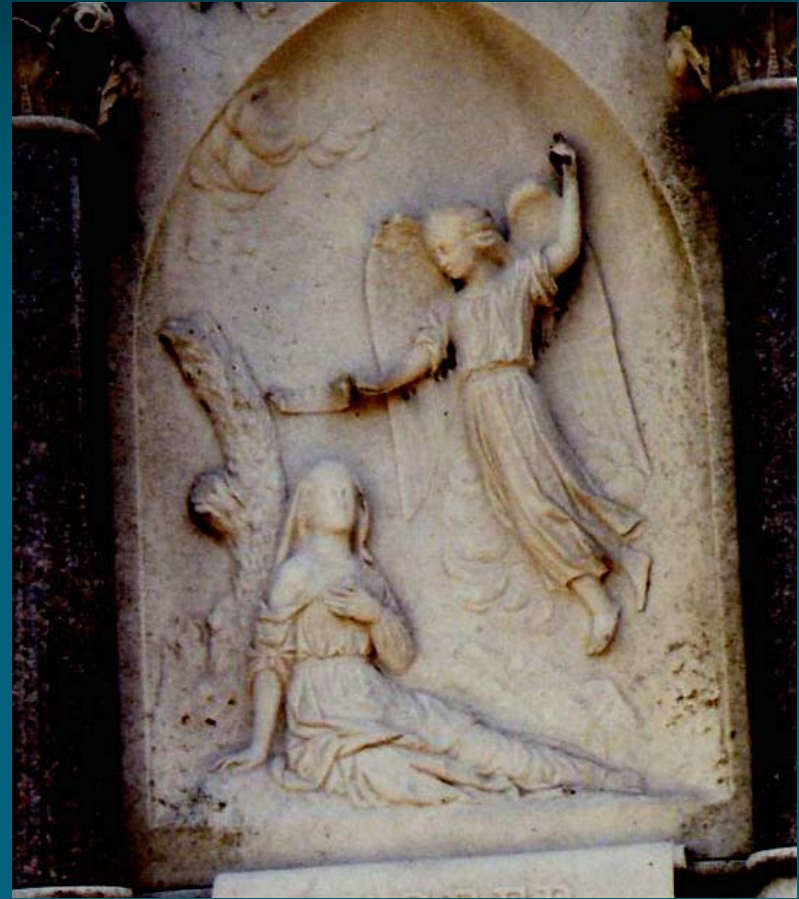
Heaven bound souls, souls of children



Angels, Servants of God



Angels, Escorting Souls



“And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham’s bosom . . .”

Luke 16:22

Mourning Figures

The prayers of the
family



Mourning Figures

The grief of the family

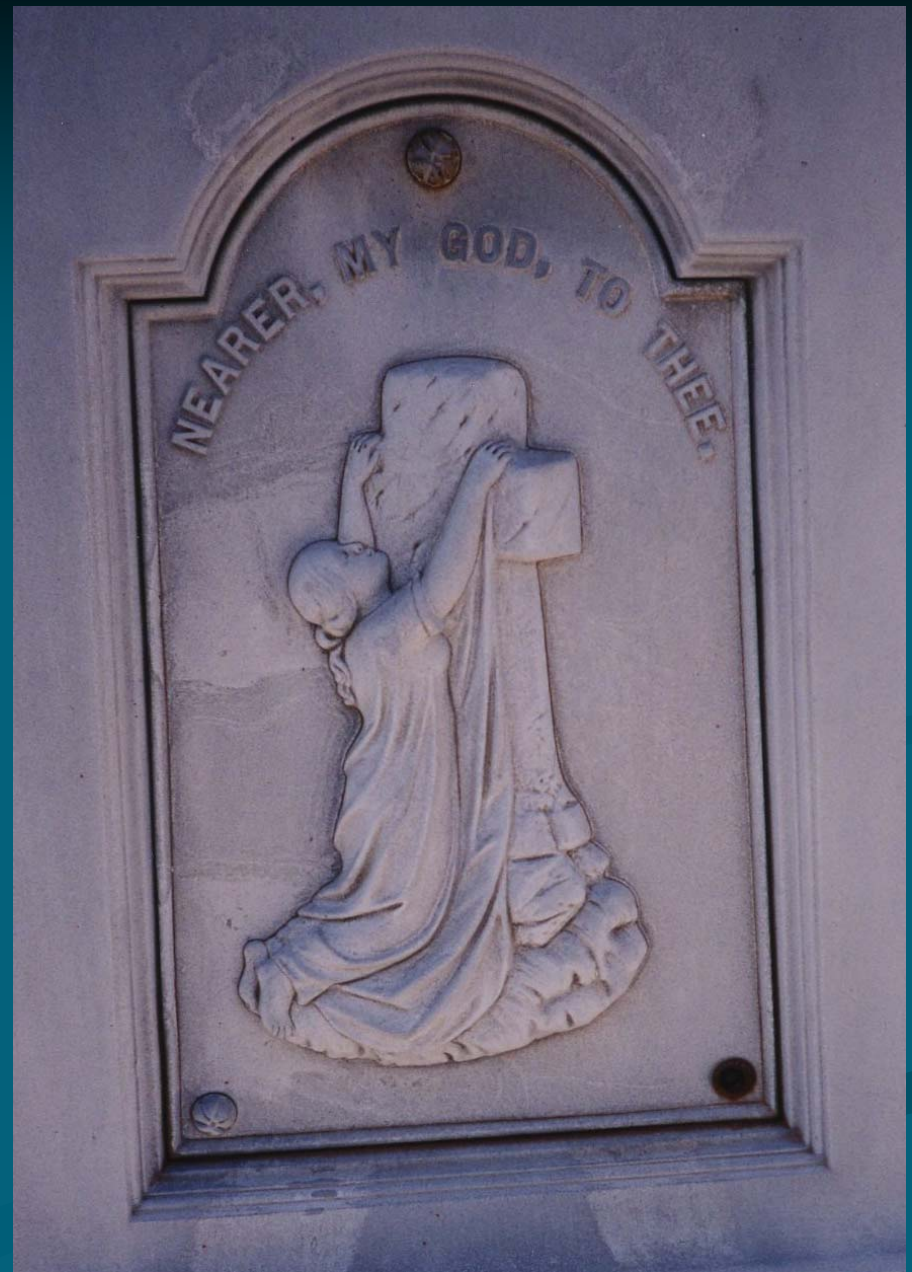


Mourning Figure

Rock of Ages,
with verse of song

“Nothing in my hands I
bring; Simply to thy
cross I cling;”

Rev. Augustus Toplady
Anglican,
1776



Babies

An infant or young child



Babies' Beds

The children have left home . . .



Clothing



Clasped Hands

Reunited in Heaven



Hands of Blessing



Cohen family,
traditional family of priests

Dove

The soul flying to Heaven; loss of an innocent



“Oh, that I had wings like a dove! For then would I fly away, and be at rest”
Psalms 55:6

Lamb

Baby or child



“But with the precious blood of Christ,
as of a lamb without blemish and
without spot” 1 Peter 1:19

Flowers

Broken buds – cutting short a young life

Ere sin could blight or Sorrow
fade,
Death came with friendly care:
The opening bud to Heaven
convey'd
And bade it blossom there.
Samuel T. Coleridge,
Epitaph on an Infant, 1794



Bouquet of Flowers

A full life cut short

“Man that is born of a woman
is of few days, and full of
trouble. He cometh forth like
a flower and is cut down;”
Job 14:1-2



Flowers - Lily

Motherhood, or purity

Lilies sprang from tears of Eve,
when she was expelled from
Eden, and discovered she was
with child

The lily was yellow until the Virgin
Mary stooped to pick it up, and
it turned white



Ivy

Eternal life, faithful , undying affection



“Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast . . .”

Hebrews 6:19

Sheaf of Wheat = Devine Harvest

“ . . . in the time of
harvest I will say to
the reapers . . .
gather the wheat
into my barn.”

St. Matthew 13:30



Weeping Willow = Death & Mourning



“ . . . Yea, we wept, when we remembered Zion. We hanged up our harps upon the willows . . . ” Psalms 137:1-2

Tree Stump

End of life on Earth

“ . . . If the tree fall toward the south, or toward the north, in the place where the tree falleth, there it shall be.”
Ecclesiastes 11:3

Woodmen of the World



Urn

Mortality, grief

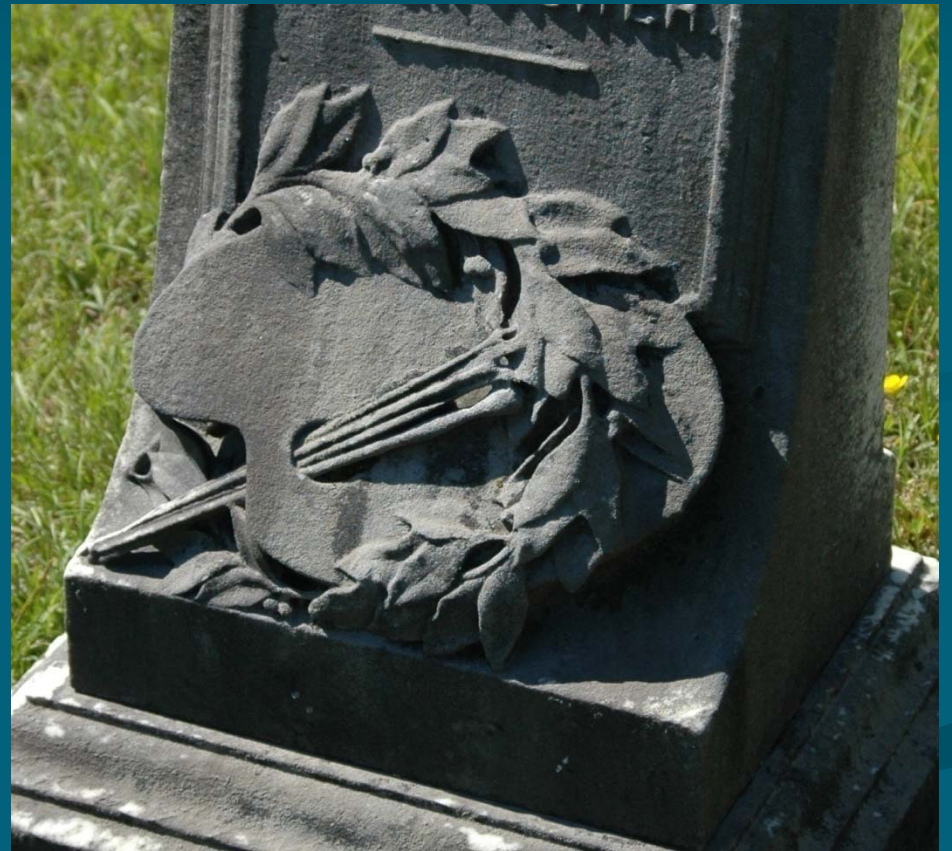


Hourglass, With Wings

Swift passage of earthly time



Profession



Cause of Death



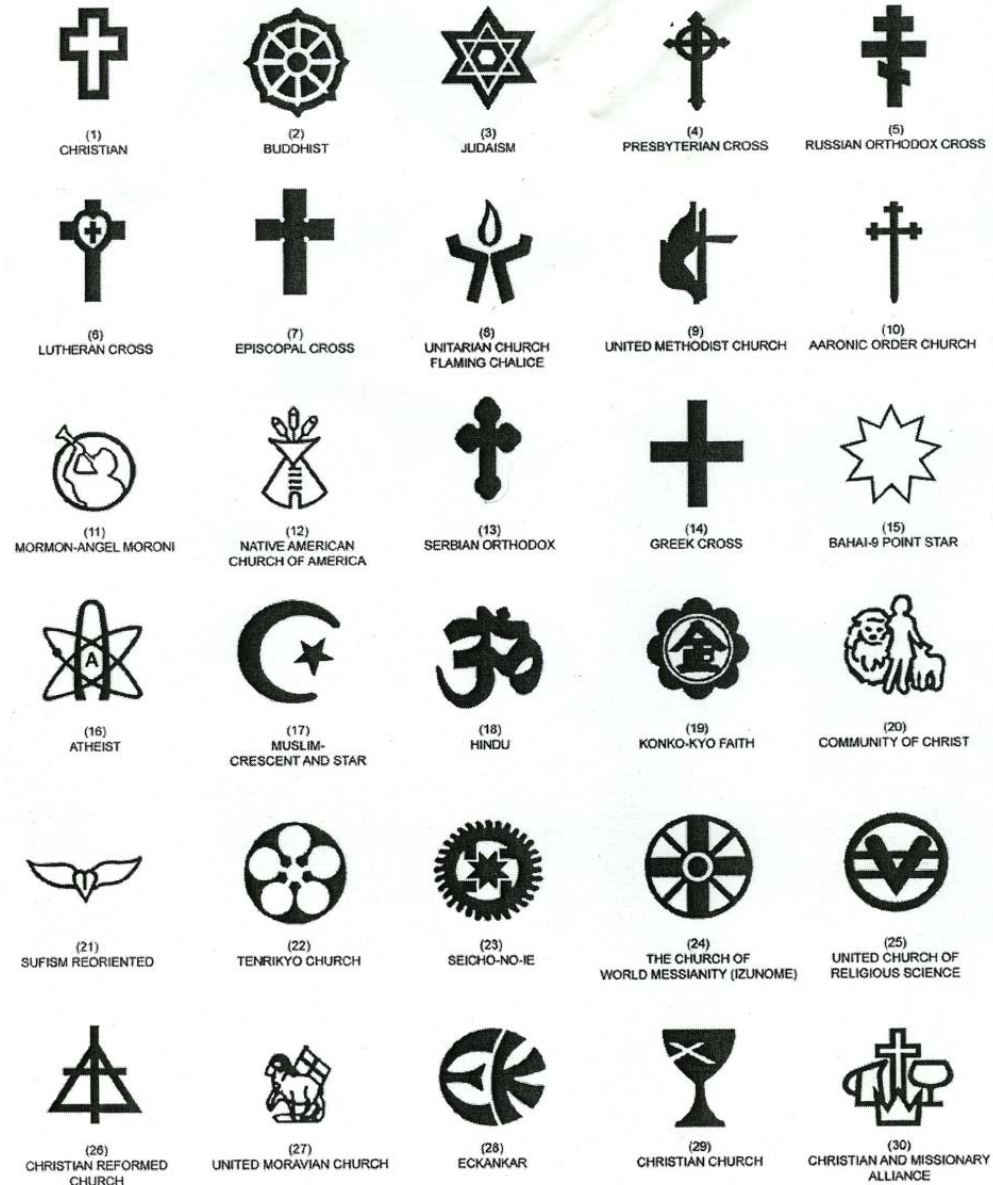
Recent Symbols



Government Symbols



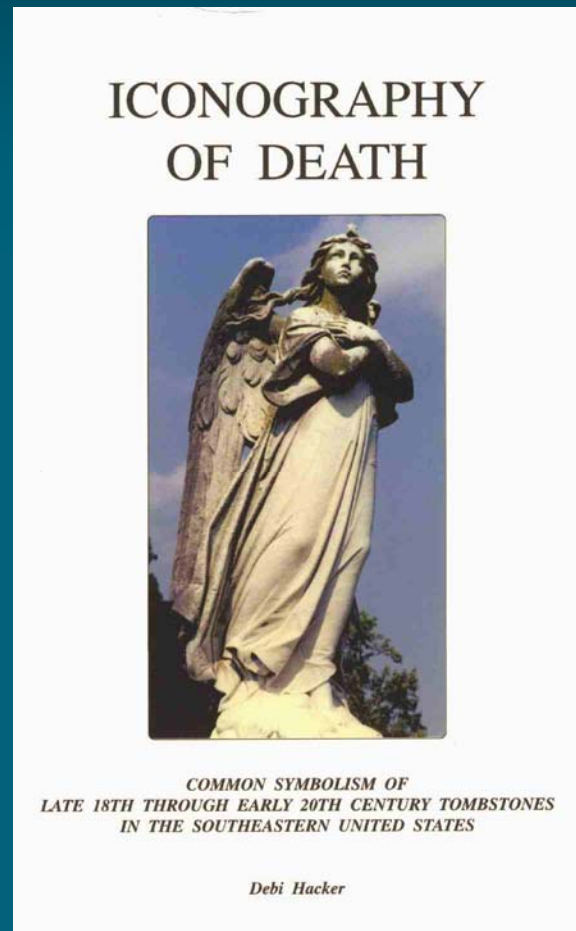
AUTHORIZED EMBLEMS (See block 12)



One of Everything



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