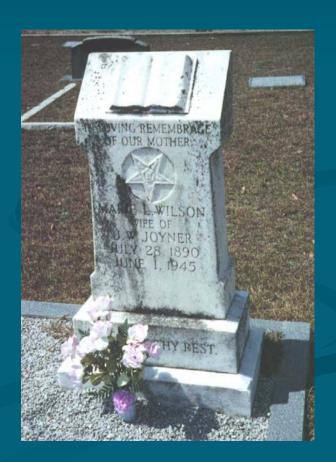
Cemetery Sconography



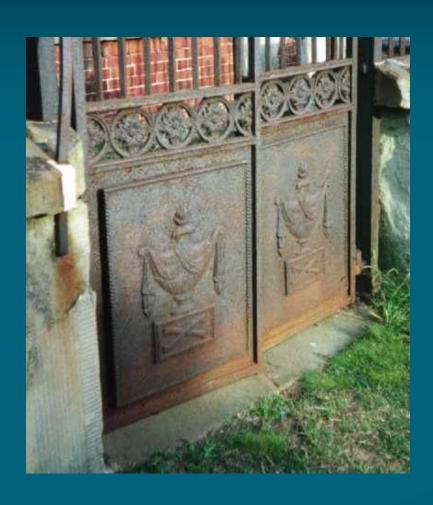
Debi Hacker Chicora Foundation, Inc. P.O. Box 8664 Columbia, SC 29202-8664 803-787-6910 www.chicora.org

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

On the Grave Marker

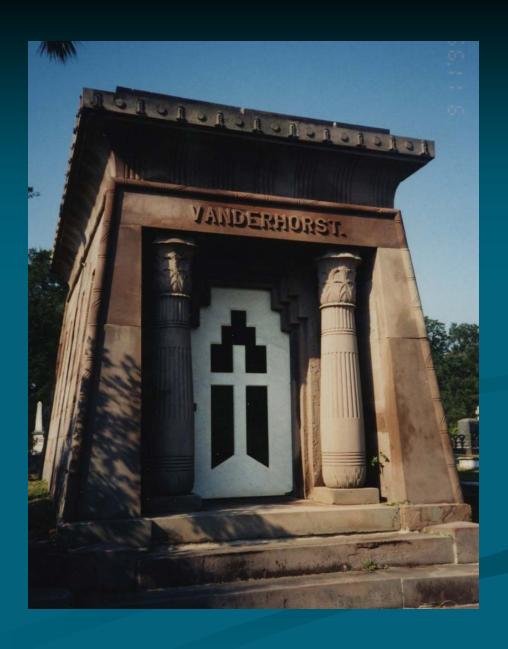


In the Ironwork of Fences & Gates . . .





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



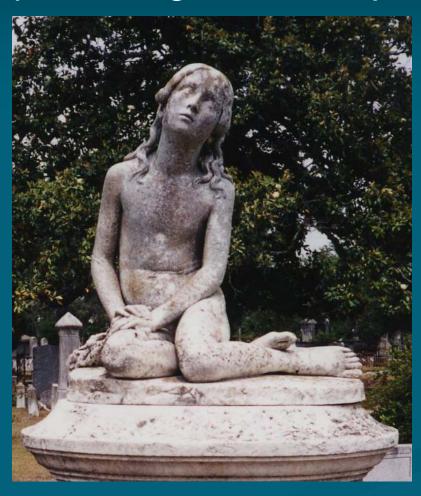
Soul Effigies

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



Figure Portrait

Representing the actual person





Cherubs

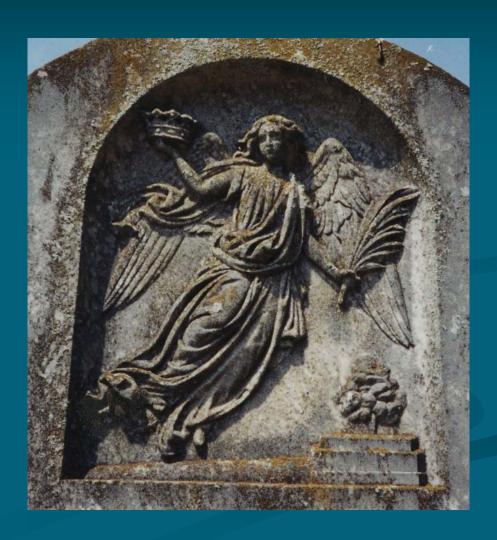
Heaven bound souls, souls of children





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

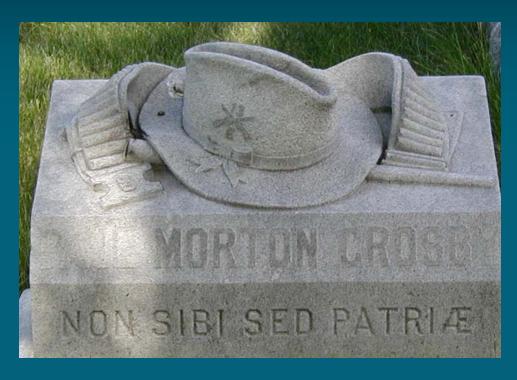


Babies' Beds

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

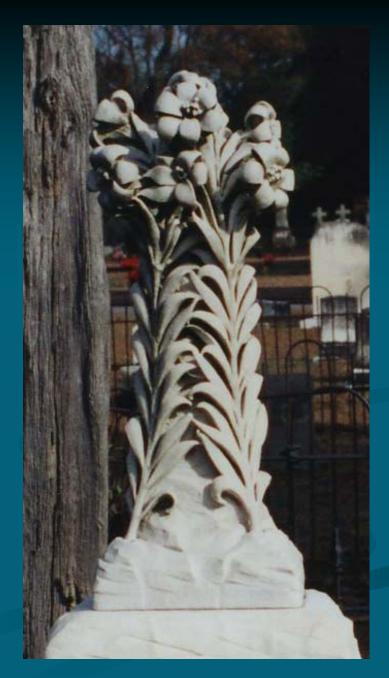


Flowers - Lily

Motherhood, or purity

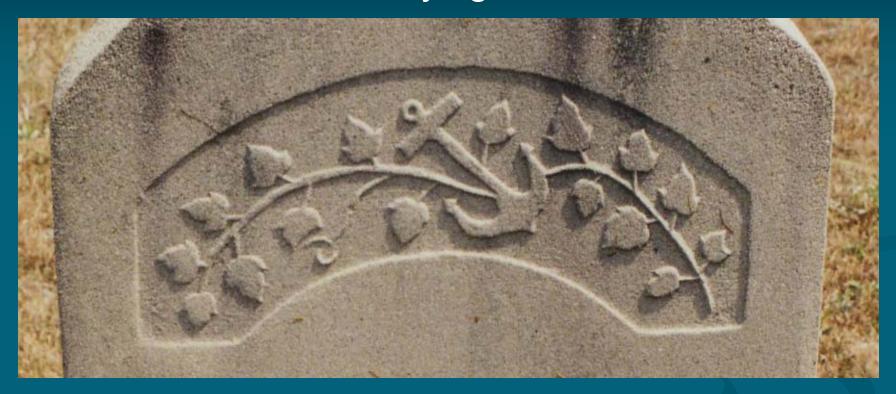
Lilies sprang from tears of Eve, when she was expelled from Eden, and discovered she was with child

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



lvy

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





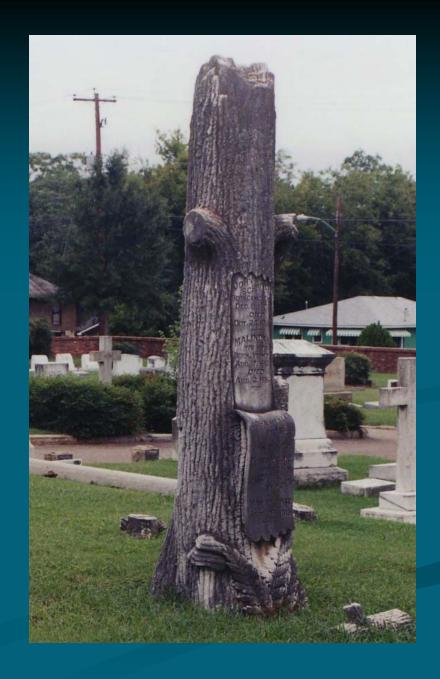
"... Yea, we wept, when we remembered Zion. We hanged up our harps upon the willows ..." Psalms 137:1-2

Tree Stump

End of life on Earth

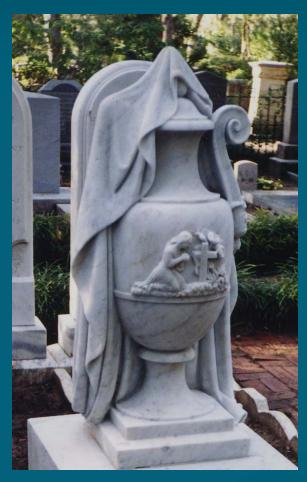
"... If the tree fall toward the south, or toward the north, in the place where the tree falleth, there it shall be." Ecclesiastes 11:3

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)



(1) CHRISTIAN







(4) PRESBYTERIAN CROSS



RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CROSS



(6) LUTHERAN CROSS



(7) EPISCOPAL CROSS



(8) UNITARIAN CHURCH





(9) (10)
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH AARONIC ORDER CHURCH



(11) MORMON-ANGEL MORONI



(12) NATIVE AMERICAN CHURCH OF AMERICA



(13) SERBIAN ORTHODOX





BAHAI-9 POINT STAR





(17) MUSLIM-CRESCENT AND STAR





(19) KONKO-KYO FAITH



(20) COMMUNITY OF CHRIST



(21) SUFISM REORIENTED



TENRIKYO CHURCH



SEICHO-NO-IE



(24) THE CHURCH OF WORLD MESSIANITY (IZUNOME)



(25) UNITED CHURCH OF



(26) CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH



(27) UNITED MORAVIAN CHURCH



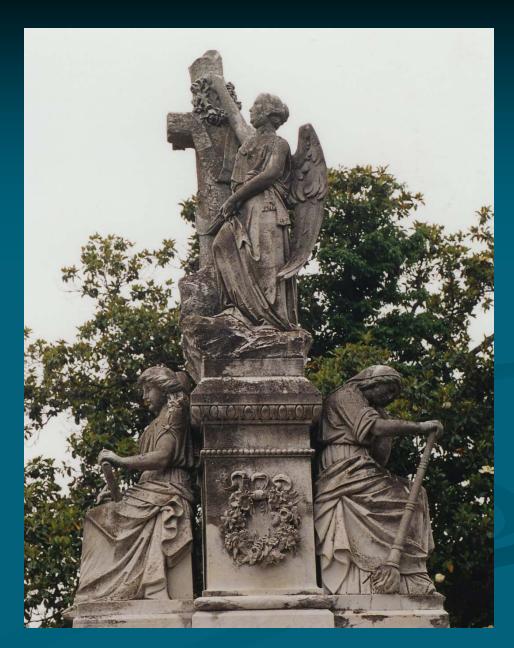


CHRISTIAN CHURCH



CHRISTIAN AND MISSIONARY ALLIANCE

One of Everything



Need More Info?

ICONOGRAPHY OF DEATH



COMMON SYMBOLISM OF LATE 18TH THROUGH EARLY 20TH CENTURY TOMBSTONES IN THE SOUTHEASTERN UNITED STATES

Debi Hacker

Laser Art

