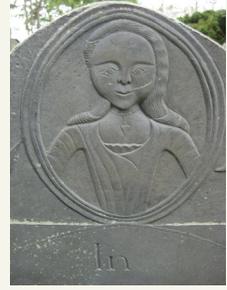


FALL MEANDERINGS



W A T E R H O U S E S Y M B O L I S M N E W S L E T T E R # 7 5

SPECIAL SYMBOLS

- Wheat conveys prosperity, wisdom and the bounty of the earth
- Ship conveys consciousness, transcendence and safety
- Rose branch conveys innocence and love
- Heart conveys love and will power

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This particular marker is zinc or "white bronze". It was a very inexpensive material and was popular from 1870s to 1912.

The white bronze markers came from the Monumental Bronze Company, Bridgeport, Connecticut and its later subsidiaries. If you have wandered in almost every historic cemetery in the United States, you have probably seen a zinc marker. I have seen some that are simple to much more complex. There is a book about zinc monuments called "Zinc Sculpture in America: 1850-1950". It is reviewed in the summer 2012 AGS Quarterly on pages 24-25.

Tassels at top convey wealth and status. In grand and glorious Victorian homes, you see very large curtains and very large tassels. The larger your tassels were, the more pros-

W H E A T

perous you seem to be in the Victorian Society.

Wheat conveys prosperity, wisdom, the bounty of the earth, and the bread of the Eucharist. At the bottom we see Order of Odd Fellows Fraternal Order - 3 interlocking rings with F (friendship), L (love), and T (truth) in them.



Zinc Marker, Cataumet Cemetery, Cataumet, MA

A P P L E

Apples are important in the fall because this is when they are harvested. They convey earthly desires, indulgence in earth desires, the Fall of Man, procreation, discord, immortality, rejuvenation, death, beginning, autumn, deceit, and unity. This work will be in the next exhibition at the Cahoon Museum called "All Hallows' Eve".



Sarah K. Lamb (b. 1971), *Apple*, oil on board, 7 X 9 inches, Spanierman Gallery, NY, NY

FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT HENRY VILLARD

Howard Bonington sent me the following information about Villard. He associates the name Villard with the architectural landmark Villard Houses, designed by McKim, Mead and White, located on Madison Avenue (NYC) behind St. Patrick's Cathedral.

His recollection is that in the 1980's the Helmsleys built a hotel immediately east of the houses and used the courtyard as the hotel entrance. Howard never realized who Villard was, and that he had

a monument in Sleepy Hollow Cemetery.

Also, I forgot to give credit to Jim Logan who took this wonderful photograph to the right. I had the honor of being on one of his evening tours two years ago. The fall is a great time to do tours in historic cemeteries throughout the country.

Some that come to mind are:

Sleepy Hollow and their tour information can be accessed at <http://www.sleepyhollowcemetery.org/tours-and-events/>.

Historic Oakland Cemetery and their tour information can be accessed at: <http://www.oaklandcemetery.com/>.

Laurel Hill Cemetery and their tour information can be accessed at: <http://www.thelaurelhillcemetery.org/index.php?m=3&p=2>.

Mount Auburn Cemetery and their information can be accessed at: <http://www.mountauburn.org/visit/>.



Henry Villard Grave Monument, Sleepy Hollow Cemetery, Tarrytown, NY

B E E M A N G A T E

*No spring
nor summer
beauty hath
such grace
as I have
seen in one
autumnal
face.*

John Donne

Alan Morris sent me this great picture of a monument to the right at Lakewood Cemetery in Minneapolis.

The gate conveys opportunity, death, departure from this world, entrance into heaven or hell, a dividing barrier, power, justice, mercy, praise, and salvation.

A ship conveys consciousness, transcendence, safety, hope, confidence, the womb,

a feminine symbol of containment and the church.

Founded in 1871, Lakewood Cemetery is "a nonprofit association, open to all people. Lakewood's purpose is to preserve memories. We provide memorialization in a place of beauty and solace — giving comfort to families and individuals by meeting final needs with compassion and dignity".



E M I L Y ' S G A T E

Ann Chandler Howell responded to Cathy Vogel's inquiry about Emily's Gate—"I believe the gate to be one cast in the Robert Wood foundry in Philadelphia. I have been working on a history of the foundry for a number of years. I can identify the posts and the gate as they are pictured in Wood's 1849

catalogue and believe the enclosure railing may well be from that catalogue. It should be noted that a good deal of ironwork from the foundry survived the 'conflict' and stand as monuments to the industrial revolution!" In a later email, she states "there is no question it is a Wood design. The pattern is identifi-

able! AND Cathy Vogel identified the marble yard which provided the burial box and Wood was shipping to that yard in 1852, 1854 and 1855. I have seen some of the iron in Augusta (were the yard was located) but could not account for the number of boxes shipped." THANK YOU ANN!!!



RESURRECTION FERN

Resurrection Fern

Clinging to the limb
of the live oak tree,
I, too, live.
Nature beckons –
I die.
A drop of rain
(like thought of a distant soul)
Touches my wrinkled frond.
I live again.

This poem is by Kenneth Cadenhead and captures well the symbolism of the fern which was spotlighted in last month’s newsletter. If you want to see it again, go to my website where you can download the issue.

The picture to the right is Prospect Hill Cemetery on Nantucket. It is one of the gravestone markers that you could buy from Sears & Roebuck. The Lily that is seen on the marker conveys purity, the purified soul, heavenly bliss, and immortality .



FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT MCCAVE MARKER

Diane Nesmeyer found an article on Peter McCave in the April 16, 1914 Toledo Blade that talks about this monument to the right—He is thrifty. He husbands his resources. Not to be thrifty is almost a crime, says McCave, and that his is only criticism. The same quality is responsible for the monument which McCave has built and placed in the Salem cemetery with the inscription, “Sacred to the memory of Peter and Sarah McCave”. At the age of four score years and four McCave worked the stone

into a fountain. His plan for selling the fountain went alee. Stumped? Not the thrifty Scot, for he remodeled the work and produced his own monument. “I expect to die within a few years and it is well to have a stone of my own description in the churchyard.” Peter told Sarah Jane. And she agreed with him.

And up in the Salem cemetery, the monument stands where Peter McCave can go on Sundays to admire the inscription he made with his own hands.



Rural Cemetery, Geeneford, OH

*How sweet I
roamed from
field to field,
and tasted all
the summer's
pride.*

William Blake

CHILD’S GRAVESTONE

This gravestone maker is from Prospect Hill Cemetery, Nantucket and is made from marble

The baby has turned into an angel and is holding a turned down torch in one hand (snuffing out life here on earth) and a rose branch in the other hand which conveys innocence & love.

The Lamb conveys the sacrifice of Christ as well as the cross.

The scroll conveys writing down your good deeds even though we have a short time here on earth.

There are many symbols unique to baby graves including the dove which conveys holy spirit, the dead stump which conveys life cut short, lambs which convey innocence and sacrifice, the rose which conveys beauty and love, the shell which conveys resurrection and the ivy as well.



**What are your ideas
for future newsletters?**



**WATERHOUSE
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NEWSLETTER # 75**

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**The mission of Waterhouse Symbolism is to
research and document symbols locally, regionally,
nationally and internationally.**



NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

As you can see by this newsletter, I received many comments, suggestions and questions about the last newsletter. One person even emailed and said she was so impressed by the historic cemetery network and the willingness to share information. Thanks for your continued support of this newsletter as we present our 75th issue (first one was emailed out on July 2, 2006). Please keep all those wonderful comments coming.

Take care,
Richard Waterhouse

NEWSLETTER FRONT LOGO

If you have been following my newsletter since the very first issue, you know that the logo head for many of the newsletters has been "Our Thomas" at Oakland Cemetery but I have decided to add a new one for awhile. This one to the right is from the wonderful Old Town Cemetery in Sandwich, MA. The stone states "In memory of Mrs. Sarah Fefsenden, Relict of the late Mr. Ben Fefsenden who departed this life May 20, 1794 aged 65 years.

The family were one of the first innkeepers in Sandwich and owned an inn that was later changed to Daniel Webster Inn which is still in existence today.

The wonderful epitaph on this gravestone reads "Surviving friends although mourn you. Let this be console, I shall return. The righteous judge can be his word. Bring me triumphing with

the Lord".

The gravestone displays a portrait style carving. It is carved in the style of Nehemiah Burbank of Plymouth.

Her husband Benjamin died October 24, 1783 at the age of 55 and is buried next to her.

Old Town Cemetery in Sandwich is one of the oldest on the Cape, which is a colonial cemetery (oldest grave 1683). There is one small area with typical Catholic gravestones. There are only a few but they are quite early Irish graves. They were probably buried here before St. Peter's Cemetery opened just down the street across from the entrance to Heritage Museum and Gardens.



**From Old Town Cemetery
Sandwich, MA**