tragically a few years later in 1911. She hired Mario Korbel, a Bohemian artist in Chicago, to design the angel that would hover over the body of her son and the ashes of her husband.

Rosalind Hillhouse told me about this wonderful black angel. It resides in Oakland Cemetery, Iowa City, and is an eight and a half foot tall burial monument for the Feldevert family, erected in the cemetery in 1912.

Since that time, it has been the source of many stories and legends in Iowa City — most connected to the mysterious change in color that the angel took, turning from a golden bronze to an eerie black.

The statue was erected by Teresa Dolezal Feldevert, a physician who had immigrated to America from Strmilov, Bohemia. Teresa and her son, Eddie Dolezal, came to Iowa City, where she worked as a midwife.

They lived in Iowa City until 1891, when Eddie died of meningitis at the age of 18. He was buried in Oakland Cemetery and Teresa had a tree stump monument erected over his grave. It can still be seen today. After Eddie’s death, Teresa moved to Eugene, Oregon here she married Nicholas Feldevert, who died tragically a few years later in 1911. She hired Mario Korbel, a Bohemian artist in Chicago, to design the angel that would hover over the body of her son and the ashes of her husband.

This is Scudder who joined the staff at the Windfall house this fall.

The skeleton conveys death, vanity and death personified.

The skull conveys mortality, the worldly survival of the dead, death, the transitory nature of life on earth, the useless nature of earthly things, and sin.

It is the attribute of Adam, Hosea, Hamlet, Saint Francis of Assisi, Saint Romuald, Saint Mary Magdalene, Saint Paul, Saint Jerome and other hermits and penitent saints. It is the personification of old age and melancholy.
The witch rides a donkey backwards and puttis gather below.

The witch conveys power, supernatural, and the devil. The witch is seen during Halloween season flying the skies of Sandwich with her broom. It conveys victory, dominance, insight, wisdom, power to do away with worry and trouble, and servility.

The goat conveys dishonor, materialism, desires, instinct, passions, evil, repression of one’s conscience, lust, fertility, agility, elegance, stupidity, freedom, and messenger of the gods.

Puttis or cherubs convey religion, vigilance, “keeper of the threshold”, executor of God’s will, and messenger of divine wisdom.

There are four cherubs and the number four conveys the earth, the material aspect of life, the terrestrial order, the Elements, rational organization, tangible achievement, justice without mercy, hard work, and stability.

Pumpkins convey the earth, penitence, grief, barrenness and poverty.

Pumpkins convey autumn, feminine symbol of containment, moon and witches, and charm against evil.

It is the emblem of Halloween and the two worlds.

Seeds convey latent possibilities, hope, the Mystic Center, fertility, growth, potentiality, children and divine instruction.

The color orange conveys fire, the Holy Spirit, pride, ambition, heat, lust marriage, hospitality, benevolence, and health.

Bats convey night, death, misfortune, black magic, infernal power or being, desolation, witchcraft, terror, madness, revenge, idolatry, longevity, wisdom and a woman between 80 and 90.

The color brown conveys the earth, penitence, grief, barrenness and poverty.
ZINC MARKERS AND ABRAHAM LINCOLN

Gary Freese sent this local Abraham Lincoln story on the subject of zinc stones. The Lloyd Ostendorf print to the right shows Abe discussing the case in Mt Pulaski, Illinois. Gary explains there are many zinc stones still around that area (see a couple below) and all in excellent shape.

The case was know and the “Cast Iron Tombstone.” It was a patent dispute and the charge was that Reuben Miller, an authorized agent of the patent “made false and fraudulent represen-
tations concerning the patent.” Miller apparently told a Mr. M. E. (who had conveyed 160 acres of land in Logan County for the seller rights in Michigan), that the cast iron tombstones was covered by the patent, when in reality the patent covered only “a design for certain combination of ornaments,” for the cast iron tombstone.

Logan, Hay, Lincoln, and Herndon defended Miller in April of 1855, the case going to the Supreme Court. In 1864, the court ordered Miller to give Young back his sixty acres and annulled the contract.

A COUPLE OF ZINC MARKERS

Here are couple of examples of zinc markers that Gary sent me from Illinois cemeteries. He sent many more than these too and I am happy to forward them to you if you want to see them.

The zinc marker closest to us is from Old Union Cemetery, Lincoln, Illinois. The other one is from Saint Mary Cemetery, Lincoln, Illinois.

The finger pointing upward conveys pointing the soul towards heaven.

SOLVING THE UNKNOWN SYMBOL

John Sterling solved the mystery symbol from last month by explaining that “Loren Rhoads star shaped emblem in the North Burial Ground in Providence, RI is a GAR flag holder. The GAR, Grand Army of the Republic, is a veterans organization for Civil War veterans. Attached are a few photos of the other side.” He sent me an example of the front side of the GAR flag holder which I am familiar with. The Cape Cod mid highway is dedicated to the GAR.
Loren Rhoads, who receives my Waterhouse Symbolism Newsletter traded a copy of her book for my book “Sacred Symbols”.

“Wish You Were Here” captures well why many of us find cemeteries fascinating because of the history and stories of so many interesting people buried there. It is 35 travel essays which highlights more than 50 cemeteries, churchyards and gravesites across the globe

Of course, I particularly enjoyed the chapters of the grave sites that I have visited through my journeys: Highgate Cemetery, London; Saint Louis Cemetery #1, New Orleans; Old Jewish Cemetery and Pinkas Synagogue, Prague; Il Cimitero Degli Inglesi, Florence; Mount Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge, Massachusetts; King’s Chapel, Granary and Central Burying Grounds; and Forest Hills Cemetery, Boston.

Author and photographer Loren Rhoads was the creator and editor of the cult nonfiction Morbid Curiosity. She edited Death’s Garden: Relationships with Cemeteries and served as the former cemetery columnist for Gothic.Net. Now she blogs about graveyards as travel destinations at CemeteryTravel.com.

“Wish You Were Here: Adventures in Cemetery Travel” is available directly from Amazon and CreateSpace and select booksellers. To contact Loren, her email address is morbid@charnel.com.