

Waterhouse Symbolism  
Symbolism e-newsletter #2  
August 1, 2006

(Please note: for those Yahoo Users who get red X's where the pictures are supposed to be, I have attached the newsletter in a word document also.)

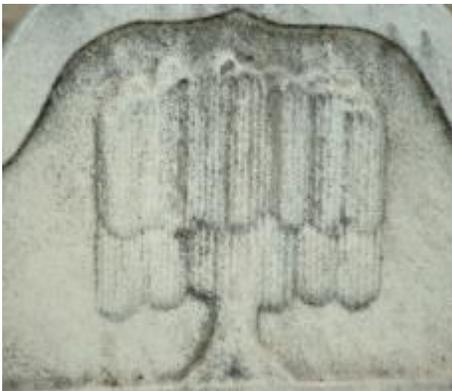
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### Weeping Willows



The weeping willow is the symbol of mourning and grief. A weeping willow in nature always looks like it is mourning or grieving by the way the branches and leaves are out stretched downward. Ben Clark told me a great story about a tale he had heard that the one who plants a weeping willow in a cemetery will be the next one who dies. Do you see any weeping willows growing in Oakland?



In Oakland, you see many weeping willows carved into the monuments. Some examples are: across the brick path from the second Neal monument (carriage step), one of the Wooding family markers (the family who owned the land that was bought to start the first six acres), and the first Jewish Section. In that section, you will notice a weeping willow, where one of the branches has snapped. The idea is that even though one branch will die, the tree will live (mortality versus immortality.)

Carriage Step Neal Monument  
Weeping Willow



Wooding Family Weeping Willow



First Jewish Section Weeping Willow

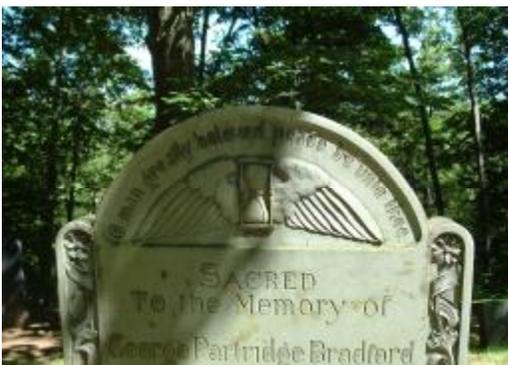
## Urns



immortality.

The urn is a symbol of mourning, grief, and purification. The Greeks practiced an early form of cremation. After the procedure was completed, the ashes were put in an urn and some special type of ointment (usually a very expensive type of olive oil) was put into the urn. The idea was that the person placing the olive oil in the urn was anointing and purifying the soul. When you see an urn closed like the one with the weeping willow, it is a symbol of the state of enlightenment which triumphs over birth and death. If you see a flame on it like the one above in Oakland near the Marsh Urns, it is a symbol of

## Hour Glass with wings



The hour glass is a symbol of fleeting time here on earth. When the hour glass runs out of sand, your time here on earth is over. Last week, I actually saw a contemporary hour glass in the Men's

Department of Nordstrom's at Phipps Plaza. I noticed that they kept turning it before it ran out. I wonder why.

### Sun Dial



In Oakland, we have an hour glass and sun dial on the Berman Lot. The sundial is a symbol of an idea that we should just "count none but sunny hours."

### Tilted Crosses



Cathy Vogel asked me what is the symbolism of the tilted cross? It is resurrection and rebirth. In Oakland, the type of tilted cross you most likely see is the Latin Cross. This is the most prevalent type of cross in Oakland. Some other types of crosses seen in Oakland include the Celtic, Latin and Greek. I will cover crosses in an upcoming symbolism newsletter. The tilted cross above is in the first completely preserved section of Oakland.

The idea is that when Jesus carried the cross before he was crucified, the cross was tilted so it was a premonition of resurrection and rebirth of Christ. Sometimes, you see three tilted crosses together, which is a symbolism of the Holy Trinity (Father, Son and Holy Ghost.) When you see any three things together, it is a symbol of the Holy Trinity

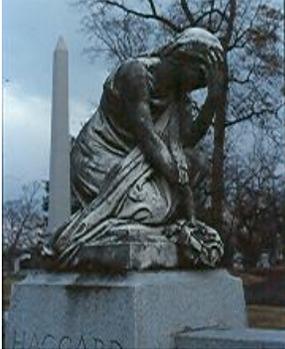
### Skull with Wings



Sperry Wilder asked me about the symbol of a skull with wings. It is a symbol of life after death or resurrection. I seem to be stuck on the resurrection theme this newsletter. The idea is that the skull is a symbol of your life here on earth or the end of your life here on earth. The wings

denote angel wings and the idea is that it will take the soul to heaven. We will revisit angels in another newsletter.

## Niobe



Two Niobes – one at Mont Olive Cemetery in Nashville and one in Oakland near the Bell Tower. Niobe was a mythological woman, a queen of Thebes in Greece whose overbearing pride in her six sons and six daughters led her to refuse to worship Leto, the mother of only two. Leto punished her by sending her own two children, the archers Apollo and Artemis (powerful gods) to kill all fourteen of Niobe's children with their arrows. Zeus turned Niobe, frozen with grief, into stone. The legend goes that if you look very closely at the stone, you will see tears coming out of her eyes.. The wreath is a symbol of resurrection.



Oakland Niobe

If you have other symbols you want me to explore, please let me know.