

AUGUST 1, 2010

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

PREVELANT  
SYMBOL IN THE  
50 ISSUES 2ANOTHER  
PREVELANT  
SYMBOL 2FINAL PREVE-  
LANT SYMBOL 2EBENEZER  
CROCKER 3

EZRA CROCKER 3

EZRA'S WIVES 3

SEA SHELLS  
FROM TEXAS 4SPECIAL POINTS  
OF INTEREST:

- St. Anthony of Padua is the patron saint of barren and pregnant women, the poor and travelers
- Dog conveys loyalty and protective vigilance
- Weeping willow conveys mourning or grief
- Shell conveys woman, fertility, and the female principle of containment

## SYMBOLISM BOOK DONE

It is finished—thanks to Nathan Moelmann and Goose Pen Studio Press. The book is a look at the wonderful symbols that grace Oakland Cemetery beginning in 1850.

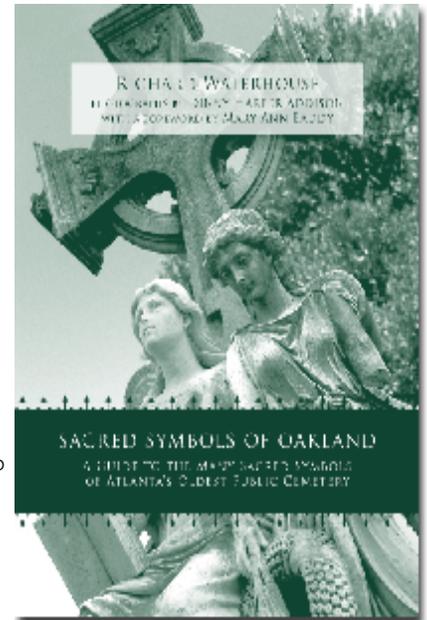
I have attached a photo of the dust cover with the Neal Wife and Daughter Monument.

Nathan has graciously agreed to ship the book to you free of charge if you order before the official publication date of August 21, 2010. The price is \$24.95. If you are interested, please check this link: <http://www.goosepenpress.com/press.php>. You can also email him at [nwm@goosepenpress.com](mailto:nwm@goosepenpress.com).

The idea for the book began in 2000 when I finished writing and presenting the symbolism tour. Someone actually said on the tour—“when are you doing a book”? It

only took 11 years.

The incredible photographs are by Dinny Harper Addison and the amazing forward is by Mary Ann Eaddy. Some of the symbols in the book include adult & baby angels, animals, trees, Jewish symbols, and butterflies. The nice thing about the book is that I could organize it by symbols and not by the tour stops. It is 96 pages with photos on one side and symbols' descriptions of the photos on the other side. If you have any questions about the book, let me know.



## SYMBOLISM LECTURE SOLD OUT

Thanks to all of you who plan to join me in Atlanta Saturday, August 21st for the lecture, book signing and tour of my new book *Sacred Symbols of Oakland*. Even though the attached photo is not in the book, I could not resist showing this photo by Dinny because it shows Gabriel being lifted back

to his pedestal after the tornado of 2008. The evening will begin at 5:00 pm with beer, wine & hors d'oeuvres, followed by lecture and tour.



## PREVELANT SYMBOL IN THE 50 ISSUES

I went back and looked at which issues I used the same symbol over and over and came up with what I consider the best of the symbols in the newsletters. I know that many will not agree because we all have our favorite symbols. This particular symbol of the dog is from newsletter 3. For those that would like to review the newsletters, go to my website: [www.tinyurl.com/](http://www.tinyurl.com/)

waterhousesymbolism.

This dog funerary monument is in Maple Hill Cemetery in Helena, Arkansas. The dog, as mentioned above, is a symbol of loyalty and protective vigilance. What is fascinating about this monument for Dr. Emile Overton Moore, Born October 2, 1854 and murdered February 16, 1893 are the epitaphs on the monument: (First side) His errors were the errors of a man and they stood out in bold contrast with the time - serving two-faced hypocrites

who conspired to have him murdered.

(Second side) He is now beyond the reach of blame or praise. And love will hope and faith will trust that he has felt the joy that is felt where there are no tears and no graves.

Underneath the dog on top is the word WAITING.

I have used the symbol of the dog seven times in the newsletter's including: Jan Van Eyck's *Giovanni Arnolfini and his Wife* in issue 21; Oakland Cemetery's Jodie in issue 39; and Ralph Cahoon's *Mangasett Tea* issue 49.



## ANOTHER PREVELANT SYMBOL

The symbol I have used the most is adult angels (14 times).

I have included an angel that appeared in Newsletter 39. It was a contest to identify the most beautiful angel. Those entries can still be viewed on my blog at <http://waterhousesymbolism.blogspot.com/>.

Our winner was Diane Nesmeyer and the angel protects

Dellwood Cemetery in Manchester, VT. She took it during the 2003 Association for Gravestone Studies Conference. Notice the incredible detail on the wings and the body itself. The sculptor has gone one step further and has allowed us to see her foot print in the pillow she is stepping on. The idea is that even though she is an angel, she has left an impression here on earth and will take

the soul to heaven. She is standing near a huge granite broken column. The broken column conveys life cut short.

Other famous angels that have appeared in the newsletter include Gabriel (22), Michael (38) and Our Thomas (38). The angel conveys the messenger of God, saintliness and sweetness.



## FINAL PREVELANT SYMBOL

This Celtic cross is from Oakdale Cemetery in Wilmington, North Carolina and we saw it first in issue 3.

The animals in the middle of the cross are dogs. In the Celtic tradition, dogs are the symbols of loyalty and protective vigilance. The circle (nimbus) on a Celtic cross is a symbol of Irish Christianity and the sun & eternity. On

the three arms at the top is the Celtic knot which is a symbol of unity and since they have open circles, the circles are symbol of eternity again. Also, knots in the Celtic tradition ward off evil spirits. There are three which are the symbol of the Trinity (Father, Son and Holy Ghost.) In the one on the right there are three rocks, stones or

some other objects which is also a symbol of the Trinity. The two figures are symbols of mother earth because the Celtic tradition started out as Pagan. The Serpents with erect heads are symbols of human wisdom. You will notice that both earth goddesses have two snakes on each side of each figure. Two snakes together is a symbol of death.



## EBENEZER CROCKER

This gravestone to the right is from Marstons Mills Cemetery and marks the grave of Ebenezer Crocker who was the person that built the house where the Cahoon Museum of American Art now resides. According to our website, "he began building the stately Colonial Georgian home that constitutes the original part of the museum in 1775." His gravestone reads "a patriot of the revolution; a legislator of the state & long and able, upright, efficient & useful citizen. His conciliating manners

& active benevolence greatly endeared him to the neighborhood in which he lived. A family that love him with peculiar tenderness. He died the 17th of February, 1817 in his 65th year."

Ebenezer built many houses near the Cahoon Museum of American Art. They are now various businesses including a restaurant called Regatta, a flower shop called Beautiful Arrangements, a consignment shop and an antique shop. He built his house and then built many houses around him for his sons. It is wonderful that so many of them are still standing.



## EZRA CROCKER

The gravestone to the right, marks the grave of Ezra Crocker. Once again, according to Cahoon Museum of American Art's web-site, "by 1821, his grandson Ezra Crocker was operating the place as a tavern, an important overnight stop on the stagecoach line between Sandwich and Hyannis. Features dating from this period include wall stenciling in the front stairwell and a hinged wall on the second floor that could be raised to provide one large meeting space or lowered to create two smaller

rooms for lodgers." Notice the difference in the weeping willows and urns. The grandfather's weeping willow and urn is simpler than the grandson's because he died in 1817 and his grandson died in 1843. However, the grandson's epitaph is simpler than his grandfather's which merely states: "a worthy man." It is interesting to see that the elaboration of the decoration increases from 1817 to 1843 but the wordiness of the epitaphs decreases.

The wonderful thing about cemeteries is that you stumble upon them and the history is amazing.



## EZRA'S WIVES

Ezra Crocker had two wives. His first one was Temperance Crocker who died January 5th, 1812 at the age of 36. Her gravestone is the one made out of slate. Notice the very simple urn and the curtains. The urn conveys anointing the soul and a closed one conveys mortality. An open one conveys immortality and one with a flame on

top conveys life. The curtains convey that her life here on earth is over but she will have eternal life.

His second wife was Lydia Crocker and she survived Ezra and died February 3rd, 1870 at the age of 93. Notice that her grave is much more simpler than Temperance's.

It can be clearly seen that in early 19th Century, weeping willows and urns were very popular.



For further information, contact  
Richard at [rwaterhouse@comcast.net](mailto:rwaterhouse@comcast.net)

## WATERHOUSE SYMBOLISM

RICHARD WATERHOUSE  
Cahoon Museum of American Art  
4676 Falmouth Rd., P. O. Box 1853  
Cotuit, MA 02635  
678 650-2241 (Cell)  
E-mail: [rwaterhouse@cahoonmuseum.org](mailto:rwaterhouse@cahoonmuseum.org) (work)  
E-mail: [rwaterhouse@comcast.net](mailto:rwaterhouse@comcast.net) (home)  
Website: [www.tinyurl.com/waterhousesymbolism](http://www.tinyurl.com/waterhousesymbolism)



## QUOTE OF THE MONTH:

When I die, I want to be so  
exhausted that you can  
throw me on the trash  
heap.

Frances Mayes

## NOTES FROM THE EDITOR



Many of you have been with my Waterhouse Symbolism Newsletter from the beginning and I really appreciate your support.

The idea for the newsletter began in Rome, Italy and I was in Saint Peter's in the Vatican while I was surrounded by numerous symbols. Here we are 50 issues later still contemplating symbols throughout the world.

When you are at such a milestone, you wonder what the next 50 issues will be. I hope the issues continue to be as fluid as they are now.

Look forward to receiving all your comments, questions and suggestions in the future.

Take care,  
Richard Waterhouse

## SEASHELLS FROM TEXAS

Cathy Vogel, the Epitaph guru of Oakland Cemetery, sent me this image to the right. It was sent to her by her Victor Donham who says "Lynn and I visited the grave of her great grandmother in Slaton, TX, a few weeks ago. As we were leaving, we noticed several graves that were different than anything either of us had seen before. The employee we talked to at the cemetery (Englewood Cemetery) said they were not uncommon in that area. Here's what they look like. The round things are seashells,

although many have fallen off."

Of course seashells peak my interest since I am living on Cape Cod. I have a shelf in my kitchen lined with them.

Shells convey woman, fertility, the female principle of containment and the virgin birth. Sea shells on graves convey a journey or pilgrimage to the other life, a symbol of eternal life. If you are a fan of art history, you know Botticelli's famous painting *The Birth of Venus* housed at the Uffizi Gallery in Florence.

