

# AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE



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 3

## SPECIAL SYMBOLS

- Tea conveys exoticism, the Orient and is connected with amorous intrigue and scandal
- Flag conveys victory and self-assertion
- Umbrella conveys protection and mourning
- Bridge conveys connection between worlds and the relation between heaven and earth

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

HISTORY AROUND US	2
WEeping WILLOW FENCE	2
FLAG	2
OUT IN THE RAIN	3
OLD NORTH BRIDGE	3
DON'T TREAD ON ME	3
SYMBOL STILL A MYSTERY	4

## GRANT WOOD'S DAUGHTERS OF REVOLUTION

I have been reading a biography of Grant Wood and was re-introduced to this painting to the right which resides at the Cincinnati Museum of Art.

Tea conveys exoticism, the Orient, connected with amorous intrigue and scandal, sociable life, the brew of life and connected with the British.

Just recently, the Boston Tea Party Ships and Museum reopened and can be visited Monday-Sunday 9 am to 5 pm.

The print behind the three ladies is based on an 1855 oil painting called *Washington Crossing the Delaware* by German American artist Emanuel Gottlieb Leutze. It commemorates General George Washington's crossing of the Delaware River on the

night of December 25-26, 1776, during the American Revolutionary War. That action was the first move in a surprise attack against the Hessian forces at Trenton, New Jersey in the Battle of Trenton.

Flags convey victory, self-

assertion, thought or ideal, identification and nationalism.

The people in the boat convey a cross section of the American colonies including a man in a Scottish bonnet and a man of African descent. The man with flag is James Monroe who was president (1817-25).



Grant Wood, *Daughters of Revolution, 1932*

## GRANT WOOD'S THE MIDNIGHT RIDE OF PAUL REVERE

This delightful painting is also by Grant Wood and represents an important part of the history of our country. The painting resides at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY. Notice the smallness of Paul Revere and his horse compared to the town of Boston that he is riding through.

The North Church conveys faith, the intersection of heaven and earth, and the body of Christ.

Houses convey tradition, one's life, the feminine aspect of the universe, shelter, security, hospitality, the body, with the roof and attic corresponding to the mind, the basement to the unconscious, the kitchen as a place of transmutation, and the windows and the doors as body openings.

Notice the way the painting is lighted by moonlight with the moon conveying the feminine principle, resurrection, abode of the dead and the soul.



The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere, 1931, Grant Wood

## HISTORY ALL AROUND US

One of the things that I love about historic cemeteries is the history lesson we learn by wandering through them. Jody Clark sent me the picture to the right which is located on Lookout Mountain, TN. Because I grew up on Lookout Mountain, I must have gone by this cemetery thousands of times and don't remember it all.

It is the grave of John Lockwood who died March 21, 1899 at the age of 29 and was a Deacon of the Lookout

Mountain First Baptist Church. It is a black cemetery and has approximately 200 graves and has not been used for over 20 years.

Two hands clasped in a handshake are seen many times on graves of church officials such as Deacons and Priests. On gravestones, they convey farewell and welcome to the kingdom of heaven. Two hands clasped in a handshake generally means treaty, peace, concord, love, alliance, friendship, virile fraternity, solidari-

ty, mystic marriage, and individuation.

Hands convey protection, justice, power, authority (especially of the father, emperor, deity, etc.). Right hand conveys aggressiveness, associated with the rational, virility, logic and the conscious. Left hand conveys death, decay, associated with the subconscious, weakness, irrationality, and the instincts.

Open hand conveys beneficence and generosity.



Cemetery, Lookout Mountain, TN

## WEEPING WILLOW FENCE

*We need an  
America with  
the wisdom of  
experience.  
But we must  
not let  
America grow  
old in spirit.*

*~Hubert H.  
Humphrey*

In my newsletter, I asked if anyone could send me a picture of a weeping willow and lambs. Both Cathy Vogel and Janet Seapker sent me several wonderful images of both.

The fence to the right is from a cemetery in Edgefield, SC sent to me by Cathy Vogel. Janet Seapker explains about a weeping willow fence, "I have friend Ann Howell, Ph.D. who has done many years of research on cast iron fences like the one in your last newsletter. "

"She researched Robert Wood of Philadelphia., who was a MAJOR creator of cast iron. He probably cast many of the iron gates with the willow and lambs. Some of his pieces are signed. Ann has used coastwise export records to track where and to whom shipments went. In many cases, he shipped gobs of it to brothers Robert B. and John C. Wood who were Masons and took advantage of any income-producing opportunity."



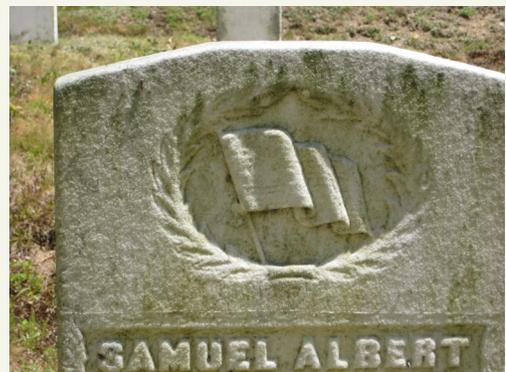
## FLAG

I always think it is appropriate, in honor of American Independence, to pull out one of my flag gravestone markers that I discovered on my trip to the Maine Coast. This particular one to the right is from Seaside Cemetery, Blue Hill, Maine.

The flag conveys victory, self-assertion, thought or ideal, identification and nationalism.

The wreath surrounding the flag conveys eternity, celebration, mourning, victory, valor, resurrection and memory.

This looks like a laurel wreath which is a distinction in literature or music.



## OUT IN THE RAIN

This sculpture is in Oakland Cemetery, Atlanta, GA and was paid for by the Rucker family.

It is called "Out in the Rain". Rain conveys fertility, purification, the Grace of God, life, spiritual influences from heaven, an increase in spiritual influences from heaven, an increase in spiritual energy, initiation, and mercy.

An umbrella conveys protection, honor, mourning, dome of the sky, sun emblem, divine or royal power or protection, and a popular attribute of an

Englishman.

The reason I include this monument as part of American Independence is because the original, designed out of terracotta, was commissioned for the American Centennial and was later mass produced in bronze. A few years ago, I tried to locate the original and could not find it.

I have fond memories of seeing this monument in the winter and the umbrella being covered with a massive amount of ice.



## OLD NORTH BRIDGE

The Old North Bridge is one of the most important monuments of American Independence.

Forewarned by Paul Revere and other messengers, the colonists mustered in opposition at the battle of Concord. Following an early-morning skirmish at Lexington, where the first shots of the battle were fired, the British expedition under the command of Lt. Col. Francis Smith advanced to Concord. There, colonists from Concord and surrounding

towns (notably a highly-drilled company from Acton led by Isaac Davis) repulsed a British detachment at the Old North Bridge and forced the British troops to retreat. Subsequently, militia arriving from across the region harried the British troops on their return to Boston, culminating in the Siege of Boston and outbreak of the war.

relation between heaven and earth.



A bridge conveys connection between worlds and the

Old North Bridge, Concord, MA

*There is nothing wrong with America that cannot be cured by what is right with America.  
~William J. Clinton*

## DON'T TREAD ON ME

The Gadsden flag is a historical American flag with a yellow field depicting a rattlesnake coiled and ready to strike. Positioned below the snake are the words "DONT TREAD ON ME". The flag was designed by and is named after American general and statesman Christopher Gadsden.

The rattlesnake, fair in its warning but deadly in its strike, conveys the early revolutionary

war. John Paul Jones raised one. With peace, the serpent vanished, losing out to the red and white stripes of the national flag.

The serpent conveys evil, sin, energy, force, night, subterranean life, fertility, wisdom, power to heal, generative energy, regeneration, the Devil, secrecy, hiding, danger, death, materialism, slavery, temptation, fascination, jealousy, and wisdom of the deep.



Gadsden Flag

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



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



One of the things I just experienced was attending my very first Boston Pops concert at Symphony Hall. The closing number was “Stars and Stripes Forever” which brought back many memories of many Fourth of July’s. Like so many of us, I would watch the Boston Pops on PBS and experience the magic every year. It was so great to experience that magic first hand and see why the Boston Pops have been so very popular and successful for so many years.

Take care—Richard Waterhouse

## SYMBOL STILL A MYSTERY

I am having a great time rediscovering files and trying to figure out the mystery symbol to the right from Westview Cemetery, Atlanta.

This marker was brought to my attention four years ago (see issue 25—July 1, 2008) by Rosalind Hillhouse and Nelson Willis but it is still a mystery four years later.

Nelson pursued it including going to the funeral home that is headquartered at Westview.

Nelson explains “the functionary behind the desk seemed flummoxed by my interest and summoned some ancient being from an office deep inside the building (perhaps an owner). This octogenarian initially told me that confidentiality prevented her from disclosing anything. “

“I plied her enough that she would reveal the company that did the monument. That company has long since gone out of business; an internet search failed to even register the company’s name.”

“I thought about trying to look up the couple’s obituaries to look for survivors. I don’t even remember what their names were - I had it written down on a piece of paper that floated around on my desk for months. They died in 1934 and 1940. I tried to look them up online. The owner wouldn’t even disclose their death dates and it wasn’t on the marker.”

“I thought about going to look up their death certificates to try to look up survivors. “

If you have any other suggestions about how to solve this four year mystery, let me know.

