

EVERYTHING IRISH



SPECIAL SYMBOLS

- Snake conveys evil & sin
- Harp conveys bridge between heaven & earth, contemplation and joy
- Dragon conveys adversary, evil and the unconsciousness
- Shamrock conveys Trinity, loyalty, contemplation and joy

IN HONOR OF ALINE HENDERSON

I just heard from Ruth Middleton of Oakland Cemetery, Atlanta, that Aline Henderson died last month (2/11). Aline was a huge supporter of Oakland and I had the honor of being trained to be a docent by the giants of Oakland - Aline, Betty Sherwood and Reid Benson in 1989. Aline was always fun to do a group tour with because her calm and cool way of giving tours was always refreshing. I remember one time she and I were supposed to do a tour at Oakland and it was raining. So, she and I boarded the bus and did the tour circling the walls of Oakland and pointing out monuments that we could see.

I also had the honor of taking one of her Inman Park tours and she knew my love of Atlanta history and Oakland so she shared with me stories of

folks who at one point had lived in Inman Park and are now buried at Oakland. Of course, one great example is Joel Hurt whom I had the honor of playing during one of the Oakland Halloween Tours.

Aline also attended my book lecture and tour of "Sacred Symbols" which was such a special moment for me. She also was one of the first to receive my symbolism newsletter. She would email me great information to share with everyone.

Aline, we will miss you but we know that you are leading history tours of heaven!

More dedications to Aline are found on page 3.



Aline Henderson

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SAINT PATRICK

A newsletter on everything Irish would not be complete without recognizing Saint Patrick (c.390–c. 461). He was born in the west of Britain and at the age of 16 he was captured by pirates and was a slave in Ireland. He became a herdsman and eventually es-

caped coming back to Britain a changed man. He trained for the priesthood and in c.432 he returned to Ireland.

Some symbols related to Saint Patrick include the snake which conveys evil & sin and shamrock which conveys the Trinity.



CELTIC HARP

To the left is the Brian Boru Harp, which is 15th or 16th century. It is at Trinity College, Dublin.

This is the oldest surviving harp in Ireland. Although once associated with Brian Boru, the high king of Ireland in 1014. This is no longer true. A silver badge depicting the Arms of the O'Neil Family, dating to the 16th or 17th century was attached to the instrument. The harp has become an Irish artistic motif and a national symbol.

The harp conveys a bridge between heaven and earth, contemplation, joy, praise, poetry, music, worship in heaven, sadness, human stress, suffering, religious music in general and the book of Psalms in particular. It is related to heaven, the mystic ladder to heaven, longing for love or death and soothing of strained nerves. It is also related to blindness in conjunction with cunning or aristocracy.



There can be
neither harm
nor
disappointment
in the close
observation of
nature.

Thoreau,
Walden

The Celtic Dragon conveys guardian of treasures or robbers. Among the Celts, it is weaved into a knot as seen to the right and the fire breathing dragon, which possibly developed from the horned and poisonous and/or fire-breathing snake. In general, the dragon conveys adversary, evil, the unconscious, a plague of sickness and the enemy of truth.

CELTIC DRAGON



The shamrock refers to the young sprigs of clover or trefoil. It is known as a symbol of Ireland, with St. Patrick having used it as a metaphor for the Christian Trinity, according to legend. The name shamrock is derived from Irish seamróg, which is the diminutive version of the Irish word for clover (seamair)

meaning simply "little clover" or "young clover".

The shamrock conveys the Trinity, loyalty and emblem of Ireland. It is also the attribute of Saint Patrick and Saint Gerald. In flower language, it conveys light-heartedness.

What is your favorite Irish symbol?



SHAMROCK

IN HONOR OF ALINE HENDERSON

Please see my dedication of this newsletter to Aline Henderson on page 1.

I also asked several of the guides to provide information about Aline and Cathy Vogel included the following:

I attended the memorial service on Feb 16 where she was remembered as a person who loved learning and loved sharing the knowledge gained during her many faceted life. Having given many tours with her at Oakland Cemetery, I particularly remember this willingness on behalf of thousands of

school children over the years. In the face of cold, heat, wind or showers, Aline was ready to give her time and talent—a gracious, but stalwart soul.

The stained glass picture to the right is from the Sanders Mausoleum, Oakland Cemetery, Atlanta. Aline put together a wonderful architectural tour of Oakland including this work.



IN HONOR OF ALINE HENDERSON

Ruth Middleton sent me the following : wish I had a really good story to share with you but my major memories just involve what a good, gracious guide Aline was. I recall the great Inman Park tour she invited Oakland guides to come on. Last year I went on the Inman Park tour again and was so disappointed.

Later realized that I was comparing the guide to Aline and there was no comparison.

Years ago when I was a new guide at Oakland, back before there was a Margaret Mitchell Gone With the Wind tour which I now give, Aline and I were scheduled to do a private group tour. We knew nothing particular about the group nor did we know that they wanted anything different than the regular tour.

The bus was very, very late getting to Oakland and the group leader announced that

they only had 30-45 minutes or so and no interest in anything other than Margaret Mitchell, her family and GWTW.

I was about to panic. As a new guide I knew where Margaret was buried but that was about the extent of my GWTW knowledge.

The group leader also wanted to start by taking the entire bus load of folks to Margaret's grave for a group photo. While this was being done Aline sat beside me on a wall and proceeded to tell me where Margaret's brother, Stephens, and both sets of grandparents were buried and what she knew about them. These few other stops could well have taken up the rest of the allotted time but it turned out that after the group photo everyone wanted individual photos so there was no time for anything else but to say good bye to Margaret and get back on the bus.

Aline showed me that staying calm when facing the unexpected and having a thorough knowledge of Oakland and being accommodating were keys to success as a tour guide.

A few years later I was doing the Dying in 19th Century Atlanta tour which had been advertised as the tour for the evening. A group of 5 folks who were all friends of each other were the only attendees. After the very first stop the one man said "We are not interested in this topic" and said that they had been to Oakland many times and did not want the regular tour. Although surprised I calmly asked what they were interested in and ended up giving a tour that was much like a scavenger hunt with each of them telling me what they were interested in and me showing them something that related. I think we all had a great time. I thank Aline for preparing me.

Solvitur ambulando - It is solved by walking.

Bruce Nauman

St. Patrick's Day is an enchanted time - a day to begin transforming winter's dreams into summer's magic.

-Adrienne Cook

What is your favorite symbol?



WATERHOUSE SYMBOLISM NEWSLETTER # 93

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The mission of Waterhouse Symbolism is to research and document symbols locally, regionally, nationally and internationally and to share that research with individuals.



NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

I had the honor of speaking with a Marstons Mills Middle School student whose school project was to document and preserve a gravestone of two boys who died very young. It is great to see that the fascination with gravestones is being experienced by the next generation.

Take care,
Richard Waterhouse

FACT VERSUS LEGEND

In honor of President's Day & Abraham Lincoln's birthday, there are many legends connected to the burial sites of Presidents - and who is buried in Grant's tomb? When Lincoln was originally laid to rest in 1865, he was placed in this temporary tomb to the right. Supposedly, many sightings of Lincoln's ghost was seen close to the temporary tomb. He was seen checking out the broken ground where the new tomb would be placed. Eventually, Lincoln was moved to the monument behind on the hill. However, after the body was moved, there was strange sobbing noises and footsteps heard in the vicinity of the first site.

Notice, the obelisk on the hill, his second burial site, and it started out as an Egyptian pagan symbol and was adopted by the Christians as a symbol of pointing the soul towards heaven.

Obelisks also represents a ray of light and a sunbeam. It conveys the sun at its zenith and marked the grave of a king in Egypt. It is appropriate that it marks Lincoln's grave.

The Egyptians were the first civilization that brought the whole idea of burial practice to a very ritualized system which is still studied today. For those Downton Abbey fans, the landlord of the estate that Downton Abbey was based on, was a major financier of the discovery of King Tut.



Grave of Abraham Lincoln