

THE OLD GRAVEYARDS

GRAVEYARD ART & SYMBOLS

As with many New England graveyards ours are filled with stones containing messages to the viewer in both symbols, verse as well as data. Some of the symbols found in our cemeteries were commonly used by artisans and include those shown below.

Note: The meaning of the symbols listed below may vary somewhat but these are the generally accepted interpretations by historians.



Rosebud- *Child under 12, wilted blossom*



Handshakes-
Farewell to life on earth



Effigies- *The soul*



Wheat Sieves-
Divine harvest



Winged Death Head or Effigy-
Winged flight of the soul

Anchor-*Hope, as Hope Anchors the Soul, or reference to a mariner or both.*

In this case the Naval connection seems likely. > This gravestone to the right belongs to a likely participant in the Civil War who died in Illinois as he was returning home. The location, Mound City Illinois, was the site of a US Naval Depot and of the boatyards where several Union Iron clads were built.



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Willow weeping- *Sorrow, Grief*



Tree- *Tree of Life Eternal*



Six Pointed Star- *Star of Bethlehem*

Hand of God, pointing upward- *Life after death, ascension to*

