

# CEMETERY SYMBOLISMS

## Religious

*Angels* – spirituality and tomb guarding

*Holy Books* – Christianity

*Chalice* – sacraments

*Cherub* – angelic innocence

*Crescent* – Islam

*Crown* – glory of life after death

*Cross* – faith

*Heart* – suffering of Christ (sacred)

*Menorah* – Judaism

*Star of David* – Judaism

## Mortality

*Arrow* – mortality

*Broken Column* – loss of family head

*Broken Ring* – severed family circle

*Candle Being Snuffed* – loss of life

*Coffin* – mortality

*Figure With Dart* – mortality

*Grim Reaper* – death personified

*Hourglass* – time has run out

*Scythe* – death cuts us down

*Skull-crossed bones* – death

*Spade-crossed spades & shovel* – death

## Plants

*Fruits* – eternal plenty

*Full Rose* – death in the prime of life

*Ivy* – friendship and immortality

*Laurel* – worldly accomplishments & heroism

*Lily* – innocence and purity, the virgin's flower

*Morning Glory* – beginning of life

*Oak Tree, Oak Leaves* – power, authority, or victory

*Acorn* – power, authority, or victory

*Palm Branch* – victory and rejoicing

*Poppy* – eternal sleep

*Roses* – completion, brevity, or earthly existence

*Rosemary* – remembrance

*Thistle* – remembrance or Scottish descent

## Trees

*Tree* – life

*Sprouting Tree* – life everlasting

*Tree Trunk* – brevity of life

*Wheat Strands or Sheaves* – divine harvest

*Stones Shaped, Tree Stumps* – Woodman of the World

*Weeping Willow* – perpetual mourning, grief

## **Hands**

*Hands, pointing upward* – pathway to Heaven

*Hands, clasped* – farewells or bonds of marriage

*Hands, praying* – asking God for eternal life

*Hands, blessing* – blessings for those left behind

*Harp* – praise to God

*Heart* – love

*Joined Hearts* – marriage

*Rod or Staff* – comfort for the bereaved

*Stars and Stripes around Eagle* – vigilance & liberty

*Urn with Flame* – undying remembrance

## **Animals**

*Birds* – eternal life, resurrection

*Butterfly* – short life

*Dog* – good master worthy of love

*Dove* – innocence, peace

*Lamb* – innocence, usually a child's grave

*Lion* – courage, eternal guarding

*Rooster* – awakening, resurrection

## **Trade or Occupation**

*Anchor, Sextant, or Cross Staff* – mariner

*Axe, Steel Knife, or Cleaver* – butcher

*Bible* – minister

*Bowl and Razor* – barber

*Compass* – shipwright

*Coulter (hoe), Flail (threshing instrument)* – farmer

*Crossed Swords* – military, high rank

*Crown, Hammer, Anvil* – blacksmith

*Leather Cutter's Knife, Nippers, or Awl* – shoemaker

*Loom, Shuttle or Stretchers* – weaver

*Open Book* – teacher

*Rake and Spade* – Gardner

*Scales* – merchant

*Stalk of Corn* – farmer

*Swingletree (rod for beating flax)* – farmer

*Wedge and Level* – mason

*Wheel* - wheelwright