



Whitehall GAR



Oakhurst Cemetery Tour October 3, 2023



www.lakeshoremuseum.org

History of Gravestones

The use of grave markers, or gravestones as they became known, began for practical reasons. Early grave markers were stones or boulders placed over graves to prevent animals from digging up the deceased. Many people at this time also believed that it kept dead spirits from rising out of their graves. These stones, if carved at all, only carried the name and birth and death dates of the deceased.

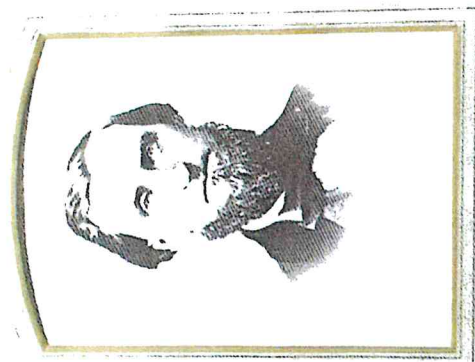
By 1650, gravestones became a way for religious leaders to communicate with their congregation. These leaders believed that engraving skulls, skeletons, hourglasses, and angels of death on gravestones would scare the living into a more righteous lifestyle as these symbols were dark and evil. The rise of stone carving as an art during the 17th century allowed the symbology portrayed on gravestones to be more intricate.

The Victorian Era changed gravestone symbology greatly. Flowers, angels, and many other symbols appeared on gravestones creating an uplifting feel, accompanying the garden feeling of modern cemeteries. The wealthy bought large plots of land for their entire family to be buried together. Highly decorated monuments or mausoleums were built in the middle of the land, with smaller stones with names and dates were placed at the head of the grave. The symbols used on all gravestones represented sentiments from the family about the deceased. In this way, gravestones no longer stood as religious messages, but true memorials to the deceased.





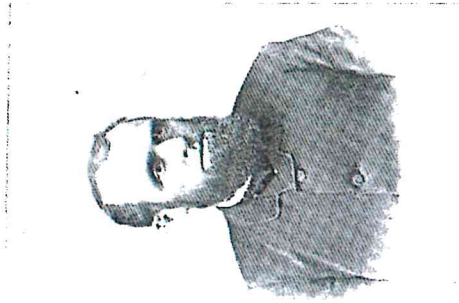
DALTON MILL-1877-1883.
SITE OF MICH-ILL-INDA WHARF.



Peter Dalton



Maria Landford Dalton



ANDREW J. COVELL
ANDREW COVELL



Ruth Thompson



Charles Redfern



Albert Mears

Gravestone Symbolology

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Meaning</u>
Anchor	Hope
Angels	Heavenly host to lead soul to heaven
Apple	Evil, fall from grace
Book	Completed life, knowledge
Broken Column	Life cut short
Buds and seed pods	Fragile beginnings of life
Calla Lily	Majestic beauty and marriage
Celtic Cross	Immortality, Irish Heritage
Chrysanthemum	Longevity, immortality, fullness, and completeness
Column	Ray of sun, importance to community
Crown	Victory, leadership, distinction
Curtain (veil)	Passage from one existence to the next
Death's Head	Death
Dove	Purity, peace, Holy Ghost
Draped Urn	Death and mourning
Eagle	Resurrection and rebirth
Easter Lily	Purity, casting off earthly things
Fern	Humility, frankness, sincerity
Fish	Christian Icon of Eucharist and Last Supper
Grape Clusters	Eucharistic wine, blood of Christ
Hand Pointing Up	The soul has risen to heaven.
Hourglass	Time passing rapidly, hour of death
Ivy	Immortality, fidelity, friendship, undying affection
Lamb	Children, infants, innocence
Oak Leaves	Strength, endurance, eternity
Olive Branch	Soul of deceased, peace
Owl	Watchfulness, wisdom, contemplation
Rose	Purity
Stag	Piety, religious aspiration, solitude
Tree of Life	Underworld, earth, heavens
Vine	Relationship between God and man
Weeping Willow	Grief and sorrow, immortality
Wheat	Long and fruitful life

Oakhurst Cemetery Tour Families

1. Madison
2. Lewis
3. Bartholomew
4. Roberts
5. Staples
6. Daltons
7. Welch
8. Barlow
9. Dewey-Thompson
10. Carlton
11. Peterson
12. Kling
13. Berg
14. Hood
15. Keyser
16. Redfern
17. Lowe
18. Baker
19. Evans & Johnson
20. Mears
21. Hopkins