

# Cemetery Field Guide

Markers, Materials,  
and Symbols



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# Materials

## STONE

### Granite

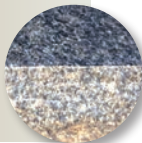
- 1830's - Present
- Available in fine, medium, and coarse grains in a variety of colors including white, gray, beige, pink, blue, green, gold, brown, red, and black.



Gray granite exhibits distinct grains of quartz, mica, and feldspar that make the stone appear speckled.



Red Granite gets its color primarily from a high content of feldspar.



Black Granite monuments are made from stone likely imported from Minnesota.

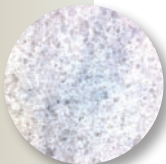
## STONE (CONTINUED)

### Marble

- 19<sup>th</sup> century.
- Georgia marble (metamorphosed limestone from north Georgia) is pure white with a more crystalline grain than other marbles.
- Georgia marble also comes in red, pink, blue, yellow, gray, green, or black varieties when mineral impurities are present.



The marble used for markers is often white in color with a very small grain. When eroded, the grains become distinct and can be easily dusted off, a condition known as sugaring.



Georgia Marble has large irregular interlinked grains.

## STONE (CONTINUED)

### Slate

- Late 18<sup>th</sup> to early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries
- A metamorphosed form of shale or mudstone.



Slate gravestones were not commercially made in Georgia. Most likely came from quarries in New York, Pennsylvania, Vermont, Virginia, and the United Kingdom, transported by ship, cart, or train depending on the time period.

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### Sandstone

- 18th Century - Pre Civil War
- Sandstone markers possess a coarse, sandy texture.
- Sandstone markers are most common along the coast as they were imported by ship.

Sandstone markers come in a variety of colors ranging from yellow to deep reddish grays.



## STONE (CONTINUED)

### Soapstone

- First half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century to 1900.
- Also known as steatite (metamorphic rock composed largely of talc and schist).
- Gravestones and tab-and-slot box crypts in Lumpkin, Hall, and White counties were made from locally obtained soapstone and tend to be large with simple decorations.



Handmade soapstone markers can be found in rural North Georgia cemeteries. They have a waxy texture, linear grains, a slightly greenish color, and their surfaces exhibit an opalescent shine.

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### Fieldstone

- Fieldstone markers can consist of many types of rocks. Granite, schist, gneiss, quartzite, or feldspar are common, and limestone may be used as well.



Collected locally, fieldstone markers make use of rocks found close to the cemetery.

## METAL

### Iron

- Mid- to late 19<sup>th</sup> century.
- Cast markers are uncommon in smaller cemeteries. Found most often in larger Rural Garden style and Municipal type cemeteries.

Iron allows highly ornate decoration to be cast.



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### Bronze

- Early 20<sup>th</sup> century.
- Early forms were susceptible to corrosion and patination; however, modern bronze markers are made of new alloys and stand up to adverse weather conditions better than earlier forms.
- Polished surfaces have a yellow, brass-like appearance.
- Common in Memorial Park cemeteries.



Weathered bronze markers exhibit a blue-green patina, while less weathered forms have a brassy yellowish-gold finish.



## METAL (CONTINUED)

### Zinc

- 1873 - Mid-20th century
- Weathers well, resistant to corrosion, and tends to retain its original bluish-white color.

Complex decorative designs can be cast into zinc, making it an ideal medium for monument production.



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## CEMENTITIOUS

### Cement, Concrete, and Tabby

- Late 19th century - Present
- Concrete markers contain the same base mixture of concrete; however, they have a larger-grained aggregate, usually pebbles, added for strength.
- Natural colored concrete and cement markers tend to be gray.
- Markers are frequently painted or whitewashed.
- Many markers made by Eldren Bailey were dyed to provide contrast between the inscription panel and the rest of the stone.
- The presence of shell mixed into the matrix as an aggregate is an important indication that a marker is made of tabby.



An upright concrete tablet marker.



A tabby marker with visible shell aggregate.

## CERAMIC

- Post-Civil War depression through the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.
- Usually turned cylinders topped with a cone.
- May be unglazed or coated with alkaline glaze.
- Frequently decorated, but rarely inscribed with the individual's name.

(Front) Locally available brick clay was used to make ceramic markers in Baldwin County. (Back) Different shaped stoneware markers, sometimes called 'torpedo markers' were manufactured in Washington and Crawford counties. Image courtesy Atlanta History Center.



## WOOD

- Readily available, inexpensive marker.
- Most were simple plank panels or crosses, but anthropomorphic figures or sculpted markers were occasionally used.
- Many were also painted and/or carved.
- Along the coast, durable woods including live oak, cypress, and cedar were used.

Wooden markers were sometimes made from planks cut to look like stone tablets.

# Marker Forms & Features

## VERNACULAR (FOLK)

- Vernacular statuary provides an opportunity for artistic expression outside of gravestone norms.
- Non-traditional use of materials not originally intended for use as gravestone markers.



(Left) Vernacular markers present opportunities for the freedom of artistic expression. (Middle) In some cases, vernacular markers may seek to imitate wooden forms. This one is reminiscent of wooden plank markers. (Right) Vernacular forms provide the opportunity for personal expression, such as this marker for Eldren Bailey's grave, which was created by his son.

## VERNACULAR WITH MAINSTREAM FORMS

- Vernacular markers can be made that reflect the forms of mainstream, commercially available markers.
- Concrete is commonly used to create marker forms typically constructed from stone.
- The writing is usually freehand, as opposed to stenciled.



(Top) A Vernacular Marker Handmade in the Composite Form Typical of Commercial Markers, (Bottom Left) Tablet Form.

## **NATURAL FIELDSTONE**

- Rock obtained from local sources.
- These fieldstones have been left in their natural state; they are not modified.



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## **DRESSED FIELDSTONE**

- Many fieldstones are chosen because their natural shape approximates the tablet shape of traditional grave markers.
- Dressed markers exhibit any modification of the original stone's shape.
- Fieldstones can occasionally be observed with hammer dressed or pecked margins. Plain/simple, arched, and gabled tops are common dressings.



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## **BALLAST STONE**

- Stones formerly used as ship's ballast have been used as grave markers.
- Most common in coastal areas.
- Often appear as river-worn, non-local rocks.



## QUARTZITE

- Chunks of quartzite are common fieldstone markers.
- In African American communities, its white or milky color symbolizes the innocence and purity of newly released spirit.



## CERAMIC/POTTERY

- Stoneware storage vessels were occasionally used as markers.

## MASONRY (CINDERBLOCKS)

- Materials, including roofing slate and cinderblocks, were used as head and foot stones.



## MASONRY (BRICK)

- Single bricks were used as head and foot stones.
- Common commercially-available marker forms may also have been constructed in vernacular style using bricks.

**Brick Marker.** An additional marker was added later to identify the individual.



## METAL

- Iron and iron tools were sometimes fashioned into marker forms.
- Metal was likely seen as a more durable vernacular marker than ceramic or wood.

**Screwjack used as a marker.**



## TILE

- Drainage pipes made from ceramic, plastic, or concrete were sometimes used as vernacular markers.
- Drain tile markers associate water, a traditional African mortuary symbol, with the grave.



## SHELL

- In coastal areas, large shells, particularly conchs and whelks, were sometimes used as grave markers.

## CONCRETE

- Concrete was sometimes molded into shapes that did not follow typical gravestone forms.

The concrete 'T' marker is used to convey traditional West African concepts of the underworld.





## **ARCHITECTURAL STONE**

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- Stone initially prepared for use on a building, furniture, or cabinet/counter installation was sometimes used as a marker.
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## **COMPOSITE**

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- Constructed using a variety of commonplace materials.

This composite marker was made from cement, brick, and an iron boiler or fireplace cover.

# Formal Markers

Formal grave markers are those markers that are manufactured commercially to be used to mark graves. The markers are loosely grouped into three categories for this context: tablets, laminar, and composite. Additionally, there can be bases or foundations added, as well as grave coverings. It is important to note that some graves may incorporate different individual components. For example, one could describe a marker as a plain tablet marker with an effigy of a lamb, mounted on a simple base.

## Tablets



**SQUARED**



**ROUNDED**



**IONIC**

(Post-Victorian)



**GABLED**



**CROWNED**

(18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries)



**MODERN CROWNED**

(20th century)



**POINTED**

(Victorian)



**DIAMOND**

(Early 20th century)



**SILHOUETTE**

(20th century)



**CAPSTONE**

(Modern)



**NOTCHED**

(Modern)



**BOULDER**

(Modern)



**IRREGULAR** (Modern)



**ASYMMETRIC** (Modern)

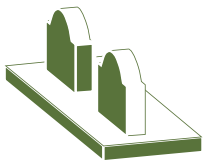


**CIRCULAR** (Modern)



**BLOCK** (Post-Victorian)

## Composite



## WINGED COMPOSITE

(Modern)



## COMPOSITE

(Modern)



## NOTCHED COMPOSITE

(Modern)



## ARCHED COMPOSITE

(Modern)



## SHARED COMPOSITE

(Modern)

**Laminar**



**FLUSH**

(Modern)



**FLAT-TOP**

(Post-Victorian)



**ARCHED-TOP**

(Post-Victorian)



**BEVELED**

(Post-Victorian)

## Formal Base Markers

Some markers, particularly tablets, are installed directly into the ground and, lacking a base, rely on their weight, the surrounding soil, and gravity to hold them upright. Many, however, are mounted onto a base or a foundation. Bases range from simple stone or concrete blocks to more elaborate combinations, such as socket or key style, or compound bases involving more than one component. Bases are typically installed above ground, although, over time, may become buried. Foundations are intended to be below ground, but in some cases, due to erosion or soil removal, become visible.

.....



### **SIMPLE**

.....

- Made from a single stone, with the monument placed on top.
- Lack sockets or keyholes.
- Monuments are affixed to the bases via dead weight, pins, or adhesives.

**This Herren family monument is mounted onto a simple base.**

## SOCKET OR KEYED

- Late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.
- Socket and keyed bases appear almost identical with a stone standing upright and are often only recognizable when the associated tablet has been separated from the base or has fallen over.
- A socket base has a shallow indentation or bed cut into the base's center to give the monument a more secure footing.
- Keyed bases have sockets as well, but typically are associated with keyed tablets with elongated tabs.





## COMPOUND

- Composed of two or more blocks stacked between the foundation and the monument.

(Right) This shared tablet marker is installed on a two-tiered composite base with “Father” and “Mother” inscribed on the top tier.



## ABOVEGROUND FOUNDATION

- While most foundations are built below ground level, monuments are sometimes built on top of foundations to provide a stable surface that distributes the weight of the monument evenly, preventing the marker from tilting, sinking, or cracking.
- Foundations vary by the size and weight of the overlying base and monument. They are most commonly made from concrete, gravel, rubble, fieldstone, or brick.
- More common in coastal areas.



(Above Left) Brick foundation. (Above Right) Rubble and fieldstone foundation.

# Formal Markers Pillars

## PILLARS

Pillars are vertical stones that rise at least twice the length or breadth of the marker from the ground surface. They come in two forms, columns and obelisks; are typically made of stone; and are usually mounted on a base. Drapes or palls are occasionally sculpted over their tops to symbolize death. These were popular during the Victorian movement in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and, based on field observations, tend to replace box tombs as markers.

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## Columns

Columns are circular in cross-section. They may include capitals (Doric, Ionic, Corinthian), bases, and pedestals. Sides of the column may be fluted or smooth.

### Plain (*Victorian*)

- Lacking decorative elements on top of the capital.
- The plain column can have an ornate corinthian or ionic capital, but would lack a finial atop the capital.



## Columns (continued)

### Broken (*Victorian*)

- Intentionally sculpted to appear as ruins.
- May be draped with a sculpted pall (cloth covering) or undraped.

### Finialed (*Victorian*)

- Represents the top-most decorative element of a column.
- Ranging from simple turned designs to more complex objects such as birds, urns, or acorns.



(previous page) **Plain.** (Right) **Broken.** (Left) **Finialed.**

## Obelisks

Obelisks are typically square or rectangular in cross-section. Straight-sided pillars exhibiting six or eight sides are also classified as obelisks.

### Plain (*Victorian*)

- Flat tops.
- Intentionally left undecorated.
- Not to be confused with a damaged monument.

### Cross-Gabled (*Victorian*)

- Characterized by crossed top-ridges.
- Ridges appear as gables on each side of the obelisk and may be straight or arched.
- Often mimics church windows.



(from Left to Right) **Plain.**  
**Cross-Gabled.**

### Pointed (Victorian)

- Have a four-sided, pyramid-shaped top.
- Inspired by Egyptian revival architecture.
- This example also sports a pall.

### Finialed (Victorian)

- Obelisks are sometimes topped with a decorative finial.
- Common forms include turned finials, urns, balls, and the Hand of God, pointing upward and emphasizing the ascent of the soul to heaven.



(from Left to Right)  
**Pointed. Finialed.**

## Grave Covers

Grave Covers are placed on top of a grave to define, honor, and protect it. It has been suggested that grave covers originated in the British Isles, although analogues can be seen in many cultures. Durable grave covers are often inscribed and decorated and can act as the primary gravestone or complement other grave markers. These other grave markers should be described independently. For example, the grave can be described as having an inscribed concrete ledger covering with an accompanying, rounded tablet headstone on a simple base and a flat-top footstone.

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### SCRAPED (Ubiquitous)

- Flattened and barren from constant sweeping, scraping, and weeding. These actions define the grave area and prevent it from falling into disrepair.



### MOUNDED (Ubiquitous)

- Soil is intentionally mounded continuously to emphasize the grave's presence
- Usually oval, linear, or cigar shaped and may be either grass-covered or kept vegetation-free.

## **CAIRN** (Ubiquitous)

- Piles of rocks that have been mounded on top of a grave to mark and protect it.
- Generally composed of field or undressed stone and piled randomly.



## **PAVEMENTS** (Ubiquitous)

- Can consist of loose elements such as sand, pebbles, rock, or brick that are arranged on top of a grave or square or rectangular paved areas.
- Limited to the surface area of the grave.
- Not intended to be elevated above the ground surface.

### Pebble Grave Cover.

## **LEDGER** (18<sup>th</sup> century to present)

- Large, flat, durable cover that protects the entire surface of the grave.
- Placed directly on top of the ground or installed to leave the stone flush with the ground.
- Frequently made from stone, concrete, or brick.



Some African American artisans incised wavy lines on concrete ledger stones as symbols of water and crossing to the land of the dead.

## MOUNDED LEDGER

(Late 19<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> century)

- Cement ledger stones will occasionally have an arched or flat-topped linear mound of concrete added to the surface, intended to imitate the surface of a grave mound.
- Also referred to as concrete or cement cairns.



## HIPPED LEDGER (20<sup>th</sup> century)

- Follows the architectural roof style of the same name.
- All four sides slope down from a central midline.
- Occasionally, the short ends of the cover may not be slanted forming a triangular gable at each end.

## TABLE STONE (19<sup>th</sup> century)

- Ledgers that have been placed on top of small pillars so that space beneath the ledger is open and the grave can be seen.





Box tombs (sometimes referred to as false crypts) are constructed above ground using ledger stones typically supported by stone panels. They are usually hollow and do not contain human remains, though historically there have been exceptions, particularly in crowded cemeteries or damp environments. Four general types of box tombs are found in Georgia: milled, unmilled, fieldstone, and slot and tab.

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### **MILLED BOX TOMB**

(Mid- to late 19<sup>th</sup> century)

- Commercially produced.
  - Made from brick or slabs of marble or granite and topped with a ledger stone.
  - Ornate decorations are common.
- 



### **UNMILLED BOX TOMB**

(Mid- to late 19<sup>th</sup> century)

- Constructed with large, thick (3-6 inches) slabs of granite and soapstone.
- Rarely inscribed; found north of the Fall Line.
- Range from hammer dressed to polished finishes.
- Often built on stone rails to distribute weight evenly across the grave site.

## **FIELDSTONE BOX TOMB**

(Mid- 19<sup>th</sup> century)

- Constructed using stacked fieldstones.
- Found north of the Fall Line.
- Built using dry or wet masonry techniques.



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## **SLOT AND TAB BOX TOMB**

(Victorian)

- Ledger stone has slots, which fit over the head and foot panels like a puzzle and lock the structure together.
- Found in rural northeastern Georgia, built with soapstone by Baptist English and Scottish communities.
- They were most popular between the 1840s and 1880s.



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## **COMB GRAVES**

(Predominately 19<sup>th</sup> century)

- Made by placing slabs in a tent-like arrangement, with pitched roofs and gable ends.
- Found in northern Alabama, Central and East Tennessee and are likely present in North Georgia.
- Also referred to as tent graves.



Ray Hutchinson 2013

## **VAULT COVERS** (18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century)

- Slightly above, or slightly below, ground surface level.
- Serves as both ledger and cover for below-ground burial vaults.
- 20<sup>th</sup>-century vault covers are frequently made of concrete, while 18<sup>th</sup>- and 19<sup>th</sup>-century versions consist of a brick vault.
- Extends from the subsurface chamber to the surface with a marble or granite lid.



## **GRAVE SHELTERS**

(Late 19<sup>th</sup> century to late 20<sup>th</sup> century)

- Provides protection from the elements.
- Unrestricted access to the enclosed graves from the sides.
- Lack exterior walls.

## **GRAVE HOUSES**

(Late 18<sup>th</sup> to early 19<sup>th</sup> century)

- Provides protection from the elements.
- Sides in the form of fences or walls frequently restrict access to the enclosed graves.
- Some forms have exterior walls.



# Appliqués

Appliqués are features applied to a marker or grave. They can be purely decorative, commercial products or they can possess deeply personal, sometimes cultural meanings. Appliqués should be considered separate components from the marker because they can be added to standard forms of commercial markers with identified forms or vernacular markers.

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## URNS (Victorian)

- Designed to be simply decorative or to hold cut flowers and potted plants.
- Can be permanently affixed to the monument.



## PAINTED

(Late 19<sup>th</sup> century to present)

- Paint is used to make the marker look clean and tidy and possibly protect it from the elements. There also may be times where different colors have a cultural meaning.
- Whitewash may be applied to cover stains and provide a white finish to markers; most commonly observed on concrete monuments and ledgers.

## PHOTOS (1890s to present)

- Ceramic disks bearing black and white photographs of the deceased have been available for application to Georgia markers since the 1890s.
- Color versions emerged during the last quarter of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.



The Mattison Mausoleum bears photos of the individuals interred within.

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## FIGURINES (18<sup>th</sup> century to present)

- Figurines and small statues that were not included as part of the original marker design are sometimes added later by the family and friends.

This small ceramic angel was glued to the top of an individual open-vault mausoleum.

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## TILE (20<sup>th</sup> century)

- Ceramic architectural tile is sometimes added to concrete markers to add color or a more durable ornamental surface to the monument.



## EMBEDDED OBJECTS

(Late 19<sup>th</sup> century to present)

- Marbles, colored glass, shells, pebbles, tools, architectural ironwork, and other objects can be easily embedded in concrete markers during production.
- They provide color, texture, or information about the deceased and often carry hidden meaning.



## PLAQUES (Modern)

- Ceramic and bronze plaques with text or illustrations may be added to the gravestone.

This particular marker exhibits ceramic and bronze plaques, as well as a photograph and urns.

## Marker Embellishments

These accessories provide minor alterations to the general shape of the tablet. They accentuate larger, more important marker forms, but do not replace the principal features used to define a general marker form.

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### CAPS/EARS

- Usually found in the shapes of circles, lunettes, gables, or scrolls.
- Project upward from the shoulders of tablets.

Midway Cemetery, Liberty County.

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### EFFIGY

- Typically a plain/simple tablet form with the addition of a sculpted figure at or near the top.
- Most common forms are doves, lambs, children, angels, and urns.
- Cut, sculpted, or molded from the same material as the marker, rather than an appliqué.

## Maker's Marks

Markers provide an advertising opportunity for individuals or companies that either provided the stone, carved the marker form, decorated or inscribed the marker, or distributed it. Carvers, for example, occasionally signed their works, placing their name, sometimes including the company and/or city along the base or other unobtrusive place. The term "fecit," Latin for "made by," was sometimes added after the name to indicate that this was the work of a particular sculptor. Concrete and bronze markers frequently provided the funeral home's name on the inscription panel.

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### FUNERAL HOME

This bronze marker from Polk County advertises the name of a Floyd County Funeral Home. Mrs. Taylor's remains were either returned to Polk County for burial after living in Floyd County, or the marker was obtained from a Floyd County mortician.



### STONE CARVER SIGNATURES

Stone carver, Samuel B. Oatman, signed the front base of the Atkins Family monument to help market his work.





## DISTRIBUTOR SIGNATURES

This stone was imported to Atlanta from New York City.

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## MANUFACTURER SIGNATURES

Iron fence manufacturer Stewart Iron Works was a prominent national source for iron cemetery fences.

## Temporary Markers

Temporary markers (most often called funeral home markers) are commonly provided by the funeral home with the intention that they will be replaced with a more permanent marker. Temporary markers consist of an identity box mounted on pegs or spikes, which are used to secure the marker to the ground. They minimally provide the decedent's name, date of death, and officiating organization. These are thought to be a 20<sup>th</sup> century tradition.

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### **FLUSH**

(20th century)

- Rectangular identity box with triangular spikes mounted on the short ends for insertion into the ground.
- Designed to lay flat on the ground surface.



### **SPIKE/PEG**

(Mid-20<sup>th</sup> century)

- Information box mounted at the top of a single vertical spike or peg.
- Sometimes cross-shaped.

## **SPIKE/PEG**

(Mid-20<sup>th</sup> century)

- Usually made of zinc alloys finished in gold, copper, silver, or chrome finishes.



## **VERTICAL**

(Post 1990)

- Polymer plaque supported on two pegs.
- Usually etched with the individual's information.
- More weather resistant than spike and flush forms.

## Symbols

Symbols provide a means of combining multiple ideas into a single concept through the use of metaphor, pictograms, and artistic rendition. Symbols frequently convey multiple meanings, are borrowed and used interchangeably between communities, and meanings are prone to change through time. Their meanings, therefore, must be treated as dynamic and grounded on the deceased's social context.

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**Wedded Hands**  
(19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century)



**Empty Shoes**  
(19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century)



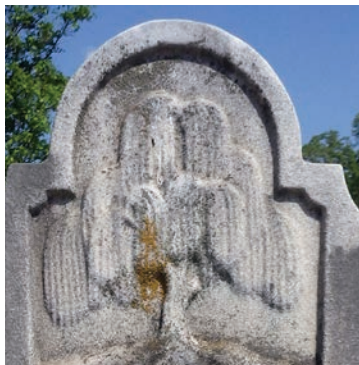
**Here Lies (Hebrew)**  
(18<sup>th</sup> century to the Present)



**Chain Hand**  
(19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century)



**Willow**  
(18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century)



**Lilies**  
(19<sup>th</sup> century)



**Praying Hands**  
(19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century)



**Star**  
(18<sup>th</sup> century to the Present)



**Gate of Heaven**  
(Mid-19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century)



# Crosses

Crosses are one of the more commonly used symbols in American cemeteries. While most commonly associated with Christian religions, various cross forms can denote specific ideas, organizations, and specific branches within Christianity.



## CALVARY

- Simple cross situated on a three-tiered base.



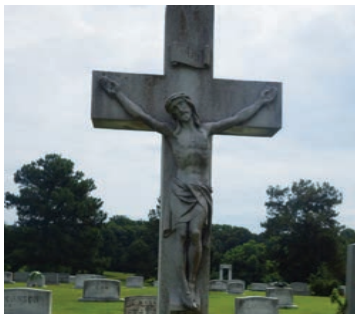
## CELTIC

- Distinguished by a circle intersecting the cross's arms.

## CROSS IN CIRCLE

- Symbol for the West African cosmogram.
- On these crosses, the terminus of each arm intersects with an encompassing circle.





## **CRUCIFIX**

- This cross depicts the body of Christ at his crucifixion.



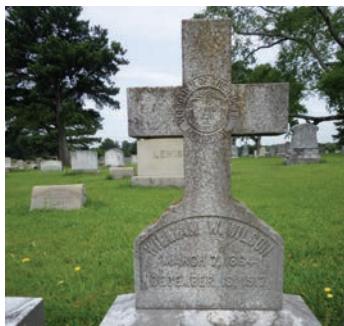
## **ORTHODOX CROSS**

- Commonly used by Russian and Greek Orthodox, and Greek Catholic faiths.



## **FLEUR**

- Side and top arms terminate in fleur-de-lis or liliform end caps



## **GREEK**

- Four arms of equal length.





## WESTERN

- Single bar a third of the way down from the top.



## T

- Represents the West African cosmogram's vision of afterlife.

## MALTESE

- Variant of the Greek Cross with arms that taper into the center.
- Outer ends of each arm are forked to create eight points.



## Clan, Tribe, and Family Symbols

Heraldry, family crests, emblems, and coats of arms are groups of symbols used on graves to identify family heritage. Since families were often associated with specific geographical regions, family and town crests often share the same symbols.

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### FAMILY CRESTS

- Tends to be placed in a prominent place on the monument, usually in close association with the surname.
  - Some families have more than one coat of arms.
- 



### MON

- Tend to be relatively simple, highly stylized, and are frequently drawn from designs in nature.
- Mon are often placed within circles.

Common heritage symbols can solidify communities into a united network. For example, symbols associated with ancient clans or tribes help to unite Jewish families. Jewish history recognizes all Jews as having ties to one of four ancient tribes and/or to the Kohanim (priests). An animal or object represents each tribe (or division). The most common symbols linked with Traditional Jewish Groups are:

### **Symbol**

Cohanim Hands  
Water Pitcher  
Deer  
Lion  
Wolf

### **Affiliation**

Kohanim (Priests)  
Tribe of Levi  
Tribe of Naphtali  
Tribe of Judah  
Tribe of Benjamin

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## **COHANIM HANDS**

- Indicates ties to the Kohanim or priestly sector of Jewish society, as well as symbolizing a spiritual blessing.



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## **LEVI**

- Water pitchers and hands pouring water are symbols for members of the Levi tribe.

## Professions and Hobbies

During the latter half of the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, the profession and hobbies of the deceased became important pieces of information to record on their monument. Towards the latter end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, improved stone-etching technologies and increased use of cast monuments meant that more complicated designs could be added to a monument. Today, computer-aided etching has paved the way for photographic quality images to be included on the monument, some of which are even in color.



## Professions and Hobbies

Organizational memberships are frequently included on markers. Membership can include involvement in a wide variety of social, civic, political, and vocational groups. Many organizations have formalized crests or use particular objects, as symbols for their more important ideals. Among the Odd Fellows, for example, three linked chains stand for friendship, love, and truth.

### KIWANIS CLUB



### MASON/ODD FELLOW



### WOODMAN JEWELS

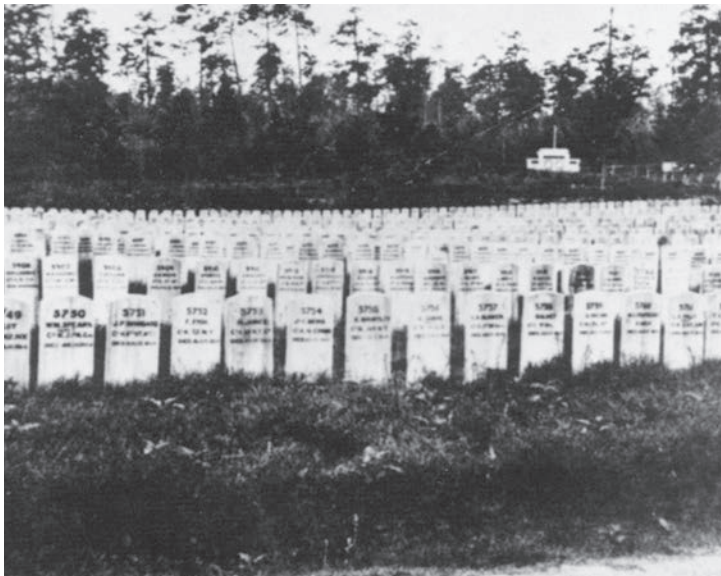


### SHRINER



(Above) Examples of Organizational Symbols

## Military Markers



### WOODEN HEADBOARDS

- Used from 1862 to 1873.
- Included name, registration number, and unit.
- Information painted or carved into marker face.
- Eventually replaced with more durable stone markers.
- No wooden military issued headboards are known to survive in Georgia's National Cemeteries.

Wooden grave markers in the Andersonville Cemetery. (Image courtesy of Andersonville National Historic Site).

## UNION SHIELD TABLET

### Civil War Type

- Used from 1873 to 1879.
- For Union war dead buried in National Cemeteries.
- Four inches thick and 10 inches wide.
- 42 inches tall above the Mason-Dixon Line, 36 inches tall below, with 12 inches of stone exposed above the ground.
- Rounded arched top.
- Recessed Union shield.
- Included grave number, name, rank, and unit carved in bas-relief.
- Marble or granite.



### Post Civil War Type

- Used from 1879 to the turn-of-the-century.
- Authorized for veterans of all conflicts, including those buried in private cemeteries.
- Conflict added to stone; Stones lacking a conflict inscription mark are Civil War veterans.
- Same dimensions as previous stone.
- Recessed Union shield.
- Includes name, rank, unit, and conflict, carved in bas-relief.
- Marble or granite.

## Early 20th-Century Type

- Used from around the turn-of-the-century until after WWI.
- Dimensions changed to 39 inches tall, four inches thick and 12 inches wide in 1903.
- Information carved into stone; no more bas-relief.
- Birth and death dates added.
- Rounded arched top.
- Marble or granite.
- Used to replace earlier markers that had worn out.



## GENERAL TABLET

- From 1922 to present.
- For all post Spanish-American War veterans.
- 42 inches tall, 13 inches wide, and four inches thick.
- Marble or granite.
- Rounded arched top.
- Religious affiliation, name, home state, rank, unit, conflict, birth and death dates.
- Still issued by the Office of Veteran's Affairs for use in national and civilian cemeteries today.



## MILITARY PLAQUE

- 1936 - Present
- 12 inches wide, 24 inches long, and 4 inches deep; Reduced to 3 inches deep in 1948 and reset to 4 inches in 1974.
- Name, rank, military organization, date of death, home state, religious affiliation, and conflict inscribed into the stone.
- Bronze markers approved in 1940; 24 inches in length, 12 inches wide, and 3/16 inch thick; typically mounted on a stone or concrete base.
- Inscriptions on bronze markers were cast in relief.
- In 1973, religious emblem was moved to the base of the inscription, and the former, block-angled bronze margins were beveled.



A New Marker  
Made of Marble.



One of the Bronze  
Markers Approved  
in 1940.

## "UNKNOWN" SOLDIERS MARKERS

- 1873 - Present
- Marble pillar, 6 inches square and 30 inches long with a grave number inscribed into the marker's flat top.
- Discontinued in 1903.
- Replaced with the same Union Shield marker provided to all veterans, inscribed with "Unknown."
- Modern markers for unidentified servicemen and women now include flat bronze and marble plaques.



The Marker of an Unknown Soldier

## CONFEDERATE TABLET

- 1906 - Present
- 15-24 inches tall, four inches thick, and 10-11 inches wide.
- Gable-topped and inscribed with the soldier's name (sometimes placed in a text-on-curve format), rank, death date, unit, and the designation "CSA." (Confederate States of America)
- Confederate Cross of Honor added to the top of the marker in 1930.
- Stones issued between 1941 and 1947 were made of granite.
- Modern Confederate markers may also be issued as horizontal flush plaques.



A Confederate Tablet Marker Authorized for Use in 1929 in Private Cemeteries.

## CONFEDERATE MEDALLION

- Introduced in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.
- At least two forms have been identified in Georgia. These are referred to in this document as Style 1 and Style 2.



Front Side (Above Left) and Back Side (Above Right); Confederate Cross of Honor Style 1. This type is still issued by the SCV.



Front Side (Above Left) and Back Side (Above Right); Confederate Cross of Honor Style 2.





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