

The Historical Society of Greenfield Ohio, formed in 1949, is non-profit and exists to further historical preservation and education in Greenfield, Ohio, and the surrounding area. To this end it will collect, preserve and interpret archival materials and artifacts indigenous to the Greenfield area; encourage historical research; sponsor programs, displays and special events; be concerned with the preservation of historical buildings and cooperate with other organizations interested.



This booklet and walking tour is one example of how we are supporting our mission. Visit our website to learn more about us.

On our website you can also find a link to burials in the Greenfield Cemeteries at (www.greenfieldhistoricalsociety.org/ghs-info-gen.html)

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Noteworthy Burials and Unique Monuments in the Greenfield Cemetery



Greenfield Historical Society

Welcome

The **Greenfield Cemetery** is approximately 30 acres in size and was begun in 1868 when about 23 acres were purchased from John Anderson, Isaac Claypool and J. & R. Smith for \$3,875. The cemetery was laid out in 1868 by Leopold Wetz, a landscape gardener and florist of Wilmington, Ohio. As it was then, it is still “a thing of beauty to behold”.

Mark Dwyer (Section 3B, Lot 181) was the first burial here. The remains of William Bell (1763-1801), a veteran of the American Revolution and the first recorded burial in Highland County, was disinterred from the Old Burial Grounds (cemetery next to Travellers Rest) and re-buried here in the Bell family plot. Other families also moved burials so their families could be in one burial plot.



The Wright family mausoleum, (1873), Memorial Chapel (1896), Soldiers' Monument (1907) and the Greenfield Mausoleum (1917) were also added.

In this booklet, we highlight not only noteworthy burials, but also some of the unique architectural features found throughout the cemetery. While all burials are noteworthy, the ones featured in this booklet have particular historic or local interest. As you visit the Greenfield Cemetery, we ask that you be respectful of the burials and the property in general. Our thanks to the Village of Greenfield and the maintenance team for their continued support and dedication to maintaining the Greenfield Cemetery.

The Village of Greenfield and Greenfield Historical Society are not responsible for accidents.

Greenfield Mausoleum

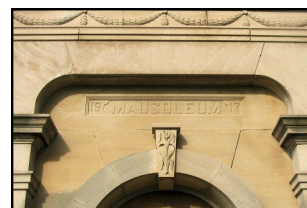
R



1917

Information about the mausoleum is sketchy, but it is generally believed that a man from Galion, Ohio, came to

Greenfield, likely in the late 1800s, with a scheme to build a mausoleum in the Greenfield Cemetery. Once the stone slabs and other building materials were brought in, the man “left town” and never did come back. Cemetery Commission minutes from April 28, 1916, indicate the sale of the land to L.J. Cole. In June, 1917, The Ohio Mausoleum Company of Galion, Ohio received title to the land. Most of the work to complete the mausoleum was made possible by the Murray Funeral Home and the Christopher family.



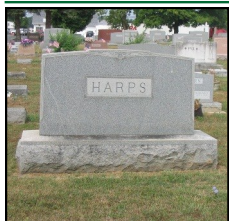
There is no real record stating why people were buried in the mausoleum. The last person interred in the mausoleum was Evelyn Christopher, who was born April 17, 1909, and died Feb. 24, 2005. Due to the

condition of the mausoleum, village officials decided the best solution in being respectful of those interred would be to relocate all remains to other burial plots in the cemetery and this was accomplished in 2011.



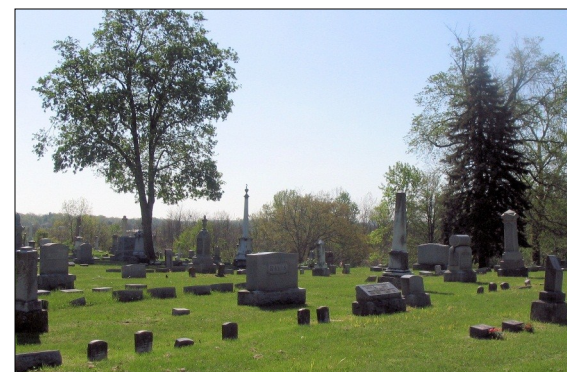
Q

James A. Harps



3/31/1867—9/3/1930

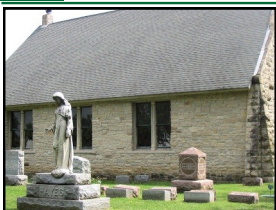
In the early 1900s the oil can was an indispensable household fixture. Millions of homes used the kerosene lamp and there were no gas stoves. There was not an abundance of filling stations for convenience so each person had to carry his supply of gasoline in his own oil can and that could be a greasy mess. About 1900 Eugene Arnott (another Greenfield genius) had an inspiration—why not produce a clean and sanitary oil can operated by pneumatic pressure? He invented the can and in 1901 James A. Harps moved from Pennsylvania to Greenfield and purchased the rights, title and interests in the original patentees. He began the manufacture of the *Never Fail* oil can. Mr. Harps was a skilled salesman and the sales of the can experienced phenomenal growth. Mr. Harps was also an outstanding citizen as member of the Board of Education, President of the Peoples National Bank and an influential member of the Methodist Church. Unfortunately technological advances and new inventions led to the demise of the oil can. Incandescent lights, gas stoves and gas stations on every corner devastated demand for his oil can. At age 63, having suffered from an illness, he ended his life at his home by shooting himself.



Leopold Weltz (1825-1890), the designer of the cemetery, was born in Prussia in 1825. His Grandfather, who was English, had been appointed as a Minister to the German Court and Leo's father, Frederick, who was a botanist, had been in the Government of Germany as a geologist. Leo attended the University of Heidelberg and, while he was still a student, helped to lay out the Botanical Garden there. He accepted a position as the head gardener to Alexander III, the Tsar of Russia, where he remained until he was recalled to Germany to serve in the military. He fought during the Revolution of 1847 as a Lieutenant. In 1851 he came to West Virginia and in 1852 to Cincinnati, where he took a position as foreman of a nursery at Mt. Washington. He later started his own nursery. While working in Cincinnati he laid out the grounds of the estates of Salmon P. Chase and Governor Buchanan. He moved to Wilmington in 1857 where he played a role in the landscape design of the Sugar Grove Cemetery and other cemeteries at London, Springfield, Martinsville, Hillsboro and Corwin. From his nursery at Wilmington he shipped stock to many states and to the Indian Territories.

A

Memorial Chapel



1896

Augusta A. Jones provided the chapel in 1896. Work on it was completed in 1897. The purpose of the chapel was

to use as funerals and other public gatherings. It was originally furnished with pews and a platform in front where the casket was placed. A beautiful stained glass window is on the south side. Stone for the chapel was quarried from the then local Rucker Stone Quarry.



Section 3B

The chapel served the community until the mid 1940s and after that became a storage area for cemetery tools and equipment. After years of neglect, in 1990 "Friends of the Chapel" (including John Ed Donnells, Dorothy Lynch, Minerva Seitz and others) organized to raise funds for major repairs which included roof repair and wall reinforcement. The work was performed in 1996-1997.

Today it again is in need of repairs and hopefully funds can once again be raised for this effort.

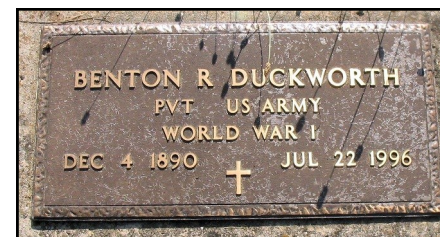
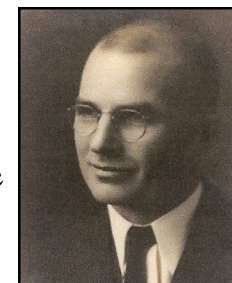


Benton Raymond Duckworth

P

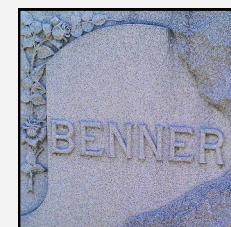
12/4/1890—7/22/1996

Born in Washington County, Ohio, B. R. Duckworth taught school in several places before coming to Greenfield where he was a high school teacher, principal of Edward Lee McClain High School, and Superintendent of Greenfield Public Schools. He was also a farmer with a farm outside Greenfield and an avid forester. He lived to be 105 years of age!



Section 1, Lot 7

Unique Monuments in Section 1



O

Frank Raymond Harris

1880—1965



He was born the son of David M. and Sarah Shrock Harris. He served the Greenfield Schools as teacher, principal, and superintendent. He was the author of *The Chronicles of Greenfield and the County McArthur*, *Itchin' Feet*, *A Greene Countrie Towne*, *Roses in December*, and *Hometown Chronicles*. He became an extensive traveler visiting 128 countries and flew on the Hindenburg.

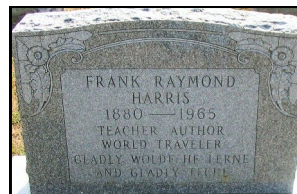
When Edward Lee McClain was interested donating a modern, up-to-date high school building he sought out Harris to lead the planning.



Mr. Harris was involved in the organization and founding of the Greenfield Historical Society. He died April 1, 1965. In his will he left "a bequest of \$20,000.00 to the Greenfield

Historical Association - to acquire the property known as "Travellers Rest Inn" at 147 Jefferson Street. His bequest was honored and Travellers Rest was purchased, moved and reconstructed.

Section 1, Lot 98



Soldiers' Monument

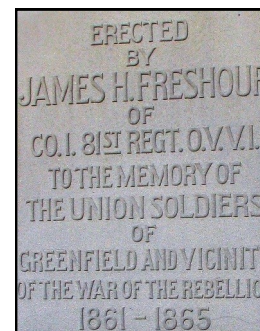
B

1907

Soldiers' Monument, dedicated Oct. 23, 1907, was presented to the people of Greenfield by James Freshour, his sister Miss Hortense, and Juliana (White) Freshour, their mother, who was the daughter of the veteran Charles White, in honor of those who fought and died for the Union. Thousands attended the dedication, led by Price's Premier Band and Gen. G.H. Hirst of Chillicothe delivered the address.



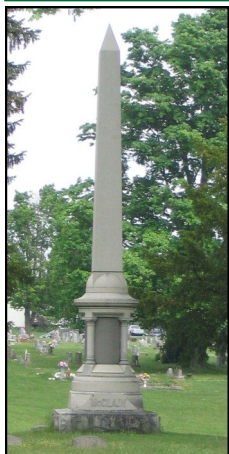
It is 56 feet tall, surmounted by a soldier at parade rest and eight and one-half feet tall. On four sides of the monument are floating banners with the inscriptions: Patriotism, Courage, Victory and Sacrifice. The four figures at the base represent the branches of the service: Infantry, Artillery, Cavalry and the Color Bearer. The figures are the work of noted Scotch sculptor, James Brown King.



C

Edward Lee McClain

5/30/1861—5/2/1934



At the age of 13, Mr. McClain began his business career in the harness shop of his father. In 1881 he founded the E.L. McClain Manufacturing Company with his innovative design of the horse collar pad. In 1891 Sun Manufacturing was formed, creating show cases, coffee mills, cash registers, money drawers and rat traps. In 1901, with others, he started the

Greenfield Printing and Publishing Company. In 1903, the E.L. McClain Manufacturing Company was incorporated as The American Pad and Textile Company (TAPATCO) and in 1913 expanded to manufacture gloves, overalls and suspenders. In 1915, the E.L. McClain High School was dedicated as a gift to Greenfield. He and his wife Lulu (7/19/1867—6/12/1947) had four children.

Most of the pictures, statues, and busts in McClain High School were of her selection. In 1923 Mrs.

McClain and her sons and daughter joined Mr. McClain in giving the Vocational Building and the Athletic Field to the city. The McClain home was on S. Washington Street.

Section 5B, Lot 42



N

Reverend George C. Braxton

1827—1942



George Braxton was a familiar figure on the streets of Greenfield. He had the gracious and courtly manners of an old plantation slave, the innate courtesy of one who had been chastened by misfortune, sweetened by adversity and inspired by a great and abiding faith in God and his fellowmen. He was born a slave on an Old Virginia plantation. When questioned by a census enumerator in Columbus in 1940, he could offer no certified proof that he was 113 years of age, but based his claim on memory of a notched stick. He recalled that from year to year his birthdays were carved on a "birthday stick" carried by his master. He remembered that when he came home from the Civil War, his master told him there were 42 notches on the stick. He said he was the first negro married in Ohio, and was the father of 17 children. He died in Columbus 6/22/1942.

It was said that he saved the Greenfield town hall from burning when the kerosene chandelier fell, scattering its oil over the floor and chairs. He beat out the spreading flames with his coat and for his heroism, the town took up a collection and bought him a new suit of clothes. The citizens of Greenfield erected the

monument shown above in 1949.

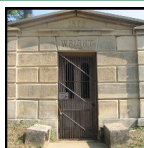
George Braxton
1827—1942
Aged 115 Years
SLAVE AND FREE MAN
CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN

Section Old Six, Lot 5

M

Wright Mausoleum

1873



The Wright family purchased a plot against a natural hill slope and erected, in 1873, the only private mausoleum in Highland County. The Wrights were early bankers. In 1865 they bought the First National Bank of Greenfield and conducted the business until 1871 when the stockholders reorganized as the Citizen's Bank of Greenfield. During the Panic of 1873 the bank failed and the Wrights lost heavily.

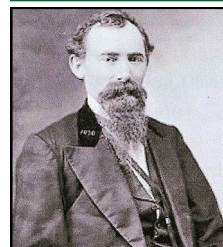
The mausoleum is 12' wide by 20' long and approx. 10 1/2' tall. There are 7 crypts in the mausoleum. The inscriptions on the crypts are:

Jane Wife of John V. Wright Died Jan. 10, 1892 Aged 81 yrs 4 ms <i>"Behold I and the child on which God hath given me"</i>		Clara S. Wife of T.F. Wright Died Dec. 8, 1884 Aged 51 yrs		No Inscription
Amzi J. Wright 1832—1903 Amy Elizabeth His Wife 1833—1900	J.V. Wright Died Feb. 13, 1873 Aged 65 yrs 8 ms 8 ds <i>"My flesh shall rest in hope"</i>	Willie D. Wright Died Sept. 22, 1872 Aged 6 yrs 2 ms 27 ds <i>"It is well with the child"</i>	Harry Hays Wright Died Feb. 1, 1883 Aged 7 yrs 2 ms 7 ds <i>"Such is the Kingdom of Heaven"</i>	

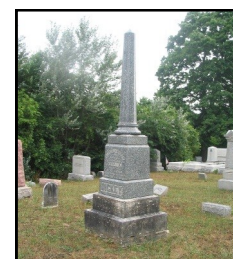
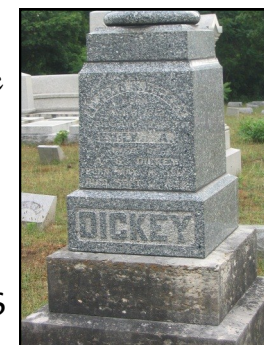
Henry Luther Dickey

D

10/29/1832—5/23/1910



Henry Dickey was born in South Salem, Ohio, and moved in 1836 to Washington Court House, Ohio. At age 15 he moved to Greenfield where he attended the Greenfield Academy. He pursued his vocation of civil engineer, and was in charge of the construction of the Marietta and Cincinnati Railroad in Vinton County. Resigning in 1855, he studied law and was admitted to the bar in 1857. He graduated from the Cincinnati Law School in 1859 and commenced practice in Greenfield. He served as a member of the State House of Representatives in 1861 and he served in the State Senate in 1868 and 1869. After serving in Congress 1877—1881, he resumed practice of law. He was admitted to practice before the US Supreme Court in 1877.



Section 5B, Lot 79

E

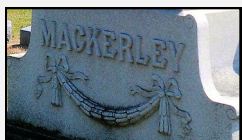
Ralph Price

5/20/1871—7/21/1939

Ralph Price was undoubtedly Greenfield's foremost musician for over half a century. He gained distinction not only as a bandmaster but in every field of music. As a composer, his best known marches were *Western World*, *Marching Men*, *Stadium*

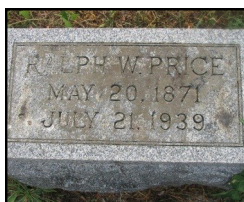


Unique Monument in
Section 5B



and *Avalon*. During the First World War, the first two of these marches were frequently played by military bands overseas. His church music included special arrangements of *Jubilate Deo*, *My Faith Looks Up to Thee*, *Lord's Prayer* and *One Sweetly Solemn Thought*.

He was also an expert pipe organist and presided at the pipe organ in the First Presbyterian church for many years. In 1914 he became supervisor of music in the Greenfield Schools. He staged many school operas and minstrels and conducted the school's band. He expressed himself—and taught others to express themselves—through the medium of “concord of sweet sounds”.



Section 5B, Lot 85

L

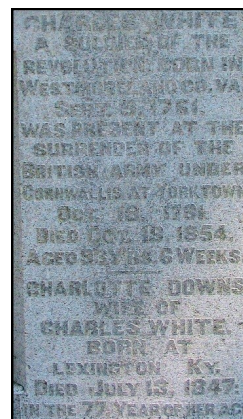
Charles White

9/5/1761—10/19/1854



Charles White, born in Virginia, was a soldier of the American Revolution. He served under Captain Wolfendate Kendall to guard the shores of the Potomac and was present at the surrender of the British Army under Cornwallis at Yorktown, October 19, 1781.

When news of Daniel Boone's explorations and daring deeds in Kentucky reached his ears, he determined to cross the mountains and join the heroic settlers. Like many other immigrants from the south, he owned slaves in Kentucky but his conscience revolted against this abominable institution and he emancipated all of his own slaves and also bought and set free some of those belonging to his neighbors. For this act he is one of the very first of the



Abolitionists. Charles' first wife was Sarah Monroe, sister of the fifth president of the US. The anti-slavery sentiments of Charles eventually made Kentucky a disagreeable state for him to live and in 1808 he settled in Ross County, just below Greenfield. He died on the anniversary of Yorktown, Oct. 19, 1854.

Section 2, Lot 138

K

Charles Richard Patterson

1833—1910

Charles Richard Patterson (C.R.) founded the C.R. Patterson & Sons Company in Greenfield, in 1865. Born into slavery in Virginia, his family made it to Greenfield and was living here according to the 1850 Census. For many years, the Patterson company produced numerous types of horse-drawn vehicles. In 1873 he went into partnership with a white man, J.P. Lowe. Patterson assumed sole ownership a decade later upon the death of his partner. The product line included buggies, backboards, phaetons, rockaways and surreys — the era's most popular wagons. His son Fred joined the firm and with Fred's direction the firm turned its attention to the automotive age that was taking over the carriage trade. It became the first African-American automobile manufacturer with the introduction of the Patterson-Greenfield automobile in 1916. This new line of the business was dependent on having a lot of capital and that was not easy to acquire so the Patterson-Greenfield automobile never reached the mass-production level. Pattersons also turned their attention to the production of school buses which were in big demand by Ohio schools.



Section 2, Lot 96

F

Juliana White Freshour

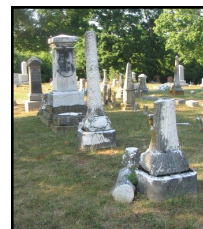
2/7/1815—11/8/1907

The Freshour family has been represented in all the wars fought for our country's independence or to sustain its integrity and life. The family originated from Abraham Freshour, who emigrated to the US from Germany and became a leading farmer in Ohio. In 1839 he married Juliana White.



Juliana's father was Charles White, a Revolutionary soldier. Juliana White Freshour is Greenfield's only real Daughter of the American Revolution. The Juliana White Chapter of the D.A.R. was organized on December 11, 1920.

The Freshour family made possible the beautiful Soldiers' Monument which welcomes visitors at the main entrance of the cemetery.



Did you know? . . .

Just across the road in Section 3B note the row of "tree" monuments for the W.W. Bell family. On some you will see the name of the monument carver on the lower portion. That person was Mr. D. C. Long, great-grandfather of Patsy Smith, historical society board member!



Section 5B, Lot 87

G

James M. Murray

1864—1946

James M. Murray was the son of James M. and Economy (Himiler) Murray. James (Junior) was reared in Greenfield and was trained from early childhood to work in his father's undertaking establishment. When only eleven years old he was taken into the shop and as he grew older was inducted into all the details of the business. After his father's death he succeeded to the business. The Murray Funeral Home, the oldest continuing business in Greenfield, was founded in 1852. James (Junior) operated the business for almost a half century until his death.



After his death his widow continued the operation of the business under the management of Ralph Clyburn. When Mrs. Murray passed away, she left the business to Mr. Clyburn who operated the business along with his sons, Dane and Phil, who eventually purchased the business. In 1998 the funeral home was sold to Mr. Heath Fetto and is currently operated as the Murray-Fetto Funeral Home.

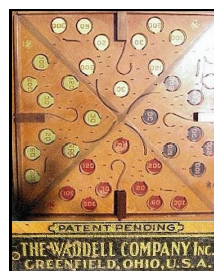


J

John M. Waddell

1/4/1853 - 12/16/1922

John M. Waddell had a remarkable industrial career. In 1888 he founded the John M. Waddell Manufacturing Co. It is said the company was the outgrowth of a domestic incident—one morning, in the absence of the cook, Mr. Waddell found himself in need of ground coffee and began to use the old box coffee mill. This contraption had to be held between your knees and was a struggle to use. This gave him the idea to produce a new and improved coffee grinder which he began producing in 1889. He later added the manufacture of a cash register (the "Simplex"). After some dispute with corporate board members, he withdrew from the company and its name was changed to the Sun Manufacturing Company which operated until 1904 when it was sold to the Columbus Show Case Co. and moved to Columbus. He then organized the Waddell Wooden



Ware Works which manufactured cash registers, money drawers, coffee mills, animal traps, toys, puzzles, games, novelties and other items. It may be best known for its showcases and rural delivery tables and cases.

I

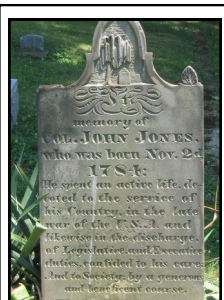
G. I. Rucker

1821—1883



G. I. Rucker came to Greenfield from Cincinnati in 1854 and acquired some 85 acres on the

Ross County side of Paint Creek and about 13 acres on the Highland County side, all under laid with great deposits of Niagara limestone of the Devonian Age overlaid with Helderberg limestone 42 feet in thickness and covered with ten feet of glacial drift. The stone was regular in bedding, making it possible to quarry large stone slabs 3 or 4 inches



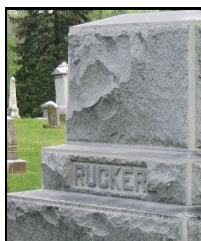
Another interesting monument in Section 4B.

thick with the surface as smooth and regular as if had been sawed. Mr. Rucker proceeded to quarry the stone on a large scale for the Cincinnati market. He produced cut stone for buildings, crushed stone for the streets, and sidewalks, curbs and gutters and lime in large quantities.

The skies of Greenfield were lighted up at night from the burning lime kilns which burned day and night. In 1879 he formed a

partnership with his son George W., who carried on the business after his father's death. He built a magnificent stone mansion overlooking Paint Creek valley.

Section 3A, Lot 83

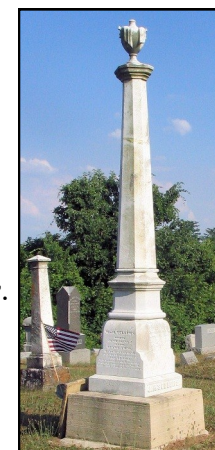


H

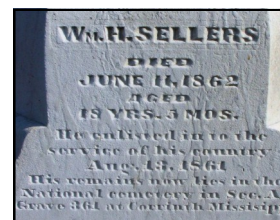
William H. Sellers

1/11/1844—6/11/1862

William Sellers enlisted in the service of his country in 1861 at the age of seventeen. He fought and died in the Civil War. He was the son of John H. and Julia (Wells) Sellers. His remains are interred at the Corinth, Mississippi, National Cemetery. William's father John H. began the Sellers Monument Works that is now Hardy Monuments, owned by Jay and Beth Hardy. This monument not only honors the Sellers' son lost in the Civil War, but the eastern face



of the stone shows 5 other children lost to the Sellers family, two of them within one week of each other.



Section 3B, Lot 175

Robert A. Smart

4/1892—8/1/1918

Robert Smart was a World War I casualty from Greenfield. The American Legion Post is named after him.



Section 3B

Map Legend

The numbered areas denote the various Sections within the cemetery and the other letters correspond to the sites described in this booklet.

Carvings and their Symbolism

Lily of the valley—young innocent child

GAR-Grand Army of the Republic;

Union fraternal organization from the Civil War created in 1866; Began the tradition of Decoration Day on May 30th; lobbied for pensions and soldiers' homes

Anchor- hope or eternal life; also used for navy veterans or Masons

Broken bud or branch-someone who has died prematurely; usually seen on a younger person's gravestone

Arch-passage to heaven

Clasped hands-farewell to earthly existence

Column- mortality; a broken or draped column represents the break in earthly to heavenly life

Drapery- mourning

Lamb- usually seen on child's grave; represents innocence

Urn-the soul

Willow tree-sadness or mourning

Crowns- righteousness

Tree trunk- brevity of life; number of branches can indicate family members buried at that site

