



"The Only People Without Problems Are Those In Cemeteries" By Anthony Robbins



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Memorial Day and Cemetery Tombstones

Memorial Day

By the time this newsletter is sent to everyone, Memorial Day weekend will have been here and gone. It has become a holiday that is looked forward to as it brings a three day weekend and also the unofficial start of the summer for everyone. School is out, warm weather is here, vacations follow, and it is summer time! But, is this all that Memorial Day is all about?

A brief history; Memorial Day originally called "Declaration Day", came into being in 1868 to honor Union and Confederate soldiers who died in the Civil War. On May 5, 1868, it became a U.S. Federal Holiday established by General John Logan, national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic. By the 20th century, "Memorial Day" had been extended to honor all Americans who have died while in the military service.

Today, the men and women who served in our armed forces are still honored with parades and ceremonies. The meaning of Memorial Day will always be first and foremost a holiday to honor our armed service people, now however, Memorial Day seems to have turned into a holiday that means more. The meaning of Memorial Day now has extended to our other family members who have passed. Families now gather to go to the cemeteries and honor all of their loved ones who have died, by putting flowers, flags and cards on their graves. All in all, I do not think this diminishes the true meaning of Memorial Day, as we will never forget the sacrifices that our men and women of the armed service have done.

Cemetery Tombstones

Now, this brings me to the rest of the story.

On Memorial Day, or any other day and you are just out in a cemetery searching for that elusive relative, (as we genealogists tend to do) have you ever noticed the unusual tombstone? Especially so if you are in an older cemetery. Ever wonder what the praying hands or angels mean, or the lion, lamb and tree stump? How about those statues?

Symbolisms on tombstones have been around since the first crude markers came about. Rough stones with names, ages, dates of birth and death marked on them. For our ancestors, these markers were a material representative of the departed, standing for or giving an impression of the departed person.

In the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, people were obsessed with mortality. The markers were often had coffins, skeletons, spent hourglasses engraved upon them.

About the nineteenth century, tastes were changing and people gave greater importance to the tombstones. It became a true craft, with engravings and sculptures for the deceased. Symbols and empathies were engraved upon the stones to show the personality of the person who was buried there, and/or to show the feelings of the loved ones left behind. The tombstones became more elaborate and lavish, which made the cemeteries more like parks than cemeteries.

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To help understand more what mortality symbolism stands for and to better help us understand their meanings as we walk through the cemeteries of our ancestors, I have put together some of the more common symbols and what they mean.

Examples of Cemetery Gravestone Symbolism



The Lamb symbolizes innocence. The lamb has been used in Christian symbols for many years. It usually marks the graves of children.



Sleeping child is a Victorian symbol for death.



Angels of grief are usually spiritual messengers in most major religions, seen as heavenly messengers in human form and also as a figure of mourning.



Bones symbolize death, mortality, finality.



Snake and Apple symbolize sin.



A tree trunk symbolizes a life that has been cut off.



A Sheaf of wheat represents harvest, usually found on older people's gravestones.



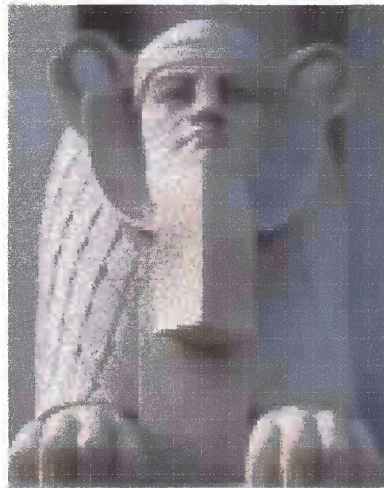
A small empty chair may indicate the death of a child.

The plow symbolizes the harvest; reaping of life





Anchor is a symbol of hope, strong faith, and steadfastness.



The Sphinx is a guardian; represents strength and protection.

Examples of Secret Societies, Clubs and Fraternal organization Symbols



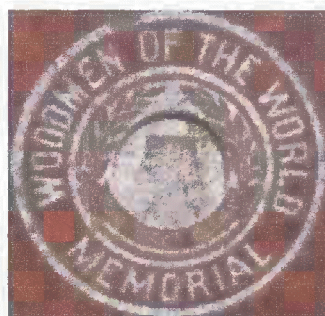
P.A.P. with Moose Loyal Order of Moose (LOOM), a fraternal organization, P.A.P. stands for their motto: Purity, Aid, and Progress



The Order of the Eastern Star, the largest fraternal organization in the world to which both women and men may belong. A woman must be related by birth or marriage to a Mason in order to become a member OES, and a man must be a mason to join.



Symbol of Shriners (The Imperial Council of the Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine). The group was founded in 1872, and can be joined once the member has become a Master Mason.

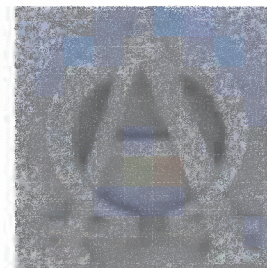


Woodmen of the World. Seen on the gravestones of Woodmen of the World Members, an insurance company and fraternal organization.



American Legion, found on the graves of people who were American Legion members, an organization for veterans.

Alpha and Omega. First and last letter of the Greek alphabet. Symbolizes the beginning and the end.



Sources: www.graveaddiction.com/symbol.html
www.oakdalecemetery.org/funerary_art_symbolism.asp
<http://iagenweb.org/ringgold/cemeteries/gravestonesymbols.html>
www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Memorial_Day
www.usmemorialday.org/?page_id=2

Additional websites for gravestone symbolism:

www.colorado-cemeteries.com/symbols.html
www.genealogy.about.com/od/cemetery_records/ig/tombstone_symbols/
www.sleepyhollowcemetery.org/tours-and-events/cemetery-art/
www.magnoliasandpeaches.com/dynamictree/cemetery/search/DocLst.asp
www.cyndislist.com/cemeteries/iconography-and-symbolism/

My thanks to Larry Eucher who sparked the idea for the main theme of this Mesa Dwellers. Larry sent me several of the above websites, he also suggests one can use Google, Ixquick, etc. to find many more websites on the meaning of artwork on memorials. Also, don't forget to click on "Images Search", there is a wide variety and the symbolism is fascinating.

Sent by Larry Eucher 12 May 2014

Head Stone Cleaning

As we stroll through the cemeteries to pay respect for our loved ones, or looking for that long lost relative, we may notice that some of the headstones are in need of help. They have weathered, broken, deteriorated with the passing of time. Over time there are a lot of factors that can alter the appearance of tombstones and can cause damage. Some of these being; dirt, air pollution, biological organisms (bacteria, mold, mildew, algae, mosses and lichen), bird droppings, plant or tree sap, salt damage, freeze and thaw cycles, and improper cleaning. As it turns out cleaning the tombstone is not as simple as one would think. There are a lot of Do's and Don'ts associated with the whole process. Luckily, there are informative websites that can tell you how to safely clean your loved ones tombstone so that you can keep it clean and lasting longer. Here are just a few of the Do's and Don'ts.

Cleaning Supplies

- Ample supply of natural or distilled water.
- Soft white-bristle brush
- Toothbrush
- Do Not use natural bristles when cleaning your tombstone, this can encourage organic growth.
- Do Not use wire bristles or any metal instruments to clean your tombstone.
- If your tombstone is very dirty, use only non-ionic cleaners. (Non-ionic detergents are the gentlest known detergent solution. Some brands are Amway's LOC detergent; Triton-X made by Rohm and Haas or Igepal and is available from conservation stores.)
- Do Not use household cleaners, including bar soap, borax vinegar, ammonia and bleach.
- Do Not use pressure washers.
- Do Not use sealants of any kind.
- Do Not use shaving cream. (Once a popular cleaner, now shown to be harmful to the stones.)

Tips for Cleaning Your Tombstone or Monument

- Wet the tombstone completely before beginning the cleaning process.
- Work from the bottom up. You do not want stains and water building up on the bottom while you clean the upper section.
- Use LOTS of water. Be sure to rinse off any cleaners used thoroughly.
- Do not attempt to remove deep-set stains which remain after cleaning.
- Report any damage, no matter how slight, to the cemetery caretaker or owner.

These are tips for more modern tombstones, for very old tombstones and monuments in bad condition, it is best to contact an expert for the proper care procedures.

Sources: www.fsnfuneralhomes.com/articles/perserving-monuments/
ncptt.nps.gov/wp-content/uploads/Best-Practices-Final.pdf

Additional informative websites for the care and cleaning of tombstones:

www.progenealogists.com/tombstonecare.htm

[preserveala.org/pdfs/ESSAYS/CLEANING GRAVESTONES.pdf](http://preserveala.org/pdfs/ESSAYS/CLEANING_GRAVESTONES.pdf)

www.savinggraves.net/index.php/care-and-cleaning-of-gravestones/50-cleaning-a-gravestone

Book – “A Graveyard Preservation Primer” by Lynette Strangstaad

Family Recipe

Norm Kronvall submitted this Swedish recipe to share with us that he likes to use for special occasions. Norm’s Swedish grandparents died in 1945 and 1946 so he has very little memory of the Swedish side of the family. However, by doing his research, Norm has made it his custom to bring Swedish food to all genealogy gatherings and the “Swedes of the Grand Valley” gatherings. The beet recipe is one of his favorites from a Swedish cook book he got at the Swedish Heritage Museum in Chicago, Illinois.

Sallad Av Inlagda Rodbetor

Swedish Picked Beet Salad

Combine the following in a small bowl to be added to dissolved gelatin

1 Tbsp. sweet pickled beet juice

1 Tbsp. grated onion

1 Tbsp. prepared horseradish

½ tsp. salt

2 Tbsp. white vinegar

Prepare gelatin

1 pkg. 3 oz lemon flavored gelatin

1 cup boiling water

¾ cup sweet pickled beet juice

Dissolve gelatin in boiling water, add beet juice, stir and add above mixture

Let stand until thick like molasses

ADD

¾ cup chopped sweet pickled beets

¾ cup finely diced celery

Turn into pan, dish or mold of choice and refrigerate until firm

If you have a favorite family recipe please submit and share with us! Send to Kathie Vlahos at skulltree@skybeam.com

Book Review 1

“*Military Bounty Land 1776-1855*” by Christine Rose, Published by CR Publications, San Jose, CA. 2011 156 pages.

Book review written by Bobbi King.

Christine Rose is well known for her extensive familiarity with courthouse records. Ms. Rose and her husband Seymour, as likeable and affable as Christine is loveable and affable, have RVed the byways of America introducing themselves to the courthouse clerks, deciphering their courthouse records, then interpreting and explaining them to us in her straightforward guide *Courthouse Research for the Family Historians: Your Guide to Genealogical Treasures*.

This *Bounty Lands* book was a long time coming but well worth the wait. 1776-1855 refers to the year the Continental Congress promised free government land to officers and soldiers who served in the Revolutionary War, or, to their heirs. 1855 refers to no more bounty lands being granted for any military service rendered after 1855. (Homesteading effectively replaced bounty land grants as homestead laws gave credit as military service being same-as credit for residency requirements in proving up a claim.

Ms Rose’s introduction describes the book thusly: “Bounty land is a story of the hope of the men who enlisted for military service, convinced that they would be justly rewarded after discharge with a few acres of land. It is also the story of the obstacles that often prevented the fulfillment of that hope.”

Her chapters chronicle the incentives for federal and state bounty lands, the procedures, and the several Acts. She leads us to the microfilms, finding aids, and websites that will assist our search for our ancestors in the land records. Plenty of examples are presented revealing the information contained therein. The style of the book, with sidebar explanatory boxed, pictures, maps, scanned documents, and illustrations breaks up the monotony of straight text and keeps us in the book without effort. Ms. Rose defers to Lloyd deWitt Brockstruck’s *Bounty and Conation Land Grants in British Colonial America* as a comprehensive reference for bounty lands awarded before 1776 and the Revolutionary War grants discussed in her book.

This book is the best for a comprehensive, well-produced book on military bounty lands. This is one book you will not donate to the local library.

You can order *Military Bounty Lands 1776-1855* from the author at <http://www.christine4rose.com/Rosebooks.html#23364> as well as from Amazon at <http://goo.gl/Q9qXO> and from several other bookstores that sell genealogy books.

Posted by Dick Eastman on 4 April 2013, This article is from Eastman’s online Genealogy Newsletter and is copyright 2013 by Richard W. Eastman. Information about the newsletter is available at <http://blog.eogn.com>

Book Review 2

“*Unpuzzling Your Past*” by Emily Anne Crome, Fourth edition, published by Genealogical Publishing Co., 2010, 278 pages.

Book review written by Bobbi King

Ms. Croom characterizes her book as a basic guide, but there is still plenty to learn from it. Its goal is to help the beginner and longtime genealogist improve their work. The chapters include, effective note taking, efficient filing system implement; approaching family interviews; challenges of the federal census; using check lists for researching county and state resources; examining local sources; reading, writing and using dates and tackling old handwriting styles.

“*Unpuzzling Your Past*” can be purchased from the publisher’s website at <http://goo.gl/6fRxPm> and from other genealogy book stores.

Read a full book review at www.amazon.com

Posted by Dick Eastman on 31 March 2014, This article is from Eastman’s online Genealogy Newsletter and is copyright 2014 by Richard W. Eastman. Information about the newsletter is available at <http://blog.eogn.com> Condensed version for newsletter

MESA DWELLERS

From the Editor

Winter is gone, and spring here and with it warm weather, and we are enjoying getting outdoors more. It also becomes a time when our genealogy tends to get put on the back burner because of other pressing things to be done. Everything needs a break at times. However, with the coming of warm weather, it is a great time to get out and enjoy the outside while still enjoying genealogy. We can use the nice weather for searching those cemeteries we have been putting off for so long because of the weather. We can incorporate our research into our vacations and thus have our cake and eat it too!

I would like to thank Norm Kronvall for sharing his recipe for Swedish Pickled Beets with us. Do you have a favorite family recipe that you would like to share with our members? Maybe a short story to go along with it to explain the recipe? If so, please send to me at [REDACTED]

There has been a glitch in the Mesa Dweller website as the direct email to me does not seem to be working at this time. If you have submitted anything in the past and received no acknowledgement of it, I apologize and from now on please submit any material for the newsletter, at a new email which will go directly to me at [REDACTED]

Have a wonderful summer!

Kathie Vlahos - Editor
Karen Grew-Ellison – Assistant Editor

Have anything for the newsletter? Please contact Kathie Vlahos or Karen Grew-Ellison or go to: [REDACTED] to submit via-email directly to the editors.

The Mesa County Genealogical Society, established in 1980, is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

Objectives:

1. To promote an interest in genealogy, to encourage and instruct members in the art and practice of genealogical research.
2. To maintain and elevate genealogical standards, to stress the importance of accuracy in research through careful documentation.
3. To locate, preserve and index public and private genealogical records and make such records available to members and the general public.
4. To assist and support any genealogical library in Colorado, which is open to the public.

Society meetings are held the 2nd Thursday of each month at the Commons of Hilltop Garden Room, located at 625 27 ½ Road at 7:00 pm. The monthly Sack Lunch meeting is held in the 2nd floor Museum conference room of the C. D Smith Building at 5th & Ute Streets at 12 noon on the 4th Wednesday of each month. A Board of Directors meeting will often follow the Sack Lunch meeting from 1pm - 2pm.

Society Officers

President	Dennis Jenkins
Vice President	Stella Ledbetter
Secretary	Donna Jackson
Treasurer	Anita Caldwell

Board Members

Carole Moritz	3 year Term
Jill Berthod	2014-2015-2016
Karen Grew-Ellison	2012-2013-2014
	2013-2014-2015

Standing Committee Chairpersons

Historian/Archivist	Jan Wilson
Co-Genealogist/Librarian	Kay Oxer
Co-Genealogist/Librarian	Linda Garey
Newsletter Editor	Kathie Vlahos
Assistant Editor	Karen Grew-Ellison
Society Webmaster	Caley Gredig
Parliamentarian	Vacant
Program Director	Dennis Jenkins
Research Director	Bob Cress
Membership/Education/Outreach	Caley Gredig & Jill Berthod

Membership year: March 1 - February 28/29

Annual Dues: \$10 Single - \$12 Family (2 voting family members).

Those with unpaid dues after April 30th of the membership year will not receive the newsletter.

To contribute to the newsletter send info to [REDACTED]. Contributions are encouraged and appreciated and should be neatly typed or written stories, queries, articles and/or other information applicable to genealogy research. Contribution (deadlines): March issue (Feb 15), June issue (May 15), September issue (August 15), December issue (November 15).

June 2014 ~ September 2014 ~ Upcoming Programs and Events

- 6 June 2014 Friday Help Session: 1-3 p.m. at Palisade Library.
- 12 June 2014 Thursday Evening Meeting 7 p.m. at the Commons: General Share Session.
- 25 June 2014 Wednesday Noon Sack Lunch at the Museum: Live Webinar – *Documenting Native American Families in 19th and 20th Century Research.*
- 10 July 2014 Thursday Evening Meeting 7 p.m. at the Commons: Annual Brickwall Research Questions and Sharing.
- 11 July 2014 Friday Help Session: 1-3 p.m. at Fruita Library.
- 23 July 2014 Wednesday Noon Sack Lunch at the Museum: Archived Legacy Webinar – “50 Year View – *What I’ve Learned Climbing my Family Tree*” by Tom Kemp.
- 1 August 2014 Friday Help Session: 1-3 p.m. at Central Library.
- 14 August 2014 Thursday 6 p.m. Annual Pot Luck at Martel Johnson’s Home.
- 27 August 2014 Wednesday Noon Sack Lunch at the Museum: Program to be determined.
- 5 Sept. 2014 Friday Help Session: 1-3 p.m. at Palisade Library.
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President's Message

With summer upon us, I hope many of you are able to take some research trips to the states and countries of your ancestors. This is also a good time for family reunions and sharing family history. Maybe you will even break through a brick wall in your family research.

I am taking the opportunity this summer to visit my ancestral villages in Europe again. This time I will be going to my Swedish and Danish ancestral villages and have already made contact with some Swedish cousins to meet while I am there. I also plan to go back to one of the areas in Germany that I visited in 2013. Perhaps I will have some photos to use in a show and tell at one of our programs later this year.

I like to highlight the benefit of our Help Sessions on the first Friday of each month. Please note that the July Help Session will not be on the first Friday (July 4th), but instead we are working on scheduling it for Friday July 11th at the Fruita Branch Library. I hope you will all consider signing up to get research help at these sessions held at the Fruita, Palisade and Main Branches of the Mesa County Public Library. If you feel able, I want to also encourage you to come and help those who sign up for these one on one Help Sessions.

Have you had the opportunity to use the resources at our Society Library housed in the Loyd Files Research Library located on the 2nd floor of the Museum's C. D Smith Building? We have many how-to books, periodicals as well as research books for many of the States, including Maryland, Virginia, Massachusetts, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Colorado, and others. Make plans to visit our library this summer.

Please consider contributing to the *Mesa Dwellers* Newsletter in the future. You can submit queries, photos of and stories about your ancestors. For the September newsletter be sure to get your submissions to Kathie Vlahos by August 15, 2014.

Dennis Jenkins

Mesa County Genealogical Society

P.O. Box 1506

Grand Junction, CO

81502-1506

