



Cemetery Symbols & Signs

taph-o-phile *n.* an individual who has a passion for and enjoyment of cemeteries. This involves epitaphs, gravestone rubbing, photography, art, and the history of cemeteries.

Books:

- *199 Cemeteries to See Before You Die* by Loren Rhoads
- *The American Resting Place: 400 Years of History Through Our Cemeteries and Burial Grounds* by Marilyn Yalom and Reid S. Yalom
- *Beautiful Death: The Art of the Cemetery* by David Robinson
- *Cemeteries* by Keith Eggner
- *Corpses, Coffins, and Crypts: A History of Burial* by Penny Colman
- *The Family Tree Cemetery Field Guide: How to Find, Record, and Preserve Your Ancestors' Graves* by Joy Neighbors.
- *Going Out in Style: The Architecture of Eternity* by Douglas Keister
- *A Graveyard Preservation Primer* by Lynette Strangstad
- *The Last Great Necessity: Cemeteries in American History* by David Charles Sloane.
- *Mapping & Documenting Cemeteries* by Pamela Goffinet
- *Rest in Peace: A History of American Cemeteries* by Meg Greene
- *Rest in Peace: A Cultural History of Death and the Funeral Home in Twentieth Century America* by Gary Laderman.
- *Stories in Stone: A Field Guide to Cemetery Symbolism and Iconography* by Douglas Keister
- *Stories Told in Stone: Cemetery Iconology* by Gaylord Cooper
- *Understanding Cemetery Symbols: A Field Guide for Historic Graveyards* by Tui Snider.
- *Your Guide to Cemetery Research* by Sharon DeBartolo Carmack.



Cemetery Symbolism:

- Cemetery Symbolism | www.in.gov/dnr/historic/3747.htm
- Glossary of Victorian Cemetery Symbolism
www.vintageviews.org/vv-tl/pages/Cem_Symbolism.htm
- Photo Gallery of Cemetery Symbols and Icons
www.thoughtco.com/photo-gallery-of-cemetery-symbolism-4123061
- Understanding Cemetery Symbols Understanding the Cemetery Symbols on Your Ancestors Gravestones | bit.ly/billionsymbols_1 and bit.ly/billionsymbols_2



Cemetery Sites:

- American Battle Monument Commission | www.abmc.gov
- BillionGraves | billiongraves.com
App and website for uploading cemetery photos from your phone.
- Find A Grave | www.findagrave.com
Dedicated to finding, recording and presenting final disposition information from around the world as a virtual cemetery.
- Interment.net | www.interment.net
Search and browse cemetery burial records from thousands of cemeteries across the world.
- Tombstone Transcription Project | www.usgw-tombstones.org
Nationwide volunteer project to record burials.
- Veterans Affairs Nationwide Gravesite Locator | gravelocator.cem.va.gov



Cemetery Preservation:

Cleaning tombstones and monuments has become a popular pastime for many. Learn more about preservation standards and recommended cleaning solutions and supplies at the Cemetery Conservators for United Standards. (cemeteryconservatorsunitedstandards.org)

- Do not attempt to clean fragile stones.
- Do not pressure wash stones.
- Do not use acid or acid-based solutions, including shaving cream.
- Do not use any type of abrasive.
- D/2 Biological Solution (d2bio.com) is the gold standard cleanser for headstones.
- Do not use metal or wire brushes.
- Do not use household cleaners such as bleach.



Must-See Cemeteries:

- The 10 Iconic Cemeteries That Made Death Beautiful | bit.ly/beautiful_death
- The Best Historic Cemeteries to Visit Around the World | bit.ly/2m9QHci
- Most Beautiful Cemeteries in America | bit.ly/3l1hr1o
- The Restless Spirits of Famous American Cemeteries | bit.ly/38bdCDd
- The World's Best Cemeteries | bbc.in/2kmJ8b6
- World's Most Beautiful Cemeteries | bit.ly/2kfF1xi
- Haunting and Beautiful Cemeteries Around the United States | bit.ly/32eVt3K



Cemetery Studies:

- Association for Gravestone Studies | www.gravestonestudies.org
Dedicated to furthering the study and preservation of gravestones.
- The Cemetery Club | www.thecemeteryclub.com
Photography, symbolism, book reviews and more!

