



City of Lawrence

SYMBOLISM IN THE CEMETERY



E.S. Tucker
PHOTO.



Teaching with Oak Hill Cemetery

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Welcome

This lesson is part of a series of Kansas standards-based lessons developed to enable students to understand, summarize, and evaluate materials provided related to the history, design and development of Oak Hill Cemetery. Each lesson was designed to stand-alone, but they may be used in multiple combinations to suit the needs of the educator. Taken together they tell a rich history of Kansas and Oak Hill Cemetery. This series is inspired by the National Park Service Teaching with Historic Places standards.

In the "What is a Rural Cemetery?" lesson students will be asked to analyze and evaluate the similarities and differences between Oak Hill, Greenwood, and Mount Auburn Cemeteries. Using a step-by-step process, students will acquire historical thinking skills and learn to analyze and assess primary and secondary source materials. Through close reading and comparative analysis students will make logical inferences building on the central question "What is a Rural Cemetery?"

In the "Symbolism in the Cemetery" lesson students will analyze the symbology utilized on grave markers in Oak Hill Cemetery. Using a step-by-step process they will acquire historical thinking skills and learn to read the meaning of these commemorative graphical depictions.

In the "Civil War Veterans" lesson students will investigate the histories of Civil War Veterans buried at Oak Hill Cemetery. Using a step-by-step process, students will acquire historical thinking skills, work with and organize data, and learn to analyze and assess primary and secondary source materials. Lastly, students will research and produce a story covering a Civil War Veteran's history.

In the "People of Oak Hill" lesson students will explore the lives of notable Kansans buried at Oak Hill Cemetery. Using a step-by-step process, students will acquire historical thinking skills and will organize and analyze data. Lastly, students will develop and defend position statements and opinions about the importance of the contributions these Kansans have made to our society.

Acknowledgements

The authors thank the City of Lawrence and Lawrence Parks and Recreation for their support and assistance in developing these lesson plans. In particular, we thank Lynne Braddock Zollner and Mitch Young.

Additionally, we thank Mike Kelly, Amy Roust and John Nichols with Douglas County, Kansas. We are grateful to the helpful staff and valuable collections at the Spencer Research Library at the University of Kansas, the Kansas State Historical Society, and Monica Davis at the Watkins Museum of History/Douglas County Historical Society.

We would also like to acknowledge the following individuals that contributed to the understanding of Oak Hill Cemetery: Cathy Ambler and Katie Armitage.

*Lucinda Evans, Nathan McAlister, and TreanorHL.
September, 2016*

Cover photo credits:

West Entry of Oak Hill Cemetery from *Lawrence, Kansas: A Memorial Album*, E.S. Tucker, 1895
Sexton McFarland with the Simmons Family Urn in Section 8N, Douglas County Historical Society, Watkins Community Museum

About This Lesson:

1. Learning Activity
2. Kansas HGSS Standards Addressed
3. Materials
4. Number of Class Periods
5. Preparation for Lesson
6. Activity Background (For the Teacher)
7. Activity Steps
8. Resources

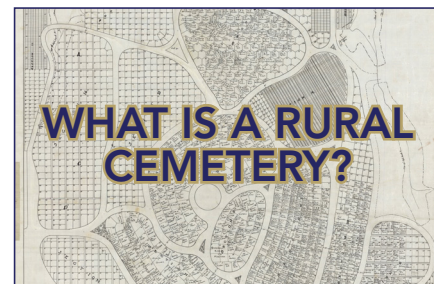
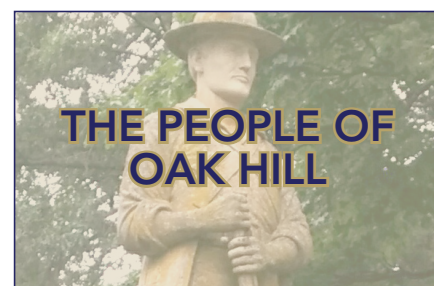
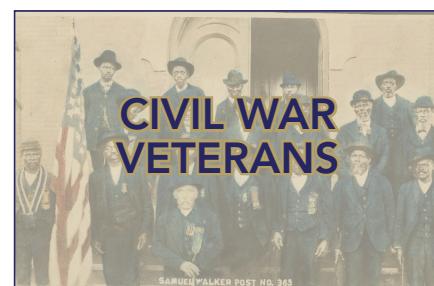
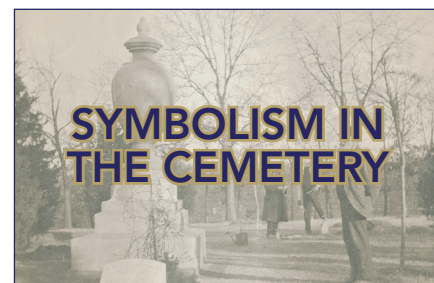
Handouts:

1. Teacher Key for Symbols
2. Symbols

This publication has been financed in part with Federal funds from the National Park Service, a division of the United States Department of the Interior, and administered by the Kansas State Historical Society. The contents and opinions, however, do not necessarily reflect the view or policies of the United States Department of the Interior or the Kansas State Historical Society.

This program receives Federal funds from the National Parks Service. Regulations of the U. S. Department of the Interior strictly prohibit unlawful discrimination in departmental Federally Assisted Programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, age or handicap. Any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility operated by a recipient of Federal assistance should write to: Office of Equal Opportunity, National Park Service, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, DC 20240.

Lessons in
The Teaching with Oak Hill
Cemetery Unit



Lesson plan photo credits, top to bottom:
Sexton McFarland with the Simmons Family Urn in Section 8N, Douglas County Historical Society, Watkins Community Museum

Company H Monument, Section 8, TreanorHL

GAR Samuel Walker Post 365, KansasMemory.org,
Kansas State Historical Society, Item 218628

1913 Map of Oak Hill Cemetery,
City of Lawrence Parks and Recreation

Oak Hill Cemetery: Symbols on headstones and their meaning

Learning Activity: Many cemetery markers have symbols that were important to the deceased person's life or their family. What are some of the more common symbols on grave markers, what do they mean, and what do they tell us about the time period in which the deceased lived?

Kansas HGSS Standards Addressed:

- **Standard 1:** Choices have consequences.
- **Standard 1.2** —The student will analyze context under which choices are made and draw conclusions about the motivations and goals of the decision makers.
- **Standard 5:** Relationships among people, places, ideas and environments are dynamic.
- **Standard 5.3**—The student will investigate the relationship among people, places, ideas and/or the environment, and connect those relationships to contemporary issues.

Applicable *The Kansas Journey* (1st ed.) Chapters: 4,5,6,7,8 and 9

Materials:

1. Symbols Document for students
2. Symbols Document Key for teachers
3. Website Access: Greenwood Cemetery;
<http://www.uni.edu/historyofblackhawkcounty/greenwoodcem/greenindex.html>
4. Recommended-Tech tools (tablets/chromebook/computer)
5. Quick Write Question Prompt

Number of Class Periods: 2-3 depending upon whether a trip to Oak Hill Cemetery is possible (or a local cemetery).

Preparation for Lesson:

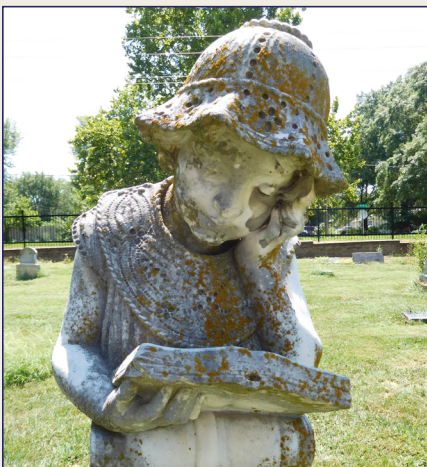
Familiarize yourself with the handouts and resources

Activity Background (For the Teacher):

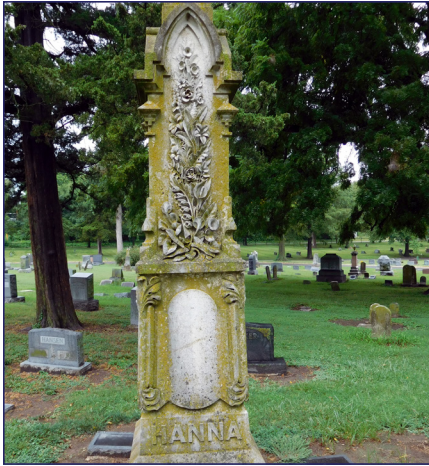
Cemeteries are treasure troves of local history. Taking students on a field trip to a cemetery may seem a bit odd, but many cemeteries have a park like setting similar to Oak Hill Cemetery in Lawrence, Kansas. Here students can easily find clusters of soldiers from American wars. Other markers/monuments will draw their attention as well. The markers for those who died during Quantrill's Raid take on more meaning when you are surrounded by tombstones that all have the same date of death on them. Understanding the Rural Cemetery or any local cemetery becomes less scary and more historical if a trip to the cemetery can be tied to symbols from the period that commemorate events, professions, family connections, or service organizations. Take a trip to your local cemetery, take tech tools to take your own images, and let students explore local history in a park-like setting.



The lotus blossom is a motif taken by the Victorians from Ancient Egypt to symbolize "rebirth", meaning that death is not the end. Lane Monument, Oak Hill Cemetery, Lawrence, Kansas.



Marker symbolism can also be very personal. Here a reading girl is sculpted for the grave of a girl who died very young. Edwards Monument, Oak Hill Cemetery, Lawrence, Kansas.



Each type of flower had a unique meaning in Victorian times. This ornate marker is full of symbolism. Hanna Monument, Oak Hill Cemetery, Lawrence, Kansas.



Lily of the Valley - Innocence
Morning Glory - Resurrection/Rebirth
Calla Lily - Beauty or Marriage
Rose - Love or Martyrdom
Pansy - Love Oak Leaves - Eternity/Immortality
...and more!

Activity Steps:

1. To engage students, ask them to help create and organize lists of contemporary ways we commemorate the deceased. Answers could include 'in memory of' logos, t-shirts, photos, vehicle decals, charities, Facebook memorials, enacting laws to curb drunk driving, drug use or suicide, etc. Organize these memorials into categories: physical (permanent and ephemeral), virtual, honorific/symbols.
2. Teacher divides the class into 4 or 5 teams. Each team will research 4 or 5 symbols depending upon class size. Teacher discretion.
 - a. Website help: Cemetery Symbols: <http://www.uni.edu/historyofblackhawkcounty/greenwoodcem/greenindex.html>
3. Each team is encouraged to discover and research two extra symbols from a trip to the cemetery or by researching online at the following site:
 - a. Virtual Cemeteries By Rebecca Christenson: <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=vcList&contribId=47482207>
4. Each student will be given a Student SYMBOLS document. (color or black and white).
5. The first column is already done for them, an image is displayed. The second column is for their symbols research information, the third column is for the name and epitaph from a marker that has their symbol. It can be the one from the image included or another one they discover in the cemetery or virtually.
6. All groups will present their findings to the class. All students will take notes on their own SYMBOLS document (an elmo or doc cam can be used here) for the 15 or 16 other symbols that their team did not research.
7. Quick Write: Students will now do a three paragraph quick write in class or as homework answering the essential question: What are some of the more common symbols on grave markers (1), what do they mean (2), and what do they tell us about the time period in which the deceased lived (3)?

Resources:

Greenwood Cemetery Home Page:
<http://www.uni.edu/historyofblackhawkcounty/greenwoodcem/greenindex.html>

Virtual Cemeteries By Rebecca Christenson:
<http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=vcList&contribId=47482207>

The Farber Gravestone Collection by the American Antiquarian Society:
<http://www.lunacommons.org/luna/servlet/FBC~100~1>

Keister, Douglas: *Stories in Stone: A Field Guide to Cemetery Symbolism and Iconography*; Gibbs Smith, April 2004

OAK HILL CEMETERY: Teacher Key for Symbols

SYMBOLS

Celtic Cross



Mausoleum



Animals



Urns



MEANING

Celtic Cross-Ring is a Halo and the Cross represents Jesus Christ (there are many interpretations of this symbol and it is prominent in most cemeteries). Also symbolizes deceased who are of Irish descent.

A large burial chamber for multiple people usually from the same family. It is often a tomb and a symbol of the families wealth.

Lamb-represents innocence and purity, usually found on the graves of children.

Since Ancient Greece urns have been a symbol of death, holding the ashes of the deceased

OAK HILL CEMETERY

(OTHER) _____
NAME/EPITAPH

OAK HILL CEMETERY: Teacher Key for Symbols

SYMBOLS

Obelisk



Tree Shaped Monuments



Prayer Hand/Hands



MEANING

An obelisk is a symbol from Ancient Egypt that was used to mark burials and temples. It can provide comfort and a sense of permanence in a world that is fleeting, just as life is fleeting

Tree shaped monuments represents the tree of life in this world or the next. Oak leaves as seen on this monument represent faith and endurance and the broken or cut branches may symbolize life cut short.

Hands can represent the Hand of God, hand or finger pointing up is a heavenly reward. Hand/hands on a book always represent that the Word of God is the way to salvation

OAK HILL CEMETERY

(OTHER) _____
NAME/EPITAPH

OAK HILL CEMETERY: Teacher Key for Symbols

SYMBOLS

Military Service



Human Statues



Human Statues



Arch



MEANING

GAR-Grand Army of the Republic,
Veterans of the Civil War

Infant statues symbolize the youth of
the deceased

Soldier of the Spanish American
War, symbol used to commemorate
numerous graves of veterans of the
same war

Symbolizes continuity in a family or
community of people.

OAK HILL CEMETERY

(OTHER) _____
NAME/EPITAPH

OAK HILL CEMETERY: Teacher Key for Symbols

SYMBOLS

Fraternal Order



Military Marker



Masons



Interlocking Chain-Int'l Order of Oddfellows



All photo credits on this page: TreanorHL 2016

MEANING

Fraternal Order of the Odd Fellows or Independent Order of the Odd Fellows. An organization dedicated to charity. Linking chains mean friendship, love and trust

Military markers are often uniform in shape, size, and decoration. Here the name of the veteran is set inside a shield and his military unit is listed under the name.

Masons-Masonic Symbols, symbol that the deceased was a member of the Freemasons or local Masonic Lodge. An ancient organization of stone masons that today carry on a tradition of public service

Christ knocking on Heaven's door for a member of the Odd Fellows, a charitable organization

OAK HILL CEMETERY

(OTHER) _____
NAME/EPITAPH

OAK HILL CEMETERY: Teacher Key for Symbols

SYMBOLS

Dove and Star of David



Holding Vault: Front and Rear View



Empty Shoes



MEANING

Star of David of the Jewish Faith
Dove symbolizes peace or purity

Holding Vault, 19th century vault for holding the deceased until the spring thaw would soften the ground enough to allow burials to continue

Infant shoes-loss of a child

OAK HILL CEMETERY

(OTHER) _____
NAME/EPITAPH

OAK HILL CEMETERY: Teacher Key for Symbols

SYMBOLS	MEANING	OAK HILL CEMETERY
<p>Hands Clasped</p>	<p>Shaking or clasped hands indicate a close relationship or marriage (in this example it is a son)</p>	<p>(OTHER) _____ NAME/EPITAPH</p>

All photo credits on this page: TreanorHL 2016

STUDENT HANDOUTS
PAGES 15-20

STUDENT HANDOUTS
PAGES 15-20

OAK HILL CEMETERY: Symbols

SYMBOLS

Celtic Cross



Mausoleum



Animals



Urns





MEANING

OAK HILL CEMETERY

(OTHER) _____
NAME/EPITAPH

OAK HILL CEMETERY: Symbols

SYMBOLS	MEANING	OAK HILL CEMETERY
<p>Obelisk</p> 		<p>(OTHER) _____</p> <p>NAME/EPITAPH</p>
<p>Tree Shaped Monuments</p> 		
<p>Prayer Hand/Hands</p> 		

All photo credits on this page: TreanorHL 2016

OAK HILL CEMETERY: Symbols

SYMBOLS

Military Service



Human Statues



Human Statues



Arch



MEANING

OAK HILL CEMETERY

(OTHER) _____
NAME/EPITAPH

All photo credits on this page: TreanorHL 2016

OAK HILL CEMETERY: Symbols

SYMBOLS

Fraternal Order



Military Marker



Masons



Interlocking Chain-Int'l Order of Oddfellows



All photo credits on this page: TreanorHL 2016

MEANING

OAK HILL CEMETERY

(OTHER) _____
NAME/EPITAPH

OAK HILL CEMETERY: Symbols

SYMBOLS

Dove and Star of David



Holding Vault: Front and Rear View



Empty Shoes



MEANING

OAK HILL CEMETERY

(OTHER) _____
NAME/EPITAPH

OAK HILL CEMETERY: Symbols

SYMBOLS	MEANING	OAK HILL CEMETERY
<p>Hands Clasped</p>		<p>(OTHER) _____</p> <p>NAME/EPITAPH</p>

All photo credits on this page: TreanorHL 2016