



Weathered and polished by rain, a lamb signifies the grave of an infant in Bainbridge Cemetery, Paxton Township

A BRIEF GUIDE TO COMMON CEMETERY SYMBOLS

Anchor Christian hope (Christ as anchor of stability).

Bird Soul, child burial.

Book Bible; book of recording angel, doomsday book, book of heaven; divine knowledge.

Column, broken Death, interruption of life (column can be either broken or cut short).

Compass & Right-Angle Indicates member of the Masons or "Freemason" fraternal group.

"Consort" A wife who died before her husband.

Cross & Crown Hope of salvation; victory of soul.

Dove Christian constancy; devotion; soul - usually flying upwards; holy spirit with olive branch; Noah's Dove-of-Promise that told him the waters had receded.

Drapery Mourning; depicts funeral drapery (palls); portal/window opening/closing into the otherworld.

Enclosures of a cemetery plot Victorian guarded sense of family; distinguish family from community.

Evergreen Plants Immortal soul.

Fans Sometimes depicts wings or sunset/sunrise, but usually just ornament in corners.

Flower(s) Human life is like the blooming and dying of a flower. If pointed downward or stem broken: support of life has been broken; innocent life cut short.

Gates Biblical image of the gates of heaven.

Globe One true God with dominion.

Grapes Food of communion; symbol of Christ.

Hand(s), upward Pointing towards heaven; God's hand.

Hand(s), downward Death before baptism.

Hand, infant's/child's Infant or child burial.



The "Chest Tombs" in Dill Cemetery near Bainbridge seem to enclose coffins, which are actually buried underneath.

Ivy Friendship; fidelity; immortal soul.

Lamb Child's grave; Christian (flock of Christ); Christ as the Lamb of God.

Lily Purity.

Logs See "Tree."

Morning Glory Death of a child.

Oak Leaf Strength; Christian constancy.

Obelisk Points the way to heaven (from Egypt).



Finely carved tablet markers in Bainbridge Cemetery show the "Tree of Life" and a sunburst.

Palm Victory over death.

Patterns, geometric or abstract Decorative (typically German).



On opposite sides of the highway and framed from behind the cemetery's archway, Springbank Church, like many rural churches, began this Union Township cemetery.

Pinwheel a.k.a. Compass Star: a cross; the sun; eternity; talisman (typically German).

Plant, odd-looking see "Tree-of-Life."

"Relic" A wife whose husband died before her

River Course of life.

Rose Beauty; womanhood.

Scroll, unfolding Future life in heaven; one end is the past/earthly life and other the future - life is nothing more than the unrolling of a scroll.

Shell, scallop Resurrection; rebirth (from use as a ladle in baptizing); may also be a Sunburst.

Star, five-point Member of the "Grand Army of the Republic" Civil War veterans group.

Stump Life ended.

Sun, rising Resurrection of the soul after death.

Sun, setting End of life.

Sunburst Life and renewal (could also be a Fan or Scallop Shell).

Swastika Cross; the sun; eternity (a.k.a. "fylfot;" typically German, long before infamous misuse in WWII).

Tree Biblical Tree-of-Life; nature. Also sticks, twigs and logs used as enframement.



The oldest markers in Chillicothe's Greenlawn Cemetery were moved in from older, smaller cemeteries now long gone.

Tree, large/old Adult or elder - size of tree often indicates age (typically German).

Tree, Oak Strength; Christian constancy.

Tree, lopsided One partner in a marriage died earlier.

Tree, seedling Infant or child (typically German).

Tree-of-Life Cycle of birth, growth, decay, death, rebirth (image from Garden of Eden; lower two branches usually drooping; and often growing from Urn or Heart).

Trefoil or Triad Christian trinity of God.

Tulip Life; love; immortality (typically German).

Urn Death of an adult.

Urn, with flame New life associated with death: rebirth, life in heaven; soul rising to heaven.

Vase Water of life - often with Tree-of-Life.

Wheat Fruitfulness; death of an older adult.

Willow, weeping Mourning (drooping symbolizes sorrow); resurrection (lives on streams, symbols of life). Often in a classical image of a mourning woman leaning on a funeral urn under a weeping willow.

Wings Flight to heaven.

Wreath Crown of victory.



"Like a swelling of the ground," as poet Emily Dickinson wrote, is this tomb in Grandview Cemetery, Chillicothe.

ROSS COUNTY'S CEMETERIES

Burial grounds are sacred spaces, and should be treated with respect. Their old monuments to the deceased are historical objects and irreplaceable documents that deserve special care.

Preparing for America's Bicentennial, the Ohio Genealogical Society asked local genealogical groups to provide the locations of their area's cemeteries and burials.

This information was exhaustively sought out by the Ross County Genealogical Society and was published in *Ohio Cemeteries* and its updates. Locally, it was included in the *Bicentennial Atlas of Ross County* and is archived at the genealogical society's library.

The cemetery locations were added to the county engineer's map at the same time in order to aid researchers and visitors, and any additions or corrections are welcomed by the department.



At the most prominent point in Grandview Cemetery, Chillicothe, is a memorial obelisk, a patriotic flagpole, an immortal-seeming evergreen tree, and a veterans' monument.

WHERE TO LEARN MORE

Ross County Genealogical Society

P.O. Box 6352
444 Douglas Ave., Chillicothe, Ohio, 45601
740 / 773-2715 • rcgs@bright.net

Ross County Historical Society

45 W. Fifth St., Chillicothe, Ohio, 45601
740 / 772-1936 • info@rosscountyhistorical.org

• Other local historical societies

• Township trustees • Nearby churches

Chillicothe & Ross County Public Library

140-146 S. Paint Street, Chillicothe, Ohio, 45601
740 / 702-4160 • chillcot@oplin.lib.oh.us

• Several branch libraries are located throughout the county.

Ross County Archives

21 W. Main St., Chillicothe, Ohio, 45601 • 740 / 774-1179



Part triumphant arch, part gateway to the afterlife are the entrance signs of the Deerfield Township Cemetery (left), and Chillicothe's Greenlawn Cemetery.



The sun sets on the shadowlands of Green Summit Cemetery, Colerain Township.

FURTHER RESEARCH & READING

• The Ross County Genealogical Society has many publications covering all 16 townships, most of them recently revised.

• *Ohio Cemeteries*. Ohio Genealogical Society, 1978, with addenda in 1990 and 2003.

• *Bicentennial Atlas of Ross County*. Chillicothe-Ross County Bicentennial Commission, 1976.

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THE CEMETERIES OF ROSS COUNTY

shown on the
Ross County
Engineer's Map



Bainbridge Cemetery, Paxton Township

Ohio find it here.™

where to be!
CHILICOTHE
VISITORS BUREAU

visit Chillicothe Ohio.com

(800) 413-4118 • (740) 702-7677
230 N. Plaza Blvd., Chillicothe, Ohio 45601
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THE CEMETERIES OF ROSS COUNTY

shown on the Ross County Engineer's map

Listed alphabetically by township and cemetery name.

Largest cemeteries have additional information.

Consult the county map for locations.

BUCKSKIN

Black Cemetery	Mt. Pleasant Cemetery
Dean Cemetery	Murray Farm Cemetery
Finch Cemetery	Robbins Cemetery
Harper Cemetery	Satchel Cemetery
Hickson Cemetery	Scott Wilson Farm Cemetery
Jameson Wilson Cemetery	South Salem Cemetery <i>about 1,700 burials, begun c1821</i>
Kerr Cemetery	Wright Cemetery
Milligan Cemetery	

COLERAIN

Green Summit Cemetery <i>about 3,400 burials, begun 1878</i>	Leasure Cemetery
Hallsville Cemetery (a.k.a. Maple Grove Cemetery) <i>about 1,800 burials, begun 1831</i>	Old Lutheran Cemetery
Hickle Cemetery	Old Methodist Cemetery
	Pleasant Hill Cemetery
	Throckmorton Cemetery

CONCORD

Barclay Cemetery	Junk Rd. Cemetery
Bridges Cemetery	Lane Cemetery
Christie Cemetery	Mallow-Hegler Cemetery
Concord Church Cemetery	Old Methodist Cemetery
Day Cemetery	Old Baptist Cemetery
Fletcher Cemetery	Parish Cemetery
Fultz Cemetery	Pisgah Cemetery
Greenlawn Cemetery (Frankfort Area) <i>about 5,200 burials, begun 1876</i>	Sam Blue Farm Cemetery
Greenlawn Cemetery (northeast portion of township)	Shobe Cemetery
Hardy Cemetery	Stewart Cemetery
Hire Cemetery	Strader Hill Cemetery
	Sultz Cemetery - see Fultz
	Wilson Cemetery
	Wornstaff Cemetery

DEERFIELD

Baptist Cemetery	Evans Cemetery
Brown's Chapel Cemetery <i>about 2,700 burials</i>	Hall Cemetery
Clarksburg Methodist Cemetery	Hickle Cemetery
Collins Cemetery	Lutz Cemetery
	Old Brown's Chapel Cemetery
	Plum Run Cemetery

FRANKLIN

Bethel Cemetery	Loel Cemetery
Bland Cemetery	Miller Cemetery
Crouse Chapel Cemetery	Mt. Pleasant Cemetery
Edward Farm Cemetery	Salem Reform Cemetery
Gibson Cemetery	Sandy Cemetery
Green Township Cemetery	Snyder Cemetery
Higby Cemetery	Three Locks Cemetery <i>about 520 burials</i>
Hudnell Cemetery	Union Chapel Cemetery
Hurles Cemetery	Winchell Cemetery
	Woods Cemetery

GREEN

Bethel Cemetery	Mt. Pleasant Cemetery <i>about 2,840 burials, earliest c1801</i>
Crouse Chapel Cemetery	Salem Reform Cemetery
Miller Cemetery	Union Chapel Cemetery

HARRISON

Blue Lick Cemetery	Jones Cemetery
Charleston Cemetery	McGee-Stanhope Cemetery
Esery Cemetery <i>begun 1798</i>	Timmons Cemetery
Hanson Cemetery	

HUNTINGTON

Animan Cemetery	Moore Farm Cemetery
Baptist Cemetery	Mt. Tabor Cemetery <i>about 700 burials, begun 1816</i>
Bishop Hill Cemetery	Nebergall Cemetery
Bontz Cemetery	Neff Farm Cemetery
Catholic Cemetery	Offut Cemetery
Clark Cemetery	Pritchard Cemetery
Denver M.E. Cemetery	Ralston Cemetery
Floral Hills Memory Garden <i>about 2,350 burials, begun 1965</i>	Rieley Cemetery
Golden Gate Cemetery	Seelig Cemetery
Gordon Cemetery	Shotts Cemetery
Klutz Cemetery	Thomas Cemetery
Liberty Hill Cemetery	Tuvell Cemetery
Lump Farm Cemetery	Waggy Cemetery
McWhirt Cemetery	Yankee Hill Cemetery

JEFFERSON

Beals Cemetery	Little Mound Cemetery <i>about 800 burials, begun c1848</i>
Caldwell Farm Cemetery	Old Quaker Graveyard
Caldwell Cemetery <i>about 800 burials, begun c1820</i>	Sigler Cemetery
Elliott Cemetery	Stockman Cemetery
Hickson Rd. Cemetery	Stratton Cemetery

To the brave genealogists who researched, hiked, located cleared, and recorded the most obscure burials, as well as those who counted every stone in the largest cemeteries - perhaps 70,000 of them in Ross County - this pamphlet is dedicated.

LIBERTY

Ackley Cemetery	Londonderry Cemetery <i>about 2,400 burials, begun c1852</i>
Claypool Cemetery	Peecher Cemetery
Concord Church Cemetery	Schooley's Cemetery
	Tweed Cemetery

PAINT

<i>All are small cemeteries, some with exceptional carvings.</i>	
Brake Cemetery	Nuckols Cemetery
Dwyer Cemetery	Old Benner Cemetery
Garman Cemetery	Old Pricer Cemetery
Gray Cemetery	Pepple Cemetery
Hamilton Cemetery	Rockhold Cemetery
Holby Cemetery	Sheely Cemetery
Howry Cemetery	Snyder Cemetery
Knisley Cemetery	Waller Cemetery
Nixon Cemetery	Ziegler Cemetery

PAXTON

Bainbridge Cemetery <i>about 4,100 burials, begun 1823</i>	McMichen Cemetery
Benner Cemetery	Mt. Carmel Cemetery
Burke Cemetery	Old Potts Cemetery
Dills Cemetery	Pake Cemetery
Garner Cemetery	Platter Cemetery <i>in two parts, separated by road</i>
Jewett Cemetery	Pleasant Hill Cemetery
Mann Cemetery	Potts Hill Cemetery

SCIOTO

Adena Cemetery	Greenlawn Cemetery <i>about 12,000 burials, begun 1861</i>
Caldwell Cemetery	Hamilton-Lunbeck Cemetery
Chandler Cemetery	Haynes Cemetery
Chestnut-Malone Cemetery	Hoggard Cemetery
England-White Cemetery	Massieville Cemetery
Findley Cemetery	McDills Cemetery
Fruit Hill Cemetery	Mischal Cemetery
Grandview Cemetery	Ott & Geil Cemetery
& Chillicothe Mausoleum <i>About 15,000 burials, begun 1845. Listed on the National Register.</i>	St. Margaret's Cemetery <i>about 4,000 burials, begun 1892</i>
	White Cemetery

SPRINGFIELD

Boblett Cemetery	Mt. Carmel Cemetery <i>about 1,200 burials, begun c1851</i>
Curtis Cemetery	Overly Chapel Cemetery
Fairfax Cemetery	Wesley Chapel Cemetery

TWIN

Baum Cemetery	Old Bourneville Cemetery
Christian Hollow Cemetery	Palmer Cemetery
Core Cemetery	Pettiford Cemetery
Fels Cemetery	Platter-Morris Cemetery
Freshour Cemetery	Pool Cemetery
Fuller Cemetery	Prather Cemetery
Harris Station Cemetery	Rowe Cemetery
Igou Cemetery	Shoultz Cemetery
McDonald Cemetery	Taylor Cemetery
Minney Cemetery	Teeter Cemetery
Mitchell Cemetery	Tinker Cemetery
Moore Cemetery	Tuvell Cemetery
Nessel Cemetery	Twin Township Cemetery <i>about 3,000 burials, begun c1886</i>
Newlan Farm Cemetery	Wesley Chapel Cemetery <i>Actually in Paint Township</i>
Newman-Pool Cemetery	
Old Storm Cemetery	

UNION

Beaver Cemetery	Noble Cemetery
Biers Cemetery	Noble-Flesher Cemetery
Bowdle Cemetery	Old Mace Cemetery
C.C.I. Cemetery	Poole Cemetery
Cook Cemetery	Pryor Cemetery
Crispin Cemetery	Rowland Cemetery
Duckworth Cemetery	Springbank Cemetery <i>about 1,400 burials, earliest c1806</i>
Fulton Schafer Cemetery	Thompson Cemetery
Hicks Cemetery	Tootle Cemetery
Hicks Cemetery - African American	Wheeler Cemetery
Hurst Cemetery	Williams Cemetery
Hutton Cemetery	Withgott Cemetery
Jones Cemetery	Worthington-Snyder Cemetery
Maughmer Cemetery	Wright Cemetery
Minear Cemetery	Union Chapel Cemetery
Mt. Union Cemetery	

Many cemeteries are known by different names and spellings. Many smaller, older graveyards have been abandoned and their burials moved into later, larger cemeteries. Several single burials and loose gravestones are not indicated.

Through more than two centuries of history, the people of Ross County have created more than 300 cemeteries and isolated burials. Time, forgetfulness, and vandalism have hidden, damaged, and destroyed many. Some shown on the map are lost or no longer exist, and some are not marked on the map. Most of those that remain need care and investigation to preserve their fragile history.