

Tombstone Analysis Worksheet

Quick-Reference Field & Research Tool

Researcher: _____ Date: _____

Cemetery Name: _____

Location (Town / County / State): _____

Section / Plot / GPS (if known): _____

1. Gravestone Identification

Type of marker: Upright Flat Ledger Monument Government Other _____

Material: Granite Marble Limestone Sandstone Bronze Other _____

Condition: Excellent Good Fair Poor Illegible areas

2. Exact Inscription (Transcribe Word for Word)

3. Names Recorded

Name as Inscribed Notes / Variants

4. Dates & Age Information

Birth: _____

Death: _____

Age at death (if stated): _____

Calculated birth date: _____

Possible date errors or concerns:



5. Family Relationships Indicated

- Wife of _____
- Husband of _____
- Son/Daughter of _____
- Consort of _____
- Shared or companion stone

Additional individuals listed:

6. Symbols, Imagery & Language

Symbols observed:

- Cross
- Lamb
- Clasped Hands
- Bible
- Star of David
- Floral
- Other _____

Language of inscription: _____

Religious / cultural clues suggested:

7. Military, Occupational & Organizational Clues

Military service:

War / Conflict: _____ Rank: _____

Unit: _____

- Government-issued marker

Fraternal / social organizations:

- Masons
- Odd Fellows
- Knights of Pythias
- Woodmen of the World
- Other _____

8. Cemetery Context Observations

Nearby surnames (cluster research):

Family grouping patterns noted:



9. Evidence Evaluation

Source type: Original Derivative

Information type: Primary Secondary Unknown

Evidence type: Direct Indirect Negative

Likely informant:

10. What the Tombstone Does NOT Tell Us

Parents Exact birthplace Exact death place Informant Cause of death

Notes:

11. Correlation & Next Research Steps

Records to compare:

Vital Census Church Probate Obituary Military Land

Research leads generated:

12. Documentation Checklist

- Full transcription recorded
- Photograph — entire stone
- Photograph — close-up inscription
- Plot or GPS recorded
- Source citation created

Key Reminder:

A tombstone is evidence — not proof — and must be correlated with additional sources.

