

Quick-Reference Field & Research Tool

Section / Plot / GPS (if known): _____

Condition: ☐ Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Poor ☐ Illegible areas

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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.

