

# CHAPTER FIVE

## The Family of Hermann STEINKE and Margaretha RUWE

Engelke STEINKE  
m. Anna TALKE  
- Johann STEINKE  
m. Adelheid FEY  
- Theodore H. STEINKE  
m. Margaret BRECKSCHMID  
- Johann STEINKE  
m. Margarete Katharina SANDER  
- Hermann STEINKE  
m. Margaretha RUWE  
- Joseph John Lambert STEINKE  
m. Mary Anna KAISER  
- Diedrich STEINKE  
m. Theresia WERLING-SCHNIPPEL  
- Stephen Bernard STEINKE  
m. Margaret Gertrude SCHEMMEL  
- Peter Bernard STEINKE  
m. Alvina Mary GREVE  
- Sylvia A. STEINKE  
m. Urban E. SCHNEIDER

# Hermann STEINKE and Margaretha RUWE

<b>Hermann STEINKE</b> b.3/13/1769 Voltlage OR b.8/26/1765 Voltlage m.9/20/1801 d.1/22/1842 Voltlage	<b>Mary Anna STEINKE</b> John Theodor STEINKE John Hermann STEINKE Margaret Adelheid STEINKE <b>Joseph John Lambert STEINKE</b> <b>Georg Henry STEINKE</b> Maria Catharina STEINKE
<b>Margaretha RUWE</b> b.~1775 Neuenkirchen, Bramsche, Osmarbruck, GER d.12/17/1850 Columbus OH	

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"RUWE" is a nickname from  
Middle Dutch meaning  
'rough', 'course', or 'crude'.

Margaretha RUWE-STEINKE was buried at the Columbus Catholic Cemetery which was closed in 1898, and very neglected. In 1905, St. Patrick High School was built on the site, then Aquinas College High School, and today it is the Columbus State Community College campus. Any remains uncovered during construction (as recently as 1977) were usually removed to Mt. Calvary Cemetery, Columbus. There are no records identifying graves of Margaretha STEINKE, or her grandson Deidrich SCHNIPPEL, who was also buried there.

**H**ermann STEINKE was born on March 13, 1769 in Voltlage, Hanover, Lower Saxony (Niedersachsen), Germany. (One source has his birth date as August 26, 1765.) He was the third of eight known children born to Johann and Margerete Katharina (SANDER) STEINKE.

Hermann STEINKE married Margaretha RUWE on September 20, 1801 in \_\_\_\_\_, Germany. Margaretha RUWE was born on around 1775 in Neuenkirchen, Bramsche, Osmarbruck, Germany.

Hermann and Margaretha (RUWE) STEINKE had seven known children between 1805 and 1820. They lived in Voltlage, Hanover, Lower Saxony (Niedersachsen), Germany.

It is thought that one of their children, Joseph John Lambert STEINKE, immigrated to America in 1838. Perhaps others were with him, or joined him later. But at least three of their children are known to have immigrated to America, along with Margaretha (RUWE) STEINKE (those printed in **green**, on the chart above).

Herman STEINKE died on January 22, 1842 in Voltlage, so it is doubtful that his wife would have immigrated to America before then. Margaretha (RUWE) STEINKE died in Columbus, Ohio in 1850.

The following pages contain information on the seven known children of Hermann and Margaretha (RUWE) STEINKE.

## When did the STEINKE's immigrate to Ohio, USA?

Mary Anna STEINKE married George Bernard Heinrich SCHNIPPEL. Their children were all born in Voltlage, therefor, they immigrated between 1840, (when their last child was born) and 1853, (when their son was married in Fryburg, Ohio). One record indicates that George Bernard Heinrich SCHNIPPEL immigrated in 1838, but this could only be the case if their last child was born in Ohio.

Joseph John Lambert STEINKE married Mary Anna KAISER in Minster, Ohio on February 6, 1840, so he immigrated in or before 1840. One record says he immigrated in 1838, and he is listed alone (no other family members listed with him) on the ship log:

**Primary Passenger** **STEINKE (STEINECKE)**, **Joseph John Lambert**, age 23, farmer

**Others in Group** None listed

**Arrival Date** 1838 **June 4** **Arrival Port** Baltimore **Departure Port** Bremen, GER

**Ship Name** Elise (Page 4, Line 1 on Ship Passenger List)

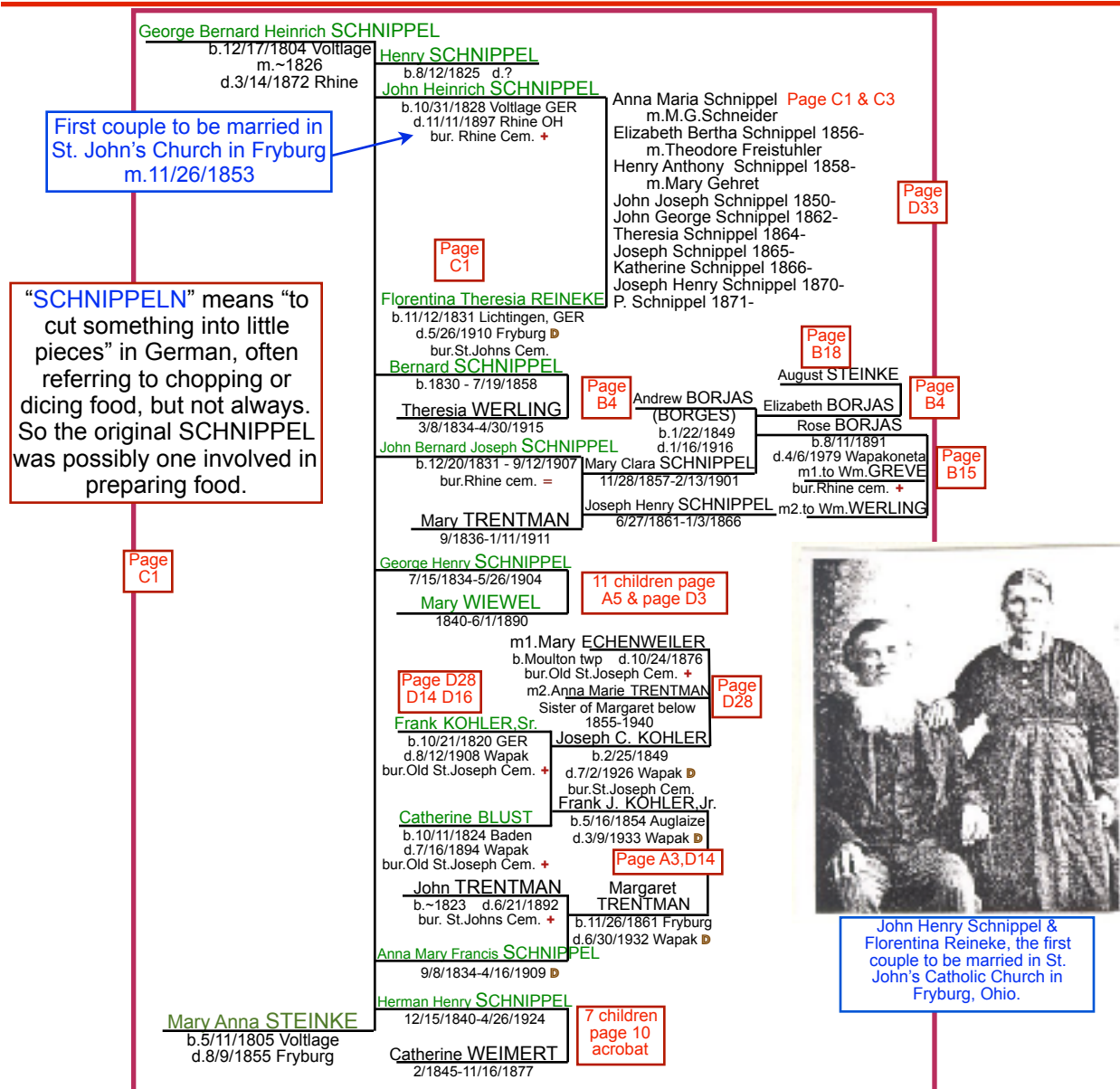
**Other** Not sure if this is the correct Joseph John Lambert STEINKE. There is no listing of any family immigrating with him. Other families on this ship's records did list the entire family. But it is also possible that this family did not come over together.

*George Henry Steinke* | *Original* | *23*

George Henry STEINKE's first child was born in 1849 in Springfield, Ohio. So he immigrated before 1849. There is no record of where his wife was born, or if she immigrated with him.

Margaretha (RUWE) STEINKE is said to have died in 1850 in Columbus, Ohio. The records on this are uncertain also, as are her immigration records.

## Children of Hermann STEINKE and Margaretha RUWE - Mary Anna STEINKE



Mary Anna STEINKE was born on May 11, 1805, in Voltlage, Hanover, Lower Saxony (Niedersachsen), Germany. She was the oldest of seven children born to Hermann and Margaretha (RUWE) STEINKE.

Mary Anna STEINKE married George Bernard Heinrich SCHNIPPEL on around 1826 probably in Voltlage. George Bernard Heinrich SCHNIPPEL was born on December 17, 1804 in Voltlage, Hanover, Lower Saxony (Niedersachsen), Germany.

George Bernard Heinrich and Mary Anna (STEINKE) SCHNIPPEL had seven known children between 1805 and 1820. This family is thought to have immigrated to America in 1838. However, records also indicate that their youngest child was born in Voltlage in 1840, so they probably immigrated later than that. There are also records that their oldest daughter was the first wedding held at St. John's Catholic Church, Fryburg, Ohio. This wedding was in November of 1853, so they probably immigrated some time between 1840 and 1853.

Mary Anna (STEINKE) SCHNIPPEL died on August 9, 1855 in Fryburg, Ohio. George Bernard Heinrich SCHNIPPEL died on March 14, 1872 in Rhine Ohio. I have no record of where they were buried, but they are likely at Fryburg or Rhine.

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Children of Hermann STEINKE and Margaretha RUWE -  
John Theodor STEINKE

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John Theodor STEINKE  
(Joannes Theodosius)  
b.9/11/1807 Voltlage  
d.

*J*ohn Theodor STEINKE was born on September 11, 1807, in Voltlage, Hanover, Lower Saxony (Niedersachsen), Germany. He was the second of seven children born to Hermann and Margaretha (RUWE) STEINKE.

Nothing else is known of John Theodor STEINKE.

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Children of Hermann STEINKE and Margaretha RUWE -  
John Hermann STEINKE

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John Hermann STEINKE  
(Joannes Hermannus)  
b.9/21/1809 Voltlage  
d.

*J*ohn Hermann STEINKE was born on September 21, 1809, in Voltlage, Hanover, Lower Saxony (Niedersachsen), Germany. He was the third of seven children born to Hermann and Margaretha (RUWE) STEINKE.

Nothing else is known of John Hermann STEINKE.

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Children of Hermann STEINKE and Margaretha RUWE -  
Margaret Adelheid STEINKE

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Margaret Adelheid STEINKE  
(Margaretha Adelheid)  
b.7/19/1812 Voltlage  
d.

*M*aragaret Adelheid STEINKE was born on July 19, 1812, in Voltlage, Hanover, Lower Saxony (Niedersachsen), Germany. She was the fourth of seven children born to Hermann and Margaretha (RUWE) STEINKE.

Nothing else is known of Margaret Adelheid STEINKE.

### Why do cemeteries have a "children section"?

Most older cemeteries have a separate section where infants and children were buried, usually in the back of the cemetery. There were a few reasons for this.

Infant mortality existed at a much higher rate in the early 1900's and before. Many times the family did not own a family plot. Therefore, most cemeteries had an infant section specifically laid out. It provided a section of smaller graves, and also at a cheaper price. Tombstones are usually noticeably closer together in this section.

Another consideration is that until the 1960's Catholics were taught that stillborns and infants who died without baptism would never see God. Some old Catholic cemeteries have separate fenced off sections of unconsecrated ground for such unfortunate babies.

Below are some common symbols representing the loss of a child, which are often found on a gravestone of a child:



A hand pointing up to Heaven, symbolizing that Heaven is where the child's soul has gone, like this one from the stone of Nickolaus SCHNEIDER in St. John's Cemetery, Fryburg.



A lamb is common on a child's grave, often shown with a cross. It represents innocence, shown here on the stone of Eugene GREVE at St. Lawrence Cemetery, Rhine.



A broken bud or branch represents someone who died an untimely or premature death, a life that was cut short.



Empty shoes symbolize the loss of a child, usually one shoe is overturned.



A vacant chair usually symbolizes the loss of a child.



## Children of Hermann STEINKE and Margaretha RUWE - Mary Anna STEINKE

### Joseph John Lambert STEINKE §

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b. 5/1/1815 Voltlage  
m. 2/6/1840 Minster  
d. 4/4/1858 Rhine  
bur. Rhine Cem. +

1. Henry STEINKE
2. Diedrich STEINKE
3. Elisabeth STEINKE
4. Mary Anna STEINKE
5. John Edward STEINKE
6. George STEINKE
7. Joseph STEINKE
8. Leo John STEINKE
9. Elizabeth STEINKE
10. Margaret STEINKE
11. Maria Catherine STEINKE
12. Theresia STEINKE
13. Henry John STEINKE

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The German surname **KAISER** is from the Middle High German word "keiser," meaning **emperor**. Originating from the Latin name Caesar, this name was often given to individuals who played the part of "King" in local plays and pageants year after year - a popular pastime during the middle ages. The name may also have been given to one with a kingly appearance or manner.

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### Mary Anna KAISER

b. 5/24/1825 Voltlage GER  
m. 2. 8/29/1860 Shelby Co. OH  
d. 3/27/1897 Rhine OH  
bur. Rhine cem +

1. Bernard Henry THIEMAN  
b. 6/6/1861 Rhine; moved to Canada
2. Anna Marie Elizabeth THIEMAN  
b. 11/30/1862 Rhine m. George MONGER
3. Stephen Bernard THIEMAN  
b. 6/9/1864 Rhine d. 5/6/1932 Granville  
m. Mary Ann GILBURNS
4. Bernardina THIEMAN  
b. 5/7/1866 Rhine d. 2/20/1868

m2. Bernard H. THIEMAN  
b. ~1/26/1821 d. 5/5/1898  
bur. Rhine cem +

More information on this family is in the next Chapter:

"Joseph John Lambert STEINKE and Mary Anna KAISER".

Joseph John Lambert STEINKE was born on May 1, 1815, in Voltlage, Hanover, Lower Saxony (Niedersachsen), Germany. He was the fifth of seven children born to Hermann and Margaretha (RUWE) STEINKE.

Joseph John Lambert STEINKE married Mary Anna KAISER on February 6, 1840 in Minster, Ohio. Mary Anna KAISER was born on May 24, 1825 in Voltlage, Hanover, Lower Saxony (Niedersachsen), Germany. She was the daughter of George (Gerhard) Heinrich KAISER and Elizabeth (WERNKE) KAISER. Mary Anna KAISER immigrated to Ohio with her parents around 1838.

Joseph John Lambert STEINKE and Mary Anna (KAISER) STEINKE had thirteen known children between 1840 and 1858.

Joseph John Lambert STEINKE died on April 4, 1858 in Rhine, Ohio. He donated the land for the cemetery at St. Lawrence Catholic Church in Rhine, and probably had something to do with building the church and starting the parish. He was the first person buried in that cemetery.

Mary Anna (KAISER) STEINKE remarried and had four more children. She died on March 27, 1897 in Rhine, Ohio. She is also buried at the St. Lawrence Catholic Church Cemetery in Rhine, Ohio.

### 1850 U.S. Census - Dinsmore Township, Shelby County, Ohio

*Handwritten census entries:*  
Joseph Steinke 40 M  
Mary Steinke 35 F  
Henry Steinke 18 M  
Leander Steinke 8 M  
Mary Steinke 6 F  
John Steinke 4 M  
Leo Steinke 2 M  
Joseph Steinke 1 M

The STEINKE surname was sometimes translated as STONER. Stein means stone in German, and the 'ke' ending is equivalent to the English 'er'.

Clearly the names here are the Joseph & Mary STEINKE family. For some reason, their son Leo, is listed with the HURT family, on the next page (right), likely a mistake of the census taker.

*Handwritten census entries:*  
John S. Hurt 35 M  
Cassidy Hurt 24 F  
Leander Hurt 7 F  
Mr. Hurt 6 M  
Mary C. Hurt 5 F  
Melinda J. Hurt 3 F  
Marian Hurt 1 F  
Leo Steinke 2 M  
George Steinke 30 M  
Catherine Steinke 20 F  
Mary M. Steinke 1 F

from the STENEKER web site: <http://www.genealogieonline.nl/en/van-den-berg-stamboom/13239.php>

Re. : Archive Information

At your request we will inform you that:

Joseph Lambert Johann Steinke

Father: Henry Herman Steinke, born 26.8.1765, married

20.09.1801,

died on 22.01.1842

Mother: Margaretha Ruwe, Neuenkirchen death from unknown

The wife v. John Lambert Joseph Steinke was:

Mary Anna Kaiser, born on 24.05.1825,

their parents:

Hermann Kaiser and Elisabeth Wernke, died 4.3.1843.

For more information, we could not find in our church records.

Sincerely,

Catholic parish of St. Catherine, Overbergstr. 3, 49 599  
Voltlage.

Pastor of Merzen and Voltlage: Stephan Höne, Tel: 05466/326

## Children of Hermann STEINKE and Margaretha RUWE - George Henry STEINKE

### George Henry STEINKE

(Gerhard Heinrich)  
b. 11/10/1817 Voltlage  
d. 9/27/1892 Rhine

### Mary Catherine MEYER

b. 6/1817 Germany  
d. 4/29/1902 bur. Rhine +

### Mary A. STEINKE

b. 1849- Springfield m. SCHMIDT

Elizabeth Mary STEINKE

2/10/1851-12/20/1928 m. HARTARD

Margaret STEINKE

10/3/1854-7/26/1913 m. HAMP

The German "MEYER" is an occupational name for a mayor, or elected head of a community. It is from the German word 'meier', meaning "mayor".



KATHARINA M.  
STEINKE  
Gest den  
29 April 1902  
Alter  
85 Julium

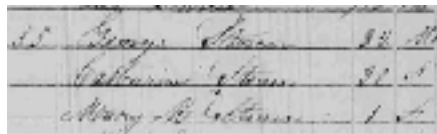
George Henry STEINKE was born on November 10, 1817, in Voltlage, Hanover, Lower Saxony (Niedersachsen), Germany. He was the sixth of seven children born to Hermann and Margaretha (RUWE) STEINKE.

George Henry STEINKE married Mary Catherine MEYER in 1848, in Auglaize County, Ohio. Mary Catherine MEYER was born on June \_\_, 1817, in Germany.

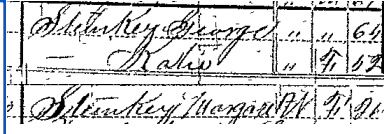
George Henry STEINKE and Mary Catherine (MEYER) STEINKE had three known children between 1849 and 1854.

George Henry STEINKE died on September 27, 1892 in Rhine, Ohio.

Mary Catherine (MEYER) STEINKE died on April 29, 1902. She is buried at St. Lawrence Catholic Cemetery in Rhine, Ohio.



The 1850 Dinsmore Twp. Census (left) lists this family as 'STONER'. The 1880 Census (right) lists them as "STEINKEY".



## Children of Hermann STEINKE and Margaretha RUWE - Maria Catharina STEINKE

### Maria Catharina STEINKE

b. 4/11/1820 Voltlage  
d.

Maria Catharina STEINKE was born on April 11, 1820, in Voltlage, Hanover, Lower Saxony (Niedersachsen), Germany. She was the last of seven children born to Hermann and Margaretha (RUWE) STEINKE.

Nothing else is known of Maria Catharina STEINKE.

These three flowers represent the Holy Trinity, as on Ferdinand GREVE's stone at St. Lawrence Cemetery, Rhine.



### Tombstone Symbolism

Many symbols found on tombstones have significant meaning. On this, and the next page, are examples of symbols found on the stones of our ancestors and relatives, along with their most common meaning.



An urn, like this one on Mary & Herman GREVE's stone at St. Lawrence Cemetery, Rhine, represents the symbol of the soul.

Thorns, as on these roses on Joseph & Philomene STEINKE's stone at St. Lawrence Cemetery, Rhine, symbolize Christ's Crown of Thorns.



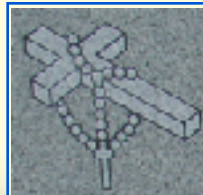
Ivy, like this on Rosetta STEINKE's stone at St. John's Cemetery, Fryburg (above), or on Michael & Catherine SCHNEIDER's stone (right) in St. Joseph's Cemetery, Wapakoneta, is the symbol of friendship.



A bird, usually a dove, symbolizes peace, and is a messenger of God. Left is Jessica & Jenna SHROYER's stone, St. Thomas Cemetery, Glynwood; right is



Clarence & Edna KOENIG's stone at Immaculate Conception, Botkins.



A rosary, almost strictly found on Catholic gravestones, symbolizes devotion to Mary and constant prayer for the deceased person. This is on the stone of Franklin SCHAUB, Jr. at St. Lawrence Cemetery, Rhine.



## More Tombstone Symbolism

Though not all tombstone symbols are chosen for their meaning, many have unique symbolism associated with them. Below are more symbols from tomb stones of our ancestors and relatives. Whether they were chosen for their specific meaning, or simply for the beauty they portray, they are quite common in many cemeteries.



A handshake, like this one on George & Mary SCHEMMELE's stone at Schemmel Cemetery, symbolizes the deceased being greeted by God, it also represents a farewell to earthly existence, and it also symbolizes unity.



A heart, like the stone of Joseph KAISER, at St. Augustine Cemetery, Minster, is the symbol of a person's spirit or soul, and also represents love for the deceased.



An angel is a guide to Heaven, as is this one on Clara SCHNIPPEL's stone at St. Lawrence Cemetery, Rhine.



A circle symbolizes eternal life - no beginning and no end. The circle often encloses a photo like this of Ruth Marie VOISARD on her stone at St. Remy Cemetery in Russia, Ohio. It also commonly encloses a cross, as on Ed & Ida SCHEBLO's stone in St. John's Cemetery, Fryburg.



An open book symbolizes the book of life. Henry A. SCHNEIDER at St. Joseph Cemetery, Wapakoneta.



A rose, found on many stones, is the symbol of beauty. Many other flowers represent beauty as well.



A circle symbolizes eternal life - no beginning and no end. The circle often encloses a photo like this of Ruth Marie VOISARD on her stone at St. Remy Cemetery in Russia, Ohio. It also commonly encloses a cross, as on Ed & Ida SCHEBLO's stone in St. John's Cemetery, Fryburg.



Hands praying are the symbol of pious devotion, as on this stone of Joseph & Mary MARTIN at St. John's Cemetery, Fryburg.



A dogwood flower, (four petals), is symbolic of resurrection, sacrifice, and eternal life. This is on the stone of Leo and Elisabeth STEINKE, at St. Lawrence Cemetery, Rhine.



A torch or flame represents eternity.

It is from Blazius FISHER's stone at St. John's Cemetery, Fryburg.



The lily represents purity, and is a symbol of the Virgin Mary. This one is from the stone of James LINDER at St. Joseph's Cemetery in Wapakoneta.



The letters IHS stand for the first three letters of Jesus' name in the Greek alphabet. This symbol also stands for "in hoc signo", Latin for "by this sign we conquer", referring to the cross. The one at left is on John SCHAUB's stone at St. John's Cemetery, Fryburg. Below that is from James VOISARD's stone at St. Remy Cemetery, Russia. The letters are on top of each other, sometimes confused for a dollar sign.



Butterflies such as these on the stone of Fred & Ruth HEMMERT, in St. Joseph Cemetery, Wapakoneta, symbolize resurrection, as well as the soul leaving the body.



Grapes, like these on Alma SCHNEIDER's stone at St. Joseph's Cemetery, Wapakoneta, represent the blood of Christ.



A woman clinging to a cross, as on Matthias & Mary SCHNEIDER's stone at St. John's Cemetery, Fryburg, is often found with the verse "Rock of Ages cleft for me" or "Simply to the cross I cling." It symbolizes faith; a person or soul who is lost in the sea of sin, whose only hope is to cling to Christ's cross (the Rock of Ages).



A crown and cross represents victory, or triumph over death through Christianity. Left is from Margaret SCHAFFER's stone at St. John's Cemetery, Fryburg. Right is from John & Catharine GERSTNER's stone at the Old Catholic Cemetery in St. Mary's.

The gates of Heaven also symbolize the passage from earth to Heaven.



