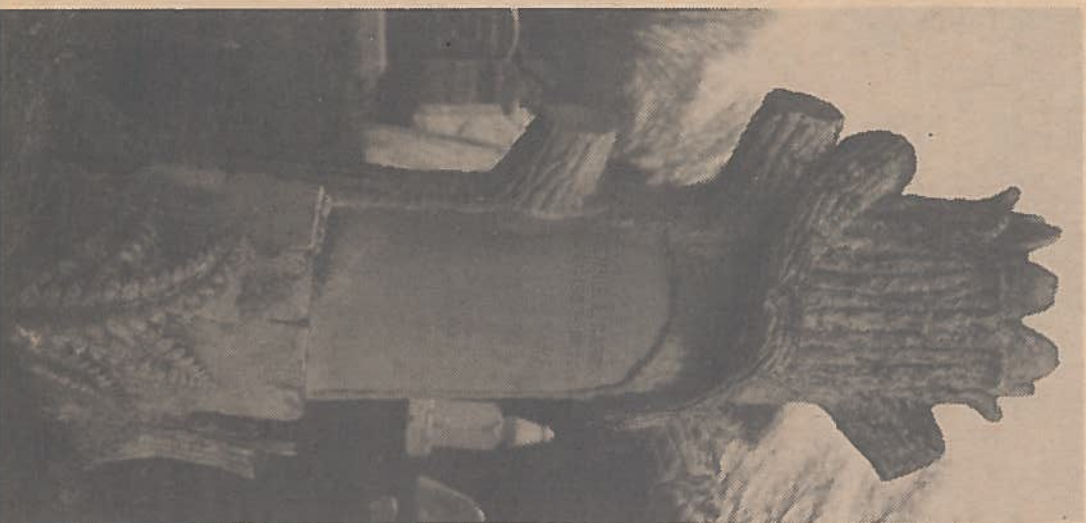


# Rethinking of Old Orleans

C.W.Lattin • County Historian

5-16-79



VOL. 1

Cemetery Art

No. 19

Now with the warm weather and the approaching of Memorial Day we can readily look to an ancient art form which can be found in all our local cemeteries. Many architectural landmarks have been destroyed, but cemetery monuments tend to remain very much the way their creators intended. The recognition of the symbolism used on monuments in our cemeteries is something we no longer understand very well. For instance, a sheaf of wheat represents a full life and someone who is old; a lamb represents innocence and resurrection; and open Bible signifies a minister and an anchor, hope. Frequently lodge emblems are used to denote membership with a dominate one of three links of chain with letters FLT meaning Faith, Love, Truth. Animals are also sometimes shown -- dogs guarding their master's grave as well as eagles or doves. One headstone in Hillside Cemetery for a young girl named Daisy depicts a broken daisy. A beehive monument in Mt. Albion leaves one wondering if the deceased was perhaps an apiarist.

One of the most unusual, peculiar and contrived markers is the rustic Garrison monument pictured above which is located in the Transit Church Cemetery in the western part of Murray Township. It suggests through its sawed off branches and truncated top, lives incomplete or cut short. The same symbology is also suggested in broken columns which can be found in several cemeteries. So like the marble human figures of angels in lingering or meditative moods, take some time to linger and observe first hand the voluminous richness in our Victorian Cemeteries across Orleans County.