

Reformed Druids of North America Talk Conference  
Carleton College  
Northfield, MN 55057

January 21, 2005

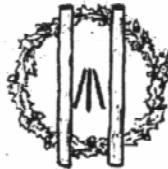
To Whom It May Concern,

The Reformed Druids of North America (RDNA) were established in 1963 in Northfield MN, and now have 40 groves and about 3000 members in the United States, plus missionary outposts in France and Japan. The RDNA was the first modern Druid organization in the United States, and still one of the largest. Several other moderate-sized Druid groups have schismed from the RDNA; including Ar nDraoicht Fein (A Druid Fellowship), the Henge of Keltria, Order of White Oak, Reformed Druidic Wicca, Missionary Order of the Celtic Cross, and Primitive Celtic Church, among many. Most British Druid groups have no ancestral affiliation with the American groups, although we exchange publications.

There is no current active central legislative or executive organ for the loose confederation of the RDNA. However, the "RDNA talk" conference on [www.yahooogroups.com](http://www.yahooogroups.com) consists of 250 members, gathered from various groves in the organization, and held a poll in November 2004, on what they believe would be the best symbol to recommend for placement of Memorial Stones of Druids who were in military service. We feel we can speak on behalf of the RDNA in such a generic Druidic matter as this, as many of our members also have cross-membership in a variety of other Druidic organizations.



RDNA Sigil



Keltria Sigil/Awen



Awen



Awen w/dots

Although the RDNA and the above mentioned off-shoot groups in America prefer to primarily use the Druid Sigil amongst its own members (sometimes with Awen Tri-line inside the sigil, as with Keltria above), we felt that the Tri-line of Awen /A\ is the best for headstone of an all-inclusive category for "Druid", much like most Christians would approve of a cross, although they may have individual symbols for denominations.

The Awen symbol indicates the three drops of inspiration that accidentally fell from the mythical cauldron of Cerridwen to the tongue of the famous poet Taliesin, as recorded in a medieval Irish manuscript of folk tales, and has been the most universal and non-denominational symbol for Druidism for the last 300 years, in both Europe and America.

As such, it should be a selection that most Druids, regardless of organizational background, would feel comfortable selecting. We are currently uncertain whether any RDNA members are in active or reserve service right now, due to poor record-keeping, but there have been at least a few dozen members over the past four decades.

In my role of moderator of the RDNA talk conference, I am hereby recommending any design incorporating three descending line, e.g. /Λ/. In our vote for a generic Druid symbol for military gravestones the vote broke down in the following manner:

Awen Symbol 57%

Druid Sigil 33%

Oak Leaf 10%

RDNA talk members have shown no preference on whether to draw a tiny dot above each line's upper end point, which is merely a variation of the symbol; with no dots probably being the older version. We would go along with either version, both of which are synonymous to us, as they would be for most Druids. To give a relative example: it would be like asking what ratio of lengths for the two cross-pieces on a Christian cross, or whether the edges of the cross should be square or rounded. It is too fine an aesthetic question to be bothered with. A cross is a cross to them, and an awen tri-line is an awen tri-line to us.

Michael 

Yours Sincerely,  
Michael James Scharding  
Arch Druid of the D.C. Grove, RDNA  
Day 31 of Geimredh, Year XLII of the Reform  
(Jan 21, 2005 C.E.)