Historic Cemetery Abbreviations

Names found engraved on the closure tablets of tombs in New Orleans's historic cemeteries often include common titles such as Mr., Mrs., Widow, etc., or their equivalents in French, Spanish, German, Italian, or other languages.

The following list captures such title abbreviations as found on the tombs by the survey. It should be noted that the engravers did not always adhere to the standard or most common forms of all abbreviations. For example, in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries the title "Monsieur" – Mister – was usually abbreviated as "Mr." or "M.," yet on a few tombs an "M." actually stands for "Madame."

Abbreviations:

<u>English</u>

Cap., Capt.	= Captain
Dr., M.D.	= Doctor
Wid.	= Widow

<u>French</u>

Cap., Capt.	= Capitaine (Captain)
Dme	= Dame
Dr	= Doctor
Mlle	= Mademoiselle
Mme, Me, M.	= Madame
Mr, M.	= Monsieur
Vve, Ve, V.	= Veuve (Widow)

<u>Spanish</u>

Vda., Va., V. = Viuda (Widow)