
IVY HILL CEMETERY

HISTORICAL PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Dedicated to the preservation of monuments, promotion of history, and protection of flora and fauna of Ivy Hill Cemetery

www.ihchps.org
www.ivyhillcemetery.net

2823 King Street
Alexandria, Va 22302

NEWSLETTER

March 2019

HISTORIAN AT IVY HILL

The Ivy Hill Cemetery Historical Preservation Society welcomes our new Historian/ Research Assistant, Catherine Weinraub. Catherine holds a BA in History, with a concentration in Historic Preservation and a Master's in Collections Management. She has worked at several sites in Alexandria, many with a connection to George Washington, including Mount Vernon and Arlington House. For the last eight years, Catherine has worked for the Office of Historic Alexandria, giving tours, hosting birthday parties, inventorying collections of the Alexandria Black History Museum and City Hall. Mostly she has worked at the Friendship Firehouse Museum and that is how she became involved at Ivy Hill. She approached IHCHPS about a joint program of the history of the cemetery and the Firemen's Monument in the



Circle of Honor. She has been fascinated with the cemetery since then and has been doing research off and on. Now she will get to do it more often!!

Catherine is excited to bring her love of history to Ivy Hill. Here she will be researching the occupants and entering her finds into the database. She will be doing data entry, again recording information on all people interred, so that in the future, the public can access genealogy and material on ancestors.

Catherine needs your help. Please send her your stories and memories if you are willing to write up those memories for us to add to our website. Or if you would be inclined, she would love to interview you about your ancestor(s). Please feel free to contact us! We want to know!



NEW DISCOVERIES AT THE OLD CEMETERY!

Ivy Hill teamed up with Bill Johnson, Senior Technical Advisor at Rhea Engineers and Consultants to solve age old mysteries in our oldest section of the cemetery. Mr. Johnson generously donated his time and skills with Ground Penetrating Radar to help us find where some of our residents are located, and where we might have space for future

generations. Some folks shone brighter than others, and some seemed very shy.

This is the beginning of a lengthy and thorough process of creating or reclaiming sites to extend the life of Ivy Hill Cemetery. Stay tuned for the GPR results and more on the reclaiming process. And if you have ancestors at Ivy Hill, come see if they left room for you!



TREE STEWARDS OF ALEXANDRIA/ ARLINGTON

Your cemetery is so fortunate to attract such amazing support from its community. One of our fabulous groups of volunteers is the Tree Stewards of Alexandria and Arlington. These caring folks have been coming on a regular basis to remove the English Ivy from our tree canopy. Ivy robs the trees of critical

sunlight, damages bark, and weakens branches from the extra weight. This leaves the trees more susceptible to pests and disease.

We cannot thank these kind souls enough for their help in preserving our historic canopy!



“Who cooks for you?”

That is the instantly recognizable hooting call of the Barred Owl (*Strix varia*). Often referred to as a hoot owl, these birds are native to the east coast of the United States. Barred owls are easily identified by their pale face with dark rings around their dark brown eyes, yellow beak and round head lacking ear tufts. Their chests have horizontal brown bars, while their bellies are streaked vertically. Wings and tail are also marked with brown and white. Thus, they are called “barred” owls. Smaller than a Great Horned Owl (a wingspan up to 57 inches) and much larger than an Eastern Screech Owl (weighing only 4 to 8 ounces), a barred owl can have a wingspan between 39 to 43 inches and weigh up to just over 2 pounds. All three of these owl species inhabit the woods in Alexandria.

Hunting primarily at dusk or at night, their diet consists of various small animals including mice, chipmunks, voles, birds, reptiles and amphibians. Often nesting in a tree cavity or an

abandoned hawk nest, eggs are laid in their nest in late winter. Young owls fledge at approximately five weeks after hatching. A cool fact about barred owls is that young owls can climb trees by using their beak and talons to grasp the tree bark, while flapping their wings to move their way up the tree.

Don't be surprised when walking in Ivy Hill Cemetery, that you might hear its “who cooks for you? who cooks for you, too?” call. They can occasionally be spotted in daylight hours. Look up and you might see a barred owl on a branch or in a hollow of a tree.

For more information on wildlife in our area, please contact:

Jane Yeingst
Naturalist / Environmental Educator
Jerome “Buddie” Ford Nature Center
Natural Resources Division
Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities
5750 Sanger Avenue
Alexandria, Virginia 22311
703-746-5524 direct, 703-746-5525 front desk
March
Jane.Yeingst@alexandriava.gov



Don't forget to send your
genealogy, obituaries, and stories via
our website:

UPCOMING EVENTS 2019

Some of our Spring events:

March 31, 3:00 - Outstanding Women of Ivy Hill tour

April 14, 6:30 - Tales from the Vault: Hoaxes Spring Eternal

April 20, 3:00 - Tombstone Art Tour

May 19, 1:00 - Memorial Day flag placing and BBQ

May 19, 2:00 - Vampires and Werewolves, Women's literature readings

Call or email for details! 703-549-7413, info@IHCHPS.org



info@ihchps.org

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