

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

The Lodge Throughout the Years

By Catherine Weinraub



In 1854, the Smith family sold roughly 22 acres of land to the Ivy Hill Cemetery Company for \$2,000 “to be used for a public cemetery, and for no other use or purpose.”

A year later provisions were made to that deed, including, “said land be suitably laid out in burial lots, roads & alleys, well & securely enclosed, and provided with a neat & commodious keeper’s house and chapel and a receiving vault.”

Throughout the years, many references were made to the Cemetery’s lodge or keeper’s house in the Alexandria Gazette. In 1858, it was mentioned, “The Ivy Hill Cemetery Company have, at great expense, purchased and enclosed 23 acres of land, built a large vault, a neat keeper’s lodge, graveled and graded a large extent of road and walks, and otherwise improved and beautified, what is universally considered in natural beauty and variety, one of the loveliest situations in this neighborhood for so sacred a purpose. They

have an obliging keeper, at all times present, to afford every facility to visitors or owners of lot.”

Another Gazette mention, in 1866, was from the keeper himself, introducing himself and his business to the city, “This is to notify the lot holders in this Cemetery that I am the Lodge Keeper, residing on the ground, and am prepared at all times to remove bodies, retie graves, grade and set lots, and attend generally, at reasonable charges. J.B. Cheshire.”

As the keepers lived and resided at the lodge, life and death reached them, in business, and in their personal lives. According to the 1866 Gazette, “At Ivy Hill Cemetery, Miss Margaret Cheshire, in the twentieth year of her age. Her friends and acquaintances are respectfully invited to attend the funeral from her father’s residence, at the Cemetery, on Thursday, the 27th instant, at 12 o’clock m.”

Since lodge keepers and their families lived in the home, wear and tear was inevitable. Changes would need to be made as new keepers came into the home. “Mr. W.W. Head having given up the care of Ivy Hill cemetery, Mr. Taylor Arnold will assume charge at an early date, or as soon as the ‘lodge: can be made ready for occupation.’ The keeper’s house is to be repainted and the grounds improved.” This was in the November 1895 Alexandria Gazette.

Improvements would fall to the company, “The Ivy Hill Cemetery Company has

appointed Messrs. J. W. Green and A. Jamieson a committee to arrange for the improvement of the keeper's lodge, fences, &c., by subscription, as shown in the 1883 copy of the Gazette.

The lodge itself has a porch which was the original entrance and inside two fireplaces which have been covered over. Luckily, they were not removed over the years. Walls were added on both floors to create smaller rooms. It is the goal of Ivy Hill Cemetery Historical Preservation Society to remove the added walls and uncover and restore the fireplaces. However, first the outside of the building will be rehabilitated. Siding and the roof will be replaced. The porch entrance will be put back in place with a lift so all may enter. The lodge will become all inclusive. Stay tuned for details on our fundraising campaign and find out how you can get involved!

Restoring the Past to Prepare for the Future

by Lucy Goddin



Knowing IHCHPS is always up to something fun, I am sure you are all on the edge of your seats wondering what we will do next! We have decided that our ghosts have been far too quiet lately, so it's time to stir things up a bit. And the best way to do that? Let's Renovate!!!

Although our 1858 building may not be architecturally unique, or has not housed famous residents, it is very special to us. To work where generations before us have worked, building on their vision to serve the Alexandria community, is so inspiring. We are blessed to honor the memories of distinguished citizens who helped to shape our city, as well as ordinary citizens who lived in and loved Alexandria. As Catherine has written, our cemetery office/ caretaker's lodging has been around for quite a while. Luckily, it has much of its original features and charm hidden under newer siding and framed in walls. We love this old building because of all its quirks, and feel it has great spirit (maybe several?). But it is in serious need of rehabilitation for the life of the structure and for the comfort of our guests.

One thing our old friend does not have, is easy access. Its stairs provide a challenge to many of our visitors. Because we don't plan on selling out of sites anytime soon, we need to think of our clients' needs. Just because we are grandfathered in, doesn't mean we should keep grandfather out! After careful study, we have determined that a lift would be just the ticket in maintaining the charm, while providing the necessary access. But like any plan, this project leads to others, which are long overdue.

You may ask how many years does Ivy Hill have and why go to all this effort? At this point, we are not near selling out of space. But even though the need for a cemetery office may eventually decline, this building will always serve a purpose. Our vision is to create a historical destination containing a museum, gift shop, meeting rooms, and reception areas for use far into the future. As the cemetery ages, we must plan for its future in order to care for you and your loved ones *forever!*

We have begun phase one of our project by adding central air conditioning, for which we were very grateful this summer. We have made minor adjustments to the grounds crews' area in order to conduct business from there during future renovations. Phase two will begin next year with a new roof, insulation and siding, uncovering the quaint front porch, and adding the lift. Phase three will occur a few years down the road on the interior, with future needs in mind. Ivy Hill has engaged an Architect who has a passion for older buildings to help us plan this project carefully. Follow the progress through our newsletter and through our Facebook page **Ivy Hill Cemetery Historical Preservation Society**. Contact us if you would like to support our efforts! We will have a matching donor opportunity this Fall, and all donations are tax deductible.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MICHAEL JONS -MIND READER AND PSYCHIC ENTERTAINER

Everyone loves a good ghost story. This is your chance to be part of one. Join us after dark in the underground vault at Ivy Hill Cemetery in Alexandria, Virginia this fall as Michael Jons shares his story of a peculiar haunted artifact and his attempts to return it to where it belongs. We're not exactly sure what may happen when we attempt to contact the spirit world, but we can promise you it'll be a spooky good time!

Price: 35.00

RSVP: tickets@michaelJons.com LIMITED SEATING!!!

- Saturday, October 5 at 7:30
- Saturday, October 12 at 7:30
- Friday, October 18 at 7:30
- Friday, October 25 at 7:30
- Friday, November 1 at 7:30
- Saturday, November 2 at 7:30

TALES FROM THE VAULT with Terry Gish and Wayne Kehoe

Terry and Wayne return to the historic Ivy Hill Cemetery Burial Vault. Just in time for Halloween, our 4th year of the series will explore Rituals of the Occult. From the Ancient Druids and Wiccans to Modern Wedding Ceremonies in America, we will examine hidden symbolism that involves all aspects of our daily lives. Come join us for a fun-filled event complete with trivia and prizes.

Price: \$20.00 (cash, check, credit card, [paypal.me/IHCHPS](https://www.paypal.com/US/merchandise))

RSVP: INFO@IHCHPS.ORG

LIMITED SEATING!!!

- October 19, 2019 at 7:30 PM

TALES OF MYSTERY AND THE IMAGINATION -- Poems and Stories of Edgar Allan Poe

EVEN IN THE GRAVE, ALL IS NOT LOST!
Poems and Stories of Edgar Allan Poe, preceded by a short ghost tour of Ivy Hill Cemetery*

- 7:00-8:15pm Saturday Oct 26
- 7:00-8:15pm Sunday Oct 27
- 7:00-8:15pm Monday Oct 28

*Handicapped accessible ghost tour begins at the Ivy Hill Cemetery Office, and ends at the Receiving Vault, where actors from Guillotine Theatre will read from the works of Edgar Allan Poe

Price: \$20.00 (cash, check, credit card, [paypal.me/IHCHPS](https://www.paypal.com/US/merchandise))

RSVP: INFO@IHCHPS.ORG

LIMITED SEATING!!!

VOLUNTEER ALEXANDRIA & IVY HILL CEMETERY HALLOWEEN SHINDIG!!

Don your best costume and join us for hors d'oeuvres, beer and wine, moonshine cocktails, prizes, and fun! Must be 21.

\$35 a ticket, two drink tickets included.

RSVP: <http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07egjqd9tq2c1790b6&llr=b04wescab>

- 6:30-9:30 Wednesday, Oct. 30

FLAG PLACING ON OUR VETERANS' GRAVES

Free BBQ and great camaraderie in a really "feel good" activity! Sunday, Nov 10, 1:00

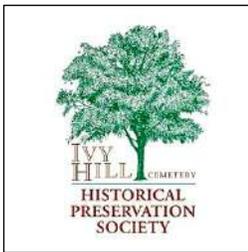
RESERVATIONS REQUIRED FOR ALL EVENTS

info@IHCHPS.ORG

2823 King Street, Alexandria, Va 22302

703-549-7413

Thank you to the **ARPFSA** volunteers for their clean up of our Circle of Honor in preparation of the Annual Fire Fighters' Memorial Service



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FaceBook: Ivy Hill Cemetery Historical Preservation Society

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