

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

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NEWSLETTER

FALL 2010

Tree Program Fund Grows

We Are Half Way There



This year the Society obtained a grant of \$5,000 from the *Bernie Loves Cece Trust* to assist with tree care at Ivy Hill. If we can match these funds with other donations from the community, the grant will be renewed for next year. Early responses got us off to a good start.

To complete the match, we have sent out the annual donation request letter. We hope you will respond in support of this and the other work of the Society for the Cemetery.

The 150th Commemoration of the Civil War in 2011 will focus great attention on Ivy Hill. (*see Thank You, p.3*)

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Ivy Hill Cemetery

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William Haywood Hume

FROM THE CEMETERY PRESIDENT



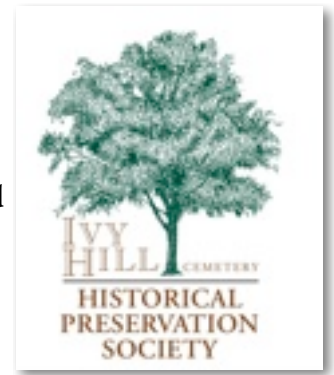
There is no denying that Ivy Hill Cemetery, now in its 155th year, is a place of historic importance, along with being personally important to so many families. On October 8, we hosted the 40th Anniversary of the dedication of the Circle of Honor and Friendship Fountain as part of the Alexandria Fire

MAKING HISTORY

Department's Annual Memorial Service, a joint tradition honoring Alexandria's heroes and recognizing the firefighters, EMT's and staff who keep our city safe. Please see the Society website (ihchps.org) for the Heroes Honor Role and put October 7, 2011, on your calendar to witness next year's impressive commemoration. Our community is an illustrious one and Ivy Hill is proud to be a keeper of the heritage.

BY TOM BOWLING

Visit ihchps.org or Ivyhill.org online and see this newsletter in color on the newly launched Ivy Hill Cemetery Historical Preservation website. Click on the Tree logo to navigate this easy to use site with photos of the cemetery, book order forms, newsletter archives, markers, access to information on those buried at Ivy Hill and more. You will be able to contact us directly to ask questions or to help us get greener by sending us your email address to receive newsletters electronically. Please send us your comments! *And for readers with a sense of humor, let Bruce Morris make you smile by clicking on the "[Rex, the Piddling Pup](#)" lyrics.*



BRUCE BRAWNER MORRIS

FEATURE PROFILE

Philosophy “...In Service to my Fellow Men”

“I’d like to think when life is done that I had filled a needed post, that here and there I’d paid my fare with more than idle talk and boast; That I had taken gifts divine the breath of life and manhood fine and tried to use them now and then in service to my fellow men.” Bruce Brawner Morris quoted this passage from Edgar Quest often. Those who knew him well felt he had successfully lived by its code -- he was a special person with a talent for making others feel special throughout a life of service to family and community.

Torpedo Factory, Air Force, Friendship Fire Company & More

Bruce first became known around Alexandria by talking to everyone on his boyhood paper route. Although he came from a long line of RF&P railroad people, Bruce decided to work as a toolmaker at the Torpedo Factory after his 1937 graduation from George Washington HS before entering the US Air Corps in WWII. After receiving an honorable discharge from the service, he enrolled at George Washington University. He had a 33-year career with the Bureau of

Aeronautics/Naval Weapons in Washington, DC.

Bruce continued to be a well known Alexandrian. He was an active, highly decorated Mason, as well as holding office with the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars and Fraternal Order of Eagles. He was an honorary life member of the Alexandria Friendship Fire Department and the Alexandria Sportsman’s Club.

Family

Bruce was born on May 22, 1919 in Alexandria to Jesse Wilbur Morris (Mayor of the township of Potomac, city of Alexandria) and Grace Tyler Morris. His grandparents were Bessie E. and Fred S. Morris. All are buried in Ivy Hill Cemetery. He is fondly remembered by his wife of 62 years, Mary Eloise Hitt Morris, daughter Dr. Sandra Morris Curry, and grandchildren Amanda B. Curry (Graziano) and Rachel A. Curry (Neckowitz). His grandchildren remember him as being extremely knowledgeable. However, always setting the best example, he was willing to admit if he didn’t know the answers to their questions before reaching for the World Book Encyclopedia or Webster’s by his chair.



Bruce Brawner Morris served as Twenty-second Potentate of Kena Temple

“One of the Best in Alexandria”

Bruce’s skills extended beyond his military service, work in aeronautics, extensive church and civic work. He was also an avid poker player, with the reputation for being “one of the best in Alexandria.” He would return from Friday evening poker games with his winnings tucked in his sock for safekeeping.

Bruce was a real character, recognizable around town driving his old Rambler Station Wagon, with his dog Fritz. He was well known for his motivational speaking engagements, as well as the less formal occasions when, perhaps inspired by Fritz, he famously recited his favorite poem, “[Rex, the Piddling Pup](#).”

He was a wonderful man who is dearly missed!

Source: Dr. Sandra Morris Curry

The squirrels are here! If it's Fall they seem to be on a mission, preparing for winter, storing nuts and a variety of other edible goodies wherever they see fit. Ever wonder how that one bulb came up nowhere near where you planted it? Well, at Ivy Hill the squirrels are stocking up and helping to plant trees and flowers as they go.

Autumn is also when squirrel yearlings start the *Fall Shuffle*, the activity of establishing their own home range, the area where they will spend their lives. Most squirrels live an average of 11 to 12 months, although some have managed to live more than a decade.



Source: Smithsonian -- <http://www.mnh.si.edu>

The large leaf nests we see in tree boughs are the squirrels' second favorite nesting place after tree cavities. They have a litter of two or three young once or twice a year, in late winter and late summer.

SCARLET OAK



What better company in this edition (and home at Ivy Hill) for the eastern grey squirrel than an oak tree? This beautiful scarlet oak is breathtaking in the Fall.

The Scarlet Oak Tree matures at 60 to 80 feet tall with a trunk diameter of one to two feet. Its acorn is unusual with a tip often marked by ringed target-like circles. And a popular target they are for hungry squirrels!

QUERCUS COCCINEA

Occasionally, you may see swelling at the base of a scarlet oak. When this happens, it is caused by an infection of chestnut blight fungus, which does not kill the oaks.

Although its strong hard wood can be used for anything from lumber to furniture to railroad ties, at Ivy Hill it is appreciated for its wildlife habitat potential and spectacular fall color.

Source: www.dof.virginia.gov/trees

THANK YOU, SUPPORTERS (CONT. FROM P.1)

BY LUCY BURKE GODDIN

We are developing a tour of the Civil War veterans graves and are working diligently to move forward on physical plant projects that will enhance visits to the Cemetery for family and loved ones, as well as for the students of history who will be newly introduced to Ivy Hill during this time of commemoration.

Read the grave markers as you walk through Ivy Hill and see a reflection of Alexandria's history from 1856 to today. Characters from our history books like Civil War spy Benjamin Franklin Stringfellow rest here. Imagine his hiding under a lady's hoop skirts to avoid the detection of Federal soldiers. Read how a Civil War mother lost a 17-year-old son to a war then, as many have done before and since. We will have the chance to share our place of history and family with others in a special way over the next four years to show where we have been and who we are.

Thank you to all the supporters who make this outreach and education, as well as preservation and protection of Ivy Hill possible.

Alexandria Plans for Civil War Commemoration

Ivy Hill Receives Donation for Care of Confederate Graves



Tom Bowling, Juanita Allen, Lucy Goddin, and Becky Kusserow meet to discuss use of donation.

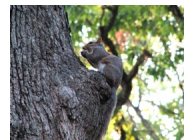
On December 1, 2010, Juanita Allen and Becky Kusserow presented a \$1,440 donation to Ivy Hill Cemetery on behalf of the Old Dominion Rifle Confederate Memorial Association to be used for care of confederate soldier graves. "The timing of the donation is

perfect," said Tom Bowling, IHC President. "The city's 150th Civil War anniversary commemoration begins in 2011 and the Cemetery and Historical Society plan a grave marker cleaning for the soldiers' graves in spring. The contribution will cover that cost for the Confederate graves."

This amount represents an allocation of \$5 per grave per year for four years for the 72 CSA graves at Ivy Hill. The funds originate at the Virginia Department of Historic Resources and are specified for use on Confederate grave care.

According to Donald Hakenson, author of *This Forgotten Land II*, "Most of the Union soldiers were buried in the Alexandria National Cemetery, but Ivy Hill is home of the most CSA graves in Alexandria."

Contributors



Thank you to Scott Saltsgaver for the Ivy Hill photos & to

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VOLUNTEERS



Special thanks to the Society Volunteers who prepare the mailed

version of the newsletter.

To nominate someone for a profile article, please email tara@ibchps.org.

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