

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

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NEWSLETTER

FALL 2011

Marking History

and Honoring Those Who Lived It



On October 7, Ivy Hill hosted the Alexandria Fire Department for its annual solemn ceremony to honor those who have died in the line of duty and to mark the passing of those members of the department who died during the preceding 12 months.

Alexandria dignitaries, including Mayor Euille, Vice-mayor Donley, former City Manager Vola Lawson,

Fire Chief Theil and uniformed members and retired members of the Fire Department and Volunteer Fire Department, as well as the Academy graduation class and Alexandria citizens attended the observance.

This year also marked the ten-year anniversary of the rededication of the Friendship Fountain to honor the NYC Fire Fighters who died on 9/11.

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FROM THE CEMETERY PRESIDENT

BEST WISHES

BY TOM BOWLING

I would like to wish everyone seasons greetings and ask you all to join me in wishing good fortune both to Thomas Jennings, who retired as our senior groundskeeper November 11, and to Theodore Martin who is retiring at the end of December. These gentlemen worked faithfully for the cemetery for, in round numbers, 25 and 15 years respectively.

TJ as Thomas was known has moved to southern Virginia where he is from and Theo will be moving to South Carolina to join his family. I want to take this opportunity to publicly thank TJ and Theo for their long and loyal service to Ivy Hill and all of our families. And for me personally, for their long and valued friendship. They will surely be missed.

A City Lane

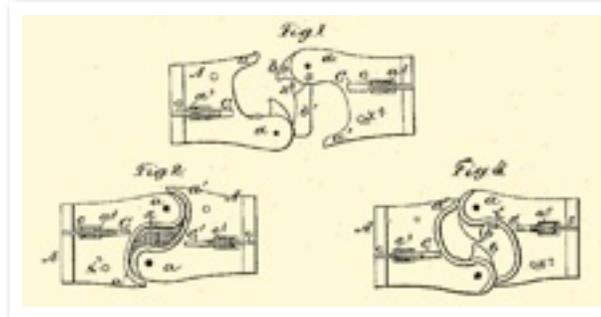
Eli Hamilton Janney lived almost all of his life a century ago, but he -- or his namesake, Janneys Lane -- receives our attention almost daily. For many of us who live and work in the Alexandria, the road is a part of life. It is a busy and scenic connection between King Street and Quaker Lane where it transforms into Seminary Lane.

Mr. Janney himself lived on the lane which bore the names Stump Hill Road, Old Seminary Road, and later, Seminary Lane until the 1930's, according to the *John Kelly's Washington* column of the *The Washington Post*. A number of Kelly's readers were curious about the different spellings of the lane's name that appear on various signs. Should there be an apostrophe before the "s" or how about the one sign that omits the "e" from the spelling? Both the Post Office and the U.S. Geological Survey's Board on Geographic Names eschew the use of apostrophes, hence "Janneys Lane" (and the "e" is definitely supposed to be included).

A Civil War

Eli Janney did more than provide an interesting moniker for an east-west roadway. He was born in Loudon County on November 12, 1831, to Daniel Janney and Elizabeth Avis Haines Janney. He studied briefly at a seminary and was disowned by the Quakers for "employing a slave and joining another society." (Hakenson) He married Cornelia Hamilton (1833 to 1899).

During the Civil War, Janney served on the staff of General Robert E. Lee, achieving the rank of major. He settled in Alexandria after the war and worked in a dry goods store. When he wasn't working, he was often whittling, a skill he eventually used to experiment with design ideas for inventions.



Railroad coupler diagram from Janney's patent application

A Safe Idea

By 1873, he had devised a safety mechanism designed to prevent the horrific accidents that regularly occurred to brakemen in railroad yards.

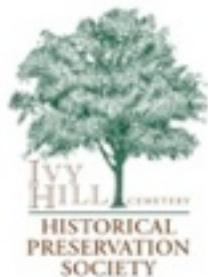
The brakeman was responsible for attaching rail cars to one another by manually dropping a lynchpin through a coupling hole. In addition to joining the railroad cars, this act often caused accidents ranging from loss of fingers to loss of life.

Although Janney's first coupler, patented in 1868, was not a great improvement, his second try, in 1873, eliminated the need for the brakeman to stand between the cars. This succeeded in making a radical change in the safety of the rail yards. The two parts of the coupler that joined together were controlled by a lever, making the process more automated and under the control of its operator.



Janney's Marker in Section G: "His work was a benefaction which in itself will constitute his worthiest memorial."

(Eli Hamilton Janney 11/12/1831 to 7/16/1912)



For more information on Eli Janney & railroad history see the sources for this article:
 Don Hakenson's *This Forgotten Land, II*
 Dee Brown's *Hear That Lonesome Whistle Blow*. &
 John Kelly's *Washington*, *The Washington Post* (11/13/11).

The tiny chipmunks scampering through Ivy Hill each day are quite diminutive compared to the other fauna in the neighborhood. Even the squirrels tower over this fellow, who could find a cozy seat in a tea cup. However, our Eastern Chipmunk is the largest among

As winter starts, the chipmunks will seem to disappear. They have been busy through the Fall, gathering nuts, seeds, berries, fruit and even insects which they store in their burrows or nests. They will hibernate, but awoken to eat from their stores when needed. Each chipmunk makes architectural choices, deciding whether to construct a nest or dig a small burrow. They are companionless critters until Spring brings mating season. Parents and litters



Above photo: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/gillesgonthier/291562671/>



An Ivy Hill chipmunk finding food

his chipmunk brethren, weighing up to 4.4 ounces, compared to the Least Chipmunk which can weigh as little as 1.1 ounces.

(of two to eight) remain together for two months before the young set to work preparing for Winter independently.

When threatened and during mating season, the chipmunks make a high chirping sound. To hear the call of the Chipmunk, visit the National Geographic website and click on the "Chipmunk Audio" button or follow the live link from the e-newsletter at IHCHPS.org, publications tab.

Source for article: <http://animals.nationalgeographic.com/animals/mammals/chipmunk/>

CHESTNUT OAK

QUERCUS MONTANA*



A hundred years ago, Chestnut Oaks and American Chestnut trees stood together in vast chestnut-oak Appalachian forests. The old American Chestnuts were a keystone species that determined how and what would grow in the forest. Now they are nearly gone, having succumbed to an asian fungus.

This change makes the Oak Chestnut all the more important. It, along with Northern Red Oak, White Oak and Hickory trees are slowly becoming oak-hickory stands that are fulfilling the function of the former oak-chestnut forests.

As one of the largest tree canopies in Alexandria, Ivy Hill offers an opportunity for these trees to flourish. The Oak Chestnut is a long-lived tree that does best in humid climates on fertile, well-drained soil near streams.

The Oak Chestnut produces acorns annually, but has a bumper crop only every four or five years. However, the nuts are worth the wait for wildlife: they are sweet and start to drop in early September, two to five weeks earlier than other acorns.

* *Synonym for Quercus prinus L.; aka rock chestnut oak, rock oak, tanbark oak.*

Tree 102, Redfox Section at Ivy Hill

Sources for article: na.fs.fed.us/pubs/silvics_manual/volume_2/quercus/prinus.htm & virginiaplaces.org/

Civil War Profile

Edgar Warfield, Sr.

Edgar Warfield, Sr. (1842 to 1934) was known as the last Confederate Veteran who resided in Alexandria. Warfield was born in 1842 in Washington City. He became a private in the Old Dominion Rifle (Company H, 17th Virginia) when he enlisted in 1861, and during the Seven Days Campaign he rescued a fellow confederate who was



Photos courtesy of Suzanne Warfield

lying with the Union wounded. He was with the Confederate Army until the surrender at Appomattox, and was one of the organizers of the Robert E. Lee Camp Confederate Veterans. At the close of the war he and a partner started a drug store. At his partner's retirement, he worked for his own son as a druggist. At one time was the oldest active druggist in the United

Contributors



Thank you to Scott Saltsgaver for the Ivy Hill photos,

Gilles Gonthier for the chipmunk photo & to Suzanne Warfield for the Civil War *Feature Profile* photos

VOLUNTEERS



Special thanks to the Society Volunteers who enable much of the Society's work.

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

States. His casket was draped with the Confederate battle flag of the Seventeenth Virginia