

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

P.O.Box 320065, Alexandria, Virginia 22320

info@ihchps.org

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2011

A Shared Memorial

Alexandria Fire Department & Ivy Hill Community Honor Heroes



Friendship Fountain for Our Heroes in Alexandria and on 9/11

In the last decade many of us searched for ways to remember and honor all those who died on 9/11, as well as the heroes who gave their lives trying to save them. Here at Ivy Hill immediate action was taken to commemorate the sacrifice made by the Fire Service personnel who gave “the last full measure” on 9/11. The Friendship Fountain was renovated in

2001 to commemorate the 145th anniversary of the Circle of Honor at Ivy Hill. The fountain was then rededicated as a memorial to the brave Fire Fighters of 9/11 at a ceremony of the Alexandria Fire Department at Ivy Hill on October 12, 2001.

The original Circle of Honor is an 1856 memorial constructed “by the grateful citizens of Alexandria” to honor seven Fire Fighters who lost their lives in the Alexandria fire of 1855. Each year in early October, Ivy Hill Cemetery and its Historical Society host the Alexandria Fire Department for a ceremony to honor those who have fallen in the line of duty in Alexandria and all those who have served and passed away in the past year. In 2001, this was expanded to include the 9/11 Fire Fighters. A visit to the fountain and Circle of Honor at Ivy Hill Cemetery would be a meaningful way to remember and honor the sacrifices made on 9/11.

Starting at 11 a.m. on October 7, 2011, during its annual Memorial Service at Ivy Hill, the Alexandria Fire Department will also commemorate the tenth anniversary of that dedication to our heroes’ last full measure. We are all invited to attend.

Board of Directors

Lucy Burke Goddin, President

Laurie Blackburn, Esq., CFP,
Treasurer

Ann Webb., Secretary

Tom Bowling, President, IHC

Arthur H. Bryant, Jr.

Dana Lawhorne

Laurence O’Reilly

Gant Redmon, Esq.

Executive Director

Tara Knox

In this Issue

A Shared Memorial p1

Friendship Fountain

Featured Profile: p2

Charles George Huber

Civil War Profile: p3

John Carlyle Herbert Bryant

Calendar p3

Featured Fauna: Hawks p4&5

Featured Flora: Dogwoods p6

From the Cemetery President: p6

by Tom Bowling

October 7 will mark the 10th Anniversary of Friendship Fountain’s Rededication. Memorial & Wreath Laying Ceremony begins at 11:00a.m.

.....
Would you like to receive the newsletter in electronically and save paper? Send your email address to tara@ihchps.org. It will remain confidential and will be used only by the IHCHPS for newsletter distribution and to share Ivy Hill information and educational opportunities with you.

Featured Profile

A Little Girl, a World's Fair & Fate

The World's Fair of 1939 and 1940, "Building the World of Tomorrow" was full of promise. A new age was dawning: television, color photography, nylon and air conditioning were all introduced at the Fair in New York. But some things never change ... including the mischievousness of certain five-year-old girls.

Shirley was only five when her mother took her to the World's Fair and after an exciting and tiring day, the two stopped to rest in a small café. Shirley's mother, Bess, wondered what time it was. Shirley could clearly see a clock behind her mom, but – no doubt ready for another adventure – she decided to pop up and ask a gentleman at the café rather than pointing out the clock to her mother. Shirley was right – this was to be the start of quite an adventure, because the gentleman, Charles Huber, answered little Shirley and asked for an introduction to her widowed mother.

Bess and Charles' courtship was to be interrupted, however. Even though Charles was too old to enlist at the outbreak of WWII, he was a highly skilled builder and decided to do his part by offering his services to construct military facilities during the war.

Charles' first assignment was in Africa. He built airbases throughout the war zone, often within hearing distance of Rommel's army tanks to the north. Shirley

tells us, "Upon completion of this effort, he returned to the USA, and with his friends volunteered to work on aircraft landing bases in Greenland. He told of how he became separated from his friends as they were boarding ship, and was placed on the next ship to Greenland following behind through the icy waters."



Fate can be cruel, especially in wartime, but Charles was fortunate that night. The ship he missed was the United States Army Transport *Dorchester*. The stories of heroes on the *Dorchester* are well known, including that of four ministers on board who gave their life jackets to others when the *Dorchester* was hit by a German torpedo and sunk on February 3, 1943.

Charles made it to Greenland and completed the construction of aircraft landing bases. With this mission done, he returned to the States and drove from New York City non-stop to Oklahoma City where Bess and Shirley were living and wasted no time before proposing to

Bess. They were married on December 2, 1943. In 1946, Charles legally adopted Shirley. Bess and Charles were married over 40 years until his death in 1984, having been brought together by fate ... with a little help from Shirley.

Bessie Lee Armstrong Huber (1909-2003) and Charles George Huber (1899-1984) nominated by Shirley Trotter

.....
A POEM ...

in time of all sweet thing beyond
whatever mind may comprehend,
remember seek(forgetting find)



and in a mystery to be
(when time from time shall set us free)
forgetting me,remember me

BY e.e.cummings

Civil War Stories

John Carlyle Herbert Bryant.

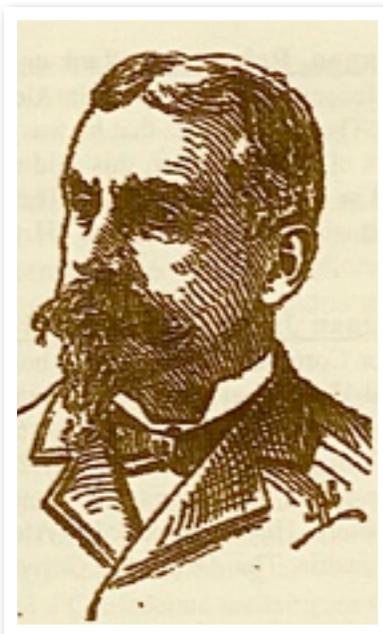
The Civil War was a very personal part of history in Alexandria. Until the first shot was fired at Fort Sumter, the Virginia state legislators had voted numerous times to try to mediate a settlement rather than secede from the Union. But once the war began, much of the conflict was fought on Virginia soil. Alexandria was occupied from the start of the war and the earliest deaths occurred in Old Town.

In much local family lore, the fight in Alexandria was less about the issues history books report (abolishing slavery and upholding a central government to keep the states together) and more about reacting to a perceived threat to hearth and home. (A published example of this is the diary of Anne Frobels, another Ivy Hill resident.) Many people in Alexandria can still tell the stories of family members whose lives were caught up in the events of 1861. One such interrupted life was that of John Carlyle Herbert Bryant.

When he was eight years old, Bryant moved to Georgetown with his family in 1850 from his birthplace of Lexington, Virginia. After attending St. Timothy School in Maryland, he was appointed to the US Military Academy as a cadet. At the outbreak of the war, he decided that it would be impossible to train to fight potentially against fellow Virginians and instead of attending West Point, he enlisted in the Army of the Confederate States in Alexandria. He was sent to

VMI as a cadet for a brief six weeks before being sent to fight with the infantry.

During the war he served in the 17th Virginia Infantry and rose in rank from Private to Captain. By war's end he had served as an Adjutant on the staffs of Brigadier General M. D. Corse, as well as Generals James Longstreet and W.R. Terry.



Bryant.

Captain Bryant was wounded and captured twice during the war, in 1862 and in 1865. After being treated on the USA Hospital Steamer State of Maine in 1865, he was paroled in April, when he picked up his life again.

Bryant settled in Alexandria and, like other returning soldiers, set about the business of building a life and community as a good neighbor. In addition to his professional life as a merchant and fertilizer business owner, he worked for the office of the Alexandria Police Commissioner and also served his community as a member of the City School Board and a Vestry member at St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

He died at home on North Washington Street on April 11, 1914 at age 71.

On a tour of Ivy Hill, the Bryant family plot (Section F, Lot 54) is notable for the generational history on its markers and for the railing surrounding the family, a style popular in the late 19th and early 20th century for demarcating a family's area.

Source: http://www.fairfaxrifles.org/fld_staff.html and Ivy Hill Cemetery records

CALENDAR

September 27
TCWilliams High School field trips (rain date 9/28)
October 3
Carlyle House Docents tour (rain date 10/10)
October 7
Fire Department Memorial Service and 9/11 commemoration, 11:00a.m.-- All are welcome

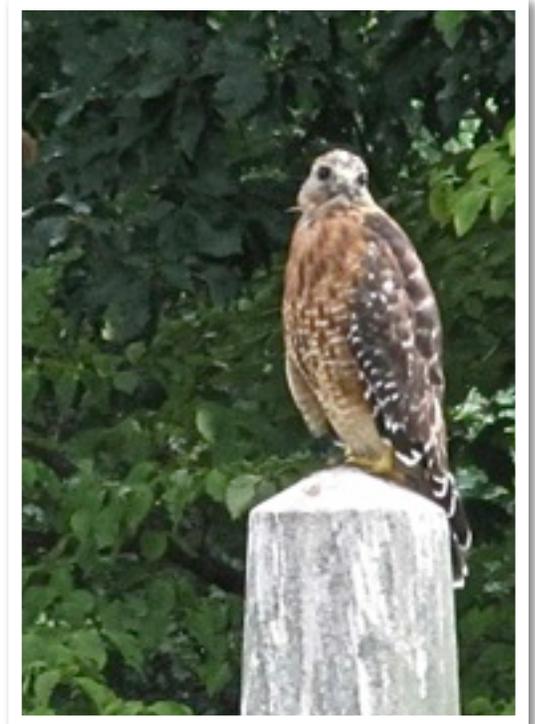
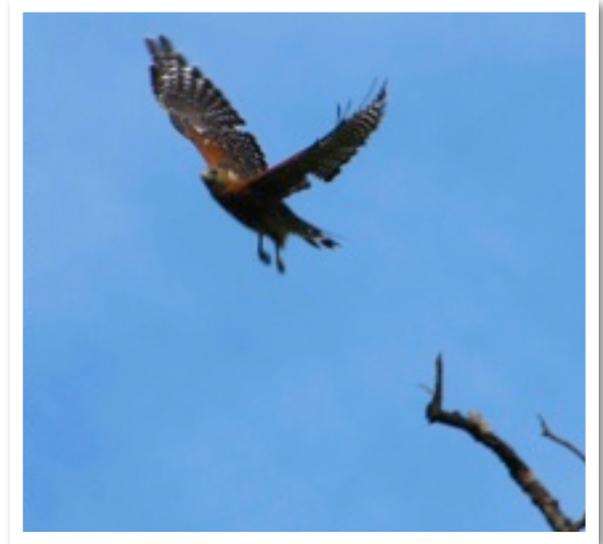
October 11
Yankee Clippers Pruning Workshop at Ivy Hill Cemetery (rain date 10/12)
Fee \$75
Email tara@ihchps.org for registration information.





HAWKS

We have featured hawks in the newsletter before, described their nesting habits and other behavior – and, we were prepared to discuss Ivy Hill’s chipmunks in this edition – but the Ivy Hill hawks of Summer 2011 demanded more attention. Starting in late May, the hawks seemed to be making themselves particularly at home. One of Ivy Hill’s neighbors took the photo seen on the previous page through his window after noticing the hawk’s pose. “One of these giants was actually in the (20-inch diameter) bird bath shown in the picture a couple of days ago – he could barely fit in it!” For photos of the new baby hawks, see the website [Photos](#) section.



Scott Saltgaver has been able to capture photos of the hawks several times this summer. On the day after the earthquake, three different hawks made their presence known. Perhaps the pose in front of the flag is to give the bald eagles a little competition for most patriotic?

FLORA: DOGWOOD

CORNUS FLORIDA

Drupes, bracts, fever and mange ... this sounds more like the lexicon used to prepare for a dangerous secret mission than terms associated with ... a flowering tree. Readers who are experienced gardeners already know these terms, but they are new to some of us Dogwood Tree lovers. Drupes are fruit; the dogwood drupes are berry-like pods surrounding the seeds. Bracts are what we think of as the dogwood's flower petals, but the actual flowers are the small center surrounded by the white or colorful bracts.



The greatest novice mistake in caring for a young dogwood is over fertilization and too much water. The first year, the tree can do with no fertilization with light fertilization thereafter to encourage greater flower (sorry! bract) production over height.

We often celebrate the dogwood in Spring for it's lovely flowers, but it summers nicely in well drained areas like Ivy Hill, where the edges of an upper story of trees provides the perfect light conditions. The dogwood offers us a lovely end of Summer transition to Fall when its leaves will turn to shades of red and its pretty

An early use of dogwood bark was in fever medicine. The name dogwood may come from another early use of its bark – treating mange.

berry-like fruit will provide a high fat content and general good eating for birds preparing for migration or wintering at Ivy Hill.

FROM THE CEMETERY PRESIDENT

BY TOM BOWLING



We have seen a lot in the news lately about Arlington National Cemetery's organizational issues that have resulted in questions about where each soldier actually rests at Arlington. This unfortunate situation may be causing concern to the families of those interred in Ivy Hill. I wanted to take a moment to reassure our Ivy Hill community that is not the case here. Ivy Hill prides itself on the extensive

time and effort expended on its records. We have worked hard to prevent this kind of problem and to keep the cemetery up to date, not only by computerizing our records, but by making them available online for the use of families and for genealogical research. We do our best to respond to inquiries, corrections and suggestions.

As we have discussed in the past, the record keeping for a cemetery like Ivy Hill is an historical compilation because, at its inception and in its earliest years, family members were the record-keepers for their cemetery plots. Often early records include dates culled from newspaper reports as well as those on the grave marker and those in the initial cemetery record. For older records, we find it is often best to list all the data collected about dates because often there is no way of confirming whether the engraver or the newspaper or the original record is correct.

Our headstones are being photographed and published and every gravesite is logged, mapped and located. Anyone stopping in at our office can obtain a map and guidance to a gravesite or contact the historical society at info@ihchps.org for a tour or assistance. In addition to being a peaceful final

Contributors



Thank you to Scott Saltgaver & IHC neighbors for the hawk photos



... and to Shirley Trotter for nominating the Hubers as our featured profile

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

resting place, Ivy Hill strives to be a place that provides its families and community ongoing solace as somewhere to honor and celebrate the lives of those we serve.