

# 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

WINTER 2012

## Supporting Heroism

*Ivy Hill works to honor those who protect Alexandria*



On February 16, 2012, Alexandria Paramedic Joshua Weissman received funeral services with honors and later was laid to rest at Ivy Hill. Both the Cemetery and the Society readied to honor a man who gave his last full measure in the line of duty.

As with all interments at Ivy Hill, great care and preparation was given

to the arrangements. So many members of the community were touched by Mr. Weissman's life and passing that special consideration was taken to ensure all went well.

All who participated in the preparations were grateful to be able to play a part in honoring Mr. Weissman.

### 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

Supporting Heroism *p1*

Alexandria EMT

From the Society President:  
A 50-year Anniversary *p1*

Self-guided Tour Available *p2*

Upcoming Events *p3*

*Featured Fauna & Flora:* *p3*

Ladybugs & Snowdrops

*Feature Profile:* *p2*

Ellen Coolidge Burke

Photographs of the preparations are available on the Society website.

### FIFTY YEARS AT IVY HILL CEMETERY

Momentous events took place in 1962: John Glenn orbited, the USSR threatened to put missiles on Cuba, *Laurence of Arabia* came to the movies, the Beatles recorded *Love Me Do* and, here in Alexandria, a young man named Tom Bowling started a summer job at Ivy Hill Cemetery. Tom would return for the next two summers as well, and in 1965, be asked to assist the foreman as acting superintendent until the previous superintendent could be replaced. Tom spent weekends, vacations and the summer after his senior year in high school working at Ivy Hill.

*(See 50 years, p.4)*

BY LUCY GODDIN

Women’s History Month is an ideal time for us to learn more about Ellen Coolidge Burke. Miss Burke was born in Alexandria in 1901, at the start of what would become a hallmark century for women. Her life and career with the Alexandria Library System exemplified the kind of contributions women made to improving the quality of life in their communities throughout the last century.

Thomas Jefferson was an ancestor of her family and Ellen herself may have been named after Jefferson’s “most literary granddaughter, Ellen Coolidge.”\* Her ancestress would have been proud of her namesake’s accomplishments. Ellen attended Catholic University in Washington, D.C. where she earned both her Bachelors and Masters degrees.

Ellen made her mark in Alexandria through her long career with the Library System. She started in 1938 as a Cataloger and then Reference Librarian. In 1948, however, she rose to become the Library Director. As Director, she fought to bring a bookmobile to Alexandria, a service that enabled the collections to reach many more parts of the community. It was one of the first bookmobiles in the state of Virginia.

During her tenure as Director, the Library expanded to include two more locations, Seminary Avenue’s Burke Branch (in 1968) and the Duncan Branch on Commonwealth (in 1969).



Ellen Coolidge Burke  
May 10, 1901 – December 29, 1975

In addition to her career, Ellen was active in the League of Women Voters and the Urban League. She belonged to professional library associations, as well as staying active and involved with several civic organizations.

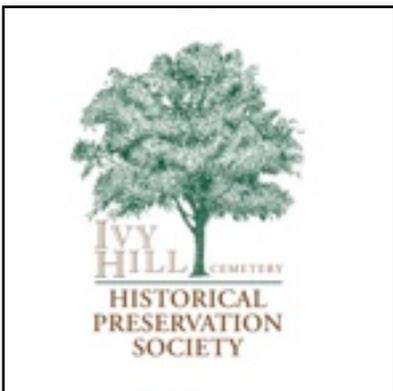
Those who had the honor of working with her found her to be most impressive and an effective and charming example for future generations of women.

Ellen Coolidge Burke was nominated as a Feature Profile by Louise Forstall, former Chair of the Library Board.

Sources: \* History News Network of George Mason University, hnn.us/articles/20061.html & alexandria.lib.va.us



An early Bookmobile: Brooklyn Public Library, Brooklyn Collection



NEW TOUR AVAILABLE TO DOWNLOAD VISIT [IHCHPS.ORG](http://IHCHPS.ORG)

The woman who saved Mt. Vernon, a League of Women Voters organizer, famous authors, historians and more comprise the Outstanding Women of Ivy Hill. To honor Women’s History Month, the Historical Society has developed a tour to celebrate these women and their accomplishments.

An Outstanding Women of Ivy Hill Tour will be available for download March 30. To arrange a guided tour for a group, please email tara@ihchps.org.

## LADYBUGS

Gardeners welcome ladybugs because they are voracious eaters of aphids, mealybugs and other garden pests. This may be one reason the ladybug (more appropriately called ladybird beetle) is considered good luck in many cultures. In Turkey, its name actually means the good luck bug, and in Russia and Italy seeing the ladybug means it is time to make a wish or, better yet, that a wish is about to come true.

In addition to bringing good luck, seeing the ladybug in our area is a harbinger of spring. The adult coccinellid spends the winter in diapause (dormancy) on the south side of large objects like houses, ready to become active as soon as the days lengthen.



The image of the lucky ladybug is often used as a logo or icon

## LADYBUG BEETLES

Their colors are lucky for the ladybugs themselves. The bright colors serve as a warning to predators that the the ladybug secretes a sticky noxious substance from its joints when threatened and would not be a tasty treat.



In spring, eggs are laid on leaves near potential food sources (like scale or aphid eggs) and hatch in several days, followed by a two-week larval stage. These larvae are described by some “as looking like miniature alligators” but are in no way

harmful to humans.\* Within days the ladybugs are capable of reproduction and ready to live an average of one to two years, benefitting our gardens. The first ladybug has been spotted at Ivy Hill already this year.

Sources: [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coccinellidae](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coccinellidae) & [www.ca.uky.edu/entomology](http://www.ca.uky.edu/entomology)

## SNOWDROPS



Snowdrops at Ivy Hill in February in Section E

The Victorian meaning of the snowdrop flower is hope and consolation, making snowdrop bulbs ideal plantings for Ivy Hill. The literal meaning of the winter-blooming *Galanthus nivalis* is “milk flower of the snow.” The snowdrops at Ivy Hill are lovely in winter and long finished blooming before the mowing season begins, adding to their appeal to our families.

The National Institute of Health published a theory in 1983 that Homer was referring to the snowdrop in the Odyssey when Odysseus used the “moly” plant as an antidote to Circe’s poison. The supporting evidence described Circe’s poison as an “anticholinergic agent” (that can cause delusions and amnesia) and the galantamine in the snowdrop as a “centrally acting anticholinesterase,” making the Odyssey the first recorded reference to a medicinal plant being used accurately to reverse central nervous system intoxication. Currently galantamine is used in treating Alzheimer’s disease.

Sources: [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galanthus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galanthus) & [www.victorianbazaar.com/meanings](http://www.victorianbazaar.com/meanings) & [www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/6342763](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/6342763)

## GALANTHUS NIVALIS

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- March 30 In honor of Women’s History Month the Society will post a tour of Outstanding Women of Ivy Hill on its website. Visit [ihchps.org](http://ihchps.org), click on the Tree logo & choose Tours
- April In honor of National Poetry Month, the Society will post a poem a day on its website. To submit a favorite poem or an original poem email the editor at [info@ihchps.org](mailto:info@ihchps.org)
- May 26 Flag placement on our Veteran’s graves will start at 9:30 AM in the Circle of Honor. Join us then or contact us at [info@ihchps.org](mailto:info@ihchps.org) or visit the website for more details.

---

# 50 Year Anniversary

## *Thomas C. Bowling, III, CCE* (Continued from p.1)

Late summer 1966, Tom became seriously ill and was unable to start his freshman year at UNC as planned.

Once recovered, Tom started Southeastern University at night while continuing to work at Ivy Hill and, by the end of the year, was made Superintendent of the Cemetery. He rose to his current position of General Manager in 1968.

Tom has devoted his career to Ivy Hill. He earned the Certified Cemetery Executive Designation from the International Cemetery and Funeral Association in 1996. Tom has been very active with the ICFA and other organizations, writing a column



and presenting at conferences, often in the area of business internet use.

As he approaches his 50th anniversary at Ivy Hill, Tom considers his work at here to be about service -- not a job, but a vocation. "As it turns out I have been able to spend my life dedicated to a vocation that has provided a good deal of personal satisfaction. It is a real treat to be able to do something you really want to do."

The Society, along with community sponsors, will hold a breakfast to honor Tom and his years dedicated to Ivy Hill on June 6, 2012, at the Belle

### Contributors



Thank you to Lucy Goddin for the Ivy Hill photos & to

Louise Forstall for the *Feature Profile* information

#### VOLUNTEERS



Special thanks to the Society Volunteers.

*To nominate someone for a profile article, please email [tara@ibchps.org](mailto:tara@ibchps.org).*

Haven Country Club. Donations from the event will be used for Ivy Hill's Vault repair project. To participate, or to send your congratulations to Tom, please email [tara@ihchps.org](mailto:tara@ihchps.org).

---

non-profit org  
US Postage Paid  
Alexandria VA  
Permit 6281

Ivy Hill Cemetery Historical Preservation Society  
P.O. Box 320065  
Alexandria, VA 22320  
Return Service Requested