

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 2013

Complete Restoration of Victorian Vault!



FROM THE SOCIETY PRESIDENT

BY LUCY GODDIN

Vision and our donors' generosity made the seemingly impossible happen: our vault is restored!

From junk filled and overlooked to a featured architectural treasure. You can now fully appreciate the Romanesque Revival sandstone facade, as well as the inside construction of this 1856 receiving vault.

Originally the receiving vault did not have the iron gates above, surrounding the vault's earthen exterior. But the vault's restoration process disclosed the need to encircle the top of the vault. So when Ivy Hill's original entrance gates were discovered, it seemed fitting to use

Victorian era iron entrance gates as part of the vault restoration project.

To celebrate the completion of the vault restoration project, the Guillotine Theatre will be reading the works of Edgar Allan Poe at the cemetery. This is the first of a series of quarterly events to be held in the vault.

Other events to be held this fall include the Alexandria's Fire Department's annual Memorial Service and Wreath Laying; It is open to public and is a very special tribute to the brave fire fighters and EMS crews who have served the Alexandria community with such dedication and distinction. This year's ceremony will take place on Friday,

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October 11, at 11:00 am, in the Circle of Honor.

Two volunteer appreciation events are in November. For the annual Veterans' Day flag placement, we will thank those who help us honor the veterans buried in Ivy Hill, with a Cookout as part of that event.

To show our gratitude to those who are helping to restore this Victorian cemetery, our second event is to offer Horse and Carriage rides at Ivy Hill for a small fee.

See p. 3, for more details on these events.

Samuel "Cooper" Dawson is someone you might have known from his years at Episcopal High School, or because of his earlier association with Camp Greenbrier, or his later involvement with Camp Alleghany. Born in Alexandria in 1909, his family owned and managed the Penn Daw Motel in Alexandria. As a boy he was fortunate to be able to go to Camp Greenbrier. Dawson attended Episcopal High School, where his athletic skills were valued by both the basketball and baseball teams. Dawson also served as a Monitor while he was at EHS.

After graduation from Episcopal High School in 1928, Dawson studied at University of Virginia until graduation in 1932.

Like many young men of that era, World War II forever changed his life. For Dawson it meant joining the Navy, serving on convoy duty to North Africa and many other ports of call. His years with the Navy took him all over the world.

It was after the war, in 1948, that another chapter began in Dawson's life. This chapter involved Camp Greenbrier. Cooper Dawson, Bus Male, and Theodore Garnett purchased Camp Greenbrier from the estate of Dr. Walter Hullihen.

Dr. Hullihen, along with Horace Whitman, had been the original founders in 1898 of Camp Greenbrier for Boys. Dawson was as eager as the other new owners to continue Camp Greenbrier's programs and traditions. Today, Camp Greenbrier is owned and operated under the direction of the direct descendants of Dr.

Garnett, who had become the sole owner. (www.campgreenbrier.com)

But by 1963, Dawson's focus had turned to Camp Alleghany, a camp that had also been founded by Dr. Walter Hullihen. Dr. Hullihen modeled it after Camp Aloha in Vermont, where his daughter Helen went as a young girl.

As the new owner and director, Dawson was able to continue to create great summer memories for Camp Alleghany girls. They loved the activities, the friends they made, and the setting near the Greenbrier River and the Alleghany mountains.

Camp Alleghany remains a Dawson family tradition, under the direction of Sam Dawson, with his wife "Bonnie", and a talented staff who strive to make

each summer a great experience for each camper. (<http://campalleghany.com>)

In a later chapter in his life, Cooper Dawson returned to Episcopal High School.

In 1969, Dawson became the business manager for EHS and assistant coach of their baseball team. For fourteen years, Dawson gave his all to Episcopal High School. Many EHS alumni recall hearing his voice boom out at every football game, "get ugly in there, line!".

His legacy to Episcopal was recognized with the dedication of the Cooper Dawson Baseball Diamond. Dawson died in October of 2005. Samuel "Cooper" Dawson's memorial service was held in Episcopal High School's Callaway Chapel.



*Samuel "Cooper" Dawson
(1909-2005)*

BARRED OWL

The next time you are strolling through Ivy Hill, don't forget to look up! Some of nature's most interesting creatures prefer resting on a nice tree branch rather than at eye level. One such animal is the Barred Owl.

The Barred Owl, or Strix Vari, is a large and stocky owl with a very distinct pattern of white and brown feathers. These markings, when paired with their gorgeous brown eyes, produce a memorable and extremely cute effect (see photo at right).

Barred Owls generally prey on small mammals (such as squirrels, voles, and mice), but reptiles, amphibians, and small birds also make up part of their diet. They prefer to hunt at night, using their keen senses and noiseless flight to snatch their prey under the cover of darkness.

Continued on p.4

(Fact sources: http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Barred_Owl/id and <http://birds.audubon.org/species/barowl>)

STRIX VARIA



Photo of Barred Owl at Ivy Hill Cemetery by Scott Saltgaver

UPCOMING EVENTS AT IVY HILL:

Friday, October 11, 11:00 am: Firefighters' Annual Memorial Service and Wreath Laying. It is open to public and is a very special tribute to the brave fire fighters and EMS crews who have served the Alexandria community with such dedication and distinction. For more information, please email info@ihchps.org

Friday, October 18, 7:30-9:00 pm: Edgar Allan Poe Readings in the vault, presented by the Guillotine Theatre group. www.georgetowntheatre.org. SEATING IS LIMITED. Tickets are \$10.00. Reserve your seat now with a check to: IHCHPS, P.O. Box 320065, Alexandria, VA 22320, re: Poe Readings. If it has been raining, wear a hat. For more information, please email info@ihchps.org

Saturday, November 2, 12:00-2:00 pm: Annual Veterans' Day flag placement and Cookout. There will be a cookout immediately following for all volunteers who helped us honor Ivy Hill's veterans by placing flags on their graves. For more information, please email info@ihchps.org

Saturday, November 2, 12:00 to 4:00pm Horse and Carriage Rides. Ivy Hill will have horse and carriage tours of our historic and scenic cemetery. For carriage fees, and other information, please email info@ihchps.org

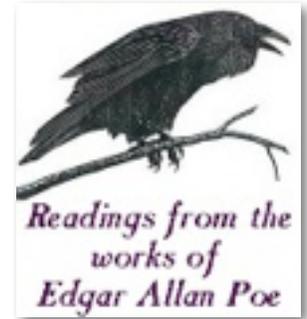
Barred Owl

continued from p.3



If you are lucky enough to spot one of these beautiful creatures during the day, it will probably be napping. However, according to the Ornithology Lab at Cornell University, it is much easier to hear a Barred Owl than to see one. Barred Owls make many different and unique sounds, some of which can sound positively eerie. In fact, the National Audubon Society, with a phrase that could have come from Edgar Allan Poe, describes this owl as “seen by those who seek it out in its dark retreat”.

So the next time you hear a faint hoot, or catch a glimpse of feathery wings, perhaps you will think of the Barred Owl. But will you seek it out?



by the Guillotine Theatre
group at Ivy Hill
Cemetery on Friday,
October 18, 2013 at
7.30pm. \$10 donation

Owl Article by Emma Nelson

Owl Photo (p.4) [http://
web4.audubon.org/news/pressroom/
bacc/images/
Barred_Owl_GlennTepke1.jpg](http://web4.audubon.org/news/pressroom/bacc/images/Barred_Owl_GlennTepke1.jpg)

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