
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

SPRING 2013

Spring Blooms Are Just Around the Corner



This photo from last Spring at Ivy Hill shows the change and growth evident each year in the beautiful flora. This year there will also be exciting changes at the Historical Preservation Society as a new Executive Director is hired.

FROM THE SOCIETY PRESIDENT

For the last three years, Tara Knox has served as the Executive Director for IHCHPS. Together with Tara, we have all made great progress toward meeting our on-going goals of preserving the monuments, protecting the flora and fauna, and promoting the history of Ivy Hill Cemetery.

Starting this March, Tara is moving on to a full time position with Historic Christ Church here

in Alexandria as their Director of Development. On behalf of the Board of Directors, we thank her for all she has done to strengthen the Society and wish her all the best in her new role. I know that she will be an active volunteer with us as time permits.

As this time of transition approaches, we are very excited to welcome Anne Nelson, an active Society volunteer, as our new

Board of Directors

Lucy Burke Goddin, President

Ann Webb, Treasurer

Laurie Blackburn, Esq., CFP,
Secretary

Tom Bowling, Member Emeritus

Arthur H. Bryant, Jr.

Dana Lawhorne

Laurence O'Reilly

Sheree Parker, President, IHC

Gant Redmon, Esq.

Executive Director

Anne Nelson

Spring Issue Editor Tara Knox

In this Issue

Welcome *p1*

Feature Profile: Fairfax Harrison *p2*

Spring at Ivy Hill *p3*

Feature Fauna: Blue Jays *p4*

BY LUCY GODDIN

Executive Director. Anne received her bachelor's degree from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service and her law degree from St. Louis University. Before becoming a full time mom, she clerked for a Federal judge, practiced law in St. Louis and, later, when she relocated to Virginia, worked as a Contract Manager for Oracle.

(continued on p. 3, bottom)

RR Business

Fairfax Harrison celebrated his Virginian roots and made a reputation for advocating and promoting the interests and success of the south. He is best known as the President of Southern Railroad from 1913 to 1937, with a hiatus from 1917 to 1920, during which time he served on the United States Railroad Administration to streamline the coordination and production of rail lines to support the efforts of WWI.

Harrison came to Southern Railway as an attorney in 1896, quickly rose to the position of VP for finance by 1906 and saved the RR by securing a commitment from JPMorgan to buy Southern's bonds during the Panic of 1907.

His career at Southern is marked by actions many would consider progressive today: he instituted training programs in math and other high school level courses for the regular work force and required newly hired college graduates to perform manual labor entry level jobs in track building and repair before advancing to supervisory roles. He increased morale by deploying crews together and allowing engineers to paint their names on the engines they operated. He rewarded fuel efficiency measures and took a salary cut to save money during a 1914 downturn.

During WWI, the US government took over the railroads in order to meet the needs the war generated. Although the goals were met, it was at great cost to the railroads. When control of Southern was returned to the company, it was with depleted resources. Once again, Harrison's leadership and management techniques brought the company into a surplus and positioned it to take advantage of the economic good times of the post-war 1920's.

Harrison did not rely on the upswing of the times to support the company, however. He continued to implement novel ideas, including his "Southern Serves the South" ad campaign, as well as developing a means

of branding Southern's RR cars to be easily identifiable. He had the cars painted what he dubbed "Virginia green" with bold red roofs, gold lettering and silver trim.

When the Great Depression threatened the RR, Harrison took drastic measures, halting dividend payments and examining all costs. Employees took pay cuts, as he himself had done in 1914. By 1936, his leadership brought the company into the black, saving it for a third time before his decision to retire in 1937.

Family Influences

For those of us familiar with Ivy Hill and its well known residents, it comes as no surprise that Fairfax Harrison aspired to be a writer as well as a business magnate. He was the son of writer Constance Cary and attorney Burton Harrison, who was private secretary to Jefferson Davis during the Civil War. Fairfax Harrison was educated at Yale and Columbia Universities. His brother Francis Burton Harrison was a Congressman for several terms and was later appointed to serve as Governor-General to the Philippines (1913-1921).

Harrison and his wife Hettie Cary (m.1894) had four children: Ursula, Constance, Sally and Richard.

Writing & Hobbies

A lover of horses and history, Harrison wrote a series of books on thoroughbreds, as well as various books about Virginia history and families.

Many of his papers are on display at William & Mary College and the University of Virginia.

Section: Sect. O - "Fairfax Harrison Area" Lot: 15 Site: 3
Burial Date : 01/01/1938

.....
Sources: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fairfax_Harrison & Bryan, John Stewart (April 1938). "Fairfax Harrison: An Appreciation". *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*

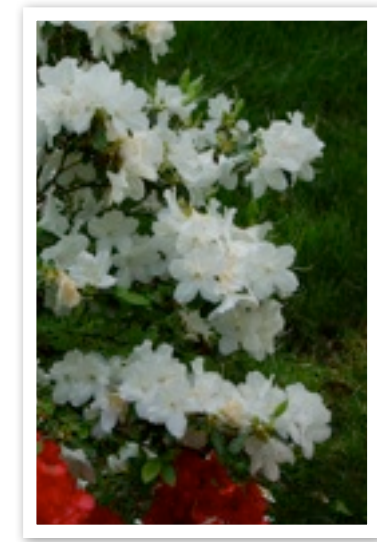
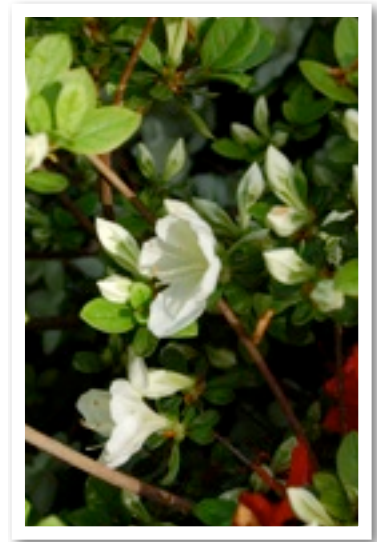


Fairfax Harrison, photographed in 1913 when serving as the President of Southern Railway

On April 20, you will have a chance to meet Civil War spy Benjamin Franklin Stringfellow, Sarah Tracy (the woman who saved Mt. Vernon), apothecary John Leadbetter, novelist Constance Cary Harrison, and more, when history comes to life from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at Ivy Hill Cemetery. The tour will feature actors in the roles of noted people from Virginia’s past who now reside at Ivy Hill and provide you with insights into their lives and times. This will be enjoyed by history buffs and students of all ages.

The event is offered by the Historical Preservation Society as part of the 80th Historic Garden Week in Virginia. This is the oldest and largest statewide garden tour in the nation which is why it is known as “America’s Largest Open House.” Ivy Hill is involved as a place of historic interest, along with the Lee-Fendall House Museum and Garden, Carlyle House Historic Park, Lloyd House, American Horticultural Society at River Farm, George Washington’s Mount Vernon Estate and Gardens, and Gunston Hall Plantation. These sites will all be included with the Historic Garden Week ticket at no additional charge as part of the Old Town Alexandria Open House Tour on April 20. Ivy Hill Cemetery’s tour is open to the public at no charge. Tickets not required.

The Old Town Open House & Garden Tour is sponsored by the Garden Club of Alexandria and The Hunting Creek Garden Club. Additional information about the Old Town Garden Week Tour is available at www.VAGardenweek.org. Advance tickets are available for \$35 through their website and at the Alexandria Visitors Center (221 King Street) or on the day of the tour for \$40 at any home on the tour or at the Visitors Center. Proceeds are used to benefit restoration of historic sites in Virginia.



ANNE NELSON NAMED EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

(CONTINUED FROM P. 1)



Anne is an avid fan of history, joining many of us reading about the Civil War to commemorate its 150th anniversary. If you would like to meet Anne, she will be participating in our History Comes to Life Tour on April 20, as part of the Virginia Garden Week Home and Garden Tour sponsored by the Garden Club of Alexandria and the Hunting Creek Garden Club. Anne will be joined on April 20 by her daughter Emma, who will be portraying one of the characters on the tour, noted Civil War scout and spy Benjamin Franklin Stringfellow.

For more information about Ivy Hill’s role in Alexandria’s 80th Garden & Home Tour, please see the article on Page 3 (above).

BLUE JAY

CYANOCITTA CRISTATA



A Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*) with a peanut in its beak*

Sources: *Photo by Saforrest <http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/>
& http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blue_Jay

Contributors

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this edition & to all the donors who contributed to the Society this year.

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

There is change afoot in the bird population in Spring, but the nice thing about the blue jays at Ivy Hill is that, although some leave for more southern destinations in winter, northern blue jays take their place. As the weather warms these northern inhabitants fly home and the southern winterers come back to this region.

As we welcome the returning jays, let's examine why they enjoy the area. First, our many pines are natural nesting trees for jays. The birds make open bowl-shaped nests to house their offspring. Once settled, the jays look for food sources. Ivy Hill is rich in acorns, one of the blue jay's favorite foods, along with seeds, grubs, caterpillars, bugs and more.

Blue jays (or jaybirds) are hard to miss at 10 to 12 inches long, with a distinctive voice they are not shy about using. The jays are bold and vocal, particularly when they feel threatened by birds of prey, like hawks and owls. Jays seem to demonstrate a belief in the old adage, "The best defense is a good offense" often chasing a perceived predator before it has a chance to attack.

Pairs of birds build their nests together and then these omnivorous couples also share the feeding duties for their young. Fledgling birds may stay with their parents up to two months before setting out from the nest.

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