
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

December 2016

The True History of Ivy Hill

Excerpts from: **The Founding of the Ivy Hill Cemetery in 1854 & Hugh C. Smith** by Mark Michael Ludlow M.A., RPA, PhD Pending 2016

The Ivy Hill Cemetery in Alexandria, Virginia, owned by the Ivy Hill Cemetery Company of Virginia, and assisted in its mission by the Ivy Hill Cemetery Historical Preservation Society, has had a long and distinguished record of service to the Alexandria community. That history, particularly the source and circumstances of its establishment, and more particularly the source and circumstances of the land upon which it serves, has been the subject of some confusion and lore. Primary source research materials from historic Alexandria County and Arlington County Court documents now shed light on that and other issues. It might be said that the cemetery actual began 30 September 1854 when a deed was executed. That deed, and specific conditions within that deed, fundamentally established the Ivy Hill Cemetery.

After the death of Hugh C. Smith, son of Hugh Smith of Alexandria, on 4 August 1854, a deed dated 30 September 1854, was executed and signed by Richards C. Smith, executor of the estate of Hugh C. Smith, deceased. That deed acknowledged the sale of two parcels of land, one for circa 20 plus acres and the other for '1 ⁶⁹/₁₀₀ acres' totaling '22 ⁶⁷⁵/₁₀₀₀ acres'. The purchasers were a group of c. 30 men (Samuel Miller et al.) from Alexandria, Virginia (Deed of 1854).

In the Deed it was acknowledged that Hugh C. Smith had previously agreed in writing, and thereby he had contracted to sell for \$2,000 a total of 22 ⁶⁷³/₁₀₀₀ acres with the overall stipulation that the sale of the land was 'to be used for a public cemetery, and for no other use or purpose'. Seven (7) additional provisions were listed in the Deed. They are as follows:

1) That 'said land be suitably laid out in burial lots, roads & alleys, well & securely enclosed, and provided

with a neat & commodious keepers house and chapel and a receiving vault' (Deed of 1855).

2) Moneys arising from the sale of lots were for both beautifying and securing the cemetery and for the future purchase and enlargement of up to fifty acres, if available (possibly the purchase of adjacent land, wholly or in part, owned by Hugh Smith, the father of Hugh C. Smith). Net surplus money from the sale of burial lots was to be divided among the c. 30 owners/investors to repay them for their initial investments, plus six percent interest. Thereafter, any excess was to be retained for the improvement and beautician, and safekeeping of the cemetery (Deed of 1855).

3) 'There shall be reserved for the use and disposal of ... Hugh C. Smith ... two full burial plots in such places or places as shall be selected by him or his Executors' (Deed of 1855).

4) A charter should be obtained from the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia embracing the previous provisions - most particularly the establishment of a public cemetery. In the event a charter was not granted, the purchasers of the land were charged with persisting with their organization and its purposes as stated in the conditions of the Deed.

5) The managers, Trustees, or Director of the cemetery were specifically empowered to remove any 'improper' stone or monument (Deed of 1855).

6) A roadway twenty feet wide 'be left open for the use of Hugh Smiths land & of the cemetery, only'. That roadway was to run from 'the land of Hugh Smith into the middle Turnpike road [King Street], along the north or south line of said tract (Deed of 1855).

7) Upon payment of the purchase money, the land would convey in fee simple to the investor group or such trustees as that investor group so determined (Deed of 1855).

Who was Hugh Charles Smith?

Hugh C. Smith was an accomplished Alexandria businessperson in concert with an accomplished family of businesspersons in the early 1700's through to mid-1800. They were owners of an importing and retailing business, a pottery manufactory, two foundries (including railroad locomotive building), and investors in dozens of business enterprises in the region. They were owners, buyers, proprietors, and sellers of a dazzling number of real estate properties throughout their lifetimes: At the time of his death, the real estate of solely Hugh C. Smith was valued at \$1,300,000 in current dollars. Of special interest, Hugh Smith and Hugh C. Smith, father and son, manumitted more than twenty-eight (28) slaves of African descent. Their stories and the fuller stories of Hugh C. Smith, his father and certain other family members, are more fully illuminated in *Hidden Lives in Alexandria, Virginia: Two Nineteenth-century Hugh Smith Family Wills Affording Interesting Insights into Slavery and Manumission in Antebellum/Pre-American Civil War Alexandria, Virginia: Manumitters of Twenty-Eight Slaves* (Ludlow 2016).

The remains of Hugh C. Smith, his wife, his four children, his cousin and his wife and their 4 children, are buried in Section G of Ivy Hill Cemetery – In the plots of their choosing under the provisions of the Deed of 1854 conveying the land from which the cemetery was created. The remains of his father and other brothers and sisters and their families reside in the First Presbyterian Cemetery of 1809 within the Wilkes Street complex of cemeteries in Alexandria, Virginia.



More research is being done on this history of Ivy Hill Cemetery. Check our website www.IHCHPS.ORG or our FaceBook page for current information.



Fall 2016 Summary of Events

Projects: Our front Circle of Honor was replanted through a grant and volunteers, a Butterfly Children's Garden was installed through volunteers, and the history of the cemetery is being researched through several professional volunteer sources.

Programs: We had eleven programs/events this fall, adding to our popular regulars. You are offering suggestions and we are listening!!

Networking: We have developed a presentation and are now speaking through out Alexandria. Call for more information!

Educational training: We attended a preservation seminar at Congressional Cemetery to expand our knowledge on how to best care for your cemetery.

Donations: Our favorite log splitting volunteer has provided an abundance of firewood, available for a suggested donation. Folks are donating books that relate to our history or our residents, and so beginning a library for you to use. For our annual fund raiser we have a matching gift donation through December 31st, so send yours today!! (see below)

Goals for 2017

research and develop tree reforestation plan
develop library
develop a gift shop
coordinate with Mount Vernon on honoring Miss Sarah Tracey and Mr. Upton Herbert

Board of Directors			
Lucy Burke Goddin, President	Ann Webb, Treasurer	John Renner	Tom Bowling, Emeritus

FEATURED PERSON

Yvette Fay Francis-McBarnette, a Jamaican-born medical pioneer in treating children with sickle cell anemia, died on March 28 in Alexandria, Va. She was 89.

Dr. Francis, as she was known professionally, was a high achiever from the time she was a teenager, after immigrating with her parents to New York City from Jamaica.

Raised in Harlem, she enrolled in Hunter College when she was 14, graduating with a bachelor's degree in physics in three and a half years. Deemed too young for medical school or even a laboratory job, she earned a master's degree in chemistry from Columbia University instead. In 1946, when she was 19, she became the second black woman to enroll at the Yale School of Medicine.

While directing a clinic at Jamaica Hospital Medical Center in Queens, Dr. Francis was credited with successfully using antibiotics to treat children with sickle cell anemia 15 years before the effectiveness of those drugs was confirmed, in a 1993 article in *The New England Journal of Medicine*.

During the administration of President Richard M. Nixon, Dr. Francis was named to a White House advisory committee, whose recommendations led to the 1972 National Sickle Cell Anemia Control Act, which appropriated federal funds for screening, counseling, health education and research.

Sickle cell anemia, a genetic disorder that affects primarily blacks and people of Mediterranean origin, produces blood cells that, because they are rigid and shaped like sickles or crescents, clog capillaries and deprive tissues of blood and oxygen. It can lead to organ damage, stroke, blindness, severe pain and death. There is still no cure, except through stem-cell transplants in some cases, but effective treatments can mitigate pain and prolong life.

In 1966, while Dr. Francis was in private practice and an attending pediatrician at Jamaica Hospital, she and several colleagues established a foundation to conduct research into the disease.

By 1970, five years before New York State mandated that infants be tested for it, her clinic had already screened 20,000 children and begun prescribing antibiotics.

Dr. Francis was also urging treatment by then to allow victims of the disease "to pursue their education, earn a living and rear their families" in an era when many sickle cell patients did not survive to adolescence.

One patient who followed Dr. Francis' advice from childhood, Cassandra Dobson, had children, earned her doctorate in nursing and now teaches at Lehman College in the Bronx.

"I stayed on antibiotics for 35 years," Professor Dobson said in an interview in 2011 with the journal *Yale Medicine*, published by the university's medical school. "If I hadn't, I



would've died. I was told I was going to die at 5, at 10, at every milestone of my life."

Yvette Fay Francis was born in Kingston, Jamaica, on May 10, 1926. Her father, Clarence, a teacher in Jamaica, became a factory worker when he moved to New York and then a delegate for the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union. Her mother, Sarah Francis, who had also been a teacher, became a seamstress. Yvette attended Hunter College High School in Manhattan.

She was breaking ground as a woman — and especially as a black woman — at the very beginning of the civil rights movement. She was a second-year medical school student when she wrote a letter to *The Pittsburgh Courier*, one of the nation's leading black newspapers, urging prospective black students to apply. She later said of her white classmates, "We were a close-knit, supportive group."

Dr. Francis was first exposed to sickle cell anemia and its effects during her pediatrics residency at Michael Reese Hospital in Chicago, which served a growing black population migrating from the South. She was the hospital's first black medical intern.

"I went home and tested all my relatives," she recalled.

She began practicing medicine at Bellevue Hospital in New York, became director of the sickle cell clinic at Jamaica Hospital and, later, with Dr. Doris L. Wethers and Lila A. Fenwick, started the Foundation for Research and Education in Sickle Cell Disease.

She retired in 2000 and moved to Virginia three years later to be closer to her grandchildren.

When her first patients began living beyond adolescence, Dr. Francis referred them to doctors with adult practices. But when many of her former pediatric patients were reluctant to leave her, she decided, at 52, to pursue a residency in internal medicine and a fellowship in hematology at Bronx-Lebanon Hospital Center so that she could continue to care for them.

Among those patients was Maureen Michel, who was a 9-year-old visiting from Haiti in 1975 when she was hospitalized in New York and referred to Dr. Francis.

"My whole life, every time I go to the emergency room, I call Dr. Francis," Ms. Michel told *Yale Medicine*, adding that she always asked, "Do you think this medication is good for me?"

"When she retired," Ms. Michel said, "I didn't know if I would ever find any doctor like her, and to tell you the truth, I never have."

Thanks to Yvette McMiller for the article from the obituary in the New York times

Ivy Hill Cemetery Matching Donations Fund

Extra! Extra! Read all about it!!

Due to a very generous offer from an anonymous source, your annual tax donation will be **doubled** if received by December 31, 2016. We are having extensive tree work done this winter to maintain the health of our beautiful, old trees to insure the safety of our visitors and monuments. This sort of expense is not covered under perpetual care, and any extra will be "seed" money toward our reforestation project as we lose our older trees.

Help keep Ivy Hill Cemetery and Alexandria healthy and green!



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