
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
www.ivyhillcemetery.net

2823 King Street
Alexandria, Va 22302

NEWSLETTER

December 2018

A STAR AMONG US

Born Florence Harrison, but known as Marion Barnwell on the NY stage, this is a woman, not of mistaken identity, but what identity to give her, as she was known by four names in her lifetime. Known to her parents as Daisy, Marion grew up in Alexandria, daughter of George and Virginia Harrison. Virginia and Daisy are buried here at Ivy Hill.

Daisy Harrison spent quite a few years here in Alexandria as several papers can attest. In February of 1895, the Alexandria Gazette noted, "The ladies of the M.E. Church gave a very delightful entertainment at Sarepta Hall last night for the benefit of that church. The programme was admirably rendered and elicited rounds of applause.... The entertainment consisted of music by the Mandolin Club, tableaux, recitations by Miss Daisy Harrison, and Chronothapatoletron, under the direction of Miss Harrison, with thirteen young ladies in the cast, all of who acquitted themselves most creditably."

Two years later, again the Gazette commented, "Among the ladies who will appear at the Opera House on Wednesday night next will be Miss Marion Barnwell. Miss Barnwell is

Miss Daisy Barnwell Harrison, daughter of the late Geo. W. Harrison, of this city, and has many relatives here."

It appeared she made her way to New York as in March of 1898, a review noted, "That stirring success, "The Sporting Duchess," attracted a good – sized audience to the Opera House last night, despite the constant heavy downpour of rain. Marion Barnwell, who played the part of Muriel, Countess of Desborough, has also been in Wilmington. She was a member of the "Never Again" company, which was here earlier in the season. Last night she proved herself an emotional actress of high order, her expression being particularly fine."

When she passed, many obituaries were written, this being one of them, "Marion Barnwell, a well-known actress, who succeeded Core Tanner in the "Sporting Duchess" last season, died this morning of pneumonia in her apartment at the Audobon, 39th St. and Broadway, after an illness of only three days. The body was sent to Washington for internment there.

Obituary Continued on Page 3...–

GOOD STEWARDS

The City of Alexandria is currently studying the effects of storm water runoff, which has become a major issue with the increase of hard surfaces. While Ivy Hill Cemetery is exempt from any watershed fee, we still feel it our responsibility to be a part of the solution, instead of part of the problem. In preparing for our future, with environmental concerns in mind, setting goals now is crucial. We are currently examining every section of our space, balancing immediate needs with what we predict will be important 100 years from now. We are not only looking at burial space, but also native plantings, invasive species, reforestation, and areas for event gatherings.

The most popular topic among our visitors is the grass, or lack thereof. We do not have an irrigation system, and we choose to not cut down our trees to get the grass to grow. And we will not keep throwing good money after bad, as we need to be saving for the future of Ivy Hill. So, in our problem areas we are planting test sites. We have had several lot owners volunteer to be guinea pigs to help us solve these issues and we are trying to stick to the native, non-invasive rule as best we can. However, this is an emotionally charged environment, so we also need to balance immediate beautification with how strongly some feel about the “natives only” issue. We will not always have the perfect answer, but we are trying.

When individuals place shrubs, etc. around grave sites, they are taking on the responsibility of maintaining them forever. Forever is a really long time...

And so, this eventually becomes the responsibility of the cemetery. We are currently trying to get a handle on pruning the bushes from 50-100 years ago through donations from families, and through the use of volunteers. We are lucky to have these amazing helpers! In planning for the future, if you have permission to plant, PLEASE choose plants that will not overwhelm their designated space. We would be happy to give you a list of suggestions.

One of the most appealing features of Ivy Hill is its beautiful trees. Although we prune them, care for them, read them stories, occasionally one or two will come crashing down. Our excellent tree company cuts them into 18” logs, and our even more excellent volunteer splits them into firewood. Donations for this firewood go to the Society to try and recoup some of the cost of tree care.



Mexican Sunflower-donated by Nate Erwin to feed the Monarchs for their journey home.

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In private life Marion Barnwell was known as Mrs. Henry Baldwin. Her husband is the son of a wealthy distiller Duxbury, Massachusetts.

Mrs. Baldwin, or Marion Barnwell as she is better known, was the daughter of G. W. And Virginia Harrison of 1226 4th St., Washington. Several years ago she eloped with R. K. Helphenstein Jr. a Washington banker's son. They did not live happily, however, and a separation soon followed.

When Mr. Baldwin was seen last night he said that he married Marion Barnwell on October 12 last. Her friends were not aware that the actress was married to Baldwin." She was 22.

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A major goal in the tree department is to begin a reforestation program in order to keep our beautiful canopy far into the future. After years of talking about this, we finally started the program this Fall. Eagle Scout candidate Ryan F. from troop #995 teamed up with Alexandria city naturalist, Rod Simmons, to plant eight native oaks and gums. The cemetery carefully chose the sites, weighing new trees vs. possible burial space.—Mr. Simmons picked the ideal trees for each site, and the amazing scout team worked hard to plant them. Our plan is to have 5-10 trees planted every year, alternating between canopy and understory, in order to maintain the character of your cemetery and provide a healthy impact on Alexandria's environment.

Stay tuned for more information on our progress. And, as always, thank you for your support!!

AMUSEMENTS.

SAREPTA HALL.
TUESDAY EVENING, MAY 14,
at 8 o'clock,
GRAND CONCERT, DELSARTE AND DRAMATIC ENTERTAINMENT.

MISS ANITA CLUSS, Harp Virtuoso.
MISS DAISY B. HARRISON, Elocutionist and Delsartian.
MISS CLARA FLINT, Favorite Soprano
IMPERIAL BANJO AND MANDOLIN CLUB. Clarence M. Jones, (Mandolin). C. Percy Rearden (Banjo). Charles W. Becker (Mandolin). J. Frank Jones (Banjo-Mandolin). Paul G. Hough (Guitar).
MR. THOENTON PAUL, the Young Tragedian, and others.
Tickets now on sale at Warfield's Drug Store. Prices reduced to 25 cents. Reserved



SCENES FROM THE CEMETERY



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