

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.lhchps.org
www.ivyhillcemetery.net

December 2020

2823 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22302

Caretaker's Cottage Rehab

You may recall, in our October 2019 newsletter we announced the upcoming rehabilitation of our wonderful old caretaker's cottage. This Fall we retained Dimond Adams Design Architecture to draw up our plans, and Old Dominion Renovators, Inc as our contractor. The work is under way!

Driven by the desire to keep the building standing after its rehabilitation, we have started with examining the foundation. As you can imagine, the mortar in the bricks of this 1858 house has all but disappeared. This and the cat sized hole we discovered help to explain our moisture issue in the basement...



Phase 1 begins January 2021 with a new porch, siding, foundation work, windows, and roof

Continued..P3

Burial customs...

This time of year is a time of significant celebration in most cultures. It gives us pause to think about not only our differences, but also the similarities we all share. At Ivy Hill we have had burial services which range from a solitary guest to many paying their respects, from a few folks sharing memories to all out full religious rites. So, what do different cultures believe? Below is a very simple summary of four major groups. (I am not an expert!)

Christianity

Christians believe in one God, an afterlife, and that God sent his only son, Jesus, down to earth to guide his followers on a path to eternal peace in heaven. After a church service, pall bearers carry the casket from the hearse to the gravesite or the family brings the urn. Family and friends gather while the officiant prays for the soul of the deceased through words of committal, and the deceased is lowered into the ground. This traditionally has been a casket burial, but more and more, cremation is an accepted practice. Some Christian faiths bless the ground with Holy Water; some do not. Traditionally, dirt or flowers are thrown onto the casket or urn.

Judaism

Jews believe in one God. After death, the body of the deceased is washed and wrapped in a shroud. When a casket is used, it is usually a very simple pine box and carried to the grave site by pall bearers. A Jewish cemetery service is generally short in duration. Prayers are said, including the Mourners Kaddish, which is a prayer that speaks of life. After the casket is lowered into the ground, the family and friends place the dirt onto the casket, passing the shovel from one to another. Lastly, it is common for the Rabbi or officiant to place soil, rock or dirt from Israel on the casket.

Islam

Muslims believe in one God, an afterlife, and that God's messenger Mohammed guides his followers on a path to paradise. They believe the burial should take place as quickly as possible after death. The body is washed and wrapped in a sheet by family members. The hands are placed as if in prayer. The body is then taken for burial. The grave is situated so that the body can be lain on its right side, facing Mecca. The shrouded body is lowered into the grave and laid directly on the earth by family members who support the head, chin and shoulder with dirt. Mourners pour three handfuls of soil into the grave while reciting a quranic verse meaning, "We created you from it, and return you into it, and from it we will raise you a second time". After the body is buried, those attending pray for the forgiveness of the dead.

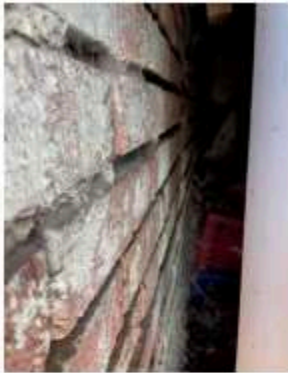
Atheism

Atheists do not believe in a God, nor in specific rituals around death and dying. They are open to casket burials, cremation, scattering of ashes, or even donating their body to science for research purposes. The focus of a graveside burial is on the deceased, with stories and memories shared by family and friends. An atheist burial can be held at any time. Memorial services or visitations can happen before or after the burial.

The one thing that all the families of Ivy Hill have in common is the belief that their loved ones should be in an honored place where they will be regarded with great respect. We have been able to accommodate most burials to some degree and are honored to share our grounds with many faiths and beliefs. We do not have segregated areas and feel that in this day and age all of our interred should be respected equally.

Caretaker's Cottage Rehab Cont.

Step 1 will be re-pointing and stabilizing said foundation.



Brick mortar crumbling.



Arrow shows cat sized holes under the foundation.

Step 2 will involve replacing the dilapidated porch and replacing the beautiful and unique windows that were once there. The porch will have a lift, as well as stairs, and a nice outdoor seating area. Come on by for some lemonade!

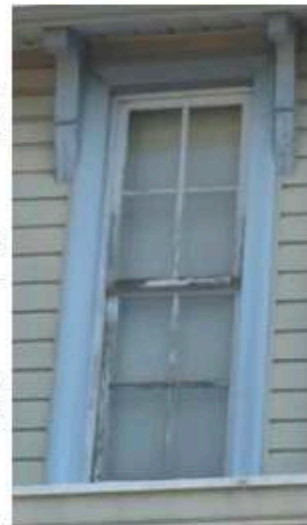
In Step 3 we will replace any non-original windows with original styled, insulated windows. Some of the existing panes are currently held in with thumbtacks. Any original windows will be given TLC and some new paint.

As you can see, the vinyl siding has the amazing ability to blow in the wind during strong storms. This will be replaced by a sturdier and more attractive low maintenance material in **step 4**.



And, barring any unforeseen issues, the last step will be a new roof and the removal of the HAM radio antennae. If anyone wants them, they are up for grabs!

We will be continuing to help our customers through this process through a temporary office in the maintenance shed. Our wonderful grounds crew are wiggling over and sharing their space. Help us pray for a mild winter!! And follow us on Facebook through Ivy Hill Cemetery Historical Preservation Society for updates.



Removal of temporary walls

Phase one of rehabilitating our 1858 Caretaker's Cottage!



Fall 2017: cleaning out the basement



2019: Central air and heat



2020 Cleaned out porch, enclosed in the 1970s



info@IHCHPS.org

www.IHCHPS.org 703-549-7413
2823 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22303

Facebook: Ivy Hill Cemetery Historical Preservation Society

Board of Directors

Lucy Burke Goddin - President
Gant Redmon, Esq. - Secretary
Ann Webb - Treasurer
Arthur H. Bryant, Jr. - member
Dana Lawhorne - member
David Speck - member