

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

June 2021

2823 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22302

Ivy Hill has been a regular beehive since January. If you have driven by, you will have seen the progress on the outside of the caretaker's house which will be completed any day now! On weekends you may have witnessed our dedicated Eagle Scouts diligently working away beautifying our grounds. You may also have seen areas full of little white or yellow flags marking where our archaeologist has been hard at work solving our deepest mysteries! From hired hands to volunteers, we have been continuously busy.

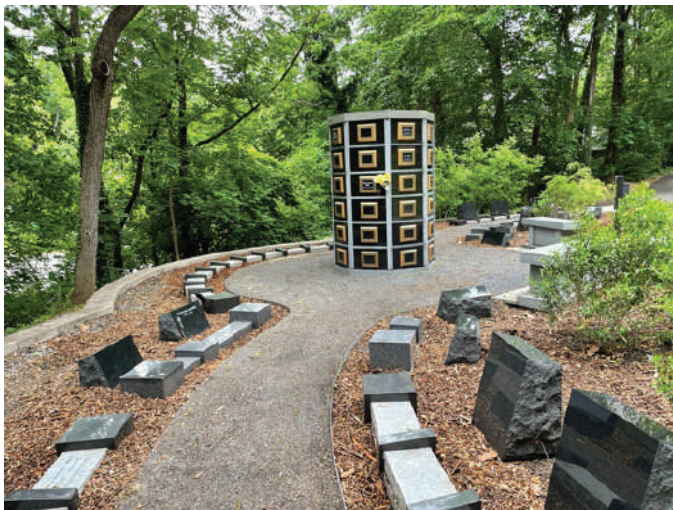
House Rehabilitation

In August we will begin demolition of any interior walls of our caretaker's cottage/ office that were added over the years. The plan is to open the house up to its original state to allow flexibility for future uses. Now that we have a lift for those who can't do stairs, our downstairs bathroom will be widened to accommodate wheelchairs. If you need assistance during construction, you can find us in the workshop with our tolerant grounds crew during this process.



Cremation Garden clean up

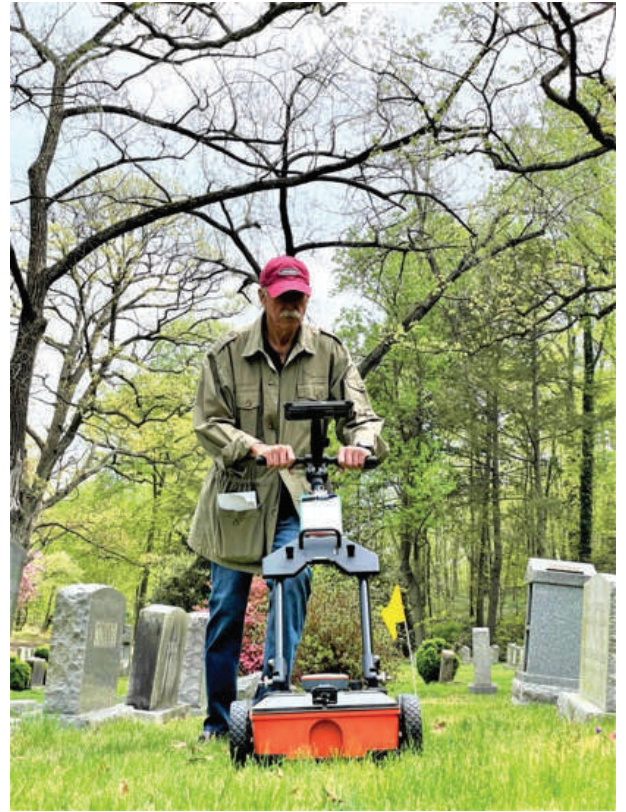
Our beautifully designed cremation gardens were established in 2016. After five years, we are doing some re-viewing and tweaking. The ground cover in cremation garden #2 got a little out of hand so we enlisted the help of an Eagle Scout candidate to remove it and tidy up the area. We relocated the periwinkle to a problem area under a cherry tree and added low maintenance product for the time being. This is a watch and review process requiring time and patience. Also, we are continuing to add plants to the boulder garden as we see what does well, and greatly appreciate your patience during this process. Additionally, Ivy Hill is planning a scattering garden along our wooded Red Fox Lane. Please see us for details!



Archaeology exploration.

One day a wonderful stranger came through our doors and asked if he could practice using his ground penetrating radar machine. It turns out he is a very enthusiastic, professional archaeologist and has adopted us for a variety of projects. Over in our oldest section some of the notes refer to "children buried near by". As well, there are a few wide-open spaces here and there. Our records are very good, but the early days have just a few "holes". It is rumored that the first ten years of records were destroyed by Union soldiers. So, this was the first area where we enlisted Mark's help. He has explored the area thoroughly and now we are working on tidying up the details. More to come on that later.

A few of the old sections have infant areas. Many of the sites do not have headstones but we do have charts as to who is there. Some of the charts differ in information, however. For example, Baby Durham is listed as being in two different lots. Thanks to Mark's tenacity, we now know exactly where she is, and her family can buy her a marker after 75 years. Mark has helped us identify the exact boundaries where these little ones are resting which will assist us in honoring them properly.



Mark Michael Ludlow RPA
Registered Professional Archaeologist
Registrant ID # 16263



We were lucky to have two hardworking volunteers join us for their TC Williams High School Senior Experience. The seniors get to work off campus during their last two weeks of school and get a small taste of different jobs in the community. Alexa and Jackson helped us prepare for our office renovation, assisted in beautifying the Circle of Honor, and helped the archaeologist with his exploration of sites. They learned a great deal about the importance of honoring and respecting those who have gone before us.

***If you are interested in volunteering
at your cemetery, please call us!
We have many opportunities!
703-549-7413***

Here at Ivy Hill Cemetery, we have been lucky to have archaeologist, Mark Michael Ludlow, who in the past has done volunteer work for us. This spring he returned to do even more and his findings have been quite informative and illuminating. In April Ludlow focused his attention in the oldest section of the cemetery and, in particular, to the Smith family. While it was Hugh Charles Smith who deeded the land for the cemetery, other relatives were buried here with him.

Mark Michael Ludlow performed Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) over the line of Smith family graves. Ground Penetrating Radar is a non-intrusive method of surveying the sub-surface to investigate underground using radar pulses. It means he did not have to dig or disturb the ground to get results. What he discovered was that for all six gravestones, there was a grave associated with it. No gaps or absences appeared. However, there were two graves detected at the end of the Smith Family Graves that had no visual form of marker or stone. It is believed these two are not Smith Family owned parcels.

As we put archaeology with historical research, we look forward to presenting a more informed picture of the Smith Family and the cemetery.



Figure 2: RIGHT TO LEFT: FRONT OF STONE BURIALS MARKED BY ORANGE DOTS ON THE GROUND: Smith Family Members with headstones: Thomas W. Smith (G-27-4), with footstone; Ellen Wattles Smith (G-27-5) with footstone; Seabury Denison Smith (G-27-6); Harriett Gresham Smith (G-26-4); Elizabeth Watson (Smith) (G-26-5); and Mary Alice Smith (G-25-4). NON-SMITH FAMILY: TWO UNMARKED GRAVES – FAR RIGHT - TWO RED/ORANGE PARALLEL LINES NOTED BY YELLOW ARROWS: Unknowns. All six (6) Smith Family burials are in front of the tombstones and are noted with dots of orange marking paint. Photographic image by Mark Michael Ludlow RPA, 10 April 2021.

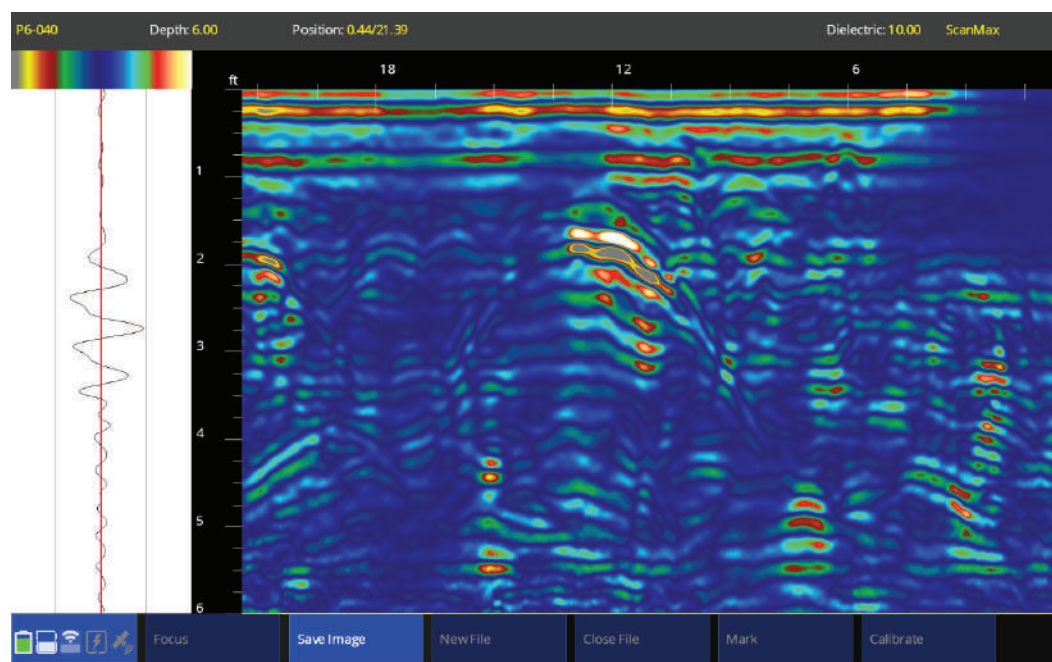
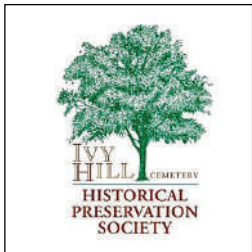


Figure 6: A Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) image, in Color Scale 4 – multi-colored, of the internment of Harriet Gresham Smith, from a single run down the line of headstones, inscription sides. RED ARROW: The internment of Harriet Gresham Smith, D: September 11, 1943. G-26-4. Boldness of radar reflections due to the relative modernness of the burial (c. 77 years ago) and a more substantial coffin relative to other family internments to the left and right. GPR image by Mark Michael Ludlow RPA. 10 April 2021.

Ivy Hill loves visitors! But it is an old cemetery, full of nature’s gifts. Some of those gifts can present hazards to unaware humans and pets. Here are a few guidelines to help you have a safe visit to our grounds. Feel free to use these rules to teach your children proper cemetery etiquette, as well!

- 1. **Please be considerate of our mourning families.** Use quiet voices and gentle activity. Be aware of funerals or visitors to grave sites.
- 2. **Be cautious around tombstones.** Some could be loose and could cause serious injury or death if they fall on you.
- 3. **Stay on pathways and keep pets off of graves.** Our grounds are home to burrowing animals that can create hazardous holes to trip in. Our families get upset when seeing dogs relieve themselves on their loved ones. There are plenty of areas along the road for this.
- 4. **Be aware of your surroundings.** We have nesting bees and hornets. We have plenty of poison ivy which is good for our wildlife. There are many varieties of wildlife that may not yield to humans or may be raising young ones.
- 5. **Keep dogs on leash at all times!!** You are on hallowed grounds, not in a dog park. Also, this is home to our wildlife; they are not entertainment for your pet to chase.

Thank you for enjoying our property respectfully!



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FaceBook: Ivy Hill Cemetery Historical Preservation Society

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