
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

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NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2010

Bernie Loves Cece

The memory of a great love embraces Ivy Hill Cemetery



Because Bernie loved Cece, people will breathe better in Alexandria. Because Bernie loved Cece, trees will thrive and grow. Because Bernie loved Cece, Ivy Hill Cemetery will be better able to care for the long term needs of its trees and enable them to

continue to house birds and small animals, and to shade and beautify 23 wooded acres in the heart of a city. Bernie and Cece have both completed their lives on this earth, but because of their love, and their desire to commemorate it, they will continue to help us. (*con't p. 2*)

REMEMBERING OUR VETERANS

On May 23, a large group of volunteers, comprising retired military, students and Cemetery neighbors, joined together to place flags on the Veterans' graves at IHC. John O. and Lucy Goddin invited the participants to their home for refreshments following the endeavor. The flags will remain on each gravesite



THIS SUMMER through June 14. The tradition of this symbolic honoring of our Veterans from Memorial Day through Flag Day was started by the Cemetery and passed on to the Society. If you notice the grave of a Veteran is missing a flag, please notify the Cemetery Office staff or write tara@ihchps.org to update our files.

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Lucy Randolph Mason



“Bernie Loves Cece” saves trees:
With extensive preventive care fewer trees fall; entire community well served.

Who were Bernie and Cece? We know they had an abiding love for one another and they cared deeply for Alexandria. They wanted to find a way to support their community long after they were gone.

After Cece died, Bernie decided on a plan to keep their love alive by memorializing it through gifts designed to serve the community they had enjoyed in life.

Ivy Hill is a place for the living as well as those who have gone before. It serves as a place to remember all we cherish about those we loved. The trees at Ivy Hill are a living part of the community. They provide a learning space for school children to discover the wonders of acorns.

They house and feed birds and a myriad of other fauna. They clean the air of Alexandria. They lend their majesty and their dignity to us.

The Bernie Loves Cece gift provides funding to the Society to assess the needs of all the trees on the property, to acquire tree services to make them healthy, and to cover a portion of maintenance and replacement costs over time.

We are grateful and excited about this generous gift and will put it to good use! More details to follow in the Summer issue.

Tree Sponsorship by families and loved ones is currently under consideration by the Society and the Cemetery. Sponsorship would provide an opportunity for others to participate in what this gift has started for the trees. More about this in future issues.

A BITING TALE: A CASE OF BAD BREEDING

One year the IHC area was the first place in the metro area West Nile carrying mosquitos were found. The Cemetery took extraordinary measures to prevent this from ever occurring again. Hundreds of feet of french drains now eliminate standing water areas and new soil grading encourages water to move to the creek. But these measures will only continue to work with your cooperation and understanding of the March 1 to December 1 rule: during this period each year vases and potted plants may be inverted or removed weekly to stop the mosquito breeding cycle. For more information go to <http://www.ivyhill.org/2008Abrrule.pdf> (Section5, #1)

Beautiful flowers are a lovely tribute, but in mosquito season the policy of regularly emptying and inverting containers is kinder to all.

Water in flower vases gives disease-bearing mosquitos all they need to breed.

West Nile Virus carrying mosquitos will infect birds as well as humans. Many of the species found at IHC could sicken or die.

Illustration: Nicolas de Bruyn (Netherlandish, 1571-1656)



FROM THE PRESIDENT

THE BOXWOODS

BY TOM BOWLING



In all my years here, this one has been the hardest on our lovely old boxwoods. The brutal storms weighed down the bushes and many branches were permanently damaged. For the older, slow growing boxwoods, it will take time and tending for them to return to what they were. The staff is tying up some of the bushes and trimming others back extensively. Much of the work needed is not covered by care fees and is on the lot owners’ property, many of whom are no longer around to tend to it. It’s easy to see why funds raised by the Society are necessary to cover this kind of work that is so important to the appearance of the Cemetery.

In the last newsletter, one of the Cemetery's owls was kind enough to dress up the *Grave Stone Joint Separation* illustration. As reasonable payment for services rendered, we have made the Owls this issue's featured Fauna.

The neighbors of IHC benefit from the Cemetery being a good home for owls. Owls are polite residents. Most are nocturnal hunters with wings designed for quiet flight. An owl family may eliminate as many as several thousand rodents in a year. This dietary preference increases the importance of minimizing outdoor rodent poisons to avoid second-hand poisoning of the owls.

The editor's best guess is that our model is either a Spotted Owl or a Barred Owl, Barred Owls being grayer than Spotted, but both having some resemblance to our friend shown here. (Check the website for the color version of the Newsletter.) Any reader wishing to weigh in on the



identification, is most welcome. Please write to tara@ihchps.org.

Source: <http://www.mbr-pwrc.usgs.gov/id/framlst/infocenter.html#Tytonidae>

OAK

NORTHERN RED OAK

QUERCUS RUBRA



Its graceful symmetry and brilliant, almost shocking, foliage in the Fall attracts attention to the Northern Red Oak. However, Spring is as important a time for the tree, when the less showy activity of acorn germination is taking place. The acorns like to be on or near mineral soil beneath a light layer of leaves to stay moist enough to survive. Squirrels, deer, turkey, some mammals and birds feed on the acorns.

Deer and rabbits enjoy the oak leaves. The tree itself can house an array of nests and give cover to a variety of birds and mammals.

Due to its moderate to fast growth rate, the Red Oak is used as a shade tree and for lumber. Due to its ease of transplant and tolerant nature, the Northern Red Oak is successfully used in rehabilitation projects like the revegetation of coal mine spoils.

A native tree in Virginia, its native range extends through much of Canada and to a large number of states.

Sources: http://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/silvics_manual/Volume_2/quercus/rubra.htm and http://plants.usda.gov/plantguide/pdf/cs_guru.pdf



MOTHERS' DAY PICNIC ENJOYED BY ALL

May 9 was Mothers' Day this year and was also the date of the first Ivy Hill Cemetery Mothers' Day Picnic, sponsored by the Historical Preservation Society. A very windy day hastened the proceedings a bit, but after a brief lunch, the group enjoyed a Historical Tour of the grounds, led by Society President Lucy Goddin.



A Bold Spirit

After the Great Depression, in the late 1930's and 1940's, when unions were fighting for social justice throughout the country and their organizers were being threatened with their lives, there arrived a heroine, Lucy Randolph Mason. She was a small, spry lady of 65 who took the South by storm. She went toe to toe with the big industries and gruff sheriffs, when the toughest of organizers would have failed. She figured, "Who'd hurt a little, white-haired old woman?" Being a descendant of the Bill of Rights author George Mason, as well as of US Supreme Court Justice John Marshall, and the Randolphs of Virginia, Miss Lucy had the grace and social position to charm any opponent. Being related to half of the south didn't hurt either!

HER STORY

Lucy Randolph Mason was born in 1882 to Reverend Landon Mason and Lucy Ambler Mason, whose father was also a minister. She was a southern blue blood raised in Richmond, Virginia, watching her parents care for the poor and unfortunate. As a teen, Lucy dreamed of being a foreign missionary, and in her twenties she focused her concerns on the working people and labor unions.

She would have gone into the ministry had she been a man.

Leadership

Miss Lucy organized the League of Women Voters and became president of the Richmond chapter. She was appointed Industrial Secretary of the YWCA where she became concerned about the problems of the working people. She was appointed to the executive committee of the Virginia Commission for Interracial Cooperation, where she fought City Council on segregation issues. Eventually she realized that her focus should be broader than just Virginia, and in 1932 she became the director for the National Consumers' League in New York. Here Miss Lucy was asked to join the CIO as its Southern Public Relations Representative, which she eagerly accepted.

An Important Friendship

During the years of FDR's Presidency, Miss Lucy developed a correspondence with Eleanor Roosevelt that consisted of hundreds of letters between the two women in which she worked to inform the First Lady about issues advocating "for social, economic and racial justice in the American South" (from Shaddox, Abigail. "Access and Friendship: The Correspondence of Lucy Randolph Mason and Eleanor Roosevelt" 2007.)

A Sweet but Furious Fighter

Miss Lucy had many excursions in the south fighting for workers' rights and against corruption, in a time when industries were dead set against unions interfering in their business. Yet her sweet demeanor

combined with a "cold, strong fury" in the face of injustice earned her great respect. She settled in Atlanta where she remained as a member of the AFL-CIO until her death in 1959.

Although her parents rest in Hollywood Cemetery, Lucy Mason is in Ivy Hill with the majority of her family.

Submitted by Lucy Burke Goddin

Calendar

The Ivy Hill Cemetery Historical Preservation Society was founded in 2006 and will celebrate its fourth year with an event this Fall to benefit the Cemetery. See the next Newsletter or write tara@ihchps.org for information.

Contributors

SCOTT SALTSGAVER



Thank you to Scott for the Ivy Hill photographs on pages 1,2&3.

VOLUNTEERS

Special thanks to the Society



Volunteers who prepare the mailed version of this publication.

CONTRIBUTORS



Thank you to Lucy Goddin for the Lucy Randolph Mason biography.

To write, or to nominate someone for, a profile article please email tara@ihchps.org.