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# 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

January 2014

## Eventful 2013 at Ivy Hill

*The Society Brings Ivy Hill to Life*



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2013 was a pretty amazing year at Ivy Hill. We started the year with our first living history tour, had a productive month with our Episcopal High School intern, and began our task of pruning all the bushes with the help of a student fulfilling his community service hours. But the most exciting activities took place this fall. Read on to see what we offered to our community and what we have in store for you in 2014!

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### EAGLE SCOUTS TEAM UP WITH IVY HILL!!

IHCHPS was the beneficiary of two generous Boy Scouts who were looking for projects to fulfill their requirements to become Eagle Scouts. The first was Sam Duffett, who lead his troops to clean all of our Civil War tombstones. Sam researched the best methods and products to gently clean our historic stones. Scrubbing too hard, or with the wrong solution, can easily damage older stones, or leave them looking too bleached out which can ruin their character. The scouts used gentle brushes and plain water to start. On the tougher stones they carefully used a chemical designed specifically for cleaning *cont p. 3*

Archibald Robinson Hoxton was born on the Episcopal High School of Alexandria, Virginia campus on June 28, 1875, with his father serving as Associate Principle of the High School. His familiarity with the school increased as a student where he was appointed Head Monitor, excelling at sports such as football, baseball and gymnastics and scholarly pursuits like mathematics and Greek. Due to his exceptional quickness on the football field, he became known as "Flick," a nickname which stuck throughout his tenure at Episcopal.

Hoxton went on to study at the University of Virginia and subsequently returned to the Holy Hill (EHS) as head of the Department of Mathematics. He continued to serve as a strong presence throughout his tenure on the teaching staff, then Associate Principle and finally Headmaster of the School from 1913 - 1947. Episcopal thrived under the guidance of Hoxton as he transformed the physical campus by raising the money to build multiple new

structures which helped further improved the quality of the campus. His efforts began to show, as the school's waiting list for prospective students became longer than the actual admissions list. The achievements of Hoxton are no small feat, and he assured that even in the face of "two wars, a depression, and the most violent social changes in history, this old school upheld its ancient tradition of turning out "educated Christian gentlemen". The school's values were successfully upheld due to Hoxton's focus on building a strong faculty consisting of EHS alumni and senior masters. He was seen by the students as "**omniscient without being preying**, strict without harshness, fair in seeing another's viewpoint [...] a model of personal purity and rectitude" (132). In an obituary of Dr. Hoxton, he was revered as "the Principal who ruled [...] so sternly that no boy in school could endure the thought of a face-to-face dressing down, so fairly that no old boy ever returned to the Holy Hill without seeking him out to exchange affectionate greetings." (134)



ARCHIBALD ROBINSON HOXTON  
1875-1951

.....  
TOUR AVAILABLE TO DOWNLOAD

VISIT [IHCHPS.ORG](http://IHCHPS.ORG)

.....  
COMING TO IVY HILL IN 2014

What to watch for in 2014!!  
Ivy Hill Players by Calling Card Events ([calling-card-events.com](http://calling-card-events.com)) present:  
Living history tours of famous and infamous Alexandrians  
*also in 2014:*  
Mourning Practices and cemetery uses from the Victorian Era  
A presentation on Tombstone Art  
Psychic Readings by Barbara Mallon  
A Virginia Regiment Re-enactor event  
And possibly a Lecture on Civil War medicine and medical practices  
*for more info and dates, contact us at: [info@ihchps.org](mailto:info@ihchps.org) or PO Box 320065, Alexandria, VA 22320*



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## EAGLE SCOUT PROJECTS

tombstones. You can see the results of their efforts on our website: [IHCHPS.org](http://IHCHPS.org)

Our second scout, Andrew Vallaster, had his volunteers re-measure and map all of our significant trees. He contacted Alexandria City Arborist, Rod Simmons, for guidance. The group climbed hills, waded through poison Ivy, and sought out every tree that qualified. They measured and documented for hours. Sadly, since this was first done years ago, we have lost some of our ancient beauties. But by recording them and getting an idea of their condition, we can now maintain them properly and monitor their health, keeping them around longer.



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## EDGAR ALLAN POE EVENT

For those of you who were unable to attend, we had an amazing Edgar Allan Poe reading in our vault by *The Guillotine Theatre* group of Arlington, VA. The vault now has a concrete floor, but we have kept the old, leaky brick walls and ceiling. It is perfectly safe, and the perfect atmosphere in which to read the *Cask of Amontillado*! We chose not to install electricity. The event was illuminated with



## CASK OF AMONTILLADO

lanterns, and the acoustics were perfect; no amplification was necessary. The walkway was lit with solar lights and our guests were treated to cider and cookies afterward. We will be teaming up with the *Guillotine Players* for more fun through out 2014, so be sure and check our website or email us to be added to our notification list.

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## WEBSITE NOTICE

[IHCHPS.ORG](http://IHCHPS.ORG)

Our website is currently undergoing a beautification and restoration project of its own. If you cannot access it properly, keep checking back. For other ways to keep updated on our 2014 events, feel free to email us at [info@IHCHPS.org](mailto:info@IHCHPS.org) or PO Box 320065, Alexandria, VA 22320



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## Carriages, Cook-outs & Camaraderie

As you know, for every Memorial Day and Veterans' Day, the society has a fabulous group of volunteers from the Alexandria community come and help us put flags on our veterans' graves. This year, in a joint effort with the cemetery staff, we thanked our Veterans' Day volunteers with a cook out. Folks gathered, ate, and really got to know each other in what is becoming THE event to be a part of. Simultaneously, the cemetery hired Classic Carriage out of Staunton, Virginia to give rides through our



beautiful grounds, taking all participants back to the days of yore. It was truly a magical day and definitely something we will do again!

### Contributors



Thank you to Miller Winston for her article and tour of Episcopal

High School VIPs.

### VOLUNTEERS



Special thanks to the Society Volunteers who help with, and support, our events.

*To nominate someone for a profile article, please email [info@ibchps](mailto:info@ibchps).*

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