

## CLASS IVY

As a class that graduated between 1946 and 1969, we did not place a class stone on Nassau Hall nor plant a class ivy plant. At our fiftieth we will have an opportunity to rectify that. Tom Wing has researched the Class Ivy ceremony and our program will be modeled on the one used prior to World War II. According to Tom, the class ivy ceremony goes back to at least as far as 1869. Our information is taken from the Princeton Archives and *The New York Times* of the period. Originally the ivy was planted on the chapel, the library and the gymnasium. When the old-old library was torn down in 1888, the ivy planting and class stones were transferred to Nassau Hall. In the process the Class of 1888 wound up with two class stones (something for the grandchildren to hunt for except that the front of Nassau Hall is likely to be covered by scaffolding). The ceremony itself was magnificent with band music at the beginning and end and a oration delivered by the Class Ivy Orator. The symbolism of the ivy was strong with the one trunk nurtured by the soil of Old Nassau spreading its many branches out and merging with those of other classes. The orations were considered significant enough to be printed in the Nassau Herald through 1914. Another feature was the penny donation. It took two different forms, each graduate placing a penny in a tin box placed in a recess in the stone or in the planting hole. The ivy was given by prominent people or from prominent locations. Some of the people who gave ivy were two wives of Presidents of the United States (Mrs. Benjamin Harrison and Mrs. Grover Cleveland), James Russell Lowell, the Washington Irving family and James McCosh. The ivy came from places such as George Washington's gravesite, Heidelberg Castle, Sunnyside, the home of Washington Irving, and Gads Hill, the home of Charles Dickens.

Our ceremony will be similar to the ancient ceremony. The Ivy Orator will be Rich McGlynn . The Class Stone is the gift of the Alan McCarthy family and the Class Ivy has been obtained for us with the assistance of the Daniel Sachs – Class of 1960 Scholars from Worcester College at Oxford.