



THE HORATIO ALGER SOCIETY

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

NEWSBOY



Horatio Alger, Jr.

1832 - 1899

A magazine devoted to the study of Horatio Alger, Jr., his life, works, and influence on the culture of America.

VOLUME XL

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2002

NUMBER 5

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Whitman
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By Horatio Alger Jr.

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President's column

Winter is coming, bringing a decrease in book hunting trips and an increase in reading the books already in the collection. It would be nice to say that the summer and fall trips produced large numbers of rare and desirable books, but that is not so.

My parents and I spent three days in November book and antique hunting in lower Michigan, from Niles to Detroit. Books were found, but nothing exciting. In the Alger line, I found a Merston edition of *Herbert Carter's Legacy* in nice condition. Obscure series are always fun to find (at least obscure series to me). Some obscure finds on this trip include *Scott Burton in the Blue Ridge* (a six-book series by Cheyney), a *Carter Girls*, a *Campfire Girls* by Blanchard, a *Letty* book by Griffith, and a Street & Smith hardback copy of *Canoe and Campfire* by Rathborne.

My father also found similar odds and ends, including a nice copy of a Gene Stratton Porter book to upgrade his collection. I kept my eye out for books for resale, a result of the August conference on being an antiquarian book dealer that I attended and described in my last column. Of course, the books that I already have are still not listed for sale. Perhaps during the winter there will be more time for such things.

Of course, once winter is gone we will be looking forward to spring and the next Horatio Alger Society annual meeting, this year in a suburb of Houston, hosted by Marc Williams (PF-958). Plans are coming along nicely, and we hope to provide more information in the next issue of *Newsboy*.

Membership in the H.A.S. continues to be a concern, as our numbers continue to slowly decline. If you have any book collecting friends, give them a one-year membership as a Christmas gift. If they enjoy reading *Newsboy*, they might renew their membership and come to a convention.

The holidays are coming. Time for Alger collectors to pull out *Grand'ther Baldwin's Thanksgiving* and *Bertha's Christmas Vision* (both in reprint form, of course) and read them again.

Your Partic'lar Friend,
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HORATIO ALGER SOCIETY

To further the philosophy of Horatio Alger, Jr. and to encourage the spirit of Strive and Succeed that for half a century guided Alger's undaunted heroes — youngsters whose struggles epitomized the Great American Dream and inspired hero ideals in countless millions of young Americans for generations to come.

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Newsboy, the official newsletter of the Horatio Alger Society, is published bi-monthly (six issues per year). Membership fee for any 12-month period is \$25 (\$20 for seniors), with single issues of *Newsboy* \$4.00. Please make remittance payable to the Horatio Alger Society.

Membership applications, renewals, changes of address and other correspondence should be sent to **Horatio Alger Society, P.O. Box 70361, Richmond, VA 23255**.

Newsboy is indexed in the Modern Language Association's International Bibliography. You can visit the Horatio Alger Society's official Internet site at www.ihot.com/~has/

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The above rates apply to all want ads, along with ads offering non-Alger books for sale. However, it is the policy of the Horatio Alger Society to promote the exchange of Alger books and related Alger materials by providing space **free of charge** to our members for the **sale only** of such material. Send ads or "Letters to the Editor" to *Newsboy* editor William R. Gowen (PF-706) at 23726 N. Overhill Dr., Lake Zurich, IL 60047.

At last: Whitman's *Struggling Upward* cover design found

By Bradford S. Chase (PF-412)

In 1995 I published *Horatio Alger Books Published by Whitman Publishing Co.* As a result of my research and collecting, I had found books for most of the 44 Alger formats identified. The book divided the formats into four different series. For Series II, published initially around 1922 and for several years thereafter, I just couldn't find a book example for the title *Struggling Upward*. I didn't know what picture was on the cover but I knew that such a book must exist.

Therefore, I dedicated pages 88 and 89 of my Whitman book to the *Struggling Upward* Format (Format No. 23), and left the cover picture blank. I knew someday someone would find it. Well, someone has, and it is included here for your information and possible use. In fact, I offer two different-size reproductions of the cover picture (enclosed with this issue of *Newsboy*) which you can cut out and paste on page 89 of my book, if you own a copy or intend to purchase one (see below).

The emergence of this cover is an interesting story in itself. As many know, partially supporting each of my books has been a collection of all the different Algers produced by a specific publisher that I could find at the point when I wrote the book.

Other support information came from surveys of other Alger collections for specific publisher titles and formats. Obviously, there were holes where information was lacking in the number of formats, covers and titles I could find for all my books, which I still try to fill today. Incidentally, most of my collections which support the books which I have written have been given to the Horatio Alger Repository at Northern Illinois University, except for some Burt editions which I continue to complete and keep in my library at home. They will eventually end up at NIU, however.

One collector who has become interested in filling holes in the collections residing at the Horatio Alger Repository is Bob Routhier (PF-889) of Swartz Creek, Mich. His and my joint aim is to help meet the Alger Repository's goal of finding an example of every different Alger title and format that was produced by the many individual publishers of Alger books over the years. Bob has found a number of books that have filled gaps in the Repository's collections. He should be roundly commended,

Struggling Upward



By Horatio Alger Jr.

not only for finding them, but for donating them to the NIU Alger collections as well. Future Alger researchers and collectors should be thankful that Bob has been so successful in his search efforts.

When I learned that Bob had found and given to NIU the newly discovered Whitman *Struggling Upward* cover that I earlier could not find, I wondered how I could provide copies of it to collectors who had bought my Whitman book in order that they could have a cover picture for Page 89, Format 23. At the 2001 H.A.S. Convention, "Onward to Ottawa," Bob and *Newsboy* editor Bill Gowen suggested that I trace the cover as I had for the others in my book, and have it included in a future issue of *Newsboy* so Partic'lar Friends could cut it out and paste it into their copies.

It took me more than a year, but here it is, traced and reduced to the two correct sizes ready to fit into my book. And, if you do not have a copy of *Horatio Alger Books Published by Whitman Publishing Co.*, you can send me a note along with \$12 to buy a copy with the new illustrations for Format 23 already included on Page 89!

Full ordering information for this and my other books can be found in my advertisement on Page 4 of this issue. Now, there's an offer you can't refuse!

Editor's notebook

CAINE: "Sasha?! Sasha? My name is Horatio Caine. I'm the head of the crime unit."

LOST GIRL, A KIDNAP VICTIM: "Horatio?"

CAINE: "Yes. It's a funny name, isn't it? My mother named me after a famous writer named Horatio Alger. Ever hear of him?"

(Disinterested, the girl shakes her head).

GIRL: "Is your badge real?"

CAINE: "Yes. It's real."

GIRL: "My daddy is a policeman."

CAINE: "I know that. I know that."

GIRL: "They're looking for me, you know."

CAINE: "Me, too ... me, too. What do you say we sit here and get found together?" [fade out]

This exchange takes place at the end of the pilot episode for the new CBS television show "CSI: Miami," broadcast this summer. Horatio Caine is played by David Caruso (formerly of "NYPD Blue"). Debuting on Monday nights in the fall, "CSI: Miami" has become the highest-rated new show on network TV. While not the equal of the same network's stylish Las Vegas-based "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation" (William Petersen can act circles around Caruso), it is an interesting spinoff series produced by Jerry Bruckheimer's TV division.

Anyway, I was not surprised that an 8-year-old girl would not know (or even care) who Horatio Alger was. After all, Alger lived six generations ago and youngsters today read *Harry Potter*, not *Tattered Tom*.

But hold on a minute. Alger's books are proving to be very popular reading for home-schooling, despite the difficulty in finding many of the titles today, even in less-expensive reprints.

However, Polyglot Press changing all that, and in the November-December *Newsboy* we'll bring you an update on that publisher's project to reprint virtually the entire Alger canon, making the books readily available for home-schooling as well as readers in general.

While "an Alger in every home" may be overly optimistic, it would be nice to see today's young people enjoy Alger's writings as did their grandparents and the several generations before that. The life's lessons to be gleaned from Alger's oft-repeated "strive and succeed" theme remain a key element of the learning process.

It would be very gratifying see today's teenagers or pre-teens recognize the significance of the name Horatio Alger, rather than the lack of understanding (or interest) shown by the girl on "CSI: Miami."

Speaking of a lack of understanding, about midway through Gary Scharnhorst's article on the Alger family's grand tour of Europe in 1873 (see Page 9), is found the word "coeval," used in the following context in a letter from Alger's sister, Olive Augusta Cheney, to the editor of the *Natick Bulletin*, in which she describes an 800-year-old English castle:

From here we saw a very old tower belonging to the castle, called Caesar's tower, said to be coeval with the Norman conquest.

This one stumped your editor as well as Executive Director Rob Kasper. But, the Internet is always a mouse-click away, ready to come to the rescue.

According to www.dictionary.com, in a search for archaic words, coeval is defined as follows:

coeval \koh-EE-vul\, *adjective*:

"Of the same age, existing during the same period of time — usually followed by *with*."

Cheney did not take a back seat to her Harvard-educated brother in matters of erudition, as these letters and her other writings show. I hope you enjoy this article, which adds to the body of Alger scholarship.

A New Book by Brad Chase!

*Horatio Alger Books Published
by Twelve Small Alger Publishers*

Paperback, 8 1/2 x 5 1/2, Blue, 166 Pages
\$15, if purchased alone



I have also produced a gold-stamped blue slipcase to hold all five of my books. Its cost is \$5 if purchased with the new book, \$10 if purchased separately.

If you are missing any of the other four books on other publishers, i.e., A.L. Burt, M.A. Donohue, Whitman or N.Y. Book Company, the cost is \$12 each as part of this promotion. The cost of the entire set of five books, plus slipcase, is only \$60.

*I will pay the postage
Connecticut residents please add 6% tax*

Brad Chase (PF-412)
6 Sandpiper Road
Enfield, CT 06082

Horatio Alger Repository report

By Arthur P. Young (PF-941)

The Horatio Alger Repository acquired a very important Alger item late in 2001, written in his own hand, through the generous cooperation of Ralph Gardner of New York City. The preliminary handwritten will is dated April 27, 1892. It is reproduced on the following two pages.

This handwritten will has been transcribed by Robert E. Kasper (see below) with an occasional assist from Art Young. Both versions are provided here for reader convenience and for a complete record.

As a point of comparison, Alger's formally probated and typed will, dated February 15, 1898, is also included on Page 8. There are relatively small differences between the two wills, executed some six years apart. Harry and John Schickling, mentioned in the final will, do not appear in the earlier version. The Downie brothers, John and Edward, are recognized in both versions of the will. John Downie is the youngster upon whom Alger constructed his immortal Ragged Dick character. Similarly, his nieces Anita Hemceld and Anna Alger are provided for in both wills. Along with a provision of royalties to his sister, Olive Augusta Cheney, Alger appointed her as the executor of his estate. In the earlier will, he requests that his sister "use her discretion in giving articles belonging to me as memorials to those whom she regards as intimate friends of mine during life."

In the probated will Alger, we now know, forecasted

the secretive disposition of some important personal effects. He asked his sister in this later version to dispose of the remainder of his estate to be used "at her discretion in furtherance of my wishes, privately communicated to her." She followed her brother's wishes to the fullest extent by destroying his personal papers upon his death.

Horatio Alger's handwritten preliminary will is both important as an historical document which conveyed his final wishes, but also is an extensive sample of his handwriting in the final decade of his life. Such a document deserves the highest level of professional restoration and preservation. I am pleased to enclose the following treatment protocol provided to Northern Illinois University by William Mintner, a master bookbinder and conservator:

Surface clean with white vinyl eraser; mend tears with fine Japanese paper using wheat starch paste; humidify and lightly flatten; spray deacidification with Bookkeepers' Solution to neutralize the acid in the paper. The manuscripts are housed in specially designed polyester envelopes; the envelopes are welded along two opposite edges, one of which includes a flap to secure the manuscript — the envelopes can be opened and the documents can be removed; the envelopes are enclosed in a cloth-covered folder with a gold-stamped leather label with blind tooled lines on the front. A cloth-covered slipcase was made to house the folder; there is a gold-stamped leather label with blind tooled lines on the front.

The Horatio Alger Repository is honored to acquire this important document in Alger's life, and has ensured that future generations will be able to examine the document.

Last Will and Testament: Horatio Alger, Jr.

I, Horatio Alger, Jr., of Natick, Mass. and New York declare this to be my last will and testament.

To Mrs. Anita Himceld, of San Francisco, my niece, and her son Stanley, I bequeath fifty dollars each, limiting my bequest to this small sum because they are already better provided for than others whom I feel called upon to remember in my will.

To my brother in law Amos P. Cheney of Natick I leave my books, pictures, and furniture.

To John M. Downie now in the Real Estate business at 963 De Kalb Avenue, Brooklyn, and his brother Edward J. Downie, whom I look upon as sons, I bequeath my house and factory 196 20th St. Brooklyn.

To these two brothers aforesaid I also leave Five Hundred (Hundred) Dollars each.

To my niece Anna Locke Alger I bequeath Four Shares of stock in the Argosy of New York, Frank A. Munsey editor. I also leave to my niece aforesaid the sum of Six Hundred Dollars.

These sums, if necessary, are to be taken in part or wholly from accruing royalties on any books published by Porter & Coates of Philadelphia.

To my sister Ol. Augusta Cheney, of Natick, Mass. I leave the real and residue of my property including royalties on books published by Porter & Coates of Philadelphia, with the

(Continued on Page 8)

I, Horatio Alger, Jr. of Nahick, Mass and New York, declare this to be my last will and testament -

To Mrs. Anita Winckel, of San Francisco, my niece, and her son Stanley, I bequeath fifty dollars each, limiting my bequest to this small sum because they are already better provided for than others whom I feel called upon to remember in my will.

To my brother in law Amos P. Cheney of Nahick leave my books, pictures, and furniture.

To John M. Dowme now in the Real Estate business at 463 de Kalb Avenue, Brooklyn, and his brother Edward J. Dowme, whom I look upon as sons, I bequeath my house and factory 196 20th St. Brooklyn -

To these two brothers aforesaid I also leave Four Hundred (Hundred) Dollars each -

To my niece Cynthia Locke Alger I bequeath Four Shares of stock in the Argosy of New York, Frank A. Mumfry editor. I also leave to my niece aforesaid the sum of Six Hundred Dollars.

These sums, if necessary, are to be ~~taken~~ in part or wholly from accruing royalties on

my books published by Porter & Coates of Philadelphia -

To my sister Dr. Augusta Cheney, of Natick, Mass. I leave the rest and residue of my property including royalties on books published by Porter and Coates of Philadelphia, with the stipulation that two thirds of said royalties as they accrue shall be divided equally between John M. Downing, Edward J. Downing and Anna Locke Alger, and at her death said copyrights and royalties shall go absolutely to the three parties aforesaid -

I desire that a note against Charles R. Bishop, of New York, if in existence, shall be cancelled -

I request my sister use her discretion in giving articles belonging to me as memorials to those whom she regards as intimate friends of mine during life.

I appoint Miss Dr. Augusta Cheney my executor without bond.

Given at Natick this 27th day of April, 1892,
and attested by the following witnesses -

Witnesses -

Morton V. B. Bartlett
George W. Ingall

Horatio Alger, Jr.

Alger's will, dated Feb. 15, 1898:

Editor's note: Below is Horatio Alger, Jr.'s typed draft will dated Feb. 15, 1898. It is reproduced here for comparison with Alger's handwritten will (pages 6-7) dated April 27, 1892, recently acquired by the Horatio Alger Repository at Northern Illinois University from the collection of Ralph D. Gardner (PF-053):

Be it remembered that I, Horatio Alger, Jr., of Natick in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, being of sound mind and memory, but knowing the uncertainty of this life, to make this my last will and testament.

After the payment of just debts and funeral charges, I bequeath and devise as follows:

To Harry A. Schickling of 277 West 36th St., New Lake [sic] City, in trust the sum of \$500 — to be used at his discretion for the use of Thomas Keegan, a boy now in his employ — To the said Harry A. Schickling I bequeath \$125 be paid by him in the sum of twenty-five each to William Keegan, Iasic Morris, James Callahan, Joseph Cearney, Sherwin Jordan now of Hoboken, N. J. and his brother George.

To John J. Schickling now of 135 Clermont Ave., Brooklyn, N.Y. the sum of \$250 [figure changed with heavy write-over] /Two Hundred & Fifty dollars.

To my niece Anita Hemceld of San Francisco, Cal. and her two children \$25 each.

To her son Stanley Hemceld I bequeath my calendar gold watch.

To my niece Anna A. Andrews, of Allston, Mass. I bequeath a lot which I own in North Chicago (Ill.) formerly South Waukegan.

To my brother in law Amos P. Cheney I bequeath all the books in my library which he may desire, the balance to my nephew by marriage, Harry N. Andrews, of Allston, Mass.

I bequeath my copyright books, now published by Henry T. Coates of Philadelphia with the royalties accruing therefrom to those four persons, viz. my sister Mrs. O. Augusta Cheney of Natick, Mass., my niece Mrs. Anna A. Andrews of Allston, Mass., and my two informally adopted boys, John M. Downie

of 1251 Park Avenue, New York City, and his brother Edward J. Downie, now residing with him.

Any manuscript of serial stories not yet published in bookform, I wish sold as a portion of my estate, and the sums received in payment thereof, to be appropriated to the payments of legacies.

Shall either of the four persons to whom I have bequeathed my copyright books and royalties [blank space] his or her share is to be divided between the survivors.

All the rest and residue of my estate I bequeath to my sister to be used at her discretion in the furtherance of my wishes, privately communicated to her.

I hereby appoint my sister Mrs. O. Augusta Cheney of Natick, Mass. to be executor of this, my last will and testament, without bonds, hereby revoking all previous wills.

In testimony whereof I hereunto set my hand in the presence of three witnesses do declare this to be my last will this fifteenth day of February in the year one thousand eight hundred and ninety eight.

[signed] **Horatio Alger, Jr.**

On this fifteenth day of February, A.D. 1898 Horatio Alger, Jr. of Natick, Massachusetts, signed the foregoing instrument in our presence, declaring it to be his last will; and as witnesses thereof we three do now, at his request, in his presence, and in the presence of each other, hereto subscribe our names.

[signed] **Judson E. Sweetland**

[signed] **Mary E. Sweetland**

[signed] **Carrie H. Garfield**

Commonwealth of Massachusetts,
Middlesex, ss. Registry of Probate. A true copy.
Attest, **Warren J. Fitzgerald** *[signed]* asst. register.

Last Will and Testament: Horatio Alger, Jr.

(Continued from Page 5)

stipulation that two thirds of said royalties as they accrue shall be divided equally between John M. Downie, Edward J Downie and Anne Locke Alger, and at her death said copyrights and royalties shall go absolutely to the three parties aforesaid.

I direct that a note against Charles R. Bishop of New York, if in existence, shall be cancelled.

I request my sister use her discretion in giving articles belonging to me as memorials to those whom she regards as intimate friends of mine during life.

I appoint Mrs. O. Augusta Cheney my executor without bonds.

Sworn at Natick this 27th day of April, 1892 and attested by the following witnesses —

Witnesses —

Morton V. B. Bastlett

George W. Ingalls

Horatio Alger, Jr.

More details about Alger's 1873 tour of Europe

By Gary Scharnhorst

In *The Lost Life of Horatio Alger, Jr.* (1985), Jack Bales and I describe Alger's 1873 European tour in as much detail as possible when we worked on the biography nearly 20 years ago. As we reported, Alger invited his parents, brother Frank, sister Olive Augusta Cheney, and her husband Amos to accompany him on a Grand Tour.

They left New York in June, docked in Liverpool, traveled through Great Britain, then visited a variety of sites in France, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, and Austria, including Venice and Vienna.¹ By chance, I've recently stumbled across a series of four travel letters new to scholarship that O. A. Cheney sent the *Natick Bulletin* during the trip as well as some related items in the newspaper — a series of documents that flesh out the first part of the family vacation in greater detail than ever before possible.

To judge from these documents, the senior Alger was a well-respected community leader. As the South Natick correspondent of the *Bulletin* noted in the issue for June 14, 1873, "a large circle of friends and acquaintances of Rev. Horatio Alger" had hosted a reception for him at Bartlett's Hall on June 9 and presented him "with their many kind wishes and congratulations previous to his departure for Europe" the next day. "During his pastorate in South Natick for the past thirteen years," the reporter added, "he has been an earnest and influential worker in his ministerial duties. He has also at many times during that period been elected by his fellow townsmen to serve on the school committee, which office, we are pleased to say, he has dignified with a good degree of efficiency, as in the cause of education, few of our citizens have given it more thought and personal attention. It will also be remembered that Mr. Alger has for many years been a member of the board of Trustees of Morse Institute, an institute in which he has a deep interest."²

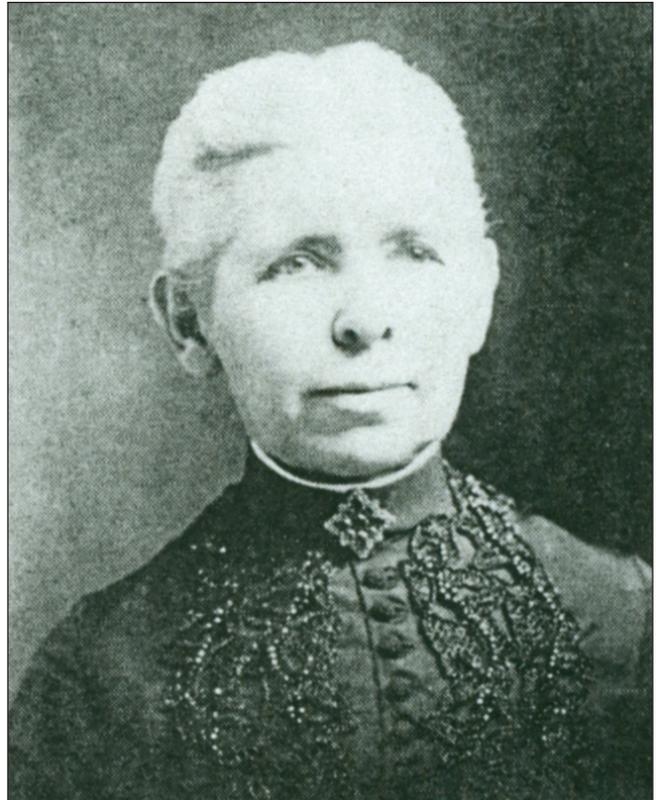
Eleven days later, almost immediately upon the arrival of the family in England, Olive Augusta Cheney sent her first travel letter to the *Bulletin*, where it appeared on July 19:³

Cork, June 25, 1873.

My dear _____,

Thinking you might like to hear from *your friends in Ireland*, I hasten to fulfil my promise and write you.

We sailed from New York in the Egypt (one of the National line of steamers) June 14. Our life on board



Olive Augusta Cheney, Horatio Alger, Jr.'s sister, documented the Alger family's 1873 vacation tour of Europe through a series of highly descriptive letters which she sent to the *Natick Bulletin*.

the steamship was a very pleasant one. We had two staterooms, one containing two berths and the other four. The latter was quite roomy, and we made a family sitting room of it whenever we wished to remain below. But we passed the greater part of each day on deck. The breeze was bracing and *fresh* although it passed over the *salt* water. There were a hundred and twenty cabin passengers, and perhaps rather more than that number in the steerage.

Our meals came quite often for persons whose exercise was confined to promenading the deck. We had breakfast at eight, lunch at twelve, dinner at five, and tea at eight. We had excellent fare.

Early one morning we were wakened by an unusual noise, and on looking out from my berth, I found that we had "shipped a sea" which burst open a window covering the port-hole (it had not been securely fastened) and there were four inches of water in the passage. The

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More details about Alger's 1873 tour of Europe

(Continued from Page 9)

water had come into our stateroom a little so that it was necessary to have the carpet taken up. But the steward came round, and soon made things right again.

There was a party of fourteen on board, who travelled on Cook's excursion tickets.⁴ There were two elderly gentlemen belonging to it, both of whom were quite striking characters, in their way. We dubbed one of them "Horace Greeley"⁵ and the other the "Professor." Since then we have learned that they were cousins, were both physicians, and both named Eve. Probably they are distant relatives of a lady of that name, of whom you may have read.

In once corner of each stateroom there was a little glass case in which a candle was placed. It was lighted from outside, and the lights were extinguished at eleven o'clock precisely. There was a piano in the saloon, and we had music even evening. The long dining saloon which was capable of seating one hundred and thirty persons looked very pretty when the tables were laid, and particularly when lighted up in the evening.

We all went on deck Saturday evening to see the dancing. There was a man with bagpipes, who furnished the music. As the ship rolled a good deal, it was thought appropriate to dance the "Virginia Reel," and they accordingly closed with that. The constant practice for the past eight days caused them to do the reeling part in quite a scientific manner, especially at the conclusion when a sudden lurch of the ship threw the whole party against the rail. This dance was enjoyed so much that a grand Ball was planned for Monday evening. The Captain promised decorations and a supper, but the weather proved unpropitious, and they were obliged to forego that pleasure.

We arrived at Queenstown early Tuesday morning, having made quick time — ten days from New

York. We had a remarkably smooth passage, and enjoyed it far beyond our anticipations.

The sight of land again was very refreshing, and yet curious, as the fields were separated by hedgerows instead of fences. It seemed almost inhospitable, however, to be welcomed by Custom House officers, whose chief interest centered in our traveling bags.

Our ride by rail from Queenstown to Cork, we all enjoyed. Each first-class car was designed to hold eight persons but after our party of six had entered one of them, a small sum placed in the hands of the guard caused him to announce that our car was full, and the doors were locked, according to the usual custom.

The scenery was so new and strange that your correspondent was obliged to move from one side of the car to the other quite often, in order to see all the objects of interest. I will not enumerate them here, as I have so little time, and you can learn them from any guide book. During our ride, the guard came to one of the windows and pointed out objects of interest. He also brought two beautiful rose, one a bright pink, and the other a rich dark velvet "for the two ladies," saying at the same time that he did not think we had such roses as those in America. They were very beautiful — in fact, perfect of their kind.

We are stopping at the Imperial Hotel, a picture of which you will find above. It is well conducted, and we have very pleasant room. Yesterday afternoon we took a stroll round Cork. It has some very pretty streets as well as many that are narrow and dirty. We went into St. Mary's church, and were invited to go up into the tower, which is said to be two hundred feet high. We did so and had an excellent view of the city. This church possesses a fine chime of bells, which, through the kindness of the sexton, we were allowed to hear.

We have just returned from the Grove Castle and of Blarney. They are situated six miles away from the



Horatio Alger, Jr.'s parents, the Rev. Horatio Alger, Sr., top, and Olive Augusta Fenno Alger, participated in the family's 1873 grand tour of Europe.

city. We chartered two jaunting cars for the excursion, and it was quite a novel way of riding for most of us. A jaunting-car resembles, somewhat, one of our two-wheeled milk-wagons, in shape, but they are higher. Each car will seat four persons, beside the driver. The seats are arranged on each side of the car. The passengers sit with their backs toward one another, while the seat of the driver is considerably elevated.

We drove through Great George's street, and passed one of the entrances to the Mardyke Walk. This is a wide path for foot passengers, and is one mile in length. It has a row of large trees on each side, the branches of which form a leafy arch. It is well lighted at night, and must be a beautiful promenade for a summer evening.

I had heard of the luxuriant growth of the ivy here and in England, but could never realize it before. Our sweet-scented honeysuckle, too, grows wild, covering the fences for yards with a profusion of foliage and flowers. We saw a good deal of the glossy-leaved laurel and holly.

We were shown the beauties of the grove of Blarney by the gardener who proved a very attentive guide. It contained a specimen of the Brazilian pine which must have been twenty feet in height. There were fine beds of roses, one variety being of so deep a yellow that it seemed almost impossible it could be the Marechal Niel, as the guide informed us. This grove was formerly the pleasure ground of the Castle. It contained summer-houses, and a great variety of trees and plants. From thence we passed to the Castle. We walked up the drive, and after entering, began to mount a flight of solid stone steps which wound round the centre of the tower. There was a magnificent view from the highest point.

A walk of six feet in width skirts the upper part of the tower, and the Blarney stone is at the end farthest from the entrance, but several feet below the level of the wall. One of our number kissed the stone for himself and also for the rest of the party who were willing to do it by proxy, since it is quite a daring feat to accomplish.

Of course you are aware that tradition attributes to this stone the power of endowing whoever kisses it with the sweet, persuasive, wheedling eloquence which is generally termed *Blarney*. Hence the song: —

“There is a stone there,
That whoever kisses,
O, he never misses
To grow eloquent.
'Tis he may clamber
To a lady's chamber,
And become a member
Of Parliament.

A clever spouter
He'll sure turn out, or

An out and outer,
To be let alone.
Don't hope to hinder him
Or to bewilder him,
Sure he's a pilgrim
From the Blarney Stone.”

When we return home, you will, no doubt, discover by a moment's conversation with him which member of our party kissed the stone.

On arriving at the foot of the tower we learned that, with the characteristic accommodation of his race, the owner had placed another “real stone” on the floor of that apartment, which we were assured possessed the same virtue as the other. Of course I did not fail to kiss it, and A[mos] said “that is a much better way—to kiss *this* stone, particularly after the ladies have kissed it.”

“O no,” said the lady in attendance, “that's not the way at all. The lady kisses the stone, an' thin the gentleman kisses the lady.”

By this time the rest of our party had reached the gate, and although the usual fee had been paid, the woman asked for another shilling. Of course one could not refuse it, after a remark so characteristic of the place, so she got the extra fee.

But I am tiring your patience and I am sure you think, if you do not say “No more Blarney at present.” I therefore close with kind regards to all friends.”

O. A. CHENEY.

Alger's sister sent her next letter to the *Natick Bulletin* some 10 days later:⁶

Liverpool, Eng., July 5, 1873.

Dear Sir:

May I ask the favor of sending to my friends in Natick, through the columns of your paper, a short account of our visit to the lakes of Killarney? We stopped at the Royal Victoria hotel. We had beautiful rooms on the first floor. Our windows opened on a fine lawn, and we had a delightful view of the lower lake. In the rear distance are reeks or mountains, so high that the clouds settle down upon them, and in many cases it almost seems as if smoke were issuing from their summits. But the highest of these, Mt. Carrantaul, (3314 ft.) is I believe not much more than half the height of Mt. Washington of the White Mountain range. In the lawn were cut nice walks, and also many fanciful flower beds. This hotel was leased from the Earl of Kenmare by Mrs. O'Leary, and is delightfully situated in one part of his Lordship's

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More details about Alger's 1873 tour of Europe

(Continued from Page 11)

domain. Since the death of her husband two years ago, Mrs. O'Leary and her two daughters have carried on the business.

Our first excursion was to Muckross Abbey, a fine ruin, not far distant, which consists of an abbey and church. We entered through beautiful gardens and passing through the church yard saw no tomb stones older than 1795. The guide said the abbey was built in 1140 instead of 1440 as the guide-books have it. There is a large court-yard, (surrounded by cloisters in the form of a piazza.) In the centre of the court-yard is a large yew tree said to be 400 years old. On the opposite side of the cloisters are cells, commonly considered sleeping cells, but the guide thought they were *penitent* cells. We passed up a flight of steps to the kitchen, then to dining-room or refectory. This was a fine large apartment. The connection with the tower is broken off as the latter is considered unsafe. We bought several views of the abbey and vicinity. From thence we went to see the "meeting of the waters," where the waters of the three lakes meet. Just beyond this we saw an arbutus tree with the trunk very much twisted, which we were told was over 700 years old. Fuchsias grow here without any protection during the winter. We saw some of them, ten feet in height, which looked like barberry bushes. One plant has a stalk two inches in diameter, and there were others nearly as large. There were plants of calceolaria, too, which resembled good sized gooseberry bushes.

We rode round the middle Lake, and went to see Torc Cascade. A gravel walk leads up a valley, lined with larch on the one side, and holly, birch, oak, alder and arbutus on the other. We soon came to a rough wooden seat and before us we saw the Fall, which, coming over a broken wall of rock, formed numerous cascades in its progress. On each side rose precipitous rocks covered with luxuriant trees and ferns. The view from Torc cascade is said to be one of the finest in Ireland.

The next day we started on an excursion to the Gap of Dunloe. We rode eight and one half miles in a wagonette. Then each of our party took a pony through the gay (four Irish and five American miles.) We made a safe and comfortable passage although some of our party had never ridden horseback before. The height of the rocks which bound the pass, many of which project over the narrow path, seem almost to threaten destruction to anyone sufficiently daring to attempt to cross it.

We saw Serpent Lake where St. Patrick induced the last serpent to enter into a box which he immediately locked and threw it into the lake, promising to let him out "day after tomorrow." But as that day has never, he

still lies buried beneath the water, and no serpent can be found in Ireland.

I forgot to say that before we reached the gap we passed the cottage of the celebrated beauty Kate Karney. Her granddaughter, who has not inherited her beauty, came out and offered us fresh goat's milk which we tasted, and bestowed the expected gratuity.

We passed the Black Valley as rapidly as possible, and soon reached the upper lake. There we found a boat which had been sent from the hotel to meet us. We had a bugler with us to wake the echoes, but it was so windy that he did not succeed as well as he would have done on a still day. This echo, when wakened at a favorable time, is often repeated a dozen times, and answered, sometimes loud and without interval, and then fainter and fainter, and after a sudden pause, again, arising as if from some distant glen, then insensibly dying away.

We passed under the Old Weir Bridge, a very antiquated structure, into the Middle Lake. One of the boatmen said this bridge was built when Adam was a boy. The current here is very rapid and we shot through the arch with great velocity.

We next passed under the Brickeen bridge. Just beneath the bridge the water is only eighteen inches in depth but two or three yards beyond it was 260 feet deep. It is said that "if any unmarried person passes under this bridge, they will be married within a year and will come there during the honey month." This lake we were told had two other names, "Middle Lake," and "The Ladies' Fancy." The latter name was, no doubt, given on account of the Legend connected with the bridge.

We saw on the bank, surrounded by a beautiful lawn, Derrycuniby Cottage, sometimes called Queen's Cottage, because the Queen once took lunch in the shade of trees on the spot where the cottage now stands.

We pass several mountains and islands, [of] which the boatman related legends, but I have not time, and you probably would not have patience to read them.

We leave here Monday for Scotland.

O. A. CHENEY.

Alger's sister sent no letters published in the *Natick Bulletin* during the next month, though the South Natick correspondent of the paper did insert a paragraph about the travelers which accounts for their journey through mid-August:

"Letters have been received from Rev. Horatio Alger and party during the past week, giving an account of sights seen and places visited up to August 17. Judging from the letters received they are having an exceptionally pleasant time, enjoying excellent health etc. Several days were spent in and about Paris and the cities of

Dieppe, Rouen, Brussels, Antwerp, and numerous others were visited and explored. Particular mention was made of the trip from Cologne to Mayence on the Rhine as having been extremely pleasant. At the time of writing the party were at Baden-Baden and about to leave for Switzerland. These accounts are of course very gratifying to Mr. Alger parishioners and friends.”⁷

Olive Augusta Cheney again wrote the *Bulletin* from southern Germany:⁸

Baden Baden, Germany, Aug. 15, 1873.

Dear Sir:

No doubt you think I have forgotten my promise to write to you, but this is not so. The difficulty is to find time for anything but sight seeing.

And now that I have seated myself for that purpose, how shall I begin? An account of our visit to Warwick Castle will perhaps interest you and I will give you as good a description as possible from my memory and note book.

Warwick is in the vicinity of Kenilworth, Stratford-on-Avon and Leamington (Saratoga of England). We stopped at the latter place, making excursions from thence to the various places of interest in the vicinity.

A portion of the castle at Warwick was built in the 11th century. It has always been kept in good repair and is now the residence of the present Earl of Warwick.

Near the porter’s lodge is a museum of relics of Guy of Warwick, one of the Earls, who, according to tradition, was nearly nine feet in height. Among other instances of his prowess it is related that he slew a Saracen giant in single combat, killed a wild bear, and enormous dun cow, and even a green dragon. We saw his armor. Also saw his “porridge pot,” which is now, on occasions, used as a punch bowl. It is said that it holds 102 gallons, which seems reasonable as it looks very large. The old lady who shows the relics said it took eighteen gallons of rum, fifty gallons of water, and fifth-six pounds of sugar, and oranges and lemons in proportion, to make punch in it. She had seen it made three times full in one evening, where 1500 guests were present. I mention this, in order that any one of your acquaintances wishing to make a good *old-fashioned* punch may have the proper proportions.

The meat-fork, used when the pot was in reality a porridge pot, was also shown. This was over four feet long, and when drawn across the edge of the pot, it produced a loud and long continued sound. The pot is of bell metal and is said to be over 800 years old.

We ascended Guy’s tower by 133 steps, and had a delightful view from its summit. In the upper guard room we were shown the thickness of the walls, which are upwards of ten feet. From here we saw a very old

tower belonging to the castle, called Caesar’s tower, said to be coeval with the Norman conquest. The interior of this tower is not shown to visitors. It contains bed-rooms for servants. Beneath this tower is a dark and dismal dungeon where not formerly confined.

The apartments in the interior of the castle are spacious, and adorned with choice paintings, rich carving, and elegant furniture. From one end of the great hall, the visitor can get, at a single glance, a view of the grand suite of staterooms on one side, and the domestic apartments on the other, extending in a straight line 333 feet, terminated at the western extremity by a window. We passed through three drawing rooms in which we saw elegant tables and cabinets, costly Etruscan vases, and rare busts, bronzes, and paintings. In the centre of the Gilt drawing room we saw the celebrated table brought from the Grimani Palace at Venice, and which cost \$50,000. The family arms of the Grimani are worded in the corners with the precious and valuable stones with which the surface is inlaid. This table is made of the choicest Italian marble.

The bed and furniture in the State Bed Room are of rich crimson velvet and formerly belonged to Queen Anne. The chimney piece is of red-antique and white marble, and supports two black marble vases on its mantel, while above is a full length portrait of Queen Anne in a rich brocade dress. The toilet table was prepared for the use of Queen Victoria during her visit to the Earl of Warwick, and bears a collection of rare Venetian glass, and two elegant crystal flasks. Connected with this room was a lovely little boudoir, fairly lined with choice paintings.

The furniture of the state apartments is all antique and rare, and the costly ornaments are scattered through the rooms in rich profusion, yet with exquisite taste.

The private apartments of the castle are not open for inspection. We therefore went to the green-house which was built for the purpose of receiving the celebrated Antique vase. This vase is of white marble, and is one of the finest specimens of ancient sculpture at present known, compared with the age of which even the castle itself is but a thing of a day. It was found at the bottom of a lake at Adrians Villa, near Tivoli, by Sir William Hamilton, then Ambassador at the Court of Naples, from whom it was obtained by the father of late Earl of Warwick, and at his expense conveyed to England, and placed in its present position. Its shape is circular, and is capable of containing 136 gallons. It has two large handles formed of interwoven vine branches, from which the tendrils, leaves, and clustering grapes spread round the upper margin. The middle of the body is enfolded by the skin of the panther, with the head and claws beautifully finished. Above are the heads of satyrs, bound with

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More details about Alger's 1873 tour of Europe

(Continued from Page 13)

wreathes of ivy accompanied by the vine-clad spear of Bacchus and the crooked staff of the Augurs. It rests upon vine leaves that climb high up its sides, and stands on a square marble pedestal.

The grounds belonging to the castle were very tastefully laid out, but we had not time to remain long enough to see them fully, as we were to visit Kenilworth the same day.

We are stopping at Baden Baden for a day or two. It is a very beautiful place, and is called the "Paradise of Germany." It was formerly a famous gambling place, but gaming has been abolished and visitors do not remain as long a time as formerly. At the hotels, of which there are a great number, they are complaining of a dull season.

There are no less than 70 mineral springs here which make it a famous watering-place. There are thirteen hot springs, and the portion of the town from which they issue is called "Hell." We took a walk this morning to the Greek Chapel on the hill, and had a fine view of the surrounding country. On our way back we passed through the outer edge of the famous Black forest, concerning which we have heard so many legends.

This morning we went to the Trinkhalle, (Drink hall) where visitors go in the morning to drink the "Spring water" and promenade while the bands play. We didn't get there in season to taste the water, so shall go to-morrow morning before 9 o'clock to get a sip. The front of the building inside the piazza is ornamented with frescoes representing legends of the Black Forest.

We leave here tomorrow for Switzerland where we intend to pass two weeks. I need not tell you how glad I shall be to receive letters from you and any other friends who may care to write to me. Address letters till September 5, Care Seligman Brothers, Bankers, London England.

Very truly your friend,
O. A. CHENEY.

The Algers continued south from Germany, and Alger's sister next wrote the *Bulletin* from Switzerland:⁹

Geneva, Switzerland, Aug. 26, 1873.

My Dear _____.

My last letter giving an account of Warwick Castle was written, I believe, at Baden Baden, but I think I gave no account of that famous watering-place, and will therefore do so now.

It is six miles distant from the river Rhine, and romantically situated among the hills of the Black Forest. It was formerly a gambling place, but gambling was

abolished in 1872. On the left bank of the Oosbach are the Promenade and Conversation house, an elegant building surrounded by gardens and pleasure grounds. Here during the season (July, August and September) there is a succession of concerts, dramatic performances and balls, and the races take place. There is a beautiful and costly pavillion or kiosk near the Promenade in which the band plays.

The avenue leading to the Conversation House is filled with stalls of trades from Switzerland and the Tyrol, and even from Paris. In the evening the place is filled with visitors promenading, or sitting at tables sipping coffee, or ices, while listening to the music by the bands. Tickets for the evening, including a seat on the broad piazza or in the open air where one can listen to the music, are only twelve cents for each person. It would be pleasant if in America one could listen to such choice music and with such pleasant surroundings and for so trifling a sum.

The Trinkhalle or Drink Hall is near by. Each morning, visitors go to drink water from the mineral springs. The water is very warm, but we found it not unpleasant to the taste. In addition to the cold springs, of which there are a large number, there are thirteen warm one, and the portion of the town from which they issue is called "Hell."

We met at Baden Baden several acquaintances, Dr. Livermore, President of Meadville Theological school, and Mr. Abbott, Professor at the same Institution.¹⁰ Also Senator Hitchcock and his family from Nebraska, with whom one of our party was acquainted.¹¹ There were, beside, several other persons at our hotel whom we had met before in our journeyings.

At Mr. and Mrs. Hitchcock's request we stopped in Baden one day longer than we had intended, in order to join them in an excursion to the Tower of Mercury. The three ladies and two of the children rode in an open carriage while the six male members of the party walked.

This Tower is situated on the top of the highest elevation in the Black Forest. The carriage road is six miles in length which the foot path is not much more than half that distance. The pedestrians reached the tower first and were there to welcome us when the carriage arrived. We took a lunch of sandwiches and fruit with us, and before ascending the tower, we partook of it.

The view from the tower was very extensive. From its summit could be seen Baden Baden and twenty-four other villages, besides the whole extent of the Black Forest and a good deal of other territory. After descending we went to visit the tablet of Mercury which is said to have been brought from Rome. It was a good deal mutilated.

We remained for a while sitting under the trees and

chatting, and then started for home. The pedestrian portion of the party started off in such high spirits that the two children could not be persuaded to ride back but joined the walkers, while Mrs. H., mother, and myself were frequently met by them as their path crossed our more winding one, and we occasionally head them singing not far from us, when we could not see them. We arrived at the hotel at four o'clock, having been absent nearly five hours.

Mrs. Hitchcock is to remain two or three years in Germany while the children are at school there, but Mr. H. will soon return to Washington.

We left Baden Baden with regret. It is a charming place, naturally. One can dress little or much and not attract attention. There, too, we heard more English spoken than we had heard since we left England. It was quite a different place from Interlachen which we have since visited. This is also a fashionable place, but there is far more dress and style than at Baden. There were half a dozen Barons and Counts with their wives at our hotel, but as they looked very much like ordinary mortals I was unable to distinguish them from other guests.

As I said before, we left Baden Baden with regret. It seemed more like home than any place we have yet visited; not on account of its scenery, for it is surrounded by lofty hills, nor for its architecture, which is decidedly European, but on account of a certain geniality and freedom from restraint. Every person one met seemed to wear a happy expression, and appeared not only to enjoy himself, but with to add as far as possible to the enjoyment of others. Among the pleasant recollections of our trip abroad, one of the brightest will be the memory of our three days stop at this famous watering-place.

Very truly your friend,
O. A. CHENEY.

Olive Cheney wrote no more travel letters from Europe published in the *Natick Bulletin*.¹² Over the next few weeks the Algers toured Switzerland, northern Italy, and Austria before returning to England and sailing for New York on October 1. On November 16, a month after their return, the elder Alger spoke at a vesper service at the Unitarian Church in South Natick "describing his Sundays in Great Britain and the preachers he heard there."¹³ From all accounts, par-

ticularly his daughter's travel letters to the hometown newspaper, the European tour of the Alger family had been memorable indeed.

NOTES

1. *The Lost Life of Horatio Alger, Jr.* (Bloomington: Indiana UP, 1985), pp. 102-04.

2. "South Natick," *Natick Bulletin*, 14 June 1873, 2:2.

3. O. A. Cheney, "Foreign Letter," *Natick Bulletin*, 19 July 1873, 1:4-6. See also "South Natick," *Natick Bulletin*, 19 July 1873, 2:2: "Rev. Mr. Alger has written from Ireland

to several of his friends here. His letters contains accounts of excursions from Cork and Dublin in various directions, embracing visits to the Castle and "Groves of Blarney," the Lakes of Killarney, Torc Cascade, Gap of Dunloe, besides numerous other Castles, Abbies, etc. Mr. Alger's health as well as that of his family is excellent and the letters received indicate that the party are enjoying themselves exceedingly well."

4. Cheap tickets issued by the travel agency Thomas Cook and Son.

5. Horace Greeley (1811-1872), founder and editor of the *New York Tribune* and liberal Republican candidate for President in 1872.

6. O. A. Cheney, "Foreign Letter," 26 July 1873, 2:2-3.

7. "South Natick," *Natick Bulletin*, 6 September 1873, 2:2.

8. O. A. Cheney, "Foreign Letter," *Natick Bulletin*, 6 September 1873, 2:1-2.

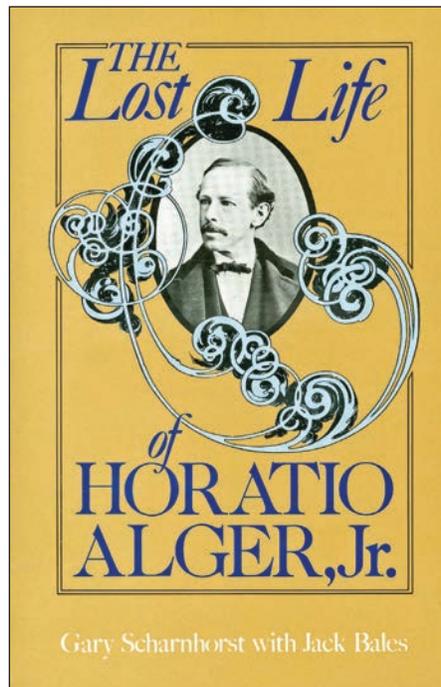
9. O. A. Cheney, "Foreign Letter," *Natick Bulletin*, 20 September 1873, 2:1.

10. A.A. Livermore (1811-1892); Ezra Abbot (1819-1884).

11. Phineas W. Hitchcock (1831-1881), U. S. Senator from Nebraska from 1871 to 1881. Alger visited the Hitchcock family in Omaha while traveling to and from California in 1877, and he subsequent mentioned Hitchcock in his juvenile biography of James Garfield, *From Canal Boy to President (Lost Life*, p. 112). His son Gilbert M. Hitchcock (1859-1934), to whom Alger dedicated his novel *The Young Adventurer* (1878), succeeded his father as U. S. Senator from Nebraska between 1911 and 1923.

12. The newspaper did reprint her story "Alice Fletcher's Experience" from *Young Israel* on 6 December 1873 (1:4-7), however.

13. "South Natick," *Natick Bulletin*, 15 November 1873, 2:3.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

I have been a member of the society for about one year now. I am looking forward to retirement in about two years when I can spend more time searching for additional titles to add to my collection.

I am writing to let you know about a reprint of one of the titles in the Alger series. A Beka Book (a ministry of Pensacola Christian college, where I work) has reprinted the book *On His Own*, with a copyright date of 2000. The original title was *Cast Upon the Breakers*, and its copyright date was 1893.

I thought perhaps some of the members would be interested in adding this volume to their collection. The book has been adapted for today's young reader but I just finished reading it for the second time and it reads very much like the original.

The book has a paper cover and is fairly inexpensive. The book can be ordered by calling:

1-877-A BEKA BOOK

Also, there is a Web site at:

www.abeka.com

I look forward to **Newsboy** every two months and read it through from cover to cover. Thank you for all your contributions to our society.

One final thing. Is it possible to get back issues of **Newsboy**? How would I go about doing so. Thank you for your help.

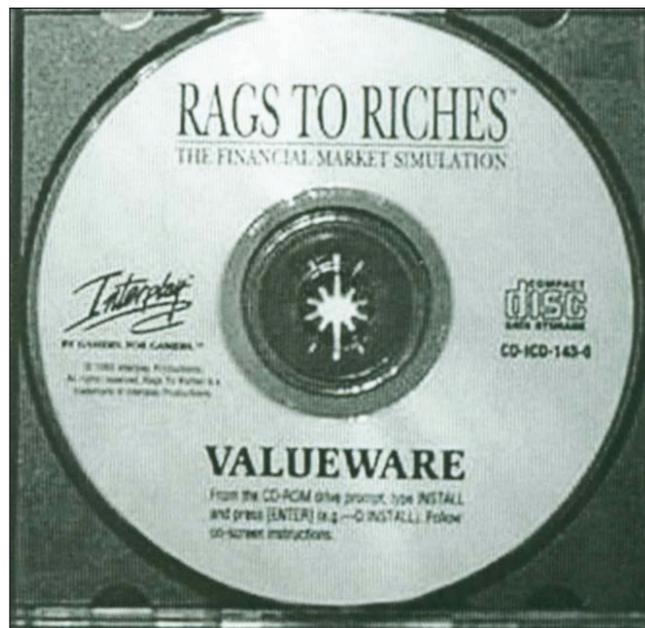
Sincerely,
Dennis Martin (PF-1060)
5433 Rawson Lane
Pensacola, FL 32503

Back issues of Newsboy are \$4 each, and may be ordered by mailing a check to Horatio Alger Society, P.O. Box 70361, Richmond, VA 23255. Back issues prior to 1996 are in very limited supply and issues from the 1970s and 1980s are no longer available except by photocopy.

Fellow H.A.S. members:

While on a trip to South Dakota recently, I came across a software program CD titled "Rags to Riches." It is a financial marketing simulation program and it has "whiskers," since it used DOS. I bought two copies from the bargain bin. I am sending one copy to Ralph Carlson for his Alger Go-With collection. I tried calling the customer support number listed on the registration slip, but the company is no longer in business, as all I got was an answering machine with a message that did not appear to be business-oriented.

What was interesting to me was that the program,



created by Interplay Productions of Irvine, Calif., carried a copyright TM after the title on both the front and back of the jewel case and on the CD itself.

I thought this might be of interest to you.

Regards,
Your Partic'lar Friend
Bernie Biberdorf (PF-524)
10726 Gateway Drive
Fishers, IN 46038

MEMBERSHIP

New members

Frank P. Krieger (PF-1070)

P.O. Box 82

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E-mail: seriesbooks@hotmail.com

Internet site: www.seriescollector.com

Frank, a network engineer, has one of the most prominent series books presences on the Internet (see above). He learned about the Horatio Alger Society from Bill Gowen and Brad Chase. His collecting interests include boys' and girls' series books, Photoplay and Stageplay editions, mysteries (classic detectives), swashbucklers and classic adventures. He owns 15-20 Alger.

Darrell Richardson (PF-1071)

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