



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 LIII

MAY-JUNE 2015

NUMBER 3

Convention issue



Susan Hagos, a high school senior from Gahanna, Ohio, is presented the *Strive and Succeed Award* from convention host Bob Huber.

Photo by Bob Sipes

'Fame and Fortune in Columbus'

- * Convention report
- * Strive and Succeed Award
- * Annual auction results
- * Treasurer's report
- * Convention photos

-- Full coverage inside

Remembering
former H.A.S.
president Larry Rice

-- See Page 5

*William T. Adams
and Horatio Alger, Jr.:
Some afterthoughts*

-- See Page 17

President's column

This issue of **Newsboy** customarily contains a wrap-up from the annual convention, and I must begin this column with my own expression of gratitude to Bob Huber for putting together a fine gathering in Columbus, Ohio. The food and fellowship were both fine, the presentations were excellent, the purchasers at the auction came away with many treasures for their collections, and we all enjoyed exploring the attractions and bookshops of the city, not necessarily in that order. My wife and I had a lovely time visiting the James Thurber House, the Columbus Museum of Art, walking around German Village, and shopping at thrift stores, a needlework shop, and a bookshop where I scored one of my biggest coups in years, a copy of Frank E. Channon's *Jackson and his Henley Friends* (1911) in a dust jacket. The experience reminded me that despite all the aid that Internet shopping has given us in building our collections, nothing can compare to the thrill of discovering a rare and long-desired title in a brick-and-mortar bookshop.

The one major disappointment of the conference was the very low turnout. Only 17 registered attendees were present. A variety of unusual circumstances kept some members who seldom miss from coming to this meeting, but the overall trend has been down for a long time, and there is understandable concern that we are in danger of falling below the critical mass that makes conventions on the current model financially and practically viable. This was the major theme of the annual Directors' meeting, and we had a very good discussion and many excellent ideas to chew on moving forward (see Page 6).

In the short term, there is no reason to panic: the Society is in good shape financially and can weather a year or two of conventions operating in the red. Next year, Bob Sipes, our invaluable Executive Director, and his wife Wendy have graciously agreed to host in Columbus, Indiana, and this promises to be a great gathering in a wonderful venue. Bob will also publicize the convention in new and more aggressive ways, and we are guardedly optimistic that this will begin to turn things around. If not, our discussions at this year's convention have put other possibilities in our tool-kit, and I am grateful to all of our officers and members for their continuing efforts in this regard.

Two other recent developments require notice here. We were greatly saddened to learn of the death of Larry Rice (PF-757). Larry is fondly remembered as a loyal So-

(Continued on Page 4)

HORATIO ALGER SOCIETY

To further the philosophy of Horatio Alger, Jr. and to encourage the spirit of Strive & Succeed that for half a century guided Alger's undaunted heroes. Our members conduct research and provide scholarship on the life of Horatio Alger, Jr., his works and influence on the culture of America. The Horatio Alger Society embraces collectors and enthusiasts of all juvenile literature, including boys' and girls' series books, pulps and dime novels.

OFFICERS

JEFF LOONEY	PRESIDENT
RICHARD B. HOFFMAN	VICE-PRESIDENT
BARRY SCHOENBORN	TREASURER
ROBERT G. SIPES	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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ARTHUR W. SMITTER	(2018) DIRECTOR
VACANT	(2018) DIRECTOR
VACANT	(2018) DIRECTOR
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WILLIAM R. WRIGHT	

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, 1004 School St., Shelbyville, IN 46176**.

Newsboy is indexed in the Modern Language Association's International Bibliography. You are invited to visit the Horatio Alger Society's official Internet site at www.horatioalgersociety.net.

Newsboy ad rates: Full page, \$32.00; one-half page, \$17.00; one-quarter page, \$9.00; per column inch (1 inch deep by approx. 3 1/2 inches wide), \$2.00. Send ads, with check payable to Horatio Alger Society, 1004 School St., Shelbyville, IN 46176.

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 advertisements or "Letters to the Editor" to **Newsboy** editor William R. Gowen (PF-706) at 23726 N. Overhill Dr., Lake Zurich, IL

2015 convention report

‘Fame and Fortune in Columbus’

By William R. Gowen (PF-706)

Another perfect weather weekend awaited members of the Horatio Alger Society as they arrived in Columbus, Ohio, for the 51st annual convention, “Fame and Fortune in Ohio.” Our host, Bob Huber, had the hospitality room at the Courtyard by Marriott-Airport all set up as registrants began to arrive shortly after 1 p.m.

This promised to be a different convention than normal because the number of registrations was lower than usual, which along with a few late cancellations made this a very “compact” get-together. Regardless, Huber had organized an excellent program, and we were determined to make the weekend a memorable one, with a high-quality book and memorabilia auction and two of the finest area restaurants awaiting our visits for dinner on Friday and Saturday nights.

Traditionally, Thursday is a time for Partic’lar Friends to renew acquaintances, either in the hotel or at dinner on their own, and a list of nearby restaurants was included in each registration packet. Columbus, the capital of Ohio, is a compact city, served by a well-designed system of Interstate highways that circle and bisect the city. For example, the drive from our airport-area hotel to Schmidt’s Sausage Haus and Restaurant (our Friday dinner locale) in the Columbus’ historic German Village, was just a 10-minute trip by carpools. Our Saturday banquet was at the 94th Aero Squadron, located adjacent to the airport just five minutes away.

The one traditional official event on Thursday is the annual Board of Directors meeting, which was held in the late afternoon in the hospitality/conference room. In addition to the traditional annual reports from the executive director, treasurer, **Newsboy** editor and nominating committee, a wide range of important topics likely to impact the present and future of the Horatio Alger Society were discussed, and you are urged to carefully read Executive Director Bob Sipes’ report on Pages 6-7.

Following dinner on our own, most of the evening



Convention host Bob Huber moves auction books into the hotel on the first day of “Fame and Fortune in Columbus.”

Photo by Bill Gowen

was spent organizing the annual auction, with most of the books having already been entered into Bob Sipes’ computer and laid out on tables encircling the meeting room. A number of auction lots also needed to be added to the spreadsheet, in particular the Tom Noonan consignment of Alger books brought to Columbus by Brad Chase.

The rest of the evening was spent chatting about books other topics in the meeting room and hotel lounge.

Friday, May 1

The hotel offered an excellent pay-as-you-go breakfast, along with a Starbucks coffee bar. For those more budget-minded, there was always the option of an Egg McMuffin or “Big Breakfast” at the McDonalds next door.

At 9 a.m., host Bob Huber made the traditional welcoming remarks, going over details about the upcoming buffet lunch (included in convention registration) in the hotel’s restaurant across the hall. Bob also outlined the day’s other activities and asked for volunteer car pools to the German Village that evening.

H.A.S. President Jeff Looney followed with his official opening comments, and then he introduced the day’s speakers: **Newsboy** editor Bill Gowen on “Harold

(Continued on Page 14)

Editor's notebook

The 2015 convention. "Fame and Fortune in Columbus," was very successful despite the small turnout, with excellent food at two wonderful restaurants, along with several bookstores to visit, and an excellent auction. If you missed out on all the fun, we hope your schedule will permit you to join us next year!

Please read the article at the right reporting the death of former Horatio Alger Society president Larry Rice, a regular convention participant from 1993 to 2008. Larry was always generous in sharing his book-hunting experiences with us, even telling me about a store in downstate Illinois of which I had not been aware. Several years ago, former executive director Rob Kasper and I visited Vivian and Larry at their Maine, New York, home. We went out to dinner and then enjoyed an evening discussing our hobby. Larry even invited us upstairs in his barn to go through his duplicates, and I was able to purchase a couple of books for my collection.

To make a memorial gift, see details at the end of the article. It was very thoughtful of the Rice family to include the Strive and Succeed Award fund on the list.

Next year, we're heading to a *different* Columbus, this one in central Indiana, just under an hour's drive from downtown Indianapolis. Wendy and Bob Sipes have generously agreed to be our hosts for the third time within the past decade.

Although I live near Frank Lloyd Wright and Louis Henry Sullivan's Chicago, with the city's magnificent 19th-20th century buildings, Columbus is unofficially known as "The architecture capital of the United States," with more than two dozen award-winning architects represented in more than 70 stunningly designed civic buildings, including schools and local government centers, plus churches and corporate headquarters.

Inexpensive bus and walking tours with docents are available, including a special tour of The Miller House and Garden, a stunning mid-century modern home and garden showcasing the work of Eero Saarinen, Alexander Girard and Dan Kiley. I visited Columbus in the early 1990s, and since then, another 20 or so notable buildings have been commissioned.

Host Bob Sipes will have a lot more to offer about Columbus in upcoming issues of **Newsboy**. Meantime, you can visit www.columbus.in.us and click on the "Art & Architecture" tab for a full-color gallery of these magnificent buildings.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the members of the Horatio Alger Society:

I'm writing to tell you that my father, Lawrence (Larry) Rice, died on March 31st, 2015. As many of you know, he suffered a very serious stroke on March 13, 2009. He was at home for 3 years afterwards, where my mom cared for him, and 3 years in a nursing home where she visited every day.

They both looked forward to the annual meeting with all of you. We showed Dad every issue of your magazine, and he could always recognize his name listed as past president.

Sincerely,
Debra Goble
Maine, NY 13803

Editor's note: The article on Page 5 (at right) has additional information on Larry Rice's many years of dedication to the Horatio Alger Society, along with family and community service information, which were published in his April 4 obituary in the Binghamton Press & Sun-Bulletin.

President's column

(Continued from Page 2)

ciety member who was proudly serving as our president when a serious illness intervened, and yet he continued to follow our activities with greatest interest despite his disability. Our thoughts and prayers go with his wife, Vivian, the rest of the Rice family and their friends. Please read the letter to the Society from Larry's daughter, Debra Goble (above) and our tribute article on Page 5.

We learned of the loss of another longstanding member in an unexpected way when **Newsboy** editor Bill Gowen received a check this spring for \$5,000 in aid of that publication and the Society as a bequest from the estate of Robert J. Banks (PF-253) of Graniteville, South Carolina. Our letter acknowledging this generous gift is reprinted elsewhere in this issue. I did not have the pleasure of meeting Mr. Banks myself, but this expression of his faith in us and our work serves as an inspiration to all of us as we work to strengthen the Horatio Alger Society and all that it stands for.

With the summer season now officially underway, I wish you all good success in work and play and happy book hunting.

Your Partic'lar Friend,
Jeff Looney (PF-903)
1712 Concord Drive
Charlottesville, VA 22901

Former H.A.S. president Larry Rice dies

By William R. Gowen (PF-706)

The Horatio Alger Society lost one of its most admired and loyal members on March 31 with the passing of Larry Rice (PF-757), who served as our 23rd president in 2008-09, following terms as H.A.S. director and vice president. He died one week shy of his 80th birthday and was a member of the H.A.S. for 30 years.

Larry, a longtime resident of Maine, New York (just outside Binghamton), joined the Society in 1985 and attended his first convention in 1993, becoming a "regular" at our annual May get-together over the following 15 years. One of his most welcome activities each year was volunteering as one of our auctioneers.

Like so many of our long-standing members, Larry Rice read Horatio Alger books as a child. In one of the five President's Columns he wrote prior to his suffering a major stroke in March 2009, he recounted how he came upon "a very worn Hurst copy of Alger's *Facing the World*" while moving a deceased grandfather's personal belongings into his barn for storage. "I remembered reading and enjoying these books as a young boy," he recalled. "I took the book into the house and read it, and again enjoyed it."

A few weeks later, Rice visited a used-book store in the neighboring city of Endicott, N.Y., and he bought two Alger (again, Hurst reprints) for two dollars each: *Strive and Succeed* and *Strong and Steady*. "I had officially become an Alger collector," he said.

Larry lived a full life, as he and his wife, Vivian, had four children: a daughter, Debbie, and sons Bob, Scott and Chris. All but Scott and his wife Linda (who are Florida residents) remained in the Maine-Binghamton area to raise their families. As his seven grandchildren grew up, Larry began a tradition of giving each a copy of *Strive and Succeed* upon graduation from high school. In addition to Vivian, his children and grandchildren, he is survived by three great-grandchildren.

Rice was very active in his community as a life member of the Maine Federated Church, where his funeral services were held on April 6. Also, he served as president of the Maine-Endwell Central School District board of education, president of the Town of Maine Little League, and was active in the Nanticoke Valley Historical Society and Boy Scouts of America, along with spending eight years as a U.S. Naval Reservist.

Larry also enjoyed Civil War history, and each November he and Vivian drove to Gettysburg for the Remembrance Day observances at the battlefield and national cemetery, including various festivities involv-



Photo by Bernie Biberdorf

Larry Rice and his wife, Vivian, during the banquet at one of the numerous H.A.S. conventions they attended over the years. At right, Rice holds a copy of Alger's *The Odds Against Him*, which he won during the annual donation and consignment auction at "2001 — An Alger Odyssey" in Ottawa, Ontario.

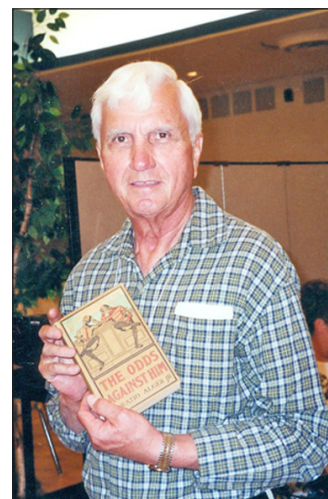


Photo by Doug Fleming

ing Civil War re-enactors, capped by a large parade. He wrote about this event in his President's Column appearing in the September-October 2008 *Newsboy*.

In Larry's April 4 obituary notice, his family says memorial contributions may be made to: Wide Horizons Nursery School Scholarship Fund at Maine Federated Church, 2615 State Rt. 26, Maine NY 13802; to the Doug Flutie Jr. Foundation for Autism at P.O. Box 767, Framingham, MA 01701 (www.flutiefoundation.org); or to the Horatio Alger Society (Strive and Succeed Award) scholarship fund at 1004 School St., Shelbyville, IN 46176.

For a personal note on Larry's passing, please read the letter to our members from Rice's daughter, Debra Goble, on Page 4.

Horatio Alger Society Board of Directors Meeting

Columbus, Ohio — April 30, 2015

In Attendance:

Jeff Looney, President

Richard B. Hoffman, Vice President

Robert G. Sipes, Executive Director

Barry J. Schoenborn, Treasurer *

William R. Gowen, Editor

Robert G. Huber, Webmaster

Robert M. Petitto, Director

Robert D. Eastlack, Director

Marlena Bremseth, Director *

Kenneth Broadie, Director *

Joseph K. Strang, Director *

Robert E. Kasper, Ex-president

Carol Nackenoff, Ex-president

Absent:

Jack Bales, Director

James King, Director

Lynda Straus, Director

David J. Yarrington, Director

* In attendance via digital
presence

Jeff Looney, President, called the meeting to order at 4:40 p.m. No old issues were noted.

Barry Schoenborn, Treasurer, prepared the annual financial report for the fiscal year ending April 30, 2015, which was presented with Barry's live presence from California via the Internet. Gross income for the previous 12 months was \$15,704.58 and expenses were \$10,736.91, resulting in a net gain of \$4,967.67 for the fiscal year ending April 30, 2015.

The gain was attributed to a \$5,000.00 bequest from the Robert Banks estate. Total cash on hand includes \$11,055.65 in checking deposits and \$9,052.35 in a certificate of deposit for a total of \$20,108.00. It is notable to mention that without the Banks bequest, there would have been a small loss of \$32.33, and the net income of \$4,967.67 is an anomaly due to the Banks bequest. While our year-over-year losses have been small, with a few gains, we need to promote our annual convention and auction to ensure our convention breaks even and the auction proceeds result in gains rather than losses. In support of this, we must concentrate on increasing membership, promote the Sustaining Membership option and to continue soliciting high-quality auction material for future conventions.

The regular *Strive & Succeed Award* fund income for the previous 12 months totaled \$1,055.00. The board voted to award \$1,000 to the recipient selected by the convention host. It was noted that there were no *Strive & Succeed Award* donations made online.

Robert Sipes, Executive Director, reported total membership at 134. This includes 101 Regular members, 11 Sustaining members, seven Life, five Honorary and 10 Libraries. There were four new members (2 returning and 1 Library) added during the previous 12 months and five drops for a net loss of one member. This compares favorably to the previous 12-month period when we had a net gain of two members. Of the five lost members, one was dropped at his request since he could travel no longer, and the others were undetermined, but likely

Membership	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Regular	101	101	101	104	114
Sustaining	11	13	14	8	1
Life	7	7	8	8	9
Honorary	5	5	4	4	4
Institutions	10	9	10	10	10
Total	134	135	137	134	138

the result of increased age and/or lack of interest. One member renewed online (via PayPal). The chart, above, provides a view of membership over the past five years and how that our overall membership has remained relatively stable.

Bob Sipes mentioned that we carry members for a few months (sometimes nearly a year) before we drop them. This can skew the membership numbers and affects the overall cash flow. Marlena Bremseth, Director, suggested (based on her success as editor of **Dime Novel Round-Up**) that we send subscription renewal notices separate from the **Newsboy** mailing. Bob and Bill Gowen will review this idea for possible action.

Sipes also reviewed our online social media presence. The H.A.S. Facebook page is slowly growing in membership. However, due to low level of membership activity on the page, our overall reach is very limited. We currently have 116 Facebook members that have liked the H.A.S. page and receive updates. Many of these Facebook members are not Horatio Alger Society members. The level of activity on the H.A.S. page is very low; however, when a member posts some content, there is a small level of activity implying that increased content would result in increased activity.

Sipes also provided a status regarding the H.A.S. repository at Northern Illinois University, which remains robust. NIU added a handful of titles and continues to provide scans and other reproductions to H.A.S. members upon request. The endowment is stable with a balance as of April 2015 of \$52,667.43, up from \$45,790.37 last year. There was \$612.56 left expendable for FY 14 following payout for the FY 13 fellowship. The FY 15 expendable was \$1,748.43 (plus the \$612.56); however, there were no applicants for the FY 15 fellowship that the board felt comfortable accepting. The projected amount for FY 16 is \$1857.19, leading to a total available to spend of \$4218.18. Lynne Thomas would like the H.A.S. Board's approval to offer two fellowships in FY 16 and raise the amount to \$2,000 each. This motion was discussed and its acceptance approved.

The Nominating Committee Report was presented by Jeff Looney. The nominee is as follows: Arthur W. Smither (PF-952) for director, for a three-year term. This leaves two director positions vacant. There was much discussion prior to the board meeting and during the meeting regarding the current number of directors. The prevailing opinion is that we need to reduce the number of directors from nine to six. However, this requires a change to the By-Laws (Article VI, Section 1) for reducing the number of directors.

The Board approved a motion to change the By-Laws during the next fiscal year and request approval at the next

board meeting during the 2016 Convention. The board and nominating committee over the next two years will work to move the board to a membership of six, rotating two (instead of three directors) on a three-year cycle.

Robert Huber, 2015 Convention host, reported that the current registered attendance was 14, with his projected costs based on an attendance total of 25. Bob reported that the conference was expected to lose money, and that while we had nice auction material, the low number of bidders might impact the auction results. The Board discussed refunding the Convention registration funds for those who canceled during the week prior to the Convention. A motion was approved to refund the monies and develop a policy for the future.

There was much discussion at this time regarding how to increase attendance at our convention. There were no motions and changes formally approved during this meeting, but conversation regarding these ideas will continue. We will focus on increased marketing of the 2016 Convention. This discussion included:

- Promoting the conference in various online venues, listservs, periodicals, and related conferences.
- Posting a Call for Papers on various academic forums which could result in greater attendance and increased membership.
- Coordinating our conference with other larger conferences.
- Modifying the length and/or organization of the conference.
- Modifying the content and scope of the conference.

Robert Sipes, Executive Director and regular convention attendee, proposed to host the H.A.S. 2016 convention in Columbus, Indiana. Preliminary research into hotel locations and activities looks very favorable. The costs should be comparable to recent conventions. While the dates are yet to be confirmed, it is highly likely that the convention will take place over the first weekend in May, which for 2016 is April 28-May 1. This

location was approved unanimously by all in attendance and later, during the business meeting, Columbus, Indiana, was enthusiastically accepted by the membership.

Robert Huber, H.A.S. Webmaster, reported that a considerable number of past issues of **Newsboy** are now available on the H.A.S. website, many with upgraded color content. Bob Eastlack, Director, also discussed his work in scanning a large number of past issues of **Newsboy** for inclusion on the website and his work in indexing **Newsboy**. Additional discussion ensued regarding adding content related to other authors to boost visitors to the site and potentially increase membership. President Jeff Looney commented that this would continue to be a priority focus during his tenure as President. All in attendance agreed, with many volunteering support.

The **Newsboy** Report was given by William R. Gowen, Editor. The print run for **Newsboy** is currently 160 issues and will likely be reduced to 150 this fiscal year. The total annual expense for producing **Newsboy** has remained relatively stable during the past decade. The primary reason is managing the print run based on membership to balance the increase in postage and printing costs. Total cost per issue decreased from \$4.21 to \$3.67 for the previous 12 months. This was primarily due to not printing a color issue during the fiscal 2014-2015 year. A color issue was issued for March-April 2014, but in that case its expense was charged to the previous fiscal year.

An honorarium of \$100 each to the Executive Director and **Newsboy** Editor was approved.

President Looney adjourned the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert G. Sipes

Robert G. Sipes
Executive Director
Horatio Alger Society

'Fame and Fortune in Columbus' – Attendance list

Bradford S. Chase (PF-412)
Enfield, Conn.

Ann Chase
Enfield, Conn.

Robert D. Eastlack (PF-557)
Lebanon, Pa.

William R. Gowen (PF-706)
Lake Zurich, Ill.

Richard B. Hoffman (PF-570)
Washington, D.C.

Robert G. Huber (PF-841)
Uniontown, Ohio

Robert E. Kasper (PF-327)
Richmond, Va.

Jeff Looney (PF-903)
Charlottesville, Va.

Judy Looney
Charlottesville, Va.

Carol Nackenoff (PF-921)
Swarthmore, Pa.

Demian Katz (PF-1130)
Glenside, Pa.

Robert M. Petitto (PF-1086)
Carol Stream, Ill.

Eileen Petitto
Carol Stream, Ill.

Bob Sipes (PF-1067)
Shelbyville, Ind.

Wendy Sipes
Shelbyville, Ind.

Keith Thompson (PF-035)
Bellport, N.Y.

David K. Vaughan (PF-832)
Waynesville, Ohio

TOTAL: 17
H.A.S. MEMBERS: 13

TREASURER'S REPORT

May 1, 2014-April 30, 2015

INCOME

Dues income.....	\$2,482.00
Strive and Succeed Award fund income.....	1,055.00
Auction income	6,777.00
Convention Surplus	355.75
Interest income	34.83
Gifts from Member Estates.....	5,000.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$15,704.58

EXPENSES

Newsboy expenses:	
Printing.....	2,144.46
Postage.....	1,169.87
Supplies (envelopes, etc.)	208.08
Total Newsboy expenses	\$3,522.41
Convention expenses (2014):	
Award Plaques.....	212.46
Host Advance/Return.....	0.00
Total 2014 convention	\$212.46
Auction consignment payouts.....	\$5,016.45
Strive & Succeed Award (2014)	\$1,000.00
Administration expenses:	
Exec. Director expenses.....	650.68
Honoraria	200.00
PayPal charges.....	5.54
Web Hosting/Domain.....	14.99
Illinois Secretary of State	25.00
Bank charges.....	11.47
Total administration expenses.....	\$907.68
Misc. expense.....	\$77.91
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$10,736.91
NET INCOME	\$4,967.67

Balance sheet as of April 30, 2015

ASSETS

Current assets (checking/savings)	
Checking account	\$11,055.65
Certificate of deposit (CD).....	9,052.35
Total current assets	\$20,108.00
TOTAL ASSETS	\$20,108.00

LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

Equity:	
Opening balance, equity.....	\$4,763.05
Retained earnings	10,377.28
Net income	\$4,967.67
TOTAL EQUITY	\$20,108.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	\$20,108.00

Submitted by Barry Schoenborn

Treasurer

April 30, 2015

MEMBERSHIP

New members

Gettysburg College Library (L-31)
300 N. Washington St., P.O. Box 420
Gettysburg, PA 17325
Website: www.gettysburg.edu/library/

Nelly Blot (PF-1132)

12 Rue de Coulmiers

Meung Sur Loire, FRANCE 45130

E-mail: nellyblot@orange.fr

Ms. Blot is a schoolmistress doing research into the life and works of Horatio Alger, Jr. Her other interests include the study of (American) English.

2015 convention through the lens



The 94th Aero Squadron Restaurant, location of the annual awards banquet.
Photo by Bob Sipes



H.A.S. president Jeff Looney makes his opening remarks at "Fame and Fortune in Columbus."
Photo by Bill Gowen



Keith Thompson during the Friday morning session.
Photo by Carol Nackenoff



Bill Gowen is presented the Richard Seddon Award by Jeff Looney.
Photo by Bob Sipes



Convention attendees listen to the welcoming remarks by host Bob Huber.
Photo by Bill Gowen



Just a little "clowning" prior to Friday night's buffet dinner at Schmidt's in the German Village.
Photo by Carol Nackenoff

Special consignment auction summary

Arthur P. Young Collection

Title	Publisher	Buyer	Price	Title	Publisher	Buyer	Price
<i>Tom Tracy</i> (Putnam)	S&S Medal Library	Rob Kasper	\$30.00	<i>Facing the World</i> (slipcased)	H. Alger Association	Rob Kasper	\$2.00
<i>Risen from the Ranks</i> (lot)	S&S Medal Library			<i>In a New World World</i> (H. Alger Association — lot, all slipcased)			
<i>The Erie Train Boy</i>	S&S Medal Library	Rob Kasper	\$10.00	<i>Struggling Upward</i>	H. Alger Association		
<i>Mark the Match Boy</i> (lot)	S&S Alger Series			<i>Forging Ahead</i>	H. Alger Association		
<i>Advent. Telegraph Boy</i>	S&S Alger Series	Rob Kasper	\$10.00	<i>Strive and Succeed</i>	H. Alger Association		
<i>H. Carter's Legacy</i> (lot)	Donohue Alert Lib.			<i>Strong and Steady</i>	H. Alger Association	Bob Sipes	\$5.00
<i>Strong and Steady</i>	Donohue Alert Lib.			<i>Genealogical Hist. of the Alger Family</i> (2 copies)		Bob Sipes	\$5.00
<i>Do and Dare</i>	Donohue Alert Lib.	Brad Chase	\$15.00	<i>Marie Bertrand</i> (lot, custom reprints of Sun Series)			
<i>Frank's Campaign</i>	Loring	Bob Sipes	\$2.00	<i>Madeleine the Tempress</i>			
<i>Sam's Chance</i> (lot)	Federal			<i>The Secret Drawer</i>			
<i>Julius</i>	Winston (d/j)	Brad Chase	\$5.00	<i>Marie Bertrand</i>		Brad Chase	\$10.00
<i>Tom the Bootblack</i> (lot)	A.L. Burt (fez ed.)			Poole: <i>The Psi Epsilon Epitome, 1833-34</i>		Bob Sipes	\$15.00
<i>Work and Win</i>	Whitman (d/j)	Rob Kasper	\$2.00	<i>Annals of the Psi Epsilon, 1833-1941</i> (1941)		Rob Kasper	\$5.00
<i>Judge Addison Brown Autobiographical Notes for his Children</i>				<i>The Harvard Graduates Magazine, 1899-1900</i>		Bob Sipes	\$15.00
		Bob Sipes	\$6.00	<i>Catalogue of the Unitarian Sunday School Library, 1878</i> (lot)			
Allison Parker: <i>Purifying American</i> (1997)		Bob Sipes	\$6.00	<i>Library Catalogue of Public School #12, 1885</i>		Bob Sipes	\$9.00
Frank Gruber: <i>Murder '97</i> (2 English printings)		Bob Sipes	\$21.00	<i>Catalogue of the Officers and Students of Harvard, 1857-58</i> (lot)			
Frank Gruber: <i>Murder '97</i> (4 U.S. printings)		Rob Kasper	\$10.00	<i>Catalogue of the Officers and Students of Harvard, 1858-59</i>			
Charlotte Adams: <i>The Errand Boy, 1864</i> (lot)						Bob Sipes	\$30.00
Charles Burdett: <i>Dora Barton, 1860</i>		Jeff Looney	\$25.00	<i>Yearbook of the Unitarian Congregational Churches for 1857</i>			
William Maher: <i>On the Road to Riches, 1892</i> (lot)						Bob Sipes	\$10.00
Aaron Wanner: <i>The Road to Success, 1888</i>		Bob Sipes	\$10.00	<i>War Songs of the Blue and Gray</i> , Hurst		Brad Chase	\$15.00
George Chaney: <i>Tom: A Home Story, 1877</i> , 1st ed. (lot)				<i>Monthly Journal of the American Unitarian Association, 1864</i>			
George Chaney: <i>F. Grant & Co., 1886</i>		Jeff Looney	\$20.00			Bob Sipes	\$10.00
J. T. Trowbridge: <i>The Young Recruit, 1866</i>		Bob Petitto	\$10.00	Bayard Taylor: <i>John Godfrey's Fortunes, 1865</i> 1st ed.			
Edgar A. Guest: <i>The Passing Throng, 1923</i> 1st ed.						Bob Sipes	\$5.00
	Reilly & Lee, d/j	Brad Chase	\$5.00	C.L. Brace: <i>The Dangerous Classes of New York, 1872</i> 1st ed.			
Warren Goss: <i>Tom Clifton</i>	T.Y. Crowell, 1892	Demian Katz	\$10.00			Bob Sipes	\$20.00
James Otis: <i>A District Messenger Boy</i> (lot), Lothrop, 1898				C.L. Brace: <i>The Dangerous Classes of New York, 1872</i> 1st ed.			
N. Roe: <i>Two Little Street Singers</i> , L&S, 1900		Bob Sipes	\$5.00			Carol Nackenoff	\$10.00
<i>Ragged Dick</i>	2 foreign editions	Rob Kasper	\$15.00	James Rees: <i>Life of Edwin Forrest, 1874</i>		Jeff Looney	\$5.00
<i>Tom Tracy</i> (lot)	German edition			Benjamin Shurtleff: <i>History of the Town of Revere, 1937</i>			
<i>Tattered Tom</i>	German edition					Bob Sipes	\$10.00
<i>Paul the Peddler</i>	German edition	Rob Kasper	\$20.00	<i>Bertha's Christmas Vision</i>	Westgard (lot)		
Ray Russell: <i>Holy Horatio!</i> Signed pres. copy		Bob Sipes	\$3.00	<i>The New School Ma'am</i>	Westgard		
"Shine!" — Musical play script (lot)				<i>Abner Holden's Bound Boy</i> (reprint)		Rob Kasper	\$5.00
"Shine" — Program from 1983 Virginia production				<i>Timothy Crump's Ward</i> (reprint)		Brad Chase	\$15.00
"Horatio" — Play program from 1974		Rob Kasper	\$10.00	<i>Seeking His Fortune</i> (Collier & Westgard reprint)		Jeff Looney	\$5.00
Burt L. Standish:				<i>Ragged Dick</i> (Easton Press reprint)		Bob Sipes	\$12.00
<i>Dick Merriwell Motor King</i>	S&S Merriwell Series	Jeff Looney	\$2.00	<i>The Young Miner</i> (Book Club of Calif. reprint)		Jeff Looney	\$10.00
<i>Facing the World</i> (lot, slipcased)				<i>Harper's Magazine</i> , Vol. XXVII, Dec. '63-May '64		Bob Sipes	\$9.00
<i>In a New World</i>	H. Alger Association	Rob Kasper	\$5.00	<i>Our Young Folks</i> (Ticknor and Fields) Vol. II, 1866:			
<i>Facing the World</i> (lot, slipcased)				August issue contains "How Johnny Bought a Sewing Machine"			
<i>Bound to Rise</i>	H. Alger Association	Rob Kasper	\$5.00			Bob Sipes	\$6.00

Special consignment auction summary

William Thieme Collection

Title	Publisher	Buyer	Price	Title	Publisher	Buyer	Price
<i>Bound to Rise</i>	Loring, 1st ed.	Carol Nackenoff	\$15.00	<i>Strong and Steady</i>	HTC, Flying wheel (lot)		
<i>Slow and Sure</i>	Loring	Rob Kasper	\$15.00	<i>Strive and Succeed</i>	HTC, Flying wheel	Bill Gowen	\$20.00
<i>Charlie Codman's Cruise</i>	Loring	Carol Nackenoff	\$30.00	<i>Herbert Carter's Legacy</i>	HTC, Flying wheel	Carol Nackenoff	\$20.00
<i>Canal Boy to President</i>	J.R. Anderson, 2nd state (lot)			<i>Try and Trust</i>	P&C, Flying wheel (lot)		
<i>Farm Boy to Senator</i>	J.S. Ogilvie	Bill Gowen	\$15.00	<i>Bound to Rise</i>	P&C, Flying wheel	Bill Gowen	\$35.00
<i>Bertha's Christmas Vision</i>	Hurst	Bob Sipes	\$25.00	<i>Ragged Dick</i>	Winston Library (lot)		
<i>Helan Ford</i>	P&C, Alta Edition (lot)			<i>Rough and Ready</i>	Winston Library		
<i>Helping Himself</i>	H.T. Coates	Rob Kasper	\$10.00	<i>Rufus and Rose</i>	Winston Library	Keith Thompson	\$15.00
<i>Struggling Upward</i>	P&C, beehive, 1st ed.	Richard Hoffman	\$30.00	<i>Wait and Hope</i>	Winston Library (lot)		
<i>Finding a Fortune</i>	Penn	Carol Nackenoff	\$15.00	<i>Brave and Bold</i>	Winston Library		
<i>Five Hundred Dollars</i>	American Publishers (Linwood Edition)	Rob Kasper	\$25.00	<i>Digging for Gold</i>	Winston Library	Keith Thompson	\$20.00
<i>Joe's Luck</i>	A.L. Burt, Fez (Plain cover)	Keith Thompson	\$35.00	<i>Luck and Pluck</i>	Winston Library (lot)		
<i>Wait and Win</i>	A.L. Burt (lot)			<i>Sink or Swim</i>	Winston Library		
<i>Ralph Raymond's Heir</i>	A.L. Burt			<i>Try and Trust</i>	Winston Library	Bob Sipes	\$15.00
<i>Andy Gordon</i>	A.L. Burt	Bob Sipes	\$5.00	<i>Fame and Fortune</i>	Winston Library (lot)		
<i>Mark Manning's Mission</i>	A.L. Burt, Diamond, 1st ed. (lot)			<i>Frank Hunter's Peril</i>	Winston Library		
<i>Tom Thatcher's Fortune</i>	A.L. Burt, Diamond	Rob Kasper	\$10.00	<i>W. Sherwood's Probation</i>	Winston Library	Keith Thompson	\$18.00
<i>Luke Walton</i>	A.L. Burt, 3 circles (lot)			<i>Julius, the Street Boy</i>	Winston Library (lot)		
<i>Adrift in New York</i>	A.L. Burt, 3 circles	Robert Eastlack	\$10.00	<i>The Young Outlaw</i>	Winston Library		
<i>Victor Vane</i>	H.T. Coates, Sunburst	Bill Gowen	\$30.00	<i>Tattered Tom</i>	Winston Library	Bob Sipes	\$15.00
<i>Digging for Gold</i>	P&C, Gold coins	Richard Hoffman	\$5.00	<i>Chester Rand</i>	Winston Library (lot)		
<i>Frank and Fearless</i>	H.T. Coates, 10 stalks (1st ed.)	Carol Nackenoff	\$20.00	<i>Rupert's Ambision</i>	Winston Library		
<i>Frank Hunter's Peril</i>	Winston, 10 stalks	Bill Gowen	\$40.00	<i>Jed the Poorhouse Boy</i>	Winston Library	Bob Sipes	\$15.00
<i>The Young Salesman</i>	H.T. Coates, 10 stalks (1st ed.)	Rob Kasper	\$60.00	<i>Young Bank Messenger</i>	Winston Library (lot)		
<i>W. Sherwood's Probation</i>	H.T. Coates, 3 dandelions (1st ed.)	Rob Kasper	\$35.00	<i>Andy Grant's Pluck</i>	Winston Library		
<i>A Boy's Fortune</i>	H.T. Coates/Winston transitional 3 dandelions	Carol Nackenoff	\$15.00	<i>Frank and Fearless</i>	Winston Library	Bob Sipes	\$21.00
<i>Frank Converse: A Voyage to the Gold Coast</i> , F. Lovell & Co., (Wild Advent. Series)		Rob Kasper	\$34.00	<i>Tom Tracy</i>	S&S, boy with whip (lot)		
<i>Albertus T. Dudley: Following the Ball</i> (Phillips Exeter Series)	Lee & Shepard	Bob Petitto	\$7.00	<i>Ned Newton</i>	S&S, boy with whip	Richard Hoffman	\$30.00
<i>Leslie W. Quirk: The Fourth Down</i> (Wellworth College Series)	Little, Brown	Bob Sipes	\$10.00	<i>Tom Brace</i>	McKay, boy with whip (lot)		
<i>Julius, the Street Boy</i>	P&C, Tattered Tom Series (lot)			<i>A New York Boy</i>	McKay, boy with whip	Bill Gowen	\$10.00
<i>Sam's Chance</i>	HTC, Tatt. Tom Ser.	Bill Gowen	\$15.00	<i>The Store Boy</i>	P&C, Brown apple	Carol Nackenoff	\$40.00
<i>The Telegraph Boy</i>	HTC, Tattered Tom Series (lot)			<i>The Young Adventurer</i>	P&C, Brown apple (lot)		
<i>The Young Outlaw</i>	HTC, Tatt. Tom Ser.	Bill Gowen	\$45.00	<i>The Young Explorer</i>	P&C, Brown apple		
<i>Luck and Pluck</i>	P&C, Flying wheel (lot)			<i>The Young Miner</i>	P&C, Brown apple	Keith Thompson	\$40.00
<i>Sink or Swim</i>	P&C, Flying wheel	Bill Gowen	\$25.00	<i>Helping Himself</i>	P&C, Brown apple	Carol Nackenoff	\$25.00
				<i>Ben's Nugget</i>	P&C, Brown apple (lot)		
				<i>Frank's Campaign</i>	P&C, Brown apple		
				<i>Paul Prescott's Charge</i>	P&C, Brown apple	Keith Thompson	\$15.00
				<i>Julius, the Street Boy</i>	P&C, Brown apple (lot)		
				<i>Slow and Sure</i>	P&C, Brown apple		
				<i>Tattered Tom</i>	P&C, Brown apple	Keith Thompson	\$15.00
				Lots sold: 43		Total bids:	\$950.00
				Commission to H.A.S.:			\$190.00

Special consignment auction summary

Tom Noonan Collection

Title	Publisher	Buyer	Price
<i>The Young Adventurer</i>	Loring	Rob Kasper	\$40.00
<i>The Young Acrobat</i>	Tait, Sons. & Co., Linwood Edition	Rob Kasper	\$85.00
<i>The History of Meridian Lodge F&AM, 1892</i>		Bob Sipes	\$15.00
<i>Gazetteer of Massachusetts</i> (Alger references)		Rob Kasper	\$20.00
<i>The Errand Boy</i>	A.L. Burt, fez (1st HC)	Robert Eastlack	\$20.00
<i>Tattered Tom</i>	Loring, near-1st ed.	Richard Hoffman	\$15.00
<i>Ben, the Luggage Boy</i>	Winston Library (lot)		
<i>Try and Trust</i>	Winston Library	Keith Thompson	\$10.00
<i>Risen from the Ranks</i>	A.L. Burt (lot)		
<i>The Young Acrobat</i>	Chatterton-Peck	Robert Eastlack	\$10.00
<i>The \$500 Check</i>	H.M. Caldwell	Richard Hoffman	\$15.00
<i>Slow and Sure</i>	Hurst	Bob Sipes	\$5.00
<i>Phil the Fiddler</i>	Stitt w/Mershon d/j	Bob Sipes	\$93.00
<i>Rough and Ready</i>	Winston Library, d/j	Brad Chase	\$60.00
<i>Farm Boy to Senator</i>	S&S, boy with whip	Rob Kasper	\$10.00
<i>Helen Ford</i>	H.T. Coates	Bob Sipes	\$5.00
<i>In a New World</i>	A.L. Burt, red triangle (lot)		
<i>Andy Grant's Pluck</i>	A.L. Burt, 3 circles	Robert Eastlack	\$10.00
<i>The Store Boy</i>	A.L. Burt, red triangle (lot)		
<i>Andy Gordon</i>	A.L. Burt, red triangle		
<i>The Young Salesman</i>	A.L. Burt, red triangle	Robert Eastlack	\$15.00
<i>Dan the Newsboy</i>	A.L. Burt, gr. tulip, d/j	Bob Sipes	\$20.00
<i>Joe's Luck</i>	A.L. Burt, green tulip (lot)		
<i>Ben Bruce</i>	A.L. Burt, green tulip		
<i>Tony the Hero</i>	A.L. Burt, green tulip		
<i>The Errand Boy</i>	A.L. Burt, green tulip	Robert Eastlack	\$10.00
<i>Oliver Optic: All Aboard</i>	Inter. Book Co.	Bob Petitto	\$4.00
Two books of Longfellow poetry		Bob Sipes	\$8.00
Misc. lot of modern periodicals, Alger content		Bob Sipes	\$2.00
Misc. lot of Alger stamp-related items		Bob Petitto	\$40.00
<i>Student and Schoolmate</i> issues of Oct. and Dec. 1967			
(Ragged Dick issues)		Robert Eastlack	\$10.00
"The Young Postmaster" by Forrest Campbell		Bob Sipes	\$14.00
<i>Pluck and Luck</i> dime novel, No. 1396 (lot)			
<i>Pluck and Luck</i> dime novel, No. 1516			
<i>Work and Win</i> dime novel, No. 1129		Robert Eastlack	\$5.00
Misc. lot of newsboy-related material		Brad Chase	\$15.00
<i>Argosy</i> , June 1894 — Alger content		Robert Eastlack	\$15.00
<i>Argosy</i> , June 1896 — Alger content		Robert Eastlack	\$10.00
Misc. lot of Alger short stories, ads, etc.		Bob Sipes	\$2.00
Lots sold: 29		Total bids:	\$583.00
Commission to H.A.S.:			\$116.60



A large selection of quality Alger books was available for bidding during the annual H.A.S. consignment and donation auction.

Photo by Bill Gowen

Consignment from Kathy Alisch:

Title	Publisher	Buyer	Price
<i>The Telegraph Boy</i>	Loring, 1st ed.	Keith Thompson	\$225.00
Commission to H.A.S.:			\$45.00

2015 donation auction

Donation by Robert Eastlack:

Title	Issue	Buyer	Price
<i>Harper's Monthly</i> (lot)	December 1863		
	December 1863		
	March 1864		
	September 1867	Bob Sipes	\$10.00
<i>Gleason's Pictorial</i> (lot)	Dec. 17, 1853		
	March 26, 1853	Bob Huber	\$2.00

Donation by Doug Fleming:

One litre, Canadian maple syrup	Bob Petitto	\$15.00
One litre, Canadian maple syrup	Carol Nackenoff	\$15.00

2015 auction summary:

Donation total (all proceeds to H.A.S.).....	\$42.00
H.A.S. commission, Young consignment.....	\$208.20
H.A.S. commission, Thieme consignment.....	\$190.00
H.A.S. commission, Alisch consignment.....	\$45.00
Total bids, all auctions.....	\$2,841.00
H.A.S. proceeds, all auctions.....	\$601.80

'Fame and Fortune in Columbus'

(Continued from Page 3)

M. Sherman: Boys Sports Books and Much More," and Carol Nackenoff's presentation titled "The Crusade to Get Children off the Streets in Alger's Era." Both talks were supported by digital slides, and questions were welcomed from the audience.

Following a short break, Looney led the annual H.A.S. business meeting, at which all attendees were welcome. Following the acceptance by the membership of the annual reports of the executive director, treasurer and **Newsboy** editor, placed in nomination and elected by voice vote for a two-year term as director was Arthur W. Smitter (PF-952) from Grand Rapids, Michigan. The other two director positions were left vacant while the Society restructures the makeup of its board over the next two years (this topic is covered in the Board of Directors meeting report).

The major discussion concerned the location for the 2016

convention, and Looney announced that Bob and Wendy Sipes, in the absence of other volunteers for a site, had offered to host the meeting in Columbus, Indiana, located about 45-minutes' drive south of Indianapolis. Since this would be the third time the Sipes have hosted (2007 and 2013 previously), they picked a location that would not give the membership a sense of déjà vu.

Sipes noted that the city of Columbus (population of around 44,000) is known for its numerous examples of award-winning 20th century architecture. He also mentioned the availability of sightseeing in nearby scenic Brown County (including the town of Nashville), and the proximity of Columbus to Bloomington, home of the University of Indiana and the Eli Lilly Library, which has extensive juvenile holdings. The membership

voted to accept the Sipes' offer to return to the Hoosier State in 2016.

President Jeff Looney announced the recent bequest of \$5,000 to the Society from the estate of Robert J. Banks (PF-253) of South Carolina, the check made out to "Newsboy, Horatio Alger Society," which means emphasis will be placed on using this money toward sustaining and improving **Newsboy**. Looney said he would send a letter of appreciation acknowledging this gift (the letter is reproduced on Page 20).

With the conclusion of the business meeting, it was

time to begin the auction, with host Bob Huber serving as the lone auctioneer with help from several other members bringing the various lots to the front of the room and distributing them to the winning bidders.

The major part of the auction was comprised of two large consignments, from Arthur P. Young (PF-941) and William Thieme



Demian Katz holds up a copy of Street & Smith's *New York Weekly*, which he won at the annual consignment auction.

Photo by Bill Gowen

(PF-1109). Young's consignment consisted of a limited number of Alger books, along with a large amount of vintage Alger-related publications, selected documents, reference books and ephemera. Thieme's consignment was mainly Alger books, including eight first editions and many reprints from high-quality publishers such as Loring, Porter & Coates, Henry T. Coates, Penn, A.L. Burt, Winston and Ogilvie.

The auction moved along briskly, and after about an hour we took a break for the buffet lunch, and resumed the auction shortly before 1 p.m. Because of the limited number of available bidders, ground rules had been announced to keep certain lots from being virtual "giveaways," and if those lots did not draw a respectable opening bid, they were withdrawn and set



Bob Eastlack receives the 2015 Newsboy Award from H.A.S. president Jeff Looney.

Photo by Bob Sipes

aside for inclusion at next year's convention. However, more than 170 lots were successfully auctioned off, with total bids coming in at \$2,841, and the Society netted a total of \$601.80, including several donations totaling \$42.

The top-selling item was a Loring first edition of *The Telegraph Boy*, which Keith Thompson won for \$225. Even your editor, usually not a very active bidder, took home 11 lots, including some nice H.T. Coates reprints. (For complete auction results, see Pages 10-13).

At 5:30 p.m. we gathered in the lobby for the short drive to Columbus' historic German Village, location of Schmidt's Sausage Haus and Restaurant. Our buffet-style dinner, in an upstairs private room, consisted of a well-chosen selection of German specialties, including salad, entrees and dessert. One of the main selections was Schmidt's award-winning "Bahama Mama" spiced bratwurst.

Following dinner, we held our annual Horatio Alger trivia quiz, a tradition begun many decades ago by the late Ralph D. Gardner (PF-053). The 2015 winner was executive director Bob Sipes.

Upon our return to the hotel, several of us spent the remainder of the evening socializing in the meeting room and hotel lounge.

Saturday, May 2

Following breakfast on our own, it was time to set up the annual book sale in the meeting room. This event over the years has become more of a social gathering, since fewer members bring large quantities of books to

sell like in the "good old days." Exceptions this year included Jeff Looney's table of Ralph Henry Barbour books and Brad Chase selling his Alger reference books, along with a selection of quality series book reprints brought from Connecticut on behalf of Partic'lar Friend Jim Towey (PF-975).

By 10:30 a.m., the sale began to wrap up, which meant we had free time on a sunny Saturday to spend book-hunting or sightseeing. Your editor joined Bob Huber, Carol Nackenoff and Keith Thompson for a visit to two popular downtown bookstores, Acorn Books and Karen Wickliff Books, along with a large antique mall on the eastern edge of the city. Jeff Looney met us at our first stop, Acorn Books, where he found a very scarce Frank Channon title in dust jacket, *Jackson and his Henley Friends*.

By about 5:45 p.m. it was time to gather for our annual banquet, and we met in the hotel lobby for the five-minute drive to the 94th Aero Squadron restaurant, profusely decorated with period military equipment and regalia inside and out. Again, we had an excellent meal with three main entree choices, served by an attentive staff.

Following dinner, it was time for our awards ceremony, led by the annual **Strive and Succeed Award** presentation. Host Bob Huber introduced the recipient, Susan Hagos, a senior at Lincoln High School in the nearby suburb of Gahanna, who attended the banquet with her younger sister, Hiriti Hagos.

Susan Hagos, one of eleven children, was born in Asmara, Eritrea, and as a young child endured many personal hardships in that country and in neighboring Kenya, living for five years under oppressive political and health conditions before leaving with her family for America.

Susan plans to attend The Ohio State University, where she is yet to choose a major course of study. Huber presented her with a certificate, a check for \$1,000 and a copy of Alger's *Strive and Succeed*.

The annual H.A.S. awards were then presented by president Jeff Looney. The **Carl Hartmann Luck and Pluck Award** went to Richard Hoffman in appreciation for his hosting of the very successful 2014 convention in Annapolis, Maryland.

The **Newsboy Award** was presented to Robert Eastlack for his research and article on early A.L. Burt formats, as well as his preparation of a comprehensive **Newsboy** index, now posted on the official Horatio Alger Society website.

The **Richard Seddon Award** was presented to **Newsboy** editor William Gowen, given annually to the member who typifies the spirit and comradeship

(Continued on Page 20)

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THE AMERICAN YOUTH.

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William T. Adams and Horatio Alger, Jr.: Some afterthoughts

By Peter C. Walther (PF-548)

As all of you know from experience, a researcher's job is never quite done. Once we think we have completed a certain project we may pride ourselves that we have remembered to dot all our I's, but we eventually rue the fact some time afterward that we have neglected to cross our t's.

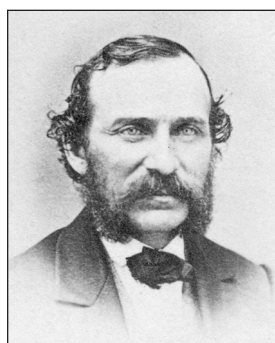
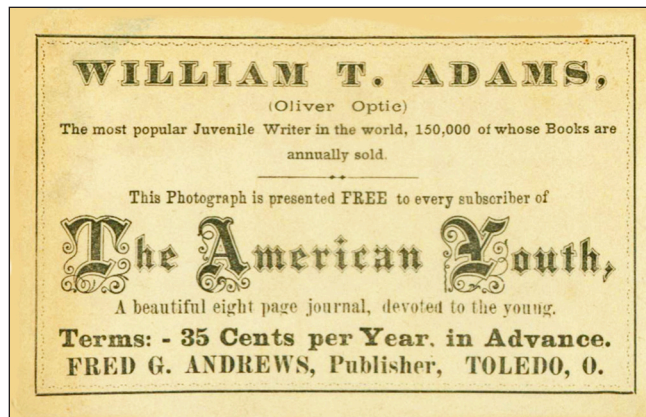
It was my distinct pleasure to have spoken at last year's Horatio Alger Society convention, "Adrift in Annapolis," my topic covering Horatio Alger and Oliver Optic. I do need to thank convention host Richard Hoffman for his kind words and for bringing me on board as featured speaker at that august event.

Shortly after returning home I did uncover a few further tidbits on these two authors. They are mutually exclusive as it turns out and really, have no bearing one upon the other, yet who is to say that had I not unearthed them by April of 2014 that they would not have found a place in my presentation? *Inutiles Regrets*. But since our esteemed editor has asked me for something further I am complying by supplying the following material in hopes that it will please and edify our general readership just a little. This data represented here is a summer discovery that needed to find its appropriate place in the columns of *Newsboy*.

As part of the September-October 2014 issue, a nice piece on *cartes de visite* (CDVs) by Bob Sipes found pride of place. Now, even though Mr. Sipes and I might entertain amusing differences in how to present our annual Alger quiz, he is a good and true man: a devoted and loyal Algerophile and a fine researcher. He did uncover the William T. Adams *carte de visite* sent free to subscribers of the amateur paper **The American Youth**. I subsequently discovered in the ample amateur newspaper files at the American Antiquarian Society in Worcester, Massachusetts, that they have both issues of said newspaper, published by Fred G. Andrews in Toledo, Ohio. Mr. Sipes is correct; there were only two numbers: May and June of 1871. As proclaimed in the the advertisement from this publication reproduced at left:

"In addition to the Paper — which is well worth six times the price asked for it — we present FREE TO EVERY SUBSCRIBER

OLIVER OPTIC'S PHOTOGRAPH,
and true Autograph. This is the only opportunity of the



Early Carte de Visite photograph of William T. Adams, with an advertisement on the reverse side for the short-lived 1871 newspaper **The American Youth, from the collection of Bob Sipes. A full-page promotional ad from **The American Youth** offering this photograph is reproduced on Page 16.**

kind ever offered to the admirers of this great Juvenile Writer, everywhere known as 'Uncle Oliver,' the Young Folk's Friend."

We think young Master Andrews somewhat mistaken, however, as **Student and Schoolmate** had offered the same premium to their subscribers just five years earlier. But that is perhaps another story.

On page 12 of the June 1871 issue of **The American Youth**, the publisher noted: "Everybody is grasping for Oliver Optic's photograph. They go like 'hot cakes.' Remember, that every subscriber to this paper receives one FREE." We are most gratified that Bob Sipes was able to grasp his copy of said photograph and share it with all of us some 143 years after the fact.

On now to Horatio Alger.

I did locate an autographed Alger letter at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania some time ago. Some of you may indeed have seen this and I don't think it is anything new. However, I am not certain if it has ever appeared in *Newsboy* before, and so I would like to include it now. There are two interesting conclusions

(Continued on Page 18)

William T. Adams and Horatio Alger, Jr.: Some afterthoughts

(Continued from Page 17)

to be drawn, I think, from its contents. First off, here is my transcription of said letter:

36 West 33 Street
Jan. 27, 1889

Dear Mr. Levy,

I am obliged to you for your appreciative letter.

I am unusually busy just now, having in addition to my ordinary work a play on the stocks which is to be brought out late in the season. When I am a little less occupied I shall be glad to accept your kind invitation.

I expect to be at home Tuesday evening Feb. 5th, if you feel like dropping in at that time.

Leeson [Lecson?] photographer, 343 Sixth Avenue, between 21st and 22nd Streets has a recent photograph of mine on sale, and you can obtain one there. It is from him that my adopted son learned the business. He is a fine artist, and should you or any of your friends desire photos, I think you will do well to sit for him.

Yours truly,
Horatio Alger, Jr.

Two interesting observations here. Besides not knowing the identity of this Mr. Levy nor what he wished from Alger, we do learn something about a play. I am pretty sure that among the papers transferred to Edward Stratemeyer by Alger's sister O.A. Cheney a few years after the author's death there was mention of a play. Would this be the same theatre piece that was planned for the end of the 1889 season as mentioned in Alger's letter? Was it ever mounted?

Unfortunately, the author does not give the title of this work nor anything further relating to it. I personally do not know of any plays that Alger wrote with the exception of the one he discloses here. Maybe Alger scholars who are reading this have the inside track on this subject. To my knowledge the definitive Alger biography by Gary Scharnhorst and Jack Bales makes no mention of any Alger play.

The photograph Alger mentions, "a recent photograph of mine," can then be tentatively dated late 1888 or early 1889. I am reminded of that famous Alger photograph

To An Absent Friend

*When the twilight darkens all the hills
And shadows all the sea,
A while I pause from other cares
To Think, dear friend, of thee.*

*And soon into my darkened room
The image seems to glide,
And, as in old familiar times
Thou'rt seated by my side.*

*Again I clasp my friendly hand
That throbs within my own,
Again I look upon thy face
Nor deem I am alone.*

Horatio Alger, Jr.

I first noted in Ralph Gardner's ground breaking biography back in 1964. Is this the one Alger was referring to? It can be found among the collection of photographs immediately preceding Chapter 1, and is reproduced on page 19. Based on the letter quoted above, does this photo of Horatio Alger in Gardner's book look to be that of a man soon approaching his 57th birthday? It is my opinion that that could well be the case.

When I do my research work in 19th century newspapers I keep a weather eye out for Sylvanus Cobb, John Townsend Trowbridge (Paul Creyton), Louisa May Alcott, William H. Thomes, Edward S. Ellis, James deMille and, of course, for any Horatio Alger material as well ... all of which is of course subsidiary to any comprehensive sightings for Oliver Optic. I have noted some curious items in the Boston **True Flag**, which I think deserve some comment as they are all Alger related.

The year 1852 provided Horatio Alger a steady market in the columns of the **American Union**, but it was with **True Flag** that the greater percentage of his short fiction first appeared. Alger's very first appearance to be sure in the pages of **True Flag** did not occur until some months after his initial contact with the editorial office of the **American Union**.

The actual verified debut for Alger in **True Flag** was a poem (reproduced above) titled "To An Absent Friend" and signed "Horatio Alger, Jr." Male? Female? It is not possible within the context of this poem to clarify the gender of the "absent friend." The date was April 9, 1853 (page 4), and on page 2 one will also note the advertisement for the cover story "The Last Of The Randolphins"



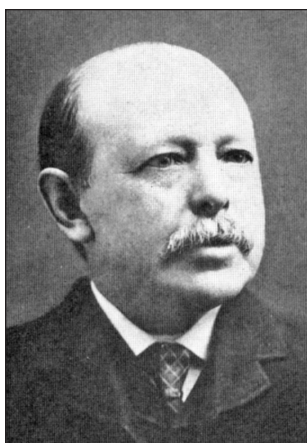
by Theodore W. Arnold, William T. Adams' byline for this weekly, that would appear in the following issue.

Once again, as I promoted in my Annapolis presentation (published in two parts in *Newsboy* (September-October and November-December 2014) both authors appeared hand-in-glove, one alongside the other, during the 1860s, but certainly 1853 was a full decade earlier than in the later stages of their **Student and Schoolmate** association.

The next item was not to be found in the original version of Victor A. Berch and Edward T. LeBlanc's bibliography of Alger's short fiction, which came out in 1990, although it may have been inputted as a subsequent addition. The piece in question is another poem. Its full title is "A Spanish Serenade, Inscribed To Miss O. Augusta Alger, Translated For The True Flag." It is simply signed "C.C." and it does not require a leap of inference to posit that "C.C." was none other than "Carl Cantab," as this verse pays tribute to the author's sister. It appeared a few weeks later, May 14, 1853, on the second page. We are reasonably unclear about Alger's facility with languages, so whether he translated this item himself from the original Spanish or even assisted with its rendering into English is not known at this time. Possibly this serenade was merely intended to capture the spirit of a Spanish song rather than a literal representation of a Spanish poem into English.

An original item titled "The Newsboy, A Sketch Of Boston Life," was published a week later. It appeared on page 4 as by "A New Contributor." Alger, do we think? Berch and LeBlanc cite the possibility of this and I must concur. He was certainly a new contributor to **True Flag** at this juncture, and it was a topic that we know would resound in the author's works again and again throughout his career. I find it serendipitous to say the very least.

Let us not forget what Alger does in our final entry. It is another sketch, probably nothing very remarkable: "The Mountain Maid, Imitated From The Spanish," by Carl Cantab and dated June 4, 1853 (page 2). What is significant, however, is the fact that it is "Inscribed To Miss Kate Fenno." Mrs. Alger, the author's mother,



This most well-known photo of Horatio Alger, Jr. is tentatively dated late 1888 or early 1889. At right, Alger's mother, Olive Augusta Fenno Alger.

was a "Fenno" (Olive Augusta Fenno Alger), if you recall your Alger lore, and so this might warrant a bit of sleuthing. How well did Alger know Kate Fenno? Was she a cousin? An aunt? Were they close? Is there Fenno material housed somewhere that might reveal something of Alger's early life and his familial relations? It is certainly entirely possible that Kate Fenno was a distaff relation. What the significance of all of this might represent is well worth some research by an enterprising individual, it seems to me.

Fortunately, our work is never done; it is the lure of the unknown that forever excites us, that defines our persona as seekers after truth. The boundaries yet to be discovered, the lost pockets of information: they drive us relentlessly forward.

As Madame Defarge said in *A Tale of Two Cities*: "Tricoter ... tricoter ... tricoter." It is always our next potential discovery that drives us irresistibly on; it is what lies tantalizingly around the next corner that excites us and stirs our blood. We can only rest on our laurels once we have nothing further to say, but for those of us in the Horatio Alger Society, that time will never come.

Horatio Alger Society receives \$5,000 bequest

Editor's note: On my return from a trip to the Nation's Capital and Philadelphia in early April, I was surprised to find in my mail a letter from a South Carolina law firm, stating in part: "Please find enclosed a copy of the Last Will and Testament of Mr. Robert J. Banks. Mr. Banks bequeathed to you \$5,000.00 (Five-thousand Dollars and 00/100), in which I have enclosed a check made payable to you."

At the recent convention in Columbus, Ohio, the Board of Directors decided a note of appreciation should be written. Because as far as we know, Banks (PF-253) did not leave any family living near his home, we drafted the letter of thanks (below) to the law firm which probated Mr. Banks' estate.

The Mosteller Law Firm, LLC
Attorneys at Law
322 Laurens St., NW, P.O. Drawer 328
Aiken, SC 29801

Gentlemen:

This will acknowledge your letter notifying the Horatio Alger Society of the bequest to the Society of the sum of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) from the estate of Robert J. Banks of Aiken County, South Carolina. In my capacity as society president, and speaking on behalf of all its members, I wish to acknowledge this

generous donation and express our gratitude for this posthumous expression by Mr. Banks of his affection for our society and its work. Mr. Banks was a life member, holding the low membership number of 253 dating from his joining the our organization during its first decade in 1968.

Our records suggest that this is the largest bequest we have ever received. Mr. Banks's generosity was duly noted at our recent convention in Columbus, Ohio, and a vote of thanks unanimously approved.

We note that he has a special interest in the Society's journal, *Newsboy*, and that the check was actually made out to "Newsboy, Horatio Alger Society." We will therefore strive to devote this money especially to strengthening and keeping that journal viable, and we have decided that for starters a portion of this donation well be used to subsidize the inclusion of more color photography in the pages. If you are aware of heirs of descendant of friends of Mr. Banks to whom these sentiments of gratitude and respect can be conveyed, we would be grateful for your assistance.

Jeff Looney, President
Horatio Alger Society
1712 Concord Drive
Charlottesville, VA 22901



Bob Petitto gives the keynote address at the banquet, his talk titled "Collecting Optic: Mystery, Discovery and Conjecture."

Photo by Bill Gowen

'Fame and Fortune in Columbus'

(Continued from Page 15)

of the late Dick Seddon of Massachusetts, who hosted the 1977 convention, "Booked in Boston."

The final event of the evening was the keynote address by H.A.S. director Bob Petitto, a longtime Oliver Optic collector whose talk, appropriately, was titled "Collecting Optic: Mystery, Discovery and Conjecture." One of the many fascinating aspects of the presentation was a series of digital slides showing various cover formats issued by early publishers of William T. Adams' books, prominent among them Lee & Shepard.

The annual banquet concluded, we made the short drive back to the hotel where we gathered in small groups in the lounge for more book-talk before retiring for the night.

Sunday, May 3

On Sunday morning, it was time for our "farewell breakfast" in the hotel restaurant, and then we headed for our cars or the shuttle to the airport for the return home. Next on tap is 2016 and our visit to "another" Columbus — this time Columbus, Indiana.