



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.

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Convention issue

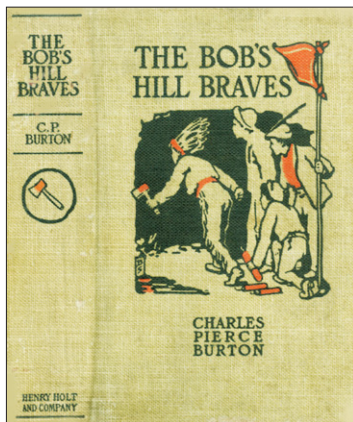
'Bears of Blue River'

- * Convention report
- * Directors meeting report
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- * Treasurer's report

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Chase Woodall receives the 2019 **Strive and Succeed Award** from host Bob Sipes. Photo by Carol Nackenoff



Charles Pierce Burton and the Bob's Hill Boys

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President's column

Good afternoon from 35,000 feet somewhere over Southern Indiana:

We had a very successful convention in Shelbyville, and I know that all attendees would agree that our hosts, Wendy and Bob Sipes, did a fabulous job!

On Friday, Bill Gowen reviewed the life and books of Maine native L. P. Wyman, and in addition, I spoke a bit about the 19th century **Chatterboxes**, which were produced by numerous publishers.

We also had the pleasure of welcoming our friends from Northern Illinois University, Sarah Cain, head of Rare Books and Special Collections; and Matthew Short, Digital Collections and Metadata Librarian. Sarah gave us important updates on the Horatio Alger repository, including recent donations and the current status of the Horatio Alger Fellowships. Matthew used PowerPoint slides to brief the members on NIU's ongoing digitization project of the library's dime novel holdings (in particular, the Albert Johannsen and Edward LeBlanc collections), in partnership with Villanova University.

Following lunch, Bob Huber did his usual great job as auctioneer, and I know he wrangled a few extra bucks out of us unsuspecting bidders.

Saturday was a highlight for me. The open house at the Sipes' residence was incredible, and Bob's collection is superb. Of course, Wendy's cookies were a big hit, and it appeared to me that some members might have "borrowed" a few for later enjoyment. No names will be mentioned, but I can tell y'all (Texas lingo) that they are being well received here in the friendly skies.

Our Saturday night banquet was another major highlight. The 2019 **Strive and Succeed Award** recipient, Chase Woodall, was most worthy of this honor, and the evening's guest speaker, Ron Hamilton, gave a very interesting talk about several Shelbyville historical figures who succeeded in life, true to the "strive and succeed" model of Horatio Alger's young heroes.

For those unfortunate enough to miss it, let me tell you that the parallel parking effort of vice president James King was nothing short of sensational. I am convinced he basically fit a minivan into a space where an old Ford Pinto would have been a tight fit.

Bob Petitto brought part of his ephemera collection, and I was very impressed with the number of autographed letters he was able to show me. I got me thinking about

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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.

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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, 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 60047. E-mail: hasnewsboy@aol.com

2019 convention report

'Bears of Blue River'

By William R. Gowen (PF-706)

It had been 12 years since the Horatio Alger Society last visited Shelbyville, Indiana, and the "welcome" sign was in full view as we arrived there on June 6 for our 55th convention, "Bears of Blue River." Hosts Bob and Wendy Sipes had our activities laid out for the weekend, and the hospitality room was open when we arrived on Thursday afternoon. The new Holiday Inn Express was conveniently located at Shelbyville exit No. 113 on Interstate 74. The annual Board of Directors meeting was convened at 4:30 p.m. in the hospitality room, with adjournment at 6:45 [see Bob Sipes' detailed report on the meeting on Pages 8-9].

While Bob did his final organization of sales lots for Friday's auction, several Particular Friends headed downtown for dinner, and we settled on Pasghetti's Italian Restaurant, just five minutes away on the Shelbyville town circle. The pizza and pasta entrees were excellent and the staff was very friendly and accommodating.

Following dinner, we returned to the hospitality room for additional snacks and renewal of acquaintances.

Friday, June 7

Traditionally, the busiest day of the convention is Friday, and following a directors' breakfast in the hotel's lounge at which unfinished business from the previous day was discussed, host Bob Sipes and President Cary Sternick made their welcoming comments in the hospitality/meeting room to all attendees.

Soon we were underway with our formal program. Editor Bill Gowen presented an overview of the life and work of author Levi Parker Wyman, a native of Maine who spent his career as a professor and administrator at Pennsylvania Military College in Chester, Pa. (now part of Widener University). Wyman authored 30 books

for boys, in three series totaling 25 titles, plus five "single" titles, all published by A.L. Burt. These books, most of them set in the Maine wilderness, are highly collectible today. The most popular of these series in its day was the 10-volume Golden Boys Series.

Cary Sternick's presentation offered a history of the ubiquitous **Chatterbox** books, which utilized then-

new chromo-lithograph color printing to appeal to young readers in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. The books' many publishers over the years included such familiar names as Estes & Lauriat, Dana Estes and L.C. Page. Both presentations were illustrated with digital color slides.

The business meeting followed after a short break. Executive Director Bob Sipes went through the agenda, which included a report on membership trends [see chart on Page 8],

possible future conventions in 2021 and beyond, and the proposal forwarded by the Board of Directors for a modest annual dues increase of five dollars (\$30 for regular membership and \$25 for seniors). Bob Eastlack moved that we enact this increase, Carol Nackenoff seconded the motion and the increase was approved by voice vote, with a schedule for implementation to be announced.

Sipes also summarized the annual **Newsboy** and Treasurer's Reports, with details published on Pages 8, 9 and 14, respectively.

President Cary Sternick opened a discussion of the Society's ongoing work toward a name change to help increase awareness among potential new members. Our aging membership is a major concern, with declining enrollment the inevitable result. Other initiatives to increase the Society's visibility include a new Face-

(Continued on Page 5)



President Cary Sternick discusses the *Chatterbox* books to fellow members and guests at the 2019 convention. Photo by Bill Gowen



A Union cannon sits poised on Cemetery Ridge, in the Gettysburg National Military Park.

Photo by Bill Gowen

Editor's notebook

The 55th Horatio Alger Society convention is over, and now we move into summer. Spring was very unkind to us in the Midwest, where corn is king in many locations throughout the region. Unfortunately, the never-ending spring rain has kept farmers from planting on schedule, and we're nearly up to the deadline for harvesting corn and other crops before the first frost hits.

The convention was a lot of fun, with this writer learning all about the **Chatterbox** books from our president, Cary Sternick, along with very informative presentations by our colleagues at Northern Illinois University: head of NIU Libraries' Rare Books and Special Collections Sarah Cain, and Matthew Short, Digital Collections and Metadata Librarian. We also received a descriptive introduction by Bob Eastlack, who will be hosting the 2020 convention, "Gettysburg Campaign" at his alma mater, Gettysburg College (announcement, above).

The food was outstanding, with special mention deserved for Wendy Sipes, who organized our box lunch on Friday as well as providing a fantastic lunch spread for Saturday's open house, where we got to enjoy Bob Sipes' fantastic collection, back *in situ* after a neighborhood flood made his basement uninhabitable (and his books safely in storage) for well over a year.

The background story of our **Strive and Succeed Award** recipient, Chase Woodall, was presented by Sipes during the annual banquet (with Woodall giving a very heartfelt acceptance speech), and this story of his often-harrowing road to survival from premature birth to young adult-

Mark your calendars now!

The 56th annual convention of the Horatio Alger Society is scheduled for June 4 to June 7, 2020.

Gettysburg College will be the site of this gathering of members of the Horatio Alger Society, along with anyone else interested in children's literature of the 19th and early 20th centuries. The full schedule of events will include the Board of Directors meeting, the annual book auction and several interesting presentations, along with food, fellowship and an opportunity to tour the Gettysburg battlefield.

Additional information will appear in the upcoming five issues of **Newsboy**, starting in July-August and leading up to the convention. — **Bob Eastlack (PF-557)**

hood is described by Sipes in his article on Page 7.

For me, personally, I have another story to tell. Less than 15 hours after the banquet, I pulled into my driveway in suburban Chicago and picked up the Sunday paper. The main story on Page 1 was headlined "Full-Circle Journey." The article was hauntingly familiar: it followed the life story of recent high school graduate Adelaide "Addy" Sackett, who lives in a small town in the far western suburbs. Like Chase Woodall, she was born very prematurely, weighing 1 pound, 3 ounces, much like Chase's 1 pound, 14 ounces. Both were not expected to live past a few days, and both survived. Addy was cared for throughout her ordeal by Nancy Lebach and Mara Levy, two of her neonatal critical care nurses at Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge.

By the time Addy was in fifth grade, she'd made up her mind to become a neonatal nurse herself with encouragement from Lebach and Levy, now family friends who attended her graduation. Entering college this fall, she has been a volunteer worker at a Rockford hospital, and wants to eventually practice as a neonatal critical care nurse at Lutheran General, where she was born.

"I'm very passionate about it," she said. "Just from my own personal experience, I'm drawn to it. I find medicine fascinating. Helping people comes naturally to me. This is all I've ever envisioned myself doing."

That is a close echo of Chase Woodall's comments at the H.A.S. banquet, when he also said he planned to enter the field of neonatal nursing.

I marvel at this amazing confluence of parallel stories. Both are certain to raise the human spirit — two young people planning to give back to the profession that made it possible for them to be here today. A lot of people treat Alger's "Strive and Succeed" model as a cliché, but in this case it's an apt phrase as Chase and Addy head toward careers helping others.

'Bears of Blue River'

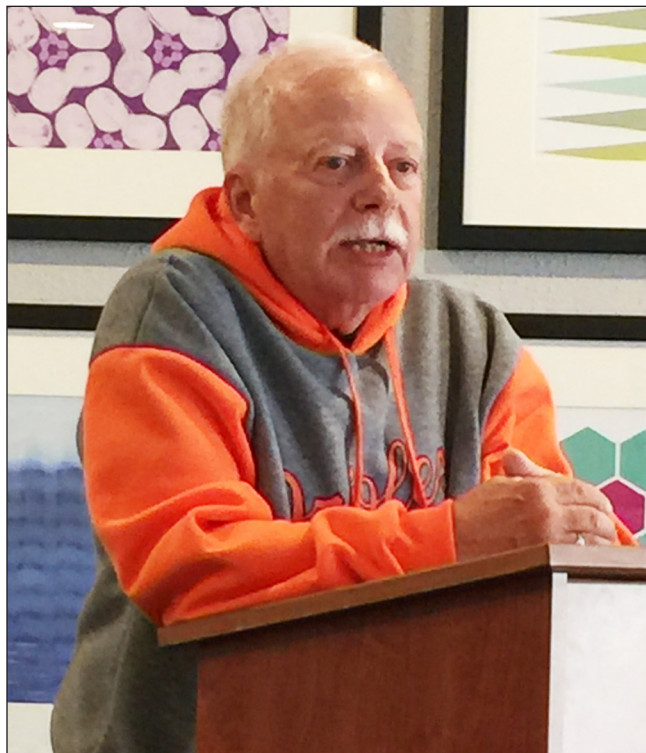
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book page and blogs to help spread the word that our research and collecting interests encompass the years "1860-ish to 1930-ish."

Bob Eastlack followed with an introduction to the 2020 H.A.S. convention, which he will be hosting next June 4 to June 7 at Gettysburg College. He described an overall registration fee to cover both the convention and housing, along with other details. Planning is well underway, with five speakers already slotted, three for Friday and two for Saturday morning. Eastlack will have preview articles and other pertinent information in each of the upcoming *Newsboy* issues leading up to the convention.

The Friday agenda also included a lunch-hour presentation by Sarah Cain, Northern Illinois University's head of Rare Books and Special Collections, who updated the group on the status of the Horatio Alger Repository and Fellowships, noting that two fellowships were awarded in 2018 and none in 2019, with this year's funds rolled over to next year's prospective fellows.

Acquisitions in the past year included donations from several sources, including those by longtime Partic'lar Friends Bob Kersch (PF-946) and Bill Russell (PF-549). Kersch donated 65 Winston "Standing Boy" format Alger books, while Russell donated 402 *Sugar Creek Gang* books to the NIU American Popular Literature Collection, with other donations by Bob Meeker (69 Algers by 13 publishers) and Peter Kutner donating



Bob Eastlack reveals preliminary details of the 2020 convention, which he will host at Gettysburg College.

Photo by Carol Nackenoff

111 Alger books by 15 different publishers.

NIU Libraries' Digital Collections and Metadata Librarian Matthew Short followed with a twofold PowerPoint talk, opening with an encore of his presentation on April 17 at the Popular Culture Associa-

(Continued on Page 20)

'Bears of Blue River' — Attendance list

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

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

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

Debby Jones (PF-1092)
Bellefonte, Pa.

Rusty Black
Bellefonte, Pa.

James King (PF-1126)
Plantation, Fla

Carol Nackenoff (PF-921)
Swarthmore, Pa.

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

Bob Sipes (PF-1067)
Shelbyville, Ind.

Wendy Sipes
Shelbyville, Ind.

Gerald Sipes
Shelbyville, Ind.

Cary Sternick (PF-933)
The Woodlands, Texas

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

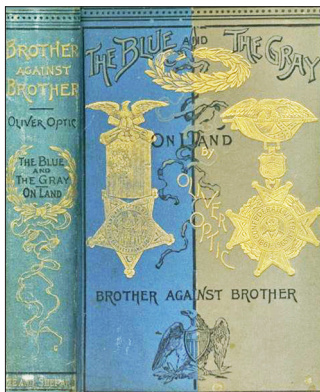
Isaac Trolinder (PF-1136)
St. Paul, Ind.

Sarah Cain
Northern Illinois University

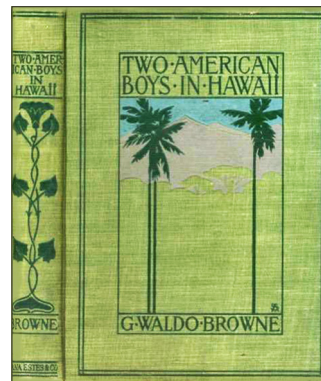
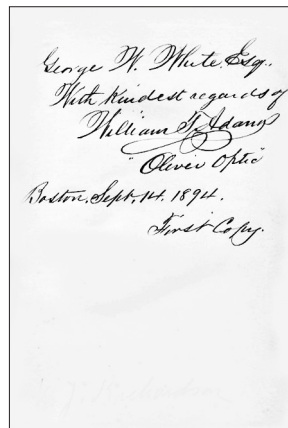
Matthew Short
Northern Illinois University

Greg Biberdorf
Franklin, Ind.

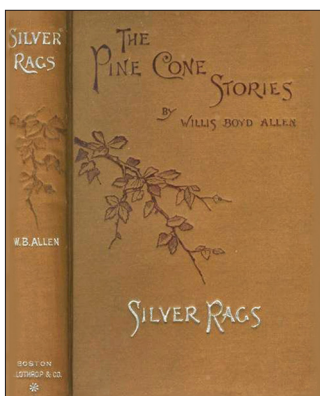
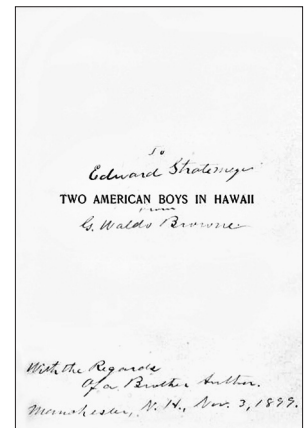
TOTAL: 17
H.A.S. MEMBERS: 11



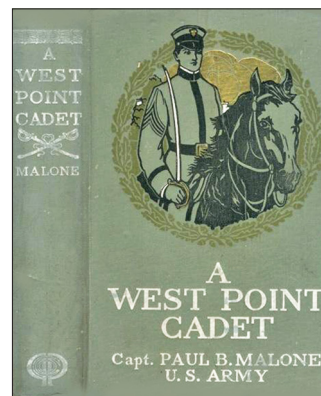
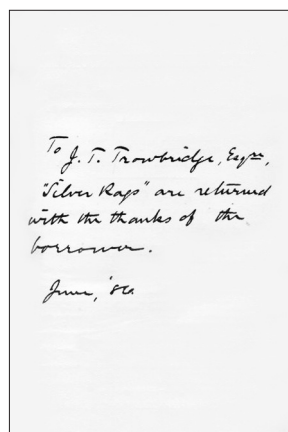
Example 1



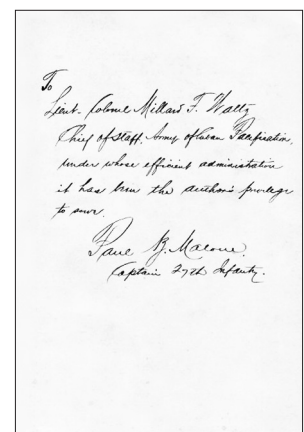
Example 2



Example 3



Example 4



President's column

(Continued from Page 2)

another area of collecting (like my last column on publishers' advertising covers), in this case autographed books. Some of these volumes only have a "truly yours and good luck" type of autograph, but others are much more interesting.

Before I sign off, I thought I would picture just a few that I have found over the years.

Ex. 1: Here is an "Oliver Optic" inscription to George W. White, Esquire, the dedicatee of the book *Brother Against Brother*. How often do you see "first copy" as part of an inscription?

Ex. 2: This book, *Two American Boys in Hawaii*, is a nice association copy presented to Edward Stratemeyer by author George Waldo Browne, one of Stratemeyer's early contract writers for his syndicate.

Ex. 3: In this book, a reader expresses his thanks while returning a loaned book, W. B. Allen's *Silver Rags*, to the book's owner, the noted author J. T. Trowbridge.

Ex. 4: Finally, author Paul B. Malone inscribes this

copy of his *A West Point Cadet* to fellow U.S. Army officer, Lt. Col. Millard F. Waltz, a very famous Army commander at the turn of the century.

In conclusion, the well-worn subject of our dwindling membership numbers and the Horatio Alger Society's future was discussed at great length during the annual Board of Directors meeting. H.A.S. name change options have been proposed, along with developing new sites on Facebook and the Internet with the goal of increasing awareness of our society and growing our numbers are underway, which should be implemented in the upcoming weeks.

Host Bob Eastlack is well ahead of the curve with his planning for "Gettysburg Campaign," the 2020 convention in Gettysburg, Pa. It should be a great success.

I wish you all a wonderful summer. Be happy and healthy.

Your Partic'lar Friend,
Cary Sternick (PF-933)
26 Chestnut Hill Ct.
The Woodlands, TX 773780
(713) 444-3181
Email: css3@mac.com

Strive and Succeed Award

A survivor ... and a true Alger hero

By Bob Sipes (PF-1067)

The 2019 **Strive and Succeed Award** was presented to a very worthy recipient. This was the fourth time I have had the opportunity to choose an award recipient, and in this case I chose a candidate I feel fits the profile of an Alger “hero” persevering through tough situations to achieve success. As I reviewed some profiles of local students, I again became frustrated with the lack of personal knowledge of the candidates and my personal knowledge that the first two recipients I previously selected did not finish college.

While trying to decide, a boy I knew announced his graduation. I had not considered him as I thought he was a junior. Chase Woodall quickly rose to the top of my list, and I believe you will agree.

Chase was born prematurely at 27 weeks by emergency C-Section. He weighed 1 pound, 14 ounces, and was 12¾ inches in length. Five weeks later, Chase was given blood in the NICU at his hospital. The blood had meningitis, pneumonia, and yeast in it. Whoever donated the blood was very sick, and their blood was transfused directly into his bloodstream.

After 12 hours of the blood transfusion Chase started having severe seizures. The doctors told the family to gather in because he wasn’t going to make it through the night. Chase, fighting for his life, was placed on a ventilator that night and he remained on it for 19 days.

The day he was taken off the ventilator he was given a CT scan, which showed he had hydrocephalus (spinal fluid on his brain from the meningitis). His ventricles in his brain had scarring and weren’t allowing his spinal fluid to flow properly. He had to have a VP shunt surgically implanted to take the fluid out of his brain and move it into his abdomen, where it’s absorbed by his body. This lowers the pressure and swelling in brain.

After surgery, the neurosurgeon told the family to expect severe delays because of the epilepsy and that the VP shunt would cause him to have severe mental disabilities throughout his life. He added that Chase would

never walk, talk or be anything but a “vegetable.”

Chase has now had 8 VP shunts, his last one on October 18, 2015. His current neurosurgeon tells Chase every time he sees him that he is a miracle. Similar children are mentally delayed, but Chase has no delays.

For many years Chase had seizures, as many as 135 seizures in one day, and at times the family wondered if the doctors could be right. His mental status was severely compromised, and he struggled with simple daily commands and tasks. The family and their church family continued to pray and believe in a God that could do miracles. In May of 2013, Chase was healed from epilepsy and he hasn’t had any seizures since.

Chase is a miracle, but he has had much to overcome

throughout his life. I have observed Chase over the past five years. He has persevered through his health issues, developing into an upright young man who always has a smile on his face. He doesn’t know a stranger and he loves people of all walks of life. The majority of his adolescence was in the hospital and it is no surprise that he has decided to pursue a career as an RN.



Strive and Succeed Award recipient Chase Woodall, center, enjoys dinner with his family during the H.A.S. banquet. Photo by James King

It was my honor to present him with the 2019 **Strive & Succeed Award** and all that comes with it. Chase, who attended our banquet with his parents, addressed those present, thanking them for the award and declaring his desire to do his part to make the world a better place.

* * *

Wendy and I appreciate each of you who attended the 2019 convention, “Bears of Blue River.” We had a great time hosting the convention and spending time with each of you. As always, the camaraderie, discussions, food, entertainment and books would not have been enjoyable without you. A successful convention is a joint effort by all who attend and are involved in any way. We thank each of you for helping to make it a success. We missed those of you who were unable to attend and we hope you are doing well. We are already looking forward to Gettysburg and hope to see all of you there.

Membership	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Regular	80	81	86	93	101	101	101	104	114
Sustaining	11	13	15	11	11	13	14	8	1
Life*	8	8	8	6	7	7	8	8	9
Honorary	4	4	4	4	5	5	4	4	4
Institutions	10	10	10	10	10	9	10	10	10
Total	113	116	123	124	134	135	137	134	138

*Jack Bales is a life member who asked to change his membership and has subsequently paid as a Sustaining Member.

Horatio Alger Society Board of Directors Meeting

Shelbyville, Indiana — June 6, 2019

In Attendance:

Cary Sternick, President
James King, Vice President
Robert Sipes, Exec. Director; host
William R. Gowen, Editor
Robert D. Eastlack, Director
Carol Nackenoff, Director
Robert M. Petitto, Director

Marlena Bremseth, Director*

*Attended via digital presence

Absent:

Barry Schoenborn, Treasurer
Jack Bales, Director
Joseph Strang, Director
James Keeline, Director
Michael Morley, Director

President Cary Sternick, called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. No old issues were noted.

Bob Sipes, in Barry Schoenborn's absence, presented the annual financial report. Gross income for the previous 12 months was \$4,666.59 and expenses were \$6,147.92 resulting in a net loss of \$1,481.33 for the fiscal year ending April 30, 2019. This is a large decrease from the small profit of \$34.93 realized last year. The Executive Director had a deposit on hand of \$715.00 which did not make it in time for the financials. This would have brought the financials more in line with the 2016 and 2017 losses for the previous two years of \$784.05 and \$828.56, respectively. The large loss can be attributed a small loss for the 2018 HAS convention, reduced auction proceeds and timing of deposits. Total cash on hand includes \$7,460.44 in checking deposits and \$9,073.02 in a certificate of deposit for a total of \$16,533.46.

While our year-over-year losses have normally been small, with a few slight 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, promoting the Sustaining membership option and continuing to solicit high-quality auction material for future conventions. Some discussion ensued regarding options to open our auctions up to either live bidding or pre-bidding by non-attendee H.A.S. members. Live bidding would be difficult to manage, but pre-bidding would most likely result in higher realized

bids. We also discussed a slight increase in membership dues. There will be more to come in the future regarding the dues increase as a \$5.00 increase was later approved during the HAS business meeting.

The regular **Strive & Succeed Award** fund income for the previous 12 months totaled \$711.83. This is a decrease over the previous year; however, the stipend to the recipient selected by the convention host remained at \$1,000.

Robert Sipes, Executive Director, reported total membership at 113. This includes 80 Regular members, 11 Sustaining members, 8 Life, 4 Honorary and 10 Libraries. There were 2 new members added during the previous 12 months and 5 drops for a net loss of 3 members. The drop in membership is primarily due to the passing of some of our aging members. As greater than 75 per cent of our membership are seniors, this situation will continue without membership growth. Total membership by category is presented in the table, above.

There was much discussion regarding how we manage and process dues, which may result in changes to the dues collection process. We also discussed increasing membership by targeting the academic community with more academic article submissions for publication in **Newsboy**.

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 182 Facebook members that have liked the H.A.S. page and receive updates. This is up 6 from last year at this time. Many of these Facebook members are not H.A.S. members.

The level of activity on the H.A.S. page is low; however, when a member posts some content, there is a small level of activity implying that increased content would result in increased activity. Increased activity requires increased posts that are interesting and thought provoking.

Cary Sternick and Robert Sipes led a lively discussion regarding actions the H.A.S. could take to increase its presence, membership and conference attendance. During the past year, Cary solicited input from the H.A.S. with little success. Therefore, we are making some decisions and moving forward as necessary for the continued existence of the Horatio Alger Society. Sternick and Sipes agreed to create a new Facebook group focused from Alger to Swift (~1850-1930) and begin posting some of Cary's blog posts to the new group along with

other content. This group will have a different name, but will be sponsored by the H.A.S. Robert also agreed to begin posting past convention photos and presentation videos to the H.A.S. Facebook page and the new group. The H.A.S. leadership and Board solicit help and input from the membership.

Robert also discussed our relationship with EBSCO. (You can locate additional information regarding our EBSCO relationship in past H.A.S. Board meeting minutes). To date, we have not received any income from EBSCO; however, we have uploaded all **Newsboy** issues back to and including the January-February 1992 issue and continue to upload current issues as they are released.

Robert Sipes invited Sarah Cain, Curator & Department Head, Rare Books and Special Collections, Northern Illinois University Libraries, to present the status of the NIU Horatio Alger Repository and Endowment. She reported that Robert Kersch (PF-946) donated 65 Winston *Standing Boy* format Alger books to complete the NIU set of plain endpaper variants of this format. This is the first known complete set.

Robert Meeker donated 69 Alger books by 13 different publishers. Peter Kutner donated 111 Alger books, including four titles from the *Way to Success Series* published by Porter and Coates, in addition to titles printed by 14 other publishers. Ralph Gardner, Jr. has been in contact regarding an addition to the Ralph Gardner Papers that contain the latter's correspondence and materials documenting how various important political, business, literary and religious figures of the 1960s thought about Horatio Alger's "Strive and Succeed theme. Also, Bill Russell (PF-549) donated 402 *Sugar Creek Gang* books to the NIU American Popular Literature Collection. This is likely one of the most complete *Sugar Creek Gang* series collections.

A new NIU Libraries Special Collections website was launched in February 2019 and can be viewed at <https://www.niu.edu/ulib/content/collections/rbsc/index.shtml>. NIU continues to provide scans and other research information to H.A.S. members upon request. The table below shows the endowment net principal for the past few years. The minor fluctuations are due to the financial markets and the number of fellowships provided during fiscal year. The large increase for 2019 was due to a \$10,000 donation from one of our members.

There were two Horatio Alger research fellowships fulfilled in 2018. The majority of the funds (\$1,500) were awarded to Derek Thiess, a lecturer in the Department of English at the University of North Georgia. He studied youth and violence by engaging the convergence of two popular myths in American culture, the rags-to-riches myth and that of redemptive violence, present in Alger's *Ragged Dick* series and Eleanor Arnason Papers, particularly in the materials concerning her Hwarhath stories.

NIU HAS Endowment	Jun-19	May-18	May-17	May-16	May-15	May-14
Net Principal	\$59,334.66	\$49,513.38	\$45,752.93	\$50,764.39	\$52,667.43	\$45,790.37

The other fellowship (\$500) was awarded to NIU English Professor Melissa Adams-Campbell, a winner of one of the 2017 fellowships, who continued research for her book about literary representations of Native American women, which drew upon the NIU Library's Albert Johannsen and Edward LeBlanc dime novel collections. Both fellows agreed to place a copy of their research in the collection once it has been accepted for publication.

No one applied for the 2019 fellowship. \$1947.08 was earned on the principal in FY 2019 and will roll over to support the 2020 fellow(s).

Bob Eastlack (PF-557) confirmed that he will be hosting the 2020 H.A.S. convention at Gettysburg College in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. The 2020 convention again will be held later than usual, the dates announced for June 4-7. Bob already has the convention well in hand with logistics, pricing and speakers mostly confirmed.

There was no Nominating Committee Report, as a committee was not formed. Much discussion ensued around who would fill the two open board positions. Later during the convention it was confirmed that Bob Petitto and Debby Jones would serve 1-year terms resulting in four board member positions to be filled during the 2020 convention. Two of those positions will be 2-year terms and two will be 3-year terms, to complete the planned transition from a nine-member to six-member Board of Directors.

2019 convention host Bob Sipes reported registered attendance of 12, and that the conference was expected to break even. He discussed the actions he and Wendy took to manage and reduce the costs to achieve break-even accounting. There was a brief discussion regarding the above-noted low volume of auction material and the potential impact to H.A.S. income.

The **Newsboy** Report was given by William R. Gowen, Editor. The print run for **Newsboy** is currently 130 issues. 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 increases in postage and printing costs. Total cost per issue increased from \$4.20 to \$4.25 for the previous 12 months. This slight increase was primarily due to editor expenses and our bi-annual bulk envelope purchase. Stable postage and print costs balanced out the expenses resulting in the small increase.

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

Spes stated that all necessary business filings were completed on time. There were issues with our tax filings in the State of California, which were successfully resolved.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Robert G. Sipes
 Executive Director
 Horatio Alger Society

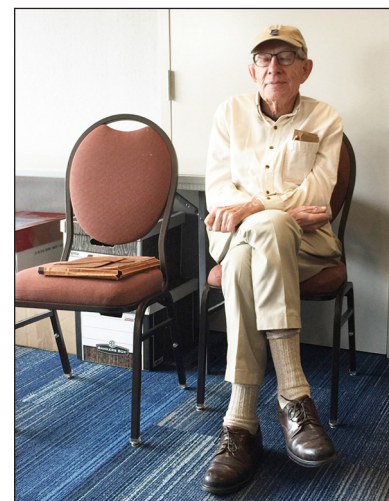


Bob Huber and Cary Sternick enjoy their pizza at Pasghetti's Italian Restaurant.

Photo by Bob Petitto



NIU head of Rare Books and Special Collections Sarah Cain gives the convention an update on the H.A.S. repository collection. Photo by Bill Gowen



Keith Thompson takes a break.

Photo by Carol Nackenoff



James King studies Bob Sipes' collection. Photo by Bill Gowen



Carol Nackenoff and Sofia Sipes. Photo by Bill Gowen

Shelbyville memories



Rusty Black and Debby Jones relax in the hospitality room with their service dog "Nycky."
Photo by Carol Nackenoff



Fort Lauderdale convention host James King is presented the *Carl Hartmann Luck & Pluck Award* by this year's host, Bob Sipes.
Photo by Bill Gowen



Bob Petitto just prior to Thursday's Board of Directors meeting.
Photo by Carol Nackenoff



2019 convention attendees prepare to enjoy Friday's homestyle dinner at the Kopper Kettle Inn in Morristown, Indiana.
Photo by James King

Consignment/donation auction summary

2019 consignment auction

Consignment from Greg Biberdorf:

Title	Publisher	Buyer	Price
<i>Five Hundred Dollar Check</i>	S&S, red letter spine	Bob Sipes	\$10.00
<i>Frank Hunter's Peril</i>	H.T. Coates, first ed.	Debby Jones	\$2.00
<i>Canal Boy to President</i>	Anderson, 2nd state	Debby Jones	\$2.00
<i>The Odds Against Him</i>	Penn, 1900 rope format.	Debby Jones	\$8.00
<i>Phil, the Fiddler</i>	Thompson & Thomas	Gerald Sipes	\$2.00
<i>Risen from the Ranks</i>	Coates, flying wheel ed.	Debby Jones	\$8.00
<i>Rufus and Rose</i>	Coates, boys head ed.	Debby Jones	\$2.00
<i>Seven Alger d/j eds.</i>	Whitman, 2 boys format	Debby Jones	\$5.00
<i>A Debt of Honor</i>	A.L. Burt, green tulip	Debby Jones	\$2.00
<i>The Backwoods Boy</i>	DeWolfe, Fiske & Co.	Debby Jones	\$17.00
<i>The Backwoods Boy</i>	David McKay	Bob Sipes	\$2.00
<i>Luck and Pluck</i>	Coates, flying wheel ed.	Debby Jones	\$8.00
<i>The Young Adventurer</i>	Coates, miner's cabin	James King	\$10.00
<i>Struggling Upward</i>	H.T. Coates, first ed.	Bob Sipes	\$10.00
<i>The Store Boy</i>	Coates, skyline ed.	Gerald Sipes	\$2.00
<i>The Young Miner</i>	Coates, skyline ed.	Gerald Sipes	\$2.00
<i>Sink or Swim</i>	A.K. Loring	Bob Sipes	\$2.00
<i>Ralph Raymond's Heir</i>	Federal Book Co.	Bob Eastlack	\$1.00
<i>Horatio Alger's Books</i>	Ed. by Dale Thomas	Bob Sipes	\$2.00
<i>Collecting Alger:</i>			
Compiled by Bernie Biberdorf (PF-524)		Carol Nackenoff	\$12.00
<i>The 122 Books by Horatio Alger, Jr. (plot summaries):</i>			
Compiled and written by Alvin K. Funderberg		James King	\$12.00
<i>Particular Friends of Letters:</i>			
Compiled by Judy Roobian-Mohr		Bob Sipes	\$2.00
<i>Alger's Who's Who, and Who's Who Who:</i>			
Compiled by Angelo Sylvester (2 vols.)		James King	\$20.00
<i>Enjoying Alger: An Anthology:</i>			
Compiled by Angelo Sylvester.		Bob Sipes	\$2.00
<i>Dash to DeKalb</i> (framed poster)		Debby Jones	\$4.00
<i>Dash to DeKalb II</i> (souvenir calendar)		Debby Jones	\$2.00
Souvenir pins, 1991 H.A.S. convention		Debby Jones	\$2.00
<i>The Fictional Republic: Horatio Alger and American Political Discourse:</i>			
By Carol Nackenoff (signed)		Bob Petitto	\$5.00
<i>William T. Adams: The Diamond Ring:</i>			
Ed. by Peter C. Walther, 1999 conv. souvenir		Bob Petitto	\$20.00
<i>Alger: A Biography Without a Hero:</i>			
By H. R. Mayes (1928) Macy-Masius		Debby Jones	\$2.00
<i>Horatio Alger: A Biography and a Bibliography:</i>			
By Frank Gruber (1961) Grover Jones Press		James King	\$2.00
<i>A Collector's Guide to the Works of Horatio Alger, Jr.:</i>			
Updated edition (1999) MAD Book Co.		James King	\$3.00

Horatio Alger Books Published by A. L. Burt:

By Bradford S. Chase Sandpiper Publishing Keith Thompson \$5.00

Horatio Alger Books Published by 19 Companies (boxed set):

By Bradford S. Chase Sandpiper Publishing James King \$6.00

Thomas D. Hurst and his Publication of Horatio Alger Books:

By Bradford S. Chase Sandpiper Publishing Bob Sipes \$2.00

Horatio Alger, Jr.: An Annotated Bibliography of Comment and Criticism:

Schamhorst & Bales Scarecrow Press James King \$2.00

The Lost Life of Horatio Alger, Jr.:

By Schamhorst & Bales Indiana Univ. Press Gerald Sipes \$2.00

The Lost Tales of Horatio Alger, Jr.:

Compiled by Schamhorst Acadia Press James King \$5.00

From Rags to Riches: Horatio Alger and the American Dream:

By John Tebbel The Macmillan Co. James King \$2.00

Horatio's Boys: The Life and World of Horatio Alger, Jr.

By Edwin P. Hoyt Chilton Book Co. Carol Nackenoff \$2.00

L.M. Alcott: *Jack and Jill* Roberts Bros. Carol Nackenoff \$12.00

Celeste MacLeod: *Horatio Alger Farewell* Debby Jones \$2.00

Abraham Lincoln:

By Ellis Paxson Oberholtzer Bob Sipes \$2.00

From Boyhood to Manhood:

By William M. Thayer Hurst Carol Nackenoff \$5.00

From Log Cabin to White House:

By William M. Thayer James H. Earle Gerald Sipes \$5.00

Hand-crocheted book cover James King \$2.00

Horatio Alger Society Christmas ornament, 2007 Debby Jones \$2.00

Lots sold: 49 **Total bids: \$241.00**

Commission to H.A.S.: \$120.50

Consignment from Bob Huber:

Title	Publisher	Buyer	Price
<i>Paul Prescott's Charge</i>	Loring, stated 2nd ed.	James King	\$80.00
<i>The \$500 Check</i>	Lovell, no black stripe	James King	\$140.00
<i>Bertha's Christmas Vision</i>	Hurst	Debby Jones	\$2.00
<i>Out for Business</i>	Mershon, tan binding	Bob Sipes	\$20.00
(First format with slightly different title page)			
<i>Adrift in the City</i>	H.T. Coates, sunburst	Carol Nackenoff	\$25.00
<i>Golden Days</i> , bound Volume 1 (complete)		Debby Jones	\$35.00
<i>Gleason's Monthly Companion</i> , 1873		Debby Jones	\$2.00
<i>Gleason's Monthly Companion</i> , 1874		Debby Jones	\$16.00
<i>Gleason's Monthly Companion</i> , 1875		Bob Eastlack	\$55.00
<i>Harper's Monthly</i> , bound Vol. 18 (1858)		Bob Eastlack	\$15.00
<i>Harper's Monthly</i> , bound Vol. 28 (1863)		Debby Jones	\$10.00
Fifteen issues of <i>Student and Schoolmate</i>		Debby Jones	\$20.00
<i>Munsey's</i> , Vol. 6 (contains "A Fancy of Hers")		James King	\$50.00
<i>Our Young Folks</i> , 1866 (bound volume)		Debby Jones	\$2.00
<i>Our Young Folks</i> , 10 misc.issues		Bob Eastlack	\$2.00

Consignment from Bob Huber, cont.:

Title	Publisher	Buyer	Price
<i>Ballads of Bravery</i>	Lee & Shepard	Debby Jones	\$15.00
<i>The Civil War Songster</i>	(contains Alger)	Debby Jones	\$18.00
<i>Our Poets: Their Portraits and Poems</i>		Debby Jones	\$7.00
<i>The Ladies Home Journal</i> , November 1890: (Contains Alger's "Are My Boys Real?")		Debby Jones	\$10.00
Six issues of <i>Boy Life</i> magazine		Debby Jones	\$2.00
<i>Wild West Weekly</i> , No. 1123		Debby Jones	\$2.00
<i>Wild West Weekly</i> , No. 1147		Gerald Sipes	\$2.00
<i>Pluck and Luck</i> , No. 1381		Debby Jones	\$2.00
<i>Gleason's Pictorial</i> , single page: (Contains Alger's "Margaret's Test")		Debby Jones	\$2.00
<i>Gleason's Pictorial</i> , 20 March 1863 (Contains Alger's "Death of Little Alice")		Debby Jones	\$2.00
Sixteen Polyglot Alger promotional posters		Debby Jones	\$10.00
Lots sold: 26		Total bids:	\$546.00
Commission to H.A.S.:			\$109.20

2019 donation auction

Donation by Jack Bales:

Title	Publisher	Buyer	Price
Jack Bales: <i>Before They Were the Cubs: The Early Years of Chicago's First Professional Baseball Team</i>	McFarland	Bob Sipes	\$37.00

Donation by Bill Gowen:

Title	Publisher	Buyer	Price
<i>From Farm to Fortune</i>	S&S Medal Lib. #52	Bob Sipes	\$5.00
<i>Ned Newton</i>	S&S Medal Lib. #118	Debby Jones	\$19.00
Books by other authors (names listed):			
<i>Tom Swift and his Electric Locomotive</i> (G&D, full-color d/j) By "Victor Appleton" (W. Bert Foster)		Bob Sipes	\$10.00
<i>Tom Swift and his Air Ship</i> (G&D, full-color d/j) By "Victor Appleton" (Howard R. Garis)		Bob Sipes	\$10.00
<i>Tom Swift and his Wireless Message</i> (G&D, full-color d/j) By "Victor Appleton" (Howard R. Garis)		Bob Sipes	\$10.00
<i>Tom Swift Among the Fire Fighters</i> (G&D, full-color d/j) By "Victor Appleton" (Howard R. Garis)		Bob Sipes	\$10.00
<i>Tom Swift and his Motor Cycle</i> (G&D, full-color d/j) By "Victor Appleton" (Howard R. Garis)		Bob Sipes	\$10.00
<i>Tom Swift and his Giant Cannon</i> (G&D, full-color d/j) By "Victor Appleton" (Howard R. Garis)		Bob Sipes	\$10.00
<i>Tom Swift and his Submarine Boat</i> (G&D, full-color d/j) By "Victor Appleton" (Howard R. Garis)		Bob Sipes	\$10.00
<i>Tom Swift in the Caves of Ice</i> (G&D, full-color d/j) By "Victor Appleton" (Howard R. Garis)		Bob Sipes	\$10.00
<i>The Cloud Patrol</i> (G&D, full-color d/j) By Irving Crump		James King	\$50.00



Bob Huber asks for bids on a first edition of Alger's *Struggling Upward*.

Photo by Bill Gowen

<i>The Pilot of the Cloud Patrol</i> (G&D, full-color d/j) By Irving Crump	Bob Sipes	\$10.00
<i>The Boy Allies with Haig at Flanders</i> (A. L. Burt) By Clair W. Hayes	Debby Jones	\$5.00
<i>The Boy Allies with the Flying Squadron</i> (A. L. Burt) By "Robert L. Drake" (Clair W. Hayes)	Debby Jones	\$5.00
<i>The Boy Allies with the Terror of the Seas</i> (A. L. Burt) By "Robert L. Drake" (Clair W. Hayes)	Debby Jones	\$5.00
<i>The Golden Boys at he Fortress</i> (A. L. Burt) By Levi Parker Wyman	Debby Jones	\$5.00
<i>The Golden Boys on the River Drive</i> (A. L. Burt) By Levi Parker Wyman	Bob Sipes	\$5.00
<i>The Lakewood Boys on the Lazy S</i> (A. L. Burt) By Levi Parker Wyman	Bob Sipes	\$10.00
<i>The Lakewood Boys and the Polo Ponies</i> (A. L. Burt) By Levi Parker Wyman	Bob Sipes	\$10.00
<i>Defending his Flag</i> (Lothrop, Lee & Shepard) By Edward Stratemeyer	Bob Sipes	\$5.00
<i>The Airship Boys Adrift</i> (Reilly & Britton) By Harry L. Saylor	Debby Jones	\$5.00
<i>Baseball Joe on the School Nine</i> (C&L, first format — reddish-brown) By "Lester Chadwick" (Howard R. Garis)	Bob Sipes	\$5.00
<i>Five Thousand Miles Underground</i> (C&L, Great Marvel Series) By "Roy Rockwood" (Howard R. Garis)	Bob Sipes	\$5.00
Total donation lots sold: 24	Total bids:	\$266.00

2019 auction summary:

Donation total (all proceeds to H.A.S.)	\$266.00
Total bids, consignment auction	\$787.00
H.A.S. commission, consignment auction	\$229.70
Total bids, all auctions	\$1,053.00
H.A.S. proceeds, all auctions	\$495.70

TREASURER'S REPORT

May 1, 2018-April 30, 2019

INCOME

Dues income.....	\$1,970.00
Strive & Succeed Award fund income	711.83
Auction income	1,252.00
Internet special auction	703.10
Merchandise and Advertising:	
Back Issues	25.00
Interest income	2.80
TOTAL INCOME	\$4,666.59

EXPENSES

Newsboy expenses:	
Printing.....	1,971.97
Postage.....	988.97
Envelopes	165.64
Editor's expenses	181.42
Total Newsboy expenses	\$3,318.00
Convention expenses (2018):	
Award plaques	213.57
Host Misc. Gain/Loss.....	293.57
Total 2017 convention expenses.....	\$507.14
Auction consignment payouts.....	\$856.80
Strive & Succeed expense	\$1,000.00
Administration expenses:	
Exec. Director expenses.....	50.50
Honoraria	300.00
PayPal charges.....	7.80
Web Hosting/Domain.....	16.99
Bank charges.....	12.00
Misc. postage.....	23.69
Total administration expenses.....	\$410.98
Misc. expense.....	\$55.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$6,147.92
NET INCOME	(\$1,481.33)

Balance sheet as of April 30, 2019

ASSETS

Current assets (checking/savings)	
Checking account	\$7,640.44
Certificate of deposit (CD).....	9,073.02
Total checking/savings	<u>\$16,533.46</u>
Total Current Assets.....	\$16,533.46
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$16,533.46</u>

LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

Equity:

Opening balance, equity.....	\$4,763.05
Retained earnings	13,251.74
Net income	(\$1,481.33)
TOTAL EQUITY	<u>\$16,533.46</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	\$16,533.46

Submitted by Barry Schoenborn, Treasurer
June 6, 2019



Newsboy editor Bill Gowen discusses the books of Maine author Levi Parker Wyman. Photo by Carol Nackenoff

From Adams, Massachusetts to Aurora, Illinois: *Charles Pierce Burton and the Bob's Hill Boys*

By Jack Bales (PF-258)

When my twin brother, Dick, and I were growing up in Aurora, Illinois, we read our father's "Bob's Hill" books by local author Charles Pierce Burton. Dad knew Burton slightly, who lived only a few blocks away, and the writer autographed his books for him.

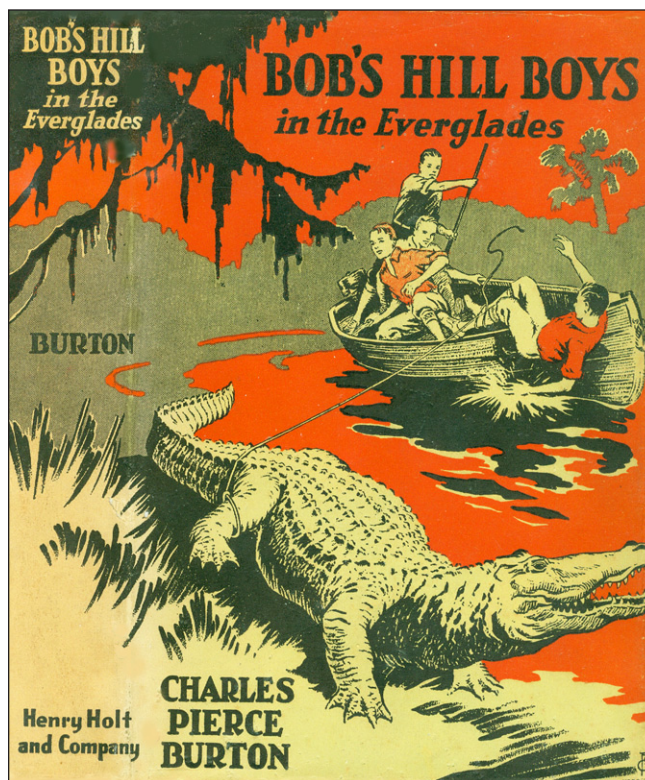
I am sure most of us in the Horatio Alger Society agree that a large part of the joy in book collecting is the sheer thrill of the hunt. While idly poking around on a few book websites recently, I was pleased to see a half-dozen or so nice Burton volumes available for very reasonable prices. I bought them all (including a couple of signed books with dust jackets) and thought, "Well, I have a good start. I'll keep digging around."

I also dug into the life of the author himself. Charles Pierce Burton was born in 1862 in Anderson, Indiana, the son of Pierce Burton and Ellen Gertrude Lampton Burton. Ellen did not easily recover from the difficulties of childbirth, and the family soon moved to Adams, Massachusetts, to live with her parents. Less than a year later, when Charles was just ten months old, his mother died.

Growing up in a household of adults, it is not surprising the boy spent much of his time outdoors exploring the wooded countryside with his friends. Rising behind his house on Park Street was a large hill, named Bob's Hill after its former owner, Robert Briggs. "Bob's Hill is a real hill in Adams, Mass.," Burton wrote in one of my father's books, "where the writer of this story played when a boy."

Charles stayed with his grandparents — and played on Bob's Hill — while his newspaperman father edited a paper in Alabama. In 1871 Pierce Burton purchased the **Aurora Weekly Herald** in Aurora, Illinois, and three years later brought his 12-year-old son to live with him and his new wife.

Charles did well at East Aurora High School. He



***Bob's Hill Boys in the Everglades* was the 10th of 12 titles in the Bob's Hill Series by Charles Pierce Burton, published by Henry Holt & Co. between 1905 and 1939.**

often humorously remarked that he was "the brightest boy in the 1880 graduating class," but then admitted he was the *only* boy in his class. Upon graduation he worked for his father on the **Weekly Herald**. If you read Alger's *Risen from the Ranks*, you may remember that Harry Walton started out as a "printer's devil" and "rose from the ranks" to become printer, reporter, editor and publisher. Charles's career mirrored that of Harry, and in later life he would tell people he had worked at every job on the paper.

In 1882 Pierce Burton founded the **Aurora Daily Express**, with the **Herald** becoming its weekly edition. In the late 1890s Charles purchased his father's newspapers, but the younger Burton soon contemplated writing something besides newspaper columns. In a 1932 interview he recalled he had "served an apprenticeship in that best of all schools for writers — newspaper work — and naturally was ambitious to see my stuff in book form."

That book was a collection of essays titled *The Bashful Man, and Others*, published in 1902 by the Blue Sky Press in Chicago. The **Chicago Daily Tribune** called it a "delicate and happy ... bit of humor and sentiment. ... Throughout these papers there is a quaint and

(Continued on Page 16)

Charles Pierce Burton

(Continued from Page 15)

whimsical vein of homely philosophy that provokes a smile or brings back to the city exile some pleasant and half forgotten impression of his boyhood in the country. Some of the essays are trite and make small appeal to the average reader, but there is scarcely one of them that has not a passage which makes it well worth the reading."

The book was published in a limited numbered edition of 500 copies, with each volume also initialed by one of the publishers, Alfred Langworthy. I own a nice association copy, number 479, which bears the signature of Burton's son Laurence. I also have copy 304, which Burton warmly inscribed to two longtime friends.

In 1903 the *Daily Express* was absorbed by the *Aurora Daily News*, and Burton devoted his attention to



Charles Pierce Burton

free-lance writing. He happened to be in the Chicago Press Club when a friend introduced him to a man who wanted to publish a book for juveniles. "I told him that I did not have any but would write him one," Burton reminisced years later, "and thereupon wrote *The Boys of Bob's Hill*, taking the scenes and inspiration from my early childhood." Upon its release in 1905,

publisher Henry Holt & Company declared in a *New York Times* display advertisement that "these boys were a lively lot, good fellows, but full of mischief. Their numerous adventures include a forest fire and a narrow escape on the railroad."

Henry Holt remained Burton's publisher throughout his life. I wrote about the author's books and his career in a detailed article that was published in the May-June 1993 issue of *Newsboy*. I just want to add here that Burton was a man of diverse and eclectic interests, many of which he incorporated into his writings. His 12 *Bob's Hill* books record the adventures of "the Band," a group of boys who live in the village of Adams, Massachusetts, nestled in the foothills of Mount Greylock in the northwest corner of the state.

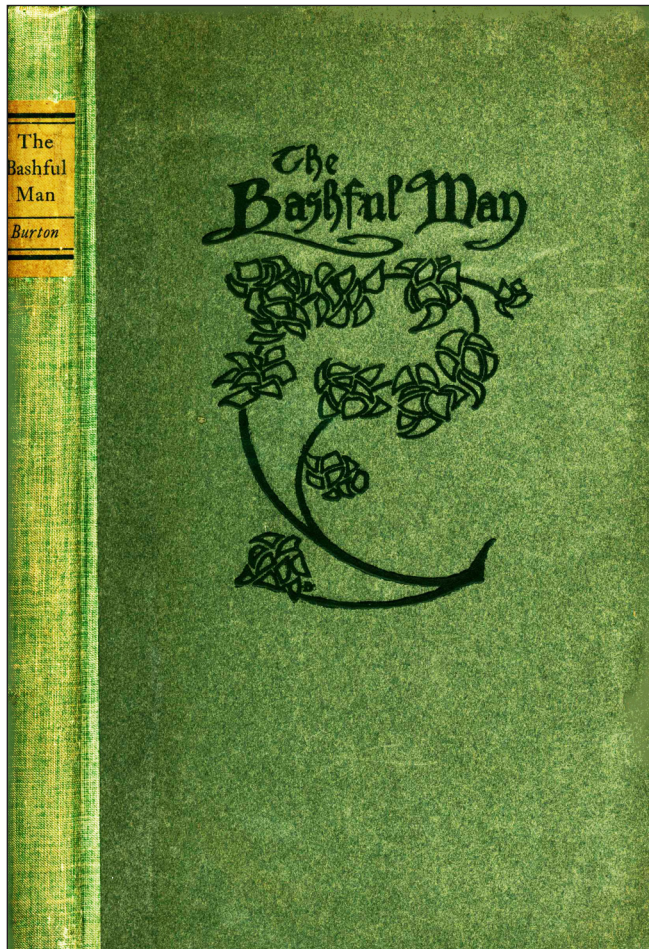


The Jan. 1, 1902 editorial page masthead of the *Aurora Daily Express*, founded by Charles Pierce Burton's father, Pierce Burton, in 1882. Charles took over his father's newspapers in the late 1890s, and the *Express* was absorbed by the rival *Aurora Daily News* in 1903.

The Bob's Hill Braves (1910) tells of the Band's visit to Aurora and features much local history. A trip Burton made to Buenos Aires, Argentina, in 1925 as an unofficial delegate to the Pan American Congress of Highways prompted him to write *Bob's Hill Meets the Andes* (1928). A 1930 vacation in Fort Lauderdale at the home of two Aurora friends, Abner Perry Hard and his wife, Louise, resulted in *Bob's Hill Boys in the Everglades* (1932). Interestingly enough, one of my Burton volumes is "autographed for Dean Pine at the request of A. P. Hard."

Burton had been a public relations writer for Aurora's Western Wheeled Scraper Works (later Austin-Western), since about 1905, and from 1916 to 1937 he edited its monthly trade journal, *The Earth Mover*. The company manufactured road-grading equipment that was used in the construction of railroads, and Burton's association led to the writing of his non-*Bob's Hill* book for young readers, *Moving the Earth* (1936). Train lines were also the focus of another juvenile work, *The Trail Makers* (1919), about two boys and their summer on a railroad construction gang.

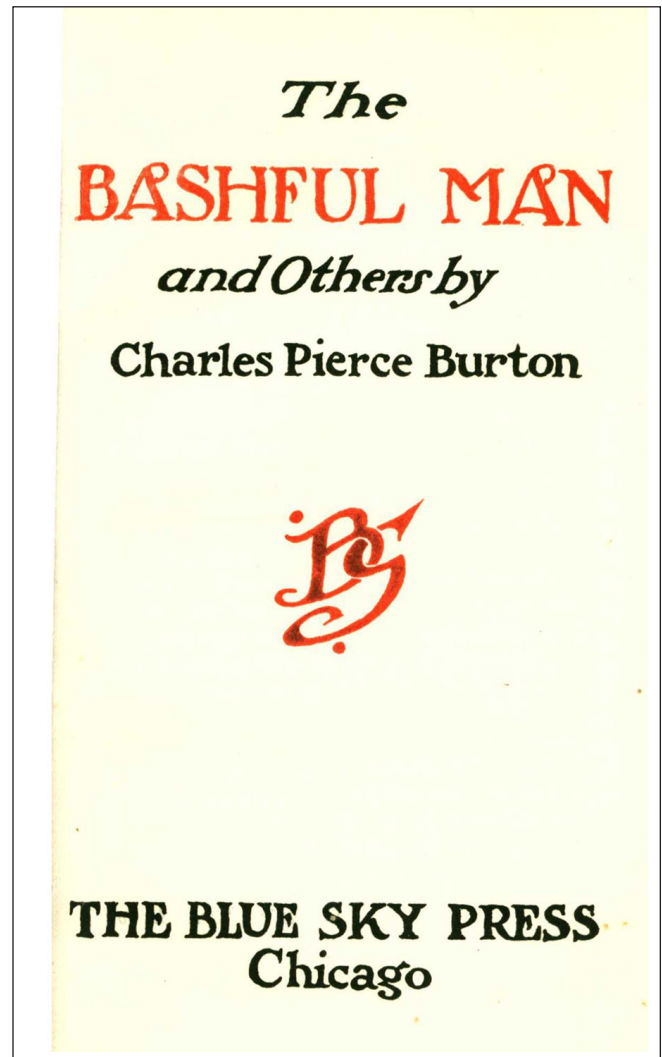
Besides editing *The Earth Mover*, Burton wrote for some of the leading periodicals of the day, including *The Independent*, *Harper's*, *Outing*, and *Ladies' Home*



The Bashful Man, and Others, a collection of Burton's essays, was published by Chicago's Blue Sky Press in 1902 in a limited edition of 500 copies.

Journal ("Fattening Chickens Scientifically," November 1905). He also contributed essays to books. In the 1940s he was asked to write a work of fiction to represent the state of Illinois for Marion Belden Cook's "Children of the U.S.A." series. Burton's "Bonds of Steel," about two boys who take a train trip across the country, appeared in *Stories from the East and North: A Story from Each of the Northern States East of the Mississippi River* (New York: Silver Burdett, 1945). Other volumes in the Children of the U.S.A. series include *Stories from the South* and *Stories from the West*. A review of the series published in the May 1946 issue of *The Elementary School Journal* singles out Burton's piece and notes "there is no hint of child life in Illinois, but this is a good story about railroads and their service to the country."

As Aurora's newspapers either folded or merged with other papers, Burton eventually found himself on the editorial staff of the *Aurora Daily Beacon-News*. From January 1937 to March 1947 he wrote a weekly column



of local history titled "Now and Then." An excellent researcher, he wrote most of the newspaper's historical articles when Aurora celebrated its centennial in 1937. Burton was 84 years old in 1946 when the newspaper celebrated its own 100th birthday, but he still managed to research and write articles for the paper's special centennial edition. Throughout his newspaper career he was also in great demand as a public speaker.

The *Beacon-News* generally published a lengthy article about Burton upon the publication of each new volume in his Bob's Hill Series. Lutz White was the editor of the newspaper in the 1920s and 1930s (and the author of the "Now and Then" column from 1925 until he retired and Burton took over). After *Bob's Hill Meets the Andes* was published, White talked with the children's librarian at the Aurora Public Library about the books. She said they were "the most popular series of juveniles on the shelves. ... The strength of

(Continued on Page 18)



Charles Pierce Burton

(Continued from Page 17)

their popularity is in the human appeal; Burton's boys are real and the stories plausible and consistent, which cannot be said of many old time juveniles. There is little call these days for the highly colored and fanciful boys' books of a generation ago."

According to the **Aurora Daily Beacon-News** editor, Burton's popularity increased with the publication of each book in the series. When the amateur radio story *Bob's Hill on the Air* was published in 1934, White reported that Columbia University had sent a questionnaire to schools and libraries "requesting information regarding the popularity of juvenile fiction." The top four vote-getters were Joseph Altsheler, Ralph Henry Barbour, Charles Pierce Burton and Mark Twain.

Burton died on March 31, 1947, "after a brief illness," according to his **New York Times** obituary. He, along with his wife and three children, are all buried in West Aurora Cemetery, just a few blocks from my childhood home. They include wife Cora Lena Vreeland Burton (1866–1957), son Laurence Vreeland Burton (1889–1970), daughter Alice Burton Buell (1892–1982), and son Malcolm Vreeland Burton (1896–1960).



Between 1916 and 1937 Burton edited **The Earth Mover**, monthly trade journal for the Aurora-based Western Wheeled Scraper Works (above), a manufacturer of road-grading equipment. This led Burton to write a non-Bob's Hill book for young readers, *Moving the Earth*, in 1936.

An Aurora reporter writing a lengthy article about Burton in 1977 for the **Beacon-News** observed that he "knew everybody and loved talking to people about Aurora's history." Burton himself will remain a part of that history. The Bob's Hill Boys were all Boy Scouts (as was the author's son Malcolm), and a northern Illinois scouting district's highest award for meritorious service is called the Charles Pierce Burton Award.

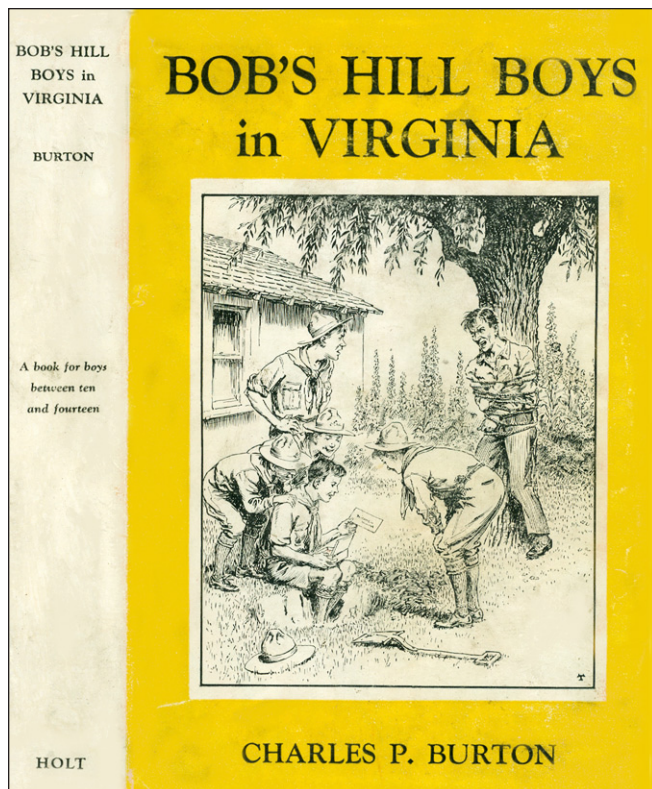
An appropriate legacy, indeed, for the boy from Bob's Hill.

* * *

Author's note: My research material for this essay includes bibliographic works on American newspapers, biographical sketches (both print and online), contemporary articles in the **Aurora Daily Beacon-News**, and a cover story on Burton by Robert Hallwachs from the **Family Leisure** magazine section of the January 29, 1977, issue of the **Beacon-News**.



The Burton family gravesite in West Aurora Cemetery, final resting place for Charles, his wife, Cora, and their three children.

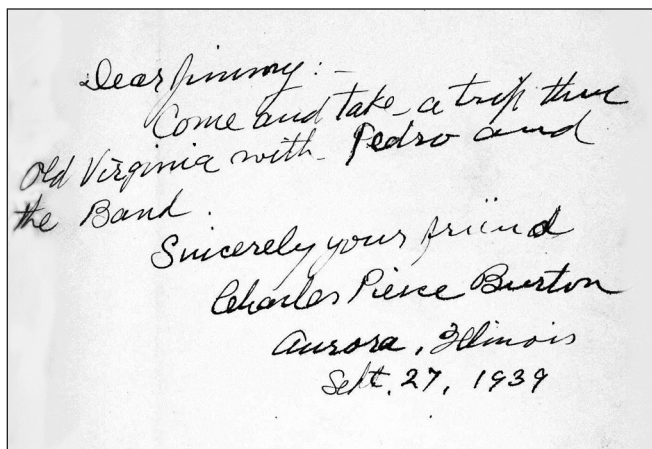


Books by Charles Pierce Burton (1862-1947)

The Bob's Hill Series

1. *The Boys of Bob's Hill* Henry Holt & Co, 1905
Artist: George A. Williams
2. *The Bob's Cave Boys* Henry Holt & Co., 1909
Artist: Victor Perard
3. *The Bob's Hill Braves* Henry Holt & Co., 1910
Artist: H. S. DeLay
4. *The Boy Scouts of Bob's Hill** Henry Holt & Co., 1912
Artist: Gordon Grant
5. *Camp Bob's Hill* Henry Holt & Co., 1915
Artist: Gordon Grant
6. *Raven Patrol of Bob's Hill* Henry Holt & Co., 1917
Artist: Gordon Grant
7. *Bob's Hill Trails* Henry Holt & Co., 1922
Artist: Anonymous
8. *Treasure Hunters of Bob's Hill* Henry Holt & Co., 1926
Artist: F. E. Phares
9. *Bob's Hill Meets the Andes* Henry Holt & Co., 1928
Artist: F. E. Phares
10. *Bob's Hill Boys in the Everglades* Henry Holt & Co., 1932
Artist: F. E. Phares
11. *Bob's Hill on the Air* Henry Holt & Co., 1934
Artist: Anonymous
12. *Bob's Hill Boys in Virginia* Henry Holt & Co., 1939
Artist: Anonymous

* This title later appeared in Grosset & Dunlap's *Every Boys' Library* — *Boy Scout Edition*.



The dust jacket and presentation inscription by Burton for *Bob's Hill Boys in Virginia*, the last of the 12 Bob's Hill Series titles, published in 1939.

Other books

- The Bashful Man, and Others*
(Collection of essays) Blue Sky Press, 1902
- The Trail Makers* (Juvenile)
Artist: Gordon Grant Henry Holt & Co., 1919
- Moving the Earth* (Juvenile)
Illustrated with photographs Henry Holt & Co., 1936

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'Bears of Blue River'

(Continued from Page 5)

tion conference in Washington, D.C. The first part of his talk was titled "Nobody'd ever know that there was a piece of you missin'" — *Amputees and Artificial Limbs in Dime Novels*. This presentation described the state of prosthetic technology in the 19th century. The second half of Short's dual presentation was a progress report on NIU's ongoing digitization of the Albert Johanssen and Edward LeBlanc dime novel collections, a collaborative project with Villanova University.

In the afternoon, the annual consignment and donation auction, efficiently run by Bob Huber, raised just under \$500 for the Society. The top seller was \$140 for a Lovell edition (non-first) of *The \$500 Check* [see auction summary on Pages 12-13]. At around 6 p.m. we gathered in the lobby for the drive to nearby Morristown for a home-style fried chicken (or fish entrée) dinner at the historic Kopper Kettle Inn.

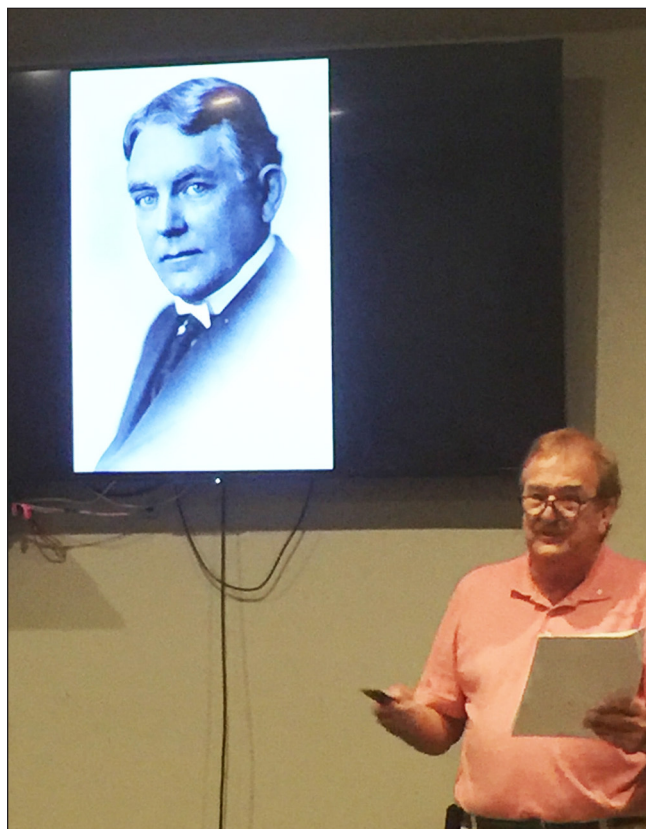
Saturday, June 8

Following breakfast and the traditional book sale, we took a break before heading to Wendy and Bob Sipes' home a short drive away for an open house, with Wendy preparing a wonderful lunch for everyone (including great desserts).

Bob was finally able to show off his collection after his basement was "out of action" for more than a year because of flooding in the neighborhood. Luckily, his books escaped relatively unscathed, and Bob had them in longtime storage before finally returning them to their proper home this spring. His Algers, Optics, Ellises and Castlemons took pride of place, with plenty of other series books (Stratemeyer and his Syndicate, and many other authors) carefully displayed on two-tiered shelves. Sipes' library also includes several non-juvenile collections.

Upon our return to the hotel, we relaxed before carpooling to the Riverfront Tap Room, the location of the annual H.A.S. banquet, with a room set aside for us offering several entrées served buffet style. The main event, of course, was the presentation of the **Strive and Succeed Award**. Sipes gave a detailed introduction of the 2019 recipient, Chase Woodall, and he has echoed his remarks in his article on Page 7. Woodall was joined by several family members with whom to share his award, the \$1,000 to help defray his upcoming college expenses.

The annual **Carl Hartmann Luck & Pluck Award** was presented to last year's convention host, James King, by 2019 host Bob Sipes.



Guest speaker Ron Hamilton discusses historic Shelbyville personalities who epitomized the *Risen from the Ranks* Alger philosophy. Charles Major, author of *Bears of Blue River*, is displayed. Photo by Carol Nackenoff

The featured guest speaker was local historian Ron Hamilton, an area media figure as well as history professor at the nearby branch of Indiana's Ivy Tech Community College. Hamilton spoke about several persons from Shelbyville who had "risen from the ranks" to be Horatio Alger models for the community. Included were lawyer and novelist Charles Major (1856-1913), whose more than 10 books include the 1901 *Bears of Blue River*, which has become a children's classic and is the title source of this convention.

Another subject of Hamilton's talk was Sandy Allen (1955-2008), who during her lifetime was listed in the *Guinness Book of Records* as the world's tallest woman at 7 feet, 7 inches. Miss Allen appeared in several films, including a documentary on her life, "Being Different."

Sunday, June 9

Three days of excellent weather reverted to the wet Midwest spring of 2019, as Partic'lar Friends gathered in the hotel lounge for our annual farewell breakfast before heading home in the misty rain, looking forward to "Gettysburg Campaign" in 2020!