



# 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 LXI

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NUMBER 3

Convention issue

## 'Forging Ahead in Fredericksburg'



High school senior Disaya Spinner reacts to applause after being introduced as the 2023 H.A.S. Strive and Succeed Award recipient.

*Convention report  
Strive & Succeed Award  
Directors meeting report  
Treasurer's report  
Complete auction results*



Host Jack Bales welcomes members and guests to the 2023 convention.

-- Full coverage inside

## Horatio Alger, Jr. and **The Yankee Blade:**

*'Aunt Abigail's Visit to Boston,' plus an Alger poem*

-- See Page 16

## President's column

I want to give a shout-out to the 2022-2023 H.A.S. Membership Committee (Jack Bales, Scott Chase, Liane Houghtalin, and Debby Jones; I joined the committee in my capacity as vice president). The committee has been working on imaginative ways we might expand the reach of the Society, to share knowledge about Alger in new places, and potentially expand membership. Jack's lecture in a University of Mary Washington Economics course on "Poverty, Affluence, and Equality," was one such outreach effort. He distributed copies of various Alger novels for students to read prior to his talk, and a lively discussion ensued. It was a pleasure working with these folks this past year, often via Zoom. This same membership group, plus Dick Hoffman as vice president, continues their work this year. Your ideas are always welcome!

The Board of Directors approved the Membership Committee's resolution that the President send a welcome letter to any new member (in addition to any other communications from the committee and Executive Director). I was delighted when the Board also approved the committee's idea to offer a welcome gift to those new to the Society. Scott Chase was a major force behind this effort, and the other members of the committee worked to help shape the proposal to the Board. Scott offered some volumes from his own collection and from his father's research on Alger publishers. Jack and I offered up a few copies of our own writings on Alger, and we obtained the Society's permission to include the Bennett bibliography among our offerings. New members would receive gifts (2-3 items) of roughly equal value. A list of available items goes out to a new member, who can indicate what they would appreciate; the recipient is also invited to tell us about other collecting interests they have, and what first editions they might be looking for.

One thing I particularly love about this initiative is the response it elicits. Recipients of our outreach (letters of welcome also go to those rejoining) have talked about their pleasure and surprise by the warmth of our welcome. There have been conversations generated with members of the membership committee about particular collecting interests and hobbies. This helps build connections to others in the Society (examples: one new member is a Gilbert Patten fan, and I put him in touch

*(Continued on Page 6)*

## 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

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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](http://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," to **Newsboy** editor William R. Gowen (PF-706) at 23726 N. Overhill Dr., Lake Zurich, IL 60047.

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 those free "Alger for sale" ads to the editor at the above address, where you can also send "Letters to the Editor" by regular mail or by e-mail to [hasnewsboy@aol.com](mailto:hasnewsboy@aol.com).

## Convention report

# 'Forging Ahead in Fredericksburg'

By Jack Bales (PF-258)  
Convention Host

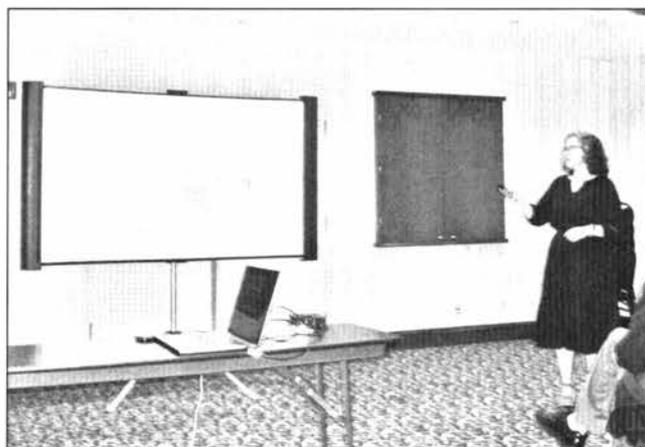
Early May's "Forging Ahead in Fredericksburg" marked the third convention held in Fredericksburg, Virginia. It's been my favorite, as well, perhaps because the weather could not possibly have been better, especially for the Saturday trolley tour of the city. I had few logistical details to be concerned about, as once again, Chris Jones and his staff at the Hampton Inn were on top of things, as were the catering folks at the University of Mary Washington with whom I've worked for years.

I enjoyed hosting a get-together for early arrivals on the Wednesday evening before the convention. The food was great, but the company and conversation were even better, and those present got to welcome Mark Muello, one of our newest members, and his wife, Linda, from Lincoln, Maine. (Incidentally, Mark brought his father's well-used shoeshine box to display at the convention, complete with original brush and other accessories.)

Some weeks ago, David Jones of Baltimore, Maryland, brought me a huge assortment of books belonging to his late father and H.A.S. member, Robert A. Jones (PF-904), to be sold on consignment at the convention auction. The big boxes and plastic bins filled my two spare bedrooms, and I had visions of having to make multiple trips to the hotel on Thursday morning. Fortunately, James King, Bob Petitto, and Bob Sipes loaded their cars Wednesday night with most of the books, and all I had were three small boxes to take to the Hampton Inn.

The convention didn't really start until Thursday afternoon, but the hotel's large meeting room was open by about 8:30 in the morning, and I had plenty of snacks and drinks on hand for everyone. I spent much of the day helping Bob Sipes list all the books we had on hand for the auction, with the break in our routine being the Board of Directors meeting in the afternoon.

I've had several opportunities to view Jeff Looney's fine collection of series books—many with gorgeous dust jackets and/or lengthy inscriptions that especially make the volumes stand out. But Jeff collects more than just an author's books, and in his intriguing presentation on Friday morning, "Not Just Books Anymore: Other Juvenile Book Collectibles," he focused on some of the many non-book items he has picked up over the years. These include a mug inscribed to Jesse Lynch Williams,



**Banquet guest speaker Angie Kemp of the University of Mary Washington gives her presentation "Adventures, Gems, and Treasures: Stories from UMW's Special Collections & University Archives."** Photo by Bill Gowen

Princeton Class of 1892, issued for the 10-year reunion in 1902. Williams wrote several books about college life published by Scribner's, including *Princeton Stories* (1895), *The Adventures of a Freshman* (1899) and *The Girl and the Game, and Other College Stories* (1908).

I was especially intrigued with Jeff's photograph of John R. Tunis. It came from the estate of Tunis's literary agent and was taken at the same session as the photo that appears on the back of the dust jacket of his autobiography, *A Measure of Independence* (Atheneum, 1964). Jeff also has a framed 1905 nursing certificate issued by the Massachusetts Emergency and Hygiene Association to Elise Riché Hall, who four years later married Arthur Stanwood Pier, the author of the "St. Timothy's" series and a longtime editor of *The Youth's Companion*.

I followed Jeff's fascinating talk with my PowerPoint presentation, "Albert Payson Terhune: The Master of Sunnybank." While in junior high and high school I read many of the dog stories by Terhune (1872–1942), and in recent years I've been re-reading and collecting the books.

Next up was "Alger Firsts, Reprints, and More: A Discussion Regarding the Fundamentals of Collecting Alger." This PowerPoint panel presentation, featuring Scott Chase, Bill Gowen, Keith Thompson, and moderated by Bob Sipes, included a conversation about various first edition points, including advertisements. Books that Bob highlighted in his PowerPoint were *Phil the Fiddler*, *From Canal Boy to President* (and the elusive erratum slip),

(Continued on Page 5)

## Editor's notebook

What a nice way to spend a spring weekend! The perfect weather was reminiscent of all those early May weekends of H.A.S. conventions in decades past. This year, host Jack Bales was able to secure the May 4-7 dates for his third consecutive convention in historic Fredericksburg, Virginia, and as I told him back in 2021, there is enough to see and enjoy there to support multiple conventions. His first two conventions (2021 and 2022) were in June due to scheduling conflicts which limited hotel availability in the Fredericksburg area. Also, the 2021 convention was held under ongoing pandemic conditions, the year after our meeting in Gettysburg was completely wiped out.

So, Jack will again have us back on the same weekend, the dates for 2024 set for May 2-5 at the Hampton Inn & Suites, and the room rate will be the same \$89 (plus tax) that we've enjoyed the past three years! But all good things must end, and Jack is retiring from hosting duties with "The Fredericksburg Fourth" next spring.

**Annual business meeting:** As unofficial recorder of this event, I told Jack Bales I would hit the high points here for our meeting on May 5. First, the new initiative for welcoming gifts to new members was approved by voice vote. Mark Muello (PF-1156) was the first recipient.

Also elected by voice vote were Carol Nackenoff as President and Richard Hoffman as Vice President as well as the updated Board of Directors, listed on Page 2. Executive Director Bob Sipes and your editor gave their annual reports to the membership.

Finally, Fredericksburg and Jack Bales were voted to host us again in 2024, and Northern Illinois University was penciled in for 2025, with more details upcoming.

**A sincere note of thanks:** You will notice in the auction results under my donations (Page 15) I included three dust-jacketed copies of *Edward Stratemeyer and the Stratemeyer Syndicate*, by longtime Partic'lar Friend Deidre Johnson (PF-596), published in 1993 as part of Twayne's United States Authors Series. I have used this book as a major reference for the past three decades, and back in 2019, when Didi was announced as a guest speaker at Gettysburg, I decided to buy copies of the book to donate for the auction, giving the winning bidders the opportunity to have her autograph them in person.

Of course, that also didn't happen for various reasons in 2021 and 2022 (including my temporarily misplacing the books in 2021).

So this year, I caught a break. Former H.A.S. President  
(Continued on Page 20)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

When I was 10, back in 1942, I ran across a song, "If I Only Had a Home Sweet Home," which is about an orphan newsboy that nearly broke my heart. I memorized the song and remember it to this day. No wonder I became interested in the works of Horatio Alger, Jr. The cover of the sheet music depicts a little boy, holding newspapers that he is obviously trying to sell, standing outside a brick house, looking into a big window. Inside, kids (not actually shown) are having a party (according to the lyrics). You can see the picture and listen to an excellent recording of the song by going to **YouTube**: "If I only had a home sweet home — sung by Will Oakland — 4:19 version." The song (as written) follows:

### "If I Only Had A Home Sweet Home"

#### [1st verse]

'Twas a par-ty for the lit-tle ones,  
And ere they all-could go,  
They sang the song of "Home, Sweet Home"  
The one we all love so.  
With-out, a rag-ged child looked on,  
His heart so lone and sad,  
He nev-er had a home, sweet home,  
Mid sobs and tears he said:

#### [Chorus]

If I on-ly had a home, sweet home,  
Some one to care for me,  
Like all the oth-er boys and girls,  
How hap-py I would be;  
A kind pa-pa and a ma-ma dear  
To call me all their own,  
This world would be all sun-shine  
If I had a home, sweet home.

#### [2nd verse]

The lit-tle ones now home-ward bound,  
So hap-py and so free;  
The rag-ged child still wan-ders 'round,  
No home, sweet home has he;  
No co-zy lit-tle bed for him,  
The cold, cold ground in-stead,  
And as he lays him down to sleep  
So mourn-ful-ly he said:

#### [Repeat chorus twice]

Also, the Glenn Miller Orchestra's popular song, "Chattanooga Choo Choo," has a line about a bootblack working the Pennsylvania Station as follows:

"Pardon me, boy is that the Chattanooga Choo Choo?"  
"Yes, yes, track twenty-nine."  
"Boy, you can gimme a shine."

My challenge to you, my friends. Maybe you can recall another song about a newsboy or a bootblack!

— Submitted by Eugene Bartlett (PF-790)

## Convention report

(Continued from Page 3)

Mark Stanton, Tom Brace, Joe's Luck, *Adrift in New York*, and Robert Coverdale's *Struggle*, among others.

Friday afternoon and Saturday morning were devoted to the annual auction, and James King and Jeff Looney did yeoman's work as auctioneers, ably assisted by Lisa Chase and Debby Jones. Details of items listed and sold can be found elsewhere in this issue on Pages 11-15. There was spirited bidding for a few Alger editions, including a scarce Hurst and a hard-to-find Donohue, as I recall. But it wasn't all books, and Rob Kasper's check signed by Ralph Waldo Emerson and a cut signature of Horatio Alger, Jr. attracted much interest and attention, along with Bill Gowen's donation of a framed printed-on-canvas reproduction of Norman Rockwell's unpublished charcoal image of Phil the Fiddler, one of the artist's Alger heroes of his youth. The auction raised an impressive \$2,055.60 for the Society.

The Friday evening dinner was again held at Castiglia's Italian restaurant, where I presented the **Strive & Succeed Award** to high school senior Disaya Spinner. I include the text of my remarks in a separate article on Page 7.

It can be hard to find the time to get outside and go exploring during a Horatio Alger Society convention, which is why I included a motorized trolley bus tour of Fredericksburg as the main event for Saturday afternoon. As I previously said, the weather was picture-perfect for such an event (sunny with temperatures in the low seventies); moreover, our driver and narrator, Jim Kniseley, was both friendly and humorous (he even let me provide a few observations of my own as we went along). I asked if we could drive down College Avenue, where the main buildings of the university were located, and he readily agreed. Saturday was Graduation Day, so UMW Professor Liane Houghtalin could not make all the convention activities. We did, though, spot her while she was walking down the street, and Jim stopped the trolley so we could all say hello.

Our large meeting room was turned into a banquet room for Saturday evening's festivities. In "Adventures, Gems, and Treasures: Stories from UMW's Special Collections & University Archives," Angie Kemp, Interim Head of Special Collections & University Archives at Simpson Library, highlighted historical and noteworthy "gems and treasures" in the university's Special Collections. I particularly liked hearing about the scrapbooks that alumni occasionally donate to the library, for they often contain significant photographs that showcase (and shed light on!) the university's history.

Angie's background and expertise are founded in digital preservation. I am pleased to say that she



**Guide and driver Jim Kniseley welcomes H.A.S. members to the trolley bus trip throughout Fredericksburg's historic district and other places of interest.** Photo by Bill Gowen

scanned — and enhanced — many of the photographs for my recent book, *The Chicago Cub Shot for Love*. A much more historically significant example of Angie's work, however, is her digitization of a 1668 leather-bound King James Bible on which 20-year-old George Washington had placed his hand when he joined the Masons at the Fredericksburg Masonic Lodge in 1752.

I received the Society's **Carl T. Hartmann Luck & Pluck Award** for hosting the previous convention. As the previous recipient of the **Richard R. Seddon Award**, I was pleased to present the award this year. In my remarks, I mentioned that the plaque refers to the "admirable qualities and warm companionship of Dick Seddon." I knew Dick Seddon, I said, and noted that I had often observed this year's award winner welcoming and talking to people at conventions. I added that he also helps keep things running smoothly at our annual events, and that "it is therefore my pleasure to give this year's Richard R. Seddon Award to Bob Sipes."

For the past three years, Liane Houghtalin's drawing for convention attendees to win a gift basket of "made in Virginia" items has been a highlight of the banquet. Melissa Givewon won it the first time, Scott Chase the second,

(Continued on Page 20)

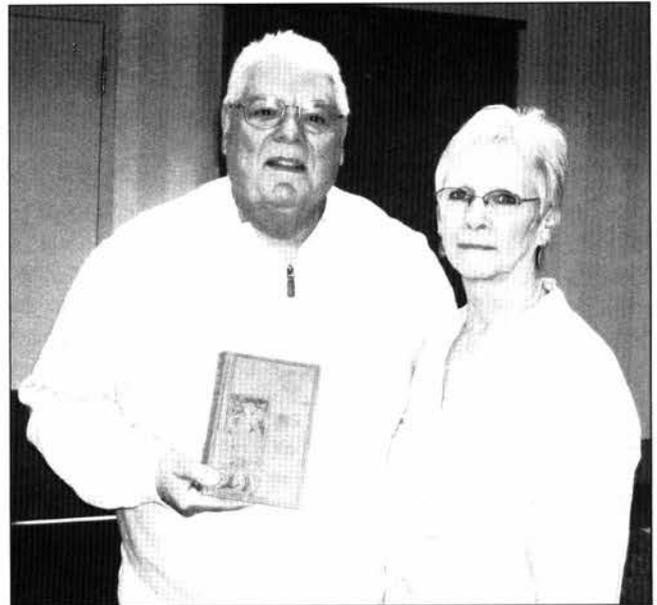
## President's column

(Continued from Page 2)

with Bill Gowen, who gave a Gilbert Patten talk at my very first convention, the write-up appeared in **Newsboy** and I sent that along; Jack shared a photograph of the University of Mary Washington All-Girls Marching Band bass drum signed by Bing Crosby to a Bing Crosby fan). New member Mark Muello seemed touched to receive his welcome gift in person at the 2023 convention after he and his wife, Linda, drove down from Maine with a stop in Washington to visit Ford's Theater and the Peterson House (where Lincoln died).

Jack Bales is already hard at work on next year's convention, and I've already booked with the hotel. Jack recently rounded up several local members to sample food for one of next year's dinners. If you haven't made it to Fredericksburg yet, come in 2024, because then we hope to head to Northern Illinois University in 2025. My thanks go to Jack for putting enormous effort into hosting our 2023 event (as well as 2021 and 2022) and drafting excellent guidelines (including a timeline) for future convention hosts.

On a personal note: Book lovers obviously need bookcases to display both their prized volumes and more ordinary ones. Many of my beloved political science and political philosophy books have been languishing in boxes on the basement floor since I vacated my office in May 2021. (At least our basement is dry). A colleague who is moving just delivered and set up two Ikea bookcases, and I was finally able to get



**New member Mark Muello and his wife, Linda, with his first edition of *Tom Turner's Legacy*, part of his "Welcome to the H.A.S." gift package presented at the convention.**

Photo by Bill Gowen

every last book shelved. Nothing elegant about these bookcases, but it made me very happy to finish that project. Now, I need to get more Mylar book covers on my Alger first editions!

Your Partic'lar Friend,  
Carol Nackenoff (PF-921)  
302 S. Chester Road  
Swarthmore, PA 19081  
Email: cnacken1@swarthmore.edu

## 'Forging Ahead in Fredericksburg' — Attendance list

Jack Bales (PF-258)  
Fredericksburg, Va.

Terry Booth (PF-1150)  
Kenilworth, Ill.

Scott Chase (PF-1106)  
Pittsford, N.Y.

Lisa Chase  
Pittsford, N.Y.

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

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

Liane Houghtalin (PF-699)  
Fredericksburg, Va.

Lynda Houghtalin  
King City, California

Debby Jones (PF-1092)  
Bellefonte, Pa.

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

James King (PF-1126)  
Plantation, Fla.

Jeff Looney (PF-903)  
Charlottesville, Va.

Mark Muello (PF-1156)  
Lincoln, Maine

Linda Muello  
Lincoln, Maine

Carol Nackenoff (PF-921)  
Swarthmore, Pa.

Bob Petitto (PF-1086)  
Carol Stream, Ill.

Bob Sipes (PF-1067)  
Shelbyville, Ind.

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

Melissa Givey (PF-1151)  
Bellport, N.Y.

TOTAL: 19

H.A.S. MEMBERS: 16

## Strive and Succeed Award

# Overcoming a lifetime of obstacles

By Jack Bales (PF-258)

In keeping with Horatio Alger's ideals of hard work, self-reliance, perseverance, and strength of character, each year the Horatio Alger Society presents its **Strive and Succeed Award** to a high school student who possesses these traits.

This year's recipient was Disaya Spinner. For the last two Fredericksburg conventions, Jessica Dirks has selected a **Strive and Succeed Award** recipient from the many young men and women with whom she comes

in contact as program manager of the local Big Brothers Big Sisters organization. Jessica sent me a lengthy profile of Disaya, and from her remarks I gave the following introduction before presenting Disaya with the award.

"Our winner this year, Disaya Spinner, is certainly qualified, as she has faced a lifetime of challenges. During her adolescence, she had to miss school due to health concerns. There were periods of time when

her grades would dip because of her absences, but she was always supported by her family, and they would assist her in improving her grades and getting back on track.

"Disaya's family was proactive in looking for opportunities that would enrich her life. She was enrolled in the Big Brothers Big Sisters program and has been matched with her Big Sister, Becky, for almost nine years. Being involved in the Big Brothers Big Sisters program allowed Disaya to have many new experi-

ences, such as attending local plays and musicals and enjoying new and different foods.

"Despite continuing challenges, Disaya's home was always filled with love, and there were no major concerns about her ability to succeed in life. She had talked about becoming a counselor when she grew up, because she had seen how important it is to have supportive people in one's life.

"Disaya continued to work hard — with virtual learning throughout the pandemic and also with in-

person schooling — which had its own set of difficulties — due to changes in the educational system.

"She started this school year as a junior but with a lot of hard work and coordination with her school counselor, Disaya is now going to be graduating high school a year early, passing all of her courses with mostly As and Bs.

"Disaya continues to focus on her future goals of becoming a counselor

or psychologist so that she can support others in the same way she has been supported over time. She will be graduating in May and plans on enrolling at Germanna Community College in Fredericksburg for two years before transferring to another university to finish her bachelor's degree.

"Disaya Spinner has overcome a lifetime of obstacles, and with this scholarship from the Horatio Alger Society, we all wish her well as she moves on to the next stage of her life."



**Disaya Spinner, who just graduated from high school and will enter an area junior college in the fall, is presented the 2023 Strive and Succeed Award by convention host Jack Bales.**

Photo by Carol Nackenoff

Membership	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Individual	80	79	85	85	91	94	101	104	112	114
Sustaining	15	13	16	13	11	13	15	11	11	13
Life*	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	6	7	7
Honorary	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	5	5
Institutions	9	9	9	10	10	10	10	10	10	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>135</b>

## Horatio Alger Society Board of Directors Meeting Fredericksburg, Virginia — May 4, 2023

In Attendance:

James King, President	Scott Chase, Director
Carol Nackenoff, Vice President	Debby Jones, Director
Robert G. Sipes, Executive Director	Robert Petitto, Director
William R. Gowen, Editor	James D. Keeline, Director*
Robert Kasper, Treasurer	*Attended via digital presence
Jack Bales, Director; host	Absent:
	Keith H. Thompson, Director
	Robert G. Huber, Webmaster

James King, President, called the meeting to order at 1505.

James opened with the proposals for the 2024 H.A.S. Convention. There was extensive discussion regarding James and Kim Keeline hosting in Wildomar, California, (near San Diego). However, there are details that need further investigation. Bob Petitto is interested in hosting in 2025 in concert with Northern Illinois University. Further discussion will ensue with NIU. Jack Bales offered to host the 2024 Convention again in Fredericksburg, Va.

Due to the unknowns regarding the Wildomar proposal, the H.A.S. Membership approved the Fredericksburg proposal at Friday's business meeting. The H.A.S. 2024 convention will be held at the same venue on 2-5 May 2024.

James led us through a list of action items that primarily the Executive Director is currently working. Discussion ensued regarding the status and slow execution of some items. The membership directory is currently available via e-mail request and can be provided in Excel or PDF format. Bill Gowen and Robert Sipes are working on publishing a paper copy in 2023. There has been an effort to sell the Bennett bibliographies via **Newsboy**, but offering them as well via the H.A.S. website, Facebook or eBay is still in progress. An updated **Newsboy** Index is currently in progress and should be completed in 2023. The inventory of current H.A.S. historical items is in progress and will be ongoing as new items are added.

Robert Kasper presented the annual financial report. Gross income for the previous 12 months was \$4,993.23 and expenses were \$5,433.96 resulting in a net loss of \$440.73 for the fiscal year ending April 30, 2023. This is a substantial decrease from

the previous year, but 2022 was an anomaly as we received \$7,500.00 in special one-time donations. This loss is in line with most years and can be attributed to the underlying fact that dues do not cover **Newsboy** costs and it is difficult for auction proceeds to make up the difference. Consignment and donation auction items are of considerable importance and are greatly appreciated by the Society. There were no convention expenses as Jack Bales covered any deficiency. Financial assets as of 30 April 2023 equal \$23,661.85.

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 the 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.

The regular *Strive & Succeed Award* fund income for the previous 12 months totaled \$1,135. This is a slight increase over the previous year; however, the stipend to the recipient selected by the convention host remained at \$1,000. It was noted that there were no separate *Strive & Succeed* donations made online; however, a couple of online dues renewals contained *Strive & Succeed* donations.

Robert Sipes, Executive Director, reported total membership at 101. This includes 80 individual members, 15 of which are Sustaining members, eight Life, four Honorary and nine Libraries. There were three new members (one renewal) and two drops during the previous 12 months for a net gain of one member. As greater than 75 per cent of our membership are seniors, membership growth is necessary to achieve a balance. Total membership by category is presented in the table, above.

Robert Sipes commented that we carry members who are past due on membership dues for months before dropping them. Most end up catching up their dues; however, we currently have four members who are greater than six months in arrears. This can skew the membership numbers and affects the overall cash flow.

Robert Sipes 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 209 Facebook members that have liked the H.A.S. page and receive updates. This is up eight from 2022. Many of these Facebook members are not H.A.S. members.

Robert discussed our relationship with EBSCO. To date,

<b>NIU HAS Endowment Net Principal</b>	<b>May-23</b>	<b>Jun-22</b>	<b>Jun-21</b>	<b>Jun-19</b>	<b>May-18</b>	<b>May-17</b>	<b>May-16</b>	<b>May-15</b>	<b>May-14</b>
	TBD	\$77,991.92	\$61,406.13	\$59,334.66	\$49,513.38	\$45,752.93	\$50,764.39	\$52,667.43	\$45,790.37

we have not received any income from EBSCO. However, we continue to upload current issues as they are released. Robert contacted EBSCO regarding the status of any income and what we should expect when EBSCO subscribers purchased bulk access. The answer was that this new service is still in development and has not yet been released. We will be notified once the new service has been released. We recently received a request for a W-9 form to determine if they should withhold a portion of payments. It was provided but no response has been received.

The H.A.S. repository at Northern Illinois University remains robust. The table, above, below shows the endowment net principal for the past few years.

There was an NIU fellowship awarded in Fall 2022 to Emily Coccia, a doctoral student from the University of Michigan. She was on-site at NIU for three weeks and she plans to be back to present her finished work sometime within the next year. Applications are currently being reviewed for 2023.

Robert stated that all necessary business filings were completed in 2022 and would be filed as necessary in 2023.

The **Newsboy** Report was given by William R. Gowen, Editor. The print run for **Newsboy** is currently 120 copies. Due to the declining membership, a reduction to 115 copies was approved, starting with the current issue. The total annual expense for producing **Newsboy** has remained relatively stable during the past decade (see table, below). The primary reason is managing the print run based on membership to balance increases in postage and printing costs. Total cost per issue increased in FY 2022-23 due to editor’s expenses including software updates and the biannual envelope purchase.

James King presented the Nominating Committee Report, recommending Scott Chase and Bob Petitto as nominees for the Board. Carol Nackenoff accepted the role of President with the caveat that she may not be able to fulfill two years. Dick Hoffman accepted the role of Vice-President. Jack Bales offered to step into either role if the President or Vice President needed to step down. All nominations were approved by the H.A.S. Board and the nominations were ratified by the membership during the Business Meeting Friday morning.

Jack Bales presented an overview of the updated Convention Hosting Guidelines. They were well received with a couple

of recommendations for minor changes. A motion carried to accept the guidelines.

James King stated that he had sent an e-mail requesting nominees for the open appointed positions and received only a response from Robert Sipes expressing a desire to continue as Executive Director and to nominate Bill Gowen to continue in the role of **Newsboy** Editor. A motion carried to accept those currently filling the appointed positions.

Motions carried to approve the *Strive & Succeed Award* at \$1,000 and honorariums for the **Newsboy** Editor and Executive Director at \$200 each.

Carol Nackenoff, the Chair of the Membership Committee, presented various activities and ideas researched by the Committee. Jack Bales discussed the university economics class earlier this year where he presented Alger as a topic, and Alger books (courtesy of Scott Chase) were used by the students for a class project. It was a success, and Jack noted he will be doing it again in Spring 2024

Chase presented four proposals for increasing H.A.S. membership, and motions were made and carried to accept all four. The first motion was to send a welcome letter from the President to a new member, in addition to other letters from the Executive Director or others. The second motion was to send a welcome gift to each new member. The third proposal was for the Society to advertise on the website and Facebook that “when you join H.A.S. you will receive a welcome gift,” The fourth proposal is that membership committee members may be reimbursed for acquiring items to be included in the welcome gift up to \$25 per new member. The H.A.S. officers and the Board of Directors may reconsider this commitment at any time. There was much discussion regarding each of these proposals and minor modifications were recommended.

James King adjourned the meeting at 1905.

Respectfully submitted,

*Robert G Sipes*

Robert G. Sipes  
Executive Director  
Horatio Alger Society

<b>Category</b>	<b>May '22 - Apr '23</b>	<b>May '21 - Apr '22</b>	<b>May '20 - Apr '21</b>	<b>May '19 - Apr '20</b>	<b>May '18 - Apr '19</b>	<b>May '17 - Apr '18</b>	<b>May '16 - Apr '17</b>	<b>May '15 - Apr '16</b>	<b>May '14 - Apr '15</b>	<b>May '13 - Apr '14</b>
Print Run	120	125	130	130	130	140	140	155	160	160
Number of Color Issues	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	0	2
Print Cost per Issue (each)	\$2.99	\$3.09	\$2.65	\$2.78	\$2.53	\$2.78	\$2.81	\$3.22	\$2.23	\$2.82
Total Cost per Issue (each)	\$5.21	\$4.49	\$5.08	\$4.25	\$4.25	\$4.20	\$4.31	\$4.55	\$3.67	\$4.21

## TREASURER'S REPORT

May 1, 2022-April 30, 2023

### INCOME

Dues income.....	\$1,970.00
Auction income .....	1,759.00
Strive & Succeed Award income ...	1,135.00
H.A.A. Consulting fee .....	0.00
Advertising income .....	0.00
Merchandise income .....	50.00
Interest income .....	78.98
Misc. income.....	<u>0.25</u>
<b>TOTAL INCOME .....</b>	<b>\$4,993.23</b>

### EXPENSES

#### Newsboy expenses:

Printing .....	\$2,152.56
Postage.....	1,041.05
Envelopes .....	220.54
Equipment & Software	237.17
Editor's expenses .....	<u>96.06</u>

Total Newsboy expenses.....\$3,747.38

Convention expenses .....	0.00
Auction consignment payouts.....	36.80
Strive & Succeed Award .....	1,000.00
Honorariums .....	200.00
Miscellaneous.....	425.63

#### Administration:

PayPal charges.....	\$4.16
Web Hosting .....	0.00
Domain Registration .....	19.99
Bank charges .....	<u>0.00</u>

Total administration expenses .....

**TOTAL EXPENSES .....** **\$5,433.96**

**NET INCOME/(Loss).....** **(\$440.73)**

### Balance sheet as of April 30, 2023

### ASSETS

Chesapeake Bank Operating Acct. .	\$13,582.61
Chesapeake Bank 7-month CD .....	10,079.24
PayPal Holdings .....	<u>0.00</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS .....</b>	<b>\$23,661.85</b>

### LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

#### Equity:

Opening balance, equity .....	\$4,763.05
Retained earnings.....	19,339.53
Net income/(Loss).....	<u>(440.73)</u>

**TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY ...** **\$23,661.85**

*Submitted by Robert E. Kasper, Treasurer*  
May 4, 2023

## MEMBERSHIP

### New member

Scott Galley (PF-1157)  
13633 Jane St.  
Toronto, ON NOP 2KO  
CANADA

### Reinstated member

David H. Mills (PF-474)  
P. O. Box 108  
Little Deer Isle, ME 04650  
Phone: (307) 348-6837

David is a retired psychologist whose main collecting interest in addition to Horatio Alger, Jr. is material on Montana. Welcome back!

# Annual fund-raising auction summary

## Consignment from Rob Kasper (PF-327)

Title	Publisher	Buyer	Price
<i>Victor Vane</i>	P&C (1st ed.)	Keith Thompson	\$58.00
<i>Falling in with Fortune</i>	Mershon (1st ed.)	Carol Nackenoff	\$20.00
<i>W. Sherwood's Probation</i>	H.T. Coates (1st ed.)	Terry Booth	\$59.00
<i>Facing the World</i>	P&C (1st ed.)	Debby Jones	\$32.00
<i>Slow and Sure</i>	A.K. Loring (1st, later prt.)	Keith Thompson	\$22.00
<i>Strive and Succeed</i>	A.K. Loring (green)	Bob Sipes	\$10.00
<i>Slow and Sure</i>	A.K. Loring (purple)	Bob Sipes	\$5.00
<i>Risen from the Ranks</i>	Media Books (dj)	Debby Jones	\$2.00
<i>Helen Ford</i>	P&C (Alta ed.)	Jack Bales	\$12.00
<i>F. Fowler, the Cash Boy</i>	A.L. Burt (1st ed.)	Debby Jones	\$2.00
<i>Dean Dunham</i>	S&S (gold spine lett.)	Bob Sipes	\$8.00
<i>The Young Boatman</i>	Penn Publishing	Scott Chase	\$2.00
<i>Tom Temple's Career</i>	A.L. Burt (Fez ed.)	Debby Jones	\$2.00
<i>The Store Boy</i>	P&C (Beehive cover)	Terry Booth	\$16.00
<i>Farm Boy to Senator</i>	S&S (gold spine lett.)	Debby Jones	\$18.00
Cut signature of H. Alger, Jr.: ("Yours cordially, Horatio Alger, Jr.")			
		Debby Jones	\$55.00
Check signed by Ralph Waldo Emerson			
		Jeff Looney	\$105.00
<i>Only in America, Opportunity Knocks</i> ; pub. by Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans, Inc. (1996)			
		Jack Bales	\$5.00

**Consignment lots sold: 18**      **Total bids: \$433.00**  
**H.A.S. commission: \$86.60**

## Consignment from Bob Sipes (PF-1067)

<i>The Nugget Finders</i>	J.F. Shaw (England)	Scott Chase	\$30.00
<i>Sam's Chance</i>	Aldine (England)	James King	\$50.00
Castlemo: <i>Julian Mortimer</i>	A.L. Burt (1st ed., pb)	Scott Chase	\$100.00
Castlemo: <i>Guy Harris</i>	A.L. Burt (1st ed., pb)	Scott Chase	\$100.00

**Consignment lots sold: 4**      **Total bids: \$280.00**  
**H.A.S. commission: \$56.00**

## Consignment from David Jones

<i>The Young Boatman</i>	Penn Publishing	Scott Chase	\$115.00
<i>Farm Boy to Senator</i>	Street & Smith	Mark Muello	\$5.00
<i>Paul the Peddler</i>	Thomp. & Thomas	Debby Jones	\$2.00
<i>The Young Miner</i>	P&C (mining cover)	Debby Jones	\$8.00
<i>The Young Explorer</i>	P&C (mining cover)	Debby Jones	\$3.00
<i>The Young Adventurer</i>	P&C (mining cover)	Debby Jones	\$3.00
<i>The Young Explorer</i>	P&C (mining cover)	Bill Gowen	\$15.00
<i>The Young Miner</i>	P&C (mining cover)	Bill Gowen	\$25.00
<i>Out for Business</i>	Mershon	Bob Sipes	\$2.00
Four misc. Alger-Stratemeyer completions			
	Grosset & Dunlap	Debby Jones	\$7.00

<i>Ragged Dick</i>	A.K. Loring	Debby Jones	\$20.00
<i>Julius, the Street Boy</i>	A.K. Loring (1st ed.)	Jams King	\$17.00
<i>Frank's Campaign</i>	A.K. Loring (2nd ed.)	James King	\$120.00
<i>Luck and Pluck</i>	A.K. Loring (1st ed.)	Bob Sipes	\$2.00
<i>The Store Boy; Julius</i>	Mershon	Debby Jones	\$6.00
<i>Young Circus Rider</i>	P&C (tan Apple)	Terry Booth	\$19.00
<i>Ragged Dick</i>	P&C (brown Apple)	Debby Jones	\$6.00
<i>Ragged Dick</i>	P&C (same, lesser cond.)	Debby Jones	\$6.00
<i>Mark the Match Boy</i>	P&C (brown Apple)	Debby Jones	\$5.00
<i>Phil the Fiddler</i>	P&C (tan Apple)	Debby Jones	\$4.00
<i>Julius, the Street Boy</i>	P&C (brown Apple)	Bob Sipes	\$4.00
<i>Phil the Fiddler</i>	P&C (brown Apple)	Debby Jones	\$6.00
<i>Canal Boy to President</i>	Anderson (no erratum)	Bob Sipes	\$4.00
<i>Canal Boy to President</i>	Anderson (no erratum)	Bob Sipes	\$2.00
<i>Struggling Upward</i>	HTC (Sports cover)	Debby Jones	\$2.00
<i>Rough and Ready</i>	P&C (Wreath cover)	Mark Muello	\$5.00
<i>Falling in with Fortune</i>	Mershon/Stitt transit.	Debby Jones	\$18.00
<i>Jerry, the Backwoods Boy</i>	William Stitt	Scott Chase	\$15.00
<b>Lot: Luck and Pluck</b> P&C/HTC transit.			
<i>Shifting for Himself</i>	P&C (red lion cover)	Jack Bales	\$20.00
<i>Out for Business</i>	Stitt/Mershon transit.	Keith Thompson	\$12.00
<i>The Young Miner</i>	Donohue (boy/horse)	Scott Chase	\$100.00
<i>Risen from the Ranks</i>	Winston/HTC transit.	Debby Jones	\$16.00
<i>Slow and Sure</i>	Winston	Debby Jones	\$14.00
<i>Driven from Home</i>	Hurst	Debby Jones	\$6.00
<i>The Pathway to Reading, Second Reader</i>		Debby Jones	\$3.00
<b>Lot: C.A. Stephens: On the Amazon (Winston)</b>			
Chipman: <i>Roy Gilbert's Search</i> (A.L. Burt)			
Winfield: <i>By Pluck, Not Luck</i> (M. A. Donohue)			
Winfield: <i>The Young Inventor's Pluck</i> (Saalfield)			
Winfield: <i>The Rover Boys on the Farm</i> (G&D)	Mark Muello		\$5.00
<i>The Boy Explorer</i>	Hurst (d/j)	Scott Chase	\$20.00
<i>The Erie Train Boy</i>	Hurst (scarce format)	Scott Chase	\$120.00
<i>The Young Acrobat</i>	Hurst	Bob Sipes	\$10.00
<i>Ralph Raymond's Heir</i>	Hurst (blank cover)	Keith Thompson	\$20.00
<i>Phil the Fiddler</i>	Hurst (blank cover)	Debby Jones	\$12.00
<i>Andy Grant's Pluck</i>	A.L. Burt	Debby Jones	\$10.00
<i>Andy Grant's Pluck</i>	A.L. Burt	Jack Bales	\$5.00
<i>Try and Trust</i>	A.L. Burt	Debby Jones	\$13.00
<i>Julius the Street Boy</i>	A.L. Burt	Debby Jones	\$10.00
<i>Driven from Home</i>	A.L. Burt	Bob Sipes	\$3.00
<i>Sam's Chance</i>	A.L. Burt	Scott Chase	\$18.00
<i>Making His Way</i>	Hurst (d/j)	Scott Chase	\$35.00
<i>Tom the Bootblack</i>	A.L. Burt	Debby Jones	\$6.00

(Continued on Page 12)

# Annual fund-raising auction summary

## Consignment from David Jones, cont.

Title	Publisher	Buyer	Price
<i>Only an Irish Boy</i>	A.L. Burt	Bob Sipes	\$2.00
<i>Wren Winter's Triumph</i>	M.A. Donohue	Carol Nackenoff	\$2.00
<i>Wren Winter's Triumph</i>	M.A. Donohue	Mark Muello	\$3.00
Five misc. Alger titles	Federal	Debby Jones	\$5.00
Four misc. Alger titles	Hurst	Debby Jones	\$5.00
<i>Adrift in New York</i>	Our Boys Pub. Co.	Keith Thompson	\$32.00
<b>Lot: Facing the World</b>	Hurst		
<i>The Young Acrobat</i>	Hurst	Debby Jones	\$4.00
<b>Lot: Shifting for Himself</b>	Hurst		
<i>Bob Burton</i>	Hurst	Debby Jones	\$4.00
<b>Lot: In Search of Treasure</b>	Hurst		
<i>Bob Burton</i>	Hurst	Mark Muello	\$2.00
Three misc. Alger titles	Hurst	Mark Muello	\$5.00
Three misc. Alger titles	Hurst	Debby Jones	\$4.00
Two misc. Alger titles	Hurst	Debby Jones	\$4.00
Four misc. Alger titles	Winston	Debby Jones	\$6.00
Four misc. Alger titles	Winston	Debby Jones	\$8.00
<b>Lot: Luke Walton</b>	Hurst		
<i>The Young Acrobat</i>	Hurst	Debby Jones	\$2.00
<b>Lot: The Cash Boy</b>	New York Publishing		
<i>Slow and Sure</i>	New York Publishing	Scott Chase	\$10.00
<b>Lot: T. Thatcher's Fortune</b>	A.L. Burt (Fez ed.)		
<i>Tom the Bootblack</i>	A.L. Burt (Fez ed.)	Debby Jones	\$2.00
<b>Lot: The Train Boy</b>	A.L. Burt (Fez ed.)		
<i>Tony the Hero</i>	A.L. Burt (Fez ed.)	Debby Jones	\$4.00
<b>Lot: Tom the Bootblack</b>	A.L. Burt (Fez ed.)		
<i>Joe's Luck</i>	A.L. Burt (Fez ed.)		
<i>The Train Boy</i>	A.L. Burt (Fez ed.)	Debby Jones	\$2.00
<b>Lot: Paul the Peddler</b>	A.L. Burt (Green Tulip)		
<i>The Train Boy</i>	A.L. Burt (Green Tulip)		
<i>Tony the Hero</i>	A.L. Burt (Green Tulip)	Bob Sipes	\$2.00
<b>Lot: The Store Boy</b>	Hurst		
<i>Tom the Bootblack</i>	Hurst	Debby Jones	\$2.00
<b>Lot: T. Thatcher's Fortune</b>	A.L. Burt (Fez ed.)		
<i>Tom the Bootblack</i>	A.L. Burt (Fez ed.)	Debby Jones	\$2.00
<b>Lot: Dan the Newsboy</b>	A.L. Burt (Gold Tulip)		
<i>F. Fowler, the Cash Boy</i>	A.L. Burt (Gold Tulip)		
<i>The Errand Boy</i>	A.L. Burt (Gold Tulip)	Bob Sipes	\$6.00
<b>Lot: P. Prescott's Charge</b>	Winston		
<i>Facing the World</i>	Winston	Debby Jones	\$7.00
Three misc. Alger titles	Various pubs.	Debby Jones	\$2.00
Six misc. Alger titles	Winston	Debby Jones	\$6.00
Five misc. Alger titles	A.L. Burt	Bob Sipes	\$12.00
<b>Lot: The Store Boy</b>	A.L. Burt (Torch ed.)		
<i>Luke Walton</i>	A.L. Burt (Torch ed.)	Scott Chase	\$70.00
Four misc. Alger titles	Winston Lib. ed.	Scott Chase	\$10.00
<i>Jacob Marlowe's Secret</i>	A.L. Burt	Debby Jones	\$2.00
Six misc. Alger titles	A.L. Burt	Bob Sipes	\$2.00
<b>Lot: The Store Boy</b>	HTC (Sports cover)		
<i>Ben's Nugget</i>	HTC (Sports cover)	Carol Nackenoff	\$2.00
<b>Lot: Dan the Newsboy</b>	A.L. Burt (Ornamental Diamond)		
<i>Struggling Upward</i>	A.L. Burt (3 Circles)	Scott Chase	\$12.00
<b>Lot: Making his Way</b>	A.L. Burt		
<i>Andy Grant's Pluck</i>	A.L. Burt	Debby Jones	\$4.00
Four misc. Alger titles	A.L. Burt	Debby Jones	\$6.00
Five misc. Alger titles	A.L. Burt	Debby Jones	\$8.00
Four misc. Alger titles	A.L. Burt	Debby Jones	\$4.00
Five misc. Alger titles	A.L. Burt	Jack Bales	\$5.00
Five misc. Alger titles	A.L. Burt	Debby Jones	\$2.00
Three misc. Alger titles	Hurst	Debby Jones	\$8.00
Four misc. Alger titles	Hurst	Debby Jones	\$2.00
Three misc. Alger titles	Hurst	Debby Jones	\$6.00
<i>The Young Adventurer; The Young Salesman</i>			
	N.Y. Book 2 stories ed.	Scott Chase	\$10.00
<b>Lot: Bound to Rise; Risen from the Ranks</b>			
<i>Wait and Hope; Tony the Tramp</i>			
	N.Y. Book 2 stories ed.	Scott Chase	\$10.00
<i>Stuggling Upward; Hector's Inheritance</i>			
	N.Y. Book 2 stories ed.	Bob Sipes	\$2.00
<i>Mark Mason's Triumph; Joe's Luck</i>			
	N.Y. Book 2 stories ed.	Bob Sipes	\$8.00
<b>Lot: Mark Mason's Victory</b>	A.L. Burt		
<i>The Young Adventurer</i>	A.L. Burt	Mark Muello	\$3.00
<b>Lot: Andy Grant's Pluck</b>	Mershon		
<i>The Young Acrobat</i>	Mershon	Mark Muello	\$5.00
Four misc. Alger titles	Chatt.-Peck	Debby Jones	\$2.00
Four misc. Alger titles	Trade Publishing	Debby Jones	\$5.00
Five misc. Alger titles	M.A. Donohue	Debby Jones	\$5.00
<i>Driven from Home</i>	Trade/Mutual transit.	Debby Jones	\$2.00
<b>Lot: Facing the World</b>	M.A. Donohue		
<i>Charlie Codman's Cruise</i>	M.A. Donohue	Scott Chase	\$14.00
<b>Lot: Do and Dare (d/j)</b>	M.A. Donohue		
<i>Young Salesman (d/j)</i>	M.A. Donohue	Scott Chase	\$10.00
<b>Lot: Erie Train Boy</b>	M.A. Donohue		
<i>Frank's Campaign</i>	M.A. Donohue	Scott Chase	\$2.00
<b>Lot: Brave and Bold</b>	Mershon		
<i>Ralph Raymond's Heir</i>	Mershon	Richard Hoffman	\$2.00
Three misc. Alger titles	M.A. Donohue	Mark Muello	\$5.00

# Annual fund-raising auction summary



**Auctioneer James King asks for an opening bid on this pair of Alger books.** Photo by Bill Gowen

Three misc. Algers (d/j)s	World; Goldsmith	Debby Jones	\$5.00
<i>Mark Mason's Victory</i>	A.L. Burt (Gold Tulip)	Bob Sipes	\$2.00
<i>Mark Mason's Victory</i>	A.L. Burt (Gold Tulip, 1st ed.)	Bob Sipes	\$3.00
<i>Tom Temple's Career</i>	A.L. Burt (Gold Tulip)	Carol Nackenoff	\$4.00
<i>Mark Manning's Mission</i>	A.L. Burt (Ornamental Diamond, 1st ed.)	Scott Chase	\$5.00
<i>The Errand Boy</i>	A.L. Burt (Fez ed.)	Debby Jones	\$2.00
<b>Lot: Tony the Hero</b>			
<i>Tom the Bootblack</i>	A.L. Burt (Gold Tulip)	Bob Sipes	\$7.00
<b>Lot: Tom Thatcher's Fortune</b>			
<i>Joe's Luck</i>	A.L. Burt (Gold Tulip)	Debby Jones	\$12.00
<i>Tom Turner's Legacy</i>	A.L. Burt (Green Tulip)	Debby Jones	\$2.00
<i>A Debt of Honor</i>	A.L. Burt (Gold Tulip)	Debby Jones	\$10.00
<i>In Search of Treasure</i>	A.L. Burt (1st ed.)	Debby Jones	\$2.00
<i>The Errand Boy</i>	A.L. Burt (Gold Tulip, unusual blue cloth)	Carol Nackenoff	\$7.00
17 misc. Alger titles	Various; mixed cond.	Scott Chase	\$13.00
Five misc. Alger titles	M.A. Donohue	Bob Sipes	\$2.00
263 misc Alger titles	Various; mixed cond.	Debby Jones	\$198.00
July 6-13 1959 issue of <i>The Antiquarian Bookman</i> , containing Morton S. Enslin's Hortio Alger title checklist.		Bob Sipes	\$6.00

**Consignment lots sold: 123      Total bids: \$1,565.00**  
**H.A.S. commission: \$313.00**

## *Donation from Carol Nackenoff (PF-921)*

<u>Title</u>	<u>Publisher</u>	<u>Buyer</u>	<u>Price</u>
<i>Charlie Codman's Cruise</i>	Hurst	Debby Jones	\$10.00
<i>Cast Upon the Breakers</i>	Doubleday (d/j)	Bob Sipes	\$2.00
<i>Making His Way</i>	A.L. Burt	Debby Jones	\$1.00
Carol Nackenoff and Julie Novkov: <i>American by Birth</i>	Kansas Univ. Press	Jack Bales	\$17.00
<b>Lot: P. Prescott's Charge</b>	Winston		
<i>Frank Hunter's Peril</i>	Winston		
<i>Risen from the Ranks</i>	Mershon	Debby Jones	\$2.00
<b>Lot: Do and Dare</b>	World Syndicate		
<i>Brave and Bold</i>	World Syndicate	Debby Jones	\$6.00
<b>Lot: Ashton Lamar: The Boy Aeronauts' Club</b>	Reilly & Britton		
<i>The Boy Volunteers with the French Airmen</i>	New York Book Co.	Mark Muello	\$2.00
Four misc. Alger titles	New York Book Co.	Scott Chase	\$6.00
Four misc. Alger titles	Various publishers	Scott Chase	\$2.00

**Donation lots sold: 9      Total bids: \$48.00**

## *Donation from Michael Nabholz (PF-1146)*

John F. Case: <i>Under the 4-H Flag</i> (signed, d/j)	Lippincott	Jeff Looney	\$90.00
Stephen W. Meader: <i>King of the Hills</i> (signed, d/j)	Harcourt, Brace	Jeff Looney	\$35.00
Gordon D. Shireffs: <i>Son of the Thunder People</i> (signed, d/j)	Westminster Press	Bob Sipes	\$10.00
Thomson Burtis: <i>Straight Shooting: Advent. of a Film Flier</i> (signed, d/j)	Doubleday, Doran	Bob Sipes	\$52.00
Rutherford Montgomery: <i>Kent Barstow, Space Man</i> (signed, d/j)	Duell, Sloan & Pearce	Bob Sipes	\$22.00
Rutherford Montgomery: <i>Kent Barstow on a B-70 Mission</i> (ex-lib, dj)	Duell, Sloan & Pearce	Bob Sipes	\$2.00
Rutherford Montgomery: <i>Kent Barstow Aboard the Dyna Soar</i> (ex-lib., d/j)	Duell, Sloan & Pearce	Bob Sipes	\$7.00
Rutherford Montgomery: <i>Kent Barstow and the Commando Flight</i> (dj)	Duell, Sloan & Pearce	Bob Sipes	\$7.00
Rutherford Montgomery: <i>Kent Barstow and the Special Agent</i> (ex-lib.)	Duell, Sloan & Pearce	Bob Sipes	\$4.00
Rutherford Montgomery: <i>Mission Intruder: A Kent Barstow Mystery</i> (ex-lib.)	Duell, Sloan & Pearce	Bob Sipes	\$6.00
Rutherford Montgomery: <i>Missile Away: A Kent Barstow Mystery</i> (ex-lib.)	Duell, Sloan & Pearce	Debby Jones	\$20.00

(Continued on Page 14)

# Annual fund-raising auction summary

## *Donation from Michael Nabholz, cont.*

Title	Publisher	Buyer	Price
Rutherford Montgomery: <i>Jets Away</i> (ex-lib.)	Dodd, Mead & Co.	Bob Sipes	\$6.00
Rutherford Montgomery: <i>Jet Navigator</i> (ex-lib.)	Dodd, Mead & Co.	Debby Jones	\$15.00
John G. Rowe: <i>The Lightning Pirates</i>	Cupples & Leon	Debby Jones	\$6.00
John G. Rowe: <i>Sergeant Dick</i>	Cupples & Leon	Debby Jones	\$6.00
John G. Rowe: <i>The Secret of the Golden Idol</i>	Cupples & Leon	Debby Jones	\$6.00
John G. Rowe: <i>The Island Treasure</i>	Cupples & Leon	Debby Jones	\$6.00
John G. Rowe: <i>Crusoe Island</i>	Cupples & Leon	Mark Muello	\$5.00
John G. Rowe: <i>The Mystery of the Derelict</i>	Cupples & Leon	Bob Sipes	\$5.00
Eustace L. Adams: <i>The Adventures of the Boy Gliders</i>	Brewer, Warren & Putnam	James King	\$2.00
L. P. Wyman: <i>The Hunniwell Boys' Non-Stop Flight Around the World</i>	A.L. Burt	Mark Muello	\$3.00
L. P. Wyman: <i>The Hunniwell Boys and the Platinum Mystery</i>	A.L. Burt	Mark Muello	\$2.00
L. P. Wyman: <i>The Hunniwell Boys' Victory</i>	A.L. Burt	Mark Muello	\$2.00
<b>Donation lots sold: 25</b>	<b>Total bids:</b>		<b>\$325.00</b>

## *Donation from John Fogarty (PF-921)*

Framed cover of <i>Strive and Succeed</i>		Mark Muello	\$2.00
<i>Bob Burton</i>	Hurst	Scott Chase	\$30.00
<i>Risen from the Ranks</i>	A.L. Burt (Rings)	Bob Sipes	\$8.00
<i>Struggling Upward</i>	Hurst	Debby Jones	\$2.00
<i>Wait and Hope</i>	Hurst	Mark Muello	\$5.00
<i>Helen Ford</i>	Hurst	Debby Jones	\$25.00
<b>Lot:</b> <i>Luke Walton</i>	Winston		
<i>Only an Irish Boy</i>	Winston		
<i>Jack's Ward</i>	Winston	Mark Muello	\$5.00
<b>Lot:</b> <i>The Erie Train Boy</i>	Hurst		
<i>The Cash Boy</i>	Hurst	Bob Sipes	\$4.00
<b>Lot:</b> <i>Slow and Sure</i>	M.A. Donohue		
<i>Try and Trust</i>	Mershon	Debby Jones	\$6.00
<b>Lot:</b> <i>Strive and Succeed</i>	Hurst		
<i>Do and Dare</i>	Hurst		
<i>The Cash Boy</i>	Hurst	Bob Sipes	\$2.00

<i>Joe, the Hotel Boy</i>	Grosset & Dunlap	Mark Muello	\$5.00
<b>Lot:</b> <i>Tony the Hero</i>	A.L. Burt		
<i>In a New World</i>	A.L. Burt	Mark Muello	\$3.00
<b>Lot:</b> <i>Brave and Bold</i>	Federal		
<i>Ralph Raymond's Heir</i>	M.A. Donohue	Richard Hoffman	\$2.00
<i>Canal Boy to President</i>	J.R. Anderson	Debby Jones	\$10.00
<b>Lot:</b> <i>Facing the World</i>	Winston		
<i>Herbert Carter's Legacy</i>	Winston		
<i>Ben's Nugget</i>	Winston	Debby Jones	\$2.00
<b>Lot:</b> <i>Phil the Fiddler</i>	Nautilus		
<i>Frank's Campaign</i>	World Syndicate	Debby Jones	\$7.00
Six misc. Alger titles and publishers		Mark Muello	\$2.00
Six misc. Alger titles and publishers		Bob Sipes	\$2.00

**Donation lots sold: 18**      **Total bids:**      **\$122.00**

## *Donation from Bill Gowen (PF-706)*

Victor Appleton: <i>Tom Swift and His Great Oil Gusher</i> (dj, faded spine)	Grosset & Dunlap	James King	\$25.00
Victor Appleton: <i>Tom Swift and His Chest of Secrets</i> (dj, faded spine)	Grosset & Dunlap	James King	\$42.00
<b>Lot:</b> <i>Tom Swift in the Caves of Ice</i> (in poor dj)			
<i>Tom Swift and His Electric Locomotive</i> (in poor dj)	Grosset & Dunlap	Jeff Looney	\$30.00
<b>Lot:</b> <i>Tom Swift and His War Tank</i> (book VG, no dj)			
<i>Tom Swift in the Land of Wonders</i> (book VG, no dj)	Grosset & Dunlap	Bob Sipes	\$5.00
<b>Lot:</b> <i>Tom Swift and His Wireless Message</i> (book VG, no dj)			
<i>Tom Swift and His Air Glider</i> (book VG, no dj)	Grosset & Dunlap	Mark Muello	\$4.00
<b>Lot:</b> <i>Tom Swift and His Great Search Light</i> (book VG, no dj)			
<i>Tom Swift in the City of Gold</i> (book VG, no dj)	Grosset & Dunlap	Bob Sipes	\$5.00
<b>Lot:</b> <i>Tom Swift and His Giant Magnet</i> (book VG, no dj)			
<i>Tom Swift and His Planet Stone</i> (book VG, no dj)	G&D orange covers	Terry Booth	\$38.00
P. K. Fitzhugh: <i>Pee Wee Harris on the Briny Deep</i> (VG in VG dj)	Grosset & Dunlap	Bob Sipes	\$6.00
P. K. Fitzhugh: <i>Pee Wee Harris Mayor for a Day</i> (VG in VG dj)	Grosset & Dunlap	Bob Sipes	\$6.00
P. K. Fitzhugh: <i>Tom Slade's Double Dare</i> (VG in chipped dj)	Grosset & Dunlap	Mark Muello	\$5.00
P. K. Fitzhugh: <i>Tom Slade Picks a Winner</i> (VG in VG dj)	Grosset & Dunlap	Bob Sipes	\$7.00
Horatio Alger: <i>Strong and Steady</i> (Flying Wheel format, poor+)	Winston	Scott Chase	\$2.00

**Title Publisher Buyer Price**

Horatio Alger (Stratemeyer completion): <i>Out for Business</i>			
	Chatterton-Peck	Scott Chase	\$2.00
Ralph Henry Barbour: <i>Coxswain of the Eight</i> (fine, no d/j)			
	D. Appleton (2nd ed.)	Jeff Looney	\$6.00
Ralph Henry Barbour: <i>Metipom's Hostage</i> (fine, no d/j)			
	Houghton-Mifflin	James King	\$5.00
Harold M. Sherman: <i>Safe!</i> (Home Run Series; VG in VG d/j)			
	Grosset & Dunlap	James King	\$8.00
<b>Lot:</b> Leo Edwards: <i>Andy Blake Series</i> (all four titles, VG, no d/js)			
	Grosset & Dunlap	Jack Bales	\$15.00
Gilbert Patten: <i>The Rockspur Rivals</i> (fine cond.)			
	David McKay	Bob Sipes	\$7.00
Edward Stratemeyer: <i>At the Fall of Montreal</i> (first format, VG)			
	Loth., Lee & Shepard	Debby Jones	\$12.00
Edward Stratemeyer: <i>Dave Porter in the Far North</i> (first format, VG)			
	Loth., Lee & Shepard	James King	\$40.00
Kirk Munroe: <i>Canoemates</i>			
	Harpers	Bob Sipes	\$4.00
Walter Camp: <i>Jack Hall at Yale</i> (School and College Series)			
	D. Appleton	Bob Sipes	\$7.00
Gilbert Patten: <i>Clif Stirling, Captain of the Nine</i> (VG-)			
	David McKay	Jeff Looney	\$10.00
Burt L. Standish (Gilbert Patten): <i>Frank Merriwell's Races</i>			
	McKay (brown cloth)	Richard Hoffman	\$2.00
Clarence Young: <i>Jack Ranger's Treasure Box</i> (first format, VG-)			
	Cupples & Leon	Bob Sipes	\$2.00
Edward S. Ellis: <i>Through Jungle and Wilderness</i> (fine in fine d/j)			
	G&D, <i>Alert Series</i>	Rob Kasper	\$20.00
Allen Chapman: <i>Ralph of the Round House</i> (early reprint, G+)			
	Grosset & Dunlap	Bob Sipes	\$7.00
Leo Edwards: <i>Jerry Todd and the Rose-Colored Cat</i> (VG in VG- d/j)			
	G&D (early format)	Jack Bales	\$30.00
William Heyliger: <i>Steve Merrill, Engineer</i> (VG in fair d/j)			
	D. Appleton (3rd ed.)	Jeff Looney	\$150.00
Capwell Wyckoff: <i>Mystery Hunters at the Haunted Lodge</i> (fine in G+ d/j)			
	A.L. Burt	Terry Booth	\$30.00
Roy Rockwood: <i>The Speedwell Boys and their Ice Racer</i> (VG in G+ d/j)			
	A.L. Burt	Bob Sipes	\$22.00
Norman Rockwell framed 18" x 26" canvas print of <b>Phil the Fiddler</b>			
(Image included with July-August 2018 <b>Newsboy</b> article)			
		Debby Jones	\$175.00
Deidre Johnson: <i>Edward Stratemeyer and the Stratemeyer Syndicate</i>			
(Signed by author) Twayne (VG+ in d/j)			Debby Jones \$60.00
Deidre Johnson: Another copy, same as above			Scott Chase \$68.00
Deidre Johnson: Another copy, same as above			Keith Thompson \$72.00
<b>Donation lots sold:</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>Total bids:</b>	<b>\$953.00</b>



**Norman Rockwell's "Phil the Fiddler" is displayed by winning bidder Debby Jones and auctioneer James King.**

Photo by Bill Gowen

**Donation from Jack Bales (PF-258)**

Gilbert Patten: <i>Frank Merriwell's 'Father'</i> (in d/j)			
	U. of Okla. Press	Bob Petitto	\$22.00
Walter B. Gibson: <i>The Shadow Scrapbook</i> (softcover)			
	Harcourt, Brace	Debby Jones	\$25.00
American Heritage Magazine, July-August 1993			
		Debby Jones	\$20.00
<b>Donation lots sold:</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Total bids:</b>	<b>\$67.00</b>

**Donation from Terry Booth (PF-1150)**

Saalfeld boxed set of Boys' Adventure Series			
	Bob Sipes		\$25.00
<b>Donation lots sold:</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Total bids:</b>	<b>\$25.00</b>

**Donation from Bob Bennett family**

Horatio Alger bibliography (updated ed.)			Bob Petitto	\$20.00
Another copy, same as above			Mark Muello	\$20.00

**2023 auction summary:**

Donation auction total (all proceeds to H.A.S.).....	\$1,600.00
Total bids, consignment auction.....	\$2,278.00
H.A.S. commission, consignment auction.....	\$455.60
Total bids, all auctions.....	\$3,878.00
H.A.S. proceeds, all auctions.....	\$2,055.60

# Horatio Alger, Jr. and The Yankee Blade

## "Aunt Abigail's Visit to Boston"

At last, a proper sketch, rather than a mere anecdote.

"Well," said Mr. Timothy Templeton, a city merchant, laying down *The Yankee Blade*, from which he had been reading to the family circle, "I have some news to tell you."

And **Newsboy** readers, I have some news to tell you as well in this example, published on 6 May 1854 (Page 2).

We have here another "visitor from the country" construct which appears to be a favorite ploy of sketch writers of the period. We have no idea at the outset: will said visit be an innocent visitation or will it be otherwise? I think, however, if it proved to be innocent then there would have been no story to relate. This family visitor is of course the maiden aunt, who creates some havoc among her staid relatives.

Apparently, such a plot could inspire much creative fodder, and offer many opportunities for character development. Aunt Abigail certainly provides a liberal amount of her unfashionable ways, a bugbear is how we hear of it, as she is understood by those of her city-bred relatives. The elder daughter Abbie is fashionable enough to exclaim "*Quelle horreur!*" Hoping, though, that they would inherit her valuable farm upon her death, all four of them must abide the issue.

Abbie was named after her maiden Aunt Abigail and thereby hangs their initial confrontation, as the maiden aunt is quite astonished when she finds that her niece favors the shortened form. Abbie did not want to be called Abigail because her friends might mock her and as she was quite social conscious it was always Abbie to all and sundry. The country aunt, a dumpy little figure, arrives unexpectedly and sails into the drawing room, while the Templetons are entertaining their fashionable neighbors, the Bowdoins. (How much more Boston blue blood could you get than with a name like "Bowdoin?") She embarrasses the family and all are embarrassed in their turn. In fact, Abbie labels it the "climax of vexation."

We can now address the key motive of all this palaver. As Mrs. Templeton tells us: "Thank Heaven! It's only for a few weeks, and then we shall be rid of her. It will require no little patience, but her money will be a full compensation for that." Now I in turn should exclaim "*Quelle Horreur!*" Do I detect in this smarmy attitude some of the odious squires and landlords who were to plague many an Alger hero?

It is the younger sister Gertrude rather than her proper older sister who takes a shine to her maiden aunt. Gertrude and Aunt Abigail go off together to do some shopping. So do Abbie and her friend Helen Bowdoin,



who now inexplicably becomes "Helen Brandon." Was Alger at fault here or the typesetter? And Helen Brandon she remains for the rest of the story. A tin tea kettle of all things causes some controversy.

Aunt Abigail abruptly terminates her visit, but I will not disclose the ending. There is a letter elucidating the entire matter and a moral (isn't there always a moral?) in the final sentence. It is an enjoyable story, and even though the collective Templetons are ashamed of her, their aunt is more lovable and genuine than any of the other Templetons and shines through every paragraph.

We understand **The Yankee Blade** preened itself with some subtle advertising in the opening paragraph, courtesy of Horatio Alger. I have seen similar examples of this before. Oliver Optic took the same tack in his sketch "Taking The Newspapers," but it was not **The Yankee Blade** that he was advocating.

\* \* \*

## Poem: "The First of April"

Let us remember that Horatio Alger wrote a fair amount of poetry, no better or no worse than many of the versifiers of the period. As a fiction writer, poetry would have been part of his craft, and if not entirely memorable, they were at least timely.

His verse here, "The First of April," contains four stanzas of eight lines each and treats April Fool's Day. The rhyme scheme is a fair approximation of lines two and four, six and eight. A popular phrase of the day we encounter, *dolce far niente*, can be translated as "sweet to do nothing." It was often popularized in Alger's time. Ethelbert Nevin, the American composer of the once imperishable salon piano piece "Narcissus," composed a "Dolce Far Niente," which I used to play many years ago.

In this poem, a post boy knocks on the author's door and charges him two cents for the delivery of a letter. Incidentally, April 1, 1854, the date of this **Yankee Blade** issue and April Fool's Day itself, both fell on a Saturday. Horatio Alger was not tricking his readers nor his publishers. At least I don't think he was.

— Peter C. Walther (PF-548)  
9 and 12 May 2023

## Original Sketches.

[Written for The Yankee Blade.]

# AUNT ABIGAIL'S VISIT TO BOSTON.

BY CARL CANTAB

"Well," said Mr. Timothy Templeton, a city merchant, laying down the Yankee Blade, from which he had been reading to the family circle, "I have some news to tell you."

"Of what nature?" inquired Mrs. Templeton.

"It is in the shape of a visitor whom we are likely to be called upon to entertain for the next few weeks."

"Who is it, papa?" enquired Abbie the eldest, in a voice which betrayed no little curiosity.

"Who is it?" echoed Gertrude, who was two years younger.

"I think I shall allow you to exercise the Yankee faculty of guessing, for once," replied Mr. Templeton.

"Well, I'll guess the one I hope it is," returned Abbie. "Say, it's Franklin Mortimer, the young man you are appointed guardian to."

"I am sorry to disappoint you, but you are wrong. Now Gertrude, it is your turn."

"O, I never could guess, but as it is necessary to say something, I'll guess that it is Aunt Abigail."

"And you have guessed right."

"Good Heavens!" said Mrs. Templeton, aghast.

"Aunt Abigail! *Quelle horreur!*" exclaimed Abbie.

"And what have you to say to Aunt Abigail's visit?" said Mr. Templeton to Gertrude, who had said nothing.

"Why, I think I shall be very glad to see her, though she is a little queer."

"Good! There will be one welcome in the family."

Aunt Abigail, who was likely to prove such a bugbear to the Templeton family, was the sister of Mr. Templeton, and had early in life married a farmer, with whom she had since lived in a pleasant country town. Mrs. Templeton and the girls had little acquaintance with her; in fact they had never seen her till three or four years previous to the date of our story, when they passed a week at her country home, where they were most hospitably entertained. Since that time her husband had died, and she was left a widow, in sole possession of a very valuable farm. As she was without children, and Mr. Templeton was her only brother, it was expected that this would at her death fall to him or his daughters.

It was very clear, therefore, that however disagreeable Aunt Abigail's visit might be in reality, and her manners certainly were not the most fashionable, this circumstance must be studiously concealed from her.

Abbie, the eldest, had been named for her country aunt, but very early in life she had found it expedient to abbreviate the name, so that not one of her fashionable acquaintances was aware that her baptismal name was Abigail.

This among other things troubled her, in prospect of her aunt's visit. When in the country, she had allowed her aunt to call her by this homely appellation, but now the case was altered. She feared her aunt would be indiscreet enough to let out the secret. She had determined, however, if possible, to induce her to be called Abbie, as that would not sound quite so countrified.

Aunt Abigail had not written the precise day when she should arrive, and for fear of her breaking in upon them when they had company, they left directions with the servant to carry her immediately to the chamber which had been provided for her accommodation, whenever that event should take place.

But, as Burns has it, "the best laid schemes of mice and men shall often gang awa'." It was so [missing rest of sentence].

One morning the Bowdoins, a fashionable family with whom the Templetons considered it an honor to be on visiting terms, were in the drawing-room, and the party were in the full tide of conversation, when an energetic knock was heard at the front door.

"That must be Aunt Abigail," whispered her namesake apprehensively to Mrs. Templeton. "I know it is she, for anybody else would have rung the bell instead of knocking."

The call was answered, and the Templetons, confident that she would be at once inducted upstairs, sat tranquilly.

But what was their consternation when, after a brief colloquy outside, the drawing-room door was violently thrown open, and a dumpy little figure, with a band-box on either arm, entered and sank into the nearest chair in a very exhausted state.

"Well, I declare I'm perfectly worn out," were her first words, "bumping over those confounded pavements, and the stage-driver, would you believe it, made me pay twenty-five cents for it. He wouldn't take any less. But I came up with him. I passed off a twenty-cent piece for a quarter, and served him right for asking more than he had earned. But gracious! How I am running on. How do you do, sister Templeton? How do you do?"

And Aunt Abigail rose from her chair, and being rather near-sighted, shook hands with Mrs. Bowdoin by mistake.

That lady looked as if she thought her a fit candidate for an Insane Asylum, while Miss Helen Bowdoin absolutely laughed outright.

"You've made a mistake," said Mrs. Templeton, staying Aunt Abigail, "that is Mrs. Bowdoin, and I am Mrs. Templeton."

"Lor, so you are. Well, you must excuse me, *Miss* Bowdoin. Know better next time. Hope you'll call and see me while I'm in the city. But where is Abigail? O, here she is," seizing the disconcerted Abbie by the hand, and shaking it most vigorously. "How do you do, Abigail, I am so glad to see you."

(Continued on Page 18)

## Aunt Abigail's Visit to Boston

(Continued from Page 17)

"Call me Abbie, aunt," said the victim *sotto voce*.

"Call you Abbie," echoed Aunt Abigail in a loud voice, expressive of astonishment. What should I do that for? Wasn't you named after me, and isn't my name Abigail?"

To the inexpressible relief of Abbie and her mother, Miss Bowdoin here made a motion to go. In fact, she was obliged to resort to this step for fear of betraying the amusement which the unwelcome visitor had excited in her. Aunt Abigail now had an opportunity to display her politeness, or "manners," as she called it.

"I hope you aint going on account of me, Miss Bowdoin," said she, "you must not make a stranger of me at all, because I intend to get well acquainted with you, before I go. Do you live near? I've no doubt I shall be running into your house half a dozen times a day. Hope you'll be neighborly."

Miss Bowdoin mustered sufficient self-command to say that it would give her great gratification to do so.

"Well, what makes you all look so down in the mouth?" asked Aunt Abigail, after the departure of the visitors, breaking the embarrassed silence that succeeded.

"I wonder Julia didn't convey you upstairs at once," said Mrs. Templeton, "knowing that you had taken a long journey and must be fatigued. I left directions for her to do so."

"O, she offered to lead me there, but I found out you were all in here, and I was in such a hurry to see you, I couldn't wait, so in I bolted. However, as I'm a little tired, I'll go up now, if you haint no objection, Abigail — O, that reminds me — what made you say your name was Abbie?"

"Why, Aunt, Abbie is shorter and prettier, and everybody calls me so, so I'd really feel obliged to you if you would call me by that name instead of Abigail."

"O, well, if you wish it, I will," said Aunt Abigail, who was full of good nature.

"Well," said Abbie, throwing herself back in a chair after her aunt had gone, "if that isn't the climax of vexation, for her to come, of all times in the world, when the Bowdoins are here, and cut such a ridiculous figure. It'll be all over town before sunset, I know perfectly well, and, worst of all, to call me by that horrid, odious name Abigail. I shan't survive it, I know I shan't."

"I know it's vexatious," said her mother soothingly, "but then it doesn't really make us all past-timed or countryfied because we have relations who are so. Thank Heaven it's only for a few weeks, and then we shall be rid of her. It will require no little patience, but her money will be a full compensation for that. But where's Gertrude?"

"She went up with Aunt Abigail. She's welcome to her company, and I only hope she'll succeed in keeping her upstairs till tea-time."

But this was not to be. Aunt Abigail was of an exceedingly sociable disposition, so in the afternoon she brought down her

knitting-work to keep Mrs. Templeton and Abbie company. Having established herself to her satisfaction, she chatted away in happy unconsciousness that her auditors, with one exception, wished her to the extreme limits of civilization

The next morning was bright and sunny, and Aunt Abigail for one resolved to make the most of it. She accordingly announced her intention to go out shopping, and desired Abbie to accompany her.

It so happened that neither that young lady nor her mother had leisure to comply with her request. They were both dreadfully driven by work — must stay at home and sew all the morning. The secret of this sudden occasion of employment may easily be found in their unwillingness to promenade the streets with Aunt Abigail.

Gertrude, however, to the surprise and satisfaction of her mother and sister volunteered to go with her.

When they were fairly out of the house, Abbie threw down her sewing which she had taken up by way of pretext, and informed her mother that she was going out shopping.

"What," said Mrs. Templeton in astonishment, "when you told your aunt that you were so driven with work that you couldn't accompany her?"

"Well, that was the only way I could excuse myself, you know. Besides I have promised Helen Bowdoin that I would go shopping with her."

"But if you should meet your aunt?"

"I shall take good care of that. If I should happen to, however, I could easily put her off by saying I was obliged to come out to get a piece of tape, or skein of silk, or some trifle. The simple old soul will never know the difference."

Abbie and her friend had already passed two hours in shopping, but to the inexpressible relief of the former, had seen nothing of her aunt.

She was congratulating herself on this lucky escape, when all at once her attention was arrested by a well-known voice calling across the street, "Abigail, Abigail, wait a minute till I get to you."

She looked in the direction from whence the voice proceeded, and was absolutely petrified to see her aunt gesticulating from over the way, with a large tin tea-kettle hanging from her arm.

"Good gracious! Who is that?" asked Helen Bowdoin.

"That—that—why it's a country aunt of mine, who is a little crazy, and so acts singularly. I hoped to avoid her, but it is impossible."

"Why Abigail," said the aunt, who had reached her niece, "I thought you said you would have to stay at home and sew this morning."

"Well, so I should, but I needed some tape, so I was obliged to come out."

"Why, I saw a whole band of it in your work-basket."

"Yes," said Abbie, a little embarrassed, "but that was white tape. I wanted some stone color."

"Do you see what I've bought?" asked Aunt Abigail, holding up to view the tin tea-kettle. I thought it would be a good chance to get one, as our old one at home leaks dreadfully."

"But why didn't you have it sent home?"

"O, they offered to, but I wouldn't let 'em. Just as likely as not they would have kept the money, and never sent the tea-kettle. I wouldn't trust it out of my sight. Come, are you going home? Gertrude and I would like some company."

"No," was the hurried reply, "I shant be home for some time. You and Gertrude had better go, I shall tire you all out."

"Then you haint bought your tape?"

"Yes, but I've got a good many other things to buy, now I am about it."

So Aunt Abigail was finally bundled off, much to the relief of her dutiful niece, who did not at all relish the idea of being seen in connection with her aunt's tea-kettle.

I will not dwell upon the embarrassment occasioned by the visit of Aunt Abigail, which lasted some weeks. It was suddenly terminated in a manner which I am about to describe.

One morning, being unable to obtain a companion, Aunt Abigail walked out upon the common. She chanced to be directly behind two young ladies, who, she soon discovered, were talking of herself. The conversation was of this nature:

"Have you seen the green, countryfied booby who is visiting at Mrs. Templeton's?"

"O, yes! She's an aunt of Abbie's, though the latter is very much annoyed at having it known."

"She is very singular in her manners, but that is easily accounted for, as Abbie told Helen Bowdoin, she has been crazy, and is troubled in that way some, even now."

"You don't say so!"

"You may rely upon it, as Helen Bowdoin herself told me."

Aunt Abigail had heard quite enough to answer her purpose. She was highly indignant with Abbie, from whom she had expected nothing of the kind. She summoned a carriage to be in waiting at an appointed hour in the afternoon, and despite all solicitations to remain, which became the more urgent as they suspected that this sudden movement was not without a cause, and declining all explanation, she departed in the afternoon, much to the real relief of those whom she left behind.

The following note, addressed to Abbie, was found on her dressing table:

"Miss Abbie Templeton: If your Aunt Abigail *is* crazy, she doesn't intend to trouble you with it. She thinks the surest way to show that she is still in her senses, is to leave a place where she is not wanted. I shall be happy to see *your sister Gertrude*, and have her come and visit me. She is the only one that wasn't ashamed of me, and I shall find some way yet to show that I know who my true friends are.

Yours to command,

**AUNT ABIGAIL."**

It is needless to say that Abbie has ceased to cherish expectations of receiving any portion of her aunt's estate. Gertrude still holds the post of favorite, not undeservedly, since her considerable kindness to Aunt Abigail was not prompted by interested motives.

## Choice Poetry.

[Written for The Yankee Blade.]

# THE FIRST OF APRIL.

BY CARL CANTAB

I was sitting in my chamber,

— House, No. 20

Enjoying what Italians call

The "*dolce far niente*."

The winds of March at length had piped

Their farewell blast and vanished,

And thoughts of wintry frosts and chills

Were now by April banished.

Just then I heard the post-boy's knock,

"Come in," I muttered lazily,

And cast a half-expectant glance

Through vapors floating hazily.

"Well, boy, what brings't thou? Prithee tell,

Relieve me from my great suspense."

"Why, here's a letter, sir," said he,

"For which bringing which I charge two cents."

A perfumed envelope of white

Directed in a female hand!

Aha! Here lies some mystery

I fain would understand.

It cannot be some lady fair

Has looked on me with favoring eyes,

And knowing my great bashfulness,

Has planned a sweet surprise.

The very thought my face suffered,

Awhile the note in doubt I held,

Then opened it. Alas my dreams

We all too cruelly dispelled.

I saw — now, which I write of it,

My feelings can scarcely school —

Those words in staring capitals,

"I'VE MADE ONE APRIL FOOL!"

## Convention report

(Continued from Page 5)

and this year, new member Mark Muello was the lucky recipient. Another popular feature of the convention was Liane's candy bowl in the meeting room, which was kept well stocked from Thursday through Saturday. Incidentally, Liane's sister, Lynda, visiting from California was present at several of the convention events, and I had the opportunity of talking with both of them.

The meeting/hospitality room stayed open late every night of the convention, and it was pleasant just relaxing at the end of the day and chatting amiably with those present. I recall seeing Terry Booth, Scott Chase, Bill Gowen, Carol Nackenoff, Keith Thompson, and others one evening, and Debby Jones told me that after I departed Saturday night, she talked with Dick Hoffman, James King, Bob Petitto, and Bob Sipes. And after they locked up the room and went to their rooms, the only item left on the convention schedule was breakfast Sunday morning.

**Looking ahead to 2024:** The Horatio Alger Society convention will be returning to Fredericksburg, Virginia, during the first weekend of May, from Thursday, May 2 to Sunday, May 5. I am pleased to announce that we have already secured the same \$89 (plus tax) nightly room rate at the Hampton Inn and Suites which we enjoyed in 2021, 2022, and 2023.

Some of the important details for next year's convention, "The Fredericksburg Fourth," are all set, but I have been working on changing a few things from previous years.



Jeff Looney, Liane Houghtalin, Rob Kasper and Jack Bales enjoy a meal at a Fredericksburg restaurant, one of several such visits they'll make in coming weeks to determine the best location for the Friday dinner during "The Fredericksburg Fourth" on May 2-5, 2024.

Our Friday night dinner is one of them. Fredericksburg has many fine restaurants, but not that many have private rooms; moreover, since downtown parking in the city is at a premium, I want a restaurant with its own parking lot.

I have been doing some close checking and have even been looking at local blogs. Armed with a good lead, I recently asked Virginia H.A.S. members Liane Houghtalin, Rob Kasper, and Jeff Looney for their input. Not only did we have a fine lunch on June 3 at a local establishment, but we also met with the owner and chef, who came up with some excellent suggestions for a buffet.

Nothing has been settled, but I am in no hurry. Furthermore, I am pleased to say that there are at least two more restaurants I intend to visit!

I will provide additional convention details in future issues of *Newsboy*. I look forward to planning "The Fredericksburg Fourth," and hope to see you there!

## Editor's notebook

(Continued from Page 4)

Jeff Looney (PF-903) and his wife, Judy, were planning a Christmas holidays visit to his son, James, who in the fall had taken a job in the Philadelphia area, moving to a suburb just a few miles from West Chester, where Didi lives. I mailed the books to Jeff, and he arranged to meet with the author at her home, where she happily signed all three (along with Jeff's own copy). She also gave him a tour of her magnificent series book collection.

Didi Johnson also deserves my heartfelt thanks, not only for signing the books, but for donating \$75 to last year's auction in place of the books.

The three books (in total) raised \$200 for the Society, so I also must thank winning bidders Debby Jones, Scott Chase and Keith Thompson for their generosity.



Newly elected H.A.S. President Carol Nackenoff and former President Jeff Looney enjoy the trolley-bus tour of Fredericksburg on May 6, 2023. Photo by Bill Gowen