



THE HORATIO ALGER SOCIETY

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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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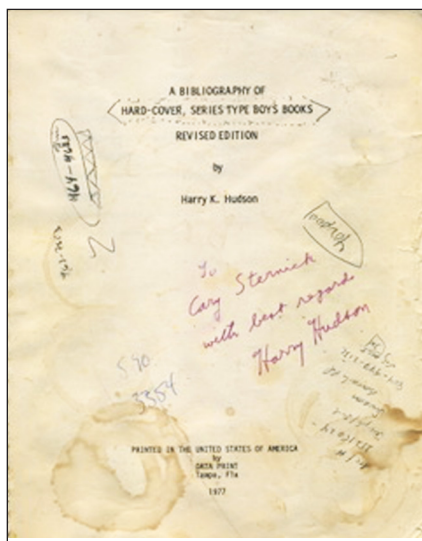
Good morning from Houston where it is 90 degrees in the shade. I trust that all of you are staying safe. I know that I am mostly inside but when I go out I do wear a mask.

Some say I look better with the mask on but I like to think they are just kidding. What I do know is that during my years of practice I have seen many hundreds of patients on ventilators and it is not something I would want for any of us. Please be smart.

Our editor has told me that since this is my third year of writing this column that the average column paycheck would be doubled. This has me very excited and I am thinking that I will be able to order an extra chalupa the next time I go to Taco Bell.

Instead of a research topic today, I thought that I would tell a personal story about my collecting.

Since I have been "locked up," I decided to do a major cleaning, sorting, and rearranging of my books/ephemera. I happened upon a letter from Harry Hudson, the author of the first major bibliography of boys' juvenile series books. I remember the excitement when I got my auto-



graphed Hudson book (pictured here — please ignore the miscellaneous scribble). I could not believe there were so many series. I was really amazed to discover that certain series had more books than I had realized and that a number of titles were phantom books. Also what shocked me the most was that anyone else was actually collecting these books.

That was in 1980, and I was a number of years away from discovering **Newsboy** or **Dime Novel Round-Up**. I did see an ad for **Yellowback Library** and have been a subscriber ever since. In the **Yellowback**, ads were

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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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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, or by E-mail to hasnewsboy@aol.com

Letters from Horatio – Part 1; or, Horatio Alger, Playwright

By Robert E. Kasper (PF-327)

Introduction: *It has been estimated that Horatio Alger, Jr. wrote approximately 30 letters every week during his literary career, although fewer than 200 are known today.¹ Most are reposed in libraries and other institutions but some are held by private collectors. A handful of heretofore unknown letters have recently become available through the usual sources including auction houses, rare book and manuscript dealers and various Internet sites. A few merit acknowledgement as they reveal new information regarding Alger's relationships and literary projects. Part 1 will focus on Alger's friendship with child actress Elsie Leslie and with Otto Hegner, a Swiss-born piano prodigy. (Front-cover illustration: Elsie Leslie with renowned Shakespearean actor Edwin Booth, circa 1891).*

Elsie Leslie [Lyde] was born on August 14, 1881, in New York City (some sources cite New Jersey). Her mother, Evelyn Burdick Lyde, was born in America of English descent. Her father, Benjamin Tanner Lyde, was a prosperous merchant until health issues curtailed his business. That event, along with the friendship of actor Joseph Jefferson, thrust Leslie onto the stage in the hope of alleviating the family's financial woes. Her first role, at the precocious age of four, was Little Meenie in Jefferson's production of *Rip Van Winkle*. Jefferson was America's preeminent 19th century stage actor and comedian, most closely identified with his portrayal of Washington Irving's title character, Rip Van Winkle, and played this part for more than 40 years in numerous stage adaptations and later in silent film versions.

Two years later, in 1887, Leslie was considered a star when she performed in *Editha's Burglar* at the Lyceum Theatre in New York City and later on the road tour opposite well-known actor and playwright William Gillette. Her title roles in Frances Hodgson Burnett's *Little Lord Fauntleroy* in 1888 (Example 1) and Mark Twain's *The Prince and the Pauper* in 1890 cemented her reputation as America's first child star and one of the highest-paid actresses of her time.

It is likely that Horatio Alger met Leslie for the first time at one of her performances of *The Prince and the Pauper* in late 1889 or early 1890. Alger had a fondness for popular theater and music performances, espe-



Example 1: Elsie Leslie as Little Lord Fauntleroy (1888).

cially child prodigies such as Otto Hegner, Maurice D'Engremont from Brazil and Polish violinist Bronislaw Huberman.²

In 1891, at the age of 10, Leslie took a break from acting to attend school. She returned to the stage in 1898 and appeared in various roles for another dozen years but, not unlike other child stars, failed to recapture the enchantment of her earlier performances. She married

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Editor's notebook

We have received recent word of the loss of two wonderful people, Partic'lar Friend Joe Slavin (PF-880), and Marcy Biberdorf, wife of 65 years to longtime member Bernie Biberdorf (PF-524), who left us in 2018.

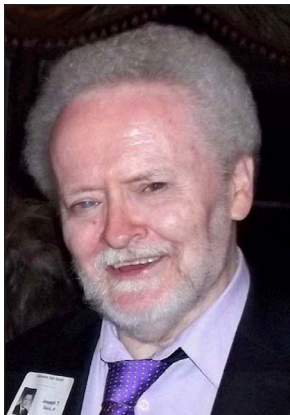
Marcy, 89, who died on June 9, and Bernie lived in retirement in Fishers, Indiana, and were regular attendees at our conventions from the 1980s until the mid-2000s, when age and health reasons kept them from attending. Bernie was the Society's major chronicler of conventions with his excellent photography, which spanned film and digital technology. Marcy and Bernie hosted the 1991 convention, "Indiana Bound, Hoosier Edition," in Greenwood, just south of Indianapolis.

Joseph T. Slavin III passed away on May 13, shortly after moving from Arlington, Virginia, to nearby Vienna, to live with a relative. The obituary listed his death as being related to COVID-19.

I first met Joe when Bart Nyberg (PF-879) and I picked him up at the Gary, Indiana Amtrak station en route to the 1994 H.A.S. convention in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Failing eyesight due to glaucoma caused him to miss other conventions, because he did not drive or fly.

Ever so modest, Joe held very impressive academic credentials and was employed by the Library of Congress for 40 years. He was a computer analyst and assistive technology expert, specializing in low vision technology, and retired in 2011. He earned his B.S. degree in Engineering at the University of Maryland, and added multiple Masters from George Washington University. He had almost completed his Ph.D. requirements when the vision decline led him to end his formal education.

Joe was an expert genealogical researcher, which helped him connect with little-known living relatives. Other hobbies, despite his diminishing eyesight, were photography, along with collecting boy's and girl's series books. His large display of foreign-language juveniles was very impressive, as James Keeline (PF-898) and I observed while visiting his apartment during the 2013 PCA conference in the nation's capital.



Joseph T. Slavin (PF-880)



Gary Sternick's extensive Henry Altemus collection.

President's column

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cheap and I started my quest to acquire a decent collection. That's how I met Arthur Sherman.

In the mid-1980s I bought a number of books from Arthur. At one time he thought he could complete every series noted in Hudson. With regret, he realized that at his age he just could not do it. Of course, this was pre-internet, which made the task infinitely more difficult.

I decided that perhaps I could do it. I figured that it was possible. So I began. Remember, all the books had to have dustjackets. Unfortunately, although my collection is decent, it never got close to the purported goal and a visit from Jack Dizer sent me in a slightly different direction. Jack had family in Houston and came by the house one day in the mid 1990s. When I built my house in 1992, I designed a nice library to show off the series books. Jack liked it but told me with this collection that I should be able to do some research. Thus began my meager scholarship efforts.

There was nothing I could find that thoroughly reviewed the publishers and formats of 19th century juvenile series books (some authors like Ellis, Abbott, Castlemon, Alger, Optic, etc. are the exceptions), so I decided that I should study this area. I continue to work on this today. I liked the Henry Altemus series books and decided to try to understand the formats. One thing led to another and all of Altemus became an obsession — leading to www.henryaltemus.com. Other authors and publishers also became part of my studies. I continue to work on many areas of bibliographical research today.

One of the difficulties I have had in my bibliographical work is where to draw the line. An example can illustrate this point. I came across *Peck's Bad Boy* by

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fellow actor Jefferson Winter, son of poet and critic William Winter, in 1901, but the marriage ended in divorce. She then married investment banker Edward Milliken in 1918 after her theatrical career had effectively ended. She died on October 31, 1966, in New York City and was survived by her second husband. They had no children.

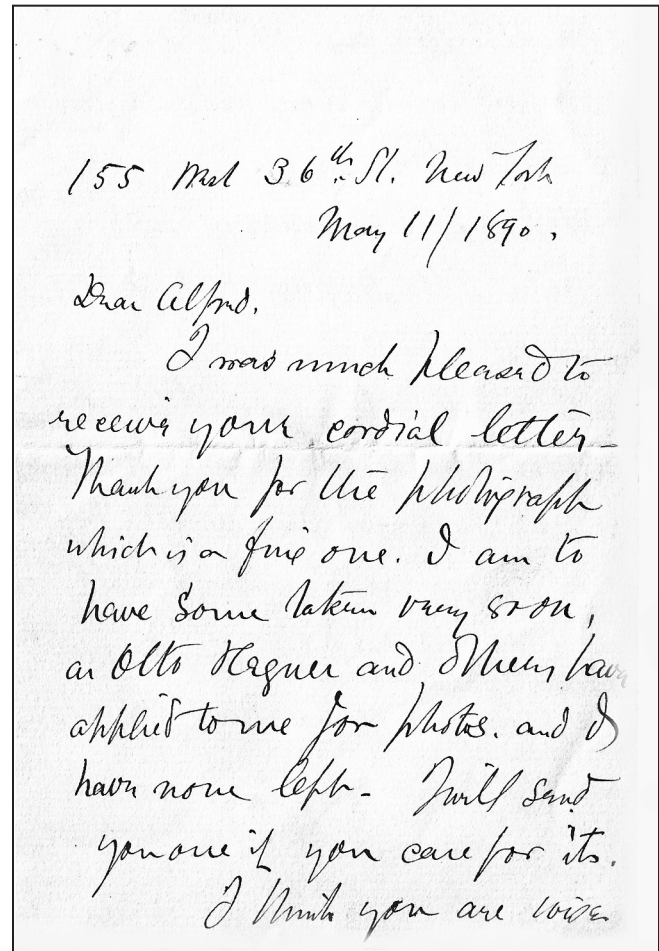
In a letter to Alfred C. Wood in New Orleans, dated May 11, 1890, Alger writes that “Some time within a year, I presume you know, I have agreed to write a new play for Elsie, though I have some doubts about succeeding.” The letter and a full transcription appears in Examples 2 and 3. In another letter, dated January 9, 1891, Alger writes to a regular recipient of his letters, Dr. Griffin, stating, “I have come to Natick as a quiet place to finish the play I am writing for Elsie Leslie, but hope before the month closes to be back again in the city.”

It is unknown what happened to this play although it is known that Leslie did not appear in it. Perhaps Leslie’s seven-year sabbatical, starting in 1891, forced Alger to set aside the project as his protagonist was unavailable. When she returned to acting in 1898, Alger was in full retirement in Natick, Massachusetts, in declining health and whatever theatrical production he had started eight years earlier may not have been suitable for then 17-year-old Leslie.

The only extant letter from Alger to Leslie, dated April 24, 1890, is held by The Morgan Library & Museum in New York City. The letter contains no information about a play, although such content may have been reserved for Leslie’s parents, manager or agent. A likely recipient of a possible business arrangement with Leslie could have been “Mr. Pearson,” mentioned in the April letter as assisting Alger with identifying titles of his books to be sent to her.

As noted in Leslie’s diary (date unknown), she writes “I like stories that come out well. I suppose that’s why I was at one time so crazy about the Alger books, spechuly the “Dandy Dick” stories. I wrote to Mr. Alger and told him so and he sent me all his books with my name inside from my friend Horatio Alger, Jr. They are all on the shelves in my play house. Mama and Mlle. do not approve of them but I shall keep them anyway becuz of Mr. Alger’s kind thots. Also, I don’t think they are so bad. Here is a letter to keep, dear Diary. It’s from Mr. Alger.”³

If Alger had abandoned the play in 1891, he may have used the material, rewritten or modified, as one



Example 2: Dear Alfred: I was much pleased to receive your cordial letter. Thank you for the photograph which is a fine one. I am to have some taken very soon, as Otto Hegner and others have applied to me for photos and I have none left. I will send you one if you care for it. I think you are wise... (Letter concludes on Page 6)

of his stories issued by Porter & Coates, his primary publisher at that time, or after 1895, to the Henry T. Coates & Company. Another possibility is that Alger’s sister, Olive Augusta Cheney, sold the play to Edward Stratemeyer.

After Alger died in July 1899, his literary works, copyrights and stories reverted to his sister as executrix of his estate. The Stratemeyer Syndicate files contain copious correspondence between Cheney and Edward Stratemeyer regarding the sale of unfinished manuscripts, plays and “domestic tales” left by Alger.⁴

Stratemeyer’s initial purchase from Cheney, Alger’s unpublished and incomplete manuscript of the country adventures of Robert Frost, was completed by him, enlarged and, in 1900, issued as *Out for Business* and *Falling in*

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in staying at the South so long
as you avoid the variable North-
ern weather -

Some time since I recd letters
from Otto Hegner and Elsie
Leslie, both mailed at Chicago.
Otto is by this time at home
in Basle, Switzerland, enjoying
a well-earned vacation. I
am very much attached to
him. I don't think he will
return to America till next
year.

Some time within a year, as
I presume you know, I have

agreed to write a new play for
Elsie, though I have some doubts
about succeeding -

Mr. Gardner calls in occa-
sionally. He always seems
smiling and happy -

I propose to go to Natick,^{Mass}
within a few days for the sum-
mer. I go earlier than usual
as my sister in law has ar-
rived from California, to re-
main a few weeks. Direct your
next letter there -

Accept best wishes, my dear
Alfred, for your health and happi-
ness -
Your affecⁿ friend
Horatio Alger

Example 3: ... in staying at the South so long as you avoid the variable Northern weather. Some time since I recd letters from Otto Hegner and Elsie Leslie, both mailed at Chicago. Otto is by this time at home in Basle [sic] Switzerland, enjoying a well-earned vacation. I am very much attached to him. I don't think he will return to America till next year. Some time within a year, as I presume you know, I have agreed to write a new play for Elsie, though I have some doubts about succeeding. Mr. Gardner calls in occasionally. He always seems smiling and happy. I propose to go to Natick, Mass within a few days for the summer. I go earlier than usual as my sister in law has arrived from California, to remain a few weeks. Direct your next letter there. Accept best wishes, my dear Alfred, for your health and happiness.

Note: Horatio Alger's reference to his sister-in-law would have been Ella Frances Hardy Alger, the third wife of his younger brother, James. Ella Frances was born in Lynn, Massachusetts in 1851, grew up in Natick and married James in 1879. He died in 1884.

Letters from Horatio—Part 1; or, Horatio Alger, Playwright

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with *Fortune* as the first two Stratemeyer "completions." Alger had initiated negotiations with Stratemeyer in late 1898 regarding this endeavor — even to the point of Alger tacitly approving Stratemeyer's outline of the concluding chapters — but never consummated the transaction due to his rapidly deteriorating health.⁵

In any event, this story seems an unlikely candidate as a theatrical vehicle for Leslie given the characters and plot and that Alger had started work on this novel in the mid-1890s.

Stratemeyer's next purchase from Cheney included the complete manuscripts of two plays titled *Captain Jack* and *Adrift in New York*.⁶ Stratemeyer modified these "plays," as referred to by Cheney, as his next two Horatio Alger/Arthur M. Winfield completions titles, *Young Captain Jack* and *Nelson the Newsboy*. Both were published by The Mershon Company (New York) in 1901 as were *Out for Business* and *Falling in with Fortune* the year before.

Despite Cheney's reference to these two stories as plays, both can be discounted as potential prospects

for Leslie for different reasons. In the preface to *Young Captain Jack*, dated February 16, 1901, Stratemeyer writes "In its original shape Mr. Alger intended the tale of a soldier's son for a juvenile drama, and it is, therefore, full of dramatic situations. But it was not used as a play..."

This, however, seems an improbable role for a 10-year-old girl, given that the main character, Jack Ruthven, was a "manly, self-reliant boy" who later entered West Point and became an officer in the United States Army.

In *Adrift in New York; or, Tom and Florence Braving the World*, at least one of the main characters is a girl (Florence Linden, the charming niece of John Linden, a New York widower of considerable wealth) but the timing is flawed. In Alger's May 1890 letter to Alfred Wood, he implies that he had not yet begun to write the new play for Leslie but would commence "some time within a year."

Adrift in New York first appeared as a serialization in Norman Munro's **Family Story Paper** between October and December 1889, predating Alger's letter to Wood by nearly eight months. So we can also exclude this story as something that Alger created with Leslie in mind for the lead role.

Incidentally, Elsie Leslie was one of the few living persons mentioned by Alger in one of his stories. In *Rupert's Ambition*, hero Rupert Rollins' friend and fellow bellboy, Leslie Waters (who harbored acting ambitions) invited his landlady and her daughters to a performance of *Lady of Lyons*, where Waters was playing the lead role of Claude Melnotte. Claude's love interest, Pauline, was played by Ida Strassburger, a cousin of a fellow cast member.

When Rupert asked Waters about Ida's acting abilities, he stated she acts "Pretty well, but she has something of the Bowery style; that is, she rather overdoes her part ... She is fair-looking, but she is too fat." When his landlady, Mrs. Spenser, asked Waters about an acting part for her daughter, Sophie, Mrs. Spenser declared "I should feel so proud to see my little girl on stage. Did you ever see Elsie Leslie act?" Waters responds "Yes, she is very clever. I only wish she were old enough, and would consent to take the part of Pauline. She would be far better than Ida Strassburger."⁷

The balance of the material purchased by Stratemeyer from Cheney after 1901 appeared to be mostly short stories, articles and outlines, some going back to Alger's early writing career during the 1850s and 1860s. In all likelihood, nothing written by Alger before 1890 would pertain to Elsie Leslie, but more research in this area needs to be conducted.

Less is known about Otto Hegner (Examples 4 and 5),



Example 4: Pianist Otto Hegner at age 13, circa 1889.

perhaps because of his foreign birth and residency but more likely because of his early death at the age of 30 in 1907. Hegner was a pupil of Hans Huber (1852-1921), the Swiss composer of operas, symphonies and piano concertos based in Basel. He also studied piano with Eugen D'Albert (1864-1932), the Scottish-born German pianist and prolific composer.

Hegner made his American debut at the Metropolitan Opera House in New York City on October 26, 1889, just a few weeks shy of his 13th birthday. A review of his performance appeared a week later in **Theatre Magazine**, profusely praising his musical talents and abilities. Music critic and reviewer Jack G. Huneker noted the Hegner "not only played the piano well, but superlatively well ... Hegner's intensity and brilliancy of style showed forth better in the well-worn *Valse Caprice* of [composer Anton] Rubenstein. Here he fairly seemed to revel in the difficulties that sorely test the hands of grown-up players."

Further, Huneker noted, "Put a screen before him

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Letters from Horatio—Part 1; or, Horatio Alger, Playwright

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while he plays and one could guess the names of a half dozen famous pianists haphazard and yet not be far astray, so absolutely is the boy the master of the instrument. Otto Hegner is a success."⁸

The review of Hegner's debut the following day in **The New York Times** was equally gushing. "The welcome accorded the youthful performer was warm and generous, and the applause that followed his first selection was enthusiastic. The bill as a whole was thoroughly enjoyable. Master Hegner's debut was most successful so far as the audience was concerned and augers well for his stay in New York."

During a concert tour of England in May 1892, a review in **The Oxford Magazine** of one of Hegner's performances stated "He has great facility of execution, and his touch and tone are, on the whole, of remarkably fine quality. But what makes the boy a real genius is his power of interpretation ... everything he played was conceived in a style extraordinary fresh and original, and yet perfectly in harmony with the spirit of the composer."⁹

In the April 1890 letter to Leslie, Alger mentioned that he had just "return[ed] from Otto Hegner's farewell concert. It was very successful and he received quite an ovation. This morning he sailed for Europe. He may come back next year, but in the mean time he has promised to write to me."

If Hegner did write to Alger after April 1890, no record of any communication exists, although Alger had acknowledged receiving earlier letters from him. This would indicate that the two probably met the previous year during Hegner's first American tour. As Hegner made no additional trips to the United States during Alger's lifetime (and Alger made none abroad), April 1890 was likely their final meeting.

* * *

Upcoming: Letters from Horatio – Part 2; or, Alger finds Sweetness out West will appear in a future issue.

NOTES

1. Gary Scharnhorst and Jack Bales. *Horatio Alger, Jr.: An Annotated Bibliography of Comment and Criticism*. Metuchen, NJ: The Scarecrow Press, Inc. (1981), p. 3.

2. Gary Scharnhorst with Jack Bales. *The Lost Life of Horatio Alger, Jr.* Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press (1985), p. 138.



Example 5: Otto Hegner at age 14, circa 1890.

3. Jane Douglass, Editor. *Trustable and Preshus Friends*. New York and London: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich (1977), p. 79.

4. James D. Keeline. "A Fluent and Facile Style." Lake Zurich, IL: **Newsboy** (September-October 2015), p.9.

5. Gary Scharnhorst with Jack Bales. *The Lost Life of Horatio Alger, Jr.* p. 144.

6. James D. Keeline. "A Fluent and Facile Style." Lake Zurich, IL: **Newsboy** (November-December 2015), p.9.

7. Horatio Alger, Jr. *Rupert's Ambition*. Philadelphia: Henry T. Coates & Co. (1899), p. 240.

8. James G. Huneker. "Otto Hegner." New York: **Theatre Magazine** (November 2, 1889), pp. 17-18.

9. Otto Hegner's Recital." Oxford, England: **The Oxford Magazine** (June 1, 1892), p. 405.

Acknowledgements: The author wishes to thank Carol Nackenoff (PF-921), Jack Bales (PF-258) and James Keeline (PF-898) for their assistance and input with this article.

A son of Michigan

A short biography of Byron A. Dunn

SECOND OF TWO PARTS

Editor's note: This concludes the biography of Civil War veteran and author Byron A. Dunn (1842-1926), written and self-published by researcher and collector Roy B. Van Devier of Akron, Ohio, in 1949. In Part 1, which appeared in the March-April issue, Van Devier described Dunn's forebears and early life. In this concluding part, Dunn enters the Civil War as an enlistee for the North and takes part in numerous campaigns and battles. The biography concludes with his postwar careers in public education and journalism, including his family's 1892 move to Illinois. That is where he authored his three Civil War series, *The Young Kentuckians*, *The Young Missourians* and *The Young Virginians*, encompassing 13 books published by Chicago's A.C. McClurg between 1898 and 1918.

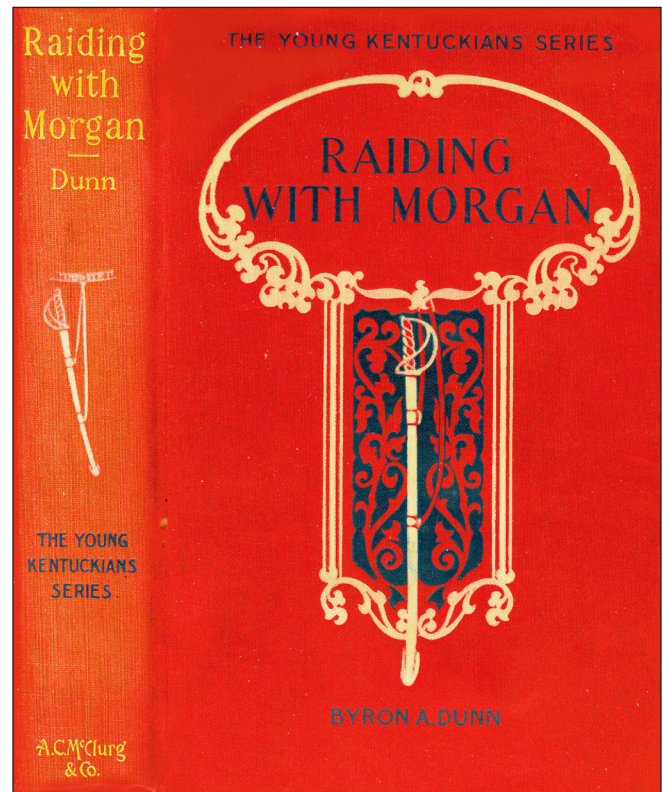
* * *

Young Byron joins the Union Army

Byron A. Dunn enlisted in August, 1861, from White Pigeon, St. Joseph County, Michigan, and was mustered in Coldwater, Michigan, as private of Company A, chandler Horse Guards. The squadron was disbanded November, 1861, and he re-enlisted November 6, 1861, as a private in the Michigan Lancers for three years, but his regiment also was disbanded at Detroit, Michigan, March 2, 1862.

On April 1, 1862, he again re-enlisted at Elkhart, Indiana, and was mustered into service at Indianapolis as a private in Company C, 9th Regiment, Ind. Vol. Inf.

Battle of Shiloh: Byron was sent to join the regiment at Shiloh, arriving there the day before the battle, and taking part in the Federal victory that came near sundown of the next day when it looked as if everything had been lost. In his first book, *General Nelson's Scout*, the author gives a vivid picture of the fray, and shows



***Raiding with Morgan*, published in 1903, was the fifth title in Byron A. Dunn's *Young Kentuckians Series*.**

Nelson coming in near sundown with the reinforcements that saved the day.

Battle of Stone River: Byron afterward participated in all movements of his regiment, fighting Forrest and guerillas, until the battle of Perryville, Kentucky, where he was actively engaged. He was also at the Battle of Stone River.

In the author's second book, *On General Thomas's Staff*, he wrote the following note at the bottom of Page 259: "The field of Stone River is one that the North and the South can point to with equal pride. Here, nearly equal numbers, the men of the North and the South battled for three days before Bragg sounded the retreat, and then it was with ranks unbroken, and a rear so solid that it bade defiance to pursuit. It was so nearly a drawn battle that neither side has cause to boast, except of the valor of its soldiers. Stone River, like Chickamauga, is the common heritage of the American people."

Wounded at Chickamauga: He spent six fruitful weeks pursuing General John Morgan, the rebel raider, around Readyville; he later went on the Tullahoma Campaign, returned to Chattanooga and took part in the battle of Chickamauga, where a shell struck him in the face, send-

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A son of Michigan

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ing him to the hospital until December, 1863

With Sherman in the Atlanta Campaign: Byron's regiment started on the Atlanta Campaign on May 4, 1864, and in the author's last book, entitled *Scouting for Sheridan*, he wrote the following note at the bottom of pages 169-70: "On that same day General Sheridan broke camp around Chattanooga and started for Atlanta. The author will never forget it. It was a glorious May day; all nature seemed to rejoice. As we turned our faces southward we laughed, sang and shouted for joy. One would have thought we were going to a picnic which lasted four month and from which many never returned."

In the Atlanta Campaign he was in the battles of Rocky Face Ridge, Resaca, Dallas, Kenesaw Mountain, New Hope Church, Smyrna, Camp Ground siege, the fall of Atlanta, Jonesboro, and Lovejoy Station, his regiment firing the last shots of this memorable campaign.

Wounded again at Nashville: Byron's regiment returned to Atlanta and was sent to join General Thomas in Tennessee.

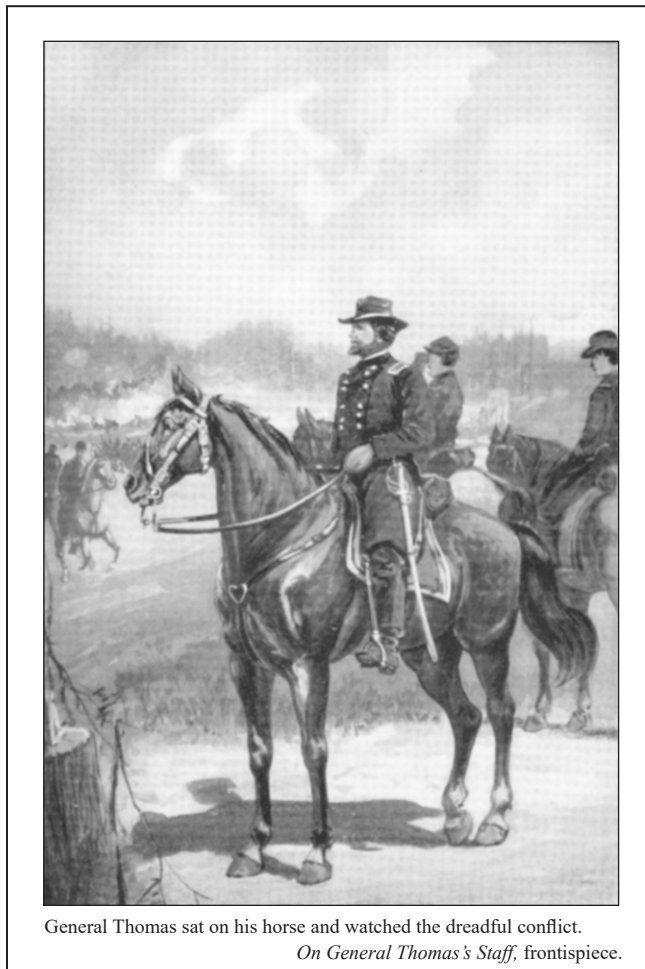
He was in the following battles: Columbia, Spring Hill, Franklin and Nashville where on December 15, 1864, the first day of the two-days' battle, he was wounded in the right shoulder. This wound was the worst, his comrades stated, that they ever saw on a living man. He was sent to hospital in Nashville, receiving his honorable discharge at Indianapolis on April 15, 1865. In all he was in 18 battles and sieges, besides skirmishes without number.

S. F. Greenleaf, one of Byron A. Dunn's comrades at the time of the author's death, made the following statement: "He was more service and actual fighting than the average living man. His record of 18 battles stands as an unchallenged record in this section of the state."

Byron enters Hillsdale College: In the autumn of 1865, Byron entered Hillsdale College and was graduated with the class of 1870, working his way through. He received a degree in law, though he never followed that profession.

Byron A. Dunn moves to Missouri: Byron moved to Maryville, Nodaway County, in August, 1871, and was the superintendent of the public schools for a period of four years. While superintendent of schools, Byron met and married Miss Ida Saunders on June 25, 1873.

To this union were born the following children: Roland Ray, Roy Byron, Theodore Saunders, Ida Ethel,



General Thomas sat on his horse and watched the dreadful conflict.

On General Thomas's Staff, frontispiece.

and Milton Lozelle, all born in Maryville; and Dorothy, born at Waukegan, Illinois. Two other children, James Archibald and Lulu Emma, died in infancy.

His journalism career: He had a journalistic career in 1875-88 with the Maryville, Missouri, Republican, and the St. Joseph, Missouri, Daily News, 1888-89; the Winona, Minnesota Herald, 1890-92.

In 1892, the family moved to Waukegan, Illinois, where he lived until the autumn of 1924. In 1892 he started the Lake County Register. He conducted that paper for six years, making it one of the best county papers in the state. Roland and Roy, two of his sons, were his chief aids in this venture. Later on he sold the Lake County Register, purchasing the Waukegan Gazette in 1904, and conducted that home town paper until 1898. This was the first daily paper ever published in Lake County.

The Young Kentuckians Series

Now we come to the most interesting part of this biography. In the autumn of 1898, A. C. McClurg & Company of Chicago, published Byron A. Dunn's first



Custer's men swept over the rebel works like a whirlwind.

Scouting for Sheridan, Page 367.

book, *General Nelson's Scout*. This volume was one of the most popular of all his books. It went through many editions before it went out of print. This volume is the first of the "Young Kentuckians Series," and it was followed by *On General Thomas's Staff* in 1899, *Battling for Atlanta* in 1900, *From Atlanta to the Sea* in 1901. The author had finished this fourth book only a few weeks before he lost his beloved wife on July 4th, 1901. This was a great blow to the author and his children. In one of her letters, Mrs. Dorothy Dunn Huffman of San Diego, Calif., wrote the following lines to the compiler of this booklet:

"Honors should go to my sister Ethel, who was the mainstay of us all. My father relied on her very much, and she kept the family together in sickness and death."

Late in the autumn of 1902, the author started on writing a fifth volume of the "Young Kentuckians Series." This book, entitled *Raiding with Morgan*, was written from the Confederate standpoint. The book was published on September 30, 1903. This book, like the other volumes in the "Young Kentuckians Series," went through several editions.

Death of his father and mother: Byron's father died at Newberg, Cass County, Michigan, in December 1889, and his mother died at Newberg on May 22, 1903, at the age of ninety. His father was in his eightieth year at the time of his death.

Married again, to Miss Sarah Ogden: Byron A Dunn was married again, this time to Miss Sarah Ogden, of Grand Rapids, Michigan, on September 29, 1904. From 1905 to 1907 he served the city of Waukegan as treasurer; then from 1907 to 1911 as city collector, and from 1911 to 1917 as assessor for the township. His record in these offices was enviable. His second wife died November 1, 1915.

Was a member of the G.A.R.: Byron was a member of Waukegan Post No. 374, Department of Illinois, Grand Army of the Republic [comprised of Civil War veterans], having joined it May 25, 1893. In 1901 he was Commander of the G.A.R., and adjutant from 1900 to 1905. In 1903 he was elected Sergeant Major and from 1909 to 1922 he served as Chaplain.

The Young Missourians Series

In August, 1910, Byron A. Dunn finished a new book called *With Lyon in Missouri*. This is the first volume of the "Young Missourians Series," and was published on September 24, 1910, by the same publisher that published his "Young Kentuckians Series."

In August, 1911, he finished the second volume of the series, entitled *The Scout of Pea Ridge*. This book was published in October 1911. The other three volumes of the series were published in the autumns of 1912, 1913 and 1914; the titles are *The Courier of the Ozarks*, *Storming Vicksburg* and *The Last Raid*. These books are very popular also with the young people and went through three or four editions before they went out of print.

The Young Virginians Series

The author of the "Young Kentuckians Series" and the "Young Missourians Series" was asked many times to write a series relating to the war in the east.

He at last decided to do so and called it "The Young Virginians Series." Virginia was the great battleground of the war, and it was at Appomattox that the Confederate flag went down forever.

The first volume, which was entitled *The Boy Scouts of the Shenandoah*, was published in September, 1916. It was issued by the same firm which published his other ten books, A.C. McClurg & Company of Chicago, Illinois.

The second volume, *With the Army of the Potomac*, was issued in September, 1917, and the third and concluding volume, entitled *Scouting with Sheridan*, was published in November, 1918. There were only 1,500 copies printed of each title of the "Young Virginians Series," and the

(Continued on Page 12)

A son of Michigan

(Continued from Page 11)

series never went past the first edition.

The First World War seemed to put a crimp on Civil War adventure stories, but these "Young Virginians" books were just as good as any other books in the other two series.

At the time of the author's death, the library at Waukegan stated that all of his books had a great circulation until they went out of print.

B.A. Dunn breaks up housekeeping

In the fall of 1924, claiming that he was becoming infirm, he "broke up housekeeping" and went to live with his daughter, Dorothy, Mrs. Hugh S. Huffman, at Stevens Point, Wisconsin.

When he left Waukegan, he said, "I hate to leave Waukegan. In the 32 years I have been here, I have formed many warm friendships."

Due to the cold weather at Stevens Point, he spent the winters of 1924-25 and 1925-26 with his son, Roy, in Lima, Ohio.

He returned in the spring of 1926, to spend the summer and autumn with his daughter Dorothy at Stevens Point.

Hit by car and his death: On a Thursday afternoon, shortly after 4 o'clock on the 21st day of October, 1926, Byron A. Dunn was struck by a car while he was crossing the street, near his daughter Dorothy's home at Stevens Point, where he was immediately taken to the hospital.

His injuries included a broken left arm above the elbow, bruises on his body, and a deep gash on the right side of his head. His old Civil War wound in his shoulder broke open a few days before his death. He failed steadily and was in great pain when he lapsed into a coma, finally losing his grim fight against death.

He died around 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, November 20, 1926. His body was shipped to Maryville, Missouri, for burial.

The flag on Waukegan's courthouse was at half-staff for two days in his memory.

The author and his books

Byron A. Dunn was a favorite not only among the older folk, but his children as well. He was our Longfellow. His stories about the Civil War, which he wrote from the viewpoint of a participant, have been unusually popular. His "Young Kentuckians" books contained his personal experiences and the experiences of men he knew, and his hero was made up of a number of men with whom he soldiered.

The author moved to Missouri right after the war,

The books of Byron A. Dunn

The Young Kentuckians Series

Title	Publication Year
General Nelson's Scout	1898
On General Thomas's Staff	1899
Battling for Atlanta	1900
From Atlanta to the Sea	1901
Raiding with Morgan	1903

The Young Missourians Series

With Lyon in Missouri.....	1910
The Scout of Pea Ridge.....	1911
The Courier of the Ozarks	1912
Storming Vicksburg.....	1913
The Last Raid	1914

The Young Virginians Series

The Boy Scouts of the Shenandoah	1916
With the Army of the Potomac	1917
Scouting for Sheridan	1918

and for a quarter of a century was a citizen of that state.

He went while feelings still ran high and hatred was still bitter. He personally met and talked with most of the characters who figure in the "Young Missourians" books, both Federal and Confederate. He even knew men who rode with Quantrell, and afterwards became good citizens.

Byron A. Dunn was 73 years old when he began the first volume of the "Young Virginians Series," and he was 76 years old when he finished the third and concluding volume of the series.

No doubt if he had written the "Young Virginians Series" ten years earlier, they would have sold a lot better. As I stated before, the World War of 1914-1918 seemed to put a crimp on Civil War adventure stories.

The books in the "Young Virginians Series," are rare and are difficult to secure. His most successful series were "The Young Kentuckians" and "The Young Missourians." They have enjoyed wide circulation all over the country.

Through all of these books, Byron A. Dunn maintained the clean, manly standards that characterized his own life. His books never had to be ordered out of the bookstores as are many recent publications, and neither did they have to rely on sensational publicity in order to attract readers.

They are interesting and exciting and clean in spirit and content. His books are not only interesting, but all are historically accurate.



With a cry he sprang forward and beat down the gun with his sword.
With Lyon in Missouri, Page 326.

Byron A. Dunn's children

Roland Ray Dunn was advertising manager for the Globe Department Store of Waukegan at the time of his death on June 7, 1927. Before then he did newspaper work in the Black Hills, South Dakota, and later worked for a newspaper in Ironwood, Michigan.

He married Miss Bess T. Bower, November 21, 1918. They had no children. Roland died from an appendicitis operation, with pneumonia setting in. He is buried in the North Shore Cemetery at Waukegan. At the time of her husband's death in 1928, Mrs. Bess T. Dunn was a chief deputy clerk at the Probate court of Waukegan, and she still (1948) holds that position.

Roy Byron Dunn, before he retired, was owner of a department store at Lima, Ohio. He was married to Miss Mary W. Diver of Waukegan, October 22, 1903. They have two daughters and two sons.

Theodore Saunders Dunn was graduated from the Missouri School of Mines, from which he received degrees of B.S. in 1910, M.S. in 1914 and E.M. in 1916. From 1914 to 1916 he was professor of mining at the South Dakota School of Mines.

He was a Captain in World War I. He served in the 157th Engineers, going over with one of the first contingents and serving as one of the officers in charge of the port at Le Havre, France.

He was a professor of geology and metallurgy at the Georgia School of Technology from 1920 to 1930. He was married to Sara Buncley Hale of Atlanta, Georgia, September 7, 1929. He went to Stanford University in 1931. On the night of February 3, 1933, as he got off a bus to go to a meeting of the faculty club on campus, he was hit by a car driven by a Stanford student and was killed almost instantly as the result of a fracture of his skull. He is buried at San Francisco, California.

Miss Ida Ethel Dunn moved from Waukegan in 1945 to live with her sister, Mrs. Dorothy Dunn Huffman at San Diego, California. She is a bookkeeper for an insurance broker.

Milton Lozelle Dunn moved with his parents from Maryville to Waukegan, Illinois, when he was only five years old. He was graduated from the Waukegan township high school, class of 1904. He started to work for the Waukegan Register, which was owned at that time by his father. Later, he went west to work for the Denver Post for a few years and from there he went to Chicago to take a position with the old Record-Herald.

In one of his sister Dorothy's letters that she wrote to this compiler were the following lines about him:

"Milton was a happy, sunny person. I always knew when he was coming home, for he was always whistling. He carried papers and I have heard Waukegan people say he was the best paper boy they ever had."

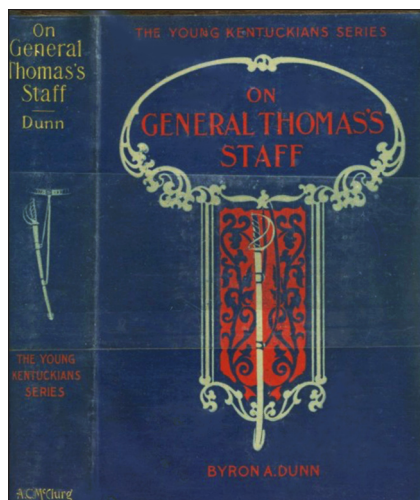
In World War I he served overseas as a first lieutenant of the 343rd Infantry, Machine gun Division.

He was married to Ernestine Harrison of Chicago, November, 1920. To this union was born one son, Byron Archibald Dunn, named for his grandfather. Milton died from pneumonia on January 17, 1928, after an illness of only five days. His son, Byron, was only four years old at the time of his father's death. Milton is buried in the North Shore cemetery in Waukegan.

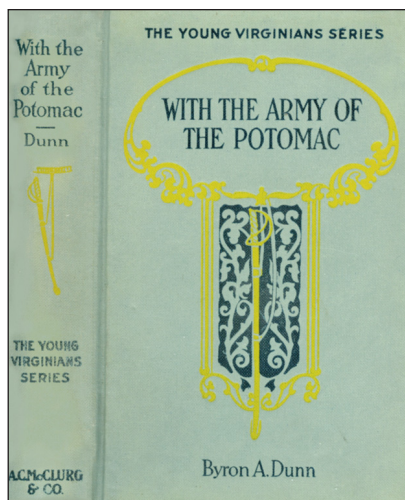
Milton's son lived six years with his aunt Dorothy, Mrs. Hugh J. Huffman, at Stevens Point, and went to school there. At the outbreak of World War II he enlisted immediately and saw active duty in the Coast Guard in the South Pacific, Mediterranean and the North Atlantic. At the present (1948), he is in Chicago with his mother and is studying to be a doctor.

Dorothy (Mrs. Hugh L. Huffman) went to the Waukegan public schools and was graduated from the local high school in that city and from The University of Illinois. She was at one time a teacher in the Waukegan high school, and the Elkhart, Indiana, high school. She

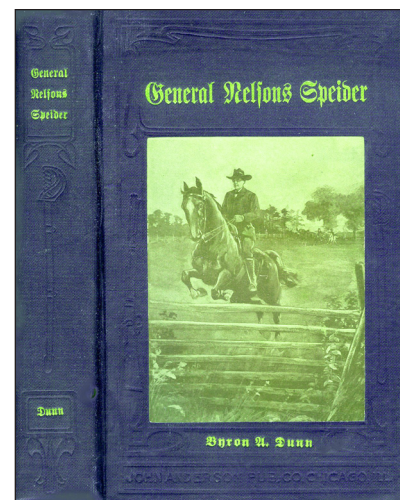
(Continued on Page 14)



The very rare dark blue cover with red and gold lettering seen on some **Young Kentuckians Series** titles. Gray and red were the usual colors.



The common gray cover was used for the scarce three **Young Virginians Series** books, with each having just one 1,500-copy press run.



Norwegian-owned John Anderson Publishing Company of Chicago offered the **Young Kentuckians Series** titles in that language.

The formats of Byron A. Dunn's Civil War books

In describing the cover formats of Dunn's books published by A. C. McClurg, it is best to use the word "format" in the singular. There was only one cover design used by the publisher for all three series.

The design (above) depicts a hanging officer's dress saber enclosed in an ornamental scroll design, with the sword also shown on the spine. Two basic cloth colors were used: medium-to-light gray and medium red, with gray predominant. The Young Virginians Series, with just one press run, came in gray only.

The sword and scroll borders are in white for the Young Kentuckians Series and in light yellow for the Young Missourians and Young Virginians, with the central background black for all three series. Spine lettering was in gold for the Young Kentuckians and black for the latter two series (as observed by this writer).

An early printing of the first titles of The Young Kentuckians was bound in dark blue cloth (above, at

left) with red (front) and gold (spine) lettering. Maybe McClurg planned to offer both blue and gray covers to represent the North and South, but the idea was dropped, with red becoming the alternate color option (except for the Young Virginians, as noted).

Artists for the McClurg editions were L. Braunhold for the Young Kentuckians, H. S. DeLay for The Young Missourians and J. Allen St. John for The Young Virginians. The latter two are credited on the title pages while Braunhold is uncredited. The first two Young Virginians books' illustrations were tinted in golden sepia tone.

The Norwegian editions: McClurg contracted with fellow Chicago publisher John Anderson, which was Norwegian owned, to reprint the Young Kentuckians Series (above, right). in Norwegian translations. They were released in 1901-1907, each in a different color, using cover pastedowns (appliqués). They were later sold as a set.
— William R. Gowen

A son of Michigan

(Continued from Page 13)

was woman's editor for the Stevens Point, Wisconsin, Daily Journal for 17 years. She was married to Hugh J. Huffman, June 16, 1923, and they went to live at Stevens Point the following summer. In 1944, Mrs. Huffman and her husband moved to San Diego.

Mrs. Huffman at the present time works in the refer-

ence department of the San Diego Public Library. Her husband is in the display advertising department of the San Diego Union-Tribune Publishing Company.

I will quote the following lines from a letter which Mrs. Huffman wrote to your compiler on July 22, 1948:

"He (her father) was a wonderful man, beloved and respected by everyone who knew him. I cannot begin to tell you his many fine qualities, but I can say he was the finest man I have ever known and all his children felt the same way."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Bill:

I learned yesterday that our friend, Joe Slavin (PF-880), passed away recently at age 75.

Of course, we saw him many times at series book gatherings, including the Popular Culture Association conferences when he could get there by train since he did not fly for health reasons. His descriptions and photos of series book gatherings both documented and enhanced these events.

We communicated by phone and letter and eventually by email. I sent him letters often enough that I practically had his mailing address memorized, even after 30 years. I think the first time I met him was at the Nancy Drew Conference in 1993. As his vision worsened in the past decade or so, it became harder to keep in touch.

However, I was really glad we saw him at the 1919 PCA conference when we were in Washington, D.C. His interest in the books was still strong, but it was harder for him to enjoy them because of his eyesight issues. In his own way he contributed a lot to the series book community and we are diminished by his passing.

James D. Keeline (PF-898)
5707 Spartan Drive
San Diego, CA 92115
Email: james@keeline.com

Dear Editor:

Thanks for the Sept.-Oct. 2019 issue of *Newsboy*. The special report on newscarrriers was really great and reminded me of my newsboy days in the 1950s. My family was living in Ferguson, Missouri, a really great community. I delivered a weekly to Dellwood, a working-class neighborhood which adjoined Ferguson and was the scene of the riots in this century. Carriers had to go to the office in South Ferguson, pick up your papers, roll them, and then deliver them to every house on your assigned route. Monthly we had to go to the houses on our route and collect for the paper.

We received 50 per cent of the collections, but most people would not pay anything, so collections were small. They didn't have a minimum wage back then, but I am sure my share did not amount to that level. I worked the route for about 6 months and then the publisher went out of business, ending my newspaper career.

Two things stand out about my route: First, the Plymouth Brethren Church was on my route and it was the first air-conditioned church in the St. Louis area. Second, JFK ran for president and in 1959, I got to shake his hand in Dellwood near the mall.

Great times, all gone!

Robert L. George (PF-498)
2960 Highland Dr., NE
Cleveland, TN 37312

MEMBERSHIP

New members

Mark Weiner (PF-1148)
125 Mill Rock Road
Hamden, CT 06517 203-776-8141
Email: marksweiner@worldsoflaw.com

Cheryl Meads (PF-1149)
8649 Amber Oak Court
Orlando, FL 32817
Email: ycmeads@gmail.com

Change of address

Donald K. Wedding (PF-1100)
4533 Wedgewood Ct.
Toledo, OH 43615

Change of address

Robert G. Huber (PF-841)
31 Laurel Lake Drive
Hudson, OH 44236
(H) 330-655-4064 (C) 330-907-5258
Email: roberthuber031@gmail.com

Reinstated member

Marc C. Williams (PF-958)
8444 Westview Drive
Houston, TX 77055
Email: bookmarcs@gmail.com

Are you moving or have other updates?

Please send any changes to your residential address, email address or telephone number to **Horatio Alger Society, 1004 School St., Shelbyville, IN 46176.**

TREASURER'S REPORT

May 1, 2019-April 30, 2020

INCOME

Dues income.....	\$1,710.00
Strive & Succeed Award fund income	910.00
Auction income	1,053.00
Interest income	2.46
Miscellaneous income	1.52
TOTAL INCOME	\$3,676.98

EXPENSES

Newsboy expenses:

Printing.....	2,166.30
Postage.....	963.47
Editor's expenses	<u>27.71</u>

Total Newsboy expenses\$3,157.48

Convention expenses (2019):

Awards plaques87.20

Total convention expenses.....\$87.20

Auction consignment payouts.....\$557.30

Strive & Succeed expense\$1,000.00

Administration expenses:

Exec. Director expenses.....	125.95
Honoraria	300.00
PayPal charges.....	7.68

Web Hosting/Domain..... 306.75

Total administration expenses.....\$740.28

TOTAL EXPENSES

NET INCOME

Balance sheet as of April 30, 2020

ASSETS

Current assets (checking/savings)

Checking account\$5,592.70

Certificate of deposit (CD).....9,075.48

Total checking/savings\$14,668.18

Total Current Assets.....\$14,668.18

TOTAL ASSETS

LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

Equity:

Opening balance, equity.....\$4,763.05

Retained earnings11,770.41

Net income (\$1,865.28)

TOTAL EQUITY

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Submitted by Barry Schoenborn, Treasurer

President's column

(Continued from Page 4)

George W. Peck years ago. I loved the book, and since Peck was a mayor of Milwaukee (my home town) and a governor of Wisconsin, it held special interest for me. I just could not find any solid information about Peck and his books, so I set out to learn about the world of George W. Peck.

Well, I found all the books but then I realized that there were Peck's Bad Boy movies, plays, magic lantern slides, comics, newspapers, etc. All of it seemed important, so I included it in my research. Then, I discovered

that there were other *Bad Boys* books and on and in it went. It is now all at www.georgewepeck.com

I certainly urge all of our members who have expertise in any particular area to either write articles for *Newsboy* or memorialize your knowledge on a website.

Hopefully in the next issue we will have information about next year's convention. Until then, wear your mask, use your hand sanitizer and above all — be smart.

Your Partic'lar Friend,
Cary Sternick (PF-933)
26 Chestnut Hill Court
The Woodlands, TX 77380
(713) 444-3181
Email: css3@mac.com