



THE HORATIO ALGER SOCIETY

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

NEWSBOY



Horatio Alger, Jr.

1832 – 1899

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

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NUMBER 1

2007 H.A.S. Convention Preview

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A bronze statue of Balser, boy protagonist
of Charles Major's *The Bears of Blue River*,
is located on north entry into the Shelbyville
town circle.

Photo by Bob Sipes

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President's column

Preparations for the 2007 convention are nearing completion! The current event schedule is available both as an insert in this *Newsboy* issue as well as the H.A.S. Web site convention page (www.ihot.com/~has/al01100.htm). Please check this page frequently for schedule updates.

Bob and Wendy Sipes have lined up an activity-filled convention with lots of books for sale — we have three consignment auctions scheduled. You can preview the consignment auction offerings from the convention subpage (www.ihot.com/~has/2007auc1.html).

Bernie Biberdorf sent me the following URL:

www.images.google.com/images?q=Horatio+Alger&ndsp=20&svnum=10&hl=en&lr=&start=0&sa=N.

This is a Google image search of all Alger photographs found on the World Wide Web (WWW). I found this interesting enough to add to the H.A.S. Web site, which will save you the trouble of typing in this very complex URL. Or, you can go to www.google.com, select "images" and type in "Horatio Alger." There are nearly 1,800 Alger or Alger-related images. Thanks, Bernie!

Barry Schoenborn contributed an article to the H.A.S. Web site: "Collecting Horatio Alger, Jr. — Online Auctions and the Beginning Collector." This article provides useful information to both beginning and advanced Alger collectors and adds value to the site. The link to Barry's article is on the HAS home page.

The H.A.S. home page has a new logo. Barry Schoenborn modified our existing logo (the familiar 1868 *carte de visite* of Alger that we have had as our Web site logo since 1997), by adding a few cogent phrases, artistically rendered. I am very satisfied with the result — please have a look and judge for yourself. Now I need to think of something else for Barry to do.

The H.A.S. logo update was a bonus resulting from another task. While applying to eBay's charity solution provider (MissionFish) for inclusion of the Horatio Alger Society on their certified nonprofit list, I found that one of MissionFish's requirements was to have an organization logo.

So, the Horatio Alger Society is now included on the eBay/MissionFish certified nonprofit list. If you sell on eBay, you can donate part or all of your auction proceeds to the H.A.S. (or any other certified 501(c)(3) nonprofit). This donation is tax-deductible (MissionFish sends you a receipt). eBay encourages nonprofit donation auctions

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HORATIO ALGER SOCIETY

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

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

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

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, P.O. Box 70361, Richmond, VA 23255.

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

A 'Hoosier' welcome from Shelbyville

By Bob Sipes (PF-1067)

With great anticipation, we welcome our Horatio Alger Society Partic'lar Friends to Shelbyville, Indiana in May 2007. Shelbyville is a small town of approximately 16,000 with a history dating back to the early 1800's. Jacob Whetzel, brother of Lewis Whetzel the famous Indian fighter who figured in many dime novels and even a few Edward Ellis books, and some friends blazed a wilderness road that became known as the "Whetzel Trace." This road passed through what became Shelby County just north of Shelbyville, and Shelby County's first settlers traveled this road. Shelby County, and hence, Shelbyville, is named after Isaac Shelby, former Governor of Kentucky and famous Indian Wars soldier who led many of Shelby County's first settlers.

Shelbyville was also home to Charles Major, who wrote the classic *When Knighthood Was in Flower*. Two books more locally famous by Major are *The Bears of Blue River* and *Uncle Tom Andy Bill*, both of which are boy's books taking place along Big Blue River in Shelby County. A bronze statue of Balser, the boy protagonist of *The Bears of Blue River*, holding up two bear cubs, is placed on the north entry into the town circle.

Shelbyville is home to many different architectural styles; including the Queen Anne Victorian styles of the early homes along West Washington and West Broadway streets. These homes date back to the late 1800's and have been restored to retain their original design. There are also many homes from the Folk Victorian period spread throughout the early parts of Shelbyville. Also on West Broadway is the Shelbyville Library, built with a \$20,000 grant from Andrew Carnegie in 1901. Although it has been expanded twice since 1901, it still retains its original neoclassical appeal.

Across from the Shelbyville Library is the Grover

Museum, which has exhibits such as Streets of Old Shelby depicting Shelbyville as it would have appeared in 1910; Battle of the Bulge, Bastogne, modeling this famous World War II battle for a crossroads town that gave us the famous retort "Nuts," along with a model train room and many other exhibits.

The Shelbyville Fairgrounds is home to the reconstructed log cabin of Shelbyville resident Thomas A. Hendricks, who became Vice President in 1885. The fairgrounds is also home (no longer available to the

public) to one of what used to be many covered bridges throughout Shelby County and Indiana. It is estimated that 400-500 covered bridges were built in Indiana between 1805 and 1885. As of 1998, only 93 covered bridges were still in existence due to local apathy, arson and nature. If you are interested, there remain two bridges still in use near the town of



The Fiddler's Three Restaurant in Shelbyville, Indiana, will host the annual H.A.S. Banquet on Saturday, May 19.

Photo by Bob Sipes

Moscow, Ind., in Rush County, which is just an easy 30-minute drive from Shelbyville.

Other Shelbyville notables are:

- Sandy Allen, the second-tallest woman in recorded history at 7 feet 7 inches;
- Mary Tomlinson, a famous actress well known for her portrayal of "Ma Kettle," a character modeled after a Shelby County neighbor, in several films;
- James Pierce, one of the first actors to portray Tarzan on film, who later married Edgar Rice Burroughs' daughter Joan;
- Jasper Stewart, mentioned in 1934 as the "World's Strongest Man," could lift one 250-pound anvil in each outstretched arm and hold both for several minutes;
- William Garrett, who led Shelbyville to a state basketball title in 1947 and became the first black player to start on a Big Ten Team;
- Lewis Browning, titled the "Twinkie King" for

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Editor's notebook

This is our annual convention preview issue. I hope you find host Bob Sipes' article on Page 3 enough incentive to fill out the enclosed registration form and mail it to Bob immediately.

This will be the Horatio Alger Society's first visit to Indiana since Bernie and Marcy Biberdorf hosted "Indiana Bound, Hoosier Edition" in 1991. By the way, that was the convention at which I was tapped as editor, succeeding Carl Hartmann, who had been admirably filling in on an interim basis.

As I mentioned in the last issue, I gave the Lees Inn & Suites a visit in October and was very pleased with the accommodations. No, this hotel does not have a huge atrium like we enjoyed last spring in Omaha, but it should fill our needs nicely. And you can't beat the \$58 rate, which applies even if you arrive earlier in the week.

Make your reservations at the Lees Inn & Suites right away! The phone number is (317) 392-2299 for a direct line to the front desk. I recommend using the phone rather than going to the www.leesinn.com Web site because it's a small Indiana hotel chain, and the staff at the Shelbyville location knows who we are and the weekend we're having the convention (May 17-20).

All you have to do is say you're from the Horatio Alger Society to get the special \$58 convention rate.

The Lees Inn offers a free daily continental breakfast (the breakfast nook is just across from the hotel registration desk). There is also free wireless Internet access for those bidding on those rare books on eBay!

In addition to what Bob discusses in his article, in our March-April issue we'll cover more convention items of interest, including travel information and nearby eating places for those meals listed as "on your own."

In recent news forwarded from Jack Bales, he was contacted by Carl Hartmann's daughter-in-law, Cindy Hartmann, with the news that Jean Hartmann was now living with her and her husband. The address is 817 Ferley St., Lansing, MI 48911.

According to Cindy, Jean is suffering from memory loss and no longer can live alone. "While she remembers many things from years ago, she has very little short-term memory," Cindy said, adding "We are glad that old friends are keeping her in their thoughts and sending letters and cards since Dad passed away. Mom thoroughly enjoys getting mail and reading the letters

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President's column

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by charging a commission only on the percentage of the auction proceeds that you keep. For example, if you donate 40 percent of your auction proceeds, eBay's commission would apply only to 60 percent of the total proceeds (the percentage that you kept). Please visit www.missionfish.org/ForSellers/forsellers.jsp for more details.

I've auctioned a few books under the eBay/MissionFish banner. It's too soon to tell if nonprofit donation auctions will raise much money for the **Strive and Succeed Award**. However, I am pleased that non-H.A.S. members won the last two Alger books that I sold as donation auctions. I'm hoping these donation auctions will help increase awareness about the H.A.S.

The Horatio Alger Society now has its own WWW domain name: thehoratioalgersociety.org. The H.A.S. home page URL will change from www.ihot.com/~has to www.thehoratioalgersociety.org in the next couple months. You will still be able to reach the new site location from the old URL through redirection, but you will want to update your bookmarks once this change occurs.

Janice and I have made our reservations at Lees Inn & Suites in Shelbyville. We were fortunate enough to get one of the executive suites (an extra room for the same money as a non-suite). If you want one of the executive suites, I'd make your reservation soon at (317) 392-2299.

We also appreciate a convention site that accepts pets, as Holly, our hurricane rescue dog, is attending the convention with us. Holly is looking forward to seeing her old (and meeting new) Partic'lar Friends at Shelbyville — and so are we.

Your Partic'lar Friend,
Michael Morley
1891 Colt Lane
Gardnerville, NV 89410
Phone: (775) 265-3063
E-mail: mmorley@carsonvalleybooks.com

MEMBERSHIP

New member

Floyd Wehmer (PF-1098)
169 Clydesdale St.
Mt. Morris, MI 48458

Reminder: Send all address, e-mail and phone number changes to Horatio Alger Society, P.O. Box 70361, Richmond, VA 23255.

Forty-six missing titles

or, let's Adopt a Format

By Bob Routhier and Brad Chase

Where, oh where, are these 46 titles? We know that we and the NIU Repository do not have them, but maybe, just maybe, YOU do. Me, you say? "No, I just have odds and ends extra Alger books — nothing really rare and wanted by someone."

Wrong, wrong, wrong! If they are the right titles in the right formats, NIU, which, of course, hosts the Horatio Alger Jr. Repository that we as a Society support, wants and needs them. The Alger collection there will be more complete if you can contribute one of these missing titles

But let's start at the beginning.

We all know that no one knows exactly how many Alger formats have been published down through the years by all the publishers of Alger. Therefore, it follows that no one knows the total number of titles that were published for all of the many different Alger formats by each publisher. Who cares, many of you may ask? First, the Repository does as it is trying to amass a complete collection of all Alger formats by each and every publisher of Alger.

Second, we care because we both have made a career of collecting Alger titles by format. We love collecting by publishers for there is continuing discovery, surprise, mystery and a wonderful sense of completion as one manages to find a missing title by a specific publisher. As you have already guessed this article is about completing Alger formats.

Our definition of a format is "that which makes one book different from another." A case can be made under such a broad definition that even the color of the book makes it different! However, at this point we are primarily interested in obtaining missing titles of specific formats. Of general interest also is book condition. Although condition is not a primary prerequisite in initially obtaining missing books for NIU, completeness is.

We suggest there be a strong preference in obtaining missing books in good or better condition (following the condition guide in Bennett's original price list) in order to not only build a quality Alger collection but one in which books obtained essentially reflect the original



A.L. Burt's *Chimney Corner Series* — *Capped Head Format*, No. 37: "Horse." Courtesy Northern Illinois University

published product for potential researchers to examine.

This includes, for example, books having no missing pages, even end pages, which sometimes contain valuable publisher and/or owner information. However there may be cases where a missing book in less than good condition is acceptable because it is unique in some respect. The bottom line is that the Repository wants and needs every title of every Alger format but as originally published or, at its discretion, it may obtain an incomplete book if such is determined to have unique characteristics making it a valued addition to the NIU Alger collection.

The subject of completing formats came up in general discussion with Lynne Thomas, Curator of Rare Books at NIU, during our semiannual Board of Directors' meeting this past November 4 in DeKalb, Illinois. Many subjects were discussed at that meeting and certainly,

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Let's Adopt a Format

(Continued from Page 5)

trying to complete the Alger format/title collections at the Repository, immediately sparked the interest of many Board members, especially the two of us. We both agreed to follow up that discussion with this *Newsboy* article and present a challenge to our members. Details of the entire meeting were covered in the last issue of *Newsboy*. Here are our thoughts regarding completing NIU formats.

We propose the Society informally specify or "adopt" a few formats at a time of a specific publisher which has missing titles at the Repository - holes in the existing Alger collection there, if you will. We then will suggest members look into their "extra" Alger book reserves to see if there is a book which NIU needs, i.e. it is considered missing by NIU.

A super idea, right? But then you might ask how do I know whether NIU really needs any of my extra books? Good question and one we try to answer below. We have structured a simple and easy way for you to find out. If you discover you have an Alger book that is identified as missing at NIU, and you decide to donate it to the Repository, do so and it will be so noted there. Your name will then live on in infamy for researchers and all current and future students of Alger to appreciate.

Here's the deal:

As you know a primary goal of the Alger Repository is trying to obtain one example of every title of every different Alger format that has been published by EVERY publisher. Eventually it will stand as a record of the total work of Horatio Alger, Jr. published in book form, both soft and hard covers. Such a record would extend today from before A. K. Loring to Polyglot Press and includes well over 100 publishers in-between.

We'll have to find some other way to gather all serializations, poems, short stories, etc. in order for there to be a complete record of all his work. The Repository has already acquired much really nice Alger material and we look forward to enhancing the current Alger collections. The long range goal is to acquire a complete set of books and paper items which reflect the total work of all the Alger publishers who over the years made individual decisions to invest in publishing something by Alger for public consumption and appreciation. Our current "adopt a format" project is an initial small step in obtaining Alger books by NIU needs to meet a portion that long range goal.

During breaks from the Directors' meeting and afterward, the two of us examined the many shelves of Alger books standing tall in the Repository differentiated by publisher and alphabetical by title. We also noted all the

Alger first editions positioned as an impressive separate collection at the front of the Repository room and we could see the very rare early publisher editions about which most of us have only heard or read about. We said to each other: "Wouldn't it be great if we could fill all the publisher holes in order to complete the Alger publishing record?" Out of that experience comes this "Adopt a Format" project.

Obviously, we can't possibly fill all the holes right away; it's just too big a job and many details of the publishers' products still remain unknown. But we can work on finding missing titles in a few formats at a time by asking our membership to help through *Newsboy*.

The proposal here is to take a small bite of the apple. A great starting point is to try and complete some of the more popular formats. We did find that some formats are already completed. We suggest working initially on the popular A. L. Burt, **Chimney Corner Series, Capped Head Format**, Formats 33 through 37, pages 73-75 in Chase's *Horatio Alger Books Published by A.L. Burt*.

Format 33 is complete as the Repository has all 68 titles that were published; the Repository is missing certain titles in each of the other four formats (34 through 37), and this is where YOU can help. A missing title may just be sitting there languishing in your extra, trade or leftover pile waiting for fame, as it were.

It would be of enormous value to the Repository, "regardless of condition", for you to look over your Alger books and see if one fits this current need. It might be a very common title but the Repository just hasn't received it as of this point. As an initial start our contribution is to list for you the missing titles for each of four Burt formats and, if you care to contribute, tell you where to send the book(s).

For your convenience, the detailed line drawings of the cover design is shown with each format's list of missing titles. Particular Friends who do not own a copy of Chase's book on A.L. Burt Alger formats (these illustrations are shown on Pages 73-75), may not realize that what you have actually is part of the **Chimney Corner Series** of Alger reprint editions. The common spine design for these formats in this series is shown at the right.

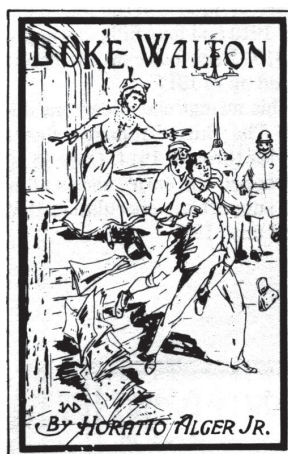
Note that the illustration on the front cover of each book (example on Page 5) is a large color applique, showing the scene as described in the format listing on Page 7.



Missing titles for four A.L. Burt formats at the Northern Illinois University Horatio Alger Repository

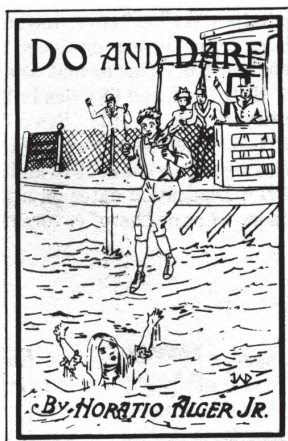
Format 34 — Thief:

Bernard Brooks' Adventures
Do and Dare
Grit
In a New World
Joe's Luck
Phil the Fiddler
Shifting for Himself
Sink or Swim
Tony the Hero
The Train Boy
The Young Acrobat



Format 35 — Boat:

Ben's Nugget
Bound to Rise
Brave and Bold
Facing the World
Helping Himself
Sink or Swim
The Store Boy
Strive and Succeed
Strong and Steady
Struggling Upward
Wait and Hope
Robert Coverdale's Struggle



Format 36 — Train:

Brave and Bold
Cousin's Conspiracy
The Errand Boy
In Search of Treasure
Making His Way
Ralph Raymond's Heir
Risen from the Ranks
Sink or Swim



Strong and Steady
Struggling Upward
Tom the Bootblack
Tony the Hero
The Young Explorer
The Young Miner

Format 37 — Horse:

Andy Grant's Pluck
Bob Burton
Cousin's Conspiracy
Grit
Mark Manning's Mission
Mark Mason's Victory
Only an Irish Boy
Phil, the Fiddler
The Young Musician



If you have one (or several) of these missing titles published by the specific format shown, and you would like to donate it to the NIU Repository, send it to our Executive Director, Rob Kasper at 2311 Hickory Creek Place, #4A, Richmond, VA 23294. Rob has agreed to be a central collecting point and will give all books donated to Lynne Thomas, in one delivery later.

Please place an index card inside the cover of each book you donate, containing your name, address and PF Number so Lynne will be able to recognize you in NIU records as the contributor. Neither Lynne nor NIU can evaluate your contribution for tax purposes. That has to be obtained by you in other ways if it is of major concern to you.

A listing of books contributed will be published later in *Newsboy* detailing who among you were able to respond positively. We will note the progress we are making in filling H.A.S. Repository holes for these four formats. If this appeal is successful, we will adopt other formats later and hopefully fill many of the remaining holes in the Repository collection.

So, thank you in advance for looking through your Alger collection and responding if able. We will keep you apprised as we move forward.

Your Partic'lar Friends,

Brad Chase (PF-412)
and Bob Routhier (PF-889)

Horatio Alger Fellowship for the Study of American Popular Culture

Northern Illinois University

The University Libraries, Northern Illinois University, invite applications for the Horatio Alger Fellowship for the Study of American Popular Culture. Funding is available to scholars who will be using materials from the Libraries' major holdings in American popular culture. These holdings include the Albert Johanssen Collection of more than 50,000 dime novels, and the nation's preeminent collections related to Horatio Alger, Jr., and Edward Stratemeyer. Many other authors are represented.

Topics which could draw on the collections' strengths might include the plight of urban children, image of the

American West in popular literature, widespread use of pseudonyms, and stereotypical portrayals. Preference will be given to applicants who signify an interest in conducting research related to Horatio Alger, Jr. The Fellowship award consists of a \$2,000 stipend, and may be used between July 1 and Dec. 31, 2007.

Candidates should submit a letter of interest, a curriculum vitae, a brief proposal for their research, and two letters of recommendation to: Lynne Thomas, Rare Books & Special Collections, University Libraries, Horatio Alger Fellowship, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL 60115-2868.

Deadline for applications is May 15, 2007.

Editor's notebook

(Continued from Page 4)

and cards and keeping them close at hand for several days — reading and re-reading."

Jack forwarded Cindy's comments to me in hope that Jean's many, many Partic'lar Friends within the Horatio Alger Society will keep her in their thoughts, and perhaps write Jean a short note if they desire. Even though Cindy feels her mother may not be able to respond personally, just reading a note from an old Alger Society friend will help make her day more enjoyable.

Now, news on the passing of two Society members.

Former H.A.S. treasurer Alex T. Shaner (PF-394), who joined the Society in 1973, passed away on April 6, 2005, in news passed along by Bob Routhier. Shaner, from San Jose, Calif., attended several conventions in the 1980s and had a large Alger collection, in addition to many other boys' books.

The second death was much more recent. A. Lois Varney (PF-1004), a longtime bookseller from South Casco, Maine, died Feb. 6, and the obituary is reproduced on this page. I visited Varney's tiny shop located behind her home on several occasions over the years, and added numerous books to my collection.

Varney specialized in juveniles and Maine books. My last purchase from her came through abebooks about five years ago, a book by Mary P. Wells Smith that I used to help illustrate my article for Newsboy on that Massachusetts author of books for young people.

Lois's big contribution to Newsboy was her article on author Earl Reed Silvers, which she wrote for the

Angie L. Varney

SO. CASCO — Angie Lois (Blake) Varney died at age 78 on February 6, surrounded by her sons.

Educated at Fryeburg Academy, she attended Gorham State Teachers College and the University of Maine. For 33 years she taught first, fourth, and fifth grades in Berwick, Casco, and Naples.

Retiring in 1985, Lois pursued full-time her second career as proprietor of Varney's Volumes, an antique book shop in South Casco. She served several terms on the SAD 61 School Board, where she gave voice to the traditional values of "old Maine." Lois taught English to immigrants and GED candidates and also taught Maine history at USM Senior College. She was a local authority on Nathaniel Hawthorne, another former resident of South Casco.

Lois was a trustee of the Casco Library and the Sumner O. Hancock Scholarship Fund. In 1990, she co-wrote *The History of Casco, Maine*.

Lois was predeceased by her husband Bernard in 1977. She is survived by her sons, Thomas and his significant other Carol of Argyle and Rockland; Randolph and his partner John of San Francisco; Kenton and his wife Jane of Gray; and Robert and his significant other Beth of Denmark; granddaughter Erica and her significant other Josh of Auburn; and grandson Ryne of Naples.

She served her community faithfully and well. Her sons are of the opinion that they are her finest achievement; all that they are, they owe to her.

Lois's last request was that there be no funeral and that, in lieu of flowers, her memory be honored by donations to the Sumner O. Hancock Scholarship Fund (P.O. Box 299, Casco 04015), the Casco Memorial Library (P.O. Box 420, Casco, 04015), or the Raymond Village Library (P.O. Box 297, Raymond, 04071). Visiting hours will be held at Hall's Funeral Home at 165 Quaker Ridge Road, Casco, on Friday, February 9, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. and on Saturday, February 10, from 10 a.m. to noon.

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March-April 1999 issue. The Silvers owned a longtime lakefront summer home in South Casco, and Lois, a family friend, arranged a two-hour visit for myself, Rob Kasper and Bart Nyberg with Earl Reed Silvers, Jr. and his family. It was a wonderful experience for all of us.

Into the wilds for fun and profit

or, boys' books visit the Great Outdoors

By William R. Gowen (PF-706)

"I certainly wish I could have some new adventures," mused Tom, as he turned the pages of the paper. "I could afford to take a trip around the earth after them, too, with the way money is coming in now. Yes, I do wish I could have some excitement. Hello, what's this! A big elephant hunt in Africa. Hundreds of the huge creatures captured in a trap — driven in by tame beasts. Some are shot for their tusks. Others will be sent to museums."

He was reading the headlines of the article that had attracted his attention, and, as he read, he became more and more absorbed in it. He read the story through twice, and then, with sparking eyes, he exclaimed:

"That's just what I want. Elephant shooting in Africa! My! With my new electric rifle and an airship, what couldn't a fellow do over the Dark Continent! I've got a good notion to go there! I wonder if Ned would go with me? Mr. Damon certainly would. Elephant shooting in Africa! In an airship! I could finish my new sky craft in short order if I wanted to. I've a good notion to do it!"

And, of course, Tom Swift did it. In amazing short order, he built an airship on the same general design as the late, lamented Red Cloud, naming this somewhat smaller craft the Black Hawk. And off to Africa went Tom, Ned Newton, Mr. Damon and company.

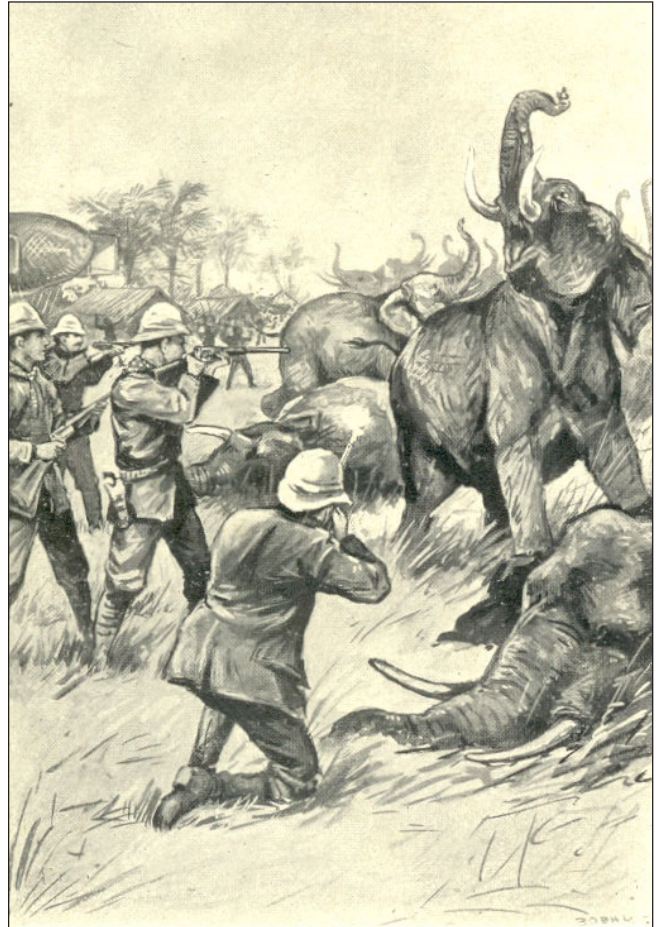
Going along on this adventure was a Mr. Alexander Durban, who describes himself as:

"... a hunter of big game, principally elephants, hippos and rhinoceroses. ... I've got an order for a big pair of elephant tusks — the largest I can get for a wealthy New York man — and I'm anxious to fill the contract. The game isn't what it once was. There's more competition, and the elephants are scarcer. I've got to hustle."

Of course, Durban knows that although he's just bought a new elephant gun, he sees the great potential of Tom's new electric rifle. So, a deal is struck, and Tom and Company soon set off for Africa.

Needless to say, once confronted by the elephants, the giant beasts have no chance against Tom Swift's mighty electric rifle. One incident is described as follows:

This article was presented as a paper at the 34th annual conference of the Popular Culture Association in San Antonio, Texas, on April 8, 2004.



THE ELEPHANTS COULD NOT STAND THE FIRE OF TOM'S ELECTRIC RIFLE. Page 123

Tom Swift and his Electric Rifle. Frontispiece

"But, the tide of battle turned. The elephants suddenly swung about, and began a retreat. They could not stand the hot fire of the four guns, including Tom's fearful weapon. With wild trumpeting, they fled back into the jungle, leaving a number of their dead behind."

And, what about those huge trophy tusks? Conveniently, in the final chapter the hunting party, while cruising over the jungle in the Black Hawk, spots a large elephant, one "of such size, and with such an enormous pair of tusks, that the young inventor and the old hunter could not repress cries of astonishment."

"A rogue elephant!" exclaimed Mr. Durban. "Don't go down there if you value your life, or the safety of the airship. If we attacked that brute on

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Into the wilds for fun and profit

(Continued from Page 9)

the ground, we would be the hunted instead of the hunters. That's a rogue elephant of the worst kind, and he's at the height of his rage."

So, what's a hunter to do? Tom handed Durban his electric rifle, and moments later the elephant was shot dead from the safety of the airship.

"He's done for," said Ned. "I guess you have the tusks you want now, Mr. Durban."

This Tom Swift adventure fits the title of this atricle perfectly: "Into the wilds for fun and profit."

This was the mentality of the early 20th century, the old "Theodore Roosevelt" effect. Want a souvenir for your living room? Go into the wilds, shoot an elephant, rhino, tiger or lion, and bring home the trophy.

It's interesting that in *Tom Swift and his Electric Rifle*, Mr. Durban says he's got to hustle, because "the elephants are scarcer." What would he think today, nearly a century later, when the wild animals of Africa and India have seen their habitat shrink to such a degree that some have become extinct and others are on the endangered species list? And that doesn't even account for the ongoing battle with poachers, who boldly venture onto game preserves for their trophies.

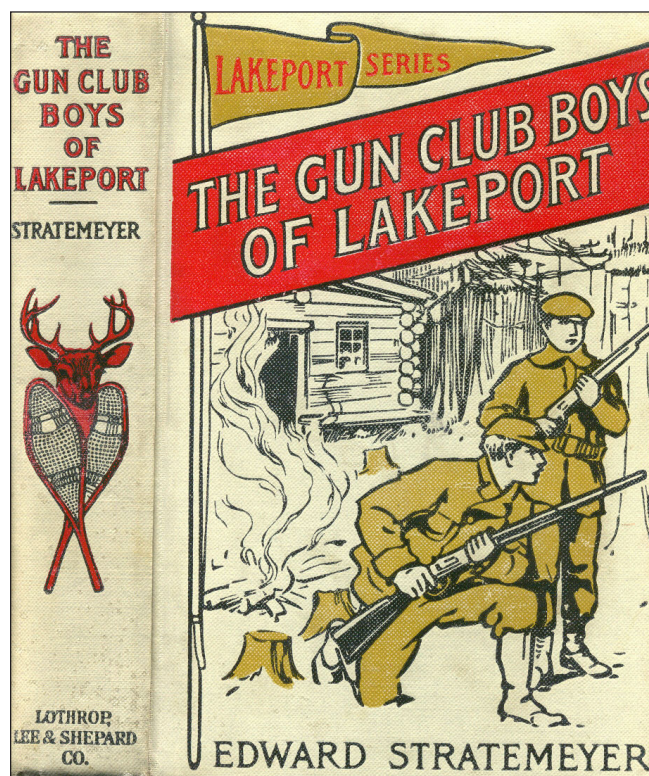
Fellow Stratemeyer Syndicate hero Don Sturdy also did more than his share of hunting wild game in far-away lands. I'm sure if the late Diann Fossey had discovered Don and friends doing their thing while "among the gorillas" she would not have been pleased.

I thought it would be interesting to look at the broad spectrum of boys' books and see if this type of adventure were commonplace, and thankfully, I can say it was not.

In this survey, I'll touch upon several authors who wrote adventure stories in the great outdoors, both pure fiction and stories based upon fact. Yes, wild animals are often killed in these stories, but in most instances, it is for practical reasons rather than the thrill of the hunt. In several cases, the protagonists do their shooting with a camera rather than a rifle, which would make the National Geographic Society proud.

Before leaving the Stratemeyer Syndicate, let's glance at several of the books written by Edward Stratemeyer himself that followed an outdoors theme. It is interesting that for the most part, these stories, several of them originating as story-paper serials, wound up in hard-cover under his "Captain Ralph Bonehill" pseudonym.

Among the earliest of these was *Gun and Sled*; or, *The Young Hunters of Snowtop Island*, first published as a



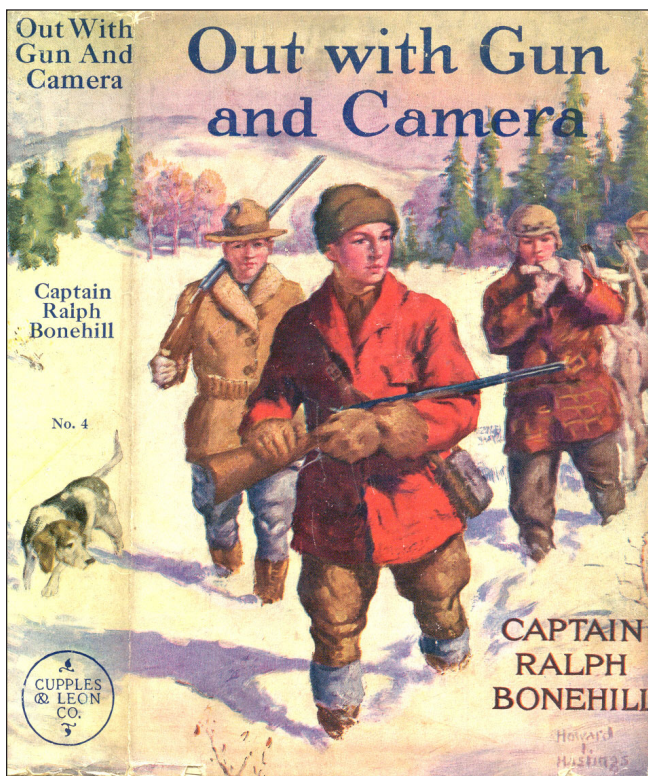
serial in *Young People of America* in late 1895. It first appeared in hard cover in William L. Allison's Bound to Win Series in 1897 and reappeared in Allison's Young Hunters Series in 1899. The second title in this series, *Young Hunters in Porto Rico*, did not appear in hard cover until the following year, after Donohue Brothers had taken over the Bound to Win Series reprint rights for the defunct Allison. The twelve titles included four each under Stratemeyer's own name, plus those under the Bonehill and "Arthur M. Winfield" pseudonyms.

Gun and Sled and *Young Hunters in Porto Rico* enjoyed a long publication life in various inexpensive reprints by Chicago-based M.A. Donohue, the successor to Donohue Brothers.

The Gun Club Boys of Lakeport, published by Lothrop, Lee & Shepard in 1908, is an interesting case. It was initially published by A.S. Barnes in 1904 as *The Island Camp*, under the Bonehill pseudonym, along with a second volume, a baseball and school story titled, *The Winning Run* (1905). *The Island Camp* was originally a 1903-04 serial in *Popular Magazine* under the title of "Snow Lodge," under Stratemeyer's own name.

When Stratemeyer began The Lakeport Series, published by Lothrop, Lee & Shepard, these two books were recopyrighted in 1908. *The Island Camp* was now titled *The Gun Club Boys of Lakeport*, and *The Winning Run* became *The Baseball Boys of Lakeport*.

All six volumes in The Lakeport Series carried



Stratemeyer's own name as the author.

Another early Stratemeyer outdoor adventure story was *Tour of the Zero Club or, Adventures amid Ice and Snow*, (Street & Smith, 1902), again published under the Capt. Ralph Bonehill pseudonym. It originated as a serial in *Good News* in 1894-95 under the "Harvey Hicks" pen name.

Perhaps Stratemeyer's best-known outdoor series, also written under the Bonehill pseudonym, was the Boy Hunters Series, produced in the early years of the Stratemeyer Syndicate and published by Cupples & Leon between 1906 and 1910. The four titles were: *Four Boy Hunters*, *Guns and Snowshoes*, *Young Hunters of the Lake* and *Out with Gun and Camera*.

Numerous other authors also enjoyed writing about the outdoors. One of the best known was St. George Rathborne (1854-1938), a Kentucky native who later moved to New Jersey and wrote numerous dime novel stories for Beadle & Adams, Street & Smith, Frank Tousey, Norman Munro, etc., using his own name and nearly two dozen pseudonyms. He became acquainted with Stratemeyer and authored books in several series for the Syndicate, including the Outdoor Chums Series (as by "Capt. Quincy Allen"), the Boys of Columbia High Series ("Graham B. Forbes"), both published by Grosset & Dunlap. The latter series was reissued and expanded for Garden City as the Frank Allen Series.

Another prominent example is the eight-volume Pio-

neer Boys Series (1912-1928) for L.C. Page as written by Rathborne as "Harrison Adams."

Aside from the Syndicate, Rathborne also wrote the five-volume Campfire Boys Series, under the "Oliver Lee Clifton" pseudonym, for Barse & Hopkins between 1923 and 1926; and the six-volume Canoe and Campfire Series for M.A. Donohue in 1912-1913.

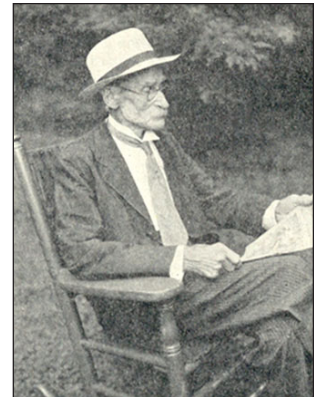
Several of Rathborne's serials wound up in Street & Smith's **Medal Library**, with several of those titles also published in hard covers as S&S's three-volume Camp and Canoe Series and Ranch and Range Series. They were then folded into that publisher's hard-cover **Boys' Own Library** in about 1902. Publication of the **Boys' Own Library** was eventually taken over by David McKay in 1906.

Also venturing into the great outdoors was Francis Rolt-Wheeler (1876-1960), whose nine-volume Museum Series for Lothrop, Lee & Shepard from 1916-27 included such titles as *The Polar Hunters* and *The Tusk-Hunters*. These books, illustrated with photographs, are true-to-life adventures of boys traveling on expeditions to faraway places, with fictionalized dialogue added. Yes, wild animals are killed, not in a pulp-fiction sense but according to the traditions of the time.

An author who is little known today is W. Gordon Parker, who authored the three-volume Deer Lodge Series for Lee & Shepard between 1898 and 1900. The titles are *Six Young Hunters or, The Adventures of the Greyhound Club*; *Grant Burton the Runaway*; or, *The Mishaps of a Schoolboy*; and *Rival Boy Sportsmen*; or, *The Mink Lake Regatta*. These stories cover camping and outdoors club activities, with line-drawn illustrations by the author himself. Wildlife is encountered, but not killed just for the sport. In sum, this is a threesome of spirited, wholesome stories.

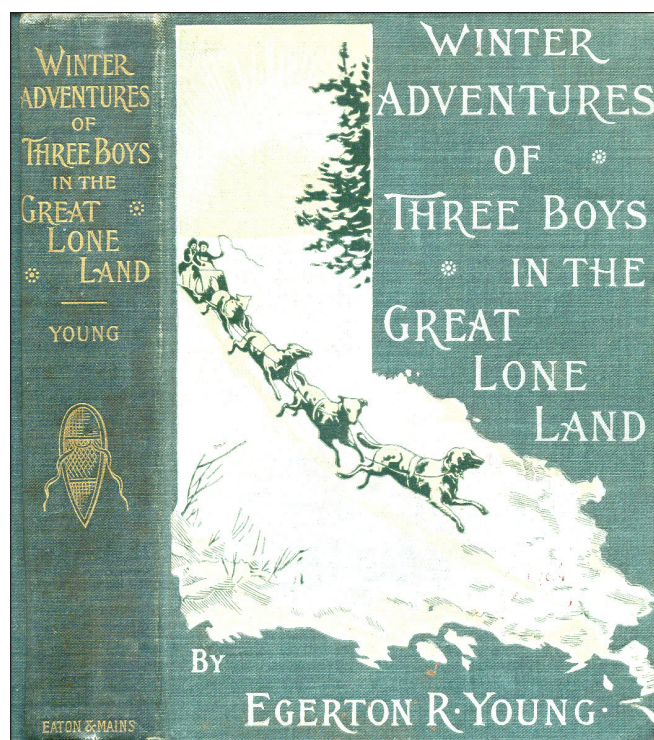
One of the more interesting authors encountered while researching this study is Chauncey Hawkins, who like Parker authored only one series, in this case the three-volume Ned Brewster Series (1912-1914) for Little, Brown & Co. A fascinating part of this series, set in eastern Canada, is that the author has taken numerous photographs illustrating the various animals described in the stories. Even though the books cover the shooting of moose, bear, elk, panther and the like, none of the photographs shows a dead animal.

After the fatal shooting of one of the title animals near



St. George Rathborne

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Into the wilds for fun and profit

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the end of *Ned Brewster's Caribou Hunt*, set in Newfoundland, Ned's father says, as he stands over his 40-point trophy:

What a pity! They are such noble animals and they stand no chance against a modern gun. Never again. I have shot my last caribou. It is too easy. It is more sportsmanlike to shoot with a camera. It requires more skill, more patience, and a greater knowledge of the animals. Henceforth, shoot with a camera.

Yet another little-known author responsible for a single series, is Egerton Ryerson Young, who wrote a two-volume series, the Three Boys Series (for want of a better name), concerning the title heroes' adventures (canoeing, goose and duck hunting, sturgeon fishing, etc.) in the Northern wilds and the boys' interaction with Native Americans. These books carry a Christian theme and deal in some detail with the bringing of the Gospel to the natives of the region. The titles of the books, both published by Eaton & Mains, are *Three Boys in the Wild North Land: Summer* (1896); and *Winter Adventures of Three Boys in the Great Lone Land* (1899).

During the heyday of series books, the "great outdoors" of New England usually referred to Maine, the least-densely populated state in the Northeast. One of

the best-known of the boys' adventure series set in Maine is the Golden Boys Series, by L.P. (Levi Parker) Wyman, billed in the book advertisements as "Dean of the Pennsylvania Military College." Wyman (1873-1950) also authored the Lakewood Boys Series and Hunniwell Boys Series, along with a handful of single titles, most published by A.L. Burt.

The Golden Boys Series consisted of 10 titles published between 1923 and 1927. They were *The Golden Boys and Their New Electric Cell*, *The Golden Boys at the Fortress*, *The Golden Boys in the Maine Woods*, *The Golden Boys with the Lumberjacks*, *The Golden Boys on the River Drive*, *The Golden Boys Rescued by Radio*, *The Golden Boys Along the River Allagash*, *The Golden Boys at the Haunted Camp*, *The Golden Boys Save the Chamberlain Dam* and *The Golden Boys on the Trail*.

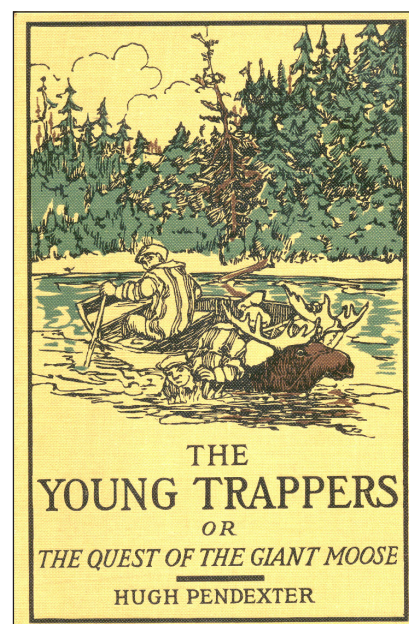
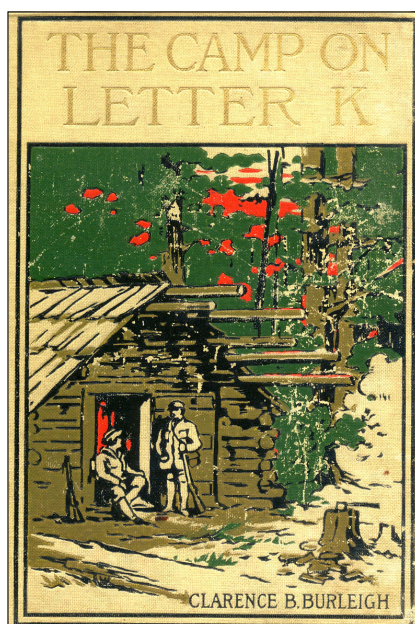
The Lakewood Boys Series took the title characters on exciting locales around the world, such as the south seas islands, and are not outdoors-type stories in the traditional sense. Likewise for the Hunniwell Boys Series, which are aviation stories. But it is Wyman's Golden Boys Series that places the wilderness of Maine at center stage.

Several very important Maine-born authors wrote boys' books on the great outdoors, including Clarence B. Burleigh (1864-1910), with his two three-volume series for Lothrop, Lee and Shepard covering the lumber industry (Norman Carver Series) and camping in the back woods (Raymond Benson Series). The Norman Carver books are *All Among the Loggers* (1908), *With Pickpole and Peavey* (1909) and *The Young Guide* (1910). The Raymond Benson Series consists of *The Camp on Letter K* (1906); *Raymond Benson at Krampton* (1907), and *The Kenton Pines*, (1907). Note that *The Camp on Letter K* was originally published in 1891 by E.E. Knowles & Co. as *The Smugglers of Chestnut*.

Another renowned Maine writer whose stories occasionally ventured into the outdoors was Gilbert Patten (1866-1945), who occasionally even sent his most famous hero, Frank Merriwell, into the wilds.

Patten's Rex Kingdon Series (Hurst & Co., five volumes, 1914-17) is basically a school and sports series, with much time spent in outdoor adventures. Patten wrote this series under his "Gordon Braddock" pen name. The titles in the series are *Rex Kingdon of Ridgewood High* (1914), *Rex Kingdon in the North Woods* (1914), *Rex Kingdon at Wolcott Hall* (1915), *Rex Kingdon Behind the Bat* (1916) and *Rex Kingdon on Storm Island* (1917). A sixth title, *Rex Kingdon and his Chums*, was advertised by Hurst but never published.

Another Maine author was Hugh Pendexter (1875-1940), who wrote numerous adult novels, but still found the time to write two boys' series: *The Camp and Trail Series* (six volumes, of which only five were published, 1911-1917); and the *Along the Coast Series* (six volumes,



of which only two saw print, 1912-13). Both series were published by Small, Maynard of Boston. The Camp and Trail Series titles reaching print were *The Young Timber Cruisers* (1911), *The Young Gem Hunters* (1911), *The Young Woodsmen* (1911), *The Young Trappers* (1913) and *The Young Loggers* (1917). For the Along the Coast Series, the two titles actually published were *The Young Fishermen* (1912) and *The Young Sea Merchants* (1913).

Maine and its rugged coastline is also the setting for the Rival Campers Series (four volumes, 1905-07), written by Ruel Perley Smith (1869-1937), and published by L.C. Page of Boston. The titles are: *The Rival Campers* (1905), *The Rival Campers Afloat* (1906), *The Rival Campers Ashore* (1907) and *Jack Harvey's Adventures* (1907).

When you think of Maine authors and tales of life at home or in the great outdoors, none is as beloved as Charles Asbury Stephens. A life-long resident of the small Maine town of Norway, C.A. Stephens (1844-1931), wrote 31 books, fewer than 20 of which were written for a juvenile audience (the others were mostly medical research books). Yet, he was a most prolific author, with more than 2,500 stand-alone short stories and serials to his credit, nearly all published by *The Youth's Companion* of Boston. He contributed to *The Companion* for 60 years, undoubtedly a record for one author with a single publication.

I should note that Stephens was not the original spelling of his name. His family spelled it Stevens, but C.A. went to the "ph" version so that in case his career as a writer flopped, his parents, aunts and uncles would not suffer any embarrassment.

Stephens received his bachelor's degree from Bowdoin College, but it is interesting that some two decades later,

at age 43, he became a medical doctor, his degree coming from Boston University Medical School. Although he never practiced medicine, he turned his knowledge on the subject into a study of human aging, and set up what he called "my laboratory," in Norway. Stephens was a true intellectual. Through independent study, he correctly predicted the invention of television, the splitting of the atom, and the emergence of overseas study by American college students. His way of accomplishing the latter was through what he proposed as a "steamship college," in which students would spend four years traveling around the world, studying foreign cultures, along with a standard academic curriculum on board ship between port visits.

Of course, the invention of jet travel has made that concept obsolete, but today, nearly every major American university has adjunct resident facilities in Europe or the Far East, where undergraduates and graduate students spend one or more semesters.

Throughout his fascinating life, Stephens still maintained a basic farm in Maine. His first wife, Christine, with whom he had two daughters, died in 1910. His second wife, Minne, a native of South Paris, Maine, gave up an international opera career to return home and become Stephens' faithful companion for the rest of his life. Stephens' love of the outdoors was reflected in his many short stories. His books of adventure set in the forests of Maine and Canada, though few in number, were largely responsible for creating an appreciation of the American wilderness for generations to come. In all, he wrote 10 books about outdoor life, travel and adventure, the first six of which came out in 1872-73 under the

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Into the wilds for fun and profit

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title *Camping Out* Series, published by James R. Osgood of Boston. The popularity of the *Camping Out* Series helped to keep the books in print for more than 50 years by numerous publishers.

The titles in the *Camping Out* Series are: *Camping Out* (no subtitle); *Left on Labrador, or, the Cruise of the Schooner-Yacht 'Curlew'*; *Off to the Geysers; or, the Young Yachters in Iceland*; *Lynx Hunting* (no subtitle); *Fox Hunting* (no subtitle); and *On the Amazon, or, The Cruise of the 'Rambler'*. Note that some of these adventures are set in foreign lands.

An interesting aspect of these books is that they are written diary-style, with day-by-day entries. Some are as recorded by the author himself, while other entries are made under pseudonyms named after four fictitious college boys, modeled after real acquaintances: "Wade," "Wash," "Raed" and "Kit."

The books received rave reviews from *The Boston Globe*, the *Saturday Review* of London and other major publications. One typical review stated: "Rare books for boys — bright, breezy, wholesome and instructive; full of adventure and incident, and information upon natural history. They blend instruction with amusement — contain much useful and valuable information upon the habits of animals, and plenty of adventure, fun and jollity."

The first book, *Camping Out*, is climaxed by a trek to the top of Mount Katahdin, highest peak in Maine. Stephens describes the journey through the woods as follows:

Over the whole landscape there rested, like a glorious tide, the bright warm light of the setting sun. But not a trace of human habitation could be detected. The wilderness enclosed us on all sides. The ponds sparkled, the streams glided onward, and the breezes rustled through the moving treetops, but man was absent.

Once at Katahdin's summit, Stephens goes on:

The whole country is at your feet. All the hills and mountains have sunk into a mighty plain, stretching off into distant haze. It looks as if one might fall into the West Branch by merely jumping over the crest. The valley wears a soft bluish tint. The forest seems like a grass-plot. Moosehead has come up much nearer. Far beyond it there are mountain-peaks, which ... are those of the boundary range between Maine and Canada.

Considering the year (1872) it was written, this is descriptive writing years ahead of its time. Of all the authors writing for young people on the great outdoors,

C.A. Stephens, one of the earliest, got it best. His love for his native Maine came through with each turn of phrase. This was not an elephant hunt for the thrill of obtaining ivory. This was a love of life itself.

Of equal renown was the *Knockabout Club* Series, of which Stephens wrote the first three books for Estes & Lauriat between 1881 and 1883. Based upon his "Steamship College" idea, the stories follow several college boys as they attempt to broaden their educational horizons during overseas travels. The books were titled *The Knockabout Club in the Woods*, *The Knockabout Club alongshore* and *The Knockabout Club in the Tropics*. The first book in the series covers their trip from Boston, through New Hampshire and Maine, down the Allagash and St. John Rivers and into Quebec, a trip described by Stephens as "the next-best thing to a tour in Europe."

In his final years, several books, brought together as the *Old Squire* Series, collected many of Stephens' "Life on the Old Farm" stories previously published in *The Youth's Companion*. The Perry Mason Company, owner of *The Youth's Companion* at that time, published these titles in hard cover, which constitute a fitting epitaph to the magazine's most prolific contributor.

Stephens' final book, *My Folks in Maine*, completed in 1927, was not published during his lifetime, but was brought out as a tribute by his widow, Minne, in 1934, three years after the author's death.

So there you have it — a look at the great outdoors through just a sampling of the authors and their books for young people that explored this topic. Other authors, of course, touched on the outdoors. Ralph Henry Barbour (1870-1944) wrote such outdoors titles as *Big Four* Series (Century, 1905-1907) comprising *Four in Camp*, *Four Afoot* and *Four Afloat*; and such single titles as *Partners Three* (M.A. Donohue, 1913).

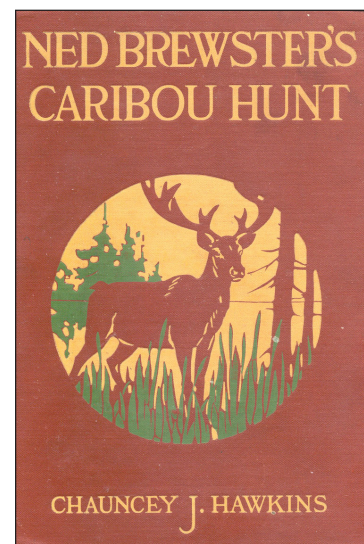
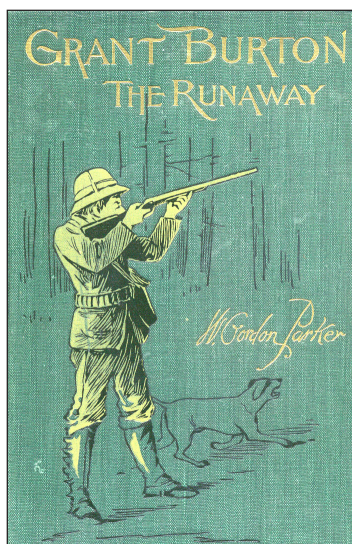
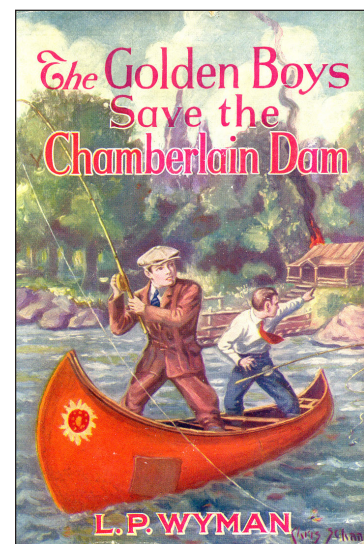
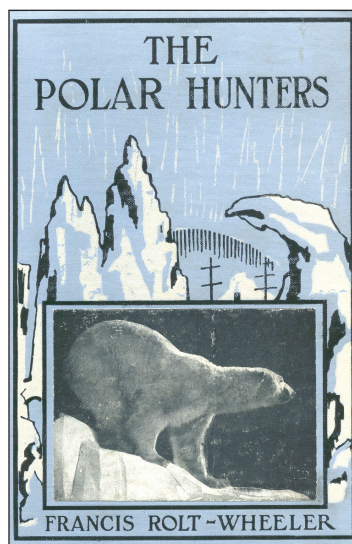
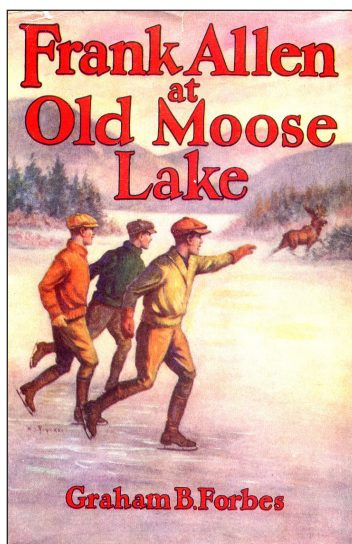
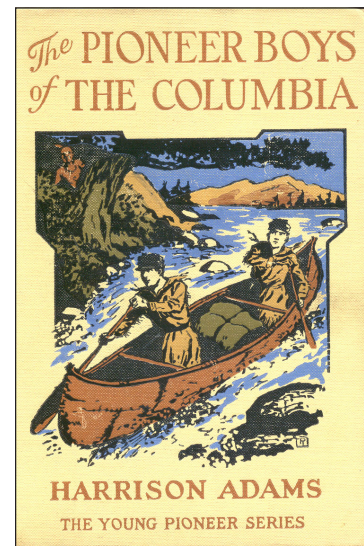
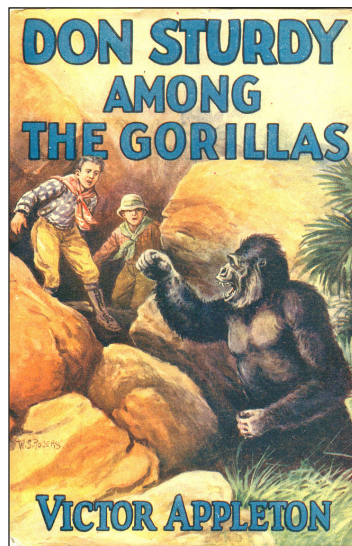
And, we cannot overlook Harry Castlemon (Charles A. Fosdick, 1842-1915), whose series with an outdoors setting included the *Rocky Mountain* Series (1871), *Sportsman's Club* Series (1873-74), *Frank Nelson* Series (1876-77), *Boy Trapper* Series (1877-79), *Roughing It* Series (1897-82) and *Rod and Gun* Series (1883-85) as prominent examples.

Space prevents full details, with Castlemon really deserving his own future article — and Barbour was discussed in detail by this author in the November-December 1993 *Newsboy*.

For this article, we'll stick with Edward Stratemeyer and his Syndicate and the numerous other authors and books discussed above.

So, happy hunting (just for books, of course)!

Additional covers of titles from various series mentioned in this article are shown on Page 15.



A 'Hoosier' welcome from Shelbyville

(Continued from Page 3)

eating at least one Twinkie a day since 1941, has appeared on many national TV shows.

Indianapolis is a scant 30 minutes from Shelbyville, and is home to the Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians & Western Art; the Colonel Eli Lilly Civil War Museum located in the lower level of the Soldiers and Sailors Monument standing as the centerpiece of Indianapolis; the Indiana State Museum, the Indiana Transportation Museum and the Indiana Museum of Art, among many others. A new, unique museum, the American Superheroes Museum, will be opening in March 2007 in downtown Indianapolis. For additional information, please visit www.indy.org/.

As the whole world knows, May is race month in Indiana with the running of the Indianapolis 500 on Memorial Day weekend. The cars will be running prior to and during the convention, and Sunday, May 20, is "Bump Day." The Indianapolis Motor Speedway is open to the public during this time for you to tour and see practice and qualifying. The Speedway Hall of Fame Museum is open every day each year except Christmas. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., with admission only \$3 for adults and a dollar for children ages 6-15 (children under 6 are free). For additional information, please check www.indy500.com/.

Also of interest is Indiana University's Lilly Library, located on the Bloomington campus and home to an excellent children's book collection, including The J.K. Lilly collection, which includes many of the Castlemon books Jacob Blanck referenced in writing *Harry Castlemon Boys' Own Author*. The Lilly Library also has a fabulous Henty collection, the Elizabeth Ball children's book collection and many others. For those in academia, this library is only an hour away from Shelbyville and poses an excellent opportunity to schedule some research prior to or following the H.A.S. Convention.

Included in this issue of *Newsboy* is your official convention registration form, along with a copy of the tentative schedule detailing what I hope will be an entertaining, interesting, and successful convention. Bill Gowen and Lynne Thomas will be presenting on Friday, along with a yet to be determined third speaker. Bill's presentations are always informative, and I think everyone will be looking forward to hear from Lynne regarding the state of the NIU Alger Repository.

The guest speaker for our Saturday evening banquet is Dick Wolfsie, who daily provides his unique brand of

humor and wit through TV, newspaper columns and books.

We will be auctioning two collections, those of Ann Sharrard and EllaRee Wiggins, along with the remainder of the Carl Hartmann Alger memorabilia collection and any items brought by Partic'lar Friends to the convention.

Dinner on Friday evening will be held at The Kopper Kettle Inn in Morristown, Ind. This restaurant began as a tavern in 1858 and has served as an inn since 1885. In 1923, the owner stopped hotel functions and redecorated the inn in unique antique pieces for operation as a tea room and restaurant. Today, the unique antique furniture and art is still present and in use, and every table has a special name derived from the piece itself or a unique style of China. This restaurant maintains a vintage charm and historic ambience, along with excellent menu and service, and it should provide an entertaining venue for dinner and a Horatio Alger quiz.

The annual H.A.S. Banquet will be held at The Fiddler's Three Restaurant in Shelbyville. This restaurant is a testament to the workmanship of two men, William Dugan and his able assistant, Steve Lower, who fashioned all display cases, fancy woodwork and beams on the premise. The beautiful leaded glass windows and doors were also fashioned by these same two men and consist of nearly 1,700 pieces of glass. The chimney weighs nearly 100 tons and has upstairs and downstairs fireplaces. The brick used for the downstairs fireplace are over 100 years old and were taken from the Odd Fellows Hall in St. Paul, Ind. The mantel is a 148-year-old hewn beam from Shelby County. Fiddler's Three brings a touch of Old World ambience to Shelbyville and is looking forward to sharing it with the H.A.S. convention attendees.

Saturday afternoon, Wendy and I will be hosting an open house in our home, and we invite everyone to attend. Refreshments will be served, and my library and Wendy's collections will be available for your viewing pleasure.

A list of Indiana bookstores and antique malls will be provided for all attendees, along with additional Indiana tourism information. The convention gift this year is unique to all other convention gifts and may provide a platform for future conventions to use and possibly raise additional H.A.S. revenue.

Hotel reservations should be made as soon as possible to the Lees Inn & Suites in Shelbyville. The hotel phone number is (317) 392-2299. Please tell the hotel that you are with the Horatio Alger Society to ensure that you receive the special convention rate of \$58. This rate will apply for your entire stay including preceding and following dates.

Wendy and I are looking forward to seeing all of you here in Shelbyville on May 17-20!