



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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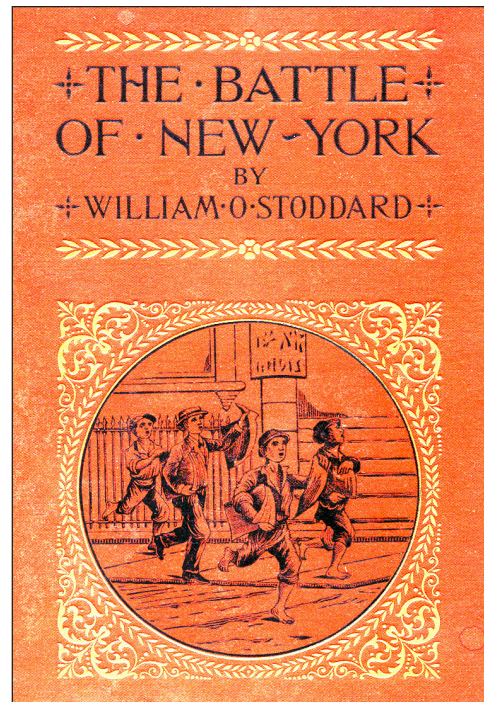
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President's column

Former H.A.S. member Norman G. Peterson (PF-184) was kind enough to send me his collection of *Newsboys* from 1966-1974. The 60s and 70s were exciting times for the H.A.S.: lots of research and new discoveries were taking place. There is still a vast amount of original Alger research that can and needs to be done. But perhaps we are hunting more rabbits and fewer lions nowadays, so to speak.

It also seems to me that the pool of desirable Alger books is much larger now than it was in the 60s and 70s; perhaps this is due as much to the Internet as it is to the gradual increase of Alger books concentrated in the H.A.S. over the course of 40+ years.

Included with Norman's vintage *Newsboys* was a double-sheet "Newsboy Photo Supplement" from 1967. You can see pictures of young Ralph Gardner and Carl Hartmann (among other Society notables). I'll add these pictures to the Archive sub-page for your perusal.

The membership application on the H.A.S. Web site is now fully automated: new and renewing members can apply for membership and/or pay their membership dues online. I am hoping this convenience will encourage more prospective members to join the Society.

I will be adding a blog to the H.A.S. Web site. Think of a blog as an Internet diary that all members can read from and write to. Blogs enable members to publish short comments and ideas instantly for other blog members to read. Blogging can be an effective communications tool for small groups of people (like us) to keep in touch with each other.

Our blog will be in the Archive area; access to the blog will require the Archive username and password (username: member; password: newsboy).

There will be a link to our blog from the convention sub-page as I have in mind that our blog will be especially useful for coordinating travel arrangements among 2008 convention attendees.

Speaking of the convention, the 2008 H.A.S. convention will be held at The Plaza Hotel in Carson City, Nevada from May 15-18. We will start adding hotel and logistics information to the convention sub-page (<http://thehoratioalgersociety.org/convention.html>); please check this page frequently for updates. Janice will be writing a series of articles for *Newsboy*, detailing the activities and sights that the Carson City/Carson Valley area has to offer. Janice has written a short introductory

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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.**

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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 early glimpse at the 2008 convention

By Janice Morley (PF-957)

It seems as if it was last week when we were all packing our bags for the Horatio Alger Society 2007 convention in Shelbyville. Well, it's time to look ahead to our 2007 convention, and I wanted to finalize the major factors while I had time to negotiate favorable rates at suitable hotels. The best site we located is actually on the "doorstep" of Carson Valley, in Carson City. I have made the preliminary arrangements for our convention with the Carson City Plaza Hotel and Convention Center on U.S. Route 395, just one block south of the Nevada State Capitol building.

The reasons for selecting this location were for the comfort and convenience of attendees, including:

- Better room rates. May is the start of golf season here, and the rates go up significantly at the other sites which position themselves as resort destinations. If you do enjoy golf, keep in mind that there are nine beautiful golf courses within a 20-minute drive of our hotel!
- Shuttle service to/from Reno-Tahoe International

Airport. Many of you expressed an interest in carpooling to and from the airport. Mike and I can still set up a carpool signup sheet on the H.A.S. Web site, but we thought this option might appeal. Besides, the shuttle service charge should be quite reasonable.

- Free continental breakfast. If you would prefer a sit-down full-size breakfast, there are several good restaurants within a short walking distance of the Carson City Plaza Hotel. If you're like me, something smaller usually suffices until lunch.

- Free high-speed Internet access. As mentioned above, the other sites bill themselves as resorts, so they charge \$10/day for Internet access.

- Activities that are easily accessible from our location. There are fascinating things to see in Carson City! I'll provide a series of articles in the next few months to tempt your wanderlust, not only for our historic state capital, but for other great day trips in the Eastern Sierra area.

I'm sure you'll like our convention venue, and we look forward to seeing you all at our 2008 get-together!

Two who made a difference in America

By George F. Sharrard

Someone selecting two who changed America could have chosen two who were scientists, religious or military leaders, teachers, inventors or others from many disciplines. I chose two men whose lives and endeavors influenced the lives of America's young people. Two men, one American the other an Englishman, who through personal efforts during their lives had an impressive effect on America's youth. Both left legacies that have endured for over a century. Both influenced the culture of America. The American was Horatio Alger, the Englishman was Lord Baden-Powell

Horatio Alger, Jr.

Alger, born in 1832, was the son of a Unitarian minister. The family traced their roots back to the early Pilgrims. His father was a respected but impoverished minister, the family leaving one parish after bankruptcy had taken all their possessions. Alger was twelve years old at the time and was one of three children.

This article is from a paper given to The Athenaeum Society in Gainesville, Fla., on Oct. 2, 2006. Founded in 1905, The Athenaeum Society is the oldest faculty organization at the University of Florida, with membership including faculty, retirees and active professionals in the university community.

His father home-schooled him at an early age in Latin, algebra, and the bible. Later, he attended several schools for short periods, studying Greek and French and at the age of fifteen completed his preparatory studies. At that age he read French, German, Greek, Spanish, and Italian. At age sixteen he was admitted to Harvard College. His class had fewer than 100 students.

Harvard in 1852 was small, parochial, and Unitarian. At the end of four years, Alger stood eighth in a class of 88 and was selected Class Odist. He was *Phi Beta Kappa*.

For the next five years he tried teaching, writing, editing, and other jobs without fulfillment or monetary success. In 1857, he returned to Cambridge Divinity School and studied for the ministry, graduating with five classmates in 1860. After graduation, in company with college classmates, he left Boston for Europe. Having arranged to write a series of travel articles for the *New York Sun*, he was now a 28-year-old foreign correspondent. This venture was a success.

Meanwhile, events in the United States had been building to a breaking point. Lincoln had been elected President of the United States while Alger was in Paris. Civil War soon engulfed the nation.

Due to severe asthma, which affected his entire life,
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Editor's notebook

This issue's final editing barely dodged the weatherman, with my home avoiding the massive power outages from an unrelenting series of thunderstorms in the Chicago area on Aug. 20-24. The worst came Thursday the 23rd, when distant thunder heralded the arrival of another assault from Mother Nature. Luckily the storm, with 70 mile-per-hour winds (and gusts up to 100 mph) passed just south of Lake Zurich. O'Hare International Airport saw more than 500 flights canceled.

Those Partic'lar Friends who heard my talk on William O. Stoddard at the 2006 convention in Omaha should note that the article beginning on Page 7 expands on that talk, in particular about the business career of Stoddard's son. The project has been fun, and I hope you enjoy reading about this fascinating subject.

Auction adjustment. As we reported in the May-June convention issue, this year's annual H.A.S. consignment and donation auctions set records in gross receipts and net total to the Society. The latter total as reported on Page 12 was \$6,352.00. However, due to a series of errors, mainly by myself in misinterpreting the final spreadsheet totals, the correct net proceeds to the Society should be \$6,341.80 (after payments to all consignors). This discrepancy did not involve the Carl Hartmann Legacy Collection or the special consignment collections of Ann Sharrard and Debbie Wiggins. It occurred in the members' individual consignment/donation auction.

A correction has been made, and the H.A.S. bank account has been adjusted for the correct amount of \$6,341.80. The initial cause of the problem was the addition, at virtually the last minute on Saturday, a donation inadvertently classified as a consignment.

Because the day of the auction is a particularly hectic time, the confusion was understandable. Therefore, with the approval of President Mike Morley and Executive Director Robert E. Kasper, a new policy is in place: Under no circumstances will items be accepted for the individual consignment/donation auction after Thursday evening. If a member plans to arrive at the convention on Friday, he should send his item(s) to the convention host ahead of time. We are in a new era in which all auction items are logged into a spreadsheet, which needs to be completed by Thursday. This system worked very well at Shelbyville for the most part, with all consignors receiving their payments much quicker than in the past. The system should work even smoother in Carson City.

President's column

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piece on the convention for this issue, which you can find on Page 3.

My father, Morgan Jay Morley, passed away on July 8. As I write these words, I can hardly believe them; some part of me thought he would live forever. Like my father-in-law, Morgan was a World War II veteran (Pacific theater), and was a kind and gentle man. I greatly miss him.

This is a nice time of year in the Carson Valley. The temperature is moderate and it is lovely to spend time outdoors, especially at dusk as you watch the glow of the sun setting behind the eastern Sierra Nevada. Janice and I hope all of you will get to see this sunset for yourselves at the 2008 convention.

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

Two who made a difference in America

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Alger failed the physical examination required to be a soldier. He then accepted a position as a minister in Brewster, Mass. His stay in Brewster was short, and while the records are not clear, it appears he left because of alleged sexual contact with two young boys in his parish. (Editor's note: see Scharnhorst and Bales, *The Lost Life of Horatio Alger, Jr.*, for background on the so-called "Brewster affair").

At this time in his life, Alger moved to New York City and became a full-time writer. He found much in New York City about which to write. The Civil War had brought camp followers and young people from the farms to the city. The nation was changing from an agricultural to an industrial economy. Money had new meaning and the city was where you could get money and have a good time. Child abuse was rampant, as was the *padrone* system.

The *padrone* system consisted of an overseer who bought or rented Italian children from their parents, brought them to America, gave them a few lessons in simple tasks and put them on the streets to earn money for the overseer. The overseers were cruel, uncaring masters of these children. It became known as white slavery. Alger saw this, and his moral training could not accept it. He decided to write about these street arabs and let the world know what was going on.

While he wrote many books about these waifs, one in particular is of note — *Phil, The Fiddler*. The trials of the young Italian boy Phil as a street arab sent out to play his violin and collect small change brought the *padrone* system to people's attention.

In his preface Alger wrote:

"If the story of Phil, The Fiddler, in revealing for the first time to the American public the hardships and ill-treatment of these wandering musicians, shall excite an active sympathy in their behalf, the author will feel abundantly repaid for his labor."

Two years later, the New York Legislature enacted a child abuse law and the *padrone* system was broken up, not only in New York City but in all large cities in the nation. Alger never claimed he destroyed the *padrone* system but did believe he helped do so.

Few books were written for children before the Civil War, and those that were dwelt on morals and religion. Charles Dickens masterfully described the plights of poverty without leading his characters to success. Hans Christian Andersen spun charming tales of the poor, often leaving the reader in tears. Alger's books outsold those of

both writers. Alger changed this. He wrote for youth, many uneducated, using simple sentences, a limited vocabulary, no literary polish but lots of excitement and action. He felt he could preach to boys more effectively through the medium of a story than lecture them with a sermon.

In all, he wrote over 100 books for boys, many articles and serials for the monthly and weekly magazines. He wrote about honor, moral behavior, hard work, trust, etc. His stories held out hope to millions that if they worked hard, stayed out of trouble, led a moral life, and met the right people they would succeed. Success in Alger's stories did not mean wealth but meant opportunity.

Alger died in 1899. In his active years, post-Civil War, 17 million people immigrated to the United States. The United States moved from an agrarian to an industrial economy. People living in cities increased five-fold. Agricultural employment declined from 57 per cent to 37 per cent. Child labor tripled.

New York City's population grew from 700,000 in 1850 to 3,500,000 in 1900. The city was described as fast, loud, and smelly.

Alger's legacy took off after 1900 when his stories were published in cheap editions. Sales exceeded one million copies per year and total sales have been estimated at 150 to 300 million.

Somewhere, lost to history, the expression "rags to riches" became attached to Alger's writings. It has become part of the nation's culture, and successful people became Alger heroes. His stories became part of America's culture: *Risen From The Ranks*, *Struggling Upward*, *Strive and Succeed* all pointed the path for youth to follow if they wanted to succeed. Alger stories did not equate success with wealth but equated success with opportunity.

So how does Alger rate as one who changed America?

History credits him with creating the image of the self-made man. Many of America's leaders in the 20th century read and believed in Alger. Some still do. For example, Benjamin Fairless, once head of U.S. Steel, read Alger in his youth. Former Governor of New York Alfred E. Smith was once a newsboy on Manhattan's lower east side, and he treasured Alger's books. Carl Sandberg read Alger at his home town library. Another Governor of New York, Herbert H. Lehman, knew the author personally.

Michael V. DeSalle, Governor of Ohio, said:

"The Alger theme did have a great deal to do in establishing a pattern for my own mind."

Others whom Alger influenced included:

- Francis Cardinal Spellman: Archbishop of New York.
- James A. Farley: Chairman Coca Cola Corp.; Postmaster General of the United States.
- Benjamin Cardozo: Jurist on U.S. Supreme Court.
- Joyce Kilmer: Poet.

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Two who made a difference in America

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- Ernest Hemingway: Author.
- Knut Rockne: Football coach.
- Christy Mathewson: Baseball star.

Alger biographer Ralph D. Gardner wrote:

"There was, indeed, a time when almost every boy growing up in this country avidly read these simple tales by the most widely read novelist in the history of American literature."

By mid-20th century and after World War II, a malaise had settled over the nation. Was the U.S.A. still the land of opportunity? Could one still immigrate to the United States, work hard and succeed? The American Schools and Colleges Association, sensing this, took steps to invigorate the land of opportunity.

In 1947, they established an award program. This program was dedicated to the belief the American way — that is, Alger's way — was the highest type of human relationship conceived by the mind of man. That's pretty purple prose, but one gets their idea.

Since then, each year and still continuing, living individuals who have by their own efforts pulled themselves up by their bootstraps in the American tradition have been given Horatio Alger Awards. The stories of these men are impressive. Most knew real hardship as youths. Some would not be recognized today as their success was modest. Wealth is not a deciding factor. Most are household names, and they come from every vocation imaginable.

The awards have been made to four Presidents of the U.S. (Herbert Hoover, Dwight Eisenhower, Gerald Ford and Ronald Reagan), a number of industrialists, entertainment personalities, educators, religious leaders (Norman Vincent Peale and Billy Graham), Nobel Prize winner Ralph Bunche, and others from all walks of life.

In summation, Alger's gift to American culture can be summed up by the words of Bernard Baruch:

"America still presents the greatest field of opportunity and adventure, as great as ever existed."

Put another way, by Henry Steele Commager in *The Growth of the American Republic*:

"Horatio Alger exerted greater influence on the American character than any other writer excepting only Mark Twain."

Lord Baden-Powell

Baden-Powell was born in 1857, the son of an Oxford professor whose family traced their beginnings to 1501. His parents were well educated, and his extended family financially well off. He was raised by his mother, his

father having died soon after his birth. As a child he had contact with many in the English literati, including many Oxford professors.

When he started his formal education he turned out to be an indifferent student. He liked theatricals, sports, and became an accomplished artist. At an early age it was noted BP was ambidextrous, able for example to sketch equally well with either hand or both at once. He failed entrance examinations at Oxford and Christ Church but then passed an examination for Her Majesty's Army. His first service was in the cavalry, joining the 13th Hussars in India.

His army career included service in India, Africa, Malta, Ireland and England. In Africa, his reconnaissance skills were honed to a high degree. His sketching and watercolor abilities were a great aid to his reconnaissance duties.

Baden-Powell rose through the ranks, seeking assignments where action could be found.

In 1895 the long festering differences between the Dutch and the English in South Africa precipitated the Second Boer War. Through a series of appointments, BP found himself in charge of an English regiment assigned to defend the small city of Mafeking in north Cape Colony. The Dutch army, many times larger than the English force, soon surrounded Mafeking. BP brilliantly defended Mafeking and held on. The siege lasted 217 days before reinforcements relieved Mafeking. The siege was news around the world. The British and the world hailed BP as a hero.

In his next assignment he established the South African Constabulary, later served as Inspector General of England's cavalry. After 30 years, his active army career ended in 1907.

Baden-Powell's second life started by chance. In 1904 he was reviewing a Boy's Brigade in Glasgow. The Boy's Brigade had been founded in 1883 by a Sunday School Teacher named William Alexander Smyth. After the review, BP asked Smyth if an increase in variety and attractiveness of training might not improve the program. Smyth agreed and challenged BP to come up with such a program.

Now, with time to do so, BP looked around and found conditions in England had changed. The Boer War was followed by a general depression. Wages dropped and unemployment rose. Unemployed youth roamed the streets of London. A study found 30 per cent of London's population was suffering from malnutrition. There was poverty among extravagant affluence. Vandalism, drunkenness, vice of all sorts was rampant.

He had been thinking about a boy's training program since the Boy's Brigade challenge. Much of his army life had involved training. There, he had instituted new

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William O. Stoddard

From White House to author

By William R. Gowen (PF-706)

As a journalist, I suppose it was natural that one of my hobbies is the study of late-19th and early-20th century mass-market juvenile literature and its authors, many of whom cut their teeth in newspapers.

William Osborn Stoddard, shown below in a portrait by noted artist Frank B. Carpenter (more on him later), born Sept. 24, 1835, was such a man. But although the newspaper business was his initial vocation, Stoddard



William Osborn Stoddard (1835-1925)

became more than that during a lifetime that reached nearly 90 years, quite a feat in an era when average life expectancy was much, much shorter.

Before we look at Stoddard's professional career, let's take a glance at his personal background.

He came into this world in the upstate New York village of Homer, a farming community just south

of Syracuse. He was the son of Prentice and Sarah Ann (Osborn) Stoddard, his father running a successful small book and publishing shop.

Young Bill attended private schools in Syracuse, and worked part-time in his father's business, becoming addicted to printer's ink, as have most of us who have chosen writing as a profession, whether it was books or as a reporter and editor for newspapers.

He attended the University of Rochester, from which in 1858 he received an A.B. (bachelor of arts), *cum laude*.

The old "Go West, young man" urge took hold, and within weeks, Stoddard had found a job at the *Central*

Illinois Gazette in Champaign, home of the nascent University of Illinois, which at that time had about 14,000 students, about one-third of today's enrollment.

It was in Champaign that Stoddard's professional life took a historic turn in a meeting with Abraham Lincoln, who in early 1859 visited the paper's offices to promote his political career. The *Gazette* was owned by Dr. John Walker Scroggs, who maintained his medical office on the first floor, with the newspaper's printing office on the second floor, accessible by a back stairway.

"I had never seen the doctor, but there was no mistaking him as he sat there, on the other side of the egg stove, hugging his left knee over his right, and wearing a sourly discontented countenance. The printers were at their cases, picking type industriously, and there were no other visitors. I did not give him my card or name by way of introducing myself, but calmly sat down in another fifty-cent chair and warmed myself by the stove.

"Doctor," I remarked, as if we were old acquaintances, "you are trying to run a newspaper here?"

Only a nod, and something between a growl and a grunt was his response.

After a moment of contemplation of the stove, I added loudly, "You don't know how!"

That brought down his leg and he responded, "The hell you say? I know that better than you do."

I continued, "You can't run a newspaper, but I can."

His hands went behind his head as he replied rather contemptuously, "The hell you can! What will you take to take it on?"

Stoddard was hired, at first accepting no salary, instead receiving a one-third stake in the money-losing operation and simply requesting a new suit of clothes and money for room and board.

"Done!" the doctor exclaimed. "Take right hold. Take the whole damned thing and run it! I'm going out to see a patient."

He turned back for a moment to inquire my name, and if I knew anybody in the village, and then he disappeared. I did not see him again till later in the day.

Stoddard settled in and soon became the *Gazette's* associate editor, having transformed the newspaper from a shoddy, thrown-together "rag" into a professional-looking publication, soon to become one of the

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This article was presented as a paper at the 36th annual conference of the Popular Culture Association in Atlanta, Georgia, on April 13, 2006; and also at the 2006 Horatio Alger Society convention in Omaha, Nebraska.

William O. Stoddard

From White House to author

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most influential newspapers in downstate Illinois.

We'll let Stoddard describe that crucial first meeting with Lincoln in his own words:

One day in autumn I was upstairs at a piece of job work, which a devil had carelessly pied. It was on the composing stone near the head of the stairs. My shirt sleeves were rolled up to my shoulders, and my hands were black with ink. There were streaks of darkness on my face, and in my disposition as well. The doctor was in his office below, rolling out some pills, and must have been standing with his back the open street door when a loud voice in the hallway called him as "Doc" and inquired the condition of his health. I did not quite catch the doctor's response, but in a moment more he was up at the head of the stairs and at my elbow, informing me in a suppressed tone which could easily have been heard all over the office, "Stoddard, Old Abe is here, and he wants to see you!"

My reply to the doctor reflected my state of mind, but he insisted, "Come right down! But fix up a little. Why, Stoddard, you are looking like the devil!"

I could well believe that I was not exactly presentable, but I had not quite recovered from my annoyance over the pied type. "All right," I agreed. "If Mr. Lincoln wishes to see me, I'll go down. I'll wash my hands, but I won't roll down my sleeves."

The doctor was not at all satisfied, but I was aware of a chuckle in the room below. Up to that hour I had not met Mr. Lincoln, but I had heard a great deal of him and did not believe he would be bothered much by a little ink and light clothing. The doctor, on the other hand, considered this visit of so prominent a politician a great affair. He was a little afraid of big men, and he was also somewhat annoyed that Mr. Lincoln had asked for me and not for him.

As I came downstairs, I found myself rolling down my sleeves in spite of my threat to the contrary. There before me stood the "tall, dark man with the high hat." He greeted me cordially as though we had known each other for a long time. There was no strangeness about him. He knew me on the instant. He wasted no time, but plunged at once into the causes of his coming. In a minute he had me not only interested but somewhat astonished. I had supposed that I knew the people and the politics of that county, and he had been told that I did, but so did he. He could ask about the different precincts and their leading men almost as if he had lived among them. I was glad enough to be able to set him right as to the drift of the voters, and out of all that driftwood he was proposing to organize a new political power.

Of course, I could not give him a thorough personal reading at that time, but he impressed me strongly, and in

later years I was better able to understand his intimate knowledge of the people he was to govern, and on whom he was to rely. As he was then studying Champaign County, so he was investigating the state of Illinois and other states, and was getting into close relations with the current of thought and feeling North and South. The conversation was a long one, and it was right here that I began to take an interest in the great Whig leader.

Stoddard decided to observe Lincoln in action as a trial lawyer, who at the time was defending a client in a murder case in Centralia, Illinois. In what seemed like an impossible task, Lincoln, mainly through the presentation of forensic evidence as well as the power of his personality, convinced the jury of the man's innocence. Stoddard was impressed:

"Lincoln's masterly handling of murder and other criminal cases gave him a more than local reputation, somewhat tinged with mystery and romance," Stoddard noted in his memoirs.

The 1860 national campaign for the presidency began in 1859, and Stoddard's newspaper, the *Central Illinois Gazette*, the forerunner of today's *Champaign News-Gazette*, had become the most influential politically in central and southern Illinois. After much deliberation, Stoddard decided to write an editorial promoting Lincoln for president. The editorial was sent to other papers throughout the Midwest, and excerpts were widely published.

"The editorial was acknowledged by Lincoln to be the first to nominate him for the Presidency, and was the beginning of as great friendship that had much to do with his calling me to Washington as one of his private secretaries," Stoddard wrote.

Now, let's jump ahead to Stoddard's Washington career.

He was one of Lincoln's three personal secretaries, and his autobiography, *Lincoln's Third Secretary: The Memoirs of William O. Stoddard*, which his son, William O. Stoddard, Jr., compiled and edited from papers and correspondence, reflect a certain pecking order within the White House. The other two secretaries were John G. Nicolay and John Hay, both well immersed in the world of national politics. Years later, Nicolay and Hay collaborated on several of the important Lincoln biographies, including the 10-volume *Abraham Lincoln: A History*, in 1890; and *Abraham Lincoln: Complete Works*, two volumes, in 1894. In 1902, Hay added a one-volume popular biography of the late president. Hay, of course, served as Secretary of State under presidents William McKinley and Theodore Roosevelt.

So, on the surface, it appears Stoddard was more "third wheel" at the White House rather than Third Secretary when compared with his two well-connected colleagues. Yet Lincoln had a particular fondness for

Stoddard, in part because of the young journalist's part in providing national impetus to his political career.

So, like just about every president we can name right to the present, he brought personal supporters from his home state to Washington. "Stod," as he affectionately addressed Stoddard, was a trusted friend and colleague, even though his main assignment at the White House



was to process land patents. Stoddard's "office" (in addition to the Official Land Office across town) was for a time merely a desk and chair in a White House corridor.

When Stoddard arrived in Washington he was of military age, and he signed up for a three-month enlist-

ment with the National Rifles, a branch of the Virginia Militia. The above photo shows the young Stoddard flanked by Hay, at left, and Col. Elmer Ellsworth, the latter killed by a sniper's bullet in the early days of the Civil War.

Even today, we seem to always note how a man "ages" so quickly after taking on the burdens of the presidency.

Before we take leave of Stoddard's time in Washington, here are his reaction to seeing the physical condition of his old friend Abe, observed during a chance encounter in the hallway outside the White House library, a mere four hours after troubling news had arrived from Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor:

It would have been a bright, sunny morning, that day in April, 1861, but for the fact that every soul in the land was waiting for news from the Rebel siege of Fort Sumter. Not a shot had yet been fired except at the steamer *Star of the West*, but a pall hung over Washington, and it seemed to me that the gloomiest shadow was in the White House.

The doors opened, and Mr. Lincoln came forward very slowly, leaving them open behind him. He was bent until he almost appeared to stoop, and he was looking straight before him as if gazing at something in the distance, or like a man who is listening intently. Just in front of the library door I stepped before him and dared to say, "Good morning, Mr. Lincoln!"

He stood stock-still for a moment, looking down into my face, but the expression of his own did not change. He may have been listening for the sound of guns in Charleston Harbor. I was astonished, almost alarmed, for there were deep dark circles under his vacant eyes.

Stoddard remained in Washington through Lincoln's first term, and when the president was re-elected in 1864 and with the end of the war in sight, Stoddard requested his boss that he be allowed to return to the Midwest, not back to the newspaper business, but as the marshal of Arkansas, a border state that faced huge issues among its citizenry during the Reconstruction period, thinks to a not-so-tolerant mix of Confederates and "damn Yankees" living within its borders.

Lincoln ratified the appointment, and Stoddard headed west, serving in the post from late 1864 to mid-1866.

Shortly after his arrival in Arkansas, Stoddard heard of the assassination of Lincoln. Who knows? As a close personal friend of the president, he may have joined him at Ford's Theater that fateful evening.

After wrapping up his career in public office, Stoddard briefly returned to journalism, then tried his hand at new technology, including telegraphy and railroading, including the filing of several patents. In late 1866, he moved back east, to New York City, where he married Susan Eagleson Cooper in 1870. They had five children, including the aforementioned William O. Stoddard, Jr.

So, here was a man not yet 40, his career in national politics over. Although he didn't know it at the time, Stoddard had not even reached half his time on Earth. So what did he do at that point? Like all good former journalists, he turned to writing books, along with stories for in such prominent dime novels as *DeWitt's Ten Cent Romances*, *Frank Leslie's Boys of America* and *Frank Leslie's Boys' and Girls' Weekly*. For those efforts he used pseudonyms, including Col. Chris Forrest and Capt. Hector Randall.

In his earliest years as an author, Stoddard continued for a brief time in public service, working as clerk for New York City's Department of Docks from 1873 to 1875. A few years later, he chose Madison, New Jersey, as his retirement residence, just across the Hudson River. His son William, Jr. also chose Madison as his permanent residence.

Stoddard's first attempt at writing a hard-cover book, penned anonymously, came in 1869, and was titled *The Royal Decrees of Scanderoon*. It is a 45-page political satire (written in verse) of New York's Tammany Hall political machine, which Stoddard, the ex-political appointee, had observed with obvious and delicious interest following his move to the big city.

It was six years later that he published a collection of

(Continued on Page 10)

William O. Stoddard

From White House to author

(Continued from Page 9)

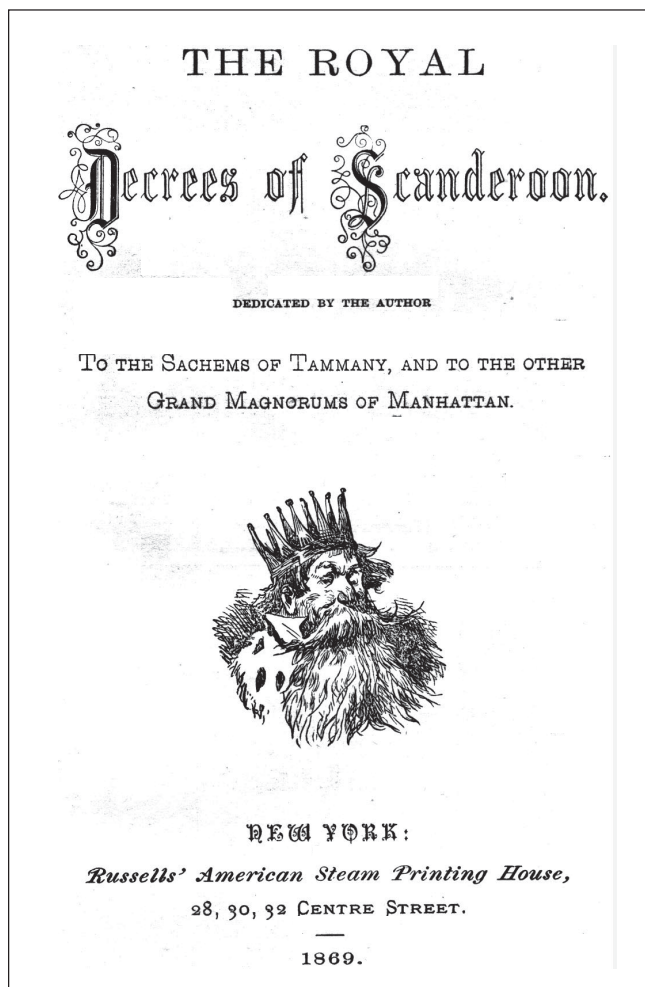
poetry he had written over the years, *Verses of Many Days*, really a meager effort in terms of quality. But at least he was testing the waters of becoming a full-time author as he headed toward formal retirement from "regular" work.

Another less-than-successful book, *The Heart of It*, followed in 1880, but in 1881 came the real breakthrough with three books, including two published by Scribner's: *Dab Kinzer, A Story of a Growing Boy*, and its sequel, *The Quartet*, boys' adventures and success stories not unlike those written by Horatio Alger and many other prominent authors of the day. In fact, *Dab Kinzer* remains, along with several other Stoddard books, available in paperback over the Internet at www.abebooks.com.

Scribner's also published several other Stoddard books during this period, including *Saltillo Boys*, which was a roman à clef of Stoddard's experiences while attending a Syracuse prep school in around 1850; *Winter Fun*, *Quartet* and *Among the Lakes*. Several of these first appeared as magazine serials. *Saltillo Boys*, for example, was first published as a serial for *St. Nicholas* in 1881.

If there is one book popularly associated with Stoddard, it is *The Talking Leaves* (Harper and Brothers, 1882), a fictionalized story of life among the Sioux. This was the first of his several books about American Indians, among the others *Little Smoke*, *Two Arrows* and *Chumley's Post*. *The Talking Leaves* is among those books currently available in paperback.

As with his stories about Native Americans, Stoddard's literary output included many historical novels for young people. This was common for authors of the period. For example, Edward Stratemeyer, a noted story-paper author and editor (for Street & Smith), endeavored to enter the hard-cover field. When more than a dozen of his serials for such publications as *Argosy*, *Golden Days*, *Good News* and *Bright Days* turned out to be so-so sellers as hard-cover editions by Merriam, Allison and Estes, Stratemeyer created the Old Glory Series. Based on true events of the Spanish-American War, the six volumes were produced by Boston publisher Lee & Shepard, starting in 1898. The series proved such a big hit with readers that the following year, under his "Arthur M. Winfield" pseudonym, Stratemeyer began the Rover Boys Series of school and adventure stories. From that point, Stratemeyer never looked back, writing several additional history-based series for Lee & Shepard and Mershon, then launching the Stratemeyer Syndicate in around 1905.

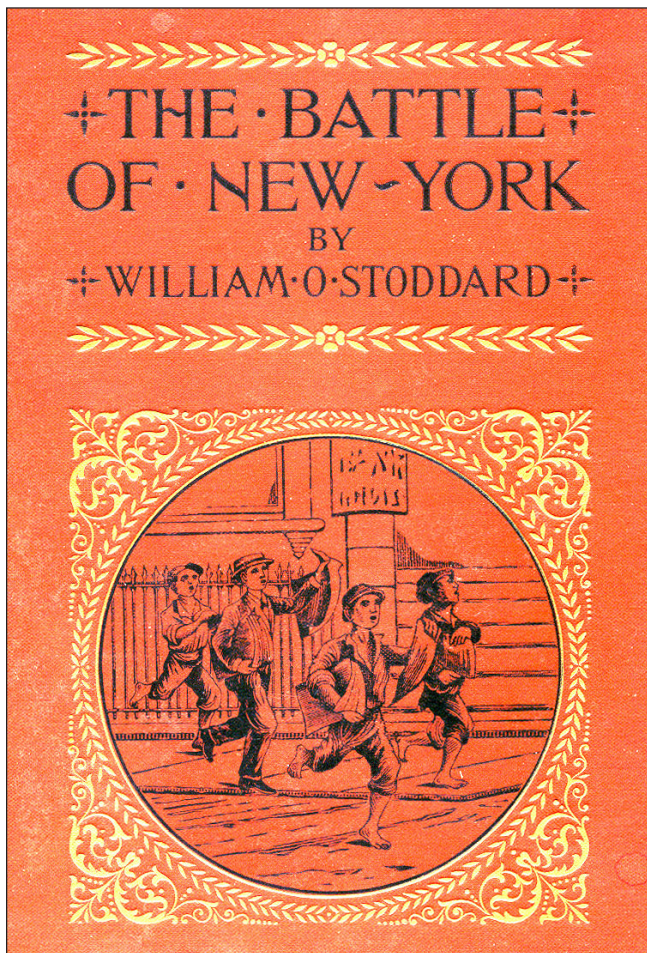


Stoddard's first book was a 45-page rhymed political satire, with caricature illustrations, of New York's legendary Tammany Hall political machine.

Other prominent authors writing historical fiction for young people from the 1870s to past the turn of the century included William T. Adams ("Oliver Optic"), James Otis (Kaler), Edward S. Ellis, Everett Tomlinson and many others, stories based on our expanding Western frontier and the American Revolution, Civil War, War of 1812 and Spanish-American War, all logical topics because news reports were readily available.

After Stoddard moved to New York in 1866, his writing career began in earnest. One topic which fascinated him was the great Draft Riot of 1863, in which the New York police department and local militia fought pitched street battles with young men refusing conscription in light of the Northern Army's depleted forces following the Battle of Gettysburg in early July of that year.

Stoddard wrote two books on the subject, the first published anonymously (as by "A Volunteer Special") in 1887, titled *The Volcano Under the City*. In his Preface, Stoddard notes that "No accurate account of the Draft-



***The Battle of New York* (Appleton, 1892) was Stoddard's second of two books covering the Draft Riot of 1863. Newsboys, as illustrated on the cover, play a prominent role in Stoddard's narrative.**

riot of 1863 has ever been printed, and contemporary newspaper reports were necessarily fragmentary and defective. People at the time residing in New York, including even the men who aided in suppressing the mob, had but an imperfect conception of the magnitude and bloody results of the tumult."

Stoddard adds that he had "laboriously sifted the press reports for all the material contained in them which was worth preserving. He has had access to the telegraph reports of the Police department, and has carefully examined the hundreds of despatches sent and received during the riot. Many of those have here been quoted in full as part of the record or illustrating it." Published by Fords, Howard and Hulbert of New York, this is a straightforward history of the incident, the slender book including a fold-out map of lower Manhattan, where the riot took place.

When Stoddard and D. Appleton & Co. began his notable series of "success" stories and history-based

books for young people with *Crowded Out o' Crofield* in 1890 and *Little Smoke* in 1891, the following year he decided to revisit the Civil War Draft Riot with an Appleton book, *The Battle of New York*. In his preface, Stoddard says: "The pictures given of city life at that time, and the representations of public opinions and feeling, are the impressions left upon the mind of an actor and witness, with every opportunity for observation."

Stoddard's group of 11 books for Appleton included further historical novels, such as *On the Old Frontier* (1893), *With the Black Prince* (1898), *The Red Patriot* (1897), *The Spy of Yorktown* (1903) and *The Fight for the Valley* (1904), the latter three involving the Revolutionary War, with *The Fight for the Valley* set during the Battle of Oriskany in upstate New York.

Stoddard also wrote *Guert Ten Eyck: A Hero Story* (1893) and *The Noank's Log: A Privateer of the Revolution* (1900) for D. Lothrop, and he yet again visited the American Revolution late in his career with *Dan Monroe: A Story of Bunker Hill* (Lothrop, Lee & Shepard, 1905), and *The Cadets with Washington* (Lothrop, Lee & Shepard, 1906), showing he had not lost his touch writing history-based novels for young people.

A note to collectors: the first state of the first edition of *Dan Monroe*, while carrying a 1905 copyright by L, L&S, has "LOTHROP" printed in gold block letters at the base of the spine, marking this as a transitional edition due to the merger in late 1904 of D. Lothrop with Lee & Shepard into Lothrop, Lee & Shepard.

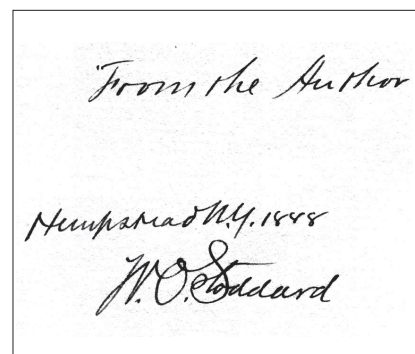
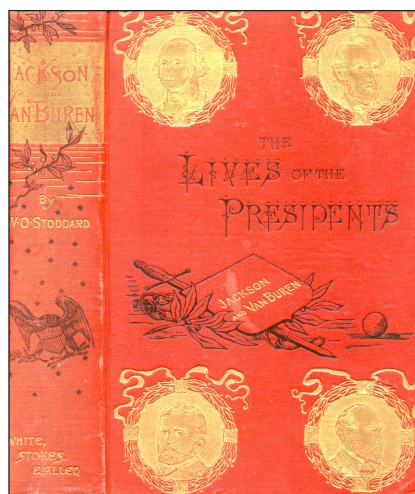
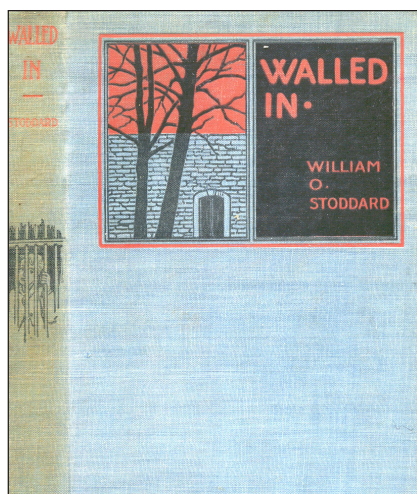
Beginning with *Crowded Out o' Crofield*, the story of a country boy who heads to the big city to make his fortune, Stoddard's Appleton books included such Alger-influenced stories as *Chris, the Model Maker* (1894), *The Windfall* (1896) and *Success Against Odds* (1898).

Because the brief Spanish-American War took place during Stoddard's writing career, it's no surprise he used that conflict as a basis for historical fiction. A prominent example is *The Despatch Boat of the Whistle: A Story of Santiago* (D. Lothrop Company, 1899), set during the American blockade of Cuba. As Stoddard comments in his introduction:

In preparing this war story of the American liberation of Cuba from the yoke of Spain, the author simply used the fiction of romance as the vehicle for the union of facts. He has written of things as they actually were, and in his presentation of scenes and experiences has even toned down the realities. Dealing with facts rather than fancies, hampered by the necessity of following history and utilizing realities, at no point has he exaggerated.

In 1898, Stoddard wrote for publisher Herbert S. Stone two Spanish-American War-based compendiums: *Running the Cuban Blockade*, which contains three war-

(Continued on Page 12)



William O. Stoddard's inscription in *Jackson and Van Buren*, left, from his 10-volume *Lives of the Presidents* Series (1886-89).

William O. Stoddard

From White House to author

(Continued from Page 11)

based short stories, with the first of them, *Running the Cuban Blockade*, serving as the book's title; and *The First Cruiser Out*, which also contains three short stories, but in this case only the title story based on the war.

Another of Stoddard's books emanating from his years in New York deserves mention due to its unique subject matter. In 1897, Fleming H. Revell published the history-based book *Walled In; A True Story of Randall's Island*. It is set, as the title suggests, at the House of Refuge, a prison-like residence for New York City's recalcitrant homeless boys. The fictionalized story follows several boys living a regimented, military life within high stone walls. An excerpt:

This is not a place of judgment, but of help and hope, and not long ago, a well-known literary man, after inspecting the whole institution, said to the Superintendent:

"Sir, this is one of the footprints of Christ on earth. It is an effort, in His name, to seek and save that which was lost."

"Thank God!" replied the officer. "About eighty-five out of every hundred do well and become good citizens. We keep track of them long after they leave us."

Randall's Island, located in the East River, is a prison-like environment. Yet, Stoddard describes a fuller picture, saying "If in one view, this is a prison, in another it is a great boarding school, with very remarkable appliances for the education and discipline of its pupils."

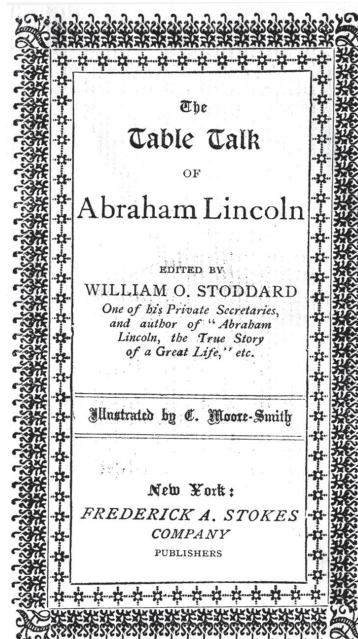
This is a remarkable book, bringing to life a little-known subject, one far less publicized than Charles Loring Brace's *Newsboys' Lodging House*, for example.

In the mid-1960s, Truman Capote wrote *In Cold Blood*,

called at the time a breakthrough "non-fiction novel." In fact, William O. Stoddard and his contemporaries had perfected that form three generations earlier!

Stoddard also wrote pure non-fiction, the most prominent example his *Lives of the Presidents* Series, likely influenced by his long association with Abraham Lincoln. The 10-volume series (1886-89), beginning, of course, with George Washington, covered all the presidents through Chester A. Arthur. Receiving single-volume treatment were Washington, Ulysses S. Grant and Grover Cleveland, while other volumes grouped two or more presidents in much less detail. It's interesting that Lincoln did not have his own volume in the series but was paired with Andrew Johnson, who succeeded him following the assassination. The series was initially published by White, Stokes and Allen, and continued by successor firms, ending with Frederic A. Stokes.

Of course, Stoddard did not overlook Lincoln during his long writing career, with several books devoted to the 16th president. The first of these came in 1884, titled *Abraham Lincoln, the True Story of a Great Life*. This oversized book, published by Fords, Howard & Hulbert, was Stoddard's *magnum opus* about his longtime friend and professional colleague.



Stoddard also authored or edited several other Lincoln-related books. They included *The Table Talk of Abraham Lincoln* (1894), a thin vest pocket-sized book containing anecdotes from Lincoln's early career through his presidency. Edited and compiled by Stoddard, this fascinating little book is organized by general categories such as "Of the Union," "Of Personal Liberty," "Of Slavery," "Of the Civil War," etc. In addition to various off-the-cuff comments by Lincoln jotted down by Stoddard during the White House years, there are numerous excerpts from little-known Lincoln speeches given in Illinois in the 1850s, along with key phrases from presidential speeches, including an excerpt from the "With malice toward none, with charity for all" second inaugural address of 1865.

His other books featuring Lincoln were *Inside the White House in War Times* (1890), *Lincoln at Work* (1900) and *The Boy Lincoln* (1905), the latter marking the end of his long association with Appleton. It is a fascinating account (with dialogue provided by Stoddard) of the future president's days growing up in the Midwest.

Other interesting Stoddard books over the years included a science fiction-like adventure, *The Voyage of the Charlemagne* (Dana Estes, 1902), in which the title ship is driven by electric power; and a delightful tale, *The Village Champion* (George W. Jacobs, 1903), which describes in humorous fashion the lives of young people growing up in a small town, similar to the later works of Edward Edson Lee ("Leo Edwards") and Clarence B. Kelland.

Stoddard did not forget about his Washington career in the many years following his term as Lincoln's Third Secretary, as described in his memoir of that title.

On January 1, 1863, Stoddard was sitting in his office in an adjoining room when Lincoln signed the historic Emancipation Proclamation. In fact, it was Stoddard who made the first corrected copy of the president's underlined and edited first draft.

A year later, on February 4, 1864, artist Frank B. Carpenter visited Lincoln at the White House to discuss the painting of a picture to record for posterity that great event. Carpenter called the resulting painting "The first reading of the Emancipation Proclamation before the Cabinet by President Lincoln."

Later, Stoddard came to believe that this historic painting, at the time still owned by Carpenter, should hang in the Capitol rotunda along with those depicting the great deeds of Washington, Jefferson and the other Founding Fathers.

When his first passionate plea in the form of an 1873 letter to the Joint Committee of the Library of Congress went unheeded, probably due to the suggested \$25,000 purchase price, Stoddard found another way to get the job done. In 1878, he arranged for the painting to be sold by

Carpenter for the stated \$25,000 to New York philanthropist Elizabeth Thompson, who presented it to Stoddard to be personally delivered to Congress as a gift.

Among Stoddard's papers is a letter from Carpenter stating, in part, "You went to Washington for me and secured the acceptance of my picture by Congress (which could not be done again). Faithfully yours, Frank B. C."

Today, when you visit the Capitol, Carpenter's famous painting hangs in the east staircase of the House of Representatives wing.

As a token of his appreciation, Carpenter presented to Stoddard the portrait of the author that we saw at the beginning of this article.

Reproduced at right is a rare photograph of Stoddard, taken during his first year at the White House in 1861. He died in Madison, New Jersey, on August 29, 1925, about a month shy of his 90th birthday.

Try to name a genre of story for young people, and William O. Stoddard attempted it during a career that saw at least one book published each year from 1880 to 1906, a grand total of 77 books over his 40-year writing career (1869-1908).

From his early newspaper days in Illinois to Lincoln's secretary in Washington, followed by a long career as an author, it was a wonderful life.

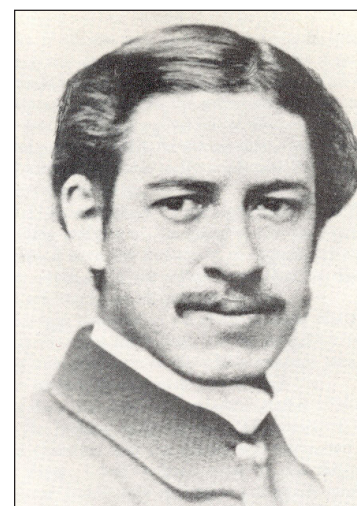
SOURCES

In addition to Stoddard's books, the writer has drawn extensively from *Lincoln's Third Secretary: The Memoirs of William O. Stoddard*, edited by William O. Stoddard, Jr. (©1955, New York: Exhibition Press).

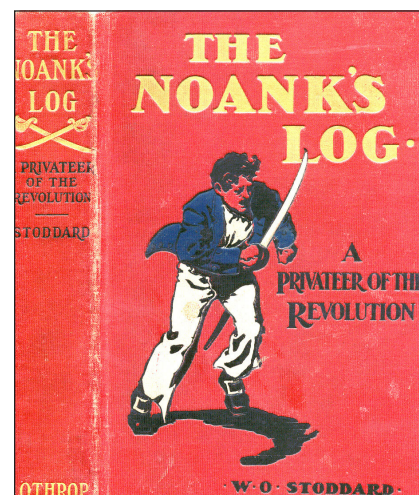
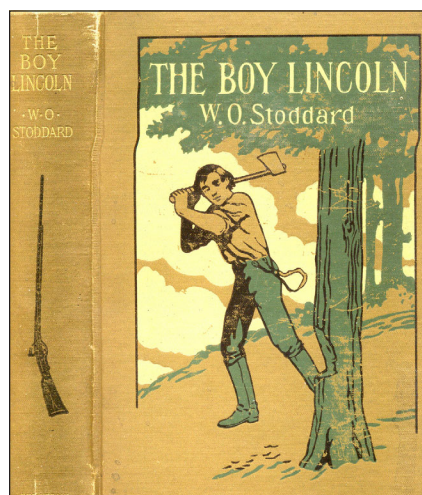
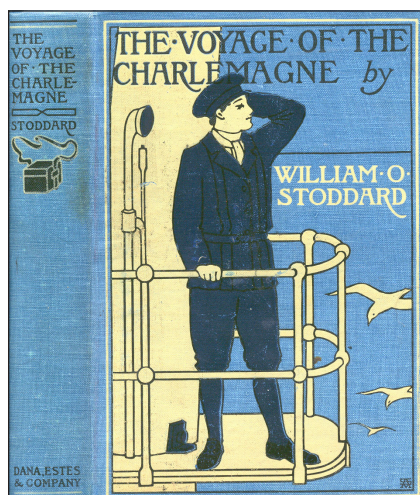
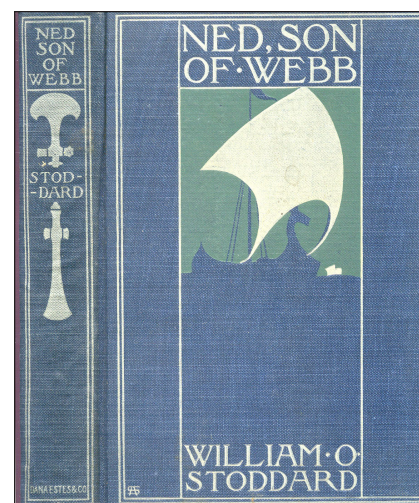
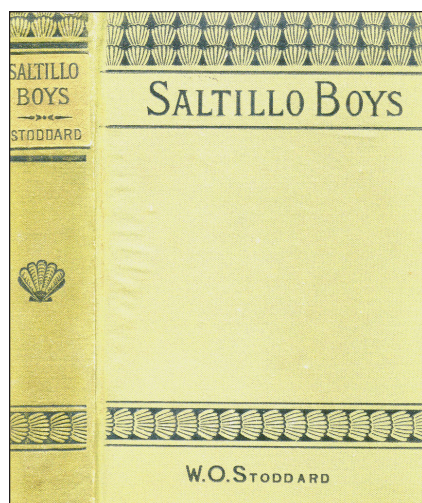
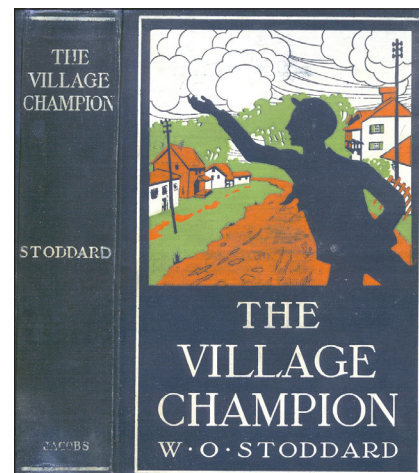
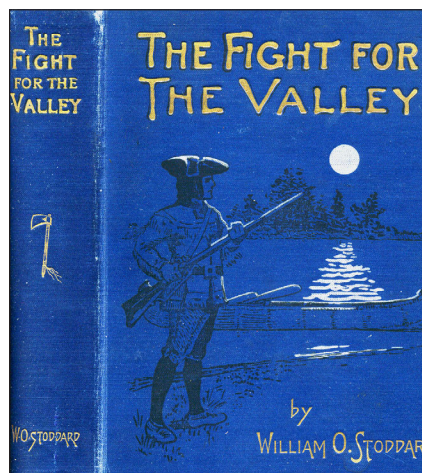
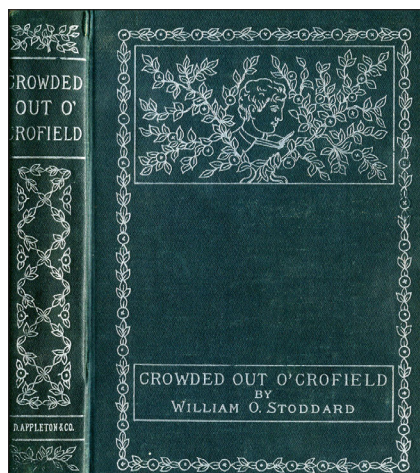
Other sources include "Stoddard, Saltillo Boys, and Syracuse," by John T. Dizer, *Dime Novel Round-Up*, Vol. 42, No. 7 (whole No. 490), July 15, 1973, and later published in Dizer's *Tom Swift & Co.: Boys' Books by Stratemeyer and Others* (©1982, Jefferson, N.C.: McFarland & Company). Also, standard biographical references were consulted, including *American Authors and Books*; and *Dictionary of American Authors*.

I also wish to thank longtime Stoddard collector Bart J. Nyberg (PF-879) for sparking my interest in this author and assisting in compiling and correcting the list of books by William O. Stoddard and William O. Stoddard, Jr., which appear on the following pages.

(See Page 14 for additional Stoddard book covers)



A selection of books by William O. Stoddard





William O. Stoddard, Jr.

By William R. Gowen (PF-706)

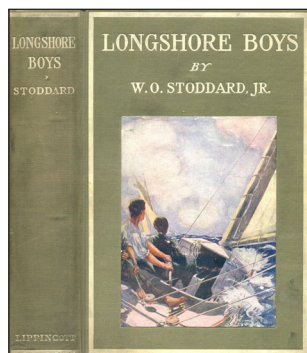
William O. Stoddard, Jr. is best known for compiling and editing his father's memoirs and having them published in the mid-1950s as *Lincoln's Third Secretary*. Although drawing on only a small fraction of the elder Stoddard's private and professional papers, it is a fascinating book.

But between 1909 and 1916, Stoddard Junior also authored books for young people, although they number just five confirmed titles (see list on Page 17). He wrote two books on sailing and the sea, *Longshore Boys* (above), and *The Captain of the Cat's Paw*, and three Alger-style success stories (all 1916) for his father's most loyal publisher, D. Appleton & Co.

Until recently, we knew little else about William O. Stoddard, Jr. But last month, the stock certificate, reproduced above, was purchased on eBay, a traditional tri-fold document, 8 x 10 inches. As stated, it is for 30 shares of capital stock in the Osborn Stoddard Company, issued March 8, 1899, in Madison, New Jersey.

The eBay seller checked with the Rutgers University library and found out that the Osborn Stoddard Company made Duratex, an artificial leather invented by William O. Stoddard, Jr., manufactured in Newark and supplied to the young automobile industry in Detroit.

The senior Stoddard also held several patents, so it appears his son inherited more than just an ability to write stories for young people.



Books by William O. Stoddard (1835-1925)

1869

The Royal Decrees of Scanderoon (anonymous)

Publisher: Russells' American Steam Printing House

1875

Verses of Many Days

Publisher: James Miller

1880

The Heart of It

Publisher: G.P. Putnam's Sons

1881

Dab Kinzer

Publisher: Charles Scribner's Sons

The Quartet

Publisher: Charles Scribner's Sons

Easu Hardery

Publisher: White and Stokes

1882

The Talking Leaves

Publisher: Harper and Brothers

Saltillo Boys

Publisher: Charles Scribner's Sons

1883

Among the Lakes

Publisher: Charles Scribner's Sons

Wrecked

Publisher: White, Stokes & Allen

1884

Abraham Lincoln, the True Story of a Great Life

Publisher: Fords, Howard & Hulbert

1885

Winter Fun

Publisher: Charles Scribner's Sons

1886

Two Arrows

Publisher: Charles Scribner's Sons

Chumley's Post

Publisher: J.B. Lippincott & Co.

Red Beauty

Publisher: J.B. Lippincott & Co.

(Continued on Page 16)

The Volcano Under the City (anonymous)

Publisher: Fords, Howard & Hulbert

George Washington

(Lives of the Presidents Series)

Publisher: White, Stokes & Allen

Ulysses S. Grant

(Lives of the Presidents Series)

Publisher: White, Stokes & Allen

1887***John Adams and Thomas Jefferson***

(Lives of the Presidents Series)

Publisher: White, Stokes & Allen

James Madison, James Monroe and***John Quincy Adams***

(Lives of the Presidents Series)

Publisher: Frederick A. Stokes

Andrew Jackson and Martin Van Buren

(Lives of the Presidents Series)

Publisher: Frederick A. Stokes

1888***Harrison, Tyler and Polk***

(Lives of the Presidents Series)

Publisher: Frederick A. Stokes & Brother

Taylor, Fillmore, Pierce and Buchanan

(Lives of the Presidents Series)

Publisher: Frederick A. Stokes & Brother

Lincoln and Johnson

(Lives of the Presidents Series)

Publisher: Frederick A. Stokes & Brother

Grover Cleveland

(Lives of the Presidents Series)

Publisher: Frederick A. Stokes & Brother

1889***Hayes, Garfield and Arthur***

(Lives of the Presidents Series)

Publisher: Frederick A. Stokes & Brother

1890***Miss Eaton's Romance***

(Pseudonym: "Richard Allen")

Publisher: Dodd, Mead & Co.

Red Mustang

Publishers: Harper & Brothers; Scribner's

Inside the White House in War Times

Publisher: Charles L. Webster & Co.

Crowded Out o' Crofield

Publisher: D. Appleton & Co.

1891***Gid Granger***

Publisher: D. Lothrop Company

Chuck Purdy

Publisher: D. Lothrop Company

Little Smoke

Publisher: D. Appleton & Co.

1892***The Battle of New York***

Publisher: D. Appleton & Co.

1893***Tom and the Money King***

Publisher: The Price-McGill Co.

The White Cave

Publisher: The Century Co.

Guert Ten Eyck

Publisher: D. Lothrop Company

The Young Financier

Publishers: The Price-McGill Co. (Penn, 1900)

On the Old Frontier

Publisher: D. Appleton & Co.

Men of Business

Publisher: Charles Scribner's Sons

1894***The Table Talk of Abraham Lincoln***

Publisher: Frederick A. Stokes

The Captain's Boat

Publisher: The Merriam Company

The Wreck of the Sea Lion

Publishers: The Merriam Company (Penn, 1901)

Chris, the Model Maker

Publisher: D. Appleton & Co.

1895***The Partners***

Publisher: D. Lothrop Company

The Railroad Cut

(Short stories by Stoddard and other authors)

Publisher: W.A. Wilde & Co.

Tamed

(Short stories by Stoddard and other authors)

Publisher: W.A. Wilde & Co.

1896***The Swordmaker's Son***

Publisher: D. Lothrop Company

The Windfall

Publisher: D. Appleton & Co.

1897***The Red Patriot***

Publisher: D. Appleton & Co.

The Lost Gold of the Montezumas

Publisher: J.B. Lippincott & Co.

1897***Walled In: A True Story of Randall's Island***

Publisher: Fleming H. Revell Company

1898***Success Against Odds***

Publisher: D. Appleton & Co.

With the Black Prince

Publisher: D. Appleton & Co.

The First Cruiser Out: A Cuban War Story***(Collection of 3 short stories)***

Publisher: Herbert Stone & Co.

Running the Cuban Blockade***(Collection of 3 short stories)***

Publisher: Herbert Stone & Co.

1899***Ulric the Jarl***

Publisher: Eaton & Mains

The Despatch Boat of the Whistle

Publisher: D. Lothrop Company

1900***Lincoln at Work***

Publisher: United Society of Christian Endeavor

The Noank's Log

Publisher: D. Lothrop Company

Ned, Son of Webb

Publisher: Dana Estes & Co.

1901***Montanye; or, The Slavers of Old New York***

Publisher: Henry Altemus Company

Jack Morgan

Publisher: D. Lothrop Company

1902***Boys of Bunker Academy***

Publisher: George W. Jacobs

The Voyage of the Charlemagne

Publisher: Dana Estes & Co.

The Errand Boy of Andrew Jackson

Publisher: D. Lothrop Company

1903***The Spy of Yorktown***

Publisher: D. Appleton & Co.

The Village Champion

Publisher: George W. Jacobs

Ahead of the Army

Publisher: D. Lothrop Company

1904***The Fight for the Valley***

Publisher: D. Appleton & Co.

Long Bridge Boys

Publisher: D. Lothrop Co.

Zeb, A New England Boy

Publisher: D. Lothrop Co.

1905***The Boy Lincoln***

Publisher: D. Appleton & Co.

Dan Monroe

Publisher: Lothrop, Lee & Shepard

1906***Two Cadets with Washington***

Publisher: Lothrop, Lee & Shepard

1908***In the Open******(Collection of short stories)***

Publisher: Harper & Brothers

Adventures with Indians***(Collection of short stories)***

Publisher: Harper & Brothers

**Books by William O. Stoddard, Jr.
(1873-1965)****1909*****Longshore Boys***

Publisher: J.B. Lippincott & Co.

1914***The Captain of the Cat's-Paw***

Publisher: Harper and Brothers

1916***The Farm that Jack Built***

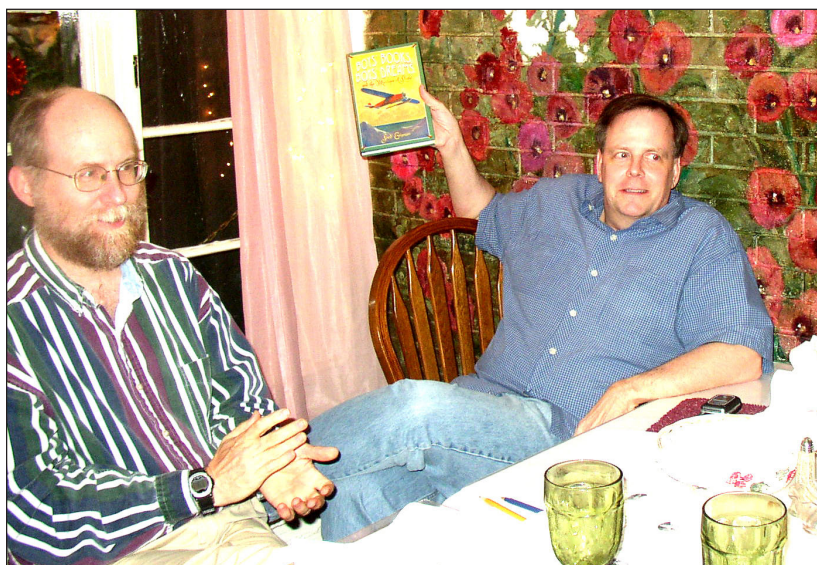
Publisher: D. Appleton & Co.

Making Good in the Village

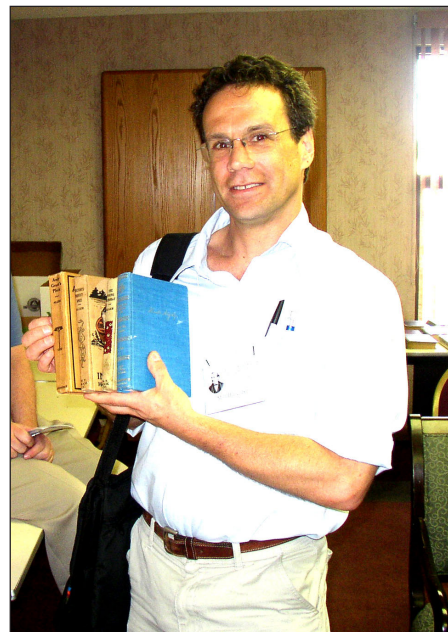
Publisher: D. Appleton & Co.

Making Good with an Invention

Publisher: D. Appleton & Co.



As Jeff Looney looks on, Rob Kasper holds his prize for answering 18 of 19 questions correctly in the Alger quiz. Photo by Bernie Biberdorf



Guest speaker and Alger researcher Matt Hirshberg shows off a few books. Photo by Bernie Biberdorf



Jeanette and Bob Routhier arrive at the Lees Inn for the convention. Photo by Bernie Biberdorf



President Mike Morley, right, gets together with auctioneers Bob Routhier, Bob Huber and Larry Rice prior to the sale that netted the Society more than \$6,300. Photo by Barry Schoenborn

A glance back at the convention



Hoosier journalist and author Dick Wolsie makes a point during the H.A.S. banquet. Photo by Juanita Durkin



Bob Huber and Brad Chase discuss the H.A.S. repository library with Northern Illinois University's Lynne Thomas.

Photo by Bernie Biberdorf



Mary Ann Nyberg displays her excitement over President Mike Morley's purchase of a first edition of *Nothing To Do* for \$700.

Photo by Bernie Biberdorf



The auction featured several one-of-a-kind Alger items.

Photo by Bernie Biberdorf

Two who made a difference in America

(Continued from Page 6)

ideas, some quite revolutionary, and felt they would work with boys. By 1906, he had a rough outline of a program. It envisioned training in small groups, boys training boys, and a series of awards. None of these ideas had previously been tried with youth groups. His program would train boys for peace, not war. It would be a program to train boys for citizenship.

Events occurred rapidly. Consulting a vast array of books on training as well as leaders and activists like Ernest Thompson Seton, he wrote a series of booklets describing a boys program. To test his program, he recruited a group of boys and conducted a trial camp. This was followed by an extensive lecture tour.

The reception of BP's program was overwhelming. Suffice it to say 1907 was the beginning of Scouting, not only in England but in the world. The rest of his life, BP worked to support and develop his Boy Scout movement. He spent his last years in Africa. He died in 1941.

His Scouting program crossed the ocean with William D. Boyce in 1910, and with the help of many, including Dan Beard and James West, became the Boy Scouts of America program.

The Scouting program in America achieved BP's desire for a training program for boys for citizenship. Every phase of life in the United States has been touched. Today, almost 100 years after its start, there are about one million active Scouts, over a half million active volunteer leaders.

Millions of boys and girls have been trained in the traits and skills BP suggested: obedience, preparedness, devotion to duty, cheerfulness, helpfulness.

In the 109th Congress of the United States, 52 Senators and 209 Representatives had Scouting backgrounds, as Scouts and/or leaders. Of the 312 pilots and scientists selected as astronauts since 1959, 180 had been active in Scouting. Distinguished Eagle Scouts include President Gerald R. Ford, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, Secretary of Education Lamar Alexander, FBI Director William S. Sessions and Gen. William C. Westmoreland, along with Milton Caniff (cartoonist), Ozzie Nelson (entertainer), Neil Armstrong (astronaut), H. Ross Perot (industrialist) and Steven Spielberg (filmmaker).

Conclusion

I offer these two men as two who made a difference in America. Born in different countries, they had different educations and family finances. One knew fame in his lifetime, the other's fame came after death. Both lived in troubled times after a war and saw youths suffering for

lack of life's necessities. Both were adamant about improving the lives of boys. Over a century — 1860 to 2006 — one can't physically measure the contributions of these two men, but the boys whom they affected grew into men, and their accomplishments attest to their exposure to the efforts of Horatio Alger and Baden-Powell.

So now we are in the 21st century. Some say the 21st century will belong to China. Those who believe this note the conditions that brought the downfall of the Roman Empire are appearing in America. The decline of good citizenship due to want of energetic patriotism, to the growth of luxury and idleness, and to the exaggerated importance of local party politics. I don't buy their pessimism. While I am optimistic about America's future, I do see storm clouds on the horizon.

When I listen to today's popular music, read today's newspapers, watch TV or note the video game craze, I see a loss in qualities that made America great. Where is the emphasis on honor and honesty in today's culture? Where is there an emphasis on integrity and decency in today's culture?

We need someone to come forward, now, and reignite the spirit of opportunity in America. Someone who can instill honor, honesty and integrity in our youth. Someone to invent a new social program that will provide the spark for the 21st Century. Sadly, I don't see this inventor. Will the next Horatio Alger or Baden Powell please stand up?

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