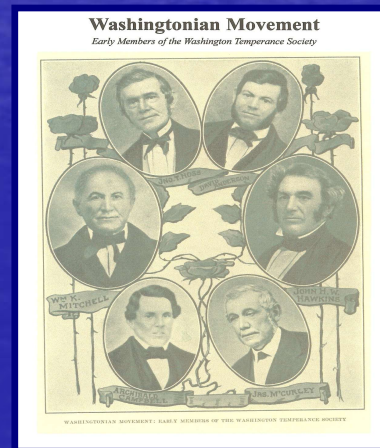


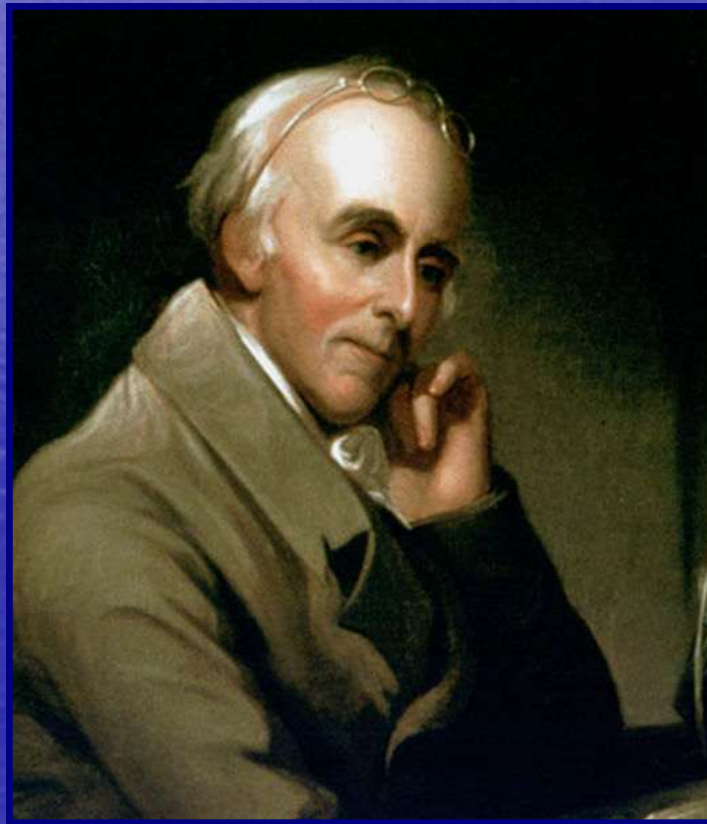


A History of Alcoholics Anonymous

First - The People, Circumstances and Events that led to the beginning of Alcoholics Anonymous

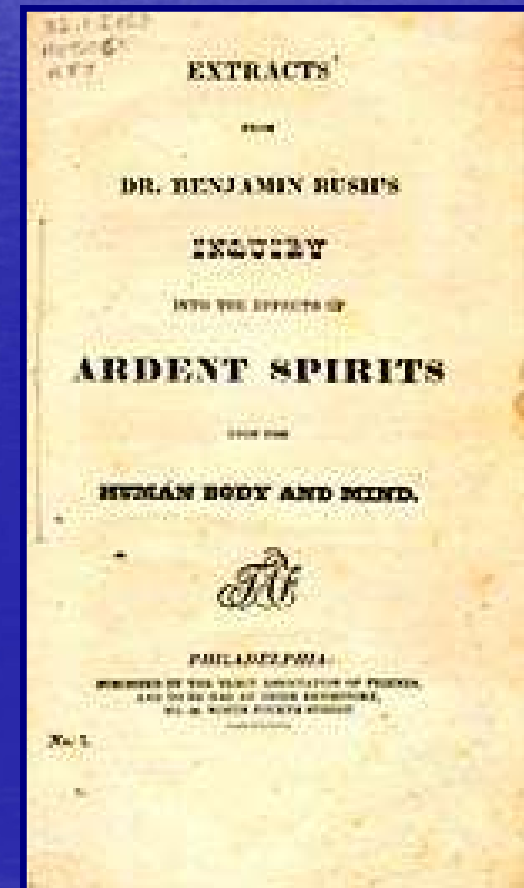
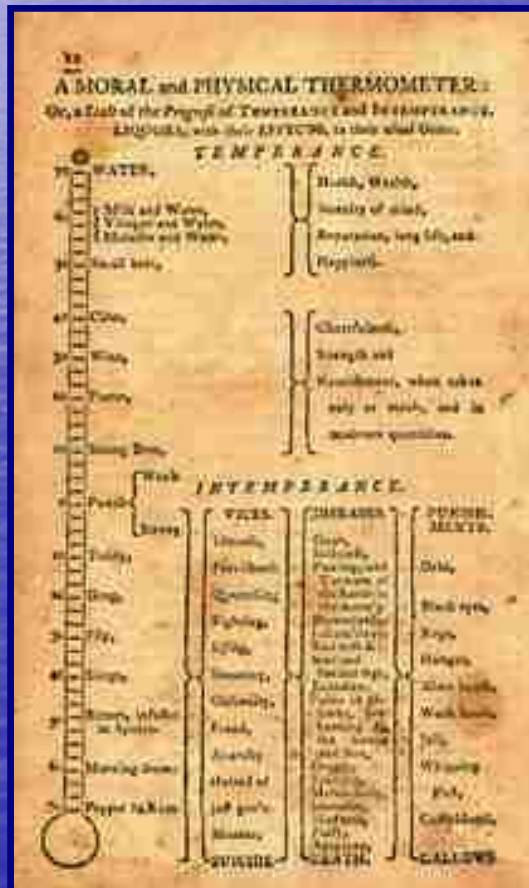


Benjamin Rush

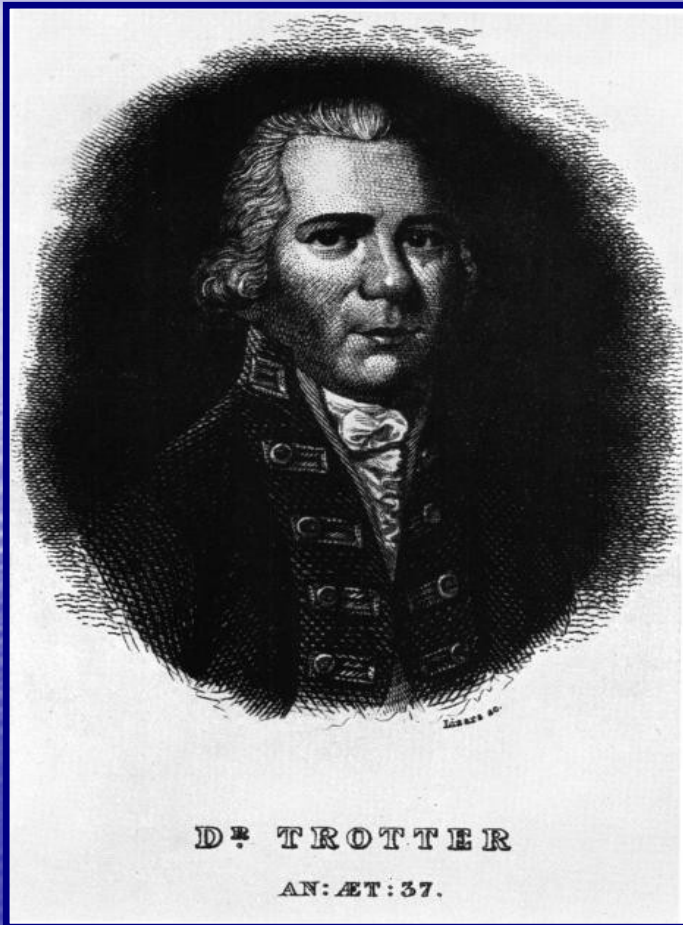


Benjamin Rush

- Moral Thermometer
- Effects of Ardent Spirits



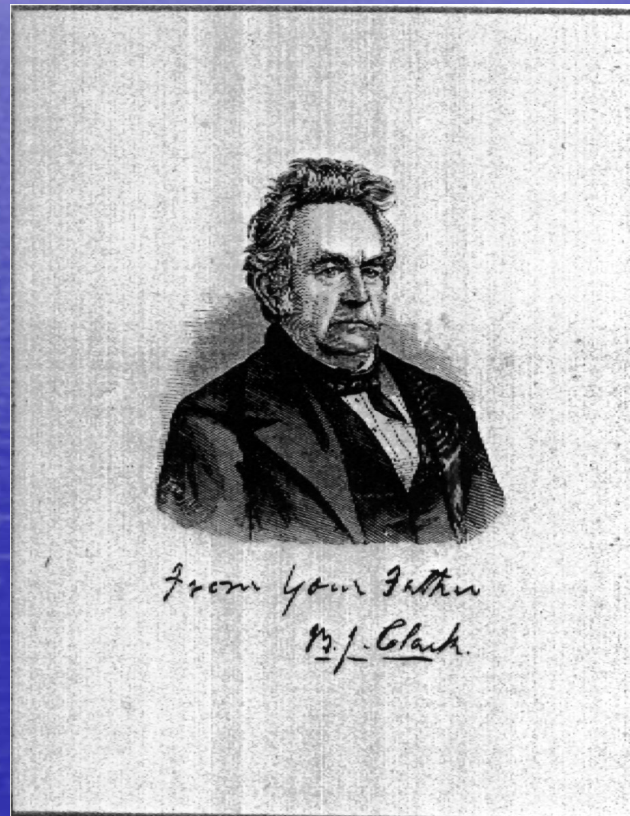
Thomas Trotter



An Essay,
Medical,
Philosophical,
and Chemical on
Drunkenness
and its Effects
on the Human
Body

Billy Joe Clark

“The Mighty Destroyer Displayed”



Lyman Beecher

Six Lectures on Intemperance



Delivered and published six sermons on intemperance, which contain eloquent passages hardly exceeded by anything in the English language. They were sent broadcast through the United States, ran rapidly through many editions in England, and were translated into several languages on the continent, and have had a large sale even after the lapse of fifty years.

Justin Edwards

*of the
American Temperance Society*

Reverend Justin Edwards connected drinking with sin, which joined temperance groups and churches together in the crusade against drinking. Edwards was responsible for the dogma that drinking is a mortal sin, and for the transformation of the movement into a religious crusade.

American Temperance Society Founders

- Justin Edwards
- Lyman Beecher

No
Picture
Available
Yet.....



Drunkards Progress Carrier Ives Print



Washington Total Abstinence Society

"The Washingtonians"

David Hoss

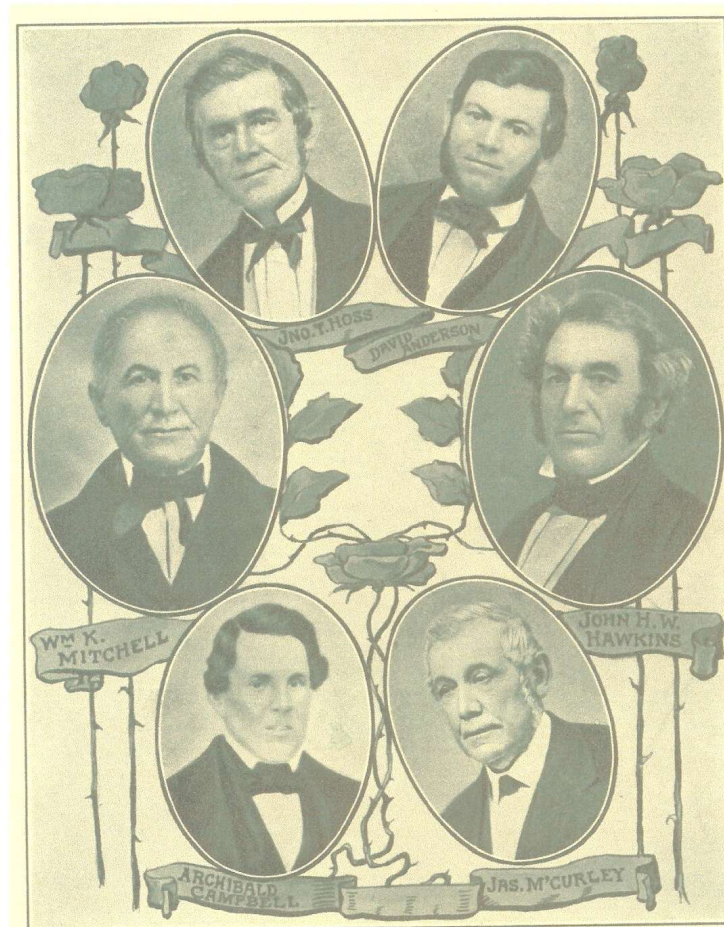
David Anderson

William Mitchell

John Hawkins

Archibald Campbell

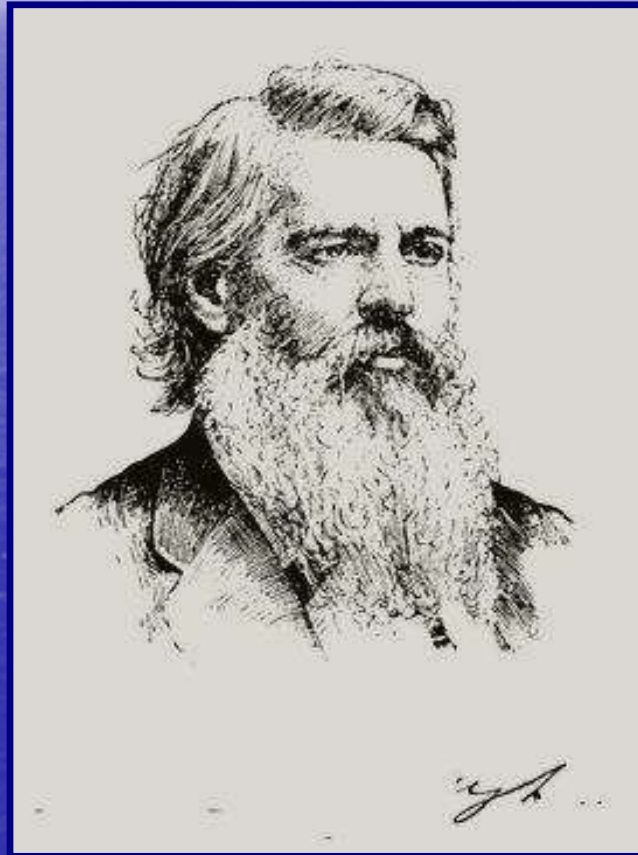
James McCurley



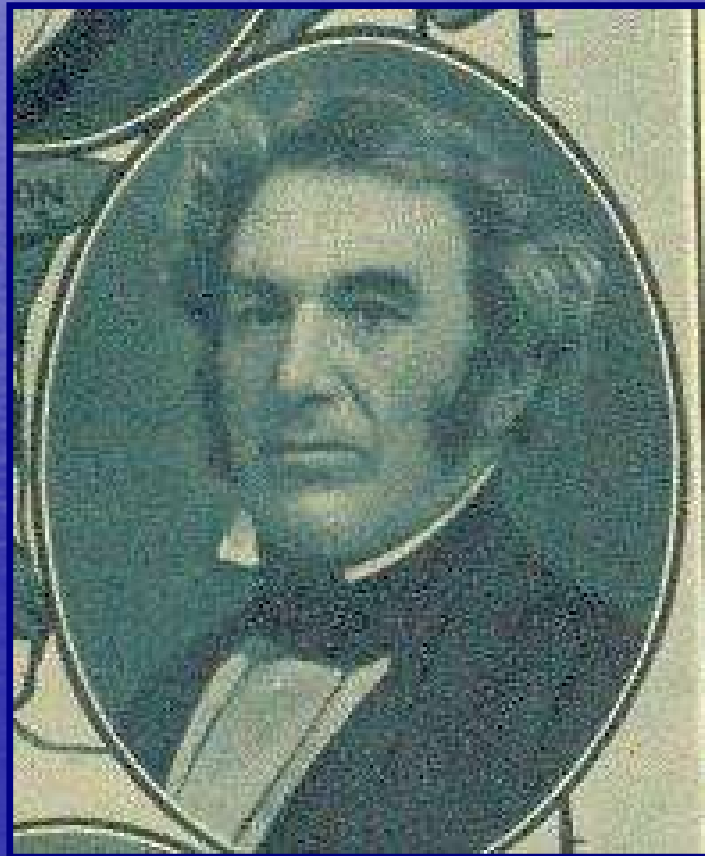
WASHINGTONIAN MOVEMENT: EARLY MEMBERS OF THE WASHINGTON TEMPERANCE SOCIETY

Not pictured:
George Steers

John Gough



John Hawkins



"The Pledge"



Washingtonian Pledge

"We, whose names are annexed, desirous of forming a society for our mutual benefit and to guard against a pernicious practice which is injurious to our health, standing, and families, do pledge ourselves, as gentlemen, that we will not drink any spirituous or malt liquors, wine or cider."

Lincoln's Address

to the
Springfield Washington Temperance Society



February 22, 1842

Abraham Lincoln caused a stir with this speech given to the Springfield Washington Temperance Society on the 110th anniversary of George Washington's birth - February 22, 1842. Even though this organization was not a religious one, the crowd that gathered in the Second Presbyterian Church did not expect his approach.

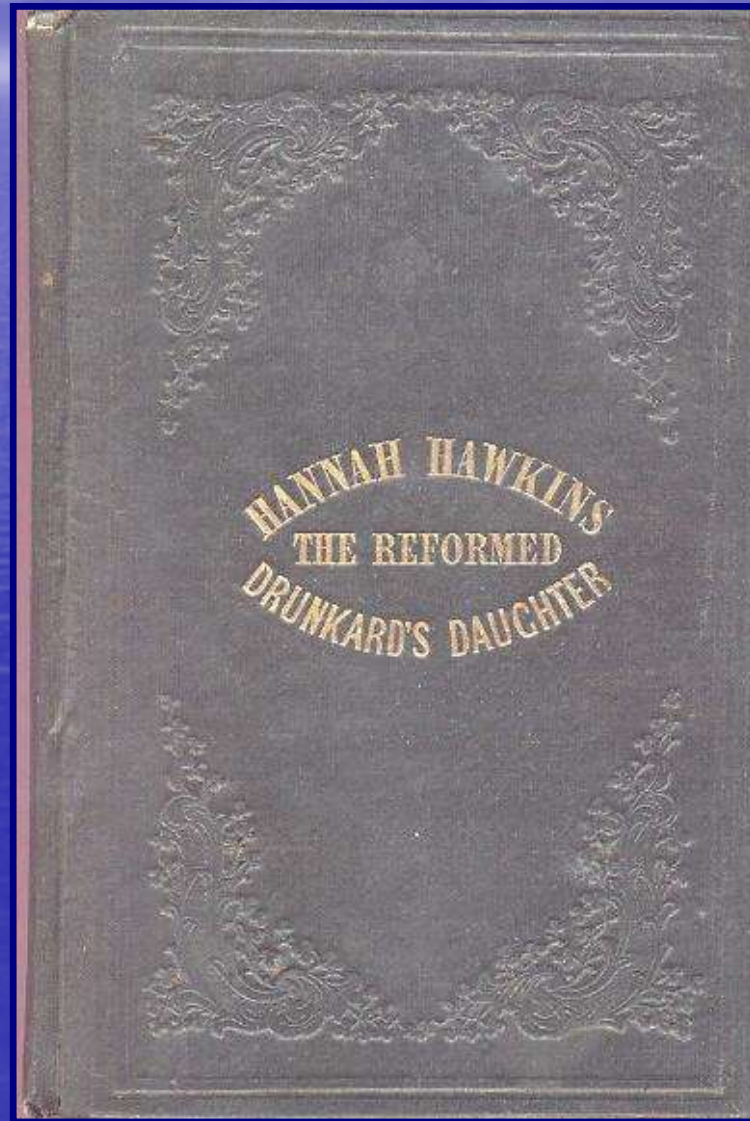
Rather than berate problem drinkers into temperance, the 33-year-old Lincoln endorsed "kind, unassuming persuasion" and criticized earlier, heavy-handed temperance efforts. Furthermore, he advocated reason as the solution to alcoholism and other ills in his famous conclusion: "Happy day, when all appetites controlled, all passions subdued, all matters subjected, mind, all conquering mind, shall live and move the monarch of the world.

Glorious consummation!

Hail fall of Fury!

Reign of Reason, all hail!

Hannah Hawkins

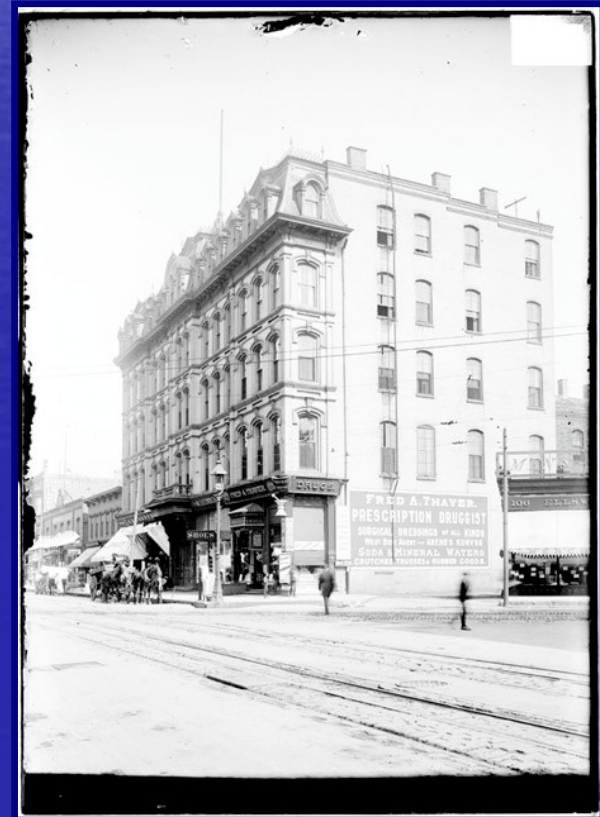


Washingtonian Hospitals

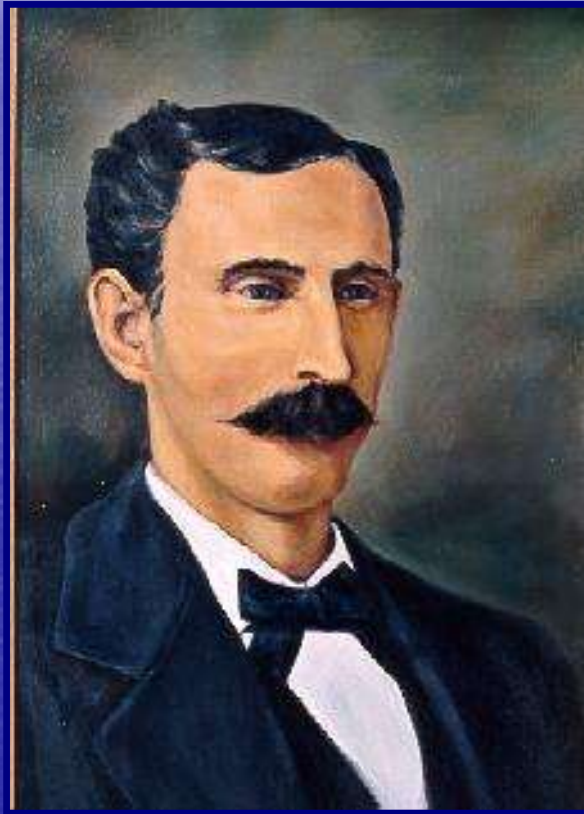
- Boston



- Chicago

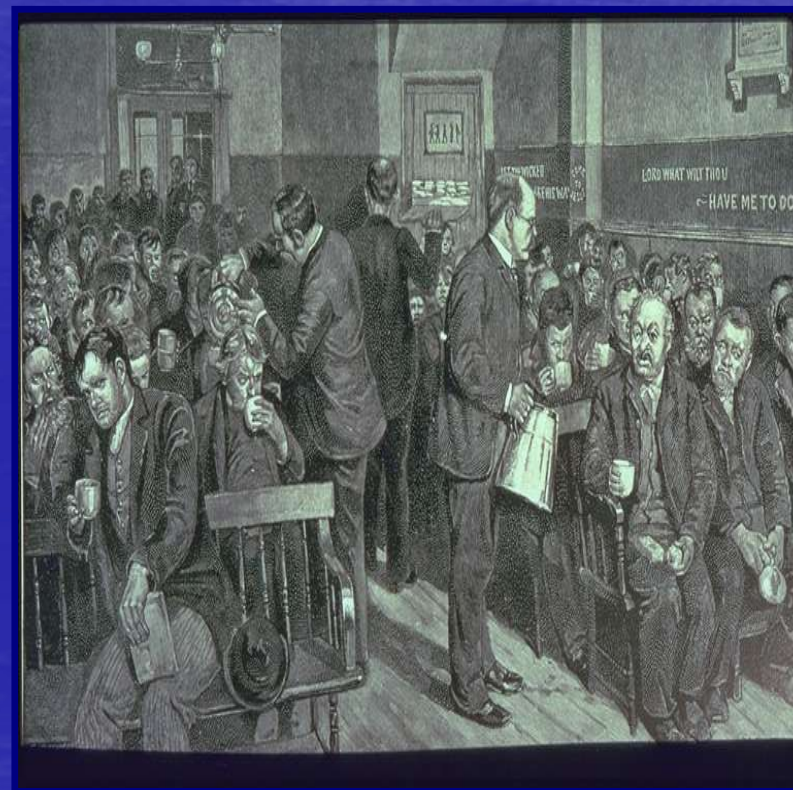
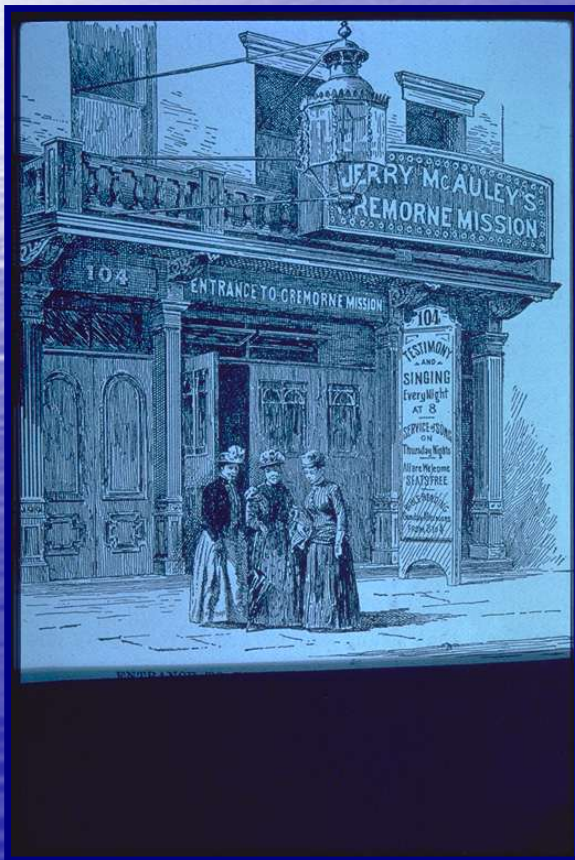


Jeremiah McAuley



Author of "Transformed"

Water Street Mission

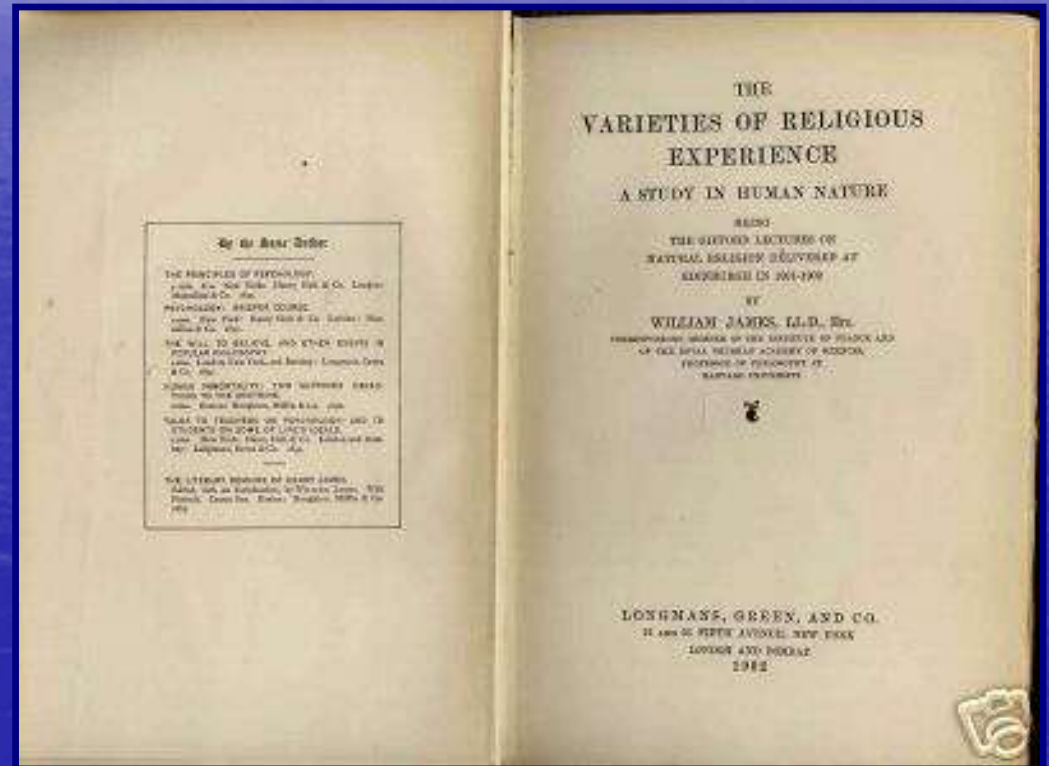
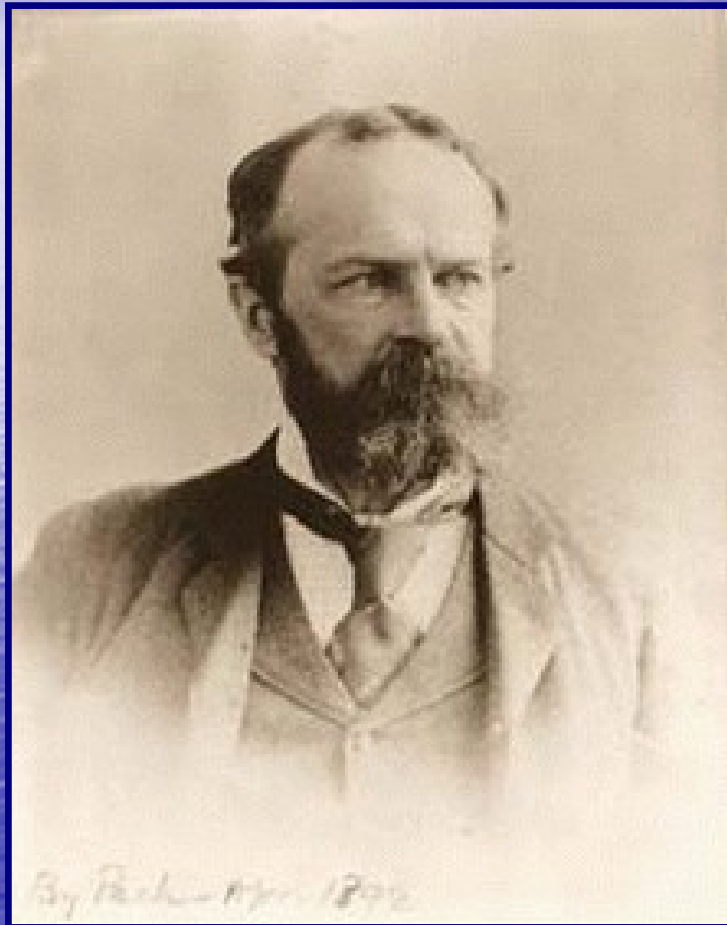


Samuel Hadley



Took over the Mission

William James



Keeley Cure/Keeley Institutes



Keeley's Cure for Drunkenness



Keeley Institute, Dwight, IL



Keeley Institute, Fargo, ND



Courtesy Illinois State Historical Society

Keeley League No. 1 in Open Air Session, Dwight, Illinois

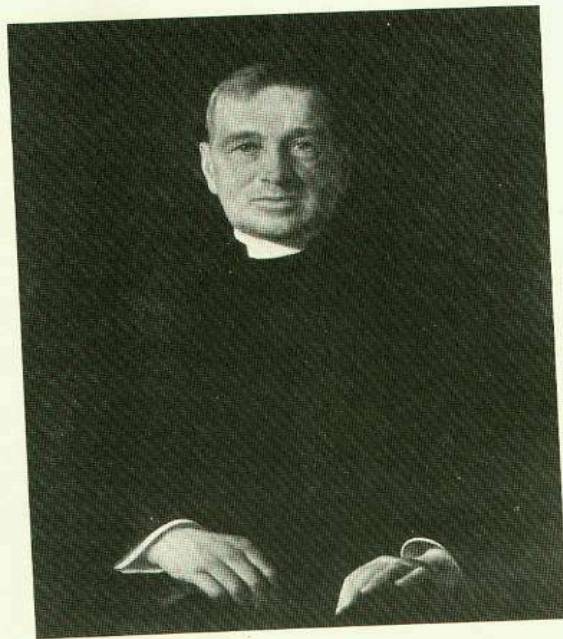
Keeley League

Banner Reads: "The Law Must Recognize a Leading Fact Medical not Penal Treatment Reforms the Drunkard."

The Emmanuel Movement

- The Emmanuel Movement was an attempt to combine spirituality with a kind of simple lay psychotherapy. But it began simply as a medical mission carried out by two clergymen, the **Rev. Elwood Worcester** and **Dr. Samuel McComb**, which focused on the treatment of tuberculosis in Boston's slums. A weekly gathering allowed for fellowship among the people who came to them.

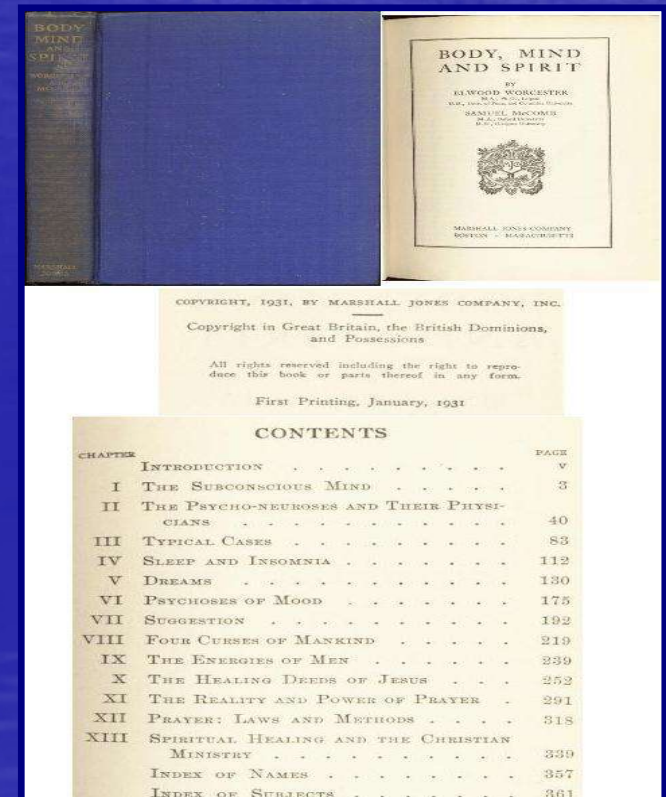
**Elwood
Worcester**



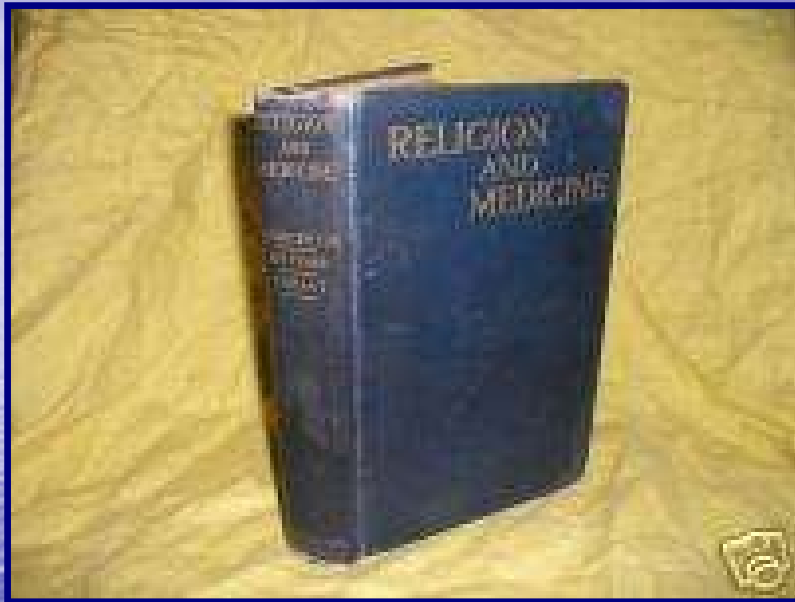
Oil portrait of the Reverend Elwood Worcester, painted by Emil Pollak-Ottendorf in 1917. Reproduced from the frontispiece in his autobiography, *Life's Adventure*, 1932.

"Body, Mind and Spirit"

This book
was written
by Elwood
Worcester and
Samuel
McComb



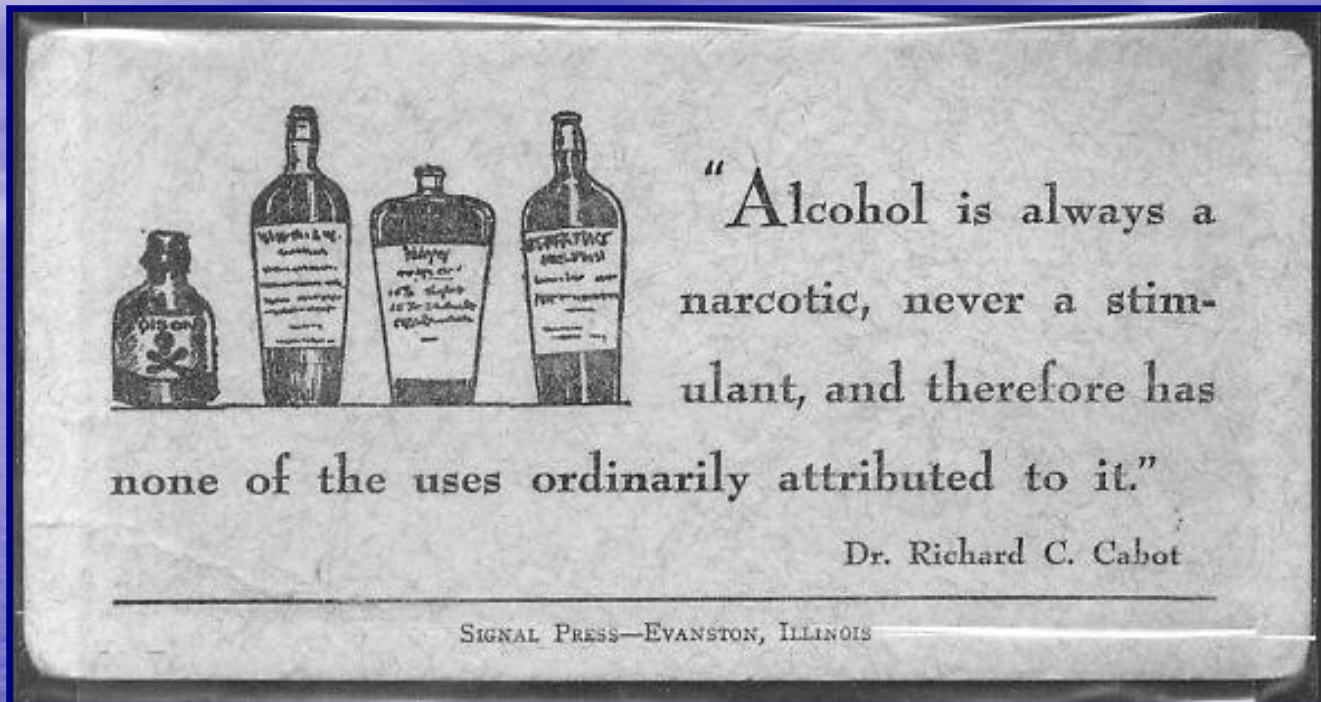
Emmanuel Movement



Lay therapy
Religion and Medicine
By Elwood Worcester DD PhD,
Samuel McComb MA, of the
Emmanuel Church Boston
and Isador H Corat MD

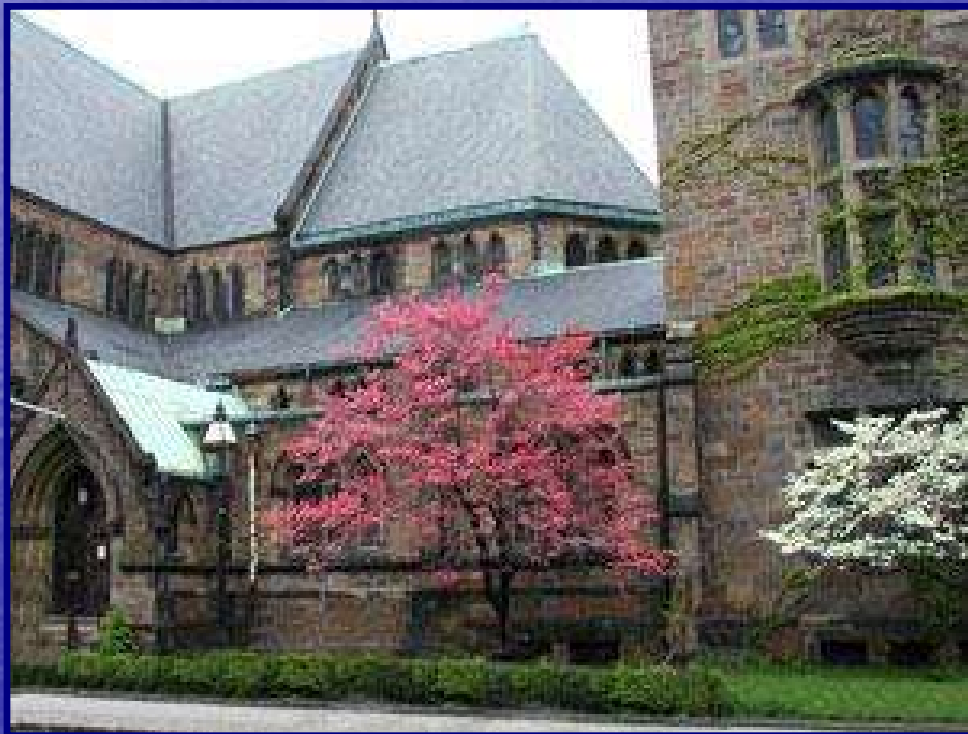
When they added a "Class for the Treatment of Mental Disorders" with the help of **Dr. Isador H. Coriat**, a psychiatrist, they began moving into new areas of work. They soon discovered that a substantial number of these impoverished men were alcoholics, and began to develop special techniques for working with them. It was found that it was the combination of spirituality, very simple psychological treatment, and fellowship all three which got people sober and kept them off the bottle. The similarities to the later Alcoholic Anonymous movement were substantial.

Richard Cabot



Dr. Richard Cabot, medical consultant, described the Emmanuel method as follows: "Of the classical methods of mental healing, explanation, education, psycho-analysis, suggestion, rest-cure and work-cure, suggestion is the one most used at Emmanuel Church. Suggestion is given to patients who have been brought, by means of a quiet room, a comfortable chair, and soothing words, into a relaxed and somnolent or sleeping state. Besides the direct personal treatment of individuals in the morning and evening clinics (for such they essentially are) Emmanuel Church maintains weekly public exercises which may be chiefly described as Wednesday evening prayer meetings, with a twenty minute talk on mental healing instead of a sermon, and a supper afterwards....**Among the topics discussed in the past year are: insomnia, suggestion, anger, worry, peace in the home, what the will can do, nervousness and its cause, and prayer as a curative power."**

Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Boston



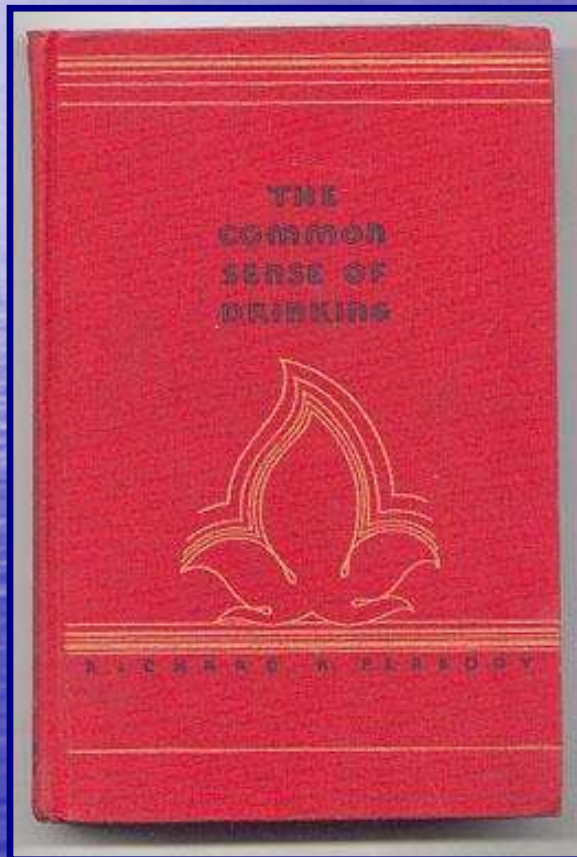
Jacoby Club

- In 1909 the Jacoby Club was launched by Emmanuel Church member and prominent rubber merchant Ernest Jacoby. He organized what he called "men meeting men" meetings in the church's basement. They were originally designed as informal auxiliary meetings for people who were affected by drinking problems to meet and help each other. The group grew rapidly and separated from the Emmanuel Movement in September 1913. For the next several decades it sought down-and-out men and put a special emphasis on fellowship as a path to recovery.

Courtenay Baylor

- In the years following the first World War, word got around in certain circles (mostly wealthy) that a man named Courtenay Baylor in Boston was having some success in treating alcoholics. He was not a doctor, nor a formally trained psychologist: he was what is called a lay therapist, and he worked in a clinic which was part of Emmanuel Church, the seat of the Emmanuel Movement. The methods he used were both psychological and spiritual, combining to re-educate the alcoholic to a life without alcohol; he described them fully in his book ***Remaking a Man***, published in 1919.

Richard Peabody



Copyright, 1930, 1931,
BY RICHARD R. PEABODY

All rights reserved

Published April, 1931
Reprinted December, 1931
Reprinted January, 1933

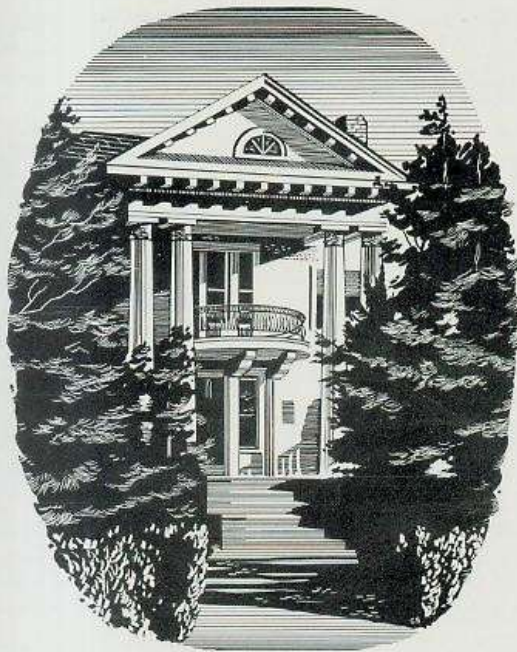
Rowland Hazard



Richmond Walker



Shadel Sanitarium



Founded in 1935, Shadel Sanitarium has devoted its efforts exclusively to the treatment of Alcoholics. The following is a collection of papers by the medical staff which, we hope, will be of assistance to those interested in Alcoholism and its treatment.

Shadel Sanitarium, Inc.*

7106 Thirty-Fifth Ave. S. W.
Seattle 6, Washington

West 7232

Cable Address: Reflex

* RATES

(Flat Fee Basis)

Treatment for Chronic Alcoholism, hospitalization, ward service, medication, ordinary laboratory, physicians' fees and year's supervision by professionally trained counselors, also reinforcement series: PROVIDING PATIENT REMAINS TOTALLY ABSTINENT.

Conditioned Reflex Therapy

Men	\$400.00
Women	450.00
Liver Function Studies	30.00

Conditioned Reflex Plus Narcoanalysis with Psychotherapy

Men	\$700.00
Women	750.00

Patients unable to begin treatment within 50 hours after admission BECAUSE OF THEIR PHYSICAL CONDITION will be charged for each additional day, until treatment is started.

The following services ARE NOT included in above rates; given only on orders of staff physicians.**

Intravenous Treatments

Hydro Therapy

X-Rays, and other Special Examinations and Consultations

CONSULT YOUR FAMILY PHYSICIAN—HIS NAME WILL BE REQUESTED ON ADMISSION

*Member: American Hospital Association

**Members: King County Medical Society
Washington State Medical Association

*april 18 through 22,
Leopold Hotel*

SHADEL SANITARIUM, INC.

REUBEN E. EGLAND

WEST 7232
7106 35TH AVENUE S.W.
SEATTLE 6, WASHINGTON

ALCOHOLISM

COLLECTED PAPERS OF THE
SHADEL SANITARIUM

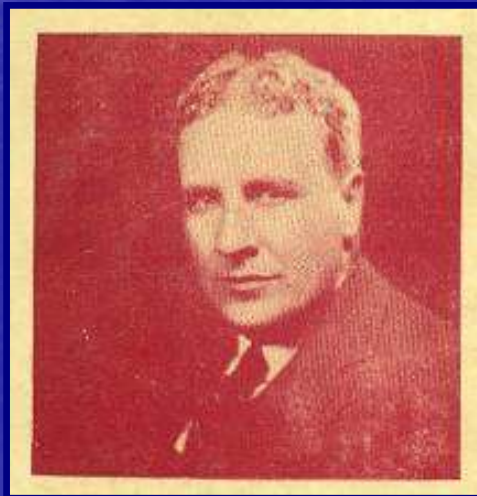
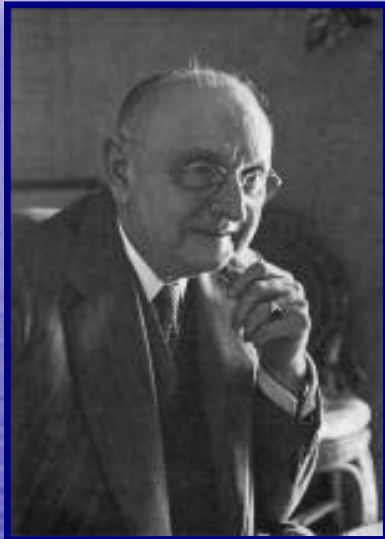
VOLUME 1, 1948

Shadel Clinic

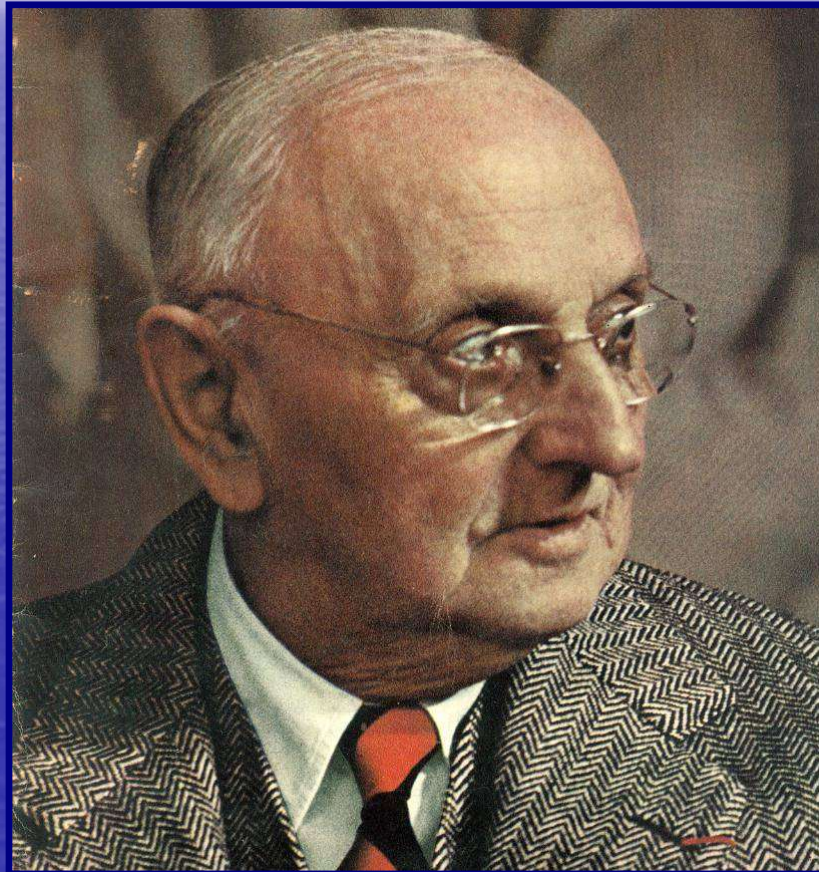
- Aversion Therapy

Aversion therapy is the pairing of something unpleasant with a cue related to a bad habit for purposes of developing a repugnance to doing the bad act. The ancient Romans were reported to hide spiders and similar unpleasant surprises in the wine cups of heavy drinkers (Elkins, 1991). The purpose was to create fear and anxiety about wine and wine cups.

The Oxford Group



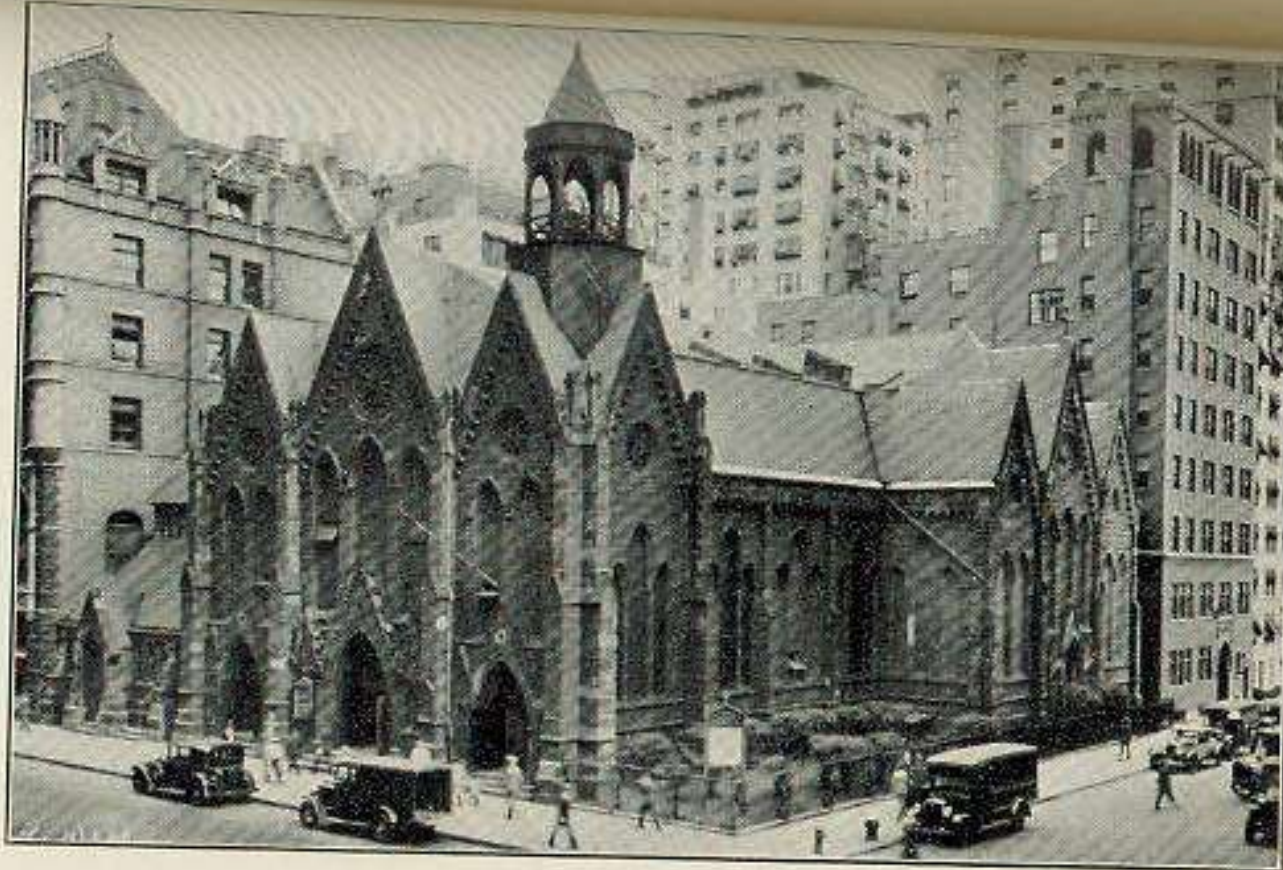
Frank Buchman



Samuel Shoemaker



Calvary Episcopal Church



CALVARY CHURCH AND HOUSE FROM FOURTH AVENUE.

Harry Hadley



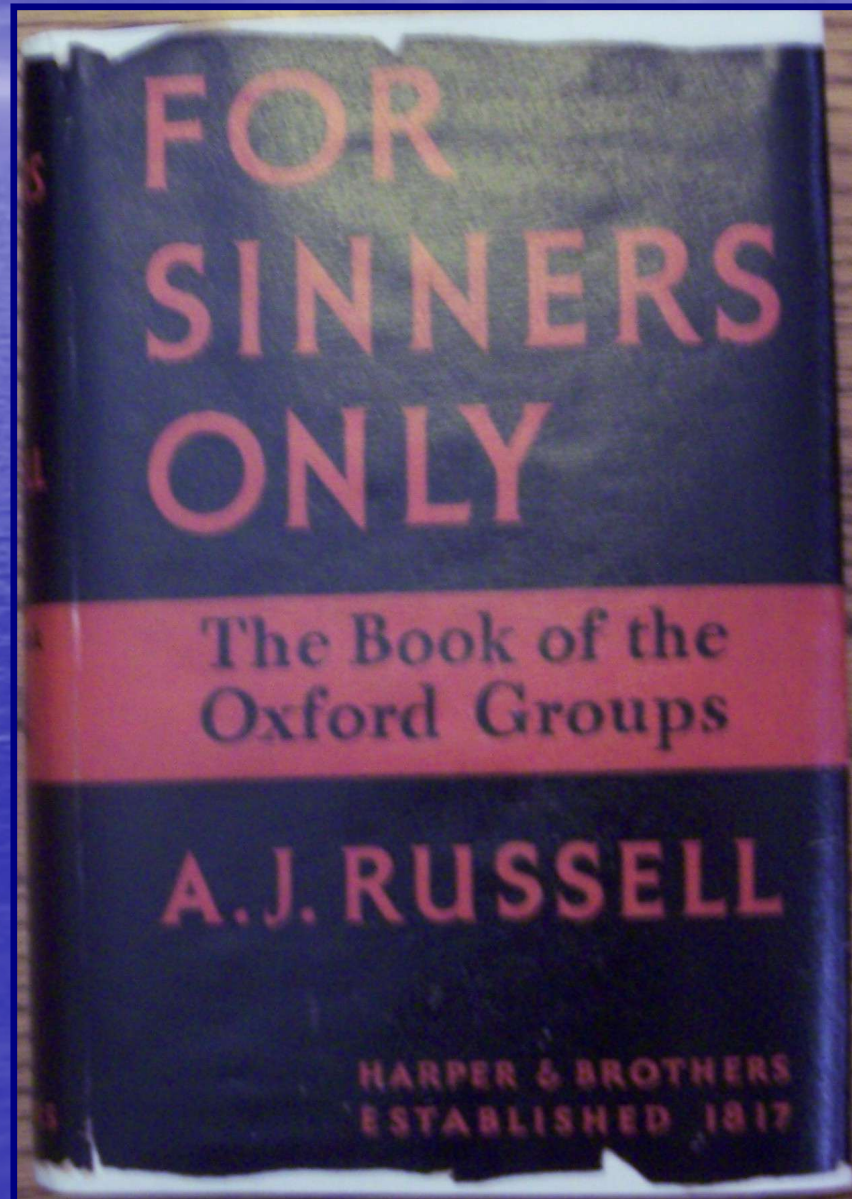
THE LATE HENRY HARRISON HADLEY, II.
Superintendent of Calvary Mission, 1926-1933.

Caux Switzerland

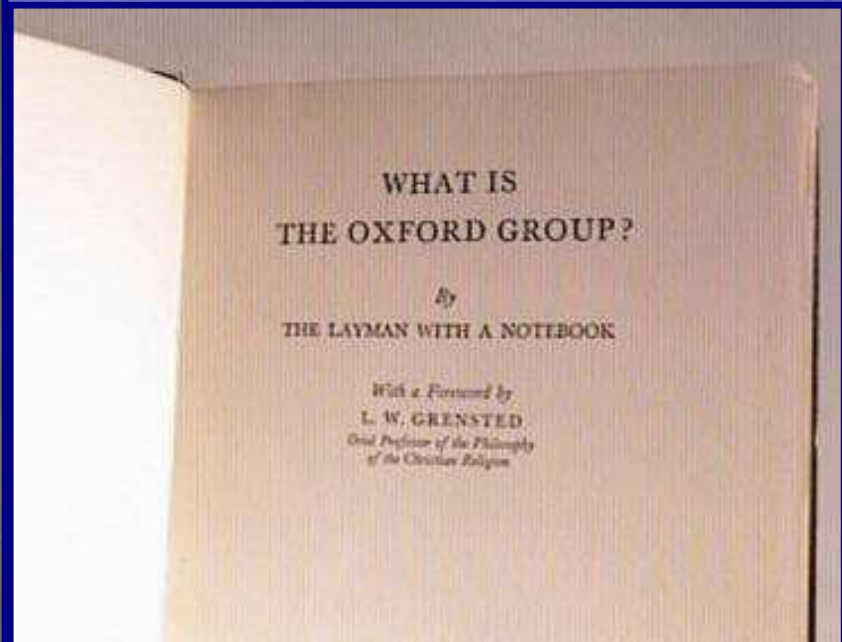
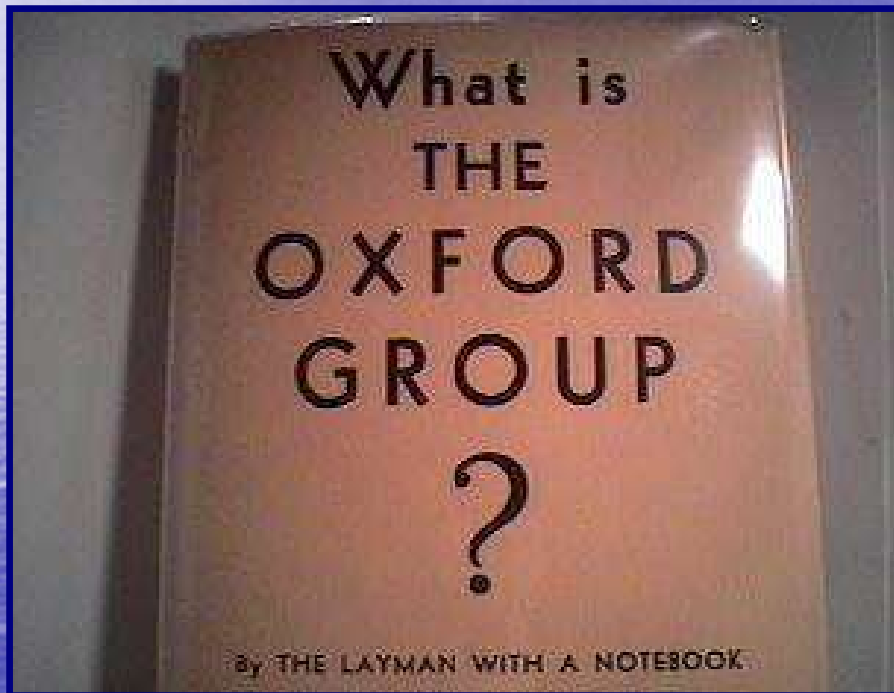


“Moral Re-Armament”

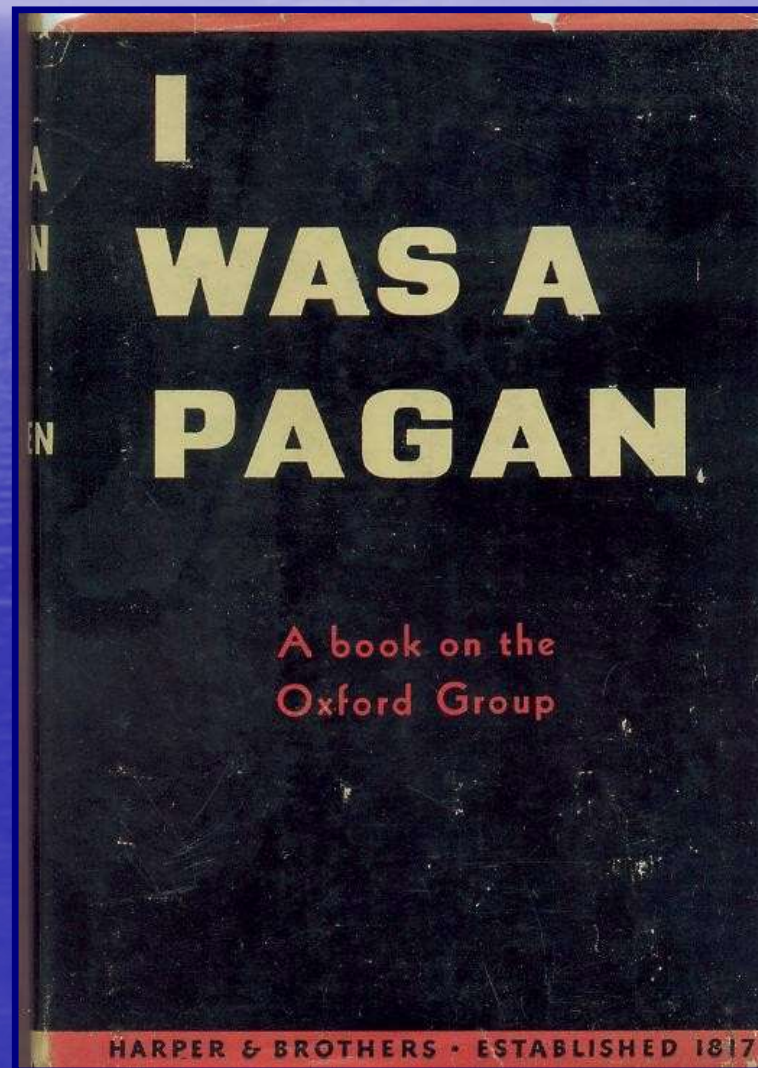
“For Sinners Only”



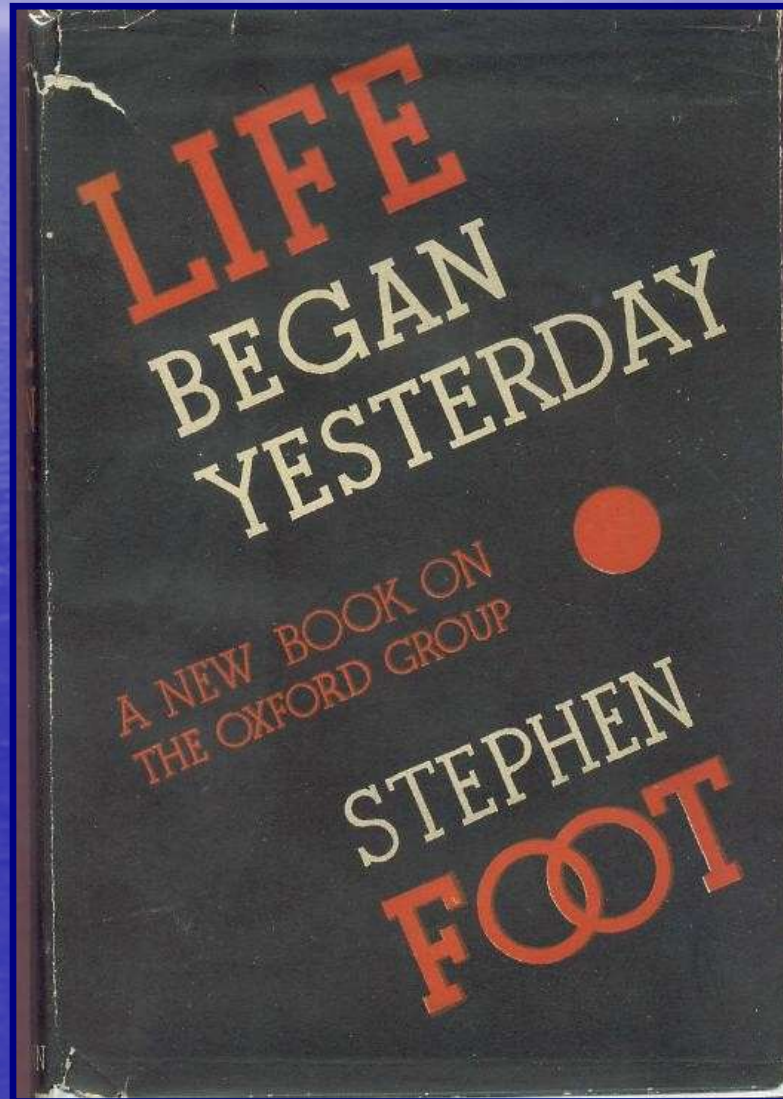
What is the Oxford Group



I was a Pagan



Life Began Yesterday



The Four Absolutes

- Honesty
- Purity
- Unselfishness
- Love

The 5 C's

- Confidence
- Confession
- Conviction
- Conversion
- Conservation

Bill Wilson



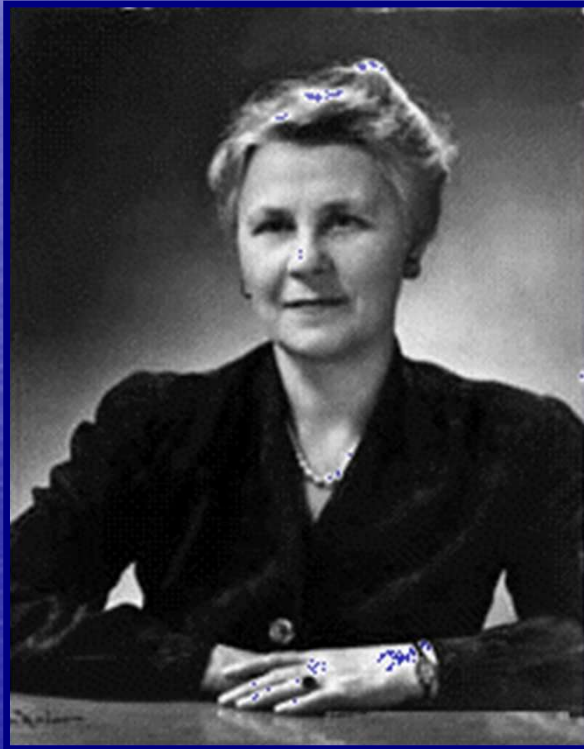
William Griffith Wilson

East Dorset, Vermont



The Wilson House
on
Village Street

Lois Wilson



“Stepping Stones”



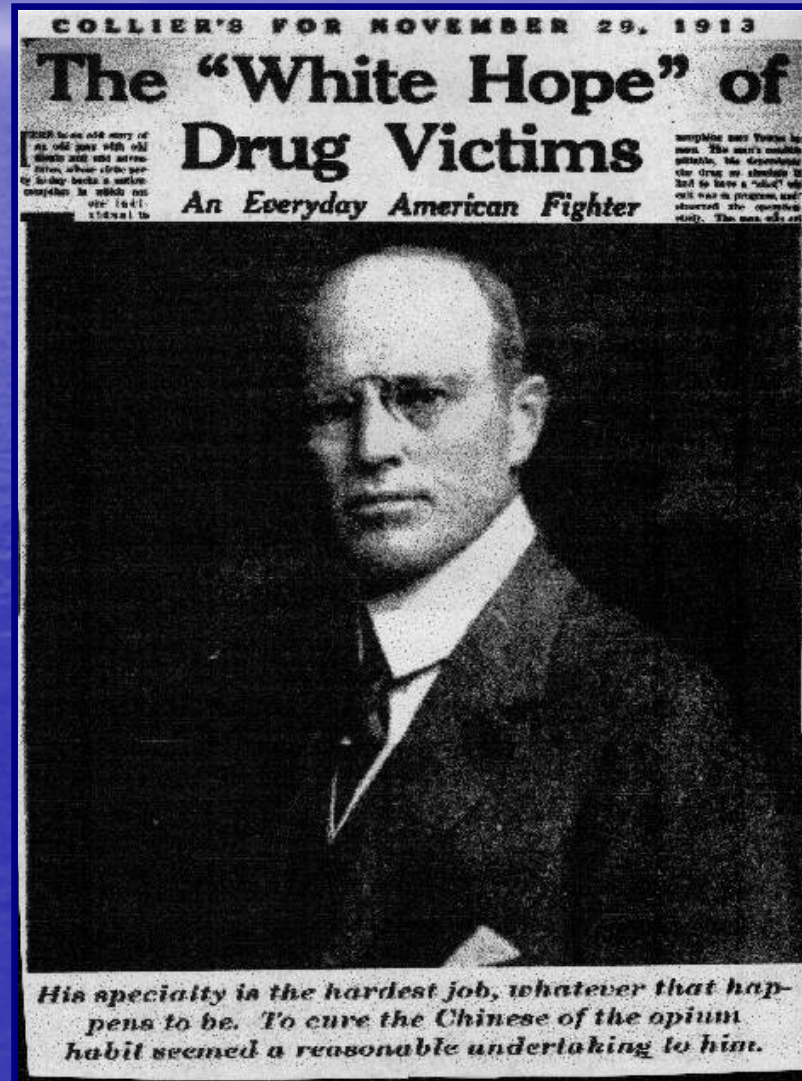
Ebby Thacher



Bill and Ebby



Charles Towns



COLLIER'S FOR NOVEMBER 29, 1913

The "White Hope" of Drug Victims

An Everyday American Fighter

There is no more of
its old gas with old
times and old
times, when the
to-day back a nation
concerns in which
one's life
should be

surprise and there is
men. The man's condition
possible, he depends
the drug on himself in
and to have a "solid" life
out was a program and
showed the operation
study. The man's life

His specialty is the hardest job, whatever that happens to be. To cure the Chinese of the opium habit seemed a reasonable undertaking to him.

Charles Towns Hospital

24

CRITIC AND GUIDE.

THE CHARLES B. TOWNS HOSPITAL

For the Exclusive Treatment of DRUG AND ALCOHOLIC ADDICTION

METHODS EMPLOYED

For fourteen years the Charles B. Towns Treatment has been successfully administered at this hospital. Our methods have won the praise and commendation of the most critical and discriminating investigators.

ABSOLUTE PRIVACY

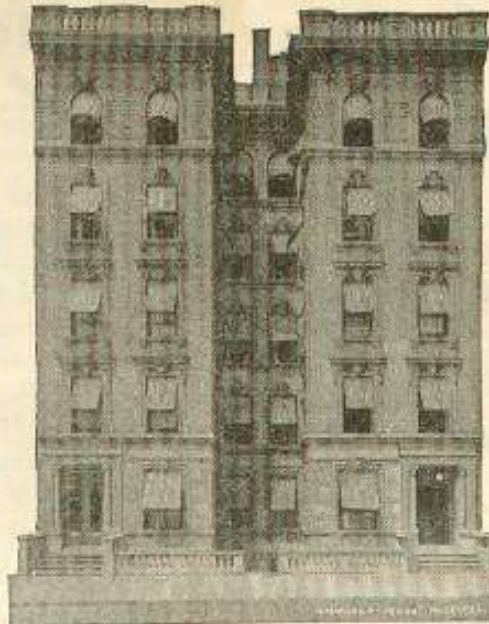
Each patient is treated individually and during the course of the treatment comes in contact only with the physicians and trained nurses. Special accommodations may be obtained in rooms en suite. **PATIENTS OF MODERATE MEANS ARE CARED FOR BY SPECIAL PROVISION.**

DURATION OF TREATMENT

The course is brief—out-of-town physicians are enabled to come here and follow the entire treatment. Every courtesy will be extended physicians when in New York City who may wish to inspect the hospital and observe the methods we employ.

RECOVERATIVE TREATMENT

When the definite medical treatment is completed we have every facility and equipment that will in any way improve or benefit the physical condition of the patient. Electricity in all its forms, **BATHS, INCLUDING CONTINUOUS AND NAUHEIM; NAUHEIM TREATMENT** carried out under the highest medical authority with experienced assistants.



There is no secrecy regarding the treatment we administer. Our method has been fully set forth in articles appearing in *The Journal A. M. A.* We will be pleased to send reprints of these articles, also booklet descriptive of our institution to interested physicians.

A HOSPITAL, NOT A SANITARIUM

We regard patients submitted to our care as seriously sick; our staff of resident physicians and nurses make it their daily and exclusive duty to see that definite, systematic and scientific supervision is maintained. Leading consulting physicians of New York are constantly in communication.

ETHICAL RECOGNITION

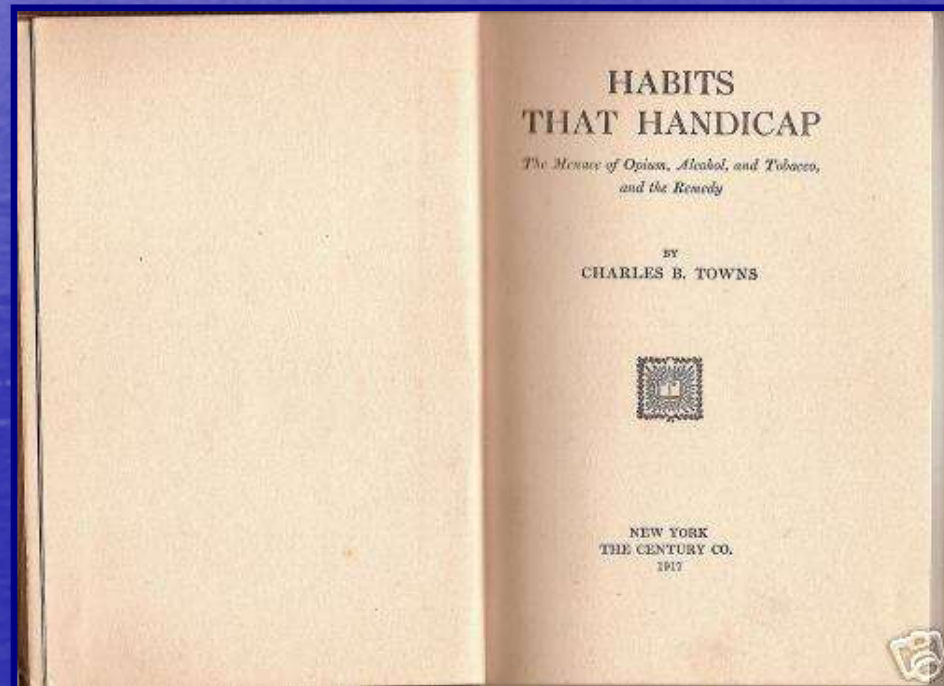
Our efforts have the approval and cooperation of representative physicians who are members of the Medical Society of the State of New York. The superiority and reliability of our method of treatment has the sponsorship of clinicians of national reputation.

COST OF TREATMENT

Upon admission the patient pays a fixed fee, which covers all customary expenses and is based on an estimate of how many days he is likely to remain, and is discharged when the treatment is completed. No "extras." Our system assures definite results at the minimum possible cost to the patient.

293 Central Park W.
NEW YORK CITY

“Habits that Handicap” by Charles Towns



Dr. William D. Silkworth



Carl Jung



Dr. Bob



Robert Holbrook Smith

Dr. Bob's Birthplace



Dr. Bobs Home

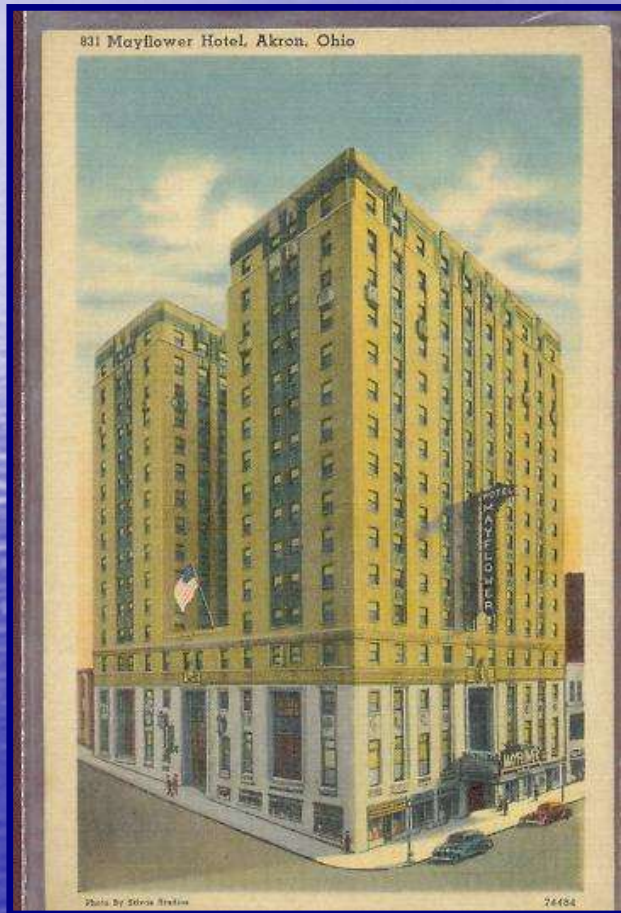


855 Ardmore Avenue, Akron, OH

Seiberling Gatehouse



The Mayflower Hotel



Akron City Hospital



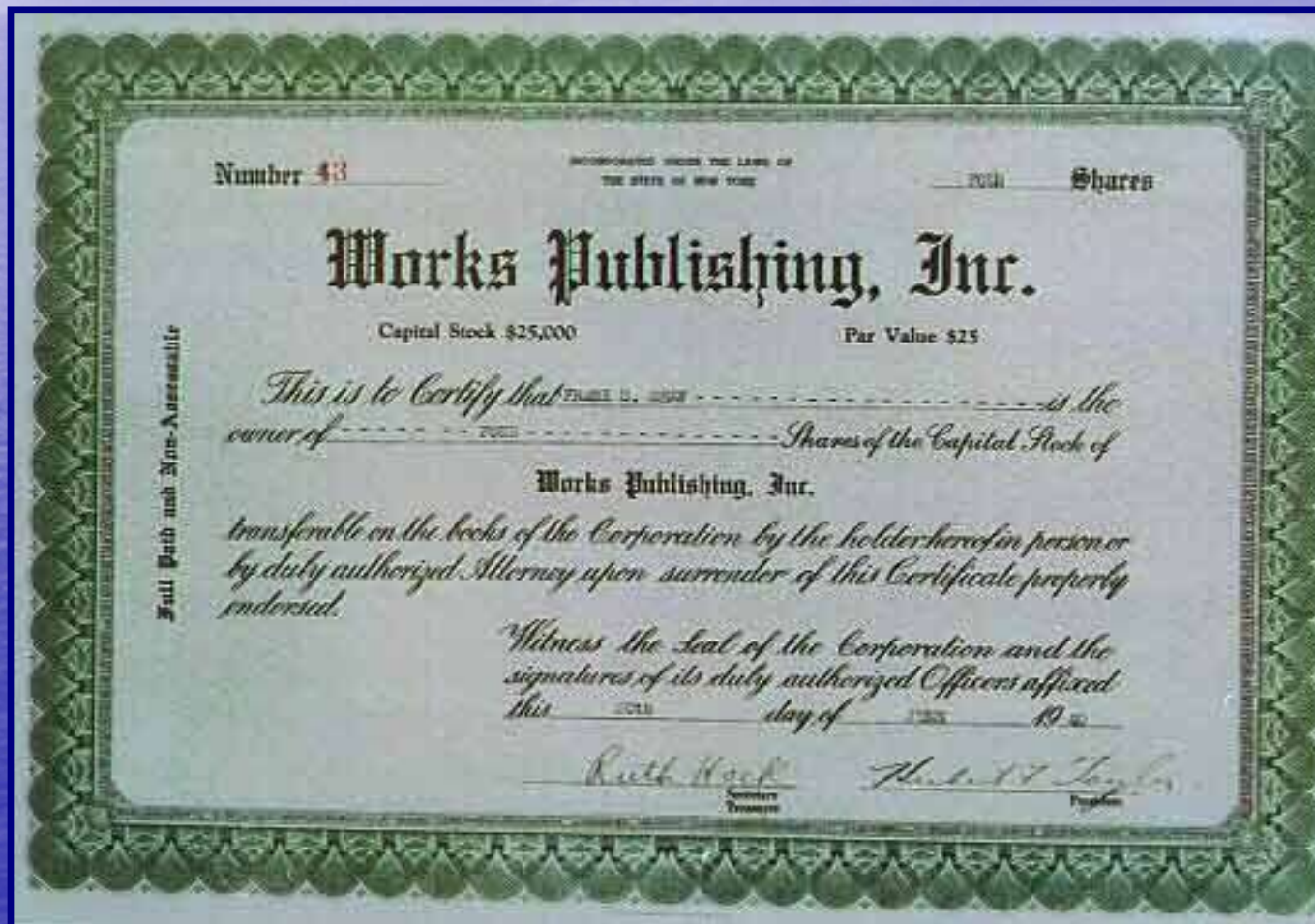
Alcoholic #3



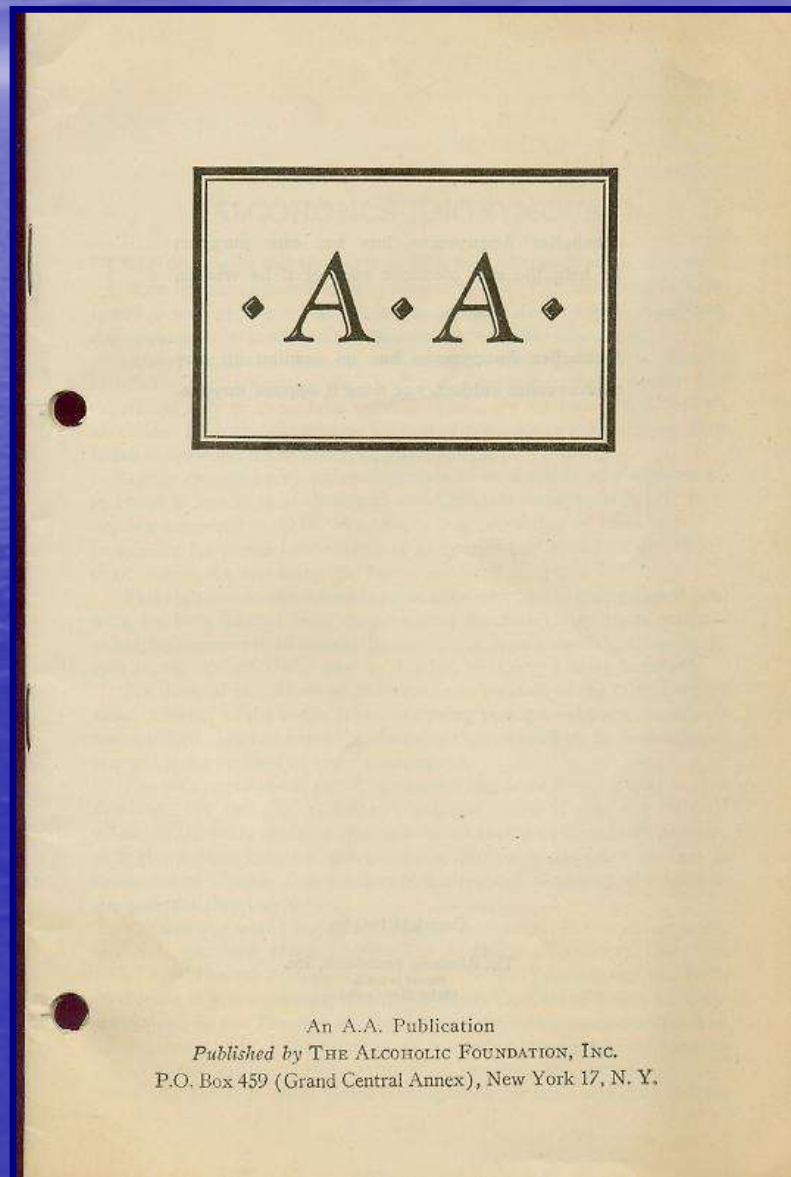
Bill Dodson



Works Publishing Stock



First AA Pamphlet



A Page from the Original Manuscript of the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous

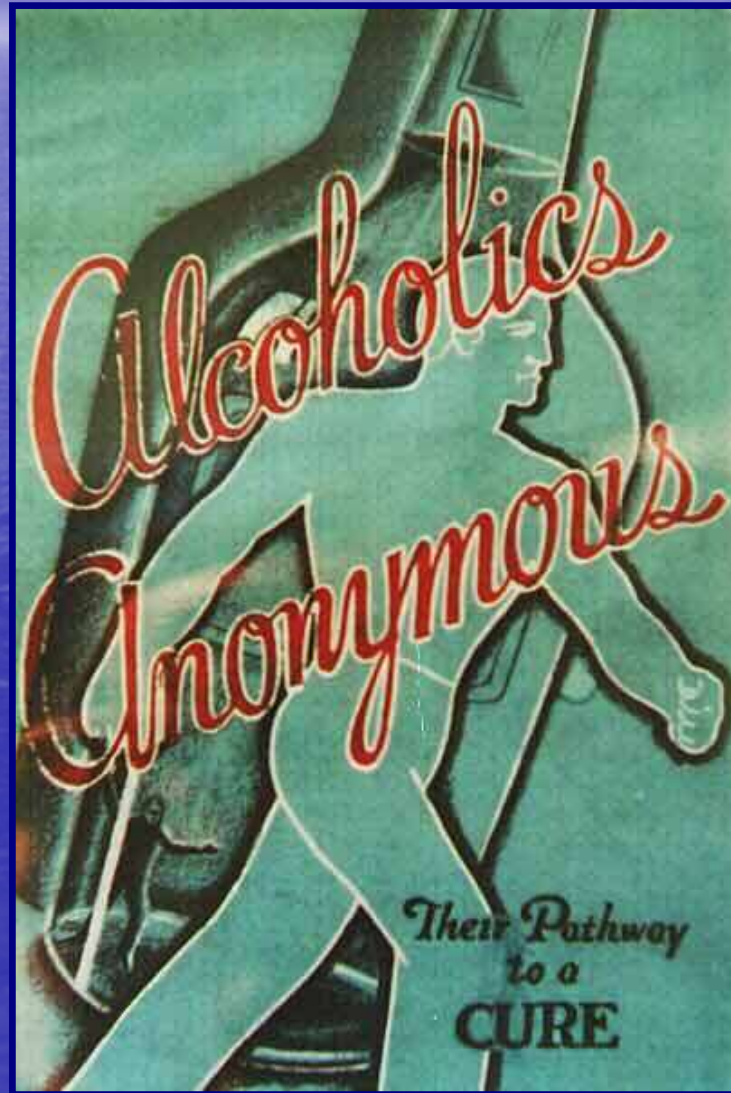
12/15/34
① The Strange Obsession

It was a hot night
in the midsummer of 1934.
I found myself at a medical
address in Central Park West
New York City. I was ^{not} too Charles
Wynne's hospital for drinking and
alcoholics.

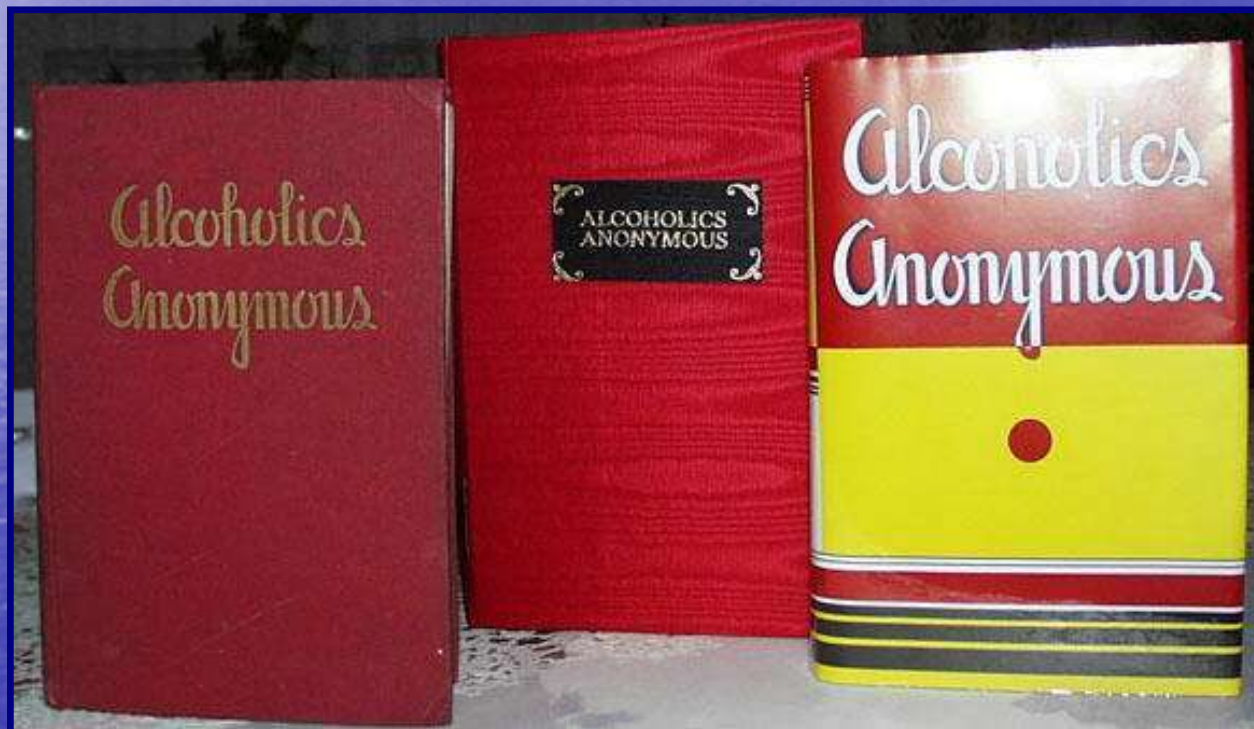
Staring and smoldering
out a fearful hangover
I had sat in an
operating room. Nowhere
the doctor looked across
his desk at my wife's face.

She was saying "Doctor,
why is it, ~~why is it~~ ^{why is it} ~~that~~ ^{that} ~~he~~ ^{he} ~~can't~~ ^{can't} ~~stop~~ ^{stop} ~~drinking~~ ^{drinking}? He always had
great will power. Yet here he
is ~~again~~, ~~still~~ ^{still} ~~drinking~~ ^{drinking}, ~~and~~ ^{and} ~~still~~ ^{still} ~~he~~ ^{he} ~~can't~~ ^{can't} ~~stop~~ ^{stop}. The more he struggles
the worse he gets. I am
scared, and heartbroken ^{confused}.
I know he is, too. He'd do
anything - anything at
all to stop. Tell me, Doctor,
why can't he?"

An early proposed Dust Jacket design for the First Edition Big Book



Alcoholics Anonymous First Edition



First Printing was in April 1939

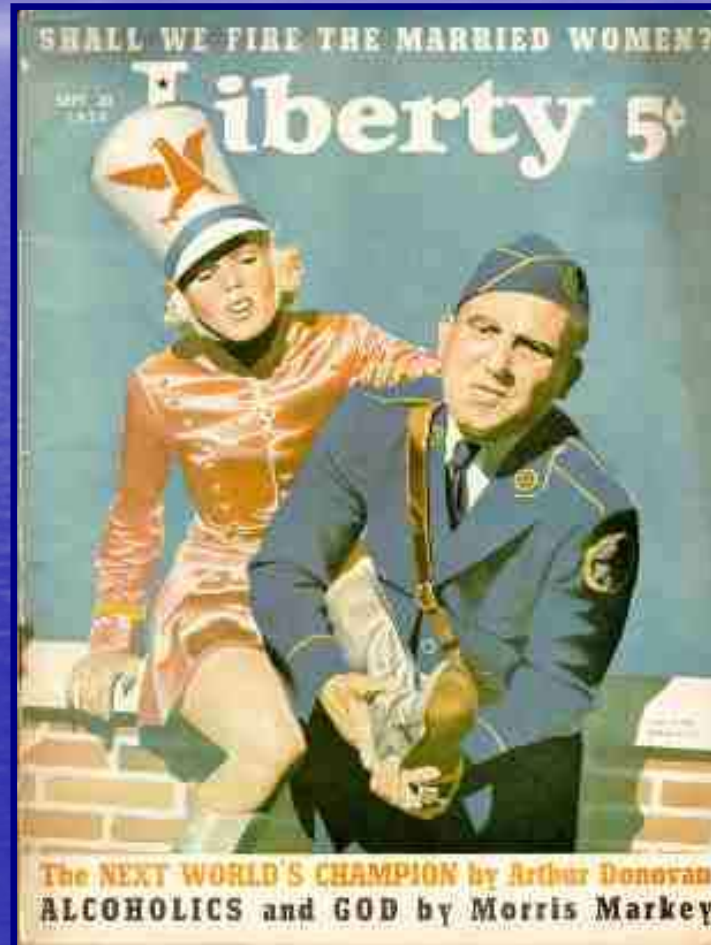
Sister Ignatia



In 1939, Sister Ignatia, hospital administrator of St. Thomas Hospital, and Dr. Bob, a skilled proctologist and founding member of AA, made history when they admitted the first alcoholic patient to St. Thomas Hospital.

Liberty Magazine

September 30, 1939



"Alcoholics and God"

Saturday Evening Post

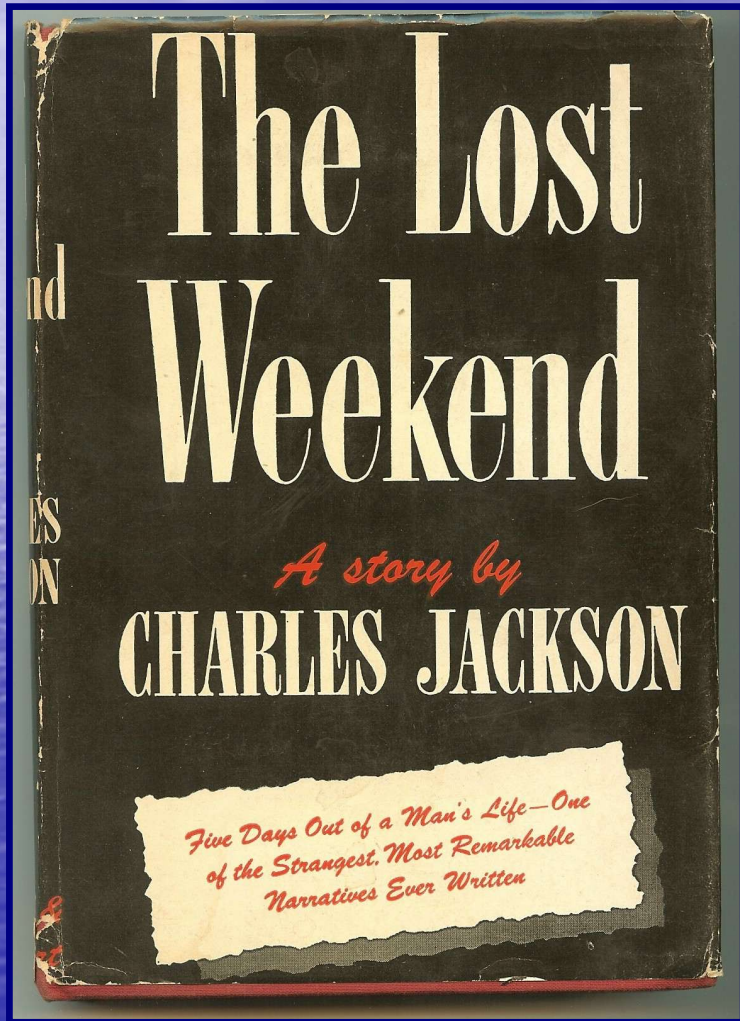


The Jack Alexander Article
The Saturday Evening Post
March 1, 1941
"Alcoholics Anonymous"

First Printing of the AA Grapevine June 1944



The Lost Weekend



Early Tradition Pamphlet

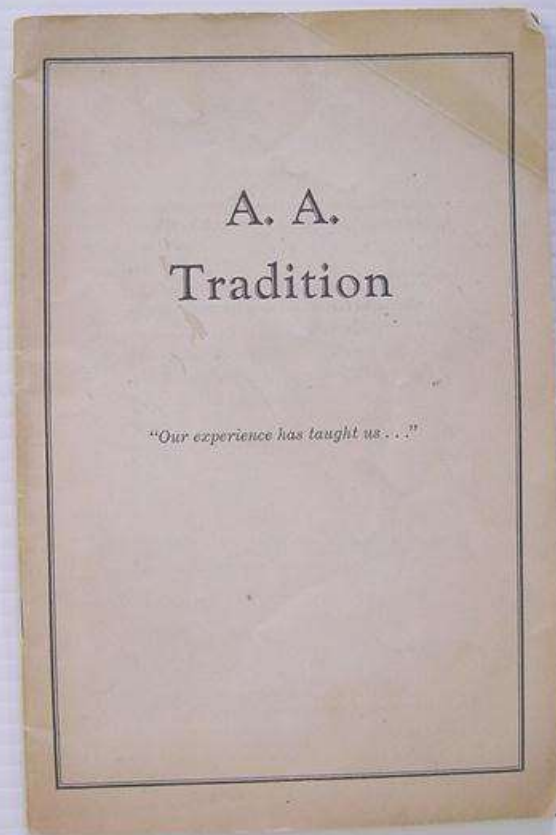


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1950 Cleveland International

July 28, 1950 – First AA Convention begins in
Cleveland, Ohio, with Twelve Traditions being adopted
and **Dr. Bob's Farewell talk**

"My good friends in A.A. and of A.A., I feel I would be very remiss if I didn't take this opportunity to welcome you here to Cleveland, not only to this meeting but those that have already transpired. I also get quite a thrill when I think that we all had the same problem. We all did the same things. We all get the same results in proportion to our zeal and enthusiasm and stick-to-itiveness.

"If you will pardon the injection of a personal note at this time, let me say that I have been in bed five of the last seven months, and my strength hasn't returned as I would like, so my remarks of necessity will be very brief.

"There are two or three things that flashed into my mind on which it would be fitting to lay a little emphasis. One is the simplicity of our program. Let's not louse it all up with Freudian complexes and things that are interesting to the scientific mind but have very little to do with our actual A.A. work. Our Twelve Steps, when immersed down to the last, resolve themselves into the words 'love' and 'service.' We understand what love is, and we understand what service is. So let's bear those two things in mind.

"Let us also remember to guard that erring member the tongue, and if we must use it, let's use it with kindness and consideration and tolerance.

"And one more thing: None of us would be here today if somebody hadn't taken time to explain things to us, to give us a little pat on the back, to take us to a meeting or two, to do numerous little kind and thoughtful acts in our behalf. So let us never get such a degree of smug complacency that we're not willing to extend, or attempt to extend, to our less fortunate brothers that help which has been so beneficial to us. Thank you very much."

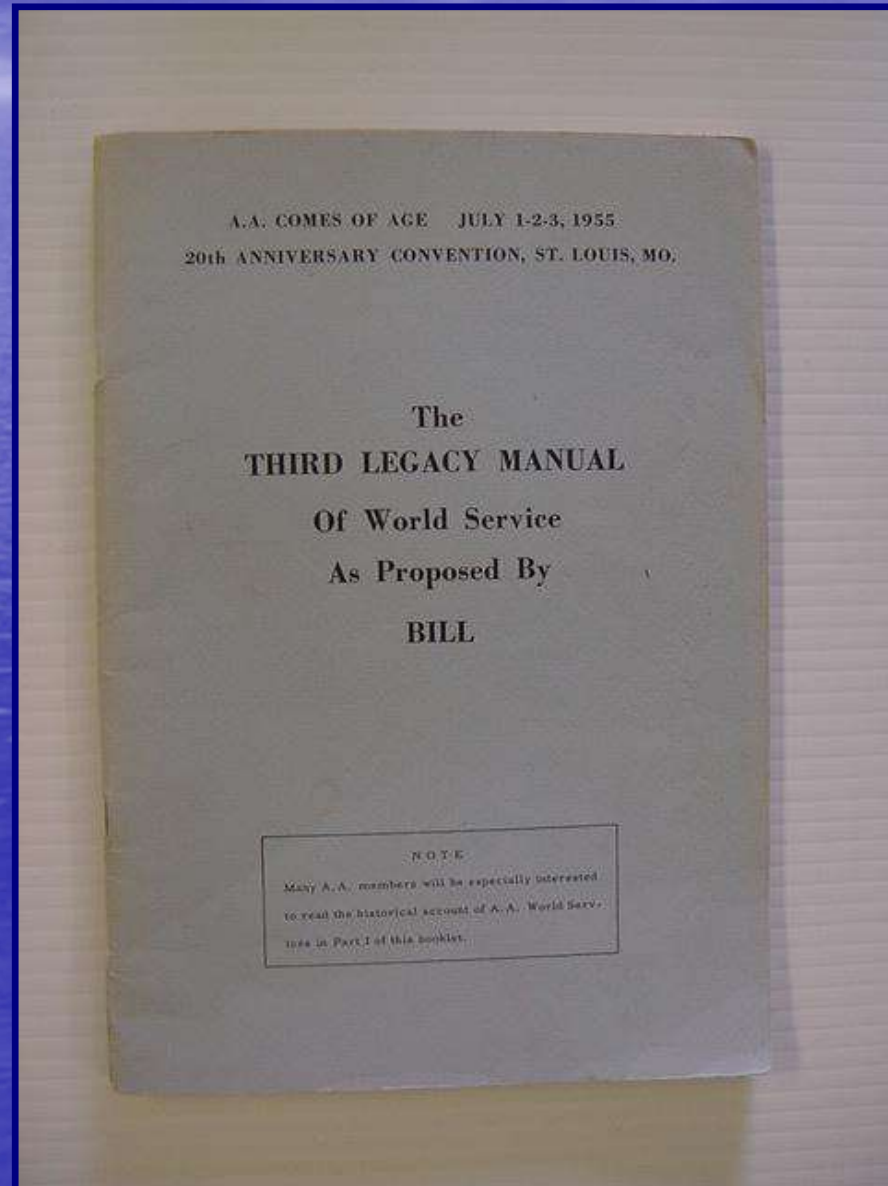
The Death of Dr. Bob

Robert Holbrook Smith (Dr. Bob) died on November 16, 1950 at 11:30AM, at his home, 855 Ardmore Ave, Akron, Ohio. Dr. Bob began his medical practice in Akron March, 1912. He graduated from Dartmouth College; intern at City Hospital, Akron after his pre-med at University of Michigan and MD at Rush Medical College, Chicago. Dr. Bob married his life-long partner Anne Robinson Ripley, January 25, 1915. A.A's birthday considered to be the date of Dr. Bob's last drink June 10, 1935. Anne died the year before him. Dr. Bob was laid to rest next to her, Mount Peace Cemetery, Akron. Their home on Nov. 5, 1985 became a state historical site and a national historical landmark.

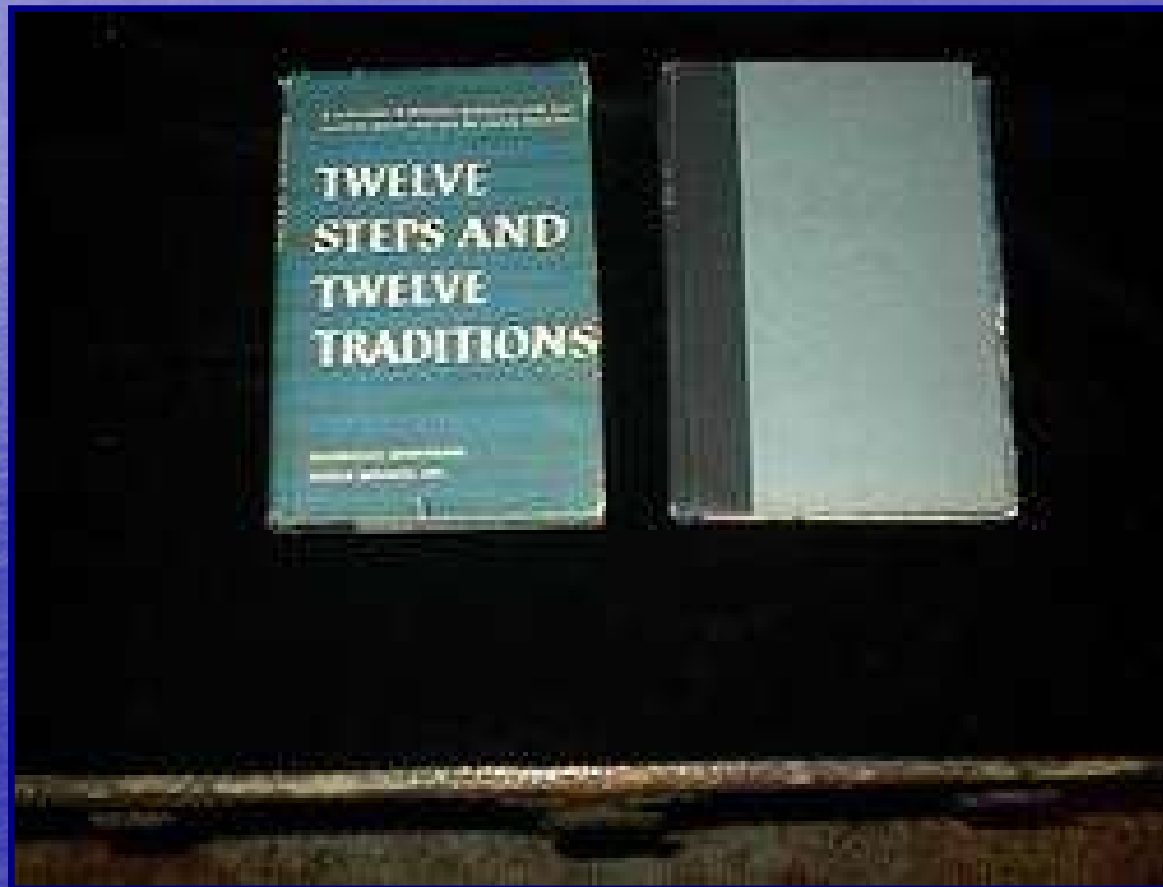


Bill Wilson at
Dr. Bob's Gravesite

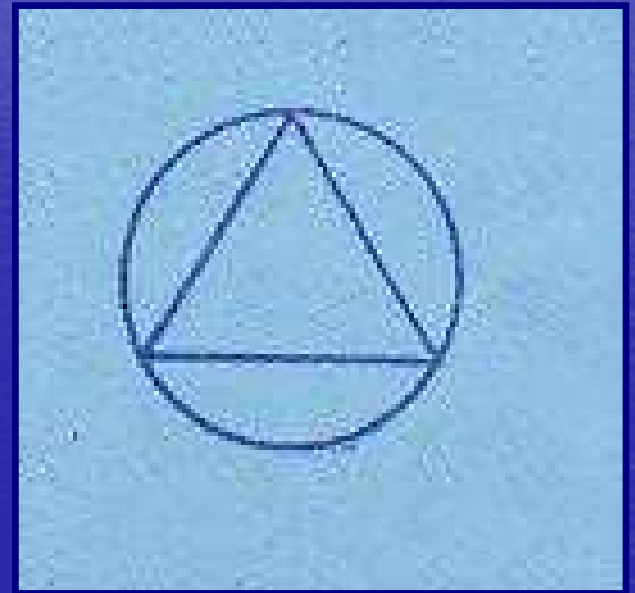
Early Third Legacy Pamphlet



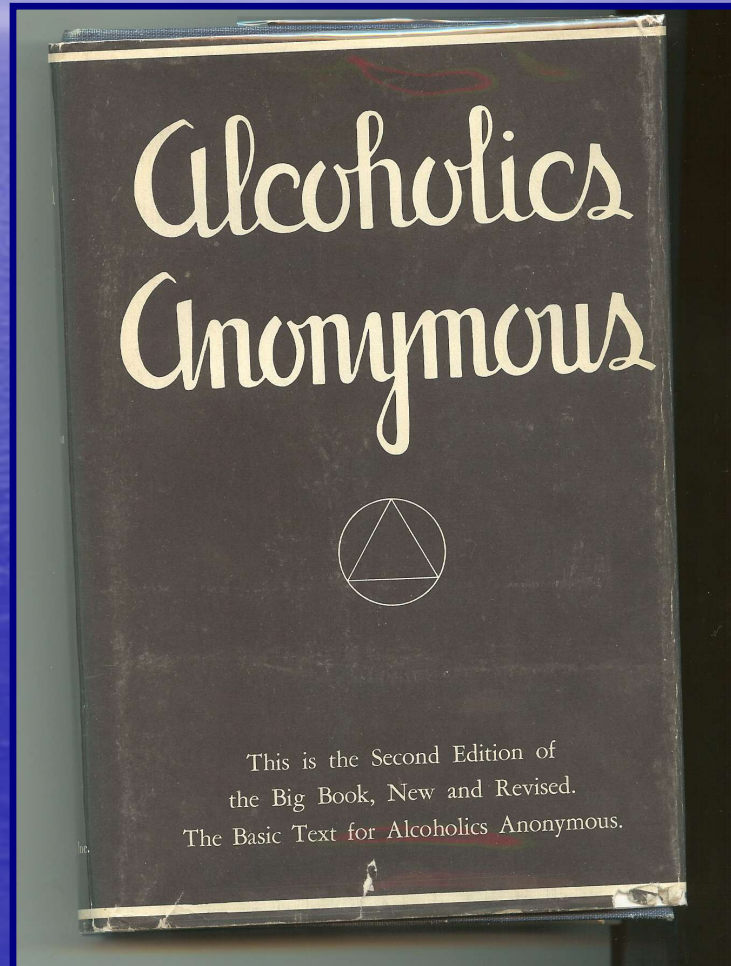
Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions



1955 St. Louis International

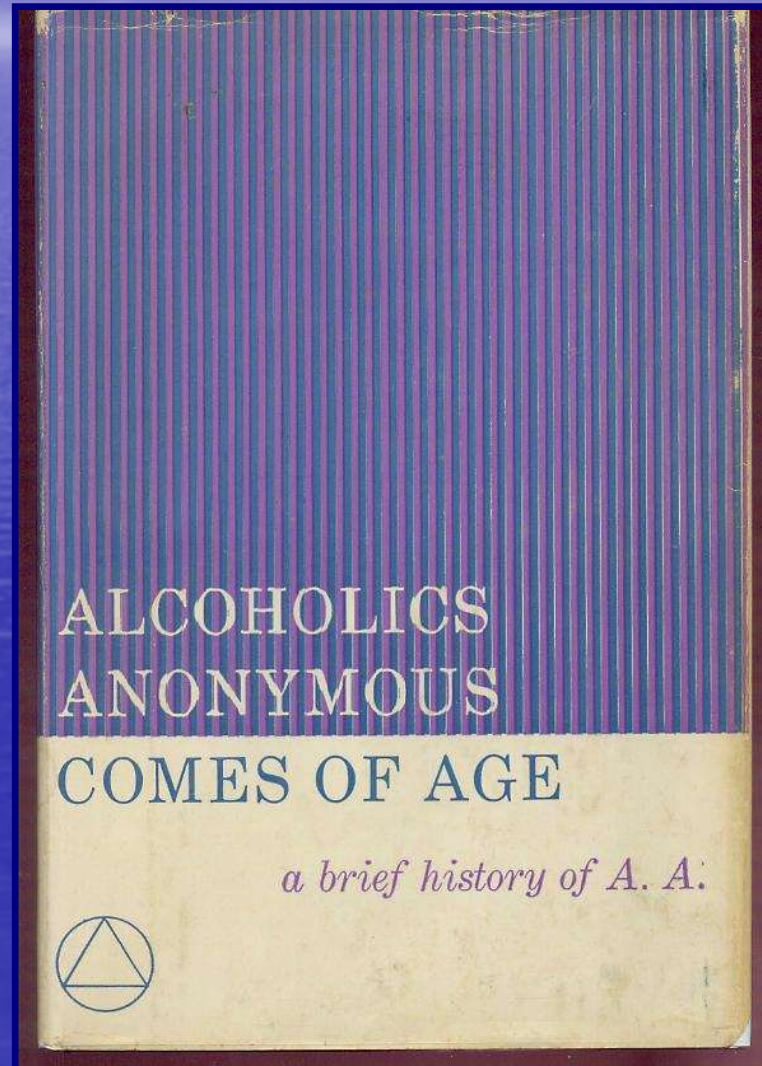


Alcoholics Anonymous Second Edition



First Printing of the Second Edition was in 1955

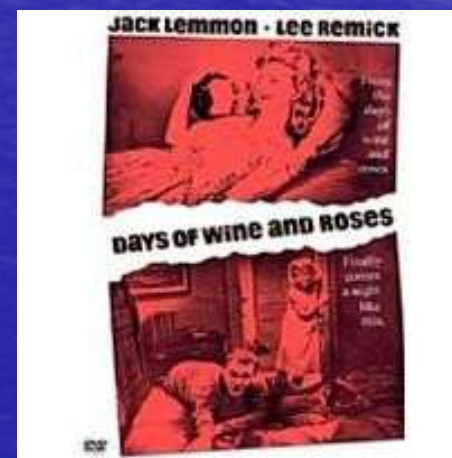
AA Comes of Age



Days of Wine and Roses

The first act is told in a series of flashbacks by Joe as he gives his first talk at an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting. Joe and Kirsten meet at a bar and begin a 3-way relationship with the bottle. Through Joe's telling of their story we learn that the couple doesn't know what it means "to have fun" without a drink. Even when they have a child their habits don't change and, in a heartrending scene, Kirsten yells at her young daughter to get away from her. As a Public Relations man, Joe's job is to drink with his clients, but the booze gets the better of him. He loses his job and the two get lost in a haze of drunkenness with dark moments of sobriety few and far between. When Joe finally admits that he is an alcoholic and attends his AA meetings, Kirsten becomes angry at his "goody-good" ways. The second act then tells the present story as Kirsten disappears for two days on a boozing binge. Joe finds her at a motel and through her badgering him as the milkman's best friend he breaks down and joins her for a few jolts. Kirsten doesn't want a man who doesn't have the guts to drink. When Joe goes back on the wagon, Kirsten leaves him and their daughter. Joe finally gets his life back together and learns to his surprise how much fun he can have being sober once he gets the hang of it.

**The play was
originally
produced on
television in
1958**



The Movie

Warner Brothers 1962

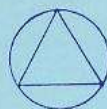
1960 Long Beach International



The Twelve Concepts

TWELVE CONCEPTS
FOR
WORLD SERVICE

By Bill W.



*As adopted by the 12th Annual
General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous
on April 26, 1962*

The Twelve Concepts

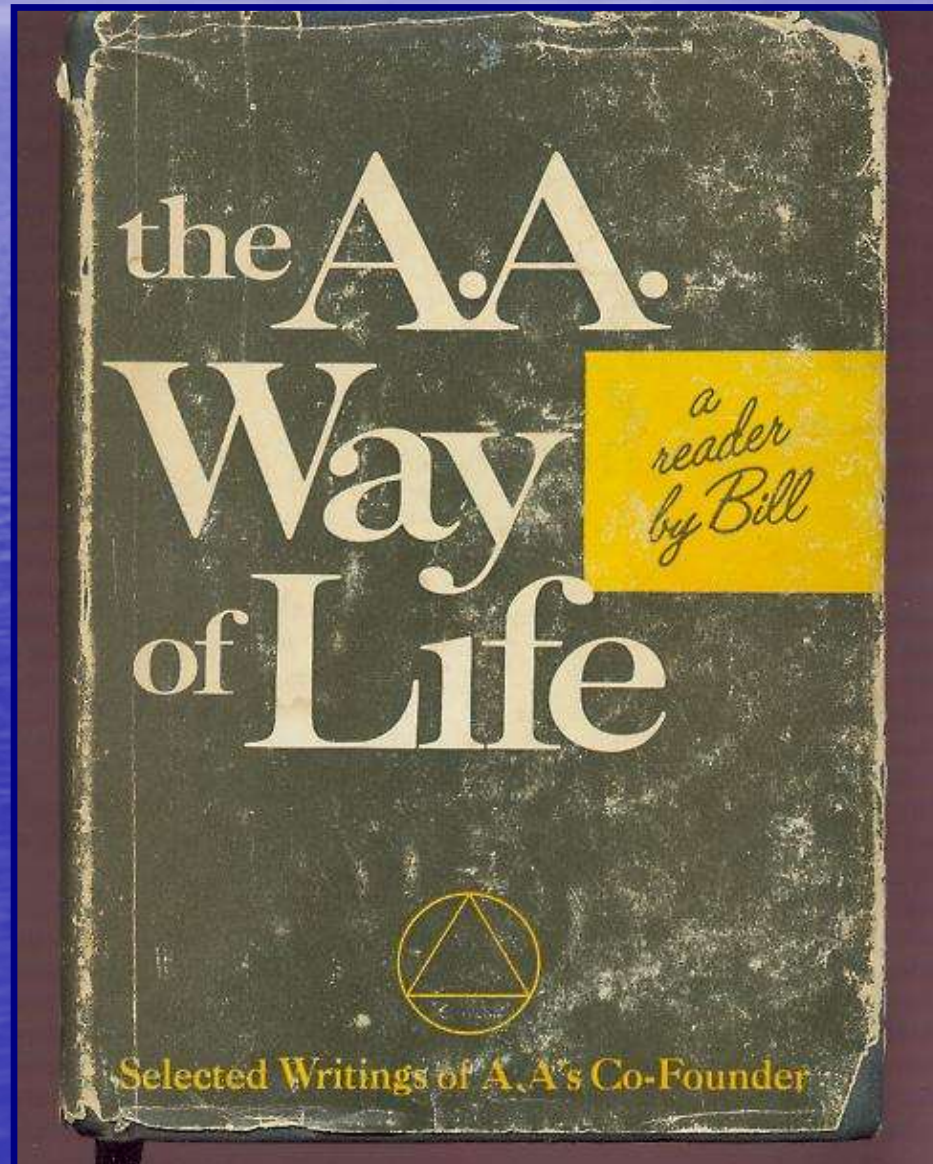
- **I. Final responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.**
- **II. The General Service Conference of A.A. has become, for nearly every practical purpose, the active voice and the effective conscience of our whole Society in its world affairs.**
- **III. To insure effective leadership, we should endow each element of A.A.—the Conference, the General Service Board and its service corporations, staffs, committees, and executives—with a traditional “Right of Decision.”**
- **IV. At all responsible levels, we ought to maintain a traditional “Right of Participation,” allowing a voting representation in reasonable proportion to the responsibility that each must discharge.**
- **V. Throughout our structure, a traditional “Right of Appeal” ought to prevail, so that minority opinion will be heard and personal grievances receive careful consideration.**
- **VI. The Conference recognizes that the chief initiative and active responsibility in most world service matters should be exercised by the trustee members of the Conference acting as the General Service Board.**
- **VII. The Charter and Bylaws of the General Service Board are legal instruments, empowering the trustees to manage and conduct world service affairs. The Conference Charter is not a legal document; it relies upon tradition and the A.A. purse for final effectiveness.**
- **VIII. The trustees are the principal planners and administrators of overall policy and finance. They have custodial oversight of the separately incorporated and constantly active services, exercising this through their ability to elect all the directors of these entities.**
- **IX. Good service leadership at all levels is indispensable for our future functioning and safety. Primary world service leadership, once exercised by the founders, must necessarily be assumed by the trustees.**
- **X. Every service responsibility should be matched by an equal service authority, with the scope of such authority well defined.**
- **XI. The trustees should always have the best possible committees, corporate service directors, executives, staffs, and consultants. Composition, qualifications, induction procedures, and rights and duties will always be matters of serious concern.**
- **XII. The Conference shall observe the spirit of A.A. tradition, taking care that it never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds and reserve be its prudent financial principle; that it place none of its members in a position of unqualified authority over others; that it reach all important decisions by discussion, vote, and, whenever possible, by substantial unanimity; that its actions never be personally punitive nor an incitement to public controversy; that it never perform acts of government, and that, like the Society it serves, it will always remain democratic in thought and action.**

1965 Toronto International

I am responsible . . .

**When anyone, anywhere,
reaches out for help, I want
the hand of A.A. always to be there.
And for that: I am responsible.**

1967 "The AA Way of Life"



1970 Miami International

A Declaration of Unity

This we owe to A.A.'s future:

To place our common welfare first;

To keep our Fellowship united.

For on A.A. unity depend our lives,

And the lives of those to come.

The Death of Bill W.

Continued on Page 10, Column 3

Bill W. of Alcoholics Anonymous Dies

By JOHN W. STEVENS

William Griffith Wilson died late Sunday night and, with the announcement of his death, was revealed to have been the Bill W. who was a co-founder of Alcoholics Anonymous in 1935. His age was 75.

The retired Wall Street securities analyst had expected to die or go insane as a hopeless drunk 36 years ago but — after what he called a dramatic spiritual experience — had sobered up and stayed sober. He leaves a program of recovery as a legacy to 475,000 acknowledged alcoholics in 15,000 A.A. groups throughout the United States and in 88 other countries.


Heart Institute in Miami Beach, Fla., in Bedford Hills, N.Y., where he had attained freedom from drinking compulsion with help from other alcoholics. She is a founder of the Al-Anon and Alateen groups, which deal with the fears and insecurity suffered by spouses and children of problem drinkers.

Mr. Wilson last spoke publicly on July 5 of last year in a three-minute talk he delivered after struggling from a wheelchair to the lectern at the closing session of A.A.'s 35th anniversary international convention in Miami, attended by 11,000 people. He had been admitted three days earlier to the Miami Heart Institute, his emphysema complicated by pneumonia.

Last Oct. 10, he was under hospital care for acute emphysema and was unable for some time to attend the A.A. convention in Miami.

After Mr. Wilson's death, Mr. W. W. W. fight to lose out of the sky, he and thus sing to the p changed an vert Hol- and fel- y di- ve the pat- lease

Living dead ever Sily dis- on actual



William Griffith Wilson

something holie shame and deeper purpose is to keep those fool egos of ours from running hog wild after money and fame

Washington Post Obituary of Bill Wilson

Known to Thousands as Bill W. Alcoholics Anonymous Founder Dies

Scores of thousands of people learned for the first time the name of the man who helped them recover from alcoholism when William Griffith Wilson died of pneumonia in a Miami Hospital Sunday night. The New York headquarters of Alcoholics Anonymous announced that. Mr. Wilson, retired securities analyst, was the man known as Bill., who co-founded the AA in. 1935. Mr. Wilson lived in Bedford Hills, N.Y. He was 75.

Thirty-six years ago, Mr. Wilson took his last drink, ending a career of alcoholism back to his days as an officer in the First World War.

Mr. Wilson went into a New York City hospital and was detoxified - but fell into a severe depression:

"Finally it seemed to me as though I were at the very bottom of the pit," he later wrote. "All at once I found myself crying out, 'If there is a God, let him show himself! I am ready to do anything, anything!'" Suddenly the room lit up with a great white light. It seemed to me, in the mind's eye, that I was on a mountain and that a wind, not of air, but of spirit was blowing. And then it burst upon me that was a free man. "I thought to myself, 'So this is the God of the preachers'"

Bill W. did not wait long before sharing his experience with a friend, AA's other co-founder, Dr. Robert Holbrook Smith of Akron, Ohio. Once Smith stopped drinking, the two men felt they knew that alcoholics could help each other recover.

They went to an Akron hospital and met a patient who had come in suffering from delirium tremens. He too got off and stayed off, and helping fellow alcoholics recover became the AA tradition. "They started a chain reaction, one drunk helping another," Nancy O., a congressional assistant, said yesterday. "The hand that reached out to me when I appealed for help was a link in the chain going back to Bill W. and Dr. Bob.

Alcoholics Anonymous now has half a million members worldwide. "It's by far the most successful resource of help in terms of the number of people they've treated," said Augustus Hewlett, executive secretary of the North American Association of Alcoholism Programs.

Mr. Wilson retired as director of the organization in 1952.

His first book, "Alcoholics Anonymous," written when the group had only 100 members, has sold more than 800,000 copies since it was first printed in 1939. His other books were "Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions," "Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age," and "The A.A. Way of Life."

Mr. Wilson went to great lengths to preserve his anonymity. When he testified in 1969 before a congressional committee investigating alcoholism, television cameras were barred and photographs were permitted only from behind.

He turned down honorary degrees and refused to have his picture on the cover of Time magazine in order to preserve his group's tradition of avoiding publicity as individuals.

Mr. Wilson never gave up his efforts at helping alcoholics recover. One desperate alcoholic once committed suicide in Mr. Wilson's home. Thousands of others stopped drinking and resumed the lives that alcoholism had interrupted.

Mr. Wilson was not boastful about his successes. "When you consider the enormous ramifications of this disease, we have just made a scratch on the surface," he told Senate committee in 1969. He was pleased by the increased government attention to alcoholism that followed the election of Harold Hughes, a recovered alcoholic, as senator from Iowa. "This is splashdown day for Apollo," he when Hughes first held hearings on alcoholism. "The impossible is happening."

Mr. Wilson is survived by his wife Lois, who remained with him during his period of drunkenness and helped start the "Al-Anon" program for families of alcoholics.



The General Service Office

475 Riverside Drive

New York, NY 10115



History of Alcoholics Anonymous in Minnesota



Bill Long



Chan Forman

Pat Cronin



Founder of 2218 "The Mother Club"

2218

In March of 1942, the Alano Society was incorporated into a holding society in order to legally acquire and own real estate. It was reincorporated in 1951. In April 1942, property at 2218 First Avenue South was purchased from the Washburn family for \$19,000. Other persons interested in buying this excellently located mansion had offered \$30,000. At that time, A.A. members in Minneapolis numbered one hundred thirty-five.

April of 1942 observed the first group banquet, held in honor of nine men who by then had obtained a full year or more of sobriety. At that time, Minneapolis A.A. had four groups with two hundred nine members.

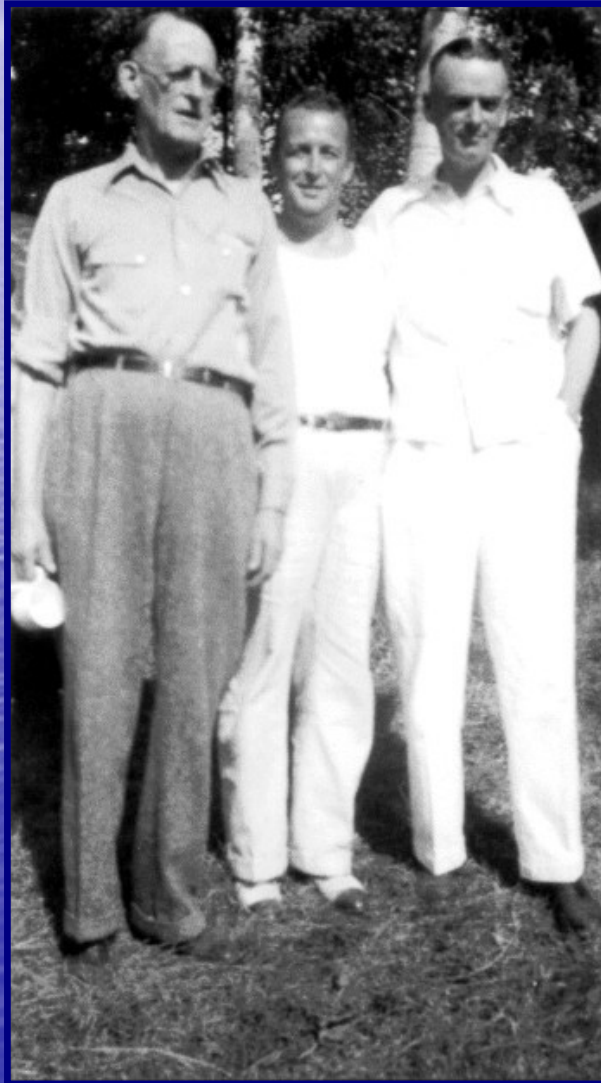
The Founders' Day banquets, sponsored by 2218, the "mother-club," have always been one of the great annual events in Minnesota A.A. The 1977 November 12 and 13 event exceeded all previous attendance records. A record crowd of 1775 were served dinner at the Hotel Radisson South at the Saturday evening banquet which honored Pat Cronin's dry date, as well as the one-year women and men. The master of ceremonies was Warren W. With Don R. presiding at the Sunday morning Founders' Day breakfast, some 780 persons broke bread together.

Several years ago 2218 decided to honor its twenty-five year members. In June 1977, the records revealed there were at that time thirty-three living honorary members with twenty five years or more of sobriety. Fourteen of these members had attained thirty or more years of sobriety. These persons have been a significant part of A.A.'s thirty seven year life in Minnesota.



*The "MOTHER Club" in Minneapolis
2218 1st Avenue South*

Barry Collins and the Nicollet Group



FROM THE BOOK- COURAGE TO CHANGE.

VII.

In January of 1944, there was a "split" in Minneapolis A.A. A group under the leadership of Barry Collins formed what became known as the "Nicollet Group." Ed Webster, author of "The Little Red Book" (October 1946), became a stalwart in this particular group. From the influence and activities of Barry, Ed, Pat and others, A.A. spread into the Canadian province of Manitoba and its provincial capital of Winnipeg. A.A., as personified in Pat Cronin and 2218, became dubbed by some as the "Original Group."

The first "split" in Minneapolis A.A. occurred in 1944 when in January the first meeting of the "Nicollet Chapter" was held. Viewed by some as a division, by others as growth, one would find good A.A.'s on both sides. Barry Collins felt his sobriety preceded Pat Cronin's. When Chandler F. and Bill L. visited Pat in November 1940, Barry was in the hospital. At any rate, Barry persuaded some of his squad members at 2218 to leave with him and establish the Nicollet Chapter. He used his influence also to get Ed Webster to join the newly organized group, which in time he did, but not until John Harrington, who was president of Alano at 2218, had completed his term of office. Barry Collins and Ed Webster were looked upon as co-founders of Nicollet A.A. which began with eighteen members.

The real essence of the struggle between Pat Cronin and Barry Collins evolved around the issue as to whether or not A.A. was for everybody. Cronin's concept was that A.A. was for everyone and fully open and inclusive. Collins took an exclusive point of view that placed the emphasis upon couples and families. His approach excluded as often as it included. It



Other Minnesota Information

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POLK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
JULIUS SPOKELY, SHERIFF
CROOKSTON, MINNESOTA

Aug 19 - 1940

The Alcoholic Foundation
P.O. Box 658
New York City

Gentlemen: I am enclosing my check
for \$3.50 for which kindly send me your
Book "Alcoholic Anonymous" and other
literature which I can give to a friend of
mine, that needs help.

Yours truly
Julius Spokely

Book
8/22/40

Letter to New York requesting a copy of
The Big Book for a Friend.

Minneapolis Minn

July 12-1939.

The Alcoholics Foundation

New York City

Dear Sirs -

Can you tell
me if there is a
Fellowship here in Minneapolis
my husband ^{and I have} ~~has~~ read
your book We think it
wonderful. He is trying
awfully hard - thought
it would help a great
deal if some one could
come and talk to him
he is a railroad engineer
and working ^{near} ~~always~~ ^{home} evenings and Sundays
If you can give them
his name and also

P. 2
Send us the name of
some one who belongs
think it will help a
great deal

Will write you again
and let you know how
things go

Will greatly appreciate
hearing from you

Thank you
Mrs Frank

Minneapolis Minn