

CRBIB#405245

Margaret Sidney and How She Grew

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Bibliography
9 Dec 1983

American children searching for interesting and entertaining literature in the mid 1800's were often confronted by dismal prospects. There was a surfeit of so-called "Sunday school books"--books distributed through Sunday schools--on the post-Civil War market. Yet these books were widely condemned for their generally poor quality. One editor labelled them a "mass of trashy, diluted, unnatural books." It was not until the 1860's and 70's that authors began writing realistic stories for children. One such author was Harriett Mulford Lothrop, better known as "Margaret Sidney." She created the famous "Pepper" family--Ben, Polly, Joel, Davie, Phronsie, and Mrs. Pepper, or "Mamsie" as she was affectionately called. Like the March family of Louisa May Alcott's beloved and highly successful Little Women (published 1868-9), the Peppers were a poor but stalwart family struggling to stay together. Perhaps inspired by Alcott's realism and energy, and aided by her own deep understanding of children's natures, matronly, patriotic Harriett Lothrop would write some of the most popular children's books of her day.

She was born Harriett Mulford-Stone in New Haven, Connecticut, on 22 June 1844. Young Harriett's lineage was indeed impressive-- on the paternal side she was an eighth generation descendant of Thomas Hooker, founder of Connecticut, whereas her mother, the daughter of a prominent New Haven shipowner and merchant, numbered Pilgrims of the Mayflower in her ancestry. Harriett's father, Sidney Mason Stone married Harriett Mulford, the tenth child, eighth daughter of Hervey and Nancy Mulford, in New Haven on 14 Sept. 1843. Stone had been married previously and had two sons and two daughters from that union. By his second wife he had two daughters, of whom Harriett was the eldest. ²

There is no reason to believe that Harriett's childhood was anything but pleasant. Her father was a famous architect who invented a system of ventilation, and was one of New Haven's first professionals in the field. ³ Before Yale established its own school of architecture, budding architects were sent to study under Stone's tutelage. The Stone household reflected an interest in learning and culture. There was an extensive home library to which Harriett had complete access, and reading was both encouraged and discussed. ⁴ The family was also very religious. They attended United Church on the Green, a Congregational church, where Stone was a deacon. The disciplined, religious atmosphere of the household was later to be reflected in the moral works Harriett wrote. ⁵ She attended Grove Hall Seminary in New Haven, and of her character at graduation it was said:

She had already an alertness of mental power, combined with the retentive faculty, and a great degree of imagination and poetic talent, that made her a

marked pupil from whom much was ⁶
to be expected in the future.

Despite such auspicious beginnings, it was not until Harriett was well into her thirties that she began to win recognition for her writing. She began writing at an early age, cutting pictures from newspaperes and magazines and inventing stories about them. She claimed these clippings were "hoarded as her dearest treasures" and yet she destroyed most of her early work, apparently dissatisfied with the results.⁷ In an autobiographical sketch, Harriett claims it was not until 1874 that she wrote her first piece for publication.⁸ It was "Bird Song"⁹ a piece (poem?) originally written for a niece that was later published in a children's magazine. Harriett's talent for writing was apparent, and yet it was not until around 1877, when she became a contributor to Wide Awake, a Boston-based children's magazine, that her work began to be noticed.⁹ In 1877, Wide Awake published her first story about the Pepper family, entitled "Polly Pepper's Chicken Pie." It was signed simply H.M.S... This reluctance to reveal her true identity was the result of Sidney Mason Stone's attitude toward women writers. He was a "gentleman of the old school" who frowned upon women who wrote for publication.¹⁰ In deference to her father's attitude she decided to use a penname. She later said this about her choice:

I chose my penname "Sidney" because it was my father's first name. He was a splendid man, strong and true, and that made me like "Sidney" which I had always liked from "Sir Philip" down. Besides I wanted something a good deal different from the lackadaisical soubriquets that were frequently selected in the "seventies," when I chose mine. "Margaret" was my favorite name for a girl not because it means "Pearl" and "Daisy" but because it means

Truth. So there you have it--Truth
and justice or chivalry, or whatever
you call the broad helpful influence
diffused by "Sidney."

I chose to write under a penname just
as thousands of others do I suppose.
I was not going to be good game for
derision if I failed. ||

One can only wonder the extent of the "broad helpful influence" .
this "splendid man" actually had upon Harriett, the aspiring writer,
if she felt compelled because of him to write under a pseudonym.
Was he able to put aside his prejudices in the case of his daughter,
or, as I suspect, was he really the one Harriett had in mind when
she wrote that last sentence? In any event, when she agreed to
write a serial about the Pepper family for Wide Awake the first
two chapters, appearing in January 1880, mark the first time Harriett
Lothrop used the penname "Margaret Sidney." ¹²

After the appearance of "Polly Pepper's Chicken Pie" in 1877,
Harriett, at the request of Ella Farman, editor of Wide Awake, pub-
lished "Phronsie Pepper's New Shoes." A letter from Farman dated
22 Jan 1877 is indicative of reader reaction to the Pepper stories:

I find "Phronsie Pepper's New Shoes" a
lovely story. I would not wish to
change it by so much as a word. On Pub-
lication will send you five dollars. I
wish it could be more. ¹³

Lucky Harriett! This enthusiastic response to the Pepper family
was echoed by hundreds of Wide Awake readers who clamored for more.
Farman asked her for a series of twelve stories about the Peppers,
and although she disliked serials, and worried that she would not
have enough to say, Harriett consented. ¹⁴ (She had no need to worry.
Before she was through with them Harriett would devote twelve vol-
umes to the Peppers.) In 1881, the serial appeared in book form
as The Five Little Peppers and How They Grew, published by the D.

Lothrop and Company. Harriett dedicated the volume to her mother, who had died 28 June 1880:

TO THE MEMORY OF
MY MOTHER
wise in counsel--tender in judgment, and in all charity--
strengthful in Christian faith
and purpose--
I dedicate, with reverence, this simple book.

The Pepper serial was significant for Harriett for another reason. The publisher of Wide Awake, Daniel Lothrop, became interested in meeting the author of the serial whose characters seemed so real. He stopped to meet Harriett in New Haven on his way to New York on business. According to her, he had business again in two weeks, and then in another two weeks. She later said, "and then the New York business did not seem so important." ¹⁵ Daniel Lothrop was indeed "a man of swift determination and energy," and on 4 October 1881 he and Harriett Stone were married in New Haven. ¹⁶ He was 50, she 37. This was Daniel Lothrop's second marriage. His first wife, Ellen J. Morrill of Dover, New Hampshire, whom he married in 1860, had died in March 1880. ¹⁷ Daniel and Harriett's marriage, although brief (he died in 1892) appears to have been happy. In an autobiographical sketch Harriett gives a glowing account of their union:

"Margaret Sidney" by her marriage entered into possession of the regal power that Love gives to every faculty of the heart and mind. Into an union with a nature so intellectual, so strong in the strength that cometh of God, as she found in her husband she came to find that hitherto life had been mere existence. ¹⁸

Daniel Lothrop was born in Rochester, New York, on 11 August 1831. He started in business at age 17, working as a senior partner in his older brother's drugstore in Dover, New Hampshire. Lothrop

eventually transformed it into a bookstore, and established branches in Newcastle and Great Falls. He founded his publishing firm, D. Lothrop and Company in Boston in 1868. Although it produced adult books, D. Lothrop and Company soon became known for its children's literature, particularly the "kind suitable for Sunday School libraries." ¹⁹ Lothrop himself was known as "The Children's Publisher," and was "indefatigable in his efforts to stimulate young writers and bring to the surface latent talent." ²⁰ That the works of his wife, Harriett, contributed much to the success of his firm cannot be disputed.

Wide Awake, the magazine where Harriett's career began, was founded by Daniel Lothrop in 1875. In both size and format it resembled St. Nicholas, another popular children's magazine of the time. It contained many illustrations of various sizes, as well as pages in large type for younger readers. It was aimed at an audience of 10-18 year olds, and was advertised as "the merriest and wisest of all magazines for young folks with a thousand quarto pages a year of literature by best authors and a half a thousand pictures by best artists." For two dollars a year children could read stories by George MacDonald, Mary E. Wilkins and Sarah Orne Jewett, to name but a few. Lothrop felt so strongly about the need for such a publication for American children that he continued to publish it to his death even though it lost \$10,000 a year. It was a feather in the cap of aspiring writer Harriett to have her work accepted by the prestigious Wide Awake. ²¹

Perhaps ~~the reason~~ the Pepper family seemed so real to its audience was because Harriett imagined them for many years before she actually committed them to paper. As a child she loved to take

rides into the country, eagerly hoping to find a "little brown house" similar to the one inhabited by the Peppers. Her own words tell of this childish longing in amusing detail:

It was a great calamity to me that my father was a successful architect and not a poor man living in the country-- I always stipulated while settling things in my own mind, that we should live in a little brown house, quite old and run-down, while we, the family, had to scratch for a living...I tormented everybody, misfortunate enough to take me on the drive, by importunate incessant questions "When is the little brown house coming?" As it was not legal in our State (Connecticut) to kill any one, and at my tender age (about six years) the Society for the prevention of cruelty to children would have taken the case up, my life was spared. I was invited on fewer drives of course, but never mind, I came to the conclusion that I would make my own little Brown House. And so I did. ZZ

So began the story of the Peppers of Badgertown, U.S.A. Harriett originally had no intention of making her brainchildren public, saying, "It was one thing to yarn to the other children (which I did most generously), my various imaginings, but quite another matter to realize that anybody really wanted to know them." Harriett found herself in a quandary when she realized she had to give her family a last name, as she had always thought of them by their first names only. She always went to great lengths to avoid giving one of her "bad" characters a name that an innocent person might have. In one instance, she took the name for one disagreeable character, Jeroboam Pettibone, from the Bible. After publication of the story in which he appeared, Harriett received an irate letter from a woman who wanted to know how Harriett knew her father and why she described him so exactly. (Harriett later said, ^{that} if she had been the daughter she would never have admitted the resemblance.) This inci-

dent made Harriett wary of names that were too realistic and determined to give her family a name no one else had. While sitting at her father's dinner table, she happened to glance at the salt and pepper shakers. "Salt" and "pepper" were common enough words, yet Harriett thought no one had them as^a last name. "Salt" as a last name didn't sound too poetic, but "Pepper" did, and so the family was christened. Years later Harriett would enjoy the joke when she became friendly with a family named Pepper who moved to Concord, Mass. 24

The Five Little Peppers and How They Grew is Harriett's idealized account of poverty. It is clear that the family, with all their hardships, lived and breathed for Harriett (when one reads her words about them.) She gave her reason for why there was no Mr. Pepper:

Now my judgment told me that I must eliminate Mr. Pepper, because the whole motif "to help Mother" would be lost if the man lived. It hurt me dreadfully. He was a most estimable man, and I loved my own father so much, it seemed the most wicked thing to do. I went around for days quite droopy and guilty. 25

As for Mrs. Pepper:

Unconsciously I put into her character some of my mother's qualities. Unconsciously I say, for I never copied any one, nor any saying of people in my stories. 26

And finally, in response to the query of why did she make the Peppers do something:

I make them! I didn't make them do anything. They did what they wanted to do; then came and told me about it, and I just wrote it down! 27

Harriett's audience found the Peppers every bit as real as she did. A letter from "Lottie" dated 22 April 1894 says:

My mamma has read the Five Little Peppers

and Five Little Peppers Midway
and Grown Up but you have not told us
what became of Phroasie, Ben, Joel,
Davie, or King Fisher, nor if Polly,
and Jasper, did get married or if they
were happy or if they had any children
so please write another book, telling
us about them. I am seven years old and
I am interested as mamma has read all
three books to me. 28

Another letter, from Anna Cutler Mattison dated 5 May 1922, says:

Ned and I were very much pleased
to receive your letters. I will
try to get down to Badgertown
sometime (sic) to visit Polly and
help her make Seraphina a dress.
Please tell Polly I will come some
day soon. 29

In the introduction to a later Pepper volume entitled Our Davie
Pepper, Harriett spoke of her visit to Badgertown, thus reinforcing
the Peppers' reality in the minds of many young readers. She was
often asked if Badgertown really existed, to which she always re-
plied that it was entirely a product of her imagination. ³⁰ A pub-
licity flyer put out by Lothrop, Lee and Shepard for The Five Little
Peppers in the Little Brown House (1907) stressed their true-to-life
nature in rather overblown language:

They are beyond criticism for they
are not pictures; it is breathing,
sentient life down to the core that
they give...WHAT THEY SAID AND WHAT
THEY DID is of vital importance to
us. (") says another, "as much as if it were
our family Margaret Sidney has written about.
We cannot understand our feeling for the
Peppers, but we know we shall meet them
one day in real life. We must; no one
could crush life out of them; they were
born to live." 31

Perhaps publicity hype hasn't changed all that much over the last
75 years.

The Five Little Peppers and How They Grew reflects Harriett's

deep understanding of children. She herself said in an article for Every Child's Magazine ³¹ "There is a freemasonry between all children and myself. We speak the same language, and understand each other." The Pepper books are lively, the children are interesting, and though somewhat prudish and goody-goody by modern standards, nonetheless they remain energetic and appealing. Although one critic labels Harriett's language in the books "overworked but sincere and effective," her didactic tone "does not much diminish the pleasurable impression of reality which one receives." ³² As a result of her simple, natural style, The Five Little Peppers and How They Grew became one of the first genuine "bestsellers," ^{of its kind} and one of the most popular juveniles ever written. Over 2,000,000 copies were sold in its first 50 years in print. ³³ Harriett's publishers obviously hoped such phenomenal success would keep repeating itself; for they cheerfully predicted that The Five Little Peppers in the Little Brown House was "foreordained to be the "best seller" among American juveniles for 1907." ³⁴

date? Harriett was determined not to continue the Pepper story, but her readers' response changed her mind. When asked by her publisher for a story of the Peppers grown up, she responded that she would first write about their growing up. ³⁵ In 1890 The Five Little Peppers Midway appeared, followed by The Five Little Peppers Grown Up in 1892. Harriett intended that the series end there, but obviously changed her mind, for in 1897 Phronsie Pepper appeared, dedicated

IN MEMORIAM. To my husband, who inspired whatever is of worth in this, and in all my books.

These later books, although successful, never achieved the popularity of the first. ³⁶ —

All the time her Pepper books were appealing to children all over the country, Harriett, with her husband, was pursuing other interests as well. After their marriage they had lived in boarding houses in Cambridge or Boston. Then, one day in 1883 while on his way to work, Daniel noticed an ad in a newspaper for the Hawthorne home, the Wayside, in Concord, Mass. He stopped at the real estate office, secured an option, and that night dangled the key in Harriett's delighted face as he asked, "Would Hawthorne's house do?" So on 25 May 1883, for \$5,000, the Lothrop's bought the Wayside. They were to hold the house for 82 years--longer than any previous owner, among whom were Hawthorne and the Alcotts. The Lothrop's moved to Concord in 1883, when Harriett was almost 39. They intended the home as a summer residence only, perhaps because of the bad commute to Boston during the winter months. It was at the Wayside, on 27 July 1884, that Harriett's only child, Margaret Mulford, was born.³⁷

Both Daniel and Harriett shared a keen interest^e in preserving the past, and for that reason made as few changes as possible to the Wayside. Harriett would spend part of her days writing in either Hawthorne's tower study or the sitting room. In the evening she and her husband would discuss literary matters, or perhaps, being of a social nature, entertain such friends as Edward Everett Hale, Julia Ward Howe, John Greenleaf Whittier and Oliver Wendall Holmes.³⁸

In all, Harriett and Daniel spent nine summers at the Wayside before his death. He had been in failing health for several years when on 18 March 1892 he died in Boston from kidney disease. After his death, Harriett managed his publishing company for two

years, at which time it was sold to three of Lothrop's former employees, who changed its name to the Lothrop Publishing Company. In 1904, it merged with another well-known Boston publisher, Lee and Shepard, to become Lothrop, Lee and Shepard. The company continued to publish Harriett's books, and to this day ~~still~~ exists as an imprint of the Wm. Morrow Company. ³⁹

It appears that Harriett encountered some financial problems after the death of her husband that caused her to rely more heavily on the power of her pen to insure a living for herself and her daughter. In a letter to Mr. H. Butterworth of the Youth's Companion (another extremely popular juvenile magazine of the time) dated 22 Jan 1894 she says of her situation:

Our corporation made as you know, a voluntary assignment to protect all its creditors. The glory and honour of my husband's life-work demanded this, I think, from us; so we did not try to overcome the disastrous effects of the terrible financial depression, by borrowing more money and running greater risk of involving others. Now as it is, all will be paid, dollar for dollar, we feel sure...I am trying to make some engagements to furnish sketches, poems, stories, essays etc--or to supply a column or department in a magazine or periodical--I do not refer of course to journalism--I never did a line of such work, and have no capacity for it... May I trouble you for any suggestions as to literary work I might do, or places where I might offer it. 40

After her husband's death, Harriett and her daughter spent more time at the Wayside. The winter of 1896-7 was the first they spent there. Harriett was also involved in memorial projects to her husband. On 8 July 1892, a bronze bust of Daniel Lothrop by Samuel Kitson was unveiled. Two years later Harriett wrote to a friend, detailing her plan to take "the long music room, the one that Mr. Hawthorne called his parlor for a Memorial Room for my hus-

band. In it are to be placed every book and magazine he ever published. This room will also contain the thousands of letters I have rec'd of him and his work. And many other tributes together with his bronze bust that you went with me to examine." 41

The 1890's mark another important event in Harriett's life. On 16 Oct 1893 she was admitted to the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, of which she became an active member. On 12 Oct 1894 she organized the Concord chapter of the DAR, and served as its regent for seven years. 42

Harriett, along with her husband, had always been interested in patriotic causes. In 1895 she conceived the idea of a patriotic organization for children, and at the 4th Continental Congress of the DAR, held in Washington on 19 Feb 1895, she proposed the formation of just such an organization. On 5 April 1895 the National Society[?] Children of the American Revolution was founded, with Harriett as its national president until 1901, and thereafter honorary president for life. 43

Harriett founded the society as a memorial to her husband, whom she said "had so often spoken of the necessity for a patriotic society for young people to be started in every city in the United States." 44

The purpose of NSCAR was "to give children a better and more extensive knowledge of American history and of our government to make them more responsible and understanding citizens." 45

Children to the age of 22 were enrolled as members, and while some critics thought it unwise to "indoctrinate" such young children with patriotic propoganda, nonetheless the movement met with great success. 46

Articles about it appeared in the Washington Times, Boston Transcript and Harper's Monthly, and within two years of its formation it had 100 chapters. One of them, the Old North Bridge Society of Concord, was organized

by Harriett on 11 May 1895. Harriett's daughter Margaret was number one on the national membership list. Harriett wrote the CAR's constitution and by-laws, and established requirements for membership and chartering of local chapters. She also designed its insignia, and the logo to head the society's charter. ⁴² She diligently searched for an historic incident that could be illustrated for the latter, and finally discovered an eyewitness account of the welcome given George Washington in 1780 by the children of Providence, R. I.. It is nighttime, and Washington is surrounded by torch-bearing children calling him "Father." Washington reportedly said, "We may be beaten by the English; it is the chance of war; but behold an army which they can never conquer." Although the story and Harriett's suggestions for a sketch were accepted by the National Board of the CAR, she apparently had some problems with the firm commissioned to execute the design. In a letter dated 5 Dec 1896 to the Bailey Banks Biddle Company

Harriett laments:

The enclosed sketch for heading of Charter it appears to me might have been a success, if the instructions ⁴³ concerning it had been carried out.

The artist had misunderstood her instructions that the sketch be of a city at nightfall. Instead, she claimed that their illustration showed "a country fence and school house of modern style, with a flag flying!" She politely but firmly requested that they make the necessary changes. Harriett Lothrop was to remain an active member of the CAR all her life. On 22 Feb 1896 she brought to order its First National Convention, and during the Spanish-American War sponsored a campaign for young children to donate their allowances for candy in order to buy items for the soldiers and sailors. During WWI Lothrop

donated many complete sets of the twelve Pepper Looks to various CAR chapters. These were read aloud while the children did war relief work. At her death CAR membership would number between 22-25000 children. ⁴⁹ Still exists?

Harriett had other interests as well, all equally patriotic and noble. She was involved in a campaign to make corn the American national flower. Again, she was following her husband's example in this, as he had made this a favorite project of his. Harriett wrote the following tribute to the mighty corn:

Hail to thee, corn!
For wide as the sea,
Are the waves of thy fields
O'er the land of the free.
With blessing benignant
Thou crownest our days
We choose thee our emblem
O, glorious maize! 50

She also supported the Indian's cause, and in March of 1884 wrote an article for Wide Awake about a trip she took with her husband and 54 others (including members of Congress) to the government run Carlisle School for Indian Pupils in Pennsylvania. She wrote the account in order that "we may all come somewhat more understandingly to a clearer idea of the claims of the Indian upon us." 51

We have cause to be grateful to Harriett, for as a result of her keen social conscience and interest in historic preservation, three Concord landmarks have been preserved. On 28 Oct 1899 she bought the Ephraim Wales Bull estate, "Grapevine Cottage" and after much restoration dedicated it on 12 April 1900 as a memorial to the originator of the Concord grape. In 1902 she purchased Orchard House, home of Louisa May Alcott, when it was slated for destruction. She held the house for ten years until the Louisa May Alcott Memorial

Association was established to maintain it. 24 March 1909 marks the beginnings of Harriett's efforts to save the "Old Tolman House," a colonial residence in Concord that later became the Chapter Headquarters of the Concord DAR. ⁵²

Harriett's sociable nature did not wane as a result of her husband's death. She continued to hold literary and historical gatherings at the Wayside, including occasional informal meetings of the East Quarter Reading Circle led by Ellen Emerson, daughter of Ralph Waldo Emerson. She held large formal receptions as well, organizing one for Julia Ward Howe and Concord politician Frank Sanborn. Perhaps her most impressive effort was the four-day Hawthorne Centenary, commemorating the 100th anniversary of his birth. Exercises took place in July 1904 at the Wayside and included the dedication of a bronze tablet set in a granite boulder leading from the Wayside to the hill behind it. ⁵³ Many papers were read by people who had known Hawthorne, and a book giving a complete account of the proceedings was later published. One guest who attended the Centenary, said it was "a fitful [?] fete which the generosity, tact and exquisite taste of Mrs. Lothrop have enabled us to enjoy on this centennial." ⁵⁴ Daughter Margaret was also feted on her birthdays by her mother. These were elaborate affairs, a notable example of which is the entertainment held for Margaret's fourth birthday. A group of young girls who had been taught their steps by Elizabeth Palmer Peabody came dancing down the hill behind the Wayside and around the lawn. They then circled round an artificial rose in which sat little Margaret. She was then called from the rose by the children. Despite the charm and elaborate nature of the routine, Margaret later recalled that her clearest memory was of her impatience as she waited to be released

from the suffocating rose. ^{source?}

Despite social interruptions, Harriett remained dedicated to her career as a writer. When writing, she would curtail all social activities and devote about eight hours a day to her project until it was finally completed. She wrote from ^{to} 6-8 and ^{to} 10-12 in the morning and 1-5 in the afternoon, always in longhand. The only aspect of her writing that she appears to have disliked was the reading of the proofs. ⁵⁴ She wrote other serials after the Peppers-- "A New Departure for Girls," "Dilly and the Captain" (1897) and "Peggy and Her Family." Perhaps not so successful as her next publication in Wide Awake after "The Five Little Peppers and How They Grew" was "Cousin Sallie's Wedding Slippers." In it a black child and her mother speak in unintelligible dialect while the white characters speak in flawless English. As one critic succinctly stated, "Alas! ^(Margaret Adney) She did not write great literature, but she did write a lot!" ⁵⁰ Other well-known books were What the Seven Did (1882), Old Concord: Her Highways and Byways (1888, revised 1892), and Whittier With the Children, a reminiscence of the poet written after his death. She wrote some adult fiction as well. The Golden West; as seen by the Ridgway Club was a fictionalized account of a trip New Englanders take to California that appeared in 1886. Little Maid of Concord Town appeared in 1898, and its counterpart Little Maid of Boston Town in 1910. Her last book ^{published} was Our Davie Pepper in 1916. In all, Harriett wrote about forty stories and poems, many of them concerning patriotic subjects. ⁵⁷ *insert from p. 18*

After the turn of the century, Harriett and her daughter travelled extensively abroad. Between 1900 and 1910 she made six trips overseas, drawing from her experiences in order to write

Stepanski

The Five Little Peppers Abroad. In 1906 she and Margaret visited Egypt and Palestine, and during one trip they followed Hawthorne's footsteps in Rome, using the Marble Faun as a guidebook.⁵⁹ However, these were "working vacations" as Harriett makes plain in a letter to Miss Jasquith from Germany (?), dated 28 August 1910:

I have endeavored to write oftener to you. But I am differently situated from the ordinary tourist who travels for pleasure only. My literary work is ever present with me--bidding me to fresh exertions and greater toil. 60

But even well-established authors ^{such as} like "Margaret Sidney" encounter rejection along the way. The editor of the Youth's Companion, in a letter dated 17 August 1912, returned the MS to her with the polite refusal:

It has been a pleasure to have the privilege of considering a story from your pen, and we very much wish that we could report an acceptance. Unfortunately, however, it is considerably too juvenile to be adapted to The Companion, and for this reason it seems necessary to return the MS to you. 58

Harriett's companion during all these years was her daughter Margaret. She had graduated from Concord High in June of 1900, and in September 1901 entered Smith College. She graduated from there in 1905 and later pursued graduate studies at Stanford University in California. After 1915, Harriett began to spend most of her winters in California in order to be near her daughter, who had accepted a teaching position at Stanford. On 15 May 1918 Margaret went to France with the Red Cross to do civilian war work. Harriett conducted a voluminous correspondence with her absent daughter. A note written by Harriett on one of Margaret's letter states that by 20 Sept 1918 she had written forty letters to her daughter. Margaret returned to the U.S. on 23 July 1919. 61

is on one of

Harriett's later years were relatively uneventful. She regularly spent part of each year in Concord. Although she belonged to many clubs and organizations, she never expressed interest in the women's suffrage movement. Then, on 2 August 1924, while on a visit to her daughter, Harriett Lothrop died in a hotel in San Francisco. She had been in failing health and had visited a hospital in San Francisco shortly before her death, which was the result of heart disease. Funeral services were held in the All Saints Episcopal Church in Palo Alto on 4 August, with a memorial service in Boston in November. Her body was cremated and the ashes interred in the family plot in Sleepy Hollow Cemetery in Concord. ⁶²

To the end of her life Harriett Lothrop remained an active and energetic woman. Shortly before she died she had been working on an article on Edgar Allan Poe. ^{at her death,} Thirty-three of her books were still in print ~~when she died~~, although most obituaries noted her ^{as the} author of the famous Pepper books. Unfortunately, her death may have been slightly overshadowed by the passing of ^{another literary figure,} Joseph Conrad, whose obituary eclipses hers in the Boston Transcript.

Perhaps Harriett Lothrop did not write great literature. Yet she did make a name for herself in the annals of children's literature with The Five Little Peppers and How They Grew. A testimony to its enduring popularity is found in the fact that it is still in print, 102 years after it first appeared in book form. Harriett's daughter Margaret did much to keep the memory of her mother and her works alive. She returned to Concord from California in 1932, and devoted her life to the preservation of the Wayside. It also appears that she ran a mail order business out of her home, selling pictures

of her mother and inscribed copies of the Pepper books to readers who still wrote, expressing their fondness for them. When Margaret died in 1970, she left legacies to Smith and Stanford, in the memory of her father and mother. A "Phronsie Pepper Fund" was established at Children's Hospital as well. 63

It was said of Harriett Lothrop after her death:

Life each day was always a new experience, to be met cheerfully and to be enjoyed as much as possible. She had a fund of stories which she could tell gaily and effectively yet deep in her soul was an almost Buritanical sense of duty as well as a feeling of responsibility for others, especially for children. 64

Harriett's sense of duty and morality can be seen in the sentimental but cheerful Pepper books. Although they may seem old-fashioned to many, nonetheless their charm remains. Harriett's fondness for children and evident ability to communicate with them made the Peppers her most enduring legacy, and ensure her a respectable position in the history of children's literature.

NOTES

1 Richard L. Darling, The Rise of Children's Book Reviewing in America, 1865-1881 (New York: R.R. Bowker Company, 1968), p. 25.

2 Much of the factual information about Harriett Lothrop's life was obtained from the following sources: The Reader's Encyclopedia of American Literature, ed. Max J Herzberg, (New York: Crowell, 1962), National Cyclopaedia of American Biography, vol 8, (New York; 1925, rpt. Ann Arbor: University Microfilms, 1967) hereafter cited as NCAE; Minute Man National Historic Park, Chronology of Margaret Sidney Prepared by Robert T. Derry, June 1980; Notable American Women 1607-1950, ed. Edward T. James, (Cambridge: The Belknap Press, 1971).
et al. (at wife)

3 Norma Bright Carson, "Margaret Sidney--The Writer of the Famous Polly Pepper books," The Book News Monthly, vol 23 (Feb 1910), p. 412.

4 Stanley J. Kunitz, The Junior Book of Authors (New York: H.W. Wilson company, 1934), p. 7.

5 Christiane Bird, "Harriet (sic) Mulford Stone Lothrop," American Women Writers: A Critical Reference Guide from Colonial Times to the Present (1981), p. 36.

6 NCAE, p. 383.

7 Kunitz, Junior Book p. 7.

8 Minute Man National Historic Park MS 87. The bulk of Harriett Lothrop's papers were donated by her daughter Margaret to the Park in Concord, Mass. Some attempt at indexing them has been made, hence the numerical citations for MS whenever possible. Un-

fortunately, a thorough job remains to be done, which accounts for some of the sketchy MS notations.

⁹ Stanley J. Kunitz and Howard Haycraft, American Authors, 1600-1900: A Biographical Dictionary of American Literature (New York: *H.W. Watson Co, 1966*), p. 483.

¹⁰ Margaret Mulford Lothrop, The Wayside: Home of Authors (New York, 1968, rpt. n.p.: Eastern National Park and Monument Association, 1983), p. 156.

¹¹ Lothrop, pp. 156-7.

¹² Elizabeth Johnson, "Margaret Sidney vs. Harriet [sic] Lothrop," The Horn Book, vol. 7 (1971), p. 139.

¹³ Minute Man Natl. Historic Park MS.

¹⁴ Carson, p. 408.

¹⁵ Lothrop, p. 155.

¹⁶ "A Boston Letter," The Critic, vol 17 (March 1892), p. 185.

¹⁷ "A Boston Letter," p. 185.

¹⁸ Minute Man Natl Historic Park MS 87.

¹⁹ "Harriet Mulford ^{Stone Lothrop}," DBB (1961), p. 425.

²⁰ NCAE, p. 383.

²¹ Information about Wide Awake magazine was obtained from the following sources: A Critical History of Children's Literature, ed. Coraelia Meigs, (New York: MacMillan Company, 1969), p. 255; Research About Nineteenth-Century Children and Books: Portrait Studies, ed. Selma Richardson, (Urbana: Univ of Illinois, 1980), pp. 127-8; Johnson, pp. 139-40; Lothrop, p. 154; U.S Department of the Interior, The Wayside Minute Man National Historic Park Historic Structure

Report Part II Historic Data Section, by Robert D. Ronsheim, 29 Feb 1968; Johnson, p. 140.

22 Minute Man Natl Historic Park MS 70.

23 Harriett Mulford Lothrop, "How I Came to Write the "Pepper" Books," Every Child's Magazine, n.d., p. 83.

24 Lothrop, p. 176.

25 Harriett Lothrop, p. 82.

26 Lothrop, p. 171.

27 Lothrop, p. 175.

28 Minute Man Natl. Historic Park MS.

29 Minute Man National Historic Park MS.

30 Lothrop, p. 175.

31 A copy of the publicity flyer is located in the Minute Man National Historic Park.

32 Bird, p. 36; DAB, p. 425.

33 Concise Dictionary of American Literature, ed. Robert Fulton Richards (New York: The Philosophical Library, 1955), p. 132.

34 A copy of the publicity flyer is located in the Minute Man National Historic Park.

35 Carson, pp. 408-9.

36 Kunitz and Haycroft, American Authors, p. 487.

37 Lothrop, p. 157; Minute Man National Historic Park Chronology; U.S. Department of Interior, p. 33; Margaret Mulford Lothrop(?), article in Concord Journal, 23 Nov 1961.

38 Kunitz and Haycroft, Junior Book, p. 336; Janice Reichter, remark given during tour of the Wayside, ^{30 Oct 1963} 30 Oct; Lothrop, pp. 163, 168;

U.S. Department of the Interior, p. 34-5.

39 Lothrop, p. 163, 169; "A Boston Letter," p. 185.

40 Minute Man National Historic Park MS.

41 Minute Man National Historic Park MS.

42 Minute Man National Historic Park Chronology

43 Dorothy Cleaveland Salisbury, "Behold An Army," The DAR Magazine,

vol 103 (April 1969), p. 373.

44 Harriett Lothrop, p. 83.

45 Salisbury, p. 376.

46 Margaret Gibbs, The DAR (New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1969), p. 72.

47 Salisbury, p. 373-4.

48 Minute Man National Historic Park MS.

49 Salisbury, p. 374; Gibbs, p. 72, 95; DAB, p. 476.

50 Johnson, p. 144.

51 Johnson, p. 145.

52 U.S. Department of the Interior, p. 37; Minute Man National Historic Park Chronology; Notable American Women, p. 432.

53 Johnson, p. 141, 143; Lothrop, p. 156, 180.

54 Lothrop, p. 165.

55 Lothrop, p. 177:

56 Johnson, p. 313.

57 Bird, p. 37.

58 Minute Man National Historic Park MS.

59 Minute Man National Historic Park MS 421005-3; Carson, p. 411.

60 Minute Man National Historic Park MS.

61 Minute Man National Historic Park Chronology; Margaret

Mulford Lothrop obituary in Concord Journal, 21 May 1970; Minute
Man National Historic Park MS.

62 Notable American Women, p. 432; Lothrop, p. 185; obituaries
for Harriett Lothrop appeared in the Boston Transcript (4 Aug 1924),
The Lexington Times (8 Aug 1924), The New York Times (5 Aug 1924), the
Boston Globe (4 Aug 1924), and Publishers Weekly (9 Aug 1924).

63 Both Harriett^s and Margaret's will are located in the Middle-
sex County Courthouse in Cambridge, Mass.

64 Minute Man National Historic Park MS 421005-3.