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Writing "under the most trying circumstances":

The life and interrupted career of

Harriet Putnam Hill Nowell (May Mannering, Harriet Putnam)

by Deidre A. Johnson

Harriet Putnam Hill Nowell is one of several authors who fall into two of the general categories for this study – wives of ministers and women responsible for only one series. Like other ministers' spouses, she wrote to supplement the family income and submitted some of her work to denominational publishers; unlike her counterparts, she had a husband who left the ministry after less than a decade, though that did not deter her from sending stories to religious periodicals. Like several of the other women with only one series, she found a publisher in Lee & Shepard during the firm's brief push to increase its lists by trying unknown (and unproven) authors.

Among the cadre of now-forgotten children's authors whose careers raise unanswered questions is Harriet Putnam Hill Nowell. In her heyday, from approximately 1863 to 1873, she penned one series and almost two dozen stories under the pseudonym May Mannering – then disappeared from publishing. Two decades later, she resumed writing under the May Mannering pseudonym and also adopted another one, Harriet Putnam. Although the identity behind the Mannering pseudonym was revealed early in her career and the link between Mannering and Putnam disclosed within a year, no additional biographical information about Nowell ever found its way into reference works.¹ This omission is somewhat ironic, since Nowell often drew from her own life for anecdotes and sprinkled her fiction with names of relatives and other references to her family history. Her story, captured in part through archival material, is that of an author

¹ The *Catalogue of Books Added to the Library of Congress from December 1, 1868, to December 1, 1869* listed the pseudonym for *Salt-Water Dick*; it was then added to library catalogues (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1870): 245. Nowell's entry in *A Dictionary of North American Authors Deceased before 1950* -- one of the only reference works that includes her -- reads in its entirety, "Nowell, Mrs. Harriet P. H., novelist, fl. 1868-71" (Toronto: Ryerson Press, 1951): 331. As of this writing, the Library of Congress's authority file incorrectly identifies her as Harriet P. Hardy Nowell instead of Harriet P. Hill Nowell.

whose aspirations perhaps exceeded the resources she possessed (both time and skill), and one whose history shows a woman struggling against personal and professional challenges, not always successfully. It also illustrates ways in which midlist authors' lives influenced their fiction and obstacles married women faced trying to profit from writing while maintaining a home.

The second of four children, Harriet Putnam Hill was born to Valeria Marchmont Brown (1813-1895) and James Madison Hill (1812-1888) in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, in March 1840. Her older brother Elisha died before Harriet was ten; her sister Katie was born about 1845; her brother James Frederick (called Fred) arrived in September 1850. Harriet's father traced his ancestry back through his namesake, Captain James Hill, who, allegedly, was "one of the twelve citizens elected to receive General George Washington when he visited Portsmouth" and who participated in the Revolutionary War, a heritage that would shape some of Harriet's writing.² James Hill's entry in the 1850 census shows him as a "sea captain" with real estate valued at \$1500, and the 1860 census charts his continued success: he is listed as a "master mariner," with real estate worth \$4000 and another \$1000 in personal property.³ Harriet thus grew up in comfortable circumstances with a father whose occupation gave her some familiarity with ships and sea travel.

Harriet probably met her future husband, William Gray Nowell, in Portsmouth, for the 1860 census suggests he lived in the vicinity of her father's home.⁴ Born in Portsmouth in August 1838, William was the son of a local merchant; he received a B.A. from Bowdoin in 1859 and an M.A. soon after, then completed his D.D. at Harvard Divinity School in July 1862.⁵

2 "William H. Hill," *The Massachusetts Magazine* 3 (1910): 17; "Mrs. Harriet Putnam Hill Nowell" [#14243], *Lineage Book: National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution*, vol. 15 (Washington, D.C.: N.p., 1902): 89; 1850 United States Federal Census, Portsmouth, Rockingham, New Hampshire; Roll M432_437; Page: 38B; Image: 83, Ancestry.com. Harriet's birthdate is from her death certificate in *Massachusetts Vital Records, 1841-1910*, vol. 62: 153, American Ancestors by New England Historic Genealogical Society. Her brother's birthdate is from his entry in the 1900 United States Federal Census, Malden Ward 4, Middlesex, Massachusetts; Roll T623_662; Page: 2A; Enumeration District: 842, Ancestry.com, and his grandson David Madison Alger's membership application in Sons of the American Revolution Membership Applications, 1889-1970, Ancestry.com. William Hill and Valeria Brown were married in Greenland, New Hampshire, in 1834.

3 1860 United States Federal Census, Portsmouth Ward 2, Rockingham, New Hampshire; Roll M653_679; Pages: 801-802; Images: 186-187; Family History Library Film: 803679, Ancestry.com.

4 Nowell's entry in the census is only nine pages from Hill's, indicating geographical proximity. 1860 United States Federal Census, Portsmouth Ward 3, Rockingham, New Hampshire; Roll M653_679; Page: 811; Image: 196; Family History Library Film: 803679, Ancestry.com.

5 *The Eleventh General Catalogue of the Psi Upsilon Fraternity* (N.p.: N.p., 1902): 217, Google Books.

For the next two years, he looked for a parish, eventually extending his search to the midwest,⁶ where a brief news item from the *Wisconsin Daily Patriot* (Madison) notes that Nowell, "a Unitarian clergyman who comes highly recommended from the East," gave the sermon at a local church on December 27, 1863.⁷

In March 1864, William accepted a position at the Unitarian church in Rockford, Illinois, and was installed as pastor in April.⁸ Two months later, on June 25, 1864, Harriet and William married in Portsmouth; by mid-July, the couple were both in Rockford.⁹ During her time in Illinois, Harriet played an active part in the church and community, serving as secretary of the local Soldiers' Aid Society, founding a Young Ladies Soldiers' Aid Society, teaching Sunday School, welcoming young African-American children into her classes, and helping to set up the foundation for a Freedman's Aid Society.¹⁰ She also demonstrated creative and artistic skills in needlework and art, carrying off four first prizes (one for worsted work, two for paintings in oil, one for watercolor) at the Winnebago County Agricultural Society's Annual Fair in September 1864.¹¹

Despite Harriet's involvement with the community, the couple's backgrounds may have left them unprepared for life on a minister's salary, especially in a poor church. While the church's history indicates the congregation was quite pleased with William's preaching, his salary was so low that the Nowells could not even afford their own home but had to live with parishioners.¹² The financial situation continued to decline, and by December 1864, William

6 His name appears among the Unitarian "Candidates for Settlement" in 1862 and 1863. *The Monthly Journal of the American Unitarian Association* 3 (1862): 383-84, 432, 480; *The Monthly Journal of the American Unitarian Association* 4 (1863): 48, 192. The *Journal* discontinued the quarterly listings of candidates after April 1863.

7 "Religious Notice," *Wisconsin Daily Patriot* (Madison), Dec. 24, 1863: 4, America's Historical Newspapers. William's older brother, Winslow A. Nowell (1834-1905) settled in Milwaukee about 1864; whether the two incidents are connected is unknown (Marshall Cushing, *The Story of Our Post Office* [Boston: A. M. Thayer, 1892]: 787-89, Google Books).

8 *The Monthly Journal of the American Unitarian Association* 5 (1864): 191, 238, Google Books.

9 "Records of the South Church of Portsmouth, N.H.," *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register* 83 (July 1929): 300, American Ancestors by New England Historic Genealogical Society; untitled news items announcing William's return and a reception for the Nowells, *Rockford (IL) Weekly Register-Gazette*, July 9, 1864: 3; July 16, 1864: 3, both GenealogyBank.

10 "The Soldiers' Aid Society Festival," *Rock River Democrat* (Rockford, IL), Nov. 17, 1864: 3; "Young Ladies' Aid Society," *Rockford (IL) Weekly Register-Gazette*, Sept. 10, 1864: 3, both GenealogyBank; "A Letter," *Sunday School Gazette* 15 (Oct. 1864): 37-38; "Letter No. 3," *Sunday School Gazette* 16 (May 1865): 18, both American Antiquarian Society Historical Periodicals; "The Freed People – Colony," *Rock River Democrat* (Rockford, IL), March 16, 1865: 3, GenealogyBank.

11 "Eleventh Annual Fair of the Winnebago County Agricultural Society," *Rockford (IL) Democrat*, Sept. 14, 1864: 2, GenealogyBank.

12 "History of the Unitarian Universalist Church," *The Unitarian Universalist Church, Rockford*,

was appealing to the American Unitarian Association for a donation of *Sunday-School Liturgys* for his church,¹³ and a local paper reported that Harriet was sending some of her watercolors to Chicago and Boston to be sold.¹⁴ Soon after, the Rockford Unitarians decided they could no longer afford a minister's salary, and the Nowells left in July 1865.¹⁵

Harriet's earliest identified publications date from the year before her marriage. Using the pseudonym May Mannering, she began by submitting material to a Unitarian periodical, *Sunday-School Gazette*. Her "Morning Glories," a short essay exhorting children to remember to turn to God throughout the day in order to "keep [their hearts] open and pure as the morning glories in the early morning," appeared in mid-March 1863.¹⁶ The May 1, 1863, issue carried her "Whistle Willows," which, like many of her subsequent pieces, made oblique references to relatives – in this case, two siblings named May (i.e., Harriet) and Fred.¹⁷ By the end of the year, Harriet was also selling to secular periodicals. "Ned Peters the Newsboy" appeared in the November 1863 issue of *Student and Schoolmate*, a magazine edited by one of the most popular children's writers of the era, William T. Adams (who wrote as Oliver Optic), and one which would later publish the success stories of fellow Unitarian Horatio Alger, Jr.

Whether Harriet's initial impulse had been a desire to write or an attempt to earn money while waiting to wed is unknown, but it seems probable that the couple's financial situation encouraged her to continue submitting material for publication and even to try new markets. In 1864, she sold at least two more stories to *Student and Schoolmate* and another to *Merry's Museum*, "[o]ne of the premiere U.S. children's magazines of its day."¹⁸ She also had two more items published in *Sunday School Gazette*, one of which was a letter describing her new church

<https://www.uurockford.org/our-history.html>. Some sources erroneously list the city as Rockport.

13 "Meetings of the Executive Committee," *The Monthly Journal of the American Unitarian Association* 6 (1865): 35-36, Google Books.

14 "Home Art," *Rock River Democrat* (Rockford, IL), Dec. 15, 1864: 3, GenealogyBank.

15 "History of the Unitarian Universalist Church." It's hard to determine to what extent the financial problems may have been tied to the Nowells' – or William's – lifestyle. An advertisement from the May 27, 1865, *Rockford (IL) Weekly Register-Gazette*, presumably placed as the Nowells were preparing to leave the area, lists the furniture William was selling: it includes "a fine LIBRARY CASE, . . . PARLOR CHAIRS and SOFA, Tables, Superfine Ingrain Carpets" and other items – a generous amount of furnishings if the couple were boarding with a local family and had been settled for less than a year.

16 May Mannering [Harriet P. H. Nowell], "Morning Glories," *Sunday School Gazette* 14 (March 15, 1863): 22, American Antiquarian Society Historical Periodicals.

17 May Mannering [Harriet P. H. Nowell], "Whistle Willows," *Sunday School Gazette* 14 (May 1, 1863): 24, American Antiquarian Society Historical Periodicals. This is the first of Nowell's stories to refer to the siblings, Fred and May; the story also references Lizzie Brown, possibly a cousin.

18 Pat Pflieger, "Nineteenth-Century American Children & What They Read: Some of Their Magazines," *Works for Children and Adults, 1789-1872*, <https://www.merrycoz.org/Mags01.xhtml#merrys>.

and some of her activities, including teaching Sunday school and encouraging African-American children in the area to attend.

Nowell's early stories contain several traits characteristic of her later work. "Ned Peters the Newsboy" shows her predilection for incorporating historical material and homiletics: she concludes the fictitious tale of a newsboy who befriends an injured child with an inspirational anecdote about General Ormsby Mitchell, stressing his rise from poverty to success and urging, "Trust in God and . . . be determined to make your way honestly in the world."¹⁹ Another early piece, "School at Battery Sullivan," from the July 1864 *Student and Schoolmate*, draws on a familiar setting -- Portsmouth, New Hampshire -- and possibly autobiographical elements, offering an informational account of an informal school several young women of Portsmouth established to teach a battalion of former slaves who were stationed at Fort Sullivan.²⁰ "Maplewood Phantom Tales," in the November and December 1864 issues of *Merry's Museum*, illustrates the type of autobiographical details found in Nowell's later fiction: like Harriet, the narrator has a "great-grandfather of Revolutionary fame" acquainted with General Washington; the first installment recounts the experiences of a ship captain named James, while the second part includes an anecdote set in "the good old town of P-----, in New Hampshire."²¹ The story's loose narrative structure -- essentially a collection of anecdotes -- also prefigures the episodic nature of several of Nowell's series books. Finally, with "He Never Smiled Again" in the January 1865 *Student and Schoolmate*, Harriet blends historical anecdote, moral lesson, and her knowledge of the sea -- the same combination that would appear in several of her series books -- in an account of the shipwreck that drowned Prince William, son of Henry I (which she saw as "direct punishment from the chastening rod of the Almighty" for Henry's "crime to his brother" Robert).²²

After a poem in the March 1865 *Student and Schoolmate* and a letter in the May *Sunday*

19 May Mannering [Harriet P. H. Nowell], "Ned Peters the Newsboy," *Ever New and Never Old; or, Twice Told Stories, by the Best Authors* (Boston: Joseph H. Allen, 1870): 221, Google Books. "Ned Peters" was originally published in *Student and Schoolmate* 12 (November, 1863): 334-37, and reprinted in *Ever New and Never Old*. The author wishes to express her gratitude to Dr. John T. Dizer, Dr. Pat Pflieger, and Peter Walther for assistance with information about the original publication.

20 May Mannering [Harriet P. H. Nowell], "School at Battery Sullivan," *Student and Schoolmate* 14 (July 1864): 18-20.

21 May Mannering [Harriet P. H. Nowell], "Maplewood Phantom Tales," *Merry's Museum* 48 (1864): 147, 173.

22 May Mannering [Harriet P. H. Nowell], "He Never Smiled Again," *Student and Schoolmate* 15 (1865): 10, 14, Google Books.

School Gazette, Harriet's magazine publications ceased for seven months.²³ During some of that time, she and William appear to have been back in Portsmouth; it was not until the following April that he accepted a call from the First Unitarian Society in Ware, Massachusetts, and his formal installation occurred on May 9, 1866.²⁴ By then, Harriet was again helping to fill the pages of *Student and Schoolmate* and *Sunday School Gazette*. Her story "Little Dutch Koshie" ran in the January 1866 issue of *Student and Schoolmate*, and February launched a seven-part non-fiction series, "Lessons in Pencil Drawing." Four more stories appeared in the magazine between that May and December.²⁵ The last of these, "Louie the Pet Dog," is of particular interest. Narrated in the first person by the daughter of a ship's captain, it tells of the acquisition and mysterious loss of a pet, which, the child later learns, was tossed overboard one night by an angry sailor. The sorrowful child pens a poem with the annotation, "Written on the death of a pet dog who was thrown into the sea by some wicked person, March 20, 18--."²⁶ A similar incident -- accompanied by excerpts from a strikingly similar poem -- appeared three years later in one of Nowell's series books; that version concludes with the words "These verses . . . were carefully hoarded away, and kept as sacred treasures for a long time,"²⁷ suggesting the incident may be

23 May Mannering [Harriet P. H. Nowell], "Oaks in Winter," *Student and Schoolmate* 15 (1865): 75, Google Books; "Letter No. 3," *Sunday School Gazette* 16 (May 1865): 17-18, American Antiquarian Society Historical Periodicals Collection. Although Nowell included bits of verse in some of her stories, "Oaks in Winter" appears to be the only time an entire piece consisted of a poem. The autobiographical letter, written when William was still serving the church in Rockford, speaks of a trip home "next Summer . . . for vacation" (18).

24 Untitled item, *Portsmouth (NH) Journal of Literature and Politics*, April 14, 1866: 3, America's Historical Newspapers; *The Monthly Journal of the American Unitarian Association* 7 (1866): 251, 298, Google Books.

25 May Mannering [Harriet P. H. Nowell], "Daisy Farm," *Student and Schoolmate* 17 (May 1866): 180-84; May Mannering [Harriet P. H. Nowell], "Drachenfels; or, The Dragon's Rock," *Student and Schoolmate* 17 (June 1866): 218-21; May Mannering [Harriet P. H. Nowell], "Mice Tower," *Student and Schoolmate* 18 (June 1866): 94-97.

26 May Mannering [Harriet P. H. Nowell], "Louie the Pet Dog," *Student and Schoolmate* 18 (June 1866): 226.

27 May Mannering [Harriet P. H. Nowell], *Salt-water Dick* (Boston: Lee & Shepard, 1869): 148. Future references to this book will be parenthetical in the text. The book includes part of a poem beginning "Louie was our darling pet," with the following stanzas:

O many things could Louie do,
Both strange and funny, and marvellous [sic] too;
Long, long stories of him we could tell,
If they would only restore him safe and well.

'Tis just one week since Lu went to sleep
In the Nereids' home, in the blue sea deep;
But seems like two, for we never knew
We should miss a pet as we do Lu. (147-148)

In the *Student and Schoolmate* story "Louie the Pet Dog," the poem begins "Little Louie was our darling pet," and its last two stanzas are

autobiographical.

Harriet's pieces for *Sunday School Gazette* were generally shorter than those for *Student & Schoolmate*; several are closer to anecdotes with autobiographical overtones. "The Cat," for example, begins with the first person narrator watching a cat through her window and talking to "Will" (presumably Harriet's husband), then segues into a description of the cat's movements, two paragraphs of information about cats, and concludes with a poem; "Stories For Little Boys" consists of three minor incidents involving five-year-old Fred who lives "in a seaport city of fair New England."²⁸

By spring 1867, Harriet was already considering a more ambitious project, and, accordingly, communicated with Boston publishers Lee & Shepard about the possibility of writing children's books. She may have successfully submitted a manuscript then, for in June she sent the titles of possible volumes for what she was calling the Sagamore series, along with her asking price. When Lee & Shepard failed to respond after several weeks, Harriet wrote again, this time commenting that she hoped for a "satisfactory" answer because "it is late now to make arrangements with other publishers for an October release."²⁹ One motivation for pressing for a quick response and for trying longer works might have been a need for additional income, since she was pregnant with the Nowells' first child. She gave birth in August, but the infant died only a few weeks later.³⁰

Despite this tragedy, Harriet was back at work early in September, apologizing to Lee & Shepard for the delay, reassuring them that more than 200 pages of the next volume were already

Many other things could Louie do,
Quite strange and funny and marvellous [sic] too;
Oh! many a tale of him could I tell
If 'twould only restore him safe and well.

'Tis just one week since Lu went to sleep
In the Nereids' home, in the blue sea, deep;
But it seems like two, for we never knew
We should miss a pet as we do Lu. (226)

In both stories, the child receives the dog while at the Chincha Islands, the dog enjoys teasing or interacting with pigeons kept in a coop on the deck of a ship, and the disappearance occurs during the evening, though the sailors' motives and resolution of the stories differ.

²⁸ May Mannerling [Harriet P. H. Nowell], "The Cat," *Sunday School Gazette* 17 (July 1, 1866): 52; May Mannerling [Harriet P. H. Nowell], "Stories for Little Boys," *Sunday School Gazette* 17 (Dec. 15, 1866): 95, both American Antiquarian Society Historical Periodicals.

²⁹ Harriet Nowell, July 11, 1867, Lee & Shepard Papers, Mss Box L, Box 8, Folder 1, American Antiquarian Society.

³⁰ Harriet Nowell, Sept. 10, 1867, Lee & Shepard Papers, Mss Box L, Box 8, Folder 1, American Antiquarian Society.

written, and promising that the rest would be completed within a month. Since Lee & Shepard had found her original series title unsatisfactory, she proposed several more, relying, as she would in other circumstances, for names drawn from her own experience. Among her suggestions were "Granite Rock," because of her New Hampshire background, and "Cedar Hill," which, she explained, was the name of the Nowells' current home.³¹ A few months later, *Climbing the Rope; or, "God helps those who try to help themselves"* and *Billy Grimes' Favorite; or Johnny Greanleaf's Talent* (both 1867) -- the first two volumes of what was now officially titled The Helping Hand Series -- reached reviewers and booksellers.

During 1867, Harriet also managed to send several stories off to periodicals. Two biographies of talented artists shaped as rags to riches tales (a touch of wish fulfillment?) appeared in the February and March 1867 issues of *Student and Schoolmate* as "The Young Artist" (Albert Bertel Thorwaldsen) and "Baptiste Lulli, the Boy Musician," while the April issue contained "The Story of Katie's Case," featuring characters who would reappear the following year in her series books. The *Schoolmate's* former editor, William T. Adams, was now overseeing a new periodical published by Lee & Shepard, *Oliver Optic's Magazine*, and ran her short tale, "A Ghost Story," in the August issue. Harriet was also making use of some of her earlier periodical publications in her series fiction: *Climbing the Rope* incorporated an anecdote about General Mitchell taken *verbatim* from her 1863 "Ned Peters the Newsboy" and another lengthy incident from her 1864 "Maplewood Phantom Tales."³² Whether her publishers were aware of this practice is unknown.

Harriet continued to write steadily, although external circumstances interfered with her plans for smooth completion of the series. In addition to facing more problems with her health, she had to manage another move when William took a parish in Calais, Maine, on the Canadian border -- and began his work there in January 1868. That March, she wrote to reassure Lee & Shepard that the manuscript for the third volume would reach them soon, adding that William thought it her best work so far. Her letter again indicated some familiarity with publishing practices, for she remarked that she was aware the publisher "wanted [the new book] to go with the first two in a box for the summer trade."³³ The resulting volume, *The Cruise of the*

31 Harriet Nowell, Sept. 10, 1867.

32 May Mannering [Harriet P. H. Nowell], *Climbing the Rope; or, "God helps those who try to help themselves"* (Boston: Lee & Shepard, 1867): 103-14, 153-54. Future references to this work will be parenthetical in the text.

33 I. C. Knowlton, *Annals of Calais, Maine and St. Stephen, New Brunswick*. (Calais: J. A. Sears, 1875): 127,

Dashaway; or, Katie Putnam's Voyage, was published in mid-1868, and the next title, *The Little Spaniard; or, Old Jose's Grandson*, at the end of the year; volume five, *Salt-water Dick*, followed in 1869. Harriet may have been short on time, ideas, or information when working on the latter, which tells of a voyage from South America to Spain, for a fair amount of the historical and geographical material was paraphrased or taken directly from J. M. Reynolds's popular *Voyage of the United States Frigate Potomac* (1835), an account of circumnavigating the globe in 1831-34.³⁴

Family obligations postponed publication of the final title, *Little Maid of Oxbow*. On November 18, 1868, Harriet gave birth to another child, Frederic William Nowell, but she managed to send Lee & Shepard the first half of the manuscript near the end of August. Again, she conscientiously strove not only to complete the work but also to keep the publisher apprised of the delays and the valid reasons for the tardy manuscript. Her letter acknowledged that illness -- her own and her son's -- had slowed progress. "I've written it under the most trying circumstances, sometimes with a crying baby on side [sic] and my writing desk on the other," she explained, promising the remainder would follow within a fortnight.³⁵ Two weeks later, instead of the manuscript, Harriet sent an anguished, hasty note, telling the publishers "My beautiful boy, my only child is lying at point of death."³⁶ Adding that she had no strength or time for anything but her child, she concluded by saying that she would try to finish the manuscript if she could. After Fred rallied, Harriet fell ill, causing further setbacks. In mid-October, Harriet wrote to reassure Lee & Shepard she was completing the manuscript and comply with their request for suggestions for illustrations; her letter concluded with the statement that "Anxiety and sickness have worn me so much this year that my delays have been unavoidable," a telling summary of her struggles.³⁷ On November 9, William notified the publishers that Harriet had completed the

Google Books; Harriet Nowell, March 6, 1868, Lee & Shepard Papers, Mss Box L, Box 8, Folder 1, American Antiquarian Society.

34 J. N. Reynolds, *Voyage of the United States Frigate Potomac* (New York: Harper & Bros., 1835), Google Books. See, for example, the discussion of Brazil on pgs.159-64 in *Salt-Water Dick* and the corresponding material on pages 44-47, or the description of the earthquake (*Salt-Water Dick*, 98-109; *Voyage*, 450-55).

35 Harriet Nowell, Aug. 31, 1869, Lee & Shepard Papers, Mss Box L, Box 8, Folder 1, American Antiquarian Society. Fred's full name and age are taken from his gravestone, shown at "Frederic William Nowell," *FindAGrave*, <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/152960070>. The Nowells also appear in the 1870 United States Federal Census. Calais Ward 3, Washington, Maine; Roll M593_562; Page: 69A; Image: 144, Ancestry.com.

36 Harriet Nowell, Sept. 16, 1869, Lee & Shepard Papers, Mss Box L, Box 8, Folder 1, American Antiquarian Society.

37 Harriet. Nowell, Oct. 16, 1869, Lee & Shepard Papers, Mss Box L, Box 8, Folder 1, American Antiquarian Society. None of Harriet's suggestions correspond to illustrations in the published volume.

penultimate chapter and was ready to read proofs. In the interim, the family had changed lodgings; although they were still in Calais, the move must have made additional demands on Harriet's time.³⁸ The proofs for *The Little Maid of Oxbow* reached her in June 1870 and that fall the book finally appeared in print.³⁹ Once again, it incorporated previously published material: in this case, the entire second chapter had appeared a year earlier in *Demorest's Young America* as "Rob's Torpedoes."⁴⁰ Harriet's entry in the 1870 census reflected her accomplishment, listing her occupation as "authoress." Perhaps in part because of her efforts, for the first time William's entry recorded personal property -- valued at \$2000.⁴¹ (William appears to have found Harriet's connection with Lee & Shepard quite useful: the surviving Lee & Shepard archives contain a number of his letters, most ordering books or stationery for himself to be charged to Harriet's account.)

In an early letter to Lee & Shepard, Harriet had stated that the books she was planning for the series were dissimilar. Some were intended for boys, others for girls, she explained, "with no connecting link" between titles other than that "characters are carried 'onward and upward'" (which she also proposed as a possible name for the series).⁴² By the time the series was published, this concept had undergone some revision, resulting in an unusual structure. The first two volumes are fairly standard boys' success stories, each an independent narrative (with "the motto 'Onward and Upward'" incorporated into the first tale) (153), and the series' final volume contains yet another unrelated tale, this time a success story featuring a female protagonist. Only volumes three through five are united by common characters -- but not as a consecutive story: the events of volume four, *The Little Spaniard*, occur three-quarters of the way through the fifth volume, *Salt-water Dick*. Thus, book three, *The Cruise of the Dashaway, or, Katie Putnam's Voyage*, concludes after bringing the *Dashaway*, the Putnam family, and (Salt-water) Dick from New York to San Francisco, and *Salt-water Dick* opens with the ship arriving at the Chincha Islands off the coast of Peru "to take a cargo of guano for Valencia, Spain" (14). Subsequent

38 William G. Nowell, Nov. 9, [1869], Lee & Shepard Papers, Mss Box L, Box 8, Folder 1, American Antiquarian Society.

39 William G. Nowell, June 24, 1870, Lee & Shepard Papers, Mss Box L, Box 8, Folder 1, American Antiquarian Society.

40 May Mannerling [Harriet P. H. Nowell], *The Little Maid of Oxbow* (Boston: Lee & Shepard, 1871): 25-41, Google Books. Future references to this work will be parenthetical in the text; May Mannerling [Harriet P. H. Nowell], "Rob's Torpedoes," *Demorest's Young America* 3 (1869): 335-40, Google Books.

41 1870 United States Federal Census.

42 Harriet Nowell, Sept. 10, 1867.

chapters are occupied with sights in South America and with the activities of Dick and the Putnams aboard ship. In chapter eleven, the *Dashaway* reaches Spain -- at which point the narrator announces, "the experiences and adventures of the young people there [were] very interesting. The whole story has been faithfully related in 'THE LITTLE SPANIARD, OR OLD JOSE'S GRANDSON,'" and resumes the tale, summarizing the trip home in the next paragraph (185-86). The three remaining chapters span several years, bringing the characters to the verge of adulthood.

While the meager amount of information about Harriet Nowell's life prevents extended autobiographical comparisons, some elements of the Helping Hand series are clearly derived from her background. *The Cruise of the Dashaway; or, Katie Putnam's Voyage*, which is dedicated to Harriet's father, records the experiences of a ship captain's two children as they accompany him on one of his trips to San Francisco. The *Dashaway* was a real schooner, which Harriet's father piloted on the West Coast on at least one occasion in 1859.⁴³ The fictional family's surname is Putnam -- Harriet's middle name -- and the children are Katie and Fred, the names of Harriet's two siblings. They have an older sister, May (Harriet's pseudonym), who is married and whose wedding cake was made by "Nammy Brown" (presumably Grammy Brown, who would have been Harriet's maternal grandmother).⁴⁴ Midway through *Salt-water Dick*, the group discusses a ship "Captain Hill was building . . . for his son Fred" (155), another reference to Harriet's father and brother (who had, by that time, adopted his father's occupation); *Salt-water Dick* concludes with Katie's marriage to the title character, paralleling the real Katie Hill's marriage to a sailor named Richard (Hardwick) (228-29).⁴⁵ In the books, Dick's surname is Harvey -- the surname of Harriet's cousins, one of whom was in close contact with the Nowells

43 Hill's connection with the *Dashaway* -- and, specifically, with the ship in San Francisco -- is mentioned briefly several times in James Gilchrist Swan's speeches, diaries, and articles. See, for example, "Address of James G. Swan," *Transactions of the Washington Pioneer Association for the Years 1883-1889, Inclusive* (Seattle: Lowman & Hanford, 1894): 102, Google Books. Also James G. Swan, *Almost Out of the World: Scenes from Washington Territory*, ed. James G. Swan (Tacoma: Washington State Historical Society, 1971): 9.

44 May Mannering [Harriet P. H. Nowell], *The Cruise of the Dashaway; or, Katie Putnam's Voyage* (Boston: Lee & Shepard, 1868): 45. Katie and Fred Putnam and the *Dashaway* also appeared in "The Story of Katie's Case," *Student & Schoolmate* 20 (1867): 21-27. In that story, their sister was named Amy (an anagram of May).

45 Information about Katie's marriage is from the Hills' 1870 census entry when she and her infant son were living with her parents, and from the Hardwicks' 1880 census entry. 1870 United States Federal Census: Portsmouth, Rockingham, New Hampshire; Roll M593_848; Page: 480A; Image: 323; Family History Library Film: 552347, Ancestry.com; 1880 United States Federal Census, Malden, Middlesex, Massachusetts; Roll 540; Family History Film: 1254540; Page: 414C; Enumeration District: 399; Image: 0643, Ancestry.com.

during this period (and who received a copy of *Salt-water Dick* per the Nowells' instructions).⁴⁶

Little Maid of Oxbow incorporates similar autobiographical details. Although it is not stated directly, references to local landmarks indicate the setting of the main story is in Portsmouth, while the second chapter includes a lengthy adventure set in Maine, near Calais.⁴⁷ Judging by the characters' names that have been identified, parts of the book contain a veritable catalogue of Harriet's family. At one point, the young protagonist earns income by selling subscriptions to a children's periodical (a situation with obvious parallels to Nowell's), and finds a benefactor ready to buy multiple subscriptions. The chatty purchaser rattles off a list of recipients, beginning with "my son Charles; he's got a little boy about seven years old. He must have it. His name is Arthur Harvey" (162-63). Charles Harvey was Harriet's cousin (and the probable source of the surname in *Cruise*); his son, Arthur, was seven the year *Oxbow* was published.⁴⁸ Other subscriptions went to "Kate Hardwick . . . Harvey Wilson . . . Lizzie Janvrin, Hattie Brown, Mary Harvey, . . . Moses Pettingell, Fred Hill, Charlie Brown, and Valeria Marchmont" (163). Kate Hardwick was Harriet's sister; Harvey Wilson, another cousin; Mary Harvey, Charles's wife; Fred Hill, Harriet's brother; and Valeria, her mother. Hattie, Elizabeth J, Moses P, and Charles Brown were all children of Alonzo F. Brown, who appears to have been a relative.⁴⁹

Harriet's background shapes not only details but also the concept and tone of the series.

46 See, for example, letters from William G. Nowell, dated Jan. 25, 1869; March 29, 1869; April 24, 1869; May 24, 1869, all of which request materials for Nowell be sent to C. C. Harvey, at 10 Commercial Street, Lee & Shepard Papers, Mss Box L, Box 8, Folder 1, American Antiquarian Society. The May 24 letter refers to *Salt-water Dick*. Harvey's connection with the Hill family is established in "William Hill Family," *Massachusetts Magazine* 3 (1910): 17; Charles C. Harvey's connection with 10 Commercial Street is verified in *The Boston Directory* for 1868 (Boston: Sampson, Davenport & Co., 1868): 287, Google Books. Although *Salt-water Dick* is not in "The Story of Katie's Case," that tale includes another character with the surname Harvey.

47 The story mentions Fountain Head and McDonough's Dell, along with the latter's proximity to railroad tracks (*Oxbow* 9-10); both sites -- and the railroad -- are identified in [Sarah Haven Foster], *The Portsmouth Guide Book* (Portsmouth: Joseph H. Foster, 1876): 73, Google Books. *Oxbow*'s second chapter contains a specific reference to Calais (25-27).

48 "William Hill Family"; information about Arthur Harvey is from the family's 1870 census records. 1870 United States Federal Census, Boston Ward 15, Suffolk, Massachusetts; Roll M593_649; Page: 422B; Image: 344; Family History Library Film: 552148, Ancestry.com.

49 "William Hill Family." The Brown family appears in the 1860 census in Greenland, New Hampshire (where Nowell's parents were married), sharing a home with Catharine Brown -- who later lived with the Hills. 1860 United States Federal Census, Greenland, Rockingham, New Hampshire; Roll M653_678; Page: 193; Image: 194; Family History Library Film: 803678, Ancestry.com. In *Oxbow*, Valeria's mother is named Catherine, and genealogical records suggest she may have been Catherine McDougal/McDugall Brown of Newburyport. Ironically, in *Oxbow*, the name Valeria Marchmont triggers discussion of the spelling, and the protagonist asks for reassurance that it is correct. The absence of Marchmont from genealogical records, however, suggests that the spelling -- which Nowell repeated for her DAR entry -- may not be the correct one. Valeria Hill's entry in most records, including her gravestone, includes only the initial M.

Unlike most success stories, where adult mentors are bankers, merchants, or other land-based businessmen and where boys aspire to success in similar occupations, Harriet's stories treat nautical careers as viable alternatives, reflecting the perspective of one raised in a seaport. They also exhibit an awareness of the emotional cost such occupations exact from female family members. In the first volume, dedicated to "That Brave Little Sailor Boy, My Dear Brother Fred," the protagonist explains that "There is only one thing that will suit me, and that is going to sea" while acknowledging that his mother "feels very bad about it" (200-01); his benefactor, a shipowner, helps the boy realize his dream. Dick Harvey, introduced as a novice sailor in *Cruise*, steadily advances in his shipboard career, becoming the *Dashaway's* first mate in *Salt-water Dick*. Learning that he plans to return to sea, Katie (the daughter of a sea captain) responds, "[I]t is so hard to be separated for months and years from our dear ones. . . . Mr. Dick, do not your mother and sisters miss you dreadfully, and long for you to get home, when you are gone?" (194).

Even though *Cruise* has a female protagonist, the framework Nowell employs is not that of the typical domestic series (which tended to focus on home or school stories). Harriet's familiarity with nautical terms and experiences is evident throughout the tale; the narrative is replete with details of sailing routes and shipboard routines, and a number of passages read as if they were taken directly from a ship's log. Indeed, at one point Katie asks Dick for permission to copy his log into her diary, and the next segment of the text reproduces the result. While Katie occasionally serves as a domesticating influence in a predominantly masculine environment -- intervening, for example, when she feels the sailors' rites of initiation at the equatorial crossing seem too cruel -- through much of the story her role is primarily as a spectator, and, with its combination of travel adventure and experiences aboard ship and its incorporation of actual information about sailing, the content often resembles that found in boys' travel series, such as Oliver Optic's *Young America Abroad*.

Overall, the series was well received. The reviewer in *Arthur's Home Magazine* found *Billy Grimes's Favorite* "[a] very interesting book . . . Full of fresh incident, pleasantly told, a good book for Sunday-schools, full of moral and religious truth,"⁵⁰ while *Godey's Lady's Book* declared *Cruise* to be "an amusing story . . . which will equally instruct and delight,"⁵¹ and *The*

50 "New Publications," *Arthur's Home Magazine* 31 (1868): 125.

51 "Literary Notices," *Godey's Lady's Book* 77 (Sept. 1868): 270, *American Periodical Series*.

Universalist thought *Salt-Water Dick* "combin[ed] with pleasant stories graphic descriptions of South American cities and scenery," singling out for praise the "life-life picture of The Great Earthquake at Lima" (which the reviewer apparently failed to notice had been lifted from Reynolds).⁵² Some critics were not as kind: *Old and New's* reviewer remarked that *Little Maid of Oxbow* was "Not very interesting, nor very well written,"⁵³ and *The Nation* devoted the better part of a paragraph to poking fun at the heavy-handed moralizing in the series's first two volumes, calling the hero of *Billy Grimes's Favorite*, "a good boy of the most approved Sunday-school pattern" and observing that "each wicked deed was sure to be followed by a plump and square punishment, and each pious action by as decided a reward," concluding that *Climbing the Rope* "threatened, as far as we read, to turn out quite [the same]."⁵⁴

The six volumes in the Helping Hand Series were Harriet's last work for Lee & Shepard. In July 1871, she wrote to offer the publishers a new manuscript, "Just My Luck!," suggesting it run as a serial in their periodical *Our Boys and Girls* (formerly *Oliver Optic's Magazine*) and then -- as frequently occurred with serialized fiction -- be issued as a book. Harriet described the manuscript as "a boy story of adventure, holiday sports, home and school life East and West, with a good moral tone and pleasant ending."⁵⁵ Whether Lee & Shepard were disenchanted by the delays for *Oxbow* or the recycled material, or whether other factors prevented purchase of the tale is unknown, but the serial instead appeared in *Demorest's Young America* beginning in February 1872.⁵⁶ Harriet had been submitting occasional contributions, including some autobiographical pieces, to *Demorest's* for some time. In addition to "Rob's Torpedoes" (the story incorporated in *Oxbow*), her "Funny Little Fred: A True Story" (apparently about her brother) had appeared in 1869. "Just My Luck" concluded in December 1872, and a two-part story, "Little Fred," started the following month. Although not labeled as such, it is autobiographical, recounting a mother's experiences with her infant son, Frederick William (Harriet's son's name). In one incident, the family's young servant allows her brother, who has

52 "Books Received," *The Universalist Quarterly and General Review* 6 (1869): 388, Google Books.

53 "Other New Books," *Old and New* 2 (1870): 739.

54 "Juvenile Fiction," *The Nation* 5 (1867): 475.

55 Harriet Nowell, Feb. 7, 1871, Lee & Shepard Papers, Mss Box L, Box 8, Folder 1, American Antiquarian Society.

56 May Mannerling [Harriet P. H. Nowell], "Just My Luck," *Demorest's Young America* (Feb. 1872): 38-42, American Antiquarian Society Historical Periodicals. Scot Guenter's entry on "Demorest's Young America," in *Children's Periodicals of the United States*, ed. R. Gordon Kelly (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1984: 139-40), dates the serial from December 1872, but the story actually began in February and concluded in the December issue. See also note 58.

whooping cough, into the nursery, with predictable (and near-fatal) results -- which probably explains the illness that delayed Harriet's work for Lee & Shepard; in another, the baby terrifies his mother by knocking himself unconscious when he falls out of bed. Such stories suggest Harriet may have been finding motherhood somewhat of a challenge, requiring intense demands on her time. (The mother in "Little Fred" ultimately decides "never [to leave] her baby again, but kept with it night and day, every minute.")⁵⁷ Although the February 1873 installment of "Little Fred" concluded with the promise of Fred's favorite story, "Betty and the Bear," what instead appeared in March under "Stories Told to Little Fred" was "The Boy Who Could Make Music Even on Tin Pans" -- a paraphrased version of "Baptiste Lulli" from the 1867 *Student and Schoolmate*. Taken in conjunction with the narrative in "Little Fred," this substitution may indicate that Harriet's family responsibilities were again interfering with deadlines. "Betty and the Bear" ran in the April issue, but it was apparently the last piece by Nowell that *Demorest's* published, and appears to be her last in any major children's periodical.⁵⁸ She may have tried unsuccessfully to complete or market another manuscript several years later, for an 1877 news item about her connection with the Helping Hand series concludes by stating that "the publishers will soon have in press another juvenile from the same pen, entitled 'One Happy Year.'"⁵⁹

Harriet's family circumstances had altered during the years she published with *Demorest's*. In 1870, William changed careers, taking a position as a high school principal in Calais. Two years later, the family moved to Malden, Massachusetts, and William worked for another year as principal of a local high school.⁶⁰ Their daughter, Grace, was born on August 28, 1872,⁶¹ and in 1873 William began a four-year stint teaching English in a high school in Boston.⁶²

During and after 1873, the couple -- or, in some cases, possibly only William -- also

57 May Mannering [Harriet P. H. Nowell], "Little Fred," *Demorest's Young America* 7 (1873): 24.

58 Guenther identifies Mannering as one of "[t]hree major contributors who helped meet [the] demand" for serials, which "accounted for at least half of the [magazine's] fiction" (139-40). No items by Mannering have been located after April 1873, but many issues of *Demorest's Young America* have not been seen and remain unindexed, so it's possible Nowell had additional, as yet unidentified, material published there.

Lacking comprehensive indices, it's difficult to be positive Nowell didn't publish elsewhere, but various searches have failed to find additional items other than one story, "Boys Help Your Mothers," in the June 1872 *The Children's Hour* and an 1885 article on women's suffrage in *Women's Journal*.

59 "Juvenile Books," *Weymouth (MA) Gazette*, Dec. 14, 1877: msg. pg. Old Fulton NY Postcards.

60 *General Catalogue of Bowdoin College and the Medical School of Maine, 1794-1912*. (Brunswick, ME: Bowdoin College, 1912): 165, Google Books.

61 *Massachusetts Vital Records, 1841-1910*, vol. 242 [1872]: 226, American Ancestors by New England Historic Genealogical Society.

62 William's career is outlined in *General Catalogue of Bowdoin College*, 165.

started spending summers in Randolph, New Hampshire, where William was part of the group that formed the Appalachian Mountain Club and was instrumental in building trails in the White Mountains.⁶³ Initially, Harriet participated in some of these activities. Like William, she was one of the original members of the Appalachian Mountain Club,⁶⁴ and one account of a July 1876 meeting of the AMC notes that "the authoress 'May Mannering'" was among those present when William "interested the meeting with an account of explorations on Mount Adams."⁶⁵ William's journal for summer 1876 also records that Harriet -- sometimes with one or both of their children, other times with other women -- joined him and others on Mount Adams.⁶⁶ In March 1877, several of her drawings of mountains and of the AMC camp were included in an art exhibit sponsored by the club,⁶⁷ and in May, she read the group a paper, "A Mountain Suit for Women," discussing safe attire for walking the trails (and ultimately proposing "a good flannel bathing-suit" with "lower garments [of] loose, full, Turkish pants gathered into a band around the ankle. . . . [and] buttoned to [an] emancipation waist"). Noting that "in our ordinary attire, we must lag far behind" on trails, she remarked, "No wonder that gentlemen have been shy in asking us to accompany them in their explorations."⁶⁸ Whether this comment about companionship reflected William's attitude remains a mystery; however, while other women -- including series author Susan Hale -- soon joined the AMC, Harriet's name had disappeared from its membership lists by 1879,⁶⁹ and if she was part of the group that traveled and worked the trails with William in later years, there is no indication of it in his reports.

For the next five years, William continued to change employment with some frequency

63 "Active Members," *Appalachia: The Journal of the Appalachian Mountain Club I* (1876-78): 6; Frederick W. Kilbourne, *Chronicles of the White Mountains* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1916): 345, 356, both Google Books.

64 "Active Members."

65 "Appalachians in Council at North Conway," *Boston Evening Journal*, July 28, 1876: 2.

66 William Gray Nowell journal, 1876, *New Hampshire Historical Society*, <https://www.nhhistory.org/Object?id=132fde28-3255-4c92-b468-ffe98610caa4>. See, for example, entries for July 10, 1876, recording that he and "H" (Harriet) went to Mt. Adams house, and, four days later, "to woods"; August 2, where William met Harriet, Fanny R. Sprague, and Minnie A. Sprague at the Appalachian Mountain Club's camp, after which they and several others went to the top of Mount Adams; and August 15, where William went to "Gran's Camp" with Harriet, Fred, and Grace.

67 John Worcester, "Art," *Appalachia: The Journal of the Appalachian Mountain Club I* (1876-78): 281, Google Books.

68 Mrs. W. G. Nowell, "A Mountain Suit for Women," *Appalachia: The Journal of the Appalachian Mountain Club I* (1876-78): 183, Google Books. This appears to be the only item Harriet Nowell published under her own surname.

69 William's name appears in the list of members published in the second volume of *Appalachia*, but Harriet's does not -- nor is it in later volumes ("Members of the Corporation: June 25, 1879," *Appalachia: The Journal of the Appalachian Mountain Club 2* [1879-81]: 84-85).

though he remained a faithful member of the AMC. He accepted a position as Superintendent of Schools in Weymouth, Massachusetts, in 1877, staying only two years,⁷⁰ then, in July 1879, became principal of the Albany Female Academy but "proved so unsatisfactory that he was asked to resign in the midst of his first school year."⁷¹ The 1880 census recorded the family as living in a boarding house in Albany: William was listed as a "teacher"; the space for occupation in Harriet's entry was now blank.⁷²

For some years thereafter, William tried – with marginal success, at best – to establish his own private school. In summer 1880, he and Harriet purchased the Harkness Academy in Wilmington, Delaware. That December, advertisements announced "The Normal Class of the Academy at Tenth and Market Street will begin its half year's work January 3, 1881." Along with instruction in pedagogy, the school offered "Three college classes" devoted to "classical studies at various stages," and "classes in drawing[,] water and oil color painting, and china decoration," (presumably taught by Harriet), plus a primary school for "young children [to] begin to learn how to read and develop numbers by natural processes."⁷³ The only staff member named in notices was "Wm. G. Nowell, A. M., Principal."

For a brief time, all went well. In May 1881, William allied with R. S. McNair, principal of another private school in Wilmington, and the two opened Brandywine Seminary, "A Classical and Normal School for Young Ladies and Gentlemen" with "Primary and Kindergarten Departments for Younger Students," all located at the address of the Nowells' former institution.⁷⁴ After only one semester, however, the two principals had a much publicized "falling out," with McNair requesting Harriet's removal from "any connection with the school, either as teacher or business agent" and asking for sole control of "management and discipline of

70 *General Catalogue of Bowdoin College and the Medical School of Maine, 1794-1912*: 165, Google Books.

71 *Albany Academy for Girls* [Centennial Celebration] (Albany: Published by the Alumnae, 1914): 36, *Harvard University Library Open Collections Program, Women Working, 1800-1930*.

72 1880 United States Federal Census, Albany, New York; Roll 806; Family History Film: 1254806; Page: 253D; Enumeration District: 29; Image: 0509, Ancestry.com.

73 Advertisement, *Daily Gazette* (Wilmington, DE), Dec. 29, 1880: 3. Harriet and William were also active in the school's literary society: William became its president in September 1880, with Harriet as secretary ("A Debate," *Daily Republican* [Wilmington, DE], Sept. 16, 1880: 1, Newspapers.com); the Nowells were later active in the Normal Literary Society, which appears to have replaced the Harkness Literary Society. Harriet was elected marshal in December 1880; several months later, William was elected treasurer and the society "added . . . several volumes written by Mrs. Nowell" to its library ("Election of Officers," *Daily Republican* [Wilmington, DE], Dec. 7, 1880: 1; "The Normal Literary Society," *Daily Republican* [Wilmington, DE], March 9, 1881: 4, both Newspapers.com).

74 "School Enterprise," *Daily Gazette* (Wilmington, DE), May 30, 1881: 2; advertisement, *Daily Gazette* (Wilmington, DE), Aug 19, 1881: 2, both Newspapers.com.

the school."⁷⁵ William published a public rebuttal to McNair's demands but appears to have capitulated, for Brandywine Seminary reopened in January with McNair as "Executive Principal" and a news item stated that Harriet had voluntarily left the school.⁷⁶ The new arrangement lasted barely two months, and in March the pair were again in the news when McNair and some of the students left for other quarters,⁷⁷ while the Nowells – with Harriet returning to resume her art classes – continued with the Brandywine Seminary for the rest of the semester.⁷⁸ By July, the Nowells had abandoned the project and the school's furnishings were sold for \$330 at a sheriff's sale.⁷⁹

After the Nowells left Wilmington, William worked for a time at the Charlier Institute in New York, where he probably met Stuart Niblo Schermerhorn, an 1881 graduate of the University of Michigan.⁸⁰ In September 1885, the pair opened their own private school, advertising their "preparatory school" (later "School of Preparation for Business and College") for "Day and boarding pupils" in the various New York papers.⁸¹ The address listed for the school -- 54 W. 57th St. -- corresponds to one William provided for the AMC register in 1888 and 1889.⁸² By 1891 the school had apparently closed, for Schermerhorn, now working as a broker, claimed the 57th Street address in a Michigan alumni listing.⁸³ William may have found a new position at the Berkeley School, a prestigious private school run by fellow Harvard graduate John S. White and "conducted in accordance with the most advanced modern ideas of

75 "A Falling Out," *Morning News* (Wilmington, DE), Jan 4, 1882: 1, Newspapers.com.

76 "The McNair-Nowell Controversy Ended," *Morning News* (Wilmington, DE), Jan. 7, 1882: 4, Newspapers.com.

77 The article reported that while "the greater number of scholars remain [with the Nowells' school] . . . a goodly number of boys and some fifteen of the older school girls" left and registered with the McNairs" ("A Divided School," *Daily Gazette* [Wilmington, DE], March 11, 1882: 4, Newspapers.com).

78 "Brandywine Seminary," *Daily Gazette* (Wilmington, DE), March 4, 1882: 1, Newspapers.com.

79 "School Furnishings Sold," *Daily Republican* (Wilmington, DE), July 20, 1882: 4, Newspapers.com.

80 *General Catalogue of Bowdoin College*, 165. "Alumni Notes" locates Schermerhorn at the Chartier Institute (*The [Michigan] Argonaut*, vol. 2 [Ann Arbor: Argonaut Association, 1884]: 152, Google Books). "Educational New England," states that Nowell had taught "in the Chartier school" (*The School Journal* 65 [Sept. 27, 1902]: 294, Google Books).

81 "Alumni Notes," *The [Michigan] Argonaut*, vol. 4 (Ann Arbor: Argonaut Association, 1886): 62, Google Books. Ads for the school have been located in the *New York Times*, Aug. 30, 1885, Newspapers.com; the *New York Herald Tribune*, Oct. 8, 1885: 6, Old Fulton NY Postcards; the *New York Herald Tribune*, Sept. 21, 1888: 6, America's Historical Newspapers; the *New York Times*, Sept. 23, 1888: 15, ProQuest Historical Newspapers; the school is also listed in "Educational Directory," [possibly an advertising section] in *Scribners* 3 (June 1888): 23, Google Books, and in "A Descriptive List of Schools," in a "Special Educational Number" of *The Forum Extra* 1 (July 1890): 48, Google Books.

82 *Register of the Appalachian Mountain Club for 1888* (Boston: Appalachian Mountain Club, 1888): 36, Google Books.

83 *University of Michigan General Catalogue of Officers and Students 1837-1890* (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan, 1891): 67, Google Books.

education."⁸⁴

William continued to spend summers in the White Mountains near Randolph, New Hampshire, and in the early 1880s, the Nowells' children, at least, accompanied him. One AMC report on trail maintenance notes that William remeasured and marked a path on Mt. Adams, aided by Grace, Fred, and two young boys; they then "erected an observatory over the cairn on the summit of Carter Dome."⁸⁵ Two years later, circa 1885, William was again measuring paths with Grace's help; he was also accompanied by "Osman Pasha, our eight-months-old St. Bernard-Newfoundland," and at some point acquired a young rabbit and named it after the mountain where it was caught.⁸⁶ A report in *Appalachia* remarks that "Mr. W. G. Nowell spent the summer of 1886, as usual, among the mountains."⁸⁷

There is no mention of Harriet in AMC reports after about 1877.⁸⁸ Instead, while William was expending his efforts to improve the terrain in the White Mountains, Harriet devoted her energy to social conditions and women's rights. In 1885, she was one of several women who registered to vote in New York City. Returning with an attorney on the day of the election, she was turned away from the polls; the story was carried in newspapers across the country.⁸⁹ As May Mannering, she also wrote a piece for the Boston-based *Women's Journal*, "A Gentleman of

84 "Educational New England" states that Nowell had taught at Berkeley School. *Men of the Century*, ed. Charles Morris (Philadelphia: L. R. Hamersly & Co., 1896): 268, Google Books.

85 "Improvements," *Appalachia: The Journal of the Appalachian Mountain Club* 3 (1882-84): 289-90, Google Books. A news item on the renaming of a peak in the White Mountains also notes that according to Judith Hudson's *Peaks & Paths*, William "was identified with the ridge traversed by the Lowe's Path.... In the early days hikers had called the crag 'Nowell's Peak,' and the two little summits on it were dubbed 'Gracie' and 'Fred' after his daughter and son" (quoted in Edith Tucker, "Adams 4 renamed Mount Abigail Adams," *Coos County Democrat*, Nov. 17, 2010, www.salmonpress.com, <http://www.newhampshirelakesandmountains.com/Articles-c-2010-11-16-152536.113119-Adams-4-renamed-Mount-Abigail-Adams.html>).

86 "Improvements," *Appalachia: The Journal of the Appalachian Mountain Club* 4 (1884-86): 83; William G. Nowell, "The Carter-Moriah Path," *Appalachia: The Journal of the Appalachian Mountain Club* 4 (1884-86): 270, both Google Books. That same year, a news item noted that 13-year-old Grace, "a visitor at Jefferson Highlands . . . walks easily 20 miles a day" and had so "frequently accompanied the Appalachians on their excursions [that] the members call her 'the child of the club'" ("New Hampshire News," *New Hampshire Patriot and State Gazette* [Concord], Aug. 26, 1886: 5, Newspapers.com).

87 I. Y. Chubbuck, "Reports of the Councillors for the Autumn of 1886: Improvements," *Appalachia: The Journal of the Appalachian Mountain Club* 5 (1887-89): 76, Google Books.

88 Becky Fullerton, Archivist, Appalachian Mountain Club, confirms that Harriet does not appear in AMC registers after 1876 or 1877 (email June 26, 2019). The author extends her thanks to Ms. Fullerton for her assistance.

89 See, for example, "Their Votes Refused," *Daily Critic* (Washington, D. C.), Nov. 4, 1885: 1; "Women Not Allowed to Vote," *Dallas Morning News*, Nov. 9, 1885: 3, both GenealogyBank; "The Women Tried to Vote," *Owensboro (KY) Messenger*, Nov. 7, 1885: 1, Newspapers.com; "Many Women Try to Vote," *World* (New York), Nov. 4, 1885: 1; "Women Try to Vote," *New Albany (IN) Public Press*, Nov. 11, 1885: 3; "Around the Polls in Gotham," *Monmouth (IL) Evening Gazette* Nov. 5, 1885: 1, all NewspaperArchive.

the Old School," to advance the cause of women's suffrage.⁹⁰ She continued to work for women's rights, serving on the Executive Committee of the New York Woman's Suffrage Association in 1886, and possibly as Vice President of the Women's Suffrage Society of New York in 1887.⁹¹ Assorted news items over the next several years suggest Harriet was involved with the Women's Press Club, the Sunshine Society, and the Political Study Club (where she read a paper, "The Homes of the Poor," which "call[ed] for legislative aid and interference" to provide better and more affordable housing for the poor, and recommended that "a board of women" more interested in philanthropy than profit oversee the project).⁹²

1888 was a year of heartbreak for the Nowells, especially Harriet. Their son Frederick died in January 1888, at age 19,⁹³ and in mid-July, newspapers across the country carried reports that the *Farragut*, piloted by Harriet's brother-in-law Richard Hardwick and carrying her sister Kate and two of the Hardwicks' children, was lost along with all aboard.⁹⁴ Were that not enough, in October her father died of a cerebral hemorrhage.⁹⁵

Although William seems to have enjoyed his summers, the scanty information available leaves questions about the tone of Harriet's later years and her involvement with William's mountain activities. Documentation is scanty, but it appears that at some point Harriet and William may have started vacationing separately. A history of the White Mountains notes that

Dr. Nowell spent many long summers in Randolph at the hotels and in his cabin on Nowell Ridge, which he erected in 1890 . . . Often he had the companionship of young boys at his cabin. He imparted to them his own enthusiastic love of the mountains while he coached them for coming examinations.⁹⁶

One of the few records mentioning Harriet's activities during this period concerns her

90 May Mannering [Harriet P. H. Nowell], "A Gentleman of the Old School," *Women's Journal*, Jan. 24, 1885: 26, Nineteenth-Century Collections Online.

91 Matilda Joslyn Gage, "'That Address of Thanks to the Pope,'" *The Index* 17 (May 6, 1886): 537, Google Books; "Woman Suffrage," *Daily Press* (Asbury Park and Ocean Grove, NJ) June 30, 1887: 1, Newspapers.com.

92 "Political Study Club Adjourns," *The World* (New York), April 18, 1894: 10, Old Fulton NY Postcards.

93 "Records of the South Church of Portsmouth, N.H.," *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register*, vol. 84, (Boston: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 1930): 31, American Ancestors by New England Historic Genealogical Society.

94 "Little Hope Left," *Boston Herald*, July 21, 1888: 3, GenealogyBank. The ship had left Calcutta six months earlier and never made port. Harriet's father, interviewed by a Boston paper, surmised that it "had foundered in a cyclone." A wreck, suspected to be the *Farragut*, had been spotted 1500 miles from Calcutta. See also "A Ship Wrecked," *Daily Alta California*, July 7, 1888: 5, California Digital Newspaper Collection, *UCR: Center for Bibliographical Studies and Research*.

95 James M. Hill, New Hampshire Death and Disinterment Records, Ancestry.com.

96 George N. Cross, *Randolph Old and New: Its Ways and Its By-ways* (Randolph, NH: Randolph, 1924): 257, Google Books.

attendance at a "mothers' club" meeting, and a strong, and somewhat puzzling, response to a speaker's talk on the topic of heredity. As the *New York Sun* reported, one of the speakers, Dr. Hill, spoke about heredity, using a herd of cows as an illustration:

The story gave [the speaker, Dr. Julia Townsend Hill] the opportunity to point an evident moral, which was to the effect that a good, healthy woman cannot marry a wicked, diseased man and hope to have healthy, moral children from such a marriage.

Dr. Hill had scarcely taken her seat when Mrs. Harriet Putnam Nowell arose.

"I want to thank this refreshing woman," she said. "What she has been telling us is sensible and true. We can pray and pray, but the leopard cannot change his skin. He doesn't, either!"⁹⁷

Another speaker responded by indicating reformation was possible, but even after the discussion moved on, the reporter noted that Harriet "persisted, in an undertone, that the leopard could not change his skin." The rationale for her reaction to Dr. Hill's comments remains unknown.

Harriet's daughter Grace appears to have been her companion during at least some of the time when William was in the White Mountains. In late August 1897, the *Mount Vernon Chronicle* reported that Harriet and Grace were "at the Darling Cottage, 123 South First avenue, for the autumn months"; in October, a news item in the *Tribune's* "The Gossip of the Day" reported that the pair had returned home "after spending their vacation at Ridgefield, Connecticut."⁹⁸ Barely two years later, Grace died of endocarditis on October 8, 1899.⁹⁹ The January 19, 1900, *New York Daily Journal* carried an expression of sympathy from the Sunshine Society to Harriet, who was "mourn[ing] the death of an accomplished daughter, the last of six children,"¹⁰⁰ and shortly afterward, the 1900 census confirmed that Harriet had given birth to a total of six children, none of whom were still alive. The census also recorded that Harriet and William's household at 117 E. 82nd Street in Manhattan consisted of the couple plus Cyrus

97 "By Mothers and Others," *Sun* (New York), April 6, 1897: 8. The quote in the next sentence is also from this source. Another news item from 1897 is somewhat more unusual, noting that "At a recent club meeting, Mrs. Harriet Putnam Nowell . . . gave a graphic account of how she had within the last three months saved from death three little children who were in danger of being crushed by the trolley-cars" ("The Day's Gossip," *New York Tribune*, April 28, 1897: 5, Newspapers.com.)

98 "Social Chat," *Chronicle* (Mt. Vernon, NY), Aug. 27, 1897: 5, Old Fulton NY Postcards; "The Gossip of the Day," *New York Tribune*, Oct. 16, 1987: 5, GenealogyBank.

99 "Grace Nowell," New Hampshire, Death and Disinterment Records, 1754-1947, Ancestry.com. Grace's gravestone, with birth and death dates, is online at "Grace Putnam Nowell," *FindAGrave*, <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/152960275>.

100 "In Need of Sympathy," *New York Daily Tribune*, Jan. 19, 1900: 5, Old Fulton NY Postcards.

Currier, a 16-year-old boy from New Jersey, who was attending school while boarding with the Nowells, and a servant (40-year-old Mary Shields, who had emigrated from Ireland in 1879). William was listed as a "Private School Teacher -- English"; the space for Harriet's occupation remained blank.¹⁰¹ She was, however, still active in clubs and women's groups, including the Daughters of the American Revolution, National Purity League, and Woman's Suffrage League.¹⁰²

Twenty-five years after her last story in *Demorest's Young America*, Harriet began writing for children again, initially on a much smaller scale than before. Though mainstream children's literature was moving away from overtly didactic and religious content, Harriet's writing was not, and she found an appropriate forum for her offerings in the Unitarian Sunday School magazine, *Every Other Sunday*, successor to *Sunday School Gazette*, which had published her first story. Harriet's earliest identified piece for *Every Other Sunday*, "One Sunday Morning," in the March 13, 1898, issue, is a seven-paragraph tale about a mother with a sick child who finds comfort from an inspirational verse in "a little paper" (not unlike *Every Other Sunday*).¹⁰³ Whether Harriet tried other outlets for her efforts remains unknown, but records for *Every Other Sunday* show her determination to see her writing in print: during the last half of 1898, she submitted five items, three of which were returned (one on the same day it arrived). Undaunted, she continued to send short pieces, most of which eventually ran in the periodical.¹⁰⁴

Initially, Harriet's stories again incorporated some autobiographical material, often blended with historical information. In "Dorothy's Composition," Dorothy asks her grandmother to help her write about George Washington by recalling "some stories your father told you of the great man when he was appointed to help receive him on his visit to the place where you lived" -- again, a reference to Harriet's ancestor Captain James Hill.¹⁰⁵ Specifics are often absent ("the

101 1900 United States Federal Census, Manhattan, New York, New York; Roll T623_1116; Page: 6A; Enumeration District: 790, Ancestry.com.

102 "The Day's Gossip."

103 May Mannerling [Harriet P. H. Nowell], "One Sunday Morning," *Every Other Sunday* 13 (March 13, 1898): 107, Google Books.

104 Records show that in 1898 *Every Other Sunday* received "Aunt Charity Hope" on June 18, and "A New England Story" on October 21, and returned both November 9; "In Old Times" arrived October 26 and was published the following year. "Dorothy's Composition" and "A Thanksgiving Blessing" both came on November 9. "Composition" was published in 1899; "Blessing" was returned with the two earlier submissions on November 9. Box 77/21, *Every Other Sunday*, Harvard Divinity School.

105 May Mannerling [Harriet P. H. Nowell], "Dorothy's Composition," *Every Other Sunday* 14 (1899): 93, Google Books. Since Harriet's DAR entry appears to date from 1896, compiling information for her application may have reignited an interest in family history and a desire to write about it.

place where you lived"), and some of the autobiographical material is also slightly garbled. ("Dr. [Joseph] Buckminster . . . married my father's sister Sara, and so he became my uncle," Dorothy's grandmother explains at one point, but multiple sources establish that Joseph Buckminster's wife Sarah [Stevens] was an only child; if Harriet had a connection to the Buckminster family, it was through Buckminster's third wife, Abigail Hill Ladd.)¹⁰⁶ As in the past, Harriet also found ways to reuse previous publications, resurrecting her biographical sketches of Lulli and Thorwald for yet another revision, this time as "Uncle Jack's Story" and "A True Story," in the September 9, 1900, and October 13, 1901, issues, respectively.

In September, 1902, William began a new position teaching in a Boston high school but had to resign barely a month later "because of ill health." His physician recommended "a long period of rest,"¹⁰⁷ and the couple spent the next two years in North Carolina. William's AMC entries place him in Pinehurst for 1903 and Flat Rock for 1904.¹⁰⁸ During those years, Harriet continued to submit one or two items annually to *Every Other Sunday*, and William even contributed two short pieces.¹⁰⁹ In August 1904, Harriet also sent the magazine a piece titled "In Days of Yore," which, her cover letter explained, she had written out on behalf of an elderly woman, "A. J. S.," thinking its glimpses of antebellum Boston would appeal to some of the magazine's readers. Letterhead on the stationery indicated she was then staying at The Jessemine, a hotel in Sugar Hill, New Hampshire, near the White Mountains.¹¹⁰

Along with sending short pieces to *Every Other Sunday*, Harriet also engaged on a larger project, building on her historical research. In 1903, McLoughlin Brothers, a New York

106 Mannering, "Dorothy's Composition," 94. For Sarah Stevens and Abigail Hill Ladd, see Franklin Bowditch Dexter, *Biographical Sketches of the Graduates of Yale College*, vol. 3 (NY: Henry Holt and Company, 1903): 367-68, Google Books. Other biographers assign Abigail Hill a different ancestry -- for example, Alex S. Twombly, "The Life of John Lord," in John Lord, *Beacon Lights of History*, vol. 8 (NY: Fords, Howard, and Hulbert, 1896): 13, Google Books.

107 "Educational New England," *The School Journal* 65 (Sept. 27, 1902): 294; "Educational New England," *The School Journal* 65 (Oct. 25, 1902): 406, both Google Books.

108 *Register of the Appalachian Mountain Club for 1903* (Boston: Appalachian Mountain Club, 1903): 58; *Register of the Appalachian Mountain Club for 1904* (Boston: Appalachian Mountain Club, 1904): 65, Google Books. These are bound with registers, from 1898 through 1906.

109 See, for example, May Mannering, [Harriet P. H. Nowell], "Washington's Birthday," *Every Other Sunday* 18 (1903): 89-90; May Mannering, [Harriet P. H. Nowell], "Grandmother's Scrap Book," *Every Other Sunday* 19 (1903): 37-38; William G. Nowell, "Was It? A True Story," *Every Other Sunday* 19 (1903): 6; May Mannering, [Harriet P. H. Nowell], "Boyhood of Lincoln," *Every Other Sunday* 19 (1904): 89-90; William G. Nowell, "How He Did It," *Every Other Sunday* 19 (1904): 139, all Google Books.

110 Harriet Putnam Nowell, Aug. 18, 1904, Box 77/21, *Every Other Sunday*, Harvard Divinity School. The piece was published on November 19, 1905 (A. J. S., "In Days of Yore" *Every Other Sunday* 21 [1905]: 42-43, Google Books).

publisher specializing in inexpensive, heavily illustrated children's books, issued her *Lives of the Presidents in Words of One Syllable*. The work appeared under an entirely new pseudonym, Harriet Putnam, perhaps to distinguish it from Harriet's earlier fiction. If the pseudonym was designed to mask the connection, the secret was soon revealed: *Every Other Sunday's* review of the book in February 1904 informed readers that, "The author, under the name of May Mannering, has often contributed interesting articles in the columns of *Every Other Sunday*."¹¹¹

By 1905, the Nowells had returned to Boston. William resumed teaching and was also active in the American Esperanto Association, serving briefly as its president and later as assistant secretary.¹¹² Harriet continued working with McLoughlin Brothers, which copyrighted a second book in 1905, *The Life of Abraham Lincoln for Young People, Told in Words of One Syllable*, issuing it under the Putnam pseudonym the following year. She may have intended to publish fiction with the company, for dummies for eight titles by Harriet Putnam -- ranging from *The Minute Man* to *Farmer Gooding's Circus* and *When Father Was Away* -- all created circa 1905 are in the McLoughlin files.¹¹³ All appear to weave stories around stock illustrations. As with her Lee & Shepard books, Harriet occasionally inserted autobiographical references into the texts. *Farmer Gooding's Circus*, for example, references Captain Hill and his son Fred, this time in relation to a pony brought back from Spain, while the children in *Ah Foo* also have a sailor for a father (Captain Lincoln, who brings them a monkey from the East Indies). There is no indication that any of these stories actually saw print. Health issues -- this time, Harriet's -- may have prevented completion of the project.

Harriet died on October 20, 1906, in a hospital in Malden, Massachusetts. The cause of death was vaginal cancer, and her death certificate indicated she had been hospitalized and under a doctor's care since September. Her brother, not her husband, provided the information.¹¹⁴

111 "Book Table," *Every Other Sunday* 19 (Feb 28, 1904): 104, Google Books.

112 "Another Account of It," *Amerika Esperantisto* 3 (1908): n.p., Google Books.

113 The American Antiquarian Society's catalog entry for *When Father Was Away* includes the note "A 'mockup' consisting of printed text panels pasted over plain leaves. . . . 'Copyright McLoughlin Bros. 1905'-- inscribed on title page verso of mockup." Seven other titles credited to Harriet Putnam in the McLoughlin Brothers Collection at the American Antiquarian Society are undated mockups: *Ah Foo*; *Bicycle Trip*; *Farmer Gooding's Circus*; *House Party*; *Minute-Man*; *Peter's Fair*; *Tommy's Wish*.

114 *Massachusetts Vital Records, 1841–1910*, vol. 62: 153. Interestingly, Judith Hudson's *Peaks & Paths: A Century of the Randolph Mountain Club* (Gorham, NH: Randolph Mountain Club, 2010) notes that William was not at his cabin for a few summers after 1900, but returned "for the years 1905 through 1907 . . . in the last two years accompanied by Susan Poor" (220). Susan Poor -- 26 years old in 1906 -- appears to be the sister of Samuel Poor, with whom William boarded in 1920. (Samuel and Susan appear in the Franklin Poor household, 1900 United States Federal Census, Hooksett, Merrimack, New Hampshire, Enumeration District: 0167, Page: 6, Ancestry.com.)

William's AMC entry for 1906 records his address as Randolph, perhaps an indication he had retreated to the White Mountains.¹¹⁵ Like her son and daughter, Harriet was buried in Portsmouth. The 1910 census established that William had returned to Boston and teaching;¹¹⁶ ten years later, he had retired to Hooksett, New Hampshire,¹¹⁷ where he died February 9, 1929. The *New York Times* carried his obituary.¹¹⁸

Harriet's books for Lee & Shepard remained in print for much of her life, though not always as the Helping Hand series. Circa 1897, the publisher created two 25-volume collections, The Pilgrim Series for Boys and The Mayflower Series for Girls, consisting in part of books originally issued in other series in the late 1860s and early 1870s.¹¹⁹ All six of Harriet's books were listed (which may also indicate the publisher had an overstock), and the two series were advertised through at least 1900. Her books for McLoughlin, *Lives of the Presidents* and *The Life of Abraham Lincoln for Young People* also stayed in print for at least two decades, and the latter received brief mention in a 2002 biography of Lincoln.¹²⁰

Although Harriet Putnam Hill Nowell never attained more than moderate success as an author, in her heyday her writing provided supplementary income and an identity beyond that of wife. The reasons for the apparent hiatus in her writing remain a mystery, though its start loosely corresponds to the years when William became active with the AMC and began spending more time in the White Mountains. That may have been a factor – or it may be that she devoted herself to raising her children, turned to other employment not documented in available records, or found satisfaction in social causes. Only in her late fifties did she return to publishing, and

115 *Register of the Appalachian Mountain Club for 1906* (Boston: Appalachian Mountain Club, 1906): 66, Google Books.

116 1910 United States Federal Census, Boston Ward 12, Suffolk, Massachusetts; Roll T624_618; Page: 3A; Enumeration District: 1428; Image: 704, Ancestry.com.

117 1920 United States Federal Census, Hooksett, Merrimack, New Hampshire; Roll T625_1012; Page: 3A; Enumeration District: 93; Image: 817, Ancestry.com.

118 "Rev. William Gray Nowell," *New York Times*, Feb. 10, 1929: 38, ProQuest Historical Newspapers.

119 An announcement that "Lee & Shepard, Boston, have issued, in new bindings, two series of books, one The Mayflower series for Girls, 25 volumes . . . The other series is the Pilgrim Series for Boys," appeared in "Literary Notes," *The Sunday-School Library Bulletin* 6 (1897): 12. The 1897 McClurg *Illustrated Holiday Catalogue of Books 1897-8* (Chicago: A. C. McClurg & Co., 1897) appears to be the earliest that lists the series (373, 378), which was also advertised in the backs of Lee & Shepard publications at least through 1900. Although the McClurg catalogues list the two series as late as 1907, it is likely these entries represent old stock.

120 *1926 Price List: The New McLoughlin Line of Toy Books and Children's Classics* (Springfield, MA: McLoughlin Bros. Inc. [1926]): 12, "McLoughlin Bros. Catalogues, Price Lists, and Order Forms," *American Antiquarian Society*. William Lee Miller's *Lincoln's Virtues: An Ethical Biography* notes that "there is a 1905 tour de force called *The Life of Abraham Lincoln for Young People Told in Words of One Syllable*" but makes no additional observations on the book (New York: Knopf, 2002): 20.

then to a familiar – and perhaps more accepting – market, that of Sunday school stories. After Harriet's death, *Every Other Sunday* published at least two more of her pieces, one of which was an excerpt from her biography of Lincoln in *Lives of the Presidents*. It was introduced by the statement, "She was for many years a contributor to *Every Other Sunday*, and died in 1906. Her home name was Mrs. Nowell."¹²¹

121 "The Youth of Abraham Lincoln," *Every Other Sunday* 23 (Feb. 2, 1908): 81-82, Google Books. The other posthumous piece was May Mannering [Harriet P. H. Nowell], "Feeding the Hungry," *Every Other Sunday* 24 (March 14, 1909): 106, Google Books.