

HEART MATTERS

NON SCHOLÆ SED VITÆ

Libraries of Hope Newsletter

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MONTHLY TOPICS

It’s June! For many of you, the school year is over. Time for summer fun. So why does the rotation go into the summer? Well, learning is fun to me. It’s not a chore at all. Listening to stories and music and art and enjoying the world isn’t something I need a break from.

Month 10 brings us up to the 20th century in our study of American history. It was an era of tremendous progress—we put a man on the moon! But also an era of tragedy and war, starting with World War I. Because Germany was a key player in that war, that provides the link to a study of this nation. What can we learn about her? Germany has contributed so much that is beautiful in our world. The German people are not our enemy. Another key player was Russia, so we’ll also turn our attention to learning more about her as well as the other Eastern European nations of that region.

I know that my resources get pretty scanty after around 1925. That’s because that is the cutoff year to public domain materials. But it shouldn’t

“TO HELP US REMEMBER
WHAT WE LOVE.”



Art credit: Sommerlust by Adrian Ludwig Richter

(*Monthly Topics cont.*) be hard for you to fill in the gaps of what happened after that time and to bring you up to current events.

Use the whole summer time to explore. Maybe there were topics you came across during the year that you'd like to revisit and go a little deeper. Or some families like to add Greece and Rome to their summer months because they fall in the Christmas season and it can be easy to neglect them. Or, mix things up a bit. Maybe next round, put the Holy Land in December and Greece and Rome in Month 6 when we study our new nation. Our founders certainly drew much wisdom from the Greeks and Romans as they established our government.

The rotation schedule is your servant, not your master.

And our Mother's University topic is the topic everyone seems to be the most concerned about—Math! Check out the Mother's University for some heart-based math programs to try out. And do listen to and read some of the articles I've posted. It may give you some perspectives on the study of math you haven't thought of before.



“KEEP THY HEART WITH ALL
DILIGENCE; FOR OUT OF IT
ARE THE ISSUES OF LIFE.”

--Proverbs 4:23

Art credit: Kinderfreuden by Fritz Beinke

ANNOUNCEMENTS

--**Our newsletter will only** go out once a month in June, July and August. We'll return to twice a month in the Fall. Do check Announcements in our app from time to time as we'll be introducing some new resources for you and you'll always be up to date that way.

--**Krystal just reorganized** the Forgotten Classics page so that it unfolds developmentally. In other words, the first series are for younger kids and the later ones are for older kids--like High School age. I hope that will help you as you decide what you need for your family. I'm actually finishing up a new video that will better explain the whole FC library...coming soon!

--**I know it may appear** that we are republishing a lot of random books and collections of stories. But there is a definite design to all of it that I hope will become clearer as we go along.

While we have a Forgotten Classics Family Library page that lists and links all of our books by series, which we recently redesigned so it is laid out developmentally, I have just created a new alternate page where the books are sorted by the monthly rotation. You'll find the books are listed by those with the youngest appeal first. If you connect to the page by the blue box on the website, it will take you to the rotation page. But you will see a link at the top of the page that will take you to the page organized by series if you prefer that. If you access it through the app, I believe it still goes to the series page first, but there is a rotation link at the top. I hope it will be useful to you!

And PS -- the library isn't done yet. Still filling in gaps! I'll tell you more very soon.

(Announcements cont.) --I want to call your attention to a Facebook group my daughter, Shannon, runs called 100 Days of WEH. She has 6 daughters ranging from almost 2 to 16 and has done WEH from the beginning. Her home has been my 'lab.' The page has lots of practical ways to implement things you are learning. But recently her posts have taken a new direction. She gave herself the challenge to grab one of the Forgotten Classics off the shelf and read for about 10 minutes and she posts the 'gem' from her reading. These older books are loaded with 'gems' and this may give you just the nudge you need to spend more time in them. I am inspired every single day by her posts. Do add your own contributions!

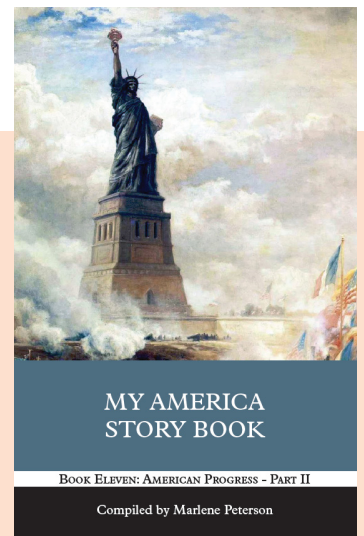
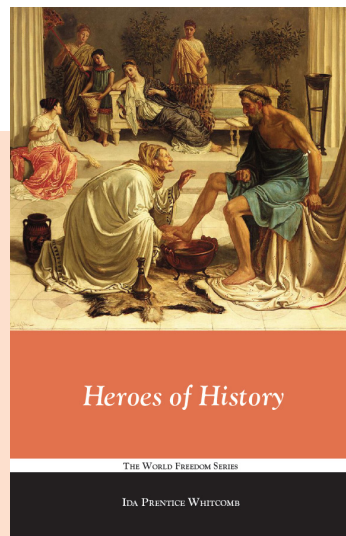
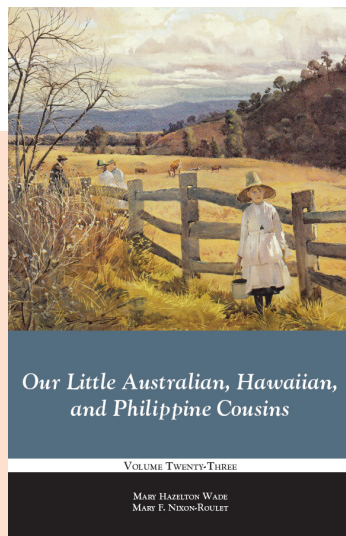
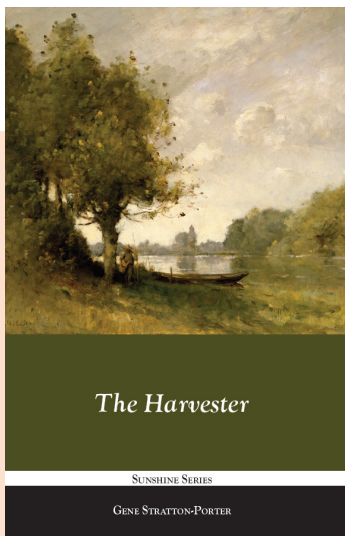
--NEW BOOKS RELEASED IN JUNE (Available ~June 10)

Sunshine Series: *The Harvester* by Gene Stratton-Porter. Several members of our group raved about this book and said they wished every young man would read this book to see what a Gentleman looks like. A bonus to the story are lessons in medicinal herbs, if that has ever been of interest to you.

Our Little Cousins Series takes you to Australia, Hawaii and the Philippines.

World Freedom Series offers a volume of Heroes from all nations of the world, compiled by Ida Prentice Whitcomb who is the author of *The Story of Art and Music*, for those of you who have read her books in the Nature, Art and Music series. I hope you are beginning to notice that each time you read about a familiar name, you add another facet to their personality or something about the time that person lives in that deepens your understanding and appreciation for their contribution. Line upon line, layer upon layer, here a little, there a little.

Finally, *My America Story Book* includes more stories of men and women who aided in America's progress: inventors, humanitarians, scientists, writers, etc. Notice they unfold chronologically by year of birth.



MARLENE'S MUSINGS

--For those of you taking a look at the Civil War this month, I wanted to call your attention to the Grant and Lee book in the Freedom Series. Lee was evidently a very private person and I had a hard time finding a book to share with you. So what I did instead is compile a number of his personal letters. If you want to know what was going through his mind when he decided to leave the Union army and fight for the South, you can learn straight from him. Also, he reveals some of the personal struggles and sacrifices his own family went through in the war.

The more I study the lives of both Grant and Lee, the more I appreciate true greatness on both sides. For those who are demanding Lee be removed from the public square, I wonder how many of those people have spent any time with him.

The latest casualty is talk of renaming Washington and Lee University, W and L University. I wonder if they'll remove the beautiful chapel where he is buried.

Following the war, he declined an offer of an immense sum of money, saying:

(Marlene's Musings cont.) "I am grateful, but I have a self-imposed task which I must accomplish. I have led the young men of the South in battle; I have seen many of them die on the field; I shall devote my remaining energies to training young men to do their duty in life."

Also: "Recollect that we form one country now. Abandon all these local animosities and make your sons Americans."

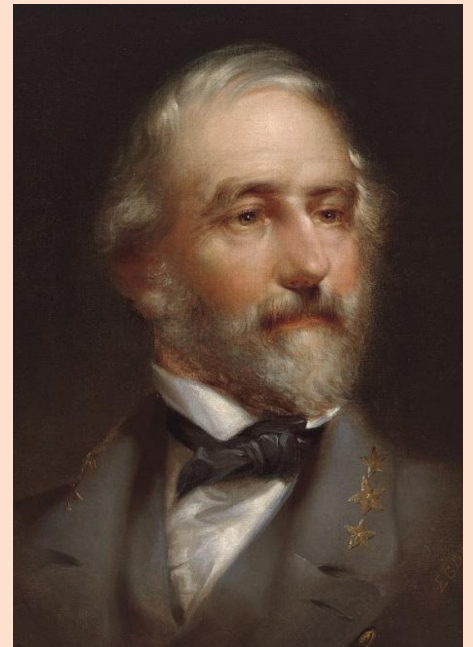
America will not be better by cancelling his memory.

--I'm just finishing up things for My America Story Book Book 11, and couldn't help but notice this little gem from Annie Sullivan, Helen Keller's teacher:

"There was one other important feature of Teacher's method, and this was that the pupil, not the teacher, should choose what was to be learnt. 'I see no sense in "faking" conversation for the sake of teaching language. It's stupid and deadening to pupil and



teacher. I have tried from the beginning to talk naturally to Helen and to teach her to tell me only the things that interest her.' Teacher believed that all children were naturally curious and interested in the world about them, and that if their curiosity was encouraged and exploited there was no difficulty in getting them to learn; on the contrary, they would want to learn, although probably not what were considered the right lessons. Teacher was not interested in the right lessons. 'We shall never properly develop the higher natures of our little ones while we continue to fill their minds with the so-called rudiments,' she said. 'Children will educate themselves under right conditions. They require guidance and sympathy far more than instruction.' This was a revolutionary outlook in the nineteenth century. It is still rather 'advanced' to-day."



WEH GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS

Dear Mom and Dad: Please Stick With Me (<https://grownandflown.com/letter-from-teen-to-parents/?fbclid=IwAR3VyQzzb0aIPJjrMGKmpEX-39gXKoWei-tntIRyxXtKpC5enEi4SaP-3ILg>)

"Begin early in exposing children to books. The mother who fails to read to her small children does a disservice to them and a disservice to herself. It takes time, yes, much of it. It takes self-discipline. It takes organizing and budgeting the minutes and hours of the day. But it will never be a bore as you watch young minds come to know characters, expressions, and ideas... Let your children be exposed to great minds, great ideas, everlasting truth, and those things which will build and motivate for good."

--Gordon B. Hinckley, June 1985 Ensign

Art credit: The First Lesson by Samuel baruch Ludwig Halle



WEH IN ACTION

--**"To know Nature is to know God."** I believe that with all that I am. Seeing their reactions to this amazing transformation makes my heart burst.

--**We moved to 11 acres in Tennessee** last fall, and it has been an adventure for our family. Recently, my boys noticed that a particular hen was often missing for days. They followed her and found a nest in the woods where she was attempting to hatch 21 eggs! They carefully checked on her each day supplying her with food and water, taking extra care not to disturb her. Today the boys were giddy with delight to notice a chick poking his head out of the nest. One of my sons sat waiting for over an hour for the hen to move so he could get a peek at the chicks. (This is a boy who can hardly sit still for 10 minutes.) So far 8 chicks have hatched.

About the same time they discovered the nest, my boys decided they wanted to start a chicken hatchery business. They worked and saved for an incubator and they have been researching everything they can about chickens. They designed plans on Illustrator for a chicken coup that can hold the different kinds of birds they plan to raise and they are collecting materials to build it. It's amazing the excitement and learning that can come from nature.

--**I've (Marlene) had notebooking on my mind** and posted this a few days ago:

"Notebooking" is such a vital part of the learning process. I am thinking of doing some kind of a zoom conference this summer to help those of you struggling with it to get over some of the hurdles that seem to be in your way.

I would love your input as to what is tripping you up. That will help me figure out which direction to take this. Is it finding time? Is it knowing what to say? Is it not understanding the concept? Let's talk!"

Your responses were eye opening to me! This is not a simple concept for many of you. Here's a sampling:

"My kids resist and complain whenever I get the notebooks out. I tell them to write whatever they want to remember about the story or person we're reading and invite them to draw a picture but they still feel it's overwhelming."

"My kids just don't want to do it or put forth very little effort towards doing it."

"Finding time is my biggest challenge."

"My heart longs to so badly!! I love my baby, but I find I don't have the hands to notebook while she is so little,



HAPPY IS FREE.

Art credit: Kinderreigen
by Mieczyslaw Reyzner

(WEH in Action cont.) squirmy, needy and grabby. And slowing down to digest what I'm learning before jumping to the next thing."

"I want to journal everything, which leads to journal 5 times a day. Not really, but feels like it. How do we know how much to put in each binder?"

"Everything."

"When I think about notebooking, there's a blur of tasks I would need to do in my head (finding the notebook, searching for and printing out a picture, getting out paints or special pens/pencils, deciding what to notebook on) and then before I get through thinking of all that, one of my kids says, 'Mama, I'm hungry.' Also, sometimes I get on my phone to look for information and end up checking Facebook."

"It feels too open-ended and then they don't enjoy it, even though I do."

"I get overwhelmed by all the stuff I want to notebook! And then there never seems to be any time for any of it!"

"All of it: concept, making time, juggling so many kids while writing. What to write, how many times a day, what subjects are best to notebook. Also how to handle dyslexia, dysgraphia while journaling."

"My boys DESPISE writing!!"

"I don't understand it and my kids instantly balk when anything to do with writing is presented."

"It is difficult for me to make time for notebooking. I can also be crippled by anxiety of knowing what to write or fear of someone seeing it and judging me too harshly. I over-analyze too much and as a

result have not found much success with it."

"What's notebooking?"

I actually went to bed a little discouraged that night. I felt like I had added more to your burden, when it was supposed to lighten it. The next day I asked what notebooking is for. I loved your answers:

"To help us remember what we love."

"To place it in your own heart and mind forever. To help it become a part of you. Remember, reveal, and reflect on the beauties of creation, knowledge, and the world."

"I forget the details of a story five minutes after hearing it. But I remember how it made me feel. To me notebooking is a way to sink those ideas and memories deeper into my mind and my heart and to have a record to go back to and remember. To me it is basically a journal of gems!"

"To write it on your heart."

"Journaling of any kind teaches me as I write. There's some kind of magic to it that as I write, new insights come into my heart and mind. Almost as if when I get thoughts out of my head, it immediately makes room for more and more insight floods in."

"To stop and smell the roses...and then be able to reflect on them again and again."

I've been thinking a lot on all these comments and I have some thoughts I'm putting together. You have the vision of it; now how can we overcome some of those hurdles? I'm not sure if it will be in a workshop or a podcast, but watch the FB group or Announcements if

this is a topic that interests you.

--**Today I am doing hard** work. To all those around me, it doesn't look like it, but my insides are doing all sorts of gymnastics, both mentally and physically.

I am sitting on a swing reading a book.

After reading a book that pointed out some of my weaknesses, I decided I don't need to be within an arms reach of my child all the time. I've also been trying to spend lots of time outside. I realized I was doing my child a great disservice by trying to show her how to "play" and watching her every move. Today she said 'mommy play with me' and I went outside with her. I brought my book and told her I'd sit here and she can go play (which usually lasts about 30 seconds) but I was more determined this time. She walked away and I felt like I was totally rejecting her. She laid on the tramp for a time, and then got some pillows and blankets and is now laying on the grass. Part of me says go be with her! But the other parts sees her relaxing and taking in the sights and sounds. She's is laying there doing "nothing" and for some reason it is just killing me!

Where did I get the idea my day needs to be 'busy'? That I need to entertain my child? Our hurried pace is being taken from our lives and it causes a strange feeling of anxiety inside me. I'm used to always going somewhere and doing something that to just take it easy is a foreign thing. I wonder what affects my own need to 'feel busy' will have on my children.

Anyways, I just felt like sharing with you these strange changes that are taking place as I'm trying to live a more Well Educated Heart lifestyle.

(continued on next page)



“WE MUST READ OUR
POETS AND LEARN THEM
BY HEART TILL OUR
MINDS ARE FULL OF THE
BEST THOUGHTS AND THE
LOVELIEST EXPRESSIONS
THAT THE WORLD HAS YET
UTTERED...”

--Mrs. J.G. Simpson,
Teaching Poetry to Children 1901

Art credit: Die Dorfschule by Albert Anker

(WEH in Action cont.) --Several months ago, I was reading biographical accounts of my ancestors, and wanted to share them with my children in a way that was memorable, heartwarming and engaging. I enjoy writing, so I took snippets of the biographical accounts and created picture books for my kids! The first batch has arrived, and my kids have loved them! I have loved sharing our heritage with them in a way that is so cozy and fun! I never, ever would have thought of this without having been filled and inspired by WEH.

(I used Barnes and Noble Bookpress to print them. Most of the illustrations came from Etsy clipart, but I did have my 6-year-old daughter paint me some pictures to go with the stories as well.)



BE A LIGHT,
NOT A HAMMER.

Art credit: Mother and Child in Front of a House
by Hermann Sondermann

MOI MINUTE

Sometimes I get overwhelmed at the tone of very strong opinions and it feels like everything around me is crazy contentious. But one thing I know is that love trumps everything.

I was really impressed with this commencement address given by Wendy Nelson and wanted to share it with you, too.

She quotes the work of an MIT researcher in Visual Perceptions. He describes what he calls “emotional violence” and says it occurs when:

- someone believes he is correct and the other person is incorrect
- AND that the other person must change

--that last AND is the tipping point. The problem comes when we're insistent that the other person has to change. Wendy Watson goes on to talk about perception and how being respectful, curious, and kind can help us understand each other better and avoid contention.

Encircling reach is such an essential part of what we're doing together, and I love how this helped me think about small and simple changes I can make to open my heart up to understanding and loving more people.

Mothers of Influence are knitting hearts together and building a sisterhood: be exceptionally kind to each other. We're gathering women of different ages, religious backgrounds, educational philosophies, and life experiences. We don't have to be the same or think in the same ways, but we are always striving for common ground and unity among our diversity. Sometimes that's a little messy ... but it's important enough to be worth the struggle. An encircling reach is the hallmark of a Mother of Influence.

