

ARCHIVES CORNER

Spring 2025

A.A. Founders Day 90th Anniversary

Historical Photos (from GSO A.A. Archives)
Founders of A.A. – New York and Akron

“Whenever a society or civilization perishes there is
always one condition present:
they forgot where they came from.”
– *Carl Sandburg (from A.A. Archives Workbook)*

A.A. Founders Day

“Founders Day” is based on the day in June 1935 when Dr. Bob took his last drink: a morning bottle of beer administered by Bill W. to steady Dr. Bob’s hands so he could do a scheduled surgery. As we know from the Big Book and other sources, Dr. Bob was still shaky that morning after a multi-day drunken spree associated with his trip to Atlantic City for the annual medical convention in that town.

Historic photographs available through A.A. Archives are shown in this Archives Corner to help us remember and celebrate the events leading up to Founders Day, as well as the lessons learned to help carry the A.A. message today.

Happy Founders Day 90th Anniversary
PICTURES TO REMEMBER WHY WE CELEBRATE
New York City
Towns Hospital



Charles B. Towns Hospital – 293 Central Park West, N.Y.C. Bill W. was a patient here three times, and this was the location of his spiritual experience in December 1934.

Happy Founders Day 90th Anniversary

PICTURES TO REMEMBER WHY WE CELEBRATE

Non-Alcoholic Friends of AA's Founders

Dr William Silkworth (Towns Hospital)



William "Silky" Silkworth, M.D. (1874-1951) – Towns Hospital Physician-In-Chief. Bill W. was his patient. He was one of A.A.'s earliest supporters in the medical profession.

Happy Founders Day 90th Anniversary

PICTURES TO REMEMBER WHY WE CELEBRATE

Non-Alcoholic Friends of AA's Founders
Dr Samuel Shoemaker (Oxford Group)



Rev. Dr. Samuel M. Shoemaker, Jr. (1893-1963) – Rector, Calvary Episcopal Church, N.Y.C. (1925-1951). He was the leader of the Oxford Group Movement in the United States (1921-1938). His teachings inspired Bill W. and the early A.A. members.

Happy Founders Day 90th Anniversary

PICTURES TO REMEMBER WHY WE CELEBRATE

***New York City
Bill W & Ebby T***



William "Bill" Wilson (1895-1971) – A.A. co-founder, with "sponsor" Edwin "Ebby" T. (1897-1966), in 1955. Ebby brought the Oxford Group Movement message to Bill.

Happy Founders Day 90th Anniversary

PICTURES TO REMEMBER WHY WE CELEBRATE

Akron Mayflower Hotel Lobby



Mayflower Hotel, Akron, Ohio – View of lobby where Bill W. phoned Rev. Walter F. Tunks, D.D., which resulted in a meeting with A.A. co-founder to be, Dr. Robert “Bob” Smith (1879-1950)

Happy Founders Day 90th Anniversary
PICTURES TO REMEMBER WHY WE CELEBRATE
Akron
Seiberling Gatehouse



Seiberling Estate Gatehouse, Akron, Ohio – Where Bill W. and Dr. Bob were introduced by Mrs. Henrietta Seiberling (1888-1979) in 1935.

Happy Founders Day 90th Anniversary
PICTURES TO REMEMBER WHY WE CELEBRATE
Akron
Dr Bob's Home



Home of Dr. Bob & Anne

Happy Founders Day 90th Anniversary
PICTURES TO REMEMBER WHY WE CELEBRATE
Akron
Bill W & Dr Bob



Bill W. and Dr. Bob at Stepping Stones – early 1940s
(still image from rare film)

Happy Founders Day 90th Anniversary
PICTURES TO REMEMBER WHY WE CELEBRATE
Akron
St Thomas Hospital



St. Thomas Hospital, Akron, Ohio – In 1939, Sister Mary Ignatia, Registrar, and Dr. Bob established an alcoholic ward there.

Happy Founders Day 90th Anniversary
PICTURES TO REMEMBER WHY WE CELEBRATE
Akron
Sister Ignatia – St Thomas Hospital



Sister Mary Ignatia (1889-1966) – Of the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine. Dr. Bob's partner in treating alcoholics at St. Thomas Hospital, Akron, from 1939-1952.

Happy Founders Day 90th Anniversary

PICTURES TO REMEMBER WHY WE CELEBRATE

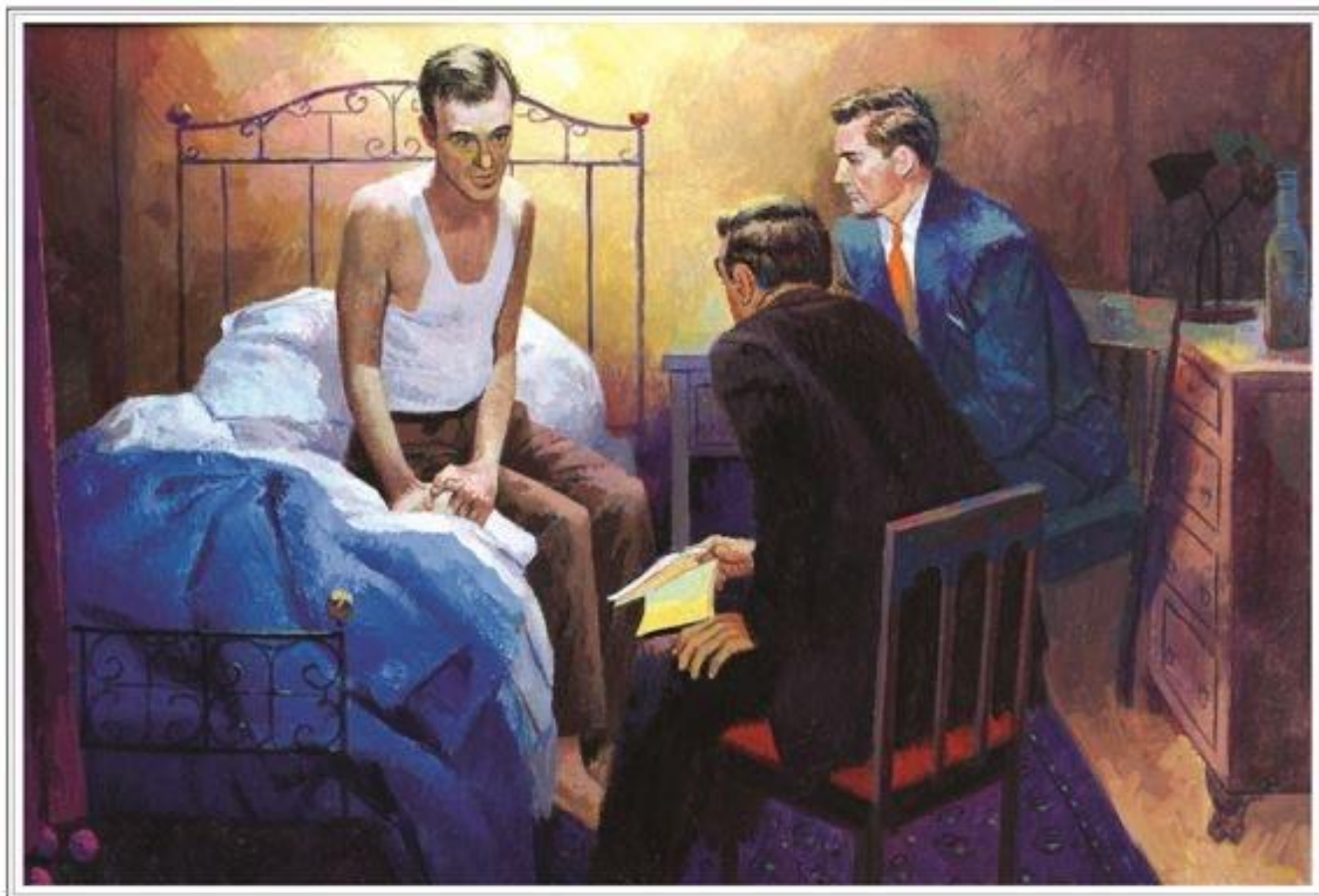
Akron

Dr Bob & Bill W



Dr. Bob and Bill W. – Akron, Ohio, 1949.

Happy Founders Day 90th Anniversary
PICTURES TO REMEMBER WHY WE CELEBRATE
Akron and beyond ... Pass it On!



"The Man on the Bed". This oil painting was created by Robert M. for the AA Grapevine and was reproduced as the center spread in the December, 1955 issue.

"The Man in the Bed" (AA No.3)

Happy Founders Day 90th Anniversary

PICTURES TO REMEMBER WHY WE CELEBRATE

"We are not a glum lot" ... Pass it On!
Bill W. playing violin at Stepping Stones

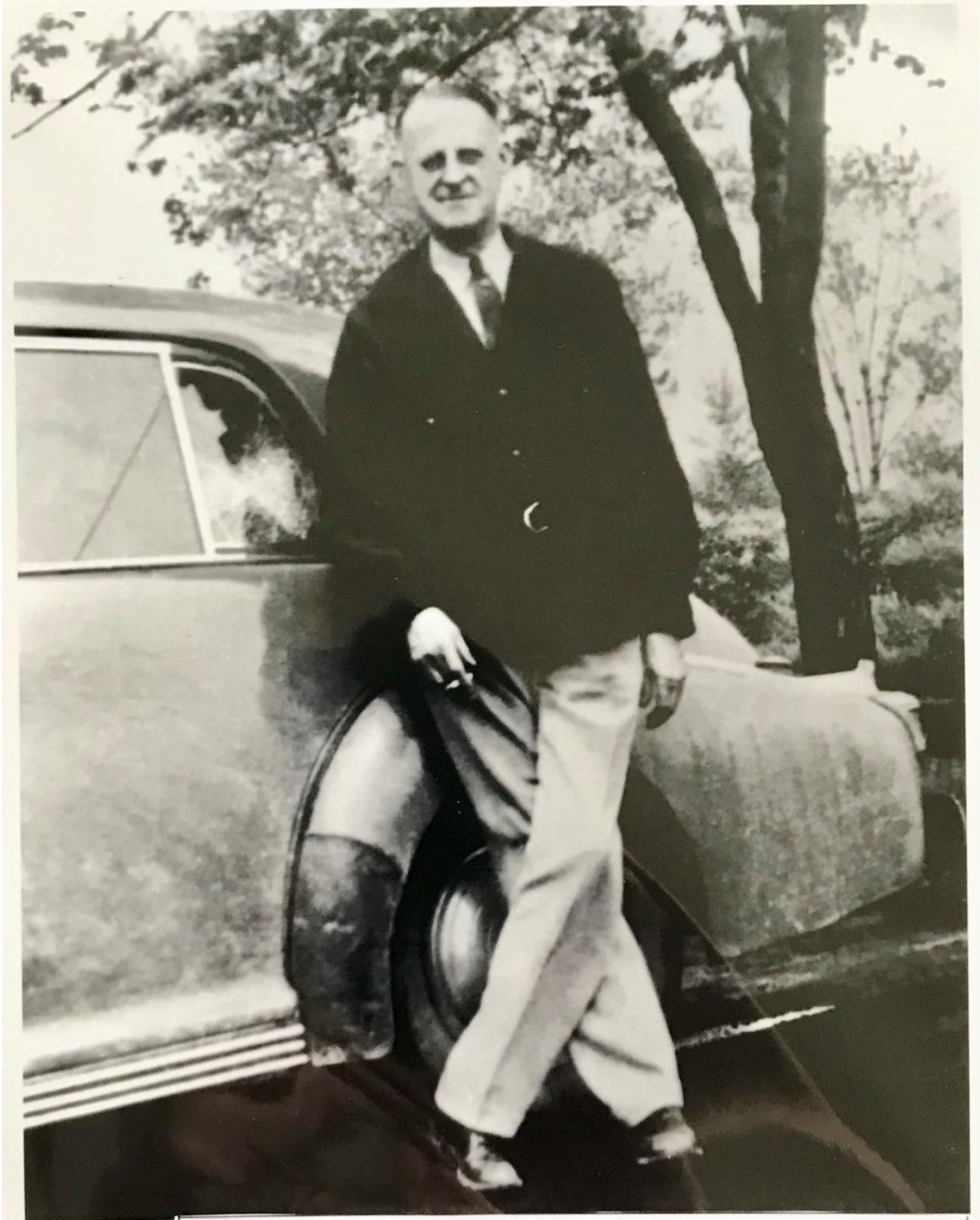


Bill W. playing violin at Stepping Stones

Happy Founders Day 90th Anniversary
PICTURES TO REMEMBER WHY WE CELEBRATE

"We are not a glum lot" ... Pass it On!

Dr Bob with his car



Dr. Bob leaning against his car

Happy Founders Day 90th Anniversary

PICTURES TO REMEMBER WHY WE CELEBRATE

"We are not a glum lot" ... Pass it On!
Bill W & Lois - garden at Stepping Stones



Bill and Lois in garden at Stepping Stones – 1960s