

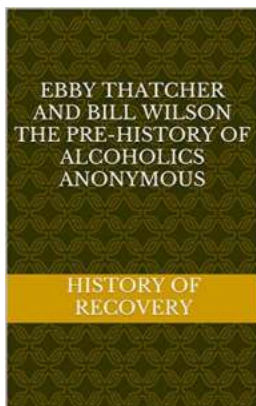
# Ebby Thatcher And Bill Wilson: The Pre History Of Alcoholics Anonymous

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) is a fellowship of men and women who share their experiences, strength, and hope with each other in order to solve their common problem and help others recover from alcoholism. Founded in 1935, AA has become a lifeline for millions of individuals worldwide. However, the roots of AA can be traced back to two individuals who played a significant role in its pre-history: Ebby Thatcher and Bill Wilson.

## The Beginnings of Friendship

Ebby Thatcher, a childhood friend of Bill Wilson, had struggled with alcoholism for several years. In 1934, after undergoing treatment at the Towns Hospital in New York City, Ebby reached out to Bill, hoping to share the spiritual awakening he had experienced during his stay.

Bill, who had also battled alcohol addiction, was intrigued by Ebby's transformation and agreed to meet with him. It was during this meeting that Ebby introduced Bill to the principles of the Oxford Group, a religious movement focused on personal spiritual development.



## Ebby Thatcher and Bill Wilson The Pre-History of Alcoholics Anonymous

by Rosina Sonnenschmidt (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4 out of 5

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Screen Reader : Supported

Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 34 pages  
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Overwhelmed by the power of Ebby's message, Bill immediately saw the potential in these principles for helping others struggling with alcoholism. This encounter marked the beginning of a life-changing friendship.

## **A Spiritual Awakening**

Inspired by his encounter with Ebby, Bill sought his own spiritual awakening. In December 1934, Bill found himself in a hospital room, grappling with the desperation and hopelessness caused by his addiction. It was in this moment that he had what he described as a "moment of surrender." Bill experienced a profound spiritual experience that would shape the future of AA.

Bill's spiritual awakening set the stage for the development of the Twelve Steps, the guiding principles of AA. These Steps, based on the Oxford Group's principles, provide a roadmap for individuals seeking recovery from alcoholism.

## **The Birth of Alcoholics Anonymous**

In June 1935, Bill Wilson took his first steps toward establishing Alcoholics Anonymous. He reached out to Dr. Bob Smith, a respected physician and fellow alcoholic, and together they formed a fellowship aimed at helping others recover from alcoholism.

Under the guidance of the Oxford Group's principles and with the support of Ebby Thatcher and other early members, Bill and Dr. Bob developed a program

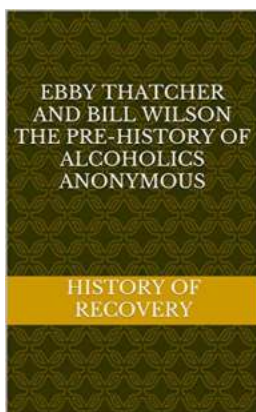
centered around spiritual growth, self-reflection, and mutual support. The success of AA quickly became evident as the fellowship grew, and its impact on individuals' lives became undeniable.

## Legacy and Impact

Ebby Thatcher and Bill Wilson's contributions to the pre-history of Alcoholics Anonymous cannot be overstated. Their experiences, friendship, and spiritual awakenings laid the foundation for a fellowship that has saved countless lives and brought hope to individuals and families affected by alcoholism.

Today, AA remains a thriving organization, offering support in the form of meetings, sponsorship, and a safe space for individuals to share their struggles and triumphs. The principles established by Ebby, Bill, and the early members continue to guide those seeking recovery from alcoholism.

The story of Ebby Thatcher and Bill Wilson is a testament to the power of friendship, spirituality, and a shared vision. Their dedication to helping others paved the way for the formation of Alcoholics Anonymous, a beacon of hope for those seeking a life free from the grips of alcohol addiction.



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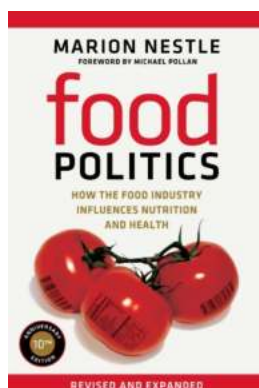
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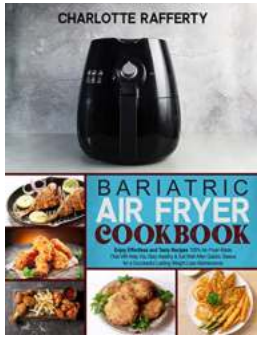


The pre-history of AA told by two of the people who were part of the most important events; Ebby Thatcher, the man who brought the message to Bill W. tells how he was helped to sobriety by Rowland Hazard and other Oxford Group members, how he carried the message to Bill and the early developments of the Alcoholics Anonymous fellowship. AA Co-Founder Bill Wilson talks about the two streams of influence that led to AA. First, Bill tells the story of Rowland Hazard; how having failed to get lasting sobriety with help from Doctor Carl Jung he took Jung's final piece of advice to immerse himself in some sort of spiritual program. How Rowland practicing the principles of the Oxford Group brought the message of sobriety to Ebby Thatcher. Then, during the second part of Bill's talk he tells how Doctor Duncan Silkworth came to an understanding of Alcoholism and its treatment and how Doctor Silkworth helped him. First by preparing Bill to receive the message, then by providing him a medical detox and professional assurance, and then giving him the advice that enabled him to carry the message to the other AA Co-Founder Doctor Bob Smith, Transcribed from Historic Sound RecordingsThe text is a direct transcript of the talks which are available at [Audible.com/historyofrecovery](http://Audible.com/historyofrecovery)



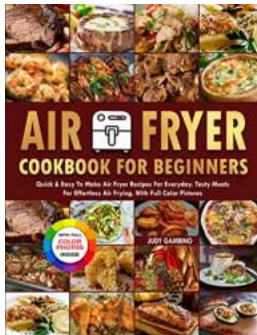
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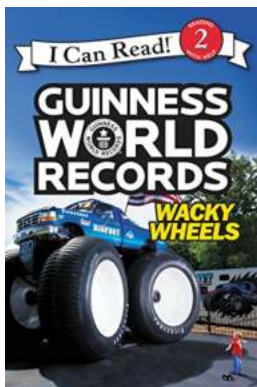
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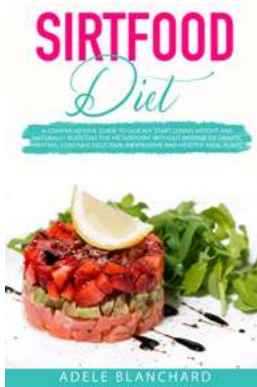
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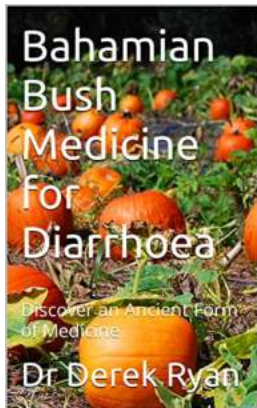
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