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1' to discover an aspect of Rotary history

The Path of Paul Harris' Creative Idea

Paul Harris's childhood and early professional experiences shaped his vision for Rotary.

Raised in Wallingford, Vermont, by his grandparents after his father's business failed, he grew up in a close-knit rural community that emphasized ethics, solidarity, and mutual support.

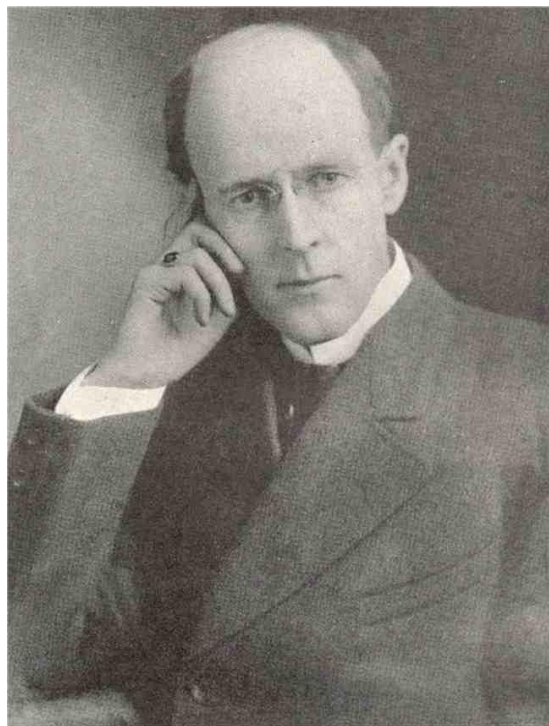
As a young lawyer in Chicago, he encountered a stark contrast: a fast-growing city where individualism and business competition often led to professional isolation.

This lack of camaraderie made him long for the strong community bonds of his youth.

His extensive travels exposed him to various professional clubs in Europe and the U.S., where networking and mutual assistance played a vital role.

Inspired by these models, he envisioned a club where professionals from different fields could connect, not just for business but also for service.

In 1905, he gathered three friends and founded Rotary, introducing the idea of rotating meetings to foster equality, friendship, and a shared commitment to ethical leadership and community service.



PAUL P. HARRIS

*As he appeared when Rotary came into being
February 23, 1905*