

TITLE: Fanny's Menagerie vs. Bummer and Lazarus: Cultivating Empathy for Animals

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ABSTRACT: Lydia Maria Child (1802-1880) began her writing career during the 1820s, and was well established as an activist by the 1860s. This presentation will focus on Child's contribution of didactic literature related to the movement to start animal protection societies in the United States, with "Fanny's Menagerie," published in *Rainbows for Children* (Boston: Ticknor and Fields, 1847) and "Animal Affection" published in an SPCA publication called *Our Dumb Animals* in October 1870. The presentation will compare and contrast Child's work to Western journalistic mythmaking that centered on two feral dogs named Bummer and Lazarus during the early 1860s. Journalists (including Mark Twain) wrote newspaper articles about the dogs' exploits in very humanistic terms, endowing Bummer and his sidekick Lazarus's adventures with romance and drama. The Press in San Francisco projected the apparent bond between the dogs to illustrate how these two strays might actually be useful to society and created folk metaphor for conflicted behavior in human beings unfolding during the Civil War appearing in the national headlines. News stories published in various outlets created a buzz that opened the community to a sensibility of humane treatment for animals. This presentation will contextualize how these gendered approaches to animal treatment were necessary to teach children how to treat animals (and as well as human beings) with empathy and to garner support to establish pioneering SPCAs in the United States.