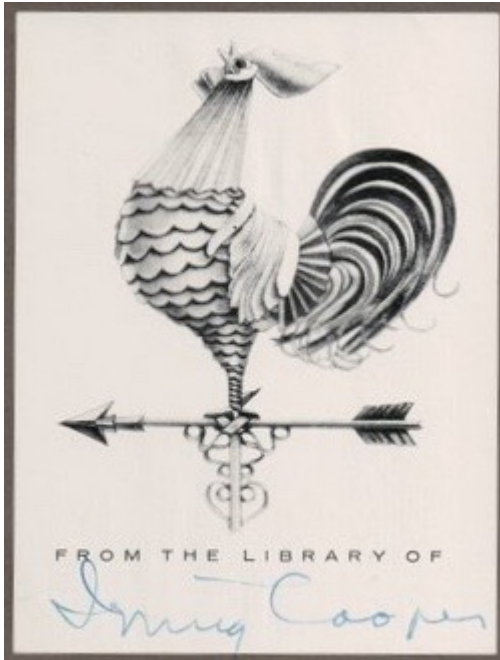


Wordless Wednesday: Irving I. Cooper's Bookplate



Bookplate of Irving Cooper, circa 1950s?

[Cooper Family, Broida Family](#) (Click for Family Tree)

Notes, Sources, and References:

1. Irving Israel Cooper (1908-1982) was the son of Joseph Baer Cooper (1873-1955) and Helen Freda Cooper (1878-1934). He married Gertrude Belle Broida (1911-2011).

Please contact us if you would like higher resolution images. Click to enlarge images.

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Tombstone Tuesday: Harvey Deming & John Deming



Harvey Deming headstone, Salisbury Village Cemetery, Salisbury, Addison Co., Vermont. Used with kind permission of the FAG photographer, Alan Lathrop. (Click to enlarge.)

[McMurray Family](#) *(Click for Family Tree)*

Family historians are often stricken with BSO- **B**right **S**hiny **O**bject syndrome. Basically, that means we are working on one thing, find an interesting tidbit that makes us do a few extra online clicks, then a few more just to check one fact, then another, and then it is 3am...

That happened when writing the post for Monday, 25 July, about the birthdate of Edward Byron Payne (affectionately known as EBP in our household). Somehow- I actually know how, but won't bore you, dear reader, with the details- I ended up on Find A Grave (FAG), looking at the memorial for Harvey Deming. Gazing at the headstone photo for Edward B. Payne's maternal

grandfather, the date of death jumped out– 26 July 1847. That was the day *after* Edward, called Biron in his first census (1850), was born! (And today is the 169th anniversary of his death.) So poor dear Nancy S. (Deming) Payne, age 34, was ‘lying in’ (giving birth) as her father was dying. Truly the circle of life... and sad that Nancy would not have her father for more years to watch his grandchildren grow, and EBP would never know his maternal grandfather.

So many take for granted the wonderful folks who take photos and create memorials for our ancestors on FAG. Today was a good reminder about how useful they can be in helping us to tell our stories. Noticing that the day after EBP was born, his grandfather died, makes our family history a story, rather than dry dates and ‘begats.’

But now, look closely at the additional photo that FAG Volunteer Alan Lathrop also posted on Harvey’s FAG memorial:



Harvey Deming & John Deming headstones, Salisbury Village Cemetery, Salisbury, Addison Co., Vermont. Used with kind permission of the FAG photographer, Alan Lathrop. (Click to enlarge.)

A close look shows that the headstone on the left is for John Deming, the father of Harvey, and grandfather of Nancy S. (Deming) Payne, EBP's mother.

Nothing terribly special about that, as family members are often buried close to each other. But look closer at another of Alan's photos:



John Deming headstone, Salisbury Village Cemetery, Salisbury, Addison Co., Vermont. Used with kind permission of the FAG photographer, Alan Lathrop.

And note the date of death for John Deming: 26 July 1815.

He died on the same day as his son, but 32 years earlier! Nancy was only about 2 years old, so she likely did not remember her paternal grandfather.

John had died in Crown Point, New York per FAG (but cannot find the source of that information), and Harvey in Middlebury, Vermont, about 45 miles from where his daughter Nancy had given birth to Biron (EBP), in Middletown, Vermont. John and Harvey were both buried in Salisbury, Vermont, about 10 miles from where the Payne family was living in 1846-7.

One more BSO-type Heritage Rambling... Family researchers believe that Janna Deming was the father of John Deming. But get this- he died on 24 July 1796- the day *before* EBP's birthday (and 51 years earlier). This cluster of late July deaths in the Deming family is very interesting. Definitely a BSO.

Notes, Sources, and References:

1. Vermont Vital Records for 1720-1908 on Ancestry.com indicate the death of Harvey Deming as 6 July 1847 on one card, and 26 July 1847 on another. John's card has the 26 July 1815 date; these cards were completed in 1919.
2. The place of death of John Deming needs to be verified. Crown Point, NY is about 30 miles from Salisbury, VT, so it would be possible for them to move the body that far, though it would have been challenging in July of 1815.
3. Find A Grave memorials- <http://www.findagrave.com>
John Deming: Find A Grave Memorial# 103144340
Harvey Deming: Find A Grave Memorial# 103143906

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Mystery Monday: The Birth of Edward B. Payne



Edward B. Payne, circa 1874. Image courtesy of Second Congregational Church, Wakeman, Ohio. This is the youngest image we have of Edward- he would have been about 27 years old. (We apologize for the reflection from the glass.)

[McMurray Family](#) *(Click for Family Tree)*

One hundred sixty-nine years ago, on 25 July 1847, a son was the third (known) child born to Nancy S. Deming (1813-1893) and Joseph Hitchcock Payne (1810-1884). They named him Edward Biron/Byron Payne.

We do not know of any ancestors named "Edward" that he might have been named after, but we have not yet extended those lines as far back as we would like to have completed. His middle name, however, was likely after Nancy's brother Byron Deming (1826-1920). Perhaps his middle name was also in homage to the poet Lord Byron, who many know today for his short

poem, "She Walks in Beauty." Byron wrote much more than just that one lyric, though, and was quite famous in his own time as one of the Romantic era poets. "J. H.," as Edward's father was known, was an educated man. He had read the classics as he completed his education, which included seminary training; he would have read Byron and many other poets and writers. Nancy's father (Harvey Deming, 1785-1847) had been Town Clerk so she likely was educated to some degree as well, or maybe could read and/or write- we don't know for sure, since there is so little in the records for women. J.H. and Nancy may have had dreams that their son would become a poet, and that he did as well in life as his Uncle Byron- but we are getting ahead of the story, and today's Mystery Monday.

We cannot find a birth record for EBP (as he is lovingly known in our home since I am so obsessed with learning more about his life). Most information about his birth states he was born in Middletown, Vermont, including a card he filled out in 1918, when he was 71 years old:

Payne, Edward E 1918
Name in full. Edward Byron Payne
Born at Middletown Vermont on July 25th, 1847

CA State Library Biographical Card- front, cropped

Of course, when someone gives their birth information, it is always secondary evidence, since, although they were there at their birth, they probably were not aware of what day or year it was! A person only knows the day of their birth by what others tell them, such as their parents, or when they see a vital record.

The vital record here is the mystery this Monday- where is a record of EBP's birth?

The 1900 US Federal Census noted that EBP was born in Vermont in July of 1847, but it also included that his father was born

in England and his mother in Germany- both places are decidedly untrue, as the family has deep roots in early America. (Perhaps someone else gave the census taker the information?)

EBP's second wife, Ninetta (Wiley) [Eames] Payne [Springer] was the informant for his death certificate in 1923, and she stated his birth as 25 July 1847 in Vermont.

Everything else we have found states EBP was born in Vermont, but where? And is there proof of when, since some sources noted his birth year as 1845 instead of 1847?

Starting with the information given by EBP on the California Author Card, we found that Middletown is in Rutland County, Vermont. The name was changed to Middletown Springs in the late 1800s, but he may not have known that, or else just preferred the name of the town as it was at his birth. Middletown is not a very populous town- only about 750 residents even today, with not many more in the past.

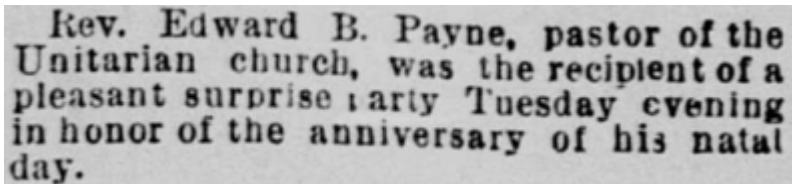
Vermont Vital Records are now available from FamilySearch and Ancestry.com, and a search box search on both websites was unsuccessful. So I looked through the records, page by page (virtually), in Rutland County for the years 1844-1848. No EBP. No mention of his parents. No mention of his sisters, but they were born in Ohio so would not be included in the Middletown or Rutland, VT birth records.

In *The History of Middletown, Vermont, in Three Discourses...* by Barnes Frisbee, published in 1867, we learn that Joseph H. Payne, EBP's father, moved to Middletown in December of 1846, and preached there in the Congregational Church for about a year. That tidbit helps us to pinpoint his birth year as 1847 (vs. 1845), as EBP stated it was.

So, no success finding proof of Edward Biron Payne's birth online despite many, many hours, but we do have a 'preponderance of evidence.' Happily, FamilySearch has a

number of microfilms that include Middletown/Rutland land records, town records, etc., so those will be the next resource to peruse. We might be able to learn a bit more about the family's short year in Middletown, as well.

Anyone out there have *proof*?



Rev. Edward B. Payne, pastor of the Unitarian church, was the recipient of a pleasant surprise party Tuesday evening in honor of the anniversary of his natal day.

Surprise party for Edward B. Payne on Tuesday, 25 July 1893. *Morning Call* (San Francisco), Thursday, 27 July 1893, Volume LXXIV, No. 57, Page 3, Column 2, 'Chronicling America' via loc.gov.

For now, we will continue to use 25 July 1847 as EBP's birth, and we did raise a glass in his honor today. He was an incredible man, who put his faith into practice and worked unflaggingly to better the condition of all men and women. He once commented that he believed there was a door between the two worlds, our world of the living and the world of those who have moved on to the next phase, whatever that may be. I hope that today the door opened just a bit, and he saw how we lovingly honored him on his 'natal day.'

Notes, Sources, and References:

1. Image from *Leominster Massachusetts Historical and Picturesque*, by William A. Emerson, Lithotype Publishing Co., Gardner, Mass. 1888, page 55. Accessed 25 July 2016 at <https://archive.org/stream/leominstermassac00emer#page/54/mode/2up>.
2. Edward B. Payne census information—Year: 1900; Census Place: Berkeley Ward 2, Alameda, California; Roll: T623

83; Page: 13A; Enumeration District: 397, via Ancestry.com. The 1900 US Federal Census for Edward B. Payne, indexed incorrectly in the home of Samuel Wakeman despite EBP having a different house number- he was actually single since his wife had died, and boarding at 2147 Parker St., as was Charmian Kittredge, who is listed on the same page. They were living in the home of Roscoe Eames and his wife Ninetta (Wiley) Eames. Charmian was the niece of Ninetta, and would later become the wife of the writer Jack London. Roscoe and Ninetta divorced, and she later married Edward. But that is all another story or two... or twenty.

3. *The History of Middletown, Vermont, in Three Discourses...* by Barnes Frisbee, Tuttle & Company, Printers, Rutland, Vermont, 1867, page 95, via archive.org.

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Thriller Thursday: Elsie Janis and “That Fascinating Baseball Slide”



Elsie Janis (Beerbower) in the April, 1913 magazine, “Theatre”- ‘At Home’ section. “Theatre,” Vol. 17, No. 146, Page 225, via Archive.org.

[Helbling Family, Beerbower Family](#) (Click for Family Tree)

While some of our dear readers may not actually consider this to be a *real* thriller like some of the wild movies or tv shows that are out there today, today’s post does at least have a

“whodunnit?” component. And then there is the thrill of research, though sometimes gone too far... (maybe).

As has been mentioned previously on the blog, Elsie Bierbower (1889-1956) was the cousin of Anna May Beerbower (1881-1954), who married William Gerard Helbling. Anna May was the daughter of Edgar Peter Beerbower (1849-1916), while Elsie was the daughter of John Eleazer Bierbower (1858-1929). Elsie went by “Little Elsie” in her child-star years, and then used “Elsie Janis” as her stage name.

Elsie started her career in vaudeville and on the stage, but eventually added audio recordings and later movies. “That Fascinating Baseball Slide”- AKA just “Fascinating Baseball Slide,” was her first recording, in 1912.

McCreery and Company

**New Victor Records
for January**

Gems from “Merry Countess,” Victor Light Opera Co.
12-inch..... \$1.00

Souvenir de Beethoven - - } Arthur Fryor's Band.
Creme de la Creme - - - }
12-inch..... \$1.25

You're Just as Sweet at Sixty as you were at
Sweet Sixteen - - - - - Walter J. Van Brunt,
Oh, You Silvery Bells - - - - - Peerless Quartet.
10-inch..... 75c

Temple Bells (N. Y. Hippodrome productions)
Lyric Quartet.
Rosalie - - - - - That Girl Quartet.
10-inch..... 75c

Elsie Janis Records

Miss Janis' first two records are immensely amusing. She is incomparable in her own particular field, and these two records are superb.

“Fascinating Baseball Slide”
and
“Fo' de Lawd's Sake Play a Waltz”
10-inch.....75c each

Red Seal Records

Ballo in Masherà - - - - - Enrico Caruso, Tenor.
12-inch..... \$3.00; in Italian.

From Grisellids (Open now to Mine Eyes)
Chas. Dalmores, Tenor.
12-inch..... \$3.00; in French.

Mary of Allendale - - - - - Herbert Witherspoon, Bass.
12-inch..... \$1.50; in English.

A Child's Song - - - - - John McCormack, Tenor.
10-inch..... \$1.00; in English.

Ad for new Elsie Janis records in 1912, published in *The Gazette Times* (Pittsburgh, PA), 28 December 1912, page 7,

column 6, via Google Newspapers.

Those of us who grew up with piles of records alongside our turntables- actually called 'record players' at the time, 'turntables' probably later in the 70s- know that the name in parentheses under the title is the name of the songwriter. This record shows that Elsie wrote the song, as well as sang it with an orchestra.



Label from "Fascinating Baseball Slide" a 10" record by Elsie Janis, 1912, via Library of Congress. (Click to enlarge.)

A number of websites and other resources state that Elsie wrote the song.

Imagine the surprise when this result popped up in a search:

THAT FASCINATING BASEBALL SLIDE;
words and music by H. S. Wittmaak.
[8351
© 1 c. Apr. 20, 1912; E 281155;
Crescent music co., New York.

Copyright record for "That Fascinating Baseball Slide," in Catalog of Copyright Entries, Part 3, Volume 7, Number 1, Page 484, via GoogleBooks.

I have been unable to find this song with Elsie as author, with or without the word "That" in the title, listed in the official copyright books printed by the government. (There were, however, many other entireties of Elsie's songs and screenplays in various government volumes.) The copyright of 20 April 1912 fits well with when the record was released, but finding a copy of the 'Crescent music co.' sheet music has been challenging. Additionally, finding H. S. Wittmaak in more than the copyright entry books has been unsuccessful. (Wittmaak did write other songs that were listed in the copyright books.)

Elsie was just 23 when this song came out, but she had been a huge star for many years. Did she really write "Fascinating Baseball Slide"? Or possibly she purchased the song from H.S. Wittmaak and paid for the right to list it as her own? Maybe she rewrote the song to some extent?

One more interesting tidbit- our leading picture shows Elsie sitting at the piano, reading sheet music. Surprisingly, in an article published in Liberty magazine later in her life, she stated that she did not know how to play the piano! She likely did know how to read and write music, however, if she was a songwriter and singer.

So that's our "whodunnit"- hope you found it thrilling for this Thursday.

Notes, Sources, and References:

1. Hear the song "That Fascinating Baseball Slide" at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=84aPkozicqk>
2. Library of Congress version of song- <https://www.loc.gov/item/jukebox.2903?#>
3. The song is also on a 2009 CD of Elsie's music, called, "Sweetheart of the A.E.F." by Archaeophone. It has 24 songs, including this one. Eight songs are also

available on iTunes, as is one of her books and a movie that she helped write. The CD used to be on iTunes, but is no longer; I was surprised when the lyrics were noted as 'explicit'- turns out some are racist, sadly- just FYI.

4. *Discography of American Historical Recordings*, s.v. "Victor matrix B-12527. Fascinating base-ball slide / Elsie Janis," accessed July 20, 2016, http://adp.library.ucsb.edu/index.php/matrix/detail/200012723/B-12527-Fascinating_base-ball_slide.
5. "McCreery and Company- New Victor Records for January- Elsie Janis Records" in *The Gazette Times* (Pittsburgh, PA), 28 Dec 1912, page 7, via Google Newspapers- <https://news.google.com/newspapers?id=JBZRAAAIBAJ&sjid=F2YDAAAIBAJ&pg=5333%2C742293>
6. "Is Elsie Janis Guided by Her Dead Mother's Voice?" *Liberty Magazine*, 28 November 1936, https://archive.org/stream/Liberty_v13n48_-_1936_-_MacFadden/Liberty%20v13n48%20-%201936%20-%20MacFadden#page/n13/mode/2up

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Tuesday's Tip: Elsie Janis - Not Always Where Expected



Elsie Janis from cover of "My Yankee Doodle Girl," sheet music for a song from "The Slim Princess," 1910.

[Beerbower Family, Helbling Family](#) (Click to go to tree)

You never know where one's genealogical ramblings might lead, or where you might find your ancestors, so it is smart to keep an open mind.

While working on cleaning up e-files on my desktop after some marathon research sessions, I decided to listen to D. Joshua Taylor's presentation at RootsTech/FGS 2015. He has a circus performer in his family so was talking about Cyndi's List, the genealogical wonder that was created and is maintained by just one woman. Cyndi has a listing for 'Entertainment' so I jumped on the webpage and started searching for relatives who had been in the entertainment industry: Max Broida/Max Brodie (his stage name) and Elsie Janis (Beerbower). No hits for Max but Elsie came up under "[Vaudeville Homepage](#)," which has a transcription of acts from the "Manitoba Free Press" in, surprisingly, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, for 1913. I never expected to find Elsie there! According to the description of the website on Cyndi's List, Winnipeg was part of the main vaudeville circuit for North America, so it does make sense when we understand the context. I had never thought to look at Canadian newspapers!

At the Winnipeg "Orpheum," acts during the week of June 2-7, 1913 included:

"Miss Orford and Her Wonderful Elephants is the headline act. The finale consists in the sensational rescue of Miss Orford from a burning building."

[Wonder if they used real fire? How exotic to have tropical elephants in the far north!]

"Lamberti gives impersonations of famous composers, living and dead. Not only does he assume the guise of each, but he plays compositions from their pens."

[Edutainment...]

"Ida O'Day in her original songalogue."

[A 'songalogue,' as you may surmise from the compound word, takes lyrics- sometimes from multiple songs- and instead of singing them, they are spoken and/or acted out. You can find YouTube videos of people doing that today. Ida was actually Ann (O'Day) Maples, who billed herself as "Ida O'Day, the Merry Musical Maid,." She performed at the height of vaudeville, and spent 20 years on the stage; she gave it up when she married. Ann died at age 106 in 1987.]

"Foreign music halls have long been glad to welcome Carl and Lotty, a pair of most original eccentric dancers. Their work is not so grotesque as it is graceful, however, in spite of its general designation."

[Interesting description of their dance style. They might have done very well on today's programs such as "America's Got Talent."]

"There will be a new set of Edison Talking pictures, orchestra and photo plane."

['Edison talking pictures' are of course movies, but I have been unable to determine what 'photo plane' is in this context. It is a technical term in photography- "The plane in which a film or plate lies at the moment of exposure." but it is still unclear as to what that meant inside the theater.]

And finally, here is what our Elsie, at age 24, was presenting:

"Elsie Janis presents three protegés of hers, in a sketch written, staged and rehearsed by herself. The trio consists of Val Harris, Rita Roland and Lou Holtz in a sketch called "Three in One."

Elsie was a writer for stage and later screen, as well as a song-writer, comedienne, and actor.

See also ["Wishful Wednesday: Elsie Janis."](#)

Notes, Sources, and References:

1) Cyndi's List- Thank you, Cyndi, for all your hard work for so many years! <http://www.cyndislist.com>

2) Vaudeville
Homepage: <http://members.shaw.ca/winnipegvaudeville/>.

3) "Stage star ANN O'DAY MAPLES, 106, who toured the United...",
Orlando Sentinel, September 5,
1987 -

http://articles.orlandosentinel.com/1987-09-05/news/014032009_1_vaudeville-oday-john-d

4) "My Yankee Doodle Girl" copyright 1910 by Chappell & Co. Ltd. Sheet music in collection of the author.

5) ["Wishful Wednesday: Elsie Janis."](http://heritageramblings.net/2014/08/27/wishful-wednesday-elsie-janis/) <http://heritageramblings.net/2014/08/27/wishful-wednesday-elsie-janis/>

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