

BIRGE, LAURA

JAN 31 2002

Kurtz, Sally

From: ThomasCPayne@aol.com
Sent: Monday, November 05, 2001 7:55 PM
To: rustk@daytonartinstitute.org
Subject: Re: Laura Birge at DAI



ATT00001.htm

Sally,

I received the information on Laura Birge. Thank you so much. Below is addition information about Laura from "The Payne's of Hamilton" A Genealogy and Biographical Record by Augusta Francelia Payne White, Tobias A. Wright Publisher, dated 1912.

Tom Payne

Miss Laura Birge received her education at her mother's private school and at Cooper Seminary. She early showed artistic gifts, beginning to draw at the age of nine. Her art education began as a private pupil of Clara Soule, a daughter of a well-known Dayton artist of that time. Later she had one year at Cooper school of Design, in New York City, studying from life. She was the youngest pupil in this large school. After-wards, she studied in Cincinnati, Ohio. Then followed three years of study in Europe, especially in the art centers London, Paris and Munich. At the latter city she had a studio and was a pupil of Otto von Rupert. At this time, Kaulback was the leader of art in Germany and was the head of the Art Academy in Munich, a government school admitting only men. The government, however, gave women studying in Munich the use of a lecture room at the Art Academy where they could come. Miss Birge took advantage of this privilege and found it very helpful. Her Aunt Fanny Payne was her constant companion while abroad and Mrs. Henry B. Payne was also with them two years of their stay. Miss Birge remembers with pleasure an interview with Kaulback in his studio, her aunt accompanying her, his natural kindly manner, his interest in her and the studies she so timidly carried with her, his patience with her poor German. The recommendation he gave her to an artist in Paris she still treasures. The next year she studied in Paris with Evariste Luminaris, an artist of high standing.

Miss Birge became an artist of note, especially in the field of portraiture. While she never exhibited her work in the Paris Salon or in New York, as she was asked to do, a number of her portraits were of importance. She was particularly successful in painting elderly people and children. Her portrait of Ex-Governor Joseph Vance of Ohio hangs in the rotunda of the Capitol at Columbus. Her portrait of Miss Jenny Chamberlain of Cleveland, called the "American Beauty" in England, was considered better by the Chamberlain family than any other. She also painted Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Zimmerman of Cincinnati, parents of the present Duchess of Manchester, and the grandparents of that lady. These portraits now hang in the Irish castle of the Manchesters. The portrait of Judge Elisha Payne, a copy of which forms the frontispiece of this volume, was copied by Miss Birge from a portrait made for Mary Payne Lathrop by an artist now unknown, and which afterwards belonged to Colgate University. The original was later destroyed by fire. Miss Birge made two copies of this painting, one for her cousin, Oliver H. Payne, which is now in Cleveland, the other for her uncle, Edwin D. Payne, now in Dayton. From the latter, this reproduction is made.

In 1912 Laura Birge was living in the old home at Dayton.

In a message dated 10/23/2001 12:35:36 PM Pacific Standard Time, rustk@daytonartinstitute.org writes:

January 16, 1950

BIRGE FUNERAL RITES WILL BE HELD ON FRIDAY - 1928

Talented Portrait Painter is Stricken
at Age of 82 Years

(1846-1928)

Funeral services for Miss Laura C. Birge, one of Dayton's most talented portrait painters and a founder of the Dayton Art association, who died Tuesday at her residence, 215 Superior Avenue, will be conducted at 2 P.M. Friday at the home. Burial will be in Woodland cemetery.

Miss Birge had been in failing health during the past five years and her condition became rapidly worse after she fell last Friday at her home and fractured her hip.

She was for many years a leader in the artistic life of the city and loved art in all its manifold aspects. She was present at the organization of the Montgomery County Art association and played an important part at the beginning of that organization.

For years she conducted an art school at her home, Monument Avenue and St. Clair Street, and taught several younger artists.

She was born in Seneca Falls, New York, and was the daughter of Daniel Olds and Laura Eliza Birge. Her father's ancestors came over in the Mary Ann John, the ship which followed the Mayflower. Her mother was Laura Eliza Payne of this city. After her father's death the mother and daughter returned to Dayton and took up their residence at the old Payne homestead.

She early manifested a talent for drawing and painting and received her early training from Miss Clara Soule at the old Cooper seminary. Later she studied in Cincinnati, New York, London, Paris and Munich. In Munich, she had her own studio and painted portraits of several prominent Europeans. Her teachers were Otto Von Rupert, Rupert Kaulbach and Evariste Luminaris, the latter her Parisian teacher.

After returning to America, she painted the picture of ex-Gov. Joseph Vance of Ohio, a portrait which hangs in the rotunda of the state capitol in Columbus; Jennie Chamberlin of Cleveland, known in England as the American Beauty; Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Zimmerman, of Cincinnati, parents of the Duchess of Manchester and the grandparents of the duchess. These portraits hung for years in the Irish castle of Manchester.

She lived at the Payne residence with her aunt, Fanny Payne, and Mrs. Henry B. Payne, and after they died she lived alone with her colored servant. After the flood, she moved to her present residence, 215 Superior Avenue.

She leaves her cousin, Will Payne, of Central Avenue, and a number of relatives who live outside of Dayton.

W. Payne
L. ...
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DAYTON 1, OHIO
TELEPHONE ADAMS 2288

January 16, 1950

Mr. Siegfried Weng
Dayton Art Institute
405 West Riverview
Dayton, Ohio

Dear Sieg:

We are delivering to you today a box of pictures and miscellaneous items for still life.

I find that Laura C. Birge, who signed that picture of that girl that you saw, was one of the founders of the Institute. For that reason, on the attached page I am attaching some of her history as shown in her funeral notice in 1928.

Very truly yours,

Bill

WGPayne:prw

Encl.

Laura C. Birge (1846-1928)

Born in Seneca Falls, New York. Daughter of Laura Elis Payne and Daniel Olds Birge. Moved to Dayton in 1847 with widowed mother, who established in her home a private school on the south west corner of St. Clair Street and Monument Avenue. The daughter studied in Dayton with Clara Soule, who died several years ago. Also, in Cincinnati, New York and Europe with Otto von Rupert, Kaulbach, and Evariste Luminais. Died June 6, 1928. Related to William Payne, Dayton.

Ref.; Dayton Newspaper

songs.

The dramatic students are: Nancy Carol Rowe, Peter Hite, Patty Dinsmore, Gerald Brown, Betty Ann Horstman, Janet Stevens, Douglas Michael, Becky Sherk, Shirley Ann Wyne, Adele Unverferth, Shirley Ann Farris, Marian Boam, Margaretta Fowler, Suzanne Imbus, Betty Elstun, Janet Boehmer, Suzanna Pohlmeier, Mary Ann Brawley and Edwin Griest.

er public is invited, too.

Miss Reece, who has gained international recognition for the quality of her work, has been specializing this last year in the field of pastel photography. She brings to the surface of her delicate compositions, many of which are studies of flowers and birds, delicate color traceries which have given the admirers of her work much pleasure.



SUSAN GILBERT JORDAN, first wife of Judge Andrew Jackson Jordan, sat for Laura Birge in 1872. The Dayton artist was one of considerable ability and she went to Cincinnati and Chicago and Buffalo to make portrait studies of the cities' best families. Her charming study wears a black dress with white lace at the neck and a white lace shawl about her shoulders.

(Keen Photo).

about them. He Never land and and land and in be floating in a comparable to which later Greek Elysium.

There is among one by Max Ern a painting this, "Saison," a title late as meaning "Season." But I lovely about th Upon it move cre gest remotely pleasingly green horrible of aspect Georges Braqu We saw the ca down and though main theme; b the oil as it sh recognized a pipe titled "A Clay P

In Cord And

There is, inclu a study in cord Arp. This is th which is likely t nary visitor to t little wild. Here senselessness and to be expressed that Arp and oth and other abst moved by art f coming into use tures, in moder modern machines these artists' ou into a future wh airplanes and telephones and a ventions which w forms. Viewed abstraction is no it might seem to might be an art the shape of thing

Wartime Ho

An exhibition o ing is on view at Modern Art, New exhibition attempt means of graph installation why designed by the architects is n America win the

The
Dayton
Art
Institute



Laura Birge — listed in Dayton
City Directory as living at:

- 1) 243 N. St. Clair (1884-1885)
- 2) S.W. Corner Monument & St. Clair
(1885-1886)

ACCESSION RECORD

Donor, lender, fund—Collection—Date received—Trustee action—Price or appraised value—Valuation for insurance—Vendor—Disposition.

Gift of Suzanne Jordan Morris, deceased, through her sister, Jean Jordan Phillips,
May 16, 1942.

HISTORY AND BIBLIOGRAPHY

Former owners—Authentication—References.

Laura Birge, b. Seneca Falls, N.Y. , Studied with Clara Soule at Cooper Seminary;
also in Cincinnati, New York, London, Paris, Munich. One of the founders of
the Dayton Art Association.

Brooklyn, N. Y., ship-

official mascot of the voyage, Otto's dog. *D.T.H. 6-19-1928*

ing damage estimated at \$1,000,000 per hour this morning.

Coming from the northwest, the storm was a companion to the one which swept over Indiana and Ohio, causing loss of life and property damage which may run into millions.

NAVY CAPTAINS PROMOTED BY LIDGE'S ORDER

Senior Admirals Retire After Active Service, Using Vacancies.

LIST APPROVED

Commander Wust, Cincinnati, Among Officers Honored.

(By The Associated Press.)
COTTON, June 19.—Five captains, four of whom have been selected with the aviation service, have been promoted to the rank of admiral. The promotions, along with the names of 12 commanders to be promoted to lieutenants and 14 lieutenants to become commanders, were approved yesterday by the board at Brule, Wis., presided over today by the navy secretary.

ADMIRALS RETIRE.

The new rear admirals' vacancies caused by retirements of the fifth will be held open in event of death in the service.

Admirals R. E. Coontz, G. P. and J. B. McKean have been selected to become rear admirals.

Thomas T. Craven, of the director of naval construction and former director of the navy, was promoted to admiral.

Watt T. Cluverius, of the West Virginia, which won the agency pennant in 1920, and Albert W. Marshall, of the Texas, commander of the carrier Lexington, which established a speed record, were promoted to admiral.

Harry E. Yarnell, of the Indiana, commander of the ship, was promoted to admiral.

NAVY REPORTS

Only Syndicalist In Kansas Prison Freed By Governor

(By The Associated Press.)
TOPEKA, Kan., June 18.—Joe Nell, said to be the only person serving a sentence in a Kansas penal institution on a charge of criminal syndicalism, was granted a parole from the state penitentiary today by Governor Ben S. Paulen. He had served five years and five months of a one to 10-year sentence. The arrest of Nell, a member of the Industrial Workers of the World, came at a time, six years ago, when I. W. W. workers were invading the Kansas harvest fields in great numbers, preaching higher wages and advocating sabotage.

GUNS OF GANGLAND BARK AND TWO DIE

Chicagoans Are Victims of "Beer Racket," Police Say

(By The Associated Press.)
CHICAGO, June 19.—Two men were shot to death in a street here today and police attributed it to the beer "racket."

They were identified as Joe Balamone and John Oliveri. Both were young. They were expensively attired, even to pastel shaded silk shirts.

Assailants fired from a automobile that passed a car in which Balamone and Oliveri were driving. Balamone jumped and ran. A second burst of shot gun slugs dropped him. One of the gunmen left their machine, which slowed down, walked to the other car and fired point blank at Oliveri.

He then waved to his companions, tossed away his gun, lighted a cigarette, walked unhurriedly into a gangway and disappeared.

A few minutes later a couple of cars of detectives headed by the deputy commissioner of police, William O'Connor, clanged up from downtown. None of the passersby could give any information.

INCREASE IN PAY GIVEN ENGINEERS

Award Is Made Retrospective to May 1, This Year.

(By The Associated Press.)
CHICAGO, June 19.—An increase amounting to 8 1/2 per cent of the daily wage scale today was awarded the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers by the conference of managers of the western railways, affecting approximately 23,500 employees and totalling \$4,500,000 a year.

The increase is retroactive to May 1, 1928, and will run until a new agreement takes its place, it was announced.

The increase is about the same as recently was awarded the firemen by the western railroads.

COLORED BOY IS

LAURA C. BIRGE, DAYTON PORTRAIT PAINTER, EXPIRES

Widely-Known Sponsor of City's Art Institute Succumbs at Her Home.

FALL IS INDIRECT CAUSE

Studied in Paris, London and Munich—Many Pictures Are Hung Abroad.

Miss Laura C. Birge, widely known Dayton painter of portraits and figures, and a founder of the Montgomery Art association, which is now known as the Dayton Art Institute, died yesterday morning at her residence, 215 West Superior avenue.

Her death followed a lengthy illness which was complicated by a fall which she suffered at her home last Friday when she suffered a fracture of her hip.

Miss Birge's education in art work took her to Paris, London and Munich, and several pieces of her work hang in prominent European homes and are said to be excellent productions of artistic handwork.

She was engaged constantly in her art work and always backed enterprises of the Dayton Art Institute.

At a youthful age, Miss Birge showed a talent for painting and accordingly was given training in that profession. She studied for a time under Clara Boule, daughter of the widely-known Dayton artist of note, who died several years ago.

After leaving Dayton she studied art in Cincinnati and New York, and then went to Europe for a three-year course under Otto von Rupert, Kaulbach and Evariste Luminaris. When in Europe she painted portraits of several persons prominent in social circles there.

She then returned to Dayton and continued her work and taught several younger Dayton artists.

Miss Birge was born in Seneca Falls, N. Y., the daughter of Laura

SUIT IS AIMED AT POWER OF SQUIRES

Columbus Man, Fined in 1926, Would File Petition in Error.

(By The Associated Press.)
COLUMBUS, O., June 19.—

Four men were killed by the storm and a fifth seriously injured according to Associated Press dispatches, at Bloomington, Ind., yesterday when they sought shelter from the rain under a structure on the grounds of the Indiana underground water works.

REPORT LOSS HEAVY

These killed were Otto E. Egan, 48 years old; his brother, Thomas, 52; James Holt, 27, all of Bloomington, and Kenneth Decker, 35, of Sullivan.

A tornado that struck Buckeye Lake, an Ohio summer resort near Hebron Monday, and then struck Washington county in the vicinity of Marietta, its county seat, caused two deaths and the injury to several persons.

Damage at the summer resort where 32 cottages were destroyed is estimated at nearly a million dollars.

The area south of Marietta was the hardest hit by the storm in the Miami valley. Here trees were uprooted, traffic blocked, telephone wires torn down.

TRAFFIC IS BLOCKED

Between Franklin, Pa., and Pittsburgh, on the Dixie highway, a fallen across the road blocked traffic and forced the danger of driving on the open road.

The family of William W. Williams, who resides on the Springside, the Dunkard church, when the roof of the building lifted off by the high wind.

grandstand of the Green Bay near Miamisburg was blown down. At Middletown, Pa., telephone service was almost at a standstill.

(Continued on Page Two.)

MAY EMPLOYMENT SHOWS INCREASE

Outdoor Industrial Activities Continue to Widen.

(By The Associated Press.)

WASHINGTON, June 19.—A continuation of employment in the basic industries of the country during May was reported today by the department of labor in a survey of the nation's employment conditions.

Outdoor industrial activities continued to widen, the report said. Increased requirements for iron have absorbed a large number of workers previously reported unemployed while building operations expanded in all sections, providing work for many additional skilled and unskilled laborers.