

[Eric Weber](#)

Admin · 2 hrs

August 15: This is the birthday of Josiah **Hayden III** (1802-1877), b. Madison Co., NY while his father was a missionary to the Indians there. He m. 1823 or 1824 Anne **Lewis** (1802-1872) [WDR, HSC] of Middletown, CT., d/o Elisha Lewis and Lucy Crowel. Josiah had met Anne at a Methodist camp-meeting in 1820 while he and his brother Joel were in Middletown learning the machinist's trade. After leaving Middletown in the fall of 1823, Josiah went to North Adams. Soon afterward Ann Lewis agreed to marry him, and the couple lived in North Adams until about 1827, when they returned to Haydenville. Josiah was certified as a member of the First Methodist Episcopal Society of Northampton on 2/6/1828 by David Sterling and Orrin Munyan.

A highly inventive mechanic and machinist, Josiah went into partnership with Joel. He perfected and patented a button-making machine, beginning with a design that had been roughed out by his uncles David and Daniel, for use in the mill he and Joel operated in Haydenville. Joel was the one who reaped most of the benefits from that invention, however, as Josiah kept going off in other directions and starting new projects, while Joel was more attentive to the core business. In 1837 they divided the button-making factory and business, Josiah taking a smaller part than his brother.

It appears that Josiah's was a creative and distractible mind, quick to get fired up about something and equally quick to lose interest and stop paying attention when the novelty wore off or the commercial exigencies grew tedious. He was an idea man, not a businessman.

In 1849, his scheme for the year was a gold coin-minting operation in Gold Rush California, which he sent his son William out to oversee. The state very soon outlawed private coinages, though, so that venture came to nothing. At the same time Josiah moved most of his family to South Boston and opened a factory

there, which (like all of his other entrepreneurial ideas) failed to thrive.

* NOTE: In 1850 [cen.] a "Eunice Hayden", aged 47 and the owner of a very considerable \$9000 worth of real estate, headed a household next door or very near to that of Joel Hayden Sr. In that household were "Eunice" herself; Helen, 13; Geo. W., 10; James, 8; and Chas. B. Hayden, 4; as well as a Rachael Clark, 35, who may have been a servant. "Eunice's" birthplace was listed as Connecticut. The children were all reported to have been born in Massachusetts. These four children's names and ages exactly match the last four children of Josiah 7 and Anne Lewis Hayden, except that the census-taker mis-recorded Charles's middle initial. That makes the kids' identities all but certain. The age given for "Eunice" exactly matches that of Anne Lewis Hayden in 1850. So apparently the census taker got Anne's first name wrong, and this was in fact the homestead of Josiah 7 — who was away in South Boston with his older children at that time. Anne ("Eunice") held the fort with the youngsters in Haydenville, maybe waiting to see how Josiah's Boston venture turned out before committing to the move. They were not living separately because of marital difficulties; they remained strongly devoted to each other all their lives.

In 1853, influenced by his brother Peter, he moved to Columbus, OH. The next year he sold properties in Haydenville to Joel, seemingly indicating that he meant to stay away permanently. However, a long and bewildering series of transactions over the next twelve years ended with Josiah's recovering or retaining his homestead here, next door to Joel's. It remained in his family well into the 20th century, despite many financial reversals. Josiah was a mainstay of Williamsburg's Methodist Church, which he and Joel helped to found about 1832, and where Josiah was a lay preacher. He named one of his sons after an early pastor there, Rev. David Mason, and his beautiful singing voice often led the choir in hymns.



Anne (Lewis) Hayden & Josiah Hayden III



Josiah Hayden III