

[Eric Weber](#) to [Williamsburg, MA Historical Society](#)

Yesterday at 11:24 AM ·

July 30: Birthdate of Joel **Hayden III** (1869–1912), son of Brassworks heir Joel Jr. and grandson of Haydenville manufacturer and Lieutenant Governor Joel Hayden Sr. He never married.

Born in Haydenville, Joel III rose rapidly to great wealth in his early years, parlaying inheritances from various relatives into an investment fortune which apparently went very sour by 1910, when he declared voluntary bankruptcy.

His death certificate listed his occupation as "real estate," and the census of 1910 gave it as "real estate agent." He was then listed as a lodger in a Boston Ward 12 boarding house. Before dying of pneumonia at the age of only 43, he made a will leaving \$30,000 worth of real estate in the South, his only asset (which he had concealed until it was revealed in the will), to a daughter of widow Georgia McCabe, who had been his mistress in Boston for some 15 years. (Was the daughter Joel's?) The will ignored both his nearly-penniless father and his brother Erwin, to whom he owed \$5000 (the principal reason for his bankruptcy filing). Both had opposed his liaison with Mrs. McCabe, a woman of no social standing, and it is very likely that their omission from the will was pointedly deliberate. Separately or together, they sued to break the will, but Mrs. McCabe was appointed executrix by the court, and presumably Joel's intention was carried out.