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## Adele Roddy as Dorothy Millette: A Motion Picture Case Study

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On 5 September 1932, after less than two months of marriage, Paul Bern, Hollywood writer, MGM director and husband of Jean Harlow, the “blonde bombshell” movie star, was found dead, an apparent suicide, at their Beverly Hills home. Since Bern was nearly twice Jean’s age, their marriage was already under scrutiny. When news broke that a mysterious visitor that night had been his “wife” and not Jean, headlines across America focused on the mystery woman. Her name was Dorothy Millette and she had been married to Bern for nearly ten years, residing in New York City for most of that time. Days after Bern’s death, following an exhaustive search of the Sacramento River, Dorothy Millette’s body was found; she had apparently committed suicide two days after Paul by jumping from the steamer *Delta King*. Biographers for Jean Harlow and Paul Bern have called Dorothy enig-

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## Adele Roddy as Dorothy Millette: A Motion Picture Case Study

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matic, for they were not able to discover who she was. But through closer examination of her early life and associates, we can learn a great deal about her, enough to see that the part of Dorothy Millette was actually being played by Adele Roddy.

### Childhood in Indiana

Adele "Della" Roddy was the daughter of William H. Roddy and Lillie N. Johnson, born 15 March 1882 in Indianapolis, Indiana.<sup>1</sup> William H. Roddy, born about 1851, and Lillie Johnson, born about 1862, married in Independence County, Arkansas 22 June 1879.<sup>2</sup> William H. Roddy and wife Lillie N., resided in Indianapolis for the births of two more children after Adele: Viona "Ona" F. Roddy, born 21 October 1884/5, and Mary Roddy, born 1 May 1887/8.<sup>3</sup> In 1889, William was identified as a laborer in the city directory but by 10 April 1889, Lillie had filed for divorce on complaint of "drunkenness, failure to provide and unfaithfulness."<sup>4</sup> Lillie claimed that in August of 1888 the couple had agreed to separate, "because prior to that time Roddy was habitually drunk and unfaithful, refusing to make any provision for the custody of her three daughters, Della, seven years of age; Oma, four and Mary, one year."<sup>5</sup> Divorce was granted to Lilly on 21 June 1889 in Marion County, Indiana Superior Court.<sup>6</sup>

Lillie Roddy, also known as Leillas, or Lilly Johnson, found it hard to support three girls

as a divorced seamstress and became involved with a married man, who promised to divorce his wife, although that did not happen. By February 1894, Lillie had put the girls in the temporary care of the Board of Children's Guardians, and permanent custody was granted to them in 1895.<sup>7</sup> The Board of Children's Guardians was to "have supervision over neglected and dependent children under fifteen years of age." All three, Adele, Oma, and Mary Roddy, were under the organization's care in 1895 and in their records until 1905.<sup>8</sup>

The girls' progress and indenture history was recorded: Oma was still communicating with her mother in July 1896 and was quickly placed elsewhere out of concerns that her mother would come for her; Della was in as many as five different placements and in November 1896 she was reported as not attending school, claiming to be sixteen years old, (when she was thirteen), and lying, but she eventually regained the Guardians' good faith as they felt she was smart and so was sent to stenographer school; Mary was fortunate to be in the same household her entire time with the Board and became a proficient violinist.<sup>9</sup> All the while the Roddy girls kept in contact with each other.

By 1900 the girls were living in different households: Adele, as "Addy" Roddy, was a boarder in the Henry J.

and Mary E. Whitmer household in Green Township, St. Joseph County, Indiana;<sup>10</sup> Oma, as "Viona" Roddy, was a servant in the Charles Sample household in Warren Township,

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*... Lillie had filed for divorce on complaint of "drunkenness, failure to provide and unfaithfulness."*

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Marion County, Indiana; and Mary Roddy was a boarder in the household of Oliver and Emily Staats in Helt Township, Vermillion County, Indiana.<sup>11,12</sup> There is no evidence that the girls were ever returned to the care of their mother, but there was a notation in their file: "Lillas Roddy was divorced from her husband W. H. Roddy & afterward married a Swede [and was] renamed Lilly Hade... [she died and] was a morphine fiend as was also W. H. Roddy. Mr. Barrett her attorney says she became demented. He is looking up an estate on the Pacific Coast in which it is said the Roddy girls have a share."<sup>13</sup>

### Dorothy Roddy and Her Sisters

Within a few years the Roddy girls had become stenographers, residing in Indianapolis. Viona married John H. Henselman on 22 July 1904;<sup>14</sup> Mary married Charles C. Vinier on 18 October 1905;<sup>15</sup> Adele, known as Dorothy Roddy, married Lowell Mellett on 22 June 1907.<sup>16</sup> Once the Roddy girls married, they moved with their husbands. Viona Henselman moved to Portland, Oregon and appeared there in the 1910 census while Dorothy moved to Tacoma, Washington, where her husband Lowell was a local newspaper reporter.<sup>17</sup> Lowell and Dorothy Mellett were in Tacoma from 1910 to 1912, according to the city directories. Although her married name was Mellett, Dorothy used "Millette" consistently and that spelling appears in the records most often. In 1912, Viona's husband John Henselman passed away and, soon after, Viona moved to California.<sup>18</sup>

### Dorothy Millette and Paul Bern

Most accounts state that Paul Bern met Dorothy Roddy Millette in 1911 and that they lived as man and wife from that point forward, in spite of the fact that there are several documents which don't match these accounts, such as the fact that Dorothy's divorce from Lowell Mellett was not finalized until 1913 and that

Paul listed himself as single on and off for years during their "marriage."<sup>19</sup>

Paul Bern, also known as Paul Levy, was born 3 December 1889 in Wandsbeck, Prussia and had migrated with his parents, Julius and Henrietta (Hirsch) Levy to the US on the *Pennsylvania*.<sup>20</sup> Paul lived in New York City where he appeared in the New York 1900, 1905, and 1910 censuses.<sup>21</sup> When he first applied for naturalization in 1910, he listed his occupation as author.<sup>22</sup> In 1911, Paul graduated from the American Academy of Dramatic Arts (AADA), adopted the surname Bern, and began traveling with acting troupes that toured the country. Many accounts state that Paul first met Dorothy in 1911 in Toronto, but they actually met when "Mrs. L. Mellette" enrolled in May 1912 in the AADA.<sup>23</sup>

Lowell Mellett filed for divorce from Dorothy in August of 1913 because "without just cause, defendant has continuously abandoned plaintiff for more than one year last past."<sup>24</sup> Dorothy's Seattle lawyer responded to the claims Lowell put forth in court and the divorce was granted 18 August 1913,

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### *Paul took out several life insurance policies at this time ...*

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with the stipulation that both parties could not marry until six months after that date.<sup>25</sup>

Some sources state that Paul and Dorothy married in 1914 while later court cases state that they lived as man and wife

from 1911 forward—but these dates conflict with the divorce date for Dorothy.<sup>26</sup> Paul took out several life insurance policies at this time, some of which may have been purchased while he was living in Glens Falls, New York; Woonsocket, Rhode Island; and Wilmington, Delaware, all places the troupe toured.<sup>27</sup> Years later it was inferred that Dorothy was identified as his wife and heir in these life insurance policies.<sup>28</sup>

Although no actual marriage record has been located in any earlier residences for the couple, by February, 1917 Paul stated on his



Jean Harlow and Paul Bern. (Photo source: www.doctormacro.com)

naturalization application that he was married to Dorothy and that she had been born 16 March 1889 in France, a birthplace fiction that all of the Roddy girls would ultimately adopt.<sup>29</sup> Known as Paul and Dorothy Bern, the couple resided in Manhattan for the 1920 census and identified themselves as married, a director and actress.<sup>30</sup> It was suggested that Paul's mother, upset about Paul living with a woman outside his faith, committed suicide 15 September 1920, but the death was officially ruled an accident.<sup>31</sup> Soon after, according to several researchers, Dorothy had a mental breakdown and was committed to Blythewood Sanitarium for about eight months, and then lived for years, until May 1932, at the Algonquin Hotel in New York City.<sup>32</sup>

Meanwhile, Dorothy's sister Viona married in King County, Washington, to Herbert E. Hessler on 8 April 1932 but returned to her California residence afterward.<sup>33</sup>

The year that Paul and Dorothy supposedly met and began living together, 1911, was the same year

that Harlean Harlow Carpenter, also known as Jean Harlow, was born, on 3 March, in Kansas City, Missouri.<sup>34</sup> Harlean took on her mother's maiden name when she began her movie career and by the time she married Bern in 1932 had starred in twenty-nine films, including *Hell's Angels*, *Public Enemy* with James Cagney, *Platinum Blonde*, and *Red-Headed Woman*.<sup>35</sup> Jean Harlow and Paul were acquainted as early as 1930 when he escorted her to the opening of *Hell's Angels*, and the two often worked together. Paul's M.G.M. connections probably got her better parts in movies.<sup>36</sup>

### Tangled Relationships

Paul moved to California from New York City around 1925. In 1926, he took a trip to Hawaii where he identified himself on the manifest as single as he also did in 1930.<sup>37</sup> In 1932, he produced *Grand Hotel* and Dorothy apparently moved to Sacramento where she resided in a hotel from May 1932 until her death.<sup>38</sup> On 2 July 1932, Paul Bern—claiming to be single and registering his first marriage—married Harlean Carpenter McGrew in Los Angeles, with Irving Thalberg and Irene (Mayer) Selnick as witnesses.<sup>39</sup> Interestingly, Paul wrote a revised version of his will that same month.<sup>40</sup>

The events on the evening of 5 September 1932 have been discussed by many authors, but what is known is that after something occurred, referred to in a suicide note to Jean as "only a comedy," Paul took his life with a self-inflicted gunshot wound, according to the coroner's report.<sup>41</sup> News quickly spread of a cover-up and a secret wife, and newspaper accounts across the country focused on the Bern suicide

*The year that Paul and Dorothy supposedly met and began living together, 1911, was the same year that Harlean Harlow Carpenter, also known as Jean Harlow, was born ...*

while reporters tried to find more information on the woman, Dorothy Millette.<sup>42</sup> Some accounts said that Dorothy had moved from New York to Sacramento. Two days later, Dorothy Millette jumped to her death from the *Delta King*.<sup>43</sup> She was not found for several days. At this time Dorothy's sister Viona lived in Alameda County, California while her other sister Mary was in Hancock County, Ohio.<sup>44</sup>

The public county administrator in Sacramento sought relatives of Dorothy for the few possessions that she had left on the *Delta King*, but her body remained unclaimed.<sup>45</sup> Dorothy's estate

was entered into court 27 September 1932.<sup>46</sup> On 4 February 1933, Dorothy's sister Mary, now Mary Hartrauft, passed away from breast cancer in Ohio.<sup>47,48</sup>

It was assumed that Paul Bern had money and, that if Dorothy Millette was the rightful wife of Paul, that her heirs would receive their portion. Paul's will had been revised after his marriage to Jean and left all to her, but there was not much.<sup>49</sup> In 1934, when Jean was dubbed one of the highest paid stars in Hollywood by *Motion Picture Herald*, Herman Koch, the public county administrator of Sacramento, sued Jean on behalf of Dorothy's sister Viona and the estate of deceased sister Mary Hartrauft, for half of the life insurance policies that Paul had taken out in the 1910s.<sup>50</sup> Half was estimated to be \$24,000 and Koch claimed that since Dorothy and Paul were never divorced, the money should be awarded to Dorothy's heirs.<sup>51</sup> Jean had an excellent lawyer and nearly every claim was stricken until the case was dropped completely.

Jean went on to make many more movies, but on 7 June 1937 at the age of twenty-six, she died of acute nephritis from kidney failure.<sup>52</sup> The funeral is said to have been one of Hollywood's most extravagant. Seventeen days later,

Dorothy's remaining sister Viona Hessler died in Oakland, California.<sup>53</sup>

### Setting the Record Straight

Known for her death and her connection to a Hollywood conspiracy, much of the life and parentage of Dorothy Millette has been unknown and treated as a mystery for years. By

following Dorothy's associates, specifically her siblings, it has been possible to establish that her true identity was Adele Roddy, a foster child from Indianapolis, Indiana.

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*News quickly spread of a cover-up and a secret wife, and newspaper accounts across the country focused on the Bern suicide ...*

### Endnotes for Adele Roddy as Dorothy Millette: A Motion Picture Case Study

1. "Indiana Marriages, 1780-1992," FamilySearch (<http://www.familysearch.org>, accessed 29 July 2015), entry for Lowell Mellett and Dorothy Roddy, Marion County, 22 June 1907; "New York, Naturalization Records, 1882-1944," Ancestry (<http://www.ancestry.com>, accessed 29 July 2015), entry for Paul Levy, 5 February 1917, Petition for Naturalization; "Notes from the dockets," *The Indianapolis (Indiana) Journal*, 10 April 1889, p. 5, col. 4; *Hoosier State Chronicles* (<http://newspapers.library.in.gov>, accessed 29 July 2015), Indiana's Digital Historic Newspaper Program. A synthesis of the records points to the assertion that the day and month are consistent but the year of birth is reduced over the years.
2. "Arkansas, County Marriages, 1837-1957," FamilySearch (<http://www.familysearch.org> accessed 29 July 2015), entry for William H Roddy and Lilia Johnson, 22 June 1879, Independence County, Arkansas; citing FHL 1,288,647, p. 152.
3. "U.S. City Directories, 1821-1989," Ancestry (<http://www.ancestry.com>, accessed 29 July 2015), entry for William H Roddy, 1889, Indianapolis, Indiana; "Notes from the dockets," *The Indianapolis (Indiana) Journal*, 10 April 1889, p. 5, col. 4; Indiana Works Progress Administration, *Index to birth records Marion County, 1882-1920, inclusive*, 4 vols., (1939), Volume 3. There were no entries for the Roddy girls.
4. "U.S. City Directories, 1821-1989," Ancestry, entry for William H Roddy, 1889, Indianapolis, Indiana; "New suits filed," *The Indianapolis (Indiana)*

- Journal*, 10 April 1889, p. 5, col. 4; *Hoosier State Chronicles* (<http://newspapers.library.in.gov>, accessed 29 July 2015), Indiana's Digital Historic Newspaper Program; "Notes from the dockets," *The Indianapolis (Indiana) Journal*, 10 April 1889, p. 5, col. 4.
5. "Notes from the dockets," *The Indianapolis (Indiana) Journal*, 10 April 1889, p. 5, col. 4.
  6. "Superior Court," *The Indianapolis (Indiana) Journal*, 21 June 1889, p. 5, col. 1, *Hoosier State Chronicles* (<http://newspapers.library.in.gov>, accessed 29 July 2015), Indiana's Digital Historic Newspaper Program.
  7. "Circuit Court," *Indiana (Indianapolis) Tribune*, 16 June 1895, p. 8, col. 4; *Hoosier State Chronicles* <http://newspapers.library.in.gov>, Indiana's Digital Historic Newspaper Program; "The Court Record, Circuit Court," *The Indianapolis (Indiana) Journal*, 17 June 1895, p. 6, col. 5; Adele Roddy, no. 2355, Book 1:282; Marion County Children's Guardian Home; Indiana State Archives, Indianapolis.
  8. *The Indiana Bulletin of Charities and Corrections* 136 (March 1924), 79, a digital version of this is available on Google Books; Adele Roddy, no. 2355, Book 1:282; Marion County Children's Guardian Home; Indiana State Archives, Indianapolis. Ona Roddy, no. 2356, Book 1:282; Marion County Children's Guardian Home; Indiana State Archives, Indianapolis. Mary Roddy, no. 2357, Book 1:282; Marion County Children's Guardian Home; Indiana State Archives, Indianapolis. Filed together under Adele.
  9. Adele Roddy, no. 2355, Book 1:167, Book 3:418-419; Marion County Children's Guardian Home; Indiana State Archives, Indianapolis. Roddy,
  10. 1900 U.S. Census, St. Joseph County, Indiana, Green Township, ED 100, sheet 3B, dwelling 68, family 68, Addey Roddy in the Henry J. Whitmer household, Ancestry, <http://www.ancestry.com>, note that birth year is off.
  11. 1900 U.S. Census, Marion County, Indiana, Warren Township, ED 199, sheet 19B, dwelling 376, family 401, Viona Roddy in Charles Sample household; Ancestry, <http://www.ancestry.com>.
  12. 1900 U.S. Census, Vermillion County, Indiana, Helt Township, ED 91, sheet 10A, dwelling 191, family 192, Mary Roddy in the Oliver Staats household, Ancestry, <http://www.ancestry.com>, citing NARA microfilm publication T623, roll 408. Birth year is off.
  13. Adele Roddy, no. 2355, Book 3:288, Book 3:418-419; Marion County Children's Guardian Home; Indiana State Archives, Indianapolis. It is purported this death date was about 1907.
  14. "Indiana Marriages, 1780-1992," FamilySearch, <http://www.familysearch.org>, entry for John H. Henselman and Viona F. Roddy, Marion County, 22 July 1904; "U.S. City Directories, 1821-1989," Ancestry, <http://www.ancestry.com>, entry for Viona Roddy, 1903, Indianapolis, Indiana.
  15. Adele Roddy, no. 2355, Book 3:288, Book 3:418-419; Marion County Children's Guardian Home; Indiana State Archives, Indianapolis, Indiana.
  16. "Indiana Marriages, 1780-1992," FamilySearch, entry for Lowell Mellett and Dorothy Roddy, Marion County, 22 June 1907; "U.S. City Directories, 1821-1989," Ancestry, <http://www.ancestry.com>, entry for Dorothy Roddy, 1903-7, Indianapolis, Indiana.
  17. 1910 U.S. Census, Multnomah County, Oregon, Portland Ward 7, ED 243, sheet 2-B, dwelling 43, family 44, J. Hess Henselman household, Ancestry, <http://www.ancestry.com>; 1910 U.S. Census, Pierce County, Washington, Tacoma Ward 1, ED 213, sheet 10-A, dwelling 201, family 201, Powell Millet household, Ancestry, <http://www.ancestry.com>. Dorothy's place of birth was Ohio.
  18. "U.S. City Directories, 1821-1989," Ancestry, <http://www.ancestry.com>, entry for Lowell Mellett and Dorothy, 1910-12, Tacoma, Washington; Find A Grave, (<http://www.findagrave.com>, memorial page for J H Henselman (1882-1912), Find A Grave Memorial No. 66,316,021, citing Eastwood IOOF Cemetery, Medford, Jackson County, Oregon.
  19. David Stenn, *Bombshell: The Life and Death of Jean Harlow* (New York: Doubleday, 1993), 117. This book has citations and research can be duplicated for authentication.
  20. Los Angeles County, California, death certificate no. 10179 (1932), Paul Bern; Los Angeles, California; "New York, Naturalization Records, 1882-1944," Ancestry, entry for Paul Levy, 5 February 1917, Petition for Naturalization; "U.S., World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918," images, Ancestry, <http://www.ancestry.com>, card for Paul Bern, serial no. 733, Local Draft Board No. 125, Manhattan, New York.
  21. 1900 U.S. Census, New York County, New York, Manhattan, ED 838, sheet 6A, dwelling 11, family 139, Julius Levy household, Ancestry, <http://www.ancestry.com>; 1905 New York state census, New York County, population schedule, Manhattan, p. 44, West 121<sup>st</sup> Street, house number 71, for Julius Levy household boarding with Clara Morowitz, Ancestry, <http://www.ancestry.com>; 1910 U.S. Census, New York County, New York, Bronx Assembly District 35, ED 1606, sheet 23A, dwelling 42, family 369, Paul Levy boarding with William Manus, Ancestry, <http://www.ancestry.com>.
  22. "New York, Naturalization Records, 1882-1944," Ancestry, entry for Paul Levy, 5 February 1917, Petition for Naturalization.

23. E.J. Fleming, *Paul Bern: The Life and Famous Death of the MGM Director and Husband of Harlow* (Jefferson, North Carolina: McFarland and Co., 2009), 13-17. This book has adequate citations for Bern's life but not for Dorothy's, and the author searched in Columbus, Ohio based on the marriage information but failed to follow up on collaterals, or in Indiana.
24. King County, Washington, Superior Court File No. 96082, *Lowell Mellett vs Dorothy Roddy Mellett*, Divorce, August 1913, Puget Sound Regional Archives, Bellevue, Washington.
25. King County, Washington, Superior Court File No. 96082, *Mellett vs Roddy Mellett*, Divorce, August 1913; "Washington, Marriage Records, 1865-2004," Ancestry, <http://www.ancestry.com>, entry for Lowell Mellett and Bertha K Kittelsen, 12 March 1914, King County.
26. Los Angeles County, California, Superior Court File No. 368664, *Koch etc. et al vs. Rosson etc.*, Complaint for Money, Enforce a Trust and an Accounting, 25 January 1934, Los Angeles Courthouse, Los Angeles. A search of marriage entries in Toronto, New York City, Wilmington, Woonsocket and Glen Falls did not provide a marriage entry for the couple.
27. Los Angeles Co., California Superior Court File No. 368664, *Koch etc et al vs. Rosson etc.*, Complaint for Money, Enforce a Trust and an Accounting, 25 January 1934.
28. Los Angeles Co., California Superior Court File No. 368664.
29. "New York, Naturalization Records, 1882-1944," Ancestry, entry for Paul Levy, 5 February 1917, Petition for Naturalization.
30. 1920 U.S. Census, New York County, New York, Manhattan Assembly District 10, ED 774, sheet 2-A, dwelling 21, family 43, Paul Bern household; Ancestry, <http://www.ancestry.com>.
31. Fleming, *Paul Bern: The Life and Famous Death of the MGM Director and Husband of Harlow*, p. 45; "NYC Death Index," database, *Italian Genealogical Group* (<http://italiengen.org>, accessed 29 July 2015), entry for Henrietta Levy, 15 September 1920, Queens County.
32. Fleming, *Paul Bern*, p. 263; also, Dorothy is not in the Algonquin in the census: 1930 U.S. Census, New York County, New York, Manhattan, ED 272, sheet 6A, dwelling 22, family 68, Frank Case, Hotel Proprietor of the Algonquin Hotel, lines 13-43 for 59 West 44<sup>th</sup> Street; Ancestry, <http://www.ancestry.com>.
33. "Washington, Marriage Records, 1865-2004," Ancestry, <http://www.ancestry.com>, entry for Herbert E. Hessler and Viona Henselman, 8 April 1932, King County.
34. Los Angeles County, California, death certificate no. 8965 (1937), Harlean Carpenter, also known as Jean Harlow; Los Angeles, California; "California, County Marriages, 1850-1952," FamilySearch, <http://www.familysearch.org>, entry for Paul Bern and Harlean Carpenter McGrew, 2 July 1932, Los Angeles.
35. Stenn, *Bombshell: The Life and Death of Jean Harlow*, 253-260.
36. Stenn, 47.
37. 1930 U.S. Census, Los Angeles County, California, Los Angeles, ED 196, sheet 8-A, dwelling 56, family 104, Paul Bern at Hotel Ambassador; Ancestry, <http://www.ancestry.com>; "Honolulu, Hawaii, Passenger and Crew Lists, 1900-1959," Ancestry, <http://www.ancestry.com>, manifest, *SS City of Los Angeles*, 16 June 1926, No. 100, line 23, Paul Bern, age 36.
38. Fleming, *Paul Bern: The Life and Famous Death of the MGM Director and Husband of Harlow*, 319; Stenn, 119.
39. California, County Marriages, 1850-1952," FamilySearch, entry for Paul Bern and Harlean Carpenter McGrew, 2 July 1932, Los Angeles.
40. "Body of 'Other Woman' is Found: Bern will read," *The Kingsport (Tennessee) Times*, 15 September 1932, p. 5, col. A.
41. Samuel Marx and Joyce Vanderveen, *Deadly Illusions: Jean Harlow and the Murder of Paul Bern* (New York: Dell Publishing, 1990), 41-42, transcription of suicide note; Los Angeles Co., California death certificate no. 10179 (1932), Paul Bern.
42. "Other Wife Hunted in Bern Case," *Moberly (Missouri) Monitor-Index*, 9 September 1932, p.1, col. A.
43. Sacramento County, California, death certificate no. 49225 (1932), Dorothy Millette; Sacramento, California.
44. 1930 U.S. Census, Los Angeles County, California, Long Beach, ED 1095, sheet 9B, dwelling 217, family 246, E Roddy and Viona Henselman household, Ancestry, <http://www.ancestry.com>; 1930 U.S. Census, Hancock County, Ohio, Findlay city, ED 32-18, sheet 19A, dwelling 589, family 635, Mary in John H. Hartranft household, Ancestry.
45. "Lawyers think Millette, Bern Marriage Real," *The San Mateo (California) Times and Daily News Leader*, 26 September 1932, p.2, col. D; "Body of 'Other Woman' is Found: Bern Will Read," *The Kingsport (Tennessee) Times*, 15 September 1932, p.5, col. A.
46. "Simple Stone Marks Grave," *The Lowell (Massachusetts) Sun*, 26 May 1933, p.9, col. A; "Dorothy Millette Estate in Court," *The Evening (Massillon, Ohio) Independent*, 27 September 1932, p.3, col. F.

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Primary-Materials/World-War-One-1914-to-1918/Documents : accessed 3 Sep 2015).

4. "Find War Dead," online database, CWGC Commonwealth War Graves Commission (<http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead.aspx>; accessed 2 Sep 2015); search term, Fail, George, First World War.
5. *The British Armies in France and Flanders*, pp. 32-34.
6. *The British Armies in France and Flanders*, pp. 34, 36. Note: The Headquarters of the Australian and II American Corps were amalgamated for the first part of this battle, the Australian Corps being in command. The II American Corps was withdrawn on 30 September.
7. *American Battle Monuments Commission, 27<sup>th</sup> Division Summary of Operations in the World War* (Washington, D.C., U.S. Government Printing Office, 1944), 13-36, Northern Region Library Facility, University of California, Richmond, California.

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47. "Ohio, Deaths, 1908-1953," FamilySearch, <http://www.familysearch.org>, entry for Marie Hartrauft, death certificate no. 10031 (1933), Findlay, Hancock County, Ohio. The informant stated that her father was William Roddy and that her mother, unknown, was born in France.
48. "Ohio, Deaths, 1908-1953," for Marie Hartrauft.
49. Fleming, 281.
50. "Jean Harlow Combats Woman's Claim to Half of Bern Estate," *Syracuse (New York) Journal*, 27 January 1934, p.16, col. 2-4; Los Angeles County, California Superior Court File No. 368664, *Koch etc et al vs. Rosson etc.*, Complaint for Money, Enforce a Trust and an Accounting, 25 January 1934.
51. Los Angeles County, California Superior Court File No. 368664, *Koch etc et al vs. Rosson etc.*, Complaint for Money, Enforce a Trust and an Accounting, 25 January 1934; Wikipedia, "Top Ten Money Making Stars Poll," ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Top\\_Ten\\_Money\\_Making\\_Stars\\_Poll](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Top_Ten_Money_Making_Stars_Poll)), entry for Jean Harlow, 1933-1936, list based on Quigley's *International Motion Picture Almanac*.
52. Los Angeles County California, death certificate no. 8965 (1937), Harlean Carpenter, also known as Jean Harlow.
53. Alameda County, California, death certificate no. 1935 (1937), Viona Hessler; Oakland, California. Viona's second husband stated that her father was William Roddy, born near Atlanta, Georgia, mother was unknown and born in France and that she died from pneumonia, pulmonary edema, arteriosclerosis of the kidneys and "menopausal psychosis."

### Rhenodyne Bird

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to Bird and he says: "This is not the kind of a thing I want... I want my books kept so that no expert can come into my office and trace up a dollar of the money that has gone through this office unless I want it so traced up.' He said to Bird then and there, 'You need not keep any more books.' From that time down to the time Bird quit that office, on the 19th of August 1897, no books were kept.

"When he came back to that office he found Griffith in a drunken condition... He no longer threatened; he no longer cursed and swore at him; no longer charged him with ingratitude; but he was sweet as honey and as oily as you will find him when he gets on the witness stand. He wanted to patch it all up."

As the account concludes, "The statement of Mr. Dillon was very lengthy, and only its salient features have been here presented. It created perhaps the greatest sensation of the year in the superior court."

### Found Guilty

When the third trial commenced, Bird was confident of acquittal. "The defendant himself was attired yesterday in a Prince Albert coat, high collar and his usual self-complacence. That he expects an acquittal is self-evident."<sup>10</sup> In spite of the aggressive defense of Dillon, once again Bird was found guilty and this time sentenced for six years.<sup>11</sup> Dismissing his attorney, Bird appealed on his own behalf for a new trial to the Supreme Court, upon certain grounds which were found by the judge who tried the case to be well taken.<sup>12</sup> But when he applied for bail he was denied and he remained in the county jail. The Supreme Court did not act for months.

While awaiting the outcome of the appeal, Bird, despondent, attempted suicide on 10

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