

**Vanderburgh County, Marriage Register of Justice of the Peace
Eben C. Poole, 1910**

Transcribed by Ruth Dorrel

Introduction by Wendy L. Adams

Known as “the marrying squire,” Eben Choate Poole (1847–1915) reportedly married more than one thousand couples during his sixteen-year tenure as a justice of the peace in Evansville, Vanderburgh County, Indiana.¹ Although he had no known formal training in law, Poole’s varied life experiences before becoming justice of the peace must have provided him with enough credibility to allow him to be elected to the position.

Born in Bangor, Maine, to Eben and Hannah F. Poole, Eben C. Poole left his parents’ home in 1863 for Boston and entered the drug business there. In 1867 he married his first wife, Ella C. Buzzell, with whom he had one son, Samuel C. Poole (1872?–1946). He next ventured to Jersey City, New Jersey, to join his brother in the meat business. After Ella’s death, Eben married Margaret H. Mathews (b. 1859) in December 1875. This union produced seven children, five of whom survived to adulthood: Helen F. (b. 1878), later the wife of W. M. Crabb; Ella M. (b. 1880), who married Henry Feneman; Lillian M. (b. 1883), wife of George Bertelsen; Edward Percy (b. 1890); and Harold M. (b. 1897).²

Between 1878 and 1894, Poole and his family moved from New Jersey to Missouri, Illinois, and finally Indiana, following jobs involving the railroad industry. He worked as a conductor for the Pullman Company, as a receiving cashier for the Monarch Palace Car Company, and then with the Woodruff Car company before its takeover by the Pullman Company. Poole also ventured into the oil business in Evansville. In addition, Poole led an active social life, as was common for men of the day. He supported the Republican Party and held memberships in such fraternal orders as the Knights of Pythias, the Tribe of Ben-Hur (an insurance organization), and Evansville’s Owls Club.³

Poole served as justice of the peace in Evansville from 1894 to 1910. As such, his responsibilities could have included a variety of legal duties, from civil to criminal cases, as

mentioned in George Van Santvoord's *The Indiana Justice, a Treatise on the Jurisdiction, Authority, and duty of Justices of the Peace, in the State of Indiana, in Civil and Criminal Cases* (1845).⁴ Apparently, though, he enjoyed performing marriage ceremonies, earning the moniker of the "marrying squire."

This list of ninety-two marriages performed in 1910 can be found in its original form in the second volume of "Vanderburgh County Marriage Registers, 1894–1910" (BV 1902), located in the Indiana Historical Society's William Henry Smith Memorial Library. Both bound volumes measure approximately 9 by 14 inches and include two indexes—one for the grooms' names in the front and the other for the brides' names in the back. Generally for each entry, Poole recorded the names of the groom and bride, where both were from, where the ceremony was performed, the amount charged for services rendered, and the names of the witness(es). The list below reflects what was entered in the register. The Notes column contains Poole's few additional notations for certain records. Registers for the preceding years (covering 1894–1909) have been published in the previous issues of *The Hoosier Genealogist*: vol. 37, no. 4 (1997); vol. 38, no. 2, 4 (1998); vol. 39, no. 1, 2, 3, 4 (1999); and vol. 40, no. 1 (2000).

Notes

1. "Funeral Services for Eben C. Poole, Monday," *Evansville Journal-News*, January [1], 1916.
2. Frank M. Gilbert, *The History of the City of Evansville and Vanderburg County* (Chicago: Pioneer Publishing, 1910), 302–6; entry for Eben Choate Poole, *Indiana Deaths, 1882–1920*, <http://www.ancestrylibrary.com/>; Eben Poole household, 1900 federal census for Pigeon Township, Vanderburgh County, Indiana, Roll T623 407, Page 4A, <http://www.ancestrylibrary.com/>; entry for Samuel C. Poole, *Kentucky Death Index, 1911–2000*, <http://www.ancestrylibrary.com/>.
3. Gilbert, 302–6.
4. See also Judith Q. McMullen, "Early Justice of the Peace Samuel Peck of Washington County," *The Hoosier Genealogist* 45, no. 4 (winter 2005): 249–52.

Marriages Performed by Justice Eben C. Poole, Vanderburgh County, 1910

DATE	GROOM NAME/ RESIDENCE	BRIDE NAME/ RESIDENCE	CEREMONY LOCATION	COST	WITNESSES	PAGE NO.	NOTES
Jan 1	Pritchett , Willie Henderson Co., Ky.	Hurst , Dell Webster Co., Ky.	at Clerks Office	\$3.00	John C. Williams Nolia Shirkey Tom Norwood	125	
Jan 1	Delvan , Norman V. Henderson, Ky.	Woodward , Ethel Covie Henderson, Ky.	at Clerks Office	\$3.00	Lysander N. Wheeler	125	
Jan 8	Fulcher , John Webster Co., Ky.	Tapp , Maud Webster Co., Ky.	at Office Room 6	\$2.00	Crockett Tapp Mary Tapp	125	
Jan 19	Fussner , William Evansville	Allison , Anna Brown Owensboro, K[y].	At Office		Geo. E. Clark Sam R. Cross	125	
Jan 22	Rusche , Henry Evansville	Hile , Cora Hile Evansville	At Office	\$2.00	Donald W. Denny	125	
Jan 26	Herron , Fred Sikeston, Missouri	Melton , Catherine Stella Henderson Co., Ky.	at Office	\$3.00	Callie Jackson F. Q. Guess	125	
Jan 29	Taylor , Linza Evansville, Ind.	Southwood , Mary Lucinda Evansville, Ind.		\$1.00	Thomas Moseby Geo. M. Grimm	125	
Jan 30	Songer , Carlos E. Evansville, Ind.	Hamilton , Vera Anniston, Ala.	at Clerks Office Sunday 2 PM	\$2.00	Wm. L. Beard	126	
Jan 31	Jones , Horace Evansville	Frazier , Gabrella Evansville	at Room 6— CH	\$1.00	Geo. Grimm	126	
Jan 31	Carney , Frederick New Harmony	Hurd , Meta New Harmony	At Office	\$2.00	Charles Tupman Geo. Grimm	126	
Feb 1	Scott , Lester E. Evansville, Ind.	Mental , Bessie	At Office	\$2.00	Mrs. Pearl Morris Chas. Tupman	126	
Feb 1	Sanders , George Evansville	McReynolds , Georgia Ella	At Office	\$1.00	Charles Tupman Geo. Grimm	126	[black]
Feb 1	Schneider , Jacob Evansville, Ind.	Schorle , Edna Evansville	At Office— [Bust]	\$0.00	Maggie L. Bennett Chas. Tupman	126	
Feb 2	Scott , Clyde Evansville	Hawes , Flossie Evansville	at Office	\$2.00	Mrs. Rosa Scott Howard W. Townsend	126	
Feb 2	Huckeby , James Hinshaw, Ky.	James , Lena May Hinshaw	at Office	\$2.00	Chas. Ray Ed Koltinsky	127	
Feb 3	Fenerbach , Edward Evansville, Ind.	Mienert , Clara Louise Evansville	at Clerks Office	\$2.00	G[ui]ld C. Foster Geo. Grimm	127	
Feb 5	Voigt , August Evansville	Webster , Bessie Evansville	at Office	\$2.00	Chas. Tupman Geo. Grimm	127	
Feb 7	Fulcher , Tobe Webster Co., Ky.	Puryear , Lenna Union Co., Ky.	at Clerks Office	\$2.00	Mrs. Allie Melton F. L. Melton	127	

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Feby 7	Weikel , Sebastian A. Owensboro, Ky.	Millay , Henrietta E. Howell, Ind.	at Office	\$2.00	Chas. Tupman Geo. Grimm	127	
Feby 8	Jones , Geo. W. Henderson, Ky.	Eblen , Ruby E. Henderson Co., Ky.	at Hotel Ruston		Robert Duncan Mrs. Duncan	127	
Feby 9	Denton , Jesse Robards, Ky.	Eakins , Ernestine Robards, Ky.	at Clerks Office		Roy Ligon Geo. Grimm	127	
Feby 11	Lackey , Loryl Evansville	Wolfe , Olga E. Evansville	at office	\$2.00	Ed Barr Laura Barr	128	
Feby 14	Walker , Wm. F. Muhlenburgh Co., Ky.	Welborn , Mattie Calvin	at Office	\$2.00	A. M. Lowrey N. H. Melchor	128	
Feby 16	Eads , James, Jr. Evansville, Ind.	Collins , Corrine Evansville, Ind.	at Office	\$4.00	Wm. LeMasters Charles Tupman	128	
Feby 19	Brown , Wm. Evansville, Ind.	Collins , Pearl Evansville	at Court House	\$2.00	Abe Anchor Geo. M. Grimm	128	
Feby 22	Riggs , Claud Evansville	Edwards , Minnie	at Office		W. G. Collins Charles Tupman	128	
Feby 23	Thacker , Geo. W. Siberia, Ind.	Hoffman , Susie Mary St. Meinards [<i>sic</i>], Ind.	at Clerks Office	\$2.00	John Haubuch Geo. Grimm	128	
Feby 23	Brame , Wm. H. Evansville, Ind.	Dansby , Katie Evansville, Ind.	at Clerks Office	\$2.00	Alex Caldwell Evelyn Dansby	128	
Feby 23	Smith , Rodney D. French Lick Springs, Ind.	Garton , Arline F. North City, Ill.	at Office	\$2.00	Abram P. Aucker Geo. Grimm	129	
Feby 23	Mihaus , John B. Evansville	Hester , Minnie	at 800 Blackford Ave.	\$3.00	E. Percy Poole Harold M. Poole	129	
Feby 24	Oliver , Jodie Morganfield, Ky.	Davis , Minnie Morganfield	at Clerks Office		Hurley Dodson Berdie Dodson	129	
March 5	Hare , Eddie Henderson, Ky.	Cox , Finess Henderson, Ky.	at Office of C.C. 9:30 PM Satur- day	\$5.00	Goldin Smith Vinson Herloct	129	
Mar 12	Sandefur , Ike Z. Hartford, Ohio Co., O.	Hunley , Mabel Beaver Dam, Ky.	in Clerks Office	\$2.00	A. H. McCoy	129	
Mar 12	Boner , James R. Evansville, Ind.	Bailer , Christena Evansville, Ind.	at Court House Saturday 9 PM	\$5.00	William L. Baird	129	
Mar 17	Clark , Clarence Evansville, Ind.	Thompson , Eva	Room [6] Court House 12 noon	\$2.00	Amy May	129	
Mar 17	Fortenberg , John Clay, Ky.	Stoddard , Cordell Clay, Ky.	at Clerks Office	\$3.00	Ruby Riggs Harry Davis	130	

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Mar 17	Miller , Ed H. Evansville	Pierce , Myrtle Evansville	at 2021 First Ave.	\$3.00	Geo. Lee Wilson	130	
Mar 28	Rickard , Carl V. McLain Co., Ky.	Vandiver , Effie L. McLain Co.	at Office Room 6	\$4.00	Wm. Atkins A. M. Lowry	130	
Apr 1	Gifford , Harry W. Petersburg, Ind.	Watterson , Hattie E. Petersburg, Ind.	at Clerks Office		Wm. Atkins John H. Ropke	130	
Apr 19	Angel , Tony Evansville, Ind.	Winstead , Katherine Evansville, Ind.	at Office	\$3.00	R. C. Angel	130	
Apr 20	Burns , Robt. Evansville	Benson , Eva Evansville	At Office	\$2.00	Charles Tupman	130	
Apr 20	Reed , John E. Evansville	Burks , Jennie	120 E. Penn. St.	\$3.00	Robt. Leigh Chas. Wiggins	130	
May 3	Markham , John N. Morganfield, Ky.	Bolton , Pearl Morganfield, Ky.	At Office Room 6	\$4.00	John F. Rhodes John Barry	131	
May 3	Kay , Ebert R. Evansville	Peters , Marie Inglefield	At Office	\$2.00	Eugene Vallade Wm. Atkins	131	
May 4	Specht , Martin Evansville	Smith , Mollie Evansville	at 800 Blackford Ave.	\$2.00	John A. Roush M. H. Poole	131	
May 11	Stites , Wm. H. Evansville, Ind.	Phillips , Emily Chandler, Ind.	at Evansville Court House Room 6	\$1.00	Ruth Vann H. W. Vann	131	
May 16	Metcalf , Thomas Evansville, Ind.	Hughes , Josephine O. Evansville, Ind.	at Office Room 6— Court House		Jonas Smith	131	
May 16	Nelson , John B. Evansville, Ind.	Hook , Viola Evansville, Ind.	At Room 6— Court House	\$3.00	Claud Sanders Mamie Meyer	131	
May 16	Cansler , Edward H. Hopkins Co., Ky.	Kettler , Clara E. Evansville	at Office	\$3.00	Mamie Meyer Claud Sanders	131	
May 21	Eubank , Wm. F. Waverly, Ky.	Riggs , Bertye E. Waverly, Ky.	at Clerks Office Saturday Night	\$3.00	J. W. Moffet Undye Brinson	132	
May 30	Pittman , Chester A. Muhlenburg Co., Ky.	Fugate , Myrtel O. Hopkins Co., Ky.	At Hotel Ruston	\$3.00	Juliet Coleman Cecil Hunter	132	
May 30	Harris , Thomas Evansville, Ind.	Young , Mamie Evansville, Ind.	at Clerks Office Decoration Day	\$1.75	Wm. L. Baird	132	
May 30	Osler , Philip Eastorim, Ky.	Taylor , Nellie Yankertown, Ind.	at Clerks Office	\$3.00	Wm. L. Baird Lyman McCoy	132	
June 7	Shelton , Gus Evansville, Ind.	Anderson , Mary Evansville, Ind.	at Office	\$2.50	Allen Hayes Thos. Johnson	132	
Nov [sic] 11	Heimann , Lee M. Evansville, Ind.	Curry , Virginia M. Indianapolis, Ind.	at Clerks Office	\$2.00	Wm. L. Baird David Hunter	132	

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Jun 19	Hatfield , Bert Evansville	Wagner , Isabel Huntingburg, Ind.	at 622 Locust St. Sunday 10 AM	\$5.00		132	
June 22	Carter , Charles Evansville	Enlow , Blanche Nashville, Tenn.	at Room 6 Court House	\$2.00	Dock Woods	133	
July 5	Shelby , Eddie Evansville	Brewer , Ambrezella Evansville	at Office	\$1.00	Wm. B. Shelby Lillie Clardy	133	
July 6	Sand[ei]fer , Donald Evansville, Ind.	Oldham , Madeline Evansville, Ind.	at Office	\$2.00	John Farris Mrs. Corliss	133	[blacks]
July 18	Davis , Ben Newburg, Ind.	Fox , Lucy Newburgh	At Office	\$1.00	Bessie Rowans E. G. Rowans	133	[blacks]
July 25	Lynn , William Evansville, Ind.	Stuteville , Ella Rockport, Ind.	at Office		J. A. Webster Mrs. Myrtle Webster	133	
Aug 2	Coverston , Emery Jasper Co., Ill.	McDaniel , Effie Jasper Co., Ill.	At Office	\$2.00	Geo. W. McDaniel L. N. Wheeler	133	
Aug 12	Stanley , Tom Boxville, Ky.	Williams , Lula Bradley, Ky.	at Home	\$2.50	Maud Wills Willie Hancock J. Vault	133	
Aug 14	Pemberton , Joseph E. Evansville	Bethel , Nellie Evansville	at 800 Blackford Ave. 2:30 AM Sunday	\$5.00	Jim Thomas C. E. Barcus	134	
Aug 15	Brooks , Albert Evansville	Baldwin , Marie Evansville	at Office	\$2.00	Arthur H. Meyer Joseph Cox	134	
Aug 17	Rhodes , Cleve Owensboro, Ky.	Berry , Florence Owensboro, Ky.	at Hotel Ruston	\$3.00	B. W. Cain Mrs. Amos Baldwin	134	
Aug 18	Helm , Lem Evansville	Outlaw , Ida L. Howell	at Clerks Office	\$3.00	Mrs. Sallie B. Wickwire Robt. Wickwire	134	[black]
Aug 20	Taft , Chas. E. Princeton, Ind.	Young , Lillian G. Princeton	at Clerks Office	\$3.00	F. M. Van Winkle Wm. L. Baird	134	
Aug 29	Magraw , Inis L. Sturgis, Ky.	Shelton , Lula May Sturgis, Ky.	At Office	\$2.00	George W. Nexsin Jr. Wm. Hardy	134	
Aug 29	Weiver , Wm. W. Evansville, Ind.	Chase , Lillian Cromwell Evansville	at Office	\$2.00	Jacob Weiver Wm. D. Hardy	134	
Sept 5	Marks , Wm. H. Evansville	Dabler , Heby Evansville	at Office Court House	\$3.00	John Farris	135	
Sept 5	Short , Carl, Jr. Evansville	Walter , Hilda Evansville	at Office	\$2.00	W. G. Archer Dr. Geo. W. Varner	135	

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Sept 4 [sic]	Jensen , Joseph Posey Co., Ind.	Hahn , Della	Mars Township, Posey Co., Ind.	\$5.00	Jas. C. Goody	135	
Sept 6	Qualls , Harmon Hopkins Co., Ky.	Adams , Chlorie Hopkins Co., Ky.	At Office	\$3.00	Mrs. Shaffer Oak Hill Road	135	
Sept 6	Traylor , Forest L. Petersburg, Ind.	Tulley , Bradie Priest Henderson, Ky.	At Office	\$3.00	Paul B. Goss Chas. Tupman	135	
Sept 10	Elliott , Wm. D. Princeton, Ind.	McNeeley , Tillie B. Princeton	at Office	\$3.00	Mary E. Koys Chas. Tupman	135	
Sept 10	Sutton , Wm. C. Evansville, Ind.	Seitz , Gertrude Spencer Co., Ind.	at Office		Chas. Tupman Walter S. Woods	135	
Sept 17	Burckel , Arthur J. Evansville	Glazier , Ethel Lillie	At Room 6 Court House		Mrs. Nellie Geissler Chas. Tupman	136	
Sept 27	Verbas , Chris Owensboro, Ky.	Hutchins , Leona Owensboro, Ky.	At Office Court House	\$5.00	S. Fitch Boodman Mary C. Burkhaus R. N. Allen	136	
Sept 28	Fitzgerald , John E. Evansville	Christie , Minnie M. Evansville	At House 800 Blackford Ave.	\$1.00	Mrs. E. C. Poole E. Percy Poole	136	
Oct 1	Pryor , Gussie Daniel Boone, Ky.	Hale , Maggie Daniel Boone, Ky.	At 800 Blackford Ave. 3 AM	\$5.00	Mary Lanier John Knight	136	
Oct 3	Simpson , Virgil Webster Co., Ky.	Mayhue , Bertha Uniontown, Ky.	at Office	\$3.00	Ernest Sandefur Vercie Mayhue Sandefur	136	sisters
Oct 3	Sandefur , Ernest Webster Co., Ky.	Mayhue , Vercie Uniontown, Ky.	at Office	\$3.00	Virgil Simpson Bertha Mayhue Simpson	136	sisters
Oct 15	Denton , William Henderson, Ky.	Henning , Jessie Henderson, Ky.	at Office		Norman Byad	136	
Oct 18	Brown , Lee Henderson Co., Ky.	Busby , Annah Henderson, Ky.	at Office	\$4.00	Wesley Alderson E. L. Melton	137	
Oct 24	Bowen , Mace E. Evansville	Linton , Myrtle Evansville	at Office	0.00	D. J. Ancker Chas. Tupman	137	
Oct 26	Keach , H. Thomas Hebbardsville, Ky.	Moore , Lena A. Hebbardsville, Ky.	at Office	\$2.00	Al Brummer B. A. Keatch	137	
Oct 29	Parker , Lloyd Evansville	Scherrer , Bertha Evansville	at Office	\$3.00	H. J. Peckinpaugh	137	
Oct 30	Gerard , Jacob Ed Evansville	Fetterer , Minnie Evansville	at 1500 Canal St.	\$3.00	Lew W. Hayhurst	137	
Oct 31	Summers , Samuel Warrick Co.	Wilson , Fairy Evansville, Ind.	at Clerks Office	\$3.00	Wm. E. Barnes Wm. L. Baird	137	
Nov 5	Loh , Jacob Evansville, Ind.	Stiltz , Blanche M. Evansville	At 1210 Main St.	\$5.00	Jas. Allmen & wife	138	

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Nov 7	Draughan , Geo. E. Evansville	Alsup , Mary Evansville	At office	\$3.00	Anna Riggs Lucretia Bemis	138	

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