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# Joyous Peggy and Amazing Lillian: The Life and Works of Lillian Grace Copp

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## **JOYOUS PEGGY AND AMAZING LILLIAN; OR, THE LIFE AND CAREER OF LILLIAN GRACE COPP**

Deidre A. Johnson  
West Chester University

One of the oddities of series publishing is *Joyous Peggy*, the final volume of the Josephine Lawrence Stories for Girls. Despite the series title, the book is not by Lawrence at all, but by Lillian Grace Copp. It was tacked on to the series some time between 1934 and 1938, after Lawrence had left juvenile fiction for the greater prestige and profits found in writing for adults. Publisher's ads describe *Joyous Peggy* as "a splendid story of how the enthusiasm of a young girl changed the complexion of a town,"<sup>1</sup> and the tale focuses on an orphan whose attitude and actions transform lives, including her own. The real achievement, however, was not Peggy's but her author's. The story of the author of *Joyous Peggy* is that of a triumph over adversity, depicting one of the more unusual paths to juvenile fiction—and explaining much about the nature of Copp's writing.

Lillian Grace Copp's early life—or what is known of it—held little indication of her future career. Born April 1877 in East Readfield, Maine, she was the youngest child of a farmer, Benjamin H. Copp, and his second wife, Sophronia. Lillian grew up as part of a large family: her father had five children from a first marriage (the eldest only two years younger than Sophronia); Sophronia had a son from a previous marriage; and Benjamin and Sophronia had seven or eight children together.<sup>2</sup>

The family was not well-to-do. In the 1860 census, Copp, listing his occupation as "hay preparer," owned no real estate and only \$200 worth of personal property. By 1870, his personal estate was valued at \$1265 and his occupation elevated to that of farmer, but he still possessed no real estate, unlike most of his neighbors. The youngest daughter from his first marriage—the only child from that union still living at home—was working in a factory. The cost of maintaining a large family may account for his straitened finances: the 1880 census showed the 68-year-old Benjamin with six children under age 16. That included three-year-old Lillian and her six-year-old sister Minnie.

Some time between 1880 and the early 1890s, the family moved to Skowhegan, Maine, where Lillian attended Skowhegan High School—but did not graduate "because of frail health."<sup>3</sup> Whether the move was occasioned by Benjamin's death or the greater opportunities for employment is not known, but the 1900 census showed Lillian living with her widowed mother, her brother Charles, and her sister Minnie. Minnie was a "shirt-maker"; Charles, a "printer [of] oil cloth"; Lillian, possibly unemployed at the time of the census, became a millworker at the Marston Worsted Mills.<sup>4</sup>

Lillian's life changed dramatically the afternoon of January 26, 1903. While either coming from work or going to visit a friend, she chose a path on the railroad tracks, apparently a common practice and one that probably made for easier footing in snowy Skowhegan. When a train approached from behind, its engineer sounded his horn as a warning, but Lillian may have been hearing impaired and did not notice. Accounts vary about the next sequence of events: she was either unable to leave the track because of "a high bank of snow, formed by railroad plows," or "slipped on the ice and fell," or simply failed to recognize the danger in time. The engineer, believing she had stepped off the track, made no effort to stop the train until it was too late. The train was upon her, she was struck "by a shifting engine," and her feet were caught and badly mangled, necessitating amputation.<sup>5</sup>

Lillian was popular in Skowhegan, and friends rallied to help financially. The following February, they arranged a benefit at the local town hall. Produced "under the auspices of Skowhegan Lodge, Knights of Pythias," it featured a mélange of musical entertainment, including "whistling solos" by a local professor, a medley by a male quartet, and a "shadowgraph" for a finale. The local newspaper triumphantly reported that "The receipts from the entertainment were large," but certainly not enough to sustain Lillian, and she brought suit against Maine Central Railroad for \$20,000.<sup>6</sup> The case was tried in the Maine Supreme Court of Somerset in March 1905. It's difficult to assess the merits of the case, but it appears that Copp's lawyers were badly overmatched: her two local attorneys—one a recent law school graduate who had been admitted to the

bar only months before—faced a fleet of lawyers (“Nathan & Henry B. Cleaves & Steven C. Perry, and White & Carver, and Walton & Walton”) representing the railroad; that law firm was headed by the former governor of Maine. In December, the court handed down a decision in favor of the railroad.<sup>7</sup>

A rather bizarre sidelight of this tragedy was the use of Lillian’s name in newspaper ads by a Boston physician who specialized in weight loss plans and mail order cures. In August 1903, Charles E. Page, who regularly advertised his treatments via somewhat dubious testimonials in the *Boston Globe*, ran an advertisement proclaiming that he had treated Lillian for several months before her accident. Page further asserted that, “The hospital surgeons declared that they had never known a case in which a woman showed such WONDERFUL VITALITY in withstanding the shock of such a terrible accident and such an operation.” The ad continued with the rather extraordinary statement that “[Lillian] writes now that never in all her life has she felt in better health.”<sup>8</sup>

Lillian Copp’s reaction to—or part in—the *Globe* advertisements is not known. Years later, she reflected that the accident “changed the tenor of my life,” recalling that even before the accident, “I [had] been one of those square pegs” in round holes, “going from one position to another, never exactly fitting in” and “[spending] years of painful experience in dabbling with many mistaken vocations. . . . [using] all of the will power that I possessed to hold them for even the briefest of periods.” Afterward, she continued to explore several means of employment; circa 1906, she even tried “open[ing] a class in pianoforte instruction,” which, she later admitted, lasted for “less than two years” before it “dwindled to one pupil.”<sup>9</sup>

Soon after her failure as a music teacher, Lillian found new direction for her life. During the first decade of 1900, she and her sister Minnie relocated to nearby Waterville, Maine, where their Aunt Thankful resided. There, Lillian received tutoring in English from professors at Colby College.<sup>10</sup> She also discovered the New Thought Movement. New Thought, which developed in the 1870s as an offshoot of Mary Baker Eddy’s Christian Science movement, originally promoted health and healing through the power of the mind. By the turn of the century, however, it had “developed into a religion of success,” one that placed equal, if not greater emphasis on “material well-being.”<sup>11</sup> According to historian Beryl Sattler, “Its leaders promised that thought could shape reality, and that if one meditated upon a goal, that goal—be it health, spiritual enlightenment, or wealth—would be reached”<sup>12</sup>—a philosophy that must have had a strong appeal to Lillian, hampered by physical and financial problems.

Perhaps aided by her new outlook and literary training, Lillian succeeded in getting her first story published in 1909 in the *Boston Post*, launching her writing career. (Coburn 930) Her entry in the 1910 census, however, shows

“none” in the space for occupation, suggesting her income from writing was negligible. Minnie, employed as a shirtmaker, probably supported the two.<sup>13</sup> The Waterville City Directory for 1911-12 recorded a similar situation: the sisters were still sharing a residence, Lillian was still listed without an occupation, and Minnie was working at C. F. Hathaway & Co., a shirt manufacturer, where her cousin Sara was a “forelady”—which may explain the sisters’ move to the area.<sup>14</sup>

Gradually, Lillian’s situation improved. In April, 1914, a news note in the *Daily Kennebec Journal* announced that she was “now located in Boston and has become quite prominent in the literary world as a writer,” adding that “her success has grown steadily.”<sup>15</sup> Poor Minnie was not even mentioned by name, though the article noted the sisters were living together. At some point while in Boston, Lillian studied short story writing with professors from Wellesley.<sup>16</sup> The 1920 census offers further verification of Lillian’s growing success, for her occupation was now listed as “story writer.” She and Minnie were renting a home or rooms at 120 Dartmouth, the residence they would share for the rest of her life.<sup>17</sup>

The majority of Copp’s writing appeared in periodicals. A biographical sketch in *Skowhegan on the Kennebec* summarizes this aspect of her career:

she ha[s] sold singly or in series 700 stories, principally of the juvenile and teen age type, to *Youth’s Companion* and other youth’s magazines. Brief practical articles reaching into the hundreds have been accepted by leading magazines. Metaphysical articles have appeared in [New Thought periodicals such as] *Nautilus*, and the Unity publications; educational articles in periodicals like *The Writers’ Monthly* and *The Editor*.” (Coburn 930-31)

These figures, while impressive, may be somewhat inflated. Although another source does credit her with “over 600 short stories published in periodicals” as well as an unspecified number of “metaphysical articles” and although many of the publications Copp wrote for are not indexed, a search of available databases and web sources has turned up citations for only six magazine stories, all from the 1920s and for the juvenile market.<sup>18</sup>

“Meddlesome Mattie,” the earliest title, was published in *The Youth’s Instructor*, a Seventh-Day Adventist Sunday School magazine, in April 1920. Its subject matter prefigures elements in Copp’s novels: Mattie helps an assortment of townspeople and improves their lives. The story may have incorporated a few elements of wish fulfillment: Mattie’s first intervention saves a young boy from

being run down by a careless driver; additionally, as a result of her rescue, another character with an unspecified physical “deformity” receives medical treatment that will make him “a new boy when he comes out of the hospital.”<sup>19</sup>

Copp’s next stories undoubtedly reached a wider audience, for they were published in the popular juvenile magazine *Youth’s Companion*. “Anna’s Business Venture,” from November 1922, already shows the influence of the New Thought movement with its emphasis on positive attitude. Years later, in a New Thought booklet, Copp would exhort others to “[practice] visualization to bring into . . . existence any desired good,” and that is practically her heroine’s first action.<sup>20</sup> The story opens with Anna’s aunt and small cousins departing for Brooklyn, where her uncle is hospitalized, conveniently leaving Anna their apartment for the next four months. Moments after they leave, Anna, who was boarding with the family while attending business school, resolves to help her financially-strapped relatives by subletting the apartment for a profit. Deciding the house needs sprucing up,

[Anna] went from room to room and scrutinized each in turn. Why hadn’t her aunt seen the possibilities of the apartment? Anna’s eyes brightened wonderfully. ‘Why, I shan’t need more than one hundred dollars! [which she has from her parents for college expenses] I’ll take that shabby old rug out of the front parlor, put it into the back parlor and buy a new rug for the front room. I’ll have to get a new rug for the dining room and a covering for the hall. . . . In three days this apartment will be ready to sublet. Of all the lucky things, this is Saturday and I am free from college until Monday! Oh, I’ll know a lot more about bargain sales tonight than I knew before!’<sup>21</sup>

What follows is a triumph of initiative and immediate action. At the first store, Anna meets a clerk who just happens to be looking for a house to sublet. With his help, she gets bargains on rugs and linoleum. As she leaves the store, “Her pulses were tingling joyously; she knew that she could [still] afford . . . dishes, a big comfortable rattan chair, a bed couch for the back parlor and perhaps also a dresser.” And, when she returns to the apartment *an hour* later, she reflects, “That fifty-piece set of dishes . . . was a bargain, and I saved enough on the chair and dresser to get the material for five pairs of curtains and a little table.” By 6:30 that evening, she has put down the new rug and rearranged the apartment—just in time for her prospective tenants’ inspection. The clerk and his wife pronounce it “exactly what we need”—and for exactly



the amount of time they need it.<sup>22</sup> Anna has made no arrangements for her own lodging—other than to assume confidently that she'll find employment and a place to board on Monday. Her positive outlook is justified when her professor hears of her efforts, for he promptly hires her as his assistant, thus enabling her to rent a room at the YWCA and complete her education.

More stories stressing the importance of attitude soon followed. In 1923, *Youth's Companion* published "The Getchell Record," a short tale endorsing the value of persistence. "The Weight of the Arnold Family" from 1925 approaches positive visualization from the reverse perspective: the young protagonist, a perpetual worrier and hyper-critical perfectionist, learns to relax and accept others' efforts instead of imagining the worst outcomes. Copp's only sale to the prestigious *St. Nicholas* also occurred in 1925, with "Entertaining Cousin Hester." Her most unusual story was her final publication for *Youth's Companion*, in 1927, titled "The Last Straw."<sup>23</sup> Uncharacteristically for a juvenile, its protagonist is a middle-aged woman, one who suddenly realizes that her perpetual sacrifices for the family have left them selfish and unappreciative of her efforts; she decides to stop putting others' needs before her own and instead to value herself and enjoy life.

Copp's biggest success in the 1920s, however, was *Sue Stanwood*. Initially serialized by the *Christian Herald* in 1926, it contained yet another endorsement of positive thinking. L. C. Page, the publisher best known for *Pollyanna* and the line of "Glad" books, issued it in book form in 1927, billing it "Another Glad Book". Canadian and Australian editions soon followed. (Coburn 931) Although the plot borrows heavily from *Pollyanna*, the book nonetheless received favorable reviews in several newspapers: the *Syracuse Herald* described it as "a spirited and entertaining story of a damsel who works havoc in a 'highbrow' colony near Boston, when she is suddenly transferred, an unsophisticated . . . girl from an obscure Maine village, to the fastidious circle surrounding her Aunt Gertrude, . . . [at] an exclusive [girls'] school," while the *Davenport Democrat and Leader's* reviewer remarked that Sue "undertakes the dual roles of Santa Claus and Cupid and succeeds at both."<sup>24</sup> The settings, of course, reflect Copp's own geographical shift. Although description of Sue's hometown is rather sparse, according to *Skowhegan on the Kennebec* the initial part of the story actually takes place in Skowhegan. (Coburn 931).

Despite *Sue Stanwood's* popularity, several years elapsed before Copp published another novel; instead, she was apparently devoting more of her efforts to articles for New Thought publications.<sup>25</sup> The 1930 census, the last to record Minnie and Lillian, found them still together at the boarding house on Dartmouth Street, still employed as seamstress (or "dressmaker") and writer.<sup>26</sup> Copp's second children's book, *Joyous Peggy*, appeared the following year. Its

dedication read, "To Minnie[,] best of sisters, truest of friends, and dearest of pals."

Cupples & Leon initially published *Joyous Peggy* as a stand-alone title. It is essentially a reworking of *Sue Stanwood*, again incorporating elements from *Pollyanna*, plus a few from *Anne of Green Gables*. Peggy is a red-haired, freckled, perpetually optimistic and loquacious orphan who arrives by mistake at the home of lonely Rebecca Armstrong. Again, a good-hearted child transforms adults' lives: Peggy's well-intentioned but tactless prattling causes some disruption in town, but also leads to a romance between Rebecca and the new minister; moreover, her machinations persuade one of the village's wealthiest men to adopt an orphaned boy, open his home to other foundlings, and acquire a wife. Though *Peggy* contains few descriptions of the area, the author of *Skowhegan on the Kennebec* enthused that "the entire scene is laid in Skowhegan. The high school, the library, the old Kennebec, the churches, . . . and the old covered bridges as they were in the nineties all play an important part in making the Skowhegan that [Copp] knew and loved a vivid reality" (Coburn 931).

1931 also saw the publication of Copp's most unusual book. The paperback *Health, Happiness, & Prosperity* was issued by Elizabeth Towne, Inc.; the firm, which also published *Nautilus* magazine, specialized in New Thought materials.<sup>27</sup> *Health, Happiness, & Prosperity* was Copp's attempt to share her philosophy more directly, or, as the cover proclaimed "What you have wanted to know about / Right Thinking / The Spoken Word / Concentration / Prayer / How to Acquire Faith / Gratitude / The Value of Tithing / The Law of Love / Right and Wrong Visualization / Getting the Best of Fear / Finding the Right Position / Reading the Bible for Health." Copp covered all of this in under 75 pages, laced with examples of those who had achieved success via prayer and positive, focused thinking. Near the end of the text, she included a brief account of how this discovery had transformed her life.

The two books from 1931 were her last. Copp died in Boston on May 30, 1934, and was buried in the family plot in Skowhegan. Four years after her death, Cupples & Leon advertised the Josephine Lawrence Stories for Girls with a new uniform binding, showing *Joyous Peggy* as incorporated into the series. Although no documentation explaining the publisher's decision has been seen, it's possible that the move was prompted by the broad similarities between Copp's and Lawrence's books—both women favored character-driven stories rather than mysteries or plot-heavy adventures—combined with the publisher's realization that neither author would be continuing her series. Cupples thus gave the titles additional promotion and, in so doing, created a bibliographic oddity to puzzle later generations.

Although Copp's contribution to series fiction was thus somewhat limited—she is linked primarily through her connection with the Lawrence series and tangentially through Page's publisher-created "Glad Books"—her life offers a look at one of the more unusual routes to a career in publishing and a reminder not only of the varied backgrounds of series authors but also of the autobiographical connections incorporated into some of their work. Like the characters she created, Lillian Grace Copp had faced and overcome adversity—in her case, finding not only a fresh outlook but also a satisfying career.

## Notes

*Special thanks to Lydia Schurman for her research assistance.*

1. Cupples & Leon's 1932-33 *PTLA* advertisement for the series lists only the eight titles by Lawrence; at the bottom of the page, separated from the series ad by a double rule, is the catalogue entry for *Joyous Peggy*. The series listing in Cupples & Leon's 1938 catalogue advertises a new uniform binding and includes *Joyous Peggy*. The description of the book is from the 1932-33 *PTLA*.

2. Some of this is conjecture based on the census records. In 1850, 38-year-old Benjamin H Copp was living in Hallowell with his 31-year-old wife Julia and their five children: Benjamin (age 13), Armena (9), Reuel (5), Elizabeth (3), and John (1). Ten years later, the 49-year-old Copp was now with 25-year-old Sophronia; his son Benjamin (and a female who appears to be Benjamin, Jr.'s, wife Hannah) and daughters Armena and Elizabeth were still at home; John was not listed, but 3-year-old Willard P was part of the family. A search of the databases in New England Ancestors shows Benjamin H. Copp and Mrs. Sophronia C. Porter married May 5, 1860; Willard, whose surname is listed as Porter in the 1870 census, was probably Sophronia's son from a previous marriage. Benjamin also had at least two children. In addition to those children listed in the census: New England Ancestors also shows records indicating the death of a 4-month-old son on 21 February 1854 and a 6-month-old child (gender unspecified) on 5 September 1861.

By 1870, the household consisted of Benjamin and Sophronia, plus 23-year-old Elizabeth, 13-year-old "Willard A. Porter," 5-year-old Fred, 3-year-old Charles, and 10-month-old May. Three new names appear in 1880, "Risid [?] S.," a year younger than May; Minnie G., three years younger than her brother; Lillian G., three years younger than Minnie. Sophronia's entry in the 1900 census states that she had had nine children, six of whom were still alive. Thus, a child could have been born after Lillian, although it seems more likely that some of the gaps—between Willard and Fred or between the last three children—represent siblings who died in their infancy.

Benjamin's age for the 1880 census is based on his ages for previous years; the 1880 entry incorrectly shows him as 58; Lillian and her sister Minnie's ages also appear to be

incorrect in the 1880 census, at least based on the birthdates given in the 1900 census. (Lillian's is April 1877 and Minnie's, July 1874; the 1880 census records them as 4 and 7, respectively.)

The census records are also the source of information for the next paragraph. Hallowell, Kennebec County, Maine, U S Census 1850, Roll M432\_256, p. 188; image 371; Augusta, Kennebec County, Maine, U S Census 1860, Roll M653\_441, p. 0 [?], image 136; Readfield, Kennebec County, Maine, U S Census 1870, Roll M593\_547, p. 448, image 175; Readfield, Kennebec County, Maine, U S Census 1880, Roll T9\_482, p 387.3. The family's surname is listed as "Copp" in 1880. All census records for this and subsequent entries via Ancestry.com

3. Lillian did not graduate from Skowhegan High School high school. A biographical sketch says "she attended Skowhegan High School, a member of the class of 1894," but then continues by saying "Later she completed a High School course." Louise Helen Coburn, *Skowhegan on the Kennebec* (Skowhegan ME. Printed by the Independent-Reporter Press, 1941): 930. HeritageQuest. Future citations will be parenthetical in the text. Lillian's poor health and its effect on her schooling are mentioned in a clipping titled "Funeral Lillian Grace Copp" from an unidentified source, with a notation "June 4, 1934." Special thanks are due to genealogist Ruth F. Blood and the Skowhegan Public Library for locating and supplying a photocopy of this item.

4. Skowhegan, Somerset County, Maine, 1900 US Census, Roll T623\_600, p 15B-16A. Information about her place of employment is from "Sad Accident to Miss Ethel [sic] Copp at Skowhegan," *Daily Kennebec Journal*, Jan. 27, 1903: 1.

5. The account of the accident is compiled from three sources: "East Readfield," *Daily Kennebec Journal*, Feb. 23, 1904, msg. pg.; "Sad Accident to Miss Ethel [sic] Copp at Skowhegan"; "Lillian G. Copp Vs. Maine Central Railroad Company," 100 Me. 568; 62A. 735; 1905 Me. LEXIS/Nexus 104. "returning from work" is from "East Readfield"; "slipped on the ice," from "Sad Accident"; "on her way" and "bank of snow," from Lexis/Nexus.

6. "Pronounced Success[er] Coburn Hall Entertainment for Benefit of Miss Lillian Copp," *Daily Kennebec Journal*, Feb. 19, 1904: 10. "Suit Against Maine Central," *Daily Kennebec Journal*, July 20, 1904: 2.

7. "Lillian G. Copp Vs. Maine Central Railroad Company." Information about her attorneys—Samuel W. Gould and Fred F. Lawrence—is from Coburn 786, 790. According to Coburn, Lawrence had been "[a]dmitted to the bar, August, 1904," barely seven months before the case came to trial (790).

8. "Fatness and Disease," *Boston Daily Globe*, Aug. 2, 1903: 40. The ad incorporated an extra touch of drama with a paragraph telling that "A lady from Skowhegan . . .

called today and told me that she was one of those who SAW the terrible accident, and she also told me of what someone remarked about my advertisement—that there was nothing of the sort . . . that it was ‘made up out of whole cloth.’ ‘But,’ said she, ‘when I told her that I, myself, saw them carry the girl from the track, she had to believe it.’”

For other examples of Charles E. Page’s ads, see “Is Obesity Curable?” *Boston Daily Globe*, November 8, 1891: 20; “Stout People,” *Boston Daily Globe*, May 1, 1892: 18; “Stout People, Read This! Rev. J. A. Swart of Hydeville, Vt., Reduces Weight Rapidly,” *Boston Daily Globe*, Oct. 23, 1898: 29; “Fat People: Dr. Charles E. Page Presents More Proof,” *Boston Daily Globe*, Dec. 1, 1901: 32; “Fatness and Disease,” *Boston Daily Globe*, July 19, 1903: 28. ProQuest Historical Newspapers.

9. Lillian Grace Copp, *Health, Happiness and Prosperity*. (Holyoke: Elizabeth Towne, Inc., 1931): 65-67.

10. Ruth F. Blood, Skowhegan Public Library, email 23 March 2007.

Thankful Knight Copp’s relationship with Lillian is established through the genealogy listings which show that she married Isaac Copp, born 10 July 1819 <<http://www.watervillegenealogy.com/Early%20Families/n103.htm#15752>>; <<http://www.watervillegenealogy.com/Early%20Families/n158.htm#15753>>. According to Family Tree Maker’s Genealogy Site . . . Descendants of John Copp, Isaac was the youngest son of Benjamin Hayes Copp [Sr] and Lillian’s father was his older brother <<http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/e/a/s/Virginia-N-Eastman/ODT5-0008.html>>. The Oakland Maine Historical Society’s “Oakland Families - C” webpage also shows the brothers’ relationship (<http://www.rootsweb.com/~mecoakla/documents/Families/FamsC.html>).

11. Patricia R. Hill, “Rethinking New Thought,” *Reviews in American History* 29.1 (2001) 85, 90.

12. Beryl Satter, “New Thought,” *Encyclopedia of Chicago*, Chicago Historical Society, 2005 <<http://www.encyclopedia.chicagohistory.org/pages/886.html>>.

13. Waterville, Kennebec County, Maine, 1910 US Census, Roll T624\_542, p. 94B-[95A?]. Perhaps coincidentally, the sisters lived next door to a physician. Either there was some confusion about how to calculate age or the sisters provided misinformation to the census taker, for each lost several years: Lillian is listed as 30 instead of 32, and Minnie is 32 instead of 35.

14. Waterville, Maine, City Directory, 1911-12: 401. Maine City Directories [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: The Generations Network, Inc., 2005: Ancestry.com. Interestingly, Lillian is not listed in the Waterville Directory for 1913-14, though Minnie is.

15. “Skowhegan,” *Daily Kennebec Journal*, April 6, 1914: 5. The article concluded by noting “She lives with her sister at 54 Berkeley street.”

16. “Lillian Grace Copp,” an obituary from an unidentified source with “June 7, 1934” written on it. Special thanks are due to genealogist Ruth F. Blood and the Skowhegan Public Library, who located and supplied a photocopy of this item.

17. Boston Ward 7, Suffolk County, Massachusetts, 1920 US Census, T625\_732, p. 6B.

18. “Lillian Grace Copp” gives the 600 figure and “metaphysical articles.” A search for articles included both the bound volumes and online version of *Reader’s Guide to Periodical Literature*, the American Periodicals Database, the online *Harper’s Weekly*, the Making of America sites, as well as a Google search (regular and Google Books) and periodic checks on eBay. This also suggests that some of her publications may have been unsigned or otherwise uncredited.

“Meddlesome Mattie” appears in *Heart to Heart Stories for Sisters*, ed. Joe Wheeler (Tyndale/Focus on the Family, 2002), a collection of reprints of periodical stories either in the public domain or from the 1920s and 1930s. The acknowledgements page indicates the story is from the April 20, 1920 issue of *The Youth’s Instructor*, which was a long-running Seventh-Day Adventist Sunday-School periodical.

19. Lillian G. Copp, “Meddlesome Mattie,” in *Heart to Heart Stories for Sisters*, 101.

20. Copp, *Health, Happiness and Prosperity*. 53.

21. Lillian Grace Copp, “Anna’s Business Venture,” *Youth’s Companion*, November 9, 1922: 643.

22. Ibid, 643-44.

23. Lillian Grace Copp, “The Getchell Record,” *Youth’s Companion*, August 9, 1923: 472-73; Lillian Grace Copp, “The Weight of the Arnold Family” *Youth’s Companion*, May 21, 1925: 335-36; Lillian Grace Copp, “Entertaining Cousin Hester,” *St. Nicholas*, March 1925: 471-75; Lillian Grace Copp, “The Last Straw,” *Youth’s Companion*, May 12, 1927: 329-30.

24. Egbert S. Turner, “Browsing in Literary Fields,” *Syracuse Herald* (August 7, 1927): 19; “Books and their Writers,” *Davenport Democrat & Leader* (April 10, 1927): 28.

25. “Lillian Grace Copp” obituary.

26. Boston, Suffolk County, 1930 US Census, Roll 944, p. 4A, image 1082. The sisters’ surname is listed as “Carp.”

27. Elizabeth Towne Home Page. <<http://elizabethtowne.wwwhubs.com>>.

Copp also appears to have dedicated the book to her brother, though the phrasing is cryptic enough ("To Charles, Who ignores the evil, and holds steadfastly to the good") that the Charles involved could be a friend.

## FATNESS and DISEASE.

**20 Years' Work in Boston, the Only  
Genuine Specialist in Obesity.**

**The Page Treatment Reduces Weight  
And Builds Up the System.**



**Miss Copp's Case.**  
I have published this case in the Globe several times with Miss Copp's permission, as she says, "to encourage others."

Miss Lillian Grace Copp of Skowhegan, Me. (Box 123), after having been my patient a few months met with a R. R. accident, losing both legs. The capital surgeons declared that they had never known a case in which a woman showed such **WONDERFUL VITALITY** in withstanding the shock of such a terrible accident and such an operation. She writes now that never in all her life has she felt in better health, and "we give you all the credit," she says.

**SPECIAL TO THE PUBLIC.**

A lady from Skowhegan, Maine, the home of Miss Copp, whose case I have printed several times, and which is referred to above, called today and told me that she was one of those who **SAW** the terrible accident, and she also told me of what some one remarked about my advertisement—that there was nothing of the sort, she presumed; but that it was "made up out of whole cloth," probably.

"But," said she, "when I told her that I, myself, saw them carry the girl from the track, she had to believe it."

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