

George Ade, 1866-1944¹

Humorist George Ade gained prominence during the Golden Age of Indiana Literature (c. 1880-1920) for his wit and use of the vernacular.² The Kentland native worked as a columnist at the *Chicago Record* and published collected essays such as *Fables in Slang* (1899).³ Ade wrote several successful musical comedies including *Sultan of Sulu* (1901) and *The College Widow* (1904)⁴.

Ade supported his alma mater Purdue University throughout his life, serving on the board of trustees and donating generously.⁵ He built his "Hazelden" estate in 1904 and frequently hosted political rallies, community gatherings, and fundraisers.⁶ Ade's literary and Broadway success drew nationally prominent figures to Hazelden, making it a cultural center for the region.⁷

¹ 1870 *United States Federal Census*, Jefferson Township, Newton County, Kentland, Indiana, page 16, line 29, accessed AncestryLibrary.com; Indiana State Board of Health, *Certificate of Death*, George Ade, May 16, 1944, Registered No 16377, Indiana Archives and Records Administration, Indianapolis, IN, USA, accessed Ancestry.com; "George Ade, Noted Author, is Dead," (Lafayette) *Journal and Courier*, May 17, 1944, 11; "George Ade Dies at Home in Brook," *Brook Reporter*, May 18, 1944, 2.

² "Fables in Slang," *New York Times*, December 9, 1899, 40; "Fables in Slang," *Buffalo Review*, December 23, 1899, 4; "George Ade's Slang Humor," *Chicago Tribune*, October 28, 1899, 10.

³ "Fables in Slang," *New York Times*, December 9, 1899, 40; "Fables in Slang," *Buffalo Review*, December 23, 1899, 4; "George Ade's Slang Humor," *Chicago Tribune*, October 28, 1899, 10; M.D. McLean, *Pittsburgh Daily Post*, August 12, 1900, 18; "Career of George Ade," *Lincoln Star*, August 19, 1905, 7; "The Theatrical World," (Newport News) *Daily Press*, February 18, 1906, 5; "George Ade, Hoosier Wit, Dies at His Indiana Home," *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, May 17, 1944, 4.

⁴ "Career of George Ade," *Lincoln Star*, August 19, 1905, 7; Terence Tobin, *Letters of George Ade*, West Lafayette: Purdue University Press, 1998, 14-17; "George Ade, Hoosier Wit, Dies at His Indiana Home," *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, May 17, 1944, 4; Everett Watkins, "Ade held 'College Widow' His Greatest Success as Playwright," (Muncie) *Star Press*, May 19, 1944, 15.

⁵ "Board of Trustees Minutes," Purdue University, June 6, 1887, Purdue University Archives; Bulletin of Purdue University," Volume 23, No. 1, 38-38, accessed Purdue University Archives; "Names of Noted Men," *Indianapolis Star*, September 28, 1930, 50; "Bulletin of Purdue University," Volume 34, No. 7, March 1934, Purdue University, 50, accessed Purdue University Archives; "Stated Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Trustees of Purdue University," January 19, 1938, 82, accessed Purdue University Archives; "Annual Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Trustees of Purdue University," October 17, 1945, 81, accessed Purdue University Archives.

⁶ "Crowd Estimated at 15,000 Picnics at Hazelden," *Brook Reporter*, July 11, 1919, 1; "Geo, Ade Host to Children," (Lafayette) *Journal and Courier*, July 24, 1924, 3; "Children Picnic at Hazelden," *Brook Reporter*, August 14, 1925, 1; "George Ade a Summer Santa at Annual Children's Party," (Lafayette) *Journal and Courier*, August 12, 1926, 1; "Hazelden to Have Children as Its Guests Next Monday," (Lafayette) *Journal and Courier*, August 23, 1927, 2; "Yes, We Have No Fruit, City Children Declare," *Indianapolis Star*, August 21, 1927, 7; "George Ade Will Entertain Throng at Children's Party," (Lafayette) *Journal and Courier*, August 13, 1928; "Children's Picnic to be Held Thursday," *Brook Reporter*, August 17, 1928, 1; "Purdue band Will Play at Hazelden," (Lafayette) *Journal and Courier*, September 21, 1932, 14; George Ade, "Autobiography of George Ade," 1933 in *Letters of George Ade*, ed. Terence Tobin (West Lafayette: Purdue University Press, 1998), 15; George Ade to Charles G. Dawes, September 24, 1924 in Tobin, 99.

⁷ "Late Ade Story Will be Filmed," (Lafayette) *Journal and Courier*, April 19, 1928, 14; "Names of Noted Men," *Indianapolis Star*, September 28, 1930, 50; "Celebrities are Hazelden Guests," (Lafayette) *Journal and Courier*, September 3, 1931, 10; "Celebrities Will be Guests of George Ade at Hazelden," (Lafayette) *Journal and Courier*, July 12, 1938, 6; "George Ade Host for Famous Pair," (Lafayette) *Journal and Courier*, July 19, 1938, 13; "Hazelden Will Pay Tribune to Wizard Mentor," (Lafayette) *Journal and Courier*, May 11, 1940, 1; "George Ade Cleans Up Storm Debris, Plans Future Events," (Lafayette) *Journal and Courier*, June 12, 1939, 5; "Celebrity Night," (Lafayette)

Journal and Courier, May 24, 1940, 9; "Celebrity Night," (Lafayette) *Journal and Courier*, June 27, 1940, 19; Maurice Early, "The Day in Indiana," (Muncie) *Star Press*, June 22, 1941, 1.