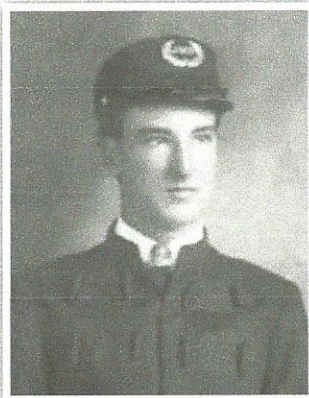


# WINDJAMMERS HALL OF FAME

## Charles Edward Duble 1884-1960 (1980 Inductee)

by Charles Conrad , WJU #1525



Charles Edward "Charlie" "C.E." Duble was born in Jeffersonville, IN, a town across the Ohio River from Louisville, on September 13, 1884. He used his initials, "C. E.," professionally for his entire career as a composer and circus historian. Duble played the trombone in circuses, minstrel shows, vaudeville and other touring

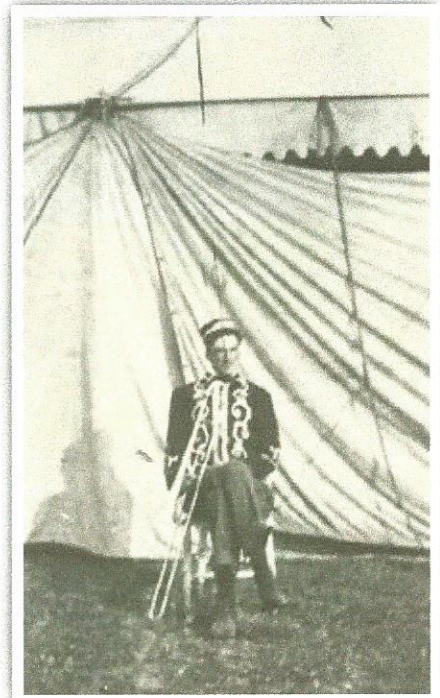
entities from 1909 until 1947, and this long tenure was even more remarkable when one considers the sheer number of shows with which he performed. He had 35 musical works published, most of which were marches. Many of these were dedicated to circus musicians and bandmasters. An oddity about his career is that he never became a bandmaster. My speculation is that he likely had numerous opportunities to do this, but preferred not to.

Duble had an amazing memory for dates, names and details of shows that he attended or performed in, including some from his boyhood before he began playing. He used this facility in his role as an important circus historian, and was a prolific letter writer to *Billboard* and numerous local newspapers.

His most famous march is *Bravura*, an exciting circus march that begins in the key of G minor. Perhaps due to its minor key, it is often attributed to Karl King, as he was one of the best minor key march writers. Other well known and often performed circus works from Duble include *Barnum & Bailey's Royal Pageant*, *Battle of the Winds*, *Old Glory Triumphant*, *Ringling Brothers Grand Entree*, *Sounds from the Harem*, *Wizard of the West*, *Evans' Fashion Plate*, *Under White Tents* and *Troopers Greeting*, which was dedicated to Sun Bros. Bandmaster Charles Gerlach.

A beloved Windjammer euphoniumist, the late Ed Ballenger (who was also from Jeffersonville), collated Duble's datebooks and other memorabilia, and this material is now held by the Parkinson Library and Circus Archive in Baraboo, WI.

Duble's last year as a trombone player with a touring show was 1940. He played around Louisville and Jeffersonville in various performances and worked other jobs. He toured as a ticket taker with the Sparks Circus during 1947 and 1948. In the 1950's, he carried on a prolific letter writing exchange with legendary circus historian Sverre Braathen (Windjammers Hall of Fame inductee in 2009), and he passed on extensive information on the use of music during circuses and the bands on minstrel shows. Duble died in Jeffersonville on August 19, 1960. He was elected to the Windjammer Hall of Fame in 1980 as our 10th inductee.



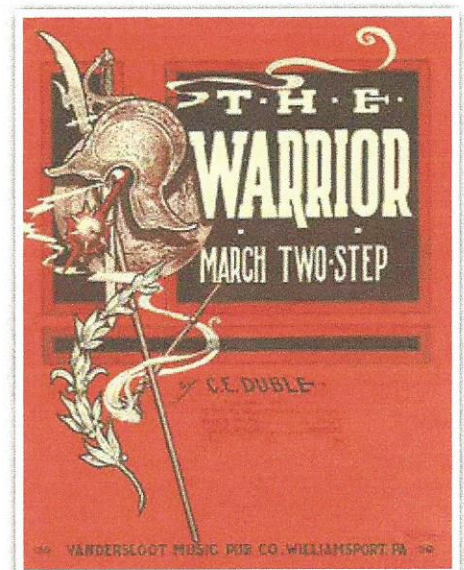
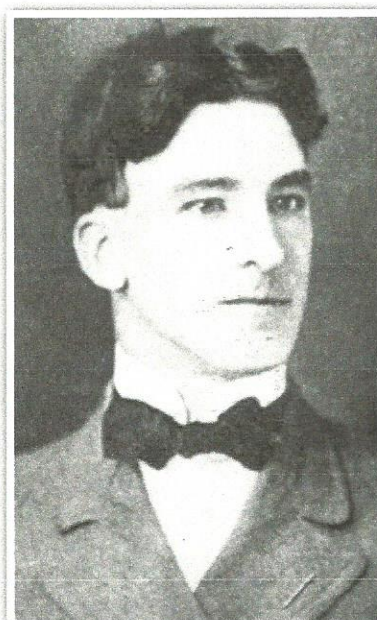
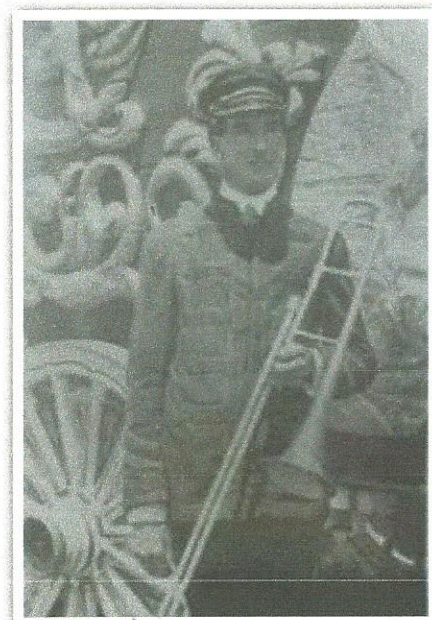
Charles Duble with The Mighty Haag Circus in 1912



Charles Duble with the DeRue Minstrels in 1913

From Duble's datebooks and several other sources, here is the amazing listing of the shows with which he performed:

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| <p><b>1908</b> Unidentified minstrel show (from an American Bandmasters Association Library held photo donated by Merle Evans of a 13 piece band that included Duble)</p> <p><b>1909</b> Sun Bros. Circus (Charles Gerlach, bandmaster)</p> <p><b>1910</b> Norris &amp; Rowe Circus (Charles Tinney, bandmaster); Gentry Bros. Circus (Harry Crigler, bandmaster); Dode-Fisk Circus (William Weldon, bandmaster)</p> <p><b>1911</b> John Robinson 10 Big Shows Circus (Charles Gerlach, bandmaster); Uncle Tom's Cabin Show; Mighty Haag Circus (Dick Master, bandmaster)</p> <p><b>1912</b> Mighty Haag Circus (Dick Masters, bandmaster); Downie &amp; Wheeler Circus (Jack Phillips, bandmaster); Sun Bros. Circus (John Shelley, bandmaster)</p> <p><b>1913</b> Vaudeville show in South Carolina; DeRue Brothers Minstrels; Barnum &amp; Bailey Circus (Ned Brill, bandmaster)</p> <p><b>1914</b> Robinson Famous Circus (Dick Masters, bandmaster); Ernest Haag Wagon Circus (Everette James, bandmaster)</p> <p><b>1915</b> Hagenbeck-Wallace Circus (R. C. Jack, bandmaster); Sun Bros. Circus New Orleans Winter Show (Ralston Case, bandmaster)</p> <p><b>1916</b> Sparks Circus (Jack Phillips, bandmaster)</p> <p><b>1917</b> John Robinson Circus (Dick Masters, bandmaster)</p> <p><b>1918</b> Sells-Floto Circus (C. L. Brown, bandmaster)</p> <p><b>1919</b> Ringling Brothers and Barnum &amp; Bailey Circus (Merle Evans, bandmaster)</p> | <p><b>1920</b> Sells-Floto Circus (C. L. Brown, bandmaster)</p> <p><b>1921</b> Vaudeville show in Cleveland; Sparks Circus (Jack Phillips, bandmaster)</p> <p><b>1922</b> Keith Theater in Louisville in March; unknown for remainder of the year (Bill Pruyn told me in an interview that Duble had a few jail terms; perhaps related is a Billboard request for an Arban book to be sent to a convict in Jefferson City, Mo.)</p> <p><b>1923-24</b> RBBB (Merle Evans, bandmaster)</p> <p><b>1925-27</b> Unknown – see note above</p> <p><b>1928</b> Robbins Bros. Circus (O. A. Gilson, bandmaster)</p> <p><b>1929</b> Downie Bros. Circus (Rodney Harris, bandmaster)</p> <p><b>1930</b> RBBB (Merle Evans, bandmaster); Miller Bros. 101 Ranch Wild West Show (Jack Bell, bandmaster)</p> <p><b>1931-33</b> Downie Bros. Circus (Rodney Harris, bandmaster)</p> <p><b>1935</b> Downie Bros. Circus (Rodney Harris, bandmaster)</p> <p><b>1939</b> Downie Bros. Circus (B. T. "Bee" Carsey, bandmaster)</p> <p><b>1940</b> Russell Bros. Circus (Eddie Woeckner &amp; then A. Lee Hinckley, bandmaster)</p> |
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The Warrior March, published in 1913