

Descendants of John Hibben and Phebe Milhous

Generation No. 3.1

JOHN³ HIBBEN (*Thomas², John¹*) was born July 04, 1785 in PA, and died November 13, 1853 in Hillsboro, Highland Co., OH. He married **PHEBE MILHOUS** September 15, 1808 in Uniontown, Fayette Co., PA, daughter of **SAMUEL MILHOUS** and **ANN CROSSEN**. She was born August 08, 1787 in Union Township, Fayette Co., PA, and died April 05, 1841 in Hillsboro, Highland Co., OH.

Children of **JOHN HIBBEN** and **PHEBE MILHOUS** are:

- i. **MARY ANN⁴ HIBBEN**, b. September 14, 1809, Uniontown, Fayette Co., PA; d. February 28, 1844, Rushville, Rush Co., IN. She m. **JOHN S. CAMPBELL** June 18, 1831, Highland Co., OH; b. Abt. 1812 in PA.
- ii. **WILLIAM W. HIBBEN**, b. August 24, 1811, Uniontown, Fayette Co., PA; d. April 09, 1881, Indianapolis, Marion Co., IN. He m. **AURELIA F. GLASCOCK** August 02, 1832, Clinton Co., OH; b. April 24, 1813, Winchester, Frederick Co., VA; d. September 24, 1885, Indianapolis, Marion Co., IN.
- iii. **THOMAS HIBBEN**, b. September 03, 1813, Union Township, Fayette Co., PA; d. February 25, 1833, Hillsboro, Highland Co., OH.
- iv. **female HIBBEN**, b. 1815, Union Township, Fayette Co., PA; d. 1815, Union Township, Fayette Co., PA.
- v. **ELIZABETH LAURETTE HIBBEN**, b. April 13, 1818, Union Township, Fayette Co., PA; d. January 28, 1842, Hillsboro, Highland Co., OH.
- vi. **CAROLINE T. HIBBEN**, b. June 19, 1820, Union Township, Fayette Co., PA; d. September 14, 1841, Hillsboro, Highland Co., OH.
- vii. **SARAH JANE HIBBEN**, b. June 21, 1823, Union Township, Fayette Co., PA; d. May 01, 1902, Hillsboro, Highland Co., OH. She m. **PHILIP GATCH JEANS** January 06, 1853, Hillsboro, Highland Co., OH; b. June 15, 1816, Milford, Clermont Co., OH; d. September 02, 1899, Hillsboro, Highland Co., OH.
- viii. **HENRY BASCOM HIBBEN**, b. January 23, 1826, Uniontown, Fayette Co., PA; d. June 13, 1890, Brooklyn, NY. He m. **HARRIETT FINGLAND** March 20, 1851, Cincinnati, Hamilton Co., OH; b. March 1, 1832, Montreal, Canada; d. June 01, 1917, Queens, New York, NY.
- ix. **HARRIET L. HIBBEN**, b. February 21, 1829, Hillsboro, Highland Co., Ohio; d. March 02, 1912, Columbus, Franklin Co., OH. She m. **DR. JOHN W. STOUT** June 01, 1854, Hillsboro, Highland Co., OH; d. Bef. 1870.
- x. **SAMUEL MILHOUS HIBBEN**, b. February 27, 1831, Hillsboro, Highland Co., OH; d. February 03, 1889, Wabash, Wabash Co., IN. He m. **SUSAN IRENE KUNSE** December 10, 1857, Wabash, Wabash Co., IN; b. July 21, 1841, Connersville, Fayette Co., IN; d. February 20, 1929, Indianapolis, Marion Co., IN.

Revised 11/07, 02/09, 01/11

JOHN HIBBEN 1785 - 1853
and
PHEBE MILHOUS 1787 - 1841

The Legacy

*Voices of a distant time
Speak softly thru the years
Carried on winds of ages past
Whispering gently in our ears.*

*Seeking to be remembered
Rather than forgotten as though never here,
Reaching out to their children's children. . .
"Do they listen? Will they hear?"*

*From far off lands and distant seas
With courage and fear interlaced,
They sought a new future for their children,
But unsure of the future they faced.*

*They arrived at port as families,
As well as lone woman or man.
Even a child or infant would travel
To the promise of that other land.*

*Hazards of travel, whether land or sea
Would claim both young and old.
This new land would hold a price for some,
But undaunted, forward they'd go.*

*Far from what they once called home
They embraced this new found land.
Though their hearts recalled it, they'd still proudly
Proclaim it : "I'm an American."*

*Though many to America were penniless
With nought but their Bible to hold,
They knew therein lie a treasure:
Joys and sorrows, recorded and told.*

*Each name seems to say: "Don't forget me;
Please remember those things we endured."
"We risked it all; life, home, love and family,
So your future would be secure." ¹*

Rebecca Watson Walker

John Hibben, the first child of Thomas Hibben and Mary Enriken, was born July 4, 1785,² probably in Chester County, Pennsylvania. The first dozen years of his life were spent in Cumberland County, Pennsylvania. His family then moved to Uniontown, Fayette County, Pennsylvania where he acquired the skills of the hatter's trade. It is believed that he lived with his parents and helped to support them and his younger siblings who numbered nine by 1807. On September 15, 1808, when he was 23 years old, he married Phebe Milhous.³ Phebe was the

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daughter of Samuel Milhous⁴ and Ann Crossen of Chester County, Pennsylvania who may have been family friends of the Hibbens and Entrikens of that county. The family association may have gone back to County Antrim, Ireland from which both the Milhous and Entrikens emigrated in the early 1700s.

The Hatter's Trade

AN ACT to prevent the Exportation of Hats out of any of His Majesty's Colonies or Plantations in America, and to refrain the Number of Apprentices taken by the Hat-makers in the said Colonies or Plantations, and for better encouraging the making of Hats in GREAT BRITAIN.

— Act of Parliament, King George II, January 13, 1731.⁵

Like the legislative tax on tea, the colonists ignored the Hat Act and continued to make hats for themselves and export. By 1774 there were no less than forty-three master hatters in Philadelphia serving the local market as well as export. On the western frontier almost every town had at least one hatter as the limitations of America's overland transportation discouraged concentrated manufacture. "Because hats were bulky and fragile, manufacturers carrying them to market on horseback, or even on their own backs, found it impossible to transport their finished products overland in sufficient quantities to make the trade profitable."⁶

Nearly every man and boy wore a hat, either a knitted wool 'Monmouth' hat or a wide brimmed felt hat made of wool or fur. They were necessities to shed rain and retain warmth in winter. It is believed John Hibben manufactured felt hats made of beaver, otter, muskrat or rabbit fur. The techniques of manufacturing included the shearing of the fur, bowing it into an oval batt, pressing it into felt, and then boiling or cooking it to shrink the fibers. Then the smoothing, shaping, dyeing and finishing were accomplished. In the late 1700s the most popular hat was the bell crowned beaver. Later in the nineteenth century the taller stovepipe beaver hat was the favorite of the gentry. Along with the blacksmiths, coopers, millers and tanners, hatters were important tradesmen serving the needs of their community.⁷

John Hibbon [Hibben], a hatter by trade, purchased the lot next south of the Isaac Wood lot from Thomas Collins on which was a log house then in the occupancy of Andrew Collins. This property extended from what is now the Adams Building to the Teed House. Into this log building Mr. Hibbon moved his hat shop as early as 1812, after having been in business on West Main street since 1808. Mr. Hibbon fitted up one room for his dye kettles and another for finishing, and lived in a frame house next south. He was a devout Methodist, and his house was always a home for Methodist preachers, to which they always found a hearty welcome. About 1830 Mr. Hibbon moved to a farm about four miles west of town subsequently known as the Balsinger Plains. He later moved to Ohio and died at Hillsboro, November 8, 1853, at about 70 years of age.⁸

John probably rented the shop on West Main street. Then in May of 1812 he purchased outright for \$400 a portion of Henry Beeson's tract of land called "Mill Seat" bounded by Cheat Street and Beeson's Mill Race containing one quarter of an acre.⁹ Also in May of 1812 he purchased another lot on Morgantown street for \$400, \$200 cash and a mortgage of \$200, "he the said John Hibben giving Bond and sufficient security for the payment of the same . . ."¹⁰ John's father, Thomas, and brother, William, were witnesses to the signing and sealing of the articles of

agreement. Initially, home and business shared the same premises. But then on March 31, 1814, John purchased a home on Peter street, lot No. 12 in Jacob's Addition. As Fayette County Recorder, his father, Thomas, recorded and compared the transaction.¹¹ At the time Thomas was living nearby on lot No. 21 in Jacob's Addition.¹²

John And Phebe Have Ten Children

Nine children were born in Uniontown, Fayette County, Pennsylvania. First born on September 14, 1809, was Mary Ann Hibben.¹³ Then in order arrived William W. Hibben,¹⁴ August 24, 1811; Thomas Hibben,¹⁵ September 3, 1813; an unnamed daughter, born and died in 1815; Elizabeth Laurette Hibben,¹⁶ April 13, 1818; Caroline T. Hibben,¹⁷ June 19, 1820; Sarah Jane Hibben,¹⁸ June 21, 1823; Henry Bascom Hibben,¹⁹ January 23, 1826; and Harriet L. Hibben,²⁰ February 21, 1829. Only the youngest child, Samuel Milhous Hibben, was born in Hillsborough, Highland County, Ohio. His date of birth was February 27, 1831.²¹

John And Phebe Join Samuel Entriken Hibben And Wife Margaret In Hillsborough, Ohio

No records of John's business or domestic life from 1814 to 1830 in Uniontown have been found. It is assumed he continued in the latter's trade until he moved to Hillsborough in 1829. Younger brother, Samuel, had moved to Hillsborough in 1822 and had established a prosperous dry goods business. John joined him there where John purchased parts of two inlots, No. 46 & 47 in Hillsborough containing 3,545 square feet for \$300 on December 29, 1829.²² Then, on March 27, 1830 John entered into an agreement to sell his property on Morgantown street in Uniontown.²³ On the Morgantown street property; "*John Hibben [had] erected the large, two-story brick building later known as the John H. Deford property and rented it to different parties while he occupied a frame building on the northern part of this lot.*"²⁴

*Hatmaking was one of the earliest industries of Hillsboro, being started in 1808 by John Smith, the pioneer merchant and twenty years county treasurer. Wool hats were cheap, and fine fur hats were worn by many. . . Francis Shinn, John Hibben and Philip Stone were other notable hatters of the early days. . .*²⁵

*For several years after their arrival, the Hibbens lived in a small frame house attached to the hat factory. John Hibben's able assistant in the factory was Philip Stone, born 1776, his death occurred Feb. 10, 1859. . . The Hibben hat factory was still in operation in 1842 when the Hillsboro News carried this advertisement. 'To the public: John Hibben still continues to manufacture ALL KINDS OF HATS near the Public Square in Hillsboro, at the sign of — THE GOLDEN HAT.'*²⁶

A Decade Of Family Success And Happiness

The 1830s were a relatively peaceful and progressive time for John and Phebe's growing family. The only setback was the loss of son Thomas Hibben who died in 1833.²⁷ The younger children attended school and the two oldest married and began keeping house. Phebe had her last child, Samuel Milhous Hibben, in 1831, the same year Mary Ann Hibben married John S. Campbell²⁸ and moved to Rushville, Rush County, Indiana. William W. Hibben married Aurelia F. Glascock in 1832,²⁹ was licensed by the Methodist Church in Hillsboro in 1832, and was received in 1835 by the Methodist Indiana Conference in Lafayette, Indiana.³⁰ In 1838 he was

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appointed the minister of St. Paul United Methodist Church of Rushville, Indiana where his sister, Mary Ann Hibben and cousin, George Hibben, were living at the time.

In 1838, John Hibben became a trustee of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Hillsboro, a position he held until his death in 1853. This position is documented by five deeds³¹ in which he acted as trustee for the purchase and sale of land for the church and its parsonage.

Four Years Filled With Tragedies

Apparently all the children were well educated, including the daughters. The third and fourth annual catalogs (1841 and 1842) of the Oakland Female Seminary listed Sarah Jane Hibben on the staff as an Assistant Pupil. In the third annual catalog Hillsboro was described as follows: "*The Oakland Female Seminary is situated at Hillsborough, Ohio, a village containing a population of about a thousand, and one of the most healthy situations in the western country. Fever and ague is never known here, and bilious fever very rarely. . . .*" This proved not to be the case. In rapid order Phebe Milhous Hibben, aged 54, died April 5, 1841; Caroline T. Hibben, aged 21, September 14, 1841;³² and Elizabeth Laurette Hibben, aged 23, January 28, 1842.³³ Cholera had taken their lives. (Plate 1)

Then, just two years later, sad news was received from Rushville, Indiana that Mary Ann (Hibben) Campbell had died February 28, 1844³⁴ during childbirth. John's oldest surviving daughter, Sarah Jane Hibben, had assumed the chores of 'keeping house' when her mother died, but left school and her father's house to care for her older sister's children.³⁵ When John was 59 only five of his ten children were still living.

John Dies In 1853

The Census of 1850³⁶ records that Henry Bascom Hibben and Sarah Jane Hibben were living with Reverend William W. Hibben, his wife and eight children in Lawrence Township, Dearborn County, Indiana. At that time both Henry and Sarah were listed as teachers. Samuel Milhous Hibben probably was away at school and only Harriet Hibben was recorded in Hillsboro living with her father.³⁷ Just three years later on November 13, 1853,³⁸ John died in the 69th year of his life. John did not leave a will. On April 28, 1854, the Highland County Court appointed son-in-law, Philip Gatch Jeans, as administrator of his estate.³⁹ Philip had married Sarah Jane Hibben in January, 1853.

Generation 3.1 End Notes:

¹ Permission for use granted by author February 4, 2000.

² Thomas Hibben family bible: "John Hibben Son of Thomas and Mary Hibben was born July the 4th in the year of Our Lord 1785."

³ Ibid., "Was married the 15th of September 1808."

⁴ John T. Humphrey, *Pennsylvania Births, Chester Co., PA 1682-1800*, (Humphrey Publications, Wash. D. C.), page 137; "Milhouse, Samuel, b. 25 11mo. 1755, father Thomas, mother Elizabeth (Paschall)."

⁵ Edwin Tunis, *Colonial Craftsmen And the Beginnings of American Industry*, 1965, Cleveland and New York, (The World Publishing Company), page 46.

⁶ David Bensman, *The Practice of Solidarity, American Hat Finishers in the Nineteenth Century*, 1985, Urbana and Chicago, Illinois, (University of Illinois Press), page 3.

⁷ Leonard Everett Fisher, *The Hatters*, 1965, New York, New York, (Franklin Watts, Inc.), pages 7-46.

⁸ James Hadden, *A History of Uniontown, The County Seat of Fayette County Pennsylvania*, 1913, Evansville, Indiana, (Whippoorwill Publications & the Connellsville Area Historical Society 1987 reproduction), page 228.

⁹ *Fayette County, Pennsylvania Court House Records of Deeds and Mortgages*, volume I, page 43.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, volume K, page 196.

¹¹ *Ibid.*, volume I, pages 220-21.

¹² See Chapter II, Generation 2.1, page 5.

¹³ Letter from Robert Radford Hibben to Dorothy Panzer, dated February 16, 1977. "Mary A. Hibben, daughter of John and Phoebe [Phebe] Hibben was born 14th day of Sept. 1809"; Robert Radford⁷ Hibben (*Robert Cann*⁶, *Jesse W.*⁵, *Samuel Milhous*⁴, *John*³, *Thomas*², *John*¹).

¹⁴ Crown Hill Cemetery, Indianapolis, Indiana, born August 24, 1811 in VA [PA].

¹⁵ Letter, [Note 13]. "Thomas Hibben, son of John and Phoebe [Phebe] was born September 3, 1813."

¹⁶ *Ibid.*, "Elizabeth Laurette Hibben, daughter of John and Phoebe [Phebe] Hibben was born April 13, 1818."

¹⁷ *Ibid.*, "Caroline T. Hibben, daughter of John and Phoebe [Phebe] Hibben was born June 19, 1820."

¹⁸ Newspaper, unknown, May 1902. "Sarah Hibben Jeans, daughter of John and Phoebe [Phebe] Hibben was born in Uniontown, Penn., June 21st, 1823."

¹⁹ Theophilus A. Wiley, *Indiana University, Its History From 1820, When Founded, To 1890*, 1890, Indianapolis, (Wm. B. Burford, Lithographer, Printer and Binder), page 124. "Was born December 23, 1829, at Uniontown, Pa."

²⁰ David N. McBride & Jane N. McBride, *Marriage Records of Highland County, Ohio, 1805-1880*, 1981, Hillsboro, Ohio, (The Southern Ohio Genealogical Society).

²¹ *Plain Dealer*, Wabash, Wabash County, Indiana, February 8, 1889, Obituary. "Mr. Hibben was a son of John and Phoebe [Phebe] Hibben, pioneers at Hillsboro, Ohio, and was born on Feb. 27, 1831, in that city;" National Society, Sons of the American Revolution, Robert Radford Hibben application #109800 approved Nov. 2, 1975.

²² *Highland County, Ohio Court House Records of Deeds and Mortgages*, volume 3, pages 320-21.

²³ *Fayette County, Pennsylvania Court House Records of Deeds and Mortgages*, volume Q, page 322.

²⁴ Hadden, *A History of Uniontown, The County Seat of Fayette County Pennsylvania*, [Note 8], page 229.

²⁵ J. W. Klise, *The County of Highland*, 1902, Madison Wisconsin, (Northwestern Historical Association), page 221.

²⁶ Elsie Johnson Ayers, *The Hills of Highland*, 1971, Springfield, Ohio, (H. K. Skinner & Son), page 292.

²⁷ Tombstone inscription, Hillsboro, Ohio Cemetery, Section D69. "Sacred To The Memory Of Thomas Hibben Who Departed This Life February 25, 1833 In The 20th Year Of His Age — Triumphantly his spirit fled far from this world of . . . [continued beneath soil level]."

²⁸ Family Tree Maker CD, Marriage Index: Ohio 1789-1850.

²⁹ Reverend Lawrence A. Glassco, *The Glas(s)cock-Glassco Saga, The 1st 5 Generations of Glas(s)cocks in America from 1543 Into The Mid 19th Century*, (Lawrence A. Glassco), page 86.

³⁰ Nathan Bangs, *A History of the Methodist Episcopal Church*, volume IV, 1839. New York, New York, (Carleton and Porter).

³¹ *Highland County, Ohio Court House Records of Deeds and Mortgages*, volume 6, page 479; volume 10, page 206; volume 11, pages 176-77; volume 12, page 382; volume 17, page 514.

³² David N. McBride & Jane N. McBride, *Cemetery Inscriptions of Highland County, Ohio, 1954*, Second Edition, Hillsboro, Ohio, (The Southern Ohio Genealogical Society), page 219. "HIBBEN, Caroline T., dau. d. Sept. 14, 1841 a. 21 yrs;" Tombstone inscription, Hillsboro, Ohio Cemetery, Section D69. "In Memory Of Caroline T. daughter of . . . ebe Hibben. [stone broken]."

³³ Tombstone inscription, Hillsboro, Ohio Cemetery, Section D69. "In Memory Of Elizabeth Laurette, 2nd Daughter Of John & Phebe Hibben Who Departed This Life January 28, 1842 In The 24th Year Of Her Age."

³⁴ Letter, Robert Radford Hibben, [Note 13], "died February 28, 1844."

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³⁵ Newspaper, unknown , [Note 18]. "Her eldest sister leaving three children, she left school to take care of them. After the second marriage of her sister's husband she returned to school, graduating."

³⁶ US Census 1850, M432-141, page 282, Lawrence Township, Dearborn County, Indiana.

³⁷ US Census 1850, M432-694, page 52, Household 85, Hillsboro, Liberty Township, Highland County, Ohio.

³⁸ Thomas Hibben family bible, [Note 2], "died Nov. 13th 1853:" Tombstone inscription, [Note 27], "JOHN HIBBEN 1785 - 1853."

³⁹ David N. McBride & Jane N. McBride, *Common Pleas Court House Records of Highland County, Ohio 1805-1860*, 1959, Hillsboro, Ohio, (The Southern Ohio Genealogical Society).