

Descendants of Samuel Milhous Hibben and Susan Irene Kunse

Generation No. 4.6

SAMUEL MILHOUS⁴ HIBBEN (*John³, Thomas², John¹*) was born February 27, 1831 in Hillsboro, Highland Co., OH, and died February 03, 1889 in Wabash, Wabash Co., IN. He married **SUSAN IRENE KUNSE** December 10, 1857 in Wabash, Wabash Co., IN, daughter of **DAVID KUNSE** and **MARIA CRAWFORD**. She was born July 21, 1841 in Connersville, Fayette Co., IN, and died February 20, 1929 in Indianapolis (Beach Grove), Marion Co., IN.

Children of **SAMUEL HIBBEN** and **SUSAN KUNSE** are:

- i. **LORETTA M.⁵ HIBBEN**, b. November 1858, IN; d. October 29, 1915, Roann, Wabash Co., IN. She m. **LAWRENCE A. HALDERMAN** November 27, 1879, Wabash, Wabash Co., IN; b. May 1857, IN; d. Aft. 1915.
- ii. **EDWIN K. HIBBEN**, b. Abt. March 1860, IN; d. April 25, 1939 in Kosciusko Co., IN. He m. **LUELLA E. STEPHENS** December 19, 1883, Elkhart Co., IN; b. Abt. 1862, IN; d. July 21, 1940 in Los Angeles Co., CA.
- iii. **CHARLES JAMES HIBBEN**, b. December 19, 1862, IN; d. July 19, 1951, Orange Co., CA. He m. (1) **LUELLA S. KOONSE** December 19, 1887, Elkhart Co., IN; b. March 16, 1861 Elkhart Co., IN; d. May 19, 1904, Norfolk, Madison Co., NE. He m. (2) **LAURA LAW** August 28, 1905, Madison, Madison Co., NE; b. 1874, NE. He m. (3) **CHARLOTTE H. THOMAS** Aft. 1910; b. July 05, 1878, KS; d. March 12, 1966, Madera, Orange Co., CA.
- iv. **JESSE W. HIBBEN**, b. August 30, 1865, Wabash, Wabash Co., IN; d. May 03, 1950, Lincoln, Lancaster Co., NE. He m. **ELLEN FULLER CANN** June 03, 1890, Council Bluffs, Pottawattamie Co., IA; b. March 07, 1872, Warren, Warren Co., PA; d. August 04, 1934, Fremont, Dodge Co., NE.
- v. **ANNA HIBBEN**, b. March 20, 1871, IN; d. June 04, 1937, Beech Grove, Marion Co., IN. She m. **ROBERT LEWIS RUTHERFORD** Abt. 1896; b. September 02, 1865, IN; d. July 13, 1935, Beech Grove, Marion Co., IN.
- vi. **WILLY HIBBEN**, b. March 20, 1871, Noble Twp., Wabash Co., IN; d. April 05, 1871, Noble Township., Wabash Co., IN.

THE JOHN HIBBEN LINE

Revised 12/03, 02/05, 09/06 & 01/10

SAMUEL MILHOUS HIBBEN 1831 - 1889 and SUSAN IRENE KUNSE 1841 - 1929

We are a practical printer, and the business is our honest and legitimate calling to make a living and to serve our country, and we shall at all times and under all circumstances use our best efforts to make our paper just what the intelligent citizens of Wabash county would wish their county paper to be—a live institution—a moving and sustaining power. . . .Come then, friends and help us in our good work. Let the Plain Dealer speak to you and you will no doubt grow wiser, better and happier.¹

S. M. Hibben

Samuel Is Raised By His Siblings

After the arrival of John Hibben and his family at Hillsboro, Ohio, Phebe Milhous Hibben gave birth to Samuel Milhous Hibben. He was their last child and was born on February 27, 1831.² When he was just ten years old, his mother died, as did three of his sisters in the early 1840s. He was left in the care of his older sister, Sara Jane Hibben. He probably attended the Hillsboro schools and then went off to Asbury College in Greencastle, Indiana.³ He may have been away at school when the US Census of 1850 was taken, as he is not recorded at home with his father and sister, Harriet L. Hibben.

Wabash, Indiana Becomes Samuel's Home

After college, Samuel resided in Indiana for the rest of his life. He learned the printing trade at Lawrenceburg, Indiana, where his older brother, William W. Hibben, was living. In 1855 he moved to Wabash, Indiana and began a printing business. On December 10, 1857 he married Susan Irene Kunse⁴ who was born at Connersville, Indiana, July 22, 1841.⁵ The Kunse family had moved to a home just several miles north of Wabash sometime before the wedding. Samuel and Susan had six children. Loretta M. Hibben was born in November 1858.⁶ Then in order came Edwin K. Hibben, March 1860;⁷ Charles James Hibben, December 19, 1862;⁸ Jesse W. Hibben, August 30, 1865;⁹ and Anna (a.k.a. Annie) Hibben and Willy Hibben, twins born March 20, 1871.¹⁰ Willy died a few weeks later on April 5, 1871.¹¹

Samuel Purchases A Newspaper And Becomes Editor

In August 1859, W. C. McGonegal, commenced the publication of the Wabash Plain Dealer, a Democratic paper, so-called after its prototype, the Cleveland Plain Dealer. The political bias of this sheet did not long-continue, for, some time in the year 1860, from considerations not necessary to be mentioned in this connection, his longer affiliation with that party was discontinued, and the Plain Dealer became an exponent of Republicanism in this county. At that time, the office was located on Canal Street, on the third floor of the building since occupied by Simon Brothers, and the paper was a small, seven-column folio. Not long after the Plain Dealer became the advocate of Republican principles, it was purchased by Mr. S. M. Hibben, who continued its publication until, after the

Chapter III, Generation 4.6

*death of Mr. Fletcher, of the Gazette, the two papers were consolidated, when the Plain Dealer became the organ of the Republican party in Wabash County, and the leading newspaper of the valley. It remained under the same control until July or August, 1866, Meredith H. Kidd at that time becoming editor and proprietor.*¹²

Prospectus of the Wabash Plain Dealer - As we are making arrangements to purchase the whole of the office of the Plain Dealer, we propose to continue its publication for the year 1861. And as it is a well known fact to many that we have been intimately connected with it during the entire interesting period of the Presidential Campaign, which has just issued in triumph to Republicanism, it may not be deemed improper that for the small but well meant services rendered by the Plain Dealer in the great struggle, we may hope to meet some share of favor at the hand of Republicanism's friends. It is a fact well known to our friends that we have from its origin been a true and undeviating adherent of the cause of Republicanism and now that Republicanism is about to be inducted into power in the Government, there will be much matter of great interest to the people. The policy and places in the State, too, as well as the nation, are soon to change hands. We propose to keep our readers well posted in all the affairs of our State, as well as the doings of Congress. The coming year will be fraught with more events of interest than any other year in the history of our country. We will give our readers a faithful recount of every thing of interest that transpires in Congress, and, also, in our Legislature. We will give, also, the latest market reports of Toledo, Buffalo and New York. Our paper will be, in fact, what every family will need to pass away the long winter evenings. We shall have the assistance of some of the ablest writers in the State. We will publish our first paper on the first Friday of December. In the meantime, we will be ready to do all kinds of Job Work in the best of style, and as cheap as can be done any place outside of the Cities. Those of our present subscribers who desire to continue their subscription can have the Plain Dealer the remainder of the year for only One Dollar. Subscriptions will be taken for a year or the remainder of the volume at the rate of \$1.50 per annum. S. M. HIBBEN¹³

Samuel Writes Prophetic Editorials

With dark clouds of an impending civil conflict looming, it did not take long for Samuel to take up the Republican party banner and to advocate a political position without room for compromise. Excerpts from the editorials demonstrate the continuing patriotism of the Hibben family as well as Samuel's literary ability. While his articles were secular, they were no less moving than the religious prose written by his brothers, Reverends William and Bascom.

On the editorial page of the *Wabash Plain Dealer* issued Friday mornings in December of 1860 and early January 1861, the column heads read; "Salutatory," "The Irrepressible Conflict," "Political," and "Compromise." The sense of urgency, resoluteness and fatalism increased as each editorial was written and published.

"Salutatory" - In our editorial career we shall endeavor to sustain, to the best of our abilities, these advanced positions of the Republican party, and we hope to see the Southern States conforming to them quietly and patriotically as to the true

THE JOHN HIBBEN LINE

*genius of the constitution of the Federal Government. Nothing is more true to freedom than the instincts of the common people of our lands, and we shall sustain them in their positions and cheer them in their spirit, because they are the sovereigns—the rulers as well as the bulwarks of all our free institutions.*¹⁴

*“The Irrepressible Conflict” - The North has elected a President, his strongest and boldest opponent, without the help of a single Southern electoral vote. And, now, in the name of democracy which means that a majority shall rule, the South finding herself in the minority says she will not stand it—the North must submit or they will go out of the Union. We would ask is this democracy? Is this the kind of submission they are going to give to the ballot box? Must the North make an apology to the South for the fair and honorable conquest they have gained?—Southern politicians should remember that we at the North are freemen -- that we call no man master. We understand our own rights and the rights of others, and we shall maintain our own rights, always respecting the right of others,—Though we have no slaves among us we have rights and as they well know we are able to maintain them at all hazards. . . .We would say to all our Northern Representatives be firm, be manly, be considerate, stand your ground, make no concessions of principle, for if you do your constituents will leave you at home in the future to enjoy the honors and blessings of a private life. Maintain the rights of all the States, East, West, North and South.*¹⁵

*“Political” - From the beginning of our career as a nation, the question of our ultimate success in the experiment at popular self-government has appeared to sagacious statesmen problematical. And for a period of years just closed, it has been evident to all attentive observers of our national history, that the country was rapidly approaching a crisis, the end of which no human sagacity could anticipate. But that crisis has been precipitated upon us before any cool and rational mind had apprehended it. So that we stand, in fact, in the very midst of national revolution; and, perhaps, upon the threshold of a civil war between those who descended from a common ancestry—speak the same language—hold the same religion—and have, indeed, the same honor and interest to uphold. History almost fails to record a similar event of national infatuation. And in the midst of a national prosperity unparalleled in the history of the race—where the people were abundantly blessed with every conceivable material element of happiness—where can a parallel instance be found in which a people became infatuated by a mere mental apprehension, to such an extent as to rise up in a revolutionary movement against the Government?—History records no such act of madness. . . . The end of the strife can only be known by Omniscience; But whatever the end may be, history, in the hour of candor and justice, will place the responsibility upon the party now clamoring about rights; and deep and dark will be the stain personally and politically should those mad men be the occasion of the effusion of blood. We look upon the dark storm close by, which the political horizon is now enveloped with fear and trembling as to our national well being. And we can only hope that God will so control and restrain the dark design of evil-minded and ambitious men, as to preserve our country from threatened ruin, and our people from being involved in a fraternal civil war.*¹⁶

Chapter III, Generation 4.6

“Compromise” - In a personal difference with a friend, none, we hope, could go beyond us in efforts to bring about an honorable reconciliation. Should we be so unfortunate as to be concerned in a family feud, we trust we would be among the foremost to restore among our kindred harmony and affection. But in effecting so noble an end, it would not be expected of us to sacrifice honor and character. . . We, for one, have no confidence in compromises with slavery propagandists; and, furthermore, in the measures proposed, we can see nothing but humiliation and disgrace. Rather than that, ‘let the stone grind,’ let war come, and let God judge between us. ‘Is life so dear and peace so sweet as to be purchased at the price of disgrace and dishonor?’ ‘Oh, but we might give up a portion of our rights for the sake of Peace.’ We have only to reply that our fathers could have easily sustained the burden of taxation from England for the consideration of peace. Peace was dearer to them than to us. But they manfully fought for their rights. Not that they loved peace less; but that they loved liberty more.—Our conclusion then is, as regards the settlement of this domestic difference, let the North stand by the Constitution and the Union—let her be prompt in demanding, even at the point of the bayonet, that Mr. Lincoln be inaugurated. If any portion of the South wish to secede, well enough; but with what portion of the public property let our patriotism, our dignity and our courage decide.¹⁷

On the same page of the *Wabash Plain Dealer* as the latter editorial are two news dispatches confirming the commencement of the Civil War. The conflict, which would bring over two dozen Hibben descendants or their spouses hardship, sickness, injury and death, had begun at Fort Sumter, South Carolina.

Dispatches received this morning leave no doubt that the folly and madness of the Secessionists have finally received their climax in an act of open war against the United States—The Star of the West, a steamer employed by the Government to convey provisions and reinforcements to Major Anderson at Fort Sumter, was fired into by the Secessionists while seeking to enter Charleston harbor, yesterday morning, and driven back to sea.¹⁸

Samuel and Susan’s Later Life

During the war Samuel published the dispatches daily to satisfy his subscribers’ desire for news from the battle fronts. He also consolidated with the *Gazette* and *Intelligencer* and continued to publish under the *Wabash Plain Dealer* banner. In 1866 he sold the newspaper and resumed his printing business. Fourteen years later in 1880 he contracted a lung disease which incapacitated him. *His long and undaunted struggle with the dread disease is well known to residents of Wabash. The strength of will power developed in the worn and wasting frame was something marvelous. His later years have been a constant lesson of calm endurance and hope.¹⁹* Samuel died February 3, 1889, and was buried in the Falls Cemetery, Wabash, Indiana.²⁰ He was survived by Susan and five children.

Susan’s sons, Charles and Jesse, moved westward to Nebraska, and Edwin to Michigan, but they and their children made numerous trips to spend time with Susan. In 1910 all of her children and grandchildren had a family reunion, most likely at the home of her youngest daughter Annie Hibben Rutherford, in Wabash, Indiana.²¹

THE JOHN HIBBEN LINE

*Wabash, Ind. Daily Plain Dealer: Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hibben and children of Norfolk, Neb. are in the city on a visit to Mr. Hibben's mother, Mrs. Susan I. Hibben, on north Wabash Street. Some time this week a reunion of the Hibben family will be held. Mr. and Mrs. Ed Hibben of Niles, Mich., and Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Hibben of Fremont, Neb., and Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Halderman of Roann, will be here and participate. Charles and Jesse Hibben are employees of the Fremont, Elkhorn & Missouri Valley railroad. Charles was formerly an engineer on the Big Four road.*²²

Sometime after 1920 the Rutherfords moved to Beach Grove, a suburb of Indianapolis. Susan accompanied them and lived there until she died on February 20, 1929 at the age of 87.²³ She was buried in Falls Cemetery along side of Samuel who had died forty years before.²⁴

Additional Information About Annie Hibben Rutherford

The US Census of 1900 recorded that Anna had married Robert Lewis Rutherford about 1897.²⁵ The following census in 1910 recorded that at the age of 39, Annie Hibben Rutherford did not have any children. Robert was a carpenter who for many years repaired railroad cars.²⁶ In 1930, at the age of 64, he was employed as a carman for a steam railroad, living on south 7th Avenue in Beech Grove, a suburb of Indianapolis, Indiana. Robert was born September 2, 1865 and died July 13, 1935. Annie died two years later on June 4, 1937. Both are buried in Falls Cemetery, Wabash, Indiana.²⁷

The four other children of Samuel and Susan Hibben and their issue are the subject of Chapter III, Generation 5.3.

Generation 4.6 End Notes:

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- 1¹ *Wabash Plain Dealer*, Wabash, Wabash County, Indiana, Friday morning, December 14, 1860.
 - 2² *Ibid.*, obituary, February 8, 1889.
 - 3³ Now DePauw University.
 - 4⁴ Wabash County, Indiana Marriages, 1835-1899, volume B, page 104, Kunse, Susan T., 10 December 1857.
 - 5⁵ National Society Sons of the American Revolution, application by Robert Radford Hibben, national number 109800, State (Virginia) number 3524, certificate issued February 19, 1976.
 - 6⁶ US Census 1900, T623-410, enumeration 126, sheet 9, line 6, PawPaw Township, Wabash County, Indiana.
 - 7⁷ US Census 1860, M653-304, page 131, household 123, Noble Township, Wabash County, Indiana, age 3 months.
 - 8⁸ California Death Records, <<http://userdb.rootsweb.com/ca/death/search.cgi>>, born 12/19/1862.
 - 9⁹ Funeral Program, "In Memory of JESSE W. HIBBEN," born August 30, 1865, . . .
 - 10¹⁰ US Census 1900, T623-410, enumeration 122, sheet 6, line 85, 310 Wabash street, Wabash, Noble Township, Wabash County, Indiana; Cemetery Records, Falls Cemetery, Wabash, Indiana, page 442, born 1871.
 - 11¹¹ Tombstone inscription, Falls Cemetery, lot 397, WILLIE M. son of S.M. & S. I. HIBBEN died April 5, 1871 aged 17 days.
 - 12¹² Thomas B. Helm, *History of Wabash County, Indiana*, 1884, Chicago, Illinois, (John Morris, Printer), page 233-34.
 - 13¹³ *Wabash Plain Dealer*, [Note 1], Friday morning, November 17, 1860.
 - 14¹⁴ *Ibid.*, Friday morning, December 14, 1860.
 - 15¹⁵ *Ibid.*, Friday morning, December 21, 1860.

Chapter III, Generation 4.6

- 16¹⁶ Ibid., Friday morning, December 28, 1860.
- 17¹⁷ Ibid., Friday morning, January 11, 1861.
- 18¹⁸ Ibid.
- 19¹⁹ Ibid., obituary, February 8, 1889.
- 20²⁰ Tombstone inscription, Falls Cemetery, Wabash, Wabash County, Indiana, lot 379; monument, SAMUEL M. HIBBEN died Feb. 3 1889, aged 57 ys 11 ms 6 ds, headstone, FATHER
- 21²¹ US Census 1910, T624-386, enumeration 158, sheet 5B, family 123, Wabash City, Noble Township., Wabash Co., Indiana.
- 22²² *The Norfolk News-Journal*, Norfolk, Nebraska, June 21, 1900.
- 23²³ *Wabash Plain Dealer*, [Note 1], obituary, February 20, 1929.
- 24²⁴ Tombstone inscription, [Note 20], monument, SUSAN I. HIBBEN died Feb. 20, 1929, aged 87 ys 6 ms 28 ds, headstone, MOTHER.
- 25²⁵ US Census 1900, T623-410, enumeration 122, sheet 6, line 85, 310 Wabash St., Wabash, Noble Township, Wabash County, Indiana.
- 26²⁶ US Census 1910, [Note 21].
- 27²⁷ Cemetery Records, Falls Cemetery, Wabash, Indiana, lot 69, space 1 and 2.