

## *Descendants of William Hibben and Sarah Elizabeth Stucker Woodruff*

### *Generation No. 4.6*

**WILLIAM<sup>4</sup> HIBBEN** (*William<sup>3</sup>, Thomas<sup>2</sup>, John<sup>1</sup>*) was born February 28, 1824 in Clinton Co., OH, and died October 16, 1889 in Yellow Springs, Greene Co., OH. He married **SARAH ELIZABETH STUCKER WOODRUFF** November 26, 1870 in Wilmington, Clinton Co., OH, daughter of **ELI STUCKER** and **ESTER ANN PLAKE**. She was born November 16, 1842 in IN, and died January 19, 1935 in Yellow Springs, Greene Co., OH.

Children of **WILLIAM HIBBEN** and **SARAH WOODRUFF** are:

- i. **CAROLINE H. HIBBEN**, b. January 23, 1872, IA; d. April 18, 1961, Dayton, Montgomery Co., OH. She m. (1) **DAVID MOORE** Abt. 1895. d. bef. 1900. She m. (2) **LESLIE MICHAEL** July 3, 1901, Greene Co., OH. He was b. Abt 1878, Highland Co., OH.
- ii. **BELLMAR STORR HIBBEN**, b. March 30, 1875, Keatsville, MO; d. March 21, 1969, US Soldiers' and Airmen's Home, Washington, DC. He m. **MAYME JONES RANDALL** July 11, 1908, Greene Co., OH, b. July 29, 1885, Wabash, Wabash Co., IN.
- iii. **ELIZA HIBBEN**, b. March 10, 1880, OH; d. October 4, 1954, San Diego Co., CA. She m. **HENRY B. MARTIN** August 03, 1902, La Veta, Huerfano Co., CO; b. January 23, 1873, MO; d. October 5, 1953, Oceanside, San Diego Co., CA.



Revised 08/04, 09/07, 06/08 & 06/10

**WILLIAM HIBBEN 1824 - 1889**  
**and**  
**SARAH ELIZABETH STUCKER WOODRUFF 1842 - 1935**

William Hibben was the seventh child of William Hibben and Elizabeth Springer. He was born on February 28, 1824, in Clinton County, Ohio.<sup>1</sup> His mother died when he was just four years old, and he was raised by stepmothers, Martha and Elizabeth Hibben. William left home at the age of sixteen, moving to nearby Silver Creek, Greene County, Ohio.<sup>2</sup> He was not recorded in the US Censuses of 1850 or 1860 in Ohio. It is likely that he had sought employment in one of the Midwestern states. In the summer of 1870, he was recorded living in Clinton County with his sister, Ann Maria Hibben McLain, and her daughter, Ruth Ann McLain Fuller<sup>3</sup> Both Ann Maria and Ruth Ann had become widows within two years of the Census taking. The Census describes William as “invalid.” What the cause of his infirmity was is unknown. In 1868, William’s father had made a special provision in his will for his son’s financial welfare, probably due to the infirmity.

*Second, I hereby direct my executors if my son William Hibben is living at the time of my decease to invest five thousand dollars as my Executors think best the interest of which is to be paid at the discretion of my Executors for the support and maintenance of said William Hibben.*<sup>4</sup>

**William Marries A Relative**

Then, surprisingly, on November 26, 1870, William married widow, Sarah Elizabeth Stucker Woodruff in Clinton County.<sup>5</sup> Sarah had been the wife of Joseph Oliver Woodruff who died in 1866, and who was a son of the first marriage of Ann Maria Hibben McLain to Calvin Brown Woodruff.<sup>6</sup> William married his deceased nephew’s widow. Sarah was twenty-eight years old and William was forty-six. William moved to Yellow Springs, Greene County, Ohio where Sarah lived and was raising her four children. The US Census of 1880 records him as a laborer, unemployed five months of that year, and the Woodruff children with the Hibben surname, as if they had been adopted. In later documents their surname was Woodruff, therefore it is believed that the census taker was misinformed.<sup>7</sup>

William and Sarah had three children: Caroline H. (a.k.a. Carrie), born January 23, 1872, in Iowa; Bellmar Storr (a.k.a. Bell), March 30, 1875, in Keatsville, Missouri; and Eliza (a.k.a. Lyda), March 10, 1880, in Ohio. It appears that the family had tried to settle in the Midwest, but had returned to Yellow Springs.

William died at the age of sixty-five on October 16, 1889, in Yellow Springs.<sup>8</sup> He was buried in his father’s lot in Sugar Grove Cemetery in Wilmington, Ohio.<sup>9</sup>

Sarah lived past her ninety-second birthday. She died January 19, 1935, in Yellow Springs.<sup>10</sup> The children of her first marriage had attained adulthood before William died, but her children of her second marriage were only seventeen, fourteen and twelve. By 1900, Caroline had married David Moore; Bellmar had enlisted in the Spanish American War; Lyda had moved to Colorado; and Sarah had turned her home into a boarding house.<sup>11</sup> Sarah applied for a widow’s pension in 1893.<sup>12</sup> On one document she made her mark, X, and on another, she wrote

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her name, but omitted the 'e' in Hibben. Evidently, having been first married at the age of sixteen, she had little, if any education.

In 1910, Sarah was still taking in boarders, but none of her children were living with her. In 1920, she was living with her forty-four year old son, Bellmar. No other records about Sarah have been found. When she died, she was buried at Glen Forest Cemetery in Yellow Springs.<sup>13</sup>

### Additional Information About Sarah And William's Children

Caroline (Carrie) H. Hibben was married about 1895 to David Moore. They had two daughters: Laura, born October 7, 1896; and Vera Moore, born October 1898, both in North Carolina. David Moore died and the US Census of 1900 recorded Carrie as a widow. She and her daughters had returned to Ohio and were living with mother Sarah in Yellow Springs.<sup>14</sup> On July 3, 1901 she married Leslie Michael<sup>15</sup> and they had one daughter, Ruth, born September 25, 1902, Lynchburg, Highland County, Ohio.<sup>16</sup> Carrie and Leslie were divorced sometime before 1930 when she was recorded living with her brother Bellmar.<sup>17</sup> Nothing is known about her life during the next thirty years. She died April 18, 1961, at the age of 89 in Dayton, Montgomery County, Ohio.<sup>18</sup> She is buried next to her mother in Glen Forest Cemetery, Yellow Springs.<sup>19</sup>

Young Bellmar Storr Hibben followed his half-brother, William Hibben Woodruff, west to La Veta, Colorado where in 1896 he opened the La Veta Billiard Hall.<sup>20</sup> Small town life may have been too quiet for him. In 1898 he joined Company K, 3rd Battalion Engineers and was off to fight in the Spanish American War. On July 11, 1908 in Greene County, Ohio, he married Mayme Jones Randall. She had been previously married to and divorced from (unknown) Randall.<sup>21</sup> Bellmar's marriage ended in divorce and no record of children has been found.

Unfortunately, Bellmar's pension record is not on file at the National Archives and Records Administration.<sup>22</sup> It probably was not returned after his death at the U. S. Soldiers' and Airmen's Home in Washington, DC on March 26, 1969. He was buried in the USSAH National Cemetery.<sup>23</sup> His death certificate recorded his occupation as 'decorator,' and his parents and divorced wife as 'unknown.'<sup>24</sup> In 1959, ten years before Bellmar's death, Kenneth D. Woodruff, half nephew of Bellmar wrote to his family:

*Now, Aunt Carrie [Caroline H. Hibben] is still alive and so is Uncle Belmer S., Uncle Bell, as he likes to be called and Harold [Harold Delmar Woodruff] I think you could call on the stately old gentleman, for he is in a Vets Hospital, near Washington, D.C. Belmer S. Hibben, Spanish American War, and he still carries a slug in his back from the Phillippens [Philippines], 1898.<sup>25</sup>*

Shortly after Bellmar's death, Louise Douglas Hibben purchased the family bible of William Hibben (1790-1869) at a thrift shop in Alexandria, Virginia.<sup>26</sup> It is believed that it had passed to Bellmar when his mother died, and was in his possession during his final years. And then, as Bellmar had no nearby relatives, his personal effects, including the bible, were consigned to the thrift. The thrift manager knew Louise by name and set it aside for her.<sup>27</sup> (Appendix A)

Eliza (Lyda) Hibben moved west to Colorado to join her half brother, William Hibben Woodruff. In 1900, she was recorded by the Census as age twenty-two, single and employed as a Postal Clerk.<sup>28</sup> She was working for William who was the Post Master at La Veta, Huerfano County, Colorado. Lyda married Henry B. Martin in 1902, at William's home in La Veta, Colorado.<sup>29</sup> *"Henry and Lida moved to Oceanside, CA in January 1903 where Henry went into the butcher business with his brother Frank. The Martins were extremely prominent in town [La*

Veta].”<sup>30</sup> Henry died October 5, 1953, and Lyda died just a year later on October 4, 1954, in San Diego County, California. Lyda purchased a lot where Henry is buried at the Eternal Hills Memorial Park in Oceanside, California.<sup>31</sup> Lyda’s half nephew, Kenneth D. Woodruff paid for the lot after Lyda’s death and was issued the deed. There is no record that Lyda’s remains were interred in the lot.<sup>32</sup>

### Generation 4.6 End Notes:

<sup>1</sup> William Hibben Family Bible, “William Hibben, son of William & Elizabeth Hibben, was born on the twenty eighth day of February, in the Year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty four 1824.”

<sup>2</sup> George F. Robinson, *Robinson’s History of Greene County, Ohio*, 1902, Chicago, Illinois, (S. J. Clark Publishing Co.), page 321; year of arrival in Greene County, 1840.

<sup>3</sup> US Census 1870, M593-1182, page 654B, line 19, household 835, Union Township, Clinton County, Ohio.

<sup>4</sup> Clinton County, Ohio, Wills, volume 2, page 230; The executors were two sons-in-law, Abram Hivling and Franklin Corwin.

<sup>5</sup> *Clinton County, Ohio, Court House Marriage Records*, volume 4, page 45.

<sup>6</sup> See Chapter IV, Generation 5.2.

<sup>7</sup> US Census 1880, T9-1019, enumeration 83, sheet 17, line 12, Yellow Springs, Greene County, Ohio.

<sup>8</sup> *Cemetery Records of Clinton County, Ohio, 1798-1978*, 1980, Wilmington, Ohio, (The Clinton County Historical Society), page 280.

<sup>9</sup> Sugar Grove Cemetery, interment records, “interment #1993, section 3, lot 18, kin, father William Hibben.”

<sup>10</sup> Death Certificate, Greene County, Ohio, volume 14, registration district 457, certificate #3000.

<sup>11</sup> US Census 1900, T623-1272, enumeration 163, sheet 8, line 81, Yellow Springs, Greene County, Ohio.

<sup>12</sup> Declaration for Widow’s Civil War Pension #399693, July 2, 1889.

<sup>13</sup> Cemetery Records, Glen Forest Cemetery, Yellow Springs, Greene County, Ohio, page 41, section M, #2010; Tombstone inscription, “SARAH E. HIBBEN 1842-1935.”

<sup>14</sup> US Census 1900, [Note 11].

<sup>15</sup> Ohio Marriages, 1800-1958, Indexing project M02317-8, system origin Ohio-EASy, source film 535128, page 340. “Groom - Lester Michael, born 1879 Highland Co., OH, divorced, 22, father A. J. Michaels, mother - Mary Baker, married 3 July 1901 Greene Co., OH, Bride - Carrie [Hibben] Moore, widowed, 28, born 1873 Des Moines, IA, father William Hibben, mother - Sarah Stucker.”

<sup>16</sup> US Census 1910, T624-1160, page 5A, enumeration 61, Clark Township, Clinton County, Ohio; Ohio Marriages, 1800-1958, Indexing Project M86852-3, System Origin Ohio-VR, Source Film 466638, reference 2:3K61LPG, “Groom - Roy E. Katherman, born 27 Jun 1905 Warrensburg, Missouri, 25, single, father - Leroy Katherman, mother - Sallie Descombs, married 31 Oct. 1930 Clark Co., OH, Bride - Ruth I Michael Perrill, born 25 Sep 1902 Lynchburg, OH, divorced, father - Leslie Michael, mother - Carrie Hibben”.

<sup>17</sup> US Census 1930, T626-1804, page 6B, enumeration 12, Miami, Greene County, Ohio.

<sup>18</sup> *Dayton Daily News*, Dayton, Montgomery County, Ohio, April 19, 1961.

<sup>19</sup> Cemetery Records, [Note 13], page 41, #2011; Tombstone inscription, “CAROLINE HIBBEN MICHAEL, Jan. 23, 1872-Apr.18, 1961.”

<sup>20</sup> *Huerfano World*, La Veta, Colorado, June 9, 1994, This Week in La Veta History by Nancy Christofferson.

<sup>21</sup> Ohio Marriages, 1800-1958, Indexing Project M02317-9, System Origin Ohio-EASy, Source Film 535129, page 492, “Groom - Bellmer S. Hibben, born Mar 1908 [1875] MO, age 33, father Wm. Hibben, mother Sarah E. Staker [Stucker], married 11 July 1908 Greene [Co.], OH, Bride - Mayme Randall, born 29 July 1907 [1885] Wabash, [Wabash Co.], IN, age 23, divorced, previous husband - Randall, father - Charles Jones, mother - Olive Spaw”.

<sup>22</sup> Spanish American War Pension, application #1,426,892 dated March 6, 1917, certificate #1,180,154.

<sup>23</sup> Letter, Admissions Office, USSAH, Washington, DC, May 25, 2001, “buried in Section R, Grave 178.”

<sup>24</sup> District of Columbia Department of Public Health, Certificate of Death, #69 2338.

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- <sup>25</sup> Letter to the Woodruff family from Kenneth D. Woodruff, May 1959.
- <sup>26</sup> Telephone notes, January 12, 1999 conversation with Phyllisann Hibben Curtis, daughter of Louise Douglas Hibben and James Herbert<sup>6</sup> Hibben (*Thomas Entriiken*<sup>5</sup>, *James Samuel*<sup>4</sup>, *Thomas*<sup>3</sup>, *Thomas*<sup>2</sup>, *John*<sup>1</sup>).
- <sup>27</sup> In October 2007 the family record pages were cleaned, de-acidified and encapsulated in mylar by the Northeast Document Conservation Center, Andover, Massachusetts. The pages and bible are in the possession of George C. Hibben of Lincoln, Massachusetts.
- <sup>28</sup> US Census 1900, T623-124, enumeration 143, sheet 12, line 47, Precinct 5, La Veta, Huerfano County, Colorado.
- <sup>29</sup> Marriage Certificate #24390, August 5, 1902, book 45, page 232, in the presence of J. K. Kincaid and C. A. Green.
- <sup>30</sup> Letter from Nancy C. Christofferson to George Hibben, dated December 6, 2002.
- <sup>31</sup> California Death Records, 1940-97, Social Security Index #548-14-5835.
- <sup>32</sup> Cemetery records, Eternal Hills Memorial Park, Oceanside, California, Sunset Slope, Block 176, Graves 5 and 6.