

## *Descendants of Minerva Corwin and George M. Radcliff*

### *Generation No. 5.4*

**MINERVA<sup>5</sup> CORWIN** (*Rebecca Jane<sup>4</sup> Hibben, William<sup>3</sup>, Thomas<sup>2</sup>, John<sup>1</sup>*) was born 1840 in Wilmington, Clinton Co., OH, and died December 14, 1878 in Peru, La Salle Co., IL. She married **GEORGE M. RADCLIFF** May 13, 1863 in Cedar Point, La Salle Co., IL, son of **DANIEL RADCLIFF** and **RACHEL McMANIS**. He was born January 15, 1828 in Wilmington, Clinton Co., OH, and died 1891 in Merced, Merced Co., CA.

Children of **MINERVA CORWIN** and **GEORGE RADCLIFF** are:

- i. **HARRY S.<sup>6</sup> RADCLIFF**, b. Abt. 1864.
- ii. **CHARLES D. RADCLIFF**, b. January, 1867, IL; d. 1919, Merced, Merced Co., CA. He m. **FANNIE B. MARTEN** Abt. 1888; b. November 1867, IL.
- iii. **CORWIN RADCLIFF**, b. July 10, 1872, Ottawa, La Salle Co., IL; d. August 19, 1945, Merced, Merced Co., CA. He m. **ELVA LOUISE WASHBURN** November 23, 1904, Princeton, Bureau Co., IL; b. August 15, 1873, IL; d. August 06, 1951, Merced, Merced Co., CA.

## *Descendants of Hibben S. Corwin and Helen M. Wright*

**HIBBEN S.<sup>5</sup> CORWIN** (*Rebecca Jane<sup>4</sup> Hibben, William<sup>3</sup>, Thomas<sup>2</sup>, John<sup>1</sup>*) was born November 18, 1842 in Wilmington, Clinton Co., OH, and died July 30, 1911 in Spring Valley, Bureau Co., IL. He married **HELEN M. WRIGHT** February 26, 1867 in Mt. Palatine (Hennepin), Putnam Co., IL, daughter of **ABRAM WRIGHT** and **CELESTIA** (unknown). She was born August 25, 1850 in North Sunderland, Franklin Co., MA, and died May 19, 1924 in Peru, La Salle Co., IL.

Children of **HIBBEN CORWIN** and **HELEN WRIGHT** are:

- i. **JANE B.<sup>6</sup> CORWIN**, b. March 07, 1868, Peru, La Salle Co., IL; d. May 02, 1942, Peru, La Salle Co., IL. She m. **BERTRAM M. ETZLER** 1894; b. September 21, 1853, Snyder Co., PA; died Bef. 1910.
- ii. **CHARLES WRIGHT CORWIN**, b. August 08, 1869, Ottawa, La Salle Co., IL; d. January 30, 1928, Peru, La Salle Co., IL. He m. **ELLA B. LININGER** November 05, 1891, Peru, La Salle Co., IL; b. January 1868, Peru, La Salle Co., IL; d. October 24, 1937, Peru, La Salle Co., IL.
- iii. **FRANK HIBBEN CORWIN**, b. September 29, 1873, Cedar Point, La Salle Co., IL; d. September 17, 1950, La Salle Co., IL. He m. **CLARA TESCHE** November 01, 1893, Peru, La Salle Co., IL; born October 27, 1876, Peru, La Salle Co., IL; d. February 10, 1963, Peru, La Salle Co., IL.
- iv. **BLANCHE CORWIN**, b. 1876, Peru, La Salle Co., IL; d. October 21, 1894, Peru, La Salle Co., IL.
- v. **CAROLINE V. CORWIN**, b. April 12, 1879, Cedar Point, La Salle Co., IL; d. November 26, 1909, Peru, La Salle Co., IL. She m. **FRANK C. CORLEY** April 12, 1898, Peru, La Salle Co., IL; b. December 1876, Arlington, IL.
- vi. **JESSIE MINERVA CORWIN**, b. February 02, 1880, Peru, La Salle Co., IL; d. Abt. 1919. She m. (1) **FREDERICK HENRY HUNTER** April 26, 1899, Peru, La Salle Co., IL; b. May 1875, Jefferson Co., IL. She m. (2) (unknown) **MICHAELS** Aft. 1900.
- vii. **ALICE M. CORWIN**, b. March 24, 1883, Peru, La Salle Co., IL; d. May 25, 1954, Santa Clara Co., CA. She m. (1) **WALTER R. RABE** February 09, 1903, Peru, La Salle Co., IL; b. Abt. 1875, Chicago, Cook Co., IL; d. July 8, 1909, Chicago, Cook Co., IL. She m. (2) **REUBEN R. HART** Abt. 1912; b. August 30, 1875, MO; d. January 26, 1960, Santa Clara Co., CA.
- viii. **THOMAS K. CORWIN**, b. January 24, 1889, Peru, La Salle Co., IL; d. February 13, 1909, Peru, La Salle Co., IL.
- ix. **HAROLD M. CORWIN**, b. September 02, 1894, Peru, La Salle Co., IL; d. July 1975, Harrisburg, Dauphin Co., PA. He m. **ANNA A.** (unknown); b. Abt 1894, IL.

Revised 10/04, 04/05 & 08/08

**MINERVA CORWIN 1840 - 1878**  
**and**  
**GEORGE M. RADCLIFF 1828 - 1891**

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**HIBBEN S. CORWIN 1842 - 1911**  
**and**  
**HELEN M. WRIGHT 1850 - 1924**

*The exalted and the lowly, the rich in station, and the poor in rank, fill their allotted spheres, and pass away, leaving behind them the fragrance of noble deeds to perpetuate their memories, or dying as they have lived, unknown and unnoticed.*

Obituary of Hon. Franklin A. Corwin

**Minerva Corwin Marries The Son Of A Pioneer Of Both Ohio And Illinois**

Minerva Corwin was born in 1840, in Wilmington, Clinton County, Ohio. She was the first child of Rebecca Hibben and Franklin A. Corwin, and grew up in Wilmington. At the age of seventeen, in 1857, Minerva Corwin moved with her parents to Illinois. Members of several Wilmington families, who were closely allied with the Corwin and Hibben families, had already moved to north central Illinois.<sup>1</sup>

George M. Radcliff was the son of Daniel Stephen Radcliff, Jr.<sup>2</sup> and Rachel McManis who were among the earliest settlers of Bureau County, Illinois.<sup>3</sup> Daniel S. Radcliff, Jr., a veteran of the War of 1812, first settled in Wilmington, Ohio, where he served as Clinton County Treasurer for ten years. In 1836, he traveled west to Bureau County where he built a cabin on his newly purchased two hundred and forty acres of land, four miles south of Princeton. Eight year old George, his mother and siblings joined him the following year. Daniel's wife, Rachel McManis, was a sister of Martha McManis and Elizabeth McManis Magee, the second and third wives of William Hibben.

George M. Radcliff was well educated and successful in business and politics before he married. The unfortunate death of his first wife shortly thereafter, left him to care for an infant son. A year or so later, his affection turned to Minerva Corwin.

*George M. Radcliffe was born January 15, 1828 in Wilmington, Ohio. He came to Bureau County with his parents, and was educated at "James Smith Academy" and Bethany College, Virginia. For many years he carried on his father's business [saw mill], and in 1856 was elected to the Legislature, serving one term. In the spring of 1860 he was elected Supervisor of Arispe Township, and in the fall of the same year was elected Clerk of the Circuit Court and served four years. After this he farmed and in 1867 sold out and engaged in the newspaper business in Ottawa, Ill., where he edited the Ottawa Republican til 1871, when he sold out and was appointed to the office of Internal Revenue Assessor for that district, filling the position till that office was abolished by Congress. In 1873 he bought an interest in the Joliet Sun, and converted that paper into the first daily paper*

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*issued in Joliet. After four and one-half years of faithful labor, he sold out and returned to Princeton, where he, in partnership with C. L. Smith, established the Bureau County News, in 1881, of which his is now senior editor. Mr. Radcliffe has been married twice. His first wife, Lucy King, was a native of Ohio, and a graduate of Gen. Garfield's Academy at Hiram. She died here in 1861, aged twenty-one years. She was the mother of Frank C. Radcliffe, now a resident of California. His second wife, Minerva Corwin, daughter of Hon. Frank Corwin, of La Salle County, Ill., died November, 1878. She was the mother of three children, viz.: Harry S., Charles D. and Corwin Radcliffe. The oldest two are printers. In religious matters Mr. Radcliffe has been a very active member of the Christian Church.*<sup>4</sup>

Minerva and George married on May 13, 1863,<sup>5</sup> about two years after the death of his first wife. The marriage probably was encouraged and favored by family and friends. It should be noted that the groom's mother was the sister of the bride's step-grandmother. Minerva and George had three sons; Harry S., born about 1864;<sup>6</sup> Charles D., January 1877;<sup>7</sup> and Corwin Radcliff, July 10, 1872.<sup>8</sup> No documents have been found about Minerva's life.

### Two of George's Sons Also Become Newspaper Men

Thirty-eight year old Minerva died in December 14, 1878, when her youngest son, Corwin, was just six years old.

*Mrs.. Minerva Radcliffe, wife of Geo. M. Radcliffe, living in the northern part of Eden, died at the residence of her father, Hon. Franklin Corwin, in Peru, at 8 o'clock last Saturday morning. Mrs.. Radcliffe had long been known in this community as an estimable lady. A large circle of relatives and friends mourn her loss.*<sup>9</sup>

After his wife's death George and son Charles D. Radcliff, age fourteen, were recorded in the 1880 Census living with the family of Minerva's brother, Hibben Corwin, in Peru, La Salle County, Illinois.<sup>10</sup> Sons Harry S. and Corwin Radcliff were sent to live with their aunt, Mary Radcliffe in nearby Arispie Township, Bureau County, Illinois. The 1880 Census records that Harry (Henry) was a farm hand and Corwin was attending school<sup>11</sup>.

George then returned to Princeton where, in 1881, he established the *Bureau County News* and became its senior editor. In 1890, he moved to Merced, Merced County California to assist his son, Charles D. Radcliff, who, with a partner, had established the *Merced Evening Sun*. Unexpectedly, George died the following year at the age of sixty-three.

Corwin Radcliff also moved to Merced in 1894, and purchased the half interest in the *Merced Evening Sun* owned by his brother's partner. The newspaper was then published for twenty-four years by the firm, Radcliff Brothers. The partnership ended when Charles died in 1919. The US Census of 1900 recorded that Corwin, who had yet to marry, and Charles, who had been married for twelve years, had no children.<sup>12</sup>

Corwin Radcliff is the subject of Chapter IV, Generation 6.4.



Hibben S. Corwin was born November 18, 1842, in Wilmington, Clinton County, Ohio.<sup>13</sup> In 1857 when he was fifteen years old his family moved to Peru, La Salle County, Illinois.<sup>14</sup>

Nineteen year old Hibben was employed as a farmer at the time he first enlisted in the Union forces during the Civil War. On June 22, 1862, he joined Company K, 9th Regiment Illinois Cavalry. He resigned on October 15, 1862, in Helena, Arkansas, citing health and business reasons. On February 29, 1864, in Chicago, he again enlisted as a private in Battery D, 1st Regiment Illinois Light Artillery. His military records state: "*This soldier has hazel eyes, dark hair, fair complexion, is six feet ---- inches high.*"<sup>15</sup> Battery D was engaged in battles in Tennessee, Alabama and Georgia. The assault on Kenesaw Mountain, the siege of Atlanta and the battle of Jonesboro were just a few of the actions in Georgia during the period of May through November 1864.<sup>16</sup> Hibben received an honorable discharge on February 27, 1865, with the understanding that he would join the headquarters staff of the 18th Regiment Illinois Infantry. He did so on April 7, 1865, and served until July 14, 1865. In 1904, he filed for and was granted an invalid pension stating that he was blind in one eye.<sup>17</sup>

Helen M. Wright was born August 25, 1850 in North Sunderland, Franklin County Massachusetts. Like Hibben, she came to Illinois with her parents as a youngster. She attended school at a seminary in Aurora, Illinois. On February 26, 1867, Helen (a.k.a. Nellie) married Hibben at her home in Mt. Palatine, Illinois. The couple settled in Peru. Over a period of twenty-seven years, between 1868 and 1894, they had nine children: Jane B., born March 7, 1868; Charles W., August 8, 1870; Frank H., September 29, 1873, Blanche Corwin, 1876; Caroline (a.k.a. Carrie) V., April 12, 1879; Jessie Minerva, February 2, 1880;<sup>18</sup> Alice M., March 24, 1883; Thomas K., January 24, 1889; and Harold M. Corwin, September 2, 1894.<sup>19</sup>

In 1879, Hibben established a semiweekly newspaper, the *News*, and published it until 1884. That year he purchased the *Herald* and combined the newspapers, renaming the new publication the *Twin City News-Herald*. Hibben was the editor and publisher and his son, Charles W. Corwin became the business manager. In 1886 a daily edition was started and called the *News-Herald*, and the *Twin City News-Herald* became a weekly. Another newspaper, the *Call*, edited and published by Cal Lininger, was sold to Hibben in 1890.<sup>20</sup> He continued to be publisher of the *News-Herald* until he died on July 30, 1911, in the hospital at Spring Valley, Bureau County, Illinois. Hibben S. Corwin was buried in the Peru City Cemetery.<sup>21</sup>

In addition to his newspaper business, Hibben was appointed Postmaster of the Peru Post Office.<sup>22</sup>

*Mr. Corwin's record was unique, for he served through Republican and Democratic administrations. He was originally appointed by President, Chester A. Arthur in 1882, and served continuously until December, 1910, being compelled at that time to resign his office on account of ill health. Mr. Corwin died July 30, 1911. He was succeeded by his son, Charles W. Corwin. . . .*<sup>23</sup>

*H. S. CORWIN DEAD - Was Civil War Veteran, Newspaper Publisher, and Many Years Postmaster - Hibben S. Corwin was born Nov. 18, 1842, at Wilmington, Ohio, and died at St. Margaret's hospital in Spring Valley of paresis at 7 o'clock a.m., July 30, 1911. Mr. Corwin was married to Miss Helen Wright at her parents' home in Mt. Palatine, Feb. 26, 1867. Nine children were born to them, three of whom—two daughters and a son—are now dead. The surviving children are Mrs. Jennie Etzler of Peru, Mrs. Alice Hart of Omaha, Neb., and Charles W., Frank H. and Harold, of Peru. The widow also survives and will greatly miss her life partner who has gone on before. Deceased had been in failing health for the last 18 months. His family physician as well as a specialist in Chicago assured*

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*the family that no cure was possible. Nevertheless, the patient having read of the marvelous cures performed at an Indian health resort asked to be taken there, and willing to humor him in any degree that would keep his mind off the inevitable result of his ailment, his son Charles took his father to Indiana last fall where he remained for several weeks. Six weeks ago he was seized with a stroke of paralysis which rendered him helpless. A week ago, at the suggestion of his physician, he was taken to Saint Margaret's hospital, where he died as above stated. Hibben S. Corwin was the son of Franklin Corwin who was prominent for many years in Illinois politics. The subject of this sketch served with distinction during the civil war and held the commission of adjutant in the 18th Illinois infantry at the close of the war. From 1868 to 1870 he worked under his father on the staff of the old Ottawa Republican, when he moved to Cedar Point. August 1, 1879, he established the Twin City News at Peru, and five years later to a day consolidated his paper with the Peru Herald and made a daily paper of them. Under President Arthur's administration Mr. Corwin was appointed postmaster at Peru, a position he held with honor to himself and credit to his city for 28 years, resigning Dec. 20, 1910. His son Charles received his appointment to succeed his father the same day. The funeral was held Tuesday afternoon at 2 o'clock from the Corwin residence, conducted by Rev. E. J. Bidings of the La Salle Congregational church, who gave a touching tribute to the civil war veteran, newspaper publisher and postmaster. Mr. Corwin was of such a genial temper and kindly heart, coupled with a strong personality, that he was admired and held in high regard by a large circle of friends. The following prominent gentlemen of the twin cities acted as pallbearers: Thomas F. Noon, P. J. Keen, Hon. Wm. M. Scanlon, Henry Ream, W. T. Bedford and J. D. Cavil. F. M. Asp of the Ottawa Republican Times was among those present at the funeral. Also, from Lostant, were Mrs.. Emma Phillips and Mrs.. S. B. Merritt.<sup>24</sup>*

Rebecca J. Corwin had bequeathed her husband's printing office and machinery to Hibben S. Corwin. In turn he bequeathed the property and business equally to his sons Charles and Harold. The latter agreed that the value of their joint business was \$5,000 and that the survivor had the option to purchase the other half share at \$2,500. Rebecca and Hibben also acknowledged that Frank Corwin had a drinking problem and created provisions for administration of his income and employment. Interestingly, Hibben made no provision for his three surviving daughters.

*I hereby give and devise unto my sons, Charles W. Corwin and Harold Corwin, the News-Herald job office, including all machinery, type, fixtures, stock, supplies, etc., therein, including all accounts due said News-Herald, in equal shares, subject only to the payment by said Charles W. Corwin and Harold Corwin of the sum of Fifteen (\$15.00) Dollars per week to their mother, my wife, Helen M. Corwin. I desire that Charles W. Corwin and Harold Corwin shall employ my son Frank Corwin in the said News-Herald office at the union scale of wages as long as he refrains from using intoxicating liquors. I hereby give, devise and bequeath all the rest, residue and remainder of my estate real, personal and mixed of whatever kind or nature and wherever situated*

*whether owned by me now or acquired by me hereafter, unto my beloved wife, Helen M. Corwin.*

*I nominate my son Charles W. Corwin as Executor of this, my last will and testament. IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal this 28th day of December in the year of our Lord, 1910. Hibben S. Corwin<sup>25</sup>*

Just two weeks after Hibben's death, Helen filed for a Civil War widow's pension which was granted.<sup>26</sup> She continued to live in Peru and died there on May 19, 1924. She is buried in the Corwin lot in the Peru Cemetery.<sup>27</sup>

*MRS. CORWIN OF PERU SUCCUMBS Mrs. Helen M. Corwin, widow of the late H. S. Corwin, for many years Peru newspaper publisher and postmaster, passed away at the family home, 729 West street, Peru, at 4:45 yesterday afternoon. On March 12, Mrs. Corwin suffered a cerebral hemorrhage with resultant paralysis. During the first week of her illness, her condition improved. However, she soon started to decline, and recently not much hope was held for her recovery. The aged lady was born in North Sunderland, Massachusetts, Aug. 25, 1850, being 73 years of age at the time of her death. At the age of five years, accompanied by her parents, she came to Mt. Palatine. For a time she attended a seminary at Aurora and then returned to Mt. Palatine, where she was married in 1866 to Mr. Corwin. Her maiden name was Helen M. Wright. After their marriage the couple made their home south of La Salle, moving to Ottawa and then later to Peru, where Mr. Corwin founded the Twin City News-Herald, which later became the News-Herald. Mr. Corwin passed away in July 1911. Five children survive Mrs. Corwin. They are: Mrs. R. R. Hart of San Jose, Calif.; Mrs. J. B. Etzler, Charles W., Frank H., Harold R., all of Peru. The latter three are connected with the News-Herald. Two grandchildren also survive. Funeral services will be held tomorrow afternoon at 2:00 o'clock. The Rev. Walter Spence will have charge of the services in the home and burial will be made in the Peru City cemetery. The funeral will be strictly private.<sup>28</sup>*

Helen's last will and testament listed many Corwin and Hibben family keepsakes, a painting of Franklin Corwin, a bust of Senator Thomas Corwin and period furniture, the whereabouts of which are not now known. She also directed the sale of her home to fund gifts to her grandson Kenneth K. Corley, surviving daughters Jennie and Alice and son, Frank. Sons, Charles and Harold were not included in the cash distribution..

*I give an bequeath to my son Charles W. Corwin my Elizabethan chair, absolutely. I further give and bequeath to my said son Charles W. Corwin for and during the term of his natural life, the bust of Senator Thomas Corwin, and at the death of my said son Charles W. Corwin said bust shall go to such member of the Corwin family as my said son may by his last will and testament designate and in case my said son fails to make such designation then said bust shall go to my son Harold R. Corwin. Third: I give and bequeath to my son Frank H. Corwin my oil painting of the late Franklin Corwin, also one "Sleepy Hollow" tapestry chair. Fourth: I give and bequeath to my daughter Jennie Etzler my gold watch and chain and the oil painting "Sunset Scene off the Coast of Florida." Sixth: I give and bequeath to my said son Harold R. Corwin the enlarged picture of my deceased son Thomas Corwin, also, my black leather covered Morris chair.*

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*Seventh: I give and bequeath to my grand daughter Blanche Corwin my piano.  
Eighth: I give and bequeath to my said two daughters Jennie Etzler and Alice Hart and my daughter-in-law Clara Corwin, or to such of them as elect to act under this provision of my will, all the rest, residue and remainder of my household furniture, books, picture and other chattel property in my home. . .  
Ninth: I authorize and direct my executor hereinafter named to sell at public or private sale as he deems best and convey my homestead property at the corner of West and North Street, (also known as Fourth Street,) in the City of Peru, County of La Salle and State of Illinois, and being the premises now occupied by me as a homestead, and the proceeds of such sale or sales shall be divided by my said executor, as follows: Five hundred (\$500.00) to my grandson Kenneth K. Corley, and the remainder of such proceeds of said real estate shall be divided among my said two (2) daughters Jennie Etzler and Alice Hart and my said son Frank H. Corwin, in equal parts, one third to each, share and share alike and fee simple absolutely and forever. My said executor shall not be obliged to obtain the aid or consent of any court in making sale or sales of said real estate. Lastly, I nominate and appoint my son Frank H. Corwin sole executor of this will hereby waiving surety and bonds as such.<sup>29</sup>*

### Information About Hibben And Nellie Corwin's Children

In 1894 at the age of twenty-six, Jane B. Corwin (a.k.a. Jennie) married forty-three year old Bertram M. Etzler, a dentist. The Census of 1900 records that after six years of marriage Bertram and Jennie had no children.<sup>30</sup> By 1910 Jennie was living alone and her marital status appears to be recorded as divorced.<sup>31</sup> Again in 1920 the Census reported her living alone, but this time her marital status was 'widowed', and she was working as a cashier for an express company.<sup>32</sup> She died May 2, 1942 and was buried in the Corwin lot in the Peru City Cemetery.<sup>33</sup>

*MRS. JENNIE ETZLER SUCCUMBS SATURDAY Peru Resident Dies at Hospital Following Stroke Mrs. Jennie Etzler, 73, 701 1-2 Peoria St., Peru, died at 1 a.m. today in People's hospital. She had been removed there Monday after having suffered a stroke. She was born in Peru, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Corwin, and had lived there all her life. Surviving are two brothers, Frank Corwin, Peru, and Harold Corwin, Harrisburg, Pa., and one sister, Mrs. R. R. Hart, San Jose, Calif. While funeral arrangements were not completed, pending word from the sister in California, it was said the services would probably be conducted at 2 p.m. Sunday in the Peters funeral chapel by Dr. J. Richmond Morgan, pastor of the First Congregational church. Services will be private. Burial will be in Peru City cemetery.<sup>34</sup>*

On November 5, 1891, Charles W. Corwin married Ella B. Lininger.<sup>35</sup> Charles worked with his father, first as a reporter and later as business manager. He succeeded his father as co-owner of the newspaper and as Postmaster of Peru. The US Census of 1900 records that he had been married eight years and that he had no children.<sup>36</sup> In 1910 after another ten years of marriage Ella and Charles were without issue.<sup>37</sup> He died January 30, 1928.

*FUNERAL OF C. W. CORWIN WEDNESDAY - Services of Deceased Peru Publisher To Be Held From Chapel. by W. T. Bedford, former publisher of the Daily Tribune.*

*The funeral of Charles Wright Corwin, co-publisher of The Peru News-Herald, will be conducted Wednesday afternoon at 2 o'clock. Service will be held at the Peters chapel in Peru with the Rev. W. H. Evans, pastor of the Peru Congregational church and St. John's Lodge, A. F. & A. M. in charge. The body will be buried in the Peru city cemetery. Mr. Corwin, who died at his home, 1830 Fourth street, Peru, at 1:30 o'clock Monday afternoon, January 30, was born at Ottawa, August 8th 1870. He was the eldest son of Hibben S. and Helen Wright Corwin. He was married November 5th, 1891, to Miss Ella Lininger, a daughter of one of Peru's pioneer families. Mr. Corwin was taken ill last Wednesday. A rather sudden attack of uraemic [uremia] poisoning caused him to take to his bed, and in spite of all that careful nursing and medical science could do for him, the end came. . . . Mr. Corwin was the senior partner of the firm of Corwin & Corwin, owners and publishers of the Peru Daily News-Herald. For 40 years he had been connected with the paper, starting from the bottom up. It was in those early years that the writer first became acquainted with him and worked with him as a reporter on the paper. He was what is known as an all round newspaper man. He could set type, both by hand and by machine, he could operate a press and do anything that was necessary in the mechanical operation of a newspaper. But my recollection of him is that he was also an able write with a marked ability to give satirical expression to his thoughts. His gems of humor added spice to the pages of the News-Herald in those early days and that he did not exercise his ability in this line in recent years was, I think, cause for regret. No doubt his ill health was responsible. Recently Mr. Corwin has held the position of business manager on the paper and to his business acumen may be attributed much of its success. . . He was a great reader and keenly enjoyed the better kind of literature. Thus it may be said of him that he was a well-read man. He kept an intelligent grasp on public affairs. A business man of sterling integrity, he enjoyed the esteem and respect of his fellow citizens, and his friends were numbered by the hundreds. There are left, surviving, besides the widow, two sisters, Jennie Etzler of Peru, and Mrs. R. R. Hart of San Jose, California, and two brothers Frank H. and Harold R., of Peru.<sup>38</sup>*

The probate court documents of Charles W. Corwin do not include his will, therefore the disposition of the Corwin and Hibben family keepsakes is unknown. However, the transfer of Charles' half interest in the newspaper printing business to brother Harold and his payment was clearly stated.

*The said firm of Corwin and Corwin owned the newspaper plant known as the Daily News-Herald at Peru, Illinois, which consisted of all of the machinery and all material necessary to operate said plant. Also, said firm had accounts receivable due and owing to them, arising out of the operation of said plant. A contract had been entered into between the members of said firm prior to the death of said Charles W. Corwin whereby the survivor, being said Harold R. Corwin, had the right and option of purchasing the interests of said Charles W.*

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*Corwin and of his estate in all of said co-partnership, as stipulated and agreed, at a figure which was set forth in said contract, and which said contract has been fully carried out since the death of said Charles W. Corwin by the sole legatee [Ella L. Corwin] of his will, who is the widow of said Charles W. Corwin, and all of the assets of said co-partnership were assigned to and are now the property of said Harold R. Corwin, said surviving partner, and said estate of Charles W. Corwin has no further or other interest therein. All of said assets of said co-partnership, being all of said chattel property, consisting of said machinery and necessary chattels to conduct said business, and all of said book accounts due and owing to said co-partnership were worth about \$5000.00. [Harold paid Charles' estate \$2,503.81]<sup>39</sup>*

Ella settled Charles' and Harold's contract to the satisfaction of Harold, settled outstanding debts and "paid the residue of said estate to herself as the sole beneficiary under the last will and testament of said deceased." Ella died October 24, 1937, and both Charles and Ella are buried in the Peru City Cemetery.<sup>40</sup>

*MRS. CORWIN IS SUMMONED Widow of Late Publisher At Peru Succumbs; Rites Held Mrs. Ella Corwin, 78, 817 1/2 Peoria Street, Peru, widow of Charles W. Corwin, Peru publisher, died at People's hospital at 4:15 a.m. Sunday following an extended illness. She had been a patient in the hospital since early in July and had been in failing since January. Private funeral services were conducted at 3:30 p.m. Monday from the Peters Funeral chapel, with burial in Peru City cemetery. Services were in charge of the First Church of Christ, Scientist, Peru. Mrs. Corwin was born in Peru January 25, 1859, a daughter of Daniel and Emma Slyder Lininger, pioneer residents. She married Charles W. Corwin in Peru November 5, 1891. He died January 20, 1928. Surviving is one sister Mrs. Frank Bedard, Los Angeles, Calif. The pallbearers at the funeral Monday were Frank Corwin, Frank Hoerner, William Schlit, Oscar Wagner, Dr. A. B. Pietsch and Frank Daft.<sup>41</sup>*

Blanche Corwin died in Peru at the age of fifteen on October 21, 1894.<sup>42</sup>

Jessie Minerva Corwin was the sixth child of Hibben and Nellie Hibben. When she was born on February 2, 1880, the editor of the *Tonica News* reported: "*H. S. Corwin, editor of the Twin City News, has lately added one to his staff—But it is a girl, and too young to scissor items.*"<sup>43</sup> On April 26, 1899 Jessie married Frederick Henry Hunter, age twenty-five, who was employed as a lumber merchant.<sup>44</sup> It is believed that they moved to Nebraska. No information has been found about this marriage. It may have ended in divorce or his death because the Military Pension Records of Hibben S. Corwin lists Jessie as Mrs. Jessie M. Michaels.<sup>45</sup> No other information about Jessie has been found.

Alice M. Corwin was married to Walter R. Rabe in Peru on February 9, 1903.<sup>46</sup> Walter was born about 1875 in Chicago, Illinois. Alice's father's Invalid Pension application dated December 1904 lists his daughter as Mrs. Alice M. Rabe. However, her mother's and sister Jennie's obituaries in later years refer to Alice as Mrs. R. R. Hart of San Jose, California. Additional information about Alice has not been located.

Thomas K. Corwin died accidentally when only twenty years old, February 13, 1909. *PERU YOUNG MAN KILLED BY TRAIN - Mangled Body of Thomas Corwin, Aged 20, Found Lying on Rock Island Tracks, Brother Identifies Body. Laundry Mark on Collar Leads to Identification - Was Son of Postmaster and Editor Corwin - Facts of Accident Unknown.*

*Thomas Corwin, the twenty year old son of Postmaster and Mrs. H. S. Corwin of Peru, met death some time during the night by being run over by a Rock Island train. His body was found at eight o'clock this morning by a switching crew. It was lying on the tracks near the semaphore at the point where the Rock Island is crossed by the C. B. & O. road, just west of Peru. At the time of this discovery, the identity of the victim was not known, and was not revealed until several hours later. Soon after being found it was taken to the Lauber undertaking establishment. Frank Corwin, city editor of the Peru News-Herald, on his rounds for news, went to the undertaking rooms and after a time identified the body as that of his brother. The remains were badly mangled and the laundry mark on the young man's collar led to the identification. The young man, whose father is also editor of the Peru News-Herald, left home yesterday at noon and just where he went is not known. Last night at nine o'clock he was seen in Spring Valley in company with a young man, who was a companion of his in the Army. It is not known when young Corwin left Spring Valley for home, but is thought that he fell from a freight train on which he was riding to Peru. There seems to be no one who knows anything regarding the particulars of the accident. Coroner Donoghue was notified and at once started to get evidence. The inquest was continued until tomorrow afternoon. The funeral will take place Monday afternoon at two o'clock from the Corwin residence to the Peru City cemetery, where interment will be made.<sup>47</sup>*

Harold M. Corwin was the youngest child of Hibben and Nellie Corwin. Born in 1894, he was only sixteen years old when his father died in 1911. He did follow in his father's footsteps. By 1920 he was City Editor of the family newspaper<sup>48</sup> and the Peru City Directory of 1928, 1930, 1932 and 1935 lists him as Editor of the *Daily News Herald* and married to Anna M. (unknown) Corwin. Harold's sister Jennie's obituary in 1942 records that he was living in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania at that time. He died in July 1975 in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.<sup>49</sup>

Frank Hibben Corwin and Caroline V. Corwin are the subject of Chapter IV, Section 6.5.

### Generation 5.4 End Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Magee, McManis, Radcliff, Cole, Taffe and Sabin.

<sup>2</sup> Source spellings, both Radcliffe and Radcliff. Radcliff used in this narrative.

<sup>3</sup> H. C. Bradsby, editor, *History of Bureau County, Illinois*, 1885, Chicago, (World Publishing Company), page 91.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid., page 627.

<sup>5</sup> *Clinton Republican*, Wilmington, Clinton County, Ohio, May 22, 1863, "MARRIED - At Cedar Point, near La Salle, Illinois, on the 13th inst., by Rev. Mr. McConn, Mr. George M. Radcliffe and Miss Minerva Corwin, daughter of Franklin Corwin, Esq., late of Clinton county, all of Illinois"; Marriage License.

<sup>6</sup> US Census 1880, T9-177, enumeration 1, sheet 19, line 28, Arispie Township, Bureau County, Illinois.

## THE WILLIAM HIBBEN LINE

- <sup>7</sup> US Census 1900, T623-93, enumeration 45, sheet 19, line 45, Merced, Township 2, Merced County, California.
- <sup>8</sup> *Merced Sun-Star*, Merced, Merced County, California, August 20, 1945, Obituary of Corwin Radcliff.
- <sup>9</sup> *Tonica News*, Tonica, La Salle Co., Illinois, Dec. 21, 1878, Vol. 5, #42, page 4, column 1.
- <sup>10</sup> US Census 1880, T9-223, enumeration 85, sheet 24, household 202, District 4, West Street, Peru, La Salle County, Illinois.
- <sup>11</sup> US Census 1880, [Note 6].
- <sup>12</sup> US Census 1900, T623-93, enumeration 45, sheet 19, line 45, Merced, Township 2, Merced County, California; US Census 1900, T623-93, enumeration 45, sheet 15, line 61, Merced, Township 2, Merced County, California.
- <sup>13</sup> Civil War Pension Records, National Archives and Records Administration, Invalid application #1327745, certificate #1102374.
- <sup>14</sup> *The Past & Present of La Salle County, Illinois*, 1877, Chicago, (H. F. Kett & Co.); US Census 1850, M432-668, page 353, household 449, Wilmington, Clinton County, Ohio
- <sup>15</sup> Military Records, National Archives and Records Administration, volunteer enlistment form.
- <sup>16</sup> Frederick H. Dyer, *Dyer's Compendium of the War of the Rebellion*, 1908, (Torch Press of Cedar Rapids, IA).
- <sup>17</sup> Civil War Pension Records, [Note 13].
- <sup>18</sup> US Census 1880, [Note 9], Jane age 9, Charles age 9, Frank age 6, Blanche age 4, Carrie age 2, Jessie age 4/12; Civil War Pension Records, [Note 13].
- <sup>19</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>20</sup> W. T. Ballard, "Twentieth Anniversary Souvenir Edition," *The La Salle Tribune*, La Salle, Illinois, July 1911, page 122.
- <sup>21</sup> Springer Family Archives, Family Group Record #375; City of Peru Cemetery records, block 08, lot 013, grave 02.
- <sup>22</sup> US Census 1910, T624-300, enumeration 91, sheet 11B, family 202, Peru City, Peru Township, La Salle County, Illinois, age 68, Postmaster.
- <sup>23</sup> Ballard, "Twentieth Anniversary Souvenir Edition," [Note 21], page 153.
- <sup>24</sup> *Tonica News*, [Note 9], August 4, 1911, volume 38, #23, page 5, column 3.
- <sup>25</sup> Estate files, La Salle County Genealogy Guild, 115 W. Glover St., Ottawa, Illinois. Last Will and Testament of Hibben S. Corwin, Peru, La Salle County, Illinois, dated December 28, 1910.
- <sup>26</sup> Civil War Pension Records, [Note 13], Widow's application #970299, certificate #730436.
- <sup>27</sup> City of Peru Illinois cemetery records, block 08, lot 013, grave 04.
- <sup>28</sup> *The News Tribune*, La Salle-Peru-Ogelsby, La Salle County, Illinois, May 20, 1924.
- <sup>29</sup> Estate files, La Salle County Genealogy Guild, [Note 25]. Last Will and Testament of Helen M. Corwin, Peru, La Salle County, Illinois, dated May 3, 1921.
- <sup>30</sup> US Census 1900, T623-317, page 157, line 83, Kendell Street, Peru, La Salle County, Illinois.
- <sup>31</sup> US Census 1910, T624-300, page 119, line 41, Peru, La Salle County, Illinois.
- <sup>32</sup> US Census 1920, T625-379, page 226, line 39, Peru, La Salle County, Illinois.
- <sup>33</sup> City of Peru Illinois cemetery Records, block 08, lot 013, grave 07.
- <sup>34</sup> *The News Tribune*, [Note 28], May 2, 1942, page 1.
- <sup>35</sup> Marriage License, La Salle County, Illinois, #6421, filed November 7, 1891, book 3, page 129.
- <sup>36</sup> US Census 1900, T623-317, enumeration 82, sheet 1, line 18, Grant Street, Peru, La Salle County, Illinois.
- <sup>37</sup> US Census 1910, T624-300, sheet 9B, line 59, Third Street, Peru City, La Salle County, Illinois.
- <sup>38</sup> *The Peru News-Herald*, La Salle County, Illinois, January 31, 1928, page 1.
- <sup>39</sup> Estate Files, La Salle Co. Genealogy Guild, [Note 25]. Estate of Charles W. Corwin, Peru, La Salle County, Illinois, Probate Court February term 1928.
- <sup>40</sup> City of Peru Illinois cemetery records, block 01, lot 082, graves 01 and 02.
- <sup>41</sup> *The News Tribune*, [Note 28], Oct. 25, 1937, page 1.
- <sup>42</sup> City of Peru Illinois cemetery records, block 08, lot 013, grave 1.

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- <sup>43</sup> *Tonica News*, [Note 9], February 14, 1880.
- <sup>44</sup> Marriage License, La Salle County, Illinois, #2831, filed April 28, 1899, book 4, page 218.
- <sup>45</sup> Civil War Pension Records, [Note 13].
- <sup>46</sup> Marriage License, [Note 35], #5578, filed February 10, 1903, book 5, page 112.
- <sup>47</sup> *The News Tribune*, [Note 28], February 13, 1909.
- <sup>48</sup> US Census 1920, T625-379, page 204/sheet 7, line 29, West Street, Peru, La Salle County, Illinois.
- <sup>49</sup> Social Security Death Index, #195-07-6164.