

Descendants of Phebe Hibben and John Lawhead

Generation No. 3.7

PHEBE³ HIBBEN (*Thomas², John¹*) was born August 05, 1798 in Uniontown, Fayette Co., PA, and died April 21, 1872 in Dayton, Montgomery Co., OH. She married **JOHN LAWHEAD** August 19, 1819 in PA, son of **BENJAMIN LAUGHEAD** and **AGNES MILLER**. He was born March 22, 1794 in PA, and died May 25, 1865 in Wilmington, Clinton Co., OH.

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

- i. **ALMIRA⁴ LAWHEAD**, b. July 20, 1820, PA; d. March 10, 1880, OH. She m. **JOHN WESTFALL** bet. 1856-1860, OH; b. June 12, 1794, VA; d. September 11, 1874, OH.
- ii. **MARY LAWHEAD**, b. Abt. 1824, PA; d. Aft. February 1869.
- iii. **ANN MARIA LAWHEAD**, b. May 20, 1825, OH; d. November 05, 1903, Mersden, OH. She m. **JOHN VANDERVORT HESTER** December 24, 1845, Clinton Co., OH; b. February 10, 1821, New Antioch, Clinton Co., OH; d. August 22, 1893.
- iv. **JOHN WILLIAM LAWHEAD**, b. May 09, 1826, Wilmington, Clinton Co., OH; d. August 22, 1897, Knoxville, Knox Co., IL. He m. **MATILDA SUSAN COFFMAN** August 16, 1853, Clinton Co., OH; b. 1827, Washington Co., MD; d. March 05, 1886, Knoxville, Knox Co., IL.
- v. **ELIZABETH LAWHEAD**, b. Abt. Nov. 1832, OH; d. March 02, 1903, Dayton, Montgomery Co., OH. She m. **JEREMIAH MARTIN** May 01, 1852, Clinton Co., OH; b. Abt. 1830, OH; d. June 22, 1899, Dayton, Montgomery Co., OH.
- vi. **GEORGE J. LAWHEAD**, b. July 25, 1836, New Antioch, Clinton Co., OH; d. April 18, 1900, Van Wert, Van Wert Co., OH. He m. **ELIZA JANE MATHEW** October 06, 1856, Clinton Co., OH; b. January 12, 1835, New Antioch, Clinton Co., OH; d. April 04, 1901, Van Wert, Van Wert Co., OH.

Revised May 2004

PHEBE HIBBEN 1798 - 1872
and
JOHN LAWHEAD 1794 -1865

*Where people have labored, suffered,
Struggled, or even just survived,
They have planted seeds of memory
As directly as farmers sow crops,
And memory has its roots in the soil.¹*

Patricia Nelson Limerick

The Lawhead Family Is Tied To The Soil

On August 5, 1798, Mary Entriken Hibben gave birth to Phebe Hibben, her ninth child.² Phebe most likely was born in Uniontown, Fayette County, Pennsylvania, in a two storey, 20 by 28 foot house, made of hewed logs, with only three windows.³ For the first few years of her life she shared these cramped and primitive quarters with her seven surviving siblings and parents.

In 1801, Phebe's father, Thomas, purchased lot #21 in Jacob's addition where the family lived during her adolescence. She probably met her husband, John Lawhead,⁴ in Uniontown. She married him on August 19, 1819,⁵ just a year after her parents moved from Uniontown to a farm in nearby German Township. John's parents were Benjamin Laughead and Agnes Miller from Bucks County, Pennsylvania.⁶

John Lawhead and Phoebe [Phebe] Hibben were married in Fayette county, Pa., and came to Ohio, in 1820, settling in Clinton county, where they followed farming until his death in 1865. In early life John Lawhead was an old-line whig, but became a republican upon the organization of that party, remaining a member of the same the remainder of his life. In his religious views he was a Presbyterian. His wife died in 1871, a life-long member of the Christian church. She and her husband were the parents of six children.⁷

Phebe and John's first two children were born in Pennsylvania; Almira, July 20, 1820 and Mary about 1824. Ann Maria Lawhead was born on May 20, 1825, in Ohio, indicating that the family had moved to Clinton County, Ohio, shortly before her birth. There they joined Phebe's siblings, William, Rebeckah, and Thomas, and there John Lawhead established himself as a farmer.⁸ Three more children were born: John William May 9, 1826, Elizabeth November 1832, and George J. Lawhead on July 25, 1836.

Few documents have been found about family activities, but it is known that John was instrumental in founding and sustaining the Presbyterian Church in Wilmington.

The first account of a Presbyterian meeting in Wilmington dates back to 1823, when a small group of members of the church, including William and Parmelia Walter, Isaac Collett, Samuel Miller, William Bloom, John Lawhead, Thomas Hibben [Phebe's father], Charles P. Gallaher and Caleb Smith, met for the purposes of worship at their several homes. For some time they continued to meet in private homes. Later they secured the Baptist church in Wilmington for regular services and continued to meet there until they erected their first building.

THE PHEBE HIBBEN LINE

On July 19, 1830, the congregation purchased, for one hundred dollars, the lot on which the present church stands. The deed for the lot was made by William Walters and his wife Parmelia to Isaac Collett, Samuel Miller, William Bloom, John Lawhead and Thomas Hibben, Charles P. Gallaher and Caleb Smith, trustees of the Sharon congregation, and to their successors in office, for the sole and only purpose of a site for a meeting house or place of public worship for the said congregation of Sharon of the Presbyterian church and for no other use, intent, or purpose whatsoever.⁹

Another account was published by the Clinton County Historical Society in 1982. *Mary Vandervort Hester Harvey (16 October 1850, New Antioch - ? 1937, Lima, Oh.) daughter of John V. Hester (10 Fe. 1821, New Antioch) and wife Ann M. Lawhead, often told her grandchildren stories of her own girlhood in Clinton Co. and of her pioneer ancestors there. Among those pioneers David Hester as a boy of 9 settled near Deserted Camp in 1807: William Hibben and his son [brother] Thomas were merchants (1816 and 1819) and civic leaders. Jonah and Jane Vandervort (Todds Fork by 1809, later New Antioch) helped to establish New Antioch Church of Christ; and John Lawhead was a founder of [the] Wilmington Presbyterian Church in 1825. "Molly" [Mary Vandervort] Hester not yet seven when "Uncle Billy" [William Hibben] sold Sugar Grove Cemetery Assoc. its first 23 acres of land, told her granddaughter Eunice Meeks such stories.¹⁰*

Phebe and John's son, George, served a short enlistment in 1864 during the Civil War. John W. Lawhead,¹¹ being ten years older, remained on the farm caring for his aging parents. His father died the following year on May 25, 1865.

Died. At his residence near Wilmington of Apoplexy, on Thursday, the 25th ult., Mr. John Laughead, in the 72d year of his age. Mr. Laughead was an old resident of this county, an honest, much esteemed Christian man, a member of the Presbyterian Church, in which he was, for many years, an Elder.¹²

Brother William Hibben Provides For Phebe's Welfare

It appears that the land upon which Phebe and her son were living in 1865 belonged to William Hibben, Phebe's brother. A lease agreement between William Hibben and James E. Lewis was drawn up shortly after John Lawhead's death to provide homes and crops for Phebe and her son, John William Lawhead.

It is agreed by and between William Hibben and James E. Lewis as follows. Mr. Hibben hereby agrees to lease to the said Lewis the two farms of the [said] Hibben lying east of the Village of Wilmington on the Snow Hill road on which John W. Lawhead now lives of about 85 acres, the other on which Phebe Laughead lives of about 94 acres for the term of five years from this day. Saving and excepting from the said farms so much of the same, as is now corn until the said corn should have been gathered, and also excepting from the front farm the house and out houses, the barn, the garden and the area barn yards for the use of the said Phebe while she shall live and be proper to remain upon said premises, this in consideration of the premises of the said Lewis hereinafter made. . . . For the rent of the front place (that upon which Phebe L. lives) he will pay two fifths of the small grasses and corn in the bushel to be delivered in the barn on said

*front place, 2/5 of the hay in the barn, or if said Hibben shall choose in the stack, 2/5 of potatoes delivered at the house and also 2/5 of any other products of said farm that may grow thereon or be raised by the labor of said Lewis to be delivered to said Hibben upon said farm prepared as for market. Said Lewis also agrees to furnish pasture for a horse and a cow or for two cows for the benefit of said Phebe Laughead, as well as to permit said animals to have at proper seasons full access to straw stacks, and he agrees that no straw shall be removed from said farms.*¹³

William Hibben also bequeathed “to my sister Phebe Lawhead for her own use and the use of her daughter Mary Lawhead the sum of five hundred dollars.”¹⁴ William died in 1869, so it is assumed that the lease was not renewed. So as not to be left alone after her son John emigrated to Knoxville, Knox County, Illinois, shortly after his father’s death, Phebe first moved to Van Wert, Van Wert County, Ohio, to live with son George. Later she went to Dayton, Montgomery County, Ohio, to live with her daughter Elizabeth and son-in-law Jeremiah Martin. She died there on April 21, 1872.

*At Dayton, O., on Sunday, April 21st, at the residence of her son-in-law, Jerry Martin, of heart disease, Phebe Laughead [Lawhead] , in her 74th year.*¹⁵

*DIED -- LEONHARD [LAWHEAD] -- On the 21st instant, at 8 1/2 o'clock p. m., Mrs. Phoebe [Phebe] Leonhard [Lawhead], aged 74 years. Funeral to-day (Tuesday) at 12 o'clock m., from the residence of her son-in-law, Jeremiah Martin, East May street. Interment, Hawker's Cemetery.*¹⁶

Phebe’s youngest daughter, Elizabeth, at the age of twenty, married Jeremiah Martin on May 1, 1852. Phebe’s oldest daughter, Almira Lawhead Westfall married John Westfall in Dayton or Beaver Creek, Ohio sometime between 1856 and 1860. John’s first wife, Mary C. (unknown), had died in 1856. John was over 62 and Almira was about 40 when they married. No children, not surprisingly, are recorded in either the 1860 or 1870 census.¹⁷ When Phebe died, the Martins didn’t own a cemetery lot, but John Westfall did. John had secured a lot in Hawker’s cemetery for the interment of his first wife. Phebe was buried in the Westfall lot in 1872, followed by John Westfall in 1874 and Almira in 1880.¹⁸ Jeremiah Martin died June 22, 1899 and Elizabeth March 2, 1903. They are buried in the Martin lot at Woodland Cemetery in Dayton.¹⁹

Ann Maria Lawhead, John William and George Lawhead are the subjects of Chapter IX, Generations 4.1, 4.2 and 4.3, respectively. No additional information is known about Mary Lawhead except that she never married and died after 1869 at which time she and her mother were bequeathed five hundred dollars by her uncle, William Hibben.

Generation 3.7 End Notes:

- ¹ Patricia Nelson Limerick, *Something in the Soil*, 2000, New York, (W. W. Norton & Company).
- ² Thomas Hibben family bible, quarto edition, printed by Isaac Collins, 1791, Trenton, New Jersey, “Phebe Hibben daughter of Thomas and Mary Hibben was born the fifth day of August in the year of Our Lord 1798.”
- ³ Fayette County, Pennsylvania Tax Records - 1798.
- ⁴ Laughead family bible, printed and published by M. Carey, 1817, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, “John Laughead was born March 22 in the year of our Lord 1794.”
- ⁵ Ibid., “August the 19th 1819 John Laughead was married to Phoebe Hibben 1819.” [Note: later Phoebe Hibben

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was crossed out].

- ⁶ While Benjamin's name was spelled Laughead, some of his children used the Lawhead spelling. Subsequent generations almost always used Lawhead. Benjamin Laughead (1761-1837) and Agnes Miller (1767-1842).
- ⁷ *A Portrait and Biographical Record of Mercer and Van Wert Counties, Ohio*, 1896, Chicago, Illinois, (A. W. Bowen & Co.), page 436.
- ⁸ US Census 1850, M432-668, page 383, household 912, Union Township, Clinton County, Ohio; US Census 1860, M653-946, page 12, household 82, Union Township, Clinton County, Ohio.
- ⁹ Albert J. Brown, editor, *History Clinton County Ohio*, 1915, Indianapolis, Indiana, (B. F. Bowen & Company, Inc.), page 177.
- ¹⁰ *Clinton County Ohio, 1982*, Wilmington, Ohio, (Clinton County Historical Society), page 229-30; H. Eunice⁷ (Meeks) Jones (*Jessie May*⁶ *Harvey, Mary Vandervort*⁵ *Hester, Ann Maria*⁴ *Lawhead, Phebe*³ *Hibben, Thomas*², *John*¹).
- ¹¹ Civil War Military records and marriage records of Clinton County, Ohio, document another John W. Lawhead, born about 1834. He married Cynthianna Parry on November 7, 1857, and served in Co. K, 149th Ohio Infantry in 1864.
- ¹² *Clinton Republican*, Wilmington, Clinton County, Ohio, obituary, June 2, 1865.
- ¹³ *Clinton County, Ohio Court House Records of Deeds and Mortgages*, book 10, pages 229-30.
- ¹⁴ *Clinton County, Ohio, Court House Wills*, volume 2, page 230.
- ¹⁵ *Wilmington Journal*, Wilmington, Clinton County, Ohio, April 25, 1872; Kelley family bible, "Sister Phebe Laughead died April 21, 1872, in the 74th year of her age."
- ¹⁶ *Dayton Journal*, Dayton, Montgomery County, Ohio, death notice, April 22, 1872, page 1.
- ¹⁷ US Census 1860, M653-1015, page 44, 6-WD, Dayton, Montgomery County, Ohio; US Census 1870, M593-1205, page 59, Beaver Creek Township, Greene County, Ohio.
- ¹⁸ Tombstone inscriptions, Hawker's Cemetery, Beaver Creek Township, Greene County, Ohio; "PHEBE, wife of JOHN LAWHEAD, died April 22, 1872, aged 73y 8m 10d," - "JOHN WESTFALL died Sept. 11, 1874 aged 80 yr. 2 mo. 30 d." - "ALMIRA WESTFALL, wife, b. July 20, 1820, d. Mar 10, 1880, aged 59y 7m 21d."
- ¹⁹ Cemetery Records - Woodland Cemetery, Dayton, Montgomery Co., OH, Interment #21688, Sect. 40, Lot 810, Martin, Jeremiah C., d. 22 June 1899, buried 25 June 1899, age 59 [69]; Interment #24472, Sect. 40, Lot 810, Martin, Elizabeth, d. 2 Mar 1903, buried 4 Mar 1903, age 70 yr., 4 mo.