

Descendants of Ann Maria Lawhead and John Vandervort Hester

Generation No. 4.1

ANN MARIA⁴ LAWHEAD (*Phebe³ Hibben, Thomas², John¹*) was born May 20, 1825 in OH, and died November 05, 1903 in Mersden, OH. She married **JOHN VANDERVORT HESTER** December 24, 1845 in Clinton Co., OH, son of **DAVID HESTER** and **MARY VANDERVORT**. He was born February 10, 1821 in New Antioch, OH, and died August 22, 1893.

Children of **ANN LAWHEAD** and **JOHN HESTER** are:

- i. **URBAN HARVEY⁵ HESTER**, b. October 18, 1846, OH. He m. **IRENE** (unknown) Abt. 1869; b. Abt. 1852, OH.
- ii. **DAVID ARTHUR HESTER**, b. October 11, 1848, OH; d. August 02, 1850, OH.
- iii. **MARY VANDERVORT HESTER**, b. October 16, 1850, Clinton Co., OH; d. October 11, 1936, Lima, Allen Co., OH. She m. **AARON LAWRENCE HARVEY** 1882; b. June 02, 1852; d. December 29, 1912.
- iv. **MARTHA JANE HESTER**, b. September 20, 1852. She m. **HENRY CLAY DUSTMAN** 1872; b. 1850, Van Wert Co., OH.
- v. **JOHN VANDERVORT HESTER**, b. December 08, 1855, OH.
- vi. **ANN MARIA HESTER**, b. March 01, 1858, OH.
- vii. **EMERSON HARTZEL HESTER**, b. March 21, 1860, OH.
- viii. **HARVEY WARD BEECHER HESTER**, b. May 16, 1862, OH; d. January 11, 1919.
- ix. **ELLIE HESTER**, b. May 14, 1864, OH. She m. **T. E. NELSON**.

ANN MARIA LAWHEAD 1825 - 1903
and
JOHN VANDERVORT HESTER 1821 - 1893

*"All is ephemeral, both what remembers and what is remembered."*¹

Marcus Aurelius

After John and Phebe Lawhead moved to Clinton County, Ohio, their third child, Ann Maria Lawhead, was born May 20, 1825.² She may have been named for her first cousin, Ann Maria Hibben, who was born in 1813 and living in nearby Wilmington. On December 24, 1845, Ann Maria married John Vandervort Hester.³ John was born in New Antioch, Clinton County, Ohio on February 10, 1821.

John was a farmer in Clinton County for many years before moving to Van Wert County, Ohio sometime before 1880.⁴ Ann and John Hester had nine children: Urban Harvey born October 18, 1846; David Arthur, born October 11, 1848, and died August 2, 1850; Mary Vandervort, born October 16, 1850; Martha Jane, born September 20, 1852; John Vandervort, born December 8, 1855; Ann Maria, born March 1, 1858; Emerson Hartzel, born March 21, 1860; Harvey Ward Beecher, born May 16, 1862, and died January 11, 1919; and Ella Hester, born May 14, 1864.⁵

John Vandervort Hester died August 22, 1893, and Ann Maria Hester on November 5, 1903 in Mersden, Ohio.⁶

Urban Harvey Hester and Mary Vandervort Hester are the subject of Chapter IX, Generation 5.1.

Additional Information About The Hester And Vandervort Families

John V. Hester's father, David Hester, was brought to live in Clinton County, near Deserted Camp on Todd's Fork, in 1807 when he was nine years old.⁷

Martin Hester emigrated to America in an early day. Was married to Susanna Rodgers and was one of the very earliest settlers in Warren Co., Ohio, near Fort Ancient, where two of his children, Urban and Warner, were killed by the Indians, of which the following brief account was handed down by tradition: The two boys had gone for the cows, but not returning were searched for and found dead near the fort, from which place their cries had been heard when they were trying to escape from the Indians.

While their mother was cutting their hair a short time before one of them said, "Cut my hair short so that if the Indians kill me they cannot take my scalp." So the savages had taken the scalp from one and had run the knife around the other but the hair was too short to take the scalp off. The neighbors peeled bark from trees and rolled the children in it and buried them, there being no coffins nor caskets at that time to be had.

After the murder of his children the father [Martin Hester] and remaining members of his family seems to have moved into Kentucky not far from Cincinnati, where his son David was born 22 July 1798. Later he seems to have

THE PHEBE HIBBEN LINE

*returned to Ohio and to have settled on Todd's Fork five miles northeast of Wilmington in Clinton County, Ohio, where later his wife died and was buried, over eighty-five years ago, in what is now an abandoned cemetery near Todd's Fork . . .*⁸

John V. Hester's maternal grandparents, Jonah Vandervort⁹ and Jane Tibbs,¹⁰ also settled on Todd's Fork in 1809, just a few years after the arrival of the Hester family.

*Nicholas and Abigail (Halstead) Vandervort, both of whom were natives of New York state, became residents of Virginia after their marriage and emigrated from Virginia about 1800, the objective point being Green river in Kentucky. On their way down the Ohio river, upon arriving at Columbia, near Cincinnati, they anchored their boat for the night. A large limb from an overhanging the boat broke and fell, damaging the boat so much that it was unfit for further travel with safety. After some investigation of the surrounding country they became so well pleased with it that they concluded to settle there and it is believed that Nicholas and Abigail (Halstead) Vandervort spent the rest of their lives there. Jonah Vandervort's wife, who before her marriage was Jane Tibbs, was the daughter of John and Mary Tibbs, natives of Ireland. The latter, when a girl, was kidnapped and taken on board a vessel and brought to America, where she grew to womanhood and was married, subsequently becoming a resident of Virginia, whence she emigrated to Columbia, Ohio, where she died. Jonah and Jane (Tibbs) Vandervort resided at Columbia until 1809, when they came to this county, locating on Todd's Fork, where they lived for six years, at the end of which time they removed to near New Antioch, where they spent the remainder of their lives. They were among the earliest settlers in that region and assisted in the organization and establishment of the first Christian church at Antioch, in which they were leading members and in the good works of which they assisted with their purses and with their influence. Jonah Vandervort became of great strength to the church and was a very upright Christian man. He was a man of good judgment and one of the first jurymen of Clinton County. Jonah Vandervort and his wife were the parents of six sons and five daughters. He died in January 1842 and his widow died three years later, in 1845.*¹¹

Generation 4.1 End Notes:

¹ Marcus Aurelius, *Meditations*, book IV, number 35.

² Helen Thorsheim, family records; Helen Harvey⁸ Thorsheim (*Rhoda Beatrice*⁷, *Rodney Beecher*⁶ *Harvey*, *Mary Vandervort*⁵ *Hester*, *Ann Maria*⁴ *Lawhead*, *Phebe*³ *Hibben*, *Thomas*², *John*¹).

³ *Clinton County, Ohio, Court House Marriage Records*, volume 4, page 35.

⁴ US Census 1850, M432-668, page 383, district no. 21, Union Township, Clinton County, Ohio; US Census 1880, T9-1073, enumeration 149, sheet 25, line 7, Pleasant Township, Van Wert County, Ohio.

⁵ Helen Thorsheim, [Note 2].

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Undocumented Hester Family book located in the Ohio State Library, Genealogy Department.

⁹ Jonah Vandervort Bible transcribed by Louis Lieurance, with additional dates supplied by Eunice M. Jones; Born May 30, 1765 at Shepherdstown, WVA, died January 12, 1842 near New Antioch, Ohio.

Chapter IX, Generation 4.1

¹⁰ Ibid., Born September 9, 1777, died October 30, 1845 near New Antioch, Ohio.

¹¹ Albert J. Brown, editor, *History of Clinton County, Ohio*, 1915, Indianapolis, Indiana, (B. F. Bowen & Company, Inc.), volume II.