

Descendants of George J. Lawhead and Eliza Jane Mathew

Generation No. 4.3

GEORGE J.⁴ LAWHEAD (*Phebe³ Hibben, Thomas², John¹*) was born July 25, 1836 in New Antioch, Clinton Co., OH, and died April 19, 1900 in Van Wert, Van Wert Co., OH. He married **ELIZA JANE MATHEW** October 06, 1856 in Clinton Co., OH, daughter of **JONAH MATHEW** and **SARAH STOKESBERRY**. She was born January 12, 1835 in New Antioch, Clinton Co., OH, and died April 04, 1901 in Van Wert, Van Wert Co., OH.

Children of **GEORGE LAWHEAD** and **ELIZA MATHEW** are:

- i. **LORETTA ROSINA⁵ LAWHEAD**, b. July 06, 1858, Clinton Co., OH; d. September 28, 1860, Clinton Co., OH.
- ii. **EMMA TAMSEY LAWHEAD**, b. July 05, 1860, Clinton Co., OH; d. March 27, 1960, Van Wert, Van Wert Co., OH. She m. **CAMMARALZA M. SMITH** April 02, 1882, Van Wert, Van Wert Co., OH; b. November 11, 1856, Greene Co., OH; d. July 21, 1918, Van Wert, Van Wert Co., OH.
- iii. **CHARLES EDWARD LAWHEAD**, b. October 01, 1862, New Antioch, Clinton Co., OH; d. October 22, 1950, Van Wert, Van Wert Co., OH. He m. **JESSIE FRANCES ALLEN** October 07, 1883, Van Wert, Van Wert Co., OH; b. June 06, 1865, Van Wert, Van Wert Co., OH; d. June 21, 1933, Van Wert, Van Wert Co., OH.
- iv. **MATHEW JOHN LAWHEAD**, b. June 05, 1865, Clinton Co., OH; d. March 13, 1932, Cincinnati, Hamilton Co., OH. He m. (1) **ORPHA COOK** March 25, 1891, Van Wert, Van Wert Co., OH; b. 1872; d. November 24, 1899. He m. (2) **MATTIE WENDEL** September 24, 1902, Van Wert, Van Wert Co., OH; b. March 1882, Van Wert, Van Wert Co., OH.
- v. **HARVEY H. LAWHEAD**, b. November 27, 1867, Van Wert, Van Wert Co., OH; d. March 28, 1868, Van Wert, Van Wert Co., OH.
- vi. **MILLIE MYRTLE LAWHEAD**, b. June 29, 1874, Van Wert, Van Wert Co., OH; d. March 27, 1959, Van Wert, Van Wert Co., OH.

Revised 09/07

GEORGE J. LAWHEAD 1836 - 1900
and
ELIZA JANE MATHEW 1835 - 1901

Nature's law is that all things change, turn and pass away . . .¹

Marcus Aurelius

George And Eliza Jane Become Pioneer Settlers Of Van Wert County

George Lawhead, a carpenter and conservative business man, was born in Clinton county, Ohio, July 25, 1836, and is a son of John and Phoebe (Hibben) Lawhead, both natives of Fayette county, Pa., and respectively of Scotch-Irish and English extraction.

His paternal ancestors came to America about 1745 and settled on an English land grant in the colony of Virginia, where they lived until the breaking out of the Revolutionary war, when the grandfather of the subject of the present sketch enlisted in the patriot army under Gen. Washington and served throughout the entire period of that struggle. Although only a boy in years at the time of enlistment he endured all of the hardships of the winter at Valley Forge and took part in the famous campaign in which the Continental troops forced a passage through the icy Delaware river, and although badly frozen, he was in the front ranks with his regiment at the battle of Trenton. After the war ended he married and in a few years removed to Pennsylvania.

Mr. Lawhead's forefathers on the maternal side were also of old colonial stock, the Hibben family coming to America from England about 1750. Joshua [John] Hibben, although quite an aged man, shouldered a musket in defense of the country of his adoption and for four years followed the destiny of the colonies in their struggle against the mother country. At the beginning of the present century his descendants removed from Virginia to Pennsylvania, and in 1812 Mr. Lawhead's grandfather [uncles Thomas and James Hibben]² enlisted in the service of the young republic in its war with Great Britain. . .

George Lawhead is the youngest of these six children. He was educated in his native county, where he spent the earlier part of his life,³ and there was married, October, 1856, to Eliza J. Mathew, and continued to reside in that county until 1867.⁴ Miss Mathew is a daughter of Jonah and Sarah (Stokesberry) Mathew, both natives of Culpeper county, Va., and respectively of Welsh and English extraction. Both came to Ohio with their parents in 1812, these parents entering land grants in Clinton county, and as soon as their families were comfortably settled in their new homes, the male heads of each volunteered to serve their country in the war then going on between this country and Great Britain. Peace being soon declared, they returned to their families in Ohio. Jonah Mathew died in Clinton County in 1856, aged seventy-two years, and his wife died in 1890 at the age of eighty-eight. Both were members of the Christian church.

THE PHEBE HIBBEN LINE

George Lawhead enlisted in the Union army May 1, 1864, in company K, Forty-ninth Ohio volunteer infantry, and immediately went to the front. His regiment participated in the battles of Perryville and Monocacy Junction.⁵ Mr. Lawhead was deprived of any further privilege of fighting the rebels by being detailed to the quartermaster's department: yet he served out his time and was honorably discharged in September, 1864.⁶ In 1867 he removed to Van Wert county and settled in Pleasant township [Potts Corners, which in 1957 was in the vicinity of Weck's Tile Mill],⁷ where he lived on a farm until 1871, when he moved to the city of Van Wert, where he has since resided.⁸ While he is a carpenter by trade, which he learned in early manhood, he has not and does not follow that trade exclusively. Soon after coming to Van Wert he was elected sexton of Woodland cemetery, being the first to hold that position, and it is but justice to him to say that to him perhaps more than to any person is due the credit of converting this beautiful spot from the dismal swamp and forest to the lovely woodland of to-day. In politics Mr. Lawhead is a republican and does not belong to any secret society.⁹

George And Eliza Jane Have Six Children

George and Eliza Jane's first child, Lorretta Rosina was born July 6, 1858, and died September 28, 1860, at the age of two. Emma Tamsy was born July 5, 1860, and lived to be almost one hundred years old. Charles E. was born October 1, 1862, and Mathew John, on June 5, 1865. Harvey H. Lawhead was born on November 27, 1867, and died as an infant March 28, 1868. Millie M. Lawhead was their last child. She was born June 29, 1874, and died March 27, 1959, in Van Wert, Ohio.¹⁰ Emma, Charles, Mathew and Millie Lawhead are the subject of Chapter IX, Generation 5.3.

George died April 19, 1900 and was buried at his work place, Woodland Cemetery. Demise of a Number of Van Wert County Pioneers, George Lawhead died yesterday morning at his home on Monroe street aged over 64 years. Deceased has been a sufferer from kidney trouble for the past six years and has been bed-fast for over a month. He was born in Clinton county, O., in 1836, and has been a resident of this county for the past 33 years. For 12 years he was sexton of Woodland cemetery, until compelled to give up labor on account of ill health. He leaves a wife and four children, Charles E., Mathew J., Mrs. C. M. Smith and Millie M. Lawhead. Funeral services will be held at the house this afternoon.¹¹

Just a year later, Eliza Jane died on April 4, 1901, and was buried beside her husband.¹²

Generation 4.3 End Notes:

¹ Marcus Aurelius, *Meditations*, book XII, number 21.

² George J. Lawhead's grandfather, Thomas Hibben b. 1760 served during the War of Independence. See Chapter II, Generation 2.1. George's uncles, Thomas b. 1793 and James b. 1795 participated in the War of 1812. See Chapter VI, Generation 3.4 and Chapter VII, Generation 3.5.

³ US Census 1850, M432-668, page 383, household 912, Clinton County, Union Township, Ohio.

⁴ *Clinton County, Ohio, Court House Marriages*, book I, page 200; US Census 1860, M653-946, page 12, household 84, Union Township, Clinton County, Ohio.

⁵ Frederick H. Dyer, *Dyer's Compendium of the War of the Rebellion*, 1908, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, (Torch Press).

Chapter IX, Generation 4.3

- ⁶ National Archives and Records Administration, Civil War Military Records; US Special Census 1890, Surviving Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines and Widows, SD 1, enumeration 108, family 188, Pleasant Township, Van Wert County, Ohio.
- ⁷ Newspaper, (unknown), Van Wert, Van Wert County, Ohio, July, 1957
- ⁸ US Census 1870, M593-275, page 25, Pleasant Township, Van Wert County, Ohio; US Census 1880, T9-1073, enumeration 150, sheet 29, line 4, household 2, Van Wert, Pleasant Township, Van Wert County, Ohio.
- ⁹ *A Portrait and Biographical Record of Mercer and Van Wert Counties, Ohio*, 1896, Chicago, Illinois, (A. W. Bowen & Co.), page 435-36.
- ¹⁰ Paul Eugene⁸ Sherrick, Jr. (*Ruth Emma⁷ Smith, Arthur Alonzo⁶, Emma Tansey⁵ Lawhead, George J.⁴, Phebe³ Hibben, Thomas², John¹*), Family History GEDCOM.
- ¹¹ *Van Wert Times*, Van Wert County, Ohio, obituary, April 20, 1900.
- ¹² *Van Wert County, Ohio, Cemetery Inscriptions*, volume III, page 148, row 23; Cemetery Records, Woodland Cemetery, Van Wert, Van Wert County, Ohio, section 53, lot 43.