

***Descendants of George Hibben and Ann P. Linton, Jane Fielding  
and Helen Heron***

*Generation No. 4.1*

**GEORGE<sup>4</sup> HIBBEN** (*Thomas<sup>3</sup>, Thomas<sup>2</sup>, John<sup>1</sup>*) was born December 16, 1818 in Hillsboro, Highland Co., OH, and died March 11, 1891 in Chicago, Cook Co., IL. He married (1) **ANN P. LINTON** September 24, 1839 in Wilmington, Clinton Co., OH. She was born June 19, 1822, and died January 22, 1841 in Rushville, Rush Co. IN. He married (2) **JANE FIELDING** April 27, 1842 in Shelby Co., OH, daughter of **WILLIAM FIELDING** and **ELIZABETH VAIL**. She was born October 04, 1822 in Franklin, Warren Co., OH, and died August 23, 1859 in Rushville, Rush Co. IN. He married (3) **HELEN HERON** May 07, 1862 in Connorsville, Fayette Co., IN, daughter of **JAMES HERON** and **BARBARA KEVAN**. She was born May 28, 1832 in Baltimore, Baltimore Co., MD, and died May 25, 1919 in Connorsville, Fayette Co., IN.

Child of **GEORGE HIBBEN** and **ANN LINTON** is:

- i. **GEORGE LINTON<sup>5</sup> HIBBEN**, b. January 22, 1841, Rushville, Rush Co., IN; d. February 01, 1841, Rushville, Rush Co., IN.

Children of **GEORGE HIBBEN** and **JANE FIELDING** are:

- ii. **THOMAS FIELDING<sup>5</sup> HIBBEN**, b. October 13, 1843, Rushville, Rush Co., IN; d. December 15, 1859, Sidney, Shelby Co., OH.
- iii. **MARY ELIZABETH HIBBEN**, b. Abt. 1845, Rushville, Rush Co., IN; d. Aft. 1902; m. (1) **ALFRED B. FLINN**, May 09, 1865, Rushville, Rush Co., IN; b. Abt. 1843, IN; d. Bef. 1880; m. (2) **WILLIAM HARRISON COON** October 9, 1896, Denver, Arapahoe Co., CO; d. Aft. 1902.
- iv. **COL. EDWIN HAYDEN HIBBEN**, b. May 14, 1848, Rushville, Rush Co., IN; d. October 25, 1902, Marshalltown, Marshall Co., IA; friend of **ANNIE ROUBINCK**.
- v. **CHARLES K. HIBBEN**, b. April 1851, Rushville, Rush Co., IN; d. 1937; m. **ELLA E.** (unknown), Abt. 1894; b. September 1864, NJ.
- vi. **LEWIS O. HIBBEN**, b. May 1857, Rushville, Rush Co. IN; d. December 14, 1902, Chicago, Cook Co., IL; m. **SARAH CATHERINE HUNGATE**, October 12, 1884; b. October 29, 1868, Blair, Washington Co., NE; d. Aft. 1930.

Children of **GEORGE HIBBEN** and **HELEN HERON** are:

- vii. **HERON KEVAN<sup>5</sup> HIBBEN**, b. April 04, 1865, Chicago, Cook Co., IL; d. October 24, 1921, Chicago, Cook Co., IL; m. **RUTH HAYES GLIDDEN** August 31, 1904, Hamilton Co., OH; b. Abt. 1876, Cincinnati, Hamilton Co., OH; d. December 17, 1963, Walnut Hills, Hamilton Co., OH.
- viii. **GEORGE HIBBEN**, b. March 30, 1868, Chicago, Cook Co., IL; d. November 14, 1939, Chicago, Cook Co., IL; m. **MAE B. BARSLEY**, June 29, 1921; b. 1873; d. June 8, 1951, Chicago, Cook Co., IL.
- ix. **SAMUEL ENTRIKEN HIBBEN**, b. March 31, 1870, Chicago, Cook Co., IL; d. September 25, 1927, Chicago, IL; m. **GRACE MILLER NEEMES**, January 18, 1899, Chicago, Cook Co., IL; b. April 02, 1872, Chicago, Cook Co., IL; d. January 02, 1944, Chicago, Cook Co., IL.



## **THE THOMAS HIBBEN LINE**

Revised 06/04 & 06/10

### **GEORGE HIBBEN 1818 - 1891**

**and wives**

**ANN P. LINTON 1822 - 1841**

**JANE FIELDING 1822 - 1859**

**HELEN HERON 1832 - 1919**

*George Hibben, being of old Pennsylvania Presbyterian stock, inherited a strong will and indomitable energy and persistent effort, all essential qualities in the pioneer merchant.*<sup>1</sup>

George Hibben obituary

George Hibben, the oldest son of Thomas Hibben and Nancy McFadden, was born December 16, 1818 in Hillsborough, Ohio. He probably spent his youth learning the dry goods trade while clerking in his father's Wilmington, Ohio store. Shortly after his 18th birthday in 1836 he moved about 100 miles west to Rushville, Rush Co., Indiana. He may have chosen Rushville as Mary Ann Hibben Campbell,<sup>2</sup> daughter of his uncle John Hibben and Phebe Milhous of Hillsborough, Ohio, had already settled there. He set about establishing himself as a merchant in Rushville, just as his father had done twenty years before in Wilmington.

#### **Indiana Created And Rush County Organized**

The Territory of Indiana was organized by an Act of Congress on May 7, 1800, and William Henry Harrison was appointed governor. When the population had increased sufficiently, representatives of the residents of the territory petitioned for statehood and a bill creating the State of Indiana was signed by President James Madison on April 19, 1816. The new legislature proceeded to organize the state governing bodies and laid out the counties.

In June of 1822 the first commissioners of Rush County, Indiana accepted a report locating the county seat at what is now Rushville and directed that the town be laid out with "*not less than 150, nor more than 200 lots, with a central square of size sufficient for the public buildings that would be required.*"<sup>3</sup> The land was heavily forested and the soil deep and rich. The trees in the town and countryside were still being cleared for log cabins and farm fields when George arrived to set up shop in 1836.

#### **Community Involvement And Land Purchases**

The first record of George's community involvement was in 1838 when he endorsed the following petition.

*We, the undersigned citizens of Rush county, believing that the protection of public buildings and the convenience of the people generally as well as our standing as a county requires that there should be a good substantial plank fence put around the public square in the town of Rushville, or around as much thereof at least as to enclose the court house, the clerk's and recorder's offices, handsomely in said town (as a protection against the intrusion of willful and perverse livestock); we would therefore pray your honorable body to make an*

*appropriation out of the moneys under your control belonging to said county to construct said fence. . . .This petition is signed by. . . .George Hibben. . . .these names constituting a pretty representative list of 'leading citizens' of the day.<sup>4</sup>*

On October 31, 1838 George purchased property in Rushville, the westerly half of lots 108 and 109 of the original plat. They are located one street east of the public square which is now occupied by the Court House. The transaction was a sheriff's auction sale.

*And the said George Hibbin did then and there bid for the same the sum of fifty three dollars and no person bidding more the said tracts or lot of Land with the appurtenances was in due form of Law openly struck off and sold to the said George Hibbin. . .<sup>5</sup>*

This purchase was followed by three others by June of 1842. It is believed that the first property purchased was used for both his home and mercantile business and the others were investments or used for business purposes.

### **Marriage, Tragedy And Remarriage**

The following year George returned to Highland County, Ohio where he married Ann P. Linton on September 24, 1839.<sup>6</sup> The Lintons, another well known pioneer Ohio family, had settled in Clinton and Highland Counties. Ann and George returned to Rushville where they were recorded in the 1840 Census.<sup>7</sup> However a tragedy, not uncommon in those days, occurred. Ann, at the age of 19, died giving birth to a son, George Linton Hibben, on January 22, 1841. The infant died shortly thereafter. Ann's name and dates are inscribed on the George Hibben monument at East Hill Cemetery in Rushville. She was probably buried in the "old" Rushville cemetery as East Hill was not established until 1859.

George then married nineteen year old Jane Fielding on April 27, 1842 in Shelby Co., Ohio.<sup>8</sup> Jane had lived in Wilmington, where they may have met, and was the daughter of Dr. William Fielding.

*Dr. William Fielding moved to Clinton County in the year 1836. He located in the village of Wilmington, but, after a residence of three years, seemed displeased with the locality as a point for practice, and returned to his former home in Shelby County, and was soon thereafter elected to the State Legislature from that county.<sup>9</sup>*

*She was a daughter of William Fielding, who was born in Pennsylvania, May 1, 1796, and who was a direct descendant of Sir Henry Fielding, at one time lord mayor of London. William Fielding served in the war of 1812 and afterwards studied medicine at a school in Cynthianna, Ky., from which he graduated and then practiced extensively in the counties of Logan, Champaign and Miami, in Ohio. He was married to Elizabeth Vail in 1818, at Franklin, Ohio, and settled at Sidney, Ohio in 1824. Here he organized the First Presbyterian church and Sunday school in Shelby County, and was afterward elected five times to the state legislature, twice as a senator. He was grand master and state lecturer of Masonry, and for forty consecutive years was the presiding officer in the lodge to which he belonged.<sup>10</sup>*

## THE THOMAS HIBBEN LINE

On Oct. 13, 1843, Thomas Fielding Hibben was born to Jane and George. Later four more children were born: Mary Elizabeth Hibben about 1845; Edwin Hayden Hibben, May 14, 1848; Charles K. Hibben, April 1851; and Lewis O. Hibben, May 1857. George's and his father's generation had overlapped. George's half brother, Stacy Barcroft Hibben, was born in the same year, 1851, as his son Charles and, similarly, his half brother, Harry Cobb Hibben was a year younger than his son, Lewis.<sup>11</sup>

### Community And Business Activities During The 1840s

#### Businesses:

George's brother, James Samuel, joined him in Rushville and established a merchant warehouse selling hardware, iron and agricultural equipment and supplies. Ethelbert Campbell, his other surviving brother, is recorded in Wilmington, Ohio; Rushville and Indianapolis, Indiana; and Portland, Oregon. Ethelbert was an attorney and newspaper editor. Both brothers married daughters of Rushville families, the Pattisons and Robinsons.<sup>12</sup>

George's and James' merchant activities were not limited to a single company or partnership. "*Other merchants who got a comparatively early start in the village were George Hibben, Lowry & Hibben, Hibben & Flinn, Maddux & Havens, Hibben & Mauzy, William Mauzy & Company.*"<sup>13</sup> Court House records document the purchase of commercial property outside as well as in Rushville. The Rushville lots include numbers 3, 4, 5, 15, 17, 46, 48, 52, 81, 156, 164, and 415.<sup>14</sup>

#### Masonic Orders:

During the last half of the nineteenth century there was a dramatic growth of Masonry country-wide. A multitude of fraternal orders and lodges were authorized, all formed to foster social and religious bonds and promote altruistic activities. The *History of Rush County* lists eighteen different fraternal orders active in the county during that period. Many Hibben descendants, especially those in the George Hibben line, were members of one and often several lodges. The earliest record of membership is that of George in the Morning Star Order in 1840.

*At the first election of officers [of the Rushville Masonic Lodge, Morning Star] under the charter, William H. Martin was elected worshipful master; Isaac Washburn, senior warden; B. B. Talbott, junior warden; George Hibben, secretary. . . .These officers were publicly installed in the Presbyterian Church, February 1, 1840 . . .*<sup>15</sup>

Then in 1847 after two years of inactivity, "*the spirit of Masonry would not down [die] and a petition for a dispensation to form a new Masonic Lodge, No. 62, Free and Accepted Masons, with William H. Martin, worshipful master; George Hibben, senior warden. . . .*"<sup>9</sup> was accepted. Membership in the Masonic order was important to George and his sons as evidenced by his bequest: "*I desire that my wife shall give to my son Edwin H. Hibben my Knight Templar regalia as I have heretofore promised the same to him.*"<sup>16</sup>

#### Schools:

The first schools in Rushville were in log houses. The teachers were hired and paid for by the residents. After 1824 when county seminaries were authorized, those built in well populated townships, such as Bloomington, were flourishing. However, the common schools in rural counties remained in rather poor condition. It wasn't until 1842 that George and some associates

were appointed to a board of seminary trustees to use state funds for the purchase of land and construction of a seminary building.

*Under the act of 1824 effect was given to the constitutional provision for the erection of county seminaries, but it was not until nearly twenty years later that Rush County availed itself of this provision, it having been in 1842 that the county commissioners appointed a board of seminary trustees to take steps toward the erection of a county seminary in Rushville. This board consisted of George B. Tingley, Pleasant A. Hackleman, John W. Barbour, William McCleary and George Hibben and in the following year, at the March term, 1843, reported to the commissioners that they had bought two lots in Rushville and on them had erected a brick seminary, 33 by 53 feet, two stories high, 'completing the same in order as an institution of learning, with stoves, etc., fencing, sinks, wells, well house, and other conveniences and absolute improvements,' at a cost of \$3,673.97. This report shows that the trustees 'further state that there are now two schools taught in said seminary, free [open] to all children of Rush County for admission; but no part of the principal or interest of said fund has been expended for tuition,' thus showing that it was not a free school.<sup>17</sup>*

The free school system did not become established until 1852 when each township in the state was made a municipal corporation with the power of taxation for education. And two years later a common-school fund was created by the state and entrusted to the counties, the income from which was equally distributed to all the townships, cities and towns.<sup>18</sup>

### **The National Road And Railroads Open Markets**

This was a time of rapidly improving transportation networks for passengers and freight. This was a boon to merchants, such as the Hibbens, Mauzys and Hacklemans of Rushville, just fifteen miles south of the National Road. The 'Old Pike,' as it was commonly called, had taken several decades to be built to the Indiana border. Meanwhile, the Wayne County Turnpike Company built a road eastward from Indianapolis to join the National Road. This road did facilitate freight and stagecoach travel, but it was not a good road until graveled and macadamized in about 1850. About this time, branch railroads began to be built by private investors to every town and city of any size. So, just as the National Road arrived, it was made obsolete by rail service.

*Before the road was completed beyond the western boundary of the State of Indiana, the steam railway had become the chief agency of transportation and travel, and our grand old national highway was practically lost amid the primitive prairies of Illinois, so that whereas its splendor was favored by the rising, it was dispelled beneath the setting sun.<sup>19</sup>*

*Railroads have materially aided in opening up the business of the town and in developing the resources of the county. The necessity of these was long felt, and resulted in the building of the Shelbyville and Rushville Railroad. It was rather a poor concern, being a flat bar, with a track imperfectly ballasted. It was completed, and the first cars came into Rushville on the 10th of September, 1850, and was the occasion of great rejoicing to the citizens. It supplied the wants of the town until December 25, 1867, the first train on the C., H. & I. Road*

## THE THOMAS HIBBEN LINE

[Cincinnati, Hamilton & Indianapolis] arrived from Connersville, making glad the hearts of the people. On the 4th of July, 1868, the first cars passed through on the J., M. & I. [Jeffersonville, Madison, and Indianapolis]. These roads were secured by large donations of the citizens along the lines. . . . These roads have been of great advantage to the town, making it a great center for trade in general, and more particularly for the buying of grain.<sup>20</sup>

### Community And Business Activities During The 1850s

By the time George turned 40 years of age, he had become a leader in his community and had expanded the scope of his business activities. He had traveled west of the Mississippi River to look for speculative land purchases and became the president of the first bank in the county. He also had served as Clerk of the Rush County Court and director of a railroad, organized a committee to purchase land for a new cemetery and supported the movement to keep the country united before the Civil War.

#### Railroad director:

George Hibben became a director of the Cincinnati, Hamilton and Indianapolis Railroad in 1853. That same year he sold land, part of outlot #2 in Rushville,<sup>21</sup> to the Junction Railroad Company which appears to have been a holding company formed to finance, purchase land and construct the railroad. This became a long term project, the successful completion of which came after George had moved to Chicago.

*The Cincinnati, Hamilton and Indianapolis Railroad was constructed by the Junction Railroad Company, which was incorporated by the State of Indiana, February 15, 1848, for the purpose of constructing a railroad from Rushville, Ind., by way of Connersville and Oxford, to connect with the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton Railroad at Hamilton, Ohio. . . . The construction of the road was commenced in 1852, and was continued with moderate progress, at intervals, until 1864, when it was completed to Connersville. . . . In 1866 an effort was made to complete the construction from Connersville to Rushville, and the following winter and spring the company became financially embarrassed, and the work was suspended. In April, 1867, a party of some twelve individuals of means purchased a controlling interest in the stock, and assumed the purchase of the unsold first mortgage bonds of the company, and commenced work to complete the road and equip with rolling stock the entire line to Indianapolis. This was effected so far that trains ran over the whole road from Cincinnati to Indianapolis, in June 1868.<sup>22</sup>*

#### Land speculator:

*In the spring of 1854, late in May, I, [Dr. Philip Mason of Connersville, Indiana] with my friend Elisha Vance, left Connersville for the West. At Indianapolis we met the following gentlemen, who were to accompany us, viz. Dr. William Fielding, of Sidney, Ohio [George's father-in-law]; Dr. Krider, of New Lancaster, Ohio; Dr. Solomon Simpson, from Near Rushville, Indiana; Messrs. L. Thomas and George Hibben, of Rushville. We left Indianapolis on the 17th day of May, 1854, for Chicago, where we spent Saturday and Sunday in looking over the city. On Saturday night we visited "Oriental Lodge." Dr. Fielding, Dr. Krider, and myself were Past Grand Officers and were received with due form and ceremony.*

*Dr. Simpson and Mr. George Hibben, who were also Masons, visited the lodge with us.<sup>23</sup> On arriving at Fort Des Moines I found three of our traveling companions there: Dr. Fielding, Messrs. George Hibben and Hubbard. Dr. Simpson had left for home. Hubbard and Hibben were engaged in looking up speculations in land. I made arrangements with a man by the name of McHenry, a surveyor, to go into the country with me to hunt land to enter. . .<sup>24</sup>*

**Bank president:**

*The Rushville branch of the Bank of the State of Indiana began business on the 1st day of January, 1857, in the room adjoining the Odd Fellows' building on the west, with a capital stock of \$100,000. Its officers were: George Hibben, President; W. C. McReynolds, Cashier; and Joseph M. Ogelsby, Teller. It was the first regularly organized bank in Rush County. The first Board of Directors consisted of . . . George Hibben and . . . The deposits on June 30, 1858 were \$19,910, discounted paper, \$248,411. The bank did a prosperous business, and in 1859, erected the building now occupied by the Rushville National Bank, and moved into the same about January 1861. On November 7th, 1863, McReynolds, Cashier, resigned, and Joseph M. Ogelsby was appointed to fill the vacancy. George Hibben also resigned, and D. M. Stewart was elected President.<sup>25</sup>*

**Clerk of the court:**

George served as the Clerk of Rush County, Indiana for four years, from 1856 to 1860<sup>26</sup> at which time he was succeeded by John S. Campbell, the husband of his first cousin, Mary Ann Hibben.<sup>27</sup>

**Orphan train placement committee member:**

The Orphan Train movement was started in 1854 to provide for homeless children and orphans in Boston and New York. The Children's Aid Society set up committees in communities along the route a train would follow westward from the cities. George, John S. Campbell and Rev. D. M. Stewart were the local placement committee in Rushville in 1862 when eight year old William S. Emay arrived.<sup>28</sup> In June of 2001 many of William's descendants commemorated the 100th anniversary of his death in 1901. One of them wrote:

*I am very interested in every bit of information I can get regarding g-grandpa Emay's life and experiences. Knowing more about the people around him, especially those who played a part in his Orphan Train experience. It was people with caring spirits, like your ancestors, that helped many of these children secure better lives.<sup>29</sup>*

**Cemetery founder:**

*In June, 1859 there appeared the following notice in The Republican: "All persons who may feel favorable to the purchase and laying off of a new cemetery for the town of Rushville, and the county at large are hereby requested to meet at the Court House on Saturday next, at 4:00 P.M. A general attendance is respectfully asked." signed George Hibben.*

*On Wednesday, June 18, 1859, on page two of The Republican was the following item: "We are of the opinion that our new cemetery is almost a fixed fact. Those who have had the matter under advisement are determined that we shall have at*

## THE THOMAS HIBBEN LINE

*least one decent place in which to deposit the dead. Another meeting will be held one week from today, and we hope to see it largely attended of our citizens of both town and county.” At this meeting on June 18, two committees were formed. Dr. Jefferson Helm, Daniel Wilson, George Hibben, Claiborne S. Donaldson, Joseph Winship and Joel Wolfe were appointed to a committee to find new grounds for the proposed cemetery. Pleasant A. Hackleman, Leonidas Sexton, and John Carmichael were named to the committee to design and present a form of organization. Their plan was presented at a following meeting where it was voted upon and the East Hill Cemetery Company was born.*

*The Articles of Association provided that the business shall be conducted and controlled by five trustees, who shall be elected annually. The Articles were signed by forty-nine men, and on July 12, 1859, the first meeting was held. Trustees elected on that day were George Hibben, Jefferson Helm, Sr., Joel Wolfe, C. S. Donaldson, and Daniel Wilson, treasurer, and Wm. C. McReynolds was asked to serve as clerk. A third committee was then appointed to solicit members for the Cemetery Company.*

*The first purchase of land for the new cemetery was made in July, 1859. Nineteen acres on a bluff above the Flatrock River just east of Rushville was bought from Joseph and Mary Anderson at a cost of thirteen hundred dollars (\$1,300).<sup>30</sup>*

### Supporter of the Union:

*With one of the files of these old papers rescued from the Clark collection are several “posters”, announcing political meetings of the period, a copy of one of which will be interesting to the present generation, as follows, the same carrying date of December 26, 1859: “Union Meeting. In view of the recent events at Harpers Ferry, and of the general excitement which exists throughout the whole country concerning a question of a nature calculated to divide the Union into sections, seriously threatening its stability, and in view of the further fact that the friends of the Union, in various states, are holding meetings for the purpose of strengthening the bonds which unite us together as one people, the undersigned hereby call a meeting for a like purpose, to assemble at Rushville on the last day of this year, December 31, 1859. All parties friendly to the above specified objects are cordially and earnestly invited to attend and participate.” This call was signed by. . . George Hibben. . . E. C. Hibben [brother, Ethelbert]. . .<sup>31</sup>*

### Wife, Jane And Son, Thomas Fielding, Die

One could not imagine a fuller and more rewarding life than George had in the late 1850s. Another son, Lewis, had been born to him; he was at the helm of the first bank in Rushville; and he was a Clerk of the County Court. But that all changed suddenly on August 23, 1859 when his wife Jane died leaving him with four children between 2 and 16 years of age. His mother-in-law, Elizabeth Fielding, took the children to her home in Sidney, Shelby Co., Ohio. And there, just a short time later, his oldest son, Thomas Fielding Hibben, died.

*Died—Yesterday, Tuesday morning, just as the sun poured his rays of light on the natural world, Mrs. Jane Hibben, consort of George Hibben, Esq., Clerk of the Circuit Court of his county, in the thirty-seventh year of her age. Her disease was*

*of a pulmonary nature, and her illness of that protracted character usual in such cases. . . .Mrs. Hibben was a daughter of Dr. William Fielding, of Sidney, Ohio, who has long been connected with the controlling influences that have made his State rise so rapidly in wealth and prosperity among her sisters in the Union.*<sup>32</sup>

*Died, at the residence of his grandfather Dr. Wm. Fielding, Sidney, Ohio, on Tuesday the 13th inst., Thomas Fielding, eldest son of George Hibben, aged sixteen years and ten months. His remains were interred at East Hill Cemetery, Rushville, on Friday the 16th inst. Thus upon the threshold of maturity and of manhood, in the Spring-time of life, and full of promise of future usefulness has gone to his long [time] home one beloved by all who knew him for his integrity, his rectitude of purpose, his unexceptionable personal demeanor and his kindness and affection to those with whom he associated. But a few weeks since the spirit of his estimable and affectionate mother passed on before him to that other and better world.*<sup>33</sup>

Two of the first burials at East Hill Cemetery were of the loved ones of its founder and trustee. It continues to be a 'decent' and beautiful cemetery today.

Additional information about the lives of George and Jane's other children; Mary Elizabeth Hibben, Edwin Hayden Hibben, Charles K. Hibben and Lewis O. Hibben is presented in Chapter VI, Generation 5.1.

### **A Third Marriage And Removal To Chicago, Illinois**

Helen Heron was born May 28, 1832 in Baltimore, Maryland. She was the fourth child and only daughter of James Heron and Barbara Kevan, both of whom were born in Scotland. In 1837 when Helen was 5, she arrived with her family in Connersville. Kate Heron, Helen's cousin, wrote a series of newspaper articles in 1916 about the early history of Fayette County, Indiana, in which she described the arrival of her family.

*The stirring event of the day was when the stage horn blew. Austin Claypool and all the boys would run the meet the stage as it forded the river at the Roots' Foundry. One day when the stage drew up at the Claypool Tavern, a surprise was in store for the boys. A man, woman, four boys and a little girl alighted. This was entirely out of the ordinary. The family had come from their far eastern home, Baltimore, Md.*

*The climax was reached on Sunday when the boys appeared for Sunday school. The boys were the admiration and envy of all the boys in town. They wore suits made of cloth and caps with a tassel on the side. "We boys had never seen or worn anything but home-made blue jeans," repeated Austin Claypool. These people were my Grandfather Heron and family.*<sup>34</sup>

Like his father, George went 'a courting.' He had met Helen Heron who was an 1852 graduate of Oxford College for Women. Helen was "one of the most noted beauties of the state and was famed afar as one whose beauty was scarcely equaled anywhere."<sup>35</sup> She lived at farm called Glen Heron, just south of Connersville, Indiana and about 15 miles from Rushville. George's normal mode of transportation to and from Connersville for visits with Helen was by bicycle.<sup>36</sup>

## THE THOMAS HIBBEN LINE

George Hibben and Helen Heron were married on May 7, 1862. (Plate 6) The following year George resigned his position at the bank and moved to Chicago, Illinois. Perhaps he believed that after the Civil War, business opportunities for his sons and himself would be better in a large city, or perhaps he just needed a new venue in which to start a new life and family. Helen and George were not alone in Chicago for long. Helen's mother and brother, Nathan, joined their household about a year later. Some insight into the move is recorded in a letter written from Glen Heron by Alexander Heron, another brother.

*Mother & things are in rather a singular situation here at present. Mother has a idea of making Chicago her future home and this fine weather has been rather looking for Helen down and she would go up with her the first of December when they intend going to housekeeping. I have been talking to her some this evening. She says hopes William [Heron] will take a notion to business there. She would not hesitate to sell the farm. I spoke to her of the notion to go into business with Mr. Baily. She does not like and prefers William to go into business elsewhere than here on account of bad associations. So you see if he lives in town Mother could not leave here unless she leaves the place vacant and even when she goes to Chicago to stay any time William would not be satisfied here. So that it appears to me that there is bound to be a change here of some kind before long.*<sup>37</sup>

Helen and George had three sons. Heron K. Hibben was born April 4, 1865. George Hibben followed March 30, 1868 and the last son, Samuel Entriken Hibben was born March 31, 1870. George's last son, Samuel, was born 28 years after his first son, George Linton Hibben.

Helen wrote to her sister-in-law, Helen M. Heron, about her son "Harry" and the view of the lake from her home.

*Harry is beginning to imitate & trying to say a few words. Indisposition at times does not effect him. He is as fat and plump as a dumpling. . . . Yesterday & last night was very stormy—we amused ourselves watching the Lake (of which we have a splendid view). We never saw it rougher and several vessels attempting to near the shore had to turn—one we observed "cast anchor" about middle of the afternoon & remained so ever since. We expected it would surely be wrecked before dawn of day—so high & mighty were the waves—others again were brought ashore by the assistance of the "tugs." We have seen as many as twenty vessels in sight at one time—on a clear moonlight evening the sight is a magnificent one.*<sup>38</sup>

George established a wholesale tobacco and tea business at 83 Michigan Avenue, giving it the name of Hibben & Co. He was associated with Lewis and W. B. Maddux, other merchants from Rushville. His residence was at 873 Wabash Avenue.<sup>39</sup> The 1870 Census records that George's son, Lewis age 14, Helen's mother, Barbara age 64 and her brother, Nathan, age 31, were living at the same residence.<sup>40</sup> Sons Edwin, age 22, a bookkeeper, and Charles, age 19, a clerk, were living elsewhere in Chicago.<sup>41</sup> They all escaped the great Chicago fire of 1871, but it is recorded that among the losses by the fire was Hibben & Co.<sup>42</sup> No records of George's business activities after this time have been found.

### George Dies, Followed Many Years Later By Helen

Services were held at George Hibben's home at 1826 Wabash Avenue, Chicago, under the auspices of the Chevalier Bayard Commandery on March 12, 1891.<sup>43</sup>

*George Hibben, being of the old Pennsylvania Presbyterian stock, inherited a strong will and indomitable energy and persistent effort, all essential qualities in the pioneer merchant. He came to Rushville when but nineteen years of age, and began business under the firm name of T. & G. Hibben, which will be familiar to the older citizens of the town and country. It was just in the troublesome financial times of 1837, and the young man, like all his contemporaries in the mercantile world, had rough sailing, as the winds were boisterous and the waves were high. He had, however, the resources of a determined and strong will and assiduous application to business to draw from; and consequently at the end of his mercantile life, had accumulated a comfortable fortune. He had great personal popularity with his party, and consequently was called upon in 1855, to make the race for County Clerk, a race which he won after a hard-fought battle. About the first of January, 1857, he was elected President of the Rushville Branch of the State Bank of Indiana. To both of these positions he brought the training and experience of a long and successful business life, and evinced great conscientiousness, fidelity and wisdom in the discharge of all his official duties. For many years past his residence has been in Chicago; but he never forgot the Rush County friends, having made it a point to be at the county fair every year, for the purpose of renewing and enjoying old friendships. His memory will long be cherished in this community as one whose life was intimately blended with the growth and prosperity of the city, and county as well. He was buried at East Hill cemetery on last Friday, under the rites of Masonry, Dr. Ford, Elders MacNeill and Sargent officiating in the ceremony. All of his children were present but two.*<sup>44</sup>

In his will George stated that upon his death Helen inherit absolutely all his real estate and personal property with the exception of his cemetery lots. “. . . I desire that the lots which I own in the East Hill Cemetery Rush County Indiana shall not be sold , but that they shall remain as the property of the family and that my descendants shall be entitled to the use of same for burial purposes only. . .”<sup>45</sup>

Helen Heron Hibben survived George by twenty eight years, during which time she enjoyed the birth and company of four grandchildren, children of Samuel Entriken Hibben. (Plate 9) She also looked on with admiration as her sons, George Hibben and Heron (Harry) K. Hibben, established a successful metal fabricating business in Chicago, and Samuel became a prominent patent lawyer.

Additional information about her sons is presented in Chapter VI, Generation 5.2. *MRS. HELEN HIBBEN CALLED BY DEATH, Aged woman had been ill during the past year, Born in Baltimore. Mrs. Helen Heron Hibben, widow of the late George Hibben, of Chicago, died at the Glen Heron farm, south of this city, at about 6 o'clock yesterday afternoon, after an illness of year's duration. Mrs. Hibben, in past years had divided her time between Connersville and Chicago, but last October, she was not able to return to Chicago, as had always been her custom, but remained here and her sons came weekly to visit her. Had the*

## **THE THOMAS HIBBEN LINE**

*deceased lived until the 28th of this month, she would have been 87 years of age. Deceased, whose maiden name was Helen Heron, came to Connersville from Baltimore, Maryland, her birthplace, at the age of five years and lived here from that that time until her marriage to Mr. Hibben, after which she resided in Chicago, where her children were born and reared. Mr. Hibben died in Chicago in 1892 [1891], after having lived a very successful business life. Surviving Mrs. Hibben are three sons, Heron K. Hibben, George Hibben, and Samuel Hibben and four grandchildren, all of Chicago. A number of distant relatives live in this vicinity. . . Mrs. Hibben, a member of a family of six children, with the exception of a brother, Dr. Nathan Heron, who has been an invalid for the past fifty years, is the last of the family to answer the final summons. The funeral will be held Thursday afternoon at 3 o'clock at Glen Heron. Interment will be made in Daleview.<sup>46</sup>*

### **Postscript: Helen Heron's Family And The Glen Heron Homestead**

*James and Barbara (Kevan) Heron, were natives of Scotland and upon coming to this country located at Baltimore, where the elder Heron engaged in the dry-goods business and was thus engaged for years, becoming a very successful merchant and being regarded as a quite well-to-do man for that period. His health failing, he was advised to seek relief in the free, open life of what, by Easterners, was then regarded as the "wilds" of the West. With this object in view he disposed of his mercantile interests in Baltimore and with his family made the long trip by stage out to Indiana. When the stop was made at the old Claypool tavern at the southern edge of what is now the expanding city of Connersville both Mr. Heron and his wife were so charmed with the location and the possibilities of the same for carrying out the purpose of their journey Westward that they made inquiries as to whether the place was for sale. Upon being advised that it was, James Heron offered the owner ten thousand dollars, cash "in hand." for the farm and straightway entered upon the ownership of the same and there established his home. With the city man's notions of farming he introduced some innovations in his methods of managing his place and become known in the pioneer community as "the gentleman farmer." James Heron was just beginning to see his way clear to the successful fruition of his plans as a farmer when death overtook him, his decease occurring about two years after his settlement in this county, as a result of injuries received while loading hay. He was a native of Wigtonshire, Scotland, and had been an extensive traveler, having crossed the ocean seven times. His widow continued to manage the farm, reared her children there and there spent the rest of her life, living to the great age of eighty six years, one of the most honored pioneer residents of this county.<sup>47</sup>*

The land James Heron purchased was part of the original plat of the county: Qtr. NW ¼, Sec. 25, Twp. 14, Range 12 obtained by warrant by John Conner, the founder of Connersville. From this tract of land Conner sold two adjacent 160 acre lots to Joshua Harlan for \$800 on November 20, 1818.<sup>48</sup> Harlan sold the land to Larkin Sims June 8, 1819,<sup>49</sup> and he in turn conveyed the land to David Atherton for \$3,700 on June 5, 1831.<sup>50</sup> Then, as noted above, just a

few years later, James Heron purchased the land on September 29, 1837 for \$10,000, providing Atherton a tidy profit.<sup>51</sup> Kate Heron provided details of the negotiation for the property.

*The story is told of how Major Tate won two suits of clothes. After securing the best boarding place to be found, James Heron began negotiations for the farm his wife so much admired. David Atherton owned the farm and wanted to sell. James Heron wanted to buy, but they could not agree as to a price. Major Tate meeting grandfather on the street told him the citizens had heard that he would leave for Indianapolis the next day. They did not want him to leave and what would they do to keep him. His reply was, "I would remain if I could buy the David Atherton farm, but he asks too much for it. I will give him \$10,000 cash and no more. If you can get Atherton to take that, I will give you a new suit of clothes." Tate at once told Atherton that Heron was packing to leave the next day. Well said Atherton, "if you see Heron and can get him to give me \$10,000 cash in hand, I will give you a new suit of clothes." The same day, the 29th of September, 1837, the deed was made and Tate possessed two new suits of clothes.<sup>52</sup>*

James built a brick house on the property and named it, 'Glen Heron.' During the 1870s and 1880s George and Helen returned often to Glen Heron from Chicago and spent summer vacations there. Barbara Heron also spent the last years of her life there. "*Heron K. Hibben, who for the past six months has been visiting his grandma Heron and Billy, at Glen Heron, just south of the city, left Saturday for his home in Chicago.*"<sup>53</sup> A photograph taken about 1890 records George and Helen with her brothers, William and Dr. Nathan Heron, sitting in chairs set on the lawn in front of the Glen Heron house. (Plate 6) After George's death in 1891 and until her death, Helen divided her time between Chicago and Glen Heron. Photographs taken about 1909 record the visits of her sons, George and Samuel, and Samuel's children.

Glen Heron remained in the Heron family until Helen's death in 1919, at which time it was inherited by her son, George Hibben.<sup>54</sup> In 1954, fifteen years after George's death and three years after his wife, Mae Barsley Hibben died, her estate administrators sold Glen Heron to Lowell and Charlene Luking. The Luking family had been merchants of long standing in Connersville.<sup>55</sup> Lowell maintained a dairy herd on the farm until his death in the early 1990s. Glen Heron was inherited by Joseph Luking and Rosemary Luking Card. Changes in farm economies brought an end to the dairy business in 1997. The farm land is now leased for growing crops of corn and soybeans.

### Generation 4.1 End Notes:

<sup>1</sup> *Rushville Republican*, Rushville, Rush County, Indiana, March 19, 1891.

<sup>2</sup> Mary Ann<sup>4</sup> Hibben (*John<sup>3</sup>, Thomas<sup>2</sup>, John<sup>1</sup>*), born 1809, died 1844, married John S. Campbell in 1831.

<sup>3</sup> *History of Rush County, Indiana 1888*, 1888, Chicago, Illinois, (Brant & Fuller), page 628.

<sup>4</sup> Gary & Thomas, editors, *Centennial History of Rush County, Indiana*, 1921, Indianapolis, Indiana, (Historical Publishing Co.), page 514.

<sup>5</sup> *Rush County, Indiana Court House Record of Deeds and Mortgages*, volume J, page 290.

<sup>6</sup> *Highland County, Ohio Marriage Records 1805-1880*, page 108.

<sup>7</sup> US Census 1840, M704-93, page 185/363, Rushville Township, Rush County, Indiana.

## THE THOMAS HIBBEN LINE

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- <sup>8</sup> *Shelby County, Ohio Record of Marriages*, volume 1 & 2, page 339.
- <sup>9</sup> *History of Clinton County, Ohio*, 1882, Chicago, Illinois, (W. H. Beers & Co.), page 307.
- <sup>10</sup> B. F. Gue, ex-Lieutenant Governor, *Biographies and Portraits of the Progressive Men of Iowa*, 1899, Des Moines, Iowa, (Conaway & Shaw, Publishers), page 231.
- <sup>11</sup> See Chapter VI, Generation 3.4.
- <sup>12</sup> See Chapter VI, Generation 4.2 and Chapter VI, Generation 4.3.
- <sup>13</sup> Gary & Thomas, *Centennial History of Rush County, Indiana, 1921*, [Note 4], page 268.
- <sup>14</sup> *Rush County, Indiana Court House Record of Deeds and Mortgages*, volumes V, page 543; V, 391; S, 476-77; Y, 654-55; O, 286; Z, 275; S, 279; V, 64; O, 134; Y, 204; S, 28-29.
- <sup>15</sup> Gary & Thomas, *Centennial History of Rush County, Indiana, 1921*, [Note 4], pages 458-59.
- <sup>16</sup> Will of George Hibben, born 1818, dated April 17, 1884. Original in possession of George C. Hibben.
- <sup>17</sup> Gary & Thomas, *Centennial History of Rush County, Indiana 1921*, [Note 4], page 366.
- <sup>18</sup> *History of Rush County, Indiana 1888*, [Note 3], pages 215-17.
- <sup>19</sup> Thomas B. Searight, *The Old Pike, A History of the National Road*, 1894, Uniontown, Pennsylvania, (Published by the Author), page 310.
- <sup>20</sup> *History of Rush County, Indiana 1888*, [Note 3], page 632.
- <sup>21</sup> *Rush County, Indiana Court House Record of Deeds and Mortgages*, volume V, page 191.
- <sup>22</sup> *History of Fayette County, Indiana*, 1885, Chicago, Illinois, (Warner, Beers & Co.), page 76.
- <sup>23</sup> Dr. Philip Mason, *Family History, Autobiography and Original Essays*, 1868, by Dr.. Philip Mason, Connersville, Indiana, (Published by the author), page 181.
- <sup>24</sup> *Ibid.*, page 196.
- <sup>25</sup> *History of Rush County, Indiana, 1888*, [Note 3], page 656.
- <sup>26</sup> *Ibid.*, page 318.
- <sup>27</sup> See Chapter III, Generation 4.1.
- <sup>28</sup> *Rushville Republican*, [Note 1], February 19, 1862.
- <sup>29</sup> E-mail from Becky Higgins (BHiggins@aol.com) to George C. Hibben, May 26, 2001.
- <sup>30</sup> Edithgene B. Abbott, EdD, *R. I. P. By the Flat Rock, History of East Hill Cemetery*, 1995, (Rush County Historical Society), page 3.
- <sup>31</sup> Gary & Thomas, *Centennial History of Rush County, Indiana 1921*, [Note 4], page 323.
- <sup>32</sup> *Rushville Jacksonian*, Rushville, Rush County, Indiana, August 24, 1859.
- <sup>33</sup> *Clinton Republican*, Wilmington, Clinton County, Ohio, obituary, December 30, 1859.
- <sup>34</sup> Miss Kate Heron, "Early Fayette County History," *Evening News*, Connersville, Fayette County, Indiana, June 12 and 13, 1916.
- <sup>35</sup> *Daily Examiner*, Connersville, Fayette County, Indiana, May 26, 1919.
- <sup>36</sup> Related by Peggy Hamilton Pflum, granddaughter of Glen Heron's resident farmer, William Lot Hamilton.
- <sup>37</sup> Indiana Historical Society, Alexander Heron Papers, Collection #M141, box 1, folder 1865. Letter to Helen M. Heron from Alexander Heron, November 21, 1865.
- <sup>38</sup> *Ibid.*, box 1, folder 1866. Letter to Helen M. Heron from Helen Hibben Heron, May 2, 1866.
- <sup>39</sup> *Chicago City Directory 1869-1870*, pages 379, 980, 1126, and 1128.
- <sup>40</sup> US Census 1870, M593-200, page 86, Ward 4, Chicago, Cook County., Illinois.
- <sup>41</sup> *Ibid.*, M593-198, page 82, Ward 1, Chicago, Cook County, Illinois.

- <sup>42</sup> Elias Colbert & Everett Chamberlin, *Chicago and the Great Conflagration, 1871*, Cincinnati and New York, (C. F. Vent), page 297.
- <sup>43</sup> *Chicago Daily News*, Chicago, Illinois, March 12, 1891.
- <sup>44</sup> *Rushville Republican*, [Note: 1].
- <sup>45</sup> Last will and testament of George Hibben, April 17, 1884.
- <sup>46</sup> *Daily Examiner*, [Note 35], May 26, 1919.
- <sup>47</sup> Frederic Irving Barrows, editor, *History of Fayette County, Indiana, 1917*, Indianapolis, Indiana, (B. F. Bowen & Company, Inc.), page 637.
- <sup>48</sup> *Fayette County, Indiana Court House Records of Deeds and Mortgages*, Folder of deeds prior to volume A, page 94.
- <sup>49</sup> *Ibid.*, volume A, page 45; *History of Fayette County, Indiana*, 1885, Chicago, (Warner, Beers & Company), page 167. "About the year 1818 on the Larkin Sims farm just below Connersville was erected for that gentleman, it is thought, the first frame house in the township (outside of the village of Connersville).
- <sup>50</sup> *Fayette County, Indiana Court House Records of Deeds and Mortgages*, volume E, page 399.
- <sup>51</sup> *Ibid.*, volume J, page 58.
- <sup>52</sup> *Evening News*, [Note 34], unknown date.
- <sup>53</sup> *Daily Examiner*, [Note 35], January 3, 1883.
- <sup>54</sup> George<sup>5</sup> Hibben (*George*<sup>4</sup>, *Thomas*<sup>3</sup>, *Thomas*<sup>2</sup>, *John*<sup>1</sup>), born 1868.
- <sup>55</sup> *Fayette County, Indiana Court House Records of Deeds and Mortgages*, volume 22, page 584.