

Descendants of Thomas Entriken Hibben and Jane Merrill Ketcham

Generation No. 5.3b

THOMAS ENTRIKEN⁵ HIBBEN (*James Samuel⁴, Thomas³, Thomas², John¹*) was born October 19, 1860 in Rushville, Rush Co., IN, and died July 06, 1915 in New York City, NY. He married **JANE MERRILL KETCHAM** July 26, 1879, Jackson Co., MI, daughter of **JOHN KETCHAM** and **JANE MERRILL**. She was born October 16, 1854 in Indianapolis, Marion Co., IN, and died October 16, 1920 in Indianapolis, Marion Co., IN.

Children of **THOMAS HIBBEN** and **JANE KETCHAM** are:

- i. Infant⁶ **HIBBEN**, d. February 05, 1880, Indianapolis, Marion Co., IN.
- ii. **PAXTON PATTISON HIBBEN**, b. December 05, 1880, Indianapolis, IN; d. December 05, 1928, New York City, NY. He m. **CECILE CRAIK** October 17, 1916, Athens, Greece; b. October 03, 1888, Montgomery, Montgomery Co., AL; d. February 20, 1964, New York City, NY.
- iii. **HÉLÈNE LOUISE HIBBEN**, b. November 18, 1882, Indianapolis, Marion Co., IN; d. Abt. March 19, 1968, Indianapolis, Marion Co., IN.
- iv. **PRISCILLA HAZEN HIBBEN**, b. December 20, 1890, Indianapolis, Marion Co., IN; d. June 1978, St. Petersburg, Pinellas Co., FL.
- v. **THOMAS ENTRIKEN HIBBEN, Jr.**, b. October 22, 1893, Indianapolis, Marion Co., IN; d. March 19, 1952, Karachi, Pakistan. He m. **CARMELA KOENIG** July 5, 1938, Borough of Holborn, London, England; b. May 14, 1908, Germany; d. December 6, 1961, Mt. Vernon, NY.
- vi. **JAMES HERBERT HIBBEN**, b. May 14, 1897, Indianapolis, Marion Co., IN; d. June 15, 1959, Washington, DC. He m. **LOUISE DYER DOUGLAS** December 17, 1921, Indianapolis, Marion Co., IN; b. February 24, 1895, Indianapolis, Marion Co., IN; d. August 30, 1974, Washington, DC.

Revised 10/08

THOMAS ENTRIKEN HIBBEN 1860 - 1915
and
JANE MERRILL KETCHAM 1854 - 1920

*We must promise never to forget those who came before us, our ancestors.
You see, we are the link for them to the present.
And if we do forget them, they will be lost forever in the vast realms of time.*

Unknown

Thomas Entriken Hibben Joins The Family Firm

Thomas Entriken Hibben, the second son of James Samuel Hibben and Sarah A. Pattison, was born October 19, 1860 in Rushville, Indiana.¹ Following in the footsteps of his brother, Harold, Thomas became a member of the management of Hibben, Hollweg & Co. (Plate 10)

Mr. Hibben was a member of the firm of Hibben, Hollweg & Co., dealers in wholesale dry goods, and was buyer for the firm. About a third of his time was spent in New York and he had for many years made the New York Athletic Club his headquarters while there. Mr. Hibben was born in Rushville, Ind., in 1859 [1860], and came to Indianapolis with his parents in 1864. He received his education in the public schools of the city and at Butler College. In 1900 he became a member of the firm of Hibben, Hollweg & Co., after having spent many years as salesman and buyer for the notion department. About twelve years ago he bought the old Thompson place at Downey and University avenues in Irvington.²

The Murphy, Hibben Dry Goods Company was a popular intellectual center. Louis Weisenberger, Charles Ferguson (later M.D.) and Tom Hibben, Sr., [Thomas E. Hibben, born 1860] were the merry spirits that attracted the young newspaper men and others who foregathered to indulge in high thinking and at least free talking on current topics. These three were informed on general affairs as thoroughly as on Wallmscott or Penobscot or other mills that supplied the wholesale dry goods market. . . .The talk did not always relate to markets and politics. Every subject under the sun that young blades thought they had mastered was discussed to a finality. And then some fine yarns were spun.³

Marriage And Family

Thomas Entriken Hibben married Jane Merrill Ketcham on July 26, 1879. She was born October 16, 1854, daughter of John Lewis Ketcham and Jane Merrill. (Plate 10) Jane Merrill Ketcham and Thomas Entriken Hibben had six children. Their first child died as an infant. The others in order: Paxton Pattison, born December 5, 1880;⁴ H el ene Louise, born November 18, 1882;⁵ Priscilla Hazen, born December 20, 1890;⁶ Thomas Entriken, Jr., born October 1893;⁷ and James Herbert Hibben, born May 14, 1897.⁸

THE THOMAS HIBBEN LINE

Thomas Was An Artist, Art Collector And Patron

*Thomas E. Hibben, etcher, was born in Rushville, October 22 [19], 1860, and died in New York, July 6, 1915. He lived in Indianapolis after 1864. He was a pupil of Love and Gookins at the Indiana School of Art. He was the first artist on the Indianapolis News. He was an art patron and a collector of paintings and etchings.*⁹

*The leading spirits of the Bohe [Bohemian] Club [the first art club in Indianapolis] were William Forsyth, Fred A. Hetherington, T. E. Hibben, Charles Nicoli and W. O. Bates. . . .Its members were students of John Love. . . .In 1880, at the suggestion of Tom Hibben, they opened a "string of studios" on the floor where the Indiana School of Art had been established, to provide headquarters for "all persons who have either artistic symptoms or sympathies."*¹⁰

*With financial backing from his friend and patron, Thomas Hibben, [William] Forsyth left Indiana in 1881 to continue his studies [at the Royal Academy] in Munich, Germany.*¹¹

The artistic talent of William Forsyth was recognized even before he departed to join a vanguard of Hoosier painters in Munich, Germany. Thomas E. Hibben, who was but 20 years old at the time, became Forsyth's financial patron from 1881 to 1885. In return he reserved the right to half of all the art work Forsyth produced during that period of time. Many of these paintings and sketches are now in possession of the Indianapolis Art Museum. Letters written by Thomas E. Hibben, William Forsyth and other members of the Bohemian Club are in the archives of the Indiana Historical Society. From several of them it appears that Thomas was more interested in art than business.

*Heard something good of you a day or two ago. You know the Chicago fresco man "Almini" who gets \$50,000.00 for one room? H. B. Hibben [Harold Barcroft Hibben] is going to have him work on his house. While down here he told Ed Ketcham "you have a young artist here of great promise." Ed says "who" and Almini said "his name is Forsyth. He sent some picture to Chicago which I saw & bought & I value them so much as any thing I have." . . .Sent your letter to Bates Fred & Sten & Nicoli & swapped points with your mother. Business & everything else is dull.*¹²

*Was at Toms residence at Irvington sunday dec. 31 & we went out etching on the last day of the old year. It was so cold that the ground scaled & my palate was N.G. although Tom admires it somewhat. . . .our Sunday trip has set Tom wild on etching again & he has fitted up a room in the roof of this house and which he places at my disposal. I am constructing a very good etching press for myself. It will be geared & will print 8 X 14 plates.*¹³

Thomas Entriken Hibben Dies Suddenly At The Age Of 55

At the time of Thomas' death the Indianapolis Star reported:

A thorough business man, Mr. Hibben was in addition an artist and a lover of art. His collection of oil and water colors, original drawings, etc., was perhaps unequalled in the city. An accomplished etcher himself, he took particular interest in this form of art. He was one the first etchers in the middle West, having

developed the process while he was on the News. In company with Fred A. Hetherington, he also started a comic weekly paper known as "The Scissors," which was very popular. He also was the perfecter of a rapid camera, in the days when photography was still a new art. His love for the artistic and the beautiful he lavished upon his home and the spacious grounds surrounding it [at Downey and University avenues in Irvington]. He planned improvements on the house and designed the landscaping, and the result is that the "Hibben place" is one of the beauty spots of Irvington and is pointed out to visitors as a perfect example of harmonious architecture and beautiful landscape gardening.¹⁴

Thomas E. Hibben, of Hibben, Hollweg & Co., wholesale dry goods, Indianapolis, died in New York City at 6 a. m. today of heart failure, following an attack of acute indigestion. Mr. Hibben died at the New York Athletic Club, of which he had been a member for several years. He was in New York on a business trip, and was accompanied by his son, Thomas E. Hibben, Jr.¹⁵ He is survived by a widow, who was Miss Jane Ketcham, and by the following children; Paxton P., now at The Hague, Holland, connected with the United Press; Thomas K. [E.], Jr., a clerk with Hibben Hollweg & Co.; James, a student at Wabash college; Miss Hélène, who has won success as a sculptor; and Miss Hazen Hibben; also by a sister, Mrs. E. M. Wiles, and a brother, Harold B. Hibben.¹⁶

Jane Ketcham Hibben Dies Five Years Later

MRS. JANIE K. HIBBEN DIES, Member of Pioneer Family of Indianapolis Succumbs on Sixty Sixth Birthday. Mrs. Janie Ketcham Hibben, widow of Thomas E. Hibben and a member of one of the pioneer families of Indianapolis, died last night at her home 5433 University avenue. Her death occurred on her sixty-sixth birthday anniversary. She had been an invalid for a number of years, following a stroke of paralysis.

Mrs. Hibben was a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John L. Ketcham and a granddaughter of Samuel Merrill. Her father was a noted lawyer in Indianapolis. She had been a resident of Indianapolis all her life except during a period when the family resided in France and Switzerland during her schooling there. She also was a graduate of Vassar.

Until illness rendered her an invalid, Mrs. Hibben was active in the Daughters of the American Revolution¹⁷ and the Catherine Merrill, Vassar and other clubs. She was a member of the Presbyterian Church.¹⁸

Postscript: The Merrill And Ketcham Families

Both the Merrill and Ketcham families were pioneers in Indiana. Jane Merrill Ketcham's grandfather, Samuel Merrill,¹⁹ a lawyer, became a political leader in Indiana in 1819 when he was elected to the Indiana General Assembly. In 1822 he was elected State Treasurer and held that office until 1834. Then, for ten years he was president of the State Bank of Indiana. Later in life he was the president of the Madison and Indianapolis Railroad and a publisher. The Merrill Publishing Company eventually became Bobbs-Merrill Publishing Company.

Merrill's son-in-law, John Lewis Ketcham,²⁰ was a lawyer, also. Both were elders of the Second Presbyterian Church of Indianapolis which called, the soon to become infamous, Henry

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Ward Beecher to the pulpit. Jane Merrill Ketcham²¹ kept notes about the founding of the Fourth Presbyterian Church and the calling of Henry Ward Beecher. These notes were used by her grandson, Paxton Pattison Hibben, in his critical biography of “*the archbishop of American liberal Protestantism.*”²²

Doors opened to Henry Ward that he had not dreamed of entering when he came to Lawrenceburgh a year before [1837], with sixty-eight cents in his pocket, a few old sticks of secondhand furniture, and a bride. . . .When Samuel Merrill came to Lawrenceburgh on his rounds of his branch banks, he heard Henry Ward preach, and was pleased by him. . . .Meanwhile, the wheels of fate were turning. The previous November thirteen members of the “Old School” church in the State capital had decided to form a “New School” church. Samuel Merrill was a leading spirit in the enterprise, and his two daughters, Catherine Merrill and Mrs. John L. Ketcham, with the latter’s husband, were founders of the new church. . . .When Henry Ward Beecher turned up in Indianapolis in May, the church had been five months in search of a pastor. . . .So on May 12, 1839, Henry Ward Beecher was invited to preach a trial sermon before the thirty members of the new church. And on the following day the congregation unanimously resolved to call the Rev. Henry Ward Beecher from his little church on the banks of the Ohio to the State capitol. “Which call,” say the church records, “was accepted.”²³

Paxton Pattison Hibben’s book was critical of Henry Ward Beecher, especially of Beecher’s extramarital affairs. It is speculated that Paxton may have known of the relationship of his great aunt, Julia Dumont Merrill²⁴ with Beecher, and chose not to add family incidents to the book.

But there was one person whose regrets at Henry's departure were genuine and overwhelming—Julia Merrill. At the age of twelve she had helped the Beechers in their transfer from Lawrenceburg to Indianapolis and was immediately smitten by the young minister. At fourteen she and her friend Betty Bates had accompanied him to New England and back. He had become her spiritual guide and gradually her relationship to him had ripened from adolescent hero worship to a romantic and possibly passionate attachment. Once when Henry went to Madison for a revival Julia turned up there; when Eunice [Beecher’s wife] heard of it she wrote to Henry that she envied the girl. Henry dismissed her envy but he closed his answer to Eunice with a gushing, “Give my love to Elizabeth [Bates] and a good warm kiss, as the kiss for Julia is at hand.”²⁵

Several other letters also reveal the intimate relationship of Julia and Beecher. Perhaps because of this and other reasons, the Merrill and Ketcham families’ admiration of Beecher had waned during his ministries in Indianapolis. When Beecher accepted an offer from a Congregational church in Brooklyn, New York in 1847, Julia was there to see him off. Subsequently, Samuel Merrill wrote; “*We have liked him as a preacher but many of the Church as I now learn complain much of him as a pastor.*” And John Ketcham said, “. . .*a great man in the pulpit—but woefully deficient in every other respect.*”²⁶

In December of the second year of the Civil War, Jane Merrill Ketcham traveled to Gallatin, Tennessee as an army nurse. During that winter she attended to the sick and wounded

as reported by her sister Catharine in a letter dated February 13, 1863, and later by a Colonel Clelland of the 70th Indiana Infantry.

*We have had a great deal of sickness in this place, tho' our families have been mercifully spared. We feel the mercy more that Mrs. Ketcham, the head nurse and chief doctor of this part of the town, has enlisted in her country's cause and since about the 20th of December has been occupying herself with nursing in the hospitals in Gallatin (Tennessee). She and Bettie Bates went together, the former to remain a month, the latter during the war. They are doing a great deal. Mrs. K. says that never in her life has she done so much good, never again can she do so much, and she trusts that she will be allowed to remain as long as she can possibly be spared from home.*²⁷

*Colonel Clelland of the Seventieth Indiana also filed his statement to the effect that his regiment was stationed along the railroad between Gallatin and Nashville, Tenn., during the winter of 1862-63; that many of the boys were sick, the hospital accommodations of the rudest, and that the lack of woman's nursing was felt; that some time in the early winter of 1862 the beneficiary and others came down to the camp; that their presence was like sunshine in a dark place and that his recollection of the visit of these nurses was the more vivid because he was lying very sick in one of the improvised hospitals at the time; that the beneficiary remained during the greater part of the winter, going from one camp to another, and that her womanly skill, gentle ministrations and unvaried labor relieved the sufferings of many of the soldiers.*²⁸

Due to the illness of her child who had accompanied her, Jane returned to Indianapolis in February 1863. On May 25, 1908 a Special Act of Congress of the United States “granting pensions and increase of pensions to certain soldiers and sailors of the civil war and other wars, and to certain widows and dependent relatives of such soldiers and sailors” was passed.²⁹ Jane's son, William A. Ketcham, pressured for the issuance of her certificate.³⁰

Indianapolis, Ind. Aug 28/08

*Col. Jno. L. Davenport
Depty Com. Pensions
Washington, D.C.*

My Dear Davenport:

I am sending you herewith the statement in connection with the pension granted my mother by Special Act. In the fall of '62 Gov. Morton gave a loud call for female nurses. My mother was one of those who responded. At the time she had four children under 13 & not being willing to leave them all at home to be looked after took one with her to Galatin when she served. She has always looked back on this experience in her life with pride & gratification—but no other thought. A quarter of a century ago a private bank in which [she] was a partner failed & that swept away all she had.

She has since lived with her children & has not wanted for anything that they could provide her with, but that is quite a different thing from having something that came to her in her own right & because of something she had done. In talking things over with Commander R. B. Brown he insisted that I was

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not treating my mother right—hence this pension. Will you kindly see that the papers get thru' with all reasonable dispatch & oblige

Yours very truly,

W. A. Ketcham³¹

Jane was paid \$12 per month until she died September 21, 1911 at Ogunquit, Maine.³²

Generation 5.3b End Notes:

- ¹ Jacob Piatt Dunn, associate editor, *Memorial Record of Distinguished Men of Indianapolis and Indiana*, 1912, Chicago-New York, (The Lewis Publishing Company), page 198.
- ² *Indianapolis Star*, Indianapolis, Marion County, Indiana, July 7, 1915.
- ³ Hilton U. Brown, *A Book of Memories*, 1951, Indianapolis, Indiana, (Butler University), page 122.
- ⁴ Harris E. Starr, editor, *Dictionary of American Biography, 1960*, 1960, New York (Charles Scribner & Sons), volume V, part I, page 1.
- ⁵ Social Security Application, #307-36-9206.
- ⁶ *Ibid.*, #262-34-7489.
- ⁷ US Census 1900, T623-387, enumeration 35, sheet 3, line 85, Indianapolis, Center Township, Marion County, Indiana.
- ⁸ Recollection of Phyllisann⁷ Hibben (Courtis) (*James Herbert⁶, Thomas Entrioken⁵, James Samuel⁴, Thomas³, Thomas², John¹*).
- ⁹ Charlene Call Gray, *Rush County Sesquicentennial Edition History, 1822 - 1972*, "Arts and Artists of Rush County," page 30.
- ¹⁰ Mary Q. Burnet, *Art and Artists or Indiana*, 1921, New York, (The Century Company), pages 130-31.
- ¹¹ Chris Harter, "Biographical Sketch," William Forsyth Papers, 1863-1985, Indiana Historical Society Collection #M691, Indianapolis, Indiana.
- ¹² William Forsyth Papers 1863-1985, Indiana Historical Society Collection #M691, box 1, folder 18. Letter to William Forsyth from Thomas Entrioken Hibben, February 28, 1882.
- ¹³ *Ibid.*, box 1, folder 17. Letter to William Forsyth from Frederick A. Hetherington, January 5, 1882.
- ¹⁴ *Indianapolis Star*, [Note 2], July 7, 1915.
- ¹⁵ Thomas E. Hibben, Jr. died of heart failure in 1952 at the age of 58.
- ¹⁶ *Indianapolis News*, Indianapolis, Marion County, Indiana, July 6, 1915.
- ¹⁷ Daughters of The American Revolution, volume 12, page 336, certificate #11899; Jane Merrill⁵ Ketcham (*Jane⁴ Merrill, Samuel³, Jesse², Samuel¹*). Samuel¹ Merrill served on the Committee of Safety during the Revolution. He commanded a company in the Burgoyne campaign and was at the surrender. He was born at Haverhill, Massachusetts, where he died, 1801. His son, Jesse Merrill served under his father and married Priscilla Hazen Kimball.
- ¹⁸ *Indianapolis Star*, [Note 2], October 17, 1920, page 1, column 2.
- ¹⁹ Charles Latham, "Biographical Sketch," Samuel Merrill Papers, 1812-1934, Indiana Historical Society Collection #M0204, Indianapolis, Indiana; Samuel Merrill born 1792, died 1855.
- ²⁰ Born 1810, died 1869.
- ²¹ Born 1819, died 1911.
- ²² Paxton Pattison Hibben, *Henry Ward Beecher: An American Portrait*, 1942, New York (The Press of the Readers Club), Foreword by Sinclair Lewis.
- ²³ *Ibid.*, pages 75-77.
- ²⁴ Born 1829, died 1912.
- ²⁵ Milton Rugoff, *The Beechers, An American Family in the Nineteenth Century*, 1981, New York, (Harper & Row, Publishers), page 278.
- ²⁶ *Ibid.*, page 277.

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- ²⁷ Katharine Merrill Grayton, editor, *Catharine Merrill, Life and Letters*, 1934, Greenfield, Indiana, (The Mitchell Company, Publishers), page 313.
- ²⁸ *Indianapolis Star*, April 24, 1908, page 11, column 1.
- ²⁹ Private Bill No. 59, H. R. 17874 (H. R. 5799), approved May 25, 1908.
- ³⁰ National Archives and Records Administration, Army Nurse Pension #1148736.
- ³¹ Civil War Pension Records, National Archives and Records Administration, Application #1374035.
- ³² *Ibid.*, Letter from Susan M. Ketcham December 9, 1912 to Commissioner of Pensions, Washington, DC.