

Descendants of Mary Jane Hibben and Alexander Selkirk Ballard

Generation No. 4.1

MARY JANE⁴ HIBBEN (*James³, Thomas², John¹*) was born October 04, 1821 in PA, and died February 08, 1903 in Washington Court House, Fayette Co., OH. She married **ALEXANDER SELKIRK BALLARD** January 31, 1844 in Greene Co., OH, son of **NATHAN BALLARD** and **ELIZABETH DOBBINS**. He was born December 14, 1821 in Adams Co., OH, and died September 08, 1864 in Jamestown, Greene Co., OH.

Children of **MARY HIBBEN** and **ALEXANDER BALLARD** are:

- i. **WILLIAM HENRY HOWELL⁵ BALLARD**, b. December 31, 1846, OH; d. November 29, 1852, Jamestown, Silver Creek Twp., Greene Co., OH.
- ii. **JAMES FRANKLIN BALLARD**, b. May 02, 1849, OH. He m. **LAURA J. HAYNES** January 24, 1871.
- iii. **CHARLES FORESMAN BALLARD**, b. October 02, 1852, Jeffersonville, Fayette Co., OH; d. February 19, 1940, Washington C. H., Fayette Co., OH. He m. **NETTA BELLE HEGLER** June 17, 1885; b. June 17, 1857 in Wayne Township, Fayette Co., OH; d. August 21, 1952 in Washington C. H., Fayette Co., OH.
- iv. **HARRY HIBBEN BALLARD**, b. June 30, 1856, OH.
- v. **ALEXANDER SELKIRK BALLARD**, b. August 31, 1861, OH; d. October 13, 1914, Washington Court House, OH. He m. **FANNY PEARCE** June 10, 1885; b. May 1863, OH.

MARY JANE HIBBEN 1821 - 1903
and
ALEXANDER SELKIRK BALLARD 1821 - 1864

My great grandmother Ballard was born Mary Jane Hibben in or near Uniontown, Pa. in 1821. About 1830 her father James Hibben and his wife Ann Watson (Allison) and their family came to Jamestown, Greene Co., Ohio. Your John Hibben was James' brother and so was Samuel Entriken Hibben also of Hillsboro. Other of the clan lived at Wilmington, Ohio, roughly between Hillsboro and Jamestown.¹

George A. Robinson, Jr.²

The first child of James Hibben and Ann Watson Allison was Mary Jane Hibben. She was born December 14, 1821, probably in Fayette County, Pennsylvania.³ Her family moved to Jamestown, Greene County, Ohio about 1830 where she married Alexander Selkirk Ballard, January 31, 1844.⁴ Alexander, born December 14, 1821, was the son of Nathan Ballard and Elizabeth Dobbins, both of whom were born in New England.

Alexander Guides Gold Seekers To California

The Ohio Census taken during the summer of 1850 recorded Alexander's occupation as merchant,⁵ but other references indicate that he was in reality an entrepreneur and trader.⁶ His family and he were living with Mary Jane's parents at the time, apparently because he was engaged in leading men with 'gold fever' to the mines in California. Alexander was recorded for a second time in a census taken in December 1850. This time he was recorded in California as a miner owning a claim worth \$1,500.⁷

Mary Jane Ballard was 6 feet tall, as was her husband. He and a man from Greene Co. Ohio took three groups of folks to the Sacramento gold rush in the late 1840s. Mary Jane went on trip two. When the children of her son, Charles (my grandpa) or his younger brother became hard to handle, their mothers would send them to Mary Jane's house and she would keep them entertained with her accounts of the trip, especially hiking the isthmus of Panama. I admire her for that trip.⁸

The prospective forty-niners had many routes to pick from. Some took passage on the new mail steamers to Panama, traveled over the Isthmus by boat and burro, and then on to California by mail steamer again, if there happened to be space available. This was generally the quickest route. . . .⁹

In Mary Jane and Alexander's bible (Appendix A), they record that their first child, William Henry Howell Ballard, was born on December 31, 1846 and died November 29, 1852.¹⁰ He is buried in the Old Cemetery, Jamestown, Greene County, Ohio.¹¹ Another son, James Franklin Ballard, was born May 2, 1849, followed by Charles Foresman Ballard on October 2, 1852 and Harry Hibben Ballard on June 30, 1856. Shortly after a fifth son, Alexander Selkirk Ballard, [Jr.], was born on August 31, 1861,¹² Alexander responded to the call to arms of the Union Army.

THE JAMES HIBBEN LINE

Columbus Ohio, Oct. 7, 1861.

I hereby certify that I have this day mustered into the service of the United States, for three years, unless sooner discharged, A. S. Ballard, as a Second Lieut. in the 74th Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry.

*John R. Edie, Major 15th Infantry, U.S.A. Mustering Officer.*¹³

On January 9, 1862, Alexander was promoted to the rank of Major. He recruited his Jamestown neighbors, nephews Thomas Martin Sesler and William H. Sesler, into the 74th Regiment.¹⁴ The Regiment participated in the expedition over the Cumberland Mountains and the siege of Nashville September 12th to November 7th.¹⁵ Alexander served until November 21, 1862 when he resigned.

Camp Mill Creek, 74th Reg. Ohio Vols.

Nov. 21, 1862

*Major Genl Rosecrans
Commanding the 14th Army Corps
District of the Cumberland*

Sir,

I respectfully tender this my resignation of the position of Major that I have the honor to hold in the 74th Regiment Ohio, Vols, and ask its acceptance for the following reasons. There are two parties in the Regiment the one preferring Col. Moody to command them, and the other myself. I know that if my resignation is accepted it will unite these parties and bring about an harmony so desirable to make the Regiment effective and the better prepare them to aid in putting down this infamous rebellion. Therefore I earnestly ask that this my resignation be accepted and take effect from date.

Yours most respectfully

A. S. Ballard

*Major 74th Reg., Ohio, Vols.*¹⁶

Alexander's Early Death Leaves Mary Jane With Four Young Sons

Just two years later at the age of 42, Alexander Selkirk Ballard died on September 8, 1864 and was buried in the Old Cemetery, Jamestown, Ohio.¹⁷ (Plate 13) There is no record of the cause of his death. Alexander's commercial interests provided well for Mary Jane. The Census of 1870 records she owned \$20,000 in real estate, and all four surviving sons were still living with her. Both Frank and Charles were employed and Charles, Harry and Alexander were still attending school.¹⁸ In 1877 Mary Jane moved to nearby Washington Court House, probably because Charles, a bachelor at the age of twenty-seven, was employed as a banker there. Alexander, age nineteen, was still attending school.¹⁹

Twenty years, later Mary Jane Ballard was still living with Charles and his family.²⁰ She died February 8, 1903 at the age of eighty-one years, four months and four days, in Washington Court House, and was buried beside Alexander in the Old Cemetery, Jamestown, Ohio.²¹

Additional Information About The Children of Mary Jane and Alexander

James Franklin Ballard was employed as an agricultural agent in 1870.²² He married Laura J. Haynes on January 24, 1871.²³ Nothing has been found about his later life.

Other than his date of birth and early census ‘attending school’ records, no documentation about Harry Hibben Ballard has been found. George A. Robinson, Jr. recalled that “*Grandpa’s uncle Harry Hibben [Ballard] had a wholesale dry goods firm downtown Cincinnati.*”²⁴

Charles Foresman Ballard and Alexander Selkirk Ballard [Jr.] are the subject of Chapter VII, Generations 5.1 and 5.2, respectively.

The 1900 Census records that Mary Jane had seven children and four were living at that time. Her obituary stated that she had born six children. This means that at least one more child has not been documented.

Generation 4.1 End Notes:

- ¹ Letter to Dorothy Panzer, September 25, 1969 from George A. Robinson, Jr. Note: Dorothy Boake Panzer is the author of *The Beech Tree; A History and Genealogy of the Boake Family of England, Ireland, America and Canada from 1333 - 1970*.
- ² George Ayers⁷ Robinson, Jr. (*Elizabeth Ann*⁶ *Ballard, Charles Foresman*⁵, *Mary Jane*⁴ *Hibben, James*³, *Thomas*², *John*¹)
- ³ *Bible Records, Fayette County, Ohio*, (Fayette County, Ohio Genealogical Society), Alexander Selkirk and Mary Jane Ballard Family bible, page 78.
- ⁴ Ibid.
- ⁵ US Census 1850, M432-683, page 394, household 611, Silvercreek Township, Greene County, Ohio.
- ⁶ Wall Map, 1855, Jamestown, Greene County, list of subscribers.
- ⁷ US Census 1850, M432-34, page 423, Cincinnati & vicinity, El Dorado County, California.
- ⁸ Letter from George Ayers Robinson, Jr., April 3, 1998, to George C. Hibben.
- ⁹ Robert Samuel Fletcher, *Eureka, from Cleveland by Ship to California, 1849-1850*, 1959, Durham, N. C., (Duke University Press), page 44-45; Oscar Luis, *Sea Routes To The Gold Fields, The migration by water to California in 1849-1852*, 1949, New York, (Alfred A. Knopf).
- ¹⁰ *Bible Records, Fayette County, Ohio*, [Note 3].
- ¹¹ Tombstone inscription, “Willie son of Maj. AS & MJ d. Dec. 29, 1852, a 6y.”
- ¹² *Bible Records, Fayette County, Ohio*, [Note 3].
- ¹³ Civil War Military Records, National Archives and Records Administration.
- ¹⁴ Chapter XII, Generation 4.1 and 4.2.
- ¹⁵ Fredrick H. Dyer, *Dyer’s Compendium of the War of the Rebellion*, 1908, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, (Torch Press).
- ¹⁶ Civil War Military Records, [Note 13].
- ¹⁷ *Bible Records, Fayette County, Ohio*, [Note 3]; Tombstone inscription, “Maj. A. S. Ballard. DIED Sept. 8, 1864 AGED 42 Yrs. 9 Mo. & 21 Days.”
- ¹⁸ US Census 1870, M593-1205, page 191, Jamestown, Silver Creek Township, Greene County, Ohio.
- ¹⁹ US Census 1880, T9-1013, page 443C, Washington Court House, Fayette County, Ohio.
- ²⁰ US Census 1900, T623-1266, enumeration 53, sheet 27, line 32, 150 Clinton Avenue, Washington Court House, Union Township, Fayette County, Ohio.
- ²¹ *Bible Records, Fayette County, Ohio*, [Note 3]; Tombstone inscription. “Mary J. Ballard 1821-1903;” *The Cyclone & Fayette Republican*, Washington Court House, Fayette County, Ohio, obituary, February, 12, 1903.
- ²² US Census 1870, [Note 18].
- ²³ *Bible Records, Fayette County, Ohio*, [Note 3].
- ²⁴ Letter from George Ayers Robinson, Jr., September 17, 1998, to George C. Hibben.