

Descendants of John Henry Hibben and Mary Elizabeth Conkling

Generation No. 4.4

JOHN HENRY⁴ HIBBEN (*James³, Thomas², John¹*) was born 1830 in Uniontown, Fayette Co., PA, and died July 03, 1904 in Lucerne, Switzerland. He married (1) **MARY ELIZABETH CONKLING** August 21, 1855 in Cincinnati, Hamilton Co., OH, daughter of **RICHARD CONKLING** and **MARGARET (unknown)**. She was born May 15, 1834 in Cincinnati, Hamilton Co., OH, and died September 27, 1864 in Cincinnati, Hamilton Co., OH. He married (2) **LOUISE NICHOLS** November 1, 1865, Washington City, DC. She was born January 20, 1845 in Washington City, DC, and died March 10, 1904 in Cincinnati, Hamilton Co., OH.

Children of **JOHN HIBBEN** and **MARY CONKLING** are:

- i. **RICHARD CONKLING HIBBEN**, b. May 21, 1856, Cincinnati, Hamilton Co., OH; d. January 18, 1917, Chicago, Cook Co., IL. He m. (1) **EMMA E. AUSTIN** August 22, 1879, Emporia, Lyon Co., KS; b. May 1861, WI; He m. (2) **LUCY E. FRANCIS** December 31, 1891, Cincinnati, Hamilton Co., OH; b. July 1870, WI.
- ii. **HENRY ALLISON⁵ HIBBEN**, b. November 18, 1858, Cincinnati, Hamilton Co., OH; d. August 18, 1908, Evanston City, Cincinnati, Hamilton Co., OH. He m. **JESSIE HORSLEY** Abt. 1885; b. January 31, 1863, OH; d. January 22, 1946, Los Angeles Co., CA.
- iii. **BELLE KINSEY⁵ HIBBEN**, b. October 31, 1860, Cincinnati, Hamilton Co., OH; d. August 29, 1916, Mt. Vernon, NY.
- iv. **WILLIAM CLIFFORD HIBBEN**, b. July 08, 1863; d. July 31, 1883, lost at sea/Agincourt Island, Polynesia.

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Revised 2/04, 5/04, 4/06, 8/07 & 6/10

JOHN HENRY HIBBEN 1830 - 1904

and wives

MARY ELIZABETH CONKLING 1834 - 1864

LOUISE NICHOLS 1845 - 1904

John Hibben Severs Ties To Jamestown And Marries A Cincinnati Woman

John Henry Hibben, was the sixth child of James Hibben and Ann Watson Allison. The 1900 Census records that he was born in May 1835 which, most likely, is incorrect.¹ The 1850 Census records that he was twenty years old, born in 1830,² and that date is confirmed in his obituary. He was no more than twenty years old when he purchased in August 1850 the west half of in lots #37 and #38 and out lot # 6 in Jamestown, Greene County, Ohio.³ Shortly thereafter, John departed Jamestown to seek employment in Cincinnati, Hamilton County, Ohio. Apparently, he had no thoughts of returning from the 'city.' On May 1853 he sold part of lot #6 in Jamestown, adjacent to his father's lot, to the trustees of the Methodist Episcopal church provided "*they shall erect & build thereon a house of worship for members of the Methodist Episcopal church.*"⁴

John's obituary records that he did arrive in Cincinnati at an early age, took a business course at the old Farmer's College, and began work as an errand boy for the dry goods firm of John W. Ellis & Co.⁵ Shortly after his arrival, he married Mary Elizabeth Conkling on August 21, 1855.⁶ They were recorded by the 1860 Census as living in Cincinnati where he was a listed as a merchant. The same census listed sons Richard C. Hibben, born in 1856, and Henry Allison Hibben, born in 1858.⁷ Belle Kinsey Hibben was born in October 1860 after that Census was taken. John and Mary had another son, William Clifford Hibben who, as a young man, signed on as a ship captain's clerk and was lost at sea in 1883.⁸ When Mary Elizabeth was only thirty years old she died of dysentery, leaving four young children. Her interment was on September 28, 1864 in her father Richard Conkling's lot in Spring Grove Cemetery.⁹

John Remarries And Becomes A Successful Dry Goods Merchant In Cincinnati

The following year John married Louise Nichols, who was born in Washington, DC in 1845. She was fifteen years his junior. There is no record that they had children. After the death of John's mother in 1875, John sold the balance of lot #6 in Jamestown to the trustees of the Methodist Episcopal church,¹⁰ thus terminating his interests in Jamestown, Ohio. The 1890-1891 City Directory of Cincinnati, Ohio gave John's address as Burnet House,¹¹ where he was boarding. His occupation was recorded as vice president of the George W. McAlpin Company, and his son, Henry (a.k.a. Harry), was employed at the same firm as a clerk and living at Highland Place.¹² The Ellis, McAlpin Company began retailing dry goods in downtown Cincinnati in 1852. George Washington McAlpin, who was a clerk in the store, gained control in 1885 and gave it the name known to residents until 1996. It occupied a full city block near the river front between Fourth, Third, Race and Vine streets.¹³ In the early 1890s, John H. Hibben left McAlpin and founded a wholesale business, John H. Hibben Dry Goods Company.

In Poor Health, John Dies Just A Few Months After Louise

At the age of seventy-four John was actively engaged in running his business. Then, in late winter of 1904, Louise died of typhoid pneumonia at the age of fifty-nine. She was buried in the Hibben lot in Spring Grove Cemetery on March 12th.¹⁴ To assuage their grief and in an attempt to improve John's health, John and Belle planned an excursion to Europe. The trip was cut short when John died of heart failure on July 3rd in Lucerne, Switzerland. His ashes were returned to Cincinnati where they were laid to rest in the Spring Grove Cemetery.¹⁵

DEATH Called John H. Hibben. Prominent Dry Goods Merchant of This City Passed Away in Far-Off Switzerland. John Henry Hibben, the oldest dry goods merchant of this city passed away at Lucerne, Switzerland yesterday whither he had gone in the vain hope of regaining his failing health. The exact cause of his demise is not known, as the cablegram received by his son, Mr. Henry Hibben, gave but the news of his death. Mr. Hibben was 74 years of age, and was born in Southwestern Pennsylvania. His father was Colonel James Hibben, who served as a surgeon in the war of 1812.¹⁶ Shortly after the birth of John H. Hibben his parents crossed the mountains and settled at Jamestown, Ohio. At the age of 12 years he came to this city, and afterward took a business course at the old Farmers' College on College Hill. He entered the wholesale dry goods store of John W. Ellis & Co. at 108 East Pearl street as errand boy and years after became a member of the firm of Ellis, McAlpin & Hibben. The new firm remained on Pearl street until the John Shillio Company removed from Fourth street in 1874, when they entered and for years occupied the building. The firm was known as George W. McAlpin & Co., and Mr. Hibben was President of this company for years. Some years since when the McAlpin firm went into the retail business Mr. Hibben withdrew, and for a time occupied a store on Elm, near Fourth street. Three years since he built an immense wholesale dry goods store at the corner of Seventh and Walnut streets, and went into business under the name of the John H. Hibben Dry Goods Company.¹⁷ Mr. Hibben's wife died during last March at the Burnet House where he had resided for years. Upon the advice of physicians he went to Europe, accompanied by his daughter, Miss Blance [Belle] Hibben. He was a member of St. Paul's Pro-Cathedral. Three children survive him. Miss Belle Hibben, Richard Hibben of Chicago, and Henry Hibben, of Evanston. A son, William Clifford Hibben, who served as Captain's Clerk on a merchant vessel, was drowned at sea some years ago. The remains will be shipped to this city and interred in the family lot at Spring Grove.¹⁸

Additional Information About The Children of John Henry Hibben

Richard Conkling Hibben's family bible is in the possession of Arthur Lewis Hibben, his great-grandson. It was given to Richard by his maternal grandfather. "*Present from Richard Conkling to his grandson Richard C. Hibben, Cincinnati, Ohio.*"¹⁹ The family pages record the descendants of Richard's son, Frank Clarence Hibben.

Richard was just eight years old when his mother died. The following year his father remarried. Perhaps Richard rejected his twenty year old stepmother, or perhaps she found the parental responsibilities for four young children overwhelming. Apparently, it was decided to send Richard to live with his uncle, James Allen Hibben, in Center Township, Cedar County,

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Iowa. In 1870, Richard was recorded living with the Pound family in nearby Fairfield Township, Cedar County, Iowa. James A. Hibben's daughter, Alice, had married Albert O. Pound in November 1866 and fourteen year old Richard was a hand working on the Pound farm.²⁰

When he was older he moved westward to Emporia, Lyon County, Kansas which was the home of another uncle, Dr. William Wallis Hibben. There on August 22, 1879 he married Emma E. Austin.²¹ They moved to Kansas City, Jackson County, Missouri where the couple was listed in the 1880 Census and Richard had taken a position as a news agent.²² Two sons were born in Kansas City: Charles Austin Hibben on July 29, 1880, and Frank Clarence Hibben on August 29, 1882. It is not known when the family moved to California or if Richard and Emma had separated beforehand. Emma then married Angus C. Breckenridge September 28, 1891 in Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, California.²³ Her son, Charles Austin Hibben, died just three years later.

The sad death of Charles A. Hibben, aged 14 years, eldest son of Mrs. Breckenridge, No. 1217 Bellevue avenue, has been deeply felt by the family and the large circle of their acquaintances and friends. The family had been spending the summer months at Santa Monica, where Mrs. Breckenridge's health was much improved. On August 28 Charlie, who was an expert swimmer, it is thought, hurt himself while diving from a height into the plunge. He complained of injuries when he came from the bath house. Brain and spinal troubles manifested themselves and he became seriously ill. His sickness lasted about two weeks, and terminated in his death on Monday September 10, [1894].²⁴

Richard also remarried. His second marriage was in Cincinnati, Ohio to Lucy E. Francis on December 31, 1891.²⁵ In 1900 Richard, at the age of forty-four, and 'Lou' were living in Chicago where he was working as a railway clerk.²⁶ No information about their lives for the next fifteen years has been found. A newspaper article concerning the contested will of Richard's sister, Belle, published in October 1916, reported that Richard was an invalid in a Chicago hospital. A subsequent article published on February 5, 1917 stated that he had died.²⁷ Indeed, he died January 18, 1917 at the Little Sisters of the Poor nursing facility in Chicago. He was buried at Mt. Auburn Cemetery, Stickney, Cook County, Illinois.²⁸

Henry Allison Hibben married Jessie Horsley about 1885. She was born January 31, 1865, probably in Cincinnati, Ohio. They had a daughter, Jessie Louise Hibben, born August 10, 1886. Henry was a clerk at the McAlpin store, but later worked for his father's company. He died of a lung disease on August 18, 1908, just four years after the death of his father.²⁹ Jessie moved to California where she died on January 22, 1946.³⁰ Daughter Jessie L. Hibben married Andrew Carrol Harvey October 18, 1905,³¹ and then on June 24, 1916, Max Kau, Jr. No records have been found that children were born to either marriage and it is believed that both ended in divorce. Jessie died March 14, 1956 in Los Angeles County, California.³² Her remains were returned to Cincinnati and buried next to her mother and father in Spring Grove Cemetery in Cincinnati. Max Kau, Jr. died October 26, 1964 and was interred in the Hibben lot. Also in this lot are Max's sister, Anna Kau, her husband Theodore Glasgow and some of their descendants.

Belle Hibben's life seems to have been devoted to the care of her father. She never married. After his death, Belle Hibben made sea voyages to Europe and Central America. Eight are recorded between 1904 and 1916 by passenger records at Ellis Island, Port of New York, and it is likely she traveled through other ports as well. The passenger records of Ellis Island record that on March 14, 1916 she returned from Port Limon, Costa Rica destined for her residence in

Mt. Vernon, New York.³³ Just five months later, on August 29, 1916, she died. She was laid to rest with her family in Spring Grove Cemetery.³⁴

It appears that Belle was the favored child. She inherited a substantial holding of shares of John H. Hibben Company and other firms from her father. After his death she lived with Thomas W. Allen and his family when she wasn't traveling. At that time Allen was the president of the John H. Hibben Company. Belle's will was drawn on May 19, 1907, and after the death of her brother Henry, a year later, she added a codicil. The bulk of her \$75,000 estate was bequeathed to Thomas W. Allen. A small cash and stock bequest was made to her brother Richard. Life income, earned by a limited number of shares of the John H. Hibben Company, was granted to her niece, Jessie Louise Hibben Kau. After Jessie's death these shares were to be bequeathed to Thomas W. Allen and his descendants. The will was contested by Richard and Jessie.³⁵ Richard died during the litigation, but Jessie pressed on with the case. In 1918, after two years, the Hamilton County Court of Common Pleas jury sustained Belle's will.³⁶

Another provision of Belle's will made her Ballard cousins beneficiaries.³⁷

*By the terms of the will, two thirds of property in Washington Court House, Ohio, obtained by her father from her cousin, Charles F. Ballard, of that city, is bequeathed to Charles F. Ballard, who is also to have all debts he may owe her, canceled. The remaining third of this property goes to her cousin, Alexander S. Ballard, also of Washington C. H., Ohio.*³⁸

The youngest child of John Henry Hibben and Elizabeth Conkling was William Clifford Hibben. He was just a year old when his mother died. Before he was twenty he signed on as a ship's clerk and sailed to the Orient, never to return.

*While President Arthur was at the Fifth Avenue Hotel he was waited on by a Mrs. Hibben, of Cincinnati, who asked the assistance of the naval authorities to find her son, William C. Hibben, twenty years old, who was a passenger onboard the bark Spartan, Captain Crossiey, which left this city for Honolulu on March 12, last. The vessel reached Ahger, Java, on July 9, and proceeded, expecting to arrive at her destination six weeks later. On July 13, while near the coast of Agincourt, one of the Polynesian Islands, the captain sent his son Herbert and two of the crew in a boat to examine the island. Young Hibben was allowed to accompany them. That was last ever seen of the boat or the men. Mrs. Hibben handed the president a letter which her husband recently received from the captain, in which he says that the men are probably on some Polynesian Island. He searched for them a long time, but could not find them and continued his voyage. As soon as possible assistance was applied for from our consul at Amoy for a gunboat to search the adjacent islands, but as he was about to visit Japan with his family he did not take any active measures for their relief. President Arthur promised to do all in his power to assist the sorrowing mother to recover her son, if he is still alive.*³⁹

Generation 4.4 End Notes:

¹ US Census 1900, T623-1275, enumeration 67, sheet 2, line 53, 309 Vine St., Cincinnati, Hamilton County, Ohio.

² US Census 1850, M432-394, sheet 394, household 611, Silver Creek Township, Greene County, Ohio.

³ Greene County, Ohio Court House Records of Deeds and Mortgages, volume 26, page 580.

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- ⁴ Ibid., volume 29, pages 25-26.
- ⁵ *Cincinnati Enquirer*, Cincinnati, Hamilton County, obituary, Ohio, July 4, 1904.
- ⁶ Richard Conkling Hibben family bible, *The Comprehensive Bible; containing the Old and New Testaments*, Philadelphia, (J. B. Lippincott & Co.), 1859. In possession of Arthur Louis Hibben⁸ (Charles Franklin⁷, Frank Clarence⁶, Richard Conkling⁵, John Henry⁴, James³, Thomas², John¹) as of 2007; “Married August 21st, 1855 at Elmwood near Milford, Ohio, J. Harry Hibben to Mary E. Conkling.”
- ⁷ US Census 1860, M653-976, page 435, Ward 14, Cincinnati, Hamilton County, OH.
- ⁸ Monument inscription, Spring Grove Cemetery, Cincinnati, Hamilton County, Ohio, sect. 51, lot 41, IN MEMORIAM WM. CLIFFORD HIBBEN son of J. H. & M. E. HIBBEN lost at sea July 31, 1883 AET 20 Yrs & 23 Days --- THE SEA GAVE UP THE DEAD; Adjacent tombstone not legible.
- ⁹ Cemetery Records, Spring Grove Cemetery, Cincinnati, Hamilton County, Ohio, #13962, section 51, lot 41, September 28, 1864.
- ¹⁰ Greene County, Ohio Court House Records of Deeds and Mortgages, volume 55, page 231.
- ¹¹ Burnet House was the finest residential hotel of that age in Cincinnati. Louise and John lived there for over fourteen years.
- ¹² *City Directory, Cincinnati, Hamilton County, Ohio, 1890-91*.
- ¹³ *The Cincinnati Post*, Cincinnati, Hamilton County, Ohio, May 20, 1998, editorial: “The venerable ‘McAlpin’s’ name will soon be retired, ending a run that began in 1852 with the formation of a small dry goods company, Ellis, McAlpin & Co. George Washington McAlpin, who had been a clerk in that store, gained control of the firm and in 1885 gave it his name.” Thus, the one hundred-forty-four year old store in downtown Cincinnati exceeded the continuous years in operation record of one hundred thirty-two years set by S. E. Hibben & Son in nearby Hillsboro, Ohio when it closed in 1958 (see Chapter XI, Generation 5.3).
- ¹⁴ Cemetery Records, [Note 9], #70263, section 16, lot 88, March 12, 1904; Tombstone inscription - LOUISE HIBBEN 1842 - 1904.
- ¹⁵ Cemetery Records, [Note 9], #70837, section 16, lot 88, July 23, 1904; Tombstone inscription - JOHN H. HIBBEN 1832 - 1904.
- ¹⁶ At the age of nineteen, Sergeant James Hibben briefly served in the War of 1812. See Chapter VII, Generation 3.5).
- ¹⁷ Built about 1901, this building remains in fine condition and is occupied by retail shops and offices.
- ¹⁸ *Cincinnati Enquirer*, [Note 5], July 4, 1904.
- ¹⁹ Richard Conkling Hibben family bible, [Note 6].
- ²⁰ US Census 1870, M593-380, page 199, household 63, Fairfield Township, Cedar County, Iowa.
- ²¹ Marriage Records, Lyon County, Kansas, Book C., page 349.
- ²² US Census 1880, T9-693, page 395A, Kansas City, Jackson County, Missouri.
- ²³ Marriage License, Los Angeles County, CA. “Emma E. Hibben; spouse; Angus C. Breckenridge; residence - Los Angeles; married 28 Sept. 1891, age 28, b. IA.”
- ²⁴ Unknown California newspaper, September 1894. Clipping found in Richard C. Hibben bible.
- ²⁵ Ancestry.com, electronic, Ohio Marriages, 1800-1958, Indexing project M02297-9, system origin Ohio-EASy, source film 344498, reference 672: “Groom - Richard C. Hibben, Bride - Lucy E. Francis, married 31 Dec 1891, Hamilton Co., OH”
- ²⁶ US Census 1900, T623-246, enumeration 46, sheet 13, line 49, South Town, 22nd St., Cook County, Illinois.
- ²⁷ *Cincinnati Enquirer*, [Note 5], February 5, 1917, page 8, column 3-4.
- ²⁸ Ancestry.com, electronic, Illinois, Cook County Deaths, 1878-1922, Film 1308825, digital folder 4005124, image 623, reference cn 2019: “Richard Hibben, d. 18 Jan 1917 Chicago, Cook Co, IL, M, W, age 61y 7m 17d, b. 21 May 1855 OH, father - John Hibben, mother - unknown, street address - Little Sister of Poor, buried 20 Jan 1917 Mt. Auburn Cemetery.”
- ²⁹ Cemetery Records, [Note 9], #76891, section 16, lot 88, August 18, 1908; Tombstone inscription - HARRY A. HIBBEN 1858 - 1908.

³⁰ Ibid., #143029, section 16, lot 88, August 7, 1956; California Death Records, 1940-97, electronic, “born 1/31/1863 [1865] Ohio, died 1/22/1946 Los Angeles County, California; Tombstone inscription - JESSIE HORSLEY HIBBEN 1865 - 1946.

³¹ Ancestry.com, electronic, Ohio Marriages, 1800-1958, Indexing project M02275-8, system origin Ohio-EASy, source film 355078, v 184 cn 293, “Groom - Andrew Carrol Harvey, born 1878 Cincinnati, OH, 27, single, father - S. G. [Harvey], mother - Emma L. Breuer, married 18 Oct 1905 Hamilton Co., OH, Bride - Jessie L. Hibben, born 1886 Cincinnati, OH, single, father - H. A. [Hibben], mother - Jessie Horsley.”

³² Cemetery Records, [Note 9], #143029, section 16, lot 88, January 26, 1956; Tombstone inscription - KAU MAX 1879 - 1964 JESSIE 1886 - 1956.

³³ American Family Immigration History Center, electronic, www.ellisland.org.

³⁴ Cemetery Records, [Note 9], #87807, section 16, lot 88, September 2, 1916; Tombstone inscription - BELLE K. HIBBEN 1860 - 1916.

³⁵ *Cincinnati Enquirer*, [Note 5], December 13, 1916, page 8, column 4.

³⁶ Ibid., February 19, 1918, page 9, column 5.

³⁷ See Chapter VII, Generation 5.1.

³⁸ *Cincinnati Enquirer*, [Note 5], October 14, 1916, page 8, column 3.

³⁹ *Newark Daily Advocate*, Newark, Ohio, October 9, 1883.