

Thomas Hibben and Mary Cornelia Taylor

Generation No. 4.1

THOMAS⁴ HIBBEN (*Samuel Entriken³, Thomas², John¹*) was born December 28, 1831, Hillsboro, Highland Co., OH, and died November 28, 1908. He married **MARY CORNELIA TAYLOR** October 26, 1882 in Franklin Co. OH, daughter of **DAVID TAYLOR** and **MARGARET LIVINGSTON**. She was born December 4, 1841 in Truro Township, Franklin Co., OH, and died January 23, 1928 in OH.

Revised 5/04, 4/05, 7/08, 12/09 & 6/10

THOMAS HIBBEN 1831 - 1908
and
MARY CORNELIA TAYLOR 1841 - 1928

Human existence is the sum of our memory.

Unknown

Thomas Hibben, the third child of Samuel Entriken Hibben and Margaret Galloway, was born in Hillsborough, Ohio in 1831. Most likely he first attended the Hillsborough Academy of which his father was the president of the board of trustees. The 1850 US Census¹ records Thomas and his younger brother Samuel Entriken Hibben II as students in southern Indiana. In response to an inquiry, the archivist of Hanover College wrote:

Recent work in the Archives has produced an early volume recording students' matriculation records beginning October 1, 1849.

The Hibbens initial date of enrollment was May 1, 1850. Other details of the record give Thomas' age as 18 and Samuel's age, 16. Both are listed as sophomores. No religious preference is given. Their parents are Samuel E. and Margaret. Thomas appears enrolled again for the winter term beginning September 30, 1850. Now he is classed as a junior.²

A testimonial parchment records that Thomas was enrolled in the senior class.

THE PHILALETHEAN SOCIETY
OF

Hanover College

GIVES THIS TESTIMONIAL of the high respect entertained for Thomas Hibben, a faithful and beloved member whose connexion with the association is now dissolved. He has advanced to the Senior Class and sustains an unblemished moral character.

We, therefore, as a Society cordially commend him to the esteem and confidence of all to whom these presents may come.

Sealed and Signed, by order of Society, South Hanover, Indiana, fifth day of November in the Year of Our Lord Eighteen hundred and fifty two.

Joshua Bolles Garrett, Pres.

James A Cunningham, Sec.³

Thomas Assists In The Store

In contrast to extensive documentation about his siblings, there is little about Thomas. Records state that brother Samuel was afforded every advantage of education and after two years at Hanover College transferred to Miami University at Oxford, Ohio. Whether or not Thomas could have transferred also is not known. He may not have been the scholar or intellectual Samuel was. Letters written between 1852 and early 1862 indicate that after college Thomas was

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employed at his father's store and in his absence, Thomas handled sales, and traveled East to purchase goods.⁴ In 1860 the US Census⁵ recorded his occupation as "clerk."

Thomas is very considerate and interested in every thing pertaining to the house and store. John & Oliver [probably store employees] are very attentive and say they have been doing very good business. Thomas said at dinner they were all kept very busy to day and he ate in haste to get back to the store.

I suppose Thomas wrote to you the lot was planted. he and Joseph are going down after school to stick some peas that sister Eliza and I planted yesterday. Mr. Janes brought some tomatoes and Thomas put them in the ground. every thing looks refreshed to day by a fine rain we had yesterday and day before.⁶

Shortly after the death of his brother, Samuel, Thomas moved to Peoria, Illinois in the summer of 1862 to strike out on his own in the retail trade. His sister, Eliza, heard rumors that he was going to enlist and hurriedly wrote to him at Peoria.

The people are greatly excited here now in regard to war matters, persons volunteering rapidly. Jessy Black is going and several others you know all of the band leave on Friday. We hope you have no idea of going unless compelled to. I never could be sufficiently patriotic to consent to you ever enlisting. We thought maybe you talked to some of going in an Artillery Company from what you wrote. I beg of you not to do it as long as you can avoid it. I suppose I would not be called very patriotic if heard talking in this way.⁷

Thomas' plans probably did not work out, as by November he was back in Hillsboro. *Thomas said last evening he thought he would go out and see Miss Buckingham as he would rather go before Col. Trimble would come home but he could not leave the store until too late. he feels very much the want of companionship and has been so closely confined to the store. he said last night he thought so long to hear the music of the piano, he believ'd he would go in and play himself.⁸*

Near the end of the Civil War Thomas held a position in the Office of the Special Commissioner, Camp Chase, Columbus, Ohio. He was involved with the processing of Confederate prisoners. He wrote frequently to his sister, Eliza.

Camp life presents no new features and nothing is to be seen but the going to and fro of the guard upon his post and the whistle of a merry soldier around his barracks and the parade call and the martial line of brave hearts honoring the officers dressed with sash and sword and coat of mail. My duties at Camp have been less arduous for two weeks as many of the prison birds have gone to Fort Delaware and left but a remnant of the chosen people of chivalry. In a month the examination will be concluded unless some further powers are conferred.⁹

Thomas Holds Various Business Positions

It appears that after his graduation from college in 1868, Joseph Matthew Hibben relieved Thomas of his duties at the store. Thomas moved to Columbus sometime about 1869. An envelope containing a letter to his father in Hillsboro dated November 29, 1869, was imprinted with this return address: *Wholesale Paper Warehouse of Thomas Hibben & Co. 64 & 66 North High Street, Columbus, O. Paper Mills Delaware, O.* He wrote:

My Dear Father

Tomorrow begins the meeting of the Evangelical Union - at which meeting there will be about 250 delegates - and a prospect of more who have not yet given notice. Can you not come and enjoy the meeting - A number of distinguished men are to be heard. I will be very glad to see you. Thomas is to be at Uncle Samuel G. Walter Smith & John Quinn are visiting John Galloway - the remainder of the Railroad Corps has not arrived. I think the railroad project is too big for the effort & expense to be made. Columbus has already given _____ and build the Huck Val RR & cannot aid much in addition. Besides the terminus had better be made at Washington to enlist the interest of the Penn Cent Road and induce at the same time other goods terminating at Columbus to continue it if necessary to this point. Uncle Sam'l has just returned from Louisiana - in disgust with cotton & the country - having put on a new style of hat that looks like the celestial part of a church steeple. He appeared in church yesterday - and the laugh went around at the fantastic style of the head dress of a man of years. Fanny Smith is in Cincinnati receiving treatment for her eyes. - & the Dr. is busy as a Special Superintendent of the new Lunatic Asylum now being erected. Whilst at the depot two weeks ago I very unexpectedly saw Mr. Grier at one end after spotting his voice determined that I could not be deceived in Eyes & Ears - tapped him on the shoulder & received a hearty shake & went into a car to see Mrs. Grier - They were on their way to the meeting of the Gen Assembly at Pittsburg & to visit their friends - I also met Annie Steel & Mr. Barrett on the same train & introduced Mr. Grier. I felt sad to hear of Mr. Steel's sudden death - although ___ constantly apprehended and rejoice to see such a testimonial to his memory by the people of Hillsboro. I will probably be at Hillsboro & spend my Christmas. Come tomorrow - The meeting continues Wednesday & Thursday. Give my love to all.

AffYour Son Tho's Hibben¹⁰

In another letter written to his brother, Joseph, in January 1871 he reported:

I was invited to a Dinner at 6 o'clock this evening at your cousin Mary Osborn, with the family and your Uncle Sam'l Galloway [Samuel Galloway, brother of Margaret Galloway Hibben]. After partaking of Oysters & soup had Turkey with all the other accompaniments of a fine Dinner, with Coffee etc., etc., After which I left to meet Thomas at the Hotel according to appointment to go together to hear Wendell Phillips Lecture on "London and the Streets in Europe." I met him and then we returned together to Mary's and accompanied her, and your Aunt Joan [Joan Wallen Galloway, wife of Samuel Galloway] (who came in after the Dinner) to the Lecture at the Opera House. (Thomas would have been with us to Dinner but could not leave his Store on account of Mr. Foster's illness) The House was crowded, about 2000 people being present, and all seemed to be charmed with the Lecture.¹¹

The 1880 US Census records Thomas living with his sister Eliza in Hillsboro.¹² Two years later on October 26, 1882 in Franklin County (most likely in Columbus), he married Mary Cornelia Taylor.¹³ Known as Cornelia, she was born December 4, 1841 in Truro Township, Franklin County, Ohio, daughter of David Taylor and Margaret Livingston.¹⁴ Cornelia and

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Thomas married relatively late in their lives. The 1900 US Census confirms that they had been married seventeen years, but does not enumerate any children.¹⁵ County maps record that Cornelia, her mother and brothers owned 1,130 acres of contiguous land near the Columbus Country Club.¹⁶

Thomas' occupation in 1880 was recorded as "Secy Maysville & Col RR." The railroad was incorporated in 1877 and the first official run was on Thursday, May 8, 1879.

*COLUMBUS AND MAYSVILLE NARROW GAUGE RAILROAD CO. The C and M road was a narrow gauge with rails three feet (36") apart. . . .The maximum grade of the road was to be seventy-nine feet to the mile. . . .There was only one bridge of any size on the entire line. . . .The company had only one locomotive for a long time and it was equipped with carbide lights. The engine pulled the trains from Sardinia to Hillsboro but on the return trip the engine was hitched in front of the train backward and backed all the way to Sardinia. The engine house in Hillsboro, although large enough to hold a locomotive, was little more than a blacksmith shop, and did not have a narrow gauge turntable. . . .The passenger cars were not as elegant as on some of the roads, but were made of sturdy oak and were comfortable. Each car had its own brake until the air-brake was introduced. Kerosene lamps were used in the coaches which were heated by a coal stove in each end.*¹⁷

When Thomas' father died in 1885 the *Hillsboro Gazette* stated that "another son, Thomas, is located at present at Peoria, Ill."¹⁸ He was in New York City caring for his sister Eliza at the time she died in 1896. No other records about Thomas have been found, except for the date of his death on November 28, 1908.¹⁹

Postscript: Paxton Pattison Hibben's Search

Apparently, Mary Cornelia Taylor Hibben was living in Columbus, Ohio in 1924. That year Paxton Hibben wrote to John Grier Hibben: "*What I was really after when I wrote to your aunt, Mrs. Thomas Hibben, of Columbus, O., was the name of my own great-grandmother, the first wife of Thomas Hibben of Wilmington, O., who was the aunt of Mrs. Thomas Hibben of Columbus.*"²⁰ In the *History of Franklin County, Ohio* the biography of Henry Clay Taylor states that Mary died in 1928.²¹ Further inquiry at Green Lawn Cemetery in Columbus, Ohio revealed the precise date to be January 23, 1928.²²

Generation 4.1 End Notes:

¹ US Census 1850, M432-154, page 158, Madison Township, Jefferson County, Indiana.

² Letter from Robert E. Zilliox, Interim Archivist, Hanover College, Hanover, Indiana, to George Hibben, dated July 24, 1998.

³ Parchment found in the files of Stuart Galloway Hibben. In possession of George C. Hibben.

⁴ Letter from Samuel E. Hibben at Hillsboro, Ohio to his brother-in-law, John Smith at Milan, Ohio, dated February 24, 1857. Letter in possession of Craig Rittenhouse⁶ Hibben (*Samuel Galloway*⁵, *Joseph Matthew*⁴, *Samuel Entriken*⁵, *Thomas*², *John*¹).

⁵ US Census 1860, M653-986, page 102, Liberty Township, Highland County, Ohio.

⁶ Letter from Margaret Galloway Hibben at Hillsboro, Ohio to Samuel Entriiken Hibben at Peoria, not dated, but probably May 1862. Letter in possession of Craig Rittenhouse Hibben.

⁷ Letter from Eliza Smith Hibben at Hillsboro, Ohio to Thomas Hibben at Peoria, dated August 6, 1862. Letter in possession of Craig Rittenhouse Hibben.

⁸ Letter from Margaret Galloway Hibben at Hillsboro, Ohio to her daughters, Eliza and Lavinia, at Columbus, Ohio, dated November 15, 1862. Letter in possession of Craig Rittenhouse Hibben.

⁹ Letter from Thomas Hibben at Columbus, Ohio to Eliza Smith Hibben at Hillsboro, dated March 30, 1864. Letter in possession of Craig Rittenhouse Hibben.

¹⁰ Envelope from records of Stuart Galloway Hibben, now in possession of George C. Hibben. The cancellation stamp date is Nov. 29. The letter is in possession of Stuart Galloway Hibben.

¹¹ Letter from Samuel Entriiken Hibben at Columbus, Ohio to Joseph Matthew Hibben in Hillsboro, dated January 18, 1871. Letter in possession of Craig Rittenhouse Hibben.

¹² US Census 1880, T9-1033, enumeration 45, page 10, line 18, Hillsborough, Liberty Township, Highland County, Ohio; *History of Ross and Highland Counties, Ohio with Illustrations and Biographical Sketches*, 1883, Cleveland, Ohio, (W. W. Williams, Printer), page 391.

¹³ Ohio Marriages, 1800-1958, Indexing project M02267-7, system origin Ohio-EASy, source film 285149, reference 16, "Groom - Thomas Hibben, married 26 Oct 1882, Bride - Mary Cornelia Taylor."

¹⁴ Margaret Livingston-Taylor, *Livingston-Taylor Genealogies*; Linda Kimura, electronic, <lkimura@pacbell.net>.

¹⁵ US Census 1900, T623-1268, page 243, 8 WD Columbus, Franklin County, Ohio.

¹⁶ U. S., Indexed County Land Ownership Maps, 1860-1918, G&M 30, roll 30, 1872, Truro Twp., Columbus, Franklin Co., OH. (near Columbus Country Club). Property shown: Mary C. Hibben - 172 acres; Margaret L. [Livingston] Taylor - 263 acres; Robert Taylor - 100 & 40 acres; Henry C. [Clay] Taylor - 270 acres; Edward L. [Livingston] Taylor - 285 acres. (total - 1,130)

¹⁷ Elsie Johnson Ayers, *Hills of Highland*, 1971, Springfield, Ohio, (H. K. Skinner & Son), page 383.

¹⁸ *Hillsboro Gazette*, Hillsborough, Ohio, February 26, 1885.

¹⁹ Cemetery Records, Green Lawn Cemetery, Columbus, Franklin County, Ohio, Section D, Lot 39; Tombstone inscription, "THOMAS HIBBEN DEC. 28, 1831 NOV. 28, 1908."

²⁰ Letter from Paxton Pattison⁶ Hibben (*Thomas Entriiken*⁵, *James Samuel*⁴, *Thomas*³, *Thomas*², *John*¹) at New York City to John Grier Hibben at Princeton, Mercer County, New Jersey, dated February 20, 1924.

²¹ Opha Moore, *History of Franklin County, Ohio*, Volume Two, 1930, Historical Publishing Company, Topeka-Indianapolis, page 955.

²² Cemetery Records, Green Lawn Cemetery, Columbus, Franklin County, Ohio, Section D, Lot 39; Tombstone inscription, "MARY CORNELIA HIBBEN DEC. 4, 1841 - JAN. 23, 1928."