

Descendants of Joseph Matthew Hibben and Henriette S. Martin

Generation No. 4.5

JOSEPH MATTHEW⁴ HIBBEN (*Samuel Entriken³, Thomas², John¹*) was born February 01, 1847 in Hillsboro, Highland Co., OH, and died January 28, 1926 in Hillsboro, Highland Co., OH. He married **HENRIETTE S. MARTIN** May 31, 1882 in Miami Co., OH, daughter of **FREDERICK MARTIN** and **MARIE REPLAIR**. She was born December 05, 1856, and died July 09, 1940 in Hillsboro, Highland Co., OH.

Children of **JOSEPH HIBBEN** and **HENRIETTE MARTIN** are:

- i. Baby son⁵ Hibben, b. October 30, 1883, Hillsboro, Highland Co., OH; d. November 02, 1883, Hillsboro, Highland Co., OH.
- ii. **FREDERICK MARTIN HIBBEN**, b. November 09, 1884, Hillsboro, Highland Co., OH; d. September 29, 1962, Medina, Medina Co., OH. He m. **LUCY WEST** June 19, 1908, Hillsboro, Highland Co., OH; b. December 15, 1883, Samantha, Highland Co., OH; d. April 11, 1978, San Diego, San Diego Co., CA.
- iii. **SAMUEL GALLOWAY HIBBEN**, b. June 06, 1888, Hillsboro, Highland Co., OH; d. June 11, 1972, Montclair, Essex Co., NJ. He m. **RUTH ADELAIDE RITTENHOUSE** 1922; b. November 20, 1892, Colorado Springs, El Paso Co., CO; d. December 1986, Peekskill, Westchester Co., NY.

Revised 03/09

JOSEPH MATTHEW HIBBEN 1847 - 1926
and
HENRIETTE S. MARTIN 1856 - 1940

AS THE SHADOWS LENGTHEN

Father, I am weary!
These many years I have traveled
The road of life,
Bearing its summer heat,
Enduring its winter cold,
Through sunshine, through rain,
In lightness, in darkness,
Carrying a load of care.
Now, footsore and sad,
Travel-stained and worn,
I still plod on.
Father, I am weary.

Father, I am lonely!
The friends of my youth
Whose hands I clasped,
Into whose eyes I gazed,
Who cheered me by their smiles,
Their loving companionship,
The dear ones, the loved ones,
All, all are gone,
And I struggle on.
Father, I am lonely.

Father, forgive me
That I should complain!
I cry to thee!
More grace, more strength.
Now that I am old
Let me lean on thee!
Abide with me!
As the gathering shadows fall
*And the day draws to a close.*¹

Joseph M. Hibben

A New Merchant Is Born And Raised In Hillsboro

The last child, a son, of Samuel Entriken Hibben and Margaret Galloway was born February 1, 1847 in Hillsboro, Ohio.² Samuel was 43 years old at the time. This son was destined to carry on the work and reputation of his father, and to be a second-generation stalwart of the town of Hillsboro. He was named Joseph Matthew Hibben. When he was in his seventies he wrote articles recalling his experiences as a youth in Hillsboro. One article was about Professor Isaac Sams' private school and another was about fishing "the rapids a short distance below Henry Hope's store; right beyond which the Rocky Fork of Paint Creek crosses the Chilicothe turnpike and joins Paint Creek."³

THE SAMUEL HIBBEN LINE

Memories of School

Mr. Sams being relieved of his public work [director of Hillsboro public schools] didn't wish to remain entirely idle, so he established a private school in his own home. . . .Mr. Sams called his home "The Hermitage," why so, I don't know, and never did know. He had living in the home his wife, a nephew. . . .to say nothing about a roomful of noisy, restless boys. . . .When Mr. Sams became my teacher I had a new experience. Heretofore I had been received with distrust; viewed with suspicion and considered full of original sin, ready at any moment to break out unless severely repressed. . . . He was straight, physically, mentally and morally, with a great deal of self-respect, moreover he had a respect for us, and that was something new. . . .We were in school from 8 uptil [up until] 12. Each one of us would start in the morning and wait for the rest in the grocery on the corner of Walnut and High streets, kept at that time by Sam and Henry Chaney. Then we would go out to school in a bunch and get there any old time. Always found Mr. Sams waiting for us with his "Good morning lads we will now resume labor." He told us our fathers paid him for teaching us and when we were late it was our loss and not his.⁴

Catching Fish for Mother

I was a member of a large family of which I was the youngest child and was continually at my mother's heels and it so happened that she was very fond of fresh fish; that is to eat them, for there were none kept for sale in Hillsboro at that time. So it came about that she had to depend on what I could catch for what she got to eat, and I nearly always got some and how delighted she was if I only got one and sometimes I would be late in getting home, but she always had something warm waiting on the hearth of the stove for me and stood by my chair when I told her the story of the day's ventures. My Dear Mother, how can I do justice to her memory?⁵

After College Joseph Returns To Live In Hillsboro

Joseph's labors under the direction of Prof. Sams qualified him to attend college. During 1866 three letters were written by Samuel Entriken Hibben to Joseph at the Theological Seminary at Center College, Danville, Kentucky. In one of the letters he states: "*I hope you will be faithful to your studies and make what progress you can and if a change of place may be found necessary that can be done at the end of this session.*"⁶ Evidently Joseph was not content at the Seminary as his brother, Samuel Entriken Hibben II had been, for a letter later in the year was addressed to him at Jefferson & Washington College, Cannonsburg, Pennsylvania.⁷ He transferred again in 1867 and graduated from Miami University in 1868 at the age of 21.⁸ He had planned to go on to medical school and a practice of medicine. However, at the request of his father, he joined him in managing the dry goods store.⁹ Older brother Thomas, who had been Samuel's assistant at the store, desired to move on to take on new business interests. Samuel and Joseph became partners in 1871, and Samuel passed on the ownership of the store in 1878. As proprietor, Joseph managed it until he had a stroke in 1923.¹⁰ (Plate 16)

Joseph's Family And Home

Henriette (Hattie) S. Martin's parents were born in Germany and emigrated to Ohio. Hattie graduated from high school June 4, 1874.¹¹ It is not known if she attended college or how she met Joseph. They married May 21, 1882 in Miami County, Ohio.¹² Their first son died a few days after his birth on October 30, 1882. Then Frederick Martin Hibben was born November 9, 1884 and Samuel Galloway Hibben, their second and only other son, was born on June 6, 1888. In the 1880s Joseph built a new house at 310 North High Street in Hillsboro.¹³ Joseph and Hattie lived there until they died. In August 1922 Joseph, Hattie and the three sons of Samuel Entriken Hibben¹⁴, Samuel, Edward and George, were photographed on the porch of this house. (Plate 16) Samuel, a first cousin once removed, was visiting to gather family history information.

Ethics, Character And Community Service

During his lifetime, Joseph was a Mason, a Director of the Merchants National Bank, an Elder of the Presbyterian Church, member of the Village Council¹⁵ and school board, a Trustee of the Highland Female Seminary, and President of the cemetery board. When he died on January 28, 1926 his obituary stated:

The firm of S. E. Hibben & Son has been one of the land marks of Hillsboro. Its policy,¹⁶ founded by the father and continued throughout a long useful life by the son, was always that of strictest integrity and fairest dealing and in the century of its existence no customer ever took an article of merchandise from the store that was represented to be anything but just exactly what it was. The firm refused unfair profits and sold no dishonest goods.¹⁷

The bank memorandum added:

Mr. Hibben had a standard of his own. He saw something more in business life than making money. The relations between him and his fellow business men were most cordial and friendly; and his clerks and associates in the store held him in the highest esteem for his spirit of helpfulness and friendly advice. . . .He was altruistic in motive—never self seeking—and worked unselfishly for the highest ideals of business ethics and the civic welfare of the town of his birth and the community in which he always lived.¹⁸

Joseph's life was portrayed by May Galloway Cummings, his niece, who wrote the following eulogy at the time of his death on January 28, 1926.

Joseph Matthew Hibben was born in Hillsboro Feb. 1st 1847 and entered into rest Jan. 28th 1926. With the exception of the years which he spent in college, he lived his life here in the place of his birth, passing out of life within one block of the place where he was born. He loved his home and his native town very fondly, and always expressed the hope that he might be laid to rest in our cemetery when he fell in to the eternal sleep.

In his early years he attended the public schools of the town, and later was under the instruction of that wonderful educator, Prof. Isaac Sams, who instilled into him a deep love for research into the best studies of the worthwhile things of life. Later he attended for a while an Eastern college, followed by a course at Danville, Ky. under the Presidency of Dr. Breckenridge. After finishing there he took up the course of Oxford College where he graduated as the honor man of his

THE SAMUEL HIBBEN LINE

class. He excelled in the study of the languages and mastered thoroughly all that he undertook in his student work.

His plans were laid for a professional life—but finding that his father and mother would be left alone in their declining years—and that they needed the support and presence of a son—he gave up his cherished ambition to stay with them and care for them in their declining years. Taking over the business of his father, which was established in the same spot where it still is carried on, May 16th 1826 and which has now been in existence for almost 100 years under the name of S. E. Hibben & Son—a most remarkable record in a business life. It had been his desire to live until this date, but he was called away a little while before this date. Although he had entered the 100th year.

Mr. Hibben was always deeply interested in all matters of welfare concerning the town, and even gave this strength and interest to many and anything when he could be of service. He served repeatedly as a member of the school board, the town council—at one time serving as Mayor in the absence of the acting Mayor. For years he has been a member of the cemetery board of which body he was still honorary president. He has long been a Director of The Merchants National Bank—and the last time he signed his name was a short time ago—when he placed his signature to one of its documents.

He was the oldest ruling Elder of the Presbyterian Church and also served for years as Sunday School Superintendent. There is scarcely a public trust which he was not called upon to fill—and many widows and orphans came to him for advice and help. Mr. Hibben had a deep sense of his obligation when holding any place of trust and always filled it with credit and honor.

He had a deep love for little children and had many friends among them. Before the holiday season came, he was busy selecting little gifts for all who came into the store. He was the last surviving member of the Trustees of the Hillsboro Highland Institute and never rested until that building was legally transferred to the Trustees of the Orphans Home, which was so recently done. And a strange coincidence occurs in the fact of the going away of its faithful matron just the day preceding his own departure. But the children of Highland Co. now have a home which is rightfully theirs.

Mr. Hibben had a most retentive memory and spent many of his weary hours in writing down the little remembrances of the times and events of other days which he had printed under the title of “Lucubration of a Recluse.” Many letters came to him from all over the country after friends had read them—descendants of the people referred to in his reminisces. The last article written by him was in regard to the Orphans Home and the history of that building.

He was devoted to his church and loved to set out of doors in the summer where he could look across at its walls. Only last Sunday night he quoted the beautiful hymn

*“I love Thy church, Oh God
Her walls before me stand.
Dear as the apple of mine eyes
And gra[ce] on Thy hands.”*

The last place he was able to go out of his rooms was on Sunday several weeks ago - where he with great effort attended service there.

Three years ago the 18th of January after attending a church meeting at the Methodist church, he was stricken with paralysis, which rendered him unable to go about and attend to his usual duties. But in all three years while he sincerely regretted his idle life and the knowledge that his life's labors were done, he never uttered one word of complaint - but ever expressed a thankful spirit that he did not suffer pain - always saying, "I am all right - I have so much for which to be thankful." His last expression was, "How can I repay all your kindness." Peacefully and quietly he fell asleep and now he rests from his labor.

"Faith wings the soul beyond the sky.

Up to that better world on high,

For which we wait."

He leaves a precious heritage to his children, two sons - Frederick M. of Cleveland and Samuel Galloway of New York. To his wife and one sister, Mrs. Dill, to his loved niece May Cummings and her brother Samuel Cummings, President Grier Hibben of Princeton University, and four grandchildren, he leaves a precious memory of a true Christian gentleman who lived his profession every day and every hour.

"Did we but use it as we ought,

This world would school each wandering thought,

*To its high state."*¹⁹

Joseph's Tribute To Hillsboro

*I am very much attached to Hillsboro. I ought to be. I was born and raised in this town. All my life has been practically spent here, and when my life's work is done, I expect to be borne by loving hands of my friends to the cemetery at the edge of town. Your town is my town, and your people are my people and your God is my God. And the "Lord do so to me and more also, if ought but death part you and me."*²⁰

On January 30, 1926 the loving hands of the family and friends of Joseph Matthew Hibben laid him to rest in the Hillsboro Cemetery which was once "at the edge of the town."

Hattie Dies

Hattie survived fourteen years after Joseph's death. She was given care during her later years by May Galloway Cummings. (Plate 15)

Mrs. Harriet [Henriette] M. Hibben, aged 84 years, widow of the late J. M. Hibben, died at her home on N. High Street on Monday night. Mrs. Hibben had been confined to her home for six years. . . Mrs. Hibben had been active in the Presbyterian Church and women's club work until her health failed. She was a charter member of the Friday Club. She had a fine mind and was an excellent writer. She had lived all of her married life in Hillsboro.

Surviving Mrs. Hibben are two sons, Fred, of Cleveland, and Galloway, of Mont Clair, New Jersey, seven grandchildren and two great grandchildren. Both sons are here for the funeral.

THE SAMUEL HIBBEN LINE

*The S. E. Hibben & Son dry goods store in Hillsboro is one of the oldest stores west of the Allegheny Mountains and is probably the oldest store in Ohio which has been conducted continuously by the same family.*²¹

Funeral services were conducted by Rev. Malzard²² and Hattie was buried in the Hibben lot in the Hillsboro Cemetery.

Generation 4.5 End Notes:

- ¹ Newspaper, (unknown), Hillsboro, Highland County, Ohio, between 1915 and 1925.
- ² Certificate of Death, Highland County, Hillsboro, Ohio, District 589, File 506; US Census 1850, M432-649, Household 18, Liberty Township, Highland County, Ohio; US Census 1860, M653-986, page 102, Liberty Township, Highland County, Ohio; US Census 1870, M593-1222, page 182, line 16, Household 278, Liberty Township, Highland County, Ohio; US Census 1880, T9-1033, Enumeration 46, page 2, line 32, Household 19, Hillsboro, Liberty Township, Highland County, Ohio; US Census 1900, T623-1286, Enumeration 117, page 5, line 46, Hillsboro, Liberty Township, Highland County, Ohio; US Census 1920, T625-1399, Enumeration 92, page 12, line 50, Hillsboro, Highland County, Ohio.
- ³ See Chapter XI, Generation 3.9. Joseph probably was staying at his father's farm.
- ⁴ Joseph M. Hibben, "Lucubrations of a Recluse," newspaper, (unknown), Hillsboro, Highland County, Ohio, November 1, 1919.
- ⁵ Ibid., January 29, 1925.
- ⁶ Letter from Samuel Entriken Hibben at Hillsboro, Ohio to Joseph Matthew Hibben in care of William Duke, Esq., Center College, Danville, Kentucky, dated January 18, 1866. Letter in possession of Craig Rittenhouse Hibben (*Samuel Galloway*⁵, *Joseph Matthew*⁴, *Samuel Entriken*⁵, *Thomas*², *John*¹).
- ⁷ Letter from Samuel Entriken Hibben at Hillsboro, Ohio to Joseph Matthew Hibben, Jefferson & Washington College, Cannonsburg, Pennsylvania, dated October 17, 1866. Letter in possession of Craig Rittenhouse Hibben.
- ⁸ *Miami University Alumni Catalog, Centennial Edition, 1809-1909*, page 120.
- ⁹ Merchants National Bank memorandum about the death of Joseph M. Hibben. Original in possession of Patricia Anne Cummings (Powers).
- ¹⁰ Samuel Galloway Hibben, Joseph's son, was the absentee owner of the store until it closed in 1958. See Chapter XI, Generation 5.4.
- ¹¹ Diploma, Piqua High School, Piqua, Miami County, Ohio, dated June 4, 1874. Diploma on parchment in possession of Craig Rittenhouse Hibben.
- ¹² Marriage License, Miami County, Ohio, #15540, May 31, 1882; Marriage Certificate, dated May 31, 1882. Certificate in possession of Craig Rittenhouse Hibben.
- ¹³ Henry Howe, LL.D., *Historical Collections of Ohio, 1900*, Cincinnati, Ohio, (C.J. Krehbiel & Co., Printers and Binders), volume I, photo of Hibben resident on High street, Hillsboro, 1890. The house was modified to accommodate a branch of the Liberty Savings Bank about one hundred years later.
- ¹⁴ Samuel Entriken⁵ Hibben (*George*⁴, *Thomas*³, *Thomas*², *John*¹), born 1870.
- ¹⁵ Certificate of Election, dated April 6, 1903. Certificate in possession of Craig Rittenhouse Hibben.
- ¹⁶ See Chapter XI, Generation 3.9.
- ¹⁷ Newspaper, (unknown), [Note 1], January 30, 1926.
- ¹⁸ Merchants National Bank memorandum, [Note 9].
- ¹⁹ Handwritten notes by May Galloway Cummings in possession of Patricia Anne Cummings (Powers).
- ²⁰ Newspaper, (unknown), [Note 1], article reporting an address to the B. M. A. smoker 1913.
- ²¹ *Hillsboro Gazette*, Hillsboro, Ohio, July 15, 1940.
- ²² Using information supplied by Hattie, Rev. Malzard had just published *History of The First Presbyterian Church of Hillsboro, Ohio*.