

Descendants of Samuel Hibben Cummings and Helen Henebery

Generation No. 5.2

SAMUEL HIBBEN⁵ CUMMINGS (*Eliza Smith⁴ Hibben, Samuel Entriiken³, Thomas², John¹*) was born January 18, 1872 in Peoria, Peoria Co., IL, and died September 12, 1932 in East Peoria, Peoria Co., IL. He married **HELEN HENEBERY** June 14, 1898 in Peoria, Peoria Co., IL, daughter of **MATTHEW HENEBERY** and **MARY DANIELS**. She was born August 01, 1873 in Peoria, Peoria Co., IL, and died May 12, 1958 in Peoria, Peoria Co., IL.

Children of **SAMUEL CUMMINGS** and **HELEN HENEBERY** are:

- i. **DAVID HENEBERY CUMMINGS**, b. May 20, 1903, Peoria, Peoria Co., IL; d. October 05, 1994, East Peoria, Peoria Co., IL. He m. **ELLA WREN OFF** September 12, 1936, Peoria, Peoria Co., IL; b. June 13, 1913, Peoria, Peoria Co., IL.
- ii. **LUCILLE HENEBERY⁶ CUMMINGS**, b. April 24, 1906, Peoria, Peoria Co., IL; d. August 16, 1981, Peoria, Peoria Co., IL. She m. **ROBERT E. GAUL** April 09, 1931, Peoria, Peoria Co., IL; b. March 03, 1902, Houghton, Houghton Co., MI; d. April 16, 1964, Monmouth, Warren Co., IL.
- iii. **MARY DANIELS CUMMINGS**, b. April 24, 1906, Peoria, Peoria Co., IL; d. August 16, 1982, La Jolla, San Diego Co., CA. She m. **ARTHUR P. JOHNSON** May 26, 1943; b. August 03, 1904; d. January 4, 2000, San Diego, San Diego Co., CA.

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SAMUEL HIBBEN CUMMINGS 1872 - 1932
and
HELEN HENEBERY 1873 - 1958
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MAY GALLOWAY CUMMINGS 1873 - 1957

*Life is the running of the race,
We reach the goal,
When in the mansions of the fleet,
Death leaves to its eternal rest,
The weary soul.¹*

May Galloway Cummings

Samuel Joins The Family Business In Peoria And Marries

Samuel Hibben Cummings was born January 18, 1872 in Peoria, Illinois. He was the first child of David M. Cummings and Eliza Smith Hibben. He received his education at the Exeter Academy of Ohio.² After his father died and while Samuel was growing up, Mr. George F. Emerson apparently ably managed the family business, Cummings and Emerson. As a young man, Samuel was able to return to Peoria, Illinois and assume control of the firm. On June 14, 1898 he married Helen Henebery in Peoria and they moved into the Cummings house on the bluff. A son, David Henebery Cummings, was born May 20, 1903. Twin daughters Lucille Henebery Cummings and Mary Daniels Cummings were born April 24, 1906.³

During the early 1900s he revised his business plan by phasing out of iron, steel and carriage parts, and converting Cummings and Emerson into an automobile and garage parts supply firm.

CUMMINGS - EMERSON OCCUPY NEW HOME. This is one of the oldest firms in Peoria, and since 1869 or 1870 had been located just a few doors north at 412-418 South Washington. But it was by no means an automotive supply house when it started. . . .Originally it was what was known as a heavy hardware house in the horse and buggy days. They handled iron, carriage, wagon works and blacksmith stocks and soon took rank among the leading firms in the middle west. As times changed, the company eliminated obsolete and passé supplies and took on those of the progressing era, gradually being transformed into an automotive establishment. They now have a complete line of auto supplies, auto parts, garage equipment and radio supplies. No doubt they will soon be adapting themselves to the airplane age just as they did to the changes brought about by the automobile. . . .The company's officers are: Samuel H. Cummings, president; James B. Kenny, secretary-treasurer; R. N. Cooper, general manager.⁴

Samuel Retires And Dies Shortly Thereafter

As he drove his car along Fon du Lac Drive in East Peoria, yesterday afternoon, Samuel H. Cummings, 60, of 321 California avenue, former president of the Cummings and Emerson auto supplies firm, suffered a heart attack and died almost immediately. Mr. Cummings retired as head of the business several

THE SAMUEL HIBBEN LINE

months ago. He had been associated with the firm since he started his business career.

*Surviving him are his widow; three children, Mrs. P. E. Gaul, Chicago; Miss Mary D. Cummings and David H. Cummings of Peoria; and sister Miss May G. Cummings, Hillsboro, O.*⁵

Helen Survives David By Twenty-Six Years

Helen died on May 12, 1958 in Peoria.

Mrs. Helen Henebery Cummings, 84, wife of the late Samuel Cummings, formerly of 321 California Ave., died at 9:33 a.m. Sunday in the Pfeiffer Nursing Home, 1120 E. Virginia Ave. She was a member of St. Bernard's Catholic Church parish and of the Catholic Women's League of Peoria.

*Surviving are three children, David H. Cummings of Washington, Ill., Mrs. Lucille Gaul of Peoria and Mrs. Mary Johnson of Decatur; 10 grandchildren and two great grandchildren.*⁶

She was buried in St. Mary's Cemetery.



May Cummings Never Marries

May Galloway Cummings was born August 22, 1873 in Peoria, Illinois, the second and last child of David M. Cummings and Eliza Smith Hibben. She was only 6 years old when her father died and her family returned to Hillsboro, Ohio.⁷ When not traveling to Europe, May lived and cared for her mother in Hillsboro. She never married. When her mother died, she continued to live at the Cummings home at 243 East Main Street,⁸ caring first for her aunt Lavinia and then Lavinia's sister-in-law, Henriette Hibben, until they died. Being unmarried, May remained at home fulfilling a manifest duty or "God's Will," devoting her life to the care of three elderly family members. (Plate 15) She also inherited Lavinia Hibben Dill's family documents and should be credited for preserving them during her lifetime.

When the Presbyterian Church of Hillsboro was built in 1899, May and her brother, Samuel Hibben Cummings, made a gift of the A. B. Felgemacher organ in memory of their mother, Eliza H. Cummings. *"It is said that much of the elegance of the church's plan and structure was due to her influence."*⁹

Recollections of Frank Cummings Hibben and Patricia Cummings Powers are that Samuel Galloway Hibben looked after May's welfare from about 1930 until she died June 11, 1957 in Columbus, Ohio.

*Miss May Cummings, 84, member of a pioneer family of Hillsboro, died at Columbus Tuesday evening following a short illness. Services will be held Saturday at 2 P.M. at the Evans funeral home, with burial following in Hillsboro cemetery. Only survivor is David [Henebery] Cummings, a nephew, Peoria, Ill.*¹⁰

In 1957 when Hillsboro celebrated its sesquicentennial Samuel Galloway Hibben, May's first cousin wrote an eulogy published in the Press Gazette.

. . .most of May Cummings' life was spent in the old home on East Main Street, where she and her brother climbed to a tree house built in the great elm on that property, then to school in New York, later to Europe on numerous trips and when not repairing or touring in one of region's first automobiles (circa 1905) she was enjoying masterful bridge (whist) or entertaining in the most gracious manner so characteristic of the hospitality of old Hillsboro. During her middle years May Cummings lived with the unforgettable Lavinia Hibben Dill and the charities of these two modest servants of good may never be fully measured. Finally, May closed her old residence and quietly lived out the sunset years in the Christian Science home in Columbus. For all of her social graces, May Cummings was really far more masculine than feminine, because her first love was machinery! Gears and grease and wires and whirling wheels fascinated her. She could work with intricate tools and when others looked at art or styles or frivolities, May would be found appraising some new automobile or studying the generators and engines in a factory or a World's Fair. She was an officer of a large wholesale hardware company, meanwhile a hostess exemplary and while she worked with willing zeal to entertain her many guests with ultra delicious hospitality, yet all the while she heard the fitful voices of whirling machinery and visioned in her mind the beauties of mechanical devices. So, in the passing of May Cummings to some heavenly factory, Hillsboro has lost a rare and unique citizen. We shall not see her like again.¹¹

Generation 5.2 End Notes:

- ¹ Poem by May Galloway Cummings. Eulogy written at the passing of Joseph M. Hibben, January 28, 1926.
- ² Elsie Johnson Ayers, *Highland Pioneer Sketches and Family Genealogies*, 1971, (H. K. Skinner & Son), page 851.
- ³ Patricia Anne Cummings (Powers), Family Group Sheets.
- ⁴ Newspaper, (unknown), Peoria, Peoria County, Illinois, about 1930.
- ⁵ Ibid., September 13, 1932.
- ⁶ Ibid., May 13, 1958.
- ⁷ US Census 1880, T9-1033, Enumeration 45, page 10, line 18, Hillsboro, Liberty Township, Highland County, Ohio.
- ⁸ Ohio Historic Inventory, Number Hig-83-5, Eliza H. Cummings House. Built 1858 and first owned by the Ayers and Barry families.
- ⁹ 100th Anniversary Celebration Program, First Presbyterian Church, Saturday, May 15, 1999.
- ¹⁰ *Press Gazette*, Hillsboro, Ohio, Friday, June 14, 1957. Note: Two nieces, Lucille Cummings Gaul and Mary Cummings Johnson, also survived May.
- ¹¹ Ibid., July 12, 1857.