

INTRODUCTION

Many years before retirement, I filed away a hand drawn family tree chart. One day in late 1997, I came upon the chart and thought it would be interesting to verify the data and attempt to add to information about my line of descent from Thomas Hibben, born 1760, and Mary Entriken Hibben, born 1762. This chart, listing thirty nine ancestors, had been made by my grandfather, Samuel Entriken Hibben,¹ in the 1920s. In 1970, his son, who was my uncle George N. Hibben, added the names and birth dates of his children, nephews and nieces, before sending a copy to all of them. This is the document which awakened my curiosity and started the process of discovery. Little did I realize the extent to which I would be able to expand the chart and locate source documentation about so many individuals; nor did I contemplate that I would meet and communicate with so many new cousins. And, at the beginning, I had no thought of writing a book about family history. As months and then several years passed, and my files and database expanded, it became clear that information they contained begged to be preserved, compiled and organized for the use of current and future generations. The decision to write a book was made for me. I knew that if I didn't write it, the chances were great that no one would, and that the research would gather dust or be discarded. I had no choice but to accept the responsibility and pleasure of writing this book.

While researching I found that other Hibben descendants had been interested in family history long before I. Several had left records which facilitated my search. Elizabeth Ballard Robinson² accurately documented the Revolutionary War service of Thomas Hibben, all of his children and her descent from Thomas' son, James, born 1795. Her application to the Daughters of the American Revolution was accepted in 1919. My grandfather prepared his family tree chart after a visit with cousins in Hillsboro, Ohio, in August, 1922. In 1924, Paxton Pattison Hibben³ wrote to John Grier Hibben:⁴ *"My grandfather was married three times, and I have been baffled at every turn trying to find out what his first wife's name was! . . . I admit with some shame that I knew very little indeed about the Hibbens. . ."* In 1947, George A. Robinson, Jr.⁵ continued research his mother had begun. He wrote to a Miss Lapp: *"It is striking to me that the same families stick so closely together all thru their westward migration. The McClelland family and the Allison family illustrate this with the Hibbens and Entrekens. The families all lived around Uniontown [Pennsylvania] in the early 1800s and it seems to me quite probable that they were neighbors when they lived around West Chester [Pennsylvania]."* George also corresponded with Dorothy Boake Panzer [Young], from 1968 through 1973, while she was researching the Boake family, gathering material for her book, *The Beech Tree*. Dorothy's first husband was Howard Stafford Jeans, Jr.,⁶ 2nd great grandson of John Hibben, born 1785. Robert Radford Hibben,⁷ also researched the John Hibben line extensively. In 1975 his application for membership in the National Society Sons of the American Revolution was accepted. Also, in 1975 Evangaline Hibben Wisdom,⁸ another descendant of John Hibben, was accepted as a Daughter of the American Revolution. Then I discovered that Graechen Becker Stewart⁹ and her sister Virginia Becker had, in the early 1990s, documented two generations of Mary Entriken Hibben's ancestors, the Hueys and Entrikens. They also shared research information about the Heron and Neemes families, daughters of whom married descendants of Thomas Hibben, born 1793.

As I proceeded to collect source documents, it soon became evident that many close associations and interactions had existed between Thomas and Mary's children and grandchildren. Therefore, I abandoned my original plan to verify and expand the documentation of just my line of descent from Thomas Hibben's son, Thomas, born 1793. While this greatly expanded the scope of the project to include all nine of Thomas' siblings, it proved to be a good decision. I learned a great deal about my line from documents created by and about individuals of other lines. For example, from a letter written in 1850 by Elizabeth McManis Magee Hibben, third wife of William Hibben, born 1790, reports: *"Sarah*

Hibben died of flux.” Sarah, who died September 30, 1850, was the daughter of the Thomas Hibben of my line and his second wife, Ruth Gaddis.

There are numerous references throughout the source documentation which describe Hibben ancestors as pioneers. Just one example from Wilmington, Ohio: “*At the pioneer dinner held for Ephraim Kibby, on December 11, 1869. . . . Of the forty eight pioneers only two were under the age of sixty years. . . . There were six photographs taken, of groups of eight. . . . [caption] Elizabeth [Hibben] Kelley; PA.; [born] November 15, 1803.*” I have usurped the description used by others because it accurately portrays the role played by many Hibbens in the founding of towns, state and local government, schools, churches, and, indeed, our Nation.

There are hundreds of documents which record the lives of the Hibben family. Citations from the documents are presented in italics. Other extracted information has been woven into the text. When an occurrence or event was not documented, but seems logically to have happened, the word ‘assume,’ ‘most likely,’ ‘probably,’ or a similar conditional term is used. This license to extrapolate or connect events without proof was sometimes necessary to provide linkage to or to conclude a series of events. Occasional speculation should not diminish the credibility of the book.

This book has been written as a social history of a large, multi-generational American family. If a reader is a descendant of a particular line, such as Samuel Entriken Hibben, born 1804, he/she should first read chapters I and II, followed by XI about Samuel and his descendants. And then, hopefully, he/she would be compelled to explore additional chapters. The book may be used by others as a reference to a specific related surname or nuclear family. If so, it is suggested that the Index - Related Surnames be consulted to select the appropriate chapter, and then the descendant report of each generation be surveyed to locate the surname or family.

I hope that you will treasure this permanent record of the lives of Hibben ancestors whose life stories were receding into the mist of the past and were about to fade beyond the memory of those living.

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¹ Samuel Entriken⁵ Hibben (*George⁴, Thomas³, Thomas², John¹*).

² Elizabeth Ann⁶ Ballard (*Charles Foresman⁵, Mary Jane⁴ Hibben, James³, Thomas², John¹*).

³ Paxton Pattison⁶ Hibben (*Thomas Entriken⁵, James Samuel⁴, Thomas³, Thomas², John¹*).

⁴ John Grier⁵ Hibben (*Samuel Entriken⁴, Samuel Entriken³, Thomas², John¹*).

⁵ George Ayers⁷ Robinson, Jr. (*Elizabeth Ann⁶, Charles Foresman⁵ Ballard, Mary Jane⁴ Hibben, James³, Thomas², John¹*).

⁶ Howard Stafford⁶ Jeans (*Frank Hibben⁵ Jeans, Sarah Jane⁴ Hibben, John³, Thomas², John¹*).

⁷ Robert Radford⁷ Hibben (*Robert Cann⁶, Jesse W.⁵, Samuel Milhous⁴, John³, Thomas², John¹*).

⁸ Evangaline⁶ Hibben (Wisdom) (*Jesse W.⁵, Samuel Milhous⁴, John³, Thomas², John¹*).

⁹ Graechen⁷ Becker (Stewart) (*Virginia⁶, Samuel Entriken⁵, George⁴, Thomas³, Thomas², John¹*).