

ADDITIONAL HIBBEN DESCENDANTS

JAMES R. HIBBEN 1798 - 1879 and MARY CHENOWETH 1801 - 1877

The Chenoweth family history records that James R. Hibben was born in Greenbrier County, Virginia (now West Virginia).¹ In 1822 the tax rolls of Pike County, Ohio record that the largest tax assessed was \$12.20, and: “*James Hibben paid the smallest tax, just 30 cents.*”² On February 14, 1828 he married Mary Chenoweth in Pike County, Ohio.³ Mary and James had four sons and a daughter, and lived in Waverly the remainder of their lives. Their youngest son, William, was killed during the Civil War.

James, a merchant and civic leader in Waverly, was instrumental in having the county seat moved from Picketon to Waverly and building a court house. The following resolution was passed by town council of Waverly on September 20, 1861:

*WHEREAS, A few of the citizens of Waverly and vicinity have agreed to build the public buildings and donate them to Pike County in the event that Waverly, by vote of the people, shall become the county seat of the county, therefore, RESOLVED by the town council of the corporation of the town of Waverly, That the ground known as the ‘public square’ of said corporation is hereby freely tendered to the citizens of said county for the purpose of erecting thereon a court-house and jail. . . .*⁴

Then on December 8, 1866 a deed was filed:

*Know all men by these presents, That we James Emmitt and Louisa Emmitt, his wife; George W. A. Clough and Mary Clough, his wife; James R. Hibbens and Mary Hibbens, his wife; and Newton S. Moore and Elizabeth Moore, his wife, all of Pike County, Ohio, in consideration of five dollars (\$5.00) to them paid by the Commissioners of Pike County, Ohio, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, do hereby renounce, release and forever quitclaim to the said County Commissioners of Pike County, Ohio, and to their successors in office as such Commissioners forever, for the use and benefit of the county of Pike and State aforesaid, all our claims, title, interest and estate, legal and equitable, in the new court-house building, erected and standing upon the public square.*⁵

In a letter to Samuel Entriken Hibben⁶ in Hillsboro, Highland County, Ohio written January 18, 1871, James labels himself as a cousin and refers to “*our Grand Parents*” and “*Grand Father Hibben.*” He places his family and his grandparents in Uniontown, Fayette County, Ohio after his birth in 1798 and before 1808. He also recalls enjoying visits with Samuel’s mother, Mary (Entriken) Hibben. Fayette County deeds record that a John Hibben purchased Lot #11 in ‘Jacob’s Addition’ January 20, 1801⁷ and a five acre portion of a tract of land called ‘Trial’ in 1804.⁸ One of the deeds indicates that John Hibben was a schoolmaster. Court records also show that John and his wife, Mary, sold the lot in town in February, 1804 and the tract of land in September, 1806.⁹ The latter date approximates the date James reported that his family moved from Uniontown. Therefore, it is assumed that James R. Hibben¹⁰ was the son of this John Hibben, and a grandson of John Hibben who was first documented in Chester County, Pennsylvania.

The complete text of James’ letter to Samuel is as follows:

Waverly Jan y 18 th 1871

Hon. Samuel E. Hibben

Dear Cousin I was very glad to hear from you and that you started out in giving me a short history of our family. It was interesting to me. I should be very glad if you would continue and let me know as far as you can— I have not prepared any thing of my

history at present, but will ere long. We have four Children living, 3 boys and one Girl. The boys all live close to me. 2 of them in sight of Waverly, one Circleville, O. My daughter lives in Peoria, Ill— You refer to our Grand Parents, well do I remember them. I learned my a,b,c with Grand Father Hibben. I remember Grandmother drinking tea, how she held her saucer. I think she enjoyed her tea as well as any person I ever knew. I suppose you have forgotten when we lived on a Farm, about 4 miles from Uniontown. I and my oldest Sister used frequently to go to town, and always called on your mother [Mary (Entriaken) Hibben b. 1762]. She always had something for us, many a piece of mince pie, we got. My Father with his family moved from uniontown in the year 1808 and settled in Stubanvile O, moved from there in 1809 and settled in Ross County O what was called the big bottom below the mouth of Salt Creek, I have lived in Ross & Pike Counties ever since. I have just written to my friend the Hon. Isaac Austill member of the House of Representatives to call on you. he is an excellent man reliable and I think you would be pleased with him. It is a task for me to write and must close for the present. write at every opportunity.

Remain your Cousin truly

J. R. Hibben

*Come and see us if you can. you may think paper scarce!*¹¹

Living descendants of James and Mary's children, Granville Hibben and Rebecca Ann (Hibben) Downing greatly assisted in developing the following descendant report.

¹ Jon Egge, Electronic, <<http://chenoweth.com/ch6t7a.htm>>.

² *History of Lower Scotio Valley, Ohio*, 1884, Chicago, Illinois, (Inter-state Publishing Company), page 694.

³ Shirley D. Harris & Richard C. Harris, *The Chenoweth Family in America*, 1994, Scottsville, Kentucky, (Gerald Printing Service), pages 550-51.

⁴ *History of Lower Scotio Valley, Ohio*, [Note 2], page 707.

⁵ *Ibid.*, pages 707-08.

⁶ Samuel Entriaken³ Hibben (*Thomas*², *John*¹).

⁷ *Fayette County, Pennsylvania Court House Records of Deeds and Mortgages*, volume F, page 89.

⁸ *Ibid.*, volume G, pages 200-01.

⁹ *Ibid.*, volume F, page 11 and volume G, page 202.

¹⁰ James R.³ Hibben (*John*², *John*¹).

¹¹ Letter from James R. Hibben at Waverly, Pike County, Ohio dated January 18, 1871 to Samuel Entriaken Hibben at Hillsboro, Highland County, Ohio. Lavinia (Hibben) Dill collection document #1, in possession of Craig Rittenhouse Hibben.