

Revised 10/07

**JOHN HIBBEN Abt. 1771 - 1856
and wives
(unknown)
BARBARY WINTERS 1794 -**

There is no known or assumed link of this John Hibben to the Hibben family which is the subject of this book. This brief summary is included because this John Hibben was born in Pennsylvania and his descendants traveled different paths into the wilderness, and contributed to the growth of the Nation in distinctly different ways than other Hibben families. They moved south and west of the Mississippi River long before Arkansas and Oklahoma became states; they supported the Confederacy during the Civil War; and one grandson married a Native American.

John, born about 1771,¹ and an unknown wife had two known sons, Thomas Hibben, born 1802² in Virginia, and John Hibben, born between 1800 and 1810. Although over forty years of age, he served with the Illinois Volunteers in the War of 1812.³ No records have been found about John and his family during the next thirty-five years. It is assumed that he moved to Arkansas before 1830 and that his first wife predeceased him. He married Barbary Winters on January 25, 1847 in Conway County, Arkansas at the age of seventy-six. The 1850 census indicates he was a farmer in Washburn Township, Scott County, Arkansas. His son, Thomas and an unknown wife had eight children. All were born in Arkansas, the first in 1830. Thomas' third child, William Barry Hibben was born in 1832. William married Eliza Ann Jane Lusk June 16, 1859 and they had one child, Thomas Dickerson Hibben, born September 4, 1860.⁴

Sophia Hibben Payne submitted information about the lives of her grandfather, William Barry Hibben, and her father, Thomas Dickerson Hibben, to the Indian Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma. Her mother, Mary Hester Ann Oakes was a descendant of Appuckshunneebbe, Chief of the Choctaw Nation.⁵

My father, Thomas D. Hibben, was born in Boone County, Arkansas, and my mother, Mary Oakes - Hibben, was born near Goodwater Church in what was then Kiamichi County, Choctaw Nation. I was born at a place about a mile from Goodwater in 1887.

My grandfather was a Confederate soldier and his company was encamped in Boone County, Arkansas, just about a day's drive from his home when he was taken sick with measles then pneumonia and died. When his young wife heard of his death she took her team and wagon and went and brought his body home for burial. It was a good long day's drive from her home; the weather was cold and she contracted a cold, while on this trip, from which she never recovered. The doctor said she died from a broken heart as much as anything else. She lived just six months after her husband's death.

Their son, Thomas Hibben, was just three years old at the time his parents died and he was shifted from one relative to another the balance of his boyhood. Nobody wanted him and nobody cared where he went. He was never sent to school a day in his life. Thomas D. Hibben was just tolerated by his relatives. They didn't care what he did, though he never did anybody a wrong. He was deeply religious [Methodist] and religiously kept the Sabbath Day Holy.

In his wanderings he came to the Indian Territory, Choctaw Nation, and worked as a "snipe" on the new railroad that was being built through here. Later he went to work for and lived at my uncle's Thomas Oaks, who was then County Judge of Kiamichi County, Indian Territory, Choctaw Nation. They lived down near Frogville not very far from the house of my grandfather, Thomas W. Oakes who was the father of Lem W., Joel E. and George Oakes. My mother was teaching school when she fell in love with and

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married my father, Thomas D. Hibben. Uncle Thomas, in the capacity of County Judge, performed the ceremony. Father was twenty three years old then and could not write his name or read a word. Mother taught him after they were married. Each night she carefully and faithfully taught him his lessons. Then when we children came along and were going to school we brought our books home with us to study and Father could work problems for us that we could not work and that Mother could not work.

Father was just naturally above the average man in intelligence. I can remember when he was Clerk of the Supreme Court of the Choctaw Nation and stayed at Tuskahoma a lot of the time. After Statehood he became one of the first county commissioners of Choctaw County. . .⁶

In 1902, Thomas D. Hibben applied to become a citizen by intermarriage of the Choctaw Nation.

It appears from the record herein that Thomas D. Hibben, on August 10, 1884, was married in accordance with the laws, customs and usages of the Choctaw Nation to Mary Hibben (nee Oakes), a recognized and enrolled citizen by blood of the Choctaw Nation, whose name appears as No. 3930 upon the lists prepared by this Commission, under the Act of Congress approved July 1, 1902 (32 Stats., 641), of persons entitled to enrollment as citizens by blood of the Choctaw Nation and approved by the Secretary of the Interior on December 12, 1902; that at the time of said marriage both persons above mentioned were resident in good faith of the Choctaw Nation and that they have lived together continuously in said Nation as husband and wife from the date of said marriage up to and including September 25, 1902.

It is, therefore, the opinion of this Commission that Thomas D. Hibben should be enrolled as a citizen by intermarriage of the Choctaw Nation, under the provisions of the Acts of Congress approved June 28, 1898 (30 Stats., 495) and July 1, 1902 (32 Stats., 641), and it is so ordered.

COMMISSION TO THE FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES, Muskogee, Indian Territory.⁷

Primarily, the research and compilation of source documentation about this line is the work of Benjamin Wood, a descendant.⁸ He kindly shared his data, hoping to establish a link to other Hibbens. Perhaps someday that link may be found. In addition, I am indebted to Penny Koch, Al Bailey, Diann Tooley, Ludean Rogers, April Dunham, Mary Morris and Jan Hibben, wife of Ken Hibben (deceased), who have also contributed information about John Hibben and his descendants.

¹ US Census 1850, M432-30, sheet 301, line 36, household 346, Washburn Township, Scott County, Arkansas; US Census 1840, M421, sheet 77A, Conway County, Arkansas.

² US Census 1850, M432-25, sheet 232, line 1, household 35, Welborn Township, Conway County, Arkansas.

³ Benjamin Wood, John Hibben descendant report.

⁴ The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Relyea Mortuary Records.

⁵ Mary Hester Ann⁶ Oakes (*Harriet Newell⁵ Everidge, Eve Illiapotubbe⁴ Brashears, Robert Turner³, Hotioka Tioka Jane², Appuckshunneebbee¹*).

⁶ Indian Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma, electronic, <www.rootsweb.com/~okgenweb/pioneer/ohs/paynesophia.htm>.

⁷ Department of the Interior, Commission to the Five Tribes, document #7-1418, dated September 25, 1902.

⁸ Benjamin⁸ Wood (*Beverly Jean⁷ Carter, R. D.⁶, Francis Harriet⁵ Hibben, Thomas Dickerson⁴, William Barry³, Thomas², John¹*).