

WILLIAM HIBBEN 1767 - 1846
and
MARGARET SHELEY Abt. 1763 - 1854

It is likely that William Hibben, who was born December 17, 1767,¹ was a son of John Hibben of Chester County, Pennsylvania. He married Margaret Sheley on February 4, 1790 in Berkeley County, Virginia.² William and Margaret were early pioneers in Silver Creek, Greene County, Ohio, arriving in 1813.³ The 1820 and 1830 census records William's occupation as agriculture.⁴

There are numerous links between William Hibben and his Sheley in-laws and two children of Thomas Hibben, born 1760. Thomas Hibben is believed to be William's older brother. Between 1830 and 1840 Jane (Hibben) Sesler, born 1807, and James Hibben, born 1795, who are believed to be William's niece and nephew, settled in Jamestown, Ohio,⁵ not far from William's farm. William and Margaret (Sheley) Hibben's nephew, Samuel Sheley, Jr., born 1807, married Margaret Sesler, born 1813. Margaret Sesler was a sister of Thomas Sesler, born 1804, who married Jane Hibben. In addition, Civil War pension records of Thomas Martin Sesler, a son of Jane (Hibben) Sesler, include an affidavit supporting Thomas' claims, submitted by another nephew of William and Margaret (Sheley) Hibben, Theodrick Sheley.⁶

William and Margaret had a daughter, Sophia, born about 1790, who married William Farmer on December 29, 1814 in Greene County, Ohio.⁷ They had four children; Francis, Van, Elizabeth and Sophia. Francis married John C. Timberlake, Elizabeth married George Benson and Sophia married David B. Clark.

William Hibben died June 3, 1846 and Margaret Sheley Hibben died February 1, 1854. They both are buried in the Sheley graveyard located in a farmer's field just south of Jamestown.⁸

¹ Date calculated from date of death on tombstone in Sheley Cemetery, Silver Creek Township, Greene County, Ohio. Located about one mile south of Jamestown on Waynesville-Jamestown Road. Coordinates; 39.3855N, 83.4457W.

² Guy L. Keesecker, compiler, *Marriage Records of Berkeley County, Virginia, 1781-1854*, page 203.

³ George F. Robinson, *Robinson's History of Greene County, Ohio*, 1902, Chicago, Illinois, (S. J. Clark Publishing Co.), Chapter 'Greene County Pioneers from 1803 to 1840,' page 321.

⁴ US Census 1820, roll 91, sheet 133, line 42, Silver Creek Township, Greene County, Ohio; US Census 1830, roll 131, sheet 392, line 22, Silver Creek Township, Greene County, Ohio.

⁵ Chapter XII, Generation 3.10 and Chapter VII, Generation 3.5.

⁶ National Archives and Records Administration Civil War pension file #262,208, neighbor's affidavit, November 11, 1881.

⁷ *Ohio Marriages Recorded in County Courts through 1820, an Index*, Book A, page 047. "Hibbens, Sophia - Farmer, William, Dec. 29, 1814, Greene County."

⁸ Tombstone inscriptions; "William Hibben died June 3, 1846 Aged 78y. 5ms. & 17 ds"; Margaret Hibben died Feb. 1, 1854, aged 91 years."