

THE HIBBS FAMILY

The HIBBS Family were Quakers in England in 1650. Some authorities state that WILLIAM PENN brought the first Quakers to America. However, from good authority we learn that, when WILLIAM PENN first arrived in Pennsylvania on August 25, 1682, he found there were 67 QUAKER families already established at Playwicky.

I WILLIAM HIBBS, of England.

WILLIAM HIBBS, the earliest ancestor in this record, was born in 1630 in England; died there May 6, 1686. He was a Quaker and had been fined several times for not attending the Established Church of England; had also suffered imprisonment for his belief. (He was this writer's SIXTH-Great-Grandfather.)

WILLIAM married JOANNE _____ in 1654 in England, and they had 7 children:

- 1 JANE HIBBS born March 14, 1655, in England.
- 2 JONATHAN HIBBS born July 26, 1657; died c1686 in England.
- 3 MARY HIBBS born 1659 in England.
- 4 SARAH HIBBS born March 6, 1660, in England; died there February 6, 1702.
- 5 HANNAH HIBBS born January 11, 1662, in England.
- 6+ WILLIAM HIBBS Jr. born March 23, 1665, in England; died c1710/11 in Pennsylvania; married HANNAH HOUL (later spelled HOWELL) and had 8 children. (see No. II following) +
- 7 JOSEPH HIBBS born December 10, 1668, in England.

II WILLIAM HIBBS² (son of WILLIAM HIBBS Sr.¹)

WILLIAM HIBBS Junior, son of WILLIAM Senior and his wife JOANNE, was born March 23, 1665, in England; died c1710/11 in Pennsylvania; married HANNAH HOUL (later spelled HOWELL) on February 2, 1686, in Abington Monthly Meeting in Philadelphia, Pa. HANNAH was a daughter of THOMAS HOWELL. (HINSHAW's QUAKERS Volume 2, page 444, shows one THOMAS HOWELL was buried in 1698 at Philadelphia Monthly Meeting.)

When WILLIAM Jr. was 12 years of age, in 1677, he came with the first settlers who founded Burlington, New Jersey. He was a birthright Quaker and had come to America with the 230 (two companies) FRIENDS who were from Yorkshire and London, on the ship Kent. Their first Meeting was held under a sailcloth tent on the east bank of Delaware River.

Later WILLIAM moved to Byberry in Bucks Co., Pa., and became a man of influence in the community. He had a very strong character, and considered himself somewhat above his neighbors, but lived among them and helped to build the infant republic. (WILLIAM Jr. and HANNAH were this writer's FIFTH-Great-Grandparents.)

After WILLIAM's death, HANNAH married (2d), HENRY ENGLISH in 1712.

The 8 children born to WILLIAM Jr. and HANNAH (HOWELL) HIBBS:

- 1 JOSEPH HIBBS born 1688; died 1762 in Bucks Co., Pa.; married (1st) RACHEL _____ in 1714; married (2d) CATHERINE LOVE, December 15, 1749; she died in 1767. JOSEPH and RACHEL had 14 children.

Their 9th child (as listed in HIBBS-FARNSWORTH book by R. GLEN NYE) was JACOB HIBBS born c1730, the ancestor of HAROLD REED HIBBS (mentioned in the PREFACE). Another descendant of this JACOB (a great-grandson) was MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE HIBBS who married ELIZABETH NEWMAN (see Photos 5 and 7 on PLATE 46).

JOSEPH's 6th child was PHOEBE who married THOMAS COOPER, son of WILLIAM and MARY (GROOM) COOPER; and also sister to HANNAH HIBBS who married JAMES COOPER.

JOSEPH's 8th child was HANNAH born 1729 in Bucks Co.; died April 22, 1777, at Byberry, Pennsylvania. On September 18, 1750, HANNAH married JAMES COOPER, son of WILLIAM and MARY (GROOM) COOPER. JAMES was born 1729; died 1795. He and HANNAH (HIBBS) COOPER were the parents of WILLIAM COOPER who was one of the richest landowners of the early republic and owned a vast estate in Cooperstown, New York, at the southern end of Lake Otsego. WILLIAM became a Judge and a Member of Congress, and was the father of the famous American novelist JAMES FENIMORE COOPER born September 15, 1789, in Burlington, New Jersey; died September 14, 1851, in Cooperstown, Otsego Co., New York. JAMES FENIMORE married SUSAN AUGUSTA DE LANCY and they had 7 children. (REF: AMERICANA ENCYCLOPEDIA--the biographical sketch of JAMES FENIMORE COOPER)

JOSEPH HIBBS's other children were: ABRAHAM; SAMUEL; BENJAMIN; a Son who married JOANNA and died prior to 1790; JOHN; JOSEPH Jr.; CATHERINE; RACHEL; SARAH; ISAAC; and WILLIAM.

(REF: With exception of the COOPER family, the JOSEPH HIBBS data taken from book HIBBS-FARNSWORTH and RELATED FAMILIES, by R. GLEN NYE, San Diego, California, published 1968.)

- 2 JONATHAN HIBBS married ELIZABETH _____ in 1714 (out of Friends Church).
- 3 SARAH HIBBS married JONATHAN COWPER on May 20, 1714, at Abington Friends Monthly Meeting. JONATHAN was born January 11, 1677; died April 12, 1769.
- 4 PHOEBE HIBBS born 1697; married PAUL BLAKER on September 16, 1715, at Abington Friends Monthly Meeting.
- 5 JACOB HIBBS born 1699; died 1734; married ELIZABETH JOHNSON on August 15, 1727, in New Jersey. ELIZABETH was daughter of JOHN JOHNSON. Eight years after JACOB's death, ELIZABETH married (2d) PATRICK KELLY in 1742.

One known descendant of the 6th generation from JACOB and ELIZABETH (JOHNSON) HIBBS, is a nationally prominent one--BEN HIBBS who was Editor in Chief of the publication Saturday Evening Post for more than 20 years, during which time it became one of the most important and influential weekly periodicals in the United States.

He left the staff of the POST on December 31, 1962, and on January 1, 1963, became a Senior Editor of Reader's Digest, and as of September 1971 his name still appeared in that Magazine's list of Senior Editors.

BEN HIBBS was born July 23, 1901, in Fontana, Miami Co., Kansas, son of Mr. and Mrs. RUSSELL HIBBS. In 1914 the family moved to Paola, also in Miami Co., where BEN attended High School; later graduated from University of Kansas at Lawrence where he attained extraordinary scholastic and extra-curricular record, earning membership in PHI BETA KAPPA; SIGMA DELTA CHI, a professional journalistic fraternity; and SACHEM, a senior men's honor group.

(REF: Extensive write-up in The Western Spirit, March 3, 1969, published in Paola, Kansas; Volume 98, No. 40.)

(BEN HIBBS is a Sixth Cousin to this writer.)

- 6+ WILLIAM HIBBS III born 1700 in Pennsylvania; died there January 31, 1789; married ANN CARTER and had 11 children. (see No. III for further detail) +
- 7 JEREMIAH HIBBS married (1st) HANNAH JONES on February 25, 1735, at First Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia. HANNAH was born June 12, 1708; died in childbirth in 1736. He married (2d) ELIZABETH _____.
- 8 HANNAH HIBBS born _____; had died prior to her mother's death, as she is not mentioned in the mother's Will of 1737.

III WILLIAM HIBBS³ (son of WILLIAM Jr.², of WILLIAM Sr.¹)

WILLIAM, son of WILLIAM Jr. and HANNAH (HOWELL) HIBBS, was born 1700 in Pennsylvania; died there January 31, 1789. He was known as "WILLIAM of Northampton." He married ANN CARTER, April 2, 1728, at Middletown Monthly Meeting. ANN was born c1701; died 1801 or later (age 100+), daughter of JAMES CARTER and his wife SUSAN GRIFFITH. One authority says they had 13 children but only 12 are on record. (WILLIAM III and ANN were the writer's Fourth-Great-Grandparents.)

The first 7 children listed are taken from records in Middletown Monthly Meeting; and Numbers 8 through 12 were taken from WILLIAM HIBBS's Will.

The 13 children born to WILLIAM III and ANN (CARTER) HIBBS:

- 1 SUSANNAH HIBBS (1) born January 28, 1728; died young.
- 2 HANNAH HIBBS born June 6, 1730, Middletown, Bucks Co., Pa.; died young.
- 3 PHEBE HIBBS born April 14, 1732, Middletown; married (1st) THOMAS NELSON; married (2d) JOSEPH SMITH, December 4, 1760, in the Presbyterian Church at Churchtown, Lancaster Co., Pa. JOSEPH was born April 1, 1721; died 1764. PHEBE married (3d) GEORGE KINSEY, May 2, 1765, at Friends Meeting at Wrightstown, Newtown Co., Pa.
- 4 SARAH HIBBS born March 14, 1733/4, in Middletown, Pa.; married (1st) at Wrightstown, April 28, 1763, PETER BLAKER, widower who had a son WILLIAM BLAKER. PETER was disowned by the Friends, along with his 4 sons, for Revolutionary War Military Service. In 1795 PETER and SARAH (HIBBS) BLAKER, with their 4 sons JOSEPH, ABRAHAM, AMOS, DAVID, moved to Loudoun Co., Virginia, where they lived until 1800, then moved to Greene Co., Pa. Descendants still live in Greene Co. SARAH married (2d) _____ HAYHURT.
- 5+ WILLIAM HIBBS IV born December 2, 1735; died c1789; married (1st) RUTH BLAKER and had 5 children. Married (2d) MARY ELY (no other children). (See No. IV sketch for more on this family.) +
- 6 JAMES HIBBS born December 7, 1737; married SARAH C. BLAKER, April 21, 1762, at Wrightstown Friends Meeting. SARAH was daughter of JOHN and CATHERINE (WILLIAMS) BLAKER, and was sister to RUTH who married JAMES's brother WILLIAM HIBBS IV (see No. 5 above).

One daughter of JAMES and SARAH C. was SARAH HIBBS who married THOMAS PENROSE in Berks Co., Pa., and had 9 children.

The 9 children of THOMAS and SARAH (HIBBS) PENROSE:

- (1) HANNAH PENROSE born May 24, 1797, at Roaring Creek, Pennsylvania.
- (2) MAHLON PENROSE born July 6, 1799, " " "
- (3) RICHARD PENROSE born May 18, 1891; died April 27, 1883, in Ohio.
- (4) JAMES PENROSE born July 2, 1903, at Roaring Creek.
- (5) THOMAS PENROSE, Jr. born April 12, 1805; died March 12, 1880, in Iowa.
- (6) JOHN HUGHES PENROSE, born April 24, 1807; died May 2, 1856, in Ohio.
- (7) JASON (?JACOB?) PENROSE, October 21, 1809; died March 3, 1817, in Ohio.
- (8) SARAH ANN PENROSE born March 3, 1813, in Short Creek, Pennsylvania.
- (9) JOSEPH PENROSE born April 26, 1817, " " " "

This family resided at Roaring Creek in Columbia Co., Pa., until 1812; then moved to Morgan Co., Ohio. (REF: Above 9 and their children are listed in THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF AMERICAN QUAKER GENEALOGY, by W. W. HINSHAW.)

- 7 ANN HIBBS born November 12, 1739, in Middletown, Pa.; married "out of unity," RALPH SMITH, December 10, 1761, in New Jersey, as his second wife. He was born December 28, 1725, in Bucks Co., Pa.; died September 1784, in Spartanburg Co., S. Carolina; they had 11 children. One of RALPH's brothers, JOSEPH married PHEBE HIBBS (No. 3 above); another brother, DAVID, married HANNAH HIBBS, daughter of JEREMIAH HIBBS. RALPH had 4 children by his first marriage.

This family moved to South Carolina in 1765. RALPH was killed while leading a wagon train during the Revolutionary War.

- 8 MARY HIBBS born c1743; married DAVID KINSEY, December 22, 1763, at Wrightstown Friends Meeting. DAVID was a son of SAMUEL KINSEY.