



FAMILY NOTES

The Authorized Newsletter of

The Hubbell Family Historical Society

Descendants of Richard Hubball, Immigrant to North America

Incorporated in Missouri

Number 63

Spring 2017



Robert D. Hubble

Robert D Hubble, a productive writer and adventurer was born in the west end of London (1957) but now resides in the state of Montana. According to Robert, his family originated in the parish of Tipton St. Mary and St. Paul, Staffordshire, England. Tipton is only 1 mile from the town of Dudley, a hot spot of Hubbles documented in Doug Poulter's book "A Sojourn-The Hubbles of the United Kingdom and Other Commonwealth Countries" (2006). Doug traced his Hubble ancestry to Dudley. Tipton and Dudley are only 15 miles from Bewdley, "hometown" to our branch of the Hubbles. There has been considerable effort to find a link between the two Hubble concentrations.

Doug documents in his book that Robert's direct ancestor, Joseph Hubball (1796-1868) was a Sojourn (wanderer or transient) who was likely born in the parish of Clent, Worcestershire (~5 miles to the south of Tipton and only ~10 miles from Bewdley).

Until 1770, Tipton was a collection of small farming hamlets. But with the

discovery of iron and coal in the area and the beginning of the Industrial Revolution, the town's growth exploded. With industrialization came jobs that perhaps attracted Joseph to move from Clent to Tipton.

From Tipton, Joseph's offspring lived in diverse places; Cornwall (near Plymouth), Wales and Kingswinford (~4 miles to the west of Dudley). Joseph was buried in Quarry Bank (about 4 miles south of Tipton). Robert's side of

the family moved about but finally settled in London where he was born.

Robert has shared with Family Notes a detailed reflection of his family's history, the entirety of which is published on our website under the publications / family histories tab. A few excerpts follow.

"I grew up in Ealing, West London, at a time when there were still strong, tangible, emotional feelings for 'The War' (WWII), and its cost. War rationing had ended just three years before I was born, in '57. There were still empty spaces where houses used to be and kids would play in the dank, grey concrete pillboxes and air-raid shelters well into the mid-60s. My parents owned a classic 1930s-style house that's of the type now on display in the Imperial War Museum. It was blessed to have the Piccadilly and District lines of the London Underground in its backyard, literally 20 feet away from the rear windows of the house. We could hear, and feel, the trains approaching as they rumbled around the corner a half-mile away, before rattling the pictures and drowning all sound of the radio and TV as they went past – every twenty minutes of every day; eight minutes during rush-hour

– both directions. Not perturbed, my mum would take lemonade, tea and biscuits to the men working with steam trains on the lines in the hot summer afternoons. Such polite courtesies were common in those days. None of it bothered my grandfather, however; he was as deaf as a post from being on the receiving end of German artillery during the Great War. My cozy little bedroom was at the front of the house, where the train noise was subdued enough so that I could better hear the roar of planes landing and taking off from a burgeoning Heathrow Airport. Those first passenger jets – the ones that managed to stay aloft - were a special delight in the otherwise tranquil summer evenings."

After college and a stint in the army, Robert came to the US by participating in a USA Farm Exchange program which placed him on farms in Minnesota. In 1986 he married a US citizen and became a Resident Alien. From Minnesota, he and his wife moved to Idaho where Robert landed a job as a seasonal firefighter for the US Forest Service. As he recalls:

"But when I arrived, and they learned I wasn't a citizen, they couldn't hire me, so, since I was already there, I volunteered my time for three months, getting paid \$7 a day, barely paying for my food. Then, someone noticed how easy I found the work, while many others were grumbling, and they hired me as an independent contractor, earning real wages, just without getting paid overtime, even though there was a wheelbarrow-load of overtime: 14- and 16-hour days during the prescribed burning and fire seasons. No matter, the work was so much fun. I was having more fun than I'd had in years, even though I was fifteen years older than all of the others. But to me, it was just more ditch digging, and I was used to it, good at it, and liked it. And after farming for years, it was easy for me, even with the mountains; they just added another challenge. And the views from those peaks were like nothing I had ever seen before."

THE HUBBELL FAMILY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Hubbell Family Historical Society (HFHS) is a volunteer not-for-profit organization, founded in 1981, to research the genealogy, preserve the history, recognize the achievements, and promote fellowship for the descendants of Richard Hubball, the immigrant. The Society invites membership from descendants of Richard Hubball of England and the New Haven Colony, Connecticut, from persons interested in genealogy and history, and from organizations supporting such activities.

- President:**
Marjorie M.H.K Hlava
Vice President:
Roger Hubbell
Recording Secretary:
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Editor:
Richard Wood Hubble

Annual Dues:
(Payable in U.S. or Canadian dollars)
Individual / Family (w/ minor children) \$20
Contributing Member \$50
Participating Member \$100
Proud to be a Hubbell/Hubble Societies and Libraries \$10

Reunions:
Membership-reunion meetings are held every two years. The next Biennial will be held in Long Beach, CA in June of 2017.

For general information, write to:
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Visit our web site: <http://www.hubbell.org>

URGENT - "DUE NOTICE" Integration of the HFHS and HM&L

At the First Family Meeting on Friday in Long Beach we will be discussing the motion to do a statutory merger of the Hubbell Family Historical Society and the Hubbell Museum and Library. Extra time has been allocated at both the Board meeting and the Family meeting to address your questions. This is an exciting move and we want to hear your comments before or at the meeting. Please plan to join us.

BENEFITS: Both organizations draw from the same pool of active members, potential members, and donors. We will remove the confusion of two organizations giving a solid, unified front to the Hubbell community. If approved we will have a single, stable address and phone number and a single reliable budget for both organizations with predictable allocation of funds each year.

BACKGROUND: At the 2015 Biennial meeting we introduced the HFHS Strategic Plan which was approved by the assembly. The strategic plan outlined what has already been operational and what we believe was the intent of the founding members of each organization; to become a more integrated organization. At the 2016 Board Meeting the Board approved a motion to explore a merger of the Society with the Hubbell Museum and Library. At the HM&L Board meeting that motion was changed slightly to "pursue a closer integration". The next step was to set up the Hubbell Integration Task Force which convened March 6 - 7 2017.

The Task Force agreed to the recommendations of our lawyers as a "statutory merger" of the two organizations. The potential bylaws are being drafted and reviewed by the lawyers. We plan to have all paperwork completed to present to the combined organizations at the June HFHS meeting on the Queen Mary in Long Beach.

NEXT STEPS: At the first Board, at Fridays meeting, the results of the Task Force will be discussed. If the membership approves the merger, a new organization will be formed and the boards of the two organizations will be merged into one. The second family meeting would then be the first meeting of the newly formed organization.

If you have questions please email to Hilbert Hubble hubble@comcast.net or Marjorie Hlava mhlava@accessinn.com.



A few errors and omissions have been documented in the new 2017 Millennium Edition of the Hubbell Family Genealogy that was released in March. To correct these errors, a supplement to the genealogy will be released sometime in 2018. To eliminate errors it is suggested that all members review their genealogy and submit any changes to Hilbert Hubble by the end of the year.



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* **-Notice-** *

* The Society is looking for *

* someone to assume the *

* responsibilities of Editor of *

* the Family Notes and *

* Annual. Any interested *

* persons should contact *

* Margie Hlava at: *

* mhlava@accessinn.com *

* ***** *

Our website continues to undergoing major renovations. You can now purchase, from the website (under the "Store" tab), genealogy books (including the new 2017 Millennium Genealogy) and merchandise using paypal. Membership dues can be purchased under the "About" tab.

Also: Recently added is information on the DNA project

Don't forget, all previous Family Notes and Annuals, along with other historical material, are available under the "Publications" tab for reading and research.

Go To: www.hubbell.org

The Hubbell Family Historical Society

2017 Reunion: June 16 – 19 Long Beach, CA

The Hubbell Family Historical Society gathers every two years to meet cousins, have fun together and do the family business. Come Join Us.

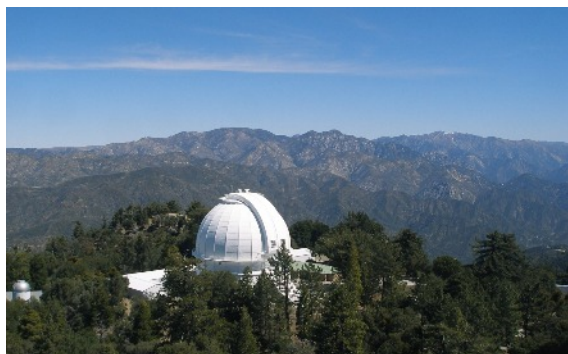
Reunion Schedule.

- June 16 - Friday:
 - 9 AM – 12 Noon: First HFHS Board meeting – Held in the Board Room
 - 1 – 3 PM: First Family meeting – Held in the Britannia Room
 - 3:30 - 4:30 PM: Presentation by Rick Hubble on the Hubballs of the Severn Valley England – Held in the Britannia Room
 - Friday Evening: Family Social Activities (games, puzzles, and laughter) in the Family Room, Store open, dinner on your own – take the free trolley into Long Beach or eat on the ship! – Held in the Britannia Room
- June 17 - Saturday:
 - 9 - evening: Family room and shop open – Britannia Room
 - * 11 - 12 AM: Presentation on the Making of the new book - Hilbert Hubbell
 - * 1 - 2 PM: Presentation on Edwin Hubble by Rich Hubble
 - * 3 - 4 PM: About Richard - by Marjorie Hlava
 - Tour the Queen Mary - Headset audio tour included with your room registration
 - Don't miss the Churchill exhibit and the museum in the engine room
 - Take the trolley to play in Long Beach
 - Take the ferry to Catalina
 - Enjoy your time with you cousins in the family room
- June 18 - Sunday:
 - 9 - 10 AM: Church services in the Ships chapel
 - 9 - Evening: Family room and shop open - – Britannia Room
 - 1 - 3 PM: Second Family meeting – Britannia Room
 - 3 - 5 PM: Second Board Meeting – Board Room
 - 6 - ? PM: Awards Banquet in the Royal Salon - Consider dressing in a 1930's style; wear a hat or dress like a flapper
- June 19 - Monday:
 - All day tour to the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, which operates the Hubble Space Telescope, and to the Mount Wilson Observatory where Edwin Hubble worked. Est 9 AM – 5 PM
 - Evening - Family Room and Shop open

Long Beach is an easy destination via Amtrak, or Los Angeles and John Wayne (Orange county) airports. There are frequent shuttles. It is a short ride to Disneyland, Whale watching cruises and a ferry to Catalina Island leave right from the Queen Mary dock. Long Beach itself is rich in activities; a lovely beach, world-class aquarium and you can reach it on the Long Beach Passport - Free bus service from the Queen Mary to the Pike and Shoreline Village tourism district of Long Beach.

We encourage gatherings of family sub-groups, enjoying Long Beach Aquarium, the beach, the water front, Port tours and hanging out in the family room playing board games and doing jig saw puzzles. Come early and spend some time on Tuesday or stay late and see more sights on Wednesday and Thursday.

This year we will meet aboard the Queen Mary docked in its own special berth in Long Beach, California. This historic ship is fascinating and tours are included in your stay. Register at <http://www.queenmary.com> and be sure to note you are part of the Hubbell reunion so you can get the room block rate. The group code is HUB0617 - or call them at (877) 342-0738



In 1904, workers installed the first telescope at the still uncompleted Mt. Wilson Observatory in Southern California. For much of the remaining 20th century, astronomers with names like Hale and Hubble used it and the new telescopes it sprouted as a figurative launch pad for space exploration that changed our understanding of the cosmos. Gradually, though, financial support waned along with the observatory's cutting-edge telescopes, and for the last 20 years its telescopes, still impressive by any standard, rely on the kind attention of a small volunteer team of retired space industry electrical engineers, most now in their 70s and 80s.

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Mt. Wilson: The Society will conduct a tour of the facility during the reunion.



The 100" telescope at night

The volunteers, like Ken Evans, Bill Leflang, Gale Gant and John Harrigan to name just a few took up their cause in the late 1990s after the Carnegie Institution for Science, whose namesake had invested the initial funds for construction, transferred ownership of the Mt. Wilson Observatory to the nonprofit Mt. Wilson Institute. Now, these gentleman shoulder much of the responsibility for keeping the observatory's cluster of vintage telescopes from deteriorating into non-functioning museum pieces.

The volunteers have patched holes in walls, strengthened ceilings and walkways with wooden beams, fixed broken water mains and used steel wool and solvents to scour rust and old axle grease off flywheels and gears at the observatory, which looks much as it did when it was completed in 1917.

Mt. Wilson aficionados still talk about how Evans and his brother Larry refurbished a 1911 50-horsepower 2-cylinder vertical Fairbanks-Morse Type "RE" engine with brass plumbing and 22,000 pounds of machinery so that it could be used in demonstrations.

Now they're laboring to improve the giant 100-inch reflector's potential as an educational tool and tourist draw. But money for maintaining the observatory remains tight, the institute says, and the fate of the reflector, hailed as the mightiest instrument in astronomy when it was built, remains uncertain.

For Thomas Meneghini, the institute's executive director, the facility's dual nature conjures a peculiar charm: rooms where Albert Einstein and Edwin Hubble once bunked bunched around picnic grounds, a museum, hiking trails and vista

points that offer views from Pasadena, directly below, out across Southern California.

"But raising funds has been a challenge. That's why our volunteer engineers are heroes. They are keeping it alive. Without them and other supporters, these magnificent instruments would just be cold hunks of steel and glass."

A 150-foot-tall solar facility at Mt. Wilson has already deteriorated to the point that it can be used only for school programs and public demonstrations. That instrument's 1970s-era computer system is in shambles. Its magnetograph — an instrument allowing detailed observations of the sun's magnetic fields — was shut down in 2013, a year after its tower received a new coat of paint funded with a \$1.5-million federal grant. A separate solar telescope installed in 1904 to make photographic images of the wavelengths of the sun's light has come to be known as "Leflang's baby." That's because he maintains that instrument, which is used only two weeks a year for educational purposes.

Mt. Wilson's biggest draw remains the 100-inch reflector, which reigned supreme until completion of Caltech's 200-inch telescope on Mt. Palomar in San Diego County after World War II.

While Los Angeles slept, astronomer Edwin Hubble and others used the reflector to discover billions of galaxies where none were known before, most of them speeding away from each other in all directions. These observations led to the Big Bang theory, which suggests the universe began in a single explosive moment.

Keeping it in reliable shape, however, has been a work in progress since 1985, when the Carnegie Institution for Science put it in mothballs due to light pollution in the Los Angeles Basin and a commitment to expand its Las Campanas Observatory in Chile, which was more suitable for focusing on distant faint objects.

The telescope was reopened in 1994, nine years after Carnegie officials transferred ownership to the institute. But it needs upgrades to continue operating.

And so the unusual fraternity gathers, trash-talking one another in terms that perhaps only those who recite antique gas engine minutiae like baseball stats can appreciate.

"There's a lot of epic history in here," Leflang says, proceeding gingerly past colossal marvels of World War I-era engineering and astrophysics.

The 87-ton scope has 2,000 moving parts including a cast-iron worm gear 18 feet in diameter. Steel cables as thick as mooring ropes attached to a crane used to service its 9,500-pound primary mirror. A 450-ton dome rotates overhead on trolley tracks.

Framed photographs of Hubble, George Hale and other pioneer astronomers are displayed on walls and scaffolding studded with rivets, and in the drawers of a wood filing cabinet are hundreds of original blueprints of the facility dated Jan. 17, 1917.

"Some folks refer to this telescope as the grand dame of astronomy," Gant says with a boyish grin. "We call it a complex beast."

This story was composed of excerpts from a Los Angeles Times story published 2/12/2017 by Louis Sahagun



Continued from page 1: Robert D. Hubble

After fighting fires from the ground, Robert advanced to jumping out of planes to fight forest fires. "My first fire jump was into Yellowstone National Park. I knew then, that this was the final job for me. I'd stick with this one. Who wouldn't?" And he did until his health forced him to retire.

From the physical demands of fighting fires, Robert eased into retirement by learning to build websites and writing. Since his retirement he has written "Inside the Great Game" (2012), "Churchill's Gold" (2012), "Limey Smokejumper-Fighting Wildfires in the Rockies" (2012) and three Westerns: "A Western: 1862-63" (2013), "A Western: 1863-64" (2014) and "A Western: 1864-65" (2016).

Robert and his wife Christina live in Missoula, Montana. Robert has agreed to participate in the Society's DNA project with the hope of linking our families.