

**The Ancestors**  
**of**  
**David (“Yankee Dave”) Hickox**  
(1798-1887)  
**of**  
**Georgia**

O.J. Hickox, Jr.  
December 2013

I have long been passionately interested in my ancestors and have pursued my genealogy with a great deal of energy and time, as have some of my kin. One of the most enigmatic, and frustrating, of our ancestors in this regard is my GGG GF **David (“Yankee Dave”) Hickox** (1798-1887), about whose ancestry we have had no firm information until the present time. The only inkling we’ve had that might open a window into his derivation is the fact that he claimed in several census records to have been born in Connecticut in 1798, and that a **David Hickox** (or Hicock) filed an application for a Revolutionary War Veteran’s Survivor Pension or Bounty-Land Warrant in or under the state of Connecticut, which was possibly the basis upon which our David drew bounty land in North Georgia in the 1838 land-lottery. The latter would establish the fact that the applicant was the heir of a Revolutionary War Veteran from Connecticut. Past research revealed that the large **Hickox family of Connecticut** all trace back to one **William Hickocks** who immigrated from England on the ship *Plain Joan* to New Haven, Connecticut in 1635 and soon removed to the then-frontier town of Farmington. However, a long and exhaustive search in census records, family genealogies, websites, local histories in Connecticut and the many other states into which Hickoxes have since migrated have proven fruitless in identifying our **David**. It is worth noting that the surname name has about 50 different recognized spellings, and my search has included the most common variations in that spelling. Yet, I have come up empty in this quest. Heretofore, our **David Hickox** has not been found in any of my searches nor, to the best of my knowledge, in those of my relatives who have also pursued the matter. But, intriguingly, over the past decade or so, the Internet has begun to offer an increasing number of claims that he was the son of **Reuben Hickox I** (1760-1850) and **Elizabeth Sickles Hickox** (1766-1851) of **New Haven, Connecticut**. While I have some idea as to one possible origin of those claims, none of the postings that I have seen referenced any reliable sources or related documentation that clearly confirmed the claims. These claims seemed to be more the result of wishful thinking and conclusions based on circumstantial evidence than disciplined genealogical work based on well-documented facts and/or scientific processes. And, being fundamentally a skeptic, I have therefore long doubted their accuracy.

However, it appears that, with the help of a recently-emerging scientific process, we have achieved a break-through in our search for Yankee Dave’s ancestors. A few months ago, I submitted a DNA sample to ancestry.com. My DNA analysis identified a 4<sup>th</sup> cousin, with 95% confidence (our GGG GFs would have been brothers), whose GGG GF was **Reuben Hickox II** (1793-1884), a son of the aforementioned **Reuben** and **Elizabeth Sickles Hickox**. It also identified a 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> cousin, with “*moderate*” confidence, whose GGGG GF was the same man.

Since "*Yankee Dave*" **Hickox** (1798-1887) is my GGG GF, both of these results point to **Reuben** and **Elizabeth Sickles Hickox** as the prime candidates for his parents. Moreover, an additional dozen or so 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> cousins, with lesser confidence, whose ancestry also leads back to the **Hickox Family of Connecticut** were identified by the DNA analysis. Most of them have posted a genealogy showing their descent from **William Hickocks**, who is also the documented ancestor of **Reuben Hickox II**. So, clearly this is our ancestral line. But, proving that **Reuben** and **Elizabeth** are the parents of "*Yankee Dave*" is another matter.

To go further down that path, I find that **James Henry Hickox** (1787-1883), eldest son of **Reuben** and **Elizabeth**, gave a deposition in 1842 naming his siblings, which included a brother **David**. Further, as is shown below, a bible from the family of a woman who married their son **Benjamin Hickox** (1793/5-?) also lists a **David Hickox** as a family member, along with the other siblings of her husband. While a number of other **David Hickoxes** of the right approximate age have been found in various genealogical records, no clear connection to **Reuben** and **Elizabeth** has been established with any of them. So, our **David** is a very logical candidate for that elusive son. He was exactly the right age and he fits neatly into the chronological list of their children. While he is not found in the 1820 census, he showed up in South Georgia about then where he married Elizabeth Knowles in 1821 (who died in child-birth soon thereafter), then married **Sarah Altman** in 1828, and in 1830 first told the census taker that he was born in Connecticut in 1798. That statement shows up in several later census records, including those of some of his children. He also drew land in North Georgia in the 1838 land-lottery, very likely as a result of his father's Revolutionary War service, and **Reuben Hickox I** was a veteran of that war. Moreover, our family lore records that our **David** came to Georgia with a brother looking for timber to buy for northern interests, got sick, was taken in by a local family, and met and married a local girl (Knowles) while the brother returned to the north. **David** obviously stayed in Georgia. Family lore also relates that he communicated with relatives in Pennsylvania for some time before the Civil War, and **Reuben II** had moved there in 1823. None of this, of course, identifies the latter as the relative with whom **David** was communicating, nor does it prove a connection with **Reuben** and **Elizabeth**, but it is a logical scenario that fits with both the established facts and our family lore. So, while the DNA points right in their vicinity and the circumstantial evidence is strong, the search for documentation firmly linking our **David** to **Reuben** and **Elizabeth** must continue.

All this being considered, it appears that we have finally determined, with a high degree of certainty, the ancestral line of our forebear, **David** ("*Yankee Dave*") **Hickox**. It has been determined by the science of DNA that we descend from **William** "*The Immigrant*" **Hickocks** of Farmington, Connecticut. Presuming this line has been accurately determined and that *Yankee Dave* was the son of **Reuben** and **Elizabeth Sickles Hickox**, which seems likely but is still not proven, then our descent from **William Hickocks** would be as follows:

- **William Hickocks** (1609-1645) and **Elizabeth Stacy** (1621-1655)
- **Samuel Hickox I** (1647-1695) and **Hannah Upson** (1646-1707)
- **Samuel Hickox II** (1668-1713) and **Elizabeth Plumb** (1669-1749)
- **John Hickox I** (1696-1765) and **Mary Gaylord** (1700-1796)

- **John Hickox II** (1734-1774) and **Eunice Warner** (1740-1800)
- **Reuben Hickox I** (1760-1850) and **Elizabeth Sickles** (1766-1851)
- **David Hickox** (1798-1887) and **Sarah Altman** (1812-1884)

FYI, the following are the most prominent of the Hickox Family genealogies that I have consulted:


- **The Hickok Genealogy**, Descendants of William Hickocks of Farmington, Connecticut  
Charles Nelson Hickok  
The Tuttle Publishing Company  
Rutland VT, 1938
- **Hicok Genealogy 1582-1993**  
Herchel Hicok  
Privately Printed, 1983
- **THE HICKOX GENEALOGY**  
Joseph Oscar Hickox  
Privately Printed, 1949

Some of them have additional information on William's ancestry, which will be evaluated and summarized later.

FYI, I have attached in the following the family chart for **Reuben** and **Elizabeth Sickles Hickox** from the posted genealogy of the 4<sup>th</sup> Cousin mentioned above. All but the deceased brother **John** and the last child **Edward** were named by the eldest child **James Henry** in his 1842 deposition. You will note that it shows our *Yankee Dave* as the 10<sup>th</sup> child with the middle name "*Jonathan*", for which altho' found in many places on the Internet I have never seen a credible source. It does not appear on his tombstone and it has never been associated with his name in any of the genealogical data I've seen. I believe someone has erroneously taken this impression from his son **Jonathan**'s 1880 census record and placed it on the Internet. That record lists **Jonathan** as "*D. Johnathan*", age 41, born in GA, father's birth-place CN. We know that he was named **Jonathan David**, and that his twin **David Jonathan** was killed during the Civil War, so that census entry is inaccurate, possibly mis-leading those who are not familiar with our Georgia Family's relationships to conclude that it refers to "*Yankee Dave*".

I also attach a copy of the obituary of **Reuben Hickox II**, the son of **Reuben** and **Elizabeth** that moved to Pennsylvania; it is very interesting that he was an avid and accomplished hunter, an attribute that runs deeply through our **Georgia Hickox** line. It is also interesting that the longevity of most of **Reuben and Elizabeth's** children was exceptional for the times, as was that of "*Yankee Dave*", another bit of potentially corroborating data. One exception, their brother **John Hickox** (1897-1813), was **killed in battle** at age 16 on 27 May 1813 at the capture of Fort George near Newark, New York, during the War of 1812. Their father **Reuben I**, who lived to be 90, was a **Revolutionary Soldier**, serving in the CN Militia for several periods of time, for which service he was later paid a pension. I plan to get more detailed info on this at a later date. Finally, also added below is the second source further establishing the fact that there was a **David** in the family of **Reuben** and **Elizabeth Sickles Hickox**. It's an excerpt from the family bible of **Catherine Turrell Hickox**, who married **Benjamin**, one of the sons of **Reuben** and

**Elizabeth**. In it she names all of those named in **James Henry**'s deposition except a **Richard** (b. 1795). There was also a reference to an un-named son who had died, perhaps **Richard**, and an **Israel** who was not on the list of the 4<sup>th</sup> cousin. It is also worthy of note that our **David** had an **Elizabeth**, a **James**, and a **Benjamin** amongst his children, names that are found in those of **Reuben** and **Elizabeth**'s children. And, it is not outlandish to hypothesize that their **John** was in actuality a **Jonathan**.



## Reuben I. Hickox

Birth 15 Dec 1760 in Waterbury, New Haven, Connecticut, USA  
Death 1850 in Connecticut, USA

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### Media Gallery

No photos, stories, audio or video have been added yet.

### Timeline

1760	<b>Birth</b>	7 Sources
15 Dec	Waterbury, New Haven, Connecticut, USA	
1785	<b>Marriage to Elizabeth Sickels</b>	
Age: 25	Connecticut, USA	
1830	<b>Residence</b>	1 Source
Age: 70	Woodbridge, New Haven, Connecticut, USA	
1830	<b>Residence</b>	2 Sources
Age: 70	New Haven, Connecticut, USA	
1850	<b>Death</b>	7 Sources
Age: 90	Connecticut, USA	

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### Comments

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No comments have been added yet.














### Family Members

Parents

-  **John Hickox**  
1734 – 1774
-  **Eunice Warner**  
1740 – 1800

[Show siblings](#)

Spouse & Children

-  **Elizabeth Sickels**  
1766 – 1851
-  **James Henry Hickox**  
1787 – 1873
-  **Leonard Hickox**  
1788 –
-  **Lydia Hickox**  
1789 –
-  **Edward M. Hickox**  
1791 – 1881
-  **Reuben Hickox**  
1793 – 1884
-  **Benjamin Hickox**  
1793 –
-  **Daniel Hickox**  
1795 –
-  **Richard Hickox**  
1795 –
-  **John Hickox**  
1797 – 1813
-  **David Jonathan Hickox**  
1798 – 1887
-  **Margaret Hickox**  
1799 –
-  **Edward Hickox**  
1801 – 1900

## Obituary of Reuben Hickox II

Birth Nov. 11, 1793  
: New Haven  
New Haven County  
Connecticut, USA

Deat Jul. 16, 1884  
h: Oliveburg  
Jefferson County  
Pennsylvania, USA

Obituary of Reuben Hickox (written by Harry G. Teagaarden): *“The funeral of Reuben Hickox, the oldest citizen of Perry Township and perhaps of the county, took place at Olive Cemetery on Friday the 18th ult. Mr. Hickox was born in New Haven County, Connecticut, 11 Nov 1793, and was married to Catherine Williams in Sullivan County, New York, on the 2nd day of May 1816. He came to Jefferson County in 1823, and has therefore been a resident for 61 years. He was the father of 12 children, and his grandchildren numbered 71, and great-grandchildren 57 at the time of his death.*

*In an early day Mr. Hickox was very fond of hunting, and a history of his exploits in this direction would make an interesting volume. Fifty years ago game was plenty in the neighborhood, and hunting was a leading occupation during the winter months. He was very successful both with the gun and trap, upon one occasion securing six full-grown bears in two days. Deer and wild turkey were also plentiful in those days, and afforded plenty of meat to the early pioneers. Once while out in the woods he accidentally got caught in one of his own bear traps, and it was only by virtue of his manual strength that he released himself and avoided freezing or starving to death. Mr. Hickox's father was a soldier in the Revolution under General Washington in his northern campaign, and died like his son at a ripe old age—90 years. His venerable wife who survives him, and with whom the ties of matrimony bound them in happy bondage almost to the diamond wedding, has also the honor of being the daughter of a soldier who endured the hardships of Valley Forge in the struggle for independence. “*

**Reuben Hickox II**  
(1793-1884)

**David Hickox**  
(1798-1887)

Brothers ?

From Website : *“Bible Record for William C. Turrell by Nancy Tyrrell Theodore, April 2010”*

Family Record,

BIRTHS.

William C. Ferris was born  
the 28<sup>th</sup> day of December  
1779 at New Milford City the  
County of Middlebury State of Connecticut

Ethel Ferris was Born  
June 30<sup>th</sup> 1784 at  
New Milford Connecticut

Miles Ferris was Born  
March 12<sup>th</sup> 1802 at  
Rush Ligon County  
Tennessee

David O Ferris was  
Born June 5<sup>th</sup> 1803 at  
Wilkesham Ligon County

Joel Ferris was Born  
February 4<sup>th</sup> 1807 at  
Rush Ligon County

Catherine Ferris was  
Born March 5<sup>th</sup> 1810  
at Bridgewater Ligon  
County

Lavinia Ferris was Born  
January 22<sup>nd</sup> 1812 at  
Bridgewater Ligon County

Record of Names  
Israel Hickox was born Oct 18<sup>th</sup> 1780  
John Hickox was born July 24<sup>th</sup> 1780  
James H. Hickox was born Aug 12<sup>th</sup> 1787  
Daniel Hickox was born Oct 18<sup>th</sup> 1789  
Margaret Hickox was born Dec 24<sup>th</sup> 1791  
Ruben Hickox was born Sept 22<sup>nd</sup> 1792  
Benjamin Hickox was born Nov 16<sup>th</sup> 1796

This is the true copy of family  
names given to us by our mother.  
David Hickox  
Edward Hickox  
Lidia Hickox  
Benard Hickox  
a son of David.

now Tusquehanna County  
My parents deaths only  
11 months apart both  
died in Chulawd Ohio  
Catherine

This is four pages

Transcription of above:



# BIBLE RECORD FOR WILLIAM C.<sup>6</sup> TURREL (Caleb<sup>5-4</sup>, Daniel<sup>3-2</sup>)

Transcription, with comments, by Nancy Tyrrel Theodore, April 2010

[Original Document 708 KB](#)

H & E Phinney's Sterotype Edition

THE

## HOLY BIBLE

Cooperstown, N. Y. 1828

*Family Record*

### Births

*William C. Turrel was born the 28<sup>th</sup> Day of December 1779 at New Milford, Litchfield County State of Connecticut*

*Esther Turrel was Born June 30<sup>th</sup> 1784 at New Milford, Connecticut.*

*Miles Turrel was Born March 12<sup>th</sup> 1802 at Rush Luzern County Pennsylvania*

*David O Turrel was Born June 5<sup>th</sup> 1803 at Wilkesbarre Luzern County*

*Joel Turrel was Born Febuary 4<sup>th</sup> 1807 at Rush Luzern County*

*Catharine Turrel was Born March 5<sup>th</sup> 1810 at Bridgwater Luzern County } now Susquhanna County. My parents deaths only \_\_ months apart. Both died in Cleveland, Ohio. [signed] Catharine*

*Eunice Turrel was Born January 22<sup>nd</sup> 1812 at Bridgwater Susquhanna County*

### Record of Names

*Israel Hickox was born Oct 12<sup>th</sup> 1783*

*John Hickox was born July 24<sup>th</sup> 1785*

*James H. Hickox was born Aug 19<sup>th</sup> 1787*

*Daniel Hickox waws born Oct 12<sup>th</sup> 1789*

*Margaretany Hickox was born Dec 27<sup>th</sup> 1791*

*Reuben Hickox was born Sept 24<sup>th</sup> 1793*

*Benjamin Hickox was born Mar 12<sup>th</sup> 1795*

*This is the true copy of family names given to us by our mother*

*David Hickox*

*Edward Hickox*

*Lidea Hickox*

*Lenard Hickox*

*A Son [died?]*

This Bible record is invaluable in establishing that the David O. is the son of William C. Turrell, early settlers in Susquehanna county, PA. Further research has led to the strong possibility that the parents of William C.<sup>6</sup> Turrell are Caleb<sup>5</sup> (Caleb<sup>4</sup>, Daniel<sup>3-2</sup>, Roger<sup>1</sup>) and Eunice Cogswell, who were m. 27 Jan 1768 in New Milford, and that the maiden of William's wife, Esther, is Olmstead. For the research on this line, see "[William C. Turrell Ancestry Search](#)" on this site.

A copy of this Bible record came into the transcriber's possession many years ago. Coincidentally, [a query on Genforum by Gordon Sheill](#), dated 23 September 2000, indicated that he was in possession of this family Bible and record. His grandfather came into possession of the Bible but the connection to the family is unclear. Unfortunately, the contact given for Gordon Sheill is no longer valid. Apparently, the Bible passed from William C. Turrell's family to daughter Catharine (Turrell) Hickox's family, as a first step (see link in paragraph above for further explanation).

**Georgia Cherokee Land Lottery,  
1832**

**Name:** David Hickox

**Number:** 207

**District:** TENTH DISTRICT, THIRD  
SECTION, CHEROKEE

**Residence:** Green's

**County:** Ware

**Comment:** Granted previous to the first day of  
January, 1838

**U.S., Revolutionary War Pension  
and Bounty-Land Warrant  
Application Files, 1800-1900**

**Name:** David Hickox

**Application State:** Connecticut

**Applicant Designation:** Survivor's Pension Application File

**Archive Publication Number:** M804

**Archive Roll Number:** 1268

**Total Pages in Packet:** 1