

Biographical and Portrait Encyclopedia of the Nineteenth Congressional District, Pennsylvania, Containing Biographical Sketches Of Prominent And Representative Citizens Of The District Together With An Introductory Historical Sketch Samuel T. Wiley, Esq.; Philadelphia: C. A. Ruoff Company, 1897.



Milton B. Gibson, president of the Weaver Organ & Piano Company, of York, Pennsylvania, is a son of **Francis F. and Catharine (Baker) Gibson**, and was born at Landisburg, Perry County, Pennsylvania, June 8, 1860.

The **Gibson** family is one of the oldest and most notable in Pennsylvania and has reflected credit upon a race of pioneers no less distinguished in citizenship than the Scotch-Irish. His great-great-grandfather, **Col. George Gibson**, son of **George Gibson**, Esq., of Lancaster, Pa., was one of the early martial figures in the history of our country. As a young man he was engaged in the trade to the West Indies and afterwards was a trader with the Indians at Fort Pitt. Returning to the East he bought a farm and settled at Gibson's Rock, Perry County, then a part of Cumberland. During the Revolution he enlisted at Fort Pitt a company of one hundred daring men, who were sharp shooters and known as "Gibson's Lambs." He was commissioned Colonel of the First Virginia regiment, joined Gen. Washington before the evacuation of New York and took part in many of the

leading battles of the Revolution. In 1791 he took command of a regiment under Gen. St. Clair in his campaign in Ohio against the Indians of the North West Territory, and lost his life at the battle of Miami Village, dying at Fort Jefferson, Ohio, December 14th, 1791. He left surviving three sons, **John Bannister Gibson**, who became chief justice of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, occupying the bench from 1816 to 1851, and was one of the most distinguished jurists of the State. Another son, **Brigadier General George Gibson**, was chief of the commissary department for a period of forty years. The third was **Francis F.**, great-grandfather of the subject of this sketch, who also entered the army and filled several civil positions with honor and fidelity. A proximate relative of these, whose name was also **George Gibson**, was a presidential elector in 1789, and voted for the first President of the United States, while other relatives and ancestors of **Robert Gibson**, grandfather of **Milton B.**, held important and responsible positions under the State government. **Grandfather Gibson** was a native and resident of Perry County, Pennsylvania, and was familiarly known as '**Squire Gibson**'. He was appointed justice of the peace by Governor Pollock and served continuously in that office for a period of thirty-seven years. He was united in marriage with **Hannah Kreamer**, who bore him three children, whose names are as follows: **Francis F.**, **George A.** and **Mary Gibson**. His son, **Francis F. Gibson**, was a surveyor by profession, but during the latter part of his life followed a general mercantile business near Landisburg, in Perry County, Pa., where he died in 1867, when but thirty-seven years of age. **Francis F. Gibson** married **Mary Ann Sheibley**, of Perry County,

who died, leaving a son, **Francis S. Gibson**. Several years after he married **Catharine E. Baker**, grand-daughter of the late **Conrad Holman**, of Perry County. This union resulted in the birth of two children: **Milton Buchar** and **Walter Spotts**, the latter of whom died in infancy.

Milton B. Gibson, at the tender age of 7 years, was bereft of his father and grew to manhood, lacking the protecting care that a kind and affectionate father can exercise. He received his elementary education in the common schools, completed his academic studies at Bloomfield Academy in his native county and taught successfully for three years. He then in 1881 purchased his father's property near Landisburg, engaged in mercantile pursuits for several years, during which time he became interested in the Weaver Organ & Piano Company, who were building their present factory at York. He first became a stockholder and then being successful as a retail salesman of their instruments, he was speedily appointed State representative of the Company in Pennsylvania. In 1885 he removed to York, which has been his place of residence ever since. In 1886 he was elected secretary of the Company, and in September, 1890, after the death of **Mr. J. O. Weaver**, the founder of the Company, he was made treasurer and general manager in addition to the secretaryship.

In 1896 he was elected to his present position as president of the Company. The Weaver Organ & Piano Company has a large and well equipped factory, in which they employ a force of over 100 skilled workmen. The yearly output is from 2500 to 3000 instruments, which compete fairly with any similar instruments manufactured, and the sale of which extends to all sections of the United States and the civilized world. The company has a working capital of over \$150,000 and operates a number of branch houses in other cities. **Milton B. Gibson**, on April 18th, 1882, married **Elizabeth Shumaker**, daughter of **Samuel Shumaker**, of Harrisburg, Pa. They have four children: **Holman S.**, **Edith B.**, **Catharine Blanche** and **Marion E.** **Mrs. Gibson's** father was also formerly of Perry County, where he was active in public and business affairs.

In politics **Mr. Gibson** is a Republican, but in no sense a politician. He has never been a seeker for office, though no one has been more zealous in support of the meritorious men and principles of his party. He is a member and one of the organizers of Heidelberg Chapter, No. 38, Brotherhood of Andrew and Philip, a religious organization. He is also a member and past Chancellor of Chrystal Lodge, No. 248, Knights of Pythias. Religiously he affiliates with the Reformed Church, being a member of Heidelberg Reformed Church, in which he is an Elder, and of whose Sunday school he has been the acting Superintendent for several years. He is a Director of the Young Men's Christian Association, of York, and a member of its important committees. **Mr. Gibson** is a representative business man, and to the important company, over whose concerns he is presiding, he has given a number of years of his best energies with successful results. He was one of the organizers of the York Card & Paper Co., and was a Director and Vice President of the Company for several years. He is a member of the International Advisory Board of the Philadelphia Commercial Museum and was a delegate to the congress of delegates from North and South America, which met in Philadelphia, June 1st to 5th, 1897, to dedicate the Museums and transact business of international import. He is still a young man and his future career as an energetic business man is a bright one.