



**Milton B. Gibson**, ex-mayor of York, York County, is the great-grandnephew of Chief Justice **John Bannister Gibson**. The **Gibson** family is of Scotch-Irish descent and one of the oldest and best known in Pennsylvania, and has left its impress upon the social, political and military history of the State.

**Col. George Gibson**, Mayor **Gibson's** great-great-grandfather, was a son of **George Gibson**, Esq., of Lancaster, Pa., a notable figure in the early military life of the country, who emigrated to America from County Derry, Ireland, early in the eighteenth century.

In his younger manhood **Col. Gibson** had been engaged in the trade to the West Indies, and afterward 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), and married **Anna West**, a descendant of the **West**s of Ireland. During the Revolutionary War he enlisted at Fort Pitt a company of 100 brave men, sharpshooters known

"as **Gibson's Lambs**." He was commissioned colonel of the 1<sup>st</sup> Virginia Regiment, joined 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 Northwest Territory, and lost his life at the battle of Miami Village, dying at Fort Jefferson, Ohio, Dec. 14, 1791. He left three sons, of whom **John Bannister Gibson** 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, **Brig.Gen. George Gibson**, was chief of the commissary department for a period of forty years. The third son was **Francis F.**, great-grandfather of **Milton B. Gibson**, who was also in the army, and filled several civil positions with honor and fidelity.

A relative of these gentlemen, whose name was also **George Gibson**, was a Presidential elector in 1789, voting for the first President of the United States. Other relatives of the grandfather of our subject held eminent and responsible positions under the State government. **Robert Gibson**, the grandfather of **Milton B. Gibson**, was a native and resident of Perry County, Pa., and was familiarly known as "**Squire Gibson**". He was appointed justice-of-the-peace by Gov. Pollock, and served continuously in that office for a period of thirty-seven years. He married **Hannah Kreamer**, and they were blessed with three children: **Francis F.**, **George A.** and **Mary**.

**Francis F. Gibson** was a surveyor by profession, but during the latter part of his life pursued a general merchandise business near Landisburg, Perry County, where he died in 1867, when only thirty-seven years old. He was married to **Mary Ann Sheibley**, daughter of **Judge Jacob Sheibley**, of Perry County, who died, leaving a son, **Francis S.** Several years later **Mr. Gibson** married again, espousing **Catherine E. Baker**, granddaughter of the late **Conrad Holman**, of Perry County. This union was blessed with two children: **Milton Bucher** and **Walter Spotts**, the latter dying in infancy.

**Milton B. Gibson's** father died when he was but seven years old and he grew to manhood deprived of paternal care. 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. In 1881 he purchased his father's property near Landisburg, and engaged in mercantile pursuits for several years, during which time he became interested in the Weaver Organ & Piano Company, which was at that time building the factory which it now occupies in York. **Mr. Gibson** became a stockholder, and, making a success as a retail salesman of their instruments, was soon appointed State representative for the company in Pennsylvania. In 1885 he removed to York, where he has since resided. In 1886 he was elected secretary of the company, and in September, 1890, at the death of **Mr. J. O. Weaver**, the founder of the company, he was elected treasurer and general manager in addition to the secretaryship. In 1896 he was elected to his present position, that of president of the company. The Weaver Organ & Piano Company has now a capacity that enables it to supply far more than a mere local market, and the details of its present output will be found elsewhere.

**Milton B. Gibson** was married, April 18, 1882, to **Miss Elizabeth S. Shumaker**, daughter of **Samuel Shumaker**, of Harrisburg, Pa., who was prominent in public and business affairs of Perry County. To this union were born five children: **Holman S.**, who died July 10, 1897; **Amy Ruth**, who died in infancy in 1889; **Edith Belle**, wife of **W. T. Sibbett**, manager of the Keystone carpet mills; **Catherine Blanche** and **Marion Elisabeth**, both graduates of the York High School, class of 1905.

In politics **Mr. Gibson** is a Republican, and in 1898 he was elected to the select council of the city of York for a period of four years, from the Second ward. In 1902 he was elected mayor of York for a period of three years. He is a member and one of the organizers of Heidelberg Chapter, No. 38, Brotherhood of Andrew and Philip, a religious organization, and is a member and past chancellor of Crystal Lodge, No. 248, Knights of Pythias. In religion he is affiliated with the Reformed Church, being a member of the congregation at Heidelberg, in which he is an elder and has been acting superintendent of the Sunday school for the past twelve years. **Mr. Gibson** is a director of the Young Men's Christian Association of York, and a member of its important committees. He is also vice president of the Pennsylvania State Sunday School Association, of which **Mr. John Wanamaker** is president.

**Mr. Gibson** was one of the organizers of the York Card & Paper Company, 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 for North and South America which met in Philadelphia, June 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup>, 1897, to dedicate the museum and transact business of international import. **Mr. Gibson** is a sagacious

business man, and his abilities have pushed to the fore the important company which he represents.

**Mr. Milton B. Gibson** has for years been a conspicuous figure in the ranks of the Republican Party in York, and in addition to having been- a member of the select council, and mayor of the city, was one of the committee on the eminently successful sesqui-centennial celebration of the organization of York County, observed in York, the first week in September, 1899. The committee was chosen by the city council, the board of trade and the Merchants' Association.

**Mr. Gibson** became president of the joint committee, and was one of the chief promoters of the grand jubilee, and took an active part in the preparation of the memorial volume published at that time.

As mayor of York, **Mr. Gibson** honored the city as much as the city honored him. His clean and dignified administration of the city's affairs having had much to do with maintaining the Republican supremacy which was so emphatically expressed in the election of February, 1905. In brief, **Mr. Gibson** is honored abroad as much as at home, and it was a fitting compliment to him and to the city that he was made a member and served on the staff of the late Gen. Joseph Wheeler in the great inaugural parade March 4, 1905—a parade that was the prelude to the most notable inauguration in the history of the country.

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