

Commemorative Biographical Encyclopedia of the Juniata Valley, Comprising the Counties of Huntingdon, Mifflin, Juniata, and Perry, Pennsylvania, Volume 1, J. M. Runk and Company, Publishers 1897

Orlando Gibson, foreman of Pennsylvania Railroad car shops, Huntingdon, Pa., was born in Duncansville, Blair County, July 18, 1852. He is a son of **Abraham** and **Sarah (Hamor) Gibson**, natives of Blair County. **Abraham Gibson** was born in 1827; he now resides in Altoona. His wife was born in 1839, and died February 2, 1874. He was a mechanical engineer, and was employed by the Pennsylvania Railroad Company at Altoona for about twenty years. He had six children: **Mary**, wife of **Charles C. Allen**, of Huntingdon; **Orlando**; **Harry**, residing in Altoona; **George**, in Sacramento, Cal.; **Orpha**, wife of **George Shoemaker**, of Sacramento, and **Elizabeth**, wife of **George Clark**, also of Sacramento.

Orlando Gibson was educated in the schools of Altoona. When only fourteen years of age he entered the employ of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company as engine cleaner in the round house at Altoona. On November 1, 1867, he was placed in charge of the locomotive boiler washing department, and on June 12, 1868, entered the machine shop, to learn the business of a machinist. He was transferred from this department to the Altoona yards, in which he became a fireman, June 1, 1869. Six months later, in January, 1870, he drew the premium offered to firemen for economy in using the company's fuel and stores in the discharge of his duties. On the erection of the new car shops at Altoona, **Mr. Gibson** was placed in charge of the steam heat department, January 4, 1870. On April 2, of the same year, he was sent on the road as fireman, and filled this position until September 1, 1872, when he was promoted to engineer. On August 1, 1887, he was once more promoted to his present position as foreman of the car department and master mechanic of the machinery department of the shops at Huntingdon. When **Mr. Gibson** first took charge of the shops only thirty-three men were employed in them. He has made numerous extensions and improvements, so that seventy-five employees are now required, work being executed of character and extent similar to that done in the car shops at Harrisburg and Altoona. **Mr. Gibson's** thirty years of service, rendered steadily in one line of business, with its honorable record of increasing usefulness and consequent promotion, is a fair illustration of the value of diligent and untiring performance of duty. Besides his business services, he has made his influence felt in a very wholesome way by taking part in the organization of the P. R. R. department of the Y. M. C. A. in Huntingdon; for one year he served the branch efficiently as its president. **Mr. Gibson** was the organizer of the Veteran Employees' Association, Middle Division Pennsylvania Railroad, and now holds the office of vice-president of this association. He is an active member and Past Chief of Standing Stone Castle, No. 176, K. of G. E., and of Juniata Commandery, No. 66, of the same fraternity. In political views, **Mr. Gibson** is independent.

Orlando Gibson was married in Altoona, July 18, 1872, to **Annie C.**, daughter of **Joseph** and **Charity Marshall**, both deceased. **Mrs. Gibson** was born in Bloomfield, Perry County, Pa., July 8, 1854. They have six children: **Hattie Flora Belle (Mrs. John Kaylor)**, of Pittsburg, Pa.; **William A.**, born December 24, 1874; **James Marshall**, born October 21, 1879; **Mary H.**, born February 16, 1883; **Blanche C.**, born February 2, 1887 and **Oliver Elder**, born June 25, 1889. **Mr. Gibson** and his family attend the M. E. Church.