

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

R. Bannister Gibson, Esq., New Bloomfield, Perry County, Pa., was born May 19, 1864, in Spring Township, Perry County. He is a son of **Francis** and **Tabitha (Kennedy) Gibson**, natives of Perry County. **Francis Gibson** was born in March, 1821; he was a cabinet-maker and a dealer in lumber; the latter business received his principal attention during the later years of his active life; since 1885, he has given up the cares of business, and lives a retired life. **Mr. Gibson** married **Tabitha**, daughter of **Thomas Kennedy**. Their children are: **Francis**, died an infant, in 1865; **Laura**, died in September, 1885, aged thirty-one; **Cora**, died in April, 1894, at the age of twenty-five; **Lula**, died in July, 1874, when two years old; **James P.**, of Shermansdale, Perry county; **Sarah**; **George E.**, a prominent lawyer of Erie City; **R. Bannister**; **Frances**, wife of **Professor Richards**, of Lebanon, O.; **Maud**; and **Olive**. Mrs. **Francis Gibson** died in November, 1876, at the age of forty-eight; she was an excellent mother, and a consistent member of the Reformed Church. **Mr. Gibson**, now seventy-five years of age, but still in good health, resides in New Bloomfield with his son and daughter.

The birthplace of **R. Bannister Gibson** was the old **Gibson** mansion, the same in which **Governor Bigler**, of Pennsylvania, and Governor **John Bigler**, of California, first saw the light; the celebrated **Chief Justice Gibson**, so widely known for his profound erudition and almost unerring legal judgment, was born in the same house; he was a granduncle of **Mr. R. B. Gibson**. The latter, after pursuing his elementary studies in the public schools, and supplementing them by an academic course in the Bloomfield Academy, devoted himself to the study of law. Having read for three years in the office of **Judge R. M. Henderson**, of Carlisle, Pa., and taken a course in the law school of Dickinson College, graduating in the class of 1894, he was admitted to the bar June 4, 1894. **Mr. Gibson** has had varied experiences of life and work. In his boyhood and youth, he learned much of agriculture by helping in farm work, and passed two years in acquiring the trade of carpentry, with **Eli H. Crum**. At the age of eighteen, he became a teacher, and for seven successive winters taught in different townships; three terms in Spring Township, one term in Wheatfield Township, one term in Marysville, and two terms in Page Township, industriously filling up his summer vacations with work at the carpenter's bench. In 1889, he engaged in the lumber business, and did not begin his legal studies until the spring of 1891. In the fall of 1896, **Mr. Gibson**, already noted for his skill in the law, was a candidate for the office of district attorney. He is a Democrat and an active member of the P. O. S. A., of Marysville. He belongs to the Dickinson Chapter of the Delta Chi legal fraternity. **Mr. Gibson** resides with his father and sister in New Bloomfield; he is a member of the Reformed Church, and secretary of its Sunday school.

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