

A History of The Juniata Valley and its People under the Editorial Supervision of John W. Jordan, L.L.D. Librarian Of Historical Society Of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa., Volume III, Illustrated, New York, Lewis Historical- Publishing Company, 1913

The **Gibson Family**

There are many branches of the **Gibson family** scattered throughout the United States, some of them coming from England and some from Ireland. This particular branch had its origin in Ireland.

(I) **Abraham Gibson**, of Irish descent, was born in Blair County, Pennsylvania, in the year 1827, and the greater part of his life was spent in Altoona, Pennsylvania. He was a mechanical engineer and was in the employ of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company for a period of twenty years. He and his wife were members of the Presbyterian Church. He married **Sarah Hamor**, born in 1839, died February 2, 1874, and they had children: **Orlando**, see forward; **Harry**, who lives in Altoona, Pennsylvania, is a carpenter in the employ of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company; **George**, who was a boiler maker by trade, was killed in Sacramento, California; **Mary**, married **Charles C. Allen**, of Huntingdon, and now lives in Philadelphia; **Orphia**, married **George Shoemaker**, and lives in Sacramento, California; **Elizabeth**, married **Harry Clark**, also of Sacramento.

(II) **Orlando**, son of **Abraham** and **Sarah (Hamor) Gibson**, was born in Duncansville, Blair County, Pennsylvania, July 18, 1852. He was educated in the public schools of Altoona, Pennsylvania, and at a very early age entered the employ of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, with which he has been connected in various capacities since that time. He was placed in charge of the locomotive boiler washing department November 1, 1867, and on June 12, 1868, he commenced learning the special work of a machinist in the machine shop. From this department he was transferred to the Altoona yards and became a fireman there, June 1, 1869. Faithful attention to all the details of his work has always been one of his characteristics, and in January, 1870, he drew the premium offered to linemen for economy in the use of the company's stores and fuel while discharging their duties. After 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 a fireman, and held this position until September 1, 1872, when he was advanced to the post of engineer, served until August 1, 1887, when he was appointed foreman of the car department and master mechanic of the machinery department of the shops at Huntingdon. In 1906 he was transferred to the shops at Hollidaysburg, and is now (1913) in charge of the air-brake department. In many directions **Mr. Gibson** has made his influence felt in a beneficial manner. He is the inventor and patentee of the Africa & Gibson car replacer, now used by the Pennsylvania railroad system, and also has a patent on a mechanical device known as a train controller. He was one of the organizers of the Pennsylvania Railroad Department of the Young Men's Christian Association in Huntingdon, and was president of this branch for one year. He was also the organizer of the Veteran Employees' Association, Middle Division, Pennsylvania Railroad, and filled the office of vice-president for some time. He is a past chief of Standing Stone Castle, No. 176, Knights of the Golden Eagle, and of Juniata Commandery, No. 66, of the same order. In his political views **Mr. Gibson** entertains independent opinions, and he is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Mr. Gibson married, in Altoona, July 18, 1872, **Annie C.**, born in New Bloomfield, Perry County, Pennsylvania, July 8, 1854, a daughter of **Joseph** and **Charity Marshall**, and a sister of **Helen Marshall**, who married **Calvin Etter**, a merchant of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. **Mrs. Gibson** is a member of the Presbyterian Church.

Children:

1. **Harriet Flora Belle**, born August 13, 1873, died May 13, 1912; married **John Kaylor**, of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, now deceased; one son: **John**, born in 1900.
2. **William Albert**, see forward.
3. **Blanche C.**, born February 10, 1877; married **Ernest M. Newell**, who died October 26, 1912; children: **Dorothy** and **Ernest**.
4. **James Marshall**, a machinist at Altoona, born October 24, 1879; married **Pearl Weaver**; children: **Donald** and **Anna**.
5. **Mary M.**, born February 16, 1883; married **Jerry Foster**, manager and proprietor of a restaurant.
6. **Oliver Eldwin**, born June 25, 1889; is a machinist at Altoona; married **Myra Fluke**.

(III) **William Albert**, second child and eldest son of **Orlando** and **Annie C. (Marshall) Gibson**, was born in Altoona, Pennsylvania, December 24, 1874. He lived in Altoona until he was nearly thirteen years of age, when the family moved to Huntingdon. He acquired a good practical education in the public schools of Huntingdon, and, at the age of fifteen years, became a fireman in the employ of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company. Two years later, 1901, he was advanced to the position of engineer, in which responsible office he is actively engaged at the present time. He has been commended for the faithful manner in which he has discharged the duties which fall to his share, and there is every reason to believe that still further advancement is in store for him. He is a member of Lakemont Division, No. 730, Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, and also of Standing Stone Conclave, No. 134, Improved Order of Heptasophs, of Huntingdon, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Gibson married, June 14, 1899, **Etta C. Hertzler**, a daughter of **Daniel** and **Mary Hertzler**, of Huntingdon. **Mr. Hertzler** is a mail carrier at Huntingdon, and was in service during the civil war; he enlisted in 1865 in Company E, 101st Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteers, and served until the close of the war. **Mrs. Gibson** has one sister, **Mrs. Lloyd T. McClellan**, of Huntingdon. **Mr.** and **Mrs. Gibson** have had children: **Floretta Hertzler**, born July 4, 1900, attends school; an infant daughter, born September 24, 1902, died September 26, 1902; **William Albert Jr.**, born October 17, 1904, also attends school.

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