

Jefferson County Pennsylvania Her Pioneers and People, Two Volumes; Illustrated; Volume II; Genealogy—Biography, Chicago, J. H. Beers & Company 1917

Manoah Gumbert, who owns and resides upon the old homestead in Beaver Township, which was the place of his birth, is a descendant of a pioneer family which has contributed much to the civic and industrial development and progress of Jefferson County. In his day and generation **Manoah Gumbert** has accomplished strong deeds and worthy achievement in connection with productive industry, being known as one of the representative farmers of his locality. He has attained also to marked precedence as an apiarist, his success in bee culture having been unqualified. His well improved farm is pleasingly situated in Beaver Township, only an eighth of a mile south of Ohl, where he was born Oct. 12, 1850. He is a son of **George** and **Mary (Pence) Gumbert**, both members of sterling pioneer families. The lineage of the **Gumbert** family is traced back to staunch German origin.

George Gumbert was born in Armstrong County, Pa., April 16, 1818, and on the 10th of November, 1844, he became a resident of Jefferson County, his father and stepmother, **Mr.** and **Mrs. William Gumbert**, having previously come to this county and having established their home on the farm now owned by **Clover Baughman**. At that time it was little more than a forest wilderness. In 1855 **William Gumbert** and his wife went to Wisconsin and became pioneer settlers near Alma, Buffalo County, and there the death of **Mrs. Gumbert** occurred a few years later. All of the children of the second marriage established permanent homes in Wisconsin. **William Gumbert** finally returned to Jefferson County, where he passed his declining years with his children and grandchildren, his death occurring at the home of **Manoah Gumbert**, on the 31st of October, 1879, at which time he was eighty years of age. Of the children of his first marriage **George**, father of **Manoah**, was the eldest son; **Adam**, who passed the closing years of his life on the farm now owned and occupied by his son **David**, is mentioned elsewhere; **William** is more specifically mentioned on other pages, in the sketch of **Jeremiah**; **David** became a prosperous farmer near New Bethlehem, in Armstrong county, and there his death occurred; **Elizabeth** became the wife of **David Butler**, of Armstrong, and in 1869 they removed to Tennessee, where they passed the rest of their lives; **Sarah** and her husband, **George Doverspike**, passed the closing years of their lives on their farm near Putneyville, Armstrong County.

On the 12th of March, 1844, at the age of twenty-six years, **George Gumbert** wedded **Mary Pence**, who was born near Freeport, Armstrong County, Aug. 15, 1822, and was nine years of age at the time of the family removal to Clarion County, where her father, **Henry Pence**, became a pioneer farmer. Almost immediately after their marriage **Mr.** and **Mrs. Gumbert** established their home on the farm now owned by their son **Manoah**, their original domicile having been a little log house of the true pioneer type. **George Gumbert** reclaimed all of his land to cultivation, and in 1853 erected a substantial frame house, to which he made additions in 1874. The barn which he built in 1858 was destroyed by fire twenty-two years later, and immediately replaced by the present barn on the place, in 1880. Here **George Gumbert** continued his earnest and successful activities during the remainder of his active career, and here his death occurred on the 10th of April, 1901, only six days prior to his eighty-third birthday anniversary. His devoted wife died on the 31st of December, 1898. Both were earnest members of the Evangelical Association and leaders in the maintenance of the church of that denomination in Beaver

Township. In the early days the church services were held in the **Gumbert** home and other private houses, and in 1884 a church edifice was erected at Heathville, both **Mr.** and **Mrs. Gumbert** continuing as members of this congregation until they died. He gave efficient service as class leader for many years. In the fifties **Mr. Gumbert** served as justice of the peace, and at the time of the Civil war he held the position of postmaster of the Packer post office, the office being maintained in his house. Packer is now known as Heathville. The remains of **Mr. Gumbert** and his wife rest in Pleasant Grove Cemetery, which occupies a small part of their old homestead. They became the parents of six children, of whom **Manoah**, the fourth, was the only one to attain maturity, all of the others having died either in infancy or early childhood. The others were **Samantha, Elizabeth, John, George** and **Isaiah**.

Educated in the local schools, **Manoah Gumbert** has always resided on the old homestead farm, and, as the only heir, upon the death of his venerable father, he came into sole ownership of the property entirely free from financial encumbrance, and he has thus maintained it to the present time. In addition to his successful activities as a farmer **Mr. Gumbert** has developed his mechanical skill, and his services have been widely in demand in the expert repairing of parlor organs throughout this entire section of northwestern Pennsylvania. He has musical talent, and by his own efforts has gained much skill in the playing of the organ, the dulcimer and the fife. He has been for thirty years fifer in a drum corps, and in this connection has assisted at innumerable celebrations of the Fourth of July, Decoration Day, etc.

In 1885 **Mr. Gumbert** initiated his activities as an apiarist, and he has developed a profitable enterprise in this line, with an apiary of about fifty stands at present. There has been no year in all this period that he has failed to have a good supply of honey to sell. He has made a scientific study of the business, in which he is a recognized local authority, his advice being held in high esteem in the various beekeepers' associations. His farm, comprising eighty acres, is devoted to diversified agriculture, and the raising of a consistent amount of good live stock. **Mr. Gumbert** has had no ambition for public office. He is one of a very few Republicans in a Democratic township, has served as a member of the election board, and in 1910 was United States census enumerator. He and his wife hold membership in the Methodist Episcopal Church at Ohl, and he has served as a trustee as well as Sunday school superintendent.

On the 21st of September, 1876, **Mr. Gumbert** married **Emeline Motter**, who was born in the western part of Beaver Township, on the 7th of March, 1854, daughter of **Peter** and **Sarah (Steel) Motter**, whose marriage was celebrated in Mifflin County. **Mr. Motter** was a tailor by trade. In the forties **Peter Motter** came with his family to Jefferson County and settled on the west side of Red Rank, near the Clarion County line, where he developed a farm and where both he and his wife passed the remainder of their lives, she having been seventy-one years of age at the time of her death, he attaining to the venerable age of eighty-two years. They became the parents of sixteen children, of whom **Mrs. Gumbert** and her twin sister, **Carrie**, were the youngest; **Carrie** became the wife of **Otto Aebi** and was a resident of Fort Collins, Colo., at the time of her death, in December, 1915. Twelve of the children attained to maturity, and besides **Mrs. Gumbert** five others of the number are living in 1916: **William** is a resident of South Dakota; **Wesley** lives at Lakemont, Pa., and **George** near Marysville, Perry County, this State; **Sarah A.** is the wife of **Philip Spare**, of Clarence, Mo.; **Ellen E.** is the wife of **George Kuntzelman**, of North Freedom, Armstrong County.

Of the children of **Mr. and Mrs. Gumbert** the eldest is **Miss Myrtle Ellen**, who remains at the parental home; **Charles Wilson** is employed as a mechanical draftsman at Wilmerding, Allegheny County, and his brother **Wesley Arthur** is similarly engaged with the same company; **Lawson Norman** is associated in the management of the old homestead; **Edwin Furman** holds a responsible position as a mechanical draftsman in a large manufacturing establishment at Niagara Falls, N. Y.; **Franklin Clyde** likewise is a skilled draftsman and is employed by the same company as his brothers **Charles** and **Wesley**; **Anna Clare** died in infancy. **Charles, Edwin** and **Clyde** all became successful teachers in the district schools of their home county, and all of the children have signally honored the family name.

Mr. Gumbert became a member of the Evangelical Association in 1866 and continued his affiliation with the same for thirty-nine years at the expiration of which he and his wife transferred their membership to the Methodist Episcopal Church at Ohi. He has been an earnest worker in behalf of the cause of temperance and has otherwise done all in his power to further the moral and general civic welfare of the community where he has always had his home and in which his circle of friends is limited.

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