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## GIBSON FAMILY RECORDS

The following Gibson family records, gift of Miss Addie Howell, are in the Society's collection. The first group of items, partially illegible, is written on the verso of a fragile sheet of marbled end paper, evidently torn from the front of a book. The second group of items is inscribed in the inside cover of *The Theory and Practice of Surveying . . . by Robert Gibson Newly Arranged, Improved, and Enlarged . . .* by James Ryan (Philadelphia, 1840). The first page of the volume contains a printed sketch of Robert Gibson, which is reproduced below.

### ROBERT GIBSON, SR.

The Author, a descendant of ancient Briton ancestors, was born in the city of London, in the year of 1731 and graduated at Oxford College in 1752 at the age of 21 years. He was possessed of excellent mental and moral qualities. In religion, a High-Churchman, in Politics, a Republican. In the year of 1753, the death of his father occurring, he was possessed of ample resources. Purchasing a vessel and freighting her with a valuable cargo, he sailed for America, with the intention of embarking in mercantile pursuits. At that time matters between England and Spain were in a very unsettled state. His vessel and cargo were seized by a Ship-of-war; carried to a port in Spain; there confiscated, and he incarcerated in a loathsome prison. While there, he whiled away the tedium of many an hour in the composition of prose and verse. The officer having charge of prisoners became cognizant of the fact, that among those confined was a man of rare literary attainments, and he, with an appreciation worthy his position and influence, immediately visited him; at the parting, a mutual recognition took place; they were members of the noblest of human institutions—they were brother Free-Masons. He was immediately released, received into the family of his deliverer, and his trunk, papers, and a small sum of money delivered over to him. The Government however, persisted in the determination of retaining his merchandise. He once again sailed for America, and was more fortunate. He arrived in the city of New York, where he remained as a clerk in a mercantile house for a period of three years. Once more he crossed the seas, arrived in London; where in 1758 he was married. Again he turned his face to the shores of America, and landed in Charleston; here he turned his attention to the education of youth. In the year 1769 his wife died, leaving an only child, a son. In 1771 he again married—an English lady, having no doubt a predilection

for the daughters of "merrie England." His works appeared in print about the year 1765. Being Grand Master of the Masonic Order in South Carolina, he officiated in the laying of the corner stone at St. Michael's Church. He died in 1795, aged 65 years, leaving a widow and six children. His remains repose in the south-west corner of the grounds, attached to the above named church.

Robert Gibson, widower, aged 39 years, was married to Anna Maria Black, spinster, aged 21 years, with License by the Reverend Mr. Panting in St. Andrew's Parish Church, Ashley River, South Carolina, on Sunday, the 19th of May 1771.

Thomas Gibson, the son of Robert Gibson and Anna Maria, his Wife, was born on Monday, the 21st of June 1773 in Georgetown Winyaw and baptized by the Reverend Mr. Stewart, Rector of Prince George's Parish.

Elizabeth Gibson, the Daughter of Robert Gibson and Anna Maria, his Wife, was born on Sunday the 7th of March 1775 in Georgetown Winyaw and baptized by the Reverend Mr. Stewart, Rector of Prince George's Parish.

Mary Gibson, the Daughter of Robert Gibson and Anna Maria, his Wife, was born on their plantation Mount Pleasant Peedee on Wednesday the 12th of April 1780 & baptized by the Reverend Mr. Stewart in March 1782.

Jane Gibson the daughter of Robert Gibson & Anna Maria, his wife, was born on Saturday morning the 8th of February 1783, in Charlestown and baptized by the Revd. Mr. Morreau, Vicar of St Philip's Church on 25th July 178—.

William Marks Gibson the Son of Robert Gibson and Anna Maria, his wife was born on Saturday 3rd November 1787 at Beresford's Bounty in St. Thomas's baptized on Thursday the 5th March 1789 in Beaufort by the Reverend Mr. Lewis Rector.

Anne Chapman Gibson the Daughter (1790) of Robert Gibson and Anna Maria, his wife was born Wednesday the 4th August—at Beaufort Port Royal So. Carolina and baptized on Sunday the 20th January in Charleston by the Reverend Mr. Henry —, B—.

Robert Gibson, Senr., departed this Transitory Life on the 16 January 1793, aged 60 years.

William Marks Gibson Son of Robert departed this life the—March 1795, aged 7 years & 4 months.

Anna Maria Gibson, wife of Robert Gibson, departed this Life the 22nd April 1795, aged 45 years —.

*Written October 21st, 1894*

Robert Gibson of England married Anne Maria Black (3rd wife) January 8th 1771 in St. Andrews' Church Ashley River Road South Carolina.

Children of the above:

1. Thomas Gibson Born 21st June 1773 in Georgetown, Winyaw
2. Elizabeth Gibson born 7th March 1775 in Georgetown, Winyaw married three times last husband Thomas Jones
3. Mary Gibson—born on Plantation, Mount Pleasant Peedee, 12th April 1780
4. Jane Gibson—born in Charleston—8th Feb. 1783
5. William Marks Gibson born 3 Nov. 1787, Beresford County, St. Thomas, S.C.
6. Anne Chapman Gibson born 4th Aug. 1790, Beaufort, Port Royal S.C. Married Mr. Whilden.

Elizabeth Gibson married Thomas Jones.

Born to them was Adeline Matilda Jones married Sidney Smith Howell.

Their children were:

Samer Spencer Howell

Adeline Whilemina Howell died February 10, 1860

Samer Spencer Howell married Josephine Ingersoll Oakes

Their children living in 1894

1. Adeline Wilhemina Howell (Married Henry H. Mann of New York)
2. Nellie Margaret Howell
3. Addie Matilda Howell
4. Samer Spencer Howell

The volume contains two loose items of family interest. One is a newspaper clipping from the *Charleston Evening Post*, January 21, 1921, relating to the discovery by Thomas W. Bacot among the Miscellaneous Records in the Probate Court of a document dated 13 January 1810 attesting to the marriage of "Thomas Jones of Charleston, Factor of the

One Part, and Eliza Troup of Charleston, widow, of the Other Part," certified by Charles Lining, Ordinary. The other is a copy of the biographical sketch of Robert Gibson with the following addition:

ANNE CHAPMAN WHILDEN,

Daughter of Robert Gibson, Sr., Born August 1791, Presents each of her children with a copy of her Father's Works; as a Family Memorial

Sarah Theodosia Arnold  
Mary Gibson Artman  
William Henry Whilden  
Robert Thadeus Whilden

These mentioned are the four youngest Grand-Children of the Author.\*

\* The Howell Family Papers in the Society contain a large amount of material on related lines.