



THOMAS JEFFERSON GIBSON.

Thomas Jefferson Gibson, of Branchville, Indiana, was born in Crawford County, Indiana, in 1852, being the oldest son of a family of nine children born to William and Melinda Shields Gibson. William Gibson was a farmer, born in Crawford County in 1825. His mother was born in Kentucky in 1812. He received a good academic education, and taught several years in the common schools. Was married to Melissa Frakes in 1875, and to this union was born six children, four of whom survive him. He was elected Trustee of Oil Township in 1884 by the Republican party, of which he was a lifelong member. Later he carried on a general merchandise business at Branchville. Served as Representative for Perry County in 1895 and 1897. Returned to his farm, and was elected Joint Senator to represent Crawford, Perry and Spencer counties, and served one term. Died in Indianapolis March 8, 1933.

ALL HAVE IT.

A telephone message from Branchville on Tuesday announced that all the members of the Gibson family had developed smallpox except Mrs. Gibson, who at that time had shown no symptoms of the disease. There are six children in the family and all have the disease. The oldest daughter who was the first to take sick is able to be about the room but the oldest son, Oscar, has been in a dangerous condition for several days. The afflicted have been practically without medical attention since it became known that they had smallpox, as none of the physicians throughout the country would visit them. Dr. Bennett, acting as Secretary of the County Board of Health, has made two trips to Branchville within the past ten days which has been all the medical attention given the family in that length of time. Our informant at Branchville says the suffering the family has endured has been mostly due to the lack of medical attention. We have no desire to attempt to place the blame upon anyone for the neglect of this family, but we do know that it is the duty of someone to see that the sick are not neglected as these people have been, and there is no excuse for it. The conditions at Branchville are grave, and there is no telling at what moment they may turn worse.

LATER:—Mrs. Gibson is also down with the disease, as is also James Gibson, a brother of the late Senator Gibson, who has remained with the family since the death of his brother. There are at present eight persons in the Gibson home down with the smallpox. A trained nurse went to the afflicted from Louisville yesterday morning.

OSCAR GIBSON DIES.

On Thursday evening a telephone message from Branchville announced that Oscar, the son of the late Senator Gibson, has succumbed to the disease. He had been in a serious state for more than a week and had been expected to die at any moment. He with his sister had been to Indianapolis and returned home with the body of their father. He was 18 years, the oldest son of the family, and the one to whom his grief-stricken mother and little sisters could have looked to for comfort in the future. The stricken family has the sympathy of the people of Perry county in their hours of deepest sorrow and suffering.

JAMES GIBSON SUC

Brother of the Late Senator Gibson
the Terrible Smallpox.

The past three issues of the Enquirer bore the sad news of the death of one or the other members of the late Senator Gibson's worthy family, and this week it is our sad duty to report the death of James Gibson, a brother of Senator Gibson, whose death occurred late on Monday evening after terrible suffering from smallpox, a disease that has almost wiped out the entire family of Gibsons within the past month. James Gibson was the latest victim of the horrible disease, contracted it while at the home of the late Senator where he remained since the latter's death trying to comfort the family in their hours of affliction. He remained with the son and daughter who became sick first and after it was learned that they were afflicted with smallpox, he remained with them faithfully until he himself became sick of the disease and died on Monday evening. After his exposure to the awful plague he remained away from his family who resided a short distance from where his brother's family resides. He saw the bodies of his nephew and niece carried from the house and calmly awaited his own end conscious of the fact that he would not see his wife and dear little ones again if the disease proved fatal to him. He died a true hero, sacrificing his life for the comfort and welfare of his own family and relatives. The sad ending of the Gibsons is probably without parallel. There is not a family in Perry county whose members are more devoted to each other than were the Gibsons.

James Gibson was a splendid citizen. He possessed much of that gentleness of disposition that endeared his late brother, the Senator, to the people. He was kind, honest and devoted to his home and surroundings. He was liked wherever he was known. It is indeed sad to reflect upon the terrible calamity that has befallen this noble family in so short a time. To those who knew them and mingled with them in daily life their memories will live forever. James Gibson is survived by his wife and three little children, the eldest six, and the youngest two years old. He was a brother-in-law to Messrs. Sol and Logan Esarey, of this city. He was yet a young man, being only twenty-seven years old. Including Senator Gibson, four of the afflicted have succumbed to

four of the afflicted have succumbed to the awful plague. None of James Gibson's family has been exposed to the disease. Senator Gibson's family up to the present time has dwindled to five members, the mother and four children, where formerly the family consisted of eight.

Dr. Hurty, Secretary of the State Board of health at Indianapolis, was communicated with by telephone from this city on Sunday last. As a result of the information given him Dr. Nelson D. Brayton and Dr. Geo. Elliot, of Indianapolis came down to the Gibson home on Monday. They arrived just a short time before James Gibson died. After death they examined the body and prepared it for burial in the cemetery where the body of Senator Gibson lies. The children were buried on Gibson's farm. The physicians from Indianapolis secured the permission of Mrs. Gibson and her family to exhume the body of Senator Gibson for the purpose of making a complete examination to ascertain the exact cause of his death. They found the remains in a perfect state. Their examination developed the fact beyond all doubt that Senator Gibson died of the worse known form of smallpox. The rest of the family are out of danger now and are recovering rapidly. There are no more new cases at Bra

BRANCHVILLE LETTER.

We have had three days of rain and plants are growing finely.

Miss Leora Deen was a guest of the Misses Holmes of Oriole Sunday and Monday.

This community was grieved to hear of the death of another smallpox victim, Mr. James Gibson, which occurred Monday evening late. He had been very bad for four days and in fact had been from the time he became ill. He was a brother of the late Senator Gibson, and when the Gibson family became afflicted with smallpox he went to their aid. He was about 28 years of age and was very strong, and it was a surprise that smallpox should affect him so badly. He leaves a wife and three children to mourn his loss, his wife being formerly Miss Dora Esarey, daughter of Mr. Clark Esarey, and the oldest of the children is only 8 years of age. We sympathize with the bereaved Gibsons and our earnest prayers go out in their behalf.

Two physicians from Indianapolis arrived at Gibson's about a half hour before James Gibson died and they laid the remains to rest in the Walker cemetery Tuesday afternoon. It has been less than a week since Miss Stella died and the community was grieved at the death of an estimable young lady as was Miss Stella. The remainder of the Gibson's are now thought to be out of danger.

We rejoice from the fact that Mr. August Schrader who was exposed to smallpox has only a slight case of vario-loid as he was vaccinated during the Civil War while in the army. He has never been dangerous and sits up the greater part of the time. GERANIUM.

JAS. GIBSON DIED A HERO

HE SACRIFICED HIS LIFE TO CARE
FOR BROTHER'S FAMILY.

Pathetic Story of a Stricken Family

Told by Harry Elliott—Branchville People Tell of It.

Harry Elliott, who was sent with Dr. Nelson D. Brayton to Branchville by Secretary Hurty, of the State Board of Health, to investigate the cases of smallpox in the family of the late Senator Gibson, returned Friday. Elliott and Brayton arrived at the Gibson home last Monday and on Tuesday they examined Senator Gibson's body to discover, if possible, if his death had been due to smallpox, as had been decided by the health authorities.

Elliott, who is a junior in the Indiana Medical College, said Friday evening that their investigation showed beyond doubt that Senator Gibson had died from malignant black smallpox. "It is not surprising that Dr. Harter, who attended Gibson in this city, failed to diagnose the case correctly," said Mr. Elliott, "as he had never handled such a case before and black smallpox is very rare. There have only been seven cases of black smallpox in Indianapolis and only one of those was correctly diagnosed before death, which shows that Dr. Harter's mistake was not surprising."

"The Gibson family has been terribly afflicted. Six of the children have had the smallpox and two of them have died. James Gibson, a brother of Senator Gibson, who went to the house to nurse the children, took the disease and died Monday evening an hour after we arrived. James Gibson was a hero if there ever was one. He had never had the smallpox and had never been vaccinated, but when he learned of the trouble at his brother's home he went at once to assist in taking care of the children. He left a wife and two small children, and they never saw him after the day he said good-bye when he went to his brother's house. His family could not visit him during his sickness, and of course they did not dare to see him after he was dead. I never knew of a more pathetic case.

"Dr. Brayton and I buried James Gibson Tuesday. Some of the neighbors secured a coffin at a small town near there and brought it within a hundred yards of the house, but we had no assistance in burying the man. The people of that neighborhood are absolutely panic-stricken and they will not go within a quarter of a mile of the Gibson home if they can avoid it.

"The two children that died were buried on the farm at night by two men who had had the smallpox and were not afraid of contagion. The other four children are all convalescent and will recover. A trained nurse from Louisville has assisted in caring for the children, but for several days after they all were taken with the disease Mrs. Gibson was alone and had a terrible time. Mrs. Gibson, by the way, was the only one of the family who had been vaccinated and she was the only one who did not take the disease."

BROTHER OF SENATOR GIBSON WAS A HERO

HE GAVE HIS LIFE IN ATTEMPT
TO SAVE BROTHER.

FAMILY SADLY AFFLICTED

Harry Elliott, a member of the senior class of the Indiana Medical College, and Dr. Nelson Brayton, who is deputy State health officer, returned last night from Branchville, Perry county, where they have been for the past week in attendance upon the family of the late Senator Gibson, who died of smallpox in this city during the last Legislature.

While at the Gibson home Elliott and Dr. Brayton buried James Gibson, a brother of the late Senator, who died last Monday of a malignant type of the same disease. Two of the Senator's children, a son, Oscar, age nineteen years, and a daughter, Stella, who was thirteen years old, have also died of smallpox.

Elliott's description of the visit of himself and Dr. Brayton to the Gibson home is interesting. He says:

"Eckerty, the nearest railroad station to the home of the Gibsons, is fourteen miles from Branchville, and the Gibson home is three miles farther. When we arrived at the Gibson home, after a four-hour drive over mud roads that were seemingly bottomless, we found that James Gibson was dying of confluent smallpox. Dr. Brayton and I administered a hypodermic injection of normal saline solution, which caused a rally for a short time, but the patient died in about an hour and a half.

Four Others Ill.

"In the sittingroom of the house we found four members of the Gibson family ill with smallpox. Cora, aged twenty-two years, and Bertha, seventeen, were suffering with severe forms of confluent smallpox, but the danger point in their cases was passed. Justus, the dead Senator's

was passed. Justus, the dead Senator's seven-year-old son, and Elbert, another son three years old, were recovering from the disease and were able to be up. Two others, Oscar and Stella, had died from the disease. They were buried in a field on the Gibson farm. Mrs. Gibson, who had been successfully vaccinated a short time before her husband contracted smallpox, was the only member of the family who escaped.

"Conditions at the Gibson home were simply horrible. During the progress of the disease no regular medical attention was secured, as doctors refused, on one pretext or another, to visit the patients. One doctor, who made one call at the house, was prevailed upon by a number of boarders at his home to discontinue his visits, the boarders saying they would leave if the doctor visited the Gibson home. Another doctor, who was in attendance on a family near the Gibson home, was ordered by the local health officers to remain away from the place. These statements were made to us by Mrs. Gibson and others who know.

Assisted by Hero.

"The only assistance Mrs. Gibson has had in the course of the epidemic in her family has been that afforded by her brother-in-law, James Gibson, whom I consider to have been a hero if there ever was one. He had never had smallpox and was never vaccinated, yet when he heard of the trouble at his brother's home he left his wife and three small children, the oldest of which is nine, and went to the assistance of the stricken family. His wife never saw him again, as he almost immediately contracted the virulent form of smallpox and died within a short time.

"A few days before James Gibson died two old men, who live near Branchville and who have had smallpox, were secured to help nurse the family. These two old men were present when Oscar and Stella Gibson died, and they buried the two in a field on the farm, as the health officers refused to allow the bodies to be buried in the cemetery. Mrs. McKinley, a trained nurse from Louisville, was secured after James Gibson was stricken, and she and Mrs. Gibson have had the sole care of the patients, who are now recovering. In addition to the work of nursing, Mrs. Gibson has had the care of the farm, feeding and caring for the stock."

Mr. Elliott says that while he and Dr. Brayton were burying the body of James Gibson they disinterred the remains of Senator Gibson, to ascertain beyond doubt the cause of his death. They found petechial spots under the skin of the abdomen and chest, hemorrhage in the conjunctiva of the eyes and liquid blood in the eyeballs, all of which are important signs of the malignant hemorrhagic type of smallpox.



James and Idora Gibson