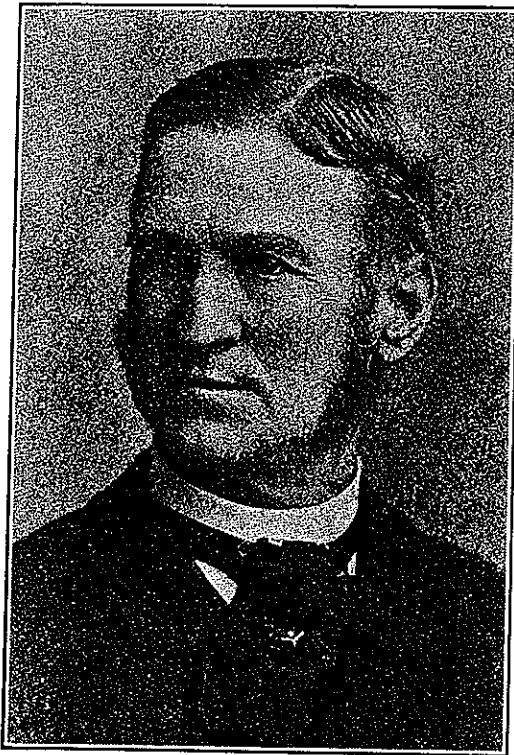


## JAMES A. GIBSON

Compiled by Col. vanNostrand

James Alexander Gibson was born at Willowdale, nearly three miles north of the present limits of Toronto, on 15th May, 1831.

His father, David Gibson, P.L.S., whose biographical sketch appears in the Annual "Proceedings" of 1916—had come from Scotland as a young man, after a course in surveying and civil engineering in the Old Land, and received his commission as a Deputy Surveyor for Canada on 27th December, 1825. David Gibson's family consisted of three daughters and four sons, the latter being James Alexander, William, Peter Silas and George. All four took part in surveying work under their father although commissions were taken out by only James Alexander and Peter Silas. A biographical sketch of the latter appears in the Annual "Proceedings" of 1917.



The surveying practice of the family covered a large field, beginning with the survey of the boundary line between Lower Canada and the United States and comprising many surveys of crown lands, colonization roads, etc., in what was then termed, "The Queen's Bush," in addition to work for organized municipalities, including Toronto, as well as many private surveys. They also owned and operated saw mills at Parry Sound, eventually disposing of the mills and timber lands to the Beattys of Parry Sound, another family noted for the number of land surveyors it produced.

The Gibson family is unique in the history of land surveying in this Province, commissions having been held by it

as follows: In the first generation, one; in the second generation, two; in the third generation, three, and in the fourth—the present generation—already two have qualified and entered practice.

Both David Gibson and Peter S. Gibson were honoured in their respective eras by being appointed as members of the Board of Examiners for land surveyors.

Following the troubles in Upper Canada in 1837, David Gibson removed his family to New York, where for some years he found employment as engineer on the Erie Canal, then under construction, returning to his old home at Willowdale, when the general amnesty was declared by Her Majesty, and resuming his practice.

James A. Gibson, as referred to above, was associated with his father in practice and was granted his commission as Provincial Land Surveyor on 7th April, 1855. He continued in the practice until about two years after the death of his father, which occurred on 25th January, 1864, when he retired to Oshawa, Ont., where he purchased a book store, intending it as a, more or less, temporary occupation. The enterprise proved to be successful, and he continued its operation until the end of his business career. He also served as a director in the Ontario Loan and Savings Society and the Western Bank.

In 1860 the subject of this sketch married Miss Martha Hoig of Toronto, born in Scotland, 13th February, 1837. No children were born to them but they spent the remainder of their lives together, both dying in the same year.

James A. Gibson died at Toronto on 11th April, 1908, and was buried in Mount Pleasant Cemetery. His wife died on 6th July of that year and was buried beside him.

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