

Christ Episcopal Church Cemetery Inventory

State and Water Streets, Dover DE 19903

Lot Number: 30 Space: H

Find A Grave # 11906045

Name: **Gibson, Rev. Lewis William**

b. Wellsboro, PA

Birth date: July 12, 1835, Wellsboro, PA Death date: June 7, 1894, Dover, DE Burial Date: June 11, 1894
Age: 59

Spouse: Mary *Donnel* Gibson (1838-1914)

Children: Charles Donnel Gibson (1863-1914); Emmeline Barton Gibson (1865-1865), Lucy Gibson (1867-1949);
Alice Gibson (1869-1954); Mary (Polly) Gibson (1871-1927); Amelia Donnel Gibson (1873-1890); John Hinman
Gibson (1877-1935)

Parents: Dr. Otis L. Gibson (1807-1863) ad Emmeline Barton *Parsons* Gibson (1804-1865)

Siblings: Infant Gibson; Lucy Parsons *Gibson* Colton (1838-1921); Otis W.
Gibson (1840-1896); Ada S. Gibson (b. abt. 1870)

Residence: Dover, DE

Cause of death/Burial/Obituary: Heart failure; see next page

Service/occupation information: Rector of this Parish, 1873 – 1894 and St.
Paul’s Chapel, Camden, DE

Officiate: H. Ashton Henry

Lot Owner: Rev. Lewis W. Gibson

Marker: shared with spouse

Inscription:

Lewis William Gibson
Priest
and from 1873 to 1894
Rector of this Parish
Born July 12, 1835
Died June 7, 1894
Mary Donnell
Wife of Lewis W. Gibson
Born Nov. 22, 1838 - Died April 30, 1914



DIMENSIONS: H 70” x W 37” x D 25” at base

STYLE: headstone - Celtic cross

Repairs needed: Top inscription faded; previous repairs have been made to broken cross; Cleaned summer 2020

Inventory date: July 9, 2020, Recorder: Nancy Quinn Revised: June 20, 2022 Cynthia E. De Bellis



324 **REV. LEWIS WILLIAM⁷ GIBSON** (Emeline B.⁶ Parsons, Capt. Luke,⁵ Samuel,⁴ William,³ Capt. John,² Joseph¹), b. July 12, 1835, at Wellsboro, Pa.; graduated from Yale College, 1854; General Theological Seminary, N. Y. City; was a Protestant Episcopal clergyman; d. June 7, 1894, at Dover, Del. He m. at Sunbury, Pa., Nov. 11, 1862, Mary, b. 1838, dau. of Hon. Charles Gobin and Amelia (Hegins) Donnel, of Sunbury, Pa. He was Chaplain of the Delaware State Senate, also candidate for Bishop in the Protestant Episcopal Church. His widow and children reside in Germantown, Philadelphia, Pa.

CHILDREN OF REV. LEWIS W.⁷ AND MARY (DONNEL) GIBSON:

- i Charles Donnel⁸ Gibson, b. Aug. 29, 1863; Union College; member of the Signia Phi Fraternity; m. Minnie Gay, who died childless.
- ii Emmeline Barton⁸ Gibson, b. and d. Mar. 20, 1865.
- iii Lucy⁸ Gibson, b. Apr. 9, 1867; a teacher in Norwalk, Conn.
- iv Alice⁸ Gibson, b. Mar. 19, 1869.
- v Mary⁸ Gibson, b. Mar. 19, 1871.
- vi Amelia Donnel⁸ Gibson, b. Sept. 30, 1873; d. Apr. 6, 1890.
- vii John Hinman⁸ Gibson, b. Aug. 31, 1877; m. Miss Cook; has one child; lives in Philadelphia, Pa.

From Journal of the Proceedings of the 106th Annual Convention of the Protestant in the Diocese of Delaware held in St. Philips Church, Laurel, Wednesday, June 1st. 1892. Volume 106, Appendix, page 55, Google Books,
<https://books.google.com/>¹

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE DIOCESE OF DELAWARE.

The Corporation respectfully reports to the Convention that during the past year there have been the following additions to the trusts confided to its care.

1. There has been added to the fund known as "Holy Trinity (Old Swedes) Church Permanent Fund" the sum of fifteen hundred dollars (\$1500), in securities assigned to the Corporation for that fund, by the Vestry of Trinity Church.

2. By deed, dated January 27th, 1892, and duly recorded, the Rev. **Lewis W. Gibson** and wife conveyed to the Corporation a lot of land in Camden, Kent County, on which is erected St. Paul's Chapel, the title thereto having been previously held by Mr. **Gibson**. The conveyance is in the form adopted by the Corporation for the conveyance of land for missionary stations.

¹ St. Paul's in Camden, Kent, Dover started as a mission in 1868 meeting in various places. In 1873, The Rev. Lewis William Gibson was in charge of this mission. In 1876, St. Paul's mission became St. Paul's Chapel, still under the supervision of Rev. Gibson and all Convention reports for St. Paul's Chapel were included with the reports for Christ Episcopal Church. In 1892, the land with St. Paul's Chapel was donated to the Trustees of the Episcopal Diocese of Delaware by Rev. and Mrs. Lewis William Gibson. St. Paul's Chapel continued under the rector of Christ Church Dover – Rev. William Lewis Gibson until his death in 1894 and then his successor, The Rev. George M. Bond. Sometime around 1906, St. Paul's Chapel became St. Paul's Church and still was associated with Christ Church Dover. Around 1908, reports were separate from St. Paul's Chapel (Church and Christ Church Dover. Rector, Rev. Henry B. Olmstead was the Rector of Christ Church Dove and Priest in Charge for St. Paul's Chapel, an organized mission.

From Journal of the Proceedings of the 109th Annual Convention of the Protestant in the Diocese of Delaware held in St. Peter's Church, Lewes, Wednesday, June 5th, 1895. Volumes 107-111, page 20, Google Books, <https://books.google.com/>

Within our own clerical ranks, we have been called upon to part with a priest who was amongst our best known and most highly esteemed labourers. While we were in session at our last Convention, we learned how dangerous his illness was, and almost immediately afterwards he died. I allude to the Rev. **Lewis William Gibson**, for more than twenty years rector of Dover. He and I were fellow students at the General Theological Seminary, and in 1860 I was ordained Deacon with him—we being the only ones presented at that time—in St. James' Church, Philadelphia. I thus had an early opportunity of becoming acquainted with the ability and zeal and self-consecration which throughout his ministerial life made for him a high place in the admiration and affection of all who knew him. His devotion to the interests of his parish and diocese was marked and appreciated, and we all felt that the gap caused by his removal was one that could not easily be filled.

From Journal of the Proceedings of the 107th Annual Convention of the Protestant in the Diocese of Delaware held in St. Andrew's Church, Wilmington, Wednesday and Thursday, June 7th and 8th, A.D. 893. Volumes 107-111, page 28, Google Books, <https://books.google.com/>

While speaking of one loss to New Castle, I am reminded of another—in the recent departure thence of the rector, the Rev. P. B. Lightner. By his removal to Colorado, Delaware is deprived of the co-operation of one, who in many ways, had signally proved his deep regard for its welfare. He has, I am sure, carried with him to his new field of labor our hearty goodwill and grateful remembrances. We shall also miss not a little the presence and co-operation of one who has been for more than twenty years the diligent rector of Dover, the Rev. **Lewis W. Gibson**, to whose labors in various directions, I feel that the diocese is largely indebted. We learn with sincere regret of his serious illness, and pray that God may graciously relieve and comfort him.

From Journal of the Proceedings of the 110th Annual Convention of the Protestant in the Diocese of Delaware held in Immanuel Church, New Castle, June 3d and 8th, 1896. Volumes 107-111, page 17, Google Books, <https://books.google.com/>

A bell of beautiful tone has been acquired by St. Mary's Memorial Chapel, Bridgeville. A handsome oak altar and reredos have been presented to St. Mark's Church, Millsboro, in memory of Mr. Thomas Burton. In St. Paul's Chape , Camden, a beautiful stained-glass window has been placed in memory of its late pastor, the Rev. Lewis W. Gibson. A very neat clergy-stall has been given to Trinity Church, Clayton, by the zealous members of the Junior Guild, and St. Andrew's Church, Ellis Grove, has been repainted, and a new carpet has been purchased.

Obituary retrieved from Find A Grave, July 12, 2020

—Rev. Lewis W. Gibson, a native of this borough, died last Thursday at his home at Dover, Delaware. He was the eldest son of the late Dr. O. L. Gibson, once the leading physician here. Lewis was graduated at Yale College and became an Episcopal minister. He preached in Philadelphia and Sunbury, and for a number of years he had been pastor of a Church at Dover. He was about 58 years of age.

Wellsboro Agitator 13 Jun 1894 Wed

The Morning News, Tuesday, June 5, 1894

The Rev. Lewis W. Gibson has resigned the parish of Christ Church, Dover, Delaware, and for the present his address will be Sunbury, Pa.

Gibson, Lewis W.

STATE OF DELAWARE

Certificate of a Death

In the Town of Dover Kent County.

Full name of deceased Lewis W. Gibson If an infant, not signed, give parent's name.

Age 59 Color White

Nation or State _____

If of foreign birth, how long in the United States?

Residence Dover

Occupation Minister of the Gospel

Single, Married, Widowed (Cross out words not required in this line.)

Sex Male

Name and nation of parents Otto & Emmeline Gibson

Cause of death and complications _____

Date of death June 7 - 1894

I Hereby Report this death, and certify that the foregoing statements are true, according to the best of my knowledge.

Witness my hand this 8 day of June 1894

Signature and residence of reporter. _____

Returned to the Recorder of Deeds of Kent County _____

189 by Furmanson Undertaker,

residing at Dover in Kent County.

Signed, _____

The News Journal, Wilmington, DE Tuesday, June 12, 1894

The Morning News, Wilmington, DE, Wednesday June 13, 1894

News Journal, Wilmington, DE Tues. 6-12-1894

DOVER.

Funeral of the Rev. L. W. Gibson—Address Before the Scott Literary Society.
Special Correspondence of Every Evening.

DOVER, June 12.—The funeral of the Rev. Lewis W. Gibson was largely attended yesterday. The visiting clergymen who assisted in the services were the Revs. H. Ashton Henry and H. D. Speakman, Wilmington; J. Leighton McKiam, Milford; G. W. Bartlett, Christiana; Joseph Beers, Middletown; George W. Gassner, Delaware City; Eugene Griggs, Laurel. The funeral was conducted in the old English style. The casket was of plain polished oak, bevelled with a massive cross. The body was clothed in the full Episcopal robe. The pall-bearers were the vestrymen of the church, as follows: Thomas W. Wilson, Edward Ridgely, Harry T. Johnson, W. G. Simmons, T. Coke Chambers and Henry Ridgely, Jr. The remains were interred in Christ P. E. cemetery, where one daughter is buried.

The Rev. Luther T. Townsend, pastor of Mt. Vernon Place M. E. Church, Baltimore, made an address before the Scott Literary Society in the Academy Hall last evening.

Morning News, Wilm. DE Wed 6-13-1894

CONFERENCE ACADEMY.

Interesting Exercises Held Last Night.

Special Despatch to THE MORNING NEWS.

DOVER, Del, June 12.—The commencement exercises of the Wilmington Conference Academy were continued last night and tonight. The Rev. Luther Townsend, formerly of the School of Theologic of Boston, but now pastor of a Baltimore church, last night delivered an interesting lecture before the Scott Literary Society. He took as his subject "Mental Investment." The lecture was most interesting and instructive. Dr. Townsend is a pleasing speaker and delighted his audience.

This evening the middle class gave its exercises. There was an interesting musical programme and several of the students read papers. Among them was one by Miss Bessie Murray, daughter of the Rev. W. L. S. Murray of this place. She took as her subject "The Three G's"—grace, grip and gumption. It was a very interesting paper. The commencement exercises have attracted many persons from outside of the town.

Miss Sarah V. Bender of Severn, Md., of the class of '93, is visiting at the Academy.

Miss Miller, cousin of Dr. W. L. Gooding of Elkton, Md., is spending the week at the Academy.

A gloom hangs over the senior class, caused by the death of the Rev. Lewis W. Gibson, the late rector of Christ P. E. Church of this town. John, the son of Mr. Gibson, will graduate from the Academy this week, but will not be able to take part in the exercises of the class. A committee has been appointed by the senior class to write and adopt resolutions on the death.

Class-day exercises, a new feature added to the programme for commencement week, will be held this afternoon at 3 o'clock on the campus.

The following programme will be rendered:

Address of welcome Arley B. Magee
 Class history Annie E. Miles
 Poem Katharine R. Spencer
 Music, by Miss Mary D. Register and Miss K. R. Spencer.
 Oration W. M. Hope
 Grinds Lillie R. Leate
 Presentation of gifts by Miss Elizabeth Collins and Mrs. J. T. Parks.
 Prophecy Cornelia Townsend
 Farewell address Reynolds Clough

to be. Delaware Gazette and State Journal, Thurs 6-14-1894

REV. L. W. GIBSON DEAD.

Death Soon Followed His Resignation of the Rectorship of Christ P. E. Church, Dover.

Special Correspondence of Gazette and Journal

DOVER, June 8.—The Rev. Lewis W. Gibson died at his home on South State street, last evening, aged 57 years. Mr. Gibson had been ill ever since the Episcopal church trouble, which culminated in his resignation as rector, last Saturday evening.

He leaves a wife, three daughters and two sons. He had been rector of Christ P. E. Church for 22 years.

Mr. Gibson was born in Sunbury, Pa., and has acted as chaplain of the Senate of this State several terms. He was also an active member of the board of school commissioners of this town for several years.

Funeral was held at Dover on Monday afternoon at 2 o'clock. Interment in the P. E. cemetery.

Middletown Transcript, DE, Saturday, June 16, 1894

Middletown Transcript, Sat. June 16, 1894

REV. L. W. GIBSON.

The Death of Rector of the P. E. Church at Dover.

The Rev. Lewis W. Gibson who has been rector of Christ's P. E. Church, of Dover for over twenty years died last week of heart failure and nervous prostration, in his 60th year of age.

The funeral which was held Monday was largely attended. The visiting clergymen who assisted in the services were Revs. H. Ashton Henry and H. D. Speakman, Wilmington; J. L. McKim, Milford; G. W. Bartlett, Christiana; Joseph Beers, Middletown; George S. Gassner, Delaware City, and Eugene Griggs Laurel.

His wife, three daughters and two sons survive him

The interment was at Christ's P. E. Cemetery.

As recorded in the Conventions of the Diocese of Delaware from 1873 to 1893, Rev. Lewis William Gibson was highly respected by his clergy peers. During the 20 years in Delaware, he served as the President of the Standing Committee, an Examining Chaplain, and numerous other committees.

The News Journal, Wilmington, DE, June 16, 1894

TRIBUTE OF RESPECT

A Minute of the Late Rev. L. W. Gibson Presented to the Clerical Brotherhood.

The committee appointed by the clergy who were present upon the occasion of the funeral of the Rev. Lewis W. Gibson at Christ Church, Dover, submitted the following minute to the meeting of the Clerical Brotherhood, which met at Bishopstead on October 9th, being the first meeting since the death of the Rev. Lewis W. Gibson.

MINUTE.

In the death of the Rev. Lewis W. Gibson, for 22 years a presbyter of this diocese, we feel it to be our privilege to place on record our sense of his faithful, earnest and loving service to the parish of which during all that time he was rector; and also the various interests of the church in the diocese at large.

As a minister of Christ he exemplified in a high degree that pattern of the ministerial office which St. Paul describes "instant in season and out of season;" he watched in all things, endured affliction, did the work of an evangelist made full proof of his ministry.

A faithful and wise servant he gave to each of his Master's flock his meat in due season. In much patience, in afflictions, in distress oftentimes in extreme bodily weariness and pain his ministrations were constant and devoted among his people.

"Christ and Him crucified" was preached by him with deep and fervent earnestness; and countless words of Christian sympathy, advice and consolation are treasured up in the hearts of those to whom he ministered in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness or any other adversity.

He was ever most affable, kind and courteous in his intercourse with the brethren of the clergy.

He was a man of faith, of earnest piety, of devoted self-sacrifice, of quiet, unobtrusive manner, to do his duty to God and to man seemed to be his single aim and wish.

And now that he has entered the rest of Paradise we feel that the memory of his teaching and the example of his goodly life will live on, still helping to direct and form character, and it will only be in the brighter light of the eternal day that we shall see more clearly. How true, how loving, how deep, broad and abiding has been the untiring work of our late beloved brother.

We desire to express the deep sorrow and the sense of loss which we feel in his removal and our sincere sympathy with his afflicted family.

CHARLES E. MURRAY,
J. LEIGHTON McKIM,
H. ASHTON HENRY,
Committee.

News J.
10-16-1894

M. B. DUNLAP, Secretary Clerical Brotherhood.
WILMINGTON, DEL., Oct. 9, 1894.

LIFE ON THE PENINSULA

What is Happening in Various Delaware and Maryland Towns.

TWO EPISCOPAL CONVENTIONS

Milford's Postmaster Selected—Democrats After Office—Ex-Governor Jackson Wants to Be Senator From Maryland—Matters of Interest to Peninsula People.

It was announced yesterday that the Rev. Lewis W. Gibson, the rector of Christ Episcopal Church, Dover, had resigned. It is expected that the resignation will heal all of the difficulties which have been dividing the church for more than a year. Some difficulty occurred over a fair which was held by some of the church people in the Hotel Richardson, and on the matter some of the members were with the rector and others were not. The ones who were not sought to form another church, but Bishop Coleman refused to grant them that privilege. A short time ago they formed an independent church and proceeded to hold services of their own. The rector warned them that if they did not attend services in the regular church or give some reason for not doing so, as required by the rules of the church, their names would be dropped from the church record, but none of them ever answered, so far as is known.

Smyrna Times, Smyrna DE, Wednesday, April 26, 1894

The Rev. Lewis W. Gibson, rector of Christ Church, Dover, has received a unanimous call to the rectorship of Christ Church, Delaware City.

Smyrna Times, Smyrna DE, Wed. April 26, 1893

From newspapers.com, retrieved by Ellen Richardson on August 11, 2023
 This article describes the problems that upset Rev. Gibson and may have contributed to his death.

Smyrna Times, Smyrna, DE, Wednesday, June 13, 1894

Morning News.

THE REV. LEWIS W. GIBSON DEAD.
 —Since the trouble in the Dover Episcopal church, about 18 months ago, and the withdrawal of several members owing to the objection of the rector, the Rev. L. W. Gibson, to receive for the purchase of a church carpet money raised at a dance at the Hotel Richardson, Mr. Gibson has been rapidly failing in health. About a month ago he left town for a time, under the advice of his physicians. Last week he returned to his home but without having received any apparent benefit from the trip. At the regular meeting of the vestry, Saturday week a letter from Mr. Gibson was received resigning the rectorship of Christ Church. He died at his home on South State street Thursday, aged 57 years. He leaves a wife, three daughters and two sons. He had been rector of Christ P. E. Church for 22 years. Mr. Gibson was born in Sunbury, Pa., and has acted as chaplain of the Senate of this State several terms. He was also an active member of the board of school commissioners of that town for several years. The funeral took place Monday afternoon at 2 o'clock. Interment in the P. E. cemetery, at Dover.

Smyrna Times, Smyrna DE, Wed. June 13, 1894