



Clan GIBSONE

ARMS	Gules, three keys fessways, wards downwards, in pale Or
CREST	A pelican vulning Proper
MOTTO	Pandite coelestes portae (Open ye heavenly gates)
SUPPORTERS	Two angles Proper

This name is said by Black to derive from the personal name 'son of Gib' (Gilbert). Johun Gibson surrendered the Castle of Rothesay in 1335. The family rose to prominence in Fife, and the Gibsons of Durie were to found a dynasty of lawyers when Sir Alexander Gibson was elevated to the Benh with the title of 'Lord Durie' in 1621. He married a daughter of Sir Thomas Craig of Riccarton, the celebrated expert on feudal law. The arms which they bear are said to refer to one of the fifteenth-century lairds of Durie who received a grant of armorial bearings from the pope, alluding to the keys of St Peter. They purchased the barony of Pentland near Edinburgh in 1633, and the imposing family mausoleum still stands in Old Pentland Graveyard. They became baronets of Nova Scotia. This did not occur entirely without mishap, and Sir Walter Scott relates in his *Minstrelsy of the Scottish Border*, the harrowing tale of the alleged kidnapping of Alexander Gibson, the seventeenth-century Lord President of the Court of Session. The story goes that Willie Armstrong was due to stand trial for having stolen a cow. The authorities had let it be known that they were determined to make an example of Willie, who was the last member of a notorious family of border reviers. Willie's wife, fearing the death penalty for her husband, sought the assistance of the Earl of Tradquair hoping that he could sue for clemency. Traquair apparently agreed to this, provided that Willie, on escaping the scaffold, should in turn agree to abduct Gibson of Durie before he was able to give an anticipated opinion against His Lordship in a land dispute pending before the Court. Scott captured Traquair's evil scheme in his verse, 'If auld Durie to heaven were flown, or if auld Durie to hell were gane, or if he could be but ten days stown my bonny braid lands would still be ma ain'. Will was released and, as good as his word, he fell upon Lord Durie in a darkened close off the Canongate in Edinburgh and held him confined near Moffat. The Lord President was assumed to have died in some manner, and after an interval of mourning, a new Lord President was appointed. The Traquair case was called again and judgement given for the earl, who presumably ordered Lord Durie's release. He came back to Edinburgh three months later, a broken man and died at Durie in June 1644. The family continued to reside at Durie and though many are buried within their barony of Pentland, they never built a family seat there. Sir John Gibson, sixth Baronet, assumed the additional surname of Carmichael on inheriting estates through his mother, a sister of the Earl of Hyndfor. Sir Thomas Gibson Carmichael, eleventh Baronet was Governor of Madras from 1911 to 1912 and of Bengal from 1912 to 1917, and was raised to the peerage as Baron Carmichael in 1912. The representation of the family had devolved upon the daughter of the fourth baronet, whose son had taken the name of Gibson in 1810.

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The Scottish Society of Louisville, Inc.
PO Box 32248
Louisville, KY 40232-2248

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