Gibson

Methodist Protestant Cemetery · a family that freed one another

Methodist Protestant Cemetery · Context, or burial not confirmed

Family tree by Gravestone Stories · gravestonestories.com

Gustavus Gibson
(c. 1756 – Dec 14, 1831)
Born enslaved; bought his own freedom, 1824
Cleaned the Market House and lit its lamps
Burial: *S31* (stone reads 1834, aged 78)

m.

Basheba Gibson
(c. 1784 – June 10, 1844)
Wife of Gustavus
Burial: *S31, beside her husband*

John Gibson
Freedom bought by his father, 1827
Helped free his sister Emily, 1843

Sarah Gibson
Freed through an "understanding" with her father

Joseph Gibson
Freed through an "understanding" with his father

George M. Gibson
(d. Dec 31, 1853)
Sold 1832; freed 1838
Helped free his sister Emily, 1843
Burial: *S15*

James Gibson
Sold 1832; freed 1838

Richard H. Gibson
(c. 1823 – Nov 12, 1859)
Probably freed 1838
Helped free his sister Emily, 1843
Burial: *S15*

Henry Gibson
Son of Gustavus

Daniel Gibson
Helped free his sister Emily, 1843

Hester E. Clark
(c. 1821 – July 24, 1846)
Sister of Richard and George
Burial: *S15*

Emily Gibson Hampton
Freed by her brothers George, John, Daniel and Richard Henry, 1843

William Wilberforce, Sarah Frances and Daniel
Emily's children, freed with her by their uncles, 1843. William was named for the British abolitionist William Wilberforce.

The Market House: from 1830 Gustavus cleaned the Market House on Market Square and lit its lamps for the town. After his death, his son James or Henry collected the city's pay for the work until 1851.

Dates: the *Alexandria Gazette* of Dec 16, 1831, reports his death on Dec 14, 1831; the stone he shares with Basheba, carved after 1844, reads 1834, aged 78. Basheba was about nine when George was born, so she may not have been the mother of the older children.

Sources: Greg A. Beaman, *Alexandria City Hall, Market Square, and Slavery* (Alexandria Archaeology, 2026), and his "Out of the Attic" column (Office of Historic Alexandria, July 2026); Pippenger, *Tombstone Inscriptions of Alexandria*, Vol. 2.