

## **Chief Justice John Bannister Gibson**

1780-1853

### **Term**

June 27, 1816-May 3, 1853; Chief Justice, May 18, 1827-December 1, 1851

### **Education**

- Dickinson College, 1795-1799 did not finish
- Studied under Thomas Duncan

### **Professional Experience**

- Admitted to the Cumberland County bar, March 8, 1803; Allegheny County bar, 1803; Beaver County bar, 1804; Philadelphia bar, September 1805
- Private Practice, 1803-1813
- Member, Pennsylvania House of Representatives, 1810-1812
- Governor Simon Snyder appointed Gibson, President Judge, 11<sup>th</sup> Judicial District (Bradford, Luzerne, Wayne, Susquehanna, Bradford counties; Pike County added after March 26, 1814), July 16, 1813-June 27, 1816
- Governor Simon Snyder appointed Gibson, Justice Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, June 27, 1816; elected October 1828
- Governor John Shulze appointed Gibson, Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, May 18, 1827; elected October 1838
- Resigned office, November 19, 1838
- Governor Joseph Ritner re-appointed Gibson, Justice, Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, November 20, 1838-December 1, 1851
- Elected Justice, Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, October 1851; took office as Associate Justice, December 1, 1851
- Died in Office, May 3, 1853

### **Honors and Awards**

- Honorary LL.D. degree: University of Pennsylvania, 1838; Harvard University, 1847.

### **Memberships and Associations**

- American Philosophical Society

### **Publications**

- Some Account of the Rev. Charles Nisbet, first President of Dickenson (sic) College, 17 Port Folio 1 (January-June 1824)
- The Case of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, Before the Supreme Court of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Impartially Reported by Disinterested Stenographers; Including All the Proceedings, Testimony, and the Arguments at Nisi Prius, and Before the Court in Bank, with the Charge of Judge Rogers, the Verdict of the Jury, and the Opinion of Chief Justice Gibson (1839)
- Thomas Cooper, 14 Supplement Encyclopedia Americana 203 (1847)
- Roberts, Thomas P. Memoirs of John Bannister Gibson, Late Chief Justice of Pennsylvania with Hon. Jeremiah S. Black's Eulogy, Notes from Hon. William A. Porter's Essay upon His Life and Character, Etc., Etc. (1890)

### **Sources**

2 Sergeant & Rawle iii; 16 Sergeant & Rawle Reports iii; Memorial Ceremony, 19 Pa. 9; 4 Dictionary of American Biography 254; 1 Twentieth Century Bench and Bar 22 (1903); Samuel Dreher Matlack, John Bannister Gibson, 3 Great American Lawyers 353 (1907); David Brown 1 The Forum 418 (1856); Maxwell Bloomfield, Gibson, John Bannister, National American Biography Online.