

MIFFLIN W. GIBBS CALLED BY DEATH

Negro Citizen, Former Judge and Consul to Madagascar, Dies After Long Illness.

Mifflin W. Gibbs, negro, 92 years old, a former city judge of Little Rock and once United States consul to Madagascar, died at 5:20 o'clock yesterday afternoon at his residence, 1116 Chestnut street. He was ill several months.

He is survived by the daughters, Mattie Gibbs Marshall of Washington, D. C. and Mrs. Alexander Hill of East Orange, N. J., and one son, Horace Gibbs, of Detroit. His funeral arrangements will be announced later.

Judge Gibbs was born in Indiana on April 27, 1823. He was educated in the public schools of that city. Left an orphan when a youth, he learned the carpenter trade, maintaining his steady job at night. It was during the period of his life that he came in contact with Frederick Douglass, Richard Allen, William Lloyd Garrison and others. He accompanied Frederick Douglass on several occasions, pleading the cause of his people.

In 1850 he sailed for San Francisco, seeking gold. He arrived there in September of that year. After following his trade for a year, he entered bondsmanship and was very successful. Later he moved to Victoria, British Columbia. In 1862 he was elected to the Common Council of the city of Victoria, his first entry into political life. He became a contractor and within three years assumed a considerable fortune.

In 1871 he returned to Oklahe, Okla. Here he entered the Oberlin Law School and later was graduated with honor.

After graduating he decided to live in the South and went first to Florida in 1871. He remained in that state only a short time, coming to Little Rock in May, 1871. He entered the practice of law and in 1872 joined in partnership with Lloyd O. Wheeler on the firm name of Wheeler & Gibbs, with offices in the old bank building, corner Markham and Center streets. He became active in political affairs and in 1874 was elected city judge.

He was a Republican and was identified with that party during Reconstruction days, being associated with Gen. Powell Clayton, Col. A. B. Parker, the late Col. William O. Whipple and the late Judge John H. Hester. In 1878 he was elected presidential elector, receiving the highest vote cast. He voted for Rutherford B. Hayes, who was elected president.

He was appointed register of the United States Land Office, Little Rock district, November 10, 1877. By President Hayes November 2, 1881, he was appointed register of the Land Office by President Chester A. Arthur, holding that position for eight years. March 8, 1889, he was appointed secretary of public lands, Little Rock, by President Benjamin Harrison.

On December 18, 1897, President William McKinley named him as United States consul to Madagascar. He held this post until 1901, when he resigned and returned to this country. He was a delegate to every Republican convention from 1877, when U. S. Grant was nominated, until 1908, when he cast his vote for William McKinley.

During his early manhood he traveled and lectured throughout the North and West, being associated with Frederick Douglass, William Lloyd Garrison, and others of national fame. He has been prominent in the Hester, Brown, Frances Ziffel Hester and John Brown. His wife traveled and large acquaintance with people of prominence covering a period of 60 years in public life is shown in "Madness and Light," an autobiography written and published by him in 1907.

His standing for years as a leader among the people and his representative in political, financial and social affairs, brought him the confidence of both races. The School Board recently honored him by naming the negro high school for him. He has contributed very largely to the library of that school. Only a few years ago he donated ground upon which to erect a home for aged negro women and he has given generously to the support and maintenance of that institution.

He leaves a large estate.

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