



*Peter G. Thomson* was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, on December 16, 1851, the son of Alexander and Mary Ann Edwards Thomson. He attended public school and business college in Cincinnati. In 1864 his father died and the death of his grandfather a year later left him the only man in the family at the age of thirteen.

His first job was as a shipping clerk for a Cincinnati bookstore. With this apprenticeship as background, he borrowed money to open his own bookstore and publishing business in 1877.

In 1875 Mr. Thomson had married Laura Gamble of Louisville, Kentucky. Together, they wrote and printed many of the toy books and valentines which the new venture published. The business was so successful that, several years later, it was sold to a competitor for a hundred thousand dollars.

In 1885, Mr. Thomson moved his family to College Hill, a suburb of Cincinnati, where he lived until his death in 1931. It was only a short distance from College Hill to Hamilton where, in 1891, he purchased 200 acres of land and organized a real estate development syndicate.

The business depression of 1892 slowed up the sale of home sites and Mr. Thomson decided new industries were needed to create a solid demand for homes. Based on his earlier experience in printing and publishing and the recently invented halftone method of reproduction, he incorporated The Champion Coated Paper Company the following year.

The phenomenal growth of this corporation, in spite of the setbacks caused by flood and fire, was due in great measure to the energy, ingenuity and gift of leadership which Mr. Thomson possessed. One of his business tenets, expressed in an interview in 1916, concerned credit. Mr. Thomson believed in establishing good credit and then using it to the best advantage. The principle pulled his company through some bad times and has helped it expand to its position of leadership in the industry.

Mr. Thomson was much interested in local civic, charitable and church affairs, too. He had compiled a monumental bibliography of the historical records of the State of Ohio in his early years. He was a lifetime member of the Cincinnati Gymnasium Athletic Club, where he set the gymnasium record by lifting a dead weight of 1265 pounds without harness.

A director of several Cincinnati banks, life member of the Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce, he was associated with many organizations for the benefit and development of the communities in which he lived. He was trustee of the Cincinnati Museum Association, honorary member of the Luther Burbank Society, life member of the Ohio Humane Society and active in such other cultural associations as the College of Music, the Granville Historical Society and the Ohio Archeological and Historical Society.

Peter G. Thomson and Laura Gamble Thomson were the parents of six children, Rosa G. Thomson (who died in infancy), Peter G. Thomson, Jr., Alexander Thomson, Mary Bell Thomson (Mrs. Walter Randall), Hope L. Thomson (Mrs. Reuben B. Robertson) and Logan Gamble Thomson.