

P. GRAY MEEK, EDITOR
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Democratic State Convention.
Democratic State Headquarters, Harrisburg, Pa., February 6th, 1912.
To the Democrats of Pennsylvania:
In pursuance of the rules governing the Democratic party of Pennsylvania and agreeable to the action of the Democratic State Executive Committee at a special meeting held in the Democratic State Headquarters, Harrisburg, on the last day of February, 1912, notice is hereby given that the Democratic State Convention will assemble in the Majestic Theatre, at Harrisburg, on Tuesday, May 7th, 1912, at 12 o'clock, noon.

ADDITIONAL LOCAL NEWS.

RISHEL.—Mary Ann Rishel, of Clintondale, widow of the late George Rishel, and one of the very few real Daughters of the American Revolution in the State, died at five o'clock on Sunday morning of a general decline. Her maiden name was Miss Mary Ann Allison and she was born at Cedar Springs on March 23rd, 1821, hence at her death was ninety-one years and one day old.

In the spring of 1907 members of the Bellefonte Chapter daughters of the American Revolution learned of Mrs. Rishel and the fact that she was one of a very few real daughters of a Revolutionary soldier and on their solicitation she became a member of the Bellefonte chapter. Shortly afterwards the National Society gave her a gold sash and also voted her a pension of eight dollars a month which she received until the date of her death.

In addition to her son she is survived by one brother, F. B. Allison, of Forest county; twelve grand-children and twenty-two great grand-children. She was a consistent member of the Methodist church and the funeral was held from that church in Clintondale at ten o'clock on Wednesday morning. A delegation of the Bellefonte Chapter D. A. R. was in attendance and their loving tribute to the dead was ninety-one red and white carnations, one for each year of her life. Burial was made in St. Paul's cemetery at Clintondale, the casket being shrouded with a Revolutionary flag.

KERSKETTER.—After being a patient sufferer the past four years with dropsy and other ailments Mrs. Michael Kerstetter died at her home a short distance east of Bellefonte on Tuesday night.

She was a daughter of Rev. and Mrs. John Sebastian Musser and was born in Penn township, being 76 years and 2 months old. Her grandparents were among the early settlers of Pennsylvania and her father was a prominent minister in the United Evangelical church. Mrs. Kerstetter when a girl joined the Methodist church and was always a strict adherent to that faith. She was a woman of many ennobling qualities, a loving wife and mother and a good neighbor. She will be sadly missed, not only in her own home but by a host of friends.

In addition to her husband she is survived by the following children: James, of Spring township; William M. and A. M., of Pleasant Gap; Mrs. Ella Welty, on the old Curtin farm east of Bellefonte, and Mrs. Samuel D. Gettig, of this place. She also leaves two brothers and two sisters, namely: John Musser, of Wolf's Store; William, of Haines township; Mrs. Sarah Wert, of Miles township, and Mrs. Mary Harter, of Coburn. Funeral services will be held in the church at Pleasant Gap this (Friday) morning at 10.30 o'clock, after which burial will be made in the Pleasant Gap cemetery.

KELLEY.—Jeremiah Kelley, a well known resident of Buffalo Run valley, was stricken with paralysis on Saturday afternoon, March 16th, and died the next morning at his home above Waddle. He was aged eighty-four years and most all his life was engaged in farming. He is survived by the following sons and daughters: John, George and Edgar, of Buffalo Run; Philip, of Lock Haven; Samuel, of South Philipsburg; Mrs. Robert Reese, of Scotia; Mrs. Robert Dewey, of Tyrone, and Mrs. Daniel Stine, of Philipsburg. Burial was made in the Hunter cemetery on Tuesday afternoon, March 19th.

—Subscribe for the WATCHMAN.

A Few Plain Facts for the Democrats of Centre County.

Looking squarely at the situation in which the Democratic party in Centre county finds itself today the unbiased mind is forced to acknowledge that unless something can be done to bring about a unification of the contending factions success in the future seems well nigh hopeless.

Why such a condition of affairs should exist is probably not understood by the Democrat who takes no personal, active interest in politics, but the fact that it does exist is warning to all classes of our party to consider the matter seriously.

As it appears to us all of the trouble had its beginning when the Keystone movement was organized in support of W. H. BERRY for Governor as against WEBSTER GRIM, the nominee of the Allentown convention. It is of no avail to hash over again the right or wrong of that action and the sooner the whole affair is dropped and forgotten the better, but the situations that have grown out of it are the obstacles our party will have to surmount before it can hope to become a harmonious working unit.

For the purpose of stating the case clearly let us say that those who organized the Keystone movement to oppose Mr. GRIM, the regular nominee of the party are, for the most part, those who are now calling themselves Reorganizers. While those who supported Mr. GRIM, and the fifteen hundred Democrats who did not vote at all, are Regulars. Eliminating the fight for State control between these two factions we will consider only its bearing on the situation in our own county, in which, after all, we are all more particularly concerned.

In the TENER-BERRY-GRIM fight for Governor Mr. ARTHUR KIMPORT was the chairman of the Democratic party in Centre county. It was his duty as chairman of the Democratic organization to support the nominee of the party, no matter what the stories of how that nominee was placed on the ticket amounted to. If he felt that he could not do so then the honorable thing for him to have done was to have resigned the chairmanship. Instead of doing that, however, Mr. KIMPORT held on and made no effort to effect an organization in Centre county, appointed no county committee and by his manner and his sympathy lent every aid possible to the Keystone movement. It was but natural for the Regulars to feel that they had been betrayed and thereafter entertain a spirit of resentment against him. Again, when Mr. KIMPORT attended the meeting of the State Central Committee in Harrisburg last June he voted against the Regulars in the State Organization. Later he asserted that his action in voting as he did at Harrisburg was justified by a preponderance of sentiment in Centre county in favor of reorganization. Just how he arrived at that conclusion he probably knows best, but as there had been no primary or vote upon the question to show conclusively how the majority of the Democrats felt, we are certain that he must have relied wholly upon his own determination of it. At the time, it was suggested to him that, in view of the approaching important campaign in the county, it might be well to take no chances on splitting up our party, and that he should go to Harrisburg and decline to vote for either side.

You all know what he did do. Besides voting for the Reorganizers he hid away from every attempt to get him into the district caucus to vote for our home candidate, Dr. F. K. WHITE, for district chairman, notwithstanding that the chairman of every other county in the district was there to vote for him.

Later Mr. KIMPORT fell back on the vote for BERRY and GRIM in the county as his reason for believing that the Reorganizers were in the majority. And every week since the Centre Democrat has been hammering away at the same argument.

If BERRY did have 2701 votes and GRIM only 911 does that signify anything? As a matter of fact you honestly believe that if it were possible to open those ballot boxes it would be found that Mr. GRIM received as many, if not more Democratic votes in the county than Mr. BERRY. No one will charge that Mr. GRIM received any but Democratic votes because every one knows that the stalwart Republicans voted for TENER, the other Republicans and Prohibitionists voting for BERRY. Mr. BERRY carried Bellefonte Borough by a majority of 69. To have done this he must have received 200 Republican votes. He carried Philipsburg Borough by 16, which means that he received 150 or more Republican votes there. He lost the Republican strongholds of Howard by only 2 votes, Snow Shoe by 7, Liberty, Taylor and Worth by small margins and carried Half Moon by 3. So it was all over the county. In every Republican precinct Mr. BERRY ran far beyond what it would have been possible for him to have had had he gotten every Democratic vote in it.

Why then was it either reasonable or fair to point to that vote as an honest indication of how the sentiment of the Democrats of the county stood? And in any case it can be proven that very few more than half the Democrats in the county actually voted at that election.

After Mr. KIMPORT had taken his stand at Harrisburg for reorganization he did absolutely nothing in the way of reorganizing his own county for the approaching campaign. In its issue of July 21st, 1911, this paper called upon him publicly to appoint his county committee and get the organization in shape for the fight. Candidates for office last fall will tell you that they had considerable difficulty in even getting a list of the county committeemen in time for them to make their canvass for the primaries and we understand that some of them never did get one. As a matter of fact the list was never published until after the primaries were over.

This is the way Mr. KIMPORT acted for a year and a half as our county chairman. Then several active, energetic gentlemen with a determination to do something associated themselves with him and if there is any glory to be passed around for winning last fall's fight if they were to get the share to which they are properly entitled there would be very little left for the chairman.

It is not our desire to detract one iota from the credit that is due for that victory, but when the Centre Democrat and Mr. KIMPORT presume to parade it as the sole accomplishment of Mr. KIMPORT they lose sight of the fact that first of all the Centre county court house had more to do with it than anything else. Next, the natural tide of sentiment everywhere in the county was toward Democracy last fall. Next, Mr. KIMPORT had the largest campaign fund ever levied against candidates for county offices to work with. Next, practically every one of those 911 Democrats who had voted for GRIM and been insulted by Mr. KIMPORT and jeered at by the Centre Democrat and the other 2000 Democrats who were so disgusted with conditions during the campaign of 1910, that they did not vote at all, stood loyally by the ticket.

This, we think, is a fair statement as it has existed since the fall of 1910 up to the present time. Now, Mr. KIMPORT is asking to be re-elected county chairman. He has said that he doesn't actually want it further than as a vindication of his course in the past as chairman.

If he was right he needs no vindication. If he was wrong certainly he should have none. He has been county chairman two terms, as long a term as is usually given to those occupying that position; he has had one year longer, (nine years in all,) in the county's best office than any other Democrat in the county and before his first election had been clerk in the same office for a great many years.

Therefore, in view of what the party has done for him it seems to us that instead of trying to foist himself on the element that he has already insulted and tried to discredit, he should withdraw himself from the contest and permit some one to be named who can stop what will otherwise prove the most disastrous split that has ever occurred in the ranks of the Democratic party in Centre county.

The WATCHMAN is not urging Mr. WALKER particularly, but it is trying to show all the Democrats of Centre county why it would be imprudent and unwise to re-elect Mr. KIMPORT chairman. Whether he has been right or wrong in the past it is certain he has antagonized a large element of his party in the county and this breach should be closed up, not made wider by his re-election.

—Spring is here and now is a good time to subscribe for the WATCHMAN. It will rest and entertain you after a hard day's work.

Not a Square Deal.

If You are Running a Democratic Paper, Mr. Kurtz, Give Democrats a Square Deal.

On March 11th the editor of the Centre Democrat wrote Mr. Harrison Walker the letter published below. In answer to it Mr. Walker promptly made reply stating his position in the present contest as fully and clearly as he could. In its issue of March 14th the Democrat announced that it had received Mr. WALKER'S communication and would take it up next week. In the issue of March 21st the Democrat announced that it had returned Mr. WALKER'S letter to him because he had not been specific enough in his answers. It did not announce, however, that when it returned the letter the editor of that paper wrote Mr. WALKER a most abusive letter. Notwithstanding this Mr. WALKER again tendered his reply to the Democrat and if you will read its issue of this week and then read the copy of Mr. WALKER'S letter which is published in full below you will see the kind of a square deal Mr. WALKER is getting.

MR. KURTZ is the absolute boss of MR. KIMPORT and, of course, can't be fair to anyone who dares "TO CROSS MY PATH" as he said himself when threatening Mr. Walker for being a candidate.

March 11th, 1912.

W. HARRISON WALKER, Esq., Bellefonte, Pa.

Dear Sir:

The attached letter is hereby addressed personally to you as a candidate for Chairman of the Democratic Committee of Centre county at the coming primaries. A similar letter is also sent to Mr. Kimport in this mail. I would be pleased to have your reply at your earliest convenience for publication in the Centre Democrat this week if possible. The attached letter will appear in the paper this week.

Yours truly CHAS. R. KURTZ.

THE CENTRE DEMOCRAT, Bellefonte, Pa.

Monday March 11, 1912.

To A. B. Kinsport and W. Harrison Walker, candidates for Chairman of the Democratic Committee of Centre County:

GENTLEMEN:—Believing that you would be pleased to be notified in the event of your election, by the wish of the majority of the Democrats of the county, in order to ascertain what is the wish of the Democrats at the county the following questions are propounded that the Democratic voters of the county in turn may know where you stand:

Question:—Will you, if elected Chairman of the Democratic Committee of Centre County, recognize Hon. George W. Guthrie as the chairman of the Democratic State Committee of Pennsylvania, and will you co-operate with him and support the Re-organization movement in the Democratic party of Pennsylvania? Or will you recognize, co-operate with and support the old organization now headed by Walter E. Ritter, as chairman?

Question:—After Centre county cast 2701 votes for BERRY and only 911 for GRIM, in November, 1912, could you consistently represent the Democrats of Centre County by upholding the old organization led by J. M. Guthrie, and of which Walter E. Ritter is the chairman?

Question:—If you say you favor "harmony" or "re-organization," kindly be definite and state, if elected chairman, with which organization of the committee you will co-operate (the old or the Re-organization) to accomplish such results.

This information is requested of you for the purpose of informing the Democrats of Centre County that they may know how to cast their ballots intelligently at the April primary election. Of course, you do not want any Democrat to vote for or against you under a misapprehension, and hence the necessity of making your answer to the above questions clear and definite.

Your reply to the above questions should reach us once, or before Wednesday March 13th, 1912, that it may be inserted in next week's issue of this paper. There will be no charge for publishing the same. Respectfully yours, THE CENTRE DEMOCRAT, CHAS. R. KURTZ, Pub.

March 26th, 1912.

MR. CHARLES R. KURTZ, Editor Centre Democrat, Bellefonte, Pa.

DEAR SIR:—

In answer to your letter under date of the 11th instant, and in pursuance with your request contained in The Centre Democrat under date of the 21st instant, which you desire for publication in "The Centre Democrat," I beg to inform you that having given to the party in every campaign my most enthusiastic service, and having contributed in every conceivable way to the success of the Democracy in Centre county, I feel that it is no presumption on my part to be aspirant for the chairmanship of my party. I use the term "my party" advisedly, because it is the only party I have ever been attached to and I have always found it at least enough better than any other to keep me from deserting it.

Waiving, for the present, any argument as to the question of your right to interrogate me or any one else who is a candidate before the Democratic voters of Centre county, I take pleasure in replying to your questions, as follows:

FIRST.—If elected chairman of the Democratic county committee I will recognize Hon. George W. Guthrie or anybody else who has been regularly and legally elected chairman of the Democratic State Central committee.

SECOND.—In reply to your second question.

Our Correspondents' Opinions. This column is at the service of those of our people who desire to express their views on any subject of general or local interest. The "Watchman" will in no way be responsible for their ideas or statements. The real issue of the author must accompany all communications, but will be withheld from publication when the request is made.

Teach Animal Kindness. WILKES-BARRE, PA., March 16.—Steps have been taken to have teachers in the public schools of Luzerne county give a portion of each day in teaching children kindness to animals. The Luzerne County Humane Association is back of the project and letters are being sent to the principals of the various schools.

An Act of Assembly, dated March, 1905, makes the teaching of humane work in public schools compulsory. Investigation has shown that very little attention is paid this law in the schools of the county.

A campaign is on to bring about a course of instruction along humane lines. Literature is to be distributed and if the Association has its way the teaching of kindness to animals will form just as important a part in the daily school life of children as books in arithmetic and spelling.—Ex

We know of no better instruction than the above, to be given to the young of our schools. From the fact that an observer has communicated to us, who has recorded the following cruel instances within a few days, in our vicinity.

One horse standing hitched to a post two or more hours, without food or water, pawing desperately, not noticed by any one until the 9th or 10th hour.

Three horses hitched to a post for hours, on a main street, on a cold night,

which seems to be altogether uncalled for, I feel constrained to remind you of the fact that Hon. James M. Guthrie is not a candidate for anything the Democratic party in Pennsylvania has to offer. I believe I am sufficiently capable of being entirely fair, and not having been mixed up with any of the local dissensions I do believe that at this time my candidacy offers to the party the better chance of getting together. If elected county chairman I will co-operate with whichever organization of the Democratic State Central committee is the legal one. It is my sincere hope, however, that neither one of the contending factions will continue in control, and it is my intention, if elected, to vote to that end if I have an opportunity to do so.

Mr. Guthrie is a most estimable gentleman, but I think you will agree with me that a man who has bolted the ticket in the last three or four presidential contests is not exactly the kind of a leader to inspire all of the Democrats of Pennsylvania. Mr. Palmer who is seeking a place of prominence in our party now by abusing those who had anything to do with the Allentown convention, has not denied the statements of the public press to the effect that he stamped the State in 1910 for the nominees of that Allentown convention and accepted money for so doing. Therefore I think we could find someone more desirable to all Democrats than Mr. Palmer. Mr. McCormick is another whose Democracy only seems to extend as far as his personal interests are concerned. He declined to vote for Mr. Bryan each time he was nominated for President and to my mind is not an exceedingly wholesome example to hold up to the Democrats in the ranks. If we are trying to get out of the hands of one crowd of "bosses" let us be sure that the others have been good Democrats before we fall into their clutches.

I do believe there will be little hope for any candidate for a local office unless all this cry about "factions" is dropped at once. I am one of the ones who believes that the interests of our party in Centre county are paramount to the interests of any faction or clique. Centre county is one of the few remaining Democratic counties in Pennsylvania, and our Republican friends are only biding their time when they expect the new penitentiary to locate enough office holders of their own persuasion in our midst to wrench it from us. Therefore it behooves us, as Democrats, to conserve every element of strength we have in our party here in the county.

You must remember that last fall's victory was purely the result of combined effort of every loyal Democrat in Centre county which, of course, I shall aim, if elected, to continue to carry out in future campaigns. In conclusion let me assure you that I do not favor the re-election of either of the contending factions. If chosen chairman of the Democratic county committee I will be most careful to keep my skirts clean of the taint of favoring one candidate at the expense of another, or of building up an organization in the interest of any faction. If we have factions we cannot have success and it is the success of the party I believe in, and therefore upon this platform I rest my cause with the Democrats of Centre county.

Very respectfully yours, W. HARRISON WALKER.

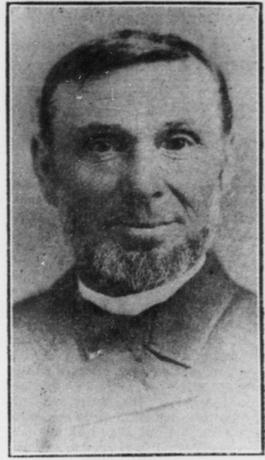
DALE.—At eleven o'clock on Tuesday night Edward Dale passed away at his home at Lemont. He had been ill for two or three weeks with typhoid fever and diabetes developing caused his death. He was twenty-five years old and was a son of the late William Dale, of Houserville, where he first saw the light of day. For a number of years past he had been a member of the United Brethren church and was an upright, christian gentleman. Surviving him are his wife and two small children; his mother, three brothers and two sisters. The funeral will be held at two o'clock this (Friday) afternoon, burial to be made at Houserville.

KLINGER.—Edward Klinger, the two-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Klinger, of Penn street, died at four o'clock last Saturday afternoon of a complication of ailments augmented by a case of measles. The bereaved parents and four other children survive. Dr. Ambrose M. Schmidt had charge of the funeral services which were held on Tuesday afternoon, burial being made in the Union cemetery.

MEESE.—An infant child of Mr. and Mrs. Francis Meese, of Pleasant View, died on Saturday of last week. The funeral was held on Monday afternoon, burial being made in the Trzciyulny cemetery in Boggs township. Rev. C. W. Winy, of the United Brethren church, had charge of the services.

HOCKENBERRY.—Mr. and Mrs. John Hockenberry, of Thomas street, are mourning the death of their eight months old baby, which occurred on Monday after a short illness. The funeral was held on Wednesday afternoon, burial being made in the Union cemetery.

—If Mr. GUTHRIE would just think it over he might come to the conclusion that the chairmanship of the State Committee is no guarantee of favor at the White House.



CHARLES MCCAFFERTY.

SUDDEN DEATH OF CHARLES MCCAFFERTY.—Charles McCafferty, for many years a resident of Bellefonte, dropped dead from heart failure in the Drexel building, Philadelphia, on Monday afternoon, where he had gone to attend to some business matters in which he was interested. While seated in a chair talking to a friend death came so sudden that those about him could scarcely realize it. Not a struggle, not a gasp, not a sound to indicate anything but a peaceful falling asleep.

All efforts to revive him proved futile, and a physician who was hastily summoned pronounced his death as due to heart failure, probably caused by over-exertion. An undertaker was at once notified and the remains were removed to his home at No. 4543 Chestnut street where they were prepared for burial. They were brought to Bellefonte on the 4.20 train and taken to the Bush house where they lay in repose until three o'clock yesterday afternoon. Rev. George E. Hawes, pastor of the Presbyterian church of which he was a member, officiated at the funeral services which were held in the Bush house parlors after which burial was made in the Union cemetery.

Mr. McCafferty was eighty-three years old and most of his life was spent in Bellefonte. In early life he followed the occupation of a stonemason but later went into the contracting business and among the buildings in Bellefonte that stand as monuments of his work are the Brockerhoff house, the Elks lodge (formerly the home of Governor Curtin); the house now occupied by Thomas A. Shoemaker and many less pretentious buildings. About twenty years ago he became interested in coal lands in the south and moved to Philadelphia as a more convenient place to live. Notwithstanding the fact that he has lived in the Quaker city for a score of years he came back to Bellefonte regularly once a year and sometimes twice, and always had a warm and hearty hand-clasp for his old-time friends. Mr. McCafferty was twice married and is survived by his second wife and three sons: Charles G. and George B., of Bradford, and Robert Louis, of Mount Summit, Pa. He also leaves one brother, Thomas McCafferty, and one sister, Susan Powers, both of this place.

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