

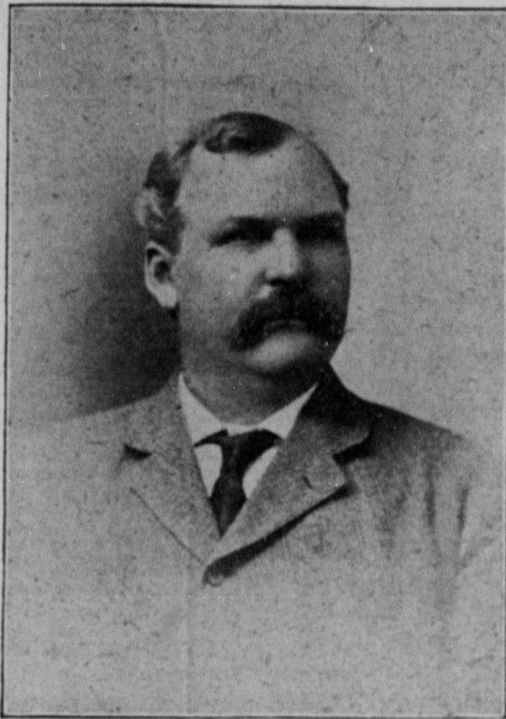
The Centre Democrat.

CHAS. R. KUIP, Proprietor.

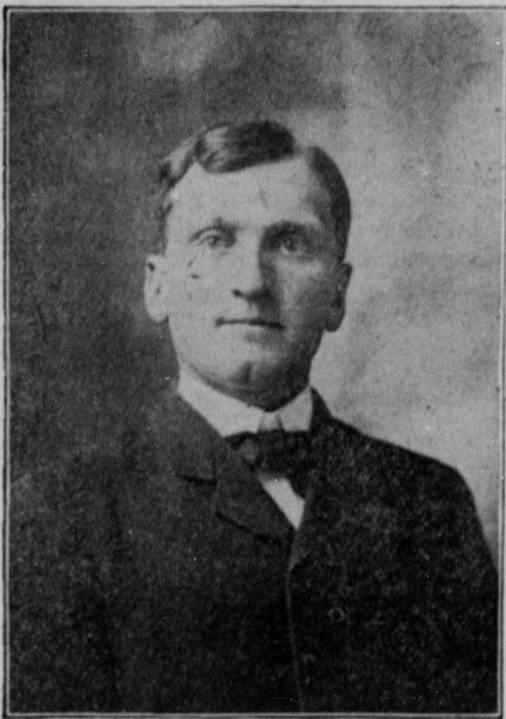
BELLEVILLE, PA., THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1902.

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DEMOCRATIC NOMINEES FOR ASSEMBLY:



J. H. WETZEL.



J. W. KEPLER.

OUR CANDIDATES.

The above are faithful portraits of the two Democratic nominees, in Centre county, for assembly. They are not published because we consider them exceptionally handsome, as we have met men of more impressive appearance, and probably some not as fortunate, yet neither need make an apology for their faces. They appear here not by the solicitation of either candidates but at the wish of the Centre Democrat—believing that there is some satisfaction in knowing candidates from published portraits, thus assisting in extending their acquaintance with the readers and voters, so that when you see them face to face you will be able to recognize them. So that you may know of them, also, the following brief sketches are offered:

HON. J. H. WETZEL.

J. H. Wetzel was born in Cedarville, Ill., May 14, 1856; at the age of three years his father, John Wetzel, removed with his family to Belleville. He is one of a family of ten children, nine boys and one girl. He attended the public schools of Belleville during the winter; at the age of sixteen he began work with his father at carpentering which he continued for three years when he prepared himself for teaching, attending the Belleville Academy, and Prof. Wolf's Academy. In 1877, entered Franklin & Marshall College which he attended for two years and then accepted the Assistant Principalship of the Belleville schools which he filled for two years, during which time he also read law in the office of Alexander & Bower.

In 1882 he went to Dakota, Ill., and attended the college of Northern Illinois of which his brother, Rev. F. Wetzel, now of Rebersburg, was president, as a student and instructor; from that institution he graduated in 1884. He graduated from the law department of the State University of Iowa in 1886. In September 1886 he located in Nelson, Neb., where he opened an abstract of title office; while in Nebraska he was county surveyor for three years. In 1886, he married Susan Yearick, daughter of ex-county treasurer Adam Yearick; he has two sons and three daughters. In 1893, he returned with his family to Belleville, where he has continued to reside and follow the occupation of surveying and engineering at which he is kept busy. He is now serving his eighth year as Borough engineer of Belleville.

In 1898, Mr. Wetzel was a candidate for Assembly from this county and was elected by a handsome majority. In the session of 1899 he served with fidelity and honor. Being of a minority party yet the interests of his people were well cared for through his intelligent and prudent course. He stood aloof and free from every measure or influence that was liable to be tainted with fraud or corruption in that session. In the midst of all, by vote and influence, he stood manfully for the best interest of the people and the state. He kept every pledge, and retained the confidence and esteem of his constituency, and to this day his name is known as a bulwark for manly integrity.

In 1899 he was unanimously renominated, by his party, but went down in the slump of that year. Again, the party this year extended the same courtesy in recognition for his services. He is known to the public; further comment is useless. Elect him and no "Pullman specials" need come to Belleville to seize him, when the next Legislative assembly.

J. W. KEPLER.

Herewith we present a type of energetic, progressive, sturdy young manhood; from youth he was an ardent advocate of Democracy and at all times one who was thoughtfully devoted to the study of

GRANGER PICNIC.

This is the grangers' week, at the Centre Hall Pic-nic ground. Sunday opened the program with harvest home exercises in the Auditorium. The day was a fine one, and as usual brought out a large attendance by private conveyances. The sermon for the occasion was preached in the afternoon by Rev. Kershner of the Reformed church to a full audience. The services throughout, were interesting, and the music excellent.

Monday was quiet with a few visitors and only the tenters and employees about the grounds. Tuesday the influx of strangers began with the arrival of the first trains, and those that followed during the day. It being republican day, there was some noticeable stir in political lines. The morning train west, brought Ex-Judge Samuel W. Pennypacker, Republican candidate for Governor; United States Senator Boies Penrose; Ex-Postmaster General Chas. Emory Smith and others with a delegation of city reporters. Six bands were on the ground. Delegations of leading republicans, arrived later. The exercises were held in the Auditorium. The meeting was opened by George Dale, who announced Ex-Gov. D. H. Hastings as permanent chairman, who presided. The above distinguished gentlemen spoke, also S. R. Dresser, of Bradford, candidate for congress, and Alex E. Patton, of Curwensville, candidate for State Senator. The crowd is variously estimated from 500 to 2000; 1200 would be near it. The small attendance, was as significant; as the apparent lack of enthusiasm. It was a September frost—a disappointment. Gen. Hastings escorted the delegation in carriages to Belleville.

On Wednesday the attendance was some larger, but the people seemed to be holding back for Thursday to see Patton. Wednesday was Prohibition day and among the principal attractions was Dr. Swallow, the fighting parson of Harrisburg, who spoke at the afternoon session. We are safe in predicting that this Thursday will find the largest gathering ever known at the picnic. Delegations from all parts of the county are assured. The grounds are in fine shape, and the weather most favorable for the encampment. A number of exhibits are on the ground and the usual display of merchandise in the buildings, with an abundance of side shows, candy vendors, and amusements on the midway.

In these days of commercial activity the average young man becomes weary of farm life and drifts to the centers of population to seek employment or engage in trade. With a good education, of marked ability, and with ample resources at his command he had every opportunity to engage in other pursuits, but he chose farming as his avocation in life.

He is not a theoretical farmer either, but one of practice, and in season can be seen either at the plow, or mowing the fields, or garnering the golden grain; strong and stalwart in physique, always is doing his share of the work too.

In 1900 Mr. Kepler was one of the democratic nominees on our county ticket for this same office, and received a larger vote than the head of the ticket, but was defeated owing to the general landslide that engulfed almost the entire ticket.

Modest and unassuming, commonplace in manner and address, sincere and ever true in his friendships, large-hearted and generous, capable and efficient, are some of his distinguishing traits. Above all is a manly fidelity that makes his word the equal of his bond. Just such men can truly represent the people and are needed in our legislative halls.

The above are carefully prepared and accurate sketches of our nominees. There are scores of men just as good. These two men in one particular are strikingly strong; they are men of strong characters, firm convictions, truthful and most scrupulously honest. They never will bend the suppliant knee and fawningly beg official preferment from any corrupt political faction—for an office. They have openly declared they will, if elected, oppose all forms of corrupt legislation, the like of which disgraced the last legislature, and on all occasions use every honorable effort at their command to free this State from the blight of Quayism and machine rule.

It that meets with your approval vote and elect Messrs. Wetzel and Kepler, who will sacredly keep every pledge.

If you are not in sympathy with such sentiments, other candidates deserve your support.

A HERMIT'S WEALTH.

At Phillipsburg Saturday morning Geo. S. Turner, an eccentric old man, who had lived as a hermit in a house on Ninth street, was found dead sitting upon a chair in the middle of the kitchen. The decomposed condition of the body indicated that death had occurred a week or ten days before the body was found. The Ledger says on his person was found a gold hunting-case watch and an open-face silver watch, \$331.13 in cash, \$400 in Clearfield fire brick bonds, \$100 in Clearfield borough bonds, \$500 in Clearfield Water company bonds, \$500 in Wallaceton fire brick bonds, certificate of deposit County National bank \$700, certificate of deposit Clearfield county bank \$1400. He was childless but his wife survives, confined, hopelessly mad, in an insane asylum. Several brothers are also living, the natural heirs to their brother's wealth which is said to reach \$10,000.

Oscar Mitchell, of Clearfield, Turner's attorney, took charge of the dead man and his effects.

It's a woman's privilege to change her mind, even when she promises to obey.

DIRTY POLITICS REBUKED

Gazette Defends Strohm by Asailing Characters.

DIRTY REPUBLICAN LINEN

That Needs Attention, for Charity Begins at Home—The Turning Down of Allison for Strohm an Endorsement of Machine Rule.

Hon. Wm. A. Allison, in the last Legislature, made a record that is beyond reproach. He opposed every vicious measure like the "Ripper Bills," franchise steals, questionable appropriations; his name was never connected with bribery, legislative steals or corruption of any kind that made that assemblage so notorious. He returned clean in conscience and pure in purse, respected and commended by his people. A man of his character is above that of a political pettyfogger and schemer. His dignity and manliness were such that if his course met with the approval of his constituency he could accept an endorsement in the usual form—a renomination, if voluntarily and unanimously tendered him. The public generally expected that much, but a few scheming, designing politicians determined otherwise. Therefore we would like to see a reasonable explanation, from our contemporaries, the Gazette or Republican, as to why this courtesy was denied Mr. Allison, who was faithful to every pledge.

Tell us why he was turned down? Would he not have accepted a renomination?

Was such a renomination tendered him? If not, why not?

We know all about James B. Strohm, and his personality can be omitted. The turning down of Mr. Allison is an issue in the campaign and the people are giving it attention as it implies directly the approval of the vicious work in the last Legislature which Mr. Allison, by vote, opposed on every occasion.

These allusions are annoying the editor of the Gazette. He tried to answer them last week by studiously avoiding the point and praising Strohm. These are legitimate facts in the campaign. The people have a right to know them. Because we have pressed this point, without a single allusion to the character of Mr. Strohm—without an unkind word towards his personality or his private life—the Gazette in its desperation to avoid telling the truth, like a coward assails another man to beg the question or to divert attention from the issue, and untruthfully accuses the democratic papers of abusing Mr. Strohm. We challenge the reproduction of a line, or word, to support editor Harter's exaggeration.

Then, posing as a self-righteous Pharisee who is above guile, this character-assassin attempts to take the public in his confidence by a pretended apology, but makes the effort to stab another man in the back, with a deadly dirk, when he wrote the following, in the last issue of the Gazette:

"Two years ago when Kepler was nominated the better element in the Democratic party protested and positively refused to vote for him because—they said—his nomination was a reflection on common decency. We have never said this much in relation to this matter because we do not care to invite a campaign of billingsgate and abuse, but if forced to it, we can give good and ample reasons justifying this Democratic protest. The party was not only disgusted with Mr. Kepler's nomination but..."

In reply to the above we will say, Mr. Kepler is a citizen of Ferguson township where he has resided these many years. These people know him from boyhood and can best judge his worth as a citizen. At the fall election, 1900, at his precinct the democratic ticket for President received 156 votes and Mr. Kepler 173.—was ahead of his party vote at home, and in the county had over thirty more votes than the head of the ticket. That is sufficient to answer the charge of indecency raised towards Mr. Kepler by Mr. Harter. The attack also smatters of cowardice by pretending to say what "they say"—wants some one else, in the eyes of the reader, to bear the brand of character-assassin. This is the first instance of any paper in the county stooping to "billingsgate and abuse" in this campaign and editor Harter is the offender.

When we vote for men to the Legislature they should frankly tell the people where they stand on all vital issues, and what they will do if elected. A candidate may be a notorious professing churchman—long on professions and short in consistency—who in his weakness will succumb to the alluring temptation of a corruption fund, if sent to the Legislature. We want men for Legislature who are honest at heart and honest with the people, and strong enough to

resist temptation, like Mr. Allison's was, and that is just what J. W. Kepler and J. H. Wetzel will do if elected.

But if the campaign is to be diverted from the vital issues, and characters are to be investigated, and compared, as the Gazette has started on Mr. Kepler, we will say, the cover can be lifted from the career of a candidate on the republican ticket for assembly and a condition of moral depravity revealed that will astound the public; so revolting will be the filth that in comparison the shocking testimony in the last session of court will rise a sweet smelling incense.

This is not a threat—but a warning. It is not a bluff—for if the occasion warrants we can a tale unfold reeking in filth that every defender of pure womanhood and sanctity of the home will rise in revolt.

Still further—as information to the Gazette, since you are dealing in characters, we suggest that you take the names on your Republican County Ticket to where the criminal records are kept, run the names of each nominee over the entries, there you can see what "they say." If you want reliable information on characters, there you can find it. If you want to be fair, tell it to your readers. We think this suggestion, if you have horse sense, should silence your "mud batteries" during the balance of this campaign.

Do you want the facts? Ask for them, Mr. Harter, and they will be produced. Yet, we prefer to discuss the real political issues, especially: "Why was Allison turned down?" and "What will Strohm do if elected—will he be for or against the Quay machine?"

Killed by Dynamite.

On Saturday evening, Sept. 6, as Peter, the 19 year-old son of Matt Shedeck, a prominent coal operator, was driving past the power house near the mine about a mile from Karthaus, he saw smoke coming from it and stopped to investigate. A sack of cotton waste was hanging on the wall and is supposed to have been set on fire by some one who had previously left. The young man proceeded to carry it out when some fire dropped, igniting the loose powder on the floor; this spread to a partially filled powder keg which almost instantly caused the explosion of quite a quantity of powder and dynamite, entirely demolishing the building and fatally injuring the young man who died in three hours. He was carried 50 feet and fell in the river. Doctor Flegel was called and made an examination but his injuries were such that medical assistance was of no avail.

Coal Near Beech Creek.

The people of Glen Union, Clinton county, did not think ten years ago that coal mines would be opened near their beautiful village. Within three miles of that place, in the vicinity of Shoemaker's coal beds have been found. Acres of the land in that section have been found to be underlaid with coal from 4 to 5 feet 7 inches in thickness. The work of opening the mines will be commenced soon. The coal has been tested and found to be first class for steam purposes.

The Pennsylvania Fire Brick Company at Beech Creek, has discovered a thirty-inch vein of coal in their clay mines. They are making preparations to get the coal out for their own use.

George A. Jenks Very Ill.

George A. Jenks, of Brookville, the well known lawyer, is dangerously ill at the Seventh Avenue hotel, Pittsburg. He arrived there with his daughter and her children, going West, and became ill on the train. Mr. Jenks was solicitor general under President Cleveland, democratic candidate for governor against W. A. Stone, and he received the democratic vote for United States senator in 1898, during the Quay deadlock. He was a member of the Forty-fourth Congress. He is recognized as one of the ablest attorneys in the state.

Burglars at Karthaus.

The large store of Dr. W. S. Gilliland, at Karthaus, was robbed early Tuesday morning. The burglars blew open the safe and took everything that could be used. They got \$40 in money, 125 pocket knives, lots of checks, valuable papers, agreements etc. The noise awakened the people close by and they saw the fleeing cracksmen but could not identify them. Dr. Gilliland offers a reward of \$100 for their capture.

Couldn't Ship Their Apples.

The Lock Haven Democrat says the scarcity of cars is working great hardship to Nittany valley farmers. Arrangements had been made to ship three car loads from Mackeyville to Pittsburg this week, but only one car could be procured. After hauling their apples to the station, the farmers were compelled to haul them home again. There is a great demand for apples from Pittsburg.

When a girl is engaged to three fellows at once she shouldn't lack excitement.

FACT, FUN AND FANCY.

Bright Sparkling Paragraphs—Selected and Original.

Now, here's a pretty state of things: It is, upon my soul, When we must pawn our diamond rings To buy a ton of coal.

A ring candidate—the autumn bride. Strange to say, gas bills are seldom light ones.

A man has to be an artist to draw good poker hands.

The weather man is seldom greeted with a storm of applause.

It sometimes happens that a man's loose change is sufficient to make him tight.

It is well to remember that the buzz-saw won't hurt you if you don't monkey with it.

A leech may be an unpleasant sort of creature, but at least it never gets stuck on itself.

It often happens that the \$10 a week clerk dresses better than his millionaire employer.

A married woman who weighs 98 pounds is just as hard to support as one who weighs 200.

Miss Charlotte E. Hawes, of China, to Tour Huntingdon Presbytery.

The Woman's Foreign Missionary society of Huntingdon presbytery has engaged Miss Charlotte E. Hawes, of Wei Hien, China, to visit among its organizations throughout the presbytery. Miss Hawes is the daughter of a former pastor in Huntingdon. Her experience in China, particularly in the Boxer uprising of 1900, gives her a thrilling story, and she is a most enthusiastic and interesting speaker. The following is the order of her itinerary within Centre county, and near the line: September 22, Warriors-mark; 23, Spruce Creek; 25, Peale; 26, Winburne; 27, Pine Grove Bethel, district meeting; 28, Clearfield and Curwensville; 29, Kermore; 30, Phillipsburg; 9, Milroy; 10, West Kishacoquillas; 12, East Kishacoquillas; 20, Port Matilda; 21, Unionville; 22, Milesburg; 23, Belleville; 24, Boalsburg; 27, State College; 28, Pine Grove; 29, Tyrone.

Adjudged a Witch.

In the Cumberland county criminal court Thursday Mrs. Sarah McBride, of Carlisle, was convicted of witchcraft after a day's trial. The testimony was overwhelming against her. This remarkable verdict, which recalls the rare old blue laws under which witches were burned in sanctimonious Salem, Mass., is said to be unique in modern criminal annals. The formal charges in the indictment upon which Mrs. McBride, a woman of 60, was tried, stipulated that she had indulged in fortune telling, necromancy and false pretenses.

A man and his wife claimed that they paid Mrs. McBride over \$500, in return for which she gave information concerning the location of a \$30,000 treasure hidden in their yard. The man dug for the money, but did not find it. A number of witnesses testified that they had paid money to Mrs. McBride to have witches removed.

A Plan That Failed.

An exchange tells of a lady who decided to scare her husband who was a hard drinker, so he would reform. To do this she procured costumes of a devil which she saw at a masquerade. The next time the erring spouse came home feeling happy she quickly donned the costume, and as he opened the door she stepped forward and said in a sepulchral tone: "Come with me, I am the devil." The result rather startled her, as the answer to her greeting was: "Zatsoo! shake, old boy, I'm your brother-in-law; I married your sister."

Sober's Chestnut Farm.

C. K. Sober, of Lewisburg, has a grove of fifteen thousand chestnut trees near Shamokin, many of them not taller than four or five feet and each tree loaded down with chestnut burrs. They are all specially cultivated chestnuts and each tree has been grafted. He will have a thousand bushels; each burr is said to contain from eight to nine large sweet nuts and judging by the size of the burr they will produce fully that many.

Campaign Rates.

The Centre Democrat will be sent to any address from date, for six months for 25 cents. This is an unusual offer and will only be good until Oct 1st.

If you want to learn something of the career of the republican nominee for Governor, turn to page 3 of this issue. Pennypacker and his political affiliations is an interesting story.

TOM HARTER of the Gazette appears much interested in Jim Strohm; he ought to accompany him in his canvass—he could tell him what he is running for—as it appears Jim don't know, he needs some urging as he is disgusted with politics.