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# Condensed Facts.

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Relating to the  
**Republican Organization in  
Mingo County, W. Va.**

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**Delegates Selected March 28, 1908**

**vs. Contest:**

**Pretended Delegates Selected April 15.**

PRESENTED FOR USE OF THE CONGRES-  
SIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE FIFTH WEST  
VIRGINIA DISTRICT, AT HUNTINGTON,  
APRIL 27, AND OF THE REPUBLICAN  
STATE COMMITTEE AT PARKERS-  
BURG, APRIL 29, 1908.

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**B. RANDOLPH BIAS, Chairman,  
Republican Central and Executive Committees  
of Mingo County.**



**FACTS IN RELATION TO ORGANIZATION AND HISTORY OF  
THE REPUBLICAN PARTY IN MINGO COUNTY.**

As bearing on the controversy involving the regular organization of the Republican party of Mingo county, and the validity of the election of delegates to the Congressional convention of the Fifth district, and the State Delegate convention, the following brief statement of facts in relation to the history and organization of the party in Mingo county is given:

Mingo county was formed out of a part of Logan county, by an Act of the Legislature passed in 1895. Under the Act creating the county, and by virtue of the authority given by that Act, the governor appointed certain officers for that county, and among them were certain Republicans, namely, N. J. Keadle, sheriff; J. K. Anderson, J. L. Deskins and Alex Stafford, commissioners of the county court. Some time during the summer of 1896, the leading Republicans, in conference, formed an improvised Republican committee for the county, and D. E. Hughes was elected chairman. In the fall of 1896, at a regular county convention, the first ever held in the county, a Central committee was chosen, consisting of one committeeman from each magisterial district in the county, and N. J. Keadle was elected chairman of that committee. This Central committee was constituted of N. J. Keadle, R. B. Clark, Dr. H. D. Hat-

field, W. A. Johnson and J. B. Bartram. This Central committee then elected an Executive committee, made up of N. J. Keadle, as chairman, J. K. Anderson as secretary, E. E. Musick and James Turner. The nominees of this convention faced a large Democratic majority, and of the ticket nominated only two were elected, to-wit: N. J. Keadle, sheriff, and Jonathan Estep as commissioner of the county court. It is noteworthy to observe that Bryan for president received a majority of something over 600 votes. It may also be noted that H. S. White, who is now the leader of the contesting delegations, bolted the convention, and supported the Democratic nominee for sheriff, in opposition to Keadle, the regular Republican nominee. This incident is mentioned simply as bearing on the standing of Mr. Keadle, who is now one of the delegates to this convention, and of the party irregularity of Mr. White, who is now on a rival delegation asking to be seated in this convention. It will also be noted that Mr. J. K. Anderson is also one of the delegates, and also that Mr. Keadle and Mr. Estep are members of our regular Republican Executive committee.

In 1900 a new Central committee was elected at the County Nominating convention, but no Executive committee was elected under this new Central committee until in 1902. The Central committee thus elected in 1900 was composed of S. U. G. Rhodes, of Stafford district; Guy White, of Magnolia district; Everett Leftwich, of Lee district; S. A. Ferrell, of Hardee district, and James Little, of Harvey district. This Central committee elected, in 1902, an Executive committee made up of Everett Leftwich, chairman; S. U. G. Rhodes, secretary; S. T. Lambert, treasurer; and John A. Shepard and A. G. Rutherford. The names of the members of both the Central and Executive committees are printed on the letter heads used in the said year of 1892. At the election in the fall of 1902 the Republican nominees were unsuccessful. E. E. Musick, one of the present delegation, was a candidate for clerk of the county court, but was defeated.

In 1904, the Executive committee issued a call, a printed copy of which is exhibited in the record, for a "Mass Meeting at each precinct, for the following purposes:

- (1)—To select a member of the County Central committee for each precinct;
- (2)—To select delegates to the District convention;
- (3)—To select delegates to the County convention."

It was the understanding of the Executive committee that it was the desire of the State committee that a member of the County Cen-



then retired to an adjoining room (one of the jury rooms) for consultation, and in a short time reported to the Central committee the names of such persons as they desired to nominate for these offices. The nominations thus made were as follows:

For chairman of the Central committee, B. Randolph Bias;  
 For secretary of the Central committee, E. S. Jubling;  
 For treasurer of the Central committee, S. T. Labfert.  
 For chairman of the new Executive committee, B. Randolph Bias;  
 For secretary of the new Executive committee, E. S. Jubling;  
 For treasurer of the Central committee, S. T. Lambert.

And for members of the new Executive committee, H. S. White, Everett Leftwich and J. R. Booth.

Upon receiving these nominations from the candidates, the Central committee, on motion, elected the foregoing men to the places for which they were nominated. On the motion to so elect these officers of the Central committee, and officers and members of the Executive committee, every member of the Central committee present voted in the affirmative, except H. S. White, who did not vote. As to the correctness of these facts, affidavits of the following members of the Central committee are shown:

- (1)—GUY WHITE,
- (2)—D. M. GOOD,
- (3)—WILLIAM SAMS,
- (4)—W. A. JOHNSON,
- (5)—JOHN FARLEY,
- (6)—BANGOR BROWNING.

Also the affidavits of L. A. Sampson; F. W. O'Brien, one of the secretaries of the convention; John A. Sheppard, M. Z. White, and E. E. Musick, nominees of the convention; and H. C. Goings, A. G. Rutherford and F. H. Evans, delegates to the convention; and S. U. G. Rhodes and Max Crigger, Republicans attending the convention.

The Central committee thus constituted met on numerous occasions during the campaign, as also the Executive committee, and never at any time until recently did anyone challenge the regularity of either of these committees. As evidence of the fact that they were duly elected and authorized officers and representatives of the party letter heads for the use of these committees were printed as follows:

**"HEADQUARTERS MINGO COUNTY REPUBLICAN  
COMMITTEES."**

To the left of this heading was printed this matter:

**"CENTRAL COMMITTEE:**

B. RANDOLPH BIAS, Chairman, Williamson.  
 E. S. JUHLING, Secretary, Williamson,  
 S. T. LAMBERT, Treasurer, Thacker.  
 W. A. JOHNSON, Wharncliffe,  
 D. M. GOOD, War Eagle,  
 BANGOR BROWNING, O'Keefe,  
 GUY WHITE, Thacker,  
 H. S. WHITE, Matewan,  
 E. A. SAYRE, Musick,  
 EVERETT LEFTWICH, Williamson,  
 WILLIAM SAMS, Burch,  
 HENRY FERRELL, Eugene,  
 F. B. BROWN, Dingess,  
 WILLIAM PHELPS, Breedon,  
 JOHN FARLEY, Boxley."

And to the right of this heading was printed this language:

**"EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.**

B. RANDOLPH BIAS, Chairman, Williamson,  
 E. S. JUHLING, Secretary, Williamson,  
 S. T. LAMBERT, Treasurer, Matewan,  
 H. S. WHITE, Matewan,  
 EVERETT LEFTWICH, Williamson,  
 J. R. BOOTH, Dingess."

Thousands of these letter heads were used during the campaign of 1904. The letters were written broadcast on business of the party, and in advancing the interests of the candidates. We present certain of these letters, signed by B. R. Bias, chairman; and E. S. Juhling, secretary.

Attention is called to the fact that the Central committee was chosen pursuant to a regular call upon the Republican voters in precinct mass meetings, and they were the body of men duly elected by the voters themselves. The Executive committee, during the history of the party in the county, were always chosen by the Central committee, and never by the voters.

We have shown a regular organization in the county from its birth, the selection of these Central committees under regular calls

by the authority of the voters. The party custom and usage, as well as the party law, as we understand it, has always sanctioned this practice. Our position is that the Executive committee is simply the arm of the Central committee, having only such authority and only such existence as the Central committee gives it. That the Central committee, duly chosen, is vested with the power to appoint and to revoke appointments of the Executive committee, or, whenever it ceases to perform its functions, to discharge it and itself perform the duties which may have been delegated to the Executive committee.

After the convention of 1904, certain vacancies occurred on the County Central committee, and certain new voting precincts were created by authority of law, so that when the county convention was called in 1906, it was found that there were vacancies on the Central committee to be filled, and in the regular call, issued by Bias, chairman, and Juhling, secretary, this language was used:

"In addition thereto, Stafford district is required to supply vacancies on the Central committee for Gilbert, War Eagle and Wharreliffe precincts; Magnolia district, for Lick Fork, Red Jacket and Varney precincts; Lee district, East Williamson, Merrimac and Buffalo precincts; Hardee district, at Naugatuck."

Ten in all, and these vacancies were duly filled by the voters in the said precinct mass meetings. The names of these newly elected Central committeemen were as follows:

For Gilbert precinct,	Lee Ellis;
For War Eagle precinct,	S. W. Perry;
For Wharreliffe precinct	A. H. Toler;
For Lick Fork precinct	Dr. H. C. Goings,
For Red Jacket precinct	Charles Morrison;
For Varney precinct	E. E. Musick;
For City Hall, Williamson precinct	L. A. Sampson;
For Merrimac precinct	Jesse Browning;
For Buffalo precinct	Charles Woolford;
For Naugatuck precinct	A. R. Davis.

During the campaign of 1906 the Central committee as thus constituted met on frequent occasions, and conducted the affairs of the campaign, but it made no change in the Executive committee until June 1, 1907, at a regular meeting pursuant to call. At this meeting of June 1st, the gentlemen who are now fighting the regular organization, to-wit, Mr. H. S. White, Mr. Leftwich, Mr. Juhling and others, attended. A resolution was offered reciting that as the Executive committee then stood there were only six members,



which was an even number and the same liable to become deadlocked, and that three of the magisterial districts had no representation whatever on the Executive committee, and offering to increase the Executive committee from six to eleven members. This resolution was adopted, though opposed by Mr. White and Mr. Leftwich. After the adoption of this resolution, according to the minutes of the meeting the following occurred:

“At this point in the proceedings, Secretary Juhling, Messrs. H. S. White, E. Juhling, S. T. Lambert and Henry Ferrell withdrew from the room, Mr. H. S. White announcing that he declined to further participate.”

Thereupon another resolution was offered, appointing additional members of said Executive committee, as follows:

H. T. Peery, G. W. Hatfield, M. Z. White, Hi Maynard and N. J. Keadle.

And these were unanimously elected

This meeting was the parting of the ways. Mr. White, Mr. Leftwich, Mr. Juhling, Mr. Lambert and Mr. Booth contended that the Central committee had no power to increase the membership of the Executive committee; that they were in the majority in the Executive committee, and were dissatisfied because other members had been added to the committee. They then began an attack upon the regular organization, and by their conduct, in words and actions, threatened to disrupt the party, attacking the regularity of both the Central and Executive committees. Their conduct was such that a joint meeting of the Central and Executive committees was called for July 20, 1907, to consider the situation. Mr. Keadle offered a resolution reciting, among other things, the fact that Messrs. Juhling, Lambert and White, during the deliberations of the meeting of June 1, 1907, had withdrawn from the meeting, and had declined and refused to further act with the committee; that since that time the said Lambert had charged that the campaign funds, contributed at the preceding election, had been misappropriated; that these parties, with James R. Booth had on frequent occasions during the last campaign, refused to obey the call of the chairman; that these parties were busy criticising and abusing both committees, and the local party leaders, and had been in numerous conferences with the leaders of the Democratic party in the county, and the editor of the Democratic newspaper published at Williamson; and that their acts and conduct were such as to disrupt the party and defeat the purposes of the organization, and that they were planning to arrange

a fusion ticket with the Democrats for the next election, and that they were otherwise violating their duties as members of the committees, and betraying the trust reposed in them as such members. The resolution then was that they be cited to appear before a joint meeting of the committees, to be held on the 2d day of September, 1907, to show cause, if any they could, why they should not be removed as members and officers of the two committees. This resolution was adopted.

A joint meeting of these two committees was then held, on the 2d day of September, 1907. Juhling, Lambert, White, Booth and Leftwich refused to attend, and treated the charges with indifference. A quorum being present, the meeting proceeded to the transaction of business. A resolution was offered by Guy White, reciting that it was the sense of the committee that Leftwich, Lambert, Booth and Juhling had been guilty of such conduct prejudicial to the best interests of the party in the county as to render it unwise and unsafe for the party to longer permit them to be members and officers of the Executive committee, or officers of the Central committee; and resolving that by the authority vested in the Central committee by the Republican voters of the county (the plan of organization adopted or recommended by the Republican State committee), the said Leftwich, Lambert, Booth and Juhling be removed as members of the County Executive committee, and their offices declared vacant; and that the said Juhling be removed from the office of secretary of the Central and Executive committees, and the said Lambert from the office of treasurer of both committees, and the said offices declared vacant. This resolution was adopted, and other men were elected to take the places of the said Lambert and Juhling as such officers, and of the four as members. The said Leftwich, Lambert, Booth and Juhling were not, however, removed as members of the Central committee, it being understood that this power was vested alone in the voters. The vacancies in the Executive committee by reason of the removal of said parties were filled by the election of T. D. Burgess, Jonathan Estep, Harry Scherr and John McComas. Harry Scherr was elected secretary of both committees, and M. Z. White treasurer of both committees.

Of the Central committee, consisting of twenty-two members elected by the voters of the party in the various precinct meetings, six members—White, Leftwich, Ferrell, Davis, Phelps and Baker—are adherents of the H. S. White faction, and sixteen of them are adherents of or acting in harmony with the regular organization. Of the Executive committee, as constituted above, all the members

are acting with the regular organization excepting H. S. White, who has united himself with Juhling, Leftwich, Lambert and Booth, styling themselves "Old Line Republicans," and professing to be the Executive committee of the party in the county.

At the last general election, Sheppard for prosecuting attorney, Musick for sheriff, Gaujet for surveyor, Ferrell for assessor, M. Z. White for commissioner of the county court, and F. H. Evans for the house of delegates, were elected. All these, with the exception of Ferrell, are zealous supporters of the regular organization, and are constantly assailed by the H. S. White faction. Such men as Musick, Keadle, Estep, Rhodes, Anderson, Bias, Guy White, Evans, Gaujet, Rutherford, Scherr, Perry, Farley, Levine, Good, Maynard, McComas, Goings, Woolford, Williams, Johnson, Sams, Stepp, Browning, A. R. Hatfield, Morrison and others, have been lifelong Republicans. Thirteen of the delegates to the Congressional convention and eight of those to the State Delegate convention have voted the Republican ticket all their lives and never voted for any other than a Republican candidate for president. They are now being attacked by the said White and his followers in a most scurrilous and abusive way, through the medium of a paper said to be printed at Huntington, but issued from Matewan, styling itself the "Old Line Republican." These men and the officers elected by the party in the county, are charged in this paper in the most malignant manner and after the most unjust fashion, as being "renegades" and "grafters." The said H. S. White is the moving spirit in charge of the contesting delegation, and is financing and promoting the said newspaper, and writing the articles published therein, and the schemes devised and plan pursued is to destroy the regular Republican organization in the county. That it is a well known fact that the said White is in almost daily conference with the regular Democratic leaders in the county, and is planning to run a hybrid ticket constituted of Democrats and disaffected Republicans for the county offices, against the regular Republican nominees. We respectfully submit to the conventions, and to the State and Congressional committees, that the delegates chosen at the meeting on March 28, 1908, are regular, and entitled to be seated as the regular delegates of the Republican party in Mingo county. It is believed that the element of the party which dictated the election of these delegates constitute at least 95 per cent. of the voting power of the party in the county; and it has been shown that those who have contributed most to the success of the party in the past were identified in the selection of these delegates, and that the meeting which appoin these delegates

was regularly called and held by the properly constituted authority of the party in the county.

Respectfully submitted.

B. R. BIAS,  
 S. U. G. RHODES,  
 CHAS. LeROY,  
 GUY WHITE,  
 A. G. RUTHERFORD,  
 L. A. SAMPSELLE,  
 A. A. GAUJOT,  
 J. W. WARDEN.  
 B. B. GOINGS.  
 R. W. BUSKIRK,  
 J. LEVINE,  
 JOHN McCOMAS,  
 R. L. SIMPKINS,  
 GEORGE STEPP,  
 T. D. BURGESS,  
 JOHN E. WILLIAMS,

Delegates to the Congressional convention to be held at Huntington on April 27, 1908.

JOHN A. SHEPPARD,  
 H. T. PERRY,  
 E. E. MUSICK,  
 N. J. KEADLE,  
 M. Z. WHITE,  
 HARRY SCHERR,  
 G. W. HATFIELD,  
 J. K. ANDERSON,  
 CHAS. WOOLFORD,  
 B. R. BIAS,  
 A. R. HATFIELD,

Delegates to the State Delegates convention to be held at Parkersburg on April 29, 1908.



