



John H. Sheibley

John H. Sheibley, the veteran editor and proprietor of the Advocate and Press, New Bloomfield, Perry County, Pa., was born in Landisburg, Pa., November 17, 1827. His grandfather, **Peter Sheibley**, the ancestor of the family in America, was a native of Switzerland. He crossed the ocean to the New World while yet a young man settled in Northampton County, Pa., and served as a soldier in the Revolutionary war. After residing for a number of years in Northampton and Berks Counties, he came to Perry County, and about 1793 settled near Green Park, where he cleared and cultivated a farm, on which he resided until his death in 1824, at the age of eighty-two. He was the father of twenty children, seventeen of whom grew to maturity and lived to old age, the majority passing the four score mark. The descendants of this unusually large family are very numerous, and embrace many of the most reputable and respected citizens of Perry County. **Bernhard Sheibley**, a son of **Peter Sheibley**, and father of **John H.**, was born in what is now Tyrone Township, Perry County, Pa., August 18, 1794, and

was reared on the old family homestead. He received his education in the early subscription schools, and prepared himself for a life of practical industry by learning the wheelwright trade at which he worked in Landisburg from 1824 to his death in 1876. He was also for a time in mercantile business in Landisburg. **Mr. Sheibley** enlisted during the war of 1812, at Landisburg, and marched with his command to Carlisle and Philadelphia. In early life he was a Democrat, but became a Republican after the organization of that party, and always remained steadfast to its principles. In 1814, he was confirmed as a member of the German Reformed Church, and from that time forward lived the life of a consistent Christian. He was an earnest, industrious man, and was honest and upright in all his dealings. The respect and esteem that he enjoyed were fully merited, and his memory is revered by his descendants, to whom he left the priceless heritage of an unsullied name. **Mr. Sheibley** was married to **Mary**, daughter of **Conrad Holman**. Their children are: **Peter M.**, who died in 1892 in Rome, Ga.; **Harriet M.** (**Mrs. Lewis Grubb**), of Buffalo, Sangamon County, Ill.; **John H.**, of New Bloomfield, Pa.; **Elizabeth Ann** (**Mrs. Samuel Kast**), of Kingston, Cumberland County, Pa., deceased; **Sarah H.** (**Mrs. Samuel A. Lightner**), of Madison Township, who died October 5, 1894; **Henry S.**, who died in 1839; **William H.**, who died at Landisburg, in 1892, from the effects of a wound received at Fredericksburg, while serving as captain of Company G, One Hundred and Thirty-third Pennsylvania Volunteers in the late Rebellion; **Mary Jane**, who died in childhood, in 1839; **Samuel H.**, a grocer in Philadelphia; **James P.**, a physician of Landisburg, who served during the Civil war in Company D, Seventh Pennsylvania Reserve, and was wounded at Gaines Mills; **Mary Ellen**; and **Ada**; the last two reside on the old homestead at Landisburg.

John H. Sheibley was reared in Landisburg, where he received a common school education. At sixteen years of age he became a printer's apprentice in the office of the Reformed Messenger, at Chambersburg, Pa. After serving five years, and acquiring a thorough knowledge of the "art preservative of all arts" he went to Madison Court House, Va., in 1849, and there attended an academy for one year. In 1850, he went to Philadelphia and worked in the old Johnson Type Foundry as a printer until 1853, when he purchased the necessary material, came to New Bloomfield, and began the publication of the People's Advocate and Press. This paper he has edited and published to the present time, a period of forty-four years, giving him an experience as printer, editor and publisher, of fifty-four years. Originally a Democrat, **Mr. Sheibley** became a Republican when that party was organized. During President Lincoln's administration, he was appointed an assessor of internal revenue and in 1873 was elected to the legislature from Perry County and served one term. He has also filled the offices of school director and councilman, and is regarded as a representative citizen of the county. He has conducted his paper with marked ability, and has made it a valuable exponent of the doctrines and principles of the Republican Party. The local field is well gleaned, and the neighborhood news written in readable and interesting manner.

Mr. Sheibley was married June 24, 1858, to **Mary**, daughter of **Nimrod** and **Eliza (Drexler) Eby**. Of their three children, one, **Charles N.**, is deceased. Two sons, **William B.** and **Horace E.** are living. Both are graduates, the former of the class of 1881, and the latter of the class of 1882, of Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster, Pa., and both have acquired a thorough and practical knowledge of the art of printing, and are capable editorial assistants, performing much of the work both in the local and editorial departments. The family are members of the Reformed Church, and are earnest supporters of everything tending toward the advancement of the community in which they live.

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