

SPENCER METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

PAUL WEYAND, MINISTER

117 SPENCER AVENUE, CARRICK
PITTSBURGH, PA.

August 20, 1928.

MY Dear Miss Tarbell:

The publication in the Saturday y Evening P^ost, April 28, 1928, but which but a week ago I saw-in vaca-tion time- of an aarticle " Presidential Campaigns"- The Black Republicans, 1860 " brought to my mind something that I have meant to do for a considerable time, either in collaboration with you, or to present my materiall to you for you to use.

The R^epublican Party ass a National body was born at Pittsburg, Pa. February 22, 1856. It has never received proper recognition.

It was a mass- and delegated convention made up of historic and picturesque fighters for Abolition, Anti-Slavery, Free Soil, Anti-Slavery Whigs and Democrats- as speakers, legislators, pamphleteers, editors, magazinists and I do not know what. Very likely no other

political convention ever comprised such an array of editors- ranging from Horace Greeley of the "Tribune" to Jacob Weyand, my father, a the "ARGUS" editor of a county- seat weekly, at Beaver, Pa. in Beaver County adjacent to Allegheny County. Between these there was as notable and striking a lot of ~~characters~~ characters as ever came together.

They had the crusading spirit and they made history.

But that history was very lightly recorded. IN 1900 I dug up through newspaper files and otherwise some data about the convention and after considerable correspondence throughout the whole country found that there were living at least fourteen survivors. I communicated this to Senator M.A. Hanna and they were invited to and occupied seats on the platform at the National Convention in June when President MC Kinley was renominated .

SPENCER METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

PAUL WEYAND, MINISTER

117 SPENCER AVENUE, CARRICK
PITTSBURGH, PA.

So far as I was able to learn by a pretty close investigation there is but one copy of the Proceedings of the 1856 Pittsburg Convention and that I saw in the Congressional Library. The biographies of a considerable number of those who were delegates speak of their attendance upon the Pittsburg Convention, and the importance of it in their minds.

I have some splendid portraits of some of the fourteen, and a good many letters from those survivors or from others who were the children or biographers of those who were there and had died. In fact I had collected a good deal of stuff from biographies, collateral references and memorabilia that has to do with the formation of the Party as a national body which I ^{can} get to you if you desire.

You can vitalize and can get it into print in whatever ~~was~~ place you think it ought to go.

I have a pretty complete list with ~~the~~ biographies of those in attendance which is the only list there is. I compiled it. Among the then little-known men who were there are those who afterwards took high rank in the nation. I will enclose this list.

IN personnel, in spirit, in the potential worth of the young men who threw their fortunes into the new cause, without exaggeration it was the most epoch-making ^{party} convention surely America has had.

MY father's comments on the convention enclosed in the pages clipped from a scrap-book I think fairly express the spirit of the convention.

I am quite sure that none of the fourteen survivors in 1900 are now living. I think I noted the death of all. If there are others whose names never were known to me they would be at least 93 years of age, and while it is not impossible, I think it is very improbable that any person who attended that convention is alive.

SPENCER METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

PAUL WEYAND, MINISTER

117 SPENCER AVENUE, CARRICK
PITTSBURGH, PA.

I have never had the time nor the ability to make a history of this important convention. I did a lot of work upon it years ago. I have this data and a lot of information on the Convention other than that which I am enclosing and if you are intrested I will be glad to go over it and send it to you.

I have meant to have a ~~marker~~ tablet put up on the corner of Wood street, now a bank building where Lafayette Hall was - where the Republican Party as a National Organization ^{was born} but I have never come ~~get~~ a-round to that even. I could not spare the time, to do the writing.

At my suggestion, my father sent the article entitled "The National Republican Party Time of its Birth and BirthPlace" written by him ~~to~~ to the Saturday Evening Post in 1900 but they did not use it. Since then I have done nothing with the Convention.

Hoping that you may be interested and thanking you for looking this over,

I am very sincerely yours,

Paul Weyand

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
New York.