

Joseph Baltzell Showalter

*11 Feb 1851 - †3 Dec 1932

Father: Levi Showalter (*1805 - †1889)

Mother: Elizabeth Baltzell (*1818 - †1909)

Wife: Ella Marian McKee (*1856 - †1944)

Children: Levi McKee Showalter (*1880 - †1884)
Genevieve Showalter (*1882 - †1904)
Elizabeth Pauline Showalter (*1885 - †1959)
Joseph Baltzell Showalter (*1888 - †1891)
Lucile McKee Showalter (*1893 - †1974)
John Baltzell Showalter (*1896 - †1942)

Birth: 11 Feb 1851
Smithfield, Fayette County, Pennsylvania

Wedding: 25 Mar 1879
(Ella Marian McKee)

Death: 3 Dec 1932
N.W., Washington, District Of Columbia

Funeral: 5 Dec 1932
Showalter-Leggett Plot, North Cemetery, Butler County, Pennsylvania

Note: ^{a)} BIOGRAPHY: From the Biographical Directory of the U.S. Congress (<http://bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/biodisplay.pl?index=S000385>):
n BIOGRAPHY: SHOWALTER, Joseph Baltzell, a Representative from Pennsylvania; born near Smithfield, Fayette County, Pa., February 11, 1851; attended the public schools and Georges Creek Academy at Smithfield; taught school in West Virginia, Indiana, and Illinois 1867-1873; moved to Chicora, Pa., in 1873 and engaged in the production of petroleum and natural gas; studied medicine at Long Island College Hospital, Brooklyn, N.Y., in 1883; was graduated from the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Baltimore, Md., in 1884; practiced medicine in Chicora, Pa., from 1884 to 1890, when he again engaged in the production of petroleum and natural gas; member of the State house of representatives in 1887 and 1888; served in the State senate 1889-1892; elected as a Republican to the Fifty-fifth Congress to fill the vacancy caused by the death of James J. Davidson; reelected to the Fifty-sixth and Fifty-seventh Congresses and served from April 20, 1897, to March 3, 1903; was not a candidate for reelection; resumed his former business pursuits and resided in Butler, Pa.; moved to Pittsburgh, Pa., and thence to Washington, D.C.; also engaged in the development of land in southern Florida; died in Washington, D.C., December 3, 1932; interment in North Cemetery, Butler, Pa.
n BIOGRAPHY: Senate of Pennsylvania.
n BIOGRAPHY: The woman physician--may she increase and multiply. I have believed from my earliest recollection that woman was the equal of man in many attributes of character and his superior in some. In fact, I believe in the equality of the sexes, in the principles of Christianity as applied to humanity and exemplified in the teaching and practice of the golden rule, in the Declaration of Independence as framed by the immortal Jefferson wherein he declares that all men are created equal and endowed by their Creator with certain

inalienable rights among which are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. I doubt not but these fundamental principles are accepted by the great majority of intelligent Americans. Still there are many who doubt the propriety of woman entering the professions while yielding consent to the argument that she has the right to do so--the right to earn her livelihood in any honest avocation in which the God of nature may have endowed her with abilities to pursue. Who, oh man, shall be the Judge as to the propriety? Thanks to an enlightened public conscience and the steady progressive spirit of the age, the high walls of prejudice, superstition and ignorance have been broken in many places, if not entirely leveled, and today we can point to many illustrious examples wherein our noble profession has been honored and elevated, a community benefitted and blessed, and many a house made happy by the faithful intelligent demonstrations of a woman physician whose efforts for the amelioration of the sufferings of others have won for her imperishable tablets in the temple of humanity. To those who doubt the propriety of women entering the professions, I would remind them that women have exercised the highest civil powers in all ages of the world, from Zenobia of Palmyra to Victoria of England, and without detracting from their graces as women or their virtues as mothers. That women have created public sentiment before which legislatures have bowed and courts have bowed. "God grant that the day may soon arrive when we shall not only accord them the right of equal pay for equal work in any and all pursuits to which they may aspire and in which they may prove themselves equipped, but also when our enlightened nation shall grant them the recognition of their capacity for full citizenship."

BIOGRAPHY: It is the belief of many wise men of our times that there is a crisis at hand in the affairs of government. That in the great gulf stream of humanity which flows from foreign shores with increasing and rising flood, the integrity of our nation is at hazard, and unrestricted immigration is the mother of public demoralization, socialism, and anarchy. The only cure is restricted immigration and universal suffrage limited only by an educational qualification. I believe the cure will be more permanent than the one effected by the Erie physician of whom my friend Sen. McClure relates that he had acquired quite a reputation in the treatment of stuttering. One morning, a patient entered his office and enquired, "Can you cure stuttering?" "Yes sir"--just then a young man in the office desirous of sharing the doctor's skill exclaimed, "He cured me!"

BIOGRAPHY: I would advise the lady practitioner, should there be any present and unmarried, that before she enters upon the sea of matrimony she ponders well "and not subject herself to criticisms as did the young medical student of whom I have heard" "who had fallen in love with a fine young woman of prominent and wealthy parents. The girl was willing, but the father objected because of the young man's poverty. In his distress, he applied to his _____, a wise and benevolent old gentleman, as all old doctors are. He, determined to help him, said to him, "I will give you \$25,000 for your right leg." The young man refused. A few days later, the doctor made it his business to see the father of the young lady, and in a friendly chat, the father stated his objection to the young man on account of his poverty. "What, why I heard him refuse \$25,000 for a piece of property the other day, and I know he has other pieces equally as fine."

BIOGRAPHY: Joseph Baltzell Showalter, M.D., (1851-1932), from handwritten notes on Pennsylvania Senate stationery, evidently made for a speech c. 1889-1892, during his term in the Pennsylvania Senate. He had served in the Pennsylvania House of Delegates from 1887 to 1888. He later went onto the U.S. Congress. From the Biographical Directory of the U.S. Congress: "elected as a Republican to the Fifty-fifth Congress to fill the vacancy caused by the death of James J. Davidson; reelected to the Fifty-sixth and Fifty-seventh Congresses and served from April 20, 1897, to March 3, 1903; was not a candidate for reelection;" Once having taken up residence in Washington, Dr. Showalter remained there the rest of his life. One of his daughters, Lucile McKee Showalter, (1893-1974), married Milton William Leggett, (1894-1970), my grandfather, in Washington D.C. in 1925. Transcribed by voice, David John Leggett, 29 November 1999.

BIOGRAPHY: THE WASHINGTON POST hand dated Dec. 4, 1932

BIOGRAPHY: DR. SHOWALTER DIES; FORMERLY IN HOUSE Rites today for One-Time Representative From Pennsylvania.

BIOGRAPHY: The funeral of Dr. Joseph Baltzell Showalter, former representative in Congress from the Butler, Pa. District, will be held from the Speare undertaking parlors at 1623 Connecticut avenue northwest, at 3:30 p. m. today. Dr. Showalter died yesterday afternoon at 1:30 o'clock. After the funeral the body will be taken to Butler, Pa. for interment.

BIOGRAPHY: Dr. Showalter is survived by his wife, who was Miss Ella M. McKee, of Pennsylvania; two daughters, Mrs. A. Wilson McCandless and Mrs. Milton W. Leggett, of Pittsburgh, and one son, John B. Showalter of this city. His eldest daughter, Genevieve, died while Dr. Showalter was in Congress, she having been one of the belles of the congressional set of that day.

BIOGRAPHY: Born near Smithfield, Fayette

County, Pa., February 11, 1851, the son of Levi and Elizabeth Showalter, Dr. Showalter was educated at George Creek Academy, and studied medicine at the Long Island College Hospital in Brooklyn, and at the College of Physicians and Surgeons in Baltimore, having been awarded his degree of doctor of medicine at the latter institution. For some years he practiced medicine and then became associated with his brothers in the petroleum industry of western Pennsylvania. He was elected to the Pennsylvania House of Delegates in 1886 and to the Pennsylvania Senate in 1888, serving in the latter body until 1892.

BIOGRAPHY: As a Pennsylvania legislator, Dr. Showalter took a deep interest in training of deaf children and secured legislation for the establishment of one of the earliest lip-reading schools in the world. He brought a group of these children to Washington and then to the World's Fair in Chicago, where they were widely admired for their lip-reading ability.

BIOGRAPHY: Dr. Showalter was first elected to the Fifty-fifth Congress and served until the end of the Fifty-seventh Congress. He was closely related to the late United States Circuit Judge John D. Showalter, who was for many years law partner of former Secretary of State Walter Q. Gresham. He was also closely related to Capt. Showalter, chess champion of the Americas during the late 90s, and to the late W. B. Showalter, for many years editor of Editor and Publisher.

BIOGRAPHY: THE SUNDAY STAR Hand dated Dec. 4, 1932

BIOGRAPHY: FORMER MEMBER OF CONGRESS DIES Dr. Joseph B. Showalter, 82, Served Three Terms From Pennsylvania

BIOGRAPHY: Dr. Joseph Baltzell Showalter, a former Republican Representative in Congress from the Butler, Pa., district, died at his home, 1867 Wyoming avenue yesterday. He was 82 years old.

BIOGRAPHY: Dr. Showalter, who was elected to the Fifty-fifth Congress April 20, 1897, and served through the Fifty-seventh, was born near Smithfield, Fayette County, February 11, 1851. His parents were Levi and Elizabeth Showalter.

BIOGRAPHY: He was educated at George Creek Academy, and studied medicine at the Long Island College Hospital in Brooklyn, and at the College of Physicians and Surgeons in Baltimore, receiving his degree in 1884. He practiced medicine in Chicora, Pa., and later became associated with his brothers in the Butler, Pa., oil fields.

BIOGRAPHY: Dr. Showalter entered the Pennsylvania Legislature in 1886 and served in the House and Senate until 1892. His service in the Capital was from 1897 to March 3, 1903.

BIOGRAPHY: Surviving the late Representative are his widow, the former Miss Ella M. McKee; two daughters, Mrs. A. Wilson McCandless of Pittsburgh and Mrs. Milton W. Leggett of this city, and a son, John B. Showalter, also of Washington. His eldest daughter, Genevieve, died while he was a member of Congress here.

BIOGRAPHY: Dr. Showalter was closely related to the late United States Circuit Judge John D. Showalter of Chicago, for many years law partner of Walter Q. Gresham, President Cleveland's Secretary of State; Jackson Showalter, famous chess champion, and the late W. B. Showalter, who was editor of Editor and Publisher Magazine. He was more distantly related to Dr. William J. Showalter of the National Geographic Magazine. [We have his extensive obituary, see below, appearing in the Evening Star (Washington, D. C.) Monday, 14 October 1935.]

BIOGRAPHY: Funeral services will be held this afternoon at Speare's funeral parlors, 1623 Connecticut avenue. The body will be taken to Butler, Pa., for burial.

BIOGRAPHY: "BUTLER PAPER" (BUTLER COUNTY RECORD?) Hand dated Dec. 5

BIOGRAPHY: DR. SHOWALTER BURIED IN BUTLER Former Resident of County Dies in Washington, D. C., Saturday

BIOGRAPHY: Dr. Joseph B. Showalter, aged 81, former congressman from the Butler district, who died at his home in Washington, D. C., Saturday, was buried in the North Cemetery in Butler at 11 o'clock this morning. Both his widow, and a daughter, Mrs. A. W. McCandless of Pittsburgh are seriously ill at their homes and were unable to accompany the body to Butler.

BIOGRAPHY: Dr. Showalter died suddenly in Washington Saturday of a cerebral hemorrhage.

BIOGRAPHY: He was born in Fayette county, February 11, 1851, the son of Levi and Elizabeth Showalter. He obtained his education in the public schools and at George's Creek Academy at Smithfield.

BIOGRAPHY: When 16 years of age, he started teaching in Preston county, West Virginia, and followed this vocation in West Virginia, Indiana and Illinois.

BIOGRAPHY: In 1873 he came to Chicora and in company with his brothers began operating in the Millerstown oil field, striking his first well on Christmas Day, 1873. He continued to be active in the oil industry, and the Showalter Brothers became one of the largest producing organizations in the state.

BIOGRAPHY: While teaching he began reading medicine and spent the year of 1883 at Long Island college hospital, Brooklyn, New York. He later entered the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Baltimore, Md., where he was graduated March 4, 1884.

BIOGRAPHY: He returned to Chicora and started practicing, and continued his professional duties for six years, retiring from practice in 1890. In 1886 he was elected on the Republican ticket to the legislature and during his term was a member of the committee on constitutional reform. In 1888 he was elected to the state senate. He was

chosen on important committees and secured the passage of the medical examination bill. He also secured valuable oil legislation.

BIOGRAPHY: He was elected to the United States senate from this district and served in that capacity for two terms.

BIOGRAPHY: Dr. Showalter was well known in the Butler district.

BIOGRAPHY: He removed from Chicora to Pittsburgh and later to Washington, D. C.

BIOGRAPHY: Surviving are his widow and two daughters, Mrs. A. W. McCandless of Pittsburgh and Mrs. Milton Leggett of Bradford Woods.

BIOGRAPHY: THE EVENING STAR, WASHINGTON, D. C., Monday, October 14, 1935.

BIOGRAPHY: Writer Dies [Photo] [Caption:] DR. WILLIAM JOSEPH SHOWALTER

BIOGRAPHY: DR. SHOWALTER, EDITOR, DIES AT 57 Funeral Is Set Tomorrow for Geographic Society Division Chief

BIOGRAPHY: Dr. William Joseph Showalter, chief of the Research Division of the National Geographic Society and a member of the editorial staff of the National Geographic Magazine for more than 21 years, died yesterday at his home in the Ontario Apartments after a brief illness. He was 57.

BIOGRAPHY: Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. tomorrow at the residence. Burial will be in Waynesboro, Va.

BIOGRAPHY: Born in Dale Enterprise, Va., Dr. Showalter was educated at the West Central Academy and Bridgewater College. He later received honorary doctor degrees from Pennsylvania College and Bridgewater.

BIOGRAPHY: Became Writer in 1898.

BIOGRAPHY: After two years of teaching in the Virginia schools, Dr. Showalter began his newspaper career in 1898. He came to Washington in 1901 and worked for a variety of newspapers and bureaus as reporter, special writer and editor. He served as correspondent in South America and the Canal Zone and was considered one of the outstanding writers on the progress of the Panama Canal.

BIOGRAPHY: He joined the editorial staff of the National Geographic Society in 1914 and specialized in writing popular presentations of scientific and technical subjects. He was the author of "America's Amazing Railway Traffic," "Battling With Panama Slides," "Coal's Ally of American Industry," "Exploring the Mysteries of Plant Life," "Interviewing the Stars," "Virginia's A Commonwealth That Has Come Back," and many other articles in the National Geographic Magazine.

BIOGRAPHY: He was decorated in 1912 by the Venezuelan government with the Order of Bolivar.

BIOGRAPHY: Member of Three Clubs.

BIOGRAPHY: Prominent among Washington newspaper men and authors, Dr. Showalter was a member of the National Press Club, the Cosmos Club and the University Club. He belonged also to the Luther Place Memorial Lutheran Church of Washington and to the Westmoreland Club of Richmond, Va. He was a member of the board of trustees of American University and chairman of a commission to draft a statement on the relationship between religion and science for the United Lutheran Church in America.

BIOGRAPHY: Surviving are his widow, Mrs. Effie Coyner Showalter; his mother, Mrs. D. B. Showalter; a sister, Miss Florence Showalter, and three brothers, Bowman, Swope and Jacob Showalter.