

CHESTER TIMES – August 28, 1906

CAPTAIN ERB AND BRIDE LOCATE AT GLEN RIDDLE – Social, Political and Military Leader Surprised His Friends and Acquaintances by Getting Married and Settling Down.

The following will be of interest to Delaware County people who are acquainted with Captain J. Clayton Erb and his wife, Mrs. Erb was a guest at the Colonial for several seasons where she has with friends.

Friends of Captain J. Clayton Erb formerly of the State Insurance Department, who was generally regarded as a confirmed bachelor, will be surprised to learn that he has been married three months or more. The quartermaster of the Third Regiment, Jong conspicuous in Republican politics in Philadelphia, has taken unto himself a wife settled down to the quiet life of a gentleman farmer and is devoting a part of his time to society in the vicinity of Glen Riddle.

The confidential secretary of Israel W. Durham was married on May 19 last to Mrs. M.F. Rothermel, who formerly resided in Summer Street, west Philadelphia. Mrs. Erb is described as exceedingly vivacious and attractive, an accomplished housewife, fond of cross country riding and outdoor sports in general. She is Captain Erb's junior by several years.

HAS TOWN AND COUNTRY HOMES – Captain Erb's town house is at 330 South Thirteenth Street, Philadelphia. There he maintained a bachelor apartment and hospitably entertained his more intimate friends, political and military. Some time ago he acquired a fine estate in Delaware County, known as the Surrey Farm. His most intimate friends probably did not suspect at the time that this handsome country residence was soon to have a mistress. The Captain's marriage was quietly solemnized. Since then he and his bride have been residing at their country place which is now known as Red Gables. The name was bestowed by Mrs. Erb because in approaching the house one catches glimpses of the red tiled roof and gables although the surrounding trees. Captain Erb is interesting himself in his horses, cattle and chickens and giving himself up to such social diversions as the country affords.

HIS PLACE IN POLITICS – Few men are more widely known among Pennsylvania practical politicians than "Clayt" Erb. Drifting from journalism he became the confidential secretary of Israel W. Durham, then Insurance Commissioner. He shouldered many of Durham's responsibilities when that leader was absent from the city. He was likewise entrusted with many confidential tasks by Senator Quay. About three years ago Captain Erb was appointed clerk of Councils' Finance Committee, being succeeded last year, after the local political upheaval, by the present incumbent, Arthur R.H. Morrow.

Captain Erb's last conspicuous position before the public was in connection with the investigation of the Insurance Department of this state, when disclosures were made that he had retained large fees from insurance companies for examinations as actuary. A suit was subsequently instituted against Israel W. Durham, Captain Erb and others for the recovery of these charges. It is still pending.

In the Spanish-American War Captain Erb was quartermaster of the Third Regiment. He was so energetic in his endeavors to get the regiment to the front that he succeeded in getting it aboard the transports, headed for Puerto Rico. Just when everybody thought they would see real war, the Quartermaster Erb had all hands keyed up to war pitch, the regiment was ordered to disembark.