

# Alex McCandless 1916

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Randolph County  
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Alexander McCandless, a Civil War veteran and a retired merchant of Moberly is a Randolph County pioneer and one of the first merchants to engage in business at Moberly, 50 years ago. Mr. McCandless was born in Guernsey County, Ohio, Jan. 20, 1844, and is a son of James and Mary (Charles) McCandless. The McCandless family went to Iowa in 1850 where the father was engaged in farming during the remainder of his active career. He died at the age of 73 years and his remains are buried at Allertown, Ia. His wife died in Covina, Calif., at the age of 89 years and her remains are buried there. They were the parents of the following children: Isaac, Allertown, Ia.; John, Kansas City, Mo.; Josie, the widow of Frank



Crane, Covina, Calif.; Alexander, the subject of this sketch; Charles died at the age of 80 years in Honolulu, Hawaii; William, died at the age of 80 years at Honolulu (William went in 1868, to join his brother Charles who had gone to Honolulu) and there Charles joined a whaling vessel which landed at Honolulu where he located permanently and remained there until his death; Samuel died at Hutchinson, Kan. At the age of 50 years; Elizabeth, married John C. Heasty and died at Mayfield, Kan. And left 61 descendants, including her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Alexander McCandless received his education in the public schools of Hamilton, Ill., and in the state of Iowa. He had just about finished attending school when on Aug. 14, 1862, he enlisted in Company B [GAR Memorial Record states Company D], 78th Illinois Infantry and first went to Louisville, Ky., with his regiment and from there to Nashville, Tenn. And took part in the Tallohome Campaign, the Chattanooga Campaign and he participated in the Battle of Chickamauga, Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge. He was also in the Carolinas when Johnson surrendered at Raleigh, N.C., in 1865. Mr. McCandless then marched to Washington, D.C. and took part in the Grand Review in the national capitol in May, 1865. He then returned to Chicago where he received his honorable discharge and was mustered out of service after having served three years, lacking 60 days.

In 1868, Mr. McCandless came to Missouri and located in Louisiana where he remained for two years. In June, 1870, he came to Moberly. Here, in what was then the little village of Moberly, he built a small house on the east side of town. He had \$60 in cash, which he paid the carpenter for the work and went in debt for the lot, material and plastering. After coming here, Mr. McCandless engaged in the shoe business, which he followed for 20 years, when he engaged in the jewelry business and for 30 years was engaged in that line. He has prospered in his undertakings and since he has retired from active mercantile life, he has devoted himself to looking after his various interests. He is the owner of five residence properties in Moberly, besides various other interests.

Mr. McCandless is truly a pioneer of Moberly. When he came here the town was barely started. He can only recall a few people who were here when he came in 1870. Among those are Henry Miller, a retired groceryman, Ben and David White came here shortly after Mr. McCandless did and John E. Lynch was then a boy. His father, Pat Lynch, lived here, having moved his frame residence from Old Allen to Moberly.

Mr. McCandless has been twice married. He was married at Hamilton, Ill., to Anna L. Law, who died at Moberly in 1885, leaving one son, Frank C., who now resides at

Covina, Calif. He married Frances Lincoln Prentis, of Fountain Green, Ill. She is the daughter of Daniel and Nancy (Hughes) Prentis. ....

Although in his 77th year, Mr. McCandless is active in both mind and body as the average man many years his junior. Only recently he did all the work himself in the erection of a four-room cottage and enjoys amusements such as picture shows and other pastimes as much as ever. He is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic [Lincoln Post No 5 Moberly mustering in during 1886] and past commander of the Department of Missouri, having been commander in 1917. [According to the GAR memorial on him, he was unanimously elected Senior Vice Department Commander in 1916 and on the resignation of Department Commander Wormstead he was promoted to Department Commander. Wormstead must be William H. Wormstead of Kansas City, who since he didn't fulfill his term is not recognized as a past department commander.]

McCandless died March 22, 1922 and is buried in Moberly Mo. March 22 is the date recorded on his death certificate, so the picture above is in error.