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CHARLES McCANDLESS.

JUDGE CHARLES McCANDLESS, a distinguished lawyer of Butler, was born in Center township, Butler County, Pennsylvania, on the 27th day of November, 1834. His father was a farmer, and his early youth was spent on the farm. George McCandless, his paternal grandfather, was a native of County Antrim, Ireland, and emigrated to Pennsylvania when only nineteen years of age. He found employment with Nathan Fish, a well-to-do farmer of an old family in the Cumberland Valley, near Carlisle, Pennsylvania, and about the year 1794 married his daughter Mary, or "Polly," as she was familiarly called. Two years later they came with the first settlers of this county and located in Center township, Butler County, where they lived a long and prosperous life. They had a family of three sons and six daughters, the eldest son, John, being the father of Judge McCandless. In 1824 John McCandless married Jemima Reaves Sullivan, a woman of rare beauty and unusual strength of character and mind. She is remembered as a woman of superior judgment and happy disposition. John McCandless was a prosperous farmer, esteemed by the citizens of the county, who elected him to the office of County Commissioner, and subsequently made him Associate Judge of the County Courts. Living on a farm adjoining that of his fathers, John McCandless became the father of three sons and six

daughters, Charles being their fifth child. His maternal grandfather, Charles Sullivan, was a native of the James River valley, Northumberland County, Virginia. Peter Sullivan, one of his ancestors, located here about the year 1700, and married Miss Craven, and had four children. The third child, Charles, in 1757 married Jemima Reaves, to whom there was born five children, the second born on the 27th of March, 1760, being Charles, the maternal grandfather of Judge McCandless. Charles Sullivan was a soldier from Virginia in the Revolutionary army, and while in Chester County, Pennsylvania, became acquainted with Miss Susannah Johnston, daughter of Thomas and Margaret Johnston, who became his wife while he was serving under General Washington, during that terrible winter of suffering at Valley Forge. The Johnstons were Quakers, and dispensed free-hearted hospitality to many weary and famishing soldiers who were enduring the hardships at Valley Forge. In 1785 Bishop Asbury, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, married Charles Sullivan and Miss Johnston. They emigrated to Western Pennsylvania and were among the first settlers of Butler County. Their family consisted of eleven children, the seventh being Jemima Reaves, the mother of Judge McCandless. When twenty years of age, and in the winter of '54-'55, Charles McCandless became a school teacher. In a log school house, having rude slab seats, and where he had received what education he then possessed, he taught the district school. Though a mere youth, the sturdy farmers had confidence in his ability to succeed. They were not disappointed, as he made a marked success, and taught a second term. Having reached his majority, and desiring to prepare for a long-cherished career, he came to Butler in the spring of 1856 and began the study of higher mathematics and languages, at the Witherspoon Institute. Always a student, he now applied his mind vigorously and made rapid progress. His room and classmate was Senator Mitchell, of Oregon. His uncle, Charles C. Sullivan, one of the leading lawyers of the State, invited him to become a student in his office. From the age of fifteen years his mind had been steadily fixed on the profession of law, having ambitious ideas suggested by the success of his uncle. On the 14th day of June, 1858, he was admitted to the bar. It was a memorable event—the beginning of a career for which he had so studiously applied himself. As a student he was persevering, and being a thorough elementary lawyer, he was fitted for a prominent place at the bar. Recognizing his ability, his uncle at once made him an equal partner, and he entered into active practice. Early in the year 1860 his uncle died, leaving a large business to

be managed by him. With renewed industry and painstaking care, he mastered the situation, not only holding the business, but commanding additional practice. Being in love with his profession, he was constantly a student, and was soon recognized as a leader of the bar. He was married on the 16th day of October, 1860, to Miss Catharine Zimmerman, a young lady possessed of beauty and culture, well educated in both English and German, daughter of a thrifty German family. She is a woman admirably suited to share his good fortune and grace his home. Their children were Caroline, Mary B., Catharine, Louisa, and Charles, the only son, who died in infancy. Mary B. married Frederick Lee, who died about two years after marriage, leaving a son, Charles McCandless Lee, named for his grandfather, who with his mother were members of his grandfather's family for about five years. This little grandson, having the sweet disposition of his mother, was endeared to every member of the family, and especially his grandfather. In his recent death one of the tenderest ties of Judge McCandless' life was broken. Caroline became the wife of Edward P. Greely, of Nashua, Iowa, a promoter of railroads and distinguished citizen of his State. Catharine married John G. Jennings, an extensive producer of petroleum in the Pennsylvania fields. During September, 1862, Judge McCandless became Major of the Fourteenth Pennsylvania Militia, which in response to a call issued by Governor Curtin, went, in company with thirty other militia regiments, from Pennsylvania and New York, to within supporting distance of McClellan's army at the battle of Antietam, and remained until Lee had retreated over the Potomac. All danger of an invasion having passed, the regiment was mustered out of service. This same year he received the Republican nomination in Butler County for State Senator, and then secured the district nomination and was elected. While serving in that body, and though but twenty-eight years old, he was a member of the Finance and Judiciary Committees of the Senate. He was an active worker in committee, and one of the watchful and careful leaders on the floor of the Senate. In the Republican caucus he was within one vote of being nominated for Speaker of the Senate at the time Senator Terrell of Susquehanna, was nominated, and subsequently elected in the spring of 1864. In 1872 he was a delegate to the Philadelphia Convention which nominated General Grant and Henry Wilson. Gov. Hartranft, in 1874, appointed him Law Judge of the several courts in the Seventeenth Judicial District of Pennsylvania. With dignity and ability he discharged the various duties of his office, and was considered by the mem-

bers of the bar and the people an able and just Judge, having the reputation of never expressing an opinion without mature and honest deliberation. About a year after his appointment, the Republicans in the Judicial District composed of Butler and Lawrence Counties, realizing that a candidate of undoubted ability and strength was necessary for the success of the party, placed him in nomination. However, the tidal wave of Democracy that swept the country during that year, defeated the Republican party in the State and that district. In February, 1878, President Hayes appointed Judge McCandless Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of New Mexico. During the following summer he went to Santa Fé to study the people and inform himself regarding the territory. He assumed his duties and held the summer courts. To reach his destination he traveled two hundred and forty miles by stage coach, as New Mexico was then without railroads. There being no schools for advanced pupils short of St. Louis, four days from Santa Fé, and three of his daughters having completed their preparatory course, he concluded that it was impracticable to remove his family from Butler to New Mexico, and determined to resign. In October, 1878,—his resignation being tendered to take effect in November, and while in Washington,—he called upon President Hayes and Attorney-General Devens, who expressed gratification at his satisfactory administration, and urged him to withdraw his resignation. Having determined on his course, he returned to Butler, and with renewed energy resumed the practice of law. For the past thirty years his practice has been, as it is now, the leading and most lucrative in the county, except, however, when on the bench. Though a political leader, carefully guarding the interests of the Republican party, to which he has always been devoted, he observed rigid rules regarding his professional duties, never permitting other affairs to seriously disturb his practice, holding fast the maxim that "the law is a jealous mistress." He is not a specialist, but is equally at home in all the courts. The oil developments in Butler and surrounding counties have been attended with a vast amount of litigation, the result oftentimes of the sudden and marvelous increase in the value of land. There are but few small spots on our earth yielding such a flow of wealth; the annual output in Butler County reaching in value as high as ten millions of dollars. Many of the cases incident to this industry were of great importance, and Judge McCandless was almost invariably concerned. His name is associated with all the leading cases in Butler County, and many of those in adjoining counties, reported for the Supreme Court from the year 1865 to the present time.

In his office his hours are regular and long. Though an important case entrusted with him may not come to trial for several months, he begins to study it the first opportunity, searches the law relating to it, and carefully prepares for trial. Then he is ready for new business. A firm rule of his life has been to master his business and never waste to-day for to-morrow. His clients have profound confidence in him. He has a strong will and depends on the reasoning of his own mind and correctness of his judgment. In presenting a case to a jury his force and skill are shown. He is fertile in resources, terse and vigorous. Jurymen soon discover that he is thoroughly acquainted with the law, deals in facts, and is usually intensely in earnest. His arguments run in straight lines, never curving into poetry. There is something about the sound of his voice, ringing out clear and bold, and the precision of his arguments and convincing logic that leads a jury almost irresistibly to his own conclusions. Early in his practice he concluded to secure a fine library. Lining the walls of his office is an imposing array of well-worn law books, from which he has received such great knowledge of the law. Judge McCandless is tall, erect and slender, and has a distinguished bearing. He is scrupulously neat, simple in his habits and easily approached. Leaving the cares and labors of his profession within the walls of his office, he enjoys his home and social life. True to his friends, and of perfect personal honor, he is held in high esteem by the people. As a farm boy, his unerring judgment directed him to the profession of law, in which he has attained such prominence that he finds a place with the true type of self-made men.
