

Commemorative Biographical Encyclopedia of the Juniata Valley, Comprising the Counties of Huntingdon, Mifflin, Juniata, and Perry, Pennsylvania, J. M. Runk and Company, Publishers 1897

**Robert McClellan Alexander**, New Bloomfield, Perry County, Pa., son of **Randall** and **Sarah H. (Carothers) Alexander**, was born January 10, 1840, at Shirleysburg, Pa. The families on both the paternal and the maternal sides are of Scotch-Irish origin, and have been long settled in this country, so that their history is identified with the growth and development of this Commonwealth, and, indeed, with that of the nation. Col. **William Alexander**, **Dr. Alexander's** grandfather, fought for the maintenance of the American Republic, enlisting as a captain in the war of 1812, and being promoted to colonel and given the command of a regiment. he was afterwards sheriff of Franklin County, Pa., and also represented that county in the State Legislature. The honored veteran died March 4, 1838. He was married to **Miss Moore**, and had children: **Thomas; Robert; William; James; Margaret (Mrs. McKinley); (Mrs. Andrew Wilson); Jane (Mrs. John Templeton);** and **Randall**. **Samuel Carothers**, **Dr. Alexander's** maternal grandfather, was a settler in Huntingdon County, and a farmer. He was an influential citizen, and was one of the first elders of the Presbyterian Church at Shirleysburg. He married **Miss Zimmerman**, a descendant of an old family of York, Pa., who are supposed to have come to this country from Holland. Their children were: **James; Lewis; Abraham; Samuel; Sarah**, the mother of **Robert McClellan Alexander; Maria (Mrs. Matthew Campbell);** and **Ann (Mrs. Richard Gallagher)**. All of the family are deceased.

**Randall Alexander** was a native of Franklin County, and removed to Huntingdon County, where he passed the active years of manhood in tilling the soil. Three of the children of **Mr. and Mrs. Randall Alexander** are deceased: **John T; James Moore;** and an **infant**. Those surviving are: **Rev. William, D. D.; Rev. Samuel C, D. D.; Thomas Jefferson; Dr. Robert McClellan; Ann J.**, widow of **John Adams; Mary E.**, wife of **Rev. P. H. Denning; Dr. Randall McGinley; Dr. George E.**; and **David N.** **Randall Alexander**, the father, died about 1854. At the time of his death, he was justice of the peace, and had held that office many years. Both he and his wife were members of the Shirleysburg Presbyterian Church, in which **Mr. Alexander** served long and well as an elder. **Mrs. Alexander** died May 30, 1894, at the venerable age of eighty-eight. Their son, **Rev. Samuel C. Alexander**, was for nearly two years, pastor of the church to which they had given so much of their devout care and service. The eldest son, **Rev. William Alexander, D. D.**, resides in California, where he is professor of Church History, &c., in the San Francisco Theological Seminary, of which he was one of the founders.

A resident of Huntingdon County during his boyhood, **Robert McClellan Alexander** acquired his education in the common schools of Shirley Township, and in the academy and Juniata Seminary in Shirleysburg, completing his course at the Tuscarora Valley College. While still a pupil in these institutions, he also acted as schoolmaster, teaching during three winter terms. One term was when he was yet a youth, scarcely emerged from his teens, and before the war broke out. In the early days of the Rebellion, in 1861, he enlisted in Company G, Fifth Pennsylvania Reserve Volunteer Corps, and served three years, receiving his discharge June 11, 1864. During that time he saw much active service, taking part in the hottest and most memorable engagements of the Army of the Potomac: Fredericksburg, where he was slightly disabled by being struck in the right leg by a spent ball; Richmond; the Seven Days' fight; Mechanicsville;

Gaines Hill; Charles City Cross Roads; Malvern Hill; Second Bull Run; South Mountain; Antietam; Bristow Station; Gettysburg; the Wilderness; Spotsylvania Court House; Bethesda Church; the North Anna, and other battles and skirmishes. The Doctor's gallant and patriotic performance of his soldierly duty may be easily inferred from the promotions which were his more immediate reward. Entering the army as a private, he served successively as corporal, fourth sergeant, first sergeant, second lieutenant, and first lieutenant. Returning from the stirring scenes of the war to the no less useful and patriotic service of student and teacher, the Doctor completed his seminary and academy courses, and taught during two winter terms. In 1865, he began studying dentistry with **Dr. G. W. Stewart** at Dry Run, Franklin County, Pa., and continued with his preceptor for three years. He then opened an office at Landisburg, Perry County, and after practicing there for a year, removed to Loysville, Perry County, where he was the only dentist, and where he resided, very profitably occupied, for nine years. Since 1879, he has been established at New Bloomfield, where he has been very successful, enjoying the confidence of a large circle of patients. **Dr. Alexander** is an active member of Sergeant John Jones Post, No. 448, G. A. R., at New Bloomfield. He has also been for some years a member of the I. O. O. F., and belongs to the Junior O. U. A. M.

**Robert McClellan Alexander** was first married to **Mary W.**, daughter of **George B.** and **Elizabeth (Scott) Rakerd**, in June, 1868. Three of their children died, two in infancy, and **Charles** at the age of five years. The others are: **Mary (Mrs. J. H. Sweger)**; **Arthur C.**; **William L.**; and **Robert Malcolm**. Mrs. **Mary W. Alexander** died March 4, 1887, aged forty years. She was a member of the Presbyterian Church. The Doctor's second marriage, to **Laura V.**, daughter of Hon. **Jacob** and **Caroline (Emerick) Sheibley**, took place March 5, 1891. They have one daughter, **Laura Jeannette**. **Dr. Alexander** and his wife are members of the Presbyterian Church.

[www.theperryhistorians.org](http://www.theperryhistorians.org)