

## Alexander Gilmore McCleve

Alexander Gilmore “Alex” McCleve (spelled McClave in Ireland) was born 24 February 1854 in County Down, Ireland.<sup>1</sup> He was the youngest of ten children of John McClave and Nancy Jane McFerran. The family emigrated from Liverpool to Boston on the ship *Samuel Curling*, arriving 3 May 1856.<sup>2</sup> They crossed the plains with the Daniel D McArthur handcart company, arriving in the Great Salt Lake Valley on 26 September 1856.<sup>3</sup> Alex’s father died of internal injuries two days before their arrival, having suffered an injury while trying to keep a heavy chest from falling off the handcart of the widow in front of him. He died that day from internal bleeding in his leg.<sup>4</sup>

Alex’s mother remarried in 1857 and had two more children. The family moved to Payson.<sup>5</sup> On the 1860 census, Alex was living with his mother and stepfather and siblings in Payson, Utah, Utah Territory.<sup>6</sup> The family moved to Harrisburg, Washington, Utah Territory, in 1863. On the 1870 census, Alex was living with his widowed mother and two siblings in Leeds, Washington, Utah Territory.<sup>7</sup> In 1875, Alex and his brother Joe were hauling wood along Quail Creek and on the Buckeye Reef for their winter supply. When their well-laden wagon skidded, it tore up the soft rock for several feet. William T Barbee was the next person to pass by, and stopped to examine the exposed earth. He recognized the “waxy brown mineral” as horn silver, and filed on the site. This became his Tecumseh claim, a small vein but very rich and easily worked.<sup>8</sup>

Alex married Emma Cecilia Jennings in 1877 in St George, Washington, Utah Territory. They had nine children. They moved to Rockville, Kane, Utah Territory, and then they were called to help settle Arizona, and moved to Taylor, Arizona, in 1879.<sup>9</sup> Joseph and his brother Alex bought a city block together, a short distance from Silver Creek. They made dugouts to live in until they could build houses.<sup>10</sup> On the 1880 census, Alex was a laborer, living with his wife and son in Walker, Apache, Arizona Territory.<sup>11</sup> He was a shepherd, and suffered from the dropsy so bad he could hardly walk. When warm weather set in, he felt better.

Alex was registered to vote in Taylor from 1884-1896.<sup>12</sup> He died after a lingering illness on 18 November 1897 in Taylor, and was buried in the Taylor Cemetery. He was an “old and respected citizen in the community”.<sup>13</sup> Emma died in 1908 in Taylor and was also buried in the Taylor Cemetery.<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> LDS Pioneer and Handcart Companies, 1847-1856.

<sup>2</sup> *Familysearch.org*

<sup>3</sup> Mormon Pioneer Overland Travel Database, 1847-1868.

<sup>4</sup> Joseph Smith McCleve, by the Genealogical Organization for the McCleve Family, pp. 249-251.

<sup>5</sup> Mary Jane McCleve, compiled by Annalee Bunch; *Familysearch.org*

<sup>6</sup> United States Census, 1860.

<sup>7</sup> United States Census, 1870.

<sup>8</sup> *Memories of Silver Reef*, by Mark A. Pendleton, in *Utah Historical Quarterly*, 1930, p. 106; *Saga of Three Towns*, p. 88; *From the Ground Up*, by Collen K. Whitley, 2006, p. 259.

<sup>9</sup> Family sketch by granddaughter Susan Gardner, at *Familysearch.org*

<sup>10</sup> Joseph Smith McCleve, by the Genealogical Organization for the McCleve Family, pp. 249-251.

<sup>11</sup> United States Census, 1880.

<sup>12</sup> *Arizona, Voter Registrations, 1866-1955*.

<sup>13</sup> *Holbrook Argus*, 24 July 1897, p. 3; 30 October 1897, p. 5; 27 November 1897, p. 5.

<sup>14</sup> Mormon Pioneer Overland Travel Database, 1847-1868.



Alex McCleve and his son James Cyrus McCleve (image from *Ancestry.com*)



Alexander Gilmore McCleve (image from *Familysearch.org*)



(Image from *BillionGraves.com*)