

PROMINENT CITIZEN DIES AT HIS POST IN WASHINGTON
"Bob" McNeill Dies at Capital After Quarter Century of Service There

Robert J. McNeil, for many years a resident of Alexandria, but since 1900 an employee of the Capital, passed away in Washington Jan. 8 of pneumonia.

Mr. McNeill was born in Canada in 1856, but moved to Minnesota in 1867, settling at Alexandria. He was the pioneer harness maker here, opening the first harness shop where the Golden Rule is now located and later occupying the building now used for the same purpose by Billy Thoreen. He later serviced as deputy sheriff and deputy coroner and for three years as alderman.

When the late Knute Nelson was chosen senator Mr. McNeil was appointed to Washington later serving for several years as secretary to former Senator Moses E. Clapp. After Senator Clapp's retirement he was again placed on the Capital payroll by Senator Nelson and at the time of his death was the doorkeeper of the Senate.

His wife died in Washington in 1918 and he remarried several months ago. He is survived by this wife and three sons and two daughters. One son, Edwin, is a graduate of West Point, holding the rank of Major, and is now an instructor at law in the United States Military Academy; Walter and Robert are both dentists, the form living in Milwaukee. Both daughters are married, Edna living in Salmon, Idaho, and Nina in Seattle.

The remains were shipped here for internment at Kinkead cemetery. Funeral services were conducted Tuesday at 2:30 from the Congregational church, Rev. Blunt and Rev. Secord officiating.

All three sons and Mrs. McNeil besides a brother of the deceased, William McNeil of Grand Forks, were in Alexandria for the funeral; neither daughter was able to attend.

[Source: Alexandria Post News, Alexandria, Minnesota, January 15, 1925]