

Robert Angus Alexander

Robert Angus Alexander was born 17 May 1872 in Washington, Washington, Utah Territory.¹ He was the fourth of eleven children of Benjamin Lamoni Alexander and Catherine Malinda Kelley. The family was farming on the Washington on the 1880 census². Robert went to school up to the eighth grade.³

Robert was very musically gifted, he sang and played several instruments, including guitar, banjo, and harmonica.⁴ According to his daughter Mazie, while Robert was a young man, he worked the mines at Pioche, Nevada, and Silver Reef, Utah Territory.⁵ In 1897, Robert married Annie Mariah Dobson 4 October 1897 at Circleville, Piute, Utah.⁶ They had twelve children, three of whom died young.⁷ Robert did whatever he could to provide for his family. At times working in mines, and sheepherding too.⁸

They lived for a short time in Delamar, Lincoln, Nevada⁹, but on the 1900 census, Robert was a day laborer, living with Annie in Circleville, Piute, Utah.¹⁰ In 1905, the Upper Lake Fork bench in the Uintah region was opened up for settlement by the whites.¹¹ Robert, his father, and his five brothers came to colonize. The settlement was called Alexander in honor of them. It was renamed Altonah in 1912.¹² Robert settled on a homestead in Clay Basin, a few miles east of Altonah. In 1909, the first post office was established at Robert's home, everyone called it the Alexander post office. Robert carried the mail from Roosevelt free of charge for three months, then turned the route over to Dave Thomas.¹³

In 1911, Robert and his family left Altonah and went to Dragon, Uintah, Utah where he worked as a miner in a coal mine. They returned to Altonah on a ranch and lived there. Robert worked as a butcher in Fort Duchesne, some winters he worked in mines, like in Delemore, Nevada and Dragon, Utah. He bought a place in Altonah, and lived there for several years. He grew grain and alfalfa. He had cows, horses, pigs, chickens, and geese. Sometimes when they were in need of money he would go herd sheep for a family named Chrystal who lived in a place they called Yellow Stone, which was just above Altonah.¹⁴

In 1920, Robert was a farmer, living with Annie and six children in Altonah, Duchesne, Utah.¹⁵ In 1930, he was still farming in Altonah, living with Annie and five children.¹⁶ In 1933, they moved to Montwell, Duchesne, Utah, between Roosevelt and Neola, Utah.¹⁷ Annie was the first white woman to live in Montwell. They unloaded the stove and built a cabin around and over it. Annie would feed the

¹ Utah Death Certificates, 1904-1964.

² United States Census, 1880.

³ Robert Angus Alexander and Annie Mariah Dobson Alexander at countyourblessingsbyjulia.blogspot.com

⁴ Robert Angus Alexander Life Sketch, by Julia Corry (Familysearch.org).

⁵ Robert Angus Alexander and Annie Mariah Dobson Alexander at countyourblessingsbyjulia.blogspot.com

⁶ Utah County Marriages, 1887-1996; Utah Select marriages, 1887-1866.

⁷ Familysearch.org

⁸ Robert Angus Alexander Life Sketch, by Julia Corry (Familysearch.org).

⁹ Robert Angus Alexander and Annie Mariah Dobson Alexander at countyourblessingsbyjulia.blogspot.com

¹⁰ United States Census, 1900.

¹¹ History for Robert Angus Alexander and Family, by Deborah Lynne Alexander (Familysearch.org).

¹² Wikipedia: Altonah, Utah.

¹³ History for Robert Angus Alexander and Family, by Deborah Lynne Alexander (Familysearch.org).

¹⁴ Robert Angus Alexander and Annie Mariah Dobson Alexander at countyourblessingsbyjulia.blogspot.com

¹⁵ United States Census, 1920.

¹⁶ United States Census, 1930.

¹⁷ Robert Angus Alexander Life Sketch, by Julia Corry (Familysearch.org).

Indians but also did some target practice while they were eating.¹⁸ In 1940, Robert was living with Annie and one of their sons in Montwell.¹⁹

Robert was afflicted with dementia. He ran away once and the police brought him back. He stopped recognizing members of the family. He and Annie went to stay with their daughter Mazie for a while in Chandler, Arizona²⁰, but soon Robert needed too much care and was placed in a hospital in Provo.²¹ He died 25 June 1955 of a heart attack²² in Provo, Utah, Utah, and is buried in Roosevelt Memorial Park, Roosevelt, Duchesne, Utah.²³ Annie died in 1958 in Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah, and is buried next to Robert in Roosevelt Memorial Park.²⁴

Robert loved music and played several instruments as well as sang. He worked at various jobs during his lifetime, such as mining in his early years in Silver Reef and Delamar, Nevada and ranching in Altonah and freighting, He delivered the mail by horseback to Alexandria, now called Altonah (Robert Angus Alexander, 1872-1955, by Julia Corry (Familysearch.org).

Robert loved to sing and played more than one instrument. Harmonica, Banjo, guitar. He sometimes played the harmonica and the banjo at the same time. He sang and played at the square dances.²⁵



Robert Angus Alexander (image from *Familysearch.org*)

¹⁸ Alexander Family History, in Harvest of Memories (*Familysearc.org*); Robert Angus Alexander and Annie Mariah Dobson Alexander at *countyourblessingsbyjulia.blogspot.com*

¹⁹ United States Census, 1940.

²⁰ Robert Angus Alexander and Annie Mariah Dobson Alexander at *countyourblessingsbyjulia.blogspot*.

²¹ Robert Angus Alexander Life Sketch, by Julia Corry (Familysearch.org).

²² Robert Angus Alexander and Annie Mariah Dobson Alexander at *countyourblessingsbyjulia.blogspot*.

²³ *Daily Herald* [Provo, Utah], 28 June 1955, p. 4.

²⁴ Utah Death Certificates, 1904-1964.

²⁵ Robert Angus Alexander and Annie Mariah Dobson Alexander at *countyourblessingsbyjulia.blogspot*



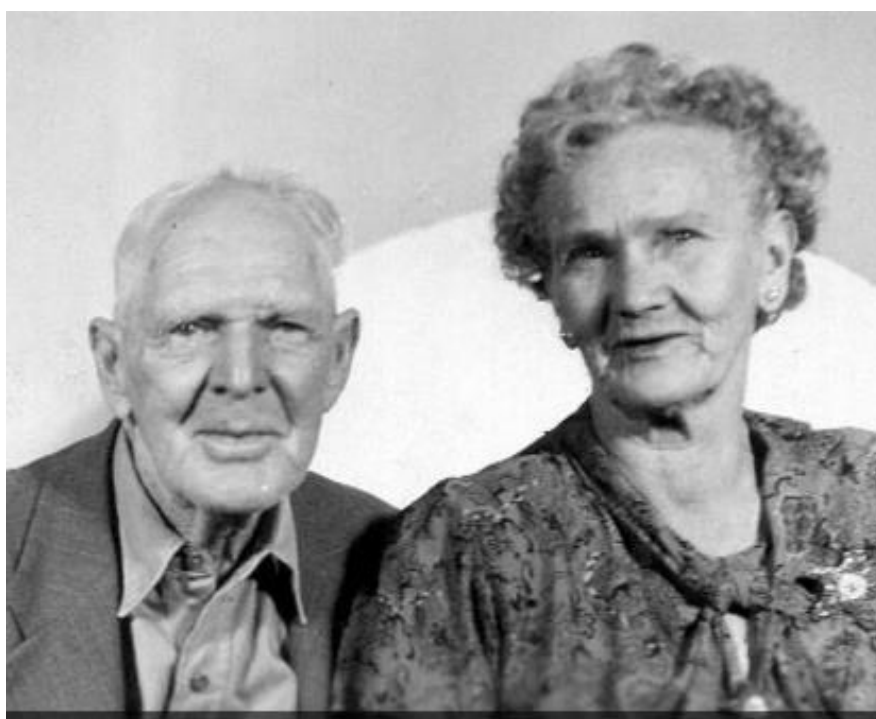
Painting of Robert and Annie Alexander (image from *Familysearch.org*)



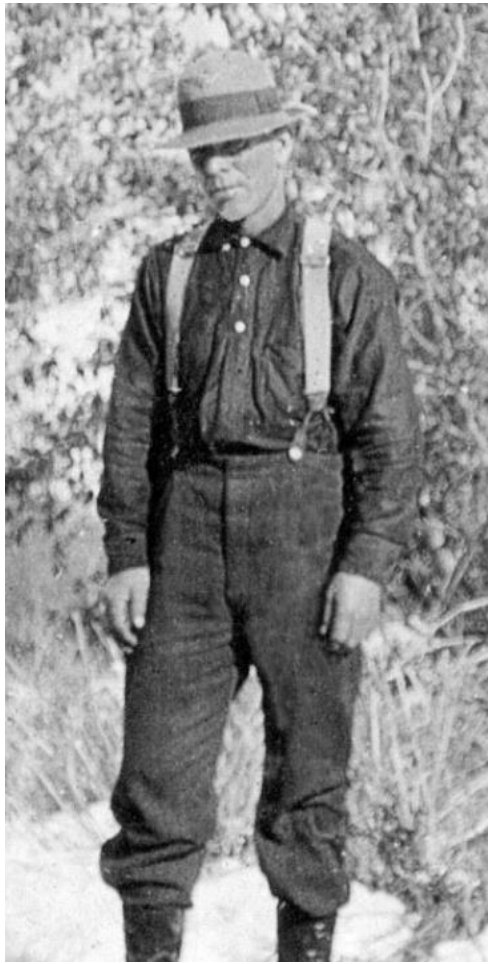
Robert and Annie Alexander (image from *Familysearch.org*)



Robert and Annie Alexander on their property in Montwell
(image from *Familysearch.org*)



Robert and Annie Alexander (image from *Familysearch.org*)



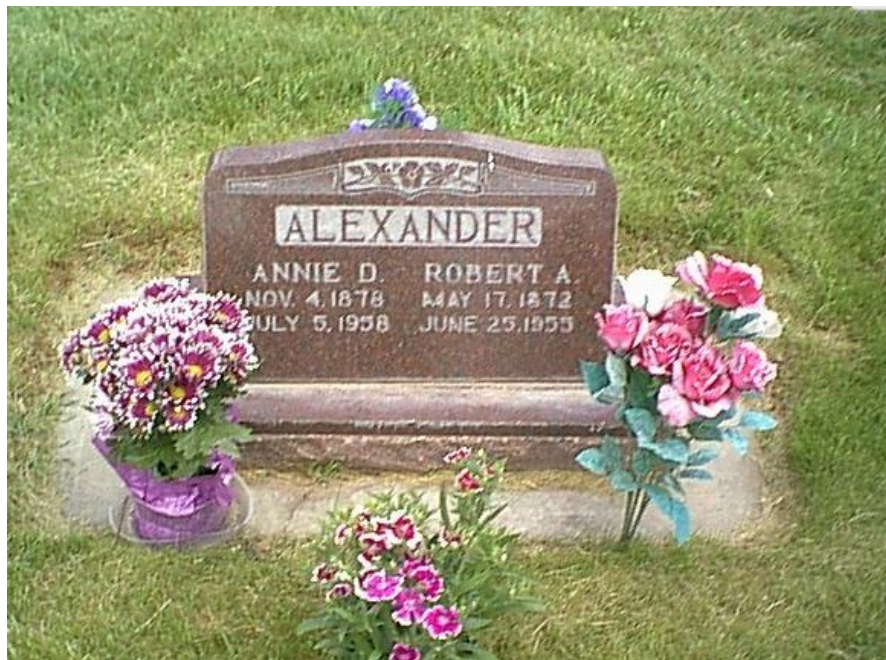
Robert Alexander (image from *Familysearch.org*)



Altonah farm (image from *Ancestry.com*)



50th wedding anniversary of Robert and Annie Alexander (image from *Familysearch.org*)



(Image from *Ancestry.com*)