



THE DENVER AND RIO GRANDE WESTERN RAILROAD CO

WILSON McCARTHY AND HENRY SWAN, TRUSTEES

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF LIFE OF HORACE MARTIN ALEXANDER.

He was born near Canesville, Orange Co., Virginia, on a tobacco plantation, February 15th, 1812. His parents, James and Frances Ehart Alexander had eight children, Horace was the youngest. When Horace was quite young the family moved to another plantation located about two and one half miles from Hillsboro, Fleming County, Kentucky. In this home of luxury and ease he grew to manhood, with slaves and other employes to do the work of the plantation. His environment, therefore, did not fit him for the life of a pioneer.

When about nineteen years of age, he left his home and went out to seek his fortune elsewhere, to the chagrin of his parents. An unfortunate love affair was probably the cause of his leaving his home.

We next hear of him in Ohio, going with some other boys to torment the Mormons who were holding a meeting there. He listened, instead, to the words of the Elders, and attended more of their meetings. Here he became acquainted with a devout Mormon girl, Nancy Reader Walker and, through her influence he was converted and, on Sept. 14th, 1834, they were married. They were with the Saints on their migration from Ohio to Missouri, and when their first child, Frances Velina, was born on Sept. 1, 1836, they were living on a farm near Liberty, Clay County, Missouri.

After a series of persecutions in Clay and Jackson Counties, the Saints petitioned the legislature to assign them a place where they might live in peace. On this territorial assignment the City of Far West was built, and here in 1837 and 1838 Horace Alexander kept a store, and was on very friendly terms with Joseph Smith, a very imposing figure on his big white horse, who would ride right into the store and the horse would paw for what it wanted. The Saints soon became so numerous and prosperous that the people of Missouri, and Governor Boggs, feared that they were becoming too powerful and might soon control the State. As they were so united and thrifty there was some reason for their fears. The State Militia supposedly called to quell the mobs, actually joined them in driving the Mormons from Missouri. The Saints were compelled to pledge their property to defray the cost of the war and were finally forced to leave the State before Spring in 1839. The exodus began in February and by the middle of April no Mormons were left in Missouri. Homeless, almost destitute, they camped in tents and wagons on the banks of the frozen Missouri River, without sufficient clothing and bedding to keep them warm. While he had achieved some measure of prosperity in Far West he was compelled to leave it all behind, even his big trunk with his personal belongings. His wife was in a delicate condition and it was necessary that he find a home for them, and, after considerable difficulty, finally succeeded in traveling down the river to Alton, Madison County, in lower Illinois. Here, on March 24th, 1839, a baby girl, Nancy, was born to them. The family lived at Alton about two years and on March 5th, 1841, another daughter was born. Upon leaving Far West most of the Saints had gone up the Mississippi River to Quincy, Illinois, where they were treated with sympathy. They purchased a City of about twenty houses, called Commerce. Here they built the City of Nauvoo, which, within a year, had a population of 15000 people, 200 houses of stone, frame and logs, and in 1841 they began



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to build their temple. Joseph Smith, through a revelation, called all the Saints to bring their gold etc., and come to Nauvoo to establish Zion and to build the temple. In answer to this call, Grandfather Alexander left Alton and in April, 1841, we find him, his wife and three children living at the home of a Brother Ables in Nauvoo, and in March, 1842, working as a carpenter on the Temple. Again he prospered and the little family was very happy. On October 15th, 1843, their fourth child, Dionitia, was born.

Soon after this, began the persecution which finally resulted in the death of the Prophet Joseph and the expulsion of the Mormons from Illinois, in the Spring of 1846. They were not given sufficient time to dispose of their homes and lands and early in February they set out for they knew not where, to find a place where they might be safe. Their first camp was in Sugar Creek in Iowa where there was much suffering. The following autumn found them camped at Winterquarters and Council Bluffs. In the meantime war had been declared between the United States and Mexico. Brigham Young appealed to the Government for work for his men, offering to help fight the war. Accordingly, the Government called for 500 volunteers to be raised among the Saints. Grandfather Alexander enlisted, along with nearly all the able bodied men of the camps, in Company E, leaving his wife and children to the care of the Church. The Mormon battalion then began the greatest march of infantry ever known, July 19th, 1846, from Council Bluffs. Not being properly supplied with shoes and clothing, many of them were almost naked before the 2000 mile march was half over. Their route lay over an uncharted desert, and in some places food was so short that they had to kill wornout horses and mules to eat, and at one time marched 100 miles without water. They reached San Diego Jan. 29, 1847, and found the Stars and Stripes still flying there.

Back in Winterquarters on January 1st, 1847, Nancy gave birth to a son, H.M. Alexander Jr. She was in the rudest of huts, without enough bedding to keep the mother and babe warm and dry. On January 28th she died, and three days later the infant son followed her in death.

After Nancy's death the children were taken in to the home of

Mrs Henry Bellins and with them crossed the plains to Utah. Grandfather, now a corporal in the battalion, received word of his wife's death months later at San Diego. Upon the expiration of his enlistment, July 16th, 1847, he was mustered out of the service and, with a companion or two, started out at once horseback for Great Salt Lake, where they arrived about Oct. 16th, 1847. Being informed that his children were with one of the Parley Pratt Companies enroute to Great Salt Lake he hurried away again on horseback to meet them. It is thought that the meeting took place somewhere in Wyoming and he returned with them to Great Salt Lake, where they arrived early in November.

On February 13th, 1849, he was married to Martha Burwell and immediately following this marriage to Catherine (?). Two wives were taken on the same day upon the advice of his friend and leader Brigham Young. In 1853 he was called to help settle Parowan, Iron County. Carpenters were sorely needed and while it was hard to leave their comfortable habitation at Salt Lake to go again into a new country, they did it without a murmur and lived at Parowan eight years, at the end of which time they came back and settled in Springville, Utah. Here he was made Captain of the 'Silver Gray' - a company of militia organized to guard



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the town during the Civil War.

For a few years both wives lived together in one house. Then a home was secured for each as the families were getting so large.

In 1875 he sold his land to get money to go on a mission to the Southern States; with the hope that he might convert his own people and to investigate his fathers estate. He found that his father and mother had both passed away and his brothers and sisters either dead or moved away. The estate, like many others, had been ravaged by the Civil War and had been sold. He found much misery and poverty in Virginia and Kentucky among those who had once been wealthy. He was very kindly received by his relatives both in Kentucky and Virginia, and in his birthplace found 1203 (?) first cousins.

He returned from his mission in 1876, and died in September 1881.

He was the father of 33 children, several of whom died at birth or a little later. Among those who lived to attain manhood or womanhood are the following:

- Marthas children.
- Mrs. Alice Blackett-
 - Mrs. Max Kless. *living*
 - Mrs Celestine Humphries. *living*
 - Mrs Flora Bryan.
 - Mrs Mildred Peterson. *living*
 - Mrs Charlotte Brammell. *living*

James Alexander

- Catherines Children:
- Mrs Helen Harvey.
 - Mr. W. D. Alexander.
 - Mr. F. D. Alexander. *only one now living*
 - Mrs Lucy Collett ?
 - Mrs Leonia Clark- ?
 - Mrs Maud West ?
 - Mrs Susie Roberts. ?
 - Miss Blanche Alexander- ?
 - Mrs Fredonia Richards. ?

Children of Julia Owens (Divorced wife):

- Albert ?

Martha Burwell Alexander, was the mother of 16 children, of whom 9 died at birth or soon after. She was born in Worcester, Ohio, March 31 st, 1830, and died at Springville March 12, 1912. As she was first married to Mr. Alexander, after the death of his first wife, Nancy, she was considered as his legal wife, after the manifesto was issued.

*Thought you would be interested in this as
I definitely ties you up with Hoover.*