

W. C. Alexander Is Dead; Prominent Salida Man

William C. Alexander, one of Salida's most prominent and most beloved citizens, died in St. Luke's hospital, Denver, at 11:30 o'clock

11 o'clock this morning that her husband's condition was serious, and she left a few minutes later with Harold R. Koster by car.

Mr. Alexander was widely known throughout Colorado. At the time of his death he was president of the State Board of Pharmacy. He was past president of the State Pharmaceutical association. He was mayor of Salida for two terms, a past exalted ruler of the Salida lodge of Elks, Republican county chairman for many years, and a past president of the Salida Chamber of Commerce. He reorganized the Chamber of Commerce four years ago along a plan under which it is now operating. He was a prominent Mason. He was a past master of Salida lodge, A. F. and A. M., and a past worthy patron of Topaz Chapter, O. E. S., and worthy grand patron of the state O. E. S.

Mr. Alexander was a native of Texas and had served as a watchmaker, jeweler and optician in some of the finest jewelry stores in Houston and other Texas cities before coming to Salida in the 90s.

He was 70 years old. After coming here he became a pharmacist and he operated a jewelry store and pharmacy in Salida until his death.

Arrangements for the funeral have not been made.

Mr. Alexander is survived by his wife.



W. C. ALEXANDER

this morning. He suffered a heart attack a fortnight ago while attending a druggists' board meeting in Denver. He appeared to be improving a few days later, and Mrs. Alexander, who had gone to Denver to be with him, returned home Sunday night.

Mrs. Alexander received word at

Business Suspended as Salidans Pay Homage To W. C. Alexander

Salida suspended business yesterday during the funeral services for William C. Alexander, held at 3 o'clock at the family home, 1043 F street. It was a beautiful sunny day. Only a small part of the assembly of friends could gain admission to the home, but after the ceremony all were invited to file past the bier, entering at the front door and leaving at the rear.

The Rev. George B. Oakes of Canon City, former pastor of the Church of the Ascension here, read the prayer book service of the Episcopal church. There was no music. The casket rested in the living room amid hundreds of beautiful floral offerings.

A bodyguard of Masons accompanied the funeral procession to the ceremony and the Masons had charge of the services at the grave in Fairview cemetery. Many friends filed past the bier between 9:00 and 11:00 o'clock Thursday at the Stewart Mortuary. The pallbearers were Salida Masons. They were John Boyle, C. H. Kelleher, Robert O'Haver, Arthur E. Smith, E. G. Duncan and J. H. Harrell.

Officers of the Colorado State Board of Pharmacy and of the Colorado Pharmaceutical association, were among the out of town attendants at the services.

Mr. Alexander was sincerely

mourned by Salida. During a long life of active, useful endeavor he won the esteem of his fellow citizens in the Upper Arkansas valley, likewise in his contacts with the people of the state his ability and personality were rewarded with many distinguishing honors.

Mr. Alexander was born in La Grange, Texas, Dec. 23, 1871. He was the son of a civil engineer, who surveyed much of the great, wild and raw Lone Star state. His ancestors had fought in the Texas revolution and later in the Civil War.

Mr. Alexander learned the watchmaking trade and he became associated with some of the best jewelry stores in San Antonio, Austin, Houston and Dallas before coming to Salida in 1901 to open a jewelry store in the thriving railroad and mining town. Mr. Alexander became a graduate optometrist and pharmacist as well as a watchmaker and jeweler, and he conducted one of the most beautiful stores in Colorado.

Mr. Alexander was married July 2, 1907, to Miss Harriet Lucinda Wright in New Castle, Ind.

Mr. Alexander served three terms as mayor of Salida. He was one of the first exalted rulers of the Salida lodge of Elks. He was a past dis-

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trict deputy of the Grand Lodge of Elks.

He was a member of the York Rite Masons, Salida Consistory No. 1 and of El Jebel Temple of the Shrine. He was a past grand patron of the Grand Chapter of the Order of Eastern Star for Colorado, and past patron of Topaz Chapter, O. E. S., Salida, and a past worshipful master of the Salida Masonic lodge.

He was twice president of the Salida Chamber of Commerce, the last time being four years ago when he reorganized it on a sound financial basis and instituted the plan under which the Chamber of Commerce has since operated.

Mr. Alexander was Republican county chairman of Chaffee county for fourteen years until his death; and he was one of the leading counsellors of the Republican party in the state.

Mr. Alexander was a past president of the Colorado Pharmaceutical association, and at the time of his death he was a member of the State Board of Pharmacists, to which he had been appointed by Governor Carr. It was while in Denver to attend a meeting of that board that he was stricken with a heart attack, which caused his death two weeks later, on Oct. 7, at St. Luke's hospital, Denver.

Mr. Alexander was a member of the Episcopal church and in his youth he was a lay reader of the church in San Antonio, Tex.

Mr. Alexander was distinguished as an after dinner speaker, as a toastmaster, and as a host in his home. He possessed the fine art of entertaining guests in his home, not with stiff formality but with the genial, heart warming hospitality which few people ever acquire.

About ten years ago Mr. Alexander accidentally adopted a unique hobby. He was desirous of learning something about one of his ancestors, and in obtaining the information he was so intrigued by the research that he became an ardent genealogist. It led him into a vast study of the early history of Texas, Colorado, Illinois and Missouri. He became so well informed that he could discuss the minor happenings in Kaskaskia, the first settlement in Illinois. It was necessary to read the lives of many pioneer men and women and to have a knowledge of the lives of the prominent Indians of many states.

The study offered great jumps of travel, because the pioneers were on the go. The Baca Grant in Colo-

rado attracted some. New Mexico attracted others.

Mr. Alexander frequently made long auto trips to remote places to interview pioneers or their descendants. He visited many of the famous old homes of the Southwest. He corresponded with the pastors of many churches and cathedrals in England to obtain baptismal, marriage and death records.

Oftentimes he discovered a relationship with people which he had never suspected. In running down some of the data he found it necessary to correspond with strangers in various parts of the United States, and some of them became so intrigued with the research that they too became addicted to the hobby.

Mr. Alexander had recently returned from Detroit and St. Louis where he had gone to gather information for his collection.

Mr. Alexander often said that he could not hope to finish the research in his lifetime but the hobby was so intriguing that he enjoyed the mere gathering of the data. He possessed an extensive home library, a large part of which is composed of rare and expensive volumes on his favorite subject.

Because of the thoroughness with which he explored the subject, Mr. Alexander has contributed a valuable work to historians of the future.

Owing to his hobby he became a member of the state historical societies of Colorado, Iowa, Missouri, Illinois and Texas. He also became a member of the Sons of the American Revolution and of the Sons of the Republic of Texas.

Mr. Alexander is survived by his wife and by one sister, Mrs. Emma Harden of Albuquerque, N. M., who came for the funeral; a niece, Mrs. Robert Preston Boone and Mr. Boone and daughter, Roberta, also of Albuquerque who also were here. Two brothers of Mrs. Alexander, John Thompson Wright of Indianapolis, Ind., and Trevor Davis Wright of New Castle, Ind., were here also for the services.

Among the out of town druggists who attended the services were John James and Sebastian Kletzky of Pueblo, Dave Frey of Colorado Springs, J. A. Van Lopik of Castle Rock, Herman Doyle, Louis Suher and Verne Seeley of Denver, Charles J. Clayton, secretary of the Colorado Pharmaceutical association, Denver, and Ralph Kemp, secretary of the Colorado State Board of Pharmacy, Denver.

Of a total production of 1,535,868 rifles reported by the firearms industry to the Census Bureau in the last two Census of Manufactures, 783,732 were repeating rifles and 752,136 were single shot rifles.