



Fifty Years Wedded

Market Lavington Couple's Golden Wedding

Once a Shepherd

In the village of Market Lavington live a couple who today (Friday) are celebrating their golden wedding, all their children joining them in the celebrations.

The couple, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Alexander, are well known by all in the village, and this evening the church bells will ring a merry peal in their honour. It is also Mr. Alexander's 75th birthday; his wife is 78.

There will be a reception and the handsome two-tier cake has been made by a daughter-in-law.

His Career

Mr. Alexander told the "North Wilts Herald" he was born at Andover Corner House, Lydeaway in 1861, being the third son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Alexander. At the age of six he was educated at a little private school held in a cottage in Wedhampton. There he remained until his ninth birthday when he was removed, as circumstances necessitated him contributing to the family coffers, and he became a shepherd boy on the Urchfont hills for the late Mr. Bick of Rookery Farm. For this he received 1s. 6d. a week, which included payment for work on Sundays.

At the age of 14 he went to London and worked in his uncle's grocery business near Kings Cross station for two years. He returned home and was in service at Mulberry House as indoor servant for seven years, with the late Dr. Jackson, and his successor Dr. Palmer. He then assisted his father, who was a market gardener. At the age of 25 he married a Miss Sarah Norman, the second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Norman of Dovercourt, Essex. The wedding took place in Urchfont Parish

Church by the late Rev. S. C. Mason, then Vicar of the parish, and they made their home at Market Lavington, and rented Sands Farm, Easterton.

Since then he has been a market gardener. He takes a great interest still in the life of the village, and was for some time chairman of the Parish Council at Easterton, and prior to that Overseer. He was also school manager for a number of years. Politically he is one of the old fashioned Conservatives, and takes a great interest in the Lavington and District Conservative Association.

Mr. Alexander loves talking about his visit to London in 1927, when he appeared on the pictures and in the daily papers.

He Has Flown

Two years ago he was fortunate enough to draw a privilege ticket which was given by a newspaper for a free flight in Sir Alan Cobham's machine at Rowdeford. This was a great event in his life, and the next year he was successful again, but knowing of a friend who had never flown, he gave him the ticket.

Likes Work

He is still a market gardener and although 75 delights in his work. When the weather permits he is always up at 6 a.m. working. He says his work is his great delight, and he puts his good health down to plain living and a contented happy life.

Mrs. Alexander, too, has enjoyed good health, but suffers from rheumatism now, though she is able to housework.

They have four surviving children, two sons and two daughters. The elder son, Norman farms at Sutton, Surrey, and the younger is a market gardener at Market Lavington. The elder daughter married Mr. Hopkins, a builder, in Market Lavington, and the younger daughter married the eldest son of Mr. Samuel Moore.

Seven Grandchildren

They have seven grandchildren, the eldest grandson gaining his B.Sc. Degree at London University. He is a teacher.

Mr. Alexander's great hobby is reading and he sees without the aid of glasses.

North Wilts Herald, 14 August 1936