

The Delmore Brothers courtesy of wikipedia

Alton Delmore (December 25, 1908 – June 8, 1964) and **Rabon Delmore** (December 3, 1916 – December 4, 1952), billed as **The Delmore Brothers**, were [country music](#) pioneers and stars of the [Grand Ole Opry](#) in the 1930s. The Delmore Brothers, together with other brother duets such as the [Louvin Brothers](#), the [Blue Sky Boys](#), the Monroe Brothers (Birch, Charlie and [Bill Monroe](#)), the [McGee Brothers](#), and [The Stanley Brothers](#), had a profound impact on the history of country music and American popular music.

The brothers were born into poverty in [Elkmont, Alabama](#), as the sons of [tenant farmers](#) amid a rich tradition of [gospel music](#) and Appalachian folk. Their mother, Mollie Delmore, wrote and sang gospel songs for their church. The Delmores blended gospel-style harmonies with the quicker guitarwork of traditional [folk music](#) and the [blues](#) to help create the still-emerging genre of country. In addition to the regular six-string [acoustic guitar](#), the duo was one of the few to use the rare [tenor guitar](#), a four-string instrument that had primarily been used previously in [vaudeville](#) shows. In 1925 Alton wrote his first song "Bound For the Shore" at the age of 13, (co-written with his mother). It was published by Athens Music Co. The Brother's did their first recording session for Columbia in 1931, recording "I've Got the Kansas City Blues" and "Alabama Lullaby", which became their theme song. They signed a contract with Victor Record's budget label Bluebird in 1933 and became regulars on the [Grand Ole Opry](#) variety program. Within three years, they had become the most popular act on the show.

Disagreements with Opry management led to the brothers leaving the show in 1939. While they continued to play and record music throughout the 1940s, they never achieved the same level of success they had with the Grand Ole Opry.

In 1941, their song "When It's Time For The Whippoorwill To Sing" made the Billboard "Hillbilly" top three. Their best-known song, "Blues Stay Away From Me," is regarded by some as the first rock and roll record. It was covered by [Gene Vincent](#) and the Blue Caps, [The Louvin Brothers](#) and [The Everly Brothers](#).

Rabon died of [lung cancer](#) in 1952. Following Rabon's death, Alton suffered a heart attack, the loss of his father and his daughter Susan, all within a three-year period. He moved back in Huntsville, Alabama. He taught some guitar, did odd jobs, and devoted his creative energies to writing prose. He wrote a series of short stories and his autobiography, *Truth is Stranger than Publicity*, published posthumously in the 1970s.

Over the course of their careers, the Delmores wrote more than one thousand songs. Some of the most popular were *Brown's Ferry Blues*, *Gonna Lay Down My Old Guitar* and *Fifteen Miles from Birmingham*.

We apologize for the poor sound quality of these recordings, but they are the best mp3s available.