

PREFACE

This book has been prepared in order to document my REED family heritage. Naturally, in the course of researching the REED family history many connecting family lines and much history was unfolded. We should want to know our ancestors, because they can teach us much, as they have given us much. Whiting once wrote: "They who care nothing for their ancestors, are wanting in respect for themselves, and deserve to be treated with neglect by their posterity. Those who respect and venerate the memory of their forefathers, will be led, not by vanity, but by filial affection - by a pious reverence to treasure up their memories...Every virtuous ancestor puts us under bonds to our posterity, and he who is duly sensible of what he owes to the past and to the future, will rarely fail to perform his duties to the present."¹

It is with such thoughts that this book is presented. I feel an obligation to all of my ancestors who survived so much, suffered so much, labored so hard, and gave so much that I might have the heritage I now cherish. I hope the book will in part satisfy part of the obligation, and I hope it will stir some unknown or some unborn relative of our present or a future generation, to carry the work even further.

In the research leading to and the preparation of this book, I am indebted to so many persons that an exhaustive list is probably beyond the scope of this work. There are so many authors, writers, and researchers both known and unknown responsible for bits and pieces of the genealogies detailed within these covers. This includes, of course, that vast army of government (local, state, and federal) researchers, compilers, documenters, clerks, and record keepers as well as those from organizations, such as the Sons of the American Revolution. It also includes all of those librarians in so many towns and cities who were so courteous, kind, and helpful. Finally it includes the long forgotten census takers of bygone years, many of whom are responsible for recording information not available anywhere else. Parenthetically, despite their proneness to misspellings, poor penmanship, and guess work, those census takers (oftimes barely literate themselves) had to deal with often illiterate and perhaps uncooperative citizens. These citizens moved about frequently and many times probably cared little if at all whether they were ever found or counted. Thus we owe a deep gratitude to the census takers in so many places, which can never be fully acknowledged.

In any work such as this, much correspondence is involved. Many, many letters have been written and received. My files contain several large loose leaf notebooks full of correspondence. And of course none of that includes the telephone calls placed and received. Much data has been received from some of the most unexpected places, and I have made contacts that have established life long friendships. It has been a pleasant though sometimes frustrating work, and it would be impossible to credit every person that helped make the genealogies contained herein possible.

Since, it is doubtful if any work on genealogy could stand alone without multitudes of credits, it is with fear and trepidation that I

1 - Whiting, New Eng. Gen. Register., Vol. VII Reference 53, page 107.

dare to delineate the names of those who have contributed to this work. The book itself is the culmination of research some of which can be dated to the 1960's.

I must admit that my own abiding curiosity and my personal interest in the study of history was a great motivator for the derivation of the genealogies set forth herein. In particular, one of my original goals was to prove the American Indian ancestry of my PRYOR heritage, which led to a study of my REED heritage.

There are so many who have contributed. Josephine POLHAMUS REED has been my primary motivator, and the source of massive amounts of data. My distant cousins Doris CAMPBELL and Jim WRIGHT also have supplied large amounts of inputs. Cousins Karen ROMICK and Lowell REED have supplied considerable information. Other REED family cousins have been very helpful and have supplied encouragement. They include Ruby HEARD MAUPIN, Kay HUNTSMAN, and Gordon REED. There are many others who have contributed information, and family data sheets. And I have received many words of encouragement from so many, including several of my new-found REED family cousins.

If I have forgotten anyone, please forgive me, and please add your name to those unnamed unknowns who provided so much. The human mind is a marvelous gift of GOD. The mind is endowed with the faculty of memory, and it is quite delightful to pluck from this storehouse each morsel of happy remembrance. Sometimes the memory plays tricks on a person, however, and only portions of an incident or happening are clear while other portions are faded or forgotten. Hence some of the family stories recorded in this book may not be complete or correct in every detail, since many have been passed down by word of mouth.

Finally, as one who has been subjected to many writing courses and interminable hours of instruction related to proper grammar and sentence structure, I beg the indulgence of the reader. This book is not intended to be a work of literary art. I have taken some license with grammatical structure, in order to present the family history in a manner that I hope will be clear to all. Probably in every genealogy that has been written there are errors, and this one will be no exception. The work is intended to present the history of the REED family as best I have been able to determine it. I hope that it is substantially correct. If any errors are found I would appreciate it if they are called to my attention, and I will try to correct them, if possible.

Some may ask the reason for recording family genealogies. The United States of America is a fairly young nation from the standpoint of the time frame of recorded history. It sometimes seems as if for many years our nation was ashamed of it's ancestors. Outside of New England and some religious groups, few public records were kept in the very early days of colonization. Genealogy is the history of people, and people make history. We can learn lessons of inheritance, environment, psychology, and other facets of life from a study of family genealogy. Certainly anything that teaches us something must be worth while. It should be even more so if it is fascinating to the one doing the learning. Most people find the study of family history to be fascinating.

Finally, a word about the numbering system for the genealogies recorded herein. The system is a variant of several that are used to delineate family lines. It was derived to maintain an easy tool for determining the number of Amos C. REED descendants from each of his children. The number of the child is preceded by the letters RK (for REED-KENNARD)

and then in the third generation a letter is assigned to each child followed by a 3 and the number of the grandchild. Thus the third child, Jemima REED, is numbered RK03, and her children are numbered I301, I302, etc. In the fourth and succeeding generations the letter is held constant with the initial number indicating the generation (from Amos) and the other number indicating the order in the generation. Hence for the descendants through John REED (detailed in Chapter 6) the system is as follows: J303 - Amos Starr REED, son of John (J); third generation (3); third child (03). The children of Amos Starr are numbered A401, A402, A403, etc. In the fifth generation the children are numbered A501, A502, etc. Similarly the descendants through Jane REED (Chapter 7) are: N301, Rachel WILKINSON, first child of Jane in the third generation, and then R401, Daniel THOMAS in the fourth generation, the first child of Rachel.

At first, the numbering system may seem burdensome to you the reader, but I assure you, I have spent considerable time researching many genealogies and reviewing many generation accounting systems. Each of them has its merits and its shortcomings, as does the one used herein. All become quite tedious. The advantage of the one used herein is that it is possible to tell rather rapidly how many descendants of Amos C. REED have been identified through each of his children. I have not attempted to number the generations of the allied family genealogies documented in the book.

This book has been a labor of love. Perhaps one of you will be motivated to carry the work further.

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