

**John Leverett Reed, Sr.  
(1806-1879)**

**Farmer. Land owner. Born in Georgia. Lived with the Chickasaw Indians for Approximately Two Years. Father of Thirteen Children. Died in Tennessee. A Hero to his Family**

John Leverett Reed, Sr., was the third child and first son of Joseph Reed, Sr., and Mary (Polly) Leverett. He was born March 9, 1806 in Georgia.

When he was eleven years of age (1817), he made the hazardous journey with his father and his seven-year-old brother, William, through the wilderness to what is now known as Henderson County, Tennessee. It was here that they were to build their new home, but not until their father, Joseph, Sr., returned to their old home to get the rest of the family.

For reasons unknown, John Leverett and William did not accompany their father on his return journey but stayed with the Chickasaw Indians in Henderson County (imagine how their mother must have felt when their father returned without them) until their family arrived sometime in 1818. Upon arrival, the family began to build their new home.

As they built their home, cleared the land, and planted crops, they demonstrated love and consideration for one another and joy in the common goal of building this home in the wilderness.

When and where John Leverett met and married his wife, Mary Ann Bird (born in Virginia), is not known, but each of their thirteen children were born in Henderson County.

Although there is little documentation of John Leverett Reed's personal life, Henderson County legal documents ,give some insight into his life. One example:

Register Book #4, pp. 287-290.

And the said L. A. Stanford transfers and conveys to the said John L. Reed, Sr., Permelia McPeake and Robert McPeake (Her husband), John L. Reed, Jr., James W. Reed, L.R. Reed, Mary E. Reed and Lafayette Reed to have and to hold in severly to themselves and assigns forever...In witness whereof we hereunto affix our signatures, this first day of January 1878.

Another example:

Deed in Trust—From John Holbrook to John L. Reed—1857. Know all men by these present that, I John Holbrook, have this day bargained and sold unto John L. Reed for the sum of one dollar and other considerations hereinafter mentioned, four oxen being the same mentioned in a former deed in trust made by me to said Reed this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of August 1856.

John Leverett, Sr., died at age 73 on March 30, 1879. He was survived by his wife and seven children. His wife and six of their children later emigrated to the San Luis Valley in Colorado.