

OTOE COUNTY PIONEERS

A BIOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARY

BY RAYMOND E. DALE

PART IX

Sc - V

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MATHEW G. REED

Mathew G. Reed was born at Marysville, Union county, Ohio, October 31, 1831. He went to Iowa in 1836 and two years later came to Otoe county. He took a preemption of 120 acres on August 27, 1859, and then returned to Iowa. That same year he married Miss Ruth Smith

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of Washington county, Iowa, who was born April 1842, Mr. Reed returned to Otoe county in 1862 with his family and filed for a homestead of 160 acres, February 20, 1864, in the northern part of what was later South Branch precinct. In 1862 he served as an election official. In October 1865 he was elected clerk of elections. In February 1866 Mr. Reed was appointed a commissioner to lay out a certain road and twice that year he served on the election board at two special elections. In 1867 he served as assessor, as clerk of election and was appointed several times to lay out certain roads. The family was listed in the census of 1870 in Hendricks Precinct for South Branch hadn't been formed at that time. There were seven girls in the family: Alice, aged nine; J , aged seven; R , aged six; L , aged five; A , aged three; J , aged two; and S , born in October 1869. The oldest daughter was born in Iowa, the others in Nebraska. Mr. Reed owned 160 acres of land valued at \$2,000.00, of which 70 acres were under cultivation and 10 acres in woodland, His farm implements were worth \$100.00 and he had paid out \$200.00 for farm labor the previous year. His livestock, valued at \$650.00, consisted of five horses, three milch cows, six other cattle and six hogs. In 1869 he had raised 200 bushels of wheat, 500 bushels of corn, 100 bushels of oats, 100 bushels of potatoes and had put up 20 tons of hay. Mr. Reed and his family were listed in South Branch Precinct in the 1880 census. Mr. Reed was born in Ohio where his parents were also born. His wife Ruth Ann was born in Indiana, her father being born in Ohio and her mother in South Carolina. There were ten children in the family: Alice, twenty years of age, a school teacher; Jane, eighteen; Rebecca, sixteen; Lucy, fifteen; Annette, thirteen; Ida, eleven; John, ten; Ray, seven; Lon, four; Dora, two, and an infant daughter born in March 1880.

On Sunday night, August 21, 1881, M. G. Reed came home to find that his wife had disappeared. Their ten day old baby was alone and crying. A search was immediately instituted and every effort was made to find her. It was rumored that she had gone to Nebraska City, that she had crossed the river and gone to

Shenandoah, Iowa, that she had gone to relatives in Kansas. The third week in September the remains of Ruth Ann Reed were found on the edge of a cornfield about ten miles from her home, badly mutilated by some animal. She was identified by her clothing," It was believed that her mind had become deranged. She was survived by her husband and twelve children, four sons and eight daughters, Alice Reed, the oldest daughter of Mathew G, and Ruth A, Reed was married October 26, 1881. Mr. Reed continued to live on his farm, where he died in August 1902.

References:

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- c. Federal Census, 1870, Hendricks Pct., mss., Family # 2, including Productions of Agriculture, p 23, l # 2.
Federal Census, 1880, South Branch Pct., mss., Family # 56.
- d. Syracuse Journal, 1881 Aug.26, p 4(2); Sept.23, p 4(2); Oct. 28, p 4(3).
- e. Andreas, History of Nebraska, p 1243.
Nebraska City News, 1902 Aug.26, p 4(7).
Cemetery Records.