

Moses Read  
Son of Harmon Read

MOSES READ served his country during the Revolutionary War. He enlisted in Coleman's Company on 4 May 1777. On 9 September 1778, Moses was a Private in Capt. Benjamin Coleman's Company, the Second North Carolina Battalion at White Plains, New York. His term of enlistment was for three years. (1) For his service, he received feight 25 shilling & three pence. (2) At wars end, Moses returned to his home in Halifax County North Carolina where according to tax lists of 1782/83 he owned three hundred acres of land; one slave; four horses and mules; and twelve head of cattle. Total value of his estate was £390. (3)

Sometime around 1802/3, Moses Read moved his family from Halifax County, North Carolina to Tennessee. He settled in a part of Dickson County that would later become Robertson County. In 1809 he purchased six hundred and forty acres from Samuel Jackson. The land was located on the North side of the Cumberland River, on the west side of Spring Creek and on the waters of Sycamore Creek. (4)

The first land entries bear evidence of the presence of white men in Dickson County as early as 1786. These land grants were issued by the governors of North Carolina for service rendered in the Revolutionary War. Two blockhouses or forts were built about 1800 for protection, two years before Moses and his family moved to the area. These forts were crude, but strong log houses with doors and windows made of puncheons (a slab of timber), calculated to withstand both bullets and arrows.

There is only one instance on record where a white man was killed by the Indians in Dickson County. In 1809, the same year that Moses purchased his six hundred and forty acres from Samuel Jackson, the Indians went on a general raid, destroying much property. One band of them crossed the Duck River and came into the county. They raided the farm of Col. William Garner, killing him, driving away his stock and taking his family captive.

Families moving into the county in search of good land helped hasten the development of the area. About 1810 the first public road was located or established from Nashville to Charlotte and then run westward to the Tennessee River.

The first post office was established in Dickson County at Charlotte in 1806. The first county election held in Dickson County was on the first Thursday in June 1804.

The first man licensed by the county court to keep a general store was John Holland. In 1806, he opened a store in the county (the exact location of which cannot be ascertained) and sold dry goods, notions, groceries and whiskey. The first corn mill in Dickson County was erected about 1800. The building was a one-story log structure about twenty-five by thirty-foot dimensions, and was water powered.