

William Read
Son of Moses Read

WILLIAM READ was probably born in Halifax County, North Carolina. He married Rebecca Holt, the daughter of Thomas Holt and Ann Arrington Holt. (1) Like the Reads, Thomas and Ann Holt were both from Virginia, and settled in Halifax County, North Carolina. Their son James Holt, (the brother of Rebecca Holt Read) married Lydia Read, William Read's sister. William and Rebecca settled on two hundred acres along Barton's Creek in Dickson County, Tennessee. (2)

William died sometime between January 1814 and 1816. The last mention of William in the Dickson County Court Minutes is for the January 1814 Term, when he is appointed a Justice of the Peace to take the list of taxables for Capt. Adkins' Company. (3) On 23 January 1816, James Read, Administrator of William's estate filed an Inventory of his estate, and an Account of Sales for the estate. (4) Sales included two hundred acres of land purchased 24 July 1807 from William Sullivan. Sold were thirteen Negroes, eleven horses, twenty-three cattle, forty-eight hogs, six sheep, twenty nine geese and wagons. Included in the sale was a large assortment of farm tools and household items. (5) On 1 July 1816 his widow Rebecca, and James Read petitioned the Court for a division of William's land. (6)

In April 1817, William's son John Read asked the court to release him as the guardian of the minor children of William Read. He asked that James Read be appointed in his place. James Read gave a bond of three thousand dollars. (7) The timing of this document, corresponds with the departure of John Read and his family for Alabama.

By 7 January 1824, William and Rebecca's minor children were adults. The court ordered a partition and division of the land and Negroes remaining and undivided belonging to the heirs of William Read. (8)

Little is known of the life of William's widow, Rebecca. On the 1820 and 1830 Dickson County, Tennessee census, Rebecca is shown as Head of the Household. The 1850 Tennessee census for Dickson County shows Rebecca Read, age eighty, from North Carolina, living with William McMurray and his family. William McMurray married her daughter, Mary "Polly" Read, in 1819. Rebecca's estate sale held 25 March 1851 was recorded in Dickson County, Tennessee 18 January 1853. Her small estate consisted mainly of personal items, her bedstead and bed, quilts, blankets, sheets, a small table, her side saddle and several spinning wheels. Her son-in-law, William McMurray, was the administrator of her estate. (9)

1. Halifax County, North Carolina. Will Book 3, pp. 230-231.
2. Dickson County, Tennessee. Deed Book A, p. 205.
3. Dickson County, Tennessee. Court Minutes 1812_1814, p. 134.