

**John Read**  
**Son of William Read**

**JOHN READ** was born in Halifax County, North Carolina about 1794, and moved with his family to Tennessee. He spent his early years in Dickson County, Tennessee with his eight brothers and sisters.

On 28 January 1814, he enlisted in Capt. James Haggard's Company, Col. Robert H. Dyer's Regiment of Cavalry and Mounted Riflemen, Tennessee Militia. He would serve under General Andrew Jackson, at the Battle of Horseshoe Bend on the Tallapoosa River in Alabama. It was this battle that first brought Jackson to prominence and opened up much of Alabama for settlement.

The Tallapoosa River twists like a tangled skein of yarn through eastern Alabama. Early, on its journey from Georgia, the river seems to double back, bending into a horseshoe that encloses about one hundred forested acres. In February 1813, civil war broke out between the Alabama Creek and the Lower Creek of Georgia. The Indian war expanded in July, when a group of Alabama Creek, known as "Red Sticks," attacked Fort Mims just north of Mobile, killing two hundred fifty settlers. When that happened, the civil war became a regional war between Indians and settlers. It was at this time that Jackson became involved. With an Indian war heating up just below their southern frontier, Tennesseans decided to enter the conflict.

In Alabama, Jackson's men met a determined enemy, and the war dragged on through the winter. Eventually, the Upper Creek Indians retreated to the barricaded village of Tohopeka inside the river's horseshoe. On March 26, after a fifty-mile march, the Tennesseans, along with allies from the Lower Creek and Cherokee tribes, made camp six miles north of the river. At noon the next day, they stormed the Tohopeka barricade. The forest was torn by musket fire as three thousand, three hundred Tennessee volunteers and Indians led by Maj. Gen. Andrew Jackson charged the barricades set up by one thousand warring Creek Indians. By nightfall the battle was over.

Although defeated at Horseshoe Bend, the Upper Creek Indians fought on through the summer, finally surrendering near Montgomery in August 1814. With that surrender, Jackson gained some twenty million acres of land, and the popularity that would later propel him into the White House. (1)

When John Read was honorably discharged 8 May 1814 at Fayetteville, Tennessee, he was paid thirty-two dollars for four months' service, and forty-eight dollars and forty cents' allowance for use of his horse, at forty cents per day. He was allowed four dollars and fifty cents for rations and forage. John's total pay was eighty-four dollars and ninety cents. (2)