

The first Reads that we know about were living nearby in Prince George County, Virginia, a father and son, Peter and Henry. Peter was there by 1654. Peter and Henry were probably grandfather and father to Harmon Read. (We have no proof- however, Henry's land acreage and Harmon's land acreage were identical in size). Harmon is Savez's first proven Read ancestor. He had land on Blackwater Swamp that he undoubtedly inherited from Henry (there is no record of a purchase) and which he sold in 1716. Next he purchased land in Southampton Co., Virginia. In 1749 Harmon and his second wife, Mary Pendry, and their five children crossed the border into North Carolina and settled in what became Halifax County.

We don't know much about the Dotsons. The earliest name that we have is Jeremiah Dotson, Savez's grandfather. We found him living as a young man in 1818 in Winchester, Virginia. We found court records of an Indenture, negotiating a loan (1821), records of buying goods at an estate sale (1818). He also attended a Quaker wedding in 1820. His oldest children were born in Virginia. Savez's mother, Maria Louisa Dotson, is recorded on all census records as having been born in Virginia. The Dotson family moved on to Tennessee before heading for Mississippi.

Savez's grandmother, Martha Tuley Dotson, is said to have come from Winchester, Virginia as did her husband. We have found no record of her there. However, all census records show that she was born in Virginia. A Tuley family lived near to Winchester in the nineteenth century. Joseph Tuley built a large estate called *The Tuleries* in 1834. Martha was supposed to have been related to him, perhaps a first or second cousin.

The Moves South & West to North Carolina and Tennessee

The Reads, Dukes, and Holts moved right across the Virginia border into North Carolina to no farther than Halifax and Warren Counties and stayed there a number of years. William Duke (grandson of Henry Duke) arrived in 1744 and acquired a great deal of North Carolina land. Harmon Read moved there in 1749.

Much later in 1793 John Duke, Jr. (grandson of William Duke) and his wife Martha "Patsy" Emmerson left their holdings in North Carolina and went on to Tennessee. One of their daughters, Dicy Duke, was Savez's grandmother. She was born in Tennessee in 1799 in Davidson Cue. Several new counties were later formed out of Davidson County and Dicy's parents died in 1803 and 1819 in what became Montgomery County.

Probably 1803 was the year that the Reads went to Tennessee. A very young John Read, Savez's grandfather, was only nine years old. He came with his parents, William Read and Rebecca Holt Read, and his grandfather, Moses Read. There is no record of Moses's wife (name was Betty, probably) being in Tennessee Mother of eight children, she must have predeceased the trip west. Moses is recorded as having fought in the Revolution. In 1778 he was a private in Capt. Benjamin Coleman's Co., the Second North Carolina Battalion at White Plains, N. Y.