

John Read lived on after Dicy's death. He died in 1877 at age 82 years. He was buried in Bluff Springs Cemetery (locally known as the Frog Pond) near Carrollton in an unmarked grave. Jesse was buried there too. The cemetery is no longer in existence; a freeway is now at the location. These years after the war must have been very hard ones. In his suit against the government John said that everything was gone except the land. In about two years after Dicy's death, in 1869, he sold his land and moved north to Carrollton to be near son Jesse. He sold the land to Alexander Belcher, according to one of his slaves who remained on the land. A sale to Belcher is recorded in the Raymond courthouse. At this time only two of the children were living, Jesse and Eliza Hall, the youngest.

The 1870 census shows John living near Jesse and in residence with his granddaughter, Ida Barlow, then age 15. In 1871, when it first became possible, he applied for and received a pension for his War of 1812 service. In 1872 he filed his suit against the federal government for property lost or destroyed during the war between the states. This was the beginning date for which such suits were allowed. The suit continued on until 1905, long after John's death, son Jesse's death (1895), and even grandson Savez's death (1890). Even the first set of lawyers were gone before the ending of the suit and a new team took over. John had to prove loyalty to the U.S. government. That was hard to do when you lived in Confederate territory. He had once said that he was opposed to the war and would never be disloyal to the government for which he had fought in the War of 1812. A finding unfavorable to loyalty was issued in 1897 and again in 1904. A committee in Congress handled these hearings. These records are housed in the National Archives in Washington, D.C. all 378 pages. Back in 1876 Jesse wrote to Congress wanting to know how the case stood. His father, he said, was very poor and very old and needed the compensation. The lawyers didn't give up, and I think Savez's brother, Joseph Dotson Read, encouraged them to pursue the case. Finally in 1905 a reading of loyalty was upheld and the money awarded was to be divided up among many heirs. It was a minute amount, \$2,160.00. (My [John's] grandfather, Roby, got nothing. He was in Japan at the time and the estate administrator couldn't locate him.) Again, it was probably Savez's brother, Dr. Joe Read, who supplied the names of John Read's heirs. Actually the money wasn't distributed until 1916.

It was interesting to note that in his effort to substantiate his loyalty to the U.S. Government John Read never once mentioned the war efforts of his grandson Savez. He was questioned about his relatives and their loyalties, but he skirted any reference to Savez. Over the years there had been many witnesses testifying for and against him. Eventually one did mention Savez's exploits. It also appeared that government agents attempted unfairly to influence witnesses to bring about a reading of disloyalty. Somebody must have worked on influencing the former