

Mississippi

The John Reads first moved to Mississippi in 1828, eleven years after the territory had been admitted to the union, thirty years after the land had been established as a U. S. territory. This couple, John and Dicy, embodied the Read, Duke, and Holt ancestry. They probably went first to Madison County where their daughter, Elvira was born in 1829. John Read was on the Madison County tax list in 1829. It was in Madison County that son William Read and Maria Louisa Dotson were married on Oct. 6, 1836.

Dicy's sister, Catherine, married to James Walter Trotter, moved from Montgomery Co., Tennessee to Lodi, Mississippi. They were plantation owners and cotton growers. John had a brother, Lemuel, who also moved to Mississippi.

John and Dicy bought land in Hinds County and established a plantation there, leaving Madison County after probably a short stay. John, in his testimony to the government, said that his land, 1000 acres, was four or five miles north of Edwards. It was between Edwards and Bolton. He said that he worked 250 acres each year. Much of the rest was forest or worn out land. He said he owned a total of 50 slaves but only worked 15. (Census records do not confirm numbers of this quantity) Today one would never know that there had once been a prosperous plantation at that location. The forest has taken over the land. During the war there was much war activity surrounding John and Dicy's cotton plantation. Their son, Jesse, farmed next door on land his father had given him. Eventually, he (Jesse) moved his stock and slaves north to get out of the way of the military. Jesse was crippled from injuries inflicted during the Mexican-American War. Despite this, he was conscripted near Grenada as he was moving north. During the Civil War, daughter, Eliza Hall, who had been born in Hinds County, was living with John and Dicy while her husband was at war. Granddaughter, Ida Barlow was living there too and writes about it in later years. At times Maria Louisa was also there with her daughter, Elizabeth Catherine "Betty" Read, Savez's sister. After the war, Jesse returned to a farm near Carrollton, Mississippi, where he had been prior to the war, and settled there. In 1867 Dicy along with Ida Barlow went to Carrollton for a visit with Jesse and his family. She died there that year, age 68. Ida, whose mother (Elvira) had died in 1860, stayed on in the Carrollton-Winona area with her aunt raising her. Dicy was buried in the Old Hinds County cemetery near where the Old Liberty Church, a Methodist church, had once stood. It is the church where she had worshiped for so many years. It is near Edwards. Her son John D. Read is buried in that cemetery, as are two grandchildren who died in infancy, children of Eliza Hall. John D. Read, who died in 1853, is the brother who supposedly went along with William to the gold fields. Another daughter, Martha Roberts, along with her young son, is buried there, too. (Three of John and Dicy's daughters---Martha, Rebecca, and Elvira all died in 1860.) Also buried there are Elizabeth Catherine Read Hall, Savez's sister, and her husband, Robert Nesbitt Hall, Rosa's brother.