

told was written to me by Wilbert Aust prior to his death in October, 1979. Mr. Aust had a marvelous memory and he could quote names, places, and dates of many years past and his knowledge of these important items were given to him by those wonderful storytellers of yesterday's generation...his ancestors. This is the story as he related it to me:

"Dr. Evan Short came to the Iberia area and he set up a drug store and his medical profession. He called the town Iberia because he had just come to Missouri from New Iberia, Louisiana. Dr. Short had a son named John, who was also a doctor; a second son called Reuben, who was a lawyer and a preacher; and a third son named Isaac (Ike), who was a prosperous farmer."

The most confusing factor of this legend is that the official document I mentioned earlier definitely states that Iberia's post office was in existence in 1840 and the earliest I can find the family name of Short recorded was in 1842, when William O. Short homesteaded 80 acres in Richwoods township. This doesn't necessarily mean that Mr. Short had just moved into the county in 1842. He may have been here for a number of years before actually patenting a tract of land.

The original town of Iberia was laid out into a plat in the year 1859. Henry M. Dickerson owned all the land in the original site and he had the potential town drawn up into two streets--St. Louis Street, which was 60 feet wide, running north and south, and Main Street, 70 feet wide, running east and west. The town contained 8 blocks with 4 lots to each block and each lot measured 60 by 120 feet.

Iberia is in the heart of the Big Richwoods and in the time era of 1840-1845 there were several settlements in the Big Richwoods township. The names of some of the families who lived in the Iberia area during this time period of the early 1840's included Bilyeu, Blevins, Winnechams, Jones, Davis, Henderson, Mc Lain, and Birdsong.

There are so many legends told about (Civil War) times that it is difficult to distinguish between the truth and fiction. During the early 1860's, residents of the town erected a Fort as protection against invading raiders and it was also used as a command post for the militia organized under the leadership of Captain William Long. A Home Guard was organized and those who refused to join were given a 'gentle hint' that

they had best leave the county. At one time during this Civil War era, the Confederate flag hung on one side of the Osage River and the National flag hung on the opposite shore. The fort built in Iberia was located on the site of the old Farnham Store and Lumber Yard. Other buildings surrounding the fort in those years consisted of a blacksmith shop, a general store, and a saloon.

Captain William Long, who was in command of the fort built at Iberia, was slain by a band of 'Bushwackers.' He ventured away from the fort one night and rode to the home of his parents, James and Harriet Long, who lived a few miles southwest of Iberia. In the middle of the night, a group of these raiders rode to the Long farm and demanded he come out. He refused to leave and while he helped his mother, father and an old slave (who was the grandfather of Walter Lollis) escape from the home, he stayed on and fought a gun battle with the raiders. They finally set fire to the house and when the flames finally drove him outside, he was immediately fired upon and his body was riddled with bullets.

For many years following the Civil War, the Iberia area was confronted

with citizens who would not forget that War. Neighbor continued to fight neighbor. On Christmas Day, 1865, the streets of Iberia were filled with ex-soldiers and a gunfight broke out among them. Before the day was over, three men and one woman lay dead as their blood spilled into the cold, hard earth on that December day. The entire scenario occurred because of old hatreds that would not rest nor be forgotten. The unfortunate casualties of that fight were Albina Page Elsey, wife of Francis M. (Bud) Elsey; James and George Smith, brothers; and Bob Page, the 16-year-old brother of Albina. Another woman, Polly Ann Elsey (sister-in-law of Albina), and Francis "Bud" Elsey (Albina's husband), were also shot, but they survived their gunshot wounds.

*Peggy Smith Hake is beginning her thirteenth of publishing a genealogical and historical newsletter, 'Seeking 'N Searching Ancestors'. Every February, April, June, August, October, and December, this interesting publication is sent to subscribers for a \$9 annual membership due. Write Peggy Smith Hake at Route One, Box 52, St. Elizabeth, MO 65075.*

# George Marcellus Hamilton Reed

George Marcellus Hamilton Reed, the man after whom the roadside park in St. Robert was named, was born near Kirbyville, Ohio, November 24th, 1855, and died November 23rd, 1938, at 6:30 p.m. in Waynesville, Missouri.

His mother died in his infancy, and he was raised by paternal relations. At the age of 11, he joined his father and sister, Ella, in settling near Iberia, Missouri. When George turned 21, he returned to Ohio for teacher's training and for two years of teaching near his former home near Kirbyville. Returning to Missouri, George taught first at Hancock, then Dixon, Waynesville, and Windsor.

In 1882, Reed became associated

with W. H. Murphy in publishing the "Dixon News." Three years later, the newspaper became the "Pulaski News" and was transferred to Waynesville. The fledgling newspaperman stayed in publishing for about six years.

Also in 1882, George married Sarah Louella Reed on December 31st in Lebanon. Their union produced ten children, five of whom died in infancy, and the marriage lasted until Sarah's death on August 31st, 1923. George later married Sarah Farquer of Cincinnati, Ohio, a former classmate, in 1925. This union produced four children, including Roy W. Reed, a cashier for many years at Bank of

Crocker. Roy was the father of Marcy Reed, who has returned to live in Pulaski County.

It is interesting to note that both of George Reed's wives possessed the same first name as his mother.

During the 1880's, George familiarized himself with land surveying, a natural interest because of his love of mathematics. This led to Reed's appointment as Pulaski County Surveyor in 1891, a position he held for about six years.

Meanwhile, Reed began studying law, first from his father, and then under the tutelage of J. L. Johnson, who was Prosecuting Attorney at the time. He was admitted to the bar in 1892 and opened a law office in Waynesville.

George was active in Republican politics; and during the terms of Theodore Roosevelt and William H. Taft, he served as postmaster for ten years at Waynesville. The postoffice at that time was located next door to Reed's grand house, which was situated just south of the structure currently known as the Old Stage-coach Stop.

Some years later, in 1919, Reed took charge of the highways in Pulaski County under the direction of the county court. The state highway department in 1921 appointed him project engineer for road improve-



**GEORGE M. REED**  
(Photo supplied by Marcy Reed).

ments being made in Pulaski County at that time. With his surveying skills, George determined the routes many of our current roads take as they transverse the hills, hollows, and flat country in Pulaski County.

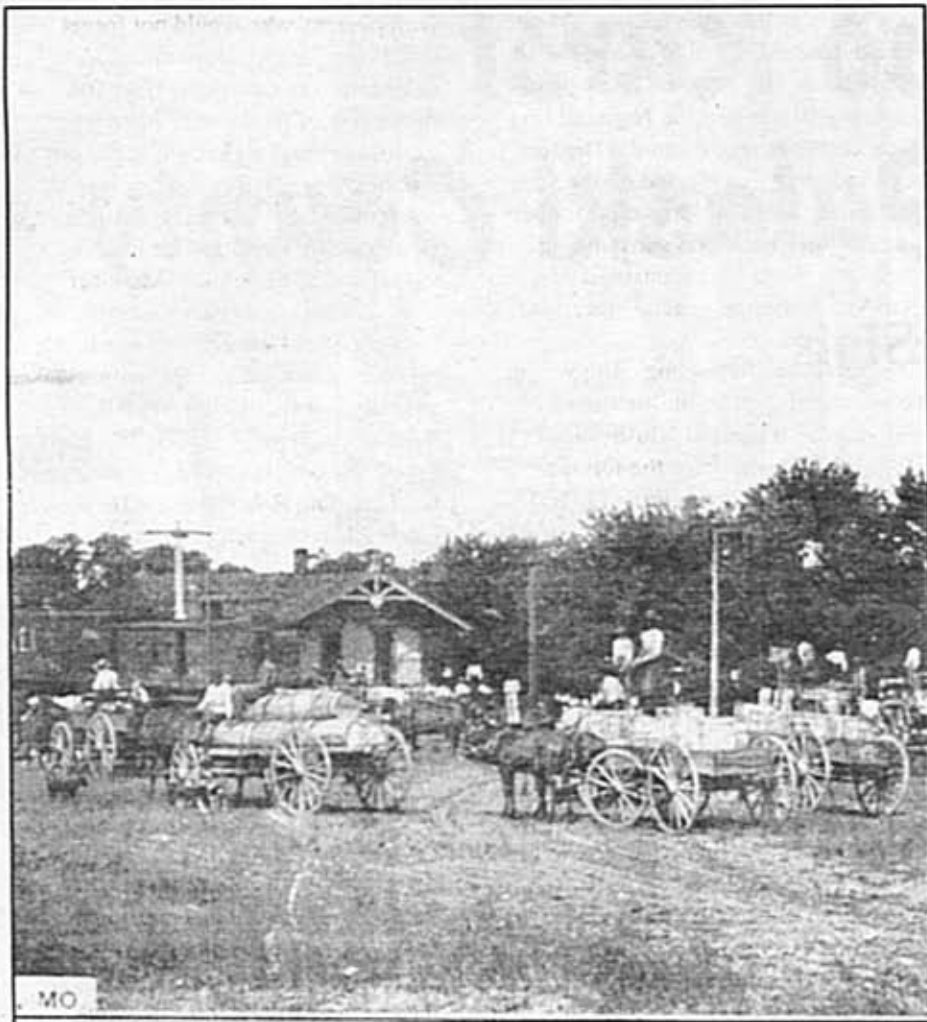
Reed was a Master Mason, being not only a charter member of the Waynesville Lodge, but also its first master. His long service in the lodge was honored the evening of October 11th, 1938, which was the 50th anniversary of the issuance of the charter establishing the Waynesville Lodge. At that ceremony, George M. Reed received the 50 year Masonic Service Emblem.

He died just a little over a month later.

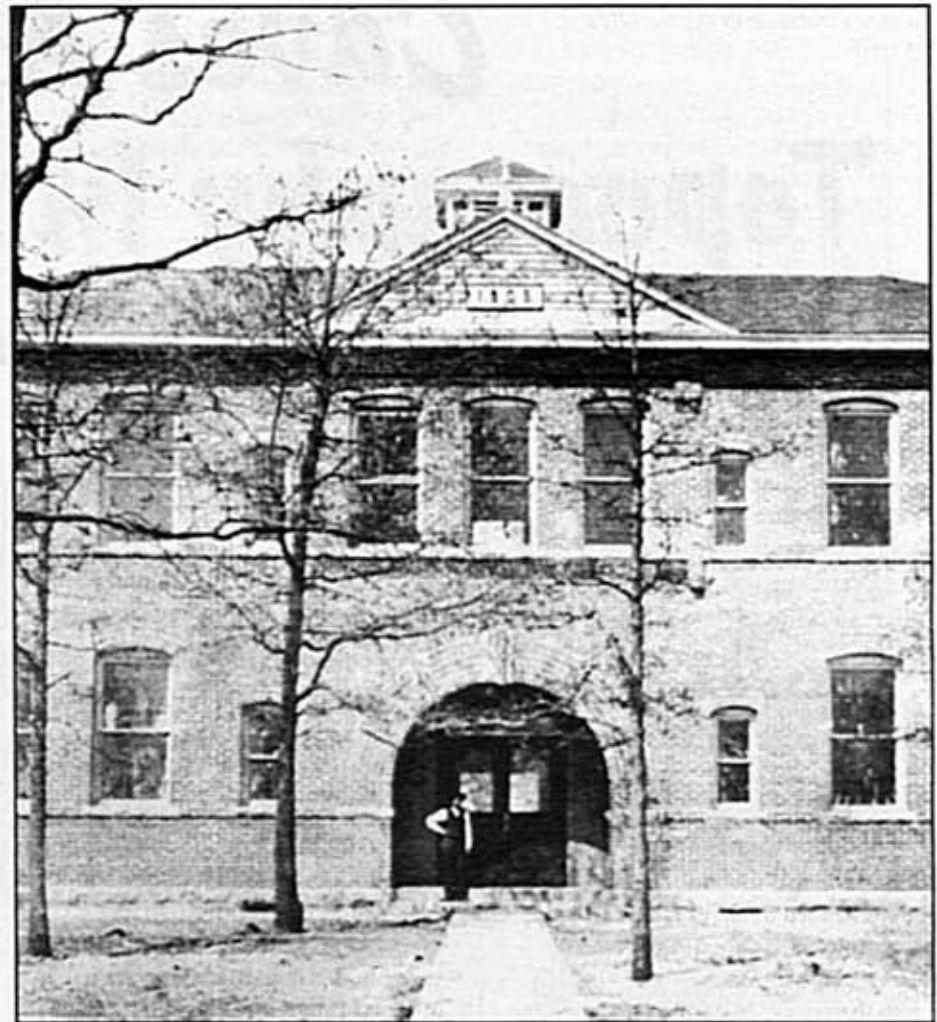


**GEORGE M. REED'S house.** (Photo supplied by Marcy Reed).





APPLE MARKET in Dixon.



DIXON HIGH SCHOOL IN THE 1900'S. Sign proclaims it was built in 1905. Figure standing in the doorway may be Professor Cole, who taught there in 1908, when the postcard depicting it was mailed. (Supplied by John F. Bradbury).

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