

THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF THE CLYDE RAYMOND REED FAMILY

The story of the Clyde Raymond Reed family is the story of a large, hardworking, deeply rooted American family whose legacy stretches across Missouri, Oklahoma, and Arkansas. Born August 19, 1890, in Mountain Grove, Missouri, Clyde Raymond Reed became the patriarch of a remarkable lineage of fifteen children, two marriages, and generations of descendants who carried forward his values of resilience, faith, and family loyalty.

Clyde's life spanned a period of enormous change in rural America. He married twice—first to Alice Pigg, with whom he had three children, and later to Ruth Elizabeth Bacon, with whom he raised twelve more. Clyde and Ruth built their family through the hardships of the Great Depression, the Dust Bowl era, and the challenges of constant relocation in search of work and stability. Their children grew up working the land, tending livestock, and learning early the meaning of responsibility.

From these beginnings emerged a family line marked by service, craftsmanship, music, and community involvement. Many of Clyde's sons became farmers, tradesmen, veterans, and skilled laborers. Several served in the United States military, including World War II, Vietnam, and later conflicts. Others became musicians, educators, church leaders, and community builders.

The Reed children were:

1. Frank Raymond Reed
2. Clyde R. Reed
3. Mabel Reed (Pettit)
4. Robert J. Reed
5. George Newton Reed
6. Clarence Wesley Reed
7. Charles William Reed
8. Albert Leon Reed Sr.
9. Donald Edgar Reed
10. Alfred "Shug" Reed
11. Jack Allison Reed
12. Grove Clayton Reed

13. **Harvey W. Reed**

14. Barbara Jane Reed (Atha)

15. Minnie Louise Reed (Fielding / Horah)

These fifteen siblings formed one of the most extensive family networks in Washington County and the surrounding region. Their descendants—now numbering into the hundreds—spread across Arkansas, Oklahoma, Missouri, Texas, and beyond.

The Reed family legacy is defined by:

- **Strong family bonds**

The siblings remained close throughout their lives, gathering for reunions, music, meals, and shared work.

- **Service and sacrifice**

Many served in the military, law enforcement, or community leadership roles.

- **Faith and church involvement**

Church of Christ, Baptist, and other congregations were central to their lives.

- **Music and craftsmanship**

From bluegrass musicians to skilled tradesmen, the Reeds were known for their talents.

- **Resilience through hardship**

The family endured early deaths, wartime separations, economic hardship, and the loss of many siblings across the decades—yet their unity endured.

Clyde passed away on May 3, 1970, and Ruth on July 6, 1966, both laid to rest in Beaty Cemetery. But their legacy continues through multiple