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### Reed, Richard Henry (1864 - )

Virgil Chirhart

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REED, RICHARD. HENRY

File No. B-1081

Richard Henry Reed was born May 10, 1864 in Carr Yoeman Cross Road, West Molen County, Virginia, son of Joseph and Juliett (King) Reed, native born Virginians.

When Richard was seven years old his parents moved to Iowa, where he went to school until the age of nine years. When Richard was ten years old he did practically all of the work on his father's eighty acre farm, he plowed when the plow handles came up even with his ears.

When Richard was thirteen years old he was kicked by a horse and remained unconscious for five months. When he came out of the stupor he hobbled to the window and looked out and said, "Mother it looks like we won't have much snow this winter." His mother replied, "Why, son, its spring now, you have been unconscious all winter."

At another time he was pronounced dead by an old doctor and laid in a coffin, a young doctor looked at him and noticed that his skin did not look dead. So they put a hot coal on his bare stomach and it formed a blister, this way they knew that he was not dead.

In 1893 Richard came to Minnesota and settled in St. Cloud. He did some teaming for a while for a man named Bridgeman. After the Hinkley fire he went to work for the Great Northern Railroad rebuilding bridges destroyed by the forest fires. When this was finished, he worked in the car shop at Waite Park until his transfer to Canada, here he helped in the construction of the railroad which runs between St. John's and Brandon, a 75 mile stretch. He built coal sheds and depots *along* the line. At St. Johns he built the Customs house.

Returning to the United States he built the depot and section house at Walker, Minnesota. During all of his time spent on the railroad, the most he ever earned was \$1.60 for a 12 hour day, and they

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received no overtime pay for overtime work.

December 6, 1883 Richard Reed was married at DeSota, Wisconsin to Miss Jenny A. Johnston. She was born April 5, 1861, on a farm near Waukon, Iowa, daughter of Albert C. and Martha Johnston.

After their wedding Richard went to work for the Lansing Lumber Company at Lansing, Wisconsin.

To Richard and Jenny A. (Johnston) Reed were born thirteen children: Ida and Alice, twins, died in infancy; Henry; Eva (Reed) Riel; Mary is deceased; Harry; James; Joseph and Julia (Reed) Moder, twins; Norman; George; Mabel (Reed) Moder; Freeman.

There are thirty-five grandchildren.

Jenny (Johnston) Reed died January 24, 1931.

Interviewed: Richard Reed  
Date: Sept. 18, 1936  
By: Virgil Chirhart

Publication Granted