

Jefferson County Pennsylvania Her Pioneers and People, Two Volumes; Illustrated; Volume II; Genealogy—Biography, Chicago, J. H. Beers & Company 1917

George L. Reed has shown marked energy, initiative and progressiveness in a business career that has been one of earnest application. He has been the artificer of his own success, his advancement coming entirely through ability and well directed efforts. He is a representative business man and valued citizen of Brookville, where he is president of the **George L. Reed** Milling Company, whose well equipped and thoroughly modern plant contributes materially to the industrial and commercial precedence of Brookville. He has other important interests that further attest his prestige as a reliable and influential man of affairs.

Mr. Reed was born at Brady, Clearfield Co., Pa., June 8, 1855, son of **John H.** and **Margaret (Potter) Reed**, the former of whom was born near the historic old city of Richmond, Va., and the latter in Blair County, Pa., a daughter of **John Potter**, who finally removed from Juniata, that county, to Clearfield County, where he passed the remainder of his life. Both **John H. Reed** and his wife passed the closing years of their lives in Clearfield County. They became the parents of five children, of whom **George L.** was the third in order of birth; **Mary E.** is the wife of **William Startzell**; **Alexander** died when young; **James J.** and **Frank** are deceased.

In his native State **John H. Reed** was reared to adult age and learned the trade of miller. At the age of eighteen years he removed from Virginia to Clearfield, Pa., and established his residence in Clearfield County, where he became concerned with milling and lumbering operations. There he was for some time identified with the Osceola Lumber Company, but when the Civil war was precipitated on the nation he was one of the patriotic young men who went forth in defense of the Union. From Clearfield County he enlisted in the 12th Pennsylvania Volunteer Cavalry, and continued in active service about two years, within which time he participated in numerous engagements, including a number of the important battles that marked the progress of the great conflict between the States. In later years he perpetuated his interest in his old comrades by retaining appreciative affiliation with the Grand Army of the Republic. After the close of the war **Mr. Reed** resumed the milling business in Clearfield County, and later was for some time associated with the operation of the mill owned by the late **Judge Taylor** at Brookville. Thereafter he was engaged in the work of his trade for three years in Clarion County, and for intervals of varying length at Cowanshannock, Pinecreek and Mosgrove, Armstrong County; Shelocta, Indiana County; Kittanning, Armstrong County; and Marysville, Perry County. From the last named place he finally returned to Clearfield County, where he passed the remainder of his life, his age at the time of his death having been about seventy-four years; his wife passed away when about seventy-three years of age.

George L. Reed is indebted to the public schools of Brookville and other places in Pennsylvania for his early educational training, which was somewhat limited in scope, his broader education having been gained under the preceptorship of that wisest of all headmasters, experience. As a boy he was employed for some time at farm work, and later as driver of a cart in connection with the low grade railroad that was being constructed through Jefferson and neighboring counties. He also served in a similar way in the construction of another branch of the same railway line, and thereafter was for three months employed in a stone quarry in Armstrong County. This period of his career found him engaged in work of the sturdiest order, and his next experience

was in connection with operations in the lumber woods of this section of the State. Thereafter he was for two years associated with his father in the milling business in Armstrong County, where he gained the practical experience that gave him facility as a high-grade miller. After thus learning his trade he was for four years employed in the mill conducted by the late **John Startzell**, of Brookville, and he next assumed charge of a mill in Clarion County, in which county he still later had supervision of the operation of a mill at Millville. He then went to Freeport, where he held the position of second miller in a well equipped mill for a period of about two and a half years, at the expiration of which he went to Penacook, Merrimack Co., N. H., where he had a mill of his own for eight years. In the meanwhile, in 1887, he purchased an interest in the old Mabon mill at Brookville, and in June, 1891, returned to this place, where he assumed active charge of the mill and where he has since maintained his home. The business is now conducted under the corporate title of the **George L. Reed** Milling Company, of which he is president and controlling stockholder. Under his effective direction the mill has been brought up to the best modern standards in mechanical equipment and accessories, with full roller process, and the superiority of its products has been the basis on which the large and substantial business now controlled by the company has been developed. **Mr. Reed** is president also of the Redbank Milling Company, of New Bethlehem, Clarion County, where he is president also of the Redbank Electric Company, of which he was one of the organizers. **Mr. Reed** takes a loyal interest in all that concerns the welfare and progress of his home community, and is a liberal citizen and representative business man, fully meriting the high esteem in which he is uniformly held. He has manifested no predilection for public office or the activities of practical politics.

In the year 1884 **Mr. Reed** wedded **Hannah L. Ellenberger**, born and reared at Belknap, Armstrong County, and who is a representative of one of the well known and highly honored families of that county. **Mr.** and **Mrs. Reed** have three children, to whom they have given the best of educational advantages and who are honoring the name which they bear: **Marlin G.** is an efficient and valued associate in his father's milling business; he attended the public schools and then completed a course in Duff's Business College, Pittsburgh; he is one of the popular young business men of Brookville, and is here affiliated with Hobah Lodge, No. 276, F. & A. M. **Hilda E.** was graduated from the Pennsylvania Normal School at Indiana and thereafter took an effective post-graduate course in the Pennsylvania State College; she is now a successful and popular teacher of domestic science in the public schools at Everett, Bedford County. **Russell L.**, the youngest of the children, was graduated from the Brookville high school as a member of the class of 1916.

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