

Newspaper article dated September 13, 1901 (paper unnamed):

THE OLDEST VETERAN bearing his 103 years with still a trace of military erectness, the oldest living soldier of the civil war, John H. Reed, of Decatur, Ind., marched on the day of the great parade of the Grand Army. He is the oldest soldier who ever marched in one of these parades. Mr. Reed's son F. T. Reed, of No. 20 Hazel Street, this city, was a soldier, too, and is a member of Memorial Post of Cleveland. The old soldier was not strong enough to make the whole of the march with his comrades, and because of his advanced age, it was arranged for him to take his place in the line of veterans as Memorial Post passed Erie street, and march from there.

This aged veteran is really a Cleveland soldier, having enlisted in the 124 Ohio Volunteer Infantry, in 1862, his name being one of those inscribed in the monument in the Public Square. Before and after the war, Mr. Reed was a mason and stone contractor in Cleveland, moving to Indiana some years after the war. He is able to read without glasses, and still attends to his business affairs. The day that he was 100 years old the people of Decatur, and those who live near him in the country, five miles from that city, where he has a farm, gave him a big birthday party. The next day the venerable veteran walked the five miles to Decatur, and a photographer who saw him persuaded him to have his picture taken just as he was. It is a copy of this picture, sent to the daughters of his son in this city, is reproduced. (There is a picture of ol' John in the paper.)

From the *Decatur Daily Democrat*, Thursday, April 10, 1902:

Last Thursday Johnny Reed celebrated his 103 birthday. In the forenoon many friends and relatives gathered at his home each bringing a well filled basket with them. At noon all were invited to seat themselves at a large table with everything imaginable to eat. After dinner the guests were entertained by L. N. Grandstaff, John Wolford, W. E. Smith and Roy Wolford. They then gathered in a group and had their picture taken by Joe Cartwright of Poe. In the latter part of the day they all departed for their homes all wishing that Uncle Johnny may live to see another birthday.

Those present were V. S. Reed and family, Sam Reed and wife, Mrs. J. Roop, Roy Wolford, W. E. Smith, John Sargent and family, Joe Cartwright, Frank Small and family, Mrs. John Stewart, Mrs. E. Reed, L. N. Grandstaff, Charles Ford, John Wolford, Joseph Mann and wife Coat Cook, Wm. Singleton, Mrs. A. J. Garboden and children, Mrs. Wm. Butler, Thos. F. Fisher, Mrs. Samuel Spangler, Mrs. A. A. and Ben Butler, Edward Spangler and wife, Jesse Butler, Wm. Ruckman, Dallas Butler, Dale Sphar, Chas. Fuhrman, James Hoagland, Miss Bessie Fisher, Laura Pierce, Warren Reed, Chas. Reed, John Reed, of the surrounding neighborhood.

From the *Decatur Daily Democrat*, Decatur, Indiana (Wed., Jan. 6, 1904, page 1, column 1):

Uncle Johnny Reed, nearly 103 years old, died at ten o'clock this morning at his home five miles northwest of the city. He was the oldest person in the county and perhaps in the state, having been born April 3, 1799.

He served with great credit in both the Civil and Mexican wars and many have oft listened to his interesting stories of the many experiences and narrow escapes. In the Civil war his eldest son, Samuel, also served. Uncle John enlisted in Company H, 124 regiment, Ohio Volunteer infantry and served just three years. His Colonel was the famous Oliver H. Payne now known as "Coal Oil Payne." John H. Reed was born in Plattsburg, Vermont, and lived there until a young man, when he moved to Cleveland, Ohio. There he learned the trade of a brick mason and remained there until about thirty years ago when he came to Adams county and purchased a farm in Root township and which he owned until time of his death. He was married in 1842 to Catherine Spangler of Cleveland and to them were born four children, three of whom still live. They are Samuel and Franklin and Mrs. Sargeah of Williamsport. The wife died in 1849 and afterwards he married her sister Matilda Spangler and to them were born six children as follows: Charles, Dick and John, Polly Reed, Mrs. Ella Small, of Hoagland and Mrs. Dave Showers of Chicago.

Uncle Johnny was a familiar character about here and for years has been pointed out as a sturdy man for his years. He would often walk to town and back home again in a day..a distance of ten miles, even since his hundredth birthday. Jovial and kind it was good to meet him. In September 1901 he attended at G.A.R. national reunion at Cleveland, Ohio, and was greatly honored, he being then the oldest veteran in the United States, his age at that time 102. The funeral services will be held at the Mt. Pleasant church Friday afternoon at one o'clock, interment at Reynolds cemetery.