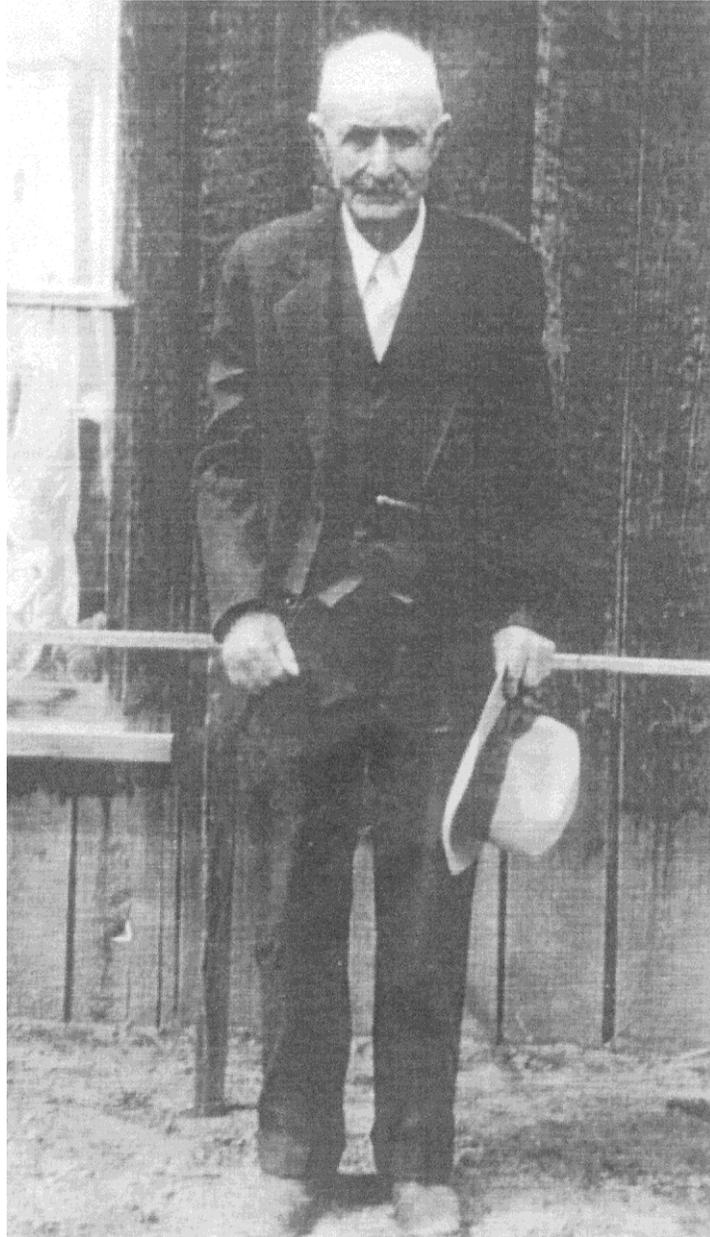


The Biography of James Reid



1853-1938



James Reid and Harriet Valentine

Their ancestors and descendants

by

Margaret Raye Willis
Great-Granddaughter of James Reid

*The Biography of James Reid Edition III 2021;
Copyright © 2021 Author: Margaret L Willis Editor: Doug Duncan
All rights reserved. No part of this book may be modified except by author or editor.
Book may be printed only in its entirety for family education and entertainment.*

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

PART 1: GEORGE REID'S MATERNAL ANCESTORS

PART 2: GEORGE REID'S PATERNAL ANCESTORS

PART 3: EARLY LIFE OF JAMES REID

PART 4: TO AMERICA

PART 5: JAMES AND HARRIET REID

PART 6: JAMES REID'S CHILDREN

PART 7: APPENDIX

INTRODUCTION

PREFACE

Dedication

This biography is dedicated to my parents, F William Raye and Lois Gray Raye who might well have been the role models for the television parents in "Father Knows Best" and who knew how to make a house a home.

About this booklet

"Roots" has always intrigued me. I planned for many years to dig into my family history but never made time to do so until recently. Fortunately, I did document my own whereabouts and information about my children rather copiously from the time of my marriage in 1969. That information is not a part of this booklet.

The organized search for my roots began in 1992. While filling in my first grandchild's baby book, I realized that I still did not have any information about my grandparents. Of the four grandparents, I had only met one; the others died before I was born. So, my journey began. I have chosen to concentrate my research on the biography of my direct ancestors, focusing on my great grandparents.

About my Sources

Information comes to us through oral tradition and recorded documentation. Oral tradition consists of stories and pieces of information that get passed from one family member to another. We are lucky to have some actual autobiographical information from James Reid and we have biographical information written by his grand-daughter, Enid Reid Cook.

From these sources we have heard that James was born in Scotland. His mother left him at an early age. He was raised in Scotland by his grandparents. His grandparents brought him to America with an uncle. He crossed the Great Plains with a group of Mormons and settled in Utah. James was born in Scotland. His mother left him at an early age. He was raised in Scotland by his grandparents. His grandparents brought him to America with an uncle. He crossed the Great Plains with a group of Mormons and settled in Utah.

In addition, many family members provided ancestral information about the Reid Family for the LDS Ancestral Files. The information provided was not always consistent, but it did provide leads to where the actual facts could be found.

When researching information about a person, there are several other sources available to us to clarify what actually happened. This account of James Reid will present the information from his autobiography, biography written by Enid Reid Cook and Ancestral file. But in addition, it will provide the actual facts as presented by the legal and parish records, including the information from church papers written at the time of the events, the census records, county court papers, and licenses issued at the time of the event. The information written at the time of the event bears more weight than a document written later in life about the same event. For example, the birth date written on the death certificate is not as reliable as the birth date written on the birth record.

About the Enid Biography

In 1979 a descendent of James Reid compiled information into a biography. This information gives us a detailed account of James' trek across the Great Plains. This biography has not been edited.

About Available Records

Census records with genealogical information were taken in England and Scotland beginning in 1841 and continuing every 10 years. Parish records were begun much earlier but very early documents (in the 1700's) are often difficult to read.

Census records were available in 1850's in America and continued every 10 years. However, the 1890 records were destroyed. 1940 and newer Census records have not been released to the public. In Utah, birth and death records were not kept until the 20th century.

In England, birth records were not kept until the late 19th century. However, most children were christened shortly after birth. The parishes maintained the christening date, and this is the date often used as the birth date. Often two children were christened at one time even if they were born a year or two apart. Therefore, it is common to see two siblings with the same "birth year". There is no way to tell if they were twins or if one was born sometime earlier.

About English Parishes

The parish was a church and a civil administration unit. A parish sometimes had jurisdiction over a very large geographical area and were divided into chapelries. Ceremonies for christening, marriages and burials were performed in the chapelries and then the records were sent to the parish. The population of a parish was the population of the geographical area and not indicative of the number of church members.

About Spellings

There are many variations in the spellings of each name. This is especially true because these people were not literate and would pronounce their names to the record keeper, leaving the spelling up to the documenter. For Example "Reid" was sometimes "Reed".

The Purpose

This information is intended to be read by family members for genealogical and entertainment purposes. It is not meant to be published or kept in a library. Some of the maps and pictorial representations are not footnoted. Please do not use this information for any other purpose.

Organization

Second only to gathering the information, is the difficulty of organizing and presenting that information. When you have a full tree, the branches get tangled. I am interested not just in the facts but in what was going on in the lives of the families. I want to see where they lived and how far they traveled to meet their spouse. I want descriptions of the areas. I want to know why they did what they did. I want to know how many children they had to raise; how many died. So, I have retained a lot of information that is difficult to present without getting lost. Granted, it may be more than anyone else wants to know.

What is new in this addition?

In May of 1998 I traveled to Great Britain to research the areas where the ancestors lived. From my previous research I was able to pinpoint many areas of interest. Then I traveled to the area to determine as close as possible the exact spots concerned. Some of the photos are from that visit. The parts that have changed considerably are the parts related to Great Britain and there is more accurate information about James and his ancestors. Later, the internet made it possible to do research much easier. No more microfilm to be ordered. However, there is nothing quite like visiting the actual land on which the family spent their time.

Special Thanks

I want to especially thank Doug Duncan, a long-lost cousin for helping me convert some of the old documents and edit for quality and consistency in the new edition. Doug had an early version of the bio I did from 1998 and found me in 2020. He was willing to help in any way he could to get the new version completed. He is now a part of my family. In fact, upon completion of Edition III (2021) of this biography of James Reid, he and his descendants will be carrying on the Reid legacy for me.

Having spent a part of my life researching a man that I did not know, I have grown fond of this James Reid. I found a man that had roots in a difficult beginning but chose to leave a history of the positive side of life.