

UPDATED APRIL 1, 2013

# THE REED FAMILY

The Reed family is Scotch Irish and originally came from Ulster in Northern Ireland to Pennsylvania. I have not been able to find when the family came to Pennsylvania yet, but they probably came to America in the fairly large immigration of other Scotch Irish in the 1720s.

By the 1760s at the latest, Robert Reed had moved his family into the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. The family lived first in Augusta County and then in Rockbridge County. From there, my line, that of Robert Reed II, went into Sevier County Tennessee then into Whitefield County Georgia and finally over to Washington County Arkansas.

It was here in Arkansas, that Robert's daughter, Elizabeth Reed, married Reding Putman in 1855. I'll begin this history with Robert Reed Senior and what I know of him.

## JOHN REED

I am not positive that Robert Reed's father was this John Reed. I noticed a great many familiar names in Virginia, names of families that I knew were from Cumberland County in Pennsylvania. I searched the records and courthouses in both Cumberland and Lancaster, the parent county. I found two Reed families.

There was a deed in Cumberland County from John Reed to his son Robert Reed for 310 acres in Middle Pennsboro Township. Consideration was a token ten pounds, so I assume it was in the form of a wedding present to Robert. The deed was dated April 17, 1755, but was not recorded until January 20, 1760. My Robert Reed was in Virginia on tax lists by the summer of 1760. My feeling is that he recorded the deed just before leaving for the Shenandoah Valley. John Reed had received the land originally by a warrant from the *Honourable Proprietaries* on May 28th, 1743 when the area was a portion of Lancaster County. Cumberland was formed from Lancaster in 1750. Robert Reed never sold this land, it was transferred as a moiety reversion back to John Reed Senior, and sold to Casper Teeler in 1775.

Then things get a little *muddied up*. I found four wills in Cumberland County including one made by a John Reed in 1789 in Carlisle. This John Reed had a son named Robert who was still living in Middletown. If this is the same John Reed, then he is no connection to our family. The problem that I have found is that the Scotch Irish tended to name all their kids the same. In this case of the four Reeds, each had sons named Robert, John and James. It really gets hard to settle in on who is who.

At any rate, even though I am not certain of his parentage, I can begin positively with Robert Reed.

## ROBERT REED SENIOR

The elder Robert Reed was born in the mid 1720s, probably in Pennsylvania. He was married in about 1746, and again probably in Pennsylvania. His first child was born in late 1747 or early 1748. All I know about his wife is that her first name was Barbara; this being obtained from his will and early deeds in Augusta County Virginia. I believe that Barbara was a Stephenson. There was a will of a Thomas Stephenson in 1785 that named all the children of Robert and Barbara as heirs.

The first references in Virginia that I have are in 1760 when he was listed in records of *Processioning*, which was the running of property lines, and his name was in the 1762 and 1764 Fee Books of Augusta County. The 1762 Book listed Robert Reed of Stone Meeting House and also Robert Reed of Staunton. He may have owned two parcels, or there may have been two, father and son. Robert Reed '*Senior*' may have actually been '*Junior*.' This is the only reference to two Robert Reeds.

The early records indicate he was living in the area of Stone Meeting house, which is north of Staunton, Virginia on present day Route 11 near Fort Defiance, Virginia. The area is in rolling hills of the Shenandoah Valley of northern Virginia.

The first deed record I find is on July 17, 1766. Alexander and Jean Blair sold Robert Reed 144 acres on Middle River by the Bald Hill crossing. The next deed record that I find is on May 18, 1768. In this deed, Robert Reed and wife Barbara sold 170 acres on Linnel's Run, a small branch of the Middle River of Shenandoah, which had been patented to Robert Reed on August 30, 1763. This is the first indication of the name of Robert's wife.

In 1785, a Thomas Stephenson left a will dated March 1 and proved August 16. In this will he mentions all the children of Robert Reed. Obviously there is a relationship here, and my feeling is that Barbara was a Stephenson. A descendant on the Stephenson line is sure she is a daughter of Thomas Stephenson.

On March 20, 1772, Robert and Barbara sold 10 acres on Middle River. This was a part of 89 acres patented to Robert Reed on March 16, 1771. On March 21, 1775, Robert and Barbara Reed sold a tract of land on Middle River to their son Alexander. It was mentioned that this was land on which Robert and Barbara were then living. Later in 1775, Robert and Barbara sold Alexander another 140 acre tract on Middle River.

Robert Reed remained in this area of Augusta County until his death in early 1794. He wrote his will on January 26, 1792, and he died sometime prior to February 18, 1794 when the will was filed in Will Book 8, page 95. A transcript of this will is included in the Addendum of this history. Barbara was still alive at the time. She died sometime before 1811.

Robert and Barbara Reed had at least eight children. The following is what I know of them.

## **Alexander Reed**

Alexander was the eldest child. He is my ancestor and his life is told in the next section.

## **Jean Reed**

Jean seems to be the eldest daughter, she married a Hall in Augusta County.

## **Robert Reed Jr.**

Robert, the second, is first mentioned in Chalkley's volume II as a tithable along with his father in 1783. He married Isabella Walker in Augusta County on January 19, 1790. He remained in the same area all his life. There are several deed transactions, all in the same area. He died in 1835.

## **John Reed**

John Reed married Lydia Young on October 2nd, 1800.

## **Thomas Reed**

Thomas Reed married Mary (Polly) Curry, daughter of Richard Curry, on December 2, 1799. He died on July 15, 1801. They had one son, Robert Reed, born on September 23, 1800. Robert married Rebecca Conner and moved to Delaware County Ohio where he died on June 2, 1887.

Mary Curry Reed remarried on February 5, 1807 to Robert Hazlet.

## **Elizabeth Reed**

Elizabeth Reed married James Gardner, junior on July 23, 1792.

## **Deborah Reed**

Deborah never married and died intestate on June 28, 1818 in Augusta County Virginia.

## **Isabella Reed**

Isabella Reed, likewise, remained unmarried. She was still living in the area in the 1820s. No will was left.

## **Agnes Reed**

The only reference I have to Agnes Reed was in the Will of Thomas Stephenson left in 1785. In the will he left bequests to, among others, Agnes Reed, Deborah Reed, Isabel Reed, Robert Reed junior and Alexander Reed. Obviously the Stephensons and Reeds were kin, but I do not know how they were related.

## **ALEXANDER REED**

Alexander Reed was born in Pennsylvania in about 1748. I estimate his birth based on a statement of his son, Robert Reed, found in Goodspeed's *HISTORY OF WASHINGTON COUNTY ARKANSAS* published in 1889. It said Alexander Reed had died in Rockbridge County Virginia at age sixty-four. On a trip to the area, I found his will dated June 28, 1816 and probated on August 6, 1816. Since he died in July of 1816, his birth would have been in 1748. This also places it in Pennsylvania. A copy of this will is in the Addendum of this work.

Alexander Reed grew up in Augusta County Virginia. It was here that he married. Based on old deeds, I know his wife's name was Martha, but again I have no clues yet as to her maiden name. They were more than likely married in 1769. There is a record that Alexander Reed applied for a marriage License on March 21, 1769, and he was probably married shortly thereafter.

On March 21, 1775, Robert and Barbara Reed sold Alexander 140 acres out of their original tracts of 144 and 89 acres where they currently lived. There was no monetary consideration in the deed, so I assume that it was a form of wedding present to young Alexander so that he might begin his own life.

Alexander and Martha raised their children on this land and remained in Augusta County until 1813. In that year, on April 5, 1813, they sold their 170 acre plantation on Middle River to William Bell.

Later on August 2, 1813 they purchased a new home and lands in Rockbridge County Virginia. They purchased 240 acres on the James River from Lawrence and Sally Bousman. They signed a note to pay for this land over a five year period on July 13, 1813.

Alexander was sixty five years old at this time. He became ill a few years later, and wrote his will on June 28, 1816. He died during July and his will was presented in court on August 6, 1816. The will is transcribed in the addendum. Martha was still alive at that time. I do not know when she died.

His two sons, James and Hugh, inherited the remainder of the Plantation after Robert was given some 20 acres first. He required each to pay his proportionate share of the monies still owing to Robert Bousman for the land. The note was to be paid by September 1, 1817. From the court records, it appears that the sons did not live up to the agreement. Suit was brought against them in 1832 for the balances still due. Robert owed \$77.33, Hugh and James \$186.42 each with interest from March 26, 1818. By this time, Robert and Hugh had left the state, and James was tending the property. Joseph Gilmore was the executor of Alexander's will, and had agreed to pay the debt to Bousman who was living in Miami County Ohio at the time. Joseph Gilmore died in 1833, but his son Madison seems to have corrected the debt. In 1833 Bousman acknowledged that all the debts were paid through the hands (estate) of Joseph Gilmore. James Reed was still living on the property in 1833.

Robert Reed, my ancestor, had left Virginia in the early 1820s and according to his deposition in 1833 from Tennessee, stated that in 1818 he had asked Joseph Gilmore how his brothers were coming in paying off the debt. He was told it would be cleared off by the Fall of 1818.

Alexander and Martha Reed had eight children. The following is what I now about them.

## **Robert Reed**

Robert Reed was born in Augusta County Virginia on August 6, 1788. He married Elizabeth Fagala in Sevier County Tennessee in 1824. This is my line and their story is detailed in the next section.

## **James Reed**

James was born in Augusta County and eventually took over his father's plantation as detailed earlier. He was in Rockbridge County until at least 1837. There was a James Reed in adjoining Botetourt County in 1838. Perhaps this was where he went.

## **Hugh Reed**

Hugh likewise was born in Augusta County and remained in Rockbridge County Virginia. In 1837, he left the state, and I have no further information.

## **Nancy Reed**

Nancy was single at the time her father wrote his will.

## **Barbara Reed**

Barbara was likewise single in 1816. I do not know anything on these two daughters.

## **Jane 'Jinney' Reed**

Jinney was one of the elder daughters. She married Septimus Goodwin in Augusta County on February 6, 1806.

## **Rebecca Reed**

She was born about 1790. In 1816, according to her father's will, she was married to a Kiger. He was George Kiger and they were married about 1810. He was a son of Anthony Kiger and Christina Durst. He was born about 1785 and died February 10, 1835. They moved from Virginia to Parke County Indiana in 1827. Rebecca died there in 1829.

They had six children.

**JAMES KIGER** born about 1812 and died about 1865.

**JOHN A. KIGER** born February 6, 1816 and died July 22, 1885.

**REBECCA KIGER** born about 1817.

**SARAH KIGER** born 1822.

**MARY KIGER** born about 1824 and died before the 1830 census.

**MARTHA KIGER** born about 1826.

## **Elizabeth Reed**

Elizabeth is the only daughter for who a marriage record exists. She married John Paul in Rockbridge County on March 18, 1823. They were in the county as late as 1837, after which they moved to Tennessee to join her brother, Robert, my ancestor. From later bible records, I found Elizabeth was born on April 16, 1798 and died November 3, 1867. I assume that John Paul died while in Tennessee, as Elizabeth went to Arkansas with my Robert Reed and died there.

## **ROBERT REED**

Robert Reed was born in Augusta County Virginia on August 6, 1788. He traveled to Rockbridge County in 1813 with his parents. He would have been twenty five at the time and may have married, but I have no record of this. I do know he was married on August 19, 1824 in Tennessee, but I do not know if this was his first marriage. There were no children before 1825, so at this time I am assuming he was single until he reached Tennessee.

Robert Reed left Virginia in about 1820 and went south into Sevier County Tennessee. Here on August 19, 1824, he married Elizabeth Fagala. Elizabeth was the daughter of Adam and Catherine Fagala. The next genealogy section covers [THE FAGALA FAMILY HISTORY](#).

Robert and Elizabeth Reed remained in the area of Boyd's Creek in northwest Sevier County until 1836. The first seven of their thirteen children were born here. They then moved further south to McMinn County Tennessee. They remained there for seven years and three more children were born to them.

In 1843, they moved a few miles south, just across the border into Whitefield County Georgia. They lived near Cohutta, Georgia until 1852. The last three children were born here.

In 1852, the entire family moved overland to Washington County Arkansas. Robert was in the War of 1812, but was not mustered into service. Washington County Arkansas was being opened to veterans of the War of 1812, and more than likely Robert received bounty lands there and moved to them when they became available.

Robert and Elizabeth Reed remained in Washington County for the remainders of their lives. Robert was a blacksmith by trade, and followed this profession in Arkansas. His eldest son, Alexander, followed him in the trade. When the new Baptist Church in West Fork was built in the 1970s, many old plows, horseshoes, etc. were turned up. It seems that the new church is on the site of Robert Reed's original blacksmith shop.

Robert Reed died Washington County Arkansas September 16, 1861 at the age of seventy three. Elizabeth Fagala Reed died there on September 19, 1897 at the age of ninety five. Both are buried at Baptist Ford Cemetery.

From another family history (*The Stockburgers*), I read where Elizabeth talked with a thick Scot's burr. They told of how in her older days, she was almost blind, but always smoked a clay pipe using homegrown tobacco. The grandchildren used to love to get a coal from the fire to light her pipe for her.

The following is what I know of their children. The birth and death dates are taken from handwritten sheets written by Robert and Elizabeth Reed's granddaughter, Anna Putman King.

## Alexander Walker Reed

Alexander Reed was born in Sevier County Tennessee on May 13, 1825. He took over his father's blacksmith shop at age fifteen. His father willed him the business, and he worked it for nine years, and then turned to farming. He lived with his parents until he was thirty five years old. He married Elizabeth McGarrah on January 15, 1861. She was a daughter of William McGarrah, a businessman in Fayetteville. She was born in Fayetteville on March 9, 1843. They moved and took up farming on a 147 acre farm in Richland township. He died April 14, 1894.

They had ten children:

**MARY ELIZABETH REED** born September 29, 1861 and died March 29, 1933. She married Robert Hope at Hood, Arkansas on November 11, 1888.

**ROBERT WAKEFIELD REED** born March 19, 1863 and died January 31, 1949.

**JOHN ALBERT REED** born September 20, 1865 and died March 7, 1943.

**WILLIAM MARTIN REED** born November 18, 1867. He married Matilda Raney on October 15, 1899.

**REBECCA JANE REED** born March 12, 1869 and died March 15, 1869.

**EMMA JOSEPHENE REED** born September 3, 1871. She married Emmett Morris at Hood, Arkansas on May 15, 1892.

**JAMES ALEXANDER REED** born October 17, 1873 and died August 20, 1875.

**RACHEL AUGUSTINE REED** born September 25, 1879.

**JULIA ELLEN REED** born July 11, 1876 and died December 24, 1877.

**JORDON REED** born July 21, 1883.

## Catherine Jane Reed

Catherine was born in Sevier County Tennessee on September 22, 1826. She married Henry Wakefield in 1863, and after his death, married a cousin, Searing Stelle, a widower, on April 19, 1869. They had one daughter, ELIZABETH STELLE. Searing died on May 3, 1888. Catherine died on August 24, 1909.

From a History of the Stockburger Family by Madge Kirkpatrick, I read where Henry Wakefield's house was raided by *bushwackers* during the Civil War. When he refused to tell them where his money was, they hung him and left him for dead. As soon as they rode away, Catherine cut him down and saved his life.

## **Martha Ann Reed**

Martha was born in Sevier County on April 4, 1828. She married John Calvin Stockburger in 1849 while living in Georgia. He was a doctor, and they had twelve children: MARCUS, NANCY, JACOB, JOHN, ANNA, EDWARD, EMMA, CALVIN, WILLIAM, JOSEPH, MARY STOCKBURGER, and an infant that died young. Martha Ann died on December 31, 1912. John Stockburger died in 1916. Both are buried at the West Fork Presbyterian Church near highway 71.

## **Adam J. Reed**

Adam J. Reed was born in Sevier County on September 25, 1829. He never married and died in Washington County Arkansas on February 20, 1890.

## **John Paul Reed**

John Reed was born in Sevier County on September 1, 1831. He died in Washington County Arkansas on February 13, 1863 leaving a wife and two children. I believe he was killed in the fighting at Pea Ridge. He married Nancy Ann Bloyed on September 9, 1858.

## **Maria Reed**

Maria was born in Sevier County Tennessee on April 4, 1833. She married J. Martin Brown on November 1, 1855 and died in Arkansas on September 16, 1905.

## **Elizabeth Reed**

Elizabeth was the last child to be born in Sevier County. She was born on June 7, 1835. She married Reding Putman II on May 10, 1855, and their story was told in the main body of this work.

## **Polly Reed**

Polly 'Tennessee' Reed was born on September 2, 1837 in McMinn County Tennessee. She married Wilson Rizley on September 15, 1859. Wilson was the son of John Rizley and Delilah Putman (the daughter of Reding Putman senior).



Polly and Wilson had four children: ADAM, ROBERT, JOHN CALVIN and MARTHA ELIZABETH RIZLEY. Polly died July 24, 1869. Wilson later remarried to a widow, Martha Ann Cates in 1871, and had three more children.

## **Isabella Reed**

Isabella was also born in McMinn County. She was born on January 21, 1838. She died unmarried on January 2, 1873.

## **Robert W. Reed**

Robert Reed was the last child born in Tennessee. He was born on September 22, 1840. He was married twice, first to Mary McGarrah in Fayetteville on January 15, 1861. He later married a widow Mary Ritter Harris. All that I know is that he was still alive when the Goodspeed book was published in 1889, I think he died in 1920.

## **Rebecca C. Reed**

Rebecca was born in Whitefield County Georgia on December 24, 1843. She was twice married, first to Issac A. Copeland and then after he died in 1868 she again married, this time to James Ham. She died on February 9, 1874 leaving her husband and two children, one named William Eugene Copeland.

## **James Reed**

James was born on November 24, 1846. He married Sarah Ramey. He died in Washington County Arkansas in August of 1875, leaving a wife and one child.

## **Eliza Augustine Reed**

Eliza was the family's last child. She was born in Whitefield County Georgia on January 2, 1849. She married John Richard Webb and had seven children. They moved to Texas. Eliza died on May 10, 1927 and is buried in Hasse, Texas.