

The search for our Reed family origins

by James Michael Fleming

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Introduction

James Reed was a soldier who arrived in Australia in 1836 as part of a contingent of soldiers of the 80th Regiment of Foot who were guarding the convicts aboard the transport ship *Earl Grey*. He was accompanied by his wife Frances and their infant sons John and James. They remained in Australia when the regiment moved to India in 1844, settling in Sydney. During the 1860s they moved their large family to Bourke NSW where they lived for the next 30 odd years. James and Frances were buried in Bourke cemetery during the 1890s and are commemorated with a prominent grave marker. They have descendants that still live in Bourke, while others are scattered across NSW. This report outlines my research into the origins of James Reed and his wife, Frances Heazle.



Jim Fleming is a retired Customs Manager and lives on Sydney's lower north shore. He began researching his family history in 1983 and has been a member of the Society of Australian Genealogists since then. Aside from genealogy he was enjoying travelling and singing baritone in two choirs - before COVID19 interrupted those activities.

Researching: Bowen, Flowerdew, Gardner, Gordon, Grady, Hanrahan, Jolliffe, Kemp, Kessey, Murphy, Poulton, Press and so many more!

Website: <http://jimfleming.id.au/up/index.htm>

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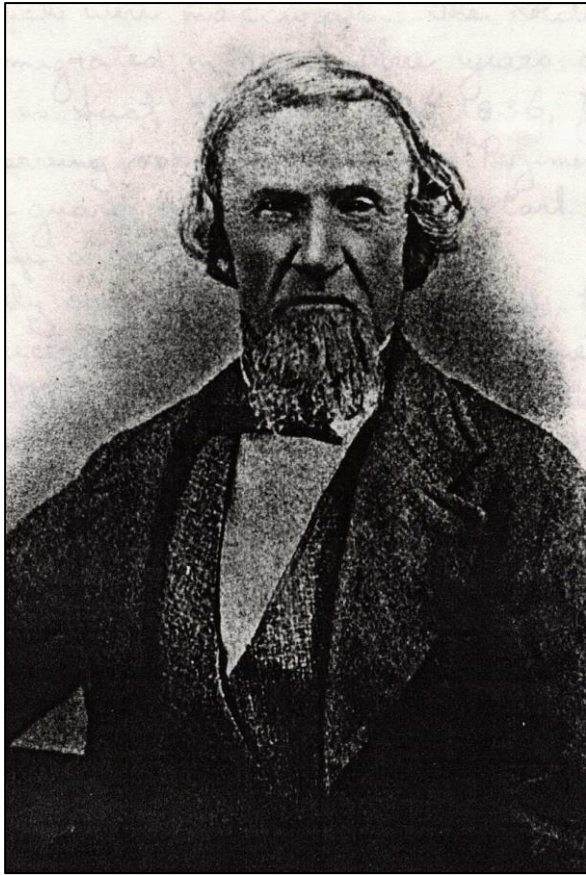


Illustration 1: James and Frances Reed



Illustration 2: The extended family of James and Frances Reed ca 1870



Illustration 3: The Reed family at Bourke ca 1895
(Source: The collection of Ena Ruby Kessey nee Murphy 1908-1995, great-granddaughter of James and Frances Reed; held by the author)



DEATH REGISTERED IN NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA.

CERTIFIED COPY FURNISHED UNDER PART V OF THE REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES ACT, 1973.

No.	Date and place of death	Name and occupation	Sex and age	Cause of death Duration of last illness, medical attendant; when he last saw deceased	Name and occupation of father Name and maiden surname of mother	Informant	Particulars of registration	When and where buried: name of undertaker	Name and religion of Minister and names of witnesses of burial	Where born and how long in the Australasian Colonies or States	Place of marriage, age, and to whom	Children of marriage
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4274	1895 April 5 th	Frances Reed	Female 32 years	(1) Apoplexy 1 Week (2) Richard Sides 3 rd April 1895	(1) Benjamin Hezel Sergeant (2) Elizabeth Wilson Bourke Witness Josephine Wilson	certified by Elysa Condit Marshall Granddaughter Bourke	(1) April 7 th 1895 Bourke (2) April 1895 Bourke	7 th April 1895 Bourke Fred Sharp	Charles Hamilton Shedden Church of England Minister James Tobin Richard Brown	Shedden England 62 years in New South Wales	Shedden England 18 years	James Goyard Alexander 38 Elizabeth 18 Sarah 50 Prudence 48 Francis 46 James 44 Margy 42 Joseph 39 2 males dead 7 females
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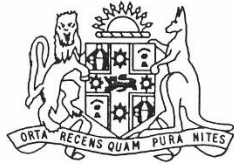
I, VERNON MARK BENNETT, HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE ABOVE IS A TRUE COPY OF PARTICULARS RECORDED IN A REGISTER KEPT BY ME.

ISSUED AT SYDNEY, 27th FEBRUARY, 1990.

Vernon Mark Bennett

 PRINCIPAL REGISTRAR

Illustration 4: Death Certificate of Frances Reed, died at Bourke on 5 April 1895



DEATH REGISTERED IN NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA.

CERTIFIED COPY FURNISHED UNDER PART V OF THE
REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES ACT, 1973.

No.	Date and place of death	Name and occupation	Sex and age	Cause of death Duration of last illness; medical attendant; when he last saw deceased	Name and occupation of father Name and maiden surname of mother	Informant	Particulars of registration	When and where buried; name of undertaker	Name and religion of Minister and names of witnesses of burial	Where born and how long in the Australasian Colonies or States	Place of marriage, age, and to whom	Children of marriage
15	1898? 30 th January North Bourke	James Reed Labourer	Male 88 years	(1) Senile decay (2) — (3) Charles Henry Scott M.B. is 66. (4) 30 th January 1898	(1) Thomas Reed (2) Shoemaker (3) Unknown	J. C. Reed Son North Bourke	North Bourke Bourke	31 January 1898 North Bourke Bourke Fred Sharp	Charles Hamilton Shedden Church of England Minister	Stafford England 65 years in N.S. Wales	(1) Sunderland England (2) 20 years (3) Frances Heazel	James — 62 Alexander — 60 Elyza — 55 Sarah — 53 Prudence — 51 Francis — 49 George — 47 Mary Ann — 45 Janie — 42 Living 2 males } dead 1 female }

I, VERNON MARK BENNETT, HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE ABOVE IS A TRUE COPY OF PARTICULARS RECORDED IN A REGISTER KEPT BY ME.

ISSUED AT SYDNEY, 7TH MARCH, 1990.

Vernon Mark Bennett

 PRINCIPAL REGISTRAR

Illustration 5: Death Certificate of James Reed who died at Bourke on 30 January 1898

What we knew

Frances Heazle and James Reed raised a large family and both lived into their eighties before they were buried together in the cemetery at Bourke NSW in 1895 and 1898 respectively.

Much of what we know of their origins is documented on their death certificates. The informants were well-placed to know these details – their granddaughter Eliza Emily Tobin (nee Maxwell) and their son George Charles Reed. Both certificates state that James and Frances had been married at Sunderland in England in about 1830 or 1831. Both also agree that three of their children had pre-deceased them – 2 males and a female. And both certificates also list their surviving children as James (born about 1835¹⁷), Alexander 1837⁷, Eliza 1841¹, Sarah 1844², Prudence 1846³, Frances 1847⁴, George 1851, Mary Ann 1853⁵ and Jane 1856⁶.

Frances' death certificate (Illustration 4) states that she had been born at Canterbury in England in about 1813 and that her parents were Sergeant Major Benjamin Heazel and his wife Elizabeth Wilson.

James' death certificate (Illustration 5) states that he had been born at Stafford in England in about 1810 and that his father was a shoemaker named Thomas Reed, but the informant did not know his mother's name. Both certificates agree that James and Frances had arrived in NSW in about 1833.

Evidence and analysis

There are Australian records that corroborate many of the details documented on the death certificates. The first of these is the baptism of their son Alexander (Illustration 6) by the Reverend Henry Fulton at Christ Church, Castlereagh, on 26 July 1837⁷. This states that James was a soldier and that the family was living at 17 Mile Hollow, so named because it was 17 miles west of the Nepean River at Penrith, where the baptism took place. This is now the town of Linden.

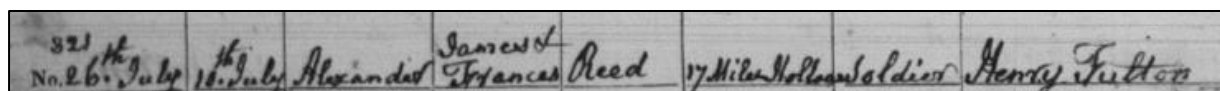


Illustration 6: Baptism record for Alexander Reed, 26 July 1837, Christ Church, Castlereagh

James and Frances baptised a daughter Prudence in 1839⁸, but she must have died before 1846 when they named another daughter Prudence (who is my GG-grandmother). The older Prudence must be the “1 female deceased” offspring listed on the death certificates of both her parents.

There is no baptism record for their son George. His death at Bourke was the subject of a Coroner's Inquest on 12 October 1909 which recorded that he had been born in Sydney 56 years earlier (1853). Since his sister Mary Ann was born in 1853 and his parents' death certificates indicate that he was two years older than her, it is more likely that he was born in 1851.

James Reed's military career

Alexander's baptism record hints that his father James may have been a member of the 80th regiment because it was stationed at 17 Mile Hollow in 1837⁹. This is corroborated by a range of other evidence, including the baptism records for his brothers William (1831) and James (1835), the Register of Service for the 80th Regiment and the Regiment's Discharge Register. Furthermore, the Regiment's Record of Stations reveals that it was stationed nearby for key incidents in the lives of James and Frances Reed.

James Reed's Regimental Register of Service document¹⁷ records that he was a brickmaker who had been born at Trentham, Stafford in about 1810, corroborating the birth information on his death certificate. (He may have learned that trade at the Brick and Tile Works at Hanford, near Trentham.) It shows that he first joined the 35th Regiment of Foot at Newcastle (England) on 13 June 1827¹⁰. [This was probably Newcastle-under-Lyme (which is just 5 kilometers from Trentham), not Newcastle upon Tyne (which is nearly 300 kilometers from Trentham)]. This document also reveals that he then transferred to the 80th Regiment of Foot on Christmas Day in that same year (1827). This makes sense because that Regiment was based in his home county of Staffordshire. He may have had a friend or relative who had joined previously.

The Diary of the Regiment¹¹ records that

In the beginning of September [1835] ...the Regiment received orders to proceed to Chatham for embarkation as Convict Guards for New South Wales. ... The first Convict Guard embarked at Gravesend on 23 May 1836 under the command of Major Baker.

James was discharged from the Regiment at Sydney on 31 October 1843¹². He may have had foreknowledge that the Regiment was to be transferred to India. It arrived in Calcutta on 16 November 1844 and was involved in several bloody and hard-fought battles of the Sikh War during 1845. James Reed had made the right decision to leave the army and remain in Australia.

How James met Frances

It is almost certain that it was the 80th Regiment that brought James and Frances together because her father was also a member of the Regiment.

Frances' death certificate states that her parents were Sergeant Major Benjamin Heazle and Elizabeth Wilson. Benjamin Heazle served in the 55th Regiment of Foot as a Private and a Sergeant for 8 years before he joined the 80th Regiment as a Sergeant on 28 October 1817 at Chatham, Kent¹³. His discharge papers state that he had served a total of 22 years and 25 days before his discharge on 23 January 1832. It provides the following details:

In the 55th Foot on the Continent in the Years 1813 and 14 was present at the affair of Merxham, and the subsequent bombardment of Antwerp & storming of Bergen op Zoom. In the 80th Regiment in the Mediterranean Five Years the remainder at Home.

The Regiment's Record of Stations⁹ records that it served in Gibraltar and Malta for 7 and a half years between January 1821 and September 1828. It then served in Corfu and Kephallonia for 3 and a half years between September 1828 and March 1831. Clearly Benjamin Heazle did not serve on these overseas stations for the whole 11 years. In fact, since Corfu and Kephallonia are in the Ionian Sea (not the Mediterranean), he probably did not serve there at all. But he definitely did serv in Malta because a son named James was buried there on 21 June 1824¹⁴.

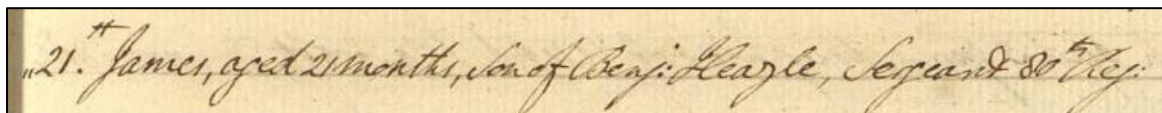


Illustration 7: Burial record for 21-month-old James Heazle at Malta on 21 June 1824

It is very unlikely that James Reed and Frances Heazle met in Malta because the Regiment left there less than 9 months after James Reed joined it in England in December 1827. It is also unlikely that they met in Corfu because Benjamin Heazle probably never served there. His five Mediterranean years had most probably finished before James Reed joined the Regiment. Furthermore, if James and Frances had met overseas, they would have married there, not in England. The army would not have transported a mere Private from Corfu to England just to get married!

The most likely scenario is that by early 1828 Sergeant Benjamin Heazle had finished his five years in the Mediterranean (in Malta and possibly Gibraltar) and had returned to England. He may have now been responsible for training new recruits “at home” before they were sent to Malta or Corfu. That would mean that James Reed most probably met his daughter Frances Heazle in England during his period of training.

Early parish records

In order to gain more information about the origins of the Reed family, I searched for records that pre-date their emigration to Australia in 1836. While this search found only three definitive records of the family, these corroborate details known from their death certificates.

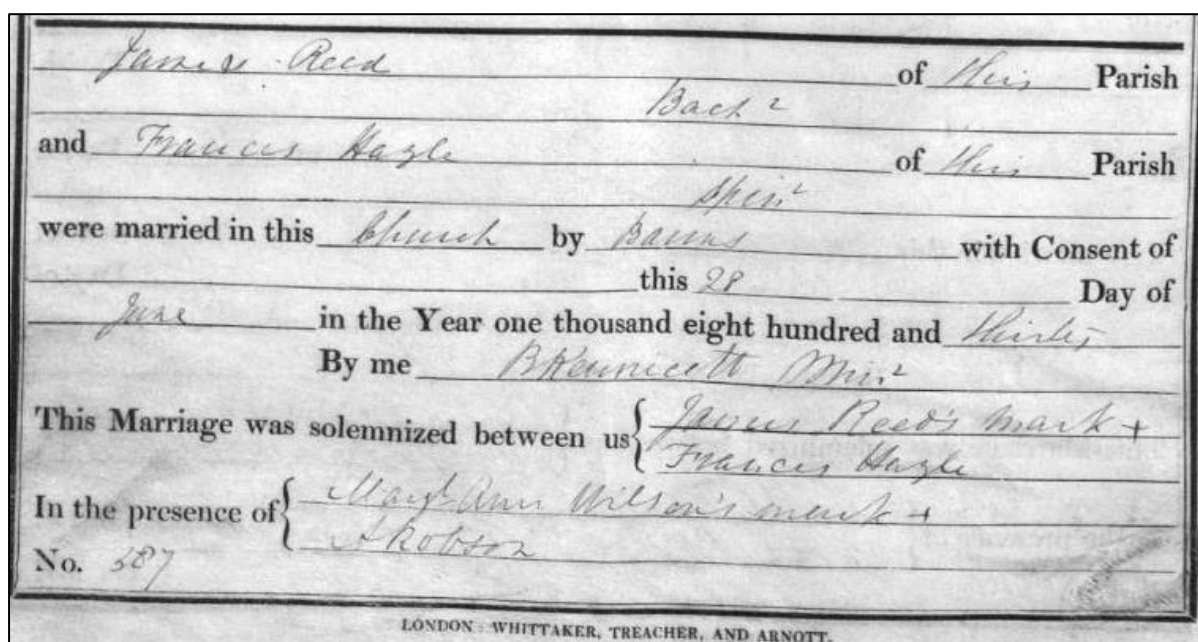


Illustration 8: Marriage of James Reed and Frances Heazle at Durham on 28 June 1830

Marriage

James Reed married Frances Heazle on 28 June 1830¹⁵ at Monk Wearmouth (now an inner suburb of Sunderland in Durham, England). It may be significant that one of the marriage witnesses was Margaret Ann Wilson, thus supporting the information on Frances’ death certificate that her mother’s maiden name was Wilson. Perhaps the couple chose to get married in the hometown of the bride’s mother, Elizabeth Wilson. Church records reveal that there was a large extended Wilson family established at Monk Wearmouth.



Illustration 9: Baptism record for William Reed at Portsea on 24 April 1831

Baptism of William Reed

Ten months after the marriage, on 24 April 1831, their son William was baptised at St Paul’s church in Portsea¹⁶. The baptism record confirms that his parents were James Reed (a Private in the 80th Regiment) and Frances. The Regiment’s Record of Stations⁹ confirms that it had

departed from Kephalaria on 15 January 1831 and landed at Portsmouth (near Portsea) on 10 March. So, it seems that James and Frances must have travelled to Kephalaria after their marriage in 1830 and then returned to England with the Regiment in 1831, thus placing them in Portsea (very near Portsmouth) when their son William was born. Their address was recorded on the baptism record as Southsea Castle, no doubt the location of the Regiment's temporary barracks after disembarking.

William was not among the nine surviving children listed on the death certificates of his parents, James and Frances Reed. He must, therefore, have been one of the two males who had predeceased them. There is no record of William having died in NSW, so he must have died before the family emigrated to NSW. Nevertheless, I was not able to identify a record of his burial.

Baptism of James Reed

We saw earlier that the death certificates of James and Frances both recorded that their eldest surviving son (James) had been born in about 1836. In fact, his baptism was recorded in the register of St Philip's Church at Manchester on 5 April 1835¹⁷. This record also specifically states that his father James was a Private in the 80th Regiment. The Regiment's Record of Stations⁹ confirms that it was indeed stationed in Manchester between October 1834 and April 1835.

BAPTISMS solemnized in the Parish of <u>St Philip's Church Manchester</u>						
in the County of <u>Lancaster</u> in the Year 18 <u>35</u>						
When Baptized.	Child's Christian Name.	Parents Name.		Abode.	Quality, Trade, or Profession.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
		Christian.	Surname.			
18 <u>35</u> April 5 No. 329.	James	James and Frances	Reed	Soldantry Barracks	Private in 80 th Regt.	J. Robley

Illustration 10: Baptism record for James Reed on 5 April 1835 at St Philip's Church, Manchester

Baptism of John Benjamin Reed

We know that James and Frances also had a son named John Benjamin Reed before they left England in 1836 because he was treated by the Surgeon aboard ship on the way to Australia. But his baptism record is elusive.

It is clear that the Reed family travelled to Australia in 1836 aboard the convict transport ship *Earl Grey* under Captain James Tulbert. (This is three years later than the date implied by the information on their death certificates.) The Surgeon's Journal for the voyage¹⁸ dates from 15 July 1836 when the experienced Surgeon Superintendent William Evans went aboard. The military guard came aboard ten days later comprising two Lieutenants; a Quarter Master; two Assistant Surgeons; one Sergeant; 29 rank and file of the 28th, 50th and 80th regiments; 5 women and 7 children. These family members included James' wife Frances and his children John and James. They sailed from Deptford on 27 July but did not reach Kingstown (Ireland) until 14 August.

After three days at sea, Surgeon Evans' second case was "John Reed aged six years, Soldier's son" who was diagnosed with *cynanche trachealis*, an infection of the trachea. He became very ill but had recovered by 12 August.

It is notable that John Reed was not among the list of nine surviving children recorded on his parents' death certificates. This is because he was to pre-decease them in 1881. He is buried at Bourke¹⁹.

The Surgeon's journal states that he was six years old in 1836, implying an 1830 birth. That year seems unlikely, however, given that his parents were married in June 1830 and another son (William) was born ten months later.

A James and Frances Reed baptised two sons named John at Muston in Leicestershire on 3 September 1828 and 23 May 1832 but these cannot be our family because the parents' marriage record (of 11 September 1826 at Muston) reveals that Frances' maiden name was Barnes, not Heazle. Furthermore, this couple had three other children before 1836.

Another James and Frances Reed had three children baptised in St Nicholas Church at Guildford in Surrey between 1828 and 1832, but none of them was named John and the father was recorded as a labourer. Furthermore, the eldest son (Henry) was born in the workhouse just a month after our James Reed had joined the 80th Regiment.

A John Reed was baptised at Brampton, Cumberland on 17 June 1831 but, while his mother was Frances, his father was John, not James.

It is possible that John Benjamin Reed had been born before his parents married in June 1830. Otherwise, he must have been born after his brother William, probably in 1832 or 1833. Nevertheless, I could not find a specific baptism record to support either of these possibilities.

Frances Heazle's origins

Frances' death certificate states that she was born in about 1812 at Canterbury, England, but I was unable to locate a baptism record to confirm that. I was also unable to find a record of any marriage between Benjamin Heazle and Elizabeth Wilson. Nor could I find any likely record for Elizabeth Heazle. It is possible that Frances was born out of wedlock as Frances Wilson, but there is no evidence of that either. The only evidence to support the information on Frances' death certificate about her mother is the fact that her 1830 marriage to James Reed was witnessed by a Margaret Ann Wilson (possibly an aunt or a sister).

We saw above (Illustration 7) that Frances had a brother named James who was buried in Malta in 1824 aged 21 months. That would make him nine years younger than her. It seems highly likely that Frances and James would have had siblings, but I could not find any record of them. Nevertheless, since her father's Regiment served in England, Scotland, Ireland and the Mediterranean during her childhood, it is possible that there are other baptism records that have not yet been indexed online.

Benjamin Heazle's origins

Benjamin Heazle was Irish. His army Pension Book states that he was born at Knockbrogan, Bandon, Cork in about 1791²⁰. This is corroborated on his Service Record¹³. He had been a weaver before joining the 55th Regiment on 27 December 1809. After a year and 29 days as a Private, he was promoted to Sergeant on 25 January 1811. He obtained a limited discharge from the 55th on 24 October 1817 before re-enlisting in the 80th Regiment four days later.

He was finally discharged fourteen years later on 23 January 1832 with a pension of 1/8 per day. His Pension Record states that he intended to reside at Clonmel in Ireland (although this is not near his birthplace at Bandon)²¹. This document states that he died on 28 December 1850.

I was not able to find any reference to our Benjamin Heazle in Irish records. The Benjamin Heazle who married Maria Burchill at Ballymodan (very near Bandon) on 20 January 1853²² may have been a nephew (or a cousin) since his father's name was recorded as Henry Heazle.

While confronted with research roadblocks on both the Wilson and Heazle branches, I was able to make some further progress on the Reed branch.

James Reed's origins

James' death certificate indicates that he was born in Stafford in about 1810. This is corroborated by his Regimental Record of Service because he gave his age as 17 when he joined on 30 June 1827. This document provides the additional information that he had been born at Trentham in Stafford. All of these details are corroborated by details recorded on his Regimental Discharge document. His death certificate supplies the additional information that his father was a shoemaker named Thomas Reed.

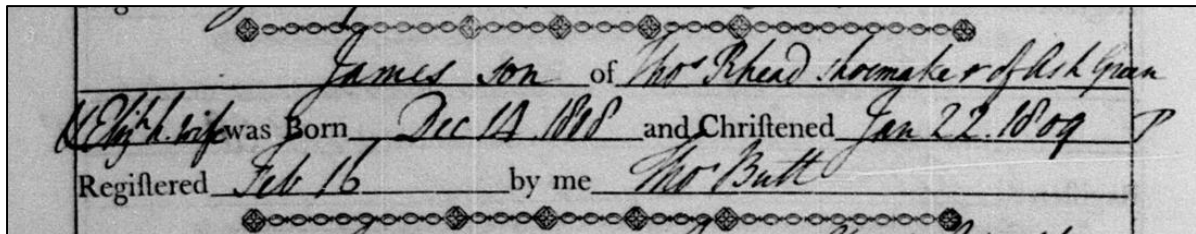


Illustration 11: Baptism record for James Rhead at Trentham on 22 January 1809

James was baptised in the church of St Mary and All Saints at Trentham on 22 January 1809²³. He was five weeks old, having been born on 14 December 1808. His parents were Thomas Rhead (a shoemaker of Ash Green) and his wife Elizabeth. This accords with every detail that we had gleaned from later records, except that James was about a year older.

Thomas Reed and Elizabeth Sutton

Further research reveals that James was the youngest in a family of nine children born to Thomas Reed and his wife Elizabeth Sutton between 1790 and 1808. All were baptised in the same church and their daughter Ann was buried there on 7 March 1810²⁴. These children comprised:

- Mary born 2 May 1790 and baptised 15 August 1790²⁵ (father a labourer);
- Anne b 17 December 1791, ba 25 December 1791²⁶ (father a shoemaker),
- Elizabeth b 1 February 1794, ba 13 April 1794²⁷;
- William ba 11 December 1796²⁸;
- Thomas ba 3 February 1799²⁹;
- John ba 14 June 1801³⁰;
- Prudence b 5 August 1803, ba 4 September 1803³¹;
- Edward b 27 January 1806, ba 7 February 1806³² (father a shoemaker of Ash Green); and
- James b 14 December 1808, ba 22 January 1809²³ (father a shoemaker of Ash Green).

Elizabeth must have died sometime between 1809 and 1841 (when she was not listed on the census in the household of her husband). It is difficult to identify her burial record because she has a common name. She may be the Elizabeth Read who was buried at Chapel Chorlton in Staffordshire (about 5 miles from Trentham) on 2 April 1809³³. As we shall see later, this is where her husband came from.

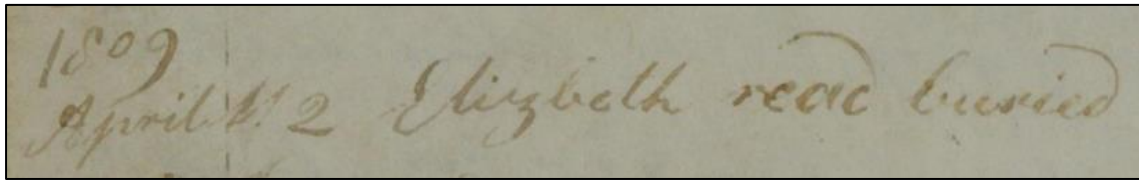


Illustration 12: Possible burial record for Elizabeth Reed nee Sutton, at Chorlton on 2 April 1809

Thomas Rhead had married Elizabeth Sutton by banns on 13 July 1789³⁴ at the church of St Peter Ad Vincula (now known as Stoke Minster) at Stoke on Trent, just 5 kilometres from the church where their children were later baptised.

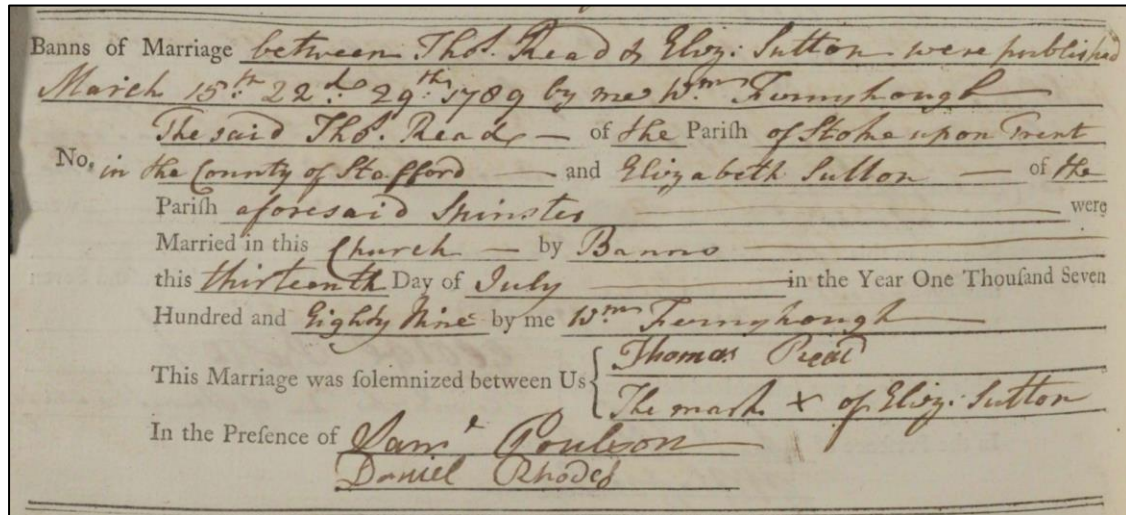


Illustration 13: Marriage record for Thomas Rhead and Elizabeth Sutton

Elizabeth Sutton's origins

Elizabeth Sutton was probably born around 1765-1770 because (as we shall see below) her husband was born around 1765. There are Staffordshire baptism records for several Elizabeth Suttons within a year or two of this time period, including:

- 9 January 1763³⁵ (at All Saints, Bednall and/or St Mary's church, High Offley, parents John and Mary)
- 3 November 1765³⁶ (at Haughton, parents Edward and Margaret);
- 20 September 1766³⁷ (at Burton-upon-Trent, parents Peter and Ann);
- 24 September 1769³⁸ (at St Leonard, Bilston, parents Thomas and Elizabeth);
- 6 December 1769³⁹ (at All Saints, Madeley, daughter of Mr Sutton of Wrine Hill Hall);
- 28 March 1770⁴⁰ (at St James, Barton under Needwood, parents John and Elizabeth);
- 13 August 1770⁴¹ (at St Michael, Stone, parents Samuel and Sarah);
- 10 November 1771⁴² (at St Bartholomew, Blore Ray, parents John and Elizabeth); and
- 2 August 1772⁴³ (at Wombourn, parents John and Mary).

Without further information, it is impossible to choose one of these over the other possibilities. Furthermore, if she was a little older or younger than my estimate, it may be none of these.

Thomas Reed's origins

Thomas survived his wife by many years. He was recorded without her on the 1841 census at Trentham where he was listed as a 75-year-old shoemaker and head of his household⁴⁴. He had Joseph Pinner (labourer) and Jane Pinner (both 35) living with him. They were probably boarders. The image of this record is too poor to reproduce here.

39	D. No. 32	Thomas Rhead	Head	Widow	86	Shoemaker	D. Charlton
		John Grindley	Servant	Man	56	Ag. Laborer	D. Hoche
		Mary D.	Daughter	Woman			D. Trentham

Illustration 14: Thomas Rhead aged 86 on the 1851 census at 32 Ash Green, Trentham



Illustration 15: Detailed map of Trentham (circa 1877), United Kingdom

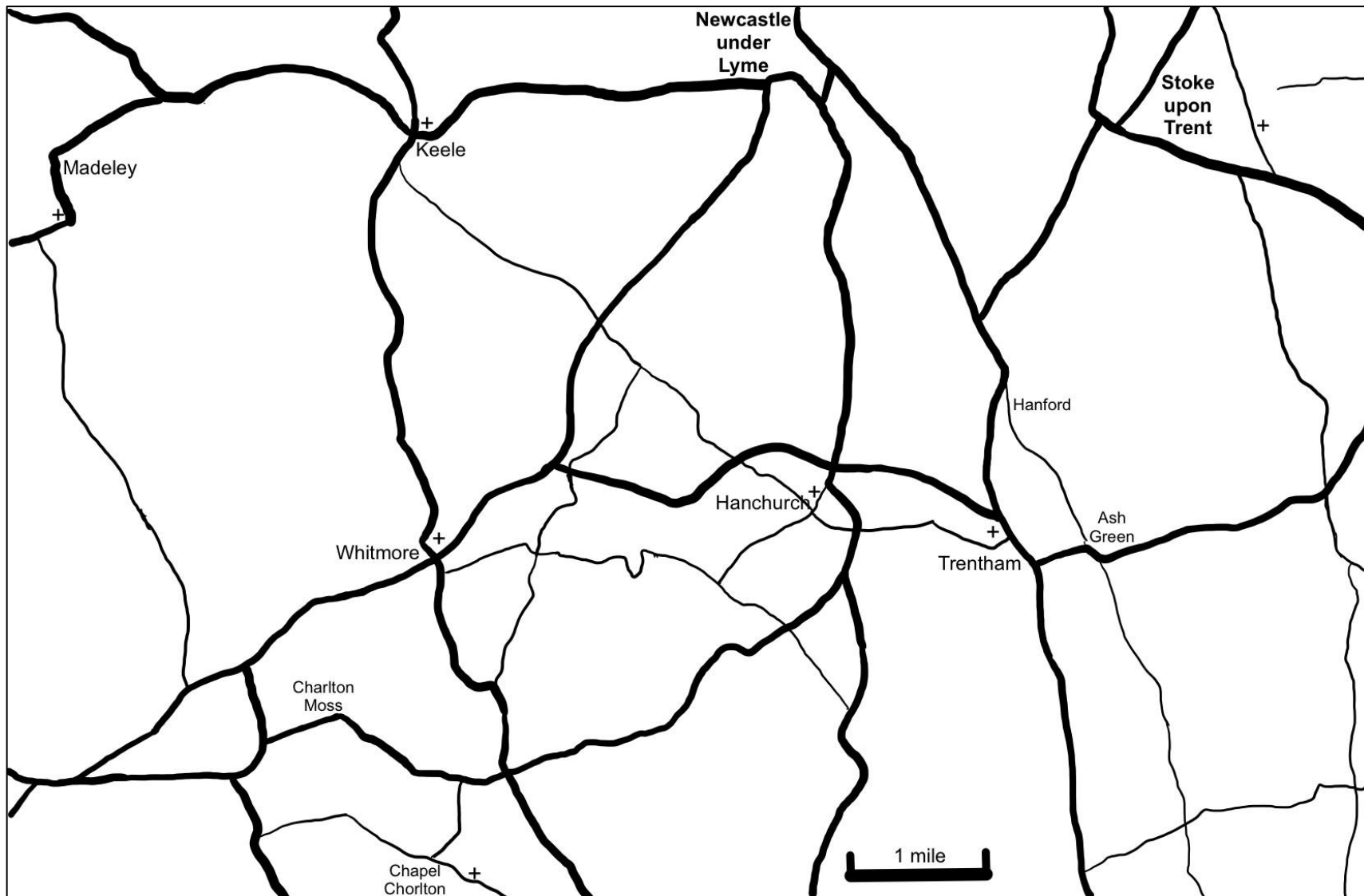


Illustration 16: Map of the area around Trentham

The 1851 census lists him as an 86-year-old shoemaker and the head of his household at 32 Ash Green, Trentham (see Illustration 14)⁴⁵. His daughter Mary (who was 61, not 64) was living with him, along with her husband John Grindley, an agricultural labourer. This census states that Thomas Rhead had been born at Chorlton in Staffordshire.

Superintendent Registrar's District <u>Stone</u>									
Registrar's District <u>Trentham</u>									
1851. DEATHS in the District of <u>Trentham</u> in the County of <u>Stafford</u>									
No.	When Died.	Name and Surname.	Sex.	Age.	Rank or Profession.	Cause of Death.	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant.	When Registered.	Signature of Registrar.
363	Seventeenth February 1853 Ash Green Trentham	Thomas Rhead	Male	88 years	Cordwainer	Old Age Not Certified	+ The mark of Mary Rhead in attendance Ash Green Trentham	Eighteenth of February 1853	Geo. Sibley Registrar

Illustration 17: Death Certificate for Thomas Rhead who died at Ash Green (Trentham) on 17 February 1853 aged 88 years

Thomas died at Ash Green on 17 February 1853⁴⁶. The following day his death was registered by his daughter Mary who stated that he was an 88-year-old cordwainer (shoemaker). That would imply that he had been born in about 1765. A search of possible baptism records finds the following possibilities in Staffordshire:

- 17 April 1763⁴⁷ (at Bilston, parents Thomas and Sarah);
- 26 April 1764⁴⁸ (at St Mary, Brewood, parents Stephen and Mary);
- 30 August 1765⁴⁹ (at St Mary and All Saints, Whitmore, parents William and Sarah);
- 27 September 1767⁵⁰ (at St Mary and All Saints, Trentham, parents Thomas and Elizabeth “of Hⁿ Church”; i.e., they lived at Hanchurch); and
- 8 December 1767⁵¹ (at St Peter, Wolverhampton, parents Thomas and Alice).

Just to complicate matters, the church of St Mary and All Saints at Whitmore (where the 1765 contender was baptised) is just 4 miles from another church of St Mary and All Saints at Trentham (where the 1767 contender was baptised)! Note that Thomas’s children were all to be baptised in the Trentham one.

The 1851 census records that Thomas had been born at Chorlton. This is probably a reference to Chorlton Moss or nearby Chapel Chorlton, both of which are about 7 miles west of Ash Green (near Trentham) which is where Thomas lived for most of his life. This means that we can rule out Bilston (39 miles from Chorlton), Wolverhampton (36 miles) and Brewood (30 miles). That leaves Whitmore (at just 1.5 miles from Chapel Chorlton) and Hanchurch (4.5 miles from Chapel Chorlton) as the most likely of these five possible baptism records.

Thomas Reed and Elizabeth Hemmings

The 1767 “Hanchurch” baptism is a strong possibility. Hanchurch is just 4.5 miles from Chorlton and 2.5 miles from Ash Green, where Thomas (junior) was to live for most of his life.

The parents of this child were very probably Thomas Reed (a husbandman) and Elizabeth Hemmings who had been married by banns on 21 March 1766 in the church of St Peter Ad Vincula in Stoke on Trent.

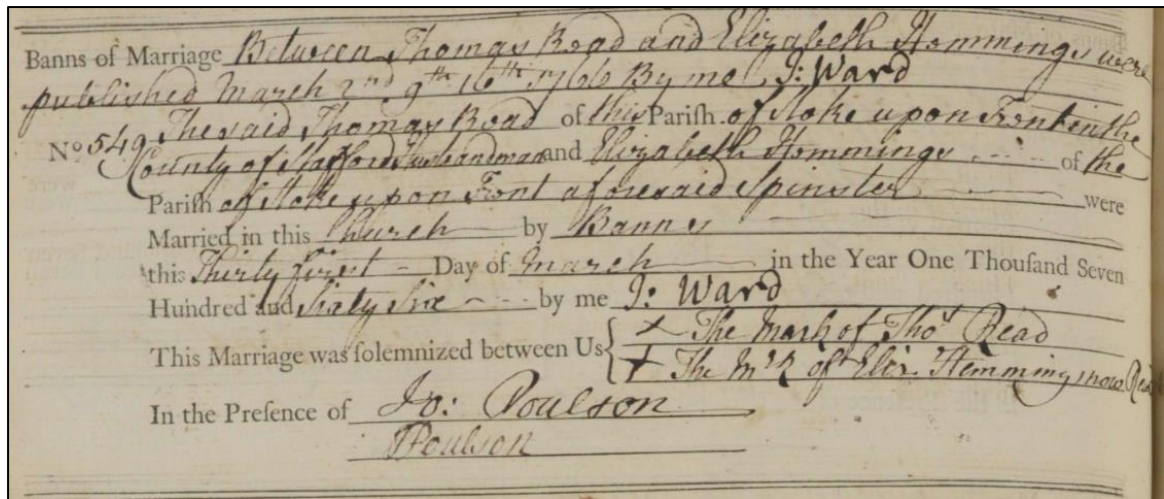


Illustration 18: Marriage of Thomas Reed and Elizabeth Hemmings at Stoke on Trent on 21 March 1766

Their son Thomas was baptised in the church of St Mary and All Saints at Trentham on 27 September 1767.

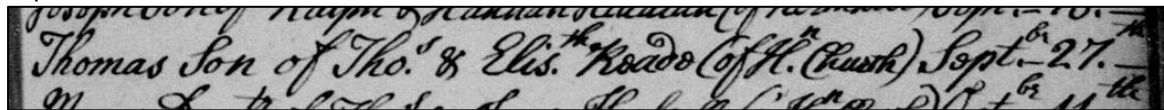


Illustration 19: Baptism of Thomas Reed of Hanchurch at the church of St Mary and All Saints, Trentham on 27 September 1767

There are no apparent records of this couple having any other children. The husband, Thomas Read of Hanchurch, was buried at St Mary and All Saints Church at Whitmore on 2 April 1776. It is difficult to determine when his wife Elizabeth died, because her name was very common in Staffordshire at that time.

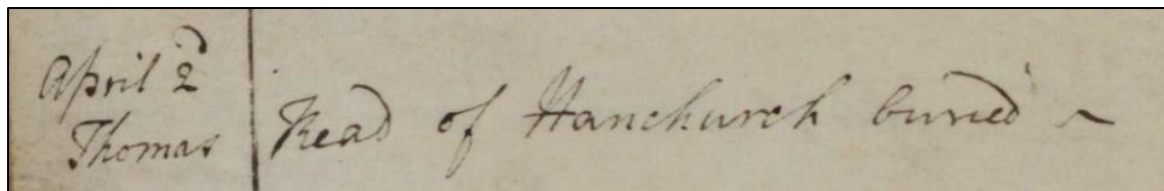


Figure 20: Burial record for Thomas Read of Hanchurch at the church of St Mary and All Saints, Whitmore on 2 April 1776

While this 1767 Thomas was born close to Chorlton and at about the right time, it isn't possible to decisively conclude that this is our Thomas who was reported on his 1853 death certificate to be two years older.

William Read and Sarah Martin

If we assume that Thomas and his daughter Mary had accurate knowledge of his age, then the 1765 Whitmore son of William Read and Sarah Martin is the more likely. Whitmore is (at 1.5 miles) also much closer to his recorded birthplace of Chorlton than Hanchurch. It may also be significant that Thomas named his eldest son William (although he did not name any of his daughters Sarah).

William Read (a farmer) and Sarah Martin of Whitmore had been married in Stoke upon Trent on 26 December 1764.

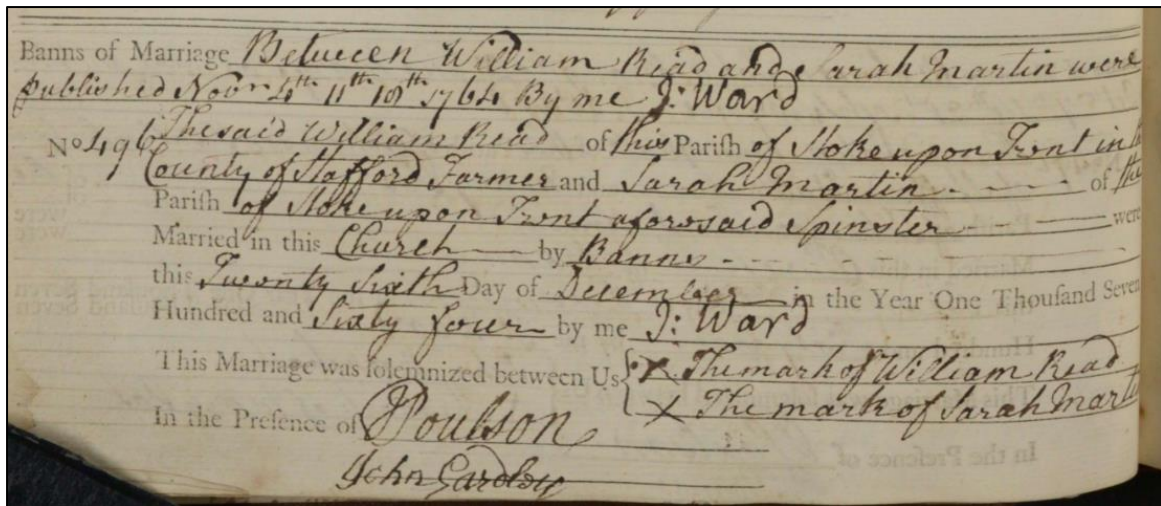


Figure 21: Marriage of William Read and Sarah Martin at Stoke on Trent on 26 December 1764

In addition to their son Thomas (baptised in 1765) they had:

- Ann baptised 19 July 1767 at St Mary and All saints church, Whitmore;
- William baptised 5 May 1771 in the same church and buried there on 7 April 1772; and
- William baptised 29 June 1773 in the same church.

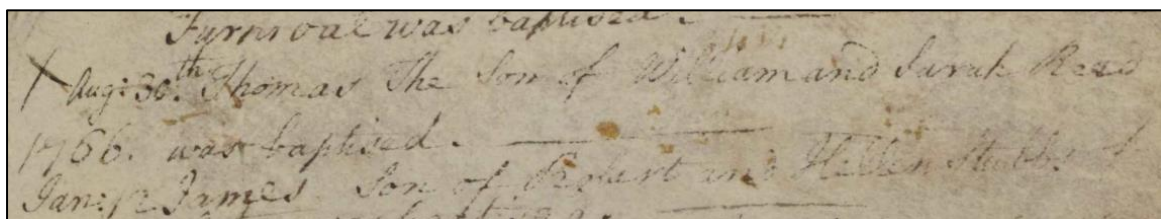


Illustration 22: The baptism record for Thomas Read at Whitmore on 30 August 1765

The husband William may be the person of that name who was buried in the church of St Lawrence at Chapel Chorlton on 8 January 1786. That burial place would also provide his son with a reason to later state that Chorlton was his birthplace. In contrast, the son of Thomas Reed and Elizabeth Hemmings had probably been born at Hanchurch.

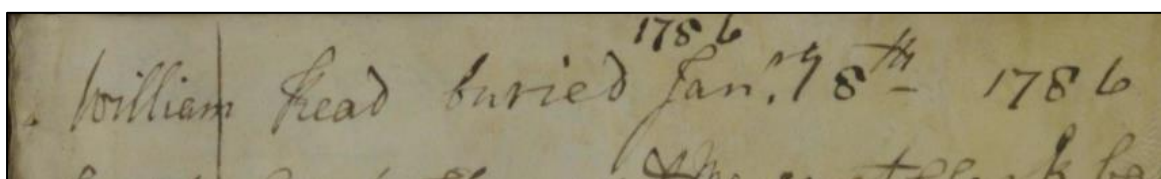


Figure 23: Burial of William Read at the church of St Lawrence at Chapel Chorlton on 8 January 1786

His wife Sarah may be the Sarah Rhead who was buried in the church of St Mary and All Saints at Whitmore on 17 August 1802⁵².

Outcomes

This research identified two children of James and Frances Reed who had not been previously known, as far as I am aware. William was born in at Portsea in 1831 and had died before the family emigrated in 1836. Prudence the older was baptised in 1839 and must have died before her younger sister Prudence (my GG-grandmother) was born in 1846. Along with John Benjamin Reed (who died in 1881) they account for the two males and one female deceased offspring who were mentioned on their parents' death certificates.

Records mentioned above show that James Reed joined the 80th Regiment of Foot on 27 December 1827, accompanied the Regiment to Sydney in 1836 and was discharged there in 1843. Other records show that his future father-in-law Benjamin Heazle was already a Sergeant in that Regiment. It is likely, therefore, that James Reed was trained by Sergeant Heazle and thus met his daughter Frances Heazle.

James and Frances were married at Monk Wearmouth (Durham) on 28 June 1830 and their son William was born at Portsea ten months later. It is likely that James and Frances had served in Kephalaria during those ten months before returning to England with the Regiment. Their son James was born at Manchester when the Regiment was stationed there in 1835 but the baptism record for their other son John Benjamin Reed could not be located.

I was unable to find any records for Francis Heazle's baptism or for the marriage of her parents, Benjamin Heazle and Elizabeth Wilson. Nor could I locate a record of the baptism of Elizabeth Wilson.

Benjamin Heazle's army documents state that he was born at Knockbrogan (near Bandon, Cork, Ireland) in 1791 and died on 28 December 1850, but I was unable to find any other documents to support these statements. Nevertheless, the surname Heazle was known in the Bandon area, including another Benjamin Heazle who married Maria Burchill in 1853.

James Reed was born on 14 December 1808 and was baptised in the church of St Mary and All Saints at Trentham on 22 January 1809. He had eight older siblings who had all been baptised in the same church. Their parents were Thomas Reed and Elizabeth Sutton who had been married at the church of St Peter Ad Vincula in Stoke on Trent on 13 July 1789.

Thomas Reed was a shoemaker of Ash Green near Trentham who was 88 years old when he died in 1853. He had been recorded on both the 1841 and 1851 census at Ash Green. The latter census states that he had been born at Chorlton. His wife may be the Elizabeth Read who was buried at Chapel Chorlton on 2 April 1809. I was unable to identify Elizabeth Sutton's baptism record.

There are two possible baptism records for Thomas Reed. The first was the son of Thomas Reed and Elizabeth Hemmings and was baptised on 27 September 1767 at the Church of St Mary and All Saints in Trentham. This is where all of Thomas' children were to be later baptised. But this baptism occurred two years after Thomas was born (based on the information recorded on his death certificate); and the child was probably born at Hanchurch, not Chorlton.

So, it is more likely that our Thomas was baptised on 30 August 1765 at the church of St Mary and All saints at Whitmore (3 miles closer to Chorlton than Hanchurch). If so, his parents were William Reed and Sarah Martin who had been married at Stoke on Trent on 26 December 1764. They had three other children (Ann 1767; William 1771-1772; and William 1773).

William Read was buried at Chapel Chorlton on 8 January 1786. His wife may be the Sarah Reed who was buried in the church of St Mary and All Saints at Whitmore on 17 August 1802.

The outcome of this research project are summarised in the pedigree chart for the Reed and Heazle families depicted at Illustration 25.



Illustration 24: Gravestone of James and Frances Reed in Bourke cemetery

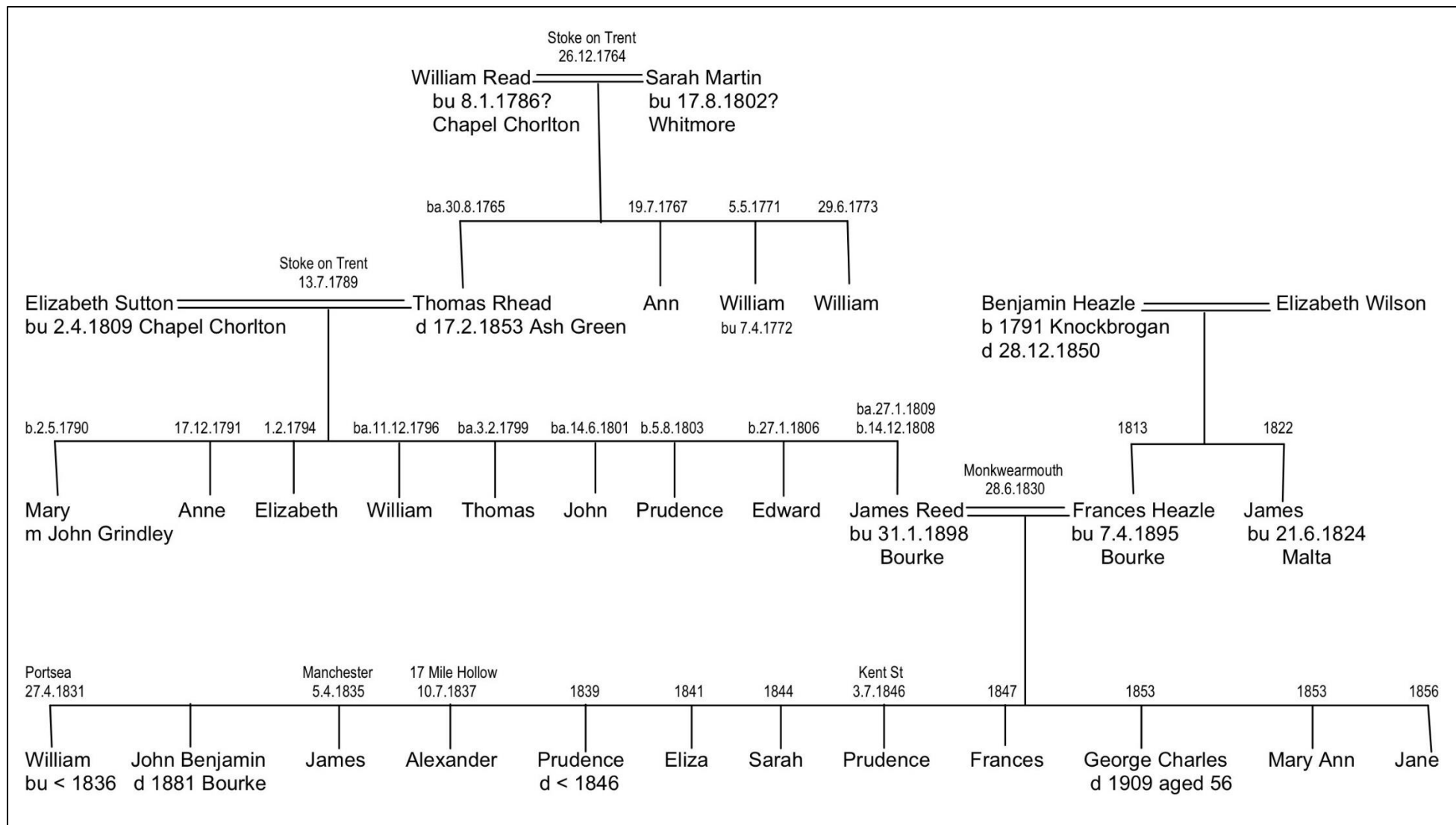


Illustration 25: Pedigree chart of the Reed - Heazle family

Endnotes

- ¹ Baptism of Eliza Reed, 1514/1541 V18411514 25A, NSW Births, Deaths and Marriages.
- ² Baptism of Sarah A Reed, 405/1844 V1844405 28, NSW Births, Deaths and Marriages.
- ³ Baptism of Prudence Reed, 922/1846 V1846922 31A, NSW Births, Deaths and Marriages.
- ⁴ Baptism of Frances Reed, 2150/1847 V18472150 33, NSW Births, Deaths and Marriages.
- ⁵ Baptism of Mary A Reed, 541/1853 V1853541 39A, NSW Births, Deaths and Marriages.
- ⁶ Birth Certificate of Female Reed, 672/1856, NSW Births, Deaths and Marriages.
- ⁷ Baptism of Alexander Reed on 26 July 1837, Christ Church, Parish of Castlereagh, County of Cumberland, NSW, Reel 89, Society of Australian Genealogists; also 714/1837 V1837714 21, NSW Births, Deaths and Marriages.
- ⁸ Baptism of Prudence Reed, 518/1839 V1839518 23A, NSW Births, Deaths and Marriages.
- ⁹ Record of Stations 1793-1905, 80th Regiment, File 4 of the Records of the South Staffordshire Regiment (80th Regiment) relating to Australia and New Zealand (as filmed by the AJCP) [microform]: [M815], 1793-1905, accessed on 14 January 2022 at <http://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-2387629628>.
- ¹⁰ Record for James Reed, UK, Regimental Registers of Service, 1756-1900, The National Archives, Kew, Surrey, England, WO25, 35th Foot Depot, 1817-1832, piece number 373 accessed through Ancestry on 10 January 2022.
- ¹¹ Digest of the 80th Regiment, Files 1 and 2 of the Records of the South Staffordshire Regiment (80th Regiment) relating to Australia and New Zealand (as filmed by the AJCP) [microform]: [M815], 1793-1905, accessed on 14 January 2022 at <http://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-2387560815>.
- ¹² Nominal and descriptive roll of the 80th Regiment, 1804-1881, file 3 of the Records of the South Staffordshire Regiment (80th Regiment) relating to Australia and New Zealand (as filmed by the AJCP) [microform]: [M815], 1793-1905, accessed on 14 January 2022 at <http://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-2387598500>.
- ¹³ UK, Royal Hospital Chelsea Pensioner Soldier Service Records, WO97, 901, Benjamin Heazle, Eightieth Regiment of Foot, accessed at <https://www.fold3.com/image/585264309?xid=1022> on 10 January 2022 from Fold3 and Ancestry.
- ¹⁴ Burial of James, son of Benjamin Heazle, 21 June 1824, Malta: military and civilian burials, reference WO 156/111, UK, Military Records of Baptisms, Confirmations, Marriages and Burials, 1813-1957, accessed from Ancestry on 18 January 2022.
- ¹⁵ Bishop's Transcript of the marriage by banns of James Reed and Frances Hazle on 28 June 1830, Durham University Library, DDR/EA/PBT/2/182. Also indexed at England Marriages, 1538-1973, database, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:NXG5-KPT:13 March 2020>), James Reed, 1830. Item 1, page 197, number 591.
- ¹⁶ Baptism of William Reed, 24 April 1831, St Paul's Church, Portsea, Hampshire. Portsmouth History Centre, CHU 17/A/1/1, page 25, accessed on 15 January 2022 from Find My Past.
- ¹⁷ Manchester, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813-1915 from Anglican Parish Registers, Manchester Libraries, Information and Archives, Manchester City Council. Baptism of James Reed, 5 April 1835, St Philip's Church, Manchester. Ancestry archive roll 955 item 1.
- ¹⁸ Medical and surgical journal of His Majesty's convict ship *Earl Grey* for 15 July 1836 to 5 January 1837 by William Evans, Surgeon, ADM 101/21/2, National Archives, United Kingdom.
- ¹⁹ Death Certificate of John Benjamin Reed, 5516/1881, Bourke, NSW.
- ²⁰ UK, Royal Hospital Chelsea Pensioner Admission and Discharge Records, WO 117: Length of Service Pensions, Admission Books, piece 03: 1832-1839, accessed on 10 January 2022 from Fold3 and Ancestry at <https://www.fold3.com/image/581813820?xid=1022>.

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- ²¹ UK, Royal Hospital, Chelsea: Regimental Registers of Pensioners, 1713-1882, Benjamin Heazle, 8 January 1832, accessed on 10 January 2022 from Fold3 and Ancestry at https://www.ancestry.com.au/imageviewer/collections/3255/images/40941_311904-00442?usePUB=true& phsrc=NJn1045& phstart=successSource&usePUBJs=true&pid=353937.
- ²² Ireland, Select Marriages, 1619-1898, 20 January 1853, Ballymodan, Cork, reference number 2:3J5F5F1, FHL Film Number 101343. Also, Ireland, Civil Registration Marriages Index, 1845-1958, 1853, Volume 2, page 705, FHL Film Number 101244.
- ²³ Baptism of James Rhead, St Mary and All Saints Church, Trentham, Staffordshire, 22 January 1809, Staffordshire Baptisms, D4480/1/5 page 130, accessed 3 January 2022 from Find My Past.
- ²⁴ Burial of Anne Rhead, St Mary and All Saints Church, Trentham, Staffordshire, 7 March 1810, Staffordshire Burials, D4480/1/16 page 80, accessed 3 January 2022 from Find My Past.
- ²⁵ Baptism of Mary Reed, St Mary and All Saints Church, Trentham, Staffordshire, 15 August 1790, Staffordshire Baptisms, D4480/1/5 page 4, accessed 3 January 2022 from Find My Past.
- ²⁶ Baptism of Ann Read, St Mary and All Saints Church, Trentham, Staffordshire, 25 December 1791, Staffordshire Baptisms, D4480/1/5 page 12, accessed 3 January 2022 from Find My Past.
- ²⁷ Baptism of Elizabeth Read, St Mary and All Saints Church, Trentham, Staffordshire, 13 April 1794, Staffordshire Baptisms, D4480/1/5 page 25, accessed 3 January 2022 from Find My Past.
- ²⁸ Baptism of William Read, St Mary and All Saints Church, Trentham, Staffordshire, 11 December 1796, Staffordshire Baptisms, D4480/1/5 page 39, accessed 3 January 2022 from Find My Past.
- ²⁹ Baptism of Thomas Read, St Mary and All Saints Church, Trentham, Staffordshire, 3 February 1799, Staffordshire Baptisms, D4480/1/5 page 47, accessed 3 January 2022 from Find My Past.
- ³⁰ Baptism of John Read, Trentham, Staffordshire, 14 June 1801, England Births and Baptisms 1538-1975, accessed 3 January 2022 from Find My Past.
- ³¹ Baptism of Prudence Read, St Mary and All Saints Church, Trentham, Staffordshire, 4 September 1803, Staffordshire Baptisms, D4480/1/5 page 81, accessed 3 January 2022 from Find My Past.
- ³² Baptism of Edward Rhead, St Mary and All Saints Church, Trentham, Staffordshire, 7 February 1806, Staffordshire Baptisms, D4480/1/5 page 100, accessed 3 January 2022 from Find My Past.
- ³³ Burial of Elizabeth Read, St Lawrence Church, Chapel Chorlton, Staffordshire, 2 April 1809, Staffordshire Burials, D3636/1/2, accessed 18 January 2022 from Find My Past at <https://www.findmypast.com/transcript?id=GBPRS%2FSTAFF%2FBUR3%2F016359>.
- ³⁴ Marriage of Thomas Rhead and Eliz. Sutton, St Peter Ad Vincula Church, Stoke on Trent, Staffordshire, 13 July 1789, Staffordshire Banns, D1188/9, accessed 3 January 2022 from Find My Past.
- ³⁵ Baptism of Elizabeth Sutton, High Offley, Staffordshire, 9 January 1763, Staffordshire, England, Select Births and Christenings, 1538-1975, FHL Film number 417198, accessed 18 January 2022 from Ancestry at <https://www.ancestry.com.au/discoveryui-content/view/85068263:9841?tid=&pid=&queryId=fb4ce9b353ee86211240dd3b40f3901f& phsrc=NJn1343& phstart=successSource>
- ³⁶ Baptism of Elizabeth Sutton, Haughton, Staffordshire, 3 November 1765, Staffordshire, England, Extracted Church of England Parish Records, 1538-1839, accessed 18 January 2022 from Ancestry at <https://search.ancestry.com.au/cgi-bin/sse.dll?indiv=1&dbid=61517&h=2496&tid=&pid=&queryId=fb4ce9b353ee86211240dd3b40f3901f& usePUB=true& phsrc=NJn1343& phstart=successSource>.
- ³⁷ Baptism of Elizabeth Sutton, Burton-upon-Trent, Staffordshire, 20 September 1766, Staffordshire, England, Selected Births and Christenings, 1538-1975, FHL Film Number 1278995, Reference ID item 1-2, accessed 18 January 2022 from Ancestry at <https://www.ancestry.com.au/discoveryui-content/view/112141829:9841?tid=&pid=&queryId=fb4ce9b353ee86211240dd3b40f3901f& phsrc=NJn1343& phstart=successSource>
- ³⁸ Baptism of Elizabeth Sutton, St Leonard's Church, Bilston, Staffordshire, 24 September 1769, Staffordshire Baptisms, STONE/5, accessed 18 January 2022 from Find My Past.

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- ³⁹ Baptism of Elizabeth Sutton, All Saints Church, Madeley, Staffordshire, 6 December 1769, Staffordshire Baptisms, STONE/5, accessed 18 January 2022 from Find My Past.
- ⁴⁰ Baptism of Elizabeth Sutton, St James Church, Barton under Needwood, Staffordshire, 28 March 1770, Staffordshire Baptisms, D6383/1/1, accessed 18 January 2022 from Find My Past.
- ⁴¹ Baptism of Elizabeth Sutton, St Michael's Church, Stone, Staffordshire, 13 August 1770, Staffordshire Baptisms, D3412/1/2, accessed 18 January 2022 from Find My Past.
- ⁴² Baptism of Elizabeth Sutton, St Bartholomew's Church, Blore Ray, Staffordshire, 10 November 1771, Staffordshire Baptisms, D3482/1/2, page 48, accessed 18 January 2022 from Find My Past.
- ⁴³ Baptism of Elizabeth Sutton, Womborn, Staffordshire, 2 August 1772, Staffordshire, England, Select Births and Christenings, 1538-1975, FHL Film Number 1517739, Reference ID item 4, accessed 18 January 2022 from Ancestry at https://www.ancestry.com.au/discoveryui-content/view/118011377:9841?tid=&pid=&queryId=fb4ce9b353ee86211240dd3b40f3901f&_phsrc=NJn1343&_phstart=successSource
- ⁴⁴ 1841 England Census, HO107, piece 993, book 7, Trentham, Staffordshire, District 2, folio 9, page 9, line 14, GSU Roll 474622, accessed 3 January 2022 from Ancestry.
- ⁴⁵ 1851 England Census, HO107, piece 2000, 32 Ashgreen, Trentham, Stone, Staffordshire, District 7 & 4, folio 631, page 12, schedule 39, accessed 3 January 2022 from Ancestry.
- ⁴⁶ Death Certificate, Thomas Rhead, 17 February 1853, volume 6B, page 30, Stone, Staffordshire.
- ⁴⁷ Baptism of Thos. Read, Bilston, Staffordshire, 26 April 1764, England Select Births and Baptisms, 1538-1975, FHL Film Number 1040823, reference ID 5-7 bk2 p72, accessed 18 January 2022 from Ancestry.
- ⁴⁸ Baptism of Thomas Read, St Mary's Church, Brewood, Staffordshire, 26 April 1764, England Select Births and Baptisms, 1538-1975, FHL Film Number 417174, accessed 18 January 2022 from Ancestry.
- ⁴⁹ Baptism of Thomas Read, St Mary & All Saints Church, Whitmore, Staffordshire, 30 Aug 1765, Staffordshire Baptisms, D3332/1/2, page 1, accessed 18 January 2022 from Find My Past.
- ⁵⁰ Baptism of Thomas Reade, St Mary & All Saints Church, Trentham, Staffordshire, 27 September 1767, Staffordshire Baptisms, D4480/1/4, page 121, accessed 18 January 2022 from Find My Past.
- ⁵¹ Baptism of Thomas Read, St Peter's Church, Wolverhampton, Staffordshire, 8 December 1767, Staffordshire Baptisms, D1157/1/1/4, accessed 18 January 2022 from Find My Past.
- ⁵² Burial transcript for Sarah Rhead, St Mary and All Saints church, Whitmore, Staffordshire, 17 August 1802, National Burial Index for England and Wales, accessed from Find My Past on 22 January 2022 at <https://www.findmypast.com/transcript?id=BMD%2FNBI%2F01415054>.