

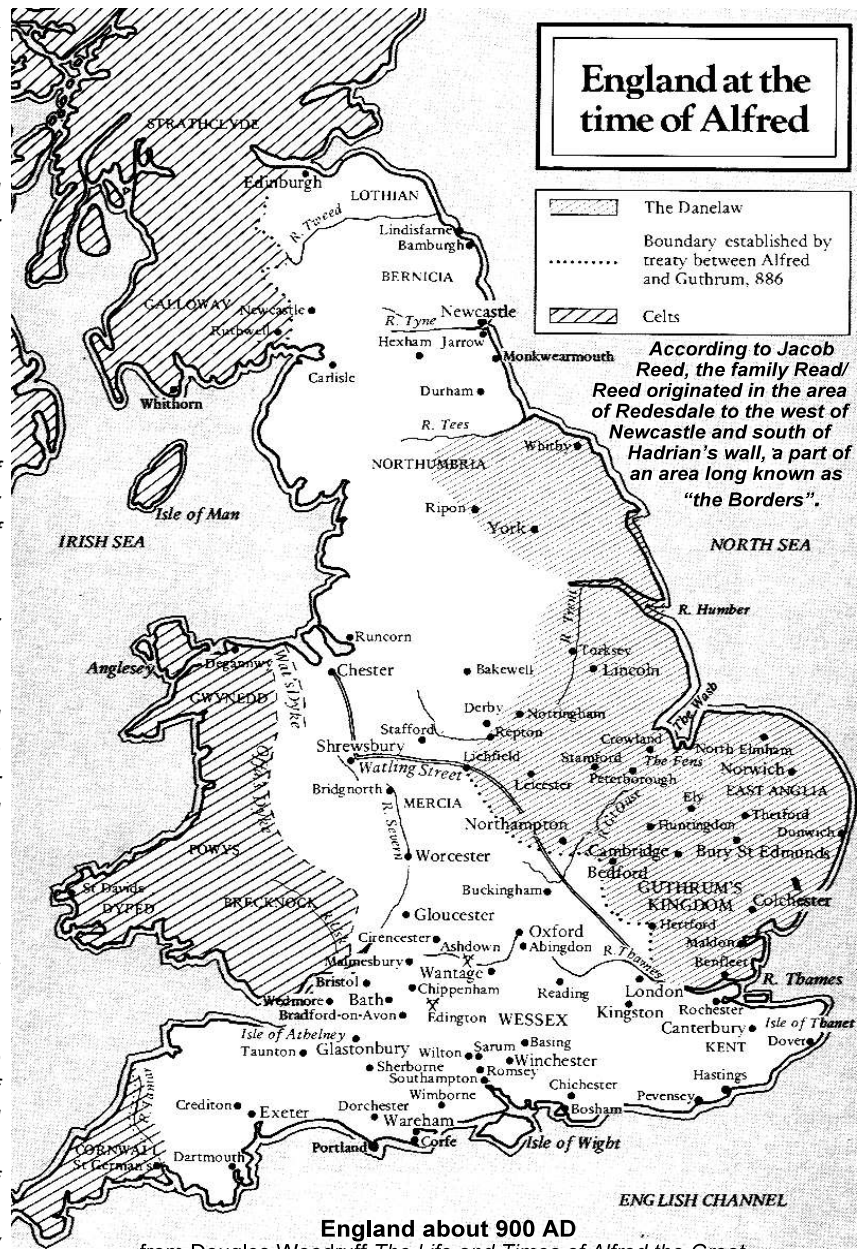
Chapter 1

The William Reed Family Line

The following are excerpts from "History of The Reed Family in Europe and America" by Jacob Whittemore Reed, published by John Wilson & Son, Boston, 1861.

"The River Tyne in north of England is so called from its having tynes or branches, one north tyne, one south tyne, a third branch taking its rise in Carterfell and other highlands between England and Scotland is the River Reed. The valley through which the stream winds its way to its mouth is Redesdale, comprising a portion of Northumberland. This territory forms the principal seat of border wars. On the banks of the River Reed was fought the bloody battles of Otterboum or Otterbrook at the junction of a small stream by that name with the Reed waters as the river is called by Sir Walter Scott.....

"Upon the edge of Carterfell, a mountain between England and Scotland, is Reed's Square, a corruption of wear, a Scotch phrase for fort or castle, named in honor of Sir Reginald Reed, who was distinguished in the Border wars. Following the stream down, the ruins of several Reed castles and fortifications may be seen. Some splendid castles still occupied by persons of the same name and blood are also found. Among which is Chipchase Castle, not far junction of Reed with the Tyne..... give some further description of the territory by the wall of Agricola and that of Adrians¹; it being the hive from which large portions of the ancestors of the English and American Reeds originated. It is bounded on the east by the North Sea and extends westerly to the River Tweed on the borders of



England about 900 AD
from Douglas Woodruff *The Life and Times of Alfred the Great*
Weidenfield and Nicolson Lmt, London 1974, 1993

Scotland, southerly to Cheviot Hills, Carterfell and the disputed grounds; easterly by the River Tyne and Adrians Wall and forms a barony by the name of Redesdale.....

1 Adrian, also called Hadrian. Both Agricola and Adrian (Hadrian) were Roman rulers who built fortifications along the border between what is now England and Scotland to protect England from Scottish raiders.

Addendum to Sarah Weaver Reed Ewing's History

added by A. A. Read

The compilers of this history of Thomas and Jane Irwin Read have read Jacob Whittemore Reed's history cited on page 1 and are not generally impressed except by what he says that Sarah Ewing has already excerpted. However, on the World Wide Web site established by David Simpson concerning northeast England surnames, viz.,

<http://www.thenortheast.fsnet.co.uk/Surnames%20of%20North%20East%20England.htm>

we find two entries of interest, one on the Gray/Grey name and the other on the Hall name. Both have been classified as Border Reiver names. Reiver in old Scottish meant reaver; robber; raider. This designation is apparently due to the fact that throughout the Dark Ages and Medieval times following departure of the Romans, there was constant raiding back and forth across the flexible England-Scotland border by both sides. The majority of the time the area of Redesdale mentioned below was on the English side of the line.

GRAY AND GREY, a Border Reiver name

*Many surnames derive from colours like Brown, White, Black, Grey and Green. Grey which alternatively occurs in the form Gray is a surname closely associated with the North and is one of many old Border surnames still found throughout the region. The Greys of Fallodon and Holwick in Northumberland are the most famous branch in the north and their members included the Northumbrian born Earl Grey who was Prime Minister of England 1830-34. Earl Grey is commemorated by the Grey Monument in the centre of Newcastle. The name Grey is thought to have originated in the south of England and described someone with grey hair rather than a grey personality. Some Greys may have taken their name from an unidentified place called Graye. The surname Black has a similar origin to Grey and is especially common in Scotland. Black means black hair or of a dark complexion and was first recorded in 901 AD. The surname Blake has the same meaning. **Rarer coloured surnames include Red, a variant form of the surname Reed or Reid, for someone who lived in a reedy area. Perhaps some Reds were descended from the Viking called Eric the Red.** (Emphasis by the compilers.)*

HALL, a Border Reiver name

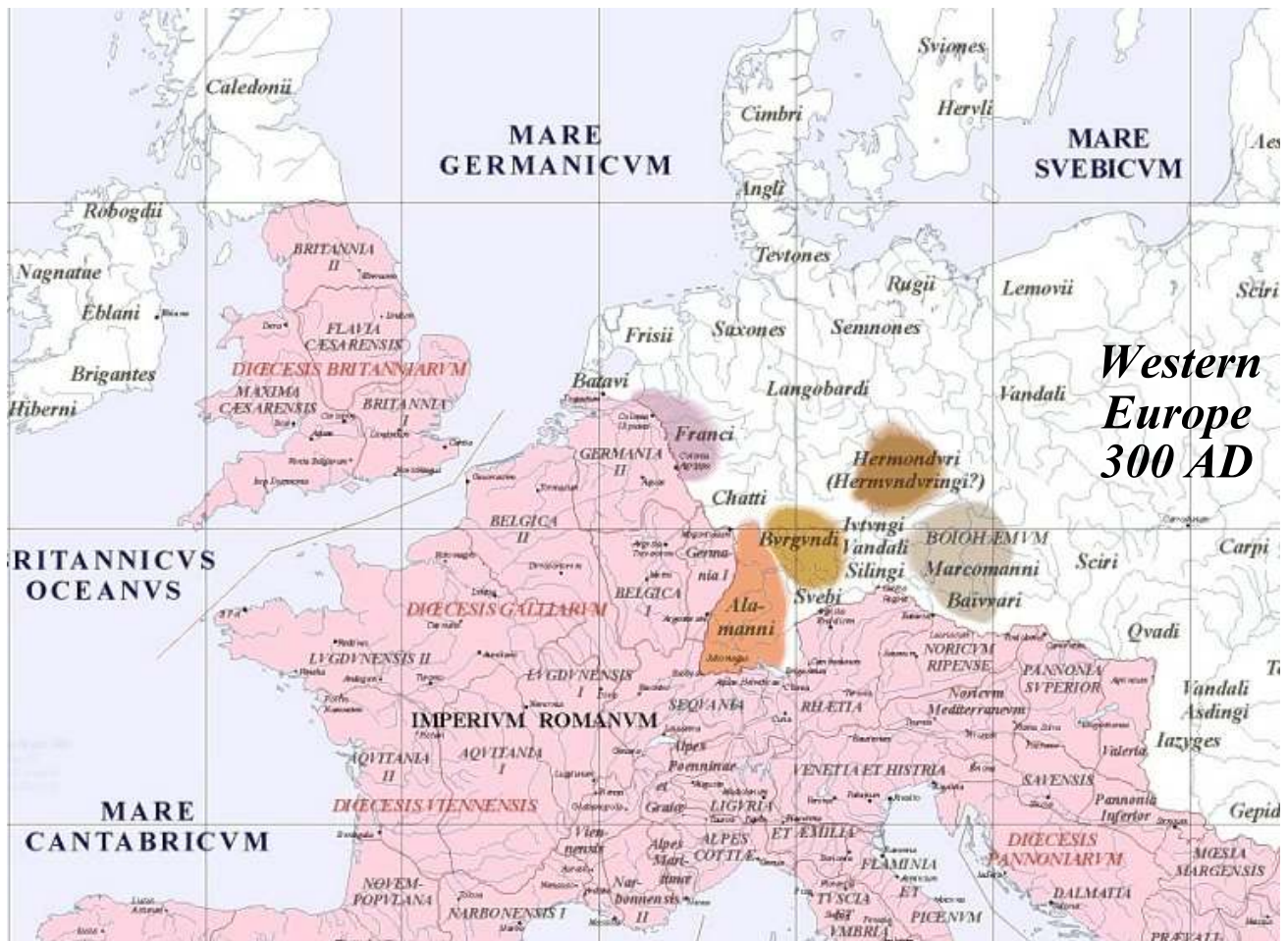
Hall referred to someone who lived or worked at a hall. Early owners of the name include Warin de

Halla, 1178 and Roger de Hall, 1327. The Hall family were a Border family found in the Scottish valleys of Teviotdale and Liddesdale and in Redesdale, Northumberland. In Redesdale the Halls were accompanied by the Milburns, Potts, Storeys, Reeds and Hedleys, while the Robsons and Charltons also lived nearby. Across the border lived the Armstrongs and in Liddesdale the Croziers who were at feud with the Redesdale family called Reed. Parcy Reed, the leader of the Reeds was the Keeper of Redesdale and his appointment aroused the jealousy of the Halls who cunningly invited Parcy to join them on a hunt, knowing that a Crozier raid was imminent. Parcy was invited to the home of the Halls where, unknown to him they jammed his sword in its scabbard and dampened the workings of his gun. The next day Parcy and three Halls set off hunting and stumbled upon a raiding party of Croziers at the Carter Bar. As keeper of Redesdale, Parcy felt he must stand up to the Scottish raiders but the Halls refused to assist. In the words of "The Ballad of Parcy Reed" the Halls explained. "We mayna stand, we canna stand, We dairna stand alang with thee. The Croziers had thee at a feud And they would kill baith thee and we". Riding forth alone to challenge the Croziers, Parcy failed to release his sword and his gun would not fire. The bloodthirsty ballad claims the Crozier's left poor old Parcy with thirty-three wonds and no hands and feet. For centuries the treachery of the Halls was despised throughout the Border country.

from David.Simpson@thenortheast.fsnet.co.uk Copyright ©) David A Simpson 1991, 1992, 1995, 1996, 1999, 2001

The mention of the name Crozier should also be of interest to the many descendants of Benjamin and Isabella Potter Jordan. Catharine Crozier, daughter of John? Crozier, appears to have been the first wife of John Potter, father of Isabella, but not likely her mother. Catharine is, however, most likely the mother of General James Potter and of his brother, Thomas, who was killed by Indians, as discussed in Chapter 7 of this history. Isabella was the half-sister of General Potter.

If we accept Jacob Whittemore Reed's theses that the origin of the Read/Reeds is in the Redesdale area of Northumberland in England, west of today's city of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, some interesting possibilities arise. Redesdale is in the area just south of Hadrian's Wall, a 74 mile stone wall constructed



from the North Sea to the Irish Sea across Britain at its narrowest point by the Romans early in the 2nd Century. The intent of the wall was to secure the frontier from incursions of the Picts (Caledonians) from today's Scotland into Roman Britain, now England. The present England was the Roman province of Britannia for nearly four hundred years.

A large portion of the Roman army in Britain was always stationed near the wall. Although the Roman legions themselves (about 5000 men each) were recruited from the highly Romanized areas of the empire, they were supported by many auxiliary units or cohorts (500-1000 men each) from the less Romanized frontier areas both inside and outside the empire *per se*.

Roman military enlistments were for 25 years. Assignment of both the legions and the cohort units was usually at a relatively permanent location, sometimes for decades. The soldiers tended to marry local women and remain in the area after completion of their service. In the later years the majority of the new recruits were sons of serving or former soldiers. In a short time the cohort units in particular became more Briton than their original ethnic composition.

The majority of the auxiliary units serving in

northern Britain consisted of Batavians from the Rhine River area of today's Belgium and Netherlands, then the Roman frontier province of Germania. During his conquest of Gaul, Julius Caesar found the low-lying Belgium and Netherlands inhabited by Germanic tribes - the Nervii and Frisii - and the Celtic Batavi. The Batavi on the Roman frontier did not submit to Rome's rule until 13 BC and then only as allies. The Batavians were a sub-tribe of the Chatti from further up and on the east side of the Rhine outside the boundary of the empire in the present southwest German state of Hesse.

The Chatti were originally subdued by Julius Caesar during his conquest of Gaul. They, as well as their Batavian kin, later became mercenary soldiers of the Romans. This apparently continued through the centuries. The reader will remember the Hessian troops hired as British mercenaries in the American Revolution.

Although spoken of as Germans (all tribes east of the Rhine were German in Roman eyes), the Chatti and hence the Batavians belonged to the Celtic La Tene culture and were not German. In keeping with their Celtic heritage, the Batavi were renowned horsemen and swimmers. One of their most

renowned tactics was the method they employed to cross wide bodies of water *en-masse*, where several foot soldiers would swim alongside a single cavalry soldier and his horse, presumably keeping their weapons above water by using the horse as a kind of living raft.

Roman historian, Cassius Dio, writes concerning the Battle of the River Medway in AD 43 "... *The barbarians thought the Romans would not be able to cross the river without a bridge, and as a result had pitched camp in a rather careless fashion on the opposite bank. Plautius, however, sent across some Celts who were practised in swimming with ease fully armed across even the fastest of rivers. These fell unexpectedly on the enemy...*" It is thought that the army of Plautius consisted of eight Batavian units, each five-hundred strong. Another Roman historian, Tacitus, describes the Batavi as "*the bravest and most feared of all the Germans. They are like weapons and armour - only to be used in war.*"

At the Battle of Mons Graupins (AD 84) deep into Scotland, Agricola with four cohorts of Batavians (then about 4000 men) and 3000 cavalry faced an estimated 30,000 Caledonians (Picts). The Caledonians were badly beaten. It is claimed some 10,000 were killed against only 360 Romans. The detailed truth of this can be questioned but there is no question that the Caledonians were badly mauled by the Romans.

If the family Read/Reed arose in the area next to Hadrian's Wall, it seems highly likely that a part of their ancestral lineage includes the Batavian troops of

the Roman army stationed along the wall in the first centuries of the current era. The Chatti have been described as a tall and blond people. Perhaps it was the genes of the blond Batavians along with a later infusion with those of the Germanic Angles who conquered the area in the 5th Century that accounts for the reddish hair and ruddy complexion said by many to be a Read/Reed family characteristic, and even some say the source of the family name.

The coming of the Angles, Jutes and Saxons in great numbers beginning in the 5th Century, perhaps starting somewhat earlier, overwhelmed the inhabitants of Roman Britain. By this time the Roman legions had been withdrawn to protect the central homeland leaving Britain to its own resources. At the time, the area of what is now Denmark was under heavy pressure from the Teutonic Danes from the north. The entire Angli peoples of lower Denmark appear to have moved westward into the area of east and northeast Britain, eventually even giving their name to England and their language to the population.

It seems possible to the compilers of this history that perhaps some of the peoples of the Redesdale area escaped to the area's swamps and lowlands during the early years of the Angle invasion. That could have contributed, as mentioned above, to the Reed name as indicating someone who lived in "*a reedy area.*"

The interested reader can find much more about the Batavians and the Angles by a search on the Internet.

"The Reeds are numerous from the fact that they are descended from a clan or nation and not from an individual. Though they have taken their origin from Aschana; the great grandson of Noah, they have had an opportunity of becoming a numerous people..... As the lines of England and Scotland were constantly changing according to the valor and strength of the parties, the Reeds became mixed up with both nations..... They are connected with the royal family of England long before the time of William the Conqueror². There was Withred. King of Kent in the 7th century; Ethelred or Read the Good, King of England in 866; Alfred or Reed the Shrewd in 871; Eldred or Reed the Elder in 946;..... The Reeds were of Celtic origin and the most powerful nobleman were of Saxon blood. Much jealousy existed between the two races. Edward the

Confessor, son of Ethelred, being aware that his lineal descendants did not possess the energy and power to hold the crown against Saxon nobles, made a compact with his cousin, the Duke of Normandy, by which William was to have the crown at his decease. Harold, the son of Earl of Godwin, represented Saxon stock and was placed on the throne by that interest. William came over from France to carry out the provisions of the compact and Harold in behalf of the nobles met him and was slain..... The Reeds were among the reigning princes of Northumberland, Kent, Wessex and Mercia and they seem to have been of the same blood and political alliances existed between them."

Other information on the early Reeds comes from "*The Reed Family*" by F. D. Clements, Providence, Rhode Island, published by the American Historical Society, Inc. 1929, Vol XXIII, Number 4.

"The English family name of Read, Reade, Reed, Reid, etc., originated as a nickname "the red" referring either to hair or to complexion. Godwin le Rede, mentioned in the Hundred Rolls of County Norfolk and Roger le Rede in those of Hereford in

2 In keeping with the format followed through this history of Thomas and Jane Irwin Read, all persons that can be considered as probable ancestral to their descendants are shown in bold double underline.

1273. *Other instances of the name may be found in the early records of England. The Read family of America..... can trace a pedigree extending back to the 12th century. One indication of its antiquity is its coat of arms, as given in Crozier's General Armory: Arms - Gules, a saltire between four garbs or. Crest - On the stump of an oak tree, a falcon rising proper, belled and jessed or. Motto Cedant arms togae.*"

Our own lives have been rich with papers of family tradition and history written by one or another of the branches which have somehow found their way to our old Georgian hide trunk. It has been a loving work to have tied these papers together with what proofs we could find and to see it so much clearer and stronger in its entirety.

Dolly Letson Reed and sons William^{1} and John^{2}

The first Reed, in our line in this country, was a widow whose maiden name was Dolly Letson. {Her deceased husband's name appears to have been Thomas Read/Reed, born in Northern Ireland.} She landed near Wilmington, Delaware with two sons and three daughters. Her eldest daughter married Thomas Brown. Two sons were born to them. One was a doctor in Philadelphia. The other was a Presbyterian minister who died in Wilmington, Delaware. The other two daughters never married. (Information from Elmer B. Reed's History of Northumberland County, Pa. and History of The McMahan Family by Samuel McMahan.) {The portion of Samuel McMahan's history that relates to the Read/Reed family is given in Appendix C.}

Dolly Letson must have been in comfortable circumstances as our tradition says she bought a farm near Wilmington and settled on it with her family. I have been unable to find proof of this but feel it likely, as both sons owned extensive holdings after they were grown and married, and were able to send their children to good schools. {It has been suggested that one reason no one has been able to find any record of Dolly Letson is that she may have remarried and that all records are in her unknown new married name.}

All of our papers say the Reeds were Scotch, and unanimity and their own pioneering history would seem to make it so. Yet almost without exception they married into strong Scotch families; such as Ross, Alexander, Murray, etc. It's interesting to wonder if the Scotch half was strong enough to predominate in the family history and if more proof

of the origin of the Reeds might not be interesting.³

Our Reed line is a fusion of the lines of Dolly Leston's two sons, John^{2} and William^{1}⁴. From Esther Reed's History {Letter - See Chapter 6} we have "your father Thomas^{11} Reed was the youngest son of the family.... the venerable Dr. Thomas^{80} Reed⁵ of Wilmington Delaware was his full cousin they were brothers children."

Samuel McMahan in his History of the McMahan Family writes "I have already referred to Mrs. Reed a widow coming over from Donegal, Ireland, having two sons and three daughters. One of the sons was named William^{1}, the progenitor of the Reed family in Pennsylvania. The other son, whose name I can't recall, married and lived in the state of Delaware. His son, Thomas^{80} Reed became a Presbyterian minister and had for his field of labor the town of Wilmington, Delaware, was a nephew of William^{1} and a full cousin of William^{5} Reed, the grandparent of the writer. "

3 Why there were so many Scots in Ireland requires some understanding of the history of Ireland. Appendix A presents a brief history of Ireland down through the 1700's. After the conquest of Ireland by the English described in this appendix, the large number of English and Scots that migrated to Ireland obviously included the ancestors of the Read/Reeds in this history. The Irish were predominately Roman Catholic, as they are today, while the newcomers were protestant, with many of the Scots Presbyterian, since that religion was very strong in Scotland and North England and so many of the early Read-Reeds were Presbyterian leaders.

Charles A. Anderson writing in the World Book Encyclopedia, 1963 edition says "..... After 1600, many Presbyterians fled from Europe to America to escape persecution for their beliefs. They sought religious freedom in the American colonies and sought haven in William Penn's colony of Pennsylvania. Massachusetts, New York, and Virginia at first refused to admit them because of their belief but they found welcome in Maryland and New Jersey...."

More about the history of Ireland as it effects this history of Thomas, Jr. and Jane Irwin Read family can be found in Chapter 9, The Ancestral Line of Jemima Alexander.

4 It seems almost without question from all the early references cited in Sarah Ewing's original document and repeated herein that William¹ Reed and John² Read were full brothers and the sons of Dolly Lesson even though they chose to spell their surnames differently. Other evidence now available also strongly support this theses.

5 Both Esther Reed and Samuel McMahan later, are using Reed, their own family surname spelling, rather than Read as the Rev. Thomas⁸⁰ himself and his father, John², and family thereafter did.

A comparison of the family names, too, is interesting. Each brother named his eldest son

after his brother, and succeeding children with the same family names.

Addendum to Sarah Weaver Reed Ewing's History

added by A. A. Read

Both Dolly Letson and her husband are pretty much mysteries. She is reported by many, perhaps repeating each other, to have been born in Havre de Grace, Maryland about 1696. No solid details about her parental family, her marriage date and location, or of her death and burial date and location are known. Most acknowledge her children to at least include sons William¹ and John². There may have also been three daughters. Dolly's husband is sometimes given as Thomas Read/Reed. Some say son John² was born about 1720 which is consistent with Dolly's 1696 birth and the birth dates of John's children in the 1740s and 1750s.

Others say she came from Ireland as a widow with two sons and three daughters. Sarah Ewing says William¹ was 7 years old when he came from Ireland and that his gravestone says he was born in 1704. That would mean the family came about 1711. That date, however, is inconsistent with 1796 as Dolly's birth date. This would also mean that both John² and William¹ were in their late middle-age before they married and then raised large families. It is not inconsistent though with their deaths in the 1790s.

A 2001 photograph of William¹'s gravestone is shown later in this chapter. It is obviously not two hundred years old. The graves of William¹ and his wife, Jane Mitchell, were moved from Lock Haven to the Chillisquaque Presbyterian Cemetery near Pottsgrove, Pennsylvania at an unknown date. The 1747 date for Fort Reed on the stone should be 1774 at the earliest. The 1711 date Sarah Ewing uses is very suspect.

Isabel Miller in Appendix B on the *Frontier Girl*, Jane Reed, says Jane's father, William¹, came to America in 1737 when he was 7 years old. This would give him a birth date of 1730. A 1730 date is consistent with his children being born in the 1750s and 1760s. It also seems more likely that a man in his forties might make a move to the Central Pennsylvania wilderness with his family than a man in his seventies. This scenario is also consistent with Dolly being born in the 1690s.

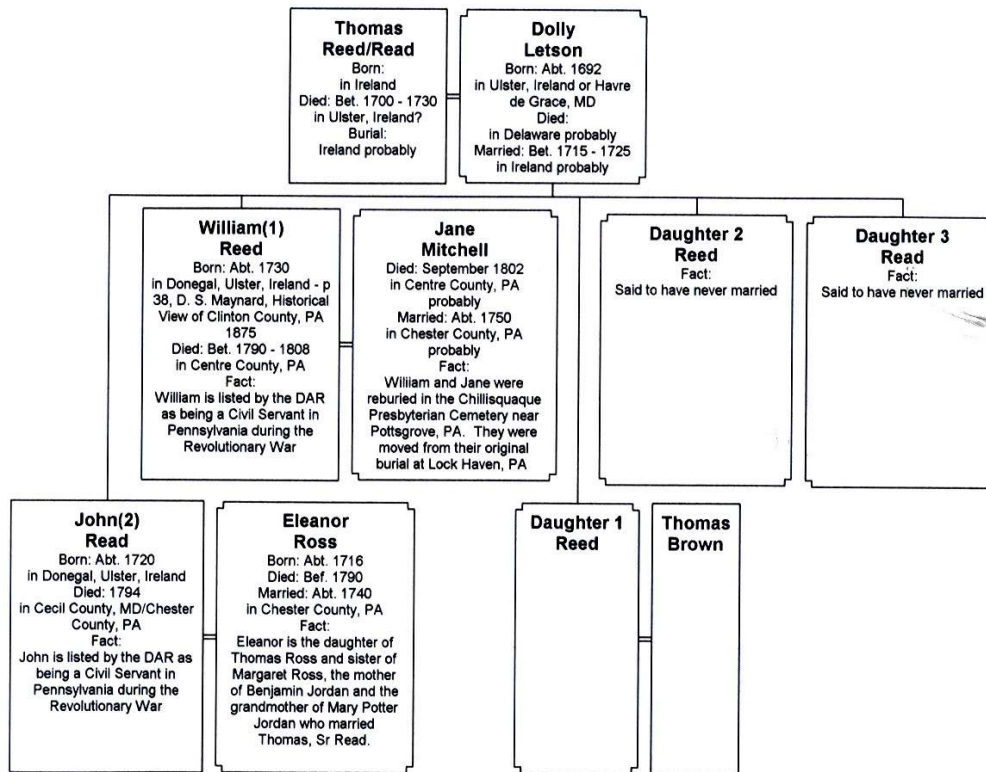
We could accept Dolly being born in Havre de Grace if we assume she either married here and

returned to Ireland or returned to Ireland and married there. It seems unlikely that a widow with a young family would come to the colonies unless she already had family contacts here such as parents or siblings. There are a large number of Letsons in the United States but just how they may be related to each other and to Dolly is unknown to us at this time. It is known there were Letsons in Ireland in the early 1700s if not also today.

A departure from the above scenario is one presented by J. A. Giffen, a descendant of Dolly through her great granddaughter, Jane Reed (but not Jane *The Frontier Girl* of Appendix B) and Samuel McMahan. Their daughter Margaret married John Giffen, the ancestors of the presenter. The claim here is that Dolly Letson's husband was William Reed and that they were married in Wilmington, Delaware. No dates of birth, marriage, deaths, etc are given. Their children are given as William, who married Jane Mitchell also in Wilmington, James and Robert. No details about the latter two sons are given.

The only child of William¹ Reed and Jane Mitchell given by Giffen is William⁵ (b 1753) who married Mary Murray (b 1762, d August 1831). Their daughter Jane married Samuel McMahan, Sr (b September 1779, d June 11, 1854) as mentioned above. Samuel McMahan, Jr, brother of Margaret McMahan, was a son of Samuel McMahan, Sr and Jane Reed. It is his history that Sarah Ewing quotes so often herein and is given herewith as Appendix C. Three copies of McMahan's history are supposed to still exist. The one in the Burlington, Iowa, library though appears to be lost. It could not be found when we went looking for it. We obtained a copy from the Denver Public Library in 2001 from which Appendix C was excerpted.

Starting with William¹ Reed and Jane Mitchell, the Giffen information parallels that given herein by Sarah Ewing. But while Sarah Ewing's information is quite extensive, the above is all that is given in the Giffen presentation. This makes us much more inclined to accept the Sarah Ewing presentation as being the more reliable.



The **Thomas and Dolly Letson Read/Reed** Family

William^{1} Reed

If we follow the line of William^{1}, first, we can deduce that **Dolly Letson Reed** brought her family to this country about {?}1711 as Samuel McMahan {and Esther Reed as well} says he was seven years old when he came here and his gravestone shows him to have been born in {?}1704.

From Samuel McMahan's History we also find "*William^{1} married Jane Mitchell, 'the daughter of a Mr. Mitchell who had emigrated from the north of Ireland and bought a large tract of land in the State of Delaware about where the city of Wilmington now stands.' Here there may be some mistake in the information I have received. If this man Mitchell was the father of Jane, who married William^{1} Reed, he may also have had a son, John, but I am disposed to report that John Mitchell was a rich bachelor, having four sisters; that he purchased a large tract of land partly upon which Wilmington is built and that as the country improved he refused to sell lots but leased ground for ninety-nine years to anyone that wished to build. But be that as it may, there is a mystery about*

6 Although the gravestone inscription does say 1704, that date is suspect. Discussions elsewhere in this history argue that William¹ was more probably born about 1730 and came to America with his mother and siblings about 1737.

the legality of some property holders in that section of the State of Delaware. One of either John Mitchell's daughters or of Bachelor John Mitchell's sisters married a Mr. Hannah and the Hannah family that lived in the neighborhood of the Great Island before Lock Haven was built, were relatives of and descendants of that same Mitchell family"

From Esther Reed's history {Letter - Chapter 6} we have

"Your grandmother Reeds maiden name was jane Mitchell his father came from Irland in an erly day he bought farm in the state of Delaware hee had six daughters and one son the son had no children....."

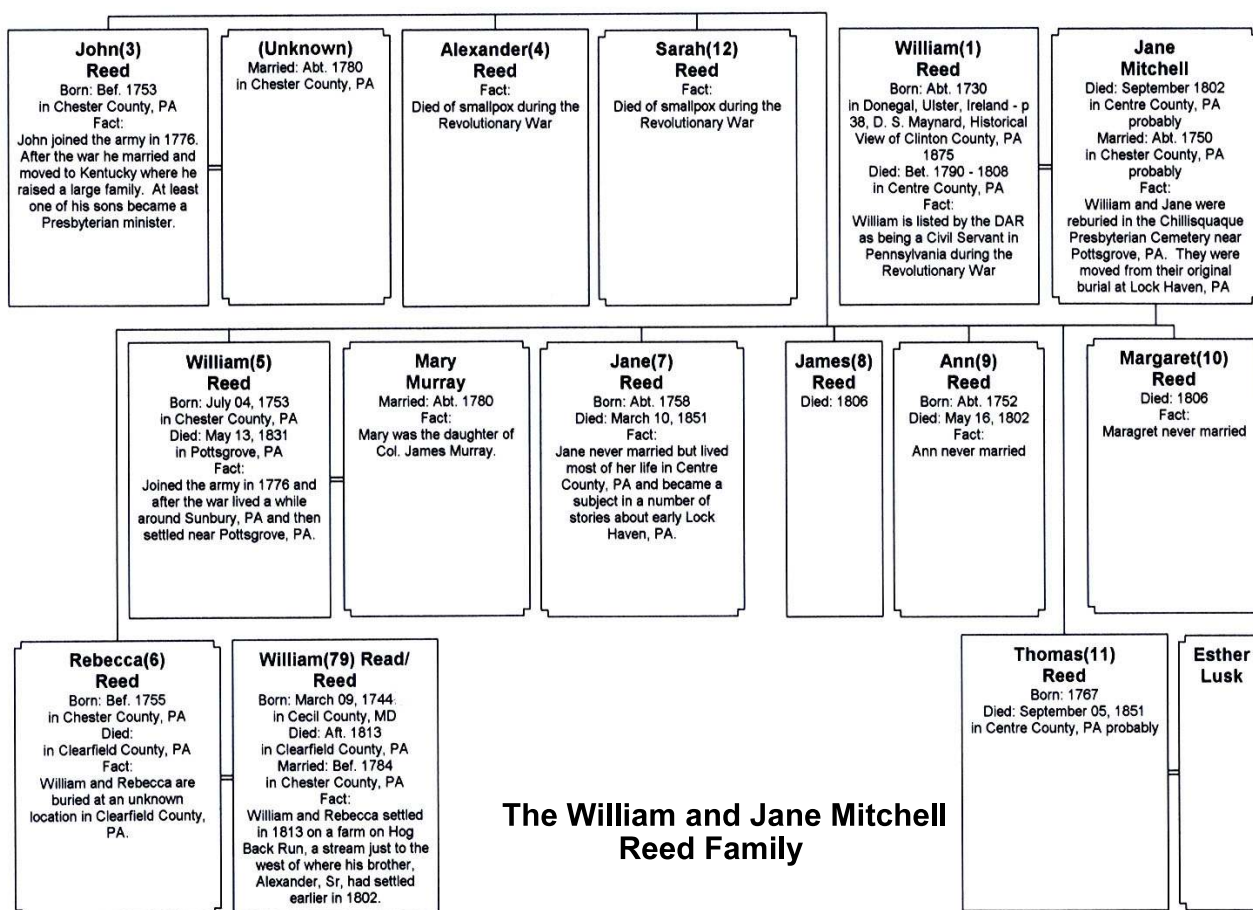
William^{1} was

born in {?}1704 and died in 1790. Jane {Mitchell}, his wife, died in September 1802. They had five sons and five daughters. Putting them in order of birth, as nearly as possible from Esther Reed's paper {Letter - Chapter 6}, they are:

3. John {born before 1753}
4. Alexander {died of smallpox during the war}
5. William {born July 4, 1753}
6. Rebecca
7. Jane {born about 1758, died March 10, 1851}
8. James {died in 1806}
9. Ann {born about 1752, died May 16, 1802}
10. Margaret {died in 1806}
11. Thomas {born 1767, died September 5, 1851}
12. Sarah {died of smallpox during the war}

Samuel McMahan says "*William^{1} Reed and Jane Mitchell bought a farm in Chester County years before the Revolutionary War where all or nearly all of their children were born.*"

However, in 1772 when Northumberland County, Pennsylvania had been purchased from the Indians just four short years before, they packed their belongings and their children to go to the frontier. I am very pleased to have had the 'ancient' William^{1} and his wife, Jane {Mitchell}, as my ancestors. It took courage (of the Scotch variety, perhaps) despite the beauty of the west branch valley which drew them back a second time in 1784. He settled on land just south of Big Island where the city of Lock Haven now



stands ⁷.

The territory north of the Susquehanna River wasn't purchased from the Indians until 1784. They were headline news to this edge of civilization during the French and Indian Wars ⁸. A constant

⁷ Lock Haven is on the west branch of the Susquehanna River in what is now Clinton County. Clinton County and Centre County to the south are contiguous and near the exact center of Pennsylvania. Clearfield County is contiguous to the west of Centre. Chester County is in far Southeastern Pennsylvania bordering on both Maryland and Delaware. Before the border settlement in 1763, a portion of Chester County was considered a part of Maryland. The Wyoming Valley is in Northeastern Pennsylvania in the vicinity of the present city of Scranton. Because of the ambiguity in many of the original colony charters, the Wyoming Valley was claimed by Connecticut and many people from Connecticut were settling there causing concern to the peoples beginning to settle along the lower and west branch of the Susquehanna.

⁸ What we usually call the French and Indian War began in Western Pennsylvania in 1754 and lasted until 1763 when the Indians under Pontiac were defeated in the Battle of Bushy Run although Indian troubles continued until 1768 and resumed again during the Revolutionary War.

watch was kept.

"*Reed's House. Frontier Forts of the French and Indian War. This house was the residence of Squire and Captain Reed, a prominent man of the county, always active in public life and for a while during the outbreak of hostilities in command of a company of provincial troops. At this time, his house was always occupied by troops and garrisoned for defense.*" (From *American Historical Register* Vol. 19 page 523.)

"*Thomas^{11} Reed, son of William^{1} and Jane {Mitchell Reed} was but a little child when Independence was declared and was born in troublesome times. At the further end of the bridge which now spans the west branch at Lock Haven, there was a fort erected for the protection of the inhabitants, which was called Fort Reed. To this fort the women and children would resort when there were signs of Indians being about. Little Tommy, as he was called, was under the especial care of his sister Jane^{7}, his elder by many years; who at one time,*

The whole series of French and Indian troubles are sometimes referred to as the French and Indian Wars. The local Indians in Pennsylvania were conquered subjects of the Iroquois Six Nations and were agitated both by their treatment by the Six Nations and by the continual encroachment by the settlers.

with her little brother, as it appears, was left alone, when to her amazement she discovered Indians and having no time to carry her little charge to the fort, and with that thought, born with the inspiration of the moment - she laid him down and turned a large iron kettle over him and then, like Miriam of old, concealed herself to watch the fate of her brother. She had not long to wait until a few Indians came, and finding no one about, one of the Indians reposed on the bottom of the upturned kettle, but did not raise it, and soon after they went away. Whether they in their youth thought far enough to return thanks to Him who watched over them both, we know not. Nevertheless the unseen hand was their protector and his kindness Providence spared this sleeping child that he might become a useful man, for after the din of battle had ceased and the storms of war had blown over, and the white dove of peace had returned, this then helpless child became a leading man in every good word and work." (From Samuel McMahan's *History*)

"In 1768 {this date is very suspect} a fort was erected at Lock Haven known as Reeds Fort and it is recorded that William^{1} Reed and his five sons constituted one third the fighting strength of the Fort." (From Elmer B. Reed's *History of Northumberland County, Pa.*)

Four {1772 to 1778 is six years} years after he had taken his family and his worldly goods to start a new life on the west branch, William^{1} Reed had to take them out again - and in a hurry. Death was at their heels.

On July 3, 1778 the Indiana massacred the settlement at Wyoming⁹. As the news traveled the

9 "The Wyoming Valley is a historic gateway to central Pennsylvania from New England and New York. Many settlers entered the valley during colonial days.....

"The Wyoming Valley Massacre: One of many tragedies of the American Revolutionary War, occurred in what is now Lucerne County, Pennsylvania. In 1778, it was an incorporated county in the colony of Connecticut. At that time, most of the inhabitants of the Wyoming Valley believed in the American cause of independence from Great Britain. However, some residents of the Wyoming Valley were Tories, and they remained loyal to Great Britain.

"As the war went on, the Tories were driven out of the community, and joined other Tory and Indian bands. In the summer of 1778, these bands attacked Wyoming Valley. The inhabitants fled for safety to Forty Fort, near the site of the present city of Wilkes-Barre, Pa. About 300 men defended the fort. An army of 800 fighters, led by a British officer, opposed them. Six hundred of the attackers were Indians.

"On July 3, the two groups met in a hard-fought battle. The attackers defeated the settlers, and killed more than two-thirds of them. The Indians tortured many of them to death. The survivors were left to find their way to the nearest settlements, and many of them died before they could reach help. The attackers completely destroyed the

people {in the Big Island (i.e., Lock Haven) area} decided to evacuate - en masse for safety. All their livestock, all the precious pieces of furniture and clothing which had been made with such painstaking care; and something more precious, their children; everything they possessed was hurriedly put on anything that would float - hog troughs, rafts, canoes, scows. The waters of the Susquehanna had never been so crowded. The women poled midstream, while the men walked single file on each side of the river, guarding the river's cargo, and gathering in the people waiting to join the convoy as they went down the river.

Not even the evacuation of Dunkirk as awesome as that was, can compare with this Big Runaway, for death is just as sure for pioneers in the wilderness of 18th century America as it is in war in 20th century Europe.

This convoy arrived at Fort Augusta, now Sunbury, safely. There the people separated. William^{1} Reed and his family went back to Chester County and stayed there six years for the duration of the war. I would assume they found refuge with his brother, John^{2} Read, who was still living there.

In 1774, two years after he left Chester county the first time, we find this reference in *History of Centre and Clinton County* by John Blair Linn, page 471. "..... the bulk of population being about the Great Island the township officers of Bald Eagle were William McElhattan, Constable; Samuel Horn, and William McElhattan, Supervisors: Robert Love and William^{1} Read, overseers."

Northumberland County was formed March 21, 1772 and included what is now Clinton County.

In Chapter XCII of this same book Mr. Linn tells of a delightful and picturesque account of the Reed family of Big Island from the Journal of Philip Vickers Fithian: {in the summer of 1775}

"Miss Jennie^{7} Reed ¹⁰ is a rural lass who lives off the river about a half a mile. I will venture to call her a nymph of these waters. (Note {by Sarah Ewing, not Fithian}: Daughter of William^{1} Reed whose house house was known as Reed's Fort during the Indian troubles of the Revolution. She lived to an extreme old age unmarried.).....

village and left the rest of the valley in ruins."

From John W. Ifkovic, Ph.D., Prof. of History, Westfield State College from the World Book Encyclopedia, 1999 CD-ROM version

10 See Appendix B of Chapter I for the story of Jennie the *Frontier Girl*

"Saturday July 29th. I drank coffee last evening at Mr. Reeds. They are a sociable, kind, neat family. Indeed I have not seen domestic affairs adjusted, making allowance for earthern floor, anywhere in the purchase more to my mind. They treated me to a dish of huckleberries and a dish of well made coffee.

"Five o'clock afternoon with Miss Betsey Fleming, Miss Jenny^{7} Reed and Mr. Gillespie I crossed the river in a canoe and went up a very high steep mountain to gather huckleberries. On the top of the hill we found them in the greatest of plenty, low bushes bent to the ground with their weight. On our return we had a rare diversion. Gillespie was helmsman overturned the canoe. I discovered my little water nymph Miss Reed was more..... in the water and less dexterous in it than myself. Miss Fleming stood..... gliding gently by and squealed. The water was nearly waist high and our canoe was filled. I stood almost spellbound with laughter..... Monday July 31 Clear, cold. Farewell Betsey and Jennie."

Perhaps Jane^{7} Reed lost her heart to the young Presbyterian missionary preacher, Philip Vickers Fithian, that first summer of the war, for although she is supposed to have been beautiful and she lived to be 93 years old, she never married. Philip Vickers Fithian, however, married his childhood sweetheart, Elizabeth Beauty, in Princeton in that fall of 1775. {He was later killed in the war.}

Having married into the Ewing family of Greenwich, New Jersey, Philip Vickers Fithian's native town, I am pleasantly aware of that person's claim to fame. He not only instigated the Greenwich Tea Burning party in 1774 but it was his Journal, unknown for 124 years, which the Williamsburg Foundation found so helpful in its restoration. (See Joseph Sickler's *Tea Burning Town*)

As early as 1701 the Provincial Council had passed resolutions about regulating the trade with the Indians..... In 1747 a port official notified the Proprietary Government of the appearance of French privateers off the coast. Due to the trouble brewing, Associators were commissioned. In Chester County, Feb. 12, 1747 William^{1} Reed, Captain, Thomas Clark, Ensign. (*Pennsylvania Archives*. 5th Series, Volume I, page 20).

In 1747 William^{1} and Jane Mitchell Reed were living in Chester County, Pennsylvania where all of their children were born. Samuel McMahan in his history says

"William^{5} Reed, second son of the ancient William^{1} Reed was born in Chester County, Pa. on the fourth day of July A.D. 1753."

Whereas Esther Reed says "your fathers oldest brother john^{3} Reed..... your fathers second brother and youngest sister Alexander^{4} and Serah^{2} died with the smallpox the time of the war".

It would seem that the order for the boys was John^{3}, Alexander^{4} and William^{5} and because Alexander^{4} died of smallpox when a young man, the descendants of William^{5} Reed, the second, know him as the second son. This would make at least two other children born prior to 1753 which would mean their family had started about 1747 and possibly earlier. We don't know just where the girls come in line of birth. We know from Esther Reed's history that Jane^{7} Reed was born in 1758 and that Rebecca^{6} was an older sister and the first girl in the family.

The ancient William^{1} and his wife are buried in Chillisquaque Presbyterian Cemetery at Potts grove, Pennsylvania. Perhaps his son, William^{5} the second, who lived in Pottsgrove for so long had the graves of {his parents} William^{1} and Jane moved there as the City of Lock Haven grew. This is a copy of his gravestone {an actual photograph of this gravestone is shown on the next page

:

1704 WILLIAM REED SR 1790
 COLONIAL WARS
 CAPT. 1747 FORT REED
 REVOLUTIONARY WAR
 ADJUTANT 2ND BATTALION
 NORTHD. CO.
 COMMITTEE OF SAFETY
 FEB. 13, 1777 NORTHD. CO.

Nearby is a small stone simply marked "Jane Mitchell Reed, wife of William Reed"

Thus ends a full and useful life.