

REID FAMILY

NB: The following is prepared from Falkland Islands Registers and files – there may be other family born outside the Falklands. Unless stated otherwise, all dated births, deaths and marriages occurred in the Falklands and all numbered graves are in Stanley Cemetery. Various spellings of names are recorded as written at the time.

James REID was born circa 1795, to **James REID**, of the Scottish Exchequer, and **Ann Baird REID** in Edinburgh, Scotland. He was the oldest of seven children.

James, age 17, joined the 45th Regiment of Foot in 1812.

Captain Reid of the 45th Regiment was a passenger for Sydney, Australia on the ship *Katherine Stewart Forbes* which left London 26 March 1832 with 209 male prisoners for Hobart Town. She arrived in Hobart 16 July 1832, departing 8 August 1832 and arriving in Sydney 15 August 1832. [The Sydney Herald Thu 16 Aug 1832] Three months later James sailed for Calcutta on board the *Lord William Bentinck*.

James was married to **Margaret Hay FORBES** March 1839 while he was stationed at the Windsor Barracks, England. James, age 44, was married again to Margaret, age 18, in September 1839 by his brother-in-law, Reverend Scott, at St George's, Edinburgh.

James and his family sailed for Australia on board the *Isabella Watson*, arriving in Melbourne in August 1840. He took out a grazing licence for 6,000 acres for Tichingorouke on the Mornington Peninsula in Port Phillip, New South Wales in 1840.

In 1846 James was declared bankrupt and paid his creditors 10 shillings in the pound. James and his family departed April 1846 on the *Royal George* bound for Gravesend.

At the end of 1846 James was appointed an inspector to oversee famine relief committees in Kerry, Ireland.

On 20 April 1849 James, a captain, was appointed Staff Officer Commanding Pensioners in the Falkland Islands on staff pay of 10s/6d per day and command pay of 1/- per day. He also received an annual salary of £50 for such civil services as he may be called on to perform; a total income from civil and military pay and allowances of £259-17-6 per annum. [D5; 188]

James, a captain, Margaret, and their children John, Walter, Ellen, Andrew, Margaret, James and Alexander, and a servant, arrived in the Falkland Islands on board the 580 ton Barque *Victory* 13 October 1849. James was in command of a group of military pensioners, a total of 122 people including women and children. There was also a cargo of houses and appurtenances on board and a total of 134 passengers.

The **REID** family are listed in the Census of 22 February 1851 as:

James REID, Captain, age 53, commander of pensioners

Margaret REID, age 29, wife

John REID, child

Walter REID, child

Ellen REID, child

Andrew REID, child

Margaret REID, child

James REID, child

Alexander REID, child

On 9 August 1852 the 343 ton British barque *Berwick Castle* arrived in Stanley with 144 passengers including 40 pensioners, families and effects for New Zealand. The *Berwick Castle* called in by appointment to take Captain Reid and his family on to Van Dieman's Land and departed 31 August 1852. [SHI-REG-1]

The barque *Berwick Castle* arrived at Hobart, Tasmania November 1852. Cabin passengers were Captain Reid, Staff Officer of Pensioners, Mrs Reid and nine children. [The Courier Wed 10 Nov 1852]

On 4 April 1857, at about noon, Margaret was sitting in a gig outside the Van Diemen's Land Bank when the reins got under the horse's tail causing him to turn around brining the gig onto the footway. Fearing that the gig was going to overturn, Margaret jumped out and it was feared that she had dislocated her hip joint. [The Courier (Hobart, Tasmania) Saturday 4 April 1857 p 3]

In January 1859 Captain James Reid was appointed keeper of Her Majesty's Gaol in Launceston in succession to Mr Irvine who had retired. [Launceston Examiner 15 Jan 1859, pg 3]

On 7 September 1867 it was reported that James Reid was allowed to retire, at his own request, from his offices of Superintendent of the Houses of Correction, and Gaoler, Launceston, receiving compensation to the amount of £168 8s. [Launceston Examiner Sat 7 Sep 1867]

James, age 72, died 29 January 1867 in Launceston.

THE LATE CAPTAIN JAMES REID.

Our obituary of today records the decease of Captain James Reid, Governor of H. M. Gaol and Superintendent of Penal Establishments at Launceston. Up to a late period he enjoyed excellent health, although he had exceeded the age of three score years and ten. Captain Reid was a veteran military officer of the Wellington school - a class now passing away rapidly, and of which the whole earth will soon be able to furnish but few representatives. Captain Reid, at the age of seventeen, joined H. M 45th Regiment of foot, as an ensign, in 1812. He was immediately after employed on active service in the Peninsular war, and had the honour of being present at the victories of Nivelle, Nive, Orthes and Toulouse, for three of which victories he received the clasps on the Peninsular medal. He was entitled to the fourth, but as he had fought in the front when he was under orders to proceed to the rear with the wounded, and had exchanged duties with another officer without leave, he had too high a sense in honour to apply for it - though he was aware that other officers, who were not in action at all, had applied for and received the decoration. After the victory of Waterloo, and peace was declared, Captain Reid proceeded with the 46th Regiment to India and was engaged in the Burmese war, for his services in which he obtained another medal with a clasp for Ava. Shortly after he first went to India he held an appointment in the Island of Ceylon as an agent of Government in the Northern Provinces, This was a civil, as well as a military, appointment. Whilst still a very young man, he was appointed adjutant of his Regiment and was selected by his Colonel to be taught the sword exercise by the celebrated Angelo, and after wards taught his brother officers. After hard service he was invalided home suffering from acute liver complaint. In 1832 he visited Hobart Town in command of a military guard on board the convict ship Catherine Stuart Forbes, which conveyed to this colony a number of the Bristol rioters. The vessel subsequently proceeded to Sydney from whence Captain Reid went a second time to India, and from where he was again invalided home, and about the year 1840 he sold out as senior Captain of the Regiment which he had seen entirely changed from the Colonel down to the drummer boy. He then went to Port Phillip as a military settler, a step he has since always regretted; for six months after he sold out he would, if he had remained in the Regiment been a Major without purchase. Placed in a sphere so different from what he had been accustomed to, it is not at all surprising that, like Major Frazer, and other excellent officers, he became an unsuccessful squatter. He was compelled to succumb to bad times, the boiling

down system, when legs of mutton could be had for a penny a pound, and he disposed of his land and left Port Phillip in April, 1846. He was one of the few gentlemen at that period in the Commission of the Peace there. He returned home and obtained an appointment as an inspector in Ireland during the famine, his duties being to see that the aid granted by Parliament was properly dispensed. On the termination of the famine Captain Reid's services were no longer required in the same capacity, and he then through personal influence at the War Office was appointed with local rank of Captain to be Staff Officer of Pensioners, then to be despatched with their wives and families as settlers to the Falkland Islands. This renewal of rank was at that time only the second or third instance on record, and it occasioned great jealousy amongst retired officers. The Falkland Islands being too limited a sphere for an officer with an increasing family, Captain Reid applied for a removal, and after a residence of nearly three years he came on to Tasmania where he arrived in November, 1852, and was appointed Staff Officer of Pensioners for the Northern Division of the Island until 1860; since which time the pensioners have been paid as formerly, by the Commissariat. In 1859, on the late Mr C. J. Irvine retiring from the position of Governor of the Gaol and entering into business Captain Reid succeeded him. The duties of this important office he continued to discharge with great devotion and to the satisfaction of the public up to the last. For some few months past, however, he has been an invalid, having been incapacitated in the first instance by a severe attack of "angina pectoris," and as that passed off he had a relapse of an old and painful malady - disease of the kidneys - from which he had suffered a great deal in India. At the earnest request of his family, he had consented to retire from public life, and he a few weeks back, sent in his resignation and applied for the usual retiring compensation. This, we believe, was granted by the Government without hesitation, and he was about to remove to his new residence on the Elphin Road, when he gradually sank and expired after a long, active, and useful life, at half past 11 on Tuesday night last. Captain Reid's unassuming, affable manners, had endeared him to a wide circle of friends in all ranks of life, and his memory will be long fondly cherished in Launceston. He leaves large family of eleven children to mourn their loss. Three of his elder sons hold respectable situations in mercantile houses in Launceston, and another is practising as a Barrister in New Zealand.

As a tribute of respect to the memory of Captain Reid the vessels in harbor dipped their colors half-mast, from Wednesday until after the funeral yesterday. This left the late residence of Captain Reid at 4 p.m., and the long cortege consisted of numerous representatives of all the respectable classes in the community. The pall was borne on the one side by J. Whitefoord, Esq., Recorder; John Cape, Esq., and Rev. F Hales ; on the other by Adye Douglas, Esq. M.H A., Wm. Gunn, Esq, Police Magistrate, and James Robertson, Esquire, JP. The remains of Captain Reid were interred in the Presbyterian Cemetery. The Rev. R.K. Ewing was present, but the burial service and prayer at the grave was offered up by the Rev. James Garrett.

Captain Reid was a Justice of the Peace for the Territory for the past thirteen years, and one of the oldest masons in the colony having been initiated more than half a century since It is to be regretted that he did not leave behind him a more definite account of his early military career and services.

[The Cornwall Chronicle (Launceston, Tas. : 1835 - 1880) **Saturday 2 February 1867** p 4 Article <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/72182185/6953753>]

Margaret, who was born in 1821 in Edinburgh, Scotland, died in 1870 in Australia.

FIRST GENERATION

Children of James and Margaret REID:

1. **John REID** born in 1838 at the Canterbury Barracks, Kent, England. John was married to **Adelaide BUCKLEY** in Australia. John died 27 June 1890 in Launceston, Tasmania.
2. **Walter Scott 'Wattie' REID** born 25 October 1839 in Edinburgh, Scotland. Walter qualified as a barrister and solicitor on 14 October 1862. Walter worked in Invercargill, New Zealand in 1863. Walter was married to 1. **Mary Jane HUME** 1 June 1865 in Launceston, Tasmania. From July 1865 Walter worked in Wellington, New Zealand. In early 1866 he moved to Invercargill. He then moved to Hokitika. Mary, age 30, died 7 October 1875 in Wellington, New Zealand. Walter, solicitor-general, was married to 2. **Emma HALSE** 16 February 1895 in St Paul's Protestant Cathedral, Wellington, New Zealand. Walter retired as Solicitor-General in November 1900. Walter, age 81, died 31 January 1920 in Wellington, New Zealand. He had been ill for a considerable time and confined to bed for many months before his death.
3. **Helen Hay REID** born 6 March 1843 at Mayfield, Melbourne, Australia. Helen, the eldest daughter of the late Captain James Reid, was married to **William Anthony COLLINS**, solicitor, 25 February 1869 in Trinity Church, Launceston. William died 12 January 1876 in Launceston. Helen died 8 July 1938 in Burwood, New South Wales, Australia.
4. **James REID** born April 1845 at Port Phillip, New South Wales, Australia.
5. **Margaret Adelaide REID** born in 1846 at sea on board the *Royal George* which was bound for Gravesend.
6. **Andrew REID** born in 1847 in Edinburgh, Scotland.
7. **Alexander REID** born in March 1849 in Edinburgh, Scotland.
8. **Ann Elizabeth 'Annie' REID** born 29 August 1850 in the Barracks, Stanley and baptised 29 September 1850 by Holy Trinity Church.
9. **Leonard Greenwell REID** born 4 January 1852 in Stanley and baptised 12 February 1852 by Holy Trinity Church. Leonard went to Hokitika, New Zealand in 1869 where he was articled to Buller and Reid. He completed his articles with Travers and Ollivier in Wellington in 1879, when he was admitted as a barrister and solicitor. Mr. Reid practised his profession on the West Coast and at Timaru until 1882 when he was appointed Assistant Crown Law Officer and Revising Barrister of Friendly Societies. Leonard, the youngest son of the late Captain James Reid, of HM 45th Regiment, was married to **Elizabeth HALL**, youngest daughter of the late W G Hall of London, 6 December 1887 at St Paul's Cathedral, Wellington, by Reverend John Still. [Launceston Examiner Wed 21 Dec 1887] Elizabeth died September 1924 and was buried in Karori Cemetery. Leonard, age 94 and retired, died 24 May 1946 in Karori, Wellington, New Zealand and was buried in Karori Cemetery in Plot 523 G
10. **Mary REID** born in 1854 in Launceston, Tasmania.
11. **Septimus REID** born in 1855 in Launceston, Tasmania. Septimus, age 4 months, died circa 1855.
12. **Jemima REID** born in 1857 in Launceston, Tasmania.