

REAMES GENEALOGY

(From tip of the roots to last buds of a minor branch)

The Direct Paternal Line of

Gary Wilson Reames

Third Edition

Reames Genealogy

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Forward (by the author)

OK, just what the world needs, another genealogy book. Well, if this is for nothing more than my own enjoyment, so be it. The beginning story of this journey is found in chapter 5. The wonder of the Internet has made this family searching a consuming, sometimes frustrating pastime. I needed some vehicle for recording (or at least linking to) information I ran across. More important was a way to organize what I learned.

After talking to my sister Jeanette about this family stuff, she reminded me that Mother used to have a Reames book when we lived in Oklahoma. I remember it being maroon or red with gold lettering, bigger than a paperback, but maybe not as big as a regular hard back. That was many years and a couple of wives ago. I've moved sixteen times since then (at least) and I don't have it any more. Daddy always said that "Three moves are as good as a fire!" so I have had at least FIVE fires already.

So far, I'm like many Reames researchers, stuck in England back in the 1600s. Researching on my mother's side is even worse because her name is much more common. Until recently, I had only made it back to Kentucky in the early 1800s on her side following her father's surname. A slight break through lead back as far as 1590, but through my ggg-Grandmother.

I hope a copy of what is recorded here will turn up in some trunk many years from now, is discovered in some cyberspace tomb, or found under an Internet rock. It may end up a future fifth generation grandchild will find this information as interesting as I. It probably won't survive 400 years into the future, but I'm pretty proud this study goes almost that far back into the past.

The first part of this history should be of interest to any Reames family researcher. The rest concentrates on my direct line, and therefore might not. I hope I made it interesting enough that someone gets at least entertained from all of it.

Happy Journey.

Color Code Legend:

Font: Names with possible "origin" roots and the author himself are shown in **red**.
Later on, direct ancestors of the author are **dark red (maroon)**.
Non-direct, possible ancestors appear **bold**.
Generations after the author appear **dark blue**.
Internet links appear in **blue and are usually underlined**. Last checked on 17 September 2003.
(Links may change color based on specific computer Internet settings.)

Highlights: Gray – Questionable or missing information
Turquoise – Further research potential

Gary Reames

Gilbert, Arizona

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Because of identity theft issues, birthplace and dates for living people will be blacked out in PDF transmissions.

1 - ORIGIN OF THE NAME REAMES

To find the earliest ancestor to the Reames/Reams/Ream clan(s), let's first explore the origin of these surnames. There are two schools of thought for the origin of the names Reames, Reams and/or Ream. One school believes the name comes from 11th Century France in the Normandy region around present day Rheims. Another traces back to Germany. Below is information and links to both.

The French Connection

L.G. Pine in his *The Story of Surnames* (©1965) referred to another work, *The Origins of Some Anglo-Norman Families* by L.C. Loyd. Loyd stated:

"Raimes or Reames is from Rames in Seine Inferieure (Normandy). Many Norman families went to Scotland or branches of Norman families went from England to Scotland in the 12th century."

Research is ongoing as to "Rames" being the famous "Rheims".

Those tracking us back to France use the connection of **Roger de Ramis**, one of thousands of Frenchmen who followed William the Conqueror and helped conquer England in 1066. According to the late researcher Roy L Reames, **Roger** held the title of "Barony of Raines" (or Reyens) in Essex, England. **Roger** is listed on The Domesday Survey and other early "census" rolls of the late 11th and early 12th Century.

The Domesday Survey (1085 - 1086)

The Domesday Book is the earliest record to give details of the English population. Here's a good source for information on the Domesday Survey:

<http://atschool.eduweb.co.uk/jonah/curric/depts/history/domesday/domesday.html>

The survey places **Roger de Ramis** in Ardleigh, a rural parish in Tendering Hundred, Essex County. It's located about four miles northeast of Colchester and fifty-five northeast of London. **Roger de Ramos** owned one of the manors in Ardleigh. His manor is known today as Pigotts. A "manor" in the Domesday Book was property used for tax assessment. It could mean a full-blown estate with castle, moat and all the amenities one would expect, or could just mean a tract of land. It's believed "Pigotts" came from the name of the original owner prior to conquest. Still another hit has Roger owning an entire parish, [Little Stanmore](#).

Roger de Ramis also appears in The Leicestershire Survey conducted some thirty-eight years later. The dates seem to be OK. Even if he was twenty when he helped William invade in 1066, appearance on an 1124 survey would have made him 78.

The Leicestershire Survey

(1124-1129)

Extract from *Feudal England, XIth & XIIth Centuries* by J. H. Round. Published 1909. pp 196-214

Hundred of Ashby

Humberston.

Hugh de Grentnesnil?

Roger de Ramis

8

There is no information in either survey as to **Roger's** birth date, his wife's name, children, etc. (The supposed purpose of these surveys was for taxation, not genealogy.) We cannot even be sure if he was called "Roger" back in France. Here is an excerpt from the referenced Domesday website on names:

*Christian Names and the Conquest - The personal names in Domesday are particularly interesting because the Norman Conquest changed fashions in names. The most popular christian names before the Conquest were Edric, Godric, Elfric, Godwin and Elmer, each of which occurs about 500 times or more in Domesday Book. After the Conquest, these were replaced as the most popular names by William, Robert, Ralph, **Roger** and Hugh. These Norman christian names became the fashion for later generations.*

The Spread of Surnames - It was also during this period that the use of surnames first became common. The majority of people in Domesday Book are still named only by their christian names. Those surnames that are recorded in Domesday are therefore important because we can see how the earliest surnames were formed.

Types of Surname -The most common method was to name people after places, usually their place of origin. Due to the Conquest, many of these places were in France, so many Domesday surnames are French place-names. The majority of the great landowners in 1086 had surnames of this kind: Mortain, Montgomery, Montfort, Warrene, Tosny, Evreux, Ivry. These were also the first surnames to be passed on from father to son, so hereditary surnames came to England as a result of the Norman Conquest, and they were all French.

Another method of forming surnames was to use the christian name of the father to make a surname for the son. Walter fitz Walter, for instance, means Walter son of Walter. Surnames were also formed from the office or occupation held by a person, such as Butler, Carpenter, Forester, and Hunter, which all occur in Domesday Book. Finally, some surnames developed from nicknames, of which there are many examples in Domesday, ranging from Hugh the Ass to Roger God-Save-the-Ladies.

A Confusion of Surnames - In 1086 surnames were still fairly unusual. Not everyone had a surname, and those that did might have several different surnames. The four surnames of Edith Swan-neck were given above. There are many other examples in Domesday Book. Richard fitz Gilbert was also called Richard of Tonbridge and Richard of Clare.

Because the use of English surnames was basically started with William the Conqueror, it's not known if this person went by the name "**de Ramis**" back in France. He may have been the only "Roger" in (or from) Ramis! Also, one theory that cannot be pushed aside is that one or more of his villagers or slaves could have taken his name and they propagated the Reames/Reams/Ream line and name. But, let's keep the thought we're more important.

More Tracking of Roger (and other) De Ramis Hits

If you try an Internet search of "de Ramis", you won't have much luck unless you speak French or Spanish. Google's "Translate this page" did not work more than it did. Many hits are for Saint Julia de Ramis, a resort in Spain.

A search on "Pigotts" takes a big leap from 1124 to the 1500s. Abington Pigotts is a parish near Cambridge, England. The story of [Sir Thomas Meade](#) has him as "Lord of the (Pigotts) Manor" until his death on 18 September 1618. Sir Thomas' "estates" (and thusly Pigotts), went to his son John Meade who also became a knight (sir). Sir John died on 1 October 1638. No inheritance or further mention of Pigotts was made.

Then one runs across the great “mystery” of Internet searches. Though “**de Ramis**” did not produce a Yahoo hit, when a search is made on “Ardleigh + Ramis”, it finds another name, [Robert de Ramis](#). It seems during the time of King Steven (1097-1154), **Robert** gave the village church rectory to St. John’s Abbey in Colchester, the nearest large town. Checking dates, this would have happened sometime on or before 1154. Because solid dates for **Roger de Ramis** are between the Norman Conquest of 1066 and the Leicestershire Survey of 1124-1129, it is possible **Robert** is **Roger’s** son. Roy L. Reames discovered current Reymys/Reams families of Overstrand, England are descendents of **de Ramis**.

The web site where **Robert de Ramis** was found has extracts from the *History, Gazetteer, and Directory of the County of Essex by William White* published in 1848. This entire site gives a very detailed snapshot of Essex County England in the mid 19th Century.

Each page was searched for “**de Ramis**”, with the only other hit being a Domesday Survey entry about the wife of a [Henry de Ramis](#) holding the “Manor of Mistley”, also known as Sciddinchoe. Now it gets complicated. Was Henry related to **Roger**, or was he just “from Ramis”? Further search of this site for “Ream” yielded no hits.

According to Robb Reames (who by the way has a website he claims sells the only “authentic” Reames Coat-of-Arms) some time in the 13th Century, the “de” (or as Robb spells it “da”) was dropped and the name became just Ramis. He then makes a quantum leap to Reymes, but this is believable because of the English propensity to change the spelling of EVERY French word on the face of the earth. Finally, by the 17th Century, Robb says the name evolved from Reymes to Reames. It must have been late 17th Century as references to Reymes, sometimes interchanged with Reames go as late as 1695 as you will see in later chapters.

When seeing this for the first time in July, 2004, I started searches for Reymes and quickly found an interesting connection for [Aydon Castle](#). It gives the story of Aydon Castle built in 1296 by a “wealthy Suffolk merchant”, another Robert, but this time “de Reymes”. Since this was almost a hundred and fifty years after the reign of King Steven above, this is for sure another Robert, but fits the name gestation as described by Robb Reames. Even more on Aydon Castle can be found [here](#). If you go there, your WORD for the day is: Crenellate. It means to add battlements. Apparently, to do this to ones house in 1300 required a license from the King.

Searching further, we learn Robert’s father’s name, [Hugh de Reymes](#). This site also has the best picture of the castle so far.

Name Origin Research Pending:

Raimes – Rames in Seine Inferieure

Records of Overstrand, England

So lets explore the [Norman Invasion](#) to see where William got his French army and how he conquered England.

Name origin possibilities: [St. Remigius](#) or [Remi](#)

Because there are so many problems making the jump from “Ramis” to “Reames”, lets work our way back for early references to “Reames”. One early reference is that English poet Christopher Marlowe (1564-1593) attended a Catholic seminary in “Reames”, France. [One work](#) spells it both “Rheims” and “Reames”. Note: This is a .pdf file that might have trouble downloading to some computers.

This is backed up by an article in the NACIC Newsletter (which will be gone by the time anyone reads this). Here is an excerpt:

As previously noted, Marlowe received his bachelor’s degree from Cambridge in 1584 and continued on scholarship to study for an advanced degree. In 1587, he made formal application to the Master and Fellows of Corpus Christi for the awarding of his master’s degree, but apparently there were rumors that he held Catholic sympathies and might even have traveled to Rheims. On the basis of these rumors and suppositions, there were those at Corpus who wished to deny him a master’s degree. This latter development produced a remarkable document, a summary of which exists in the minutes of a meeting of the Queen’s Privy Council (Lord Burghley and Sir Francis Walsingham were members) in June 1587:

*"Whereas it was reported that Christopher Morley (one of many variations of Marlowe) was determined to have gone beyond the seas to **Reames** (Rheims) and there to remain, their Lordships thought good to certify that he had no such intent, but that in all his actions he had behaved himself orderly and discreetly, whereby he had done Her Majesty good service, and deserved to be rewarded for his faithful dealing."*

Note that in 1587, the English wrote “Rheims” as “Reames”. It is also interesting that the New Testament portion of the first English-Catholic Bible was completed in Rheims in 1852, perhaps with major connections to (if not completed in) this “Reames” seminary.

Or Was It Germany?

A history, by [Glenn Sherwood](#) (another .pdf, good luck), tracks the **REAM** surname back to Germany. Interesting, but not my branch. Still yet to be proven (and even rejected by some), is a connection back to France for this German group. There’s no way to escape the FROGS is there? The Sherwood site spends more time giving you a history of Europe than it does actually tracking the surname.

2 - EARLY MENTIONINGS

Stephen Reames of Cessingherst, Kent

The earliest reference to a REAL Reames found so far is in the 12 January 1557 [will of Sir John Baker](#) of Cessingherst in Kent. It takes a bit to get through the old English (or bad transcription), but John Baker leaves:

*“. . . vnto my good suster **Jone Reames** widowe a ryng of gold of 40s., and my nephewe **Stephen Reames** her sonne one of 26s. 8d. and my cosyne his wif a like ryng.”*

It is assumed **Jone** is **Jone Baker**, John's sister. Later **Stephen** is mentioned again:

*“To my sonne Richard my right &e. for termes of yeres in the parsonages of Yealdyng, Rolvygden and of house and demeanes of Estfarleighe he to suffer my nephewe **Stephen Reames** to have the occupacion therof durying the terme of Estfarlegh.”*

Hard to follow here, but it seems Richard Baker helped raise **Stephen**. A common practice back then was for a brother to take in the family if, as it appears here, his sibling meets an untimely end. It also hints that **Stephen** was not the easiest to raise.

He's mentioned again in a hard to understand rambling with several other names of neighbors, friends and adjoining landowners. The 26s. 8d (whatever that adds up to) was not all for **Stephen**:

*“I John Bakere of Cessingherst Knight, have given conceded and by this my present charter tripartite indented conveyed to **Stephen Reames** of Bedynden, Gent, and Henry Kyngewoode of Cranebroke, yoman, all my messuages, houses, gardens &e. pertaining to the late chapel of Mylkhous and all the lands tenements &e. I late bought of our lord the King as by letters patent dated 22 June anno regni sui secundo, to have and hold to the use of me and my heirs and I make Thos. Best and Thos. Lynley my 'attornatos'. Dated 14 March ----- Edward VI [year omitted].”*

And more:

*“I will, ordeyne and declare this my last will as follows. First I will that my good and lowing suster **Johanne Reames** widow have one anytie yerely out of my said manours of £10 and two chambers in my manor of Cessingherst. I will to my nephew **Stephen Reames** £4 yerely. My executours to take profits and rents &e. of all my said manors [all again rehearsed as above] to have and hold to the said Richard Bakere and his heyres males and in default to John Baker and his heirs males.”*

Notice the spelling is now **Johanne** instead of **Jone**, but poor John didn't spell his own name nor the town he lived in the same way all through his will either. It appears he cared enough about his sister to give her and her son a lifetime allowance

Murder (or self-defense)? Robert Reames, a Gentleman of Smeethe

From ELMSTED, Kent, England, [Local history of the parish of Elmsted](#) and family histories of Elmsted and neighbouring villages on the North Downs (fourth story down if you use the link):

An Inquisition into MURDER at Brabourne of William Rychardes

By an inquisition held at Brabourne on 15 December 1597 before Humphrey Kybbett coroner on the body of William Rychardes a gentleman¹ of Baston.

The jury found that about 1.00 a.m. on 13 December 1597 William Rychardes, Edward Mereweather gentlemen of Baston, Stephen Cheston a yeoman² of Petham, Paul Cocke a labourer of Elmsted and Robert Dunkyn a husbandman³ of Elmsted together with three other malefactors, broke into the park of Thomas Scotte Esquire⁴ of Smeethe, to hunt deer with 4 greyhounds.

*They killed 2 bucks and 2 does, and were then discovered by **Robert Reames** a gentleman of Smeethe, Scott's Parker, accompanied by William Kempessoole his servant of Smeeth and John Newington of Smeethe, a warrener⁵ of Smeethe and Brabourne Lees, who attempted to arrest them.*

*The poachers resisted, and Mereweather struck **Robert Reames** with a hanger wounding him in the head. In defending himself, **Reames** struck William Rychardes in the chest with a piked staff and killed him.*

Guess the reporter forgot to state the obvious, but I guess dear **Robert** got off. After all, it was eight against five. **Robert** was just evening the odds.

A brief study of Old English terms:

- ¹ A "gentleman" was considered of noble birth, most assuredly a major landowner.
- ² A yeoman was a servant or attendant or even a lesser official in a noble household.
- ³ A husbandman was a farmer
- ⁴ An Esquire belonged to the gentry (class of landowners just below nobility) and ranked just below a knight.
- ⁵ A warrener was a keeper of rabbits, or more generally, a gamekeeper.

Not a single Reames baptism, marriage or death has been found in Elmstead records between 1538 and 1700.

James and Henry Reames – First Gen-Site Record

The earliest record yet found in any modern genealogical site comes from the International Genealogical Index (IGI). *More on it later.* It has a "**James Reames**" born in Worth, Sussex, England, Christening date of 8 July 1621. The IGI lists his father as **Henry Reames**, mother as Katherine, but no dates whatsoever for either of them.

John Reames of Baughurst and/or Phillimares Hampshire Parishes

Records for Parish of Baughurst apparently recorded the marriage of a **John Reames** and Priscilla Morgan:

REAMES John	MORGAN Priscilla	25 Feb 1632
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Phillimores Hampshire Parish Records Volume 6 has the same couple:

REAMES John	MORGAN Priscilla	25 Feb 1632
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We are now running across Reames ancestors that “could be” the parents of the famous **John Reames** of Sussex (or Essex) who started the English line of Reames in America. These two are VERY good candidates for that position. However, the thlot pickens . . .

Colonel Bullen Reames of Portsmouth, Sussex

In 1660 a young man of twenty-six named Samuel Pepys for some reason started keeping a detailed diary of his daily activities. The diary goes only until 1669 when Pepys went blind. His 17 February 1667 entry mentions a “**Colonell Reames**”. It’s not clear if this is the military title of Colonel (extra “l” seemed to be common back then), or if Colonell is really a given name. In his [26 June 1667](#) entry, Pepys spells the name both Reames and Reymes! Colonell Reames is mentioned again on [28 and 29 January 1668](#).

A rare sale archive (receipt) dated [28 February 1664](#) (Lot 695) mentions a **Col. Bullen Reames**, Deputy Treasurer of Prizes at Portsmouth. It should be safe to assume this is the same **Colonell Reames** of which Pepys mentions in his diary.

Now for the name twist. Helen Andrews Kaufman wrote a book [Conscientious Cavalier: Colonel Bullen Reymes, M.P., FRS., 1613-1672: The Man And His Times](#). Dates are right. Who was wrong with the spelling, Pepys, the sales receipt, or Ms. Kaufman? Several other sites refer to Pepys with the spelling of Reymes also. The story gets even more interesting at St. Peter’s Church - Portesham, Dorset. (Original link no longer valid. Try new search on “Bullen Reymes”.) Now there are TWO Bullen Reymes (or is it Reames) to learn about. The more we dug, the deeper it got about the [Bullens](#).

John Reames (Reymes) of Edgefield, Norfolk

A history of [Nathaniel Brewster](#), an important member of “America’s First Families” mentions his first wife as Abigail Reymes, daughter of John Reymes of Edgefield, Norfolk. One source has him born about 1595 and lists his daughter Abigail, but little else. John’s will of 1662 mentions his daughter, but apparently she had already passed on and Nathaniel went on to marry again before coming to America.

The IGI (which we all know and love) has Abigail born about 1618 while another source has her born in 1621 and marriage as 1643. There is neither mention of her mother nor any siblings.

More details are starting to emerge. Found [here](#) is what appears to be our John Reymes, born 28 September 1595 in Overstrand, Norfolk, England. Frances (no last name) is listed as his wife. She was born about 1606. Though Abigail is not listed, a possible brother, Robert Reymes, born on 10 January 1628 or 1629 is. You can also go back a couple of more generations to John’s parents, John William Reymes and Anne, and back another generation to John William’s parents, William Reymes and Mary Payne. (Finally, a mother with a maiden name.)

A Connection To “Honest Abe”?

OK gang, now it REALLY turns weird and makes the search for a connection to John Reymes more serious. A family tree of Abraham Lincoln . . . yes THE [Abraham Lincoln](#), shows that several generations back, he is related to Abigail and John Reymes! I'll let the chart speak for itself.

By now, “Reymes” hits are springing up all over the place. Not all are worth mentioning here, but one could be the missing link. Here are a few:

[Oliver Reymes](#)

[Barney Reymes](#)

[Elizabeth Reymes \(wife of Bullen\)](#)

[1300 John Reymes](#)

[Mary Petre \(another wife of Bullen?\)](#)

A First and Final Word about the “Ending-e”

All my life, the biggest frustration encountered about my name was the ubiquitous “ending-e” problem. If I had the proverbial dollar for every time it got dropped, I would be too rich to care where I came from. The first time it came up when doing research for this history was with the German line (check back to the end of Chapter 1). Then, I noticed both Ancestry.com and Genealogy.com had both **Reames** AND **Reams** forums. They have about 70% duplication, but both had to be researched and continually have to be monitored.

The reason this section is here instead of at the end of Chapter 1 is, I wanted you to note the numerous references with the name **Reames**. The 1557 reference in an English will, the 1587 EXACT spelling in an official English government document, and numerous other references should make apparent to the most casual observer that **Reams** is either from the German line from 1717 Pennsylvania, deliberate spelling change because the person changing it got too frustrated telling people how to REALLY spell REAMES, or simply inadvertent misspellings of the English line along the path of recorded American history. (So far, have found no references to any **Reams** or **Ream** in England in the 1600s.)

One possible example of the “frustration” aspect to our name is the story of the Rev. Robert Reams who settled in what is now Hart County Kentucky. His great Grandson, Gerald Reames, reports the Reverend deliberately changed his name, dropping the “ending-e”. Notice Gerald brought it back in his name and when he referred to the Reverend. Way to go Gerald!

A post by Reid Reames seems to defend the “ending-e” as the original English clan. Problem is, Reid also claims this clan is from Wales, the opposite side of the British Isle from Essex and Sussex.

I hope to do a little more research into the words reams (as in paper) and Reames (as in the name). Until then, I’m just glad my name ain’t “Outhouse”. (Don’t laugh. If you live in a big city or in Portales, New Mexico, check your phone book. There really is such a clan! They even have forums on Ancestry and Genealogy.com. But if you check out these forums, be respectful. It could have happened to YOU.)

Just a bit of trivia here. According to Placesnamed.com, as of 29 April 2004, REAMES was the **10,313th** most common name in the United States. REAMS are winning out hands down as they hold the 5,938th position. Searching my maternal line is much harder as WILSON is the 8th most common name. It’s a whole new ballgame when researching that side.



Search Tools

Before we get into the next chapter, wandering through this author's direct line, some space must be devoted to how information is found and its trustworthiness. First, a list of valuable sources used directly for this history and repeated through cyberspace by so many researchers:

- Genealogy.com
- Ancestry.com
- USGENWEB.com
- The Reams, Reames Family and Allied Families by H.C. Smith, MD (1954 & 1991)
- Reames-Brown Descendents 1650-1983 by Barbara LeGate Moher & Betty Goodgame (1983)
- International Genealogical Index (IGI) – Research database of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
- Numerous Census, Church and Bible Transcripts
- Personal, Passed-Down (aural and/or written) Family Records

There are several problems of varying degrees with each of the above information sources. Message boards, trees, pedigrees, etc. found on the two Internet genealogical giants are open for just about anyone to input data. Unlike a few years ago, one does have to pay now to do it.

Too often, well meaning people like Robert Lee Reames (who will be referenced in the next chapter) place information in cyberspace that has difficulty standing up to the most simple scrutiny. Because information gets so mixed up, even if you run across a name or date many times, it's no insurance that posters are just repeating bad information from the original bad source.

I have yet to see the two primary books on the family, at least since my research began three years ago. I just found out there is a second volume of Dr. Smith's book with a fairly recent 1991 publication. Reports are the Reames-Brown book is more accurate, but it is not known if it has been compared to the 1991 Smith volume..

A commodity becoming more rare every day is scanned-in records. These usually come from census books, church records or family bibles. A few years ago, I ran across some. Many were difficult to read, and of course a search was impossible. Transcribed records have problems too. So many official records up to the last century were hand written. It's so easy to mistake a "5" for a "6", a "4" for a "9", "Mar" for "May", days of the month between 1 and 12 for a month, on and on. However, this researcher will trade the inaccurate transcriptions for the search feature any day of the week.

One of the most enjoyable sites so far (and not just because it's free) is The USGENWEB Project. It's a well-developed site that provides transcriptions of census, marriage, death and other records for every state. History of state and county formations help researchers know which counties to research during particular timeframes. Their global search feature can produce a lot of hits, but it works much better than the genealogy site forum and message board search features because it is selective and allows for exact (using quotes around multiple words) and Boolean (Ma **AND** Pa) formulation searches. That's particularly handy when searching for marriage records.

Of course, the primary limitation of this site is we are at the mercy of volunteers who transcribe the mostly hand-written records. Usually these volunteers go after records of their own personal interests. Therefore, a census of a particular year for a specific county may not be available. Also, errors in transcription occur. Even with all that though, let's hear it for these people who devoted so much time out of their lives to provide so much data available for all of us to use.

Because it is free, The USGENWEB Project asks that a special disclaimer be included anytime private researchers use information from their site. They also require the usual special permission if using their data for commercial purposes. So, here's their disclaimer that covers any reproduction of data used in the research of **The Paternal Line of Gary Wilson Reames**:

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By far, the most **error-ridden** information source yet found is the IGI. I only looked at it one time, and that was enough. Tracking down from **John**, through **Edward** and **Joshua**, the lack of information (full, exact dates) was bad enough. Then, for some unknown reason, **Azariah** (and everyone after) get a name spelling change from Reames to REEMS! If the name can't even stay correct, why trust any dates? I got sick and closed it.

Personal records can be very valuable to get a new researcher started and to check what lies out there in cyberspace. Still, as much as we want to believe this information from our dear elders, even it can be faulty.

Summarizing my approach to this dilemma, considering all we know and the multitude of what we don't know, ONE DATE, ONE NAME, ONE STORY, is better than having nothing at all. If data conflicts, so be it. Until disproved, all reasonable information found will be included here. However, any information, even from sources close to me, not supported by original official records will **NOT** be considered "sacred" and immune to scrutiny. So if information YOU provided or have is listed here, and questioned, please don't feel hurt. You have the right to stand up to its authenticity and question my scrutiny argument.

Much information in the remainder of this history comes from these sometime questionable and all too often conflicting sources. So, like the IGI disclaimer, just because I record or repeat information here, "Don't quote me on that!" I'm sure on **my** birthday, **my dad's** birthday and marriage, and info on **my offspring** because I have the *official documents*. Beyond that, I only know what I read on the Internet.

3 - REAMES FAMILY IN AMERICA

John and Alice Reames of Virginia

The English Reames line in America traces back to **John Reames** of Virginia and his wife **Alice**. There's much convoluted when searching genealogy sites for information about **John** and **Alice**. About the only thing people agree on is he came from England and Alice's maiden name was **Harris**. Some have him born in 1650, others have him crossing over in 1650 and going back in 1654 to marry Alice and bring her to America. The IGI has him marrying at AGE EIGHT!!!

As you see below, there's a story of chivalry and adventure to study also. Let's start with the most complete story ever written about them. Sorry gang, I've lost the original link, but the author was Robert Lee Reames of Oregon who has many posts on Internet message boards, one of which was cut and pasted (with his errors) here:

*"The immigrant ancestor was **John Reames** who came from Essex England in 1650 and settled in Virginia. His wife was **Alyce** or **Alice**. His Son **Edward**, Then Robert. Robert, Wm Aaron, then Wm Allen, Wm Woodford, Thurman A and my self Robert Lee Reames. I have four sons , Scott D. Stephen D., Robet L. Jr. and Wm Woodford II, and seven grandsons, Shawn, Tyler, Mitchell, Samuel, Jackson, Cameron and Calvin all in Portland OR.*

*"I lived in Richmond Va. 1963-66 and met many of the same Reames clan who told me some anecdotes. For instance, **Edward Reames** had an oil portrait that hung over his fireplace of the real Reames family crest from England that is in no heraldry book. His widow lived to be in her 90's and finally her estate was auctioned by her family and the portrait was bought by Robert and Emily Reames (dentist) who also lived in Richmond at the time. I do not know if they remain there.*

"Bob and Emily had the portrait over their Richmond fireplace. I photographed it and have since had Reames Crest engraved signet rings. No mail order house has this Reames crest.

*"**John Reames** supposedly hid in an attic of a barn for six months after King Charles 1st was beheaded in 1649 and Cromwell took over the throne. **John** was a Cavalier loyal to the King and they were being arrested by Cromwell's men. He sailed to Virginia in 1650 on a tobacco ship.*

*"Some years later when Cromwell was deposed and Charles 2nd. was restored to the throne, **John Reames** returned to England and married **Alyce/Alice** then made their home in Virginia.*

*"On the first trip, **John** supposedly brought with him a gold chandelier that had been removed from his home in Essex. It was dipped in silver to fool would be thieves because silver was not considered valuable at that time. He melted it down in Virginia and it helped finance him.*

"Some of this information is in the Virginia Historical Society in Richmond."

Now, lets look at some conflicts.

Where, John?

Some message board posts have **John** born in Sussex, England, others in Essex. [Sussex](#) is the last county on the southeast English coast. County of Kent is just to the north and wraps around to form the farthest south county on the east coast. Remember from the last chapter, Kent is where **Stephen Reames** and his mother **Johanne** lived. [Essex](#) is the eastern county above Kent. So, we have yet to learn for sure **John's** birthplace.

As for **Alice**, Reames researcher Claudia Day found the IGI has **Alice** born in Amelia County, Virginia. Now why would **John** have to go back and marry her in England if she was already here? Many researchers think this is an IGI error and stick with his initial trip over, back to marry **Alice**, and their return to Virginia. But then again, a later story told in Chapter 5 will tell of land a "Harris" (perhaps her father), deeded to them. Did the entire Harris clan come to Virginia? Was she born here, sent back as a child, then returned as **John's** wife? So many possibilities.

When, John?

In some ways this is easier than where, but brings up multiple scenarios. *If* it's true **John** was a [cavalier](#) with [Charles I](#) Royalist Calvary, then (according to history) he was one, of "upper class" and two, definitely trained at a "very young age". The [New Model Army](#) of Oliver Cromwell (Charles I opponent) allowed for lower-class soldiers to prove their worth and become officers. **John** would have been on the other side, with cavaliers drawn from the upper crust of Charles' realm. Just how many battles **John** might have been in is anyone's guess. His last chance would have been the battle of [Nasby](#) on 14 June 1645, Charles final defeat. **John** also might have joined after this during Charles' last, futile attempt to raise an army.

Now, what does all this tell us? Lets assume a "very young age" means 13. Ok, a couple of years of training would make **John** 15 if he fought at Naseby. Don't laugh. Desperate times call for desperate measures, even sending children into battle, and Charles WAS desperate. It was not the first time, nor would it have been the last. Remember, the Hitler Youth of wartime Germany ended up being on the front lines in closing months of WWII.

So lets assume, for argument's sake, **John** was born in 1630. I seem to remember that date from some message board, but now can't find it. That would have made him 20 when he first sailed to America supposedly in 1650 and 24 when he married **Alice** in 1654.

But, we have ONE BIG BUT!!! Some sources have **John BORN** in 1650. This would have meant he would have started his cavalier training at a VERY young age as Charles I was beheaded in 1649. If **John** hid in a barn, for six months (at the age of six months), we're sure Cromwell's men saw him as no threat.

His son **Edward** was born sometime between 1710 and 1715 (no solid year yet as you will see later on), and William in either 1715 or 1720. If **John** was the cavalier of old, born in 1630, this means he was **80 years old** in 1710 and **90** in 1720. Other researches (such as Valerie (Reames) Joslin), based on a birth in 1650 for **John** and 1715 for William, realize **John** would still have been 65 when William was born.

Ok, could happen. My dad **James Robert (Bob)** was 50 when I was born, and look at Larry king and Jerry Lewis! But get real. In Chapter 5, we will keep track of fathers' ages and see what we come up with. So far, the greatest age known when last offspring was born is **65** in the six generations documented down this author's direct line. The ever questionable IGI so far is the only source giving **John's** death "about 1735" making him **105**?

Sorry Robert Lee, don't think John was born in time to be a cavalier. Nice story though. Perhaps it was **John's** father (**Stephen?**). What does that do for us? It's not likely **Stephen Reames** of Kent was **John's** father. If **Stephen** was a hell-raising nephew in 1557, even if **John** was born in 1630, **Stephen** would have been in his 70s or 80s. Could be grandfather though. Killer **Robert** of Smeethe would have been a bit old also. Even if he was 15 in 1597 when he committed that dastardly deed (or self-defense) to William Rychardes, **Robert** would have been a real old cavalier for Charles I and too old to be **John's** father either.

An interesting possibility yet to be discounted is perhaps the **John Reames** who Robert Lee wrote about, and the one who hid in the barn, was **John Reames** of Baughurst and/or Phillimores Hampshire. He married Priscilla Morgan in 1632 and would have been just the right age for all the hullabaloo between Charles I and Cromwell, right? Perhaps our American **John** is really **John Jr.**?

Don't forget good old **Col. Bullen Reames** and **James Reames**, son of **Henry** from the IGI. If **Bullen** was a big wheel in 1664, he very well could have had children, one of them **John**, back in 1650. **James Reames** from 1621 could fit as our cavalier or **John's** father.

Another interesting tidbit of information just discovered on the Internet is from records kept by a noted Virginia genealogist [William Anderson Hagey](#) of Roanoke, VA. He died in 1999 and spent a good part of his life compiling records that go back over 400 years. He refers to a **Berryman Reames** born in 1685 (maybe) and (maybe) the son of **John** and **Alice**. Hagey had a questionable marriage date of 1680 for **John** and **Alice**.

This seems much more believable, making **John** only 30 when he married (if he was born in 1650 and if William Hagey was correct about the 1680 marriage). Even with this adjustment, he would have been 60 when **Edward** was born and 70 with **William**. A good compromise might be that **John** was born around 1660, married twenty years later, and was 50 when **Edward** was born. More about "When **John**" in Chapter 5.

4 - REAMES AMERICAN GEOGRAPHY

This is a new chapter, so please be kind if it looks a LOT under construction.

Whether it be from the loins of **John** and **Alice**, from the “**Ream**” clan of Pennsylvania, or from yet undiscovered (or just later immigrants), The **Reames** name (or some derivative) can be found in phonebooks in every state of the Union. (Well, probably all. I have not checked every state.) There is still a significant **Reames** clan back in England, and I see posts of them in Canada. This chapter contains some information about the **Reames** spread across America. Since this involved just as much family “stories” as it did documented records, please take the story parts with a grain of salt.

Virginia

For the English line, this is where it all began in America with **John** and **Alice**. Information so far has them in [Amelia County](#), 35 miles southwest of Richmond where **John** had a large farm. Some posts state many family members settled and still reside around Petersburg, a smaller city about 15 miles south of Richmond.

Recorded [deeds](#) (search way down) show a **Thomas Reames** had “150a on the upper side of the Beaverpond Branch of Deep . . .”, but entry is truncated. Other entries make this probably Deep Creek”. Date was 10 Sep 1735. Right below that entry, an **Edward “Reams”** (notice misspelling) had “200a on N side of Long Branch of Winticomack Creek”, dated 12 Sep 1738. Winticomack Creek is in Amelia County while Deep Creek is in [Powhatan](#), the county just north. Both are part of the James River Basin in Virginia. If this is THE **Edward**, he was 28 when this deed was recorded.

Socio-geographical Lesson Number 1: Researchers learn quickly that in the early days of our country, states reapportioned county boundaries almost at the drop of a politician’s hat. For example, up to 1777, Fincastle County, Virginia was a giant county which included what is today northern Virginia west of Washington, D.C. all the way into and including what is now most of eastern Kentucky. In 1777 (before the Revolutionary War was even over), Fincastle became Washington, Montgomery (infamous as the hunting ground of the Beltway Snipers of 2002), and Kentucky Counties.

It is anyone’s guess what happened to records when counties split. The current theory is that records of individual townships would transfer to the courthouse of their respective county. The thing to remember in research is, if great-grandma said she was born in a particular city, research into what county that city was in THEN. This could avoid missing important vital statistical records because one is looking in the wrong county.

The Trek South (Carolinas, Georgia, Alabama, Florida)

A first sign of leaving Virginia comes from a report of William Reames dying in North Carolina about 1794. Next is information about **Joshua Reames**. He was born in Virginia, but his name appeared on the 1820 census records of Edgefield District, South Carolina. He died there in 1830. Because **Azariah Reames** was also born in Virginia in 1782, this narrows the migration down to the thirty-eight year period between 1782 and 1820. **Azariah's** wife came from South Carolina.

One Reames family branch (not sure yet which one) settled in Lee County, South Carolina and became very well to do. At one time they were the largest landowners in Lee County. A new twist is that many slaves of this line of Reames, just like so many slaves of the time, took on their former masters' name after the Civil War. That's the reason there now is a black line of Reames that can be traced back to this area. I'm sure there could be more.

A single piece of information from **James Ransom Reames** (see chapter 5) spoke of a major family branch going from South Carolina to Georgia. Some stayed in Georgia where descendents can still be found today. Census records have **Azariah Reames** in Meriwether County, Georgia in 1840 and **Azariah** and his son Bartlett Bledsoe Reames (but misspelled Reemes) in the 1850 record. Shortly after, **Azariah** and some of his family moved to Tallapoosa County, Alabama, where **Azariah** died in 1853. The mother of the husband of noted Reames family researcher Debbie Clevenger and this author's direct line trace back to or still remain in this part of northeastern Alabama and western Georgia. Our lines separate with two sons of **Azariah**, **Berryman** and **James Ransom**.

Azariah's son, Bartlett Bledsoe, moved with two other families (the Ropers and the Duaways) from Woodbury, Meriwether County, Georgia to central Florida in 1859. All three reportedly made it big in the citrus business.

Louisiana

Kentucky

Socio-geographical Lesson Number 2: When researching prior to 1 June 1792, remember a major part of eastern Kentucky was part of Kentucky County, Virginia. This was roughly everything east of a line starting at the mouth of Great Sandy Creek where it dumps into the Ohio River, to the Great Laurel Ridge of Cumberland Mountain, southwest to the North Carolina border. Kentucky County was further divided in 1780 into Jefferson, Fayette and Lincoln. These three were divided again into six more, and in 1792, with the blessing of the Virginia legislature, the nine Kentucky counties became the State of Kentucky.

Over the next 110 years, these nine counties divided like amebas to the current 120 of today's Kentucky. Mapmaking during the 19th Century must have been a lucrative business. No sooner than you got one drawn, it was time to change.

Tennessee, Ohio, Indiana

Missouri

Dr. Steven Reames wrote a long story about a famous Texas Reames (see Texas entry below). In that story, he says his great-great grandfather, Jesse Reames was "founder of St. Joseph, MO". The official St. Joseph web site states Joseph Robidoux founded it. Perhaps that's why it's called *St. Joseph* instead of St. Jesse? Isn't it ironic this story comes from the "Show Me" state?

Michigan

Texas, Oklahoma

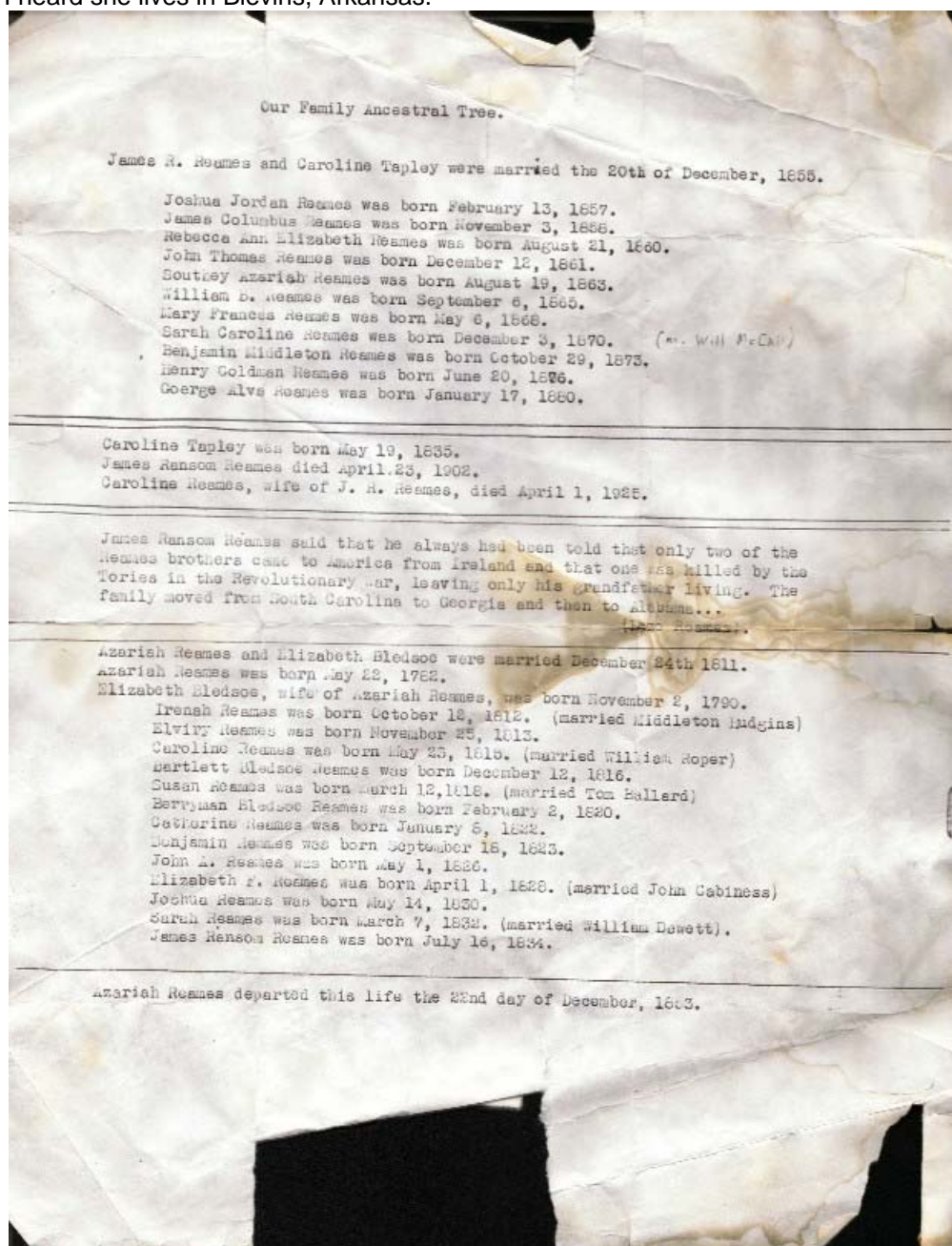
According to Dr. Steven Reames, Sherwood Young Reames had a major part in Texas History. This [link](#) has more than we care to go into in this history.

Four **James Ransom Reames** children (Rebecca Ann Elizabeth "Anna", **John Thomas**, Mary Frances "Fannie" and Henry Alva (or Goldman) and some grandchildren migrated from Alabama to Texas. It is not known if they came together, but they all four died and are buried in Texas along with loads of their offspring. This move occurred sometime around the turn of the 20th century. My father **James Robert (Bob)**, born in Goodwater, Alabama was with his father **John Thomas**, so at least they moved after 1901.

Out West (Arizona, California, Oregon)

5 - WHAT STARTED ALL THIS? THE PATERNAL LINE OF GARY WILSON REAMES

Some thirty years ago, long before an Internet was even dreamed of, I received a typed (yes on a TYPEWRITER) sheet of my family genealogy from my sister. It came from J.T. Lamm of (I think) Midland, Texas. I think JT's daughter, Lilly Faye Miller, keeper of the family tree back then, compiled it. Last I heard she lives in Blevins, Arkansas.



This paper was stored away for decades until I happen to run across genealogy on several Internet sites, so I started comparing information. Except for the primary pedigree (**James Ransom** and **Azariah**), only birth dates were given. Some info conflicted with Ancestry.com (example: web site said **George Alva Reames** was born on January 18, 1880 instead of the 17th). Nowadays, most genealogy sites want you to be a "Gold Member" before they do anything but tease you. Perhaps if I hit the lottery tonight, I might just sign up. Until then, I'll stick to the stuff that's free.

Spelling is as it was on the sheet I received. My additional comments appear in []. A full update and reformat of these two generations appears in a few pages when we get into the chronological generational lines. Just wanted you to get a feel of original, pre-Internet data.

Our Family Ancestral Tree

James Ransom Reames and **Caroline Tapley** were married the 20th of December 1855
James was born on **July 16, 1834** [*July 16 is also my birthday*], and died on April 23, 1902
Caroline Tapley was born May 19, 1835, died April 1, 1925

Joshua Jordan Reames,	born February 13, 1857
James Columbus Reames,	born November 3, 1858
Rebecca Ann Elizabeth Reames,	born August 21, 1860
John Thomas Reames,	born December 12, 1861
Southey Azariah Reames,	born August 19, 1863
William B. Reames,	born September 6, 1865
Mary Frances Reames,	born May 6, 1868
Sarah Caroline Reames,	born December 3, 1870
Benjamin Middleton Reames,	born October 29, 1873
Henry Alva Reames,	born June 20, 1876
George Alva Reames,	born January 17, 1880

James Ransom Reames said that he always had been told that only two of the Reames brothers came to America from Ireland and that one was killed by the Tories in the Revolutionary War, leaving only his grandfather living. The family moved from South Carolina to Georgia, and then to Alabama.

*[According to Ancestry.com, this grandfather would have been **Joshua Reames**. However, which brother: Henry, John Jordan, Wood, Simon, Jesse or Robert? ALL of them were born in America, not "came" here. This Ireland story conflicts with Internet postings since the sheet was typed (yes, on a TYPEWRITER). With the mostly-agreed-upon founding American patriarch **John Reames** coming from England in the late 1600s, that puts the family here long before "the two brothers from Ireland". Did people back then think of England and Ireland as the same country?]*

Azariah Reames and **Elizabeth Bledsoe** were married December 24, 1811

Azariah was born on May 22, 1782 and died December 22, 1853

Elizabeth Bledsoe was born on November 2, 1790

Irenah Reames,	born October 12, 1812 (married Middleton Higgins)
Elviry Reames,	born November 25, 1813
Caroline Reames,	born May 23, 1815
Bartlett Bledsoe Reames,	born December 12, 1816
Susan Reames,	born March 12, 1818 (married Tom Ballard)
Berryman Bledsoe Reames,	born February 2, 1820
Catherine Reames,	born January 8, 1822
Benjamin Reames,	born September 18, 1823
John A. Reames,	born May 1, 1826 [<i>three years, Liz must have needed a rest</i>]
Elizabeth F. Reames,	born April 1, 1828 (married John Cabiness)
Joshua Reames,	born May 14, 1830
Sarah Reames,	born March 7, 1832 (married William Dewett)
James Ransom Reames,	born July 16, 1834 [<i>at it again, every two years</i>]

For some reason, I ran across Ancestry.com and the rest (of this genealogy search) is history. The great thing about the Internet is you can connect and get information from around the world so quickly. Bad thing is, one has to sort out the TRUE from the FALSE (or what people *want* to believe is true). Redoing Robert Lee's math on **John Reames** of Virginia is a prime example.

Now, for some updates to this original information. Here's where one starts running into problems. Internet research has two major issues: First, authenticity of information. In the early days when the two biggies Genealogy.com and Ancestry.com allowed free access to family trees, just about anyone could post names, dates, marriages, etc.

When I stripped out my tree a few years ago, it had me and went all the way back to **John** and **Alice**. There were many errors along the way, including neither my mother nor my sister were entered. Many of my uncles and aunts were long gone, but it had most of them as "living". The worst part was, there was no reference or way to contact whoever placed the information out there in the first place. That is one feature the IGI, with all its Flaws, does do right.

It's no wonder when someone who has information, no matter how authentic or questionable, we end up with **John** being born in 1630 and having kids until he's **90**. That's also why I've so far ran across at least three birth years for **Edward** (1710, 1712 and 1715).

The method used for this history is to try and list ALL information unless it can be totally discounted as wrong. It gets too confusing to list each source for every date or name where more than one was found. Only a few sources are named.

Generations appear in chronological order with as much (or little) information as was available. I rather liked the original format of my family tree. It seemed much more narrative and personal, more like reading a history book, rather than a bunch of 1-2-3 indented list, lines connecting dots (or would that be leaves?), or whatever the oldest or latest genealogy tree methods are. The original format, with slight modifications appears on the next few pages (until I find one I like better). Here's a brief format outline:

Primary **Family Unit Ancestor (father)** - When and/or where born
Any history before marriage
Marriages to **Maternal Ancestor (mother)** and others, when, where, divorces too

List of children, birthdays, marriage(s) info, died
{conflicting information from named web pages}
(conflicting information from unnamed Internet posts)
[author comments]

Any other family unit information learned – death dates, location and burial information of **Primary Ancestors**.

One of the most common errors in genealogy is dates. From now on, all dates will use the "military method": dd MONTH yyyy. Month may be spelled out or, in children lists, abbreviated to three letters. Note this method eliminates the error of confusing days of the month with month. Numbers (day/year) are also well separated. Had the world adopted this method millennia ago, old records would be much more accurate today.

For **James Ransom** and **Azariah**, their family units will be edited updates of the original pages received thirty years ago. There will be links to pages on them for you to go to. Use the Index at the end of this history to find particular names. Spellings (Reames vs. Reams), etc. will be noted just as they appeared. Hope you find this of interest.

Good luck and good hunting.

John Reames of Virginia (ggggg-grandfather)

Birth dates for our founding American ancestor **John Reames** vary from 1630 (if you trust Robert Lee Reames), 1642 by still another quick post, 1650 to 1660 (if you trust this author's math), all the way to 1680. **And the hits just keep on a comin'**. On 18 June 2004, ran across info from [The 1600 Database](#) which only has two entries, both from Virginia. One is for a John "REAMS", c1677-c1728. The other entry is for a Thomas "REAMS" 1698-1773 (see children below). Dates are close enough (anything back that far up to ten years could be close enough for horseshoes) to mention.

Location of John's birth is narrowed down to either Sussex or Essex England. Locations called out by various people in their Internet posts may be just as dependent on which place a given researcher ran across first, as it could be any valid, documented location evidence.

John married **Alyce/Alice Harris** around 1654 (according to Robert Lee) or in 1680 (according to [William Hagey](#)). The marriage most likely occurred in England and then they crossed over and settled in Prince George County, which latter became Amelia County, VA.

The IGI states **John** "emigrated" to Virginia in 1695. (Remember, it also states he was born in 1650 and married in 1658. A bit young, don't you think?) Several quick posts about **John** repeat the 1650 birth and 1695 date. As stated in my previous calculations, this makes sense to me.

A book by Leon Howard stated **John** did not come to the colonies until "around" 1700. He also stated **John** was a "poor man" with indications he might have even been an indentured servant. Some 30 October 1732 document read: "That **John Reames** be levy free." Howard says his marriage to **Alice** was late in life and that **Alice** was "a well-to-do woman." This would be another strike against the "cavalier" theory as only men of upper class could hold such a position.

A Prince George County, Virginia deed book from 1713-1728 has some interesting entries. It shows that a Timothy Harris (perhaps **Alice's** father) deeded them their 350-acre farm on 12 and/or 13 October 1724. **John** sold 175 of those acres to John Boiling on 24 October 1726, just two years later.

Though the story is interesting, we question Timothy being her father. All this occurs several DECADES after **John** and **Alice** were supposedly married in 1680 (if Hagey is correct). They would have had most or all of their children by the time all these land dealings came about. There was nothing in the Robert Lee Reames story about any relatives of **Alice** coming to America, not that it could not happen. Just more mystery to ponder.

So far, children are:

Numerous unnamed daughters

Berryman Reames?	b. 1685?	m. ?	d. ?
Thomas Reames	b. 1706 VA	m. Elizabeth?	d. 1773 Amelia Co., VA
Edward Reames	b. 1710 (or 1712/1715)	m. Frances Puckett, ?	
Edward died in either 1775 or 1795			
William Reames	b. 1720 (or 1715) Prince George Co., VA		
	m. (order not known) Mary (or Nancy/Maryann Patterson, or Pattyson/Pattison)		
	and/or Mary (or Nancy Ann Mary) Merrimoon (or Merryimoon/Marrmon/Marmon) ¹		
	18 Nov 1767 Amelia Co., VA		
	d. 1794 Northhampton Co., NC		
Richard Reames	b. ?	m. ?	d. ?

¹ Things go down the tubes quickly trying to find out who William married. Not sure if he was married twice. One post rejects the "Merrimoon" marriage completely. At first, it seemed most believable as the poster came from the Merrimoon line. But then, another had an exact date for their wedding in 1767. We'll keep the possibility here, but go with Patterson as primary (or at least first) marriage as the 1767 date would mean William was either 47 (or 52) for the alleged Merrimoon wedding. A bit late for this clan.

Most trees and other Internet posts mention only four sons of **John** and **Alice**: **Thomas**, **Richard**, **William** and our famous **Edward**, who seems to have sprouted a major branch (and mine). There were a couple of posts that mention “many daughters”, but no names yet found. Hagey’s list is the first and only mention of a **Berryman** until 1820. **Azariah Reames**, grandson of **Edward** named the sixth of his thirteen children **Berryman**, perhaps after his great uncle, brother of Grandpa **Edward**? Of course, **Azariah**, as you will see had so many kids, he almost ran out of names.

Only the IGI records that **John** died “about 1735”. This means he departed this life at the age of 55 (birth 1680 - but least likely), or 75 (birth 1660 – this is my bet), or 85 (birth 1650 – still very plausible), or 105 (sorry again Robert Lee). So far, no death records found for **Alice**.

Author’s Note: Each generation will start on a new page to leave room for expansion as more information becomes available. For now, just live with a lot of white space.

Edward Reames (gggg-grandfather)

Birth dates for **Edward Reames** are also conflicting: 1710, 1712, 1715. Location of his birth is either Surry County or Prince George, Dinwiddle County, Virginia. **Edward's** wife was **Frances Puckett** reportedly born in 1714 in Surry County, Virginia. As discussed before, a Virginia recorded deed had **Edward** owning land in Amelia County.

Henry Reames	b. ?	m. ?	d. ?
John Jordan Reames	b. 1748 Dinwiddle Co., VA d. ? Ohio?	m. ?	
Wood Reames	b. 1750 Dinwiddle Co., VA d. ? Dinwiddle Co., VA	m. ?	
Simon Reames	b. 1754 Dinwiddle Co., VA	m. Elizabeth?	d. ?
Jesse Reames	b. Mar 1758 Dinwiddle Co., VA d. ? 1835 Tennessee?	m. Anna McGeem 1798	
Joshua Reames?	b. 1755 (or 1760 ¹) Dinwiddle Co., VA	m. ?	
Joshua died on 3 Dec 1830 (or 2 June 1818) in the Edgefield District, SC			
Robert Reames (Rev.)	b. 1762 Dinwiddle Co., VA d. ? Hart Co., KY	m. Hedy?	

¹ Another conflict of information. One Internet post had Joshua born in 1760, not 1755.

Some researchers question the connection of **Joshua** to **Edward**. Jury is still out until we learn who and where this original connection was made. **If Edward** was **Joshua's** father, please note **Edward** would have been 65 when Joshua was born, or at least 60 taking Edward's latest suspected birth date of 1715.

Confusing matters still is the fact **Edward's** brother William apparently named a son Joshua reportedly born in 1752 and died in 1841. The 1752 Joshua had a son Joshua M. Reames born 1790 who married a Marry "Polly" Winslow. As you will see in the next generation, perhaps the original Joshua born in 1755 (or 1760) ALSO had a son Joshua, though the spelling dropped the "a". Typographical error? How are you keeping up?

So far, there are no authenticated death records for **Edward** and **Frances**. One post had him dying in "1975" in Dinwiddle Co. He REALLY was old wasn't he? Taking this as a typo, we figure the poster meant 1775 which would have made him either 65, 63, or 60 depending on which birth date you want to believe. Another date of "after 1795" was also seen. Did the poster of the 1975 date just get middle-dyslexic?

The only approximate date of death for **Francis** comes from Robert Lee Reames. He states she died "in her 90s" which means between 1804 and 1813 if the 1714 birth date is correct.

Joshua Reames (ggg-grandfather)

Joshua Reames was born in 1755 (or 1760) in Prince George, Dinwiddie County VA. So far, there is no information yet found about his wife. It is also reported he fought in the American Revolution.

Joshua? Reames ¹	b. ?	m. ?	d. ?
Azariah Reames	b. 22 May 1782 VA		
m. Elizabeth Mary Bledsoe	24 Dec 1811 Edgefield Co., SC	b. 1791	
Azariah died on 23 Dec 1853 Tallapoosa Co., AL			
Ananias Reames	b. 1783 VA	m. ?	d. ?
Benjamin M. Reames	b. 1787 VA	m. ?	d. ?
Rowlin (or Bowlin) Reames ²	b. ?	m. Elizabeth McCoy	d. ?
Calvin Joshua Reames	b. 1815 Anderson, SC		
	m. Sophia Poppell 26 Apr 1844	d. 1847	
	Calvin Joshua died on 9 Jan 1863		
James R. Reames ¹	b. ?	m. ?	d. ?
Multiple Unknowns (mostly from the IGI)			
	b. 1794, 1797, 1800, 1804, 1807, 1810, 1812, 1814, 1816		

¹ One post says **Joshua** had six sons. Above are seven. Because the "Joshua" above is a bit questionable, there seems to be much more credence in a one-time listed "James R." from the history of the famous Texan, Sherwood Young Reames. Also, is this "Joshua" the "Calvin Joshua" born in 1815?

² Many spellings here: Bowlen, Bowlin, Rowlin, Bowling, Boling, Bolling to name a few.

Because age of father at birth of offspring is getting interesting (and can sometimes determine validity of dates), let's keep tabs from now on. **Joshua** was 27 (or 22) when **Azariah** was born and 60 (or 55) with Calvin, or 61 (or 56) with the last recorded "Unknown".

Census records have **Joshua** in the Edgefield District of South Carolina where he died on 3 December 1830 at the age of 75 (or 70).

¹ OK. It got too confusing up above to try and notate all conflicting information. So, here's some more conflicts with the multiple "Cathy" entries: One post has a "Catherine" marrying an Andrew Jackson Dunaway on the date shown above, 9 February 1839. Another sister Caroline (not Carolina) married a William "Roper" (not Rosser). This Caroline's tombstone has 23 March (not May) 1815 as her birth date and 7 December 1907 has when she died. This Caroline's grave is located in Oakland, Orange County, Florida, a small community next to Winter Garden.

Before 1840, **Azariah** moved to Meriwether County, Georgia. He was also on the 1850 census record. Shortly after, he and some of his family (Benjamin, Bartlett Bledsoe and John Azariah for sure) moved to Tallapoosa County, Alabama.

Azariah seems to have started late (age 40 when Irenah was born), but QUICKLY, and with fervor, made up for lost time. **Elizabeth** had no rest after their marriage in 1811, for she kept popping them out with the longest gap being only three years. **Azariah** was 62 when my great-grandfather **James Ransom** was born.

Azariah died on 22 December 1853 in Tallapoosa County, Alabama at the age of 81. No death records yet found for **Elizabeth**.

James Ransom Reames (g-grandfather)

Additional and/or conflicting information shown below came from Lisa Larner on her [Tapley Family](#) web pages. Several links to children may be found there also, but are not linked here. All entries on her pages have the spelling **Reams EXCEPT** for my grandfather, **John Thomas Reames**. Is this where we picked up the “e”, and all **before** are incorrect, or what’s going on? (See below.) Other information from solid sources has been added, but is not distinguished from what was on the original paper.

James Ransom Reames was born on 16 July 1834 in Meriwether County, Georgia. He married **Caroline Tapley** on 20 December 1855 in Tallapoosa County, Alabama. **Caroline** was born on 19 May 1835 *in Georgia*.

- Joshua Jordan Reames b. 13 Feb 1857 **Tallapoosa Co., AL**
m. Nancy Ann Gilliland 29 Jul 1883 Clay Co., AL
Joshua Jordan died on 5 Feb 1931 Clay Co., AL
- James **Henry** Columbus Reames b. 3 Nov 1858 **Tallapoosa Co., AL**
m. Martha Elizabeth McCall 13 Oct 1884 Tallapoosa Co., AL
James Henry died 30 Oct 1904 Tallapoosa Co., AL
- Rebecca Ann Elizabeth “Anna” Reames b. 21 Aug 1860 **Tallapoosa Co., AL**
m. James J. Jones 13 Mar 1884 Tallapoosa Co., AL
Rebecca died on 16 Jun 1943 Taylor Co., TX
- John Thomas Reames** b. 12 Dec 1861 **Tallapoosa Co., AL**
m. Avis Salter 10 Jan 1895 Coosa Co., AL
John Thomas died on 30 Sep 1950 in Lubbock Co., TX
- Southey Azariah Reames b. 19 Aug 1863 **Tallapoosa Co., AL**
m. Mary C. Alexander 28 Oct 1886 Coosa Co., AL
Southey died on 16 April 1939 Tallapoosa Co., AL
- William B. Reames b. 6 Sep 1865 m. ? d. ?
- Mary Frances “Fannie” Reames b. 6 May 1868 **Tallapoosa Co., AL**
m. John Henry Smith 1 Sep 1886 Tallapoosa Co., AL
Fannie died on 14 Dec 1945 Cass Co., TX
- Sarah Caroline Reames b. 3 Dec 1870 **Tallapoosa Co., AL**
m. William Jackson McCall 2 Feb 1902 Tallapoosa Co., AL
Sarah died on 25 Aug 1944 Shelby Co., AL
[Wonder if Martha Elizabeth and William Jackson McCall were related?]
- Benjamin Middleton Reames b. 29 Oct 1873 **Tallapoosa Co., AL**
m. Vira Jane McConatha 29 Dec 1910 Clay Co., AL
Benjamin died on 12 Jul 1916 Coosa Co., AL
- Henry Alva **Goldman** Reames b. 20 Jun 1876 **Tallapoosa Co., AL**
m. Annie Eliza Sasnett 29 Nov 1900 Tallapoosa Co., AL
{names and dates up to this point matched my original information EXACTLY (except for dropping the “ending-e”. However, the Larner page had him as Henry Goldman, b. 1877 while another post has a Henry Goldman born 22 June 1878 in Goodwater, Coosa Co. AL, not Tallapoosa.)}
- George Alva Reames b. 17 Jan 1880 **Tallapoosa Co., AL**
{Larner page had b. 18 January}
m. Rosa Ennis Gilliland 31 Jan 1911 Coosa Co., AL
George Alva died 25 April 1932 Tallapoosa Co., AL

Unlike his daddy, **James Ransom** started early. He was only 22 when Joshua Jordan was born. After the eleventh, George Alva, **James Ransom** was only 45 when he (or **Caroline**) figured they didn’t have to make it an even dozen. Had they have kept going for another twenty years, they would have had no trouble surpassing his parents record of fifteen.

James Ransom Reames died 23 April 1902 at the age of 67 *in Coosa County, Alabama [four months after my father James Robert (Bob) Reames was born]*. **Caroline** died on 1 April 1925 at the age of 64 *also in Coosa County. [Must have been where the nearest hospital, nursing home or caring son or daughter lived.]. They are both buried in the New Providence Baptist Church Cemetery in Tallapoosa County.*

Now, for more of the “ending-e” mystery. Tombstones in the [New Providence Cemetery](#) tell an interesting tale. **James Ransom** (who died in 1902) has a “correctly” spelled REAMES. However, **Caroline** (who died 23 years later) has it spelled REAMS. We have had this problem for years. At first, it was thought perhaps **Caroline’s** tombstone contract was verbal. By the time the family saw it was wrong, nobody cared about (or wanted to pay for) it being corrected.



Then, just days before the September 2003 publication of this history, I made contact with the grandson of Benjamin Middleton, Alan Scott Reams, who lives back in the “old country” of western Georgia and northwestern Alabama. I’m eagerly awaiting the story of how some **James Ransom Reames** offspring lines spell it REAMES and other REAMS. Nice cliffhanger for the next edition.

John Thomas Reames (grandfather)

Here is about the best post I found on my grandfather, [John Thomas Reames](#), who died a year before I was born. Also posted by Lisa Lerner, it takes over where the typed sheet (yes, . . . you know) started. This is where it got interesting because I knew most of them. Information from this page is translated below to the preferred format, with updates and a bit more personal touch:

John Thomas Reames was born on 12 December 1861 in Tallapoosa Co., Alabama. He married **Avis Salter** on 10 January 1895 in Coosa Co., AL.

Flossie Mae Reames b. 4 Nov 1895 Coosa Co., AL
m. Marcus Lafayette Nall 6 Nov 1914 Hunt Co., TX
Aunt Flossie died on 15 Mar 1978 in Ellis Co., TX

Nina Grace Reames b. 15 Oct 1896 Coosa Co., AL
m1. Hugh Wright Nall 1915; m2. Dixon?
Aunt Nina died on 15 April 1979 in Tarrant Co., TX

Mildred Estelle Reames b. 12 Dec 1897 Coosa Co., AL
m. Willie Adams Lamm 31 July 1918~Hunt, TX
Aunt Mildred died on 20 November 1980 in Lubbock Co., TX

Ida Lee Reames b. 24 Feb 1899 AL m. Jess L. Sowell
Aunt Ida died on 8 April 1946 in Dallas Co., TX

Mary Fannie Reames b. 3 Aug 1900 AL
m1. James Spoonmore; m2. Benjamin Cummings; m3. William Zachariah Butler
Aunt Mary Fannie died on 26 Dec 1985 in Hempstead Co., AR

James Robert (J.R./Bob) Reames b. 18 Dec 1901 Goodwater, AL
m. **Helen Irene Wilson** when and where under research (can't find the file)
Daddy died on 19 Nov 1991 in Maricopa Co., AZ

Alice Smyra Reames b. 3 Nov 1903 AL m. Walter Lewis Smith
Aunt Alice died 2 Mar 2001 in Hempstead Co., AR

Venice Audrey "V.A." Reames b. 8 Oct 1905 Cass Co., TX
m. Grace Tankersley
Uncle Venice died on 22 Nov 1983 in Shackelford Co., TX

Oliver Clyde Reames b. 14 Feb 1907 Ellis Co., TX
m. Susie Jane Darr 29 March 1931 Fannin Co., TX
Uncle Clyde died on 20 Oct 1973 in Dallas Co., TX

Luther Odell Reames b. 21 July 1911 TX m. Edith Leslie Bates 26 Sep 1937
Uncle Luther served in the U.S Navy. He died on 6 August 1990, perhaps in Riverside Co., CA. He's buried in plot 28 1165 at the Riverside National Cemetery.

John Thomas must have respected his elders. He and **Avis** only had ten children (one less than **James Ransom** and **Caroline** and five less than **Azariah** and **Elizabeth**). **John Thomas** also started late, being just a month short of 34 when Flossie Mae was born. He did learn from his father and called it quits at 49 with Luther Odell.

Little is known about the move from Alabama. I remember **Daddy (Bob Reames)** talking about Greenville, Texas a lot.

John Thomas Reames died of stomach cancer on 30 September 1950 in Lubbock County, Texas at the age of 88. I have been contacted by a Salter researcher and hope to get more information about **Avis** in the next edition.

Here are some updates and interesting stories of this particular family. It's important to get these names, dates and stories down in written form (TYPEWRITER or CYBERSPACE) because, as we've learned, things get lost.

V.A. Reames (or, what's in a name???)

One of the children of **John Thomas**, and my father's brother, was V.A. Reames. We lived over 2 years on his ranch outside Albany, Texas back in 1960. I only knew him as Uncle Venice, and family outsiders only as "V.A." I always was told his real name was Venice Audrey.

My sister told me a strange story last night I had never heard before. It seems when Uncle Venice was born, none of the family knew how to spell "Venice" (as in Italy). Her story goes (but yet to be verified) is that on his birth certificate it was spelled "Venus" (as in the planet, or worse for him, the GODESS). If this is true, guess the nurses in Cass County, Texas who fill out such documents are still laughing about this one. Again, if true, not only did this poor baby have one girl's name BUT TWO!

So it was like *A Boy Named Sue*, only double. He grew up quick and he grew up mean. Because of this he MADE SURE he was only known as V.A. He ended up as a rancher in Albany, Texas with oil wells, cattle, bottom land for wheat, and a beautiful ranch. He leased thousands more acres around Albany and owned the town elevator. He was the "J.R. Ewing" of Albany for many decades. He died (some say), a millionaire and (others say), none too soon for some townsfolk and local farmers who had business dealings with him.

For some "business associates", it's hard to tell which came first, **V.A.** or **S.O.B.** Looking back, I now really appreciate his drive and attitude. There was much more to him than most people thought. His is for sure the fattest branch on MY side of the family tree until you get a lot closer to the trunk. Even though I never saw a penny of his money, I'm still proud to be related to him. He always treated me right.

It was 1963 when I last contacted any of his family and 1974 was the last time I drove through the ranch (shown below). I only know of a son named John who was living on the ranch last I heard. He was much more subdued than his dad (out of fear most likely), but just as successful. He had a son John Ross.



There's an Internet reference dated 1998 about a John Ross Reames being ordained as a deacon in the First Baptist Church of Albany. Has to be the same one. John Ross would be pushing 50 by now as I think he was only a couple of years old when we lived there in 1960. There may have been at least one daughter (the name Barbara Jean comes to mind, but really not sure). V.A.'s wife was Grace (Tankersley), who passed on 28 Feb 1996.

The search is still on to solve this name mystery. The Social Security Death Index has it as **Venice**, but no middle name. Complicating the situation greatly, the [Albany Cemetery](#) web site has his name spelled "**Vinice A.**" Hard to tell if this was a misprint on just this web site, what he "insisted" be on his marker, or if it really was **Vinice**.

Mildred (Reames) Lamm

Mildred and Bill Lamm lived in Lubbock, where I spent my first eight years. Bill delivered bread for Holsom. My mother and I would visit about once a month. Mildred (on right below) sure could cook! Daddy (center) often visited their son, Billy, who lived in Hereford, TX. Another son, J.T. you learned gave me the original genealogy sheet.



Mary Fannie (Reames) Butler and Alice (Reames) Smith

These two were a pair. (On left above is one of them. Don't know which.) When I was small, we would periodically drive up from Lubbock and visit Mary Fannie (we pronounced it Maer-fanny) and her third (and last) husband (just known to me then as Uncle Butler) on their farm outside Plainview, Texas.

Years later after Butler died, her and her sister, Alice (Reames) Smith, lived together as two old widows. They fought with each other like cats and dogs and would have made a great Thelma and Louise, if either of them could drive without killing themselves. Don't know anything about kids they may have had.

Don't know very much more about my other uncles and aunts as Daddy was 50 when I was born. One was dead and the rest lived farther away than money could carry us (either ours or theirs). Besides, they were too old for a kid to know or care about. All ten kids are gone now.

James Robert (J.R./Bob) Reames



James Robert Reames was born on 18 December 1901 in Goodwater, Coosa County, Alabama. Sometime before 1905, he moved with his parents, at least one uncle and an aunt to Greenville, Texas. There, three more brothers were born. About 1935, he met and married **Helen Irene Wilson** in Albany, Texas, where his younger brother V.A. Reames had a large ranch.

Audrey Jeannette Reames b. 28 Feb 1936 Albany, Shackelford Co., TX
m. Richard Dennis George Lubbock Co, TX

Gary Wilson Reames b. [REDACTED]
m1. Syndy Lynn McClung 18 Oct 1976 Clovis, Curry Co., NM div. 11 Feb 1991
m2. Sherri Lynn Davis [REDACTED]

Between Jeannette's (or Jet as she was called) birth in 1936 when he was 35 and **Gary's** in 1951 when **Bob** was 50, he moved his family to Lubbock where he worked for years at Clowe and Cowan, a plumbing supply firm. He joined the Oddfellows Lodge and **Helen** was a Rebekah. Story is, **Bob**, only having an 8th grade education, was a justice of the peace for a time in the '50s in Lubbock. He also had a washing machine repair business. They had two houses just north of 4th and Uvalde in Lubbock.

After sustaining a back injury at work (in the days before workman's comp) **Bob** was laid off. The family packed up in 1959 and briefly moved to the Wilson farm (**Helen's** parents) outside Lawton, Comanche County, Oklahoma. They lived there just a few months, and then moved to Westmont, DuPage County, Illinois, just outside Chicago, living with Richard and Jeannette. Four months during the winter of 1960 was enough fun for these Texans, so **Bob** arranged to move back to Albany and work as a ranch hand (at the age of 59) for his brother V.A.



In November 1963 (two weeks before John Kennedy was shot), **Bob, Helen** and **Gary** again moved back to the Wilson farm in Oklahoma. In 1972, **Helen's** health greatly deteriorated (mostly from diabetes and from taking care of her father, **Charley Wilson**). Jet and Richard moved her and **Bob** back to Illinois. There, on 13 April 1973, **Helen** died of pancreatic cancer at the age of 60. She is buried at Naperville Cemetery, DuPage County, Illinois.

After joining the Air Force, and knowing how much **Bob** hated Chicago winters, **Gary** moved him to Clovis, New Mexico in October 1976, where he distributed Amway and repaired small appliances, mostly vacuum cleaners. **Gary** spent three years overseas and was stationed at Altus AFB, OK when he returned in 1980.

A brief attempt for **Bob** to live with **Gary** and his first wife proved futile, so **Bob** moved back to Clovis. **Gary** got out of the Air Force and lived in California briefly, then moved with his company to Mesa, Maricopa County, Arizona. Again, an attempt was made for **Bob** to live with them. By now **Gary** had three kids.

In 1988, after a prostate operation, **Bob** was diagnosed with bladder cancer. Refusing chemo or radiation therapy, his health was not too bad for several more years. A bigger frustration than his health was the split up **Gary** suffered as his first wife left him, took the children, and moved to New Mexico. **Bob** and **Gary** "batched-it" for a while, first for a month or so in a trailer in Apache Junction, Pinal County, AZ, and then in an apartment back in Mesa. One day, **Bob** could not get out of bed, nor could he straighten his legs. **Gary** called an ambulance and he was taken to Desert Samaritan Hospital.

James Robert Reames died of heart failure, a complication of his bladder cancer, around noon on 19 November 1991 in the emergency room of Desert Samaritan Hospital, Mesa, Maricopa County, Arizona. He was 89.

Helen Irene (Wilson) Reames



My mother, **Helen Wilson** was born in 1913 in Lawton, Oklahoma to **Charley** and **Nannie (Nancy) Wilson (Wood)** . **Helen** died on 13 April 1973 in Downers Grove, Illinois. I've been tracking my grandfather **Charlie's** pedigree, but that's a different book. Mother always told me **Charley** came from northwestern Missouri and that I was a fifth cousin to Jesse James. Isn't everyone west of the Mississippi? Since this Reames Genealogy was first drafted, facts on the Jesse James story have been revealed. You'll have to read that book to find out.

Audrey Jeannette (Reames) George

My sister Jeannette was apparently named after her uncle **Venice** (or Venus, as you would). She was born on 28 February 1936 I think in Albany, Texas. (Us Reameses sure hung around the rich guy a lot didn't we? Never did us much good.)

She married Richard Dennis George on 24 December 1956 in Lubbock, Lubbock County, Texas. Richard was from Albuquerque, New Mexico. His parents were Emery and Marian George. Both have passed on.

“Jet” and Richard both attended college at Texas Tech University in Lubbock. They then moved to Westmont, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago, then to Downers Grove where they lived in the same house at 5325 Washington for over 40 years before just recently moving to Albuquerque.

Richard and Jeannette had one son, Karl David George on 18 March 1959. Karl married Carol A. DeWitt-Wakowiak on 2 June 1988 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. They divorced in September 1994. Karl now lives with his parents in Albuquerque. To my knowledge (or perhaps even his), he never conceived children.

Richard worked for almost two decades as a physicist for Argon Research Laboratories. Jet taught briefly at the University of Chicago. After running fairly hard into the “glass ceiling” which existed in the teaching profession at the university level back then, her chemistry background allowed her to become the Quality Control Supervisor at Pepperidge Farm Bakery in Downers Grove for many years.

Richard was laid off during the “Nixon cutbacks” in the early '70s. After seven years with Zenith, Richard, Jet and Karl started a limousine business, spending many years and long hours driving the Chicago area.

Jeannette died on 1 December 2003 after a long battle with diabetes. By then she was almost totally blind even after numerous eye operations and procedures.

Now for what I'm sure you've ALL been waiting for, the "About the Author" segment:

Gary Wilson Reames

Remember: Because of identity theft issues, information below may be blacked out (not that anyone would want MY credit anyhow, and the wife sure don't leave any money in the bank!) If I missed any living people, they are too old to have any money anyway, so don't waste your time.



Yep, that's yours truly. Born **Gary Wilson Reames** in [REDACTED]. Youthful wanderlust, 10 years in the Air Force and 22 years with Boeing moved me back and forth between (not quite in this order) Lawton, Oklahoma; Albany, Texas; Illinois (Chicago area three times); California (LA area twice); Clovis, New Mexico (only once, THANK GOD!); Bitburg, Germany; Altus, Oklahoma; Newport News, Virginia, and finally (for now) Mesa and Gilbert, Arizona.

I Married Syndy Lynn McClung on 18 October 1976 in Clovis, Curry County, New Mexico.

Isaac Jeffery Reames b. [REDACTED]
m. Sarah Janelle. Michaels 1997 Phoenix, Maricopa Co., AZ div. 1999
m. Candace Gifford [REDACTED]
Mary Gene Reames b. [REDACTED]
m. Adam Zeiner [REDACTED]
Rachel Lynn Reames b. [REDACTED]

I was 27 when **Isaac** was born, and 31 when darling little **Rachel** came along. Syndy and I divorced on 11 February 1991. She was killed by a freight train pulled by Santa Fe engine 4019 (shown below near Denver). It happened in the train yard in Vaughn, New Mexico on 30 June 1996. Syndy had since remarried to Willie Ray Shaddix and she is buried in the Hollen Cemetery several miles north of Clovis, New Mexico.



On [REDACTED], I took a new bride, **Sherri Lynn Davis**. We now reside in Gilbert, Arizona. No pedigree information has been compiled yet for **Sherri**. *** **BE PATIENT** ***

Life in Lubbock

On the Wilson Farm in Oklahoma – Round One

During the '50s, we made trips at least once a year to **Grandpa Wilson's** farm. The only thing I remember about these trips was that my legs would always break out in terrible sores a day or two after we got there. Constant scratching would get them infected. No method of home medication of the time seemed to help. It would take a few weeks after returning to Lubbock for my legs to clear up.

One can imagine my horror when, in 1959, after sustaining a back injury at work, **Daddy** was laid off and him and **Mother** decided to pack up and move to the Wilson farm. Lucky for me, after a couple of months my body built up some kind of immunity and the sores went away for good. Never did figure out what caused it, Oklahoma chiggers, the prairie grass, terrible water, or what.



The farmhouse was a four-room affair. It consisted of a living room in the northwest corner, a small bedroom in the southwest, a dining room almost the same size as the living room in the southwest and a VERY small kitchen, probably five feet wide and ten long in the northeast. The only “running water” was an old pitcher pump connected to the 25ft deep well just across the driveway that circled around the northeast side of the house. The only plumbing for waste was a drain that also ran under the driveway and emptied out in the yard to the north, just past the 500-gallon propane tank.

Our toilet facility was an outhouse about 50 feet southeast of the back door. My jets were cooled many a cold and windy Oklahoma winter morning let me tell you.

A Quick Jump to Illinois

We lived on the Oklahoma farm just a few months, and then moved to Westmont, DuPage County, Illinois, just outside Chicago, living with Richard and Jeannette. Four months during the winter of 1960 was enough fun for us, so **Daddy** arranged to move back to Albany and work as a ranch hand for his brother V.A.

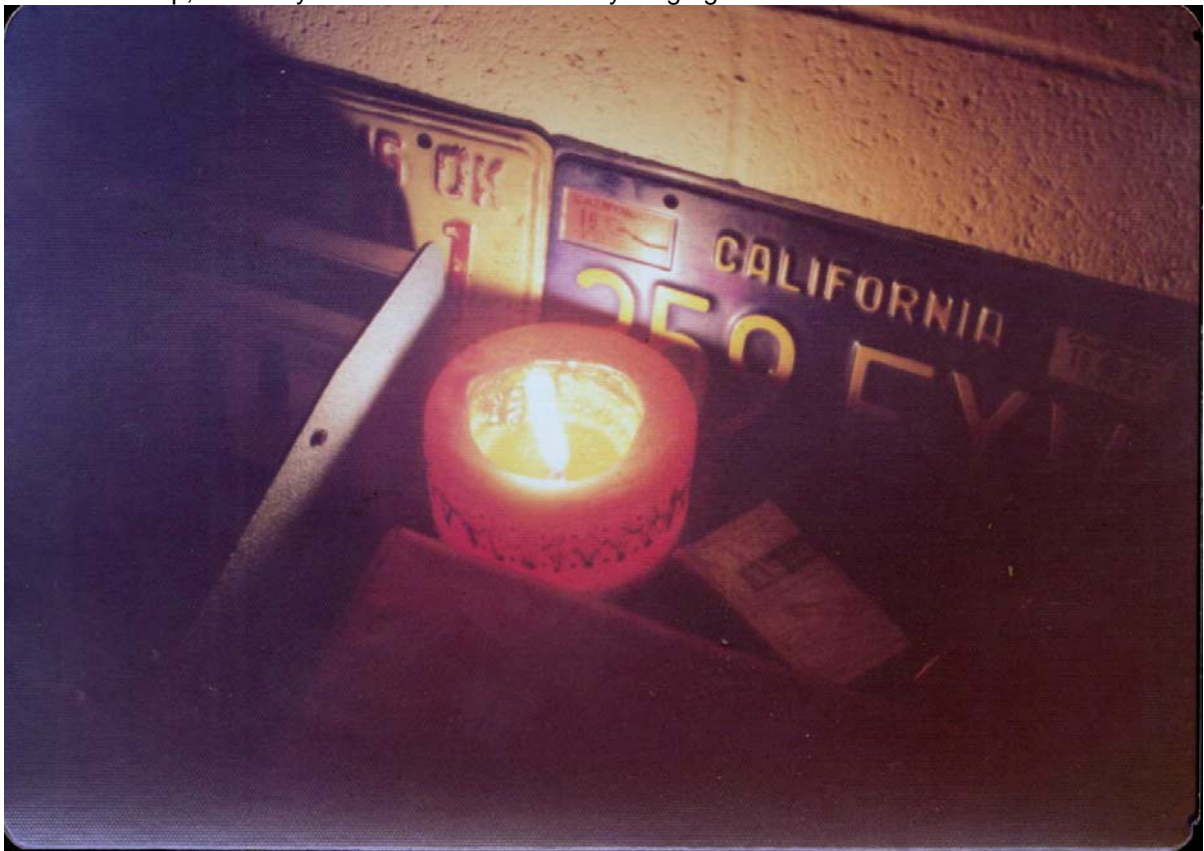
Texas

Oklahoma – Round Two

Ran Away From Home

During my college years, I started hanging around a bunch of “Jesus Freaks” in Lawton. The leader of the pack was a renegade Baptist preacher, George Curry I think was his name. Anyway, he took a church in Costa Mesa, California that had LOTS of problems. The preacher before him preached his sermon one Sunday, walked the block to the parsonage (place where preachers live for you non-Baptists out there), sat in his easy chair, pulled out a gun and blew his brains out. The church had been looking for a replacement for over a year.

In December of 1971, a bunch of his Lawton flock with no ties, or like me, those who just needed a change, followed George out. I finished my first-semester finals, wrote a five-page “running away from home” letter to Mother, jumped in my yellow Ford Maverick with four other idiots and headed for California. Yep, ran away from home at the tender young age of 20.



California – Round One

Long story here, but will have to wait until next edition. Sorry.

Back to Illinois

“I Learned My Job In The Air Force”

Enough of this, I want to BUILD something

After ten years “fighting” for my country (mostly an economic fight trying to make ends meet on a Military salary” with a family of five), I had enough. Most of it was I got tired of working on equipment with poor design and even worse documentation (engineering drawings). So in August 1982, I answered an ad in *Air Force Times*.

You guessed it, another long story that will have to wait. Short version is, landed a job with Hughes Helicopters in Culver City, California. They paid this Okie \$600 a week (triple my Air Force take home), moved our stuff, paid us \$2,500 to move, and put us up in a “luxury” apartment for a month while we looked for a house.



Hughes to Mickey-Ds to Boeing

I was in HOG HEAVEN. Hughes had just landed a BIG contract to build Apache Helicopter maintenance trainers for the Army. A month after I arrived, the lead engineer on one of the trainers quit to go to work for Ford on the ill-fated Sgt. York (a gun that ended up could not hit the broad side of a barn). The boss put me as the lead of his trainer. "Yesterday I couldn't even spell 'enganeer', NOW I ARE ONE!"

Six years after he died, Howard Hughes heirs were pretty much over their fighting and ready to sell things off. Late in 1983, McDonnell-Douglas bought Hughes Helicopters. We built our trainers and delivered them to Ft. Eustis, Virginia (around Newport News and Norfolk) in spring of 1985. We moved out there for five months. Sure wish I had been into genealogy then as I could have done a lot of research about **John** and **Alice**.

We moved back to Mesa, Arizona where they build the Apache. It was June 1985. The plant and airport in Culver City was torn down, plowed up and sold to build condos. I cried. Boeing "merged" (actually bought out) McDonnell-Douglas in 1991. I now worked for the biggest aerospace company in the world (you might get an argument with Lockheed-Martin on that).

Been in Mesa building Apache and Apache Longbow trainers ever since. Going on 22 years now. Our group has diversified into other aircraft, but too many years on the Apache project, almost half my life, make it hard to give up. We built our last suite (22 devices) at the old Williams Air Force Base, which is now called Williams Gateway Airport.



PAT SHANNON/AN FOR THE TRIBUNE
Boeing test: Gary Reames, left, runs a test on an Apache Longbow trainer with the help of Paul Angermeler, right, Monday at a Boeing hangar at Williams Gateway Airport in Mesa.

Study gives Williams flying colors

Isaac Jeffery Reames

Isaac Jeffery Reames was born on [REDACTED]. He graduated from Melrose High School, Melrose, Curry County, New Mexico, in 1996. Isaac married Sarah Janelle Michaels of Maryvale, Arizona on [REDACTED].

Shelby Kayla Reames b. [REDACTED]

After a brief stint in the Navy, Isaac moved back to Arizona. On [REDACTED], he married the “girl next door” (actually she lived across the street), Candace Gifford. Candace’s family goes back to the original Mormon pioneers that settled Utah. Isaac converted to the Mormon faith and was married in the Mesa, AZ Temple. Candace is a 3rd grade teacher and they live in Gilbert.



Mary Gene (Reames) Zeiner

Mary Gene Reames was born on [REDACTED] She graduated from Highland High School, Gilbert, Maricopa County, Arizona, in 1998. Mary married Adam Zeiner of Casa Grande, Arizona on 2 June 2000 in Freestone Park, Gilbert, Maricopa County, Arizona.

Samantha Macy Zeiner
Zoie Lynn Zeiner

b. [REDACTED]
b. [REDACTED]

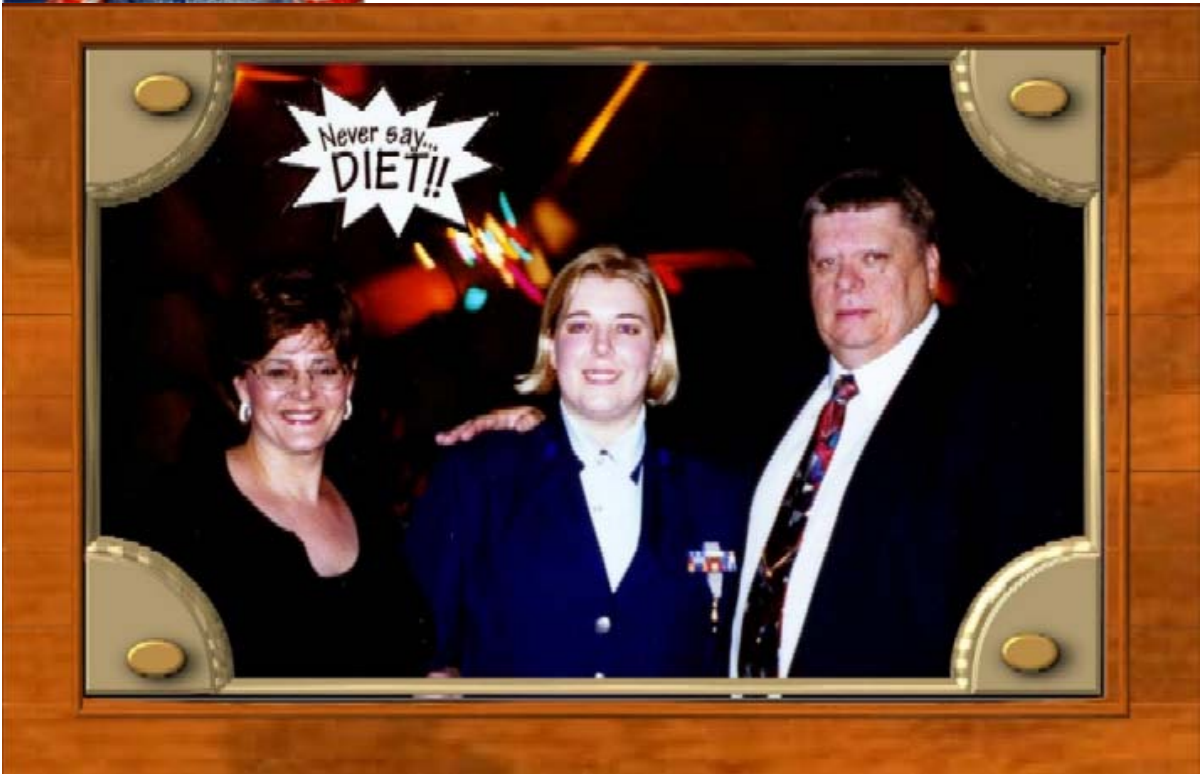
Mary and Adam live in Casa Grand, Arizona, for the moment, but are planning to move to school housing at the old Williams Air Force Base which is now a civilian airport and campus for Arizona State University and several community colleges.



Rachel Lynn (Reames) Schreiner



Rachel Lynn Reames was born on [REDACTED]. Rachel graduated from Gilbert High School, Gilbert, Maricopa County, Arizona in May 2001. She LOVED Air Force ROTC.



Rachel joined the Air force on [REDACTED] and graduated from Security Forces Technical School on 11 September 2003. Yep, MY DAUGHTER THE COP!!! She currently is stationed at Mountain Home AFB, Idaho.



In an ill-fated affair, Rachel married a Paul Schreiner on [REDACTED]. For various reasons (some day to be documented), annulment/divorce is pending. Wait, last word maybe not.

After three months training in Las Vegas and Ft. Lewis, Washington, Rachel deployed to Iraq in December 2004 with 379 other Air Force Security Forces personnel from around the country. She guarded Camp Bucca Prison in southern Iraq until March 2005. Then the fun REALLY started as she ran escort for Army convoys. When you see all those pictures from over there with a person on top of a HUM-V with a BIG GUN – THAT’S HER. Plans are for her unit to return to Iraq in February 2008.

If you wonder why the information started getting a little foggy, it’s because I concentrated so much on previous generations, I had no time to get the living data straight. Promise to have more next edition.

6 - REAMES OF NOTE

This is also a new chapter, under construction.

One of the beauties (or beasts) of Internet research is the trivial information one runs across as one is searching for particular information. Here, in an attempted chronological order, are interesting fish ran across while surfing on the **Sea of Reames**:

1946 (one place says '45) – Nineteen year old **Jeannette Helen Morrison** (later known as actress [Janet Leigh](#), victim of the famous Hitchcock bathtub butchery in *Psycho*) married bandleader **Stanley Reames**. They divorced in 1948. Three years later, she married Tony Curtis. She's the mother of actress Jamie Lee Curtis.

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