

# THE REID FAMILY

Southern Branch, in Northwest  
Georgia

Compiled 1938  
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A Reid Descendant

We trace ourselves to ancestors who were Scotch Presbyterians, who with others, in about 1611 A. D., were induced by King James I, of England, to colonize North Ireland. It had been forfeited to the British Crown on failure of the Irish Rebellion, which had been instigated by Phillip II, King of Spain. He had foreseen in the Catholics of Ireland allies to redeem the defeat of the Armada and, by strategy, to regain the English throne for the Catholic Church.

Among those who thus became known as "Scotch-Irish" were Alexander Reid and wife, Margaret McCay. With his family and several brothers he left North Ireland in 1746 and landed at Philadelphia. He settled in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, and later followed the Blue Ridge Mountains south to the Yadkin river in Rowan county, North Carolina, where in the Salisbury area land was bought by him in 1756, and by his sons, Samuel in 1753, Andrew, in 1762 and George in 1763. Here Alexander died in 1775, leaving as his widow, Margaret, and children: Alexander, Jr., Samuel (who was born in Ireland in 1728), Andrew, John and George, and daughters, Frances (Mrs. Hill), and Hannah (Mrs. Knox).

Captain Samuel Reid organized a large troop of soldiers in Rowan county, N. C., which he commanded in the Revolutionary War in many important military engagements.

Tradition claims that his brother, George, was also a captain of a troop of North Carolina soldiers in that war, was shot through the shoulder by a British minnie ball, a silk handkerchief being drawn through the wound to cleanse it and that it healed and he saw further military service.

It is recorded of these Reid brothers that their choice of Georgia as a future home was made easy for them by her most prompt and enthusiastic ratification of the Constitution of the United States. They had been born under autocratic rule in Europe and saw in rule by the people in Georgia under a written constitution their ideal of liberty.

George, Samuel, Alexander, Andrew and John were in Greene (now Hancock) county, Ga. by about 1788, as George first took a deed to land in the 14th District there as a former resident of Wilkes county, Georgia, October 10, 1788 at about which time Samuel bought land and settled on Shoulderbone creek.

George Reid was Continental Commissioner of Accounts for South Carolina and Georgia in 1789, Justice of the Peace, Greene county, Ga., 1791-1792, an original record, preserved of a muster roll of Greene county, Georgia, dated Feb. 25, 1794, organizing a Militia Troop of Dragoons in Greene county commanded by Captain Jonas Fouché "to protect settlers against Indians." He died there in 1799 as did his brothers, Andrew in 1791, John in 1806, and Alexander in 1814. His brother, Samuel, died and was buried on the old Reid plantation of his son, Alexander III, 4½ miles northwest of Eatonton in Putnam county, Ga. in 1810, aged 82 years.

The Samuel Reid Chapter of the

Daughters of The American Revolution, Eatonton, Ga., is named in his honor.

The first Reid in Carroll county, Ga., for whom dates are available was George Reid, son of George and grandson of Alexander and Margaret of Europe, Pennsylvania and North Carolina. This George, the second, was born in North Carolina in 1779, married Jane Gaston (possibly in the Carolinas); was in the Georgia House of Representatives from Jackson county, Georgia, in sessions of 1803, 1804 and 1817 and a Justice of the Peace in Jackson county, Ga., Jan. 12, 1801; Justice of the Inferior Court of Gwinnett county, Ga., Feb. 2, 1819 to 1821 and Senator from Gwinnett county, Ga., 1819-21 and Extra Session 1821. He was among the first settlers in Carroll county, Ga., upon its organization in 1826. Their children were: Asa, Katie, Reese, Jennie, George, Robert A., Matthew, Elizabeth, Margaret I., Thomas Henry, and Jack. Among their children settling in the section of their new home in Carroll county were: Robert A., Matthew, Margaret I. Hamilton, Jennie Norman, Katie Wiginton and Reese, the latter three at Abernathy, Ala. Ann married McMullen; Elizabeth, Wilson Brown and moved to Mississippi; Asa to Hot Springs, Ark., Dr. Thomas Henry, to the section of Little Rock, Ark. and Jack went West.

The other son, George Reid, was a captain in the Indian and Mexican Wars, going from Gwinnett county, Ga., as shown by a commission to him on which he served to return for commemorative burial at Lawrenceville, Ga., the remains of officers and soldiers of that vicinity who were killed in the Mexican War at Goliad, Texas, March 7, 1830 and in Indian War at Shepard's Plantation, Stewart county, Ga., June 9, 1836. He was in the House of Representatives from Gwinnett county, Ga., in 1837, 1840, and 1841. He married a Whisenhunt and later moved West.

Margaret I. Reid married John Lewis Hamilton in Gwinnett county, Ga. about 1824. Their third child and oldest son, born September 2, 1830 was named George Reid Hamilton who became the first Ordinary of Haralson county, Ga. and first merchant of Bremen, Ga., being commonly known as "Judge" or "G. R." Hamilton, until his death there in 1904.

Others of the kin of George Reid, the second, who were pioneer settlers in the section of Carroll and Haralson counties, included Henry Reid, born about 1775, Reuben Reid, born about 1800, Andrew Reid and many others for whom dates are not available. It is hoped that all can trace themselves to these ancestors and will supply the missing links.

Finally, we as descendants of these noble patriots have a rightful pride in them and a charge from them to keep untarnished the gleam of the beacons of American freedom which they lighted for us by their struggles and sacrifices.

Through them we have all become the heirs to the privilege to serve this eternal cause of theirs and ours everywhere and especially as members of such distinguished national patriotic and pioneer societies as the Daughters of the American Revolution, Sons of the American Revolution, Children of the American Revolution and Colonial Dames, for which they then made

I,  
II,

Alexander

III

His brother, Lydia, wife of their Bro., Alex

Error, Geo. II