

The Ingram/Reeds of Sydney (and Qld & Vic)

I came to this family through the nephew of my x4 great grandfather. The nephew's name was William Edward Wilson BOULTON b.1870 and his second wife was Lillian LANGLEY aka ALCHIN b.1868. Lillian had first married Samuel James INGRAM b.1859 at St Leonards, Sydney in 1885 but had been deserted by him soon afterwards.

What follows probably reveals very little that is not already known and recorded in various trees on ancestry.com however it does bring together quite a lot of information in one place for the first time. In doing so I raise a number of questions that I believe warrant further research. There are a lot of records out there that could significantly add to the story of this family.

Samuel James Ingram was one of five children born to Joseph INGRAM b.1826 and Jane Bach REED b.1840. James and his 4 siblings had all been born in South Africa between 1857 and 1869. His parents had married in South Africa probably in 1856/7. Joseph was a marine diver whilst Jane was a dressmaker. The five children from this marriage are as follows -

- Joseph Alfred 1857-1915
- Samuel James 1859-1940
- Susan Margaret 1863-1935
- [girl] b.1865
- Alexander Thomas 1869-1928

A family tree detailing their children is annexed to this paper.

I've yet to identify any baptism or birth records for these children so the information that does exist is pieced together from a number of sources. Firstly, there is an admission record to the nautical school ship *Vernon* for Samuel James in April 1875.

The nautical school was a reformatory school for Sydney's wayward boys and Samuel's entrance notes record that his mother Jane was a 'Sempstress Daily Dressmaker' living at 53 Cambridge St, Sydney¹ while her unnamed husband was unwell and in Cape of Good Hope, South Africa. Significantly it states that the family were Presbyterians and records Samuel's birthdate as 26th November 1859. Jane had 3 dependent children aged 11, 9 and 5.

And the nature of Samuel's waywardness? He had been sleeping rough. His mother also reported he had a past conviction for using obscene language in a public street.

Joseph eventually joined his wife and children in Sydney perhaps soon after Samuel is admitted to the nautical school² but at least by 1879 where he is recorded in the Sands directory as living at 3 Brighton Terrace, Devonshire Street

¹ In the 1875 Sands Street Index for Sydney, Thomas Rowland, stonemason is recorded as the resident of 53 Cambridge street so Jane and family were likely lodgers.

² Joseph's 1882 death certificate records he had been 7 years in the colony.

(Ingram, J., diver). Joseph's time in Sydney was short lived and he died in 1882. His death certificate records five children (3 males, 2 females living) but unfortunately no names or ages are given. However, this corresponds with Jane's own death registration of 1922 where three surviving children's names are given plus a boy and a girl, both deceased.

I have deduced from the nautical school record that the 'fifth' child was older than Samuel because it was not listed as dependant on Jane. Joseph Alfred is clearly in the frame for this. In 1875 he was unquestionably older than 11 and so cannot have been one of the dependant children Jane said she had. However there are records that suggest Joseph Alfred was born 1859/60 around the same time as Samuel. A May 1878 court record states he was 18 yo at the time while a newspaper notice of his death on 4 May 1915 gives his age at death as 55.

I think it more likely the age recorded by the court was an underestimation of his true age and that he was more likely born around 1857 following Joseph and Jane's marriage. That would put him at around 17-18 years of age when Joseph was admitted to the reformatory school and therefore he wasn't registered in the notes as a dependent child of Jane. Of course a contrary argument could be put for Alfred being younger than or even a twin of Samuel but it is worth noting other examples of underestimating ages in this family. When Jane died in 1922 Susan reports the ages of the surviving boys as Samuel about 60yo and Thomas (Alexander) as 49yo while she gives her own age as 54. In fact they were all a few years older than reported at 62, 52 and 58 respectively.

I have concluded that the three children listed as Jane's dependants were; Susan Margaret, 11yo; a girl, 9yo and 5 year old Alexander Thomas.

Joseph Ingram

Joseph, who died in 1882, hailed from Scotland. There are numerous trees on ancestry.com that assert he was from Huntly, Aberdeenshire the son of John INGRAM 1803-1871 and Isobel RAINNIE 1811-1897. Joseph Ingram of Huntly was baptised in 1829 and from Joseph's 1882 death record we can surmise he was born around 1826. Not a bad match by all accounts.

However, the main problem with concluding that the Joseph Ingram that died in Sydney in 1882 came from Huntley is the substantial evidence that Joseph Ingram of Huntly was indeed a completely different man.

Joseph of Huntly was a carpenter and is recorded in the 1841, 1851 and 1861 Scottish censuses. This man married Jane Brown in 1853 in Newcastle, England. They had 4 children but sadly Jane died in childbirth in 1860 and at the census immediately following this Joseph is living back in Scotland with his maternal grandmother Mrs Margaret Rennie. His 4 children are shared between his former in-laws; the three eldest children are resident with their maternal grandparents while the baby that survived his mother's death was living with his maternal auntie.

Not long after this Joseph marries again to Margaret Duncan with whom he has another two sons. Sadly Joseph, back in Newcastle, died in 1871 and in the census held later that year his second wife was still in Newcastle caring for all the children including the three surviving boys from Joseph's first marriage.

The only evidence therefore that I have of Joseph's antecedence is his 1882 death record which says he was from Scotland. This is arguably supported by Jane's statement to the Nautical School that her son was Presbyterian (Jane herself was an Anglican).

There are surprisingly few Joseph Ingrams to be found in the on-line Scottish records for this period. The only other possible candidate that I've been able to identify is in the 1841 census where there is a 17yo agricultural labourer by the name of Joseph Ingram resident at 'Lillyleed' in Strachen, Aberdeenshire. He wasn't born in the county however an annotation on the census page suggests that he was born in, rather than outside of, Scotland. Or at least that is my reading of the 'tick' recorded to the immediate left of the 'where born' column.

I've not been able to find any corresponding baptism record for this Joseph Ingram nor any subsequent census records for him. He is clearly not Joseph Ingram of Huntly but who he is and what became of him I have yet to establish.

Unfortunately I've not been able to find anything online that provides a digitised account of the Presbyterian records in South Africa so i've written to St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, King Williamstown, South Africa seeking advice on whether baptism or marriage records for this period have been kept. If these records can be traced they may be able to provide further information on Joseph such as the names of his parents or even a date and place of birth. As I write I have yet to receive a response.

Jane Reed

Tracing Jane has been less problematic. When she died in Sydney in 1922 the informant for her registration was her daughter and from this it is confirmed that she was born in Cheshire about 1843 the daughter of Thomas Sheridan REED and Mary EDMONDS. She had two husbands; Joseph Ingram whom she married in Capetown, SA when she was '16', and William LOGGIE whom she married in Dunedin NZ when she was '46' years of age. She is recorded as having arrived in NSW 40 years earlier and had, during that time, spent periods in Victoria and Queensland. Her middle name was Bache.

There is quite a bit known about the Reed family from which Jane hailed. We know that Jane's mother and 2 sisters also lived in Sydney. More on that later.

Jane Bache Reed was baptised on 15 August 1844 at Holy Trinity, Birkenhead, Cheshire along with siblings, older brother Samuel Edmonds and younger brother Thomas Sheridan. The baptism register records her date of birth as Sept. 23, 1841 but this must be an error as the year was almost certainly 1840. In the 1841 census held on the 6th June the family is recorded with an 8 month old daughter named Jane.

I've not found a record in the English census of 1851 for this family and I suspect they had left the country by this time. Were they all in South Africa? Quite possibly. Although Ireland is also in the frame.

Both Jane's brothers went to sea. Samuel b.1839 was issued a Second Mate Certificate at Liverpool in 1860. A First Mate Certificate was issued to him at Dublin in 1863 and he was made a Master at Liverpool in 1865.

Thomas, born in 1842 was made a First Mate at Liverpool in 1867. He received his Second Mate Certificate at the same port and in the same year that his older brother had been issued a First Mate Certificate, namely Dublin 1863. That same year their sister Lucy Todd, married the Scot, Charles Henderson at St Mary's, Dublin, a Church of Ireland building that has since been deconsecrated. Their father had been born in Ireland circa 1816.

The following year, 1864 Lucy and her husband Charles Henderson were in Queensland, Australia. Charles had set up shop as a storekeeper in Toowoomba just west of Brisbane. It is not at all clear to me whether any other members of the Reed family were in Australia at this time.

What is known is that Charles died the same year leaving Lucy alone to bring up their 2½ month old son. Lucy kept the business running but in mid 1866 she sold it to Josiah Morey. Her retirement was short lived because on 2 January 1867 she posts an advertisement in a Toowoomba newspaper that concludes -

Mrs. Henderson, in resuming business, hopes for a continuance of the very liberal support bestowed on her during the three years she was previously in business.

Lucy was still in Toowoomba in October 1868 when the owner of the building she operated her drapery business from was granted permission for extensive renovations.

At some point she relocated to Sydney NSW. She is almost certainly the Mrs Lucy Henderson listed in the 1876 Sands Directory as living at 40 Day Street. By this time her sister Jane Bach was in Sydney and it is very likely so was their mother and baby sister Mary Sheridan REED b.1857.

Jane's husband and mother both died in Sydney in the same year, 1882.

It is worth noting that Jane is nowhere mentioned in the numerous notices for the deaths of Jane's mother and her sisters Lucy and Mary. What was her relationship with her family?

Mary Sheridan REED b.1857 is everywhere recorded as the daughter of Thomas and Mary Reed. I'm not aware of any birth record or indeed where it was that Mary Reed Jr was born. It is worth noting that the year when Mary was born her mother was 49 years of age and had not had a child since Thomas some 15 years earlier. I don't know where the family was in 1857, except for Jane.

In 1857 Jane was in South Africa already or about to get married to Joseph Ingram. It strikes me as unlikely that, as a 16 year old, she was in South Africa by

herself. It seems more probable to me that the whole Reed family were in South Africa in the mid 1850s. Also, it's purely speculation but is there a possibility that Mary Sheridan Reed was not in fact the daughter of Thomas and Mary but in reality their granddaughter and was the daughter of either Jane or even Lucy?

There is certainly a story here because I think Jane's apparent estrangement from her family does need an explanation, particularly given they all lived in the same small city of Sydney. But precisely what that story is is unclear.

The eldest – Joseph Alfred Ingram

As explained above I believe Joseph junior was Joseph and Jane's first born. In 1878 he embarked on a bit of a crime spree. Not always unsuccessfully but he did manage a few convictions and gaol time. He sometimes went by the not very original alias of 'Smith'.

The first criminal record I can find is Boxing Day 1876 where he was arrested on 2 counts of larceny and spent 3 days in Darlinghurst Gaol. It's not clear what came of the charges. Joseph seems to have been on his best behaviour in 1877 but in 1878 he had a string of arrests.

In February he spent a month in prison for stealing two odd boots from a shop in George Street. In May he was arrested along with Thomas Clare and Edward McCarthy charged with stealing 36 felt hats. The matter was discharged but not before he was up on another charge of being an accomplice in a shop robbery of 30 rings. His alibi that he was at the Scandinavian billiards room in Castlereagh street *'playing billiards from an early hour in the morning up to 3 o'clock in the afternoon of the day of the robbery, and knew nothing about it'* was accepted by judge and jury and he was acquitted.

It wasn't long before Joseph found himself on more charges. This time, along with James Burt and William Addy he was accused of stealing a watch and chain from William Chaney on an August night in Pitt Street. He was again discharged but he was not so lucky in the following month. In September he was sentenced to 6 months in gaol for stealing clothes from a shop. Another charge of assaulting Thomas Cotton was not proceeded with for want of a prosecutor. He was released from prison on 3rd December and seems to have put the year behind him. In 1879 he settled down and married Emily Mary HOWARD b.1859.

Joseph and Emily had 12 children over a twenty-two year period between 1880 and 1902. Joseph seems not to have reverted to his old ways though he did spend a night in the cells in 1884 for being the worse for wear. Joseph was a builder and lived his days in North Sydney. He died in 1915.

Samuel James Ingram

Samuel seems to have taken after his brother and in mid 1878 he is up on 3 charges of stealing. Firstly, he got one month for stealing 'wearing apparel'. The other two charges, stealing 17 dozen collars and dog and cockatoo chains, and stealing two concertinas, were heard as a single case. For these he was convicted of 'larceny and receiving' and got 18 months hard labour at Golbourn Gaol.

After his stint in prison Samuel, who had been a stonemason, joined the army as a gunner however he appears to have had a less than happy time as a soldier. There is an 1882 police report of desertion and an 1884 prison record where he got 8 months for disobeying orders.

In July 1886 Samuel married Lillian ALCHIN³ b1868 at St Leonards, Sydney. One month after the wedding they had a son Francis who sadly lived just 2 days. Before the year was out the marriage had gone sour. Just 6 months into their marriage Samuel is ordered by the court to 'keep the peace towards his wife'. A few months later he had deserted Lillian. It seems Samuel headed south to the goldfields of Victoria.

In Ballarat Samuel met Jane Ann RIBBONS b.1866 the daughter of William RIBBONS 1829-1890 and Jane COX 1837-1916. They had 7 children between 1888 and 1904.

It is very likely the two never married. There is no record of it though their children's birth registrations reference a date and place for their phantom nuptials. Samuel was probably reluctant to add bigamy to his already extensive charge sheet. He would not be free to marry again until 1896 when Lillian successfully filed for divorce.

By the turn of the century Samuel had returned to Sydney where he lived out his days. Samuel died in 1940 having reached the ripe old age of 80 years.

Mrs McNamara

Joseph and Jane had two daughters. They are both referenced in their respective death certificates. Unfortunately Joseph's 1882 record notes the number of children of each sex with no names or ages given. Jane's 1922 record gives the names and ages of her surviving children but of the children who predeceased her only the sexes were recorded. From this we learn that one of their daughters had died before Jane and the other was named Susan M. who was 54yo in 1922.

Susan Margaret INGRAM was the informant in her mother's death registration (S. McNamara, daughter) and was the eldest of the two girls, being born around 1863. When she died in 1835 her age was given as 72 y.o. I believe therefore she was the 11yo referred to in her brother's 1875 school admission record.

Susan married Roderick McMillan McNAMARA at Manly in 1888. Roderick worked for the Australian Banking Company and they had two sons, living in Glebe. Sadly Roderick died in 1895 after just 7 years of marriage. I have not been able to confirm any other biographical details. The index of his death registration lists no names for his parents.

Susan was widowed at the age of 32 and did not marry again. Both of her sons survived her and, like their mother, also lived into their 70's.

³ Lillian had been born Lillian Langley but at some point and for reasons unknown the family adopted the surname Alchin. Lillian along with her two sisters were married as 'Achin's'.

A. T. Ingram – or is that Tom Reid?

The youngest of the Ingram children was Alexander Thomas INGRAM 1869-1928. He was a carpenter and may well have worked with his older brother the builder, Joseph Alfred. He was certainly in the same area of Sydney as his brother as evidenced by the fact that his marriage was registered at St Leonards, the same northern suburb that his brother lived out his days.

Alexander married Agnes Innes MORRISON 1868-1954 in the same year that his sister Susan wed -1888. They had two children but the marriage was a rocky one. Undoubtedly the two were separated when Agnes took Alexander to court in 1906 for breaking into an outhouse, presumably at her residence.

The following year Alexander, often known by his middle name Thomas, had a son with Edith Marie JACOBS 1883-1941. Some time after this 'Thomas' and his new family quit Sydney for Brisbane where they adopt the surname REID. It is very likely that this name was a variant spelling of his mother's maiden name REED and was taken on as a way of avoiding his responsibilities to his first family. In 1910 a warrant was issued in North Sydney for his arrest for disobeying a court order to support Agnes. They seemed to be unaware that he was using an alias.

Thomas/Alexander and Edith had at least another 3 children. All of their children went by the surname Reid though their birth records acknowledge their father was an Ingram. Thomas died in 1928 in Brisbane, Queensland.

What next?

Of all the BMD certificates available for this family I've only cited two - Joseph and Jane's death certificates. There are Australian death and marriage registrations for all four of the known children as well as NSW death registrations for Jane's mother (1882/2423) and her sisters Lucy (1886/1728) and Mary (1896/83). For anyone interested in this family there may be much to be discovered in purchasing certificates of these records.

As ever much thanks to all those family researchers whose online findings this paper is mostly based on. And special thanks to the descendant of Samuel James Ingram who queried my assertion that SJI had been married to Lillian Langley/Alchin. His advice has been much appreciated.

I am very happy to be corrected on any errors in the above. Please feel free to make contact.

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Ingram – Reed Family Tree

