

George Reed

1805-1869



**Lord of the Manor of East Brent
and
Benefactor
of
Burnham on Sea.**

GEORGE REED

1805 - 1869

ENTREPRENEUR

PHILANTHROPIST

LORD OF THE MANOR OF EAST BRENT

AND THE GREATEST

VICTORIAN BENEFACTOR OF THE TOWN OF

BURNHAM ON SEA.

A SHORT HISTORY

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Researched and published by the combined

George REED Study Group

North Sedgemoor Local History Group

East Brent Parish History Group

Compiled by John Rigarlsford.

2019

From: 'A Guide to Burnham on Sea' 1859

" To George Reed, Esq., of Burnham, Chairman of the Local Board of Health. To whose public spirit, and liberal assistance, and untiring energy, in devising and carrying out every undertaking to promote the welfare and public good of Burnham, the Town is deeply indebted for its present and increasing prosperity, this guide is, with permission, respectfully inscribed by the Editor March 1st, 1859."

**Courtesy of Francis Farr-Cox.**



**2019 saw the 160th anniversary of the death of George Reed. A group of local historians have combined their research and knowledge of George Reed to produce this publication about the life of this extraordinary gentleman.**

*The story of George REED is a complex one. But one which needs telling and recording.*

*What follows is an attempt to bring together some of the research accumulated by local historians and information from various other sources about his life.*

*Due to a lack of availability of some official records from the first half of the 19th century, certain information is difficult to verify. I must admit to sometimes having had to look beyond that which is available in various official sources and fill some of the gaps with my own thoughts and opinions and those of others, and also to rely on early newspaper articles etc. For this reason some of the following details are open to be corrected by those who can, and I would appreciate any corrections or additions to the information in this work.*

[jonrig@rooksbridge.org.uk](mailto:jonrig@rooksbridge.org.uk) 2019

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## INTRODUCTION.

**An ex bankrupt and the illegitimate son of a servant girl, George REED would become Victorian Burnham On Sea's greatest benefactor. He inherited a small fortune which he unselfishly used to benefit the people of Burnham on Sea and those who were less fortunate than himself.**

He fought for and introduced improvements in the sanitation of the town and built a new school so that any child no matter what their circumstances would have access to at least a basic education.

He brought the railway and a ferry service to Burnham and also introduced, financed and built a number of buildings and schemes which would bring trade to the area and improve the lives and health of the townspeople.

Also, as the Lord of the Manor of East Brent he owned a large acreage of land rented to tenant farmers in East Brent and Brent Knoll

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This short history attempts to record just some of his achievements and perhaps give an insight into life as it was in the first half of the 19th century.

George Reed was baptised in 1805 at Westbury on Trym Bristol and died in 1869. He lived through a period of great change in British history for both the ruling classes and the common working man.

Born at a time of extreme class distinction when wealth and title meant holding power over others George was born the illegitimate son of a working mother but he grew up among those of the upper and middle ruling classes of Bristol. He would overcome bankruptcy and eventually become the Lord of the Manor of East Brent and one of the most important benefactors to the people of Victorian Burnham on Sea.

Having grown up among the privileged classes of Bristol he may have developed a compassion for those less fortunate fuelled by a mixture of his humble beginnings and the way he had first hand knowledge of how the upper classes lived often to the detriment of those who served them. As we shall see, George used his wealth to try to help those less fortunate. It was probably at this time George formed his compassion and charitable thinking. In a country that considered itself the most industrially advanced in the world, It was a time when the poor lived in grinding poverty, which saw some of the desperately poor having to enter the harsh world of the workhouse. The ruling power of government lay in the hands of a wealthy, titled, aristocratic land owning class that had little idea of the conditions that most working people lived.

Slavery in Britain was not officially abolished until 1830's and as we know, many of the ruling class, wealthy merchants and traders of Bristol had made their fortunes by the labour of slaves. George grew up and spent his early years in Clifton, an area which housed some of the most wealthy merchants and manufacturers of sugar, tobacco and cloth etc. The Colston, Wills, Plessey and Daniels families were just some of who's wealth in many instances was made via the slave trade. George's banker stepfather Joseph Haythorne and Joseph's father also a banker in Bristol no doubt handled the finances of some of these wealthy merchants. From records we certainly know that the circle of friends and acquaintances that George's Bristol family moved in included slave owners or traded in goods that were exported or imported via Bristol in the triangular slave trade.

The Napoleonic wars left Britain in economic difficulty with taxes introduced or raised on many essential and imported foods and goods. This and poor living conditions had a huge effect on the working poor.

George was in Bristol during the serious riots leading up to the Electoral Reform act enabled in 1830's. It was a time when the working class had no vote. Until the Electoral Reform act only around 3% of the population, mainly landowners, had the right to vote. Parliament was governed by an elite group of titled and landed classes, who ruled in a way that protected their interests both at home and overseas. Local Corporations were also governed by the landed unelected elite. All of this may have had a lasting effect on George, which may have fuelled his compassion for the less well off.

He saw the rise of British technology and the results of the industrial revolution, the growth of British goods and the potential of the new steam powered ships and railway system which enabled those goods and travellers to be transported far more quickly and efficiently than ever before. Some close members of his family had connections with Brunel for instance.

After his bankruptcy from his business as a corn factor he moved away from Bristol and eventually settled in Burnham on Sea.

George would eventually inherit quite a large sum of money, mainly from the estate of his very astute mother who married into one of the most influential families of Bristol. Being a forward looking and compassionate man not only did he use his inheritance and influence to better himself, he wanted to improve conditions for those less fortunate. To this end soon after he moved and settled in Burnham on Sea in the 1830's he set about improving the poor conditions that prevailed in the town.

Among the many improvements to the infrastructure of Burnham was the first Local Board of Health that he chaired. This dealt with improving the sanitation etc in the town and thereby improving the health of its people. He also pushed for clean piped water and brought gas lighting to the town. In addition he could see a need for better education facilities for the poorer classes in the town and built a new school at his own expense.

His grandest innovation to improve facilities and trade in the town was to bring the railway all the way into Burnham enabling more and more visitors and goods to come to what was becoming a popular seaside town.

Added to that, with the railway at Burnham reaching literally right to the edge of the Bristol Channel he foresaw a potential market for the transport of goods and passengers via a cross channel ferry service to and from South Wales. To this end he set up the Burnham Tidal Harbour Railway Company, into which he invested large amounts of money and encouraged others to join him. He built the Reed Arms Hotel to accommodate this influx of visitors and trades people.

However like the modern 'Dotcom bubble', railway mania began to fade in the mid 1860's and George would get into financial difficulties. On the 20th June 1869 he was summoned to court to settle a debt of £80,000 over £7,000,000 at today's rate which he owed to the Somerset and Dorset Railway of which he was a director.

Just two days later on 22nd June 1869 George Reed died at his home of natural causes.

This is his story....

GEORGE REED

1805-1869

Benefactor of Burnham on Sea

Believed to have been born in 1805, George Reed the only son of Susan Reed/Cavil was baptised as 'Base born' in June 1805 at Westbury on Trym, Bristol.

Little is known of his early education, or if he was a religious man. But it seems he certainly had compassion for others. He was imaginative and a very astute businessman and could see potential in schemes that would benefit not only him but also his fellow humans.

Prior to becoming Lord of the manor of East Brent and settling in Burnham on sea, he was a Corn Factor / Merchant living in Clifton Bristol, where, in 1834, he was listed as a bankrupt! This was possibly due to the Corn Law Act? As late as 1844 George was still joining others nationwide against this Act which imposed a heavy tax on imported wheat. This in turn put up the price of bread to the poor who at the time were having their wages cut! The Corn Law was finally repealed in 1846.

By the time his bankruptcy was settled in December 1834 George had distanced himself and family from Bristol and was living in his wife's parish of Congresbury.

A while later in the late 1830's, his fortunes had obviously improved, most likely via financial help from his step father, wealthy Bristol City banker Joseph Haythorne and subsequently with help from his mothers inheritance from her marriage to this man. -- this was at a time when a woman's property became her husbands on marriage -- however George's mother's inherited assets were held in trust. According to some family correspondence Joseph Haythorne's total assets at one time were estimated at around £300,000 which equates to over £33,300,000 today. George eventually would inherit upwards of £160,000 today worth £17,765,000.

He moved his family from Yatton and settled in Burnham on Sea and at the time of the 1841 census was living in Church Street (now Manor Road) with his wife Sarah and young children Joseph Haythorne, Sarah and Catherine. There were also three domestic servants. (His second son George born in 1839 died in infancy).

George then began getting involved with local affairs investing his new found wealth in projects that not only gave him an income, but hopefully would also benefit and improve the lives of the people of Burnham on sea.

In 1838 George had taken over the title of Lord of the Manor of East Brent from his mother, which gave him the rents from his mother's tenant farmers in the parish. He was by then living in Burnham on sea and was advertising as a money lender. He appeared to have £30,000 at hand to lend which at today's rate would be over £3,300,000!

MONEY.
£30,000 IS Ready to be **ADVANCED**
 IMMEDIATELY, either together or in
 Sums of not less than £2000 each, and for a Term certain if
 required.
 Apply to **GEORGE REED, Esq**, Burnham, near Bridgwater.

British Newspaper Archive

George had married his wife Sarah Hammons from Yatton in 1826 and they had four children. Joseph Haythorne 1828, Sarah 1838, George 1839 and Catherine 1840. Both George and his wife Sarah outlived all of their children except the youngest Catherine.

1841 saw the building of the Manor House, George's Burnham on Sea family home.

'The Manor House' and Manor Gardens.



George opened the Manor gardens to the public in 1860.

The house had an Orangery and greenhouses attached (below) where George a keen and well respected horticulturalist grew exotic hot-house plants and prize winning orchids etc.



George employed a series of expert gardeners to maintain his unique collection of hot-house plants. Among them were Messrs O'Brien 1853, Mylam 1856 and a Mr Tucker in 1862.



These men were expert gardeners of exotic species and won many prizes with examples of orchids and stove-house plants etc while in the employ of George Reed.

For example, in 1856 Mr Mylam displayed a prize winning group of orchids including this *Cattleya* species above right. In 1862 Mr Tucker displayed the new *E. Uri-Skinneri* orchid above. There are many press reports of George's successes with prize winning entries at National shows.

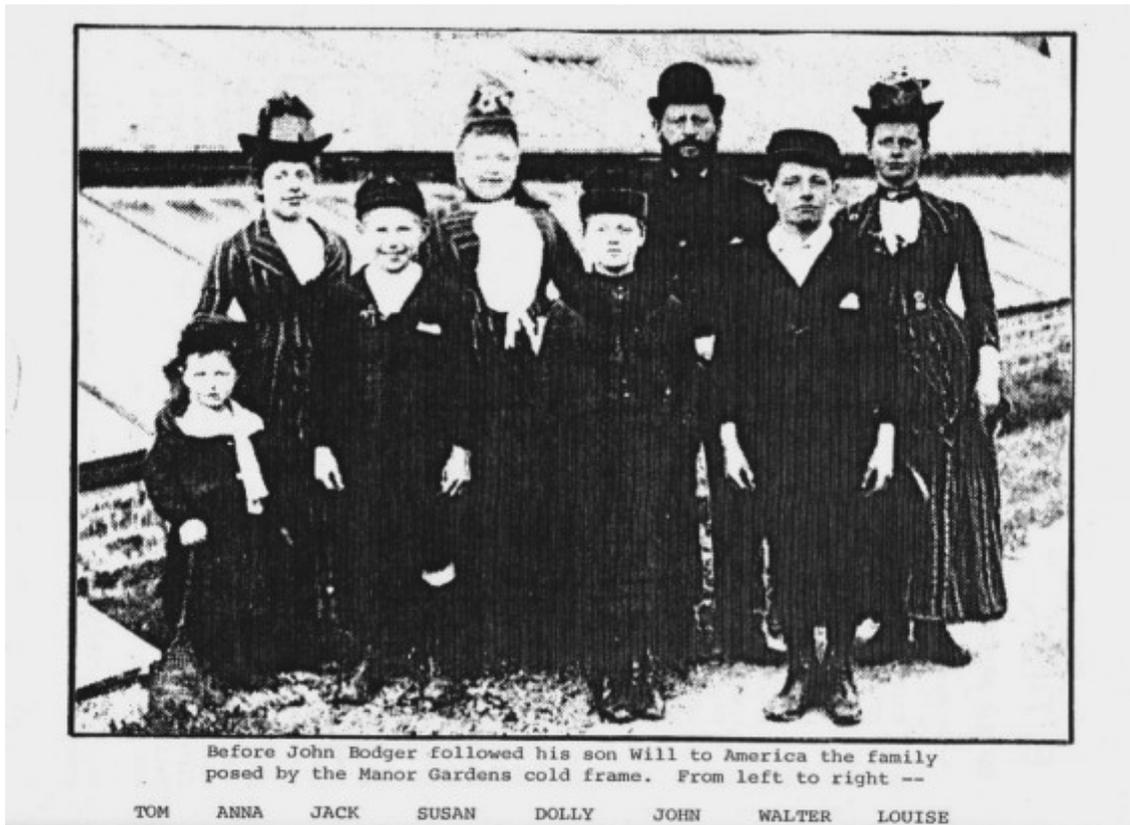
In 1857 George sold much of his collection of stovehouse and greenhouse plants to concentrate on his ever growing collection exotic orchids.

After his death in 1869 his prized collection of orchids and remaining hot house plants were auctioned off in London by his executors.

After George's death it appears that the Fryer family moved into the manor and the Bodger family were employed to look after the gardens and glasshouses etc.

John Bodger eventually followed his son William to America where they set up the 'John Bodger and Son' Seed Company in California, which grew into one of the largest flower seed suppliers in the States. The Bodger Seeds Co. ran until about 2009 when it was sold to a German company.

The Manor House and gardens were bought by an F. Lucas for £3250 in 1903 and sold to the local council in 1904 and re-opened to the public a year later. They have been maintained as formal gardens ever since, The bandstand in the middle was rebuilt in 1995 as part of the 50th anniversary celebrations of VE day. The Manor House was used by the Council as an office, but was sold in 2000.



The Bodger family c: 1871

1839 George Reed Freemason

In 1839 George Reed was enrolled as a Freemason in the Bridgwater Lodge of 'Perpetual Friendship', which no doubt introduced him to a circle of local influential backers etc.

From the 1840's he was investing his new found wealth and inviting other investors into projects that would bring trade and tourism to Burnham, improve the infrastructure of the town and the lives of the people, and eventually bring the railway and the setting up the Burnham Tidal Harbour Company with a regular ferry crossing from South Wales to Burnham.

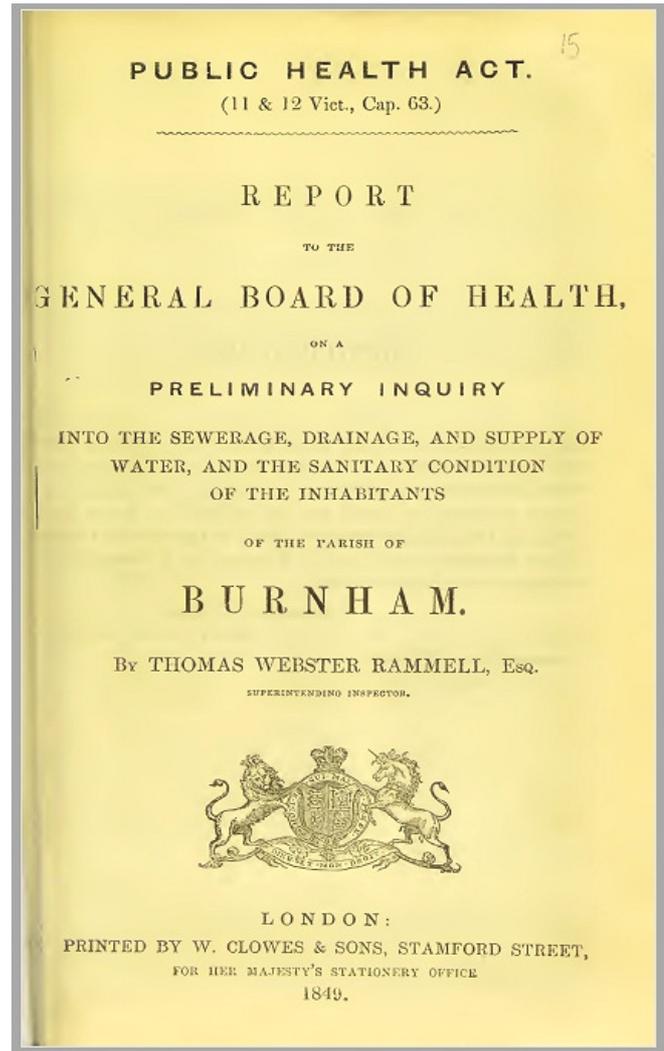
Local Board of Health

One of George's greatest benefits to the people of Burnham on Sea was to introduce a local Board of Health.

This was part of a National programme following multiple outbreaks of Cholera often caused by contaminated drinking water.

In 1849 George among others was concerned about the sanitary conditions and the state of the open sewers etc in Burnham in general. He instigated the setting up of a Local Board of Health.

The preliminary Inquiry by the Superintendent of the General Board of Health Thomas Webster, made some pretty grim reading! During the inquiry George commented that the agricultural soil in and around Burnham was so sodden and foul that he could bring soil from Brent Knoll into his greenhouse in which he could grow pineapples and other exotics. Something that was impossible with the soil in Burnham!

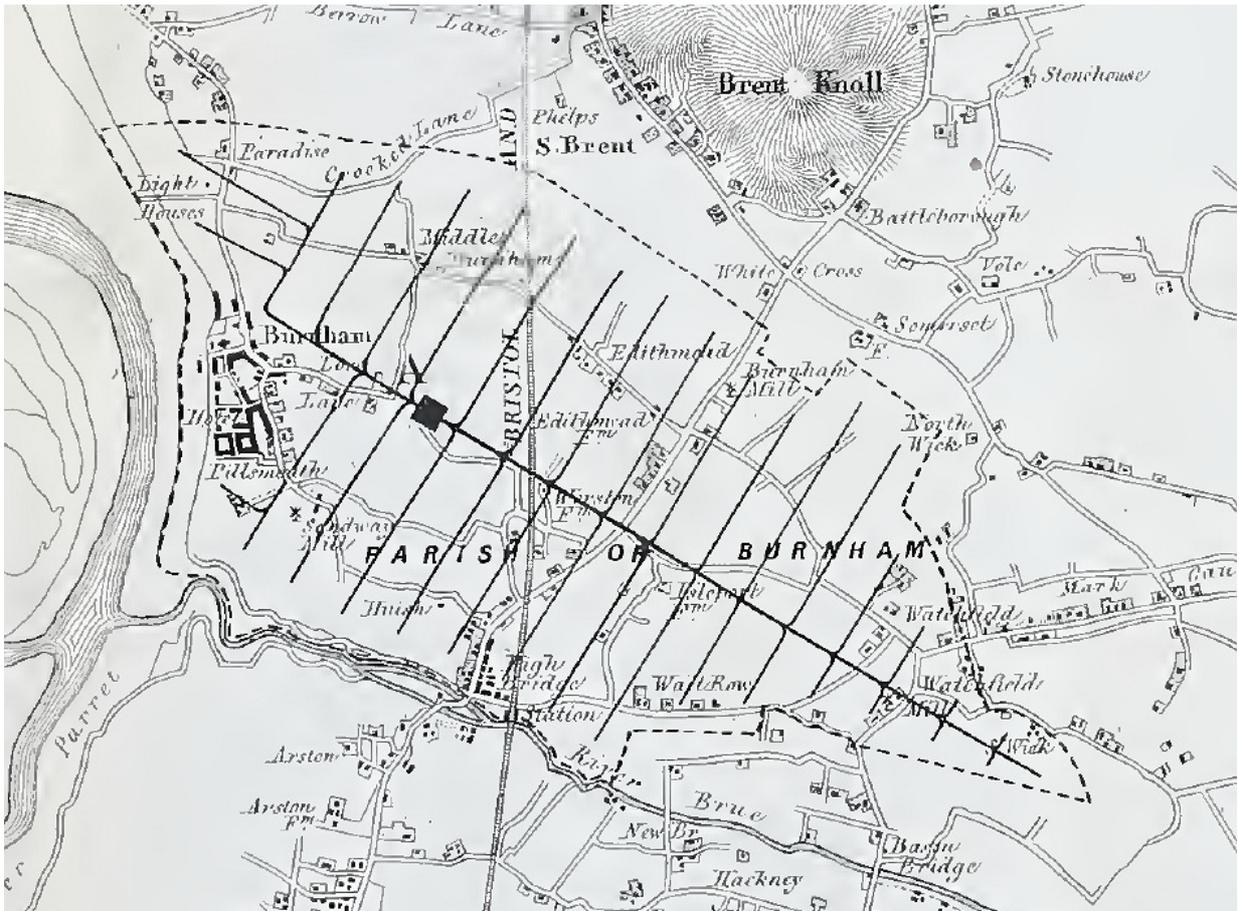


nationalarchives.gov.uk

Over the years the town and the agricultural land around it had suffered greatly from flooding, poor drainage, open sewers and contaminated well water among many other things. Scrofula a type of TB caused by drinking infected milk was prevalent among children. Outbreaks of cholera, typhus, ague and fevers were frequent due to the damp and unsanitary conditions of the homes of the poorer cottagers.

In 1850 the Local Board of Health was set up in Alfred Street -- now the High Street -- of which George Reed was a founding member and Chairman.

By this time George as Lord of the Manor of East Brent owned over 700 acres of land in East Brent and Brent Knoll inherited from his mother. George sunk three shafts on Brent Knoll in 1854 seeking minerals and water. It was well known that there were springs on Brent Knoll that could supply fresh water to Burnham if it could be piped. However it was not until 1883 that clean water was piped to Burnham from Winscombe after a large flood had contaminated the usual wells making them unfit for drinking.



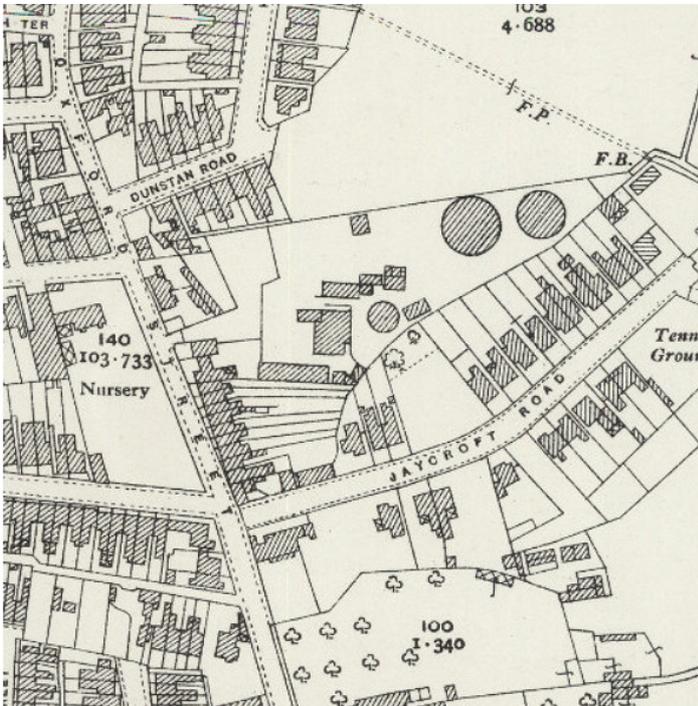
Map courtesy nationalarchives.gov.uk

To help take away the stagnant surface water, the local Board of Health proposed an elaborate system of underground drainage with outlets into the river Brue. George also proposed that sewage from houses in the town could be drained away and onto surrounding agricultural land to improve its fertility. Work commenced on the first sewers in 1852.

Also recommended for development were a means of refuse disposal, public lighting and improved paving in the town. In the 19th Century Tar-Mac as we know it had not been invented! Roads and pavements were appalling. Roads were made up of crushed stone bound no doubt with plentiful horse muck and sprayed with water in summer and tar in winter. Street lighting was virtually non-existent!

BURNHAM GAS COMPANY.**LIABILITY LIMITED.****Capital—£2,000, in 400 Shares of £5 each.***Committee of Management.***GEORGE REED, Esq.,****Joseph Allen, Esq.,****Mr. Thomas Hicks,****Mr. George Rice,****Mr. Robert Salisbury,****Mr. Richard H. Avent,****Mr. Alfred Waller.***Bankers.***Sealy's Banking Company, Bridgwater.***Engineer.***H. H. Fulton, Esq., 8, Great Queen Street, Westminster.***Secretary.***Mr. Fred. P. Axford.**

THERE being a FEW SHARES in the above Company yet Undisposed of, applications should be made to the Secretary by those wishing to become Shareholders.

Burnham, 6th October, 1858.**The Burnham Gas Company**

In October 1858 George Reed laid the foundation stone for the Gas Works. In 1859 he was placed in charge of introducing gas lighting to the town when the plan for the most convenient siting of the street lights that he submitted was accepted.

The Gas works were in what was known as Gas Street at the site which is now the 'Lidl' supermarket.

The Gas works were finally demolished in the 1980's

The Esplanade

Much of the land along what is now the Esplanade was little more than sand dunes. To make the town more attractive to visitors, George Reed set about making a number of improvements along the Esplanade.

This etching of the Esplanade looking north dated 1872. Shows the new and enlarged school on the corner of College Street.



Julia & Catherine Terraces



By 1861 George had acquired some wild land which was mainly sand dunes at the North end of the esplanade on the corner of what is now Sea View Road where in he built a fine terrace named Catherine terrace after his daughter. This was followed some years later by another similar building on the opposite corner completed in 1867 and named Julia Terrace after his granddaughter Juliana.

The Customs House

From recently uncovered plans it appears that George Reed had an interest in what was known as the Customs House. (Which is now a Fish and Chip restaurant on the Esplanade).



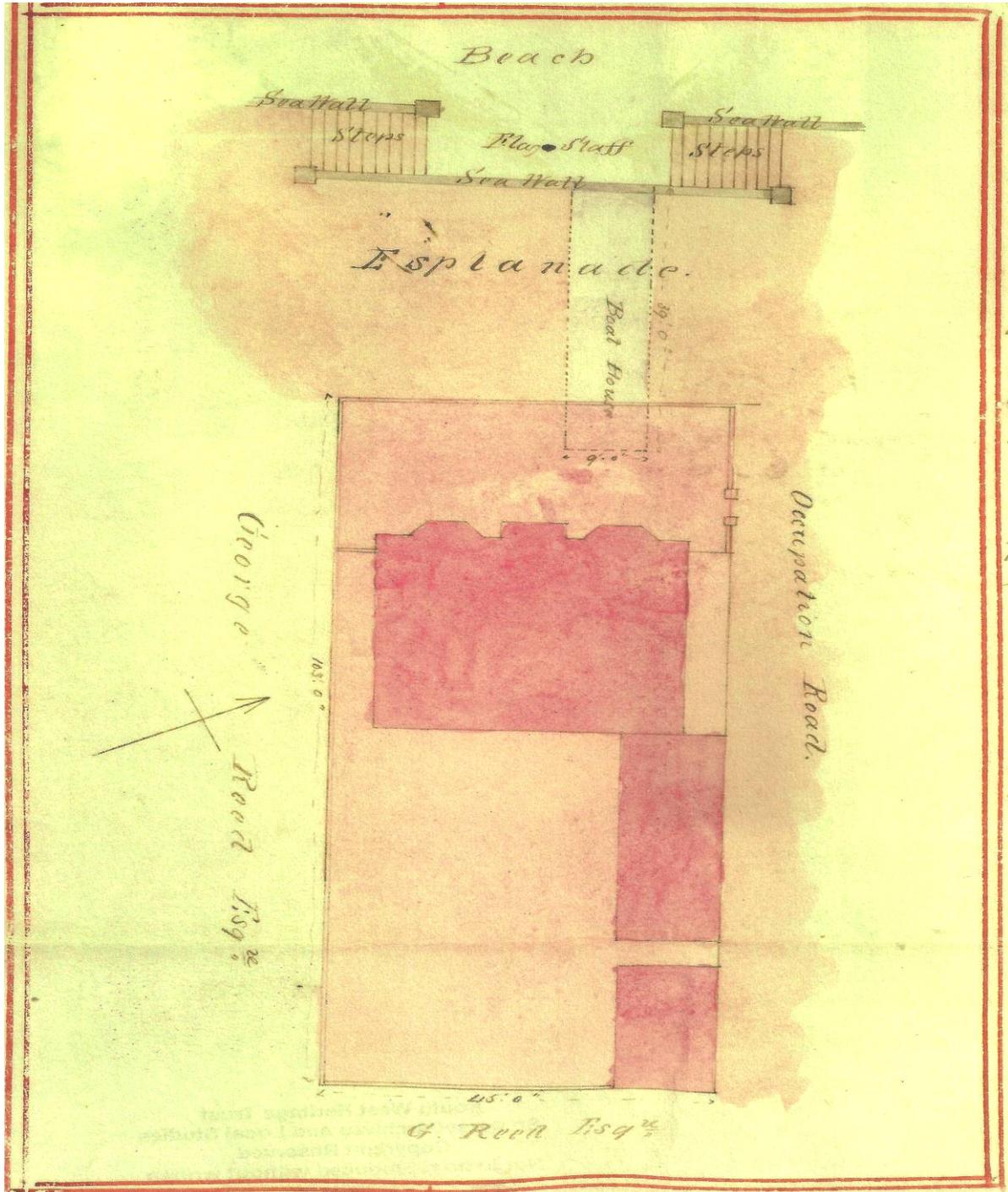
G Luxon image collection

The house is believed to have been built circa: 1840. It was used to check shipping and cargoes heading to and from Bridgwater and Langport docks on the river Parrett and as accommodation for the customs officer.

A lease for the Customs House dated 1846 shows it was transferred to Customs and Excise by Robert Salisbury, surveyor, builder and property agent for George Reed. The proceeds went to George Reed, a Mr Press and a Mr White.

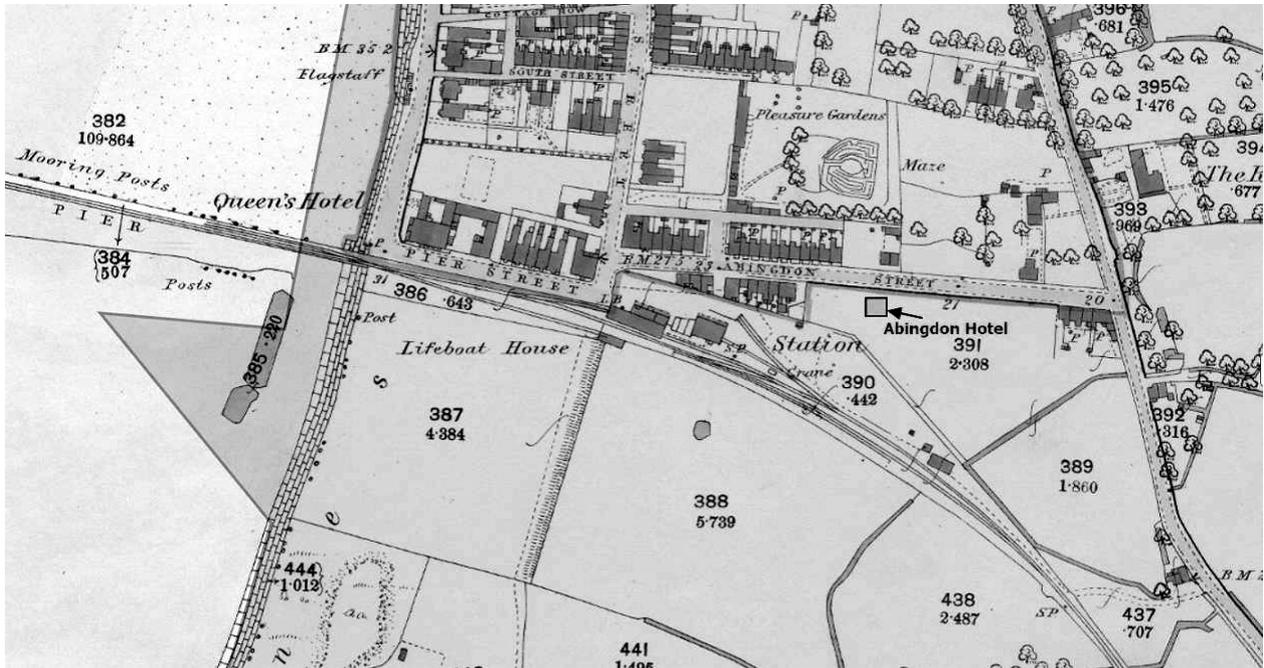


The plan below attributed to George Reed shows one of the two proposed boathouses situated below the Esplanade with access from the Customs house opening directly onto beach. It is believed that one of the boathouses held the Customs officers boat and the other the early Burnham lifeboat.



Courtesy of Somerset Heritage Centre

Abingdon House



George bought upwards of 11 acres of land next to what is now Abingdon Street and where Abingdon House which later became the Abingdon House Hotel was built.

In the early Burnham railway proposals the site was intended to be the location of the original terminus

and possibly the stationmaster's house. However George later insisted that the line be routed farther southwards where it could run all the way to the jetty and the station be closer the sea front.

By 1888 the house had become a hotel and its guests were listed in the local papers.

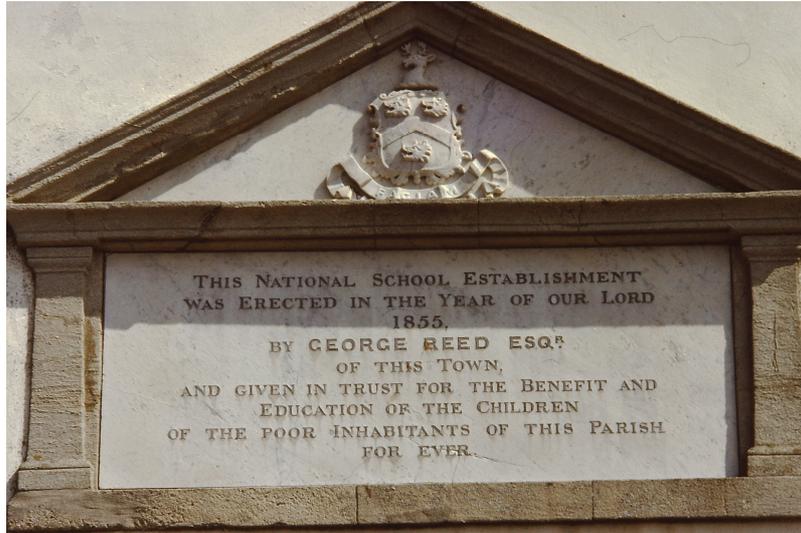


THE ABINGDON HOTEL



BURNHAM-ON-SEA
SOMERSET

The National School



At a time when mainly only the upper classes received a formal education, many of the lower class children and adults could not read or even write their name. Practical and forward looking George was aware of the importance of improving the education of all children. These were to be the next generation of shopkeepers, tradesmen, engineers and carpenters etc.

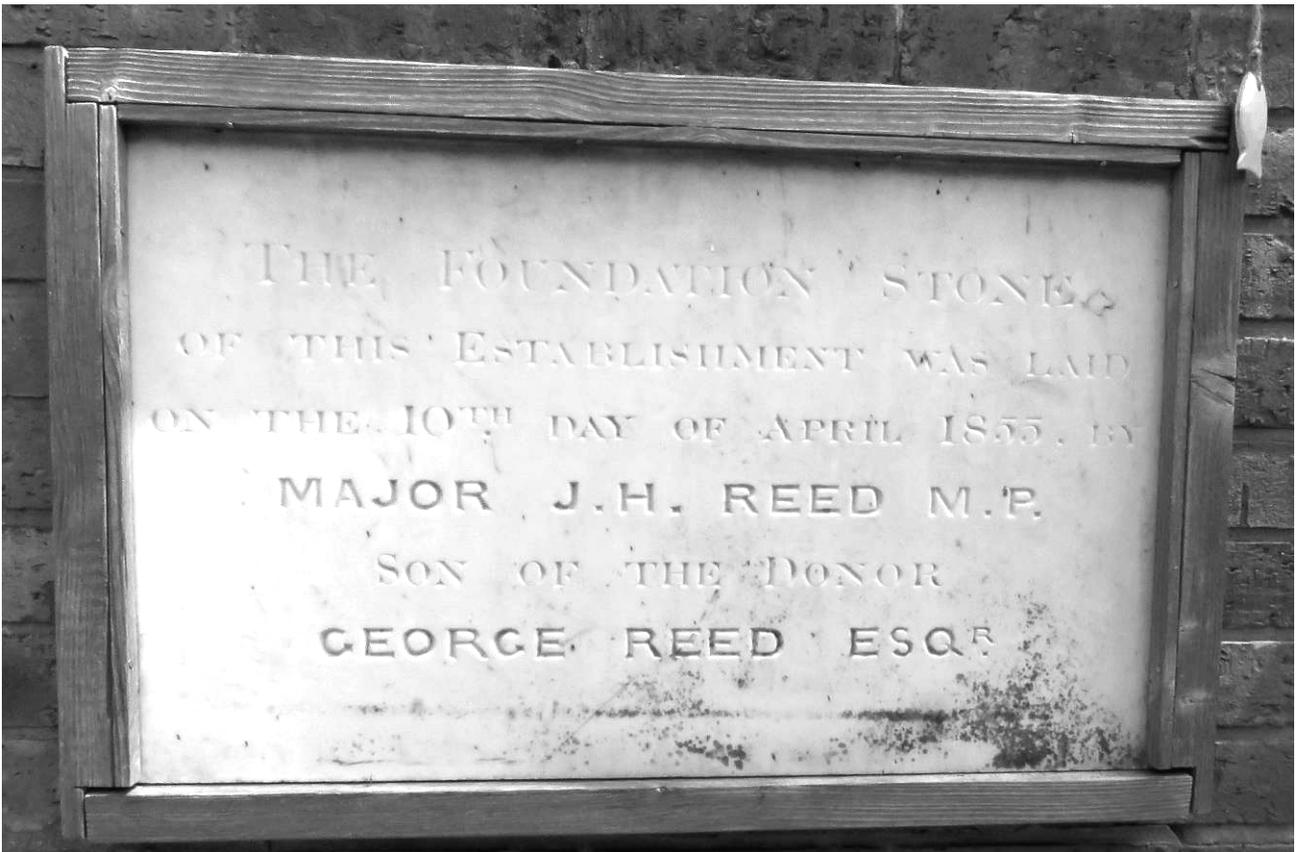
The Bath Chronicle of September 29th 1853 announced that: "George Reed, Esq.. had signified his intention of building a school and school house at Burnham Somerset, at his own expense" to replace the small First National School which was situated near the Manor House.

BURNHAM.—*Laying the Foundation Stone of the Burnham National Schools.*—On Monday evening the bells of this place struck out a merry peal in honour of the arrival of Major Reed, M.P., at his father's residence, to assist in the ceremony of laying the foundation stone of a National School, which Mr. G. Reed is about to have built entirely at his own expense, and present it to the parish. On Tuesday, the proceedings were preceded by the firing of cannon and the ringing of bells, and about one o'clock, George Reed, Esq., accompanied by Major Reed, M.P., J. B. Thwaites, Esq., A. Read, Esq., Secretary of the Somerset Central Railway, R. Salisbury, the contractor, and numerous other gentlemen, proceeded to the site of the proposed school, where many hundred persons were assembled. After an address from Mr. G. Reed, Major Reed, receiving an ornamental trowel from the contractor, proceeded at once to the laying of the stone, saying, "I declare this stone well and properly laid as the Foundation Stone of the Burnham National Schools. May God bless the undertaking." Three hearty cheers having been given for Mr. Reed, three for the Major, and a like number for "Success to the Burnham National School," the assemblage dispersed. In the afternoon the friends of Mr. Reed met together at the Clarence Hotel, where dinner was provided. After the removal of the cloth, various toasts were given and responded to; amongst these were "The Benefactor of Burnham," "The health of Major Reed," and "The Visitors." The company broke up about nine o'clock.

So in April 1855 amid great ceremony attended by local dignitaries, the foundation stone for the new National School was laid by George's son Major Joseph Haythorne Reed.

The National school was financed by and built on land donated by George Reed on the corner of the Esplanade and College Street. It opened in 1857.

It was renamed St Andrews school around 1906/07. In 1976 the school moved to new premises in Dunstan Road The old school was eventually demolished and College Court apartments were built on the site. The marble plaque above the school was taken down and is now sited at the new St Andrews School.

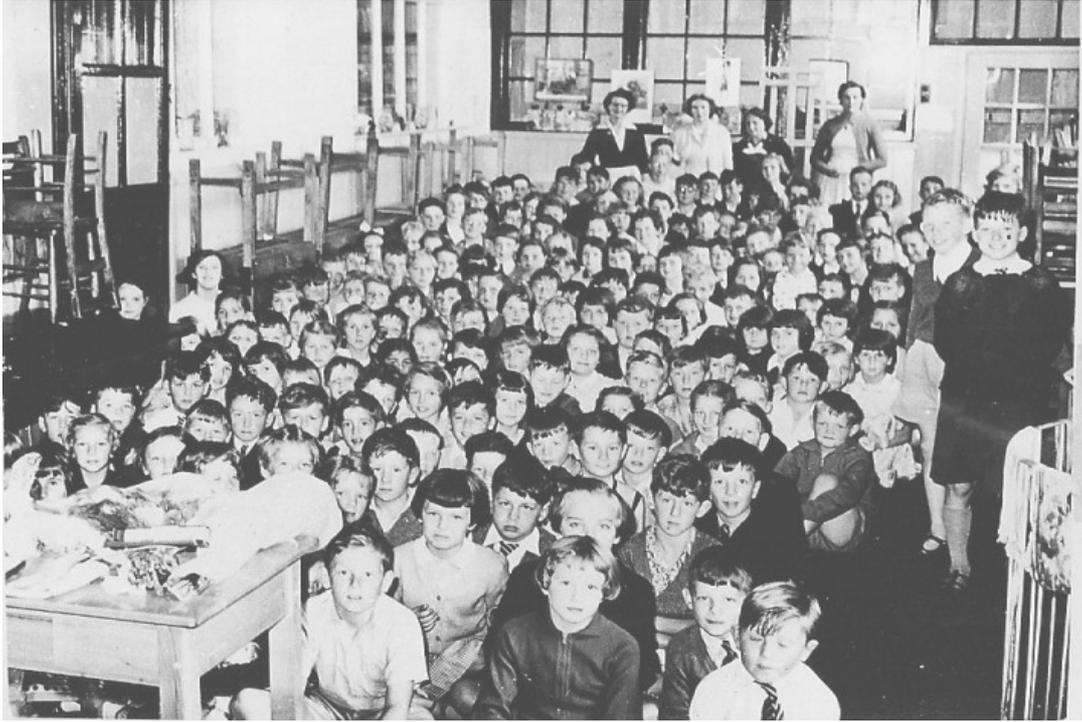


The original foundation stone for the new school was laid by George's son Major Joseph H. Reed on 10th April 1855. (Now preserved at the new St Andrews School).

For a long while in the 1940's - 50s the school was also known as Holley's College.



Mr Holley long time Headmaster with pupils and teachers of St Andrews School circa 1950's



St Andrews School pupils 1957



The Class of 1958

Lucerne Cottage and Puzzle Gardens

Believed to have been originally built circa: 1842 as 'Lucerne Cottage', in 1844 as an added attraction and amusement for visitors and locals, George Reed added what were to



become known as the 'Puzzle Gardens'.

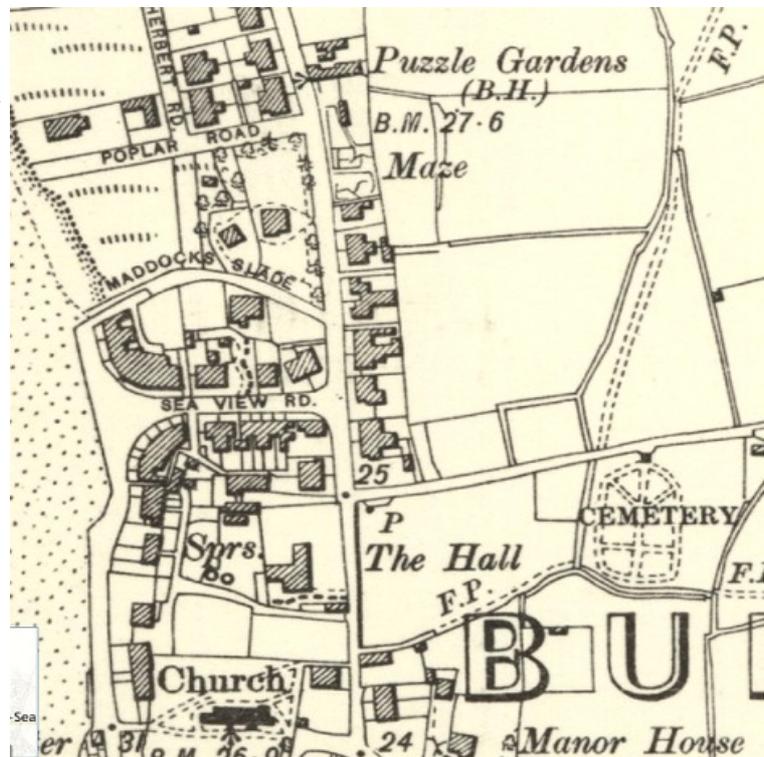
According to the 'Burnham Guide' of 1859 the gardens are described as being very popular with school parties and groups visiting the town by rail and as a place where one could relax in the leafy tea-garden etc

The gardens included a maze similar to that at Hampton Court but on a smaller scale.

Photo courtesy of 'Capture Burnham' website.

The gardens were on land on Berrow Road opposite Popular Road, where in the 1871 census they formed part of the 'Puzzle Garden Inn' occupied by a Charles Moore, Beer House keeper.

The Inn closed in 1958 and is now a private residence.



Near the railway station just off of Abingdon Street, where Phoenix Terrace and Jubilee Street now stand, appears a plan of another 'Pleasure Gardens which also showed a maze similar to that at Hampton Court is believed to have existed.



It is believed that these gardens would have closed sometime before 1897 when Jubilee Street was built.

However a house in Abingdon Street known as the 'Puzzle Garden' was occupied by a carpenter Albert Close and family in the 1891 and 1901 census. It is unknown whether George Reed was involved in this project.

Prospect House, Hill Road, Clevedon.

By the early 1800's Clevedon had become a popular seaside town. It was just a short carriage ride from Bristol and many of those who could afford it, invested in holiday properties there.

In 1837 Susanna Haythorne owned 'Prospect House' on Hill road, Clevedon. No doubt part of the estate inherited from her late husband Joseph Haythorne. Overlooking the sea, Hill Road was one of the most sought after locations for seaside properties in Clevedon.

in 1837 Susanna had leased the property to her new husband Thomas Lane Coulson and to a family acquaintance Thomas Daniel of Bristol.

By 1857 Prospect House had been inherited by George Reed who in 1858 sold it to a William Cook bathing hut proprietor on Clevedon Front.

Other Properties

George also built or purchased several other properties in Burnham on Sea and farther afield.

He even owned his own Brickyard in Burnham which he sold in 1859.

He owned several acres of farm land on the outskirts of the town and also bought and rented out other properties in the town. A number of which were in Cross Street.

The Railway comes to Burnham.



By the 1840's railway fever had gripped the country. This new form of transport revolutionised the movement of goods and passengers. The Bristol to Bridgwater railway line which opened in 1840 passed through Highbridge. George could see the potential for increased trade and visitors to the town if the railway could be extended into Burnham.

In 1855 George became heavily involved with others in investing and raising stocks to bring the Somerset Central Railway to Burnham. George could see the potential for bringing trade and tourism into Burnham by building an extension line from Highbridge right into Burnham and the sea front. He also had the vision of a ferry service to South Wales which would bring visitors from across the Bristol Channel and also allow local goods to be sent to South Wales where there was a large consumer market available.

Brothers Cyrus and James Clark of Glastonbury were the among the foremost manufacturers of shoes and sheepskin goods in the country. They had to move the bulk of their goods via the Brue Canal to the docks at Highbridge or Bridgwater where they were shipped via a long journey to London and elsewhere. They too could see a potential in a railway line from Glastonbury to Highbridge connecting with the Great Western railway to get their goods to London and elsewhere quickly. George Reed, the Clark brothers and other investors were granted an Act in 1852 and raised enough finance to build a broad gauge track from Glastonbury to connect with the Great Western at Highbridge which opened in 1854. Later an extension was laid to the busy Highbridge wharf to serve the docks there. The extension to Burnham -- later converted to a narrow gauge line -- was opened in 1858. The single platform station was at the junction of Abingdon Street and Pier Street where replicas of the original buffers and signal box have been preserved.

A further extension of the SCR from Glastonbury to Wells and Shepton Mallet opened in 1859.

The route across the levels proved very difficult. Much of the track had to be laid over soft peaty land. This was overcome to an extent by laying bundles of willow and tree trunks under the foundations of the rails. Construction of this part of the line across the levels would prove very expensive.

In around 1857 during the construction of the Burnham branch line, George Reed was appointed Director of the Somerset Central Railway in place of W. D. Seymour who retired.

The Somerset Central Railway was eventually taken over by the Somerset and Dorset Railway of which George was also a director. The S & D railway was known by many locals as the Slow and Dirty,

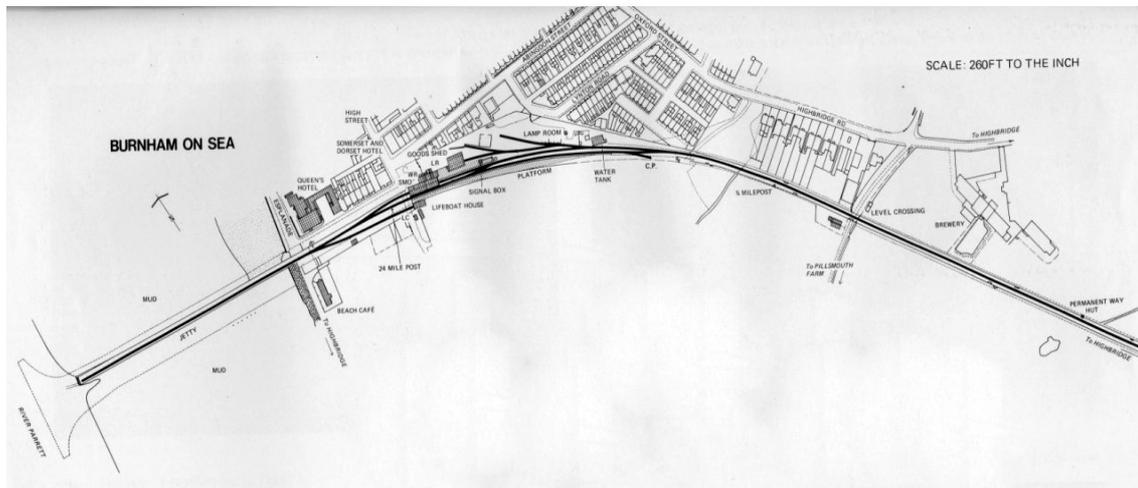
In 1865 George purchased a second hand 2-4-0 locomotive built by Edward Bury in 1842 which he leased to the S & D Railway. Its S&D running number was 16 and it was withdrawn from service in 1874. It is believed to have ended its days used as a stationary boiler at the Highbridge Wagon works.

It is thought that George's commitment and over investment in his railway and ferry projects may have led to his financial difficulty towards the end of his life.

The route for the line from Highbridge to Burnham followed roughly through what is now Apex Park and along Marine Drive and included sidings into Colthurst and Symons Brick and tile works.



Part of the route of the Highbridge to Burnham extension of the Central Somerset Railway showing the line extending all the way down to the pier landing.



Regular passenger services to Burnham-on-Sea station ended on 28 October 1951.

Occasional excursion traffic continued until 1962, and the goods depot remained open until 1963 when the Beeching cuts closed the branch line completely.

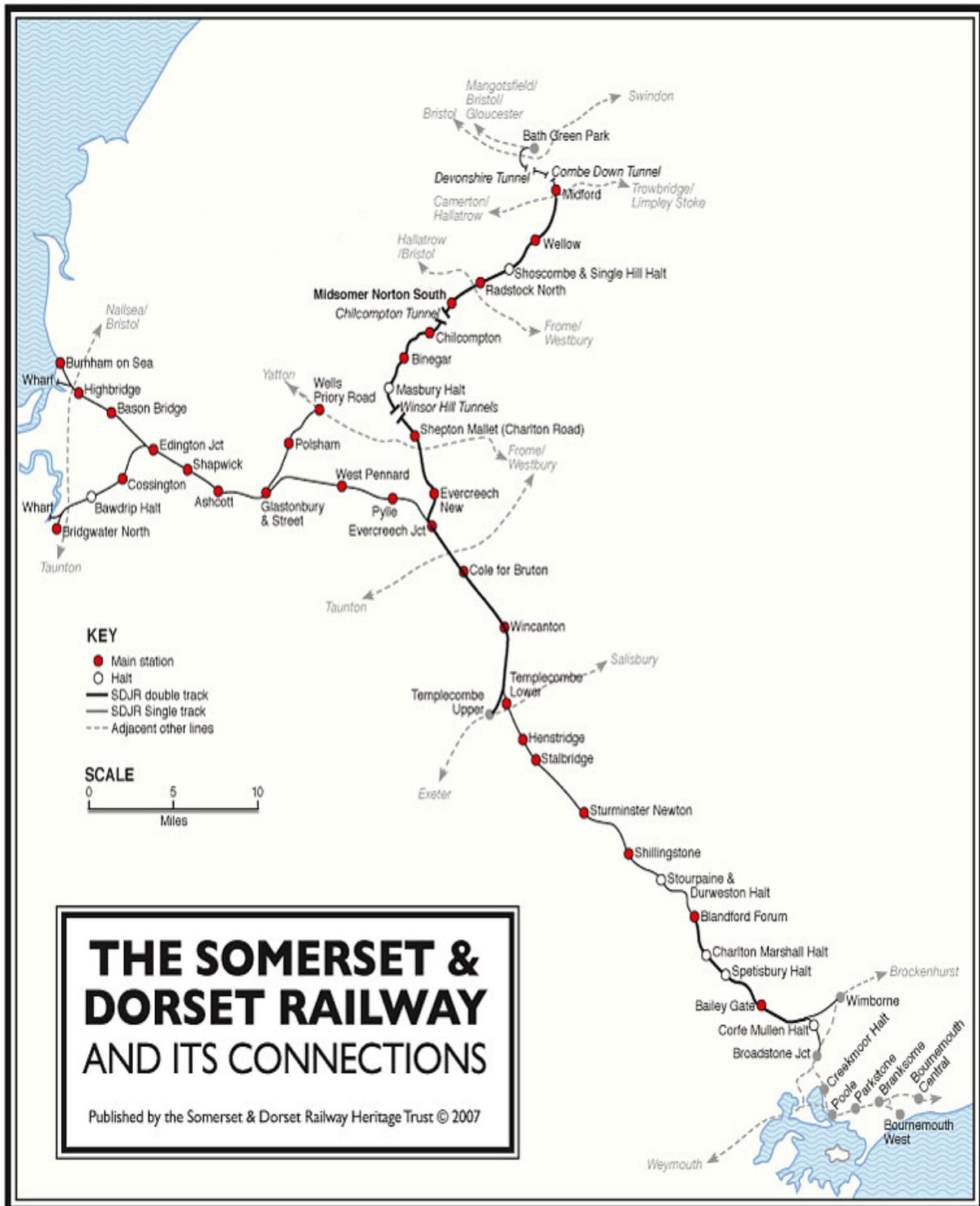
Courtesy of the Somerset & Dorset Railway Heritage Trust.



Abingdon Street

In 1858 plans were agreed to build a link road between Highbridge Road and the railway station. This was named Abingdon Street, possibly after the town of Abingdon in Berkshire where George's son Joseph Haythorne Reed was MP from 1854 - 57.

The station, situated at the junction of Abingdon Street and Pier Street was a terminus, however the through platform allowed rolling stock to travel on to a 900 feet stone pier built out into the estuary. Although the pier continued in use for vessels until the 1950s, use of the railway line onto the pier ceased in 1888. This was not popular with ferry passengers who had to walk to the train station some yards away!



© Somerset and Dorset Railway Heritage Trust

Burnham on sea. Gateway to the continent !

By far two of George Reed's most ambitious projects were the bringing of the railway into Burnham and the formation of a ferry service to and from South Wales.

The combined Burnham ferry and railway connection also had the potential for a route from S Wales to Poole via the Somerset and Dorset Railway with ability to connect with a cross Channel ferry to the continent.

By the mid 1800's South Wales had transformed into a highly industrialised area, with coal from the Rhonda, steel from Port Talbot plus copper smelting in Swansea and a huge slate industry. Much of the goods and heavy materials for this production needed transporting and had to go the long route by sea to the south and to the continent. George could see a potential for shorter more reliable route to London and the south coast by rail for these goods and travellers.

George's vision was to create a direct route by ferry across the Bristol Channel connecting with the train at Burnham which would bring visitors to Burnham and move goods and passengers via the Somerset Central Railway on as far as Poole where they could board a cross Channel Ferry to Cherbourg. It would also shorten the journey for travellers and agricultural goods and produce going the other way to South Wales.

As part of this undertaking George knew there would be an increased need for accommodation for travellers. So he set about building what might be called his most iconic addition to Burnham 'The Reed Arms Hotel' which still bears his name.

The Reed Arms Hotel



The Reed Arms Hotel is situated on the corner of Pier Street and the Esplanade. It was ideally sited for travellers by train from the station opposite and for ferry passengers coming from the jetty. Over the years the hotel has seen many changes of owner and even a change of name. Until recently it was also known as the Queens Hotel, but has now reverted to its original Reed Arms Hotel and is run by Wetherspoon Group.

Pier Hotel



George Reed also provided the smaller Pier Hotel next door in Pier Street to accommodate the staff of the visitors, with stables between the two where horses and carriages could be kept.

Regular Ferry Service begins.

The official opening of the joint Burnham Harbour Company and the Somerset and Dorset Railway took place on Monday 3rd May 1859 when the jetty was formally opened and the first paddle steamer arrived from South Wales. The town was highly decorated with flags and banners flying from many buildings as a large number of dignitaries gathered at the pier at 11 am to greet the 'Iron Duke' steamer from Cardiff. George Reed was among the reception group along side the pier. He was joined by a crowd of some 1000 people to also welcome the first Somerset Central Railway passenger train into the town. The excursion train from Bristol carrying Directors and shareholders of the SCR and S&DR was expected to arrive at the station around the same time...It is said that the train and the ferry were both timed to arrive at 11am on the first day. However the train from Bristol arrived an hour late!



George had met the 'Iron Duke' ferry at the pier, and was seen helping the ladies in their finery to alight from the steamer. He then had to take the ferry passengers on a walk around the town admiring the welcoming banners and flags until the train arrived!

**BURNHAM HARBOUR TIDAL COMPANY,
AND SOMERSET AND DORSET RAILWAY**

IMPROVED COMMUNICATION BETWEEN

BURNHAM AND SWANSEA

Shortest, Quickest, and Cheapest Route between the South and West of
England, and the Western Ports of Wales.

The "George Reed,"

or other suitable Steamer is intended to ply, Wind, Weather, and Tide permit-
ting, unless prevented by some unforeseen circumstance.

BURNHAM TO SWANSEA.

| MONDAYS. | | WEDNESDAYS. | | FRIDAYS. | |
|-----------|-----------|-------------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| 3rd Sept. | 9,30 a.m. | 5th Sept. | 11,0 a.m. | 7th Sept. | 1,30 p.m. |
| 10th " | 3,30 p.m. | 12th " | 4,45 p.m. | 14th " | 5,45 p.m. |
| 17th " | 7,30 p.m. | 19th " | 9,45 a.m. | 21st " | 12,15 p.m. |
| 24th " | 2,30 p.m. | 26th " | 4,0 p.m. | 28th " | 5,30 p.m. |

SWANSEA TO BURNHAM.

| TUESDAYS. | | THURSDAYS. | | SATURDAYS. | |
|-----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|
| 4th Sept. | 10,15 a.m. | 6th Sept. | 1,0 p.m. | 1st Sept. | 7,0 a.m. |
| 11th " | 4,30 p.m. | 13th " | 5,30 p.m. | 8th " | 2,30 p.m. |
| 18th " | 8,30 a.m. | 20th " | 11,15 a.m. | 15th " | 6,30 a.m. |
| 25th " | 3,15 p.m. | 27th " | 4,30 p.m. | 22nd " | 1,0 p.m. |
| | | | | 29th " | 6,30 a.m. |

| Fares | SINGLE | RETURN { Available for } { One Week. } | SALOON. | FORE CABIN. |
|-------|--------|---|---------|-------------|
| | | | 5s. 0d. | 3s. 0d. |
| | | | 7s. 6d. | 5s. 0d. |

Third Class Fares to and from Swansea.

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|----------|-------------------|-----------|
| London (Waterloo Station) | 14s. 0d. | Portsmouth | 11s. 4½d. |
| Bristol | 5s. 0d. | Southampton | 9s. 10½d. |
| Exeter | 8s. 2d. | Weymouth | 10s. 9d. |
| Plymouth | 12s. 6d. | Poole | 9s. 9d. |
| Falmouth | 18s. 4d. | Gosport | 12s. 4½d. |
| Penzance | 19s. 2d. | Jersey | 22s. 6d. |
| Salisbury | 7s. 3d. | Cherbourg | 25s. 6d. |

All information as to Rates for Goods, &c, can be obtained on appl ication to the
Stations on the Somerset and Dorset, and London and South Western Railways;
to Mr. Briscoe, Goods Manager, Glastonbury; of Mr. Pockett, South Dock,
Swansea; or Messrs. Jenkins and Lovelock, Port Talbot.

ROBERT A. READ.

Glastonbury, August 1866.

Secretary and General Manager.

The 'George Reed' Steamer.

George Reed also launched his own screw driven steamer "The George Reed" into service in 1866. His ferry service from South Wales connected direct with the branch of the Central Somerset line with the railway platform adjoining the jetty in Burnham.

In October 1869 soon after George died the steamer 'George Reed' was advertised for sale in the 'Ship and Mercantile Gazette on 20th October 1869. (A.W.).

She was bought by a Mr Pitman of Bridgwater.



FOR SALE or CHARTER, the fast-sailing
 and well-built iron Screw Steamer **GEORGE REED**, 169
 tons gross, and 115 tons nett register:—Length, 169.3
 feet; breadth, 13 feet; depth, 7.7 feet; built at Poplar, by Messrs.
J. and W. Dudgeon, in August, 1866, specially to order, for conveyance
 of passengers and cargo; she has a comfortable saloon and ladies'
 cabin, and will carry about 150 tons of cargo; is a good seaboat and
 fast; her engines are of 60-horse power nominal, and are with the
 boiler in good condition, and ready for immediate employment. Now
 lying at Bristol. For further particulars apply to
R. W. MORRIS, 105, Leadenhall-street, London, E.C.; or
 5, Clare-street, Bristol.

britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk

The 'George Reed' shipwrecked.

The 'George Reed' finally ended her days on 30th October 1872 while on a voyage from London to Saigon, when she ran aground on the Maldiv Islands and was totally wrecked. Luckily all of the crew were saved.

The Jetty

To accommodate the ferry steamers a 900ft jetty was built out into the estuary and the rail lines extended from the station out onto the jetty itself, so that goods carriages could reach sea going vessels far into the estuary for loading and unloading. George REED laid the foundation stone for the jetty in 1858

Due to the steep incline the rolling stock was winched up and down the rails. The railway ceased using the jetty in 1888 when it was felt that it might not withstand the increasing use of heavy freight.

A ferry crossing of the Bristol Channel from South Wales not only offered a railway link to Poole where travellers and freight could join a cross channel steamer to Cherbourg, but also the prospect of a day trip to Burnham.



The jetty still exists and is still used to launch the Burnham on Sea Lifeboat.

WESTON-SUPER-MARE. — COUNTY COURT, THURSDAY. —
Gladstone v. the Burnham Tidal Harbour Company. —
 This was an action brought by the plaintiff, who is
 the organist and choirmaster of Llandaff Cathedral, to
 recover £2 10s., for loss of time and inconvenience
 occasioned by the defendants' steamer George Reed not
 calling at the Weston pier, on June 15th, as advertised,
en route for Cardiff. Mr. Phillott appeared for the

In 1869 a passenger with a return ticket to Cardiff tried to sue the captain to claim £2-10s compensation for time and inconvenience when the 'George Reed' failed to call at Weston super mare due to rough weather. The judge ordered that because sea conditions could not be guaranteed only his 5/- fare be refunded!

In the 1870's a railway bridge was built across the Severn between Sharpness and Lydney and used for freight and passenger services until 1960. The railway bridge offered a route to S. Wales which was more reliable and not dependant on weather and tides. This would eventually cause the Burnham to S. Wales ferry service to close.

The last regular steamer to dock at Burnham was in 1909. This was the 'Gwalia' owned by the Barry Railway Company. (*The Book of Burnham on Sea by Bob Thomas*).

George REED died on 22nd June 1869

BURNHAM.

DEATH OF GEORGE REED, Esq.—Much consternation was occasioned in Burnham, this week, it being announced that the above-named gentleman had been found dead in his bed. The report proved too true. No reply being heard from him at the usual hour in the morning, Captain Friar, son-in-law to Mr. Reed was called, who found him quite dead. Dr. Phelps was sent for. We believe that the greater portion of Mr. Reed's property was entailed, and will go to his grand-daughter. The deceased gentleman inherited from his mother nearly £160,000, but of this he lost a considerable amount in promoting and supporting the Somerset and Dorset Railway, of which he was a director. Last week a trial resulted in a decision by which Mr. Reed would have had to pay upwards of £80,000 towards the undertaking. The anxiety attendant upon these matters had lately affected his health a good deal.

On Monday night last the deceased complained of illness, and sent to a chemist in the town to have some medicine made up to relieve his ailment. He is supposed to have died of heart disease. His son, Major Reed, the member of Abingdon, died, it will be remembered, under very painful circumstances. Mr. George Reed was Lord of the manor of East Brent. On Thursday Dr. Craddock, coroner, held an inquest on the body of the deceased gentleman. Caroline Smith, a servant, stated that at ten minutes past seven on the morning of Tuesday on passing her master's door she heard him breathing heavily, but her opinion was that he was in a sound sleep. Going to the room with a cup of tea at twenty minutes past eight, on opening the door she observed something peculiar in the appearance of her master. Captain Friar was called from the adjoining room, when they discovered the deceased quite dead. Dr. Phelps gave evidence to the effect that the deceased gentleman had died from natural causes. The day previous he attended him professionally for a cough. Deceased was subject to giddiness, almost approaching to faintness. He had also disease of the heart. The coroner made reference to a report which has been circulated inferring that the deceased had committed suicide. This had originated, he presumed, because he had been called upon during the last week or two to pay a heavy sum of money. Uncharitable people were always ready to put all sorts of constructions on these things, but in the present instance there was no reason to suppose the deceased had taken anything to do away with himself. The doctor had told them he had heart disease, and his impression always had been that he (the deceased) would die suddenly. Dr. Phelps fully endorsed the remarks of the coroner. A verdict of "Died from natural causes" was returned. His age was stated at 68. Mr. Reed held an important position in the town and neighbourhood. Report states that his life is insured to the sum of £12,000.

Beside his investments in improving the facilities and lives of the people of Burnham, George had invested large amounts in the setting up of the Burnham Tidal Harbour Company. He had also become a director and shareholder in the Somerset and Dorset Railway and along with others had invested heavily in promoting and supporting the Company. Sadly his finances and health were deteriorating and on 20th June 1869 George was summoned in court by investors in the S&D Company to pay £80,000 owed towards the Company. Almost £7,250,000 at today's rates!

Just two days later on 22nd June 1869 he was found dead in his bed at the Manor House.

There were rumours that he had committed suicide because of his financial situation. However his doctor Dr Phelps said that he knew George had a heart condition that could strike at any time and George had died of heart failure. The coroner returned a verdict of death by natural causes.

On probate of his will, George's assets after debts were assessed at under £18,000, a little over

£1.6 million today. So he was hardly destitute. It is believed that his granddaughter Juliana inherited the bulk of what was left of his estate. along with the title 'Lord of the Manor' of East Brent.

REED George Esq.

Effects under £18,000.

23 December.

The Will

of George Reed late of Burnham in the County of **Somerset** Esquire deceased who died 22 June 1869 at Burnham aforesaid was proved at the **Principal Registry** by the oath of John Fryer of Burnham aforesaid a Major in Her Majesty's 6th Regiment of Carbineers one of the Executors.

His funeral took place at St Mary's church East Brent where on the 28th June 1869 he was buried in the family grave.

George REED is buried in St Marys Churchyard in East Brent

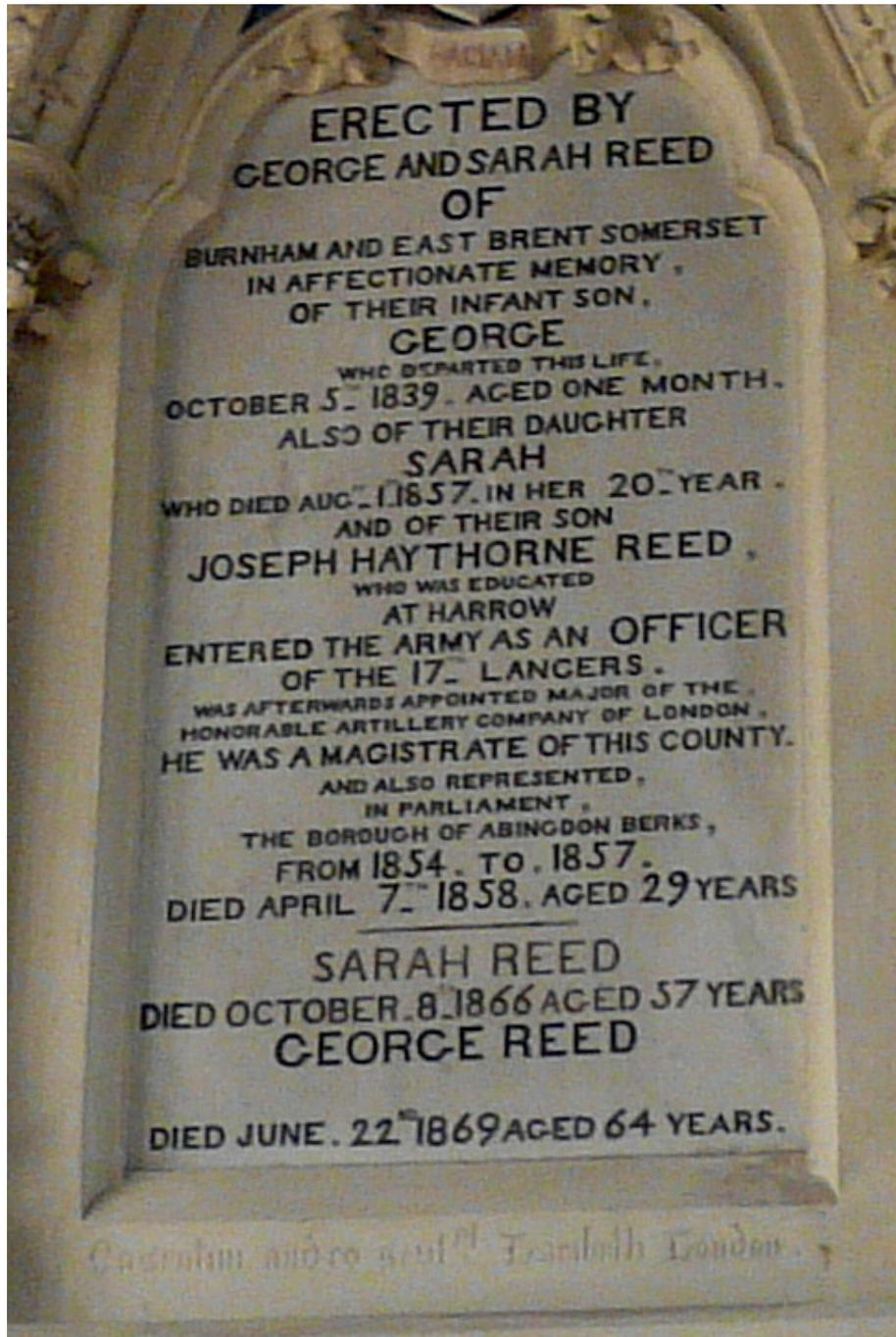


The grave of George Reed and his family at St Marys Church East Brent

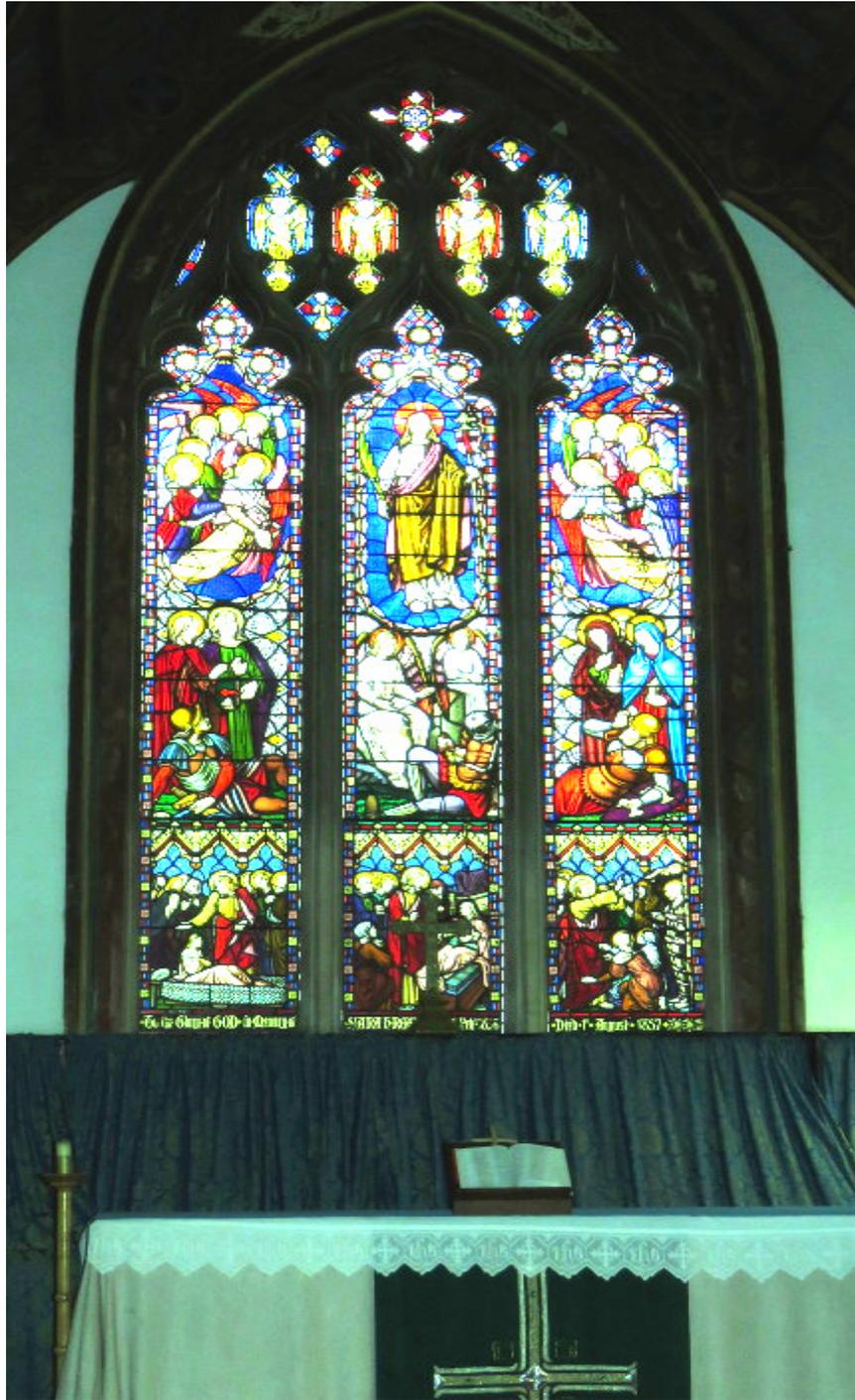
Also buried here are George Reed's wife Sarah his two sons George and Joseph Haythorne Reed and his daughter Sarah. Also his grand daughter Juliana Gaskell.



The memorial to the George Reed family in St Marys church East Brent.



An identical memorial was also installed in St Andrews Church Burnham on Sea.
 The memorial plaques used a novel formulation of plaster developed by Italian sculptor Cassini.



In addition to the family memorial plaques, George Reed replaced the East window behind the altar at St Marys of East Brent.

He dedicated this magnificent window to his 19 year old daughter Sarah who died at Burnham in 1857 and is buried in family grave at East Brent.

2019 Blue plaques.

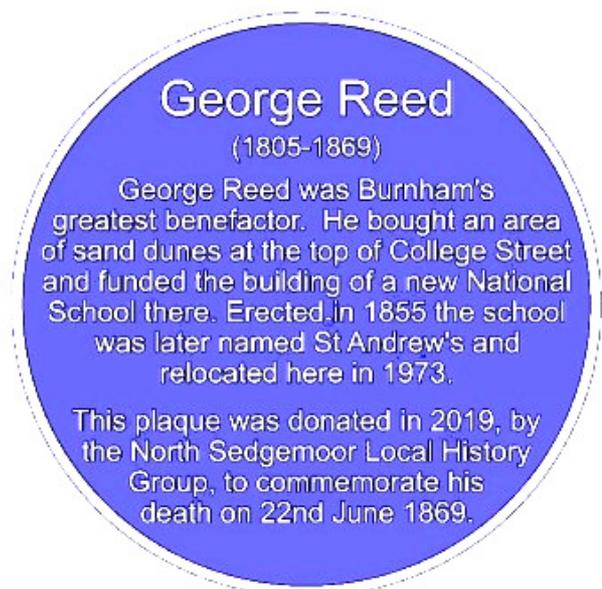
Two blue plaques commemorating the death of George Reed in 1869 were unveiled in July 2019.

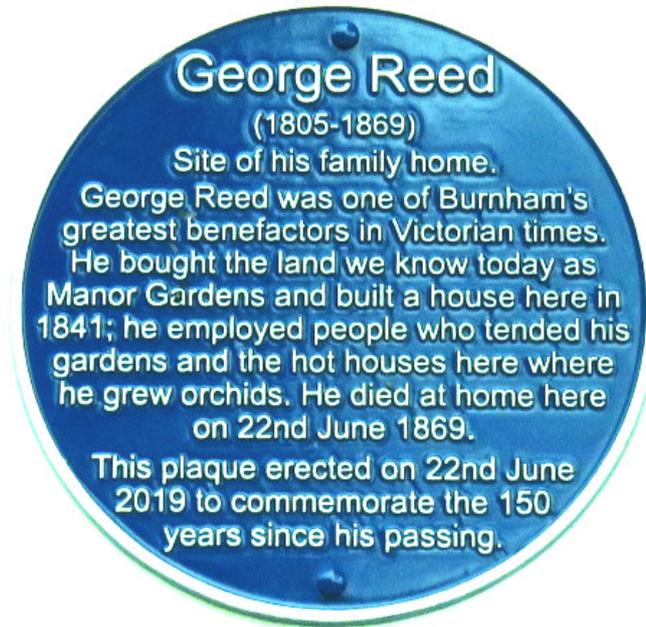
One installed at the new St Andrew's school in Dunstan Road donated by the North Sedgemoor Local History Group and local historians. The other at George Reed's home, the 'Manor House' Burnham donated by the present owners Watermark Wealth Management.



July 22nd 2019

Ex Pupil of the old St Andrews school George Brown MBE and pupils of the new St Andrews school unveil the Blue plaque to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the death of George Reed.





Burnham's mayor Cllr Andy Brewer with mayoress Lorna Brewer and a representative from Watermark Wealth Management on Saturday (June 22 2019) as they revealed the blue plaque in memory of George Reed in Manor Gardens.



Burnham and Highbridge weekly News.

GEORGE REED

Lord of the Manor of East Brent

In 1836 several hundred acres of land in East Brent and South Brent, part of the estate of the late George Symons of Axbridge, which included the lordship of the Manor of East Brent and South Brent came up for sale in one lot.

The whole of the land and the manorship is believed to have been bought by George Reed's mother Susannah Coulson using money from the trust in her name from her inheritance from her late husband Joseph Haythorne. On its purchase Susanna handed the the title of Lord of the Manor of East Brent to her son George. He would later inherit the rest of his mother's estate including the several hundred acres of land in East Brent and Brent Knoll which was rented out to local farmers.

The manor or reputed manor, or lordship of Brent Knoll, otherwise East Brent, and other freehold estates, situate in the parishes of East Brent and South Brent, in the county of Somerset, comprising several hundred acres of rich and highly cultivated meadow, pasture, orchard, and arable land, forming part of the estates of the late George Symons, Esq. in one lot.

The time of sale will shortly be published, when printed particulars may be had (gratis) at the said Master's Chambers, in Southampton-buildings; of Mr. P. W. Fry, Solicitor, 80, Cheapside; Messrs. Willett and Campbell, Solicitors, 18, Essex-street, Strand; Messrs. Druce and Sons, Solicitors, 10, Billiter-square, London; of Mr. Parker, Solicitor, Axbridge, near Cross; Mr. Josiah Easton, Pawlett, near Bridgewater; and of Mr. Body, Land Surveyor, South Brent, Somerset.

The seat of the Manorship appears to have been Manor Farm in East Brent. As Lord of the Manor of East Brent, neither George Reed, nor indeed any of his descendants who inherited or held the title, ever lived in East Brent. George based himself in Burnham on sea.

However he was well respected in the parish and treated his tenants and the people of East Brent fairly.

According to a press-cutting from the Poole and South West Herald dated 1858, George at a supper hosted for his tenants, states that he took over the Manorship of East Brent in 1836.

However most of Manorship land in East Brent was still held within the trust of Susannah Coulston at the time of the 1840's Tithe Apportionments.

In the 1840's Susannah's second husband Thomas Lane Coulson was also renting out farmland and property in East Brent.

George regularly hosted a Christmas Supper for his friends, tenants and the poor at the Clarence Hotel in Burnham and later at his own Reed Arms Hotel after it was completed in 1860

Royal Christmas Supper

....In 1858, Mr George Reed having purchased a Hereford ox which had been exhibited by the HRH The Prince Consort at a London show, invited all his personal friends, tenants and the poor of Burnham and Highbridge to his usual Christmas supper at The Clarence Hotel, Burnham. A taste of the Royal-fed beef was a popular feature. A joint of 66lbs from the ox was sent to HRH at Windsor Castle....

The above 1858 news report of when George bought the bullock that had been shown by Prince Albert states that he sent his Highness a large joint from the animal.

East Brent Harvest Home

From the first Harvest Home in 1857 until his death in 1869 George was an enthusiastic supporter and honoured guest of the East Brent 'Harvest Home' celebrations.

THE EAST BRENT HARVEST HOME.—The lord of the manor of East Brent, George Reed, Esq., was received in a very gratifying manner on the occasion of his visit to the East Brent Harvest Home on Thursday last. He proceeded from his residence to the place of festivity, accompanied by a number of friends in a carriage and four, and was met about half-a-mile from the village by a large party of his tenantry, carrying flags and banners, preceded by the brass band drawn in a tastefully decorated carriage, to which was harnessed four grey horses. In this gay manner he entered the village heartily cheered. On his departure in the evening he respect of his tenantry was again testified, a still larger company mustering around him to accompany him part of the distance home, the band again taking share in the ceremony by playing "The fine old English gentleman." Three deafening cheers for the Squire were the signal for "Farewell;" and at parting sincere were the wishes that he might live to see them again on many similar happy occasions.

Harvest Home Press report circa. 1857

The Lordship of the manor of East Brent passes down.

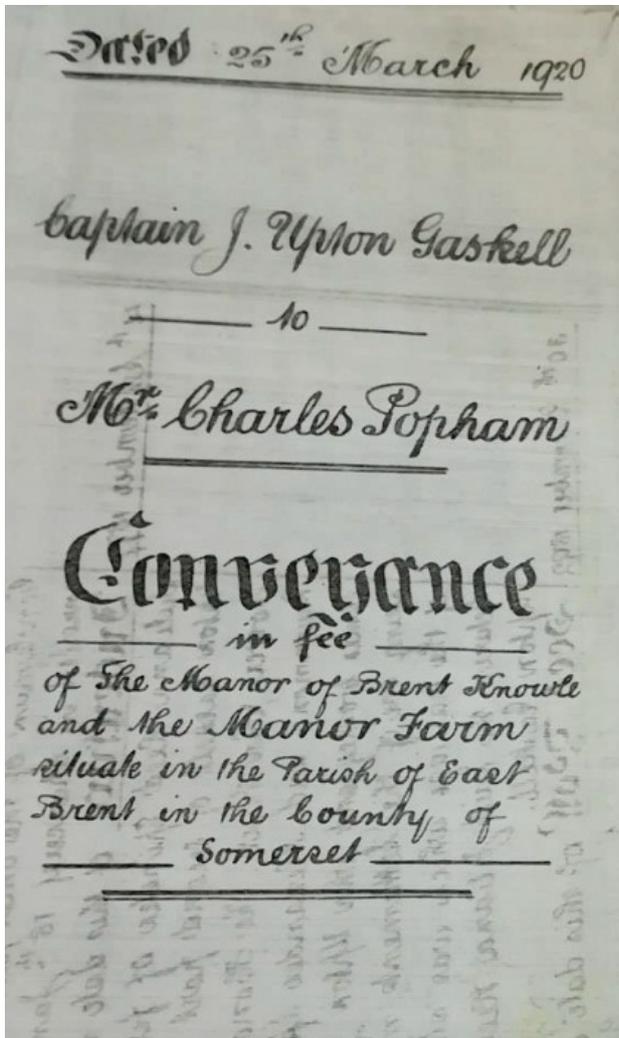
George Reed outlived his all of his children except his youngest daughter Catherine. When George died Catherine was married to a Captain John Fryer a career military man, who later became a Lieutenant Colonel. Catherine and John Fryer occasionally visited George Reed's Burnham home (They happened to be there when George died) At that time in his career Capt. Fryer was based in Ireland.

When George died the title of Lord of the Manor was passed down to George's granddaughter Juliana. 1852-1915, not to his daughter Catherine? Juliana was the daughter of George's eldest son Joseph Haythorne Reed and she was orphaned at 6 years old. Juliana was raised in Burnham by her grandparents George and Sarah Reed. Juliana did not hold the title for long. After her marriage the lordship appears to have been taken from Juliana and held by her husbands father John Upton Gaskell Sen. 1805-83.

Juliana Reed married in 1877 to a John Francis Upton Gaskell son of John Upton Gaskell Sen. of Ingersley Hall, Macclesfield in Cheshire. John Francis served in the Dragoon Guards from 1871-1881.

When John Gaskell Sen. died, the title was handed to his eldest child Anne Theodora Gaskell 1844-1923 older sister of Juliana's husband, Capt. John Francis Upton Gaskell.

The title appears to have passed from Anne Theodora to Juliana's husband Captain John Francis Upton Gaskell when he ended his military service. It was he who in 1919 owned and donated the piece of land where the East Brent War Memorial now stands. He appears to have held the title 'Lord of the Manor' until 1920 when it was passed to tenant Charles Metford Popham who purchased Manor Farm in East Brent.



On March 25th 'Lady Day' 1920 Capt. John Francis Upton Gaskell sold Manor Farm to Charles Metford Popham along with the title of Lord of the Manor of East Brent.

When Metford died the title was handed down to his son Kenneth Popham and at present is held by Metford Popham's granddaughter Ann.

The Popham family rented and farmed Manor Farm for a number of years before it was sold to Metford Charles Popham.

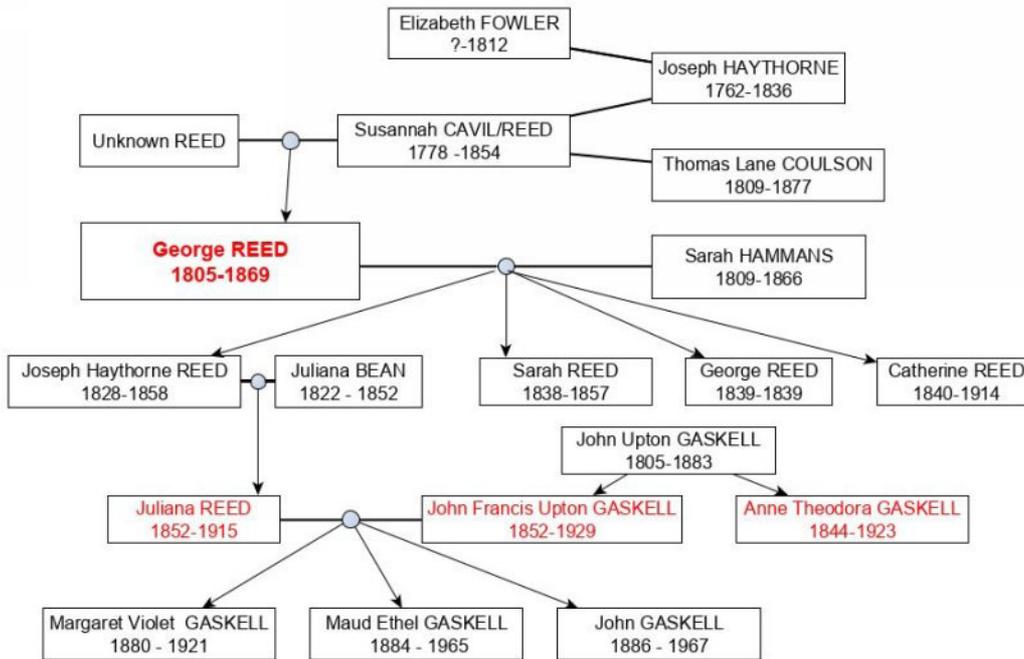
Metford's father Charles was farming there in the late 1800's.

In the 1840 tithe apportionments the owner was listed as Susan Colston (sic), the farm was rented to a Joseph Hudson.

Family Matters!

The Family of George Reed

As noted earlier, George Reed was declared bankrupt in 1834. Perhaps this might be a good place to start looking at the family connections and the events which may have made it financially possible for George Reed to rise from bankruptcy to become 'Lord of the Manor' of East Brent and to be such a great benefactor of Burnham on sea?



Names in red held the title 'Lord of the Manor' of East Brent.

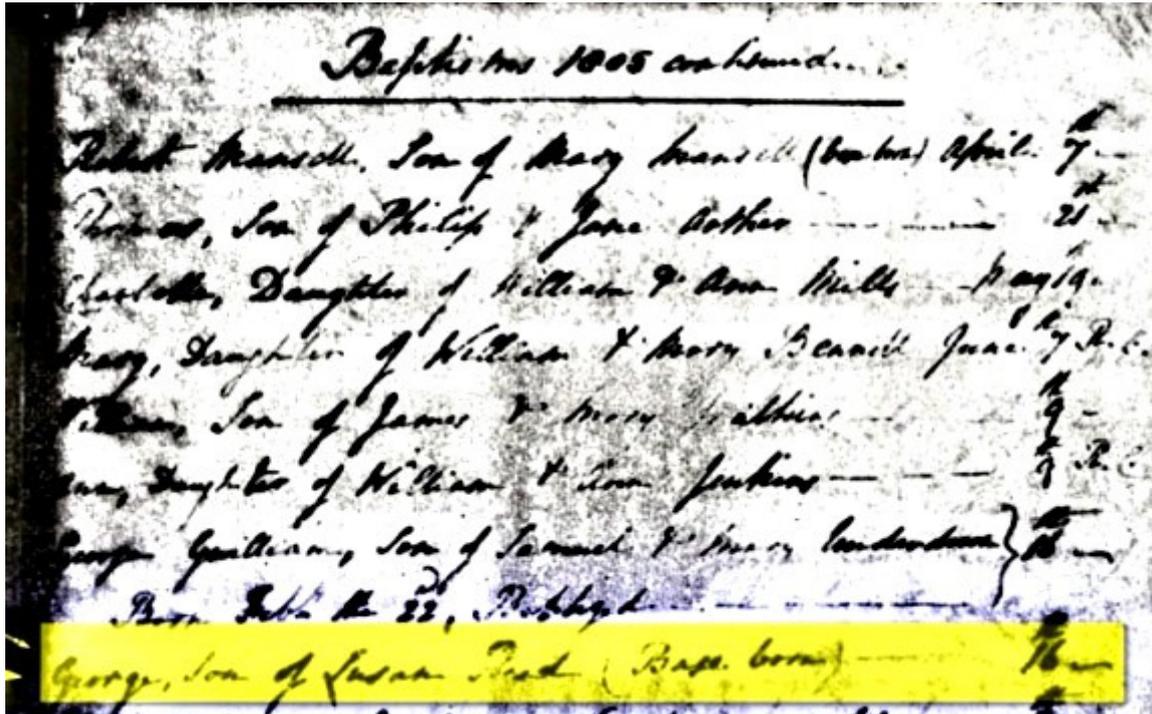
Connections to the Bristol slave trade?

It is doubtful that George Reed was directly involved in the slave trade. However, until its final abolition in 1838 some family members and many from the social circle that George Reed and his mother Susanna had now entered, were involved in the now infamous Bristol slave trade. Perhaps we should bear in mind that during the early part of George's life, trading in goods such as tobacco and sugar etc, produced by the use of slavery was seen as normal practice. Many of the wealthy 'Merchant Venturers' and philanthropists of Bristol owed their fortunes to the slave trade, some directly and others indirectly. George's step father Joseph Haythorne for instance and his brother John for instance were members of the slave trading 'Merchant Venturers'. As banker to some of these rich traders of Bristol Joseph would no doubt have handled some of the accounts of these wealthy merchants. A close associate of the Haythorne family was sugar merchant and plantation owner and Bristol alderman, Thomas Daniel, known as 'King of Bristol' owner of more slaves than any other Bristol merchant. In 1833 at the Abolition of Slavery Act Thomas Daniel was said to have been disappointed at receiving just £117,000 in compensation for having to release nearly 4000 slaves, approx £14,000,000 today! (A.W).

Susannah CAVIL/REED

1778-1854

Susan Cavil/Reed was George's mother. Believed to be the daughter of Joseph and Eliza Cavil, she was baptised in St Marys church Bridgwater on July 22nd 1778. In 1805 27 year old Susan Reed was living in Westbury on Trym when her only child George was baptised at Holy Trinity Church Westbury on Trym in 1805. (He was registered as 'Base Born' and she registered the baptism under the name of Susan Reed). *Although unproved it is believed that George's father may have been a member of the Reed family of solicitors of North Petherton?*



Susan Reed or Cavil was about to join the High Society which virtually ruled over Bristol!

In 1818 40 year old Susan Cavil/Reed married wealthy banker 55 year old widower Joseph Haythorne at Clifton, Bristol. However, when she married Joseph Haythorne, her name was recorded as Susannah Cavil? (Before their marriage Joseph signed a bond that held; If any marriage statement was not true he would forfeit £1,000) which is possibly the reason why Susanna was referred to under her real name as Susanna Cavil and not Reed in this instance.

Joseph Haythorne's first wife Elizabeth Fowler had died in 1812. It is thought possible that Susannah had been working for Joseph and his first wife as a cook/housekeeper/nurse in Gloucester Row, Clifton and had nursed Joseph through a serious illness. Having no children of his own, Joseph probably looked upon Susan's young son George as his own. They appear to have got on well with each other. (*George named his first born son Joseph Haythorne Reed*)

"Joseph Haythorne's first marriage in 1786 is thus described in the "Bristol Journal" of Dec 2nd of that year: "Tuesday, was married at Westbury-on-Trym, Mr Joseph Haythorne of Brunswick Square

to Miss Fowler, daughter of John Fowler, Esq., of Cote, in the Country of Gloucestershire" Joseph Haythorne's second wife Susanna his wife after his death married Thomas Lane Coulson and the following reference is made to this in some notes in my possession:"1854 Feb 14 Obituary. Mrs Thomas Lane Coulson. She was housemaid and cook to Joseph Haythorne, Esq., a banker of this city, and residing at Clifton, and by careful nursing saved his life. On his recovery Mt Haythorne married her, and at his death she was left his whole fortune, except a few trifling legacies: his funded property alone being worth £160,000. Later on she, when 60 years old married Mr Thomas Lane Coulson, a man half her age." (Pat Hase WSMFHS)

Susannah was now living in the High Society of Clifton and mixing in the privileged circles of the 'Landed Gentry' and upper classes of Bristol, which included members of the city council, merchants, bankers and financiers etc. Many of her circle held influential positions in the city. (Joseph's brother John Haythorne Snr. was mayor and an alderman of the city of Bristol for a number of years).

Considering that she was once a servant with an illegitimate son, Susannah Haythorne nee Reed/Cavil would turn out to be a very forceful and astute lady when it came to legally protecting her finances! This was still a time where a wife's money and property became her husbands on marriage to do as he wished with. It was possible by setting up a trust, for a married woman to keep some control of her finances and property. But it was a very expensive legal process and only available to the wealthier classes. It is probable that Susannah may have acquired some legal knowledge or help with this through her association with the Reed family of North Petherton? Much of her assets were held in trusts out of reach of any future spouse! She also ensured that Joseph Haythorne made her sole executrix of his will!

In 1835 over 110 plots totalling over 700 acres of land in East Brent -- part of the estate of the late George Symons of Axbridge -- came up for sale. This included the title of Lord of the Manor of East Brent. It was purchased in it's entirety along with the title of 'Lord of the Manor' by the trustees of Susannah Haythorne.

Joseph Haythorne died in May 1836, and shortly afterwards on 9th August 1837, not long after she had purchased the land and the 'Manorship' in East Brent, Susanna married another wealthy Clifton resident Thomas Lane Coulson, a man half her age. She was 59, he was 28 and four years younger than her only son George Reed.

In 1851 census they were living in the old Haythorne home at 10, Gloucester Row, Clifton with four servants. Both were recorded as 'Landed Proprietors'. Thomas's age was recorded as 42. however Susanna's age was recorded as 65!... born:1786? not 1778?

On the 2nd of March 1854 Susannah took her customary afternoon carriage ride at Clifton and returned home and was seated at the dinner table when she died suddenly of apoplexy (stroke).

In her revised will dated 8th August 1837 – the day before she married Thomas Lane Coulson – beside some smaller amounts to her advisors and acquaintances -- she ensured that the bulk of her estate was in trust and would go to son George. From her trust she bequeathed £15,000 in government and public stocks etc to her son George. She also bequeathed £3,000 to George's son Joseph Haythorne Reed and £2,000 each to

George's other children, with the residue of her estate going to George. Nothing to her new husband!

It is believed that George inherited over £160,000 in total from his mothers estate. At today's purchasing power that would equate to over £14,000,000.!

These bequests did not go down at all well with the relatives of her first husband Joseph Haythorne !

~~~~~

A letter written from 'Hill House' dated Aug 9th 1837 by a Haythorne family friend on the day of her marriage to Thomas Lane Coulson, indicates that Susanna was not popular among the family.

*Extract from a letter written from 'Hill House' dated Aug 9th 1837 (Believed to be from Mrs Milborough Pateshall a friend of the family)*

"This has been a most eventful day at this family. The rich widow of Mr Haythorne's elder brother was married at nine this morning to a gentleman the name of Coulson, younger I believe than her own son. John went to the wedding unknown to his father, who becomes excitable whenever his sister-in-law is mentioned. The children carefully abstain from any allusion to her.

Her late husband left her his three hundred thousand pounds entirely at her disposal! She has purchased an estate in Somersetshire in which she has given £100,000 pounds and another somewhere else for £40,000 pounds. At the mansion in the former she intends to reside. The latter estate she has settled on her son. The Somersetshire estate she says is intended for her grandson. But probably this new young husband may coax the whole from her.

The only agreeable feature of this mornings transaction, the family are indebted to Mr Daniel \*of Clifton, for she asked him as a great favour to give her away and he replied that he would do so on condition of her previously settling a part of her fortune on Mr Haythorne's children. Her answer was that she had made her will and left them what she considered handsome. He objected that a will could be altered at any time and finally succeeded just this morning, before she went to church, in inducing her to settle £3,000 on them. She couldn't be prevailed upon to give the two children more than £1,000 each. Mrs Nicholson who is her favourite is to have £6,000 and the others £5,000. This conduct on the part of Mr. Daniel\* is a mark of true friendship.

Mr. Haythorne who is gone to Bristol, is I conclude by this time aware of it. Large as the sum is, it appears a small one in proportion to so much wealth as she has possessed herself of. She promises that is they are kind and attentive to her she will double it, but declares that neither Mr. D. \* and Haythornes family nor Mrs Partridges and latter can have a shilling from her.

Such are the charms of wealth that I understand that Lord Strangford has said that the Duke of Wellington would give her away if she would become Vicountess Strangford! Yet she is a vulgar, ugly, woman nearly 60 years old, and as the world knows, of a very blemished reputation. Her first husband, I forgot his name has long been discarded, with numerous others.

I hope she intends to make John a handsome present for favouring her with his presence this morning. She has lately given Mrs Nicholson\*\* an expensive satin cloak and gold chain which is conjectured to have cost 30 guineas.

Make no account of having heard anything of this when you come here, which I hope will be soon. And do not name her at all to Mr Haythorne."\*\*\*

\*(Thomas Daniel. alderman and associate of John Haythorne Snr)

\*\*\*(Mrs Nicholson. nee Frances Haythorne. Niece of Joseph. Daughter of John Haythorne Snr)

\*\*\*(Mr. Haythorne. John Haythorne Snr. Brother of Joseph Haythorne)

## Joseph HAYTHORNE

1762-1836



Joseph Haythorne was born at All Saints Bristol on 3rd Aug 1762 eldest son of Joseph Haythorne Sen. a Bristol banker and Glass manufacturer.

On 28th November 1786 he married Elizabeth Fowler who died in 1812.

Joseph Haythorne became Director of Bristol City Bank with a George Wright in All Saints Lane, Bristol (1826 Pigots directory)

**BRISTOL FIRE OFFICE,**  
**NEW BUILDINGS, SMALL-STREET,**  
 NEAR THE EXCHANGE,  
 Established in the Year 1759.  
*For Insuring Houses and other Buildings, Goods, Wares, and Merchandize, and Ships in Harbour, in Dock, or Building, from Loss or Damage by Fire.*

DIRECTORS:  
 THOMAS DANIEL, Esq., and Alderman.  
 GABRIEL GOLDNEY, Esq., and Alderman.  
 JOSEPH REYNOLDS, Esq.  
 CHARLES LUDLOW WALKER, Esq.  
 JOSEPH METFORD, Jun., Esq.  
 JOSEPH HAYTHORNE, Esq.  
 WILLIAM FRIPP, Esq., and Alderman.

**ALL** Persons whose Insurances fall due on the 29th inst., will be pleased to take notice, that the usual allowance of 15 days for the renewal thereof will expire on the 14th day of Oct. next, at Four o'clock in the Afternoon: and that Receipts are ready to be delivered at the Office, and by the Company's Agents as under:—

|                   |                              |
|-------------------|------------------------------|
| Bath .....        | Messrs. Elze and Kemp.       |
| Taunton .....     | Mr. F. M. Slescombe.         |
| Shepton-Mallet .. | Samuel Craddock, Esq.        |
| Chepstow .....    | Mr. Anthony Gardiner.        |
| Swansea .....     | Mr. Samuel Jenkins.          |
| Devizes .....     | Messrs. Peter Gundry & Sons. |
| Dursley .....     | Mr. Thomas Mear.             |
| Gloucester .....  | Mr. Joseph Lewis.            |

And the Public are respectfully informed, that the Directors of this Office continue to effect Policies at the undermentioned **REDUCED RATE OF PREMIUMS:** they therefore hope, from the promptitude and liberality which have always been observed by them in the adjustment of Losses, that they will continue to experience that support, of which, for a period of 60 years, they have so largely partaken.

First Class, reduced from 2s. to 1s.6d. per Cent. per Ann.  
 Second Class, reduced from 3s. to 2s.6d. per Cent. per Ann.  
 Third Class, reduced from 5s. to 4s.6d. per Cent. per Ann.  
 And on all other Classes exceeding the above a Reduction is made on the several Premiums, equal to the Discount of 12½ per Cent. hitherto allowed.

*Policies gratis on £300 and upwards.*  
 Proposals and Terms of Insurance may be had at the Office, and of the Agents. By Order of the Directors,  
**JAMES POWELL,** Secretary.  
 Engine-House, Nelson-Street, where the Engineer resides.  
 Bristol, 27th September, 1831.

Both Joseph and his brother John Haythorne belonged to the Society of Merchant Venturers of Bristol, a group of wealthy philanthropists, many of which had made their fortunes via the slave trade. In 1830's they were among the investors and trustees for the construction of Brunel's Bristol Suspension Bridge which commenced in 1831 and also the Great Western railway and other civic amenities for the people of Bristol.

Joseph was also Chairman/Director of Crown Fire Office Insurance Co. in Bristol.

On 8th August 1818 aged 55 he married his housekeeper 40 year old Susannah Reed/Cavil at St Andrews, Clifton, Bristol. Having no children of his own Joseph and his stepson George appear to have got on well and Joseph probably looked upon George as his own son. George Reed named his first born son Joseph Haythorne Reed.

It seems Joseph Haythorne was also held in great respect by the Reed family of North Petherton. Solicitor Henry Reed named his four youngest sons Paul Olinthus Haythorne

Reed 1826, Ernest Haythorne Reed 1828, Launcelot Haythorne Reed 1830 and Theophilus Haythorne Reed 1833.

The Reeds were solicitors and attorneys in Bridgwater and it seems took on some of the legal work on some of cousin George Reeds Burnham projects.

**COMMITTED TO GLOUCESTER COUNTY GAOL.—Thomas Griffiths and Henry Edwards, for entering the dwelling-house of Joseph Haythorne, Esq., of Clifton, and assaulting and beating the said Joseph Haythorne, and Susan, his wife, and putting them in bodily fear, with intent to commit a felony.**

*Leading up to the Bristol Riots burglaries of the homes of the wealthy including Queens Square and the Clifton area increased. Among them In December 1828 the Clifton home of Joseph and Susanna Haythorne was broken into and both were assaulted.*

Shortly before Joseph Haythorne died on 17<sup>th</sup> May 1836 he had changed his will, leaving a legacy of £2.000 to his stepson George plus some other small bequests to his advisors and business partners etc. The residue of his estate he left in trust to his widow Susanna Haythorne who was his sole Executrix. His will was proved and probated on June 6<sup>th</sup> 1836 in favour of Susanna Haythorne.

When the will was probated it did not please some members of the Haythorne family

### **A letter from nephew John Haythorne, Jun. to Edmund Patteshall.**

*Hill House,*

*Sunday, 1836 (rest of date not shown)*

*"My Dear Patteshall*

*Before I had been ten minutes in Bristol this morning I found how matters were, in fact, it is the talk of the whole city. Mr Haythorne has left every shilling to his wife for her life \*afterwards to go to her son's child now about 10 years old.*

*He has taken every precaution to prevent any of us benefiting one farthing. I am not the least disappointed as I expected nothing else.*

*I am told all of Bristol is indignant, but what's the use?*

*I fear much however what effect the intelligence will produce in the Governor who was very anxious his family should come in for their piece.*

*Believe me ever,*

*Yours very sincerely*

*John Haythorne. Jun*

\*Note: The actual will did not mention a bequest to Georges son.!

" (Ref: Pat Hase WSMFHS)

Joseph's brother John Haythorne Sen. was a prosperous wool merchant and married Mary Margaret Curtis in 1809 the daughter of another prominent Bristol merchant.

From 1809 until 1839, John Haythorne lived in 'Hill House'. Hill House was one of the most prestigious houses ever built in Staple Hill, at one time standing in over two hundred acres of its own grounds. It is said that King George III had visited Hill House when John Haythorne lived there.

John (Sen). was elected Mayor of Bristol four times between 1808 and 1825. He was an Alderman during the 1831 Bristol riots and was summoned with others for not quelling the riots effectively resulting in many deaths. He died in 1845.

Some of John Haythorne's children interestingly grew up to hold some very high places in society. For instance:...

John's son Robert Poore joined his brother in Canada and later became elected Premier of Prince Edward Island 1869-73. (Wikipedia).

John's youngest son Edmund K.C.B. 1818 – 88) was knighted when he became General Sir Edmund Haythorne KCB. He was a British Army officer trained at Sandhurst who served as Adjutant-General in India. He also served in Afghanistan and Crimea. He was Captain Superintendent of Police in Hong Kong, 1860. (Wikipedia)

## Thomas Lane COULSON

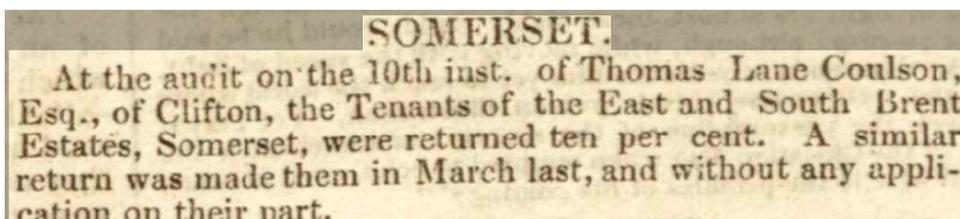
1809-1877

28 year old Thomas Lane Coulson married Susannah Haythorne widow of Joseph Haythorne on 9<sup>th</sup> August 1837. Susannah was 31 years older than Thomas. In fact Thomas was at least four years younger than Susannah's son George Reed!

Thomas Lane Coulson born 1809 was the son of Solicitor John Colston Coulson of Clifton Wood (1776-1826) and his second wife Susannah Lane (1782 - 1862). Thomas's father moved in the same influential circles as Joseph Haythorne, and Susannah would have been aware of the Coulson family and their position. *There are unsubstantiated claims that the Colston/Coulson family wealth may have been connected with the earlier Bristol slave trade via a Colston connection.*

The Coulsons were involved with Isambard Brunel in the financing and building of the Great Western Railway and the Clifton Suspension Bridge. Work on the bridge started in 1831 but soon stopped because of the Bristol riots, which drove away investors. In fact Brunel was made a special constable during the riots! The Bridge finally opened in 1864. Brunel had died in 1859 and did not see the completed bridge.

*There are stories that Thomas Lane Coulson was only the third person to cross the gorge, accompanied by Isambard Brunel in a small cradle attached to a 800ft cable suspended across the gorge to move men and materials etc.*



On his marriage to George's mother Susannah Haythorne, Thomas Coulson also acquired land in East Brent and Brent Knoll. In the press cutting above he is shown to be reducing the rents of his tenants in 1843.

Thomas was described as a 'Landed Proprietor' in 1851 and 1861 census and was known to have also held property in Bath which he rented out.

He also donated/invested money to the Bristol Infirmary, and the Bristol Waterworks and was also elected as a guardian of the Clifton Workhouse..

In his later years he was superintendent/manager of the Bristol Zoo of which Brunel was a founding shareholder.

He was also a sporting man and skilful archer winning many national contests.

After Susannah died suddenly in 1854 Thomas Lane Coulson married twice more. His second marriage in 1855 was to widow Elizabeth Bergner.

In December 1877 he married his third wife 60 year old spinster Anna Maria Houghton at Barton Regis, Glos shortly before he died on 31st December 1877.

With the close of the year there passed away a gentleman who was once a central figure in a part of Clifton society—Mr. Thomas Lane Coulson. On the 11th ult. he was married (for the third time) to Miss Anna Maria Houghton, of County Wexford, whom he thus leaves a bride and a widow within twenty days. Mr. Coulson was about seventy years of age, but looked a vigorous man for his years, and his sufferings, though at the end severe, had not been prolonged.

Anna was also living in Clifton at the time and was listed as 'Landed Gentry' She inherited his estate which would be Approx £2,000,000 today.

**COULSON Thomas Lane Esq.**

Personal Estate under £20,000.

21 February. The Will of Thomas Lane Coulson late of 10 Gloucester-row Clifton in the City of Bristol Esquire who died 31 December 1877 at 10 Gloucester-row was proved at Bristol by the Reverend John Tournay Parsons of Much Dewchurch in the County of Hereford Clerk and George Henry Bridges of the Cottage Clifton Esquire and Herbert Messiter of Wincanton in the County of Somerset Gentleman the Nephews the Executors.

The 1840's saw rapid expansion of the railway system and Thomas was heavily involved in investments with the various Railway Companies. When he died in 1878 he was an executive and shareholder in the Great Western Railway.

Thomas was also involved with the setting up of the London, Devizes and Bridgwater Direct Western Railway

By 1845 as well as the Great Western Railway Thomas was a Director and investor in a number of start up companies. Including the construction of the then Bridgwater, Frome and Central Somerset Railway, a branch of which would eventually add the line into Burnham introduced by George Reed.

Thomas's railway investment activity may have influenced George Reed's interest and knowledge in the new railways, and his thoughts on how it could benefit trade and tourism for Burnham.

**Bridgwater, Frome, and Central Somerset Railway.**  
 Provisionally Registered pursuant to the 7 and 8 Vict., cap. 110  
*Capital, £350,000, in 14,000 Shares of £25 each.*  
 Deposit, £2 per Share.

**PROVISIONAL DIRECTORS.**  
 Henry Broadwood, Esq., M.P. for Bridgwater.  
 Thomas S. Forman, Esq. M.P. for Bridgwater.  
 John Harding, Esq., High Sheriff of Bristol.  
 John Kerle Habershield, Esq., Bristol.  
 Jacob Ricketts, Esq., Brislington Hall, Somerset.  
 John Ruddock, Esq., Mayor of Bridgwater.  
 John Sealy, Esq., Bridgwater.  
 Frederick Axford, Esq., Bridgwater.  
 Thomas Lane Coulson, Esq., Clifton, and Brent, Somerset.  
 William P. Jillard, Esq., Oakhill Cottage, Somerset.  
 William Danger, Esq., Congersbury, Somerset.  
 Arthur Clothier, Esq., Street, near Glastonbury.  
 (With power to add to their number).

**BANKERS.**  
 Messrs. Robarts, Curtis, and Co., London; Stuckey's Banking Company, at Bristol, Bath, Bridgwater, Wells, Frome, Glastonbury, Shepton Mallett, and at their other Branches; and Messrs. Sealy and Co., Bridgwater.

**ENGINEER.**  
 William Gravatt, Esq., F.R.S.

## Sarah REED nee HAMMANS

1809-1866

Sarah Hammans who became the wife of George Reed was born in 1809. She was one of eleven children born to John and Temperance Hammans nee Keen, a farming family from Yatton.

In 1841 census her widowed mother Temperance was living in Love Lane Burnham with oldest daughter Henrietta.

*There are two recorded marriages for George Reed and Sarah Hammans. One is when 17 year old Sarah married George Reed at Clifton on 6th August 1826 by Licence (possibly because of her age). Another marriage is recorded at Bedminster, Bristol. two years later on 12th July 1828 by Banns. (Sarah would have been heavily pregnant with her first son Joseph Haythorne at the time)*

George and Sarah would eventually have four children. Joseph Haythorne 1828, Sarah 1838, George 1839, and Catherine 1840.

George's wife Sarah died 8th October 1866 and was buried at St Marys Churchyard, East Brent.

Both George and Sarah Reed outlived their first three children. Catherine survived until 1914 where she died in Ramsgate. Kent.

## Joseph Haythorne REED

### Major - 17th Lancers - and M.P. for Abingdon

1828-1858

Joseph Haythorne Reed, eldest son of George Reed, was born and baptised in Clifton in 1828. No doubt named after George's stepfather Joseph Haythorne.

He was educated at Harrow.

He married a Juliana Bean at Marylebone, London in 1850. In 1851 they were living in Goldhawk Road, Hammersmith, with four Irish servants including a Groom. They had a daughter Juliana Reed born 1852. His wife Juliana died in 1852 aged just 24, probably due to complications at their daughter's birth.

Major Joseph Haythorne Reed accompanied his father on many of his official duties around Burnham. For instance it was Joseph who in 1855 actually formally laid the foundation stone for the new National School that was financed by George.

1849 He purchased a commission of Lieutenant in 17<sup>th</sup> Light Dragoons. The light Dragoons were involved with the Crimean war. In 1854 he was promoted to Major in the Artillery Co. of London. He resigned his commission in 1858.

*Whitehall, July 31, 1854.*

The Queen has been pleased to constitute and appoint Joseph Haythorne Reed, Esq., to be Major in the Artillery Company of London.

Joseph was elected Whig MP for Abingdon at a by-election in 1854 and held the seat until 1857. He then sought re-election unsuccessfully at Finsbury. He was also a magistrate in Abingdon. He bankrupted himself with his unsuccessful 1857 election campaign for the Finsbury seat. He spent a short while in a debtors prison, being released on bail for health reasons shortly before he died in 1858.

He was forced to resign from the army and sell his Officer commission in an effort to raise funds to pay his creditors.

At the great exhibition of 1851 he had exhibited a re-designed ships propeller.

*"1851 Great Exhibition: Official Catalogue: Class V.: Joseph Haythorne Reed Exhibitor 91. REED, JOSEPH HAYTHORNE, Westbourne Lodge, Harrow Road — Inventor. Model of a new patent propeller, attached to a boat." (Wikipedia)*

Joseph Haythorne died on 7th April 1858 at Slough and is buried in St Marys Church graveyard in East Brent

## **Juliana BEAN**

**1828-1852**

Wife of George Reeds eldest son Lieut. Joseph Haythorne Reed. They married on the 2nd Jan 1850. Born in Stafford 1822, she was the daughter of William Bean of Marylebone, London.

On the 16th January 1852 their daughter Juliana was born. Sadly baby Juliana's mother died soon after the baby was born. She was buried in All Souls Cemetery at Kensal Green on 10th March 1852. When Joseph Haythorne Reed died in 1858 their 6 year old daughter Juliana came to live with her grandparents George and Sarah Reed in Burnham.

## **Sarah REED**

**1838-1857**

Eldest daughter of George Reed, Sarah was born in Burnham on Sea on 21st February 1838. Sarah was still living with her parents in Burnham when she died aged 19 in August 1857 and is buried in the churchyard at St Marys church East Brent. Her father George Reed donated the magnificent East window in St Marys dedicated to her memory.

This must have been a sad time for George and his family. Just 6 months or so later George's first son Joseph died in infancy in April 1858. It was after this that George placed the memorial plaque to his family in St Marys.

## **George REED Jnr.**

**1839-1839**

2nd son of George Reed died in infancy. Born in Burnham on sea in Sep 1839 he was 'Privately Baptised' at Burnham on October 3rd. Sadly baby George died two days later.

## **Catherine REED**

**1840-1914**

Youngest daughter of George Reed and the only child to outlive him and his wife Sarah.

Catherine was born in Burnham 1840. On 9th September 1862 she married Captain John Fryer (1838 - 1917) at East Brent.

John Fryer was born 24th July 1838 at Wimborne Minster, Dorset, the eldest son of John Fryer and Mary Rogers Fryer nee Harding.

John and Catherine Fryer had three children: Ethel Katherine 1863-1945, Mary Argentine 1867-1950 and John Fuller 1871-1920.

John and Catherine Fryer were frequent visitors to Catherine's fathers home at Burnham and it was John Fryer who found George Reed dead in his bed after a servant girl gave the alarm.

After George's death in 1869 it is believed the Fryers took over the running of the Manor House.

*After studying at Exeter College, Oxford, John Fryer entered the Army in 1860 joining the (6th Dragoon Guards). He was promoted to the rank of lieutenant on 18 February 1862, captain on 5 April 1864, major on 15 December 1869, and lieutenant-colonel on 17 March 1877. As such he commanded the regiment from 1877 to 1882, during which he was promoted to the rank of colonel on 1 July 1881. His period of command included the regiment's operations in Afghanistan during the Second Anglo-Afghan War, for which he was appointed a Companion of the Order of the Bath (CB). After stepping down from his command, he was further promoted to major-general on 23 July 1890, and lieutenant-general on 14 December 1898.*

*He was appointed to the honorary position of Colonel of the 6th Dragoon Guards on 18*

*War Office, Pall Mall,  
17th October, 1902.*

*6th Dragoon Guards, Lieutenant-General John Fryer, C.B. to be Colonel, vice Major-General Sir A. J. H. Elliot, K.C.B. transferred to the 21st Lancers. Dated 18th September, 1902.*

*September 1902, serving as such until his death in 1917.*

*He was advanced to a Knight Commander in the Order of the Bath (KCB) in 1903.*

*(Wikipedia)*

John Fryer became a Knight Commander of the Bath. The order of K.C.B. is a high ranking military order awarded for chivalry. He was promoted to 'Lt Gen. K.C.B. - Col. 6th Dragoon Guards' upon which Catherine became Lady Fryer,

## **Juliana REED**

**1852-1915**

Daughter of Joseph Haythorne Reed and Juliana nee Bean and grand-daughter of George Reed. Her father Joseph Haythorne Reed was a serving Lieutenant in the 17th Light Dragoons.

When Juliana was born in Kensington in 1852, her mother died soon after, probably of complications during childbirth.

When she was just six years old both of her parents had died. So Juliana was looked after by her grandparents George and Sarah Reed in Burnham.

When George Reed died in 1869 Juliana took the title of Lord of the Manor of East Brent. She is believed to have inherited her grandfathers estate.

In 1877 she married a Captain John Francis Upton Gaskell at St George's, Hanover Square London.

On her marriage to John Francis Gaskell the title of Lord of the Manor seems to have gone to the Gaskell family.

*Juliana Gaskell does not appear anywhere in the 1901 or 1911 census? In November 1909 a Mrs J Gaskell sailed from London to Hong Kong? Had Juliana and John Francis Gaskell separated?*

The last record of her was when Juliana died in 1915 at West Kensington, London. She was buried in the Reed grave at East Brent on 25th January 1915.

## **Capt. John Francis Upton GASKELL**

**1852-1929**

John Francis Upton Gaskell husband of Julianna Reed, was born on 26th March 1852 at Ingesley Hall Cheshire.

He was the son of wealthy landowner John Upton Gaskell. and Margaret Elizabeth nee Grimshawe.

John and Margaret's children were Anne Theodora (1844-1923) and John Francis Upton 1852-1929 known as Francis.

John Francis went to Eton and Sandhurst and began his military career in 1871. He eventually became a lieutenant. Then in September 1877 he became Captain in the 6th Dragoon Guards. (Royal Scots Greys). He resigned his commission in June 1881.

In September 1877 he married Juliana Reed (granddaughter of George Reed and thereby acquired the title of 'Lord of the Manor' of East Brent in Somerset. John and Juliana were married in St Georges, Hanover Square London by the Archdeacon George Denison of East Brent. At the time of their marriage he was based in Colchester but they mainly lived in London.

With Juliana he had three children; Margaret Violet (1880-1921) Maud Ethel (1884-1965) John Upton (1886-1967).

In 1891 the family were living in Brighton including a 28 year old governess Louise Sidley

By 1901 Gaskell is living in Cumberland Place Marylebone with grown up daughters Margaret and Maud and their ex-governess Louise. There is no mention of wife Juliana, nor can I find her in the census of 1911. Had they parted?

His wife Juliana nee Reed died in 1915. In mid 1927 Francis Gaskell married Louise Sidley who had been the children's governess,

As governess to his children how close did Francis get to Louise? She seems to have stayed on after the kids grew up!

In November 1909 a Mrs J Gaskell sailed from London to Hong Kong? If this is Juliana then she must have returned before 1915

Had Capt. John Francis and Juliana separated? Is this why we cant find Juliana in the 1901 an 1911 census? Was she in Hong Kong?

1910 On 17th Aug 1910 a Captain J.F.U. Gaskell and "**Mrs Gaskell**" quote, sailed from Southampton to Cartagena, Columbia on the Royal Mail Steam Packet "Clyde"

On 1st Dec. 1910 Captain John Upton Gaskell 57 and "**Mrs Elizabeth GASKELL**" age 34 quote, arrived back in Southampton on the Royal Mail Steam Packet "Oruba" from Columbia via New York! Who is this Elizabeth?

Back in England In the 1911 census Francis Upton Gaskell 59 is living in Grey Coat Gardens. Westminster. Married. (no wife listed) director of a public Company. Other members of the household are an Elizabeth Welch 27 'Housekeeper' and servant Lily Pitt 25. Is this the Elizabeth that accompanied him on the trip to Columbia?

According to the probate record in 1929 (below) 2nd wife Louise did quite well!

**GASKELL** John Francis Upton of 14 Maida Vale **Middlesex** died 10 October 1929 Probate **Manchester** 11 March to Louise Gaskell widow and sir Gordon Campbell K.B.E. Effects £74308 11s. 10d.

The title of Lord of the Manor of East Brent passed out of the hands of the family when widower Capt. John Francis Gaskell sold it along with Manor Farm in East Brent in 1920.



Capt. John Upton Gaskell is seen here third from left during a hunting party at Ingersley Hall. c: 1881.

There appears to have been a strong military connection among the younger generations of George Reed's family. His son Joseph became a Major and a number of the female members married military men.

George's own daughter Catharine married Lt. Gen. Sir John Fryer thereby becoming Lady Fryer.

His granddaughter Juliana married Captain John Gaskell and his great granddaughter; Margaret Gaskell; married a Captain William Pawson who served in Royal Field Artillery. in WW1. Margaret's sister Maud Gaskell married Capt. Pawson's brother, Carnegie Robert Pawson, who first served in Royal Navy and was later recalled as Captain in the Royal Scots during WW1.

## **Margaret Violet GASKELL**

**1880-1921**

Daughter of Capt. John Francis Gaskell and Juliana, nee Reed.

Margaret was born in Dundalk, Ireland while her father John Francis was serving with the Royal Scots Greys. By 1891 the family were back living in Brighton. Also with them was a Louisa Sidley from Ireland governess to the children.

In 1902 Margaret married William Hargreave Pawson, son of ex-army man, William Pawson and the Hon. Emily Violet Jervis who was the daughter of Carnegie Robert John Jervis, 3rd Viscount Saint Vincent of Meaford. William became a Captain in the Royal Field Artillery during WW1.

However by 1911 Margaret had left William and married a Henry Watson in London. In 1920 she married a third time in London to a Hubert Cox.

## **Maud Ethel GASKELL**

**1884-1965**

2nd daughter of Capt. John Francis and Julianna Gaskell. nee Reed.

Maud was born in Atherston Warwickshire in 1884 and baptised at Prestbury, Cheshire on June 5th 1884.

In 1891 the family were living in Brighton. The children's live-in governess was Louisa Sidley who John Francis later married.

In 1904 Maud married Carnegie Robert Pawson, brother of William Hargreave Pawson who had married her sister. He served as a Royal Navy midshipman from 1896 - 1899. He served in WW1 first as a lieutenant in the Royal Scot Greys and later as a Captain in the Machine Gun Corps.

By 1911 they were living in Moulton, Yorkshire, with seven live-in servants.

They were divorced in 1918 and Maud Ethel married a John Kennedy in 1919.

## **John Upton GASKELL**

**1886-1969**

Son of Capt. John Francis and Julianna Gaskell nee Reed

He married an Ethel Beatrice Lloyd or Oliver? in 1912 in Southwark, London. During WW1 he was a Lieutenant in the Royal Field Artillery.

## **John Upton GASKELL (Sen.)**

**1804-1883**

He was the father of Capt. John Francis Upton Gaskell.

John Upton Gaskell Snr. (1804-1883) married Margaret Elizabeth Grimshawe (1813-1887) on 13th December 1843

John and Margaret's children were Anne Theodora 1844-1923 and John Francis Upton 1852-1929 (He of the hunting party and husband of Juliana Reed).

John Upton Gaskell Sen. took the title of Lord of the Manor of East Brent on the marriage of his son to Juliana Reed.

## **Anne Theodora GASKELL**

**1844-1923**

Sister of John Francis Gaskell and eldest child of John Upton Gaskell Snr. Anne inherited Ingersley Hall and lived there unmarried until her death in 1923. Ingersley Hall was built by a John Gaskell in 1775 and was sold in 1933 with all its contents.

After her fathers death Anne Theodora Gaskell held the Manorship title of East Brent for a while, which was later passed to Juliana's husband John Francis Gaskell

## THE LIFE OF GEORGE REED

### A Time Line

**1805** 6th May - George baptised, Holy Trinity Church, Westbury on Trym. Mother Susan REED, Paternity not recorded. Recorded as 'Base Born'.

**1818** 8th Aug - Marriage of Susanna Cavill (George's mother) and Joseph Haythorne, St Andrew's, Clifton.

**1826** 6th Aug - Marriage by license of George Reed and Sarah Hammans, St Andrew's, Clifton. Married by Banns 12th July 1828 at St John's, Bedminster.

**1828** 10th Oct - Baptism of George's son Joseph Haythorne Reed, St Johns, Bedminster.

**1834** 4th Oct - George now living in Congresbury but declared bankrupt as a corn and provision merchant in Bristol.

**1836** 25th May - Joseph Haythorne buried at Gloucester. £2,000 bequeathed by him to George, the balance of his estate to wife Susanna.

**1837** Total of lands and Manor of East Brent offered for sale in one lot by George Symonds of Axbridge. Susanna Haythorne purchased this lot.

**1837** 7th Aug - Susanna Haythorne leases Prospect House, Clevedon to Thomas Daniel and others including Thomas Lane Coulson followed by a Transfer of mortgage the following day.

**1837** 9th Aug - Susanna Haythorne married wealthy businessman Thomas Coulson. Legal provision made that the bulk of her estate will be inherited by George not Coulson.

**1838** 18th Apr - Baptism of George's daughter Sarah, St Andrew's Burnham.

**1838** 24th May - Total of £30,000 offered for loans by George (over £3.5 million at 2019 values) probably funded by Susanna's inheritance from Haythorne.

**1838** 9th July - George initiated into Masonic Lodge, Bridgwater.

**1839** 3rd Oct - Baptism of George's son George at St Andrew's, Burnham, who died 2 days later.

**1840** June quarter - Birth of George's youngest daughter Catherine Reed, baptised 6th Aug at St Andrew's, Burnham.

**1841** Tithe apportionments: Susannah Coulson owns approx, 115 plots of land in East Brent totaling approx 700 acres.

**1841** Manor House and Gardens built by George Reed.

**1841** census - George (35 years old), of independent means and living in Church St (now Manor Road), Burnham.

**1842** 'Lucerne Cottage' built later to become the 'Puzzle Garden Inn'

**1844** 'Puzzle Garden' opened.

**1849** - George recorded as Chairman of the Burnham & Highbridge Board of Health.

**1850's-60's** - Planning / building of Catherine and Julia Terraces, named for George's daughter and granddaughter. Actual dates are uncertain but Julia Terrace was not completed until several years after Catherine Terrace.

**1851** - George commended for his orchids at an exhibition in Cheltenham. He continued to be a noted orchid grower for many years.

**1852** 15th Jan - Birth of Juliana, George's granddaughter.

**1852** - Plan of Town made showing buildings, street names and drainage. Prepared as a result of Board of Health Report 1849.

**1854** - George's son Joseph Haythorne Reed was MP for Abingdon 1854 -1857 (this may be the origin of the name of Abingdon St which was developed in 1858 after Joseph's death).

**1854** - Sudden death of Susanna Coulson. Bulk of estate of over £160,000, (value today approx £12,000,000 today) plus the Manor of East Brent, inherited by George.

**1855** - Laying of the Foundation stone for George Reed's new National School on the sea front (Wells Journal). The same source reported the school was in use by late 1856 and formally opened 1857.

The new school replaced the 1st National school that was built 1851 that was opposite the Manor House.

**1857** 18th July - George is owner of Prospect House, Clevedon.

**1857** - Extension of Somerset Central Railway from Wells to Burnham nearing completion (Wells Journal), George had by now been appointed as director. Burnham Jetty under construction. George instrumental in planning.

**1857** Aug - Death of Georges daughter Sarah. Buried 07/08/1857 at East Brent.

**1858** 7th April - Death of George's son Major Joseph Haythorne Reed . Buried 04/12/1858 at East Brent.

**1858** May - Somerset Central Railway extended to Burnham.

**1858** 3rd May - Railway and steam ship service began. The 'Iron Duke' was the first passenger ship to arrive at the Jetty (Bridgwater Mercury). Burnham - Cardiff ferry service began on 24th May.

**1858** - New road between Railway station and Highbridge Road built. Became Abingdon Street.

**1858** - 24th July George sells Prospect House, Clevedon to a William Cook.

**1858** 4th August - Laying of the foundation stone for the Reed's arms by George's granddaughter (Bridgwater Mercury & Western Counties Herald). Hotel formally opened at a dinner ceremony on 27th October 1860.

**1858** - George lays the foundation stone for Burnham's Gas Works.

**1859** - On behalf of the Gas Company George presented a plan to the Local Board of Health for the installation of gas street lighting in Burnham.

**1860** - George opened the Manor Gardens to the public.

**1860** - April. Reed Arms and Pier Hotel opened.

**1860** - Burnham Tidal Harbour and Railway Company incorporated by Act of Parliament (extended 1866). George Reed has a substantial financial stake in the company.

**1860's** - George involved in a number of substantial property transactions in the town, including sale of the Customs House in 1865.

**1862** - Somerset Central and Dorset Railways amalgamated to form the Somerset and Dorset Joint Railway.

**1865** May - S&D Poole-Cherbourg ferry service begins.

**1866** - The BTHRC commissioned a new screw-driven steam ship and named it the 'George Reed'.

**1866** - Railway and BTHRC in financial difficulties

**1866** - 8th Oct. George's wife Sarah dies. Buried at East Brent.

**1867** - Poole-Cherbourg ferry service suspended.

**1869** - The George Reed' Steamship sold.

**1869** - 20th June. Action by Sir Edward Baker to claim £50,000 in connection with losses of S&D Railway.

**1869** - 22nd June - Death of George Reed at the Manor House by natural causes.

**1869** - Juliana Gaskell George's granddaughter inherits the lands and Lordship of the manor of East Brent.

**1884** - Reed Arms changes name to Queens Hotel.

**1903** - Manor House bought by a F Lucas for £3250.

**1903** - Ownership of the Manor House transferred to the local Council.

**1914** - 8th Aug George's daughter Catherine died at Ramsgate.

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