

**GENEALOGY OF THE REESE
FAMILY IN WALES AND
AMERICA: FROM THEIR ARRIVAL
IN AMERICA TO THE PRESENT
TIME**

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Genealogy of the Reese Family in Wales and America: From Their Arrival in America to the Present Time by Miss Mary E. Reese

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MISS MARY E. REESE

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IN AMERICA TO
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GENEALOGY *of the*
REESE FAMILY

IN WALES AND AMERICA,

From their Arrival in America
to the Present Time.

BY
MISS MARY E. REESE.



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THIS BOOK DOES NOT
CIRCULATE

TO THE
Descendants of David Reese,
SIGNER OF THE MECKLENBURG DECLARATION OF
INDEPENDENCE OF NORTH CAROLINA,
MAY 20, 1775,
THIS BOOK IS DEDICATED
BY THE WRITER.

Description of the Coat-of-Arms.

This coat of arms is quartered, combining the North and South Welsh house of Rhys:

The upper right quarter: Blue, with silver cross and crescents, indicating they were religious people. Blue is symbolic of that fidelity and devotion to duty, always characteristic of the royal tribes of Wales.

The upper left quarter: White, with crimson chevron and two ravens, with the gold letter R for Rhys.

Cambrian history says: "The Ravens rejoice when blood is hastening, when war doth rage," showing they were distinguished warriors.

The lower right quarter: Sable, with crimson chevron, and three gold sheaves of wheat; indicating they were farming people and possessed large landed estates.

Lower left quarter: Purple, with a white Talbot rampant, on the scent, ready for the fray; showing they were brave, gallant soldiers. The crimson, blue and purple were the royal colors.

The crest: A cubit arm vested, the hand grasping five ears of wheat slipped.

The two Latin mottoes: *Spes melloris aevi* ("Hope for a better age.") *Spes tutissima caelis* ("The safest hope is Heaven").

Powell's Cambrian History, and Robert Southey's poem "Madoc in Wales," give an interesting account of the Rhys family in Wales.

"The thing that first moved me to take some paines in this studie, was the verie naturall affection which generally is in all men to here of the worthiness of their ancestors, which they should be as desirous to imitate as delighted to understand."—*Camden*.

"The Holy Writ encourages the search for an Ancestor, and a penalty is attached to those who find him not. Nehemiah vii. 64: 'These sought their register among those that were reckoned by genealogy, but it was not found; therefore were they, as polluted, put from the priesthood.'"

PREFACE.

THERE are many reasons which have induced the writer of this history to carry on this work.

First, she has the antiquarian's interest in clearing up the hidden history of the early days of the family.

Again, a natural desire to learn more about her own kindred, those whose blood flows in her veins.

She does not hope to interest many others beside those of whom it treats. These, however, she hopes will enjoy it, and if it shall promote among the numerous descendants of the faraway founder of the family a better acquaintance, a more sincere affection, and a more worthy desire to honor an honorable name, she will have her reward.

As imperfect as this work may prove to be, perhaps it is better to have an imperfect sketch than none at all. The writer has written hundreds of letters. Very many never responded to her interrogatories, and should their names not appear in the book, they have only themselves to blame.

We have distinguished the different generations

of the family by the letters of the alphabet, thus: A, first generation; B, second, etc.

The writer wishes to express her sincere thanks to Mrs. C. McAdory for great assistance in genealogical research; also, to Mr. G. P. Erwin, of Morganton, N. C., and to Mr. Bulow Erwin, of Asheville, N. C., for the use of MS. and family records, and to Mr. William R. Miller, of Richmond, Va.

M. E. R.

GENEALOGY
OF
THE REESE FAMILY.

CHAPTER I.

MACAULAY says, "Wales was said to be reduced by Henry III., and more truly by Edward I. Although it was conquered, it was not looked upon as any part of the realm of England.

"Its old Constitution was destroyed, and no good one substituted in its place. The care of that tract was put into the hands of Lords Marches.

"A singular kind of government, something between hostility and government! Wales was in perpetual disorder, and kept the frontier of England in perpetual alarm; it was only known to England by incursions and invasions. The English attempted to subdue the fierce spirit of the Welsh by all sorts of rigorous laws. They prohibited by statute the sending of all sorts of arms into Wales; they made an act to drag offenders from Wales to England for trial, and the trial should be always by English. They also prevented the Welsh from the use of fairs and markets.