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## THE REYNOLDS FAMILY IN PORTUGAL AND NEW ZEALAND

*The following article is a précis of a chapter of family history made available to the Society by Dr. A. H. Reynolds. The Council is most grateful to Dr. Reynolds for agreeing to its publication here, albeit in truncated form.*

One of the many difficulties in tracing and identifying Reynolds ancestors is the constant recurrence of such names as Thomas, William, Robert, Eliza or Elizabeth; a further complication being the fact that at times two or more Thomases or Williams were alive at the same period.

Some old family notes mention one William Reynolds, a seed merchant, reputedly «a direct descendant of the original Reynolds who gave his name to the Reynolds Gardens in Exeter.» William was born there in or about 1700. An old, rather sketchy family tree shows him as the eldest of five children. One brother is referred to as a «Coroner» (?) in Exeter, a second brother as «a silk-weaver in Spitalfields.» The female children are simply listed as «two daughters.»

Little is known of this William Reynolds except that he married in 1739 and that his only child, Thomas (hereafter referred to as Thomas I), was born in Exeter in 1740. The mother's

name is unknown. After some years the family moved either to Maidstone or nearby Farleigh in Kent.

But William Reynolds was also a cousin or close connection of Sir Joshua Reynolds P. R. A. (1723-1792), son of the Rev. Samuel Reynolds, Master of Plympton Earls Grammar School in Devonshire; and it was in Sir Joshua's London studio that Thomas I met Lydia Johnson, a relative of Dr. Samuel Johnson who was sitting for the portrait which now hangs in the National Portrait Gallery in London. Lydia, daughter of John Johnson of Guildford, carried the Christian name of her mother, Lydia Luxford, who was a native of Farleigh near Maidstone. This meeting eventually led to the marriage of Thomas and Lydia in 1770.

Gaps in the records make this part of the family history particularly confused. However it seems that in or about 1783 a son, Thomas William (Thomas II), was born to Thomas and Lydia in Maidstone where Thomas I was in business as a general merchant. Whether there were other offspring is not known, but the names Thomas William rather suggest that he was the eldest son.

On Thomas I's death in 1795 his widow carried on the business, first in Maidstone and later in Chatham, eventually selling it to a Mr. Parton.

One family story has it that Thomas II ran away from home and went to sea; that his family gave him up for dead — his mother going into mourning for him; until he finally returned as a full-blown lieutenant in the Royal Navy. According to this story, the shock caused Lydia to collapse and die on the spot.

However, old family notes show that Thomas II helped his mother run the family business in Chatham after her husband's death in 1795. So perhaps Lydia simply had a fashionable faint. Exactly when she sold the business is not known, nor the date of her death. According to family tradition, Thomas II stayed in the Navy and «took part in the Battle of the Baltic»; yet he

must have retired at a fairly early age if he in fact helped his mother with the business.

Yet another version has it that Thomas «ran away from school and got on a warship as a stowaway when the ship was leaving for the Middle East. The captain of the warship didn't like to have such a youngster aboard so he turned him into a powder-monkey, but the lad distinguished himself when the ship took part in the siege of Alexandria and was forgiven, and that is how he joined the Royal Navy.»

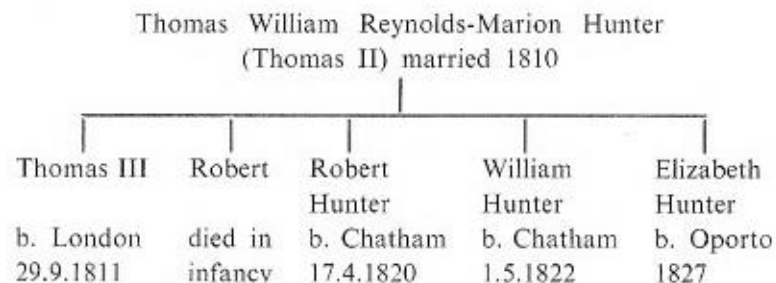
The Battle of Copenhagen and the siege of Alexandria both took place in 1801, so both versions cannot be correct. One should not, however, lightly disregard so strong a family tradition, though there is no concrete evidence of Thomas II's service in the Royal Navy. Curiously, however, he is recorded as a naval officer in the records of the Otago Early Settlers' Association of Dunedin, New Zealand. Did he, perhaps, enlist under an assumed name?

What is certain is that in 1810 Thomas II married Marion Hunter (b. 1786) of Humbie Mains near Edinburgh, daughter of Robert and Elizabeth Hunter of Polmood, Peebleshire. It is believed that the Hunters were deprived of their properties after involvement in the Jacobite Rebellion of 1745, and then took to trade. Marion's father, Robert, was a farmer of Humbie Mains, East Lothian, but his family were always known as the Hunters of Polmood, their crest being a hunter's horn and their motto *In cornu salutis spero*.

The nature of the Reynolds family business at Chatham remains obscure. Some kind of ship-chandlery suggests itself, with wine — and quite possibly the fashionable Port Wine — as one of its main interests. At all events in 1824-25 the family moved to Oporto and set up a wine firm, Thomas Reynolds & Son Ltd. A dictionary extant in the family bears this name.

In 1827 Elizabeth Hunter Reynolds was born in Oporto to Thomas and Marion, and baptised in the British Chapel (later

St. James's Church) there on March 7, 1827. She was the youngest member of the family. So, we have:



All these, with the solitary exception of Robert Hunter Reynolds (1), eventually sailed to New Zealand, where they ended their days.

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There is no record of how Thomas and Marion Reynolds came to Portugal but it must have been by sea. The Oporto bar is notoriously narrow and perilous and there was then no harbour at Leixões; consequently, especially in rough weather, sailing ships often made for Lisbon. So it is quite possible that the couple with their three children and belongings landed in Lisbon. If so, they might have taken another vessel and sailed on to Oporto or faced the rigours of the Oporto road — a journey that took at very best 60 hours of continuous travel but more frequently considerably longer, with stops at the many *mala-postas*, or mail posts, along the road. Some of these still exist, though they are no longer used as such. The road itself was execrable, the inns — without sanitation — usually verminous.

(1) Robert Hunter Reynolds was the grandfather of Dr. A. H. Reynolds, the compiler of these notes, and his brothers and sisters.

So let us hope the Reynolds family was able to sail straight to Oporto.

Their arrival in Portugal coincided with a period of great turmoil and unrest in the country. The unsettling effects of the French Revolution had been felt here too, and the aggressive ambitions of Napoleon had rocked the absolutist thrones of Portugal and Spain. Ravaged by the Peninsular campaigns, Portugal found herself from 1808 to 1821 without her royal family who had taken refuge in Brazil. And on his return to Europe, reaction to the years of military rule in Portugal forced the new king, Dom João VI, to sign an oath of loyalty to the new liberal constitution of 1821. This move was bitterly opposed by his wife D. Carlota Joaquina and their younger son Dom Miguel. The latter led an unsuccessful revolt against his father which led to his exile in 1824.

In 1826 Dom João VI died and was succeeded by his elder son, Dom Pedro IV, who had already been proclaimed Emperor of Brazil. Dom Pedro, in theory at least a champion of liberalism, accepted the new Constitution. He also agreed to allow his brother Miguel to return to Portugal as Regent on condition that he marry Dom Pedro's 7-year-old daughter, Dona Maria da Gloria, and accepted the Charter of 1826. Dom Miguel agreed but broke his word as soon as he returned to Portugal; Dona Maria found herself a political exile in London; and there followed a period of harsh absolutist rule.

In 1832 Dom Pedro assembled an expeditionary force in the Azores with the object of restoring to the throne his young daughter, in whose favour he had abdicated the Portuguese crown. After landing his force near Oporto, he occupied the northern capital unopposed but soon found himself besieged by the Miguelist army. The War of the Two Brothers and the long siege of Oporto had begun. (2)

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(2) See *Fifth Annual Report & Review 1978* p. 37 et seq.

The British community in Oporto tended to favour Dom Pedro and the Liberals, and during the siege a number of them volunteered to join the defending forces. Among these was young Thomas Reynolds (Thomas III), who was 21 at the time, and his cousin Robert Hunter. Thomas was wounded in the leg and Robert Hunter lost his life.

Apart from these two, it would seem that the other members of the Reynolds family, finding conditions in Portugal increasingly disturbing and uncomfortable, had retired to England before the siege began. They returned to Portugal, however, in 1834 when the civil war ended with the capitulation of the Miguelists at Evoramonte. Thomas Reynolds — presumably Thomas II — was issued with a new Charter of Privileges (a sort of passport) «in substitution of the previous Charter issued by the usurping Government.» (3)

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(3) This Charter of Privileges came into Mr. Reynolds's possession after he received a letter from an unknown gentleman saying that he had found it in a secret nook of an old desk which had clearly once belonged to the Reynolds family. It is an interesting document, and the translation from the Portuguese is given herewith.

COPY OF THE PRIVILEGES  
OF THOMAS REYNOLDS

DOM PEDRO, DUKE OF BRAGANZA, REGENT OF THE KINGDOMS OF PORTUGAL, ALGARVES, AND THEIR DOMINIONS IN THE NAME OF THE QUEEN.

To all the MINISTERS officers and other persons connected with Justice in these Kingdoms and possessions to whom this Charter of Recapitulation of Privileges may be presented and who may be concerned with the contents hereof I MAKE KNOWN that THOMAS REYNOLDS has proved by Certificate of the respective CONSUL GENERAL that he is a merchant and a legitimate subject of His Britannic Majesty and that as such he is entitled to enjoy all those privileges and immunities granted to BRITISH SUBJECTS in accordance not only with the legal Charter of their privileges ordered to be kept in the Ord., Book 1, Title 52 § 9, but also with the Treaties and subsequent laws which privileges are that the Merchants of the said Nation shall be free and may freely do business, negotiate sell and purchase in all the Kingdoms and possessions,

After the family returned to Portugal they resumed their business, the nature of which became more general and was no longer restricted to wine. Tradition has it that as the three brothers grew to manhood they travelled south in search of cork for their bottles, and from the Alentejo province went into Spain. However it is clear from contemporary letters and records that, although cork was their main business, they dealt in other produce and articles as opportunity offered.

As the years went by Thomas and Robert developed a very substantial cork business, setting up an office or agency in London in which William was also associated.

But in their early days they had many difficulties both in Portugal and in Spain. At one time it seems they were almost bankrupt: or it may be that they were only having acute cash

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themselves personally or by their factors or servants; that all BRITISH VASSALS may purchase, make use of and enjoy first-hand any class of Goods Assets and Merchandise, and that once Duties have been paid in any of my Customs Houses they shall not be obliged to pay any others; that they may not be imprisoned otherwise than by confinement in their houses according to the quality of their persons or in the Castle of St. George and that such legal steps be not carried out by LawCourt Officials; that they enjoy all the privileges and immunities past and future granted to any other NATION KINGDOM OR REPUBLIC; that they have the right of peaceful possession so that their Houses and Warehouses be not taken from them and so that they be not dislodged therefrom; that they are exempt from being appointed Tutors or otherwise called upon by the Judge for Orphans and Absentees; that they are not subject to Levies Imposts Taxes or any imposition nor to be soldiers or serve in the War. That they can carry Arms both offensive and defensive by day or by night, but not use these as they should not. That those persons who shall fail to respect these privileges shall incur the penalty of 2\$000 for the Piedade Institution 50 cruzados for the Royal Hospital, 20 for the aggrieved party and the suspension of their offices until further pleasure. That no justices may enter their Houses to carry out any legal formalities without the Order or Fiat of their respective Judge before whom alone they are answerable whether as Plaintiffs or Defendants even if there be a conflict with other privileges and even those incorporated in Laws as for instance of the Courts of India and Mina and others of a similar nature, except the Fiscal Court. That

difficulties. However, Robert Hunter Reynolds ended up by owning considerable cork forests in the Alentejo and in Spain, in the province of Badajoz, and a number of factories or depots in both countries.

His credit must have been good for he used to buy the right to strip cork in a landowner's forest, paying him a few years in advance, or perhaps a yearly instalment of the agreed price. This was clearly in the long run profitable to the buyer, who took the risk, but was also convenient to the forest owner who could place the money he received on deposit to earn interest or invest it as he might decide. Robert, of course, had to borrow the money to finance his purchases, but he was thoroughly successful over the years and made considerable money out of his plan.

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they be not impeded by the Moratoria which it is customary to grant but that, notwithstanding, they may sue and levy execution against their debtors. That their Assets, Books, Accounts, or goods be not taken from them and that they shall enjoy Protection of Property the same privileges being enjoyed by their Factors and Clerks up to a total of six provided they be not Spaniards. And as Thomas Reynolda has applied for a new Charter of Privileges to be issued to him in the name of the present legitimate Government in place of the no longer valid Charter, issued to him on June 7 1832 in the name of the Usurping Government, these presents have been made out whereby I order all the above mentioned persons to observe and respect them most fully under the penalties established and others provided by law. Granted and issued in Lisbon on 15 September 1834. His Imperial Majesty the ruling Duke of Braganza, thus ordered it through Dr. Roque Francisco Furtado de Mello, Professor in the Order of Christ, Judge Registrar for the British Nation and it is written out by João Theodoro de Lourido Scrivener of one of the Offices of the British Court of Justice on behalf of His Most Faithful Majesty, whom God preserve.

Payment was made in respect of the preparation hereof six hundred reis: in respect of the signature two hundred reis and in the Chancery that which may be due. I, João Theodoro de Lourido have written it out. Signed Roque Furtado de Mello, Charter of Recapitulation of Privileges in favour of Thomas Reynolds British subject and merchant for the same to be respected in the form and manner therein contained and declared.



Thomas and Robert took it in turn to be in Lisbon, attending to the shipping and finance and, in the Alentejo or in Spain, dealing with the purchase, baling and manufacture of the cork. This would be chiefly around Estremoz, Azaruja and Evora in Portugal or Albuquerque, Oliva and Jerez de los Caballeros in Spain.

William looked after the business in London, but at one stage he apparently went into trade on his own, though the records do not disclose the nature of his activities. In or about 1842 he was joined in England by his parents, Thomas and Marion, who took their daughter Elizabeth with them.

It was during William's stay in London that he fell in with, and made a close friend of James Macandrew who was a member of the London branch of the Otago Lay Association of New Zealand. Macandrew's description of the many opportunities that country offered fired the lively imagination and enthusiasm of young William Hunter Reynolds, and perhaps also that of his young sister Elizabeth which led to her marrying James Macandrew.

New Zealand seems to have exerted such a strong attraction on the whole Reynolds family — it was after all the age of emigration and settlers — that Thomas II and Marion, his wife (then aged 67 and 64 respectively), their son William, aged 28, James and Elizabeth Macandrew, she aged 23, their small son Colin, aged 1, together with the three eldest children of Thomas III, namely Thomas IV, aged 13, Mary 11 and Robert 9, all set sail for the Antipodes on September 7, 1850 in the *Titan* of 161 tons, owned by James Macandrew, possibly jointly with William Reynolds.

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The *Titan* took 133 days to sail from Gravesend to Dunedin in the South Island of New Zealand. She sailed via the Cape of Good Hope, Capetown being her only port of call, and reached Dunedin on January 17, 1851.

From a journal kept by one of the passengers, the Rev. W. Nicolson, we learn that she carried a crew of 13 and 16 Cabin passengers. There were also the personal maids of the Reynolds and Macandrews families; and in the steerage travelled James Macandrew's «boy servant», William Macleod «shepherd to Mr. Reynolds, two carpenters» in the service of Mr. Dan Macandrew, and a «young man under (his) care.» The journey, though not excessively long for that period, was certainly no pleasure cruise; and Nicolson's journal, though of more factual than personal interest, does reveal some of the tensions as well as the good fellowship that sprang up between this closely cabined group. There was «unpleasantness» between the Captain and Mr. Reynolds; Mr. Dan Macandrew showed signs of persecution mania; «old Mr. Reynold's» pipe caused sparks of fire to fly through the cabin gratings «thus without intending it, occasioning agitation.» But the old gentleman later got his deserts for, during a rough spell, he got up early and went into the galley for his pre-breakfast smoke and got badly scalded on the head with boiling coffee. However, the approach of Christmas saw Mrs. Reynolds and Mrs. Macandrew helping with the cooking since «something better than sailors' cooking is desired on Christmas Day.»

And so in January 1851 the *Titan* and its brave and battered passengers arrived in Otago Bay far down on the south-east coast of New Zealand. In a lithograph of 1848 Dunedin is depicted as «the new settlement», consisting of some 18 or 20 small low houses scattered over rolling hills, each house protected by a far-flung fence or palisade. In the bay are three or four small sailing boats and a little brig like the *Titan*.

Here then the Reynolds disembarked with their stores and belongings. But William, after re-loading the vessel with local produce, sailed on with her to Hobart, returning from Tasmania with other much needed stores. He then made a very profitable trans-Pacific voyage to San Francisco and back.

No records exist of these pioneering days which, given the latitude of Dunedin, must often have been cold and bleak. William, when not at sea, lived with his parents, and at the start the Macandrews probably did so, too. Then in March 1857 Thomas and Marion were joined by their eldest son, Thomas William III, his Portuguese wife, Maria Gertrudes Branca Dias, and their seven other children — the three eldest having sailed ahead with their grandparents in the *Titan*. Thus, except for Robert Hunter Reynolds who remained in Portugal, the whole family were happily reunited.

However, according to *Pioneering in Australia and New Zealand* by William's wife, Rachel Selina Pinkerton, Thomas and Marion at one time decided to return to England and went as far as selling the family house «Woodhead». But then Marion, in her 70s, «evinced such distress» that the idea was given up, and the family «bought from Mr. M'Glashan that house so long known by the name of «Montecillo» and there we lived for nearly forty years, adding to the old house from time to time just as we required. Here is those days we did nearly all our own work, always helping with the cleaning, beating carpets, scrubbing or washing up, ironing — anything just as it came along. We made all our own jams, pickles, sausages, cured our own bacon, reared all our own poultry, a busy strenuous life.»

Thomas II finally died «a very old man on January 1, 1867 as a result of injuries when his house at Macandrew Bay, Dunedin, caught fire. His wife rescued him but all the family treasures and belongings were lost.» He was buried in North East Harbour Cemetery, Dunedin; and there three years later Marion his wife was laid beside him.