

*THE
FAMILY OF
JAMES ROWE*

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THE FAMILY AND ANCESTORS OF JAMES ROWE

This is research into the ancestry of James Rowe who was born on 10th January 1854 at Redruth in Cornwall his parents were Thomas Rowe and Jane (formerly Penrose). Thomas was a Miner. A copy of his birth certificate is enclosed with this report. James later left Cornwall to start a new life in Australia.

Redruth is situated in West Cornwall, it was once the largest and richest metal mining area in Britain. There were a great number of mines in this parish, many of which were highly productive in both copper and tin.

James's parents Thomas and Jane were married on 16th June 1843 at Illogan. A copy of the marriage certificate is enclosed and it tells us that Thomas's father was called John Rowe and that he was a Miner. Jane's father was Henry Penrose and he was an agricultural labourer. At the time of the marriage Thomas was living at Redruth and Jane in her home parish of Illogan.

We were first able to locate Thomas and Jane and their family on the 1851 Census Return:

1851 Redruth			Census Ref:		
Name			Age	Occupation	Where Born
Thomas Rowe	Head	Married	33	Copper Miner	Redruth
Jane Rowe	Wife	Married	28		Illogan
Elizabeth Rowe	Daug		7	Scholar	Redruth
John Rowe	Son		6	Scholar	Redruth
Jane Rowe	Daug		5	Scholar	Redruth
Richard Rowe	Son		4		Redruth
Emily Rowe	Daug		2		Redruth
Albert Rowe	Brother	Unmarried	28	Copper Miner	Redruth

This census return provides quite a lot of information about the family. Being 1851 it is before James's birth, but it provides us with the names of Thomas and Jane's earlier children and Thomas's sibling Albert.

From information gained to date, we believe that Thomas's parents were John and Margaret. There is a record of baptism for both John and Albert Rowe at Redruth on 24th December 1824, also of Mary and Jane Rowe all children of John and Margaret Rowe. (It was not unusual for several siblings to all be baptised on the same day).

By the time of the 1861 census Jane's husband Thomas has died and we have two additional children to the family - William and James Rowe.

1861 East End,Redruth			Census Ref		
Name			Age	Occupation	Where Born
Jane Rowe	Head	Widow	38	Dressmaker	Illogan
Elizabeth Rowe	Daug	Unmarried	17	Dressmaker's Asst	Redruth
John Rowe	Son		16	Miner	Redruth
Jane Rowe	Daug		15	Mine Girl	Redruth
Richard Rowe	Son		14	Tin Miner	Redruth
William Rowe	Son		9	Scholar	Redruth
James Rowe	Son		7	Scholar	Redruth

Thomas Rowe died in 1857. He was buried at Redruth on 10th September 1857 aged 38 years.

We also noted that Emily is not present on the 1861 census and further research led us to the burial record of Emily Rowe at Redruth on 7th July 1853, aged 4 years old.

The 1871 census records the family as follows:

1871 East End, Redruth			Census Ref:		
Name			Age	Occupation	Where Born
Jane Rowe	Head	Widow	49	Dressmaker	Illogan
William Rowe	Son	Unmarried	19	Tin Miner	Redruth
James Rowe	Son	Unmarried	17	Gardener	Redruth

And so we now have the names of the children of Thomas and Jane and hence the siblings of James. Elizabeth (born 1844), John (1845), Jane (1846), Richard (1848), Emily (1849) and William (1852).

It looks as though Elizabeth married Samuel Trewern in 1865, they can be found on the 1871 census living at Redruth with a young son named George. John Rowe married Clara Williams in 1868 and Jane married William Richards in 1870 but we have been unable to find a reference to Richard Rowe and wonder if he has left the area looking for work, possibly travelling to Australia before his brother James.

JANE PENROSE

We will now look with more detail into the family of James Rowe's mother Jane Penrose.

We know from her marriage certificate that Jane's father was called Henry Penrose and so we were able to search for the baptism of Jane with a father Henry.

Previous research has told us that Jane was born at Illogan and following a search of the parish records there is a record of baptism for a Jane Penrose dated 16th February 1823 in the parish of Illogan, the daughter of Henry and Emily. This seems very likely to be the Jane Penrose that we are researching and we can see that Henry Penrose and Emily Rule married at Illogan on 5th March 1820.

Henry Penrose died in 1865 and Emily Rule died in 1872.

Various photographs, certificates and a family tree are included with this report.