

Reginald Hugh REISS



*"Is it well with the child?
And she answered, It is well".*
[2 Kings 4:26]

Born: 27 June 1876

Died: 7 September 1880

Aged 4 years



Reginald Hugh REISS



REGINALD HUGH
the dearly loved child of
FRITZ & EDITH MABELLA
REISS
born June 27th 1876
died September 7th 1880
Is it well with the child?
And she answered it is well.
(q161)

This a weathered piece of stone, rough hewn at the base, with its face smoothly cut, bearing the inscription above. It clearly marks the burial site of a single person, a young boy aged 4 years. Neither his parents or any other member of the family were buried there. So, who was he? Who were his parents? And where did the family live?

The baptism record shows that **Reginald Hugh** was baptised at St. Luke, Weaste, on 5 August 1876 and that the family lived in that area. His baptism was conducted by Robert Birley, Rector of St. Philip's, Hulme.

Aug 5 No. 444	Reginald Hugh	Frederick Edith Mabella	Reiss	Weaste	Merchant	Robert Birley Rector of St. Philip's Hulme.
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His burial took place at St. Mark's on 11 September 1880 and the service was again conducted by Robert Birley.

Reginald Hugh Reiss No. 907	Pendleton	Sept 11 th	4 years	Robert Birley Rector of St. Philip's Hulme.
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The 1871 census shows that the family was living at that time at Park Field, Eccles Old Road. **Fritz** Reiss was the head of the household, aged 29, and he was born in Frankfurt. By this time, he was a British Subject. He was recorded as a Merchant. His wife was **Edith**, aged 22, born Manchester. They had a daughter, Mabella F., aged 1 year and a son, E. F. I., aged 1 month. Also at that address were 6 domestic servants.

Ten years earlier, in **1861**, **Fritz**, aged 19, and already a Merchant, was living with his siblings Emil Reiss, 25, a General Merchant, (also born Frankfurt), his wife Fanny, 23, born Manchester, all living at Fairleigh House, Hope, Pendleton.

1868: Paul Friedrich Emil Reiss married **Edith Mabella Birley** at Chorlton on 4 November **1868**.

Mabella Fanny Reiss was baptised at St. Mary, Eccles, on 31 January **1870**. The home address was Park Field, Eccles, and the ceremony was performed by Robert Birley.

Alexander Emil Jacques Reiss was baptised at St. Luke, Weaste, on 20 May **1871**. The address was Eccles Old Road and the father was a Merchant. The minister was Robert Birley.

Charles Julius Reiss, born 7 September **1873**, baptised at St. John the Evangelist, Pendlebury. Their address was Endsley, Pendlebury, and the minister was Robert Birley.

Reginald Hugh was born on 27 June **1876**. **R.I.P.**

Frida Pauline Reiss was baptised at St. Luke, Weaste, on 22 March **1882**. The family was then at Weaste Lodge.

By **1891**, the family was still residing in Pendleton, at 14 Weaste Lane. **Fritz** was 49, a Merchant; **Edith** was 42; Mabel was 21; Alex (Merchant) was 20; Charles was 17 (Scholar); Frida was 9. Also at the house were 3 visitors - and 12 servants, including a coachman and a groom.

In the **1901** census, the family was now living at 42 Pont Street, Chelsea. Fritz was 59; Edith was 52; Mabella was 31; Frida was 19; and there were 11 domestics. **Fritz** was a General Merchant.

The **1911** census shows: 42 Pont Street, S.W. (20 rooms).

Fritz Reiss	Head	M	69	Merchant (Diamond)
Edith	Wife	M	62	(married 42 years; 5 children - 1 died)
Mabella F.	Daur.	S	41	
Elizabeth Reiss	G'daur.		4	

+ 12 domestics.

REISS Edith Mabella of 204 Cromwell-road Kensington **Middlesex** (wife of Fritz Reiss) died 29 April 1925 Probate **London** 16 July to Alexander Emil Jacques Reiss retired lieutenant-colonel C.B.E. and Charles Julius Reiss merchant C.B.E.
Effects £42188 5s. 11d. Resworn £42416 19s. 3d.

REISS Friedrich of 204 Cromwell-road Earls Court **Middlesex** died 31 October 1926 Probate **London** 13 December to Alexander Emil Jacques Reiss lieutenant-colonel R.A.F.
Effects £7449 10s. 1d.

So who was Edith Mabella? And why was Robert Birley so involved in the ceremonies?

Edith Mabella Birley was born on 8 July **1848** and was baptised at St. James, Didsbury, on 16 August **1848**. Daughter of Hugh Hornby Birley and Mabella Baxendale.

1 1848	August 16 th	Edith Mabella daughter of	Hugh x Mabella	Birley	Didsbury.	Manuscript Merchant.	Louis Henry Mordaunt
No. 623.							

Paul Friedrich Emil Reiss was born in Frankfurt am Main, Germany, on 24 July **1841**.

In a newspaper article on Thursday 13 May **1915**, the following announcement appeared:

The following British citizens of German or Austrian extraction have now written affirming their allegiance to England and their abhorrence of our enemy ...

The name **Fritz Reiss** is one of them.

No. 38.

(B.)
NATURALIZATION ACTS, 1870.

Certificate of Naturalization under the Acts of 1870, to an Alien naturalized under the Act of 1844.

HOME OFFICE, LONDON.

WHEREAS *Fredrick Reifs*
an Alien now residing at *Eccles Old Road*
Manchester
has presented to me, the Right Honourable *Henry Austin Bruce*
one of Her Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, a Memorial, praying for a Certificate of Naturalization under the Naturalization Acts, 1870, and alleging that he was Naturalized in the United Kingdom in pursuance of the Act of 8 Vict. c. 66, on the *twentieth 15th*
day of *July* 18 *64*; that he was originally a Subject of *the Free City of Frankfurt-on-the-Maine -*
is aged 28 - a Merchant: married and
has one child -
Mabella Fanny Reifs aged 11 months
And

[1893.] E. & S.—200.—5/70.

and that in the period of eight years preceding his application he has resided for five years within the United Kingdom [~~or has been for five years in the service of the Crown~~]

and intends, if he receives the certificate of naturalization for which he prays to reside in the United Kingdom [~~or to serve under the Crown~~].

And whereas I have inquired into the circumstances of the case, and have received such evidence as I have deemed necessary for proving the truth of the allegations contained in such Memorial;

Now, in pursuance of the authority given to me by the Naturalization Acts, 1870, I grant to the aforesaid

Fredrick Reifs

this Certificate, and declare that he is hereby Naturalized as a British Subject, and that, upon taking the Oath of Allegiance, he shall in the United Kingdom be entitled to all political and other rights, powers, and privileges, and subject to all obligations, to which a natural-born British Subject is entitled or subject in the United Kingdom; with this qualification, that he shall not, when within the limits of the foreign State of which he was a natural-born subject [or citizen], be deemed to be a British Subject, unless he has ceased to be a subject [or citizen] of that State in pursuance of the laws thereof, or in pursuance of a Treaty to that effect.

26th day of *November* 18 *70*.

H. A. Bruce

Oath of Allegiance.

I, *Fredrick Reifs*

do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Victoria, her Heirs and Successors, according to law.

So help me GOD.

(Signed) *Fritz Reifs*

Sworn and subscribed this *twentieth*
day of *December* 18 *70* before me.

(Signed) *S. J. Harding*
a Comptroller in England -
Justice of the Peace
[or other official title]

Reifs heard 12th December 1870

Robert Birley was born on 1 November **1825** (died 17 December 1897) and was educated at Balliol College, Oxford. He gained his M.A. there in **1852** and was ordained priest by the Bishop of Lincoln in **1852**. He was the brother of Edith's father, Hugh, of Didsbury, and therefore her uncle.

Robert Birley- Balliol College, Oxford. BA 1847; MA 1852; d. 1850; p. 1852. Rector of St. Philip, Hulme, 1860 - 1898+; b. 1 Nov 1825; d. 17 Dec. 1897; Father Joseph Birley, D.L., J.P. Mother Jane Hornby.

Hugh (Hornby) Birley married Mabella Baxendale on 7 July 1842 at St. Mary, Finchley, by special licence. Son of Joseph Birley. Of Didsbury, near Manchester.

The deceased Thomas Hornby Birley was born on the 11th of May, 1815. being the second son the late Mr. Joseph Birley, of Ford Bank, Didsbury, who was a deputy-lieutenant of the county. He was one of eight sons, and the only surviving brothers now are the Rev. Canon Birley, Rector of St. Philip's, Hulme; the Rev. Alfred Birley, Vicar of Bolton-le-Sands, near Lancaster; Mr. Herbert Birley, the respected chairman of the Manchester School Board, and also of Salford School Board; Mr. Henry Birley, and Mr. Arthur Birley.

