

## Ezra Read's Musical Compositions

EZRA READ

A Brief Life of  
Ezra Read

Ezra Read's  
Musical  
Compositions

Photograph  
Gallery

Family History

Sheet Music  
Covers - gallery 1

Sheet Music  
Covers - gallery 2

Sheet Music  
Covers - gallery 3

Sheet Music  
Covers - gallery 4

Sheet Music  
Covers - gallery 5

Some of Ida  
Hampten's  
Covers

FAIRY PRINCE  
WALTZ

Fairy Prince  
Waltz ( 2)

Fairy Prince  
Waltz (3)

BRITISH  
COLUMBIA  
GRAND MARCH

British Columbia  
March (page 2)

British Columbia  
March (page 3)

British Columbia  
March (page 4)

British Columbia  
March (page 5)

British Columbia  
March (page 6)

British Columbia  
March (page 7)



Ezra Read's compositions were intended to be played by the amateur pianist entertaining family and friends round the parlour piano. Piano teachers soon found that the melodic tunes and straightforward harmonies made useful and entertaining exercises for their students and used them widely.

Current events were major sources of inspiration for him. Already mentioned were his popular pieces based on the Boer War, but he also wrote, 'Australia - a Grand March in Commemoration of the Federation', 'The Coronation of King Edward VII Grand March', 'President Cleveland's Grand March', 'The Call to Arms', 'The Royal Military Tournament', and many other items based on the news of the times.

During his lifetime he composed hundreds of marches and waltzes, and dozens of 'descriptive fantasias', such as, 'A Charabanc Ride', 'The Christmas party', 'Fireworks!', 'The Miner', 'Christmas Bells', 'The Football Match', 'The Midnight Express' and 'The Wedding Day'. Gallops, polkas, schottisches, mazurkas, barn dances, gavottes, reels, hornpipes, quadrilles and even some sand dances and a few ragtime pieces flowed from his pen. Some of these were later reissued as piano duets or piano accompanied pieces for violin, mandolin and other instruments.

As his works became more popular they were issued as albums, some specially composed, others collected together by his publishers. They included: 'The Royal Albums', 'Premier Selection Albums', 'Rosie's Musical Albums', 'Merry Moments volumes 10 and 22', 'Favourite Waltzes Volume 12' and 'Daisy Albums', to which he was a major contributor and which reached at least volume 58.

With success, Ezra began to see instrumental teaching as part of his role and he produced tutors for various instruments - his 'Easy Pianoforte Tutor' was still in print in the 1970s. Always an early riser, Ezra found time to write, 'A Catechism of Music' for students, an examination book used in Australian music colleges and several other works on the rudiments of music, harmony and composition. He was also the music editor for several journals.

At some time, possibly during the Boer War, he was a band master, but little information has come to light on this aspect of his life.

### Resources:

'The Catalogue of Printed Music in the British Library', available in main libraries, lists almost 400 of his works.

The National Library of Australia lists a holding of over 80 items of his sheet music, some of which can be downloaded on the internet at [www.nla.gov.au/catalogue](http://www.nla.gov.au/catalogue)

The Chesterfield Library, in Derbyshire, holds 'The J. L. Noble Collection' of over 50 of Ezra's pieces.

EZRA READ

A Brief Life of  
Ezra Read

Ezra Read's  
Musical  
Compositions

Photograph  
Gallery

Family History

Sheet Music  
Covers - gallery 1

Sheet Music  
Covers - gallery 2

Sheet Music  
Covers - gallery 3

Sheet Music  
Covers - gallery 4

Sheet Music  
Covers - gallery 5

Some of Ida  
Hampden's  
Covers

FAIRY PRINCE  
WALTZ

Fairy Prince  
Waltz ( 2)

Fairy Prince  
Waltz (3)

BRITISH  
COLUMBIA  
GRAND MARCH

British Columbia  
March (page 2)

British Columbia  
March (page 3)

British Columbia  
March (page 4)

British Columbia  
March (page 5)

British Columbia  
March (page 6)

British Columbia  
March (page 7)

Photograph Gallery



Ezra Read and Ida Hampden (Fan Mail Photographs)



Ezra in his Bandmaster's Uniform

In the garden of his home:  
6, Church Hill, Shirebrook



Ezra Read

Ida Hampden

The two prints above and the photograph of Ezra in his garden are by courtesy of Mr. J. L. Noble - author of an article on Ezra Read (Derbyshire Life and Countryside, March 1986, page 49), which inspired my own research on Ezra and this website.

## EZRA READ

A Brief Life of Ezra Read

Ezra Read's Musical  
Compositions

Photograph Gallery

Family History

Sheet Music Covers -  
gallery 1

Sheet Music Covers -  
gallery 2

Sheet Music Covers -  
gallery 3

Sheet Music Covers -  
gallery 4

Sheet Music Covers -  
gallery 5

Some of Ida Hampden's  
Covers

FAIRY PRINCE WALTZ

Fairy Prince Waltz ( 2)

Fairy Prince Waltz (3)

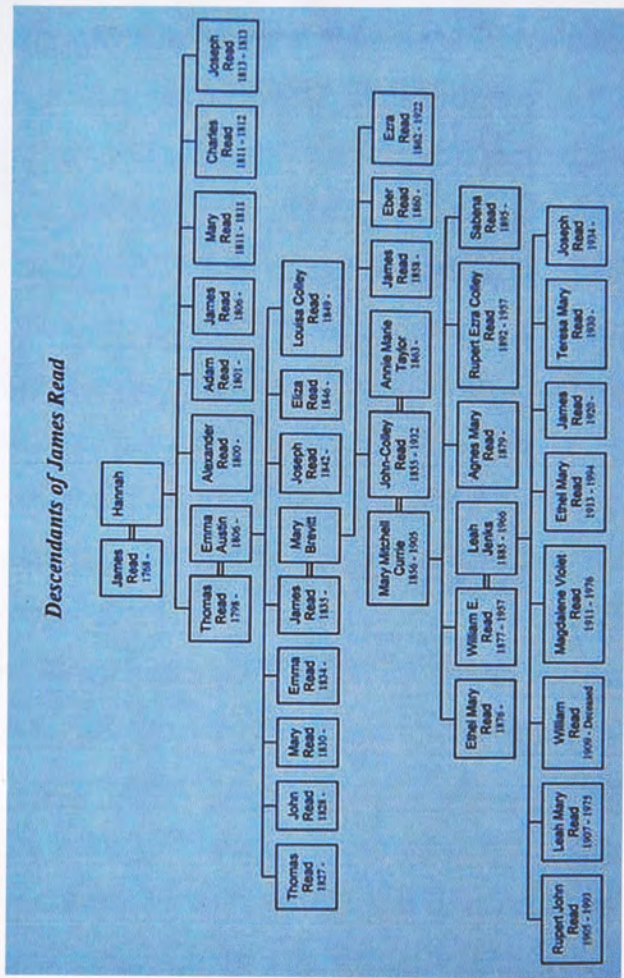
BRITISH COLUMBIA  
GRAND MARCH

British Columbia March  
(page 2)

British Columbia March  
(page 3)

## Family History

Ezra Read's paternal line has been traced back, tentatively, to 1652, when William Read married a girl named Magdalen, but with certainty to 1797, when James Read married Hannah. The family line below shows only the direct descendants of James, to the birth of the author of this web site, 1934. The sudden insertion of the name 'Colley' in 1849 (birth of Louise Colley Read) is probably the source of a family rumour that the Reads are connected to the Duke of Wellington's family, although this has not been verified.



The author of this website may be contacted at:

[joseph\\_read@hotmail.com](mailto:joseph_read@hotmail.com)

EZRA READ

EZRA READ

## Prolific Composer of Easy and Tuneful Music

A Brief Life of  
Ezra Read

Ezra Read's  
Musical  
Compositions

Photograph  
Gallery

Family History

Sheet Music  
Covers - gallery 1

Sheet Music  
Covers - gallery 2

Sheet Music  
Covers - gallery 3

Sheet Music  
Covers - gallery 4

Sheet Music  
Covers - gallery 5

Some of Ida  
Hampden's  
Covers

FAIRY PRINCE  
WALTZ

Fairy Prince  
Waltz ( 2)

Fairy Prince  
Waltz (3)

BRITISH  
COLUMBIA  
GRAND MARCH

British Columbia  
March (page 2)

British Columbia  
March (page 3)

British Columbia  
March (page 4)

British Columbia  
March (page 5)

British Columbia  
March (page 6)

British Columbia  
March (page 7)



Born: Feb 14th 1862  
Died: Oct 13th 1922

[Australian music sales](#)