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Born: 2 Jun 1678 Scotland

Married: Janette Cargill

Died: 10 Mar 1758 Londonderry, New Hampshire

Parents: David Gregg & Jessie Stewart

GREGG

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CAPTAIN JAMES GREGG was born about 1678. His forefathers came from Aberdeen, but he was a native of Ayrshire, Scotland. About 1690 he emigrated to Ireland, settling probably in Macosquin Parish, County Londonderry, where he is known as a bleacher of linen cloth. In 1718 he and his family came to America, landing in Boston. They apparently spent the winter at Casco, now Portland, Maine, and the next spring came to Newbury, whence in 1719 they with others removed to Londonderry, New Hampshire. Captain James Gregg was a linen-draper in Ireland and seems to have acquired some property both there and in America. He was commissioned captain of the first company of soldiers raised in the town, and he built the first grist mill there. He received a grant of three hundred acres of land.

Captain James Gregg married, probably before 1690, Janet Cargill, of Illa, Scotland. One of her sisters married James McKeen, and another married the Reverend James MacGregor; both of these men were leaders in the Scotch emigration from Ireland to New England.

Children, born in Ireland:

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1. William, of whom further.
2. John, born about 1702; married Agnes Rankin.
3. Samuel, married Mary Moore.
4. Thomas, born about 1708, died in Cohoes, New York; married Agnes Ferguson (another record says Ann Leslie).
5. Elizabeth, married James Moore.

("Autobiography of Major Samuel Gregg," pp. 3-5. E. L. Parker: "History of Londonderry, New Hampshire," p. 274. E. Cogswell: "History of New Boston, New Hampshire," p. 38.)

CAPT. JAMES GREGG - 1718

Capt. James Gregg was one of the first 16 settlers in Londonderry, New Hampshire, in 1719. He was born about 1670, in Ayrshire, Scotland, and was 20 years old, when his parents removed to Northern Ireland. The family settled in the County of Antrim, and in the Parish of Mulasky. James had been apprenticed at the age of 14 years to learn the tailor's trade, and had just completed his obligation when he moved to Ireland. He immediately commenced business, and was actively employed.

James married Janette Cargill, born in Illa, Scotland, and the daughter of Capt. David Cargill. James Gregg and his wife settled in the Parish of Mausky, where he pursued his business to good advantage, and went extensively into the business of bleaching linen cloth.

In the year 1718, James Gregg, in company with 15 families from the same parish, sailed for America in a vessel commanded by Captain Crowningshield. They landed late in the season at Casco Bay, where they spent the winter. In April, 1719, they went to Nutfield, now Londonderry, New Hampshire, where they made a permanent settlement.

Parker, in his "History of Londonderry," relates:

"The company which passed the winter 1718-19 on shipboard in Casco Bay, explored the country to the eastward, and finding nothing satisfactory that had not been claimed, ascended the Merrimac to Haverhill, April 2, 1719. At this point, they were told of a fertile tract of land covered by nut trees, lying about 14 miles northwest of the meeting house at Haverhill. Leaving their families there, the men in the party, including James Gregg, mounted horses and rode over to examine the land. They found it satisfactory, and named the place Nutfield, on account of the trees growing there. They remained to build a few temporary huts near a small tributary of Beaver Creek, which they called West-Running Brook. They then returned to Haverhill for their wives and children."

The settlement had been made at Nutfield, under the impression that the land was in Massachusetts, but in May, 1719, the General Court decided that New Hampshire had jurisdiction. The name of the town was later changed to Londonderry.

James Gregg subsequently received a captain's commission, and commanded the first company of militia recruited in Londonderry. He built the first grist-mill in Londonderry, and was one of the foremost citizens of the town, as long as he lived. The town granted him 300 acres of land in appreciation of,

and compensation for his efforts in behalf of the community.

Capt. James Gregg acquired additional acreages, which can be noted by deed records, when the estate was settled among his heirs. He died at Peterborough, New Hampshire, January, 1762, at the age of 92. His wife's death is recorded as December 28, 1764.

Above information from online research at: Ancestry.com

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James Gregg immediately established himself in business and was very successful as a linen draper. One day Janet Cargill came to his shop to order her wedding dress. The romance that followed, embellished perhaps by some imaginative details of tradition and the author, is thus described in an article published half a century ago in the Nashua (New Hampshire) Gazette: "When she came into the shop he recognized her as a person he had seen, but had no particular acquaintance with her ; he saw at once that she was very beautiful and interesting person, and had a most captivating smile on her countenance, and at the same time discovered that there was a shade of melancholy, which plainly told that some unseen affliction was preying upon her mind." After taking her measure and receiving her instructions, she very politely bade him adieu, and turned to go out of the door when he spoke to her in a tremulous tone of voice and said : "My dear friend, I am almost tempted to envy Mr. Lindsey his happiness." This unexpected salutation came upon her like a shock of electricity, and suddenly an effusion of tears burst from her eyes, while the tumult in her bosom choked her utterance, and she was silent a few moments until her emotion had somewhat subsided. At length she mustered fortitude enough to reply and said: 'My dear friend, if I could have my wishes realized, Mr. Lindsey would be the envious man and you would be the person envied.' This modest reply was too plain to be misunderstood, and it broke the ice at once and opened the way for a full explanation. Then they conversed freely on the subject, when she told him her story very candidly and said to him: 'I am now pledged to Mr. Lindsey, an old gentleman who is said to be respectable; he is three score and ten and I am eighteen. My father, Mr. Cargill, is under pecuniary embarrassment and is indebted to Mr. Lindsey to a large amount and he has taken advantage of this circumstance to induce me to accept his hand. My parents are intimidated and see no way to extricate themselves from this situation but by consenting to an unhallowed connection. Consequently, they had been worried with their pressed circumstances, I have with painful reluctance given my consent. And now, my dear friend, if you feel willing to relieve me from my deplorable situation, with honor both to yourself and me, I will cheerfully consent to any measures which you may think proper.' The result of this interview was the firm agreement to elope under cover of evening shadows and have the marriage performed by a curate in a neighboring parish, which was done to their mutual joy and satisfaction. Mr. Gregg and his young wife settled in the parish of .Mausky where he pursued his business to good advantage; went extensively into the business of bleaching linen cloth and in the course of a few years accumulated a handsome property.



Cemetery name
Forest Hill Cemetery
Name on headstone
Capt. James Gregg
Birth 1673 - Scotland
Death 1758 - Londonderry, NH