

JAMES IRVING THE ELDER 1713-1775

Son of William Irving and Æmilia, daughter of Andrew, Lord Rollo. Born 19th April, 1713.* Married 22nd February, 1746/47, at Charleston, South Carolina, to Elizabeth, daughter of Jacob Motte, Public Treasurer of the Province of South Carolina.

Elizabeth Irving died on board ship on her passage to England, 10th September, 1775, aged 45. Her husband, James above mentioned, died in London, 4th November following, aged 63, both are buried in the graveyard adjacent to the Church of St. Martin's in the Fields.

From the above named James Irving sprang that branch of the family known as the Irvings of Ironshore, Jamaica, and his career and that of his descendants I now propose to record.

He, and it seems his brother, Paulus Æmilius, the two youngest sons of William Irving, of Bonshaw, Dumfriesshire, Scotland, went into the world.

James was educated to the profession of Medicine, while Paulus Æmilius obtained a Commission in the Army.

Of his early education and where James got his degree of Doctor of Medicine probably about 1735 at the time he attained twenty-two years of age, until his marriage in Charleston, South Carolina, to Elizabeth Motte I have never obtained accurate information. Several have concurred in stating that they had heard that when duly qualified as a Physician he went to St. Petersburg and it is certain he was in the Bermudas for some years, and thence about 1745 he went to South Carolina and at thirty-three years of age was married at Charleston to Elizabeth Motte, and to have there remained two or three years after marriage.

Thence he went to Jamaica with his wife and two children, Elizabeth, their first-born (afterwards Elizabeth Erskine) and James, who became a prominent man in Jamaica, and whom I will call the Second.

*The following is extracted from an old document preserved at Bonshaw, Scotland: "James Irving, eighth lawful son to said William and Emilia, was born April ye 19th, 1713, in ye Chamber of Dire in Bonshaw, about 3 in the afternoon, and was baptized the 27th of ye said month, being Monday, betwixt 2 and 3 in the afternoon, be Mr. Thos. Bowie, Minister of Annan. Witnesses Gr Scot Maxwell and oysr."