

A letter from Mr. James Major Boggs, addressed to Mr. Henry S. Brenton (page 53), dated March 18th 1831, says in substance:—"My ancestor was William Gardner Boggs, first Mayor of Derry. My own grandfather was Comptroller of Customs for Derry, Colerain, and Ballyshannon. He married a Miss Major, whose relatives lived in New York. (See page 4). My two aunts, Misses Fanny and Mary Boggs lived in Derry."

James Major Boggs was married Feb. 23rd, 1831, at St. John's Church, Birkenhead, by Rev. W. R. Jolly, M.A., to Memi Engaine Keith, daughter of Rev. L. F. Thomas, M. A., Cantab. Mr. Boggs was of Ballybrook House, Moville. This James Major Boggs' grandfather was possibly a cousin of Dr. James Boggs of Halifax, N. S.

Mrs. Livingston wrote May 23th, 1830, to Mrs. Anne (Boggs) Ansell, (page 41) in substance thus:—"Dr. James Boggs' parents were Ezekiel Boggs and Elizabeth Baird, an orphan and heir to a landed property near Londonderry which was seized and held by the White Boys, a Catholic party who refused to give it up and fired upon the young girl when she rode to the gates and claimed it. She educated her son carefully with a view to making a lawyer of him that he might return to Ireland and claim the estate. Just as his education was finished her house was burned and in it perished all her papers and the vouchers to her claims. He then decided to study medicine as we all know." This information Mrs. Livingston received from Dr. James Boggs' daughter Rebecca who spent the winter of 1838-9 in New York.

Mrs. Livingston also said that she had in her possession an old arithmetic book which had the name "James Boggs, Jr., 1754."

A letter from Mrs. Livingston to Miss Major, April 19th, 1880, added:—"Ezekiel Boggs came from Ireland after marrying Elizabeth Baird. She was an orphan and heir to landed property on which mills were situated near Londonderry. During her minority the place was seized and held by the White Boys. When she came of age she rode to the gates of the place accompanied by the Mayor of Londonderry, his son, and a party of armed men. The gates were fastened and the Mayor summoned the occupants to surrender the estate to the rightful heir. The answer was a volley of musketry by which the Mayor's son was wounded. The heir turned her horse away saying 'I'll not seek my own at the price of blood,' and made no further effort to recover her lost inheritance. Of her husband's antecedents I know nothing. They came out here and settled in Delaware. He probably died early. Mrs. Boggs went to New Jersey with her two children, one son and one daughter. The latter married a Mr. Risk of Philadelphia. She had an only child, Rebecca, who married Joshua Bond of Philadelphia and died childless. She educated her son carefully intending that he should study law, return to Ireland and claim the mill property. He was one of six youths taken into the family of Dr. Allison, later the first President of Princeton, and educated by him. The others, were Chief Justice Marshall, Charles Thompson, Speaker of the first Congress, Judge McKean of Philadelphia, and a brother of Charles Thompson. When his studies were completed and he was about to enter a law office his mother's house was burnt down and in it perished all the papers by which she could substantiate her claim. He disliked the law and having no further motive to impel him towards that profession he decided to study medicine. He obtained a commission as Surgeon in the British Army which he held until retired by age. He was born Jan. 22nd, 1740, and married Nov. 24th, 1765 in New York at the house of Richard Morris, uncle and guardian of the bride, Mary, daughter of Robert Hunter Morris, Governor of New Jersey under the crown. I have an old book an Arithmetic, published in Dublin, 1747, with the name of James Boggs, Junior Oct. 10th, 1754."

Mrs. Livingston wrote to James Major Boggs of Ballybrack, Sept. 17th, 1880:—"It is very certain that an Ezekiel Boggs emigrated to America during the first half of the last century and from the fact that his grandson, my father and Mr. Major of New York being aware of their relationship through an intermarriage between the Boggs and Major families, Ezekiel Boggs must have belonged to the family from which you also descend."