

# Dr. James Boggs – Family Story Attachment

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DR. JAMES BOGGS  
1740-1830



MARY MORRIS BOGGS  
WIFE OF  
DR. JAMES BOGGS  
1746-1831

## Dr. James Boggs – Family Story Attachment

### Dr James Boggs (22 Jan 1740-8 Jul 1832):

James Boggs was born in Mill Creek, Delaware, the son of Ezekiel Boggs and Elizabeth Beaird of Londonderry, Ireland, who owned a vast estate in Ireland. In an attempt to recover her estates, Elizabeth undertook to educate her son as a lawyer but when all hope was lost due to the destruction of documents in Ireland, he undertook the study of medicine. On 20 November 1765, James was married to Mary, daughter of Robert Hunter Morris and Elizabeth Stogdell of New York, by whom he had eight children. Dr. Boggs practised medicine in Shrewsbury, New Jersey, from 1764 to 1777. He narrowly escaped capture by the Revolutionary forces in 1776 by fleeing to Sandy Hook, where he was taken aboard the Swan, a British sloop-of-war. He then worked as a surgeon's mate at the General Hospital in New York from July 1777 until 1783 when he was appointed by Sir Guy Carleton to be Assistant-surgeon on Staff. His family remained in Shrewsbury, where they were able to remain due to Mary's connections to the rebel army through her brother Robert Morris who was serving with the American Army. James surreptitiously visited his family throughout the war, but was eventually forced to move his wife and most of their children to Nova Scotia, thus forming the Canadian branch of the family.

He went to Nova Scotia in 1783 with his wife and family except his two oldest sons. They settled in Halifax where he was the Garrison Surgeon for the rest of his active life. He died in Halifax in 1832 at the age of 91 years.

In 1783, a commission was appointed by the British Parliament at the suggestion of the King, to investigate the claims and classify the losses and services of those who had remained loyal to the Crown and had left the United States in consequence. According to an extract, Dr. Boggs was a meritorious loyalist and was awarded 630 pounds sterling for his losses in New Jersey. He retired from active service in June 1810 and was listed in the Medical Department on half-pay Retired Surgeon. Died in his 91 year and laid to rest in the old St. Paul's Cemetery opposite Government House.

Memorial of James Boggs of New Jersey

1904	BUREAU OF ARCHIVES.	(A. FRASER 35)
PROVINCE OF ONTARIO (ARCHIVIST 1904)		
The claimant enjoys half pay as Capt. in the South Carolina Volunteers.		
Class 2nd. Confiscation proved.		
5. Evidence in the case of Dr. JAS. BOGGS, late of Monmouth County, New Jersey. Claimant sworn. Memorial read.		
He is a native of Delaware County. At the commencement <sup>1785,</sup> of the trouble he resided at Shrewsbury, in New Jersey, and says		
that he uniformly supported the Brit. Govt. He ever opposed the choosing of committees, and says he never took an oath or carried arms with the Americans.		
A number of Loyalists were taken up in Shrewsbury in Nov., 1776. The dread of being taken up made him fly to Sandy Hook, where he got aboard the Swan sloop of war.		
He has continued under the protection of the British troops ever since.		
He acted as mate in the Gen. Hospital at New York from July, 1777, until Sept., 1783. When he was appointed by Sir Guy Carleton Assist. Surgeon on the Staff. His pay in both situations has been 7s. 6d. per diem. (16).		
Property: 111 acres in the township of Shrewsbury. Produces appointment by Gen. Carleton produced.		
Copy of a Deed of Bargain and Sale, whereby Stoffel Loggan conveys to the claimant and his heirs a tract of land as above in Trenton manor in consideration of £777 N. York currency, bearing date 25th May, 1773. 23th January, 1786. The original Deed produced which agrees with the copy formerly examined.		
The land was very good, part of it, about 60 acres cleared. When he bought it he made very considerable improvements, which cost him about £200 N. Y. currency. Thinks it was well worth £1,000 N. York currency, but he cannot say it would have sold for so much if he had not purchased it when he did.		
Another person would have given the same price for it. He knows this property is sold under confiscation. Is required to produce copies of the records of sale under confiscation. It is in the possession of Moses Sheppard.		
Personal property:		
Says when his claim was sent to England it was believed in New York that the lands only would be attended to as claims.		
Requests a few days to arrange the remaining part of his claim.		
LT.-COL. ELISHA LAWRENCE, late of Monmouth County, New Jersey, sworn: (17).		
Knew the claimant in America, and as far as he could judge he acted as a loyal subject, and joined the British army in Decem. 1776.		
He knew his farm in Shrewsbury township. It was tolerably good, and about half cleared. Lands in that neighborhood sold for £8 or £9 N. Y. currency per acre.		