

From <http://archiver.rootsweb.ancestry.com/th/read/Scotch-Irish/2007-04/1175786231>

Quite a lot is known about the *James and Mary*, a snow, a kind of brig, of 200 tons, belonging to the port of Larne in Co. Antrim and her 1772 voyage to South Carolina. Among the passengers were the Chesney family from North Antrim and *The Journal of Captain Alexander Chesney* (published most recently in 2002 by Bobby G. Moss and still in print) has a first-hand account.

The snow *James and Mary* was a regular in the flaxseed and passenger trade between New York and Larne for more than a dozen years before the American Revolution. She was owned by James McVickar, a merchant in Larne, with different partners at different times. John Moore had commanded the snow earlier (1765-1770) and became McVickar's partner and co-owner of the *James and Mary*. John Workman was the ship's captain in 1772.

Since New York was not the most popular destination for passengers, *James and Mary* sailed from Belfast Lough for either New Castle, Delaware, or Charleston, SC on her outward voyage and then on to New York.

The *James and Mary* arrived from New York in April 1772 with a flaxseed cargo. She also brought in a cargo of rum on which duty had not been paid and it was seized by the authorities. (*Belfast News Letter*, 28 April 1772) She then made a voyage from Larne to Gottenburg in Sweden and returned with a cargo of Swedish herrings. (*Belfast News Letter*, July 14, 1772)

McVickar and Moore had meanwhile advertised her to sail for Charleston 10 July (*Belfast News Letter*, 13 May 1772). The sailing date was postponed to August 8 (*Belfast News Letter*, July 29, 1772). The *James and Mary* actually sailed August 25, 1772, according to Alexander Chesney's *Journal*. She took seven weeks to cross the Atlantic, arriving at Charleston on October 18, 1772 (*South Carolina Gazette*, October 22, 1772).

There was an outbreak of smallpox and 5 children died on the voyage. The ship was quarantined for another seven weeks. This was not so bad as it might be, according to Chesney, as there was a large house on Sullivan's Island as a hospital for the passengers and they were able to go "back and forwards between the Ship and hospital which made a change, and beguiled the time a little." (Chesney, *Journal*, 6).

Despite the sickness on board, the passengers sent back a letter thanking Captain Workman, which was published in the Belfast paper (*Belfast News Letter*, December 22, 1772). ...

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And this is the *News Letter* material:

"To the Printers of the *Belfast News Letter*.

I desire you will insert and continue three times in your Paper, the inclosed Letter, which I received from South Carolina.

Yours,

James McVickar

Larne, 21 December 1772

P.S. My Friend in Charlestown advises me, that they have a great Crop of Rice, but want Ships to carry it to Market.

Charles-Town, October 21, 1772

To Mr. JAMES McVICKAR, Merchant in Larne.

Sir

THESE will inform you, that we arrived here all well and in good spirits the 18th instant (five Children excepted who died in the Passage) after a pleasant and agreeable Passage of seven weeks and one day. — Pleasant with respect to Weather, and agreeable with regard to the Concord and Harmony that subsisted among us all: And, to confirm what we have heard you assert, before we left Ireland, we must say, that we had more than a sufficiency of all kinds of Provisions, and good in their kind: And to speak of Captain Workman, as he justly deserves, we must say with the greatest Truth (and likewise with the greatest Thanks and Gratitude to him) that he treated us all with the greatest Tenderness and Humanity: and seemed even desirous of obliging any one, whom it might be in his Power to serve. If you think proper, we would be desirous you should cause these Things to be inserted in the public News Letter, being sensible they will afford our Friends and Acquaintances great Satisfaction; and we hope they may be of some Use to you and Captain Workman, if you resolve to trade any more in the Passenger Way. Now, in Confirmation of these Things, We Subscribe ourselves as follows:

We are, Sir, your Most humble Servants,

Revd Robt. McClintock	John McClintock	Thos. Makee	John Dicky
John Peddan	James Hood	Wm. Anderson	James Stinson
Joseph Lowry	John Montgomery	John Thompson	Peter Willey
Timothy McClintock	John Snody	Hugh Loggan	John Caldwell
Nathan Brown	Robt. Hadden	David Thompson	Samuel Kerr
Wm. Boyd	Hugh Mansead	James Peddan	Robt. Machesney
Robt. Wilson	Alex. Brown	Wm. Eashler	Robt. Ross
John Brown	Charles Miller	John Parker	Thomas Madill
John rickey	James Young	Wm. Simpson	Charles Dunlop
Robt. Neile			

P. S. We had Sermon every Sabbath, which was great Satisfaction to us. We omitted to let you know, that the Mate, Mr. Bole, as also the common Hands, behaved with great Care and Benevolence towards us.”