Introduction James Bigger (1691-1756)

My name is Judy Ross, my mother, Emily Jane Bigger, was born to Leonard Kelly Bigger and Marie DeJoice.

* *(See DeJoice Family Research Paper).*

Leonard’s adopted father was Henry Ward Bigger (1875-1935) and his biological mother was Emma Rachel Smith (1870-1929). Why adopted? When Emma married Henry, she was pregnant with Leonard. Leonard was given a middle name of Kelly, honoring Emma’s first husband. Henry was also previously married, and when Henry and Emma married, they were both living in Lycoming County, Pennsylvania.

* *(See Smith Family Research Paper).*
* *(See Kelly Family Research Paper).*

It is currently believed that the Bigger family Colonial America patriarch is James Bigger (1691-1756). However, as of this writing, his relationship and lineage to Henry Ward Bigger cannot be accurately verified.

Much of what follows comes from the research work from the Find a Grave, [[1]](#footnote-1) memorial page for James Bigger (1691-1756 and Martha Fleming Bigger (unknown–1766), citing Old Bethlehem Presbyterian Churchyard, Grandin, Hunterdon County, New Jersey; Maintained by Linda Lyons, Find-A-Grave Contributor ID: 47510021.

James Bigger (1691-1756)

James Bigger was born 1691 in County Tyrone, Northern Ireland.

James married Martha Fleming. Martha was born in Cookstown, County Tyrone, Northern Ireland. Some report that her birth name was Murphy, but this cannot be verified. James and Martha were both previously married while living in Ireland.

It is not clear when James and Martha would have immigrated to Colonial America. Most likely after the birth of their sons in 1735, and before 1751, when Fleming sons from her first marraige immigrated. Most likely during the 1740s.

James was 64 years old when he died in 1756 while living in the Hunterdon County area of New Jersey. He was laid to rest at the Old Bethlehem Presbyterian Churchyard, Grandin, Hunterdon County, New Jersey. In now-unmarked grave. FAG#: 166195536 [[2]](#footnote-2)

Martha died 1766 in the Hunterdon County area of New Jersey. was laid to rest at the Old Bethlehem Presbyterian Churchyard, Grandin, Hunterdon County, New Jersey. In now-unmarked grave. FAG#: 166195559 [[3]](#footnote-3)

It is likely James Bigger and Martha Bigger were

* The following research came from the Find a Grave, memorial page for Martha Fleming Bigger (unknown–1766), Find a Grave Memorial ID 166195559, citing Old Bethlehem Presbyterian Churchyard, Grandin, Hunterdon County, New Jersey; Maintained by Linda Lyons, Find-A-Grave Contributor ID: 47510021.

A descendant writes: "In 2001 we were in Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada. and visited the museum at Lundys Lane/Drummond Hill. I looked thru the genealogy folders that have been donated over the years and found a hand-written page with no attribution. At the top of the page, it said 'Martha Flemen 1765 or 1766?' Written below in parenthesis was this paragraph which I assumed was from a book: 'Together they lie to the side of the Church. Na'er a stone marks the spot in Old Bethlehem Churchyard.' "

James and Martha lived in Bethlehem Township, Hunterdon, New Jersey and were members of Old Bethlehem Presbyterian Church.

Martha’s first husband was Malcolm Fleming "of Tullywagan", a weaver and yeoman, in Derryloren, Cookstown, Tyrone, Northern Ireland. Perhaps she was his second wife. They had three sons born 1715-1720. This would imply she was born c. 1695 at the latest and that they married c. 1714. He may have been married previously because he had another son Samuel Fleming, later the namesake of Flemington, NJ, born in 1707. It seems unlikely that Martha was his mother. She did not mention Samuel in her will.

According to a probate index in Ireland, Malcolm Fleming died in 1720. This would have left Martha a young widow with three small children. That there was a will (now gone) implies that she was not left penniless.

* Birth estimated about 1685, Death around 1730-1734 at Derryloran Parish, Tyrone County, Ulster Province, Ireland (only one Ireland then).  He was laid to rest at the Derryloran Old Cemetery, Cookstown, County Tyrone, Northern Ireland.

FAG#: 116530465 [[4]](#footnote-4)

* Malcolm was a yeoman farmer, and a weaver. He had an estate that he left in trust (with James Bigger) for his young children William, Thomas and Andrew. We can assume that because his children were faithful Presbyterians that he was also. [Family Genealogy by Publius V Lawson 1903]
  + William Fleming 1715-1792
  + Thomas Fleming 1717-1783
  + Andrew Fleming 1720-1777

The Fleming sons lived in the Bethlehem Township area of Hunterdon Township, New Jersey, and were members of Old Bethlehem Presbyterian Church with James and Martha Bigger.

* Malcolm's widow, Martha, married James Bigger and went to Hunterdon Co. NJ, where she died in 1766.

Martha married James Bigger in 1730 and they had three sons, probably in Ireland. Bigger had been a trustee for the interests of her three Fleming sons and there is a existing document regarding this in 1736 in Ireland. This refers to them as minors but by 1736 all would have been adults. However, since their father died in 1720, they would have been minors with property for all of their childhoods. Perhaps this document was about the conclusion of the trust.

It is not clear when the Biggers immigrated to New Jersey, but the three Fleming sons as adults immigrated c. 1751. Possible step-son Samuel Fleming immigrated by 1746 and probably earlier.

James Bigger died in 1756 in leaving a will citing Martha and their three sons.

Martha Bigger died in 1766 also leaving a will that mentioned her Fleming (Flemen) and Bigger (Riggerd) sons, two grandchildren, and five daughters-in-law. (Samuel Fleming was not mentioned supporting the idea that he was not her son although he is believed to have been a half-brother of her sons.)

It is remarkable that she left a will since most often widows were dependent on their sons. Clearly, she had means of her own. In a time when people had few clothes, she had enough apparel to leave to her FIVE daughters-in-law. Also, her inventory mentioned that she owned 25 books. This was astonishing for the time.

Martha and James had a son Joseph probably born in Ireland shortly after their marriage in 1730. There are earmarks recorded for him in 1762 and 1768 in Bethlehem, NJ. His brothers left probate records in NJ. He did not, perhaps implying that he was no longer in NJ. The Joseph Bigger who died in SC in 1786 is sometimes thought to be him. However, that gravestone lists his age at death as 64 which would make him born in 1722. According to Martha's will his wife's name was Ann. He probably was not the son of James and Martha.

* Joseph Bigger 1731-1773. Some report Joseph died in 1773 but I have seen no source.

Malcom and Martha Fleming children were:

1. William Fleming 1715-1792
2. Thomas Fleming 1717-1783
3. Andrew Fleming 1720-1777

James and Martha Bigger children were:

1. Robert Bigger 1733-1766
2. James Bigger 1735-1792

Robert Bigger (1733-1766)

Robert Bigger was born 1733 to James Bigger and Martha Fleming in Cookstown, County Tyrone, Northern Ireland.

He was 32 years old when he died in 1766 while living in the Hunterdon County area of New Jersey. He was most likely laid to rest in the Old Bethlehem Presbyterian Churchyard, Grandin, Hunterdon County, New Jersey. FAG#: 166482881 [[5]](#footnote-5)

* The following research came from the Find a Grave, memorial page for Robert Bigger (1733-1766), Find a Grave Memorial ID 166195559, citing Old Bethlehem Presbyterian Churchyard, Grandin, Hunterdon County, New Jersey; Maintained by Linda Lyons, Find-A-Grave Contributor ID: 47510021.

It is assumed that Robert was buried in the Old Bethlehem Presbyterian Churchyard in a now-unmarked grave as were his parents. His half-brother Thomas Fleming and cousin Andrew Fleming are buried here.

Robert died shortly before his mother who mentions his children and his widow Ann in her 1766 will. His inventory was proved in August 1733. That he didn't leave a will in spite of owning property that needed to be inventoried implies that he died suddenly.

Wife was Ann according to his probate records and his mother's will.

Robert and Ann Bigger children were:

1. James Bigger was born 1760
2. Martha Bigger (1762-1828)

James Bigger (1735-1792)

James Bigger was born in 1735 to James Bigger and Martha Fleming in Cookstown, County Tyrone, Northern Ireland.

James married Elizabeth.

* The following research came from the Find a Grave, memorial page for James Bigger (1733-1792) Find a Grave Memorial ID 166195559, citing Old Bethlehem Presbyterian Churchyard, Grandin, Hunterdon County, New Jersey; Maintained by Linda Lyons, Find-A-Grave Contributor ID: 47510021.

It is assumed that James Bigger was buried here as were his two Fleming half-brothers, Thomas and Andrew. The three brothers moved to Hardwick (now Independence), Sussex County, (now Warren County) New Jersey. Before the American Revolution.

Previously, the brothers and their shared mother and James’s father lived in Bethlehem, Hunterdon County, New Jersey. The Biggers immigrated from Northern Ireland sometime in the 1740s. The Flemings in 1751.

James Bigger died without a will in April 1792 in Hardwick. His wife Elizabeth was granted letters of administration. The inventory totaled L 242.19.5.

James was 56 years old when he died in 1792 while living in the Hackettstown area of Warren County, New Jersey. He was laid to rest in the Old Presbyterian Burial Ground in Hackettstown,

FAG#: 166696642 [[6]](#footnote-6)

James and Elizabeth Bigger children were:

1. William Hamilton Rudd Biggar (1777-1858)

William was raised by his Uncle James Bigger. William married Margaret? [[7]](#endnote-1)

William Hamilton Rudd Biggar

BIRTH 9 Feb 1777

Bucks County, Pennsylvania, USA

DEATH 14 May 1858 (aged 81)

Stamford, Niagara Regional Municipality, Ontario, Canada

BURIAL

Drummond Hill Cemetery

Niagara Falls, Niagara Regional Municipality, Ontario, Canada

MEMORIAL ID 33359216 · View Source

William was married twice;

1st to:

Mary Rachel Pettit Biggar

BIRTH 11 Apr 1777

Stoney Creek, Hamilton Municipality, Ontario, Canada

DEATH 1 Aug 1802 (aged 25)

Lincoln, Niagara Regional Municipality, Ontario, Canada

BURIAL

Saint Andrew's Anglican Church Cemetery

Grimsby, Niagara Regional Municipality, Ontario, Canada

MEMORIAL ID 76339277 · View Source

INSCRIPTION:

In Memory of

Mrs. Rachel

wife of

Mr. William Bigger

and daughter of

Mr. Charles, and Mrs. Marry Pettit;

who died Aug 1st

1802

Aged

25 years.

Daughter of Mary Smith Pettit. Married William Biggar 12 Mar 1800 in Grimsby Lincoln Co Ontario.

2nd to

Rebecca Green Biggar

BIRTH 26 Sep 1786

Stamford, Niagara Regional Municipality, Ontario, Canada

DEATH 8 Oct 1880 (aged 94)

Stamford, Niagara Regional Municipality, Ontario, Canada

BURIAL

Drummond Hill Cemetery

Niagara Falls, Niagara Regional Municipality, Ontario, Canada

MEMORIAL ID 33359249 · View Source

Find a Grave, database and images (https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/33359249/rebecca-biggar : accessed 11 December 2021), memorial page for Rebecca Green Biggar (26 Sep 1786–8 Oct 1880), Find a Grave Memorial ID 33359249, citing Drummond Hill Cemetery, Niagara Falls, Niagara Regional Municipality, Ontario, Canada ; Maintained by James Lemon (contributor 46987614) .

William Bigger and Mary Pettit children were:

James Biggar (1801–1836)

William Biggar and Rebecca Green children were:

1. Reuben Biggar (1806–1832)
2. John Lanning Biggar (1814–1899)
3. Charles Hamilton Hudd Biggar (1818–1898)
4. Isaac Smith Biggar (1820–1904)
5. Elizabeth Martha Biggar Pew (1825–1907)

James Biggar (1801–1836)

James Biggar

BIRTH 1801

Grimsby, Niagara Regional Municipality, Ontario, Canada

DEATH 6 Jul 1836 (aged 34–35)

Grimsby, Niagara Regional Municipality, Ontario, Canada

BURIAL

Drummond Hill Cemetery

Niagara Falls, Niagara Regional Municipality, Ontario, Canada

MEMORIAL ID 33386547 · View Source

Candace B. Cook Biggar

BIRTH 25 Oct 1799

DEATH 6 Jul 1836 (aged 36)

BURIAL

Drummond Hill Cemetery

Niagara Falls, Niagara Regional Municipality, Ontario, Canada

MEMORIAL ID 118279686 · View Source

Children

Marsena Biggar

1823–1903

Photo

William B Biggar

1825–1836

Photo

Rachel Biggar Woolnough

1828–1892

Reuben Biggar (1806–1832)

Reuben Biggar

BIRTH 1806

DEATH 16 Sep 1832 (aged 25–26)

BURIAL

Drummond Hill Cemetery

Niagara Falls, Niagara Regional Municipality, Ontario, Canada

MEMORIAL ID 118310056 · View Source

Elizabeth Bender Biggar

BIRTH 4 Apr 1809

DEATH 3 Mar 1833 (aged 23)

BURIAL

Drummond Hill Cemetery

Niagara Falls, Niagara Regional Municipality, Ontario, Canada

MEMORIAL ID 118310123 · View Source

Infant Son Biggar

1830–1830

Photo

Alanson Harrison Biggar

1831–1876

Wife

Millicent Mary Garner Biggar

BIRTH 1835

DEATH 5 Jan 1871 (aged 35–36)

BURIAL

Fairview Cemetery

Niagara Falls, Niagara Regional Municipality, Ontario, Canada

MEMORIAL ID 21348088 · View Source

Alanson and Milient child

George Bender Biggar

BIRTH 1859

DEATH 10 Jun 1915 (aged 55–56)

BURIAL

Fairview Cemetery

Niagara Falls, Niagara Regional Municipality, Ontario, Canada

MEMORIAL ID 21348100 · View Source

John Lanning Biggar (1814–1899)

John Lanning Biggar

BIRTH 23 Jan 1814

Stamford, Niagara Regional Municipality, Ontario, Canada

DEATH 19 Jun 1899 (aged 85)

Stamford, Niagara Regional Municipality, Ontario, Canada

BURIAL

Drummond Hill Cemetery

Niagara Falls, Niagara Regional Municipality, Ontario, Canada

PLOT 0387

MEMORIAL ID 33359131 · View Source

Elizabeth Ann Jamison Biggar

BIRTH 15 May 1824

St. Lawrence County, New York, USA

DEATH 13 Jun 1892 (aged 68)

Stamford, Niagara Regional Municipality, Ontario, Canada

BURIAL

Drummond Hill Cemetery

Niagara Falls, Niagara Regional Municipality, Ontario, Canada

MEMORIAL ID 33359291 · View Source

John and Elizabeth children

Photo

Alonzo Jamison Biggar

1841–1877

Harriett Melisse Biggar

1843–1843

Photo

Emily E. Biggar Wright

1844–1904

Photo

James Edgar Biggar

1847–1941

Photo

Joseph Leflar Biggar

1849–1931

Photo

Tamson Hester Biggar Secord

1851–1924

Photo

Charlotte Lannie Biggar Forbes

1854–1939

Eliza Ann Biggar

1858–1874

Photo

William Warren Biggar

1868–1942

Charles Hamilton Hudd Biggar (1818–1898)

Charles Hamilton Hudd Biggar

BIRTH 14 Jan 1818

Stamford, Niagara Regional Municipality, Ontario, Canada

DEATH 28 Jan 1898 (aged 80)

Stamford, Niagara Regional Municipality, Ontario, Canada

BURIAL

Drummond Hill Cemetery

Niagara Falls, Niagara Regional Municipality, Ontario, Canada

MEMORIAL ID 33373863 · View Source

Caroline Chesterfield Sumner Biggar

BIRTH 30 May 1821

Oakville, Halton Regional Municipality, Ontario, Canada

DEATH 5 Feb 1893 (aged 71)

Stamford, Niagara Regional Municipality, Ontario, Canada

BURIAL

Drummond Hill Cemetery

Niagara Falls, Niagara Regional Municipality, Ontario, Canada

MEMORIAL ID 33373916 · View Source

Charles and Caroline children

Photo

Phoebe Biggar

1844–1931

Photo

George Chalmers Biggar

1846–1907

Isaac Smith Biggar (1820–1904)

Isaac Smith Biggar

BIRTH 2 Oct 1820

Stamford, Niagara Regional Municipality, Ontario, Canada

DEATH 9 Apr 1904 (aged 83)

Stamford, Niagara Regional Municipality, Ontario, Canada

BURIAL

Fairview Cemetery

Niagara Falls, Niagara Regional Municipality, Ontario, Canada Show Map

PLOT 33378695

MEMORIAL ID 33378695 · View Source

Agnes Wallace Biggar

BIRTH 1836

Stamford, Niagara Regional Municipality, Ontario, Canada

DEATH 13 Apr 1909 (aged 72–73)

Niagara Falls, Niagara County, New York, USA

BURIAL

Fairview Cemetery

Niagara Falls, Niagara Regional Municipality, Ontario, Canada

MEMORIAL ID 33378782 · View Source

Issa c and Agnes children

Joseph Lefner Bigger

1854–1941

Photo

Carrie Biggar Bird

1860–1951

Photo

Laura R Biggar Alexander

1877–1964

Elizabeth Martha Biggar Pew (1825–1907)

Elizabeth Martha Biggar Pew

BIRTH 25 Mar 1825

Stamford, Niagara Regional Municipality, Ontario, Canada

DEATH 8 Apr 1907 (aged 82)

Cheboygan, Cheboygan County, Michigan, USA

BURIAL

Drummond Hill Cemetery

Niagara Falls, Niagara Regional Municipality, Ontario, Canada

MEMORIAL ID 33386010 · View Source

Isaac Pew

BIRTH 1823

Thorold, Niagara Regional Municipality, Ontario, Canada

DEATH 2 Feb 1903 (aged 79–80)

Thorold, Niagara Regional Municipality, Ontario, Canada

BURIAL

Drummond Hill Cemetery

Niagara Falls, Niagara Regional Municipality, Ontario, Canada

MEMORIAL ID 33386052 · View Source

Elizabeth and Isacc pew children

Francis E Pew

1850–1856

Photo

William Franklin Pew

1857–1930

1. Find-A-Grave, FAG, is a web site for cemetery memorials managed by Ancestry, Find-A-Grave, 1300 West Traverse Parkway, Lehi, Utah, 84043. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Find-A-Grave, FAG, is a web site for cemetery memorials managed by Ancestry, Find-A-Grave, 1300 West Traverse Parkway, Lehi, Utah, 84043. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Find-A-Grave, FAG, is a web site for cemetery memorials managed by Ancestry, Find-A-Grave, 1300 West Traverse Parkway, Lehi, Utah, 84043. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Find-A-Grave, FAG, is a web site for cemetery memorials managed by Ancestry, Find-A-Grave, 1300 West Traverse Parkway, Lehi, Utah, 84043. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Find-A-Grave, FAG, is a web site for cemetery memorials managed by Ancestry, Find-A-Grave, 1300 West Traverse Parkway, Lehi, Utah, 84043. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Find-A-Grave, FAG, is a web site for cemetery memorials managed by Ancestry, Find-A-Grave, 1300 West Traverse Parkway, Lehi, Utah, 84043. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. General George Washington Bigger Biography: The biography written by General George is translated from a type-set copy of the biography, which was sent to the subject (George W. Bigger) to be proof-read, but the subject did not edit and return the copy, so this biography may contain typographical errors; Page 765 and 766, Seventeenth Congressional District, General George W. Bigger, Book of Biographies of the Seventeenth Congressional District, Consisting of Columbia, Montour, Northumberland and Sullivan Counties, Published by Biographical Publishing Company of Chicago, Ill. and Buffalo, New York: 1899. [↑](#endnote-ref-1)