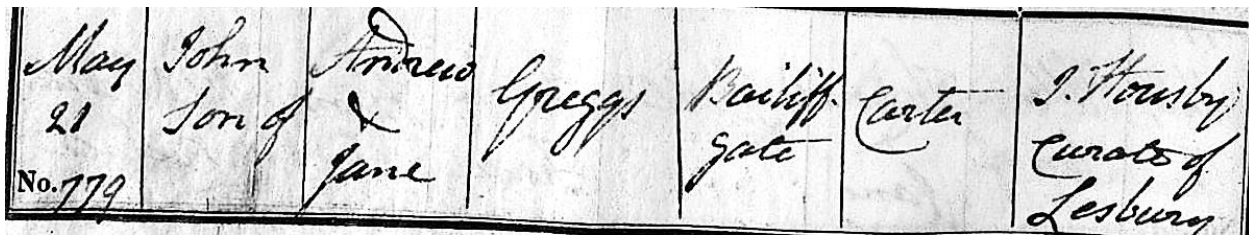


John Greig 419, Pyrenees

Researched by Marcia Watson

Name variation: Gregg, Greggs



Baptism	21 May 1820, Alnwick, Northumberland
Parents	Andrew Greig and Jane Cosser
Parent's marriage	24 July 1808, St Maurice, Eglingham, Northumberland
Siblings	Mary (1811-1837), Agnus/Ann (1816)
Wife	Unknown
Married	Not found
Children	

When Mary Gregg was baptised in 1811, the register said her father, Andrew, was a husbandman, native of Hulls, Scotland, and her mother, Jane Crossier, a native of Eglingham. Andrew was a labourer when Agnes was baptised in 1816, and a carter when John was born.

On the 1841 census, Clayport Street, Alnwick. ¹

Andrew Greig, 60, carter, not born in the county

Jane, 60

John, 20, Grocers' Journeyman

Jane Greig (*sic*), 8 - daughter of Mary née Greig and James Lockey, born 1831

Ann Lockey, 6 - daughter of Mary and James Lockey

In 1848, the newspaper reported: Father and Son. Andrew and John Greig, the Alnwick robbers, who were tried at the Northumberland quarter-sessions, were, notwithstanding the efforts of their able counsel, found guilty and sentenced to seven years' transportation (which is virtually for the life of Andrew, now seventy-five years of age). The excitement caused by this affair in the neighbourhood was very great. The courtroom was filled when the sentence was pronounced, and would also have been crowded during the trial; however, policemen were placed to prevent the people from entering the room. When the unfortunate men were being removed in custody, the streets were thronged, but no demonstration of joy greeted them on their appearance; for though the sentence of justice was universally acknowledged, a feeling of profound pity for their fate was visible in every face, as the manacled prisoners passed through the crowd. It was sad to see a venerable-looking old man in such a situation, proceeding into captivity, with the grey hairs forever dishonoured by his evil practices, accompanied by his son, the accomplice of his guilt. The youth was wont to boast that he had taught the people of Alnwick how to live without working. He has found out his error and given a better lesson, which, we trust, will not soon be forgotten. ²

Northumberland Sentences. Andrew Greig and John Greig, charged with having, on the 3 October, broken into a mill, and stolen a quantity of corn, the property of Edward Thew, Lesbury, were transported for seven years.³ Lesbury is 6km from Alnwick.

¹ The National Archives (TNA) UK, HO107/828/2

² North British Daily Mail, 07 November 1848, p3

³ Newcastle Guardian and Tyne Mercury, 28 October 1848, p5

A Warrant to remove nine prisoners to Millbank Prison, from Northumberland, was issued on 5 February 1849, including Andrew and John Greig.⁴

The Prison Registers show that John Greig, 27, married, read and write well, Innkeeper, was convicted on 18 October 1848 at the Alnwick Sessions, Northumberland, of breaking into a warehouse and stealing flour. He was sentenced to 7 years' transportation. John was received from the Morpeth Gaol at Millbank Prison on 7 February 1849. It was not known if he had been previously convicted. Under the heading "Special remarks and accounts of visits etc." – **His propensity for falsehood is truly startling.**

On 15 August 1849, John was transferred to the *Justitia* hulk at Woolwich and then moved to the *Warrior* hulk on 27 December 1849. From here, he boarded the *Pyrenees* on 5 March 1851 for the voyage to Western Australia.⁵

On arrival at Fremantle, Western Australia, on 28 June 1851, John was assigned number 419, issued with a Ticket of Leave and a physical description was recorded.

491. John Greig, 31, 5'4½", dark brown hair, dark hazel eyes, oval face, fair complexion, scar on right arm, tallow chandler, married, no children.⁶

The Superintendent's Journal shows:

1 July 1851. John was one of the first 50 men removed from the *Pyrenees* and was located in Division No. 3 at the Prison. The men all came from the *Warrior* hulk.

5 July 1851. Eight prisoners from the ship *Pyrenees*, and one from the *Scindian*, will proceed to the Mill at Perth to prepare it for a Station to be called the Mount Eliza Station, taking with them provisions etc., including 419. John Greig.⁷

Perth District, Ticket of Leave Register. John Greig, 419, 31years, *Pyrenees*.⁸

John was hired by Geo Hayson, Perth, carter on 22 July 1851.

Wages: 3/- per week

Trade or Calling: Tallow chandler, publican

9 October 1851. He passed to the York District to enter the service of the Revd J. Smithies at the Native Institution.

Gerald Mission was established in 1851 when the government granted the Wesleyan Reverend John Smithies land to relocate the Wanneroo Native School to more arable land in York. Aboriginal adults and children from Wanneroo relocated there. In 1854, the government took over the administration, and in 1855, the Gerald Mission closed.⁹ Rev. John Smithies left for York for Hobart in 1855.

John had paid £6.15 with a 15/- allowance of his passage money by December 1852.

He was granted a Conditional Pardon on 23 April 1853.

There are newspaper articles, one in 1856, of a J Greig winning prizes in the Horticultural Show in Perth. Also, a J. Greig, free, was charged by Police Constable Gavan with being under the influence of liquor and refusing to give him his name in Hay Street, on Sunday morning, the 5 May 1861. Whether either of these events is John Greig is unknown.

No further trace has been found of John Greig.

⁴ TNA, HO 13/96, p113

⁵ TNA, HO24/4; HO8/102-107

⁶ SROWA, Acc 128/32

⁷ SROWA, Superintendent's Orders, So1-So3, p45, p52

⁸ SROWA, Perth TOL Register Cons 1386/1 1851 - Aug 1854, p58

⁹ The Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News, 10 Feb 1854, p1

His father:

1851 census, Morpeth Gaol, Northumberland. ¹⁰

Andrew Greig, prisoner, married, 70, labourer, born Morpeth.

19 January 1852. The Visiting Justices recommend to her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Home Department that Andrew Greig was convicted at the Quarter Sessions held in October 1848 of stealing flour from a Corn Mill and sentenced to transportation for seven years be discharged from prison. He has been rejected by the Physicians of the Penitentiary in London as unfit for transportation and has, in consequence, continued a Prisoner in this Gaol [Morpeth] from the time of rejection. He is now 75 years of age and being infirm in Health and that his recommendation be forwarded to the Secretary of State by the Clerk.

Gaol and House of Correction, 6 February 1852.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Her Most Gracious Majesty's "Free Pardon" bearing date 30 January directing the liberation from prison of Andrew Greig, who was convicted at Northumberland Quarter Sessions in October 1848 and sentenced to 7 years transportation. Immediately on receipt of the Warrant above alluded to, the Prisoner was accordingly liberated. ¹¹

Two death notices appeared in the newspapers.

At Alnwick, on 13 July 1854, aged 79, Mr Andrew Greggs, husbandman.

On 15 July 1854, aged 79, Mr Andrew Gregg, Lisburn-street.

His wife:

1851 census, Percy Street, Alnwick. ¹²

Jane Greig, head, married, 72, carter's wife, born at Edlingham

James Swan, son-in-law, married, 36, Ostler, born at Nether Witton

Ann Swan, daughter, married, 34, Ostler's wife, born at Alnwick

Jane Swan, granddaughter, 3, born in Alnwick

Ann Locky, granddaughter, 16, born at Chatton

Two death notices:

On 1 August 1857, aged 79, Jane, widow of the late Mr Andrew Greig.

In Howick Street, on 3 August 1857, aged 80, Jane, widow of Mr Andrew Greig.

¹⁰ TNA, HO107/2418

¹¹ TNA, HO18/323

¹² TNA, HO107/2419