

Some Notes on the Ancestry of Mary¹ Stallon *alias* Butler, Wife of Abraham¹ Belknap of Lynn, Massachusetts

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The English ancestry of Mary¹ Stallon *alias* Butler, wife of Abraham¹ Belknap of Lynn, Massachusetts, is treated in John Threlfall's *Fifty Great Migration Colonists*.^[1] In the section on Mary's father, Thomas^A Stallon *alias* Butler (on pages 21–22), the author states that Thomas married first Mary Dalton in Great Parndon, Essex, 14 April 1592, that Mary (Dalton) Stallon *alias* Butler was buried in Latton, Essex, 14 August 1610, that Thomas married second Elizabeth Benbow there 5 October 1612, and that Thomas was buried there 18 June 1619. Threlfall further states that all of Thomas's children were by his first wife, listing them as *Emmanuel* (born 1592–1593), *Katherine* (born 1594), *Mary* (baptized 24 December 1595 in Latton), *Parnell* (baptized 3 December 1598 in Latton), *Elizabeth* (baptized 31 August 1600 in Latton), *Susan* (baptized 1 May 1603 in Latton), *Margaret* (baptized 10 March 1604/5 in Latton), and *Dorcas* (baptized 8 February 1606/7 in Latton). Nothing is said about the parentage of Thomas's first wife Mary Dalton.

An examination of the parish registers of Great Parndon and Latton revealed the same family members as presented in Threlfall's work, but with some different dates (and consequent maternities); and a serendipitous discovery of one of the siblings of Mary (Stallon *alias* Butler) Belknap in a relative's will shed some light on the background of their mother Mary Dalton. Those are treated in the two sections below, followed by a genealogical summary.

Corrected Dates and Birth Order for the Family of Thomas Stallon *alias* Butler.

An examination of the parish registers of Great Parndon, Essex, showed that Thomas Stallon *alias* Butler and Mary Dalton were married 14 April 1594 — not 1592 as claimed by Threlfall.^[2] This of course would rule out Threlfall's contention that their children Emmanuel and Katherine were both born by

¹ John Brooks Threlfall, *Fifty Great Migration Colonists to New England and Their Origins* (Madison, Wisc.: the author, 1990; repr. Westminster, Md.: Heritage Books, 2008), 17–36 (in which Threlfall also discusses the ancestry of Grace Adams, mother of Abraham Belknap). Previous works dealing with Abraham Belknap's paternal ancestors, all published in the *Register*, are: Henry Wyckoff Belknap, "The English Ancestry of the American Belknaps" (68 [1914]:83–92 and 190–198), the same author, "Belknap: Additional Records" (85 [1931]:265–288), and G. Andrews Moriarty (incorporating further research from the previous author), "The Family of Abraham Belknap of Lynn, Mass." (104 [1950]:316–317).

² Registers of St. Mary the Virgin, Great Parndon, Essex, 1547–1704 (Essex Record Office D/P 184/1/1).

1594. A further examination of the parish registers of Latton, Essex, showed that these two children were actually younger than the rest, and must have been by his second wife (by whom he also had an additional posthumous child):

Baptisms in Latton, Essex^[3]

1595 Dec 24	[<i>torn</i>]tallion alias Butler ye daughter [<i>torn</i>]s Stallion
1598 Dec 3	Parnell Stallion the daughter of Thomas Stallion
1600 Aug 31	Elizabeth Stallion the daughter of Thomas Stallion
1603 May 1	Susanna Stallion the daughter of Thomas Stallion
1604/5 Mar 10	Margaret Stallion daughter of Thomas Stallion
1606/7 Feb 8	Dorcas Stallion daughter of Thomas Stallion
1614 Sep 25	Katheryn Sallyon daughter of Thomas Stallion
1616/17 Jan 6	Emmanuel Stallion sonne of Thomas Stallion
1619 Sep 10	Thomas Stallion sonne of Elizabeth Stallion widow late wife of Thomas Stallion deceased

The Family of Mary (Dalton) Stallon *alias* Butler

Besides the marriage noted above between Thomas Stallon *alias* Butler and Mary Dalton on 14 April 1594, the only Dalton entries in the Great Parndon parish records through 1640 are the baptism of “John Dawton the sonne of John Dawton” in 1562, the marriage of “John Dawton and Margaret Greygoose” in 1563, and the burial of “Johan Dawton the daughter of John Daughton” in 1568/9 (see below). The marriage between John Dalton and Margaret Graygoose is at about the right time for them to be Mary’s parents, but without more confirming evidence, this would only be a guess; and in any case it would appear that this John Dalton had been previously married, given the baptism of a son of a John Dalton in the previous year. However, evidence linking the Graygoose family to at least one child of Thomas Stallon *alias* Butler and Mary Dalton came to light in an unrelated search through Great Parndon wills. The will of George Graygoose of Great Parndon, yeoman, dated 30 March 1614 (notarized 2 April 1614) and proved in 1615 (just the year recorded), requested:

to be buried in Great Parndon church or churchyard; to the poor of Great Parndon 40 s.; to cousin Francis Barnes (Frannces Barnse) of Stortford, Herts, shoemaker, £10; “I geve and Bequeath unto Dorcas Graigoos my loveinge wyfe all that my meassage or tennement where in my brother in law michael watsonn doth dwell called Bishopes . . . in great paringdon . . . untill **my cussonn Dorcas Stalyn als butler** come accomlishe & be of the age of eightene yeares / Dureing all wch tyme . . . the said Dorcas Graygoos my wife . . . shall at hir owne costes & chardges honestlie & vertuouslie Educate kepe bringe upp & . . . mayntain the sayd **Dorcas Stalin als Butler** . . . and ymmediatly after the said **Dorcas stalin als Butler** doth accomlishe and be of the age of eightene years . . . she the said **Dorcas Stalin als Butler** shall have & inioye to her and to hir heires of hir Bodie Lawfull begotten or to be begotten all that my forsaid meassage or tenement called Bishopes . . . and yf yt doe happen that the said **Dorcas stalin**

³ Registers of St. Mary the Virgin, Latton, Essex, 1567–1683 (Essex Record Office D/P 344/1/1).

als Butler to deceasse withoutt yssue of her Body lawfullie begotten or to be begotten . . . Then I geve and Bequeathe all the forsayd meassuage or tenement called Bishops . . . unto Dorcas Graigoos my wife and to her heires for ever"; to wife Dorcas Graigoos the remaining years of my farm lease in properties called Stewards, Hawkyens, and Barris, all in Great Parndon; residue to wife Dorcas Graygoos, including debts owed to me or Wilyam Graigoos my late father deceased, she to be executrix; overseer my father-in-law (not named), he to have 3 s. 4 d.; signed; witnesses John Bevis, Wm. Benton, and Henry Bevis; witnessed again in front of John Brampton, notary public (other witnesses Thomas Bevis and Henry Bevis).^[4]

A possible interpretation of this will would be that Margaret (Graygoose) Dalton, the putative grandmother of Dorcas Stallon *alias* Butler, was a sister of this George Graygoose. However, the marriage record of this George Graygoose would seem to place them in different generations (1604 for George vs. 1563 for Margaret):

Relevant Graygoose and Dalton entries in the registers of Great Parndon, Essex:^[5]

Baptisms

1548/9 Mar 16	Agnes Greggoss daughter of John Greyg.
1549 Nov 17	Alice Greygose daughter of George Greygose
1550 Oct 5	Robert Greygose sonne of George Greygose
1553/4 Feb 21	Francis Greigose sonne of George Greygose
1555 Jun 13	Nicholas Greygoose the sonne of George Greygoose
1558 Apr 9	Francys Greygoose the sonne of George Greygoose
1562 Nov 1	John Dawton the sonne of John Dawton

Marriages

1563 Jul 27	John Dawton and Margaret Greygoose
1594 Apr 14	Thomas Stallon als Butler and Marie Dalton
1604 Jul 2	George Graygoose the sonne of William Graygose and Dorcas Hollowaie the daughter of Nicholas Hollowaie

Burials

1554 Mar 30	Francis Greygose the sonne of George Greygose
1568/9 Mar 9	Johan Dawton the daughter of John Daughton
1587/8 Jan 24	Thomas Greigoose
1601/2 Mar 19	Jone Graigoose the wife of Willm Greigoose
1607 May 10	John Graygoose
1613/14 Mar 4	William Graygoose
1614 May 4	Gorge Graygoose the Sonne of the aboufe Will Graygoose

George's father, William Graygoose, did not leave an extant will; but William's brother Thomas Graygoose did (dated 22 January 1587/8 and proved 20 March 1587/8; emphasis added):

⁴ Essex Record Office, D/ABW 17/176; emphasis added. Why Dorcas Stallon *alias* Butler should be singled out from the rest of her siblings in this will is not made clear; a likely guess might be that as the youngest child at her mother's death (just 3 years old then, and 7 years old when this will was written), she was brought up by her mother's relatives, quite possibly in George Graygoose's own household.

⁵ Great Parndon parish registers [note 2].

“I Thomas Graygose of great Paringdon in the countye of Essex Tayler”; to be buried in Great Parndon churchyard; to brother Nicolas Graygose 2 bullocks in the custody of Mr. Buttler, bed and bedding, a brass pot, and clothing (described), Mr. Buttler to have the keeping of the bullocks according to the agreement between him and me; to brother-in-law goodman Leper 3 bullocks; to **cousin Georg Graygose the son of my brother William** a “black gailed” bullock; to **sister Mary Dalton** greatest kettle; to the poor of Great Parndon 6 s. 8 d.; to cousin Mary Leper dishes (described); residue to brother Nicolas Graygose and brother Leper (except black cloak, to go to brother William Graygose); executors brother William Graygose and Edward Benton of Epping, they to have a crown apiece; overseer cousin John Graygose, he to have a crown; signed by mark; witnesses John Tadlow (scribe), John Graygose of Epping (by mark), Agnes Leper (by mark), and Nicolas Graygose (by mark).^[6]

At first blush, one might wonder whether the sister *Mary Dalton* should be *Margaret Dalton*, if the wife of John Dalton was a sister of William and Thomas Graygose (or if perhaps the bride of John Dalton in the parish register should have been *Mary Graygose*). It is not unheard of for the two names to be switched, particularly if “Margaret” is abbreviated as “Marg.” However, the will of an earlier George Graygose, father of William and Thomas, provides a much more likely scenario — that the Margaret Graygose who married John Dalton was the widow of this earlier George Graygose, making the Mary Dalton named in Thomas Graygose’s will his half-sister (and the woman of that name who would marry Thomas Stallon *alias* Butler six years later). The will of George Graygose of Great Parndon, husbandman, was dated 10 May 1559 and proved 21 June 1559; in it he named (among others) wife Margaret, son John, son William (when 21), daughters Agnes and Alice (when 18 or married), and sons Thomas, Walter, Robert, Nicholas, and Francis (when 21 or married); wife executrix, she to bring up the children.⁷

Genealogical Summary

GEORGE GRAYGOOSE, died between 10 May and 21 June 1559 (from the dates of his will) probably in Great Parndon, Essex; married (probably second) **MARGARET^B** _____. She survived him and married second (as his second wife) 27 July 1563 in Great Parndon, **JOHN^B DALTON**. No burial or probate record for Margaret (_____) (Graygose) Dalton has been found, but she must have died by 11 August 1594, when John Dalton married third in Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire, the widow Alice (_____) Baresly.^[8] Alice was

⁶ Essex Record Office, D/ABW 16/311.

⁷ Abstracted in F. G. Emmison, *Essex Wills (England), vol.1 1558–1565 (Archdeaconries of Essex, Colchester, and Middlesex [Essex Division])* (Washington, D.C.: National Genealogical Society, 1982), 277–278.

⁸ Registers of Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire [FHL 0,991,395]. She was the widow of Thomas Baresly of Sawbridgeworth, husbandman, whose will was dated 20 April 1587 and proved 28 April 1593 (Essex Record Office, D/ABW 5/273): wife Alice (executrix), sons William (supervisor), Thomas, and Edward, daughters Jane and Alice, Annys the wife of Thomas Underwood, and Dennys Baresly the wife of Robert Smyth; signed by mark; witnesses John Wryht and Nicholas Compton, clerk, vicar.

buried there 5 January 1611/2.^[9] John Dalton died between 16 and 26 October 1608, the dates of his will:

“John Daton of the p[ar]ishe of Sabridgworth in the countye of Hertford yeoman”; to be buried in Sawbridgeworth churchyard; to wife Alice (Alce) “all such moveable good & implementes of household stuffe as were hers when I marryed her”; residue to son John Daton and daughter Mary the wife of Thomas Stallon als Butler, equally divided; son John Daton executor; signed by mark; witnesses John Daton Junr. (by mark) and Thomas Stallon als Butler (by mark).^[10]

Children of George Graygoose (the younger ones doubtless by Margaret; order of ii–v uncertain; baptisms and burials in Great Parndon):

- i. JOHN GRAYGOOSE, b. by 1538 (named in his father’s will without reference to nonage); possibly the John Graygoose bur. Great Parndon 10 May 1607. He may have been the John Graygoose of Epping who witnessed Thomas Graygoose’s will, but he could not have been the man of that name who was its overseer (he was called “cousin”, a term used for many different relations but not for siblings). He was perhaps the John Graygoose whose daughter *Agnes Graygoose* was bp. Great Parndon 16 Mar 1548/9.
- ii. WILLIAM GRAYGOOSE, b. after 1538; named in the wills of his father and brother Thomas; bur. 4 March 1613/4; m. JOAN _____ (bur. 19 March 1601/2). William’s son *George Graygoose* was named in the will of his uncle Thomas; George was bur. 4 May 1614, and m. *Dorcas Holloway* 2 July 1604 in Great Parndon, apparently without children (see his will above).
- iii. THOMAS GRAYGOOSE, b. after 1538; named in his father’s will; bur. 24 Jan. 1587/8, apparently unmarried (see his will above).
- iv. WALTER GRAYGOOSE, b. after 1538; named in his father’s will.
- v. AGNES GRAYGOOSE, b. after 1541; named in her father’s will and a witness to the will of her brother Thomas; m. _____ LEPER (named in the will of his brother-in-law Thomas). The *Mary Leper* called “cousin” in the will of Thomas Graygoose was doubtless their daughter.
- vi. ALICE GRAYGOOSE, bp. 17 Nov. 1549; named in her father’s will.
- vii. ROBERT GRAYGOOSE, bp. 5 Oct. 1550; named in his father’s will.
- viii. FRANCIS GRAYGOOSE, bp. 21 Feb. 1553/4; bur. 30 March 1554.
- ix. NICHOLAS GRAYGOOSE, bp. 13 June 1555; named in the wills of his father and brother Thomas (the latter of which he witnessed).
- x. FRANCIS GRAYGOOSE (again), bp. 9 April. 1558; named in his father’s will.

Child of John^B and Margaret (_____) (Graygoose) Dalton:^[11]

⁹ Sawbridgeworth registers [note 8]: Alice Doughton widow.

¹⁰ Essex Record Office, D/ABW 12/315. In spite of his instructions, his burial does not appear in the Sawbridgeworth registers [note 8].

¹¹ The Joan Dalton, daughter of John, who was buried 9 March 1568/9 in Great Parndon, was possibly also their daughter.

- xi. MARY^A DALTON, b. after 1563; named in the will of her half-brother Thomas Graygoose; bur. Latton 14 Aug. 1610; m. Great Parndon 14 April 1594, THOMAS^A STALLON *alias* BUTLER, bp. Latton 21 Aug. 1567, son of Thomas and Joan (_____) Stallon, bur. there 18 June 1619, having m. second Latton 5 Oct. 1612, Elizabeth Benbow, who survived him.^[12]

Children of Thomas^A and Mary (Dalton) Stallon *alias* Butler (baptisms in Latton):

1. Mary¹ Stallon *alias* Butler, bp. 24 Dec. 1595; m. Latton 28 Oct. 1617, Abraham¹ Belknap (see works cited above).
2. Parnell Stallon *alias* Butler, bp. 3 Dec. 1598.
3. Elizabeth Stallon *alias* Butler, bp. 31 Aug. 1600.
4. Susan Stallon *alias* Butler, bp. 1 May 1603.
5. Margaret Stallon *alias* Butler, bp. 10 March 1604/5.
6. Dorcas Stallon *alias* Butler, bp. 8 Feb. 1606/7; named in the will of her cousin George Graygoose.

Children of Thomas^A and Elizabeth (Benbow) Stallon *alias* Butler (baptisms in Latton):

7. Katherine Stallon *alias* Butler, bp. 25 Sept. 1614.
8. Emmanuel Stallon *alias* Butler, bp. 6 Jan. 1616/7.
9. Thomas Stallon *alias* Butler, bp. 10 Sept. 1619.

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¹² See above and Threlfall, *Fifty Great Migration Colonists* [note 1], 21–22.