Some Notes on the Ancestry of Mary\textsuperscript{1} Stallon \textit{alias} Butler, Wife of Abraham\textsuperscript{1} Belknap of Lynn, Massachusetts

\textit{Robert Battle}

The English ancestry of Mary\textsuperscript{1} Stallon \textit{alias} Butler, wife of Abraham\textsuperscript{1} Belknap of Lynn, Massachusetts, is treated in John Threlfall's \textit{Fifty Great Migration Colonists}.\textsuperscript{[1]} In the section on Mary's father, Thomas\textsuperscript{A} Stallon \textit{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 \textit{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 \textit{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 \textit{alias} Butler.**

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


\textsuperscript{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]_

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

**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 (Frances Barnse) of Stortford, Herts,
shoemaker, £10; “I geve and Bequeath unto Dorcas Graigoos my loveinge wyfe all
that my meassuage or tennement where in my brother in law michaell watsonn
doth dwell called Bishopes . . . in great paringdon . . . untill my cussonn Dorcas
Stalyn als butler come accomplishe & be of the age of eightene yeares / Dureing
all wch tyme . . . the said Dorcas Graygoos my wife . . . shall at hir owne costes
& chardges honestlie & vertuoulsie Educate kepe bringe upp & . . . maytain
the sayd Dorcas Stalin als Butler . . . and ymmediatly after the said Dorcas
stalin als Butler doth accomplishe 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 meassuage or
tenement called Bishops . . . 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).
Mary Stallon alias Butler
to decease without issue of her Body lawfullie begotten or to be
begotten . . . Then I give and Bequeathe all the forsayd meassuage or tenement
called Bishops . . . unto Dorcas Graigooses my wife and to her heires for ever”;
to wife Dorcas Graigooses the remaining years of my farm lease in properties
called Stewards, Hawkyns, and Barris, all in Great Parndon; residue to wife
Dorcas Graygoose, including debts owed to me or Willyam Graigooses 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 Greggos 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 Greygose
1594 Apr 14  Thomas Stallon als Butler and Marie Dalton
1604 Jul 2  George Graygoose the sonne of William Graygose
and Dorcas Hollowae the daughter of Nicholas Hollowae

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 Graygouse the Sonne of the aboufe Will Graygouse

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):

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[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.

“I Thomas Graygose of great Paringdon in the countye of Essex Tayler”; to be buried in Great Parndon churchyard; to brother Nicolas Grayegose 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).

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 Graygoose (or if perhaps the bride of John Dalton in the parish register should have been Mary Graygoose). 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 Graygoose, father of William and Thomas, provides a much more likely scenario — that the Margaret Graygoose who married John Dalton was the widow of this earlier George Graygoose, making the Mary Dalton named in Thomas Graygoose’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 Graygoose 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.

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. She survived him and married second (as his second wife) 27 July 1563 in Great Parndon, John Dalton. No burial or probate record for Margaret (______) (Graygoose) 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. Alice was

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6 Essex Record Office, D/ABW 16/311.
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.
2022

Mary Stallon alias Butler 177

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\(^a\) and Margaret (______) (Graygoose) Dalton:\(^{11}\)

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\(^9\) 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. **Mary** I Stallon alias Butler, bp. 24 Dec. 1595; m. Latton 28 Oct. 1617, Abraham I 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.