

Indexed G. S.  
T. W. 1957

JAN 26 1957

# The American Genealogist

Volume 32

1956

DATE MICROFILMED	
6 Sept. 85	
ITEM # <u>7</u>	
PROJECT and	G. S.
ROLL #	CALL #
<u>XBLU 7-102</u>	<u>1425625</u>
<u>#125</u>	

GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST  
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

55193

~~US/CAN  
973  
B22  
1132~~

US/CAN  
973  
D25222  
1132

FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY  
35 NORTH WEST TEMPLE  
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84150

WALTER BUTLER OF GREENWICH, CONN.

By Donald Lines Jacobus, of New Haven, Conn.

Walter Butler is mentioned in Savage's Genealogical Dictionary as of Greenwich in 1672, and that is all. Other printed sources we have seen fail to yield more, yet he had six daughters and numerous descendants.

In the index at Greenwich are references to C.P.1, which means an early volume labeled Commonplace Book No. 1. It contains some land grants, also some deeds and miscellaneous records. On page 70 of this book is found a grant of land to Walter Butler in May 1673; and on page 91 another grant to him dated 11 Sept. 1679.

Fairfield Probate shows that Walter Butler died Apr. 1693, leaving a widow and children. It seems possible that the widow, Rebecca, married (2) Peter Clapham of Norwalk, and (3) ——— Brown. In the deeds at Greenwich after Butler's death, her new married name is usually written Clapman. It is clearly not Chapman, and may be meant for Clapham, a name unfamiliar to the Greenwich recorder and hence misspelled by him or by the scrivener who wrote the deeds. Peter Clapham was a widower with one daughter, and married a second wife Rebecca about 1694. By her he had three children in rapid succession and died 18 Feb. 1697/8. Clapham's widow married a Brown by 1717, and died in Fairfield where her elder married Clapham daughter was living, and her stone in Fairfield states that she died 3 June 1730 in her 75th year, which would place her birth near 1655.

My original theory [Families of Old Fairfield, 1:107, 143] that Rebecca (Ruscœ), known wife of James Brown of Norwalk, might have been the widow of Peter Clapham who married a Brown was disproved [Supplement, p. 7]. In favor of the present theory, note that Jonathan Reynolds and Joshua Knapp of Greenwich were appointed guardians of the three Clapham children of Rebecca on 22 Jan. 1702/3, although Clapham was of Norwalk. They were probably connections of hers. Also, in the deeds which follow, Joshua Knapp was co-administrator with Rebecca "Clapman" on the estate of Walter Butler. Joshua Knapp's wife was Elizabeth Reynolds, younger sister of Jonathan Reynolds. Rebecca was not a Knapp, but it would almost seem from the circumstances cited that she ought to have been a sister of Jonathan and Elizabeth Reynolds and perhaps oldest child of Jonathan, Sr., and Rebecca (Husted) Reynolds. This is as yet an unproved suggestion for further research. The deeds follow.

Vol. 1, p. 410. 14 Nov. 1699. Joshua Knap and Rebecca Butler alias Clapman [sic], administrators of the estate of Water [sic] Butler, deliver to Elisha Mead a

son in Law to Water Butler, 5 acres, also two lots of 3 acres each, being his portion by his wife Sara Butler now Mead.

Vol. 1, p. 281. 13 Feb. 1700 [1700/1]. Joshua Knap and Rebeckah Clapman [sic] "Alis butler" [i.e. alias Butler] "sumtime wife to walter butler late of Greenwich deceased," administrators to ye estate of sd Butler, deliver unto Benjamin Knap and his wife Elisabeth daughter to sd Butler, one home lott at "hors neck" of 3 acres, also 1 1/2 acre in Coscob, also a parcel of meadow. Witnesses: Samll Peck, Elisha Mead.

Vol. 1, p. 261. 17 Jan. 1703/4. Joshua Knap and ye widow Clapman [sic] Being administrators of the estate of Walter Butler of Greenwich deceased, deliver unto Daniel Marshall upon ye account of his wife abigails portion, a home lot of 3 acres in the towne plot at "hors neck," and 3 acres at pipin point. Witnesses: Timothy Knap, John Renals.

Commonplace Book 1, p. 25. 24 Dec. 1711. Elisha Meade, Benjamin Knap, Daniel Marshall, Daniel Smith, and Hester Butler, all of Greenwich, and Peter Brown Ju<sup>r</sup> of Rye, Westchester Co., N.Y., for £13, convey to Caleb Knap of Greenwich, land which was granted to ye Estate of Walter Butler deceased.

Vol. 5, p. 443. 29 Dec. 1732. Danill Smith & my wiffe Rebeca Smith, and Sarah Mead, widdow, all of Grinwich, for £8, to Elisha Mead, 1/3 of a 4-acre lot that was laid out to ye Estate of walltar Buttler of Grinwich Deseased. Witnesses: Sarah Smith, Joshua Knapp.

There are thus six daughter of Walter and Rebecca Butler proved by the deeds:

1. Elizabeth, m. 18 Apr. 1700, Benjamin Knapp.
2. Abigail, m. 23 June 1703, Daniel Marshall.
3. Rebecca, m. 25 Apr. 1706, Daniel Smith.
4. Sarah, m. Elisha Mead.
5. A daughter, m. Peter Brown, Jr., of Rye.
6. Esther or Hester, m. 7 Dec. 1713, Jonathan Mead.

It seems probable from the dates of marriage of the Butler girls, so far as the dates are known or may be inferred, that they were born between 1680 and 1693, Walter Butler dying in the latter year. The date of birth of Peter Clapham's wife Rebecca, figured from her age at death, was 1655, making her around 25 to 38 when the Butler children were born. She was hence not too old to have three children by Peter Clapham born 1694 to 1698. The Clapham children were named Rebecca, Elizabeth and Peter, and the widow Butler already had living daughters named Rebecca and Elizabeth; however, it was not then rare for half-brothers-and-sisters to receive the same names.

Among the  
Robert Huest  
ed 4 Nov. 10  
Oct. 1654,  
Robert H  
bandman, age  
an unknown  
or 1635/6?  
and in C. E.  
pp. 125-8.  
though most  
west country  
Many cont  
The Hartford  
the wife of  
1607 at From  
Joan Smith,  
evidence for  
ledge, been  
I do not kno  
ted had a so  
given this u  
maternal gra  
There is  
family of Do  
1623 Visitat  
70—see also  
Smith, is sh  
second, Lawr  
each husband  
however, a c  
of Dorset (1  
Elizabeth, d  
4 Feb. 1614/  
would hardly  
Angel Hueste  
ness an impo  
tive mother v  
pears in fir  
wich to New E  
least by 1649  
ler's son. M  
senior to Eli  
husbandman ag  
We conclud