

Was John Hatton's Widow Ann His Only Wife?

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Two key mistakes have been made repeatedly about John Hatton, who died in 1815 in Baltimore County, Maryland. First, writings and Internet postings have stated or implied that John Hatton's widow, Ann --?, was the mother of all of his children named in his will.¹ As will be shown, that is incorrect, and as a result, much effort has been exerted by researchers tracing the wrong ancestral line. Second, a majority of those who have stated his birth year have given it as 1743 or c. 1743,² with a few giving it as 1741.³ A careful analysis of evidence leads to a different estimate of his birth year.

John Hatton named Ann as his wife in his will.⁴ Evidence indicates that John Hatton was married previously, and had children in his previous marriage(s). The goal of the first part of this article is to present that evidence, not to name his earlier wife/wives.

Who Was His Wife Ann --? ?

In the will of a John Holland written 29 July 1793, and submitted to probate in Baltimore County, Maryland 30 August 1793,⁵ the testator John Holland devised land to his daughter Ann Holland. He mentioned three other daughters, Sarah McCubbin, Mary Hunt, and Catherine Grant, by their married surnames. Ann Holland, named with her birth surname, therefore, was unmarried as of 29 July 1793. John Holland bequeathed one-half of his land tract, Bond's Security, to Ann, and the other one-half to son George. Bond's Security was purchased by John Holland from Thomas Bond on 3 January 1778.⁶ However, John Holland failed to record the

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Cite as Stephen B. Hatton, "Was John Hatton's Widow Ann His Only Wife?" *Annals of Genealogical Research* Vol. 10, No. 1 (2014) at <http://www.genlit.org/agr/viewarticle.php?id=57>

deed. To rectify this, Thomas Bond executed an indenture on 14 February 1797 to record the conveyance of the land to Ann then (“now”) named Ann Hatton.⁷ Next to the title of the special indenture was noted “chg J Hatton,” indicating that she was married to a J. Hatton. On 5 October 1798, John Hatton and his wife Ann sold Bond’s Security to Cheney Hatton,⁸ a brother of John. Cheney Hatton then sold back this land to John Hatton days later.⁹ That this is the same John Hatton is shown by John’s will in which he bequeathed Bond’s Security to his wife, Ann.¹⁰ The combination of those documents provides good evidence that John Hatton married Ann Holland after 29 July 1793 and before 17 February 1797.

Children of John Hatton

The children named in John Hatton’s will were Daniel, John, James, Abraham, Ruth, and Elizabeth.¹¹ Though no church, Bible, vital, or cemetery records include any of their birth dates, research enables one to estimate birth years for some of them.

Daniel married Ann Carback 3 March 1803, Baltimore County, Maryland.¹² In 1822, he lived twenty miles from Baltimore, and was a gate keeper on the York Turnpike near the Pennsylvania border.¹³ By 30 November 1829, he lived in Morgan County, Ohio where he executed a power of attorney for the handling of property in Baltimore County associated with his father’s estate.¹⁴ The 1830 census placed him in the 40-50 year-old range, thus born 1779-90.¹⁵ The 1840 census placed him in the 50-59 year-old range, thus born 1780-90.¹⁶ The 1850 census states that he was 68 years old, thus born c. 1782.¹⁷ He was about 21 when he married. Because Daniel was born c. 1782, he was born about eleven years before the marriage of his father, John Hatton, to Ann Holland.

John, Jr., was born 8 December 1783.¹⁸ He married Sarah Frances Collins on 24 December 1804 in Maryland.¹⁹ He stayed in Baltimore County for the duration of the long

drawn-out proceedings of settling his father's estate. During that time, he lived on what had been his father's property between the Gunpowder and Bird rivers on the Maryland Eastern Shore. By 1840, he had located to Muskingum County, Ohio, where he died on 4 January 1841.²⁰ He is buried in Greenwood Cemetery.²¹ His age, 50-60, in the 1840 census,²² is consistent with his birth year. Because John was born in 1783, he was born at least ten years before his father, John Hatton, Sr., married Ann Holland.

James Hatton was the first of his siblings to relocate to Ohio where he married in 1815.²³ He moved to Morgan County, Ohio by 1827,²⁴ and signed the same power of attorney in 1829 as his brother Daniel.²⁵ He is listed as 40-50 in the 1830 census (so born 1779-90),²⁶ 50-59 in the 1840 census (so born 1780-90),²⁷ and 62 in the 1850 census (so born c. 1788).²⁸ Because James was born c. 1788, he was born at least five years before the marriage of his father, John Hatton, to Ann Holland.

Abraham's birth year is unknown. He apparently died by 1822 when a Chancery case omitted him when it listed the living heirs of John Hatton.²⁹

Ruth married Isaac Holland a little after 17 January 1804.³⁰ Her birth year is unknown, but based on her marriage date, it was likely between 1782 (she would have been 22 when she married) and 1789 (she would have been 15 when she married). Wherever in that range she was born (or earlier), it was prior to the marriage of her father to Ann Holland. In the 1820s, Ruth and Isaac lived near a factory known as Hollingsworth's, a copper mill.³¹

Elizabeth was John Hatton's youngest daughter.³² As mentioned, he bequeathed Bond's Security to his wife Ann, who, of course, inherited it from her father. But he also stated that it should descend to Elizabeth, clear evidence that Elizabeth was Ann's daughter. This is another indication that none of his other children were issue from Ann. Elizabeth married John Snavelly,

who worked with well-known Baltimore hatter, Jacob Rogers.³³ The oldest woman counted in John Snavely's household in the 1830 census was 30-39, thus born 1790-1800.³⁴ As a child of Ann (Holland) Hatton, Elizabeth was born between 1794 and 1800.

The conclusion is that Daniel, John, James, Abraham, and Ruth had a mother other than Ann Holland because they were all born before Ann married their father, and that Elizabeth's mother was Ann Holland. To date, there is no solid evidence about who was the mother of John's first five children.³⁵ If English naming practices were followed, the mother of John Hatton's first wife was named Ruth. The mother of Daniel, John, James, Abraham, and Ruth is unknown.

In What Year Was John Hatton Born?

Considering only the date his father wrote his will, the latest possible year for John Hatton's birth was 1770,³⁶ but that is easily pushed back to 1765 taking into account the latest date his mother, Sarah, was living.³⁷ Based on the marriage date of his father, the earliest year of birth was 1734.³⁸ The range of 1734 to 1765, however, does not help one to achieve a satisfactory estimate. Considering the approximate birth years of his siblings does not improve the estimate appreciably because although one can reconstruct the approximate birth order of his siblings, there is no way to definitively narrow the range.

However, two other pieces of evidence help. First, in his will, his father stated that his widow was to receive one-half of the land he possessed for the duration of her widowhood or life, and that his son, John, the subject of this article, was to inherit 50 acres of that part of his land. But he then stipulated that John was not to sell that land until he reached the age of 30 ("I will and desire he may not have the selling or disposing of it until he comes to the years of thirty").³⁹ Thus, John was born after 1740. While technically, 1741 is a possible birth year, it

seems very unlikely because that would have meant that in his father's mind, not only would his widow have had to die or remarry within one year of his will being written, but also John, the subject of this article, would have had only one year to gain the maturity necessary to decide about selling that land. It is therefore reasonable to exclude 1741 as the year of his birth. If John, Jr., were born in 1743, that would have allowed only three years of added maturity, also unlikely, though not as extremely so.

Second, Thomas Hatton became the guardian of John Hatton when their father died in 1770.⁴⁰ Because of that, John Hatton cannot have been born before 1749. Thomas Hatton was holding John's inheritance from their father until John was no longer a ward. Catharine Hatton, administratrix of the estate of her husband Thomas Hatton, gave an accounting on 20 August 1773 in which she stated that she would continue to hold John Hatton's share in the estate of his father, John Hatton, Sr., "for him to be paid when he shall arrive at full age."⁴¹ Thus, as of 20 August 1773, John Hatton was not yet 21. Therefore, he was born after 20 August 1752.

The range of John Hatton's birth year is thus 1752-60 based upon his not having attained the age of majority in 1773 and having been at least 21 when he married. With an apparent first child born in say 1782, he very likely would have married in say 1781, and so born no later than 1760. If his age at marriage can be estimated, then his birth year can be estimated. His father married at the age of about 23, and his older brother, Thomas, married at the age of 31. The birth years of his brothers Cheney and Aquilla are not known, so one cannot definitively know their ages when they married. If John was 24 when he married, he was born about 1757; if 25, then 1756. Because it is not possible to know his age when he married, and even the year of his marriage is a guess, it may be best to estimate that he was born c. 1756, knowing that that may be a few years off. However, at most it is four years off from the exact birth year because it is

exactly in the middle of the known range. 1756 is a much better estimate of his birth year than 1743 or 1741.

Though it is not possible, based on the evidence known at this point, to know who the mother of John Hatton's first five children was or in what year he was born, by careful gathering and analysis of data, it is possible to correct the two often repeated misstatements about him. Ann Holland was not the mother of all of John Hatton's children. His birth year was closer to c. 1756 than to 1741 or c. 1743.

¹ Message boards and family group sheets posted on <http://genforum.genealogy.com>, <http://www.ancestry.com>, and personal Web pages, Florence Gage Hatton Kelton, *The Hatton Family: Genealogical Notes and Reminiscences* (La Mesa: author, 1969), 22, and *Hatton Family Newsletter* 9:2 (Winter 1989), 398, state or imply that Ann Holland was the mother of all of the children listed in John's will. Another site states that she was the mother of one of John's earlier children (<http://www.findagrave.com>).

² Many Internet postings on several sites including <http://www.ancestry.com> and <http://www.geni.com>.

³ A few family trees on <http://www.ancestry.com> and <http://genforum.genealogy.com>; also *Hatton Family Newsletter*, 3:3 (summer 1983), 112.

⁴ Baltimore County, Maryland, Register of Wills, Wills 10:11, digital image at <https://familysearch.org/>.

⁵ Baltimore County, Maryland, Register of Wills, Wills 5:118-19, digital image at <https://familysearch.org/>.

⁶ Baltimore County, Maryland, Land Records WG #ZZ:20-22, digital images at <http://mdlandrec.net/>.

⁷ Baltimore County, Maryland, Land Records WG #ZZ:22-23, digital images at <http://mdlandrec.net/>.

⁸ Baltimore County, Maryland, Land Records WG #56:270-72, digital image at <http://mdlandrec.net/>.

⁹ Baltimore County, Maryland, Land Records WG #56:272-74, digital image at <http://mdlandrec.net/>.

¹⁰ Baltimore County, Maryland, Register of Wills, Wills 10:11, digital image at <https://familysearch.org/>.

¹¹ Baltimore County, Maryland, Register of Wills, Wills 10:11, digital image at <https://familysearch.org/>.

¹² Reverend Lewis Richards' Marriage Records, Maryland Historical Society, MS 690 (see archive.mdhs.org/library/mss/ms000690B.html). The license was granted 28 February 1803 (Baltimore County, Maryland, Marriage Licenses 1777-1832, 1, #421, Family History Library, Salt Lake City, hereinafter FHL, microfilm 13,693).

¹³ Baltimore County, Maryland, Chancery case, Barbara Grover, Admx., etc. v. Daniel Hatton, et. al., Maryland State Archives, Annapolis, hereinafter MSA, C295-326.

¹⁴ Baltimore County, Maryland, Land Records, WG #204:29-30, digital image at <http://mdlandrec.net/>.

¹⁵ 1830 U.S. Census, Morgan County, Ohio, Bristol Township, p 9 (penned).

¹⁶ 1840 U.S. Census, Muskingum County, Ohio, Falls Township, p. 310 (stamped).

¹⁷ 1850 U.S. Census, Muskingum County, Ohio, Perry Township, p. 720 (penned).

¹⁸ Calculated from death date and age on tombstone, Greenwood Cemetery, Zanesville, Ohio, photograph viewed at <http://www.findagrave.com>.

¹⁹ Kelton, *The Hatton Family*, 26, who states she owned the family Bible that recorded the marriage date.

²⁰ Tombstone, Greenwood Cemetery, Zanesville, Ohio, photograph viewed at <http://www.findagrave.com>.

²¹ Tombstone, Greenwood Cemetery, Zanesville, Ohio, photograph viewed at <http://www.findagrave.com>.

²² 1840 U.S. Census, Muskingum County, Ohio, Zanesville, p. 386 (stamped).

²³ Harrison County, Ohio, Marriage Records A:18.

²⁴ He bought land there in 1828 (Morgan County, Ohio, Deeds C:23). He arrived there as early as 1827 (Morgan County, Ohio, 1827 Tax List, Bristol Township, p. 14, Ohio Historical Society microfilm GR 2578).

²⁵ Baltimore County, Maryland, Land Records WG #204:29-30, digital images at <http://mdlandrec.net/>.

²⁶ 1830 U.S. Census, Morgan County, Ohio, Bristol Township, p. 10 (penned).

²⁷ 1840 U.S. Census, Knox County, Ohio, Liberty Township, p. 247 (stamped).

²⁸ 1850 U.S. Census, Morrow County, Ohio, Peru Township, p. 63 (stamped).

²⁹ Baltimore County, Maryland, Chancery case, Barbara Grover, Admx., etc. v. Daniel Hatton, et. al., MSA, C295-326.

³⁰ Baltimore County, Maryland, Marriage Licenses 1777-1832, 16, #400, FHL microfilm 13,693.

³¹ Baltimore County, Maryland, Chancery case, Barbara Grover, Admx., etc. v. Daniel Hatton, et. al., MSA, C295-326. This factory, better known as Gunpowder Copper Works, was a copper rolling mill built by Levi Hollingsworth at Great Gunpowder Falls, probably in 1814

(http://msa.maryland.gov/megafile/msa/stagsere/se1/se5/003000/003400/003480/pdf/msa_se5_3480.pdf).

³² Baltimore County, Maryland, Register of Wills, Wills 10:11, digital image at <https://familysearch.org/>.

³³ Baltimore County, Maryland, Chancery case, Barbara Grover, Admx., etc. v. Daniel Hatton, et. al., MSA, C295-326.

³⁴ 1830 U.S. Census, Baltimore Co., MD, Baltimore Ward 4, p. 184 (penned).

³⁵ It is unlikely that John Hatton, Sr. married Mary Magnus in 1785 (license applied for 15 October 1785, Baltimore County, Maryland, Marriage Licenses 1777-1798, 58, MSA C376-1); that John Hatton was more likely a son of one of his brothers Cheney, Aquilla, or Thomas (it is known that Cheney and Aquilla had sons named John). If he was the person who married Mary Magnus, there would have been an even earlier marriage to account for the births prior to 1786. There was also a marriage of a John Hatton and Rachel Hatton in 1787, and the same comments apply (Reverend Lewis Richards' Marriage Records, Maryland Historical Society, MS 690; see <http://www.mdhs.org/findingaid/rev-lewis-richards-register-1784-1869-part-1/4-ms-690>).

³⁶ Baltimore County, Maryland, Register of Wills, Wills 3:159-60, digital images at <https://familysearch.org/>.

³⁷ His father, also named John Hatton, married a second time in 1765, after John, the subject of this article, was born (Baltimore County, Maryland, St. John's Parish register, 228, John Hatten and Unity Welcher, FHL microfilm 14,132). Unity Hatton's will names three Welcher children but only one Hatton child, Sarah (Baltimore County, Maryland, Wills 3:296, digital image at <https://familysearch.org/>).

³⁸ John Hatton's parents were married in 1733 (Baltimore County, Maryland, St. John's Parish register, 78, John Hatten and Sarah Chienie, FHL microfilm 14,132).

³⁹ Baltimore County, Maryland, Register of Wills, Wills 3:160, digital image at <https://familysearch.org/>.

⁴⁰ Baltimore County, Maryland, Register of Wills, Administration Accounts 6:309, MSA CM127-6.

⁴¹ Baltimore County, Maryland, Register of Wills, Administration Accounts 6:309, MSA CM127-6.