

## WHO WAS THE MOTHER OF JAMES<sup>2</sup> PAULE (1657–1724) OF TAUNTON, MASSACHUSETTS?

By William B. Saxbe, Jr., CG, FASG

Twenty years ago, Robert S. Wakefield, FASG, pointed out a puzzle in the family of William Paule (died 1704) of Taunton,<sup>1</sup> one of the ancestors of President Calvin Coolidge.<sup>2</sup> Four facts—in apparent conflict—need to be reconciled:

1 William Paule was unmarried as of 3 February 1656/7.<sup>3</sup>

2 James Paule, “son of William,” was born in Taunton on 11 April 1657.<sup>4</sup>

3 Hannah Paule, “daughter of Mary,” was born in Taunton on 4 October 1657.<sup>5</sup>

4 William Paule and his wife (Mary Richmond of Newport, R.I.) were ordered expelled from Taunton on 6 October 1657.<sup>6</sup>

Three immediate observations can be made about these data:

1 William Paule was unmarried when James Paule and Hannah Paule were conceived.

2 Mary (Richmond) Paule could not be the mother of James Paule.

3 Neither James’s mother nor Hannah’s father is named in their birth records.<sup>7</sup>

No particular conclusion can be drawn from the absence of James’s mother’s name; it was common in the Taunton records for only the father to be named. An absent father’s name, however, usually suggests that the mother was unmarried or widowed. If we accept that all of these facts and observations are correct,<sup>8</sup> two questions arise:

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<sup>1</sup> Robert S. Wakefield, “Additions and Corrections to Austin’s Genealogical Dictionary of Rhode Island: The Richmond Family,” TAG 54(1978):96–99 (hereafter cited as Wakefield, “Richmond Family”).

<sup>2</sup> Robert Charles Anderson, “Ancestry of President Calvin Coolidge,” TAG 53(1977):160–67, at 163, 166.

<sup>3</sup> Nathaniel B. Shurtleff and David Pulsifer, eds., *Records of the Colony of New Plymouth in New England*, 12 vols. in 10 (Boston, 1855–61), 3:110 (hereafter cited as Shurtleff and Pulsifer, *Plymouth Colony Records*).

<sup>4</sup> *Vital Records of Taunton, Massachusetts, to the Year 1850*, 3 vols. (Boston, 1929), 1:327 (hereafter cited as *Taunton VRs*). See also Shurtleff and Pulsifer, *Plymouth Colony Records*, 8:60.

<sup>5</sup> *Taunton VRs*, 1:326.

<sup>6</sup> Shurtleff and Pulsifer, *Plymouth Colony Records*, 3:122. See also Wakefield, “Richmond Family,” TAG 54(1978):98. The date and place of their marriage is unknown; it does not appear in the published vital records of Taunton or Newport.

<sup>7</sup> Neither of Hannah Paule’s parents is named in the colony’s transcript of Hannah’s birth record (Shurtleff and Pulsifer, *Plymouth Colony Records*, 8:69), but that transcript was not forwarded to Plymouth until 1677. As the Taunton Town Clerk noted with a later report, “Heer followeth the Names of the Beirth, Marriages, and Deathes that haue bin in Taunton in the Year past; all that are brought in to mee, but many doe neglect to bring them to mee to be recorded” (Shurtleff and Pulsifer, *Plymouth Colony Records*, 8:83).

<sup>8</sup> There is no ambiguity about James Paule’s birthdate in the original Taunton records—the clerk’s writing is unusually clear—but it was entered together with four other Paule births, the last

1 Who was James Paule's mother?

2 Who was Hannah Paule's father?

It would be reasonable to wonder, as James Savage did in the nineteenth century, if Hannah might be the daughter of another Paule, such as the Taunton innkeeper Richard Paule, of no known relationship to William.<sup>9</sup> Wakefield identifies Hannah Paule's father:<sup>10</sup> Mary (Richmond) Paule confessed in 1658 that she was "with child by Richard Canterbury before she was married."<sup>11</sup> Although Hannah was given her mother's husband's surname, her biological father was really Canterbury. I have encountered no other mention of this man in Taunton or in Newport. William and Mary Paule were not made welcome in Taunton or in Plymouth Colony, doubtless because of their obvious moral lapses. On 6 October 1657, two days after Hannah Paule was born, the General Court ordered them expelled from town as "vnworthy and defamed p[er]sons."<sup>12</sup> There is no evidence that they complied with this order,<sup>13</sup> or that they changed their ways: William, still in Taunton six years later, was fined and "sett in the stockes" for drunkenness, breach of the peace, and profanity.<sup>14</sup> William and Mary had seven other children together, from 1660 until about 1681.<sup>15</sup>

Who, then, was the mother of James Paule? Again, Wakefield offers an insight.<sup>16</sup> On 3 February 1656/7, William Paule was indicted by the Plymouth Colony court for adultery with Katheren Aines, and on 5 March they were sentenced to be "publicly whipt." She was also ordered to wear a red *B* on her right sleeve, since she had blasphemed before the court.<sup>17</sup> Evidently blasphemy was a more serious offense than adultery, or she might have received an *A*.

Katheren's husband, Alexander "Anis," was put in the stocks "for leaving his family and exposing his wife to such temptations. . . ."<sup>18</sup> The implication is that he was out of the household or away from Taunton during his wife's affair with

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dated 1668 (Taunton Town Records, Proprietors' Records, Births, Marriages, Deaths, 1639-1765, 1:12 [Family History Library, Salt Lake City, film #899,104]). In other words, James Paule's birth was recorded at least eleven years after the fact.

<sup>9</sup> James Savage, *Genealogical Dictionary of the First Settlers of New England*, 4 vols. (Boston, 1860-62), 3:371. Richard Paule's wife was Margery Turner (see Shurtleff and Pulsifer, *Plymouth Colony Records*, 1:103).

<sup>10</sup> Wakefield, "Richmond Family," TAG 54(1978):98.

<sup>11</sup> *Rhode Island Court Records*, 2 vols. (Providence, 1920), 1:46. There is no record of further action in this case; perhaps Hannah's removal to Plymouth Colony made prosecution moot.

<sup>12</sup> Shurtleff and Pulsifer, *Plymouth Colony Records*, 3:122.

<sup>13</sup> The order of expulsion, "with all convenient speed," was repeated five months later, and again apparently ignored (Shurtleff and Pulsifer, *Plymouth Colony Records*, 3:131).

<sup>14</sup> Shurtleff and Pulsifer, *Plymouth Colony Records*, 4:43, 8:108, 8:110.

<sup>15</sup> Shurtleff and Pulsifer, *Plymouth Colony Records*, 8:55, 8:60. See also *Taunton VRs*, 1:325-28, and Wakefield, "Richmond Family," TAG 54(1978):98.

<sup>16</sup> Wakefield, "Richmond Family," TAG 54(1978):98.

<sup>17</sup> Shurtleff and Pulsifer, *Plymouth Colony Records*, 3:110-12.

<sup>18</sup> Shurtleff and Pulsifer, *Plymouth Colony Records*, 3:112.

Paule. Unless the erring lovers were apprehended *in flagrante delicto*, the most obvious way they would be found out is if Katheren became pregnant during a prolonged absence of her husband. Alexander's whereabouts in August 1656, the probable time of conception, are unknown, but he bought land in Portsmouth, Rhode Island, in 1659.<sup>19</sup> I suggest that the mother of James Paule, born on 11 April 1657, was Katheren (—) Aines. It stands to reason that the mother of William Paule's son was the same woman who was punished—while that child was *in utero*—for her adultery with him. She would have been seven months along (and obviously pregnant) at the time of her indictment, and eight when she was sentenced to be “whipt.”

Who were Alexander and Katheren “Aines,” and what was their relationship with William Paule? The identity of this couple has been obscured by the phonetic spelling of their surname in the Plymouth records.<sup>20</sup> As Col. Banks noted in 1927, Scottish accents rang strangely in English ears, “and as a result their names have undergone curious transformations.”<sup>21</sup> Alexander was Alexander Innes, one of the Scots prisoners from the Battle of Dunbar who were shipped to New England by Cromwell at the end of 1650, there to be sold as indentured servants. Initially at the iron works in Lynn,<sup>22</sup> Innes apparently followed the industry to Taunton when the Lynn and Braintree works failed. His wife Catherine,<sup>23</sup> called “an Irish woman” by the Plymouth court,<sup>24</sup> may have been one of the “Irish maids” similarly deported to New England in 1654, after Cromwell's campaigns in Ireland.<sup>25</sup> Her maiden name and the date and place of her marriage to Alexander Innes are unknown; they are not found in Lynn, Braintree, or Taunton records.

William Paule, referred to by the Plymouth court as “a certaine Scote,”<sup>26</sup> was probably a Dunbar prisoner as well. The other major contingent of Scots transported to New England was captured at the Battle of Worcester in 1651, and William Paule does not appear on their surviving roster.<sup>27</sup> Paule was not on the

<sup>19</sup> [Clarence S. Brigham, ed.], *The Early Records of the Town of Portsmouth* (Providence, 1901), 379 [Nickolas Browne of Portsmouth to Ellexander Enos].

<sup>20</sup> The name appears as *Aimes*, *Aines*, and *Anis* in Plymouth Colony (Shurtleff and Pulsifer, *Plymouth Colony Records*, 3:110–12), and *Enos* in the 1659 Portsmouth, R.I., deed.

<sup>21</sup> Charles E. Banks, “Scotch Prisoners Deported to New England by Cromwell,” *Massachusetts Historical Society Proceedings*, 61(1927–28):4–29, at 19 (hereafter cited as Banks, “Scotch Prisoners”).

<sup>22</sup> Banks, “Scotch Prisoners,” 15. For a modern account of the Lynn iron works, see E. N. Hartley, *Ironworks on the Saugus* (Norman, Okla., 1957).

<sup>23</sup> Catherine Innes's namesakes in her immediate family—a daughter and three granddaughters—all spelled their given name with a *C*.

<sup>24</sup> Shurtleff and Pulsifer, *Plymouth Colony Records*, 3:110.

<sup>25</sup> G. Andrews Moriarty, “The Scotch Prisoners at Block Island,” *Rhode Island Historical Society Collections* 13(1919):28–35, at 31. See also Michael J. O'Brien, *Pioneer Irish in New England* (New York, 1937), 89.

<sup>26</sup> Shurtleff and Pulsifer, *Plymouth Colony Records*, 3:110.

<sup>27</sup> Banks, “Scotch Prisoners,” 20–23.

list of workers at Lynn with Alexander Innes,<sup>28</sup> so he was probably one of the Dunbar group sent to Braintree. Innes would have known him from their passage to America in the *Unity*, if not from their confinement in Durham Cathedral or their service in the Covenanter army under General David Leslie.<sup>29</sup>

Alexander and Katherine Innes were early settlers of Block Island, going there in 1664 or shortly thereafter.<sup>30</sup> Alexander died on the island in 1679;<sup>31</sup> Katherine's date of death is unknown.<sup>32</sup>

We conclude that James<sup>2</sup> Paule (1657–1724) was the son of the Scottish prisoner-of-war, William<sup>1</sup> Paule. If James's belatedly recorded birthdate is correct, his mother was not William's wife Mary (Richmond); she may have been the Irish-born Katherine (—) Innes, the wife of Alexander<sup>1</sup> Innes. A more challenging puzzle would be: Who raised James Paule, and where?

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<sup>28</sup> Banks, "Scotch Prisoners," 15. There was a John Paul among the Scots prisoners at the Lynn ironworks (Stephen P. Carlson, *The Scots at Hammersmith* [Saugus, Mass., 1976], 16).

<sup>29</sup> Banks, "Scotch Prisoners," 5–13.

<sup>30</sup> New Shoreham, R.I., Town Book, 1:17; 1:231 (microfilm copy and typewritten transcript at the library of the Rhode Island Historical Society, 101 Hope St., Providence RI 02906).

<sup>31</sup> New Shoreham Town Book, 1:52.

<sup>32</sup> Catherine was alive when Alexander was offered land on the island in 1664 (New Shoreham Town Book, 1:17). For Alexander<sup>1</sup> and Catherine (—) Innes and their descendants, see William B. Saxbe Jr., "Four Fathers for William Ennis of Kingston: A Collective Review," *The New York Genealogical and Biographical Record* 129(1998):227–38 at 232–38.