
Brief Note

Possible Scottish Baptism Records of James Patton's Children

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In March 2015, Malcolm Sandilands of Alexandria, Virginia, who grew up in southwestern Scotland, reported his discovery of two baptism records for the children of “James Paton” from “the parish of Terregles, which is in Kirkcudbrightshire [County of Kirkcudbright] but nearly adjoins the town of Dumfries [in southern Scotland].”¹ Mr. Sandilands kindly sent copies of the original records from the registry books, which he obtained from the website *ScotlandsPeople* and which provide the focus of this brief note. The transcripts of these records follow:²

- (1) “Terreglis ... colledge Jan 1732 a child was baptized to James paton.”
- (2) “James paton had a child baptized his [the child's] name is John on the 2d day of novbr [November] 1734.”

With regard to the first record, Mr. Sandilands made the following observation: “The first is for the baptism in January 1732 of the unnamed child of James Paton at the ‘colledge,’ presumably a reference to the medieval collegiate church in Lincluden, now in ruins, standing on the suburbs of Dumfries but within the parish bounds of Terregles.”

In April 2015, Mr. Sandilands was able to send a copy of a third baptism record for a child of “James Patoun sailor” living in Dumfries, an abstract of which had appeared on the website *Ancestry.com*; this record is transcribed as follows³:

- (3) “Baptisms 1730 ... July ... 19th B: [Baptized] Mary L:D [Lawful Daughter] to James Patoun sailor.”

Mr. Sandilands further noted that he found only “two other James Paton/Patouns in the Dumfries registry: a shoemaker who had a son, George,

after Col. James [Patton's] settlement in Virginia [circa 1741], and another James who is noted as deceased in his final child's baptism in 1712."⁴

These three baptisms are possibly those of Capt. James Patton's children. It is well-documented in the Virginia records that Patton and his wife, whose name may have been Mary,⁵ had two children: daughters named Mary and Margret.⁶ If these records do pertain to the right James Patton, Mary was probably born in 1730 in the port town of Dumfries. Presumably Margret was the un-named child who was likely born in late 1731 or by January 1732 and baptized just outside Dumfries in the parish of Terregles. It appears there was also a son named John born in 1734 and baptized in Terregles, but he probably died very young.

Patton's daughter Mary married William Thompson circa 1748–1750 in Augusta County, Virginia. She seems to have died circa 1772–1776 at Springfield plantation in what is now Pulaski County, Virginia.⁷ Margret Patton married Col. John Buchanan in June 1749 in Augusta County, Virginia.⁸ Col. Buchanan died in 1769, and Margret married William Anderson in 1774.⁹ The author has found evidence that Margret died in 1801 in Kentucky.¹⁰ Therefore, Mary Patton was approximately 19 when she married William Thompson, and she died in her early 40s. Margret Patton was about 17 when she married Col. Buchanan, and she was about 43 when she married William Anderson. She lived to be approximately 70 years old.

These baptism records, with the 1729 record of James Patton's ship *William* of Dumfries wrecking in Cornwall (described earlier in this volume; see article beginning on page 1),¹¹ provide new credible evidence that James Patton and his family were living in or near Dumfries, Scotland, at least intermittently by 1729. They also give us perhaps the best evidence to date of when and where Mary and Margret Patton were born.

Acknowledgment

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Endnotes

1. Communication from Malcolm Sandilands, e-mail, 22 March 2015.
2. Old Parish Register Births 880/00 0010 0010 Terregles, accessed 13 and 22 March 2015 by Malcolm Sandilands in *scotlandspeople.gov.uk*.
3. This record was located by the author in *Ancestry.com* on 23 March 2015 and confirmed by Malcolm Sandilands on 10 April 2015 in *scotlandspeople.gov.uk*: Old Parish Register Births 821/00 0020 0065 Dumfries.
4. Communication from Sandilands, e-mail, 10 April 2015.

5. Patton's wife is said to have been Mary Osborne of Whitehaven, England. See Patricia G. Johnson, *James Patton and the Appalachian Colonists* (Pulaski, Va.: Edmonds Printing, 2nd edition, 1983, first printed 1973), 11, 21, 26. However, her name and origin remain undetermined.
6. Johnson, *James Patton*; David V. Agricola, *Descendants of Henry Patton Sr. of Augusta County, Virginia* (formerly titled *Descendants of James and Florence [Graham] Patton of Floyd Co., Ky.*): *A Patton Compendium*, Series [31] (Lakewood, Ohio: David V. Agricola, 2003), 9–12. Margret's name is also spelled Margaret in contemporary documents and in the historical literature. The author has seen no documents written or signed by Margret herself, but her husband, Col. John Buchanan, spelled her name "Margret" on several legal documents, so that is the spelling the author has chosen to use. For example: Original indenture (deed) of 22 October 1768 between John and Margret Buchanan and William and Mary Thompson of the one part and Thomas Stevenson of the other part for 118 acres on the south side of James River in Augusta County, Indentures, File 283, Augusta County Courthouse, Staunton, Va.
7. Patricia G. Johnson, *Springfield Saga: The Thompsons of Fort Thompson on New River, Pulaski County, Virginia* (Blacksburg, Va.: Self Published, 1985), 8–9, 34, 46.
8. Lyman Chalkley, *Chronicles of the Scotch-Irish Settlement in Virginia Extracted from the Original Court Records of Augusta County 1745–1800* 2 (Rosslyn, Va.: Commonwealth Printing Co., 1912), 275. This record was originally recorded in a fee book that was stolen from Augusta County Courthouse in the 1990s (personal communication to the author by several deputy clerks at Augusta County Courthouse, Staunton, Va.).
9. Chalkley, *Chronicles of the Scotch-Irish Settlement* 2, 278.
10. Montgomery County Order Book 15, 42–43, Montgomery County Courthouse, Christiansburg, Va.; Montgomery County Chancery case *Andrew Boyd and wife Mary vs. Thomas Jackson*, Augusta County Chancery Index No. 1831-015, Original Case No. 437, Augusta County Courthouse, Staunton, Va.; and Library of Virginia, Richmond, Va., online at Chancery Records Index, www.virginiamemory.com/collections/chancery/. Margret's life will be discussed more fully in the author's forthcoming biography of Col. John Buchanan.
11. Ryan S. Mays, "New Maritime Records of James Patton," *The Smithfield Review* 21 (2017), 1–17.