

THE ENGLISH ORIGIN OF  
ANNE<sup>1</sup> MOTLEY/MATLEY/MATTLE, WIFE OF  
WILLIAM<sup>1</sup> DOUGLAS OF NEW LONDON, CONNECTICUT

By Leslie Mahler

In 1878 Charles H. J. Douglas published a genealogy of the Douglas family, the main focus of which was the family of that name in New London, Connecticut, which was founded by one William<sup>1</sup> Douglas, who is said to have been in New England in 1640.<sup>1</sup> Douglas found one record of importance regarding the English origin of this family: a court deposition of William's wife Ann[e], made in Boston in May 1670 and recorded at New London.<sup>2</sup> Anne testified that she was the only surviving heir of her deceased father, Thomas Mattle<sup>3</sup> of Ringstead, Northamptonshire; her deposition was supported by James Johnson and Elizabeth Meares, widow of Boston, who were both from Northamptonshire.<sup>4</sup>

Douglas employed the well-known antiquary, William P. W. Phillimore of Snenton, Nottinghamshire, to contact Edward Sandford, vicar of Denford and Ringstead, Northamptonshire. The vicar noted two baptisms during the appropriate period for sons of a Thomas "Motley"—the spelling of the surname in the Ringstead register—but he found no other entries for this family, or any entries for the surname *Douglas*.<sup>5</sup>

Douglas then concluded, "It will be seen that this source of information, the only one which seemed in any way likely to throw the least light on the subject, has now been exhausted, and although the results obtained are not all which might be desired, the author feels satisfied, because he had done all in his power,

<sup>1</sup> Charles Henry James Douglas, ed., *A Collection of Family Records, with Biographical Sketches, and Other Memoranda of Various Families and Individuals Bearing the Name Douglas, or Allied to Families of that Name* (Providence, R.I., 1879) (hereafter cited as Douglas, *Douglas Family*). Useful accounts are also in Lillian Lounsbury (Miner) Selleck, *One Branch of the Miner Family with Extensive Notes on the Wood, Lounsbury, Rogers and Fifty Other Allied Families of Connecticut and Long Island*, [ed. Donald Lines Jacobus] (New Haven, 1928), 98–99 (hereafter cited as Selleck, *Miner Family*), and Esther Littleford Woodworth-Barnes, *Spooner Saga: Judah Paddock Spooner and His Wife Deborah Douglas of Connecticut and Vermont and Their Descendants . . . Spooner, Douglas and Jermain Ancestry* (Boston, 1997), 391–99.

<sup>2</sup> The deposition is mentioned briefly in Frances Manwaring Caulkins, *History of New London, Connecticut* . . . (1860; repr. New London, 1895), 300.

<sup>3</sup> According to James Savage, *A Genealogical Dictionary of the First Settlers of New England*, 4 vols. (Boston, 1860–62), 2:63, and Henry Whittemore, *Genealogical Guide to the Early Settlers of America* (1898–1906; repr. Baltimore, 1967), 154, Ann's father was Thomas "Mable" of Ringstead, Northamptonshire.

<sup>4</sup> A full transcript of the deposition is given in the appendix of Douglas, *Douglas Family*.

<sup>5</sup> Douglas, *Douglas Family*, 51–53.

and the information, meager though it be, is more than has usually been obtained in such cases."<sup>6</sup>

A recent investigation located a number of records on this family in England, which add to what Douglas had found.

1 — MOTLEY, given name unknown. Parish registers and probate records for this area are sparse in this time period.<sup>7</sup> The registers of Islip commence in 1695, those for Denford in 1596 and the records for Ringstead in 1570.

There was an earlier will for one John Matlatt, a husbandman of the nearby parish of Lilford, from the year 1553. He did not mention any children in his will, but he did say that his unnamed brother had children and made his wife "Katerin" executrix.<sup>8</sup> His connection to the other Motleys, however, is unknown.

The mother of Thomas<sup>A</sup> Motley was apparently married at one time to a member of the Goode family that lived nearby. The exact details are uncertain, but she may have been the daughter-in-law of "Thomas Goode of Islyppe in the countie of North[amp]t[on] yeoman," whose will was dated 26 November 1567. He gave 12*d.* for tithes forgotten. He gave 4*d.* to the mother church of Peterborough. His household goods were to be divided between his wife Elizabeth and son Thomas. To his wife he gave four "mylche kye," two "breders," forty sheep and two hogs. He also gave her his house on the north side of the church with twelve acres of land. To his son John Goode he gave twenty sheep, a two-year-old heifer and £6 13*s.* 4*d.* He gave his son Anthony the farm in Ringstead "that he dwelleth in," and one sheep to each of Anthony's children. The testator gave his lands in Denford to his son John, and one sheep to each of his children. The testator's lands in Islip and Lufswick went to his son Thomas Goode, along with a farm in Ringstead in the occupation of John Cocks. To his daughter Ales he gave 10*s.* and a sheep to each of her children. To his daughter Elizabeth he gave 20*s.* and a sheep to each of her children. His daughter Katherin also was to receive 10*s.* His wife Elizabeth was to have a third of all the lands mentioned. To each of his godchildren he gave 4*d.* The testator gave 2*s.* to the bells of Islip, 5*s.* to the Five Bridges and 12*d.* to the poor man's box. To his son Thomas he gave his folding table, his best brass pot and a standing bedstead. The rest of his goods went to his son Thomas, who was the executor. The overseer of the will was John Fosbrooke, gent., who received 10*s.* Witnesses to the will were Sir Gabriel Powre, parson, and Sir Nicholas Cartmell, clerk. The will was proved on 1 March 1567/[8].<sup>9</sup>

<sup>6</sup> Douglas, *Douglas Family*, 53, 54.

<sup>7</sup> For example, the registers of Ringstead are not in very good order; many years are missing, such as marriages for 1602 to 1616. Only the years 1610 and 1617 are extant for burials in the period from 1601 to 1621.

<sup>8</sup> Northampton wills, 1549–1557 [Family History Library (FHL), Salt Lake City, film #187,580].

<sup>9</sup> Northampton wills, 1567–1569 [FHL film #187,586].

The connection between the Motley and Goode families is found in the will of Robert Goode of Ringstead, which was dated 24 January 1610/[1]. He asked to be buried on the south side of the church of Ringstead, to the east of the porch. To his brother Anthony Goode, he gave all of his lands and meadows in Ringstead and Raunds. To his brother's daughters Anne and Susan, he gave a house where his sister Cherchelley and Henry Griffen were resident. To his sister Cherchelley, he gave a strike of malt, half a strike of wheat and half a strike of barley, to be given to her annually. He gave to her son Thomas Cherchelley £6, to be paid within three years. To Robert, son of his brother Thomas Motley, he gave a ewe, and to Isaac the son of his brother John Motley he also gave a ewe. To his sister's son Richard Cherchelley, he gave a "theave," that is, a ewe that had not yet borne a lamb. William Motley was also to receive a ewe lamb. 4s. was to be paid to the poor of Ringstead. 6d. was to be given to Robert, son of Henry Griffen, and 4d. each to the testator's other godchildren. The rest of his goods were given to his brother Anthony Goode. Witnesses to the will were Humfrey Stratton and Thomas Robisson. The will was proved on 6 May 1611.<sup>10</sup>

The most likely interpretation of this will is that Thomas Motley's mother was married to a man from the Goode family, but the order in which these marriages took place is currently unknown. It is possible, but less likely, that two sisters of Robert Goode were married to Thomas and John Motley.

Children of —<sup>B</sup> Motley:

- 2 i THOMAS<sup>A</sup> MOTLEY, b. say 1570; m. —.
- ii JOHN MOTLEY, b. say 1572, living 24 Jan. 1610/[1], when he was mentioned in the will of [his half-brother?], Robert Goode; m. —.

2 THOMAS<sup>A</sup> MOTLEY was born say 1570 and died in Ringstead, Northamptonshire, between 19 April and 22 June 1612, the dates when his will was executed and proved. His wife's name is currently unknown. There are many gaps in the registers of Ringstead in this period, and neither his burial nor a second marriage for his widow was located.

The will of "Thomas Matlat of Ringsted next Thrapston" was dated 19 April 1612. He gave his house to his son William and his heirs. He gave his sons William and Robert his lands, which were purchased from Robert Steevens, and if they died without heirs, the land went to the testator's daughters. He gave 40s. each to his daughters Anne and Katherine at the age of twenty. He gave a pair of flaxen sheets to each of his daughters at the age of 21. The rest of his goods went to his wife, who was the executrix. The overseers were Simon Tootell, Anthony Goode and Thomas Robince. The will was proved on 22 June 1612.<sup>11</sup>

Children of Thomas<sup>A</sup> Motley:

<sup>10</sup> Northampton wills, 1610–1611 [FHL film #187,592].

<sup>11</sup> Northampton wills, 1611–1614 [FHL film #187,614].

- i ROBERT MOTLEY, bp. Ringstead, Northants., 6 Oct. 1595.<sup>12</sup> There is a will for a Robert Matlat of St. Pulchers [St. Sepulchres] London, draper, proved in 1654, which mentions a daughter, unnamed, and wife Hannah who was the executrix.<sup>13</sup> Unfortunately, the registers of St. Sepulchres do not survive before 1662, and there is as yet no known connection of this person with the Motley family. The International Genealogical Index [IGI] includes some entries for the surname *Matlat* in co. Surrey, so this Robert might be completely unrelated.
- ii WILLIAM MOTLEY, bp. Denford, Northants., April 1599.<sup>14</sup>
- 3 iii ANN[E]<sup>1</sup> MOTLEY, bp. Denford, 20 Sept. 1601. Either she or a possible younger sister of the same name m. WILLIAM<sup>1</sup> DOUGLAS. She was the only one of this group of siblings living in 1670, as given in her deposition in Boston.
- iv THOMAS MOTLEY, bp. Denford, 20 [month missing] 1606, apparently d. young.
- v KATHERINE MOTLEY, bp. Ringstead, 6 Jan. 1608/[9?].

3 ANNE<sup>1</sup> MOTLEY was baptized at Denford on 20 September 1601 and was last known to be living in 1670, when she made her deposition.<sup>15</sup> It is possible that the Anne baptized in 1601 died young and that the surviving daughter of that name was born in the gap between 1601 and 1606. According to Anne's deposition in 1670, she was aged 66, putting her year of birth about 1604.

She married about 1635, WILLIAM<sup>1</sup> DOUGLAS, who was born about 1610 and was either nine or six years younger than his wife. He died in New London, Connecticut, on 26 July 1682 (see below). According to Charles Douglas, William was born in Scotland, but it is just as possible that William was born in England, as there were others of the surname in England at that time. Douglas also states that there is reason to believe that William's father was named Robert,<sup>16</sup> but no evidence is given for this. The assumption is probably derived from the fact that William had a son named Robert, but this can hardly be considered conclusive evidence. The birthplace and parentage of William remain unknown.

There was a will for one Richard Douglas of the nearby parish of Wellingborough in Northamptonshire,<sup>17</sup> which was proved in August 1632. The will mentions his children Joseph and Hester, both minors, as well as his wife Anne. His relationship to the subject of this article is unknown.

A search in the IGI located two baptisms at St. Mary Whitechapel, co. Middlesex (just to the east of London), which may very well be for children of William<sup>1</sup> and Anne (Motley) Douglas; these entries were confirmed through a microfilm of the original register, which also contains a burial apparently for one of the children (courtesy of Gordon L. Remington):<sup>18</sup>

<sup>12</sup> Parish registers of Ringstead, co. Northants., 1571–1639 [FHL fiche #6,128,772].

<sup>13</sup> Prerogative Court of Canterbury wills, 1654, folio 471 [FHL film #92,206].

<sup>14</sup> Parish registers of Denford, co. Northants., 1600–1666 [FHL fiche #6,127,239].

<sup>15</sup> Douglas, *Douglas Family*, 61, states that she "died at New London about 1685."

<sup>16</sup> Douglas, *Douglas Family*, 54.

<sup>17</sup> Northampton wills, 1632–1635 [FHL film #187,601].

<sup>18</sup> St. Mary Whitechapel, co. Middlesex, parish registers [FHL film #94,691].

1999] *English Origin of Anne (Motley) Douglas of New London, Conn.* 279

19 Nov. 1637: bp. "Elizabeth da of William and Anne Dowglas."  
6 March 1638[9]: bp. "Robert son of William and Anne Dowglas."  
12 March 1639[40]: bur. Elizabeth Dowglas.

No other records were found for this couple at St. Mary Whitechapel; there was, however, a contemporary James Douglas in the parish register.

A William Douglas was admitted as a Boston townsman, "he behaving himself as a Christian man," on 31 6th month [August] 1640.<sup>19</sup> This William Douglas may have removed to Ipswich where a man of that name received a part of the public lands on 28 February 1641.<sup>20</sup> If so, he was apparently not the one later in New London, for a William Douglas was still in Ipswich in 1651,<sup>21</sup> while the New London man was in Boston by 1 3rd month [May] 1646, when he purchased a house from Walter Merry and Thomas Anchor.<sup>22</sup> On 7 1st month [March] 1646 [1645/6], "Willyam Douglesse a cooper and Anne his wife" were admitted to the Church of Boston, and on the following day they had their children Elizabeth, Sarah, and William baptized there.<sup>23</sup> On 28 5th month [July] 1657, he was admitted an inhabitant of Boston<sup>24</sup>—which suggests that he was not the man admitted a townsman in 1640. Shortly thereafter he moved to New London, Connecticut, where he purchased land in 1659 and where he remained for the rest of his life. He had a number of responsibilities while living in New London, as a recorder, property appraiser and a deputy to the General Court at Hartford. According to the diary of the Rev. Simon Bradstreet, in 1682, on "July 26, M<sup>r</sup> William Douglas one of the Deacons of this Church dyed in the 72 year of his age. He was an able christian & this poor ch[urc]h will much want him."<sup>25</sup>

Children of William<sup>1</sup> and Anne (Motley) Douglas:

- i ANNE<sup>2</sup> DOUGLAS, b. England, say 1635; m. (1) Roxbury, 14 Oct. 1658, NATHANIEL GEARY/GARY (Arthur<sup>1</sup>),<sup>26</sup> probably m. (2) Roxbury, 7 June 1683, THOMAS BISHOP.<sup>27</sup>

<sup>19</sup> *Boston Records, 1634–1660*, Boston Record Commissioners' Report, 2(2nd ed. [Boston, 1881]):55.

<sup>20</sup> Ipswich Records, vol. 1.

<sup>21</sup> *Records and Files of the Quarterly Courts of Essex County, Massachusetts*, 9 vols. (Salem, Mass., 1911–75), 1:233.

<sup>22</sup> *Book of Possessions*, Boston Rec. Comm. Report, 2(2nd ed. [Boston, 1881]):46.

<sup>23</sup> Richard D. Pierce, ed., *The Records of the First Church in Boston, 1630–1868*, 3 vols. Pubs. Col. Soc. of Mass., 39–41 (Boston, 1961), 1:45, 303 (hereafter cited as *Records of 1st Church in Boston*).

<sup>24</sup> *Boston Town Records*, Boston Rec. Comm. Report, 2:139.

<sup>25</sup> "[Rev. Simon] Bradstreet's Journal," *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register* [NEHGR] 8(1854):325–33, at 332.

<sup>26</sup> *Vital Records of Roxbury, Massachusetts, to the End of the Year 1849*, 2 vols. (Salem, Mass., 1925–26), 2:129, 162 (hereafter cited as *Roxbury VRs*); Laurence Brainerd, *Gary Genealogy: The Descendants of Arthur Gary of Roxbury, Massachusetts . . .* (Boston, 1918), 35–36.

<sup>27</sup> *Roxbury VRs*, 2:32, 162.

Earlier works on the Douglasses state that Anne (Douglas) Geary was a daughter of William<sup>1</sup> and Anne (Motley) Douglas. Explicit evidence for her parentage has not been seen; her name and marriage in Roxbury, however, support placing her here.

Gordon Remington has confirmed through a microfilm of the parish register the following record located using the IGI: "Anne the daughter of Willia[m] Dowglas was baptized June 12<sup>th</sup> 1636," at St. Mary Bothaw, London.<sup>28</sup> This entry fits well the daughter of the immigrant couple, but, unlike the entries at St. Mary Whitechapel, the mother is not named, and the name "William Douglas" is common. No marriage for a William Douglas is found at St. Mary Bothaw between 1620 and 1636, and no burials for any Douglas between 1630 and 1640.

- ii (prob.) ELIZABETH DOUGLAS, bp. St. Mary Whitechapel, co. Middlesex, 19 Nov. 1637, probably the Elizabeth Dowglas bur. there, 12 March 1639[40].
- iii ROBERT DOUGLAS, probably bp. St. Mary Whitechapel, co. Middlesex, 6 March 1638[9]; m. New London, Conn., 28 Sept. 1665, MARY<sup>2</sup> HEMPSTEAD (Robert<sup>1</sup>).<sup>29</sup>
- iv ELIZABETH DOUGLAS, b. 26 6m [Aug.] 1641, bp. Boston, 8 March 1646[7];<sup>30</sup> m. Roxbury, Mass., 16 Feb. 1658[9?], JOHN<sup>2</sup> CHANDLER (William<sup>1</sup>).<sup>31</sup>
- v SARAH DOUGLAS, b. 8 2m [April] 1643, bp. Boston, 8 March 1646[7];<sup>32</sup> m. New London, Oct. 1661, JOHN<sup>2</sup> KEENEY (William<sup>1</sup>).<sup>33</sup>
- vi WILLIAM DOUGLAS, b. Boston, Mass., 1 2m [April] 1645,<sup>34</sup> bp. there, 8 March 1646[7];<sup>35</sup> m. (1) New London, 18 Dec. 1667, ABIAH<sup>2</sup> HOUGH (William<sup>1</sup>).<sup>36</sup> m. (2) July 1715, MARY (SEAMER) BUSHNELL, widow of John Bushnell.<sup>37</sup>

Leslie Mahler (4760 Country Lane #F, San Jose CA 95129) is a researcher with genealogical interests in northern and western Europe, as well as southeast Asia.

<sup>28</sup> St. Mary Bothaw, London, parish register [FHL film #374,486].

<sup>29</sup> New London Vital Records, 1644–1842 [FHL film #1,312,157]; "New London, Conn., Early Records (Copied from the Original Record)," *The Genealogical Quarterly Magazine* 2(1901):282–87, at 285 [m. "Mary, dau. of Robert Hempstead"]. For this Hempstead family, see the excellent account in Dean Crawford Smith, *The Ancestry of Emily Jane Angell, 1840–1910 . . .*, ed. Melinde Lutz Sanborn (Boston, 1992), 345–50.

<sup>30</sup> *Records of 1st Church in Boston*, 1:303; baptized 8 1m [March] 1646[7] "Elizabeth Douglas borne the 26th of the 6th Moneth 1641," daughter of "our brother Willyam Duglas."

<sup>31</sup> *Roxbury VRs*, 2:68, 129; G. Andrews Moriarty, "Genealogical Research in England: Ancestry of William Chandler of Roxbury, Mass.," *NEHGR* 85(1931):133–45, at 144–45, with important corrections on the English ancestry in Douglas Richardson, "New Light on the English Ancestry of William<sup>1</sup> Chandler and of His Cousin Margaret Chandler, Wife of William<sup>1</sup> Dennison, Both of Roxbury, Massachusetts," *TAG* 73(1998):50–57.

<sup>32</sup> *Records of 1st Church in Boston*, 1:303; baptized 8 1m [March] 1646[7]: "Sarah Duglas borne the 8th Day of the 2d Moneth 1643," daughter of "our brother Willyam Duglas."

<sup>33</sup> "New London Early Records," *Gen. Quart. Mag.* 2(1901):284 [m. "John Keyneyn, son of .William Keyneyn"]; Selleck, *Miner Family*, 117–18.

<sup>34</sup> David Pulsifer, "Early Records of Boston," *NEHGR* 8(1854):37–40, at 38.

<sup>35</sup> *Records of 1st Church in Boston*, 1:303; baptized 8 1m [March] 1646[7]: "Willyam Duglas his [William Douglas's] Sonne borne the 1st of the 2d Moneth 1645."

<sup>36</sup> "New London Early Records," *Gen. Quart. Mag.* 2(1901):287 [m. "Abigail [sic], dau. of William Hough"].

<sup>37</sup> George Eleazer Bushnell, *Bushnell Family Genealogy* (Nashville Tenn., 1945), 45.