

George Walton and Alice Hilton

A 17th Century Enigma

by

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Genealogically it is the best of times, it is the worst of times, it is the age of wisdom, it is the age of foolishness, it is the epoch of belief, it is the epoch of incredulity.¹ Today the Internet has made available the documents² of the world, while at the same time allowing anyone with a computer to create a genealogy filled with relatives, either real or mistaken and sometimes made up. A simple Google search for “online genealogy errors” will turn up over four million hits. It’s a serious issue, of which any genealogist, amateur or otherwise, needs to be aware.

Genealogy, like the law, has evidence and fact. Some evidence is admissible, some is not. It is up to the researcher to try to determine what is fact and what is supposition. We need to heed the words of Elizabeth Shown Mills in her book *Evidence Explained* when she dedicated her book to “Grady McWhiney, Mentor & friend: Who taught me to probe the past carefully and report it as it was, not as I wish it were.”³

The authors of this article have a common American ancestor named George Walton. While not really popular, he and his family were quite well known in early New Hampshire. His name appears over 150 times in the general index to the New Hampshire State Papers, and an additional 70 plus times in the index to volume 40, the court volume⁴. If we include his children, these numbers swell considerably. George is even the subject of a book by history professor Emerson Baker with a rather interesting title, *The Devil of Great Island*.⁵

Unfortunately, we know virtually nothing about who George Walton was. We don’t know when or where he was born, when he immigrated to America, where he landed, nor how he got here. We know he lived in New Hampshire and had a wife named Alice. Books and records tell us a lot about George, Alice, and their children. But we do not know about their past, who their ancestors were, or even when they got married.

There are innumerable documents that tell us that George’s wife was Alice, daughter of William Hilton. In this article we will examine that information and give evidence that it is simply not true based on one simple fact. William Hilton did not have a daughter named Alice.

Is Internet Genealogy an Oxymoron?

Some years ago an Internet blogger wrote:

¹ With apologies to Charles Dickens for paraphrasing *The Tale of Two Cities*.

² To avoid confusion, documents includes both books and records. Books have been written about the records but are not acceptable as genealogical fact. Records are official government and legal documents which are genealogical fact.

³ Elizabeth Shown Mills, *Evidence Explained*, 2nd ed. (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 2009), 5

⁴ Frank C. Meyers, comp. *Index to the New Hampshire State Papers*, (<https://sos.nh.gov/archives-vital-records-records-management/archives/publications-collections/new-hampshire-state-papers/>). There is no official index, and this is not a published volume. It is a compendium of the indexes from all the volumes available as a PDF on the New Hampshire Secretary of State website.

⁵ Emerson W. Baker, *The Devil of Great Island: Witchcraft and Conflict in Early New England*, (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2007). No, George was not the Devil, but there is an interesting parallel. Baker calls the Walton family “The Neighbors from Hell” in chapter five. Pages 47-62

“When I was a newbie on Ancestry.com I was guilty, unknowingly, of contributing to one of the biggest headaches for genealogist, both amateur and professional, today. What was I doing that was so terrible. It was blindly copying names and dates from ancestry trees without bothering to see if the information was even remotely correct.”⁶

While mistakes and guesses in early genealogy generally took years to become accepted as fact, in the age of the Internet they take hold and are propagated around the world quite quickly. Being accepted as fact doesn’t make something a fact, as is shown in the following examples. I will not give the sources for these examples because I do not want to be responsible for disseminating erroneous information.

The universal belief that George married Alice Hilton still causes unproven information to be created. We know that William Hilton had a daughter named Mary. This will be explained shortly. A quick search, however, on a popular Internet site reveals that Mary Alice was born in Cheshire, England in 1617 to William Hilton and Mary Winslow. Where did the middle name Alice come from? Aside from the fact, which we will see later, that Mary was born in 1619 and the name of her mother isn’t known, there are no records that would indicate that she had a middle name. In another example, George Walton had a daughter named Martha who was born in New Hampshire in 1642. Her name magically changed to Martha Hilton when she married Edward West. Where did the middle name Hilton come from? Someone apparently assumed that since her mother was Alice Hilton that must have been her middle name. Again, there are no records indicating that she had a middle name. These are both just 21st century made-up names that were created to match preconceived beliefs.

The fact is, middle names were not commonly used in 17th century America. According to *Ancestry*:

“In England, they were reserved for the nobility, with an old law making them illegal for the rest of the population. Since the Pilgrims and many early settlers came from England, early Americans followed the tradition of having only two names.

*You can see evidence of this in the early Massachusetts birth records on **Ancestry**. In Boston, no middle names appear in the 1600s.”⁷*

Even in the 18th century, of the 56 men who signed the Declaration of Independence, only three had middle names⁸ and only three of our first seventeen presidents had middle names.⁹

⁶ “Princess Nicketti Powhatan,” Jeanie Roberts, *The Family Connection*, 16 Nov 2011 (<http://www.jeaniesgenealogy.com/2011/11/im-related-to-princess.html> : accessed 28 Jun 2021).

⁷ “Middle Names: Where’d They Come From?” *Ancestry*, (<https://blogs.ancestry.com/cm/middle-names-where-d-they-come-from/> : accessed 29 June 2021). Paragraphs 2 and 3.

⁸ “Signers of the Declaration of Independence,” *America’s Founding Documents* (<https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/signers-factsheet> : accessed 18 June 2021).

⁹ “Presidents,” *The White House* (<https://www.whitehouse.gov/about-the-white-house/presidents/> : accessed 18 June 2021).

Facts about George

At "A quarter Courte houlden at Boston the 4th Day of the 10th Month @ 1638: George Walton was fined 10s⁵ for swearing, & paid it in Court."¹⁰ George just appears as if out of nowhere. There is no definite proof that this was the same George who later moved to Exeter, but the fact that no other George Walton has been found in the area, and his continued appearances in court for a variety of reasons, make a fairly compelling case that this was the same George. There are no records that indicate when he came to America nor where he was living when he was fined. In fact, we don't learn anything about George's past until 47 years later when he gave a deposition to Walter Barefoot, then Deputy Governor of New Hampshire in 1685 where he testified that he was "aged seventy years, or thereabouts, ... [and] hath been an inhabitant in the said province about fifty years."¹¹ From that we can estimate that he was born sometime around 1615 and had arrived in the Colonies about 1635. These are not facts, but target dates we can use when we search for more background information about George.

Facts about Alice

The only thing we know about Alice is her first name. She doesn't appear in any records until 1663-4 when she and George were convicted as Quakers.¹² Books show that she had seven children, but we have no birth records for any of them.¹³

Finding George

While we don't know when George was born, we'll use his deposition as our basis. According to the Family Search Historical Records,¹⁴ there were at least 10 boys named George Walton born in England during the period of 1610 to 1620. We will look at the three that seem the most promising.

The only known attempt to find George appears to be in Baker's *Devil of Great Island*.¹⁵ After George's court appearance he moved to the small frontier town of Exeter, New Hampshire where he signed the Exeter Compact in 1639.¹⁶ The church in Exeter was founded by the Reverend John Wheelwright who had been the vicar of the church in Bilsby, Boston, Lincolnshire, England.¹⁷ When George moved to Exeter, Baker posits that it would be "unlikely

¹⁰ *Records of the Court of Assistants of the Colony of Massachusetts Bay 1630-1692*, 3 vols, (Boston, Suffolk County, 1904), 2:77; digital images, Internet Archive (<https://archive.org/details/recordscourtass00unkngoog/page/n99/mode/1up> : accessed 15 June 2021).

¹¹ "George Walton's Deposition," *Provincial Papers. Documents and Records Relating to the Province of New-Hampshire From the Earliest Period of its Settlement: 1623-1686*, vol. 1, Nathaniel Bouton, ed., *New Hampshire State Papers Series*, vol. 1 (Concord, N.H.: George E. Jenks, State Printer. 1867), 47-8.

¹² *New Hampshire Court Records, 1640-1692. Court papers, 1652-1668*, Otis G. Hammond, ed., *State Papers Series*, vol 40 (State of New Hampshire, 1943), 189.

¹³ Sybil Noyes, Charles Thornton Libby, Walter Goodwin Davis, *Genealogical Dictionary of Maine and New Hampshire*. 5 vols, (Portland, Maine: Southworth Press, 1928), 717. Hereinafter referred to as *GDMNH*.

¹⁴ "England Births and Christenings, 1538-1975", database, *Family Search* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1473014> : accessed 15 June 2021), entry for George Walton, 1610-1620, birthplace England. All of the Georges in this article are found in this database.

¹⁵ Baker, *Devil*, 36.

¹⁶ "New Hampshire Exeter Compact," An American Heritage (<https://anamericanheritage.com/new-hampshire-exeter-compact/> : 4 April 2018), digital image : accessed 27 May 2021. While it is difficult to read, George Walton is sixth name in first column.

¹⁷ "John Wheelwright," *Wikipedia*, (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Wheelwright : accessed 6 June 2021).

that someone would choose to go to the small and remote frontier town of Exeter ... for reasons other than religious." He therefore suggests that since George must have known Wheelwright, he might have been the son of Edward Walton, christened on 5 November 1617 in Threkingham, a village about fifteen miles southwest of where Wheelwright had lived. Baker does note that George was "in Boston as late as December 1638,"¹⁸ which indicates he did not go to Exeter with Wheelwright. George does not appear to be particularly religious; however, the fact that he and his wife were later convicted as Quakers might indicate that George was not totally sympathetic to the Puritan religion of Wheelwright.

A second possibility arises when George bought land in 1649 to move his family to Great Island, currently the town of New Castle, New Hampshire. The deed reads "John Heard ... planter, ... to George Walton ... taylor (*sic*)."¹⁹ It would appear then that George may have been trained as a tailor in England. This leads us to a George who was christened 10 November 1616 at St. Mary Woolchurch Haw, London, the son of William Walton, a master in the Cloth Workers Company of London.²⁰ It is interesting to note that when George signed the Exeter Compact he couldn't write, so he signed with his mark, which looks remarkably similar to a pair of scissors.²¹

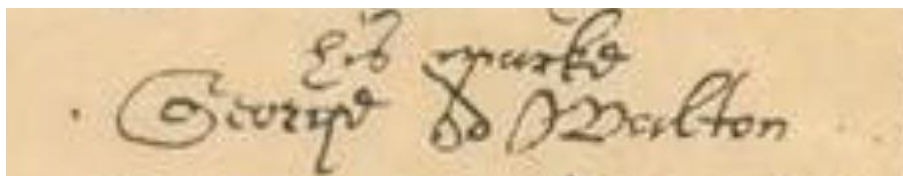


Figure 1 Mark of George Walton

Our last George is of interest for two reasons. Although it was far from universally used, the usual British naming convention was as follows: The first son was named after the paternal grandfather....²² Since George¹ named his first son George², it would be reasonable to think that his own father was George^A. So, our first reason is that George¹, christened 30 March 1617 at St. Martins in Tipton, Staffordshire, England²³ was the son of George^A. The second reason this George is of interest is that his wife's name was Ales. Is this who we are looking for? We'll discuss that shortly.

Finding Alice – Daughter of William Hilton

While most documents state that Alice was the daughter of William Hilton, Walter Goodwin Davis in *The Ancestry of Lydia Harmon* sums the up facts quite succinctly when he

¹⁸ Baker, *Devil*, 36.

¹⁹ John Scales, editor, *Piscataqua Pioneers 1623–1775: Register of Members and Ancestors* (Dover, N. H., Charles F. Whitehouse, 1919), 95.

²⁰ Walter C. Metcalf, editor, *The Visitations of Essex, 1552–1634*, The Publications of the Harleian Society, Visitation Series, vol 13 (London, The Society, 1878), 517. "George Walton about 18 years old", bottom of page as son of William Walton.

²¹ "New Hampshire Exeter Compact," *An American Heritage*, (<https://anamericanheritage.com/new-hampshire-exeter-compact/> : accessed 19 June 2021). George's name is sixth in the first column.

²² "England Personal Names: Naming Pattern," article, *Family Search*, (https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/England_Personal_Names : accessed 25 May 2021).

²³ "England Births and Christenings, 1538-1975", database, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:V5L4-ZJD> : 21 March 2020), George Walton, 1617.

states that the “maiden name of Mrs. Walton has not been definitely proven.”²⁴ He does append a footnote that says “Mr. Charles T. Libby has evolved a very interesting theory, admittedly based on circumstantial evidence, that she was a daughter of Mr. William Hilton. Further investigation in England may produce facts from which this theory can be developed to a certainty.”²⁵ Davis also adds the possibility that she may be related to the Waldron family, but since that has not really gained acceptance we won’t discuss it here.

While there are many lists which show the children of William Hilton there are basically three which seem to be the sources of all the others. We are not particularly interested in all his children, but we will mention them here as reference.

Robert Charles Anderson, Director of the Great Migration Study Project, tells us in *The Great Migration Begins*,²⁶ that William Hilton had eight children, four by his first wife, whose name is not known, and four by his second wife, Francis. None of them, however, were named Alice. His first three were born in England where the first child died and was buried. The next two, William and Mary, came over with their mother on the *Anne* in 1623 to join their father who had arrived in 1621.²⁷ The ship’s log lists “Mrs. Hilton, wife of William, William Hilton, Jr. and Mary Hilton.” This is the “Mary Alice” we mentioned earlier.

The second list shows Alice as the second child rather than Mary. This list is found in *The History of Dover, New Hampshire* by John Scales²⁸. He also places her birth at 1617 which would make her a twin of the William shown in the other two lists. He doesn’t show the second wife or the youngest son William in the list. If Alice was the second child, it would have been Alice rather than Mary who came over with their mother. Hmmm. This sounds like the reason someone created “Mary Alice.” Scales says to “See Stackpole’s History of Eliot, page 48, for additional information regarding William Hilton and his family.” There does not appear to be any such book, but it has been suggested that he might have meant *Old Kittery and Her Families*²⁹ which does mention Hilton on page 48, but there is nothing there about his family.

The third list is found in Libby’s *GDMNH*³⁰ which lists 9 children. This list was copied by Edith Bartlett Sumner in her *Ancestry of Blake and Glidden* where she adds “?Alice”, which according to her birth date was born to the first wife.³¹ The questions mark would seem to indicate she was not sure about the inclusion of Alice on this list.

Table 1 below shows the three lists in comparison. We are showing *Blake and Glidden* since it has the added Alice on the list. Otherwise, it is identical to what is found in the *GDMNH*. In looking at these lists, it appears that the second two are rather random and they certainly don’t have the research behind them that produced *The Great Migration Begins*.

²⁴ Walter Goodwin Davis, *The Ancestry of Lydia Harmon 1755-1836: Wife of Joseph Waterhouse of Standish, Maine*, (Boston, MA: Stanhope Press, 1924), 83.

²⁵ Unfortunately, there is no source reference for this theory, and nothing has been found in any of Libby’s published volumes that reference it.

²⁶ “William Hilton,” in Robert Charles Anderson, *The Great Migration Begins: Immigrants to New England 1620–1633*, 3 vols. (Boston, Mass: NEHGS, 1995), 2:951-57, particularly 953-54.

²⁷ Charles Edwards Banks, *The Planters of the Commonwealth* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1930), 51 William, 54 Wife.

²⁸ John Scales, “The Hilton Family,” in *History of Dover, New Hampshire*, (Printed by Authority of the City Councils, 1923) 313.

²⁹ Everett S. Stackpole, *Old Kittery and Her Families*, (Lewiston, Maine: Press of Lewiston Journal Company, 1903), 48.

³⁰ *GDMNH*, 335. The list is at the bottom of the left column starting with “Ch: John...”.

³¹ Edith Bartlett Sumner, *Ancestry of Edward Wales Blake and Clarissa Matilda Glidden with Ninety Allied Families*, (Los Angeles: Edith Bartlett Sumner [262-¼ South Coronado Street, Los Angeles 4, California], 1948), 143.

<i>The Great Migration Begins</i>	<i>History of Dover*</i>	<i>Blake and Glidden</i>
With first wife – name unknown		
Elizabeth b. & bur. 1616	William b. 1615	John bur. 1610
William b. 1617	Alice b. 1617	Elizabeth b. 1616
Mary b. 1619	John b. 1624	William b. 1617
John b. 1624	Magdaline b. 1630	Mary b. 1619
	Manwaring b. 1636	John b. unk.
With second wife – Francis	Ann b. unk.	With second wife – Francis
Magdalene b. 1636		Magdalene unk. m 1656
Mainwaring b. 1646		Mainwaring b. bef 1650
Agnes b. 1647		Agnes (Anne) b. 1667
William b. 1653		?Alice b. 1617 (out of place)
		William b. 1653
*History of Dover does not show the wives, nor the last son, William.		
b.=born; bur.=buried; m.=married; unk.=unknown		

Table 1 Hilton Children

George Walton and Alice Hilton

*Torrey's New England Marriages Prior to 1700*³² tells us that "George Walton & Alice ? Hilton" were married by 1641, possibly in Dover, or Great Island. The question mark indicates that Torrey is apparently questioning if Alice is really a Hilton. This really doesn't say when or where they were married, just that they were married when they appeared at these locations. The *Family Search* website warns us that "Torrey's marriage index should not be considered a source, but an index to sources."³³

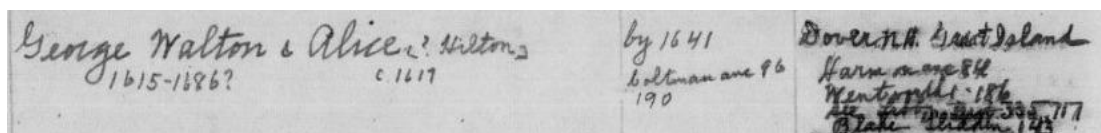


Figure 2 Torrey's George and Alice

So, what is the source for Torrey's information? Under the date we read "Coltman anc 96 190." *Roots Web* has the keys to references from Torrey's book which indicates that this is *Ancestry and Descendants of James Hensman Coltman and Betsy Tobey* by Sumner.³⁴ In the right

³² Clarence Almon Torrey, *New England Marriages Prior to 1700*, (1985; reprint, Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 2004); Family Search image 409, (<https://www.americanancestors.org/databases/new-england-image-only-marriage-manuscript-of-clarence-a-torrey-1583-1700/image/?volumelid=53828&pageName=49> : accessed 28 Jun 2022).

³³ "Using Torrey's Marriages Index," *Family Search*, (https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Torrey%27s_New_England_Marriages_Prior_to_1700#Original_Manuscript : accessed 3 June 2021).

³⁴ "Key to References in New England Marriages Prior to 1700," pg. 54; digital images, *Roots Web* (<http://freepages.rootsweb.com/~brouwergenealogydata/genealogy/Docs/torrey%20sources%20%28nehgr%29.pdf> : accessed 28 June 2021).

column we find the locations where they lived and more documents with the page numbers where the information is located: "Harmon 84" (*Ancestry of Lydia Harmon*); "Wentworth 1-186" (*The Wentworth Genealogy*, vol 1); "See Libby Dict 335, 717" (*GDMNH*); "Blake Glidden 143" (*Ancestry of Blake and Glidden*). All of these except for *Wentworth*³⁵ have been referenced in this article. None of them provide anything more than generic information about the fact that George and Alice lived in New Hampshire and had a family, and the mistaken belief that Alice was in fact Alice Hilton.

For example, in *Coltman*, Sumner gives us a list of William Hilton's children on page 96 which was taken from *History of Dover* and states that "ALICE² HILTON, born about 1615-16, according to Scales, came to America with her mother in 1623, age 18, and married George Walton of Exeter and Newcastle, N.H."³⁶ On page 190 Sumner quotes the age and immigration information from George's deposition, then she adds: "His wife's name was Alice. While **not definitely proven, certain things** point to her being the daughter of Mr William Hilton."³⁷ Emphasis added.

Unfortunately, "not definitely proven" and "certain things" are neither evidence nor fact. Besides, if Alice was "born about 1615-16" how could she be 18 in 1623? Certain things just don't add up.

Where Did Alice Hilton Come From?

The first known reference to Alice Hilton comes from a 1635 article published as "The Founders of New England" in *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register* by Samuel Drake in 1860.³⁸ Drake indicates that he spent from 1858 to 1860 in the "British Metropolis" where he copied lists of names from volumes found in the Rolls Office, Chancery Lane, London. It must be understood that there are hundreds of names on these lists, all written by hand in Early English script which is difficult to read at best. This copying process would have been very time consuming and was prone to errors.

Drake then published several pages of these lists.³⁹ At the end of these lists he changes the page heading to "*Emigrants for St. Christophers, &c*" and writes "The following Lists from the same volume as the preceding were copied and furnished to the Register by Mr. H. G. Somerby."⁴⁰ After several more pages of names, we read "24 Aprilis 1635.... These under written names are to be transported to the Barbadoes and St. Christophers, imbarqued in the *Ann & Elizabeth*." In this list we find "Alice Hilton 18."⁴¹ There is nothing to indicate where she was born, who her parents were, or if she ever came to New England. Remember, this was copied from a handwritten list 230 years after the fact. All this tells us is that someone known as Alice Hilton travelled to Barbadoes and St. Christophers, not to New England.

³⁵ John Wentworth, *Wentworth Genealogy: English and American*, 3 vols. (Boston: Little, Brown, and Company, 1878), 1:186.

³⁶ Edith Bartlett Sumner, *Ancestry and Descendants of James Hensman Coltman and Betsy Tobey*, (Los Angeles: Edith Bartlett Sumner [262-¼ South Coronado Street, Los Angeles 4, California], 1957), 96.

³⁷ *Ibid*, 190.

³⁸ Samuel G. Drake, publisher, "The Founders of New England", *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register*, Published Quarterly, Under the Patronage of the New England Historic-Genealogical Society, 14 no. 4 (October 1860): 297-359. Hereinafter referred to as NEHGR.

³⁹ *Ibid*, 329-346.

⁴⁰ *Ibid*, 347.

⁴¹ *Ibid*, 351-52. Alice is the first name in the middle column at the top of page 352.

It was in 1923 that Scales used this list from the *NEHGR*, adding that "Alice, b. about 1617; came over in Apr., 1635, as passenger on the ship '*Ann and Elizabeth*,' aged 18. Her father was then living at Dover. She m. George Walton, and resided at Exeter."⁴² There is no indication where Scales got this information about her father, nor why he assumed she married George.

The fact is that there is no evidence that William Hilton ever had a daughter named Alice, nor is there any evidence that the wife of George Walton was named Alice Hilton. This all appears to have started when somebody decided it must be so, and over time people just came to accept it as fact. Hopefully we have convinced you that this is not fact, it is merely what someone wished it were, dressed up as fact.

The Real George and Alice?

Unfortunately, while we would love to present the real George and Alice, we still do not have the facts to do so. We do, however have a possibility that will hopefully be a starting point in solving this long standing mystery.

We mentioned earlier that George¹ the son of George^A of Staffordshire was married to a woman named Ales.⁴³ While the spelling looks strange, spelling in the 17th century was based on how words sounded, not necessarily on standard convention. Al-es is much closer to the sound we are familiar with than Al-ice. Church records for Staffordshire parishes tells us that in "[1634], Nov. 28. George Walton, p. Dubridge, & Ales Ward, *alias* Former .. mar."⁴⁴. This record is also seen using the name Wood. We discovered that not only is the handwritten original difficult to read, and it appears there was water damage that pretty much destroyed the bride's name. In examining the image closely it would appear that the three visible letters may be "War."

Here is the original document⁴⁵ with our own attempt at transcription: "George Walton of ye p^{ar}ish of Dubridge & Ales Ward alias Former of this parish have married together ye 28th day of December Anno Domini 1634."

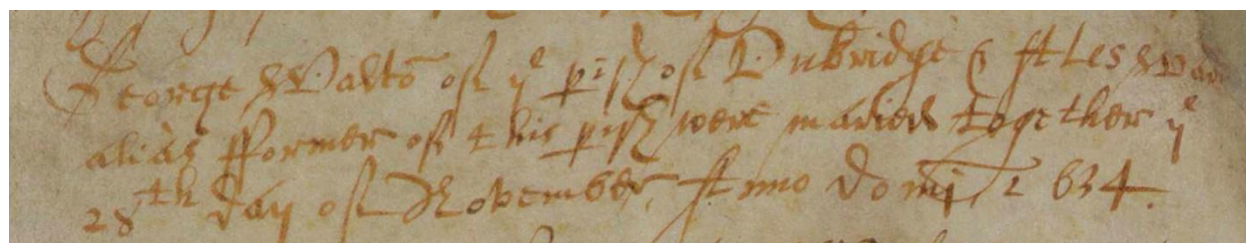


Figure 3 George & Ales

There is no explanation for the use of the alias. We could speculate, but that is what produced the Mary Alice and Martha Hilton we discussed earlier. We'll just leave it at the point

⁴² Scales, History of Dover, 313.

⁴³ "England Marriages, 1538–1973", database, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:V52C-BXT>), George Walton, 1634. : accessed 15 June 2021).

⁴⁴ F. J. Wrottesley, ed., *Ellastone Parish Register. Vol I (Utttoxeter, East Staffordshire, England: Privately Printed, 1907)*, 112; digital images, Internet Archive <https://archive.org/details/ellastoneparish00pargoog/page/n126/mode/2up> : accessed 14 June 2021).

⁴⁵ "England, Staffordshire, Church Records, 1538-1944", database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QLQZ-7BTC> : 8 July 2020), George Walton and Ales Wood or Former, 1634.

where we still do not know who George or Alice were. George and Ales are a possibility, but it will take a lot more research to make a connection between the New Hampshire George and this English George. If that connection is ever made, then there will be the family of Ales that still must be found. Our hope is that another researcher can take this information and move forward with it.

Sometimes a historical myth becomes so ingrained that it becomes universally accepted as fact. This seems to be the case with George Walton and Alice Hilton. It has gone from simple conjecture to being repeated many times over by others who just treated this conjecture as fact. While we have not proven that George did not marry a woman called Alice Hilton, and we accept the fact that such was indeed possible, we have shown that she was not the daughter of William Hilton of the Massachusetts and New Hampshire colonies. We then presented an alternative that we hope will encourage others to dig deeper into the history of George Walton with the intention of finding out who he truly was, who his wife was, and who their ancestors were before George and Alice (Ales) came to the new world.

We would like to extend a special thanks to John Ferguson of Cheshire/Staffordshire, England, a volunteer with Random Acts Of Genealogical Kindness⁴⁶ for his assistance in locating some of these records. His help has been invaluable.

⁴⁶ "Volunteer Directory," *Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness*, (<https://raogk.org/>, accessed 5 Jun 2021)