

Facts and Events

Name

Bigod Eggleston

Alt Name

Bygod Eggleston

Alt Name

Beget Eggleston

Gender

Male

Christening[2]

20 Feb 1586/87

[Settrington, East Riding of Yorkshire, England](#)

Marriage

est 1612

to [Unknown Unknown](#)

Marriage

est 1634

to [Unknown Unknown](#)

Death[3]

1 Sep 1674

[Windsor, Hartford, Connecticut, United States](#)

[\[edit\]](#)

Will

In his will, dated 13 November 1673, "Bigat Egllstone of Windsor" bequeathed to "my son Benjamin" house and land (on the condition "that he shall maintain his mother and pay my debts"), to "my son Joseph" 40s. "should [he] come and demand a portion," to sons James, Samuel and Thomas and daughters Mary, Sarah and Abigail, 3s. apiece. His inventory, taken 24 October 1674, totalled £116 3s. (against which were debts of £39 8s. 5d.), of which £74 was real estate: "his dwelling house & houseland 2 acres & half," £40; "in the Great Meadow six acres," £33; and "for poor land on the Sandy Plains 20 acres" £1 []. ([Great Migration](#), citing Hartford PD Case #1890; Manwaring 1:194)

[\[edit\]](#)

Family

[Great Migration](#) gives two wives, names unknown, and gives parents as James Eggleston and Margaret Harker.

From Eggleston-L: "I have seen records that claim his wife was Mary Talcott, Sarah Talcott or Mary Wall. From wills of John Talcott, Ann (Skinner) Talcott Wall, Moses Wall, and Ann's parents, William Skinner and Margery Skinner show that daughters Mary, Ann and Grace Talcott had apparently died before 1616; that Sarah Talcott had m. (William) Wadsworth & Mary Wall had m. (Martin) Aylett by 1637. This would indicate that Bigod could not have married Mary Talcott nor Sarah Talcott as his 1st wife not Mary Wall or Sarah Talcott as his 2nd wife. His oldest son James was b. 1612, his youngest child b. in England b. abt.1629 and he was in America by 1630." (Marie Taylor mtaylor -at- vvm.com)

Bygod¹ Eggleston was among the founders of Dorchester, Massachusetts, in 1630 and of Windsor, Connecticut, in 1635. He was born to James^A Eggleston in 1586/7 and baptised at Settrington, Yorkshire, England. Probably no early colonist has had more erroneous conjectures made about him than Bygod Eggleston. This is due to the total absence of records relating to his mother and his wives. We now have proof that his mother was not Juliana Harker, as has been widely accepted in the past. The conjecture was based on the fact that in his will of 1612, James Eggleston named Julian as his wife and a neighbor, Ralph Harker, as his brother. The assumption was that Ralph had an older sister named Juliana or Julian who married James Eggleston and became the mother of his eight children. (For details of Eggleston and Harker families, see the 1991 book by the present authors: Bygod Eggleston: Englishman & Colonist and some of his Descendants The Mary & John Clearing House, 562–305th St., Toledo OH 43611, hereafter Eggleston.) Three recently discovered wills prove that there was no Juliana in the Harker family and that the wife mentioned in James Eggleston's will was Juliana Frear, daughter of John Frear of Thorp Bassett, a parish adjacent to Settrington. (We are indebted to Robert Charles Anderson, coeditor of TAG, for discovering the will Richard Harker of London and to Tim Owston for discovering the wills of John Freer [Frear, Frere, Fryer] of Thorpe Bassett and Juliana Bainton of Settrington.) If we assume that Juliana Frear was the mother of all eight of James's children, then we are left with the problem of why he called Ralph Harker his brother. The solution to this problem may lie in a fact which seems to have escaped the notice of earlier writers on Bygod's family. There was an age difference of about twenty-five years between the eldest child, Bygod, and the youngest, Alice. That seems a long time for one mother to bear children in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. James Eggleston's family can be divided into two sets of four children separated by a lapse of eight years. This suggests that James's first wife died and he remarried.

Following is a list of names and baptismal dates of those children which are recorded in the Settrington Parish Register with the exceptions of Dorothy and Alice; we know of their existence from the wills of James and Juliana. Date of baptism Name of child

- 13 Feb, 1586/7 Bygod
- [say 1589] Dorothy
- 8 Oct. 1592 Elizabeth
- 2 Nov. 1595 Jane
- [a gap of nearly eight years]
- 19 June 1603 James
- 6 April 1606 John
- 28 Feb. 1608/9 Margaret
- [say 1611] Alice

Genevieve Tylee Kiepora has a very detailed discussion of Bigod Eggleston in the National Genealogical Society Quarterly, vol. 57, no 4, December 1969. It discusses whether he was a passenger on the MARY AND JOHN, when Mary died, whether James and Samuel were twins, and whether Bigod was descended from Sir Ralph Bigod. In each of these cases she determined that there was no evidence to support the claims.

▼References

1 Savage, James. *A Genealogical Dictionary of the First Settlers of New England: Showing Three Generations of Those Who Came Before May, 1692, on the Basis of Farmer's Register*. (Boston: Little, Brown, and Co, 1860–1862), 2:105–106.

EGGLESTON, BAGOT, BIGOD, BIGOT, or BEGAT, with sundry other variat. Dorchester, came, prob. in the Mary and John, ask. adm. 19 Oct. 1630 and was rec. as freem. 18 May foll. rem. with first sett. to Windsor, d. 1 Sept. 1674, "near 100 yrs. old," says extrav. tradit. leav. Samuel, and James, both b. bef. he rem. and Thomas, b. 26 Aug. 1638; Mary, 29 May 1641; Sarah, 28 Mar. 1643; Rebecca, 8 Dec. 1644; Abigail, 12 bapt. 18 June 1648; Joseph, bapt. 30 Mar. 1651; and Benjamin, 18 Dec. 1633. The name of his w. is unkn. but the Court rec. of Conn. ment. that he was fin. 20 sh. for bequeath. her to a young man in 1645, wh. (not the fine), must be regard. as joke. Abigail m. 14 Oct. 1669, John Osborn.

2 ↑ Bigod Eggleston, in [Anderson, Robert Charles. The Great Migration Begins: Immigrants to New England, 1620–1633](#). (Boston: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 1995). BIRTH: Baptized Settrington, Yorkshire, 20 February 1586[/7], son of "James Egeleston" [TAG 10:198]. (Rosalie Eggleston and Linda Eggleston McBroom have identified the mother of Bigod Eggleston as Margaret, daughter of Miles Harker of Settrington [TAG 69:193–201].)

3 DEATH: Windsor 1 September 1674 "near 100 year old" (but actually eighty-seven) [Grant 35; also CTVR 28].

4 MARRIAGE: (1) By 1612 ____ ____; not seen in any record.

5 (2) By about 1634 ____ ____; on 5 June 1645 "Baggett Egleston, for bequeathing his wife to a young man, is fined 20s." [CCCR 1:127; RPCC 34]; living on 13 November 1673 when named in her husband's will.

6 ↑ [Windsor, Hartford, Connecticut, United States. Records of Births, Marriages, and Deaths, 1638–1925](#). Bagget Egelston dyed Sept 1st [16]74 (Bk I p. 43)