

EDITH (BRAYNE) DODGE AND HER FAMILY IN STOKE-SUB-HAMDON, SOMERSET,
ENGLAND, AND BEVERLY, MASSACHUSETTS

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There have been a few scattered references to the marriage of Richard Dodge and Edith Brayne of Beverly, Massachusetts Bay Colony, in books and on the internet, but more records in the parish in which they married, Stoke-sub-Hamdon, Somerset, England, reveal her nuclear and extended family. Also, an analysis is made of information about her children in *Genealogy of the Dodge Family of Essex County, Mass. 1629-1894*, often used by Dodge family researchers.^[1] Primary sources are used to question or clarify previous assumptions undoubtedly based on this book.

GENEALOGICAL SUMMARY

Brayne

1. THOMAS^B BRAYNE was married in Stoke-sub-Hamdon on 22 September 1559 JOAN KIRKE, recorded as "Jone Kirke, the daughter of John Kirke." She was buried in Stoke-sub-Hamdon on 21 December 1601 as "Johane Brayne the wife of Thomas Brayne the elder."

He was very likely the Thomas Brayne of Stoke-sub-Hamdon, husbandman, who was sued five times for debts.^[2] The Stoke-sub-Hamdon registers start in 1558.^[3] The name Brayne or Braine is relatively common in the region around this parish. The latter wasn't large, so the following records are for people probably closely related to Thomas, if not siblings:

John Braine m. Elizabeth Pattin, 27 Oct. 1566.

¹ Joseph Thompson Dodge, *Genealogy of the Dodge Family of Essex County, Mass. 1629-1894* [hereafter *GDF*] (1894), 3.

² Henry Androws alias Frye vs. Thomas Brayne; John Sydenham, Esq., vs. Thomas Brayne, husbandman, debt. 1373 / f; 1373 / d; Gilbert Loveringe & John Morice vs. Thomas Brayne, husbandman, debt. CP40/1438: d; John Pearse alias Morryn vs. Thomas Brayne, husbandman, son John Brayne, husbandman, and William Thorne, freemason, debt. CP40/1545 f; Ralph Porcote vs. Thomas Brayne, husbandman, John Thorne, Sr., mason, debt. 1352 / d.

³ Parish register of Stoke-sub-Hamdon, Somerset, England. Somerset Heritage Service; Taunton, Somerset, England; *Somerset Parish Records, 1538-1914*; Reference Number: D\p\st.u.ham/2/1/1. Images in "Somerset, England, Church of England Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials, 1531-1812," Ancestry.com database online.

Jone Braine m. Edward Balch,^[4] 10 Jan. 1568/9.
Alice Braine m. John White, 2 Feb. 1571/2.

Children of Thomas and Joan (Kirke) Brayne (baptisms, marriages and burials in Stoke-sub-Hamdon except where otherwise noted):

- i. JOHN BRAYNE, bp. 4 Oct. 1561. He likely married Isabel. Children: *Mary*, baptized 12 Mar. 1586/7; *Theophilus*, baptized 13 Dec. 1590, bur. 11 May 1597; *William*, bur. 4 Apr. 1591; *John*, bur. 11 May 1597.
- ii. THOMAS BRAYNE ("BRAINE"), bp. 17 Dec. 1563, d. by 24 Mar. 1564/5.
- iii. THOMAS BRAYNE, bp. 24 Mar. 1564/5, perhaps bur. 3 Mar. 1620/1 as "Thomas Brayne the eldr." Probably the Thomas who married Edith. She was perhaps Edith, wife (not widow) of Thomas, bur. 7 Sep. 1628. Children: *Thomas*, baptized 21 Mar. 1590/1, bur. 17 Apr. 1591; *Edith*, baptized 21 May 1592; *Thomas*, baptized 28 Feb. 1596/7, bur. 27 Aug. 1600; *John*, baptized 2 Sep. 1599, bur. 26 Apr 1600; *Johane*, baptized 20 Oct. 1601, bur. 30 Nov. 1601; *John*, baptized 30 June 1605; *Agnes*, baptized 13 Nov. 1608, bur. 16 Nov. 1608.
- iv. ISABELL BRAINE, bp 19 July 1567. No further record.
- 2 v. EDWARD BRAYNE, baptized 29 Jan. 1569/70.
- vi. JONE BRAYNE, bp. 4 June 1572. No further record.
- vii. AGNES BRAYNE, bp. 25 Dec. 1574. Probably the "Agnis Braine" who had her "baseborn" son John baptized 5 Oct. 1600. Perhaps m. 2 July 1602 John Phelps of Merriot, no further record.
- viii. ?WILLIAM BRAYNE, b. say 1576, but maybe the son of Thomas's brother John (Stoke-sub-Hamdon parish baptisms are missing between 1574 and 1579), m. 14 Feb. 1602/3 Alice Vyney, children: *William*, 30 Nov. 1603; *Joseph*, baptized 18 Feb. 1606/7, bur. 28 Apr. 1607; *Agnes*, baptized 19 June 1608; *George*, baptized 20 Jan. 1610/1. Alice, widow, bur. 26 Jan. 1610/1.
- ix. RICHARD BRAYNE ("BRAINE"), bp. 22 May 1580, bur. 11 Dec. 1595 (son of Thomas, Sr.).

2. EDWARD^A BRAYNE (Thomas^B) was baptized in Stoke-sub-Hamdon on 29 January 1569/70, his burial wasn't found. He married 1. in Stoke-sub-Hamdon on 28 April 1595 CECILY ("CICELIE") FAWNE. She was probably the daughter of John and Joan (Mansell) Fawne.^[5] She was buried in Stoke-sub-Hamdon on 11 January 1603/4 as "Cecylie wife of Edward Brayne." Edward married 2. in Crewkerne, Somerset, England, on 9 February

⁴ Balch is also a relatively common name in the area. The New England immigrant and progenitor John Balch, who, like Richard and Edith (Brayne) Dodge, was an early settler of Beverly, MA, isn't in any indexed English parish registers and certainly not in Stoke-sub-Hamdon, but he may have lived in the vicinity.

⁵ "John Fawne" and "Jone Mansell" married in Stoke-sub-Hamdon on 28 Nov. 1566. Baptisms in Stoke-sub-Hamdon between 1574 and 1579 are missing. There are other baptisms there before and after for children of John, some with Joan as mother. No other family with this name was found in this parish.

1605/6 **ELIZABETH SYMES** of Crewkerne.^[6] Edward was "of Stoke." She was probably the daughter of John and Agnes (Baker) Simes,^[7] and was buried as a widow in Stoke-sub-Hamdon on 5 February 1644/5.

A lease document from 10 March 1607/8 says Edward was a yoeman. This was a counter lease in effect for 99 years or whoever lived the longest among Edward and his children Andrew and Joan.^[8] It was for a fifteen-acre enclosure in "Welham." No likely parish was found with that name, but there is a Welham farmstead in the parish of Shepton Montague, Somerset, about eighteen miles from Stoke-sub-Hamdon. The lease included hedgebote (the rights to cut timber to repair hedges) and "stakebote" (to use the timber for stakes). The property was very likely wooded. The lease doesn't include Edward's daughter Margaret. She has no burial record, but a woman with that name from Stoke-sub-Hamdon was married in neighboring Norton-sub-Hamdon parish in 1615. Thomas and Elizabeth's two sons had died before the lease and daughter Edith was born several months after.

Children of Edward and Cecily (Fawne) Brayne (baptisms and burials in Stoke-sub-Hamdon except where otherwise noted):

- i. **ANDREW BRAYNE**, bp. 19 Jan. 1595/6, d. after 10 Mar. 1607/8. No further record.
- ii. **MARGARET BRAYNE**, baptized 15 Feb. 1596/7, perhaps m. William Hollier, 2 Aug. 1615, Norton- sub-Hamdon (an adjacent parish to Stoke-sub-Hamdon), he of that parish, Margaret of Stoke-sub-Hamdon,^[9] probably son of Alice Hellier alias Crowder, baptized 21 or 22 Oct. 1594, Norton-sub-Hamdon.
- iii. **JONE BRAYNE**, bp. 8 Oct. 1598, perhaps m. John Parritt of Martock Somerset, England, 30 Apr. 1621,^[10] children bp. Martock: Thomas, 10 Nov. 1627; Susan, 12 Dec. 1629; James, 5 Jan. 1631/2; Joane, 3 Apr. 1634; Edward, 31 July 1636.
- iv. **EDWARD BRAYNE**, bp. 1 July 1600, bur. 9 Sep. 1603.

⁶ Parish register of Crewkerne, Somerset, England. Somerset Heritage Service; Taunton, Somerset, England; *Somerset Parish Records, 1538-1914*; Reference Number: *D\p\crew/2/1/1*. Images in "Somerset, England, Church of England Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials, 1531-1812," Ancestry.com database online.

⁷ "John Simes" and "Agnes Baker" were married in Stoke-sub-Hamdon on 8 Nov 1574. Symes, with its various spellings, isn't a common named in the region around Stoke-sub-Hamdon. No further information for this couple were found.

⁸ Devon Archives and Local Studies Service (South West Heritage Trust), 123M/L1562, abstracted at <http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/aaeed933-d67f-4aef-9ad4-3df2df5a7252>.

⁹ Somerset Heritage Service; Taunton, Somerset, England; *Somerset Parish Records, 1538-1914*; Reference Number: *D\p\nor.h/2/1/1*. Images in "Somerset, England, Church of England Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials, 1531-1812," Ancestry.com database online.

¹⁰ Somerset Heritage Service; Taunton, Somerset, England; *Somerset Parish Records, 1538-1914*; Reference Number: *D\p\mart/2/1/1*. Images in "Somerset, England, Church of England Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials, 1531-1812," Ancestry.com image online.

Children of Edward and Elizabeth (Symes) Brayne:

- v. WILLIAM BRAYNE, bp. 22 Jan. 1606, bur. 7 June 1607.
- 3. vi. EDITH BRAYNE bp. 22 May 1608.

3. EDITH¹ BRAYNE (Edward^A, Thomas^B) was baptized in Stoke-sub-Hamdon on 22 May 1608 and died in Beverly, Essex County, MA Bay Colony, on 27 January 1677(/8?).^[11] She married in Stoke-sub-Hamdon on 5 May 1628 RICHARD DODGE.¹² He was baptized in Middle Chinnock, Somerset, England, on 22 September 1602 and died in Beverly on 15 June 1671.^[13]

Children of Richard and Edith (Brayne):

- i. ?RICHARD DODGE, supp. bp. 1628,^[14] if so, d. by 3 July 1644.
- ii. MARGERY DODGE, bp. 4 Sep. 1630; bur. 21 Feb. 1630/1.^[15]
- iii. JOHN DODGE bp. 29 Dec. 1631.^[16]
- vi. MARY DODGE, bp. 19 Apr. 1635.^[17]
- v. SARAH DODGE, poss. a twin, b. say 1642/3 or shortly before her baptism; bp. 3 July 1644.^[18]
- vi. RICHARD DODGE, poss. a twin, b. abt. 1642/3;^[19] bp. 3 July 1644.
- vii. SAMUEL DODGE, b. abt. 1644/5^[20]

¹¹ Her death records says she was about 75, *Vital records of Beverly, Massachusetts, to the end of year 1849* [hereafter *VRB*], vol. 2 (Topsfield, MA: Topsfield Historical Society, 1907), 417. This record suggests a birth year of about 1602 or 03, but the evidence overall makes a birth in 1608 to Edward and Elizabeth of Stoke-sub-Hamdon far more likely.

¹² Richard of "Midle Chinnock."

¹³ "Bishop's transcripts for Middle Chinnock, 1599-1839," Familysearch.org, film 7769027; *VRB*, 2:422.

¹⁴ *GDF* (p. 16) says "in 1628, Richard, son of Richard, was bapt. date missing" supposedly based on the East Coker parish register in 1881. Entries for 1628 are now missing, but it was likely rebound since 1881. If the 1628 pages were badly damaged, they may have been discarded.

¹⁵ Somerset Heritage Service; Taunton, Somerset, England; *Somerset Parish Records, 1538-1914*; Reference Number: D\p\coke.et/2/1/1. Images in "Somerset, England, Church of England Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials, 1531-1812," Ancestry.com database online. Dodge incorrectly says 2 Feb.

¹⁶ East Coker, see note 13.

¹⁷ East Coker, see note 13. Mary is often said to have been born in or about 1632 based on her 1710 death record that says she was about 78. She was far more likely to have been born shortly before her baptism.

¹⁸ *GDF* says b. 1644, no baptism mentioned. The baptisms of Sarah and Richard were about three months after their father joined the church. *The records of the First Church in Salem, Massachusetts, 1629-1736*, (Salem, MA: Essex Institute, 1974), 12, 20. Her last child was born in 1687, inferring she was born no earlier than about 1642. Unlike her brother Richard, there is no record that infers a birth date, so if Richard was born say in 1642, Sarah may have been born shortly before the baptism in 1644.

¹⁹ *GDF* says b. 1643, no baptism mentioned. His gravestone says he died 13 Apr. 1705 "aged 63 years." *VRB*, 2:422.

²⁰ *GDF* says b. 1645 "per gravestone." His gravestone says he died 4 Dec. 1705 "in ye 61st year of his age," meaning he was 60. *VRB*, 2:422.

viii. EDWARD DODGE, perhaps bp. Wenham, 27 Jun. 1646^[21]

ix. JOSEPH DODGE, bp. abt. 29 Oct. 1648.^[22]

Fanne/Fawne

1. JOHN^B FANNE married in Stoke-sub-Hamdon on 28 November 1566 JOAN MANSELL.²³
No further record was found for this couple.

Children of John and Joan (Mansell) Fawne (Stoke-sub-Hamdon records):

- i. JOHN^A FANNE, bp. prob. 8 Nov. 1567, bur. 6 Dec. 1567.
- ii. JOHN FANNE, bp. 28 Feb. 1570/71.
- iii. THOMAS FANNE, bp. 15 Feb. 1572/3, bur. 28 May 1573.
- iv. JOAN FANNE, bp. 26 Sep. 1574, prob. m. 24 Oct 1597 John Jenson.
- v. CECILY FANNE/FAWNE, b. abt. 1576.
- vi. ELINOR FANNE, bp. 14 Dec. 1578.

²¹ A child of Richard Dodge not named. *The Notebook of the Reverend John Fiske, 1644–1675*, 48, Colonial Society of Massachusetts e-book, <https://www.colonial society.org/node/1071>. Fiske was minister of the Congregational Church in Wenham.

²² *The Notebook of the Reverend John Fiske, 1644–1675*, 83. Fiske's entry says the date is approximate. *GDF* says b. 1651, doesn't mention his death or gravestone. He prob. knew about the latter, which says he died 10 Aug. 1716, aged about 65, which is about 3 years off. *VRB*, 2:420. He was appointed an executor with brother Edward in his father's will, written on 14 Nov. 1671, so would have been at least 21.

²³ Perhaps her siblings were John, married Yoevil, Somerset, 26 Oct. 1563 Edith Pattern; Agnes, married Stoke-sub-Hamdon 24 Nov. 1571 Edward Taverner; Thomas, married Crewkerne, Somerset, 22 Nov. 1573 Marie Perye. Yoevil and Crewkerne are about 6 miles from Stoke-sub-Hamdon.