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## Mary (Unknown) Platt (abt. 1639 - 1700)

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**Mary Platt** formerly [surname unknown] aka **Tanner**

Born **about 1639** in **Varina, Henrico County, Colony of Virginia** ?

Daughter of [Unknown Unknown](#) and [mother unknown]

Sister of [Martha \(Unknown\) Stratton](#)

Wife of **Joseph Tanner** — married before 1662 [location unknown]

Wife of **Gilbert Platt** — married 1678 in Henrico County, Virginia ?

Mother of [Joseph Tanner Jr.](#), [Mary \(Tanner\) Farrar](#), [Edward Tanner Sr](#) DESCENDANTS ? and [Martha \(Tanner\) Haskins](#)

Died **1 Feb 1700** at about age 61 in **Bermuda Hundred, Henrico County, Colony of Virginia** ?

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Unknown-560605 created 31 May 2011 | Last modified 31 Jan 2024

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Mary (Unknown) Platt resided in the Southern Colonies in North America before 1776.

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### DNA Connections

It may be possible to [confirm](#) family relationships. It is likely that these [autosomal DNA](#) test-takers will share [some percentage](#) of DNA with Mary:

~0.39% [Les LeMay](#) ? ?: [AncestryDNA](#), Ancestry member lemayer22II [\[test details\]](#)

~0.39% [Nell Moody](#) ? ?: [FamilyTreeDNA](#) Family Finder, GEDmatch [T500406](#) [\[compare\]](#), FTDNA kit #80480 [\[test details\]](#)

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## Biography

Mary's maiden surname is unproven (possibly Brown).

Mary first married to Joseph Tanner. His last Will bore date Xber 7, 1668 and he died prior to 1677.

Mary married secondly to Gilbert Platt of Henrico County, Virginia. This union seems to have been productive of considerable disturbance with his apparent attempts to take over the estate that had been left to her by her first husband, Joseph Tanner. She comes through as a woman who struggled with the status of women of her day.

On 01 April 1679 Mrs. PLATT made a deed of gift to her daughter Mary, wife of William Lygon.

Mary's sister, [Martha](#) first married to Thomas Sheppey and married secondly to Edward Stratton. the elder (c16331-1688). <sup>[1]</sup>

Mary witnessed the last Will of Edward Stratton, Sr. on 04 Dec 1688 in Henrico County, Virginia. Also the Will of Mrs. Martha Stratton <sup>[2]</sup> which mentioned her "sister Platt".

The last Will of Mrs. Mary Platt was dated 18 March 1699 and was proved at Court on 01 February 1700 in Henrico County, Virginia.

## Children

1. [Joseph Tanner](#), m1: Ann Floyd; m2: Sarah (Hatcher) Turpin
2. [Edward Tanner](#), m: Mary Hatcher
3. [Mary Tanner](#), m: William Ligon
4. [Martha Tanner](#), m1: Thomas Jones; m2: Edward Haskins.

## Extract

"Branchiana, Being A Partial Account of the Branch Family in Virginia" by James Branch Cabell, printed by Whittet & Shepperson of Richmond, Virginia; p122-125.

Mary (Brown) Platt, The wife of Gilbert Platt of Henrico, as previously recorded, was by her first marriage, the widow of Joseph Tanner of Henrico, and it is probable that her maiden name was Mary Brown, inasmuch as "William and Mary College", in 1699, brought its aforementioned suit against Benjamin Branch of Henrico, "as the executor of Edward Osborne, who married the executor of John Brown". This same John Brown was presumably the father of Gilbert Platt's wife; and she had at least one sister, Martha (Brown?) Stratton, who was the second wife of Edward Stratton of Henrico, and died in 1696. The Will of this Martha Stratton, who survived her husband, is dated 24th of July, 1692, and was recorded at Henrico Court-House 1st April, 1696; it mentions the testator's "sister (Mary) Platt", and "her daughter, (Mary).

But about 1660, at latest, he [Platt] had risen somewhat in the world, and had married Mary Tanner, widow of Joseph Tanner of Henrico." The use of the past tense here makes Mrs. Mary (the wife of Platt), married to him eight years prior to the date of Joseph Tanners Will and from two to four years prior to the births of Joseph and Edward Tanner (sons of Joseph Tanner and Mary his wife), who as the widow of Tanner married Gilbert Platt. This is obviously an error.

Platt was quite evidently only tenant by courtesy on the Tanner property, which is called in the records both "Fauldinge" and "Bauldings" (a corruption of Baldwin's), a situation at best most uncomfortable for a second mate, especially when that mate is of the masculine gender. Added to this situation is Madam Mary, who, there is every evidence from items in the official records for believing, possessed, or was possessed by, a peppery temper as well as a spirit for the administration of worldly affairs; and another plus of Madam Mary's son Joseph Tanner, the younger, who no doubt inherited some of his mother's height of temper. Such a situation seems to carry as if by nature the germ of disruption. At any rate disruption was the result.

First, Gilbert Platt and Madam Mary were in court "at variance over a portion of Gilbert Platt's own estate which by deed [he] had made over to her",

Then came the trouble with his wife and her children, or rather her eldest son. The tossing of lightwood sticks by the step-son at the step-father on evening as the latter was returning home elicited complaint from Mr. Platt to his wife relative to the treatment he had received from Master Joseph Tanner. "And for his pains" says Mr. Cabell, "was promptly called a liar, since, as Mrs. Platt explained, she had reared her children so carefully that in common reason. none of them would ever have been guilty of such outrageous conduct."

And then the storm broke as young Joseph, going into the room, accused Mr. Platt of

having slandered him on a certain occasion and recourse was had to a "tobacco stick" or "a stake" whose blow seems to have knocked out Mr. Platt.

Again the courts were sought and the upshot of the matter was that Gilbert Platt no longer troubled his wife and her children with his presence, resigning, by deed 28 March 1681, all his right to the plantation at Bauldings to Joseph, Edward, Martha and Mary, orphans of Joseph Tanner, deceased. <sup>[3]</sup>

That "Bauldings" was in "Hell Garden Bottom" (repeatedly mentioned as a boundary in Tanner deeds) seems not insignificant in connection with the various disturbances in this family."

## Will of Mary Platt

In the name of God Amen. I, Mary Platt of Henrico County, Virg'a, spinster being weak in body but of sound, perfect sense & memory, praised be God, doe well make and ordaine this, my last will & testament in manner & forme as followeth.

Imp. I give & bequeath my soul to God that gave it; my body to be buried at the discretion of my ex.x in true & certain hopes of a joyfull resurrection at ye last day.

Item. I give and bequeath to my son Edward Tanner, the cattle he hath in his possession which I delivered him.

Item. I give unto my ... son Edward Tanner, twelve pound.

Item. I give & bequeath unto my daughter, Martha Haskins, twelve pound.

Item. I give and bequeath unto my grandson, Thomas Lygon, one black cow & one heifer.

Item. I give and bequeath to my grandson, Thomas Jones, twelve pounds to be paid when he comes of lawfull age.

Item. I give & bequeath unto ye said Thomas Jones, one feather bed bolster & two pillows wch I bought at the store at my son, Ed Tanner's; one pair of blankets, one rugg, one pair of coarse holland sheets, two pairs of new canvis sheets, four pillow beens, one bedstead, one whole cord, two new pewter dishes, two new basins, ditto two iron pots - one large one small, two pewter dishes half worn, one doz. pewter plates.

Item. I give and bequeath to my grandson, Joseph Ligon, to him & his heirs forever, two hundred acres of land, to me belonging, lying & being upon Swift Creek in Hen'ro Coty, joyning on ye land of Mr. Eusebius King.

Item. I give & bequeath unto my granddaughter, Phebe Liggon, forty shillings to buy her a beaker and twenty shillings to buy her two silver spoons all to be marked wth her name.

Item. I give & bequeath to my granddaughter, Lucretia Liggon, my sidesaddle.

Item. I give and bequeath unto Charles Roberts, thirty shillings.

All ye rest of my estate not yet disposed of, I give and bequeath unto my executrix, she paying all my debts & legacies and I do hereby will & ordaine my daughter, Mary Liggon, my full whole & sole exe'x of this, my last will and testament. In witness hereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 18th day of March Anno Dom 1699.

(signed) Mary Platt

Witnesses:

Mary Chamberlaine  
William Anderson  
William Ligon.

dated: 18 March 1699/1700

probate: 01 Feb 1700 Henrico County, Virginia. <sup>[1]</sup>

## Research Notes

**Detached Parents:** Profiles for [John Browne](#) and his wife [Temperance Baley](#) were detached as parents on 2 June 2021 (see comments). ~ [Noland-165](#) 2 June 2021

It is probable that her maiden surname was Mary BROWN, inasmuch as in 1699, "William and Mary College", brought a suit against Benjamin Branch of Henrico, "as the executor of Edward Osborne, who married the executor of John Brown". This same John Brown was presumably the father of Gilbert Platt's wife; and she had at least one sister, Martha (Brown?) Stratton, who was the second wife of Edward Stratton of Henrico.

## Sources

- [1. ↑ 1.0 1.1 Southside Virginia Genealogies](#)
- [2. ↑ "William and Mary Quarterly", p88; Martha's Will - dated: 24 July 1692; probate: 01 Feb 1695/6 Henrico County, Virginia](#)
- [3. ↑ Henrico County, Virginia Records, vol. 1677-92, p162](#)

See also:

- Dorman, John Frederick. *Adventurers of Purse and Person*, [p268](#) (Google Books, accessed 18 Sep 2020)
- [http://www.jstor.org/stable/1914683?seq=15#page\\_scan\\_tab\\_contents](http://www.jstor.org/stable/1914683?seq=15#page_scan_tab_contents)

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[John C. Fox](#)

I have a competing claim on Mary daughter of John Brown and Temperance Baley. but would welcome any argument against it.

Why would [John Farrar \(abt.1632-bef.1685\)](#) leave so much to Thomas Batte Sr. and his children??

Last Will and Testament of John Farrar[3]

Henrico Parish, Henrico County, Virginia.

4 March 1684/5.

1 April 1685 (proved).

In his Will, John names the following persons, in the following order:

1.) Thomas Batte Jr., son of Thomas Batte of Henrico County.

2.) Thomas Batte Sr.

3.) Mary, Amy, and Sarah, daughters of Thomas Batte.

4.) my cousin Mary Worsham, wife of George Worsham, bequeathed my servant boy named Thomas Symmons.

5.) my cousin Martha Shibly, wife of Walter Shibly of Charles City County, bequeathed one likely man or woman servant, which she shall make choice.

6.) my three kinsman William Farrar, Thomas Farrar, and John Farrar (minor).

7.) my said negro Jack his freedon after Christmas day next.

8.) [name?] one ring

Signed: John Farrar.

Witnesses: Captain William Randolph, Thomas Daulby, Thomas Wells.

Executors: my kinsman William Farrar, Thomas Farrar.

---

[Temperance \(Baley\) Cocke \(1617-bef.1652\) \(Sister of John Farrar above\)](#)

Had children with [John Browne Jr \(1609-abt.1632\)](#)

Children of John Browne:

John Browne, b 1632

Martha Browne, b 1633

Mary Browne, b 1639 **\*Bingo** Wife of Thomas Batte Sr.

[posted](#) 3 months ago by [John C. Fox](#)

[edited](#) 3 months ago by [John C. Fox](#)

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**Kenneth Milton Spratlin (1962-2024)**

Interesting line of research. It is likely John Farrar, died without issue, would make his bequests to close family and friends.

The profile of [John Browne Jr \(1609-abt.1632\)](#) does have that list of 3 children, but it is in the Research Notes with all 3 children having the note "(no evidence, no citation)". And Martha and Mary are additionally labeled as "detached". They were detached because they were listed as born after John Browne-477's death. We do know from the 5 June 1632 Court record that John Browne had at least two children, but not their names.

[posted](#) 3 months ago by [Kenneth Milton Spratlin \(1962-2024\)](#)

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**John C. Fox**

Thanks Ken! The family names and people are very similar in both families (Platt and Batt). It's sort of weird. Some sort of overlap maybe.

Anyway, I put up a page here with more of the research: [Maiden Name of Thomas Batte Sr. Wife, Mary](#).

P.S. I see we're 8th cousins through at least 4 people. If any of this ever gets settled it'll probably be more.

[posted](#) 3 months ago by [John C. Fox](#)

[edited](#) 3 months ago by [John C. Fox](#)

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---

**[Linda \(Alcott\) Maples](#)**

Liz Shifflett, thanks for adding 'aka Jones' to Martha (Tanner) Haskins profile heading.

Linda Alcott Maples

[posted](#) Jan 13, 2023 by [Linda \(Alcott\) Maples](#)

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**Linda (Alcott) Maples**

To the Southern Colonies Project Team: It would really be great if someone could add the surname of Martha Tanner's 1st husband (Jones) to Martha's entry as daughter of Mrs. Platt - e.g., Martha (Tanner) Jones Haskins. This has been done for her sister Mary's entry - Mary (Tanner) Ligon Farrar.

The Ligon and Farrar families were very well to-do and it seems reasonable to think that the sisters were children of another well-to-do couple John Browne and Temperance Baley - though thinking is not proof. So many records have been destroyed that we will never know. I descend through Lucretia Jones who married Henry Childers. Thx so much. Sincerely, Linda Alcott Maples (alcott-171)

[posted](#) Aug 02, 2021 by [Linda \(Alcott\) Maples](#)

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**Liz (Noland) Shifflett**

surnames used by Martha are entered correctly. I just corrected Mary's profile.

from [https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Help:Name\\_Fields#Current\\_Last\\_Name](https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Help:Name_Fields#Current_Last_Name)

For non-living people, it should be the last name they were using at the time of their death. If a woman had multiple married names you can include the others in the Other Last Names field.

[posted](#) Aug 03, 2021 by [Liz \(Noland\) Shifflett](#)

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**Dennis Stewart**

Hey Liz, in the book, "Branchiana" by James Branch Cabell, he says Mary Tanner Platt's maiden name was 'probably' Brown. I've not actually seen the book so I don't know what he's basing that on. Maybe you can help on this but there is supposed to be a court case in 1699 Wm. & Mary College vs. Benj. Branch of Henrico which implies one of Mary's kin was kin to a John Brown. However, the transcription I have from Rootsweb is very convoluted and needs more study. Also, there were 2 John Browns in the mix. One died in 1632, the other John Brown lived after and was associated with Edward Hatcher in Henrico Co. VA. land grant records.

[posted](#) on Browne-478 (merged) May 17, 2021 by [Dennis Stewart](#)

[reply](#) [flag](#) [move to G2G](#) [thank Dennis](#)

**Liz (Noland) Shifflett**

I've been asked to delay changing the LNAB of Mary & Martha from Brown to Unknown. Despite the problem with dates, I've reattached John Browne as her father in the meantime.

Warning: Check the data.

- A father's death date ([Browne-477](#) died 1632) should not be more than nine months before one of his children's birth dates ([Browne-478](#) born 1639).

[posted](#) on Browne-478 (merged) May 13, 2021 by [Liz \(Noland\) Shifflett](#)

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**Liz (Noland) Shifflett**

Information provided to support retention of "Brown" (or Browne) as LNAB was the evidence of the wills, showing that Martha and Mary are sisters. That does not prove they were born Brown/e.

Please post to this profile (or Martha's) proof of LNAB "Brown" of "Browne" by the end of the month. Otherwise, I'll proceed with changing their LNAB to Unknown.

Thanks!

[posted](#) on Browne-478 (merged) May 16, 2021 by [Liz \(Noland\) Shifflett](#)

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### [Dennis Stewart](#)

Dennis Stewart here(16676). Mary (Browne) Tanner Platt--478, c1639-1700 is my ancesstress. Profile gives her parents as John Browne & Temperance Baly Cocke. If John Browne died in 1632 then how then how can he have a daughter born 1639? If Mary Platt was the daughter of the prominent Temperance then why did Mary apparently never name a daughter 'Temperance'. And finally, if the wealthy Cocke was really the step-father of Mary Browne Tanner, later Platt, then why did this rich family leave her nothing? So far, I've seen alot of sources, yet, no evidence to connect Mary as the daughter of this John Browne & the colorful Temperance. I hope I'm wrong because I would like to claim Temperance as an ancestor. Instead the PM's may want to consider detaching Mary as the child of John Browne and Temperance. This parent / child relationship seems to be fiction and wishful thinking.

[posted](#) on Browne-478 (merged) May 12, 2021 by [Dennis Stewart](#)

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### [Liz \(Noland\) Shifflett](#)

Thanks Dennis - I think you make a good point. I've posted the following to their profiles:

Hi! A proposal has been made to detach the profile of [Mary \(Browne\) Platt \(abt.1639-1700\)](#) from [Temperance](#) and [John Browne](#). I see no evidence on their profiles that they had a daughter named Mary who married a Platt (especially not one who was born several years after John died).

I just wanted to check if anyone might have a reliable source for her before detaching [Browne-478](#).

Thanks!

[posted](#) on Browne-478 (merged) May 12, 2021 by [Liz \(Noland\) Shifflett](#)

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### [\[Living Kelts\]](#)

Hello, Liz. Looks like you've detached the father. Now are you going to detach the mother? Or was her second husband Mary's father? Mary is apparently a distant ancestor of mine through my Childers line, but I have not studied the connections that far back, and I won't presume to jump in here if others are more familiar with the issues. I will note, however, that the DNA section is not persuasive, and as the statements imply, the matches of 42 and 52 cM over multiple segments are almost surely for a more recent MRCA couple. Here is one link to DNA information: [https://isogg.org/wiki/Autosomal\\_DNA\\_statistics#Table](https://isogg.org/wiki/Autosomal_DNA_statistics#Table)

[posted](#) on Browne-478 (merged) May 12, 2021 by [\[Living Kelts\]](#)

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### [Liz \(Noland\) Shifflett](#)

I haven't changed anything. Check the Changes tab.

[posted](#) on Browne-478 (merged) May 12, 2021 by [Liz \(Noland\) Shifflett](#)

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### [\[Living Kelts\]](#)

Sorry. Based on your comment I thought you were leading the effort.

Edit: I see that you did place a comment on the mother's profile, which is not managed by the same PM as the former father. Hopefully someone will follow up.

[posted](#) on Browne-478 (merged) May 12, 2021 by [\[Living Kelts\]](#)

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**Liz (Noland) Shifflett**

The name rang a bell. I've found what I was remembering. See sister Martha's profile, which notes (among other things) that children (if any) of John Browne & Temperance Baley are not known. So... I think we can go ahead and detach the profiles of Browne children from them both.

Cheers, Liz

P.S. The Browne/Stratton/Sheppey families are a bit contorted, with two generations of Edward Strattons & their wives often getting confused. See for example [https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Stratton-49#Research\\_Notes](https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Stratton-49#Research_Notes)

[posted](#) on Browne-478 (merged) May 12, 2021 by [Liz \(Noland\) Shifflett](#)

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**Liz (Noland) Shifflett**

I received information that helps show sisters Martha & Mary.

I've received nothing that supports this John Browne & Temperance Baley as parents.

I posted to sister Marth's profile: "I think that some of the continuing issues with this family could be avoided if her LNAB were changed to Unknown, so I'll be doing that later today."

I intend to also change Mary's last name at birth (LNAB) to Unknown and detach her from Temperance also.

Thanks everyone!

*edit - removed "(but I think maybe a different generation)." ... not sure where I got the notion. The wills of Mary & Martha are in the 1690s, which would seem reasonable for them to have been born c1632 or earlier (the profile for John Brown who married Temperance says he died 1632).*

[posted](#) on Browne-478 (merged) May 12, 2021 by [Liz \(Noland\) Shifflett](#)

edited May 12, 2021 by [Liz \(Noland\) Shifflett](#)

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**Liz (Noland) Shifflett**

It's a process... I *am* leading the effort & will follow up. Probably sooner, rather than later. Martha and Mary are clearly sisters but so far no evidence they're daughters of John & Temperance (there's also a [John Browne](#) attached as son for them... I've posted to his profile & his wife's - I'll probably "promote" the comment on his profile to G2G).

Cheers, Liz

*edit - comment on John's profile now at <https://www.wikitree.com/g2g/1236797/comments-on-john-browne-1632-1677-virginia-born-to-whom>*

[posted](#) on Browne-478 (merged) May 12, 2021 by [Liz \(Noland\) Shifflett](#)

edited May 12, 2021 by [Liz \(Noland\) Shifflett](#)

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**Liz (Noland) Shifflett**

update - changing the LNAB of Mary & Martha and detaching John & Temperance as parents is on hold right now, allowing for an additional check of sources.

[posted](#) on Browne-478 (merged) May 13, 2021 by [Liz \(Noland\) Shifflett](#)

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**Julie (Fiscus) Ricketts**

[Unknown-318760](#) and Browne-478 appear to represent the same person because: Clear duplicates

[posted](#) on Browne-478 (merged) Feb 05, 2017 by [Julie \(Fiscus\) Ricketts](#)

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**Liz (Noland) Shifflett**

deleted "Martha" from name fields. That's her sister. (p 274, [http://www.jstor.org/stable/1914683?seq=13#page\\_scan\\_tab\\_contents](http://www.jstor.org/stable/1914683?seq=13#page_scan_tab_contents) )

[posted](#) on Browne-478 (merged) Mar 21, 2015 by [Liz \(Noland\) Shifflett](#)

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**Liz (Noland) Shifflett**

see [http://www.jstor.org/stable/1914683?seq=15#page\\_scan\\_tab\\_contents](http://www.jstor.org/stable/1914683?seq=15#page_scan_tab_contents) (p 275)

[posted](#) on Browne-478 (merged) Mar 21, 2015 by [Liz \(Noland\) Shifflett](#)

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### Pending Merges

None.

[\[initiate a merge\]](#)

### Unmerged Matches

None.

[\[add a match\]](#)

### Rejected Matches

None.

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This week's featured connections are [Exercise Gurus](#): Mary is [19 degrees from Richard Simmons](#), [22 degrees from Billy Blanks](#), [17 degrees from John Dunlop](#), [19 degrees from Jack LaLanne](#), [20 degrees from Pehr Henric Ling](#), [23 degrees from Davina McCall](#), [15 degrees from R. Tait McKenzie](#), [18 degrees from Olivia Newton-John](#), [22 degrees from William Orban](#), [17 degrees from Arnold Schwarzenegger](#), [19 degrees from Suzanne Somers](#) and [16 degrees from Raquel Welch](#) on our [single family tree](#). See [your connection](#) or [your genealogical relationship](#) with Mary.

[\[Mary's family.name?\]](#) | [P](#) > [Platt](#) > Mary (Unknown) Platt

Categories: [Virginia Colonists \(-\) \(±\) \(+\)](#) [\[edit\]](#)

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