



Elizabeth (Beckwith) Bates (abt. 1647 - aft. 1719)

Elizabeth Bates formerly **Beckwith** aka **Gerard**

Born about 1647 in New London, New London, Connecticut ♀

Daughter of [Mathew Beckwith](#) and [Mary \(Unknown\) Beckwith](#)

Sister of [Matthew Beckwith Jr.](#), [Nathaniel Beckwith](#), [Mary \(Beckwith\) Daniels](#), [Benjamin Beckwith](#), [Catherine Beckwith](#), [Sarah \(Beckwith\) Grant](#), [Joseph Beckwith](#) and [John Beckwith](#)

Wife of **Joshua Grant** — married in NEVER married ♀

Wife of **Robert Gerard** — married about 1665 in Lyme, Connecticut ♀

Wife of **John Bates** — married 1677 in Haddam, Middlesex, Connecticut ♀

DESCENDANTS ^{TE}

Mother of [Elizabeth \(Grant\) Bailey](#), [Martha Bates](#), [John Bates](#), [Solomon Bates](#), [Samuel Bates](#), [Sarah Bates](#), [Ruth Bates](#) and [James Bates](#)

Died after 15 Jan 1719 in Haddam, Middlesex, Connecticut ♀

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Categories: [Lyme, Connecticut](#) | [Haddam, Connecticut](#).

Biography

Wife of Robert Gerard— married 1665 in Haddam, Middlesex, Connecticut

The divorce of Robert Gerard and Elizabeth Beckwith is a sad story. Robert and Elizabeth were married about 1665 in Lyme, New London, Connecticut, but were divorced in 1674 in New Haven, Connecticut. On this occasion, Robert Gerard, made the statement that he wished his wife “to take her course”, or be free to remarry.[i] Scholars on the subject of “Women before the Bar” believe Robert may have threatened to make provisions for binding out their daughter Elizabeth after he deserted the family.[ii] ;

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Jane Devlin's notes provide these additional details:

Elizabeth Garrard was charged with adultery, having "committed folly with a stranger in the absence of her husband and brought forth a base born child." Found guilty, her sentence was reduced due to many circumstances, including her "husband's extreme bad carriage towards her and beating of her and making no suitable provision for her maintenance and in going from her and not returning to her for some years. The above facts aside, she was whipped and fined £10.

Elizabeth Beckwith Garrard accused Joshua Grant, probably her sister's widower. Joshua's estate was seized for the use of Elizabeth Garrard's child in June 1674. Matthew Beckwith, either Elizabeth's father or older brother, served as the custodian for the child's funds. Meanwhile, in 1673, her first husband sued her for adultery in the Rhode Island General Court, but he did not appear to press charges. Samuel Pratt was her bondsman.

The paternity of daughter Elizabeth remains obscure.

Elizabeth married (2) John Bates (1649-1690) in 1677 in Haddam, CT. They had 5 children: Martha, Solomon, Samuel, Jonathan, and Ruth.

[i] Divorce Case of Elizabeth Jarrard [Oct. 1674], Recs. Ct. of Assts., Lacy transcript, I, 55 [ii] Cornelia Hughes Dayton, *Women before the Bar; Gender, Law & Society in Connecticut, 1639-1789*, (North Carolina, 1995) p 118-119 & p. 124

from <http://minerdescent.com/2010/05/14/matthew-beckwith/>

Elizabeth's first husband was Robert Girard (Gerrand, Gerard)

Elizabeth Beckwith and Robert Gerard were divorced. Court records show that Elizabeth was abused and abandoned by her husband.

Divorce; Oct 1674; New Haven, New Haven Co., CT – Robert Gerard [or Jarrad] made the statement that he "wished... [his wife] to take her course" or be free to remarry. (Divorce Case of Elizabeth Jarrad [Oct. 1674], Recs. Ct. of Assts., Lacy transcript, I, 55) Robert may have threatened to make provisions for binding out their daughter Elizabeth after he deserted the family. [Women Before the Bar, p. 124]

Elizabeth's second husband John Bates was born 7 Oct 1649 in Scituate, Plymouth, Mass. John died 15 Jan 1718 in Haddam, Middlesex, CT.

Name

Elizabeth /Beckwith

Birth

1 Jan 1647 New London, New London, Connecticut

Death

15 Jan 1718/9 Haddam, Middlesex, Connecticut^[9]

Death Alt

Died 1692 in Haddam, CT

Marriage

Date: 1665 Lyme, New London, Connecticut^[10]

Husband: Robert Gerard Girard (**1st husband, not father of Elizabeth**)

Wife: Elizabeth Beckwith

Child: Elizabeth Gerard (**poss illegitimate dau of Joshua Grant**)

Notes

Note H869 Shows marriage and divorce in 1665.

Sources

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