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EARLY WASHINGTON, DC LAW & FAMILY PROJECT

## The Butler Family

The Butler family from Charles, Montgomery, Prince George's, and St. Mary's Counties, Maryland, sued for their freedom from 1763-1828, claiming descent from a free woman named Eleanor Butler. Another Butler family, possibly related to this one, petitioned for freedom in Washington, DC, and claimed that they were brought into the District from Maryland in violation of the Maryland importation law. These cases and the families who brought them were important in American history.

- ◆ *William, Mary Butler v. Richard Boarman* (St. Mary's County, 1763)
- ◆ *Tracy Butler v. Henry Bradford* (Prince George's County, 1786)
- ◆ *Ally Butler v. William Knott* (Montgomery County, 1786)
- ◆ *Nace Butler v. Cornelius William* (St. Mary's County, 1786)
- ◆ *Matthew Butler v. Edward Eagling* (Charles County, 1786)
- ◆ *Agnes Butler v. Edward Eagling* (Charles County, 1786)
- ◆ *Mary Butler v. Adam Craig* (Prince George's County, 1783)
- ◆ *Molly Butler v. Francis Plowden* (St. Mary's County, 1788)
- ◆ *Stephen Butler v. Charles Carroll* (Montgomery County, 1788)
- ◆ *Joanna Butler v. Mary Boarman* (Charles County, 1788)
- ◆ *Letty Butler v. Ann Digges* (Charles County, 1788)
- ◆ *Milly Butler v. Henry Neale* (St. Mary's County, 1788)
- ◆ *Elizabeth Butler v. Henry Hill* (St. Mary's County, 1789)
- ◆ *Ralph Butler v. John Lucas* (St. Mary's County, 1789)
- ◆ *Charity Butler v. Joseph Thompson* (Charles County, 1789)
- ◆ *Ignatius Butler v. John Ford* (St. Mary's County, 1789)
- ◆ *William Butler v. John Laidler* (Charles County, 1789)
- ◆ *Thomas Butler v. Iezreel Penn* (Charles County, 1789)
- ◆ *Sarah Butler v. Iezreel Penn* (Charles County, 1789)
- ◆ *Charles Butler v. John Thomas* (Charles County, 1789)
- ◆ *Elizabeth Butler v. Joseph Simmes* (Charles County, 1790)
- ◆ *William Butler v. Joseph Edelen* (Charles County, 1790)
- ◆ *Teresa Butler v. Eleanor Bradford* (Prince George's County, 1790)
- ◆ *Ignatius Butler v. Zephaniah Franklin* (Charles County, 1790)
- ◆ *Mary Anne Butler v. Joshua Turby* (Charles County, 1790)
- ◆ *Josias Butler v. James Neale* (Charles County, 1790)
- ◆ *Edward Butler v. John Keech* (Charles County ?, 1790)
- ◆ *Anne Butler v. John Keech* (Charles County ?, 1790)
- ◆ *William Butler v. John Keech* (Charles County ?, 1790)
- ◆ *Lydia Butler v. James Carrico* (Charles County, 1790)
- ◆ *Henrietta Butler v. Edward Hamilton* (Charles County, 1790)



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- ◆ *Thomas Butler v. Bennett Posey* (Charles County, 1790)
- ◆ *Electus Butler v. Bennett Posey* (Charles County, 1790)
- ◆ *Rebecca Butler v. Mary Shervin* (Charles County, 1790)
- ◆ *Anthony Butler v. Mary Shervin* (Charles County, 1790)
- ◆ *Anne Butler v. Mary Shervin* (Charles County, 1790)
- ◆ *Henny Butler v. Charles Carroll* (Washington County, 1790)
- ◆ *Agnes Butler v. Robert Lawson* (Charles County, 1790)
- ◆ *Eleanor Butler v. Robert Lawson* (Charles County, 1790)
- ◆ *Jane Butler v. Robert Lawson* (Charles County, 1790)
- ◆ *Mary Butler v. Robert Lawson* (Charles County, 1790)
- ◆ *Rebecca Butler v. Robert Lawson* (Charles County, 1790)
- ◆ *Jerrard Butler v. Robert Lawson* (Charles County, 1790)
- ◆ *Clement Butler v. Henry Pyke* (St. Mary's County, 1790)
- ◆ *Giles Butler v. John Somerville* (St. Mary's County, 1790)
- ◆ *Ignatius Butler v. Joseph Sims* (Montgomery County, 1790)
- ◆ *Chloe Butler v. Nicholas L. Sewall* (St. Mary's County, 1790)
- ◆ *Augustus Butler v. William Thomas* (St. Mary's County, 1790)
- ◆ *Jacob Butler v. Eleanor Taney* (St. Mary's County, 1790)
- ◆ *William Butler v. Samuel Bond* (Prince George's County, 1790)
- ◆ *Agnes Butler v. Rachel Boarman* (Charles County, 1790)
- ◆ *Samuel Butler v. William Bond* (St. Mary's County, 1790)
- ◆ *Samuel, Flora, & Tracey Butler v. Adam Craig* (Prince George's County, 1790)
- ◆ *Henny Butler v. Thomas Clagett* (Prince George's County, 1790)
- ◆ *John Butler v. Henry Garner* (St. Mary's County, 1790)
- ◆ *Lectus Butler v. Ralph Jamistone* (Charles County, 1790)
- ◆ *Fanny Butler v. Rinaldo Johnson* (Prince George's County, 1790)
- ◆ *Mary Butler v. Rinaldo Johnson* (Prince George's County, 1790)
- ◆ *Henrietta Butler v. Williamson King* (Charles County, 1790)
- ◆ *Bridgett Butler v. Richard Bennett Mitchell* (Charles County, 1790)
- ◆ *Eleanor Butler v. Nicholas Peers* (Charles County, 1790)
- ◆ *Abigail Butler v. Henrietta Plowden* (St. Mary's County, 1790)
- ◆ *Benjamin, Stephen, Samuel, Nell, Hopey, Jenny, Nancy, & Milly Butler v. Henrietta Plowden* (St. Mary's County, 1790)
- ◆ *Abraham Butler v. Elizabeth Ridgate, administrator of Thomas Hon Ridgate* (Charles County, 1790)
- ◆ *Sarah Butler v. Henry Sothoron* (St. Mary's County, 1790)
- ◆ *Sarah Butler v. Henry Sothoron* (St. Mary's County, 1790)
- ◆ *Jane Butler v. Joseph Sims* (Montgomery County, 1790)
- ◆ *Lucy Butler v. Benedict Wheeler* (Charles County, 1790)
- ◆ *Elizabeth Butler v. Elizabeth McWilliams* (St. Mary's County, 1790)
- ◆ *Henrietta Butler v. Edward Smoot* (Charles County, 1790)



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- ◆ *James Butler v. James Arnold* (St. Mary's County, 1791)
- ◆ *Milley Butler v. Robert Sinnett* (Charles County, 1791)
- ◆ *Henrietta Butler v. Edward Smith* (Charles County, 1791)
- ◆ *Lewis Butler v. John Laidler* (Charles County, 1791)
- ◆ *Clement Butler v. Iezreel Penn* (Charles County, 1791)
- ◆ *Clare, Charley, Matthew, Lewis Butler v. Jane Boarman* (Charles County, 1792)
- ◆ *Henny, Joseph, Jane, Nase Butler v. James Fenwick* (Charles County, 1792)
- ◆ *William Butler v. Joseph Neale* (Charles County, 1792)
- ◆ *Lucy Butler v. James Atwood* (Montgomery County, 1792)
- ◆ *Ignatius Butler v. William Craik* (Charles County, 1792)
- ◆ *Anna, Moses, & Frank Butler v. John DeButts* (St. Mary's County, 1792)
- ◆ *Henny Butler v. Henry Hill* (St. Mary's County, 1792)
- ◆ *Nase Butler v. Henry Hill* (St. Mary's County, 1792)
- ◆ *Katy Butler v. Henry Hill* (St. Mary's County, 1792)
- ◆ *Lymus Butler v. Henry Hill* (St. Mary's County, 1792)
- ◆ *Lydia Butler v. Nicholas Swingle* (Washington County, 1792)
- ◆ *Eleanor Butler v. Joseph Gardiner* (Charles County, 1792)
- ◆ *Clement Butler v. Leonard Boarman* (Charles County ?, 1792)
- ◆ *Sarah Butler v. Henry Carrico* (Charles County, 1792)
- ◆ *Nase Butler v. Ignatius Gardiner* (Charles County, 1792)
- ◆ *Samuel Butler v. Josias Hancock* (Charles County, 1792)
- ◆ *Anne Butler v. Rev. John Lucas* (St. Mary's County, 1792)
- ◆ *Rachel Butler v. Benjamin Posey* (St. Mary's County ?, 1792)
- ◆ *Clement Butler v. Henry Spalding* (St. Mary's County, 1792)
- ◆ *Henny Butler v. Edward Hamilton* (Charles County, 1793)
- ◆ *Ignatius Butler v. Peter Savaree* (Prince George's County, 1797)
- ◆ *Josiah Butler v. Eleanor Smith* (Maryland, unknown)
- ◆ *Jane Butler v. John Smith* (Maryland, unknown)
- ◆ *Jane Butler v. John Lancaster* (Maryland, unknown)
- ◆ *Thomas, Sarah, Matilda, Airy, Reason, Sally, Liddy, & Eliza Butler v. Gabriel Duvall* (Washington, DC, 1828)

If you have any information to contribute to the project about this family, please let us know.

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## The Butler Family

The Butler family tree is based on court records from the Maryland State Archives in Annapolis.

- Eleanor "Irish Nell" Butler – b. abt 1669
  - + Charles
    - John "Jack" Butler – b. abt 1687
    - Sarah "Sally" Butler – b. abt 1690; d. abt 1778
      - Charles Butler
      - Eleanor "Nell" Butler
        - Monica Butler
          - Robert Butler
          - Stephen Butler – filed freedom suit in 1788 against Charles Carroll
          - Harry Butler
          - Charles Butler
        - Hopy Butler
          - Thomas Butler
        - Sarah Butler – filed freedom suit in 1790 against Henry Sothoron
          - Sarah Butler – filed freedom suit in 1790 against Henry Sothoron
          - William Butler – filed freedom suit in 1790 against Samuel Bond
          - Samuel Butler – filed freedom suit in 1790 against William Bond
          - John Butler – filed freedom suit in 1790 against Henry Garner
          - Eleanor Butler – filed freedom suit in 1790 against Nicholas Peers
        - Abigail Butler – filed freedom suit in 1790 against Henrietta Plowden
          - Benjamin Butler – filed freedom suit in 1790 against Henrietta Plowden
          - Stephen Butler – filed freedom suit in 1790 against Henrietta Plowden
          - Samuel Butler – filed freedom suit in 1790 against Henrietta Plowden
          - Nell Butler – filed freedom suit in 1790 against Henrietta Plowden
          - Hopey Butler – filed freedom suit in 1790 against Henrietta Plowden
          - Jenny Butler – filed freedom suit in 1790 against Henrietta Plowden
          - Nancy Butler – filed freedom suit in 1790 against Henrietta Plowden
          - Milly Butler – filed freedom suit in 1790 against Henrietta Plowden
        - Charles Butler
        - Anthony Butler
        - Sam Butler
        - Nace Butler
        - Len Butler
      - Sarah Butler
        - Henry Butler – filed freedom suit in 1790 against Charles Carroll
        - Joseph Butler – b. abt 1738
        - Jeremiah Butler
        - George Butler

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- Milly Butler - filed freedom suit in 1788 against Henry Neale
- Letty Butler - filed freedom suit in 1788 against Anne Digges
  - Lydia Butler
  - Sarah Butler
- Monica Butler
  - Sarah Butler
    - Thomas Butler
- Catharine "Kate" Butler - b. abt 1692; d. abt 1760
  - Pegg "Peggy" Butler
    - Mary "Moll" Butler - filed freedom suit in 1763 against Richard Boarman
    - Peggy Butler
      - Clare Butler - filed freedom suit in 1792 against Jane Boarman
      - Matthew Butler - filed freedom suit in 1792 against Jane Boarman
      - Lewis Butler - filed freedom suit in 1792 against Jane Boarman
      - Charley Butler - filed freedom suit in 1792 against Jane Boarman
    - Ignatius Butler - filed freedom suit in 1789 against John Ford
  - Ned Butler - b. abt 1718
  - Jack Butler
  - Jenny Butler
- Elizabeth "Abigail" Butler - b. abt 1699; d. abt 1737
  - William Butler - b. abt 1727 - filed freedom suit in 1763 against Richard Boarman
    - + Mary "Moll" Butler - filed freedom suit in 1763 against Richard Boarman
    - William Lazarus Butler - filed freedom suit in 1786 against William Knott
    - Mary Butler - filed freedom suit in 1783 against Adam Craig
      - Samuel Butler - filed freedom suit in 1790 against Adam Craig
      - Flora Butler - filed freedom suit in 1790 against Adam Craig
      - Tracey Butler - filed freedom suit in 1790 against Adam Craig
    - Teresa Butler - filed freedom suit in 1790 against Eleanor Bradford
    - Nan Butler
    - Elizabeth Butler - filed freedom suit in 1790 against Elizabeth McWilliams
    - Nase Butler
    - Milley Butler
  - Phillis Butler
    - Elizabeth "Betty" Butler - b. abt 1724 - filed freedom suit in 1789 against Henry Hill
      - Joanna Butler - filed freedom suit in 1788 against Mary Boarman
      - *Lydia Butler - filed freedom suit in 1790 against James Carrico*
      - *Lydia Butler - filed freedom suit in 1792 against Nicholas Swingle*
      - Augustus "Gustavus" Butler - filed freedom suit in 1790 against William Thomas



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- Chloe Butler – filed freedom suit in 1790 against Nicholas L. Sewell
  - Bridget Butler – filed freedom suit in 1790 against Richard Bennett Mitchell
  - Fanny Butler – filed freedom suit in 1790 against Rinaldo Johnson
  - Mary Butler – filed freedom suit in 1790 against Rinaldo Johnson
  - Henny Butler – filed freedom suit in 1790 against Thomas Clagett
- Clara Butler
- Ignatius Butler – filed freedom suit in 1792 against William Craik
- Lucy Butler – filed freedom suit in 1790 against Benedict Wheeler
- Jerry Butler
- Jess Butler
- Phillis Butler
- John Butler – b. abt 1722
- Anne "Nanny" Butler
  - Henrietta "Henny" Butler
    - William Butler – b. abt 1745 – filed freedom suit in 1792 against Joseph Neale
    - Anne Butler – filed freedom suit in 1790 against John Keech
      - Edward Butler – filed freedom suit in 1790 against John Keech
      - William Butler – filed freedom suit in 1790 against John Keech
      - Elizabeth Butler – filed freedom suit in 1790 against Joseph Simmes
      - Mary Anne Butler – filed freedom suit in 1790 against Joshua Turby
      - Henrietta "Henny" Butler – filed freedom suit in 1790 against Edward Hamilton
      - Josias Butler – filed freedom suit in 1790 against James Neale
  - Eleanor Butler
    - Anne Butler
      - Agnes Butler – filed freedom suit in 1790 against Rachel Boarman
- Jane "Jenny" Butler
  - Rebecca "Beck" Butler – filed freedom suit in 1790 against Mary Shervin
    - Jane Butler – filed freedom suit in 1790 against Joseph Simms
      - William Butler – filed freedom suit in 1790 against Joseph Edelen
      - Milley Butler – filed freedom suit in 1791 against Robert Sinnett
      - Anthony Butler – filed freedom suit in 1790 against Mary Shevin
      - Anne Butler – filed freedom suit in 1790 against Mary Shervin
      - Electius Butler – filed freedom suit in 1790 against Ralph Jameston
    - Teresa "Terry" Butler
      - Ignatius "Nase" Butler – filed freedom suit in 1790 against Zephaniah Franklin
      - Thomas Butler – filed freedom suit in 1791 against Bennett Posey
      - Electius Butler – filed freedom suit in 1791 against Bennett Posey



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- Ignatius Butler – b. abt 1748 – filed freedom suit in 1790 against Joseph Simms
- Agnes Butler – filed freedom suit in 1790 against Robert Lawson
  - Jane Butler – filed freedom suit in 1790 against Robert Lawson
  - Mary Butler – filed freedom suit in 1790 against Robert Lawson
  - Rebecca Butler – filed freedom suit in 1790 against Robert Lawson
- Eleanor Butler – filed freedom suit in 1790 against Robert Lawson
  - Jerrard Butler – filed freedom suit in 1790 against Robert Lawson
- Nanny Butler – b. abt 1709
  - Nelly "Nel" Butler
    - Jeremiah Butler
    - Charles Butler
  - Jane Butler
    - Stephen Butler
    - Josiah Butler
    - Francis Butler
    - Lynda "Lyndey" Butler
      - Joe Butler
      - Ann Butler
      - Lucy Butler
    - Henry Butler – filed freedom suit in 1792 against James Fenwick
      - Joseph "Joe" Butler – filed freedom suit in 1792 against James Fenwick
      - Nase Butler – filed freedom suit in 1792 against James Fenwick
      - Jane Butler – filed freedom suit in 1792 against James Fenwick
- Nelly "Nell" Butler
  - Ralph Butler – filed freedom suit in 1789 against John Lucas
  - Charles Butler – filed freedom suit in 1789 against John Thomas
- Anne Butler
  - Henry Butler – filed freedom suit in 1792 against Henry Hill
    - Nase Butler – filed freedom suit in 1792 against Henry Hill
    - Katy Butler – filed freedom suit in 1792 against Henry Hill
    - Lymus Butler – filed freedom suit in 1792 against Henry Hill
    - Anna Butler – filed freedom suit in 1792 against John DeButts
      - Moses Butler – filed freedom suit in 1792 against John DeButts
      - Frank Butler – filed freedom suit in 1792 against John DeButts
- Monica Butler
  - Abraham Butler – filed freedom suit in 1790 against Elizabeth Ridgate
- Eleanor Butler
  - Henrietta Butler – filed freedom suit in 1791 against Edward Smith



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- Elizabeth "Bett" Butler
  - Giles Butler – filed freedom suit in 1790 against John Somerville
  - Charity Butler – filed freedom suit in 1789 against Joseph Thompson
  - Sarah Butler – filed freedom suit in 1789 against Jezreel Penn
    - Henrietta "Henny" Butler – filed freedom suit in 1790 against Williamson King
    - Clement Butler – filed freedom suit in 1791 against Jezreel Penn
    - William Butler
    - Lewis Butler
    - George Butler
    - Rachel Butler
    - Anne Butler
  - Thomas Butler – filed freedom suit in 1789 against Jezreel Penn
  - Henrietta Butler – filed freedom suit in 1790 against Edward Smoot
  - Clement Butler
  - Jacob Butler
- Moll Butler

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