



**Report Number:** JR0003  
**GMP Ancestor:** Bibiana Mahoney (GMP-200)  
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**Date:** 21 August 2021, revised 1 June 2025  
**Related Codes:** GMP-198, GMP-222, GMP-242, GMP-243, GMP-248, GMP-250

**Purpose:** To present evidence supporting the identification of Bibiana, wife of Nace Butler, as Bibiana Mahoney, daughter of Harry and Anna Mahoney.

## Discussion:

Bibiana (GMP-200), commonly referred to as Biby, Bibey, Bebey, or Bebe, is identified in a number of documents as the wife of Nace Butler (GMP-198). No mention of her maiden name is found in any of the available documents. She and Nace were enslaved on the Jesuits' St. Inigoes Plantation in St. Mary's County, Maryland, and sent to Jesse Batey's plantation on Bayou Maringouin, Louisiana, later known as West Oak. References to her age recorded between the years 1838 to 1870 indicate she was born between 1790 and 1796.

Tax assessment rolls for St. Mary's County for 1804, 1813, 1821, and 1831 provide the names and ages of the enslaved persons held by the Jesuit priests at St. Inigoes prior to the 1838 sale. The following is a summary of the entries excerpted from these four tax rolls for the individual whom the GMP has determined to be Nace Butler's wife:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Year</u>
Bibiana	12	1804 <sup>1</sup>
Bibey	22	1813 <sup>2</sup>
Biba	33	1821 <sup>3</sup>
Biba	38	1831 <sup>4</sup>

The ages in these records indicate that Bibiana was born sometime between the years 1788 and 1793. Records of baptisms in St. Mary's County for the years 1766 to 1794 include the baptism of a negro named "Bibiana" on 25 December 1791.<sup>5</sup> This is a good fit for the individual listed on the four tax assessment rolls as well as for Nace Butler's wife who was born between 1790 and 1796.

Although the St. Mary's tax assessment rolls do not provide family groupings for the persons enslaved by the Jesuit priests at St. Inigoes, the information provided, combined with other information known about the families who were part of the 1838 sale, suggest the most likely set

of parents for Bibiana. Among the men ages 14 to 45 on the 1804 tax roll is Harry, consumptive and sickly, age 33, and among the women ages 14 to 36 is Ann, dropsical, age 29. Although never identified as husband and wife, Harry and Ann/Anne/Anna appear on the three subsequent St. Inigoes tax rolls for 1813, 1821, and 1831. Additionally, Harry, age 75, immediately followed by Anny, age 70, are found on the 1838 Jesuit census at St. Inigoes.<sup>6</sup> Both are believed to have remained in Maryland along with their youngest child, Louisa Mahoney (GMP-248).

A great great grandchild of Louisa Mahoney, who remained in Maryland, did a DNA test through Ancestry. Her results were compared to descendants of Nace and Bibiana Butler, who were sent to Louisiana, and she matched several of them, some as close as the fourth to sixth cousin level.

The St. Inigoes tax rolls list another individual also believed to be a child of Harry and Anna Mahoney. The following is a summary of the entries excerpted from these four tax rolls for the individual whom the GMP has determined to be Robert Mahoney (GMP-222):

<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Year</u>
Bob	10	1804
Bob	20	1813
Bob	30	1821
Bob	34	1831

The DNA of a great great grandchild of Robert Mahoney, who was sent to Jesse Batey's plantation on Bayou Terrebonne in Louisiana, was also compared to descendants of Nace and Biby Butler from Bayou Maringouin. She also matched several Butler descendants in Louisiana, some as close as the fourth to sixth cousin level. Additionally, the descendant of Robert Mahoney in Louisiana was a fourth to sixth cousin match to the descendant of Louisa Mahoney in Maryland.

The St. Inigoes tax rolls include yet another individual believed to be a child of Harry and Anna Mahoney. The following is a summary of the entries excerpted from three tax rolls for the individual whom the GMP has determined to be Anna Mahoney (GMP-250):

<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Year</u>
Annastatia	1	1813
Anna	10	1821
Young Anny	19	1831

The DNA results of several descendants of Anna Mahoney, who was sent initially to Henry Johnson's plantation on Bayou Maringouin, but later transferred to his Ascension Parish plantation (later known as Chatham), were compared to Nace and Biby Butler. Several matched at the fourth to sixth cousin level. Additionally, two of them matched the descendant of Louisa Mahoney at the same level, while one matched at the fifth to eighth cousin level.

## Conclusion:

The supporting evidence includes: (1) the name and age of Bibiana on the four St. Inigoes tax rolls being consistent with the name and age of Nace Butler's wife; (2) Harry and Anna on the four St. Inigoes tax rolls being the best candidates for Bibiana's parents; (3) the DNA of a descendant of Louisa Mahoney of Maryland matching the Butler descendants of Louisiana; (4) the DNA of a descendant of Robert Mahoney matching the Butler descendants of Louisiana; and (5) the DNA of descendants of Anna Mahoney matching the Butler descendants of Louisiana. Therefore, the GMP has concluded that Bibiana, wife of Nace Butler, was Bibiana Mahoney, daughter of Harry Mahoney (GMP-242) and Anna (GMP-243).

## Endnotes:

1. "St. Inigoes Tax Assessment, 1804," St. Mary's County, Commissioners of the Tax (Assessment Record, Slaves), 1804-1821, C1544-4, online at the [Georgetown Slavery Archive](#).
2. "St. Inigoes Tax Assessment, 1813," St. Mary's County, Commissioners of the Tax (Assessment Record, Slaves), 1804-1821, C1544-4, online at the [Georgetown Slavery Archive](#).
3. "St. Inigoes Tax Assessment, 1821," St. Mary's County, Commissioners of the Tax (Assessment Record, Slaves), 1804-1821, Maryland State Archives, online at the [Georgetown Slavery Archive](#).
4. "St. Inigoes Tax Assessment, 1831," St. Mary's Parish Levy Court, Tax Assessment (Slaves), 1831, CE453-3, Maryland State Archives, online at the [Georgetown Slavery Archive](#).
5. "Baptisms in St. Mary's County, Md. 1766-1794, Recorded by Rev. James Walton SJ (Transcription)," Extract (typescript) from the diary of James Walton, Box 4, Folder 3, Maryland Province Archive (MPA), Lauinger Library, Georgetown University, online at the [Georgetown Slavery Archives](#).
6. "Census of slaves to be sold in 1838," Maryland Province Archive (MPA), Oversize Box 4 (WO 112), Booth Family Center for Special Collections, Lauinger Library, Georgetown University, online at the [Georgetown Slavery Archive](#).