



**Report Number:** JR0004  
**GMP Ancestor:** Henny Butler (GMP-214)  
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**Date:** 21 August 2021, revised 1 June 2025  
**Related Codes:** GMP-003, GMP-004, GMP-095, GMP-106, GMP-138, GMP-143, GMP-198, GMP-200, GMP-201, GMP-202, GMP-203, GMP-215, GMP-219, GMP-288, GMP-289, GMP-310, GMP-311, GMP-312

**Purpose:** To present evidence supporting the identification of Henny, wife of Hillary Ford, as Henny Butler, daughter of Nace Butler and Bibiana Mahoney

**Discussion:**

Henny, wife of Hillary Ford, was among the Jesuit slaves remaining in Maryland after the 1838 sale, but later transported to Louisiana. One undated Maryland document identifies her as Henny Ford, age 22, with a child, purchased by Henry Johnson.<sup>1</sup>

Henny is believed to be Ann, age 23, listed on a mortgage dated 17 December 1839 of a plantation on Bayou Lafourche belonging to Henry Johnson. Also included among the 12 enslaved people mortgaged and attached to the plantation are Ann's unnamed child, age one, and Hilary, age 25.<sup>2</sup> Henry Johnson sold this plantation, but not its enslaved people, in November of 1844. Prior to that, probably in late 1843 or early 1844, Johnson had moved his enslaved people, including Hillary and Henny Ford, from Bayou Lafourche to what would become known as Chatham Plantation in Ascension Parish.

Johnson's sale in 1844 of one-half of Chatham Plantation includes among the enslaved people Henny Ford with five children, Emeline, Elizabeth, Billy, Basil, and Rachael.<sup>3</sup> The first three children, along with a fourth, Amanda, had been purchased by Henry Johnson and sent first to his plantation on Bayou Maringouin, but later transferred to Chatham.<sup>4</sup> The manifest of the *Katharine Jackson*, the ship that transported Henny's children to Louisiana in November and December of 1838, indicates that their surname was Brown.<sup>5</sup> Henny's last two children, can be identified as Bazile Ford (GMP-215) and Rachel Ford, whose father, Hillary Ford (GMP-311), was one of the substitutes acquired by Henry Johnson in place of the Jesuit slaves who had married off the Jesuit plantation.

A number of women named Henny, and variations thereof, are found listed among the GU272 and on Henry Johnson's plantations. After detailed analysis, the following women were ruled out as being Henny Ford.

Henny (GMP-004) was identified as Henrietta Adams, daughter of Peter Adams (GMP-310) and Nelly Hawkins (GMP-003) of White Marsh Farm. She was born around 1825 and married William Ware (GMP-106). Henny Ware died in 1896 and was buried at Smoke Bend in Ascension Parish.<sup>6</sup>

Henny (GMP-138) was identified as the daughter of Charles (GMP-095) and Jenny (GMP-143) of St. Thomas Manor. She was born around 1808 and died sometime between 1844 and 1845. The family surname has not yet been ascertained.

Henny (GMP-289) was identified as the daughter of Clem Langley (GMP-312) and Jenny (GMP-254). Although they were from St. Inigoes, this Henny, born ca. 1840, was too young to be Henny Ford.

Henry Johnson's non-GU272 slaves, Henny Lee and Henrietta Cutchmore, were also eliminated from consideration as Henny Ford, as their children were not a match to the children of Henny Ford.

One woman remained—Henny (GMP-214), listed on the 1838 Jesuit census as having “married off” the St. Inigoes Plantation, located in St. Mary's County, Maryland.<sup>7</sup> Listed immediately after her are Emeline, age 10, Amanda, age 8, Elizabeth, age 7, and Billy, age 6. All but Amanda are listed on the previously mentioned 1844 sale of Chatham. Amanda, daughter of Henny, is noted in a Maryland document as having died.<sup>8</sup> Therefore, this Henny (GMP-214) is the likeliest candidate for Henny Ford.

Henny Ford's age in the above-mentioned records puts her birth at between 1808 and 1817. The ages of 22 and 23 in 1839, however, are likely underestimates of her age in light of Henny Ford having already given birth to four or five children by this time. Henny's age of 30 on the 1838 Jesuit census is probably closer to her correct age.

Looking at the three extant tax rolls for St. Inigoes, the following are the best matches for Henny:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Year</u>
Henney	3	1813 <sup>9</sup>
Henny	11	1821 <sup>10</sup>
Henny	21	1831 <sup>11</sup>

The ages in these records indicate that Henny was born around 1810, very close to the 1808 year indicated on the 1838 Jesuit census.

Although family groups are not specified on the St. Inigoes tax rolls, the order and placement of names implies family groups. For example, on the 1831 tax rolls in the section of males and females aged 8-14, the last two listed are Bridget, age 13, and Caroline, age 11. The GMP has determined that they are Bridget Butler (GMP-202) and Caroline Butler (GMP-203), daughters of Nace Butler (GMP-198) and Bibiana Mahoney (GMP-200). In the section of females aged 14-36, the last two names are Henny, age 21, and Suky, age 16. Likewise, the GMP has determined that

they are Henny Butler (GMP-214) and Susan Butler (GMP-201), also children of Nace Butler and Bibiana Mahoney. Order and placement of names on the 1838 Jesuit Slave Census support that conclusion as well. Henny is the first name listed after the last child of Nace and Biby.

DNA results also support the conclusion that Henny Ford was a Butler/Mahoney descendant. A great great grandchild of Henny Ford matched numerous Butler and Mahoney descendants, many at the fourth to sixth cousin level. One of those matches was with a descendant of Louisa Mahoney who remained in Maryland. Additionally, a descendant of William Brown (GMP-219), whom the GMP has concluded was Billy Brown, matched at the fifth to eighth cousin level two Butler descendants from Jesse Batey's Maringouin, Louisiana, plantation.

### **Conclusion:**

The supporting evidence includes: (1) the name and age of Henny on three St. Inigoes tax rolls consistent with the name and age of Henny Ford; (2) the order and placement of Henny on the St. Inigoes tax rolls and the 1838 Jesuit census in proximity to the family of Nace Butler and Bibiana Mahoney; (3) the DNA of a descendant of Henny Ford matching Butler and Mahoney descendants; and (4) the DNA of a descendant of William Brown matching two Butler descendants from Maringouin, Louisiana. Therefore, the GMP has concluded that Henny, wife of Hillary Ford, was Henny Butler, daughter of Nace Butler and Bibiana Mahoney.

### **Note:**

For a related discussion of Henny Butler Ford, see Report JR0006.

### **Endnotes:**

1. "Only Slaves transported to Louisa out of the 84 slaves lot, undated, Maryland Province Archives (MPA), Box 40, Folder 6, Item 8, Booth Family History for Special Collections, Lauinger Library, Georgetown University.
2. Mortgage by Henry Johnson and wife to Bank of Louisiana, 17 December 1839, Conveyance Book P, p, 406, and Conveyance Book CC, p. 29, Lafourche Parish Clerk of Court, Thibodaux, La.
3. Sale of an undivided one-half interest in a plantation in Ascension Parish from Henry Johnson to Philip B. Key, 15 February 1844, Conveyance Book 19, p. 7, Ascension Parish Clerk of Court, Donaldsonville, La.
4. Sale by Thomas Mulledy to Henry Johnson, 10 Nov. 1838, Conveyance Book T, pp. 35-37, #25, Iberville Parish Clerk of Court, Plaquemine, La.
5. Manifest of the *Katharine Jackson*, 13 Nov. 1838, New Orleans, Louisiana, Slave Manifests, 1807-1860 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010.

6. Emilie G. Leumas, ed., *Diocese of Baton Rouge Catholic Church Records, Volume 20, 1895-1896* (Baton Rouge: Diocese of Baton Rouge, 2003), p. 523.
7. "Census of slaves to be sold in 1838," MPA, Oversize Box 4 (WO 112), Booth Family Center for Special Collections, Lauinger Library, Georgetown University, online at the [Georgetown Slavery Archive](#).
8. "List of Slaves Remaining on Estate and Exchanged, No Date—Perhaps 1839," MPA, Box 40, Folder 6, Item 9, Booth Family History for Special Collections, Lauinger Library, Georgetown University, online at the [Georgetown Slavery Archive](#).
9. "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](#).
10. "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](#).
11. "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](#).