

Robert Stockdale - Step-Dad of the Year (NOT)

Mary Harker's first husband, Cuthbert Hayhurst, died when his youngest son, James was just 1 year old (1733). Mary married Robert Stockdale soon afterward. Mary's 1st husband, Cuthbert, had accumulated a sizeable estate. Mary's second husband, Robert Stockdale, "proposed" after their marriage that they "keep" each of Mary's five children from her first marriage, but, charge the children's "maintenance" from their father's estate--thus draining their inheritance from their father at his whimsy. Mary's in-laws, nephews named (also) Cuthbert Hayhurst and Benjamin Cutler, rightly objected to Mr. Stockdale's plan to deplete his wife's and her children's estate. They countered that they themselves would take the other four children at their own expense (or, by court order, find someone who would) rather than allow this "Step-Dad of the Year" to cheat their kinsmen. Documents do not reveal the outcome.
