

Butler of NE

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THE BUTLER FAMILY.

PREPARED BY PROFESSOR JAMES DAVIE BUTLER OF NORWICH, VT.

[V][1]Stephen Butler, = Jane ----.

d. in Boston. |

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[(2)]Benjamin, Isaac, [(3)]James, = Grace ----.

Aug. 2, 1653; Oct. 9, 1661; Aug. 2, d. |

Feb. 10, 1658. May 29, 1664; 1665; |

Aug. 10, 1667. Boston. |

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Mary, [(6)]Grace, Elisabeth, [(5)]James, Aug. 21, = [(4)]Abigail Eustice,

Feb. 21, May 2, Dec. 23, 1688; d. Boston. | d. Dec. 15, 1713.

1683. 1685. 1686. |

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Abigail, [(7)]Eliza, [(8)]James, = [(9)]Elisabeth Davie.

Jan. 26, March 3, Dec. 4, | = --- Wakefield.

1710-11. 1711-12. 1713; | |

d. Boston. | |

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[(10)]James, = [(11)]Mary Sigourney. Sarah.

Feb. 15, |

1739; |

d. at |

Oxford, Ms. |

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Mary. | Anthony. Elisabeth. Hannah. John. Peter. Sarah. Celia.

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[(12)] James Davie. = Rachel Harris.

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Mary Sigourney. Sophia Gedney. Chloe Harris. James Davie,

Jan. 6, 1814;

March 15, 1815. = Anna Bates.

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[(13)]James Davie, June 25, 1846.

REMARKS.

The following details are published not as complete but with the hope that their publication may be as a magnet attracting to itself, thus supplying the wanting links that might otherwise perish from the chain of family history. Any information, however slight, respecting any of the lines, whether direct or collateral, hereby brought to light, will be welcomed by the author of this article or the editor of this journal.

We are still in the dark as to the family history of not a few among the first fathers of New England. Much of this darkness might be dispelled were all the written memorials still extant sought out, compared, and committed to the keeping of the art preservative of all arts. Winthrop, in his Journal, speaks of a letter from the Yarmouth pilgrims to their brethren, with their names, as printed at London in 1630. The instructions to Endecott, the first Governor of Massachusetts Bay, were "Keep a daily register in each family of what is done by all and every person in the family."

In Young's Chronicles of Plymouth (p. 36) and of Massachusetts Bay (p. 157), lists of names of emigrants are referred to, but the lists themselves are not given.

Even with several good works upon the recently appearing Huguenots, much genealogical labor remains to be performed in tracing the lineage of particular families to France and investigating their condition before their emigration. I have often sought, though without success, the records of the Old French Church in Boston, which stood on the site of the Universalist Church on School Street.

NOTES.

1. The family name of Stephen Butler's wife and any other particulars respecting him have yet to be ascertained, except the record of the births of his children, which is extracted from the city registers of Boston, formerly kept in the Old State House. As he became a father in Boston within little more than twenty years after its first settlement, it may be presumed that he was

an emigrant from Europe.

2. Benjamin Butler. The different dates in this and similar cases denote the births of different children bearing the same name; the former probably died before the advent of the latter.

3. James Butler probably died before 1692 if Grace Butler, married to Andrew Rankin April 15th, of that year, by Simon Bradstreet, was his widow.

4. Information about the kindred of Abigail Eustice may doubtless be found in the public records of Boston.

5. James Butler was a proprietor in a rope walk at West Boston; was married April 6, 1710, by Rev. E. Pemberton of the Old South. He was probably admitted to the First Church on Jan. 24, 1703-4. A folio Bible with Clarke's annotations, now in my possession, as an heirloom from my father and grandfather, bears the name of this James Butler, my grandfather's grandfather, and the date 1713, doubtless written by his own hand.

6. Grace Butler was married on Dec. 26, 1706, to Thomas Jackson, by Benjamin Wadsworth, minister of the first church. She had several children, Grace, Thomas, and Elisabeth, and died on March 15, 1759.

7. Eliza Butler was admitted to the first church on November 25, 1706, and married Capt. Ephraim Savage, Jan. 8, 1712. Nothing further is known of her.

8. James Butler was, by trade, a goldsmith. About 1750, he removed to Halifax, Nova Scotia, but proving unfortunate in his enterprise, he soon returned to Boston. He lived a while in Sutton, Ms., but died in Boston in 1776, aged 63.

9. Although I have abstained from full details of collateral lines, I am constrained to give them respecting Elisabeth Davie since her line of ancestry is so long.

John Davie of Exeter, Eng. = = Julian Strode.

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John. Mary, = = Humphrey, a London

| merchant.

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John, removed from = Elisabeth Richards. Ann, d. Sept.

London and settled | 12, 1662.

in Groton, Ms., 1662. |

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(a) John, graduated (b) Humphrey of Mary. William. Elisabeth. Sarah.

at Harvard, 1681, Dorchester, = (c) Hannah Gedney.

became baronet |

in 1713, presented |

books to Yale College. |-----|

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Elisabeth, d. Feb. == (8) James Butler.

15, 1739.

(a) This nobleman's lineage, heraldic emblazonings, and the like may be found in Burke's Peerage of England; "vix ea nostra voco."

(b) Humphrey Davie was a captain in the London trade. Hence his daughter had many fine dresses. One of these now belongs to her granddaughter, Mrs. Sarah Kingsbury of Oxford, Ms.

It is of brocade, with many-colored figures embroidered upon a ground of green. It has two skirts, each of seven breadths, a long bodice to be worn with a satin stomacher, sleeves short at the elbows, with flowing ruffles. A silver tabby christening, or to use a better expression, baptismal blanket, now in my possession, is said to have been made of another of my great-grandmother's dresses. There is a family tradition that these dresses were pawned by her husband after her death and redeemed by her son.

(c) Hannah Gedney's lineage, so far as I can trace it, is as follows;

John Gedney, b. 1603; d. Aug. 5, 1688; == Mary ----.

Admitted to the church in Salem, Nov. 19, 1637. == Catherine ----.

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Sarah. Eli. Bartholomew, Eleazer. John, lost at sea, == ----.

baptized, June |
14, 1640, |
Freeman, 1669; d. |
March 1, 1698. |
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William, b. 1668; m. 1690; d. 1730. == Hannah Gardner.

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Hannah, == (b) Humphrey Davie.

10. James Butler was brought up to the trade of a hatter; was married May 10, 1763, by Rev. Andrew Eliot of New North Church; in Aug. 1774, fled with his wife and six children under ten years of age, to Georgetown, Me., a four days' voyage. He was driven to this flight by the Boston port bill, which brought all business to a stand. After remaining four years in Maine, he returned to Boston and soon removed to Oxford, Ms., where he resided till his death on Dec. 20, 1827, aged 88.

11. Mary Sigourney was the great-granddaughter of a Sigourney, who, being a Huguenot, fled from Rochelle in France, with his wife and four small children, in 1685. This first emigrant was among the first settlers in Oxford; Ms. and some of his children married there. Through fear of Indians, he removed to Boston. I have made out an extensive table of his posterity, but on account of its length, I must refrain from inserting it here, except so far as to my family. Among

the descendants of this Huguenot exile are the Brimmers, the Inches, and the Dexters, of Boston; the Commander of the Schooner Asp, killed by the British in the Potomac in 1813; and the husband of our most popular poetess.

---- Sigourney, = ----.

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Andrew, m. ab. = Germaine ----.

1701, at Oxford. |

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Anthony, b. Boston, Aug. 17, 1713, =[W]Mary Waters.

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(11) Mary, b. March 23, 1741; m., May 18, 1763; = (10) James Butler.

was early taught French by her grandmother,

as the tongue of her ancestors;

consulted by Dr. Holmes as to Huguenot

annals; had the covenant propounded to

her at the New North Church, Feb. 22, 1761.

12. James Davie Butler was born in Boston on Oct. 5, 1765. In 1786, he left a school he was teaching in Oxford to be a volunteer against Shays. Emigrated to Rutland, Vt., in Aug. 1787; was at first a hatter; in 1792, became a merchant, and continued in trade fifty years, till his death,

June 3, 1842.

He was married Aug. 22, 1802, to the widow Rachel Maynard, and March 15, 1827, to Lois Harris. He represented the town of Rutland in the Vermont Legislature for the years 1812 and 1813. In the year 1814, he was a member of the State Council.

His first wife was the daughter of Capt. Israel Harris of Williamstown, Ms., who went with Ethan Allen's Green Mountain Boys to take Ticonderoga and was an officer in the battle of Bennington.

13. This infant of days may be noticeable as being the seventh of those who, in one unbroken line during one hundred and eighty-one years, have been born the name of James.

FOOTNOTES:

[V]This and the other figures at the head of names refer to the notes following this Table.

[W]Mary Waters was of Welsh extraction. She owned a copy of Flavel in two volumes folio (London, 1740,) which is now in my hands. Miss Mary Butler of Rutland, Vt still preserves one of her brocade dresses.