

SOME ACCOUNT OF DEACON JOHN BUTLER OF PELHAM,
N. H., AND OF HIS DESCENDANTS.

BY CALEB BUTLER OF GROTON.

JOHN BUTLER, the *propositus* of the family registers hereinafter given, was born at Woburn, in the county of Middlesex, Mass., July 22, 1677. He was the son of James Butler, whose name appears in the tax lists of Woburn for the years 1676, 1677, and 1678; but the name of Butler is not afterwards found in the records of Woburn till John became twenty-one years of age, whence it is inferred that the father died soon after the birth of John. Whether he had other children than John is not known with certainty. One of the third generation is remembered to have said, that John had a brother *Simon* or *Simeon*, who lived at the south. By "south" might be meant Connecticut or New York, and possibly some of the name now there are his descendants.

Neither the precise time when, nor the particular place whence, the ancestor emigrated and came to America, is known. There is a tradition among the descendants of John, that their ancestor came into this country at the age of only four years; and that in after life he remembered not from what country he came. His own name only was all the account he could give of himself; so it would probably be in vain for them to endeavour to trace their lineage from the famous Duke of Ormond,* Lord Lieu-

* That such is their descent, however, is by no means impossible. The following somewhat abridged account is taken from a British publication, which may be not wholly uninteresting to such as would be proud of and lay claim to a noble ancestry:—

"The family of BUTLER is one of the most ancient and illustrious in the British dominions; and for the services which at different periods it rendered to the crown, it has obtained titles of honor in each of the kingdoms which constitute the empire.

I. "THOMAS BUTLER, Esq., of Clonghgrenan in the county of Carlow, supposed to be lineally descended from Sir Edward Butler, Kt. 2d son of James, 9th Earl of Ormonde, was created a Baronet of Ireland Aug. 16, 1628. He represented the county of Carlow in Parliament 1639, m. Ann, daughter of Sir Thomas Colclough, Kt. of Tynterne Abbey, by whom he had four sons and three daughters. He was succeeded by his eldest son,

II. SIR EDMUND, who m. Juliana, daughter of Bernard Hyde, Esq., of Shinfield, Co. of Berks, and was succeeded by his eldest son,

III. SIR THOMAS of Garryhendon, who m. Jane, daughter of Rt. Rev. Richard Boyle, D. D., Lord Bishop of Leighlin and Ferns. He represented the county of Carlow in 1692, and was succeeded by his eldest son,

IV. SIR PIERCE, member of Parliament for the Co. of Carlow 1713, m. Anne, daughter of Joshua Galliard, Esq., and was succeeded by his son,

V. SIR RICHARD, M. P. for the same Co. from 1739 to 1761, m. Henrietta, daughter and coheir of Henry Piercy, Esq., had four sons and six daughters, and was succeeded by his eldest son,

VI. SIR THOMAS, M. P. for the same Co., who m. Dorathea, only daughter of Edward Bayley, D. D., Arch. Deacon of Dublin, and neice of Sir Nicholas Bayley, Bart. of Plas Newth, had four sons and four daughters, and was succeeded by his eldest son,

VII. SIR RICHARD, M. P. for the same Co. from 1783 to 1800, m. Sarah, only daughter of Thomas Worth Newingham, Esq., and was succeeded by his son,

VIII. SIR THOMAS, Bart. of Garryhendon; Jan. 12, 1812, m. Frances Graham, fourth dau. of John Graham Clark, Esq., by whom he has two sons and seven daughters."

Now, of the multitude of possibilities supposable in the case, one is, that James Butler of Woburn, had his descent from the family of Ormond, and was collaterally related to the noble family here traced. It has been thought he was related to Stephen Butler of Boston, whose family register is given in the Register for April, 1847, Vol. I. No. 2; but by having a son in 1677 it appears he was too old to be his son.

One of the sons of Dea. John Butler was inclined to inquisitiveness on the subject of pedigree, and often inquired of foreigners whom he happened to see, if there were Butlers in their country? When in advanced age, and confined to his bed by a chronic rheumatism, one just from Ireland happened to call in, of whom he made his usual inquiry, and upon receiving an affirmative answer, he observed, that they were of noble blood, that the

tenant of Ireland, or from the great and good Bishop, whose "Analogy" has rendered his name immortal. Equally unavailing would the task be to prove that a slip from the humorous author of *Hudibras* formed the stock from which they are shoots; or that they are the collateral kindred of the present Earl of Ormond of the House of Lords, or of the member of the House of Commons from the county of Kilkenny, of whom each has the cognomen of BUTLER. The Emerald Isle, however, was undoubtedly the country from which their ancestors emigrated, and the Irish the nation with whom they share nationality.

John Butler was first taxed in Woburn, Aug. 8, 1698, and for the last time in 1721. The births of eight of his children are there recorded.

Jonathan Tyng of Woburn, March 8, 1721, conveyed by deed to John Butler of said Woburn, 450 acres of land lying in Dunstable, next adjoining Dracut line, and soon after another parcel of 150 acres adjoining the first lot. The line between Dunstable and Dracut at that time is known to have run from "a pine tree in sight of beaver brook" to long pond, crossing the "mammoth" road now so called, near the school house and burying-place in the southwesterly part of Pelham. Hence it appears that John Butler's land was situated in a territory afterwards included in Nottingham west, and subsequent to establishment of the state line, incorporated into the town of Pelham, and is the same upon which he and many of his posterity lived and died, and where some of his descendants still reside. It appears that he removed from Woburn to take possession of his lands in the spring of 1721-2.

Proprietors of wild lands in this region about this time erected a building on the site of Mr. Benjamin Cutter's present dwelling house for the purpose of encouraging settlers in those regions, by giving them the use and occupation of it while preparing habitations of their own on such lands as they might purchase.

It is believed that John Butler, who was one of the first who settled in this region, availed himself of the privilege tendered, and occupied the building till he built a house on the land he had purchased of Mr. Tyng. This he erected on a spot between the present house and barn of Mr. John Gage, upon or near the easterly side of the present travelled mammoth road. It was constructed of pine logs, hewn and locked or dovetailed together at the corners, with a ditch and palisades around it, and portholes through the logs on all sides of convenient height for shooting in case of an attack by the Indians. A draw-bridge was thrown across the ditch by day, which was drawn up by night. It was the expressed desire of the builder and occupant of this log cabin or garrison, that it might remain as long as its timbers would hold together, as a memento to his posterity of the courage, perseverance, and endurance of the pioneers in that wilderness. It stood about four score years after its erection to be viewed by two generations after him, and then was taken down, and all traces of its foundation are now obliterated.

Little is known of the character of him who is here placed at the head of this Butler family, except what is inferred from his history thus brief, and from a few records of the towns in which he lived. The solitary wilderness was not a favorable position for the development of intellectual endowments, or if possessed, for their being recorded and transmitted to pos-

Duke of Ormond was a Butler, and farther inquired, "Were they not of high blood?" "Yes, in faith," answered the stranger, in true national ingenuousness, "I have seen some of them so high that they stood upon nothing."

terity. It appears that at the first meeting in Nottingham west, (now Hudson) he was chosen town clerk and a selectman, which offices he held several years. He is styled Deacon in the records both of Hudson and Pelham, and must have been one of the first in both places. He was the progenitor of a numerous race of hardy, robust, honest yeomanry. The small, rough stone which marks the spot of his interment in the common burying-place a little south from where his humble dwelling stood, bears the following inscription rudely engraved upon it:

D
John
Butler
1759. A
82.

From the records of Woburn and other reliable sources, we have the following register of his children:

I. JOHN BUTLER and ELIZABETH his wife.

- 1 Elizabeth, b. Sept. 4, 1704, m. Ephraim Cummings.
- 2 John, b. June 22, 1706, m. { Mary Hamblet,
Ruth Wyman.
- 3 Samuel, b. May 3, 1708, m. { Mary Wright,
Elizabeth Johnson, wid.
- 4 Sarah, b. Jan. 10, 1709-10, d. unm. Sept. 21, 1723.
- 5 Joseph, b. Dec. 1, 1713, m. { Abigail Nourse,
Hannah Gragg,
Mary Ladd.
- 6 Phebe, b. Jan. 25, 1714-15, m. John Durant.
- 7 Mary, b. Dec. 27, 1716, m. Benjamin Durant.
- 8 Jacob, b. Nov. 10, 1718, m. Mary Eames.
- 9 Abigail, b. Nov. 5, 1720, m. Henry Baldwin.
- 10 Sarah, b. Nov. 9, 1724, m. { Jonathan Morgan,
Josiah Hamblet.

The four sons above named of the second generation, settled, lived to a good old age, and died in the westerly part of Pelham; namely, John lived on the west side of Gumpus brook, where the Messrs. Seavys now live; Samuel first on the Spafford farm north of the garrisoned house, and in 1747 removed to the foot of Jeremy's hill, on the farm now owned by his grandson, Mr. Phineas Butler; Joseph at the northwest corner of the town, at the mills now owned by Mr. Nehemiah Butler, his grandson; and Jacob on the homestead, owning the mills on Gumpus brook, near its outlet from the pond of the same name. The death of Sarah, the fourth child, is said to have been caused by a beard of rye getting into her nose and producing inflammation. It is believed she was the first person buried in the common burying-place in that part of the town. The other daughters all married, and the registers following are complete, or nearly so, of the third generation.

An incident which happened in this family at an early period of their residence in the garrisoned house deserves notice, to perpetuate its remembrance. Jacob and Phebe, being small children, went into the woods towards evening one day in April, to observe where the pigeons chose their roosting places, that they might go in the night with torches, decoy them down and take them, which they understood might easily be done. After strolling about for some time, and night approaching, they commenced their return, and coming to a spruce swamp in which the pigeons would probably roost, one took the right and the other the left side of the swamp, agreeing to meet at the other end. Phebe arrived at the place appointed, but Jacob

becoming bewildered, did not meet her. After waiting as long as she dared for her brother, she was fortunate enough to find her way to the log house. Search was immediately commenced with torches and hallooings, but without success. Jacob, meanwhile, unable to find either his sister or his way home, looked out the best lodging the wilderness afforded. Finding an old hollow tree fallen down, he crept into it feet foremost, the better to defend himself from wild beasts or to crawl out on any emergency. On hearing the hallooing and seeing the lights of those in search of him he left his lodging place; but finding they were far off and not approaching him, and fearing he might not find so convenient lodging elsewhere, he crept back and lay till morning. As to the time and manner of his getting home, tradition is lost; but on his arrival, the first refreshment he received was a dish of pancakes. These were so delicious to his taste that ever afterwards during his life, on the same day of April annually, he would have the same dish provided, and that day in his calendar became the *Feast of Pancakes*.

(I. 1.)

II. ELIZABETH BUTLER m. EPHRAIM CUMMINGS, Nottingham West, supposed.

- 1 Peter, b. Dec. 8, 1733, m. — Richardson.
- 2 Sarah, b. May 12, 1736, m. Samuel Page.
- 3 David, b. May 20, 1728, m. — Butterfield.
- 4 Elizabeth, b. Oct. 26, 1740, m. Nathaniel Hazelton.
- 5 Ephraim, b. April 9, 1743, m. Betsey Merrill.
- 6 Hannah, b. April 29, 1745, m. Joseph Cummings.
- 7 Priscilla, b. July 7, 1747, m. Jonathan Lund.

(I. 2.)

II. JOHN BUTLER m. { MARY HAMBLET,
RUTH WYMAN.

- 1 Mary, b. March 22, 1737, m. { Benjamin Barker,
James Barnet, or Barnard.
- 2 John, b. Dec. 29, 1738, m. Mary Greely.
- 3 Nathan, b. March 6, 1741, m. Hannah Hale.
- 4 David, b. Dec. 7, 1743, m. Rebekah Chase.
- 5 Jonathan, b. Jan. 11, 1745-6, d. young.
- 6 Elizabeth, b. April 12, 1748, m. Henry Hale.
- 7 Jonathan, b. May 19, 1756, { by a 2nd wife. { m. Sarah Tarbox.
- 8 Ruth, b. March 14, 1761, { m. John Tarbox.

(I. 3.)

II. SAMUEL BUTLER m. { MARY WRIGHT.
ELIZABETH JOHNSON, wid.

- 1 Mary, b. March 22, 1737, m. Daniel Barker.
 - 2 Benjamin, b. Feb. 12, 1740, d. young.
 - 3 Caleb, b. July 25, 1741, m. Rebekah Frost.
 - 4 Samuel, b. June 20, 1743, d. young.
 - 5 Deborah, b. Sept. 4, 1744, d. young.
 - 6 Bulah, b. Jan. 1, 1746-7, m. John Muzzey.
- All by first wife.

(I. 5.)

II. JOSEPH BUTLER m. { ABIGAIL NOURSE,
HANNAH GRAGG,
MARY LADD.

- 1 Abigail, b. Sept. 21, 1742, by first wife, m. Joseph Wilson of Dracut.
- 2 Nehemiah, b. March 26, 1749, { by 2nd wife. { m. Lydia Wood.
- 3 Gideon, b. March 24, 1751, { m. Mary Rogers.
- 4 Molly, b. Dec. 15, 1755, m. Timothy Ladd.
- 5 Jesse, b. Dec. 15, 1757, m. { Molly Greely,
Mchitable Duty.
- 6 Thaddeus, b. Nov. 15, 1759, m. — Beetle.
- 7 Hannah, b. June 26, 1761, m. George Tallant.
- 8 Phebe, b. Aug. 27, 1763, d. unm.
- 9 Elijah, b. April 13, 1765, m. — Fifield.

- 10 James, b. March 2, 1767, d. unm.
 11 William, b. April 2, 1769, d. unm.
 12 Abigail, b. May 11, 1771, d. young.

(I. 6.)

II. PHEBE BUTLER m. JOHN DURANT of Billerica.

- 1 Olive, b. Aug. 29, 1739.
 2 Phebe, b. Oct. 14, 1741.
 3 Sarah, b. Nov. 1, 1743.
 4 Joshua, b. Nov. 30, 1745.
 5 Levi, b. July 9, 1748.

(I. 7.)

II. MARY BUTLER m. BENJAMIN DURANT of Billerica.

- 1 Thomas, b. March 3, 1738-9.
 2 Mary, b. June 23, 1740.
 3 Benjamin, b. June , 1741.

(I. 8.)

II. JACOB BUTLER m. MARY EAMES.

- 1 Jacob, b. Aug. 20, 1747, m. Sally Morgan.
 2 Daniel, b. Oct. 23, 1748, m. Molly Tenney.
 3 Mary, b. June 4, 1750, m. Hon. Joseph B. Varnum.
 4 Jonathan, b. d. young.
 5 Phebe, b. Feb. 6, 1761, m. Benjamin Barker.
 6 Jonathan, b. May 24, 1762, m. Rebecca Hardy.

(I. 9.)

II. ABIGAIL BUTLER m. HENRY BALDWIN of Shrewsbury.

- 1 Mary, b. Dec. 22, 1743, m. Elisha Ward of Petersham.
 2 Zerniah, b. Dec. 25, 1745, m. Jonathan Hewood, Jr., of Concord.
 3 Abigail, b. April 9, 1748, m. Dr. Abraham Holland of Walpole, N. H.
 4 Relief, b. Dec. 7, 1750, m. William Hammond of Newton.
 5 Henry, b. d. young.
 6 Henry, b. Mar. 12, 1753, m. Azubah Keyes.
 7 Lucretia, b. Nov. 12, 1756, m. Jonas Stone of Leicester.
 8 Thaddeus, b. Dec. 7, 1758, m. Abigail Rice.
 9 Life, b. April 25, 1763, m. Mary Holland.
 10 Tilly, b. Aug. 10, 1770, d. young.

(I. 10.)

II. SARAH BUTLER m. { JONATHAN MORGAN,
JOSIAH HAMBLET.

- | | | | |
|-------------|--------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1 Ashby, | b. March 22, 1749, | } By Morgan. { | m. Hannah Greely. |
| 2 Sarah, | b. June 6, 1753, | | m. Jacob Butler. |
| 3 Jonathan, | b. March 26, 1756, | | m. Lydia Jones. |
| 4 Benjamin, | b. March 21, 1761, | } By Hamblet. { | m. Polly Wilson. |
| 5 David, | b. July 3, 1763, | | m. Sarah Wyman. |

All the children of these nine families, comprising the third generation, were born within the present limits of Pelham, except those of E. Cummings, the Durants, and three or four of Henry Baldwin's, and all are dead.

David, Nehemiah, and Jacob, severally, at different times represented the town in the General Court. Nathan and David were militia officers, having been soldiers in the war of the Revolution. Elijah, without more than a common school education, studied physic, and practised in Weare, N. H.

(I. 2. II. 1.)

III. MARY BUTLER m. { BENJAMIN BARKER,
JAMES BARNET, OF BARNARD.

- 1 *Benjamin, b. Oct. 26, 1757, by Barker, m. Phebe Butler.

(I. 2. II. 2.)

III. JOHN BUTLER m. MARY GREELY.

- 1 Asa, b. Oct. 7, 1781, m. Rebecca Gould.

- 2 *Rachel, b. Sept. 5, 1783, d. young.
- 3 John, b. July 15, 1785, lives in Wisconsin.
- 4 Henry, b. July 27, 1787, lives in state of New York.
- 5 *Molly, b. July 14, 1789, d. young.
- 6 Joel, b. Sept. 12, 1791, m. Deborah Gage.
- 7 Richard, b. June 7, 1793, m. Sarah J. Jones.
- 8 Joshua, b. July 29, 1796, m. Persis Gage.
- 9 James, b. Jan. 5, 1799, lives in Wisconsin.
- 10 Polly, b. Oct. 18, 1800, m. — Peasley.

(I. 2. II. 3.)

III. NATHAN BUTLER m. HANNAH HALE.

Had no children.

(I. 2. II. 4.)

III. DAVID BUTLER m. REBEKAH CHASE.

- 1 *Rhoda, b. July 11, 1774, d. young.
- 2 *David, b. April 7, 1776, m. Polly Chickering of East Andover, Me.
- 3 *Isaac, b. March 13, 1779, m. Nancy Chaplin.
- 4 *Betsey, b. March 13, 1781, d. unm.
- 5 *Enoch, b. Nov. 25, 1782, m. Susanna Marsh.
- 6 Nathan, b. May 14, 1785, m. Sally Roby of Bedford, N. H.
- 7 *Rebecca, b. Dec. 29, 1788, d. unm.
- 8 Thomas, b. May 24, 1790, m. Hannah Gould.

(I. 2. II. 6.)

III. ELIZABETH BUTLER m. HENRY HALE of Nottingham West.

1 Henry

(I. 2. II. 7.)

III. JONATHAN BUTLER m. SARAH TARBOX.

- 1 *Renben, b. Oct. 10, 1782, d. young.
- 2 *Jonathan, b. May 18, 1785, d. unm.
- 3 Delilah, b. Nov. 16, 1787, m. Asa Merrill.
- 4 Levi, b. Oct. 30, 1789, m. — Merrill.
- 5 *Sally, b. Sept. 13, 1794, d. young.
- 6 *James, b. April 24, 1796, d. unm.
- 7 *Polly, b. March 24, 1798, d. young.
- 8 Darius, b. Jan. 24, 1805, m. Laura S. Whittier.

(I. 2. II. 8.)

III. RUTH BUTLER m. JOHN TARBOX.

- 1 Lucy, b. June 28, 1779.
- 2 James P., b. Nov. 10, 1781.
- 3 *Samuel, b. Feb. 16, 1784, d. young.
- 4 Samuel, b. Oct. 30, 1786.
- 5 William, b. April 13, 1788.
- 6 John, b. June 6, 1791.
- 7 Polly, b. June 17, 1795.
- 8 Eliza, b. Aug. 27, 1797.

(I. 3. II. 1.)

III. MARY OR MOLLY BUTLER m. DANIEL BARKER.

- 1 *Samuel, b. Oct. 18, 1760, m. Nabby Pettingale.
- 2 *Daniel, b. March 5, 1763, d. unm.
- 3 *Benjamin, b. Dec. 12, 1764, m.
- 4 *James, b. Aug. 18, 1766, d. young.
- 5 Mary, b. July 11, 1768.
- 6 *Theodore, b. Aug. 17, 1770, d. young.
- 7 *Stephen, b. June 7, 1773, d. young.
- 8 James, b. March 13, 1776, m. Betsey Dimond.
- 9 Mehitabel, b. May 27, 1778.
- 10 Abigail, b. Nov. 14, 1782.
- 11 Stephen, b. Jan. 5, 1785, m. { *Terrier
and two others.

[To be continued.]