

**BUTLERIANA, GENEALOGICA ET  
BIOGRAPHICA, OR, GENEALOGICAL NOTES  
CONCERNING MARY BUTLER AND HER  
DESCENDANTS, AS WELL AS THE BATES,  
HARRIS, SIGOURNEY AND OTHER FAMILIES,  
WITH WHICH THEY HAVE INTERMARRIED**

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Butleriana, Genealogica Et Biographica, or, Genealogical Notes Concerning Mary Butler and Her Descendants, as Well as the Bates, Harris, Sigourney and Other Families, with Which They Have Intermarried by James Davie Butler

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**JAMES DAVIE BUTLER**

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Genealogical notes concerning

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THEY HAVE INTERMARRIED.

BY

JAMES DAVIE BUTLER.

*In Memoriam Majorum, Abi numerantur avorum.*



ALBANY, N. Y.

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1888

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## PREFACE.

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*"Honor thy Father and thy Mother."*

Whoever writes his father's name on his father's tombstone is an incipient genealogist. He shows the germ of a feeling which, if it could, would write indelibly the names of all his progenitors, even back to his first father. He is therefore guilty of inconsistency, if he hems in his genealogical interest by the record in his ancestral Bible or by family tradition. Moreover, he who forgets the past has no claim to be remembered by the future.

Our public records are not without genealogical value, and we should make the most of them. But it cannot be enough regretted that regarding lineage they are so far inferior to those of a neighbor we are prone to despise. In the Canadian Bureau of Archives "the merest peasant finds the complete record of his family history, extending back to the ancestor who left his hamlet in the old France to seek a home in the wilds of the new France. As one stands before the cases that contain the three hundred manuscript volumes of which this remarkable work



is composed, each volume labeled and ready for the printer, a feeling of admiration must arise for a people who can leave to posterity such monuments of its individual life."

Only one of my connections,—a Sigourney,—has published anything concerning our lineage. Material for it is scanty and scattered. Just for this reason have I felt it incumbent on me to gather the fragments that were dropping out of sight and out of mind, as well as to put them in charge of the art preservative of all arts. Thus I would fain garner up such knowledge of our family past as may help forecast the future, or at least serve as a stepping-stone to further research.

This work was commenced in September, 1839, while the writer was a student in Andover. Aside from Family Records in Bibles, the details first secured were mainly derived from ancient registers concerning births, marriages and deaths then preserved in manuscript in the Old State House, Boston. In this way the Butler lineage was traced up to the birth of the first-born of Stephen, Aug. 2, 1653. Further than this it seemed impossible to go. In 1847 the *New England Historical and Genealogical Register* published, in its April number, an outline of whatever particulars had been up to that time discovered. It was not till thirteen years afterward that I learned that the mother of Stephen Butler was named Mary,—and that in his childhood she was married to a second husband, Benjamin Ward. For these facts as well as for a copy

of her will, I was indebted to a total stranger, Andrew H. Ward of West Newton, a favor I shall never forget.

My mother's father, Israel Harris (505) survived till I was twenty-one years old, and I often met him. My genealogical tastes were, however, still in embryo, and when they began to develop I soon ascertained that no one of his descendants could inform me either where he was born, or the christian name of his father. Most people called that name Timothy or Israel. In fact it was John. This true name, however, remained hid from me till 1886, largely because I had grown up in the belief that my grand-father's birth had been in Sharon, Conn., and when convinced by Gen. Sedgwick that this notion was a mistake, I was taught by him to look for what I sought in Nine Partners, Dutchess Co., N. Y. The true birth-place Cornwall, first came to my knowledge when I obtained the pension-claim of Israel Harris (505) from Washington. Nor was I able to trace the Harris lineage-line back of Israel's father until the year 1888.

Minutiae regarding earliest ancestors have been chronicled, so far as possible, either as curious, or characteristic, or in the hope that these small handles would help at length to draw greater things out "of the dark backward and abysm of time." Similar is my reason for inserting wills and various public documents. In a dark night the faintest gleam has its value.

In this book that which is wanting cannot be

numbered. But it embodies the gleanings of a half century. It garners up fragments which could not now,—all of them,—be gathered by any painstaking no matter how great. It will give a sort of vantage-ground for further research to others after me who shall consider the days of old and apply themselves to the search of their fathers. I am only sorry that I know no one among my kin or kith who, as a critic, has earned the right to throw the first stone at me, by giving a tithe of the attention which I have given to our family genealogy. To those observant of the strong connections and nice dependences of heredity and kindred, my endeavors will not seem to have been wasted.

Notices of corrections or additions which may occur to readers will be very welcome to the author.

JAMES DAVIE BUTLER.

MADISON, WISCONSIN, MAY, 1888.