

*To the Descendants of  
Matthias Button, who  
came to America with  
Governor John Endicott,  
landing at Salem, New  
England, Sept. 6, 1628.*

---





**A. BUTTON**

**1897**

**Injured by premature discharge of cannon in 1858**



"THE WRITER IN 1864"

*To the descendants of Matthias Button, who came to  
America with Governor John Endicott, land-  
ing at Salem, New England, Sept. 6, 1628:*

---

THEIR having been recognized as the promoter and compiler of the Button genealogy at intervals for 22 years up to 1910, at which time, by reason of wife's continued illness since 1905, and since 1908 a helpless invalid, can neither walk or stand alone, and the incurrence of enormous expenses, and nearly exhausted resources, resulting therefrom, we could not therefore, consistently continue to assume the additional responsibility and expense of closing the records, by locating the missing links in the chain of descent of which there are several as yet unavailable without which the work would be incomplete.

We were therefore compelled to select a competent and trustworthy person to relieve us from further responsibility by becoming our successor in closing of the records and final publication thereof as contemplated and outlined by us.

We have accordingly been very fortunate in selecting Dr. C. A. Button, of Holland, Erie County, N. Y., as our successor, to whom we have assigned our interests in the prospective publication and transferred our unfinished compilation with our collection of family records pertaining thereto. (Except our remaining pamphlet sketches of 1877 to 1903) which we retained; also as a consideration of such transfer we have received 150 copies, of a Book entitled Mother and Daughter, an advice to the Maiden, Wife and Mother, a neat and substantially bound book, in

red flexible leather of which the Doctor is the Author.

It has been extensively sold by lady canvassers to subscribers at One Dollar per Copy and is a masterly work and evidently is highly prized wherever introduced judging from the numerous testimonials sent me with the books which I propose to mail to any address on receipt of 60 cts. per copy or the same together with a copy of either of our sketches of 1889 or 1903 on receipt of One Dollar or all three at \$1.50 or single copies of either of the latter at 50 cents. These pamphlet sketches contain much interesting information of the family and was published at considerable expense for the purpose of aiding descendants in locating their family line of descent. The issue of 1889 is an outline sketch of the emigrant and descendants of the 2nd and 3rd generation obtained from public records giving the year of their births, deaths, and marriages.

I still retain a deep interest in the publication of this book and shall aid in making this life work a final success to the extent of my ability and if the doctor publishes the book as outlined by us, it will include an extensive collection of extracts from the County Genealogical histories of England and Wales, relating to Buttons.

Our possible antecedents dating back to 1037 when the first of the name settled in Wiltshire, England and established his home at the Manor of Bilton. He was an armoured Knight from Normandy, France, named Robert (or Robertus) DeBilton, son of Adam Amanaville as occurs on record (Amneville is the style) as per quaint works on the Origin of Names, DeBethune, De Betonne DeBilton, Bulton, Button, as variously rendered, (1st French) subsequently old English.

The name was not recorded Button until about the 13th century. The following from Nichols Herald and

Genealogist, Manor of Bilton Co. Gloucestershire England, page 193. Adam DeAmneville had a son Robert, occurs on record as Robert DeBilton, (or Robertus de Bilton an ancestor of the family of this name.

The Effigy of the first Robert de Bilton was discovered in the church yard of St. Mary's at Bilton in 1826 on the south side close to the church, the site, no doubt, of what was a Mortuary Chapel of the founders. It is carved on the lid of the coffin, partly in relief and partly incised as shown by an engraving. The Armour shows he must have been the first of the name. His shield is charged with a *fesse gules* the upper outline of which is not distinctly shown.

A branch of the English family settled in Wales about the 13th century. History of Glamorganshire Wales, page 113.

Buttons of Worlton, Dyffron and Cottrel.

Sir Thomas LeGrant Button married Gresley (or Grissyl) the Welsh heiress, of Dyffron probably late in the 13th century. His son, Howel Button, married Guinllian daughter of Lamkin, Turbeville, of Tyshigston, his mother being Lucy, daughter and Co-heir of Sir John Norris Knight of Penlline Castle.

We find the Buttons of Dyffron, Wales, filling the office of sheriff of Glamorgan County, Wales, 1556, 1564, 1588, 1641; 1666, 1709 and 1727.

Not long after this the male line of the family became extinct and the family of Pryce entered Dyffron by the name of Thomas Pryce with the heiress of the place, the latter willed the Estate to her cousin who married a Rev. Mr. Guinnette who at his wife's decease claimed the estate by the will of his wife, the title to which has for many years been contested and is still in abeyance and certain of the heirs by another name is still working on the descent and title to the estate of Dyffron. By the marriage

with the Rev. Mr. Guinnette there was a son named Button Guinnette who came to America in Colonial times and became a signer of the Declaration of Independence.

I have a lady correspondent in Chautauqua Co., N. Y. who sent me a copy of her vast collection of notes obtained from the County Genealogical History of Glamorganshire, Wales and other authentic sources during her several years of research and she hints that she hopes to be able soon to report matters of great interest to Buttons in America. This lady has during many years been principal teacher in the public high schools of Chatauqua Co., N. Y.

The largest collection of Button data obtained from England and Wales in our search for a possible lineage was transcribed for us by a lady of sixteen years experience in the public library of New York City, six years of the time in the employ of the New York Historical and Genealogical Society as a critic in correcting family records etc.

We have thus given the interested reader some idea respecting the scope of our research in an effort to trace our ancient lineage which has disclosed the fact that the name is found in Europe among the highest class of nobility both by birth and intermarriage, many of whom were Bishops, and Archdeacons etc., having large estates City and Country Seats, Arms, Crests and Mottoes.

Dr. C. A. Button of Holland, N. Y. is in every way competent and trustworthy to carry out the trust assumed as our successor, and is rapidly bringing order out of chaos, who if reasonably encouraged by contributions of family records will soon be able to complete the records ready for publication.

He is a lineal descendent of Peter, the youngest son of Matthias the emigrant, while we are descended from Matthias Jr., the eldest son; He has accurately compiled

the family records of his own family line from more recent ancestry down to the latest births of the present generation a copy of which he generously contributed to our collection. We can therefore recommend him to the trust and patronage of all interested parties, as one who will do justice to both branches of the family without partiality.

### MISSING LINKS

Wanted Parentage of Jesse Button Sr. late of Canterbury, Conn., born 1749 died 1783

Roswell Batton, Sr. late of Preston, Conn., born 1746 died 1820

Abner Button, late of Jewett City, Conn., served in French and Indian War.

Jonathan Button Sr., late of E. Windsor, Conn. Married Naomi daughter of Elisha and Keziah (Taylor) Mansell.

Daniel Button, late of Groton, Conn. Married Elizabeth daughter of Matthias and Elizabeth (Butts) Button of Groton, Ct.

John Button Sr., late of Schaghticoke, N. Y., born at Jewett City, Conn. 1754, died 1832

We would request as a special favor from all to whom we mail this communication that if they have not hitherto sent a copy of their family record, either to us, or to the doctor, that they will do so at once, whether they order our little booklets or not and that they will send us a duplicate copy as a precautionary measure, as neither we nor the doctor have any loss or our lives.

Hoping you will cheer kindly favor us, we remain,

Sincerely Yours

Dated July 18, 1911

Address A. BUTTON

133 Hastings St.,

Grand Rapids, Mich.



GENEALOGICAL SKETCH  
OF THE  
EARLY DESCENDANTS  
OF

**Matthias Button,**

Who Came to America With Governor John Endicott,  
Landing at Salem, Mass., September  
6, 1628///Compiled From  
Authentic Sources.

---

A SECOND EDITION, AND  
PROSPECTUS,

**BY A. BUTTON,**  
SARANAC, MICH.

---

1903.



*Arms of Sir Thomas Button,  
bishop of Exeter, England,  
installed January 25, 1293.*

#### NOTE TO THE READER:

The original copy of this typescript book is somewhat faded in places, due to its age and the unevenness of the typing. Although we have made every effort to compensate for the flaws, there may be areas that do not meet our modern printing standards.

We apologize for any inconvenience, but feel the importance of this information dictates that it be reprinted and made available to researchers despite possible inadequacies.







To the descendants of Matthias Button, who came to America with Governor John Endicott, landing at Salem, Mass., September 6, 1628, and died at Haverhill, Mass., August 13, 1672, (Gen. Reg., Vol. VI, p. 246 and Haverhill T. Rec.):

The writer, a lineal descendant of said Matthias Button (being a great grandson of Matthias Button the 4th, son of Matthias and Mary (Brown) Button, his second wife, of Westerly, R. I., born there April 22, 1733, was of Canterbury and Groton, Ct., and died at Wells, Vt., in 1811), has, at intervals, during the past twenty years, been collecting family records—historical and biographical sketches of the aforesaid emigrant, his family and descendants—for the purpose of compiling and eventually publishing a genealogy of the family in America.

In 1889 the writer published an outline sketch of this ancestor, his family and early descendants, including also sketches of some of the later branches of the family, for the purpose of directing correspondents in locating their family lines and tracing their descent in aid of said project in co-operation with us in our efforts in compiling a new and enlarged edition to said sketch, and also to establish funds for reimbursement and incidental expenses incurred in carrying out said project preparatory to the publication of the proposed genealogy, by collecting \$1 per copy for said sketch. But notwithstanding many who best appreciated our efforts in this behalf, were liberal in ordering one or more copies of the sketch, there were others, however, who seemed lukewarm and indifferent, or perhaps not realizing the importance or pleasure of possessing such a family history of their antecedents, to be handed down to their posterity.

Not realizing sufficient from this source to enable us to push the work in hand, often requiring advances from \$1

to \$5 for copies of public records, we could only work as we received funds to work with; hence the unusual delay in the progress of our family enterprise, having already advanced all we could spare from our limited resources, which were largely in excess of receipts from the sale of said sketch.

But becoming impatient and determined to accomplish the purpose which we had voluntarily undertaken as promoter, and being slightly favored financially, we commenced to work public records more strenuously, and the result has been that within the past three years we have accomplished more than we had previously accomplished since the publication of said sketch in 1889. But, however, for every dollar received from the sale of said sketch we have advanced 50 per cent in excess.

We have now accumulated an extensive collection of family records and most interesting sketches of family history and individual biography of the several branches of the family from public records, local history and other authentic sources, which, when complete, is sufficient to fill space of at least 250 pages in a book of ordinary library size. The circulation of said sketch, our extended correspondence and searches made in localities where the family name is represented, has had the effect to excite the interest of many prominent members of the family, who vie with each other in collecting and contributing family records and interesting data in co-operation with us in this behalf, among whom are expert and professional genealogists, which materially increases our prospects of success.

In our first conception of the project as outlined in the advanced sketch of 1889, our estimate of the probable extent of time to be employed and cost of such an undertaking was subsequently found to have been considerably underestimated, as upon further investigation it was found that descendants greatly outnumbered our previous estimates thereof, and like many of the earlier settlers, had frequently changed their place of residence before settling down for life; it was, therefore, found very diffi-



cult in tracing them to those intermediate places where important records might be found.

The work as now outlined when the missing links in the several branches shall have been supplied will make a book of not less than 250 pages of ordinary size, as aforesaid, of small pica style of type, cloth bound and otherwise of good material, and will cost not less than \$400 for 500 copies, including the postage in delivering and exclusive of incidental expenses incurred in collecting the family records in closing the chain of descent, which is still incomplete in several of the family branches, as heretofore shown.

Now, therefore, it becomes expedient to devise some method by which the aforesaid sum may be contributed and advanced by the descendants in small installments, from time to time, as required in the progress of the work to be accomplished in this connection, and accordingly we have devised the following as being in our opinion the most feasible for the purpose, which we submit for consideration, viz:

To affix the price of \$5 per copy of said genealogy (which corresponds with the price of other genealogies of a like size), to be paid in equal installments of \$1.25 each; the first to be advanced when ordering a form of subscription prepared for the purpose, which is to be used to cover incidental expenses as heretofore specified; the second and third installment to be held subject to future advances, which may be shown to be necessary in the course of progress of the work in hand by a duly authenticated report of the receipts and disbursements, showing a deficiency of funds needed for said purpose in the regular progress of the work to be accomplished preparatory to the publication of said book; the fourth, and last, installment to be paid when notice shall be received by the subscriber, in due form, of the publication of said book and the same being ready for delivery thereof; provided, however, that said reports so made by us from time to time and notice of publication shall be certified and endorsed by an officer of our local bank or other promi-

nent party as being in accordance with the facts therein contained; and provided further, that no second or subsequent demand shall be made on the subscriber until there shall have been received at least 150 subscriptions for said book, which fact shall be noted in said report and duly verified as aforesaid. And in the event that the aforesaid number of subscriptions shall not have been so received, the publication of said book must, of necessity, be deferred and rest contingent upon the receipt of said number of subscriptions; and the money so received by the first advanced installment will be applied as reimbursement to cover incidental expenses advanced and incurred as aforesaid. The foregoing specified terms and conditions are hereby submitted for approval or disapproval, by interested parties, but is intended to be favorable, as protection against possible bad faith on our part, and is the basis upon which the proposed enterprise can be carried out; and when approved by making a subscription for said book shall be deemed as evidence of good faith by the subscriber and binding as between the parties thereto and their representatives and assigns; the said subscription and agreement to be substantially in accordance with the foregoing and as collateral thereto.

In the conception of this family genealogy as its promoter, the writer was actuated mainly by a desire to learn something more definite respecting our ancestors than as usually obtained from traditional sources—as handed down from parent to child and recounted in presence of the family circle—often misquoted as facts, and also by a desire to show our respects to the memory of our deceased ancestry and kindred by thus re-erecting (for posterity) their records and history for all time of those of whom tradition says were worthy and generally of an industrious class—occupying, rather, the upper middle walks of life, as thrifty farmers, artisans, professional men, statesmen and soldiers (of both rank and file), several of whom were more or less distinguished as such, and were well represented in the early Indian and Colonial wars, including the great Revolutionary struggle for liberty and national

independence, several of whom having laid down their lives in their country's cause, in all the wars in which our country has been engaged down to the present time, as their history will show, in the proposed genealogy.

Therefore, in gratitude for our common inheritance of American citizenship, which, by their patriotism, valor and loyalty they helped to establish, let us join in dedicating this family history as a lasting monument to their memory, and those of their kindred dead.

And let us hope that all descendants of this, our common ancestor, may be moved by a like sentiment, or just pride of ancestry, on receipt of this little booklet, and hasten to contribute towards this worthy project by subscribing for the projected book, thus adding to the requisite number which will insure its speedy publication; and also without delay (if they have not previously done so), proceed to collect family records both of their own family, as also that of their father's, grandfather's and other remote ancestors, which they may be able to secure, giving names, dates and places of births, marriages and deaths, and noting the sources from whence all material information was obtained, thus furnishing a ready reference to where the same may be obtained as evidence of descent and title to inheritances which may have accrued to any individual or family named in said book, at the same time relieving us from responsibility of possible errors which may occur in the compilation of this genealogy, by placing the same where it shall appear to belong.

The sources from whence family records should be sought are Family Bibles, Township Clerk's office, Probate Courts, where records of wills and administrations of intestates estates give the names of parents and children, and church records of baptisms and marriages; registers of deeds, give names of husband and wife; monuments show dates of births, deaths and relationship of the deceased; town and local history often discloses names and dates of births, marriages, deaths, etc.

The following example may suffice, and should be

observed in preparing family records in order to save much time and waste paper:

**Roswell Button, Jr.**

Roswell Button, Jr., (son of Roswell and Lydia (Spicer) Button of Preston, Conn.,) b. there Jan. —, 1784, d. — 18, —; m. Jan. 11, 1807. Lydia Avery (dau. of John and Mary (Allyn) Avery of Groton, Conn.,) who was b. March 23, 1786, and died July 24, 1866 Their children were:

- I. Appleton Avery, b. Oct. 31, 1807, died Oct. 15, 1889, near Springfield, Mo; m. —, 1857, Susannah —, and had a dau., who died in infancy, and son Alfred, b. in St. Louis, Mo., (supposed to have gone to the Philippine Islands). The father was a builder and contractor in St. Louis.
- II. William Palmer, b. Aug. 31, 1809. d. Mar. 15, 1866, in Quebec, Canada. a single man; was a carpenter, contractor and builder.
- III. Lucius Lucian, b. July 6, 1811, d. at Norwich, Conn., Jan. 29, 1885; a professor and physician: m. — Sabina Donibear.
- IV. Stephen Decatur, b. at Preston, Conn., June 8, 1813, d. at Camden, N. J., Jan. 7, 1897; a famous architect; m. 1st Maria Pierts, m. 2d Maria Goodwill of Munson, Mass.
- V. Mary Ann, b. May 8, 1815, m. — Joseph Hoxsie, an architect, in Philadelphia, Pa.
- VI. Nancy Ade, b. Jan. 19, 1817, m. — Joseph Hoxsie, her dead sister Mary Ann's husband, who died. She survives her husband and is still living in Chicago, a widow.

Stephen Decatur Button, decd., late of Camden, N. J., was one of the oldest and most celebrated architects in the United States, whose works are to be found in many parts of New Jersey, Pennsylvania and other states.

The following are among the most noteworthy structures, viz: State House, Montgomery, Ala.; railroad office, Fourth street, Philadelphia, (first fire-proof building in Phila.) Spring Garden Institute, Phila.; Chestnut Street Theater, Phila.; First Baptist Church, Phila. (Broad and Arch Sts.); including many other churches, market houses and private residences in the city of Philadelphia. He planned the State Insane Asylum in Delaware. In New Jersey he planned the City Hall. Two ferry houses, seven churches and thirteen school houses at Camden. An almshouse for Gloucester and Cape May counties. The Howland House at Long Branch and many residences, hotels and public buildings throughout the state. He left a valuable architectural library to the Philadelphia Chapters. He was also a great mineralogist, and left a collection of 2,000 valuable specimens, which was presented to the high school of Camden by his daughter. He left two children—a daughter Maria, an artist, and son William G. Button, building inspector of Philadelphia.

The above is from an obituary clipped from a Camden newspaper bearing date immediate or subsequent to the death of Mr. Button, as copied for the interested reader as a specimen of many similar sketches reserved for the proposed genealogy.

The following are the several branches of the family in which the chain of descent is still incomplete—lacking missing links, wanted to complete their records, viz:

Peter Button of Stonington, Ct., and Westerly, R. I., (son of Matthias and Teagle Button of Haverhill, Mass.) born there July 17, 1660, d. at Stonington, Ct., 1736; md. Mary (dau. of George Lamphere of Westerly, R. I.) 1687, and had Peter, Mary, Matthias and Eliphalet, born Stonington, Ct., and Jebadiah, Samuel, Cyrus, Joseph and dau. Elizabeth—the latter five born at Westerly, R. I.

The will of Peter Button, made at Westerly, R. I.,

January 4, 1725, names wife Mary as his executrix, son Matthias, Jebadiah, Samuel, Cyrus, Joseph and Peter, dau Eliphall Parks, dau. Mary Lewis—his dau. Elizabeth not named in the will and probably had died unmarried.

As the will of Peter Button was made and executed in Westerly, R. I., in 1725, and as records show he died in Stonington in 1726, it is evident that he first lived in Stonington, where four of his children were born; thence moved to Westerly about 1695, where he purchased 160 acres of land, which he divided among his six sons, and probably returned to Stonington to spend his remaining days (perhaps with son or daughter living there), as he was quite well advanced in years.

Now we have much of the family records of his children and descendants more or less incomplete—wanted, nevertheless, records of the numerous descendants of Peter and Mary Button down to the present generation, where the same has not hitherto been sent in.

Elias, Barrodell, Daniel, Deborah, Anna and Thankful Button, the children of Daniel Button, Sr. and Anna (Bell) Button (his wife) of Plainfield and Willimantic, Ct.

Wanted, family records of their descendants.

Peter Button (son of Matthias and Mary (Neff) Button of Plainfield, Ct.) bap. Stonington, Ct., September 24, 1704, (old Church Records); md. Hannah Cleveland (dau. of Deliverance Cleveland) October, 1729, and had son Matthias, b. Plainfield, Ct., July 29, 1730; William, b. February 8, 1732; Deliverance, b. October 7, 1734.

Wanted, the family records of said children and other children of the family of Peter and Hannah Button, and their descendants.

Matthias (son of Peter and Hannah (Cleveland) Button of Plainfield, Ct.) b. there July 29, 1730; md. 1st March 5, 1752, Mary Safford of Preston, Ct., and had William, b. January 25, 1752; Deliverance (dau.), b. November 4, 1754; Matthias, Jr., b. August 29, 1756. Md. 2d July 5, 1760, Mary Kimball, and had Peter, b. February 25, 1762; Hannah, b. April 7, 1763; Gideon, b. April 23, 1765; Molly, b. October 22, 1767.

Wanted, family records of the above-named children and their descendants, and address of those who are living.

Jesse Button, born —, 1749, died Canterbury, Ct., March 18, 1783, buried in Westminster Cemetery there; md. 1st —, Sybil Rainsford and had two sons, Richard, b. Preston, Ct., May 10, 1776, Rainsford, b. Preston, Ct., November 22, 1777; Sybil, his 1st wife, d. March 31, 1780, and Jesse Button m. 2d December 7, 1780, Abigail Ransom, and had one son: Robert, b. March 28, 1782. Jesse Button d. March 18, 1783, in his 34th year of his age. He was buried beside his 1st wife in Westminster Cemetery at Canterbury, Ct.

Wanted, parentage of Jesse Button, date and place of birth and 1st marriage and family records of his descendants, which have not hitherto been sent in.

Roswell Button, Sr., of Preston, Ct., b. there —, 1746, saddler and harness-maker, d. June 16, 1820; md. 1st Mary Spicer, who died —; md. 2d Lydia Spicer, her half-sister.

Wanted, the parentage of Roswell Button, Sr., date and place of his birth (tradition says he was son of John and Hannah Button and grandson of Daniel and Anna (Bell) Button of Plainfield and Willimantic, Ct.) Send records of the descendants which have not hitherto been sent in, and settle question of his parentage.

Rufus Button of Hopkinton, R. I., who md. Elizabeth —, and had a son, Abel, born there June 5, 1763

Wanted, parentage of Rufus Button, date and place of his birth and marriage, and names, dates and places of the births of his children and family records of their descendants and address of any of their descendants.

Jonathan Button of Windsor, Ct., who md. Naomi (dau. of Elisha Mersell and Kezia Taylor), she b. April 3, 1758, at E. Windsor, where they settled and had six children, viz: Levi, Joseph, Naomi, Rhoda, Huldah and Jesse.

Wanted, the parentage of Jonathan Button, date and place of his birth and marriage, names and dates of birth

of their descendants. We have dates of birth of all of his children.

Daniel Button, who md. Elizabeth (dau. of Matthias and Elizabeth (Butt) Button of Canterbury and Groton, Ct.), his cousin. We have records of the family, more or less incomplete.

Wanted, parentage of Daniel Button, date and place of his birth, marriage and death, and family records of his descendants, which have not heretofore been furnished, down to the latest generation.

Benjamin Button (son of Matthias and Phebe (Butt) Button of Canterbury), born there 1750; md. about 1782 or '3 Esther Chapman; lived at one time at Boman's Creek. Schoharie county, N. Y.; was justice of the peace some 40 years. They had dau. Lydia, b. July 3, 1784, who md. November 13, 1804, John Stair, or Star.

Wanted, names, dates and places of births, marriages and deaths of the rest of their children and records of their descendants—addresses of living members thereof.

John Button of Schaghticoke, N. Y., born in Connecticut —, 1754; md. 1st March 21, 1783, Mary Ransom, probably sister of Abigail, 2d wife of Jesse Button of Canterbury, Ct., and probably married there. (and may have been brother or cousin of Jesse) John Button was in the Revolutionary war with his brother Simeon, both who, after the war, came west and settled at Pittstown, N. Y. John moved thence to Schaghticoke and became a farmer. From 1st marriage had 12 children. His 1st wife died in 1810. He md. 2d Mary Burch, nee Low, in 1821 and had 3 children. His widow died in 1872. We have the year of births and deaths of all of the 15 children, and names of those to whom married. Names of grandchildren—86 in all.

Wanted, day of month of births of children, where born, date of marriage of each and deaths. Same of all of the grandchildren and their descendants to the latest generation.

Simeon Button (bro. of John) settled at Pittstown, N. Y. Farmer and subsequently became a distinguished



lawyer, Judge of Probate and politician. Held many offices of trust. His descendants, it is said, still occupy the old homestead at Pittstown, of whom we have a record of a few of the children more or less incomplete.

Wanted, all family records of the descendants of Simeon Button, including his parentage and date and place of his birth and marriage. Tradition says that John and Simeon Button were the sons of Rufus Button, who, with a brother, was in the old French war. His brother was killed, but he returned, married and settled at or near a place called Jewett City in Connecticut, where he raised a large family of 15 children, including John and Simeon. We have, as yet, been unable to locate Rufus Button and family, except the Rufus and Elizabeth Button of Hopkinton, R. I., who had a son Abel, born there June 5, 1763, nine years after the birth of John, which, as the family of John's parents, consisted of 15 children; this Rufus Button may have been the father of John and Simeon by a former marriage. There were several families of Buttons who moved from Connecticut and settled in Hopkinton, R. I., as the town records show; and it is very probable that Rufus and Elizabeth Button may have moved there from Jewett City, Ct., and that their son Abel, born there June 5, 1763, was one of their youngest, if not the youngest of the family by a 2d marriage. Any better solution of this problem, however, will be thankfully received.

Joseph Button of Danby, Vt., who came from Rhode Island in 1785, m. Anna Davis and settled on what has since been known as the Button farm, now owned by Howell Dillingham. He kept a store there for several years, which was about the first store in town, and also manufactured potash. He was one of the early members of the Quaker Society, and was very influential. He accumulated a large property and was considered one of the wealthiest men of his day, and exerted great influence among the people of his times. Being a man of great force and energy, he contributed much in building up society, perhaps more than men in general. He was held

in high esteem by his friends and neighbors. He died in 1829, aged 80.

Their children were:

Charles, Samuel, Joseph, Ezekiel, Seneca, Thomas, Anson, Anna and Rhoda. It is said that only two or three are now living. Thomas md. Lydia (dau. of Harris Otis) and settled where Albert Bucklin now lives. He died leaving three children—Ann Eliza, Sarah and Elizabeth. Ann Eliza md. David J. Haviland and Sarah md. Benjamin Peck of Queensbury, N. Y.

Anson (son of Joseph and Anna (Davis) Button of Dunby, Vt.) md. Catherine (dau. of Isaac Vall) and settled on the old homestead. He had a brick yard near the residence of Henry Kelley, where he manufactured brick. He built the first and only brick dwelling house in the town. He was killed in falling from a load of hay in 1845. They raised a family of 7 children—Joseph, Isaac, Anna, Rhoda, Emily, Eunice and Charity. Joseph md. Melissa, dau. of Silas Hulett; Isaac md. Ellen, dau. of Silas Hulett. Joseph and Isaac live in California. Rhoda md. Hannibal Hopkins of Wallingford and died in 1853, aged 24, leaving one daughter, Rhoda B.

Wanted, the family records of the descendants of Joseph Button, Sr., his parentage and date and place of birth and marriage.

Capt. Matthias Button, the 4th, of Canterbury and Groton, Ct., (son of Matthias and Mary (Brown) Button of Westerly, R. I.) b. there April 22, 1732, d. at Wells, Vt., —, 1811, age 79 years; was ensign and captain in train band; was captain in war of Revolution; a farmer. Md. 1st Phoebe Buttr, 1753; md. 2d, 1763, Elizabeth Buttr, her sister. Children of 1st marriage were: Molly, Joseph, Nathan, Benjamin, Matthias, Jr., Eunice and Charlotte; children of 2d marriage were: Asa, Elizabeth (who md. Daniel Button), Jonas, Shubel, Nathan, Joel and Amos.

Their descendants live in Ohio, New York, Michigan, Dakota and Massachusetts, of whom we have partial records more or less incomplete.

Wanted, records of all branches of the family brought down to date.

Joseph Button of Windham, Ct., and Wells, Vt., (son of Matthias and Phoebe Button of Groton, Ct.) b. Canterbury, Ct., about 1756 or '7; m. 1st Sarah Glass of Windham, Ct; m. 2d Mrs. Mary Parks, a widow, of Wells, Vt. He d. in 1826. He left a large family of children, among whom were Rufus, Joseph and Elijah. Their descendants are in Chautauqua county, N. Y., and in North Dakota.

Wanted, all records brought down to date.

Lysander Button of Waterford, N. Y., the inventor (and for many years the manufacturer) of the justly celebrated Button Fire Engine at Waterford.

Wanted, the parentage of Lysander Button, date and place of his birth, marriage and family records and sketch of his life.

All information respecting this gentleman and antecedents will be most gratefully received, and will find a conspicuous place in the Button genealogy, with illustrations.

Col. Samuel Button of Groton, Ct., m. Sarah (dau. of Ebenezer and Sarah (Hill) Lamb of Groton) and had Mary, Anna, Susan, Sally, Eunice, Lois, Joshua, Joseph, Nathan and Percy.

Wanted, the parentage of Col. Samuel Button, date and place of his birth, marriage and death; same of the children and the family records of their descendants.

There are other branches of the family in which records are more or less incomplete, but the foregoing is all we have space for in this little booklet, which, it is hoped, will materially aid in closing the records. Of course we invite contributions of records and sketches of history from every family who have not hitherto contributed the same for the work now in process, and without delay.

The book will include an interesting preamble, with a frontispiece of an ancient coat of arms and motto of a Rev. Thomas Button who was installed bishop of Exeter, England, January 15, 1293, which the writer has had

reproduced from its heraldic description (by a young lady descendant of our ancestor, who is an expert heraldic artist and a professional genealogist), as copied from an English genealogical work in Boston, Mass. The cut (as represented in this booklet as frontispiece) the writer had engraved from a beautiful water color picture executed by our kinslady as a specimen of her work, which is a masterpiece of the beautiful art, which we think cannot be excelled.

The preamble will also include several pages of most interesting sketches of history and biography of the ancient English and French branches of our supposed antecedents dating back to 1037, showing our name to have been derived from the French name, de Bethune, who settled in various parts of England about that time. There are several descriptions of the arms as adopted by the respective branches of the family named in the genealogical work aforesaid, slightly differing merely sufficient to distinguish the one from the other. They were barons and possessed large landed estates under the ancient feudal system of land tenure—rendering therefore military service to their immediate feudal lord by furnishing a certain number of their retainers (their tenants) in time of war. It is said that the Bethunes were descended from a long line of barons of the city and territory of Besonnen in Palestine. It will also be interspersed with notes of a miscellaneous character as obtained from historical and genealogical works respecting different members of the family in England previous to 1607 and subsequent to 1293, the former date having recently been discovered to have been the date of the birth of our ancestor—the emigrant, Matthias Button, the 1st—as being the son of a Thomas Button of Harrold, England, bap. there Oct. 11, 1637, and whose father, (Thomas Button) was buried there June 26, 1617, as shown by copy of said records from the parish register of Harrold. Now lacking further evidence of identification, to establish the nativity and parentage of our said ancestor for which we are making search.

The greatest difficulty which promoters of undertakings of this character have to contend with, is that of interference by parties actuated by speculative motives, who spring up out of factions of the descendants, ready to take advantage of their relationship, which often endangers, if not entirely destroys, all prospects of success; and herein lies the secret of so many failures to recover remote inheritances, which otherwise might have been obtained and enjoyed by the heirs. The writer has had many years' experience in matters of this character. From 1862 to 1867 as attorney-at-law, and war claim agent continuously so engaged, and from 1867 to 1887 at intervals so engaged in the prosecution of pensions (and various other claims) accruing to soldiers and their representatives during the war of the rebellion of 1861, in many cases of which it became necessary to produce evidence of births, marriages and deaths—often having resort to foreign records, including English, Irish and German, in cases of alien claimants—from which experience we have gained some knowledge of the method of searching records.

In 1878 the writer published a genealogical sketch of the Webber family, of 42 pages, similar to that of the Button family published in 1889, and for a like purpose, since which, our time has not only been occupied in collecting records and material for the completion of these genealogies, but we have also been similarly engaged in establishing claims to inheritances, during which the writer has purchased quite a collection of genealogical works, both of this country and Europe, by which we are able to trace pedigrees of almost any family name, and together with arrangements made with several professional genealogists for exchange of notes, we possess facilities for conducting works of this character, and doing a general claim agency business; and will promptly give attention to calls for our services in this capacity, in establishing pedigrees, compiling family records and charts, make search for wills, reproduce ancient arms and escutcheons on most favorable terms.

### Special Requests by the Writer.

Do not give away family records or sketches of family history and biography to collectors or genealogists, except to descendants of our common ancestor in the interest of this, our Button genealogy.

Nor lend this booklet to be copied, except to aid descendants, who do not possess a copy, in completing their family records.

Like the outline sketch of 1889, this booklet is published at considerable expense to aid descendants in tracing family lines and completing their family records to be contributed for the purpose of completing said genealogy, and will therefore be mailed to correspondents and others, who are presumed to be descendants, and will subscribe for a copy of said genealogy, and otherwise encourage the publication thereof, free of cost.

Should this booklet, however, be received by any persons who are not so interested, it is requested that they will immediately return the same to the undersigned or remit \$1 for the same.

All persons to whom the booklet is mailed who do not subscribe for a copy of said genealogy (except those who have largely contributed data and material therefore) will be expected to remit \$1 per copy or return the same.

All remittances should be by postal money order or registered letter.

All letters of inquiry should enclose return postage at least.

On receipt of this booklet it is requested that immediate acknowledgment thereof be made to the undersigned.

We have a few copies of the sketch of 1889 left over, which we will mail to any address on receipt of \$1, or the two for \$1.50.

We will cheerfully render all possible aid to subscribers and contributors in establishing their family lines, and in completing their family records, without charge, except return postage.

Should any communication addressed to us fail to bring immediate reply, the writer thereof should call our attention thereto, without delay. Address

A. BUTTON,

Saranac, Mich.

OM

