

Outline Sketch  
OF THE  
EARLIEST DESCENDANTS  
OF

***Matthias Button,***

*WHO FIRST SETTLED AT SALEM, MASS.,  
SEPTEMBER 6, 1628.*

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*COMPILED FROM CHURCH AND FAMILY  
RECORDS, EARLY COLONIAL LOCAL  
HISTORY, AND OTHER AU-  
THENTIC SOURCES.*

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## INTRODUCTION.

The following pages of this little book, containing brief outline sketches of some of the early descendants of Matthias Button, is presented to you by the writer (a lineal descendant) to aid and assist in tracing your family line of descent. With request that you earnestly and immediately cooperate in securing the necessary material for a proposed Genealogical and Biographical Sketch of said descendants. As a token of veneration and respect for the past, and of love and esteem for the present and future generations of the race.

Having for the past six years been engaged in collecting material for this purpose, I am pleased to inform you that thus far (at my own expense) I have secured sufficient (though incomplete) for the publication of a book of over 200 pages, which I hope to be able to publish in the near future, provided I receive the necessary encouragement to enable me to do so.

It is hoped this project may meet the universal favor of those for whom it is intended, and not be underestimated or considered as a mere scheme to make money, as the writer disclaims of being actuated by any such motive, but rather by a desire to promote the welfare of his race by being able to trace their origin from as respectable and honorable source as that of any family in America.

Nor is the writer afflicted with the vanity of race pride, further than that we are descended from the earliest settlers of America, many of whom took part in and were Martyrs in the cause of Liberty and Independence.

Having published a family sketch in 1878, experience teaches me there is not much profit accrues from such sources. You are therefore invited to furnish for this pur-

pose a copy of your family record, including that of your father's and other remote ancestors, to the utmost of your ability (or refer me to those who may be better able to do so) giving names, dates and places of births, marriages and deaths accurately and distinctly.

Also refer to names and addresses of all persons within your knowledge who bear the family name. And if you desire one or more copies of the projected book when published, remit one dollar for each copy as advance subscription to cover incidental expenses, for which will be forwarded a certificate, which will entitle you to a copy for each dollar on payment of final assessment, which shall not exceed the further sum of one dollar for each copy ordered.

The subject of our family history and origin has long been intensely interesting to me, my earliest impressions were made when a lad of ten years, or thereabout, on hearing my father relate the traditions of the family history as received from his father and handed down from parent to child from remote generations.

That his grandfather, Matthias Button was the son of Matthias, who was the son of Matthias, whose father Matthias Button first came to this Country and settled at Salem, Mass., whose father a Thomas Button was a Navigator and had made several voyages of discovery to this continent and other parts of the world, who died in England possessed of great estates, which for some reason remained unreclaimed, which it was hoped would some day be recovered by his nearest of kin in America.

It is not however with any expectation of finally reaping such golden harvest that induces the publication of the projected book, although in the recovery of unreclaimed estates such a book would become an indispensable prerequisite.

But to corroborate this family tradition I will submit the following brief outline as the result of my efforts and researches.

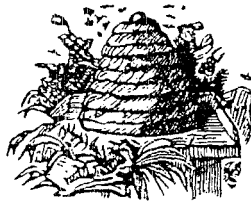
I find in extracts from Encyclopædias and other sources as matter of history that one Thomas Button was second officer in command of Hendrix Hudson's fleet on occasion

of his last voyage of discovery to the North East Coast of this continent in 1610 and 1611, during which a mutiny broke out among the men and the illfated Hudson, with his son and some of his crew, were cast adrift in those northern waters, and nothing further was ever known of their fate except in myth of Rip-Van-Winkle. It is said that after this event Thomas Button piloted the fleet back to England. Also that in 1612, he was employed by the merchants of London to re-pursue Hudson's Voyages in the interests of commerce. And that accordingly fitted out two Ships, the Advance and Discovery, and accompanied by two eminent scientists, Bylott and Pickett, he sailed from England by a different route from that formerly persued by other navigators, making various new discoveries and giving them their appropriate names he arrived at Hudson's Straits late in the fall, passing through the straits by a new channel to the South-West coast of Hudson's Bay where he wintered in an estuary at the mouth of Nelson River (as shown on school maps). They experienced great hardships from cold and hunger, being reduced to subsist on the sailors usual fare (salt junk.) The scurvey broke out among the crews, and it is said that Button here exhibited great sagacity and skill in caring for his men through this trying ordeal until Spring, when they were enabled to go on shore and secure fresh fish and game which there abounded.

Having refitted his ships and provided them with fresh water, fish and meat, he continued his searches Northward, making important discoveries, and returned to England in the Fall of 1613, and through the patronage of Prince Henry he received the honor of Knighthood from King James and was made a Barronette, a title then first conferred upon citizens for meritorious services rendered.

The name of Thomas Button is again found (being the only one of the name) in Hotter's Lists of emigrants to America, between 1600 and 1700 which there appears in 1616; also his vessel, the Discovery, appears among the lists of vessels engaged in the carrying trade to James River Plantations Va. about the same time. Also his name appears in lists of inhabitants in a muster roll (so called) of

one of the James River Plantations in 1623, but in the subsequent Muster Roll taken 1625, his name does not appear, so he must have left there between those years and may have returned to England or removed to the New England Colonies, which query we hope to settle by search in England.



## ROBERT BUTTON.

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There was a Robert Button who first appears at Salem, Mass., about 1641, was admitted to 1st church there, and also chosen Constable about this time, and had a grant of land near the mouth of Forrest River, near land owned by Daniel Baxter and that of a Mr. Gott, in the vicinity of Castle Hill. He removed thence to Boston between 1644 and 1645 at which latter date he had a child baptized in 1st church where he was admitted about that time. He became a thrifty merchant in Boston and possessed considerable property. He married Abigail, the daughter of widow Alice Vermaes, then of Salem. They had children Samuel b. 1642, Abigail b. 1644, Hannah b. 1645, Sarah b. 1647, Samuel 2d b. 1649. Robert Button died at Boston, 1650.

## JOHN BUTTON.

There was also a John Button who appears among the early pioneers of Boston, as early as 1633.

He was a miller and lived near his wind mill on Coppins Hill. He was made a freeman in 1634, disarmed in 1637, for favoring the doctrines of

wheelright; and Ann Hutchinson, chosen Constable 1640, Surveyor 1647 and 1649, again Constable in 1650, fined for entertaining a foreigner in his house 1651 without consent of ye select men, and served with notice to discharge him forthwith out of his house under a like penalty. Same year chosen Clerk of the market, also Surveyor and again Constable 1665. He became an extensive landed proprietor, taxed 1676, for 20 houses and a cow.

His will (of which we possess a copy) bears date Nov. 5, 1681, in which he intimates the existence of a son John and daughter Mary, but no names are mentioned. These names are found in conveyances and settlement of estates, no record is found of his death, but his Will speaks of being on his bed of sickness. He was born 1594, as on one occasion in giving his deposition in 1732 he gave his age as 79.

I possess a very extensive history and the Will of each of the foregoing, which may be useful in the coming book as matter of interest.

The foregoing sketch may seem to confirm the fact that 3 brothers of the Buttons first emigrated to this country, which query must also be settled by resort to English records.

#### MATTHIAS BUTTON,

came to America with Gov. John Endicott, and first settled at Salem, Mass., where he landed Sept. 6, 1628.

His stay at Salem seems to have been brief, re-



moving thence to Boston, where he is found among the earliest settlers and identified himself with the first church some time prior to 1633, where at least two of his children were baptised.

He removed thence to Ipswich, where he was a Commoner in 1641, thence to Haverhill in 1646, where he lived and reared a family, children by 1st wife Lettyce were Mary b. Boston, 1633, m. Edward Yeomans, David b. Boston, 1634, died in infancy, Elizabeth b. Ipswich, 1645, m. 1st John Kingsbury, 2d Peter Green, Sarah b. Haverhill 1650 m. James Kingsbury. Hannah b. 1652, m. Thomas Dustin, Lettyce the mother died 1652, Matthias m. 2 Teagle 1653, their children Daniel b. 1654 no issue, killed at Battle Bloody Brook, 1675, Abigail b. 1656, died young, Matthias b. 1657 m. Mary Neff, Peter b. 1660 m. Mary Lamphere, Patience b. 1662, died same year, Teagle the mother and 2d wife died 1663, and Matthias married 3d Elizabeth Wheeler 1664, no further issue. Matthias lived on land adjacent to that of Thomas Dustin at Haverhill, whose wife Hannah was taken by the Indians, with Mrs. Corliss, *see History*. Matthias Button died at Haverhill, 1672, at a great age, his widow Elizabeth survived him several years.

We possess much interesting history of this ancestor which is reserved for the future book; suffice it however to further say that his record is clean and without blemish of character and a man of considerable note in his time, and may have been one of the sons of Sir Thomas Button.

Mary, daughter of Matthias and Lettyce Button

b. 1633 married Edward Yeomans 1652, their children were Mary b. 1653, Samuel b. 1655, Thomas b. 1657, Elizabeth b. 1659, Mahetable b. 1661 Edward b. 1663. This family removed to Plainfield, Conn., 1690, where Edward Yeomans was a freeholder 1702.

Elizabeth daughter of Matthias and Lettyce Button b. 1645, m. John Kingsbury of Haverhill, 1666, their children were Mary, b. 1673, Elizabeth, b. 1675 and Hannah, b. 1677, Elizabeth the mother died 1677, in childbed; her 2d husband, Peter Green surviving her, no further record of this family.

Sarah, daughter of Matthias and Lettyce Button, b. 1650, m. James Kingsbury, 1673, their children, b. Haverhill, were Susannah, b. 1675, Sarah, b. 1677, Mary, b. 1679, Ephraim, b. 1681, Abigail, b. 1686, Samuel, b. 1690. This family also removed to Plainfield, Conn., 1690, where they settled. James Kingsbury was living at Plainfield as late as 1730.

Matthias, son of Matthias and Teagle Button, b. at Haverhill, 1657, m. Mary Neff, 1686, their children were Daniel, b. 1687, Matthias, b. 1689. This family removed to Plainfield, Conn., 1690, and settled on land bought of the heirs of Gov. Winthrop, of which further children we have no record. *See Plainfield Records.* Matthias Button died at Plainfield, Conn., 1725.

Peter, son of Matthias and Teagle Button b. at Haverhill, Mass., 1660, m. Mary Lamphere, daughter of George Lamphere, of Westerly, R. I., about 1689.

Their children b. at Westerly, R. I. or Stouing-

ton, Conn., were Peter, b. 1688, Mary, b. 1689, Matthias, b. 1692, Eliphall, b. 1694, Jedediah, Samuel, Cyrus, Joseph and Elizabeth, this is all we have of this family. See *Westerly & Stowington records*.

Mary, daughter of Peter and Mary Button, b. 1689, m. Daniel Lewis of Westerly, R. I. In the Will of Daniel Lewis, dated 1717, were the names of the following children: John, (eldest son) Jonathan, Mary, (who m. John Langworthy,) Dorcas, (who m. Robert Burdick) Daniel and Hannah.

The following are of the later branches, (probably descendants of Matthias Button the 1st) as taken from the town records of Canterbury and Plainfield, Conn.

Peter Button of Hopkington, m. Hannah Ruggs, 1768.

Joseph, Son of Matthias Button, the 4th. m. Sarah Gloss, 1773, their children were Charlotte, b. 1774, Rufus, b. 1775 and Molly, b. 1778.

Jesse Button, b. 1749, no records of 1st marriage, children, 1st marriage, Richard and Ramsford, Jesse Button, m. 2d Abigail Ransom, 1780, their children were Robert, b. 1782, no further records.

Richard, son of Jesse Button, b. 1776, m. Amelia Sims of Jamestown, Va., 1798, their children were Harmony, b. 1799, Ramsford, b. 1801, Edward, b. 1803, Augustus, b. 1805, Amelia, b. 1808 and Cornelia, b. 1808, Lydia Ann, died in infancy, Chancey, William, Harvey and Harriet, twins.

Matthias Button (probably son of Matthias 3d) b. 1727, m. Phebe Butts 1753, children born Canterbury, Conn., John, b. 1754, Molly, b. 1755, Jos-

eph, b. 1756, Nathan, b. 1757, Benjamin, b. 1758, Matthias, b. 1760, Eunice, b. 1761, Chastole, b. 1762, Phebe Button, the mother, died 1764, and Matthias Button, m. 2d Elizabeth Butts, (sister of Phoebe) 1765, children of 2d marriage, Asa, b. 1766, Elizabeth b. 1767, m. Daniel Button, Jonas, b. 1769, Shubel, b. 1771, m. Polly Tower, Nathan, 2d b. 1773, Joel, who married Lydia Tower, and Amous. Matthias Button was a Captain in the Revolutionary War, he had five wives, and children from four of them, said to be about 20 in all, his fifth wife survived him several years, he died at the residence of his son Joseph Button, at the town of Wells, Rutland Co., Vt., about 1811, aged 84 yrs.

John, son of Matthias and Phebe Button, b. 1754, m. 1st Mary Ransom, 1783, 2d Mary Burch, *nee Lowe*, children of 1st marriage were, Louis, b. 1784, Anson, b. 1786, John, b. 1788, Mary, b. 1789, Ransom, b. 1791, Milton, b. 1793, Sarah, b. 1796, Olive, b. 1799, Lucy, b. 1801, Ira, b. 1803, William Pitt, b. 1806, Eliza Ann, b. 1809.

Mary the mother died 1819, John Button, m. 2d Mary Burch, *nee Lowe*, 1821, their children were Horace, Hiram, and Harmon R. John Button, the father died at Schaghticoke, Rensselaer Co., N. Y., 1832, where many of his numerous descendants now reside.

Elizabeth, daughter of Matthias and Phebe Button, b. 1767, m. (her cousin) Daniel Button, son of Ebenezer Button, their children were: John Hazzard and Daniel.

John, son of Daniel and Elizabeth Button, born

at Groton, Conn., Feb'y. 9th, 1783, m. Cynthia Clarke, their children were:

John H., b. 1805, at Springfield, Mass.  
 Emily, C., b. 1807, " " "  
 Charles, B., b. 1808, " " "  
 Orpah M., b. 1809, " New Haven, Conn.  
 Olive, C., b. 1810, " " "  
 Elihue L., b. 1813, " " "  
 George W., b. 1815, " " "  
 Dency E., b. 1817, " " "  
 Daniel A., b. 1823, " Casawaugo, Penn.  
 Lydia E., b. 1824, " " "

Cynthia Button the mother died at Casawauga, Penn., 1826, and John Button the father died at Farmington, Mich., 1859.

Shubel, son of Matthias and Elizabeth Button, b. 1771, m. 1st Polley Tower, 2d Anna Skiff, children of 1st marriage, Matthias, b. 1796, died 1829, Ira, b. 1798, died 1862, Elizabeth, b. 1799, died 1883, Otis, b. 1801, died 1886, Polly, b. 1803, Laura, b. 1805, died 1829, Joel, b. 1807, Shubel, b. 1808, Polly, *and Charlotte*, the mother died 1818, Shubel Button m. 2d Anna Skiff, 1822, their children were Anson, b. 1823, George W., b. 1825, Martha, Ann, Joel, Orrin, Susan, ~~Elmira~~, b. 1834, died 1836, Susan, Elvira 2d b. 1837, Shubel Button died at Fredonia, N. Y., 1840, his widow married 2d Asa Button brother of Shubel, she also died at Fredonia.

Joel Button, b. 1775, son of Matthias and Elizabeth, m. Lydia Tower, their children were Silva, Ruben, Louisa, Levi, Matthias, Polly, Joel, Otilia, Paulina, Eunice, Ann, Eliza, Joel, Lydia, Ann, and Alonzo, Joel Button, the father died 1825.

Asa, son of Matthias and Elizabeth Button, b. 1765, (no record of 1st marriage) his children were Dilla, Clara, Amos, Sally, Betsey, Asa, Laura and William. Asa Button's first wife died and he married 2d Anna Button, *nee Skiff*. His brother Shubels widow, Asa Button died about 1844.

I have here given you a brief outline sketch of some of the early as well later branches of the descendants of Matthias Button. I have reserved day of births, deaths and marriages for the future book, as well many Historical and Biographical sketches and records of present and younger generations.

This however, has been extended beyond the usual custom of Genealogists (in sending out advance outlines) in order that a greater number of branches shall be represented.

I expect soon to send for English records, and also visit the Eastern States in person in course of the progress of the Sketch. Have up to the present time, paid out of my individual funds over fifty dollars.

Therefore, it is hoped that you will carefully and accurately (on reference to this sketch) note the missing links in your line of descent; and supply the requisite records and note all mistakes, and communicate with me concerning the same.

The sources from which records may be found outside of family records, are various, viz: Church records of baptism, Probate Court records of the settlement of estates and the execution of wills, registry of deeds, (shows husband and wife) in the transfer of land, town records, circuit court records

in county clerk's office. Early local history, monumental or grave stone records, etc. etc., public records are open to the inspection of all persons without fees except where the services of the Custodian or Clerk are required, but in most cases persons of ordinary intelligence can make all necessary searches on reference to index, of the record with perhaps (in some cases) a little instruction.

Every item relating to any member of the family or bearing the name, should be carefully copied, noting the number and page of the book or record, and duly forwarded, as much, may be made out of a little. Also write out any interesting item of Biography known to you, respecting any person who bears the name of or are descendants of the family.

The book when complete will contain over 200 pages, well and substantially bound in cloth with long primer type, 5 by 8 inch size, and will not be printed until after all subscriptions are received. No books other than those ordered will be printed. If we receive a sufficient number of subscriptions with the advance remittance to cover the actual cost of printing and mailing, the same will be published, otherwise it may be abandoned or postponed. But we have no fears of such failure, as we have great encouragements from many liberal minded and wealthy members of the family who take a lively interest in the project. But however should the result of our effort fail, you have this little outline to remind you that it could be no fault of mine, and that you have had the worth of a part

of your money in advance. Hoping to hear from  
you I remain

Yours truly,

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P. S. All letters of enquiry, should enclose re-  
turn postage. References given on application.