

*BUTLER*

# HISTORIC HOMES and PLACES

AND

## GENEALOGICAL

## and PERSONAL MEMOIRS

RELATING TO THE FAMILIES  
OF MIDDLESEX COUNTY,  
MASSACHUSETTS

PREPARED UNDER THE EDITORIAL SUPERVISION OF

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er of that faith. He was a blacksmith by trade. He died at Detroit, Maine, September 6, 1890, aged ninety years five months. He married first, Rebecca Frank, who died March 20, 1847, aged forty-two years. He married second, Arnice (Grover) Rideout, who died May 12, 1858, and third, Abigail Clark. Children all by the first wife: 1. Sarah A., born October 7, 1824, resided in Massachusetts. 2. Lucy Elizabeth, born September 4, 1827; married Charles Jenkins, and died March, 1878, at Whitman, Massachusetts. 3. Lyman Seavey, born May 25, 1830; settled in Florida. 4. Sophia Frances, born March 3, 1833; resided at Richmond. 5. Alfred, born February 16, 1836; resided in Chelsea, Massachusetts. 6. Philena, born July 24, 1839; married William Alexander. 7. Frederick Sidney, born August 11, 1842; mentioned below. 8. Cordane Rebecca, born November 2, 1846; resided at South Abington, Maine.

(IX) Frederick Sidney Dawes, son of Rev. Ezra H. Dawes (8), was born at Litchfield, Maine, August 11, 1842. He was educated in the common schools. He was a resident of Litchfield, Maine, and Hudson, Massachusetts, manufacturing cutting dies, and later established the electric light plant at Hudson. He died November 7, 1897. He was a member of Morning Star Lodge of Free Masons; of Houghton Chapter, Royal Arch Masons; of Council, Royal and Select Masters, and past commander of Trinity Commandery, Knights Templar; also member of Aleppo Temple, Order of the Mystic Shrine, Boston.

Mr. Dawes was for many years president of the Hudson Electric Light Company.

He enlisted August 27, 1862, in Company C, First Maine Cavalry, in the civil war, and was discharged for disability January 15, 1863. He re-enlisted August 10, 1863, in Company F, First Battalion Massachusetts Heavy Artillery, served the period of his enlistment, and was mustered out at Fort Warren June 28, 1865. He is a member of General Reno Post, No. 9, Grand Army of the Republic. He was one of the leading citizens of Hudson, a man of high character and exceptional ability. He married December 25, 1867, Mary E. Bradley, born May 4, 1847, daughter of Joseph Bradley. Children: 1. Eva May, died young. 2. Leslie Sidney, born January 4, 1872; died April 11, 1907. 3. Fred Bradley, born June 27, 1875; mentioned below.

(X) Fred Bradley Dawes, son of Frederick Sidney Dawes (9), was born in Hudson, Mas-

sachusetts, June 27, 1875. He was graduated from the Hudson high school in the class of 1894, and entered the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the same year, taking the course in electrical engineering. He was for three years a member of the class of 1898. When his father died in 1897 he left the Institute and in the spring of 1898 engaged in the business of electrical construction, in which he has prospered. He is director in both the Worcester Electrical Contractors Association and in the Massachusetts Electrical Contractors Association, and is a member of the National Electrical Contractors Association. His place of business is in Hudson where he resides. He is a member of the Sons of Veterans Camp No. 5, and is sergeant of Company M, Fifth Regiment Massachusetts Volunteer Militia. He is a member of the First Unitarian Society, and assistant superintendent of the Sunday school. He married June 23, 1899, Ada Taylor, born in England, January 12, 1875, daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth Taylor. Children: 1. Robert Taylor, born April 2, 1904. 2. Mary Bradley, born July 4, 1907.

A recent compiler of the BUTLER genealogy of our particular branch of the Butler family in New England has said that "all of the name of Butler who came to this country during the first century of its existence can be traced to a common ancestry in Ireland." In bearing out this view, Johnstone has furnished in his various narratives the succession of conquests and of conquerors from Rolf, or Rollo, to the dukes of Normandy and the ultimate victory of William the Conqueror, 1066, and after him to the time of Theobald, son of Harvey Walter, who was received into the royal favor and taken by his monarch with the title of "Chief Butler" into Ireland, where by the bounty of his sovereign and his own valor he became eminent and acquired great possessions.

According to Burke's "Peerage and Baronetage," the history of the illustrious house of Butler, of Ormonde is in point of fact the history of Ireland from the time of the Anglo-Norman invasion; and from the same authority it is learned that the surname Butler is derived from the "chief butlerage of Ireland, conferred by Henry II, upon the first of the family who settled in that kingdom." Theobald Fitz Walter (Theobald, son of Walter), who accompanied Henry II into Ireland, and was created Chief Butler, 1177, became

possessed of the baronies of Upper Ormonde, Lower Ormonde, and numerous other possessions.

Other antiquarians have held that the surname Butler is derived from Robert, supposed to have been butler to William the Conqueror, and who in Domesday Book is called "Robertus Pincerua." This Robertus, with two others of the same name, called Hugo Pincerua and Richard Pincerua, held each of them, from the king, several towns in England.

Such then is the ancient lineage of the Butler families who have been seated in New England more than two centuries, and while chroniclers have traced the ancestry in England and Ireland, they have taken little account of the Scotch branches of the Butlers, who were families of distinction in that country for several centuries and finally were driven out because of their Presbyterian belief, and became seated in the north of Ireland. The particular branch of the family proposed to be treated in these annals is of distinctively Scotch ancestry and origin, and displays as its arms an uncovered cup or (gold), with the motto "sapienter uti bonis" wisely to enjoy blessings.

Large companies of emigrants from Scotland and England settled in the north of Ireland as early as 1612, and accessions were made to their number in later years, but it was not until a century afterward that the descendants of these emigrants began to cross the Atlantic ocean and settle in the American colonies of New England and New York, largely in New Hampshire, and to a less extent in Massachusetts and Connecticut. They were called Irish and Scotch-Irish, but they were not such in fact; that name applied exclusively to the Celts and to those families who in the course of generations had adopted Celtic manners. Of the Celts at the beginning of the eighteenth century there were perhaps a little less than a million, who with few exceptions adhered steadfastly to the teachings of the Church of Rome; and among them dwelt about two hundred thousand Scotch and English colonists, proud of their Saxon blood and their protestant faith.

Whether it was on account of the same causes that induced the emigration of other Scotch and English colonists to New England during the first quarter of the eighteenth century, or by reason of other impelling influences, is now difficult to determine, but about the year 1720 there came to America, Malachi Butler and Jemima Daggett. If they

were then married the fact does not appear, and insomuch as their eldest child was not born until 1729, it may be assumed that their marriage did not take place until after they settled in the Connecticut colony. They settled first in Windham, remained there until about 1753, and then located in Woodbury, where, according to the history of that town, others of their name and kin were living.

Cothren, in his "History of Ancient Woodbury," has this to say of the several Butler families in that town: "Richard Butler was among the earliest Stratford settlers, and had two daughters: Phebe, married Benjamin Peet; and Mary, married John Washborn, of Hempstead, Long Island, in 1665, and afterwards Thomas Hicks, and thus became ancestress of Elias Hicks, founder of the Hick-site sect. There was in Stratford a Dr. John Butler, from 1684 until his death in 1695. He was a grantee of lands in Woodbury before 1697. He was probably a son of Dr. John Butler, of Boston, afterward of Branford, Connecticut, where he died in 1680. John senior had sons, John, Richard, Jonathan and Jonas. There was a Deacon Butler in Hartford who died in 1684, and had sons Thomas, Samuel, Nathaniel, Joseph and Daniel. Their descendants are numerous. Zebulon Butler and John Butler, who figured in the troubles in Wyoming valley (Pennsylvania) were of this race. Benjamin F. Butler, late attorney general of New York, was also of this lineage. Captain Zephaniah Butler was in the campaign of General Wolfe at Quebec, marching with other brave soldiers from Woodbury. His son, John Butler, father of General Benjamin F. Butler, now member of Congress (1872), was a captain in the war of 1812, and General Butler has his commission, signed by Madison, as well as the powder horn of his grandfather, who fought under Wolfe, marked 'Zephaniah Butler, his horn, Woodbury, (Connecticut) ye 27. 1758'. This Zephaniah and his brother Benjamin moved to Nottingham, New Hampshire, and settled there."

Zephaniah Butler was the fourth son and child of Malachi and Jemima (Daggett) Butler, of whom mention is made in a preceding paragraph. Their other children were Benjamin, Silas, Solomon, Thankful, Susannah, Margery, Lydia and Mary. Benjamin, the eldest son, will be mentioned at length in a later paragraph. Silas and Solomon removed to New York, where Silas married, lived and died, leaving a family. Solomon settled in Solas and lived and died there,

leaving several children. Of the daughters of Malachi and Jemima little is known.

Zephaniah Butler, son of Malachi and Jemima (Daggett) Butler, removed to Nottingham, New Hampshire, about 1756, and was known there as "the schoolmaster," a man of education and influence. He married Abigail Cilley, daughter of Captain Joseph Cilley and Alice Rawlins, and their youngest son, John Butler, was father of the late General Benjamin F. Butler, candidate for the office of president of the United States on the "Greenback" ticket in 1880.

Rev. Benjamin Butler, eldest son of Malachi and Jemima (Daggett) Butler, was born in Windham, Connecticut, April 9, 1729, and died in Nottingham, New Hampshire, December 26, 1804. He received a classical education at Harvard College, where he graduated in 1752, and made his theology studies at Andover, Massachusetts, where he met and married Dorcas Abbot. After marrying he continued his theology course until the spring of 1754, and then went to Nottingham, settling first at Nottingham Square. Soon afterward he purchased the proprietor's lot formerly set off to Governor Wentworth, and lived there during the remainder of his life. In the early part of 1757 Mr. Butler became settled pastor of the church in Nottingham, receiving about the same time a settlement of two thousand pounds, old tenor, and a salary of thirty-five pounds sterling. His church there was organized in 1742, its first pastor being Rev. Stephen Emery, a graduate of Harvard College in 1730. Mr. Butler was pastor of the church until August 1, 1770, when he resigned and afterward devoted his attention to literary pursuits and agriculture, and also for a time performed the duties of magistrate, to "try small causes." "He was a man," says one of his biographers, "of thorough education, of an active yet disciplined nature," and he used every effort of his life to educate in morality and intelligence his people and his associates. He is spoken of as a "christian of perfect sincerity and earnest work, whose moral influence was realized to his church and town."

On May 7, 1753, Rev. Benjamin Butler married Dorcas Abbot, who was born May 28, 1729, and died in April, 1790, daughter of Lieutenant Henry and Mary Platts Abbot. (see Abbot). Their children. 1. Henry, born April 27, 1754, died July 20, 1813; married April 11, 1776, Isabella Fisk, born August 2, 1757, died January 17, 1808; see forward. 2. Benjamin, born February 23, 1757,

died April 30, 1757. 3. Benjamin, born June 14, 1758, died August 29, 1759. 4. Mary, born March 30, 1760, died August, 1846; married Abraham Brown, of Epping, New Hampshire, and settled in Northfield, New Hampshire, where both died, leaving several children. 5. Elizabeth, born August 30, 1762, died October 3, 1762. 6. Dorcas (triplet), born October 9, 1766, died October 22, 1857; married Jonathan Cilley, born March 3, 1752; removed to Ohio. Children: Joseph, Benjamin, Sally, Henry, Jonathan, Bradbury and Mary Cilley. 7. Jemima (triplet), born October 9, 1766, died October 19, 1766. 8. James Platts (triplet), born October 9, 1766, died October 19, 1766.

Henry Butler, eldest son and child of Rev. Benjamin and Dorcas (Abbot) Butler, was born in Andover, Massachusetts, April 27, 1754, and died in Nottingham Square, New Hampshire, July 20, 1813. At the beginning of the revolutionary war he had just attained his majority, but he entered the service and was commissioned captain of a company of New Hampshire men which was sent to West Point, on the Hudson river, in New York. After the close of the war he was commissioned major-general of New Hampshire militia, a position he held many years, succeeding General Thomas Bartlett, whose immediate predecessor was General Joseph Cilley. These were notable characters in early Nottingham and New Hampshire history, and all of them lived and died on Nottingham Square, each being in office at the time of his death.

General Butler was the first postmaster of Nottingham, receiving his appointment while Gideon Granger was postmaster general. He was as well known and as highly respected as any man in the state. He was one of the leading Free-masons in New Hampshire, for many years master of Sullivan Lodge, the meetings of which were held in his house after 1798. During his life he held many important offices of a civil character, and his integrity never was questioned, whether in an official capacity or as a private citizen in the daily walks of life.

His wife, whom he married April 11, 1776, was Isabella Fisk, who was born August 2, 1757, and died January 17, 1808. She was a daughter of Dr. Ebenezer Fisk, of Epping, New Hampshire, and granddaughter of Rev. Ward Cotton, the first settled minister in Hampton, New Hampshire. The wife of Rev. Ward Cotton was Joanna Rand, of Boston, Massachusetts, and after the death of her first

husband she married Captain Jonathan Gilman, of Exeter, New Hampshire, and after his death she married Deacon Ezekiel Morrill, of Canterbury, and still later married, for her fourth husband, Deacon Joseph Baker, of Canterbury. The last years of her life were spent in the home of General Butler, where she died February 25, 1811, aged ninety-three years. General Henry and Isabella (Fisk) Butler, had ten children:

1. Elizabeth, born July 29, 1777, died July 12, 1808; married William Norris, his second wife; both lived and died in Nottingham. Children: Joanna, born in February, 1800, married Joseph Blake of Raymond, New Hampshire; Betsey, born in August, 1802; William, born September, 1804, married Abigail Cartland of Lee, New Hampshire.

2. Benjamin, born April 11, 1799, died October 1, 1851; married July 6, 1806, Hannah Hilton of Deerfield, New Hampshire, and removed to Cornville, Maine, where both died. Children: Sally, married John Judkins of Athens, Maine; Isabelle, married Bradbury Robinson of Cornville, Maine; Abigail, married — Jewell of Solon, Maine; Mary, married Robert Prince of Skowhegan, Maine; Hannah, married John Brennan of Detroit, Michigan; Joanna, married John Warren of New York; Joseph Henry, married Miss Bartlett; Frank, removed to Wisconsin.

3. Ebenezer, born March 13, 1781, died December 25, 1850; married October 19, 1809, at Sanbornton, New Hampshire, Sarah Hersey, born October 24, 1785, died November 27, 1854, daughter of James Hersey of Sanbornton. Children: James Hersey, born October 27, 1811; Henrietta, born December 24, 1813; Sally Tilton, born November 30, 1818, died November 13, 1853; Louisa, born March 30, 1823, died November 11, 1830.

4. Henry, Jr., born June 30, 1783, married first, October 1, 1806, Abigail Lord, who died June 7, 1817; married second, March 12, 1818, Nancy Hersey (see post).

5. Sarah Cotta, born August 12, 1785, died January 17, 1872; married September 18, 1808, John Haley, of Lee, New Hampshire, who was born February 17, 1783, and died February, 1874. Their married life covered a period of more than sixty-three years, and they had seven children: George, born February 22, 1810, married (1) December 16, 1840, Betsey Jane Knowlton; (2), January 10, 1860, Alice Smith; Henry, born July 20, 1812, married April 4, 1844, Jane Chesley; Samuel Abbot, born July 24, 1815, married August 9, 1838,

Mary Ann French, who died December 8, 1871; Almira, born February 18, 1818, married November 16, 1842, Caverly Knowles; John Parkman, born October 24, 1820, married June 22, 1843, Lydia Ann Gile; Benjamin Franklin, born April 30, 1823, married January 10, 1860, Abbie L. Hill; Harrison, born May 20, 1825, married (1) Isabella S. Hurd; (2) September 6, 1860, Jennie Gordon.

6. Dorcas, born April 15, 1787, died November 8, 1855; married February 11, 1812, William Furber, of Nottingham. They had four children, Henry, Ward C., Isabella and Abigail Furber.

7. Samuel Abbot, born July 19, 1789, died January 16, 1814; enlisted in Captain John Butler's company of cavalry from Nottingham for service in the second war with Great Britain, and stationed at Burlington; promoted sergeant and clerk of the company; while on duty in Highgate, Vermont, with a squad of eighteen men under him, he engaged a party of smugglers driving cattle to Canada, and although four of his men were killed and he himself received mortal wounds, he refused to surrender and with his pistols killed two of the enemy before he could be taken. He refused the services of the British surgeon and died in a few hours after the fight.

8. A son (twin) born June 16, 1792, died unnamed.

9. A daughter (twin) born June 16, 1792, died unnamed.

10. Ward Cotton, born January 22, 1795, died December 2, 1861; married September 19, 1820, Margaret Anderson, and removed to Philadelphia; had three children.

Henry Butler, junior, fourth child and third son of General Henry and Isabella (Fisk) Butler, was born in Nottingham, New Hampshire, June 30, 1783, and died on his farm in Hampden, Maine, 1877. After his second marriage he went to Maine, living for a time in Bangor, and afterward settling on a farm in Hampden, a town about four miles west of Bangor. He was an industrious man, of exemplary habits and was highly respected in the community in which he lived. He married twice. His first wife, whom he married October 1, 1806, was Abigail Lord, of Nottingham, who died June 17, 1817, having borne her husband six daughters. He married (second), March 12, 1818, Nancy Hersey, of Sanbornton, New Hampshire. She was born in Sanbornton, October 22, 1792, and died January 10, 1870, aged seventy-seven years, and was a descendant of one of the old colonial families of New England, hence

some brief reference to her ancestors is appropriate in this place.

The American ancestor of the Herseys of Sanbornton, and perhaps of New England as well, was William Hersey of Hingham, Massachusetts, 1635, who was made freeman in 1638, and became a member of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery in 1652. On the parish and town records in the localities where the earlier generations of the family lived, the name Hersey is found written Harsie, Harsie, Harsey, and also as Hershey. The name is one of great antiquity, and doubtless of French origin, as it is found in the list of noblemen and gentlemen who went over with William the Conqueror into England in 1066. In Hingham it is still one of the more numerous of the surnames of the early settlers. At the time of the trouble about the election of officers of the train band in Hingham, 1644-5, William Hersey was assessed a heavy fine for supporting the views of Rev. Peter Hobart, and the family rate toward the erection of the new meeting-house was the largest but one on the list. William Hersey is believed to have been born in England, but the place and date of his birth have not been determined. The baptismal name of his wife was Elizabeth. He died March 22, 1657-8, and Elizabeth died October 8, 1671. Their children were William, Frances, Elizabeth, Judith, John and James. Of the daughters, Elizabeth married Moses Gilman, of Exeter, New Hampshire, and Judith married Humphrey Wilson, of Exeter. The removal of these daughters with their husbands to New Hampshire was followed by that of at least one of the sons or grandsons of the ancestor, but just which one of them is not easily determined by existing records, and we only know that James Hersey, probably a grandson of the first William, lived in Sanbornton, near Jemima Burley and by her had ten children. James Hersey, son of James and Jemima, was born in Sanbornton, about 1746, and was a surveyor, in which capacity he was employed by the last provincial governor, John Wentworth, to run a line from Portsmouth to Quebec, and also to survey several townships. He was a man of influence, and held close relations with Wentworth. He married Elizabeth Hayes, and died May 14, 1817. His wife died December 26, 1829. They had ten children, the fifth of whom in order of birth was Nancy, the second wife of Henry Butler, Jr., and by whom he had one daughter and seven sons.

By both marriages Henry Butler, junior,

had fourteen children: 1. Isabella Fisk; married (first), William C. Kelly, of Northwood, (second) Bryce Hight, of Newport, Maine. 2. Elizabeth Norris, married Joseph Ireland, of St. Albans, Maine. 3. Mehitable Ford, died young. 4. Sarah Ann, married Cyrus Bartlett, of Harmony, Maine. 5. Abigail Ford, married William Folsom, of Stratford. 6. Harriet, died young. 7. Mary Frances, born February 16, 1819; married May 25, 1843, Thomas P. Emerson, of Lafayette, Indiana. 8. Henry Abbot, born July 22, 1820, married September 23, 1847, Sarah C. Cram, of Bangor, Maine. 9. Calvin Luther, born November 6, 1821, died in New York city, October 19, 1847. 10. Harrison Hersey, born October 30, 1823; died young. 11. Jacob Tilton, born January 15, 1826; see forward. 12. James Harrison, born May 24, 1830; married June 22, 1852, Frances M. Crosby, of Hampden, Maine. 13. A son, born February 16, 1833, died unnamed. 14. A son, born December 4, 1834, died unnamed.

Jacob Tilton Butler, son of Henry Butler Jr. and Nancy Hersey, his second wife, was born in Nottingham, New Hampshire, January 15, 1826, and died in Somerville, Massachusetts, June 6, 1892. He was given a good early education in the common schools, and after leaving school he became a machinist, and for many years was in the engineering department of the Charlestown (Boston) navy yard, in the service of the federal government; and after leaving that employ he carried on a general furniture business fifteen years in Somerville, Massachusetts, where the later part of his life was spent. For many years Mr. Butler was a consistent member of the Winter Hill Baptist Church, a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and in politics was a Republican. He married June 6, 1850, Hannah M. Young, of Dover, New Hampshire, who was born there February 9, 1826, and died in Somerville, Massachusetts, May 27, 1905. They had three children: 1. Eva F., born July, 1853; married George C. Hallett, of Somerville, and had two children, May and Isabel. 2. James H., born November 7, 1856; married December 28, 1876, Mary E. Baker, born March 12, 1858; see forward. 3. William E., born December, 1863, died in Somerville, May 17, 1905; married Nellie Wilson, and had one daughter, Grace E.

James H. Butler, elder son and second child of Jacob Tilton and Hannah M. (Young) Butler, was born in Lafayette, Indiana, November 7, 1856. He was educated in the pub-

lic schools of Chelsea, Massachusetts, graduating from the old Williams grammar school in June, 1871, then for a short term was a student in the Chelsea high school, but left because it became necessary for him to find employment and contribute to the support of his parents and the family. For something like two years he worked in the tool room of the navy yard in Boston, and when eighteen years old went to Lanark, Illinois, and engaged in a woolen business on his own account. Having lived in Lanark about four years, engaged in successful business operations which extended into the east as well as the west, Mr. Butler returned to Massachusetts in 1887, and five years later was the active organizer of the Chandler Adjustable School Chair and Desk Company, a corporation formed under the laws of Massachusetts, and having its principal offices in the city of Boston. Mr. Butler was treasurer and general manager of the company from the time of its organization until 1898, when it merged with the American School Furniture Company. Still later this company was merged with the American Seating Company, a corporation with a capital of four million dollars, and which today controls seventy-five per cent. of all of the business in its special line—school desks, church furniture and opera chairs, etc.—in this country, with a large business in Europe. Mr. Butler is New England manager of the business of the company, and is an energetic, capable and successful officer in that capacity, as he was in the establishment of the original company more than fifteen years ago, and the organization of its affairs on a secure financial basis. In politics he is a staunch Republican, not an aspirant for political honors, although when living in Somerville he did serve a single term as overseer of the poor, and for several years was chairman of the ward committee in the ward in which he lived. He lived in that city about twenty years, and removed to his present home in Malden in 1901. He is a member of the several masonic bodies of Somerville—John Abbot Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons; Somerville Chapter, Royal Arch Masons; Oriental Council, Royal and Scottish Masons; and of De Molay Commandery, Knights Templar. He and his family are regular attendants of the First Parish Universalist Church in Malden.

On December 28, 1876, at Lanark, Illinois, Mr. Butler married Mary E. Baker, who was born in Brookfield, Illinois, March 12, 1858, a daughter of George H. Baker and

Elizabeth Herbert, his wife, of Lanark, Illinois. Mr. Baker lived many years in Lanark, where he engaged in mercantile pursuits, and eventually came to Massachusetts and settled in Stoneham, where he died in 1905. His wife, Elizabeth Herbert, who is still living, aged seventy-seven years, came of an old and highly respectable family of Baltimore, Maryland, and of revolutionary ancestors. They married in Mount Morris, Illinois, 1852, and had seven children.

Mr. and Mrs. Butler have two children. Their first child, E. Rose Butler, was born in Lanark, Illinois, November 22, 1877, and was educated in the Somerville grammar and high schools and the state normal school in Salem, Massachusetts. On July 11, 1906, she married Captain John Doull, son of William M. Doull, of Montreal, Canada, an officer of the English army, and now major of the Royal Canadian Regiment at present stationed at Halifax, Nova Scotia. He served with distinction in South Africa during the Boer war. Major and Mrs. Doull have one daughter, Mary Campbell Doull, born in Malden, August 4, 1907.

James Percival Butler, younger of the two children of James H. and Mary E. (Baker) Butler, was born in Somerville, Massachusetts, January 9, 1881, and was educated in the grammar and high schools of that city, later was a student in the Rindge Training School, Cambridge, Massachusetts, during one year, and for three years at Tufts College. He is now associated in business with his father.

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COGGAN John Coggan, the first of the name in New England, appears first in Dorchester in 1632, and took the freeman's oath November 5, 1633. The name on various records is spelled Cogan, Coggen, Coggin and Coggen. John Coggan was a merchant in Boston, and possessed of considerable wealth, and he appears, according to Washburn's Judicial History of Massachusetts, to have acted as one of the attorneys under the old charter of the colony of Massachusetts Bay. His first wife Ann joined the church at Boston, and had her daughter Ann recorded to have been born November 9, 1636, and baptized November 6, 1636, and another daughter Lydia, born and baptized July 14, 1639. John Coggan's second wife was Mary, who died January 14, 1652, and his third wife, whom he married March 16, 1652, was Martha.