

- E X P L A N A T I O N S -

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This record consists of the American genealogy of the Butts family of Rhode Island, or those who are of Rhode Island descent.

In English genealogy I have taken no pains to collect and the line of descent, so far as I have been able to trace, is broken. The name Butts, however, dates back to the earliest history of England, and it seems remarkable that it has not been changed or confused with other names, such as Butt or Betts. The name appears quite often among the French as De' Butts, but this branch of the family has no connection with the French since the 11th century. Blake, in his biographical history, gives the following tribute of respect to an English ancestor, of whom many pleasant memoirs have been written.

"Sir William Butts, an English physician, a native of Norfolk, and educated at Cairns College, was one of the founders of the Royal College of Physicians to Henry VIII, by whom he was Knighted. He was much esteemed for his learning, medical skill and judgment, and Bishop Parkhurst has several epigrams upon him. Shakespeare immortalized him as one of the royal household in his play of Henry VIII, (act V. sec. 2). He is represented in the celebrated painting by Hobien, of the "Delivery of the Charter of the College of Surgeons" by Henry VIII, A. D. 1545, and is buried in Fulham Church, where there is a monument to his memory.

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