

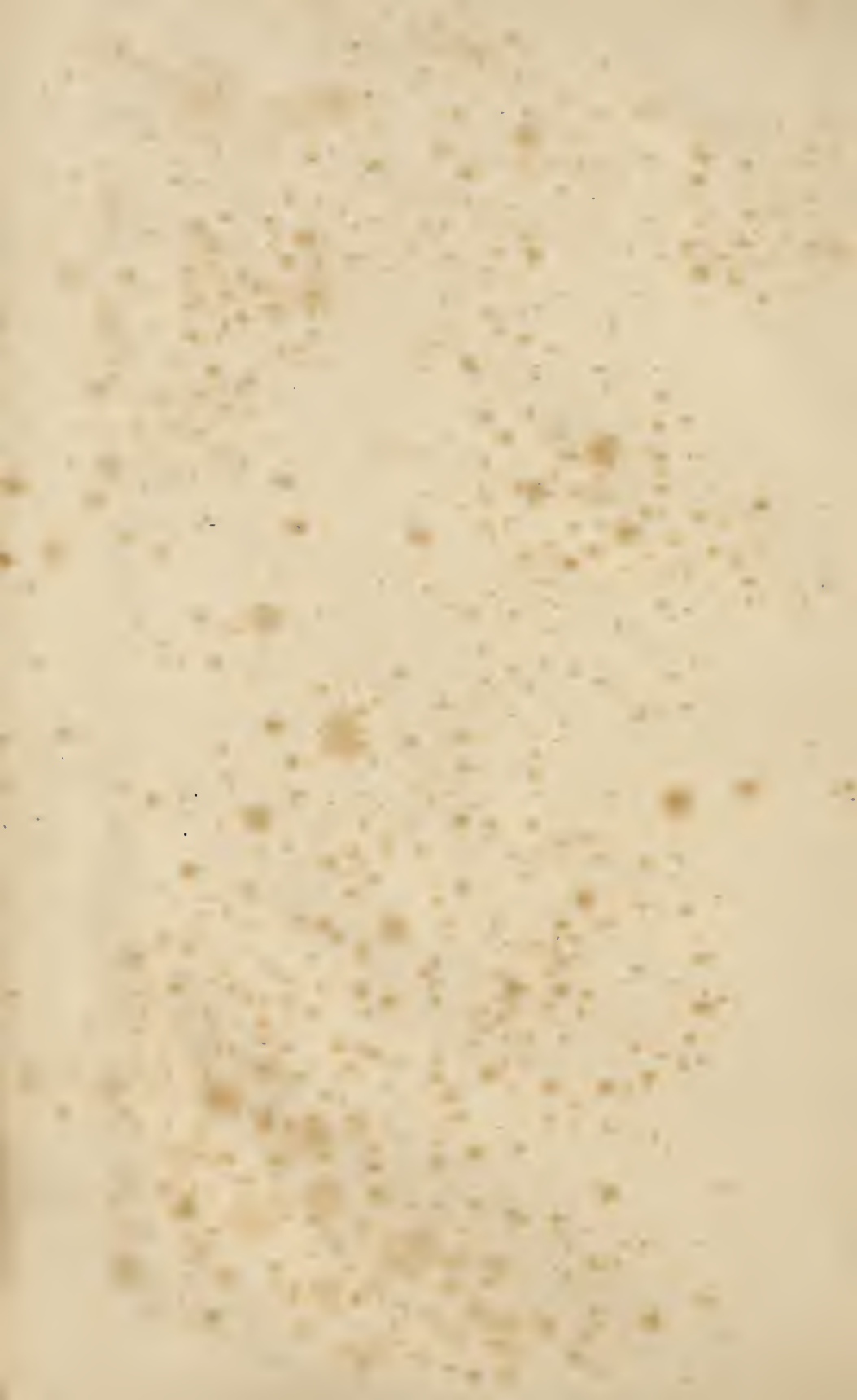
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LT.-COL.

OTHO HAMILTON

OF

OLIVESTOB



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TO THE MEMORY OF MY MOTHER

ANNA AUGUSTA WILLOUGHBY HAMILTON EATON

(Youngest Daughter of Otho Hamilton)

I DEDICATE THIS BRIEF RECORD

OF

EMINENT MILITARY SERVICE

BY

MEMBERS OF HER FAMILY

PRESS OF J. R. FINDLAY, 211 BRUNSWICK ST., HALIFAX, N. S.

X

LT.-COL. OTHO HAMILTON OF OLIVESTOB

LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR OF PLACENTIA, LIEUTENANT-COLONEL
IN THE ARMY, MAJOR OF THE 40TH REGIMENT OF FOOT,
MEMBER OF THE NOVA SCOTIA COUNCIL FROM
1731 TO 1744

HIS SONS, CAPTAIN JOHN AND LIEUTENANT-COLONEL
OTHO HAMILTON, 2ND, AND HIS GRANDSON,
SIR RALPH HAMILTON, KT.

BY

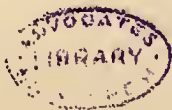
REV. ARTHUR WENTWORTH HAMILTON EATON, B. A.

AUTHOR OF

"THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND IN NOVA SCOTIA AND THE TORY CLERGY OF
THE REVOLUTION," "THE NOVA SCOTIA EATONS," "THE OLIVESTOB
HAMILTONS," "THE ELMWOOD EATONS," "THE HAMILTONS
OF DOVER AND BERWICK," "WILLIAM THORNE AND
SOME OF HIS DESCENDANTS," "THE FAMILIES OF EATON-
SUTHERLAND, LAYTON-HILL," "THE COCHRAN-
INGLIS FAMILY OF HALIFAX," &C., &C.

HALIFAX, N. S.
C. H. RUGGLES & Co.

—
1899





LT.-COL. OTHO HAMILTON

BORN ABOUT 1690. DIED FEBRUARY 26, 1770

The person most conspicuous in the capture of Port Royal in Acadia from the French, in 1710, was Francis Nicholson, a Scotchman, who has the honour of having been successively governor of a greater number of provinces than any other man known in history. Actively associated with him in this enterprise was Colonel Samuel Vetch, "the son of a godly minister in the Grass Market," Edinburgh, to whom undoubtedly belongs even more honour in the final reduction of Port Royal than to Nicholson, himself. In McVicar's historical sketch of Annapolis Royal, the story of the prolonged efforts made by the neighbouring New England colonists to induce the British Government to send troops from England to capture the fort, will be found in detail. In these efforts both Nicholson and Vetch were the active agents of the New England people, and in response to their personal appeals, and under their conduct, a fleet was at last sent out to Boston in the summer of 1710, to join the colonists in an attack on Port Royal. On the fifth of October the force actually appeared before the town, on the ninth the troops landed from the transports, and on the tenth the surrender was completed, the French Governor, Subercase, and his faithful soldiers marching out, and the English General, Nicholson, formally receiving the keys.

Among the recruits who came to Boston with Nicholson and Vetch was Otho Hamilton, the youngest son of Colonel

Thomas Hamilton, of Edinburgh, and his wife Grizel (Hamilton), people of high standing in the Scottish capital. In early life Colonel Thomas Hamilton, of the Olivestob branch of the Hamilton family, had entered the Swedish army, where he attained the rank of Captain, but later, returning to Scotland, had adopted civil life, and had become an influential citizen of Edinburgh. When the Edinburgh Regiment was raised in the Revolution of 1688, however, he was made its lieutenant-colonel. The Olivestob branch of the Hamilton family took its name from the estate owned by it in East Lothian, the word Olivestob being a transformation of the words Holy Stop, the place where the host formerly stopped in its procession from Preston to the Cistercian abbey of Newbattle, near by. Olivestob House is now called Bankton, and its location is near the Preston station, and a very short distance from the well known East Lothian village of Prestonpans. A careful monograph on this branch of the Hamilton family was published in 1893, and will be found in the leading libraries at home and abroad. By that sketch it may be seen that the family is noted as having supplied many sons to the British army, and that the career of Major Otho Hamilton, which we are here about to trace, was strictly in pursuance of long established family traditions. The mother of Major Otho, as we have seen, was Grizel Hamilton. She was a daughter of James Hamilton of Westport and his wife Anna, who was a daughter of Sir Patrick Hamilton of Little Preston, a brother of Thomas Hamilton, first Earl of Haddington. His paternal grandfather was John Hamilton of Edinburgh and his grandmother, Anna Elphinstone, a daughter of James Elphinstone of Innerdovot in Fife, and a granddaughter of Alexander, second Lord Elphinstone, who fell at the Battle of Pinkie in 1548.

Of Otho Hamilton's baptism the register of the old Cathedral parish of Edinburgh makes no mention, though the baptisms of six of his father's twelve children are there recorded. His birth, however, must have occurred about 1690, and his boyhood was probably spent in his native city. In 1710 he joined the force embarking for the new world, and the records in the War Office give the date of his Ensign's commission as June 16th. In 1714 he was Ensign in Captain J. Williams' independent company at Annapolis, the company containing besides these two commissioned officers, three sergeants, three corporals, three drummers, and thirty-three men. On the 31st of December, 1714, Captain Williams' company swore allegiance to King George the First, and on the 10th of January, 1715, Ensign Hamilton also took the oath, one of the witnesses thereto being Dr. William Skene, another Scotchman, who was appointed army surgeon at Annapolis May 12, 1746, and so remained until February 7, 1757, when Dr. William Catherwood succeeded him. In 1717 the four independent companies at Annapolis and four independent companies at Placentia in Newfoundland, with two additional companies, were formed into one regiment and named the 40th, the first colonel of which, Richard Philipps, afterward Governor of Nova Scotia, received his commission August 25, 1717. This regiment, which Murdoch, the historian of Nova Scotia, says it was intended to increase to eight hundred and fifteen men, the complement of an English marching regiment, according to records in the Nova Scotia archives now numbered including officers, four hundred and forty-five men. Succeeding Philipps in the colonelcy of the 40th were Sir Edward Cornwallis, March 13, 1752, and Col. Thomas Hopson, March 4, 1754.

The successive promotions of Otho Hamilton in the 40th were: Lieutenant, August 9, 1718; Capt.-Lieut., July 8, 1734; Captain, September 3, 1739; Major, January 30, 1745-6. In the Commission Books in the War Office, under date of July 8, 1734, Otho Hamilton, Esq., is appointed "Capt.-Lieut. of that company in our Regiment of Foot sometime commanded by Richard Philipps, Esq., whereof he himself is Captain."

During the nearly forty years that the little garrison town of Annapolis remained the capital and indeed the only English settlement of Nova Scotia, the Provincial documents make many casual allusions to the subject of this sketch. In Vol. 9, Nova Scotia Record Commission, under date of August 15, 1726, is an interesting letter from Otho Hamilton at Annapolis, to Governor Mascarene at Boston, sent as the writer says, by Mrs. Hamilton, his wife. The letter treats of the garrison stores, of certain Frenchmen, of Mascarene's man "Will," &c. On the 28th of July, 1727, less than two months after the accession of George the Second, the Secretary of the Nova Scotia Council, Mr. Wm. Sheriff (often spelled Shirriff), another Scotchman, probably also from the Lothians, refusing to act, Lieutenant Otho Hamilton was temporarily appointed in his place. The Council at this time consisted of the President, Lieutenant-Governor Armstrong; Major Paul Mascarene, John Adams, a New England Trader; the Secretary, William Sheriff; Major Henry Cope, and William Winniett; Otho Hamilton himself being elected thereto, October 9, 1731. In 1730 we find Lieutenant Hamilton's name as one of the sixteen witnesses to the subscription of the oath of allegiance at Annapolis, of two hundred and twenty-seven French residents in that part of the Province. May 12, 1735 he received a deed of land from Charles Vane.

In 1736, during Mr. Sheriff's absence in England, he was again acting as Secretary of the Council. April 6th of that year he received a deed of land from John Adams, and August 30th Lieutenant-Governor Armstrong assigned a thousand acres of land on the north side of the Basin of Minas to Otho Hamilton, *John Hamilton*, and thirty other gentlemen. The same date the two Hamiltons and thirty-four others received a grant of fifty thousand acres at Chignecto, Norwich, &c., which was escheated, as was also the former grant, in 1760. In 1738, Lieut. Otho received a grant of three acres, two roods, and thirty-one perches of marsh land, bounding on Allen's River. August 15th of that year he received three lots, June 17, 1739, ten lots, and July 18, 1739 one lot of land, at Annapolis.

December 7, 1739, the day after the suicide of Lieutenant-Governor Armstrong, Captain Hamilton was acting with the other members of the Council, Adams, Skene, Sheriff, Amherst, and Slater, in a meeting held in the house of the President of the Council, John Adams. The 28th of March, 1740, "having been made Captain of one of the companies at Canso, and having to go there on duty, he was appointed and sworn a Justice of the Peace throughout the province." A royal commission dated September 4, 1740 (the 14th year of King George II) appointed five members of the Council of New York, five of New Jersey, and five of Nova Scotia, to settle the boundaries between the Province of Massachusetts Bay, and the Colony of Rhode Island, and Captain Otho Hamilton, was one of the five appointed from Nova Scotia. Since, however, Henry Cope, one of the designated members of the Commission, was in the expedition to the West Indies, and *Captain Hamilton was at Canso*, Messrs. Skene, Sheriff, and Erasmus J. Philipps, the other Nova members, left Annapolis for New England on this mission,

in April, without them. How long Captain Hamilton remained at Canso we do not know, but in 1744 he could not have been there, for on the 13th of May of that year, soon after the beginning of hostilities between France and Great Britain, Monsieur Du Vivier, with a few armed vessels and about nine hundred men, regulars and militia, from Louisburg, took Canso without any resistance and reduced the place again to French authority.

In 1744, Henry Cope, Lieutenant-Governor of the town and garrison of Placentia on the northern coast of Newfoundland, died, and by a proclamation dated at St. James' the 25th of December of that year, Captain Hamilton was appointed in his place, with a salary of a hundred and eighty-two pounds, ten shillings. It is probable that he removed at once from Nova Scotia to his new post, and remained there until advanced age obliged him to withdraw from active service. The 30th of January, 1745-6, he was appointed Major of the 40th, and he so remained until 1761, when he resigned. On his retirement from the regiment Major Hamilton must have received the army rank of Lieutenant-Colonel, for in the Calendar of Home Office Papers in the War Office (Reign of George III October 25, 1760-1765, Vol. 20, in the Public Record Office, London) there is a letter from Mr. Townsend to the Earl of Egremont, of the 24th of November, 1761, enclosing an extract from *Lieut.-Col.* Hamilton, *Lieut.-Governor* of Placentia, to Mr. Bullock, desiring bedding for the garrison at Placentia. Mr. Hamilton's will was made at Waterford, Ireland, August 23, 1768, and the 26th of February, 1770, he died there, still holding the position of Lieutenant-Governor of Placentia in Newfoundland. In this position he was immediately followed by Major Joseph Goreham.

Of the life of the people at Annapolis in those early years, before the government was transferred to Halifax, we know almost nothing in detail. They had more or less communication with Boston, but they were very remote, and for society they must have been thrown almost entirely on themselves. The facts of Nova Scotia history are generally pretty well known, but the story of that little garrison in the new world and the people who composed the society of the "upper" and "lower" town of Annapolis, between 1710 and 1749, remains yet to be told. Undoubtedly Major Otho Hamilton married at Annapolis, but who his wife was or when she died, we have so far no means whatever of knowing. In his will as we shall see, Mr. Hamilton remembers his wife's sister Mrs. Anne Skene, and as we review the names of the people in the Annapolis garrison it seems almost impossible to doubt that whatever his wife's maiden name was, she was a sister of the wife of Dr. William Skene, who probably died at Annapolis in the year that his name disappears from the army list as surgeon of the 40th, the year 1757. Of the children of Major Hamilton and his wife we know much more, and the information we have concerning them will be given a little further on. They were only three, JOHN, OTHO, and GRIZEL.

In one of the grants of land above referred to, occurs the name of a John Hamilton, contemporary with Otho, who ought to receive some notice here. In March, 1734, the Lieutenant-Governor commissioned "John Hamilton, gentleman," as naval officer and deputy collector for the port of Annapolis, and we have one or two subsequent notices of him in connection with the duties of the collectorship. In 1736 he was a member of the Council, but we know nothing whatever of him after this time. Who he was, however, it is not difficult to determine.

Among the sons of John Hamilton of Edinburgh, founder of the Olivestob branch of the Hamiltons, and his wife Anna Elphinstone, there was an uncle of Major Otho's, named John, who held the position of Baillie of the Abbey of Holyrood, an office in the gift of the Duke of Hamilton, which seems for generations to have remained in the Hamilton family. The wife of this John Hamilton was Katherine Arbuckle, a beautiful woman, a copy of whose portrait, as well as of her husband's, is in the possession of the author of the present sketch. From references to their children obtained from abroad it seems quite certain that it was their second son John, a first cousin of Major Otho's, who was appointed naval officer and collector of the port of Annapolis in 1736.

Copy of a record in the Public Record Office of Ireland, entitled :

WILL OF OTHO HAMILTON. 1770, PREROGATIVE COURT

In the name of God Amen I Otho Hamilton of the City of Waterford Esq Lieutenant-Governor of the Town and Garrison of Placentia in His Majesty's Island of Newfoundland being of perfect mind memory and understanding calling to mind the mortality of my body and that it is appointed for all men once to die Do make and Ordain this my last Will and Testament in manner following that is to say First and principally I give and commit my Soul into the hands of Almighty God that gave it and my body I desire may be buried by my Executors hereinafter named in a Christian like and decent manner not doubting but at the general Resurrection I shall receive the same again by the mighty power of God And as touching all such worldly Estate and substance wherewith it hath pleased God to bless me in this life I give devise and dispose of the same in manner following that is to say I leave and bequeath unto my Daughter in Law Mary Hamilton Wife of my Son Captain John Hamilton late of the Fortieth Regiment the Sum of One Hundred pounds sterl. as a mark of my Gratitude for her Care and Kindness to me when I was taken ill on my Journey from Cork to Waterford I leave and bequeath unto my good friend Charles Gould Esq of the

Horse Guards the Sum of One Hundred pounds sterl. lawful money of Great Britain I give to my servant Cæsar his freedom and I leave and bequeath unto him the Sum of Ten pounds sterl. lawful money of Great Britain and whereas the Pension of Mrs. Ann Skene my Wife's Sister is not sufficient for her support I do therefore leave and bequeath unto her One Annuity or yearly sum of Ten pounds sterl. for and during her natural life and no longer and to be paid to her by two even and equal half yearly payments by my Executors hereinafter named that is to say on every first day of May and first day of November the first payment to be made and begin on such of the said days as shall happen next after my Decease And I do hereby charge my persoual Estate and fortune with the Payment of the sd. Annuity of Ten pounds to the said Ann Skene during her natural life as aforesaid And I will and direct that all the rest residue and remainder of all my real and personal Estate Goods Chattles and Effects of what nature or kind soever whereof I am now seised or possessed or whereof I shall dye seised possessed or any way intituled unto (after paymt. of my just Debts funeral Expenses and the several Legacies hereinbefore bequeathed) shall be divided into four equal shares or parts thereof unto my Eldest Son John Hamilton to and for his sole use and benefit And I give leave devise and bequeath unto my Son Major Otho Hamilton of the said fortieth Regiment one other share or part thereof to and for his own proper use and benefit And I give leave devise and bequeath the other remaining share or part thereof unto my said Two Sons John Hamilton and Otho Hamilton in trust that they and the Survrs. of them & the Executors and Administrators of such Survrs. shall pay apply and dispose of the yearly Interest Income & produce thereof as the same shall from time to time arise accrue or be received into the proper hands of my Son in Law Richard Dawson Esqr and Grizy Dawson otherwise Hamilton his wife and the Survrs. of them and from and after the Deaths of the said Richard Dawson and Grizy his Wife and the Survrs. of them in trust that the said Johu & Otho Hamilton & the Survrs. of them and the Exrs. or Admrs. of such Survrs. shall assign pay transferr and dispose of the sd. fourth remaining part or share of my sd. Estate and Effects to such of the Children of the said Grizy Dawson as shall be then living in such shares manner and proportions as the sd. Richard and Grizy Dawson or the Survrs. of them shall by Deed Will or Writing executed in the presence of two or more credible Witnesses limit or appoint the same And in default thereof then unto and among all and every the Childn. of the sd. Grizy Dawson as shall

be living at the time of the death of the Survrs. of them the sd. Richard and Grizy Dawson to be equally divided between them if more than one share and share alike and if but one Child to go to such only Child Provided always nevertheless that in Case the sd. Grizy Dawson shall have no Child or Childn. living at the time of her Decease then I will and direct that from and after the Death of the Survrs. of them the sd. Richd. and Grizy Dawson the sd. fourth part of my sd. Estate and Effects shall go to and be equally divided between my sd. two Sons John Hamilton and Otho Hamilton share and share alike And in Case of their Deaths I will that the one moiety or half thereof shall go to the Issue of my sd. Son Otho Hamilton and the other moiety or half thereof unto my three Grandsons Otho William and Thos. Hamilton (sons of the sd. John Hamilton) to and for their sole use and benefit And I Do hereby nominate constitute & appoint my sd. Sons John and Otho Hamilton and the said Charles Gould Exrs. of this my last will and Testamt. and Do revoke all former Will and Wills by me made In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my Hand and Seal and do declare and publish this my last Will and Testament this Twenty-Third day of August in the year of our Lord One thousand and seven hundred and sixty-eight.

Signed Sealed published and Declared by the
 sd. Otho Hamilton as and for his last
 Will and Testamt. in presence of us who
 in his presence and in the presence of
 each other and at his request have
 subscribed our names as Witnesses
 hereunto

Otho Hamilton [seal]

John Roberts
 Patt Mooney
 Theo Cooke

Whereas I Otho Hamilton Lieutenant Governor of the Town and Garrison of Placentia in His Majesty's Island of Newfoundland and now of the City of Waterford Esqr did in and by my last Will and Testament in Writing hereunto annexed bearing date the twenty-third Day of August Instant leave and bequeath unto my Son Major Otho Hamilton of the Fortieth Regiment one fourth part or share of my Estate and fortune as therein mentioned for his own use and benefit And Whereas I have since executed unto my said Son Otho Hamilton one Bond or Obligation bearing Date the twenty fifth day

of August Instant of the Penalty of Two Thousand four Hundred Pounds sterl. conditioned for the Payment of the Sum of One Thousand Two Hundred pounds sterl. to the said Otho Hamilton on the day of my Death Now I Do by this my Writing (which I Do Declare to be a Codicil to my said will and direct to be taken as part thereof) will order and direct that the said Sum of One Thousand Two Hundred pounds shall be deemed and taken as part of the said fourth part or share of my said Estate and fortune so by me bequeathed to the said Otho Hamilton and shall be accordingly deducted thereout In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my Hand and Seal this Twenty Sixth Day of August in the year of Our Lord One thousand seven hundred and sixty eight.

Signed sealed published and declared by the
said Otho Hamilton as and for a Codicil
to his last Will and Testament in presence
of us who in his presence and in the
presence of each other have subscribed
our Names as Witnesses hereunto

Otho Hamilton [seal]

John Roberts
Patt Mooney
Theo Cooke

CAPTAIN JOHN HAMILTON, eldest son of Lieut.-Colonel Otho Hamilton was probably born at Annapolis about 1724, and received his Ensign's commission about 1742. The first printed Army List is of the year 1754, and the manuscript records in the War Office have not so far been searched for Captain Hamilton's first and second commissions. He was, however, Lieutenant, in 1749, and his Captain's commission dates from March 27, 1753. In the army list for 1754 he appears as Captain, Dr. William Skene as surgeon, Rev. George Thomson or Thompson as chaplain, and another John Hamilton as quartermaster. In the army list for 1755 John Handfield, whose commission is dated October 15, 1754, is Major, John and Otho Hamilton (the commission of the latter is dated June 26, 1754) are Captains, a younger John Handfield, whose commission bears date February 12, 1755, is Ensign, and a John Hamilton, Jr.; appointed February 26, 1755, is quartermaster. The latter ceased to be quartermaster in 1756.

April 23, 1740, John Hamilton, probably Major Otho's son, was sworn in Assistant Secretary of the Council, and the 15th of August, 1752, while still a lieutenant, a young widower, he married (2) at Annapolis, Mary Handfield, a daughter of Captain, afterward Major, John Handfield, who was actively concerned in the removal of the Acadians from Annapolis; Captain Handfield himself, in the absence of a garrison chaplain, performing the ceremony. On the 27th of November (old style, December 8th new style) 1749, some three hundred Micmac Indians surprised Lieutenant Hamilton and eighteen men, who had been

detached by Captain Handfield at his fort at Minas, made the whole party prisoners and took them to Quebec, where they remained as prisoners until some time in the autumn of 1751. Then they were ransomed by the payment of a certain sum of money, for which Hamilton drew on Governor Cornwallis. While he was a prisoner at Quebec, Lieutenant Hamilton became acquainted with the notorious Abbé Le Loutre, Vicar General of the Bishop of Quebec, a bitter enemy to England's rule in Acadia, and in 1754, Abbé Le Loutre desiring for some reason at the time to conciliate the English, used Lieutenant Hamilton as a channel of intercourse between himself and the government. In a letter to Charles Lawrence, Lieutenant-Governor and President of the Council, dated Aug 27, 1754, Le Loutre writes: "I have had the honor of being acquainted with Captain Hamilton for several years. He knows my way of thinking, and the real desire I feel for the continuance of the good harmony that exists between our sovereigns. He wrote to me some time ago from Port Royal, and informed me that he would come to our neighborhood (Bean Séjour) and propose a reconciliation between our savages and the English. Since his arrival at Fort Lawrence, of which he advised me, he was pleased to accept the invitation to dinner which I then gave him on our part. It was then that we had a conversation as to the means to be employed to bring about this reconciliation. He wrote to you on the subject, Sir, and you have since given your orders to Mr. Hussey, who commands at Fort Lawrence," &c., &c. (N. S. Archives, Record Commission, B. 215.) This letter was read at a meeting of the Council held at the Governor's house at Annapolis on Monday, September 9, 1754, at which there were present Lieut.-Gov. Lawrence, Benjamin

Green, John Collier, William Cotterell, and Robert Monckton.

The 27th of March, 1753, Lieutenant Hamilton received his Captain's commission, and in 1766 he retired from the army, so in 1767 and thereafter, his name is absent from the army lists. There was another John Hamilton, who received his Ensign's commission in the 40th, on the 28th of June, 1755, and his Lieutenancy, the 28th of February, 1761, and who also disappears from the army list as an officer of the 40th in 1766. Whether he was a son of the John Hamilton, naval officer, or who he was we cannot now tell. As we have seen, Captain John Hamilton married at Annapolis in 1752, seven months before he received his Captain's commission, Mary Handfield, and in his father's will made August 23, 1768, he is referred to as Captain John Hamilton, late of the 40th, and his wife Mary and their children, Otho, William, and Thomas Hamilton, are all mentioned. Captain Hamilton died before 1802, probably in Waterford, Ireland, and Anderson says in 1827, that some of his descendants were then living in Cumberland, England. His wife Mary, as we learn from her father's will, died sometime between July, 1766, and January, 1773. Major Handfield, who became Lieut.-Col. of the 40th, also died in Ireland, in 1788.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL OTHO HAMILTON, 2ND. The life of Lieutenant-Colonel Otho Hamilton, 2nd, second son of the Lieut.-Governor of Placentia is much better known to us than that of his older brother John. He was probably born at Annapolis about 1726, and his Ensign's commission in the 40th was obtained May 25, 1744. He was made Lieutenant October 24, 1747, Captain-Lieutenant March 27, 1753, Captain June 26, 1754, Major, November 10, 1761. December 14, 1770, he was transferred to the 59th as Lieutenant-Colonel, his successor in the Majority of the 40th being James Grant. In 1802 (February 5th) when he made his will, he was Barrack Master of Romford, Essex, England. His death occurred in 1811.

Lieut.-Col. Otho, 2nd, married in Ireland, October 21, 1768, Catherine Elizabeth Clement Hawtrey, probably sister of the Rev. Ralph Hawtrey, of Waterford, whose name is conspicuous in his will. By his marriage he had two children, Col. Sir Ralph Hamilton, Kt., whose record will be found further on, and Grizel Ann Hamilton, who was never married.

July 20, 1752, as we learn from Nova Scotia records, Mr. Hamilton received two hundred acres of land on the east side of Chebucto Harbor, and on the 17th of May, 1764, a lot in the town of Halifax. In the Assembly, on Saturday, October 13, 1764, the House voted its thanks to Major Hamilton for the aid he had given with his troops in the repair and improvement of the road to the interior of the Province. In the Council, December 24th of that year, "on behalf of himself and a considerable number of officers, gentlemen, traders, and farmers," a petition from Major Hamilton was read, "for a township of 100,000 acres on the St. John River." The record states that the

petitioners were referred to the Board of Trade, and that the land meanwhile was ordered to be reserved. In this year, 1764, Hamilton was with the 40th at Halifax, in 1767-8 he was quartered at Dublin, and in 1769 at Cork. After Major Hamilton left the regiment, between 1772 and 1778, it was stationed at various places in America, in the latter year at Philadelphia. In 1774, as Colonel of the 59th, Hamilton came to the assistance of Governor Gage at Boston. *Essex Institute* (Mass.) Vol. 13, p. 18. In the *Essex Gazette* for 1774, No. 316, we find that the Governor, Thomas Gage "deemed it prudent toward the end of the next month (August) to move with two companies of the 64th Regiment to guard his headquarters; and on the 13th of August, 1774, the 59th Regiment under Col. Hamilton, landed from the transports in which they had arrived the day before, and encamped near the fort on the neck." Anderson, in his "House of Hamilton," says: Col. Otho Hamilton "died in 1811, after an active and honourable service of half a century's continuance, principally in America, under the late Lord Amherst and General Wolfe, by whose friendship and confidence he was particularly distinguished." In his will he calls himself, "Otho Hamilton of the Parish of Saint Margaret, Westminster, in the County of Middlesex, Esquire, and now Barrack Master of Rumford in the County of Essex." His residence in London was No. 15, James Street, Westminster. His will is long and complex, but the only persons of importance to this history mentioned in it are his wife and two children, his grandson Otho William Hawtreay Hamilton, his deceased brother John, the Rev. Ralph Hawtreay of Waterford, and Col. William Browning, a near relative of his wife's. The will was proved by his widow at London (in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, and a copy lodged in the Prerogative Court of Ireland)

April 5, 1811. For copies of both his and his father's wills, the author of this monograph is indebted to the kindness of Arthur Hill, Esq., formerly of Castle Malwood, now of Fritham Lodge, Lyndhurst, Hants.

The following extract from papers in the War Office, also kindly made by Arthur Hill, Esq., December 9, 1898, throws light on the transfer of Col. Hamilton from the 40th to the 59th Regiment in 1770 :

To His Excellency Lord Viscount Townshend, Lord Lieutenant, General and Governor General of Ireland, &c., &c.

The Memorial of Major Otho Hamilton and Captain Adam Williamson of the 40th Regiment.

His Majesty by his late Regulation having positively ordered one Field Officer to be resident, has prevented your Memorialist from making any application for leave, and during twenty-five years Service has been absent only one year from the Regiment, served the whole war in North America and the West Indies; was wounded at the Seige (*sic*) of Quebec and purchased his Majority in November 1761.

Your other Memorialist Captain Adam Williamson has been upward of sixteen years an Officer, served in North America and the West Indies from the defeat of General Braddock to the taking the Havanah; was twice severely wounded at the Monongahéla and Seige (*sic*) of Quebec and purchased his Company in April, 1760.

Your Memorialist begs leave to represent that Lieut.-Col. Grant being Governor of East Florida renders it impossible for him to attend the Regiment, and this case in respect to the whole army is very singular.

They flatter themselves their Characters as Men and Officers will bear the strictest scrutiny.

Your Memorialists therefore humbly hope that having had the honour to serve under Your Excellency at Quebec, that Your Excellency will be pleased to take their Service and Case into consideration and lay their memorial before His Majesty recommending them for the brevet rank of Lieut.-Colonel (*sic*) and Major, which Commissions His Majesty was most graciously pleased to sign for them in 1766 but were afterwards recalled.

Should your Memorialists be so fortunate to succeed, His Majesty's Orders would be complied with and one Field Officer constantly Resident with the Regiment.

And your Memorialists &c.

Endorsed :

Recommended by the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland and General Williamson.

(See Calendar of Home Office Papers. George III, 1770-1772. Under 13 Jan. 1770, Ireland. Vol. 437, No. 4. In Public Record Office, London).

GRIZEL HAMILTON, only daughter of Lieut.-Col. Otho of Placentia, was married to Colonel Richard Dawson, an officer in the Engineers. Colonel Dawson appears in the Army Lists as Engineer in Ordinary and Captain, March 17, 1759, Lieut.-Col. in the army, August 29, 1777, and Lieut.-Colonel in the Engineers, January 1, 1783. He was Colonel in the army, November 20, 1782. His name appears among Invalid Engineers, January 1, 1783, and he must have died in 1788 or 1789, for after 1788 his name is not found in the Army Lists.

SIR RALPH HAMILTON, KT., Groom of the Bedchamber to Prince William Frederick, Duke of Gloucester, only son of Lieut.-Colonel Otho Hamilton, 2nd, and his wife Catherine Elizabeth Clement Hawtrey, was born probably about 1770. He married in London, July 14, 1791, a Miss Green of James Street, and had four children :

Otho William Hawtrey
William Frederick
George Burton
Emma Eliza

From the Army Lists we find that Sir Ralph entered the 17th Light Dragoons as a cornet, March 31st, 1783; was made Captain of the 2nd Regiment of Life Guards, June 13, 1794; was given the army rank of Major, April 29, 1802; was Lieut.-Colonel of the Limerick Fencibles on the infirm list in 1819, and was commissioned Colonel of the Limerick Fencibles, August 12, of the same year. In 1830 Sir Ralph received the honour of Knighthood, and his death occurred the next year, 1831. Anderson in his history of the House of Hamilton says that Sir Ralph served abroad with the Guards on the breaking out of the French Revolutionary War in 1793, and as aid-de-camp to the Duke of Gloucester in North Holland in 1799, and that he wrote a poetical account of the campaigns of 1793, 1794. The *Gentleman's Magazine* for 1831, on the occasion of his death has the following notice of him :

“In James Street, Buckingham Gate, June 24, 1831, Col. Sir Ralph Hamilton, Kt., of Olivestob, N. B., Groom of the Bedchamber to the Duke of Gloucester. He purchased a cornetcy in the 17th Light Dragoons in 1783, and afterwards removed to the King's Dragoon Guards. In 1789 he entered the 3rd Foot Guards, with the first brigade



of which he served in the campaign of 1793 in the Netherlands. In 1799 he made the campaign of North Holland as Aid-de-Camp to Prince William Frederick of Gloucester, who appointed him a Groom of his Bed-chamber. From the 3rd Foot Guards he exchanged into the 36th Regiment, and was afterwards Major of the 71st. He attained the rank of Colonel in 1819." None of Sir Ralph's sons seem to have entered the army.

Arms of the Olivestob Hamiltons, registered by Colonel Thomas Hamilton, in 1673 :

Gules, a martlet between three cinquefoils argent, within a bordure embattled or. Crest : An antelope's head proper, gorged and attired gules. Motto, "*In via virtuti pervia.*"







