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NUMBER 36

2013

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ULSTER GENEALOGICAL AND HISTORICAL GUILD

DIRECTORY OF IRISH FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH

(formerly Subscribers' Interest List)

NUMBER 36, 2013

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Printed by Martins the Printers

ISBN: 978-1-909556-19-5

COVER IMAGE

The round tower at Drumbo, Co. Down

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Thomas Hamilton – Progenitor of a Colonial American family: His Ulster origins revealed using DNA

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Captain Thomas Hamilton, grandson of James Hamilton, 1st Earl of Abercorn and fourth son of Sir George Hamilton of Duninalong, County Tyrone, died May 9, 1687¹ and was buried in King's Chapel, Boston, Massachusetts on May 16.² He was Captain of the *Kingfisher*, which arrived in Boston, December 1686 bringing Sir Edmund Andros to the American Colonies as Governor General.³ Also recorded in Massachusetts is 'Thomas Hambleton the son of Thomas Hamblton and lidia his wife was bourne the 17 of Febuary 1671 borne at Rohd Iland.'⁴

Three hundred years have passed since the documented events above took place in colonial New England. Relying on DNA evidence, historical events and traditional genealogical research, we suggest that Captain Thomas Hamilton and Thomas Hamblton, spouse of Lydia Wing above, *may* be one and the same person.

Identifying the origins of colonial families in New England can be troublesome when the immigrant did not stay long enough to appear in subsequent records. Lydia Wing (28 May 1647–c. 1710), daughter of Daniel Wing and Hannah Swift of Sandwich in Plymouth Colony, Massachusetts,⁵ married Thomas Hamilton and had two sons, Daniel and Thomas.⁶ While records exist that document Lydia Hamilton and her children in the Quaker records of Sandwich, her husband is never mentioned again after the births of their sons. Some researchers have assumed he died early. Using Y-DNA from four, direct male descendants of first son, Daniel Hamilton, we were able to match Lydia's husband, Thomas Hamilton, to Sir George Hamilton mentioned above. Sir George was also a fourth great-grandson of James Hamilton, 1st Lord Hamilton (c. 1415–c. 1479), and Mary Stewart, daughter of King James II. The fourth son of Sir George Hamilton was indeed named Thomas.⁷

Four Hamilton males were tested. Tests #179124, #171468, #186719 and #224330 descend directly from Daniel Hamilton of Chatham, Cape Cod, Massachusetts, as well as subsequent generations in Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, through his grandson, Samuel Hamilton, born in 1738 in Chatham, Massachusetts. Samuel Hamilton was one of the New England Planters who removed to Nova Scotia in the 1760s. Samuel's well documented paternal lineage is through his father Daniel, Jr., grandfather Daniel, and great-grandparents, Thomas Hamilton and Lydia Wing.⁸

Results from Y-DNA tests for the descendants of Daniel Hamilton, son of Thomas and Lydia Hamilton, show these descendants belong to Haplogroup I1a4a. Each of the 37 marker tests for these four men is identical to test subject #46675, a close kinsman to the current Duke of Abercorn, and a descendant of Sir George Hamilton. The results in the 67 marker tests differ at one site (DYS 534) by only one point in 3 of the 4 cases (Tests 171924, 186719, and 224330) and by 2 points in one case (Test 171468), indicating a high probability that the subjects are related.⁹ The shared surname and the genealogical evidence tracing the subjects to Thomas

Hamilton, husband of Lydia Wing, as well as the close Y-DNA profile to a descendant of Sir George Hamilton indicates that Thomas Hamilton is likely a son of Sir George Hamilton and related to the Abercorns.

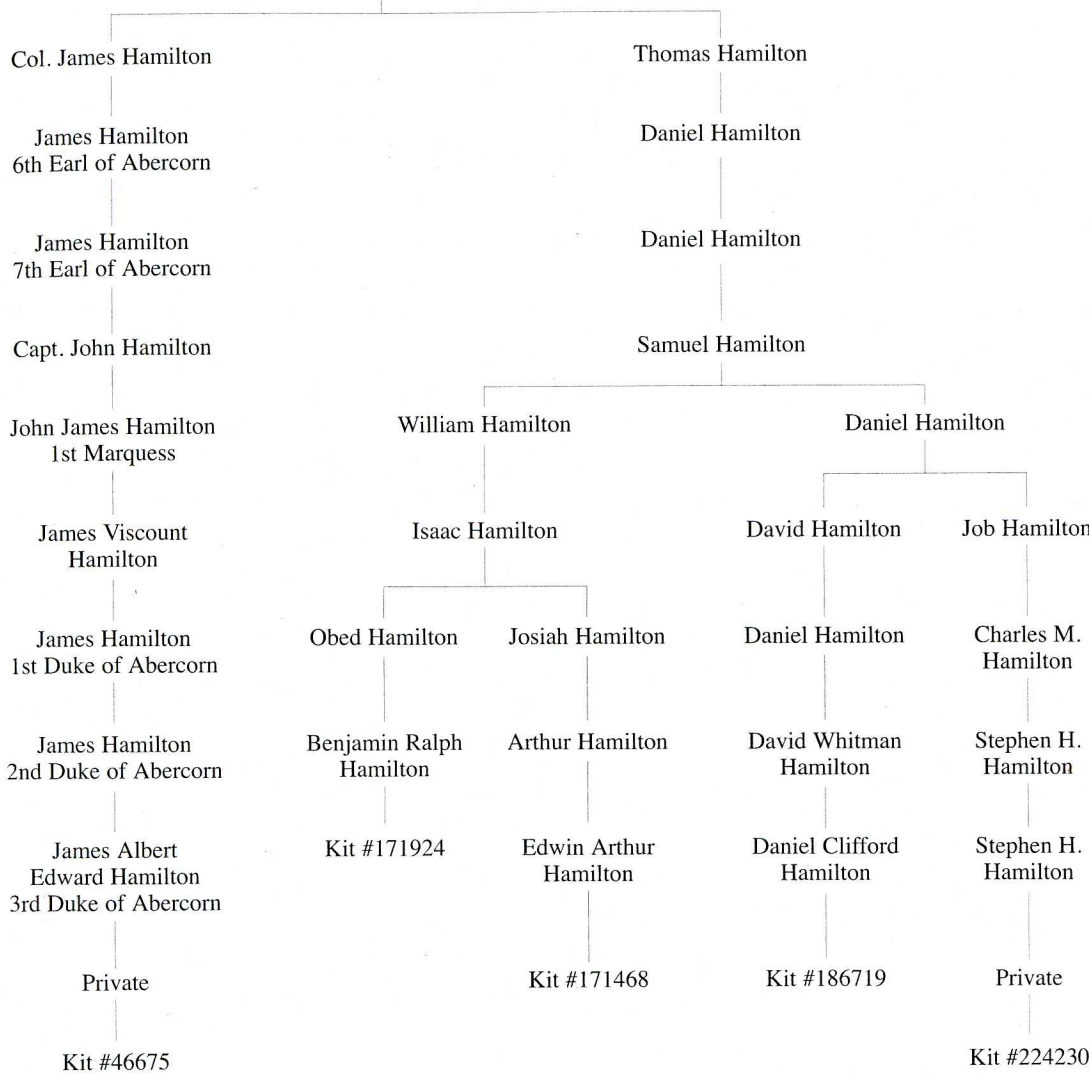
Several other test subjects including #69486, # 82645, and #76545, have been identified as distant kinsman of Test #46675, of the Abercorn line, but their most recent common ancestor is the above James Hamilton, 1st Lord Hamilton. One subject is a thirteenth cousin twice removed, the other two are fifteenth cousins once removed of test subject #46675, respectively. The descendants of the Cape Cod Hamiltons and the current Abercorn family are more closely related, probably ninth or tenth cousins.

Thomas Hamilton, fourth son of Sir George Hamilton, was 'bred to the sea service,' destined for the Royal Navy, and eventually commanded a variety of ships during the 1660s, 1670s and 1680s.¹⁰ This Thomas also served as a lieutenant on the *Rupert* in 1666, and in 1667 on the *Mary* during the second Anglo-Dutch war. He was appointed commander of the *Deptford* and transferred to the *Nightingale* in 1668 where he served until 4 May 1669.¹¹ Two years later he rejoined the navy and soon became Captain.¹² During these two years, he might have stopped in New England and married Lydia Wing, although no New England records give a naval title to Lydia's husband. Lydia's son Thomas was born on 17 February 1671 in Rhode Island.¹³ Much of Capt. Hamilton's later career was spent patrolling the Mediterranean. No record exists of his being assigned to another ship until he is Captain of the *Mermaid* from January 1671/2 to April 1672, about which ship we know only that it embarked from London.¹⁴

The timeline of Captain Hamilton's service allows him to be the Thomas Hamilton recorded to have married Lydia Wing in Rhode Island [i.e. Newport], about 1669.¹⁵ A marriage in Rhode Island is suggestive. Lydia's younger sister Deborah, in 1668, married William Dungan, son of Rev. Thomas Dungan of Newport, later of Pennsylvania.¹⁶ This William Dungan was a grandson of Frances (Latham) Dungan Clarke, known as the 'mother of [Rhode Island] governors' – wife of Acting Governor Jeremiah Clarke, mother of Governor Walter Clarke, and mother-in-law of Governor John Cranston. Thus Lydia Wing, had connections to colonial gentry in Newport.

In 1677, Lydia (Wing) Hamilton returned to Sandwich. In 1678, the Sandwich friends (Quakers) were concerned about 'Lidia Hambolton' and wanted to speak with 'Daniel Wing to get a more convenient place for his daughter Lidia and her children.'¹⁷ In January 1679/80, Peter Gaunt and William Newland were sent to see 'Lydia Hambelton concerning her condition.' The next month, they return to describe her 'condition and find[ing] it very bad,' more inquiries were to follow. Lydia said she had 'no cause to remove from the place where she was and further said she was willing to speak with Walter Clark and Arthur Cook concerning it.'¹⁸ This comment tends to confirm a former residence in Newport, where Governor Walter Clarke and Arthur Cook were prominent

Sir George Hamilton
b. 1615



citizens. Although no direct evidence has been found to place Captain Hamilton in Newport, it was at this time the largest port in the colonies and many Royal Navy ships docked there.

Captain Thomas' will, dated May 9, 1687 and recorded in Boston, Suffolk County, Massachusetts, directs that his 'body may be decently interr'd at the cost and charge of Mr. Archibald Hamilton & Mr. James Jennings, according to my quality ...' On May 27, 1687 two of the witnesses to the will, Robert Ratcliffe and Alexander Henderson, gave oath before Governor Andros that they 'saw the before named Thomas Hamilton Signe, Seal and Declare this to be his last will and testament.'¹⁹ The named executrix of his estate: 'my Well beloved sister, Lady Elizabeth Hamilton.' His escutcheon, consisting of three cinquefoils and a martlet [in heraldry a martlet indicates the fourth son] hung in King's Chapel and was later held at the Massachusetts Historical Society.²⁰

In summary, the DNA evidence clearly reveals that the Hamilton descendants of Cape Cod, Massachusetts and Nova Scotia are direct kinsmen to the Abercorn Hamiltons. The

American Hamiltons who were tested for DNA thus descend from James Hamilton, 1st Lord Hamilton, and his wife Mary Stewart, daughter of King James II of Scotland.

Notes

- 1 *Diary of Samuel Sewall, 1674 – 1729*, Collections of the Massachusetts Historical Society.
- 2 Foote, Henry Wilder, *Annals of Kings Chapel*, Boston, 1882. See also: McDonnell, Hector, 'Irishmen in the Stuart Navy: 1660–1690', *The Irish Sword*, 1985–6, 16: 98.
- 3 Hutchinson, Mr., Lieutenant Governor of the Massachusetts Province, *The History of the Colony of Massachusetts Bay*, London, 1765.
- 4 Kardel and Lovell, *Vital Records of Sandwich Massachusetts to 1885*, 3 vols (Boston: NEHGS, 1996) 1243, *AmericanAncestors.com*; New England Historic and Genealogical Society, Boston, MA; accessed 6 Dec. 2012.
- 5 Kardel and Lovell, *Vital Records of Sandwich Massachusetts to 1885*, 3 vols (Boston: NEHGS, 1996) 1243, *AmericanAncestors.com*; New England Historic and Genealogical Society, Boston, MA; accessed 6 Dec. 2012.

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- 6 Ibid., p. 21 for Thomas. See Smith, William C., *History of Chatham, Massachusetts*, The Chatham Historical Society, Inc., Chatham, Massachusetts, 1971, p. 223 for Daniel.
- 7 Hamilton, George, *A History of The House of Hamilton*, Edinburgh, 1933.
- 8 Mayflower Families Vol. 6 (Stephen Hopkins), p. 363. First Settlers of Chatham, Mass. NEHGR, Vol. 7, p. 82, 1852. Bowman, George. Hopkins-Smith Notes. *The Mayflower Descendent*, Vol. 12, P. 238 and First Settlers of Eastham, Mass. NEHGR Vol. 6, p. 168, 1852 and Smith, William C. *A History of Chatham, Massachusetts*. Chatham Historical Society, Inc., Chatham, Massachusetts, 1971, p. 223. 'Sandwich, Mass., Vital Records,' *The Mayflower Descendent*. Vol. 14, p. 170. See also transcript of Daniel Wing's will in Barnstable Probate, Vol. 2, p. 54.
- 9 Hamilton, Gordon. 'Hamilton DNA Project Results Discussion', *Hamilton Surname DNA Project*. (<http://www.personal.psu.edu/faculty/g/a/gah4/HamDNA/Results.htm#fou> : accessed Mar. 2013.
- 10 Anderson, John, *House of Hamilton*, published in Edinburgh, Scotland, 1825, p. 194.
- 11 Charnock Vol. 1:310–12. The National Archives [England] ADM 51, 134.
- 12 McDonnell, Hector, 'Irishmen in the Stuart Navy: 1660–1690', *The Irish Sword*, 1985–6, 16: 98.
- 13 Sandwich Vital Records to 1885 states that 'Thomas Hambleton the son of Thomas Hamblton and lidia his wife was bourne the 17 of Febuary 1671 borne at Rohd Iland.' Sandwich Vital Records to 1885, Vol. 1, p. 21. *AmericanAncestors.com*; New England Historic and Genealogical Society; accessed 6 Dec. 2012. During this period, Newport was frequently referred to as Rhode Island.
- 14 ADM 10/15, Commissioned Officer's Service Register 1660–85, The National Archives [London]; ADM 33/104, Paylist for the *Mermaid*; Interestingly, Thomas Hamilton was commander of the slave galley, *Margaret*, in 1675 when 30 of the 178 condemned Plymouth Colony Indians were transferred from the *Sampson* to the *Margaret* in Cadiz. Hamilton was a proponent of using American Indian prisoners as galley slaves. ADM 106/311, 167.
- 15 Their marriage is also noted in Torrey's *New England Marriages to 1700*, Genealogical Publishing Company, Inc., Baltimore, MD 1985, p. 338. Torrey apparently uses the birth of their second son, Daniel Hamilton in 1671/2 as a source.
- 16 US and International Marriage Records: U.S. and International Marriage Records, 1560–1900 [database online]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2004; accessed 18 Jan. 2012. See also Justice, Alfred Rudolph. *Ancestry of Jeremy Clarke of Rhode Island and Dungan Genealogy*. Franklin Printing Co., Philadelphia, 1922, p. 119.
- 17 Massachusetts, Sandwich. Sandwich Historical Society, Friend's Men's Meeting Minutes 1672–1754, FHL#0,001,330; p. 15.
- 18 Massachusetts, Sandwich. Sandwich Historical Society, Friend's Men's Meeting Minutes 1672–1754, FHL#0,001,330; pp 17, 18.
- 19 Boston, Massachusetts, Suffolk County Probate Court, Will of Thomas Hamilton, Boston City Archives, Vol. 11, p. 389.
- 20 *The Commemoration by King's Chapel, Boston, of the Completion of Two Hundred Years Since It's Foundation*.