

heirs and assigns whatsoever, all and whole the said John Hamilton elder's, lands and barony of Muirhouse and Naikeders, which were acquired by the said John Hamilton, Sr., from Sir James Oliphant of Newton, March 6, 1620, on which date the said John Hamilton, Sr., and Catherine Brown his wife received a charter under the great seal of these lands." It is also here stated that John Hamilton, Sr., on the 24th of February, 1643, resigned the charter of these lands "in favor of his son John and remanent children."* One of the things that this important document shows us, is that at this time John of Muirhouse had two sons living, bearing his own name, which was not, however, in those days, it is said, an uncommon occurrence. The elder of these half-brothers, the John whose mother was Catherine Brown, must have died in boyhood, for the property of Muirhouse soon came to William Hamilton², the eldest son of John Hamilton and his third wife Anna Elphinstone, who was the second heir mentioned in the charter of 1664.

Of the sons of John¹ and Anna Elphinstone, Alexander,² and David,² we know only that they were merchants in Edinburgh, and that David² married Margaret Gourlay, and had a son Alexander, baptized July 25, 1682. Of Hugh² we know nothing after his baptism. Of the daughters, Lillias² had a deed of property from her father, "John Hamilton of Muirhouse," June 19, 1661, shortly before his death; which deed is recorded August 9, 1662, John Hamilton being then deceased. Of Anna² and Margaret² we know nothing. Of Elizabeth,² the youngest, we know that she was first the wife of James Hamilton of the Bangour family, and thus mother of the poet, William Hamilton of Bangour, author of the famous Jacobite song of "Gladsmuir," who was born in 1704 and died at Lyons, March 25, 1754; and of the Countess Margaret, third wife of Robert, sixth Earl of Carnwath. After the death of her first husband James Hamilton of Bangour, Elizabeth² became the second wife of Sir Hew Dalrymple, Bart., of North Berwick, third son of James, first Viscount Stair, to whom she bore two daughters. Sir Hew, whose first

* The next charter on the Register of the Great Seal, after that to John Hamilton, is curiously one dated 31 July, 1687, to James Elphinstone, of the lands of Innerdovat, in Fife. It reads: "To James Elphinstone of Innerdovat and the lawful heirs of his body to be procreated, whom failing to John Hamilton of Muirhouse and the heirs to be born between him and Anna Elphinstone, his spouse, only sister of the said James."