

## Claud Hamilton



Born: 9 Jun 1546 Hamilton, Scotland  
 Married: 1 Aug 1574 Margaret Seton  
 Died: 3 May 1621 Paisley, Scotland  
 Parents: James Hamilton & Margaret Douglas



Claud Hamilton & family

Claud Hamilton, 1st Lord Paisley was born circa June 1546. He was also reported to have been born in 1543. He was the son of James Hamilton, 2nd Earl of Arran and Lady Margaret Douglas. He was baptised on 9 June 1546 at Edinburgh Castle, Edinburgh, Midlothian, Scotland. He married Margaret Seton, daughter of George Seton, 5th Lord Seton and Isabel Hamilton, on 1 August 1574 at Niddry Castle, Scotland. He died before 3 May 1621.

Claud Hamilton, 1st Lord Paisley held the office of Commendator of the Abbey of Paisley, Renfrewshire on 5 December 1553. In 1586 He met Queen Mary at Queensferry on her escape from Loch Leven, signed the Hamilton bond, commanded the van at Langside, and landed with the Queen at Workington on her flight to England, 16 May 1568. On 19 August 1568, as a consequence, he was declared a traitor and forfeit. In June 1571 he was present at the 'Marian' Parliament in Edinburgh. He fought in the attack on Stirling and the murder of the Regent Lennox on 4 September 1571. On 23 February 1572/73 he was admitted to the Pacification, and was restored. On 10 November 1579 he was again forfeited. He was invested as a Privy Counsellor (P.C.) [Scotland] on 10 December 1585. On 10

December 1585 he was again restored, under the Act of Restitution. He was created 1st Lord Paisley, co. Renfrew [Scotland] on 29 July 1587. From March 1589 to August 1589 he was imprisoned in Edinburgh Castle for actively engaging in plots against Queen Mary and the King of Spain. He was suffered from a severe religious madness (apparently a hereditary malady of his family) in November 1590. From April 1560 to February 1562 he was one of the hostages in England for the Treaty of Berwick.  
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### Claud Hamilton and the Battle of Langside

The Battle of Langside, fought on May 13, 1568, was one of the more unusual contests in Scottish history, bearing a superficial resemblance to a grand family quarrel, in which a mother fought her brother who was defending the rights of her infant son. In 1567 Mary Queen of Scots's short period of personal rule ended in recrimination, intrigue and disaster when she was forced to abdicate in favour of James VI, her infant son. Mary was sent into captivity in Loch Leven Castle, while her Protestant half-brother, James Stewart, Earl of Moray was appointed Regent on behalf of his nephew. In early May 1568 Mary escaped, heading west to the country of the Hamiltons, high among her remaining supporters, with the determination to restore her rights as queen.

Mary's abdication had not been universally popular, even among sections of the Protestant nobility, and news of her escape was widely welcomed. With an escort of fifty horse led by Lord Claud Hamilton she arrived in Lanarkshire, soon to be joined by a wide-cross section of the nobility, including the Earls of Argyll, Cassillis, Rothes and Eglinton, the Lords Sommerville, Yester, Livingston, Herries, Fleming, Ross, numerous of the feudal barons such as Robert Lauder of The Bass,[1] and many others who all assembled at the town of Hamilton with their followers and vassals. Within a few short days Mary had managed to gather a respectable force of some 6000 men.

It was Mary's intention to avoid battle if possible, retiring instead to Dumbarton Castle, still held for her by Lord Fleming. Here she would be in a virtually impregnable position, well-placed to receive the expected reinforcements from the north, and then recover her hold over the country by degrees. With the intention of by-passing Moray she marched to Rutherglen castle meeting loyal supporters and then on a wide circuit past Glasgow, intending to move by way of Langside, Crookston and Paisley back towards the River Clyde, and then on to Dumbarton on the north side of the Clyde estuary. Moray drew up his army on the moor close to the village of Langside, then several miles south of Glasgow but now well within the city. Kirkcaldy, keeping an eye on the enemy movements, noted that they were keeping to the south of the Clyde, the Regent's army being on the opposite bank. In response he ordered hackbutters (musketeers) to mount behind each of his horsemen, rapidly fording the river, and placing them among the cottages, hedges and gardens of the village, which bordered each side of a narrow lane, through which Mary's army must defile. Meanwhile Moray continued to deploy the rest of the army, the vanguard under the command of the Earl of Morton leading the march across a nearby bridge. The whole army then deployed, the right around the village, and the left extending to the farm of Pathhead, the highest point of which is now known as Queen's Park. No sooner was this complete than the Queen's vanguard, commanded by Lord Hamilton, began its advance through the village. The battle was now under way.

Mary's army was commanded by Argyll, who was to show little in the way of real military skill, seemingly hoping simply to push Moray aside by sheer force of numbers: it is even suggested in the sources that he fainted at one point, though this is almost certainly a rumour spread by his enemies. With her army now engaged the Queen stood some distance to the rear, close to Cathcart Castle on a mound since named as the Court Knowe. As Hamilton attempted to force a passage through Langside he was

met by close fire from Grange's hackbutters. Many in the front ranks were killed, throwing the remainder back on those following, and adding to the general confusion. **Hamilton** pushed on, finally reaching the top of a hill, only to find the main enemy army drawn up in good order. Morton with the border pikemen advanced to intercept Mary's vanguard. Both sides now met in 'push of pike'. The forest of inter-locked spears was now so thick it is said that if those behind threw their discharged pistols at the enemy the weapons simply rested on the shafts as on a carpet, rather than falling to the ground. In all some 300 men had been killed, a figure that almost certainly would have been much higher but for Moray's decision to avoid further bloodshed by ordering a halt to the pursuit. Many prisoners of note were taken. Mary and her escort rode off, eventually arriving at Dundrennan Abbey in Galloway, some sixty miles to the south. From here she left for England, never to see Scotland again.

Paisley Abbey in Renfrewshire Scotland. Inside can be found a plaque by Claud Hamilton and his wife, Margaret Seton in memory of three of their children who died at less than 8 months old.



[translated from Latin] To God, the Greatest and Best. Erected by Claud Hamilton, Lord Paisley, and Margaret Seton his wife, with tears, to the pious memory of the infants Margaret, Henry and Alexander Hamilton, their beloved children who died - Margaret on the 23rd December in the year of grace 1577 aged 3 months twenty two days; Henry in the 15th March 1585 aged three months two days; Alexander on the 21st November 1587 aged eight months three days. Happy Souls! to you your parents pay the last rites, which ye should have paid them.