

James Hamilton



No Picture Available

Born: 1398 Lanarkshire, Scotland

Married: Janet Livingston

Died: 1441 West Lothian, Scotland

Parents: John Hamilton & Jacoba Douglas

Sir James Hamilton of Cadzow, 5th Laird of Cadzow (b. bef. 1397 – d. c. 1440) was a Scottish nobleman and royal hostage.

He was the son of Janet (or Jacoba) Douglas, daughter of Sir James Douglas, 1st Lord Dalkeith, but his paternity is uncertain. Douglas's husband was Sir John Hamilton of Cadzow and it was long thought that he was James's father. However DNA testing of his descendants in the Hamilton Surname DNA Project suggests that Sir John was not his biological father.[1]

James Hamilton is first attested to in 1397. In a writ of that year, his putative father Sir John Hamilton granted him the lands and privileges of Kinneil, in return for the superiority of all property that had been promised to him through his marriage after his attainment of majority.

Hamilton next comes to notice in a Safe-conduct issued by Henry V of England to travel to Calthorpe Castle in Lincolnshire.

In 1424, Hamilton was one of the Scottish Lords allowed passage to Durham to visit the captive James I of Scotland. In the same year, he **was one of many Scots hostages given to the English as security for the payment of the ransom of the newly freed King of Scots.** His estate was valued at 500 merks.

Hamilton was confined first at Fotheringay Castle, then at Dover Castle. He appears to have been released by 1426. He was invested as a knight before 1430.

Hamilton died not later than 1441, when his son is described as Lord of Cadzow.

Marriage and children

James Hamilton married Janet Livingston before 1422, when he received a charter of the lands of Schawis from his father-in-law, Sir Alexander Livingston of Callander. By Janet Livingston, Hamilton had six children:

James Hamilton, 5th Laird of Cadzow - later made a Lord of Parliament as Lord Hamilton

Alexander Hamilton - ancestor of the Hamiltons of Silvertonhill

John Hamilton

Gavin Hamilton - ancestor of the Hamiltons of Dalzell

Agnes Hamilton - married Sir James Hamilton of Preston

Elizabeth Hamilton - married Chalmers of Gadgirth

References

^ "Hamilton surname DNA results". Hamilton Surname DNA Project. Last updated November 2008. <http://www.personal.psu.edu/users/g/a/gah4/HamDNA/Results.html>. Retrieved on 2009-02-28.

Balfour Paul, Sir James, The Scots Peerage Vol IV. Edinburgh 1907 [1] The Peerage.com