

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.