

CHAPTER XXIII - MARGARET MCCLUNG HOUSTON 1650-1747

In 1867, Margaret McClung married into the Houston family. Her new husband, gentleman John Houston, was a descendant of Sir Hugh de Pavidan. Sir Hugh was a Norman that followed William the Conqueror when the Normans invaded England in 1066. Legend has it that, in the heat of battle, Sir Hugh rose to the occasion and saved the life of King Malcome of Scotland. In gratitude, King Malcome awarded Sir Hugh a vast estate west of Glasgow. At this point Sir Hugh married a local beauty and began enjoying life as a Scottish nobleman.

Sir Hugh's surname, *de Pavidan*, was too difficult for the Gaelic tongue. The local gentry began calling the de Pavidan Manor House and the village surrounding it, Hugh's Town.' The term was later anglicized as "Houston."

For a while the Houston family flourished in Scotland. A series of crop failures, high taxes and religious persecution led them to flee Scotland and resettle in Ireland. Initially, things were better in Ireland but war, politics and religious intolerance overtook them. In 1704, England passed a law requiring Scottish people living in North Ireland to swear allegiance to the established Church of England. The Houston's were devout Presbyterians and found this edict intolerable. They decided to flee again, this time to America.

The recently widowed Margaret McClung Houston, her son John, his wife Margaret and six of her grandchildren sailed for the Colonies in 1730 or 1735. The Houston's settled sixty miles west of Philadelphia in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. The Houston's lived there for about 17 years before moving to Augusta, Virginia where Margaret McClung Houston died at the age of 97.



Margaret McClung Houston was my 6th great grandmother, and General Sam Houston's 2nd great grandmother. Sam Houston and I are 3rd cousins 4 times removed.