

Initial Upload 1 October 2011

Last Update 7 April 2012

GAVIN ANDREW HAMILTON 1928 to 1994

Gavin was the elder son of Andrew Blayney and Doris Katherine. He was born on 12 January 1928 at Wellington.

Gavin attended Karori Primary School and Scots College. Gavin left Scots in 1945 being more suited to an outdoor, practical, non-academic, life.

With the assistance of his father, Gavin trained as a shepherd on a farm at Karioi, in the hill country near Wanganui. He had two or three similar positions, had his own dogs and was the proud owner of several motorbikes and, then very scarce, older pre-War vintage cars.

By 1953 he had met Mary Avis White (then a nurse at Palmerston North) and they were married in that year at St Mary's Anglican Church at Karori.

The White Family

Mary was born on 11 May 1931, the daughter of **Frederick Samuel White**, (born 27 November 1894 at Lanark, Scotland. Died Dunedin, NZ 1987) and **Hazel Gwendoline Sutton** (born 18 August 1892 at Omaru NZ. Died 1987 at Waimate NZ) who had married in 1920.



Mary's Mother Gwen (Sutton) White

The White family migrated from Scotland in about 1910 when Fred was 16. He had three brothers:



Henry, Tom, Fred & Bert White (From Left)

Fred's War Service

The family settled in Dunedin and Fred was apprenticed to a Baker and Pastry Cook, John Brown. It was not long before World War 1 broke out and all four boys enlisted. At his enlistment Fred was living at 10 Lambeth Road, Dunedin. He gave his brother Bert's name as Next of Kin and Bert was living at 41 Clyde St Dunedin.

Fred commenced duty on 17 April 1915 and his service period the Army was 300 days of which 251 days were spent overseas. Initially Fred went to Egypt and was at Zeitoun near Cairo in January 1916. He moved to the Suez Cana for training on 23 January and was transferred to the Pioneer battalion at Ismailia on 14 March. On 9 April he embarked for France from Port Said. The service details are sketchy but he was appointed company cook on 31 October 1916. The record indicates the note was made at Rouen but we know he was "in the field".

On 5 March 1917 Fred was admitted to the No. 1 Field Ambulance Hospital. His injury was described as "trivial" and "the soldier was in no way the blame." He had fractured his right Clavicle playing a game of football. On 8 march he was admitted to the No. 3 Canadian General Hospital at Boulogne. He was soon repatriated to England on "*HS George*" and on 14 March was admitted to the 1st NZ General Hospital Brockenhurst. On 28 April he was transferred to the NZ Convalescent Hospital at Hornchurch. On 18 May proceeded on leave and on 28 May he was transferred to No. 2 Area Empl. Coy and from that unit to No.1 Div Empl. Coy. On 14 July 1917 the unit left for France. He was again appointed Company Cook on 17 December 1917 a

role that removed from any trench activity. He is recorded relinquishing this role on 14 February 1918.

His unit was marched into Etaples, a base camp to the front, 15 miles south of Boulogne-Sur-Mer. On 1 September 1918, he proceeded on leave to the UK returning to the field on 19 September. On 22 December he returned from France to the NZ Army Camp at Sling in Gloucestershire. By this time hostilities were being concluded.

On 10 January 1919, Fred "Overstayed his Leave" for six days and was punished by the forfeiture of 12 days pay. He returned to New Zealand on the Corinthic leaving from Tilbury on 12 March 1919 and arriving home on 23 April. He was discharged on 10 February 1920.

Gavin & Mary's Wedding



Gavin and Mary were married in 1953 at St Mary's Anglican Church at Karori.

After he married Gavin got a management post on a farm at Maraekakaho, west of Hastings and it was there, on 8 March 1954, that his first child, Maxwell, was born. After a few years Gavin took over the farm, "Mount View," of his uncle Jack (John Brooks Hamilton) at Argyll East, west from Otane. Jack was then in his 60's and looking for retirement. Gavin bought the farm from Jack with some financial assistance from his father together with a mortgage.

Gavin and Mary had three children all boys:

Maxwell Andrew. Born 8 March 1954

Guy John. Born 28 September 1956

Nigel Blayney. Born 27 August 1959



Andy & Gavin with Max

In 1978, Gavin sold "Mount View" (about 700 acres) and retired to a newly-built house, "Te Parae" at 12 Gaisford Terrace, Waipukurau, Hawke's Bay. He was a member of the Waipawa Bowling Club for many years and was also a President of the club.

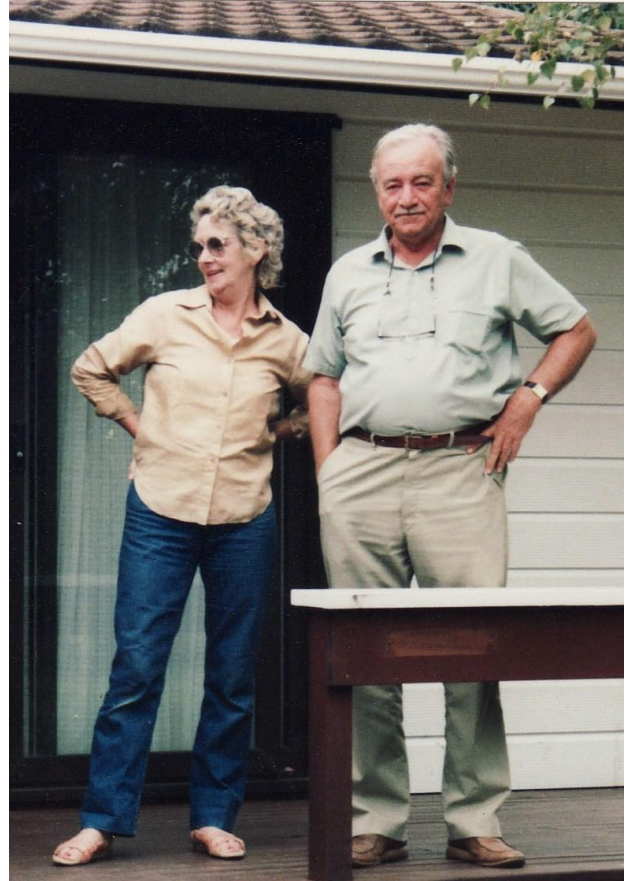


Andy with Max, Guy & Nigel at Mount View

In the late 1980's Gavin began to develop Alzheimer's Disease. For several years this was not really noticeable but he was well cared for by his wife Mary and was never hospitalized. However, as the disease relentlessly progressed he went into a Rest Home to give Mary some well-earned relief. He died, suddenly and peacefully, on 21 August 1994, of a heart attack. His headstone is at Waipukurau Cemetery.



Gavin c1980



Mary & Gavin at Turangi 1986



Elizabeth & Mary at Napier February 2012