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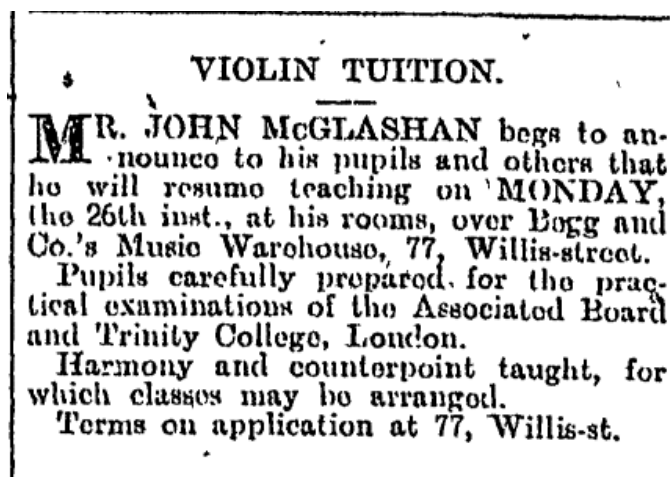
ANDREW BLAYNEY HAMILTON 1890 to 1972

Andrew Blayney Hamilton was the eldest of the three boys (and one daughter, Alice) of John Knox Hamilton and Alice Julia Brooks. He was born in Wellington on 18 December 1890 at the New Zealander Hotel, Manners Street. He was known to family and friends as **"Andy"**.

Andy lived with his parents initially at the New Zealander Hotel which was owned by his father. John Knox retired from the hotel in December 1900 and they moved into a new home at Oriental Bay, "Blayneybank", when it was completed in 1901. However, his father developed stomach cancer and died on 26 October 1902, a month before his 53rd birthday. His wife, Alice Julia, was left with four children, Andy being close to 12 years old, his two younger brothers William, 10, and John Brooks, 9, with Andy's sister Alice about 16.

School

Andy attended school at Wellington Boys' College. When he was 12 years old in 1902, Andy was awarded a Preparatory Pass in the Trinity College London practical music examinations¹. His teacher was Mr John McGlashan who advertised as a Violin teacher:



Evening Post 1 January 1903

We have not located any further exam results and we presume that Andy did not continue these studies.

Andy went to Wellington Technical College to study with a view to ultimately being an Architect. In 1909 he was awarded a Certificate for Building Construction Elementary² and in 1910 he won the Industrial Association Scholarship for Building Construction Advanced³.

¹ Evening Post 10 October 1902

In June/July 1911 Andy sat for the South Kensington (London) Science and Art Examinations conducted by the New Zealand Department of Education in the subject of Building Construction and Drawing and obtained a First Class pass.⁴

When Andy completed his studies and he went to work for Mr W C Chatfield an esteemed Wellington Architect. Chatfield had been the architect for Sam Gilmer in the rebuilding of the Royal Oak Hotel. He had also been used by John Hamilton for plans and specifications for his cottage at 30 Marion Street in 1895 and his investment property at 28 Marion Street in 1897. Later he was also used by Hamilton Gilmer.

Europe

In 1913 there was a newspaper report that Andrew had gone to Europe to study:

Mr. Andrew B. Hamilton (Wellington) has come to Europe to study architecture. He has become a member of the Architectural Association and has entered the Westminster School of Architecture for the next two years. Later he will go on the Continent.

Evening Post 15 July 1913

During the vacation of the Westminster School of Architecture, Mr. Andrew B. Hamilton (Wellington) is making a tour of Ireland and Scotland.

Evening Post 1 September 1913

The trip to Europe offered a very good opportunity to study but it also provided the opportunity to travel and importantly to visit his Irish relations. However, we are unsure whether he met them on this trip in 1913.

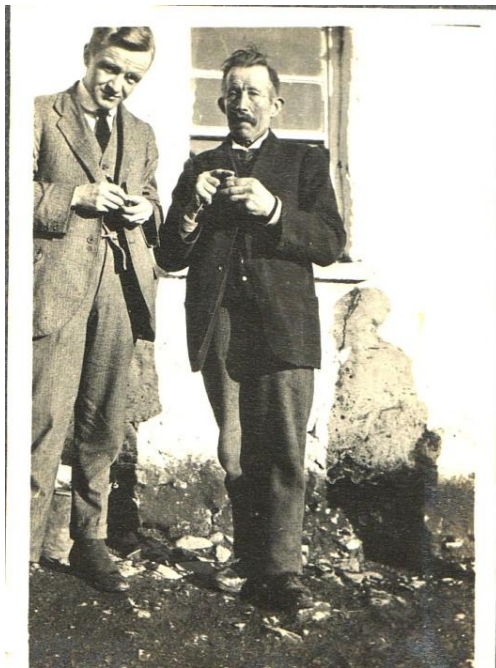
² Evening Post 7 December 1909

³ Evening Post 8 December 1910

⁴ Evening Post 20 February 1912



Annie, Ellen, Andrew, William, Ellen (mother) & Willy Jr. (1915)



Andy and William

Andy's studies were impacted by the war in Europe as indicated in the article below. In 1914 his school closed and he had to attend another. There was also a shortage of teachers. However, he was fortunate to win a scholarship and 40 Pounds which was quite a handsome sum in those days.

An interesting letter has recently been received from Mr. A. B. Hamilton (son of the late Mr. J. K. Hamilton, of Wellington), a young New Zealander studying architecture in London. Mr. Hamilton, who was formerly with Mr. W. C. Chatfield of this city, writes to his relatives that the Architectural School, which he had been attending has been closed. The premises have been taken by the Government for a barracks and miniature rifle range, and all the pupils with the exception of about 20 have gone to the front. Mr. Hamilton has won several certificates and prizes, including the Jarvis Scholarship and £40. He is now at a school known as the First Atelier Club, presided over by Mr. Davis, a well-known London architect. The chief instructor was a Frenchman, who has now rejoined his regiment and the whole of the tuition falls on Mr. Davis. There are several New Zealanders in the school. Mr. Hamilton had only one more examination to pass for the A.R.I.B.A., and he hoped to join a regiment for the front. Outwardly London is going about its business very quietly, but there are camps and soldiers everywhere, and schools, shops, and business places are being depleted of their young men.

Evening Post 29 October 1914

The director of the Wellington Technical College (Mr. W S Latrobe) in his Annual Report highlighted Andy's success in winning the Jarvis Scholarship.

held in London. A late student of the college, Mr. A. B. Hamilton, who is prosecuting his architectural studies in London, has won the Jarvis Scholarship in Architecture. A former student

Evening Post 14 December 1914

We know that in 1915 Andy visited the Hamilton farm at Annalittin just outside Castleblayney because a number of photographs of Andy and his Irish uncle, aunt and cousins record the

event. The photographs demonstrate a very strong resemblance between the two Andy Hamilton cousins. They also clearly reflect the times, not just in the living conditions on the Annalittin farm but also the appearance of his cousin, Andrew, in military uniform. While Andy's presence in England had given him a closer appreciation of circumstances with the war in Europe, he was removed from the pressures to volunteer for service and he would have felt at home. However, with his cousin in uniform he must have felt some pressure to be involved and as the report above indicates he was thinking about it.

Mr. Andrew B. Hamilton, son of Mrs. J. K. Hamilton, late of Oriental Bay, writes to his mother from London, stating that he has passed his final architect's examination, and is now A.R.I.B.A. and A.N.Z.I.A. Mr. Hamilton, who obtained the Jarvis scholarship twelve months ago, served his time with Mr. W. C. Chatfield, architect, Wellington.

Evening Post 16 February 1916

Andy passed his exams at the end of 1915 but he did not immediately return home. We do not know the reason for this; whether he did more study beyond the planned two years or whether he travelled. We do know that he made two attempts to enlist in the army in London during 1916 and was rejected on both occasions. He was judged as "not strong enough". However, he was not totally rejected as he was seen to be fit and the doctor advised him to try the Ambulance Corps.⁵

Return to NZ and the Army

He left for New Zealand on the ship *Remuera* which sailed from Plymouth for Auckland on 1 March 1917. We expect the trip would have taken about 6 to 8 weeks so he would have been home by early May.

Three weeks after his return, Andy had obtained a job in his chosen field of architecture and was working with the firm of Penty & Lawrence. However, on 26 May 1917 he volunteered for the 34th Reinforcements draft. At the time he was living with his mother at "Ennismore" 53 Boulcott Street, Wellington. His attestation form showed that he had previously served for one year in C Company of the 5th Regiment.

Andy was posted to B Company, 33rd Reinforcements as a Private on 19 September 1917 at Trentham Army camp and on 31 October he transferred to the 37th Reinforcements and was appointed as a Corporal. On 26 June 1918 he was promoted to Sergeant and transferred to C

⁵ Service Record

company 44th Reinforcements and on 24 September he had a further transfer to the 45th Reinforcements.

We have been able to follow these movements through newspaper reports on activities at Trentham Camp. These provide further information of the work he was engaged in.

CAMP NOTES

N.C.O.'S FOR THE 37th

The following temp. appointments of n.c.o.'s have been approved by the Commandant of Trentham Camp (Col. H. R. Potter, C.M.G.) :—

N.Z. Tunnellers : To be L.-Cpl., Spr. F. Fifield.

Headquarters Staff (Records) : To be Cpls., Ptes. N. Berry, T. W. Johnston, C. A. Camerford, L. R. Rex.

The undermentioned have been appointed probationary Cpls. for the 37th Infantry : Ptes. J. K. Amesbury, H. H. Baumber, L. F. Bloomfield, J. H. Barry, B. Broom, A. C. Blatcher, W. J. A. Chartres, J. C. Carter, H. R. Daniels, J. T. Evans, E. G. Fox, A. C. Hare, J. A. Hart, A. B. Hamilton, F. L. Hunter, H. Hamilton, F. H. S.

Evening Post 2 November 1917

Andy retained the rank of Corporal and undertook training to be an instructor at the camp in "*physical and bayonet training*" and he very soon obtained a temporary appointment as a Sergeant.

The following n.c.o.'s have qualified as assistant instructors in physical and bayonet-training : Cpl. H. M. Neal (A Coy., C1), Cpl. A. Everest (B Coy., C1), Cpl. A. B. Hamilton (B Coy., C1), Cpl. H. C. Johnson (C Coy., C1).

Evening Post 22 June 1918

The following n.c.o.'s are appointed temp. Sgts. while acting as physical instructors at C1 Camp :—Cpl. A. Everest (B Company), Cpl. H. Neal (A Company), Cpl. A. B. Hamilton (B Company).

Evening Post 29 June 1918



**Trentham Camp Bantam Weight Boxing Trophy
April 1912**

Business

With hostilities drawing to a close in late 1918, servicemen were quickly demobilized and discharged from the armed forces. Andy was demobilized on 24 November 1918 but he was not discharged from the army at that time. Instead he received a "Certificate of Leave in lieu of Discharge" and was to continue as a member of the army but granted leave of absence without pay.

Because Andy had obtained a job with Penty & Lawrence prior to enlisting he immediately returned to it. However, in less than twelve months, advertisements for the firm indicated that Andy had joined the partnership.

TO BUILDERS.
TENDERS are invited for the Erection
 of a Residence in Watt-street,
 Wadestown. Plans, etc., may be seen at
 our offices, where tenders close at noon on
 Monday, 17th November, 1919.
PENTY & LAWRENCE, FF. N.Z.I.A.,
& A. B. HAMILTON, A.R.I.B.A.,
 Registered Architects,
 212, Lambton-quay, Wellington.

Evening Post 30 October 1919

This partnership was in business for only six months when it merged with another firm to become Swan, Lawrence, Swan & Hamilton.

NOTICE is hereby given that the partnership firms of SWAN & SWAN, ARCHITECTS, WELLINGTON, and PENTY & LAWRENCE & A. B. HAMILTON, ARCHITECTS, WELLINGTON, have amalgamated, and will as from the Sixth Day of April One Thousand Nine Hundred and Twenty, carry on business (pending the fitting up of permanent offices), at the offices situate at Lindsay's Buildings, Woodward-street, Wellington, under the style or firm name of SWAN, LAWRENCE, SWAN, & HAMILTON. All debts due to, and owing by, either of the said firms will be received and paid respectively by the new firm.

Dated at Wellington this 1st day of April, 1920.

Evening Post 7 April 1920

This partnership operated for about 18 months before it was dissolved with Andy departing. The business had a regular flow of work with requests for tenders on significant projects being advertised at about two a month.

**NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION OF
PARTNERSHIP.**

NOTICE is hereby given that the Partnership hitherto subsisting between JOHN SIDNEY SWAN, CHARLES ALEXANDER LAWRENCE, FRANCIS HERBERT SWAN, and ANDREW BLAYNEY HAMILTON, carrying on business as Architects at Wellington, under the style or firm of Swan, Lawrence, Swan, and Hamilton, has been Dissolved by mutual consent as from the 2nd day of November, One Thousand Nine Hundred and Twenty-two (1922), so far as concerns the said Andrew Blayney Hamilton, who retires from the said firm. "All debts due to and owing by the said late Firm will be received and paid respectively by the continuing partners, who will continue to carry on the said business under the style or firm of Swan, Lawrence, and Swan.

Dated the 2nd day of November, 1922:

JOHN S. SWAN,
CHAS. A. LAWRENCE,
FRANCIS H. SWAN,
ANDREW B. HAMILTON.

Witness to above Signatures:

JNO. L. GRIFFIN,
Public Accountant, Wellington.

Evening Post 2 November 1922

Andy set up his own practice and operated his own business. In 1926 he was at 8 Woodward St and from 1929 to 1934 in Grey St initially at number 11 and from 1932 at number 21. Throughout this period he advertised two or three times a year for builders for homes and other projects for which he had done the drawings and specifications. Given this was through the depression the conclusion is that he was doing reasonably well.



Andy's Shingle

One of these tenders was for his cousin Drew Hamilton for his new home at Lower Hutt. This was quite a substantial home as shown in the advertisement for its later sale.

EXCLUSIVE WOBURN.
OUTSTANDING PROPERTY TO BE
AUCTIONED.
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1937.
At 2.30 p.m.
MESSRS. HARCOURT AND CO. have
received instructions from Mr.
Andrew Hamilton to sell by Public Auction
at the Real Estate Auction Room, Har-
court Chambers, 41-43 Panama Street, on
the above-mentioned date—
THIS MODERN RESIDENCE AND
EXTENSIVE GROUNDS.
"TARAWAHI,"
No. 54a PENROSE STREET,
LOWER HUTT.
The House, of distinctive appearance
and attractive architecture, has three
spacious living-rooms, maid's room, bath-
room, kitchen, and all offices downstairs;
and three bedrooms, sun porch, and mod-
ern bathroom upstairs; as well as every
possible convenience.
SET IN THREE-QUARTERS OF AN
ACRE of beautiful grounds, with running
stream and rustic bridge, and approached
by a wide motor drive, this property is
eminently suited to Wellington's most
exclusive locality.
Full details and arrangements to view
from
HARCOURT AND CO.,
Auctioneers,
41-43 Panama Street.
Telephone 44-017.

Evening Post 17 November 1937

Marriage and Family

On 12 April 1927, at the age of 35, Andy married Doris Katherine Rennie, aged 31 years at St Andrew's Church, Wellington. Doris had been born at Dunedin 15 June 1895. She was the daughter of John Rennie (1859-1943) and Caroline Edith Letham (1867-1961). John was an accountant with Dalgetys. He died in Wellington on 5 July 1943 leaving an estate valued for probate purposes at 4225 Pounds. While John was born in Williamstown, Victoria, his wife was born at Port Chalmers.

John and Caroline had married in 1892 and Doris was their eldest child. Doris had four siblings:

Ngaio Edith Born 31 December 1897. Married Charles George Murray in 1926. They had no children. Died 1965.

Mona Wye Born 1900. Died 1903 at the age of 2 years.

Isa Howard Born 1903. Died 1910 at the age of 7 years. (*)

Ena Thomson Born 1903. Married Bertram Raphael Wakelin. (*)

(*) Identical twins.

From 1902 to at least 1905 the Rennies lived at 328 George St., Dunedin and Doris and Ngaio attended the George St., school.

John Rennie was the second child of **James Rennie**, born 28 July 1826 at Aberdeen Scotland, and **Catherine McMenamy**, born 11 February 1835 at Neilson, Scotland. They were married on 24 April 1857 at Williamstown, Victoria. They had three children in Australia at Williamstown:

Helen born 28 Feb 1858. Married 24 June 1879 to **John Watson**. Died 1 May 1940 at Port Chalmers.

John born 16 June 1859. Married 1892 to **Caroline Edith Letham**. Died 5 July 1943, Wellington, and buried at Karori Cemetery. John was an accountant and they lived at 12 Glasgow St., Kelburn.

James Alexander born 23 February 1861. Married **Jessie Ferrier Menzies**. Died 1925.

James and Catherine had a further three children in New Zealand all born at Port Chalmers. Sadly, James died on 3 February 1867 a little over three months before the last child was born.

On the 3rd February, at Port Chalmers,
after a short illness, Mr James Rennie, aged
38 years, late of Williamstown, Victoria;
deeply regretted.
Otago Daily Times 5 February 1867

The children were:

William Cornelius born 6 March 1864. Died 6 March 1865 of Pneumonia.

Susannah born 20 October 1865. Died 25 June 1898 at Melbourne, Victoria.

William Hay born 19 May 1867. He died on 3 October 1906 at Papakato after being shot by an intruder. The name Hay was the surname of his grandmother **Jane Hay** who married his grandfather **John Rennie** 16 October 1819 at Old Machar, Aberdeen, Scotland.

There was a report of the wedding of Andy and Doris in the Evening Post 18 April, 1927:

The wedding took place at St. Andrew's Church recently of Doris, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Rennie, of Glasgow street, Kelburn, to Mr. Andrew B. Hamilton, son of Mrs. Hamilton, Mount View, Waipawa, Hawkes Bay. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. E. J. Howie, and Mr. F. Thomas presided at the organ. The church was decorated with autumn foliage. The bride wore a frock of white brocaded taffetas, with a full skirt of mariette. The bodice was inset with Van Dyke shape gold insertion, while the skirt was trimmed to match with frills of white tulle. She wore a white tulle veil embroidered in gold sequins, and fastened to the head with a wreath of orange buds. Her bouquet was of white and gold roses, tied with gold ribbon. The bridesmaids were Miss Ailsa Newton (chief) and Miss Ena Rennie (sister). They wore frocks of flame mariette and panne velvet, cut and made in the same style as the bride's. Their hats were of onion coloured felt with high crowns and large bows of velvet ribbon in front. They carried bouquets of shaded bronze chrysanthemums and autumn leaves. Mr. E. E. Gooder was best man and Mr. J. B. Hamilton was groomsman.

After the ceremony a reception was held at the Kelburn Kiosk, where the decorations were chiefly of African daisies. Mrs. Rennie received her guests wearing a frock of black satin beaute with trimmings of fuschia and royal blue georgette, with gold braid. Her black hat was trimmed with ribbons to match her frock. Her bouquet was of roses and sweet sultans. Mrs. Hamilton (mother of the bridegroom) wore navy blue and gold tissue, with a cloak and hat to match, and carried a bouquet of pink roses and autumn leaves. The bride's travelling costume was a frock of biscuit georgette, with a hat to match, worn with a fur coat. Among those present were Mrs. Andrew Hamilton (aunt of the bridegroom), wearing black satin; Mrs. Murray (sister of the bride), in gold tissue, embroidered in wool; Mrs. J. A. Thomson and Mrs. J. H. Newton (aunts of the bride), Mrs. Board (Porangahua), Mrs. Bruce Thomson, Mrs. Johnston (Hamilton), Mrs. Knox Gilmer, Dr. and Mrs. Watt, Mr. and Mrs. Hebb, Mr. and Mrs. and Miss Coull, Mr. and Mrs. J. Hislop, Major and Mrs. Forgie, Mr. and Mrs. Chard, and Mr. W. Hamilton (brother of the bridegroom), and many others.

Evening Post 18 April 1927



Doris Katherine Hamilton

Andrew and Doris had two children:

Gavin Andrew born 12 January 1928 at Willis St Hospital. Married Mary Avis White in 1953. Died 21 August 1994. They had three children:

Maxwell Andrew Frederick born 8 May 1954. Married Kaye Dennison on 8 January 2000.

Guy John born 28 September 1956. Married Wendy May Hunt 1979. They have four children Stacey, Jason, Warwick and Bryce.

Nigel Blayney born 27 August 1959. Married Jan Mary Burne 1983. They have three children Jessica, Nicholas and Emma.

Ian Rennie born 1 May 1933

The family lived at 67 Messines Road Karori, in a house called "Te Parae" which Andy designed and had built in 1926/27, for the then princely sum of NZ Pounds



Gavin & Ian

Other Interests

Andy had an interest in music and a large collection of operatic records quite a number of which he had obtained in London. He acquired an "Imhof " two-deck Rosewood gramophone on which he played his size 78 records. He played (somewhat badly) the violin.

Andy played bowls and was a member of Karori Bowling Club. He also was President of the Club.

He had a long interest in philately and was a member, and later Life Member (1964), of the Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand. His philatelic specialty was early New Zealand stamps and, in particular, "Chalon Heads". His collection was recognized to be of top world standard.

During the Second World War, Andy served for several years with the Home Guard at Karori, Wellington. The Karori unit was part of the Makara Battalion . On 1 August 1941 Andy was appointed as a Lieutenant⁶. In January 1944 he was posted to the Reserve of Officers.

Andy was a member of the Wellington Savage Club. The newspaper reported on one of the Club's activities on which he participated:

⁶ New Zealand Gazette 18 December 1941

The programme was opened by two selections played by the Savage Club Orchestra, under the conductorship of Mr. Frank Thomas. This was followed by a succession of greeting cries, hakas, and war dances by realistically be-decked warriors and Rangitiras which roused no little amusement.

This was followed by a programme of song, drama, burlesque, ballet, and sketches.

Those who took part in the Maori items were. Savages J. Rogers, T. Manahi, T. Jenkins, A. B. Hamilton, E. Lynneberg, E. Johnston, R. G. Black, H. Graves, D. Newton, W. P. Pringle, L. Salek, C. Moss, J. F. Alexander, W. H. S. Brookman, G. Bennett, P. Hinge, I. McHardy, W. P. McGowan, A. M. Milne, M. Redfern, C. B. Somerville, A. K. Gray, and E. J. Hodgson.

"The Conquistador" written by Sav.

Evening Post 5 August 1933

In 1924 he joined the Wellesley Club, later becoming a Life Member.

Andy died on 22 November 1972 at Wellington. He suffered from Paget's Disease for several years. His remains were interred in the Hamilton family plot at Karori Cemetery.

Andrew's Will

Andy left a Will with two Codicils. The essential elements of the Will were:

- Sufficient of his assets were to be sold to cover Funeral and Testamentary expenses.
- The executors possessed of the residue which was divided into two equal shares.

The first share was to pay the net annual income to his son Ian Rennie during his lifetime and after his death both the capital and income was to be paid to his children.

The second share was to pay the net annual income to his son Gavin during his lifetime and after his death both the capital and income was to be paid to his children on the attainment of age 21.

The first Codicil dated 8 July revoked the appointment of the original executors and appointed instead his sons Gavin and Ian along with Peter Young, Solicitor.

The second Codicil concerned an amount of \$13,000 which Andy had previously lent to Gavin. The Codicil released and forgave Gavin of "the said sum or such lesser amount as may remain owing at the time of my death together with all interest if any owing at the date of my death."

He also added “ to give and bequeath to Ian Rennie a cash legacy equivalent to the amount owing by my said son “. (Gavin).



Andrew Blayney Hamilton c1962
(known to family and friends as “Andy”)