

## 2.2 John and Sarah Hamilton's Family

John and Sarah were married at the 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Meeting House, Castleblayney, Parish of Muckno on 4 April 1850. His father's name is shown as Young Hamilton and his location as "Cavanagilla". John's age is shown as 21 which implies a birth year of 1829. We know this to be incorrect<sup>1</sup> and in fact he was 27. Sarah's age is shown as 18 implying a birth year of 1832 but we have her actual birth date as 16 September 1829.<sup>2</sup> She was therefore 21. The witnesses were Robert Calen and William Hamilton. It is likely that William was John's brother. There was a William Hamilton who farmed land in the adjoining Townland of Tullanacrunat.

SCHEDULE G.] Registrar's District of <i>Castleblayney</i>								
1850. Marriage solemnized at <i>Castleblayney</i> in the Parish of <i>Muckno</i> in the <i>Co. Monaghan</i>								
No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the Time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
87	4 April 1850	John Hamilton	21	Single	Farmer	Cavanagilla Parish of Muckno Co. Monaghan	Young Hamilton	Farmer
		Sarah Rainey	18	Single	-	Hamilton Parish of Muckno Co. Monaghan	Walter Rainey	Farmer
Married in the <i>1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Meeting House</i> according to the Form and Discipline of the Presbyterian Church, by <i>James Boyd</i> by me,								
This Marriage was solemnized between us, <i>John Hamilton</i> and <i>Sarah Rainey</i>			In the Presence of us, <i>Robert Calen</i> and <i>Wm. Hamilton</i>					

### Marriage certificate John Hamilton & Sarah Rainey

John Hamilton and Sarah proceeded to have four children:

**Dorothea** born 17 March 1852 died 18 May 1904 at Hamua near Eketahuna, New Zealand. She never married and is buried at Karori Cemetery, Wellington in the same grave as her father.



### Headstone John Hamilton & Dorothea Karori Cemetery Wellington New Zealand

<sup>1</sup> Rainey/Burns Bible in possession of Kenneth Kirby, Ballykinler, Co. Downpatrick

<sup>2</sup> Rainey/Burns Bible in possession of Kenneth Kirby, Ballykinler, Co. Downpatrick

The above headstone was placed on the grave after John had died. John had left 100 Pounds for the headstone. Whoever produced it made an error with Dorothea's name. The cemetery burial record is correct. The year of her birth is also incorrect.

**Sarah Jane** born 25 September 1855 died 30 April 1915 at Newtownhamilton, Co. Armagh, and is buried in the Presbyterian Church cemetery there in the grave with her husband Alexander Burns and several of her children. Sarah Jane married Alexander Burns on 10 December 1880 in the house of her mother at Newtownhamilton.

**Samuel Charles Morgan** born 8 January 1857 died 6 March 1949 at East St Kilda, Victoria. He is buried at Cheltenham Cemetery, Victoria. Samuel married Teresa O'Hare at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Hawthorn, Victoria on 27 December 1888

**Gertrude Elizabeth (Lizzie)** born 26 May 1859 died 8 March 1871. Lizzie was 12 years old and she died at Annalittin. The cause of death is written 'Tabies Mesenterica'. This is usually spelt *Tabes Mesenterica*. *Tabes* literally means 'wasting' and *Mesenterica* means the mesentery which is the glad wrap like covering of the bowel and abdominal contents. It is the term usually taken to mean abdominal tuberculosis. The fact that she had the illness for 3 months would fit this interpretation<sup>3</sup>.

We have made a thorough search of the Castleblayney Presbyterian and Church of Ireland Parish records for Baptism records for the Hamilton children without any success. This seems strange and at odds with Presbyterian upbringing of Sarah and the Rainey family. We can only presume they were baptized by her brother John at Bally Bay where he was Licensed in 1865.

John and Sarah lived at the Cavanaguillah farm from 1850 until their separation in the early 1860's. We have been fortunate to locate the farmhouse and visit the people who now live there, Eddie & Kay Robinson. The farm has been in their family since 1898 and Eddie took it over in 1966.

The 1901 and 1911 Census both indicate that the farm was occupied by Edward Robinson, at that time a single man living alone. Edward was a Church of Ireland member in a predominantly Catholic Townland. The house was described as having walls of stone brick or concrete, a roof of either Thatch or Wood, with 3 windows to the front implying it was a 3 room dwelling and classified as a 2<sup>nd</sup> grade house. At that time the farm had 8 Outhouses consisting of a Stable, Coach house, Cowhouse, Calf house, Piggery, Fowl house, Barn and Shed. It did **not** have a Dairy, Potato house or Turf house.

The farm is now run by Eddie's son William and comprises some 50 acres. Additional land has been acquired and some has been taken for a bypass road around Castleblayney. Other lots have been sold, bringing good prices because of the close proximity to the town.

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<sup>3</sup> Dr Philip Watt



**John Hamilton's Cavanguillah Farmhouse 2009. 3 rooms at left were added 1970**

The house was originally of three rooms a kitchen/sitting room and two bedrooms. Three rooms were added to in the front in 1970 as Eddie and Kay had their children. The house is in very good condition and has been well looked after.



**John Hamilton's Cavanguillah Farmhouse 2009**

We are not aware of the reasons for John and Sarah's separation. The family story from the descendants of Sarah Jane Burns is that Sarah was not a good farmer's wife and did little to help out on the farm causing friction. However, the separation occurred about 1862 when Sarah

had four children with the eldest ten and the others 9, 5 and 3 respectively. These would have kept her very busy without the added task of attending to farm chores. At that time she did not have access to today's labour and time saving devices. Sarah would still have been expected to feed and tend to the animals located in the barns and houses close to the dwelling such as poultry, pigs, a milking cow and perhaps horses.

We have had views put to us that Sarah had a bad temper and that she was difficult to live with. There have been tales told indicating that she may have been hard on her children. This has been attributed to her son Sam and Sarah's granddaughter Margaret Burns who knew her as a young child who was 10 years old when Sarah died. She also said she would never blame John Hamilton for leaving her.<sup>4</sup> However, Sarah was a religious person and was a regular attendee at church in both Newtownhamilton and also Broomfield on her return to Annalittin.

In any event we will never know the reason. The only fact is that there was a permanent separation. There was no divorce and neither of them had other relationships.

Following discussions with the Burns descendants in Australia, we have come to the view that John Hamilton did not provide for the support of his wife and children until after Sarah had died. However, while we have no evidence that he provided for them, not providing for them is inconsistent with the views we have formed of his character throughout his business career in New Zealand. There is ample evidence to indicate he had a good reputation as an honourable and respectable person. Notwithstanding this, a bitter separation could still have brought a lack of support.

Lil Hamilton's note says that Sarah left John and went and lived with her brother John Rainey. This does not seem to be correct and if she did it was only for a short time. John moved to Killucan in 1866 and Sarah would have stayed close to her two unmarried sisters at Newtownhamilton rather than her brother. A "Miss Reany" leased a house in Dundalk St Newtownhamilton in 1860<sup>5</sup> and at that time the eldest, Mary Jane, was 41 years old some 10 years older than her sister Sarah. Her other sister Elizabeth was also there. Both of these sisters died at Newtownhamilton in 1869, and it is clear Sarah was living there with them. They would have provided support for her and her four young children.

The death of Lizzie Hamilton at Annalittin in 1871 indicates that Sarah had returned to her father's home after the death of her two sisters in early 1869. While the informant on her death certificate was a Mary Walsh, one could not envisage Sarah being away from her youngest child who was ill for 3 months.

We know that Sarah and her daughter Sarah Jane of Annalittin were both admitted to communion at the Broomfield Presbyterian Church on 24 October 1873 "*with certificate from second Newtownhamilton*".<sup>6</sup> This also indicates that Sarah Jane had been baptized.

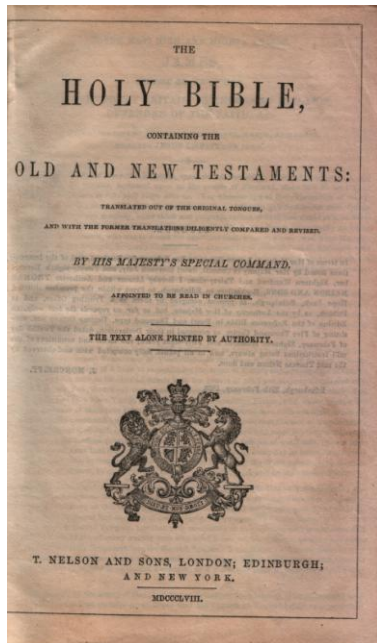
Sarah moved back to Annalittin to be with her father. In 1873 Walter Rainey was 84 years old and he died about 18 months later of "Senile Decay." He would have required Sarah's help in the time leading up to his death as there were no other siblings alive apart from her brother John who was the Minister at Killucan in County Westmeath.

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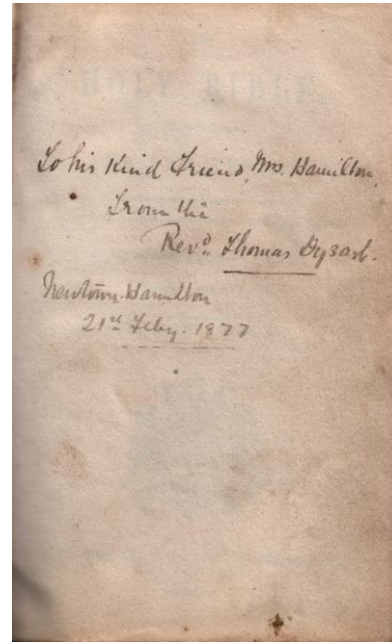
<sup>4</sup> Gertie Hathaway (nee Watt)

<sup>5</sup> Griffith Valuations

<sup>6</sup> Broomfield Presbyterian Church Records. Copy at An Englais.



**Title Page Sarah's Bible**



**Inscription Sarah's Bible**

Following Walter's death in 1875, Sarah returned to Newtownhamilton. In 1876 she leased a house in Dundalk St two doors down from Patrick and Catherine O'Hare. The O'Hare's were at number 17 and Sarah at number 21 in today's numbering. This is significant as the O'Hare's were later to become Samuel's in laws and it reveals that Samuel must have known the O'Hare family and particularly their daughter Teresa before he left for Australia. Sarah's death certificate shows an occupation of Draper. This was also the occupation on Patrick O'Hare's death certificate. We believe there was draper's shop next to the Burns house in Dundalk St and we presume that they both worked there.

In 1878 Dorothea migrated to New Zealand on the ship Waitangi and we also believe that about this time Samuel was at the London Polytechnic studying in order to become a teacher<sup>7</sup>.

Sarah Jane married Alexander Burns on 10 December 1880. He was a National School Teacher from Newtownhamilton and the marriage took place at the home of her mother, Sarah Hamilton in Newtownhamilton. John was named on the marriage certificate as her father, and his occupation was shown as "retired from business." The witnesses were Sarah Hamilton and Samuel Hamilton. This marriage took place two days after the birth of Sarah Jane and Alexander's twin children **John Rainey Burns** and **Lizzie Hamilton Burns** on 8 December 1880.<sup>8</sup>

Sarah stayed at her Dundalk St home until 1882. In that year Alex Burns leased a house in Dundalk St next door to the existing Burns House. In the next year, 1883, he moved to the Burns house and that is where they continued to live for many years until James Burns died in 1977.

<sup>7</sup> Family stories

<sup>8</sup> Rainey/Burns Bible in possession of Kenneth Kirby, Ballykinler, Co. Downpatrick.





### **Sarah Hamilton's House 21 Dundalk St Newtownhamilton**

We know that Sarah moved in with her daughter and son in law and this made sense with both Dorothea in New Zealand and with Samuel migrating to Australia in 1882. Her house would have been too large for her and the Burns house was quite a large place and could well accommodate her.

We are told that all Sarah wanted to do was read novels. She had Diabetes and a jar of jam and a jug of water was taken up to her bedroom every night. It was gone the next morning. It was also said that for the time that she lived with the Burns family she did not speak to Alex Burns.<sup>9</sup>

Sarah died at Newtownhamilton on 10 June 1895. She had Bronchitis for a period of 21 days. Sarah Jane Burns was present at her death. We believe Sarah is buried at the cemetery of the Second Presbyterian Church Newtownhamilton although we were unable to locate a headstone.

More details will be provided later of Samuel and Sarah's families and their descendants.

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<sup>9</sup> Gertie Hathaway (nee Watt)