

2.5 THE HAMILTON'S of ANNALITTIN

The Hamiltons leased 76 acres in the Annalittin Townland in 1759¹. Later references show that in 1829 Hans Hamilton leased 31 acres and Young Hamilton 6 acres². By 1861 the Hamilton leaseholders in Annalittin were Andrew Hamilton with two parcels, one of 9 acres on which his house was located, and another of 24 acres which was land only. Anne Hamilton, the widow of Hans leased 29 acres³.

The scale of Hans' land seems to indicate that this was the original Hamilton family holding. It is also possible that Young's smaller parcel was previously a part of the larger Hamilton holding but Young was allowed to farm it. If so the logical conclusion is that Hans was the eldest in the family and a brother of Young and an uncle of John Hamilton.

Hans died about 1837 and the land was shown in the Hope Estate Rental Book as managed by his "Reps"⁴ until 1860 when his widow Anne took over 29 acres.

By this time Young was no longer at Annalittin and the indications are that Andrew had taken over Young Hamilton's land as well as some that was previously farmed by Hans. While the overall quantity of land owned by the Annalittin Hamilton's had increased between 1829 and 1861 there was a reduction in the amount held by Hans' widow Anne. The conclusion from these transactions is that the land passed to Andrew and that he was Hans' son and Anne was his mother.

Of interest is the 1860 Building Valuations. Andrew's building was valued at 15 Shillings while Anne's was clearly a substantial building valued at 2 pounds 10 Shillings. All other land holders in the Townland had lower values except one who had the same. The values indicate that Anne's house was 2 storeys while at that time Andrew's house was a single storey.

The 1901 Census indicated that there were 3 windows to the front of the William's house (taken over from his father Andrew) house but 6 windows to the front of Anne's house which by then was occupied by her son George. This would certainly mean a two storey dwelling confirming the Griffith valuations.

The 1911 Census indicates that Anne's house (by then owned by Jane) was described as having walls of brick, stone or concrete, a roof of slate, iron or tiles with 4 windows to the front implying it was 2 storeys and had at least 4 rooms. There were 5 Outhouses being a Stable, Cow house, Piggery, Fowl house, and Barn. However, William's house also had 4 windows to the front in the 1911 Census but we know this was not a 2 storey house at this time. It appears that he had extended the house, on one level, between the two Census returns.

While not completely conclusive, the photos taken by Andrew Blayney Hamilton in 1915 tend to show that the dwelling had 3 windows to the front.



1915 House Showing 3 Windows to Front

¹ Clogher Record Vol. 10, No. 3 (1981), pp. 414-418 Castleblayney Rent Book, 1772

² Tithe Applotment Books

³ Griffith Valuations

⁴ Blayney/Hope Rental Rolls

Anne farmed her land with the help of her son George who was born about 1824 and for many years was a bachelor. He took over the farm from Anne in 1866⁵ a couple of years before Anne died in 1868.

At the age of 62, on 25 May 1886 George married Jane White at the 2nd Presbyterian Church, Ballybay. The church was well away from his own church and Townland. Jane was born about 1846 and therefore was also of a quite mature age.

George and Jane did not have any children. The 1901 Census showed that Jane's nephew Alexander White was living with them. He was 12 years old. George farmed the land until he died on 31 August 1902 and left the farm to his wife, Jane.

George had a sister Sarah Anne who was born about 1833. She lived on the property in a separate house owned by George and Jane.⁶ This house was a single storey dwelling and there were no Outhouses.

Sarah Anne challenged George's Will which would have seen the long term leasehold of the Hamilton's now 36 acres pass from the family. Sarah Anne was initially successful. However, Jane appealed and the lower court decision was set aside with Jane retaining the whole of the estate.

The value of the estate left by George was about 257 Pounds made up of the Leasehold valued at 137 Pounds 10 Shillings, Farm Equipment of 67 Pounds and Household goods of 52 Pounds. This decision was important as the Irish Lands Act 1903 was allowing tenants to purchase their leaseholds on favourable terms.

Jane died on 5 October 1916. She left an estate valued at 287 Pounds all to her nephew Alexander White. Alexander had continued to live with her and no doubt was the person who had worked the farm from an early age after George's death in 1902.

Family of Andrew Hamilton and Elizabeth Knox

Andrew was born about 1811 well before George and hence his entitlement to the land. He died 28 April 1895 at Annalittin. The cause of death was Pneumonia which he had for seven days. Andrew married Elizabeth Knox who was born in 1813 and died on 31 August 1884. She was buried at Broomfield Presbyterian Church. We presume that Andrew was buried there with her later.

Andrew and Elizabeth had seven children. Except for their daughter Anne, we have records of their baptisms and these records show birth dates. From other records we have concluded Anne was the eldest. She died on 12 September 1915 at the age of 75 years implying a birth year of 1840. Her marriage certificate also shows that she was "Full Age" (21) when married on 29 Jun 1865. When looking at the birth years of other children, 1840 seems to be the best fit. As eldest, Andrew gave her his mother's name just as he gave his father's name to his eldest boy, Hans.

The details of the children are:

Anne.

Born about 1840.

Married Benjamin Hamilton from Anneys, Donaghmoyne Parish on 29 June 1865 at Broomfield Presbyterian Church.

Died 12 September 1915, Anneys, Culloville. Anne and Benjamin had 10 children.

⁵ Annual Revision Books

⁶ 1911 Census

Elizabeth.

Born 25 February 1842 at Annadrummond Co. Monaghan.

Married George Hamilton Gilmer originally from Mullaghanees but now of Greymouth New Zealand on 25 April 1871 at Broomfield Presbyterian Church Co. Monaghan.

Died 31 January 1928 at Wellington New Zealand and is buried at Bolton St Memorial Park Wellington. Elizabeth left an estate valued for Probate purposes of 19,730 Pounds

SCHEDULE G.] Registrar's District of <i>Castleblayney</i>								
1871. Marriage solemnized at <i>Broomfield</i> in the Parish of <i>Donaghadee</i> in the County of <i>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.
39	<i>Twenty-fifth</i> <i>1871</i>	<i>George Hamilton Gilmer</i>	<i>Full</i> <i>age</i>	<i>Bachelor</i>	<i>Merchant</i>	<i>Mullaghanees</i>	<i>Hugh Gilmer</i>	<i>Farmer</i>
	<i>1871</i>	<i>Eliza Hamilton</i>	<i>Full</i> <i>age</i>	<i>Spinster</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>Drumdrum</i>	<i>Andrew Hamilton</i>	<i>Farmer</i>

Married in the *Broomfield* Church according to the Form and Discipline of the Presbyterian Church, *by license* by me,

This Marriage was solemnized between us, *George Hamilton Gilmer* and *Eliza Hamilton* in the Presence of us, *Robert McKelvey* and *Maggie McKelvey* *Is. McKelvey*

1871 Marriage Certificate Elizabeth & George Hamilton Gilmer



Wedding Photo Hamilton Gilmer and Elizabeth Hamilton

Jane

Born 8 Oct 1844. No other details have been identified.

Hans

Born 2 Apr 1847

Never married

Died 10 Jun 1928 at Annadrummond Co. Monaghan.

Hans was the eldest boy by four years but he did not take over the family farm. His father Andrew lived until 1895 and with a sister and two other brothers going to New Zealand Hans probably wanted to make his own way. He settled on his own farm at Drumdeeny perhaps with some support from Andrew.

Hans left an estate valued at 280 Pounds 12 Shillings. He was aged 81 years. He left his sister Elizabeth "Gilmore" 50 Pounds as repayment for a moral debt because she had previously lent him 50 Pounds. (Elizabeth had predeceased him earlier in that year).

Hans also left 20 Pounds to his niece Maggie Hamilton, of Annie's daughter of the late Ben Hamilton and 20 Pounds to his nephew Hans who lives at Annalittin. Hans bequeathed the residue of his estate to his nephews Hans, Andrew and William and his nieces Annie and Ellen the five children of his late brother William. This means that he left 196 Pounds to be divided between the five children.

John Knox

Born 24 Feb 1849

Married Alice Julia Brooks, (born 1859 London England, died 27 Aug 1935 Waipukurau, New Zealand) on 13 Oct 1887 at the New Zealander Hotel. Manners Street, Wellington.

Died 26 Oct 1902 at Wellington New Zealand from Cancer of the stomach.

Both John Knox and Alice are buried at Karori Cemetery Wellington.

John Knox left an estate valued at 19,307 Pounds

William

Born 17 Nov 1851

Married Ellen Dickson (born 1864 died 4 Apr 1937)

Died 5 Mar 1923 Annalittin

Although not the eldest boy, William took over the family farm from Andrew.

William died on 5 March 1923. Ellen died on 4 April 1937. Probate was granted on William's estate on 6 July 1938. The value of his estate was 426 Pounds. William was illiterate making a mark rather than signing his name. His Will was made on 18 January 1919 And witnessed by William Loughhead and Rev James Hamilton of the Broomfield Presbyterian Manse.

The key features of the Will are:

William left his two farms and all associated possessions in the Annalittin Townland to his wife Ellen.

Ellen was directed to give his son Robert Hans "his maintenance including his clothing." In case of any dispute he also directed that he be paid 10 shillings per week during his lifetime. (In the 1911 Census Robert was recorded as being blind.)

His daughter Eliza Jane, now Mrs. Newly (sic), was mentioned as already being provided for and "*had no further claim on this place.*" She had been given 50 Pounds at her marriage. Elizabeth married Harrison Newell in Belfast in 1918 and migrated to the USA.

For the rest of the children, Andrew, Ellen, Annie, and William John Lewis, "*I leave it to my wife to make suitable provision for each of them.*"

The documents for Ellen's Will contained a Valuation for the farm. An area of 51 acres was valued at 550 Pounds at the date of her death. The value of the estate was 1846 Pounds indicating Personal assets of 1396 Pounds.

Andrew

Born 6 Aug 1856

Married Isabel Mitchell Born 4 Oct 1869 Edinburgh Scotland. Died 19 Aug 1951 Wellington New Zealand

Died 23 May 1945. Cremated and ashes interred at Karori Cemetery Wellington New Zealand. Andrew left an estate valued at 9079 Pounds.

The Annalittin Farmhouse after Andrew Hamilton

The Annual Revision Books show William took over the Annalittin farm in 1890 shortly before Andrew's death in 1895. William and his wife Ellen had six children:

Elizabeth Jane ⁷

Born 28 Aug 1893, Eliza lived on the farm at Annalittin until she started business school at Skerry's College in Belfast in 1912 and then worked in an office there. She met Harrison Loring Newell, a merchant seaman and they married in Belfast on 21 May 1918. They then sailed for Boston USA. They settled initially at Dorchester before later moving to the western side of the State. Eliza Jane died in Holyoke, Massachusetts on 8 March 1982.

Eliza's first child was a boy who died shortly after delivery. She then had two daughters, Emily Brewster Newell born 2 May 1922 and Eleanor Blanche Newell born on 9 July 1925. They both grew up attending schools in South Hadley, Massachusetts.

Emily married David Walter Lewis (born 2 May 1922) on 16 December 1946 after they had both left the services from WW 2. Emily was a naval nurse during the war and was stationed in the Boston area (Chelsea) while Dave was a Marine drill Sergeant stationed in various places. They married and lived in South Hadley for the rest of their lives. They had two children. Emily Barbara Lewis was born 27 August, 1951 and David Walter Lewis, Jr. was born 23 July 1953.

Emily and Eleanor's father, Harrison Newell, died in 1948 prior to his second daughter's wedding.

(Emily) Barbara lives in Menlo Park, California, with her husband, Alexander Canara, and her son,

William (born 1994). They have three children, her husband's two daughters from his previous marriage, Rebecca and Rachel, and their son, age 15 (in 2010). Alexander is retired from a Silicon Valley company and is now volunteering for numerous organizations. They have three grandchildren currently.

⁷ Barbara Canara, Menlo Park California 25 May 2010

David is married and lives in Doylestown Pennsylvania where he is a dentist. He and his wife, Barbara were married in 1980 and have three girls, Jennifer(1982), Kathryn (1984) and Abigail (1989), all unmarried as yet with the youngest still in college.

Eleanor Blanche Newell married John Lewis MacDonald on 1 September 1951. The MacDonalds had no children. Emily and Eleanor's father, Harrison Newell, died in 1948 prior to his second daughter's wedding.

Andrew

Born 29 Jan 1892

Never married

Died 30 Nov 1969. Buried Frankford Presbyterian Church Cemetery. Castleblayney

Andrew ran the farm after the death of Ellen in 1937.

Robert Hans

Born 11 Apr 1895

Never married

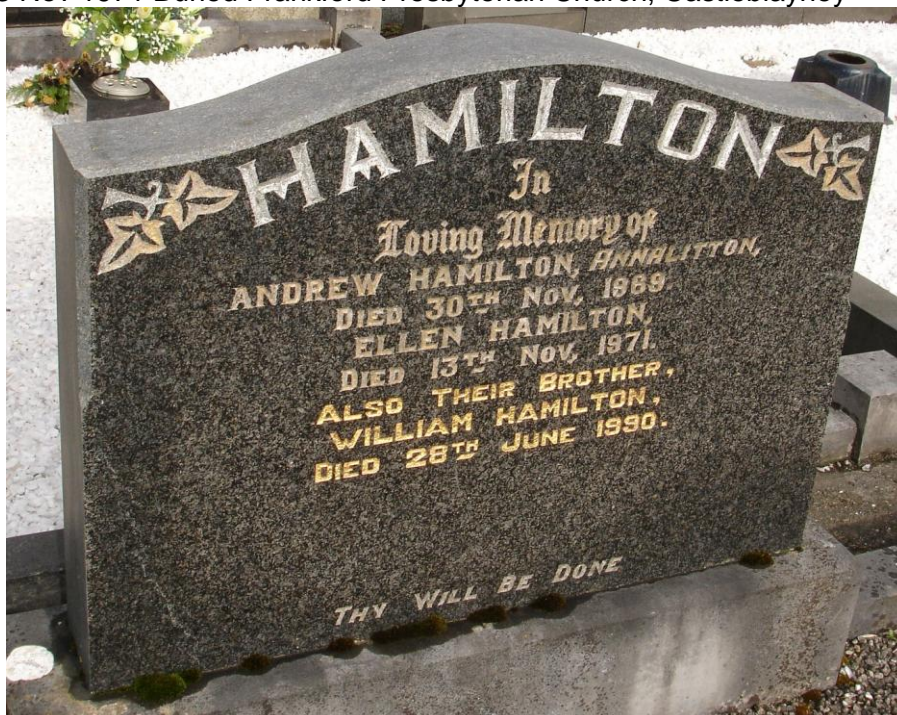
Died 27 Mar 1927

Ellen

Born 8 Jun 1897

Never married

Died 13 Nov 1971 Buried Frankford Presbyterian Church, Castleblayney



Hamilton Grave Frankford Cemetery

Annie

Born 29 Jul 1899

Married Samuel Johnson 23 Apr 1946 at Frankford Presbyterian Church Castleblayney.

Died at Annalittin about 1983.

In her later years Annie lived at the family farmhouse with her brother Willy.

Willam John Lewis

Born about 1903

Never married
Died 28 Jun 1990

William took over the farm after Andrew died in 1969. At the time of his death Willy had two other farms in addition to Annalittin one at Creeve and the other at Cornalough. He left his Annalittin property to Hugh McCully said to be his cousin although we were not able to get him to articulate the precise details.

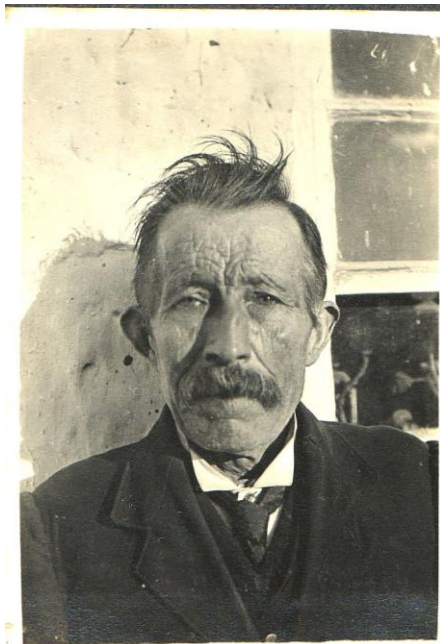
Willy left the Creeve property to his 'cousin' Muriel Geary wife of Sam Geary who was also one of his executors. The Cornalough property was left to William McCully until William's son, David, reached 21 years of age when the property was to pass to him. The value of his estate was 176,199 Pounds.

The McCullys were still running the farm in 2009.

Visits to Annalittin

Over the years Annalittin and the Hamilton Farmhouse were visited by family from New Zealand also from the USA. Andrew Hamilton made at least three visits. The first of these was in 1897 and his son also named Andrew (Drew) was baptized on 27 August 1897 at Broomfield Presbyterian Church. He was four years old. The family also visited in 1907 and their son Drew visited in 1917 when he was in Britain as a member of the New Zealand Armed Forces.

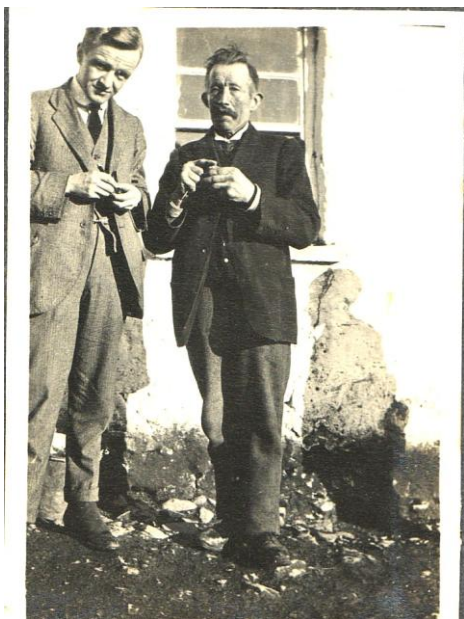
In 1915, Andrew Blayney Hamilton son of John Knox visited and we have a great photographic record of the event. At this time, the house was still a single storey building and it appears that there was only Ellen, Annie and Willy at home. Andrew was in uniform and had obviously enlisted but was home on leave. The photos show a remarkable likeness between the two Andrews.



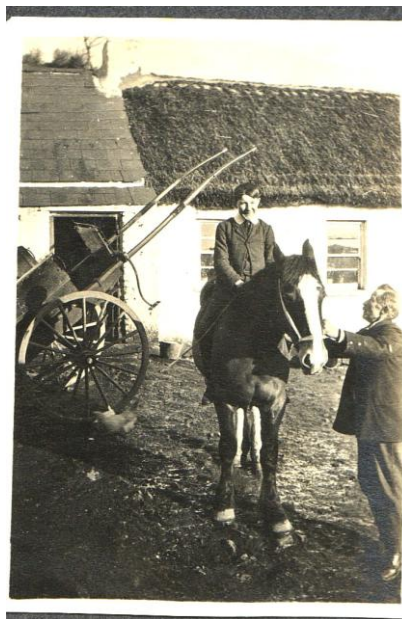
William 1915 Age 64



Andrew and William 1915



Andrew Blayney Hamilton & William



Willy & William 1915



William Ellen & Family 1915



Andrew Blayney Hamilton with William & Family 1915

In 1926, Dame Elizabeth Gilmer, widow of Knox Gilmer, the son of Hamilton Gilmer and Elizabeth Hamilton, and her daughters Jean and Mary visited the farmhouse. Jean recalls knocking on the door and it being opened by her cousin and she thought she was looking at herself there was such a likeness. She also recalls an earthen floor, a 2 storey building with an external staircase to get to the upper floor. A major issue was the absence of toilet facilities such events requiring a trip to the cowshed. Her sister Mary also commented on this and described the living conditions as primitive and “fairly shattering”.⁸

The girls found the Irish Hamiltons difficult to understand because of their very broad accents. Young Willy drove them all back to Dublin in a Ford motor car which Jean says “leaked from the rain”.

Visits were also made in 1957 by Andrew’s grandson Mac in 1957 and his brother Dan in 1958. At this time the farmhouse still had an earthen floor and it was usual for the chickens to be inside the house. The house was occupied by Andrew and Willy as well as their sister Ellen.

Ian Hamilton visited in 1977 and took a number of photos of Willy and also Hugh McCully. He recalls that Annie was in bed upstairs and was very ill. She died a few years later.

⁸ Notes from Tim Jerram Auckland



Hugh McCully and Willy 1977



Willy 1977

Visits were also made by William's cousins Eleanor McDonald and Emily Lewis (both nee Newell) the daughters of William's aunt Elizabeth Jane (nee Hamilton). Emily's daughter Barbara Canara relates *"My mom and aunt used to talk about Hugh and Uncle Willie when they would visit in the 70's and 80's. I was forbidden to accompany them even then because the familial home was judged to be "too much" for me to handle--it was in such sad shape even then. They used to talk about trying to cook dinner in the house for Uncle Willie on the old stove and joke about roughing it there. There are many photos of Uncle Willie and Hugh at the farm surrounded by chickens in the yard. Hugh McCully was Uncle Willie's right hand man and always referred to as a cousin of some sort."*

In 2009, Elizabeth and I visited Castleblayney and met Hugh McCully, William and David. We obtained Hugh's permission to go through the house which was in very poor condition. It had been lived in by Hugh McCully who had been living there when Willy died in 1990. Hugh is now in his 80's and has moved into Castleblayney and lives 7 doors down from the Police Station towards the Catholic Church.

In the house there was very little of interest. There were school reports for Elizabeth Jane from Skerry's at Belfast as well as funeral notices and an Obituary for John Knox from New Zealand. There was also a faded photograph of one of the girls with a her bicycle. Two Bibles were found but they contained no family information. A number of old accounts were there including one that contained references to Whisky and Port. No doubt for Christmas!



Photo in Farmhouse 2009 of one of Williams daughters with her bicycle



Ian Collie, Will McCully, Elizabeth (Hamilton) Harford 2009



Hamilton Annalittin Farmhouse 2009