

Last update 29 September 2011

7.10 JOHN KNOX HAMILTON 1849 to 1902

John Knox was born at Annalittin on 24 February 1849 the fifth child of Andrew Hamilton and Elizabeth Knox. He was the fifth child of Andrew Hamilton and Elizabeth Knox. He was baptized at Broomfield Presbyterian Church on 24 September 1850.

The Presbyterian Church in Ireland

CERTIFICATE OF CHRISTIAN BAPTISM
Certified Copy of Entry in the Baptismal Register

person described below was baptised with water in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, according to the practice of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland.

Name of Person	Name of Father	Name of Mother	Place of Birth	Date of Birth	Date of Baptism	By whom Baptised
John	Andrew Hamilton	Eliza Knox	Annalittin	24 th September 1849	24 th February 1850	Rev. S. Blairshaw

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a correct Extract from the Baptismal Register in the Congregation of Broomfield, Castleblayney

10/1/01
De Marco, Castleblayney

Nancy Cusack Minister

John Knox emigrated from Ireland to New Zealand at the age of 18 years in 1867.¹ He went to the West Coast as one would have expected because his next door neighbours, the five Gilmer boys, were there. The Gilmer Brothers partnership including John Hamilton was also in place and was expanding rapidly into hotels and other businesses. Trusted employees were needed to assist in running these businesses or at least working in them.

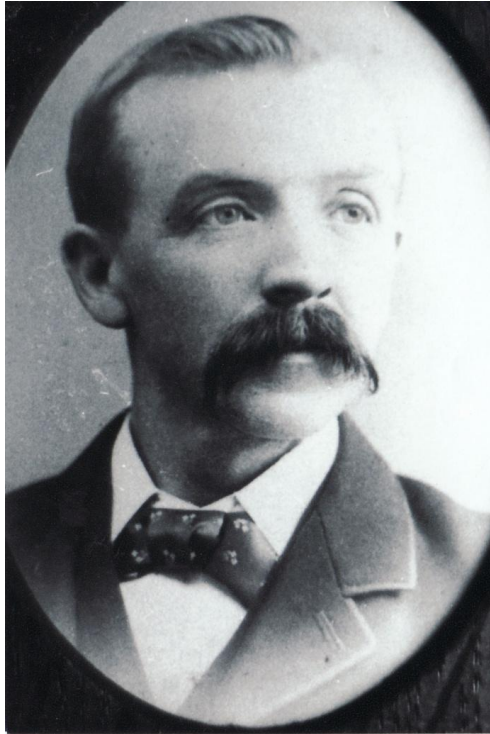
John Knox was later joined by his sister Elizabeth after she had married Hamilton Gilmer at Broomfield 1871 and he brought her back to New Zealand. As well, his younger brother Andrew joined them in 1875.

John Knox spent 15 years on the West Coast before moving to Wellington with other members of his family. Here he obtained the lease of the New Zealander Hotel in 1883 with the assistance of John Hamilton and Hamilton Gilmer. He lived at the hotel there for many years as did John Hamilton until he bought his cottage in Marion St in June 1895. On 13 October 1887 John Knox married Alice Julia Brooks at the New Zealander Hotel. Alice was ten years younger being born in 1859 in London. The Marriage Certificate shows their ages as 34 and 27. Alice's looks to be correct but John's is understated by four years.

We do not know anything about Alice's background. However, we have identified that and Alice Brooks participated in two Pantomimes at the Theatre Royal in 1884. The first was on 27 November and the production was "Jane Shore" "Miss Alice Brooks played the role of the Prince

¹ Evening Post 27 October 1902

of Wales. On 8 December she played the role of Columbine in "Blue Beard". Whether this was the woman who John Knox married we will never know, but the name is relatively uncommon.



John Knox Hamilton 1887



Alice Julia (Brooks) Hamilton

Children

John Knox and Alice had four children:

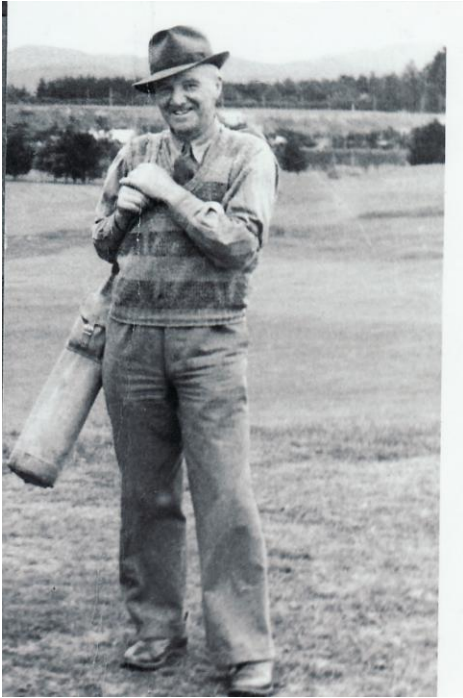
Andrew Blayney was born on 18 December 1890 upstairs at the New Zealander Hotel. Andrew married Dois Katherine Rennie, born 15 June 1896, on 12 April 1927.

Andrew studied architecture and attended college in London. He died 22 Nov 1972 and is buried at Karori Cemetery



Andrew Blayney Hamilton c1962

William was born 1 May 1892. Married Ethel Mavis Sibley (born 1897, died 1982) in 1922
Died 23 November 1965



William Farmer and WW 1 Gallipoli Veteran

Children : Mary born 2 October 1926. Married Thomas Morgan Mulvaney 1950

John Knox born 24 July 1923. Married Josephine Anne Deardon (Born 1928) in 1949 Died about 2007.



Mary Mulvaney



John Knox

John Brooks was born 17 December 1893 Married "Queenie" Mcinerney She died in 1968. Died 12 December 1973



Alice Julia and John Brooks Hamilton

And then there was Alice.

Alice was born in 1884 some three years before John Knox married Alice. Was she John's Child? Was she Alice's child? Was she a child of both of them?. A birth record cannot be located.

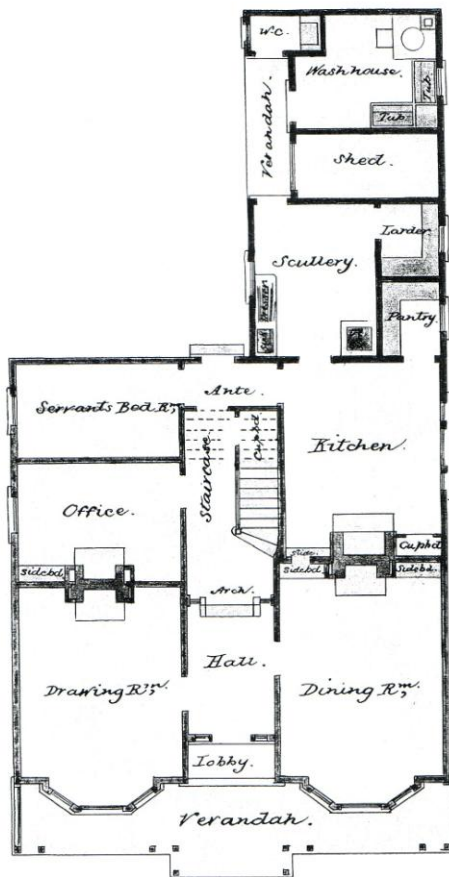
She married Harold Chard and died in 1953

Oriental Bay

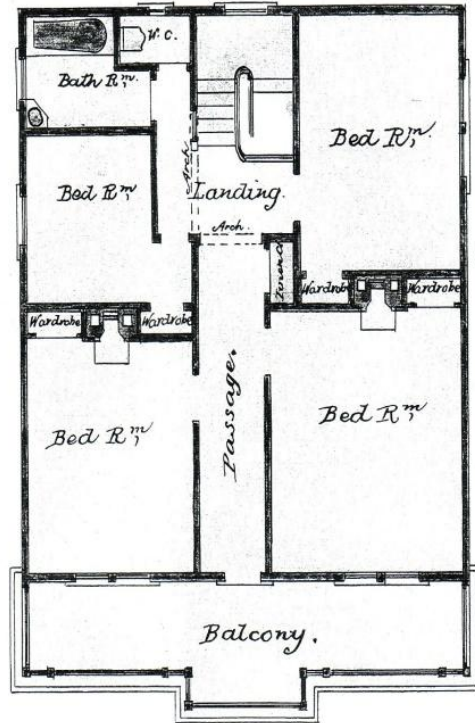
According to Electoral Rolls John Knox and Alice lived at the New Zealander Hotel and they were shown on Rolls until 1900. In that year on 17 September John Knox made an application to the Wellington City Council for a Building Permit for a Dwelling at 234 Oriental Parade, Oriental Bay. Plans for a 2 Storey Dwelling were submitted to the Council.

The lease of the New Zealander Hotel was to expire on 31 December and John Knox had decided not to renew it. The lease was transferred to JH Price who was previously at the Albert Hotel with his father.

The new house was quite large and contained three bedrooms and a bathroom on the first Floor with a balcony giving beautiful panoramic views over Wellington Harbour. On the Ground Floor was a Kitchen, Drawing Room, Office and Servants Bedroom. John Knox, did not forget his Irish roots and named the house "Blayne Bank" after the place of their origin in Castleblayne



Ground Plan.



First Floor Plan.

Death

John Knox developed Cancer of the stomach which he had for some months before he died on 26 October 1902.

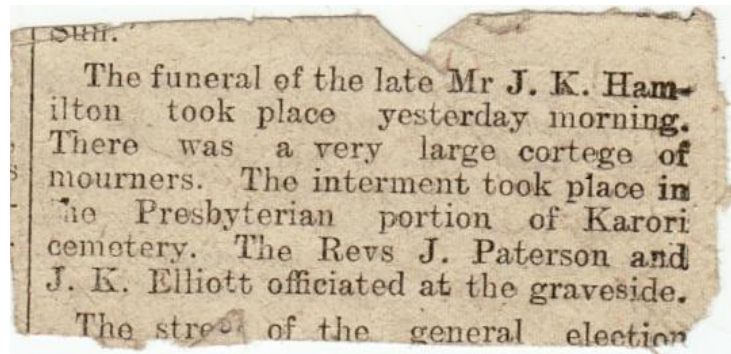
Among the papers we found in the Annalittin Farmhouse in 2009 were the old press clippings of John Knox's Funeral Notice and Obituary. This was the only personal information on any of the family who had gone to New Zealand and he was probably the only one who did not have the opportunity to return there on a visit.

Yesterday morning the death of Mr John K. Hamilton took place at his residence in Oriental Bay, where he had been laid up for a period of eighteen weeks, as a result of an internal complaint. The deceased gentleman was born at Castle Blaney, County Monaghan, Ireland. At the age of eighteen years he emigrated to New Zealand and resided in this colony until the time of his death. For the first fifteen years of Mr Hamilton's colonial sojourn he lived on the West Coast, after which he came to Wellington and remained in business until a few years ago, when he retired to private life. At the time of his death Mr Hamilton was in the fifty-third year of his age. He had been a resident of this city for twenty years. He leaves a widow and a family of four, the youngest child being a boy of nine years. The interment will take place to-morrow morning.

After a long illness, Mr. John K. Hamilton, a resident of Wellington for twenty years, died at his residence in Oriental Bay yesterday morning. The deceased gentleman was for many years licensee of the New Zealander Hotel, Manners-street, where he made many friends. He was born in Ireland, and when 18 years of age emigrated to New Zealand, living on the West Coast before coming to Wellington. He was in his fifty-third year, and leaves a widow and a family of four, the youngest a boy of nine. The funeral takes place to-morrow.

The Wellington Cycling Club next

Evening Post 27 October 1902



Evening Post 29 October 1902

Clippings from Annalittin 2009

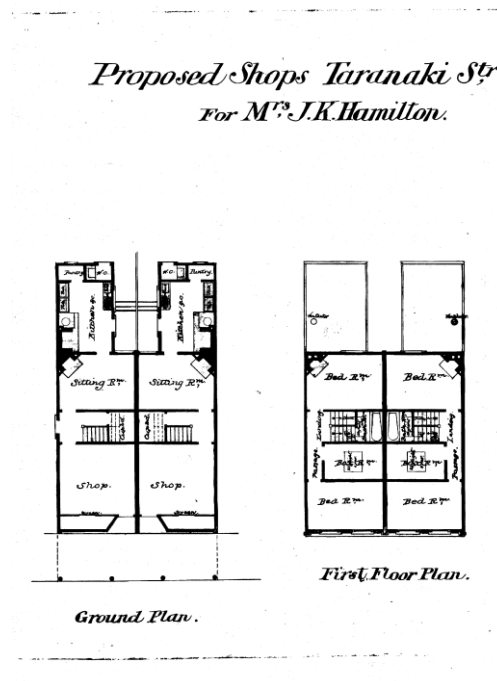
In Memoriam Notices were placed in the Evening Post by Alice and her children on 26 October, 1903, 1904, 1906, 1907 and 1909.

John Knox's Estate

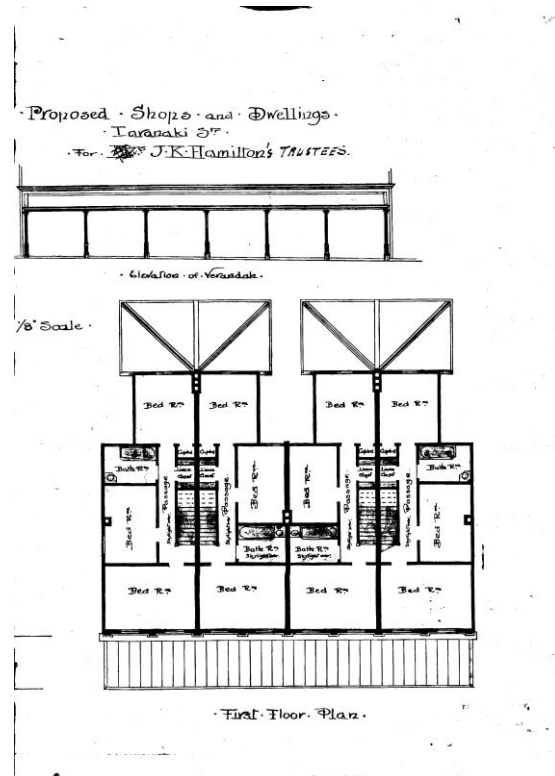
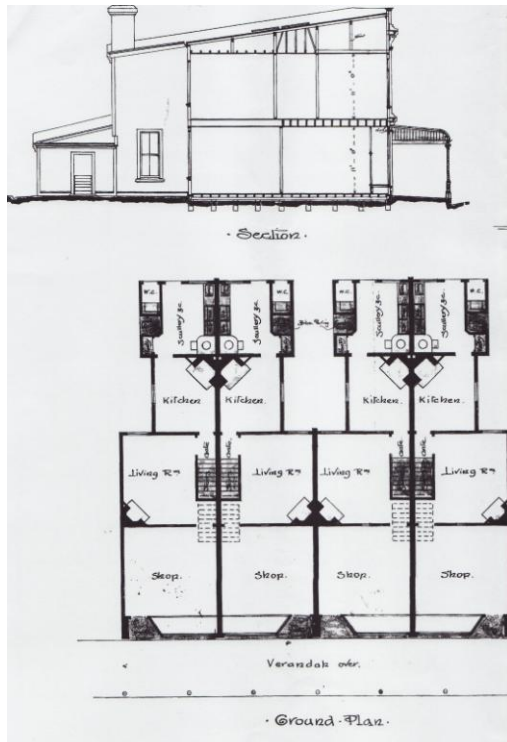
The value of John Knox's Estate was 19,307 Pounds. The Executors of the Estate were Alice Julia Hamilton, Andrew Hamilton and Thomas Young.

After his death, his trustees applied to the Wellington City Council for Building Permits for a number of properties in Taranaki St. The details are:

1. Building Permit 7 Jan 1901 2 shops and dwellings 146 Taranaki St Cost 956 Pounds

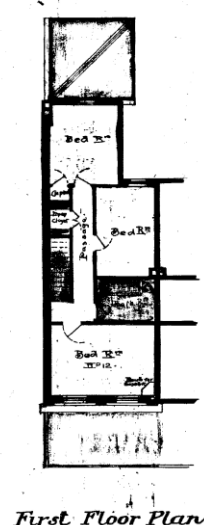
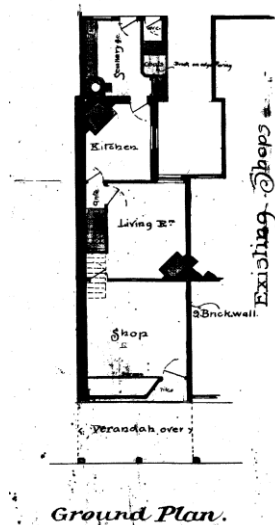


2. Building permit to WCC 22 Dec 1903 four shops and dwelling 60 & 62 Taranaki St Cost 2100 Pounds



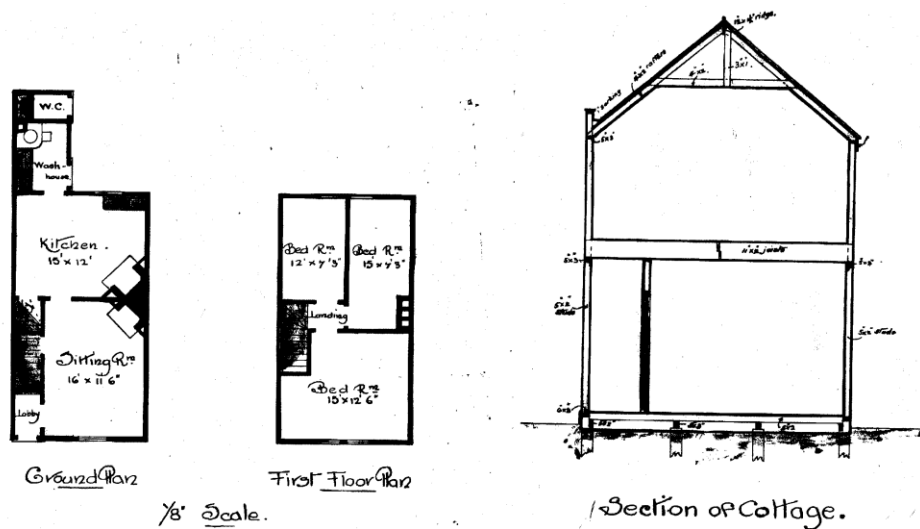
- 3 Building Permit 4 Shop and dwelling 64 & 66 Taranaki St Cost 2100 Pounds
Using the same plans as for 60 & 62

- 4 Shop & Dwelling Taranaki St adjoining the Panama Hotel Cost 825 Pounds



5. Cottage Taranaki St. No cost estimates

Mrs J.K. Hamilton
Taranaki Street.



The total cost of these developments was over 6000 Pounds. We do not know whether they were built to be later sold or were for rent. Whatever the purpose the proceeds would have yielded additional money.

John Knox and his family are buried in a substantial grave at Karori Cemetery which has been well looked after over the years.



John Knox Hamilton's Grave at Karori Cemetery