

Andrew Hamilton 1856 to 1945

Andrew was the fifth and youngest of the children of Andrew Hamilton and Elizabeth Knox who survived. He was born on their farm at Annalittin on 15 August 1856. He was some 16 years younger than his eldest sister Anne.

Andrew had several older brothers, Hans, John Knox and William. Hans as the eldest boy would take over the farm and knowing this John Knox had migrated to New Zealand as an 18 year old in 1868.¹ He joined his neighbours and possibly cousins the Gilmer brothers and also John Hamilton on the West Coast at Greymouth.

Andrew's older sister Elizabeth, in 1871, married (George) Hamilton Gilmer and he returned to New Zealand with her after their wedding. Andrew had another older brother William who could possibly inherit the family farm and so, with the knowledge of the success of his sister's family of Gilmers and also that of John Knox, it was obvious that he too would migrate to New Zealand.

He migrated to New Zealand in 1875 at the age of 19 and was said to have gone to the West Coast². He is said to have given been 50 Sovereigns, a sum that he was required to repay. While we have no record of him at Greymouth or the West Coast there is a photograph of him taken at Nelson in 1879. His photo at the Nelson Museum has the number 1660 while there is a photograph of Robert Gilmer numbered 1659. This connects the two photographs. The photo is labelled "Hamilton". A first name is not given. The person is clearly young and at this time Andrew would have been 23 years old.

Andrew went to Wellington along with others in the family in about 1881.³ However, the earliest reference we have located of Andrew is in 1885 when he was at Wellington and applied for the transfer of the license of Gilmer's Family Hotel on 5 March.⁴ He would have been 29 years of age at that time.

Andrew had a successful, colourful and eventful business career in the brewing, aerated water and cordial industries. This has been detailed in the section "The Move to Wellington and Nelson 1878 to 1900".

Family

Andrew married Isa Mitchell on 25 July 1892⁵ and the wedding was celebrated by Rev. W.H. Beck at the residence of her parents in Willis St Wellington. Andrew was almost 36 years of age and Isa, was almost 12 years younger than him. Isa was born Isabel Mitchell at Edinburgh, Scotland, on 4 October 1868.

Andrew and Isa had a son, Andrew, who was born on 11 April 1893. The newspaper also reported the birth of a daughter at Mount St to "*the wife of Andrew Hamilton*" on 2 December 1898. She was named Elizabeth (after his mother) Audrey. However, this child lived for only 15 weeks and she died at Mount St on 11 April 1898.⁶

The electoral rolls show that Andrew was at the Duke of Edinburgh from 1887 and he was shown on the rolls as being there through to 1897. After their marriage Isa's address on the

¹ Obituary October 1902

² Obituary Evening Post 26 May 1945

³ Obituary Dominion 26 May 1945

⁴ Evening Post 5 March 1885

⁵ Evening Post 25 July 1892 Page 2

⁶ Evening Post 11 April 1898

roll was also shown as Willis Street. The 1899 electoral roll showed the address for both Andrew and Isa as 2 Mount Street.

It appears that after 1893 Andrew began to reduce his business activities. Certainly after that time there is a significant reduction in the newspaper reporting his activities and he appears to have taken investing role rather than a “hands on” management role.



Isa (Mitchell) Hamilton

Cuba St Shops

In September 1893 he purchased a property containing three two storey shops and dwellings, all under one roof. The land measured 54 feet frontage to Cuba Street with a depth of 159 feet. It was part of Town Acre 151⁷ which was the same block as John Hamilton's Imperial Hotel. Andrew paid 2675 pounds and there is no doubt it was bought for investment purposes. Three months later he relinquished his license at Barrett's Hotel on Lambton Quay.

Although Rate Records show that these properties were not always fully tenanted, there were several good tenants in these shops, two at least being there for ten years or more. One was George Mawson who was there in 1894. He was variously a confectioner, pastry cook and caterer. He was regularly mentioned in the press as the caterer at many balls and social functions. One of these was attended by Premier Seddon and the Misses Seddon.⁸

⁷ Evening Post 7 September 1893

⁸ Evening Post 18 May 1896

Another long term tenant was Sparks Philp who was a rate payer in 1898/99 and was still there in 1909. In that year the partnership he had with Frederick Anstey was dissolved and Philp continued on with his wife.⁹ In 1903 a fire broke out at 7.30 am in Philp's shop & dwelling. The dwelling rooms were untenanted and the damage was not extensive being confined to a lean to at the rear of the main building and a room and bath room on the first floor. Andrew had the block insured for 1300 Pounds and the stock plant and shop damaged were insured for 450 Pounds. The damage was estimated at 200 Pounds.¹⁰

Andrew kept the shops all his life and for many years the Esperanto Club was a tenant. His son Drew sold the shops in about 1950. They had proven to be a very good long term investment.

Trip to Ireland

Andrew and Isa took a holiday to England leaving on 30 May 1889 on the RMS Ionic.¹¹ We do not know whether they visited Ireland on this trip but it is very likely that they did. If so, this would have been his first trip home since leaving in about 1875.

They took another overseas trip in 1897. On this occasion they took their son Drew who at the time was about four years old. They visited Ireland and the old family farm then being run by Andrew's older brother William and his wife Ellen. Unfortunately his father Andrew had died two years before and his mother had died in 1884. A highlight of their trip to Annalittin was the christening of Drew at Broomfield Presbyterian Church on 27 August 1897 by the Minister James McCully.

Land at Karori

Andrew bought 5 acres of land Part Section 37 at Karori in September 1898 for 750 Pounds.¹² The early land documents do not show the road names. ~~but it is believed to be on Karori Rd with Friend St at the rear. However, It was reported on 26 October 1904 that the Karori Borough Council had entered negotiations "with A. Hamilton to purchase land, 16 feet by 4 chains for the widening of Friend St."~~ The price offered was 50 Pounds which Andrew declined. The Council then moved to have the street exempted from the Public Works Act which would allow the road to remain at 33 feet and not be widened. The other boundary road was a Public road which is believed to be Karori Road.

The land was unoccupied in 1904 but we believe that Andrew built a house on the land and proceeded to live at Karori.

Hataitai Land Company

Andrew was an original shareholder and subsequently a director of the Hataitai Land Company.¹³ This company was formed in 1901 and it was one of about twelve established between 1901 and 1907. At this time there was a frenzy of land speculation around Wellington and many of the speculators were well known Wellington identities. Many people got caught up in what was a classic land boom. These companies were all formed for the purpose of developing land in the Wellington area.

⁹ Evening Post 26 Aug 1909

¹⁰ Evening Post 8 June 1903

¹¹ Evening Post 30 May 1889

¹² Certificate of Title Vol. 135 Fol. 45 in Deeds Index Vol. H Page 683 with transactions dated 3 & 4 Sept 1898 Also Book 123 Page 768

¹³ Obituary Dominion 26 May 1945

The company was formed by a syndicate of Wellington's leading business men which had purchased the Jenkins estate of 220 acres between Roseneath and Kilbirnie. The land had been owned by Robert Jenkins since 1857. The company was called the Hataitai Land Company (Limited) with capital of 20,000 Pounds. There were forty shares of 500 Pounds which were initially paid up to 145 Pounds giving it an initial capital of 5,800 Pounds.

The purpose of the company was to develop the land into decent sized allotments and encourage the erection on substantial homes. It was also proposed to provide easy access and a tram tunnel through Mount Victoria had been suggested. If this were built the land would be within easy walking distance to the city on a reasonably level road.¹⁴

The issue with Hataitai Land Company was how to link the development area with the city of Wellington area. The company was desperate to get its land onto a tramway route. It promised to set aside fifteen acres as a reserve if the council would assist by connecting the land by means of a tunnel and tram service through Mount Victoria to the city.

Progress had been slow on the development of a road. As late as August 1903 a proposal for a road had been abandoned because of the Council conditions of payment of 1000 Pounds for future maintenance, 700 Pounds for lighting and 100 Pounds for planting of vegetation. This was over and above a cost of 6,000 Pounds.¹⁵

The Tunnel proposal became a political issue at the municipal level. The main factors were basic issues about where and how it might be built and who should pay. The company was prepared to pay but looked for a contribution from government because of the broad range of beneficiaries beyond the company itself. The tunnel was seen by them as benefitting the city and people of Wellington by opening up land and also opportunities to visit more remote areas and beaches. It also would benefit other land development companies directly. Those opposed thought the company, which stood to make significantly larger profits with a tunnel, should pay the whole cost.

The consequence was that the tunnel issues took some time to resolve. The company had submitted plans for the tunnel as early as 24 July 1901. It was commenced 18 October 1905 but it was not completed until early 1907. By mid 1905 the company had agreed to contribute 10,000 Pounds which was estimated to be half the cost of the tunnel and had paid 2,000 Pounds as a deposit. Once the tunnel was commenced the company was to pay 1,000 Pounds in each of the next eight months.¹⁶

1906 saw significant work on the 1275 feet of tunnel but it took until 12 April 1907 before there was a first trial run of the new tramway extension through the tunnel and on to Evans Bay.¹⁷

In early 1903, sales commenced with an initial release of a subdivision of 44 acres. The first sections sold for between 125 and 150 Pounds and realised 900 Pounds per acre. By 1909 there were 137 houses erected on the company's land and in 1910 the company paid its first dividend of 10 guineas a share.¹⁸

We are not aware of the size of Andrew's investment in Hataitai or how long he held his shares of them. In 1904 two 500 Pound shares, paid to 145 pounds sold for 410 Pounds

¹⁴ Evening Post 5 March 1901

¹⁵ Evening Post 22 August 1903

¹⁶ Evening Post 14 March 1905

¹⁷ Evening Post 13 April 1907

¹⁸ www.heritagehelp.co.nz

each.¹⁹ This was a substantial premium so at this early stage it was clear that the development was proceeding well and that the sales of land were satisfactory.

Andrew purchased land on Section 44, Block 11, Rata Road Hataitai and in March 1916 applied to build a house on the land at a cost of 545 Pounds. We presume this was a business investment.

Other business

There are no further business references to Andrew that we could locate apart from an action against him in the Magistrate's Court in 1902 which was to recover the costs for calls on shares in the Kapai Gold Dredging Company²⁰. This could be more appropriately regarded as an investment.

In carrying out our research we were disturbed when we found that the Evening Post reported in 1899 that Andrew Hamilton had been convicted for bigamy and sentenced to 18 months gaol with hard labour²¹. We were concerned because we had located only one Andrew Hamilton in all of our searches and this conviction did not conform to his earlier or later activities. Some urgent searching of editions prior to the date revealed what we had expected that the newspaper has used the name Andrew when the person involved was an Adam Hamilton who was sometimes called Allen²². We did not identify any subsequent apology by the paper or any legal action by Andrew both of which could be expected today. This publication must have been very disturbing to the whole family at the time.

WELLINGTON BOWLING CLUB

Andrew was a member of Wellington Bowling Club for about 51 years. He was elected to the club on 22 December 1894 (at the age of 38) and remained a member until his death in 1945. The club was an incorporated private company with the members holding shares. Andrew held Share Number 69. The Club's Honour Boards contain many well known Wellington names.

When Andrew became a member his address was recorded as Karori 158 which appears to be a telephone number. This was later crossed out and 50 Rimu Road Kelburn was recorded. His occupation was shown as retired.

Andrew took an active role in the club and in 1901/2 was elected as Treasurer of the club. He served in this position for seven years until the 1906/7 year. His election in 1902 was noted by the newspaper. The incoming President said *"that he considered that in Mr. Andrew Hamilton the club had one of the best Treasurer's it had yet elected."*²³

Andrew retired from the board after the 1906/7 year and with his wife and son left New Zealand on a *"pleasure trip"* to Europe. The newspaper recorded their departure, arrival and return. On 24 July 1908 the Evening Post reported they arrived on the *SS Athenic* and *"are now sightseeing in London."* They returned the next February and the Post reported:

"Mr. Andrew Hamilton, who has been on a tour of the Old World, returned to Wellington on the Corinthic on Saturday. Mr. Hamilton was Hon. Treasurer of the Wellington Bowling Club

¹⁹ Evening Post 21 July 1904

²⁰ Evening Post 5 August 1902

²¹ Evening Post 7 & 8 September 1899

²² Evening Post 4 July 1899

²³ Evening Post 24 June 1902

*for many years, and on his arrival home lost no time in visiting the green and forgathering with his old companions, from whom he received a hearty reception*²⁴.

On his return Andrew again took an active interest in his bowling and the club and in June 1908 was elected a director.²⁵ The next year he became a Vice President and in 1910 he was elected President unopposed.²⁶ The club celebrated his election with an Oyster Supper and Euchre tournament.²⁷

In October, Andrew had the pleasant task of opening the bowling season at the club. In his speech: *"He wished the players a happy time, as for the ladies, he thanked them for their attendance. The opening of a bowling club without ladies was like a spring without flowers. He then asked Mrs. Hamilton to throw the jack. This was gracefully done and play began forthwith."*²⁸ Andrew's wife, Isa, invited the ladies who had helped at the opening to afternoon tea at the Arts Club. Among those who attended was Mrs. Knox Gilmer (Hamilton Gilmer's daughter in law and later to become Dame Elizabeth Gilmer).

Andrew is recorded as winning the 1900/1 President's Trophy and also the 1899/00 President's Trophy as a member of a Foursome.

The Duthie Cup is an Annual event played between The Wellington, Hutt and Wanganui Bowling Clubs. It has been played in each year since 1908. The teams are made up of Presidents and ex Presidents of each of the clubs. Andrew represented Wellington from 1908 to 1912, 1916, 1920, 1926, 1927 and 1929.



Past presidents of Wellington Bowling Club

²⁴ Evening Post 3 February 1908.

²⁵ Evening Post 30 June 1908

²⁶ Evening Post 15 June 1910

²⁷ Evening Post 30 June 1910

²⁸ Evening Post 8 October 1910



Andrew 1910

1936 was an important year for the club as it celebrated its Jubilee Year. There was a large bowling tournament and Andrew was honoured as a Past President and also as one of the oldest members of the club.



1936 Jubilee Oldest Club Members

A final honour was bestowed on Andrew for his long service to the club in 1943 when he became a Life Member.



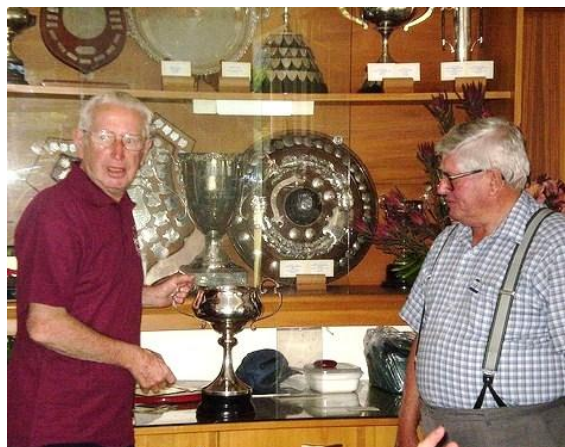
1936 Jubilee Club Past Presidents

The bowling club today is struggling for survival with very few members but in possession of real estate in a prime position in Wellington. There is still an annual competition between the Wellington and Hutt Bowling Clubs for the Hamilton Cup. The following report by the Club provides the background:

Hamilton Cup: This cup for competition between Wellington and Hutt Clubs was presented by A. Hamilton, President of the Wellington Bowling Club, in 1928. As he said in his letter to the Hutt Bowling Club secretary, *"I wish to offer a silver cup by way of helping to stabilise the existing friendship between the Wellington and Hutt Bowling Clubs, and also on account of the very pleasant memories I have of old associations with both clubs. I would like to suggest that the cup be played for annually, alternately at each club, and that the visitors, win or lose, take the cup back to their club where it would be held till the next game."* The cup was to be insured to a value of not less than £40.00, the premium to be paid alternately by the respective clubs.

The competition for the cup has run into difficulties in the last few years because of the rapid decline in membership of the Wellington Club. In 2001 the Wellington Club 'won' the day's bowls with the assistance of a 'ring-in' from the Hutt Club!

Hamilton Cup



Presenting the Hamilton Cup 2008

WELLINGTON ROSE AND CARNATION CLUB

Andrew was a foundation member of the Wellington Rose and Carnation Club when it was formed at a meeting on 19 November 1903. The club's objectives were to "*assist in the cultivation and popularization of the flowers after which the club is named.*" The annual membership fee was 5 Shillings and Andrew was elected a member of the management committee.²⁹

A General Meeting was held on 26 November at which Andrew was appointed the inaugural club showed a credit balance of 18 Pounds and Andrew was reelected Treasurer.³⁰

The first Annual Flower Show was held on 15 December 1904. Prizes were given to the best exhibitors. Among these was Andrew's sister Mrs. Hamilton Gilmer for Best Asparagus Fern and Best Aspidistra.³¹ Expenses were stated as 100 Pounds and a profit of 20 Pounds was made.³² By this time membership had grown rapidly and was now at 150.

By the second Annual Meeting the club had a credit balance of 59 Pounds 12 Shillings in addition to assets of 20 Pounds. This was helped by some people, including Elizabeth Gilmer, not claiming their monetary prizes. Andrew continued as Treasurer and membership had grown to 230.³³

At the third Annual Meeting Andrew was elected as a Vice President relinquishing the Treasurer role. The Club was in a sound financial position with assets of 56 pounds and cash of 19 Pounds. This was despite the Annual Show being a financial failure as it was held too close to Christmas. Membership had increased to 300.³⁴ At this meeting Andrew and the Secretary George Rimington were appointed Life Members "*in recognition of the valuable services to Club.*"

A further Annual Show was held in November attracting 200 entries. By this time the membership had reached 350.³⁵ For the first time was not elected an office bearer of the Club. We presume that he did not stand for election as he was about to undertake a long trip to Europe. This was also the first time the club incurred a loss (although a small one) and also a decline in membership to 328.³⁶

Andrew had returned from his holiday in 1908 and at the Annual Meeting was again elected Treasurer.³⁷ However, at the next Annual meeting the retiring Treasurer was mentioned as a Mr. Lord. It appears that Andrew had stepped down from the role during the year. In any event, the available sources do not show that he subsequently held any office in the club.

Andrew had made a solid contribution to the establishment of the Club and its early years of growth and success. It certainly was an organization that continued to involve and please the many people interested in gardening and flowers.

²⁹ Evening Post 20 November 1903

³⁰ Evening Post 20 May 1904

³¹ Evening Post 15 December 1904

³² Evening Post 9 January 1905

³³ Evening Post 16 & 19 May 1905

³⁴ Evening Post 11 May 1906

³⁵ Evening Post 20 November 1906

³⁶ Evening Post 14 May 1907

³⁷ Evening Post 11 June 1908

KARORI BOROUGH COUNCIL

In 1911 Andrew undertook a new activity by venturing into local government politics when he joined the Karori Borough Council. He was re elected to the council in 1913 and again in 1915. He finished this activity in 1919.

KARORI GOLF CLUB

In 1913 ~~he~~ Andrew was ~~also~~ elected as President of Karori Golf Club. Andrew is acknowledged in the publication of the Club's history as leading foundation of the second Karori Golf Club. The first club moved to Miramar leaving the Karori district without a golf club.

Both Andrew and his wife were very active in the club and were acknowledged for the providing of trophies. During his time a five year lease was obtained at a nominal rental, a new clubhouse was built, all the greens had been enlarged, leveled and top dressed and the fairways thoroughly drained since last season. It was intended to secure a permanent professional coach.³⁸



The caption for this photo published in the Evening Post of the day: 'New links for Wellington golfers: Members and guests at the official opening of the Karori Golf Club, 26 June, 1913. The newly formed golf club was officially opened for play by Mr C. Cathie, mayor of Karori. Membership totals 93. The pavilion (which is at present less ornate than useful) was erected by a "working bee" in three days.'

Opening Karori Golf Club 1913 Andrew in Bowler Hat

KARORI GOLF CLUB INC.				
OFFICE BEARERS			CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS	
PRESIDENT	CLUB CAPTAIN	SENIOR	JUNIOR	LADIES
1913 A. HAMILTON	M. BURNETT			
1914 A. HAMILTON	J. MANDEL	T. R. BOYES		
1915	J. MANDEL	T. R. BOYES		
1916 A. L. GEORGE		D. A. McLENNAN		Miss J. J. SHEARER
1917 A. L. GEORGE				

Karori Golf Club Honour Board Now at Manor Park

³⁸ Evening Post 9 March 1914

The Hamilton's enjoyed their holidays and in February 1914 had a month in Rotorua. Also, in June of that year they spent 6 weeks in Australia sailing on the *SS Moeraki*.³⁹

We believe they were regular visitors to Brisbane going there for Isa to play croquet. No doubt the real reason was for them both to avoid the Wellington winter.

All of these activities and Andrew was still only 58 years of age. He was very fortunate to have left Ireland and come to New Zealand

FINAL DAYS

After Karori Andrew and Isa lived at 50 Rimu Road Kelburn named "The Glen". His grandsons have fond memories of visiting there recalling the polished brass step at the front door and the Smoking Room and Andrew in his velvet smoking jacket⁴⁰. Ian Hamilton also recalls regular visits with his father.

In their later years Andrew and Isa lived at Eastbourne with their son Drew. In his final days Andrew was in a nursing home in Hill St. He died on 23 May 1945 at the age of 88 years. He was cremated at Karori and his ashes were interred in the family plot. Andrew left an estate valued at 9079 Pounds.

Isa survived Andrew by some six years. She lived with her son Drew at 122-74 Muritai Rd Eastbourne until moving into care in Bowen St. Isa died on 19 August 1951 and was also cremated at Karori. Isa left an estate valued at 17,591 Pounds.



Headstone Family Plot Karori Cemetery

Andrew had lived a long and fruitful life. He had retired at an early age and continued to be active in his community and his relative youth allowed him to make a very good personal contribution to the organizations and interests which occupied his time.

He was fortunate that he left Ireland and reaped the benefits from the opportunities available in the young and developing country of New Zealand and he would have been very grateful

³⁹ Evening Post 18 June 1914

⁴⁰ Andrew & Dan Hamilton

for the opportunity given to him by his parents for a new start. He was also fortunate that he had so many of his immediate family to communicate and work with in New Zealand. Despite having local family he never forgot his roots in Ireland and his parents and others of his family left behind. His travels to his homeland are a testimony to this.