

HAMILTON ANDREW HUGH GILMER

Hamilton Andrew Hugh Gilmer was the eldest son and second child of Hamilton Gilmer and Elizabeth Hamilton. He was born 8 August 1874 at Greymouth. The family moved to Wellington in 1882 with the general shift of the Gilmer Brothers partnership into larger and better established hotels there. Hamilton would have been eight years old.

Hamilton attended the Te Aro School in 1882 and was recorded as receiving a prize at the annual distribution of prizes.¹ The following year he attended The Terrace School and later was reported as having won a scholarship to the Wanganui Collegiate School. We have also identified that he won a prize for English for Form 111a in 1887.

There are only four candidates, one girl and three boys, for the Wellington District Scholarship this year.

Hamilton Gilmer, the youth who has won one of the Wanganui Collegiate School Scholarships is a Terrace School boy. Hickson, of the same school, was third in order of merit in the competition for the two Scholarships.

Evening Post 6 January 1886

English, etc—Form VI, Marris, winner; Avery, hon mention. Form Va, Parker, winner; Currie mi, hon mention. Form Vb, Bunny, winner; Maclean, hon mention. Form IV, Blair min; winner; Fantham and Dymock ma, hon mention. Form IIIa, Gilmer, winner; Ward and Gibson, hon men-

Wanganui Chronicle 21 December 1887

As a young lad he was interested in cricket and played with the St Peter's Church team.² Later he attended Wellington College where he showed a lot of interest in both cricket and football (rugby). At cricket he would both bat and bowl and at Rugby he played as a forward.

The match which took place at Newtown yesterday between the first fifteens of Wellington and St. Patrick's College resulted in the defeat of the latter by 8 points to love. Bee, Collins, and M'Govern buckled down. Bee, one of the masters, converted one of the tries and also potted a goal. The game was very interesting, and was played in a very friendly manner. Those who did best for the victors were Bee, Collins, M'Govern, and Duncan (backs), Gilmer, Jackson, Mackay, and Myers (forwards). Jones, Fay, Hanning, and Cullen, (backs), Smith, Prendergast, Ryan, and Henley (forwards), did best service for St. Patrick's College. Messrs.

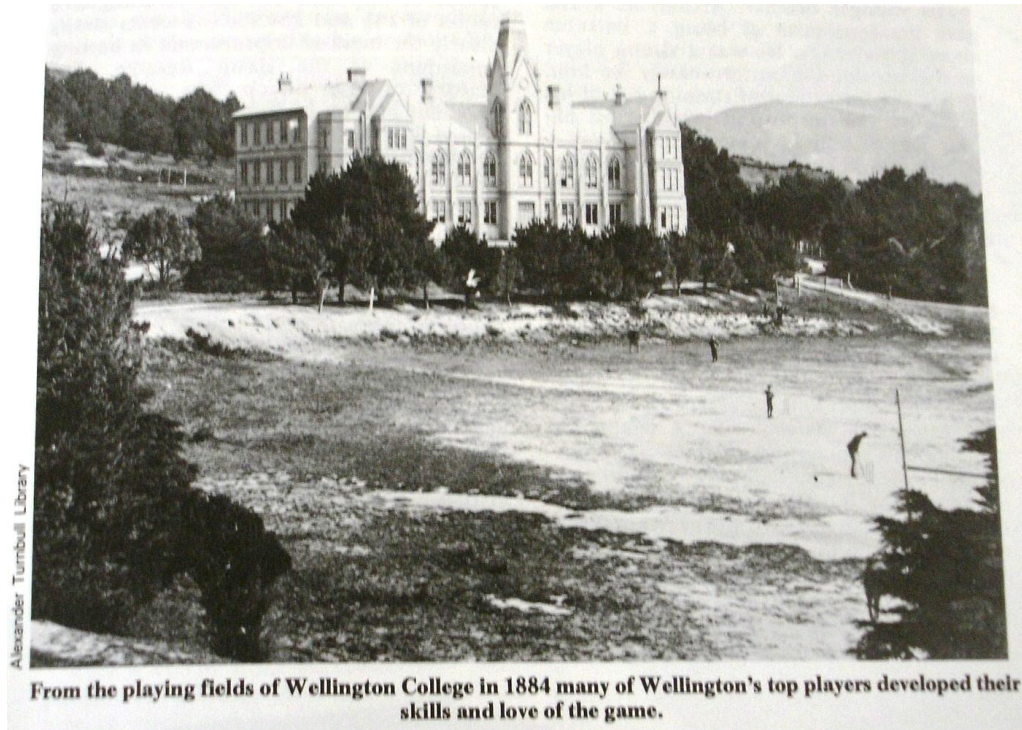
Evening Post 6 August 1891

The Karori representatives were defeated on Saturday by the Wellington College eleven by 36 runs on the first innings. The victors made 71 (Duthie 22, Bee 12) and 57 (L. Anderson 21, Gilmer 11), and the latter 35 (Lowe 7). B. Staples and Tripe for the College and Spiers and Lowe for Karori bowled well.

Evening Post 23 November 1891

¹ Evening Post 22 December 1882

² Evening Post 27 November 1885



Wellington College 1884

Academically, Hamilton did not stand out as a high performer at school. However, he won a prize in Form IVB at Wellington College in 1889.

Prizes.—Form V.—Dux of school and Governors' gold medallist, Mason; Barnicoat prize for English, Mason; prox eo, Thomson i, Mackay ii; Mr. Izard's prize for New Zealand history, Thomson i; prox eo, Powles. Form IVA.—Prize for general work, Anderson i; prox eo, Meek, Tiller, Morshead. Form IVB.—First prize for general work, Sladden; 2nd, Gilmer; 3rd, Reid i; prox eo, Kirkcaldie i, Stevens ii, Duthie ii, Duthie i, Stevens i.

Evening Post 14 December 1889

Strangely, we did not identify any references in the newspapers for 1890 in the usual activities Hamilton pursued such as cricket and football. He would have turned sixteen on 8 August and should have been in Form V at Wellington College. References were only obtained again from July 1891. It is possible this was caused by the way the newspaper was reporting on football events. Hamilton played football and cricket in late 1891 and 1892 for Wellington College in the Third Class championships and he participated as a member of the Club Committee.

The following are the officers of the Wellington College Club for the ensuing season: Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. J. Bee; Management Committee—Messrs. Tripe, G. Stevens, M'Govern, Owen, Gilmer, and the masters. Mr. Bee will act as delegate to the Rugby Union. The selection of Captain has been deferred.

Evening Post 8 April 1892

On 4 February 1892 it was reported that Hamilton had passed the New Zealand University Matriculation Examination³. However it is clear that he remained in Wellington for the rest of 1892 attending Wellington College in Form 5.

Dux and gold medallist—A. H. E. Wall. Barnicoat prize, for English literature, books to the value of £25, to be selected by winner—H. A. H. Gilmer. Form 5, lower—General work, M'Leod. Form 4A—Latin, S. Wilson; mathematics, R. Wedde; English, R. W. Hill; French, W. J. Gaudin; science, H. A. Webster. Form 4B—Latin, W. Barr; mathematics, C. B. Robertson; English, C. Bridge; French, G. Barron; science, C. B. Redward. Special extra prize for all round excellence, G. Barron. Form 4c—Latin, E.

W. Bunny; mathematics, H. G. Didsbury; English, R. A. Cameron; French, J. Mouat. Form 3—Latin, G. Romeril; mathematics, C. W. Dallaston; English, H. von Dadelszen; French, E. Harland; science, A. E. Hart. Drawing—L. James ii and P. Macdonald (equal). Special prizes.—New Zealand history, presented by Mr. Izard—L. S. Gibson. Reading and elocution, presented by the Rev. J. Paterson—H. A. H. Gilmer, 1; E. Page, 2. Science, presented by Mr. C. Hulke—W. W. Cook. Most deserving boy

Evening Post 16 December 1892

An interesting point to be made about the above article is that it indicates Hamilton was in Form 5 in 1892 while he had been shown as being in Form 4 in 1889. The gap in newspaper reporting of his normal activities for 1890 and the first six months of 1891 tends to indicate that he may have been away from Wellington during this period perhaps travelling but we have found no evidence that he or his family were travelling at this time. Another alternative is that he may have been seriously ill during this period.

In February 1893 it was reported that Hamilton had qualified for The Medical Preliminary⁴ at the New Zealand University Medical School, Dunedin. Throughout that year examination results were published and Hamilton had obtained good results in Physics, Practical physics, Zoology, Botany and Practical Biology. On 12 March 1894 he was reported as one of a number who had completed The Intermediate Medical Examination:

2. That of the foregoing the following be recorded as having now completed the intermediate medical examination:—M. B. Cruickshank, W. Evans, D. Carmichael, G. Brown, H. E. B. Williams, H. A. H. Gilmer, and J. H. Neil.

Otago Daily Times 12 March 1894

³ Otago Witness 4 February 1892

⁴ Otago Daily Times 3 February 1893.

Throughout 1893 and 1894 Hamilton continued to play football on a weekly basis. He played as a forward for the Otago University Seconds team. On 16 July 1894 he was selected as an emergency for the annual match between Otago University and Canterbury College in Christchurch.

After the completion of his examinations Hamilton returned home and in February left Wellington for Edinburgh to further pursue his medical studies in Edinburgh. We believe this was the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons.

Six young New Zealanders leave Wellington to-day by the Talune for Sydney to join the s.s. Austral, en route for Edinburgh, at whose University they intend to prosecute their medical studies. The young gentlemen are—Messrs. Gibbs (2), Nelson Melhuish (Nelson), V. Ferguson and W. Herbert (Dunedin), and Hamilton Gilmer (Wellington). They have all completed their two years' course at the Medical School of the New Zealand University in Dunedin, and they intend to graduate at Edinburgh. They will carry with them on their enterprise the hearty good wishes of large circles of New Zealand friends, and we hope in due course to welcome their return to the colony crowned with academical and medical honours.

Evening Post 28 February 1895

It is of interest that the W. Herbert of Dunedin was later to marry Hamilton's sister, **Florence**, in 1906. His full name was **William Edward Herbert** and he returned to Wellington as a qualified physician.

Among the colonial students who have won honours in this year's examination of the Edinburgh University are those whose names appear in the list below. I have not been able to ascertain who are purely New Zealand men, so I give the colonial list, as just issued, in full:— W. J. Barclay, medallist in midwifery, first-class honours in practice of physic, honours in surgery; D. Ewart, prizeman in theoretical and practical surgery, in Extramural School of Medicine, honours in practice of physic, honours in midwifery; W. Ewart, prizeman in surgery (Extramural School of Medicine), honours in practice of physic; H. A. H. Gilmer, prizeman in Extramural Class of Medicine; W. Herbert, prize in Mr. Hodsdon's Class of Surgery; Arthur A. Martin, medallist and first-class honours in practice of physic, first-class honours in pathology; Scobie Mackenzie, prizeman in Mr. M'Gillivray's Class of Clinical Medicine; L. Hood, prizeman in Mr. Thompson's Class of Surgery; Messrs. Woodburn and Adams secured the Mackenzie Bursaries in anatomy; Mr. Nankervis, prizeman in Mr. Thompson's Class of Surgery; Mr. M'Lean, first-class honours in medicine, and honours in pathology; Mr. Mason, honours in anatomy, medallist in natural philosophy; Messrs. Melhuish, Gribben, M'Donald, Snow, Wigg, and Hoodall took honours.

Messrs. P. W. Mason and H. A. H. Gilmer, who are mentioned in our London correspondent's letter in another column as having won honours in this year's examinations at Edinburgh University, are both from Wellington. Mr. Mason is a son of the Registrar of Friendly Societies, and Mr. Gilmer, is a son of Mr. Hamilton Gilmer, of Wellington-terrace.

Evening Post 12 May 1899

New Zealand medical students have (writes our London correspondent under date 7th July) once more distinguished themselves in the Edinburgh examinations. Eight went up for examination, and the whole number passed. The successful New Zealanders are Messrs. MacDonald, Gilmer, D. Ewart, W. Ewart, Barclay, Melhuish, Herbert, and Gribben.

Evening Post 14 August 1899

This report indicates that Hamilton's final exams were completed by 7 July 1899 and on 10 July 1899 he married to **Helen Kilpatrick Davidson** at St Giles Cathedral on the Royal Mile at Edinburgh. Helen was born in 1875 at Edinburgh. Her father was **John Davidson**.



St Giles Cathedral Edinburgh 2014

After their marriage Hamilton got a job in England. Their first child **Hamilton John Herbert** was born at Birkenhead, Cheshire, on 21 April 1900. He was christened at St John's Church, Egremont, Cheshire, on 16 May 1900. Birkenhead is on the south side of the River Mersey at Liverpool.

The 1901 Census reveals that the family lived at 56 Seabank Road, Wallasey, in the same vicinity as where they were originally located. Only Helen and Hamilton John Herbert were at home and Helen was shown as 25 years old and the child 11 months.

Hamilton's census form was completed at the David Lewis Northern Hospital at Leeds Street, Liverpool on the northern side of the river. His role at the hospital was as the House Physician. There was also a House Surgeon, an Assistant House Surgeon, an Ambulance Surgeon and a medical student. The Medical staff had responsibility for 134 patients and they were assisted by forty three nurses. In addition, there were seventeen housemaids and domestic servants. The hospital had only recently opened in 1901.

A second child named **Hugh Scobie Hamilton** was born in early (March Quarter) 1902 at Birkenhead, Cheshire.

Hamilton did not stay long at the Northern Hospital and later in 1902 he returned to New Zealand with his family. They sailed for New Zealand on the ship *Tongariro* from Tilbury Docks in London.

The New Zealand troop contingent, which had been in London for the Coronation of King Edward VII, was also on the ship. There were about 150 troops in the contingent. As well, the Premier of New Zealand Richard Seddon who had also been at the Coronation was on board with his wife and daughter. Seddon joined the vessel at Plymouth. He had taken the train from Paddington and had given a speech there before joining the ship.

The New Zealand Coronation contingent of Colonial troops left Aldershot on Saturday morning by special train for Tilbury Docks to embark for home. They numbered 150, under the command of Major Bauchop, and among them were 24 Maoris and two native officers. The band of the 2nd Highland Light Infantry played them to the Government siding, where the entraining took place. Major-General C. Douglas, commanding the first division of the First Army Corps, was on the platform with other officers of the garrison to wish them good-bye. "Auld Lang Syne" was sung by the on-lookers as the train steamed away, the Colonials answering with hearty cheers from the carriages. The majority of the men wore the medal ribbon for service in South Africa. The contingent later in the day sailed from the Royal Albert Docks in the Tongariro.

The Times 8 September 1902

Hamilton worked his passage carrying out the role of one of two ships' surgeons:

The General commanding at Capetown cabled to the Governor that the Tongariro left Capetown on the 30th of September having on board Colonel Porter, Captains Seddon, McDonald and Taranaki, Surgeon-Captains Neil and Gilmer, Lieuts. Blair, Morgan, Herdham and Uru; and 158 men of the New Zealand Coronation Contingent.

Marlborough Express 7 October 1902

The ship sailed via Teneriffe, Cape Town, Hobart and Auckland landing at Wellington on 25 October 1902.

Another successful ex-Wellingtonian, Dr. Hamilton A. H. Gilmer, eldest son of Mr. Hamilton Gilmer, of this city, is returning to New Zealand by the Tongariro, after a distinguished career at Edinburgh University, where he took his full degree of M.D. last year. Dr. Gilmer was educated at the Wanganui Collegiate School and at Wellington College, and eight years ago went to Great Britain, where his successful progress has been watched with great interest by his old friends, who will heartily welcome him back next week. Included in the valuable experience he has gained is eighteen months' office as senior surgeon to the Great Northern Hospital, Liverpool. It is understood that Dr. Gilmer, who is accompanied by his wife, will practise his profession in Wellington.

Says the N.Z. Times:—"Amongst the New Zealanders who are returning to the colony by the s.s. Tongariro is Dr Hamilton A. H. Gilmer, the eldest son of Mr Hamilton Gilmer, one of the principal partners in the firm of J. and W. Staples, Ltd. Dr Gilmer was educated at the Wanganui College and the Wellington College, and from the latter college he proceeded direct to the Edinburgh University. He had a distinguished career there, and passed all his medical examinations with great honour, taking his full degree of M.D. last year. During his residence of eight years in the Mother Country, Dr Gilmer has fortunately been able to acquire very special experience in connection with his profession. For some eighteen months prior to his departure for the colony he was filling the highly important post of senior honorary surgeon to the Great Northern Hospital, Liverpool, one of the chief medical institutions in Great Britain. We understand that Dr. Gilmer proposes practising his profession in this city. It is exceedingly gratifying to find the sons of old New Zealand colonists not only making a position for themselves in Great Britain, but, after doing so, returning in their young manhood and taking up the work of their profession in the land of their birth. Dr Gilmer, who is accompanied by his wife, will have many warm greetings from hosts of old friends on his arrival next week.

Evening Post 23 October 1902

Wanganui Chronicle 25 October 1902

In 1903 Hamilton advertised the address and hours of his practice:

DR. HAMILTON A. H. GILMER has commenced the practice of his profession at 192, Upper Willis-street, and may be consulted there at 9-11 a.m., 2-4 p.m., 6.30-8 p.m.
Telephone 847.

Evening Post 11 April 1903

During 1903 a third son, **Huia Richard Hamilton** was born and on 5 February 1904 the first of three daughters was also born. This child was named **Helen Elizabeth**.

The newspapers recorded a number of events referring to cases attended by Dr Gilmer during 1903 and later years. These reflected a broad range of events usually quite unpleasant and involving death that occurred at odd times of day and night which placed pressure on the doctor to attend without any regard for his circumstances.

Examples of these are:

- 22 September 1903⁵. Suicide of Samuel Wilkes, an education Department Clerk, who cut his throat with a razor. Dr Gilmer was summoned but the man was dead.
- 2 November 1903⁶. A Miss Boyd, aged 20 was found dead at 9 am. She had been attended by Dr Henry at breakfast but later was found to be in a critical state. Drs Mclean and Gilmer were called but to no avail.
- 4 November 1903. Leg severed in railway accident.

Thorndon this morning. A young man named Ernest Aplin, employed as a fireman in the company's service, was in the act of stepping on to his engine, which was being shunted, when he missed his footing and fell partly across the line. Before he could rise a wheel of the engine tender passed over his right leg, cutting it off. Dr. Gilmer was promptly on the scene, and after he had bound up the wound he ordered Aplin's removal to the Hospital. Aplin, who is a son

Evening Post 4 November 1903

- 2 November 1904. Accident at Fort Balance. Royal NZ Artillery practice was terminated by a terrible and fatal accident. The breech block of one of the two twelve pound guns blew out injuring six men so severely that one died shortly afterwards. Of the other five some were in a dangerous condition.

given. The foresight of the Battery Commander, Captain Hume, in having medical aid present at practices, turned out of the greatest value. Not only Surgeon-Captain Gilmer, but also Dr. Mason, were viewing the practice, along with the Commandant of the Forces, Major-General Babington, and other officers.

As soon as the surgeons had applied the bandages, the injured, one after another, were carried on stretchers to the top of the Fort, then down the other side of the hill to the Janie Seddon. But one of them breathed his last in the Fort. From

Evening Post 2 November 1904

Hamilton joined Wellington Bowling Club on 15 October 1904 and remained a member until 28 May 1913 when the Club records show his shares were forfeited. We identified one newspaper reference to his bowling that mentioned his name but indicated that he had a substitute for the

⁵Evening Post 22 September 1903

⁶ Evening Post 2 November 1903

match he was to play.⁷ Newspaper references often referred to a Gilmer but we believe most of these were to his brother Knox who was a member at the same time and who was very active in representing the Wellington Bowling Club in competitions. However, there was another event which indicated that Hamilton played at the club although not the capacity of representing the club.

head, Mr. Rose sent down his first bowl, and then sat down on the bank at the northern end of the upper green to watch his opponent play. Almost at once he was seen to start slightly forward and then to fall. The bystanders at once gave such assistance as lay in their power, and Dr. Boyd, who was on the green, came across at once. Dr. Gilmer, who was also present, tried artificial respiration for a little while, but it was soon evident that the popular skip had played his last bowl. Dr. Martin, who is a son-in-law of the deceased, and Dr Cahill arrived some twenty minutes later. Heart disease was the cause of death, and a certificate was given accordingly.

Evening Post 8 October 1906

Although Hamilton was very busy and inconvenienced very often, he also made other very useful contributions that were quite outside what one would expect from him. In particular, he had an interest in educating others in First Aid through the St John's Ambulance Association.

**THE ST. JOHN AMBULANCE
ASSOCIATION.**

A SERIES of Weekly Lectures on "First Aid" (to Men only) will be given at the Y.M.C.A. Rooms, commencing MONDAY, 16th July, at 8.15 p.m.

Lecturer: Dr. Hamilton Gilmer.

Fee for Course (including examination), 7s 6d.

Tickets obtainable from Messrs. Whitcombe and Tombs.

W. B. FISHER,
Honorary Secretary.

Evening Post 14 July 1906

Dr. Gilmer last evening gave his introductory lecture at the Y.M.C.A. rooms under the auspices of the St. John Ambulance Association, his subject being "The Structure and Functions of the Human Body."

Evening Post 17 July 1906

While doing this additional work Hamilton was also attending to his normal calls at inconvenient hours and also attending Inquests.⁸

⁷ Evening Post 29 December 1905.

⁸ Evening Post 18 & 26 July 1906

Hamilton was not paid for his St John's Ambulance work although he did receive recognition from his students. However, he also set examinations and marked the completed papers of his students.

The class on "First Aid," arranged by the Y.M.C.A. under the auspices of the St. John Ambulance Association, was concluded last evening, when Dr. Hamilton Gilmer lectured. On behalf of the class, Mr. H. N. Holmes, general secretary, presented Dr. Gilmer with a handsome gold pencil case as a token of appreciation of his services as lecturer. About 30 young men have attended the lectures, many of them being second year students, and the examination will take place in three weeks' time.

THE COMMITTEE, in its report, says:—"This examination is highly satisfactory, and shows how well the lecturer (Dr. Gilmer) has instructed the class and how painstaking the students have been. Ten out of eighteen have got more than 75 per cent. of the marks. The papers were exceedingly well done, and the bandaging, with two exceptions, was satisfactory." Only two candidates failed. The committee of the centre will issue certificates to the foregoing in due course.

Evening Post 21 August 1906

Evening Post 15 September 1906

During 1907 events such as the following continued:

- 19 January 1907⁹ an accident on a building site caused a severely fractured skull of a worker. Dr Gilmer attended and ordered the injured man to hospital.
- 25 February 1907¹⁰. The inquest into the death of three workers building the Kilbirnie Tunnel indicated Dr Gilmer attended at the tunnel at 11 pm to find the workers had been killed by falling earth. He gave evidence at the inquest to this effect.
- 12 April 1907.¹¹ At 8 am Hamilton attended to an 88 year old man who had died in a chair. He certified the man's death.
- 5 October 1907¹². A man attempted suicide by cutting his thighs with a razor at a Turkish Baths. Dr Gilmer attended and the man was taken to hospital.

On a more positive note, there were people who were clearly very grateful for Hamilton's work and this was publicly expressed. For example:

THANKS.

MR. S. FILL and Family wish to sincerely Thank Doctors Gilmer, Henry, and Herbert (to Dr. Gilmer especial thanks is due) for the kindness and attention shown to the late Mr. A. Fill; also to many friends for kind words of sympathy in their late sad bereavement.

Evening Post 4 October 1907

⁹ Evening Post 10 January 1907

¹⁰ Evening Post 25 February 1907

¹¹ Evening Post 12 April 1907

¹² Evening Post 5 October 1907

As well as the forgoing typical events Hamilton was again involved with the St John's Ambulance Association and in particular the setting and marking of exams.¹³ Also, his own family life continued develop with the addition of their fourth child and second daughter **Dorothea May** born on 25 March 1907.

In 1908, there were a number of similar events including an attempted suicide, several cases of assault and the drowning of a seaman in the harbor. Hamilton also was responsible for attending to the health of inmates in the woman's prison.¹⁴

Hamilton also continued his work with the St John's Ambulance including a lecture on blood circulation and haemorrhaging. He was again involved with the Army in Garrison Artillery Division's Easter manoeuvres. He had the role of Surgeon Captain, on the staff of the Lieutenant Colonel commanding the division.

Following are the names of officers and warrant officers who will form the staff of Colonel G. F. C. Campbell, commanding the coast defence forces, during the Easter manoeuvres:—Captain Symons, R.N.Z.A.; medical staff, Surgeon-Captains Gilmer, Perry, and Shand; Regimental Sergeant, Major Withers; Divisional Sergeant-Major, Quarter-master **Doncaster**.

Evening Post 11 April 1908

From June to October 1908 Hamilton and his wife advertised four times for help in the home. With one very young infant and four other children, up to the age of eight, Helen clearly needed assistance. This was difficult to obtain and on some occasions it seems the help was not up to the standard needed. However, in December Hamilton advertised for a place at the beach for the holidays.

WANTED, furnished House (5 or 6 rooms), at seaside for the month of January, and probably February. Apply Dr. Gilmer.

Mrs. Hamilton Gilmer, of Willis-street, is spending a few days at Rona Bay.

Evening Post 9 December 1908

Evening Post 29 December 1908

Throughout 1909 the newspapers recorded a number of events involving Hamilton's attendance that were essentially routine to a doctor but significant for the patient. However, he still found time for related value adding activities. He continued with his examination work for the St John's Ambulance Association¹⁵, and was appointed as a medical referee under the Worker's Compensation and Accidents Act.¹⁶ He was also appointed as an Honorary Medical Examiner

¹³ Evening Post 14 May 1907

¹⁴ Evening Post 4 September 1908

¹⁵ Evening Post 17 September 1909

¹⁶ Evening Post 3 September 1909

for the Boxing Association.¹⁷ He also was a Vice President of the Wellington Lawn Tennis Association and Vice President of the Wellington Tennis Club and the Rivals Cricket Club. He also represented the Wellington Bowling Club in competitions along with his brother Knox and his brother in law Dr William Herbert. He also represented Rona Bay in tennis.

In 1910 Hamilton was appointed prisons surgeon for Wellington:

Dr. H. A. H. Gilmer has been appointed surgeon of H.M. Prisons at Wellington, vice Dr. Henry.

Evening Post 22 April 1910

This appointment was an especially challenging one. In those times, capital punishment was still in force and it was Hamilton's role to oversee the execution of those prisoners who had been sentenced to death.

Hamilton continued his role with the Wellington Boxing Association:

—Honorary medical examiners—Drs. Herbert, Gilmer, and James (all re-elected, with special reference to their valuable services last season). Hon. solicitor—Mr. T. M. Wilford, M.P. Hon. auditor—Mr. W. C. S. Levers (re-elected). Representative in Australia—Mr. W. F. Corbett (re-elected). Treasurer—Mr. W. Beauchamp-Platts (re-elected).

Evening Post 30 April 1910

Hamilton and his wife led an active social life and were present at many of the major social events in Wellington. For example, in 1910 he attended a reception with the Governor and members of parliament¹⁸, an evening at the Wellesley Club¹⁹ at which he was vice President and also the Annual Mess Dinner of the Wellington Garrison's Officer's Club²⁰. Hamilton was also active at Cricket and Bowls playing for the Rivals Cricket Club (in the mid week competition on Wednesdays) and the Wellington Bowling Club. He also continued to give his services as an examiner for St John's Ambulance Brigade Medical Exams²¹.

In 1912 Hamilton changed his Wednesday cricket club from the Rivals to the Artillery Club. He was both a batsman and a bowler in their 1912 summer games. In 1913 Hamilton was appointed as an Obstetrician on the honorary medical staff at the Wellington Hospital.²² He

¹⁷ Evening Post 6 April 1909

¹⁸ Evening Post 29 June 1910

¹⁹ Evening Post 8 July 1910

²⁰ Evening Post 29 November 1910

²¹ Evening Post 27 September 1911

²² Evening Post 19 March 1913

continued to conduct annual exams the St John's Ambulance Brigade. He continued playing cricket for the Artillery Club and he participated as a member of the committee of the Wellington College Old Boys Association. He played a very good game in the Wellesley Club annual match between the Married and Single teams. He took five wickets for 38 runs for the Married Team setting it up for a resounding win.²³

With the outbreak of World War 1 in 1914, Hamilton did not join up. He saw that a large number of qualified medical personnel were going overseas. He believed this would cause a shortage of medical resources at home and he thought he should stay at home to care for the numbers remaining. As it happened, Hamilton was certainly busy throughout the period of the war. He continued to serve in the NZ Medical Corps and in 1916 was promoted from Captain to Major.

N.Z. Medical Corps.—The undermentioned captains to be majors: Murdoch Wm. Ross, M.B.; the Hon. Mani Pomare, M.D.; Wm. Edward Redman, M.R.C.S.; Eng.; Henry Ferdinand Bernau (temp. major), M.R.C.S., Eng.; Hamilton Andrew Hugh Gilmer, M.D.; Wm. Edward Herbert, M.D. To be lieutenants: Robert Hector Baxter, George Brownlee Isdale.

Evening Post 31 March 1916

Hamilton was not alone in remaining behind and as shown below a number of doctors were available to conduct medical examinations of recruits to the services.

As previously stated in The Post, the amount paid in the four chief centres for the medical examination of recruits during the year ended 31st March, 1916, was £3434. Of this amount Wellington contributed £964, made up as follows:—

Dr. G. E. Anson, £27 5s; Dr. H. A. Delatour, £38 15s; Dr. J. S. Elliott, £127 12s 6d; Dr. H. A. H. Gilmer, £43 15s; Dr. G. W. Harty, £6 19s; Dr. W. E. Herbert, £1 5s; Dr. D. J. M'Gavin, £18 14s; Dr. C. F. Pattie, £10 10s; Dr. H. Pollen, £77 5s; Dr. J. R. Purdy, £69 12s 6d; Dr. Wm. Shand, £95; Dr. H. H. L. M. Steele, £405 5s; Dr. R. Stout, £39 15s.

Evening Post 8 August 1916

²³ Evening Post 19 March 1913.

In March 1916 Hamilton²⁴ was mentioned as being a Steward of the Wellington Racing Club and it is obvious he was a regular race attendee. His wife was also mentioned as being at the races a few weeks later²⁵ and we presume she attended regularly with him. On 30 September 1916, the last of Hamilton's six children was born. Some nine years after the birth of Dorothea May on 25 March 1907 and another daughter **Patricia Hamilton** was born.

GILMER.—On the 30th September, 1916, at
219, Willis-street, the wife of Hamilton A.
H. Gilmer, M.D. — a daughter.

Evening Post 30 September 1916

FAMILY

The following are details of the key events all of Hamilton's children:

In 1917 Hamilton expanded his portfolio of roles when he was appointed a Vice President of the Wellington Trotting Club. Later in 1919 he had some illness with Influenza in April²⁶ followed by an operation reported on 15 April. There was no mention of the nature of the surgery but it was reported that he would not be well enough to resume work for some weeks.²⁷

Shortly following this Hamilton and his family faced the loss of his father, **George Hamilton Gilmer** who died on 25 June 1919. The funeral on 27 June was very large and Hamilton and his three sons and his brother Knox were mentioned as the chief mourners²⁸. There was no mention of his brother Samuel Henry who was in England awaiting demobilisation from the Imperial Army at the time.²⁹ Hamilton was a beneficiary of his father's estate receiving 1,000 Pounds a year. This was quite a substantial sum of money which in addition to the returns from his medical practice would have made him quite wealthy.

In November 1919, Hamilton and his wife were reported as visiting the South Island. They were reported as staying at Warner's in Christchurch³⁰ and later on 13 November as travelling to Timaru³¹. They returned to Wellington on 26 November³².

During 1920 there were numerous articles relating to Hamilton and by far the majority related to his involvement with sporting clubs, of a wide variety. He was mentioned as being a member of

²⁴ Evening Post 17 March 1916

²⁵ Evening Post 7 April 1916

²⁶ Evening Post 1 April 1919

²⁷ Evening Post 21 April 1919

²⁸ Evening Post 27 June 1919

²⁹ Evening Post 26 June 1919

³⁰ Press 6 November 1919

³¹ Press 13 November 1919

³² Evening Post 27 November 1919

the Wellesley Club and a member of the cricket team.³³ He was also mentioned as being a Vice President of the Wellington (Rugby) Club³⁴ and also Vice President of the Rambler Hockey Club³⁵.

Hamilton displayed an interest in other sporting pursuits donating a trophy for boxing for the most scientific boxer and also being mentioned as donating 5 Guineas to the fund for the New Zealand team to attend the Olympic Games in Antwerp.³⁶

Hamilton was also mentioned as being a Pall Bearer at the funeral of Dr Kington Fyffe who played the organ and conducted the choir at St Peter's Church for some twenty years.³⁷ In his role as Prison Surgeon he also spoke at the retirement of the Governor of Wellington Prisons after 39 years of active service³⁸.

Towards the end of 1920 Hamilton broadened his interest in horse racing. As well as continuing to be a Steward of the Wellington Racing Club he also obtained a racehorse named "*Backsheesh*". The horse finished third at its first start winning 70 Sovereigns in stake money.³⁹

In November 1920,⁴⁰ Hamilton and wife took a trip to Sydney on the ship *Manuka*. The newspapers referred to this as a business trip but it was for two months and seemed to be more in the nature of a holiday. In Sydney they stayed at the Australia Hotel and they returned to New Zealand on the same ship, *Manuka*, on 18 January 1921.

During 1921 Hamilton had a number of newspaper references, the majority relating to his sporting interests. Throughout the year he maintained his position as a steward of Wellington Racing Club being re-elected in September.⁴¹ Consistent with that interest his horse *Backsheesh* won a race and 350 Sovereigns in January.⁴² Later in November the horse also won again.⁴³ He also had another horse named *April Folly* which was nominated for the Spring Race Meeting. This horse came second in a race the following January, winning 70 Sovereigns⁴⁴

Hamilton was also involved in a meeting to form an Athletic Club in Wellington and was elected as the club's inaugural President. His brother Samuel Henry was a Vice President.⁴⁵ A major event in 1921 was the death of Hamilton's brother Knox who died on 27 July. The funeral received large newspaper coverage with Hamilton and his brother Samuel reported as "a chief mourner" and his three sons as pall bearers.

³³ Evening Post 25 February 1920

³⁴ Evening Post 20 March 1920

³⁵ Evening Post 24 March 1920

³⁶ Evening Post 20 May & 20 June 1920

³⁷ Evening Post 27 April 1920

³⁸ Evening Post 2 July 1920

³⁹ Evening Post 20 October 1920

⁴⁰ Evening Post 18 November 1920

⁴¹ Evening Post 17 September 1921

⁴² Evening Post 22 January 1921

⁴³ Evening Post 7 November 1921

⁴⁴ Evening Post 25 January 1922

⁴⁵ Evening Post 28 September 1921

Hamilton and his wife were also referred to at a number of social events such as a reception at Government House.⁴⁶ He and Helen also attended this function the following year and were also mentioned as being among those at the Wellington⁴⁷ Racing Club Ball.

There was little reference to Hamilton's medical activity but he was mentioned as attending at the death of a thirteen year old boy and also at an inquest⁴⁸.

In 1922, Hamilton's son Hugh Scobie left New Zealand to attend university at Jesus College, Cambridge. On 19 October he was reported playing in a rugby football game at the University. In December he was reported playing tennis representing the New Zealand Lawn Tennis Association. In February 1923 he was reported as being a member of the Hei Tiki Club at Cambridge.

In 1922 Hamilton was Vice President of a number of clubs. These included the Wellington Trotting Club⁴⁹, the Kennel Club⁵⁰ and also the Wellington Rugby Football Club. He attended the football club games and at one of these he was required to assist an injured player⁵¹. He also continued with his two racehorses having some moderate success. *April Folly* came second in a race at Trentham winning 70 Sovereigns⁵² and *Backsheesh* also finishing second winning 80 Sovereigns⁵³

Hamilton continued to be involved in these clubs in 1923 but he was also involved in two significant events. Because he was the Wellington Prison Surgeon, he was involved in two hangings that occurred in 1923. These were the hanging of two prisoners John Tuhi and Daniel Cooper

⁴⁶ Evening Post 21 October 1921

⁴⁷ Evening Post 14 July 1922

⁴⁸ Evening Post 30 December 1922

⁴⁹ Evening Post 18 October 1922

⁵⁰ Evening Post 26 May 1922

⁵¹ Evening Post 15 May 1922

⁵² Evening Post 2 January 1922

⁵³ Evening Post 12 July 1922

John Tuhi, the young Native, who was found guilty of the death of Herbert Henry Knight, at Johnsonville, on 17th October, 1922, paid the full penalty at the Terrace Gaol at a couple of minutes past 8 o'clock this morning. Death was instantaneous.

Tuhi faced his end bravely. He did not sleep last evening, and at 3 a.m. was playing draughts with the warder who was in charge of him. This morning he ate a good breakfast and afterwards asked to see the warders, with whom he shook hands and said good-bye. At 8 a.m. the little procession moved from the corridor outside his cell, the order being: The Sheriff (Mr. W. A. Hawkins); Dr. H. Gilmer (gaol surgeon); the prisoner, accompanied by Father Murphy, of St. Mary of the Angels; the executioner, who was disguised; the Inspector of Prisons (Mr. M. Hawkins); the Gaoler (Mr. J. C. Scanlon); the visiting Justice (Mr. E. Arnold); and three Press representatives.

Evening Post 19 April 1923

A few minutes before 8 o'clock, the small procession to the old tailors' room, where the execution was carried into effect, left the condemned cell. The order was as follows:—The Sheriff (Mr. W. A. Hawkins) and the gaol surgeon (Dr. H. A. H. Gilmer); the chaplain (Colonel Robert Bray, of the Salvation Army); the prisoner, supported by two warders; the executioner; and the gaoler (Mr. J. C. Scanlon), the chief warder, the visiting Justice of the Peace (Mr. Edwin Arnold), and representatives of the Press. The executioner was disguised by means of a dark beard and moustache, and wore a dark hat all through the proceedings.

Cooper walked firmly to the scaffold, although his responses to the chaplain were made in scarcely more than a whisper. His eyes remained closed practically from the time he left his cell until his head was covered. When asked by the Sheriff if he desired to make any statement, Cooper replied in a faint voice: "All I have said I have said to my friends (meaning, apparently, the Salvation Army officers). I have nothing more to say." The sentence of the Court was then carried into effect. Death was instantaneous. At an inquest held subsequently by the Coroner (Mr. F. K. Hunt, S.M.), the usual finding was returned.

Evening Post 16 June 1923

Dr. Hamilton Gilmer, who is now making satisfactory progress towards recovery after his recent illness, will probably take a trip abroad shortly.

Evening Post 2 July 1924

The newspaper was very well informed because on 8 July the Auckland Star reported that Hamilton was a passenger on the RMS Niagara for Suva Honolulu and Vancouver. He was

accompanied by his daughter Helen Elizabeth.⁵⁴ They returned to Wellington on 2 September from San Francisco.

Later in the year Hamilton was reported attending the Wellington College Annual Sports and also playing in a cricket match. He was captain of a team from the Wellesley Club playing a team from the Combined Services which was captained by the Governor General Viscount Jellicoe.⁵⁵

During 1925 Hamilton was one of a number of people regularly featured in newspapers as attending Wellington social events. These started early in the year with a reception at Government House.⁵⁶ Later in the year the US Navy visited and there was a round of receptions and balls which he attended. He also was mentioned as attending two funerals and two weddings one of which he spoke at. In September he was re elected as a Steward of the Wellington Racing Club and in October the coming out party for his niece Dorothy Herbert, the daughter of his sister Florence who had married a fellow doctor, William Herbert.

He took a close interest in school cricket and presented the trophy following one competition.

On Saturday evening last the visitors were entertained in the Y.M.C.A. at a dinner, which proved a complete success. Among those present were Mr. C. G. Wilson, president of the Wellington Cricket Association, and Mr. R. W. Edwards, president of the Wellington Schools' Cricket Association. Dr. Gilmer, of the Wellesley Club, in presenting a cup to the Wellington and Wairarapa Schools' Cricket Associations, the gift of the Wellesley Club and the Wairarapa Cricket Association, spoke enthusiastically of the form displayed by the boys. Mr.

Evening Post 14 December 1925

Hamilton also played for the Wellesley Club in their annual cricket match against the Wanganui Club.⁵⁷

In March 1926 Hamilton was elected as a Vice President of the Wellington Rugby Football Club. However, within a month he with his wife and three daughters sailed for Europe on the *Rotorua*..

⁵⁴ Auckland Star 8 July 1924

⁵⁵ Evening Post 19 November 1924

⁵⁶ Evening Post 24 January 1925

⁵⁷ Evening Post 15 December 1925

PASSENGERS FOR HOME.

The New Zealand Shipping Company's liner Rotorua left Wellington this morning for Southampton and London, via Pitcairn Island, Panama, and Curacao. Passages by the vessel were booked by the following:—Saloon: Mr. W. T. H. Atkinson, Mrs. R. M. Atkinson, Miss E. C. Atkinson, Miss M. R. Atkinson, Master B. H. Atkinson, Mr. J. Balsilli, Mr. E. E. Blanchard, Mr. H. J. Beswick, Miss T. F. Beswick, Mrs. M. Bruce, Mr. J. A. Carpenter, Mrs. G. E. Carpenter, Mr. F. Clark, Mrs. Clark, Miss V. F. Curlett, Mr. J. S. Dawson, Mrs. D. Dawson, Mr. J. Deans, Mrs. L. Deans, Master R. G. Deans, Master H. H. Deans, Master A. D. Deans, Master L. C. Deans, Miss S. S. Dickson, Mr. N. C. Douetil, Mr. L. V. Edwards, Mrs. E. C. Elworthy, Mr. D. Foote, Miss E. Garland, D. H. A. H. Gilmer, Mrs. H. K. Gilmer, Miss H. E. H. Gilmer, Miss M. D. H. Gilmer, Miss P. H. Gilmer, Dr. C. H. Gostwyck, Mrs. C. M. Hall, Master L. P. Haviland, Mrs. H.

Evening Post 24 April 1926

While in England, *The Times* newspaper recorded Hamilton and his wife's presence at three events, namely, the arrival of the NZ Prime Minister Mr Coates at Waterloo Station;⁵⁸ a reception for the British Prime Minister at Lancaster House⁵⁹ and as guests at Buckingham Palace in connection with the Imperial Conference.⁶⁰

They returned home on the orient Line ship "*Ormuz*" leaving on 30 November 1926 from Tilbury Docks. The ship sailed via Columbo and Australian ports arriving at Fremantle on 30 December and Sydney on 6 January 1927. The family finally arrived at Wellington on the "*Maunganui*" on 17 January 1927.

⁵⁸ The Times 11 October 1926

⁵⁹ The Times 26 October 1926

⁶⁰ The Times 11 November 1926



Dr HAH Gilmer 22 April 1926



Dr HAH Gilmer 1927

During 1927 Hamilton resumed his usual sporting activities playing cricket for the Fathers against a Wellington College team⁶¹ and later being reelected as a Steward of Wellington Racing Club⁶². He also raced his horse *Lausanne* at a Masterton Racing Club meeting. He was elected as a Vice President of the Wellington Cricket Club and also of the Victoria University College Cricket Club⁶³.

A major event for Hamilton in 1927⁶⁴ was the engagement of his son **Scobie** in England to **Rewa Weston** the daughter of Captain T. S. & Mrs Weston of Southsea. Rewa was 21 years old being born in London at Kensington in the first quarter of 1906.

On 31 January 1928 Hamilton's mother, the former **Elizabeth Hamilton**, died in Wellington at the age of 86. Her estate was valued at 19,730 Pounds. From her Will, Hamilton received an equal fourth share in the form of 35 Ordinary shares and 7 Preference shares in the Bank of New Zealand.

Hamilton continued to be actively involved in horseracing in the year with a new racehorse named *Duellona* which was entered in races at Trentham and Palmerston North.⁶⁵ As well he was reelected as a Steward of the Wellington Racing Club.

⁶¹ Evening Post 27 April 1927

⁶² Evening Post 16 September 1927

⁶³ Evening Post 29 September 1927

⁶⁴ Evening Post 24 October 1927

⁶⁵ Evening Post 2 November & 5 December 1928

In 1929 Hamilton travelled to the USA in July. He was accompanied by **Mary Elsie Williams** who was a nurse in his medical practice. This was the first sign that there were problems with his marriage to Helen.

Form 500
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
IMMIGRATION SERVICE

List 1
1946

ALL ALIENS arriving at a port of continental United States from a foreign port or a port of the insular possessions of the United States, and all aliens arriving at a port of said insular possessions from a foreign port, a port of continental United States, or a port of the insular possessions of the United States. This (pink) sheet is for the listing of

S. S. "CALAWAII" Passengers sailing from HONOLULU, HAWAII, JULY 20TH, 1929

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
No. on List	HEAD-TAX STATUS (The column for use of Government check only)	NAME IN FULL	Age	Sex	Calling or occupation	Abilities	Nationality (Country of which citizen or subject)	Race or people	Last permanent residence	The name and complete address of nearest relative or friend in country whence alien came	Final destination (If temporary, give permanent address)	
		Family name	Given name	Yrs. Mar.		Read what language (or languages) spoken, or what printed			Country	City or town	State	City or town
1		FOUHY	AMY	42	F S	NIL YES ENGLISH	YES BRITISH	WHITE	N. Z.	AUCKLAND		N. Z. AUCKLAND
2		FOUHY	ANNIE	71	F M	DOMESTIC YES ENGLISH	YES BRITISH	IRISH	N. Z.	AUCKLAND		N. Z. AUCKLAND
3		GILVER	HAMILTON	54	M M	DOCTOR YES ENGLISH	YES BRITISH	BRITISH	N. Z.	WELLINGTON		N. Z.
4		HICKSON	ELIZABETH	38	F S	NURSE YES ENGLISH	YES CANADIAN	CANADIAN				N. Z.
5		LA NAUZE	CLARA	41	F S	MATRON YES ENGLISH	YES BRITISH	BRITISH	N. Z.	AUCKLAND		N. Z.
6		RICE	SOPHIE	58	F S	STENO-GRAPHER YES ENGLISH	YES CANADIAN	ANGLO-SAXON	T. H.	HONOLULU		CAL. SAN DIEGO
7		ROBERTS	HILDA UNA	49	F S	VISITOR YES ENGLISH	YES BRITISH	BRITISH	N. Z.	ROTHAM		N. Z.
8		WILLIAMS	MARY ELSIE	30	F S	NURSE YES ENGLISH	YES BRITISH	BRITISH	N. Z.	WELLINGTON		N. Z.
9		YAMAGATA	ASAKICHI	70	M M	NONE YES JAPANESE	YES JAPANESE	YELLOW	T. H.	HONOLULU		LONG BEACH CAL. LOS ANGELES

SS Calawaii from Honolulu to Wilmington (Long Beach) California with his nurse **Mary Elsie Williams**

They returned on 7 October 1929 leaving from Vancouver on the *Niagara* arriving in Auckland.

Dr. H. A. Gilmer, of Wellington, arrived at Auckland by the Niagara yesterday and is at the Grand Hotel.

New Zealand Herald 8 October 1929

Niagara, from Vancouver, 10 30 a.m.—
Passengers: First saloon, Misses J. A. Abel, T. R. Card, J. M. Gunson, F. Ismay, L. C. Nappin, G. Richardson, D. V. Roberts, J. F. Reece, P. S. Ritchie, A. Russell, A. J. V. Sykes, D. Smee, E. T. Upton, G. Wood, M. E. Wood, M. Williams, P. Wood, M. Wright, E. Denning, G. Gaisford, M. Hall, T. Glenney, N. Henderson, C. R. Russell; Mesdames R. Allingham, G. H. Abel, M. Astley, L. C. Boyd, F. R. Dudley, E. W. Dooley and child, M. E. De Couray, E. G. Day, D. Latimer, M. Ismay, T. Nappin and 2 children, C. A. Mooney, J. A. Roberts, C. S. Reece, W. T. Ritchie, E. R. Russell, C. Trevithick, L. L. Taylor, H. Lushingham,

G. Worrall and child, E. Michaelis, W. H. Gaisford, D. Ogilvie, R. Sanders, A. Young, Sanders and 2 children and Lady Gunson; Messrs. R. Allingham, G. H. Abel, L. C. Boyd, H. A. Cooper, J. W. Card, F. R. Dudlen, E. W. Dooley, E. G. Day, P. Graham, F. Horsfall, J. C. Holliss, D. Latimer, F. Nappin, C. Ogilvie, J. Powley, A. P. Penn, Mooney, R. D. Reid, J. A. Roberts, C. S. Reece, W. T. Ritchie, E. R. Russell, W. Singleton, C. Trevithick, H. Tushingham, P. H. Upton, T. Umbrees, G. Worrall, E. Michaelis, W. H. Gaisford, J. V. Sanders, R. F. Sanders, W. Bird, Masters S. H. Abel, N. De Couray, Dr. H. Gilmer. Second saloon: Misses V. J. Col-

***Niagara* Passenger List Auckland Star 7 October 1929**

In 1930 Hamilton was again Vice President of the Wellington Cricket Club and also was reelected as a Steward of the Wellington Racing Club. In January he purchased a two year old filly at the yearling sales for 180 Guineas. The horse was named *Acorn*.

However, the main event for the year was the wedding of his son Scobie to Rewa Weston in London. This took place on 25 June at Christ Church, Down Street, Mayfair. Hamilton did not attend but his brother Samuel was in London and attended with his wife.⁶⁶

In 1931 Hamilton was involved in a dispute over his purchase of land at Hawkes Bay. He failed to meet some of the covenants and was required to meet a 1500 Pounds guarantee. Hamilton lost the court case on a split decision and appealed. His appeal was dismissed.⁶⁷

In his role as Prisons Medical Practitioner, Hamilton was required to attend the hanging of George Coats who was hanged at Mount Crawford.⁶⁸ This was the first hanging since Daniel Cooper was executed at the Terrace Gaol in 1923 at which Hamilton also officiated.

Hamilton was again appointed a Vice President of the Wellington Cricket Club. His interest in horseracing diminished a little with the retirement of his horse *Duellona* to stud. He was reported as attending two funerals. The first was a former long serving headmaster of Wellington College and the second that of Mrs. R. J. Seddon the wife of the former Premier Richard Seddon.

During 1932 Hamilton was mentioned as staying at the Grand Hotel at Auckland.⁶⁹ As could be expected he had a motor car but he was fined 5 Pounds for dangerous driving in Courtenay Place Wellington.⁷⁰ In August, he was mentioned as being among 130 people at the military funeral of Lieutenant Colonel RO Chesney⁷¹ and also as attending a function to recognize three members of Wellington Football Club who had been selected to represent New Zealand in the All Blacks team.⁷²

In 1933, Hamilton, as the Prisons Medical Officer, presided at another hanging namely that of Edward Tarrant who had been sentenced to death for the murder of a man at Picton.

The body was examined by Dr. Gilmer and the Coroner (Mr. T. B. McNeil, S.M.). An inquest was held at which the evidence of the prison superintendent, the sheriff, and Dr. Gilmer was taken, and a verdict was returned that the prisoner had been duly executed in accordance with the law.

Evening Post 6 March 1933

⁶⁶ Evening Post 30 July 1930

⁶⁷ Evening Post 8 June, 22 September & 8 October 1931

⁶⁸ Evening Post 17 December 1931

⁶⁹ New Zealand Herald 12 March 1932

⁷⁰ Evening Post 1 July 1932

⁷¹ Evening Post 5 August 1932

⁷² Evening Post 8 August 1932

Earlier in the year Hamilton was reported as attending the funerals of Mr C A Lawrence a well known architect and also that of Sir Alexander Gay. Sir Alexander had been a leading member of the legal profession for many years.⁷³

Hamilton maintained his sporting interests being reelected as a Vice President of Wellington Football Club.⁷⁴ He was also reelected as a Steward of the Wellington Racing Club⁷⁵ and as a Vice president of Wellington Cricket Club⁷⁶. His brother in law Dr William Herbert, who was married to Hamilton's sister Florence, was also elected as a Vice President of the Cricket Club. However, he died two months later. There was a very large funeral and Hamilton was named among the chief mourners.⁷⁷

It is of interest that in May, Hamilton's wife was reported as attending a private exhibition of the New Zealand Academy of Fine Arts⁷⁸, without him, and we believe that at this time they may have divorced. We have been told that the divorce was "messy" and the following report indicates that Helen was having difficulty in receiving maintenance payments to support herself and her youngest daughter, Patricia. The payments had been reduced substantially from the levels she received in 1931.

A claim for maintenance in respect of his wife (Helen Gilmer) and youngest daughter against H. A. Gilmer was partly heard in the Magistrate's Court by Mr. W. F. Stilwell, S.M., yesterday. Mr. W. E. Leicester appeared for the complainant, and Mr. D. M. Findlay represented the defendant. It was stated in evidence that complainant's income in 1931 was cut down from £1000 a year to £12 10s a week, and since then had been spasmodically reduced until it was now only £5 a week. When the case was resumed in the afternoon Mr. Stilwell suggested that counsel should investigate the financial position of complainant with a view to coming to some amicable arrangement. Mr. Leicester and Mr. Findlay agreed to this, and the case was adjourned sine die.

Evening Post 22 February 1934

Two months later, on 25 April 1934, Helen died at the age of 57 years. She had carcinoma of the breast with the growth spreading to her lungs. She was cremated at Karori. Later in the year Hamilton married Mary Williams.

⁷³ Evening Post 1 May 1933

⁷⁴ Evening Post 15 March 1933

⁷⁵ Evening Post 19 August 1933

⁷⁶ Evening Post 8 September 1933

⁷⁷ Evening Post 1 November 1933

⁷⁸ Evening Post 27 May 1933

Throughout that year the newspaper mentioned Hamilton and his wife, Mary, attending the 2nd Field Ambulance Medical Ball⁷⁹ as well as the funerals of Dr Collins⁸⁰ and Mr. Vivian Riddiford as well that of Alfred Smith the manager of the Bank of New Zealand Wellington⁸¹. Hamilton represented New Zealand Breweries. Hamilton was also reappointed as a Vice President of the Wellington Cricket Club. A further report indicated that he attended a hiking party in the Tauherenikau Valley, north of Upper Hutt, where one of the members had been accidentally shot:

A party headed by Constable C. Stewart, of Upper Hutt, and accompanied by Dr. Gilmer and his wife, who is a trained nurse, set out from Kaitoke at 2 p.m. The two parties met at 5 p.m., and the wounded man died a few minutes afterwards. A stretcher party from the Wellington Free Ambulance also went into the bush. The party from the bush arrived at Kaitoke at 8 p.m., and the body was taken by the Free Ambulance to the morgue at Lower Hutt.

MRS. C. J. GALLIERS, MR. and MRS. C. F. GALLIERS and Family Thank the many kind friends for their expressions of sympathy and floral tributes. Special thanks are tendered to Dr. and Mrs. H. A. Gilmer, the Police, Wellington Free Ambulance, and Trampers.

Evening Post 19 November 1934

Evening Post 24 November 1934

During 1935 the reporting of Hamilton's activities was reduced compared with previous years. He was reappointed as Vice President of the Wellington Cricket Club; attended three funerals for Dr McEvedy and Dr Lloyd Clay as well as a Mr Leckie. He was reported as attending two receptions one at Parliament House and the other on the Japanese ship *Asama*. He also attended two weddings with his wife.

An interesting advertisement was placed for the sale of furniture at his house at Lowry Bay. This indicated that he had sold the house.

⁷⁹ Evening Post 9 July 1934

⁸⁰ Evening Post 13 August 1934

⁸¹ Evening Post 14 August 1934

AUCTION SALE OF CONTENTS OF
 GENTLEMAN'S HOME
 AT
 CHEVIOT STREET, LOWRY BAY,
 Belonging to Dr. H. A. H. Gilmer.
 ON
 SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1935,
 At 2 p.m.
 BEAUTIFUL ROUND MAHOGANY
 DINING TABLE, CHESTERFIELD
 SUITE of 3 pieces, OAK DINING
 CHAIRS, WINDSOR CHAIR, PAIR
 BRASS FIRE DOGS, WATER COL-
 OURS by Nugent Welch, Rawson,
 Ganford, etc., etc.; ROSEWOOD BED-
 ROOM SUITE, comprising dressing
 table, bedstead and w.m., 2 chairs,
 stool; CHESTERFIELD AND 2 EASY
 CHAIRS with loose covers, GREY
 CARPET in splendid order, SILK
 CURTAINS, etc., BEDROOM SUITE
 IN RED LACQUER, BEDROOM
 SUITE IN FAWN LACQUER with
 twin beds; bridge tables, carpet
 squares, tables, palm stands, mirrors,
 carpet runner, lamp shades, kitchen
 sundries, scythe, garden seats, hose,
 watering can, rake, Dutch hoe, hedge
 clippers, watering can, etc., etc.
 ON VIEW MORNING OF SALE FROM
 10 o'clock.
J. H. BETHUNE AND CO.,
 Auctioneers,
 Cnr. Brandon and Featherston Streets,
 Wellington.

Evening Post 6 November 1935

In 1936 there were even fewer newspaper reports. Hamilton was reported as being reelected as a Vice president of the Wellington Football Club⁸² and was reelected as a Steward of the Wellington Racing Club⁸³. He also attended the funeral of Mr O S Watkins who was the founder of the accounting firm Watkins Hull Wheeler & Johnstone. He was also a racehorse owner and a member Vice President of the Wellington Racing Club.⁸⁴

Hamilton and Mary left New Zealand in December 1936 on a trip to Europe. This was reported as an aside in a newspaper article in March 1937. We did not locate any other reference to their departure in either New Zealand or Australian newspapers.

Three stewards of the club are also leaving shortly on trips to England. Mr. W. Higgins sails tomorrow week on the day the meeting opens, and Messrs. H. P. F. Blundell and C. M. Turrell are leaving next month. Dr. H. A. H. Gilmer, another steward, went away in December and is still abroad.

Evening Post 3 March 1937

⁸² Evening Post 18 March 1935

⁸³ Evening Post 8 September 1935

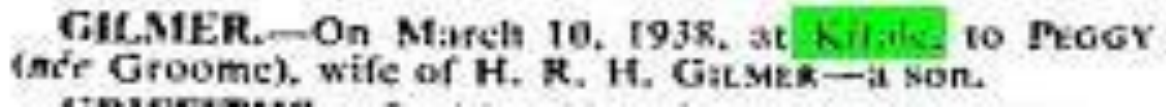
⁸⁴ Sydney Morning Herald 28 July 1936

However, even in his absence Hamilton was elected as a director of brewing company J Staples & Co Ltd⁸⁵, Vice President of the Wellington Division of the NZ Permanent Force Old Comrades Association⁸⁶ and Vice President of the Wellington Cricket Club⁸⁷.

On 28 July 1937 Hamilton and Mary arrived in England on the *MS Bloemfontein*.. The ship had come from Capetown and stopped at Natal and Mombasa, ports on the eastern side of the African continent.

Hamilton and Mary had boarded at Mombasa Kenya so it is clear that they had visited his son (Huia) Richard. We know Richard had been in Kenya before 1928 because he visited England in 1928 arriving in London on the ship *Llandoff Castle* on 26 August 1928. The shipping record gave his occupation as Planter in Kenya and his age as 25. It is likely that Hamilton had not seen him since he had left home some years before.

Richard had married Peggy Groome and they were reported as having a son on 10 March 1938 at Kitale, Kenya.



GILMER.—On March 10, 1938, at Kitale, to PEGGY (née Groome), wife of H. R. H. GILMER—a son.

The Times 16 May 1938

In 1935 Richard had made another trip from Kenya to London on the *LLandoff Castle* landing at Southampton on 29 April. It is clear that he was visiting his brother Hugh Scobie because the shipping record gave his address in England as Rodenbury, Hertford where Scobie lived. The shipping record also showed Richard's age as 32.

We have also identified another shipping record showing a **Hugh Gilmer** travelling from Mombasa to London in 1955. The record shows his birth date as 10 March 1938 and he is clearly the son of Richard and Peggy.

⁸⁵ Evening Post 1 February 1937

⁸⁶ Evening Post 23 July 1937

⁸⁷ Evening Post 3 September 1937

IN-COMING PASSENGERS												P.M.2B. Second Schedule		
Name of Ship..... S.S.KENYA CASTLE												Date of Arrival..... 20th April 1955		
Owner or Agent..... The Union Castle Mail S/S Co Ltd.												Whence Arrived..... East & South Africa.		
NAMES AND DESCRIPTIONS OF BRITISH COMMONWEALTH AND IRISH REPUBLICAN PASSENGERS LANDED AT THE PORT OF London.														
(1) Names of passengers (Surname first)	(2) Class of Travel	(3) Port of Embarkation	(4) Sex (M. or F.)	(5) Date of Birth			(6) Married or Single (Widowed or divorced to be entered as single)	(7) Address in the United Kingdom	(8) Occupation (i.e. Profession, calling, or kind of work done rather than industry in which engaged)	(9) Country of which a citizen as shown on passport. (If citizen of U.K. and Colonies state also country of issue of passport)	(10) Country of last permanent residence *	(11) Country of intended future permanent residence *	(12) If visiting the United Kingdom for 12 months or less	
				Adults of 12 years and over	Children between 1 and 12 years	Infants under 1 year							Intended duration of the stay in U.K.	Chief purpose of visit †
63. GALLANDERS Wilm	ONE	MOMBASA	M	21.10.12			Married	Mayfield, Pencregan	Civil Servant	England	Kenya	Kenya	6 Months	V
64. GALLANDERS Sarah			F	19.5.11	- 44		do	Neath Glamorgan	Housewife	do	do	do	do	V
65. GALLANDERS Pat			F		27.7.47		Single	do	Student	do	do	do	do	V
66. GAYMER Robert			M	1.12.90	- 65		Married	Green Street Barn	Farmer	do	England	England		
67. GAYMER Phyllis			F	20.3.96			do	Ingatesstone, Essex.	Housewife	do	do	do		
68. GILMER Hugh			M	10.3.38	- 17		Single	73 Grant Rd Addiscombe	Student	Kenya	Kenya	Kenya	3,4, Years	V

Shipping Record SS Kenya Castle 20 April 1955 London

This record is very useful because it confirms the Richard and Peggy's child's birth date, shows the child's name was Hugh, an old Gilmer family name, and that he went to school in England. It also gives his address in England as 73 Grant Road, Addiscombe in London. However, we have not found any further records about him. Given his age it is possible he is still alive.

Hamilton and Mary had been travelling in Europe and returned to England because he was unwell. He underwent an operation for cancer of the oesophagus and died during the operation.

GILMER. On Oct. 23, 1937, at Hertford, after an operation, HAMILTON HUGH ANDREW GILMER, M.D., of Wellington, New Zealand, beloved husband of Mary Gilmer, aged 63. Funeral Golders Green Crematorium, 11.15 to-morrow (Wednesday). (New Zealand papers,

Death Notice The Times 26 October 1937

DR. HAMILTON GILMER

Dr. Hamilton Andrew Hugh Gilmer, M.D., who died recently at Hertford at the age of 63, was the eldest son of the late Hon. Hamilton Gilmer, member of the New Zealand Legislative Council. He graduated in medicine at Edinburgh University, and was Chief Medical Officer to the New Zealand Government Life Insurance and to the prison at Wellington, New Zealand. He had been agent and surgeon to the Royal Navy and a major in the Dominion Defence Force. Dr. Gilmer will be remembered by many visiting cricketers to New Zealand for his hospitality at the Wellesley Club, of which he was vice-president. He was also a steward of the Wellington Racing Club for the last 25 years.

Obituary The Times 29 October 1937

DR. H. A. H. GILMER

News of the death in England of Dr. Hamilton A. H. Gilmer, of Wellington, will come as a severe shock to a wide circle of friends. Dr. Gilmer, who was 62 years of age, was spending a holiday in England, and he took ill at Hertford, where an operation was performed on Saturday. A cablegram received by members of the family this morning conveyed the news that Dr. Gilmer had failed to rally.

The late Dr. Gilmer was born in Greymouth and was educated at Wanganui Collegiate School, Wellington College, Otago University, and Edin-

The late Dr. Hamilton A. H. Gilmer.

burgh University. After completing his studies at Edinburgh he was appointed house surgeon at the Liverpool Infirmary. He returned to New Zealand in 1902 and practised medicine in Wellington until his retirement recently. He acted as prison doctor at Wellington for a number of years, and still occupied the position at the time of his death. He was also medical officer for the Government Life Insurance Office.

The late Dr. Gilmer had a number of business interests, and was a director of Staples and Company prior to the amalgamation of the company with New Zealand Breweries, Ltd. He took a keen interest in many forms of sport and for many years was a steward of the Wellington Racing Club. News of his

death was received with keen regret at Trentham, where Dr. Gilmer was a very popular figure both as an owner and administrator, and the flags at the course were flown at half-mast as a mark of respect. Dr. Gilmer was also a vice-president of the Wellington Trotting Club. In his younger days, Dr. Gilmer was a keen cricketer, being a member of the Old Boys' Club, and he was also a member of the Old Boys' Rugby Football Club. Dr. Gilmer never lost his enthusiasm for cricket and in recent years he took part in a number of social games in Wellington. He was an enthusiastic life member of the Wellington College Old Boys' Association, with which he had been associated since 1902. Another sport with which he was prominently associated on the administrative side was boxing. Dr. Gilmer was a member of the Wellington and Wellesley Clubs.

Evening Post 25 October 1937 Obituary

In Wellington the Evening Post advised that a memorial service would be held at St Peter's Church on 26 October and later reported the details of the funeral.

At Hertford, on October 23, the death occurred, after an operation, of Hamilton Hugh Andrew Gilmer, M.D., of Wellington, at the age of 63. It was a great shock to his relatives that he did not survive the operation. This was performed in the hope that he would be relieved of the great pain from which he was suffering.

Not long ago, Dr. and Mrs. Gilmer were in Paris, and while there the former became ill and was brought back to London. Despite the most expert surgical attendance, he passed away at Hertford, where his son, Dr. H. S. H. Gilmer, is in practice. Two daughters also are in London.

The cremation took place at Golders Green this morning. Those present included Mrs. Gilmer, Dr. and Mrs. H. S. H. Gilmer, Miss May Gilmer, Mrs. Knox Gilmer and her daughter, Mr. D. F. Reid, Mr. George Cloke, Mr. H. P. F. Blundell, Mr. F. T. Sandford, Mr. Bonsor, and Squadron-Leader M. W. Buckley. The Rev. Canon S. J. Marriott, of Westminster Abbey, officiated at the crematorium. The ashes are to be interred in Wellington.

Until her departure for New Zealand on December 11, Mrs. Gilmer will stay with Dr. and Mrs. Scobie Gilmer.

Death & Funeral Evening Post 16 November 1937



HAH's Headstone Bolton Street Cemetery with HJH & Lois in Front

Estate

The value of Hamilton's estate for probate purposes was 43,655 Pounds and 7 cents. He left a Will dated 18 June 1936 with a Codicil dated 14 November 1936.

He appointed as Executor's, the Guardian Trust and Executor's Company of New Zealand Ltd and David William Madden.

He bequeathed the following pecuniary legacies to:

- his wife Mary Elsie Gilmer 3,000 Pounds
- his son Huia Richard Hamilton Gilmer 400 Pounds
- his daughter Helen Grant 300 Pounds
- his daughter Patricia Hamilton Gilmer 200 Pounds
- his son Hamilton John Herbert Gilmer 100 Pounds
- his son Hugh Scobie Hamilton Gilmer 100 Pounds
- his daughter Mae Gilmer 100 Pounds

- his sister in law Aldyth Williams 200 Pounds. The Codicil to his Will revoked this bequest.

The total of the bequests excluding the last was 4,200 Pounds

The balance of the estate was to be left:

- Two fifths to his wife Mary Elsie Gilmer, say, 15,980 Pounds gross before Probate
- Three fifths upon trust for all and every child of his first marriage (to Helen Kilpatrick Davidson) who have attained the age of 21 years, say 23,475 Pounds gross before Probate or about 3900 Pounds gross per child for the six children involved.

Mary Elsie Gilmer

After her husband's death Mary moved to Christchurch where she lived until 24 July 1979. She was buried in the Gilmer grave at Bolton St Cemetery in Wellington.

Mary's Will

Mary made the following bequests:

\$5000 to her niece Helen Hanisch daughter of her brother Benjamin Williams

\$5000 to her niece Jeanette Hannah daughter of her brother Benjamin Williams

\$5000 to her Niece Anne Aydon daughter of her late brother George Williams

\$5000 to her niece Elizabeth Pupich daughter of her late brother George Williams

\$2000 to her brother Benjamin Williams

\$2000 to her brother Howard Williams

\$2000 to her Nephew David Williams son of Howard Williams

\$2000 to Sally Aydon daughter of Anne Aydon

\$2000 to her cousin Molly Mullan

\$1000 to her cousin Annette Barry mother of her godson Frederick Barry.

\$1000 to her godson Frederick Barry

\$5000 to the National Heart Foundation of New Zealand

\$5000 to the Cancer Society of New Zealand Canterbury & Westland Division

\$2000 to the Canterbury & West Coast Branch of the New Zealand Crippled Children Society.

After the above bequests the residue of Mary's estate was to be shared equally between her two sisters Elizabeth Martha and Aldyth Helen Williams.

Children of Hamilton Andrew Hugh Gilmer and Helen Kilpatrick Davidson

1. Hamilton John Herbert Gilmer

Born 21 April 1900, Birkenhead, Cheshire, England.

Christened: 16 May 1900 at St Johns, Egremont, Cheshire, England

Married **Lois Christine Caro** on 24 June 1929 at St John's Cathedral, Napier, New Zealand.

Died: 22 July 1966 at Wellington, NZ

Buried: Bolton Street Memorial Park, Wellington.

Children:

Elizabeth Christine. Born 1938

2. Hugh Scobie Hamilton Gilmer

Born 1902 Cheshire England.

Married: **Rewa Mary Weston** on 30 July 1930 at Christ Church, Down Street, Mayfair, London.

Died: 29 May 1965, Burnett Square, Hertford, Hertfordshire, England.

Children:

Ayliffe Sally. **Born** 1932. **Married** 17 Sep 1955 at St Mary's Hertingfordbury, Hertfordshire England to **Helm Bruce Price.** (Born Louisville USA).

Belinda. **Born** 6 November 1938 at Rodenbury, Hertford, Hertfordshire, England.

Married 14 October 1961 at South Orange USA to **William Redmond Martin.**

Judith Mary. **Born** 1940. **Married** 1966 at Cirencester, England to **Nicholas Auriol Gaselee.**

Prudence Ann. **Born** 1944. **Married** Dec Quarter 1965 at Chelsea England to **Alan Peter Hornsby .**

3. Huia Richard Hamilton Gilmer

Born 1903 at Wellington New Zealand.

Married : Peggy Groome

Died: 2 July 1975 England (Not confirmed)

Children:

Hugh Born: 10 March 1938 at Kitale Kenya..

4. **Helen Elizabeth Hamilton Gilmer**

Born: 5 February 1904 at Wellington.

Married: 1927 to Peter Richardson Grant .**Born** 1903. **Died: 26 August 1967.**

Died: 23 May 1987

5. **Dorothea May Hamilton Gilmer**

Born: 25 March 1907 at Wellington.

Married: to **John Eastwick.**

Died: 13 June 1989

6. **Patricia Hamilton Gilmer**

Born: 30 September 1916

Married: 1939 to **Eric Reeves. Born** 11 February 1895. **Died** 29 October 1979.

Died: 4 August 1977.