

Initial Upload 14 August 2011
Last Update 23 December 2013

John Rainey Hamilton 1889 to 1948

John (Jack) Rainey Hamilton, the eldest child of Samuel and Teresa, was born at Waterloo, Victoria, on 7 November 1889. He was baptized at Waterloo on 22 November 1889 by Father Robert Meade the Parish Priest from the Catholic Church at Ararat. His godparents were Michael and Kate Flynn the owners of the Waterloo store. As indicated previously Samuel's name was given as Charles Morgan and the Baptismal Register has the surname recorded in the index as Morgan.

We are very fortunate that a photograph has been retained of Jack as a child of about 12 months old. The original was in possession of Jack's eldest daughter Joan Dunn. The main feature of this photo is the reverse side which records that it was given to Jack's "Auntie Dollie" who was his father Samuel's eldest sister, Dorothea, who was living in New Zealand.

The inscription reads:

*To Dear Auntie Dollie
From her little nephew
Jackie."*



John Rainey Hamilton c1890



John Rainey Hamilton c1893

Jack attended the Waterloo School and is probably in the photograph below:



The school records show he commenced school in May 1894 and the last year he attended was 1905. He was enrolled under the name of John Morgan.



1904 Waterloo Football Team. We believe Jack is in the front row second from the left.

The Hamiltons moved to Gisborne in 1905 where Sam had the store on the corner of Hamilton and Aitken Streets. Jack would have been fifteen at the time. It is very likely that with this move Jack would have started work with his father in the store serving as an apprentice learning the grocery trade. The store also had wines and spirits and Jack would have acquired some knowledge the various alcoholic beverages sold in the store. Sam, like his father John, had remained a tee totaller and it would have been a very safe environment for Jack in which to build this experience. We know that Jack was working in 1908 as he had joined the Gisborne Mechanics Institute where his father was also a member.



John Rainey Hamilton as a young man

In 1909 the Hamiltons moved to Melbourne and Jack was turning twenty at the end of the year. We are not aware of the work he did. We were recently told by his granddaughters, who were told by their mother Joan, that he had gone into a seminary to study for the priesthood. We have not heard this from any other source.

However, it appears that Jack did not go Melbourne with the family. A search of Electoral Rolls has found a John Rainer Hamilton with the occupation of Grocer at Chillingolah near Swan Hill. Searches of other rolls did not yield any other record.

In 1916 Jack applied to enlist in the Australian Imperial Force. His address was shown as Oaklands which is relatively close to Gisborne. The enlistment record is shown below. This shows his application was unsuccessful with a preliminary medical examination deciding he was unfit for active service. The reason was put simply as "Teeth" and he was rejected.

Original
Duplicate

Application to Enlist in the Australian Imperial Force

To the Recruiting Officer

at Oaklands

(OFFICIAL STAMP)

I, John Rainey Hamilton
hereby offer myself for Enlistment in the Australian Imperial Force for Active Service Abroad, and undertake to enlist in the manner prescribed, if I am accepted by the Military Authorities, within one month from date hereof.

POSTAL ADDRESS
Oaklands

Signature John Hamilton
Occupation Greener
Date 5. 3. 16

(For Identification purposes the above space should be filled in personally by the Applicant.)

CONSENT OF PARENTS OR GUARDIANS (For Persons under 21 years of Age)

I HEREBY CERTIFY that I approve of the above application, and consent to the enlistment of my son ward for Active Service Abroad.

Statement regarding Death or Absence of either or both Parents.

Father's Signature _____
Mother's Signature _____
or
Guardian's Signature _____

PERSONAL PARTICULARS

Age 26 yrs. 3 mos. Height _____ ft. _____ ins. Chest Measurement (fully expanded) _____ inches

Married ☒ Widower ☐ Single ☐ _____ inches

PRELIMINARY MEDICAL EXAMINATION

Decision of Medical Authority Unfit for Active Service
UNFIT, for the following reasons:—
Teeth

Place Oaklands
Date 5. 3. 16

A. H. H. Wadon
Signature of Medical Authority

I Concur

Place _____
Date _____

Signature of M.O. at Central Recruiting Depot

CERTIFICATE OF RECRUITING OFFICER

I CERTIFY that I have this day provisionally Accepted Rejected this applicant for enlistment in the Australian Imperial Force.

Place Oaklands
Date 5. 3. 16

Signature G. Johnson RA
Recruiting Officer

[OVER]



JOHN RAINEY HAMILTON aged approx 25 years



MYRTLE ALICE SMITH aged 18 years

In about 1918 met Myrtle, born Alice Myrtle Smith on 1 January 1899 at Seymour, Victoria. The family story is that Jack first saw Myrtle swinging from the bows of a tree on the banks of a river. This could well have been the Goulburn River at Seymour.

Myrtle was the youngest daughter of **George Smith** and **Harriett Rebecca Johns**. We have identified the birth of five siblings:

James Richard born 1887 at Wodonga
Claude William born 1889 at Wodonga
Margaret Ruth Elizabeth born 1891 at Wodonga
Ralph Raymond born 1894 at Wodonga
Elsie Maud born 1896 at Wodonga

Myrtle's parents were married on 24 February 1883 at Holy Trinity Church of England at Sandridge (Port Melbourne). Her father, George, was a Blacksmith living in Sandridge aged 25 who was born in the Colony of Victoria. Harriett was a Domestic Servant living in Richmond aged 21 who was also born in Victoria at Emerald Hill in about 1862.

George's parents were **John Smith** (Labourer) and **Elizabeth Jack** who were married in 1863 at St Stephens Catholic Church, Richmond. They were both about 22 years old and John was from Kill in Co. Cavan, Ireland. His parent's names were **James and Mary** and her maiden name was **McPhilips**. James was a Labourer. Elizabeth while married in the Catholic Church declared that she was a member of the Free Church of Scotland. Her occupation was shown as "*In Service*". Both she and John were living in Richmond. We believe that Elizabeth arrived in Melbourne in November 1857 on the ship "*Guy Mannering*". This is the only Elizabeth Jack

shown in the Shipping Records although there is a discrepancy of a few years in the age in the record.

We have not been able to trace John Smith's parents in Ireland but we have identified Elizabeth Jack's in Scotland. These were shown on her Marriage Certificate as **Richard Jack and Margaret Hall**. They were married on 12 July 1839 at Glasgow, Lanark, Scotland.¹ Richard's occupation on his daughter's marriage certificate was shown a "Lawyer".

Myrtle's maternal grandparents, (her mother Harriett's parents) were **James Johns** (Labourer) and **Mary Ford**. They were married at St James Cathedral Church of England & Ireland in Melbourne on 22 February 1861². James was a "Mariner" and 25 years old living in King Street, Melbourne. His birth place was Dover, Kent, England. Mary Ford was a Domestic Servant aged 21 also living in King Street. She was born in Waterford, Ireland.

Harriett Rebecca Johns was their eldest child born in 1862. She was born at Emerald Hill which was the original name for South Melbourne. She had three brothers and five sisters. Her siblings were:

John Henry Thomas born 1864 at Emerald Hill. Died at age 12 in 1876.

William Elgar born 1865 at Emerald Hill

Bridget Mary born 1867 at Box Hill

Margaret Amelia born 1869. Margaret died at 3 weeks of age.

Catherine Jane born 1872 at Richmond.

Elizabeth Ann born 1874 at Richmond

Richard Thomas born 1876 at Richmond

Francis Ellen born 1879 at Richmond.

James Henry Thomas Jones	Bachelor	25	King Street	Melbourne	James Jones (41)	Coast Guard
Mary Ford	Single	21	King Street	Waterford Ireland	Rebecca Oliver (41)	Domestic Servant

Witnesses: Richard Jones, Sarah Ellen Healey

Minister: J. M. Donaldson

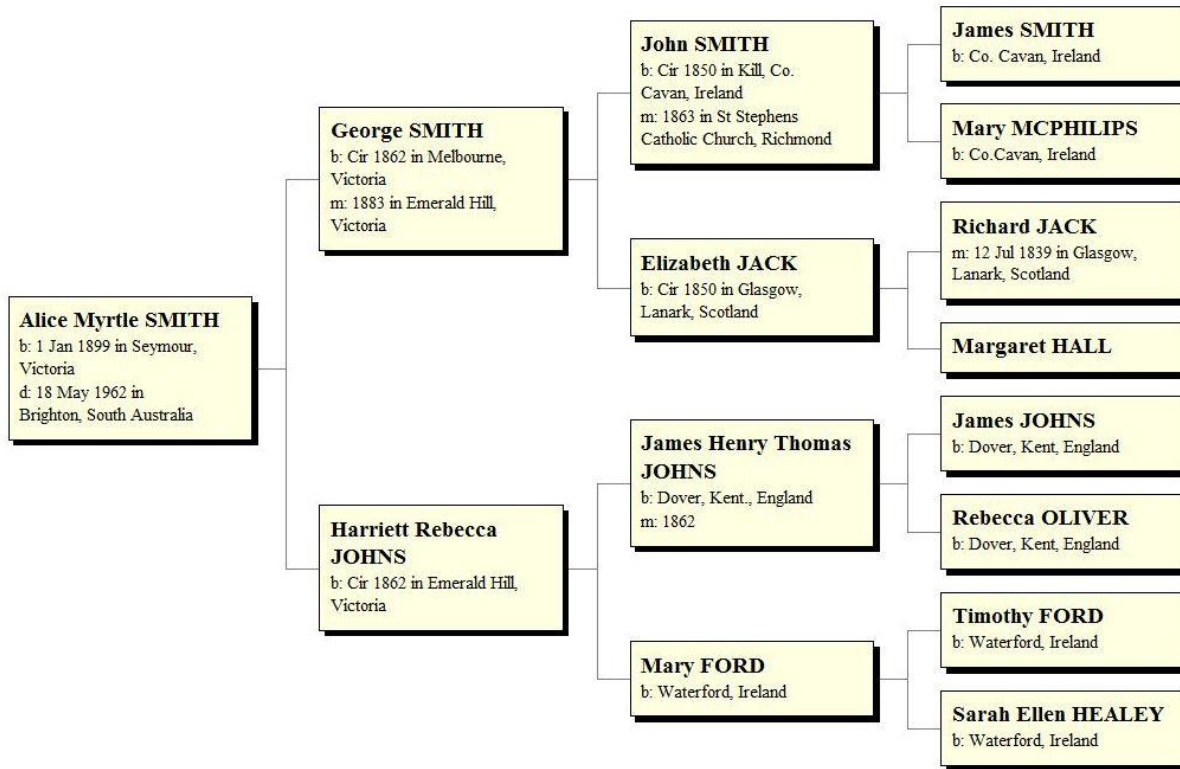
Married in the presence of the Church of England

James Johns & Mary Ford Marriage Certificate

The above certificate actually shown as James Jones but clearly is that of James Johns. While very difficult to read, when magnified the copy indicates that Myrtle's great grandparents were James Jones(Johns) of the Coast Guard Service and Rebecca Oliver from Kent and also Timothy Ford and Sarah Ellen Healey from Waterford, Ireland.

¹ LDS Batch Number M11975-4: Source Film No.1042989: System Origin Scotland-ODM

² Thanks to Keith Ross for his assistance in locating this record.



Ancestor's of Alice Myrtle Smith

Jack and Myrtle married on 11 February 1920 at Holy Angels Church, Balaclava which is now known as St. Colman's.

CERTIFICATE OF MARRIAGE						
Year 19		Parish or Church District		Denomination		
1920		Balaclava		Catholic		
No. in Register	When and where Married	Name and Surname of each Party	Original Conditions, also Date of license of each Party (if issued)	Children by each former Marriage	Baptism	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	Living (5)	Dead (6)	(7)
129	Feb 11 th 1920 Holy Angels Church Balaclava	John Kearney Hamilton Alice Myrtle Smith	1863 in St Stephens 1883 in Emerald Hill			Waterloo (Vic) Seymour (Vic)
<p>We declare that the above is a true statement of the particulars relating to each of us respectively, and that Marriage was solemnized between us on the date and at the place mentioned according to the rites of the Catholic Church.</p> <p><i>John Kearney Hamilton</i> <i>Alice Myrtle Smith</i> Signatures of the Parties</p> <p>Signatures of Witnesses: <i>John Kearney Hamilton</i>, <i>Alice Myrtle Smith</i>, <i>John Kearney Hamilton</i>, <i>Alice Myrtle Smith</i></p>						
Occupation	Age in Years (last birth-day)	Recent Residence of Each Party		Parents' Names		
(8)	(9)	Present (10)	Usual (11)	Father (12)	Mother (13)	
John Kearney Hamilton	30	Balaclava	Balaclava	James Kearney Hamilton	Margaret O'Hara	
Alice Myrtle Smith	21	Balaclava	Balaclava	Richard O'Hara	Margaret O'Hara	
<p>I, <i>James Kearney Hamilton</i>, being a Catholic Priest, do hereby certify that I have, this day, duly celebrated Marriage between the above-named parties, after notice (had been dispensed with by permission of the Minister, Government-Statist, or Registrar of Marriages).</p> <p>Dated this <i>11th</i> day of <i>February</i> 1920.</p> <p><i>James Kearney Hamilton</i> Signature of Minister, Government-Statist, or Registrar of Marriages</p>						



Vera, Jack, Myrtle & William Stagg



Jack & Myrtle

After their wedding Jack & Myrtle moved to Violet Town where Jack took over the Violet Town Hotel. While they were there Myrtle gave birth to their first child Dorathea Joan who was born on 18 November 1920. They were not at Violet Town long but their time there was appreciated and they clearly made friends as indicated by the newspaper article recording them leaving the small town.



Violet Town Hotel 2012

Jack & Myrtle moved to Wagga Wagga in 1921³ where they initially lived at St. Ives, Kincaid Street. His occupation was shown as “Grocer” on the Electoral Rolls for 1921, 1922 and 1925. By 1925 they were living at Belvedere, 59 Crampton St.

Jack took over the North Western Hotel and was there in 1926 when Joseph and Maggie (Burns) Watt and their three children came from Melbourne. Maggie was the daughter of (Sarah Jane (Hamilton) Burns, Samuel’s sister, and the family had just migrated from Ireland on Sam’s recommendation. Joseph was a Cabinet Maker and he worked with Jack at the hotel. The Watts stayed there for about four months before moving on to Sydney. Maggie had found the heat and dust of Wagga very difficult.

³ 1921 Electoral Roll



North Western Hotel at Wagga Wagga

Jack and Myrtle were at the hotel in 1927⁴ but there was no entry for 1928 or 1929 implying that they had left. In 1930 they were at Manildra where Jack was the proprietor of the Imperial Hotel. While at Manildra their second daughter Jacqueline Gloria (Jill) was born on 11 August 1930. There were no entries in directories or Electoral Rolls at Manildra for 1931 and the 1932 Electoral Roll showed that they had returned to Wagga. They were living at 27 Thorne St and Jack had the occupation of Grocer. It seems clear that at the time the Depression had hit and business was difficult and even very tough.

Jack had decided to sell the hotel at Manildra and on his return to Wagga he got a job at Edmonson's a large retailer. Jack was a gregarious person and as such got on very well with people. Jack's background as a grocer and also in hotels made him an ideal employee. At the time, unemployment levels were very high and he was obviously seen as offering value to Edmonson's. Jack stayed with Edmonson's and became the Manager of the grocery department.

⁴ Sands & Macdougall Directory



Jack behind the counter at Edmonson's
Note that Jack is fully grey while still a relatively young man of about 40.



Edmonson's and Staff. Jack is on the far left hand side

Jack and Myrtle lived at Thorne Street for about four years after which they moved to 158 Kincaid St where they stayed until Jack died.



158 Kincaid St Wagga Wagga

The Kincaid Street house was opposite the Wagga Wagga Golf club. Jack was an active person who played golf and he was a member of this club. It had been founded in 1895 and shared the land with the Murrumbidgee Turf club. The racecourse committee had control and this made it difficult for the golfers who had to organize their events around race meetings and horse training sessions. A breakaway club was established in 1928 but the city club remained at the racecourse until a new course was established outside the town in 1978.⁵

Jack was active in the club and was a member of the committee in 1937, 1938, 1939 and 1940. He was again elected to the committee in 1945. Of greater importance was the fact that Jack was a good golfer. He was the winner of the Club's A Grade 36 hole aggregate in 1937. To be an A Grade player means he had a handicap of 10 or less.

⁵ Wagga Wagga Golf Club 100 Years of Golf 1895 -1995



Jack's 1937 Golf Trophy⁶

Jack died in on 21 May 1948 about six months short of 59 years of age. He had a heart condition and had not been well. It is said that was little before his death one of his sisters in Melbourne organized for a priest to call to see him but Jack hid in a shed and refused to see him. Jack's funeral was very large and it indicated the extent of his friendships and associations and the respect and high regard in which he was held.

⁶ This cup was in the possession of Robin Dunn and has recently been given to Kerry to pass on to her son Christian Rowethorne for safe keeping.

...suitable for beef killing and of
 ...heifers suitable for breeding.
 ...Improved livestock control; more
 ...attention to fodder conservation,
 ...and an improved production of
 ...pig meat.

FUNERAL

MR. J. R. HAMILTON

The funeral of the late John Rainey Hamilton, of 158 Kincaid Street, Wagga, whose death occurred at his home on Friday, took place yesterday afternoon. The cortege moved from St. John's Church of England after a service conducted by the Ven. Archdeacon West. Mrs Sutherland officiated at the organ. The casket was carried by Messrs. Alan Peel, W. Doyle, Les Taylor, D. Montgomery, and S. Gaffney (members of the staff of T. Edmondson and Co.) while the floral tray was in the care of Messrs F. Short, K. Anderson, N. Tilden and Alex Rudd (also fellow employees). Interment took place in the Wagga Cemetery, where the Archdeacon again officiated. Relatives present were Mrs. A. M. Hamilton (widow), Mrs. J. O. Dunn and Miss Jill Hamilton (daughter), Messrs. William and Leo Hamilton (brothers), Mr. J. O. Dunn (son-in-law), Mr. A. C. Wilson, Mr. R. Ward and Mrs. Osmontherly (sister-in-law), Mr. W. Osmontherly and Mr. A. Wilson (nephews) and Mrs. N. Eustace (niece). Mr. S. Hamilton (father), Misses. Vera and Dora Hamilton (sisters) of Melbourne, Mrs. J. Grigsby (sister) of Sydney were unable to be present. Among the many friends present were Messrs. W. T. Cadzow (T. Edmondson and Co., Geo. Paterson (Rep. Castles Bros.), L. Johnston (Paul's Pty. Ltd.), J. Hamilton (Carew's Shoe Store), E. Weissel (Vacuum Oil Co.), J. Mumford (Messrs. Bush and Campbell), S. Hedditch (Kyeamba Shire), B. R. Tooth (Wright Heaton and Co.), F. B. Raye (T.O.P. Service), Mr. Spotswood (Bank of Australasia), Mr. Raleigh (Raleigh Bros.), A. H. Blamey (Blamey's Ltd.), A. Hopkins (W. G. Huthwaite and Co.), R. J. McDonald, W. J. W. Templeton and W. McLaughlin (Wagga Golf Club), W. W. Dunn (Wagga Council), J. A. Nathan (Maples), R. H. Blake (Blake and Co.), S. Guy (Commonwealth Bank, Leeton), H. K. Crisp (Southern Riverina County Council), F. Wallace (Wallace and Ryan), Mr. Rava (Rava and Co.), J. Burnett (David Copland and Co.), C. A. Cook, H. Riach and E. Kerfoot. Among the floral tributes were wreaths from the Directors and staff of T. Edmondson and Co., members of the Wagga Golf Club, associates of the Wagga Golf Club, Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Toy and staff. All at "Goonigal," "Deltroit," J. H. Nathan and directors of Maples, directors and staff of 51 Gurwood Street, directors and management of W. G. Huthwaite and Co., directors, management and staff of Murrumbidgee Milling Co., M.T.C. Totalisator staff, Wright Heaton and Co., Mr. and Mrs. Psaltis, Embassy Cafe, David Copland and Co., and staff of Caltex Oil Company. At the church and at the Cemetery a guard of honor was formed by members of the staff of T. Edmondson and Co., of whom almost every member was present. The funeral arrangements were conducted by Alan Harris of

Myrtle moved from their house at Kincaid St and lived at 4 Murray Street, Wagga Wagga with her daughter Jill and son-in-law, Geoff Walsh for many years. After Jill's death in 1956 she moved to Station Place, Wagga Wagga and for a time lived there with her daughter Joan Dunn and family. Myrtle used to visit her sister Elsie in Melbourne and also in 1957 for a period of some weeks stayed in East Brighton with the Hamiltons with her granddaughter Joanne while the Dunn family moved from Wagga to Adelaide. Elizabeth recalls her visiting East Brighton while staying at Glen Iris with her sister Myrtle died on 18 May 1962 at 63 years of age at

Brighton, South Australia. She was brought back to Wagga for her funeral and was buried with Jack at the Wagga Cemetery.



John Rainey Hamilton and Myrtle's Grave at Wagga Wagga Cemetery