

SAMUEL LOCKHART GILMER

Initial Upload 27 May 2012

Samuel (Sam) was the third child and second son of William and Mary Anne Gilmer. He was born on the Gilmer farm at Mullaghnee on 24 August 1889.

Sam was only 18 months old when his father died and he would therefore never really have known him. We believe the Mary Anne left the farm and returned to her own family at Mullaghduff. Both Sam's Lockhart grandparents and also his mother were school teachers and Sam would have benefitted from good tuition at an early age.

The 1901 Census recorded Sam at the Lockhart family farm at Mullaghduff. The details showed he was aged eleven and that he could read and write. His elder brother Hugh was not recorded and we believe that he had already gone to Limerick apprenticed to John McBirney in his drapery business.

By the 1911 Census Sam was no longer at Mullaghduff. He had already migrated to New Zealand as an 18 year old. He arrived in Melbourne on the ship "Damascus" on 12 November 1907. Three days later Sam arrived in Sydney on the "Gowanburn" and from there went to New Zealand.

Sam stayed at the Royal Oak Hotel with Sam Gilmer and we believe Sam gave him a job working at the hotel. He was first shown on the Electoral Roll in 1911 and 1914 at Wellington Central. Sam was also the Best Man at Hugh and Daisy's wedding in January 1913 and in 1916 registered with the NZ Army's 1st Division, Wellington Reserves.

Sam married **Effie Reid** at the Kent Terrace Presbyterian Church, Wellington on 30 June 1917.

REPRODUCTION OF REGISTER OF MARRIAGE BY OFFICIATING MINISTER. [S.A. 3. 1. 1. 1.]

1917. Marriage in the District of Wellington 2431

Date, Description of Building, and Locality.	Names and Surnames of the Parties.	Ages.	Rank or Profession.	Condition of Parties: 1. Bachelor or Spinster (or as may be). 2. Widower or Widow. 3. Date of Decree of Nullity of Marriage (where applicable).	Birthplace.	Residence: 1. Present. 2. Usual.	Parents.	
							(1) Father's Name and Surname. (2) His Rank or Profession.	(1) Mother's Name. (2) Her Maiden Surname.
30th June 1917 Kent Terrace Presbyterian Church Wellington	Samuel Lockhart Gilmer	27	Hotel Manager	1. Bachelor 2.	Castleblayney Ireland	1. Wellington 2. Wellington	William Gilmer 2. Farmer	1. Mary Anne Gilmer 2. Lockhart
	Effie Reid	31	✓	1. Spinster 2.	Samson Rangitikei	1. Wellington 2. Wellington	James Reid 2. Manager	1. Agnes Reid 2. Porter

MARRIED, after the delivery to me of the Certificate required by the Marriage Act, 1908, by James Reid, Officiating Minister.

Marriage Certificate Sam & Effie

Effie was the daughter of **James Reid** and **Agnes Porter**. Her parents were married on 18 April 1881 at Foxton and they both lived at Campbelltown,

REID-PORTER.—On the 18th instant, at Foxton, James Reid, & Agnes Porter, both of Campbelltown. [Auckland papers please copy.]

Manawatu Herald 19 April 1881

Reid Ancestry¹

James Reid Jr. was born on 1 July 1856 at St Nicholas, Aberdeen City, Aberdeen, Scotland. James' parents were **James Reid Sr.** born 12 January 1828 at Garmouth Moray, Scotland and **Margaret Souter** born January 1833 at St Nicholas, Aberdeen and died on 31 May 1874 at Old Machar, Aberdeen. James and Margaret married on 16 April 1855.

James' paternal grandparents were **Alexander Reid** (1794 -12 July 1876) and **Ann Logie**, born 1794 – 5 May 1872 at Old Machar, Aberdeen. They were married on 21 May 1821.

James' maternal grandparents were **Robert Souter** (1808-1875) and **Mary Taylor** (1813-1902).

James Jr. was the eldest of four children who also included Alexander born 1858, Mary Ann, born 1860, and Margaret, born 1862 died 1866.

James migrated to New Zealand in 1875 leaving Gravesend, London, on 23 October and arriving on the ship '*Hudson*' at Port Ahuriri, Napier on 11 February 1876. He was 19 years old and he travelled with his brother Alexander (aged 17) and his grandmother Mary Souter (nee Taylor) and cousins Helen (Nellie) Buchan and Robert and James Souter. They were a part of the Vogel assisted migration scheme.



James Reid Jr.



Agnes Porter

Porter Ancestry

Agnes Porter was born on 10 April 1854 at Papatoetoe, Auckland. Her father was William Porter who was born at Nova Scotia, Canada in 1802. Her mother was Janet Rippey who was born at Kilmaurs, Ayr, Scotland on 12 October 1824. William and Janet married on 22 August 1843 at Auckland.

Agnes was the sixth of nine children of William and Janet Porter. Her siblings were:

William 1844 to 1847

Janet 1845 to 1930

Elizabeth 1847 to 1880

Ann 1849 to 1918

Samuel 1851 to 1880

Sarah Mary 1856 to 1945

James 1858 to 1912

Silas 1860 to 1929

¹ Reid & Porter details and photos from Kyle Leota a descendant of Samuel Lockhart Gilmer on ancestry.com.au

After William Porter died on 2 August 1860 Agnes' mother Janet remarried James Curran. They had two daughters **Esther Rebecca** born 1898 and **Margaret** born 1869.

James Reid and Agnes Porter

James Reid's occupation on Effie's Marriage Certificate was shown as a Manager and we believe he worked for a business known as Rich & Co. He lived at Campbelltown a relatively new area for which there had been land sales conducted in April 1879. There was a Reid named as one of the purchasers.² Some twelve months later there was meeting chaired by James Reid to hear a report that funds had been voted for a new school and Master's House.³ A further meeting was held and a school committee appointed and James Reid was elected Secretary and Treasurer. The main purpose was to ensure that the school was quickly built.⁴

In the following February the committee again met and James Reid was again appointed to the committee. A "Soiree" was to be organized to celebrate the opening of the school.⁵ This event was held on 19 March 1881 and a number of (married) ladies together with "*Miss Porter*" organized the function. Being a "Soiree" a number of men were called upon to sing the first being James Reid who sang three songs. The newspaper reported that he sang "*The Wheel of Life a Motto song which nearly brought down the building with applause. It was a very good song which delighted the ladies I have no doubt.*"⁶

James Reid was later involved in 1883 in efforts to establish a Cheese and Bacon Factory. Attempts were made to establish a company and obtain capital for the purpose. Ultimately this received little public support with blame being attributed to tight economic circumstances.

While we recognize this is limited information, these events demonstrate that James was a well respected member of his community and a person willing to donate his time to the pursuit of matters which would be of benefit to them all.

James and Agnes had eight children:

Arthur Gordon. Born 11 November 1881 Campbelltown, Manawatu-Wanganui. Married on 12 November 1912 **Annie Louisa Anderson** (1806 to 19 April 1970) at St Johns, Darlinghurst, New South Wales. Arthur died on 22 May 1967, Devonport Auckland and was buried at Waikumete Cemetery, Auckland.

Frank James. Born 1 June 1883. Married on 28 June 1911 at Sacred Heart Church, Thorndon, to **Maud Mary Marra** (Born 1878 Died 3 November 1956 at Lower Hutt) Frank died in 9 May 1953 at Newtown, Wellington.

² Manawatu Herald 8 April 1879

³ Manawatu Herald 12 March 1880

⁴ Manawatu Herald 27 April 1880

⁵ Manawatu Herald 18 February 1881

⁶ Manawatu Herald 25 March 1881

Effie. Born 21 July 1885 at Carnarvon, Manawatu-Wanganui. Married Samuel Lockhart Gilmer 30 June 1917 at Kent Terrace Presbyterian Church, Wellington. Effie died in 14 September 1963 and was cremated at Karori.

Philip Ernest. Born 16 May 1887. Married **Elsie Florence Smith** (Born 1888. Died 8 March 1957) on 25 March 1914 at St Michael's Surry Hills, New South Wales. Philip died on 23 October 1942 in Wellington. He was cremated at Karori.

Stephen Hope. Born 5 January 1889 at Carnarvon. Married 31 December 1914 to **Christina Maude Asquith** at 100 Hanson St Newtown (Born 1886 Narrabri, New South Wales) Stephen and Christina divorced on 5 February 1930 at Masterton. Stephen died on 1 September 1957.

Ruth. Born 1 May 1890 at Sanson. Married 6 March 1918 to Stanley Rabone (1894 to 1982) at 100 Hanson St, Newtown, Wellington, New Zealand. Ruth died 10 May 1974 at Palmerston North and was cremated at Kelvin Grove.

Grace. Born 17 June 1894. Married 2 March 1915 to **Robert Samuel James** (1892 to 1968) Grace died on 12 January 1969 at Newtown, Wellington.

Matthew Robert. Born 16 November 1899 at Clareville, Wairarapa. Matthew died on 19 September 1971 at Porirua.



Back L to R: Arthur, Ruth & Stan, Grace & Robert
Front right: Matthew Robert



Frank, Effie & Stephen

Samuel and Effie

The occupation shown on Sam's Marriage certificate was "*Hotel Manager*". However by the time his name first appeared in the Post Office Directory his occupation was shown as a Land Agent. Subsequent directories over the years varied with terms such as salesman and Commission Agent but it is clear that Sam's job was that of a real estate agent.

It is also clear that Sam was a tough businessman and there were a number of instances in which the business relationships were stretched to the extent that legal actions were involved.

The first of these was in 1923⁷ when Sam and Henry Haddock took action against a Joseph Talamona who did not defend the action. They recovered 51 Pounds and 4 pounds 15 Shillings and sixpence costs.

A subsequent case in 1925 was of more importance with Sam and his colleagues accused of misrepresentation:

The hearing was concluded before Mr. W. G. Riddell, S.M., in the Magistrate's Court yesterday afternoon, of a claim for £69 9s for alleged misrepresentation in connection with the purchase of a property. The parties were Leonard Mather, grocer's assistant, of Wellington, plaintiff, and the defendants were John P. Rea and Samuel L. Gilmer, settlers, of Wellington, and Neil Gow, land agent, of Wellington.

The plaintiff, who was represented by Mr. W. E. Leicester, alleged fraudulent misrepresentation in connection with the sale of a property at No. 59 Riddler's crescent, Petone. The actual misrepresentation alleged was that the purchaser could not see through the house, as the tenant was hostile; that the house was in the same order and condition as No. 49, through which he was shown; and that the rent paid by the tenant was 30s a week, whereas it was 14s a week.

On behalf of the defendants, Mr. A. B. Sievwright denied that any misrepresentation had taken place. There was a general conspiracy on the part of tenants to refuse inspection of houses by prospective buyers when accompanied by the owners of the houses, or by land agents. Accordingly one tenant had been paid a large sum of money to vacate one of the houses. That house had some minor internal renovations made to the value of £14 10s. All the houses were built of concrete on the same plan, and at the same time. It was explained to prospective buyers, and to the plaintiff among them, that the houses were in the same condition with the exception of the repairs. The house purchased by the plaintiff could be put in the same state of repair as the house inspected, for £14 10s. The defendants denied that any misrepresentation had been made, and claimed that the plaintiff was not entitled to repudiate the contract he had entered into.

After hearing evidence, decision was reserved.

Evening Post 3 April 1925

The Magistrate later ruled in favour of Mather and against Sam and his two colleagues Rea and Gow in the amount of 41 Pounds 6 Shillings as well as costs totaling 12 Pounds 16 Shillings covering Court costs and witness and Solicitor's expenses. This amount was not paid and on 8 May 1925 Mather brought an action against Sam in the Supreme Court for the issue of a Bankruptcy Notice. A notice was issued giving Sam 7 days to pay which he seems to have done.⁸

In 1927 Sam brought an action for 59 Pounds 5 Shillings and 6 Pence. The action was not defended and Sam obtained judgment by default. The interesting point of this case was that it was brought against one of Effie's brothers Stephen Hope Reid. We are not aware of the nature of the debt but the action must have strained the family relationships. In any event the debt was

⁷ Evening Post 2 February 1923

⁸ NZ Archives AAOM17885/13/1298

not paid and in February 1928 Stephen Reid was ordered to repay Sam 65 Pounds 12 Shillings at the rate of 4 Pounds per month.⁹

In 1931 Sam went into the hotel business taking over the Prince of Wales Hotel in Tory Street.¹⁰ This was a relatively small hotel of 10 rooms owned by Mrs. Mary Kavanagh of Island Bay. The license was transferred to Sam on 1 June 1931.

It was not long before Sam experienced problems at the hotel. He was charged with after hours trading and had been fined ten Pounds for each of two events one in July and the second in August. On the third occasion he was brought before the court. The newspaper reported the case:

A system of warning bells operated from buttons under a window ledge outside the Prince of Wales Hotel was revealed by Sub-Inspector Lopdell in the course of his cross-examination of Samuel Lockhart Gilmer, licensee, who was charged at the Magistrate's Court to-day with selling liquor after hours. Gilmer frankly stated that he had been carrying on a regular after-hours trade, and that the bells were there to warn him when the police were coming. His barman, Robert Milne Stewart, at first said that the bells were obsolete and out of use, but afterwards stated that he had sometimes used them if he wanted the side door opened. After convicting Gilmer, the Magistrate, Mr. E. Page, passed severe comment on the way in which the hotel had been conducted, and said that the evidence of the witnesses had been quite unsatisfactory and unconvincing.

After the first charge had been disposed of Gilmer pleaded guilty to an offence of selling liquor after hours on 29th August. On this occasion a sergeant and a constable visited the hotel at 9.33 p.m., and found the licensee behind the bar with eleven men drinking in front. A fine of £10 was also inflicted for this offence, and the Magistrate adjourned the question of cancellation.

Counsel for the defendant, Mr. W. Perry, said that the only excuse he had to put before the Court was that Gilmer had paid "a really staggering price for the hotel," which was not commensurate with the trade. As time went on he found such a huge drop in the hotel takings that he could not meet the mortgages.

Evening Post 2 October 1931

The Magistrate adjourned the question of cancellation of Sam's license for a month. The newspaper report also mentioned one of Sam's employees as Matthew Robert Reid who was Effie's youngest brother.

At the next quarterly meeting of the Wellington Licensing Committee, the committee agreed with Sam to transfer the license from Sam to Kenneth Kennedy.¹¹

In 1932 and 1936 Sam was again the subject of actions to recover a debts. In 1932 John Fearon obtained a judgment by default for 190 Pounds and Pounds 3 Shillings for costs. In

⁹ Evening Post 11 February 1928

¹⁰ Evening Post 5 May 1931

¹¹ Evening Post 7 December 1931

1936 Judgment was obtained against him by the trustees of the estate of James Cattell in the amount of some 537 Pounds and 17 Pounds 12 Shillings for costs. In both cases Sam had not paid the debts and notices were issued demanding payment within seven days and failure to do so would result in the issue of a Bankruptcy Notice. We presume that Sam promptly paid both the debts.¹²



Sam & Effie c1920

Sam and Effie's Family

Sam and Effie had two children:

Mary Josephine. Born 24 September 1917. Married 1944 to John Alder.

Ian Lockhart. Born 3 January 1923. Married in 1948 to **Marie Therese Bayley** (born 17 May 1923, died 8 January 1988). Ian died 20 December 1978.

Ian and Marie had two children **Christine Anne Therese** born 5 January 1951 and **Margaret Helen Veronica** born 10 December 1953.

¹²NZ Archives AAOM 17885/32/2039 and AAOM 17885/2254



1948 Wedding Ian & Marie. Mary Jo & Jack Alder. Effie & Sam



Mary Josephine, Effie & Sam

In 1950 Sam and Effie took a trip to England and we presume also to Ireland which indeed was probably the primary objective of the trip. While most of the Lockharts had long gone, there were still relations there. These were the children of John Hamilton and Mary Dorothy Gilmer, the daughter of James Gilmer and Elizabeth Gamble. Contact would have been maintained with them as one of the family, Andrew Hamilton, had migrated to New Zealand and Lived at Greytown.

Sam and Effie sailed on the ship "*MV Australia Star*" arriving in London on 15 June 1950. They were First Class passengers indicating that Sam was fairly well off. His age was shown as 60

and Effie's as 64. Sam gave his occupation as Financier. There address on arrival was to be the Cumberland Hotel which is near Marble Arch.



Sam & Effie c1960

Effie died at Wellington on 14 September 1963. She was cremated at Karori on 17 September.

Samuels Death Ireland

Sam's Will was made in Wellington and was dated 10 May 1972 only four months before he died at Bangor, County Down, Northern Ireland on 17 September 1972. He was buried in Ireland.

Sam declared in his Will that *"although I have recently resided at Blaney Cottage, 3 Ashley Drive, Bangor, County Down, in Northern Ireland I am domiciled in New Zealand which I regard as my permanent home."*

The affidavit of his death was sworn by **Anna Mary Hamilton**, Spinster of Bangor, County Down, Northern Ireland. Anna was a first cousin of Sam. She was the daughter of Jane Williamson (Lockhart) and George Hamilton who lived at Castleblayney. Jane was a sister of Sam's mother Mary Anne Lockhart.

Sam left a number of legacies:

- Five hundred dollars to **Andrew Hamilton** of West Street Greytown. Andrew was born in 1901 and was the eldest grandson of James Gilmer (eldest son of Hugh Gilmer and Margaret Dorothea Hamilton) and Elizabeth Gamble. His mother Mary Dorothy Gilmer

had married John Hamilton and they later moved to County Wicklow where their five children were all born.



Andrew Hamilton 1901 to 1985

- Five hundred dollars to **Mary Webb** of Lower Hutt. Mary was the adopted daughter of Mary Anne (Lockhart Gilmer) and her second husband William White and hence Sam's step sister. She married John Hall Webb in Wellington on 23 April 1940. Sam was the Best Man at her wedding.
- One Thousand dollars to his son **Ian Lockhart Gilmer**.
- One thousand dollars to his daughter in law **Marie Gilmer**.
- Four hundred dollars to his solicitor **John Galbraith Sclater**.

Sam also left substantial legacies to his two granddaughters, **Christine and Margaret**, the children of Ian and Marie. They both to receive four thousand dollars when they attained the age of twenty five (in 1976 and 1978 respectively).

Sam owned flats at Kelburn Parade Wellington and he left these to his daughter **Mary Josephine Alder**. Her brother Ian was to have all of the contents of Sam's house at 156 Ohiro Road Wellington. As well, after all other amounts, including funeral and testamentary expenses, had been paid he was to receive all of the income from the estate. If this was insufficient to provide "*proper maintenance*" then the capital could be accessed. On Ian's death the income was to be paid to his wife Marie and following her death to their children.