

7.4 Relationship with Samuel Hamilton

Samuel Hamilton was born on 8 January 1857 making him about 5 months younger than Andrew Hamilton. He had migrated to Australia in 1882 and in 1888 married Teresa O'Hare, a Catholic, who he knew from Newtownhamilton. They had lived two doors from the O'Hare house in Dundalk St. They were married in Melbourne.

Sam and Teresa lived at Waterloo near Ballarat and had seven children all born there between 1890 and 1905. Sam was educated to be a teacher but he did not like teaching and did not teach in Australia. His occupation on his Marriage Certificate was shown as Storeman and we believe he worked at the Waterloo General Store. We have no evidence that he owned the store although it is a belief in the family that he did.

Sam's daughter Dora (Anna Dorothea) told her cousin Margaret (Burns)Watt¹ probably during their trip to Ireland in 1926 that Dorothea visited her brother Sam and his family at Waterloo. The timing was when Dora was quite young and must have been between Dora's birth in 1892 and Dorothea's death in 1904. As Dora could remember the event it was likely to have been around 1900.

Dorothea found them living in great poverty. She then went to Ballarat and bought clothes, linen, blankets, cutlery and crockery for them. Dorothea's generosity left a remarkable impression on a very young Dora who never ever forgot her visit.

In the 1900's, after Dorothea's death, John was giving thought to his Will and wrote to his daughter Sarah Jane in Ireland telling her that he was intending to leave all of his Estate to her (and nothing to her brother Sam). We are not aware of the reasons John would have for this. However, Sam was 2 years younger than Sarah Jane and would have been about 4 years old when John left Ireland. He would hardly have remembered his father and John would not really have known his son. John would have been aware of his marriage to a Catholic.

Sarah replied to her father that if he did not share his estate with Sam while he was alive then she would after his death. John would not leave anything to Sam unless he met him and he sent him the money for his fare to visit New Zealand. He arranged for him to be met at the ship by a liveryman but Sam did not meet him and walked to John's place. John was pleased that Sam was a teetotaler and told him of his intentions of leaving all the estate to Sarah Jane and her objections to this. John asked Sam to promise that if he left him a share none of his money would go to the Catholic Church.²

John's Will was finalized and it was dated 11 April 1910.

¹ Gertie Hathaway (nee Watt)

² Gertie Hathaway (nee Watt).