

WILLIAM GILMER ¹

Last Update 16 December 2012

Margaret Dorothea Gilmer died in 1846 and her husband Hugh remarried later the same year. He married Ann Smith of Tullyvin at St Maeldoids Church of Ireland Castleblayney on 5 December. They had two children.

The first was **Margaret Ann** born 2 April 1852 with Hugh obviously giving her the names of both of his wives.

The second child, **William**, was born in 1854 at Mullaghnee, Broomfield. William inherited the family farm in 1876 after the death of his father, Hugh. While not the eldest son he was the eldest of Hugh's living wife.

William visited New Zealand for a time and was considering migrating. It is very clear from Dorothea Hamilton's letter to Ireland in March 1879² that William Gilmer had conveyed the news to her father, John Hamilton, that Dorothea was already in New Zealand. This means that William arrived prior to March 1879 and it was probably earlier as Dorothea did not go to Wellington immediately after her arrival in October 1878.

At home James, the eldest of William's half brothers, took over the family farm in William's absence.³ His own farm was very close by at Annadrummond, just across the Dundalk Road from Annalittin, and he could easily have managed both farms.

William's arrival in New Zealand was timely. The expansion of the Gilmer Brothers business to Wellington had commenced with purchases of the Duke of Edinburgh and Empire Hotels in 1878. No doubt William would have been immediately put to work at the Duke of Edinburgh with Sam Gilmer. William and Sam had been close and Sam had tried to influence him to migrate.

In mid 1881 Gilmer Brothers bought the Royal Oak Hotel. At the time each of the five members of the partnership was occupied running a hotel. The license of the Royal Oak was therefore transferred to William. This was despite his very young age of 27 and limited experience. It seems that William was another family member being trained in the hotel trade and this would allow Sam to stay close by at the Duke of Edinburgh and Hamilton to remain at Greymouth. Despite the expansion in the number of hotels all of them were under the management of a family member.

In February 1882 the Gilmer Brothers partnership was dissolved and Sam Gilmer obtained ownership of the Royal Oak, the Gilmer Hotel at Greymouth as well as the Gilmer Hotel at Ahaura. With Hamilton moving to Wellington and taking over the Duke of Edinburgh this left Sam free to run the Royal Oak.

¹ Thanks to David Gilmer and Anne Scott for contributing details to this story and since the initial draft also Kyle Leota a great grandson of Samuel Lockhart. Kyle's family trees can be found on ancestry.com.au

² http://harfordenterprises.com.au/persistent/catalogue_files/products/8.2.2introduction.pdf

³ Annual Revision Books, Valuation Office Dublin

The usual quarterly meeting of the Licensing Commissioners was held at noon to-day, and was attended by Messrs. E. Shaw, R.M., (chairman) J. G. Holdsworth and J. Moore. The following transfers were granted:—Ann Elizabeth Osgood to Thomas Unwin, Wellington Hotel (Mr. Gully for the applicant); Horace Ames to Walter Bishop, Newtown Hotel; John Robinson to William George Emeny, Army and Navy Hotel (Mr. Gully for the applicant); W. J. Seecombe to Alfred Boonstra, Karori Hotel; Robert R. Suisted to Caroline Hellen, Pahautanui Hotel (Mr. Cave for applicant); W. G. Emeny to William Gilmer, Royal Oak Hotel (Mr. Gordon Allen for applicant); W. H. McClelland to Horace Ames, Panama Hotel. There was no other business.

Evening Post 6 September 1881

William moved to Greymouth and ran the Gilmer hotel there. This was not formally recognized until mid 1883.

TRANSFERS.

The license of Gilmer's hotel was transferred from Samuel Gilmer to William Gilmer, no objection being offered.

Grey River Argus 9 June 1883

William's health was a problem and he returned to Ireland in 1885. While in New Zealand he sponsored the migration of his half brother James' children, Robert Ross and Abigail Gilmer. He paid 7 Pounds towards the fare enabling them to make the voyage.⁴ They arrived in Auckland on the SS Ionic on 20 January 1885.

Gilmer's Hotel, it is generally understood, is open for sale privately at present, and in default of terms being come to in that way will shortly be placed in the open market. Some little time ago Greymouth people will remember that Mr William Gilmer left here for a trip to the Home country, owing partly to ill-health, and partly to attend to some private business requiring his presence. This left Mr

Grey River Argus 20 May 1885

⁴ Nomination dated 6 February 1884 held at IM12, No.656 National Archives Wellington

On his return to Ireland William married Mary Anne Lockhart in 11 May 1886⁵ at Clarkesbridge Presbyterian Church. This church is in Cortamlat Road, Altnamackan, The witnesses were John W. Lockhart and Lizzie Speers.

At this time he was considering leaving Ireland because he was concerned about the conditions both nationally and locally. In a letter to Robert at Nelson, dated 11 September 1886, he complained

"I wish you would try to come home and I would return with you. Ireland is a very miserable place. We have not had more than 2 or 3 days at once all this summer. Harvest is ripe and no dry weather to cut it. The potato crop is a failure. Things are looking very bad indeed.

If I had only middling health I would not stop long in Ireland although I've had fair health lately. If I thought my wife could get a situation as a teacher I would very soon leave here."

For whatever reason, William stayed in Ireland. We expect that Mary Anne had a teaching role there and she also had her parents close by at Mulladuff.

The Lockhart Family

Mary Anne Lockhart was the eldest child of Samuel and Sarah Jane Gamble's ten children. Samuel was born on 22 June 1822 we presume at Mulladuff. Sarah Jane's father David Gamble was also a landholder at Mulladuff and we believe she was born there on 13 August 1827. They were married on 12 April 1855 at Newtownhamilton (the name of the Parish of which Mulladuff is a part.)

A brief note from Mary Anne's eldest son Hugh indicated there were ten children in the family. We have now identified all of them including all⁶ their birth years. The children were:

1. Mary Anne born 1856. Married William Gilmer on 11 May 1886 at Clarkesbridge Presbyterian Church. Mary Anne also married again after William's death. Her second husband was William White born about 1872. They were married on 17 August 1914 at St Anne's Church of Ireland, Belfast. William died at Porirua, Wellington on 2 July 1924 and is buried at Karori. Mary Anne died 8 April 1940 at Wellington, New Zealand and is buried at Karori Cemetery with William in Public 2, 354W.
2. Agnes born 1858. Agnes died at Belfast on 29 September 1921. Agnes married Robert Wallace Harrison at Clarkesbridge Presbyterian Church on 1 November 1882.
They had nine Harrison children:
Mary Wallace born 1883

⁵ Civil Registrations 1886 Vol 1 Page 507

⁶ Thanks to Kyle Leota's Gilmer FamilyTree on Ancestry.com.au. Kyle is a great grandson of Samuel Lockhart Gilmer

William George born 1885
 James Wallace born 1886
 John Donaldson Lockhart born 1889. Died 1889.
 Jane born 1890
 Agnes Sarah born 1892
 Anna born 1894
 Rubina Wallace born 1895
 Henrietta Williamson born 1896

Mary, James & Jane went to Canada in 1916 and lived at Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Later Agnes, Anna and Henrietta went to Canada.

3. David Gamble born 1860. David went to New York on 1 July 1887.
4. Jane Williamson born 1861. Jane was named as an executor of her father's estate. Jane married twice. Her first husband was on 24 May 1883 to John James Harrison at Clarksbridge Presbyterian Church. John died in 1885.

In 1887 Jane married George Hamilton a merchant with a shop at Market Square, Castleblayney. He also had farms at Drumcrew and Bree both very close to the town. George died on 23 December 1904 leaving an estate valued at 4,533 Pounds.

They had three Hamilton children:
 James Eastwood Lockhart born 1889
 Jane Elizabeth born 1890
 Anna Mary born 1894

5. John Donaldson born 1862. Died 15 February 1890. Buried Freeduff Presbyterian church Cemetery, Cullyhanna.
6. Samuel born about 1864. Married Eliza Spears. At the 1911 census they had three children, Mary Etta born 1890. Jane Eliza born 1894. Samuel Thomas born 1895. Sam made a trip to New York in 1889. He died in 1914 at Newtownards, Co. Down.
7. James Eastwood born 8 February 1866. Date of death not known. Buried Freeduff Presbyterian church Cemetery, Cullyhanna.
8. Albert Thomas born 8 June 1868. Died 1890. Buried Freeduff Presbyterian church Cemetery, Cullyhanna.
9. William Anderson born 29 December 1869. Died 1890. Buried Freeduff Presbyterian church Cemetery, Cullyhanna.

10. Sarah Jane born 22 January 1877. Died 1880.

We are aware that there were three children who died of Tuberculosis and one of a gunshot wound.

Samuel Lockhart's Land

We believe Samuel Lockhart was born in Mullaghduff. His father John had a farm in the Townland when land valuations were made there in 1830.⁷ His farm was a little over 23 acres. There was also a David Lockhart there at the same time with a farm of 8 acres. He was probably John's brother. There was no Gamble shown in Mullaghduff in 1830. However, there was a David Gamwell with 14 acres. This name could very well have later developed into Gamble or may have been an error of poor pronunciation. John and David also had a joint holding of a little more than 10 acres at nearby **Altnamighane** in 1830. By the 1864 Griffith Valuation this Townland was named Altnamackin.

By 1864⁸ Griffith Valuation shows Samuel Lockhart with three parcels of land at **Mullaghduff** totaling a little over 32 acres. One of these parcels contained the National School and the record shows that he was a teacher. His landlord was Walter McG. Bond. Also in Mullaghduff were Alexander Lockhart with 19 acres and David Lockhart with 32 acres with their properties adjoining. We presume they were Samuel's brothers but David may have been an uncle who also had the land shown in the 1830 Tithe Applotment Books.

Also shown at Mullaghduff in 1864 was a David Gamble who was Sarah Jane's father. He had a parcel of 23 acres.

Samuel also had a small parcel of land of 3 acres in the adjoining Townland of **Kiltybane** (or Lisleitrim). His landlord there was James Eastwood of Castletown Dundalk after whom he obviously named one of his boys.

Samuel also had land in a third townland named **Altnamackan**. This townland was a few kilometres north and straddled the Blaney Road between Castleblayney and Newtownhamilton. Samuel's land was in the southern end of the townland and was almost 17 acres. It adjoined a further 12 acres held by David Lockhart. In total Samuel held about 52 acres across the three townlands.

A Family of School Teachers

As indicated above Samuel was not just a farmer. He was well educated and taught at the National School. While he was there in 1864 he probably started teaching there long before

⁷ Tithe Applotment Books

⁸ Griffith Valuation

then. His wife Sarah Jane was also a school teacher but with a family of ten children her time for teaching would have been very limited.

Mary Anne was also a teacher and we have a note by her son Hugh that indicates that she taught at the school for twenty years. We have also been told that Mary Anne was the Head Mistress at a school in London but we have not been able to confirm the time this might have been or the school.



Mulladuff School

William and Mary Anne's Family

William and Mary Anne had four Gilmer children:

Hugh George born 22 April 1887, christened 29 April 1887 at Church of Ireland, Broomfield

Sarah Jane Lockhart born 1 July 1888, Christened 29 November 1888, at Church of Ireland Broomfield. Sarah Jane died 14 May 1890 at Broomfield.⁹

Samuel Lockhart born 24 April 1889

William born **26 February 1890**. William's birth year was identified from the 1901 and 1911 Census. These documents also contained the comment "*Imbecile*". Different expressions were used in those times and it is apparent that he was handicapped. **He died at Mulladuff in 1914 at the age of 23.**

Mary Anne lost her husband William in 1891. It was very clear from the letters between him and Sam and Robert Gilmer in New Zealand that his health was never good. He died at the very young age of 37 on 26 February 1891. He was buried at St Maeldoid's Castleblayney on 28 February.

⁹ Birthday Book J. D. Lockhart

William's Will

William left an estate valued at L266/2/6. His Will was dated 8 November 1890 and he appointed his wife Mary as sole Executrix. William left his Mullaghanee farm and all stock and chattels to Mary Anne. However, he covered the contingency of her possibly remarrying.

In the event that she remarried his brother in law George Hamilton of Market Square, Castleblayney was to take the farm on trust. George was married to Mary Anne's sister, Jane Williamson (nee Lockhart). George was also instructed to see that the children were all properly educated with these expenses paid from "*the produce of the farm.*"

If Mary Anne did not remarry the farm was to be hers during her lifetime. She was then responsible for the education of the children. At her death the farm was to pass to the eldest son Hugh but if he had already died it was to pass to the second son Samuel Lockhart (Gilmer).

Mary was also left William's gold watch and chain which she was to give to Hugh when he reached twenty one. If he were die prior to this age Mary Anne was to give the watch and chain to Samuel when he reached twenty one.

William appointed Samuel and Robert Gilmer in New Zealand as guardians of his children.

Mary Anne was appointed sole Executrix and should she die the role was to be undertaken by his brother in law George Hamilton.

The Gilmer Farm after William

The Gilmer farm at Mullaghnee passed to William's widow Mary Anne.¹⁰ She was about 35 years old with three children the youngest barely a year old. We believe that she returned to her mother at Mulladuff. This would have given her support for her young family and also offered the opportunity for her to again teach at the Mulladuff school. She also would have had an income from renting the Mullaghanee farm. While there is a scarcity of records we know that in the 1901 Census (and 1911) she gave her occupation as a School Teacher indicating that she was teaching again. In 1901 her eldest son Hugh was not recorded. He would have been 14 and may well have left home. These census records also show that Mary Anne still held the Mullaghnee farm. In 1901 it was rented to Patrick Duffy and in 1911 to John McNally.

The Hope Estate Rental Rolls show that in 1920 the lessee was Hugh Gilmore. Hugh had long since migrated to New Zealand but as indicated by the receipt below Hugh may have been purchasing the land under the legislation of 1896. This law facilitated the purchase of land by

¹⁰ Annual Revisions Books

the tenant. Funds were advanced by the government for the purchase and the rental was replaced by interest payments and progressive reduction of the outstanding principal.

Irish Land Act, 1903. **The Irish Land Commission.** Number H 1145 / 123.

Purchase Money £ 174.

LAND PURCHASE ACCOUNT. No. 2. County **MONAGHAN**

Landlords Interest in lieu of Rent, from the date of the Purchase Agreement to the date of the Advance, payable pursuant to Sec. 35 of the Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1896.

Estate FCFF 7109 Lands Mullagharee **D**

Tenant Mary A. Gilmer

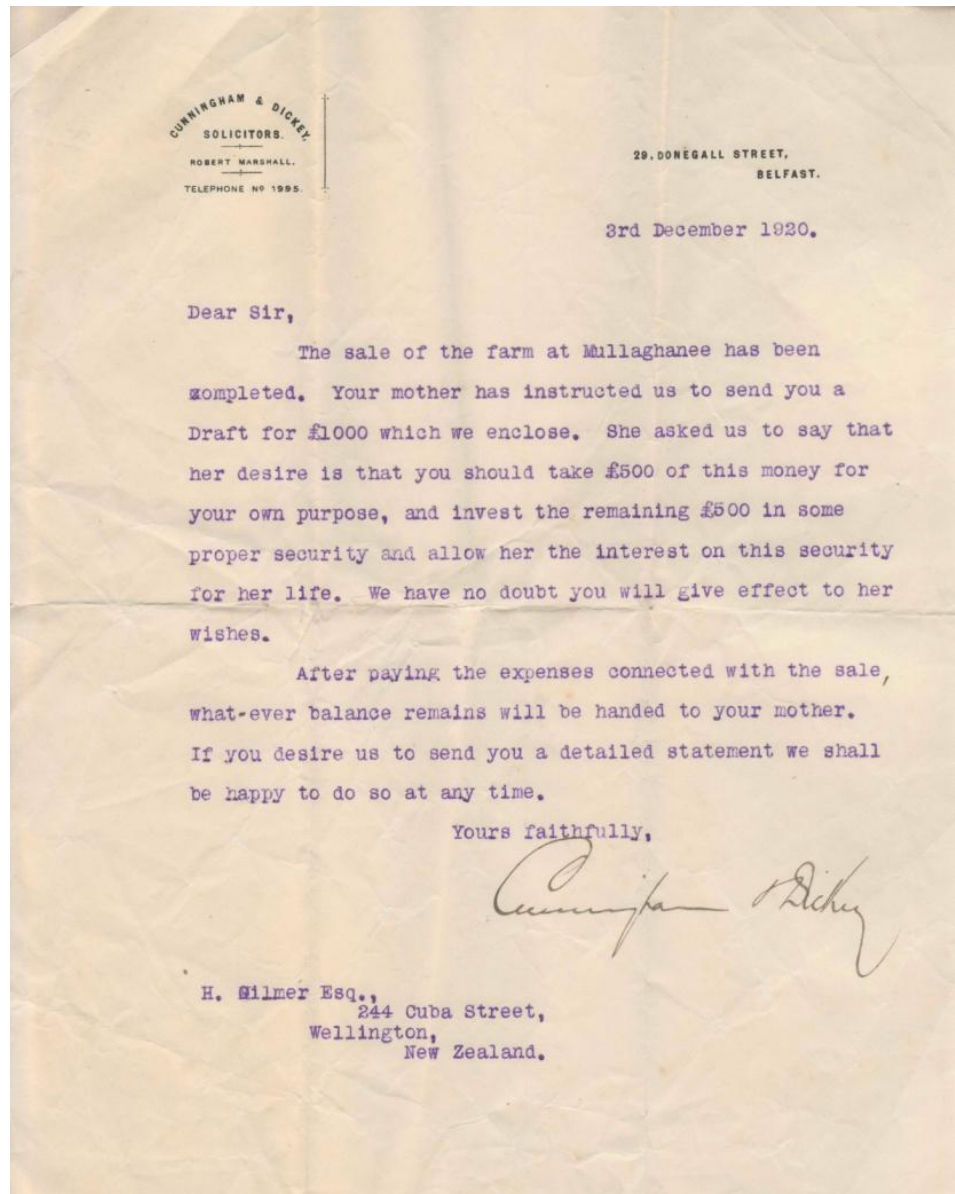
Half-yearly Interest at 3 3/4 per cent. £

3	5	3
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The Bank of Ireland will receive on or before, but not after the 14th May and the 14th November in each year, the Interest due as stated above.
The amount, together with this Receivable Order, may be lodged in any Bank for advice to the Bank of Ireland.
JOHN H. FRANKS, Secretary, 21 Upper Merrion Street, Dublin.

Interest to 1st May, 1909.	Interest to 1st Nov., 1909.	Interest to 1st May, 1910.
[Stamp] MAY 15 1909 IRISH LAND COMMISSION	Paid DEC 15 1909 IRISH LAND COMMISSION	
Interest to 1st Nov., 1910.	Interest to 1st May, 1911.	Interest to 1st Nov., 1911.
<i>Cancelled as used in New R.O. name of Hugh Gilmer</i>		

The farm was sold in 1920 with the purchaser being Edward Coleman. The farm is still in the Coleman family today, owned by Peter Coleman.



Solicitor's Letter to Hugh

Samuel Lockhart's Will

Samuel Lockhart died on 19 July 1900 and he was buried at the Creggan Presbyterian Church at Cullyhanna. He left an estate valued at 522 Pounds. His executor's were his wife and his daughters Mary Anne Gilmer and Jane Williamson Hamilton.

He had an assurance policy and left the proceeds as follows:

30 Pounds each to his wife Sarah Jane and to two of his daughters Mary Anne Gilmer and Agnes Harrison. 10 Pounds to his sister in law Eliza Gilmer (James' wife)

From the balance of seventy pounds:

- 5 Pounds was donated to the Presbyterian Orphan Society,

- Payment of his funeral expenses
- Monuments in Creggan Presbyterian Church yard;
 - a. One placed "*between the remains of sons John D and Albert T with their names inscribed on it*"
 - b. The other "*at my remains*"
 He also allowed for his son William Anderson's name to be engraved on the monument to his son James Eastwood and for "*a humble paling fence around our graves*"
- The remainder was to pay all his liabilities

Samuel bequeathed the Home farm (Mulladuff) to his wife along with all chattels and equipment "*during her life*" and then to Mary Anne Gilmer "*during her life*" and then it was to pass to his grandson Samuel Lockhart Gilmer (Sam was only 11 years old at this stage.). The farm was 32 Statute acres.

He left his farm at Kiltybane of seven Statute acres to Mary Anne Gilmer. It was partly under water and included half the island in the Lough (Lisleitrim).

The farm at Altnamackan consisting of 18 acres was bequeathed to his daughter Jane Williamson Hamilton and two years later she was to pay from the farm 25 Pounds to his daughter Agnes Harrison.

He left the farm held by the late David Gamble to Samuel Lockhart (Jr.) who was Samuel's son and David Gamble's grandson. This farm consisted of 23 acres.

Samuel made a Codicil to the Will to allow for two payments to his son Samuel Lockhart one year after his death, one by Mary Anne for 40 Pounds from the Kiltybane land and the other from Jane Williamson of 30 Pounds from the Altnamackin farm. There were some other small endowments.

Mary Anne marries William White

The 1911 Census showed that a William White was employed on the Mulladuff farm as a "*farm servant.*" His age was given as 38. In 1914 Alfie Hamilton, son of Mary Dorothy (nee Gilmer) and a grandson of James & Elizabeth Gilmer (nee Gamble) was living with the Lockharts at Mulladuff. He was about 10 years old at the time. During this period Sarah Jane organized the secret wedding of Mary Anne and William White. Sarah Jane died (1915) and Sam Lockhart (son) visited the house and found out about the marriage. At the funeral there were a number of people not speaking to each other.¹¹

The marriage took place on 17 August 1914 at St Anne's Church of Ireland Belfast. The witnesses were Robert Gamble and Margaret Stevenson White.

¹¹ Charmian's Diary from her 1960 Visit to Ireland.

Sale of Mulladuff Land

We believe that Mary Anne's son William died in 1917 but this has not yet been confirmed. With the death of Sarah Jane in 1915, the Mulladuff farm was then owned by Mary Anne and in 1919 she decided to put it up for sale.

**TOWNLAND OF MULLAGHDUFF,
COUNTY ARMAGH.**

VALUABLE FARM

For Sale by Public Auction on the Premises, on
FRIDAY, 31ST OCT. 1919
AT TWELVE O'CLOCK.

ALL THAT VALUABLE FARM, adjoining the County Road, situated five miles from Castleblaney, same from Newtownhamilton and three miles from Crossmaylen, the property of Mrs. Mary A. White, formerly of the late Mr. Samuel Lockhart.

Farm contains 32 Statute Acres, or thereabouts, about 8 Acres well laid down with Manures, ploughed out of lea, ready for flax next year. Two good flax pits.

There are about 9 Acres or thereabouts of Grass Seed for next year.

FARM HOUSE, Two storey, suitable to farm, and excellent offices, Barn loft 36 x 18 feet, Stable 3 Stalls, Byre 10 Cows, Calf Houses, Piggeries, Loose Box, Large Car House.

Two Storey Shop on Farm, 40 perches from Dwelling, at Cross Roads without Offices, let on a weekly Tenancy.

Also a large Barn near River with additions, would make excellent Mill. Plentiful supply of Water at all times and two Spring Wells, Excellent Fences.

Threshing and Churing Machines will be sold to purchaser at a valuation. Farm held in fee simple subject to terminable annuity to Irish Land Commission of £12. 3s. Od.

For title and Conditions of Sale Apply to—

CUNNINGHAM & DICKEY,
SOLICITORS, 29 DONEGALL STREET, BELFAST.

ABRAHAM NEILL & CO.
AUCTIONEERS, 8 BERRY STREET, BELFAST.

R. Nicholl & Co., Belfast

Notice for Auction of Mullaghduff Farm 31 October 1919

After the sale of the farm Mary Anne and William moved to Belfast. A little before this a niece of William died giving birth to a daughter on 12 October 1919. The child's parents were Charles Spence Summers Martin and Elizabeth Jane nee "Whyte" (See copy of Birth Certificate below.)

The child lived and was given the name of Mary Anna Lockhart after Mary Anne who had been very good to the child's mother. The certificate shows that the full name was added a month later on 13 November.

BIRTHS Registered in the District of <i>Belfast</i> <i>Ulster</i> in the Union of <i>Belfast</i> in the County of <i>Down</i>										
No.	Date and Place of Birth	Name (if any)	Sex	Name and Residence and Dwelling (name of Father)	Name and Residence and Dwelling (name of Mother)	Name of Professor of Father	Signature, Qualification, and Residence of Informant	When registered	Signature of Registrar	Registration Name, if added after Registration of Birth, and Date
536	<i>1919</i> <i>Twelfth</i> <i>October</i> <i>65</i> <i>Eglinton</i> <i>St</i>	<i>Mary</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>Charles Glynn</i> <i>Spencer</i> <i>Summer</i> <i>Martin</i> <i>65</i> <i>Eglinton</i> <i>St</i>	<i>James</i> <i>Martin</i> <i>65</i> <i>White</i> <i>Martin</i> <i>65</i> <i>Eglinton</i> <i>St</i>	<i>Charles</i> <i>Father</i>	<i>Charles</i> <i>Father</i>	<i>Twelfth</i> <i>October</i> <i>1919</i>	<i>Mary</i> <i>Anna</i> <i>Lockhart</i> <i>(on form</i> <i>in addition</i> <i>same)</i> <i>Thirteenth</i> <i>November</i> <i>1919</i>	

Birth Certificate Mary Anna Lockhart Martin

Mary Anne and William proceeded to adopt the child and they brought her up as their own. By this time her two sons, Hugh and Sam had already migrated to New Zealand and both were married there. It was not a hard decision to also migrate to New Zealand. On 31 August 1922 Mary and William White and their adopted two year old daughter sailed for New Zealand from Southampton aboard the "Ruahine". They arrived in Wellington on 20 October with their child turning three on the voyage.

Strangely, just prior to their arrival the following advertisement was placed in the Evening Post. The address shown was Hugh's and it appears that she had asked him to place it. The advertisement appeared only once.

WANTED TO BUY.

SMALL FARM WANTED.

FARM, with good Residence of 4 or 5 rooms, level, close city, Hutt Valley preferred.

Lowest cash price and particulars to

M. A. WHITE,
244, Cuba street.

Evening Post 14 October 1922



1924 Age 5



1927 Age 8



1931 Age 12

Mary Anna Lockhart White

Mary Anne's adopted daughter grew up in Wellington. By the time she was about 14 her Mary Anne had become bedridden and Mary Anna left school and looked after her.

WEBB—WHITE.

The engagement is announced of Mary Anna Lockhart, only daughter of Mrs. M. A. White, of Wellington South, to John Hall, youngest son of Mr. Leonard and the late Mrs. Webb, Wellington.

Evening Post 11 November 1939

Unfortunately, Mary Anne died on 6 April 1940 before her daughter was married. She was buried at Karori Cemetery.

WHITE.—At her residence, 74 Owen Street, Marianne Lockhart White, beloved mother of Hugh and Samuel Gilmer and Mary Anna Lockhart White; aged 84. Private interment.

Death Notice Evening Post 6 April 1940

WHITE.—The Funeral of the late Maryanne White, of 74 Owen Street, will leave the Chapel of E. Morris, Jun., Ltd., 25 Kent Terrace, on Monday, April 8, 1940, at the conclusion of service, which will commence at 10.30 a.m., for the Cemetery, Karori. Private interment, E. Morris, Jun., Ltd., Funeral Directors, 25 Kent Terrace, Wellington.

Funeral Notice Evening Post 6 April 1940

Mary and John Hall Webb were married on 23 April. They were both members of the Salvation Army and Samuel Lockhart Gilmer was a Groomsman.



Mary Anna's Wedding



Mary Anne Lockhart (Gilmer) White, 17 March 1932



Gilmer Farm House Mullaghnee 2009