



URL: www.natstand.org.uk/pdf/HamiltonJB000.pdf
Root person: Hamilton, John Beamish (1818 – 1876)
Description: Family document
Creation date: 2019 August 9
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Notes:

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About Natstand family documents:

A Natstand family document is intended to provide background information concerning the family of a deceased naturalist. It is hoped that such information will form a framework which will help interpret their surviving correspondence, specimens and records. In some cases it will also give an insight into the influences on their early lives and the family constraints within which they worked and collected. We have found that published family data concerning individuals rarely contain justification for dates and relationships and not infrequently contain errors which are then perpetuated. The emphasis in Natstand family documents will be on providing references to primary sources, whenever possible, which will be backed-up with transcriptions.

Although a Natstand biography page will always carry a link to a family document, in many cases these documents will be presented without any further biographical material. We anticipate that this will occur if the person is particularly well known or is someone we are actively researching or have only a peripheral interest in.

The following conventions are used:

Any persons in the family tree with known natural history associations will be indicated in red type. Any relationships will be to the root naturalist unless otherwise stated.

Dates are presented Year – Month – Day

e.g. **1820 March 9** or **1820.3.9**
1820 March or **1820.3**

Dates will be shown in bold type if a reliable reference is presented in the document. In cases where an exact year cannot be given (e.g. it is derived from an age at death), the date will be presented in normal type and preceded with "c" – e.g. c1798. There are some cases where a date is available from a secondary source only (e.g. a published obituary), in these cases it will be presented in italics – e.g. *1823.7.21*

Data sources:

Census data have been used, whenever possible, to confirm relationships; they are not considered a reliable source of data concerning age. Contemporary newspaper family notices are considered as reliable sources of relationships and dates; reports and obituaries are treated more cautiously. Parish records generally provide a reliable source of data and digitised images have been used whenever possible. Any difficulties with transcription will be made clear. In some cases only transcripts have been available; errors here are usually confined to spelling. The most important source of this material is the International Genealogical Index compiled by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Utah. National Civil Registration Indexes are considered reliable, as are probate records.

*Richard Middleton
James Robert Middleton*

John Beamish Hamilton of Drogheda

John Beamish Hamilton (1818 – 1876) of Drogheda is known as a botanist from two records attributed to him in Moore & More's *Cybele Hibernica* 1866 (to which he also subscribed). His name also appears, albeit in a slightly confusing manner, in the list of prize winners of the Royal Horticultural Society's 1864 Botanical Competition. In the published list of medal awards a misplaced comma identifies him as John Beamish of Hamilton, Drogheda, an error later repeated by Kent and Allen (1984). The confusion over his identity is further compounded by gaps in the Irish public records and a nephew of the same name.

John Beamish Hamilton was the seventh child and third son of Wakefield Hamilton and Mary Good Beamish. He was born in Drogheda, on the border of Louth and Meath, Ireland, on 13 January 1818. His father ran the "preparatory classical, English and mercantile" Mount Pleasant Academy from their home, a large house adjoining St Peter's church-yard. A further brother, Henry was born two years later followed by another sister, Mary Martha who died as a young child, in late 1821. His mother died in 1825 and his father in 1828 leaving sister Jane Mayhew Hamilton, who was not yet 18, as the eldest of his surviving siblings.

The earliest evidence for his interest in plants may be provided by a notice for the first flower show of the Drogheda Horticultural Society in April 1843. A notice in the *Drogheda Conservative Journal* gives J. B. Hamilton as the Hon. Sec.

In late 1840 J B Hamilton purchased the bookselling and stationary business of Charles F Collins at 17 Laurences-street, Drogheda. His early 1841 address of 1 Lawrence-street was, by later 1841, the premises of R & J Greer, account book manufacturers, bookbinders and stationers. John operated from premises in (17) Laurences-street through the 1840s.

Soon after J B Hamilton's new business commenced, he was joined by his young brother Henry in a partnership of J. B. & H. Hamilton. In January 1843 they were listed as agents for the London, Edinburgh and Dublin guaranteed mutual and proprietary life assurance company. Advertising material for the bookselling business first starts to appear in the local press by July 1843 and from 1845 J. B. & H. Hamilton of Drogheda (and Messrs. Wm. Curry jun and Co., Dublin) were distributing the Dublin University Magazine, advertisements for which appeared in the July Drogheda Conservative Journal. In April 1848 the partnership between the brothers was dissolved by mutual consent. It is not clear whether this was just an adjustment of the arrangement between the brothers as a prelude to J B Hamilton moving into watchmaking and jewellery retail, but J B Hamilton's name ceases to be associated with the book side of the business. In October 1850 J B Hamilton is advertising the sale of Royal Patent Geissen Blue from his premises in Laurence-street.

In 1844 brother Henry Hamilton married Marianne Thomas Chater, the daughter of the late Rev James Chater. James Chater was an early Baptist missionary to India and Ceylon, where he fathered a large family with his wife Ann, a niece of Rev John Thomas, the founder of the Baptist Mission to the East. Marianne and her siblings had returned to Britain in 1820 in a fraught voyage during which her mother had died on St Helena after giving birth to twins at sea. Henry and Marianne had at least 8 children over the next 16 years, although several died early.

In late 1852 Hamilton & Co. moved to 106 West-street, vacated when Thomas North moved his watchmaking, jewellery and electro-plating business to 49 Grafton-street, Dublin. In 1853 The firm of Hamilton & Co advertised in the *Northern Whig* for a watchmaking assistant. This seems to be the point at which the business was expanded from bookselling and stationery to include jewellery, clocks and watches.

Henry Hamilton died in 1871 and it is clear that J B Hamilton's had promised to provide for his brother Henry's remaining son, another John Beamish Hamilton now sixteen years old, and his nieces, of whom at least three were alive. It is interesting to note that Henry's widow, Marianne, receives little mention, despite living until 1881.

In August 1875 John offered all of his stock at discounted prices and on 1 October 1875 Hamilton & Co's business at 106 West-street was sold to Albert & Co. The premises seem to have been little changed after their sale and Stratten & Stratten's 1892 volume *Dublin, Cork, and South Ireland: A literary, commercial and social review* later described them as a "large double-fronted shop with the watch and jewellery business conducted from one side and the books and stationery from the other". It seems that ill-health had prompted the sale as evidenced by his will, written only six weeks earlier, which he prefaces "... feeling my health failing me ...". In this document he bequeaths all of his estate to his nephew, and namesake, with the proviso that if the young John Beamish Hamilton should predecease him it should be divided among his brother Henry's surviving daughters.

Although it is not currently possible to exclude his nephew John Beamish Hamilton (1855 – 1916) from being a very precocious medal winner in the Horticultural Society's 1864 competition but on the balance of probability it seems that the elder J B Hamilton was the botanist in question. The young John qualified as an apothecary just months before the death of his uncle, setting up a business in West-street, Drogheda, later in the same year. He qualified as a L.R.C.S Edinburgh in 1882 and moved to Wales around 1885, spending the remaining 30 years of his life in the country, mainly in Tenby, but does not appear to have been involved in any botanical activities there.

Pedigree

Wakefield Hamilton (c1780 – **1828**) Drogheda, printer – teacher ←←← *father*
 *** married **Mary Good Beamish** (c1784 - **1825**) in 1805 co Cork

sister **Mary Ackland Hamilton (1807.9.17 - 1812)**

sister **Catherine Mayhew Beamish Hamilton (1809.10.11 - 1810)**

sister **Jane Mayhew Hamilton (1810.8.17 -)**
 *** married **Surgeon Neville** (- before 1864) on **1840.4.20**

brother **Edward Ackland Hamilton MD (1812.3.21- 1853.12.11)**
 *** married **Ellen Letitia Norman** (c1816 - **1896.9.5**) on **1841.4.13**

brother **Wakefield Hamilton (1814.5.17 – 1837.12.26)**

sister **Elizabeth Beamish Hamilton (1816.5.11 - ?)**

brother **¹John Beamish Hamilton (1818.1.13 - 1876.5.24)**

Unmarried

brother **Henry Meyhew Hamilton (1820.2.4 - 1871.5.18)**
 *** married **Marianne Thomas Chater (1819.5.9 – 1881.1.19)** in **1844.11.7**

nephew **Wakefield Hamilton (1845.8.19 – 1867.6.11)**

suspicious gap ...

nephew **Henry Arthur Hamilton (1851 - 1853)**

nephew **Edward Ackland Hamilton (1853)**

nephew **John Beamish Hamilton MD (1855 – 1916.3.8)**
 *** married **Emily Kate Smith (1859.4.15 – 1930.8.9)** on **1885.3.25**

g-nephew **Harry Wakefield St George Hamilton (1892 -)**

niece **Mary Good Beamish Hamilton (1856 - ?)**

niece **Jane Neville Hamilton (1857 – 1896.12.19)** *Unmarried*

niece **²Lily Chater Hamilton (1859 – after 1924)** *Unmarried*

niece **Sarah Chater Hamilton (1860 - 1861)**

sister **Mary Martha Hamilton (1821.11.25 - 1823)**

Sources:

An index to the registers of St Peter's, Drogheda (1702 – 1900) is available online from the Church of Ireland website at –

<https://www.ireland.anglican.org/about/rcb-library/online-parish-records/st-peters-drogheda-registers-1702-1900>

1807 September 27: Baptisms - St Peter's Church of Ireland, Drogheda (transcript)
Baptism of Mary Ackland Hamilton, daughter of Wakefield and Mary Hamilton; born 1807 September 17.

1809 October 22: Baptisms - St Peter's Church of Ireland, Drogheda (transcript)
Baptism of Catherine Meyhew Beamish Hamilton, daughter of Wakefield and Mary Good Hamilton; born 1809 October 11.

1810 February 19: Burials - St Peter's Church of Ireland, Drogheda (transcript)
Burial of Catherine Mayhew Bea[mish] Hamilton, age 4 months.

1810 August 26: Baptisms - St Peter's Church of Ireland, Drogheda (transcript)
Baptism of Jane Meyhew Hambleton[sic], daughter of Wakefield and Mary Hambleton; born 1810 August 17.

1812 March 19: Burials - St Peter's Church of Ireland, Drogheda (transcript)
Burial of Mary Ackland Hamilton, age 4.

1812 April 5: Baptisms - St Peter's Church of Ireland, Drogheda (transcript)
Baptism of Edward Ackland Hamilton, son of Wakefield and Mary Good Hamilton; born 1812 March 21.

1814 May 26: Baptisms - St Peter's Church of Ireland, Drogheda (transcript)
Birth of Wakefield Hamilton, son of Wakefield and Mary Good Hamilton; born 1814 May 17.

1815 January 9: *Saunders's Newsletter
PREPARATORY CLASSICAL, ENGLISH, AND MERCANTILE ACADEMY, DROGHEDA
Mr WAKEFIELD HAMILTON, can accommodate a few junior boys as boarders. Long experience, and the improvement of his pupils, in various departments of their education, are, he trusts, the best recommendations to an enlightened public. ...

1816 May 23: Baptisms - St Peter's Church of Ireland, Drogheda (transcript)
Baptism of Elizabeth Beamish Hamilton, daughter of Wakefield and Mary Good Hamilton; born 1816 May 11.

1818 January 23: Baptisms - St Peter's Church of Ireland, Drogheda (transcript)
Baptism of John Hamilton, son of Wakefield and Mary Good Hamilton; born 1818 January 13.

1820 February 20: Baptisms - St Peter's Church of Ireland, Drogheda (transcript)
Baptism of Henry Hamilton, son of Wakefield and Mary Good Hamilton; born 1820 February 4.

1821 December 2: Baptisms - St Peter's Church of Ireland, Drogheda (transcript)
Baptism of Mry Martha Hamilton, daughter of Wakefield and Mary Good Hamilton; born 1821 November 25.

1823 February 4: Burials - St Peter's Church of Ireland, Drogheda (transcript)
Burial of Mary Martha Hamilton, age 1.

1825 December 24: Burials - St Peter's Church of Ireland, Drogheda (transcript)
Burial of Mary Good Hamilton of Church Lane, age 41.

1828 March 13: Burials - St Peter's Church of Ireland, Drogheda (transcript)

Burial of Wakefield Hamilton of Church Lane, age 48.

1828 April 8: Saunders's Newsletter

TO BE LET, for any term of years, or the interest in the lease (which in perpetuity) to be sold, the House and Gardens, adjoining St Peter's Church-yard, in the Town of Drogheda, known by the name of MOUNT PLEASANT ACADEMY, wherein the late Wakefield Hamilton, Gentleman, resided. The House is spacious, contains nine Rooms, the situation healthful (being mostly surrounded by Gardens) and is peculiarly well adapted to a large family, or for Lady's Boarding School. Applications to me made (post-paid) to Mr. D'Aubertin. No. 5, Mercer-street, Dublin, or to Miss Hamilton, at the above House, Drogheda.

1835 June 28: Baptism Register, St Andrew's, Toxteth Park, Liverpool.

Marianne Thomas Chater and her younger sister Charlotte Brown Chater were baptised together as teenagers. Marianne's birth is recorded as Colombo, Ceylon on 1819 May 9th, her sister a year and nine days later. They are the children of James and Annie Chater, "Minister of the Gospel" of Percy-street, Liverpool.

[Rev James Chater was among the first Baptist missionaries to Ceylon. He died at sea while returning home in 1829. His wife Ann, a niece of Rev John Thomas, founder of the Baptist Mission to the East, had died at St Helena on 1820 June 5, while travelling home with her seven surviving children. She gave birth to twin daughters just after setting sail and the two youngest (Marianne and an older sister) remained with the twins and their sick mother on St Helena while the remaining 5 returned to England under the care of the Captain. Charlotte is one of the twins born on the voyage.]

1837 December 26: Burials - St Peter's Church of Ireland, Drogheda (transcript)

Burial of Wakefield Hamilton, printer of Lawrence Street, age 24.

1838 January 1: *Dublin Evening Mail

DEATHS. December 26, in Drogheda, after a few days' illness, Wakefield Hamilton, aged 23 years, one of the proprietors of the Drogheda Journal, and second son of the late Wakefield Hamilton, of said town.

[He died of Typhus Fever]

1840 April 25: *Dublin Weekly Herald

MARRIED. ... On the 20th instant, at St Thomas's Church, by the Rev. Dr. Handcock, Surgeon Neville, to Jane Mayhew, daughter of the late Wakefield Hamilton, of Drogheda, Esq.

[Surgeon appears to be used as a military rank ...]

1841 February 6: *Drogheda Conservative Journal

THE SUBSCRIBER begs leave to acquaint the inhabitants of DROGHEDA and its vicinity, that he has retired from the book selling and stationary business and has transferred his entire stock with the exception of the circulating library, which he would be desirous to dispose of) to Mr. J. B. HAMILTON, LAWRENCE STREET. He would, with great respect, recommend J. B. H., to the kind patronage of those friends who have favoured his Establishment with their custom, and he has no doubt that he will give them every possible satisfaction in their dealings.

*CHARLES F. COLLINS,
Drogheda, 17 Laurence-street, 1840*

*J. B. HAMILTON,
Bookseller, Stationer, periodical Agent, Print & Music Seller, No. 1, Laurences's Street.
J. B. H., Begs leave to call the attention of the public and his friends to the above notice of MR. COLLINS. J.B.H has now the best selected stock of BOOKS, STATIONARY, &c., &c., in town, which he will dispose of on as good terms as any Dublin House.
With the kind permission of Mr. C's subscribers, he will continue from next month to supply them with those periodicals which they have been getting from Mr. C.*

J.B.H., encouraged by the past kindness of the public, for which he begs leave to return his sincere thanks, has opened a NEW CIRCULATING LIBRARY, catalogues, &c., of which will be ready in a short time.

J.B.H. receives and executes with promptitude orders for books, periodicals, music, book-binding and merchants account books of any pattern.

A list of goods, &c., preparing for publication.

1841 April 17: *Wexford Conservative

MARRIAGES. ... April 13, in St. Anne's Church, by the Rev. William R. Smith, Chaplain to the Molyneux Asylum, Edward Ackland, eldest son of the late Wakefield Hamilton, Esq. of Drogheda, to Ellen Letitia, eldest daughter of Mr. Frederick Norman, of Grafron-street.

1844 January 27: Drogheda Conservative Journal

J. B. & H. HAMILTON, Take this opportunity of thanking their Friends and the Public for their generous support since their commencement in business. They continue supplying all the periodicals of note and merit, as "Maxwell's Irish Rebellion" - "The University Magazine" - "Quarterly and Edinburgh Reviews" - "Blackwood's Magazine," &c., &c - back numbers procured to complete sets, and volumes bound up in any style of binding.

J. B. & H. HAMILTON, GENERAL PERIODICAL AGENTS, BOOK SELLERS AND STATIONERS, TO THE DROGHEDA GRAMMAR SCHOOL. Subscriptions received for "The Royal Irish Art Union." - Subscribers would do well to pay in their subscriptions soon, to secure early Ticket.

Drogheda, January 24, 1844.

1844 November 20: *Belfast Commercial Chronicle

MARRIED. ... Nov. 7, at St Mark's Church, Dublin, by the brother of the bride, the Rev. Andrew Fuller Chater, Henry Hamilton, Esq. of Drogheda, to Marianne Thomas, third daughter of the late Rev. James Chater, Ceylon.

1847 September 25: *Drogheda Conservative Journal

DROGHEDA CORPORATION - ADMISSION OF FREEMEN ... Mr. Henry Hamilton claimed his freedom as the son of Mr. Wakefield Hamilton ...

1848 April 22: *Drogheda Conservative Journal

DISSOLUTION OF PARTNERSHIP.

The Partnership hitherto existing between J. BEAMISH HAMILTON, and HENRY HAMILTON, Booksellers, trading under the stile and title of J. B. & H. HAMILTON, has been dissolved by mutual consent. All debts due to the Firm are respectfully requested to be settle.

HENRY HAMILTON GRATEFUL for the esteemed support he has already received from the Nobility, Gentry, Merchants, and the Public, at large, will continue the Business as formerly, and trust by careful attention all orders he may be favoured with, to merit a continuance of their confidence good will. The Nobility and Gentry are respectfully solicited for their orders for new and Standard Publications which if not already in his Stock, he can procure for them with little delay.

From the Merchants, he solicits orders for their Stationary. Any particular pattern of Account Book ruled and printed in a few days notice.

In the Fancy Stationary and Perlumery[?] H. P. has always on hand, select and useful stock.

A Respectable well educated boy will taken on as an Indoor apprentice.

Drogheda, April 22nd, 1848.

1851 June 9: Baptisms - St Peter's Church of Ireland, Drogheda (transcript)

Baptism of Henry Arthur Hamilton, son of Henry and Marianne Hamilton of Laurence Street, Bookseller.

1853 March 27: Baptisms - St Peter's Church of Ireland, Drogheda (transcript)

Baptism of Edward Ackland Hamilton, son of Henry and Marian Hamilton of West Street, Watchmaker.

1853 May 3: Burials - St Peter's Church of Ireland, Drogheda (transcript)
Burial of Edward A Hamilton, of West Street, age 2 months.

1853 November 8: Burials - St Peter's Church of Ireland, Drogheda (transcript)
Burial of Henry Arthur Hamilton, of West Street, age 2 years and 6 months.

1853 December 19: The Belfast Newsletter
DEATHS. ... Ackland Hamilton, Esq., M.D., eldest son of the late Wakefield Hamilton, Esq., of Drogheda, aged 41 years.

1855 January 14: Baptisms - St Peter's Church of Ireland, Drogheda (transcript)
Baptism of John Beamish Hamilton Hamilton, son of Henry and Marianne Hamilton of West Street, Watchmaker.

1856 June 15: Baptisms - St Peter's Church of Ireland, Drogheda (transcript)
Baptism of Mary Good Beamish Hamilton of Henry and Marianne Thomas Hamilton of West Street.

1857 September 2: Baptisms - St Peter's Church of Ireland, Drogheda (transcript)
Baptism of Jane Neville Hamilton, daughter of Henry and Marianne Hamilton of West Street, Watchmaker.

1859 March 9: Baptisms - St Peter's Church of Ireland, Drogheda (transcript)
Baptism of Lizzie [sic] Chater Hamilton, daughter of Henry and Marianne Thomasina Hamilton of West Street, Watchmaker.
[This is a mistranscription of Lily]

1860 May 17: Baptisms - St Peter's Church of Ireland, Drogheda (transcript)
Baptism of Sarah Chater Hamilton, daughter of Henry and Marianne Hamilton of West Street, Watchmaker.

1861 March 29: Burials - St Peter's Church of Ireland, Drogheda (transcript)
Burial of Sarah Chater Hamilton, of West Street, age 1.

1867 June 12: *Dublin Evening Mail
DEATHS. ... Hamilton - June 11, aged 21 years, Wakefield Hamilton, A. B., eldest son of Henry Hamilton, Esq., of Drogheda.
[Wakefield was educated at Drogheda Grammar School and achieved honours in both Science and Classics in 1863. He was awarded a scholarship to Trinity College, Dublin of £25 plus rooms.]

1867 June 14: *Saunders's News Letter
TRINITY COLLEGE. COLLEGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY. - The meeting of this society, appointed to be held on Wednesday evening, was postponed, in consequence of the untimely death of Mr. Wakefield Hamilton, B.A., a young gentleman greatly esteemed in the University, and a very promising member of the Historical Society.

1871 May 20: *Drogheda Argus and Leinster Journal
With sincere regret we have to announce the death, at Bettys-town, on the 18th instant, after a long illness, of Henry Hamilton, Esq., of West-street, Drogheda. His demise is deeply and deservedly regretted throughout the community, of which he was a most estimable member. While his private worth makes his loss simply irreparable to his family and many friends, his fellow townsmen of every shade of opinion sincerely mourn for having lost him a worthy citizen and a most respectable inhabitant. His remains will be removed for interment in the churchyard attached to St peter's Protestant Church, on this day [Saturday] at three o'clock.
[The calendar of wills shows that John Beamish Hamilton was executor. He had become a Freemason in 1848 and their registers also record his death.]

1875 October 2: *Drogheda Argus and Leinster Journal

106 West-street, Drogheda

October 1, 1875.

J. B. HAMILTON

Begs respectfully to inform his respected customers and friends that Messrs. Albert & Co. have this day honourably fulfilled their engagements to him, and are now in full possession of his premises, and Mr. Hamilton expresses a hope that his friends will support Messrs. Albert & Co., who he has every reason to expect, will give them every reasonable satisfaction in their dealings.

1876 March 4: *Drogheda Argus and Leinster Journal

SUMMARY. ... Mr. Beamish Hamilton, of Drogheda, has successfully passed his examination, and become a Licentiate of the Apothecaries' Hall, Dublin. His proficiency was highly commended by the board.

1876 May 24: Calendar of Wills, National Archives of Ireland

¹Death of John Beamish Hamilton in Drogheda, primary beneficiary/executor John Beamish Hamilton.

1876 June 3: *Drogheda Argus and Leinster Journal

THE NEW MEDICAL HALL

J. BEAMISH HAMILTON, Licentiate apothecary, [Son of the late HENRY HAMILTON.] Begs to inform the Nobility, Gentry, and residents of Drogheda and its vicinity that he intends shortly opening an APOTHECARY'S ESTABLISHMENT at 84, West-street (nearly opposite Mr Harrison's.) ...

1881 January 20: *Dublin Daily Express

Hamilton – January 19, at her residence, 26 Sandycove-avenue, Kingstown, after a brief illness, Marian, widow of the late Henry Mayhew Hamilton, of Drogheda, and youngest surviving daughter of the late Rev. James Chater, Colombo, Ceylon.

[The only the second time I have seen the name Mayhew applied to Henry.]

1881 January 21: Burials - St Peter's Church of Ireland, Drogheda (transcript)

Burial of Marrison Hamilton, of Sandycove, Dublin, age 60.

1885 April 1: The Derry Journal

MARRIAGES ... HAMILTON & SMITH – March 25, at Irvinestown Church, by the Rev. Prebendary Richard Verschoyle, Rector of Derryvullen, assisted by the Rev. S. Curling Hyward, John Beamish Hamilton, Llandrinio, North Wales, to Emily Kate, eldest daughter of Henry Smith, Esq., formerly of Beabeg, county Meath.

1891: Census - 20 Tudor Square, Tenby 16.6

John B Hamilton	head	m	36	General Practitioner Registered	Ireland
Emily K Hamilton	wife	m	31		Ireland
Lillia C C Smith	s-i-l	s	29		Ireland
Allan E Mahood	vis	s	27	M B Registered Medical Tutor	Ireland

Plus cook and housemaid

[He had moved to Tenby from Llandrinio, where he had been a medical officer for three years, in 1887.]

1892: Civil Registration Index

Birth of Harry Wakefield St G, Hamilton registered in Pembroke, Wales, second quarter.

1896 December 21: Sydney Morning Herald, Australia

Deaths. ... HAMILTON. – December 19, at her residence, 69 Darlinghurst-road, Jane Neville (Gipsy), second daughter of the late H. Mayhew Hamilton, Drogheda, Ireland, and niece of the late Canon Chater, rector of Nantwich, England. "For me to live in Christ, and to die is gain."

1897 January 23: National Probate Index, Scotland

Records the death of Ellen Letitia Hamilton, widow, of Brighton Villa, Rathmines, Dublin, on 1896 September 5. Probate granted in Dublin to John McEvoy of Richmond, Surrey, and George Cannon of Dublin.

[The Irish Civil registration index gives her age as 80.]

1901: Census - Tudor Square, Tenby 15.15

John B Hamilton	head	m	46	Surgeon and Physician	Ireland
Emily K Hamilton	wife	m	41	No occupation	Ireland
Harry W S G Hamilton	son		8		Tenby
Lawrence A L Evans	vis		7		Tenby

Plus governess and two domestic servants

1911: Census - Tudor House St Mary Tenby 16.148

John Beamish Hamilton	head	56	mar	Physician & Surgeon	Drogheda, co Louth
Emily Kate Hamilton	wife	51	mar		Duleek, Meath

Plus two servants

[They have been married for 26 years and have one child]

1912 December 26: *Nottingham Evening Post

ABOUT £25,000 FOR CHARITABLE PURPOSES.

Mr. Charles Walter, of Lyndon House, Ewell-road, Surbiton Hill, Surrey, retired solicitor, of the firm of Walter and Son, which for more than half a century had a large practice in Kingston, left estate of the gross value of £43,572 8s 5d ... Subject to other bequests and provision for his niece, Miss Lily Hamilton, as a missionary in Japan, he left ...

[This is difficult to interpret as Charles Walter had married Sarah Sitwell in 1854 – how is he her uncle?]

1916 June 5: Probate Register

Records the death of John Beamish Hamilton of Tudor House, Tenby, on 1916 March 8. Administration to his widow Emily Kate Hamilton.

1935 August 9: Lincoln, Ontario, Detach Certificates

Records the death of Emily Kate Hamilton of St Catherines, widow, born on 1859 April 15, the daughter of Henry Smith and Lilly Edwards of Ireland. She had been in the province for 14 years and the death was registered by her son Harry W Hamilton.

[This demonstrates that Harry and his mother moved to Canada very soon after John Beamish's death. She had been a witness to her son's marriage to Ada Ruth Pollard Payne in 1921.]

Notes

¹ The Following will was registered in Armagh, date of death 24/5/1876

The Will of John Beamish Hamilton late of West-street Drogheda Esquire deceased who died 24 May 1876 at same place was proved at Armagh by the oath of John Beamish Hamilton of West-street Drogheda Licentiate Apothecary the sole Executor.

Proved 26 June 1876 – effects under £800

Will of John Beamish Hamilton. Transcribed from an image of unknown source

*Hamilton, John Beamish
Drogheda Augst. 18/75*

In the name of God, Amen. I, J. B. Hamilton being of sound mind but feeling my health failing me, make this my last Will and Testament revoking all former Wills or Codicils made by me, and first I express my unshaken confidence in the mercy of God and gratitude to him for enabling me so far to rear my brothers children according to my promise to him, I will and bequeath all my property of whatever kind I may be possessed of at the time of at the time of my death or which I may hereafter be entitled to to my nephew J. Beamish Hamilton (or in case of his death previous to mine to his sisters to be divided between them equally) And I appoint the said J. B. Hamilton my sole Executor – But as I do not know the law regarding Executors if he is debarred from so acting, I request as a last favour that either Captain Ralph Smyth or Mr William Whitworth will do me the favour to act for him carrying out the intentions of this my Will.

The words interlined "or which I may hereafter be entitled to" I have added before signing this.

Signed and sealed in our presence and in the presence of each other this 23d August 1875

–

*J. B. Hamilton [seal]
Thomas Kerr
Arthur Wm Horan*

Affidavit of due execution filed Geo. H. Smith DR

Proved 26 June 1876

² Lily Chater Hamilton with birth dates of 1856/59 appears on passenger lists arriving in Seattle, Washington, USA, in 1901 and 1904. She appears to be a missionary embarking for and returning from Osaka, Japan. Interestingly, she gives her nationality as Welsh. Could this be because she considers her home to be with John Beamish Hamilton jun. in Tenby? In the 1901 census she was living in Ventnor and confirms her place of birth as Ireland giving her occupation as "missionary Japan". She appears on many further passenger lists on trips as a missionary to Japan. She also appears on UK Midwife Rolls to as late as 1926, having qualified at L.O.S., July 17 1859. She always gives her address as Tudor House, Tenby – J B Hamilton's residence.