

The family of uncle James Hamilton of Trim

by Anne van Weerden

James Hamilton (1777-1847) married on 10 Feb 1814 Elizabeth Boyle (1791/1792-1848)¹

Elizabeth (Bessy or Bessie) (1814/1815- 1 Sept 1857)²

Unknown brother (.. - before 28 May 1821)³

Grace (Gracey) (1817/1818-1844) m. 6 Feb 1840 Robert Butler (.. - ca 1847)⁴

Mary (1819/1820-1844)⁵

Kate (1821- April 1822)⁶

A brother (24 March 1823 - 26 March 1823)⁷

James Alexander (1824/1825- 4 April 1885) m. 20 Apr 1853 Charlotte Elizabeth Richardson (ca 1834- before 1885)⁸

Francis Cecil (1825/1826- 11 Nov 1846)⁹

Sydney (1826/1827 - 21 May 1892)¹⁰

Catharine Frances (.. - 31 May 1864) m. S. Slater (1822 - 14 Aug 1904)¹¹

Margaret Octavia (.. - 24 Feb 1913)¹²

Anna Sophia (.. - 2 March 1913) m. 22 Dec 1877 Henry Powell (.. - after 1913)¹³

Charlotte (.. - 18 June 1845)¹⁴

¹ Elizabeth, birth: [Census of 1821](#) in the National Archives of Ireland, hereafter called 'census'. The census was held on 28 May 1821. She was a daughter of Alexander Boyle of Tyrone. Deaths of both James and Elizabeth: Graves' [family tree](#).

² Birth: census, Death: [newspaper article](#) on Genes Reunited, hereafter called 'newspapers', 1857, keywords: hamilton trim. In Graves' biography she was called both Bessy and Bessie. Still a child, Hamilton [taught](#) her "some Hebrew, Persian, and Sanskrit."

³ This unknown brother died before 1822, see footnote 6. He even must have died before the census of May 1821, because he is not mentioned in it. Judging from the birth years, it seems most logical that he was born between Elizabeth and Grace. Hamilton did not mention his name, which may indicate that he died very young.

⁴ Birth: census, Death: [Graves 1885 p. 316](#). She was called Gracey to distinguish her from Hamilton's elder sister Grace.

⁵ Birth: census, Death: Graves' family tree.

⁶ [Graves 1882 pp. 99-100](#). Because Kate was not mentioned in the census, she must have been born thereafter. She died when she was already able to make a presence in the house; on 21 April 1822 Hamilton wrote, "On Thursday morning we attended the funeral of Kate. She was laid by the side of her little brother and mine. Even to me the house appears since deserted – how much more to Aunt, who was so particularly fond of her!" Because of Hamilton's remark that the house appeared deserted it had seemed that Kate was somewhat older, but his addition 'even to me' could be in accord with a very young child; in those days the men had much less contact with the very young children than the women had. Kate's funeral was on Thursday 18 April.

⁷ Graves' family tree, and a letter by Hamilton to Eliza, [Graves 1882 p. 138](#).

⁸ Birth: census and fn 16 on p 218 of [AVM](#). Death: newspapers, 1885, keywords: janies hamilton; National Archives of Ireland, [Calendars of Wills](#). He became rector of Loughcrew. As a widower, living in Farnham House, a "Private Asylum and Hospital for the Insane" in Finglas, he committed suicide, see the [Civil records](#). There was an inquest; he had suddenly shot himself with a revolver. His death record gives his age at death as 58 but that seems erroneous, see footnotes 10 and 9. In AVM I mentioned that after James Alexander's death "someone else" became rector of Loughcrew, Oldcastle; that was his son-in-law [John Quarry Day](#). He married in June 1886 Agnes Mary, James Alexander's eldest daughter. Newspapers, keywords: lata touenliam.

⁹ Birth and Death: newspapers, keywords: cecil idaynooth or cecil maynooth. He died at Maynooth, "second son of the Rev. James Hamilton, of Trim, aged 20 years." He was "killed by a [fall from his horse](#)." Newspapers generally did not mention brothers who had 'died early.' Therefore, if Francis was the second son, he must have been born after James Alexander, which would mean that the age given in the latter's death record is erroneous.

¹⁰ The [Calendars of Wills](#) gives her date of death, "The Will of Sydney Hamilton late of Saint Mary's Trim County Meath Spinster who died 21 May 1892 at same place." The [civil death records](#) give her age as 65. Sydney thus had been 19 in May 1846, while her brother Francis had been 20 in November 1846, see footnote 9. From his death record, it would seem that James Alexander was born after Francis, see footnote 8. If none of them were twins, which Graves most likely would have mentioned because also their father James had had a twin brother, even if Frances would have turned 21 late in 1846, while Sydney had just turned 65 when she died, that does not leave room for a child born in-between; James Alexander thus must have been born in 1824 or 1825, making his age at death 60 or 61 instead of 58.

¹¹ Graves' family tree and newspapers, keywords: rev samuel slater, years 1864-1864. Slater died at West Ealing, Middlesex, [Calendars of Wills](#). He had been [headmaster](#) of Bishop Cotton school, Simla (1863-1885); and that is where his wife died. It is not completely certain that this is indeed Catharine Frances, but Graves' explicit mentioning that Slater was Rev. and D.D, makes it certainly plausible. Moreover, a Rev. Samuel Slater was Sydney Hamilton's executor in 1892, and Graves mentions that two of uncle James' daughters were [missionaries in the East](#); one of them thus may have been Catharine.

¹² Death: newspapers, keywords: late rev james hamilton trim. She had lived in England, in Middlesex and Oxfordshire, see the [Calendars of Wills](#).

¹³ Graves' family tree. Newspapers, keywords: rev hamilton trim. "Dec. 22, at Christ Church, Jubulpore, C.P. India, by the Rev. E. Champion and the Rev. F.R. Michell, Henry Powell, Esq., to Anna Sophia, daughter of the late Rev. J. Hamilton, Trim, county Meath, Ireland." Death: [Calendars of Wills](#). Anna Sophia died in Kent. She apparently was the other daughter who became a 'missionary in the East', see footnote 11.

¹⁴ Death: newspapers, keywords: charlotte rev j hamilton trim, years: 1845-1845. In Graves' family tree, both Kate and Charlotte were not mentioned by name. Graves did remark that two daughters died young, therefore Charlotte must also have died young. It is not certain though what Graves meant by "died young"; one of uncle James' brothers who "died young" had died in a French prison; he thus had been a soldier. If the later children again came with two years between them, Charlotte may have been born in 1835, but because the papers did not say that she was the youngest daughter, she may have been born earlier. She died "June 18, at St. Mary's, near Trim."