

William, Andrew and Charles Mutch

William 1891- 1926

Charles 1904 - 1936

Andrew 1905 - 1944

Three of the five Mutch brothers had Duchenne muscular dystrophy. The gene is carried by women so Margaret, Jessie and Nellie were not allowed to marry. (There may have been some medical intervention). All the boys were educated with Andrew graduating MA, LL.B from Aberdeen University*. They were all very good with their hands, working with leather. All three died in their thirties. William was the oldest son and died in 1926 *aged 35 so there are no memories of him. Margaret and Jessie looked after their disabled brothers while also working. June lived with them and her grandmother from 1934-1939 and knew Charles and Andrew.

Charles (Charlie) died in 1936* aged 32. The photos below are of Charlie and June. Andrew graduated MA in 1927 and LLB in 1928*. He was obviously bright as he won second prize in Constitutional Law and History.* He, like all the family, was very religious and had close connections to the Episcopalian Church*. Jessie kept a letter of condolence* and a eulogy* when he died in 1944.*



Andrew



TEL. 4123.

S. MARY'S RECTORY,
7 WESTFIELD TERRACE,
ABERDEEN.

30th March, 1944.

Dear Mr. Mutch,


It was such a blessing to me to meet a talk with your son, & such an inspiration to see you & your daughter meet sorrow with so Christian a faith, that I feel my debt to you is infinitely the greater. However, please accept my sincere thanks for your generous gift.

The experience of the last few weeks has been a unique one for me. So long as I was to see Andrew slipping away from us I always left your house with a feeling of exaltation. So all I said on Sunday morning was only a shadow of what was stirring within me.

I enclose a copy of my remarks, not because I think them worthy, but as my sincerest offering of love. You may like to keep them among your ministers.

With many thanks to you all, & the kindest regards.

Yours sincerely,
William Hutch.



Constitutional Law and History Class

Second Prize

Awarded to

Mr. Andrew M. Mutch.

R. M. Williamson

March, 1944.

In Memoriam: Andrew Mollison Mutch.

On Sunday morning, 26th March, 1944, at S. Mary's Episcopal Church, Carden Place, Aberdeen, the Rector, Rev. W. Milne, spoke as follows:

Before I go on with my sermon this morning, I desire to speak briefly, but with feeling, of the translation from one sphere of activity to another of a member of this congregation.

Andrew Mollison Mutch was well-known to many of you by name if not in person, because for some weeks recently we had been offering up our prayers in public worship here for him in his sickness. That sickness proved mortal, and those of us who had the honour of his friendship, cannot help but mourn (for it is human to do so) the loss of the earthly companionship of a truly fine man.

Most of the people we meet touch us in different ways. Some we admire for their intellect and wit; some for their beauty of expression; others for their innate goodness.

Without fulsome ness I can say that Andrew touched those who knew him in all these ways. He was Master of Arts and Bachelor of Laws of our ancient University of Aberdeen, but he never allowed his intellect to dull in the long years of his affliction. Laid aside by illness so soon after his graduation, no shelf could have held him. He rose above circumstances, and faced life with a smile which was not frozen on his features, but was the natural expression of his Christian faith. Often his sense of humour bubbled up and exploded when one might least expect it, but his was not the spirit of cynicism. Rather did it remind us of the Christians of old who impressed the spectators of their tortures in the arena by their evident joy in the midst of it all. And although I could speak much of our friend's fortitude in pain and discomfort, the memory which will linger longest will be that of joy.

So while our prayers will not cease yet for those of his dear ones whom Andrew has left for a time, we who loved him too must think of him as still one of our Fellowship of the Church. For although many of the seats in church be empty, the Communion of Saints is an ever present reality.

Andrew was a regular and devout communicant in his own home where it was my privilege to minister, but I like to think that he was able to be present at the re-opening of our beloved church last October. It is a kind of symbol of the link which binds us, for although human friendship is a beautiful thing it has its limits, while there is no limit to that eternal companionship when the Church Militant on earth and the Church Expectant in Paradise meet the Church Triumphant in Heaven.

