

# A Wellesley family connection

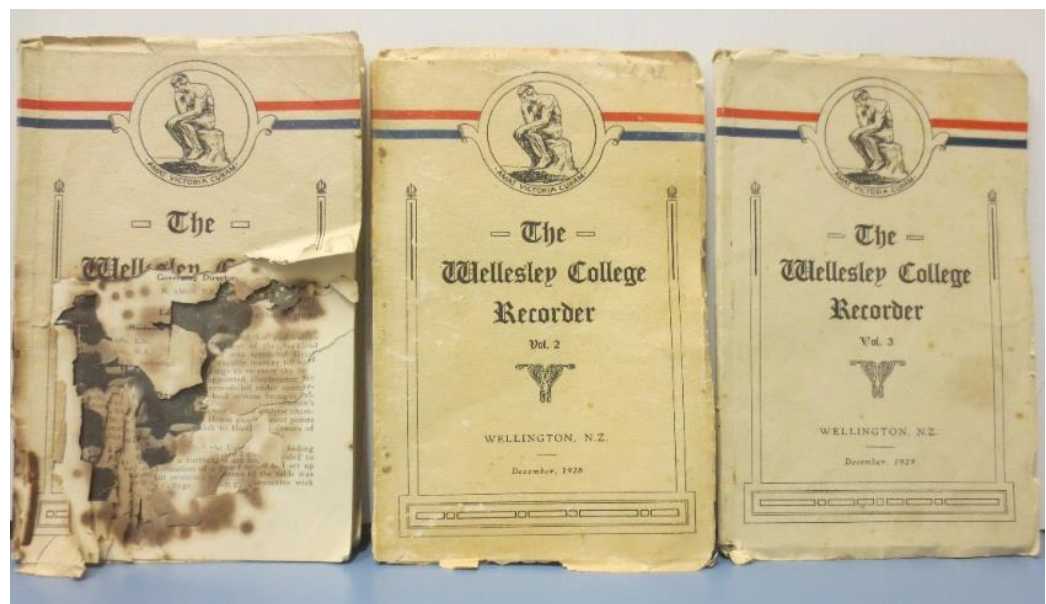
James is the great-grandfather of Tom Evison (Wellesley Year 7, 2019)

**James Wilton Blyth (b. 1915) and Tom F. Evison (b. 2007)**



***4 Nov 2019: Tom pictured wearing the cap and holding cricket bat of his great-Grandfather. James's name written on his bat.***

At Grandparents Day in September 2019, Tom Evison's grandmother Denny Evison kindly presented Wellesley with the cap belonging to her late father - James Wilton Blyth. Denny also presented and a copy of James's 1928 Wellesley Recorder (the annual school magazine). James attended Wellesley (then at 96 The Terrace, Wellington) from 1926 – 1928 and during that time was a standout sportsman. In 1928, as a member of Wellington House, he was the middle school tennis champion and a member of the 1<sup>st</sup> XI cricket and 2<sup>nd</sup> XV rugby team. He attended Wellington College after Wellesley and represented the Wellington College in both cricket and tennis. Joined the family Business in Wellington, "Adams & Blyth. Customs and Cartage Agents" then went overseas to World War Two from 1939 -1945 where he was a Sargent. He then re-joined the family Business after his father retired. James married Gabrielle McAllum a Nurse in Wellington in 1945. They had two daughters, Denny (Blyth) Evison and Lindy-anne Blyth. He always had an interest in sport and often said he would rather be playing it than watching it. James and Gabrielle were both members of the Miramar Golf Club, and Seatoun Tennis Club where they both played socially for many years. Sadly, James died in 1973 aged 58 years.



**1928 Wellesley 1<sup>st</sup> XI Cricket Team (James pictured front-right)**

We are thrilled to have linked up Tom with his maternal great grandfather, a precious connection. We have photographed a proud Tom wearing the cap and holding the signed cricket bat that belonged to his great grandfather. Thank you to Tom's family for their wonderful contribution to the Wellesley Archives Collection and the link to this special piece of Wellesley history. This cap is the only one of its kind in the Wellesley Collection as is the copy of this 1928 publication. We are also fortunate to also have the 1927 and 1929 copies of the Wellesley College Recorder, donated by Ken Longmore earlier this year. Ken's daughter Mary Longmore has kindly passed on a number of Ken's other Wellesley memorabilia including school reports and accounts.