



**Fathers & Sons:**  
**One Mylroie Clan**  
**(Lonan)**

c1655-1900

<http://www.mylrea.com.au>

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**A**BOUT THE AUTHOR: Diana Banks is a Mylrea through her mother's family. Several years ago, she began writing the biography of her great great grandfather, John Mylrea, who was born on the Isle of Man in 1823<sup>1</sup>, and in the course of researching John's story, she became an accidental authority on the various Mylrea strands. The result has been a series of short narratives about these Mylrea families/clans, partly to celebrate their lives and also to look for the links that might bind them together. The narratives are showcased on the website <http://www.mylrea.com.au>

The online collection can best be described as works-in-progress - each is updated when new information comes to light. Today, the following can be found:

- Early Mylreas in KK Michael 1500-1700
- The Fatally Flawed Family of *Fildraw* (Malew) 1600-1800
- The Mylreas of Douglas & district 1600-1900
- William Mcylrea (Ballaugh) 1627-1692
- Fathers & Sons: One Mylroie Clan (Lonan) c1655-1900
- Edward Mylrea snr (Lonan) 1743-1784
- Nicholas Mylrea jnr, Farmer (Ballaugh) 1747-1823
- Three Daniels & a Thomas 1761-1934
- Thomas Mylrea, Farmer & Preacher (Braddan) 1788-1860
- Basil Mylrea, Mariner & Publican (Peel) 1791-1865
- Philip Mylrea, Stone Mason (Douglas) 1793-1861
- Frederick Thomas Mylrea, Military Man (London) 1803-1862
- John Mylrea 1852-1921
- The Brushmen of Bethnal Green (1791- )
- Mylreas in 19th Century Lancashire
- The Mylreas of Canada (1900 - )

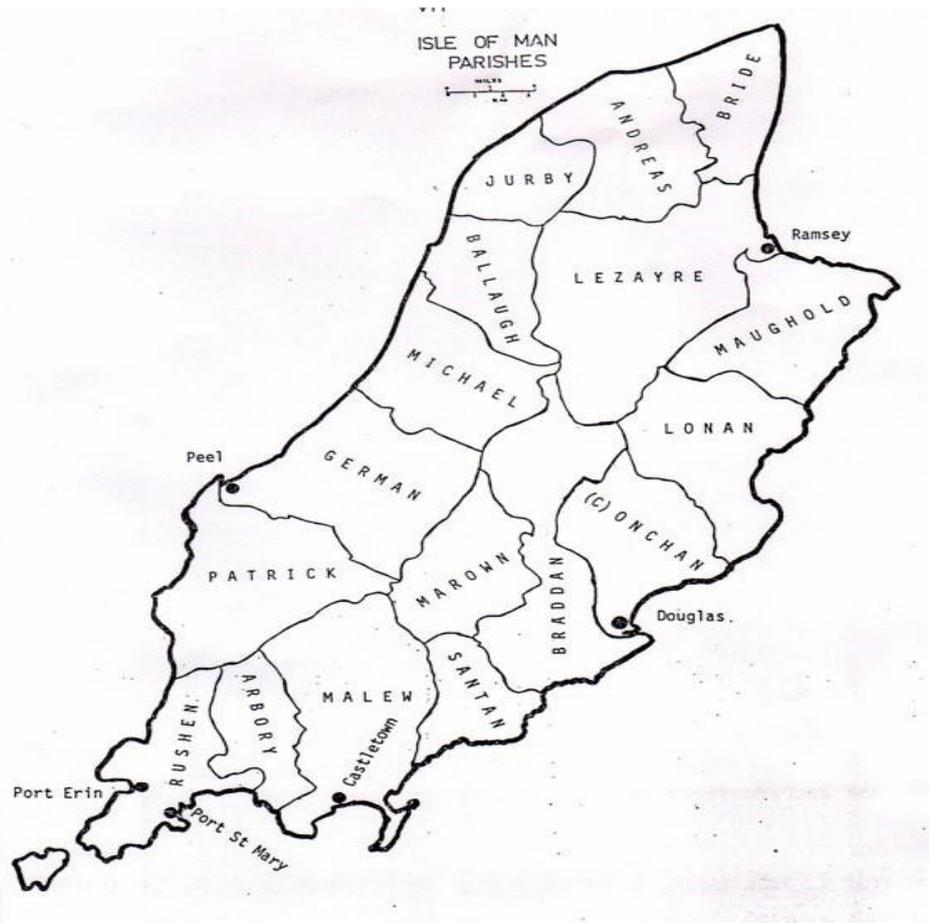
Strictly speaking, this story about one line of the Lonan Mylroies does not fit the collection. The spelling of their surname (and, as it turns out, their DNA) tells of a different clan altogether. Over time, however, that spelling changed to Mylrea in several branches, for a variety of reasons - some accidental; others quite deliberate. The situation is not helped by the Directories of the day referring to the Mylroie men as Mylrea in their listings.

The first recorded Mylroie, a man named David, arrived in Lonan, perhaps in the early years of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Three centuries later, most of his descendants have left the Isle of Man, driven off by lack of opportunity and attracted by the promise of new lives, many to the UK but some also to New Zealand, Australia, Canada, South Africa and the USA.

Diana began her professional life as a teacher in central Queensland, went on to become a scholar at several Australian universities, and later a senior bureaucrat in Federal government circles. She has postgraduate qualifications from both Melbourne University in Australia and Harvard in the United States and is an experienced writer although the Mylrea narratives are her first foray into biography.

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<sup>1</sup> Published by Lulu: *On Some Lonely Shore: John Mylrea in Australia* (2014)



The cradle of the Mylroie clan was Lonan, the parish that nestles between Onchan on the south, Maughold on the north and Lezayre on the west. It faces east across the Irish Sea towards Cumbria, and the ports of Barrow-in-Furness and Whitehaven in the UK.

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# Lonan

The Mylroie clan was unique to the parish of Lonan, one of 17 parishes that comprise the Isle of Man. It lies along the eastern seaboard to the north of the island. On a clear day, a traveller at the summit of Snaefell can see four kingdoms - England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland.

In all, the parish covers an area of about 15 square miles. Formerly called Loman, from St. Lomanus, a nephew of St. Patrick, Lonan extends from Port Growdale to Slieau Ouyre, a distance of six miles, and from Carnane Bane, on the east of Pen-y-Phot, to the sea, a distance of over four miles. It is an upland district, its western parts are hilly and barren, although its eastern parts, especially in the deep, sheltered glens, are more productive and moderately well-cultivated. It contains no point exceeding 1,100 feet. Its coastline is high and rocky, and broken by several headlands and bays. The great headlands are Laxey Head and Clay Head; and the chief openings are Bulgham Bay, Laxey Bay, Garwick, and Port Growdale. The district is pierced from east to west, or rather from N.W. to S.E. by several deep depressions - Laxey Glen, famous for its romantic beauty, extending from Snaefell to the sea; Glen Gawne, from the Skoryn to the sea at Garwick; and Growdale Glen from Slieau Meale and Slieau Ree to the sea. Several small streams flow down from the hills to the sea, the principal of which are the Laxey River and the Glen Gawne River.

It had, like most parishes, a mixed production landscape. In the case of Lonan, the economy was partly agricultural and partly mining. At one time, the Great Laxey silver and lead mines in Laxey Glen, and the Snaefell mine at the foot of Snaefell together with other mines on the island employed a large number of workers. These days, the parish is home to about 2,000 inhabitants.

This then is the parish that became the home of David and Margaret Mylroie in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century. They migrated from the adjacent parish of Maughold, perhaps because their daughter Margaret married a Lonan farmer in 1709. For several generations, David's descendants did not stray far from their home patch but by the dawn of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, few remained.

## Mylroie & Mylrea in Lonan

Not to be confused with the Mylroie clan was the Mylrea clan. The surnames might sound remarkably similar but they are worlds apart genetically. Recent DNA analysis shows that the Mylroies are Scandinavian while Mylreas are Celtic<sup>2</sup>.

Two branches of Mylrea lived in Lonan, both arriving well after the Mylroie's first appearance<sup>3</sup>:

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<sup>2</sup> Manx Surname DNA Study: John Creer. <http://www.manxdna.co.uk>

<sup>3</sup> Attachment 1: Lonan Mylreas

- **Edward**, born in Braddan in 1743<sup>4</sup>, took up residence in his teens, married in 1766 and had perhaps six children. He died when he was 40.
- **Thomas**, born in Braddan in 1804, although his mother was born in Lonan. He returned to his mother's parish at some time during his youth where he was given land by his mother's family. He married, had a family, and lived there until his death in 1881<sup>5</sup>.

It is possible that Edward and Thomas were related although the genealogical connection must remain an open question until further research has been undertaken. However, the families of Edward Mylrea and Thomas Mylrea were distinct from each other in several ways. At a basic level, the former were urban dwellers and flourished, while the latter were rural inhabitants, farmers and later miners who died out after two generations.

## Manx records

The family historian seeking to uncover their Mylroie roots faces several challenges, perhaps the most daunting being the plethora of spelling that the surname enjoyed. In the course of researching these Lonan Mylroies, the following variations were encountered:

MOLLEYREY	McYLROIY	MEYLREOI	MULROY
MYLEROIS	MYLROLY	MYLEREY	MYLROY
MYLEROIL	McLEROY	McYLROY	MYLERO
MEYLROY	McLEYRE	MOLLEROY	MYLBOI
MYLURAN	MYLRVI	MYLROIA	MYLERYE
MELROY			

Nevertheless, the historian has a rich supply of resources from which to draw - parish records of births, marriages and burials, sale/mortgage/purchase documents, wills, court records, land tenancy entries, and newspapers. These, even with their multiple spellings of surnames, put flesh and bones onto the individual, well beyond the traditional BMD approach to family history. Because transcriptions are often inaccurate so far as names are concerned, the recent advent of online digitized documents is a bonus.

Unfortunately, none of these collections has survived in its entirety. For instance, in the parish records, mischief amongst the Lonan clergy meant that the original records were never complete. In 1797, the vicar of Lonan, Samuel Gell, was "presented"<sup>6</sup> for not entering baptisms and marriages into the Registers; the following year, curate John Gill was presented for cutting paper out of the Lonan Register! Also, while the annually kept Liber Vastarum (changes in tenancy) has been comprehensively preserved, the annual Liber Assedationis (lists of sitting tenants) suffers from severe losses, in particular given the reasonably intact LV collection, an inexplicably high number of missing years.

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<sup>4</sup> Edward Mylrea snr (Lonan)

[http://www.mylrea.com.au/stories/EDWARD%20MYLREA%20\(LONAN\)%201743-1784.pdf](http://www.mylrea.com.au/stories/EDWARD%20MYLREA%20(LONAN)%201743-1784.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> Attachment 1: Lonan Mylreas

<sup>6</sup> Presentments were accusations that an individual had breached Ecclesiastical law, and he/she was brought before a Church Court to be tried (and sentenced if found guilty).

Other documents, such as wills, property transactions and court cases, were not routinely stored for posterity yet, in those that do can often be found a reference that tells of an earlier event for which no document survives. They are also a rich source of serendipitous information, such as the family name of a wife or mother, the names of children without records of baptism, or the names of their spouses when no marriage entry is forthcoming.

Even with their less than complete status, these collections give a comprehensive account of the Manx of yesteryear.

# First Mylroies

Following the progress of “founder” David Mylroie from youth to death owes much to the uniqueness of his first name. Similarly, his son Richard’s history is reasonably easy to uncover because Richard was another name not regularly used in Manx families, most of whom leaned towards Thomas, John and William.

David and his wife Margaret als Cowne were the first recorded Mylroies in Lonan. The threads that might lead to David’s origins are several but inconclusive. In sum, they tend to suggest that David came from Braddan, moved north to Maughold in the late 1690s, then travelled on to Lonan in the early 1700s.

## Braddan

David Mylroie married Margaret Cowne in Braddan in 1680<sup>7</sup>. They had children there: Hen (Mallereigh) 1685, Jo<sup>8</sup> (Mallereigh) 1686, and Richard (Malareigh) 1690. David’s Marriage Contract was sponsored by his mother, Christian Cowne, and in 1650, a Christian Cowne (David’s mother?) was “presented” in Braddan for making false accusations about her neighbour.

Braddan parish records seem reasonably intact although whether they’re complete is another matter. There are only two baptisms of interest in the 1645–1660 window in which David would have been born, neither of them for a David and thus their relevance is uncertain:

- 1654: Richard Mollerie – son of John (whose father John McLeroy died 1656 leaving his grandson Richard a lamb)
- 1653: Thomas M’ alaray – son of Harie

The will of a man named Hen: **McLarye** who was buried in Braddan in 1675 mentioned two sons, John and David<sup>9</sup>. Given that the first name David is uncommon on the Isle of Man, it makes Hen a likely candidate to have been David’s father. Moreover, David married in Braddan and his first recorded child was Hen (1685), and his second was John (1686) which tends to support the idea of a familial connectivity. Perhaps also relevant is that a John Mallery/Mallereigh/Mallereay (David’s brother?) was also having children in Braddan in a similar timeframe (John, William, Margaret, Isabel).

Braddan property records throw no light on David or his parents. Lib Assed entries show that a Hen together with a John Mallereigh made their appearance on Douglas cottage allotments in the mid-1600s and that a Thomas replaced one or both

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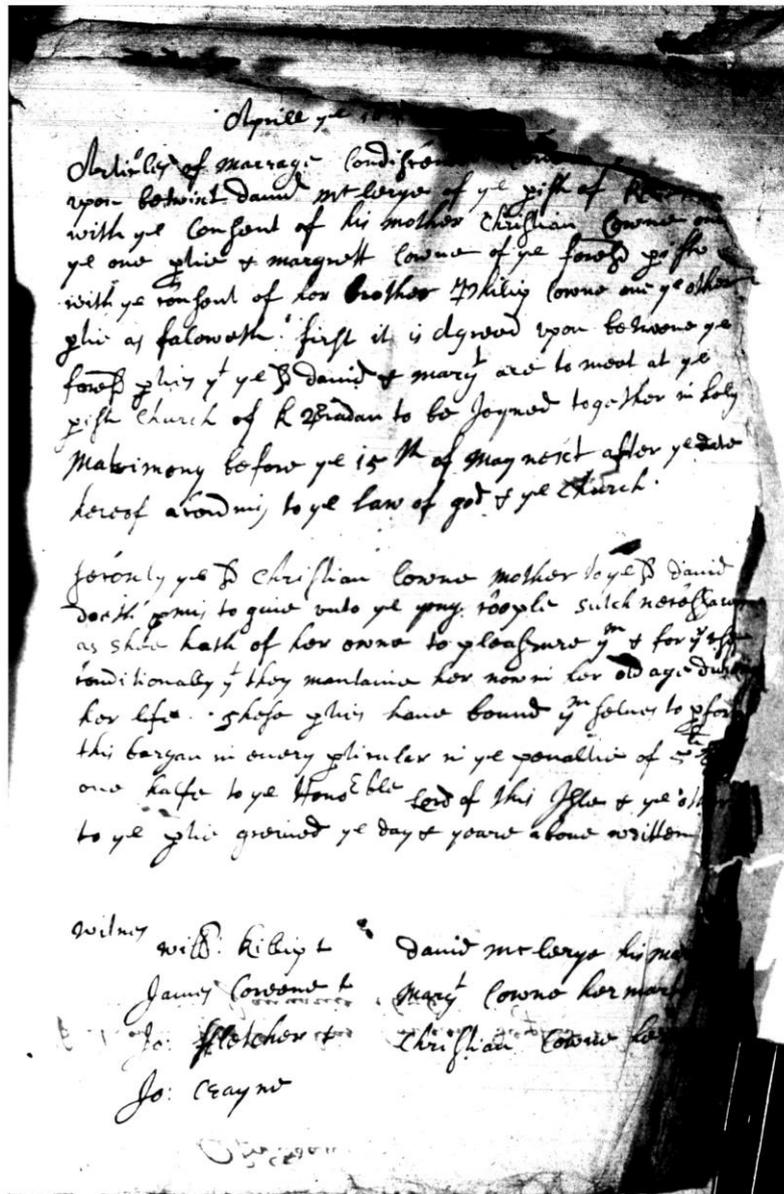
<sup>7</sup> Marriage Contract of David McLeyre & Margaret Cowne 1680  
<http://www.mylrea.com.au/DEEDS/david-marriage-1680.html>

<sup>8</sup> Jo = John

<sup>9</sup> Henry Mc Ylerey Will <http://www.mylrea.com.au/wills%20collection/henry-1675.html>

of them from about 1690 onwards<sup>10</sup>. They might have been brothers, or cousins, or a man and his sons. However, the Hen in this trio was not the individual who left a will in 1675 naming sons David and John because Hen, the cottage tenant, married Amy Joyner als Watson, and both Hen (Maclereigh) and Amy (no burial record but a will<sup>11</sup>) died in 1689. So not only did this Hen die over 25 years after the father of David and John, but also Hen's cottage allotment in Douglas went to his daughter Jane, who married Philip Higgin.

That then is the evidence that connects David Mylroie to Braddan.



MARRIAGE CONTRACT 1680  
David McLerye & Margaret Cowne

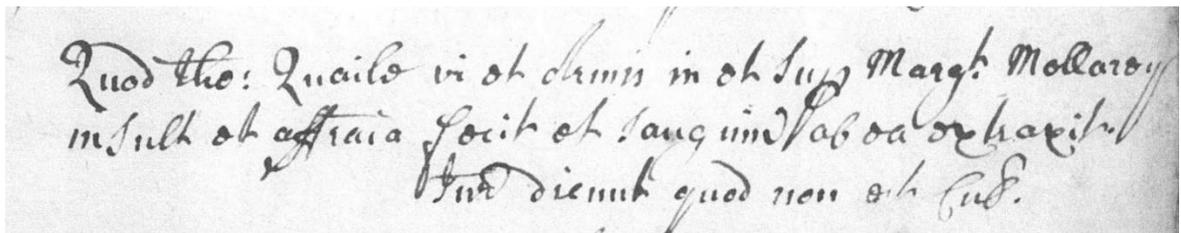
<sup>10</sup> Attachment 2: Douglas Cottages

<sup>11</sup> Amey McLerye Will: <http://www.mylrea.com.au/wills%20collection/amey-watson-1689.html>

## Maughold

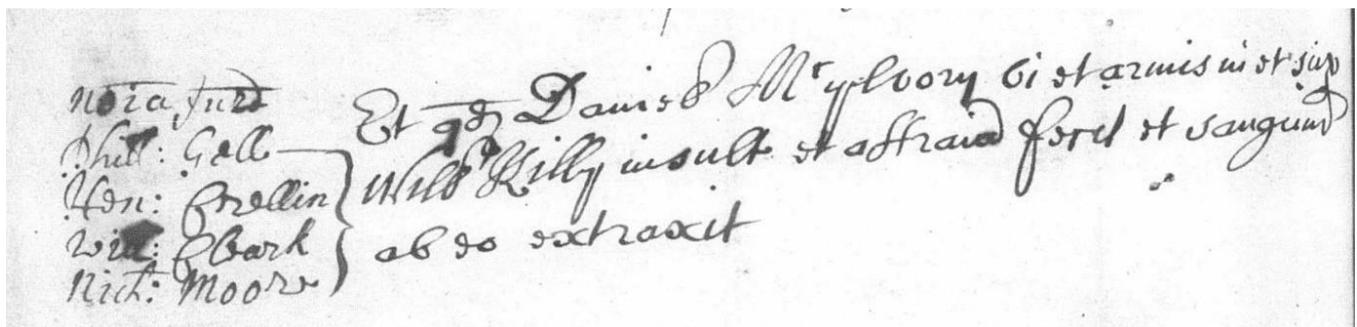
Alternatively, there are some indicators that David might have come from the northern parish of Maughold. A Christian Cowle (not Cowne) married a William **Mollereah** in Maughold in 1663 although if these were his parents, then David must have married when he was just a teenager.

David Mylroie and wife Margaret definitely made their home in Maughold at some stage after their children were born in Braddan. The earliest record for David's family in Maughold is the Great Enquest hearings when, in 1695, Margaret found herself accused of fighting<sup>12</sup>:



Quod the: Quails in et clavis in et sup Margt Mollaroij  
in sulh et affraia forit et sanguin ab ea ex haxit  
Und dicunt quod non est cas.

A year later, David had an altercation which drew blood<sup>13</sup> in Maughold with Will Killey.



noia jud  
Shil: Gall } Et go David Mylroij si st armis in st sup  
Hon: Brollin } Will Killey insult et affraia forit et sanguin  
Wit: Bark } ab eo extraxit  
Nict: Moore }

David also got into a squabble with Dan Callow that same year although these “crimes” committed by Margaret and David were not serious enough to preclude David from being empaneled onto the Great Enquest in 1698:

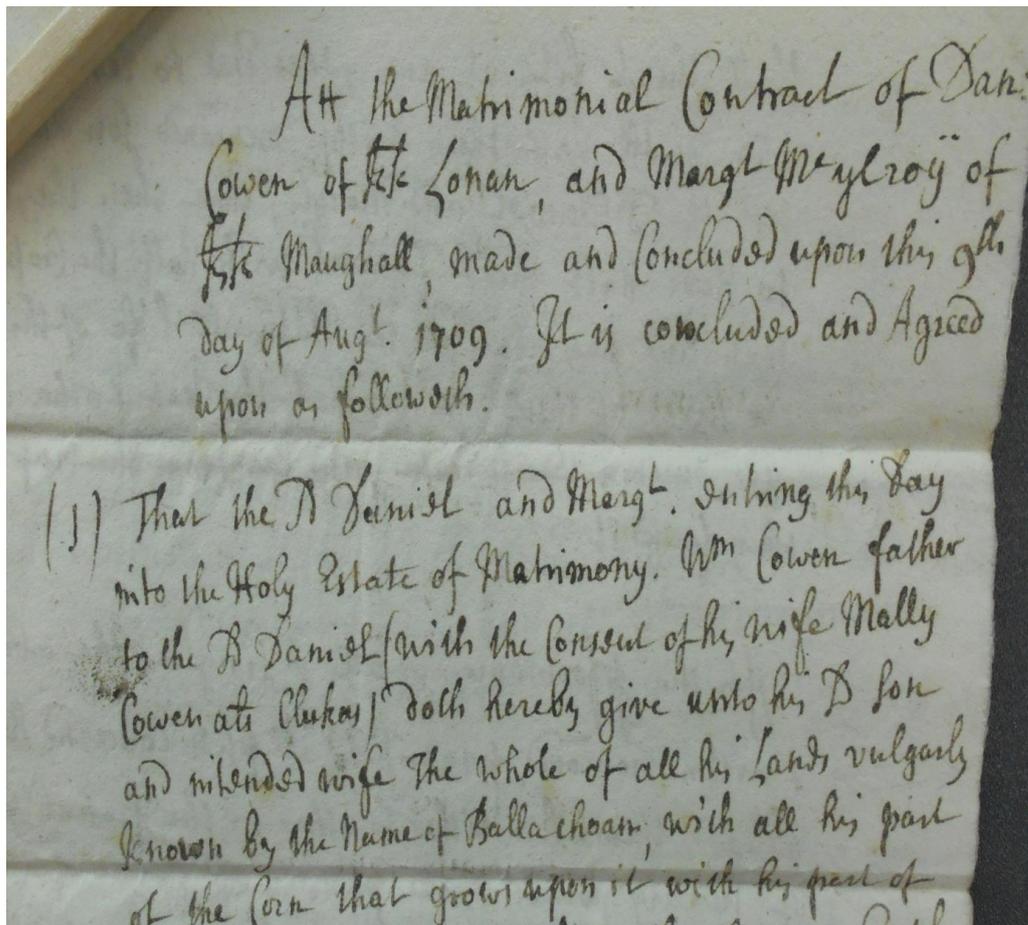
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<sup>12</sup> Book of Pleas 1695

<sup>13</sup> Book of Pleas 1696

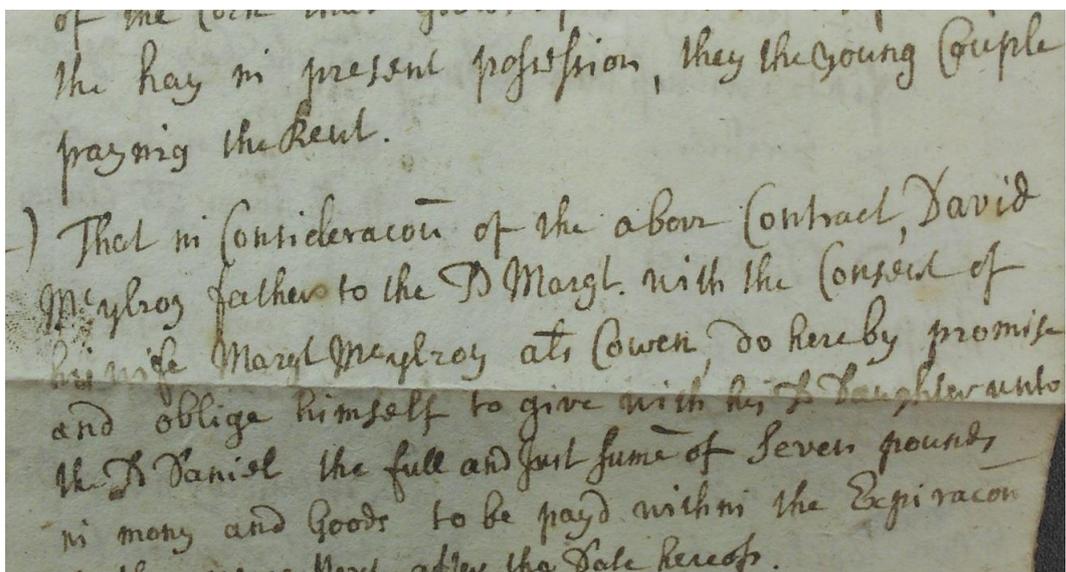


And the Marriage Contract for their daughter Margaret prepared in 1709 noted that she was from Maughold.



At the Matrimonial Contract of Dan:  
Cowen of the Lonan, and Margt McYlroy of  
the Maughall, made and Concluded upon this 9<sup>th</sup>  
Day of Aug<sup>r</sup>. 1709. It is concluded and Agreed  
upon as followeth.

(1) That the D Daniel and Margt. entering this Day  
into the Holy Estate of Matrimony. Wm Cowen father  
to the D Daniel (with the Consent of his wife Mally  
Cowen at Clukas) doth hereby give unto his D son  
and intended wife the whole of all his Lands vulgarly  
known by the Name of Ballachuan, with all his part  
of the Corn that grows upon it with his part of



of the Corn that grows upon it  
the hay in present possession, they the young Couple  
paying the Rent.

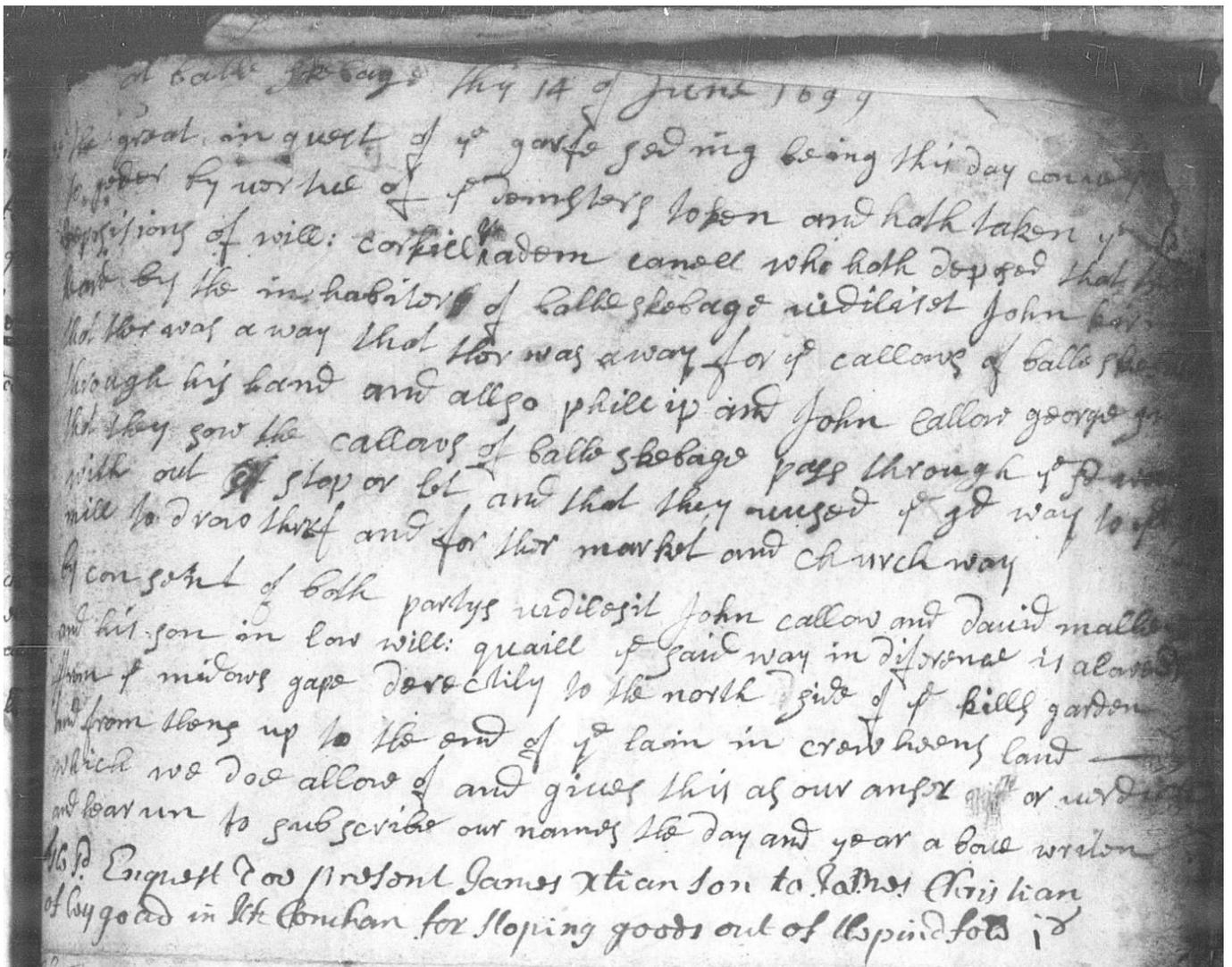
2) That in Consideration of the above Contract, David  
McYlroy father to the D Margt. with the Consent of  
his wife Margt McYlroy at Cowen do hereby promise  
and oblige himself to give with his D daughter unto  
the D Daniel the full and just sume of Seven pounds  
in money and Goods to be paid within the Expiration  
of the said Year after the Sale hereof.

MARRIAGE CONTRACT 1709  
Margaret McYlroy & Dan Cowen

The strongest evidence of the timing of David's relocation to Maughold from Braddan comes circuitously from the will of Margaret Quail who died in 1692 in

Maughold. In it she mentions a Contract/Bargain between Christian Mcylroy, daughter of David, and her son, William Quail. Baptism records show that the intended groom, William Quail, was born 1682 so it is reasonable to speculate that Christian was David's first born, and named after his mother. She is without a record of baptism but was probably born around 1682.

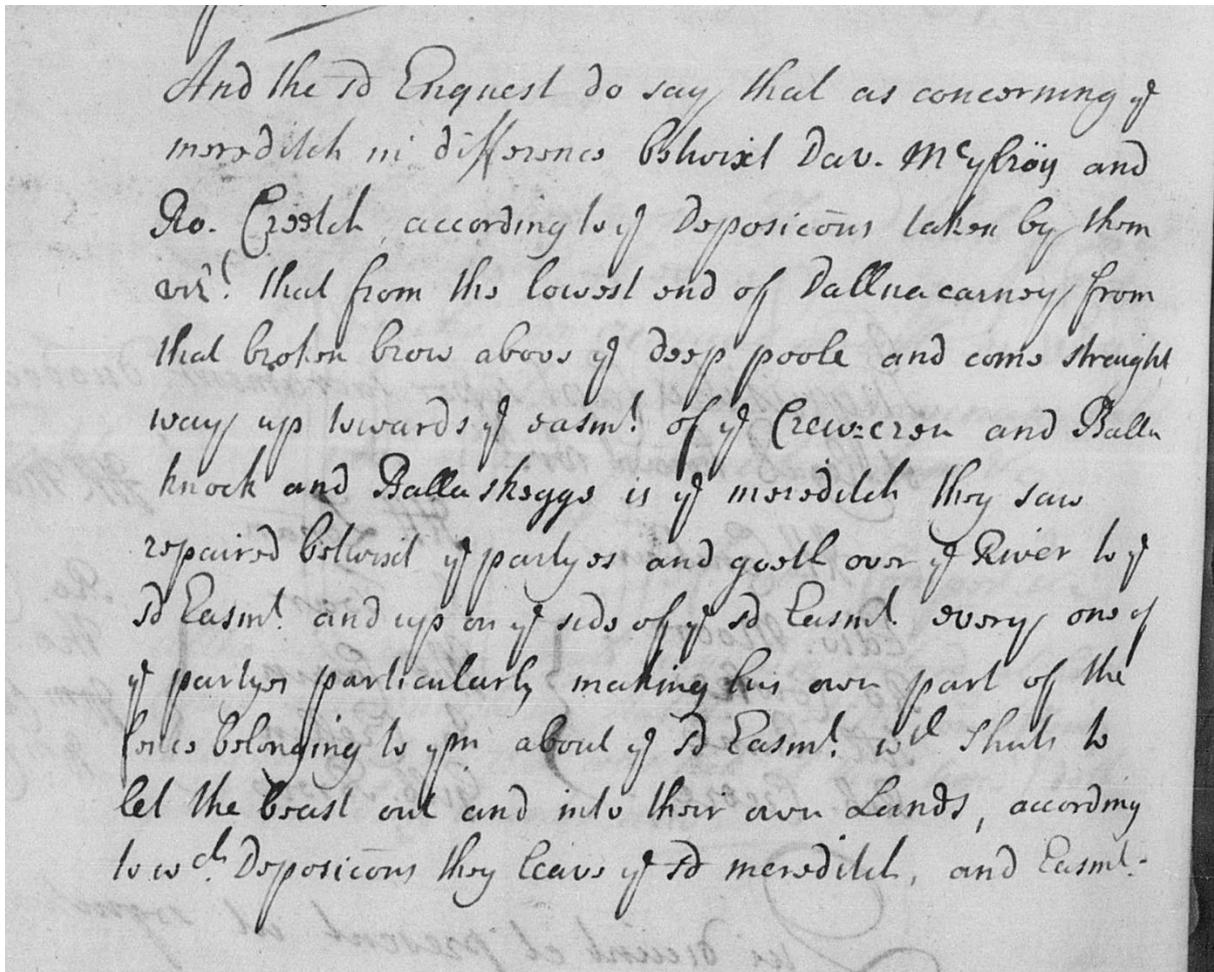
David Mylroie resided in the Maughold treen of **Ballaskebagy** on the quarterland known as *Ballaskegg boij*, with an annual rent of 16s. His name never appeared in any land records, but a dispute before the Great Enquest in 1699 sheds light on an important aspect of David's life, notably that Will Quayle was already his son-in-law. David and Will were witnesses rather than disputants<sup>15</sup>:



It was not until 1703 that Will Quayle's name was entered into the land records as sole tenant of *Ballaskebeg boij* quarterland, which coincidentally(?) was the year he turned 21. About that time, David was quarreling with his neighbours about

<sup>15</sup> Book of Pleas 1699

a right of way through their lands. Cretch was a tenant of **Cornamore** treen, which adjoined to **Ballaskegbagy**. And perhaps the clash wasn't about right of way so much as shared responsibility for maintaining a fence.



And the sd Enquest do say that as concerning of  
moreditch in differences Betwixt Dav. Mylroy and  
Do. Cretch, according to Depositions taken by them  
vizt that from the lowest end of Dallenearney from  
that broken brow above of deep poole and comes straight  
way up towards of easmt. of of Crewerson and Dallen  
knock and Dallahs eggs is of more ditch they saw  
repaired Betwixt of parties and govt over of River by  
D easmt. and up on of side of of D easmt. every one of  
of parties particularly making his own part of the  
holes belonging to you about of D easmt. will shut to  
let the brast out and into their own lands, according  
to w<sup>ch</sup> Depositions they leave of D merditch, and easmt.

This then is the evidence linking David Mylroie to the parish of Maughold.

### Lonan

David and Margaret both died in Lonan, so it seems reasonable to assume that they made the migration south from Maughold after their daughter Margaret married Daniel Cowen in Lonan in 1709<sup>16</sup>. Not at all unusual for the times, the Marriage Contract for Margaret and Daniel made provision *inter alia* for her parents to reside with the young couple and it seems that her parents took advantage of that obligation. Assuming David was born in about 1655, then he was by 1710 over 50 years of age. Why he abandoned his links with daughter Christian and her husband Will Quayle can only be a matter for speculation.

When David's wife Margaret died in 1723, her will identified children John, Richard and Margaret and referred as well to "the rest of the children" who have

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<sup>16</sup> Marriage Contract of Margaret McYlroy & Daniel Cowen 1709  
<http://www.mylrea.com.au/DEEDS/margaret-daniel-marriage-1709.html>

“left the island”<sup>17</sup>. Curiously she did not mention Christian, who was not far away geographically, and thus had not “left” the island<sup>18</sup>.

*The Court having intelligence hath decreed her son John McYlroy sole administrator of all her goods and effects moveable and immoveable whatsoever, the rest of the children having had contract/ bargain who being out of the Island the brother and sister Richard and Margaret are sworn in Court in form of law.*

David MOLLEYREY was buried on 20<sup>th</sup> March 1733, but he left no will, or at least none has survived. The burial entry notes his residence was in **Brondal**, a close approximation to the location of the Cowen’s lands in “Brandall”.

As in Maughold, David’s name never appeared in the land records of Lonan.

### The Mylroie Children

Surviving records confirm the continuing existence of probably three of David and Margaret’s children: Christian (c1682), Margaret born in Braddan (c1687) and Richard (1690) John, nominated as the executor of his mother’s will in 1723, had a record of baptism in 1686 but never made an appearance in any Manx records after that. Presumably he was one of the children who had left the island.

**Christian** married William Quayle in the late 1690s, whilst still in her teens<sup>19</sup>.

She had a Marriage Contract which has not survived, but which was formulated before 1692 when Margaret Quayle died. The intended groom, William Quayle, was the heir to a tenancy of half of the quarterland of *Ballaskegg broij* in Maughold.

*January 2<sup>nd</sup> 1694/5*

*David McLerey and John Kermeen<sup>20</sup> came this day before me to ... of the young couple, viz the son mentioned above in the will and the said ... (McLerey’s daughter) being underage and the said David hath acknowledged receipt of all such things as are promised him by the said John Kermeen in the said contract and this before me. John Christian, Vicar General*

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<sup>17</sup> Will of Margaret McYlroy 1723 <http://www.mylrea.com.au/wills%20collection/margaret-cowen-1723.html>

<sup>18</sup> Not a great deal should be read into a missing name in a will for the document was usually a statement of the wishes of the deceased person, prepared by a notary, vicar or other handy person. The document was often prepared after the individual had died, and it is not surprising that memory was not always as complete as it could have been.

<sup>19</sup> A not unreasonable event for the times – David’s daughter Christian was probably married when she was about 14. Marriages for children of these tender years were not unusual but were discouraged by the Church

<sup>20</sup> John Kermeen was the guardian of Will Quayle, nominated in the will of Will’s mother, Margaret Kermeen. Will would have been about 10 years of age at the time

20<sup>th</sup> June 1695

Thomas Quayle<sup>21</sup> hath delivered that ... of the above inventory which was in his hands unto John Kermeen who hath given for the same pledges Richard Cottiman and John Taggart and the said Thomas Quayle and his pledge is discharged.

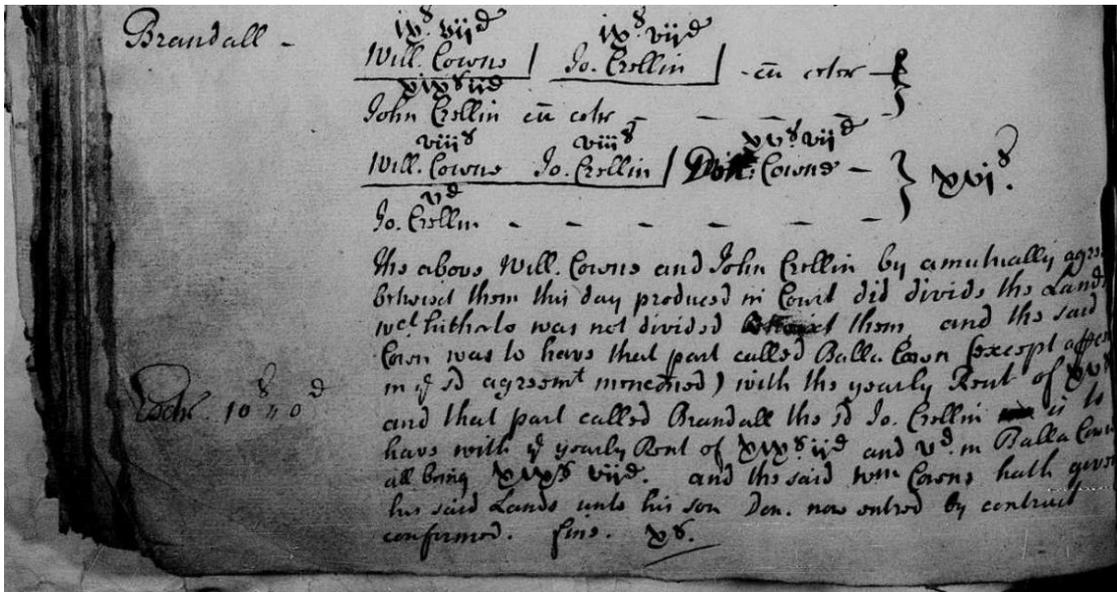
July the 4<sup>th</sup> 1695

Note that 4 oxen, 2 horses, and some other things mentioned in a contract bargain between the heir and David Mcylrey' s daughter is to be deducted from the inventory according to Parson Christian' s orders annexed to the said contract and therefore the above John Kermeen is discharged for so much there being Mcylrey' s receipt in the said contract. John Woods, ...

Christian had at least three children - William (1706), Margaret (1712) and Arthur (1717). She died in 1743.

Margaret married Dan Cowen in 1709, probably confirming she was born in the mid-1680s. She had surviving sons Philip and Thomas, and also had a daughter Mary born 1721, who died 1725. Margaret died in 1743, the same year as Christian, and was recorded as living in the treen of **Brundall** in the burial register.

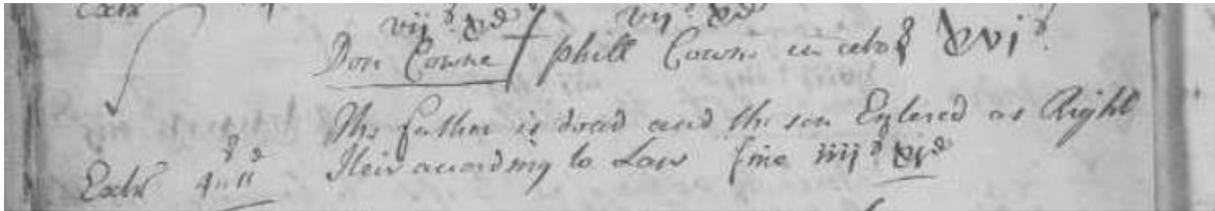
In 1709, Dan' s father Will Cowne had reorganised his **Brandall** tenancies and settled one of his holdings onto his son, Dan<sup>22</sup>, in keeping with what was agreed in the Marriage Contract between the Cowens and the Mylroies. The lands/farm (quarterland) had the name of *Ballachoan*, according to the Contract.



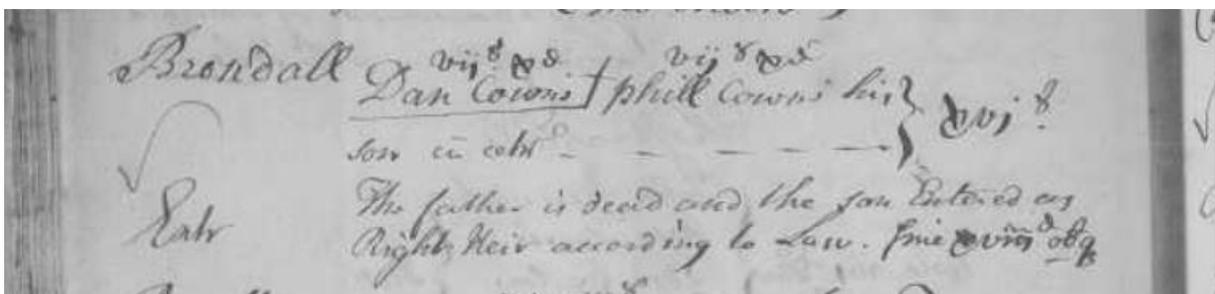
<sup>21</sup> Thomas Quayle was one of the executors of Arthur Quayle's will. Arthur was the father of Will Quayle

<sup>22</sup> LV 1709 Lonan

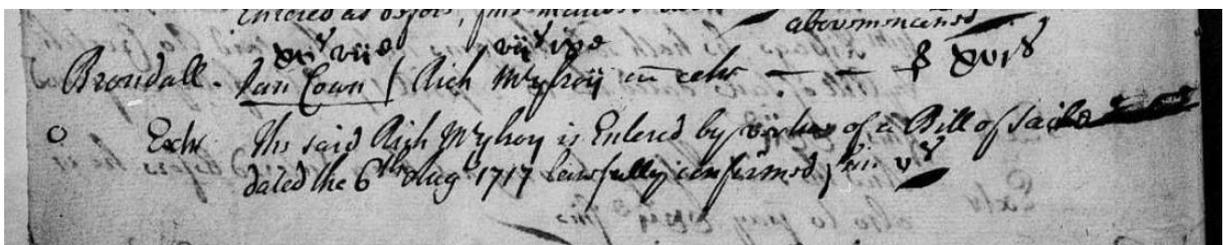
Dan might have died in 1728-1729 because what remained of *Ballachuan* was transferred to his son Philip in 1729, as the following LV entry for **Brandall** shows:



A curious entry in LV 1739, a decade after the first transfer of the Cowen' s *Ballachuan* holding, shows the same tenancy again being transferred to son Philip - only the fine was different this second time:



**Richard** purchased the tenancy to half the Cowen' s *Ballachuan*<sup>23, 24</sup>, not quite a decade after his sister Margaret married Dan:



If David and Margaret Mylroie can be described as the *foundation* members of the Mylroie clan in Lonan, then their son Richard deserves the title of Mylroie *patriarch*. Richard, born in 1690 in Braddan, married three times - Isabel Moore 1714, Ellinor Ffargher 1732, and Mary Quark 1740 - and produced four daughters and five sons:

- o John (1724)
- o David (1727)
- o Richard (1736)
- o Thomas (1743)
- o William (1746)

The sons from Richard' s second and third marriages have left no discernible footprint:

<sup>23</sup> <http://www.mylrea.com.au/DEEDS/richard-purchase-1717.html>

<sup>24</sup> LV 1718

- Richard jnr (b1736) disappeared from Manx history when he was about 21 years of age - he probably sought greener pastures in England or Ireland, or even further afield. When he sold his inheritance in 1757, he was noted as being from Douglas<sup>25</sup> but no other records confirm that information
- Thomas (b1743) was six years old when his father died and mentioned in his father's will. No evidence of the lad can be found in Manx records after that time
- William (b1746) married Elizabeth Callow and had six female children, so this branch was daughtered-out after one generation

Richard's two oldest sons, the result of his first marriage, lived long and useful lives in Lonan:

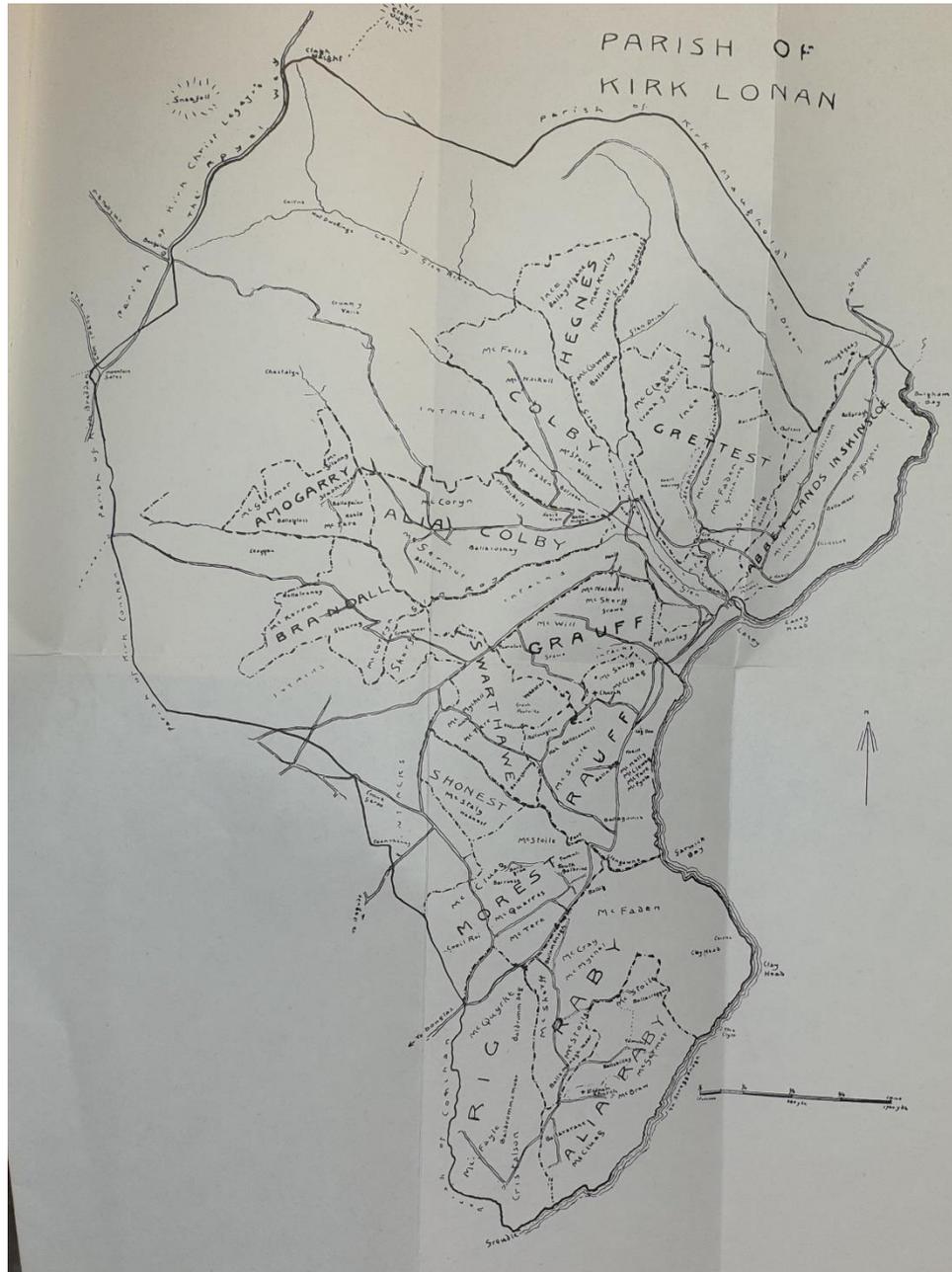
- **John (1724-1796)** had five sons - ~~John (1744)~~, Thomas (1748), William (1752), James (1759) and John (1769).
  - Oldest son John died at age 20, and Thomas (now the heir-at law), seems to have had only one child, a son named Thomas born in 1782.
  - Thomas jnr married Joney Camaish in 1805 and had eight children, several of whom became parents to large families. Most of this Mylroie branch remained in Lonan and eventually became lead miners (or married lead miners) in the 1800s.
  - Son William had two daughters
  - James and the second John disappeared from Manx records.
- **David (1727-1798)** had three sons - ~~Daniel (1756)~~, David jnr (1762) and James (1764). Oldest son Daniel died when he was 14 years old, and the remaining two brothers had 10 surviving sons between them. It is this branch of Richard's descendants on which this narrative focusses.

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<sup>25</sup> <http://www.mylrea.com.au/DEEDS/johnrich-sale-1757.html>

# Mylroie Estates

The fortunes of the Lonan Mylroies, in particular Richard and his two oldest sons John and David, can be told through their estates, the farmland from which they made their livelihood. The term “estate” belies the fact that often only a few acres were involved, perhaps just a couple of meadows or fields<sup>26</sup>.

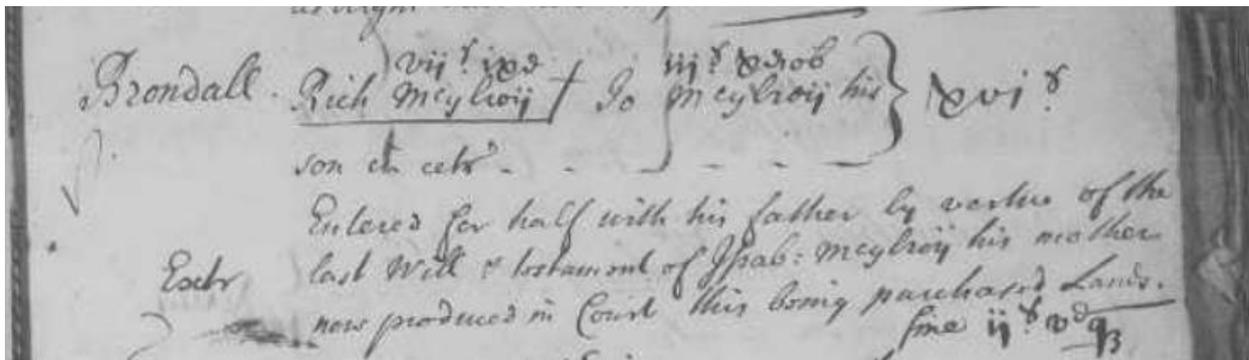


<sup>26</sup> No one on the Isle of Man actually owned their land in the same way that ownership is usually construed. Rather, the land was rented from the feudal lords of Mann. However, it was a commodity that could be bought and sold, mortgaged and left as inheritance.

## Ballachoan (in Brandall)

In 1717, Richard, at the age of about 27 and married just a few years, purchased the tenancy of an estate in Lonan. It comprised half of the *Ballachoan* lands that had been contributed by the Cowen family to the 1709 Marriage Contract between their son, Daniel, and Richard's sister, Margaret. Richard paid £3 for his share of the lands<sup>27</sup>.

Because it was purchased, the *Ballachoan* estate was not subject to the Manx laws of inheritance. These laws mandated that inherited land was passed to the oldest son in this case John Mylroie (ie. not divided up as legacies for other children). Fortunately, when Richard's wife, Isabel Moore, died in 1730 and left her share of *Ballachoan* to her older son, John<sup>28</sup>.



Quarterland	Full Rent	Old Tenant & Rent Paid	New Tenant & Rent Paid	Explanatory Notes <sup>29</sup>
Brondall	16s	Rich Mylroy 7s 6d	Jo Mylroy his son 3s 10½d	Entered for half with his father by vertue of the last Will & Testament of Issab: Mylroy his mother now produced in Court this being purchased lands. fine 2s 5¾d <sup>30</sup>

Had *Ballachoan* been inherited, then John would have been the automatic heir-at-law to the other half of the estate when his father died. But that legacy was not to be. His father Richard had agreed in the 1732 Marriage Contract with his second wife, Ellinor Ffargher, that his share of the estate would pass to her should she survive him and to any issue from their marriage should she predecease him:

*..... it is agreed upon that the said Richard Molleroy doth give, settle and estate upon his said intended wife all his right and title to and in the one half of his tenement and lands called Ballachoan during her natural life in case she survive the said Richard and likewise the said Ellinor doth settle her part of the said estate upon the said Richard her intended husband during his natural life in case he be the longer liver; and after the death of the longer liver of the said Richard and Ellinor the said lands and estate is to descend*

<sup>27</sup> Richard McYlroy Purchase 1717 <http://www.mylrea.com.au/DEEDS/richard-purchase-1717.html>

<sup>28</sup> <http://www.mylrea.com.au/wills%20collection/isabell-moore-1730.html>

<sup>29</sup> LV 1734 Lonan

<sup>30</sup> A Manx Notebook

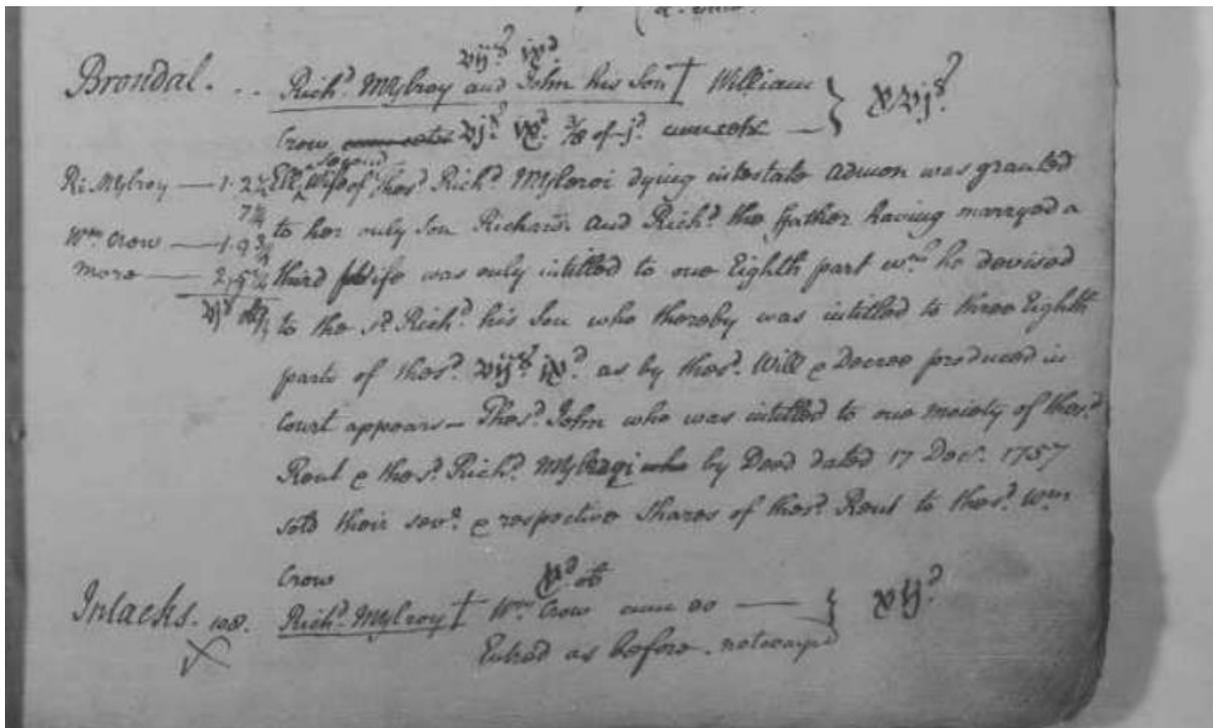
and fall to the issue begotten between them if there be any, otherwise the said Ellinor' s part of the said lands is to return and come to her executors<sup>31</sup>.

Richard had also acquired a piece of Intack land after his marriage to Eleanor fFargher:

108	6th April 1737: Rich Mcylroy for a parcell of Commons in the Lackeys of Brondall joining to the Nank and to the intacks of John Quine, John Fayle and Phill Callister of Amogary - in length thirteen ? score yards & three in the west end, thirteen and three yards in the east end, ten score & sixteen yards - rented to	12d
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*Intack 108 was known as The Laccan*

Richard died in 1749 and the future of *Ballachonan* became more complex. His son John held 50% of the tenancy through his mother' s legacy, but Richard jnr did not inherit the other 50% because Richard snr had married for a third time, and his surviving wife Mary Quark was entitled to a widow right<sup>32</sup>, <sup>33</sup> Thus Richard jnr was entitled to ¼ of the remaining half while third wife Mary was entitled to the other quarter. *Ballachonan* now had three tenants where once there was only Richard snr.



<sup>31</sup> Richard Mollery Marriage Contract 1732 <http://www.mylrea.com.au/DEEDS/richard-marriage-1732.html>

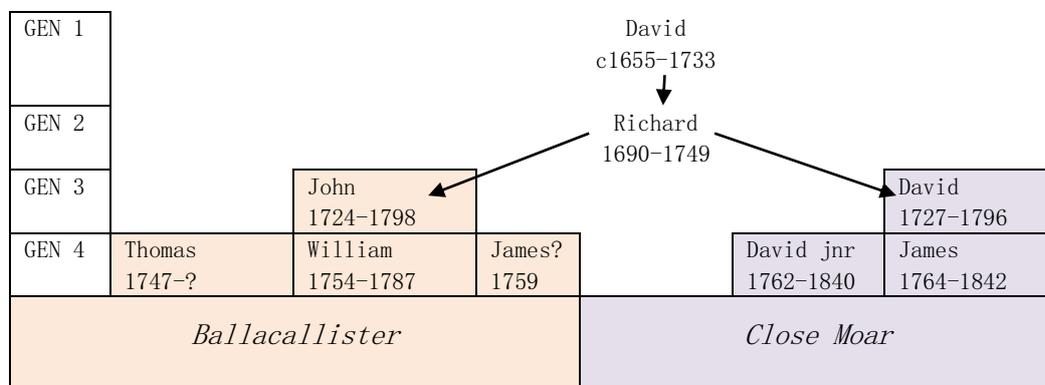
<sup>32</sup> Ellinor McYlvoy als Ffargher Will 1739 <http://www.mylrea.com.au/wills%20collection/ellinor-fargher-1739.html>

<sup>33</sup> LV 1761 Lonan

Richard snr also deemed in his will that if Richard jnr, then barely a teenager, should sell his share of the *Ballachuan* lands before he attained the age of 21, he was obliged to share the proceeds with his eight half-siblings.

Needless to say, Richard jnr waited until he turned 21 before he acted, selling his *Ballachuan* inheritance to William Crow<sup>34</sup>, on 17<sup>th</sup> December 1757. Also involved in the sale was the 50% share held by his half-brother, John, the proceeds of these combined lands amounting to £30. Richard jnr was recorded as living in Douglas in the Sale document while John continued to live in Lonan and forge a new future, one uncomplicated by an unequal partnership involving his step-brother and his father's third wife.

The result of the 1757 sales was that *Ballachuan*, first acquired by Richard snr in 1717, was no longer in Mylroie hands, 40 years after its purchase.



### Ballacallister (in Grawe / Grauffe)

From the age of 6 years, John was a 50% tenant of *Ballachuan* by dint of his mother's will, and theoretically liable for an annual rental payment of 3/10½d. Thus, when he married in his 20s he was already a man of substance. The sale of *Ballachuan* while he was in his early 30s marked the first steps in his transition to creating a new family estate.

No record of John's marriage to Margaret Clague survives, although the event is estimated to have taken place in 1743-1744. Baptismal records show that the couple had at least seven children, the first in 1745 (when John was about 21 years of age) and the last in 1769:

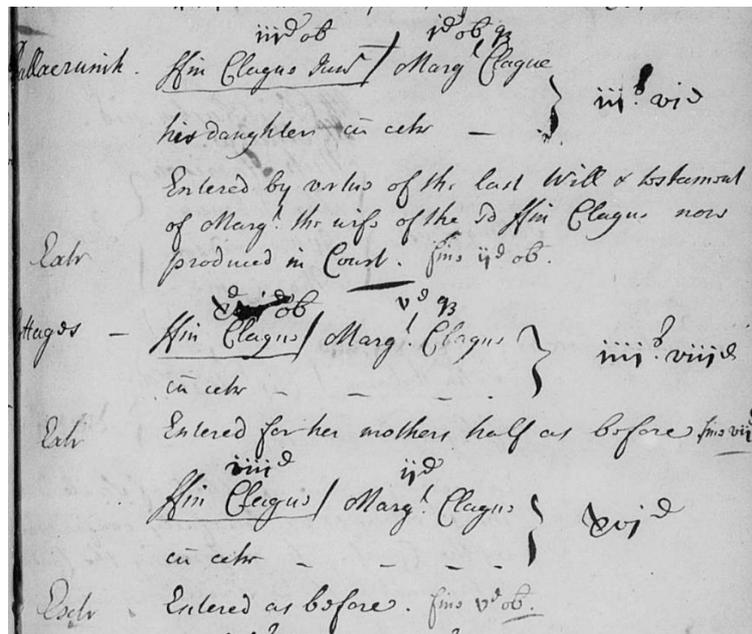
- John Myleroi (1745)
- Thomas Myleroi (1749)
- Margaret Myleroi (1751)
- William Myleroi (1754)
- James Mylrroi (1759)
- Ann Mylreoi (1762)
- John Mylroie (1769)

<sup>34</sup> John & Richard Mylroii Sale 1757 <http://www.mylrea.com.au/DEEDS/johnrich-sale-1757.html>

Oldest son, John jnr, was drowned off Laxey in 1764 when he was 20 years old. His brothers Thomas and William remained in Lonan and raised the next generation of Mylroies. The two youngest of John's sons, James and a second John jnr, had neither a marriage nor a burial record, nor any other kind of document that indicated their continued existence on the Isle of Man. Could they have gone to Ireland? In Belfast in 1807 & 1808, there was a William MULREA, woolen draper<sup>35</sup>; in the 1820s, a James MULREA and a John MULREA were recorded at their sons' marriages; and in the 1850s, a James and a Joseph MULREA can be found in the Irish parish records<sup>36</sup>.

### Ballacruink (in the Abbey Lands)

John's wife Margaret Clague brought lands to their marriage. She was the daughter of Ffinlo Clague and Margaret Brew, her mother dying when Margaret was barely 6 months old<sup>37</sup>, and leaving her 50% share of the *Ballacruink* estate to the infant. The Liber Monastorum (Abbey Lands) entries for 1728 records the transfer of her mother's share to little Margaret, John Mylroie's future wife. Like John, she had become a legal tenant at a very early age.



The year 1758 was a busy one for John and Margaret, and it was evident what their plans were.

- Having sold off John's inherited lands to William Crow in 1757, they then proceeded to sell Margaret's inherited lands. There was a £19 sale

<sup>35</sup> <http://www.lennonwylie.co.uk/1808.htm>

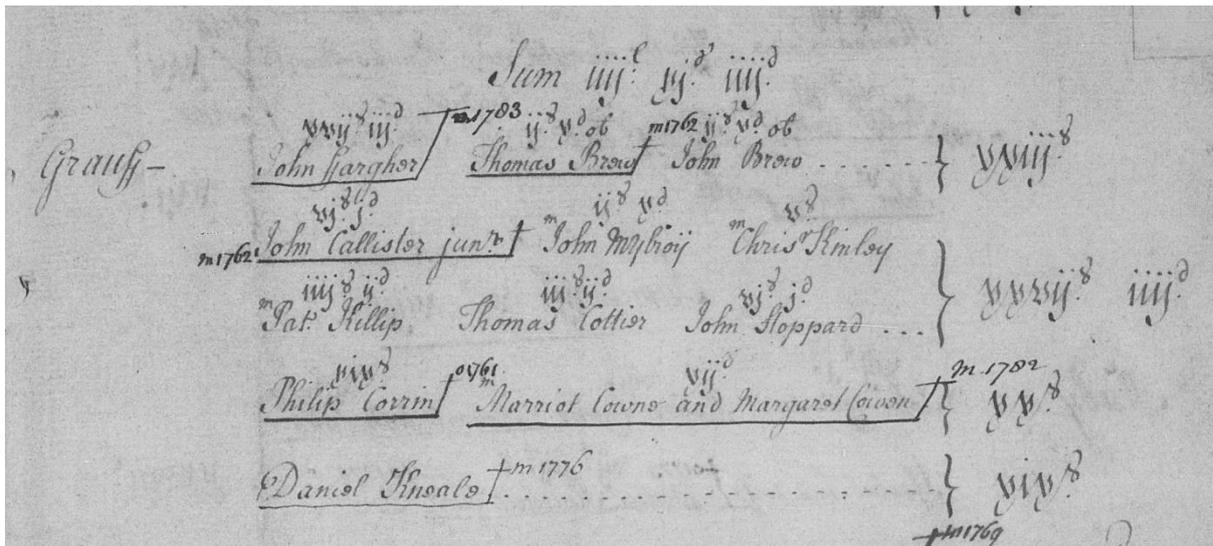
<sup>36</sup> <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~rosdavies/SURNAMES/M/MuaMun.htm>

<sup>37</sup> 1725-1 A 11 [Clague] Margaret BREW [bur Lon 17250421] d 13 Apr; mo alive; sis Isabel; husb alive; only dau Margt ua - aunt Isable Brew; in burial reg as Margt Clague als Brew ; GRANDMOTHER 1754-3 E d BREW Margaret KELLY [bur Lon 17540203] Margt Brew als Kelly d 19 Feb 1754; gdau Margt Clague (w/o John Mylroii) admx

for “parcels of land or old cottages”<sup>38</sup> held in partnership with John Clague, “son of Ffinloe” – so John was Margaret’s half-brother. The Book of Abbylands Rents for 1750 shows John Clague holding Ffinlo’s share of the lands<sup>39</sup>, Ffinlo having died in 1747. These parcels were sold to John Kelly, a smith in Laxey. Curiously, but in the way of Manx land records, the 1764 Abbylands Rents roll continued to show John Clague and Margaret Clague as tenants of the lands that had been in the possession of Ffinlo Clague in the 1720s.

- Within 6 months of selling Margaret’s inherited lands tenancies, John and Margaret purchased several fields in the treen of **Grawe** (Grauff) from John Callister, paying a total of £100. This was an enormous amount for the time, more so when just two years previously most of the Mylroie’s *Ballachuan* estate had been sold for £30.

For his £100, John purchased a relatively small piece of the **Grawe** quarterland known as *Ballacallister* and also a portion of Intack #27. Of the total quarterland rent of 27/4d, John’s share was 2/10d and for the Intack #27 total rent of 20d, John’s share was 1½d. Thus his annual Lord’s rent was about 3/-, somewhat less than his previous 3/10½ annual rent obligations for his share of *Ballachuan*.



The history of the Mylroie holding on the *Ballacallister* quarterland of **Grawe** treen is that it passed through two generations of oldest Mylroie sons before being sold off in pieces. The first sale was in 1839, eighty years after John and Margaret had first created it:

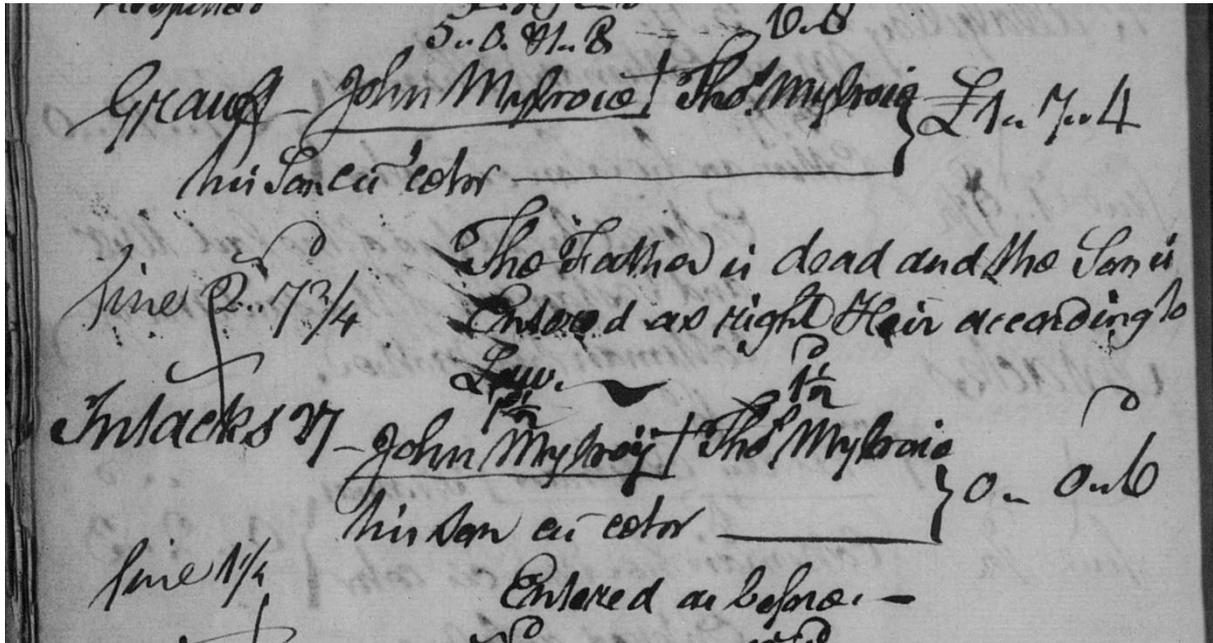
- In 1773, John’s oldest surviving son, Thomas, had a Marriage Contract when he wed Mary Clague<sup>40</sup>. The contract expressed the usual arrangements viz. Thomas came into possession of half of the *Ballacallister* estate immediately and the

<sup>38</sup> John’s purchase deeds 1758 <http://www.mylrea.com.au/DEEDS/john-purchase-1758.html>; [http://www.mylrea.com.au/DEEDS/john-purchase\(2\)-1758.html](http://www.mylrea.com.au/DEEDS/john-purchase(2)-1758.html)

<sup>39</sup> These documents have been transcribed by Frances Coakley and set out in the online repository A Manx Notebook.

<sup>40</sup> Thomas Mylroie Marriage Contract 1773 <http://www.mylrea.com.au/DEEDS/thomasmary-marriage-1773.html>

other half when both of his parents had died. The transition of tenancy was recorded in LV 1798, the year John died.



- Thomas and Mary seem to have had only one child, a boy named Thomas born 1782. This individual married Judith Camaish in 1805 and although no Marriage Contract survives, the event probably triggered the mechanism for the estate to pass to Thomas jnr on the death of his parents. Neither parent has an entry in the burial registers of the Isle of Man, so it is impossible to say when Thomas jnr formally came into possession of the family's lands.
- In 1839, at the age of 57, Thomas jnr sold part of the Mylroie estate to John Killip for £180<sup>41</sup>. This transaction followed at least one mortgage taken with Thomas Killey in 1821 for which no documentation survives. Another two mortgages in 1848 were followed in 1851 by Thomas selling the remainder of the estate for £140 to John Killip, perhaps the individual who purchased the first half in 1839.

Thomas jnr was now in his 70s, and perhaps the estate was not economically sustainable so far as he was concerned. Their four sons were grown men with families of their own, and each had become a miner in the Great Laxey silver and lead mines. Thus, another estate passed out of Mylroie hands, not quite a century after John and Margaret first established their legacy.

John Mylroie died in 1798, at the age of 74. Wife Margaret (Clague) might have died in 1811, when a Lonan burial was conducted for a Margaret Mylroie. Unfortunately, no other details were recorded in the parish register for the person who was buried that day.

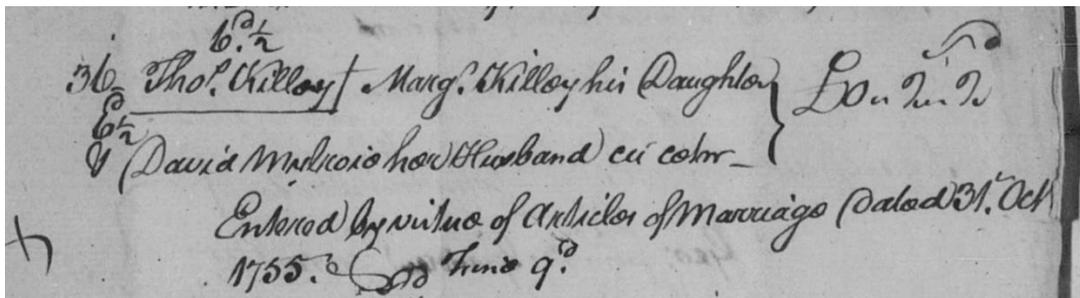
<sup>41</sup> Thomas Mylroie Sale 1839 <http://www.mylrea.com.au/DEEDS/thomas-sale-1839.html>

John created his own estate in the treen of **Grawe**, some distance from the original Mylroie patch of *Balchoan*. He also created an enduring dynasty that lives on today, although many did not remain in Lonan. Instead they spread their wings, and went to New Zealand, the UK and the USA.

Close Moar (in Alia Colby)<sup>42</sup>

Richard' s second son, David, took little into his marriage in 1755 to widow, Margaret Kermott als Killey. In fact, he started out from a disadvantage, not only as a second son but also as the fourth child of his father' s first marriage. His parents' respective wills referred only to items of clothing for David. And since his father produced 11 children, all of whom were mentioned in Richard' s 1749 will, the pickings were slim.

On the other hand, Margaret Killey' s parents made a handsome contribution to the marriage. Two generous gifts came their way, in the form of a half share in the family estate on *Baljean* quarterland to work as their own during the lifetime of Margaret' s parents<sup>43</sup> and a piece of Intack #36 known as *Close Moar*, deeming that “ *the said parcel of Intack to pass in the nature of inheritance unto the foresaid daughter Margaret and to her issue by her husband David Mylroie*” ” . Their intent was that the piece of intack became classified as inherited and thus subject to the Manx laws of inheritance, to be passed to the oldest son in subsequent generations.



The image shows a handwritten document, likely a marriage contract, written in cursive. The text is written on aged, slightly stained paper. At the top, it reads "36 Tho. Killey" and "Marg. Killey his Daughter". Below this, it says "David Mylroie her husband cu color". The date "1755" is written at the bottom, along with "Entered by virtue of Articles of Marriage dated 31. Oct". There are some initials and a signature on the right side of the document.

Marriage Contracts were commonly the means by which the family estate was transmitted to the oldest son and, in the case of Margaret' s family, her brother James was the heir-at-law<sup>44</sup>. Margaret' s father died in 1756 so her brother was effectively the tenant although legally, his mother, Margaret, still had her widow' s right. So, it was not until the Killey matriarch died in 1761 that the *Baljean* estate and its intacks were transmitted in their entirety to James. Nevertheless, in 1757, almost a year to the day after Thomas Killey died, James sold another piece of the *Close Moar* intack #36 to his brother-in-law, David Mylroie, for £30/8/-<sup>45</sup>. While apparently not entirely legal until the Killey matriarch had died, the sale must have had her agreement. It is commendable indeed that barely two years after his marriage, David was in a position to expand the small piece of intack gifted to them in 1755, with his 1757 purchase from his brother-in-law.

<sup>42</sup> Attachment 3: *Close Moar* timeline

<sup>43</sup> David Mylroie Marriage Contract 1755 <http://www.mylrea.com.au/DEEDS/david-marriage-1755.html>

<sup>44</sup> 1724 an undecipherable baptism of a child for Thomas Killey of Skirroo

<sup>45</sup> David Meleroie Purchase 1757 <http://www.mylrea.com.au/DEEDS/david-purchase-1757.html>

Although not in the same realms of John' s acquisition of *Ballacallister* quarterland in the treen of **Grawe**, David proceeded to purchase additional intack tenancies from his neighbours, the Kneales. In the process, he became the major tenant of *Close Moar* #35 and a significant tenant of *Knock Doo* (Intack #70), paying out a total of £36 in 1766<sup>46, 47</sup>. In the language of the land records, David now had investment in five intacks - *Close Moar, Close Slije, Amogary, Carraughan, and Drin Kolby*. His annual rent bill was 2/3½, less than John' s (because John' s was a superior quarterland tenancy) but David had started out with nothing, and his estate had grown from the small gift of intack provided by Margaret' s parents in 1755.

David and Margaret had four children - ~~Daniel 1756~~, Margaret 1759, David jnr 1762 and James 1764. Oldest son Daniel died at the age of 14, Margaret married John Gawn, and the remaining two sons (David jnr and James) married, had substantial families and remained in Lonan.

In 1781, the couple settled their estate on their oldest surviving son David jnr<sup>48</sup>. And to ensure that the purchased land became a legacy for subsequent generations, they entailed the estate in the Settlement, stating that it was to stand *in the nature of inheritance*.

Commendably, their second son, James, was not left out in the cold, as David had been by his father, Richard. In his 1796 will, David snr settled his livestock, furniture and clothes on James. By then, both sons were married and had children of their own. They lived well into their seventies and between them, had sixteen children.

The story of David and James and that of their respective families is told in the following pages. They flourished in Lonan; they revealed a resilience and strength of character that must have made them significant members of their community.

A source of confusion for the Mylroie family historian is the similarity in the choices the two *Close Moar* brothers made for the names of their sons.

DAVID jnr b1762	JAMES b1764
	James 1788
James 1793	<del>John 1793</del>
Thomas 1797	<del>William 1796</del>
<del>Joseph 1801</del>	<del>Thomas c1800</del>
William 1803	
Daniel 1805	Joseph 1805
<del>Robert 1809</del>	
Robert 1811	

The sons of John, uncle of David jnr and James, also carried the same selection of names - James, Thomas, John and William - which adds further to the confusion

<sup>46</sup> David Mylroie Purchase 1766 <http://www.mylrea.com.au/DEEDS/david-purchase1-1766.html>

<sup>47</sup> David Mylroie Purchase 1766 <http://www.mylrea.com.au/DEEDS/david-purchase2-1766.html>

<sup>48</sup> David Mylroie Settlement 1781 <http://www.mylrea.com.au/DEEDS/david-settlement-1781.html>

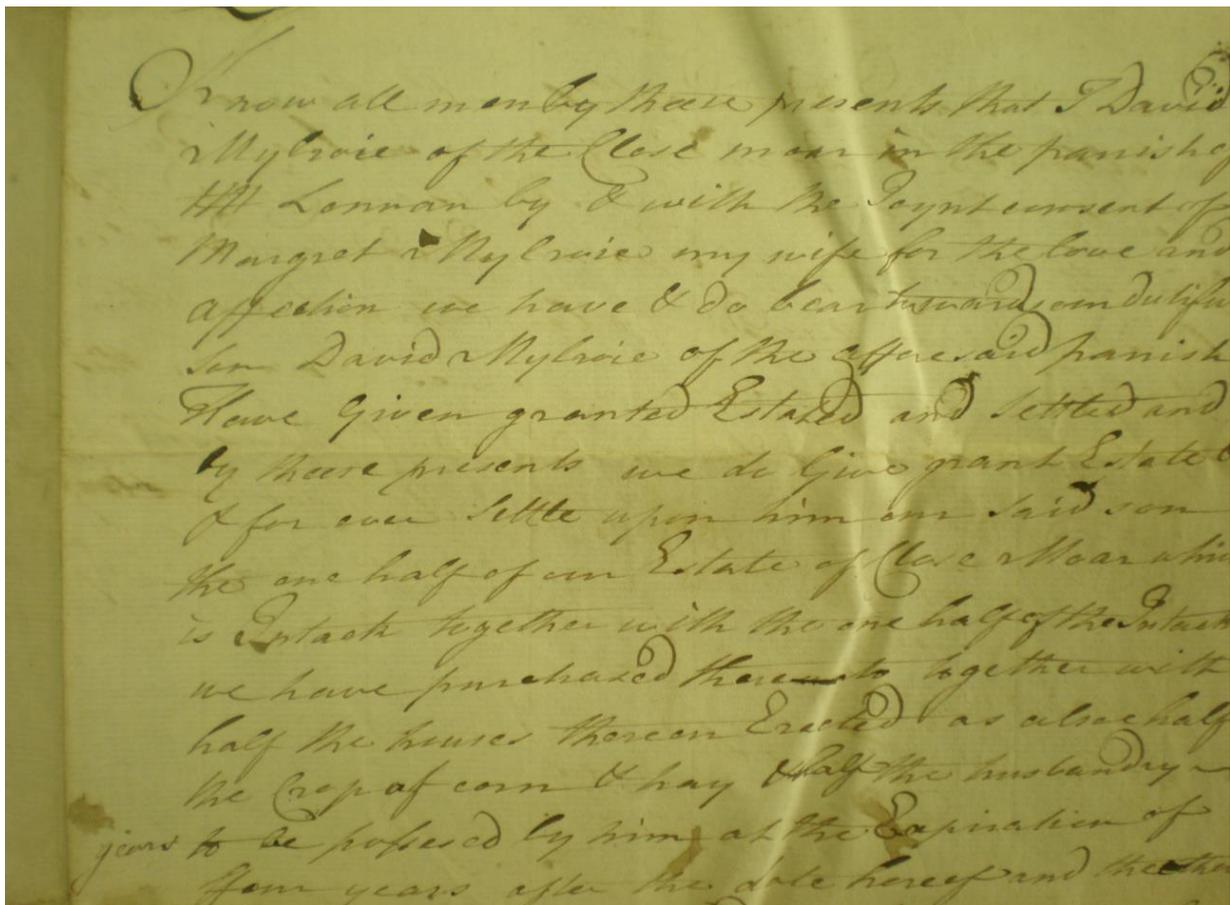
for historians attempting to map this Lonan family! These sons were born in the 1740s and 1750s, a full generation before the sons of David jnr and James, and so their baptism date is an important distinguishing feature.

# David jnr

(1762–1840)

David Mylroie jnr was the older surviving son of David McYlroy snr and Margaret Kermott als Killey, a couple who married in Lonan in 1755. He was baptised in Lonan in 1762, and a grandson off Richard Mylroie, patriarch of the Mylroie clan,

At the age of 19, and well before he married, David' s parents settled their *Close Moar* estate on him<sup>49</sup>. The estate now comprised several tenancies on *Close Moar* and *Close Slije* intacks (#36), as well as the *Knock Doo* intack (#70). The Settlement followed the usual lines: he was to receive half of the estate, together with half of the crops and farming equipment four years hence (ie. 1785), and the other half when his parents had both died. He was of course, also responsible for paying half the annual rent, which now amounted to half of 2/3½ (1/1¼d)<sup>50</sup>



Part of the 1781 Settlement from David Mylroie to his son, David jnr

<sup>49</sup> Attachment 3: *Close Moar* Timeline

<sup>50</sup> the rents amounted to Intack #36, (19½ d), Intack #70 (6d) = 2/1¼d (can't explain where the other 2d came from!)

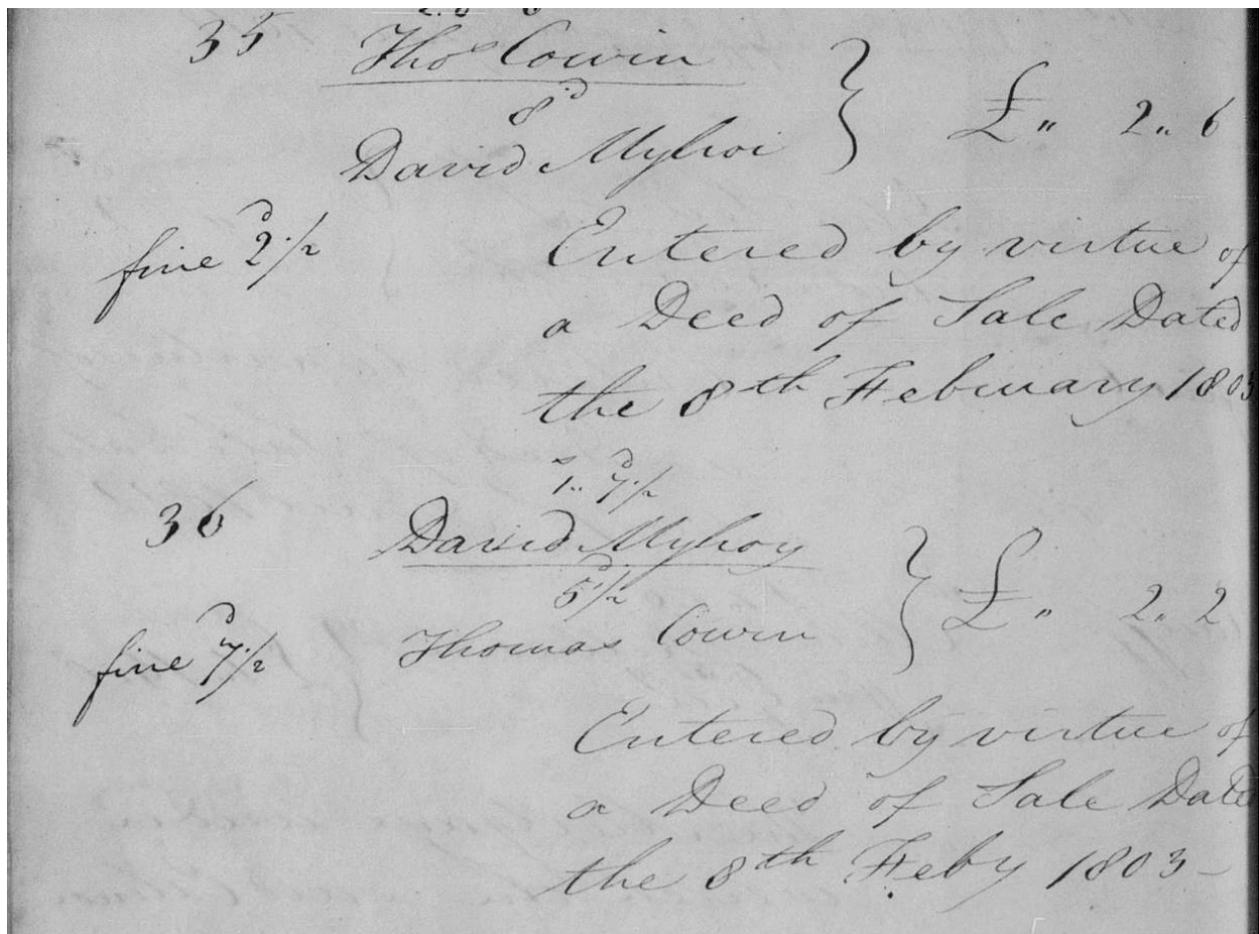
In 1789, eight years after the Settlement, David jnr married Catherine Quayle, daughter of James Quayle, a blacksmith<sup>51</sup>. David's parents were still alive so presumably they (and a growing brood of children), all lived on the *Close Moar* estate.

### Expansion

Six years after his father died, in a manner reminiscent of his uncle John's efforts nearly half a century earlier, David jnr embarked on an expansion of his land holdings. The program took several years to complete. First in 1803,

- he sold a portion of *Close Moar* to Thomas Cowin for £60<sup>52</sup>; and
- on the same day purchased the tenancy of six fields from Cowin for £80<sup>53</sup>.

In layman's terms, David jnr effectively swapped a portion of Intack #36 for a portion of Intack #35 by paying £20 to Cowin.



Then in 1806, for £30, David purchased another field, known as *Magher e close*<sup>54</sup>. The field was tenanted by William Croaghan, and adjoined the previously purchased 1803 tenancy.

<sup>51</sup> James Quayle's will [http://www.mathjim.ca/IOM/FAM2\\_files/1812.24.html](http://www.mathjim.ca/IOM/FAM2_files/1812.24.html)

<sup>52</sup> David Meylroy Sale 1803 <http://www.mylrea.com.au/DEEDS/david2-sale-1803.html>

<sup>53</sup> David Mylroy Purchase 1803 <http://www.mylrea.com.au/DEEDS/david2-purchase-1803.html>

<sup>54</sup> David Mylroie Purchase 1806 <http://www.mylrea.com.au/DEEDS/david2-purchase-1806.html>

In sum, over a three-year period, David jnr paid £110 for new tenancies, and sold an existing tenancy for £60. He was evidently prospering because there is no evidence that he ever borrowed money. He still held a tenancy for part of *Close Moar* (probably the 1755 Marriage portion), and also a part of Intack #70, purchased by his father in 1766. Now he added a portion of Intack #35 and an additional portion of Intack #70 to his portfolio.

Over the twenty years following their marriage, David and Catherine had nine children of whom six survived:

- Margaret Mylroie 1790 (married John Quay)
- ~~- Jane Mylroie 1791~~
- James Myleoie 1793
- Thomas Mylroiu 1797
- ~~- Joseph Mylroi 1801~~
- William Mylraie 1803
- Daniel 1805 (no baptismal entry - several pages missing in register)
- ~~Robert Mylroie 1809~~, and
- Robert Mylroie 1811

Catherine's 1834 will names only five children "*leaving issue Margaret Quay, wife of John Quay, James Mylrea, William Mylrea, Robert Mylrea and Daniel Mylrea*". Of the others, the first Robert lived for only one month, Jane might have died in 1808, and Joseph evidently did not reach adulthood, for these three are not mentioned in their parent's wills. Curiously, Thomas, not in his mother's will, was nevertheless mentioned in the will of his father who died several years later.

Valuable though they are, the wills of Catherine (1834) and David jnr (1840) are problematic for the family historian. This puzzle might have arisen because the surviving documents are themselves of a questionable quality. Catherine's was Letters of Administration, and clerical errors could have resulted in children's names being accidentally excluded (or included); James's will was a verbatim account of his last wishes, rather than a document prepared by James himself.

- second son Thomas was not identified in his mother's 1834 will (usually an indication he was dead) but he was later named in his father's 1840 will (usually an indication he was still alive).
- James's will has only partially survived and the date of its preparation is unknown. Given that David jnr also mentions his heir-at-law James (who had predeceased him), it seems likely that the will was an old one, although its contents point towards it being prepared some time in the five years between when Catherine died (1834) and before son James died (1839).

Unfortunately, for reasons beyond their control, David's family did not benefit greatly from his endeavours.

## Close Moar Descendants

Sons James jnr and Robert remained on the land while William and Daniel eschewed the rural life for one in the village of Laxey. Only daughter Margaret married John Quay a farmer, and lived her life on *Brondal* quarterland where the Mylroie clan originally made its mark in Lonan.

### SURVIVING MALE DESCENDANTS OF THE *CLOSE MOAR* CLAN

	1790–1810	1830–1860	1860–1890
David & Catherine	James	Thomas	Joseph
		Joseph	James John Joseph
	William	John James	John James
		William	William Garfield
		Joseph	William C
		James	–
	Daniel	John	Benjamin
	Robert	Thomas	William John Robert
		William Edward	William Edward Ernest
		Jacob	??

**1. James (1793–1839):** As the oldest son of David jnr and Catherine, and probably named after his uncle, James received the family estate in a Settlement from his parents in 1829<sup>55</sup>. As usual, it offered half of the estate almost immediately and the rest when both of his parents had died. The Settlement was concluded a week before James’ s marriage to Margaret Teare in Patrick, a southern parish on the Isle of Man, and Margaret’ s home. He was 36 years old.

James and Margaret had four children:

- Thomas (perhaps named after *his* uncle) 1830
- Margaret 1833
- Eliza 1836
- Joseph 1839

The children were all baptised in Lonan although Eliza seemed to live most of her young life in Patrick, where in the 1851 IOM census she was recorded as a niece, living in the Kennaugh household. She married there years later, but she was mentioned in her mother’ s 1862 will which tends to indicate that the links between Eliza and the rest of her family were not entirely broken by their separation<sup>56</sup>. The reason for her “fostering” by

<sup>55</sup> James Mylroie Settlement 1829 <http://www.mylrea.com.au/DEEDS/david2james-settlement-1829.html>

<sup>56</sup> Margaret Mylrea Will 1862 <http://www.mylrea.com.au/wills%20collection/margaret-teare-1862.html>

the Kennaugh family might have been her father' s untimely death which coincided with the birth of Joseph, the youngest of the James' s children, when Eliza was about 3 years old.

James Mylroie died in early 1839. His **epitaph**<sup>57</sup> in the Lonan cemetery reads:

**My glass is run, my grave you see,  
In time prepare to follow me.  
Go home, my friends, and shed no tears,  
I must stop here till Christ appears.**

In / memory of / JAMES MYLROIE / of Close Moar in this Parish / who died February 17th 1839 / aged 46 years / also / MARGARET MYLROIE / wife of the above who died / June 20th 1862 aged 63 years / also / MARGARET MYLROIE / daughter of JOSEPH MYLREA / and son of the above who died / October 24th 1889 aged 2 years.

The widowed Margaret immediately applied to the Courts to have her husband' s estate settled<sup>58</sup> and a year later, in May 1840, she again petitioned the Chancery, this time for guardians to be appointed for 11 year old son, Thomas, in order to “*administer the estates both personal and real*”<sup>59</sup>. Margaret Mylroie, together with Thomas Tear (her brother?) and John Cowle were accordingly appointed to the task of guardianship.

Two years after James' s death, his widow and three of their four children were living in Douglas where Margaret remained until her death in 1862. She was listed in the 1841 census as a huckster, living in Queen St, Onchan. In 1858, the tenancies purchased by his great grandfather nearly a century ago and expanded by his grandfather in 1803 & 1806 (Intacks #35 & #70) were transferred into Thomas' s name and they remained so until his death in 1904 after which they were passed to his son, Joseph.

On the marriage records for each of his children, James' s occupation was given as a farmer.

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<sup>57</sup> **source?** This might be for James Mylroie, the uncle of James above

<sup>58</sup> <http://www.mylrea.com.au/wills%20collection/james-1839.html>

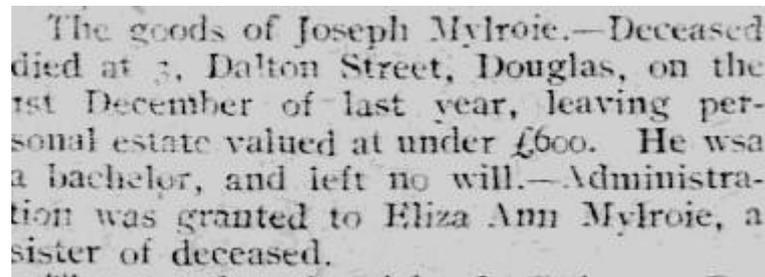
<sup>59</sup> <http://www.mylrea.com.au/DEEDS/thomas-petition-1840.html>



- Thomas (1830) became a joiner (carpenter), married Mary Clague<sup>60</sup> in 1861 and lived in Douglas, in Dalton Terrace, throughout his adult life. He had three children, including a son named Joseph. None of the children married.

He and Mary were living with their children in the 1901 census but both were absent in the 1911 census. The *Close Moar* Mylroie lands passed to only son Joseph in 1905, which would suggest that Thomas had died in the period 1901-1905. There's a burial record for a Thomas Mylrea in 1904 in Douglas, aged 75 which is likely to be him, and another for a Mary Ann Mylrea buried in 1902 in Douglas aged 68 which is probably Thomas's wife. By now for this family, their Mylroie surname had morphed permanently into Mylrea.

When Joseph died in 1926, his assets, including the *Close Moar* estate, went to his sixty-two year old, unmarried sister.



The goods of Joseph Mylroie.—Deceased died at 3, Dalton Street, Douglas, on the 1st December of last year, leaving personal estate valued at under £600. He was a bachelor, and left no will.—Administration was granted to Eliza Ann Mylroie, a sister of deceased.

- Margaret (1833) married Robert Morrison in 1850, and had ten children, none of whom carried the name James. Robert was a baker
- Eliza (1836) married Thomas Quirk in 1862, and had seven children, of whom four were sons, the second named John James.
- Joseph (1839) became a baker like his brother-in-law, Robert Morrison, and his uncle William. He married Louisa Stowell in Lonan in 1872. They had nine children, of whom their first son, born in 1882, was known as James Mylrea when he migrated to Australia in 1912, where his descendants continue to live today.

Of Joseph's other eight children, two did not live to adulthood and a third remained with her parents for life. The remaining five migrated to the UK: Leonora Jane did not marry (died 1950 - MYLRA), Louisa (m Joseph TRUMAN) and Agnes Mary (m Hugo Frederick BAXTER) both had children, as did John Joseph. Percy George MYLREA died in Sheffield in 1976, although he seems to have been buried in Douglas.

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<sup>60</sup> Not to be confused with the wife of his distant cousin Thomas Mylroie who also married a Mary Clague, but in 1773.



**James Mylrea (Mylroie) 1882-1960**

It is noteworthy that in 1839 the family of James Mylroie began to spell their name MYLREA. This represented a significant departure from the usual variations of MYLROIE. The decision/accident has made it quite difficult for this particular branch to track their *Close Moar* family.

It is also noteworthy, and admirable, that Margaret, James' s widow, at the time of her death, owned two houses in Douglas, one in Sand Street and the other in Hope Street.

- 2. William (1803-1848):** The second son of David jnr and Catherine was baptised in 1803. Not a great deal is known about him. He was a baker in Laxey village and died in 1848, at the age of 45. He married Jane Gelling in 1829 - the same year his brothers James and Daniel married in Patrick.

In 1832 William purchased a tenancy to part of a cottage allotment (#31) in Laxey<sup>61</sup>, and then the adjoining garden in 1840<sup>62</sup>. The tenancy was purchased from James Quayle who was, in all likelihood, William' s uncle (his mother' s brother). LV 1864 tells of the fate of part, if not all, of the tenancy. William mortgaged his holding in 1841, but unfortunately he could not meet his financial commitment so at least part of William' s share of Cottage #31 was sold in 1842. Ironically, that holding ended up in the hands of William' s younger brother, Robert, two years later.

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<sup>61</sup> <http://www.mylrea.com.au/DEEDS/william-purchase-1832.html>

<sup>62</sup> <http://www.mylrea.com.au/DEEDS/william-purchase-1840.html>

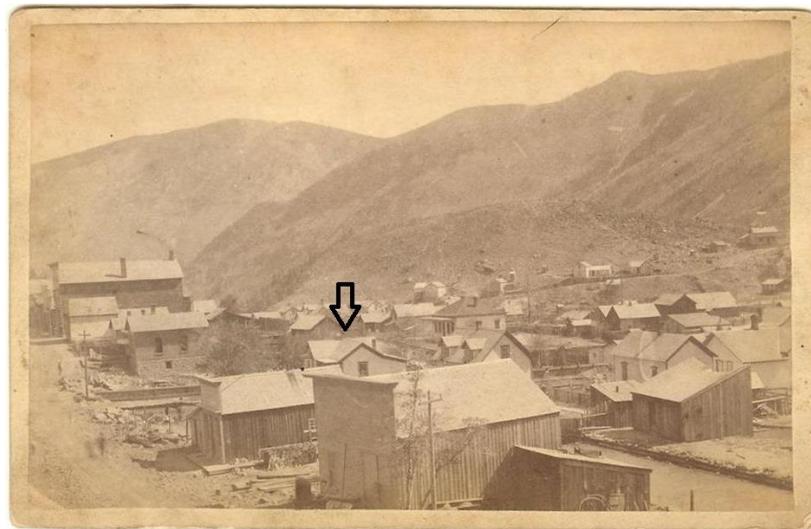
William and Jane had eight children:

- John James 1831
- Catherine 1833
- William jnr 1834
- ~~Margaret 1836~~
- ~~Ann Jane 1839~~ (no burial record)
- Joseph 1840
- ~~James 1843~~ (no burial record)
- James 1845

Sisters Margaret and Ann Jane died as young women and evidently the first James died as an infant although there is no entry for him in the Lonan burial register. The surname on the children's record of baptism was MYLROI, a variation of the spelling of this unique-to-Lonan surname.

In the 1851 census, John James, William jnr, Joseph and James were living with their widowed mother Jane, older two sons John James and William already working in the mines, and Catherine working nearby as a domestic servant in the Kelly household.

In the 1861 census, Jane was left only with her youngest child, 16 year old James. The other children had gone from the Isle of Man: Catherine departed first in 1854, William jnr migrated in 1855, John James was naturalized in the US in 1856, and Joseph in 1862. The four of them ultimately found their way to Dodgeville in Iowa county, Wisconsin, where they established their American roots. As the Laxey mines ran out of deposits, many Manx miners migrated, and this was probably the reason behind John James and William jnr going to work as lead miners in Colorado.



William Mylroie's house in Silver Plume, Colorado

### WILLIAM' S AMERICAN GRANDCHILDREN

John James	William	Joseph	James	Catherine Tregalvus
Amelia Jane John James Nettie Victoria Clarence Albert Wright Henry Dora Emily Mary Thomas George Douglas	Louisa Clarissa William Garfield	Gertrude William C. Maud E. Ruth	William Anna Margaret Mary Alice Joseph P. Catherine Teresa	Joseph Mylroie William J.

John James (1831-1886) married twice, first Elizabeth Jane Dunn Richards in about 1860, and then Margaret Ennett in 1869, having in all eleven children of whom six were male to carry on the Mylroie surname in the USA. Mary Penberthy, a grand daughter of John James, wrote the history of the American branch of this Mylroie family many years ago. It is not entirely accurate in relation to the family' s early years on the Isle of Man, although this is hardly surprising because online resources were yet to be created.

A descendant of John' s offers one of her memories. John' s son, John James jnr, took the name J.J.Millroy for his map making business.

*He helped create some fairly famous maps. The best known is the pocket map carried by miners travelling to the Klondike during the gold rush. It was not only a map but also showed the list of items you had to have with you to cross into Canada. If you didn' t have the correct amount of food and other listed products, the Canadian Mounted Police would turn you away. He also helped create a wonderful map of the Mormon Trail. It shows the passage of the Mormons from their original home on the Mississippi River called Navoo, to the present home in Salt Lake City, Utah.*

She also provided information about the photograph below. It is the house that John built in 1882 for his second wife<sup>63</sup>. It was made of Mylroie bricks manufactured just down the road by the brick making company he and his brother William had.

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<sup>63</sup> Wisconsin Historical Society



In 1862, at the age of 28, Catherine (1833-1922?) married John Tregilgus at the age of 28 in Dodgeville. Little is available to tell of her life in the US, just a collection of dot points:

- Husband was listed as *Liabile for Military Service 1861-1910*<sup>64</sup>.
- A John Tregilgus was jailed for vagrancy in 1908 in the Erie County Prison<sup>65</sup> however, although the surname is quite unusual, there is no guarantee nor any other information to confirm that this was Catherine's husband
- In the 1870 census, she was recorded as Catharine TREGHELAS, living with husband John and children Joseph (b1864) and William (b1868) John was a butcher
- In the 1880 census, she was recorded as Catherine TRAGICLYUS
- In the 1855-1905 Census, she was recorded as TREGILIUS
- John TREGILGUS was in a butchering partnership Mylroie & Tregilgus<sup>66</sup>
- She had a son named Joseph Mylroie TREGILAU<sup>67</sup> in 1863 who married Laura Mae Perkins in 1890, and had children Myrtle Irene (1891), Thomas Chester (1892), Laura Kathryn (1894), Esther (1898) and Vera Jane (1906). On the marriage record for Joseph, his mother's name is Kate
- In the 1910 Census, Catherine (Katherine TREGILQUES) was 75 years of age, she reported having had three children of whom one had died (William J. 1868-1909), but no indication of who the third child was. They were still living in Dodgeville and had been married for 48 years (c1862)
- Catherine married John 11 December 1862. He was Cornish.

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<sup>64</sup> Iowa, Military Records of Persons Subject to Military Duty 1862-1910

<sup>65</sup> New York, Governor's Register of Commitments to Prison 1842-1908

<sup>66</sup> History of Iowa country, Wisconsin (1881) p747

<sup>67</sup> The spelling of this surname moves about somewhat which might explain why finding Catherine's pathways has been difficult; Joseph's Death Record confirms *inter alia* the names of both parents

- Husband John died in 1914, with a headstone giving his birth year as 1833<sup>68</sup>. Catherine's resting place is unknown although according to a descendant's family tree, Katherine (sic) died 14th March 1922 in Iowa
- In 1920, KATE Tregilgis is living in Dodge St, Dodgeville
- Granddaughter Ester married Craig William Casady in 1920
- Granddaughter Vera Jane married Creighton Eugene Peterson in 1930

William jnr (1834-1902) married Mary Ann Vincent in 1861 in Dodgeville. They had three children: Louisa (1862), Clarisa (Hattie) (1864) and William Garfield (1881). This only son became a dentist and lived his life in Dodgeville.



William Garfield Mylroie  
1881-1966



House built in 1914 for William  
Garfield Mylroie & wife Blanche<sup>69</sup>

Joseph (1840-1911) was living with his brother William in 1870 and soon married Katherine Cornelius (1873). He was a butcher when he arrived in the US in 1862, but by 1880, he was a farmer, living in Little Rock, Minnesota. Like the rest of his family, he made his way to Dodgeville where he died in 1911. His obituary read:

*Joseph Mylroie was born in Laxey, Isle of Man, November 15th, 1841<sup>70</sup>, and was therefore, 70 years old at the time of his death. In 1862 he came to the United States and located in the state of Wisconsin. In April, 1872 he was married to Katharine Cornelius, and the same year they started west and settled on a homestead in south-western Minnesota. They lived in Minnesota for twenty years when they came to Kent in 1892, and have been residents of this city since that time.*

*Mr. Mylroie was a great traveller, and spent many years on business trips to different parts of the world. He made one trip to Coolgardie, Australia, and made trips to Alaska at five different times. He leaves besides his wife of his youth, four children, Clara M. Wetherby, of Kent; W. C. Mylroie, of Seattle; Maude E. Morris, of Olympia and Ruth Mylroie, of Kodiak, Alaska.*

<sup>68</sup> A John Tregilgas was baptised in Cornwall in 1833

<sup>69</sup> Wisconsin Historical Society

<sup>70</sup> A typo? His record of baptism says 1840

James (1845–1912) left no discernible trace on the Isle of Man after 1861 census, nor was he visible in the United States. However, a family tree on *ancestry.com* revealed that the spelling of his surname had morphed. Now it was MULROY, which is why it was impossible to find him using conventional search methods. His grand daughter, Dot Gaston, became the narrator of James' s life in the USA.

Her research points to James becoming a private with the Wise County Texas Rangers in 1873–1874, then in 1875–1878 in Jack County. He subsequently took up 80 acres in the area in 1878. Dot goes on to say:

*He did at one time have acreage in Jack County, Texas but when he was discharged from the Texas Rangers for the final time he settled on 640 acres in Knox County. I took the land papers to a land official and he states the cost of the acreage was one dollar and that it appeared he was given this land by the state of Texas for services rendered as a Texas Ranger. He was charged one dollar because they could not "just give it to him"*

James married in late life. In 1899, at the age of 54, he married 17 year old Mary Estelle O' Toole in Texas and they had six children:

- William - unknown
- Anna Margaret 12<sup>th</sup> July, 1903 - 27<sup>th</sup> August, 1989
- Mary Alice 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 1905 - 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 2001
- Joseph P. 11<sup>th</sup> May 1907 - 18<sup>th</sup> October, 1915
- Catherine 15<sup>th</sup> August, 1910 - unknown
- Teresa 15<sup>th</sup> July, 1911 - unknown

The richness of first-hand experience comes from more of Dot' s recollections:

- Only two of their six children, Anna Margaret and Mary Alice, survived to adulthood
- Catherine is buried in St. Joseph Catholic cemetery in Rhineland, Texas, a small German community settled in 1895 by German immigrants. Dot and her mother took care of the family graves when she was growing up, until it became "perpetual care". Catherine' s grave is marked by a small white, but the cross does not have her name or dates on it
- Joseph is also buried there however his headstone does have dates. He died of TB of the bone at the age of 8
- According to Dot' s mother, the other 2 children (ie. William and Teresa) were buried beside James in the Benjamin, Texas cemetery, however there seems to be no trace of them. There are numerous unmarked graves there and their names were not listed on the grave map of the cemetery.

James died in 1912 and Stella remarried (Bruckner) in 1913.



It is likely that Jane Mylroie, widow of William and mother of those Laxey Mylroie adventurers, died in 1863 on the Isle of Man, fifteen years after her husband William. Perhaps James Mylroi remained on the Isle of Man until her death, then at about 18 years of age, made his way to join his siblings in the United States.

- 3. Daniel (1805–1899):** This was the third surviving son of David Mylroie jnr and Catherine Quayle of the *Close Moar* clan. Daniel's record of baptism in 1805 lists his parents as James Mylroie & Margaret Skillicorn, but this baptism took place a month after that of Joseph, the son of "James Mylroie & Elinor Skillicorn". In 1874, Daniel declared his father's name to be David on his marriage certificate so his baptismal entry was an error on the part of the vicar. Daniel was given the gift of longevity for he died at the age of 94 while his older brothers James and William both died before they were 50.

Daniel married Mary Ann Teare in 1829 in Patrick, the same parish from which the wife of Daniel's brother James had come, and in the same year. It is possible that the two brothers married two sisters. However, the association must remain a matter for speculation since no definite link can be made between the two women, other than their surname and parish which, on the Isle of Man, is not evidence of any familial association.

Daniel and his family were urban dwellers, living in Laxey Glen, where he was a bootmaker. There were (perhaps) 9/10 children<sup>71</sup>, five not reaching adulthood:

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<sup>71</sup> I think Leonora & Isabella were the same child, maybe a vicar's mistake, maybe a transcriber's error

- John (1830)
- Mary Ann (1833)
- ~~- Thomas (1835)~~
- Ann (1836)
- ~~- Thomas (1838)~~
- ~~- Margaret (1841)~~
- ~~- Thomas (1842)~~
- Catherine (1842)
- ~~- Leonora (1844)~~
- ~~- Isabella (1845)~~

Mary Ann died in 1871, and in 1874 Daniel married Jane Lowry in Castletown. A hint of the extent of Daniel's business acumen emerges from a reading of his Marriage Contract with Jane<sup>72</sup>. In the document, he sets out to protect at least some of his assets (presumably for his children and grand children) by establishing a trust for his intended bride which, if she outlived him, gave her a house in Laxey and an estate in Patrick upon his death.

This marriage did not progress happily. Jane applied for a divorce in 1877 after just three years of marriage and Daniel was not portrayed in a positive light during proceedings. There were allegations of cruelty, and Jane asserted that he had "*taken all of her furniture and turned her out of doors*". He counter-claimed, saying (perhaps to gain some sympathy?) that he was "*poor*" and "*infirm*" - even though he owned several houses and a 15 acre farm at the time.

An agreement was arrived at, but there was no mention of the 1874 Marriage Contract during Court proceedings. How the divorce affected the arrangements set out in the Marriage Contract is unknown but as Jane died before Daniel the issue became moot.

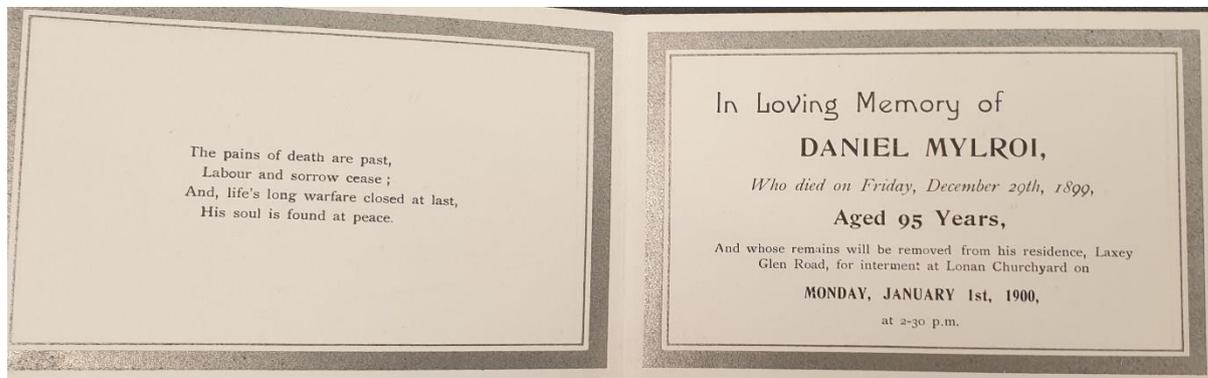
This was not Daniel's first brush with the Courts. In 1876, the year before his divorce, he alleged that he had been assaulted by his tenants who were attempting to hold an auction of their goods. Apparently he (Daniel) had intervened over several items which he claimed to be his and the auction was held up. When Daniel initiated legal proceedings, his tenants countersued for assault and battery and claimed his act was nothing more than spiteful. The end result was that the tenants lost both cases, and were required to pay costs.

Daniel was a canny business man and the secret of his success might very well have been that he eschewed the mines and the land at an early age, opting instead for a (relatively) urban life. Village-based, he had a fairly endless stream of customers from the mines and surrounding countryside. He might have started out as a boot and shoe-maker, and described himself thus in the 1874 Marriage Contract, but he had many other business interests. In his will, the full extent of his assets is revealed, with houses and lands

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<sup>72</sup> Daniel Mylroie Marriage Contract 1874 <http://www.mylrea.com.au/DEEDS/daniel-marriage-1874.html>

dotted about the Isle of Man, mostly in Laxey but some in Patrick<sup>73</sup>. The Patrick connection might have come from his first wife, Mary Ann, who was from that parish. In the 1871 census, he was listed as a farmer. He also lent money. Certainly his expanding empire was beyond the reach of his cash-strapped farming relatives and of his mining cousins.



### Daniel's only son

**John:** Just days after Daniel's death in 1899, his only surviving son John died at the age of 69. John and his two sons, Thomas and Benjamin, were builders in Laxey and responsible for many of the buildings in the village, including Chapel Terrace and former boarding houses, Seafield and Ravenscliffe.

John had spent time in England where he married Sarah Ball and had three children, before returning to his island home in the early 1860s, where another five children were born. Sadly, five of John's children died at an early age. John James, born in 1865, died of influenza in 1877 and it is said his father was so distraught that he had a masque of his son embedded in the outside wall of his workshop. Daughter Sarah had died about a month earlier, one might guess also of influenza. However, she did not have a masque in her memory.



The Masque



Masque on far RH end of wall, second storey

<sup>73</sup> Daniel Mylroie Will 1899 <http://www.mylrea.com.au/wills%20collection/daniel-1899>

The family's Memorial Inscription was a poignant one:

IN MEMORIAM: JOHN MYLROI builder Laxey Glen died January 1<sup>st</sup> 1900 aged 69 years SARAH wife of the above died February 5<sup>th</sup> 1888 aged 54 years Also their children ANNIE ELIZABETH died January 10<sup>th</sup> 1860 aged 13 years, JOHN died January 25<sup>th</sup> 1863 aged 3 years, REBEKAH died January 10<sup>th</sup> 1868 aged 4 months, SARAH died March 5<sup>th</sup> 1877 aged 15 years, JOHN JAMES died April 8<sup>th</sup> 1877 aged 12 years, GEORGE died June 21<sup>st</sup> 1892 aged 20 years, THOMAS died April 13<sup>th</sup> aged 48 years, COLIN STUART BLACK great grandchild of the above JOHN MYLROI died 1<sup>st</sup> June 1926 aged 10 years, STUART darling we love you, erected by BENJAMIN the only saviour by his father's request, ELSIE BLACK beloved daughter of BENJAMIN & ANNIE MYLROI dearly mother of the above COLIN STUART and MARGERY DOREEN died August 31<sup>st</sup> 1973 aged 78 years. Love you darling



- John's older son **Thomas** married Priscilla Smailes in 1880. They had no children. Remarkably Thomas died just a few months after his grandfather Daniel and his father, John. In a matter of four months, three generations of the men in this branch of the Mylroie family expired, leaving his brother Benjamin and Ben's two small sons as its only male survivors<sup>74</sup>. For all of the prosperity and longevity that was visited upon Daniel, these gifts had not been fully enjoyed by his son John nor his grandson Thomas.
- John's second son **Benjamin** married Beatrice Ann Worrell in 1889 in Lonan, where they had four children: Sarah (1890), John George (1892), Elsie (1895) and Benjamin Thomas (1897). Benjamin's life was also not without its trials. In 1892, he declared bankruptcy and in 1923, his father's will caused further disruption. John had directed that when *the youngest child of his son Benjamin* reached 21 years, the wealth accumulated from his (John's) estate could be distributed to this child and Benjamin's other children. However, many years after his son Benjamin Thomas turned 21, the Courts held the view

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<sup>74</sup> John Mylroie Will 1900 [http://www.iomfhs.im/lawsons/LawsonBMD/twill/1900\\_010.html](http://www.iomfhs.im/lawsons/LawsonBMD/twill/1900_010.html)

that Benjamin might yet become a father again, if his wife died and he remarried!<sup>75</sup>

When all was said and done, it was Daniel's daughters who benefited from his will<sup>76</sup>. He paid no heed whatsoever to his son, or his grandsons. Instead, Annie (Corlett) and Catherine (Cannell) and their children were his chief beneficiaries. They became entitled to as many as 6 houses and several mortgages, including "*I leave, devise and bequeath equally between them the whole of the mortgages held by me upon that portion of Ballacosney owned by Thomas Joseph Mylroi, subject to my said daughter Catherine Cannell having and enjoying interest on the said mortgages for five years from the date of my decease*"<sup>77</sup>.

Thomas Joseph Mylroi was Daniel's second cousin and the steward of another Mylroie estate, *Ballacosney Farm*. He died in 1906 without having settled his account with Daniel's estate. Catherine sued her father's debtors in 1907, including Thomas Joseph's widow and his son and heir-at-law, 11 year old, Thomas Joseph Mylroie jnr. After the Court action, *Ballacosney Farm* was no longer in the hands of Thomas Joseph Mylroie jnr, and the estate had been created originally by another grandson of Richard Mylroie's, namely James, in 1803.

**4. Robert (1811–1869):** The fourth and youngest son of David and Catherine, and baptised in 1811, was Robert. He lived with his parents as they aged, perhaps taking care of his father in his later, widowed years. Robert was 23 when his mother died and 29, married and a father of four by the time his father died.

After leaving his other children one shilling each, David jnr also committed: *I leave and bequeath to my son Robert Mylroi with whom I now live and who has been my chief support in my declining age all my goods, chattels, cash and effects...*<sup>78</sup>

Perhaps in recognition of his support for them, his parents had already settled *Crott yn Cowin*<sup>79</sup> on him in 1833. It was the tenancy of Intack #35 that they had purchased from Thomas Cowin for £80 in 1803<sup>80</sup>. The act of purchase allowed them to make the gift (Robert paid his parents £1) because had it been inherited by David jnr then, of course, they would have been obliged to settle the tenancy on their oldest son, James.

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<sup>75</sup> Isle of Man Examiner, 16<sup>th</sup> June, 1923

<sup>76</sup> although not Mary Ann (Lawson)

<sup>77</sup> Daniel Mylroie Will 1899 <http://www.mylrea.com.au/wills%20collection/daniel-1899.html>

<sup>78</sup> **JOB – Archives**. Find the rest of this will

<sup>79</sup> David Mylroie jnr Settlement 1833 <http://www.mylrea.com.au/DEEDS/david2robert-settlement-1833.html>

<sup>80</sup> David Mylroie jnr Purchase 1803 <http://www.mylrea.com.au/DEEDS/david2-purchase-1803.html>

Robert resembled his great grandfather, Richard the Mylroie patriarch, in that he married three times and had 13 children; (1) married Margaret Kewley 1834, seven children (2) married Mary Gawn 1847, two children (3) married Catherine Kneale about 1851, four children<sup>81</sup>.

<b>Margaret</b>	<b>Mary</b>	<b>Catherine</b>
Ann (1835)	Eunice (1848)	<del>Joseph (1852)</del>
John (1836)	William Edward (1849)	Isabella (1854)
<del>Infant (1837)</del>		<del>Joseph Henry</del>
Thomas (1838)		<del>(1856)</del>
<del>Margaret (1841)</del>		Jacob (1860)
<del>John James</del>		
<del>(1845)</del>		
Eliza (1846)		

His 1869 will mentioned only 3 children from his first marriage (Thomas, Ann, Eliza) and both children from his second marriage<sup>82</sup>. However at least two more were known to be living when Robert died in 1869, namely Isabella and Jacob. Whether it was his way of expressing displeasure, or whether he had made other provisions to ensure that these two were also taken care of, is unknown.

None of Robert's sons followed in their father's footsteps because when he died the family was left in a parlous state financially. Robert had taken a mortgage on Intack #35 in 1864 for £100<sup>83</sup>, and a year after his death, his widow Catherine (Kneale) mortgaged the estate for a further £22<sup>84</sup>. By 1881, Catherine's debt levels had risen to an alarming £188/10/0 and, as a consequence, the mortgagers foreclosed and the family estate was sold at public auction. Curiously, the purchasers were the very individuals who, as trustees of the Odd Fellows Lodge, had arranged her mortgage in the first place.

- Thomas went to the UK, probably as a miner. He married Sophia Kneen in 1872 and had three children. The family migrated to New Zealand and settled in Brunnerton on the west coast of the South Island, a mining town. He died there in 1902. His descendants continue to live in New Zealand.
- William Edward, from Robert's second marriage, married Eleanor Christian Faragher, and had many children including five sons. He lived most of his life in Douglas, carrying out a variety of jobs including police officer, plasterer's laborer and van driver in the latter parts of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

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<sup>81</sup> Robert also produced an illegitimate child, George Christian Mylrea, in 1856

<sup>82</sup> <http://www.mylrea.com.au/wills%20collection/robert-1869.html>

<sup>83</sup> <http://www.mylrea.com.au/DEEDS/robert-mortgage-1864.html>

<sup>84</sup> <http://www.mylrea.com.au/DEEDS/catherine-mortgage-1870.html>

- Of Robert' s other son, Jacob (third marriage, living with his half-sister Eunice in 1871), nothing more is known.
- George Christian, his illegitimate son born in 1856, was fostered by Daniel & Cath Gilmore in Marown. The boy' s name changed to Gilmore and he grew up in the UK before returning to the Isle of Man to lead the introduction of telecommunications to the island.

Within a few years of Robert' s death, Isabella the youngest daughter was working as a domestic, as was his widow, Catherine. All of Robert' s daughters - Ann, Eliza, Eunice, and Isabella - married, in Lonan.

In 1874, Catherine sold her share of the cottage #31 in the village of Laxey which she had inherited from Robert<sup>85</sup>. The purchaser was Eunice' s husband, Thomas Kewley a lead miner, and he paid £15 for Catherine' s share. Most likely, this was Catherine' s way of protecting her step-daughter Eunice' s wellbeing for she (Eunice) had inherited the other half of the house in Laxey from her father. Years later, it was in this house that Catherine lived with Eunice and her family.

Robert might not have been the most desirable of characters. There were several court actions in which he was involved, the first in 1838 brought by his older brother, James, who alleged trespass. A jury awarded James damages, James died, and three months later Robert appealed the original decision and won on a technicality. His other brushes with the law included:

- 1856, he was affiliated with an illegitimate child in Conchan whilst married to his third wife, Catherine Kneale (this was George Christian Mylrea/Kissack/Gilmore)
- 1859, he was charged with “*waste disposal*”
- 1865, he with two others was sent to Castle Rushen prison to await trial for the illegal possession of a cow<sup>86</sup>

In the end, the *Close Moar* lands so carefully acquired by David jnr were no longer farmed by a Mylroie. Two centuries after David, the founder of the Mylroie clan, arrived in Lonan, the *Close Moar* descendants had dispersed. Some left the Isle of Man forever and became successful farmers and businessmen in their new countries; others made the transition to an urban existence on the Isle of Man where they became carpenters or bakers, or took a variety of unskilled jobs.

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<sup>85</sup> Cottage & allotment #31

<sup>86</sup> Manx Sun 6<sup>th</sup> May 1865

# James snr

(1764-1842)

And then there was James, the younger son of David Mylroie and Margaret Kermott als Killey. He was baptised in 1764 in Lonan, two years after his brother David jnr. Like his brother, James remained in the parish his entire life. He married Elinor Skillicorn in about 1785<sup>87</sup> in Lonan, and there they established their own small dynasty.

As is the way with Manx parish records, not all have survived, not all that survived are accurate. James and Elinor were recorded as having six children: James jnr (1788), Margaret (1791), John (1793), William (1796), Ellinor (1801), and Joseph (1805). A seventh child, Thomas, had no baptismal record but died in 1840, with his parents being identified as the executors of his estate<sup>88</sup>. His Memorial Inscription reads:

Erected / in memory of THOMES / MYLROIE son of JAMES MYLROIE / and ELENOR SKILLICORN his wife / who departed this life on the / 4th of June 1840 aged 45 years.

There was also a baptism in October 1805 for a Daniel Mylroie, registered as the son of James Mylroie and Margaret Skillicorn. However, this child was actually the son of James' s brother, David and his wife Catherine Quayle. Moreover, little Daniel was baptized a month after the baptism of James' s son, Joseph, in September 1805, another clue that this Daniel is unlikely to be the son of James and Elinor. And it was Daniel' s marriage register entry that settled the matter:

Page 168.

1874. Marriage solemnized at the Parish Church in the Parish of *Malen* in the County of *Sole of Man*

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the Time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
335	<i>10 1874</i>	<i>Daniel Mylroie</i>	<i>Full</i>	<i>Widower</i>	<i>Farmer</i>	<i>Soney</i>	<i>David Mylroie</i>	<i>Farmer</i>
		<i>Jane Lowry</i>	<i>Full</i>	<i>Widow</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>Castletown</i>	<i>Thomas Watters</i>	<i>Farmer</i>

Married in the *Parish Church* according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the *Established Church by Law* by me, *Edward Jones*

This Marriage was solemnized between us, *D. Mylroie* } in the Presence of us, *Thomas Caswell*  
*The Mark X of Jane Lowry* } *George Quayle*

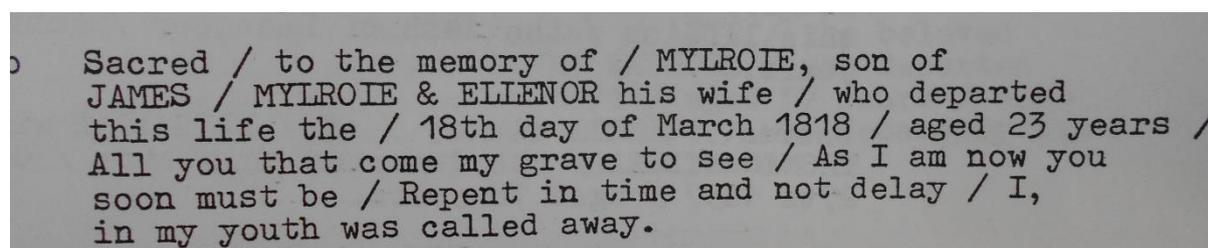
<sup>87</sup> The marriage register before 1785 has not survived

<sup>88</sup> Thomas Mylroie Will 1840 <http://www.mylrea.com.au/wills%20collection/thomas-1840.html>

Of the seven children of James and Elinor, four survived to enjoy productive adult lives:

- James jnr (married Ann Kewley)
- Margaret (married William Kewley)
- Ellinor (married John Cowley and then Thomas Killip)<sup>89</sup>
- Joseph (married Margaret Kinread)

The other three: John (b 1793) died in 1819 aged 25 years, Thomas died in 1840 aged 45 and William (b1796) left no discernable trace. William might have died in 1818 when he would have been 22 or 23. The following Memorial Inscription, missing a first name for the deceased person, is the only record of his demise so perhaps he was a mariner, died at sea, and thus had no entry in the burial register.



Sacred / to the memory of / MYLROIE, son of  
JAMES / MYLROIE & ELLENOR his wife / who departed  
this life the / 18th day of March 1818 / aged 23 years /  
All you that come my grave to see / As I am now you  
soon must be / Repent in time and not delay / I,  
in my youth was called away.

On the other hand, a William Mylroie b1796 was confined to Castle Rushen jail in 1844, for debt<sup>90</sup>. His age corresponded to that this son of James and Eleanor and there is no other known candidate for the imprisoned William Mylroie.

### *Ballacosney*<sup>91</sup>

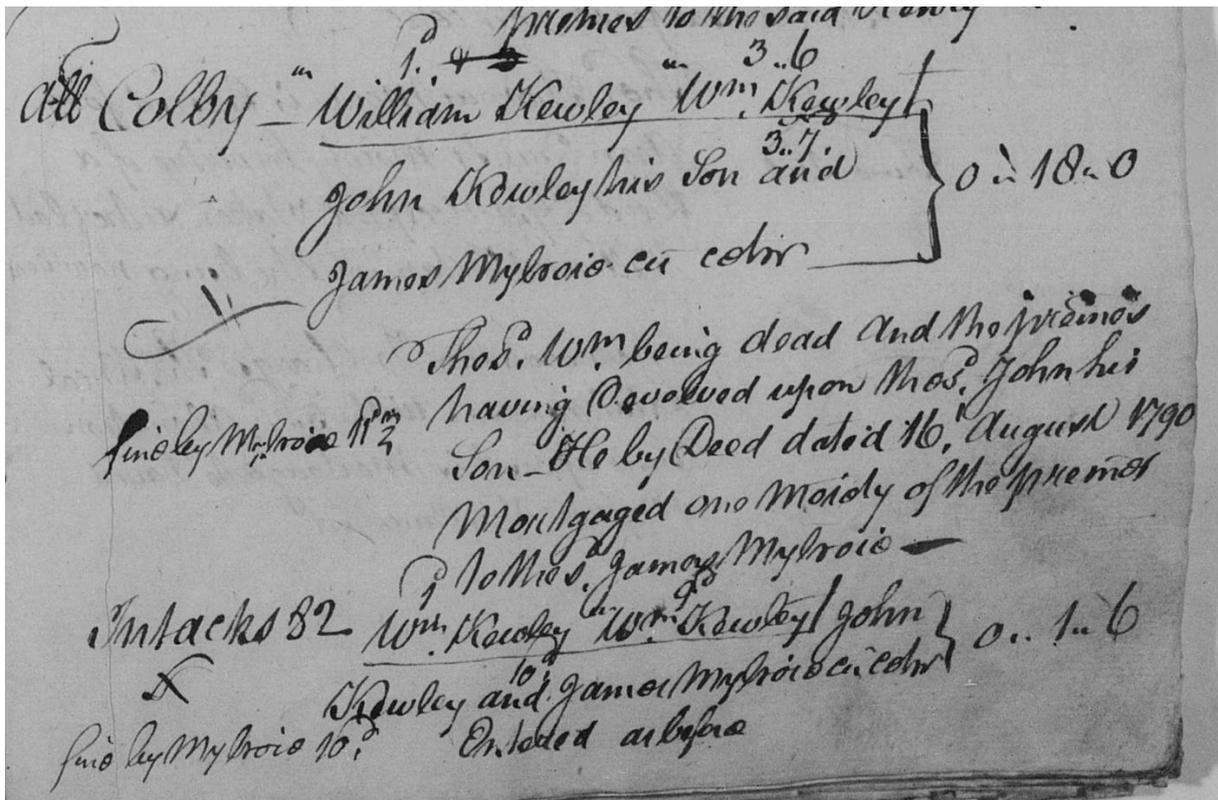
His father died in 1796 and bequeathed James all of father's livestock, furniture and clothes. That same year, when he was about 32 years of age and the father of four children, James's name appears for the first time in the Lib Vast (changes of tenancy list), as the holder of a mortgage from John Kewley. The land involved was about one fourth of a *Colby* quarterland in **Alia Colby** treen as well as Intack #82. The mortgage was taken out by Kewley in 1790 but unfortunately that document no longer exists.

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<sup>89</sup> NOTE: A marriage record exists for Elinor Mylroie marrying John Cowley in 1830 and Elinor Cowley was also a signatory on the Letters of Administration for Thomas Mylroie in 1840. On the other hand, in James's will 1842, Elinor was identified as the wife of Thomas Killip, a marriage that took place in 1841 in Braddan.

<sup>90</sup> Castle Rushen Goal Register, MNHLA

<sup>91</sup> Attachment 4: *Ballacosney* Timeline



LIB VAST - LONAN 1796

In Lib Assed 1797 (list sitting tenants), James' s joint tenancy with Kewley was recorded on the **Alia Colby** treen and Intack #82<sup>92</sup>. An earlier Lib Assed (1783) showed only his father David Mylroie and uncle John Mylroie as Lonan tenants so James had not yet become a tenant yet.

Almost forty years later, in 1836, Lib Vast noted that James had now purchased the tenancies to both pieces of land from Kewley. The sale had taken place in 1802, over thirty years previously, and James had paid the princely sum of £255<sup>93</sup>. This 1836 record of an 1802 event is a demonstration of the kind of lag that frequently existed between the transmission of a tenancy through death, sale etc and an entry in the Lord' s rent books.

James Mylroie' s estate was known as *Ballacosney*, located in the **Alia Colby** treen<sup>94</sup>, and near to his brother David' s estate of *Close Moar*. The LA entries after 1797 always noted the rent that James and his descendants paid for their *Ballacosney* land was (consistently) 3/6d of the 18s *Colby* quarterland and 10d of the 1/6d Intack #82.

<sup>92</sup> Unlike Lib Vast which has survived virtually intact, the Lib Assed collection has not fared well. Records for the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries are survived relatively complete but by the 18<sup>th</sup> century, many years of entries are missing presumed lost to posterity, and from the 19<sup>th</sup> century, only four years of entries remain - 1858, 1870, 1881 and 1891.

<sup>93</sup> <http://www.mylrea.com.au/DEEDS/james-purchase-1802.html>

## Ballacosney Descendants

B 1 & JAMES MYLROIE / Ballacosney / died 17th June 1842,  
 2 aged 80 years / ELEANOR / his wife, died 27th March  
 1850, aged 88 years / JAMES, / their son, died  
 22nd July 1874, aged 85 years / ANN / his wife,  
 died 29th Dec. 1877, aged 75 years / RICHARD /  
 son of JOHN and ELLEN MYLROIE / died 24th Dec. 1884,  
 aged 20 years.

The descendants of this second son of David Mylroie and Margaret Killey were far fewer than those of their older son. While David and Catherine could count 12 grandchildren, James and Eleanor had just 5.

### SURVIVING MALE DESCENDANTS OF THE *BALLACOSNEY* CLAN

	1790-1805	1830-1855	1850-1900
	James jnr	John	John James William Henry Thomas Arthur
James & Eleanor		Thomas	William
	Joseph	Thomas Joseph	Thomas Joseph jnr

Nevertheless, the orderly transmission of *Ballacosney* continued over the next two generations:

1828 - James jnr was the heir-at-law to the estate, and his father settled the tenancies on him, when James jnr was about 40 years of age, and married to Ann Kewley since 1824. The couple had two sons, John born in 1826 and Thomas in 1829. Older son John became the Ballacosney automatically became heir-at-law.

Thomas, the second son of James jnr, like his older second cousin Daniel, opted for the trade of boot making in Laxey Glen where he married Ann Kelly in 1854. Thomas and Ann had four children, including a son named William who was a bootmaker like his father. Thomas died at 71, and sadly, he ended his days in a “lunatic asylum” in Braddan, probably suffering from dementia. His son William died at age 47, after which his widow and two children moved to the UK.



THOMAS MYLROIE

1853 - James jnr settled *Ballacosney* onto John, a year after John married Eleanor Fargher and two weeks before John's oldest son, John James, was born.

The year of the *Ballacosney* settlement probably spelled the end of this Mylroie estate, although its death was a protracted affair. A few months after the estate had been settled on John, he took out the first of several mortgages<sup>95</sup>.

- The first mortgage involved only a couple of the *Ballacosney* fields, but in 1858 well before he had paid off the original loan which was for £50, he had taken an enormous mortgage of £300 over what now involved the entire estate.
- In 1865, unable to pay down such a huge mortgage, John was obliged to remortgage *Ballacosney* for £364/17/-<sup>96</sup>. John and the family were in serious financial trouble.
- In 1874, John took yet another mortgage, this time for £185, in addition to the £364/17/- mortgage he had entered into not quite a decade earlier. He had been able to do this because he was now entitled to lay claim to the entire estate once his father had died, although technically his mother Ann continued to enjoy her widow's entitlement to half of *Ballacosney*. The 1853 Settlement only provided 100% ownership after both parents had died so presumably John had come into his father's share of *Ballacosney* (25%) when his father died in 1874.

No documents tell us whether the trouble had started well before John's anointment as the steward of *Ballacosney* in 1853 (did he inherit debt for example?) but the challenge of repayment was enormous and, as it turns out, insurmountable. Like so many others in the district, John was a miner as well as a quarterland tenant, perhaps taking this paid employment to ease the financial burden his family was under.

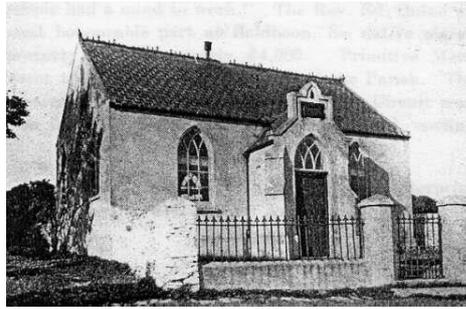
In 1871, despite his financial woes, John negotiated with his mortgager, William Fargher, for the release of a small piece of *Ballacosney* land to be donated to the Primitive Methodist congregation of the district. It was for a chapel to be built and John's only request was that he and the family had a pew in the chapel<sup>97</sup>, known as Baldhoon Primitive Methodist Chapel. It was demolished some time in the 1990s and the site now contains a bungalow.

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<sup>95</sup> John Mylroie Mortgage 1853 [http://www.mylrea.com.au/DEEDS/john\(2\)-mortgage-1853.html](http://www.mylrea.com.au/DEEDS/john(2)-mortgage-1853.html)

<sup>96</sup> John Mylroie Mortgage 1858 <http://www.mylrea.com.au/DEEDS/john-mortgage-1858.html> & John Mylroie Mortgage 1865 <http://www.mylrea.com.au/DEEDS/john-mortgage-1865.html>

<sup>97</sup> John Mylroie Gift 1871 <http://www.mylrea.com.au/DEEDS/john-gift-1871.html>



John died a shocking death in a mine accident in 1876. He was only 50 when he passed away, in marked contrast to his father who lived until he was 85 and his grandfather who died at 77 years of age. *Mona's Herald* told the sorry tale:

*Mylroi was at work at the 155 fathom level and having just fired a blast retired precipitously to some distance seating himself upon a plank to await the explosion. By some means unknown, he lost his balance and fell down the workings. At the 160 fathom level he afterwards stated he clung for some little time but relinquishing his grasp when becoming insensible he precipitated downward until he reached the 180 fathom level where he was found unconscious having fallen from a height of a hundred and fifty feet..... It was not until three hours after the catastrophe that Mylroi was brought to the surface and though he was barely alive and barely able to speak his injuries were such that he rapidly succumbed under them and died.*<sup>98</sup>

His Memorial Inscription reads

*There was but a step between me and death  
Only a "step," no more  
And death was standing o'er his shattered prey  
Only a step, a fall  
Wealth, strength, life, and all were dashed away  
Yet death thou could'st not stay  
The soul that fled away from toil and strife  
Bought by a Saviour's blood  
The spirit is with God in endless life*

When John died in 1876 aged 50, he left five sons:

- John James (1853-1888), his heir-at-law, was twenty-three years old and also working in the Laxey mines. While formal settlement of *Ballacosney* had not taken place, this was of no consequence because the law dictated that John James would inherit the estate. However, this young man suddenly and unexpectedly found himself in the unenviable position of having "ownership" of the debt-laden estate but no viable means of ridding himself of the obligation

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<sup>98</sup> 24<sup>th</sup> February, 1876

- **William Henry** (1854-1907) and **Thomas Arthur** (1855-1943) who were both young married men, living in nearby parts of Lonan
- **Frederick** (1858-after 1920) who migrated to the USA in 1880, and was single and living in Adams County, Idaho at the time of the 1900 census. His surname was now MILROY. He married Martha Dundan in 1917 in Oregon although he remained a resident of Idaho until his death in 1924
- **Richard Fargher** (1864-1884), who was just 12 years old when his father died, lived briefly with his brother Thomas Arthur and like Thomas Arthur, became a tailor in Laxey but sadly died at the age of 20

In affectionate remembrance / of / JOHN MYROIE / of Ballacosney of this Parish / died Feb. 16th 1876 / aged 50 years / There is but a step between me and death / Only a step no more / and death was standing o'er his shattered pray / Only a step a fall / Health, strength and life and all were washed away / Yet death thou couldst not slay / The soul that fled away / From toil and strife / Bought by a Saviour's blood / the Spirit is with God / in endless life / also / ELLEN MYLROIE / wife of the above / who died May 29th 1897 / aged 64 years.

Hardly surprising then that soon after his father's unexpected death, John James put the *Ballacosney* tenancy up for lease. He also sold everything that could be sold - horses, cattle, even a ton of turnips<sup>99</sup>. Presumably his mother, Ellinor, who still held an interest in the estate, moved away. She was listed as living at Mine Road when she died in 1897.

The size of the debt over *Ballacosney* might explain why John James went to England to earn a living. He was listed as a Police Constable in the 1881 census, living in barracks in Liverpool. However, a few years later, he was again a miner when he married Elizabeth Davidson Hunter in 1886 in Whitehaven. He died in 1888, at the age of 35, leaving a two-year old child (John Isaac Mylroie) and a wife of barely four years. He died of Phthisis, also known as consumption or tuberculosis, and the curse of miners everywhere.

The two-year old child, who became heir-at-law to *Ballacosney*, was entered into Lib Vast in 1898 at the age of twelve in equal shares with his mother. The estate still contained the quarterland and Intack that his great grandfather James had purchased in 1802<sup>100</sup> after holding a mortgage on the lands since 1790.

In 1908, when he arrived at legal age, the John Isaac promptly sold the estate for £785, of which £556/14/6 was owed to the Farghers. John Isaac had been born and raised in England and had no links with the lands to which he was legally entitled. He also had no viable means of erasing the debt and so sale of his inheritance would have been the obvious (and probably only) option. He became a police officer like his father, fought in the first world war, and married Lillian

<sup>99</sup> Manx Sun, 16<sup>th</sup> February, 1878

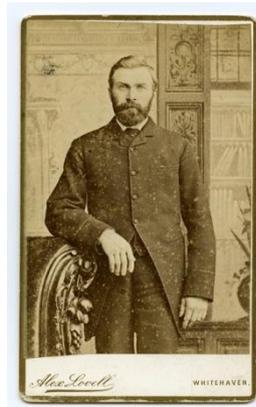
<sup>100</sup> <http://www.mylrea.com.au/DEEDS/james-purchase-1802.html>

Kennedy in 1921 at the age of 35. There is no record of the couple having children. He retired as a policeman and died in 1959 aged 72.



James Mylroie jnr  
1788-1874

?



John Mylroie  
1826-1876  
son of James jnr

John James Mylroie  
1853-1888  
grandson of James jnr  
and son of John  
Mylroie



Elizabeth Mylroie,  
widow of John James  
Mylroie with their son,  
John Isaac Mylroie  
b1886, great grandson  
of James jnr<sup>101</sup>

Of John' s other two sons:

**William Henry** (or Henry as he was sometimes known) became a lead miner but not before a stint as a police officer. He remained a miner for several decades, so it comes as no surprise that he died at the age of 53. His widowed mother, Ellinor (Fargher), settled a house and gardens in North Baldrine on him in 1887<sup>102</sup>. She had inherited the property from her father, and this gift might have been enough for him to leave the mines and become a farmer. By then there were three small children in the family of a total of 8, perhaps five reaching adulthood. The property was in the *Close Moar* area in Lonan, near where the *Close Moar* Mylroies once farmed, although that branch of the family had disappeared from the district by the late 1800s. Henry had one son, John Thomas, who died at the age of 26, unmarried and without issue, two years after his father.

& In loving memory of / WILLIAM HENRY / beloved husband of CATHERINE MYLROIE / of Skinscoe, Lonan / who died Sept. 26th 1907 / aged 53 years / also JOHN THOMAS / son of the above who died Dec. 7th 1909 aged 27 years / also CATHERINE LOUISA / daughter of the above, died Sept. 30th 1891 / aged 2 years / also CATHERINE MARY / daughter of the above, died 5th June, 1915, aged 23 years / also CATHERINE / wife and mother of the above / died Jan. 1st 1935, / aged 79 years

<sup>101</sup> Photographs courtesy of the Manx National Heritage Library & Archives

<sup>102</sup> Ellen Mylroie als Fargher Settlement 1887 <http://www.mylrea.com.au/DEEDS/ellen-settle-williamhenry.html>

**Thomas Arthur** avoided the mines and instead established a very successful tailoring business in Laxey. He had, when newly married himself, provided a home for his two youngest siblings, Richard and Eleanor. Richard died in 1884, and Eleanor married John Callow the same year. Thomas Arthur lived to the ripe old age of 93. He married Jemima Kermode when he was 25 and they had six children, five possibly surviving to adulthood. Two sons named Thomas Arthur junior did not survive to adulthood, Thomas Arthur jnr #1 dying in 1884, and Thomas Arthur #2 in 1906. His remaining son, John, joined his father in the tailoring/drapery business, and carried it on until the 1950s. Recollections about Thomas Arthur snr, and his son John Mylroie, written by Thomas Edward Mylroie, grandson of Thomas Arthur snr and son of John are lodged with the Manx National Heritage Archives & Library (MNLHA), and here copied into Attachments 5 & 6.

In loving memory of / THOMAS ARTHUR / son of THOMAS ARTHUR and JEMIMA MYLROIE / of New Road, Laxey / who died 24th November 1884 / aged 1 year and 6 months / also of / THOMAS ARTHUR / brother of the above / who died 29th August 1906 / aged 19 years / also of JEMIMA / deeply beloved wife of / THOMAS ARTHUR MYLROIE / who died 15th December 1932 / aged 77 years / also of / THOMAS ARTHUR dearly beloved husband / of the above / who died 22nd July 1943 / aged 87 years / MYLROIE / also of FREDERICK WALTER / beloved son of the above above / who died 5th March 1959, aged 65 years.

## 2. Joseph (1805-1880)

The name Joseph, like David and James, tends to be a good indicator of the origins of the individual, even when the spelling of the surname has changed to Mylrea. Joseph MYLREA (1839-1905) the baker in Douglas is one example, because he was from the *Close Moar* clan but his surname, after the death of his father in 1839, morphed into Mylrea.

The first recorded Joseph Mylroie was the son of David Mylroie and Catherine Quayle. He was born in 1801, and did not survive his childhood. The second Joseph was born in 1805, the son of James Mylroie snr and Elinor Skillicorn of *Ballacosney*.

As his father's parents had done over 40 years before, Joseph's parents ensured that their younger son also got a start in life, In 1841, long after James snr settled their estate on James jnr in 1828, Joseph's mother settled a smaller holding onto Joseph. It was known as *Ballacosney Farm*, and covered 41 acres although the original settlement might not have been quite so large. The lands comprised about one fourth of the original *Ballacosney* holding (quarterland and Intack).

The splitting of the estate was not without tension however. In 1856, the brothers were adversaries in Court<sup>103</sup>. From the only newspaper reference to the legal challenge, the issue was related to title for certain lands, this after they had originally agreed on a division in 1845.

..... *James Mylroie is to have the Naie veg, Crot n bodase, Thalloo eal, Voaney Booillyahyryn hear, the garden, the haggart, the street or farm yard, and the barn and the said Joseph Mylroie is to have the Booillie-Vooar heesh haar and the Booillie heose hear, the Chen Talloo hear, the Magher bane, the Mullagh chrink hear, the Mullagh chrink haar above Cronk yrygraf, the said James Mylroie is to have the road called rade-y-villin and the said Joseph Mylroie is to have liberty to pass and repass on the road leading through the upper side of the Booillie-Vooar heesh haar and from that on the road leading to the High road and liberty to put stones on said road to mend it and to keep a gate in the gap in the boundary between them.....*<sup>104</sup>

In fact, the sibling enmity had begun before Elinor settled *Ballacosney Farm* on Joseph. A Castle Rushen record shows that Joseph was charged, along with James Mylroie, for breaching the peace, against the order of High Bailiff Tellet. He entered into bonds and paid expenses. Perhaps Elinor's gift was an attempt to placate the brothers.

Joseph married Margaret Kinread in 1832 and there were eight children, seven surviving to adulthood, amongst them an only son, Thomas Joseph. Their daughters mostly married miners, although Margaret, migrated to the USA with her rather large family to establish a new branch of the family there. She had married Daniel Mylcarane in 1851, and migrated in 1876, drawn no doubt by the promise of land. The family settled on 120 acres outside the city of Brenton in Illinois.

*Ballacosney Farm* was taken over by Thomas Joseph after the death of his father in 1880. This only son married at the age of about 50, and had two children, one of whom was a son named Thomas Joseph jnr. Thomas Joseph snr mortgaged the estate in the 1890s to his father's cousin, Daniel Mylroie, the boot and shoe maker in Laxey Glen, a move that eventually had dire consequences. After the death of Daniel in 1899, and then Thomas Joseph jnr in 1905, Daniel's executrix sued for the repayment of the mortgage, which proved impossible, so the estate was sold by public auction. The result was that the widow of Thomas Joseph jnr and his young children were split up and went into service.

The estate that had originally been settled on Joseph in 1841 was gone from the family by 1911. The explanation was the same as it was for the loss of other Mylroie estates in Lonan - *Close Moar* and *Ballacosney*. The farming days of the Lonan Mylroies were rapidly coming to an end. Their estates became mired in debt.

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<sup>103</sup> Mona's Herald | Wednesday, July 16, 1856 | 7

<sup>104</sup> <http://www.mylrea.com.au/DEEDS/jamesjoseph-division-1845.html>

Those who chose the urban life, or who left the island seeking a better life in the United States or New Zealand escaped a similar fate.

The lands accumulated by David snr then David jnr and passed on to James in 1829 went to a teenage boy Thomas in 1855 and then *his* son Joseph in 1905. While they were still the legal tenants, this branch had long since chosen an urban life in Douglas.

The *Ballacosney* dynasty of Lonan that was founded in 1802, was carried on by his two sons. From those sons came few male descendants who lived to adulthood, and only one, James' s great grandson Thomas Arthur (b1855, who had a family that remained on the Isle of Man. Two other **great grandsons**:

- Frederick (1858) migrated to the US, married in his later years; no issue
- Richard Fargher (b1864) died a bachelor at the very young age of 20

And then three **great great grandsons** with whom the family name stopped:

- John Thomas (b1883), died aged 26 without issue
- John Isaac (b1886) remained in England, married in his 30s; no issue
- Frances Harvey (b1895) remained in England, enlisted when he was 19, married in 1925; there is no record of his having children

Pondering at the end of this story about the Mylroies of Lonan, and knowing something of the lives of the Mylreas who also lived in Lonan, a remarkable feature of these clans is that the Mylroies ran into debt and their descendants were forced into urban lives or migration, and died out. On the other hand, the two Mylrea clans in Lonan at the same time as the Mylroies showed two distinct lineages - one ran out of descendants (Thomas of *Ballakilley*) while the other flourishes today (Edward the wheelwright). This latter family combined land holding with urban living, and it might well have been this dual approach that was their salvation<sup>105</sup>.

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<sup>105</sup> Attachment 7: Lonan Tenancies

## Attachment 1 LONAN MYLREAS

There were two Mylrea families in Lonan, the first was Edward's who was old enough to be the grandfather of the second, Thomas's. Both men hailed from Douglas to the south, but whether they were related remains an open question. A degree of confusion exists amongst the family trees of these two men, to a large extent because of the inclination of the families to name their sons William and Thomas.

### 1. EDWARD (1743-1784)

Laxey village was home to the earlier family of Mylreas, headed by Edward who had been born in Braddan, in 1743, a son of Margaret Cowin and Thomas Mylrea. The connection of Edward to Lonan came to light in the 1763 will of Mary Cowin als Clague of Lonan<sup>106</sup> which says that she "*left and bequeathed unto her grandson Edward Mylrea .....*". Thus Edward's maternal line led back to Lonan<sup>107</sup>.

He was a wheelwright<sup>108</sup>, and was living in Lonan by his teen years<sup>109</sup>. In 1766, he married Dorothy Fargher als Kewley. The couple had six surviving children, including three sons who all enjoyed success in their adult lives, two in Douglas and the youngest in Lonan<sup>110</sup>. Oldest son Edward became a sea captain, and second son Thomas was a tailor in Lonan before migrating to Douglas in about 1820.

Edward

Edward jnr	Thomas	William 1780	
		William 1811	Thomas 1817 → USA
		Thomas 1841 & William 1852	

Youngest son William, baptised in 1780, remained in the parish his entire life. He married Ann Fargher in 1804, and they had five children:

- Ann (b1807) married Thomas Topliss, a paper maker of considerable note, Laxey Paper Mill
- Margaret (b1809) married John Kewley
- William jnr (b1811) married Jane Killip
- Thomas (b1817) migrated to the United States, where he married Isabella Whyte. He was a farmer and while the time of his migration is unknown, he is recorded in the 1855 US Census with four children, the oldest 6 years of age, putting his arrival into the US before 1848 (MILLREA)
- Jane (b1819) married Philip Fargher, a miner, who died 2 years later, then Robert Lewney, a lead miner, in 1841

<sup>106</sup> <http://www.mylrea.com.au/wills%20collection/mary-cowin-1763.html>

<sup>107</sup> Edward's mother, Margaret Cowin, said she came from Malew in the 1851 census. So either her family moved OR we have another example of the census material being erroneous (more likely).

<sup>108</sup> William's 1840 2<sup>nd</sup> marriage, Lonan Marriage register

<sup>109</sup> 1759 Presentment – playing cards on a Sunday

<sup>110</sup> See the story **Edward Mylrea snr (Lonan) 1743-1784** on the mylrea.com.au website

William snr was a tailor as well as a publican – although whether at the same time or not is unknown. He was presented for selling liquor on a Sunday in 1808 and recorded as holding a liquor licence in 1816<sup>111</sup> then again in 1832. Soon after his marriage, he purchased from John Fargher two parcels of land “*a brow in the south end of my estate in **Baldrine***”<sup>112</sup>, and “*the south half of the big the Flatt in the south end of my estate adjoining the parcel of said estate the widow holds at present in the north, adjoining the brow the said William Mylrea purchased of me*”<sup>113</sup>, so early in his life, he sought prosperity (and had succeeded), something his father had not been able to do. John Fargher was in all likelihood his father-in-law.

Ann Mylrea als Fargher died in 1837 and William snr remarried in 1840. His bride, Ann Cowley als Gelling, was a widow aged 31 (the groom was then 60) who had two small children already. William snr and his second wife Ann had a child, Catherine b1840, who married James Clague, a miner, in 1860.

William jnr, continued the family name in Lonan. He married Jane Killip in 1838, and Jane brought the tenancy of *Croit Baljeane* into the union in her marriage contract<sup>114</sup>. In 1840, William snr sold to William jnr for £110 land that was probably the land in **Baldrine** purchased from John Fargher over 30 years previously. William snr might have been in financial trouble because mentioned in the Sale document was the fact that the property was in the hands of the Coroner of Garff. In all likelihood, William jnr was probably rescuing the lands his father had originally acquired from Fargher, and the only way to do it was to pay off the debt – probably a mortgage taken by his father.

William jnr was described variously a hatter and a farmer, and it would seem that he was also prosperous, able to leave houses and lands to their children. Later in life, William’s family lived in Mylrea’s Terrace, perhaps so named because they had been residing there for some time. Of the nine children born into the family, four survived to adulthood – two girls and two boys:

- Ann 1838-1851
- **Thomas 1841**
- Jane 1843, married John James Taylor, a miner
- William 1845-1851
- Margaret 1848, married James Crowe, a miner
- Isabella 1850-1852
- **William 1852**
- Isabella 1854-1856
- John 1857-1877

1850 was a busy year for the family. William snr died in July, but over a period of 6 months, prior to his death there was a sequence of land transactions. William jnr sold land for £105, having previously taken a mortgage for £20. Perhaps William jnr was making an entrepreneurial move because by the time William jnr and Jane died, they were the owners of the row of houses in Laxey (Mylrea Terrace) as well as land. Their joint will specified the existence of seven houses in the village as well as land in the surrounding, including *Croit Baljean*, the property brought into the marriage by Jane Killip, and mortgaged several times over the years.

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<sup>111</sup> Manks Advertiser, 28/11/1816, p2

<sup>112</sup> <http://www.mylrea.com.au/DEEDS/william-purchase-1806.html>

<sup>113</sup> <http://www.mylrea.com.au/DEEDS/william-purchase-1812.html>

<sup>114</sup> <http://www.mylrea.com.au/DEEDS/williamjane-marriage-1838.html>

In affectionate remembrance / of / JANE / the beloved wife of / WILLIAM MYLREA of Laxey Glen / who departed this life March 23rd / 1873 aged 65 years / also of the above named / WILLIAM MYLREA / who departed this life January 4th / 1888 aged 71 years / also / JOHN / son of the above / who departed this life February 20th / 1877 / aged 22 years.

Neither of the two surviving sons of William jnr and Jane married. William was 32 when he died and heir at law Thomas was 52, after which this Mylrea family's lands passed to the families of sisters Jane (Taylor) and Margaret (Crowe).

In / affectionate remembrance / of / WILLIAM / son of the late / WILLIAM and JANE MYLREA / of Laxey Glen / who died May 22nd 1885 / aged 32 years / His end was peace / also / THOMAS MYLREA / who died Dec 13th 1893 / aged 52 years / Mourn not for me, my race is run / you've done for me what could be done / prepare to meet thy God in time / and rest in serener clime.

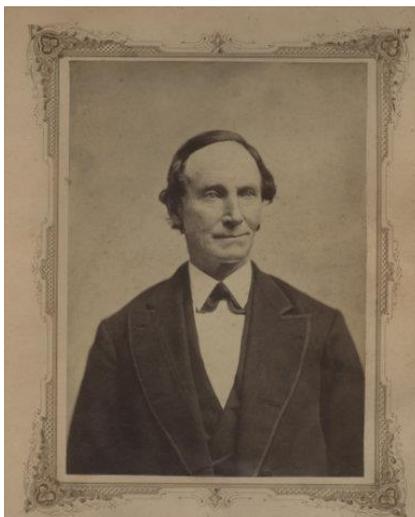
The death of these brothers spelled the end of this particular line of Edward's descendants, and brought to a close a little clan that had lived in Lonan for nearly 200 years.

On the other hand, the descendants of Thomas, younger brother of William jnr live on today in New York state.

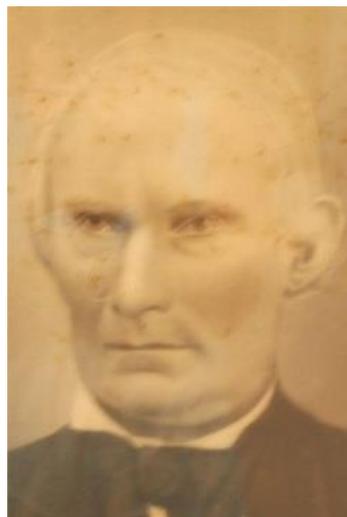
**MARCIA**, a great great grand daughter of Thomas Millrea, tells a little of his story.

*"he married Isabella Whyte from Glasgow, Scotland, and worked at a paper mill in Lee, Massachusetts before settling in Owego, NY to raise his family. One of his sons became a lawyer; one farmed with him; two were merchants in town. His only daughter, Jane, stayed at the farm, but was a very accomplished quilter. His eldest son, William, was my great grandfather. William and his wife, Helen Goodrich Millrea, both died very young from tuberculosis, leaving 4 young children to be raised by their Millrea aunts & uncles."*

She kindly shared these photographs:



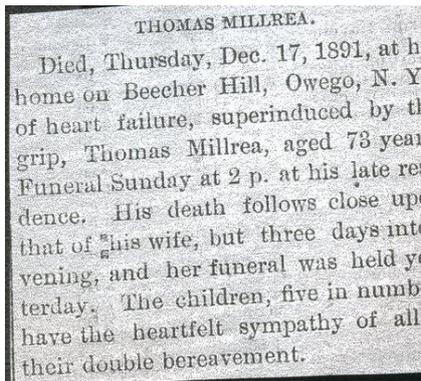
Thomas as a younger man



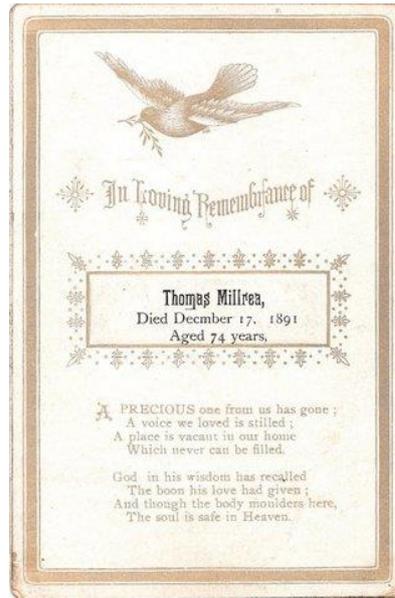
Thomas in later years



Isabella



Thomas's Obituary 1891



Thomas's Funeral Card 1891



Oldest son, William Alexander  
(grandson of William Mylrea & Jane Killip)

## 2. THOMAS (1804 -1881)

The second Mylrea family in Lonan was that of Thomas, oldest surviving son of William Mylrea and Elizabeth Clague. His father, William, came from Douglas while his mother, Elizabeth, was from Lonan where the couple married in 1802, when Elizabeth was about 30 years of age. They soon moved to Douglas where their children were born. However, Thomas returned to Lonan at a young age.

### The Clagues

Thomas's mother, Elizabeth, was the daughter of William Clague & Alice Craine, and born in Lonan in 1771. Several of her siblings, all elderly and without children, were instrumental in Thomas's prosperity when he was in his 20s<sup>115</sup>:

- In 1831, Elizabeth's brother John left his nephew Thomas Mylrea some land in *Ballakilley*, land that he had bought from a William Clague, probably John's brother
- In 1832, for £40, Elizabeth's widowed sister Isabella (Kinnish) sold to her nephew Thomas Mylrea more *Ballakilley* land, this time purchased by her late husband from William Clague in 1815<sup>116</sup>
- Later in 1832, both Isabella and her spinster sister Catharine settled upon their nephew the rest of their goods and chattels, to come into effect after they had died, which they conveniently did within a month of each other in 1836

The sum of these pieces of land was about 30 acres, and evidently came from a larger estate held by the Clagues in Lonan<sup>117</sup>.

<sup>115</sup> This family was tardy at registering the change of tenancy from Clague to Mylrea. The first Lib Vast entry is in 1893, fully sixty years after the Clague uncle and aunts died.

<sup>116</sup> <http://www.mylrea.com.au/DEEDS/isabellathomas-sale-1832.html>

<sup>117</sup> *Ballavarane* quarterland was the home of the Clagues

Thomas's mother, Elizabeth, died in 1834, at the age of 63. The following newspaper item tells of her death, and that she lived Sand Street, confirming her birth year as 1771<sup>118</sup>. To confound family historians, no record of her burial appears in the register for St George's chapel, although on that page of the register the other three mentioned in the Deaths notices do. Instead, Elizabeth's entry in a burial register can be found in Lonan (with the annotation "from Douglas"), more evidence that this was indeed Elizabeth Clague.

**Deaths.**

On Friday last, in his 61st year, Mr. Wm. Green, merchant, of this town.

On Saturday last, in Athol-court, Miss Isabelia Skillicorn, aged 81 years.

On Monday night, in Sand-street, Mrs. Elizabeth Mylrea, aged 63 years.

On Tuesday last, on the Parade, highly respected, John Quane, Esq., aged 76, for many years a worthy and independent Member of the House of Keys.

The marriage of an Eliza Mylrea to John Christian was reported as taking place in Lonan in 1834<sup>119</sup>, two years after Thomas's. The Lonan marriage register jumps from 16<sup>th</sup> November to 22<sup>nd</sup> November, so Eliza's marriage record has not survived. However, it is highly likely that Eliza was the daughter of William Mylrea and Elizabeth Clague, baptised in 1810 in Douglas, and Thomas's sister. The young couple may have gone to live in Preston, in England after their marriage in Lonan – the census records are not specific enough to be certain.

**Marriages.**

On Saturday last, at Ballaugh, Mr. George Craven, to Miss Eliza Davis, both of Ballaugh.

Same day and place, Mr. Daniel Cleator, of Jurby, to Miss Margaret Quayle, of Ballaugh.

Same day and place, Mr. George Crebbin, to Miss Eliza Davies, both of that parish.

Same day, at Peel, Mr. W. Corkill, to Miss Mary Crow, both of the parish of German.

Same day, at Kirk Lonan, Mr. John Christian, of Andreas, to Miss Eliza Mylrea, of Lonan.

Same day, at Kirk Malew, Mr. William Craine, formerly of Ballabunt, Braddan, to Miss Hannah Bridson, of Malew.

Same place, on Sunday last, Mr. Thomas Quinney, Ballacrine, Sauton, to Miss Patience Moore, of Ballacramash, Andreas.

Same day, at Ballaugh, Mr. Philip Kneen, of Jurby, to Miss Elizabeth Fell, of Ballaugh.

Same day, at Kirk Braddan, Mr. Richard Dodd, to Miss Catherine Curphey, both of this town.

### **Ann Killey, Thomas's wife**

A few months after the settlements from the Clague family in 1832, Thomas married Anne Killey, and they had eight children, six girls and two boys:

<sup>118</sup> Mona's Herald; 31 Jan 1834; p3

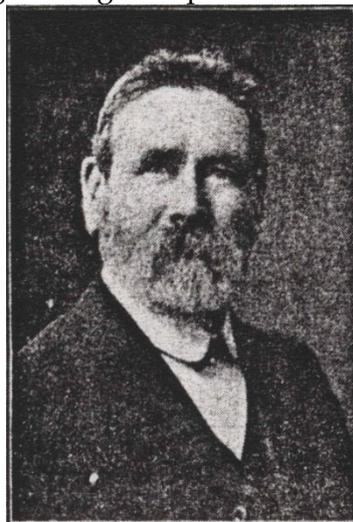
<sup>119</sup> Mona's Herald; 21 Nov 1834; p3

- Ann b1833 married in 1883, at the age of 50. Her husband was John Kinrade, a mariner, and they lived in Peel
- Elizabeth b1835 married Thomas Kermode, stone mason, and remained in Lonan
- Isabella b1837 was not mentioned in her father's 1881 will but she migrated to New Zealand in 1862 and married Peter Calder there in 1865
- Elleanor b1839 married James Lace, a miner, in Patrick
- Jane b1842 married John Corkill, a farmer. The family migrated to the UK
- Thomas b1843 married Ann Jane Cubbon and stayed in Lonan
- William b1845 married Emily Helena Corlett and stayed in Lonan
- Margaret 1849 married John Kermeen, a miner

### Thomas & William, Thomas's sons

Thomas jnr, the heir to *Ballakilley*, married Ann Jane Cubbon in 1875 but died four years later at the age of 32, not having had children.

His younger brother, William, became the heir to the family's estate. William married Emily in 1873 and the couple always resided at Sunhill Cottage in *Croit-y-quill* (Lonan) where they had four children, all of whom died soon after their birth. It is an open question whether the death of these four Mylrea infants was caused by their proximity to the mines. If miners did not die in accidents in the mines, they and their families were susceptible to lead poisoning although the potential danger was unknown at the time.



Mr. W. MYLREA (Society Steward)

William Mylrea 1883  
s/o William Mylrea jnr &  
Ann Killey

Surprisingly William never described himself in any census collection as a farmer as his father had been. Rather, he tended to assert that he was a miner, or an engine driver, or a general laborer. William was also a steward in the Baldrine Methodist church<sup>120</sup>. Unlike his brother, William lived on into old age, dying in 1924 when he was 75 years of age.

At the age of 60, in 1904, William and his surviving sisters, Isabella (67) and Jane (62), successfully sued the administrator of the Ann's estate namely her husband, John Kinrade. Ann had established a trust to which her husband was not to have access while she was

<sup>120</sup> Baldrine Methodist Church, Centenary Booklet 1893

alive, and the Mylrea siblings achieved a ruling that they were Ann's next of kin. As such they were entitled to the trust which was worth about £700.

It was this lengthy Court action that brought to light both Ann's late-life marriage to John Kinrade, and Isabella's home in New Zealand. Since Isabella was not mentioned in her father's 1881 will, most family historians could hold the (justified but incorrect) view that she had predeceased her father. The records of this Court case and the associated documentation highlights the importance of looking well beyond the dates of baptism, marriage and death to find the true story of individuals.

It is possible that the high death rate in this Mylrea family was the result of living close to, or working in, the mines. Thomas Mylrea jnr and wife Ann Jane Cubbon produced no children in their short marriage and Thomas jnr himself died at a young age. Alternatively the explanation might have been a genetic fault although William's sisters Elizabeth, Isabella, Eleanor, Jane and Margaret had many children, nearly 40 between them, most of whom grew up to carry the Mylrea connection through their maternal line. Indeed, William's 1924 will covers many pages, listing bequests to his sisters' children. The genetic fault might have been a Clague endowment, because none of Elizabeth's siblings (Catherine, John & Isabella) had living children, and Elizabeth herself had about 8 children, of whom 4 are known to have died.

Whatever his ancestry, Thomas's male line ceased with the death of his younger son, William, in 1924.

### Thomas's Mylrea forebears

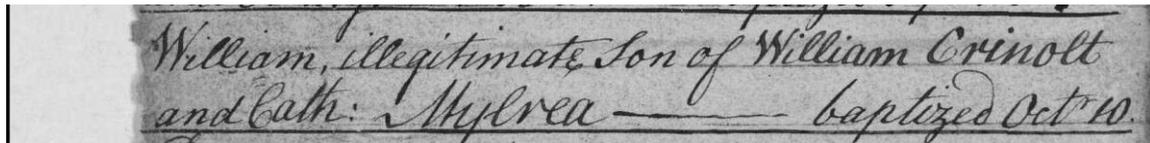
Thomas's male ancestry presents a conundrum, the kind only too well known to Manx family historians. His father's name was William, but there were two William Mylreas living in Douglas who married at much the same time. One was the son of William Mylrea and Jane Taggart, and born in 1781; the other has no discernible history;

- one married Elizabeth Clague in 1802 in Lonan; and
- the other married Jane Kewley in 1808 in Marown.

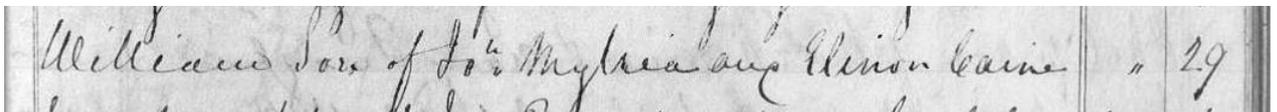
William (+Elizabeth Clague)	William (+ Jane Kewley)
<i>married Lonan, 1802</i>	<i>married Marown, 1805</i>
??	SOUTH QUAY
• <del>William (1802, Lonan)</del>	
• Thomas (1804)	• Mary Anne (1806)
• <del>Elizabeth (??) d 1811</del>	• <del>Jane (1808)</del>
• William (1808)	• William (1810) d 1849
• Eliza (1811)	• ??? (1812)
• <del>John (1812)</del>	• Ellinor (1813)
• Catherine (1814)	• Thomas (1813)
• <del>John (1819)</del>	• John (1818)
	• Catherine (1821)
	• John Robert (1823)
	• <del>Edward James (1823)</del>
	• <del>Sarah (1828)</del>

In an attempt to discover who each of those two might have been, a survey of the William Mylreas baptised on the Isle of Man between 1760 and 1781 uncovered nine:

- William b1760 (father William, Ballaugh) died 1786
- William b1771 (father John) died 1771
- William b1772 (father Daniel, Rushen) died 1772
- William b1773 (mother Catherine Mylrea, Bride)
- William b1777 (father Nicholas, Ballaugh) married Elinor Caine
- William b1775 (father Edward, German) married Jane Plaice
- William b1780 (father Edward, Lonan) married Jane Killey
- William b1781 (father William, Douglas)
- William b1781 (father John, Michael)



Source: Bride Parish Register 1773



Source: Michael Parish Register 1781

Of those nine, all but three can be accounted for - William born in Bride in 1773 the illegitimate son of Catherine Mylrea<sup>121</sup>, and the two Williams born nearly a decade later, one in Michael, the son of John Mylrea and Ellinor Caine and the other born in Douglas, the son of William Mylrea and Jane Taggart. So which one married Elizabeth Clague?

- A William Mylrea died in 1838 at the age of 57 (ie. dob 1781). He lived in South Quay. This is almost certainly the son of William Mylrea and Jane Kewley, for this family is known to have lived in South Quay
- A second William Mylrea died in 1850 at the age of 68 (ie dob 1782). He was living in Market Street at the time and it would have been useful if this William was recorded in the 1841 IOM Census, but so far attempts to locate him have been unsuccessful. Perhaps he was a mariner.

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<sup>121</sup> Who Catherine Mylrea was is not categorically determined although she was probably the daughter of William Mylrea and Jane Tear. Their daughter was born in 1739, and her family was known to have lived in Bride for a while. Her father died there in 1774, and her sister Margaret (Kewish) lived there in the 1760s, 70s & 80s, which might be the reason for the parents and the unmarried daughter also resided in that parish. If this Catherine was the mother of the illegitimate William, then his father was William Crinolt, and another child Elizabeth was born to this couple in 1776. This Catherine died in 1789 in Douglas, not mentioning either of these children in [her will](#). See also the will of William Mylrea, died 1774 Bride

**PIDKNEY PARK, WILLS.**

**DEATHS.**

On Saturday week, in Market street, William Mylrea, aged 68 years.

On Sunday week, in Castle-street, Mr. John Fell, grocer, in the prime of life.

On Monday week, in Back Strand-street, Mr. Cowell, mason, aged 60 years.

Same day, at Port-e-Chee Beg, Mr. George Coultra, in the 65th year of his age,—and in the hope of a blessed resurrection through faith in a crucified Redeemer.

Yesterday week, generally respected, Mr. John Nelson, of the British Hotel, in this town, aged 61 years.

Thus, if Elizabeth Clague married either of these two men, they were about 10 years younger than she was. On the other hand, William, the illegitimate child born in Bride, was closer in age to Elizabeth Clague although there is no record of his continuing existence beyond his baptism.

Confounding this search for Thomas's paternal ancestry was the presence of an Edward Mylrea as witness to the 1802 wedding of William Mylrea and Elizabeth Clague. The only known Edward Mylrea of adult age at the time was the sea captain, son of Edward Mylrea snr and Dorothy Fargher, and living in Onchan, which tends to point towards Thomas being the son of the South Quay Mylreas.

This marriage was solemnized between us  
 William Mylrea and  
 Elizabeth Clague  
 in the presence of  
 Edward Mylrea  
 Charles Anne

**ALISON'S STORY:** Alison is the gg grand daughter of Thomas Mylrea and Ann Killey through their daughter Isabella, born in 1837. This is Alison's narrative of Isabella's new life in New Zealand.

Isabella left the Isle of Man about 1863 and travelled to Dunedin with the Clucas family, as their servant, I think. In the 1861 census she is listed living with them in Douglas. The first time I can pick her up in NZ is living on Shennan's Station, near Alexandra Central Otago, at the time of the Dunstan gold rush.

Living in Alexandra at that time was Peter John Calder, who had headed to the area from the Victorian goldfields in 1862. Peter realised that there was money to be made by using his trade of a baker, and he set up a bakery in Alexandra, supplying the miners with bread and biscuits as well as dabbling in chasing the gold at the same time.

Peter and Isabella got together, married in Clyde in 1865 with the Clucas as witnesses, settling in Alexandra where they had five children. They left Alexandra in 1874 and Peter invested in a bakery in Mornington, Dunedin, where they were struck by tragedy - two of

their sons died within two weeks of each other in the measles epidemic. Life went on and they had another 3 children including my grandmother Lily who was born in 1879.

Alison generously shared these photographs:



Thomas Mylrea & Ann (Killey)



Isabella, their daughter

## Attachment 2 DOUGLAS COTTAGES

### 1. THOMAS

YEAR	#	Rent	Tenant	Tenant	Tenant	Tenant	Tenant
1595							
1610	76	6d	Thomas Mcylrea id	Thomas Dawson 4d			
1616	76	6d	Thomas	Thomas Dawson 2d	George Faulks 2d	Arthur Ceasar id	
1617	78	6d	Thomas	Thomas Dawson 4d	Ric & ??? id		
1620	76	6d	Thomas	Thomas Dawson 2d	George Stanley 2d	Arthur Ceasar id	
1631	77	6d	Thomas	Thomas Quayle 2d	George Stanley 2d	Ewan Christian 1/2d	Jane 1/2d
1732	79	6d	Thomas	Donald Quayle 2d	George Stanley 2d	Ewan Christian 1/2d	Jane Carbury 1/2d
1639	76	6d	Thomas	Charles Quayle +	George Stanley 2d	Ewan Christian 1/2d	Ewan Christian 1/2d
1643	76	6d	Thomas	Charles Quayle +	George Stanley 2d	Ewan Christian 1/2d	Ewan Christian 1/2d
1648	76	6d	Thomas	Charles Quayle +	Jane Stanley wife & executor Jo Stanley id	Ewan Christian id	
1658	76	6d	Thomas	Charles Quayle 2d	Jane Stanley wife & executor Jo Stanley id	Ewan Christian id	
1686	76	6d	Geo Tyson	Charles Quayle 2d	Jane Stanley id wife & executor Jo Stanley id	Ewan Christian id	
1702	76	6d	Geo Tyson	Charles Quayle 2d	Ro Key 2d	Kath Bridson id	
1706	73	6d	John Corris & wife				

### 2. HEN & JOHN

LA	# (1), (5)	TENANT 1	TENANT 2	RENT
1643	88	NichConoree	-	4d
1648	88	Nich? Conoree?	-	4d
1651?	90	NichConorey	Hen Mclyvorrey	4d
1658	88	NichConorey (3d)	Hen Mclyvorrey (1d)	4d
1671	87	John Mcylvorrey (3d)	Hen Mcylvorrey (1d)	4d
1672		John Mcylvorrey (3d)	Hen Mcylvorrey (1d)	4d
1673		John Mcylvorrey (3d)	Hen Mcylvorrey (1d)	4d
1674	91	John Mcylvorrey (3d)	Hen Mcylvorrey (1d)	4d
1677		John Mcylvorrey (3d)	Hen Mcylvorrey (1d)	4d
1686		John Mcylvorrey (3d)	Hen Mcylvorrey (1d)	4d
1686-87		John Mcylvorrey (3d)	Hen Mcylvorrey (1d)	4d
1687-88	92	John Mcylvorrey (3d)	Hen Mcylvorrey (1d)	4d

1689-1690		John Mcylvorrey (3d)	Hen Mcylvorrey (1d)	4d
1690-91	91	John Mcylvorrey (3d)	Hen Mcylvorrey (1d)	4d
1692-1693	91	John Mcylvorrey (3d)	Hen Mcylvorrey (1d)	4d
1694		John Mcylvorrey (3d)	Hen Mcylvorrey (1d)	4d
1695		John Mcylvorrey (3d)	Hen Mcylvorrey (1d)	4d
1696		John Mcylvorrey (3d)	Hen Mcylvorrey (1d)	4d
1697-1700		John Mcylvorrey (3d)	Hen Mcylvorrey (1d)	4d
1700	91	John Mcylvorrey (3d)	Hen Mcylvorrey (1d)	4d
1702	88	John Mcylvorrey (3d)	Hen Mcylvorrey (1d)	4d
1706	108	Thomas Mcylroii		3d <sup>(2)</sup>
1707-1708	92	Rich Killey 3d, Phil Higgin 1d		4d
1712-1714	111	Thomas Mcylroii		3d
1720	113	Hen Caine & Ellinor wife <sup>(3)</sup>		3d

Source: Manx roots

Thomas Mylroi & Ann Mylroi alias Kelly alias Cain his wife, with Jony Kelly & Elinor Kelly her daughters

Ann's right assumed to have been inherited from Gilbert Cain, who held this rent 1671<sup>(4)</sup>.

Jony & Elinor's rights derived from their father, Ann's first husband (Kelly)

### 3. JOHN & HEN

LA	# (1), (5)	TENANT 1	TENANT 2	RENT
1643	60	Nick Conoree 9d (Coudrie in 1636)	Jo Carolly 1½d, Robert Quayne 1½d	12d
1648	60	Nick Conoraë 9d	Jo Caroly 1½d with wife, Robert Quayne 1½d	12d
1651?	61	John Mcvlvorrey 6d	Hen Mcylroy (3d), Jo Corroley (1½ d)	12d
1658	60	John Mcvlvorrey 6d	Hen Mcylroy (3d), Jo Corroley (1½d) Robt Quine (1½d)	12d
1671	59	John Mcvlvorrey 6d	Hen Mcylroy (3d), Jo Corroley (1½ d)	12d
1672	57	John Mcvlvorrey 6d	Hen Mcylroy (3d), Jo Corroley & ?? (1½ d)	12d
1673		John Mcvlvorrey 6d	Hen Mcylroy (3d), Jo Corroley (1½ d) Cum exor Philp Christian ½d exor David Christian ½d	12d
1674	62	John Mcvlvorrey 6d	Hen Mylvorrey (3d), Jo Corrolly (1½ d) Kath Moore widow? and exec David Christian ½d	12d
1677		John Mcvlvorrey 6d	Hen Mylvorrey (3d), John Cowley with wife (1½d) Kath Moore (½d) Kath Moore (½d)	12d
1686		John Mcvlvorrey 6d	Hen Mylvorrey (3d), John Cowley with wife (1½d) Kath Moore (½d) Kath Moore (½d)	12d
1686-87		John Mcvlvorrey 6d	Hen Mylvorrey (3d), John Cowley with wife (1½d) Kath Moore (½d) Kath Moore (½d)	12d
Pre 1686		John Mcvlvorrey 6d	Hen Mylvorrey (3d), Jo Corrolly (1½d) Kath Moore (½d) executor and David Christian (½d)	12d
1687-88		John Mcvlvorrey 6d	Hen Mylvorrey (3d), John Cowley (1½d) cum uxor Kath Moore (½d),	12d

			Kath Moore (1/2d)	
1689-1690		John Mcvlvorrey 6d	Hen Mylvorrey (3d), John Cowley (1 1/2d) cum uxor Kath Moore (1/2d), Kath Moore (1/2d)	12d
1690-91		John Mcvlvorrey 6d	Hen Mylvorrey (3d), John Cowley (1 1/2d) cum uxor Kath Moore (1/2d) Kath Moore (1/2d)	12d
1692-1693	63	Thomas Mcylvorrey 6d	Hen Mylvorrey (3d), John Cowley (1 1/2d) Kath Moore (1/2d), Kath Moore (1/2d)	12d
1694		Thomas Mcylvorrey 6d	Hen Mylvorrey (3d), John Cowley (1 1/2d) Kath Moore (1/2d), Kath Moore (1/2d)	12d
1695		Thomas Mcylvorrey 6d	Hen Mylvorrey (3d), John Cowley (1 1/2d) Kath Moore (1/2d), Kath Moore (1/2d)	12d
1696		Thomas Mcvlvorrey 6d	Hen Mylvorrey (3d), John Cowley (1 1/2d) Kath Moore (1/2d), Kath Moore (1/2d)	12d
1700	62	Thomas Mcvlvorrey 6d	Hen Mylvorrey (3d), John Cowley (1 1/2d) cum uxor Kat Moore (1/2d) Kat Moore (1/2d)	12d
1702	60	Thomas Mcvlvorrey 6d	Hen Mylvorrey (3d), John Cowley (1 1/2d) cum uxor Kat Moore (1/2d) Kat Moore (1/2d)	12d
1706		Gilbert Cubbon & Robert Quine occupy the only 12d cottages in the 60s		
1707-1708	60	Thomas Mcylroi & wife,	Henry Cottier	6d
1707-1708	63	Richard Killey 6d	Phil Higgin & wife 3d, Patt Cowley (1 1/2d), Rich Killey (1 1/2d)	12d

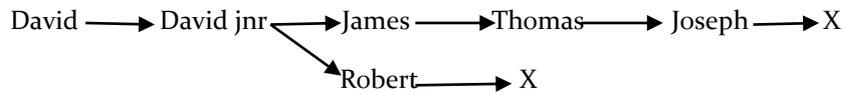
There are "patches" of cottages for whom the tenants or order do not change over time:  
1643 Quayle, Robert Joyner, Tho Joyner, Tho Joyner, Tho Joyner, Robt Joyner, Tho Joyner, Vinch  
1643 Robert Lewn, Edward Fletcher (neighbour Nich Conoree)  
1651? Robert Lewn, Edward Fletcher (neighbour Nich Conoree & Hen Mcylroy)  
1672 Robert Lewn, Edward Fletcher (neighbour John Mcylvorrey & Hen Mcylvorrey)  
1673 Robert Lewn, Robert Lewn (neighbour John Mcylvorrey & Hen Mcylvorrey)  
1690 Robert Lewn, Robert Lewn (neighbour John Mcylvorrey & Hen Mcylvorrey)

## NOTES:

1. EVEN THOUGH A COTTAGE ALLOTMENT NUMBER CHANGED, THE RENT DID NOT, NOR FOR THE MOST PART DID THE NEIGHBOURING ENTRIES (eg. QUIRK BEFORE & FAYLE AFTER)
2. NO IDEA WHERE Hen's 1d rent went in 1706 but perhaps tacked onto Killey/Higgin claim
3. ELINOR WAS THOMAS'S STEP-DAUGHTER, Thomas died 1717; his will made no mention of her although LV records that he passed his right to wife & daughter Jony, who gave it to Henry Caine, the husband of the other step-daughter
4. Gilbert Cain was not the tenant in 1671
5. This is largely my numbering for cottage allotments, not official and I might not be entirely accurate but will be within a number of two
6. The best I can make of these Mylroi/Mcylvorrey holdings is that the change was enacted 1706-1707, and that it was both Mylvorrees who were replaced, and (at least briefly). Jane Mcylroy (Higgin) and Jane Mcylroy (Killey) were the new tenants.
7. In relation to Cottage #63, more specifically, Killey got Thomas's share and Kath Moore's share, and Higgin got Hen's share

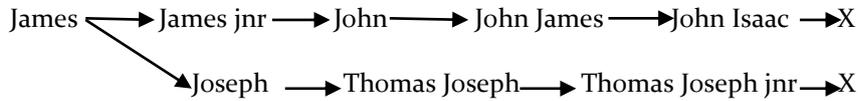
8. In relation to Cottage #92, Killey got John's share & Higgin got Hen's share
9. In relation to Cottage #60, this is the cottage which traditionally had the Lewns on one side and Coultry on the other
10. The "transitions" fit what is known about the Mylrea women – ie. Jane (Higgins) father was Hen, and Jane (Killey) father was John
11. Liber Vastarum do no record any of the changes John to Thomas (1706), Thomas to Killey & Higgin (1707-1708), Killey & Higgin to Thomas 1712-1714

## Attachment 3 *CLOSE MOAR* TIMELINE



1755	David marries Margaret Killey; given a portion of <i>Close Moar</i> intack #36 in Marriage Contract
1757	David expands holding, purchasing more of the <i>Close Moar</i> intack #36 from brother in law, Thomas Killey; pays £30/8
1766	David expands holding purchasing more of <i>Close Moar</i> intack (#35) from neighbour Mary Knickle; and a portion of neighbouring Intack #70 from Robert Kneale
1781	David settles his Intacks on to son David jnr
1796	David dies
1799	Margaret Killey dies
1801	David jnr mortgages to John Fargher for £60
1803	David jnr sells to Thomas Cowin for £60 (part of #35)
1803	David jnr purchases from Thomas Cowin for £80 (part of #36)
1806	David jnr purchases from William Croughan for \$30 (#70)
1822	David jnr mortgages
1833	David jnr settles a portion of Intack #35 to son Robert; LV 1862
1839	David jnr settles on son James; LV 1855 #36, #70
1839	James dies; 14 year old son Thomas becomes heir at law; LV 1855, 1864
1840	David jnr dies
1869	Robert Mylroie dies
1885	Robert Mylroie's Intack #35 sold at auction; LV 1900
1905	Thomas dies, son Joseph becomes heir at law; LV 1905 (#36, #70)
1926	Joseph Mylrea dies without issue; sister Elizabeth Ann becomes heir (#36, #70)

## Attachment 4 *BALLACOSNEY* TIMELINE



1790	James provides a mortgage to John Kewley for about 1/5 of an 18/- quarterland & 1/2 Intack #82 (rent = 1/6); recorded in LV1796 NSM Oct 1790 42 Jno Kewley Jas Mylroi
1802	James purchases tenancy from John Kewley; recorded in LV1836
1828	James settles <i>Ballacosney</i> on James jnr; inherits 100% <i>Ballacosney</i> on parent's deaths: recorded in LV1853 It is not recorded how, but James has acquired the other half of Kewley's holding
1841	Ellinor settles 1/4 <i>Ballacosney</i> on Joseph, their younger son ( <i>Ballacosney Farm</i> )
1842	James the father dies
1845	James jnr & Joseph agree a division of the <i>Ballacosney</i> lands
1850	Ellinor the mother dies
1853	James jnr settles <i>Ballacosney</i> on John; recorded in LV 1875 2/7 1/2 of 18/- to John (Joseph=10 1/2) 7 1/2 of 1/6 to John (Joseph = 2 1/2 )
1853	John mortgages 2 fields of <i>Ballacosney</i> to Robert Kelly £50; repaid in 1861
1853	James purchases more of <i>Ballacosney</i> from Hutchin; LV 1861 (rent = 4/9) 15 <sup>th</sup> April 1853
1856	James jnr & Joseph in a legal dispute over division of lands
1858	John mortgages all of <i>Ballacosney</i> to William Fargher £300
1858	James jnr <i>Ballacosney</i> rent: recorded in LA1858 Joseph rent <i>Ballacosney Farm</i> : recorded in LA 1858
1865	John remortgages all his share of <i>Ballacosney</i> to William Fargher; £365/17/-
1870	James jnr rent on <i>Ballacosney</i> Joseph rent of <i>Ballacosney Farm</i>
1871	John gifts (?) part of <i>Ballacosney</i> to Methodist chapel Or sells; recorded LV 1903
1874	John mortgages more of <i>Ballacosney</i> to William Fargher £185
1874	James jnr the father dies
1876	John the father of John James dies; estate transferred to John James widow Elizabeth & son, John Isaac; recorded LV1876 also 1898
1877	Ann the mother dies
1880	Joseph dies <i>Ballacosney Farm</i> transferred to son Thomas Joseph; recorded in LV1880
1881	John James rent of <i>Ballacosney</i> ; recorded in LA1881 Thomas Joseph rent of <i>Ballacosney Farm</i>
1885	Thomas Joseph mortgages <i>Ballacosney Farm</i> holding to Daniel Mylroie for £40
1888	John James dies intestate
1889	Thomas Joseph mortgages <i>Ballacosney Farm</i> to George Quayle for £30
1891	Elizabeth (widow) & John Isaac rent for <i>Ballacosney</i> ; recorded in LA1891 Thomas Joseph rent of <i>Ballacosney Farm</i>
1894	Thomas Joseph mortgages <i>Ballacosney Farm</i> to Daniel Mylroie for £10
1897	Thomas Joseph mortgages <i>Ballacosney Farm</i> to Daniel Mylroie for £42
1901	John James rent of <i>Ballacosney</i> ; recorded in LA1901 Thomas Joseph rent of <i>Ballacosney Farm</i>
1906	Thomas Joseph dies
1907	Catherine Cannel sues Thomas Joseph jnr to recover father Daniel's debt & takes <i>Ballacosney Farm</i> ; In 1907, the Coronor sold the <i>Ballacosney Farm</i> to John James Moughton

1908	John Isaac & mother sells <i>Ballacosney</i> to Robert Curghey; recorded LV 1908 In 1909 Robert Curghey sold <i>Ballacosney</i> estate to Sarah & Margaret Cain
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Several changes in the rent proportions are not documented with clarity.

- What was originally a 3/6 rent on an 18/- quarterland wholly and solely for James snr became 2/7½ presumably after the brothers had settled on their respective holdings on the *Ballacosney* estate in the 1840s. Similarly with the #82 Intack, the original 10 ½ rent became 7½. The 1856 Court case might also have led to adjustments
- John purchased more land on *Ballacosney* quarterland, trebling the size of the original holding - it might have been the straw that broke the camel's back. The original purchase document is yet to be recovered. However, an LV entry in Dec 1861 describes a John Mylroie & wife Jane Croughan inheriting Alia Colby (*Ballacosney*) lands, rent 4/- - no record of the marriage can be found, and the sale mentioned in the entry is for 1854 when John was already married to Eleanor Fargher.
- After John "gifts a piece of *Ballacosney* estate to the Primitive Methodist church in 1881, the rent burden does not change even though they gave John 14/-, and the term "sell" was used in the indenture

Attachment 5 RECOLLECTIONS about THOMAS ARTHUR MYLROIE

(courtesy of the Manx National Heritage Library & Archives MS08043?<sup>122</sup>)

QA 690

Thomas Arthur Mylroie 1855-1943.

Grandfather Mylroie was the third son of a farmer, John Mylroie, Ballacorney, Lonan - and as his eldest brother John would inherit the place - he was apprenticed to Mr. Mrs. Moughtin tailor. From what Grandfather said, it was customary in those days for a parent to pay a premium to a tradesman for the training of his son.

My grandfather told me that he used to accompany Mr. Moughtin to farm houses where they would be tailoring for a week or more, (not sure whether or not they slept at the farm). Such visits were known as "whipping the cat" and an elderly Larey lady suggested that its origin was - here comes the tailor, whip the cat off the table."

After serving his time Grandfather set up in business on his own account (1876) in a shop opposite Larey Down Hall (now occupied by Mrs. Quayle). After his marriage in 1880, he moved to a shop a house between the Down Hall and the Police Station - then to a place adjoining the Police Station - by this time a bridge had been built across the Bethowen Rd. (phonetic spelling), and the second M.E.R. station was erected near where he lived. Mr. Quark (pro. Quirk) sold the house to the M.E.R. Co. so Grandfather had to move again and lived it would be his last removal and bought a plot to build - however he had to occupy Glen Grave - House while the shop & house were being built. I omitted to add that Mr. Quark sold the house to enable the M.E.R. Co. to demolish it to provide an entrance to their new Railway Station which was subsequently replaced by a third - the present one - after Mr. Mark Carine had built a very handsome bridge over the river.

Shortly after their marriage, Grandmother Mylroie began selling general drapery in a small way - in keeping with the size of the shop.

The plot of land my grandfather bought was part of Mr. Treale's large and once beautiful garden on which he built a very commodious house and shop; the building was described in one of the Manx papers as 'an ornament to Larey.' My grandparents moved in on 1st May 1900 - and the drapery business was expanded.

Grandfather continued tailoring - for both sexes - until he was 87 - 73 years - by which time he enjoyed second sight and could work black on black without the aid of glasses. He did most of his work sitting on the floor of the work room used for his tailoring - often cross-legged in front of a low window - to this day I regret not having a photograph of him with pressing board on his knees and using the goose, the floor-boards where he sat were highly polished!!

John Mylroie 1885-1980.

In 1908 - after training in Douglas, Liverpool and London, my father took over the drapery business from his parents and by his hard work, help, never-failing courtesy and wonderful value, built up a prosperous business - general drapery and furnishing - which attracted customers who became staunch friends - from every village, town and parish, so that when he died at almost 95 the big Parish Church of Ballacorney was almost full for his funeral service.

Arthur E. Mylroie

4th. July, 1992.

9774

<sup>122</sup> Arthur recorded other aspects of life in Lonan, and these too are lodged with the MNLHA - See FLS M/009 & FLS E/009; also two Memorial Cards F/009

**THE (UNOFFICIAL) HISTORY OF MYLROIE HOUSE, LAXEY**

**BEGINNINGS**

- In March 1898 Thomas Arthur Mylroie commissioned the property to be built to comprise of shop premises and living accommodation.
- Plans were drawn up by renowned architect, Mr W G Rennison, who was also responsible for several well known Douglas properties including the Villiers and Sefton hotels and the Gaiety Theatre. Mylroie House was the only property outside of Douglas with which Rennison was involved.
- The original specification drawn up by Mr Rennison for the building of Mylroie house is now lodged with the Manx Museum.
- The Mylroie family ran a drapers business in the property and lived above the shop. John Mylroie succeeded his Father as proprietor and the business ran until 1955.

1955

Purchased by Mr Tealby who lived on the premises and ran a café and tea room business.

1973

Purchased by Mr Ryden and Mr Almond who operated an antiques business from the shop.

1976

Purchased by Mr and Mrs Dennis Shaw who lived on the premises and ran a café and tea rooms business.

1980

Purchased by Doreen Johnson, running a jewellers business from the property.

1981

Purchased by the Skillicorn family.

- Initially trading under Skillicorns of Laxey who transferred their hardware business there from the neighbouring property.

- The upper floors were gradually converted into self-contained flats.
- In early 1990s leased shop premises to AW Blacks, for several years, for their cookers and stoves business.
- 1998 Skillicorns of Laxey relocated their kitchen studio from the property where Swales are now located, to Mylroie house.
- 2002 Shop premises leased to Mr and Mrs Colin Partington for their dental practice, Laxey Dental Surgery.

also responsible for several well known Douglas properties including the Wilbers and Sefton hotels and the Gaiety Theatre. Mylroie House was the only property outside of Douglas with which Rannison was involved.

- The original specification drawn up by Mr Rannison for the building of Mylroie House is now lodged with the Manx Museum.
- The Mylroie family ran a drapers business from the property and lived above the shop. John Mylroie succeeded his father as proprietor and the business ran until 1955.

1875  
Purchased by Mr and Mrs ... who operated an antiques business from the shop.

1873  
Purchased by Mr and Mrs Deane Shaw who lived on the premises and ran a cafe and tea rooms business.

1876  
Purchased by Mr and Mrs Deane Shaw who lived on the premises and ran a cafe and tea rooms business.

1880  
Purchased by Gordon Johnson, running a jewellers business from the property.

1881  
Purchased by the Skillicorn family.

- Initially trading under Skillicorns of Laxey who transferred their hardware business there from the neighbouring property.



Doorstep in Mylroie House, now the Laxey Dental Surgery

(photographs taken by Ileen Mylrea, 2014)

## Attachment 7 LONAN TENANCIES in 19<sup>th</sup> Century

### MYLROIE & MYLREA

*Finding the narrative of tenancies for the Mylroie & Mylrea families in Lonan is close to impossible when relying solely on the land records. The table below began as an effort to demonstrate the evolving generations on the various holdings, but the situation turned out to be too fluid for that purpose, and land records too out of date OR no longer in existence. The five years of entries in Lib Assed records that survive: 1797, 1858, 1870, 1881, 1891 + several from the 1700s – are not enough to map the family transitions on estates.*

*In broad terms, inherited land was not able to be split amongst siblings; it went to the oldest surviving son, and where there was none, then the law specified who qualified as the heir-at-law. On the other hand, purchased land could be split, mostly amongst children/siblings but not always. Thomas Mylrea for example allocated 1/3 of a particular holding to each of his two sisters and to his housekeeper.*

*Muddying the waters further are two additional factors: there was no compulsion for a change of hands to be registered in a timely fashion, the result of which is that a Lib Vaste entry might note a change many decades after the actual event. Secondly, Lib Vast frequently referred to a Sale or Mortgage document that has not survived, resulting in an absence of key information about the individuals involved.*

*These obstacles mean that the table below simply reveals who was on what lands in Lonan during the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.*

### Quarterland

Brondal	<i>Ballachuan</i>	Richard Mylroie snr	7/9 of 16/-
Grauff	<i>Ballacallister</i>	John Mylroie, Thomas, Thomas jnr	2/10 of 27/4
Alia Colby	<i>Ballacosney</i> <i>*split between brothers in 1841</i>	James Mylroie snr, James jnr, John, John James, John Isaac	4/- of 18/- 2/7½ of 18/- 9d of 18/-
	<i>Ballacosney Farm</i>	James Mylroie snr, Joseph, Thomas Joseph, Thomas Joseph jnr	10½ d of 18/-
	<i>Baljean</i>	William Mylrea, William, Thomas (to Jane - Taylor)	5/4 of £1/10/8
	<i>Baldrine</i> <i>*split between sisters' families in 1893</i>	William Mylrea, William, Thomas (to Margaret - Crowe)	(originally 5d of £1/15/-)
		William Mylrea, William, Thomas (to Jane - Taylor)	Split: 1/3 share each
		William Mylrea, William, Thomas (to housekeeper Margt Clague)	
	<i>Baldrine</i>	David Mylroie jnr ( <i>Close Moar</i> )	3/6 of £1/15/-
Alia Raby	<i>Ballakilly</i>	Thomas Mylrea, William, ??	9/3 of £1/18/8
Hegnes		Thomas Mylroi (+Rbt Wm Clague)	½d of £1/8/2

## Intack

#2	William	½d of ½d
#6	Thomas Mylroie,	1/4d of 11d
#25	William Mylrea	3 1/3d of 1/0½d
#27	John Mylroie, Thomas, Thomas jnr	1½d of 1/8
	Thomas Arthur Mylroie	1/64d of 1/8
<i>Close Moar</i> #35, #36, #70	David Mylroie, David jnr, James, Thomas, Joseph <i>*Robert was given #35 by his parents in 1833*</i>	#35 8d of 2/6 #36 8d of 2/2 #70 6d of 26/8
#43	John Allen Mylrea	½d of 1/3
#45	Daniel Mylroie	8d of 3/8
#50	William Henry Mylroie	¼ d of 3d
#59	John Mylroie	½d of 4/4
#82 <i>*part of Ballacosney estate, split between brothers in 1841</i>	James Mylroie snr, James jnr, John, John James, John Isaac  James Mylorie snr, Joseph, Thomas Joseph, Thomas Joseph jnr	5d of 1/6 <i>(allocation between the brothers changed periodically)</i> 4d of 1/6
#98	John Mylroie, Margaret	1d of 13/6
#108	Richard Mylroie snr	1½d of 12d
#140	Thomas Mylrea, William	9d of 2/2

## Cottage & Intack

1	John Mylroie	2 1/3d of 5d
17	Daniel Mylroie	½ d of 2d
23	William Mylrea	7/8 d of 6d
29	T.A.Mylroie	1d of 9½d
31	William Mylroie (1832-1842)	1d of 2/1½
31	Robert Mylroie & John Cowtey, Eunice + widow Mylroie,	½ d & ½ d of 2/1½
32	Daniel Mylroie	2d of 4d

By 1901, most of the Mylrea clan had disappeared from Lonan, leaving only

- William Mylrea, Thomas's son, (*Ballakille*);
- Jane Taylor als Mylrea, great grand daughter of Edward, grand daughter of William (Baldrine), and daughter of William jnr (*Baljean*)

And Richard's descendants through his sons, David And James:

- Thomas, great great grandson of John Mylroie (*Ballacallister*)
- John Mylroie, grandson of David Mylroie snr (*Close Moar*)
- Thomas Joseph, Thomas Arthur & William Henry, great grandsons of James Mylroie (*Ballacosney*)
- Margaret, daughter of John Mylroie with her mother Ann on Intack #98
- Annie, great great grand daughter of James & Elinor (*Ballacosney*)