



**THREE DANIELS
&
a THOMAS**

1761-1934

A tale of survival

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

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ABOUT 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.

In the course of researching John's story, she became an accidental authority on a variety of Mylrea strands and she prepared a series of their histories in an attempt to find the web that links these families together. To date, she has produced narratives about:

- William McYlrea (Ballaugh) 1627-1692
- Nicholas Mylrea (Ballaugh) 1747-1823
- Three Daniels & a Thomas 1761-1934
- Thomas Mylrea, Tailor (Lonan) 1774-1853
- Thomas Mylrea, Farmer (Braddan) 1788-1860
- Basil Mylrea, Publican (Peel) 1791-1865
- Philip Mylrea, Stone Mason (Douglas) 1793-1861
- Frederick Thomas Mylrea, Military Man (London) 1803-1862
- The Brushmen of Bethnal Green
- Mylreas in 19th Century Lancashire

This chronicle is a salute to "the second son", the one who missed out on the family's assets because those were already reserved for the oldest son. Indeed, where land was involved, Manx law dictated that it had to be passed to the oldest son. Some second sons never managed to make the transition to productive independence but Daniel Mylrea, the second son of John Mylrea and Jane Clark, was one who did and he evidently passed on the will to survive to subsequent generations.

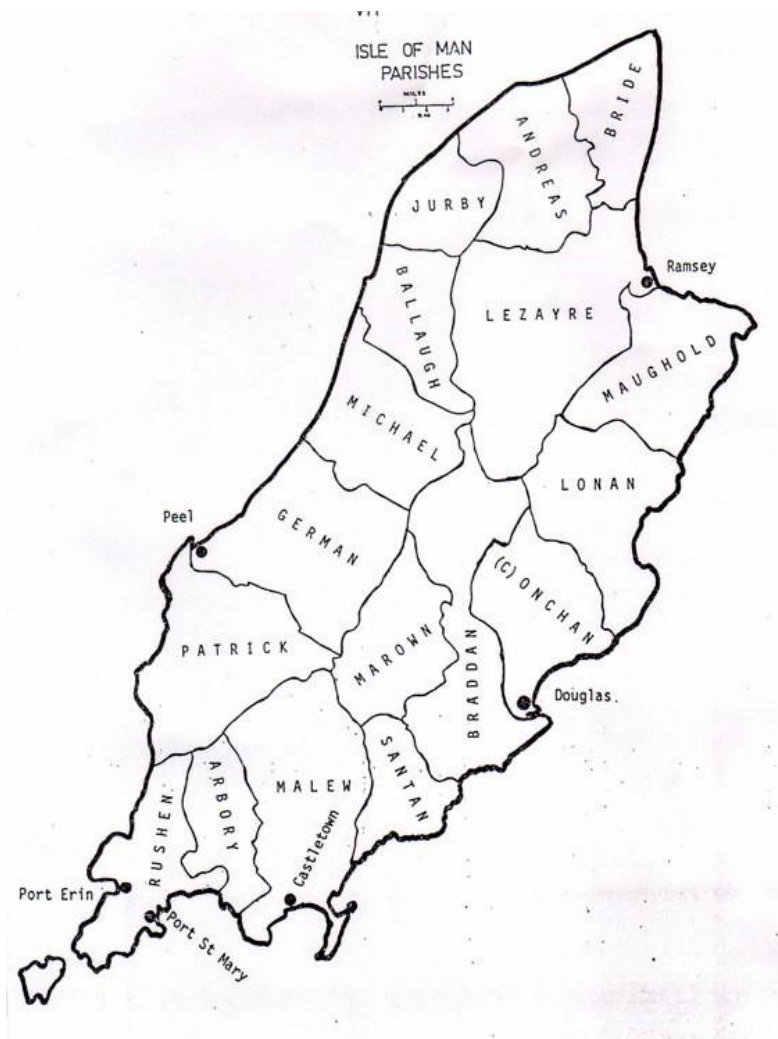
The only person you are destined to become is the person you decide to be.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

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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Source: <http://woodsatlas1867.webs.com>

NOTE: The spelling of the name MYLREA is a major stumbling block in all Mylrea genealogy. So far, I've come across more than 30 variations included MYBREA, MYHEA, MYBRED, MYBRIA, MYLRIA, MYBREA, MYBREY, MULRAY, MEYLREA, HYLRED, MILREA and BYLREA.

INTRODUCTION

The starting point for this story is a farm in the parish of Ballaugh. From here, it then winds its way east to Ramsey then south to Douglas after which the path diverges, one back to Ramsey, one to the UK, and another to the USA.

What's in a name?

The name Daniel was a popular one amongst the Mylrea families on the Isle of Man, so much so that most families had a Daniel in their brood.

In fact, the names of the Mylrea males more often than not provided a clue as to which geographic region on the island they had come from. This was particularly so in the 17th and 18th centuries.

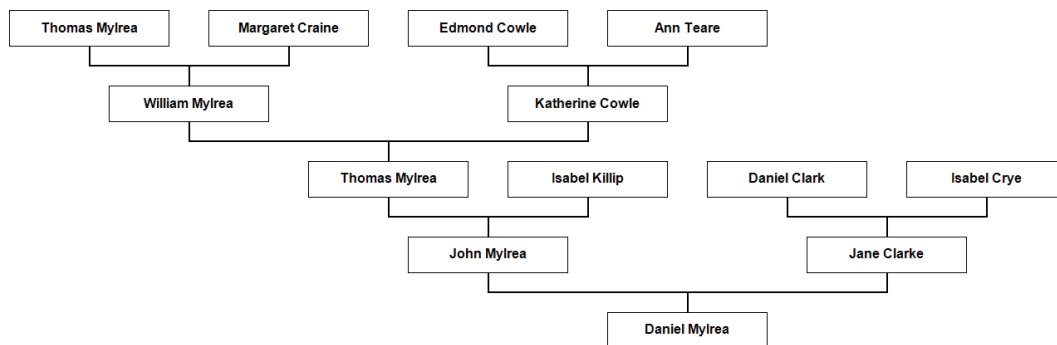
- * For the line that occupied the upper ranks of Manx authority for several centuries - as Deemsters, Archbishops, and other high level civil officials - Daniel was usually the name of the first-born male. The names of subsequent male children in these families tended to be Thomas and William.
- * Amongst the farming Mylreas of Ballaugh, the name Daniel was not given to the first-born. Here, the first-born was usually Thomas or John, with Daniel more commonly occurring for the second-born boy.
- * The name Daniel never appeared amongst the Mylreas of Malew, whose preference was for John and Thomas (and later Charles). Only once in Peel did the name Daniel appear, and that was in the family of Edward Mylrea, originally from Malew, whose descendants preferred the names Edward, Basil and William.
- * In the Douglas/Braddan area, no Daniel was recorded but plenty of sons named Thomas, Philip, William and to a lesser extent Edward can be found.

DANIEL I

1761-1830

Daniel, the second son of John Mylrea and Jane Clark and born in 1761, had a lineage that can be traced back to the early 1600s. This was the time when written records of baptisms were kept for the first time on the Isle of Man.

**Pedigree Chart for
Daniel Mylrea b1761 Ballaugh**



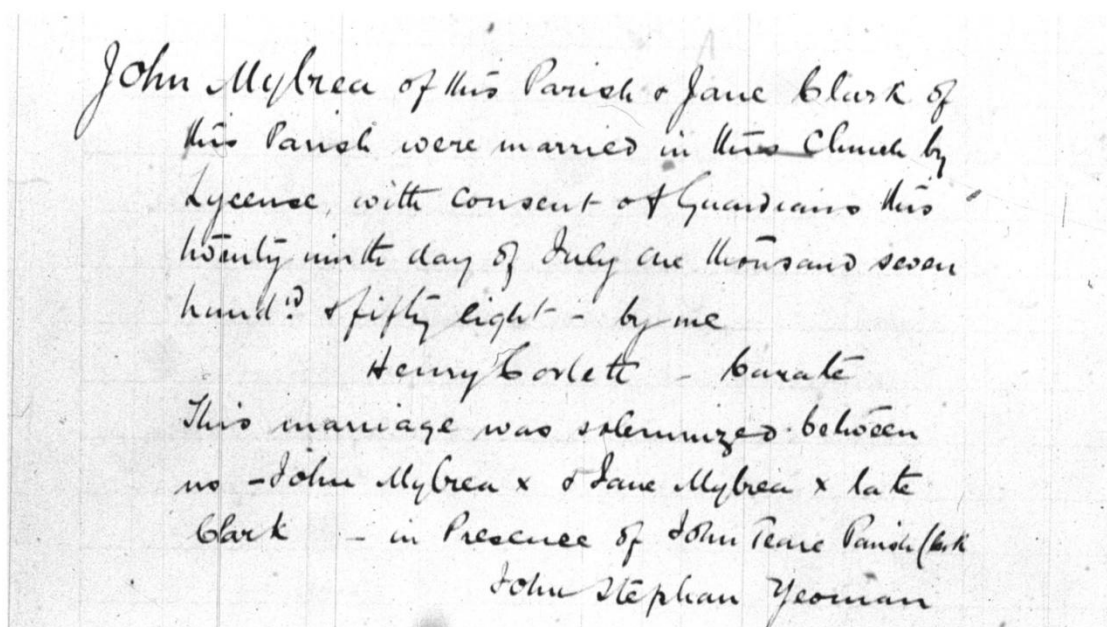
Balla Cooilley

His family had been the owners of a farm known as *Balla Cooilley* in Ballaugh for many generations. It was comparative large, at around 100 acres, and ran as a narrow strip along the north-west coast line of the island. Tradition was that land passed from one generation to the next through a Marriage Contract or a Settlement, parents to son, and these were often lengthy legal documents. They detailed the conditions of when property actually changed ownership (when the father died, or after both parents had died, or immediately) and what was included (not only land but for example livestock and quantities of grain, beds and bedding).

When Thomas Mylrea, Daniel's grandfather, died at the age of 35 in 1744, his son John (Daniel's father) was only six years old but there was never any question that this little boy would one day take over the farm. John's mother, Isabel Killip, her second husband William Cain, and John's uncle, Nicholas Mylrea, all played a part in maintaining *Balla Cooilley*, in support of this boy who would one day take on his

inheritance. In 1752, at the age of 14, John was a signatory (along with uncle Nicholas) to a Deed of Mortgage for part of *Balla Cooley*. The mortgage was for £37 Manks and the collateral was an Intack field in the Curragh, marshland in the eastern part of Ballaugh¹. The debt was repaid in 1756.

John Mylrea married Jane Clark when he was twenty, underage but surrounded by people who had already helped him manage his legacy. Jane's father Daniel Clark was a nearby farmer so John had another pair of experienced shoulders to lean on if he ever needed them.



John Mylrea of this Parish & Jane Clark of
this Parish were married in this Church by
License, with consent of Guardians this
twenty ninth day of July one thousand seven
hundred & fifty eight - by me
Henry Corlett - Curate
This marriage was solemnized between
us - John Mylrea & Jane Mylrea & late
Clark - in presence of John Peter Parish Clerk
John Stephen Yeoman

**RECORD OF THE MARRIAGE OF JOHN MYLREA & JANE CLARK
BALLAUGH PARISH CHURCH 1758²**

John and Jane had 13 children over a period of 23 years. Not all survived of course but their two oldest sons did, John (born in 1759) and Daniel (born in 1761). As it happened, John snr lived until he was 76 so John jnr waited in the wings for a long time before he could take possession of *Balla Cooley*. He had however been given half-ownership of the farm in his Marriage Contract of 1801³.

Both John Mylrea snr and John Mylrea jnr had had the good fortune to marry women who did not have brothers. This meant that the family legacies of these women flowed directly into their husband's existing assets. The worth of the *Balla Cooley* Mylreas

would have grown considerably during the late 1700s and early 1800s simply because of the women that had married John Mylrea snr and John Mylrea jnr.

John Mylrea jnr was over 40 when he married Ellinor Corlett (which raises the issue of whether he might have been married before and his first wife had died, but surviving records reveal no clues). His younger brother, Daniel, on the other hand had married when he was 28 years of age and by the time big brother John married, Daniel was father to five children.

The Second Son

Two years younger than John, Daniel would have grown up knowing that he had to make his own way in the world (unless John died) because *Balla Cooley* was John's by birthright and prevailing Manx laws relating to land holdings. Daniel received some assistance in 1778 from his grandfather, Daniel Clark. Lacking a son, he had bequeathed everything to his daughter Jane Mylrea als Clark and his grandson John Mylrea jnr EXCEPT for one guinea (£1/1/-) which he declared was to be used to "*put [Daniel] to some honest trade*"⁴. Daniel would have been 17 at the time and a little old to be embarking on his first occupation. Nevertheless, it was a warm gesture from his grandfather that acknowledged the fate of the second son. Or perhaps young Daniel Mylrea was showing no sign of taking charge of his future and his grandfather's bequest was an attempt to kick-start the youth's enthusiasm.

Married Life

Daniel I married Mary Hughes in 1789 in Ballaugh when he was 28 years of age. They had eight children, all born in Ballaugh:

- ☞ Jane (1789)
- ☞ John (1791)
- ☞ Eleanor (1793)
- ☞ Mary (1796)
- ☞ Daniel (1799)
- ☞ Elizabeth (1802)
- ☞ Ann (1805)
- ☞ Margaret (about 1809)

The family lived in the parish until Daniel was at least 40 so his working life must have been well and truly established in whatever he was doing to support his family - there

is no record of how Daniel earned a living but his options would have been fairly well limited to working on a farm, blacksmithing, or shoemaking while in Ballaugh.

Daniel died in 1830 in the nearby parish of Jurby, at the age of 68. He and Mary had been married for 40 years and they had become grandparents many times over. But Daniel was buried in Ballaugh, suggesting that however long he had been in Jurby, he still regarded Ballaugh as “home”. None of his children had married in Ballaugh (or in Jurby either) so it is impossible to speculate about why he and Mary had gone there, or when they made the move to Jurby.

Daniel’s will told of the success he had made of his life:

- Seven of their eight children had survived to adulthood
- He was able to leave sixpence to each of them

The irony of his legacy is that although his brother John and John’s wife Ellinor Corlett were very wealthy landowners in Ballaugh, their son Thomas lost *Balla Cooilley* because of crippling debts within 20 years of taking over the farm. As a result, Thomas’s oldest son never had the opportunity of carrying on the family’s centuries-old farming tradition. Instead, he left the Isle of Man to work in the coal mines of Furness.

This outcome seems extraordinary given the 1801 Marriage Contract for John and Ellinor which gave them not only *Balla Cooilley* but also “*their [his parent’s] purchased lands*” [and what happened to the land that Jane’s father had left to her?]. There was as well the £250 which was the dowry provided by John’s in-laws, the Corletts, and the assets that flowed from Ellinor’s father in 1804⁵⁶. In 1868, *Balla Cooilley* was sold at auction for £2,925, from which Thomas’s debt of £2,350 was taken so that all he had to show for two hundred years of Mylrea stewardship was not quite £600⁷.

The fact that Daniel was able to leave anything to his children was significant in a time when most men died without possessions worth recording. The sixpence might seem like a negligible sum but it was something. Mary died 13 years later and although she was described as “a pauper” in the 1841 census collection, the term probably indicated that she had no income of her own. Her youngest daughter Margaret, who had married Daniel Bannan in Jurby in 1834, was appointed “*whole and sole heir and executor of all my goods and effects*”⁸, a sign that Mary’s possessions were few and that Margaret, with whom Mary was living in 1841, was the child who received what little her mother had in recognition of her years of care.

His Sons

Daniel's two sons, John (born in 1791) and Daniel (born in 1799), made their way in the world. They left Ballaugh and never returned. John married Isabella Quayle in 1814, and lived on a farm in Michael. Isabella's father was a farmer there but he had a son, John Quayle jnr who would inherit the land. Nevertheless, John Mylrea managed to become a farmer as well.

Second son Daniel travelled further afield and became a publican.

DANIEL II

(1799-1839)

The second son of Daniel Mylrea and Mary Hughes married Mary Stephenson in Maughold (probably in the town of Ramsey) in 1826. He was 27 years of age. Like his parents before him, he had eight children but sadly four did not survive infancy. This 50 per cent death rate probably reflected the additional hazards that living in an urban setting brought. The children of Daniel II and Mary were:

- ☐ Mary Ann (1826)
- ☐ Daniel (1830)
- ~~☐ John (1832)~~
- ~~☐ Ellinor Eliza (1833)~~
- ~~☐ John (1834)~~
- ~~☐ Jane Elizabeth (1836)~~
- ☐ Sarah (1837)
- ☐ Thomas (1839)

The Hotel Business

A short time after their daughter Mary Ann was born, Daniel and Mary were living in Douglas, one of the commercial centres on the Isle of Man. Daniel was the manager of the Injebruck Hotel in Douglas and after that, he became the landlord of the Ramsey Inn at 8 New Bond St⁹.

Daniel died not long after the birth of their eighth child Thomas in 1839. He was barely 40 years of age and left behind his wife Mary, and four young children. The family had already lost four youngsters in quick succession between 1832 and 1836 and now, just a few years later, the breadwinner had also died.

DIED.

On Sunday last, at Ramsey, Anne, wife of the Rev. Joseph Brown, minister of the Episcopal Chapel, Aberdeen, N.B., and daughter of the late Sir John Macartney, Bart., many years resident in this Island.

Same day, at Kirk Bride, Mr. John Cowle, of Shellag, in that parish, aged 56 years.

Same day, in New Bond-street, Mr. Daniel Mylrea, publican, aged 41 years.

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Daniel's death must have been an enormous setback for his family. Their prospects at first glance would have been dim. However, life had to go on and Mary and the children forged new lives. Their father's will provided a small legacy that was intended to further their education and it was probably not so much the money as the expectation that formulated their future.

..... I leave and bequeath to my Son Daniel and to my son Thomas the sum of thirty pounds British each for the purpose of putting and placing them to trades and business and to my two daughters namely Mary Ann and Sarah the sum of fifty pounds British each to be paid unto my two daughters when and as soon as they may arrive to the age of twenty one years. "

This statement in his will (and it comprised the bulk of the document) demonstrated Daniel's faith in the education for his children, especially his boys. Some years later, Mary's commitment to the education of her girls was also apparent. After Daniel's death, Mary did the only thing she could - she continued on in the hotel business in Douglas.

Almost a year to the day after Daniel's death, Mary married another publican, William Henry Buchanan, an Irishman from Londonderry. She and Buchanan had four more children and then Mary died soon after the birth of William Henry Buchanan jnr in 1848.

In the joint will of Mary and William Buchanan, the four Mylrea children, now orphaned, were specifically identified, their legacies specified, and William Buchanan's obligations detailed:

*she bequeaths unto her children **Daniel Mylrea, Thomas Mylrea, Mary Ann Mylrea, Sarah Mylrea**, the said Margaret Buchanan, Catherine Jane Buchanan, Caroline Buchanan and to every after born child of her the said Mary Buchanan the sum of thirty pounds each with benefit of survivorship amongst all of said children the legacies of such of presaid children as are daughters to be paid to them as they shall respectively attain the age of twenty one years and the legacies to each of the children as are boys to be applied in educating and putting them respectively to business or trade (and)the said William Henry Buchanan and Mary Buchanan do hereby expressly declare it to be their will and mind that the survivor of them shall be bound to maintain and educate all the children of the said Mary Buchanan in a decent and respectable manner until they shall respectively attain their several ages of twenty one years or be placed to trade or business ¹²*

The two oldest Mylrea children had probably already embarked on their adult lives by the time their mother died, but Sarah Mylrea was only 11 and Thomas 9 so these two, along with the four young Buchanan children (Margaret 6, Catherine Jane 5, Caroline 4, and William 1), were now under the care of William Buchanan.

Mary Ann, matriarch

Mary Ann, oldest child of Daniel and Mary, was a publican by the time she was 23. She also became matriarch to the family that her mother had left behind.

By the time of the 1851 census, William Buchanan had moved from Douglas to Ramsey with 13 year old Sarah Mylrea, and the four Buchanan children. Thomas, now 11, had been placed in a boarding school in Andreas. Buchanan was a hotel keeper, and Mary Ann and Daniel were both in England. Mary Ann was visiting the home of John Armstrong, who was a traveller for a brewer and it would be a reasonable assumption that she was using her parents' bequests to learn the brewing trade. By 1861, Mary Ann was back on the Isle of Man, head of her family and living at the Royal Hotel in St Paul's Square in Ramsey. Years later, they were living at the Mitre Hotel in Parliament Square.

In some respects, Mary Ann closed the circle that her parents, Daniel II and Mary Stephenson, had begun when they married in Maughold in 1826 and set out soon afterwards for Douglas. She like her parents provided a sanctuary for all of her family, especially her step-father and half-siblings. When Mary Ann died at the age of 61, she left the bulk of her assets to sister Sarah (Norris), but her three Buchanan ½ sisters were

also remembered generously¹³. Of her Mylrea brothers, she made no mention although they were both still alive.

His sons

Daniel III, the oldest son of Daniel Mylrea II and Mary Stephenson, was gone from the Isle of Man by 1850 when he would have been 20. In 1851, he was living in Bury, Lancashire and working as an engine maker. The legacies his parents had left him no doubt funded his education (probably in the form of an apprenticeship). His future would be a mixture of success and failure, joy and sadness, foreign travel and home territory.

Of Thomas, the second son of Daniel II and Mary, not a lot is known. He migrated to the United States in 1856, when he was 17, having attended school at Ohio Cottage in Andreas. The school was so named because local families took letters from their children in Ohio to the school master, John Cannell, so that he could read them aloud (the recipients being unable to read or write). It is little wonder then that Thomas Mylrea, the boy who lost his father when he was only one and his mother when he was nine, went to Ohio. In the Federal Census of 1900, sixty-one year old Thomas Mylrea was living in an institution known as the Society of Shakers in Turtle Creek, Warren, Ohio; he was single and listed as a gardener. By 1910, he lived in a boarding house (Shaker?) in Crosby, Hamilton Ohio (a township known for its Shaker community and not far from Cincinnati). In 1923, he died in a Shaker institution, perhaps an old people's home, in Hancock, Massachusetts and was buried in a Shaker cemetery. Someone knew enough about Thomas to accurately provide the names of his parents, Daniel Mylrea and Mary Stephens (sic), for his burial record. It seems he never married, probably because he had become involved with the Shaker movement soon after he arrived in America, and they were opposed to marriage. On the other hand, he might have found the family he had never had, orphaned at nine, and sent to boarding school until he took himself off to Ohio in his late teens.

DANIEL III

(1830-1904)

Daniel III, the grandson of Daniel Mylrea and Mary Hughes, married in England in 1855. He had travelled a long way geographically as well as occupationally from *Balla Cooley*, for he had become a “stationery engineer”, which might have been a fitter and turner, or a boilermaker, but a sure sign that he had succeeded in getting a trade. The small bequest that Daniel Clark had made to his grandson Daniel I in 1778 might have had a ripple effect through the generations so that nearly century later, another Daniel Mylrea could hang his qualifications on the wall and earn a living, independent of his family’s circumstances.

Daniel married an English woman, Mary Ann Riley in Liverpool. They had five children, only one of whom survived to adulthood:

- ☞ ~~Henry (1857)~~
- ☞ ~~Daniel (1862)~~
- ☞ ~~Mary Elizabeth (1864)~~
- ☞ ~~Sarah Jane (1864)~~
- ☞ Thomas Aloysius (1865)

In the 1861 census, Daniel was described as an “engine smith and millwright”. By 1871, he was a “mechanical engineer”. This change in the description of his occupation might have been an indication of the increasing professionalization of the kind of work he did, as the extraordinary period known as the Industrial Revolution drew to a close and mechanisation was established as a fundamental element in all manufacturing. It might also point to Daniel having an eye to the future, and an understanding of where the jobs and the opportunities would be.

The Hotel Business

On the other hand, the hotel business was evidently in the blood of Daniel III. He returned to Douglas in 1875, and took the lease to Redfern’s hotel¹⁴. Unfortunately, he lacked the talent to succeed and he was insolvent within 3 years. Not only was he insolvent but a £3,000 legacy belonging to his wife had become caught up in the ensuing legal machinations and that was lost as well¹⁵.

After this momentous setback, Daniel returned to England and his profession as a mechanical engineer. However, this escapade had unfortunate consequences because Daniel and Mary Ann went their separate ways soon after and, in 1891, Mary Ann can be found living with their son, Thomas Aloysius¹⁶.

Daniel worked as an engineer in Mexico for a while but eventually returned to his island home, where he lived with his half-sister Caroline Buchanan Wild, in her hotel, the Queens, in Ramsey. He died in 1904.



DEATH OF MR DANIEL MYLREA.
Mr Daniel Mylrea, one of the oldest and best known inhabitants of Ramsey, died on Sunday at his residence, 51, Waterloo Road, aged 75 years. He was the son of a formerly well-known Douglas hotel-keeper, who many years ago managed the Injebreck Hotel, and a brother of Mrs Wild, of the Queen's Hotel, and Mrs J. W. Vondy, Glentrammon. He was by trade an engineer, and filled some important positions under large engineering firms in Bury and in Mexico. The funeral took place at Onchan Churchyard on Wednesday.

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When Daniel was buried in the Onchan cemetery, he joined his father Daniel II, his mother Mary Stephenson, and two siblings who died in infancy, Jane and John¹⁸. The latter two are not mentioned on the Memorial stone which suggests that whoever organised its preparation was unaware of that these two little ones had ever existed.

IN MEMORY OF DANIEL MYLREA OF DOUGLAS LATE OF THE PARISH OF BALLAUGH WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE ON THE 15TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER 1839 IN HIS 41ST YEAR OF HIS AGE ALSO IN MEMORY OF MARY BUCHANAN ALIAS MYLREA ALIAS STEVENSON WIFE OF W.H.BUCHANAN OF DOUGLAS WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE THE 8TH DAY OF APRIL 1848 AGED 47 YEARS ALSO DANIEL MYLREA RAMSEY, SON OF THE ABOVE WHO DIED OCTOBER 9TH 1904 AGED 76.¹⁹

Thomas Aloysius (1865-1934)

The only son of Daniel III, Thomas Aloysius Mylrea, married in England and had five children. He was an artist, another great leap away from the occupations previously carried out by the Mylrea family – farmers, publicans and latterly, an engineer. Thomas provided a home for his mother, Mary Ann Mylrea als Riley, in her later years.

Misfortune struck this Mylrea family and within the space of 12 months, Thomas's mother and Thomas's wife both died. The Mylrea children ranged in age from 15 to newly born, so Thomas set about his only course of action – he raised his family alone. His oldest daughter Catherine Mary Ann soon married and she and her family lived with Thomas and the family for a while. Clare (Adeline Clara), Daniel and Christopher all married and had children of their own.

Tom Mylrea

IT was with keen regret that I heard of the death of my old friend, Tom Mylrea (reported in last night's *Evening Chronicle*).

He was one of the few remaining of the old school of Manchester bohemians—a type fairly common up to a few years before the war, but now rapidly dying out in these more strenuous times.

He was a great soul-generous in judgment and tolerant of almost every fault. Possessed of a fine fund of anecdote and story, he was welcome everywhere. He talked racily, and as he used the vernacular a lot his stories were full of colour.

Good Company

I DON'T suppose, either, there was anybody in Manchester who gave more freely of his musical gifts to friends and others. He played the piano with understanding, even if his technique was not perfect. Other recollections I have of him were his several meetings with "Matt," the cartoonist.

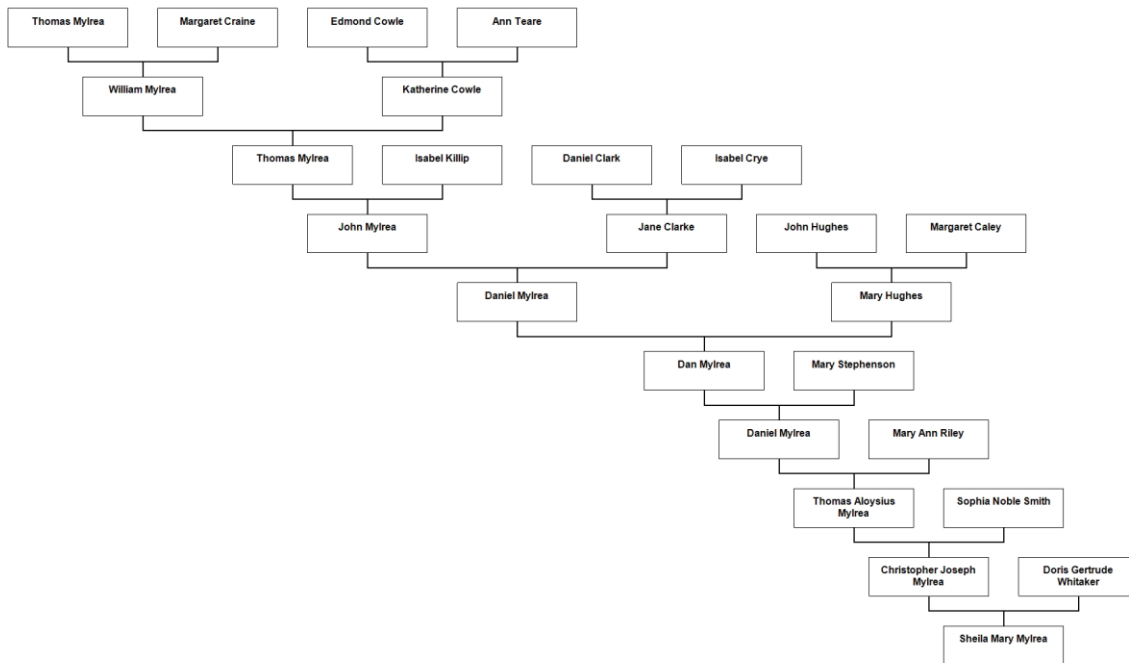
They were both artists, both had good memories for politics and politicians, and an hour in their company was a pleasant experience. Yes, Tom Mylrea will be tremendously missed by all those who had his friendship. He had a real flair for it, and an attachment once formed was seldom broken. What amazed me most, perhaps, was the way he took all the vicissitudes of fortune. He came up smiling every time.



Mr. Tom Mylrea.

Epilogue

Nearly 200 years after the birth of Daniel I, the second son of John Mylrea and Jane Clarke of *Balla Cooilley*, his great great great grand daughter Sheila Mary Mylrea was born in England. She was the grand daughter of Thomas Alysious the fourth member of the line - Three Daniels and a Thomas.



The name Daniel has all but disappeared from the family.

ENDNOTES

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- ¹ Deed of Mortgage (1756) John Mylrea & Nicholas Mylrea to Robert Siddleton. Manx National Library & Archives (MNLA). NSM #87. <http://www.mylrea.com.au>
 - ² Ballaugh Parish Register. MNLA.
 - ³ Marriage Contract. John Mylrea & Ellinor Corlett. (1801). MNLA. <http://www.mylrea.com.au>
 - ⁴ Will. Daniel Clark. (1778). MNLA. microfilm
 - ⁵ Marriage Contract. John Mylrea & Ellinor Corlett. (1801). <http://www.mylrea.com.au>
 - ⁶ Will. John Corlett. (1804). MNLA. microfilm
 - ⁷ Bank Reconciliation. 1868. Sale of *Balla Cooilley*. MNLA. NSS (multiple entries)
 - ⁸ Will. Mary Myllerea als Hughes. (1843). <http://www.mylrea.com.au>
 - ⁹ Inns of Douglas, A Manx Note Book.
 - ¹⁰ *Manx Liberal*. 28th September 1839. p7
 - ¹¹ Will. Daniel and Mary Mylrea. (1839). <http://www.mylrea.com.au>
 - ¹² Will. Mary & William Buchanan. (1848). <http://www.mylrea.com.au>
 - ¹³ Will. Mary Ann Mylrea. (1887). <http://www.mylrea.com.au>
 - ¹⁴ Inns of Douglas, A Manx Note Book
 - ¹⁵ Law Journal Reports Vol 55 1886. p581-583. re Marsland
 - ¹⁶ UK Census collection, 1891
 - ¹⁷ *Manx Sun*. 15th October 1904 p8
 - ¹⁸ Burials, Onchan Old Yard. Peel. IOMFHS. Peel, Isle of Man
 - ¹⁹ Memorial Inscriptions. Onchan Old Yard. Peel. IOMFHS. Peel, Isle of Man