



**THOMAS
MYLREA
1788-1860**

A Farmer & Preacher

**BRADDAN
ISLE OF MAN**

<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 prepared a series of short histories in an attempt to find the web that links them together. To date, she has produced narratives about:

- The Fatally Flawed Family of Fildraw 1600-1800
- The Mylreas of Douglas & District 1600-1900
- William McYlrea (Ballaugh) 1627-1692
- Edward Mylrea snr (Lonan) 1743-1784
- Nicholas Mylrea jnr (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
- Mylreas in 19th Century Lancashire

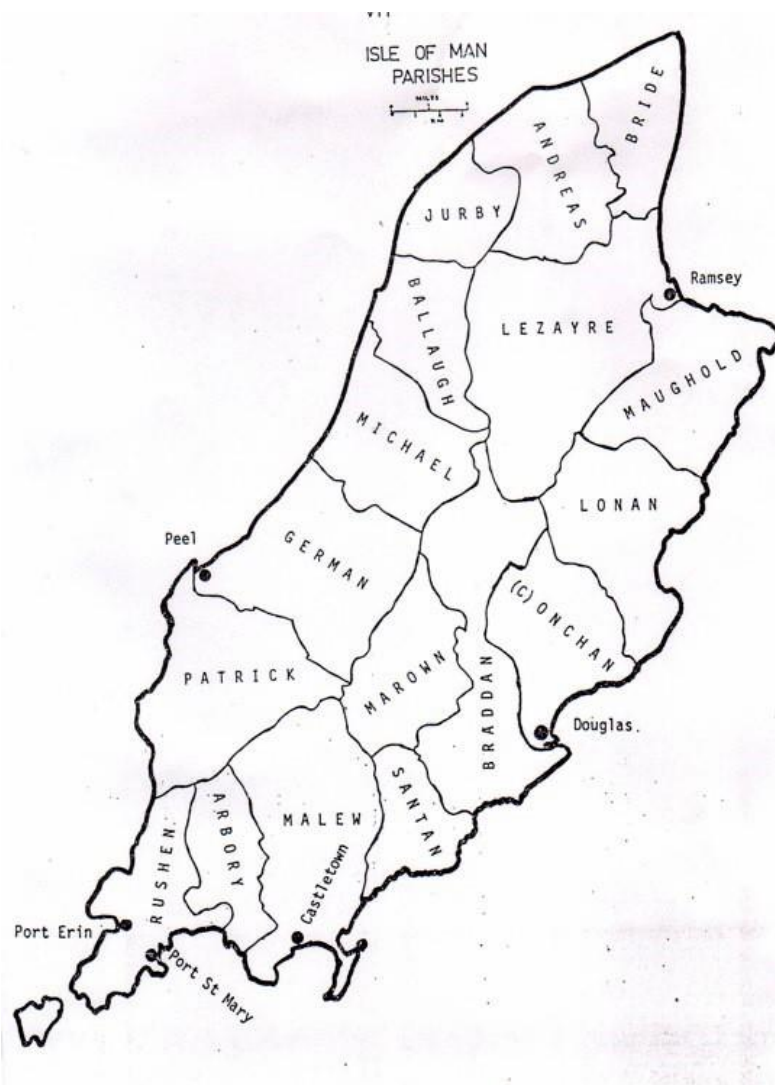
This particular story, about the Thomas Mylrea who was born in Braddan on the Isle of Man in about 1788, was greatly assisted by information provided by Billee Henry of Melbourne (Australia), a descendant of Thomas through his oldest daughter, Elizabeth. It is a fitting coincidence that 1788 was also the year that the first fleet landed on Australia's shores and over two hundred years after his birth, that Thomas's Australian great great grand daughter is helping to tell his story. In England, Geoff Mylrea Kneen, another of Thomas's descendants through his third daughter Mary, has filled in some of the history of her family. Bill Mylrea in Cape Town, a descendant of Thomas through his youngest son, William, shared his memories and knowledge with warmth and generosity, as did Alison Glenie in New Zealand. A great debt of thanks is due to these four descendants of Thomas, the farmer & preacher from Braddan.

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 family history research. So far, I've come across more than 30 variations including MYBREA, MYHEA, MYBRED, MYBRIA, MYLRIA, MYBREA, MYBREY, MILRAY, MEYLREA, MCYLREAN, MILREA, BYLREA and MACYLLERIAH.

THOMAS

A Farmer & Preacher

(c1788-1860)

The name Thomas was one of the most common in Manx Mylrea family history. It was especially so amongst the Mylreas of *Ballacooiley* and in Braddan, in the same way that Daniel was in the Deemster Mylrea clan, Edward amongst the descendants of Basil Mylrea, and Charles in the Malew Mylreas.

Thomas Mylrea, the farmer and preacher of Braddan, had no surviving record of his baptism so his place in a family tree was not immediately apparent. However, a string of clues from three different sources leads the family researcher to his origins:

- 1) Ann Mylrea's burial record was 30th November 1842, with the notation that she was 65 years old when she died (so born c1777);
- 2) Ann's baptism record notes the event on 1st June 1777, with parents Wm McYlrea and Jane Taggyrt (sic); and then
- 3) Ann's will mentions "Thomas Mylrea her brother", and his daughter Elizabeth

So Thomas, the farmer and preacher, was the son of William and Jane. And from the Manx census collections in 1841 and 1851 comes the information that Thomas Mylrea was born in 1788 and worked a farm worker in Braddan. In 1841 (aged 53), he was working on a *Ballaoates* farm and in 1851, he was in his 60s, still a farm worker, and living at *Ballagarey*. It would be quite reasonable to think that Thomas spent his adult life on the farms of Braddan rather than in the town of Douglas itself.

What isn't revealed in the IOM census collections is that Thomas was also a Methodist preacher. Manx Methodism had its origins in a visit to the Island in 1778 from John Wesley, when many of the inhabitants took to the religion, which reached its peak at the turn of the century. Thomas was a "travelling preacher", meaning he visited various houses and other meeting places to conduct the service where he preached in both English and Manx¹.

He (Mr Crook) began with two members, and was in the habit of walking every week from his residence in the neighbourhood of Peel, a distance of about eleven miles, for the purpose of meeting this little company of Christian people ; the

¹ Rosser, J. (1848) History of Wesley Methodism in IOM

number in a short time increased to eight, including Mr. and Mrs. Moore of Kirk St. Ann, and Mrs. (Jane) Mylrea, mother of T. Mylrea, at the present time a local preacher in the Douglas circuit.² (1776)

As a travelling preacher, his territory was subject to change every few years and perhaps resulted in regular migration for his entire family. What came first, a farming job or a preaching role, is not clear from the surviving Methodist rosters (or Plans, as they were termed). Attachment 1 is an image of the 1848 circuit Plan for Wesleyan preachers, including T. Mylrea, Baldwin, listed at 24.

A Rural Family

On 7th September 1809, when he was about 21 years old, Thomas married Margaret Cowin in Braddan. Margaret was from the southern parish of Malew³, the daughter of Thomas Cowin and Elizabeth Cotteman. She was born in 1783, so about 5 years older than Thomas, a female-male age disparity that was not at all unusual in those days.

They had eight children, all born in Braddan between 1813 and 1827⁴:

- Elizabeth (baptised 21st February, 1813)
- Thomas jnr (baptised 7th May, 1815)
- Jane (baptised c1816/1810 – to be corrected)
- Philip (baptised 23rd February, 1817)
- Mary (baptised 31st January, 1819)
- John (baptised 17th June, 1821)
- Anne (baptised 22nd December, 1822)
- William (baptised 25th February, 1827)

Two of the children, John and Ann, died during the lifetime of their parents. John died in infancy, buried on 17th February 1822 in Braddan when he was eight months old⁵ and Anne the adventuress went off to Cleveland, Ohio in 1856⁶ where she married farmer, Manxman and widower, James Boyd on March 30, 1861⁷. She died the following year and was buried with James's first wife, also from the Isle of Man, in the Warrensville West Cemetery in Cuyahoga County, Ohio. This particular state was a destination for many Manx migrants and several named Mylrea during the mid-1800s.

² Rosser, J. (1848) History of Wesley Methodism in IOM

³ 1851 Census IOM

⁴ LDS IGI for each of the children

⁵ Lawson's BMD website

⁶ She travelled on the *Cultivator* which landed in New York in November 1856. Also on board were Sophie Taggart and 4 young men all from IOM. She was listed on the manifest as Ann MILREA aged 28. [ancestry]

⁷ Mulreagh



Source: FindAGrave website

The lives of Thomas's six surviving Mylrea children can be tracked from birth to death, thanks to the plentiful resources that are now available. These resources include Thomas's 1860 will (Attachment 2) and the Manx census collections. Between the six children, there were 45 grand children, of whom 35 reached adulthood and had families of their own.

Thomas Mylrea & Margaret Cowin *M1809*



Elizabeth 1813	Thomas 1815	Jane c1816/1810	Philip 1817	Mary 1819	John 1821	Anne 1822	William 1827
CONWELL	CAINE	KISSACK	CREBBIN	SHIMMIN		BOYD	MYLREA
Margaret James Elizabeth Margaret Ann	Jane Margaret Mary Elizabeth John Thomas Sarah William Philip Caine	Thomas William Margaret Jane Philip Sarah Ann James Edward Frederick Rebecca Robert Frederick	Philip Crebbin Margaret Ann Sarah Jane Susanna Mary Agnes Eleanor Daniel Thomas Arabella Frances Alfred William	Thomas Ann Margaret Mary Eleanor John Sarah Jane			William John Mary Anne Margaret William Thomas Daniel Philip Herbert William Frederick Elizabeth Jane Frances Emily

The children of Thomas and Margaret scattered far and wide on the Isle of Man – to the west (Michael), the south (Santan and Malew) and to the north-west (Andreas). It seems reasonable to suggest that Thomas and Margaret played a strong part in their children's decisions to move away, not only from Braddan but from the farming life.

When Thomas died in 1860 aged 72, he was living with his daughter Mary Shimmin at KK St. Anne (Santan), south of Braddan. He probably went to live with her after his wife Margaret died. Coincidentally, living next door in Santan was a young man named Ceasar Corlett who nearly twenty years later would marry Thomas's grand daughter, Sarah Jane, the daughter of Philip, the school master at St Mark's in Malew.

Thomas was buried in Braddan on 10th May 1860⁸. There is no certain record of Margaret's death but perhaps she was the Margaret Mylrea buried in Braddan, on 1st January, 1860, aged 72.

⁸ imuseum online collection: <http://www.imuseum.im>

LOOKING BACK

Thomas's has not been an easy family tree to unravel due mostly to the absence of key parish records that would help make the links back through the ages - and also because there were several Thomas Mylreas in the same generation across the Isle of Man at any one time. Coincidentally, sons named Thomas seemed to suffer "the fate of missing parish records" for at least four generations in this family!

Discovering that Thomas's father was William only came about through an analysis of the 1842 will of Ann Mylrea, known to be the oldest daughter of William.

William Mylrea and Jane Taggart

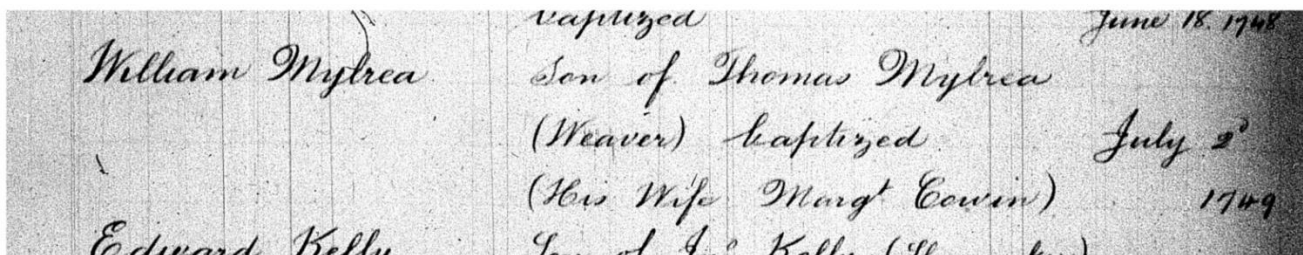
When he was about 27 years of age, William married Jane Taggart in Malew in 1776, the marriage record noting that William was from Braddan and Jane from Malew. This couple would become Thomas's parents, together with other children:

- Ann (1777) did not marry
- Margaret (1779) married Charles Gale
- William (1781) married (Jane Kewley/Elizabeth Clague?)⁹
- Ellinor (1783) married John Cowell
- Daniel (1785) died soon after his birth
- John (1791) might also have died although there is no burial record for him
- Philip (1793) married Jane Moore, a stone mason

Thomas's burial record gives him a birth year of 1788, so presumably he was the third youngest child in the family.

Thomas Mylrea & Margaret Cowin

Stepping back a generation, the parents of William were Thomas Mylrea and Margaret Cowin. This Thomas Mylrea also lacked a record of birth but we know he was a weaver, a scrap of information that appears on only one of the baptismal records of Thomas's children, William.



⁹ Two families headed by a William Mylrea lived in Braddan at much the same time: William Mylrea & Jane Kewley AND William Mylrea & Elizabeth Clague – their children carried similar names, and neither family enjoyed a complete set of parish records.

Although not a great deal is known with any certainty about Thomas and Margaret, there is a list of baptisms in Braddan for seven of their children:

- Philip (1741) – married Margaret Lewn, “a boatman who transported stones”¹⁰
- Edward (1743) – married Dorothy Fargher, a tailor, lived in Lonan
- Margaret (1746) – married John Crow
- William (1749) – married Jane Taggart
- John (1753) – died soon after birth
- Mary (1754) – married John Cottier
- Ann (1758) – did not marry

Again, a mystery Thomas Mylrea made an appearance, this time in the 1773 will of Thomas, the weaver and husband of Margaret Cowin, when a son named Thomas was mentioned. He had no record of baptism with parents Thomas Mylrea and Margaret Cowin although his mention first in a series of legatees is a sure sign that he was the oldest of Thomas’s children.

He left his son Thomas sixpence legacy
Item to his son Philip sixpence legacy
Item to his son Edward sixpence legacy
Item to his son William sixpence legacy
Item to his daughter Margaret sixpence legacy
Item to his daughter Mary sixpence legacy
Item to his daughter Anne sixpence legacy

EXTRACT FROM THE WILL OF
THOMAS MYLREA, 1773, BRADDAN, IOM¹¹:

The Theory of Two Marriages

A working hypothesis is that this oldest son named Thomas in the 1773 will was actually from a prior marriage. A Thomas Mylrea and Margaret Lewn had two sons Robert (b1718) and Thomas (b1721). Margaret Lewn died in 1738 and within two years of her death, the children of Thomas Mylrea and Margaret Cowin started to arrive, so it is feasible for Thomas the widower to have married again. The weakness in this hypothesis is that Thomas, if he was also the husband of Margaret Cowin, would have been over 60 when his last recorded child was born.

It can be confirmed that Thomas b1721, the son of Thomas Mylrea and Margaret Lewn, had survived to adulthood:

¹⁰ Wilkins, Frances.

¹¹ Will of Thomas Mylrea, buried Braddan 22/10/1773. <http://www.mylrea.com.au>

- In February 1744/5, he was aboard the British ship-of-war *Royal Worcester* with his brother, Robert, in the Caribbean. Robert Mullray was an able seaman while Thomas Mullray was listed as a deckhand.
- In September 1749, he was the executor of the will of Ann Harrison als Lewn, his aunt, and documents associated with his role as executor show that Thomas the younger was a resident of Liverpool and married to a woman named Mary¹². On 23rd February, 1748, a marriage took place between Thomas Malray and Mary Norton in St Nicholas Parish, Liverpool, reasonable information from which to connect Thomas back to Thomas and Margaret (Lewn).
- Some time between 1748-50, Robert the older son of Thomas Mylrea and Margaret Lewn died aboard the *Royal Worcester*, and in May 1753, the Courts *decreed his only brother namely Thomas McYlrea sole administrator*. Margaret Lewn's share of the family home would have been passed on to Thomas jnr because her will stipulated that:
in case my said son Robert McYlrea should die without issue that then and in that case my part of the houses and gardens are to fall and descend to my son Thomas McYlrea
- In May 1757, Thomas jnr gave his father half of the house, presumably the dwelling left by Margaret Lewn in her 1738 will:
Thomas Mylrea Junr and his father Thos Mylrea Senr situate in the Town of Douglas, have divided the Premises in Two Halves or Parts, and the said Thos Mylrea Junr giving his said father the sd Thos Mylrea Senr his choice, he took the west half or Part in way of Choice¹³

By then, Thomas jnr would have been about 36 years of age, and Thomas snr in his late 50s or early 60s.

However, other property records of the time, throw doubt onto the hypotheses that Thomas Mylrea, husband of Margaret Cowin, was the widower of Margaret Lewn:

- In 1749, Thomas and Margaret (Cowin) mortgaged half of their dwelling house in Douglas in 1749 for £7, the timing of the mortgage coinciding reasonably well with a time limit set in the 1738 will of Margaret Mylrea als Lewn when she decreed that:
I leave my said husband the benefit of my share or part of the houses and gardens and pewter for ten years

¹² 1749 Sale: Thomas Mylrea to Thomas Curlet. SSS Oct 1749 #46. <http://www.mylrea.com.au>

¹³ File Petition 1757, No 49, NHLA

Thus, her widower would have been obliged to return that half to his son Robert in 1748/1749 – unless of course he bought his son out. Perhaps that was the catalyst for the mortgage in 1749 when Thomas was only entitled to borrow against his “share” of the house.

- More financial dealings followed when Thomas and Margaret sold part of the land on which the house stood in 1753 for £2/9/-, repaid the 1849 loan in 1755, and then re-mortgaged the house in 1756 for £14.

It is far from clear why, if Thomas snr had purchased the other half of Margaret Lewn’s legacy in 1749, his son Thomas jnr would be able to *give* his father a half of the house in 1757 (implying that the other half would remain in the son’s hands, either for occupation or sale). The only explanations would be that (a) Margaret Lewn’s widower and Margaret Cowin’s husband were not one in the same, (b) different dwellings were involved, or (c) the 1757 transaction was a necessary formality under the Manx property laws of the day.

The property transaction dilemma notwithstanding, the weight of argument tends towards there being just one Thomas in Douglas in the 1720s to 1760s, and not two. The chances of one Thomas (husband of Margaret Cowin) appearing out of nowhere in about 1739 to father a large family and the mention of his eldest son Thomas in his will while the husband of Margaret Lewn has disappeared, except for a single property transaction (1757) with his son in 1757 seems improbable.

The Theory of *Ballacooiley*

Thomas Mylrea and Joney Craine of *Ballacooiley* estate in Ballaugh had a son named Thomas, born about 1690 (with no surviving record of baptism). This individual survived well into adulthood because when his parents died, (Thomas in 1711 and Joney in 1738), they both made bequests *inter alia* to their son Thomas, as did two of their children, William and John¹⁴.

As a second son, this Thomas was never destined to inherit *Ballacooiley* because there was a surviving son from his father’s first marriage and so Thomas b circa 1690 would have been obliged to strike out on his own. Perhaps he went to Braddan where his ½ sister Margaret lived. She had married William Clague whose family had the *Oolikan* estate in Braddan. When Margaret died in 1724, a Thomas Mylrea was a signatory on her Court papers and there was only one Thomas Mylrea recorded in the district at that time, the husband of Margaret Lewn.

¹⁴ Thomas (1711), Joney Mylrea als Craine (1738), William (1713), John (1738)

If the hypothesis about Thomas coming from *Ballacooiley* is correct, then 1711 marked a split in the dynasty. That was the year when oldest son William remained in Ballaugh became the steward of *Ballacooiley* while the other sons dispersed, the second perhaps to the other side of the island, to the commercial centre of Douglas, and became a weaver.

However, one scientific certainty is that the descendants of Thomas Mylrea snr and Margaret Cowin do not carry the genetic profile of the descendants of the Mylrea men from *Ballacooiley*¹⁵. This finding disposes of any suggestion that the Thomas who married Margaret Cowin was from that Ballaugh estate. While the profiles of all Mylrea men match the Irish McElrea clan to some extent, the descendants of Thomas and Margaret (Cowin) match more closely to the Irish than the Ballaugh descendants.

The putative connection between Thomas snr (husband of Margaret Lewn) and *Ballacooiley* must remain untested until a male descendant of the only surviving son of that marriage, Thomas jnr, has been found.

Looking Forwards

Thomas Mylrea, the farmer and preacher, born in 1788, was from Braddan. He was the son of William Mylrea and Jane Taggart, and the grandson of Thomas Mylrea the weaver who had died 15 years before the future farmer and preacher was born. Coincidentally the farmer and preacher's wife was also named Margaret Cowin, and their marriage took place 80 years after the marriage of his grand parents, the first Thomas Mylrea and Margaret Cowin.

This first Thomas Mylrea and Margaret Cowin, through their six surviving children, established the foundations of a diaspora which expanded significantly when their son William and his wife Jane Taggart also had six surviving children, including Thomas Mylrea (and Margaret Cowin) whose family again boasted six surviving children. What follows is the story of those six children.

¹⁵ Mylrea of Mann DNA study

ELIZABETH

(1813-1877)

Elizabeth was the eldest daughter of Thomas Mylrea and Margaret Cowin. On 22nd June, 1847 at the age of 34, she married a widower named William Conwell, who was a farm laborer like her father. He had come from the parish of KK German but had been born, perhaps, in England.

In the 1851 census, William and Elizabeth Conwell were living next door to Elizabeth's parents so William might have been working on the same farm in Ballagarey as his father-in-law. Elizabeth had been lame since birth although what her disability was was not disclosed in the census collection. In 1842, her aunt, Ann Mylrea, left her "the sum of twenty pounds and a set of oak drawers with a feather bed, bolster and pillows, two quilts, two blankets, two sheets and curtains, round table, square table with drawers and two chairs"¹⁶.

The Children

Elizabeth and William had four children, the first of whom died in infancy:

- Margaret (baptized 1850, buried 16th June 1851¹⁷)
- James (baptized 13th July, 1851)
- Elizabeth (baptized 1852)
- Margaret Ann (baptized 1855)

In 1861, Elizabeth and her family were living on Ballagaree farm (probably Ballagarey and thus the same place as in 1851), in Braddan. From the 1871 Census of the Isle of Man, we find out that Elizabeth had been lame from birth and that the family had moved north to nearby Onchan. Daughter Elizabeth was no longer living with the family although she would have been only 19 years of age (she had gone to the UK to work as a domestic servant); son James was a shoe maker; and youngest child Margaret Ann a flax preparer.

→ James Conwell

Somewhere between 1871 and 1881 several changes took place in the Conwell family on the Isle of Man:

¹⁶ Will of Ann Mylrea 1942. <http://www.mylrea.com.au>

¹⁷ Lawson's BMD website.

1. Elizabeth (Mylrea) Conwell died in 1877;
2. James married Sarah Cleator in Braddan (9th May, 1878);
3. Almost immediately, James migrated to Wavertree in Lancashire, taking his wife and father with him;
4. James's children, Elizabeth Maude (1879), William John (1880), and James Cleator (1882) were born in England;
5. James was no longer a shoemaker, but now worked as a postman in the UK.

But those changes were relatively minor compared to what happened in the 1880s:

- James's infant son James Cleator Conwell died soon after his birth in 1882;
- James's father, William Conwell, died in Lancashire in 1883;
- James's wife Sarah Cleator died in 1884 when she was just 30 years of age;
- James's two surviving children were placed in foster care where tiny daughter Elizabeth Maude died in 1885;
- James married Arabella Owens in 1886, and little William John came home to live with his father and new step-mother.

James Conwell, the son of Elizabeth Mylrea Conwell and grandson of Thomas, died in England in 1926.

In 1912, the little boy who lost his mother when he was four, William John Conwell, was 32 years old and a husband and father himself. He and his wife, Emily Poole, migrated to Australia with their young son Robert James Leslie Conwell. The Mylrea diaspora made another inroad into the Australian community.

→ **Elizabeth Conwell**

Elizabeth worked as a servant in the home of James and Edward Cottle in Liverpool, England. These men were probably brothers, they were bakers and they had been born on the Isle of Man. Elizabeth married Edward in 1871, and had a total of ten children, of whom eight reached adulthood: Edward Alfred, Elizabeth, Edith H., Ada Gertrude, William Alexander, Charles Wilson, Florence L., Daisy, Harold, Ethel.

Elizabeth, the daughter of Elizabeth (Mylrea) Conwell and grand daughter of Thomas Mylrea the farmer, died in England in 1933.

→ **Margaret Ann Conwell**

Margaret Ann has left no trace after the 1871 census, when she was a flax preparer. Her destiny lay in service or in marriage, on the Isle of Man or in England. There is a marriage record for a Margaret Ann Conwell and a Joseph Faragher. In 1881, Margaret Ann Fargher (sic) was listed as having been born in Onchan and she had also given the

name Mylrea to one of her sons, both facts providing a strong indication that she was indeed from the Mylrea clan.

Joseph Faragher was a stone mason. The family lived at 34 Farrant Street in Douglas for several decades. Their home was a short distance from the famous Promenade, and today, just a few streets away from the National Manx Heritage Library and Archive.

Margaret Ann and Joseph had 11 children of whom 7 reached adulthood.

Elizabeth Mylrea & William Conwell *M1847*



Margaret	James	Elizabeth	Margaret Ann
	CLEATER ∞ OWENS	COTTLE	FARAGHER
	Elizabeth Maud William John James Cleator ∞ Edith Winifred May	Edward Alfred Elizabeth Edith Ada Gertrude William Alexander Charles Wilson Florence Lillian Daisy Harold Ethel	Anderson William Elizabeth Jane Joseph Emily Eleanor Ernest Mylrea Ethel Daniel Edward Lily Annie Frank Wilfred

THOMAS jnr

(1815-1876)

Thomas, the oldest son of Thomas Mylrea and Margaret Cowin, became the miller at Glen Wyllin, in the parish of KK Michael. On 7th September 1839, he married Mary Elizabeth Caine in Braddan, their wedding date the 30th anniversary of Thomas's parents' wedding, and as with Thomas's parents, the bride was five years older than the groom. Mary Elizabeth had been born in Ballaugh in 1810.

Thomas jnr and Mary Elizabeth had seven children:

- Jane (baptised 20th May 1840)
- Margaret (baptised 3rd April 1842)
- Mary Elizabeth (baptised 3rd February 1844)
- John Thomas (baptised 22nd November 1845)
- Sarah (baptised 23rd January 1848)
- William (baptised 1th March 1850)
- Philip Caine (baptised 5th May 1853)

The young couple began married life at Union Mills in Braddan, but moved away to KK Michael after the birth of their third child, Mary Elizabeth, in 1844. Their second child Margaret died when she was 10 and Sarah died a year later at the age of 6.

Thomas the miller died in Michael in 1876, aged 61. Mary Elizabeth died the following year and, like her husband, was buried in Michael¹⁸.

The Children

Four of their surviving five children left the Isle of Man, two for England (Mary Elizabeth and William) and two for the United States (Jane and Philip Caine). Only John Thomas remained on the island.

→ **Jane** married William Callister, a blacksmith, in 1865 and left immediately for the United States. They settled in Queens (New York), and had five children: Jane, William, John, Estelle, and Herbert. They were living on Long Island by the time Jane's mother (Mary Elizabeth) died in 1877, for Jane's mother made specific mention of this in her will (see William's obituary at Attachment 4).

¹⁸ Wills of Thomas and Mary Elizabeth Mylrea.

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

- **Mary Elizabeth** married John Caine, a mariner, in Michael in 1865. Early in the marriage, they lived with her parents, Thomas and Mary Elizabeth. However, like so many others, they soon left the island to settle in the UK. They had five children, three born on the Isle of Man and then two in the UK: John Thomas, Ernest William, Francis Philip, Mary Elizabeth, Robert Charles C. Mary Elizabeth's husband, John Caine, died at sea on 27th October 1900, aged 63¹⁹.
- **John Thomas** married Jane Stowell in 1880. In 1881, this young couple was living in the same house as cousin Agnes Eleanor Mylrea, daughter of Philip. Agnes had married Flaxney Stowell, also in 1880, and John Thomas's wife, Jane, was Flaxney's sister. John Thomas became a corn dealer, influenced no doubt by his father's profession as a corn miller and he was also the managing owner of two sailing vessels – *Prince Edward* and *Saint Mary*²⁰. John Thomas died in July 1893 when his son Thomas was just 11 years old, the same year that the *Saint Mary* foundered and sank in the Irish Sea after a collision on the night of 30th November. His son Thomas Mylrea was presumably the 17 year old boy living with Edward Stowell in Castletown in 1901, described by Edward as his nephew and working as a joiner/carpenter. The boy's mother, Jane, had died in 1900.
- **William** married Elizabeth Horsley in 1877 in Barrow, in the Forshaw St Primitive Methodist Chapel.



They were living in Ulverston (Lancashire) by 1891 where William was a baker and confectioner. There were no children and Robert Quayle, William's nephew

¹⁹ Memorial Inscriptions KK Michael Old & New Yards. IOMFHS

²⁰ <http://www.crewlist.org.uk>

the son of Mary Elizabeth, lived with them as William's apprentice. William died in 1898 at the age of 48.

→ **Philip Caine** left the Isle of Man soon after both of his parents had died, and went to his older brother, William, in Ulverston. Although he had been a joiner (carpenter) in his teens, he was listed as a baker whilst living with William. In 1884, Philip Caine married Elizabeth Dickenson in Ulverston, and they soon had two sons, Thomas Douglas (born in Liverpool, 1887) and Algernon James (born in Castletown, 1889). The family returned briefly to the island (Castletown) after the birth of Thomas Douglas, where Philip worked as a baker. His older brother, John Thomas, was also living in Castletown at the time which might explain why Philip took his family there.

In 1891, Philip Caine with his wife Elizabeth and two young sons migrated to the United States²¹. They made their home in Chicago, and the family became US citizens in 1898. However, he did not continue his baker profession. Soon after their arrival, he was listed in the Chicago City Directories as a carpenter (1892, 1900, 1910²²). His son Algernon was also listed with the family in 1910. This same listing appeared over the next 20 years, (1894 and 1899 1902, 1903 and 1904) and a watchman (1898). However, in the census collections during the same period, Philip Caine claimed that he worked in what today would be termed "security" – 1900 (watchman), 1910 (police, but perhaps a watchman still). Maybe he had a night job and a day job to support his family in their brave new world?

Philip's choice of Chicago for his new home was a curious one. His cousin, Philip Crebbin Mylrea, had migrated to the United States just a year before and it is quite possible that Philip Caine ventured forth on his cousin's encouragement. However, Philip Crebbin lived in the Pennsylvania area, a considerable distance from Chicago, Illinois. Sister Jane Callister had been living in New York for over twenty years but that too was a long way from Chicago.

After two decades in the United States, this Mylrea family went to Canada. At some time following the 1910 US Census, Philip Caine Mylrea and his wife made the journey to Canada; their sons would have been in their early twenties and quite possibly already there (for work or study perhaps). The window for this second migration was 1911-1912 because a wedding notice for Thomas Douglas in

²¹ A Philip Mylrea sailed from New York to Liverpool on the *Servia* in 1892. He was listed as a gentleman, and with no sign of a wife, it is not possible to determine whether this was Philip Caine Mylrea or Philip Crebbin Mylrea, his cousin.

²² <http://chicagoancestors.org/#tab-tools>

1913 noted that he was from Toronto, Canada. Philip Caine Mylrea died in Toronto in 1918.

Thomas Douglas married American-born and college-educated Cornelia Virginia Harkness in 1914 and although four of their five children were born in Canada in the period 1916-1921, their fifth child was born in the States where he became a professor of engineering at the University of Delaware.



Cornelia Virginia Harkness
1921



Grave of Thomas Douglas, his wife and two of his daughters. Homewood Cemetery, Pittsburg.



Grave of his grandson Robert Douglas Andrews, who died at birth. Long Island National Cemetery, Farmington.

Algernon James remained in Canada where he married Cora Ellen Myers in 1922, divorced in 1932, married again some time later. Algernon continued to work in the insurance industry in Canada until he retired to Florida where he died in 1997. He had

at least one child, a son James. The Mylrea brothers were co-authors of a report into a fire in Canada in 1916.

Of the five surviving children of Thomas Mylrea, the miller of Glen Wyllin, only one remained on the Isle of Man. The others had made their homes in England, Canada and the United States.

Thomas Mylrea & Mary Elizabeth Caine M 1839



Jane 1840	Margaret 1842	Mary Elizabeth 1844	John Thomas 1845	Sarah 1848	William 1850	Philip Caine 1853
CALLISTER		CAINE	STOWELL		HORSLEY	DICKENSON
Jane William L. John S. Thomas Estelle Mona Herbert J.		John Thomas Ernest William Francis Philip Mary Elizabeth Robert Charles	Thomas		X	Thomas Douglas Algernon James

JANE

(c1816-1872)

Jane was the surprise (late) inclusion in this story. Her baptism was not amongst the parish records for the Isle of Man but her existence came to light in her father's will, where not only was Jane named but also her husband, James Kissack, was identified.

Jane married James Kissack in 1835 in Braddan, and the 1841 census shows that Jane and James lived quite close to her parents. Her sister Elizabeth was also nearby with husband William Conwell. Elizabeth and Jane and their families were both living in Tromode Road in Onchan in the 1861 census, a sign perhaps that these two sisters had a close bond.

James Kissack was a flax preparer who, like Jane, had been born in Braddan. They had ten children:

- Thomas (baptized 1837)
- William (baptized 29th November 1840)
- Margaret Jane (baptized 1st January 1843)
- Philip (baptized 1st December 1844)
- Sarah Ann (baptized 29th November 1846)
- James (baptized 18th March 1849)
- Edward (baptized 1850)
- Frederick (baptized 6th April 1851; died 27th December 1854)
- Rebecca (baptized 30th October 1853)
- Robert Frederick (baptized 9th December 1855)

The family continued to live at Tromode Road, and James continued to earn his living as a flax dresser. Jane died in 1872 and James in 1881. Their legacy was 29 grandchildren, great grand children for Thomas Mylrea the farmer, of whom 25 survived to adulthood:

→ Thomas married Ann Jane Cain in 1860 and they had 12 children. He was a miller at Union Mills

→ William married three times: Sarah Roney, Catherine Burne, Margaret Kelly. He had four children with his first wife, Sarah

- Margaret Jane did not marry, or at least did not do so in her younger years. She probably went to West Derby and worked as a domestic servant
- Philip married Ann Jane Cornish in 1865. They did not have a family and migrated to West Derby
- Sarah Ann married John Blair in 1866 and died 9 years later having had perhaps only one child, John Robert Horace Frederick. John Blair was a bootmaker, an Irishman, and the family lived in Peel.
- James married twice: Elizabeth Clague, Catherine Louisa Kelly als Leece. He had three sons with Elizabeth and another with Catherine. He was a mariner
- Edward married Emily Margaret Corlett in 1892. They had four children
- Robert married Catherine Jane Corlett in 1882. They had four sons and he worked as a farrier/blacksmith

Jane Mylrea & James Kissack *M 1835*

Thomas 1837	William 1840	Margaret Jane 1843	Philip 1844	Sarah Ann 1846	James 1849
CAIN	RONEY, BURNE, KELLY		CORNISH	BLAIR	CLAGUE & KELLY
Ann Jane Sarah Elizabeth Mary Agnes William Philip James Stanley Thomas Mona Edith Wilfred Blanche Ethel Laura	Margaret Ellen Margaret Jane Beatrice Ann William Frederick	X	X	John Robert Horace Frederick	Robert Frederick James Richard Albert Clague & Sydney

Edward 1850	Frederick 1851	Rebecca 1853	Robert 1855
CORLETT			CORLETT
Mildred Edward Raymond Mildred Annie Thomas			Robert James Thomas Arthur George Albert Edward

PHILIP

(1817-1888)

Philip, the second son of Thomas Mylrea and Margaret Cowin, became a schoolmaster. He spent most of his life at St Mark's, a small village just north of Castletown in Malew. The school was erected in 1815.

It is a neat building, and has a house for the master attached. The school, which is well attended, is under the superintendence of Mr. Philip Mylrea provided the several farmers, Quarterland and Intack holders adjoining that neighbourhood, do in proportion to their respective holdings, for the use and benefit of the seats or sitting places, endow the said chapel with some yearly stipend or living to the officiating clergyman, for the time to come, who is to teach school for these subscribers, and to be paid viz., for children reading, per quarter, one shilling and twopence; for reading and writing, one shilling and ninepence; for reading, writing, and arithmetic, two shillings and fourpence; and for Latin, three shillings and sixpence. Therefore be it known, that we whose names are hereunto subscribed, do, in consideration of the seats of the said chapel, at the rate of ten pounds for each seat, promise and engage on our parts to endow and support the said chapel, for the time being, with such sum or sums of money as shall hereafter be respectively affixed to our names, having it severally in our option or choice to pay the same or the interest thereof yearly, at the rate of five pounds out of one hundred pounds.²³

The mail was collected and distributed at the St Mark's school so Philip was also a Post Master. He might have been only one of a few local residents sufficiently literate to manage the task.

On 16th August 1849, Philip Mylrea married Margaret Crebbin in Malew. He was 32 and Margaret, born in the neighbouring parish of Rushen, was 20. They had eight children:

- Philip Crebbin (baptised 10th August, 1851)
- Margaret Ann (baptised 3rd June, 1852)
- Sarah Jane (baptised 19th May, 1854)
- Susanna Mary (baptised 18th December, 1855)
- Agnes Eleanor (baptised 2nd April, 1858)
- Daniel Thomas (baptised 11th June, 1861)
- Arabella Frances (baptised 26th March, 1863; died 16th April, 1863)
- Alfred William (baptised 27th December, 1864)

²³ A Manx Note Book

Arabella Frances survived for less than a month but the other children grew to adulthood. In time, all three sons left the Isle of Man, while their four daughters remained to raise another generation of Manx Mylreas.

After a lifetime of dedicated service, Philip retired from his teaching post at St Mark's in 1883. He and Margaret were living in Douglas when Philip died in 1888²⁴, at 12 Demesne Road. Susanna Mary, who was 33 at the time, was also living with her parents. She might have been the child whose role it was to care for the parents in their old age, for she remained single until both parents had died, and then she promptly married.

Braddan Cemetery
Section Two
#1009

In memory of PHILIP MYLREA late Schoolmaster of St Marks born Feb 15th (1817) died Sept 8th 1888 also the Loved Mmeor f (?) MARGARET wife of the above born May 26th 1829 died March 6th 1902 also ARABELLA FRANCES fifth daughter of the above born March 24th 1863 died April 16th 1863 also ALFRED WILLIAM third son born Dec 27th 1864 died at South Brisbane, Australia August 14th 1893 also PHILIP eldest son died at Florida, USA May 12th 1926

The Children

- **Philip Crebbin** migrated to the United States. He might have left the island in 1890 because that was the year that he applied for American citizenship in Pennsylvania. He married Mary Appleton in Warrington (Lancashire) in 1894, suggesting that he returned to England once he had secured his American citizenship. In US census collections, he described himself as a stationery engineer. In 1910, Philip and Mary were living in New Jersey. They did not have children.
- **Margaret Ann** married Alexander Speedie in 1878. Speedie was a Scot who came as a youngster to the Isle of Man with his family. His father had a 200 acre farm known as *Ballavane* at Malew which Alexander inherited. Margaret Ann died when she was 29 years of age, leaving her husband and two small children: Philip Alexander and Margaret Evelyn. Alexander Speedie remarried and had a further nine children.

²⁴ Isle of Man Times & General Advertiser 12th September 1888

- **Sarah Jane** married Ceasar Corlett in 1879 in Braddan. Ceasar was originally from Santan and worked as a general labourer. They had six children: Daniel Mylrea, Philip Ceasar, Constance Eva, Dorothy Clair, Alfred Mylrea, and Evelyn Beatrice. Alfred did not survive infancy but their two surviving sons joined the ranks of the professionals, Daniel as a chemist and Philip as a teacher. Both also left the Isle of Man as young men.
- **Susanna Mary** was 47 when she was recorded as marrying Charles Herbert Bates or William Joseph Dawson in 1902. She had lived with her mother in Clifton Terrace (Douglas) and kept a boarding house there, effectively giving her youth to her parents. It was around the time of her mother's death that she married. Curiously on the marriage record, the name William Joseph Dawson appears, and indeed Susannah M. Dawson (sic) was buried in 1932 aged 74 and William Joseph Dawson was buried in 1936 aged 70. In the 1911 census, he was a school teacher born in Douglas and his wife Susanna Mary had been born in Malew. Perhaps he was a colleague of her father, Philip, the school master of St Mark's in Malew. Who Charles Herbert Bates might have been is a mystery.
- **Agnes Eleanor** married Flaxney Stowell in 1880, and they lived in Castletown, Malew. Flaxney was a well-known painter and decorator, artist, and lay preacher in the Primitive Methodist church. They had six children: Agnes, Jane Mylrea, Flaxney, Mylrea Quayle, Richard Lawson, and Philip Leighton.



THE PARADE, CASTLETOWN was bought by Flaxney Stowell* for £150 in 1864. The house, which was always let, then passed through five generations of the Stowell family, before a member of the family made it their home and then sold the property in 1987. After two further owners this period property is now for sale for only the fifth time in 400 years.

*Flaxney's uncle, but the house in which Agnes's husband passed away in 1916.

- **Daniel Thomas** migrated to the UK, certainly by the time he was 20. He became a draper, and married Elizabeth Potts in 1884 in Altricham, in Cheshire. He remained in the clothing industry, becoming a manufacturer of lace and fancy goods²⁵. Their children were born in Sale (Cheshire) - Peter (1885), Margaret (1889) and Frank (1894). Peter became a stockbroker's clerk and Frank a horticultural student. Daniel Thomas and family would have called the Bucklow

²⁵ 1911 UK Census

district of Cheshire “home”. It was not far from Manchester, and close to Warrington where older brother Philip Crebbin had married and another branch of the Manx Mylrea clan (Basil of Peel) lived.



→ **Alfred William** was a 16 year old apprentice baker in 1881, and lived in Douglas. He died in Brisbane (Queensland, Australia) on 14th August 1893, aged 28 years²⁶.

Philip Mylrea & Margaret Crebbin *M1849*



Philip Crebbin 1851	Margaret Ann 1852	Sarah Jane 1854	Susanna Mary 1855	Agnes Eleanor 1858	Daniel Thomas 1861	Arabella Frances 1864	Alfred William 1865
APPLETON	SPEEDIE	CORLETT	DAWSON	STOWELL	POTTS		
X	Philip A. Margaret E.	Daniel M. Philip C. Constance E. Dorothy C. Alfred M. Evelyn B.	X	Agnes Jane Mylrea Flaxney Mylrea Quayle Richard Lawson Philip Leighton	Peter Margaret Frank		X

²⁶ Isle of Man Times & General Advertiser, 30th September 1893

MARY

(1819-1896)

Mary married James Shimmin on 16th December 1845 in Braddan. James was “a landowner” at Ballacorris in Santan in 1871 and in 1881, he further reported that he was “farming 60 acres”. They had six children, four girls and two boys:

- Thomas (baptized 15th November 1846)
- Ann (baptized 13th March 1848)
- Margaret (baptized 4th December 1849)
- Mary Eleanor (baptized 22nd August 1852)
- John (baptized 5th February 1855)
- Sarah Jane (baptized 21st October 1858)

Their second child, Ann, had died before the 1861 census.

James died in 1880 and Mary carried on at the farm with the help of son John, who in the 1891 census was 34 and unmarried. Two of her grand daughters, Edna Shimmin and Margaret A. Kissack, were also at the farm, working as domestic assistants.

When the new century had rolled over, all but one of her children were married, the farm was gone and John was living with his sister Sarah Jane and her husband, William Henry Fargher, in Douglas.

Geoff Mylrea Kneen, a descendant of Mary and James through their daughter Margaret who married John Kneen tells us:

The surname Mylrea was adopted into the KNEEN family in 1882 when John Kneen & Margaret Shimmin had their son Thomas. They decided one of two things a) that their eldest son should have Mylrea as his middle name or b) they would bring down the name Thomas Mylrea from previous generations. When Thomas grew up and married, he gave his eldest son Frank the middle name of Mylrea. We believe that this generation (Frank & Leslie Kneen) decided that the eldest son of the next generation should also have Mylrea as a middle name. This was passed on to the next (current) generation when Geoff, oldest son of Leslie Kneen, was born. He married but had no children and his brother Colin, who also married, had two daughters, so at that stage the family tradition did not continue.

Mary & James Shimmin

M 1845



THOMAS 1846	MARGARET 1848	ANN 1849	MARY ELEANOR 1852	JOHN 1855	SARAH JANE 1859
	KNEEN		KELLY		FARGHER
Son?	John William Francis Jessie Lily Thomas			X	

WILLIAM

(1827-1893)

Youngest son of Thomas the farmer, William, was baptised in Braddan on 25th February, 1827²⁷. He became a blacksmith²⁸.

At the age of 23, William married Mary Mylrea on 11th July 1850 in the parish of KK Michael²⁹. Despite her surname, Mary was not a close relative of William's. Her father, John Mylrea, had been born in the parish of Ballaugh in 1791³⁰ and was the older son of Daniel Mylrea and Mary Hughes. Daniel was from the *Ballacooiley* estate, a relatively large holding of about 100 acres in Ballaugh that had been in the Mylrea family for several centuries. However, as the second son, Daniel did not stand to inherit and was obliged to strike out on his own. Since John's wife Isabella Quayle came from KK Michael, it seems logical that his marriage was the reason for his living there. In 1841, he worked on a farm in the area of Ballacanane Moar where he and Isabella raised four children, the youngest being Mary³¹.

Did William meet Mary when he was on a visit to big brother Thomas, the miller at Glen Wyllin, in KK Michael?

In a few short years, William had made a transition from Braddan to KK Michael and then to Andreas, where he and Mary were living when their first child was born in 1851. In all, they had ten children between 1851 and 1870:

- William (baptised 16th March, 1851)³²
- John (17th October, 1852)^{33, 34}
- Mary Anne (baptised 21st October, 1854)³⁵
- Margaret (baptised 17th January, 1857)³⁶ (born 25th August, 1856)³⁷

²⁷ LDS IGI

²⁸ 1841 Census IOM

²⁹ LDS IGI

³⁰ 1861 Census IOM – listed as MYBREA

³¹ listed as MYBRIA in 1841 Census

³² LDS IGI

³³ LDS IGI

³⁴ A much more detailed narrative about John Mylrea has been prepared by the author. It is entitled John Mylrea 1852-1921 and available on <http://www.mylrea.com.au>

³⁵ LDS IGI

³⁶ LDS IGI

- William (baptised 28th October, 1858)³⁸
- Thomas Daniel (baptised 28th April, 1861)³⁹
- Philip Herbert (baptised 24th May, 1863)⁴⁰
- William Frederick (baptised 25th June, 1865)⁴¹
- Elizabeth Jane (baptised 10th November, 1867)⁴²(born 31st October, 1867)⁴³
- Frances Emily (baptised 11th December, 1870)⁴⁴

Three of their children did not survive infancy. The two Williams died of diphtheria [in 1854 and 1861 respectively] both aged 3, and Philip Herbert passed away in 1864⁴⁵. At the age of 30, Mary Anne also died, in 1885.

The Old Andreas Yard tells the sad story of the loss of these children.

EE6

In loving memory of MARY ANN eldest daughter of WILLIAM & MARY MYLREA, Village, Andreas who died April 15th 1885 aged 30 years

To depart and to be with Christ which is for better

WILLIAM, eldest son, died Sep 1854 aged 3 years

WILLIAM third son died May 1861 aged 3 years

PHILIP HERBERT fifth son died Aug 1864 aged 15 months

In the 1881 census of the Isle of Man, William and Mary lived at Laurel Cottage in the parish of Andreas. The remaining seven Mylrea children lived with them. Sons John and Thomas Daniel were blacksmiths like their father. Daughters, Mary Anne and Margaret, were dressmakers, and 15 year old William Frederick was an apprentice draper. The two youngest children, Elizabeth Jane and Frances Emily, were both scholars.

Soon after the census, the family changed forever. Mary Anne died, three of their children migrated to new lives on the other side of the world, and just three of their ten offspring remained on the Isle of Man.

³⁷ Birth date provided by Margaret's g.granddaughter, Donna Bell.

³⁸ LDS IGI

³⁹ LDS IGI

⁴⁰ LDS IGI

⁴¹ LDS IGI

⁴² LDS IGI

⁴³ Birth date provided by Margaret's g.granddaughter, Donna Bell

⁴⁴ LDS IGI

⁴⁵ See MIs in text – good example of how LDS & certifiable facts don't coincide; LDS says William II died 1862; MI says '61

William and Mary lived into old age and they are buried in the Andreas Old Yard, alongside the children who had died so young⁴⁶.

EE5

In loving memory of WILLIAM MYLREA, Village, Andreas born Feby 26th 1827 died July 9th 1893

also THOMAS DANIEL MYLREA, blacksmith, died Feby 22nd 1947 aged 85 years

also MARY wife of WILLIAM MYLREA died Jany 31st 1911 aged 85 years

Medicine Man

William might have been a man with talents beyond blacksmithing. He was said to have the ability to cure cancer.

Specific instances of cures worked by Mylrea are well remembered in the North of the Island. His remedy extracted entire the superficial " cancer " or epithelioma, which in most cases grew on the lower lip, and may sometimes, I think, have been caused by smoking the old-fashioned clay pipe which has now gone out of use. A description of one typical cure will suffice..... A Liverpool policeman named Crennell, a native of Bride, consulted the Liverpool Infirmary doctors about a growth of this kind on the left side of his lower lip. They said it must be cut out at once. He refused to have it cut, and told them he would ask for leave, go to the Isle of Man, and have it taken out by Mylrea. They replied, "If this man is successful, will you put the growth in spirit and bring it back for us to examine?" He promised to do so. When he reached the Island he went straight to Mylrea. Mylrea laid him on his back and took a long look at the cancer. At last he said,

"Well, Crennell, I wish you had come a fortnight sooner. I believe I can draw it out for you even now, but it will take longer and cost you a lot more pain."

He then made a "patch "- a small poultice or plaster-and gave it to Crennell with instructions to wear it for two weeks. During that period he was to lie at night on his right side only, with the end of a lead pencil, or anything similar, in his mouth to run off the saliva; and he was to be careful not to let himself sink into a deep sleep lest he should swallow the " patch" In the daytime he was seen, by one of my informants, walking up and down on the shore with his head wrapped in a shawl, half mad with pain. At the end of the fortnight Mylrea pulled the cancer right out. The same informant, H-- of Ballagbenny, who saw it afterwards, describes it as resembling a leek, with little threadlike roots. Crennell gave it to the Infirmary doctors, and from it they learned, on dit, more about the matter than all their surgery had taught them.

⁴⁶ Provided by Donna Douglass, Manx Genealogy Notice Board, 22 August 2007

*Mylrea had inherited the secret from his father and grandfather, and he passed it on to his son ; but the son was reluctant to use it because of its risky nature, the chief ingredient being arsenic, i.e. trioxide of arsenic, or its sublimation.*⁴⁷

William Mylrea's reluctant son was Thomas Daniel, his father Thomas Mylrea the farmer of Braddan, and his grandfather was William.

William, the blacksmith of Andreas and a medicine man, was also a Primitive Methodist lay preacher.

The Children

- **John** left for Australia on the *Garonne* in 1882. He was 31 years of age, and a blacksmith. He soon settled in Ballarat, the epicentre of the gold mining boom in the state of Victoria. There he married a young widow, Ellen Bull, who had two small children. Ellen and John soon had two daughters of their own while John worked in various jobs, as the blacksmith trade was already becoming obsolete. The family then moved to Melbourne, where John worked as a confectioner. He died in 1921, and left his family comfortably well off for he had invested in real estate, owning his own home as well as three rental properties in inner Melbourne. Neither of his daughters married and this family line came to an end after just one generation.
- **Margaret** went to the United States in 1889, and married Philip Henry Teare, also from the Isle of Man, in 1890. They settled in Moscow, Idaho and had two/three children. Philip was a farrier by trade and became a farmer in rural Idaho.
- **Thomas Daniel** the blacksmith remained at home with his widowed mother and youngest sister, Frances Emily. At the age of nearly 50, he married Edith Elizabeth Christory on 29th April, 1908 in the parish of Jurby⁴⁸. Edith was a widow with two young sons at the time of their marriage. Thomas kept the blacksmith shop going until his death in 1945, when the smithy was closed for ever⁴⁹.
- **William Frederick** (Wilfred) migrated to South Africa. He was living in Durban when, at the age of 30, he married Ada Alice Shimmin at the Wesleyan Church, Musgrave Road on the 11th May 1895⁵⁰. He was a book-keeper. Ada was also from the Isle of Man, a Wesleyan missionary who had been working in South Africa. They had four children Orry (who died early in life), Wilfred

⁴⁷ A Manx Notebook, Chapter 2 - Cures & Charms

⁴⁸ http://www.iomfhs.im/lawsons/marriages/m_mar.html

⁴⁹ McCambridge, S. (2005). *Andreas*. Manx Heritage Foundation.

⁵⁰ WFM Wedding Certificate.

Douglas (.....), Francis Radcliffe (.....), and Ada Mary Ethel. Their descendants continue to live in South Africa.

- **Elizabeth Jane (Bessie)** married Robert Cormode of Knock-e-Neen (Andreas) in 1899⁵¹. Robert was a farmer from Andreas. They had two daughters, Bessie and Ena.
- **Frances Emily** married Joseph Kaighin, in 1904 (13th February) at the age of 34 in what seems to have been a deathbed marriage for Frances for she was buried three days later⁵².

For a family so large, it is remarkable that only four of their children had children of their own; and that there were only two males amongst the ten grandchildren, both born in South Africa.

William Mylrea & Mary Mylrea *M 1850*

William 1851	John 1852	Mary Ann 1855	Margaret 1857	William 1858	Thomas Daniel 1861	Philip Herbert 1863	William Frederick 1865	Elizabeth Jane 1867	Frances Emily 1870
	BULL		TEARE		CHRISTORY		SHIMMIN	CORMODE	KAIGHIN
	Ida F. Bessie M.	X	Bessie M. Mylrea H.		X		Orry Wilfred D. Francis R. Ada	Elizabeth Ena	X

⁵¹ LDS IGI (Robert was baptized 24 Sept, 1865, s/o John Cormode & Catherine Garrett)

⁵² Provided by Greg Kaighan Manx Genealogy Notice Board 26 August 2007

MIGRATION

Thomas Mylrea was a farm worker all of his life. He, with wife Margaret Cowin, lived to see their three surviving sons become productive members of the Manx community, Thomas was the in KK Michael, Philip as the schoolmaster in Malew, and William as a blacksmith in Andreas. In effect, these young men left not only the parish of Braddan but also a life of work in the fields, the only life their father had known. On the other hand, their daughters maintained their close links to the land through their husbands – all except Jane who married a flax preparer.

Thomas and Margaret saw the arrival of most of their 45 grandchildren. Some of course did not reach adulthood but the majority did and went on to lead productive lives. While most of them remained on the Isle of Man, several struck out in new directions, well beyond the island's shores.

Did Thomas and Margaret have the foresight to encourage their offspring to move beyond “agricultural labouring”? Did these children in turn encourage their own children to be brave? This second generation was the one that took up the trades of baking, shoe making, carpentry, blacksmithing, and drapery; some even ventured into realms that required new levels of education – book keeping and engineering. In a story that sums up the generational shifts in this family, Thomas Mylrea, farm worker of Braddan on the Isle of Man, became the great grandfather of Thomas Douglas Mylrea, professor of engineering at the University of Delaware in the United States, and a man widely published in his field.

What Thomas and Margaret could never have imagined was the *extent* of the migration of their descendants away from their Mylrea heartland. These young people rose to the challenge (and the uncertainty) of setting out on pathways that led to new lives in the UK, Australia, the United States, and South Africa.

These adventurous grandchildren did not return from distant places, and so the Manx Mylrea diaspora spread, taking root in America and South Africa.

IN THE PAPERS

<p>TOWN. On the 21th ult., at the Parish Church, Malew, by the Rev. H. S. Gill, Cæsar, youngest son of Mr. Daniel Corlett, Sulbrick, Santan, to Sarah Jane, second daughter of Mr. Mylrea, schoolmaster, St. Mark's, Malew.</p>		<p>The Isle of Man Weekly Advertising Circular. 8th July 1879</p>
<p>DEATH OF MR W. MYLREA.—Andreas and the North of the Island have lost an old and highly-respected resident in the death of Mr William Mylrea, blacksmith, Andreas village, at the age of 65 years. He became seriously ill last Friday and passed away on Sunday morning at two o'clock. The funeral took place on Tuesday afternoon, and was largely attended by residents from different parts of the Island. The interment took place in Andreas Churchyard, the service being conducted by the Venerable the Archdeacon. Mr W. Mylrea was a Primitive Methodist local preacher for upwards of forty years, and was well-known all over the Island. On the day he died he was to have preached the anniversary sermons of the Primitive Methodist Sunday School at Agnash. He leaves a widow, two sons and three daughters.</p>		<p>Manx Sun. 15th July 1893</p>
<p>MYLREA.—On the 14th August, at Brisbane, Queensland, Alfred William, youngest son of the late Philip Mylrea, schoolmaster, St. Mark's, Malew.</p>		<p>Isle of Man Times. 30th September 1893</p>

A CASTLETOWN ESTATE.

Mr R. D. Gelling presented the petition of Catherine Stowell, Quayle Stowell, Flaxney Stowell, Jane Stowell, Agnes Eleanor Stowell, Agnes Stowell, and Janetta Margaret Stowell for the appointment of a new trustee under the will of Richard Stowell, in place of Edw. Stowell, deceased.

Richard Stowell died in 1897, leaving his real and personal estate to Edward Stowell, in trust. Edward Stowell died on the 23rd May last, leaving as his heir a minor four years old.

Catherine Stowell, widow of Richard Stowell, of Castletown, said her husband appointed Edward Stowell, his brother, trustee under his will. Edward Stowell died on the 23rd May last, and his heir-at-law was his son, who was under four years old. The petitioners, Quayle Stowell and Jane Stowell were the parents of Richard Stowell, and Flaxney Stowell was the brother of Richard Stowell mentioned in the will. Agnes Eleanor Stowell was the wife of Flaxney Stowell, and Agnes Stowell was the daughter of Flaxney Stowell. Janetta Margaret Stowell was the widow of Edward Stowell, the trustee. All the petitioners were interested in the will. Mrs Mylrea, who was mentioned in the will, was dead, and all the beneficiaries, except petitioners, were under age.

The petition suggested that Catherine Stowell and Flaxney Stowell should be appointed as trustees, and they were appointed.

Manx Sun. 27th June,
1903

**ATTACHMENT 1 A GENERAL PLAN FOR THE WESLEYAN PREACHERS in the
DOUGLAS & RAMSEY CIRCUTS - 1848**

A GENERAL PLAN FOR THE WESLEYAN PREACHERS IN THE DOUGLAS AND RAMSEY CIRCUITS.-1848.

DOUGLAS AND CASTLETOWN CIRCUIT.

PLACES.		MAY.		JUNE.		JULY.		
NO.	NAME.	NO.	NAME.	NO.	NAME.	NO.	NAME.	
1	Thomas Street	11	6	7	14	31	19	28
2	Monday	12	6	1	1	2	1	2
3	Saturday	13	6	2	1	3	1	3
4	Well Road	14	6	3	1	4	1	4
5	Thursday	15	6	4	1	5	1	5
6	Friday	16	6	5	1	6	1	6
7	Sunday	17	6	6	1	7	1	7
8	Monday	18	6	7	1	8	1	8
9	Tuesday	19	6	8	1	9	1	9
10	Wednesday	20	6	9	1	10	1	10
11	Thursday	21	6	10	1	11	1	11
12	Friday	22	6	11	1	12	1	12
13	Saturday	23	6	12	1	13	1	13
14	Sunday	24	6	13	1	14	1	14
15	Monday	25	6	14	1	15	1	15
16	Tuesday	26	6	15	1	16	1	16
17	Wednesday	27	6	16	1	17	1	17
18	Thursday	28	6	17	1	18	1	18
19	Friday	29	6	18	1	19	1	19
20	Saturday	30	6	19	1	20	1	20
21	Sunday	1	7	20	1	21	1	21
22	Monday	2	7	21	1	22	1	22
23	Tuesday	3	7	22	1	23	1	23
24	Wednesday	4	7	23	1	24	1	24
25	Thursday	5	7	24	1	25	1	25
26	Friday	6	7	25	1	26	1	26
27	Saturday	7	7	26	1	27	1	27
28	Sunday	8	7	27	1	28	1	28
29	Monday	9	7	28	1	29	1	29
30	Tuesday	10	7	29	1	30	1	30
31	Wednesday	11	7	30	1	31	1	31
32	Thursday	12	7	31	1	1	2	2
33	Friday	13	7	1	2	2	3	3
34	Saturday	14	7	2	3	3	4	4
35	Sunday	15	7	3	4	4	5	5
36	Monday	16	7	4	5	5	6	6
37	Tuesday	17	7	5	6	6	7	7
38	Wednesday	18	7	6	7	7	8	8
39	Thursday	19	7	7	8	8	9	9
40	Friday	20	7	8	9	9	10	10
41	Saturday	21	7	9	10	10	11	11
42	Sunday	22	7	10	11	11	12	12
43	Monday	23	7	11	12	12	13	13
44	Tuesday	24	7	12	13	13	14	14
45	Wednesday	25	7	13	14	14	15	15
46	Thursday	26	7	14	15	15	16	16
47	Friday	27	7	15	16	16	17	17
48	Saturday	28	7	16	17	17	18	18
49	Sunday	29	7	17	18	18	19	19
50	Monday	30	7	18	19	19	20	20
51	Tuesday	31	7	19	20	20	21	21
52	Wednesday	1	8	20	21	21	22	22
53	Thursday	2	8	21	22	22	23	23
54	Friday	3	8	22	23	23	24	24
55	Saturday	4	8	23	24	24	25	25
56	Sunday	5	8	24	25	25	26	26
57	Monday	6	8	25	26	26	27	27
58	Tuesday	7	8	26	27	27	28	28
59	Wednesday	8	8	27	28	28	29	29
60	Thursday	9	8	28	29	29	30	30
61	Friday	10	8	29	30	30	31	31
62	Saturday	11	8	30	31	31	1	1
63	Sunday	12	8	31	1	1	2	2
64	Monday	13	8	1	2	2	3	3
65	Tuesday	14	8	2	3	3	4	4
66	Wednesday	15	8	3	4	4	5	5
67	Thursday	16	8	4	5	5	6	6
68	Friday	17	8	5	6	6	7	7
69	Saturday	18	8	6	7	7	8	8
70	Sunday	19	8	7	8	8	9	9
71	Monday	20	8	8	9	9	10	10
72	Tuesday	21	8	9	10	10	11	11
73	Wednesday	22	8	10	11	11	12	12
74	Thursday	23	8	11	12	12	13	13
75	Friday	24	8	12	13	13	14	14
76	Saturday	25	8	13	14	14	15	15
77	Sunday	26	8	14	15	15	16	16
78	Monday	27	8	15	16	16	17	17
79	Tuesday	28	8	16	17	17	18	18
80	Wednesday	29	8	17	18	18	19	19
81	Thursday	30	8	18	19	19	20	20
82	Friday	31	8	19	20	20	21	21
83	Saturday	1	9	20	21	21	22	22
84	Sunday	2	9	21	22	22	23	23
85	Monday	3	9	22	23	23	24	24
86	Tuesday	4	9	23	24	24	25	25
87	Wednesday	5	9	24	25	25	26	26
88	Thursday	6	9	25	26	26	27	27
89	Friday	7	9	26	27	27	28	28
90	Saturday	8	9	27	28	28	29	29
91	Sunday	9	9	28	29	29	30	30
92	Monday	10	9	29	30	30	31	31
93	Tuesday	11	9	30	31	31	1	1
94	Wednesday	12	9	31	1	1	2	2
95	Thursday	13	9	1	2	2	3	3
96	Friday	14	9	2	3	3	4	4
97	Saturday	15	9	3	4	4	5	5
98	Sunday	16	9	4	5	5	6	6
99	Monday	17	9	5	6	6	7	7
100	Tuesday	18	9	6	7	7	8	8
101	Wednesday	19	9	7	8	8	9	9
102	Thursday	20	9	8	9	9	10	10
103	Friday	21	9	9	10	10	11	11
104	Saturday	22	9	10	11	11	12	12
105	Sunday	23	9	11	12	12	13	13
106	Monday	24	9	12	13	13	14	14
107	Tuesday	25	9	13	14	14	15	15
108	Wednesday	26	9	14	15	15	16	16
109	Thursday	27	9	15	16	16	17	17
110	Friday	28	9	16	17	17	18	18
111	Saturday	29	9	17	18	18	19	19
112	Sunday	30	9	18	19	19	20	20
113	Monday	31	9	19	20	20	21	21
114	Tuesday	1	10	20	21	21	22	22
115	Wednesday	2	10	21	22	22	23	23
116	Thursday	3	10	22	23	23	24	24
117	Friday	4	10	23	24	24	25	25
118	Saturday	5	10	24	25	25	26	26
119	Sunday	6	10	25	26	26	27	27
120	Monday	7	10	26	27	27	28	28
121	Tuesday	8	10	27	28	28	29	29
122	Wednesday	9	10	28	29	29	30	30
123	Thursday	10	10	29	30	30	31	31
124	Friday	11	10	30	31	31	1	1
125	Saturday	12	10	31	1	1	2	2
126	Sunday	13	10	1	2	2	3	3
127	Monday	14	10	2	3	3	4	4
128	Tuesday	15	10	3	4	4	5	5
129	Wednesday	16	10	4	5	5	6	6
130	Thursday	17	10	5	6	6	7	7
131	Friday	18	10	6	7	7	8	8
132	Saturday	19	10	7	8	8	9	9
133	Sunday	20	10	8	9	9	10	10
134	Monday	21	10	9	10	10	11	11
135	Tuesday	22	10	10	11	11	12	12
136	Wednesday	23	10	11	12	12	13	13
137	Thursday	24	10	12	13	13	14	14
138	Friday	25	10	13	14	14	15	15
139	Saturday	26	10	14	15	15	16	16
140	Sunday	27	10	15	16	16	17	17
141	Monday	28	10	16	17	17	18	18
142	Tuesday	29	10	17	18	18	19	19
143	Wednesday	30	10	18	19	19	20	20
144	Thursday	31	10	19	20	20	21	21
145	Friday	1	11	20	21	21	22	22
146	Saturday	2	11	21	22	22	23	23
147	Sunday	3	11	22	23	23	24	24
148	Monday	4	11	23	24	24	25	25
149	Tuesday	5	11	24	25	25	26	26
150	Wednesday	6	11	25	26	26	27	27
151	Thursday	7	11	26	27	27	28	28
152	Friday	8	11	27	28	28	29	29
153	Saturday	9	11	28	29	29	30	30
154	Sunday	10	11	29	30	30	31	31
155	Monday	11	11	30	31	31	1	1
156	Tuesday	12	11	31	1	1	2	2
157	Wednesday	13	11	1	2	2	3	3
158	Thursday	14	11	2	3	3	4	4
159	Friday	15	11	3	4	4	5	5
160	Saturday	16	11	4	5	5	6	6
161	Sunday	17	11	5	6	6	7	7
162	Monday	18	11	6	7	7	8	8
163	Tuesday							

RAMSEY AND PEEL CIRCUIT.

[illegible]

The Quarterly Meeting will be held at Douglas, on Tuesday, June 27th, to commence at 5 o'clock in the afternoon. The Lord's Prayer Meeting will be held on the same day, to commence at half past ten o'clock in the forenoon. The Quarterly Meeting will be held at Cuthberton, on Monday, July 3rd, to commence at 2 o'clock in the afternoon.

Every Presbyter is expected punctually to fill his own appointments; or, in case of unavoidable absence, to get his place supplied by one whose name is on the plan.

REFERENCES:—S. Lord's *Supper*—L. Leitch—F. Collection in India's Contingent Fund.
—C. COVER. Collection.
The *Prayer Meeting* will be held, at Forty East, on Monday, June 26th, at 7 o'clock. The Preachers to meet at 10 o'clock in the morning, and the Stewards at Noon. The Quarterly Fast will be observed on Friday, June 26th, when Prayer Meetings are to be held in every Chapel throughout the Circuit, at 8 in the morning, at noon, and 7 in the evening.
Every Preacher is expected to fulfil his own appointments, or, in case of unavoidable absence, to appoint a substitute.
All the Preachers who are appointed to make the Public Collections, will have the position to make them on those days for which they are invited, and the money is to be paid to the Stewards as they are appointed.
Whereas Publications may be obtained from the Rev. W. Simpson, Ramsey, or the Rev. M. C. Dixon, Poole.

ATTACHMENT 2 WILL OF THOMAS MYLREA, died BRADDAN, 1860

Braddan

126.

1860
Episcopal

To the Worshipful
Thomas A. Cortett
Vicar General &c
&c &c

The humble petition of
James Shinnin and
Mary his wife of Malleson
in the parish of Sauton

Sheweth

That on or about the seventh
day of May last Thomas Mylrea
formerly of Braddan departed
this life intestate.

That Thomas Mylrea of Michael
Philip Mylrea of ~~Andrew~~ Malew
William Mylrea of Andreas Ann
Mylrea now in America Jane Mylrea
wife of James Kippack of Malleson and
Elizabeth the wife of William Caldwell
of Malleson in Braddan along
with the pet. Mary are the children

and only next of kin of the said dec'd
and pet^r in desires that administration
of his Estate be forthwith granted to the
pet^r James or to some other proper
person

Wherefore pet^r prays a hearing
hereof and that your Worship
may be pleased to grant letters
of administration of the said
intestate's Estate to the pet^r
James or to some fit and
proper person in trust for
the next of kin aforesaid
And pet^r will pray for
yourself
Wm. Mearns

Ordered that this petition do come on to be
heard at an Ecclesiastical Court to be held in
Cambridge on Friday next whereof all proper
parties are to have due notice
Given this 19th day of Nov. 1860
J. W. Corbett

At a Court holden at
Dorchester this 23rd Nov. 1860

This petition is continued -

J. W. Corbett

At a Court holden at
Dorchester on Thursday the
20th day of December 1860
by adjournment from a Court
held at Dorchester on the 23rd
Nov. 1860 -

Upon hearing this petition in presence of the parties or their
advocates and it appearing that Thomas Mylrea some short
time ago departed this life intestate leaving issue namely
Thomas Mylrea Philip Mylrea William Mylrea (all Mylrea
resident abroad) Jane wife of James Tinsack Elizabeth wife of
William Caldwell and the petitioners Mary wife of the pet.
James Shinnings who are therefore declared sole administrators
of all and singular the goods Rights Credits Chattels and
Effects of the s^d dec^d and the petitioners James Shinnings in
right of his s^d wife the pet. Mary is therefore sworn in trust
well and truly to administer the s^d Estate according to
Law, to pay all just debts and funeral expenses of the dec^d
so far as the s^d goods will extend and the Law binds him
to return a true and faithful Inventory thereof with an
accurate account of his acts and proceedings in the
premises to the Episcopal Registry when the same are lawfully
required and to this end he hath given pledges namely
Thomas Mylrea and Charles Layle who have entered into
and executed the usual Bond in pursuance of the Court's

Decretum Est

J. W. Corbett

ATTACHMENT 3 WILLIAM FREDERICK MYLREA

[This information is simply a collection of data I have come across whilst preparing the story of William Frederick's brother, John Mylrea who was born in 1852. It's not intended to be comprehensive, although I hope that what is here is accurate. Some of the material was provided by a direct descendant of William Frederick.]

1865 William Frederick Mylrea was born to William Mylrea and Mary Mylrea in Andreas, Isle of Man; he was known as Wilfred. Baptised 25th June, 1865⁵³. His father, William, was a blacksmith.

1868 Wilfred's future wife, Ada Alice Shimmin, was born to Evan Shimmin and Jane Radcliffe in Douglas, Braddan, Isle of Man; Evan and Jane had married 2nd June, 1849 in Braddan⁵⁴ and Ada was one of several children (and probably the youngest, given the nearly 20 years since Evan and Jane married). She was baptised 9th August 1868, St George, Douglas⁵⁵. Her father Evan was a roper.

1890 Ada

1894 Wilfred migrated to South Africa (?). If indeed he was the passenger aboard the vessel, Scot, sailing from Southampton to Cape (Town?), then he was recorded as a sculptor.⁵⁶

1895 Wilfred and Ada Alice Shimmin were married in the Wesleyan Church, Musgrave Road, Durban on the 11th May 1895⁵⁷

- **Wilfred** gave his occupation as "Book-keeper", and he was domiciled in Durban. He was 30 years of age.
- **Ada** gave her address as Douglas although she had actually been in South Africa for a period in the 1890s, working as a Wesleyan missionary. She must have returned home to the Isle of Man, maybe met Wilfred there, and maybe it was her experiences in South Africa that encouraged Wilfred to try his luck in South Africa. Ada followed and they were married. She was 27 years of age when they married.

Wilfred & Ada had four children:

⁵³ LDS IGI

⁵⁴ LDS IGI

⁵⁵ LDS IGI

⁵⁶ <http://www.findmypast.com/migration.jsp>

⁵⁷ WFM Wedding Certificate

- Orry (who died early in life)
- Wilfred Douglas
- Francis Radcliffe
- Ada Mary Ethel

The names of their three sons had very strong Manx overtones. Orry was doubtless named after King Orry, the legendary Norse ruler of the Isle of Man in the 11th century.



KING ORRY'S GRAVE
(Near the town of Laxey, IOM)

The second names of Wilfred and Francis could have been in memory of the homes of Ada and Wilfred snr which were Douglas, and Ballaradcliffe⁵⁸ respectively. More likely, Francis's second name was for Ada's mother, Jane Radcliffe.

1942 Wilfred and Ada lived at 160 Windermere Road [Lawrie's Durban Directory]. This was also the year Wilfred died. He would have been about 77 years old and Ada 74. In another of life's great coincidences, another Mylrea lives at 32 Windermere St in Douglas on the Isle of Man today!

Their son Francis Radcliffe Mylrea lived at 5 Monteith Place, Durban North. [Lawrie's Durban Directory]

1955 Wilfred's wife, Ada, died. She would have been about 84 years old.

1957 Francis (Frank) Radcliffe lived at 40 Monteith Place [Durban Corporation Official Telephone Directory]

⁵⁸ 1851 Census IOM

1976 Frank Radcliffe Mylrea died, still resident at 40 Monteith Place, and left his estate to his son, Michael Lloyd Mylrea. Frank had shared in the estate of his intestate Australian cousin, Ida Frances Mylrea, who had died in Melbourne in 1975, although by the time the legalities had been attended to, it was Michael who inherited his father's cousin's legacy. While no evidence has been uncovered, it is likely that the children of all of John's siblings (ie. Wilfred, Margaret and Bessie) also shared in the legacy.

Ada Shimmin

Ada was an adventurous young woman. At quite a young age, probably just 22, she was a Wesleyan missionary in South Africa in the early 1890s. Her brother, Isaac Shimmin, was a famous Wesleyan missionary in South Africa at the time and might have founded the Klerksdorp Church, amongst many others. He was also one of the original pioneers of Rhodesia, arriving there in September 1891, before Rhodes himself⁵⁹. Previously, he had been in the Transvaal. Ada's brother, Isaac, was a significant figure in the Wesleyan missionary activities in South Africa. As well, he was regarded as a scholar, and a fine hunter:

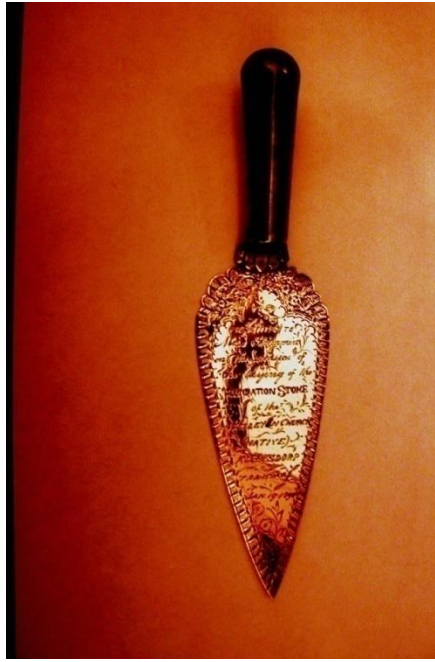
*Isaac Shimmin, the leading Methodist minister in Mashonaland in the 1890s, prided himself on his hunting and was prepared to pit himself against local hunters*⁶⁰.

Ada must have been with Isaac in the Transvaal. The ceremonial trowel pictured below has an inscription:

Presented to Miss Shimmin on the occasion of the laying of the foundation stone of the Wesleyan Church (Native) Klerksdorp Transvaal Jan. 19 1890.

⁵⁹ Keppel-Jones, Arthur (1983). Rhodes and Rhodesia: The white conquest of Zimbabwe 1884-1902 p134

⁶⁰ MacKenzie, John M. (1997). The Empire of Nature: hunting, conservation, and British imperialism. Manchester University Press ND, p131



CEREMONIAL TROWEL PRESENTED TO ADA SHIMMIN (1890)

(The trowel is in the possession of Ada's great grandson, Jonathan Mylrea of Capetown.)

▫ **Wilfred Douglas Mylrea**

Maybe Wilfred Douglas took after his mother, because he too was an adventurer. At the age of 16, he ran away to join the army in 1914 and fought in German East Africa (now Tanzania) against General von Lettow Vorbeck's army. He was separated from his unit in battle and spent a long time trying to survive alone in the East African bush. Ada and Wilfred were informed that he was missing in action presumed dead, but after some months he managed to make contact with a British army column and was returned to South Africa suffering from malaria and black water fever. Once he had recovered, he tried to sign up again, but the army rejected him on medical grounds. He promptly joined the Royal Navy and spent the rest of the war in the Indian Ocean fleet, where he excelled as a boxer in his spare time. After the war, he was too old to go back to school and was given a war-time matriculation certificate. He studied agriculture at Cedara College in Natal, where he played both Rugby and Cricket for the province. After Cedara, he became a farm manager in Harrismith in The Orange Free State and eventually bought his own land and became a fairly well-to-do farmer in the area.

Wilfred Douglas was a great linguist, speaking Zulu, Sotho, Afrikaans and Manx Gaelic. In 1969 at the age of 71, he took a year's sabbatical and went to Europe for the first and only time. He visited the Isle of Man and happily tried to speak Manx to the locals, none of whom could understand him, until he met an old cab driver who still spoke the language. The cabbie was amazed to find a Manx speaker who was born and had grown up in Africa!

- **Francis Radcliffe Mylrea**

Francis Radcliffe (Frank) was more like his father, and took up a profession in the financial services area. He was said to be the clever member of the family, and family folk lore has it that when he qualified as a Chartered Accountant, he came first in the British Empire Examinations. He became a very respected stock broker. He is remembered as a bookish man with thick reading glasses. His son, Michael, became a senior partner of Ernst and Young, a large accounting company in South Africa.

- **Ada Alice Mylrea**

In 1922, Ada married Thomas Benchley THRING⁶¹. She and Thomas had two sons:

- Frederick Mylrea Thring
- Donald Benchley Thring

⁶¹ LDS Microfilm #1796447, Natal Marriages, Item 7, Entry #629, Date: 6/1/1922

The Making of Spud the Movie: John van de Ruit & Ross Garland

(interview taken from the Internet)

Ross

For me, the making of Spud the movie is about serendipity. Coincidence. Fate. And a bit of choice thrown in, too. Much like Spud's own story, in fact. The course of John van de Ruit's and my own journey has intersected over and over again, from when we first met as teenagers through to this point in time, May 2010, just after the shooting of the film, as I sit back and reflect on how it all began. It was the game of cricket that threw us together.

Steve Mylrea aka Ham Dog, starts his run-up by pushing off from the neighbour's grey concrete wall with his white Dunlop tackies and propelling his seventeen-year-old body at high speed towards me, ready and waiting in my navy blue King Sports cricket helmet. Nobody knows if the homemade cricket net in the Mylreas' Durban North back garden had an intentional design flaw or not. The slightly too short, sharp-edged concrete surface offered the bowler a neat target, which any rock-hard, red leather cricket ball was guaranteed to zip off at an angle and velocity that had a high chance of hitting the awaiting batsman in the head. Which meant that Steve and his younger brother Rich aimed every ball at that edge. Which caused me to storm out of the net, heart rate quickening and mad as a snake.

Next up to bat is one John van de Ruit, aka Johnny, aka Johnny boy, fifteen years of age but occupying the body of a ten-year-old. Ham Dog hurtled in once more, letting fly with a speedy delivery that nicked the concrete edge and whizzed past little Johnny's under-sized head. Johnny unleashed a torrent of abuse in a high-pitched choirboy's voice.

We broke for red juice and Marie biscuits. The atmosphere was heated. Where Johnny and I might have lacked in fast bowling skills, our juvenile vocabulary was our best weapon and we used it colourfully and liberally.

The cricketing face-off was resumed on the patch of finely mown grass beside the swimming pool. Johnny, spazzy tongue lolling out of one side of his mouth, bowled his looping leg spin at the washing basket wickets, the taped up tennis ball fizzing off the Bermuda lawn. The ball sneaked behind Ham Dog's legs for a dramatic match-winning stumping. We savoured our revenge over Creme Soda and tennis biscuits.

John

My first impression of Ross Garland one summer afternoon in 1990 in the Mylreas' back garden was of a tall, gangly fellow with blue eyes, sharp humour, and a weakness outside off stump. He hardly looked like someone who would call me fifteen years later to enquire about the film rights for a book I had written. As the spindly little lad running in to bowl yet another disrespected leg spinner, I had recently been ordered into remedial writing lessons due to my scrawl having developed the appearance of the death dance of an ink-soaked flying ant, would hardly have looked like someone with the cranial capacity to write a legible sentence, let alone a book.

Ross

When I read Spud for the first time, fifteen years and not a few leg spins later, for some reason it's the Mylreas' house I always pictured as Spud Milton's home. It was their pool that Mermaid dived into and started a young boy's pulse racing. Rich's bedroom was Spud's room, lacking only the Good Knight duvet. The Mylreas' was the classic Durban North home of the 1980s. I could see it all unfolding.

Today's generation (supplied by Bill Mylrea of Cape Town)

"Steve and Rich are the sons of my cousin Michael and obviously the errant cricket pitch is in Michael's garden. Michael has very bad eyesight that prevented him from playing sport as a youngster, but he was very keen on following sport and active in encouraging his boys in that direction. Both ended up at Stellenbosch University doing sports orientated degrees.

What he won't tell you is that he qualified at the top of British CA exams as did his father, my uncle Frank. Probably these skills were inherited from the apprentice draper on the Isle of Man who became a bookkeeper - William Frederick (Wilfred) Mylrea.

After qualifying, Michael went to England for a few years and on returning to South Africa was literally met at the boat by one of the largest international accounting firms operating here and offered a partnership at the local branch. As is the case with these large firms, I think that it has changed its name a few times as it has grown and I really do not know what it is called now. In later life I believe that it was his job to travel to America annually and audit the firm's New York branch.

A month or two ago, my youngest grandson Robbie bought the second Spud book at a bookstore in Cape Town where the author, van der Ruit was signing copies and when he, the author, discovered that Robbie was Steve's second cousin, he questioned him at length and told him that Steve Mylrea was his best friend. and wrote a whole screed to this effect in Robbie's book. Robbie was absolutely thrilled!

WILLIAM CALLISTER

Died August 11th 1922.

The Brooklyn Daily Eagle, New York, in its issue of August 22nd, records the death on the 11th of that month of Mr. William Callister, one of the oldest residents of Queen's Village, in his 92nd year. Mr Callister was born in Jurby, Isle of Man, in 1831, and was the son of Thomas Callister and Jane Mylechraine of that place.

Prior to 1849 he resided at the Ivy Bridge, Michael, Isle of Man. In that year he emigrated to America and joined his brother, Thomas Callister, who founded the wagon and motor-car business now carried on by J. T. & W. L. Callister, sons of William, Jamaica Avenue and Jericho Turnpike, Queens. He visited the Island in 1864 and in 1865 was married there to Jane Mylrea, who survives him.

Mr Callister retired from active business in 1896 and had acquired considerable wealth. He was a resident of Queens for about 71 years Surviving him, besides his wife, are two daughters and three sons.

The Mystery of Airey-ween

What was Airey-ween (Eirey-ween)? A district, a farm, a house? A Manx Notebook lays out the evolution of this Braddan place name:

Airy Wind.

1643 Manorial Roll Nary Ween

1739 Parochial Visit Airy Wind

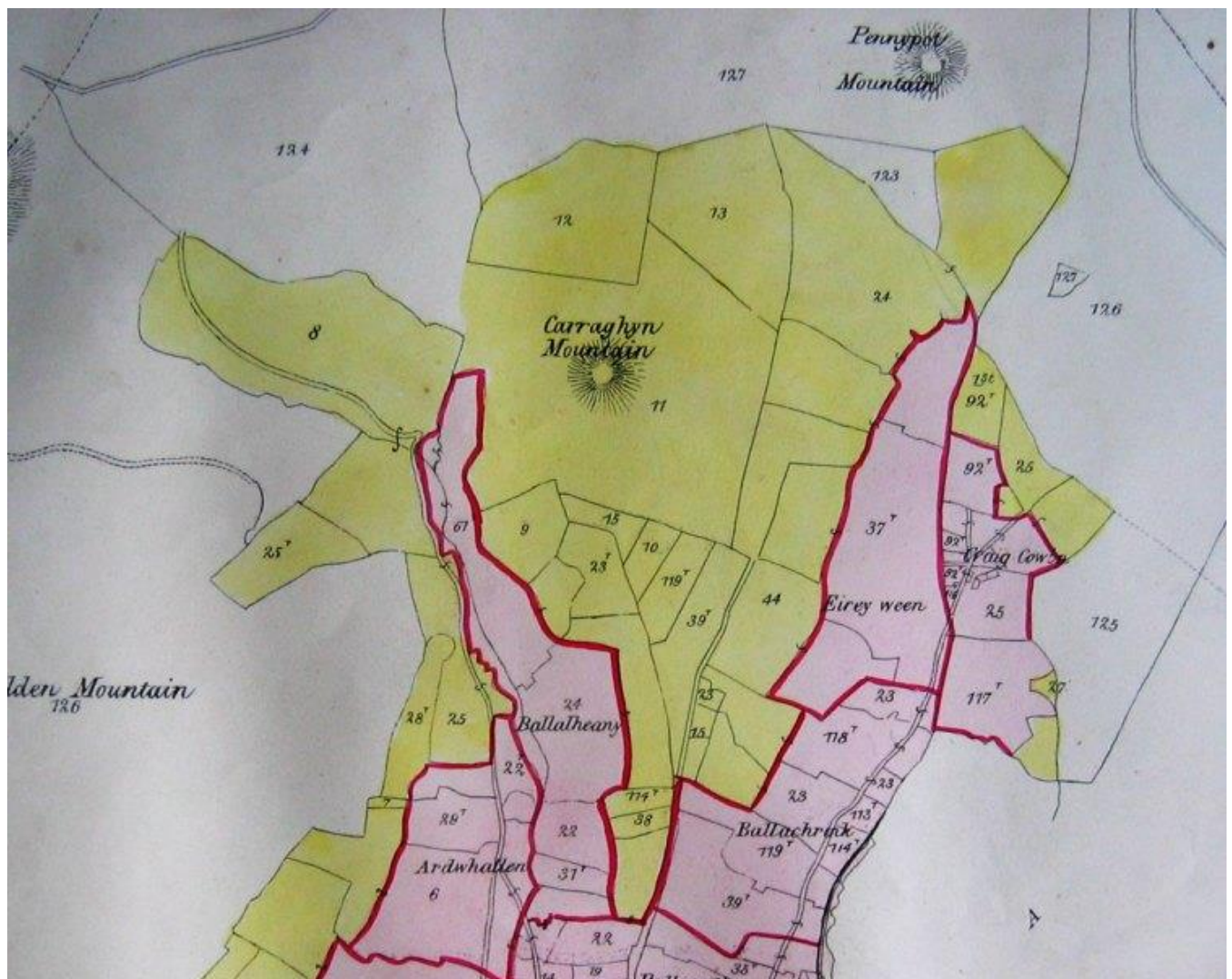
Mx. (*Yn*) *eary veen*, ‘smooth, or fertile hill-pasture.’

The term made its first appearance in this Mylrea story in the 1738 will of John Mylrea, another son of Thomas Mylrea and Joney Craine of *Ballacooiley*

To his godson the Heir of Airy Ween his part of the steer which was betwixt them.

Its next appearance was over 100 years later in the 1851 census collection where Thomas Mylrea was living at Ballagarey, just to the south of Eirey Ween (sic), which was a farm of 132 acres and occupied by William Cowley.

Aairy Ween might hold clues, as yet undiscovered, about Thomas Mylrea the farmer and his family. This little section was included in case those clues one day shed more light onto the history of this man.



PART OF THE BRADDAN PLAN FROM WOODS'S ATLAS
Source: A MANX NOTEBOOK