

JOHN MYLREA

1852-1921



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

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John Mylrea (1852-1921)
by Diana Banks
March, 2014
(p1)

John Mylrea was the son of the smithy in Andreas on the Isle of Man. His family was a large one, and he was one of three children who migrated from their Manx home to three very different points around the globe. Like his father and brother, he was a blacksmith.

John arrived in Australia in 1882, travelling on the *Garonne* from London and disembarking at Port Philip [Melbourne]. Almost as soon as he arrived there was the mysterious matter of his relationship with Catherine Ellen Crennell, and her baby named John Lewin Mylrea. Some time later, he married Ellen Bull, and together they had two children. John also acquired two step-children through his marriage to Ellen.

He was eventually forced to turn his hand to unskilled occupations to support his family when the demand for blacksmithing began to peter out in the late 1800s. Nevertheless, when he died at the age of 68, he was able to leave his family very comfortably off.

John and his family resided initially in Ballarat in country Victoria, but they spent most of their lives in the city of Melbourne.

John Mylrea's story has been constructed using primary sources, or reputable secondary sources such as family trees and authoritative online forums. Even though they can be widely different for any one individual, baptism and birth dates have been treated equally in this story, since either is sufficient to identify the individual and to make a reasonable estimation of their age.

As is usually the case in these genealogical endeavours, not all the information "lines up" perfectly. As a result, I've made some "educated guesses" in an attempt to complete the picture of John's heritage.

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 and for John, these variations included MYBRED, MYBRIA, MYLRIA, MYBREA, MYBREY, MILRAY and MILREA.

A list of sources used to develop this biography is provided at the end of the narrative, and specific references are given as Endnotes.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I have become increasingly enchanted by the stories of the various Mylrea families who were in Australia during colonial times. This John Mylrea is not an immediate relative, although he came from the same Mylrea clan as my great great grandfather and the same parish.

The challenge of finding the correct pieces for John's genealogical puzzle was a task I completed with the help of several individuals and organizations:

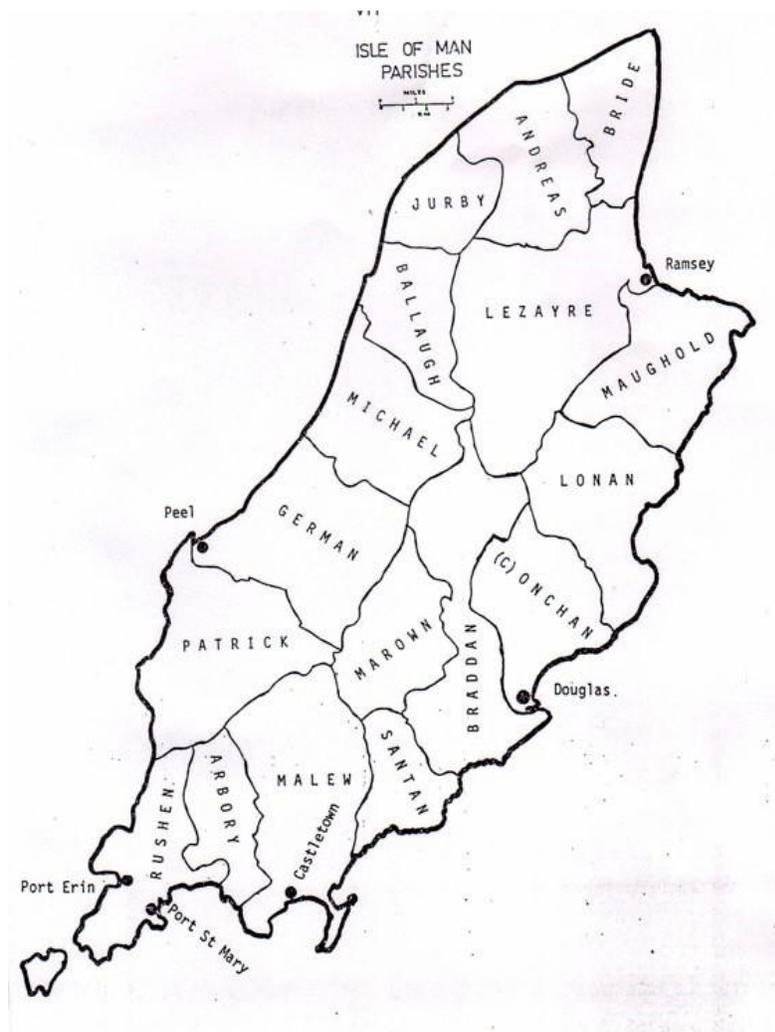
- » Rodney Speer of the Victorian Titles Office who unearthed the titles (nearly a century old) to John's real estate holdings
- » Travis Sellers of the Adam Lindsay Gordon Trust at the Brighton Cemetery who located John Lewin Mylrea's grave
- » Donna Bell, a member of John Mylrea's family tree through her great great grandmother, John's sister (Margaret)
- » The Manx online forum who collectively answered questions that only an Australian would have to ask
- » Jan Prendergast, married into another Mylrea line altogether, but who became interested in John as well
- » State Library of Victoria and the Public Records Office of Victoria, in whose repositories parts of the John Mylrea story lie

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Source: <http://woods atlas1867.webs.com>

MYLREA OF ANDREAS

The Isle of Man is a tiny island in the Irish Sea, midway between Scotland, England, Ireland, and Wales. It was the home of a young man named John Mylrea, who left in 1881 and sailed to Australia.



John was born in the parish of Andreas, one of 17 parishes on the Island, lying along the north-west coast and exposed to the wild Irish Sea. Since the early 1800s, Andreas has been home to some members of the Mylrea clan although the adjacent parish of Ballaugh remains the true Mylrea heartland.

The Isle of Man is about 48 km (32 miles) long and between 13 and 24 km (8 and 15 miles) in breadth. For the sake of simplicity, the parishes are, say, about 4 miles x 4 miles in size. Thus, individuals in this narrative who migrated to another parish (as John's parents did) might have traveled about 15 km (10 miles) – walking distance for most people.

John's parents

John's parents were William Mylrea and Mary Mylrea¹.

- William came from the parish of Braddan, on the eastern side of the island. He was the youngest son of Thomas Mylrea and Margaret Cowin, and had been baptised on 25th February, 1827².

- Mary came from the parish of Kirk Michael on the western side of the island. She was the youngest daughter of John Mylrea and Isabella Quayle, and had been baptised on 5th June, 1825³.

William's father, Thomas, was born in Douglas (Braddan) in about 1788⁴. In 1841, he was a farm labourer, working on *Ballaotes* farm in the parish of Braddan⁵. William's mother, Margaret Cowin, was born in about 1783 and came from the parish of Malew⁶. Thomas and Margaret had seven children, of whom William was the youngest.

Mary's father, John Mylrea, was born in the parish of Ballaugh in the early 1790s⁷. He was probably the son of Daniel Mylrea and Mary Hughes, Daniel coming from *Ballacooiley* farm. By 1841, John Mylrea was a farm labourer in the nearby parish of Kirk Michael⁸. He (or possibly his son John) was listed as a farmer at Cronk Urleigh in Kirk Michael in Thwaites 1863 Guide⁹. John's wife was Isabella Quayle, and they had four children, of whom Mary was the youngest¹⁰. Isabella Quayle's family were from Kirk Michael.

While John's Mylrea parents and grandparents were easily identified, the earlier generations presented a challenge simply because written records were not so readily kept or maintained in their day. As a result, I have resorted to the "BEST GUESS" technique [my own invention and perhaps more aptly labelled A LEAP OF FAITH!]. Thus, John's antecedents might have been as follows:

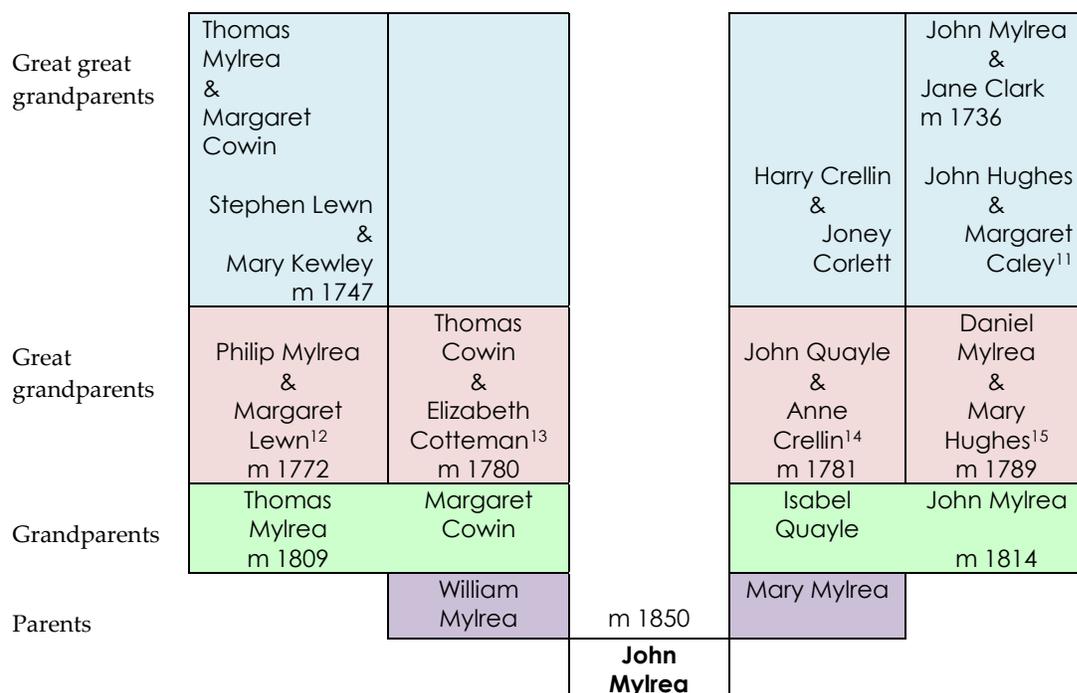


FIGURE 1 JOHN MYLREA'S ANTECEDENTS

The logic that led to the identification of John's great grandparents is set out in Attachment 1. Naturally, a great deal of caution needs to be exercised because there is no direct evidence to confirm that these more distant individuals were actually John's predecessors.

John's siblings

John's parents, William and Mary, were married on 11th July 1850 in the parish of Kirk Michael¹⁶, where Mary's mother's family had lived for generations. William was a blacksmith by trade¹⁷.

The young couple were living in Andreas by the time their first child was born in 1851. They went on to have ten children between 1851 and 1870. John Mylrea was their second child, and second son, named perhaps after his maternal grandfather. Indeed, the name John was a favourite amongst the Ballaugh Mylreas, going all the way back to the original Jon Mylrea (McYlrea) born in about 1600.

The children of William and Mary were:

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- William (baptised 16th March, 1851)¹⁸
- John (17th October, 1852)¹⁹
- Mary Anne (baptised 21st October, 1854)²⁰
- Margaret (baptised 17th January, 1857)²¹ (born 25th August, 1856)²²
- William (baptised 28th October, 1858)²³
- Thomas Daniel (baptised 28th April, 1861)²⁴
- Philip Herbert (baptised 24th May, 1863)²⁵
- William Frederick (baptised 25th June, 1865)²⁶
- Elizabeth Jane (baptised 10th November, 1867)²⁷ (born 31st October, 1867)²⁸
- Frances Emily (baptised 11th December, 1870)²⁹

Three of these children did not survive infancy. The first two Williams died of diphtheria [in 1854 and 1861 respectively] both aged 3, and Philip Herbert passed away in 1864³⁰.

In the 1881 Census collection for the Isle of Man, William and Mary lived at Laurel Cottage in the parish of Andreas. The remaining seven Mylrea children also lived there. Sons John and Thomas Daniel (like their father) were blacksmiths. 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.

William and Mary lost a fourth child, daughter Mary Anne, in 1885 when she died without marrying at age 30.

Family Memorial Inscriptions

In the Andreas Old Yard, the following Memorial Inscription commemorates the Mylrea children who had died³¹:

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.

The two youngest, sisters Elizabeth Jane & Frances Emily, remained on the Isle of Man and married, Elizabeth to Robert Cormode (in 1899)³² of Knocke-Nean and Frances Emily to Joseph Kaighin, in 1904 (13th February) in what seems to have been a deathbed marriage for Frances for she was buried three days later³³. At the age of 47, Thomas Daniel married Edith Elizabeth Christory on 29th April, 1908 in the parish of Jurby³⁴.

Migration

Three of the children of William and Mary Mylrea migrated from the Isle of Man to make new lives on the other side of the world. *[bit here about economic migration]* and chose three entirely different destinations around the globe.

- John was the first to go. In 1881, he departed for Victoria, in the southern part of Australia, drawn perhaps by the excitement of the gold rushes there, even though they had reached their peak in the 1860s.



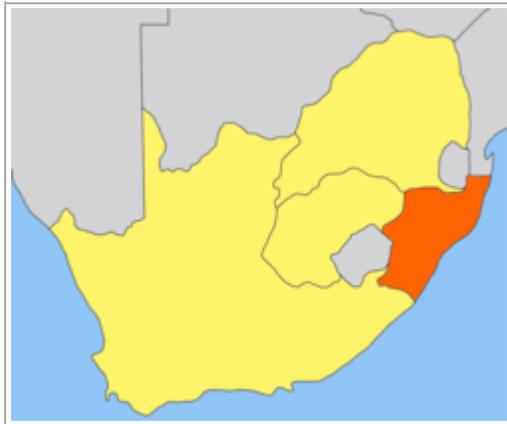
**FIGURE 2 STATE OF VICTORIA
AUSTRALIA**

- Margaret went to Moscow, Idaho, USA and married another emigrant from the Isle of Man, Philip Henry Teare in 1890³⁵.



FIGURE 3 STATE OF IDAHO, USA

- William Frederick (known as Wilfred) – the apprentice draper in 1881 - went to Natal, in the eastern region of South Africa, probably encouraged by the riches being promised by diamond and gold mining. The discovery of diamonds and later gold would soon trigger the conflict known as the Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902) as the Boers and the British fought for control over the South African mineral wealth. [More of him at Attachment 2]



**FIGURE 4 PROVINCE OF NATAL,
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

Back on the Isle of Man, William and Mary lived on into old age, probably never again seeing their globe-trotting children. Their Memorial Inscription is in the Andreas Old Yard³⁶.

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

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AUSTRALIA

John, the oldest living son of William and Mary Mylrea of Andreas, said goodbye to his family in 1881. On 9th November, he left London on the ship, *Garonne*³⁷, and sailed for Australia. He landed in Port Philip [Melbourne] on 17th March, 1882 after a trip that lasted four months. It would have been an uncomfortable time for John, travelling no doubt in steerage.

Catherine Ellen Crennell

Within six months of arriving in Australia, John was named as the father of a baby who later died in Melbourne. The death certificate for John Lewin Mylrea gave the father as "John Mylrea, blacksmith", and the mother, as "Catherine Mylrea, formerly Crennell"³⁸. This little fellow had been born at sea, on the S.S *Cuzco*, on 4th April, 1882³⁹. The *Cuzco* had sailed from London in February, and the baby had been born just a week before the vessel docked in Melbourne.

It would not be unreasonable to think that John Mylrea was indeed the father of this little baby. Catherine Crennell came from Andreas⁴⁰, as John Mylrea did, so they were certain to have known each other. They were of similar ages (he born 1852, she in 1849), so a romance was certainly possible. The young couple might have escaped their parents' gaze by leaving Andreas for Australia, Catherine already pregnant when she boarded the *Cuzco*. John had left a month earlier, on the *Garonne*.

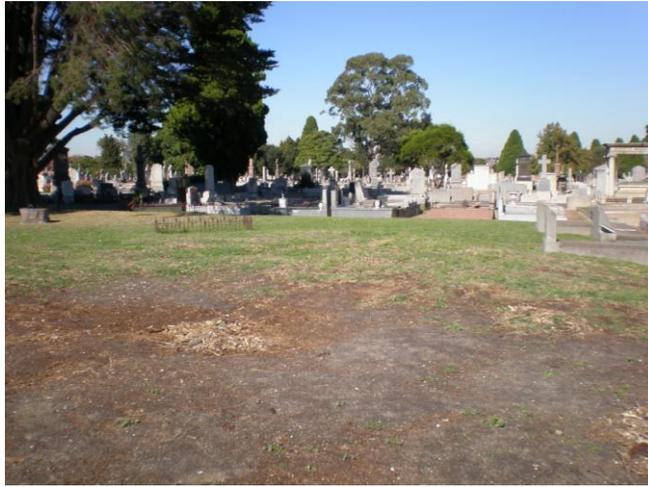
There is some doubt however as to John's actual involvement in the life (and death) of this baby. On the marine record of birth for the infant, the mother's name was listed as Ellen Crennell, the father was Unknown and the child Unnamed. This would tend to suggest that, at the time of the child's birth, Catherine was not married to John at all. Surely, if John were the baby's father, Catherine would have provided that information for the child's birth registration. Noteworthy too is the fact that John Mylrea and Catherine Crennell, in the passenger lists of their respective ships, were both recorded as Single⁴¹.

Despite the infant's death certificate listing the mother as "Catherine Mylrea, formerly Crennell", it was virtually impossible for John and Catherine to have ever been married. Four months after the baby died, Catherine Ellen Crennell married Edward Callow in Melbourne on 4th January, 1883⁴². On their Marriage Certificate, she was recorded as being a spinster, and both bride and groom were from Andreas on the Isle of Man. Edward had arrived in Australia in 1881, on the *John Elder*, and was the son of Thomas and Jane Callow⁴³, and probably neighbours of the Mylreas and the Crennells in the village of Andreas.

So, mystery surrounds the parentage of little John Lewin Mylrea. John might simply have done an honourable thing by lending his name to the baby of a friend from his home village, in order to make the child "legitimate". Alternatively, he might never have known anything about these events, his name used without his consent.

The Manx connections in the Catherine Crennell episode involved another Callow, this time Thomas who was, in all likelihood, Edward Callow's older brother⁴⁴. It was Thomas who reported the death of baby John Lewin Mylrea to the proper authorities and, in so doing, described himself as a friend. He was also the acting undertaker involved in the burial of the little fellow⁴⁵ at the Brighton Cemetery in Melbourne.

The infant's grave is unmarked, and in an open space in the centre of the cemetery. The burial site is bare but open to the sun all year round. His name on the Instructions for Burial is John Lewyn Milrea⁴⁶. Perhaps coincidentally, John Mylrea, the man who *could* have been his father, lies in another part of the Brighton Cemetery with his Australian family.



**GRAVE SITE OF JOHN LEWIN MYLREA
BRIGHTON CEMETERY, MELBOURNE**

Ellen Bull

Several years after John's arrival, he was recorded living in Ballarat. In those days, Ballarat was a prosperous town in country Victoria, about 100 kilometres north of Melbourne, and the centre of the Victorian gold industry. As well as the riches to be obtained from gold mining, there was the burgeoning pastoral industry that surrounded Ballarat and another source of wealth and employment to the town.

On 12th July 1890, John married a widow, Ellen Bull (nee Parnell). He had been in Australia for about eight years. John was 36 and Ellen 32 according to their Marriage Certificate⁴⁷.

Ellen was a widow. In 1883, she married Charles Frederick Bull in St Kilda (Melbourne)⁴⁸ but three years later, he died of consumption⁴⁹. When Ellen married John Mylrea, she already had two small children, and was keeping a boarding house at 6 Webster St, Ballarat. Ellen's parents were Ambrose Mitchell Parnell and Catherine Searle. They were Ballarat people and so perhaps Ellen had returned to her home town after her first husband's death, and set out to support her little family by running a boarding house. She had been a domestic servant prior to her marriage to Charles Bull⁵⁰ so a boarding house would have been an obvious way to earn a living with the skills that she already had. At the time of his marriage to Ellen, John gave his address as 6 Webster Street, Ballarat, and so it is not unreasonable to

think that John might have been a boarder at Ellen's establishment and that was how their romance began. He was still a blacksmith, a profession that had been in great demand in this thriving town, both from the mines and from the pastoralists.

The Bull children were very young when their mother married John Mylrea:

- Ellen (Nelly) Beatrice was 5, born in Melbourne on 6th October, 1884⁵¹
- Frederick (Fred) Charles was 3, born in Melbourne on 31st August, 1886⁵²

Perhaps because they were so young when John became their step-father, the two Bull children carried the Mylrea surname on the Electoral Rolls that have been kept since Australia's federation in 1901⁵³. On more legal documents however, (John's will and their own Death Certificates), the surname of Bull was used when these individuals were being referred to.

John and Ellen had two children of their own, both daughters, both born in Ballarat:

1. Ida Frances (12th May, 1891)⁵⁴. John's brother William Frederick (Wilfred) also named one of his sons Francis and so could it be that the Mylrea brothers were both remembering their little sister, Emily Frances?
2. Bessie May (13th June, 1893 - 27th April, 1896)⁵⁵ died in infancy⁵⁶. John's sister Margaret also had a Bessie May (on 24th October, 1891 in Moscow, Idaho⁵⁷). Was it a Mylrea family name and did John and Margaret ever know that they had both given their daughters the same name?

Making a living

John gave his occupation as a blacksmith on his marriage certificate in 1890 but, even by then, the need for blacksmiths was beginning to diminish as a result of the increased availability of cheap, factory-produced goods. After more than 20 years in his trade, John turned his hand to other occupations to support his family. When daughter Ida Frances was born, he was a wood merchant and within five years, a confectioner. The latter was the occupation that he pursued for the remainder of his working life.

His step-son, Frederick Bull, became an iron moulder⁵⁸, a pathway no doubt influenced by John's profession. Because iron mouldering too lost its relevance, the choice might have had tragic consequences for Fred. Even

though he would have been acceptable age-wise, Fred for some reason did not enlist during World War 1.

For a short time after the family moved to Melbourne, the girls – Nelly and Ida Frances - worked as sales women⁵⁹. Given that it was in 1914, they probably went to work because of the general labour shortage as a result of World War I rather than a desire to earn an income. This was the only time in which these women had occupations outside the home.

The Mylrea family's housing tells the story of John's increasing prosperity. In Ballarat, they lived for years at 13 Lock Avenue. When they moved to Melbourne in about 1914, they lived first at 67 Chapel Street, Prahran⁶⁰, then 119 Albert St, Windsor, a residence which they purchased in 1915⁶¹. Over the next few years, John added to the family properties:

- 38 Garfield St, Richmond (bought 1915)⁶²
- 11 Earl St, Windsor, and (bought 1918)⁶³
- Bendigo St, Windsor⁶⁴ .

These three houses were leased to tenants. John would have been about 65 when he bought his first rental property which suggests that he had retired from work and so created another form of income to support his family. To own four houses outright would have been (and still is) a major economic achievement, an achievement made even more remarkable because John had worked in relatively unskilled occupations. How he ever had the funds to purchase these buildings is a source of curiosity but likely to remain forever a mystery.

Leaving a will⁶⁵

John's will gives an interesting perspective into the dynamics of the family:

- He left his assets entirely and equally to his wife Ellen and his surviving natural daughter, Ida Frances, with the dictate that after Ellen's death, the whole estate was to go to Ida Frances "*for her own use and benefit absolutely*";
- He indicated that his bequest to Ida Frances imposed no obligation on her to take care of Nelly and Fred, although "*he hoped she would*".

It was surprising to read that John had excluded his step-children from his bequests, given that he had been their step-father for almost all of their lives, and that they had no prospects of inheriting from any other source.

It was also surprising to find that John expected his family to remain together as a unit after his death.

I DECLARE that it is my wish that during the lifetime of my said wife she and my said daughter shall live together and that Nellie Bull and Frederick Charles Bull the children of my said wife by her first marriage shall live with them ...

In his will, John went so far as to dictate what was to happen with his bequest to wife Ellen and daughter Ida Frances:

..... and that the whole of the income of my estate shall be devoted towards the upkeep of the household.

When he made his will in 1918, these three “children” were all adults; Nelly was 34, Fred 32, and Ida Frances 27. By the time John was their age, he had left the family home and travelled to the other side of the world. Did the terms of his will ensure that “the children” would never leave home? What was it that made him anticipate/dictate that this family should stay together and not move off to lives of their own?

End of the Line

None of the children of Ellen and John married. They all lived together – John, Ellen, Nelly, Fred and Ida Frances - until death took them, one by one.

1921	<p>John Mylrea died on 10th January, 1921 and was buried in the Brighton Cemetery, Melbourne.</p> <p><i>The Argus</i>, Saturday 15th January 1921⁶⁶</p> <p><i>MYLREA – On the 10th January, at his residence 119 Albert St, Windsor, John, eldest son of late William and Mary Mylrea, Andreas, Isle of Man beloved husband of Ellen, beloved father of Frances, beloved stepfather of Nellie and Fred, late of Ballarat, aged 67 years Ballarat Durban (South Africa) and Isle of Man (England) papers please copy</i></p> <p>The reference to Durban, South Africa might be a strong indication that John was in contact with his younger brother, William Frederick (Wilfred), because many years later his family were legatees from Ida's will.</p>
1922	<p>Frederick Charles Bull died aged 34. He took his own life on 17th April, 1922 at home (119 Albert St, Windsor) and was buried in the St Kilda Cemetery, Melbourne⁶⁷ where his father, Charles Frederick Bull, had been buried in 1886.</p> <p>At the inquest into Fred's death, the coroner concluded that he was depressed because he had been out of work for 6 months⁶⁸.</p>
1936	<p>Ellen and Ida Frances sold 119 Albert St, and purchased 13 Hampden Road, Armadale. This was the residence where the three women lived for the rest of their lives. The other properties were sold off during Ellen's lifetime.</p>
1945	<p>Ellen (Parnell, Bull) Mylrea died on 8th August, 1945 at the age of 83 years⁶⁹. She was buried with her husband</p>

John in the Brighton Cemetery, Melbourne.

The Argus, Saturday 11th August, 1945⁷⁰

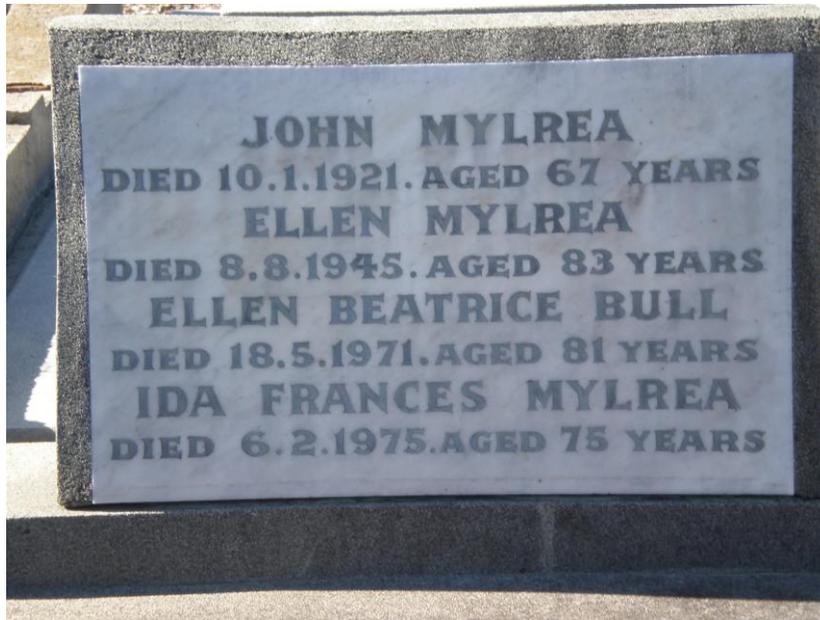
MYLREA – On August 8, at her residence. 13 Hampden Road, Armadale, Ellen beloved wife of the late John Mylrea, and loving mother of Ellen and Frances. (Privately interred, August 10.)

1971 Ellen Beatrice Bull died 18th May, 1971⁷¹. She was buried with her mother and step-father in the Brighton Cemetery, Melbourne.

1975 Ida Frances died 6th February, 1975⁷². She was buried with her parents and her step-sister in the Brighton Cemetery, Melbourne.

Ida Frances died intestate. As a consequence, her estate was administered by the State Trustees Office in Melbourne, who initially could find no relatives. However, the estate of her cousin Frank Radcliffe Mylrea, son of her uncle Wilfred and a resident of South Africa, received a distribution of almost \$6,000 from Ida Frances's estate⁷³. Given that her assets totalled about \$60,000, it is safe to assume that others of her cousins (in South Africa and America) also shared in these assets.

John Mylrea's little family was at an end after just one generation. He was born in 1852 into a centuries-old line of Mylreas on the Isle of Man, and the death in Melbourne, Australia in 1975 of his daughter, Ida Frances, marked the end of his line.



**GRAVE SITE OF JOHN, ELLEN, NELLY & IDA FRANCES MYLREA
BRIGHTON CEMETERY, MELBOURNE**

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OTHER MYLREAs IN VICTORIA

John was not the only Mylrea to come to Australia in colonial times. Several strands had made their homes in Victoria but not always at the same time as John's life there. It is unlikely that any of these Mylreas were instrumental in John's decision to migrate to Australia, or even Victoria, although some were probably from John's Mylrea clan.

William Mylrea

This Mylrea was living in Melbourne until at least 1856, but when he arrived in Australia is unknown – in fact, nothing is known about him, not even his age. The only record of his existence is the notice that appeared daily in the MISSING FRIENDS column of a Melbourne newspaper over several weeks in 1859. Someone had made a brief but concerted effort to find him.

The Argus

7th May 1859

WILLIAM MYLREA, who left the employ of Mr. Law, seedsman, Swanston-street, about August 1856. Any information as to the whereabouts of the above person, or, if dead, any particulars connected therewith, will be received with thanks. Beckwith Brothers, 34 Flinders-lane west.

Like John, the first name William was commonly found in the Mylreas of Ballaugh. This William could well have been a relative of some kind, but of an earlier generation perhaps

John Mylrea (1823-1907)

Another John Mylrea had been in colonial Victoria in the 1840s and 1850s, but had left by the time John arrived in 1882. This individual was born in 1823, also in Andreas on the Isle of Man. While there is no immediate

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genealogical connection between the two, they both came from the Ballaugh Mylrea clan, and shared a common ancestor in William Mylrea, born 1682.

The (older) John Mylrea had been a shepherd in the Pyrenees district before keeping a hotel at Lexton (not far from Ballarat) until 1862, when he went north to central Queensland and established a pastoral dynasty.

Edward Mylrea (1834-1905)

Edward, son of Manx parents but born in Liverpool in 1834, had lived in Ballarat before the younger John Mylrea arrived there. Edward had travelled to Australia in 1858 on the *Albion* with his married sister, Jane Williams, and widowed mother, Isabella (nee Corkhill). On the Isle of Man, Edward's father (William), both of his grandfathers, and Edward's older brother, Thomas, were coopers. Edward's father's family probably came from the cooper Mylreas of Ramsay in the parish of Maughold, although they probably originated in Ballaugh.

Frederick Thomas Mylrea (1803-1862)

Well before John Mylrea's arrival in Australia, Frederick Thomas Mylrea had been Deputy Commissary General for the British Army in Melbourne between 1859 and 1862. Frederick Thomas had been born in London although he was, in all likelihood, a descendant of the Deemster line of Mylreas on the Isle of Man, and therefore, no relative of John's.

Frederick Thomas had a son, Richard Armstrong, not much older than John. This individual arrived in Australia in 1859 as a teenager and was the only member of his family to remain in Australia. He was, in his early years, a grazier, leasing *Johnsville*, at Lyndhurst, south-east of Melbourne. His descendants can still be found around Melbourne and country Victoria.

ATTACHMENT 1 JOHN MYLREA'S GENEALOGY

(a) Grandparents, Aunts and Uncles

Thomas MYLREA ⁷⁴ ☞ married Margaret Cowin ☞ in 1809 ☞ Braddan ☞ Eight children ⁷⁵	John MYLREA ⁷⁶ ☞ married Isabella Quayle ☞ in 1814 ☞ Kirk Michael ☞ Four children
Elizabeth 1813	
Thomas 1815	Ann 1815
Philip 1817	
	John 1818
Mary 1819	
John 1821	
Ann 1822	Elizabeth 1822-1839
William 1827 married ➔	Mary 1825

NOTE: Each family has an Ann, John, Elizabeth and Mary!

FIGURE 5 JOHN'S GRANDPARENTS, AUNTS & UNCLES

(b) Great grandparents – "best guess" technique

The great grand parents most difficult to determine were the two Mylrea men, Thomas's father and the father of John (snr).

BEST GUESS John Mylrea's Great Grandparents	Philip Mylrea & Margaret Lewn m 1772	Thomas Cowin & Elizabeth Cotteman m 1780	Daniel Mylrea & Mary Hughes m 1789	John Quayle & Anne Crellin m 1781
	<hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/> John Mylrea (1852-1921) by Diana Banks March, 2014 (p28)			

**Thomas's
parents**

Of all of the genealogy for John Mylrea, finding his paternal great grandparents proved the most difficult and I provide the following as "*possible*", with no great sense of confidence.

FIRST

It is a given that Thomas Mylrea (John Mylrea's grandfather) was born, worked and died in Braddan/Douglas and that his birth year was c.1788, on the basis that the 1851 Census collection reported:

- he was born in Douglas (Braddan)
- he was 63

AND

LDS IGIs for children of Thomas and his wife Margaret (Cowin) showed all were born in Braddan

AND

Lawson's Index of Burials listed:

- Thomas Mylrea aged 72 was buried in Kirk St. Anne Braddan, 10th May 1860⁷⁷

THEN

Looking for clues as to likely individuals to be Thomas's parents, and in the absence of any other credible sources, the names of the children of Thomas & Margaret were the only recourse. Since the first two children were named Thomas and Elizabeth, probably after Margaret's parents [see below], the subsequent children could hold the answer. Their third child was named Philip.

This was very useful because Philip was not a common name in Mylrea genealogy at that time. The name led immediately to Philip Mylrea and Margaret Lewn, who were married in 1772 in Braddan, and had a son named Thomas. Unfortunately, this child was born in 1773, about 15 years before Thomas Mylrea, grandfather of John, was born.

Nevertheless, it is not unreasonable to hypothesise that the first Thomas of Philip and Margaret died and that a

	<p>second Thomas was born in about 1788. The LDS site does not show <u>any</u> Thomas Mylrea being born in Braddan/Douglas between 1780 and 1800⁷⁸ so it is with a great deal of caution that I suggest that Philip Mylrea and Margaret Lewn are the best candidates to be Thomas Mylrea's parents.</p> <p>The infant who was born at sea and who died in Melbourne was named John Lewin Mylrea. Given the high levels of inaccuracy in the spelling of names in those days, perhaps <i>Lewin</i> was in recognition of Margaret Lewn, wife of Philip Mylrea.</p> <p>Philip and Margaret were the only logical candidates to be John Mylrea's paternal great grandparents, but the evidence is thin indeed.</p> <p>Ironically, Philip's parents were named Thomas Mylrea and Margaret Cowin – meaning that John Mylrea (who traveled to Australia) could have had grandparents named Thomas Mylrea and Margaret Cowin, <u>and</u> great great grandparents named Thomas Mylrea and Margaret Cowin !</p>
<p>Margaret's parents</p>	<p>Establishing the genealogy of Margaret Cowin was more straightforward:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ In the 1841 and 1851 IOM Census collections, Thomas's wife Margaret was recorded as born 1783-1784. ▫ In the 1851 Census collection, Thomas's wife declared her place of birth as the parish of Malew. <p>On 23rd March, 1783 in Malew, a child named Margaret Cowin was born to Thomas Cowin and Elizabeth Cotteman in Malew ⁷⁹. These data, plus the naming of her first two children, combine to give a high level of confidence to the proposition that Thomas Cowin and Elizabeth Cotteman were indeed the second set of great grandparents for John.</p>

<p>John (snr)'s parents</p>	<p>John Mylrea snr, John's maternal grandfather, carried what is arguably the most common name in Mylrea genealogy – JOHN. In the 1841 census collection for the Isle of Man, John snr reported that he was 45 years of age, giving a birth year c. 1796. In the 1861 collection, he gave his age as 67, thus indicating a slightly earlier birth year, c. 1794⁸⁰. This latter collection also provided his parish of birth, which was Ballaugh – Mylrea heartland.</p> <p>The only recorded birth of a John Mylrea in the 1790s in Ballaugh was to Daniel Mylrea and Mary Hughes in 1791⁸¹. While not conclusive by any means, other indications that these two might have been John Mylrea's great grandparents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ John (snr) and Isabella Quayle named a daughter Mary ▫ The name Daniel was given to one of Mary's sons - Thomas Daniel ▫ John (snr) was close in age to his (future) wife, Isabella Quayle <p>The competing couple for John Mylrea (snr)'s parents are John Mylrea and Elinor Caine. This genealogical information appears on several online family trees. However, the John Mylrea who was <u>their</u> son was born in Kirk Michael in 1774, and therefore cannot be the person recorded in the 1841 and 1861 IOM Census collections as married to Isabella Quayle. This John Mylrea was also 20 years older than Isabella Quayle, a difference not evident in the census data.</p> <p>As with the parentage of Thomas Mylrea, the suggestion that Daniel Mylrea was the father of John Mylrea (snr) is cautious but based on certain genealogical logic. There is also no other viable alternative. And if Daniel were indeed the great grandfather of John Mylrea who traveled to Australia, then this family has a lineage that has been documented as far back as the early 1500s.</p>
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Isabella's parents	<p>Isabella Quayle's mother and father were easier to identify because of her father's will. John Quayle's will, dated 1831, identified his wife as Anne Crellin, nominated his daughters by name, including an Isabella, and went on to name Isabella's husband as John Mylrea. All of these individuals lived in Kirk Michael⁸².</p> <p>These data "fit" Isabella Quayle, grandmother of John Mylrea.</p>
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ATTACHMENT 2 WILLIAM FREDERICK MYLREA

[This information is simply a collection of data I have come across whilst preparing the story of John Mylrea. It's not intended to be comprehensive, although I hope that what is here is at least accurate. A descendant of Wilfred's offered his recollections of earlier generations and they are included.]

- 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, 1865⁸³
- 1868 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 Braddan⁸⁴ and Jane was one of several children (and probably the youngest, given the nearly 20 years since Evan and Jane married).
Baptised 9th August 1868, St George, Douglas⁸⁵
- 1890 Ada
- 1894 Wilfred migrated to South Africa (?). If indeed, he is the passenger aboard the Scot, sailing from Southampton to Cape (Town?), then he was a sculptor.⁸⁶
- 1895 Wilfred married Ada Alice Shimmin at the Wesleyan Church, Musgrave Road, Durban on the 11th May 1895⁸⁷
- **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:

- 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 Ballaradcliffe⁸⁸ respectively. Alternatively, Francis's second name could have been for Ada's mother, Jane Radcliffe.

- 1922 Their only daughter, Ada, married Thomas Benchley THRING⁸⁹
She and Thomas Thring had two sons:
- Frederick Mylrea Thring
 - Donald Benchley Thring

- 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 one of life's great coincidences, another Mylrea lives in Windermere St in Douglas on the Isle of Man today!

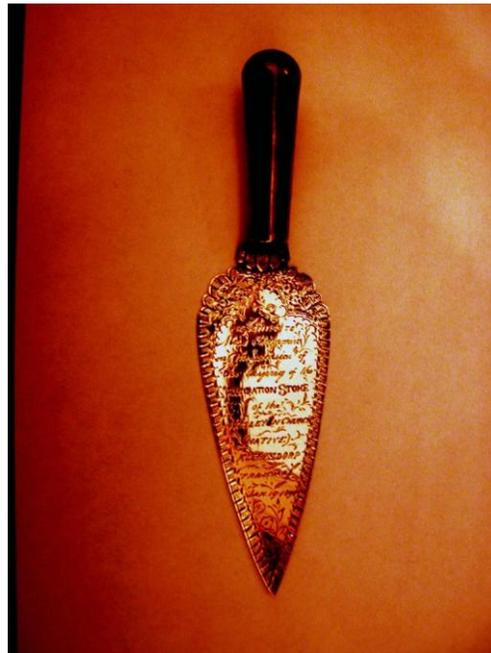
Their son Francis Radcliffe Mylrea lived at 5 Monteith Place, Durban North , [Lawrie's Durban Directory]

- 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]
- 1976 Frank Radcliffe Mylrea died, still resident at 40 Monteith Place, and left his estate to his son, Michael Lloyd Mylrea.

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 seems to 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 himself⁹⁰. Previously, he had been in the Transvaal. 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.



**CEREMONIAL TROWEL
PRESENTED TO ADA SHIMMIN (1890)**

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

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 hunters⁹¹.

▫ **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 with 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.

▫ **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 has an intentional design flaw or not. The slightly too short, sharp-edged concrete surface offers the bowler a neat target, which any rock-hard, red leather cricket ball is guaranteed to zip off at an angle and velocity that has a high chance of hitting the awaiting batsman in the head. Which means that Steve and his younger brother Rich aim every ball at that edge. Which causes 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 hurtles in once more, letting fly with a speedy delivery that nicks the concrete edge and whizzes past little Johnny's under-sized head. Johnny unleashes a torrent of abuse in a high-pitched choirboy's voice.

We break for red juice and Marie biscuits. The atmosphere is heated. Where Johnny and I may be lacking in fast bowling skills, our juvenile vocabulary is our best weapon and we use it colourfully and liberally.

The cricketing face-off is resumed on the patch of finely mown grass beside the swimming pool. Johnny, spazzy tongue lolling out of one side of his mouth, bowls his looping leg spin at the washing basket wickets, the taped up tennis ball fizzing off the Bermuda lawn. The ball sneaks behind Ham Dog's legs for a dramatic match-winning stumping. We savour 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 my cousin Michael's sons 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 very keen on following sport was 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 inherited from the apprentice draper who became a bookkeeper - William Frederick (Wilfred) Mylrea.

After qualifying, he 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 I think 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!

Robbie is an extremely large and muscular 14 year old 6ft 2inches and 200 pounds weight but he does not play cricket concentrating instead on rowing where last weekend his crew came second by about 6 inches in the under15

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national schools regatta at Buffalo River in East London. Needless to say he plays rugby in winter. His brother Dougie is at Stellenbosch University studying viticulture. He is larger than Robbie by 2 inches and a natural but not very competitive sportsman. He is far too easy going to apply himself too hard

Other Mylreas in South Africa

Another unrelated group of Mylreas went to South Africa at much the same time as Wilfred, although only one made his home there. These were three of the sons of Frederick Garland Mylrea, himself the son of Frederick Thomas Mylrea, Deputy Commissary General for the British Army in Melbourne 1859-1862, and referred to earlier in the section "Other Mylreas in Victoria". The sons were:

- Frederick Francis Mylrea – civil service – 1883-1887 in South Africa (died there)
- Arthur George Garland Mylrea – 1873-1947 – in South Africa (died in Johannesburg)
- William Percy Garland Mylrea – Boer War – 1899-1902 in South Africa

Their cousin, Stuart Robertson, was also in South Africa, probably engaged in the Boer War. Stuart died in Kroonstadt in 1900. He was the son of Rose Robertson, Fred. Thomas's only daughter, Rose.

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ENDNOTES

- 1 JM Death Certificate
- 2 LDS IGI
- 3 LDS IGI
- 4 1851 Census IOM
- 5 1841 Census IOM
- 6 1851 Census IOM
- 7 1861 Census IOM – also listed as MYBREA
- 8 listed as MYBRIA in 1841 Census
- 9 <http://www.isle-of-man.com/manxnotebook/fulltext/tg1863/ml.htm>
- 10 LDS IGI
- 11 LDS IGI
- 12 LDS IGI
- 13 LDS IGI
- 14 LDS IGI
- 15 LDS IGI
- 16 LDS IGI
- 17 1841 Census IOM
- 18 LDS IGI
- 19 LDS IGI
- 20 LDS IGI
- 21 LDS IGI
- 22 Birth date provided by Margaret's g.granddaughter, Donna Bell.
- 23 LDS IGI
- 24 LDS IGI
- 25 LDS IGI
- 26 LDS IGI
- 27 LDS IGI
- 28 Birth date provided by Margaret's g.granddaughter, Donna Bell
- 29 LDS IGI
- 30 See MIs further on in text – good example of how LDS & certifiable facts don't coincide; LDS says William II died 1862; MI says '61
- 31 Provided by Donna J. Douglass, Manx Genealogy Notice Board, 22 August 2007.
- 32 LDS IGI (Robert was baptized 24 Sept, 1865, s/o John Cormode & Catherine Garrett)
- 33 Provided by Greg Kaighan Manx Genealogy Notice Board 26 August 2007
- 34 http://www.iomfhs.im/lawsons/marriages/m_mar.html
- 35 Information provided by Margaret's g. grand daughter, Donna Bell
- 36 Provided by Donna Douglass, Manx Genealogy Notice Board, 22 August 2007.
- 37 Listed as MYBRED on PROV Online Passenger List for Garonne; see also copy of original passenger list.

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- 38 Death Certificate for John Lewin Mylrea
 - 39 Birth Certificate for baby Crennell
 - 40 1851,1881 Census IOM
 - 41 Passenger List for Cuzco; see also passenger list for Garonne
 - 42 EC Marriage Certificate
 - 43 1851 Census IOM
 - 44 1851 Census IOM
 - 45 Listed as MILREA on Register at Brighton Cemetery
 - 46 Instruction for Burial, John Lewin Mylrea
 - 47 JM Marriage Certificate
 - 48 EB Marriage Certificate
 - 49 CFB Death Certificate
 - 50 EBB Marriage Certificate
 - 51 EBB Birth Certificate
 - 52 FCB Birth Certificate
 - 53 Electoral Roll 1909, 1914, 1924, 1931
 - 54 IFM Birth Certificate
 - 55 BMM Birth Certificate
 - 56 BMM Death Certificate
 - 57 ancestry.com Family Tree
 - 58 Electoral Roll 1909
 - 59 Electoral Roll 1914
 - 60 Electoral Roll 1914
 - 61 State of Victoria: Certificate of Title Volume 3324 Folio 664
 - 62 State of Victoria: Certificate of Title Volume 3868 Folio 773482
 - 63 State of Victoria: Certificate of Title Volume 1379 Folio 275608
 - 64 Inventory for the Probate of the will of John Mylrea
 - 65 JM Will dated 4/11/1918, name spelled MYBREA on cover of will
 - 66 <http://ndpbeta.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/home>
 - 67 FCB Death Certificate
 - 68 listed as MYBREY, MILRAY in coronial inquest papers
 - 69 EM Death Certificate
 - 70 <http://ndpbeta.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/home>
 - 71 EBB Death Certificate
 - 72 IFM Death Certificate
 - 73 Probate Papers for execution of Ida Francis Mylrea's will
 - 74 LDS IGI
 - 75 Microfiche at Manx Museum, listing Mylrea BDM, transcribed by Diana Banks
 - 76 LDS IGI
 - 77 <http://www.isle-of-man.com/cgi-bin/interests/genealogy/bulletin/index.pl?noframes;resetnew>
 - 78 LDS IGI search for any Thomas Mylrea baptized 1780-1800

79 LDS IGI

80 listed as MYBREA in 1861 Census IOM

81 LDS IGI search for any John Mylrea baptized 1790-1800

82 Ecclesiastical Will for John Quayle

83 LDS IGI

84 LDS IGI

85 LDS IGI

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

87 WFM Wedding Certificate

88 1851 Census IOM

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

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

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

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