

Early Mylreas  
in  
KK Michael  
1500-1700

Dec 2018

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

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

The online collection is regularly updated when new information comes to light. Today, the following histories can be found there:

- Early Mylreas in KK Michael 1500-1700
- William M cylrea (Ballaugh) 1627-1692
- The Fatally Flawed Family of *Fildraw* 1600-1800
- The Mylreas of Douglas & District 1600-1900
- Fathers & Sons: One Mylroie Clan (Lonan) 1653-1900
- Edward Mylrea snr (Lonan) 1743-1784
- Nicholas Mylrea jnr, Farmer (Ballaugh) 1747-1823
- Three Daniels & a Thomas 1761-1934
- Thomas Mylrea, Farmer & Preacher (Braddan) 1788-1860
- Basil Mylrea, Mariner & Publican (Peel) 1791-1865
- Philip Mylrea, Stone Mason (Douglas) 1793-1861
- Frederick Thomas Mylrea, Military Man (London) 1803-1862
- John Mylrea 1852-1921
- The Brushmen of Bethnal Green
- Mylreas in 19<sup>th</sup> Century Lancashire
- The Mylreas of Canada (1900 - )

Kirk Michael is one of the 17 parishes on the Isle of Man. Principally an agricultural community and covering an area of about 18 square miles, it lies mid-way along the west coast of the Isle of Man, between the parishes of Ballaugh to the north and German to the south. Members of the Mylrea clan might have been resident in Michael as early as they were in the parishes of Ballaugh and German, but they were far more numerous in Michael. Such a demographic suggests that this parish was probably the "HQ" of the clan's fore-runners on the island, and that it was from there that a small number of them radiated, perhaps in search of land or because of marriage. The analysis that follows identifies and traces the early Mylreas in Michael largely through land records of the day.

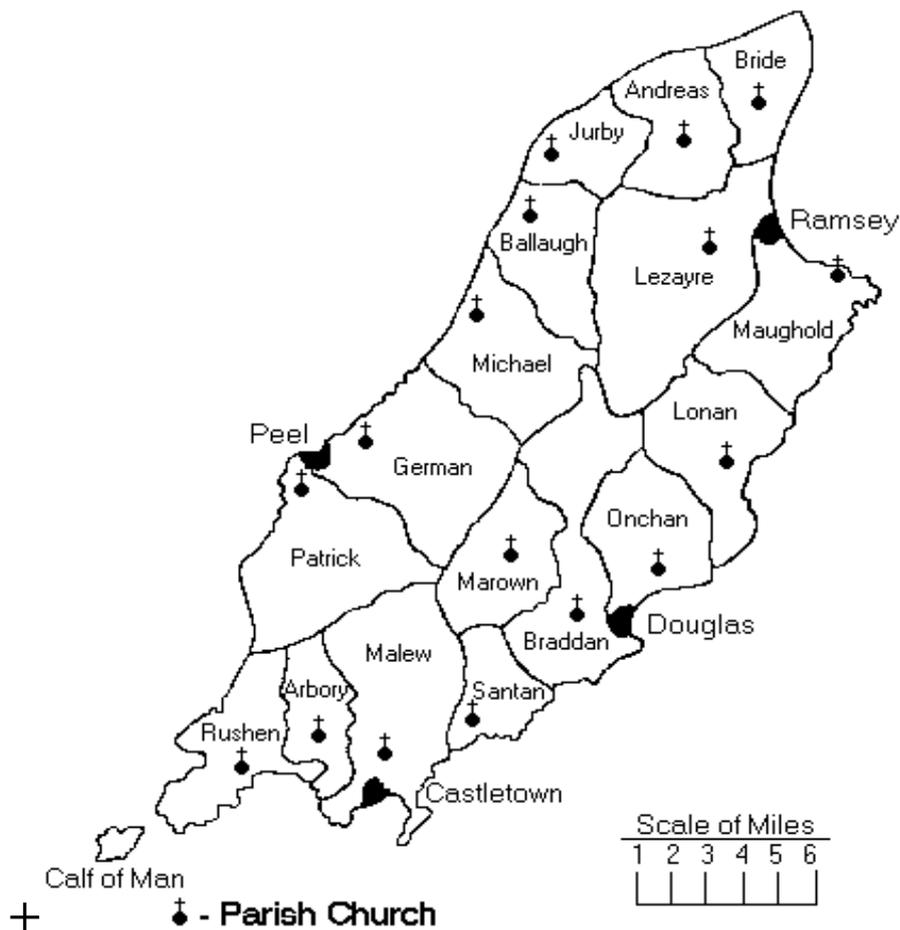
Diana began her professional life as a teacher in central Queensland, went on to become a scholar at several Australian universities, and later a senior bureaucrat in Federal government circles. She has postgraduate qualifications from both Melbourne University in Australia and Harvard in the United States and is an experienced writer and researcher, although the Mylrea narratives are her first foray into biography. Her book about her great great grandfather is published in the USA with the title: *On Some Lonely Shore: John Mylrea in Australia*<sup>1</sup>

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1. Publisher: <http://www.lulu.com>

NOTES:

1. Rather than re-invent wheels that two experts created some time ago, I have copied unashamedly from the transcriptions on Rob Cannell's Manx Manorial Roll site<sup>2</sup> and Frances Coakley's Manx Notebook<sup>3</sup>. However, chronological assignment to treen clusters is my own methodology, and I have also transcribed earlier entries not supplied by either Cannell or Coakley.
2. The name Mc gilrea morphed into Mylrea over time, and rather than confuse the issue, I've tended to use Mylrea when referring to the clan generically, while maintaining the original spelling when citing/transcribing official records.
3. Of great assistance in understanding the laws and practices as they related to early Manx land holders is the paper by Robert Cannell (2017) Evolution of Manx Land Ownership 1490-1704 published in the Isle of Man Studies. The Proceedings of the Isle of Man Natural History and Antiquarian Society Vol XV 2017.



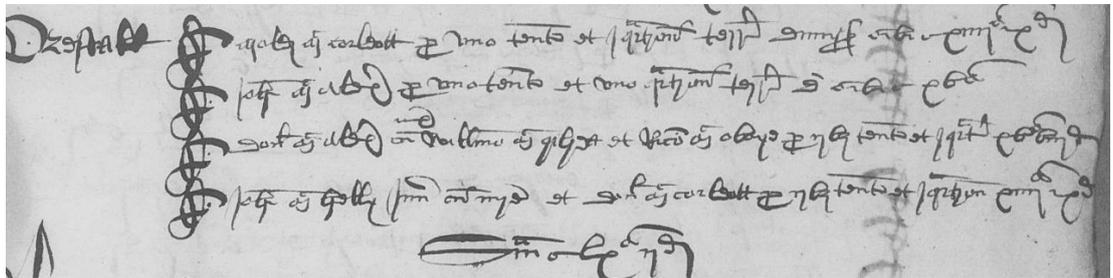
<sup>2</sup> <http://manxmanorialroll.com/introduction/index.html>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.isle-of-man.com/manxnotebook/>

# Manx Land Records

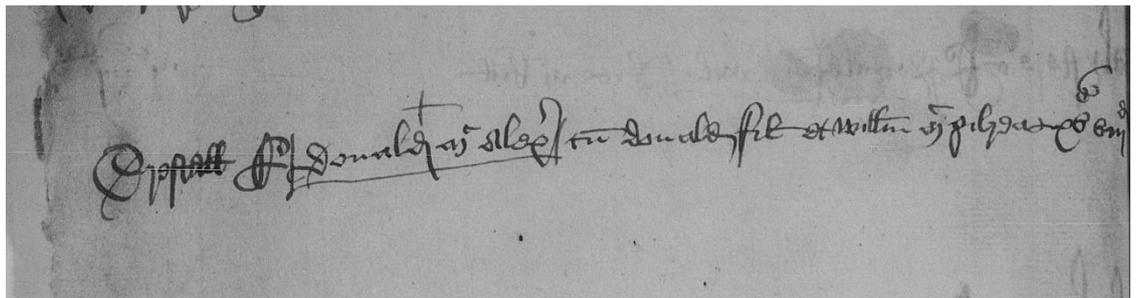
**B**ecause the island was, by the 15<sup>th</sup> century, a fiefdom of the Lord of Mann, the rents paid by his tenants were of great interest to him and accordingly, detailed records were kept, the crucial ones being:

- **Manorial Roll (or Liber Assedationis): all the Lord's lands**, noting the name of the tenant/s and their annual rent, a roll call of sorts. Although the register was inscribed annually, there was no compulsion to notify a change of tenants through death or sale in a timely fashion, so property could continue to be listed as tenanted by an individual known to have died, as was the case with Alice Mc ylrea als Gawn who was buried in 1617, yet whose name appeared in the 1618 Lib Assed for Ballaugh (*Brojarge*)



*Extract from 1535 Lib Assed showing that there were four groups of tenants in the treen of Oristall, the rents due from each group, and the total rent for that treen, which was 60s 2d*

- **Liber Vastarum: changes of tenancy**, giving the name of the old tenant and of the new. This register was also inscribed annually and since there was no compulsion to immediately notify a change, the entry of a new tenant might be made several years (or even decades) after he took up tenancy. For example, William Mc ylrea died in 1654 but whose name continued to be listed in the records for *Ballamanaugh* until the early 1700s when his grandson and great grand daughter compounded the lands



*Extract from 1534 Lib Vast showing that, in the treen of Oristall, the lands of Donald Mc Alexander had passed to his son Donald (and that William Mc gilrea was already the other tenant). The combined rent due from Mc Alexander & Mc gilrea was 15s 8d*

- **Composition Books:** on several occasions in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries **all tenants** with significant holdings were compelled to enter into leases for their lands. The conditions under which a tenant held his lands were also spelled out

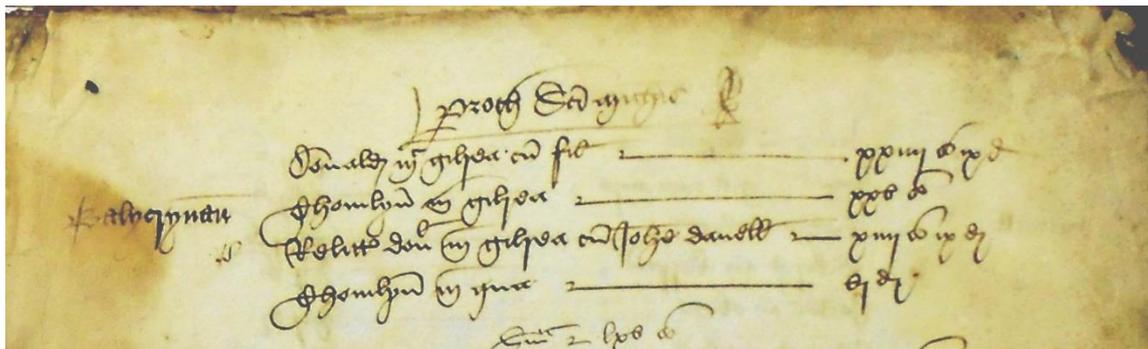
The search for the Mylrea families of Michael, based as it was on the entries in these three collections, faced several obstacles. Not all collections have survived intact, nor were the names of tenants immediately updated when changes in tenancy occurred. As well, women featured rarely in the land records, partly because of the laws of inheritance which automatically consigned family lands to the oldest son, but also because a wife was not usually listed as a joint tenant (with her husband), rather her name appeared when she became his widow. Thus, the fate of the women of the Michael Mylreas is largely unknown. Also unknown is the fate of those who weren't land holders.

With those caveats, there were nevertheless hundreds of entries for Mylrea land holders in the records for Michael during the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries, and these entries tell of the Mylreas' ongoing presence in the parish.

### The practice of subdivision

Of great assistance when searching the records for Mylrea families was the practice of land subdivision within the parishes.

- Across the island, each parish was segmented into farming areas called **treens**, the number of which varied depending on the size of the parish and the amount of rentable land available. The parish of Michael for instance had thirteen treens<sup>4</sup>, and it was the treens, their occupants, and their annual rent that were routinely specified in both Lib Assed and Lib Vast. Thus, in the 1495 Lib Assed, for the treen known as **Balycrynan**, Donald Mc gilrea and his son held a 24s 9d rent, Thomlyn Mc gilrea a 25s rent plus a small piece of land with a 6d annual rent, and Donl Mc gilrea's widow with John Danell held a 14s 9d rent



*Extract from c1495 Lib Assed showing entries for Balycrynan*

- Even more helpful to the family historian was the practice of further partitioning the **treens** into **quarterlands**<sup>5</sup>, which offers quite precise information about geographic location. The number of quarterlands in a treen depended on the amount of rentable land but typically numbered three or four. In the example above, there were three quarterlands in the treen of **Balycrynan** (although four entries are listed, one is a sixpenny piece of land, probably what became referred to as Intack or second-class farming land)

More specific information about who lived on which **quarterland** thus became available, even though the quarterland's name was never specifically provided, because Lib Assed entries were a for the quarterlands, treen by treen. Referring again to the example above, Donald and his son held one quarterland, Thomlyn another, while the Mc gilrea widow and John Danell were joint tenants of the third, the first two larger than the third, signaled by their higher rent.

<sup>4</sup> Attachment 1 The Treens & Quarterlands of Michael

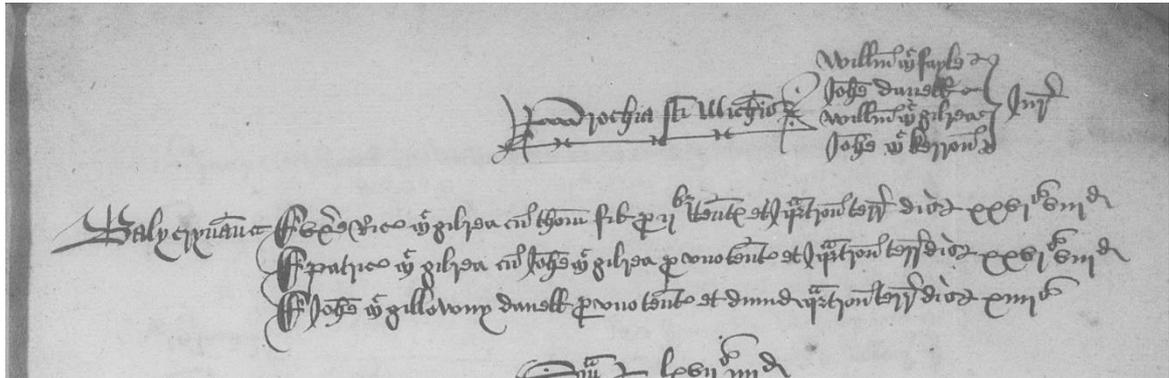
<sup>5</sup> Attachment 1 The Treens & Quarterlands of Michael

Two aspects of these early entries of great assistance to the researcher are:

- the practice of the notaries to list the **treens**, and then the occupying tenants (and thus **quarterlands**), in the same order year after year.
- rents remained mostly unchanged for nearly 200 years after the 1515 Manorial Roll

Looking at the entries for the treen of **Balycrynan** thirty-five years after the 1495 Lib Assed, it is apparent that there were still three quarterlands, that the rents had remained much the same and that the occupants were now

- (1) the widow of (ux) Ric Mc gilrea with her son Thomas 26s 8d,
- (2) Patric Mc gilrea with John Mc gilrea 26s 8d, and
- (3) John Mc gillowny Danell 14s.



Extract from 1530 Lib Assed showing the three entries for Balycrynan

### Quarterlands in Michael

J J Kneen, in his large and extremely useful treatise, *The Place-Names of the Isle of Man with their Origin & History* (1925), delineated the treens and quarterlands in each of the 17 of the parishes at the time of the 1515 Manorial Roll. By overlaying his data for Michael with the c1495 tenants, information about the early Mylrea occupation in Michael becomes quite specific:

Treen	Quarterland	1495 tenant	1515 tenant
Balycrynan	Balycrynan Moar	Donald Mc gilrea & son	Richard & John Mc gilrea
	Ballacrynan Beg	Thomlyn Mc gilrea	William Mc gilrea
Balystere	Balla skyr	William Mc gilrea	William Mc gilrea
Shalghag	Ballamenagh	Donald Mc gilrea	Fynlo Mc gilrea
Balnemade	Balla corlett <sup>6</sup>	-	Donald beg Mc gilrea (+ Robert Corcan)
	Bargarrow beg	Ric Mc gilrea (+ Thomlyn Mc wat)	Richard Mc gilrea (+ John Mc fayle)
Dromrewagh	Balla chrink	Gilcrist Mc gilrea & son	-
		Gilcrist Mc gilrea (+ Mold Mc oboy)	-
Balnefadyn	Balla cooley <sup>7</sup>	Donald Mc gilvorra	Fynlo Mc Gilroy+ John Ughington
	Bernagh	-	William Mc gilrea
Orestall	Kiondraghagad	-	William Mc gilrea (+ Donald Mc alexander & widow of Patric Mc quartag)

<sup>6</sup> Ballacorleod

<sup>7</sup> Not to be confused with the *Ballacooiley* in Ballaugh

Map showing ownership of Quarterlands in 1515

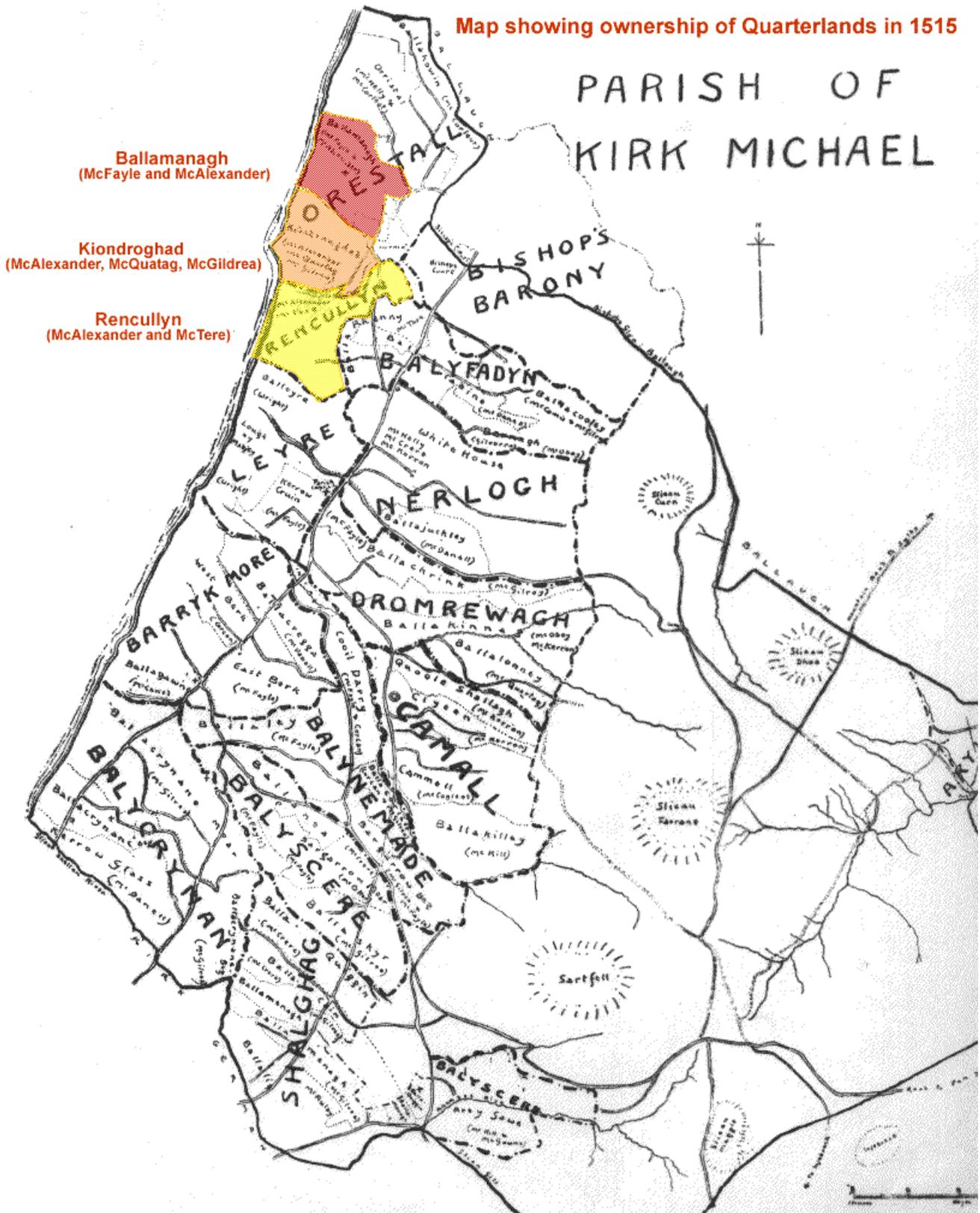


Image taken from "Chasing Alexander" <sup>8</sup>

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.digiville.com/alexander/maps/farms.htm>

In sum, knowledge of the **quarterland** rather than simply the **treen** gives the researcher a much clearer appreciation of family lines, none more so than when the same name appears in the treen over the years, a situation which could impute a continuous occupation by the same family. Yet when that same name is linked to two different quarterlands in the same treen, the researcher should exercise caution.

The northern treen of **Orestall** serves as a practical example of the superiority of quarterland knowledge over treen knowledge. Kneen's depiction shows the **Orestall** quarterlands of *Ballamanaugh* (Monks Farm) and *Kiondroghad*, (also written Kioneroughad) or "Bridge End."<sup>9</sup>, and identifies William Mc gilrea as a joint tenant in 1515 with Donald Mc alexander and the widow of Patric Mc quartag of *Kiondraghad*. Nearly 200 years later, in the 1704 Composition Book, a William Mylrea was recorded as a tenant of *Ballamanaugh* quarterland rather than *Kioneroughad* but the hapless researcher, using only treen information, might unwittingly conclude that there had been a continuous line of Mylrea succession since 1515 through to the early 1700s. However, closer examination of the land records for the intervening years reveals that the original William (*Kiondroghad*) departed this life in the mid-1530s, seemingly without a successor for no Mylrea tenant was ever found in that quarterland again. However, in the 1580s, a Mc ylrea married a Mc alexander (Callister) woman who was in possession of *Ballamanaugh* quarterland and it was her son William who was recorded in the 1650-1700 Lib Assed collection as a tenant of that quarterland. No surviving information from parish or land records shows any connection between the two Williams.

### A numbering system

In the compilation that follows<sup>10</sup>, entries for Mylrea tenants have been extracted from their original source and then chronologically clustered into **treens** in order to "track" generations of the early Mylrea families in Michael.

Thanks to the notaries' practice of always ordering the **quarterlands** within a **treen** in the same way, it has been possible to assign numbers (usually 1-4) to each quarterland entry. For example, in the treen of **Balnefadyn**, William Mc gilrea was a tenant in the first listed quarterland (#1) known as *Ballacooley* in 1515 and with a rent of 18s 6d. Almost a century later, a John Mc ylrea (with Richard Mc boy) occupied #1 quarterland for the same rent so logically, John was a descendant of the original William although many records from the intervening years are missing meaning that, in this instance, direct transmission must be cautiously rather than confidently asserted.

1515 MMR (1) William Mc corris and <b>William Mc gilrea</b> for 2 tenements and 1 quarter of land demised to them	{18s 6d}
1602 LA ▼(1) <b>John Mc ylrea</b> & Richard Mc boy for quarter	{18s 6d}

Also, because a rent remained stable over time, (rent for each of the first two *Balycrynan* quarterlands was 26s 8d from 1515 – 1608), it was possible to confirm the ongoing existence of those subdivisions in their original form.

Thus, the use of the numbering system (and the unchanged rents) helps establish whether the original quarterland was still tenanted by a Mylrea or whether the Mylreas had shifted location within the quarterland. In the following example from the treen of **Dromrewagh**, John and Fynlo were routinely the tenants of quarterland #4 with a 17s rent (1524-1538, **Ballachrink**), but John (the same John?) was briefly also a joint tenant of quarterland #2 with widow Mc quartage at 10s rent (1535-1538, **Ballalonney**).

<sup>9</sup> Chasing Alexander: : <http://www.digiville.com/alexander/02MacAlexOfMichael.htm>

<sup>10</sup> Attachment 3 Quarterland Entries

1524 LA (4) John Mc Gilroy & Fynlo Mc Gilroy for 2 tenements and 1 quarter demised to them	17s	Ballachrink
1528 LA (4) Fynlo Mc Gilroy & John Mc Gilroy for 2 tenements & 1 quarter demised to them	17s	Ballachrink
1529 LA (4) John Mc Gilroy & Fynlo Mc Gilroy for 2 tenements & 1 quarter demised to them	17s	Ballachrink
1530 LA (4) John Mc Gilroy & Fynlo Mc Gilroy for 2 tenements & 1 quarter demised to them	17s	Ballachrink
1535 LA (2) ux John Mc quatrag & Fynlo son & John Mc gilrea for 1 tenement & 1 quarter demised to them	10s	Ballalonney
(4) John Mc Gilroy & Fynlo Mc Gilroy for 2 tenements & 1 quarter demised to them .....	17s	Ballachrink
1538 LA (2) ux John Mc quatrag & Fynlo son & John Mc gilrea for 1 tenement & 1 quarter demised to them	10s	Ballalonney
(4) John Mc Gilroy & Fynlo Mc Gilroy for 2 tenements & 1 quarter demised to them	17s	Ballachrink

Alternatively if, on rare occasions, the order of the entries changed over time, the amount of annual rent helps point to an ongoing or discontinued tenancy, as in the case of **Dromrewagh** where the amount of rent for the *Ballachrink* quarterland remained stable at 17s while the order of the quarterland itself moved from 5<sup>th</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> at some time between 1515 and 1524.

1515 MMR (5) <b>Fynlo Mc gilroy</b> <i>11s.4d.</i> and <b>John Ughtyngton</b> <i>5s.8d</i> for 2 tenements and 1 quarter of land demised to them <i>Ballachrink</i> {17s}
1524 LA (4) John Mc Gilroy & Fynlo Mc Gilroy for 2 tenements and 1 quarter demised to them {17s}
1528 LA (4) Fynlo Mc Gilroy & John Mc Gilroy for 2 tenements & 1 quarter demised to them {17s}
1529 LA (4) John Mc Gilroy & Fynlo Mc Gilroy for 2 tenements & 1 quarter demised to them {17s}
1530 LA (4) John Mc Gilroy & Fynlo Mc Gilroy for 2 tenements & 1 quarter demised to them {17s}
1535 LA (4) John Mc Gilroy & Fynlo Mc Gilroy for 2 tenements & 1 quarter demised to them {17s}

# The Early Settlers

The earliest surviving record of interest in this endeavor to detect Mylrea family lines in Michael is one that was inscribed in about 1495. It was, in many respects, a census or survey of the (mostly) men who were the landholders at the time. Robert Cannell strongly warns however that this document had not been intended as either a census or a survey, although he goes on to observe that “*the rents collected naturally only cover those who held land from the Lord but (given that this is a sizeable proportion of the population) it does have considerable value to the genealogist and historian*”<sup>11</sup>. Thus it is in the context of attempting to draw together family lines through the early Manx land records that this analysis has been undertaken.

This 500-year-old book is badly damaged in parts<sup>12</sup> yet it is possible to say that in about 1495 at least five (and possibly nine) Mylrea men and one woman (a widow) were tenants (occupiers of the Lord’s land) in Michael. At the same time, just one Mylrea (John) was recorded in the adjacent parish to the north - Ballaugh - and another in the adjacent parish to the south – German – where Reynold lived .

Treen	Tenant	Annual Rent
<i>Balycrynan</i>	Donald Mc gilrea & son	24s 9d
	Thomlyn Mc gilrea	25s
	Relict Donl ilrea & John Danell	14s 9d
	Thomlyn Mc yna	6d
<i>Balystere</i>	William Mc gilrea	14s
<i>Shalghag</i>	Donald Mc gilrea	11s 6d
<i>Balynemade</i>	Thomlyn Mc wat & Ric Mc gilrea	15s
<i>Dromwegh</i>	Gilcris Mc gilrea & John son	15s
	Gilcris Mc gilrea & Mold Mc oboye	7s 10d
<i>Balyfadyn</i>	Donald Mc gilvorre & Robyn .....	7s
<i>Bras</i>	William Mc gilrea & plumb (brewing pan?)	5d
	Thomlyn Mc gilrea & plumb (brewing pan?)	7d

*Mylrea entries in Lib Assed c1495*

Ravaged by time, the four pages of the c1495 book dealing with Michael tenants have nevertheless provided a reasonable base line of Mylreas in the parish. Subsequent analysis of records from the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries offers up more information that allows a degree of tracking of those early Mylrea families over the ensuing years.

By comparing the names from a similar “survey” in 1515 with those identified in the c1495 collection, it is possible to say that, during the two intervening decades, the earlier Mylrea families had expanded in both geographic reach and number. By 1515, seven of the treens had at least one Mylrea tenant, compared to the five treens in 1495, the newly occupied being **Balnefadyn** and **Oristall**. There were now at least six (and possibly eleven) Mylrea men compared to the earlier five/nine (+ 2 sons, one named John). And some of the first names were different, suggesting a changing of the guard, father to son most likely, while two of the original names disappeared from the records altogether – Thomlyn (perhaps replaced by Thomas), and Gilcris, the latter a common first name at the time.

<sup>11</sup> Robert Cannell – personal correspondence 1/10/2018

<sup>12</sup> Attachment 2: Images & transcription of the 1495 LA Michael pages

Adding in the quarterland numbering system then gives a sharp insight into Mylrea families, where and when:

Treen	1495 tenant	1515 tenant	Possible Relationship
<i>Balycrynan</i>	#1 Donald Mc gilrea & son #2 Thomlyn Mc gilrea #3 Relict of Donl ilrea & John Darnell	#1 Richard Mc gilrea & John Mc gilrea #2 William Mc gilrea	- <i>Son of Donald?</i>  - <i>Son of Thomlyn?</i>
<i>Balystere</i>	#3 William Mc gilrea	#3 William Mc gilrea	- <i>Same person?</i>
<i>Shalghag</i>	#4 Donald Mc gilrea	#4 Fynlo Mc gilrea	- <i>Son of Donald?</i>
<i>Balnemade</i>	#3 Thomlyn Mc Wat & Ric Mc gilrea	#2 Donald Mc gilrea jnr + Robert Corcan #3 Richard Mc gilrea + John Mc Fayle	- <i>Son of Ric?</i>
<i>Dromrewagh</i>	#2 Gilcrist Mc gilrea & John son #3 Gilcrist Mc gilrea & Mold Mc oboye	#5 Fynlo Mc Gilroy+ John Ughington	
<i>Balyfadyn</i>	#4 Donald Mc gillvorra & Robyn .....	#1 William Mc gilrea + William Mc corris #3 John Mc gilvorra + Gibbon Mc oboy	
<i>Oristall</i>	-----	#3 William Mc gilrea + Donald Mc alexander & widow of Patric Mc quartag	
<i>Cottages</i>	#2 William Mc gilrea 5d #4 Thomlyn Mc gilrea 7d	#7 Richard Mc Gillvorra 12d	

*Comparison of Mylrea tenants – c1494 & 1515*

It is noteworthy that by 1515, the records now showed a Mylrea tenant in the parish of Jurby as well as in Ballaugh and German. The sole representative of the clan in Ballaugh was still John (actually his widow and son, since John had died, in about 1512), while Reginald Mc gilrea, Jenken Mc gilrea and Calyborn/Calyvorr ine gilrea were in German<sup>13</sup>. Mold Mc gilrea als Mc caly had appeared in Jurby.

Later in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, Mylrea tenants were found in three more Michael regions – **Camall**, **Rencullyn** and **Nerlough** although the Rencullyn and Nerlough occupations were brief.

<sup>13</sup> Calyborn/Calyvorr had also appeared in the 1512 survey of tenants for German. She was tenant of a Farm of Waste which meant it could be utilized and the occupant was expected to pay a fee to the Lord for the use of his land although the occupant was not considered a tenant of the Lord and such land did not appear in the Setting Book (Lib Assed) after 1644.

## Tracking Family Lines

The plan to use Manx land records to piece together families proved to be not as straightforward as anticipated:

- common first names: Was the William in **Balycrynan** in 1515 the same William who was in **Balnefadyn, Oristall** and **Balystere** at the same time? It seems straightforward that there were two Fynlo Mc gilrea tenants, one in **Shalghag**, probably the son of Donald, and one in **Dromrewagh**, perhaps the son of Gilchrist – but were they? The evidence shows that there were sometimes two tenants with the same name at much the same time, in Michael, as the circumstances of John Mc gilrea and a Ric Mc Gilrea below illustrate.
- multiple origins: The land record technique that worked so well for Ballaugh to show the evolution of three Mylrea clans from a single patriarch (John) did not work well for Michael, because there was more than one patriarch in those very early years. This problem has been further compounded by a serious discontinuity in the available records
- surname variations: was Mc gilrea the same as Mc gilroy or Mc gilvorra? An examination of the tenant entries over the years shows that notaries had a variety of ways to spell this surname – what was Mc gilrea one year could become Mc gilvorra the next, and it's most likely that given the level of illiteracy at the time, the aural “take” was used as the basis for entries
- not a comprehensive “census”- absence of the names of women and girls, and of individuals who were not tenants means that there were more Mylreas in Michael in the 1600s than are recorded in the land entries. Parish records and surviving wills bear that view out
- online records incomplete: records for spans of years (anything from two to twenty during the 1500s) have not yet been digitized and not surprisingly, some have been lost to posterity. Thus the lines of transmission (ie. families) have proven difficult to establish. The Lib Vast often provided key information, such as the relationship between the previous tenant and the new one with a presumed right to inherit, for example:
  - 1644 Intacks: the father is dead (Ric) the son is entered (Thomas)
  - 1645 Cammall: Margaret is dead and Alic her sister being in possession is entered
  - 1650 Oristall: (William) Entered being right heir to the said Margaret deceased, his mother

Hopefully, the missing records online will be made available some time in the future and greater insights into family lines can be achieved.

## First Name Uncertainty

### 1. John Mc gilrea

The first name John was not common amongst the Michael Mylreas so it serves as a good example of the challenge of determining links between the Mylrea families in Michael.

In the 1660s, a Jon Mc ylrea and his wife Katherine Cally (Cowley?) held land in Michael, albeit briefly so far as the Michael land records are concerned. There is an appealing logic to this individual being the son of William Mc ylrea of *Ballamanaugh*, an Oristall quarterland that had been in his maternal family for over a century. However while the evidence offers up promising sign posts, it doesn't provide absolute proof that Jon the husband of Katherine was John the son of William and the grandson of Margaret (Callister) of *Ballamanaugh*.

#### The Evidence:

1. A Jo<sup>14</sup> Mc ylrea was baptised on 30<sup>th</sup> January, 1645/6, son of William Mc ylrea (parish register)
2. William died in 1655 mentioning his son John in his will. He also mentioned a daughter Mabel, an unusual first name on the Isle of Man and unique in this particular family

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<sup>14</sup> Jo = John/Jon

3. William had previously compounded lands with Mabel and her husband in 1643 (1643 Composition Book), which was prior to the birth of Jo. William had evidently married twice, the first to become the father of Mabel and the second (to Ann Woods) producing Jo.
4. William inherited the tenancy of *Ballamanaugh* quarterland on this death of his mother, Margaret Callister, in 1650 (1650 Lib Vast). Curiously, in her will, Margaret mentioned Mabel's children but not Jo (or Jane his sister) although they were her grand children still living at the time of her death.

These facts link John born in 1645/6 to the *Ballamanaugh* quarterland through his father William and half sister Mabel, although it seems he was not his father's heir-at-law for his name was never recorded against that quarterland. Perhaps the family lands, compounded before his birth, were beyond his legal entitlement.

The boy had been orphaned before the age of 10, and passed into the care of an individual named John Corlett who *might* have been his cousin<sup>15</sup>. John Corlett was the son of Adam Corlett, an Adam Corlett was married to Alice Mc ylrea, and William Mc ylrea had a sister named Alice<sup>16</sup>. The connections are tenuous at best but have a certain logic to them, further confirming a link between the boy Jo and William, son of Margaret Callister, and thus to the quarterland, *Ballamanaugh*.

In 1675, a Jon Mc ylrea was buried in Michael in 1675, with the annotation on the parish burial record: *heir of Balymangh*. If this was the son of William, then he was about 30 years of age.

Although John son of William was never linked to the *Ballamanaugh* quarterland in the land records, a Jon Mc ylrea was a tenant in **Rencullyn** treen in the 1660s. This was for one half of a quarterland and known as *Ballnarennny*. Was he the son of William of *Ballamanaugh*?

The verifiable facts about this Jon Mc Ylrea, all found in the land records, are these:

1. In 1661 he and wife Katherine Cally (Cowley?) purchased half of the quarterland in **Rencullyn**, a treen in Michael<sup>17</sup>. They paid £3 for the lands which had an 8s  $\frac{3}{4}$  d rent.
2. In 1663, Jon and Katherine sold intack land in Ballaugh that had come to them through Jon's marriage to Katherine. There is no surviving record of their marriage on the Isle of Man but an explanatory note in a 1672 land record makes the link between the marriage and the land, while the sale contract itself records that Jon and Katherine were from Michael.
3. About ten years after they had purchased the half quarterland, Jon and Katherine sold the *Ballnarennny* land for £3, citing poverty as the reason for the sale.
4. The purchaser of Jon's *Ballnarennny* tenancy was Adam Callister who was a relative, if Jon was the son of William of *Ballamanaugh* quarterland.

These land transactions might, with the Callister connection, link Jon of *Ballnarennny* with the *Ballamanaugh* quarterland occupied by the Mylreas. However, if Jon who purchased the *Ballnarennny* rent was the son of William then he would have been already married and only 16 years at the time of the purchase. Such an early marriage is highly unlikely and this fact alone almost rules him out as the son of William born in 1645.

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<sup>15</sup> Will of William Mc ylrea 1654 <http://www.mylrea.com.au/wills%20collection/william-1654.html>

<sup>16</sup> Will of Margaret Callister 1650 <http://www.mylrea.com.au/wills%20collection/margaret-callister-1650.html>

<sup>17</sup> There was only one quarterland in Rencullyn treen

A second source of contention can be found in the notation in the burial record: *heir of Balymanagh*. In the **Shalghag** treen, there was a similarly (or identically<sup>18</sup>) named quarterland which had been tenanted by Fynlo Mc gilrea in 1515 although after 1589, no evidence of a Mylrea in that treen can be found, and certainly not in that quarterland. Moreover, the name of the quarterland was not unique to Michael. In the parish of Lonan were quarterlands named *Ballamanagh* and *Ballameanagh*; in Patrick a quarterland named *Ballamenagh*; in Jurby was *Ballamanaugh*; Lezare had *Ballamannagh*; Conchon had *Ballameanagh Tremode*. These names are listed in Kneen's compendium, with small variations in spelling and the suggestion that the terms meant either "middle farm" or "monk's farm". Thus Jo's attributed heirship might not have been in the **Oristall** treen, nor even in Michael but in another of at least five other parishes.

### Conclusion

The absence of so many parish records during the 1600s makes it almost impossible to confirm particular relationships. The challenge is compounded by the lack of obligation to register tenancy changes as they occurred, resulting in a known-to-be-dead individual being listed in the land records for decades after their decease, which was the case with William of *Ballamanaugh* whose name appeared as a tenant for nearly 50 years after it was known that he had died.

As well, the assumption that the Michael Mylreas did not wander beyond their borders nor did Mylreas from other parishes wander in to Michael is not sustainable so that Jon (husband of Katherine) could have been of Ballaugh birth, highly likely since his wife was from there.

## 2. Ric Mc gilrea

Unlike John, the name Richard/Ric/Rich was used frequently in the Michael Mylrea families. The first tenant's name to be inscribed in the 1515 record for Michael was Richard Mc gilrea's. He was probably the son of Donald who had been the tenant on *Balycrynan Moar* quarterland in 1495. Maybe he was also the Ric Mc gilrea who was a juror on the 1512 Setting Quest and again (still?) in 1515. That in turn might have signified his seniority in the clan, as well as his economic status in the parish, and led to the subsequent frequency of the name's use.

The original Ric died in about 1524, and his lands passed to his widow and son Thomas (the son named John listed in the 1515 entry could have died in the interim or the name simply a notary's error in the first place). Thomas became the sole tenant of *Balycrynan Moar* in 1535 and presumably was the individual who, old and infirm, began to sell the lands off in 1595.

In the course of the 1500s, the name Ric (Richard) appeared regularly in the land entries.

- **Balystere:** Ric Mc gilrea was a tenant briefly of lands known as *Ballaskyr* in the 1540s
- **Shalghag:** Ric Mc gilrea was a tenant of *Ballacain* lands in the 1550s & 1560s
- **Intacks:** Ric Mc gilrea tenants can be found briefly in the mid 1500s, then reappearing in 1600 when he/they held 1d & 2d intacks in his/their own right, as well as in shared tenancies with others. A Ric died in about 1643/4 holding 2d, 3d and 4d intacks which were passed to his son Thomas in 1644. Yet an individual named Ric Mc ilrea continued in a 10d tenancy until 1677 when the intack was sold (was it a different person or a failure to record a change?)

1644 Intack (Ric is dead)	1651 Cottage (Ric is alive [& has held these tenancies since 1612])
OLD ENTRY Rich ylrea {} NEW ENTRY Thos ylrea {} the father dead the sone entered	7 Ric ylrea {4d} 11 Jo: Cannell 1d, <u>Wm ylrea 3d</u> , Jo: Browne 1d, Jo: Kelly Jo: Shittleton, <u>Ric ylrea 1d</u> {11d}

<sup>18</sup> Spelling was not as disciplined in thosed days as it is today and so different texts offer up different concoctions of letters which probably sound the same, but actually depict different individuals or places.

- **Cottages:** Ric Mc ylrea took up a 4d cottage in 1657. In fact, this Ric Mc ylrea had been a joint tenant of an 11d cottage with Donald Craughan and Bryan (then John) Woods from 1612 to 1656 after which the other two tenants were listed separately.

Clearly the time span of well over 100 years in which there was a tenant named Ric Mc ylrea bespeaks several individuals. While it must have been a first name of significance for the Michael Mylreas, there is no record of the name being used in the other Mylrea families on the Isle of Man of the time, so it is almost certain that these individuals all came from the Michael Mylrea families over the centuries – but was the line continuous or was the name simply a popular one amongst these families?

### Rise & Fall of the Michael Mylreas

The stories of Jon and Ric Mc gilrea/ ylrea/ Mc ylrea mirror the story of the Mylrea clan in Michael, where land records tell of their rise and fall.

After such a prolific presence in the first half of the 16<sup>th</sup> century, their numbers had dwindled greatly by the beginning of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. In fact, only Thomas in *Balycrynan Moar* quarterland and John on *Ballachrink* (in **Dromrewagh**) remained, as did the women - Margaret Callister (who had married a Mylrea in about 1586) on *Ballamanaugh* quarterland (in **Oristall**) and Margaret Corleod (married first to a Mylrea) in possession of a croft in *Camall* which passed to her daughters over the course of the 1600s.

In fact, by 1600, few Mylreas were found on quarterlands, with their annual rents in shillings. Rather, they were more frequently listed as tenants of lower order properties – intacks and cottages - with annual rents in pence. Childlessness (or lack of male heirs resulting in the land going to daughters and then to their offspring as was the case towards the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century with Mabel and Alice) contributed to the disappearance of the surname. Or did this change in holdings signal a severe drop in economic circumstances, as these four particularly poignant entries highlight:

*1597 Balycrynan - James quaille suerty for Tho mcylrea for paymt of his rente, dueties & customes*

*1602 Balnefadyn - John mcylrea is soe poo that he can bring in noe suretie but hath delivred it up by the straw and it is sett uppo[n] Willm Carrett*

*1636 Intack - This is put in the possession of Mally ylrea and her children and in case of povertie & by her consente sett upon John Cayne by the setting queste*

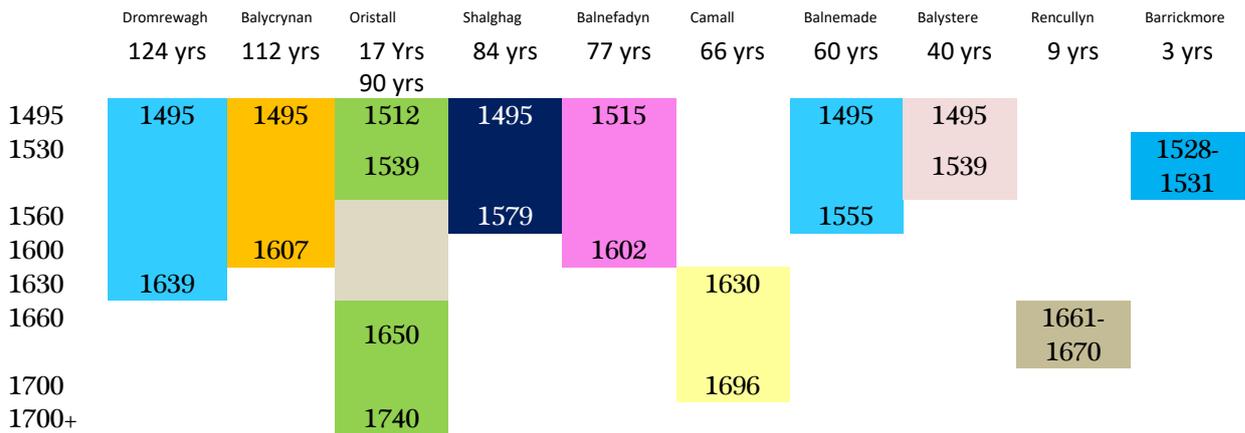
*1670 - especially being constrained thereunto by poverty (Jon Mc ylrea & wife Katherine Cally in a Bill of Sale)*

The Ballaugh clan, on the other hand, went from strength to strength throughout the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries before it too faded into oblivion in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, assisted by migration and debt.

# The Treens

The table below depicts the years of continuous occupation by a Mylrea in each Michael treen, the earlier date when the tenant was first recorded there, and the later date when he was last recorded there, acknowledging that missing records might well extend these periods of occupation.

The three treens with the longest Mylrea presence (of over a century) were **Dromrewagh**, **Balycrynan**, and **Oristall**, while **Balystere**'s Mylrea was essentially one individual for about 40 years, **Rencullyn**'s sole Mylrea tenant was there barely a decade, and **Barrickmore**'s just 3 years.



## Dromrewagh

This treen was one of the original Mylrea holdings and remained in the family's possession for over a century. The original Mc gilreas in Dromrewagh were Gilchrist and his son John who paid 15s annual rent in 1495 on quarterland #2 (was this **Ballachrink**?) while Gilchrist alone tenanted a 7s 10d rent, quarterland #3. Could this have been the same Gilchrist or two individuals?

In the 1515 Manorial Roll, Fynlo Mc gilrea now tenanted two thirds of quarterland #5 (**Ballachrink**) with John Ughynton who held the other third. Around 1520, Fynlo took over the minor Ughtynton share and made **Ballachrink** an exclusively Mylrea domain with John Mc gilrea, perhaps his son. It is not immediately apparent however whether **Ballachrink** was originally Gilchrist's quarterland, and thus whether Fynlo in 1515 was the grandson of Gilchrist and John the great grandson.

What is clear however, is that Dromrewagh was subjected to the rarity of notaries changing the order of the quarterlands in the land records over time. As the only 17s rent from 1515 onwards, **Ballachrink** enjoyed positions #5, then #4, and finally #3, and if this quarterland was the one occupied by Gilchrist In the 1495 Manorial Roll, it was originally #2.

The amounts of rent charged in 1495 were slightly less in most cases when compared to the rents of 1515, thus making a judgement about exactly what the Mylrea family occupied in Dromrewagh a little more difficult because the order of the quarterlands changed over the years, unlike (say) Balycrynan where the rents changed only slightly from 1495 to 1515, but not

the order of the quarterland listings. The rent for **Ballachrink** was 17s in 1515, and still 17s in 1639. Whether the 15s rent (quarterland #2) occupied by Gilchrist in 1495 was indeed **Ballachrink** is not evident from the land records but seems likely.

The line of transmission of **Ballachrink** *might have been* Gilchrist, John, Fynlo, John, Ric, John and William, seven Mylrea tenants of this quarterland over the course of 124 years. By the time the last Mylrea tenant passed his share over to an outsider in 1639, he held only one sixth of the land that had until some time around the 1550s been a Mylrea-only holding. This gradual diminution of the Mylrea holding might well have been an example of the empoverishment of the tenant.

Tenant	First listed	% tenancy
Gilchrist	1495	66%
John	1515	100%
Fynlo	1539	100%
John	1554	15%
Ric	1568	50%
John	1597	50
William	1624-1639	17%

## Balycrynan

This treen was another of the original Mylrea "seats" in Michael although several concurrent Mylrea tenants were recorded there, as opposed to a single quarterland occupation in (say) Dromrewagh. In 1495, there were two Mc gilrea tenants (Donald and Thomlyn) with the third, the widow of a second Donald Mc gilrea. Thus unlike any other of the Michael treens, Ballacrynan seems, prior to 1495, to have been entirely occupied by Mc gilreas.

By 1515, Richard and John (presumably Donald's offspring) jointly held #1 quarterland<sup>19</sup> (**Balycryan Moar**) while William (Thomlyn's son?) held #2 quarterland (**Balycryan Beg**) on his own account. Between them, these three Mylrea men now held  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the treen of Balycrynan because the widow of a second Donald (in joint tenancy with John Mc gillowney Danell) had by then surrendered/sold her tenancy to Danell.

The lines of transmission might have been Donald, Ric, Thomas on #1, and on #2 Thomlyn, William, Patric, John, John, Fynlo, William, and John.

### BALYCRYNAN MOAR (#1)

Tenant	First listed	% tenancy
Donald & son	1495	100%
Richard & John	1515	100%
Ric	1524	100%
Ux Ric & Thom (son)	1525	100%
Thomas	1538	100%
SOLD	1603&1608	

<sup>19</sup> Attachment 1. The Treens & Quarterlands of Michael

### BALYCRYNAN BEG (#2)

Tenant	First listed	% tenancy
Thomlyn	1495	100%
William	1515	100%
ux Donald & Patric	pre-1525	100%
Patrick	1528	100%
Patrick, John & John jnr	c1535	100%
John & John jnr	1538	100%
Fynlo	1559	100%
William		100%
John	1585	100%
SOLD	1598	

After selling Balycrynan Beg, John briefly occupied the third, smaller Balycrynan quarterland (1598-1603), but that was a short-lived tenancy. The dawn of the 17<sup>th</sup> century saw all Balycrynan tenancies in the possession of the Cannells through sales, possibly because the remaining Mylreas, Thomas and John, had no surviving descendants, or because of poverty since, on several occasions, their rents had been paid by others<sup>20</sup>.

### Orestall

The story of the Mylreas in Orestall is entwined with that of the Callister family. As AW Moore points out, the name Callister wasn't always Callister, rather the surname derives from mac Alexander / Alister, an interpretation endorsed by Kneen who indicates 'Alistryn' is a form of Alexander / Alister, thus, Calestren = Callister. [If the 'an' is dropped from Alexander, then you have Alexder, or Alister.]

The earliest connection between the Michael Mylreas and the Callisters/Mac alexanders is found in the 1515 Manorial Roll where William Mc gilrea is a tenant in an Orestall quarterland named **Kiondraghad** with two others, Patric Mc quartrag and Donald Mc alexander. The rent for this quarterland was 15s 8d and this joint arrangement lasted until about 1635 when William died apparently without issue, and his tenancy went to another.

About 50 years later, a Margaret Callister married a Mylrea around the time that she received a 15s rent named **Ballamanaugh** from her father, Murtagh Callister. Later, in 1598, she also received two Intacks (2s 6d & 8d) from him so perhaps the quarterland was her dowry, and the intacks as well, passing to her on the death of Murtagh. In 1650, these three pieces of land became a Mylrea holding when they passed following Margaret's death to her son William Mylrea. It is noteworthy that since 1602, these lands were shared equally between Margaret and an Adam Callister (or his descendants). Why the "share" took place almost twenty years after the quarterland was passed in its entirety to Margaret is not explained in the land records; however, from that time onwards, the tenancy was as an equal Mylrea-Callister partnership.

By early in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, both the Mylrea and the Callister descendants were still tenants of those lands originally gifted to Margaret, but the Mylrea share had passed into female hands again, first to William's daughter Mabel Mylrea who married William Stephan/Stean, then to their son (John) and later to John's daughter Ellin who married Adam Caine. Indeed, by 1740s, Ellen was the only positively identified descendant of the Mylrea clan in the parish. By 1750, she too had gone.

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<sup>20</sup> Attachment 3 Quarterland Entries

## Shalghag

At first glance, Shalghag appears to be a treen where several Mylreas tenanted several quarterlands over time. Using the rents from 1515, and matching them to the rents 50 years later, it is evident, since the rents did not change but the tenants did, that Mylreas were tenants in three different quarterlands over a period of about 80 years.

- In 1495, Donald was the tenant of quarterland #4 **Ballamenagh** and (still?) in 1512, probably succeeded by Fynlo in about 1515, who remained there until the mid 1520s (rent 13s).
- About 1525, he (or another Fynlo), became the tenant of quarterland #3 **Ballalig** (rent = 18s 6d) for perhaps 20 years, evidence the original holding, **Ballamenagh**, did not continue as the family's "seat" for very long.
- **Ballaquiggin** (quarterland #1) was taken up by Ric, perhaps in the mid-1500 at a rent of 17s 6d, and this was the estate that Michell Mc ylrea surrendered in 1579, a date which marked the end of Mylrea occupation in that treen. The most likely explanation for Mitchell's actions is economic but no documentation survives to support that suggestion.

With different Mylreas on different quarterlands at different times, it is not possible to draw any conclusions about lines of succession. The less likely scenario is that the same family occupied the same quarterland, the rent and order for which changed over the course of the 1500s.

## Balnefadyn

William (quarterland #1 **Ballacooley**) & John (quarterland #2 **Bernagh**) were recorded in this treen in 1515. Were they the same William and John who were tenants in Balycrynan at the same time? Rents for each of the Balyfadyn quarterlands were 18s 6d although the Mylreas on **Bernagh** were never recorded there again, while **Ballacooley** remained linked to the Mylreas well into the early 1600s.

The Mylreas held about half of **Ballacooley** for the remainder of the 1500s, their share of the rent being 9s 3d. There, the line of transmission might have been William to Mold to Thomas to William to John. In 1603, John gave up his share to William Garrett, when the following entry was made in Lib Vast:

*John Mcylrea is so poo that he can in no suritie but hath delivered it up by strawand it is sett upon Willm Garrett*

Among the entries in the 1643 Composition Book for Michael there are no entries for Mylreas in Balnefadyn. However, in 1687, a Rich Cannell, in partnership with Mr Nelson and Mr Grimsey became the tenants of one half of #1 quarterland, and Rich was the son of Ellin Mc ylrea<sup>21</sup> and Ric Cannell.

There is a degree of confusion associated with this Mylrea family, in particular the origins of Ellen Mc ylrea, daughter of Thomas. She died in about 1691 aged 60 according to the 1691 Composition Book, which puts her year of birth in the early 1630s, making it impossible for her to be the wife of John and mother of Rich, as recorded in the 1643 Composition Book.

## Cammall

The first Mylrea entry for this treen appeared in the early 1600s, a century after the 1495 Lib Assed was inscribed. The holder was Katherine Corken/Corleod to whom her husband's Cammall lands passed on his death. Her share amounted to a rent of 8s 2d within a quarterland which had a total rent of 24s 6d, so Katherine inherited about one third of the quarterland. She sold all her inheritance in 1626, keeping only a small croft with a rent of 3d, which she passed to her daughter Margaret in 1630, who passed it to her sister Alice in 1645. The sisters carried the

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<sup>21</sup> 1643 Composition Book: mentions the "lives of Rich Cannell, son of John Cannell and Ellin, daughter of Thomas Mcylrea

surname Mylrea so their mother Margaret had married someone named Mylrea prior to her marriage to Corken/Corleod, and had no son to whom she could pass the croft.

No surviving parish records tell who Katherine's Mylrea husband might have been although a child named Alice was born to a John Mc gilrea in 1615. Those lands passed, presumably with Alice's death, to William & Pat Cayne, in the early 1700s.

### **Balnemade**

One of the original 1495 quarterlands in this treen remained in Mylrea hands until at least the mid 1550s. The family line was on quarterland #2 **Ballacorlett/Ballacorleod** at a rent of 17s 4d. Occupied originally by Robert Corcan & Donald beg Mc gilrea (Donald jnr), subsequent holders were John Mc corcan and Ellin and Thomas Mc ilroye, names that suggest a succession in this quarterland for both families, an perhaps links Ellin to .....

Quarterland #3, **Ballagarrow**, (rent 15s) enjoyed a brief occupation by Ric Mc gilrea 1495-1515 but he was gone by 1524

Quarterland #4 (rent = 7s) was taken up in about 1528 by Robert Mc gilrea and Patrick Mc crayne who remained for about four years before selling that property. They did exactly the same thing in **Barrickmore**, acquiring lands in 1528 and selling them to the same individual individuals in 1531. Robert was never sighted again in the Michael entries.

### **Balystere**

As with Balnemade, Mylrea occupation in Balystere was short-lived, with William on #3 quarterland **Ballaskyr** for perhaps 10-20 years, and Ric on quarterland #1 briefly in the 1530s involving two quarterlands at two different periods of time. There is nothing in the available records to suggest that there was any connection between those two Mylrea tenants.

### **Rencullyn**

Entries for a Mylrea in this treen did not begin until about 1661, and endured for just a decade. Jon Mc ylrea purchased a tenancy in 1661 then sold it in 1670. This treen had been held almost exclusively by Freere & Teare families rather than Mylreas, and there were very few entries in the land records over the decades, suggesting that these families had strong lines of succession. For some reason, Robert Freere sold half a quarterland to Jon Mc gilrea, stating in the Bill of Sale that should Jon sell the land, he should do so to the Freere family. However, for some reason, Jon sold the land to Adam Callister instead.

### **Barrickmore**

In 1528, Robert Mc gilrea was recorded in Barrickmore with Patric Mc crayne, the same partnership that can be found in Balnemade at the same time (1528-1531). They also sold to the same individuals in 1531.

### **Nerlough**

The Mylrea presence in this treen is coincidental. It was to do with church land, and Daniel Mylrea of the Ballaugh Deemster line happened to be the Vicar of Michael at the time.

### **Other Mylreas who lived in Michael**

In some cases, Mylreas were demonstrably resident in Michael during the 1600s and 1700s, yet did not appear in the land records. Some appear in the parish records (baptism and burial in particular) but left no coherent collection of information from which to chart their lives. There are also the wills but those too often stand in splendid isolation with no indication of deceased past by mentioning spouse and family members. Those early Mylrea strands are lost forever unfortunately.

On the other hand, there are Mylreas whose existence and family connections can be extracted from a combination of sources – such as William and Hugh below.

## THE LOCALS

*William Mc ylrea  
b 1663 Michael*

William was the son of Hugh who had children Kath (1656) and Mary (1659) as well as William (1663). Starting with William will - who died on the 27<sup>th</sup> July 1699 in Braddan mentioning sisters Kath and Mary and Mary being the wife of Rich Cannell – then going to the Michael baptisms, their father and the children's baptism years are confirmed.

It's an open question whether Hugh Mc ylrea born to William Mc Ylrea in 1615 was Hugh Mcylrea the father of William, Kath and Mary for if Hugh was the son of William, then he should have been the heir-at-law for the **Oristall** quarterland of *Ballamanaugh*. Instead a Mabel Mylrea born 1616 to William was designated legatee which tends to suggest that *her* brother Hugh did not survive to adulthood or that there were two William Mc ylreas having children at much the same time in Michael.

There's a will for a Hugh McLerah dated 1684 in Ballaugh, which could possibly be Hugh, the father of William, Kath and Mary but he mentions no children and simply indicates he has a wife.

*Hugh Mc ylrea  
b c1680 Michael*

This Hugh Mc ylrea was the son of Cath Corjeag and Jon Mc ylrea, and probably born in the early 1680s, his parents having married in 1680. Later sale documents and the 1688 will of John Quayle collectively show that there were two sons born to Cath and John, one named Hugh and the other either John/Thomas.

Presumably Jon Mc ylrea was dead by the time of these transactions:

1683 in Lib Vast, Cath acquired a cottage

1683 in Lib Vast, Cath acquired a piece of land

1688 will of John Quayle: *to Kath: Corjeag one sheep and to her son Jo: Mcylerea one yearling; and to her son Hugh one lamb*

1703 Hugh and his mother sold "a parcel of ground in Michael"

1718 after his mother's death when Hugh sold a house and garden in Michael.

*LV The mother is dead and the son entered, reserving nevertheless the right of his brother if he be alive".*

## THE IMMIGRANTS

*Jane,  
born Ballaugh 1647*

Jane was the daughter of William Mc Ylrea, the patriarch of the Deemster/Archbishop/Attorney General line of Mylrea and occupant of the *Dollough* estate. The family's heritage stretched back to the early 1500s when land records first noted the presence of John Mc gilrea. Jane married John Cannell of the *Ballachrink* quarterland in the treen of **Dromrewagh** around 1680, and it is notable that *Ballachrink* had been occupied by the Mylrea clan as early as 1515, by 1639, they were gone.

*Catherine,  
born Ballaugh 1759*

Catherine was the youngest daughter of Nicholas Mylrea snr, he the second son in the Mylrea family that had held *Ballacooiley* quarterland for several generations. She was born in 1759 in Ballaugh and married William Quayle of Michael (B) in 1783 in Michael (*Ballachrink* in **Dromrewagh**

tree). They had 9 children and lived their entire lives in Michael. She died there in 1814.

*John,  
born Ballaugh 1791*

John was probably the oldest son of Daniel Mylrea, his father the second son in the *Ballacooiley* family. John was born in Ballaugh in 1791<sup>22</sup>. He was the great nephew of Nicholas snr, and therefore a second cousin of Catherine's. John married Isabella Quayle in 1814 and by the first census on the Isle of Man (1841), he was a farm worker in Michael<sup>23</sup>, the parish that Isabella had come from. They had four children and he (or perhaps his son John) was listed as a farmer at *Cronk Urleigh* in Michael in Thwaites 1863 Guide<sup>24</sup>.

*Elizabeth,  
born Ballaugh 1802*

Elizabeth married John Kneen in Michael in 1828, but it is doubtful that her origins are that parish. It seems more likely that she was the daughter of Daniel Mylrea, the second son in the *Ballacooiley* family, not destined to acquire the estate who became a shoemaker. This couple had a daughter named Elizabeth in 1802 and subsequent census and burial records show Elizabeth Kneen als Mylrea was born in Ballaugh 1800-1804 and died in Michael in 1877.

If this hypothesis is correct, Elizabeth was the sister of John above, the great niece of Nicholas snr, and a second cousin of Catherine (Quayle) above.

*Thomas,  
born Braddan 1815*

Thomas was the oldest son of Thomas Mylrea, of Braddan. Born in 1815, he became the miller at *Glen Wyllin*. On 7<sup>th</sup> September 1839, he married Mary Elizabeth Caine in Braddan, Mary Elizabeth born in Ballaugh in 1810. The young couple began married life in Braddan, but moved away to the parish of Michael after the birth of their third child, Mary Elizabeth, in 1844. Thomas died in Michael in 1876, aged 61. Mary Elizabeth died the following year and, like her husband, was buried in Michael<sup>25</sup>.

*James,  
born Jurby 1816*

James was the son of James snr who died in a ship wreck before James jnr was born. Young James married Eleanor Caley in 1839, and they lived briefly in Michael before settling in Lezayre, when the family remained on the *Ballacaine* farm until the present day. James jnr was a grandson of Nicholas jnr, and his father one of three brothers to die in the sinking of the *Felicity*.

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<sup>22</sup> 1861 Census IOM – also listed as MYBREA

<sup>23</sup> listed as MYBRIA in 1841 Census

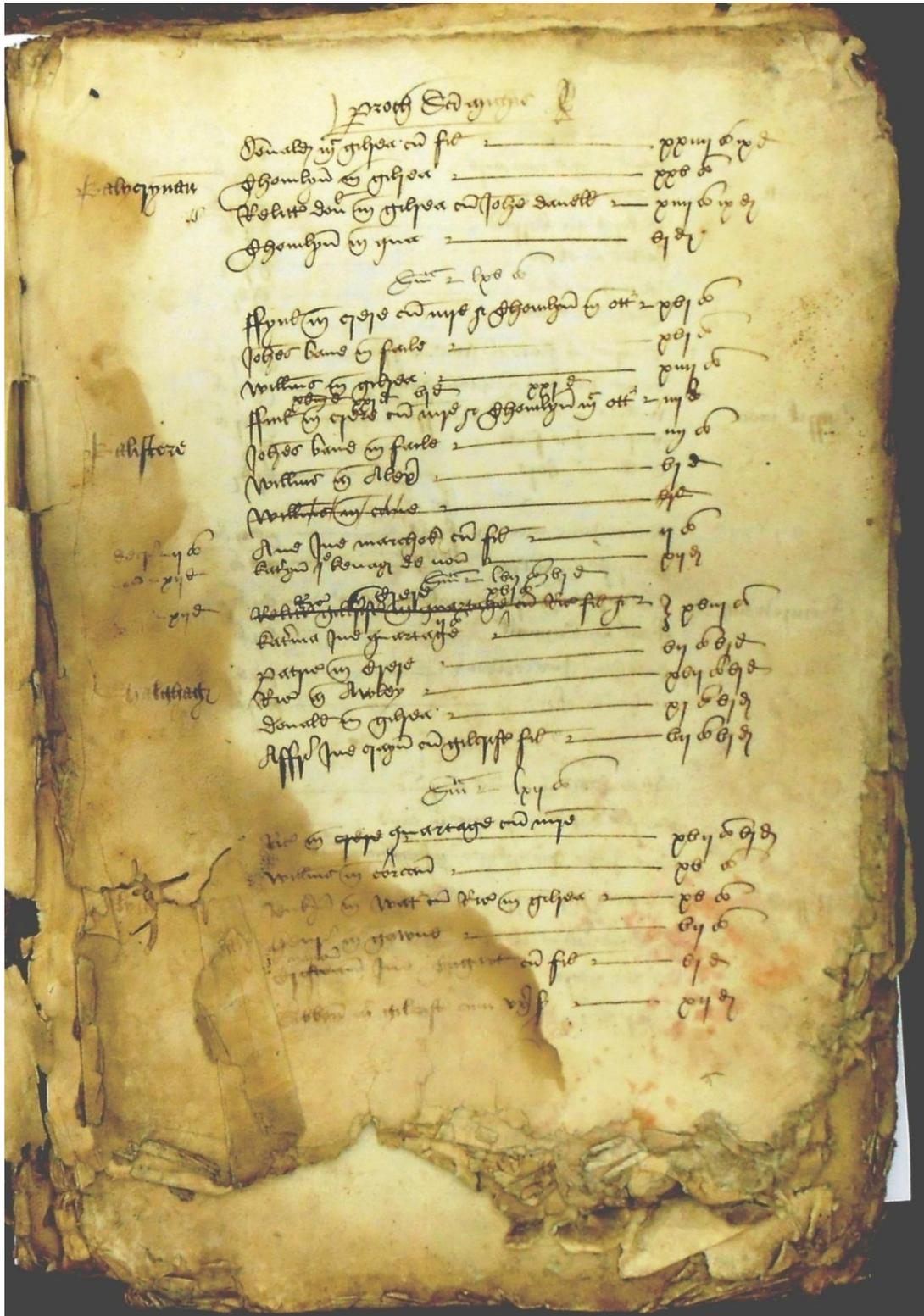
<sup>24</sup> <http://www.isle-of-man.com/manxnotebook/fulltext/tg1863/ml.htm>

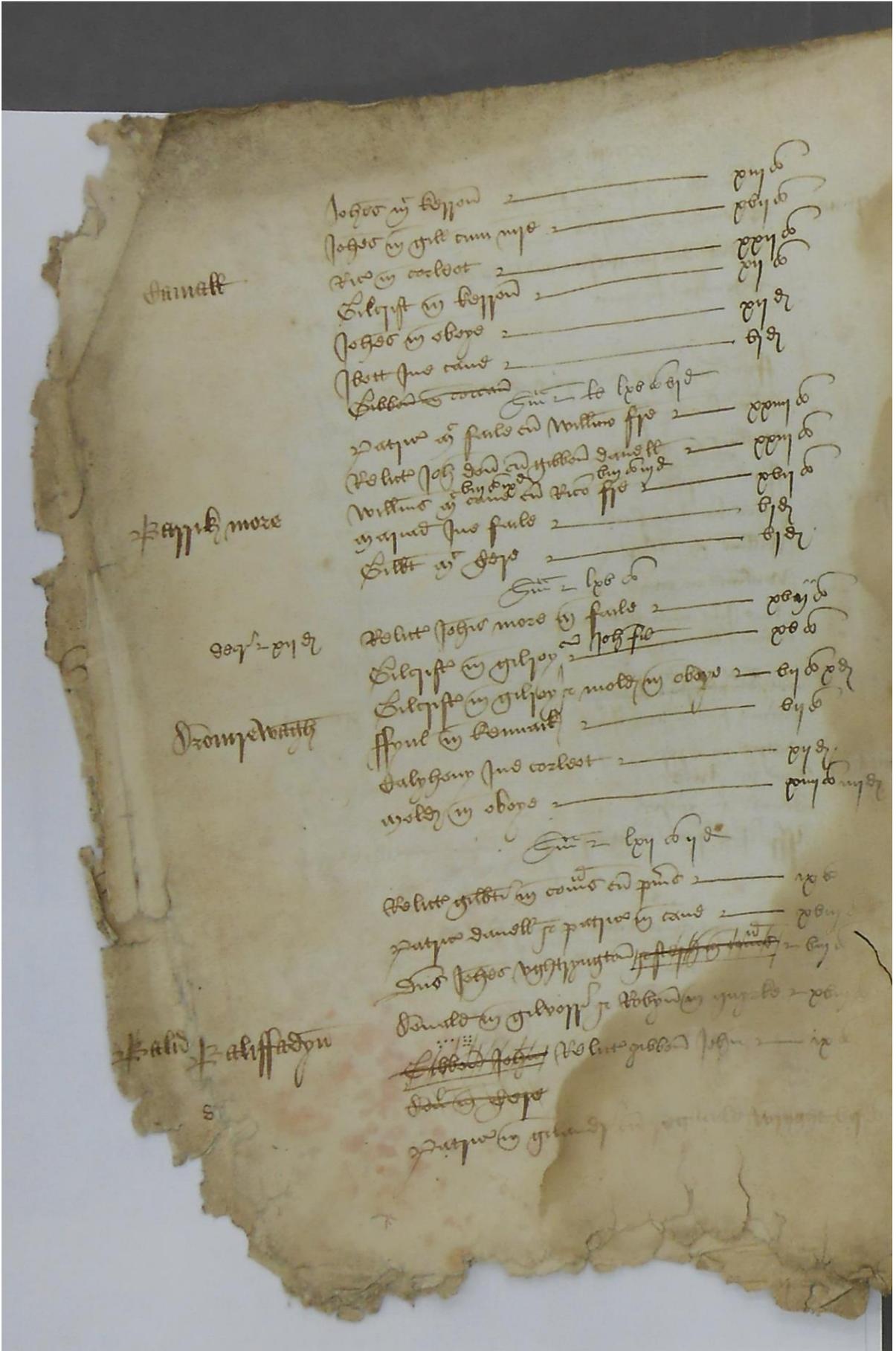
<sup>25</sup> <http://www.mylrea.com.au/wills%20collection/mary-elizabeth-cain-1877.html>

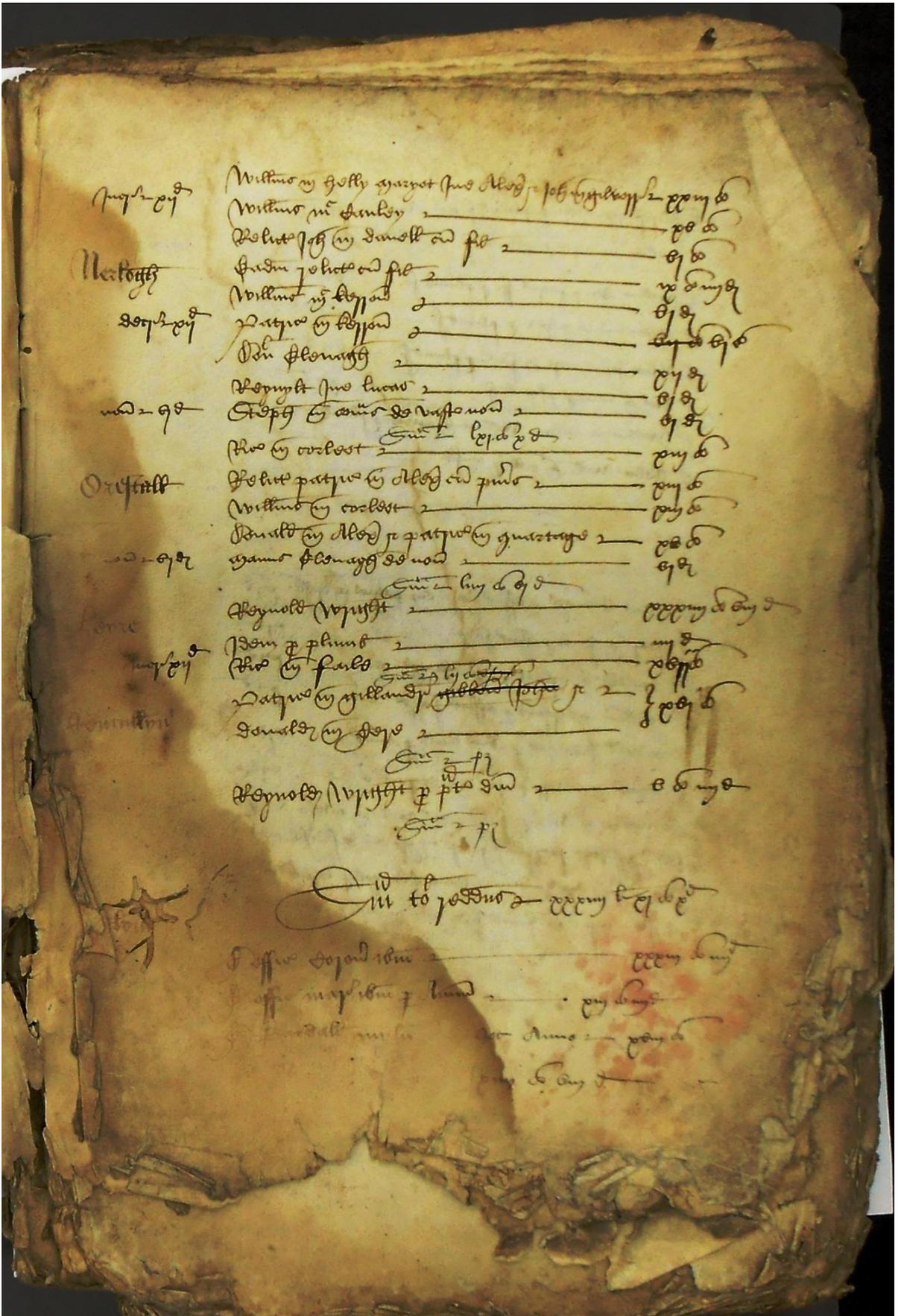
# Attachment 1: The Treens & Quarterlands of Michael

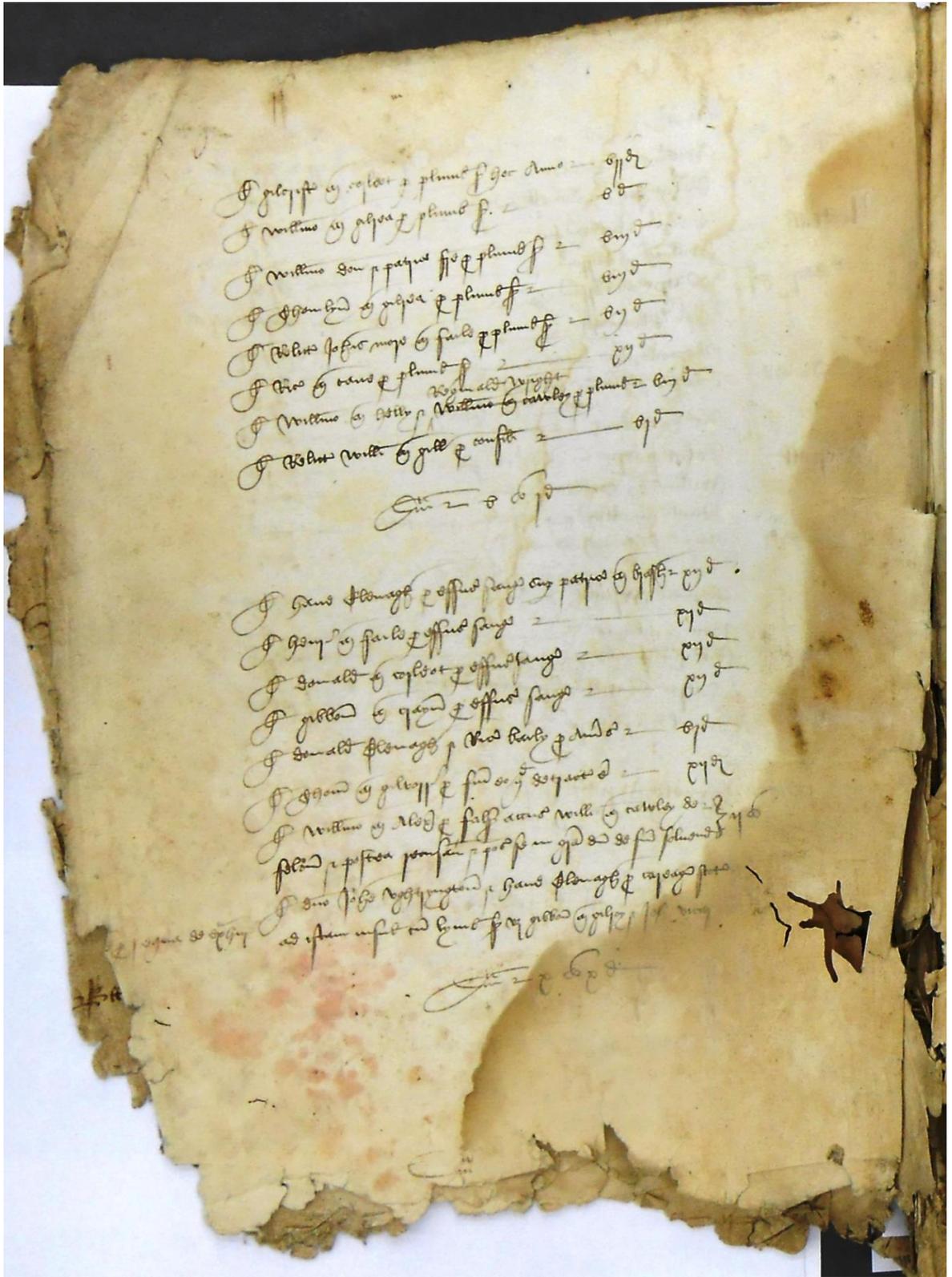
**Ballacrynane.**—Ballacrynane, 1½ q. Ballamaynough, 1½ q. Kerrow Glass, 1 q.  
**Ballister.**—Ballacottier, 1 q. Ballana, 1 q. Ballister, ½ q. Arey Gau, ½ q.  
**Shalcagh.**—Ballacayne, 1 q. Balla quiggin, 1 q. Ballaluig, 1 q. Ballamanaugh, 1 q.  
**Ballanymade** or **Bargarrow.**—Ballaley, 1 q. Ballacurleod, 1 q. Barregarrow (Chronk Ashen), 1 q. Quoole Darragh, ½ q.  
**Cammell.**—Quoole Shallagh, 1 q. Cly Finn, 1 q. Ballakille, 1q. Cammell, 1 q.  
**Barrick More.**—Bark More, 2 q. Ballnacreggy, 1 q. Ballagawne, 1 q.  
**Dromerewaigh.**—Largebreck, 1 q. Balloney, 1q. Ballacrink, 1 q. Ballakenaig, ½ q. Mony mollagh, x q.  
**Ballafadden.**—Balla na Quooley, 1 q. Ballamainough, 1 q. Barney garg (Bernagh), 1 q. Ballnaren-y-beg, parcel. Largeaggas, parcel. Ballafadeen, 1 q.  
**Nerlough.**— Ballagennall 1½ q. Nerlougher [variant is Analoage], 1 q. Bolly Gawidry, parcel. Balla Gilkey, 1 q.  
**Oristall.**—Ballacallow (or Ballahowin), 1q. Ballamanaugh, 1 q. Orristall, 1 q. Keondroghead, 1q.  
**Leyre.**—Ballehra, 1 q. Lough na Masha, 1 q. Kerrowkrui, 1 q.  
**Rencullin.**—Rencullin, 1q.  
**Aryhorkill.**—Druidale (or Airy Corkill), parcel.  
**Mills.**—Borodall Mill. Waste Mill in Glanwillin. Mullin Harry. Mullin Kelly. Mullen e Gawe. Ballagawn's Miln. Miln in Glanwoillan. New Water Corn Miln on the Great River.  
**Cottages.**—Cannell's Garden in Glanwillin. Several cottages in Slewcuirne. [an Aryhorkill Intack]. ' Part of a Largarage called Ballatruan's Croft ' [a variant is Largaragage. This is a Leyre Intack]. Crott Corkil in Glanwhyllan. ' Adam Callister for a Parcel of Intack adjoining to his Quarterland in the Four Towns.' [Adam Callister owned land in Ballafadeen, Oristall, and Rencullin Treens.] ' 4d. Intack in Kk Michael Towne. Candroughead Gill Intack. A Parcell of Commons in the Mountains of Kk Michael and Ballaugh lying between the Gill beyond Gruinnchary and Douglas Road, beginning a little below Chibber Slew ne Magarell ' [? modern ' Brandy Well '].

# Attachment 2: c1495 Lib Assed, Michael









LIBER ASSEDITIONIS: 1495 Michael  
(original document held at the Manx National Heritage, Library & Archives  
& images provided by Robert Cannell)

# TRANSCRIPTION: LA 1495 Michael

Balycrynan	Donald Mc gilrea with son <sup>26</sup>	24s 9d
	ux Thomlyn Mc gilrea <sup>27</sup>	25s
	Relict Donl ilrea with John Danell	14s 9d
	ux Thomlyn Mc yna	6d
	<b>Sum</b>	<b>65s</b>
Balystere	Ffynlo Mc crere with wyf per ux Thomlyn Mc otter	16s
	Johen Bane Mc faile	16s
	William Mc gilrea <sup>28</sup>	14s
	Ffynlo Mc crere with wyf per ux Thomlyn Mc otter	4s
	John Bane Mc faile	4s
	William Mc Alexander	6d
	Ann ine Marechet with son	2s
	Katryn ine ..... de nom	12d
	<b>Sum</b>	<b>57s 6d</b>
Shalghag	Katrin ine quartag	18s
	Patric Mc crere	7s 6d
	Ric Mc awley	17s 6d
	Donald Mc gilrea <sup>29</sup>	11s 6d
	Affri* ine crayne with gilcrist son	7s 6d
	<b>Sum</b>	<b>62s</b>
Balynemade	Ric Mc quartag with wyf	17s 6d
	William Mc corcan	15s
	Thomlyn Mc wat & Ric Mc gilrea	15s
	..... Mc gawne	7s
	Christian ine ... with son	6d
	Gibbon Mc gilcrist with wyfe	12d
	<b>Sum</b>	<b>56s</b>
Cammall	Johen Mc kerron	13s
	John Mc gill ..... wyfe	17s
	Ric Mc corleot	22s
	Gilcrist Mc kerron	12s
	Johen Mc oboye	12d
	lbott ine cane	6d
	<b>Sum</b>	<b>65s 6d</b>
Barrickmore	Patric Mc fayle with William Fre	24s
	Relict John don with Gibbon Danell	23s
	William Mc cane with Ric Fre	17s
	Mariad ine faile	6d
	Gilbert Mc *ere	6d
	<b>Sum</b>	<b>65s</b>

<sup>26</sup> Manx Manorial Roll – 1515: occupied by Richard & John Mc gilrea (26s 8d)

<sup>27</sup> Manx Manorial Roll – 1515: occupied by William Mc gilrea (26s 8d)

<sup>28</sup> Manx Manorial Roll – 1515: (still?) occupied by William Mc gilrea (16s)

<sup>29</sup> Manx Manorial Roll – 1515: occupied by Fynlo Mc gilrea (13s)

Dromrewagh	Relict John more Mc faile	17s
	Gilcris Mc gilrea with John son	15s
	Gilcris Mc gilrea & Mold Mc oboye	7s 10d
	Ffynlo Mc cannell	7s
	Calyhony ine Corleot	12d
	Mold Mc Oboye	14s 4d
	<b>Sum</b>	<b>62s 2d</b>
Balyfadyn	Relict Gibbon Mc ... & ....	9s
	Patric Danell per Patric Mc cane	17s
	Don Johen Ughtyngton	7s
	Donald Mc gilvorre per Robyn Mc ....	15s
	<del>Relict Gibbon John</del> Relict Gibbon .....	9d
	Patric Mc gilandy with Patric Mc quatrag	**
	<b>Sum</b>	<b>**s **d</b>
Nerlough	William Mc Helly, Maryot ine Alexander for John Mc gilvorry	23s
	William Mc Cauley	15s
	Relict John Mc danell with son	6s
	..... relict with son	9s 3d
	William Mc kerron	6d
	Patric Mc kerron	6s
	Donald Clenagh	12d
	Reynylt ine .....	6d
	Steph Mc ... de vaste nom	6d
	<b>Sum</b>	<b>61s 10d</b>
Orestall	Ric Mc corleot	13s
	Relict Patric Mc Alexander with ..	13s
	William Mc corleot	12s
	Donald Mc Alexander & Patric Mc quartag	15s
	Mariod Clonagh de nom	6d
	<b>Sum</b>	<b>53s 6d</b>
Lyre	Reynold Wright	33s 7d
	..... for plum (brewing pan?)	3d
	Ric Mc fayle	17s
	<b>Sum</b>	<b>50s 10d</b>
Rencullyn	Patric Mc gillandy per Donald Mc crere	16s
	<b>Sum</b>	<b>16s</b>
Aryhorkell	Reynold Wright for pts dur	5s 3d
	<b>Sum</b>	<b>5s 3d</b>
??	.....	33s 3d
	.....	13s 3d
	.....	17s
	<b>Sum</b>	
Bras	Gilcris Mc corleot for plum (brewing pan?) for her Ann	7d
	William Mc gilrea for plumb (brewing pan?)	5d
	William don per Patric fre for plumb (brewing pan?)	8d
	Thomlyn Mc gilrea for plumb (brewing pan?)	8d
	Relict John More Mc fayle for plumb (brewing pan?)	7d
	Ric Mc cane for plumb (brewing pan?)	12d

	William Mc helly per Reynold Wright for plumb (brewin; pan?)	7d
	Relict William Mc gill for confil	6d
	<b>Sum</b>	<b>5s 1d</b>
Fines	... Clenagh for office sangs (blood wipes?) ..... Patric	12d
	... Mc fayle for office sangs (blood wipes?)	12d
	Donald Mc corleot for office sangs (blood wipes?)	12d
	Gibbon Mc crayn for office sangs (blood wipes?)	12d
	Donald Clenagh per Ric Cawley for slander	6d
	ux Tom Mc gilvorry for .....	12d
	William Mc Alexander for half ... William Mc Cowley ...	2s
	duo John Ughtyngton, Gane Clenagh for ..... Gibbon M ilrea .....	?
	<b>Sum</b>	<b>10s 10d</b>