



The MYLREAs of CANADA

Diana Banks, January 2020

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

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Diana Banks is a Mylrea through her mother's family. Several years ago, she began writing the biography of her great great grandfather, John Mylrea, who was born on the Isle of Man in 1823, and in the course of researching John's story, she became an accidental authority on the variety of Mylrea strands. The result has been a series of short histories of these different Mylrea families, partly to celebrate their lives and 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 Michael 1500-1700
- William Mcylrea (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 (Ballaugh) 1747-1823
- Three Daniels & a Thomas 1761-1934
- Thomas Mylrea, Farmer & Preacher (Braddan) 1788-1860
- Basil Mylrea, Mariner & Publican (Peel) 1791-1865
- Philip Mylrea, Stone Mason (Douglas) 1793-1861
- Frederick Thomas Mylrea, Military Man (London) 1803-1862
- John Mylrea 1852-1921
- The Brushmen of Bethnal Green
- Mylreas in 19th Century Lancashire
- The Mylreas of Canada

The purpose of this brief treatise is to clarify the stories behind two Mylrea men, both named Edward, both of whom migrated to Canada at much the same time in the early 1900s. To assist in distinguishing between the two, the name of each Mylrea man is followed by his date of birth. One was from the Brushmen of Bethnal Green Mylreas while the other was the son of the eminent organ builder. Both families were London based at the time of the migration but were from entirely different Mylrea clans.

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*¹

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

On the Isle of Man, the surname Mylrea has the emphasis on its second syllable so that it is pronounced M'lrea. Thus the name enjoys many spelling variations, largely through transcription errors (MYBREA, MYTREA) or auditory "guesses" (MILREA, MULREAY). Add to this challenge the limited number of first names that the Manx tended to choose for their children such that, in any one year or two, there might be several infants baptised with the same name. For example, my gg grandfather was one of three little boys baptised with the name JOHN MYLREA on the Isle of Man in 1823. This means that the Mylrea researcher (and most Manx family historians) must deal with these problems when trying to disentangle the various strands. Spotting a member of the clan often takes an open mind. Moreover the older the record, the more open the mind has to be!

Canada bound

Two strands of Mylreas migrated independently to Canada in the early 1900s, both led by an Edward. They were attracted no doubt by the land on offer to new settlers. The two families were:

- ORGAN BUILDERS

Edward Mylrea (1857) - great grandson of Edward Mylrea & Susannah Cashen – from Peel via London – father Edward, grandfather Edward

This family, complete with 11 children ranging in age from 20 years to 1 year old migrated in 1904

- BRUSH MAKERS

Edward Mylrea (1875)– great grandsons of James Fisher Mylrea & Catherine Mercy – from London – father Charles, grandfather Charles. Edward's brother Charles (1878) also migrated to Canada

Edward migrated in 1892 at the age of 17² while brother Charles set off for Canada with his wife Isabella Rae and first-born Charles, in 1902³

Both families already have a narrative of their lives on the Isle of Man:

ORGAN BUILDERS: Basil Mylrea, Mariner & Publican (Peel) 1791-1865

BRUSH MAKERS: The Brushmen of Bethnal Green

so the purpose here is simply to demonstrate how the two strands distinguish themselves in a family history sense

The advent of online systems, with their digitized BDM records and census material, has helped the family historian to assign the Canadian Mylreas to the right "boxes". Distinguishing between the pair is now fairly straightforward through an examination of historical records.

² 1916 Census Manitoba, Saskatchewan & Alberta

³ 1906 Census Manitoba, Saskatchewan & Alberta

Which Edward??

I've been very privileged to be given family tree information by several of these Canadian Mylreas. However it is clear that the two Edward Mylreas have become tangled, thanks largely to the same first name, even though the two were a generation apart.

(1) Marriage Records

ORGAN BUILDERS

- Edward snr (1832) described himself as an organ builder when he married Maria Harriet Kirk in 1855. So did his son Edward (1875) when he married Jessie Margaret Eastwall in 1881. In fact, several of the sons of Edward (1832) and Jessie were organ builders. Edward snr 1832 had been born on the Isle of Man, probably from a branch of the Deemster/Archdeacon/Attorney General Mylreas, and Manx land records show his family stretching back to the late 1400s.

1855. Marriage solemnized at *S. John's Church* in the *Parish* of *Manchester* in the County of *Lancaster*

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
246	<i>September</i>	<i>Edward Mylrea</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>Bachelor</i>	<i>Organ Builder</i>	<i>Granby Row</i>	<i>Basil Mylrea</i>	<i>Shoe Maker</i>
	<i>Twenty Second</i>	<i>Maria Harriet Kirk</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>Spinster</i>		<i>Granby Row</i>	<i>William Kirk</i>	<i>Mechanic</i>

Married in the *above Church* according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by _____ or after *Banns* by me.

This Marriage was solemnized between us, { *Edward Mylrea* } in the Presence of us, { *William Kirk* }
 { *Maria Harriet Kirk* } { *Matilda Kirk* }

1881. Marriage solemnized at *S. John the Evangelist's Church* the *Parish* of *Horsley* in the County of *Middlesex*

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
154	<i>June 25th</i>	<i>Edward Mylrea</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>Bachelor</i>	<i>Organ Builder</i>	<i>48 Kings Road</i>	<i>Edward Mylrea</i>	<i>Organ Builder</i>
	<i>1881</i>	<i>Jessie Margaret Eastwall</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>Spinster</i>		<i>48 Kings Road</i>	<i>Thomas Eastwall</i>	<i>Builder</i>

Married in the *Parish Church of S. John the Evangelist* according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by _____ or after *Banns* by me.

This Marriage was solemnized between us, { *Edward Mylrea* } in the Presence of us, { *Emily Mylrea* }
 { *Jessie Margaret Eastwall* } { *J. Bicknell Laker* }
Vicar

BRUSH MAKERS

Edward, the son of Charles & Eliza, migrated to Canada in 1892. His brother Charles soon followed.

- Charles snr (1841) described himself as an engineer while *his* father Charles (1817) was a brush maker. The records show that this clan began with James Fisher Mylrea (1782) whose origins are entirely unknown although recent

DNA analysis shows no match to the DNA profiles of other Mylrea families, confirming that James was not the son of a Mylrea despite the surname. Through the generations, this family lived in Bethnal Green and surrounding areas.

1866. Marriage solemnized at the Parish Church in the Parish of Bethnal Green in the County of Middlesex

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
177	May 13	Charles Mylrea	24	Bachelor	Engineer	Bethnal Green	Charles Mylrea	Brush-maker
		Eliza Ann Ireland	26	Spouse		Bethnal Green	Joseph Ireland	Shoemaker

Married in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by Francis H. Lane after Banns by me.

This Marriage was solemnized between us, Charles Mylrea in the Presence of us, Eliza Ann Ireland John Ireland Emma Eliza Ireland

(2) Census records

The 1881 UK census helps distinguish the strands of these two Edward Mylreas:

ORGAN BUILDERS

- Edward snr (1857) was married to (Maria) Harriet with 9 children, including 24 year old Edward jnr, and living in 12 Spalding Terrace in Islington:

No.	Age	Sex	Name	Relation	Age	Profession	Where Born
112	42	M	Edward Mylrea	Head	42	Carpenter	Isle of Man
		F	Maria H	Wife	48		Nottingham
		M	Edward	Son	24	Organ Builder	Manchester
		F	Louisa	Daughter	20	Artist in Hair Dressing	Isle of Man
		M	Phillip	Son	17	Organ Builder	Middlesex
		M	Fredrick	Son	14	Carpenter	Isle of Man
		M	Walter	Son	11	Goldsmith	Isle of Man
		F	Emily	Daughter	7	General Serv	Isle of Man
		F	Catherine	Daughter	11	Schooler	Isle of Man
		M	William	Son	11	Isle of Man	Isle of Man
		F	Harriet	Daughter	6	Isle of Man	Islington

BRUSH MAKERS

- Charles snr (1841) was married to Eliza Ann, and living with their 5 children including 5 year old Edward, at 2 Dorset Place in Bethnal Green:

No.	Age	Sex	Name	Relation	Age	Profession	Where Born
5	2	M	Charles Mylrea	Head	39	Engine fitter (unemployed)	White Ch
		F	Eliza A.	Wife	41		Haggerston
		F	Ada A.	Daughter	14	Schooler	Bethnal Green
		M	Edward	Son	5		White Ch

No. of Schedule	ROAD, STREET, &c., and No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES		NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON-DITION as to Marriage	AGE last Birthday of		Rank, Profession, or OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN
		In-habit- ed	Un-in-habit- ed (U), or building (B)				Male	Female		
5	2 Dorset Place			Eliza Mylrea	Daughter			9	Schooler	Middlesex North Row
				Edward	Son			5		" Bethnal Green
				Charles	Son			3		" "

And the 1916 Census for Manitoba, Saskatchewan & Alberta, makes the difference between two Edwards even clearer:

- ORGAN BUILDERS

A handwritten census table with columns for name, age, sex, birthplace, and occupation. It lists several individuals, including Mylrea, Mylre, and Mylre, with their respective family details.

- BRUSH MAKERS

A handwritten census table showing Mylrea family members: Mylrea Fred, Mylrea Jean, Mylrea Harold, Mylrea Norman, Mylrea Jessie. It also lists their parents: Blanchard, Charles and Blanchard, Wm. Birthplaces include England and Scotland.

In sum:

Comparing the information about the two Edward Mylreas who migrated to Canada at much the same time shows their differences – in family backgrounds & structures and their ages.

	Edward 1857	Edward 1875
Parents	Edward, Harriet	Charles, Eliza Ann
Father born	Isle of Man	Mile End
Edward born	Manchester	Bethnal Green
brothers	Philip, Fred, Walter, Daniel, William	Charles
Married	Jessie, London, 1881	Jean, Canada, 1905
Children	11 (+2 died)	6?
Migrated	1904	1892
Age at migration	45 years	25 years
Province	Saskatchewan	Manitoba
Religion	Seventh Day Adventist	Presbyterian

These two Mylrea families have no shared ancestry, nor is there evidence that their paths crossed during the 1900s in Canada. What they had in common was their name, and an ambition to get ahead, attracted by the land grants on offer from the Canadian government of the day.

It is also worth noting that both families suffered tragedy in London which might have behind their desire to start afresh.

Edward & Harriet lost two children, probably to TB which was rife in those days

Edward & brother Charles were admitted briefly to a Workhouse in 1883 when they were just little boys. They were deemed paupers. Their father Charles snr was in an asylum, their mother was sick or already dead. The whereabouts of the girls was unknown.

The Mylrea Footprint in Canada

After migrating to Canada in 1904, organ builder Edward 1857 & wife Jessie migrated south to the USA. All but three of their children soon followed while their three sons Frank Basil, Daniel Reginald & Philip Douglas remained in Canada, although Daniel (Reg) later went to the USA, while his brothers Frank & Philip (Doug) lived their entire lives in Canada.

On the other hand, the descendants of Edward 1875 (and his brother Charles 1878 who migrated with him) made Canada their home. These two young men were the only sons of brush maker Charles snr & Eliza Ann Easton, so their loss would have been keenly felt in London. Their mother died at the young age of 43 while their widowed father Charles snr was declared a pauper in 1898 and taken to a work house where he died in 1911. The reason for Edward and Charles jnr migrating might have been to escape the poverty and ill health that characterized the Tower Hamlets.

The families of both families – Edward and Jean, Charles and Isabella - remained in Canada and their great grand children are a testament to their resilience and stoicism over the generations in the new frontier.

Others' Footprints

The two Edwards (and one Charles) were not the only Mylreas to go to Canada. Over the centuries, several have come and gone but none left their mark quite as firmly as brothers Edward 1875 and Charles 1878.

1. Daniel, Frederick Thomas & Clarence McBreed

Three generations in the same family, originating in Peel on the Isle of Man came independently to Canada. Daniel born in 1750, the son of **Thomas Mylrea & Rose Savage**, arrived as an officer in the 10th Royal Veteran's Battalion in 1805, and left in 1816. He was the hero in the wreck of the *Harpooner* off Newfoundland when almost half of the ship's complement were drowned, including his wife and two of his daughters. His son **Frederick Thomas** survived the wreck, joined the British army and was posted to Canada first in the 1820s and again in the 1850s. Frederick Thomas's son, **Clarence**

McBreedy 1835, probably remained in Canada when his father was posted to Australia in 1859 although Clarence eventually moved to the USA.

Both Daniel & Frederick Thomas had children who were born and who died in Canada, and Clarrie did not have children. This group was from the influential Deemster/Archdeacon/Attorney General clan of Mylreas.

2. Thomas Douglas & Algernon James

Brothers, born on the Isle of Man in the 1880s, they were the sons of **Phillip Caine Mylrea**. After their parents had migrated from the Isle of Man in 1891 to settle in the Chicago area, the brothers probably went to Canada from the USA to study in the early 1900s. The brothers can be found in Toronto in 1916 in their 20s when they co-wrote a report into a fire at the Quaker Oats premises. Thomas Daniel returned to the USA in the early 1920s to a life in academia while Algernon remained in Canada for most of his adult life, retiring to Florida in later years. Their father died in Toronto in 1918 and their mother in 1933. Algernon James married first Cora Myers in 1922, then Fleda Denyes in 1932 with whom he had two sons, James 1934 and Douglas Bruce 1939. Unfortunately, little of substantive intelligence is available about today's descendants from Algernon, other than the fact that Douglas Bruce Mylrea died in 1995 and that he had three sons – Jeff, Ricky & Scott – and one daughter Valerie.

These men were part of the Mylrea clan that had resided in Braddan since the late 1600s. First recorded Thomas who married Margaret Lewn in 1717 but we know nothing about him, other than the fact that he was an urban dweller living in Douglas his entire life. His grandson, Thomas 1788 was a blacksmith on farms in the parish, and also a Methodist preacher from time to time. Thomas 1788 was the grandfather of Thomas Douglas & Algernon James.

An interesting dimension of this particular Mylrea family is that their DNA shows a strong Irish connection, unlike the DNA of other Mylrea candidates in the international Mylrea DNA study. How that might have come about is yet to be uncovered.

3. Basil's great grand children

- Cyril Dupre, the son of Catherine (daughter of Edward & Harriet) went to Canada in 1911
- Olive Kate Mylrea Dupre, daughter of Catherine, migrated to Canada in 1919 to marry. She married A.B. Ewing but died in 1920.