



**THOMAS  
MYLREA  
1788-1860**

**Farmer & Preacher**

**BRADDAN  
ISLE OF MAN**

<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 accounts of these Mylrea families/clans, partly to celebrate their lives but also to look for the links that might bind them together. Their histories are showcased on the website <http://www.mylrea.com.au>

The online collection (all works-in-progress) is regularly updated when new information comes to light. Today, the following narratives can be found there:

- Early Mylreas in KK Michael 1500-1700
- William Myslrea (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 19th Century Lancashire
- The Mylreas of Canada (1900 - )

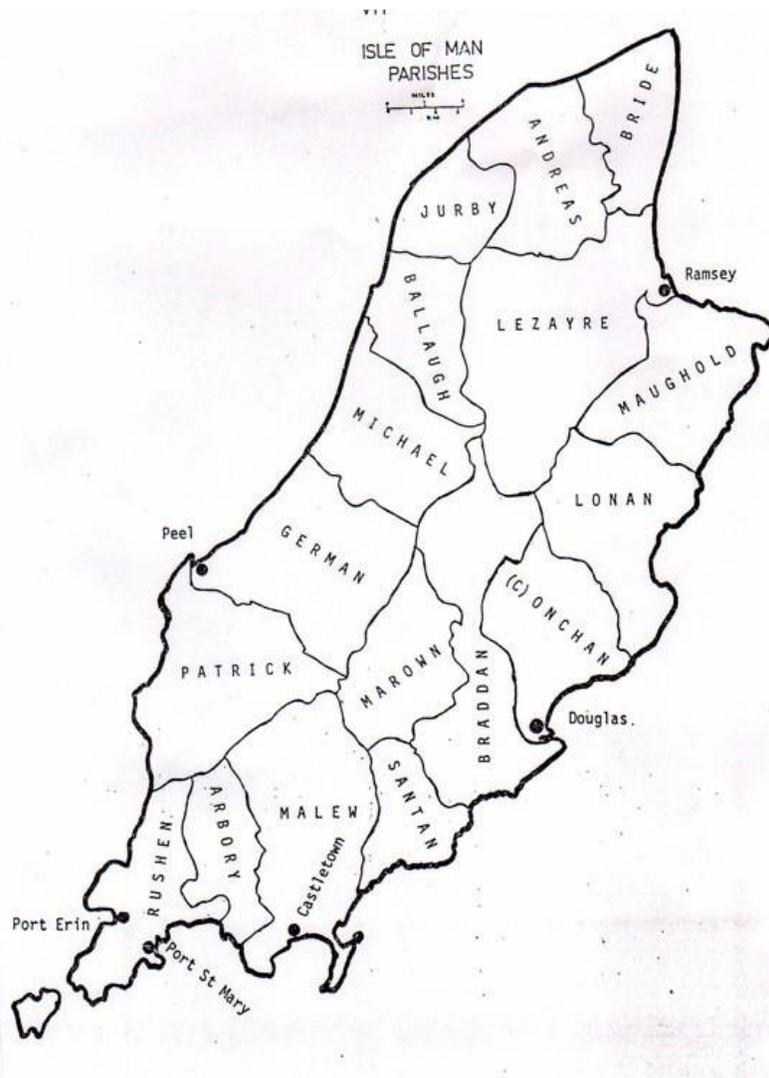
This particular story, about the Thomas Mylrea who was born in Braddan on the Isle of Man in about 1788, was greatly assisted by information provided by Billee Henry of Melbourne (Australia), a descendant of Thomas through his oldest daughter, Elizabeth. It is a fitting coincidence that 1788 was also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

Diana began her professional life as a teacher in central Queensland, went on to become a scholar at several Australian universities, and later a senior bureaucrat in Federal government circles. She has postgraduate qualifications from both Melbourne University in Australia and Harvard in the United States and is an experienced writer although the Mylrea narratives are her first foray into biography.

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

**NOTE:** The spelling of the name MYLREA is a major stumbling block in all Mylrea family history research. So far, I've come across more than 30 variations including MYBREA, MYHEA, MYBRED, MYBRIA, MYLRIA, MYBREA, MYBREY, MILRAY, MEYLREA, MCYLREAN, MILREA, BYLREA and MACYLLERIAH.

# THOMAS

## Farmer & Preacher

(c1788-1860)

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

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

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

Thus Thomas, the farmer and preacher, was the son of William and Jane although no such child was recorded in the parish baptism register. And from the Manx census collections in 1841 and 1851 comes the information that Thomas Mylrea was born in 1788 and employed as a farm worker in Braddan. In 1841 (aged 53), he was working on a *Ballaoates* farm and in 1851, he was in his 60s, still a farm worker, and living at *Ballagarey*. It would be quite reasonable to think that Thomas spent his adult life on the farms of Braddan rather than in the town of Douglas itself.

What isn't revealed in the IOM census collections is that Thomas was also a Methodist preacher. Manx Methodism had its origins in a visit to the Island in 1778 from John Wesley, when many of the inhabitants took to the religion, which reached its peak at the turn of the century. Thomas was a "travelling preacher", meaning he visited various houses and other meeting places to conduct the service where he preached in both English and Manx<sup>1</sup>.

*He (Mr Crook) began with two members, and was in the habit of walking every week from his residence in the neighbourhood of Peel, a distance of about eleven miles, for the purpose of meeting this little company of Christian people ; the number in a short time increased to eight, including Mr. and Mrs. Moore of Kirk St. Ann, and Mrs. (Jane) Mylrea, mother of T. Mylrea, at the present time a local preacher in the Douglas circuit.<sup>2</sup> (1776)*

<sup>1</sup> Rosser, J. (1848) History of Wesley Methodism in IOM

<sup>2</sup> Rosser, J. (1848) History of Wesley Methodism in IOM

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

### A Rural Family

On 7<sup>th</sup> September 1809, when he was about 21 years old, Thomas married Margaret Cowin in Braddan. Margaret was from the southern parish of Malew<sup>3</sup>, the daughter of Thomas Cowin and Elizabeth Cotteman. She was born in 1783, so about 5 years older than Thomas, a female-male age disparity that was not at all unusual in those days.

They had eight children, all born in Braddan between 1813 and 1827:

- Elizabeth (baptised 21<sup>st</sup> February, 1813)
- Thomas jnr (baptised 7<sup>th</sup> May, 1815)
- Jane (baptised c1816) – no parish record
- Philip (baptised 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 1817)
- Mary (baptised 31<sup>st</sup> January, 1819)
- John (baptised 17<sup>th</sup> June, 1821)
- Anne (baptised 22<sup>nd</sup> December, 1822)
- William (baptised 25<sup>th</sup> February, 1827)

Two of the children, John and Ann, died during the lifetime of their parents. John died in infancy, buried on 17<sup>th</sup> February 1822 in Braddan when he was eight months old and Anne the adventuress went off to Cleveland, Ohio in 1856<sup>4</sup> where she married farmer, Manxman and widower, James Boyd on March 30, 1861<sup>5</sup>. She died the following year and was buried with James's first wife, also from the Isle of Man, in the Warrensville West Cemetery in Cuyahoga County, Ohio. This particular state was a destination for many Manx migrants and several named Mylrea during the mid-1800s.



Source: FindAGrave website

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<sup>3</sup> 1851 Census IOM

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

<sup>5</sup> Mulreagh

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

## *Thomas Mylrea & Margaret Cowin* *M1809*



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

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

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

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

# HIS FOREBEARS

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

Discovering that Thomas's father was William Mylrea only came through an analysis of the 1842 will of Ann Mylrea. The contents of her will confirmed that she was the oldest daughter of William and Jane, but her mention of her brother Thomas revealed that here was a sibling without a record of baptism.

Thomas (c1685) ← William (1749) ← Thomas (1788)

## **William Mylrea & Jane Taggart – The parents**

Thomas the farmer and preacher was the son of William Mylrea and Jane Taggart. His parents married when William was about 27 years of age, the marriage record noting that William was from Braddan and Jane from Malew. This couple become parents to eight children, seven of whom had entries in the parish register of baptism for Braddan:

- Ann (1777) did not marry
- Margaret (1779) married Charles Gale
- William (1781) married (Jane Kewley?<sup>6</sup>)
- Ellinor (1783) married John Cowell
- Daniel (1785) died two weeks after birth
- John (1791)
- Philip (1793) married Jane Moore. He was a stone mason

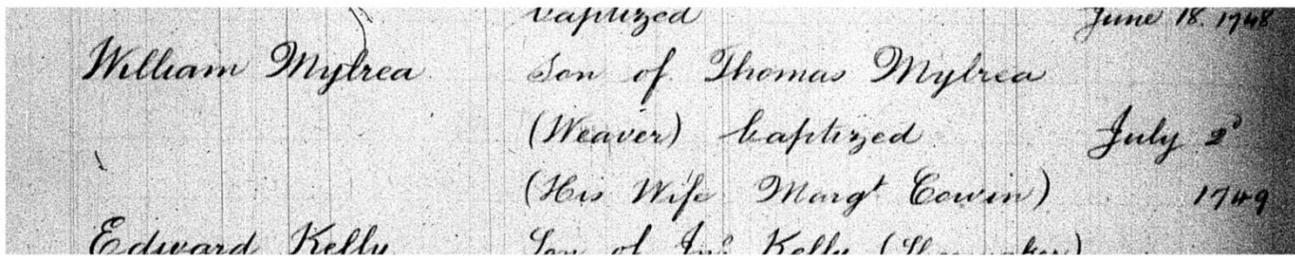
Thomas's death in 1860, with a burial record noting he was 72 years old, meant that his birth year was around 1788. Thus he was the sixth child in the family of eight.

## **Thomas Mylrea & Margaret Cowin – The grandparents**

William's parents were Thomas Mylrea snr and Margaret Cowin. We know Thomas snr was a weaver, a scrap of information that appears on only one of the baptismal records of Thomas's children – coincidentally William's.

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<sup>6</sup> Two families headed by a William Mylrea lived in Braddan at much the same time: William Mylrea & Jane Kewley AND William Mylrea & Elizabeth Clague – their children carried similar names, and neither family enjoyed a complete set of parish records.



We can also guess that Thomas snr was probably born in the 1680s, for reasons that will become clear as his life is laid out.

Thomas snr and Margaret were recorded as having seven children:

- Philip (1741) – married Margaret Lewn, “a boatman who transported stones”<sup>7</sup>
- Edward (1743) – married Dorothy Fargher, a wheelwright, lived in Lonan<sup>8</sup>
- Margaret (1746) – married John Crow
- William (1749) – married Jane Taggart
- John (1753) – died soon after birth
- Mary (1754) – married John Cottier
- Ann (1758) – did not marry

However, when Thomas snr died, his will mentioned a son, named Thomas. This child had no record of baptism with parents Thomas Mylrea and Margaret Cowin although his mention first in a series of legatees is a sure sign that he was the oldest of Thomas’s children.

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

EXTRACT FROM THE WILL OF  
THOMAS MYLREA, 1773, BRADDAN, IOM<sup>9</sup>:

In fact, this oldest son Thomas jnr was the only surviving child of Thomas snr’s previous marriage. In 1717, Thomas Mylrea snr married Margaret Lewn in Douglas and they had two surviving sons Robert (b1718) and Thomas jnr (b1721). Margaret died in 1738 and within two

<sup>7</sup> Wilkins, Frances.

<sup>8</sup> The story of Edward and his descendants is told in the narrative Edward Mylrea snr 1743-1784 [http://www.mylrea.com.au/stories/EDWARD%20MYLREA%20\(LONAN\)%201743-1784.pdf](http://www.mylrea.com.au/stories/EDWARD%20MYLREA%20(LONAN)%201743-1784.pdf)

<sup>9</sup> Will of Thomas Mylrea, buried Braddan 22/10/1773. <http://www.mylrea.com.au/wills%20collection/thomas-1773.html>

years of her death, the children of Thomas Mylrea and his second wife Margaret Cowin started to arrive.

A trail of documentation confirms that Thomas jnr b1721 survived into adulthood to become a legatee in his father's 1773 will:

- In February 1744/5, Thomas jnr was aboard the British ship-of-war *Royal Worcester* with his brother, Robert, in the Caribbean. Robert Mullray was an able seaman while Thomas Mullray was listed as a deckhand.
- After his brother Robert died in about 1750, his mother's estate fell to Thomas jnr:  
*in case my said son Robert McYlrea should die without issue that then and in that case my part of the houses and gardens are to fall and descend to my son Thomas McYlrea*
- In 1753, Thomas jnr gave half of his (now inherited) share of that Manx property to his father<sup>10</sup>, perhaps the same share that Thomas snr had mortgaged in 1749<sup>11</sup>:  
*Thomas Mylrea Junr and his father Thos Mylrea Senr situate in the Town of Douglas, have divided the Premises in Two Halves or Parts, and the said Thos Mylrea Junr giving his said father the sd Thos Mylrea Senr his choice, he took the west half or Part in way of Choice<sup>12</sup>*

This was also a period which involved Thomas jnr in another property transaction in Douglas and the documents shed further light onto his fate. In September 1749, he was the co-executor of the will of Ann Harrison als Lewn, his aunt. The Deeds of Sale show that Thomas jnr was a resident of Liverpool and that he had married a woman named Mary<sup>13</sup>. On 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 1748, a marriage took place between Thomas Malray and Mary Norton in St Nicholas Parish, Liverpool.

Given that the first wife of Thomas Mylrea snr was baptised in 1685, it is a reasonable assumption that Thomas too had been born about that time. Thus it is worth noting that Thomas Mylrea, the grandfather of Thomas Mylrea the farmer and preacher, must have been about 95 years of age when he died.

### ***Ballacooiley estate in Ballaugh***

The origins of Thomas Mylrea snr are unknown. It might be that they lie with Thomas Mylrea and Joney Craine of the *Ballacooiley* estate in Ballaugh whose son named Thomas was baptised in 1680. This individual survived well into adulthood because when his parents died, (Thomas in 1711 and Joney in 1738), they both made bequests *inter alia* to their son Thomas. So too did two of his siblings, William and John<sup>14</sup>

As a second son, this Thomas was never destined to inherit the estate because there was a surviving son from his father's first marriage (John) and so Thomas b1680 would have been obliged to strike out on his own. Perhaps he went to Braddan where his sister Margaret lived.

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<sup>10</sup> <http://www.mylrea.com.au/DEEDS/thomas-thomas-settlement-1753.html>

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.mylrea.com.au/DEEDS/thomas-mortgage-1749.html>

<sup>12</sup> File Petition 1757, No 49, NHLA

<sup>13</sup> 1749 Sale: Thomas Mylrea to Thomas Curlet. SSS Oct 1749 #46.

<http://www.mylrea.com.au/DEEDS/thomas-sale-1749.html>

<sup>14</sup> Thomas (1711), Joney Mylrea als Craine (1738), William (1713), John (1739)

She had married William Clague whose family had the *Oolikan* estate there. When Margaret died in 1724, a Thomas Mylrea was a signatory on her Court papers and there was only one Thomas Mylrea recorded in the district at that time, the husband of Margaret Lewn.

However, recent DNA analysis of descendants of Thomas Mylrea snr and Margaret Cowin demonstrate that they do not carry the same genetic profile as the descendants of the Mylrea men from *Ballacooiley*<sup>15</sup>. This finding disposes of any suggestion that the Thomas who married Margaret Cowin was from that Ballaugh estate. While the profiles of all Mylrea men match the Irish McElrea clan to some extent, the descendants of Thomas snr and Margaret (Cowin) match far more closely to the Irish than the Ballaugh descendants.

### Going Forward

Thanks to parish records, surviving wills and property records, the origins of Thomas Mylrea, the farmer and preacher become clear. He was baptised in 1788, the son of William Mylrea and Jane Taggart, and the grandson of Thomas Mylrea snr and Margaret Cowin. He lived his life in the parish of Braddan although his preaching took him around many of the southern parts of the island. Coincidentally, he married a woman also named Margaret Cowin in 1809. The marriage took place about 80 years after the marriage of his grandparents.

Thomas Mylrea snr established the foundations of a diaspora which steadily expanded when his many sons and daughters created families of their own. One of those children, William with his wife Jane Taggart, had seven surviving offspring, including Thomas Mylrea. Thomas, with his wife Margaret Cowin also seven surviving children and what follows is the story of those children.

<i>Margaret Lewn</i>	THOMAS	<i>Margaret Cowin</i>
<del>Robert</del> , Thomas jnr		Philip, Edward, <b>William</b> , Margaret, Mary, Ann
	William ←	<i>Jane Taggart</i>
		Ann, Margaret, William, Ellinor, <del>Daniel</del> , <b>Thomas</b> , <del>John</del> , Philip
	Thomas ←	<i>Margaret Cowin</i>
		<i>Elizabeth, Thomas, Jane, Philip, Mary, <del>John</del>, Ann, William</i>

<sup>15</sup> Mylrea of Mann DNA study

# ELIZABETH

## (1813-1877)

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

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

### The Children

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

- Margaret (baptised 11<sup>th</sup> July 1849; buried 16<sup>th</sup> June 1851)
- James (baptised 13<sup>th</sup> July 1851)
- Elizabeth (baptised 7<sup>th</sup> November 1852)
- Margaret Ann (baptised 14<sup>th</sup> October 1855)

In 1861, Elizabeth and her family were living on Ballagaree farm (probably Ballagarey and thus the same place as in 1851), in Braddan. From the 1871 Census of the Isle of Man, we find out that the family had moved north to neighbouring Onchan. Only son James was a shoemaker and their youngest child Margaret Ann a flax preparer. Daughter Elizabeth was no longer living with the family because she had gone to the UK to work as a domestic servant.

### ▫ James Conwell

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

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

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<sup>16</sup> Will of Ann Mylrea 1842. <http://www.mylrea.com.au/wills%20collection/ann-1842.html>

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

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

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

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

▫ Elizabeth Conwell

Elizabeth worked as a servant in the home of James and Edward Cottle in Liverpool, England. These men were probably brothers, they were bakers and they had been born on the Isle of Man. In 1871, Elizabeth married Edward Cottle, and over the next two decades had a total of ten children: Edward Alfred, Elizabeth, Edith H., Ada Gertrude, William Alexander, Charles Wilson, Florence Lillian, Daisy, Harold, Ethel. Eight lived to adulthood

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

▫ Margaret Ann Conwell

Margaret Ann has left no trace after the 1871 census, when she was a flax preparer. Her destiny lay in service or in marriage, on the Isle of Man or in England. There is a marriage record for a Margaret Ann Conwell and a Joseph Faragher in 1875. In 1881, Margaret Ann Faragher (sic) was listed as having been born in Onchan and one of the children was named Ernest Mylrea Faragher, both facts providing a strong indication that she was indeed from the Mylrea clan.

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

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

# *Elizabeth Mylrea & William Conwell* *M1847*



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

# THOMAS jnr

## (1815-1876)

**T**homas, the oldest son of Thomas Mylrea and Margaret Cowin, became the miller at Glen Wyllin, in the parish of Michael. On 7<sup>th</sup> September 1839, he married Mary Elizabeth Caine in Braddan, their wedding date the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Thomas's parents' wedding, and as with Thomas's parents, the bride was five years older than the groom. Mary Elizabeth had been born in Ballaugh in 1810.

Thomas jnr and Mary Elizabeth had seven children:

- Jane (baptised 20<sup>th</sup> May 1840)
- Margaret (baptised 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1842)
- Mary Elizabeth (baptised 3<sup>rd</sup> February 1844)
- John Thomas (baptised 22<sup>nd</sup> November 1845)
- Sarah (baptised 23<sup>rd</sup> January 1848)
- William (baptised 11th March 1850)
- Philip Caine (baptised 5<sup>th</sup> May 1853)

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

As well as being a miller, Thomas was also a preacher like his father.

..... (I have to find this material again) .....

Thomas the miller died in Michael in 1876, aged 61. Mary Elizabeth died the following year and, like her husband, was buried in Michael<sup>17</sup>.

### The Children

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

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

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<sup>17</sup> Wills of Thomas and Mary Elizabeth Mylrea. <http://www.mylrea.com.au/wills%20collection/thomas-1876.html>  
<http://www.mylrea.com.au/wills%20collection/mary-elizabeth-cain-1877.html>

- **Mary Elizabeth** married John Caine, a mariner, in Michael in 1865. Early in the marriage, they lived with her parents, Thomas and Mary Elizabeth. However, like so many others, they soon left the island to settle in the UK. They had five children, three born on the Isle of Man and then two in the UK: John Thomas, Ernest William, Francis Philip, Mary Elizabeth, Robert Charles C. Mary Elizabeth's husband, John Caine, died at sea on 27<sup>th</sup> October 1900, aged 63<sup>18</sup>.
- **John Thomas** married Jane Stowell in 1880. In 1881, this young couple was living in the same house as cousin Agnes Eleanor Mylrea, daughter of Philip. Agnes had married Flaxney Stowell, also in 1880, and John Thomas's wife, Jane, was Flaxney's sister.

John Thomas became a corn dealer, influenced no doubt by his father's profession as a corn miller. He was also the managing owner of two sailing vessels – *Prince Edward* and *Saint Mary*<sup>19</sup>. John Thomas died in July 1893 when his son Thomas was just 11 years old. He drowned when the *Saint Mary* foundered and sank in the Irish Sea after a collision at night on the 30<sup>th</sup> November. His son Thomas was presumably the 17-year-old boy living with Edward Stowell in Castletown in 1901, described by Edward as his nephew and working as a joiner/carpenter. The boy's mother, Jane, died in 1900 and in 1904, Thomas married Margaret Elizabeth (Bessie) Bell in Liverpool. A few months later, she died, and is buried in the Malew cemetery along with Edward and his family. Just months after Bessie's death, Thomas migrated to the USA on the *RMS Campania*. He made a new life for himself, still working as a carpenter, marrying Bertha Margaret Thomas in 2007, and having two daughters Helen Margaret (1905) and Elsie B. (1913). This family made their home in Oklahoma.

In 1908, Thomas sold his share of the corn mill, left initially to his father John Thomas in the 1876 will of John Thomas's father.

*..... one third of the corn mill dwelling house and out offices, easements, and appurtenances unto the same belonging, together with the whole of that house opposite the said mill wheel and adjoining the estate of Ballacregga and the appurtenances thereunto belonging, all said estate is situate in Glenwillyn in the parish of Michael*

It was a sign he was not going to return to his home, the Isle of Man.

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<sup>18</sup> Memorial Inscriptions KK Michael Old & New Yards. IOMFHS

<sup>19</sup> <http://www.crewlist.org.uk>

- **William** married Elizabeth Horsley in 1877 in Barrow, in the Forshaw St Primitive Methodist Chapel.



They were living in Ulverston (Lancashire) by 1891 where William was a baker and confectioner. There were no children and Robert Quayle, William’s nephew, the son of Mary Elizabeth, lived with them as William’s apprentice. William died in 1898 at the age of 48.

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

In 1891, Philip Caine with his wife Elizabeth and two young sons migrated to the United States<sup>20</sup>. They made their home in Chicago, and the family became US citizens in 1898. However, Philip did not continue his baker profession. Soon after their arrival, he was listed in the Chicago City Directories as a carpenter (1892, 1900, 1910<sup>21</sup>). His son Algernon was listed with the family in 1910. This same listing appeared during the next 20 years, (1894 and 1899 1902, 1903 and 1904) although he was recorded as a watchman in 1898. In the census collections during the same period, Philip Caine claimed that he worked in what today would be termed “security” – 1900 (watchman),

<sup>20</sup> A Philip Mylrea sailed from New York to Liverpool on the *Servia* in 1892. He was listed as a gentleman, and with no sign of a wife, it is not possible to determine whether this was Philip Caine Mylrea or Philip Crebbin Mylrea, his cousin.

<sup>21</sup> <http://chicagoancestors.org/#tab-tools>

1910 (police, but perhaps a watchman still). Maybe he had a night job and a day job to support his family in their brave new world?



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

After two decades in the United States, this Mylrea family went to Canada. At some time following the 1910 US Census, Philip Caine Mylrea and his wife made the journey to Canada; their sons would have been in their early twenties and quite possibly already resident there (for work or study perhaps). The window for this second migration was 1911-1912 because a wedding notice for Thomas Douglas in 1913 noted that he was from Toronto, Canada. Philip Caine Mylrea died in Toronto in 1918.

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



Cornelia Virginia Harkness  
1921

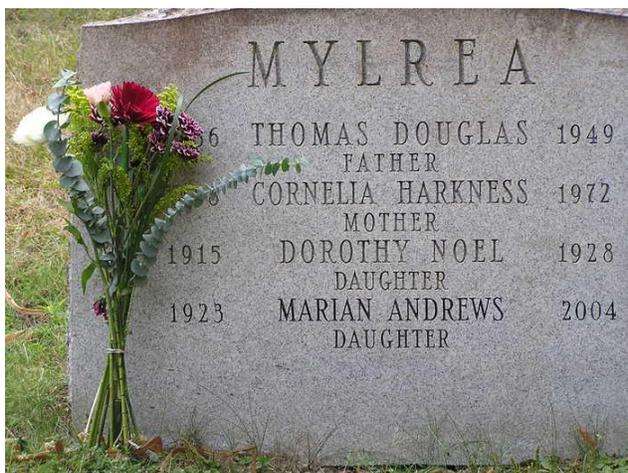
From the Civil and Environmental Engineering Honor Society at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

*Thomas Douglas Mylrea was born in Liverpool, England on January 17, 1886 to Philip and Elizabeth Mylrea. He attended R.T. Crane High School in Chicago, before going to the University of Illinois and graduated in 1909 with a bachelor's degree of Civil Engineering. At the University he was a part of the Civil Engineering club and participated in the YMCA.*

*From July-December of 1909, after graduation, he worked for the Illinois State Highway Commission. After leaving that job, he worked for the American Bridge Company of New York. Mylrea spent two years there as the timekeeper and one year as a draftsman before finding*

another job as the chief draftsman with the Dominion Bridge Company. In 1913, he married Cornelia Harkness. Some time thereafter, he became an assistant professor at his Alma Mater, the University of Illinois, where he was one of the original members and one of the first chapter honor members of the alpha chapter of Chi Epsilon. In 1927, while working as an assistant professor, a book he wrote titled "Reinforced Concrete In Flexure" was published. An original copy of the book is available at the Grainger Engineering Library.

Following his assistant professorship at the University of Illinois, Mylrea went on to teach and research at the University of Delaware. At the University of Delaware he helped the US prepare for World War 2 by working with the Army in research on the use of rockets. He was eventually named the head of the Department of Civil Engineering at the University of Delaware, where he worked until his death on January 19, 1949.



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



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

Algernon James remained in Canada where he married Cora Ellen Myers in 1922, divorced in 1932, married again a short time later. His second wife was Fleda Janette Victoria Deynes with whom he had two sons – James Malcolm 1938 and Douglas Bruce 1939. Algernon (or Jim as he was routinely referred to) continued to work in the insurance industry in Canada until he retired to Florida where he died in 1997.

The Mylrea brothers, Thomas Douglas and Algernon James were co-authors of a report into a fire in Canada in 1917. The publication is entitled Report on the Quaker Oats Company Fire.<sup>22</sup>

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

<sup>22</sup> <https://www.canadiana.ca/view/ocihm.88122/2>

*Thomas Mylrea & Mary Elizabeth  
Caine  
M 1839*



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

# JANE

## (c1810-1872)

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

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

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

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

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

- Thomas married Ann Jane Cain in 1860 and they had 12 children. He was a miller at Union Mills
- William married three times: Sarah Roney, Catherine Burne, Margaret Kelly. He had four children with his first wife, Sarah
- Margaret Jane did not marry, or at least did not do so in her younger years. She probably went to West Derby and worked as a domestic servant
- Philip married Ann Jane Cornish in 1865. They did not have a family and migrated to West Derby
- Sarah Ann married John Blair in 1866 and died 9 years later having had perhaps only one child, John Robert Horace Frederick. John Blair was a bootmaker, an Irishman, and the family lived in Peel.
- James married twice: Elizabeth Clague, Catherine Louisa Kelly als Leece. He had three sons with Elizabeth and another with Catherine. He was a mariner
- Edward married Emily Margaret Corlett in 1892. They had four children

→ Robert married Catherine Jane Corlett in 1882. They had four sons and he worked as a farrier/blacksmith

# Jane Mylrea & James Kissack

## M 1835

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

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

# PHILIP

## (1817-1888)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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<sup>23</sup> A Manx NoteBook

After a lifetime of dedicated service, Philip retired from his teaching post at St Mark's in 1883. He and Margaret were living in Douglas when Philip died in 1888<sup>24</sup>, at 12 Demesne Road. Susanna Mary, who was 33 at the time, was also living with her parents. She might have been the child whose role it was to care for the parents in their old age, for she remained single until both parents had died, and then she promptly married.

#### Braddan Cemetery

Section Two

#1009

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

#### The Children

- **Philip Crebbin** migrated to the United States. He might have left the island in 1890 because that was the year that he applied for American citizenship in Pennsylvania. He married Mary Appleton in Warrington (Lancashire) in 1894, suggesting that he returned to England once he had secured his American citizenship. In US census collections, he described himself as a stationery engineer. In 1910, Philip and Mary were living in New Jersey. They did not have children.
- **Margaret Ann** married Alexander Speedie in 1878. Speedie was a Scot who came as a youngster to the Isle of Man with his family. His father had a 200 acre farm known as *Ballavane* at Malew which Alexander inherited. Margaret Ann died when she was 29 years of age, leaving her husband and two small children: Philip Alexander and Margaret Evelyn. Alexander Speedie remarried and had a further nine children.
- **Sarah Jane** married Ceasar Corlett in 1879 in Braddan. Ceasar was originally from Santan and worked as a general labourer. They had six children: Daniel Mylrea, Philip Ceasar, Constance Eva, Dorothy Clair, Alfred Mylrea, and Evelyn Beatrice. Alfred did not survive infancy, but their two surviving sons joined the ranks of the professionals, Daniel as a chemist and Philip as a teacher. Both also left the Isle of Man as young men.
- **Susanna Mary** was 47 when she was recorded marrying William Joseph Dawson in 1902. Susannah had lived with her mother in Clifton Terrace (Douglas) and kept a boarding

<sup>24</sup> Isle of Man Times & General Advertiser 12th September 1888

house there, effectively giving her youth to her parents. It was around the time of her mother's death that she married. Dawson was a teacher, born in Douglas. Perhaps he was a colleague of her father, Philip, the school master of St Mark's in Malew or may have boarded in the Clifton Terrace house. There were no children. Susannah M. Dawson was buried in 1932 aged 74 and William Joseph Dawson was buried in 1936 aged 70

- **Agnes Eleanor** married Flaxney Stowell in 1880, and they lived in Castletown, Malew. Flaxney was a well-known painter and decorator, artist, and lay preacher in the Primitive Methodist church. It was noted earlier that Agnes's cousin, John Thomas Mylrea and his wife Jane were living with the Stowells in the 1881 census when they were all newly-weds. Their residence was 55 Queen Street.

Agnes and Flaxney had six children: Agnes, Jane Mylrea, Flaxney, Mylrea Quayle, Richard Lawson, and Philip Leighton.



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

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

- **Daniel Thomas** migrated to the UK, certainly by the time he was 20. He became a draper, and married Elizabeth Potts in 1884 in Altrincham, in Cheshire. He remained in the clothing industry, becoming a manufacturer of lace and fancy goods<sup>25</sup>. Their children were born in Sale (Cheshire) - Peter (1885), Margaret (1889) and Frank (1894). Peter became a stockbroker's clerk and Frank a horticultural student. Daniel Thomas and family would have called the Bucklow district of Cheshire "home". It was not far from Manchester, and close to Warrington where older brother Philip Crebbin had married and another branch of the Manx Mylrea clan (Basil of Peel) lived.



<sup>25</sup> 1911 UK Census

- Alfred William was a 16 year old apprentice baker in 1881, and lived in Douglas. He died in Brisbane (Queensland, Australia) on 14<sup>th</sup> August 1893, aged 28 years<sup>26</sup>. Why he travelled to Australia, when he arrived in Australia and how he made the journey, are all unknown.

Alfred William was the first of two young Manx Mylrea adventurers to lose their lives in Australia. Percy Moore Mylrea, the son of Philip Mylrea a wealthy tailor in Liverpool, and a very distant cousin of Alfred died in Sydney in 1897.

## *Philip Mylrea & Margaret Crebbin* *M1849*



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

<sup>26</sup> Isle of Man Times & General Advertiser, 30th September 1893

# MARY

## (1819-1896)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Margaret was the only one of her siblings to leave the island. Margaret was already living in Liverpool when she married John Kneen who was also born in Santan. John was a carpenter. Their seven children were born and raised in Liverpool.

Mary Eleanor married John Kelly who was the Mayor of Douglas, and this was a family of 13 children.

Sarah Jane married William Henry Fargher. They had a family of 3 children.

## *Mary & James Shimmin* *M 1845*



THOMAS 1846	MARGARET 1848	ANN 1849	MARY ELEANOR 1852	JOHN 1855	SARAH JANE 1859
	KNEEN		KELLY		FARGHER
X	John William Francis Jessie Lily Thomas		Eleanor Emily John Wilfred Arthur Bennett Dorothy James Joseph <del>Ethel Mary</del> <del>Ernest William</del> <del>Eva Elizabeth</del> Elsie May <del>Douglas Mylrea</del> <del>Ridgeway Sayle</del> Mildred Annie Marjory Olive	X	William Albert Esther Amy Sarah Evelyn

# WILLIAM

## (1827-1893)

**Y**oungest son of Thomas the farmer, William, was baptised in Braddan on 25<sup>th</sup> February, 1827<sup>27</sup>. He became a blacksmith<sup>28</sup>.

At the age of 23, William married Mary Mylrea on 11<sup>th</sup> July 1850 in the parish of KK Michael<sup>29</sup>. Despite her surname, Mary was not a close relative of William's. Her father, John Mylrea, had been born in the parish of Ballaugh in 1791<sup>30</sup> and was the older son of Daniel Mylrea and Mary Hughes. Daniel was from the *Ballacooiley* estate, a relatively large holding of about 100 acres in Ballaugh that had been in the Mylrea family for several centuries. However, as the second son, Daniel did not stand to inherit and was obliged to strike out on his own. Since John's wife Isabella Quayle came from Michael, it seems logical that his marriage was the reason for his living there. In 1841, he worked on a farm in the area of Ballacanane Moar where he and Isabella raised four children, the youngest being Mary<sup>31</sup>.

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

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

- William (baptised 16<sup>th</sup> March, 1851)<sup>32</sup>
- John (17<sup>th</sup> October, 1852)<sup>33, 34</sup>
- Mary Anne (baptised 21<sup>st</sup> October, 1854)<sup>35</sup>
- Margaret (baptised 17<sup>th</sup> January, 1857)<sup>36</sup> (born 25<sup>th</sup> August, 1856)<sup>37</sup>
- William (baptised 28<sup>th</sup> October, 1858)<sup>38</sup>
- Thomas Daniel (baptised 28<sup>th</sup> April, 1861)<sup>39</sup>
- Philip Herbert (baptised 24<sup>th</sup> May, 1863)<sup>40</sup>

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<sup>27</sup> LDS

<sup>28</sup> 1841 Census IOM

<sup>29</sup> LDS

<sup>30</sup> 1861 Census IOM – listed as MYBREA

<sup>31</sup> listed as MYBRIA in 1841 Census

<sup>32</sup> LDS

<sup>33</sup> LDS

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

<sup>35</sup> LDS

<sup>36</sup> LDS

<sup>37</sup> Birth date provided by Margaret's g.granddaughter, Donna Bell.

<sup>38</sup> LDS

<sup>39</sup> LDS

<sup>40</sup> LDS

- William Frederick (baptised 25<sup>th</sup> June, 1865)<sup>41</sup>
- Elizabeth Jane (baptised 10<sup>th</sup> November, 1867)<sup>42</sup>(born 31<sup>st</sup> October, 1867)<sup>43</sup>
- Frances Emily (baptised 11<sup>th</sup> December, 1870)<sup>44</sup>

Three of their children did not survive infancy. The two Williams died of diphtheria [in 1854 and 1861 respectively] both aged 3, and Philip Herbert passed away in 1864<sup>45</sup>. At the age of 30, Mary Anne also died, in 1885.

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

#### EE6

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

To depart and to be with Christ which is for better

WILLIAM, eldest son, died Sep 1854 aged 3 years

WILLIAM third son died May 1861 aged 3 years

PHILIP HERBERT fifth son died Aug 1864 aged 15 months

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

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

William and Mary lived into old age and they are buried in the Andreas Old Yard, alongside the children who had died so young<sup>46</sup>.

#### EE5

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

also THOMAS DANIEL MYLREA, blacksmith, died Feby 22<sup>nd</sup> 1947 aged 85 years

also MARY wife of WILLIAM MYLREA died Jany 31<sup>st</sup> 1911 aged 85 years

<sup>41</sup> LDS

<sup>42</sup> LDS

<sup>43</sup> Birth date provided by Margaret's g.granddaughter, Donna Bell

<sup>44</sup> LDS

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

<sup>46</sup> Provided by Donna Douglass, Manx Genealogy Notice Board, 22 August 2007

## Medicine Man

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## The Children

- **John** left for Australia on the *Garonne* in 1882. He was 31 years of age, and a blacksmith. He soon settled in Ballarat, the epicentre of the gold mining boom in the state of Victoria. There he married a young widow, Ellen Bull, who had two small children. Ellen and John soon had two daughters of their own while John worked in various jobs, as the blacksmith trade was already becoming obsolete. The

family then moved to Melbourne, where John worked as a confectioner. He died in 1921, and left his family comfortably well off for he had invested in real estate, owning his own home as well as three rental properties in inner Melbourne. Neither of his daughters married and this family line came to an end after just one generation.

- **Margaret** went to the United States in 1889, and married Philip Henry Teare, also from the Isle of Man, in 1890. They settled in Moscow, Idaho and had two/three children. Philip was a farrier by trade and became a farmer in rural Idaho.
- **Thomas Daniel** the blacksmith remained at home with his widowed mother and youngest sister, Frances Emily. At the age of nearly 50, he married Edith Elizabeth Christory on 29<sup>th</sup> April, 1908 in the parish of Jurby<sup>48</sup>. Edith was a widow with two young sons at the time of their marriage. Thomas kept the blacksmith shop going until his death in 1945, when the smithy was closed for ever<sup>49</sup>.
- **William Frederick** (Wilfred) migrated to South Africa. He was living in Durban when, at the age of 30, he married Ada Alice Shimmin at the Wesleyan Church, Musgrave Road on the 11th May 1895<sup>50</sup>. He was a book-keeper. Ada was also from the Isle of Man, a Wesleyan missionary who had been working in South Africa. They had four children Orry (who died early in life), Ada Mary Ethel (1896), Wilfred Douglas (1898), and Francis Radcliffe (1901). Their descendants continue to live in South Africa.
- **Elizabeth Jane (Bessie)** married Robert Cormode of Knock-e-Nean (Andreas) in 1899<sup>51</sup>. Robert was a farmer from Andreas. They had two daughters, Bessie and Ena.
- **Frances Emily** married Joseph Kaighin, in 1904 (13<sup>th</sup> February) at the age of 34 in what seems to have been a deathbed marriage for Frances for she was buried three days later<sup>52</sup>.

For a family as large as William's was, it is remarkable that only four of their 10 children had children of their own; and that there were only three males amongst the eleven grandchildren, two born in South Africa to carry the Mylrea surname on, and one in the United States, the son of Margaret and Philip Teare who had been given Mylrea as his middle name.

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<sup>48</sup> [http://www.iomfhs.im/lawsons/marriages/m\\_mar.html](http://www.iomfhs.im/lawsons/marriages/m_mar.html)

<sup>49</sup> McCambridge, S. (2005). *Andreas*. Manx Heritage Foundation.

<sup>50</sup> WFM Wedding Certificate.

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

<sup>52</sup> Provided by Greg Kaighan Manx Genealogy Notice Board 26 August 2007

# *William Mylrea & Mary Mylrea*

## *M 1850*

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

# MIGRATION

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

Thomas and Margaret saw the arrival of most of their 55 grandchildren. Some of course did not reach adulthood, but the majority did and went on to lead productive lives. While most of them remained on the Isle of Man, several struck out in new directions, well beyond the island's shores.

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

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

These adventurous grandchildren did not return from distant places, and so the Manx Mylrea diaspora spread, taking root in countries their forebears could never have imagined.

# IN THE PAPERS

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

### A CASTLETOWN ESTATE.

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

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

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

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

Manx Sun. 27<sup>th</sup> June,  
1903



ATTACHMENT 2 WILL OF THOMAS MYLREA, died BRADDAN, 1860

Braddan 126.

1860  
Episcopal

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

The humble petition of  
James Shimmie and  
Mary his wife of Mallesmis  
in the parish of Sauton

Sheweth

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

That Thomas Mylrea of Michael  
Philip Mylrea of ~~Braddan~~ Malen  
William Mylrea of Andreas Ann  
Mylrea now in America Jane Mylrea  
wife of James Kipack of Mehan and  
Elizabeth the wife of William Caldwell  
of Mallesmis in Braddan along  
with the said Mary are the children

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

Wherefore pet. prays a hearty  
request and that your Worship  
may be pleased to grant letters  
of administration of the said  
intestates Estate to the pet.  
James or to some fit and  
proper person in trust for  
the next of kin aforesaid

And pet. will pray for  
yourself

John Greenwood

Ordered that this petition do come on to be  
heard at an Ecclesiastical Court to be held in  
Oxford on Friday next whereof all proper  
parties are to have due notice

Given this 19<sup>th</sup> day of Nov. 1860  
J. W. Corbett

At a court holden at  
Dunfermline this 27<sup>th</sup> Nov. 1860

This petition is continued -

J. W. Corbett

At a court holden at  
Inverness on Thursday the  
20<sup>th</sup> day of December 1860  
by adjournment from a Court  
held at Dunfermline on the 27<sup>th</sup>  
Nov. 1860 -

Upon hearing this petition in presence of the parties on their  
advocate and it appearing that Thomas Mylrea some short  
time ago departed this life intestate leaving issue namely  
Thomas Mylrea Philip Mylrea William Mylrea & Ann Mylrea  
resident abroad; Law wife of James Finlay, Elizabeth wife of  
William Caldwell and the petitioner Mary wife of the late  
James Shinnis who are therefore declared sole administrators  
of all and singular the goods Rights Credits Chattels and  
Effects of the s<sup>d</sup> dec<sup>d</sup> and the petitioner James Shinnis in  
right of his s<sup>d</sup> wife the p<sup>et</sup> Mary is therefore sworn in trust  
well and truly to administer the s<sup>d</sup> Estate according to  
Law, to pay all just debts and funeral expenses of the dec<sup>d</sup>  
so far as the s<sup>d</sup> Goods will extend and the Law binds him  
to return a true and faithful Inventory thereof with an  
accurate account of his acts and proceedings in the  
premises to the Episcopal Registry when the same lawfully  
required and to this end he hath given pledges or oaths  
Thomas Mylrea and Charles Lyle who have entered into  
and executed the usual Bond in pursuance of the Court

Decretum Est

J. W. Corbett

Transcription: <https://www.mylrea.com.au/wills%20collection/thomas-1860.html>

### ATTACHMENT 3 WILLIAM FREDERICK MYLREA

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

- 1865 William Frederick Mylrea was born to William Mylrea and Mary Mylrea in Andreas, Isle of Man; he was known as Wilfred. Baptised 25<sup>th</sup> June, 1865<sup>53</sup>. His father, William, was a blacksmith.
- 1868 Wilfred's future wife, Ada Alice Shimmin, was born to Evan Shimmin and Jane Radcliffe in Douglas, Braddan, Isle of Man; Evan and Jane had married 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 1849 in Braddan<sup>54</sup> and Ada was one of several children (and probably the youngest, given the nearly 20 years since Evan and Jane married). She was baptised 9<sup>th</sup> August 1868, St George, Douglas<sup>55</sup>. Her father Evan was a roper.
- 1894 Wilfred migrated to South Africa (?). If indeed he was the passenger aboard the vessel, Scot, sailing from Southampton to Cape (Town?), then he was recorded as a sculptor.<sup>56</sup> The story told by his family is that he intended sailing further afield, perhaps to Australia, when he disembarked in South Africa because he was fed up with sea travel.
- 1895 Wilfred and Ada Alice Shimmin were married in the Wesleyan Church, Musgrave Road, Durban on the 11th May 1895<sup>57</sup>
- **Wilfred** gave his occupation as "Bookkeeper", and he was domiciled in Durban. He was 30 years of age.
  - **Ada** gave her address as Douglas although she had 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

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<sup>53</sup> LDS

<sup>54</sup> LDS

<sup>55</sup> LDS

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

<sup>57</sup> WFM Wedding Certificate

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 11<sup>th</sup> 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 Ballaradcliffe<sup>58</sup> respectively. More likely, Francis's second name was for Ada's mother, Jane Radcliffe.

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

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. Frank shared in the estate of his intestate Australian cousin, Ida Frances Mylrea, who had died in Melbourne in 1975, although by the time the legalities had been attended to, it was Michael who inherited his father's cousin's legacy. While no evidence has been uncovered, it is likely that the children of John Mylrea's three siblings (ie. Wilfred in South Africa,

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<sup>58</sup> 1851 Census IOM

Margaret in the United States and Bessie on the Isle of Man) shared in the legacy equally.

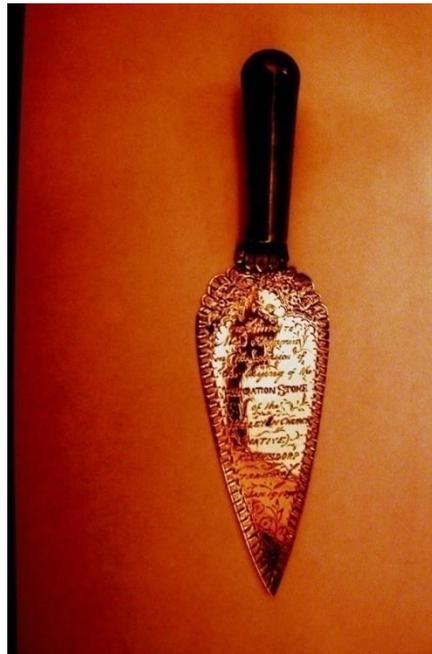
### **Ada Shimmin**

Ada was an adventurous young woman. At quite a young age, probably just 22, she was a Wesleyan missionary in South Africa in the early 1890s. Her brother, Isaac Shimmin, was a famous Wesleyan missionary in South Africa at the time and might have founded the Klerksdorp Church, amongst many others. He was also one of the original pioneers of Rhodesia, arriving there in September 1891, before Rhodes himself<sup>59</sup>. Previously, he had been in the Transvaal. Isaac was also regarded as a scholar, and a fine hunter:

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

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.)

#### ▫ **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)

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

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

against General von Lettow Vorbeck's army. He was separated from his unit in battle and spent a long time trying to survive alone in the East African bush. Ada and Wilfred were informed that he was missing in action presumed dead, but after some months he managed to make contact with a British army column and was returned to South Africa, suffering from malaria and black water fever. Once he had recovered, he tried to sign up again, but the army rejected him on medical grounds. He promptly joined the Royal Navy and spent the rest of the war in the Indian Ocean fleet, where he excelled as a boxer in his spare time. After the war, he was too old to go back to school and was given a war-time matriculation certificate. He studied agriculture at Cedara College in Natal, where he played both Rugby and Cricket for the province. After Cedara, he became a farm manager in Harrismith in The Orange Free State and eventually bought his own land and became a 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 stockbroker. He is remembered as a bookish man with thick reading glasses. His son, Michael, became a senior partner of Ernst and Young, a large accounting company in South Africa.

▫ **Ada Alice Mylrea**

In 1922, Ada Alice married Thomas Benchley THRING<sup>61</sup>. She and Thomas had two sons:

- Frederick Mylrea Thring
- Donald Benchley Thring

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

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

## ***(interview taken from the Internet)***

### **Ross**

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

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

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

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

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

### **John**

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

## **Ross**

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

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

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

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

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

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

## WILLIAM CALLISTER

Died August 11th 1922.

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

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

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

## The Mystery of Airey-ween

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

### Airy Wind.

1643 Manorial Roll Nary Ween

1739 Parochial Visit Airy Wind

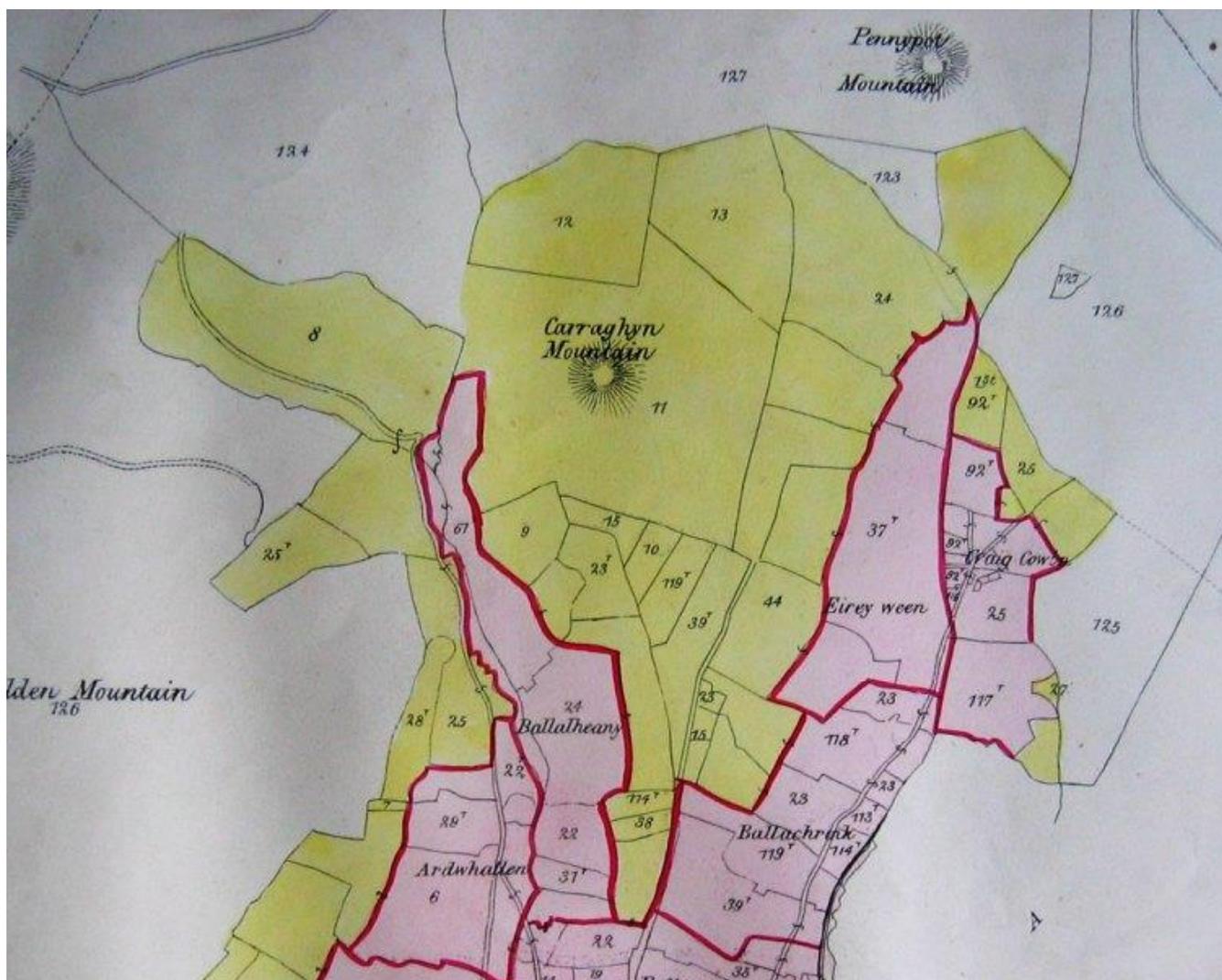
Mx. (*Yn*) *eary veen*, 'smooth, or fertile hill-pasture.'

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

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

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

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



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