

*CALLOWS  
FAMILY*

**OCCGS REFERENCE**

THE CALLOWS OF CROIT ROIE

1720--1948

The history of a Callow family, originating in the early 18th century from a small land holding known as Croit Roie in the northern part of Lonan parish, Isle of Man, is well documented through wills and land records. Their history illustrates in an intriguing way, the consistency in which many Manx families up to the 20th century named their eldest sons after paternal grandfathers. It also illustrates the custom of inheritance in the Isle of Man and elsewhere, where the eldest son was considered heir to his father's real estate. Croit Roie was inherited seven times by the eldest son in the family ... a perfect succession of alternating John and William Callows. This small farm, never exceeding 30 acres, was owned by eight generations of the family over a period of 268 years. William Nelson Callow, the family's 8th-generation owner, finally sold Croit Roie in 1948. William Nelson Callow's son and his son's son still live on the Island and so the male line survives after 10 generations. William Nelson's son was appropriately named John Robert but alas his grandson was not named in the traditional way i.e. given the first name of William. The author, while researching this family for several years, was patiently anticipating an item for Ripley's Believe It or Not. However in the Isle of Man, as elsewhere, customs change and the old ways are forgotten.

In 1715 John Callow and Margaret Joughin, both of Maughold parish, were married at Kirk Maughold. The register does not actually indicate that they were from Maughold but has to be determined by deduction. In the early Maughold parish registers, the column indicating which parish the brides and grooms lived, is left blank unless they are of another parish in which case the parish is indicated. Ways of keeping early parish records seemed to depend on the individuals responsible and so it is a good idea to scan five or more years' entries to detect any peculiarities in record keeping.

John Callow, when he died in 1750, was entered in the Lonan registry as John Callow beg. Beg in Manx means little or sometimes junior. In 1720 we have the first evidence of him acquiring land ..... a small plot sufficient for a cottage and a garden or a small grazing lot. In the Liber Assedationis (the record of rentals collected for the Lord of Mann) there is the following entry:

"New Rents 4th May 1720

Jo Callow for parcel of commons adjoining Ballacrink and Dan Loonys intack rent nine steps and fourteen paces long and six score paces broad vids file 1720 xiid 68 rented to" ..... (rest of entry missing).

John Callow paid 12 pence rent for the newly enclosed parcel of land known as intack number 68. Paces and steps are vague land measurement, but using approximations offered by the Oxford Dictionary, the plot could have been in the order of 44'x300'.

Intack 68, together with other small parcels of intack land acquired at later dates, either by John Callow beg or his descendants, came to be known as Croit Roie i.e. reddish brown cottage. The cottage and outbuildings were made of common slate and the reddish brown weathering which is common to this otherwise dark grey rock. The proper Manx name for the property should have been Croit Ruy but somehow it was altered to Croit Roie then Canroit Roie, and on the 1869 ordnance map to Croit Roie.



ORANGE COUNTY CALIFORNIA  
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Reverting to my little tale, on the morning of this particular Regatta, the first for which the good doctor had entered, he and Bert for the purpose of preparing themselves for their forthcoming trial by sail repaired to a local pub, known politely as the Castle Arms but more socially as 'the glue pot', and by the time for the commencement of their race were feeling well fortified and in this happy and confident frame of mind boarded the yacht and hoisted sail.

A bit of an argument had arisen as to their respective merits as swimmers and the acting-Coroner who was prone to a little exaggeration assured the doctor that he was the strongest swimmer in the whole of the Island. The doctor had been most reluctant to accept this assurance and as they manoeuvred the boat towards the Pier Head and the starting boat the argument waxed hot.

By the time the boat got abaft the Pier Head the doctor had had more than enough of Bert's boast and when an opportunity served decided to put the matter to the test.

Bert had leaned over the gunwale to catch hold of a loose line and Roley lost no time in grabbing hold of him by the heels and heaving him over the side.

Bert was if anything a very indifferent swimmer and encumbered by his clothes, and lacking even a lifebelt, tried in vain to pull himself back into the boat.

Every time he caught hold of the gunwale Roley rapped his knuckles smartly with a convenient oar, then stood up in the boat and announced through cupped hands to the much intrigued audience - "the Coroner's drowning rahndabat, whole call the inquest rahndabat" - and had it not been for some kind hearted soul who rowed out to Bert's rescue an inquest might very well have been the order of the day.

This little hiccup was, however, treated as a minor if entertaining event and did not in any way detract from a happy, carnival of sailing, and water sports, finishing off with a Grand Parade through the ancient market square.

Of such recollections as this, related to us by townsfolk now long dead, is nostalgia built, and we would not be human if we did not shed a few tears for those happy more leisurely days of yesteryear.

Teddy Blackburn

Erstwhile Town Clerk of the little Town.

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Please except my apologies for the delay with this months journal, which unfortunately was beyond our control, due to a late estimate from the printers and also the withdrawal of financial support from the Tourist Board.

We are very grateful for the support we have received over the past twelve years from the Tourist Board, which has enabled us to set up the Family History library in Peel and also to be able to publish so many census records, monumental inscriptions and burial registers. We can understand that in the present economic climate that the Tourist Board has reluctantly decided that their limited funds will now have to be spent elsewhere. I would like to put on record our grateful thanks for all their past help.

Editor.

A series of wills, which are included in this article, illustrate some of the general characteristics of Manx wills from the 17th to the 20th centuries. Up to the mid 1800's, spelling does not appear to have been standardized. Words seem to be randomly capitalized in the middle of a sentence and punctuation marks were rarely if ever used. The wills included in this article were copied unedited with deviations from standard spelling, lack of punctuation and a few grammatical errors carefully included. While wills written in medieval Latin were still fairly common in England in the 1600's they are rare in the Isle of Man. A few Latin words and phrases however, appear regularly in most Manx wills until the mid 1800's. Examples are:

Jurati	witnesses (male)
Jurata	witnesses (female)
Probatum est	It is approved
Decretum est	It is decreed
Imprimis	Firstly

For a good discussion on Manx wills one should refer to "A Manx Family Tree" by Mrs. N. Narasinhm.

John Callow beg had only one child whose baptismal record can not be found in Lonan, since records of that parish are available only from 1720. His name was William and in the baptismal records of some of his children, he is referred to as William Callow beg.

The will of John Callow beg who died in 1750, names his son William and the first five of William's children born prior to their grandfather's death. The will is non-occupative i.e. written after his death and perhaps rather carelessly, since the date of his death in the will is stated as having occurred in 1740 but he actually died in 1750. One wonders how often this kind of will which was very common in the Isle of Man until the early 1800's, really carried out fully the wishes of the deceased. You will note that the wills of the second and third generation owners of Croit Roie, which appear later in the article, are also nonoccupative. As with other early Manx crofters, John Callow beg was likely preoccupied with sheep raising. He bequeaths the croft to his son William during his lifetime and then to his eldest surviving grandson. The croft sheep are divided equally between the three eldest grandsons but only after their father's death. The bequests of 20 shillings to each of his five grandchildren seems substantial for this crofter when compared with the legacies received by children of some of the later generations. His relative prosperity may have been the result of his own enterprise, enhanced perhaps, by a dowry or an inheritance.

THE WILL OF JOHN CALOW BEG - 1750

FIRST OWNER OF CROIT ROIE (CROIT RUY) (CHROIT ROIE) LONAN

ISLE OF MAN

This is affirmed to be the last will and Testament of John Calow of Kk Lonan who Departed this Life about the 23rd May 1740\* being of Perfect mind and Memory at the making hereof first He committed his Soul unto god and his Body to Christian

burial. Item He left to his Son William the Crofts during his Life and after his Decease to his Grandson John Calow to be and Stand as Inheritance and the if the Said Grandson should die without Issue the Crofts was to return to his Grandson William and if He should die without Issue They were to return or descend to his Grandson Thomas and then from Child to Child as above mentioned while any of them would remain. Item He left to his Grand Children William Thomas Philip Henry and Bessy Twenty shillings a peice and the Money to remain in their Fathers Hands until they came to Age. Item He left all his Croft Sheep to his Grand Children John William and Thomas Equally between them and their Father to have the benefit of them Until the came to his Son William. Item he left Sixpence legacy to any person that might Claim any right to his Effects. Lastly He nominated and appointed his Son William Calow Executor of all the rest of his Goods moveable and immoveable what kind or nature laeves.

Wm Quilleash

Jurati

Dan Looney

At a Chapter Court at Douglas Octr. 15 1750.

The Executor is sworn in Court in form of Law and has given pledges for payment of Debt and legacys namely Wm Quilleash and Dan Looney the witnesses.

Probatum Est.  
RO Radcliffe

At KK Malew December 29 1780

Wm thomas Philip Calow and Thomas Harrison, husband of Bessy Calow the within named Grand Children of John Calow came this day to the same being the Legacy left to them in the within Will and hereby acquit and discharge their Father Wm Calow his Heirs and assigns of all and every part thereof Witness their Names the day and year above.

Wm. Callow my+MK, Tho. Callow my+MK, Phil, Callow my+MK, Tho. Harrison my+MK before me. Wm. Clucas.

\* WILL OF JOHN CALLOW STATES DEATH 23RD MAY 1740

BURIAL REGISTER STATES. 24TH MAY 1750 WILL FILED 1750

The background of John Callow beg is not known at the present time. He could be a younger son (born 1684) of John Callow of Ballaskeig, Maughold and Jane Callow alias Callow of Ballafayle, Maughold. No records have yet been found to establish this possible connection. It has been determined (personal communication with Mrs. Radcliffe), that he is not related on the male line to any of the other Callow farm families described in Radcliffe's "A History of Kirk Maughold". There is also the possibility that he was a member of one of several Callow croft families who left such fragmentary records, that piecing together their family trees, is unlikely.

One other reference to John Callow beg is to be found among a list of petitioners who unsuccessfully protested the removal of the old Lonan Church and the building of the "new Church" of 1732. These petitioners were all fellow intack holders

and their names are listed in the appendix of "A History of KK Lonan" by I.M. Killip, as well as in the church archives.

John Callow beg's wife, Margaret Callow als Joughin died intestate in 1739. The court appointed her only son William Callow beg administrator. He, however, surrendered administration of the estate to his father. It is fortunate to have the following letter of administration of her estate as it establishes for certain the correct marriage of John Callow beg and helps to narrow the possible years of William Callow's birth since he probably was at least 21 years of age to have been appointed administrator. Likely years of his birth, therefore, are 1716-1718.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE ESTATE OF MARGARET CALLOW  
WIFE OF JOHN CALLOW BEG - FIRST OWNER OF CROIT ROIE

Lonan, Feb. 12th 1739

Margaret Callow als Joughin deposed this life about the middle of December last, Intestate Whereupon this court hath deimed her sonly Son Wm. Callow Administrator of all her goods and Chattels whatsoever. He has surrendered Administration to his Father John Callow who is sworn in Court in form of Law and has sworn Pledges viz Capt. Thomas Quine and John Skillicorn.

The will of William Callow beg, second owner of Croit Roie, is less interesting than his father's, since he merely gives a head count of his children i.e. five sons and four daughters and gives no indication of his possessions or occupational interests. His four younger sons may have been like "peas in a pod" at least in stature since he bequeths "all his waireing apperil Equally between them". One son, Henry, apparently died in 1750 of small pox. He is not actually named in the church burials but is only listed as "a child of William Callow". He does not appear to have died as part of a mass epidemic where one can see burial records of dozens of children interred within a short period of time. Evidence of plagues in the early parish records reminds us how fortunate we are to live in the 20th century despite all the problems of the present age.

THE WIL OF WILLIAM CALOW BEG c 1716 - 1793

SECOND OWNER OF CROIT ROIE

This is affirmed to be the Last will and Testamentary Disposition of Willm. Callow of the parrish of Kk Lonan who Departed this Life on or about the 13th. Day of April 1793 he being then Sick and weak in body but of Sound disposing mind and memory first he Committed his Soul to God and his body to Christian Burial and Concerning his worldly effects he bequethed them in manner following

Imprimis He left and Bequethed to his five Sons and four Daughters five Shillings Each and all his waireing apperil Equilly between his four younger sons.

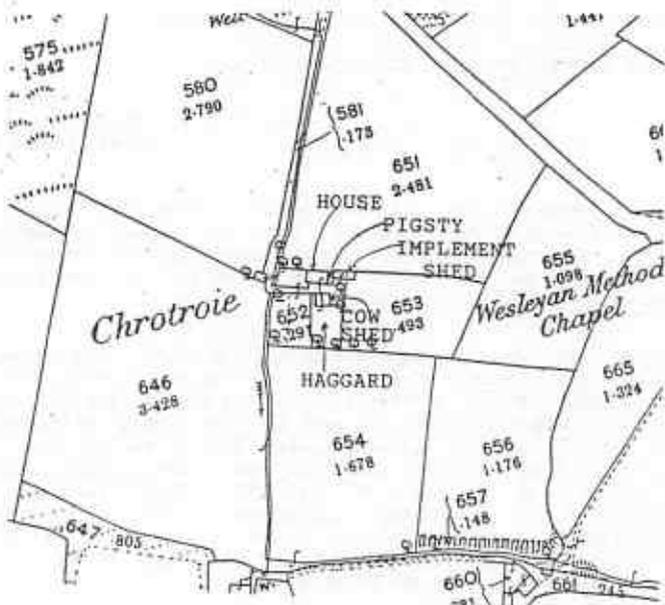
He left and bequethed five Shillings to any person or persons that may or will Claim right.

Lastly he nominated and appointed his loving wife Mary Gallow whole and absolute Exeotor of all the rest of his Goods Chatties and Effects both moveable and immoveable of what kind nature or Denomination So Ever.

Witnesses present John Kelly my mark +, John Corlett my mark + Jurati  
At Chapter Court holden Bouglas June 29th 1793.

The Exorx is sworn in Court in form of Law and hath given Pledges for the payment of Debts and Legacies namely The Witnesses of the will.

..... To be continued



CROIT ROIE



The Callows of Croit Roie

John Callow beg Margaret Dec. 12 1715  
 -1750 Joughin Maughold  
 Lonan -1739

William Callow beg Mary 1738 "New Church"  
 c1716-1793 Fargher Lonan  
 Lonan 1718-1799 Lonan

John 1738-1818 Croit Roie Lonan	Isabella 1777 Kerruish 1749-1826 Lonan	William 1741 Lonan	Thomas 1743 Lonan	Philip 1745 Lonan	Bessy (Elizabeth) 1747 Lonan	Henry 1749-1750 Lonan	Mary 1751 Lonan	Mary (Margaret) 1755 Lonan	Patrick 1758-1841 Lonan	Elihor 1759 Lonan	Ann ?
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William 1777-1862 Croit Roie Lonan	Isabella 1809 Kelly c1782-1868 Lonan	Elinor 1778 Lonan	Ann 1783 Lonan	Jahe 1785 Lonan	Margaret 1793 Lonan	Catharine c1797
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Margaret 1809 Croit Roie Lonan	John c1810-1887 Croit Roie Lonan	Mary Kerruish c1803-1875 Lonan	Isabella 1812 Lonan	James 1814-1892 Lonan	William 1816 Lonan	Elizabeth 1822 Lonan
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William 1844-1907 Lonan	Eleanor 1874 Cubbon 1837-1914 Lonan	John 1845 Lonan	Mary 1848 Lonan
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Mary Eleanor 1875 Lonan	John Thomas 1876-1929 Lonan	Nessie 1903 Caley 1875-1936 Laxey	Elizabeth Jane c1878-1886 Lonan	Annie Isabella 1880-1897 Lonan
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William Nelson 1901-1975	Ann 1936 Doris Teare
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daughter son daughter  
 |  
 son

THE CALLOWS OF CROIT ROIE 1720-1948

William Callow beg acquired lands of his own prior to inheriting Croit Roie in 1750. In 1739, a year after his marriage to Mary Fargher in the "New Church" of Kk Lonan he obtained a parcel of intack land numbered 114. Other evidence of him acquiring property can be found in a marriage contract agreement with his eldest son John and his bride Isabell Keruish. The contract states that William Callow and his wife Mary agree "to settle on the young couple half of their lands and houses and half of the croft" for the sum of 10 pounds and promised the other half after their death. The location of the "other lands and houses" and how William obtained them (possibly as a dowry from Mary's parents) has not been researched.

The will of Mary Callow, alias Fargher, widow of William Callow beg, is in the opinion of the writer a genealogical gem because it establishes firmly relationships which would otherwise have been impossible to determine with church records alone. Women in the early years tended to prepare more informative wills genealogically and furthermore provided interesting personal touches to their testaments.

Philip Callow, father of 12 children, is not mentioned in his mother's will and likely died after his father in 1793. He was not buried in Lonan parish even though all his children were born there including his youngest in 1791. A record of his marriage and those of his brothers William and Thomas have not yet been researched in other parishes. If they indeed married in Lonan, records of their marriages will never be found as 40 years of Lonan marriage records are missing between 1740-1790 possibly as a result of the vicarage having burned towards the end of the century. Some 19 of those 40 years of marriage records are however, available on the bishop's transcripts.

Another complication to Croit Roie Callow research was a family of unrelated Callows, who lived on the adjacent quarterland farm of Ballachrink, Lonan from the late 1600's to the mid 1800's. They had the usual limited number of Christian names including a fair sprinkling of Johns and Williams.

A further complication to the Croit Roie Callow research and to genealogical research generally in the Isle of Man, is the manner in which early baptisms were recorded in certain parishes. Prior to 1800, only the father's name is recorded on the baptisms of legitimate children in Lonan and some other parishes. Without a complete set of wills of both Callow families, it would have been next to impossible to sort out many of the family relationships.

Patrick Callow is mentioned first in his mother's will, even though he is the youngest son. In 1786, one week prior to his marriage, he purchased a cottage and beach lot on what is now Back Shore Road in Old Laxey. He owed his mother money, which he likely used for the purchase of this property. His mother rescinds the debt and, furthermore, gives him a few extra items the other younger children do not receive. He is of special interest to the author who is a 5th generation direct descendant. The contents of "the little barrel in the loft" is open to speculation ranging from nothing to contraband brandy. Perhaps the editor would entertain suggestions from readers.

It is interesting to note how some people change their given names at a later stage of life and so create confusion to genealogical research. For example, a daughter of William Callow beg and Mary, was baptised Bessy but became Elizabeth on her marriage and her sister Mary became Margaret on her marriage.

Because of the availability of early wills it is possible to trace female lines amongst the Croit Roie Callows more readily than some of the male lines. Descendants of the daughters of William and Mary can readily be found in the parishes of Rushen and Marown, while some of the younger sons' children born in Lonan or neighbouring parishes can't be reliably traced even one generation.

THE WILL OF MARY CALLOW ALIAS FARGHER - 1799

WIDOW OF WILLIAM CALLOW BEG (c.1716- 1793)

This is affirmed to be the last will and Testament of Mary Callow of the Parish of KK Lonan who departed this life on or about the 31st January 1799 she being then sick and weak in body but of sound disposing mind memory and understanding first she committed her soul to God and Body to christian burial and as concerning her worldly effects she bequeathed them in manner and form following Imprimis she left and bequeathed unto her son Patrick Callow the feather bed where on she lay a small Barrel and staves of a barrel lying on the loft and whatever the Demanded She had against her said son she acquits and never to answer for it together with a Crown

- Item She Left and bequeathed a crown to her son William Callow
- Item She Left and bequeathed a crown to her son Tho. Callow
- Item She Left and bequeathed unto her Daughter Elizabeth Harrison a black Gown and peticoat with a small chest and a crown
- Item She Left and bequeathed unto her Daughter Margaret Madderal a new blanket straw basket and a crown
- Item She Left and bequeathed unto her Daughter Elinor Karran a blew Gown and Peticoat with Two bolsters she had under her head together with a Crown
- Item She Left and bequeathed unto her Daughter Ann: Kermod a crown
- Item She Left and bequeathed unto her Daughter in Law Isable Callow a check apron wefted with cotton
- Item She Left and bequeathed unto Grand Daughter Elinor Callow a check apron
- Item She Left sixpence Legacy to any person or persons that might claim any Right to her Effects.

Lastly she nominated and appointed her loving son John Callow whole and sole Excor of all the Rest and Residue of her Goods and chattels both real and personal of what kind or Denomination.

witnesses:- William Cowin                      John Callow                      My x

As stipulated in their marriage contract of 1777, John Callow and his wife Isabella alias Kerruish purchased a half interest in Croit Roie for the sum of 10 pounds and the remainder was bequeathed to them on the death of Mary Callow in 1799. The couple also received dowries of 3 pounds from Isabella's father Ewan Kerruish and 1 pound from a William Kerruish. Beside the dowries, Isabella received an inheritance of 12 pounds from her mother Catherine Kerruish alias Kerruish. Only 6 pounds remained to John and Isabella after payments to John's parents. Nevertheless, their lot in life seems to have improved. In John's will, mention is made of horses. Sally a mare is bequeathed by John to his only son William and the two youngest daughters receive a young horse between them. Ownership of horses provided independence and eliminated the need of having to do extra work for the neighboring quarterland farmer in exchange for spring ploughing. Bequests of money to John's six children were double that of the previous generation and so may reflect the family's improved financial position. The assumption being made is that the inflation was not significant during John's 19 year tenure as third generation owner of Croit Roie.

THE WILL OF JOHN CALLOW 1738 - 1818

THIRD GENERATION OWNER OF CROIT ROIE

In the name of God Amen. This is affirmed to be last Will and Testament of John Callow of the parrish of KK Lonan who departed this Life on or above the 10 day of February 1818 who at the time of his making this Will was very sick but of sound mind and memory.

First He recommended his Soul to Almighty God and touching his worldly Goods and Effects he left and bequeathed in the following manner

Secondly He left and bequeathed to his daughter Eleonor wife of Thomas Corkele one guinea

Thirdly He left and bequeathed to his daughter Ann one guinea

Fourthly He left and bequeathed to his daughter Jane one guinea

Fifthly He left and bequeathed to his daughter Margaret one guinea

Sixthly He left and bequeathed to his daughter Catherine one guinea, he also left a young horse equally between his daughters viz Margaret and Catherine

Seventhly He left and bequeathed to his son William a mare name Sally

He also left sixpence unto each who might pretend a right to claim in his will

Lastly He ordained constituted and appointed his loving Wife Isabela whole and sole Excectrix and residury legatee of all his Goods money chattles interests and Effects.

The will of William Callow the fourth generation owner of Croit Roie, is the first in the series to have been written before the death of the testator. William Callow is listed as a stonemason on the 1841 census but on the succeeding census of 1851 and 1861 as a farmer of 19 or 20 acres. On his will, he again describes himself as a stonemason although his effects are mainly agricultural i.e. horses, horned cattle, sheep and husbandary implements. It was not uncommon for crofters to have two or more occupations including part time fisherman in order to make a living. Furniture seems to have been a special interest to him as he specifically mentions his table, cupboard, dresser and two chests.

John the eldest son and main beneficiary is listed as an agricultural labourer at Croit Roie on the 1841 and 1851 census. He was born in 1810 and so probably worked for his father for more than 30 years. Only on the 1861 census was he "promoted" to the title of farmer but his father who was "80 years old" was still listed as a farmer and head of the household.

Two younger sons William, a stonemason and James a tailor, both received money from their father prior to his death. What became of William the stonemason has yet to be determined but James the tailor, who died in 1892 without any family left bequests of 1100 pounds to more than 20 relatives including sisters, neices and nephews. One sister Isabella who married another William Callow probably a cousin, was reported to be a widow living in America. The author would like to trace the descendants of

this family but before attempting any research, is waiting for the availability of CD-ROM discs, now in preparation of various U.S. Census. These CD ROMs (Compact Discs, Read Only Memory) will probably be available in LDS libraries in due course and will readily remove "the needle from the haystack" as far as extracting census data is concerned.

THE WILL OF WILLIAM CALLOW 1777 - 1862

FOURTH GENERATION OWNER OF CROIT ROIE

In the name of God Amen I William Callow of Croit Roaiy in the Parish of Lonan Mason being in my declining age and through the mercy of god being of sound mind and memory do make and ordain this to be My last will and testament, first I bequeath My soul to God who gave it and My body to a decent Christian burial and I dispose of My worldly goods and Effects in the Manner and propositions following

- 1stly I leave and bequeath to my son and Heir John Callow my Share of the Horses, Horned Cattle Table cupboard Dresser and My share of the Husbandry Implements
- 2ndly I leave and Bequeath to my son William Callow five Shillings besides what he has already receive from my own Hands
- 3rdly I leave and bequeath to my son James Callow the sum of five Shillings besides what he shall and hath receive from my hand
- 4thly I leave and Bequeath to William Callow My Grandson and son to the above John Callow all my Sheep
- 5thly I leave and Bequeath Mary Callow my Grand Daughter and Daughter of the above named John Callow one of my chests that do belong to me, and the other Chests I leave to Ann Moore Daughter of John Moore My hereafter Mentioned Executor and I also leave sixpence legacy to any person or persons that may hereafter claim in this my last Will and Testament.

Finally I give and Bequeath unto my son in law John Moore Husband of My Beloved Daughter Elizabeth Moore alias Whom I Make my whole and Sole Executor of this my last Will and Testament all and Singular the rest of all my Goods and Effects of whatsoever nature or denomination soever.

And I do hereby utterly disallow revoke and disannull all and Every other former Testaments, wills, legacies, Bequeaths and Executors by me in any way before uttered, named willed or Bequeathed. Ratifying and Confirming this and no other to be my last will and Testament.

In witness whereof I have hereunto left my mark to this my name the twelveth day of March one thousand Eight hundred and Sixty Two.

1862

William Callow x mark

Witnessed by Thos Cowley Thomas Kelly

When John Callow became the 5th generation owner of Croit Roie he was already 52 years old. According to the 1871 census, he had increased the farm to 30 acres but by the 1881 census it had decreased to 24 acres. Land records need to be checked to confirm these apparent land transactions. In his will he leaves only 2s 6d to his two younger children. Perhaps these small bequests are due to his late start as farmer-owner or perhaps he had difficulties with mortgages on his newly acquired lands which should be a subject of future research. Records of mortgages can provide insights on antecedents and if nothing else establish the presence of an individual at a given time.

THE WILL OF JOHN CALLOW 1810 - 1887

FIFTH GENERATION OWNER OF CROIT ROIE

This is the last will and Testament of John Callow of the Croit Roie in the Parish of Lonan who is of a sound mind and Memory at the making of the same First He commits his Soul unto the Almighty God who gave it and my Body to a decent and Christian Burial.

Item 1 leaves and bequeaths unto my John the sum of two Shillings and sixpence

Item 1 leaves and bequeaths unto my daughter Mary two shillings and sixpence

Item 1 Leaves and bequeaths unto my William the rest of my goods monies and Effects of whatever kind or description soever moveable and immoveable

Finally and lastly I nominate appoints and ordains my son William Callow to be whole and sole Executor of all the rest of my monies and Effects debarring all persons who can claim any right to any of my good and Effects with two shillings Wherefore I have my mark to my name before Witnesses this the 23rd day of February 1885

signed by the Testaer

John Callow my mark x

in presence of us Wm. Quilleash Thomas Quilleash

By the late 19th century, the usual references to the bestowing of the body to God and the request for Christian burial, were eliminated from standard Manx wills because in 1884, wills came under the jurisdiction of civil authorities. We see this change in the will of William Callow, the 6th generation owner of Croit Roie. He bequeaths his estate to his wife Eleanor during her lifetime and then to his son John Thomas Callow. He also leaves 500 pounds to his daughter Mary Corteen. He is the first of the line to sign his name on the will and may well have been the first to read and write in English. His knowledge of Manx is reported to have been slight and so is representative of the decline in the use of the Manx language during the latter part of the 1800's. Lonan parish, however, was still a stronghold of Manx speakers. According to an unofficial survey in 1874, over 40% of the population in Lonan, mainly in the countryside, were bilingual but by 1901 according to an official survey the ability to speak Manx in that parish had decreased by 11%.

THE WILL OF WILLIAM CALLOW 1844 - 1907

SIXTH GENERATION OWNER OF CROIT ROIE

I William Callow of Ballachrink in the Parish of Lonan. Farmer, being of sound mind memory and understanding to make this my last Will and Testament in manner following hereby revoking and cancelling all Wills heretofore made by me.

First I leave devise and bequeath to my wife Eleanor Callow during her natural lifetime all rents interest issues and Profits arising annually out of the whole of my real and personal estate of every description. Upon the decease of my Said wife Eleanor Callow I leave devise and bequeath to my Daughter Mary Ellen Corteen wife of Gilbert Corteen the sum of Five Hundred Pounds Sterling. After payment of my just debts, Testamentary and other expenses, I leave devise and bequeath to my son John Thomas Callow (upon the decease of his Mother) the whole of my real Estate and the remainder of my personal Estate of whatsoever nature or description as his own absolutely.

Lastly I nominate constitute and appoint said wife Eleanor Callow, Sole Executrix of this my last Will and Testament and have hereunto Subscribed my name this the Sixth day of January One thousand Nine hundred and five (1905).

William Callow

Witnessed by William Cojeen John Thos. Cowin Laxey

A few details concerning William Callow are known by his descendants still living on the Island through reminiscences passed on by his grandson William Nelson Callow and recorded by William Nelsons children. There is also a short reference to William Callow and his son in a Manx Museum Folk Life Survey of 1960. The information quoted below was provided by Lewis Maddrell, then of Ballaragh, Lonan. The names in brackets were not supplied by him.

"The Croit Ruy was a small place where the Callows lived. It had about twenty or thirty acres of ground to it, so for a croft it was a good size, and it was more of a small holding. The old man (William Callow) kept cattle and sheep, and a few cows, and worked in the Laxey mines as well as working on the place. The son (John Thomas Callow), I remember, left the croft and went to farm in the lower Ballachrink. There were some buildings on the Croit Ruy, something like you would expect on a place that size, and included a small cowhouse and barn and stable. They had no mill on the place though, it was a bit small for that, though Callow grew a field or two of corn. There were six fields on it."

The Folk Life Surveys have, of course, family histories much more extensive than that quoted above and it is worth checking with the Museum if your family owned land for several generations and the ownership extended into this century. Some files contain confidential information and are not available to the public.

To be continued ....

COLLECTORS CORNER

We have recently purchased a copy of a book called 'CASHIN OF PATRICK' written by Maryellen Robison Hinrichs and was published in 1975.

It contains family trees and many details of the Cashins of Kirk Patrick, with descendants of John b.1801, Thomas b.1804, William b.1806, Esther b.1803 all children of 'Cashin of Patrick', if anyone is interested in the above family I can supply copies of the family trees.

There are also some lovely old photographs included which I have listed below.

1. Hannah Eliz. Crellin b.1855 with her parents Wm. Crellin and Hannah Moore taken about 1860.
2. Wedding photo of Wm. Ed. Cashin and Cathleen Quilliam, bridesmaid Mildred Cashin and Wm. C.H. Quirk. Taken in 1912.
3. Wm. Edward Cashin and Wm. C.H. Quirk taken in 1911.
4. Thomas Quane and wife Eleanor Cashin with their 3 children Doris, Frank and Laurence taken 1915/16.
5. Wedding photo of Alice Mae Cashin and Joshua Clarke, with Joshua's brother, Eleanor Cashin and Wm. Ed. Cashin taken in 1902.

.....

Laser copies of the above cost £1 plus postage and packing.

CURIOUS FACTS

Local Newspaper 1st Jan. 1828

WANTED

1. A WIFE by a young gentleman of good expectations - She must be graceful in her person and amiable in her manners. Property is no object but she must be very affectionate and kind in her disposition, all of which, with every care and attention, must be confined to him alone. To be petted faithfully and permanently throughout life is the principal requisite that will be insisted on. Any lady willing to undertake so awful a task, is requested to address a letter to G.E. Post Office, Douglas, to be left until called for, after which a meeting will be proposed.

The gentleman is light, active and amiable to balance innumerable good qualities that he possesses, there is only one drawback, which candour obliges him to confess is Jealousy. This strong feeling will subject the lady to a most inquisitorial scrutiny and risk of reproach, if, unfortunately, any of the offspring should have eyes that did not in colour correspond with his own.

CALLOWS OF CROIT-ROIE 1720-1948

CONTINUED Part III

As well as being a farmer, William Callow was a lead ore miner in the winter at Snaefell Mines to which he walked by way of Agneash. In the summer, he spent part of his time fishing from the Dhoon Glen for his own use and to salt.

Croit Roie was last inhabited by the Callows in 1901. The house then lay vacant for many years and finally became derelict. Somt time after World War 2, a later owner placed a corrugated iron roof over the remains of the house and it appears to have been inhabited again for a while, as remains of furniture and other rubbish are still to be seen within the walls of the old house.

William Nelson Callow described Croit Roie as follows:

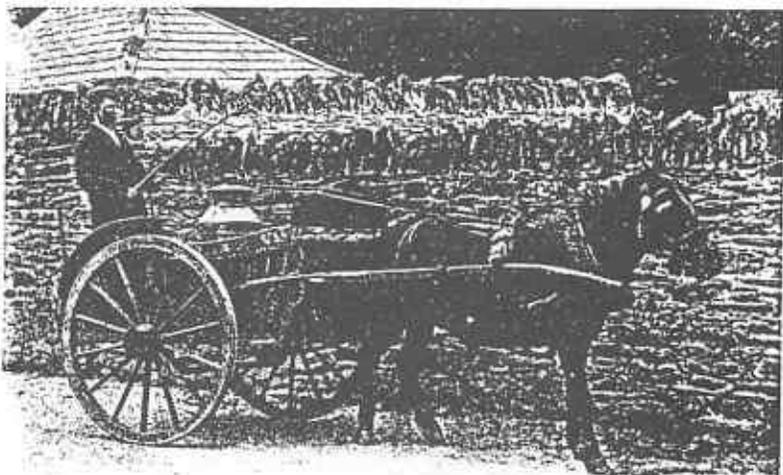
"The house had two downstairs and two upstairs rooms. There was a cowshed in front of the house and a pigsty and implement shed at the side of the house. The haggard (enclosed farm yard) was in front and to the side of the cowshed". The location of the house and farm buildings at Croit Roie is illustrated on the 1869 Ordnance map. Most farm houses and buildings on the Island were plotted on this suite of maps which were prepared on a scale of 1"-25 miles. These maps can be purchased at the Government Office or portions photocopied at the Manx Museum.

"The road ran from the mountain down to the farm. There was a stream flowing down by the side of the farm road and through two fields and out at Skeirrip Point". The mountain road mentioned above is illustrated on the 1839 tithe map.

Outlines of the individual fields that constituted Croit Roie at that time, together with the area of each field in acres, roods and perches are shown. Photocopies of the original tithe or asylum maps with details can be obtained from the Registry Office in Douglas. Not only do these maps include the outlines of individual fields of farms and crofts but also the smallest of town lots with houses or cottages. It is necessary to personally identify the maps requiring copying, as the staff do not make searches. Numbers identifying these maps are to be found in the Wood's Atlas.

As mentioned previously John Thomas Callow moved from Croit roie in 1901 to Lower Ballachrink Farm about a mile south. There he and his father carried on with mixed farming as before, but on a larger scale. They had dairy herd of 12 cows, 5 beef cattle, 2 Clydsdales for general farm work, a hen house, 2 pigstys (one on top of the other) and a large vegetable garden. John Thomas was responsible for building up a milk route in the Minorca-Laxey districts. They employed a staff of two farm labourers who were hired or rehired every year on Hollantide Day (Nov. 1). A horseman did ploughing and carting and a man or boy drove the milk churn on a cart for the morning milk deliveries and also did light jobs around the farm.





MILK CART AT LOWER BALLACRINK FARM

After his father died in 1907, John Thomas carried on farming at Lower Ballacrink. In 1918 however, after a major rent increase, he discontinued farming there but continued farming at Croit Roie. He bought a house (Glenluce) in old Laxey, rented stables for 2 horses and 4 dairy cows behind Old Laxey Post Office and rented some fields in the village for grazing. He continued these activities until his health failed and he sold all his livestock and equipment a few months prior to his death in 1929. Croit Roie was then rented by Nessie, his wife, who maintained her life interest until her death in 1936, whereupon William Nelson their only son, became the 8th generation owner. William Nelson Callow declined farming and became a grocer, first in Michael and later at four different stores in Douglas where he retired in 1969. In 1949, he sold Croit Roie to Louis McGrath and Nora McGrath of Liverpool.

THE WILL OF JOHN THOMAS CALLOW 1876-1929

SEVENTH GENERATION OWNER OF CROIT

ROIE

This is the last will and testament of John Thomas Callow of Glenluce Laxey, Isle of Man, Farmer, made this twenty ninth day of December in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and twenty eight

I hereby revoke all Wills made by me at any time heretofore.  
I appoint

Wilfred Harrison Corkil of Bank House, Laxey, Isle of Man, Bank Agent to be my Executor, and direct that all my debts and Funeral Expenses

shall be paid as soon as conveniently may be after my decease.

I give and bequeath unto my wife all my real and personal estate of every nature kind and description whatsoever and wheresoever and the rents issues income and profits thereof for and during the term of her natural life and upon her decease I devise and Bequeath the paid real and personal estate unto my son William Nelson Callow.

(signed)  
JOHN THOMAS CALLOW

Signed by the said Testator John Thomas Callow in the presence of us, at the same time, who at his request in his presence, and in the presence of each other have subscribed our names as witnesses.

H. Corlett

Leonard G. Holroyd

As a diversion from wills a lesser known but rich source of genealogical information is presented to represent William Nelson Callow, the 8th generation and last Callow owner of Croit Roie. The document in question is to be found filed with land conveyances which are held at St. George's House in Douglas. The "memorial" is a history of the last three owners of property. This history is attached to the land conveyance and mentions relationships if the last 3 owners are part of an extended family. If husbands predeceased their wives and the "relict" maintained a life interest in the property, this information is included as well. Death certificates which became available after civil registration in 1884, can be found attached to some of these documents. Land records are indexed yearly by buyer, seller and parish. There is no system of locating property by location.

After obtaining the appropriate file number from an index, the land record can be requested examined and photocopied.

The following memorial of the last will and testament of John Thomas Callow contains such information as the death date of the testator, the date of probate of the testator's will, a description of the land, the name of the previous owner who was his father, together with the date of probate of his father's will and finally the current owner which in 1948 was his son William Nelson Callow.

THIS IS A MEMORIAL of the last Will and Testament of JOHN THOMAS CALLOW late of Glenluce, Laxey in the Parish of Lonan Farmer deceased (hereinafter called "the Testator").

1. The Testator died on the 15th day of March 1929 leaving a Will dated the 29th Day of December 1928 Probate whereof was on the 19th day of April 1929 granted to Wilfred Harrison Corkill of Bank House, Laxey Bank Agent the executor therein named.....
2. The Testator was at the time of his death seised and possessed in fee simple of (inter alia) ALL and SINGULAR certain Intack lands situate on the North of and adjoining the Estate of Ballaquark and Ballachrink in the Parish of Lonan and lying to the West side of the old Highway leading from Ramsey to Ballaragh such said land containing in the whole 21 acres or thereabouts and being called and known by the name of Croit Roie Together with the ruined dwelling house and

outbuildings thereon to which said hereditaments and premises the Testator became entitled under and by virtue of the Will of his father William Callow late of Ballachrink in the Parish of Lonan. Farmer proved on the 6th day of May 1907.....

3. By his said Will the Testator devised and bequeathed unto his wife Messie Callow all his real and personal estate for the term of her natural life and upon her decease he devised and bequeathed the same unto his son William Nelson Callow ....

4. The said William Nelson Callow of Main Road in the Village and Parish of Michael Grocer the present owner of the hereditaments and premises hereinbefore described requires this Memorial to be recorded ...

WITNESS the name of JOHN KERRUISH GREEN of the Town of Ramsey Advocate and Attorney for the said William Nelson Callow hereunto subscribed this tenth day of March One thousand nine hundred and forty eight .....

SIGNED and DELIVERED in presence of:-

J. Knight      M. Cannon      J.V. Green

The author visited the present day descendants of the last Callow owner of Croit Roie in 1990 and 1991. They were located on the Island by the simplest means possible - one telephone call. It is hard to say who was more pleased about these meetings - the author who received confirmation of his research, as well as a very satisfactory conclusion and background information that provides a more interesting story than just names and dates or the relatives themselves who now have a hotter knowledge of their very lengthy family history. Furthermore, it is not every day 5th cousins of the same surname and from different continents get together for a visit.

And so a small farm which provided a livelihood for dozens of people for so many years has yielded through written records a rich hoard of family history worth much more than the value of the land which was sold for 750 pounds in 1948.

The history of the small farmers and crofters is worth remembering because they made up the majority of the Manx population before the turn of the century. It is hoped that this article will provide insight and encouragement to those members of the society who wish to research antecedents who came from such a background. The independence and hardiness of the Manx speaking crofters were the same traits to be found in their Greek cousins, the Irish speaking Blasket Islanders who were described in the "Islandman" If the Manx crofters were able to visit the Isle of Man today they would likely echo the sentiment of the well known quote from the "Islandman":

"Ni bheidh ar leithid ann aras"  
"Cha bee nyn lheid ayns shen aragh" or  
("Cha bee yn lheid ain ayns shen aragh")  
"The likes of us will never be again" or a looser translation  
"You'll never see the likes of us again"

by George Callow, 3143 Conrad Cres. N.W.,  
Calgary, Alberta T2L 1B7 Canada

Editor: Unfortunately the Tithe Plans can no longer be copied and the copy of Croit Roie supplied by Mr. Callow cannot be reproduced.

# Callows Family

108 EXPERIENCE  
COLLECTORS CORNER NO. 18

I have received a few more photocopies of documents which may be of help to members. These can be sent free of charge to overseas members.

- 44 GERMEN Copy of Deed of Sale between Thomas QUINE and wife Eleanor of Lambfield Beg to John QUINE of Lambfield and William QUINE of Glen Moar Mill Dated Nov. 1861.
- 45 BRIDE/ANDREAS Marriage Contract 1706 between Joney CHRINNELL and John GARRETT.
- 46 ONCHAN Will of Ann OATES als. CHRISTIAN. Mentions husband John, sons James and John. Daughter in law Marie Oakes als COTTER, grand daughter Ann Oakes. Clothes left to Bahee SKILLICORN, Jony LACE and Bahee COTTER dated 1679.
- 47 DUBLIN Baptism Certificate George Robert JOUGHIN son of James and Elizabeth 1885.
- 48 GERMEN James Edward CLARK illegitimate son of Cath Clark. Copy of his baptism 1873.
- 49 WHITEHAVEN Marriage Certificate copy. Robert Cowan to Ann Smith 1855
- 50 BRADDAN Marriage of Thos KELLY and Margt. QUAYLE 1861.
- 51 BALLAUGH Marriage of John FAYLE of Braddan to Isabel CRELLIN of Ballaugh 1797  
Marriage of John KINREAD to Cath CRELLIN 1797  
Marriage of John TEARE to Margaret CORLETT 1797.
- 52 MALEW Marriage of Lieut. W. CUDD to Miss Eliza HODSON 1818.  
Marriage of William CALLISTER to Jane COWLEY 1818
- 53 SANTAN Baptism of Ann McCANN 1797 and David McCANN 1803 children of Henry McCANN and his wife Isabel GILMAR. A lot of information on this family can be supplied if wanted

Editor

ORANGE COUNTY CALIFORNIA  
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY