

Corlett Family

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OCCGS REFERENCE ONLY

"WILLIAM CORLETT OF LEZAYRE AND HIS DESCENDANTS"

My story is dedicated to those Corlett forebears who spent a lifetime on the Isle of Man or Eilan Vannin as they would have called it. An earlier story "Manx Roots and Colonial Branches" told of Stephen Corlett's life in New Zealand, whereas this chapter will be about his parents and their descendants, some of whom emigrated to the United States.

Stephen's father William Corlett, was almost thirty years of age when he married Ann Cowley at Jurby Parish Church on the first day of May 1785. The service was conducted by the vicar, William Crebbin, in the presence of John Clark and William Kelley.

William and Ann had seven sons and two daughters, their eldest son John being baptised on New Year's Day 1788. Other members of the family christened at Jurby were William 1790, Thoman 1792, Robert 1795 and Stephen baptised 1797 died of the disease during a smallpox epidemic and was interred at Ballaugh, on 5th March 1799, in the same burial ground as his forebears.

A year after young Stephen's demise, Ann Corlett gave birth to a daughter Mary and in 1803 my great grandfather Stephen came into the world, followed by James, in 1805. A daughter Margaret was mentioned in her father's will, but there's no record of her baptism.

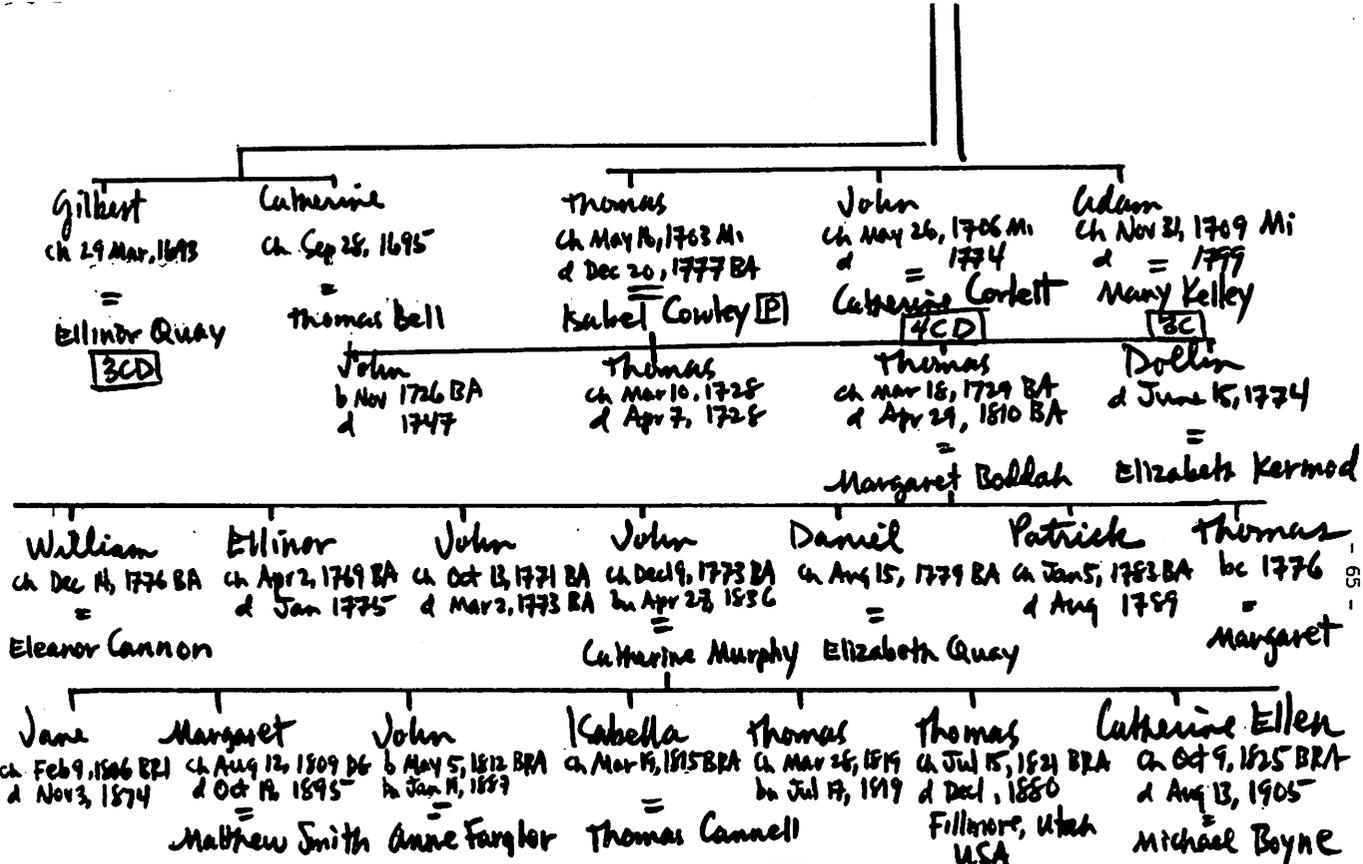
William Corlett died at Lezayre on 20th December 1827 and was interred at Ballaugh. His last will and testament was drawn up early in December. It contained the clause, "he was weak in body but of perfect and well disposed memory at the pronouncing of same." William bequeathed to his children the sum of one shilling each and appointed his loving wife Ann as sole executrix of his good and effects. Of the other early Manx wills I've read, I've not seen another using the words "loving" wife. A shilling was left to the witnesses Matthew Corlett, William's half brother, and Robert Stevenson.

At a Chapter Court held in Ramsey in May 1828 Ann Corlett the executrix was sworn in, to execute the last Will and Testament of her late husband William Corlett, to pay all his just debts and legacies so far as the goods would extend and the law bind her, to return a true and perfect inventory of the goods and effects of the deceased, into the Archdeacon's Registry and to those ends Robert Stevenson and John Corphey, a son-in-law, entered into a bond with the Rev. John Nelson, Vicar General, for the sum of twenty pounds British. The Ecclesiastical Court granted probate provided all these conditions were carried out. It was interesting to observe the way number eight was written in those days, like a capital "S" turned on it's side!

Note, the above document stated twenty pounds British. Until the year 1840 the island had it's own currency and each British pound was worth one pound, three shillings and fourpence in Manx, a shilling was equal to fourteen Manx pence. Under the Assimilation Act, of 1841, the Manx fourteen pence to the shilling became twelve, which caused riots and a company of soldiers had to be brought in from Liverpool to quell the disturbances.



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Legend	
b - born	MI - Michael BRA - Braddon
c - circa	BA - Ballanah DG - Douglas
ch - christened	JU - Jurky BRI - Bride
d - died	PCD Parents, Children.
bu - buried	Descendants Names Known to Author

- ① Caroline Smith 8C
- ② Helen Mar Clark 12C
- ③ Mary Lovina Phelps 11CD
- ④ Carlte Eliza Lyman 1C

Of the family of William of Lezayre, it is not known whether John their eldest married. William their second son wed Jane, daughter of John Archibald and Margaret Kenney at the Andreas Church on 1st June 1816, in the presence of J. Radcliffe, Parish Clerk and Daniel Kaneen. Their children born between 1816-1836 were Margaret, John, Thomas, John, William, Matthias Robert, Ann, Jane, Margaret and Henry.

On the night of the 1841 census, William and Jane were living at Close en Ellan, Lezayre with the younger members of their family. In 1851 William Corlett had a farm of twenty two acres and owned the Kerro Moar Intack. Living at home were daughters Anne, aged twenty three, a spinster and dressmaker, Margaret who assisted in the house and young Henry. The 1861 census returns show that William a widower, was living at Lonan with his daughter Margaret and son-in-law William Bateman, his occupation being given as a tailor. Many Manx crofters had two occupations as their farms were often not large enough to support a family.

William Corlett died nearly six years later, his gravestone stands near a yew tree in Lezayre Churchyard with this inscription. William Corlett died January 22nd 1867, aged seventy eight years, son Thomas died March 22nd, 1892 aged seventy one years, son John November 25th 1983 aged seventy one years died in Beechworth Australia. They are buried next to Jane wife of William, who died 23rd August, 1859.

Their son John had emigrated to Australia in 1854 where he became a miner. He remained a bachelor, the cause of his death being Bright's Disease. John died at Finch Street, and was buried at the Stanley Cemetery in Beechworth, a gold mining town in North West Victoria, Australia.

William fourth son of William and Jane married Ann Garrett daughter of James Garrett and Ann Corlett at Lezayre on 9th February 1851. Their children were Elizabeth, William Henry, Catherine Jane, Frances Anne and Caroline. The 1851 census shows that William, a tailor was living at Ballamoana, Glen Duff in Lezayre, with his wife Ann a seamstress, and James his stepson aged eight. Their daughter Caroline a dressmaker was living with her parents at the time of the 1881 census. Her brother William Henry was a tailor and had a shop at East Gate Street.

William senior, born with a club foot, somehow managed with the aid of his wife Ann to dig a thirty foot well, only to find that it was dry. He dug another, the same thing happened, so it was put into use, as a privy!

Abbey Rentals for October 1844 show that James Garrett had settled on his children James and Ann, his cottage at Glen Duff setting the rental at two pence each, with the property to be divided equally down the middle of the stair which sounds fair enough! In 1852 James Garrett junior by this time a private in H.M. First Dragoon Guards, granted to his sister Ann Corlett, his half share of the property, for the payment of Twenty Six Pounds per annum.

Matthias Robert fifth son of William and Jane Corlett, emigrated to the States in 1850. According to his obituary in the Rochester Democratic Chronicle, dated 29th August 1909, Mathew (Matthias) R. Corlett, was eighty three years and six months when he died, the funeral cortege leaving from the family home at 14 George Street, Rochester.

Matthew was a contractor stairbuilder by trade and samples of his work could be

found in such public buildings as the New York Central Station, Fitzburgh Street City Building, the City Hall, the old first Methodist Church and the Cathedral. He left a wife, son John J. Corlett, daughters, Mrs. Ransom G. Langdon of Bradford P.A. and Mrs. W.H. Shants of West Sand Lake, N.Y., seven grandchildren and two sisters Mrs. W. Skillicorn, Parliament Street, Ramsey and Mrs. William Bateman of Minorca, Laxey. It mentioned that he was a son of the late William Corlett, best known as Corlett-Wattleworth of Lezayre.

Jane Corlett daughter of William Corlett and Jane Archibald married William Skillicorn on 25th November 1854 at Lezayre. They had four children baptised at Ramsey, William Henry, John James, Walter and Louisa Harriet Skillicorn who married James Darbyshire later a manager of the Skillicorn Painting and Decorating Firm. The Darbyshire's eldest daughter Idaline Maude Louis, married Tom Charles Hughes in 1910 at St. Paul's Church, Ramsey, the Lord Bishop performing the ceremony, assisted by the vicar, Rev. H.T. Devall.

This interesting comment came from the write-up about the wedding. "Miss Elizabeth Hughes therefor was the first embodiment in Ramsey, of the recent innovation, instituted in England and known as the "best girl" in contradistinction to her prototype "the best man" who was represented by Mr. T. Park. The bride who looked charming, was prettily attired in ivory cashmere, trimmed with silk merv and insertion and ribbon sash, finished off with silver tassells. She wore an exceedingly pretty veil of embroidered tulle over a wreath of orange blossoms and carried a bouquet of white roses and lily of the valley.

Little Miss Hilda Darbyshire was sweetly attired in pure white chiffon taffees (spelt this way) and white chip hat, trimmed with chiffon and silk ribbon and carried a basket of primroses. The bride's mother was dressed in black silk, trimmed with white merv and silk insertion with black brinoline hat trimmed with chiffon and sequins." Those were the days!

A list of wedding presents were: bride's gift to the groom, a Gladstone bag, his present to her, a dressing case. The bride's mother gave table linen, her father a cheque. Grandmother Skillicorn a cheque and grandmother Darbyshire, the wedding cake and bed linen, groom's mother a tea service, Rev. H.T. Devall a marriage licence! his wife a book. A copper alarm clock was given by workmen of Skillicorn and Company, a marriage card from the Girl's Friendly Society. Other gifts included, a velvet pile cover, two white counterpanes, beaded and sequin silk table centre, case of silver salts, silver pepperett, silver butter dish, case of silver spoons and sugar tongs.

Margaret youngest daughter of William Corlett and Jane Archibald married William Bateman a miner, on 25th November 1854 at Lezayre. The Bateman's seven children baptised at Lezayre and Lonan between 1857-1874 were Anne Jane, Isabella Elizabeth, John Henry, Margaret Emily, Eliza, Jemima and Robena.

Robert Corlett son of William of Lezayre married Esther Teare, by special licence on 4th November 1821 the witnesses being John Radcliffe and William Teare. They had seven children, Mary born 1822, Robert 1828, Thomas 1831, James 1833, Catherine Ann 1836, William Charles 1839 and Eliza 1841.

Their father Robert died in 1877 leaving a will which stated that formerly of Ballaclowle Farm, he now resided in Bowring Road, Ramsey. The following legacies were left to his sons, Robert five pounds, Thomas forty pounds, William Charles

late of Balhie Farm, thirty five pounds and Mary, thirty pounds. To daughter Elizabeth, wife of Caesar Quayle of Grest farm he willed the sum of one hundred and forty pounds and his daughter Cath Ann who was executrix, received the remainder of her father's estate.

Mary Corlett, Robert and Esther's eldest daughter was nearly forty when she married William Garrett a widower on 26th December 1861 at Lezayre. Thomas her brother wed Catherine Stephen on 4th July 1857. The couple had planned to emigrate to the States and while in Liverpool awaiting shipping, fate took a hand when Thomas saw an advertisement in the paper. A miller was required to run Captain Rowe's new mill at Laxey. He applied for the position, returned to work there, later becoming the mill's owner and a wealthy man. Two sons were baptised at Laxey, Thomas Stephen and Robert Teare. A number of these Corlett's were Captains of the Parish and practically acted as bankers for many Manx farmers.

An account form sent to P. Corlett, saddler of Parliament Street, Ramsey, in August 1924 stated that Thomas Corlett and Sons and T.B. Cowley Ltd. were millers, corn, seed, manure and timber merchants also oatmeal manufacturers of Ramsey. They had flour mills at Laxey Glen and the Nunery, plus oatmeal and cake mills in Tower Street with grain warehouses at 19 North Quay, Douglas and West Quay in Ramsey. The firm was a buyer of all kinds of agricultural produce and attended Ballasalla mart on Tuesdays, sold the finest quality flours and sound clean horse feed. It is interesting to note that eighty ash binder laths were sold to P. Corlett for two and a half pence each, with a discount of eightpence being allowed for prompt payment!

William Charles third son of Robert and Esther married Esther Lavinia Kelly at Andreas on 10th February 1872 and were the parents of Annie, Thomas Teare, James Kneale and John Robert. The children's mother died when Thomas was six and he was brought up by his Aunt Elizabeth who married Caesar Quayle of Grest Farm, next door to Ballalhergy where my great grandparents Stephen and Jane Corlett had lived in 1841. Thomas was the grandfather of Olive Faulkner of Peel. William Charles Corlett's had a farm near the Grosvenor Hotel and as a result of his drinking habits, he lost the property.

Mary Corlett, younger daughter of William of Lezayre, married John Curphey in the Parish Church at Lezayre on 18th November 1826, witnesses being John Kissack and Matthias Curphey. Their family were: John, William James, Margaret Ann, Mary, Elizabeth, Thomas and Mary. John Curphey died when the children were young and their mother married again on 10th August 1850 to Philip Christian, a widower who was eight years younger. Prior to her second marriage Mary Curphey lived on the property Close Chairn, meaning Lord's Close. Mary's former croft, lies two or three meadows behind Close Chairn farm and the outline of the old buildings can still be seen there today.

At the time of the 1851 census, Philip Christian was a farmer with sixteen acres at Lezayre. Living with him were his wife Mary, stepchildren William Curphey a master shoemaker, Thomas aged eleven and Mary, also his mother-in-law Ann Corlett who had been widowed since 1827 and was eighty six years of age, if not older.

Mary and John Curphey's son Thomas first married Margaret Corlett at Lezayre on 17th January 1863. Their family were: Mary Ann, Thomas, Margaret Jane, John, Catherine Eliza, William Corlett, Edith May and Harriet all being born during the years 1864-1874.

Margaret Jane married G. Christian, emigrated to the States and her brother William

Corlett Curphey went to Rochester where his uncle Matthias Corlett had settled. At the time of Thomas's second marriage to Catherine Corlett on 19th June 1880 he was a joiner living at Churchtown. Their eldest son Arthur Corlett Curphey was born in 1882. At the age of seventy six Thomas Curphey senior died at Lezayre on 18th July 1916.

This story about my ancestors could not have been written, without the invaluable help given me by Gerard Corlett of Ramsey, whom I began corresponding with in November 1979, not knowing if we were in fact related, until one day I received that memorable letter which began "Dear Frances, or more properly dear cousin". What excitement! I'd found a Manx cousin.

William of Lezayre is descended from John Corlett of Corvalley who died in December 1645 in the parish of Ballaugh. He is the forefather that Gerald and I share. Should any readers be related to any of the above Corlett or related families I would be pleased to hear from them.

Compiled by Mrs. Frances Stewart, Greenhills R.D. 11 Invercargill
New Zealand

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CURIOUS FACTS

18th August 1815 Manks Advertiser

Married on Tuesday last, at K. Maughold EDWARD STOLE alias the Merchant aged 81, to Miss MARGARET FITZSIMMONS aged 35, both of Ramsey. The procession, to and from church, moved in the following order:- a promiscuous group of attendants, bearing a Union Jack accompanied with a drum and file playing 'off she goes'. The Bride supported by her Maids Ladies, two and two. A Fiddler, playing "come haste to the wedding". The veteran Bridegroom and a number of friends, two and two. The was brought up by a few horn blowers, whose melodious sounds are not exceeded by a concerto of cats. Nearly 50 sat down to an excellent dinner, and the evening was spent in high good humour, nor did they break up till a late hour. Dancing commenced by the veteran moving a minuet with a lady of the company.

July 8th 1858
Birthe

On the 2nd inst in THE MARKET PLACE, the wife of Mr. Jm. Kissack of a son.

ANDREAS PARISH REGISTER

January 4th 1845

States that JOHN MORRISON and MARY TEAR were married in New York on July 25th 1840.

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