

The Cowleys of Ardwhallen -  
Braddan, Isle of Man

**Foreward by Dawn Hartney** daughter of Barbara Colquitt Cowley and younger sister of Thomas George Stanley Cowley the Direct Descendant of the Cowleys' of Ardwhallan and Father of my beloved cousin Captain Robert Cowley. My mother has been researching our family history for about fifteen years now and she has had considerable success with our Manx ancestry, going back to 1721 with the birth of Patrick Cowley of Coldin, who was my mother's great, great, great, grandfather. Patrick's parents are as yet unknown to us, but hopefully further research will reveal who they were. Patrick married Margaret Brew on the 9th December, 1747 at Kirk Braddan. They had two children, William born 1757 and Margaret whose birth date we have been unable to establish. Patrick was obviously of some means as according to land records between 1759 and 1797 he was able to purchase four different Intacks, including the one called Baldalbrew as shown in the Liber Assed of 1796. it is possible that Patrick's wife Margaret may have owned this land as it is she who willed the land to their children, William and Margaret. it is also possible that Margaret may have been married before as we have been unable to link her grandson Thomas Radcliffe, also a benefactor in her Will, to the Cowley family. At the present time we do not know where Patrick and Margaret are buried.

Patrick's son William bought Ardwhallen into the Cowley family in 1832. He married Jane Teare of Jurby on the 8th June, 1799, and they had five children, Thomas being the eldest son and my mother's great, grandfather. William's Will is a mine of information and even though Thomas was left the bulk of the land, William's selling of some of the land to his youngest son Daniel and his making Daniel the executor of his estate caused friction between the two brothers, so much so that they went to court over it. According to the 1841 Census there were five houses on Ardwhallen and by the 1851 Census Thomas and his family were living at No. 47 and Daniel and his family were in No. 50.

Thomas married Barbara Colquitt of Malew on the 24th November, 1827. There were six children and one from Barbara's previous marriage to William Cowle. It was Thomas and Barbara's eldest son Thomas who emigrated to Australia in 1854. We are very fortunate to have a photograph of Thomas and Barbara Cowley taken in Douglas, probably in the 1850's. We also have eight of the letters from Barbara to her son Thomas over a period of seventeen years, and it was these letters that first introduced us to our Manx Heritage. Thomas left home when he was twenty, heading for the gold fields of Victoria. Travelling to Liverpool he embarked on the SS Constance under the command of Captain William Christian. The Constance left Liverpool on 30th August, 1854 arriving in Melbourne on the 13th December, 1854. There were 311 passengers on board, including one stowaway. One baby was born at sea and one baby died.

Thomas Cowley - son of Thomas Cowley Born 1834, died 1904 Emigrated to Australia in 1851 aboard the SS Constance; where he later met and married Louisa Wells Cowley - Daughter of Frederick Wells of London born 1848, died 1928 Thomas Cowley - Son of William Cowley Born 1802, died 1874 and Barbara Colquitt Cowley - daughter of Stanley Colquitt Born 1799, died 1881

The first letter from Barbara was written in 1856 and the last in February, 1872. The letters are very interesting for their information about day today life on the Isle of Man during the second half of the 19th Century. Many relatives, neighbours and friends are mentioned and the rather stoic attitude of the rural people comes through. For us however, the most moving and poignant parts of the letters come from the slow realisation and obvious heartbreak that Thomas and Barbara felt when their son did not come home. This was particularly so with Thomas as he was the eldest boy and initially it was probably thought he would go to Australia to make his fortune at the gold fields and then return home to continue running the farm.

Thomas did not return home and neither did he make his fortune. From the time he arrived in Australia to the time of his marriage to Louisa Wells, at the age of 37, very little is known. it is assumed most of the time was spent in and around the goldmining areas of Ballarat and Castlemaine, which is where he met and married Louisa. They had nine children, William Stanley Cowley being my grandfather. One of my great aunts was given the family name, Barbara Colquitt, and this name has continued through to my mother and my sister. With the family name comes a necklace of solid gold and mother of pearl, the gold coming from the gold mines at Kalgoolie in Western Australia. Correspondence we have between Thomas and Louisa suggests that they had some difficult times, work was difficult to come by and they had to move to be near what was available. Thomas was dead by the time my mother was born but she has very strong and distinct memories of Louisa, her grandmother. Her dignity and kind-heartedness are well remembered, and also a strength of character of the kind that, although they were related only by marriage; comes through in Barbara Cowley's letters to her son. Thomas and Louisa are buried with their eight year old daughter Grace who died of blood-poisoning, in the Melbourne General Cemetery.

Since commencing our family research my mother has discovered long-lost relatives and some that she was not aware of; she has also made many new friends. Having visited the Island for a brief time in 1972, she hopes that some time in the not to distant future she may visit again to renew acquaintances and personally thank the people who have helped her in her research. in particular the Isle of Man Historical Society Staff who over the years have contributed greatly to the project. She would also like to thank old friends and long-time correspondents Tom Cowell Snr. and Tom Cowell Jnr. of Ervy Veen, Baldwin. Although not members of the Historical Society, they have contributed articles to the Journal.

Dawn Hartney [photo]

William Stanley Cowley -Son of Thomas Cowley Born 1886, died 1947 Victoria, Australia Second from the left back row

Barbara Colquitt Cowley on the right at back, wearing the gold and mother of pearl necklace.

Barbara Colquitt Cowley -daughter of William Stanley Cowley Born 1917 Melbourne, Australia

#### LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF MARGARET COWLEY - 1800

In the name of God, Amen, I Margaret Cowley of Cregenarroo otherwise called Lagnemucly in the Parish of Braddan, being of sound mind and memory and understanding and calling to mind the uncertainty of this life, do make and ordain this my last Will and Testament as follows.

First I commit my soul to Almighty God and my body to a Christian burial Secondly, I leave, devise and bequeath to my affectionate son William Cowley, Ardwhallen with the Intack thereof, he paying and discharging the expenses of my funeral .....

Thirdly, I leave, devise and bequeath unto my loving daughter Margaret Cowley all my part of the said Cregenarroo with all the houses, goods, chattels rights, credits and effects "hereunto belonging. Fourthly, I leave and bequeath unto my grandson Thomas Radcliffe six pounds and my part of the said Crehenaroo for the term of six years provided he will stay with his Aunt Margaret Cowley to till and work the same and to all claimer or claimers, six pence legacy . And lastly, I nominate, ordain and appoints my said daughter Margaret whole and sole executor of this my last will and testament, in witness whereof I have hereunto subscribed my name this 23rd day of December 1800.

Margaret Cowley

Witnesses Robert Kelly

Present Thomas Corkill

#### LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF PATRICK COWLEY BRADDAN 1801

In the name of God Amen. the Twenty Seventh day of May. One Thousand Eight Hundred and One. I Patrick Cowley of Laug-ny-muckly or Cregg-y-naroo in the Parish of Kirk Braddan, being very sick and weak In body. but of perfect mind and memory. thanks be given unto God. therefore calling unto mind the mortality of my body and knowing that it is appointed for all men to die. do make and ordain this my last Will and Testament. That is to say principally and first of all. I give and recommend my soul into the hands of God that gave it, and for my body I recommend it to the earth to be buried in a Christian-like and decent manner at the direction of my executor, not doubting but at the general resurrection I shall receive again by the mighty power of God, and as touching such wordly estate wherewith it hath pleased God to bless me in this life, I give and bequeath and dispose of the land In the following manner and form.

First I give and bequeath six-pencce each to every person claiming and demand in this very last Will and Testament.

Secondly I give to the witnesses of this my last Will and Testament Two shillings and sixpence British, each of them (each day) they the said witnesses will have any trouble concerning this my last Will and Testament, to be paid to them my executor

Lastly I give to my beloved daughter Margaret Cowley whom I likewise constitute and make her my only and sole executor of this my last Will and Testament of all my goods movable and immovable of what nature soever. by her freely to be possessed and enjoyed. and I do hereby disallow. invoke and terminate all and every former Testaments, Wills and Legacies, Bequests and executors by me in anywise before this time named, willed and bequeathed. ratifying and confirming this and no other to be my last Will and Testament. In witness whereof, I have hereunto subscribed my name and mark to my name the day and year above written.

Patrick Cowley my X Signed, Published Pronounced and Declared by the said Patrick Cowley as his last Will and Testament in the presence of us the subscribers, viz:

John Kelly

Robert Kelly

At a Chapter court Holden at Douglas. November 9th 1803, the executor is sworn in court in form of law and hath given pledges for the payment of obligations namely the witnesses of the will.

Probatinemt.

C.Christian

John Crellin

## WILL OF BARBARA COWLEY - BRADDAN 1880

In the name of God Amen I Barbara Cowley widow of the late Thomas Cowley at Ardwhallan being weak in body, but of sound mind memory and understanding and considering the uncertainty of this transitory life, do appoint and ordain this for my last Will and Testament in manner and form following.

First, I commit my Soul to God and my body to a decent burial.

2nd. I leave and bequeath unto my son John Cowley the sum of Fifteen Pounds.

3rd. I leave and bequeath unto my son Robert Cowley the sum of Seven Pounds.

4th. I leave and bequeath unto Margaret Creer, wife of Thomas Creer, mason the sum of Ten Pounds.

5th. I leave and bequeath unto Catherine Quine, wife of John Quine the sum of Forty Pounds.

6th. I leave and bequeath unto Catherine Quine, daughter of John Quine the sum of Ten Pounds.

7th. I leave and bequeath unto Maria, daughter of Stanley Cowley the sum of Five Pounds.

8th. I leave and bequeath unto my daughter Catherine, wife of John Quine, my bed and bedding and chest of draws, and all my warming apparel, and my gold ring.

9th. I leave and bequeath unto any persons or person claiming in this my last Will the sum of sixpence Sterling, and lastly I nominate, constitute and appoint my son Stanley Cowley my whole and sole Executor and Residuary Legatee of all the rest of my goods and chattles and elects moveable and unmoveable being what kind, name or nature soever as witness my name this the nineteenth day of July, one thousand eight hundred and eighty, 19th July 1880.

Barbara Cowley

Witness by, Robert Maddrel

Mathiaa Cain

## Last Will and Testament of William Cowley (1757-1831)

In the name of God Amen, I William Cowley of the Parish of Braddan being of sound mind and disposing memory do ordain and appoint this to be my last will and testament as follows. First, I commit my soul to God who gave it and my body to a Christian burial. I leave and bequeath unto my son Thomas three cows namely Browney, Heiley and Koine bane, half a dozen sheep, the old cart and the plough and harrow for his and his brother Daniel equally between them, and to my son Thomas the two brown mares and a spinning wheel to his wife and half of the crop as well, corn and potatoes to Thomas the aforesaid, not including the crop that grows in that part of Awhallyn that I have sold to Daniel my son and he and Thomas his brother are to give unto my daughter Margaret two bales of dried oats and half a bale of barley and Daniel is to give her half the crop of potatoes that grows in the field of the aforesaid Awhallyn and the corn that now remains as well threshed and unthreshed to be equally between my son Thomas, my son Daniel and my daughter Margaret. I leave and bequeath unto my son William the sum of twenty pounds British and two sheep to Margaret my grand-daughter the daughter of Thomas my son and one sheep to John Cowley the son of William my son. I leave and bequeath to my daughter Margaret, late wife of Edward Corkhill, all the principals and interest of two bonds and security from Edward Corkhill to William Killey, the one for forty pounds British and the one for sixty pounds British secured upon a part of Awhallyn called the Park and another piece of land belonging to Ulican called the Lianfey which was assigned to me by the aforesaid William Killey and one hundred pounds British to the said Margaret of the money that I have in Ballawillyn, and the two cows the one that she has and Browney Koine Hoar, the tablecloth and the side-saddle and two chairs. I leave and bequeath to my grand-daughter Jane one sheep the daughter of Thomas my son. Daniel my son is to give to Margaret my daughter the house that she now lives in for one year after my decease free and also he and his brother Thomas are to keep one cow for one year for here free after my decease, and Thomas and Daniel my sons are to pay unto Margaret Cowley their aunt the sum of three pounds British, that is one pound ten shillings each yearly during her natural lifetime, and lastly I nominate and appoint my son Daniel whole and sole Executor and residuary Legates of all the rest of my goods and effects movable and immovable be they of what name and nature soever as witness my subscription this the twenty seventh day of May, one thousand eight hundred and thirty one, May 27th 1831.

William Cowley his x

William Caine

Mathias Clague .....

mark - Witness present

At a Consistory Court Holden at K.K. Michael, 23rd Feb 1832

## WILL OF THOMAS COWLEY - BRADDAN 1875

This is the Last Will and Testament of me Thomas Cowley late of Ardwhallan in the Parish of Braddan, but now of number "Fourteen" Backs Road, in the Town of Douglas. Farmer.

I do hereby invoke all Wills and Testamenary writings by me at any time heretofore made. I do declare this only to be my Last Will and Testament. I give and devise all my lands and premises situate in the Parish of Braddan called Ardwhallan and Colden at present in the occupation of my son John Cowley with the houses and buildings thereon and all other of my Real Estate of every nature and quality and wheresoever situate together with all and every the appertences thereto respectively belonging or appertaining unto my wife Barbara Cowley for the term of her natural life without impeachment of waste and from and after the death of my said wife I give and devise the same unto my son Stanley Cowley his heirs and assigns absolutely and forever subject nevertheless to and charged with the payment by him or them upon the death of my said wife of the following sums of money, namely the sum of one pound to my son Thomas Cowley, now residing in Foreign parts, the sum of Ten pounds to my son John Cowley, the sum of Ten Pounds to my son Robert Cowley, the sum of Twenty pounds to my daughter Margret Creer wife of Thomas Creer of Spring Valley in the Parish of Bradden, Mason, the sum of Twenty pounds to my daughter Catherine Quine wife of John Quine of the Parish of Marown, Farmer, and the sum of Ten Pounds to my daughter Jane Craine wife of Robert Craine of Cleveland in the United States of America I give and bequeath all my Personal Estate of every kind and description and wheresoever the same my be unto my wife Barbara Cowley for her own absolute use and benefit. I nominate, constitute and appoint my said wife Barbara Cowley executrix of this my Will. In Witness whereof I the said Thomas Cowley have hereto subscribed my name this the eleventh day of December one thousand eight hundred and seventy four, 1874.

Signed, published and declared by the said Testator Thomas Cowley and for his Last Will and Testament the same having been first read over to him in the presence of us present at the same time who in his presence at his request and in the presence of each other hereto subscribe our names as witnesses.

Claude Cowell  
Walter Quine Taylor

Thomas Cowley x his mark

**FOREWORD NOTE: from CAPTAIN ROBERT COWLEY - [Born 1943 - ]**

**Honouring my Father THOMAS George Stanley COWLEY the line below was duly recorded in the Isle of Man Family History Society Journal - Volume xii no 3 Aug 1990**

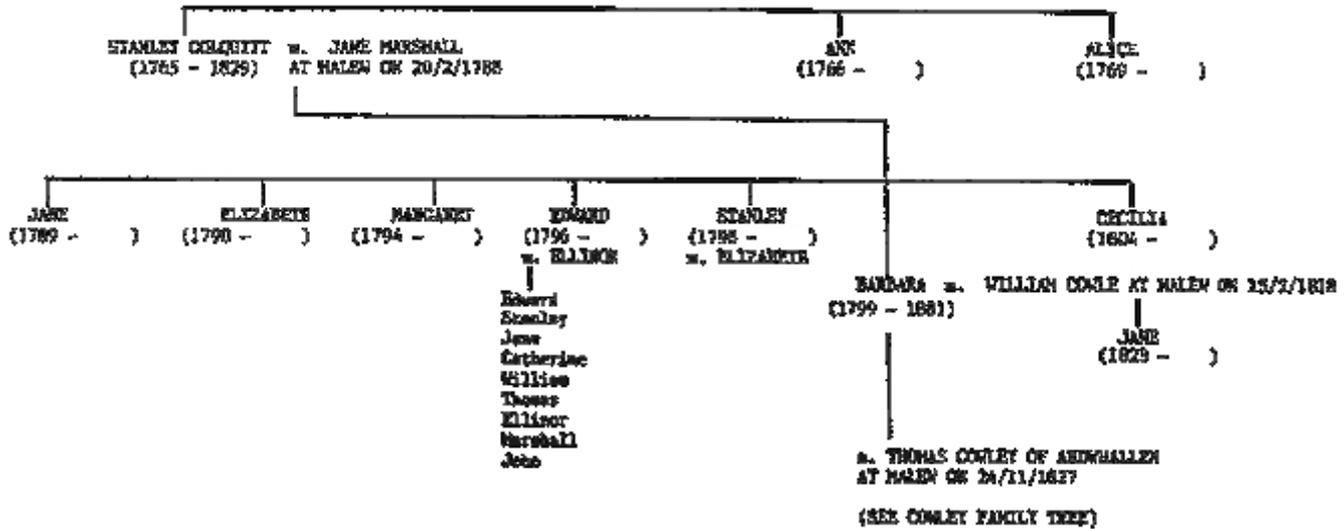
**Thomas Cowley, loved husband of Alma, brother Barbara Bloomfield, passed away 22nd Nov. 1989 in Australia. Direct descendant of the Cowleys of Ardwhallan. - Loved by all.**

**Lord Churchill said: "The Truth is Incontrovertible - Malice may attack it, Ignorance may deride it - But in the end there it is".**

**SEE FAMILY TREE FOLLOWING OVERPAGE**

CALCOT - COLQUHITT

VALENTINE CALCOT m. MARGARET ENHALE  
AT MALEN ON 18/12/1762



THE COULEYS OF ARDWHALLAN

=====

FREDRICK COULEY (1800) m. MARGARET BISH OF GREY-KNARD OR (1821-1830) ( ? - 1830) JANE-RO-BEELY

WILLIAM (ARDWHALLAN) m. JANE TERRY OF JOSEY (1757-1821) (1769-1821)

MARGARET ( ? - ? )

MARGARET m. EDWARD KIRKILL (1800-1876) ( ? - ? )

THOMAS m. BARBARA COLE (see COLQUHITT OF MALEN) (1802-1874) (1759-1861)

ISABEL (1805-1807)

WILLIAM m. ? (1800- ? )

DANIEL m. ELIZABETH CANNELL (1813-1899) (1817-1880)

m. THOMAS COULIN (1788-1850's)

Robert (1835)

John  
William (1822-  
Catherine (1825-  
Thomas (1828-

JANE COULEY m. ROBERT GRAINE (1828- ? ) ( ? - ? )  
Emigrated to Cleveland U.S.A. in 1871  
Robert Stanley, Margaret, Jane Ann, Thomas C. plus 4 others

Elizabeth, Ann,  
Jane, William, James,  
Margaret, Daniel, John,  
Catherine

MARGARET m. THOMAS OREY (1830- ? ) ( ? - ? )

8 children

CATHERINE m. JOHN OIDE (1832-1897) ( ? - 1861)

Margaret Couley  
Margaret Ann  
Joseph Edward, plus 3

THOMAS m. LOUISA BROCKLEY (see WELLS (1834-1904) (1848-1928) OF CASTLEWINDLE AUST.

Emigrated to Australia in 1854.

JOHN m. ELIZABETH ? (1836- ? ) (1847-1898)

STANLEY m. BARBARA (1838- ? ) (1844- )

Thomas C.  
Stanley Colquhitt  
John Edwards  
Francis J.  
Catherine M.

ROBERT m. ? OREY (1861- ? )

Barbara Colquhitt, Elizabeth, Grace, Harriet, Ellen, Marshall, Stanley & George.

WILLIAM STANLEY m. ELEN HILLMAN BROWN (1865-1947) (1868-1938)

BARBARA COLQUHITT m. JOHN HAZLEY (1917- ) (1915- )

BARBARA COLQUHITT (1928- )

DEAN WATK 1961-

**Thomas - Alma**  
**1910 1913**

**Barrie**  
**1935**

**John**  
**1940**

**Robert**  
**1943**

**John 1955**  
**Douglas 1958**

**Marshall**  
**Manning**  
**Bogart**

**Natalie 1976**  
**Mark 1979**  
**Danielle 1980**  
**Leisha 1982**

**Thomas above Direct Descendant of - 'The Couleys of Ardwhallan'**