

Field guide
to
st. michael's isle



Forward

This is not a work of original research by any one particular author, rather it is a compendium of some of the previously published works that exist regarding St. Michael's Isle. It has been compiled for the use of students attending the course entitled "Exploring the Past", merely as a field guide. It is not in anyway a "History of the Area". This field guide has been assembled to assist students when visiting Derbyhaven and St. Michael's Isle in the hope that they will appreciate the variety, wealth and depth of knowledge that is currently available and encourage them to seek further knowledge for themselves.

Kirk Malew

Sites considered: St. Michaels Isle and the Derby Fort, The Murrey Smelt, Red Herring Houses and The Derby Race Course.

Front Cover: St. Michael's Isle (A Daniel King print circa 1651)

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RUINED CHAPEL ON S. MICHAEL'S ISLAND.

(By Mr. A. Rigby, F.R.I.B.A., &c.).¹

(Read 19th December, 1907.)

I only propose in this paper to say something of the building as I have found it. We are promised a paper on Fort Island generally later in the season, which will probably supply historical and other data. It will be evident to those of you who know the chapel that there is not very much of it and not very much to be said about it.

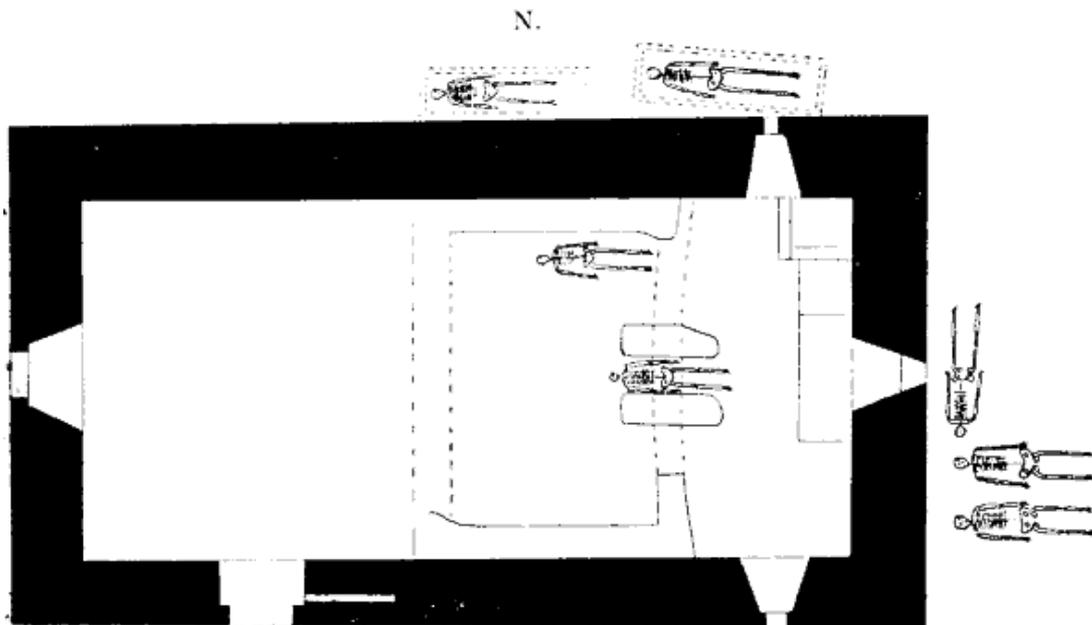


Fig. 1 — Plan of Chapel, S. Michael's Isle. Scale $\frac{1}{8}$ in. = 1 foot.

As you will see from the plans, it is a simple rectangular building of small dimensions, about 30 feet by 14 feet, larger than our keeills, but smaller than some of our older churches, like S. Trinian's, Ballure, etc. There are, however, two churches of almost exactly the same size, viz., Jurby Old Church and Lonan Old Church (the unroofed part). I am not sure about S. Patrick's Chapel on Peel Island, but think it is somewhere about the same size. Of course, most of our parish churches have been

¹ From Proc IoMNHAS Vol 1

enlarged, but as far as we can tell, the original foundations suggest larger buildings than S. Michael's and the other two I have mentioned. I have not found any sign of alteration in size at S. Michael's. The building appears to occupy the original foundations, and the walls to the light of the windows, at all events, appear to be original. They are built of local stone, probably of loose stones gathered from the surrounding caves, as many of them are rounded off by the sea.

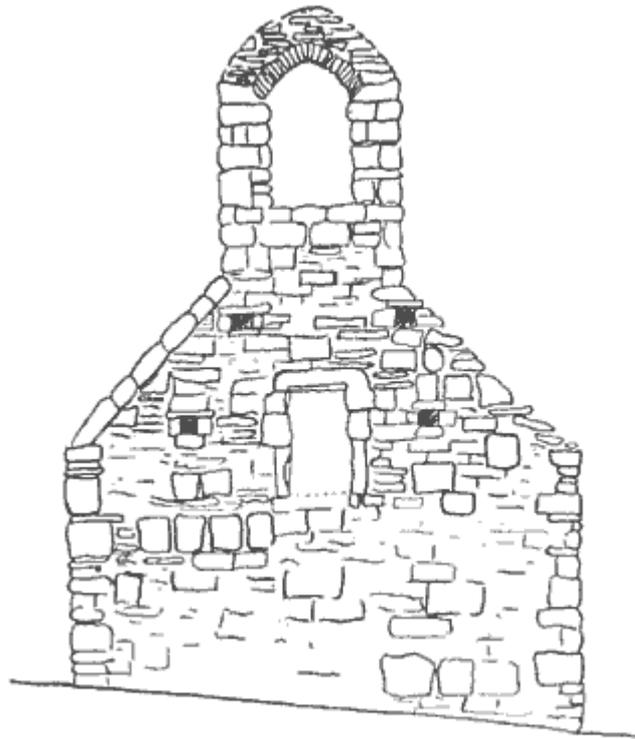


Fig. 2.—West end, from outside.

There is now no worked detail existing except the coping of the west gable and one stone of the east gable, and the head of the west window, the last probably not original. It is a chamfered piece of granite, but is not particularly characteristic of any of the styles. The window is probably an insertion, or an enlargement of an earlier opening. It is too large for a single early opening. There is no difficulty in explaining the want of early detail, as it was probably of sandstone, and anyone who has spent an hour on Fort Island during one of the not infrequent gales will readily understand that it is no place for sandstone. The rapidity with which sandstone is blown away is well illustrated at Peel Castle, and perhaps more strikingly in the modern tower of Andreas Church, but at neither of these places would it have a more trying experience than at Fort Island. The west window is likely to have been repaired or altered to its present form in comparatively recent times. The head is of granite as before mentioned, probably from Foxdale, but the jambs and sill are of a peculiar almost black and half pressed mudstone of very friable nature. The sill has altogether given way to force of circumstances, and the jambs are becoming beautifully less at a rate suggestive of their not having been there for any long period—not longer, I should imagine, than one hundred years. The other openings have been repaired with lime stone or local stone in a careless manner.

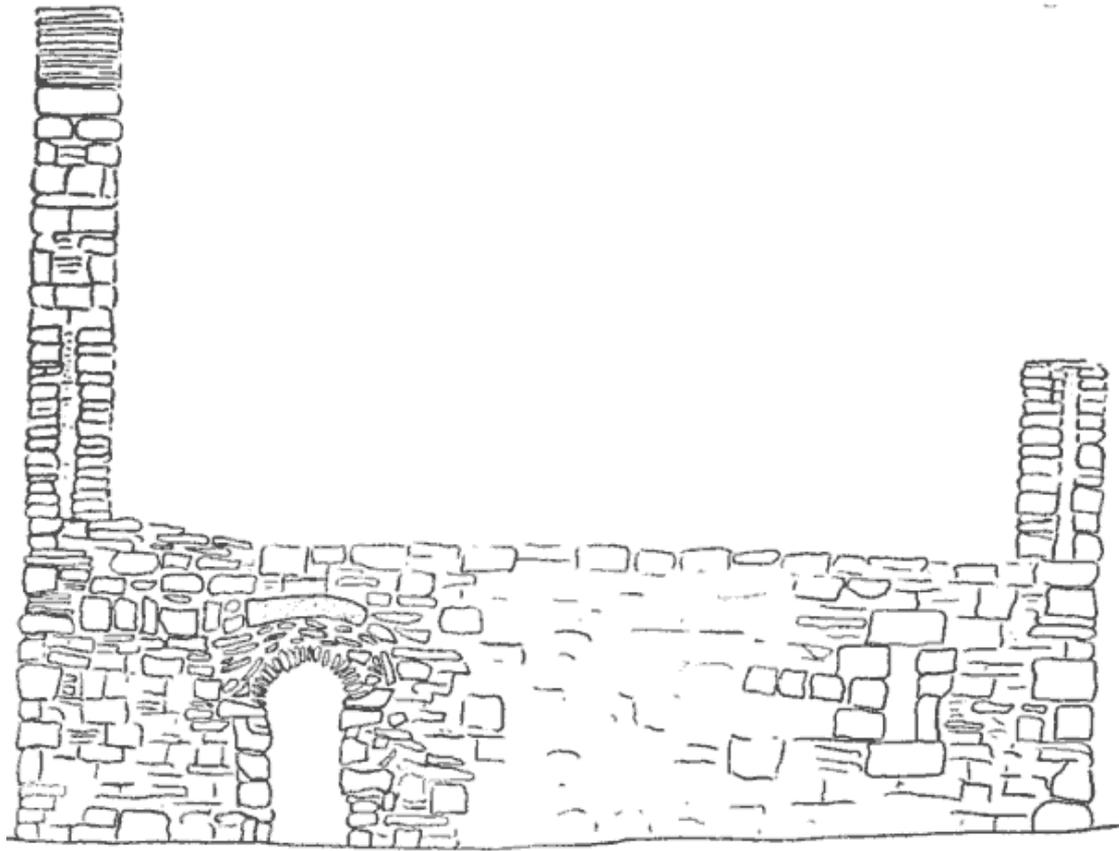


Fig. 3.—South wall, from outside.

The door is in the usual position near the west end of the south wall. Here, again, the sandstone jambs have disappeared, leaving only one small piece to suggest their former glory. There is a bar hole in the thickness of the wall, and I imagine this suggests that the chapel was looked upon as a possible place of defence in case of a raid by pirates or other irresponsible people. I am not sure on the point, but I don't think bars were used for locking a building from the outside. If this be the case, it can only have been for people to lock themselves in, as there is no other exit.

There is one theory which might account for this, namely, that a priest lived in the building. This was usual in many of the early Celtic churches. In those of Ireland he lived in the roof. Here he may have resided on the ground floor. There is some suggestion in the plan of the building that this may have been the case, as I will point out later. The doorway narrows upwards, a Celtic and Saxon feature, if not accidental. The work is so very rough that one feels it necessary to make reservations. There is, however, another feature of the same class in the building which suggests that the sloping sides of the door are intentional, viz., that the arches do not spring from the line of the reveal, but are set back. This is chiefly seen in Celtic work, and in conjunction with the door, seems to indicate that the design was governed by Celtic architectural traditions. On the other hand, the pitch of the roof is too low for Celtic ideas, but this may have been altered. The arches over the door and east window are pointed out as being very ancient. There is a general tendency to suppose that arches made of thin slaty stones are Saxon, probably because they have a sort of herring-bone look, but I do not think one can assign the arches in this building to so early a

period. In the first place, there is a suggestion of considerable disturbance round the openings, suggesting that they have been altered, perhaps more than once.

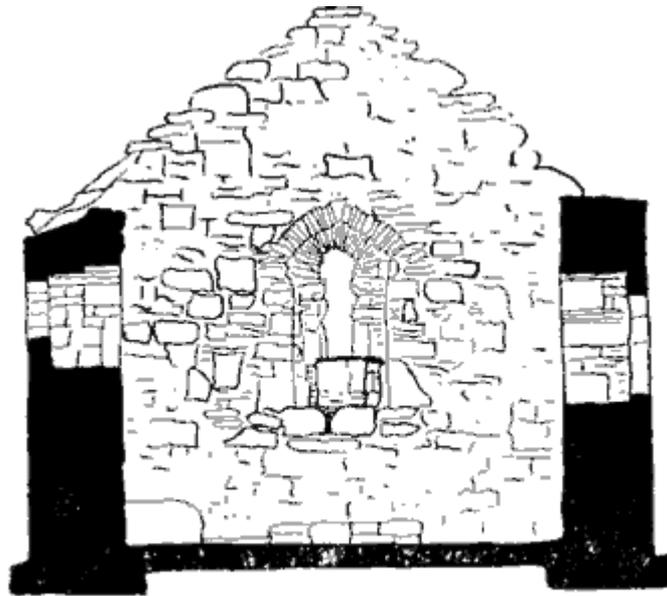


Fig 4.--East end, from inside.

Again, if you notice the outside and inside arches of the east window, you will see that a triangular stone was inserted in the arch, forming a key stone. Now, though a key stone seems a most natural thing in an arch, I have no recollection of seeing one used earlier than the sixteenth century, except in Roman work nor were springers usual in early work. These may have been inserted to tighten the arch up, by way of repair, but I cannot help feeling that the very rude arches may be attempts of the seventeenth century to restore the old heads. Of course, arches built of these thin slaty stones are seen at various periods. The east window of Lonan old church, for instance, is a local example of what appears to be original thirteenth century work, and there again we have the arch set back from the reveal, suggesting the same Celtic influence.

We must not, however, be carried away by this feature, as there may be another explanation of it. There is little doubt that the internal jambs of these openings had dressed stone quoins ; indeed, one or two of the stones remain in place. If the builders, however, lacked the means or the skill to build an arch in wrought stone, or if the arches gave way and were replaced by the present rough arches, the builder would be likely to set them back so that they might be plastered, the plaster finishing flush with the stone quoins.



Fig 5.—East end, from the outside.

The building seems to have been divided into three parts. If these are taken to be the three usual church divisions, viz., nave, chancel, and sanctuary, the proportions seem quite correct. The nave or congregational part is small, but it is not likely to have been built for congregational worship, but for baptisms, burials, and masses.

These three divisions also lend themselves to the idea of the west division having been the priest's home.

The dotted line on the plan show what the remains of foundations seem to suggest as the arrangement, namely, a low wall, or perhaps only a step eight feet from the east end, distinguishing the sanctuary from the chancel, and another wall further west dividing the chancel from the nave.

Between these two supposed walls are remains of what appear to have been benches or choir seats.

The sanctuary contains the base of the altar, with a slightly raised platform at its north end, and in the north-east corner an erection formed of two stones on edge enclosing a space about 2 ft. 6 in. square, the purpose of which is doubtful.

The chancel benches suggest that this building may have been erected for the same purposes as the well chapels of Cornwall and other Celtic countries, of which such benches form a very distinctive feature. Though these chapels were generally built quite close to, and sometimes actually over a well, they were sometimes also quite distant from a well bearing the name of the saint to whom they were dedicated. Some of them also had the font at the east end, and perhaps in this case it is represented by the unexplained remains in the north-east corner. There is a spring which has been protected at some time within 100 yards of the building, but I do not know whether it ever had any particular reputation for sanctity.

As to the remaining general features, the last roof was of Barrule slate, supported by timber, and no indications have been found of any earlier method of roofing.

The square holes through the gables were presumably put-log holes, used for scaffolding during building, and preserved for scaffolding for repairing purposes when required.

There is a projecting stone on the outside of the east wall low down, which suggests that there may have been a founder's or other tomb built under the east window at some time. If so, I am afraid the remains were removed to make room for a more recent burial.

The building is now buried some three feet deep on the north side, but it was probably not so originally, as the wall was plastered with a coarse sort of rough cast down to the footings. The desire for burial as near the church as possible perhaps accounts for the filling in, which is comparatively recent, as the roof slates were found deeply buried. In fact the filling in consists partly of the debris of the building. Numerous skeletons in lintel graves were found all along the north and east sides, and also remains of many disturbed burials. One was laid north and south below the east *window*, and the remainder with feet to the east.

There were also numerous burials inside the building; one lying north and south, in front of the altar; the remainder with feet to the east except a comparatively modern child burial in an oak coffin, lying north and south. The foundations in the middle of the building protect a burial which appeared not to be ancient. A gravestone or monument on this spot is remembered by a few old inhabitants of the district. Tradition says that the church and burial ground were used up to about fifty years ago by the local Roman Catholics, and it has possibly been in continuous use from a very early period until recent years.

Repairs, alterations, and burials have probably left very few, if any, original features. I should imagine that nothing above window sill line is older than the thirteenth century. A certain amount of what is supposed to be characteristic thirteenth century masonry may be seen, that is, consisting of stones higher than their width, but as I do not personally believe in this theory, I only mention it for the comfort of those who do.

I should say that the repairs are not yet complete, as we are waiting for better weather, but the Manx Museum and Ancient Monuments Trustees intend to put the building into such repair that its features as they are at present found may be preserved for at least a few more generations.

ST. MICHAEL'S CHAPEL, DERBYHAVEN

ST. MICHAEL'S CHAPEL, DERBYHAVEN.²

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The chapel on St. Michael's Isle is an example of the type of building erected by the NorseCeltic Christian community, probably in the earlier part of the 12th century, prior to the establishment of the parishes and their churches, but differing from the earlier keeills in that they were intended for congregational worship. Despite quite extensive repairs to the walls and the probable re-setting of some openings, the church retains the ground-plan and several structural features of its 12th century origin. Considering that it has been roofless for at least three hundred years, the building may owe its comparatively good preservation to the fact that, standing as it does on a bare and windswept islet, it has been spared the deliberate dilapidation which has befallen many buildings on good agricultural land. In more recent times, the use of its precincts as a burial-ground has been an added factor in its preservation.

HISTORICAL NOTICES OF THE BUILDING

No record exists of the founding of the church, and the earliest reference to it - an indirect one - appears to be that in the 14th century 'Chronicle of Man and the Isles' (vide edition by Munch and Goss, *Mx. Soc.* XXII, p. 106) where, under the year 1250, we read of a battle between the Manx and a 'punitive' force under John de Vesci, as taking place at '*insula Sancti Michaelis*'. While the church is not actually mentioned, the dedication is evidence of its existence. Durham's map of the Isle of Man, executed for Speed in 1595, shows 'St. Mighil's Island' and a church upon it represented by a formal pictograph. Blundell, writing about 1648 ('History of the Isle of Man', reprinted in *Mx. Soc.* XXV, p. 32) expresses surprise that an islet of not above 2 acres extent should contain 'a handsome church, with a spire steeple'. While we may disregard his exaggeration, his reference to a 'spire steeple' evidently refers to the bell-turret, a feature unusual in Manx churches at that date. A few years later in 1651 - Daniel King of Chester executed a small sketch, entitled 'St. Michiel's Iland' (*Brit. Mus.* 0/n 21739, add. 27362; photostat copy in *Mt. Mus.*) which was used to form part of the topographical framework of a map accompanying Chaloner's 'Short Treatise of the Isle of Man,' 1656 (reprinted as *Mx. Soc.* X). King's viewpoint (described in error as from south west by south) is actually that from the site of Ronaldsway in the north west; it shows the chapel as roofless, but with both high-pointed gables standing, the western gable bearing a bell-turret with a single opening. (The figuring of a bell-turret at this date is emphasised, in view of a widely-current belief that the feature is a recent addition; in fact, the original turret became dilapidated and unsafe (vide *Manx crosses*, 1907, Plate II, Fig.6) and was rebuilt to a crude semblance of the original design, in 1928, vide p.27).

² From Manx Archaeological Survey, Sixth Report by J.R. Bruce

Other references to the building, or to some of its features, include that by David Robertson (*A Tour through the Isle of Man*, London, 1794, p. 57) who records that 'the remains of an altar piled up with rude stones' were visible within. A water—colour drawing entitled 'North—east View of Derby Haven, 1795' by John 'Warwick' Smith, now in the Manx Museum Art Gallery, includes a glimpse of the building, but on a scale so small that the brushwork fails to show detail in the turret. The Rev. J. G. Cumming (*The Isle of Man*, 1848, PP. 91—2) has left a verbal description of the building as he knew it a description which has served many later writers who found it easier to copy than to visit the site for themselves. Cumming drew attention to the character of the arches above the door and east window, and to other features, in terms which cannot be bettered, but his 'three stone steps' in the north—east corner 'which may have served as an ambo or pulpit' are not now recognisable in the two slabs on edge which remain in that position.

Sir Henry Dryden, who visited the Isle of Man in 1853, has left a useful sketch of the chapel (reproduced in Kermode and Herdman, *Manks Antiquities* 2nd ed., 1914, p 121, see sketch below) from which the condition of the building at that time can be seen.



THE BURIAL GROUND

The OS. map, 6 in., 1870, shows the burial—ground, surrounded by a bank, as an irregularly quadrangular area, measuring about 200 ft. x 100 ft., and this bank is still traceable for most of its course. Whether this is the original enclosure of a keeill which may have stood on the site, or a feature of the 12th century building, is not now evident, but the space has been used for burial over a very long period. Lintel—graves have been found, not all of them in the usual east and west position, on the north and east sides of the church and also within it, while burials of more recent date including those of shipwrecked mariners (Feltham, *A Tour through the Island of Alan* in 1797 and 1798, Bath, 1798) have been made here, some marked by headstones (no longer to be seen) dated within the last two centuries. In comparatively recent times, the small Roman Catholic community in the South of the Isle of Man used the area as their burial - ground [J. Welch- Anon., 'A Six Days' Tour through the Isle of Man', Douglas, 1836), and this practice continued at least until 1870.

It is doubtless the use of the ground adjoining the ancient church as a burial -ground, until almost within living memory - a practice known elsewhere in Man and very widespread in Ireland which has contributed to the comparatively good preservation of the building as a whole.

‘ST. MICHAEL’S FAIR’.

Before leaving aside what may be called ‘historic’ references, mention should be made of ‘St. Michael’s Fair’, which seems to have survived until about 1820. According to J.J. Kneen (‘Manx Fairs and Festivals’, Proc. N.H.A.S. III, No. 1, pp. 76-77) a fair so named was held at Ballasalla on 19th September, and in the 18th century at Castletown on various dates from October 3rd to 15th ; he believes that it was originally held in connection with the church on this islet.

RECENT STUDIES OF THE BUILDING.

Both the Isle of Man N.H.A.S. and the Manx Museum Trustees have given considerable attention to the remains. In August 1896, G. Patterson made a series of measurements and notes (YL.M III, p. 198) which, notwithstanding some obvious printers’ errors, form a useful guide to conditions at that time. In 1907, following a report of damage at the hands of vandals, the Museum and Ancient Monuments Trustees became guardians of the building, and at once undertook measures of repair and protection (Trustees’ 3rd Ann. Rept., 1907, p 6) which included pointing the walls and capping them with cement, inserting a tie-rod and fitting an iron gate in the doorway; There was also some clearing and levelling of the interior. In the same year, the Trustees invited one of their number, the architect Armitage Rigby, F.R.I.B.A., to make a survey of the building. He communicated the results of this study to N.H.A.S. in December 1907 (Proc. N.H.A.S. I, No. 8. pp. 415-420), while the plans and sketches accompanying his paper were deposited in the Museum Library (Trustees’ 4th Ann. Rept. 1908, p. 19). Rigby’s measurements and drawings, though not always exactly followed, have formed an invaluable basis for a new survey. Briefly, Rigby believes that the building stands on its original foundations, showing no sign of alteration in size or plan, and that the walls - up to the level of the window- openings and in some places higher appear to be original. Any masonry mouldings around door and windows have almost entirely disappeared in the exposed situation, and this makes exact dating difficult. Then, too, there is evidence of some repair-work; at the west window, for example, the chamfered lintel is clearly a late insertion above an opening which is itself too large for a building of the period, while its sill and jambs, made out of the blackish fissile stone from the Poyllvaish beds³, are so rapidly disintegrating as to suggest that they cannot have been long in that position. Rigby illustrates his descriptions with sketches of masonry- detail (bc. cit., his Figs. 2, 4, 6) which are practically ‘stone-perfect’, and it is this fact which throws into a more extraordinary light his description and sketch (bc. cit., p. 417 and his Fig. 3) of the doorway in the south wall. This, he says, had sandstone jambs which have disappeared except for one small piece; the masonry was ‘very rough’ and the opening narrowed upwards, a distinctively ‘Celtic’ feature. These claims, both literal

³ Here Bruce, as a marine biologist, should have known better. The stones are not volcanic but rather the holes in the stone have been caused by the activities of Piddocks

and pictorial, are at variance with the facts. The jambs of the doorway consist of selected blocks of the local limestone, and show no perceptible convergence upwards.



Lest it should be thought that the present form of the doorway is due to ill—advised reconstruction at a date subsequent to Rigby’s survey, 1907, attention should be drawn to Cumming’s description of the opening in 1848 (*The Isle of Man*, p. 92) and Kermodé’s in 1904 (*Manks Antiquities*, 1st. Ed., p. 88) both of which are in substantial agreement with the existing structure. It is unfortunate that Kermodé, when revising *Manks Antiquities* (2nd. Ed., 1914, p 120) has accepted Rigby’s description almost verbatim.

The ‘clearing’ of the interior of the building prior to Rigby’s survey may have involved actual excavation, but this is not specifically mentioned. In the course of the work, however, there were revealed what are described as ‘the remains of foundations’ of two transverse walls, dividing the inside area into three parts (a) an easternmost section containing the base of the altar and an indeterminate structure to the north of it; (b) a middle section, flanked on the north and south sides by what appear to be the bases of stone benches along the walls; and (c) a slightly larger western section in which is the doorway into the church. Rigby suggests that this latter portion may have been a priest’s cell or lodging - a feature to be seen in a similar situation in several Irish churches of this period. It should be noted, however, that in this instance there is no other doorway into the Church than that into the supposed ‘cell’, and that the existence of a cell in this position would impose unusual proportions upon the remaining part; i.e. the church proper. This is not, however, to rule out the possibility of a resident cleric, who may have had his abode, again as in some Irish examples, in the roof-space above the west end of the church - indeed, the existence of a bar-hole at the doorway (vide p 26) presupposes that there would be someone inside to bar it.

THE DATE OF THE BUILDING

Reference has already been made to the difficulty of assigning a date to a structure practically devoid of 'dateable' features, whether of construction or ornament. Rigby, who was well acquainted with Manx vernacular building, suggested on general grounds the probability of an early 13th century origin, while admitting that some items, e.g. the east window opening (though not in his view the arch above it), possessed features usually associated with the previous century. The east window, in fact, has provided the basis for other and more recent estimates of the date. The late P. M. C. Kermodé, in conversation with the writer at the site in 1929, held that the whole of the east window, with its thin voussoirs, flat sill and occluding slab, was 'original' - the two latter features, indeed, having been noted by him in several keeills. In the same year, during a meeting of the Cambrian Archaeological Association, in the course of which St. Michael's was visited, the architect H. Harold Hughes, who had an unrivalled knowledge of early Welsh church architecture, drew attention (*Arch. Camb.* LXXXIV, 1929, p 349) to the narrow opening and unbroken splay, and inclined to date the feature to the latter part of the 12th century. Rigby (bc. cit.) had earlier maintained that while the opening of the east window was possibly of the 12th century, the arch above it, as also that above the doorway, was in fact a 17th century attempt to restore early work. Apart from the fact that restoration of a building of this character would be unlikely in the 17th century, the occurrence of this type of arch is recognised in quite early Romanesque work in Scotland (*W. D. Simpson, The Celtic Church in Scotland, Aberdeen, 1935, pp. 112-13*), and continued in use there until the 12th century it appears to be of Northumbrian origin.

To summarise, it may be unwise, in view of the meagre evidence and somewhat divergent views expressed, to attempt a dating closer than 'about the 12th century' [*A.M.C.*] 'The Ancient and Historic Monuments of the Isle of Man', *Manx Museum Handbook, 1958, p. 42*). There would, of course, be minor repairs during the building's period of use, in pre-Reformation times, but after that, little seems to have been done until the 'restorations' early in the present century.

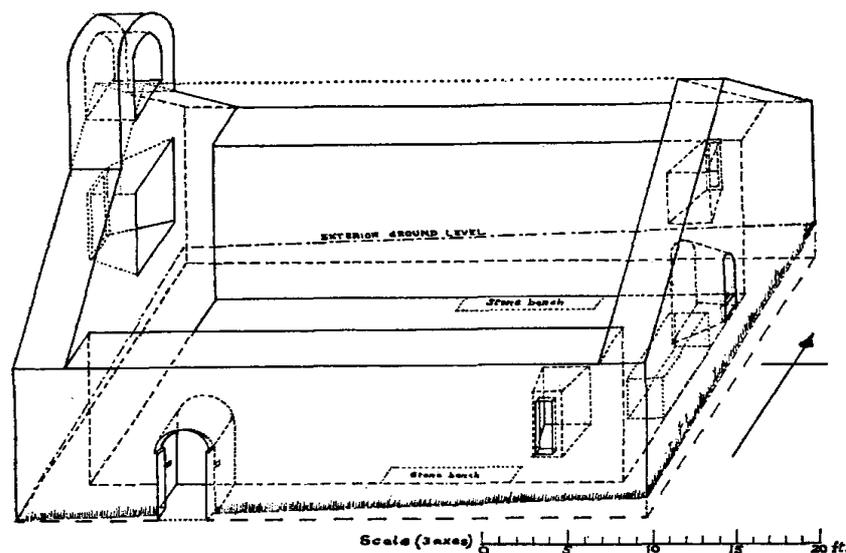


FIG. 6. ST. MICHAEL'S CHAPEL, MALEW. *Isometric drawing*

PRESENT CONDITION OF THE BUILDING - GENERAL.

In view of the importance of the building, it was thought desirable to make an entirely new series of measurements (while using and checking Rigby's figures - q.v.- so far as they were available) and to put on record a detailed description of the masonry and construction. The measurements have been plotted in the form of an isometric drawing [Fig 6] from which the dimensions of detail can be read off on any of the three axes. This presentation is also useful in that it conveys a quasi-visual impression of the building. Such a drawing, obviously, takes no account of minor losses of masonry, etc., from wall-tops and around openings.

The building is seen to be situated on a sloping foundation, the ground-level at the north-east corner being about 2 ft. higher than that at the south-west, with a fairly even gradient between these two points. Internally, the 'floor' is horizontal, at about 6 in. below the sill of the doorway at the south-west and appears to be approximately at its original level.

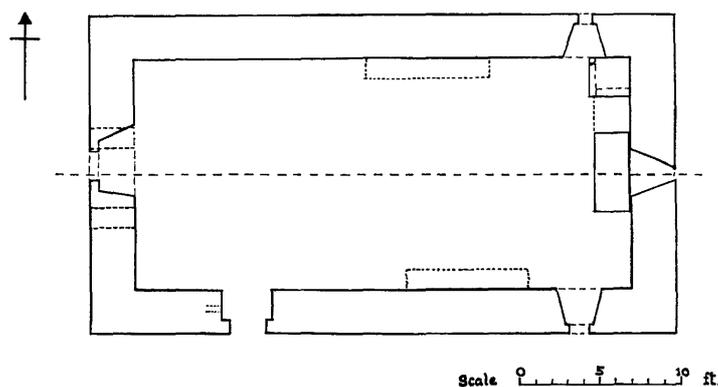


FIG. 7. ST. MICHAEL'S CHAPEL, MALEW. *Plan*

Reference to the Plan [Fig. 7] shows that the inside dimensions are 31ft. x 14ft. 6 in. - a ratio of 2.13 :1. The thickness of the walls, which varies slightly from point to point, averages 2 ft. 10 in. The side walls, for the most part standing to their original height, nowhere exceed 10 ft. The slopes of the gables, produced, indicate a probable ridge-height of about 20 ft., and a pitch (the angle with the horizontal) of about 45° an angle which would be quite compatible with a roof of the heavy 'Manx slates', of which some remains have been found among the floor-debris.

The building material is of a most varied character - roughly squared limestone blocks, with pieces of volcanic ash⁴ and agglomerate, from outcrops at Scarlett three miles to the south-west⁴, together with shore boulders, all levelled up with slaty rubble. The masonry shows little or no attempt at coursing, though the lower levels in all the walls have a preponderance of larger squared blocks with more or less horizontal infilling. A representative length of such walling - part of the north wall, inside is illustrated.

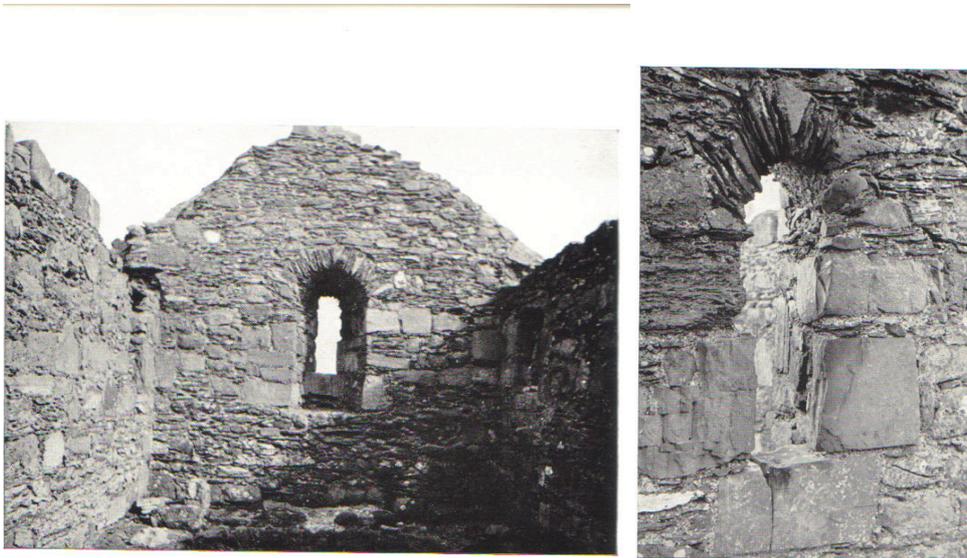
⁴ These are not volcanic stones, rather they are the work of Piddocks on Limestone



The original lime-mortar, as seen where not obscured by later pointing or rendering, contained calcined sea—shells, and is of a very resistant quality, as noted by Lamplugh (*The Geology of the Isle of Man*, 1903, p. 566).

EAST GABLE.

The masonry here is typical of that throughout the building; squared limestone blocks occur as quoins and around the lower part of the window-opening.



A narrow round-headed window,⁵ central to the gable, is 10 in. wide on the outer face, splaying to 3 ft. on the inside; the splay is unbroken throughout the thickness of the wall, so that the minimum width of opening is in the plane of the outer surface. Externally, the window appears to have a height of only 3 ft. 6 in., but as seen from within, the height is over 5 ft., of which the lower portion is occluded by a vertical slab. As a result of this, the sill and lower part of the opening, above the altar, forms a recess 3 ft. wide and 2 ft. deep, of which the bottom, i.e. the sill proper, is 4 ft. 3 in. above the inside floor-level. A conical depression, 1 1/4 in. in diameter, central to the lower framing stone may have been the seating of a rotating shutter for use in inclement weather. The arched head of the window, on both faces of the wall and throughout its thickness, is made up of very thin slate voussoirs; these are not set radially to the curve of the arch, but to a steeper angle, the effect being obtained by the use, at the springing of the arch on either side, of one or more steeply-wedged voussoirs of more substantial character than those of the arch itself. A markedly

⁵ Rigby's sketch (loc.cit. Fig 4) showing an obtusely-pointed arch above the window is misleading in this respect

prismatic keystone crowns the arch on either face, and a slight but distinct ledge marks the junction of the arch with the jambs the arch being set back somewhat less than one inch - a device, in Rigby's view, to ensure that when the rough soffit was plastered, it should finish flush with the plane of the reveals.

As already observed, the remains of the altar-the rough blocks of its lowest level occupy a space of 5 ft. x 2 ft. 4 in., in the middle of the east wall.



To the north, a slightly raised platform occupies the space between the altar and a remarkable structure in the north—east angle of the church, consisting of two slabs, at right-angles and on edge, forming with the church walls an enclosure about 2 ft. 6 in., square-too small for a tomb.



Doubtless originally covered by a slab or lid, the structure may have functioned as a 'safe' for the church valuables, or even contained a reliquary.

Returning to the walling, the apex of the east gable has lost a foot or two of its original height, and the slopes have lost nearly all their coping stones, but the remains of a rebate to house the eastern-most of the roof-couples may be seen on both slopes. Rigby (*loc. cit.*) refers to a stone, projecting from the east wall, low down on its outer face, suggesting 'a founder's or other tomb' this is not now to be seen. There is a put-log hole on the south side of the window.



SOUTH WALL.

A square-headed window-opening near the eastern gable, is about 1 ft. wide externally, and 3 ft. 3 in., high, splaying to 2 ft. 8 in. wide within. The sill slopes slightly to the inside and the head of the opening is spanned by two lintels which together make up the wall— thickness of 2 ft. 10 in., the opening is framed by a square fillet, 7 in. deep, worked on the surrounding blocks, the edges of which are not chamfered.

Beginning at 2 ft. westwards of the window, within the building, and aligned at about 1 ft. 4 in. from the —wall are several large slabs set edgewise in the ground.



These, when they were built-up and suitably capped, might well have served, as Rigby remarks, as a choir-bench. projecting from the eastward end of this 'bench', a rough unworked stone (which has its counterpart on the other side of the church) marks all that now remains of the eastern 'transverse division' (it may well have been only a step) ; as for the more westerly division, also reported by Rigby, no remains are now to be seen. It should be noted that these divisions have left no off sets or scars on the walls, so that they were presumably of a very slight character, as P. M. C. Kermodé remarks (Proc. N.I.A.S. II, No. 4. p. 469) in connection with similar traces at another site.

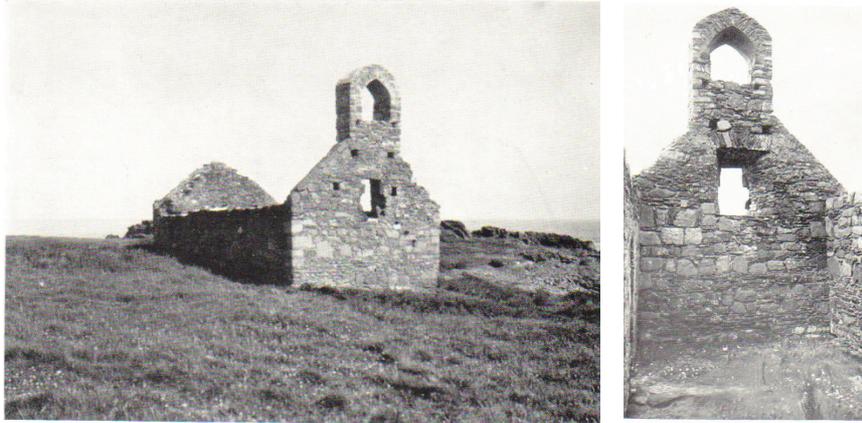
The doorway, 2 ft. 5 in. wide on the outer face, is 9 ft. from the south-west angle. Its round head is made up, like that of the east window, of thin slateyvoussoirs set at a very steep angle as in the case of the east window also, the arch is set back about one inch from the reveal on each side, and the soffit has at some time been rendered with a coarse gritty mortar, now almost entirely fallen away. In contrast with the east window, there is no keystone on either face of the doorway-arch. Reference has already been made to Rigby's view that the doorway was originally flanked by sandstone mouldings ; there is no structural suggestion in the existing limestone jambs which might point to such an arrangement. A bar-hole in the eastern side of the doorway, shown on Rigby's plan (loc. cit. his Fig. 1) has been blocked, possibly when the iron gate was fitted, but the shallow socket into which the bar shot on the western jamb has survived.

Immediately above the arch, on the outer face of the wall, several layers of masonry - they can hardly be described as 'courses' follow its curve, while above these again, but still a foot or so below the wall-top, is a massive block of a vesicular volcanic stone,⁶ 3 ft. 6 in. long, roughly dressed to a shallow curve and set so as to give the appearance of a 'relieving arch' above the opening. At ground level, a sill-stone is set across the opening, from which there is a step-down of about 6 in. to the floor within.

⁶ Not Volcanic stone, but Limestone attacked by Piddocks

WEST GABLE

In construction similar to the other walls, the most conspicuous feature in the west gable is a rectangular window-opening.



The square framing-stones, which survive only in the upper part of the window, are set flush with the outer face of the wall as elsewhere, and are brought to a plain chamfer around the opening. The lower part of the framing, with its adjacent masonry, has fallen away but a flat sill remains, about 9 ft. above floor-level, on the inside face, so that the size of the actual opening can be estimated as 4 ft. 6 in. high by 1 ft. 6 in. wide. The opening is not central to the gable, being offset about 3 in. or 4 in. towards the north side; the internal splay, also, is wider on this side. The flat head of the opening, on the inside, takes the form of a 'false lintel', consisting of steeply-raked slabs, set edgewise, on either side of a wedge-like keystone. The entire opening, from its size and constructional irregularity, appears to be a late insertion, replacing a much smaller window, probably a round-headed lancet, of the original building. The window is not recognisable as such in King's sketch of 1651 but there is an indeterminate mark where it should be.

The west gable retains the coping of its northern slope and surmounting the gable, is a bell-cote entirely rebuilt in 1928. Comparison of photographs taken before the reconstruction (*Manx Crosses*, 1907, Plate II, Fig.) and afterwards [Plate 1111, in 1928, shows that, apart from the more obvious crudities of the new workmanship, the new bell- opening is so constructed that the line of the roof-ridge would fall within it! There are several put-log holes irregularly disposed on this gable.

NORTH WALL.

A square-headed window-opening, near the east end of this wall, is a counterpart to the one, already described, on the south side of the altar. At this north window, however, repairs and rebuilding have altered the original character. Dryden's sketch of 1853, shows the upper part of the window and adjacent masonry as missing; the missing stonework has been replaced, but the weathering of fifty years now makes it difficult to judge the extent of the new work. As it now stands, the east side of the opening is formed of rubble masonry, the west side, externally, by a

single jamb-stone, of a coarse grit; this is dressed to a square edge around the opening, chamfered at the external angle. Let into this stone, at about its mid-height, is the rusted remnant of an iron bar. The shape and character of this stone, and its glazing-bar, raise the possibility no more of its having been taken from the ruins of the nearby early 18th century smelt-house {J.R.Bruce Journal Manx Mus Vi No 78 pp 52-4] The window has a flat sill, and the lower part of the opening is occluded by built-up masonry - not, as in the case of the east window, by a single slab set on edge.

At the foot of the north wall, within the building, there is an alignment of slabs directly opposite to a similar grouping on the south side of the church (p. 26), where they have been tentatively identified as the remains of a choir-bench.

THE RUINED CHAPEL IN ST. MICHAEL'S ISLE. A LEGEND.⁷

AT a distance of about a mile and a half from Castletown, the metropolis of the Isle of Man, round the head of Derby Haven, lies St. Michael's Isle, on which are to be met with the ruins of the little chapel of St. Michael (in Manx, *Keeihll Vaayl*), from which it takes its name, and which has been in its present roofless state for more than two hundred years. The length of the chapel is 31 feet, and the breadth 14 ; the height of the side walls 10 feet ; and the date of the building may be about the 12th century. There is an ancient graveyard attached to it, which is now principally used as a place of interment by the Roman Catholics.

Many years ago there was a famous priest, who gave up all that he possessed, and came to teach Christianity in these parts. He was not a Manxman, though he could talk with the people in their own tongue. He lived in a poor house at Derby Haven, but for all that there was not a sick or needy person near but what he helped with medicine and food, as well as spiritual advice. Along with a kind heart he had a kind face and voice, so that the little children would run out to laugh and kiss his hand when they saw him pass. For a long time he used to gather the people together in the winter evenings in one of the largest rooms in the hamlet, while in the summer he would preach to the fishermen and their families on the seashore.

After some years of this intercourse, he proposed to the men that they should build a small church on the Island. St. Michael, he said, had appeared to him in a vision, and pointed out a chapel on a flat space upon the grass close to the rocks ; he had seen it, he said, quite plain in his dream the light was shining out of the windows ; he had crept up under the wall, and looked in, and lo ! he saw himself kneeling before a beautiful costly altar, and he recognised the congregation as themselves.

Now, while they were full of admiration at this dream, the good father bade them rise up and follow him to the place where he had seemed to see the chapel, and lo ! when they got there they found the ground marked out where the foundations of the chapel now stand, and a border drawn some distance around on which that wall was built, which you can now trace in the grass, just as if some one had turned up a furrow on the bare earth, and then laid a carpet of turf upon it. And when the men of the place saw the marvel, and how truly the good father's dream had been from Heaven, he bade them kneel down there at once, while he prayed to St. Michael and all angels that these people would not leave off the good work till they had built a chapel to him. Thus they were led to begin, and promised to give a portion of their time till the little church should be finished.

⁷ [From Mona Miscellany second series Manx Soc vol 21]

There was abundance of stone close by, and the architecture of the edifice was of the simplest kind. Four plain thick walls, with a roof, was all they aimed at. Now, this part of the work was comparatively easy ; but Father Kelly began to be sore perplexed as it approached completion, how he should furnish it within, and so fulfil the dream in providing such a costly altar as he was persuaded he ought to build. The poor people had neither silver nor gold. They had already offered such as they had — strong hands, and hours taken from their rest or work. Night after night Father Kelly used to repair to the chapel, now roofed in, and pray to St. Michael to help him in this strait. One dark evening he was there later than usual ; he had fallen down with his face upon the ground before the spot in which he hoped to put the altar. While thus prostrate in prayer, and longing for a continuation of his former dream, he heard some footsteps close outside the chapel walls. Having his face upon the earth, the sound came quite distinctly to his ear. They stopped, and a voice said, " This is the chapel, let us lay them here, 'tis just the place for a burial."

" Very well," replied another ; " how does she lie I Here goes, mate, by the north-east corner."

Then came the sound of digging and pauses, as if men were stooping down to lay something in the ground ; after that Father Kelly heard the mould put back, and some one stamp it down. Though the church had not been furnished, two or three funerals had taken place in the graveyard, one of which he had himself celebrated only that afternoon.

What could be the object of these strange night visitors? They had not disturbed the dead—they did not remain long enough for that ; their work, whatever it was, seemed to be accomplished in a quarter of an hour, for after that time he heard a slapping of hands, as if some one were cleaning them of the dusty earth, and a voice saying, " There ! that is done and as dead men tell no tales, we may trust the present company."

"Ay, ay," replied the other, " I trust them so much, I don't think we need wait any longer."

" What ! art afraid, man !"

" Not I : but there is foul weather coming, and the sooner we clear off these cursed rocks the better."

" Well, come along!"

Then Father Kelly heard them walk down towards the water, and presently distinguished the grating of the boat's keel as she was pushed off ; then the double sound of the oars in the rowlocks died away, and all was still. He got up from the floor and walked out of the chapel. It was a midsummer night. The air was warm and motionless ; clouds, however, had crept up so plentifully as to cover the sky. While he stood there outside the chapel, the moon, which was about a week old, became obscured, and the darkness drew close to his eyes. He could not see a yard before him ; he listened, but heard only the slow wash of the swell as the rising tide carried it into the clefts among the rocks, with now and then a liquid flap, as a wave ran into a sudden angle and fell back upon itself. He felt for his lantern, and got out his steel to

strike a light. Having dropped his flint, in groping about to find it he forgot the direction in which he had stood; and when he got upon his feet again, after an unsuccessful search, felt himself so utterly at a loss, that after walking a few steps with his hands stretched out before him, he determined to wait for the morning, rather than risk a fall over one of the slippery rocks in his attempt to return home. When he had sat there for some time, the rain began to fall in large though few drops ; these were, however, but the splashes from the bucketfuls which were soon poured on his head. The wind, too, was loosed at the same time, and rushed on him with such violence, that though he dared not search for shelter lest he should fall over the rocks, he was glad to sit down on a large stone which he felt at his feet. The first flash of lightning, however showed him the chapel itself not more than ten yards off. He groped towards it immediately in the gloom, with his hands stretched out before him, right glad when he felt its rough stones. The wall once found, he soon discovered the path with his feet, and when he got home was glad to go to rest at once.

He had not slept many hours before he was roused to visit a dying man in one of the neighbouring houses. Hurrying on his clothes, he hastened to the place, where a crowd was gathered about the door, many of them dripping from the sea. The storm which he had seen the evening before had grown into a terrible tempest, during which a ship had been driven on the rocks, and utterly wrecked. All the crew were drowned but one man, whom they had dragged out of the surf and carried to Derby Haven. He had apparently, however, been saved from death in the water to die on the land, for he was so grievously bruised and cut by the rocks on which he had been thrown, that life was ready to leave him altogether. When Father Kelly came in, he found him lying on the floor, wrapped up in such dry clothes as the people had at hand. He had begged them to fetch a priest. His back, he said, was broken, and he knew he could not live another hour ; so the people fetched Father Kelly, as we have seen, and left the two together.

" Father," said the dying man, a will you hear the confession of a pirate and a murderer ?"

The priest, seeing there was no time to lose, signified his assent, and kneeling down by his side, bent his ear to listen.

Then the man, with strange breaks and ramblings in his speech, told him of murders out in the wide seas, and horrible recollections of cruelty and rapine.

We took a Spanish ship some weeks ago, added the man, and came in here to water, being a safe place ; when I—God forgive my soul I—I committed my last crime, and stole from the captain, a box of gold he took out of the Spaniard. Another man and I were in the secret. We brought it with us, and buried it in the graveyard of your little chapel, intending to make our escape from the ship on the first opportunity, find our way over here, recover, and enjoy the booty we had got.

" To whom did it belong ? " said the priest.

" God knows ;" replied the man ; " to me now, I suppose. Those who owned it can use it no more : the ship from which the captain took it went down with all on board ; we burnt her."

" What was her name ?" asked Father Kelly.

" Name," said the dying man, " There, take the gold, and shrive me ; I have confessed !"

Then, without another word, he died. The people buried him, and gathered up some few pieces of timber from the wreck of his ship, but nothing came ashore to show whether she was laden or not. They never knew her name, nor, for a great while, what she was, the priest not conceiving himself bound to tell them even so much of what he had heard in confession. Many years afterwards the whole story was found in a book which the priest left behind him when he died.

The words "take the gold" haunted the good Father long after the man who died in uttering them had been committed to the ground. The chapel was finished, but not furnished; the fulfilment of the dream was incomplete. Many a night the priest lay awake, arguing with himself the lawfulness of a search among the graves for the treasure, which, he had no doubt, was hidden there. Suppose he could find it, should he credit the pirate's word about the death of its owner ? Could he conscientiously appropriate it, not, indeed, for his own use, but to that of the chapel ? He thought of the terrible sentence which fell on those who put unhallowed fire in their censers ; he thought of the accursed thing found in the Jew's tent, which brought trouble upon the whole people to which he belonged. Then, again, it looked as if the sin attached to the appropriation of this gold had been punished in the persons of the pirates who had taken it. It looked as if it were rescued from the service of the world, to be devoted to that of the church—snatched from the devil himself to be given to St. Michael, his chief enemy.

On the whole, he decided upon using the gold, if he could find it. He must, however, be cautious in the search ; he would not trust the people to look. It might not be there, and then he would be ashamed. There might be more than he thought, and they might be tempted to take some ; or, if not that, be jealous at his retaining the possession of it himself. He would search alone. The conversation he had heard outside the chapel, while he listened on the eve of the storm, indicated the spot on which he should look.

Having, therefore, waited for a suitable moonlight night, he went very late to the churchyard with a spade. There was no one there. The shadow of the building fell upon the likely spot ; he could work unperceived, even if the late returning fishermen were to pass by that way. Half ashamed of the errand, he had not removed many spadefuls of earth from the grave he suspected, before he struck upon something hard. Stooping down, he felt for it with his hands ; it was a heavy box. He took it up, smoothed down the soil, carried it straight home, double locked his door, and broke it open. It contained broad shining pieces of gold. They made such a heap on his table as he had never seen before. There was, moreover, in the box, a necklace of large pearls, gold for the chapel, jewels for the Madonna.

The church was furnished, the altar was decked, the image was brought, and round its neck he hung the string of fair large pearls.

Father Kelly saw his dream fulfilled, and as success often produces conviction, he thanked St. Michael and all angels for having turned the robber's booty into sacred

treasure. So it was written in his book, but he told no one whence these riches came. Some of the simple folk thought the virgin herself had brought these jewels to the father. He, however, many a time, while he sat on the rocks by the chapel, looking out to seaward, and watching the white sails go by, wandered back to the question whence these riches came, and whether, after all, they might not hide some after-curse or other.

One evening as he sat there, a vessel came round the point, and dropped anchor in the haven. She drew his attention as being unlike any of the common coasting ships, or even of the traders which ventured on more distant voyages. She carried more canvas in proportion to her hull, and had her sails furled almost as soon as she had swung round with the tide.

Presently a boat came off from her, and was rowed to the shore, just beneath the spot where he sat. Two men, apparently officers, got out, and walking up to him, begged him to accompany them back to the ship, as they said one of their crew was dying, and needed the offices of a priest. He went with them at once without suspicion ; a man who had been with him, and heard the summons, returned to Derby Haven.

The ghostly summons, however, was a ruse ; this was the sister ship of the pirate who had been wrecked here in the storm—now some months ago. The new comers had learned her fate, and had landed to search for traces of the treasures she had on board. They had first taken the priest, as they thought, with much probability, he could tell them whether the inhabitants of the village had plundered the wreck, and also whether any of her crew survived.

What they learned from Father Kelly, no one ever knew. Some of the men, returning to the shore, strolled into the chapel, and doubtless recognised the necklace as one of the costliest items of their lost treasure. The next morning the ship was gone, and the people, searching for their priest, who had not returned home at night, found the chapel sacked, and his corpse set over the altar in the place where the image of the Madonna had been, with a knotted cord, like a necklace, tightly twisted round his throat.

The superstition of the natives never permitted them to use the chapel again. It gradually became a ruin ; the roof fell in ; the storms lashed the walls within as well as without; until at last it passed into the state in which it is to this day. Even now, whoever struck the walls and listened, could hear a moan within, and a noise like the jingling of money. You can try it yourself and find whether I have told you the truth.

Chronicon Manniae et Insularum

(Chronicle of Man and the Isles) - 1249-1374

Anno MCCL. Haraldus ~ filius Godredi Don vocatus per literas adiit curiam domini regis Norwegite, iratusque est ci rex eo quod regnum sibi non debitum usurparet arripere,⁷ detinuit que eum in Norwegia; in proposito habens, ut ei⁵ ad Sodorenses partes ultra redire non permetteret. Eodem anno Magnus Olavi films etc Johannes films Dngaldi⁹ et quidam Norvetimenses venerunt ad Manniam, applicueruntque apud portum, qui dicitur Rognalswaht ~ misitque Johannes films Dugaldi nuntios ad populum Mannite, qui dicebant: "Htec et htec mandat vobis Johannes rex insularum." Quod cum audissent Mannenses, Johannem regem insularum nomi nan, et non Magnum, filium Olavi, indignati sunt valde; et ultra verba nuntiorum audire noluerunt. Reversi 2 nuntii indicavernut htec domino suo Johanni, qui statim, indignatus non modice, fecit omnem snum arinari exercitum, et armatum insulam Sancti Michaelis ascendere, dispositumque per turmas seriatim sedere fecerat, quasi mox profecturi essent ~ ad prteliu, jussitque omnibus ut subsequenti diei primo dilucub parati forent congregari cum Mannensibus, nisi quicquid ab eis petierint ultro sponderint ~ se daturos. Manuenses igitur contra se directas cernentes acies, audaciter ad littus ~ accesserant; et se e contra per turmas disponentes eventum rei viriliter exspectabant. Recedente autem mans rheumate,⁶ quo insulte aditus clauderetur, prteditus Johannes et qui cum ipso fuerant navibus suis recepti sunt, multis tamen adhuc per insulam evagantibus, aliis vero quite victui ~ neces saria fimerant prteparantibus. Advesperascente autem die, ecce quidam juvenis, ~ qui Yuarum militem

In the year 1250, Harold son of Godred Don was summoned, and went to the Court of the Lord King of Norway; for the king was displeased with his having usurped a kingdom to which he had no title, and intended not to allow his return to the Sodor Islands. In the same year Magnus son of Olave, and John son of Dugald, with some Norwegians, came to Man, and put in at the port of Ronaldsway. John, son of Dugald, sent messengers to the people of Man to say "This, and Thus, does John King of the Isles command you." When the Manxmen heard John styled king of the Isles, instead of Magnus, Olave's son, they became indignant, and refused to hear anything further from the messengers, who returned and reported all to their master. *John, greatly exasperated, immediately ordered his followers under arms, and led them up to St. Michael's isle, where he marshalled them in troops, and made them sit down in ranks prepared to engage in battle, and ordered all to be in readiness to commence the attack at break of day, unless the Manxmen would spontaneously promise to yield all he should ask from them. The Manxmen, seeing the troops drawn up in hostile array, descended boldly to the shore, and arranging themselves in corresponding bodies manfully awaited the result. During the ebb of the tide which barred the approach to the island, John and his followers betook themselves to their ships, leaving many however, who were dispersed through the island, or who were engaged in preparing provisions. In the evening a certain young follower of Sir Ivar with many of the men of the Isles entered the island and slew at the first onset many, while others were drowned in endeavouring to swim to the ships.* This happened to them I have no doubt on account of their pride and insolence in refusing to accept the terms of peace offered by the natives; for the people

comitabatur, cum multis de populo
Insularum ingressi sunt et quosdam in
ipso impetu homines occiderunt. Multi
vero ad naves fugientes enatando
submersi sunt. Hoc eis evenisse non
ambigo merito superbite et
magnanimitatis sute, quia oblatam sibi
pacem a populo terre recusabant
accipere. Mandavit enim eis ~ populus
Mannite prima hora diei per internuntios
dicens:

"Quotquot a latere Domini regis
Norwegite missi estis literas ejus nobis
ostendentes terrain secuni ascendite, et
quicquid nobis a sua dementia
mandatum fuerit libenti animo facie
mus." Sed ipsi nec literas ostenderunt,
nec responsum pacis dederunt, nec
quicquam, quod us a populo terre
oblatum fuerat, recipere voluerunt;
crastina autem die cum imidignatione
magna in de Mannia recedentes multos
nobiles exorta tempestate naufragio
perdiderunt.

of Man sent messengers at the first hour of
day to say to them, "Let those from amongst
you who are sent by the King of Norway
come on shore without fear, and exhibit to
us the royal letters, and we will cheerfully
do whatever his Clemency commands. But
they neither showed the letters nor made any
overtures for peace, nor received any that
were offered by the Manx people; and
retiring next day in great wrath from Man
they lost many of their chiefs by shipwreck
in a storm which arose.

CALF ISLAND — ST MICHAEL'S ISLE, &c⁸

CALF ISLAND; commonly known as the Calf of Man — is no great distance from Castletown, and is well worthy of a visit from an archæological tourist. To reach it, the best plan is to proceed by boat from Port St Mary, and even this short voyage to the Calf Island is often a boisterous one. The island itself is but a barren plain, swarming with rabbits, and from which the farmer who has it principally pays his rent. Red deer are said to have existed at one time on this island; and, in Cambden's time, such quantities of birds, that it became an object to kill them. "There is a small island called the Calf," says he, "about three miles in circumference, and separated from the south end of Man by a channel of about two furlongs. It is well stored with rabbits and the shearwater, a species of puffin, which breeds in the rabbit-holes. About the middle of August the young puffins are ready to fly, and are taken in vast numbers — few years less than four to five thousand. The old ones leave them all day in quest: of food at sea, which they disgorge into the mouths of their young, in whose stomachs is found only a digested oil and sorrel leaves. This makes them almost a lump of fat, and when salted and pickled with wine and spices, they are esteemed a dainty. But they are chiefly consumed at home in harvest-time."¹ So changed is this island since the seventeenth century, that not a puffin is now to be seen near it. An old chapel once existed, but has now disappeared. From it was taken a most interesting relic, now in the possession of the Clerk of the Rolls. "At the residence of this gentleman is an antique slab preserved in a glass case, which was found in the Calf Island Chapel. Some parts of it are broken and defaced ; the right side of it is entirely gone. The central figure is a rude representation of the Saviour on the Cross ; the body is covered with an oriental garment, and even the face is partially marked. The garment is covered with scroll-work. The figure on the left hand is that of the Roman soldier about to pierce the side of the Saviour. This figure, in costume and delineation, greatly resembles those disclosed by recent researches at Nineveh."²

To those who have no head for stormy waves, a visit to St Michael's Isle is probably the more satisfactory. From Derby Haven the island is readily reached on foot. A strong circular embattled fort first attracts attention, with a light-house at its eastern extremity. The fort was raised, it appears, by James, seventh Earl of Derby, to protect the harbour of Ronaldshay ; and the light-house more recently, for the benefit of those engaged in the herring fishing. But at the west end of this little island stands an

⁸ From Manx Antiquities, 1863

ecclesiastical relic of somewhat early times — a chapel or oratory dedicated to St Michael, the reputed guardian of the Roman Catholic Church. It is now grown over with moss and ferns, which corresponds with what Chaloner says of it — that it was a ruin two centuries ago.

" The west, north, and south windows" (we quote from Dr Cumming's description, which is exceedingly accurate) " are square-headed, the two latter being only 12 inches wide outside, but with a wide splay to 2 feet 10 inches inside. The east window is one single light, with a semicircular head, and only 10 inches in breadth outside, but largely splayed.

" This little chapel is of but one compartment, whose length is 31 feet, and breadth 14. The thickness of the walls is 3 feet. At the west end is a simple bell-turret. The chapel was entered by one door on the south side, 9 feet from the west end, the height of which is 6 feet, and the width 2 feet 4 inches. This door, like the east window, has a semicircular heading, formed of small pieces of the schist of this neighbourhood, set edgeways in the arch, whilst the door jambs are of rough blocks of limestone. There is no appearance of a tool in any part of it, if we except the coping-stones in the left gable.

" We may mark the foundation of a stone altar under the east window, and at the same end, in the north corner, three stone steps, which may have served as a sort of pulpit. The height of the side walls is only 10 feet. The length of its grave-yard is 192 feet, and the breadth 98 feet, and as yet it is untouched by the plough."

The semicircular heading of the door and east window point to the Norman style after which this ancient church had been built, and thus refers it to the twelfth century, and probably to the latter part of it.

It may be asked — What could have been the object of the early Christian Fathers in placing a church at the extreme end of a small and lonely island, not easily accessible, and with few or no inhabitants? Some have supposed that it was an offshoot from the Cistercian order at Russin Abbey, and that the patron saint of this little chapel, like that of Russin, was the Virgin Mary. But it is much more probable that the site was an early Christian landing after shipwreck or disaster at sea, and that the dedication was to St Michael, the patron saint of the Romish Church. Chapels erected on or near the spot where such landings have taken place are frequent over this island, as at St Patrick's Chapel on Holme Island, and St Maughold's at the headland of that name.

However problematical the causes may be which led to the erection of an oratory on this sequestered spot, there can be no question of the blessings which flowed from it — spiritual blessings to the early Christians who worshipped the true God in this place, and blessings to the benighted mariner who, amidst stormy billows, was warned from this iron-bound coast by the lights which constantly burned at the sacred altar.

" How many a mariner" (says Dr Cumming), "owing his safety to the light streaming from yonder eastern window at the hour of evening prayer, or to the sound of the vesper bell swinging in that humble turret on a dark and stormy night, may have come to offer up his thanksgivings within the lowly roof, with a fervour no lets, but with a faith more pure, than those whose dripping garments and votive offerings were wont, in still more ancient days, to be suspended in the splendid marble temples of the pagan sea-god ! "

OF CERTAIN ISLANDS APPERTAINING UNTO THE ISLE OF MAN.⁹

THERE are 3 islands (so called, but indeed are islets and but little ones), which do belong and are adjacent unto the Isle of Man, yet the least, tho' very little, is of greatest concernment and consequence, and is called Peel or Pile, wherein is a castle. This island is situated on y^e west side of the island, about the midst thereof. This island (as I conceive by many, but amiss), called S^t Patrick's Island. Of this Island I shall have occasion to speak at large in y^e 2d book of this history, when I shall treat of ye fortifications of Man. There is another islet, which they call Michaels Island, and lieth in the south-east part of Man, which they call the longuouse. It containeth not above 2 acres of ground, yet it hath a hand some church, with a spire steeple, which some told me was dedicated to S^t Patrick, but I rather presume it was dedicated to S^t Michael, of whom the islet doth bear its name; there are a few houses, or rather cottages. I can give you no other account concerning any particulars of this islet as yet, and I believe little more is to be expected concerning it, only I wou'd here disabuse you if you mistake this island of St. Michael's for y^t parish church (which is one of the 17 before named), and is called Kirk Michael, for y^t parish is within Man itself on the west side thereof, and inclining some what northward, and is of larger extent than this islet. Anno 1350, W^m Russel, Bishop of Man,' held a synod in St. Michael's Church, but whether in this or in the other of Kirk Michael, which I rather now believe you may know more assuredly hereafter. The 3d island and y^e greatest of y^e 3 is called the Calf of Man; it stretcheth itself under the Isle of Man on the south thereot?, pointing westward, and lieth about y^e parallel of Drogida, vulgarly called Tredagh, in Ireland, altho' John Speed, in his treatise of the Empire of Great Britain, placeth it over against Dublin. John Tap, in his Seaman's Calendar, saith y^t y^e Mould of Cralve and y^e Calf of Man lie south-south-east, and north-north-west, and are distant ten leagues. Here altho' the soil be in many places heathy, and some hills are in the west end thereof, pointing towards Ireland, yet is their good pasturage, and not only the best beef and mutton, but also great store of hares and rabbits of both sorts, fat and sweet, from hence have the islanders, I mean y^e Manksmen, their puffins, which are here as numerous as in the Island of Bardsey, in the west point of Anglesey. Concerning those puffins, Mr. Chaloner hath made so perfect, exact, and excellent an observation of whatsoever concerneth them, that I cannot omit to impart it to my reader, for his recreation as well as mine, seeing his book of ye description of y^e Isle

⁹ From Manx Soc vols 25+28 - Blundell's History

of Man is scarce visible, but overshadowed by yt great volume of The Vale Royal of England, or the County Palatine of Chester, unto which it is annexed, and I will only use his own words, y^t it may be acknowledged.' "There is in the Calf of Man a sort of sea-fowl called puffins of a very unctious constitutioi^e, which breed in y^e coney holes (ye coneys leaving their coney holes for a time, and are never seen with their young but either very early in the morning, or late in the evening), nourishing (as is conceived) their young with oil which, drawn from their own constitution, is dropped into their mouths, for y^t being opened there is found in their crops no other sustenance but a single sorrel leaf, which the old give their young for digestion sake (as is conjectured). The flesh of these birds is not pleasant fresh, be cause of their rank and fish-like taste; but pickled or salted they may be ranked with anchovies, caviare, or the like, but profitable they are in their feathers and oyle, of which they make great use about their wool."~ Here are also those sea fowles geese, which most will have to be generated ol putnified wood, which by them are called barnacles, but by the Scots claik geese and soland geese, but I suppose they may breed of a shellfish y^t groweth on the rocks, and is callef by those of Guernsey and Jersey and (is no stranger in Cornwall) called a lampet.

At my being in Man, they told me there was but on house in all the island, and only 2 or 3 servants y^t did liv in it; it is invironed with rocks, and there is but 1 entranc into it. It is not full 2 miles in compass, and is now in the possession of the Earl of Darby; formerly it was the inheritance of the Stephensons of Baladowle. All Man must glorieth in its Calf, and do still retain the memory of the vast wit for inventions,² where he late had an hermitical life cave a cin y of hollow rock in this island, and do still talk his pendant bed³ and strange diet, but because neither himself is truly understood, nor his diet related by y^e Manksmen, shall here take y^e boldness to insert his own relation of his residence there, which I found set down in his mineral overture to the parliament, thus expressing himself: "The embrion of his mines proving abortive by the sudden fall and death of my late Lord Chancelour Bacon, in King James's reign, were the motives which persuaded my pensive retirements to a years' unsociable solitude in y^e desolated isle called the Calf of Man, where in obedience to my dead lord philosophic advice, I resolved to make a perfect experiment upon mysel for the obtaining of a long and healthy life, most necessary for such a repentance as my former debauchedness required by a parsimonious diet of herbs, oil, mustard, and honey, with water sufficient, most like to y^t our long liv'd fathers before the flood, as was conceiv'd by y^t lord, which I most strictly observed, as if obliged by a religious vow, till diviae pr called me to a more active life," etc.

In y^e perusing of the Manks' papers they never made any mention of any Island in Man but of these 3 only, yet here is another place in the Island (which, I suppose, by reason of 2 rivulets y^t run out of 2 loughs into the sea, enclosing y^e north and south parts thereof, and ye sea itself washing it on y^e xvest, so y^t 3 parts thereof is moistened and enclosed with water), whereby almost, for the space of 1200 years, it hath been called an Island (altho' it merit not to be accepted for a peninsula).¹ However, S^t Patrick arriving (at his first landing in the Isle of Man) at this promontory, called Jorby Point, and making some small stay there, hath ever since been called St Patrick's Island, and here he placed his bishop's seat, which continued there, it may not be long after S^t Patrick's death, howsoever, for a time, but now it hath lost the name of an island, and is now called Kirk Patrick of Jorby, which still retaineth the name of S^t Patrick, and acknowledgeth thereby his landing there. Mr.

Chaloner seemeth to hold y^t there was no other place called St. Patrick's Island but y^e Island of Peel; but Joselinus con firmeth me y^t it must be Jorby, for there is no other prmontory noted in the Island of Man, but that to satisfy this doubt you need only find out a place called Stautway, near St Patrick's Island, where, anno 1098, a great battle was fought between the northern and southern men, for y^e Cronicle of Man saith in the same year King Magnus arriv'd in Man and landed. He came to S^t Patrick's Island to see the place wherein the battle had been fought a little before between the Manksmen, because many of y^e bodies y^t were slain lay yet there unburied. Now, Peel Island being so little, I conceive, an unfit place for such a multitude of men to fight in.

Yet note y^e one thing, that this name of St Patrick's Isle held ye name from y^e year 447, untill the coming of Magnus, King of Norway, an. 1098, which is full 651 years, yea and for some years after, for Wimundus, the first Bishop after the union of the 2 bishopricks, and John, his successor, were Olave, the son of Godred, King of Man, died in S^t Patrick's Isle, tho' buried in the Abbey of Rushin, both buried in this Isle of S^t Patrick, as saith Mathew Paris ; yet I incline to confide y^t very shortly after, at least within some 79 years ye bishop's seat might be removed to Peel, but whether to the Island or town of Peel I make a question, which may easily be decided by a church builded to St German, their first bishop, and began to be builded (as saith the Bishops of Armagh), by Simon, Bishop of Sodor, about anno 1247, in St. Patrick's Isle, for still it kept the name. You may, peradventure, marvel why I named the town of Peel, seeing it was not fitly called an island neither of S^t Patrick or any other. But in reading of Monasticon Anglicanum, y^t there is a church dedicated to S^t German y^e first bishop of y^e island in Holm Sodor, *alias* Peel (which Mr. Chaloner calleth Hollam Town), which it seemeth was the antient name of Peel Town. Now I must tell y^t to call Holms Sodor, as much as to say the Island of Sodor, for holms" in ye Scottish language signifieth a little island, for so I find it in Maxwell's Abridgment in the Scottish Chronocle, speaking of the Orcades, he hath these words: "Northward from Strom lieth south Ramasa, five miles long, with two little islands or holms, good for pasturage ;" yet I was not fully satisfied with this till I remembred the Lord Cook saith, y^t hulmus is interpreted insula, an isle.

Let the reader make what use of this he pleaseth, but y^e bishop's seat was removed again to a village called Balacurri, but why or when I cannot inform you, at which place y^e last bishop died, who was called Dr. Rd. Parr.

Footnotes

1 See Monast. Angl., p. 716.

2 And therefore not obvious to every one for his and not mine.

3 [See Chaloner's "Treatise of the Isle of Man," p. 7. Manx Society Vol x.. 1863.– Editor.]

4 Mr. Thos Bushel.

5 Such as the hammocks in ships.

6 Joselin, in Vita Patricii.

7 See in Cambden's Brittainia Norfolk, p. 478, wherein he useth ye word holm to signify an island.

The Smelt



The important part the old Smelt house played in the long history of lead-mining in the Isle of Man was discussed by Basil Megaw in his article "Bakenaldwath and the Medieval Lead Mines."¹⁰ Megaw states that the building dates from 1711, when it was erected by John Murrey as a warehouse and smelting-hearth in connection with the lead-mining industry.. Sometime in the early 19th century the building had been converted for agricultural use and the building was finally demolished in the early 1960's. See the article by J.R. Bruce in the Journal of the Manx Museum, Vol VI, entitled John Murrey's Smelt-House.

The Smelt¹¹

Members then proceeded to The Smelt, where Mr. Lace described a curious subterranean avenue passing between two walls in a direct line to the west coast. This no doubt is the remains of the ancient canal connecting the Haven with the Bay Blundell's History (1648-56), speaking of "Derby haven," says : " Only little small boats do go up the narrow channel from the haven into the town, and cast anchor

¹⁰ Journal of the Manx Museum Vol VI

¹¹ From Proc IoMNHAS vol 1

almost under the castle walls." Again, speaking of the Derby fort. " this sconce commandeth both the bay at Ramsway and secureth the river which out of the haven conveyeth the smaller vessels unto Castletown itself." (Manx Soc., Vol. XXV., pp. 89 and 90). Proceeding towards Langness Farm, he pointed out where recent excavations had disclosed beds of " Fuller's Earth," and of Ochre and Umber, which appeared to occupy a considerable area, and was expected to prove of some commercial value. At one place, an exceedingly fine-grained pure white clay had been met with, which was being tested for possible use in the manufacture of porcelain. Mr. Fanning expressed the view that it might prove serviceable for photographic preparations. Further to the south, at the copper mine office, Mr. Lace exhibited several more specimens of ore, as well as examples of the colouring washes in many different shades which he obtained from the umber and the ochre. Crossing Langness, south of the cultivated part, the return to the hotel was made by the east coast.

Derby Fort



A.W Moore in his history of the Isla of Man,¹² tells us that the Fort was

“armed with one whole culvrain,. . . and one demy culvrain, and, in memory of the great wisdom and valour of the illustrious Lady Charlotte, Countess of Derby," at the siege of Latham House, it was named ‘Derby Fort.’”

Note:

A culverin is a medieval cannon of relatively long barrel and light construction that fired solid round shot projectiles at long ranges along a flat trajectory. Round shot refers to the classic solid spherical cannonball. The culverin was adapted for use by

¹² A.W.Moore, History Vol. II

the French in the 15th century, and later adapted for naval use by the English in the late 16th century. The culverin was used to bombard targets from a distance.

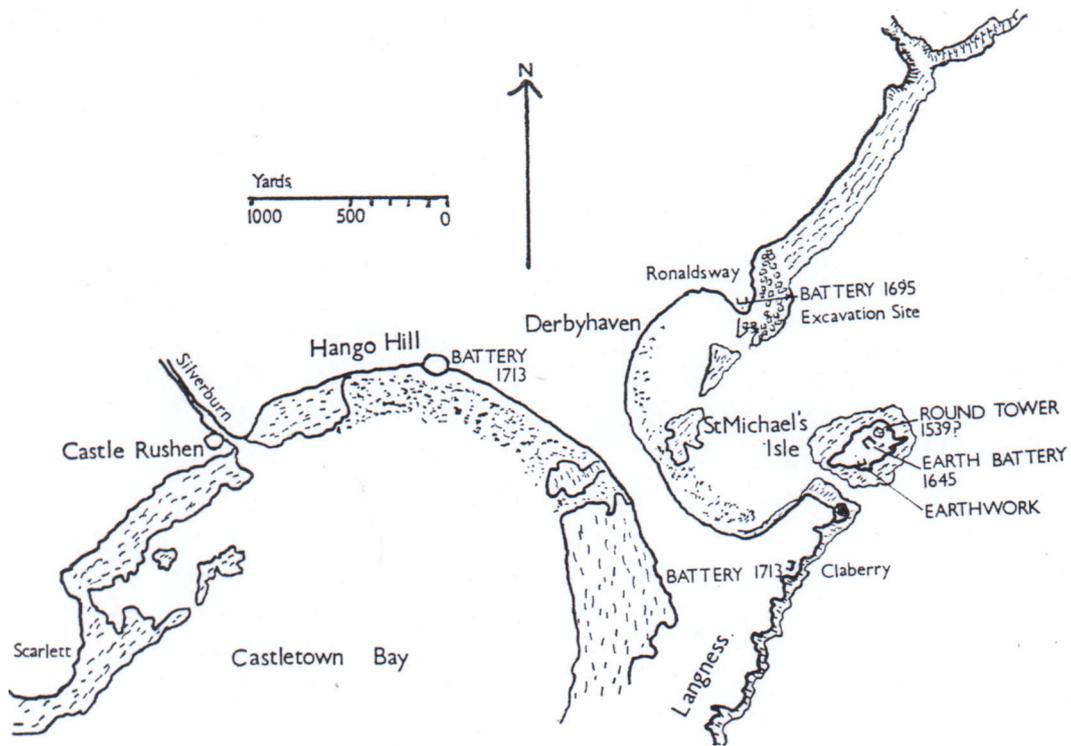
The term "culverin" is derived from the Latin, colubrinus, or "of the nature of a snake". It was originally the name of a medieval musket used in the 15th and 16th centuries. There were three types of culverin in use, distinguished by their size: the culverin extraordinary, the ordinary, and the least-sized. The culverin extraordinary had a diameter of 5 1/2 inches, a length of 32 calibers (13 ft), and a weight of 4800 pounds; its load weighed over 12 pounds, and it carried a shot with a diameter of 5 1/4 inches and weight of 20 pounds. The ordinary culverin was 12 ft long, carried a ball of 17 pounds 5 ounces, had a caliber of 5 1/2 inches, and weighed 4500 pounds. The culverin of the least size had a diameter of 5 inches, was 12 ft long, weighed 4000, carried a shot 3 1/4 inches in diameter, weighing 14 pounds 9 ounces. There were also smaller versions, including the bastard culverin (4 inches diameter, 7 pound shot) and the demi-culverin or culverin-moyen (4 1/2 inches diameter, 10 pound shot). Overall, the culverin was a significant advantage over the ballista, which was the "light artillery" unit of the previous eras. Since it fired a ball of iron and relied on gunpowder for propulsion, the heavier ball meant a more stable flight and the gunpowder propulsion meant a faster and farther-ranged weapon.

The culverin was later replaced by the field gun once technology had advanced to the point where cannonballs had become explosive.

A demi-culverin or saker was a 17th Century term for a cannon which fired a 9-pound solid shot (a culverin fired an 18-pound shot). It was first employed by the Flemings in the early 1600s. The tube was about 3 metres long, and fired a shot 11 cm in diameter and 4 to 6 kilograms in mass. With a weight of 1640 kg (3600 lb), it had a range of almost 2 km, though its effective range was only about 80 metres. Firing this gun was dangerous - many gunners lost their lives to recoiling barrels or blowback from the touchhole.



The Landskip of Derby Fort as it doth appeare from the same station but turning to the north by west. A The Rocks. B The Sands. C The Water. D St. Michael's Island. E St. Michael's Chappell. F Derby's Fort. G The false Striblix. H The Rocks at Ranens.



This plan by Mr. R.A. Curphey¹³ indicates the locations of the various coastal batteries associated with the Derbyhaven area.

It is worth noting what the historian, Mr. R.A. Curphey has to say about Insular defences particularly during the period ending in the Revestment.

¹³ Journal of the Manx Museum Vol. VII; The Coastal Batteries by Mr. R.A. Curphey

He tells us that¹⁴, “for about three centuries ‘the great guns’, smooth-bore cannon of brass or cast iron constituted an integral part of the defences of the Isle of Man. Their development in the fifteenth and early sixteenth centuries made it possible to deny to intruders the harbours and safe anchorages of the Island until the British supremacy of the nineteenth century, secured in the Napoleonic wars, made this no longer necessary. Thus from 1539 to 1822, with a brief and curious renewal in the mid-nineteenth century, on almost every occasion of war or threat of war, new batteries were constructed and old ones restored. Each harbour presented its own defence problems, and in the solutions devised for them it is possible to see the defenders’ appreciation of changing circumstances and the limitations of their weapons.

The smooth-bore cannon had a long life. There was no essential difference in mechanism and manufacture between those of 1540 and those in use in 1840, although there were some improvements in the mountings. They fired a solid, non-exploding roundshot, the heaviest of which seldom weighed more than 32 lb., to an effective point-blank range of about 400 yards. Beyond that range accuracy and penetration were lost and damage was rare”.

It is interesting to note that Curphey states that the cannons in use had an effective range of some 400 yards. When you look at the plan of the area shown above it is clear that even at its narrowest point the entrance to Derbyhaven is some 800 yards wide. As a consequence vessels arriving along the north-west side of the bay would be out of effective range of the Derby Fort.

This gap in the defensive system was filled in 1695 when a battery was established on the northern coast of Ronaldsway.

The fort on St. Michael’s Island and an earthwork battery situated to the south-west were named the Derby Fort in 1645¹⁵. This battery conforms closely to a description of the classic battery to be found in a textbook of fortifications dated 1645- ‘A small piece of land, normally quadrangular, was enclosed by means of a shallow ditch. The earth from this ditch was not piled immediately within to form a continuous bank, but was concentrated into a strong breastwork or parapet towards the enemy. This parapet was often returned along part of the two flanks, but did not extend the full length of the ditch¹⁶. The parapet on the north-west side facing

¹⁴ Journal of the Manx Museum Vol. VII; The Coastal Batteries by Mr. R.A.Curphey

¹⁵ Liber Scaccarii 26 April 1645

¹⁶ B.H.St. J. O’Neill, Castles and Cannon (1960)

across Derbyhaven bay and the shallow ditch on the three sides can still be traced.

The battery itself was a round tower built with stone walls about eight feet thick. The decision to build this fort ‘for the defence and safety of the harbour of Ronaldsway, being one of the greatest danger in the Land,’ was taken on the 22nd June 1644¹⁷.

Curphey tells us that the decision to build this fort was soon justified since in June 1645 a royalist ship with four guns aboard, which was lying in the bay and belonged to Capt. John Bartlett of Dublin, supplier of ordnance to the royalist forces was attacked and held by Capt. Robert Page of the *Plyodes* ‘until the lord’s soldiers of the Island came and assaulted them’. We are told that the round fort was armed, in 1694, with a ‘fulcon and one iron chamber on the walls whilst the earthwork had two iron and one brass minion and one brass saker’.

[Note – A fallen or fulcon was 6ft long and had a calibre of 2.5 ins., and fired shot weighing 2 lb. A Minion was 6.5 ft long, 3.25 ins. calibre and fired shot weighing 52 lb. A Saker was some 6-8 ft long, 3.5 ins. Calibre and fired shot weighing 6lb.]

It should be noted that there was no causeway to St. Michael’s Island until the mid-eighteenth century.¹⁸ Therefore, it would be possible for small boats, certainly at high water, to work their way from the south-west through the channel between the island and the mainland. The fort’s guns could not be brought to bear on such an attempt, nor could they cover fire from a ship to the east. Curphey tells us that there was no parapet on the that side of the earthwork battery and by 1694 the two rooms had been built inside the fort. One of the rooms blocked the gun port to the south-east!

To rectify some of these defects a ‘new fort at Reyoldsway’ was built in 1695.¹⁹ The Derby Fort was restored in 1757²⁰, and it is possible that both Ronaldsway and Mount Strange were rearmed at the end of the eighteenth century, when Derby Fort was again brought back into use.

When recently looking at the Manx Society Volume 26 I came across the following:-

¹⁷ Liber Scaccarii, 1644, p37

¹⁸ M.M. Misc. docs 2286C, p92

¹⁹ Derby Disbursements, 23 December 1695

²⁰ Atholl Papers X69-17

Extract from *Mercurius Politicus*²¹, No. 75, 1651, giving an Account of the Surrender of the Isle of Man to Colonel Robert Duckenfield, with the Terms of Agreement, and an Account of Arms, Ammunition, etc., given up to the Parliament Army, 30th October 1651

In Derby Fort. -Reynoldus. 1 Demy-culvering. 1 Saker: 2 Demy-saker, 1 sling-piece, 10 Muskets. 1 Musket-barrel. 1 Fire-lock. 2 Muskets delivered to the Parish. 5 pair of bandoleers. 6 Pair delivered in the Parish. 1 Ship red colour. 1 Foot colour delivered to the Par. 2 Black bills. 3 Roundheads. 7 Skein of Match. 17 Cartarages of powder. 4 pound of loose powder. 12 Crossbar shot. 8 6 Small shot for sakers. 6 Iron bolts. 1 Crow of Iron. 2 Spades. 1 Bedstead. 1 Feather-bed. 1 Pair of Sheets. 2 Blankets. 1 Boulster.

This gives us details of all that was found at the time within the Derby Fort!

The most recent use of the Derby Fort was during World War II when defences were added to protect the airfield at Ronaldsway.



Military Garrisons 1670-1765

After the restoration of the Stanleys, they reduced the high civil war forces of two 60-strong battalions to an approximately 20-strong garrison at Castle Rushen and at Derby Fort (Derbyhaven), a smaller garrison at Peel, a few at Douglas Fort (mainly to support the gathering of Customs revenue), and a token presence at Ramsey.

The following notes are based on examination of the Disbusement Accounts which name all those receiving a salary or pension; they run from 1670 to 1765 but with a

²¹ Manx Soc. Vol. 26

gap 1674-1682. The strength of the various garrisons remained fairly constant up to the revestment of 1765. The Constables also had the duty to keep civil order in the various towns (a role taken over by the High Bailiffs from 1777), the soldiers also had a police role in supporting both civil and ecclesiastical courts.

Castle Rushen Garrison,

1670 annual salaries are shown, consisted of:

- Constable (or Commander)- £13 6 8
- Gunner - £8
- Porter - £8
- Drummer £2 (as drummer + £3 as wright)
- Ensign £6 10s
- Sergeant - £5
- 16 soldiers £5
- 2 Watchmen £5
- Postman or Runner 15s

to which are sometimes added a gunsmith (£10) and apprentice (£2). Several of the soldiers are also shown as doubling up on other jobs - wright (blacksmith), saddler, glazier. A servant is also shown against the Castle Rushen accounts.

The Soldiers salaries both here and at other outposts remained the same until 1765.

Derby Fort

This was the Round fort built by Earl James in 1643 to safeguard Derbyhaven - it appears to have been staffed from November 1670. The garrison consisted of

- Commander (a Captain) - £8
- 4 Soldiers - £3

Soldiers

The following tables give the names and approximate dates for the various soldiers - note that the list is currently provisional as research in progress.

Where appropriate names have been standardised to modern spellings (spellings could differ from one quarter to the next), first names have been expanded

Note '(' used to indicate earliest date found, '[' definite start date (ie not in previous year), ')' last found, ']' death or later appearance as pensioner.

Castle Rushen + Derby Fort

Name	rank & dates	notes
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ARMSTRONG	John	gunner 1765)	
ARTHUR	Hugh	watchman (1683-85]	Hugh Arthur bur Malew 23 Apr 1686
BARREY	John	soldier (1669-),Lieut (1682- 1689)	John Barry bur Malew 9 Mar 1690
BELL	John	soldier 1745-1765]	
BELL	Thomas	soldier 1760-1765]	
BICKERSTAFFE	Peter	Capt Commander DF[1730- 1735)	
BOARDMAN	Robert	pension (1669	
BREW	Caesar	watchman (1699,1710- 1720,1730-1760) servant 1695- 1719,1730-1740	Probably father & Son CAESAR BREW -I Christening: 1666 Malew, bur 25 Jul 1726 Malew CAESAR BREW II: 20 FEB 1698 Malew bur 23 Mar 1761 Malew
BREW	James	watchman 1765) servant 1765)	
BREW	Nicholas	servant (1669,1671- 1683)	? Nicholas Brew bur Malew 19 May 1685 - father of Ceasar Brew I
BREW	Phillip	servant 1670	? check reading no Phillip Brew bap found.
BRIDSON	Nicholas	soldier (1735-1740)	
CAIN	Edward	soldier (1735-1750 ensign 1755)	
CALCOTT	Arthur	Constable (1682-1690)	Arthur Calcott bur Malew 20 Aug 1692
CALCOTT	Robert	Commander DF 1683- 1690	
CALCOTT	Turner	Ensign [1688-1719)	Turner Calcott bur Malew 18 Dec 1724
CARROWN	William	soldier (1719-1750)	
CHAPMAN	William	Lieut 1750-1760)	
CHRISTIAN	John	Constable 1735 Peel from 1740	major general
CLAGUE	William	Soldier 1760 Lieut 1765)	
CORKILL	Thomas	soldier DF 1745,1750 CR1755-1765]	
CORLET	William	soldier 1755-1760)	
CORRIN	Henry	soldier DF (1730- 1740)	
CORRIS	Anthony	watchman (1682-	
CORRIS	Edward	soldier + slater (1689-	+ contract to keep CR in

		1719, 1735 ?1739	repair 1739; Bur Mal 10 Mar 1743
COSNAHAN	Charles	soldier (1739-1745)	
COTTEEN	John	Ensign 1765)	
CORTEEN	Robert	soldier DF(1735-1765]	
COTTIMAN	John	soldier 1740-1765]	not 1735
COWIN	James	soldier 1755	signed Kowen
COWIN	John	soldier 1745	slater + contract for CR
CREGEEN	Patrick	soldier 1765)	
CURLET	William	soldier 1765)	CR+DF ?
DINWOODY	James	gunner [1764-1765)	
ELSMOND	John	drummer (1689	
FARRANT	John	watchman (1689- 1695)	? John Farrant bur Malew 21 May 1699
FLEETWOOD	Edward	soldier+gardiner [Storesman ?](1710- 1719	? bur Malew 1 Apr 1729; Married Jane Stole Malew 1707, 7 children at least 3 died in infancy
FOX	Richard	Captain Constable (1669-1673)	? Richard Fox buried Malew 29 Dec 1673
FOX	William	Ensign (1669-,1682- 1686]	? William Fox bur Malew 9 Sep 1686; son Byron born 1682 was receiving pension after 1715.
FREIND	Richard	Drummer 1695	
GICK	John	soldier 1765)	
HALSALL	Arthur	porter (1699-1715	
HALSALL	Henry	soldier (1719	
HALSALL	Richard	soldier (1735-1765]	
HAMILTON	John	soldier 1735	gunner at Peel ?
HARRISON	Henry	Lieut (1719-	
HARRISON	Richard	Lieut 1730-1735	
HARTLEY	John	soldier (1719,1735- 1745)	
HINGLEY	John	soldier (1689-1715)	
HOLMES	William	soldier 1710	
HUDDLESTON	Silvester	soldier (1694- Lieut 1710-1715 Constable 1715	Sil Huddleston Will 1717
INGOLSBY	William	soldier (DOU1710 ,CR 1715-1755) ensign 1760)	
JOHNSON	David	gunner 1763]	
KAY	John	soldier (1669-1690	noted as 'of Douglas' from

			1682
KENNEDY	David	soldier -1734]	? David Kenedy bur Malew 12 Dec 1734
KERMODE	John	soldier 1765)	
KILLEY	Edward	soldier (1735-1745)	
KILLEY	Henry	watchman (1735- 1765]	
KILLEY	John	watchman (-1682]	
KILLEY	Thomas	watchman (1669- 1673)	
KILLEY	William I	soldier (1730DF CR 1735-1765]	
KILLEY	William II	soldier (1755-1765]	son of William Killey I
KNICKELL	Robert	soldier DF (1719- 1730)	
LACE	Henry	soldier (1682- DOU1689-1695	
LACE	John	soldier (1669-	
LESQUIRE	Henry	soldier (1682-)Sergt(1689-)Lieut(1694-1700	falconer from 1688 shown as soldier 1710-1715 ; will
LINDLEY	John	soldier (1719-	
LOONEY	Thomas I	soldier (1682-1690 sergt 1695	
LOONEY	Thomas, II	soldier (1699-1715	son of Thomas I
MILLER	John	soldier & Saddler (1699-	salary paid in Dublin in 1699/1700
MOLLINEUX	Thomas	soldier (1710-1719)	removed to Peel 1720
MOORE	William	soldier (1739	
MOORE	Thomas	pension(1669- 1670),soldier DF (1670-1683)	noted as Tailor
MORRISON	Charles	soldier 1745-1750)	also Gardiner
MURRAY	John	Captain/Constable (1739-1760	
MURRAY	John	gunner 1760	
MCYLREA	Daniel, junr	Commander DF (1739-1755	
NELSON	John	watchman (1694- 1700,1719 soldier 1710	
NOBLE	Jonas	soldier (1699-	
NORRIS	Thomas	Soldier (1669-1673	
PATTEN	Ceasar	soldier (1669-)gunner(1682-1690)	Caesar Patton bur Malew 27 Sep 1692

PRESCOTT	Cuthbert	Porter (1669- soldier Peel 1683- 1695)	? Cuthpert Prescott bur Rushen 21 Feb 1728; Cudbert Prescott mar Margret Moore Malew 1668 & Isable Caroon Malew 1706
PRESTON	Anthony	soldier (1669-	Anthony Preston bur Malew 28 Jan 1671
PIGGOTT	Charles	soldier (1719DF,CR1730- 1745)	
QUALTROUGH	John	soldier DF 1690	
QUALTROUGH	William	soldier 1695	
QUARK	John	watchman 1689	
QUAY	Thomas	soldier (1719,1735)	
QUAYLE	Robert	soldier 1765)	
QUAYLE	Thomas	soldier (1739-1750)	
QUAYLE	William	soldier DF 1745-1750	
QUIRK	Robert	Drummer + wright (1669-	? bur 19 Dec 1682
QUIRK	Robert	soldier [1695-1710, 1730 DF)Ensign (1735-1750)	Robert Quirk bur Mal 16 Nov 1751
QUIRK	Thomas	pensioner (1669-	7s 6d pension
REDFERN	John	soldier 1750-1760)	
REDFERN	Thomas I	Serg (1699 1715) Constable 1720, Lieut(1739-1745)	
REDFERN	Thomas II	soldier 1750	
ROTHMELL	Charles	soldier (1669-1695)	Charles Rothmell bur Malew 19 Apr 1696
ROTHMELL	John	gunner (1694-1720)	Mr John Rothwell bur Malew 12 Mar 1724 m. Catherine Fox als Qualtrough 4 Oct 1696 Malew.
SAINT	John	soldier & glazier(1669-1690)	John Sainte bur Malew 1694
SAINT	John II	soldier (1730-1760)	previously at Peel to 1720)
SAINT	Thomas	soldier & glazier (1694-1700-	Thomas Saint bur Malew 1725
SCHOFIELD	John	soldier + overseer DF 1765)	
SCHOFIELD	Robert	1735) Peel after 1745	
SCOTSMAN	George	drummer (1682-	
SEDden	Humphrey	soldier (1669-1695)	

SHARROCK	William	soldier [1735-	
SHERLOCK	Anthony	pensioner (1669- soldier DF [1672- 1690)	?Anthonie Shurlock bur Malew 1 Jan 1690
SHIMMIN	John	soldier (1669-1671]	
SHIMMIN	Robert	soldier & Sergt (1669- ,1682	
SIMPSON	Thomas	porter 1695	
SLATER	John	Gunner (1735- 1754]	
SLATER	Miles	soldier (1719-	?Miles Slater bur Malew 26 Dec 1724
SLATER	Richard	soldier (1699-1719	
SLATER	Richard II	gunner (1755	Captain
SMITH	James	soldier DF 1760	
SPROUL	James	soldier (1671-	
STANLEY	Charles	Commander DF 1729]	
STEVENSON	John	soldier (-1669]	
STEVENSON	John	soldier (DF 1682- 1690, CR1699-1710) constable Peel (1715	
STOLE	George	soldier (1719-	
STOPFORD	Rich	soldier (1669-	
STOWELL /STOALE	John	watch man -1687 soldier [1687-1695	
TAGGART	Math[ias?]	Capt/Constable 1765	
TAUBMAN	John	soldier & matrosse (1669-1673	
TAUBMAN	John II	Commander DF (1760-1765)	
TAUBMAN	Thomas	soldier (1669-, 1682- 87]	
TAUBMAN	Thomas II	soldier 1745-1765]	
TAYLOR	Henry	soldier 1689-1695	
TETLOE	Thomas	gunner (1669-	Thomas Tetloe bur Malew 1677
THOMPSON	Richard	soldier (1699-1719	
TRAVERS	Matthew	gunsmith (1669- 1690]	? name, indicated as dead 1690 but no burial located
WAINWRIGHT	Robert I	soldier DF (1689- 1719)	? Robert Wainwright bur Malew 28 Dec 1724
WAINWRIGHT	Robert II	soldier DF 1739	
WAINWRIGHT	William I	soldier DF 1672-1683	
WAINWRIGHT	William II	soldier DF [1730-1735 1755	? William Wainwright bur Malew 10 Jul 1756
WALKINGTON	James	drummer (1699-1710	James Walkinton bur

			Malew 30 Aug 1710
WALKINGTON	Edward	drummer (1719-1765]	Edward Walkington bur Malew 10 May 1776 aged 86
WATERSON	Edward	soldier DF 1735	
WATERSON	James	soldier DF1745- 1750,CR1755)	
WATERWORTH	Edward	soldier DF (1739	
WATTLEWORTH	Henry	soldier & blacksmith (1669-,1682,1689 1695	
WATTLEWORTH	John	soldier (1682-1710	
WOOD	John II	constable 1730	major general
WOOD	John I	soldier (1682-1690 constable 1700-1710	Woods ?
WOODS	George	soldier (DOU 1689, CR1694-1700)	
WOODS	John	Constable (1699-	? WOOD
WOODS	Robert	Porter 1750-1765] soldier 1760,1765]	
WOODS	Thomas	soldier 1710 Porter (1719-1745)	
WOOLEY	John	soldier (1669-),porter (1682-1690)	
WOOLFINDEN	Francis	soldier (1682-1695 1719	Frances Wolfenden bur Malew 9 Dec 1723 noted as Carter 1720

Derby Fort Lighthouse



Little is know about this lighthouse. What is known is that a light was displayed from it in the late nineteenth century during the ‘herring season’.

Derbyhaven as a port

DERBYHAVEN.²²

is a small village about a quarter of a mile from the college, and is principally known for possessing an excellent harbour. A fort was erected at its entrance by the Earls of Derby for defending it, the tower of which has fallen to ruins. A part of the old chapel still remains, from which a light is shown during the herring 'fishery. The Roman Catholics still use this spot in which to inter their dead. Langness, an extensive neck of low land, adjoins, on which is a land mark to warn mariners of their danger.



Quaint Manx Relic found in Liverpool

Record of a Fishing Disaster in 1811

OBJECTS of great interest sometimes come into the Museum by strange and unusual means. The other day a Liverpool gentleman, Mr. Wm. Eaves, who has Manx family connections, came across, in an out-of-the way place in that city, a coloured sketch of a fishing disaster which occurred off the south coast of the Island as far back as 1811. He immediately secured the sketch and personally brought it to the Museum as a gift. The sketch illustrates a very violent storm, the brig 'Lively' being tossed about in a west-nor-west gale, and a little punt belonging to the wrecked fishing smack 'Tartar' of Derbyhaven, in which are eight sailors enveloped in the trough of the sea, and

²² Qiggin's Guide, 1841

about to be picked up. In addition to the picture, which is full of spirit, there is, in neat script, a long, but concisely-written, account of the disaster. The story, is so thrilling and so well illustrates the courage of the men, tltat a place for it ought to be found in the ' Journal.'

The text of the story is as follows:-

Document No. 180.

A representation of the miraculous preservation of eight Manx Fishermen belonging to Derby Haven whose vessel sunk at sea on the 23rd July, 1811. *on* the morning of the 23rd July, as the fishing smack 'Tartar' of Derby Haven was drifting in the Channel with her net shot W N W from Peel, a heavy gale of wind came on with a rough sea which caused them to haul their train of net on board : and, in the act of hauling, she drifted down on a boat ahead of her, and with the scud of the sea took the point of her boom into, her fore huddings. Before the crew perceived any damage the water was over the ballast; the leak increasing fast in less than ten minutes she went down, the crew eight in number providentially escaped in the punt.

The other boats crew, judging the boat and men went down together, made the best of their way home with the lamentable news of their fate to their families. But providence still had them in tow. They lay in the small boat comparatively like a tub, eight feet keel and five feet beam; and to prevent the sea from breaking in, they ranged their arms alongside the gunwales. At daylight the brig 'Lively' of and from Greenock (Capn. R. McKenzie) for Gibraltar hove in sight to leeward, and under reefed topsails close hauled, bearing to windward the punt drifting in her headway.

When within gunshot the men one and all gave a shout. The sailors were astonished not seeing any vessel near them, and on the third shout one of the sailors, running up the rigging, perceived a number of men in the water to his great astonishment not seeing anything under them, as the state they lay in with their arms near the wateredge prevented him.

With the greatest difficulty they were pulled on board one by one. When on board the Capt. made this remark, Such a miracle was almost equal to walking on the water. Some time after, the Prince of Wales cutter (Capt. Wallace) hove in sight, and by a signal from the brig was soon alongside. Capt. Wallace immediately steered direct for the Isle of Man and landed them safe in Derby Haven to the inexpressible joy of their despairing families.

Names of the men above mentioned: Charles Preston, Will Preston, Thomas Cubbon, John Cubbon, Quaily Stole, John Naile, John Stephenson, Barney Cain.

APPENDIX (B.) N^o 65.²³

²³ [Appendix B(65) 1792 Report of Commissioners of Inquiry]

The EXAMINATION of Mr. JAMES WEBB, Collector of Harbour Duties for the Port of Derbyhaven in the Isle of Man, taken at Castletown, October 15th, and at Douglas, October 19th, 1791.

THIS Examinant saith, That he is Collector of the Harbour Duties in the port of Derbyhaven and the creeks thereunto belonging, and was appointed to that office in the year 1785 by the Deputy Receiver General by a written instrument under his hand.

He took no oath, nor did he give any security upon this appointment. He has no other emolument for collecting these dues than *five per cent.* upon the sum received.

As Harbour Matter, it is his duty to visit every vessel that comes into the harbour of Derbyhaven or its creeks, which creeks are Castletown, Port le Murry, and Port iron

The first knowledge he has of a vessel in the harbour of Derbyhaven or Castletown, is either from his being there himself and seeing her, or from the information of the Chief Boatman stationed at Derbyhaven, or the Boatman at Castletown. He then takes a boat and boards her, unless dry, in which case he walks to her, demands a sight of her certificate of registry, if British or Irish, and if foreign, measures her as well as he is able; and receives the tonnage accordingly, giving a receipt for the same.

If the vessel has goods on board for entry at the custom.house, a quarter *per cent.* is taken upon each entry, provided it amounts to five pounds and upwards, except the article of salt, which is exempt from harbour dues. If the goods so entered are liable to duty, he gets at the amount from the value expressed on the warrant ; if the goods are not liable to duty the value is taken from the invoice which is produced, or an affidavit made as to the value by the merchant before the collector. These dues upon the value of the goods are always received by the acting Collector, and the harbour due marked upon the warrant. and at the end of each quarter accounted for by the Collector to him.

Foreign vessels coming to anchor in any of the bays belonging to the above port or or creeks are liable to the payment of two shillings and six pence. All Vessels and all boats above four tons that cross the Channel pay the harbour dues, according to the tonnage, upon each voyage. No vessels or boats pay coming coastwise in the Isle of Man.

He makes out quarterly accounts of these dues, and pays at the end of each quarter the whole receipt to the Deputy Receiver General, deducting *five percent* for the collection. He swears to the truth of such accounts before the acting Collector, and delivers them to the Deputy Receiver General.

No custom-house officers are stationed either at Port le Murry or Port Iron. The acting Collector, he himself, or one of the Tidesmenn, every working-day, by turn visit those two creeks and if there be in either of them vessels liable to harbour-dues, he collects them himself, or one of the above officers, whoever happens to be there, does it for

him in the manner as described, and accounts to him. The visits to the said creeks are made in tide-time, and in the day. If the vessels are not dry, he takes the custom-house boat to collect the harbour dues at Derbyhaven, when she is in condition, and there are Tidesmen in waiting. She is frequently out of condition, and has been so since July last, and then he borrows a boat if he can; if she was in condition, it is not safe to go with her into the bay, either in a strong easterly wind or rough weather, owing to her being small and crazy.

At Port le Murry or Port Iron he is always obliged to borrow a boat ; and if he cannot borrow one, which mostly happens, he is unable to board till the tide is out.

Sums expended either upon the pier at Castletown, or bulwark at Derbyhaven between St. Michael's Island and the Main, or on the Perches, to mark the entries into the different harbours, are by the authority of the acting Collector under the direction of the Commissioners for the Harbour Dues. It is his business to superintend the work, and he certifies weekly as to the materials and labour ; and upon his certificate the bills are paid ; and when he attends during such work, he is allowed a shilling a-day.

The Commissioners for Derbyhaven are the acting Collector and a Merchant. Whatever he apprehends any repairs or necessary articles to be wanting, he signifies it to the Commisioners, and they with him go round, and the Commissioners give orders as they see occ in common matters ; but if any thing of consequence is required, it is, he apprehends, laid before the Deputy Receiver General.

The depth of high-water at spring tide at Derbyhaven is, according to his own knowledge and the best information he can get, from eighteen to twenty feet, and at dead neap tide about nine feet.

At Castletown, high-water at spring, about twelve ; and at dead neap tide, six feet. At Port le Murry high-water at spring tide from eighteen to twenty-one feet, and at neap, from nine to ten feet.

At Port Iron high.water at spring tide about eleven feet, and six feet at dead neap.

The depths he speaks of are confined to where the vessels take the ground to due their cargoes, and do not include the bays, where the depths are far more considerable.

These harbours are all dry at low water, and the only pier is at Castletown. Very few vessels discharge within the abovementioned port or creeks. The largest that to the pier at Castletown are about seventy tons; in general they are less. He has never heard that there are any Branch Pilots resident in the Isle of Man belonging to the Trinity House. He has never heard that either the Trinity dues, or the six-pence for Greenwich hospital, were collected at Derbyhaven, or the Creeks thereunto belonging,

JAMES WEBB.

Jn^o Spranger.
W^m Osgoode.
Will^m Roe.
David Reid.

[Appendix B(62) 1792Report of Commissioners of Inquiry.]

The EXAMINATION of Mr. WILLIAM CLAGUE, Acting Collector and Riding Officer, in the Port of Derbyhaven in the Isle of Man, taken at Douglas, the 14th and 19th of October 1791.

This Examinant saith, That he is Acting Collector at the Port of Derbyhaven, and has been since the year 1771, in virtue of a written appointment from Mr Lutwidge, the late Receiver General. He does not think he gave security as Collector. He does not think that he got any written or printed instructions as Collector. He was not instructed in the duty of a Collector before or since his appointment as such.

He has no salary as Collector ; but he has received fees according to the practice before he came into office, which fees, in the year 1790, amounted to twenty-eight pounds nine shillings and ten pence, out of which he paid the Acting Controller his proportion, as settled by the late Receiver General, being twelve pounds thirteen shillings and three-pence, and retained the rest. That he receives no gratuities.

The officers in his port are, a Controller, a Searcher, and three Tidesmen, who are also Boatmen. The Acting Collector and Searcher, and one Tidesman or Boatman, reside at Castletown ; one Tidesman or Boatman resides at the Green nearly halfway betwixt Castletown and Darbyhaven, and he too resides there that he may be ready to come either to Castletown or go to Darbyhaven, as he may be wanted, and also to watch the coast. The Tidesman at the Green has a farm ; and the Controller, who has a farm, and the third Tidesman or Boatman, reside at Darbyhaven .

His duty as Collector is to receive masters' reports inwards and outwards, and merchants' entries of their goods, and to grant warrants to the searcher for unshipping or shipping the goods entered, and to collect the duties upon such goods, and to pay over the same to the Deputy Receiver General, which he does quarterly with copies of his quarter books attested by him and the Controller, which quarter books contain an account of all goods entered inwards and outwards.

Since the death of Mr. Lutwidge, no person or officer whatever has compared the report books, entries inwards and outwards, and warrants, with the books of entries, to see that all the duties on the goods reported, entered, and discharged have been brought to account in such books.

The goods landed always agree as to quantities with the warrants, which warrants are endorsed by the searcher ; but it sometimes happens that a ship-master omits a parcel, now and then,

In his report, which of course is not included in the merchant's entry ; and when this happens, the parcel is secured in the store house, but not seized ; and when the merchant applies, it is admitted to a new entry, or added to the former entry.

No certificates of return for drawback or bondable goods imported from Great Britain are ever granted till the searcher endorses the warrants as to the landing of the goods, nor are any goods cleared outwards till the Searcher certifies the shipping of the goods upon the back of the Warrants.

No blue books are ever given for keeping an account of goods shipped or unshipped, except ; for salt imported, for the delivery of which blue books are directed to the Tidesmen stationed in the vessel, who keeps a tally-stick during the discharge, and makes a notch on it for each half barrel of salt delivered ; and when the discharge is finished, he inserts the number of notches on his tally stick in the blue book, and gives it to the Searcher, who from the quantity contained in such book endorses the quantity landed on the back of the warrant The Searcher takes no account of salt landed, except it should happen that the Tidesman goes to victuals, or is called upon other business during the landing, in which cases the Searcher keeps the account of the quantity of salt discharged till the tidesman returns. In order to ascertain the quantity of salt landed, one of the half barrels is frequently weighed during the discharge, and from the medium weights thereof, the calculation of the weight of the total number of half barrels landed is made. That the quantity of salt landed does not fall short of the quantity in the cockets more than what is allowed for waste, but he has known it once or twice to be more than on the cocket by a few pounds only.

The Tidesman only continues on board salt vessels during the time salt is discharging, but not in the night.

The Tidesmen board all vessels as soon as they can get on board ; but the boat has been out of repair for some months past, owing to her having been lent, as he is informed by the Searcher, by the Chief Boatman to some Person, on which occasion she was damaged. The Tidesmen continue on board, night and day, such vessels as import goods liable to duty, where there is suspicion of fraud ; but when there is no suspicion, they only keep watch by turns, in the Tidesmen's house, when the vessels are at Castletown, which house upon the side of the quay there ; and when the vessels are at Darbyhaven, they keep watch by turns in the watch house there. Coals is a chief article of trade at Castletown and Darbyhaven, and the duty is received according to the quantity in the cocket, if the whole is discharged , and if only part is landed, the duty is taken according to the quantity the master reports to be landed , but no officer is stationed on the vessel, nor does any officer take an account of the quantity landed

Herrings are exported from Darbyhaven not only to foreign parts, but also to Great Britain, but the quantity of white is very small, most of the herrings exported being red the merchant makes his entry, and a warrant is then granted to the Searcher for the shipping and when that warrant is returned endorsed, and an oath made by the exporter as to the amount shipped, and that the herrings were caught and cured by the inhabitants of the Isle of Man and taken on the coasts thereof, the vessel is cleared out When the herrings are exported to foreign parts, the bounty is payable upon certificates from the Collector and Controller, founded upon the curer and exporter's oath, and the Searcher's endorsement as to the quantity shipped , and when exported to Great Britain white, which is seldom the case, a bounty of one shilling per barrel is payable upon the like oath of the curer, and certificate of the Collector and Controller founded upon the Searcher's certificate of shipping ; and that this bounty of one shilling is only paid at the end of the season ; and after the fish are exported.

Wool, in one or two instances, and sheep once, have been exported to England from Darbyhaven , and in these cases bonds were taken for the due landing thereof in Great Britain, and certificates were returned that they were so landed in Great Britain , which certificates agreed with the Custom-house books at Darbyhaven, and the bonds

were cancelled. No wool or sheep have ever been shipped coastwise within the district of Darbyhaven.

Vessels are registered at Darbyhaven, and before such vessels are so registered they are admeasured by Richard Querk, an officer appointed by the Governor for that purpose, whose certificate of her built and dimensions is delivered to the Custom-house before granting the certificate of registry, and prior to that bond is taken agreeably to the register act

No licences for vessels at Darbyhaven have been applied for from the Admiralty since the registering act took place, but if they were, such vessels would be admeasured by the officer above mentioned appointed by the Governor

Smuggling prevails very much at Port Iron, and there is no officer stationed there, nor would a single officer be of any use without the aid of military, as he has found by experience; for when an officer was stationed at Port Iron some years ago without such assistance, he was either confined or made drunk by the smugglers till the smuggling was over.

The chief articles of smuggling into this island are brandy, geneva, and tea, and at times, but rarely, some tobacco.

He is clearly of opinion, that if two honest, active, sober officers were stationed at Port Iron, with the assistance of military, and with orders not only to guard that place but frequently to visit other creeks, such as Dauby, Fleswick, and Port Le Murry, particularly in the night time, which are also smuggling places, smuggling might be very much checked, provided the creeks of the other ports in the island had also proper officers and military appointed to guard them, and to ride the country.

He is of opinion, that smuggling of salt out of the Isle of Man is great. :

This examinant is also Riding Officer at Darbyhaven in virtue of a constitution of the Lords of the Treasury, dated in 1765 ;—that he took the oaths of office as such at Douglas, and gave security at Whitehaven ;—that he has a Commission from the Board of Customs, and instructions for his conduct.

He has a salary as Riding Officer of forty pounds. *per annum*, but receives no fees or gratuities in that capacity : his district is from Dauby to Kirk Santon, being a distance of about fifteen miles directly across the country, and about thirty miles round the coast.

Some years ago he used to ride once a week, or once a fortnight to Dauby, and once the next week or fortnight to Kirk Santon, Port Iron, and the other places within his District, but of late years, particularly within these eighteen months, he has rode seldom, owing to his bad state of health.

That he has made several seizures, and been concerned in others, particularly five or seven chests of tea and five pipes of brandy several years ago, upon his information, and he was also present at making the said seizures. A vessel called the Dandy was seized at Port Iron upon his information about three years ago. and carried to

Liverpool and sold, and he got from Mr. Wilson, Deputy Receiver General, forty pounds as his share ; and he seized within this fortnight thirty five anchors of Geneva in an open outhouse near Darbyhaven ; and he also made other seizures some years ago, the particulars of which he does not now recollect. He does not apprehend that for many years past goods exported from Great Britain for foreign parts have been re-landed in the Isle of Man ; nor does he know of any instance within these late years where merchant vessels homeward bound have run articles into this island

That he keeps a journal, and used to send quarterly returns thereof to the Deputy Receiver General ; but that for these eighteen months past, owing to his bad state of health, he has not sent any return to Mr Wilson —He constantly keeps a horse.

This examinant farther saith, that he is Deputy Water-bailiff by appointment of Mr. Savage and he has a salary of five pounds *per annum* for that office from Mr. Savage, but he has other emoluments in virtue of this appointment he is one of the Commissioners for managing the harbor dues.

James Webb, Searcher at Darbyhaven, is Pier Master at Castletown, and is, as he believes, appointed by Mr. Wilson, Deputy Receiver General, and collects all the harbour dues there and at the other places within the port of Darbyhaven, and has *five per cent.* for what he collects but he believes no salary.

WILLIAM CLAGUE

Jn^o Spranger.
W^m Osgoode.
Will^m Roe.
David Reid.

William Clague died 3 March 1793 aged 62 and is buried in Arbory.

Ingates

Ingates were the duties on articles imported into the Island - exports were noted under 'Outgates' - articles paid duties according to a published book of rates though as several were on an 'ad valorum' basis this was somewhat at the discretion of the custom's officer.

This page gives an example of entries - two pages covering 1 week from Monday 5th September 1748 .

Weights are in cwt:lb (112 lb ~ 50kg) - 20 cwt = 1 ton - however not always clear where the division was

Note no consistency of Names of ships and masters between different entries.

5th Septr 1748		duties paid	Total duty
Douglas			
Mary Tobyn	enters off board the Mary, Wm Martin master from Liverpoole		0 1 3½
	500 Apples	1 3	
	12 cwt brown sugar	0 0½	
Davd Creagh	enters off board the Prince Wm Dennis O'hara master from Liverpoole		0 0 3
	¼hund Loaf sugar		
Mr John Cleark	enters off board the Vloorstone Allan Backhouse master from Rotterdam		1 3 0½
	60 Rheimes of White paper	15 0	
	1 Rheme brown paper	0 1	
	500 cwts of cordage	5 0	
	50 cwt Coffee and two empty guardivines value £5 18s 7½d	2 11½	
6th [September 1748]			
Mr Cha Harriss	enters off board the Vloorston Allan Backhouse master from Rotterdam		9 3 9
	10 hogshds qty 43 dry cwt Currants	1 9 2½	
	20 Casques qty 166 doz of Licquorice Ball	1 7 8	
	20 cwt Cinnamon	0 5 0	
	30 cwt Nutmeggs	0 5 0	
	50 casques qty 46:45 cwt Renfaile ?	1 3 2½	
	6 casques qty 65cwt of figgs	0 3 2¾	
	92 rheames white paper	1 3 0	
	1 rheame brown paper	0 0 1	
	2 matts qty 13 slow cloth hemp	0 3 3	
	7:11 cwt Malher	0 3 7	
	150 hunks qty 60½ dozn wire	1 0 2	
	1 casque qty 2:6 cwt soap	0 1 0½	
	2 casques qty 4:41 cwt Annis xxxx	1 19 3	
	2 baggs qty 9:9cwt Coffee		
	1 casque qty 3:75 cwt of almonds		
	1 casque qty 50:1 sago		
	one casque qty 60 of fruits		
	2 casques qty 1430 cwt of Brimstone		
	one chest cont 2 doz of looking glass & 2 doz violins		
	All value £7 12 1		
Mr Geo Moore	enters off board the Vloorton Allan Backhouse member from Rotterdam		2 11 2¼

	eight boxes of Bohea tea qty 53:5 cwt val £102 7s 6d	
Mr Ro Reeves	enters off board the Willm of Dublin John Merhough master	18 6 3
	xxx & Madeira 73¼ pipes of wine qty 36 2 30 more 154 dollans val £39 12 5"	0 19 9¾
7th [September 1748]		
Derbyhaven		
Mr John Dronket	enters off board the St Michell of Conquet Michell Elean master from France	12 3 4½
	13 pieces qty 3 tonn of brandy	3 0 0
	40 hogshds qty 8 tonn of wine	4 0 0
	19 casques qty 20 barrells of vinegar	0 6 8
	17 tonn of bay salt	0 17 0
	p off Brandy 2:3:35 (t:cwt:lb)	2 17 11
	wine 2:0:0	1 0 0
	vinegar 5 barrells x 1/3	0 1 9½
Castletown		
Tho Railley	enters off board the John of Liverpool himself master from Mosten	0 1 7
	6 tonn of coals	0 1 0
	½ hundred earthen ware	0 3
	post 2 tonn	0 4
8th [September 1748]		
Derbyhaven		
Michell Helean	enters off board the St Michell himself master from France	1 0 6
	6 Joines ? and four hogsheds qty 2 tonn of wine (intended for Mr Robt Kennedy as a crossed out duplicate entry dated 10th indicates)	

Red Herring Houses



It is thought that the Red Herring Houses in Derbyhaven were built in 1771. They were the building above that has no chimneys[?].

Sketch of the Herring Trade

TRADE OF THE ISLAND CONTINUED – EXPORT – SKETCH OF THE HERRING TRADE – OTHER EXPORTS – BALANCE OF TRADE – AGRICULTURE AND MANUFACTURES RECOMMENDED – REFLECTIONS.²⁴

THE exports of the Island are not adequate to its imports; although Government, to promote a spirit of commercial industry among the Manks, has exempted from every fee and impost in Britain and Ireland, their produce and manufactures; and the importation of every article requisite for the culture of the lands, and the advancement of their manufactures and fisheries. Besides this indulgence, Government has granted a bounty of 1s. a barrel on herrings designed for British consumption, and an additional 2s.6d. when exported to a foreign market.

As herrings are at present the staple commodity of the country, I shall here give a sketch of this trade. During the fishery the price fluctuates from 2s. to 3s. a hundred; but near the close, the foreign smacks and red herring houses being supplied, it rapidly decreases to 1s.6d. and sometimes even to 1s. They are then cured by the white herring merchants. The process is simple; and women are chiefly employed on this occasion. By girls, from nine to thirteen years of age, the herrings are carried in baskets from the boats; and on being conveyed to the herring houses are, by the more robust women, rubbed thoroughly with salt; after which they leave them to purify till next morning, when, with a layer of salt between each row of fish, they are barrelled
(1)

²⁴ from D. Robertson, *Tour*, 1794

The trade is lucrative; but it ought to be considered, that a certain degree of risque is incurred: from a scarcity of fish, should the price exceed as. a hundred, almost all the expensive preparations for, and sanguine expectations from, the fishery are frustrated.

Those designed for red herrings are first regularly piled up with a layer of salt between each row, and for some days remain to purify. They are then washed; and, when the water is sufficiently drained from them, are fixed by the mouth on small rods, and hung up in extensive houses built for the purpose. The houses are very high: in length exceeding thirty yards, and in width about twenty. The length is divided into several spaces; and here the herring-rods are hung, reaching in rows from the roof of the house till within eight feet of the floor. The regularity of the ranks, and the lustre of the herrings, when newly hung up, make a very beautiful appearance.

Underneath, are kindled several fires of the dried roots of oak, which are kept continually smoking for four or five weeks: when the herrings, being sufficiently reddened, are barrelled, and shipped for some of the Mediterranean ports; from whence the vessels return with a cargo to Liverpool, and sometimes with a part of it for the Island. The master of the vessel is generally ignorant of the port for which he is destined, till he is a few leagues from Douglas. He then opens his orders; and it not unfrequently happens, that to one port many of the Manks cargoes are consigned.

Besides the herring-trade, the Island exports some quantities of grain, cattle, butter, bacon, lead, kelp, coarse linen, and spun cotton. But notwithstanding the amount of these, and the annual influx of wealth from the fishery, the balance of trade is against the Island: and should the fishery considerably decline, from the present languishing state of manufactures, and the too great neglect of agriculture, this country would be almost ruined.

Fish and Fowl and Good Red Herring²⁵

by A. I. B. Stewart

I was recently asked to explain how, since kippers were only invented in the middle of the Nineteenth century, Langland's Map of Kintyre, made in 1793, identifies several red herring houses.

Red Herring, particularly associated with East Anglia, have been known for centuries, and as early as 1357 an Act of the English Parliament provided that, red herring made from fresh fish costing 40 shillings per last, could be sold within forty days for half a mark of gain only, or one mark, (13s 4d), if transported to London.

²⁵ The Kintyre Antiquarian & Natural History Society Magazine. WebEdition3 / Mar1997

Writing about 1585, Montgomerie of Hesilheid, a member of a family that provided one of Kintyre's "Lowland Lairds", complained in a poem, "This is no life I lead upon a land with raw red herring reisted in a reek."

In earlier times, herring were prepared for redding by being salted whole in the fish houses in heaps about two feet deep. This lasted about two days when they were washed and hung up in the smoke house on wooden rods pushed through the gills and mouths. After seven days of smoking, the oil was allowed to drip from the fish for two days, when the fire was relit. The whole process was twice repeated, and then the smoking was continued until the herring were sufficiently cured for the particular market to which they were to be sent.

In the modern process, the ungutted fish are "roused", i.e. salted in vats for one or two weeks, washed and smoked for about a week, the smoking being interrupted as before to allow the oil to drip away. Red herrings were variously known as bacon herring, militiamen, and Glasgow magistrates. "Reds" were traditionally supplied to the Levant.

Kippers, of course, are split and gutted before being smoked. They are washed in brine for about half an hour, and then hung up to smoke, preferably above a fire of oak chips, for periods varying from six to eighteen hours.

With the scarcity and high price of herring, the trade in "Reds" has died away. In 1976, only 1,878 Tonnes were redded, as against some 16,251 tons in 1938.

CHAPTERS ON THE MANX HERRING FISHING. (1800-1897).²⁶

In 1801 the Manx fishermen and fish curers were put on the same terms as to bounties as allowed in Great Britain, and in 1808 this bounty was raised to £3 per barrel to all vessels employed in the white herring fishery on the coasts of Great Britain and Ireland (1). The number of fishing boats in 1810 amounted to 450, average 16 tons burden. There was much distress and discontent among the poorer farmers in 1816, and the ill-feeling rose considerably in consequence of Bishop Murray's attempt to revive the tithe on potatoes, turnips, &c., which had not been demanded for many years. The insular Exchequer Court decided in 1821 in favour of the Bishop; the farmers met it by appealing to the Privy Council, who in 1825 upheld the claim of the Bishop. The opponents, however, refused payment and combined together. On an attempt to enforce collection, a fierce riot broke out in Peel and in other places, and 5,000 armed men marched to Bishop's Court, compelling the Bishop by main force to desist from his attempt for that year. The barley and oats failed the next year, the Bishop therefore wisely gave way again, nor was the claim further pressed in 1827 (2). It will be recollected that the people rose en masse under the lead of Edward

²⁶ Manx Notes & queries 1904

Christian in 1642-3 against the heavy extortions of the tithe, but the outburst in the 19th century, this time more successful, was even of a more serious nature, the long-suffering people were in dead earnest, and at last won the day (3). Not only were there bad crops in 1826, but the Island was visited in addition by a, serious failure in 1827 of the herring. The distress was general, and great numbers of Manxmen were driven away between 1825-1840 to seek their fortunes in North America.

One would have expected that the Insular Government would have shown some practical concern about the fortunes of the fisheries, that at least proper annual returns of the extent of the catches, the boats and men employed, or the capital sunk in boats and gear, the value realized by the sale, both for home consumption or export, the price obtained for the fish, should have been ordered, as a matter of course from the beginning of the 19th century upwards, but we look for them in vain, and this incredible indifference about the progress or condition of the deep sea fishery, a question at all times of vital insular importance, shows how little the House has been alive to its real interests. It is therefore not at all surprising that for any information we desire on these points we have to fall back on casual insular guide books, and some occasional reports of Royal or Official Commissions. Consequently we know next to nothing of the state of the fisheries between 1800 to 1839.

The number of herring boats in 1811 amounted to 331 (4).

In 1840 (5) the average price for the English market was 20s. per maze. The demand then for fresh fish in the English markets had greatly diminished the business in the Island of curing for home and exportation. Messrs Holmes were the only people in the Island engaged in this trade

which they carried on at Douglas and Derbyhaven. They had also a curing establishment at Wick. In cases of large takes they never offered less than 10s. or 12s. per Gran. The following return of the fishing in 1840 presents a fair average of the annual value:-

	Maze	Value
Purchased and carried to		
Liverpool in Manx Boats	25,000	£35,000
Purchased in English and Irish boats	.10,000	12,000
Consumed in the Island, fresh and salt	.15,000	10,000
Cured in the Island for exportation in balk and barrel	30000.	15,000
	80,000	£72,000

returns, more or less oscillating from year to year between 1852 to 1864. Statistics are missing for the interim between 1865-1875, and are erratic for the following years.

We notice a sharp fall in 1886; a temporary rise in 1887; a big collapse again in 1892; a flaring up during 1896; and a heavy decline in 1897.

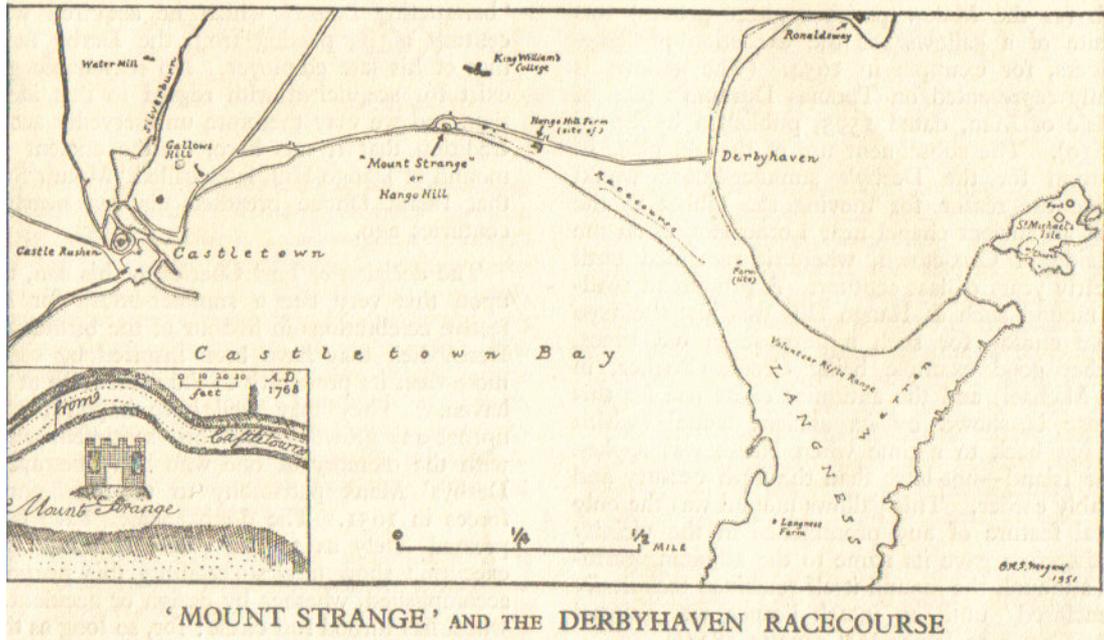
Taking Peel by itself, the herring boats employed in 1881 were 309, and slowly decreased till we find them reduced to one-sixth in 1897, when the number of boats totals 55, and the fishermen were compelled during that time to sell or break them up.

It has been my object to bring out in bold relief the causes which have hampered and fettered the progress, both economic and administrative, of the Island in the past centuries, due partly to inherent natural conditions and partly to indifferent legislation, which prevented thrift and progress. The conditions have altered during our present times, and the old inane Man, void of life and aspiration and bestirring, has disappeared from the horizon, and shaken off the oppressive nightmare under which it has laboured so long. A more promising future has opened up, of larger scope, nationally and materially; and it appears even that the fisheries, on which it always so largely depended, show fresh signs of recovery, and a promise of renewed activity. It must be the great business and the duty of the Insular Government to further now this object by a proper re-consideration of its past legislation as to the fishery laws, and to undertake a careful marine survey and examination of the fishing ground, its conditions, extent, and to consider how best to foster and preserve the existing spawning beds and nurseries, both of herring, cod and flat-fish. Of the habitat of the Manx herring so little is actually known that we have everything to learn yet. The careless and inferior mode of packing and curing has been one of the points in the past which has largely interfered with gaining or attracting good markets for exportation, and it is late in the day that Mr Nicholls has to teach the fishermen and fish curers the art and mystery to make the herring acceptable and marketable abroad to the great profit of the Island.

1. See Moore pp. 957-8.
2. See Moore p. 661.
3. The tithe was commuted in 1839.
4. See Isle of Man Guide, Saml. Haining, 1834, p. 84.
5. See Laughton's Guide to Isle of Man, 1842, pp. 281/2,

The Derby

There is a very interesting article about Mount Strange and the 'Manx Derby' Races to be found in Vol VI of the Journal of the Manx Museum. The article, by Basil Megaw is well researched and worth reading as it also deals with the building now known as Hango Hill.



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This Derbyhaven Race-cup is preserved at the home of the Derby's' at Knowsley, and according to Megaw, appears to be the only surviving example of the trophy presented to the winner of the 'Manx Derby' races. The cup was made in Dublin in 1703, the inscription shows that the cup was "Given, run for, and won at Derbyhaven."

The present 'Derby' race was first run at Epsom in the year 1780.

Derbyhaven



Built as a mission room, opened June 1898 and also licenced for Baptisms.
Now converted into a private dwelling.

There is reference, in 1857 Slater's directory, - 'a building has lately been purchased by donations procured by the Rev, G. Harvey, Chaplain and Bursar of King William's College, to be converted into a school house, and to be used on Sunday's for divine service.'

Grid Reference SC284677

King William's College Chapel



Dedicated to St. Thomas
Original chapel was in the tower block of the main buildings. The new chapel was built in 1878, consecrated 28 Jan 1879. Designed by local architect James Cowle. Has fine scissor-braced roof with canopied stalls. Two side windows commemorate T.E.Brown, an old boy of KWC. E.C. Owen discusses some of its shortcomings in his account of KWC

Grid Reference SC277679