

History of Quilliam Family Line

This surname and like so many others in Manx nomenclature, under went the customary contraction and metamorphosis when transplanted to the Isle of Mann. But in this instance the change was simple: no intricate philological transformation is involved in reducing MacWilliam to the more acceptable Manx form when all that was desired was to get rid of the odious prefix.

Ann Quilliam's parents were John Quilliam and Isabel Callister, and they appear to have been of sufficient substance and ambition to afford their children the best (though these presumably were none too good) educational advantages that the times afforded. At any rate, Ann and her two brothers and an older sister were looked up to as almost prodigies of learning by the humbler young folk of the harbor town, and it must be added that the envious were wont to call them the "proud Quilliams."

Of John Quilliam and his wife Isabel, we have all too little positive information, either as to their ancestry or their pursuits, and this is regrettable. He was evidently a man of rather superior station and tendencies - "a good Christian and a useful."