

Quayle Family Line

The Quayles were from the beginning of the Isle of Mann's recorded history a very numerous family, and many of them attained prominence and influence ecclesiastically and politically in its affairs. In Ireland, whence the name also came to the Isle of Mann, its uncontracted form was MacPhail (meaning "Paul's son"). After its transplanting it assumed various forms - MacQuaile, MacQuayle, QuaileQuaill, Quayle and Quaylle, all these being found in the early manorial records and parish registers, until the middle of the seventeenth century, since which time it has generally been spelled Quayle, though Queale and Quealey are not uncommon modern variants of the same name.

John Quayle, who was living about 1670 in Kirk Malew parish, is the earliest ancestor to whom we can, with full confidence, follow back the genealogical chain. The parish was of importance in his day because its town of Casltetown was the then seat of Island government. Its earliest parish record, containing baptism, marriages and burials, covers the period from 1649 to 1705. In this ancient folio contain numerous references to the Quayles, although strangely omitting, in the case of burials, the age of the deceased. It is noticeable that where the too frequent occurrence of the same name was likely to lead to ambiguity or confusion, the good vicar who wrote the record attempted something more specific in the interest of clearness. Thus, when the name of John Quayle had to be repeated two or three times within a few pages, the designation of "widower" was attached to one of them; of

two Thomas Quayles, one was described as "a taylor;" and still another, concerning whose identity there was left no doubt, the entry is "Eliz: Quayle (an ideot) burried 10er 9, 1700." In tracing accurately back before our John Quayle of 1670 we are consequently hampered, not by a scarcity of material, but by a surplus, and we are left wholly to conjecture as to which particular one of the many contemporaneous Quayles of the generation preceding we should link up with.

This John Quayle was the great-great-grandfather of Ann Quayle. John married Elizabeth Fairbrother (of a family which doubtless came from Scotland) and had two sons of whom we have record, though there were probably other children, older as well as younger than the two whose names we know. These sons were John, born in 1704, and Henry in 1706. We have not learned the Name of John's wife, but the couple also had at least two sons, which comprises all that we know about this elder branch of the family, their identity being lost or merged into the scores of collateral families of the same name in the same locality.

Of Henry, the younger son who was our ancestor, we know not much more, except that he left the paternal roof-tree on Malew parish, and moved to Kirk Patrick where in his twentieth year he married Margaret Quirk of Peel.

Of only two sons of Henry Quayle and Margaret Quirk have we any record, and they were both named Henry, for their father. Obviously the elder of the two, who was born in 1730, died before his brother was born in 1731. It was quite common to give to a new

born son or daughter the same name as that held by a brother or sister who had died. The custom is one which is not easy to account for, inasmuch as there were plenty of other good Christian names, plain as well as ornamental to choose from.

Another peculiarity in connection with this matter of Christian names, and one which also tends to confusion, may here be pointed out. This is, that until quite recent times a double Christian name, or a middle initial, was hardly ever bestowed upon the child at his christening. Out of more than 2000 names obtained from old tombstones and recorded on the recent volume, less than twenty bear a double Christian name. The utmost concession the reluctant Islanders appeared to be willing to make in this direction was to attach in some instances a nickname, descriptive of a recognized trait or eccentricity on him to whom it was applied. More than one example of this custom will be found in the present history.

Henry Quayle, who was born in Kirk Patrick in 1731, went to Peel for his wife, as did his father before him, and he too sought a maiden whose surname should begin with the popular initial Q. He found one in fair Ann Quilliam who was five years his junior, and who was rated as distinctly above the average girls of her time in intellectual attainments. They were married in 1757 at Kirk German. They had five children; Henry, Mary, Samuel, John and Anne. Henry died on 24 December 1783.

John Quayle, known to his contemporaries and to posterity as "the Schemer" (or "the Skamer" as the former pronounced it), was

born about 1771 and was christened on 7 April 1771 in Kirk German.
He married, Ellinor Callister on 1 September 1793 in Kirk German.
They were blessed with eleven children.

John died 6 May 1831.