

port st mary



'Port le Mare'

Watercolour by John 'Warwick' Smith, 1795

Manx Museum reproduction

J. K. Qualtrough

This booklet started out as a hand book for students enrolled on the Isle of Man College course entitled "Local History People and Places."

It was intended merely to be a field guide and it was never intended to be a history of Port St. Mary. It was hoped it would give pleasure and add a little knowledge to those who took a stroll about the Port.

I am most grateful to the Port St. Mary Commissioners for stepping in and most generously agreeing to sponsor this edition. Without their financial help the reprinting of this booklet would have remained just a dream. Now I hope you will enjoy it and tell your friends about it so that we can all enjoy a peep into the past and see what one small village was like about a hundred years ago; a village that played a significant part in the history of the Isle of Man. If this booklet is a success then other companion guides will be produced to other places of interest on the Island.

Front cover

"Port le Mare 1795" by John 'Warwick' Smith

Courtesy of Manx National Heritage

Back cover

Aerial Photo

Courtesy of Lily Publications Ltd., Ramsey

Other photographs

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PORT ST. MARY

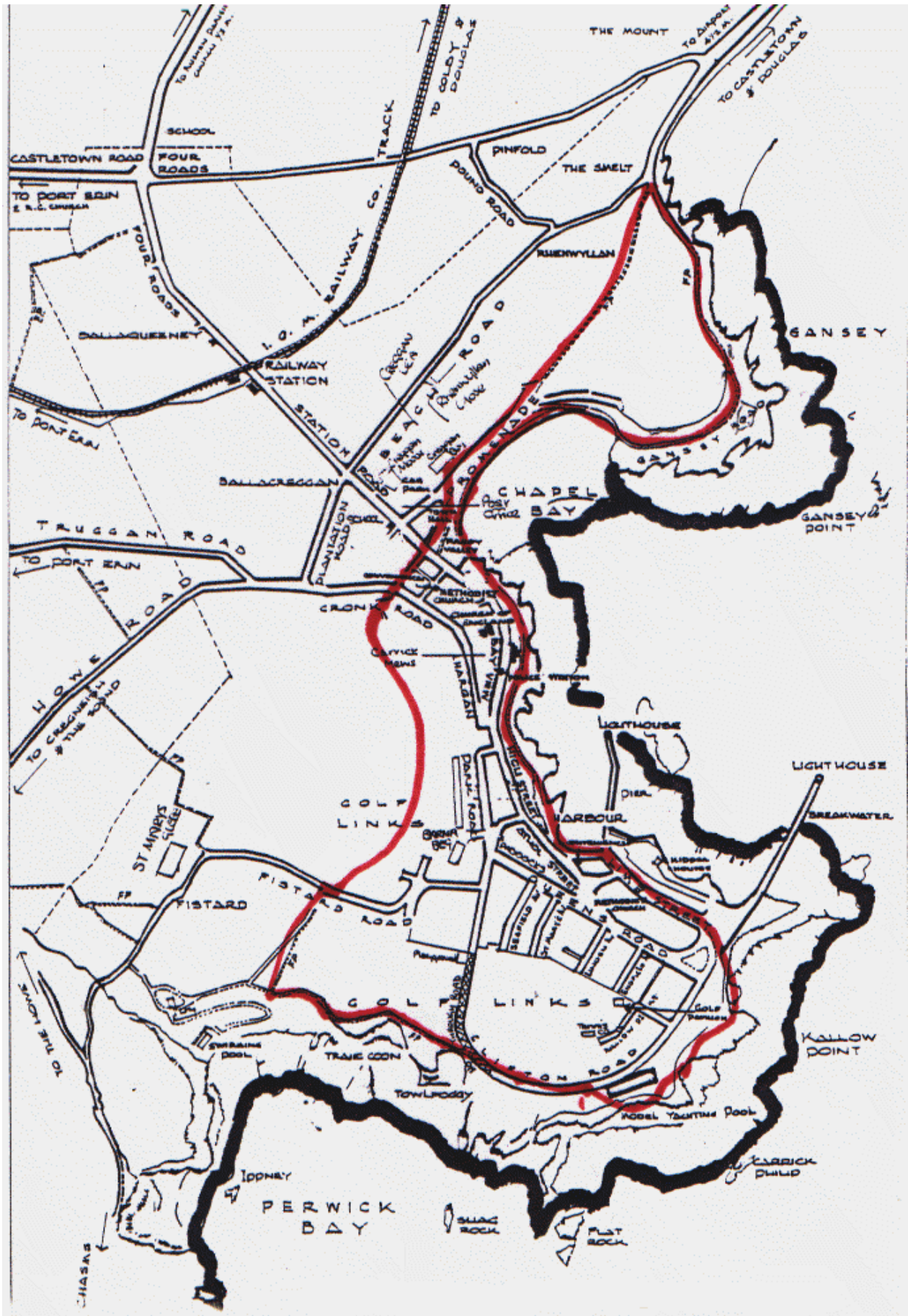
Route of walk around Port St. Mary

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Field Visit - Port St. Mary © John K Qualtrough 2001

Perambulation around the Port (See Map, Page 5)

1. Town Hall



The tour starts at the Town Hall. This building was erected by The Port St. Mary Public Hall Company Limited in 1898. In 1897 a Mr. Sainsbury sold three plots of land to the Public Hall Company for the sum of £213. 15s. 0d. The first registered office of the company was in the shop of Samuel Watterson in the High Street. The company had an authorised capital of £1500 and a paid up capital of £810. By April 1899, the registered office had moved to the New Public Hall.

One feature of the hall was the floor in the main public hall. This floor, which was a sprung Maple floor, and had been laid in order that the public could use the hall for roller skating. In November 1938 the hall and contents were sold to the Commissioners of the Village District of Port St. Mary for the sum of £1500. On the 10th January 1939 the hall was re-named Port St. Mary Town Hall and on the 22nd November 1939 the Port St. Mary Commissioners extended a number of invitations to its official re-opening.



2. The Promenade



The Promenade forms part of the lands known as the Estate of Ballacreggan. J.J. Kneen his book, "The place names of the Isle of Man," states that Ballacreggan means 'farm of the craggy land.' The owner of the land in the 1880's, George Drinkwater Lucius Cary, then living on the Calf of Man, had part of the estate laid out for development. In the plans drawn by George Kay, Architect and Surveyor, some twenty houses were to be built along the promenade. The plans envisaged buildings being erected behind the present existing buildings and the development continuing back all the way to Beach Road, some 414 dwellings in all.

3. Ballaqueeney

The erection of these boarding houses coincided with the growth of the Tourist Industry on the Island. The Bayqueen, formally Ballaqueeney Hydro, at the height of its popularity in



the late nineteen thirties, catered for over 300 holiday-makers and employed a staff of some 143 people. The then owners in addition to the large boarding house owned a farm to produce the food required by the guests and also provided sporting facilities like tennis. The Boarding House was equipped with a large ballroom and had its own cinema. Arrangements were made with local cycle hire firms and coach operators to provide guests with additional services. It is also worth noting that the entertainment provided for guests was of the highest order. Singers and Dance Bands of International repute were regularly booked.



4. Rhenwyllan

We leave the promenade by way of an ancient right of way and head towards the Smelt. The field we cross is called Rhenwyllan. Kneen says this means 'Mill division.'

5. Gansey Pottery

The first building we pass, at the end of the path and on our left, is the Gansey Pottery. This Pottery was first established in 1963 in what was then the Mill Shop. Later the business was moved to its present location.

6. The Big Mill or Rhenwyllan Mill



The present Mill was erected in 1844 by Holmes the Banker, and the building was used as a "Town Corn Mill." The building was originally used as a thrashing mill and later used as a Woolen Mill. It has now been converted into apartments. The corn mill was powered by water and it derived its supply from a dam some 200 yards higher up Beach Road. The leat, or mill race, which formerly carried the water to the wheel has now been culverted and passes under the main Beach Road. The wheel was about 30ft in diameter and was a 'back shot' wheel. Originally the wheel was housed in a stone casing, all that can be seen today are the rub marks of the wheel on the side of the mill. It is said that the wheel was removed in 1930. In addition to being a corn mill, Rhenwyllan was also a thrashing mill. Farmers would bring their harvest to be thrashed and this continued until the travelling thrashing mills were introduced to the Island. The shed where the farmers 'kicked' their loads of corn in is now a dwelling house. At one time the right of way over Rhenwyllan field passed by the corner of this house.

It was once traditional for the people of the Smelt district to assemble on Christmas morning at the Smelt Dam, where people, chiefly boys, sailed their model boats. The dam was also

used for the Mill. The dam later silted up and of recent times was used as a cabbage patch. It has now been filled in with rubble and two dwelling houses have been erected on the site.

7. Bugler Dunne

Adjoining the Smelt Dam there was once a small thatched cottage. This was the home where Bugler Dunne was born. Dunne was a boy hero of the South African War. His grandparents, both Irish lived there, and his father was a regular soldier stationed at Castletown. His grandfather came to the island to work as a miner in the Bradda copper mines.

8. Mineral-water works

A mineral-water works was established alongside the mill. These works had a sunken well to supply the water. The building was owned and worked by Mr. Samuel Watterson, a baker of Port St. Mary. This man later moved to Douglas to live. At the mineral water-works, the women of the district collected the whiting which oozed into the river. The pipe-clay, as it was called, was made into small blocks and left to harden. They were then used, after scrubbing the floors and steps, to keep away evil spirits.

9. The Smelt

The Smelt gets its name from the lead Smelting Works which were once established here when the Ballacorkish Lead Mines were working. There was also a blacksmith's shop, stable and outhouses in conjunction with the smelting works.

Some of the ore was stored in a warehouse in "Flitter Street." (That building was later used as part of some farm buildings by Charles Convery, and he built the cottage alongside in the 1860's.)

Two large gables of the smelting works remained until about 1897 when they were levelled for safety. On the site was built three cream-coloured brick houses.

The narrow road leading from the Smelt to Gansey was once the Royal Road to Port St. Mary, but the sea kept washing away the road, so the new road by way of (Beach Road) to Ballacreggan was made.

Accounts survive for the building of the smelt mill and copies of these accounts are given in Appendix Two, of the book called the Industrial Archaeology of The Isle of Man.

The smoke from the smelting caused considerable annoyance and again further details can be found in above referred to book pp. 127-130.

10. Smelt Brewery

This brewery was owned by the Gawne family of Mount Gawne, and later of Kentraugh. It supplied the beer to the "Level Inn".

A story is told of how "Chalse a Killey", on one of his roving missions, walked around the Smelt Brewery three times shouting 'Down thou shalt come!' Later the place was destroyed by a fire and never rebuilt as a brewery. The building later became a garage and is currently used by the film crews as a store and studio.

11. Bone Mill



After the Gawne's had married into the Murray Family, part of the Duke of Athol's clan, and taken occupation of Kentraugh in the 1830's, they aspired to a country house style of living complete with butler, footmen and gardeners. As a consequence of their large family and even larger number of staff, a great deal of meat was eaten. These facts coupled with the fact that in the grounds of the Estate there was a slaughter house, and the fact that Mr. Gawne took an enlightened view with regard to the improvements that were starting to take place regarding the science of agriculture. He realized that the bones from the house and the slaughter house could be ground down and used as a fertilizer on the land. As a consequence he had erected at the bottom of Kentraugh Hill a Bone Mill for this purpose.

12. Old Golf Pavilion



Adjoining the former Shore garages, (see Smelt brewery), there are two houses. One a new brick two story building replaced a single story prefabricated building that had started life as a hut used to house first world war prisoners at the Knockaloe Camp near Peel. The remaining single story prefab, now much extended, started its existence as the original golf pavilion on Cronk Skybbylt. It was on Cronk Skybbylt that the first golf course in Port St. Mary was established in 1903.

13. The Studio

The house known as "The Studio" was built by Mr. Charles Swinnerton in 1887. He continued to live there until 1907 when he died aged 94. He had come to the Island from Liverpool. He was by way of trade a Stone Mason. It has been reported that it was Charles Swinnerton who cut the Poolvaish marble altar steps for St. Paul's Cathedral. Swinnerton was also employed on the building work of King William's College. He married a local girl, Mary Collister. "The Studio" has a large studio built at the top of the house and it was here that Charles' son Fred, worked. Fred was an artist of some repute. Another famous son, Joseph, was born in Douglas in July 1848, and became a sculptor. He trained in Rome where he was elected a member of the British Academy in Rome. He carved the fine marble bust of T. E. Brown that can be seen in the T. E. Brown Memorial Room in the Manx Museum. His wife was Dame Annie Swinnerton, the first woman artist to be awarded the title "Dame."

On the southern gable of the house can be found a sundial. The dial has a carved inscription in the Manx language which reads, "Ta ny Laaghyn ain er yn Thalloo myr scaadoo." This means "Our days on earth are like a shadow, or our life on this earth is but a shadow." The dial is set to Manx Time, some twenty minutes after Greenwich Mean Time!

14. Cottages on Seaside of Path

We next pass three interesting old buildings. It is thought that these cottages were built before 1854 by a Mr. Peter Taylor, farmer of Ballakilly Farm, Rushen. From the paintings examined in class, there appeared to be a further building to be found of the shore side of the existing buildings, but no trace can now be found of that building. To the seaward side of the cottages are the Carthure Rocks.

15. Carthure

Looking out to sea we see the Carrick Rock with its caged light beacon. The original cage or basket was built to a sufficient size that it would hold seven men. The reason why seven was the number chosen reflected in number of crew members normally found on the fishing vessel known as a 'Nickey.'

Being at the centre of the bay it is not hard to understand that the rock has been the cause of many shipwrecks. One in particular is worth noting.

On the 3rd January 1888, the Port St. Mary Schooner "Lyra", built in 1876 of some 78.5 registered tons and some 80.3 feet in length, with Captain Petherick in charge, left Liverpool laden with salt bound for Dublin. She made Langness light late that night in the midst of a terrific south-west gale. The schooner was forced to lay to and it was at 8am on Wednesday 4th January 1888 that she struck on the Carrick. Almost immediately Captain Petherick was washed overboard and drowned. The remainder of the crew, three in number, clung to the rigging for their lives. At this time Port St. Mary did not have a lifeboat, and as a consequence the Port Erin boat had to be taken overland and launched into Bay ny Carrickey. The three crew were rescued by the Port Erin Boat, the ANN and MARY of

Manchester. Only seconds after the lifeboat took off the crew the Lyra heeled over from the rock and disappeared into deep water.

16. Visitor Seating

Along the path back toward Port St. Mary you will find some half-dozen seats set into the hillside, and positioned so that whichever way the wind blows, shelter will be found. These seats owe the origin to Government Winter Works schemes funded jointly by it and the Local Authority.

17. Remains of Internment enclosure

If you look along the rocks towards the Chapel Beach you will see two posts sticking up. These posts were erected so that the barbed wire could be attached to them. The wire ran into the sea when the Promenade was an internment camp during the second world war.

18. The Bayqueen



One of the most prominent buildings on the upper promenade is the Bayqueen. This building originally known as Ballaqueeney Hydro was an important tourist accommodation. The Kelly family who operated the Hydro named it after their farm, Ballaqueeney. At the end of world war II, King George VI and Elizabeth the Queen Mother visited Port St. Mary and during the course of that visit the Ballaqueeney Hydro was pointed out to the Queen Mother and it was explained that it had been an Army Officer Cadet Training Unit during the war. As a consequence of that visit the name of the Hydro was changed to that of The Bayqueen. During the war, in the fields behind The Bayqueen was a dummy village which was used as a training ground for the cadets. One of the quarries on the Cronk (Cronk Skybbylt) was also used as the rifle range. This quarry, when used for its original purpose had a small railway to move the stone.

19. Plaque to the memory of R. E. Matheson



On the Lower Promenade, another Winter Works Scheme, can be found a plaque erected to the memory of Mr. Matheson, 1878 - 1950. Mr. Matheson, who came from Dublin, with his wife started the Children's Special Service Mission in 1901 and the beach mission continues to the present day.

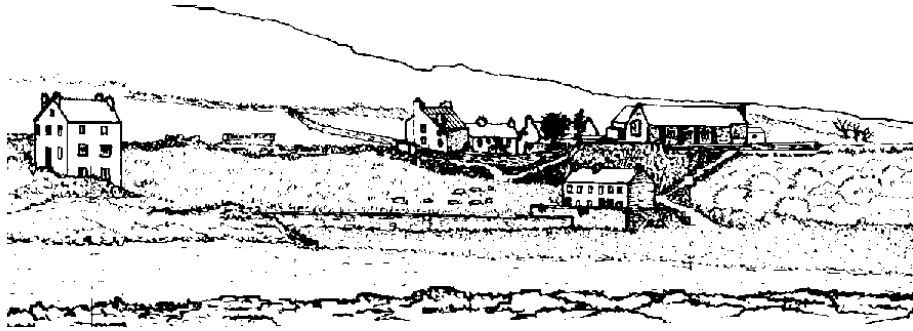
20. Lady's Well

The Port St. Mary Wishing well formerly known as "Chibbyr Moirrey or Lady's Well," is found further along the Lower Promenade. It is said that the water here is the most pure on the Island, although a modern notice tells us it is unfit for human consumption. This well was also known by locals as the Chapel Spout. The spout provided a continuous supply of water which supplied the whole neighborhood with their drinking water. People drew their water in jugs and wooden pails, the pails having been made by local coopers. The jugs were bought in Whitehaven and came to the Island in local fishing boats, these boats being used in winter to travel to Whitehaven to get a supply of coal for the home fires. From manuscript records it would appear that near Chapel Spout there was an area where rushes grew in profusion, or as the record says "knee deep." It was here that children played and used the rushes to plait into hats, rattles, fans and umbrellas especially during sunny summer afternoons.

21. Heritage Fountain

This fountain was erected in heritage Year, 1986, and is in memory of the late Bobby Littler. The water for the fountain is supplied from the Wishing Well. Bobby Littler was for many years the general manager of the Bayqueen.

22. Ancient Keeill



Keeill Moirrey, which gave its name to Port St. Mary, must have stood on the very edge of the tide. The exact site of the Keeill appears to have been lost and as a consequence there is no trace today of the ancient Keeill site. However, the beach is still called Chapel Bay. The entrance to the beach from the village is via "Chapel Gate, or the road to the Chapel." At the end of the Lower Promenade we come to an area known as "Happy Valley."

23. Pop houses



It was on this Lower Promenade that the Pop houses were to be found. As there is no trace of them on the 1869 Ordinance Survey map they must have been erected after that date. They were demolished 1930's to give way for the development of the Lower Promenade. The pop houses comprised two dwellings. On demolition, the stones were used by Port St. Mary Commissioners to build the garden walls on their new municipal properties at Park Road.

24. Karran Quirk Footpath

This walk way was built as a winter works scheme between 1962-5 and won the Civic Trust Award in 1965. It was named the "Karran Quirk Footpath," after the Clerk to the Commissioners Harold Karran and the Foreman Mason of the project Harry Quirk. It is now nick-named "The Cat Walk." This elevated walkway was largely destroyed by the sea during severe Gales on 1st February 2002.

25. Rocklands

Rocklands is reported to have been built in 1881 by a Mr. McArd for the then owner Dr. Kissack. Later it became the home of Henry Percy Kelly, High Bailiff of the Island and a noted Manx Scholar and Advocate.

26. Old School



The first school in Port St. Mary was located in what are now the grounds of Ballamona. The retaining wall to the school can still be seen from the pathway leading past the Carrick to the beach. The Rev. Dr. Hinton Bird, in his book, "An Island that Led - The History of Manx Education," states in Vol. 1 page 238, 'In the Parish of Rushen, the growing fishing port of Port St. Mary had (a Endowment Grant) £75 towards its school, for which an advertisement for a master was placed in the Sun on 14 July 1837. This building was later the first Town Hall.

27. Other Schools

Bishop Wilson's Memoranda Book in 1734 recorded that 'I gave two pounds towards building a schoolhouse in Kirk Rushen and a good one is now being built which saves the church from being abused.' The Parochial School was built on part of the Ballachurry Estate, land which had been sold by Thomas Gawne to the Vicar and Wardens of the Parish of Rushen. Hinton Bird tells of the Methodist suspicion of church pressure in the old parochial schools. A Methodist minister, George William Oliver, enquired of the Privy Council Committee if managers had the right to make all scholars attend the place of worship to which they, themselves belonged. "Is this rule allowable", he asked in a letter of May, 1854, but found his general question would not be answered until he gave details about the offending school, which turned out to be Rushen Girls School. Rules drawn up in April 1852, had stated that all children should walk with the mistress to the Church, and any willfully breaking the rules would be expelled.

Whitehall wrote to William Corrin, the then Vicar of Rushen, giving their opinion that such a rule would justify the establishment of a separate school for the persons aggrieved. Corrin, however, assured the Committee that the rule was not applied if pupils lived over a mile from the school, and also "has never been, or is it intended ever to be applied to any child against the wishes of its patents or Guardians".

The Committee in reply urged Corrin to acquaint Oliver of these facts, and suggested that in any such cases "the spirit of the legislation of 1851 should decide the question."

All that now remains of the 'old schools' in Port St. Mary are to be found on the corner of the Promenade and Station Road.

One other school that should be mentioned was known to some as "Harley's Academy." This Dame school was run by a Miss Jane Harley, and was situated in a house opposite Primrose Terrace.

28. Churches

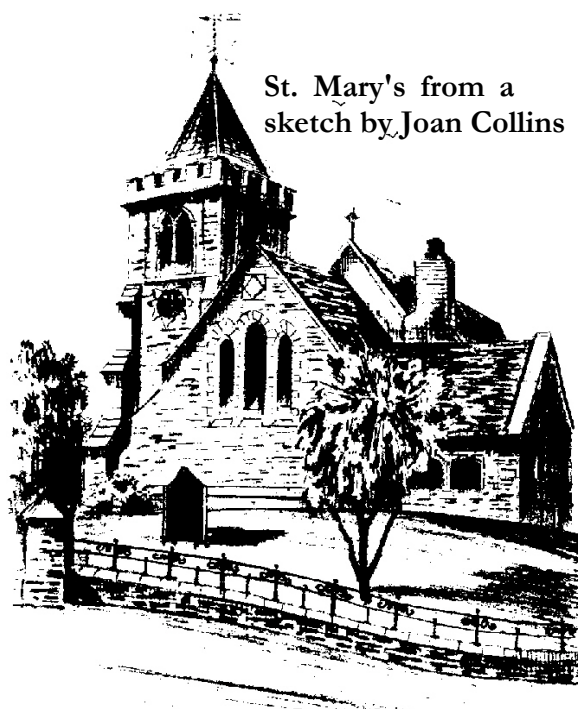
Nothing remains of the oldest church in the Port, that of Keeill Moirrey. We have two historical references to the Keeill. The first is the evidence of Speed's Map of the Isle of Man, 1605. This map is based on a survey by Durham in 1595. The map includes a conventional pictogram labelled 'chappell', on the shore at 'Portell Morrey'. The second reference can be found in Feltham's book 'Tour through the Island of Mann' in 1798. He remarks that 'the ruins of an old chapel' are observable at 'Port le Mary.'

29. St. Mary's

In 1881 it was agreed that Messrs. Barry & Son, Architects of Liverpool be asked to draw plans for the new church. The site was given by Mrs. Emily Maria Gawne of Kentraugh and a donation of £400 was made. The remainder of the money was raised by public subscription, the estimated cost for the church being £1,200.

The foundation stone was laid on Monday 15th May 1882 by Mrs. Gawne. The church was consecrated on Friday 25th January 1884 by Bishop Rowley Hill. At the time of the church's consecration there was no organ, no lighting, no heating and no porch. By 1896 the porch had been added. By 1904 the tower had been built and that year saw both clock and bell installed. On November 30th 1904 the church was lit by gas for the first time.

During the second world war a canteen was established in St. Mary's Hall for the lads in the Air Force who were stationed in the Port. The Hall having been acquired from the Oddfellows in 1922.



30. Primitive Methodist Chapel in Lime Street.



Erected c1832

This chapel was opened on the 27th May 1832 by the Rev. George Osborne of Liverpool. He preached there in the afternoon and that evening the preacher was William Constable. The chapel was built on land purchased from the Duke of Atholl.

31. Present Methodist Chapel.



Mount Tabor was built 1903 as a Primitive Methodist Chapel to replace the chapel in Lime Street. The building was designed by Todd and Morris, Architects of Southport to seat 320 people. It was built at a cost of some £2,100.00, chiefly through the efforts of the Rev. W. Harris.

32. First Wesleyan Methodist Chapel



Erected c1835 by Mr. Harry Moore.

The title deeds to the plot of land on which this chapel was erected state, 'a parcel of grounds near the Port St. Mary Estate of Ballavarra called "Gaarey feeney," and in length along the main road leading into Port St. Mary 23 yd., bounded on the North by a wall, on the East by the brow adjoining the shore, on the South by the land of William Cannell and on the West by the high road.'

In a manuscript note to be found in the Library of the Manx Museum it is recorded, "The Land was given (by Mr. Gelling) on the understanding that the chapel would be built with four spires and generally similar in design to one that the giver had seen in Scotland." The Pulpit was on the North side of the building, the entrance on the South, and this had a stairway to the Gallery. The building was heated by a solid fuel stove in the centre of the room, with a flue pipe through the gable wall.

Once the new Wesleyan Chapel was built, this building was used as the Sunday School and for meetings such as the Band of Hope, Bright Hour, Wesley Guild and Fellowship. The building was also used for Concerts, Manx Teas and Jumble Sales.

A small kitchen was added on the East side of the building as were toilets, the drain being connected to the Shore Road. Later the Gallery was removed to allow the game of Badminton to be played, electric light was installed in ? and gas radiators replaced the solid fuel heating.

In 1968 Port St. Mary Commissioners decided that they would like to widen Bay View Road and to that end they approached the Trustees of the Chapel to see if they could remove one of the corner buttresses to the building. The Trustees replied stating this course of action could cause structural problems, however, in two years time they might allow the Commissioners to have the whole building. As a consequence in January 1970 the

Commissioners bought the building for the sum of £1500. In April 1970 demolition of the building commenced.

Port St. Mary Branch of the British Legion, with the cooperation of Port St. Mary Commissioners then made the site into a Garden of Remembrance. The Garden was dedicated by the Rev. J. Duffield on Sunday afternoon, the 28 June 1975.

33. Site for the Baptist Chapel



It was on this site that the New Wesleyan Methodist Chapel was erected c 1895. Little is about the opening ceremony except the fact that Kathleen Gellion's grandmother was a soloist at opening. The building was used as a church by several different denominations until it was finally sold in 1970 and served as a Baptist Church until the building was razed in 2000 as being unsafe.

34. Ballamona

At the time that the Port St. Mary public hall was to be built in the late 1890's, an Edwin Jones lived at Ballamona. In the list of subscribers to that Public Company he is described as being a Judge. One other interesting subscriber is Mr. C. A. Hodgkinson, who's address is given as the promenade. His former occupation is that of Chief Constable. It is in the grounds of this property that the old school was erected. From information gleaned from Miss Watterson's Note-book, part of the Manx Folk Life Survey, to be found in the library of the Manx Museum, "there were Penny Readings in the Old Town Hall. This was situated where the garden of Ballamona is today. Ballamona was the one-time residence of Judge Jones and later Sir Walter Wragg. The Penny Readings was a full evening's concert. With well known local people like John Watterson, John Joseph Sansbury and his sister Jane Maria Sansbury, the singer."

The boat house, built in 1889

The actual date of erecting the school is not yet known.

Under the Old School House, on the shore, was a large cavity in the rock, possibly where the boat house is now erected. This cavity was known as Thale - Vash. Old people have been known to say there was a "Tharrow - Ushtey" living there. A Tharrow - Ushtey being a Sea Horse. One writer in the nineteenth century remembers a large hole going in a long way and of being told that a cat went in and came out at the water course in Port Erin near the breakwater.

35. Site of two old cottages



These cottages were demolished in 1888. They were the homes of Thomas Cregeen and Capt. John Costain both better known to their contemporaries as John Punch and John Quaille respectively. A little further on below Carrick Court, the former Cliff Hotel, you will see a bungalow where the late Brian Doughty lived. This dwelling replaced a two story building which in turn replaced a thatched cottage. A John Cubbon lived in the thatched cottage and he was better known to his contemporaries as Cubbon the Spout. The adjoining spout or well was known as Billy the baker's Spout.

36. Northern Lighthouse Residential Block

This building was used as the residential home for the Light House Keepers and the families. The Keepers needed accommodation once the Chicken Rock Light was established. Prior to that time the Keepers and their families lived on the Calf of Man

37. Creg y chreel

It was from the jetty here that pleasure boats plied for hire, taking out fishing trips and visitors to the Calf of Man.



38. Cliff Hotel



This building now known as Carrick Court, was built on a narrow strip of land on the seaward side of the main road leading into Port St. Mary. The building has had several names including 'The Golf Links Hotel.' Its original name was Cliff Hotel and had been built by a Mr. Fred Callow.

39. Willow Terrace



This terrace of houses were named after the Willow Trees that were grown in this area. The willows were used to make lobster pots. It is also thought that the brows surrounding the terrace were once the vine growing area for the Monks.

40. Maggie the brows



In one of the small cottages that formerly nestled under the brows was a cottage that was the home of a local character 'Maggie the brows.' Another character who lived here was 'Tom Sullivan.'

41. Joe Bill Joe

Joe Bill Joe (Qualtrough) lived between 1823 - 1906. He was a shipbuilder, and it was he who had built the old warehouse. This building is now residential apartments. A phrase was coined locally to denote when something was very dark or black and this phrase was widely use, it was, "As black as Joe Bill Joe's pitch."

42. Port Verk or Purt Faark or Purt Fuygh



The shingle beach to the north of the new quay is known as Port Verk. It was on this beach, as well as on the New Quay itself that Joe Bill Joe's shipyard was situated. Schooners were built and repaired, and in some cases even lengthened on Port Verk beach.

43. Old Warehouse

The present apartment block, built in 1888 and now known as Harbourside Apartments was converted in the 1960's from its use as a woolen mill. The original warehouse replaced a former dwelling house, which in turn replaced a form Hunting Lodge that had been owned by John, Duke of Athol in 1800. When the warehouse was erected in 1888 it was used in conjunction with a thriving ship building industry and included a ship's chandlery and barking pans.

44. Sail loft and Smithy



The ground floor of the building served as a Blacksmiths shop and a most unusual slit can be seen in the wall below the stone staircase. It was through this opening that the keels for the vessels under construction would be slid out. Above the Blacksmiths shop was a carpenters shop and above that a sail loft that was occupied by Bill Clucas until the 1950's.

45. Old Stables



This building demolished in the early 1950's had been used prior to its demolition as a paint and general store associated with the Old Warehouse. It was also used a net store. The building had been erected as stables for the house which occupied the Old Warehouse site.

46. Northern Lights' Oil Store



This building was erected as a store for the paraffin oil and coal used in the Chicken Rock Lighthouse.

47. Merk's or Corris's Gut

It was here that Francis Corris lived until he died in 1945. Mr. Corris was well known as a proprietor of rowing boats that plied for hire in Chapel Bay. When his home was demolished the present joiners shop was erected.





48. Cumberland Hotel

There is a story told of one Robby Bob who went into the Cumberland Hotel for a drink. Robby Bob went up to the bar and asked for a pint, the cost in those days being twopence hapenny a pint. Upon receiving his pint, he put twopence on the bar. The landlord told Robby Bob he was a half penny short. "No," said Robby, "it's thee tha's short!" In 1850 the landlord was Edward Gale.

49. Cumberland Square and Market



There are a number of tantalizing references to Port St. Mary Market. Unfortunately all we known is its location. It was first thought to be situated on land behind the present print works of Quine & Cubbon. The area in front was known as Cumberland Square. However, a plan has now been found which shows the market situate on land behind the present High Street.

50. Hawthorn bush



It is reputed that the original bush was planted by The Duke of Atholl at the time when he had a hunting lodge built on Shore Road. The existing tree was planted in the 1950's.

51. Blacksmith shops and Nail works

Along the New Quay there was formally a number of Blacksmiths shops and Nail Makers Works. These industrial works were associated with the once flourishing ship building industry which was carried out here.

52. Ivydene

Built 1829 and used originally as a noted lodging house.

53. The Albert Hotel



Formally known as The Temperance Hotel. In 1874 one could get a horse drawn coach from here to Castletown any week-day at 9am and at 3pm. The cost being 4d.

54. New Quay



It is not yet known when The New Quay was built. It was on this Quay that a number of schooners were built, and then launched side-ways into the Harbour. Later a coal store was erected on the Quay, and now it is used to 'park' yachts during the winter months.

55. Dukes Lane and Corner

This is the name given to the road down the south end of the harbour and the corner of the road and Lime Street was originally known as Duke's Corner.

56. Compton Building



This building, now demolished to make way for new housing, was originally a tenement building. How the building got its name is not yet known. What is known is that a building with the same name was erected in Castletown.

57. Watch house



The building, formerly known as Turnbull's House, has been altered from a single storey building into its present form of two stories. It was once the home of the Harbour Master for Port St. Mary as well as being the Official Harbour offices. This was the place where all the local sailors, young and old, able-bodied, infirm and lazy could be seen "keeping up the wall" most evenings and Sundays. Outside the building there was formally a 'sandstone' used by fishermen to sharpen their knives

58. Old Pier



This pier was built about 1812.

In a book about the Swedish ship, the 'Vassa,' it is reported that the Laird of Melgin, in 1664 when developing his diving bell carried out a number of trial dives in the Chasms bay. During the course of these trials a number of cannons were recovered from the sea-bed. It is alleged that these cannons were used as the original bollards on the Old Pier. When the pier was first built it had a rounded end where the lighthouse in situated. This end had to be removed with the coming of steam coasters as they had difficulty going astern when leaving harbour!

59. Lime Street



The street was named after the Lime Kiln that was located on the seaward end of the street. Limestone from the Quarry would be taken along this street to the Harbour where it would be exported. The photograph show the properties in Lime Street being repaired after being hit by a whirlwind in 1895.

60. Site of Old Primitive Methodist Chapel



See note 30. This building was finally used as a coal store; its date of demolition is unknown. It had a date stone with the inscription MDCCCXLI

61. Sail loft

A second sail loft can be found in Lime Street in the property formally known as Annie Jane Ann's. This Watterson property has now been converted into living accommodation.

62. Rushen Mineral Water Co.

A thriving mineral water works could be found in Lime Street. A number of 'pop' bottles bearing the name Rushen Mineral Water Co., can still be found today.

63. Kipper works

There was a number of Kipper Yards to be found in Port St. Mary. The largest, 'Yonts' Kipper house was situated off Flitter street. This was the yard of Mr. J.J.Qualtrough.

Other yards belonged to Aldritts, Kneen's, and Mr. Bridson.

64. Shell Fisheries

Scallop fishing began in October 1937 off Port Erin. The area fished later was extended to include that area from the Chickens Rock northwards to Douglas and also an area known as Kirk Michael Bank. After 1972, when the smaller dredges with spring tooth bars were brought into use, the rougher fishing grounds to the south and east of the Island could be fished without damage to gear.

In 1969 queenies began to be fished commercially.

At first scallops were delivered to market still alive in their shells. In 1937 they were landed at Port Erin and then transported by train to Douglas. The journey then continued by sea to Liverpool. Here they were again transported by train to London. During the whole journey the shell fish were completely un-refrigerated. The scallops arrived at Billingsgate still alive some 48 hours after capture.

In the late 1950's, or early 1960's scallop processing commenced and the cleaned meat was exported to Belgium and France. Later in the 1960's it was discovered that American enjoyed shell fish and the first queenies were exported to there.

65. Millers Yard



One of the last boat building yards in Port St. Mary

66. Timber yard

All that remains of Gelling's timber-yard is one chimney. This is the site of 'Yonts' kipper house.

67. Huntersfold Building

Erected 1854, used for sail repairs, net factory, paper works and general store. Local folk lore has it that the building is haunted. It is said that at dusk the presence of a man with a black cloak and hood can be felt, especially if you happen to be on the top floor.

68. Flitter Street

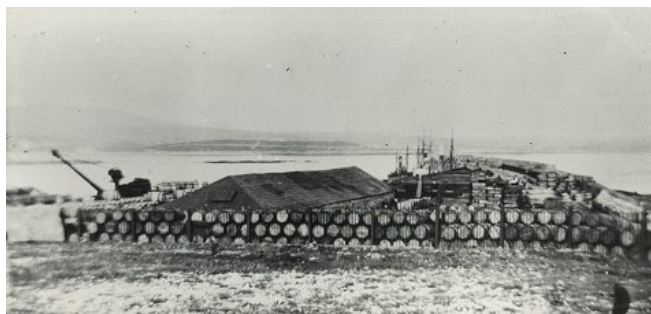
This street is more correctly known as Lock Road.

69. Lifeboat House



The Royal National Lifeboat Institute established the Port St. Mary station in 1896. The boathouse was erected within two years of the station being created at a cost of £845. The first lifeboat on station was the ten-oared self-righting boat called James Stevens No.1. This lifeboat was kept on a carriage in the boat house. However, it could be horse-drawn to other launch sites. The boat was provided by a legacy from Mr. James Stevens of Birmingham at a cost of £823. The lifeboat was launched on 22 services saving 55 lives. The first coxswain was a Mr. William Kelly who served from 1896 until 1916.

70. Alfred Pier



The story of this pier starts prior to its erection between 1882 & 1886. Foundation laid on 31 January 1882 by Alfred Duke of Edinburgh and not completed until 1886.

71. Pier Lighthouse

The pepper pot lighthouse erected at the end of the pier is said to have come from the Breakwater at Port Erin.

72. Refuge Shelter



The mariners and Fisherman's Refuge Shelter was opened on the 22nd August 1987 following the death of the well known fisherman and Commissioner Peter "Kettle" Quirk. This building was destroyed in the severe storm on 1st February 2002

73. Chicken Rock Lighthouse



When it was decided to erect a lighthouse on the Chickens rock in 1869 the Stevenson brothers were asked to design the new lighthouse. The building of this lighthouse involved teams of masons being employed and housed in Port St. Mary. Workshops were built and

the granite ordered from the quarries at Dalbeattie in Scotland. Steam tugs were engaged to carry the stone from Scotland to Port St. Mary and then to carry men and supplies to the Chickens Rock. As the tugs could not land at the Chickens Rock two small boats were employed to make the actual landings. All the men employed on the construction work were compelled to wear life jackets at all times, and not one life was endangered during the five seasons of work it took to erect the lighthouse. Obviously work was regulated by the state of the tide and the weather and at best six or seven hours was the maximum that could be worked at a stretch. The season ended in September each year. During bad weather and during the closed season the thirty five men employed continued to work preparing the granite for the following year. Each piece of granite was cut, dovetailed, numbered and a template made in case of accidental loss or damage. Each course of stone work was laid out in the yard in Lime Street so that the stones could be checked before being dispatched. The site must have resembled a giant three dimensional jigsaw puzzle before the granite was taken by barge to the Chickens.

The rock itself was prepared during 1870 and during the next year nine complete courses were laid to complete the solid base of the lighthouse. Work progressed quickly in 1872 when another forty seven courses were completed, and the topmost course, the ninety-sixth was laid on 6th June 1873. The interior was then fitted out, furnished and the lantern and optic installed in the following year. In all 3,557 tons of granite was dressed and fixed in place at a total cost of £64,559.

74. Limestone Quarry and Lime Kiln

Jefferson's quarry and Deemster Gawne's Lime Kiln were used to provide ashlar for Harbour works throughout the North Irish Sea, domestic building stone and stone burnt and crushed for agricultural purposes.

75. Winter work scheme

The above picture shows the great and the good at the official opening of the 'Winter Works Scheme.' A number of very important winter work schemes were undertaken in Port St.



Mary between 1934 - 1939 to provide employment at a time when no unemployment benefit was universally available.

76. Model Yacht Pool



This pool erected 1936/1937 and paid for by the members of the model yacht club. The pool was opened by Mr. J.J. Qualtrough, then Chairman of Port St. Mary Commissioners, a board he had served for 57 years. The pool was called the 'Coronation Pool.'

77. Mackay Hugh Baillie Scott Houses

On the 12th May 1890 Messrs. Edwin and Henry James Qualtrough purchased plots 390, 391 and 392 from The Port St. Mary Estate Company. A pair of houses, Perwick Villas, were erected on these plots, two of the few architecturally designed houses to be built in Port St. Mary. They are partly built in limestone and have a bit of half timbering and red ridge tiles set above a slate roof. The Port St. Mary rates book shows one of them occupied by December 1892 by a Mr. James Fellows and the other was occupied during 1893 by a Mr. J.E. Rimmer.

78. Port St. Mary Estate Company Limited

On the wall in the boardroom of Port St. Mary Commissioners' there can be seen a plan of the Port St. Mary Estate Company Limited. The author of this ambitious scheme was Frederick Sauderson and the plan is dated 1887. In all there were 507 building plots on the land now forming the Golf Links at the Point. The first sale of Port St. Mary Estate land appears to have been in July 1889 and was in fact a swap of land in Lime Street.

79. Tennis Courts

Prior to the model yacht pool being created this site was used as the first Tennis Courts to be established in Port St. Mary.

80. Golf Course

The existing Golf Course dates from 1936 two previous courses had been used in the Port prior to this course being opened.

81. Rope Walk

The old Ropewalk was a busy place in its time. The works were owned by Mr. Enos Lace and later by his son Thomas Lace. Young lads from the Port were employed "Putting Wheels around" for the spinners, their wages being three shillings a week. Lads were also used to heckle hemp. Hemp was purchased from Mr. Lace by the local fishermen and this hemp was spun by their wives at home. This spun yarn was then made into nets for the herring and mackerel fishing. The shed housing the wheels at the works was finally demolished just prior to the second world war.

82. Old Fort

Little is known about this old fort except for a bit of folk lore. It is said that "superstition says it was well built and that there might be an underground passage to Castle Rushen and that the Castle was built by the Danes."

83. Jefferson Bathing tub

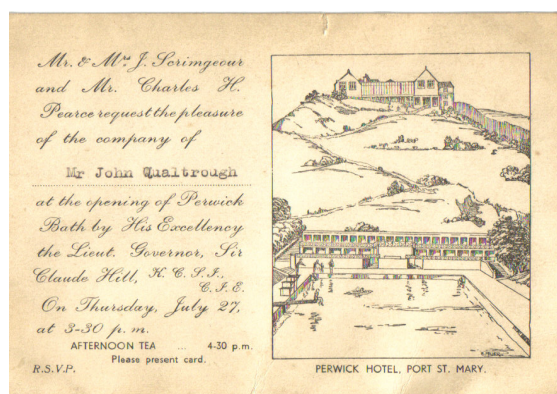
Very little is known about this 'Bathing Tub.'

84. Strathallan House

This house built on the premier site of the Port St. Mary Estate was originally built as the Clifton Hotel and was originally owned by George William Jotham of Kidderminster, Doctor of Medicine. It was built on the promontory which had previously been occupied by the ancient fort, the whole promontory being called Towl Foggy. The property, which later was owned by Colby Cubbon and called Strathallan Castle, and later still owned by Lord Percy, and now by Mary Aldrich widow of the late Ronnie Aldrich. The building is supposed to have concrete floors and is devoid of ornament externally. Bridge to St. Thomas's Isle.

85. Perwick Bay Hotel

With the expansion of the Tourist Trade after the First World War a new hotel was established at Perwick by a Mr. Clague



86. Standing Stones

In a field to the North East of Ballacreggan Farm you will see a large slab of stone some ten feet in height. A further, similar stone can be found in a garden adjoining the lane that leads up to Cronk Skybbylt. These stones are known as Giant's Quoiting Stones. Tradition has it that two giants tossed the stones to their present positions after games held on the Meayll.

87. Gas works



The Port Erin and Port St. Mary Gas Works were established in 1898, and continued in operation until 1971. The coal for the gas works arrived in small coasters at Port St. Mary and was then conveyed to the gas works by horse cart and later by lorry.

88. Wells

There are a number of Public and Private Wells to be found in the Port. One that existed near the present 'Chip Shoppe' was found to be the source of one of the cholera outbreaks.

89. Net Factory



For a full description of these works see *Industrial Archaeology of the Isle of Man* pp. 26-27.

90. Barking Pans

The nets used in the herring fisheries had to be regularly 'barked' or treated to counteract wear and bacteria attacks on the vegetable fibre of the cotton or linen used in the manufacture of the nets. The process was similar to that used in the leather industry to 'tan' the hide. A solution made from oak and birch was often used as the preservative. It is interesting to note that under the Manx Laws of 1796 and 1817 the use of tarred nets was forbidden. After 1850 a solution of 'cutch' came to be used as the normal preservative. Cutch is a dark extract from trees which grew in India. The cutch came in blocks and was rather like pitch in appearance. Within Port St. Mary there were a number of 'barking pans or 'Bark Houses.' There would be found in the bark houses copper cauldrons which were used for heating the liquid and deep pits in which the liquid was poured and the nets soaked in the liquid. It was considered that nets barked once a month and dried fortnightly on the green at the Point would with careful use last five years.

Sails were also barked, and the distinctive tan colour of the sails of the fishing fleet bore witness to this practice.

Appendix

Port St. Mary in 1850

(as remembered by the late John Watterson, Station Master)

Port St Mary as it is now called, was better known fifty years ago as Port Le Murrie, or Port of St Mary, by taking the name from an old church situated at Chapel Brows as you entered into the village, so called at this time. From the Douglas and Castletown roads was Ballacreggan Farm owned by James Holmes of Douglas, better known as Holmes the Banker, and tenanted by one Mr. Kelly as Holmes' agent. When he left he sailed for New Zealand along with his family. There was one dwelling house on the highway and one Edward Reggau, better known as Uncle Ned, dwelled in who was the shepherd of the Farm, a good and kind old man. There were no more houses on the right hand side from this house until you get to the Hotel which was tenanted by one Mr John Kermode and by the Mackenzie's family. On the left hand side there were three houses at the Chapel Gate, one slate house now called May Cottage and two thatched cottages. One of them was a Public House kept by one Kerry Munla. On the same left hand side we come to the Old School House now demolished. There was a School Master by the name of Mr Quayle who was a cripple and he was named the Little Master being a short man walking on two crutches. He taught the boys very well and trained them for sea faring. There were two thatched houses below on the shore, the bottom of the Brows, one occupied Thomas Cregeen, a labourer, and the other by Captain John Costain; and another thatched cottage on the shore close by occupied by Captain John Cubbon. Further on the left hand side there was no house until you came to the Wesleyan Chapel, next John Collister's house, John Quayle's, Richard Quayle's, John Kermode better known as Jack the Nailer, John Taubman's house then a small thatched cottage used as a cowhouse, kept by one Patrick Crebbin known better as 'Pat a Cadger' who did some butchering, in sheep which was rare; to get mutton at the time you would have to barter for it before it was killed. Then a slate house which Mr John Taubman used as a joiners shop, I can remember who worked there Joseph Anderson, Bob Cannell, Robert Gelling, and his sons, Thomas Taubman and John Taubman, who I believe all served their apprenticeship with Mr John Taubman. Next came four thatched cottages adjoining each other, tenanted by Labouring men, John Nelson and others. Next a slate house, Thomas Moore's, tenanted by four tenants, John Turnbull, William Watterson, James Watterson and George Costain.

Mark Watterson the Bakers then divided the row of houses down an incline pathway to the shore. You then came to Mr Sayle's on the left hand side. On the opposite side of the pathway you came to the Cumberland Inn tenanted by Edward Gale. Then Duke the Blacksmith's property and partly tenanted by themselves. Next was a Smithy close by and two small slate houses tenanted by Captain William Raisbeck and Captain William Kermode.

Next a slate house which was made into a Grocer's shop occupied by Daniel Hughes, a Grocer. A by road passing the door of the shop from the main highway leading to the harbour or New Quay, this Grocers shop finishing the extension. As you came along the New Quay there were two houses tenanted by labouring men; then Mrs. Christian's house, better known as Parson Christian, with a private street in front and a beautiful row of paving stones laid down in a half moon circle before the steps on the front door and kept in good repair. The road from the highway came down the incline to this place and opposite the gable of Mrs Christian was a Public House kept by Joseph Raisbeck, better known as Joss and Peggs Public House. Adjoining it was Mr Sam Yourts House. Going further North on the shore were two thatched cottages and going up a narrow pathway was a row of two slate houses, occupied by William Cubbon, Blacksmith, and John Cregeen. A little further North on the shore was a thatched cottage occupied by John Watterson, better known as Johnnie Bill Dans and further North on the shore was one small thatched cottage occupied by Bob Sayle a labourer. That finishes the number of houses on the left hand side of the highway to the harbour until you came to the watch house or Turnbull's house.

From the hotel occupied by the Mackenzie's and I Kermode, on the right hand side of the road there were no houses until you came to Henry Moores the house which is now the new Isle of Man Bank, the old house was taken down; then 'Pat a Cadgers' dwelling house and about four houses adjoining each other occupied by John Taubman, School Master Harley, Thomas Hudson, William Cubbon, and others. Next Taubman's Timber Yard and Barking Pans, then two slate houses adjoining with a Bakehouse at the back and a shop in front, occupied by Robert Qualtrough, Harbour Master, the Bakery kept by his sons Thomas and Edward Qualtrough. Next Mr Lace's house, the Grocer and Ropers, and at the back Barking Pans occupied by Mr Enos Lace. Next came Mr Thos Clague, a shoemaker, from where a road lead up to the farmer's house and a public well.

Opposite the well was a space of land named market space. There was a thatched cottage occupied by John Watterson or named as John Hall, and he built a slated dwelling house near to, which was bought by Mr Edward Qualtrough. Next came the property of the Cariner, which was bought by Mr William Taubman, Block Maker, and door maker, and the old smithy. Then William Quayle was a tenant of the property of John Taubman. There were no houses until you came to the property of John Qualtrough, named Johnny Ned Billy. Next Pollard's house, a Public House with two houses in the lane occupied by two labour tenants. Next came Robert Qualtrough's a Public House and an old house adjoining, occupied by Larry the Baker, or otherwise Danny Irvine. Then the other was a large house owned by Thomas Cregeen or Captain Thomas Cregeen as better known. Then a thatched house, a Public House occupied by Thomas Clague a quarrier. A small entry led the way up to a small thatched cottage occupied by Thomas Tear a quarrier. Next came a Nailers Smithy, occupied by William Sansbury a Nailer, to whom William Clugston served his time, better known as Willie Diddie, who was well respected in the village for his musical talents and other musical items. Next came Cubbon's Smithy occupied by William Cubbon, Smith who was a respected

smith amongst the builders. Next came the Methodist Chapel erected anno domini M.D.C.C.C.X.LI. house of prayer Next a Public House occupied by one William Gale with a swinging sign of the name. As we enter into Lime Street we find the Houses much the same as at the time of writing, except a Row of clean white washed houses on the right hand side from the warehouse, occupied by the labouring men of Jefferson's Quarry, which led the way to the Lime Kilns. The one Lime Kiln at the Butt of the breakwater being known as Deemster Gawne's Lime Kilns, he burning Lime there. On the left hand side to the Kilns is a row of houses the same as in their days with a little improvement, and called Lime Street. Now I shall proceed to Pathways at the Chapel Brows. There was a Road between two houses as at present, leading over to the Gates at Chapel Brows with a good cart road, until you come to the site leading to Rhenwhyllin field. Then a road leading to the shore and a road to the top gardens. The road leading to the shore was called 'Cron a Guilt' which used to be two small thatched cottages erected at the bottom of the gardens. Along the shore was a thatched cottage occupied by one Paul Maddrell, a labourer of Ballacreggan farm. Next came a thatched cottage occupied by Mr Corkill a miner, on the brew adjoining was a large patch of land which nobody seemed to own as cows were kept on it, by every person who had a cow, namely Peter Tayler, Corkill Miner, Thomas Moore Irvine, Robert Gelling, John Watterson better known as John Mark, used as Ramblage with no rent to pay and later on no person seemed to know that any rent was paid but just as ramblage property. Boats following the fishing were drawn up and nets spread and never heard of trespassing but all free ramblage to Peter Taylor's house, and around to the shore road by the big Mill, which was built in 1849 by Holmes the Banker. Every person had a right of way to the little harbour for boats, and had been told it was on record as a harbour of the Island named 'Ghaw Cham'. The heartroad leading from Port St Mary highway to the chapel shore, there was no hedge but open, and was very dangerous for carting wrack or seaweed from the shore. Near the shore was a spout called Chapel Spout, and a continuous run of water which supplied the whole of the neighbourhood, and to the time of writing plenty of water. This water was drawn in water jugs and wooden pails made by the Coopers. The jugs were bought in Whitehaven and conveyed by fishing boats in the winter when getting coals. Near the Chapel Spout was a vast flat of rushes going up knee deep which the young ones used to plait into hats, rattles, fans and umbrellas for part time especially in the summer afternoons. At the bottom of this flat of rushes a stone stood erected about four feet high which I was told that some sailors were buried there of a brig which was wrecked in the bay loaded with salt for Africa. There was a pathway from the Chapel Spout along the Brows towards the harbour, passing underneath the Old School House and the Stile Spout into the highway. At the South end of the School House there was also a right of way from the stile to the shore and to the thatched houses on the shore, namely one of the three occupied by Thomas Cregeen and one by John Costain both names better known as John Punch and John Quaille. The other thatched house was belonging to John Cubbon better known as Cubbon the Spout. Underneath the Old School House on the shore was a large cavity in the rock called

Thale-e-Vash, people saying that there was a Tharrow-Ushtey taking there, or in English a Sea Horse, but I can remember a large hole going in a long way and have been told that a cat went in and came out at a water course in Port Erin near the breakwater at Billy the Baker's Spout, above John Cubbon's house where there are two houses built now.

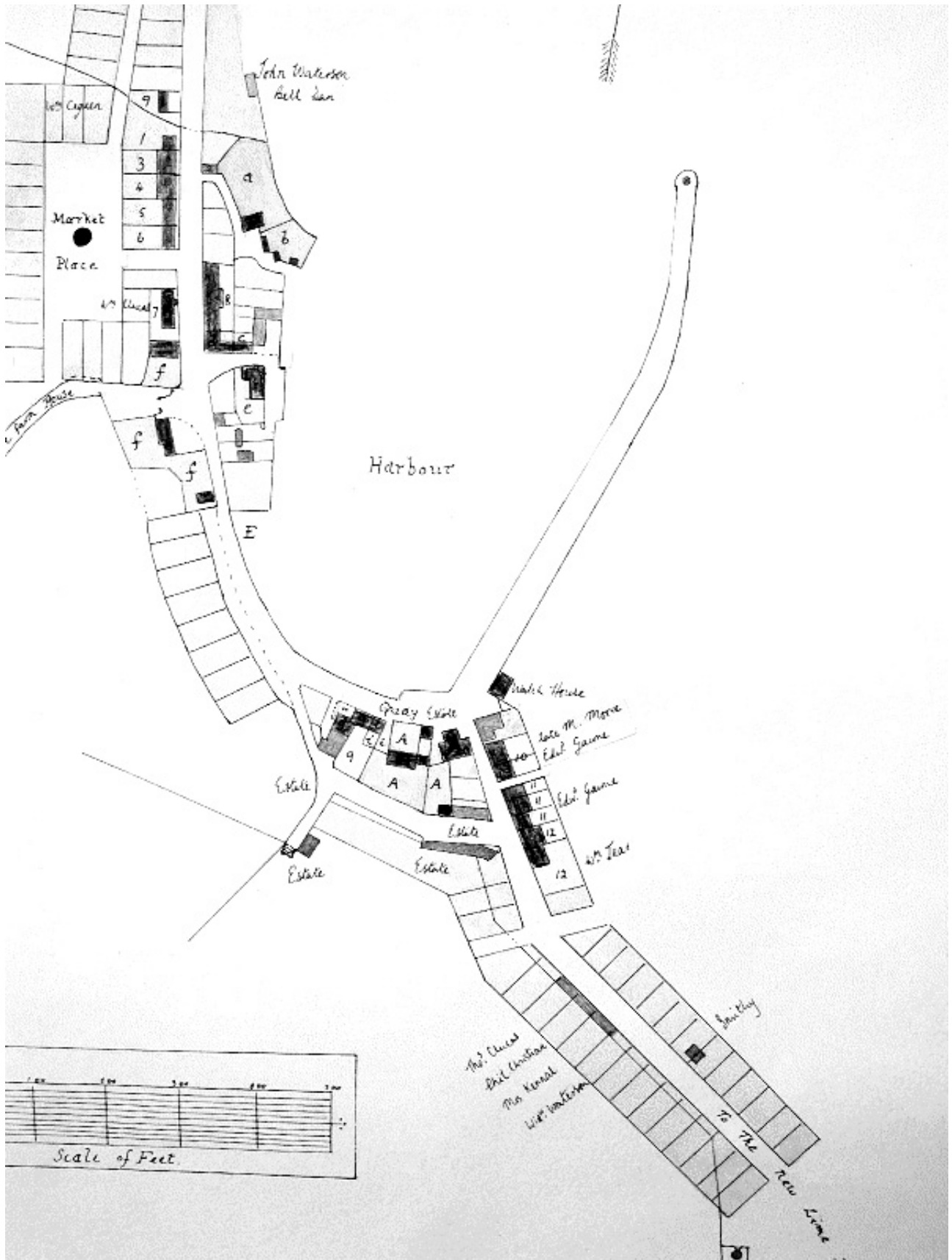
There was no house there, but just a Broad Green, a sort of waste patch, and I've been herding a cow in it for grazing, many-a-day. There was a gateway between this and the old school house for putting timber down the Brow where there were vessels building and the cow was driven in through this gateway to the Green. There were many vessels that we call smacks in these days, tonnage sixty to eighty tones, berthing for the potatoes, buying Herring and running to market at Liverpool. There is a track in the rocks below the shore where these vessels launched which is in to this day of writing. There was a pathway over the big rock at Cubbon's to Taylor's house and a pathway around to the harbour passing below the old Wesleyan Chapel. There was also a pathway from Sayle's thatched house up to the front of the Hotel, along the Brow and a stile where the gate is now. There is also a pathway from the pathway to Port St Mary up above Sayle's house to the stile on the main road on the estate of Ballavarra. That is the road my father was taken on to the church yard to be buried when he died of 'The Cholera' in the harvest of 1849 along with others. There was not much of a Brow called Miller's Brow in those days, but being filled up with carting rubbish. After Miller possessed that gateway in the road to Kelly's houses was not in until lately and when Mr Miller built the hedge around his Brows, it was him that placed the stile there to the shore but the proper road was from the stile opposite the hotel and the gate going North down to the thatched cottage on the shore, better known as Sayle's house. When you turned around the hotel to the Larger and now called Mount Pleasant, the first house was a thatched house but all the cottages were thatched ones except one. The first was occupied by Captain Thomas Moore, better known as Tony Quirk, then Collister's house better known as Granny Collister's house. Then the little Mistress's house which she kept a Dame School with her sister Margaret or Magead then Auntie Pieys. Cain's, Tiny Dollar's, Callister's in the other three and Uncle Bill, and the slate house, Captain Thomas Clague known as Clague Rose (every one nearly in those days has nicknames) whose son in Castletown a Coal Merchant and a dear companion of my own and school boys. There was a stile at Captain Clague's house leading to the Howe and Port Erin on a pathway to the main highway, it passed along the Howe Hedge until you got to the Plantation where there was a very nice Lampike Gate a Hawthorne Fence on your left, for about two hundred yards to the stile going over in the main highway.

There was no way of entering into the Plantation only this way as there was a thorn fence along this hedge to the field. There was no track up through the Plantation as there is now for it was well fenced with thorn fences at the back, when children were seen in the Plantation they were quickly removed out, myself many times with the rest. Above the road from the breakwater to the kilns, when in working order, was pretty wide in the year 1848 but the sea has encrashed on it and tore it down. I used to be going with my Mother as a

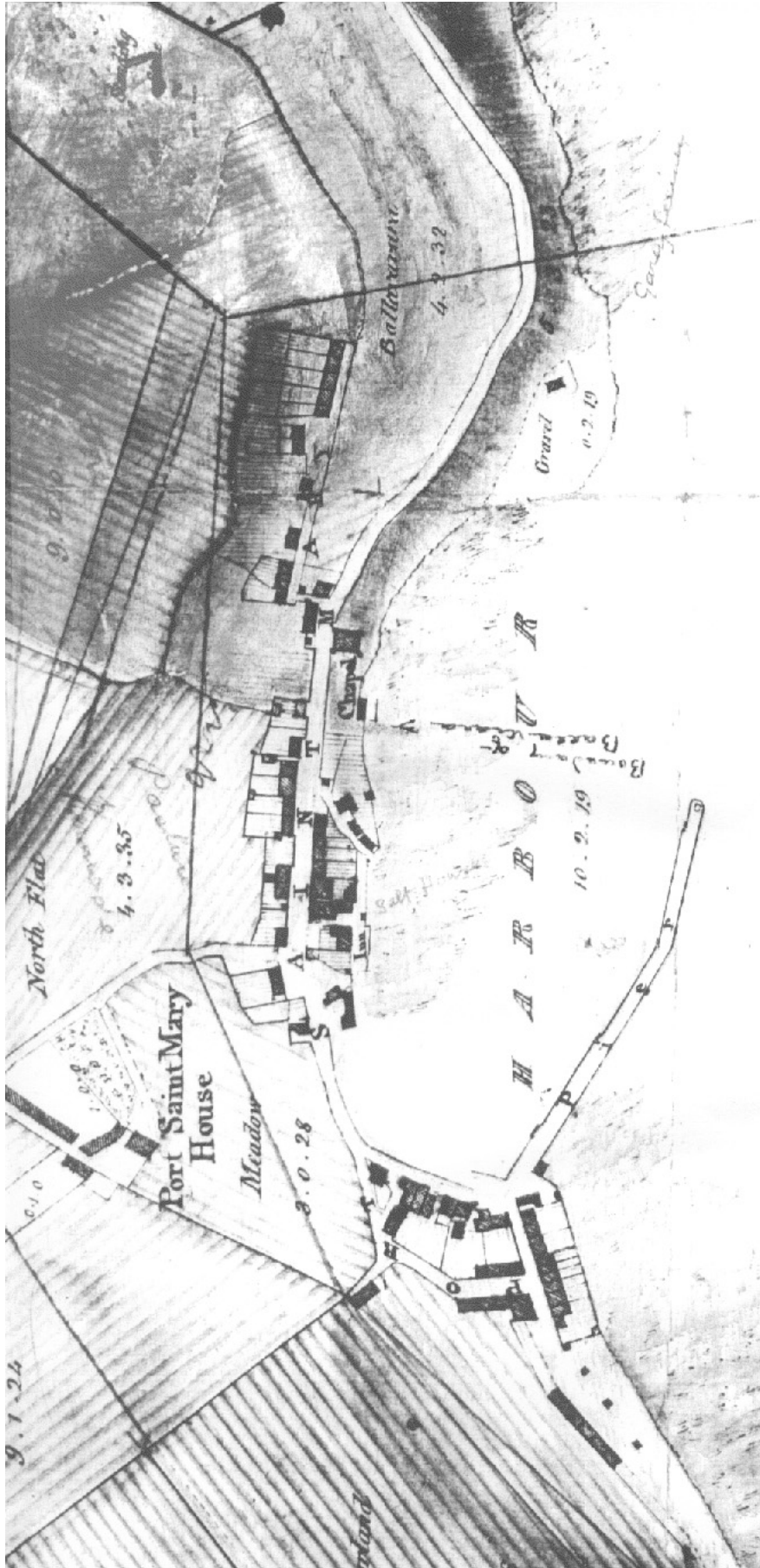
boy with her Father's dinner and have seen many sons of blind cure on the kiln bank. There was a road going around the kilns at this time, one way coming up with stone and going down to the Quarry. At the back there would be about forty men working. There was a road, a cartroad leading into the beach at the back of the Lime Kiln to Lag-a-Voddy and any cart could draw shore sand for building purposes, which I have myself when a young man, taken sand to Glenchass Mines when creeting chimneys. The miners opened a mine near a well there, but got no encouragement to go on. They sank a shaft many yards deep just a small lot of lead they got, there was Jefferson bathing tub which we used to bathe in and up above it. I have been told that there is foundation stones or a Castle then superstition says that it was well built and some saying that there might be a passage to Castle Rushen being built by the Danes and the Old Ropewalk was a busy place in their time. Near the kilns owned by Mr Enos Lace and then by his son Thomas Lace who carried on the Ropery business and lads of my age were very much occupied there Putting Wheels around for the spinners, their wages being three shillings per week, of which I spent two years there putting a wheel around and Heckling hemp and spun a few yards of hemp so in my days it was like stealing to school and learning at night time getting a setting in a copy book from some person that could write. The principal industries of the village were the Fishing and Lime Burning, the Fishing boats were only small compared with the Boats of this time. Every fisherman had to buy his own nets, they were made of Hemp and spun at home by the women, in nearly every home you would find the spinning wheel on the floor, the Hemp was bought of Mr Lace the Roper after being Heckled and made in small roles to be placed in the Duiggal an upright standing on the frame of the spinning wheel which the women spins on to the spools on the wheel. When the spools are full they are placed on a wire in a box and wound up in balls and then filled on needles ready for use to make the nets. The nets were all made by hand in the winter in the house with chairs or seats hanging from the window to the length of the house and then measured by a yardstick showing the length made.

Maps

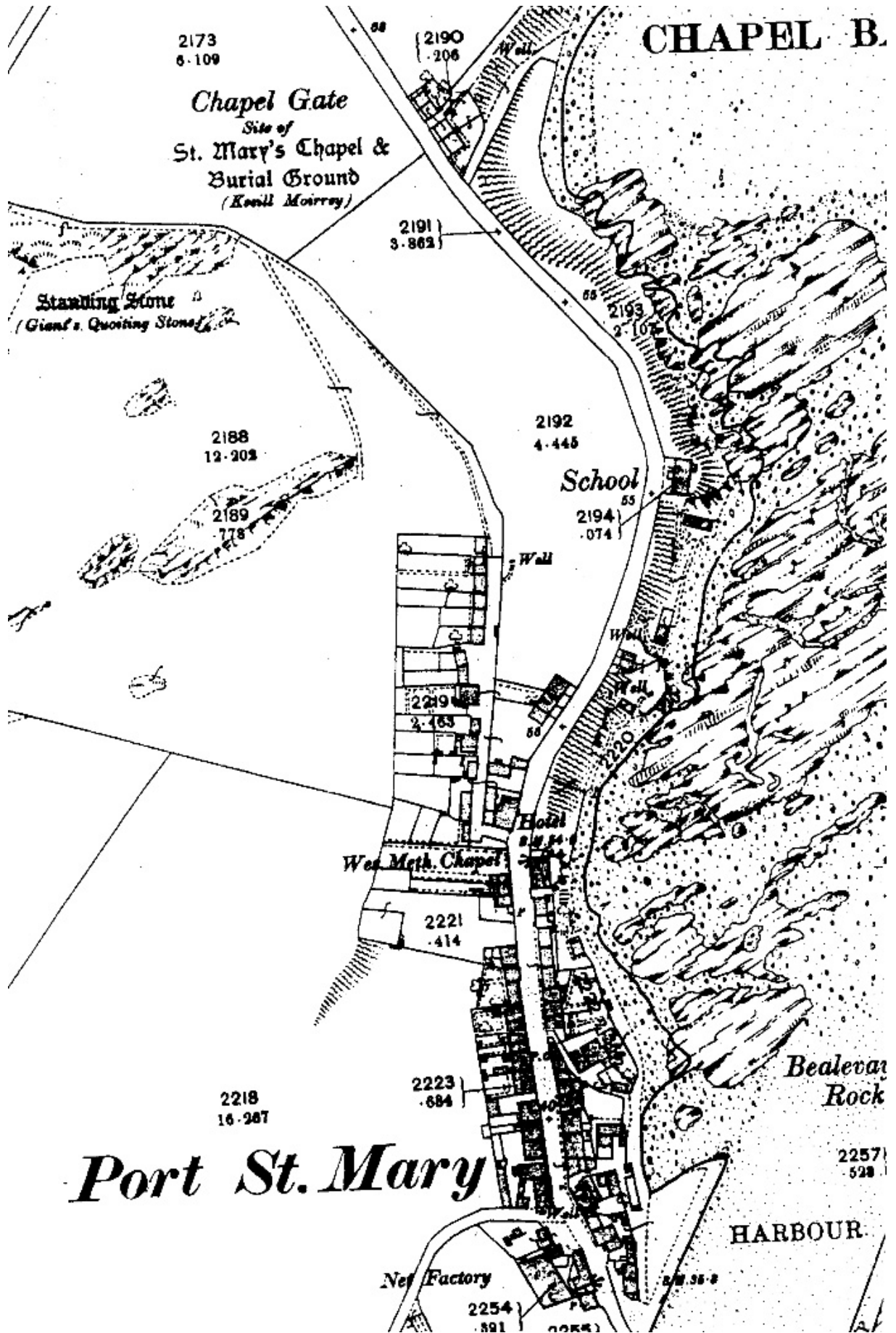
Plan of Port St. Mary circa 1827



Plan of Port St Mary circa 1834



Map of Port St. Mary 1867



Glossary of Place Names

Awin Kintraugh	'The stream of Kentraugh'
Baarney Vooar	Great Gap
Baie ny Carrickey	'The bay of the rock'
Baie yn Chabbal	'Chapel bay - Keeill Moirrey'
Ballabrara	'Farm of the brethren or friars'
Ballacorkish	McQuekus or Corkish's farm
Ballaqueeney	Queeney or MacQueeney's farm
Beelevayer	'the mouth of the entrance'
Bradda	Broad headland
Carthure	A group of rocks
Chapel Gate	'the ancient path to Keeill Moirrey'
Creg y chreel	Rock of the creel
Cronk Skybbylt	Hill of merriment
Fistard	Fish's garth or farm
Flitter Street	Nick-name for Loch Road
Gansev	'magic isle or bay'
Giants' Quoiting Stones	see Cronk Skybbylt & Ballacreeqqa
Glen Chass	Sedge glen
Grenea	A green or common
Kallow Point	Low-lying, liable to be submerged
Keeill Moirrey	St. Mary's Church
Kentraugh	Strand end
Kione ny Goggan	The headland of the clefts or chasms
Laggan	The hollow
Perwick	Harbour creek
Rhenwyllan	Mill division
Smelt	'site of former smelt for local mines'
Towl Foggy	Remote Hole?

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