



**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND
AGRICULTURE**

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1999
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (REGISTERED BUILDINGS)
REGULATIONS 2013

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on the 2nd May 2018 the Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture, in pursuance of its powers under the above Acts and Regulations has determined that

Government House Onchan Isle Of Man IM3 1RR

as represented by the buildings delineated on the plan hereto attached, should be entered onto its PROTECTED BUILDINGS REGISTER by reason of its special architectural and historic interest.

THE EFFECT OF THIS REGISTRATION IS IMMEDIATE and prohibits the alteration or demolition of the structure or appearance of any part of the building except in compliance with an obligation imposed by or under any statutory provision or with the prior written consent of the Planning Authority.

Dated this 10th May 2018,
By Order of the Department

Mrs C Dudley
**For the Director of Planning
and Building Control**

NOTE :

Under The Town and Country Planning Act 1999;

**Schedule 2
The Protected Buildings Register**

Notifications of entries on register etc.

- 2 (1) As soon as may be (practical) after a building has been entered in the register, or the register has been amended by removal of a building from it, the Department shall serve a notice on the owner and the occupier of the building stating that it has been entered in or removed from the register.
- (2) The owner or the occupier of, and any other person having an interest in, a building which has been entered in the register may apply to the Department to remove the building from the register-
- (a) within the prescribed period after service on him of a notice under sub-paragraph (1);
 - (b) after the expiration of the prescribed period after the decision of the Department on a previous request under subsection in relation to the building.

Under the Town and Country Planning (Registered Buildings) Regulations 2013

5. Periods for purpose of Schedule 2 paragraph 2(2)

- (1) The period specified for the purposes of paragraph 2(2)(a) of Schedule 2 to the Act (period after notice of registration, within which owner or occupier may request de-registration) is 21 days.
- (2) The period specified for the purposes of paragraph 2(2)(b) of Schedule 2 to the Act (period after initial period, during which owner or occupier may not request a de-registration) is 5 years.

Notices sent to:

Property Owner

Local Authority - ONCHAN, Onchan Commissioners Office, Main Road, Onchan,
Director, Manx National Heritage

Isle Of Man Natural History & Antiquarian Society

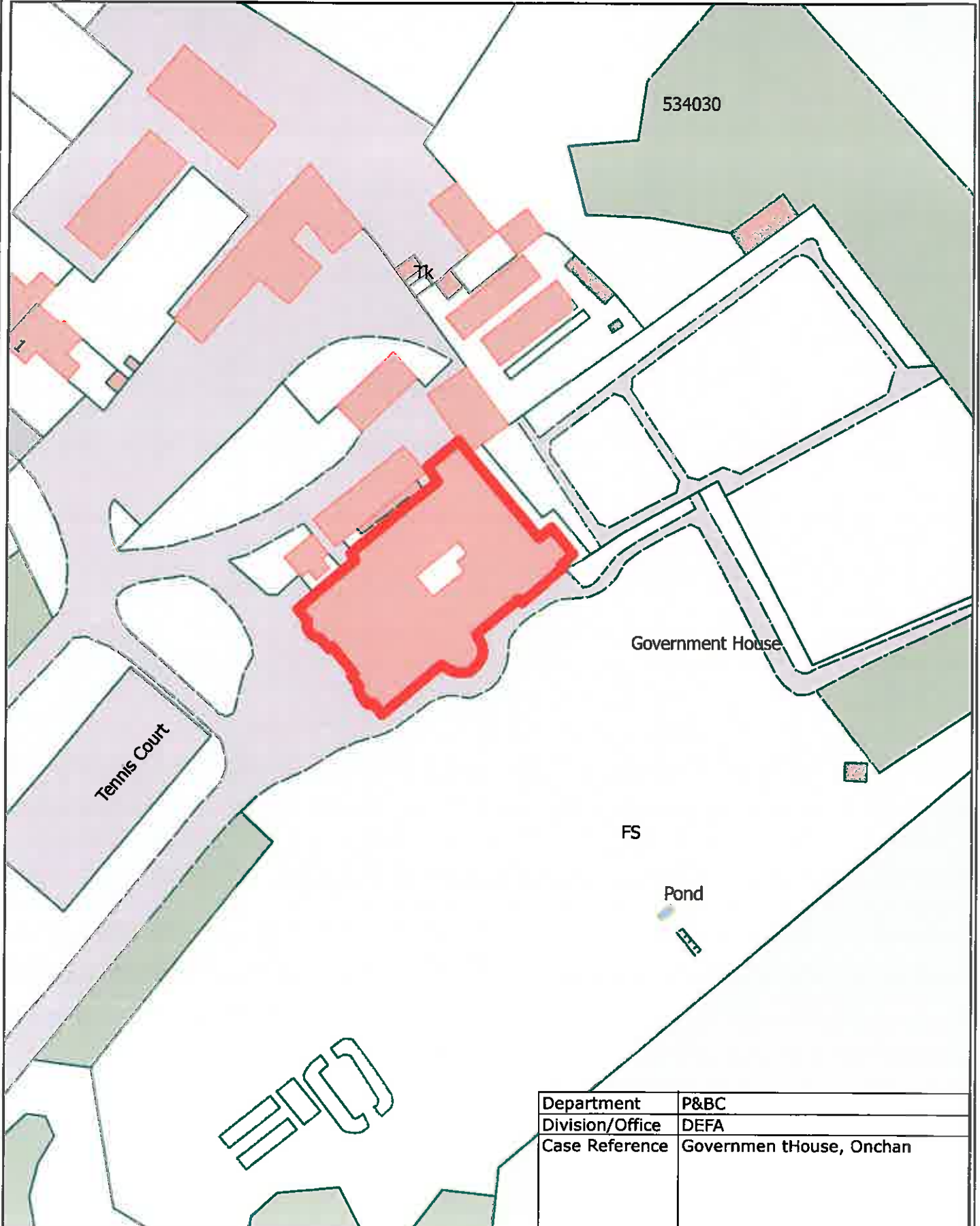


07/00254/REGBLD



Isle of Man
Government

Proposal for RB



Department	P&BC
Division/Office	DEFA
Case Reference	Government House, Onchan
Date	28/03/2018

Scalebar: 0 5 10 20 Metres

Scale: 1:781

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REGISTERED BUILDING

NAME:	Government House
ADDRESS:	Government Road, Onchan
POST CODE:	IM3 1RR
LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Onchan District Commissioners
GRID REF:	391 781

Introduction

Government House has been the official residence of the Lieutenant Governor of the Isle of Man since 1863. The property also provides accommodation for the Island's formal guests and is used for functions and social gatherings.

Historically, the estate was known as 'Bemahague', which was one of the old principal quarterlands of the Island. It was part of the treen of Trensare in the parish of Onchan and it was farmed by a branch of the Christian family from about 1600 until the late eighteenth century. Subsequent owners of the estate were the Heywood family and their descendants the Daley's, who finally sold the property to Tynwald in 1903.

Over the years, Government House has been updated and remodelled at various times whilst also accommodating the changing tastes and needs of successive Governors and their Ladies.

History

The name 'Bemahague' has a combination of both Gaelic and Norse elements, which possibly means that the estate pre-dates the early Norse settlements of the ninth century. The prefix 'Be' is derived from the Norse 'By', which is found in a great number of Manx place names and means a large farm or estate. The remainder of the name is Gaelic and is from 'Mac Thaidhg', meaning 'Son of Taig'. The Taig family are believed to have been the original holders of the estate and the old name of 'Taig' has been altered into the modern 'Keig'.

Long in the possession of a branch of the prominent Onchan family of Christian, the earliest mention of it is in the manorial Roll of 1511, where Edmund McCorkell is shown as holding it and paying a Lords rent. By 1600 the estate was held by a branch of the Christian family. The Christian's lived and farmed at Bemahague until 1789 when Edward Christian was forced to sell the property in order to redeem a mortgage. The bulk of estate was sold for £1,000 to Robert Heywood (b.1740, d.1809) who was a wealthy Douglas merchant and Water-Bailiff. Edward Christian had retained the mansion house along with other houses and outbuildings, but following his death less than a year later, these were also sold to Robert Heywood for a further £720.

The Heywood's were a prominent family in the Isle of Man during this time and Deemster Peter Heywood, a brother of Robert Heywood lived at the nearby property Glencrutchery House in the adjacent quarterland of that name. Robert Heywood was the uncle of Peter Heywood, who was the midshipman on H.M.S. Bounty. During these years, one of the best-known personalities to have lived at Bemahague was Peter's sister, Nussy Heywood. She died young at the age of 24, but her heroic efforts in order to clear the good name of her brother Peter when he was accused of involvement in Mutiny on the Bounty (in 1789) by Captain William Bligh, have made her a heroine of Manx history.

The owner Robert Heywood never occupied Bemahague himself, but instead he let the property to various tenants until his death in 1809, when it passed to his son, Deemster John Joseph Heywood. Governor's Bridge, which is near to Government House was originally known as 'Heywood's' or the 'Deemster's Bridge' after Deemster J.J. Heywood. The bridge gained its present name in 1920 when it was first included in the T.T. course.

Deemster Heywood let the property to an English gentleman called Joshua Farrer who was a friend of the Earl of Sandwich. During the period of his tenancy, Joshua Farrer undertook a considerable amount of rebuilding works to the property which took on the Regency style and completely altered its appearance.

In a guide to the Isle of Man dating from 1836, titled 'A Six Day's Tour, By a Stranger', Bemahague was said to be "*...charmingly situated, commanding a fine view of the whole bay: the old house should be taken down, and a new one built in the abbey style; the situation deserves a good mansion*". A number of reports on Government House have said the property was rebuilt between 1820 and 1830; however this comment about the "*old house*" could suggest that in 1836 the old Christian family farmhouse still stood on the site and that Joshua Farrer's alterations had not yet taken place.

After the death of Deemster John Joseph Heywood in 1855, Bemahague passed to his married daughter Mrs. Elinor Daly (sometimes spelt 'Daley'). Following her death in 1861, she left the estate to her son Francis David Daly who was a minor when he inherited. In 1863, while Francis Daley was still an adolescent, his Trustees leased the property to the Lieutenant Governor, Henry Brougham Loch. Although Castletown was the capital of the Island until 1874 when Douglas obtained the title, mid-nineteenth century Douglas was a rapidly expanding commercial town with excellent sea links and it is little wonder that the new Lieutenant Governor should wish to reside near to the town.

The Lordship of Mann has belonged to the Crown since 1765 when the British Government reclaimed it from the Duke of Atholl in order to put an end to smuggling which was causing them financial losses. Historically, the custom was to have a Governor and a Lieutenant Governor who served underneath him. However, the Lieutenant Governor ceased to have a superior after the Lieutenant Governor Colonel Cornelius Smelt, who had served under Governor Atholl, was given the title in 1830. Prior to Bemahague, the official residences of the Governor have included prominent buildings such as Lorne House in Castletown, plus Castle Mona and the Villa Marina in Douglas.

In Wood's Atlas of 1867, the proprietor of Bemahague was said to be 'William Daley'. Following this, in 1871 Tynwald passed an Act confirming the lease of Bemahague to the Treasurer of the Isle of Man for 21 years at an annual rental of £200. The lease stipulated that the Daly family were to contribute £1,000 towards the cost of any alterations and repairs which were deemed necessary in order to make the property a suitable residence for the Lieutenant Governor.

In February 1871, the Liverpool architect Gustavus Hamilton was engaged in order to produce plans for alterations and extensions to the property. These alterations took nine months to complete, during which time the Governor was a guest at Bishopscourt.

In 1882, the owner of Bemahague, Francis David Daly died and he left the estate in trust for his son, John Joseph Heywood Daly.

In 1886, there were negotiations for Tynwald to purchase Bemahague from John Joseph Heywood Daly. However, Mr. Daly was still a minor at this time and did not have the power to sell. As a result of this, in 1890 Tynwald signed a lease of the property for a further 21 years and voted an additional £1,000 for alterations in order to extend the guest and servant accommodation. The subsequent alterations were carried out in 1890 by the local architect and builder, James Cowle. These included breaking through the wall between the drawing room and the dining room and fitting folding doors so that the two rooms might be thrown into one, while a bay was built on to the reception room and a smaller one to the dining room. Additional servants bedrooms were also created through rebuilding the kitchen wing as a two storey extension.

In 1891, the lease was transferred to the newly appointed Government Property Trustees. A report in 1900 revealed the property was costing approximately £200 annually for repairs, in addition to the rental charge. As a consequence of this, in July 1903 a Tynwald committee proposed that the house along with 112 acres of adjoining land should be purchased for a cost of £12,000 and on 24th November 1903, Mr. John Joseph Heywood Daly sold the property to Tynwald for that very sum.

Despite the previous alterations to the property, further work was carried out as it was not yet considered to be satisfactory as an official residence for the Lieutenant Governor. Internally, the main problems were said to be the small entrance hall and the awkward position of the reception rooms; externally, it was the proximity of the old farmhouse and stables to the main house. The subsequent alterations and extensions were carried out between 1903 and 1906 to the design of the architectural partnership of Willink and Thicknesse of Liverpool. The front or south western end of the house was pulled down and extended so that the reception rooms and study were enlarged, while a new hall, porch and main staircase were constructed. Various small outbuildings were removed and the farmyard was relocated. The stables were demolished and the cow house was converted into a stable and coach house. These changes saw great improvements to the property and a further enhancement was made when the property was connected to the main water supply, rather than the water being hand-pumped from two old wells.

On 30th January 1906, all of the improvement works to Government House had been completed and the Governor was back in residence.

Architecture

The gardens

The estate is located in part of the remaining green space which separates Douglas from Onchan. When approached from Governor's Road, the property is reached by passing the lodge house on the right hand side and proceeding up the driveway which is bordered with mature trees. The land rises towards the house, which is set in an elevated position providing views across the estate to the sea.

There are approximately 12 acres of grounds which include the lawn or garden, woodland and grazing land. In the gardens surrounding the property there are mature woodlands, within which the main species of tree are Sycamore, Ash and Beech. In addition to these main species other trees include Lime, Cherry, Horse Chestnut, Red Horse Chestnut, Scots Pine, Fir, Birch, Apple and a New Zealand Yew located to the right of the main entrance door, which is said to be very unusual on the island.

The gardens were greatly improved by Lord Raglan (Governor 1902-1918) who was responsible for much of the initial tree planting and the shrubberies beside the drive. The original rose garden was designed by Sir Claude Hill (Governor 1925-1931), although it has since been replanted. Small ornamental trees were added by Earl Granville (Governor 1937-1945).

Over the years the gardeners have contributed a great deal to the layout of the gardens and grounds. Government House is said to be largely self-supporting with regard to flowers for indoor decoration and for fruit and vegetables from the kitchen gardens, which have a high stone wall.

The main house – history

The original farmhouse which stood on the site dated from the time the Christian family lived there (1600-1789). The present property is thought to still include parts of the original house, although there have been numerous alterations and extensions over the years which have greatly changed the appearance of the building, that it is very difficult to determine if any section of the old farmhouse still exists. Some of the remaining outbuildings are also thought to date from the Christian period, but the majority of these have been removed. The Ordnance Survey map of 1869 shows that at that time there were many other outbuildings on the site than there are today and that they were arranged in a courtyard fashion behind the main house. There also appears to have been a round-shaped horse-walk which was located to the north east of the outbuildings.

Early changes to the property occurred during the early to mid-nineteenth century, when the tenant, Joshua Farrer, set out to improve the house by rebuilding the south-east wing with a full height bay facing towards the sea in the Regency style.

Further alterations took place in 1871 to the design of the Liverpool architect, Gustavus Hamilton. The changes included adding a first floor over the recently rebuilt south-east wing and a dining room to the east end of the property.

There were also alterations in 1890, which were designed by the local architect and builder, James Cowle. These alterations saw the dining room converted into a billiard room and provided a new kitchen. James Cowle was also a Diocesan architect and he is most famous for designing Douglas Railway Station and the Isle of Man Prison on Victoria Road, Douglas.

Major alterations took place between 1903 and 1906 to the design of the architectural partnership of Willink and Thicknesse of Liverpool. Willink and Thicknesse are most famous for designing the Cunard Building (1913-1916) at the Pier Head in Liverpool, which is a Grade II* Listed Building. In these alterations to Government House, the front or south-western end of the property was rebuilt in order to accommodate a large reception hall along with a porch, staircase and intercommunicating reception rooms. In addition to this, some of the old Christian family farm buildings (which were in the immediate vicinity of the main house) were demolished in order to improve lighting and ventilation, whilst other old farm buildings were converted in order to provide staff cottages.

In 1914, there was a fire in the servant's quarters. The portion which was destroyed in the fire was the oldest part of the house with its small rooms and low ceilings, so the opportunity was taken at this time to rebuild the accommodation and provide improved facilities.

Inside Government House, several Governors' Ladies have left their mark. In the late 1920's Lady Hill installed the crystal chandeliers from Paris which are in the reception rooms. In 1945 Lady Granville embroidered a bedspread and satin hangings with the Royal Coat of Arms for the Tynwald room for the visit of King George VI and her sister, Queen Elizabeth, the late Queen Mother. In the 1960's Lady Garvey added embroidery to the soft furnishings.

The bell of H.M.S. Manxman, which served with the Royal Navy as a minelayer during the Second World War is on display in the hall of Government House. The inscription on the bell reads *'This bell was given by the people of the Isle of Man in memory of one of its greatest sailors, Captain John Quilliam R.N. who served in H.M.S. Victory at Trafalgar 1805'*.

The Coat of Arms which is over the entrance doors is thought to have originally been from the old Custom House in Peel.

The main house – construction

The main external walls are constructed of solid stone and are approximately 600mm thick with an external render which is pebble-dashed. Some of the main internal walls are also built in solid stone, with others being lath and plaster covered stud partitions.

The main roof is pitched with a natural slate covering. There are flat roofs over the main stairwell and the main entrance porch which have a felt covering. The windows are sliding sashes in painted softwood with single glazing.

The lodge house, Glencrutchery Road entrance

The Ordnance Survey map of 1869 shows that at that time, there was a lodge house at the Glencrutchery Road entrance to the property, although this building has since

been demolished. The lodge house of today dates from 1921 and it was designed by Major Harry Cowle. A memorial notice in 1907 commemorating the life of a Mr. John Cowley mentioned a Mr. Harry Cowle, who was then said to be "*...the Government architect*".

There were once tall gates pillars and iron gates at the entrance to Government House, which dated from the same time as the lodge house of 1921. However, these have since been removed as in subsequent years the entranceway has been deemed to be too narrow for modern traffic.

Government House is included on the Protected Buildings Register for the following reasons:

Architectural Interest and Aesthetic Quality

The property is a large mansion house set in extensive grounds in an elevated position above Douglas bay. These grounds provide an important setting for the house.

The oldest parts of the Government House were originally an eighteenth century quarterland farmhouse known as 'Bemahague'. The property has been updated and remodelled at various times in the past, with a mixture of architectural influences.

Some of the alterations were designed by prominent architects, including the local architect and builder James Cowle, who also designed Douglas Railway Station and the Isle of Man Prison on Victoria Road, Douglas. Further changes were planned by the architectural partnership of Willink and Thicknesse of Liverpool, who are most famous for designing the Cunard Building, a Grade II* Listed Building, located at Liverpool's Pier Head.

Historic Interest

The estate of Bemahague was one of the old principal quarterlands of the Island and it was farmed by a branch of the Christian family from about 1600 until 1789.

The property has been the official residence of the Lieutenant Governor since 1863 and has been owned by Tynwald since 1903. It has and continues to provide accommodation for official guests to the Island and is the location for many functions and social gatherings. Between 1863 and 2015, twenty two Lieutenant Governors have used Government House as their official residence.

Close Historic Association

There have been many notable residents of the estate of Bemahague and of course, many Lieutenant Governors have lived there during the property's life as Government House.

The Heywood's were a prominent Isle of Man family who owned Bemahague from 1789, passing the estate down through their descendants until it was sold to the Government in 1903. The Heywood family have provided the Island with MHKs, Speakers, Deemsters and even a Governor. Perhaps the most famous member of the family was Peter Heywood, who was aged only fourteen when he was the midshipman on the H.M.S. Bounty. His sister Nussy lived at Bemahague for a time and it was

largely due to her heroic efforts that he was cleared of involvement in the Mutiny and went on to have a successful career in the Royal Navy, commanding his own vessel and having distant lands named in his honour.

SOURCES AND REFERENCES

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Articles

- *A Six Day's Tour through the Isle of Man, By a Stranger*, 1836.
- *Manx Millennium – Part 1*, January 1999.
- *Manx Millennium – Part 5*, May 1999.

Directories

- 1823, Pigot's Directory.
- 1863, Thwaite's Directory.
- 1894, Brown's Directory.

Maps and Plans

- 1867 Wood's Atlas, **DoLGE**.
- 1869 Ordnance Survey, **DoLGE**.
- Current digital map, **DoI**.

Internet Sites

- A Manx Note Book www.manxnotebook.com



Extracts from



GOVERNMENT HOUSES IN THE ISLE OF MAN



Peter J. Hulme





GOVERNMENT HOUSES IN THE ISLE OF MAN

Foreword by His Excellency The Lieutenant Governor Major General Sir Laurence New, C.B., C.B.E.

I am delighted that this booklet has been produced: it is a credit to Mr. Peter Hulme, lately the Government Secretary, and Mr. Gordon Kniveton, lately the Headmaster of Murray's Road Junior School, respectively the author and publisher. I would also like to thank the Manx Government for their enthusiastic co-operation.

As to Bemahague, it has been occupied by Her Majesty's personal representative since 1863 and I can say with my predecessors that it makes both a delightful family home and a very effective official residence. I hope that this documentary will be enjoyed as much by those who come regularly to the House as by those who have seldom if ever been. I know that my wife and I will be very sad to leave its comfort and charm behind us.



Laurence New



LORNE HOUSE



BEMAHAGUE



VILLA MARINA

INTRODUCTION

Passing along Governor's Road, Onchan, and observing the extensive parkland and well-tended gardens of Bemahague, one could be forgiven for concluding that the impressive mansion in the grounds was built for its present purpose as a residence for the Lieutenant Governor of the Isle of Man and his family. However this is not so, nor was this property, now called Government House, the first and only Government House.

This booklet traces the history of the early residences of the Governor, culminating in the purchase and improvement of Bemahague by the Isle of Man Government, and gives an insight into its present accommodation and furnishings. It also records the

Royal Visitors to the House and includes photographic portraits of the Lieutenant Governors who have lived there and had charge of the estate.

The early history of Government House at Bemahague has been adapted from a booklet written by Air Vice Marshal Sir Geoffrey Rhodes Bromet, Lieutenant Governor of the Island from 1945 to 1952, which was published during the last year of his appointment. The new material has been compiled from Manx Museum and Government records, and from details supplied by the Lieutenant Governors since that date.

PETER J. HULME

THE ENVIRONS OF GOVERNMENT HOUSE

Viewed from the air, Government House grounds and the surrounding estate provide the last remaining green belt between the capital town, Douglas, and the fast-growing district of Onchan on its eastern boundary. This green belt extends from Summerhill to Signpost Corner and bisecting the seaward end is Blackberry Lane, which is the best approach to Governor's Road in order to appreciate the extent of the estate.

From Governor's Road the front drive passes, first, the lodge and then, after curving slightly to the right, provides a distant view of the large and elegant house.

The drive is bordered by mature hardwood trees which shelter the estate from the worst of the winter weather. However, a constant programme of replanting is necessary to replace the casualties of the storm winds. Careful planning by the original builders has resulted in a gentle upward sweep towards the house, set on higher ground, where there is an unimpeded view across the estate to the sea.

The drive is in daily use as the main access for all official visitors, Members of Tynwald and senior civil servants, the latter being too busy rehearsing their business with His Excellency to notice the magnificent carpet of naturalised crocuses and daffodils which surrounds the drive in the spring; the two fossilised tree trunks or the young saplings planted from time to time to commemorate special visitors and important occasions.

At the head of the drive is the hard tennis court and a turning circle large enough to take the gleaming limousines of Royal and State occasions. The Coat of Arms over the entrance doors at one time adorned the old Custom House in Peel.

But before we enter the house, let us first pause to reflect on the early history of Bemahague and of the former Government Houses in the Isle of Man.

It should be noted that Government House is private property and is not open to the public except by personal invitation from the Governor. Similarly, the estate roads and the grounds of Government House are private and there is no right of access thereto.

Many of the other properties mentioned in this documentary are also private and proper enquiries should be made before visiting them. Nevertheless, it is possible to view all of them from public highways in the Island.

IN THE BEGINNING: THE FIRST GOVERNMENT HOUSES

The Celtic inhabitants of the Isle of Man came under Norse rule during the ninth century when the Vikings, whose first recorded raid on the Island was in 798 A.D.; established themselves as settlers under various chiefs. A definite line of rulers was established after the Battle of Skyhill (1079 A.D.) when Godred Crovan (the King Orry of Manx tradition) having defeated the local forces became the first king of a dynasty which lasted until 1265, when the Island passed into Scottish hands.

A period of confusion followed. Scotland and England both claimed the overlordship and nominees of each nation held the Island from time to time. Eventually, the Kings of England prevailed over the Scots and granted the Lordship of Mann to various English noblemen until it came to Sir John Stanley (ancestor of the Earls of Derby) in 1405.

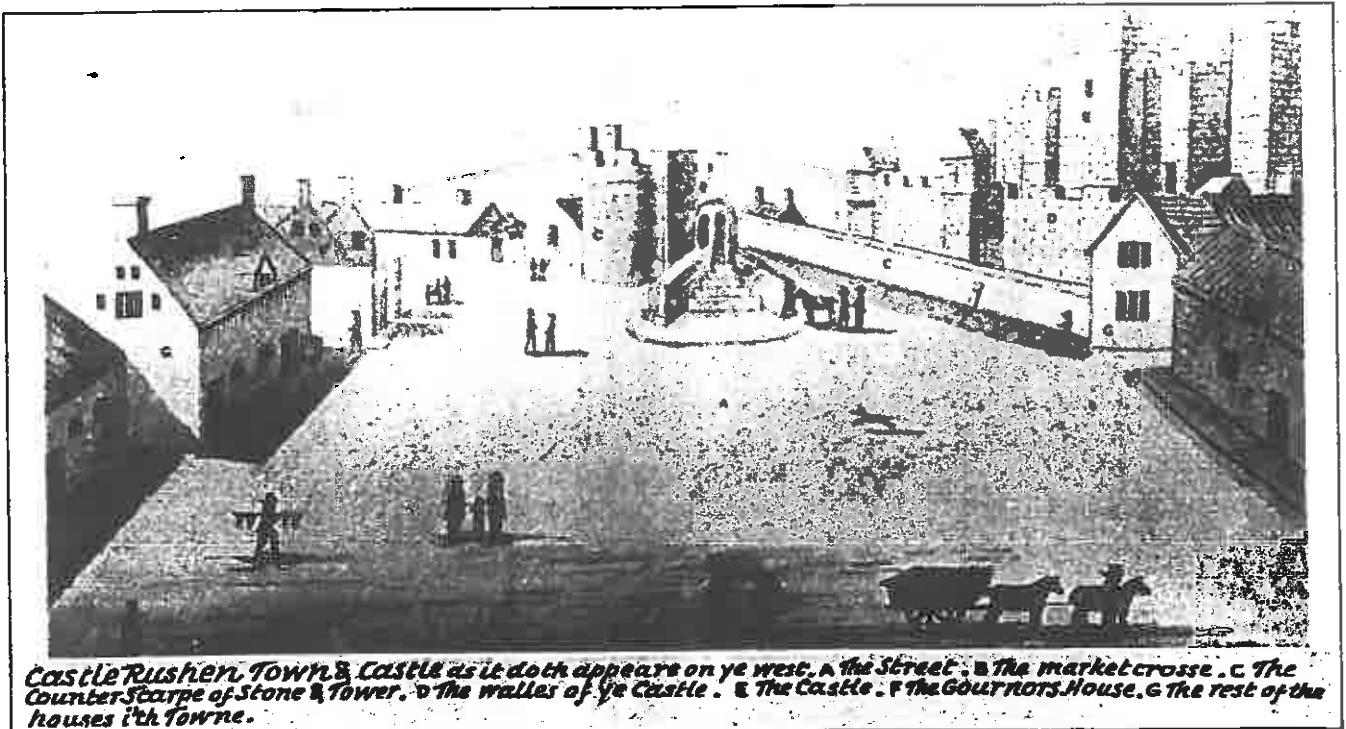
With the exception of a short interval during the Commonwealth period, the Derbys retained the Lordship until 1736 when, the male line of the family failing, it passed to the second Duke of Atholl, a direct descendant of the seventh Earl of Derby. The Atholls held it until 1765 when the British Government, anxious to obtain control which would enable them to put an end to the smuggling which was causing serious financial loss, decided to revest

the Lordship in the Crown. It has remained there ever since.

The connection of the Atholl family with the Island was not quite broken, however, for in 1793 the fourth Duke was appointed Governor. He was the last person to bear this title, as upon his death the Lieutenant Governor (Colonel Cornelius Smelt), who had served under him, assumed the full duties of the office while continuing to be known as Lieutenant Governor - the title which from then until the present day has been held by the Sovereign's representative in the Island.

The building of the medieval fortress of Castle Rushen was probably commenced around 1250 A.D. by the Viking rulers of the Island and was used as an alternative residence to Peel Castle. Additions and enlargements to Castle Rushen continued in later years, particularly in the 14th century, until the fourth Earl of Derby, Henry Stanley, built a house for himself within the embrace of the castle walls. This was towards the end of the 16th century.

In 1644, James, seventh Earl of Derby (known as the Great Stanley), decided to improve on his ancestor's residence and altered the old dwelling. This is the building now known as the Derby House which still stands alongside the fortified gatehouse.



Castle Rushen, Town, & Castle as it doth appeare on ye west. A The Street. B The market crosse. C The Counter Scarpe of Stone & Tower. D The waller of ye Castle. E The Castle. F The Gouvernors House. G The rest of the houses i th Towne.

During the time of the Commonwealth, from 1649 to 1660, the Governor occupied a house in the Market Square, across the Parade where the soldiers of the garrison used to drill. A sketch by Daniel King from about 1650, now in the Manx Museum and reproduced on page 3, shows the house quite distinctly and indicates what it was. The Derbys also had a series of apartments adjoining the cathedral within Peel Castle which served as summer residences, but they fell into ruins early in the 18th century.

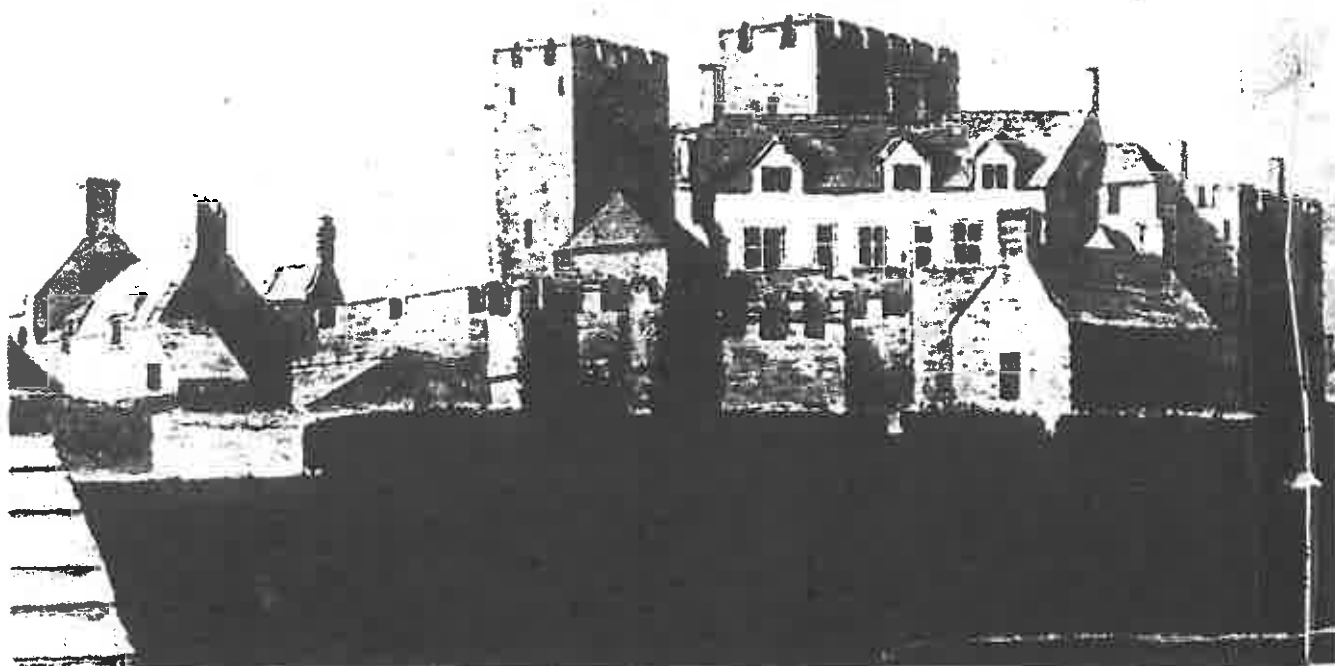
Following the Restoration and the return of the Derbys to power, the house within Castle Rushen was occupied by the Governor or the Lieutenant Governor of the day who were expected to vacate it should either of their seniors require it. In 1692-93 the house was again altered, this time by the addition of a new bagnio or bath house. The old bagnio in West Street was converted by the Lord into a residence.

The tenth Earl of Derby left no children and was succeeded in the earldom by a distant cousin. However, under the terms of the grant made by James

1, the Lordship of Mann passed, in 1736, to the second Duke of Atholl, James Murray, who was descended from a daughter of the seventh Earl of Derby.

In addition to what may be called their main residence in Castle Rushen, the Atholls appear to have maintained other establishments. In 1793 John Murray, fourth Duke of Atholl, lived in a house in Douglas. This is now known as the Douglas Hotel and here he resided until Castle Mona, which he commissioned to be built, was ready for occupation in 1804. At this time the Duke also acquired the estate of Port-e-Chee where he often stayed during the summer.

In 1830, the Lieutenant Governor ceased to have a superior in the Island because the custom of having both a Governor and Lieutenant Governor came to an end. During the next few years there was a gradual encroachment on the Lieutenant Governor's quarters in Castle Rushen by the extension of the Courthouse. The last Lieutenant Governor to live there was Colonel John Ready and in 1834 the time was appropriate for a move.



Castle Rushen and the Derby House from a watercolour by Moses Griffiths c.1774. (Manx Museum)

LORNE HOUSE, CASTLETOWN

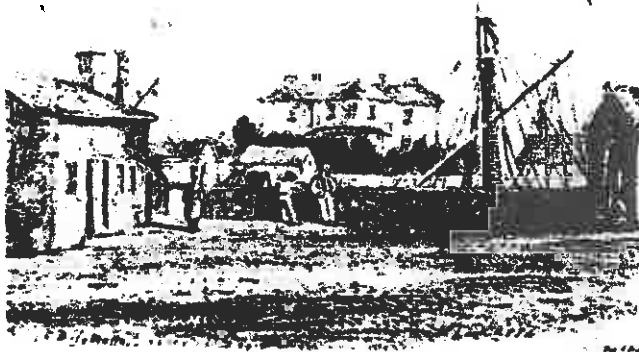
As a result of the extensions of Courthouse accommodation in Castle Rushen, the Lieutenant Governor, Colonel John Ready, was told by the British Government that in future he and his successors must find residences for themselves but would be given an allowance to assist them.

At that time Lorne House, a very beautiful house with extensive grounds which still stands across the river from the Castle, became available. Local belief is that King Olaf 1 (1113-1153) lived on the site of the present house and this was confirmed to some extent in 1786 when builders came across the remains of an early Viking house there.

In the early 18th century this area was owned by the Taubman family of nearby Bowling Green House. In 1727 John Taubman sold some of the land to Captain William Fitzgerald of the Castle garrison. However, in 1757 it returned to the Taubman family when the widow of Capt. Fitzgerald sold it back to them. In 1791 Christian Taubman (whose portrait is in the Manx Museum) married Colonel Cunningham who was an Irish officer of the garrison. They came to live at Lorne House early in the 18th century and added to the original building.



Colonel John Ready, Lieutenant Governor from 1832 to 1845, who moved from Castle Rushen to Lorne House, Castletown. (Manx Museum)



GOVERNMENT HOUSE.

ISLE OF MAN.

Lorne House from across the river, after a drawing by E. Delamotte. (Manx Museum)

The new extensions were marked by a grand ball there on 18th February, 1828, but by 1834 it was empty again, its contents having been auctioned. This suited the Lieutenant Governor, Colonel Ready, who took a lease on the house for 13 years. His successor, the Hon. Charles Hope, renewed the lease for a further period up to 1860. However, when the lease expired and the owner of the house wished to live in it himself, it was felt that an official residence should be built for the Lieutenant Governor.

The authorities in London estimated that a new residence would cost about £7,000. The proposal was promptly rejected by the British Treasury who let it be known that it thought the matter should become the responsibility of the Isle of Man Government, although it was prepared to continue the old allowance of £150 a year to the Lieutenant Governor, who would be responsible for making his own arrangements.

At this juncture it appeared that Lorne House would soon cease to be Government House, but before we turn our attention to two further buildings that became for a time the seat of the Lieutenant Governor, it is pleasing to record that, following a period in private hands, Lorne House was bought in 1931 by the Christian Endeavour Holiday Homes and very many young people spent happy days there until it was sold again in 1972. During the 1939-1945 War it was also the Manx Children's Home whose Glencrutchery Home in Douglas was being utilised by the Royal Navy as a hospital.

After 1972 Lorne House was taken over by a local group of finance companies who spent a considerable amount of time and money in renovating the property. In subsequent years the house was sold again and is now occupied as the administrative offices of a bank.



The Hon. Charles Hope, Lieutenant Governor from 1860 to 1860, who resided at Lorne House.(Manx Museum)



Lorne House c. 1839 at the time Colonel John Ready was in residence.(Manx Museum)

CASTLE MONA AND VILLA MARINA

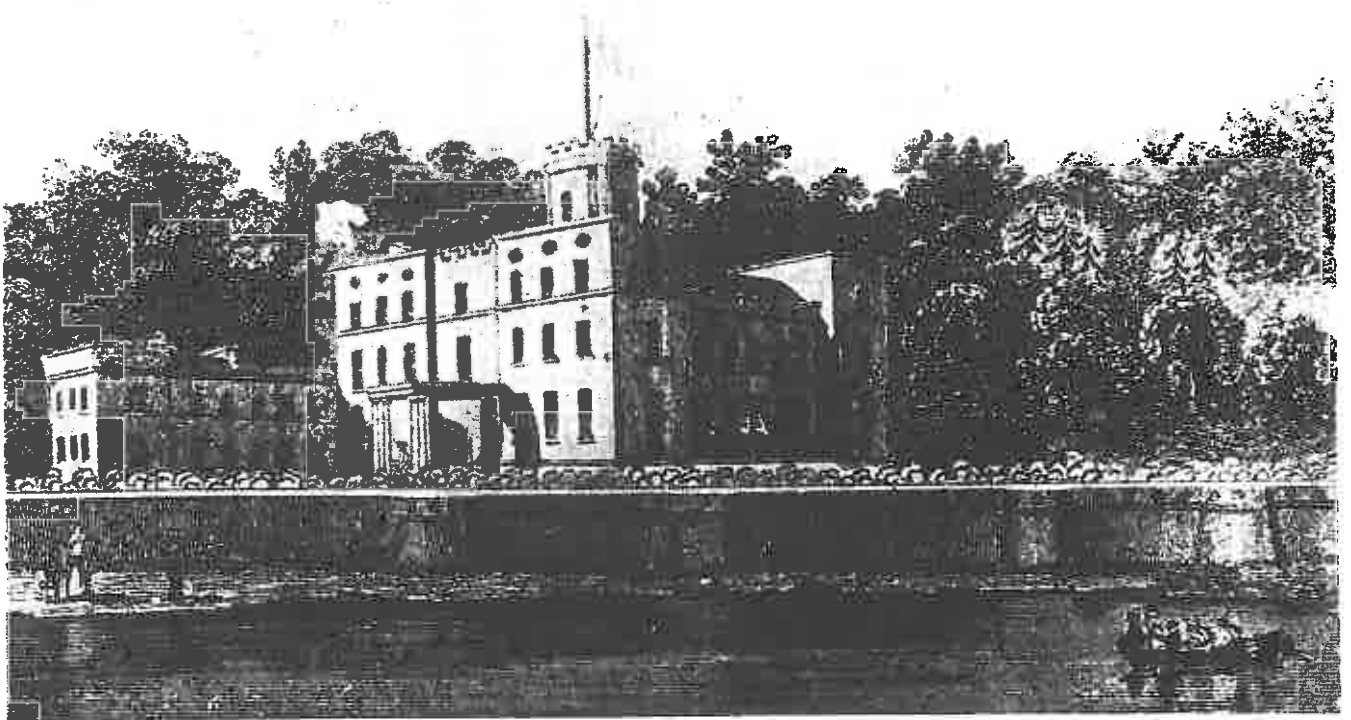
The foundation stone of Castle Mona was laid in 1801 and the building was completed three years later. A splendid banquet was held on 4th August, 1804, to commemorate the opening and fifty two of the most notable persons on the Island were invited by the Duke. The architect for the building was George Stuart (or Steuart) whose work on the Island also included the Red Pier, completed in 1800. Castle Mona was built of freestone from the Isle of Arran and was transported here by the ancient method of carrying it inshore on sailing vessels at high tide. The stone was then dropped overboard and retrieved at low tide.

Although he remained Governor of the Island until 1830, the 4th Duke of Atholl paid few visits to his new residence. He last stayed there in 1826 and in 1832 the estate was disposed of and the Castle was converted into a hotel. In 1836 the hotel came under new ownership and Mr Herron of Portobello, Dublin, turned Castle Mona into one of the finest hotels of that period.

When Francis Stainsby-Conant-Pigott arrived on the Island to succeed the Hon. Charles Hope as Lieutenant Governor in 1861, he took rooms at the

Castle Mona Hotel. Only ten days after his arrival he reported that he had heard of nothing suitable in Castletown, either a house or a site for building a house. He therefore took residence in a house in Douglas for which he paid a rent of £250 per annum, considerably more than his allowance of £150. The house he had taken was Villa Marina, in the grounds of which the present Villa Marina complex now stands.

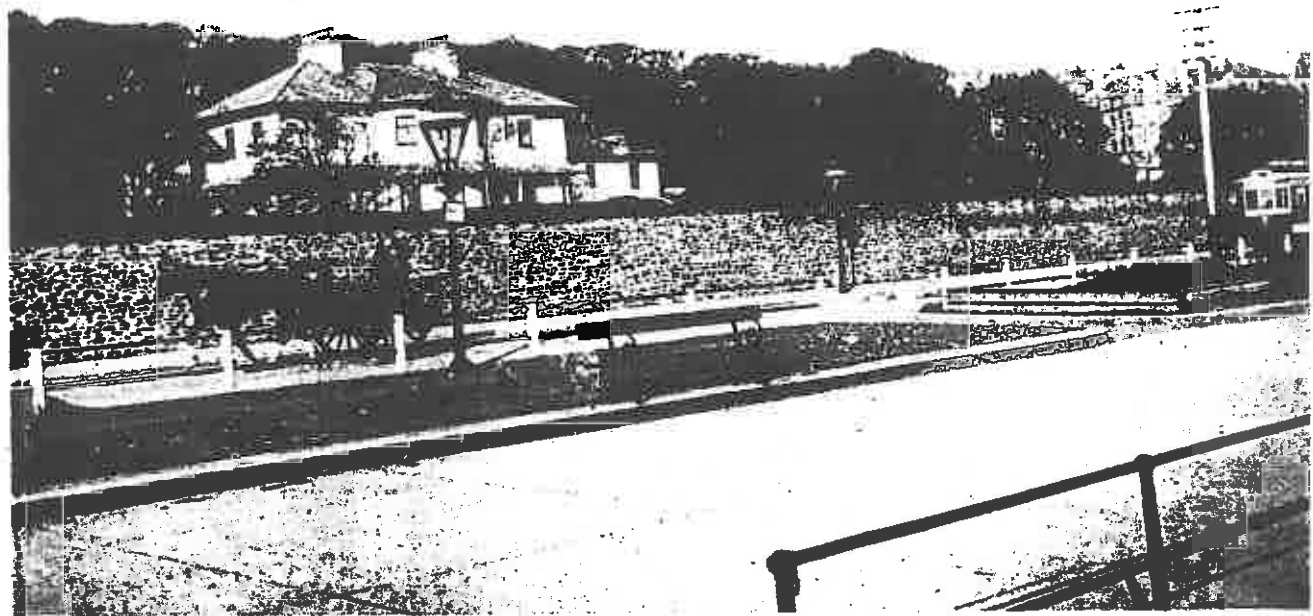
The first Villa Marina was built by Robert Stewart who, despite the change in spelling was the son of George Steuart, the architect of Castle Mona. Robert was a young English lawyer who had inherited property in the Island from his father. Stewart encouraged the Duke of Atholl to sell him some land bordering on his father's estate and it was on this land that he built his mansion, which he named 'Villa Marina.' It was completed shortly after Castle Mona and further purchases in 1811 and 1822 extended its grounds. Stewart meanwhile had become Receiver General of the Isle of Man and, later, Collector of Customs for Douglas. He died in 1832 and his widow sold Villa Marina to the Misses Dutton who for some years used the house as a select school for girls.



Castle Mona in its early splendour. (Manx Museum)



Villa Marina. from the Illustrated London News, 1861.



A later view of Villa Marina mansion from Marina Road. (Manx Museum)

Governor Pigott left Castle Mona for his new residence in the spring of 1861 but he did not enjoy it long as he died suddenly while spending Christmas 1862 at his home in Hampshire.

After the death of Governor Pigott, Villa Marina was acquired by Henry Bloom Noble. The history of the town's benefactor is well chronicled and many monuments to his generosity remain in the form of buildings and land, including the grounds of Villa Marina. It was here that he died in 1903 having risen from virtual poverty to one of the richest men of his era.

The successor to Governor Pigott was Lord Henry Brougham Loch who arrived on 17th February, 1863. He leased the present Government House and, therefore, was the first of the Lieutenant Governors to reside at Bemahague.



Lieutenant Governor Francis Stainsby-Conant-Pigott (1861-1862) who leased Villa Marina.

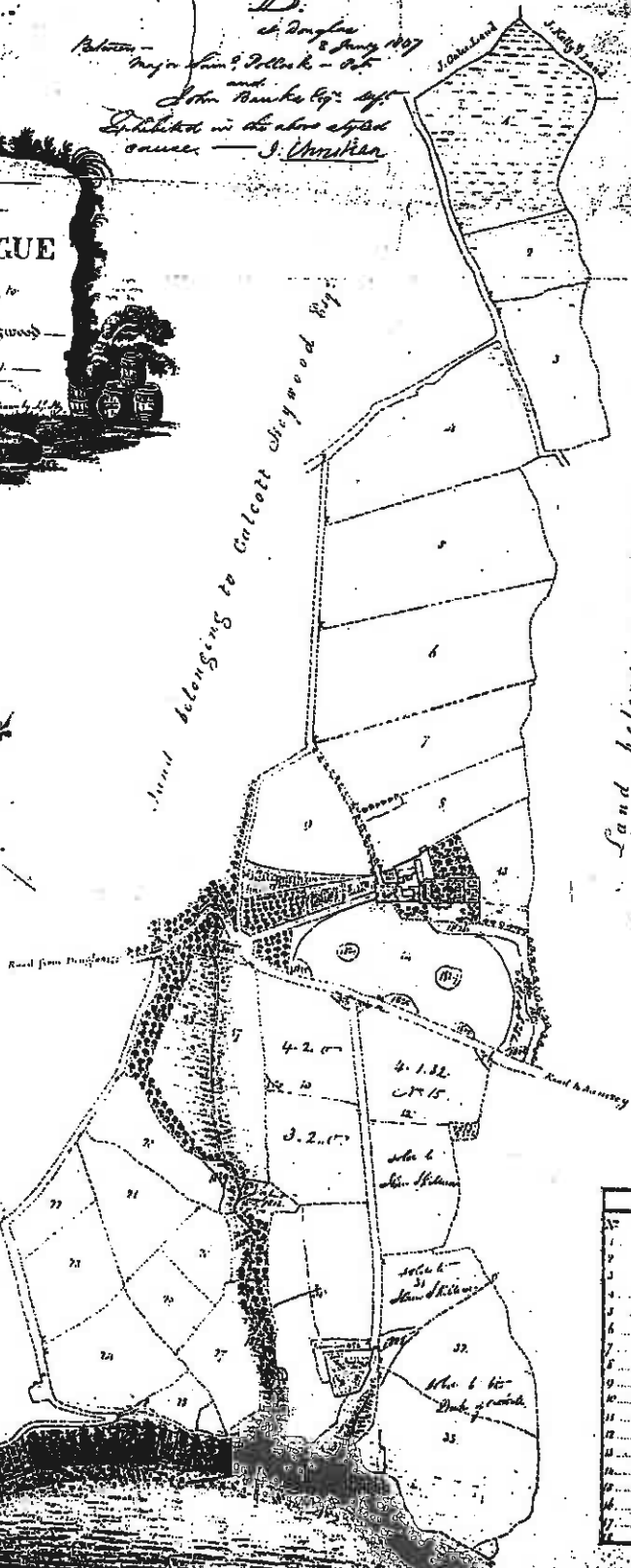
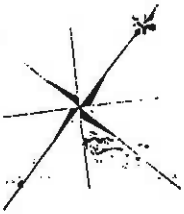
Extract from Illustrated London News Feb 23, 1861

Great rejoicings took place at Douglas, Isle of Man, on Thursday week, consequent upon the arrival of his Excellency Francis Pigott, the newly-appointed Lieutenant-Governor of the Island, to take up his permanent residence at Villa Marina, near Douglas. "It was," says the Manx Sun, from which we extract a few particulars of the new Governor's reception, "both a holiday for all classes and a triumphal entry for his Excellency such as has not been accorded to any previous Governor within the memory of the oldest Manxman." A little before three o'clock a signal gun from Douglas Head conveyed the welcome intelligence that the packet containing Lieut.-Governor Pigott was in sight and, shortly after, repeated salutes from the packet and the shore announced her nearer approach. Exactly at three o'clock the Tynwald, under the command of Captain M'Queen, gaily decorated with flags, steamed gallantly up the harbour, and was moored opposite the Steam-packet Office. His Worship the High Bailiff, Major Pollock, Mr. Burman, Mr. Harris, Mr. Gell and other gentlemen then went on board to greet the Lieutenant-Governor who shortly after made his appearance on deck and was loudly cheered. His Excellency landed accompanied by Mrs Pigott, escorted by his Worship the High Bailiff; the two Misses Pigott together with Captain Pigott and his two brothers. The Artillery Corps presented arms and his Excellency entered the carriage provided for him amid the cheers of the assembled thousands, the band playing 'God Save the Queen.' A procession was then formed and proceeded along the North Quay, up Bank Hill, along Atholl-street, up Prospect Hill, along Finch Road and Marina-road to Castle Mona. The whole line of route was thickly thronged with enthusiastic spectators who loudly cheered his Excellency as he passed. On the arrival of the procession at Castle Mona gates the societies formed in double line and, allowing the carriage to pass up the centre, they entered the grounds of the castle where His Excellency was received at the entrance to the hotel by a guard of honour of Volunteer Rifles.

The mansion of Villa Marina, situated a short distance from Douglas, has been leased by Lieut.-Governor Pigott for a term of years. (*The above account accompanies a full page illustration in The Illustrated London News which is reproduced on the next pages.*)



B.
of Douglas
2^d June 1797
Relation -
Major Genl. Pells - Oct
and
John Banks Esq. Esq.
Exhibited in the above stated
cause. — J. Urquhart



CONTENTS		
No.	A.R.P.	S.R.P.
1	11. 2. 0	3. 11
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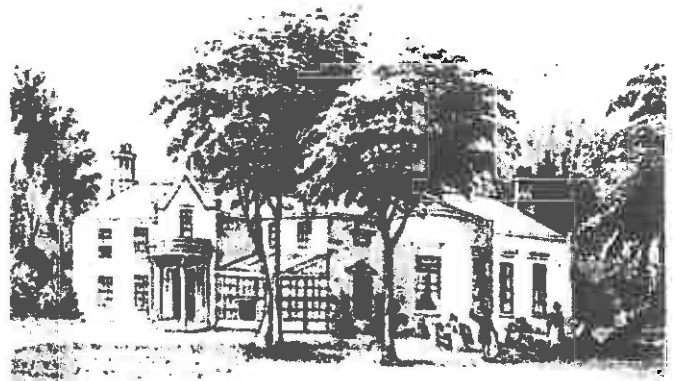
Scale of Chances

BEMAHAGUE: GOVERNMENT HOUSE OF MODERN TIMES

The present Government House stands almost certainly on the same spot as that on which there once stood the house which long ago took its name from the estate. No traces of the original house are now visible, though some of the out-buildings of the present house, used as garages, etc., may once have been attached to it.

Long in the possession of a branch of the prominent Onchan family of Christian, the earliest mention of it is in the Manorial Roll of 1511 where Edmund McCorkell is shown as holding it and paying a Lord's rent of twelve shillings and sixpence a year for the privilege. This McCorkell was a man of some eminence, being not only a Deemster but also one of the 'four merchants' through whose hands the entire trade of the Island had to pass.

In 1600, another entry in the Roll shows Donald Christian to be the owner, and from then on he, his sons and his sons' sons held it until 1778. Edward Christian succeeded to the property which, like that of many another old Manx family, was heavily mortgaged. This, together with the cost of upkeep, eventually caused Edward Christian to sell the property.



Bemahague House, early nineteenth century, from a lithograph in the Manx museum.



Bemahague, about 1885, showing alterations and extensions. (James Fenton)

Christian may not have vacated the house at once. Colonel Townley, who was living nearby at the Hague, in writing of Christian's burial at Kirk Onchan on the 3rd March, 1790, refers to him as....'Old Mr. Christian of Bemahague, the next house to this'....as if he were still living there. It is perhaps a reasonable assumption that it was Heywood and his 'young, handsome wife', as Townley calls her, who, finding the old house of the Christians unsuited to his new dignity as a landowner, decided to replace it by one of a better type and so became responsible for the nucleus of the building which we now see.

When Robert Heywood died in 1809, the property passed to his son, Deemster John Joseph Heywood who let it for a while to an English gentleman of great fortune named Farrer. He was a connection of the Earl of Sandwich and is said to have enlarged and beautified the house to such an extent as to make it appear quite changed. At this time, two fossilised tree trunks, which stand half way up the main drive on the left, were given to Mr. Farrer by one of his visiting sea captains, and were said to have come from the Gulf of Akaba. Later, Bemahague house was occupied by a Mr. Samuel Barker and was considered to be a 'remarkably handsome seat'.

The Deemster died in 1855, leaving the estate to his daughter Elinor for her life, and afterwards to Francis David Daly, her son by her husband John Hickman Daly of Carrickfergus. Elinor died in 1861, and the trustees who looked after her estate during her son's minority handed it over to the young heir when he reached the age of twenty-one. He, in his turn, when he died on 3rd November, 1882, left it in trust for his son John Joseph Heywood Daly.

Before Francis Daly had come of age his trustees leased the house to Governor H. B. Loch, who shortly after his arrival in 1863 informed the British Government that he had 'taken up residence within two miles of Douglas'. This action, incidentally, was one which intensified the argument - started in his predecessor's time - as to where the Governor should live; and called forth petitions and counter-petitions from staunch upholders of the ancient capital and equally vehement supporters of the rapidly growing commercial town of Douglas. The former were heartened by the action of the Deputy Governor (Mark H. Quayle) a true Castletown man who, immediately he took office, had ordered that the Courts, which had recently been brought to Douglas, should return to their old habitat.

Castletown tried to tempt the Governor south with offers of a house called 'Paradise' or, alternatively, 'West Hill', which now forms part of the Buchan



Henry Brougham Loch, later Lord Loch G.C.B., G.C.M.S. D.C.L., P.C., Lieutenant Governor from 1863 to 1882, was the first Lieutenant Governor to live at Bemahague.

School. The baits they dangled so temptingly proved of no avail, however. Bemahague was preferred a eight years later, in 1871, Tynwald, taking the burden on their shoulders, passed an Act confirming the lease of it to the Treasurer of the Isle of Man for 21 years at an annual rental of £200, the lessor to contribute £1,000 towards the cost of such alterations and improvements as were considered necessary to make it a suitable residence for the Governor of the Island. These repairs must have been considerable, for they took upwards of nine months, during which time the Governor was a guest at Bishops court.

In 1886, when the lease had several years still to run negotiations for a purchase were commenced, but the trustees who were administering the property on behalf of Mr. J. J. H. Daly, still a minor, had not the power to sell, so in 1890 a further lease for 21 years was signed and Tynwald voted another £1,000 towards more alterations.

These were to be made to meet complaints that the facilities for entertaining were inadequate. There was not enough room indoors, it was said, to accommodate even the limited number of guests.

which necessity compelled the list of invitations to be restricted. To improve matters in this respect the wall between the drawing-room and the dining-room was broken through and folding doors fitted so that the two rooms might be thrown into one, while a bay was built on to the reception room and a smaller one to the dining-room.

Another complaint was of the shortage of servants' bedrooms, which were so few that rooms for those brought by guests had to be sought for in neighbouring houses. To remedy this, the ancient mud-and-stone-built wall on the kitchen wing - then of one storey only - was pulled down and rebuilt from the foundations so that it would with safety support an additional storey over the kitchen and scullery on which to make another five bedrooms.

In 1891, the Government Property Trustees were constituted and the lease was transferred to them. In May, 1899, Tynwald appointed a committee of five members to consider the whole question of a residence for the head of Government, but when the question was raised again in 1900 it was found that nothing had been done and there were only two of the committee still available. So a new committee was appointed and began its labours by considering a suggestion from the Governor that the house should be bought, as it was costing about £200 a year for repairs in addition to a similar amount paid for the rent. In 1902 Lord Raglan replaced Lord Henniker and in July, 1903, the Tynwald Committee submitted a report which recommended that the house with the

adjoining land (112 acres) be purchased for £12,000. Mr. J. J. H. Daly, being then of age, parted with it on the 24th November, 1903, for that sum.

Despite previous alterations the house was not yet satisfactory as an official residence for the Lieutenant-Governor. Indoors, the main trouble was the small entrance hall and the awkward position of the reception rooms; outdoors, the proximity of the old farmhouse and stables on the west side. The gable of the latter building, indeed, came to within six feet of the house, while the fact that the stable yard was close to, and four feet higher than, the base of the house walls was a great inconvenience.

To put the first trouble right the architects, Messrs. Willink and Thicknesse of Liverpool, pulled down the front or south-western end of the house and extended it in such a manner that the reception room and study were enlarged, while at the same time a new hall, porch and main staircase were constructed.

To deal with the trouble caused by the old farm buildings of the Christian occupation, various small outbuildings were removed, which improved both lighting and ventilation. The farmhouse itself was next converted into two staff cottages while the farmyard and the buildings on it, with the exception of the cowhouse, were moved to a site some 300 yards away. To complete matters, the offending stables were demolished and the cowhouse converted into a stable and coach-house.



*Sir Spencer Walpole, K.C.B.
(1882-1893)*



*Sir Joseph West Ridgeway,
K.C.B., K.C.S.I. (1893-1896)*



Lord Henniker, J.P., D.L. (1896-1902)



*Lord Raglan, G.B.E., C.B.
(1902-1919)*



*Major General Sir William Fry,
K.C.V.O., C.B. (1919-1926)*



*Sir Claude Hill, K.C.S.I., C.I.E.
(1926-1933)*

Attention was also given to the water supply. With the exception of some water piped in from a spring in an adjoining field in 1890, the entire needs of the house were obtained from two old wells, one of which gave water found on analysis to be unfit for human consumption and the other a liquid which was little better. To make matters worse, these two very doubtful blessings were only to be obtained by strenuous work on old-fashioned hand pumps. It was obviously high time that a connection should be made to the mains, and this was done.

On 30th January, 1906, it was reported that all work had been satisfactorily completed and the Governor was in residence. But it was not long before there were more complaints, this time of smoking fires and damp walls. The chimney stacks were raised and extra spouting provided to carry away the water which was flooding the walls.

More trouble came on the night of 24th April, 1914, when a fire broke out in the servants' quarters. Prompt action and the fact that it was a still night prevented the blaze spreading, and there was neither loss of life nor personal injury. In a way it was a blessing in disguise, for the portion destroyed was the oldest part of the house where the rooms were small and the ceilings low. The opportunity was taken, when rebuilding, to raise the roof and provide a staff bathroom and strongroom for the storage of plate, etc.

In the late 1920's Lady Hill did a great deal to beautify the rooms and it was she who was responsible for the installation of the lovely glass

chandeliers in the reception room and drawing-room. These came from Paris.



*Sir Montague Butler, K.C.S.I., C.B., C.I.E., C.V.O., C.B.E.
(1933-1937)*

GOVERNMENT HOUSE 1939-1945

During the difficult years of the Second World War, the Isle of Man was fortunate in having as its Lieutenant Governor, Vice-Admiral the Hon. William Spencer Leveson-Gower, C.B., D.S.O., later, Earl Granville. He was a descendant of the Dukes of Sutherland and the Marquises of Stafford. His wife was Lady Margaret Rose Leveson-Gower, nee Bowes-Lyon, who was a sister of Her Majesty The Queen, now Her Majesty The Queen Mother. Many Island residents will remember with great affection how completely she engaged herself in Manx life and held together, by her charm and personality, what little social gathering there was in those austere times.

With the administrative affairs of a wartime Island to occupy the minds of Members of Tynwald, it is not surprising that very little attention could be paid to the development of Government House, apart from the necessary repairs and maintenance. Indeed, Lord Granville appears to have raised nothing of consequence with the Government Property Trustees about the needs of the house and the records of the Trustees show that their only business in that direction concerned the estate lands. The following extracts from the Minute Book of the Government Property Trustees reveal the type of wartime business transacted:

16 January 1941

The Trustees considered that the sum of £36 should be paid to a tenant as the result of the requisitioning of one of his fields on the Bemahague Estate as a recreation ground for internees.

2 April 1941

The Trustees inspected all their property in Douglas and Onchan and reduced the Government expenditure by £100.

5 June 1943

The Trustees considered a letter from a tenant relative to the ploughing up and reseeded of two fields and decided not to depart from the decision reached previously not to provide seeds in consequence of the tenant's failure to observe the covenants of the lease.

28 September 1944

A report from the Government Surveyor on the defective condition of the central heating boiler at



*Vice Admiral The Earl Granville, K.C.V.O., C.B., D.S.O.
(1937-1945)*

Government House was considered and it was decided to order a new boiler immediately at an estimated cost of £80.

10 January 1945

It was reported that the field adjoining Blackberry Lane had been de-requisitioned and returned to the former tenant.

31 March 1945

The Trustees decided to adopt the recommendation in the Douglas Corporation Water Engineer's report to lay a new 4 inch main from Wybourne Drive to Government House at an estimated cost of £340.

(Reproduced with the permission of the Minister for the Department of Highways, Ports and Properties)

At Government House a bedroom was added to the Tynwald Room in preparation for the visit of Their Majesties King George VI and Queen Elizabeth in August. Countess Granville, the Queen's elder sister, worked the bedspread and satin hangings with the Royal Coat of Arms for the fourposter bed. These were subsequently stored in the Manx Museum but since Sir Laurence New's governorship they have been placed permanently on display in the Fenella Suite at Government House.

The Island's wartime Governor finally departed at the end of August, the same day as Air Vice Marshal Sir Geoffrey Bromet arrived to succeed him. The occasion was marked with great ceremony at H.M.S. Urley, the Fleet Air Arm establishment at Ronaldsway. The ship's complement of 2,000 assembled to witness the change over and, as Earl Granville flew out, Sir Geoffrey was driven to Castle Rushen to be sworn in as the Island's first post-war Governor.

A permanent reminder of the Second World War can be found prominently displayed in the hall of Government House. This is the brass bell of H.M.S. MANXMAN which served with the Royal Navy as a fast minelayer, the ship's bell being given by the Manx people. During her long career the ship paid numerous visits to the Island and when she was finally retired the bell was returned to Government House for safe keeping and, should the occasion arise, be ready to serve on another ship of that name. The bell is also a reminder of the many Manxmen who served on board the ship. The bell is inscribed as follows: This bell was given by the people of the Isle of Man in memory of one of its greatest sailors. Captain John Quilliam R.N. who served in H.M.S. Victory at Trafalgar 1805.

By the end of the war there was a very considerable arrears of work to be completed as soon as men and materials, and the necessary finance, became available. In August, 1945, the Trustees decided, for example, that the immediate requirements of china and glassware for Government House should be provided as soon as practicable. The question of furniture was left until the arrival of the new Lieutenant Governor. Before the departure of Earl and Countess Granville in August, 1945, they had two very important peacetime events to attend to. Following the British General Election a visit was made by the new Socialist Home Secretary. The Countess was well known for her tact and it is on record that Mr. Herbert Morrison was more than a little pleased when he noticed that she was suitable attired for the occasion wearing a dress patterned with red roses!



The Countess Granville, formerly Lady Margaret Rose Leveson-Gower (nee Bowes-Lyon) and elder sister to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother.

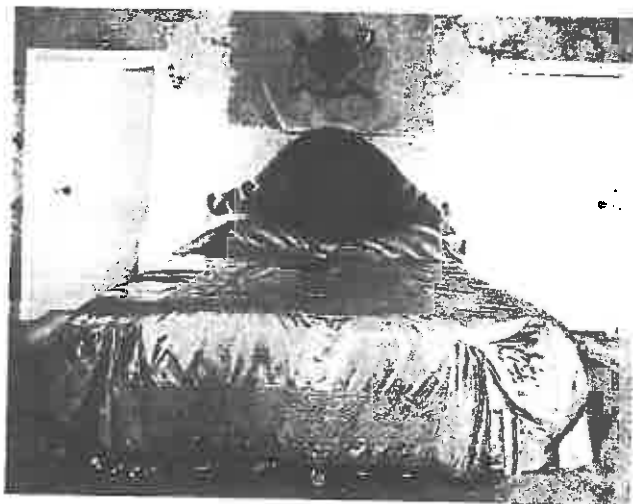


The bell of H.M.S. Manxman, World War 2 minelayer and one of the fastest ships in the Royal Navy.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE TODAY

Hanging in the dining room is a portrait in oils of King George III, a copy of the original by the Scottish artist Allan Ramsay, probably painted in 1762, and now hanging in Buckingham Palace. Ramsay, with the help of pupils and others, made numerous reproductions of this portrait for distribution to Government Houses and embassies etc., and the Bemahague picture is almost certainly one of these and dates from about 1765. The circumstances in which it was acquired are not known, but the appointment in that year for the first time of a Governor directly representing the Crown would furnish a good reason for the presentation. A manuscript diary written by a visitor to the Island in 1822 mentions a portrait of George III, which must have been this one, as hanging in the ballroom of Castle Mona which was, at that date, the residence of the Duke of Atholl, the then Governor. It is a reasonable assumption that when the Duke, the last to hold the office of Governor, left the Island the portrait would be transferred to the official residence of the Lieutenant Governors who followed him.

At the end of his term of office in 1926, Major General Sir William Fry was presented by the Isle of Man Legislature with a magnificent silver casket containing an address to him in appreciation of his services to the Island. The address was read in Tynwald but unfortunately the casket was still in preparation and it was necessary to forward this to him at his home in England. Sir William's letter of thanks was read in Tynwald on 13th April, 1926, in which he thanked the Members of the Legislature for the 'very beautiful and artistic casket' which had arrived safely. Visitors to Government House might therefore find it strange to see it today gracing the



The embroidered bedspread and satin hanging as worked by The Countess Granville in preparation for the visit of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth.

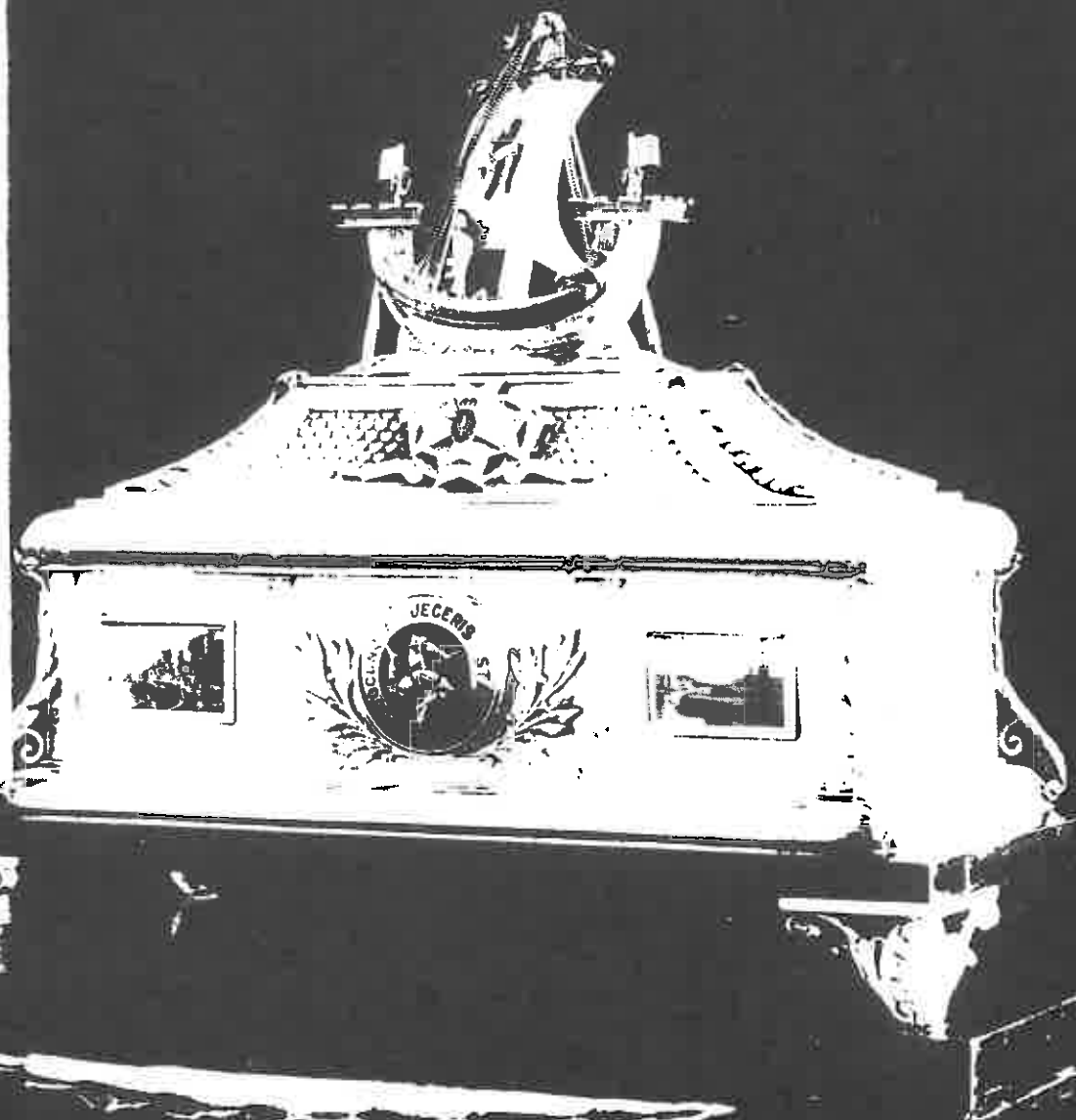
formal dining table where it provides a most attractive conversation piece. It was returned there as a result of the family generosity and now forms part of the official contents of the house. Largely of silver, it stands on an ebony base and is decorated with four enamel panels showing views of Government House, Government Buildings, Tynwald Hill and Castle Rushen together with the Manx Coat of Arms on the front and the star of a Knight Commander of the Royal Victorian Order on the reverse. The lid of the casket is a beautifully wrought Viking ship and it also bears Sir William's monogram.

THE GROUNDS OF GOVERNMENT HOUSE

Dr. Larch S. Garrad, in her book 'A History of Manx Gardens', records that Lord Raglan was responsible for much of the initial tree planting and the shrubberies by the drive. Lord Granville added smaller ornamental trees while Sir Claude Hill designed the original rose garden, since replanted. The main road plantation dates from 1912, while Sir William Fry and Sir Montague Butler brought in commercial forestry subjects to improve the screening. While the herbaceous borders are secondary to the spacious lawns used for formal functions, they are good and the lilies in the pond flower well.

It was in the time of Sir Geoffrey Bromet that a hard tennis court replaced the old herbaceous border on the left of the drive near the house. A new herbaceous border with the lily pond in the centre was provided throughout the whole width of the lawn in front of the reception rooms.

Over the years the permanent outdoor staff have contributed to a very significant extent to the pleasing layout of the gardens and grounds, but it is only to be expected that improvements previously carried out have sometimes been superseded by further changes resulting from the use of the grounds for garden parties etc. Government House is largely self-supporting when it comes to flowers for indoor decoration, and for fruit and vegetables from the kitchen gardens.



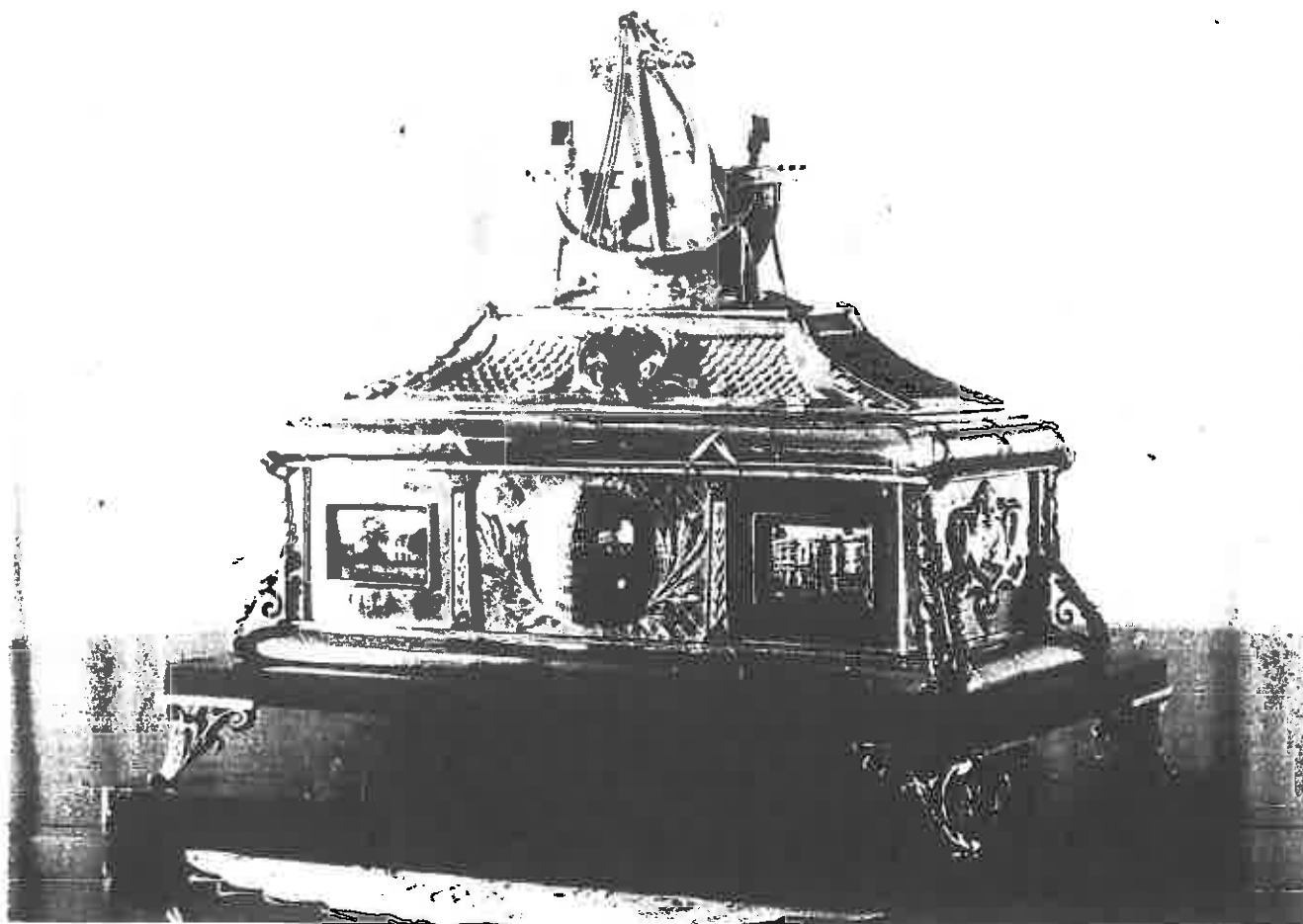
The Casket presented by Eynwold to Lieutenant Governor Major General Sir William Fry with the portrait of His Majesty King George III in the background.

The Government House and grounds that we see today are a result of the knowledge and experience of successive Governors in the management of large estates; the flair of their Ladies in the furnishing and decoration of the rooms so as to create a pleasing sense of style and proportion throughout; the skill of the permanent staff, both indoors and out, who are happy to maintain the dignity of this official residence; and, not least, the willingness of the Trustees on behalf of Government and the Manx people to enhance the appearance of a property which plays a valuable part in the political and social life of the Island.

Perhaps the most important change affecting Government House in recent years has been the gradual transfer of official Government functions from the Lieutenant Governor to the appropriate new Government Departments. Acknowledging and encouraging that process, Sir Laurence New on arrival decided to move his office, his ADC/Private Secretary and his immediate staff out of Government building up to Government House. In his study at Government House he is by no means detached from Government: he has regular meetings with the Deputy Governor and First Deemster, the Chief Minister, the Lord Bishop, the Attorney General, the Chief Constable, the Chief Secretary, the Head of Crown

Division and the Clerk of Tynwald. Here also the Governor and his wife hold their weekly planning meetings at which they consider invitations from organisations, agencies, parishes and patronages. As regards the latter they are Patrons or Presidents of some 100 charitable and specialist organisations. Royal Visits are also initiated and co-ordinated from Government House, the most recent having been that of Her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh in August, 1989. There are many overnight visitors on official business and a steady stream of guests for receptions, lunches and dinners, together with parties for young people. Government House is seldom quiet.

This new emphasis of responsibility – often referred to as the Governor's 'vice-regal' role – has resulted in a considerable increase in the demands and pressures on Government House and its staff to meet the requirements of the more open accessibility of the Lieutenant Governor and Government House, much more so than a few generations ago. Today a growing number of people are familiar with the House and grounds, but for those wishing to know a little more about its contents and function this documentary concludes with a selection of illustrations which reflect the part that Government House plays in the many sides of life on the Isle of Man in modern times.





*Air Vice Marshal SIR GEOFFREY BROMET, K.B.E., C.B.,
D.S.O. (1945-1952)*



*SIR AMBROSE DUNDAS FLUX DUNDAS, K.C.I.E.,
C.S.I. (1952-1959)*



*SIR RONALD GARVEY, K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O., M.B.E.
(1959-1966)*



*SIR PETER STALLARD, K.C.M.G., C.V.O., M.B.E.
(1966-1974)*



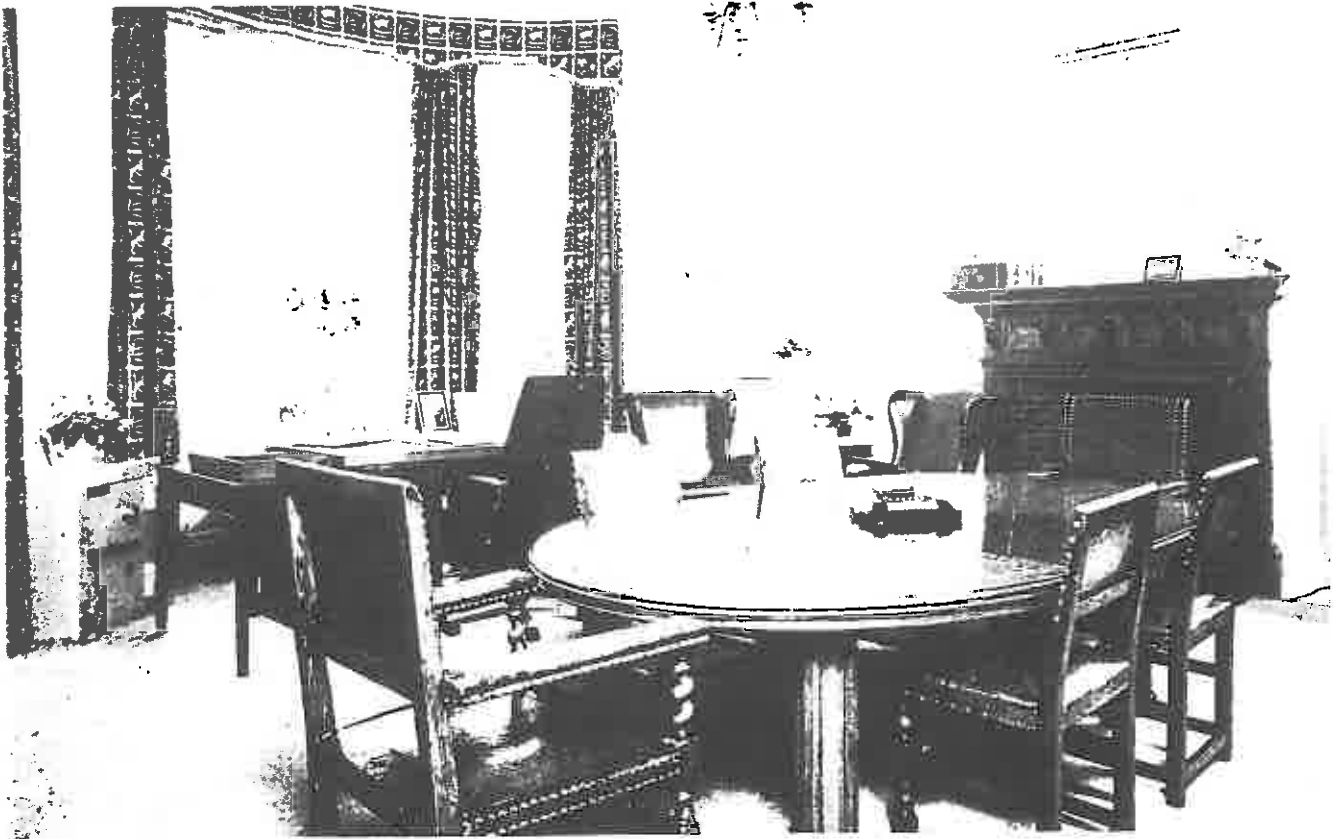
*SIR JOHN PAUL, G.C.M.G., O.B.E., M.C.
(1974-1980)*



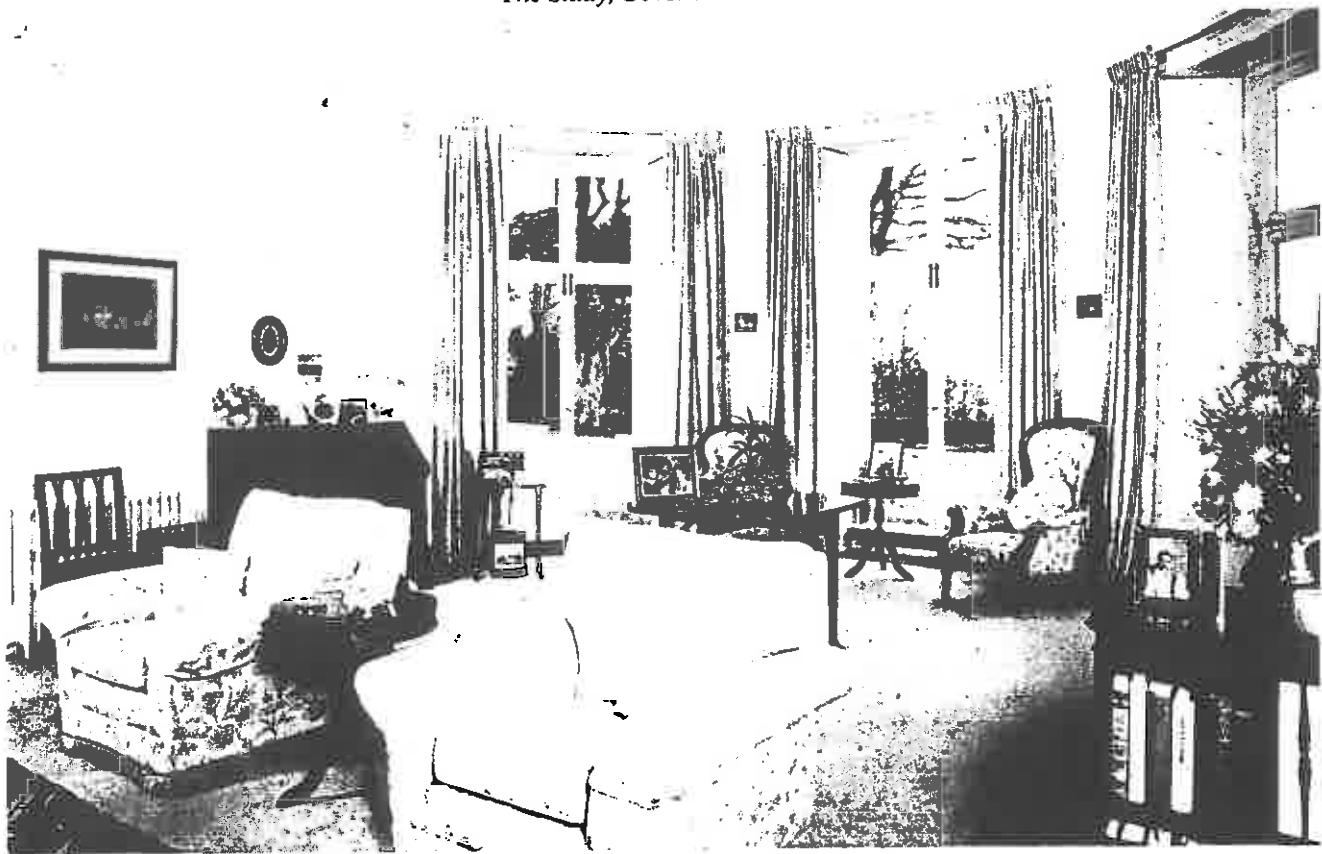
*Rear Admiral SIR NIGEL CECIL, K.B.E., C.B.
(1980-1985)*



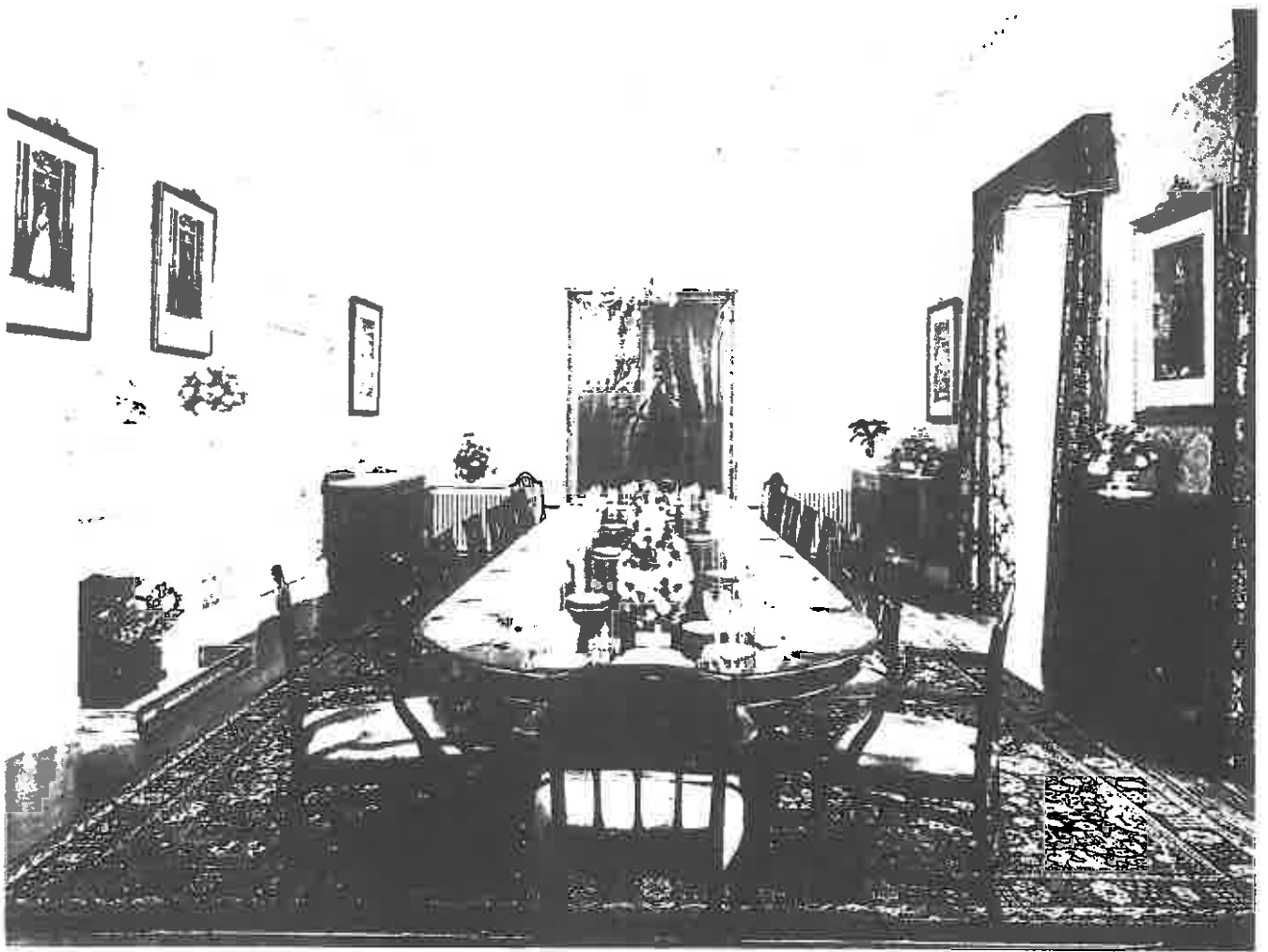
A happy scene in the grounds of Government House with Onchan Schoolchildren during the visit of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother in July, 1963.



The Study, Government House



The Yellow Drawing Room, Government House



The Dining Room, Government House



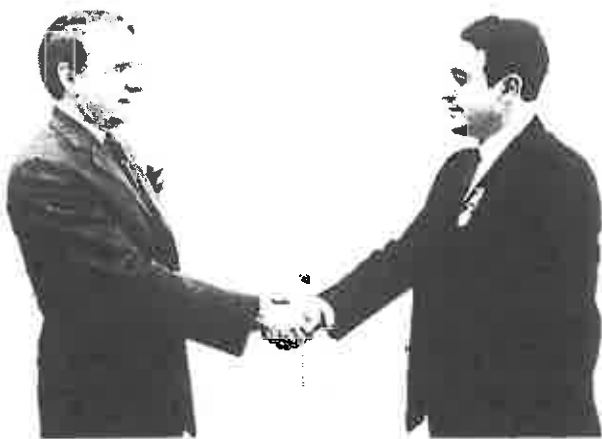
*Government House staff during the visit of H.R.H. The Prince Edward, Tynwald Day 1986
and guests including Lord and Lady Whitelaw.*



Mr and Mrs Nigel Mansell being introduced to HRH The Prince Edward during a Government House Party, 7th July 1986.



Mrs Vera Maddrell, widow of Mr Don Maddrell, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, plants a commemorative tree by the drive to Government House on 21st July, 1988.



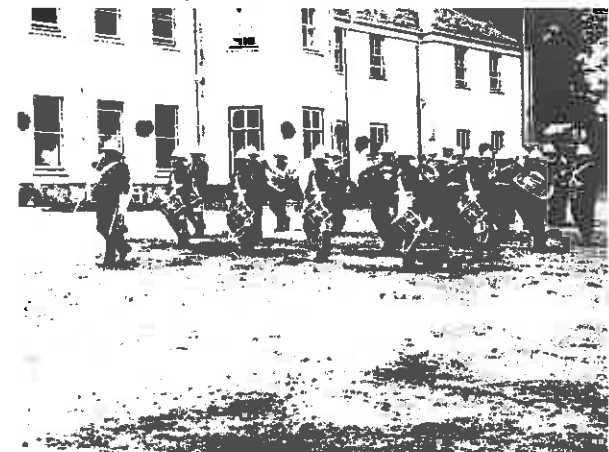
Sir Laurence New investing Mr David Keggin of H.M. Coastguard with the British Empire Medal in the Blue Drawing Room of Government House on 7th March, 1990.



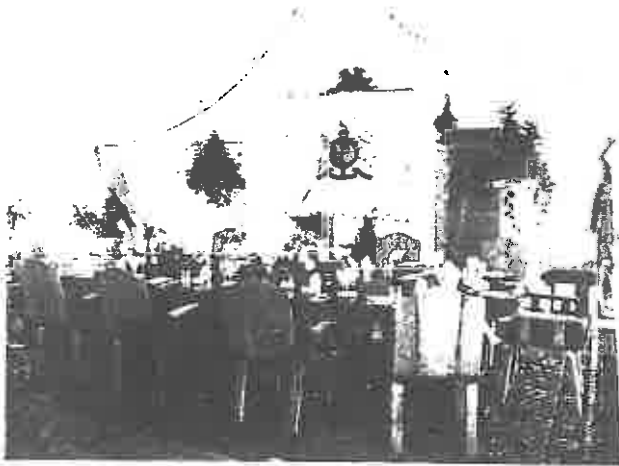
Tynwald Garden Party guests being introduced by F Excellency and Lady New to HRH The Princess Margat 6th July, 1987.



Sir Laurence and Lady New have given a series of children's parties for those who have helped in some way. This party was held on 5th November, 1988, and one of their heroes, Terry Ball, who has since died of leukaemia is seen with Lady New.



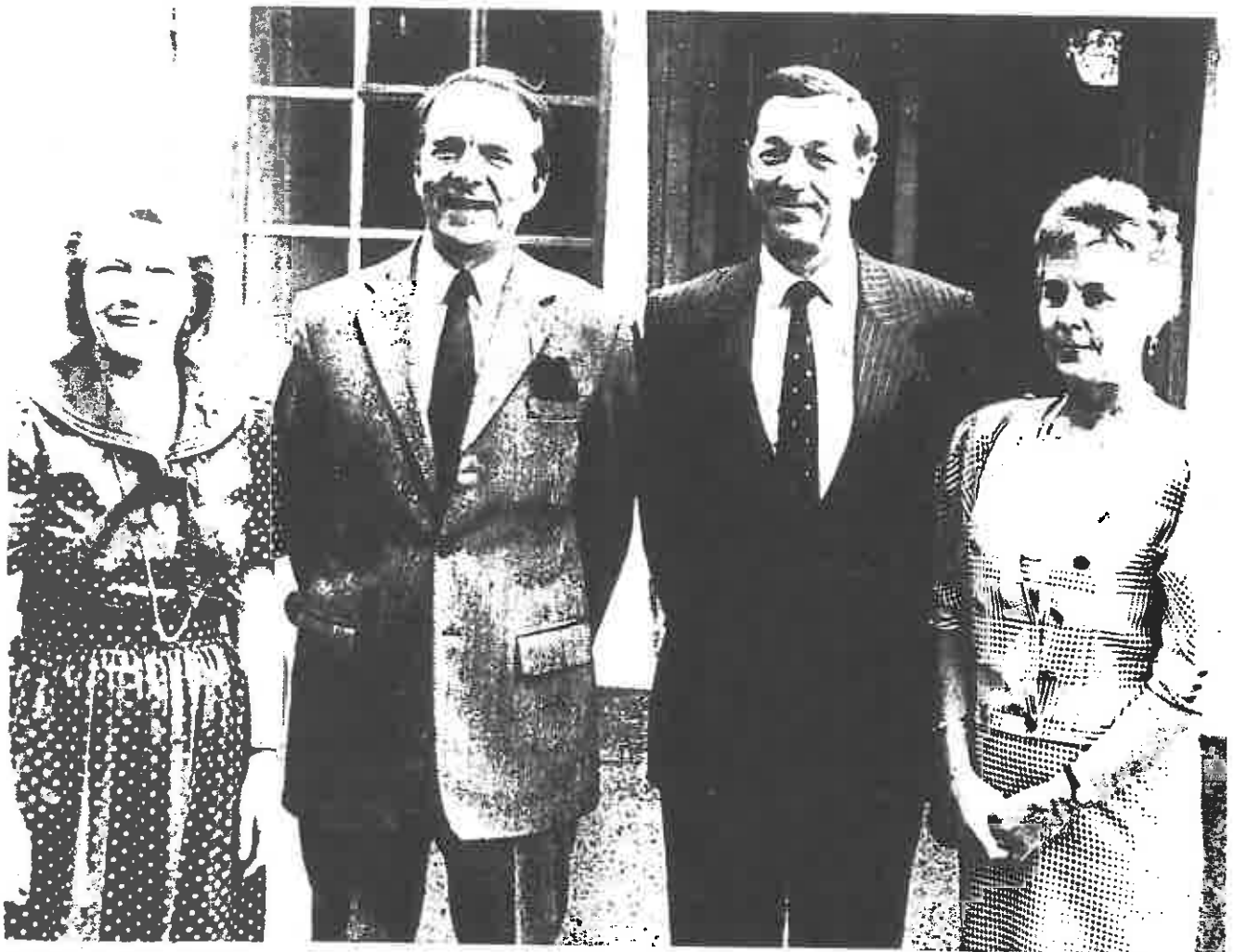
The Band of H.M. Royal Marines (Flag Officer Plymouth) beat the retreat on the lawn of Government House on eve of Tynwald Day, 4th July, 1989.



A view of the top table set for luncheon in the marquee during the visit of Her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh on 8th August, 1989. Sir Laurence and Lady New entertained 82 guests on this occasion. Behind the table is the embroidered coat of arms worked by the Countess Granville, aunt of the Queen.



when her husband was Lieutenant Governor of the Island; it normally hangs above the bed in the main guest suite at Government House. Also pictured are the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh, having each planted a tree, meeting Government House staff.



His Excellency and Lady New welcome the incoming Lieutenant Governor, Air Marshal Sir Laurence Jones, K.C.B., A.F.C., F.B.I.M., and Lady Jones during their preliminary visit in May, 1990.

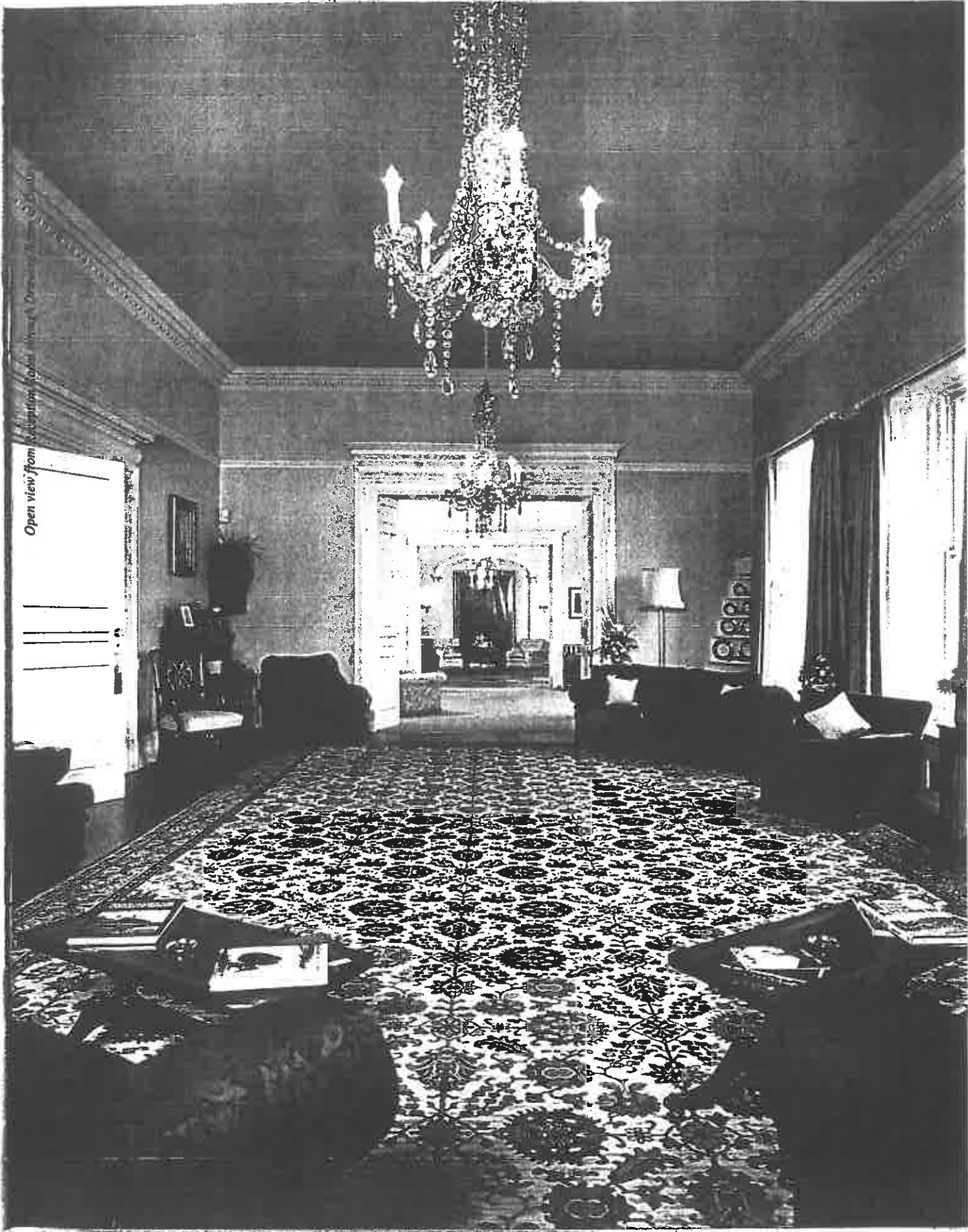
ROYAL VISITORS DURING THE REIGN OF HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

1955 9th August	Her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh
1956 25th July	Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Kent.
1960 9th November	Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra of Kent
1963 4/7th July	Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother
1965 4/6th July	Her Royal Highness The Princess Margaret and Lord Snowdon
1969 16/17th May	His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh
1969 11th June	His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh
1972 2nd August	Her Majesty The Queen, His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh and Her Royal Highness The Princess Anne
1975 27th June	His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales
1976 18th May	His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh
1979 14/15th March	Her Royal Highness The Princess Anne
1979 23rd May	Their Royal Highnesses The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester
1979 5th July	Her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh
1979 6/7th September	Their Royal Highnesses Prince and Princess Michael of Kent
1983 13/15th July	Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra and the Hon. Sir Angus Ogilvy
1984 27/28th September	Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother
1984 1/3rd October	Her Royal Highness The Princess Anne
1985 16/18th May	Her Royal Highness The Princess Alexandra and The Hon. Angus Ogilvy
1986 6th June	His Royal Highness The Duke of Kent
1986 7/9th July	His Royal Highness The Prince Edward
1986 4/5th September	His Royal Highness Prince Michael of Kent
1987 3/6th July	Her Royal Highness The Princess Margaret
1988 26/27th July	Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Kent
1989 8th August	Her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh



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Open view from Reception Room to the Drawing Room