

“GREEN’S FORSAKEN”
A BALLAUGH WEDDING
(1829) *



“On Sunday week, at Ballaugh, Mr Thomas Caley, weaver, to Miss Ann Craine, both of that parish. The bridal party were followed to church by a foresaken sweetheart of the bride’s, decked with green leeks.”

“Married.” *Manx Sun* 5 May 1829: 3e.

Why green? As explained in the the nursery rhyme, where “Blue is true, Yellow’s jealous, Green’s forsaken, Red’s brazen, White is love. And Black is death.” Given the level of social humiliation that such an attendance entailed, it is likely that not many but a very few ever turned up so decked out. And so the mention in the *Manx Sun* when one such “foresaken sweetheart” did so.

STEPHEN MILLER, 2017



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