

Manx Notes 64 (2006)

THE GILL BROTHERS AS COLLECTORS:

(14) DEEMSTER J.F. GILL ENCOUNTERS JAMES CANNELL (1895)

“Bollan Bane”

Note from Jas : Cannell—[aged 71]
(The Dhoor Lezayre) 2 Aug 1895

Paddy Pherrick Caine (weaver) lived at Orrysdale—Michael—died—aged between 60 & 70

At Injebreck he took off his shoes & listend to fairies fiddling & dancing learned the tune & was returning home at B. he forgot it & returned “& still they were dancing & fiddling” Listened again—& returned—came down Slieu Curn—& so home, “still singing”—Wife reproved him for singing such a tune on Sunday morning—“Hold your tongue” said he, “or I’ll make light shine thro’ your ribs—

Source: “[Bollan Bane](#) | Note from Jas : Cannell [aged 71] | (The Dhoor Lezayre) 2 Aug 1895”. Loose, titled single sheet in the hand of Deemster J.F. Gill, dated 2 August 1895, Deemster J.F. Gill Papers, MNHL, MS 09702, Box 2 (unlisted).



During their summer collecting tour in 1895, Deemster J.F. Gill together with his brother, W.H. Gill, came across James Cannell of the Dhoor, Lezayre, on 2 August 1895. While no tune was recorded from him, the Deemster took down the fieldnote reproduced here. This was no doubt the division of labour in the field between the pair of brothers, W.H. Gill using his musical competency to take down the tunes while his brother made fieldnotes. Few, unfortunately, survive.

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JAMES CANNELL

1891 CENSUS

Age: 67. Born: Michael. Occupation: General labourer. Residence: 26 College Street. Household: Emma, wife, 42, born in England. Children: Charles, son, 9, scholar; Emma, son, 6, scholar. Both born in England. *Census Enumerators’ Book*, Ramsey, 1891, RG 12/4685, fol. 95.

1881 CENSUS

Labourer (unemployed), 107 Grafton Street, Toxteth Park, Liverpool (England). *Census Enumerators’ Book*, 1881, RG 11/3638, fol. 134.

NOTE

There is a second loose item in MNHL, MS 09702, Box 2, relating to James Cannell. It is a song text (?) and was possibly recorded from him on this occasion. This cannot now be read as it was written down in pencil that has now badly faded. The top of the sheet reads “Jas Cannell Ramsey” with Dhoor entered above. Presumably, the Cannells had moved at some date since their 1891 enumeration.

PATRICK CAINE

“Paddy Pherrick Caine,” ie, ‘Wee Patrick, son of Patrick Caine.’ The 1G1 has a Patrick Cain baptised *c.* 30 April 1815 in Patrick, with no other candidates. He was buried on 10 February 1864 in German, aged 49 years.

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