

Manx Notes 177 (2014)

“A HARD MAN, AND WILD MIGHTY...”
MONA DOUGLAS AND HER INFORMANTS *

Mona Douglas was a collector both of Manx folk song and dance; she also acknowledged those from who she collected and so there is a good number of names to deal with—in fact, some thirty-two individuals in all. As regards those singers found earlier in the 1890s, nearly all can be identified in the census. As her collecting was of a more recent date, the reliance is on people’s memories. Does anyone here recognise or know of any of these figures? Are they in any way related to you? Besides knowing more about the singers and dancers Douglas found, a crucial issue is knowing just when was she collecting, in other words how late was she able to find tradition bearers in the Manx countryside. Surely, someone here must be related to “Kelly the Blackguard,” from Dalby, described to Mona Douglas as “a hard man, and wild mighty...”!

The names to date are: (1) **Mrs Bridson**, Glen Rushen or Glen Maye, Patrick; (2) **William Cain(e)**, Jurby; (3) **J. Callow**, Lezayre; (4) **Mrs Callow**, Cardle Veg Maughold; (5) **Caesar Cashin**, Peel; (6) **Mrs Clague**, The Niarbyl, Patrick; (7) **Miss B. Cooil**, Arbory; (8) **J. Corkill**, Ballaragh, Lonan; (9) **Captain T. Craine**, Douglas; (10) **John Davis**, Ballasalla, Malew; (11) **John Faragher**, Lonan; (12) **Mrs Faragher**, Kerroglass, Michael; (13) **John Kelly**, Baldrine or Ballachrink Lonan; (14) [?] **Kelly**, Patrick; (15) **John Kermode**, Port Mooar, Maughold; (16) **Mrs J. Kermode**, Port Mooar, Maughold; (17) **Robert Kerruish**, Booilley Velt, Maughold; (18) **Robert Kewley**, Unknown; (19) **Mrs Killey**, Ballasalla, Malew; (20) **J. Kinvig**, Ballasalla, Malew; (21) **J. Moore**, Patrick; (22) **Mrs Moore**, Malew; (23) **John Matt[hew]** **Mylechreest**, Clybane or Thalloo Hogg, Lonan; (24) **Catherine Quayle**, The Whallag, Arbory; (25) **Margaret Quayle**, Glen Audlyn Mill, Lezayre; (26) **W. Quine**, Peel; (27) **Mrs Ratcliffe**, Maughold; (28) **Mrs Shimmin**, Foxdale, Patrick; (29) **Thomas Taggart**, Grenaby, Malew; (30) **Mrs Teare**, Ballaugh; (31) **Thomas** —, ?; (32) **William** —, ? [The last two are known only by nicknames, “Tom the Fairy,” “Billy the Dollan.” It is known that both of them were dead by 1915.]

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