

THE PEEL MANX LANGUAGE SOCIETY (4)

“OUT UPON YOU, YOU POLTROONS.”
WHO IS MISS O. JOUGHIN?

“Out upon you, you poltroons” was the reponse of Miss O. Joughin to those who objected to the revival of the Manx language, and it was delivered to her critics during the discussion at the end of her paper titled “A Plea for the Revival of the Celtic Languages,” delivered to the Peel Wesley Guild on 2 December 1899.¹ The issue here is not the validity of her opinion, but specifically who was “Miss O. Joughin,” given that there is no one with that initial in the 1901 census who is a female. Orry Joughin from Peel was the only Joughin enumerated anywhere in the Island whose first name began with that letter of the alphabet.

She was as Miss O. Joughin present at the founding of the Peel Manx Language Society on 4 February 1899, when she was elected as its Secretary alongside Sophia Morrison who took on the role of Treasurer.² Again when at the Kiaulliaight Gailckagh in January 1900, she recited “The Wreck of the Herring Fleet” in Manx.³ So too when a delegate together with Morrison to the first Pan-Celtic Congress in 1901 held in Dublin.⁴

In 1903, the O was shown to stand for Ottie when it was reported that:

Miss Ottie Joughin, daughter of the late Mr J. Joughin, left Peel on Friday of last week for London, where she will take up her residence. She was one of the leading lights of the, Manx Language Society, and is an accomplished linguist and scholar in every way.⁵

This still does not help to place her as such and it is only with the death in 1911 of Emily Joughin, the former London Secretary of the Isle of Man Board of Advertising Office, that the two can be shown to be the one and the same.⁶ She died in Canada, where she was staying with her sister and brother on their farm at Hamilton Lake in Alberta, having resigned her post the previous year on grounds of ill-health.⁷

Turning to the 1901 census, she is enumerated fully as Emily Eleanor Joughin, aged 40, living at 8 Michael Street in Peel, with her widowed mother, Emily J.

¹ “The Celtic Languages: A Plea for the Revival,” *Peel City Guardian* 14 December 1901.

² “[Peel] Manx Association,” *Manx Sun* 11 February 1899. See too, “To Preserve the Mother Tongue,” *Isle of Man Examiner* 18 February 1899.

³ “Kiaulliaight Gailckagh’ (Manx Concert),” *Peel City Guardian* 13 January 1900.

⁴ “The first Pan-Celtic ...,” *Peel City Guardian* 1901.

⁵ “[Peel] Miss Ottie Joughin ...,” *Peel City Guardian* 17 January 1903.

⁶ “Death of Miss Emily Joughin,” *Peel City Guardian* 8 July 1911. Noted in passing in “Miss Emily Joughin ...,” *Ramsey Courier* 14 July 1911.

⁷ For her date and place of death, see “Births, Marriages, and Deaths,” *Peel City Guardian* 8 July 1911.

Joughin (73), and her two siblings, Eleanor F[enton] Joughin (34), and Henry (as Harry) F[enton] Joughin (32), a farmer.⁸ Having the same first name as her mother clearly resulted in the use of a nickname for her, though precisely why Ottie was chosen is unknown.⁹

Her father was John Joughin, who had died recently in March 1901. He had run a successful grocery and bakery business in the town, and owned the net making factory there, as well as a number of fishing boats. He also served as MHC for Glenfaba having been first elected in 1876 and was still in office at the time of his death.¹⁰ In the 1891 census, Emily Joughin was an accountant as was her sister, Eleanor, working in their father's business, and their brother Henry was then a medical student.¹¹

The 1901 census had a language question and regards the Joughin household it was curiously answered as Emily Joughin returned herself as speaking English only but her sister, Eleanor, was recorded as a Manx speaker. Yet it is clear that Emily is Ottie and so Miss O. Joughin and therefore the language activist alongside of Sophia Morrison.

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REFERENCES

- Anon. “[Peel and the West] On Thursday last” *Isle of Man Times* 21 August 1886: [4]h.
- . “[Peel] Manx Association.” *Manx Sun* 11 February 1899: 5c.
- . “To Preserve the Mother Tongue.” *Isle of Man Examiner* 18 February 1899: 5f.
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- . “The Celtic Languages: A Plea for the Revival.” *Peel City Guardian* 14 December 1901: 4a–d.
- . “Death of Mr John Joughin, H.K., J.P.”. *Peel City Guardian* 16 March 1901: [2]a–b.
- . “The first Pan-Celtic” *Peel City Guardian* 1901: [2]e.
- . “[Peel] Miss Ottie Joughin” *Peel City Guardian* 17 January 1903: [6]d.
- . “Births, Marriages, and Deaths.” *Peel City Guardian* 8 July 1911: [8]e.
- . “Death of Miss Emily Joughin.” *Peel City Guardian* 8 July 1911: [6]e.

⁸ *Census Enumerators’ Book* for Peel 1901, RG 13/5306, fol. 36, sch. 145.

⁹ A note of confusion comes from 1886 at the wedding of their brother, John Joughin, when amongst the bridesmaids were “Misses Emily and Ottie Joughin, sisters of the bridegroom.” “[Peel and the West] On Thursday last,” *Isle of Man Times* 21 August 1886.

¹⁰ “Death of Mr John Joughin, H.K., J.P.,” *Peel City Guardian* 16 March 1901.

¹¹ *Census Enumerators’ Book* for Peel 1891, RG 12/4683, fol. 38, sch. 57.

———. "Miss Emily Joughin" *Ramsey Courier* 14 July 1911: [2]b.

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OBITUARIES

Anon. "Death of Miss Emily Joughin." *Peel City Guardian* 8 July 1911: [6]e.

———. "Miss Emily Joughin" *Ramsey Courier* 14 July 1911: [2]b.

I. "DEATH OF MISS EMILY JOUGHIN," PEEL CITY GUARDIAN (8 JULY 1911)

Miss Emily Joughin, who was so well known in Peel, died at Hamilton Lake, Alberta, Canada, on Thursday, June 15th. For the last few years Miss Joughin acted as London Secretary for the Isle of Man Advertising Board, and only resigned her position last autumn on account of illness. Her visit to Canada to join her brother and sister on their farm was partly in the interest of her health. Miss Joughin was known to her friends as a highly gifted and cultured woman of very charming manners. She had a thorough acquaintance with all that was best in English, French, and German literature, and it is not saying too much to say that she could talk well, and even brilliantly on most subjects in those languages. From her childhood Miss Emily Joughin was a sincere christian. One of her chief works in Peel was her superintendance of the large infants' department in connection with the Wesleyan Sunday-school. Into this work she put her heart and soul for many years, and was loved by the parents as well as the children by reason of her affectionate interest in each of the scholars. A very beautiful character has passed away with Emily Joughin. Always so gracious and kind, her numerous friends throughout the Island will regret her departure as a true bereavement. On behalf of many of our readers we offer sincerest sympathy with her sister and brother in Canada, and her relations at home, who will feel her loss so acutely.

"Death of Miss Emily Joughin." *Peel City Guardian* 8 July 1911: [6]e.

2 "MISS EMILY JOUGHIN" RAMSEY COURIER (14 JULY 1911)

Miss Emily Joughin, who was so well known in Peel, died at Hamilton Lake, Alberta, Canada, on Thursday, June 15th. For the last few years Miss Joughin acted as London Secretary for the Isle of Man Advertising Board, and only resigned her position last autumn on account of illness. Her visit to Canada to join her brother and sister on their farm was partly in the interest of her health. Miss Joughin was known to her friends as a highly gifted and cultured woman of very charming manners.

"Miss Emily Joughin" *Ramsey Courier* 14 July 1911: [2]b.

3. BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS COLUMN, PEEL CITY GUARDIAN (8 JULY 1911)

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

BIRTHS.

BLAIR. - On July 3rd, at Ballaquane Cottage, Peel, the wife of John A. H. F. Blair, of a daughter.

DEATHS.

JOUGHIN. - On June 15th, at the residence of her brother, H. F. Joughin, Hamilton Lake, Alberta, Canada, Emily, daughter of the late John Joughin, J.P., M.H.K., Peel.

IN MEMORIAM.

WOODS. - In loving memory of my dear mother, Eleanor Woods, who died June 29th, 1910.

Sleep on, dear mother, and take thy rest,
They miss you most who loved you best;
When days are dark and friends are few,
Dear mother, how I long for you.

Emily.

“Births, Marriages, and Deaths.” *Peel City Guardian* 8 July 1911: [8]e.

