

“AN AMATEUR BAND, CONSISTING OF NINE PERFORMERS” (1871) *

The *Mona's Herald* issue for 12 April 1871 had a round-up of recent Tea Festivals in the Island including one held at Ballakaneen in Andreas.¹ Here, a concert was part of the activities and the “[t]he first piece was an overture by an amateur band, consisting of nine performers, viz., Messrs H. Lanaghan (flute), F. Chrystal, C. Collins, and H. Kissack (1st violins), T. Chrystal and T. Craine (2nd violins), F. Radcliffe and J. Collins (violincellos), and J. Craine (harmonium).” This is a valuable description of, as the piece aptly states, “an amateur band.” But who were the nine?

As regards the Chrystals, there is just the one family of that surname in the 1871 census, living in Ramsey, but only one of the family suggests a match in T[homas] [William] Chrystal, aged 16, a chemists' apprentice and living at 34 Waterloo Road.² That leaves F[rederick?] (or F[rancis?]) Chrystal missing from the record. Turning to the Collins, there is a choice between father and son for the first of the pair, both of whom are named C[harles], there being no other name of choice in the census. The senior Charles was 44 years old, born in Co. Down in Ireland, whose occupation cannot be made out, the other one aged 17, born in Douglas, and living at 7 Fancy Street in Douglas.³ For J[ohn] Collins as he must be (a Joseph Collins being only 8 years old),⁴ the 1871 census provides two individuals, John Collins (37), a labourer, living in Douglas at 7 Duke Lane,⁵ and another John (31), again a labourer, living somewhere in Rushen (place of residence is not stated) and born in Oxford in England.⁶ T[homas] Craine as he must be cannot be narrowed down given that there are 46 individuals with that name aged from 1 to 75 years of age in the 1871 census. H[enry] Kissack was aged 24, working as a watchmaker and jeweller, and living at 1 Market Place in Ramsey.⁷ A H[enry?] Lanaghan cannot be found. The 1871 census has just three people with that surname living in the Island, Elizabeth Lanaghan (65)

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1 “[Tea Festivals, Bazaars, &c.] Grand Art-Union, Tea Festival, and Concert at Ballakaneen, Andreas.” *Mona's Herald* 12 April 1871: [2]b.

2 *Census Enumerators' Book* for Ramsey (1871), RG 10/5773, fol. 147, sch. 59.

3 *Census Enumerators' Book* for Douglas (1871), RG 10/5776, fol. 88, sch. 95.

4 *Census Enumerators' Book* for Douglas (1871), RG 10/5775, fol. 50, sch. 70.

5 *Census Enumerators' Book* for Douglas (1871), RG 10/5778, fol. 181, sch. 196.

6 *Census Enumerators' Book* for Rushen (1871), RG 10/5778, fol. 84, sch. 138.

7 *Census Enumerators' Book* for Ramsey (1871), RG 10/5773, fol. 164, sch. 70. The only other candidates are Henry A. Kissack (5), Herbert L. Kissack (4), and Humphrey Kissack (1). [See *Census Enumerators' Book* for Onchan (1871), RG 10/5774, fol. 101, sch. 28; *Census Enumerators' Book* for Douglas (1871), RG 10/5776, fol. 128, sch. 181; *Census Enumerators' Book* for Jurby (1871), RG 10/5772, fol. 138, sch. 45.]

a house keeper, living in Douglas at 19 Market Street, with her son John (35), a shoemaker, and daughter, Christian (17).⁸ Frederick Radcliffe was aged 43 and a tailor and draper living in Andreas next to the Rectory with his wife and their niece.⁹

Connecting these individuals with the “amateur band” playing that day at Ballakaneen does seem to be an awkward exercise especially when there is no common place from which they are all drawn making one wonder where they met to play and rehearse. However, what is clear is that there is just one person with a connection to Andreas parish and so not all were from the parish nor for that matter the surrounding ones.

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⁸ *Census Enumerators' Book* for Douglas (1871), RG 10/5778, fol. 130, sch. 197.

⁹ *Census Enumerators' Book* for Andreas (1871), RG 10/5772, fol. 179, sch. 30. The only other candidates are Frederick Radcliffe (18), — (13), — (7), Frances Radcliffe (1), and Frederick W. Radcliffe (1 week old). [See *Census Enumerators' Book* for Vessels (1871), RG 10/5771, fol. 101, sch. 40; *Census Enumerators' Book* for Peel (1871), RG 10/5771, fol. 101, sch. 295; *Census Enumerators' Book* for Arbory (1871), RG 10/5778, fol. 101, sch. 1; *Census Enumerators' Book* for Maughold (1871), RG 10/5773, fol. 101, sch. 74; *Census Enumerators' Book* for Maughold (1871), RG 10/5773, fol. 101, sch. 31.]