

Manx Notes 391 (2019)

YN CHESHAGHT GAILCKAGH FASTYR-GIENSAL (1907) *

On 4 January 1907, the Manx Language Society held its now annual Manx Tea and Concert in the Old Temperance Hall in Peel and “[i]n spite of the wet night, large numbers assembled from Peel and the surrounding districts; Dalby, Rhenass, and even Douglas were represented at this unique festival.”¹ There was the usual mix of recitations and musical performances.

During the evening, J. Cregeen, “a Peel fisherman of almost 81 years of age,” performed “Madgyn y Jiass,” and it “was indeed a reminiscence of the past—of a time when such songs were the common ones of the people.” “Ny Kirre fo Niaghtey” was “beautifully sung by Miss Craine, of Sulby” and “was one of the sweetest songs of the evening.” “Mr E. Cubbon gave in fine style the song ‘Neddy Hom Ruy.’” “A “Mrs T. Sayle sang very sweetly the song “Inneen yn Eirinee,” and the spinning-wheel song, “Snieu Queeyl,” was performed “by Miss Mona Kelly and Fairies,” the latter a “group of little girls tastefully dressed in green.”

John Cregeen was aged 72 in the 1901 census and lived at 19 Stanley Road in Peel and enumerated as a mariner.² “Miss Craine” is Elizabeth Craine, 28, a dressmaker living with her parents at Cooilbane in Sulby, and a Manx speaker.³ “Mr E. Cubbon” is possibly Edward Cubbon, 53, milk dealer residing at 36 Douglas Street in Peel, Manx speaking though the only one in the household.⁴ (His next door neighbours on both sides for that matter were all Manx speakers.) “Mrs T. Sayle” cannot be identified at present. Mona Frances Kelly was 13 years old and living at Rockmount in German.⁵

The flyer for the *Fastyr-Giensal* found amongst Sophia Morrison’s personal papers advertises a Manx step dance to be performed by “Mr W. Kelly (Michael).”⁶ However, there is no mention in the *Isle of Man Examiner* report of this having taken place. Regardless of what happened on the evening (or did not), William Kelly was 38 in 1901, a farm worker living on his own at Shephard’s Cottage in Kirk Michael.⁷

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1 Anon, “Yn Cheshaght Gailckagh Fastyr-Giensal,” *Isle of Man Examiner* 12 January 1907.

2 *Census Enumerators’ Book* for Peel 1901, RG 13/5306, fol. 10, sch. 11.

3 *Census Enumerators’ Book* for Lezayre 1901, RG 13/5300, fol. 63, sch. 1.

4 *Census Enumerators’ Book* for Peel 1901, RG 13/5306, fol. 32, sch. 13.

5 *Census Enumerators’ Book* for German 1901, RG 13/5306, fol. 75, sch. 2.

6 MNLH, MS 09495, Sophia Morrison Papers, Box 9.

7 *Census Enumerators’ Book* for Michael 1901, RG 13/5300, fol. 6, sch. 3.

REFERENCES

Anon. “Yn Cheshaght Gailckagh Fastyr-Giensal.” *Isle of Man Examiner* 12 January 1907: 2f.

