

Manx Notes 509 (2020)

HOP-TU-NAA THE EARLY SONG TEXTS

THE NINETEENTH CENTURY TEXT

- [HTN1] 1845 Joseph Train, “Manners and Customs,” *An Historical and Statistical Account of the Isle of Man*. Vol. ii. 2 vols. (Douglas: Mary A. Quiggin, 1845) 102–39, see 123.
- [HTN2] 1869 William Harrison, *Mona Miscellany: A Selection of Proverbs, Sayings, Ballads, Customs, Superstitions, and Legends Peculiar to the Isle of Man*, Manx Society, vol. xvi (Douglas: Manx Society, 1869) 148.
- [HTN3] 1872 Pseud [signed as “Cut-and-Come-Again”], “[Letter to the Editor] A Visitor’s Impressions.—(No. 2),” *Isle of Man Times* 19 October 1872, 3e.
- [HTN4] 1893 “The Rev. T.E. Brown on Manx Celebrities in the South of the Island,” *Ramsey Courier* 28 January 1893, 2a–f, see 2d; also, “‘Manx Characters.’ Lecture by the Rev. T.E. Brown,” *Isle of Man Times* 31 January 1893, 8d–f, see 8e.
- [HTN5] 1895 “Castletown Fifty Years Ago: Lecture by Rev. T.E. Brown,” *Isle of Man Examiner* 23 November 1895, 2a–d, see 2c.
- [HTN6] 1895 “We take the” *Manx Sun* 28 December 1895, 4e.
- [HTN7] 1896 A.W. Moore, *Manx Ballads and Music* (Douglas: G. & R. Johnson, 1896) 68–69.
- [HTN8] 1897 Karl Roeder, “Contributions to the Folk Lore of the Isle of Man,” *Yn Lioar Manninagh* iii.iv (1897), 129–91, see 184–85.
- [HTN9] 1900 Undated and untitled notes on Manx calendar customs by Sophia Morrison, MNHL, MS 09495, Sophia Morrison Papers, Box 6. This same text was to appear in A.W. Moore,† Sophia Morrison,† and Edmund Goodwin, eds. *A Vocabulary of the Anglo-Manx Dialect* (London: Oxford University Press, 1924) 84.

- [HTN10] 1911 Dr John Clague,† *Cooïnaghtyn Manninagh: Manx Reminiscences By the Late Dr John Clague* (Castletown: M.J. Backwell, n.d. [but 1911]) 27 & 29.
- [HTN11] 1932 W.W. Gill, *A Second Manx Scrapbook* (London & Bristol: Arrowsmith, 1932) 340.
- [HTN12] 1948 Misc. papers of Charles E. Watterson, former Town Clerk of Castletown, compiled c. 1948–50, MNHL, MD 118–7.

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JENNY QUINNEY

- [JS1] [1892] “Manx Folk Lore.” Notebook compiled by Dr John Clague (1841–1908), undated [but 1892 or after], MNHL, MS 952 A.
- [JS2] 1893 “The Rev. T.E. Brown on Manx Celebrities in the South of the Island,” *Ramsey Courier* 28 January 1893, 2a–f, see 2d; also, “‘Manx Characters.’ Lecture by the Rev. T.E. Brown,” *Isle of Man Times* 31 January 1893, 8d–f, see 8e. “Castletown Fifty Years Ago: Lecture by Rev. T.E. Brown,” *Isle of Man Examiner* 23 November 1895, 2a–d, see 2c.
- [JS3] [1935] Cyril I. Paton, “Manx Calendar Customs. The Calendar: The Third Quarter. The Fourth Quarter (Part 1),” *Folk-Lore*, lii.1 (1941), 35–69, see 57. [Paton gives as his source “MS., J.J. Kneen, 1935.”]
- [JS4] 1941 Cyril I. Paton, “Manx Calendar Customs. The Calendar: The Third Quarter. The Fourth Quarter (Part 1),” *Folk-Lore*, lii.1 (1941), 35–69, see 57–58.
- [JS5] [1948] Misc. papers of Charles E. Watterson, former Town Clerk of Castletown, compiled c. 1948–50, MNHL, MD 118–7.
- [JS6] 1950 Notes made by John Comish, Ontario, 1950–55. MNHL, FLS, CJ J/4.
- [JS7] 2009 Interview with George Freestone (6 January 2009) by SM.

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JINNIE THE WINNIE

- [JW1] [1900] Undated and untitled notes on Manx calendar customs by Sophia Morrison, MNHL, MS 09495, Sophia Morrison Papers, Box 6.
- [JW2] 1932 W.W. Gill, *A Second Manx Scrapbook* (London & Bristol: Arrowsmith, 1932) 340.

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JINNY THE WITCH

- [JTW1] 1900 Pseud [signed as “Oie-Hauiney”], “Hollantide: A Reminder for our own People and Unique Information for Strangers,” *Manx Sun* 3 November 1900, 6a–b.
- [JTW2] 1932 W.W. Gill, *A Second Manx Scrapbook* (London & Bristol: Arrowsmith, 1932) 340.



These texts discussed in Stephen Miller, “Are you quite sure about your “Hop-tu-Naa?” Have you got the genuine “Hop-tu-Naa?”” published with *Kiaull Manninagh Jiu* October (2020), see link on [22] to download the full article.

STEPHEN MILLER RBV



THE NINETEENTH CENTURY TEXT

1845

[HTNI] Joseph Train, “Manners and Customs,” *An Historical and Statistical Account of the Isle of Man*. Vol. ii. 2 vols. (Douglas: Mary A. Quiggin, 1845) 102–39, see 123. Train: “On Hollantide Eve, boys go round the towns bawling lines, of which the following is an extract [...].”

- 1 This is old Hollantide night
 The moon shines fair and bright
 I went to the well
 And drank my fill
- 5 On the way coming back
 I met a pole cat
 The cat began to grin
 And I began to run
 Where did you run to?
- 10 I ran to Scotland
 What were they doing there?
 Baking bannocks and roasting collops
 Hop-tu-naa, If you are going to give us anything, give us it soon
 Or we'll be away by the light of the moon, Hop-tu-naa.

Text simply copied from Train found in the following (this listing is not exhaustive but representative of the use of Train): (1) Col[onel] [Charles] Johnson, “Popular Customs and Superstitions of the Isle of Man,” *Mona’s Herald* (27 August 1851), 4a–c, see 4b; (2) Rev. J.G. Cumming, *A Guide to the Isle of Man* (London: Edward Stanford, 1861) 20; (3) F[rederick] Leech, *Leech’s New Illustrated Tourist’s Guide to the Isle of Man* (Ramsey & Douglas: F. Leech & J. Mylrea), n.d. [but 1861?] 133; (4) *Glover’s Illustrated Guide and Visitors’ Companion through the Isle of Man* (Douglas: Matthew Glover, 1868) 197–78; (5) F[rank], Q[uayle], ed., *Celtic Customs by E. Kermodé 1885* (Peel: Privately, by the Editor, 1985) 102.

1869

[HTN2] William Harrison, *Mona Miscellany: A Selection of Proverbs, Sayings, Ballads, Customs, Superstitions, and Legends Peculiar to the Isle of Man*, Manx Society, vol. xvi (Douglas: Manx Society, 1869) 148. This text has just a one-line variant (on line 6) and simply amends Train.

- 1 This is old Hollantide night
 The moon shines fair and bright
 I went to the well
 And drank my fill
- 5 On the way coming back
 I met a witch cat
 The cat began to grin
 And I began to run
 Where did you run to?
- 10 I ran to Scotland
 What were they doing there?
 Baking bannocks and roasting collops
- If you are going to give us anything, give us it soon
 Or we'll be away by the light of the moon

1872

[HTN3] Pseud [signed as "Cut-and-Come-Again"], "[Letter to the Editor] A Visitor's Impressions.—(No. 2)," *Isle of Man Times* 19 October 1872, 3e.

- 1 To-night's a new Hollantide night
 The moon shines clear and bright
 I went up the lake
 I met a wild cat
- 5 The cat began to grin
 Then I begun to run

1893

[HTN4] “The Rev. T.E. Brown on Manx Celebrities in the South of the Island,” *Ramsey Courier* 28 January 1893, 2a–f, see 2d. Also, “‘Manx Characters.’ Lecture by the Rev. T.E. Brown,” *Isle of Man Times* 31 January 1893, 8d–f, see 8e. Here, Jenny Squinney is given as Jinny Squinny.

- 1 Hop-tu-Naa upon the gool ringers
 Trall-la-laa upon the gool fingers
 A goose and a cock
 I scalt my thrut.
- 5 Jenny Squinney went over the wall
 To get a rod to beat the foal.
 Jenny Squinney went over the house
 To get a rod to beat the mouse.
 Jenny Squinney went up the claddagh
- 10 To get an apron full of barragh

1895

[HTN5] “Castletown Fifty Years Ago: Lecture by Rev. T.E. Brown,” *Isle of Man Examiner* 23 November 1895, 2a–d, see 2c.

- 1 To-night is Hollantide night
 The moon shones fair and bright
 I went to the well
 I drank my fill
- 5 Upon the way back
 I met a bull-cat
 The cat began to girn
 And I began to run
 Jinny Squinny went over the wall
- 10 To get a rod to beat the foal
 Jinny Squinny went over the house
 To get a rod to beat the mouse
 Jinny Squinny went over the claddagh
 To get an apron full of barragh
- 15 Hop-tu-naa! Upon the gool ringers
 Troll-la-laa! Upon the gool fingers
 A goose and a cock
 I scalt my thro’t

If you're goin' to give us anythin' give us it soon
20 For we must be away with the light of the moon

1895

[HTN6] "We take the" *Manx Sun* 28 December 1895, 4e.

1 To-night is New Hollantide night
The moon shines dear and bright
I went to the well
I drank my fill
5 On the way coming back
I met a wild cat
The cat began to grin
And I began to run
Where did you run to?
10 I ran to Scotland
What saw you there?
They were baking bannocks and eating collops

1896

[HTN7] A.W. Moore, *Manx Ballads and Music* (Douglas: G. & R. Johnson, 1896) 68–69. As regards its source, it falls in with a number of other texts grouped under Moore's heading of "From Various People," with a footnote reading, "Fragments have been picked up from too many different people to specify, and then pieced together."

1 This is Old Hollantide night
The moon shines bright
Cock of the hens
Supper of the heifer
Which heifer shall we kill?
5 The little speckled heifer
The fore-quarter
We'll put in the pot for you
The little hind quarter
Give to us give to us
10 I tasted the broth
I scalded my tongue
I ran to the well
And drank my fill

- On my way back
 15 I met a witch cat
 The cat began to grin
 And I ran away
 Where did you run to?
 I ran to Scotland
 20 What were they doing there?
 Baking bannocks and roasting collops
 If you are going to give us anything give us it soon
 Or we'll be away by the light of the moon

1897

[HTN8] Pseud [as “Boggart Ho’ Clough”], “Items from Manchester,” *Manx Sun* 23 October 1897, 2a–b, see 2a.

- 1 To-night’s new Hollantide night
 The moon shines clear and bright
 I went up the Lake
 I met a wild cat
 5 The cat began to grin
 Then I began to run, &c.

1897

[HTN9] Karl Roeder, “Contributions to the Folk Lore of the Isle of Man,” *Yn Lioar Manninagh* iii.iv (1897), 129–91, see 184–85. Roeder gives here a variant to line 6, “I met a pole cat.”

- 1 This is old Hollantide night
 The moon shines fair and bright
 I went to the well
 I drank my fill
 5 On my way back
 I met a witch cat [*variant* I met a pole cat]
 The cat began to grin
 I began to run
 Where did you run to?
 10 I ran to Scotland
 What were you doing there?
 Baking bannocks and roasting collops
 If you’re going to give us anything, give us it soon
 Or we’ll be away by the light of the moon

[1900]

[HTN10] Undated and untitled notes on Manx calendar customs by Sophia Morrison, MNHL, MS 09495, Sophia Morrison Papers, Box 6. This same text was to appear in A.W. Moore,† Sophia Morrison,† and Edmund Goodwin, eds. *A Vocabulary of the Anglo-Manx Dialect* (London: Oxford University Press, 1924) 84. The extant manuscript of the *Vocabulary* contains nothing extra, see MNHL, MS 2267/8 A.

- 1 Put in the pot
Put in the pan
I scawl't [*ie*, scalded] me throat
I feel it yit
- 5 I went to the well
I dhrunk me fill
On me way back
I met a foul-cat
The cat begun to grin
- 10 I begun to run
Where did you run to?
I ron to Scotlan'
What were they doin theer?
Bakin bonnags and roastin sconnags
- 15 Jinnie the Winnie went over the lake
The griddle in her han' ready to bake
I asked her for a bit
She gave me a bit as big as me big toe
I dipped it in milk
- 20 I wrapped it in silk
- If you're goin to give us anything, give us it soon
Befor we run away be the light o' the moon

1901

[HTN11] Anon. "Respecting the last ...," *Peel City Guardian* 12 January 1901, [2]e.

- 1 This is old Hollantide night
The moon shines fair and bright
I went to the well
And drank my fill
- 5 On my way back
I met a witch-cat; &c.

[1911]

[HTN10] Dr John Clague (1841–1908), *Cooïnaghtyn Manninagh: Manx Reminiscences By the Late Dr John Clague* (Castletown: M.J. Backwell, n.d. [but 1911]) 27 & 29.

- 1 Tonight is Hollantide Night
Cock and hen
Supper of the heifer
What heifer shall we take?
- 5 The little spotted heifer
Quarter in the pot
I tasted the broth
I scalded my throat
I ran to the well
- 10 I drank my fill
Then coming back
I met a pole cat
He grinned
I ran
- 15 I ran to Scotland
What news there?
The plough was ploughing
The harrows were harrowing
A young woman was cutting cheese
- 20 The knife was sharp
She cut her finger
She wrapped it in a cloth
She locked it in a chest
It made stock and store
- 25 Three brown sheep
Had William the grandson
If you give me anything give it me soon
For I want to go home with the light of the moon

1932

[HTN12] W.W. Gill, *A Second Manx Scrapbook* (London & Bristol: Arrowsmith, 1932) 340.

- 1 Put in the pot
Put in the pan
I scalded my throat
I feel it yet
- 5 I ran to the well
I drank my fill
What did you see there?
I saw a pole-cat
The cat began to grin
- 10 And I began to run
I saw Jinny the Whinney
Go over the lake
A griddle in her hand
All ready to bake
- 15 Her teeth were green
And her eyes were red
And a thickness of hair at her
Upon her head
Baking bonnags
- 20 Toasting sconnags
I asked her for a bit
Guess, the bit she gave me!
A bit as big as my big toe!
I dipped it in milk
- 25 Then happed it in silk
And went home by the light of the moon.

VARIANTS

11–12] Jinny the Whinney / Came out of the lake.

[1948]

[HTN13] Misc. papers of Charles E. Watterson, former Town Clerk of Castletown, compiled c. 1948–50, MNHL, MD 118–7.

- 1 Tonight is old Hollantide night
The moon shines clear and bright
Ginny-the-Swinney went up the claddagh

- To get an apron full of barragh
 5 Ginny-the-Swinney went over the house
 To get a rod to beat the mouse
 Ginney-the-Swinney went through the hole
 To get a rod to beat the foal
 I stole a goose and made some broth
 10 I scalded my throat and ran to the well
 I drank my fill, on my way back met a pole cat
 The cat began to grin and I began to run
 And where did you run to?
 I ran to Scotland
 15 And what did you see there?
 The ploughs were ploughing
 The harrows were harrowing
- If you're going to give us anything give it us soon
 For we're going away with the light of the moon
 20 If you're going to give us anything give it us quick
 Or we'll give a you a codather [*ie*, blow] from this big stick

1958

[HTN14] “[Uncle Tim’s Young Leaguers’ Page] Hallowe’en Song,” *Isle of Man Daily Times* 29 October 1958, 6c.

- 1 Jinny the witch went over the house
 To catch a stick to lather the mouse
 My father’s gone away
 And he won’t be back until the morning
 5 Put in the pot
 I scald me throt
 I ran to the well
 I met an old cat
 The cat began to spit
 10 I began to run
 Where did I run to?
 I ran to Scotland
 I met an old woman
 She was baking bonags
 15 I asker her for a bit
 She gave me a bit
 As big as my big toe

She dipped it in milk
She wrapped it in silk
20 If you're going to give us anything
Give it us soon
For we're away by the light of the moon

1960

[HTN15] “[Uncle Tim’s Young Leaguers’ Page] Hallowe’en Song,” *Isle of Man Times* 26 October 1960, 6c.

1 Jinny the Witch went over the house
To catch a stick to lather the mouse
My father’s gone away
And he won’t be back until the morning
5 Put in the pot
I scald me throt
I ran to the well
I met an old cat
The cat began to spit
10 I began to run
I ran to Scotland
I met an old woman
She was baking bonags
I asker her for a bit
15 She gave me a bit
As big as my big toe
She dipped it in milk
She wrapped it in silk

If you’re going to give us anything give it us soon
20 For we’re away by the light of the moon



JENNY SQUINNEY

[1892]

[JS1] “Manx Folk Lore.” Notebook compiled by Dr John Clague (1841–1908), undated [but 1892 or after], MNHL, MS 952 A.

- 1 Jenny Swinny went through the hole
To get a rod to hunt the foal
Jenny Swinny went over the house
To get a rod to beat the mouse
- 5 Jenny Swinny went up the claddagh
To get an apronful of barragh

1893 & 1895

[JS2] “The Rev. T.E. Brown on Manx Celebrities in the South of the Island,” *Ramsey Courier* 28 January 1893, 2a–f, see 2d. Also, “Manx Characters.’ Lecture by the Rev. T.E. Brown,” *Isle of Man Times* 31 January 1893, 8d–f, see 8e. Here, Jenny Squinney is given as Jinny Squinny and again in the same text in “Castletown Fifty Years Ago: Lecture by Rev. T.E. Brown,” *Isle of Man Examiner* 23 November 1895, 2a–d, see 2c.

- 1 Jenny Squinney went over the wall
To get a rod to beat the foal
Jenny Squinney went over the house
To get a rod to beat the mouse
- 5 Jenny Squinney went up the claddagh
To get an apron full of barragh

[1935]

[JS3] Cyril I. Paton, “Manx Calendar Customs. The Calendar: The Third Quarter. The Fourth Quarter (Part 1),” *Folk-Lore*, lii.1 (1941), 35–69, see 57. Paton gives as his source “MS., J.J. Kneen, 1935.”

Jinny the Winny went over the house
To get a stick to leather the mouse

1941

[JS4] Cyril I. Paton, "Manx Calendar Customs. The Calendar: The Third Quarter. The Fourth Quarter (Part 1)," *Folk-Lore*, lii.1 (1941), 35–69, see 57–58.

Jinny Squinny went up to the Claddagh
To get her apron-full of barragh
Jinny Squinny went through a hole
To get a rod to beat the foal

[1948]

[JS5] Misc. papers of Charles E. Watterson, former Town Clerk of Castletown, compiled c. 1948–50, MNHL, MD 118–7.

- 1 Ginny the Swinney went up the claddagh
 To get an apron full of barragh
 Ginny the Swinney went over the house
 To get a rod to beat the mouse
5 Ginny the Swinney went through the hole
 To get a rod to beat the foal

1950

[JS6] Notes made by John Comish, Ontario, 1950–55. MNHL, FLS, CJ J/4.

Jinny the Spinney went through the hole
To get a rod to beat the foal

1959

"[Snippets from the South] Hop-tu-Naa," *Isle of Man Weekly Times* 30 October 1959, 7c.

- 1 I saw an old woman
 She was baking cakes
 I asked for one and she gave me two
 The best old woman I ever knew
5 Jinny the Spinny she ate the horse
 She ate the mane and tail of course
 Jinny the Spinny she ate the cow
 But how she did it I know not how
This was followed by a sheep, a hog, a cat and a dog, and finally,

Jinny the Spinny she's here in view
And if you're not careful she'll eat you too

2009

[JS7] Interview with George Freestone (6 January 2009) by SM.

Jinny the Spinney went over the strand
To gather an apron full of sand
Jinny the Spinney went round the house
To catch a stick to catch the mouse



JINNIE THE WINNIE

[1900]

[JW1] Undated and untitled notes on Manx calendar customs by Sophia Morrison, MNHL, MS 09495, Sophia Morrison Papers, Box 6.

Jinnie the Winnie went over the lake
The griddle in her han' ready to bake

1932

[JW2] W.W. Gill, *A Second Manx Scrapbook* (London & Bristol: Arrowsmith, 1932) 340.

I saw Jinny the Whinney go over the lake
A griddle in her hand all ready to bake
Her teeth were green and her eyes were red
And a thickness of hair at her upon her head



JINNY THE WITCH

1900

[JTW1] Pseud [signed as “Oie-Hauiney”], “Hollantide: A Reminder for our own People and Unique Information for Strangers,” *Manx Sun* 3 November 1900, 6a–b.

Jinny the Witch went over the house
To get a stick to lather the mouse
Jinny the Witch went up to the claddagh
To get her apron full of faggots

1944

[JTW2] Pseud [signed as “Uncle Tim”], “Isle of Man Examiner Young Folks League,” *Isle of Man Examiner* 8 December 1944, 4e.

Jinny the Witch went over the house
To fetch a stick to lather the mouse

1957

[JTW3] MNHL, FLS FCE–A C/8 (1957).

Jinny the Witch went over the roof
To get a stick to lather the mouse

1958

[JTW4] “[Uncle Tim’s Young Leaguers’ Page] Hallowe’en Song,” *Isle of Man Daily Times* 29 October 1958, 6c.

Jinny the witch went over the house
To catch a stick to lather the mouse
My father’s gone away
And he won’t be back until the morning

1958

[JTW5] “[Hello Children!] To-day is Hallow-een ...,” *Isle of Man Weekly Times* 31 October 1958, 5d–e, see 5e.

Jinny the Witch went over the house
To catch a stick to lather the mouse
My father’s gone away
And he won’t be back until the morning

1959

[JTW6] “[Snippets from the South] New Version,” *Isle of Man Weekly Times* 6 November 1959, 4e.

Jinny the Witch jumped over the ditch
To get a big stick to lather the bitch

1960

[JTW7] “[Uncle Tim’s Young Leaguers’ Page] Hallowe’en Song,” *Isle of Man Times* 26 October 1960, 6c.

1 Jinny the Witch went over the house
To catch a stick to lather the mouse
My father’s gone away
And he won’t be back until the morning

