

# Manx Notes 521 (2021)

## “DEATH OF MR WM QUAYLE”

(1935)

The death of Mr Wm. Quayle, of College Green, Castletown, which took place, at his home on Wednesday, in his 88th year, removed one of the best known and most interesting figures in the South of the Island. He was born at Ballacomish, Arbory, and was a gardener by trade, and in recent years had judged at many horticultural shows. He was one of the first scholars at Ballabeg Methodist Church, in 1854, and became a stalwart Methodist. He was present at the jubilee of the Church, and at the 80th anniversary in August of last year. On October 28th he took part in the service in which the new hymn books were first put into use. His parents removed to Red Gap when he was twelve years old, and he became a member of Arbory St. Church. He was trustee for many years, class leader, president, of the Band of Hope, Sunday School teacher, and took a prominent part in all the church activities. He conducted the fellowship meetings held in connection with the Castletown Circuit Gathering, with one exception, since the inception. He was No. 1 in the Port St Mary Lodge of Oddfellows.

### FLUENT MANX SPEAKER

He was one of the few remaining Manxmen who could speak his native language fluently, and was keenly interested in the Manx language movement. In his youth he lived for many years with his grandmother, who could speak only the Manx language, and he proved an apt pupil. On August 1860, he, and another member of the Ballabeg Sunday School (Jno. Costain) were presented with Manx Bibles by the then Supt.—Mr Henry Clague, for reciting the first Chapter of St. John in Manx. He did much to keep the language alive, and became a recognised authority on the subject. In 1930, Professor Marstrander, of Oslo, who visited the Island to study the language, had several interviews with Mr Quayle in connection with spelling and pronunciation of words and phrases. On several occasions he took part in the services organised by the Manx Societies, and was delighted with the efforts being made by them to revive the language. It was with great pleasure that he observed the appearance of lessons in the *Herald* which lie preserved weekly. Shortly before his death he said he did not believe the language would die out, for at last the younger people were getting an opportunity of studying it. Mr Quayle had a hearty and genial manner, and it was his greatest delight to gossip in Manx to old native worthies. He leaves a son, Mr R.G. Quayle (a retired police inspector), now a Village Commissioner of Port St. Mary, Miss Cissie Quayle, who lived with him, and another daughter is the wife of Capt. Kinley, Harbour Master at Peel.

### THE FUNERAL

The attendance at the funeral on Saturday was striking testimony to the esteem in which he was held in the South of the Island. The service at Arbory Street Methodist

Church was conducted by Rev A.R. Choate, assisted by Revs J.H.W. Haswell, B.A., Wm. Edmundson and James Doran. The Rev J. Doran, in an address, paid a great tribute to his sterling character. The hymns "We love the place oh Lord," and "Give me the Wings of Faith to Rise," were sung. The interment was at Malew Churchyard, and the Rev A.R. Choate conducted the committal. The Manx Societies were represented at the funeral by Messrs James Kinley, C.E. Cashin (Peel), Phillip Quayle and Wm. Quane.

"Death of Mr Wm Quayle." *Mona's Herald* 12 March 1935: 8b.

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