

# Manx Notes 544 (2021)

## THE DEATH OF RICHARD COOIL

(1939)

The death took place at Peel on Saturday of Mr Richard Alfred Cooil, a member of a well-known Manx family and a prominent Manx scholar. He was a son of the late Mr Richard Cooil, who carried on the business of saddler at Athol Place, Peel, a business still conducted by members of the family.

Mr Cooil was a well-known Manx speaker and one of the leaders of the Peel Manx Language Class. Each year he took part in the Manx service held in the old church of St Peter's. The work to which he devoted a great deal of his energy was the secretaryship of the Peel Board of Guardians, a position he had held since the formation of the Board, 30 years ago. Before that, he was secretary of the Voluntary Poor Relief Society. He had been an active member of the Peel Parish Church and a member of the choir for 40 years. He was 71 years of age.

There was a short service in Manx at the graveside on Tuesday, which was conducted by members of the Peel Manx Language Class, when the hymn "O yee cur skianyn credjue dou" was sung, and the vicar, the Rev. E.L. Morris, pronounced the benediction in Manx. Prior to the singing of the hymn, Mr Caesar Cashin, one of the leaders of the Manx Language Class at Peel, said the class had lost a good and true friend in Alfred Cooil, who was a thorough Manxman.

The attendance at the funeral included Mr E.L. Lucas, the chairman, and several members of the Board of Guardians, and Mr F.C. Caine and members of the Town Board. The funeral service was conducted by the vicar, who in the mortuary made a fitting reference to Mr Cooil's activities in the Board of Guardians, the Dale Trust, and in the church. The Rev. C.H.C. Lamb assisted at the service.

"[News from the West] Death of a Peel Manx Scholar." *Isle of Man Weekly Times* 20 May 1939: 9d.

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