

# Manx Notes 114 (2009)

“I HAVE BEEN TOLD AT EAST BALDWIN  
THAT A MR MORTON SPEAKS MANKS”

CYRIL I. PATON COMMENTS ON CHARLES LOCH’S  
LIST OF NATIVE MANX SPEAKERS (1946–47)

Names of Speakers of the Gailck, who have spoken it from their childhood. Supplied to me by a Norwegian, Mr Daviessen. August 24<sup>th</sup> 1946.

1. William Wade, of Sandygate \*
2. Charles Kneale of Ballagarrett Bride
3. Mrs [Kneale of Ballagarrett Bride]
4. John Thomas Kaighin Bride
5. John Kneen of the Lhen Mooar
6. Robert Fayle of Ramsey, Lezayre
7. Capt: James Kinley, of Peel. \*
8. Mr Clague of Dalby. (Native of Ballafesson, Rushen)
9. Miss Kaye of Onchan
10. Mr Harry Boyde of Kirk Braddan
11. Edward Maddrell of Glen Chiass \*
12. John Maddrell of Port St Mary
13. Miss Karran of Cregneish, Rushen
14. Mr Crebbin of [Cregneish, Rushen]
15. James Karran of [Cregneish, Rushen] \* 1947 (June)
16. Mrs. Lowey of Kirkill (died Feb 1947)
17. Thomas Leece of the Moaney Mooar, Malew
18. John Kinvig of Ronaigue, Arbory.
19. Mrs Kinvig
20. Mrs Watterson, of Colby.

P.T.O

I have been told at East Baldwin that a Mr Morton speaks Manks. Also I have heard of a Mr Cubbon† in Arbory who was said to be a Manks speaker, but my informant †(Mrs Hemingway)<sup>1</sup> did not seem to be quite sure of the name, ~~and it may have been one of the 18, 19, or 20, on the previous page.~~ Those marked \* I have spoken with.

Some twenty †five years ago the speakers whom I used to visit were Wilfred Wade (Sandy Gate): Mr & Mrs “John Ned” Costain (of Cubboin’s Bridge, Colby): and Mr & Mrs T. Moore of Port Erin.

John Ned, was the most reliable. He understood little differences of meaning, and if he did not know he would say so!

Mr Christian who died a year or two ago, West Craig, Hope Street Castletown spoke northern Manks. He told me that when young he worked for a farmer who always gave orders in Manks.

C.I. Paton.

† = John Cubbon of Ronague (11/3/47) (told to me by Mr H Maddrell of Balla Maddrell)

**Source:** “Names of Speakers of the Gailck, who have spoken it from their childhood. Supplied to me by a Norwegian, Mr Daviessen. August 24<sup>th</sup> 1946.” Found inserted into C.I. Paton’s personal copy of Cregeen’s *Manks Dictionary* (1835 [but 1837]), MNHL, MS 09505, C.I. Paton Papers, Box 11.



C.I. Paton was wildly mistaken in the source of the list: it came from A.S.B. Davies, who hailed not from Norway and the fjords but rather from the rather more prosaic Colwyn Bay in North Wales. As seen in the previous *Manx Note*, the list originally derived from Charles Loch who had toured the Island in April of 1946. Regardless of the list’s mis-attribution, a minor matter, what is interesting is the naming of other possible native Manx speakers, and equally, those who Paton visited on a regular basis in order to learn Manx. Paton’s personal diaries have been transcribed and on his yearly visit to the Island he was always seeking out speakers of Manx in order to maintain his fluency. As seen, this list was found folded and inserted into Paton’s own copy of Cregeen’s *Manks Dictionary* and thereby a chance find.

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