

# Manx Notes 186 (2014)

WILLIAM CASHEN AND  
“THE SALMON LEAP” \*

The following note on the “Salmon Leap” was made by Sophia Morrison:

## The Salmon Leap

This game, which was really a considerable athletic feat was played in the Aran Islands as well as in the Isle of Man. Synge thus describes it: “One man, however, the champion dancer of the island, got up after a while & displayed the salmon leap—lying flat on his face & then springing up, horizontally in the air.”

M<sup>r</sup> William Cashen (tailor) remembers playing it as a youth & says that he used to clap his hands once when in the air between each leap.<sup>1</sup>

Cashen (his surname also appears spelt as Cashin) was one of the individuals recorded with the Manx Language Society’s phonograph. Whilst described as a tailor, he is recorded in the 1901 census as a fisherman, aged then 66, and living with his wife Eleanor, 60, at 3 Tynwald Road, Peel, both of them recorded as being bilingual in Manx and English. His wife was a dressmaker and presumably he worked at tailoring when not at sea.<sup>2</sup>

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\* Originally published as Stephen Miller, “William Cashen and ‘The Salmon Leap,’” *Kiaull Manninagh Jiu* April (2014), [8]. Reproduced here with sources.

<sup>1</sup> Notebook compiled by Sophia Morrison, no date, MNHL, MS 5433 B.

<sup>2</sup> William Cashin is listed in the 1881 census as a tailor, his wife (recorded then as Eleanor) as a dressmaker, living at 5 Church Lane in Peel. *Census Enumerators’ Book* for Peel 1881, RG 11/5597, fol. 92, sch. 14. In 1891, they were living at 6 Station Road, and Ellen was listed as a fisherman’s wife; William was absent, being enumerated onboard of the fishing boat “Emma,” PL181, preparing to sail with the rest of the Peel and Port St Mary fleets to the Irish mackerel fishing at Kinsale. *Census Enumerators’ Book* for Peel 1891, RG 12/4683, fol. 65, sch. 146 and *Census Enumerators’ Book* for Fishermen 1891, RG 12/4692, fol. 97, sch. 46. In 1901, he was on dry land and living at 3 Tynwald Road, Peel, but still listed as a fisherman, aged 66, his wife, Ellen, 60 years old. Both were bilingual. *Census Enumerators’ Book* for Peel 1901, RG 13/5306, fol. 22, sch. 267.