

## Manx Notes 420 (2020)

SHARP-DRESSED MEN: DEEMSTER J.F. GILL & W.H. GILL \*

On 30 January 1949, Leslie Quirk collecting for the Manx Museum Folk-Life Survey visited a Mr Moore at Baldromney in Maughold and took down the following reminiscence: “Deemster Gill & W.H. Gill used to come round with ‘Bell shiners’ (top hats) Willie was taking spells coming round for old songs—did this for 3 years.” This is a somewhat mind boggling picture it must be admitted, that even when out and about in the Manx countryside, “coming round for old songs” as it was put, the Gill brothers had top hats firmly on their heads.

Leslie Quirk, Notebook No. 2 (8 January–23 February 1949), MNHL, Manx Museum Folk-Life Survey, Box label “Original Contributors Notebooks.” I am grateful to Kim Holden of the mnhl for locating this notebook.

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