

Manx Notes 504 (2020)

“THUMP THE DOOR NIGHT”

(1909)

Messrs Allen and Midwood sat at the Magistrates' Court, on Saturday, when the police suits against the Maughold young men—Hiscock, Gelling and Corkhill—adjourned from last Court, were disposed of. It will be recollected that the defendants were charged with doing an amount of damage to the door of a house at Maughold, occupied by an aged couple, Mr and Mrs Kelly.—Mr Cowley defended Gelling and Hiscock.—Mrs Kelly repeated her evidence to the effect that on the night of November 1st, known as “Thump the door night,” she heard a noise like thunder at her door, and later found outside, turnips and pieces of turnips, which were produced, and that the door, which was but cracked before, was split very considerably.

David Kinrade, a joiner, gave evidence that it would cost about 5s to satisfactorily repair the door.

Inspector Quilliam asked that the defendants should be fined in order to assure their good conduct in the future, and the compensation should be paid to Mr and Mrs Kelly for damage done. Defendants had aggravated the case through defending themselves, instead of coming and making an apology.

With respect to the lad Corkill, who was summoned as a witness, but did not appear on the last occasion, and necessitated the proceedings being adjourned, the defendant appeared, and understanding that he was only summoned as a defendant, he admitted to the Coroner, who told him it would not be necessary for him to appear at Court. On this explanation, Corkill was acquitted of any penalty through his absence.

Mr Allen, in giving the judgment of the Bench on the cases, said that it was a most cowardly and outrageous attack on two old and highly respectable people. Defendants would have to pay for the damage 5s, and in addition would be fined 10s each and costs. He hoped that the case would be a warning to others in the parish as well.

“Thump the Door,” *Ramsey Courier* 10 December 1909: 6e.

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The previous *Manx Note* (No. 503) discussed a prosecution from 1873 that centred around “Thump the Door Night” and the activities—or, misdeeds as it was alleged—of a group of youngsters from Andreas on that night. This follows on from that case as it is a similar prosecution, this time from Maughold and taking place in 1909. Unlike in 1873, “Thump the Door Night” (and named here as such)

took place on 1 November, and turnips the weapon of choice (with no comment passed this time on that choice).

STEPHEN MILLER RBV

