

# Manx Notes 607 (2023)

## MONA DOUGLAS (1926) \*



MNHL, PG 5813

This photograph dates from 1926, and was taken on 26 August on the occasion of an excursion by the Isle of Man Natural History and Antiquarian Society to Kirk Christ Lezayre led by William Cubbon. It was taken by a Mr Coole of Cleveland, Ohio, a visiting Manx American along with his wife who features in the photograph. Whilst she is Mona Douglas to us now, she was born Constance Mona Douglas and was known as Constance or “Connie” when younger. It was only when searching the newspapers and not coming across early references to her as Mona Douglas that this becomes apparent. Here she is to be seen in the centre of the group and her style of dress makes her stand out from amongst the others in the party—one feels that she left the Island as Constance and returned as Mona. That there was indeed a change as to how she wished to be addressed is shown in a letter from Roberta Foster in 1930: “My dear C..... (I mean Mona), Yah! you can’t touch me now.”<sup>1</sup> Of interest too is the woman to the left of Douglas who has her hand around her shoulder and is recognisable as one of W.H. Gill’s daughters.

Stephen Miller, RBV

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<sup>1</sup> Letter from Roberta Foster to Mona Douglas, 16 September 1930, MNHL, MS 09545, Mona Douglas Papers, Box 21.