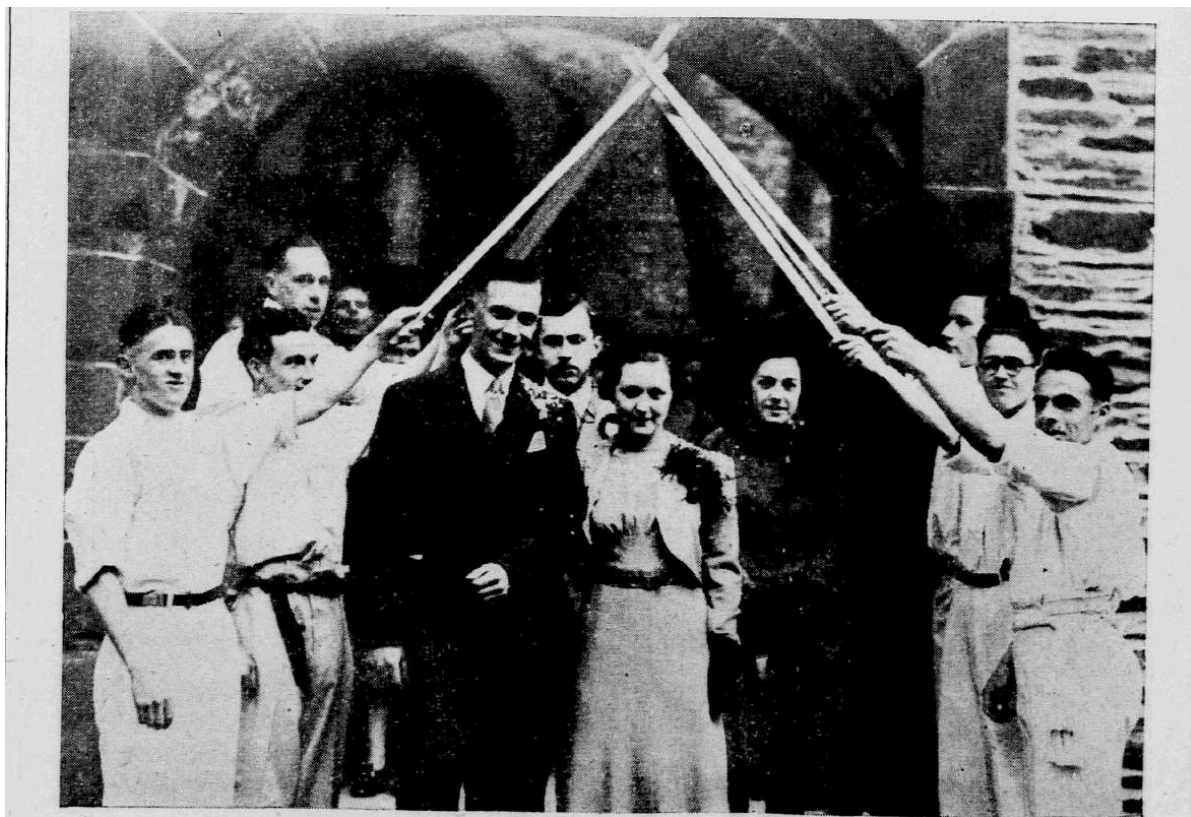


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THE ST ANDREW'S FOLK DANCERS *



The “Billie Cain” of Dirk Dance fame, properly William A. Cain, married Alice Reynolds of Douglas at St Mary’s Roman Catholic Church, in May 1939. At the end of the service, the St Andrew’s Folk Dancers, “made a ‘clash’ of folk dance ‘swords’ over the happy couple as they left the church.”¹ This group was Cain’s own team of dancers, his bride also a member, and named as the “swordbearers” were Donal Arbuckle, Ronald Bott, Stanley Cowley, Robert Stewart, Claude Cowley, and Ernest Stewart. The order given presumably matches the faces in the photograph in the *Isle of Man Times* of the happy couple leaving the church. This team of dancers calls for more research: when they were founded, how long they lasted, especially their repertoire of dances, and any others involved not named here. Cain later left the Island and lived in the West Country in England and worked there for the English Folk Song and Dance Society. He remained in touch with Mona Douglas and there are a small number of letters amongst her papers.

* Originally published as Stephen Miller, “The St Andrew’s Folk Dancers,” *Kiaull Manninagh Jiu* February (2016): [11]. Reproduced here with sources.

¹ Anon, “Famous Young Manxman Married. Danced before the King and Queen,” *Isle of Man Times* 20 May 1939: 8e.

STEPHEN MILLER, 2016

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