Manx Notes 463 (2020)

THE MONA DOUGLAS FOLK SONG COLLECTION 'TWAS ME FATHER & ME MOTHER [THAT FIRST DID ME TREPAN] *



'Twas me Father & me Mother that first did me trepan, They'd mar[r]y me to a old man for the sake of money and land; But I'd rather have a young man without a penny at all That would swing me around in the dancing, And answer when I call!

Untitled and undated single sheet in the hand of Mona Douglas. MNHL, MS 09495, Mona Douglas Papers, Box 9, Dances [folder label].

Collected here by Mona Douglas on some date under the title of "Twas me Father and me Mother [that first did me trepan]," with tune from Mrs Bridson of Glen Meay, this song is known under other titles, "Sally's Love for a Young Husband" being a common one. The earliest known version is "The Jaunting Cur" from a broadside issued before 1813, Bodleian Harding B 25(955); for other texts, see Roud 2897. A fuller version in six stanzas is to be found amongst the Sophia Morrison–Josephine Kermode Folk Song Collection in an unknown hand with an annotation in Morrison's hand, "Sung at Mheillea's 80 years ago." (MNHL, MS 09495, Sophia Morrison Papers, Box 6; see too *Manx Notes* 182 (2014)). Anne Jane Bridson (1855–1939) in the 1911 census was a dressmaker, age given as 55, and living on the Glen Rushen Road at Glen Meay with her two children (her husband is not present) together with her sister (also a dressmaker). She and her sister were Manx speakers. [Census Enumerators' Book for Patrick 1911, RG14 PN34734 RD635 SDI EDI/3 SN18.]

STEPHEN MILLER, RBV

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