

JOHN NELSON'S RECORDING OF 'THE NEW NAME' IN MANX 1907

By Bob Carswell (2019)

Two years ago there was the commemoration of the centenary of the death of Sophia Morrison on 14th January 1917. On a brighter note, this year will mark 160 years since Sophia Morrison's birth on 24th May 1859. Looking ahead, there will be a Manks Concert to celebrate that on Friday 24th May in the Centenary Centre in Peel - whose boards were trodden by Sophia Morrison as a cast member of Manx dialect plays. The concert will include another chance to see this year's presentation by the Michael Players, RBV.

At the time of the commemoration of Sophia Morrison two years ago, Manx National Heritage presented an exhibition at the Manx Museum which included recordings made in 1907 with the Edison Phonograph bought by Sophia Morrison in her capacity as Secretary of Yn Cheshaght Ghailckagh. One of the items performed on recordings by John Nelson (originally of Ballayockey, Andreas, later of Ramsey) was his translation of Jane E Hall's hymn, 'The New Name', set to music by Ira D Sankey. The wax cylinder recording was digitized by the British Library in 2016.

There are three verses in the original Sankey hymn, but John Nelson translates only the first two. His translation was published in the Isle of Man Examiner for 1st August 1903.

Simple Lessons in Manx.

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“THE NEW NAME.”
(Sankey, 348.)

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1

Yiow mayd ennym noa eisht heose ayns shen,
Ayns yn cheer vie greiney, greiney shen !
Tra nee mayd meeteil ny ainleyn bane,
 'Syn cheer ghreiney shen !
Eannym noa ! eannym noa ! yiow mayd mayd heose
 ayns shen ;
Eannym noa ! eannym noa ! vees ain heose ayns
 shen !

Chorus :

Yiow mayd ennym noa eisht heose ayns shen,
Ayns yn cheer vie greiney, greiney shen !
Tra nee mayd meeteil ny ainleyn bane,
 'Syn cheer ghreiney shen !

2

Yiow mayd ennym noa eisht ayns clagh bane,
Cha vod 'naghe lhaih cre ta scruit ayns shen ;
Dasyn s'lesh yn clagh yiow fys er shen,
 Tra t'eh seyr eh hene !
Clagh gial bane ! clagh gial bane, vees ain heose
 ayns shen !
Clagh gial bane ! clagh gial bane bane, vees ain
 heose ayns shen !

Yiow mayd ennym noa eisht heose ayns shen,
Ayns yn cheer vie greiney, greiney shen !
Tra nee mayd meeteil ny ainleyn bane,
 'Syn cheer ghreiney shen !

[J. Nelson, 17th June, 1903]

His performance varies slightly from the written version. Whilst the written version uses 'greiney', there seems to be a trace of an '-agh' ending on occasion, which might reflect 'grianagh' (but pronounced as if it were 'grainagh'). On one occasion he seems to vary the repetition, 'grianagh, grainagh'

Unfortunately, where Jane E Hall had 'A new name', with a natural emphasis on 'new', Nelson uses 'Ennym noa', with an unnatural emphasis on the second part of 'ennym'. Agreement of adjectives with feminine nouns is only occasional.

1 We shall have a new name in that land,
In that land, that sunny, sunny land,
When we meet the bright angelic band,
In that sunny land.
A new name, a new name we'll receive up there;
A new name, a new name, all who enter there.

Refrain:
We shall have a new name in that land,
In that land, that sunny, sunny land,
When we meet the bright angelic band,
In that sunny land.

2 We'll receive it in a pure, white stone,
And no one will know the name therein;
Only unto him who hath 'tis known,
When we're free from sin.
A white stone, a white stone we'll receive up there;
A white stone, a white stone, all who enter there. [Refrain]

3 Don't you wonder what that name will be,
Sweeter far that aught on earth can be,
We will be quite satisfied when we
Shall that new name know.
I wonder, I wonder what that name will be,
I wonder, I wonder, what he'll give to me. [Refrain]

The sound recording of John Nelson singing to his own banjo accompaniment can be heard at : <https://www.manxradio.com/portal1/culture-and-heritage/mnh/manx-language-archives-wax-cylinder-recordings-hymn-the-new-name-sung-in-manx-by-john-nelson/>

Hymn 348, Sankey, 'The New Name'

1. Yiow main ennym noa 'sy cheer vie shen
Ayns yn cheer vie greiney, greiney shen
Tra nee main meeiteil ny ainleyn bane
'Syn cheer greiney shen
Ennym noa, ennym noa, vees ain heose ayns shen

Ennym noa, ennym noa, vees ain heose ayns shen

Refrain:

Yiow main ennym noa 'sy cheer vie shen
Ayns yn cheer vie greiney, greiney shen
Tra nee main meeiteil ny ainleyn bane
'Syn cheer greiney shen

2. Yiow main ennym noa eisht ayns clagh bane
Cha nod nane lhaih cre ta scruit ayns shen
Dasyn s'lesh yn clagh yiow fys er shen
Tra t'eh seyr eh hene
Clagh gial bane, clagh gial bane, vees ain heose ayns shen
Clagh gial bane, clagh gial bane, vees ain heose ayns shen

Yiow main ennym noa eisht heose ayns shen
Ayns yn cheer vie greiney, greiney shen
Tra nee main meeiteil ny ainleyn bane
Syn cheer greiney shen

Refrain:

Yiow main ennym noa 'sy cheer vie shen
Ayns yn cheer vie greiney, greiney shen
Tra nee main meeiteil ny ainleyn bane
'Syn cheer greiney shen

Amen

Listen to the audio of The New Name, sung in Manx: <https://youtu.be/4cbdFPIL1Bk>

Other Manx language archive recordings digitised by MNH:
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLxvEbuf5XvSuBCI4Wp4XFd2YUXt6ve7pT>