

Er yn hoghtoo laa as feed jeh mee ny Nollick shoh chaie va Manninee cowraghey yn hoght feedoo as queiggoo blein neayr's coayl yn Vrig Lily, unnane jeh ny lhag-haghyrtyn smessey er y cheayn jeh Mannin. Va arrane dobberan son y choayl jeant liorish Juan Nelson as shoh myr t'eh goaill toshiaght:

Blein hoght cheead jeig ghaa yeig as daeed,
Va'n atchim shoh nagh bione dooin y lheid,
Jeh deiney as feed dy jeean va stroit,
Lesh poodyr as aile feer doaltait.

Brig "Lily" v'ee voish Liverpool;
Dys Africa v'ee kiarit goll;
Agh sterrym mooar ren geiyrt ee chionn
Staigh er yn ellan Kitterland.

Foddee shiu geaishtagh rish Ned Maddrell gra harrish yn arrane er recortysyn va jeant ayns 1948 liorish Coimisiún Béaloideas Éideann, ta nish ry gheddyn er Youtube voish Eiraght Ashoonagh Vannin: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=16VW_jTWolk. Ta Brian Stowell goaill yn arrane ec toshiaght fillym giare jeant liorish Culture Vannin mychione ny haghyr, ta ry gheddyn ayns Gaelg (<https://vimeo.com/247330197>) as Baarle (<https://vimeo.com/247455028>).

Va'n Vrig Lily er e raad voish Lerpoyll dys Africa lesh laad dy chotton, rum, gunnyn as poodyr-gunn. Lurg jee goaill fastee veih sterrym dorrinagh faggys da'n Cholloo, phrow ee dy groll trooid y Cheyllys as woaill ee noi Kitterland. Honnick ben voish Creneash yn baatey va traitht er ny creggyn as roie ee son cooney. Haink deiney veih Purt le Moirrey, as lurg daue gymmyrkey baatey seose y raad harrish yn Owe haink eh lhieu dy hauail hoght deiney jeh sheshaght y Vrig—va kiare caillit, yn captan ny mast'oc.

Cha row shoh jerrey yn skeeal, my ta. Va'n sleih by lhieu yn lhong gearree geddyn yn laad jee as va deiney veih Purt le Moirrey currit urree reesht dy gheddyn yn stoo assjee. Tra v'ad jannoo shoh ren yn poodyr ooilley v'er boayrd sheidey seose lesh polt va clinnit choud ersooyl as Balley Chashtal as Doolish hene. Hooar nuy deiney as feed baase. Va peeshyn brisht jeh ooreyder er nyn veddyn ayns Ballacorkish three meeiley ersooyl as cleaysh dooinney feddynit queig meeilley ersooyl ayns Scarleod. Va daa ven-treoghe as feed faagit as three feed as ghaa-yeig dy chloan gyn ayr.

Va shoh nane jeh ny taghyrtysyn mooarey s'jerree va cooinit ayns arrane Gaelgagh, as y ghlare creenagh ersooyl ayns mean yn nuyoo lhing jeig.

Cha jeean as agglagh shen va'n polt,

Nyn girp va raipit er yn spoht,

As traa feer ghiare va currit daue

Dy chur nyn aghin soese gys niau.

The 28th December marked the 165th anniversary of the loss of the Brig Lily, one of the worst maritime disasters ever to occur off Manx shores. A song in Manx lamenting the disaster was composed by John Nelson. This is how it starts in translation:

The year eighteen hundred twelve and fort

This terror occurred the likes of which we never knew,

Thirty men were destroyed just like that,

With powder and fire, very sudden.

Brig Lily she was from Liverpool,
To Africa she was intended to go;
But a great storm drove her fast
On to the isle of Kitterland.

You can listen to the last native Manx speaker Ned Maddrell reciting the words of the song on a recording made in 1948 by the Irish Folklore Commission, now available on Youtube from Manx National Heritage: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=16VW_jTWolk. You can also hear Brian Stowell singing the lament at the beginning of Culture Vannin's short film about the tragedy, available in English (<https://vimeo.com/247455028>) and Manx (<https://vimeo.com/2473301970>).

The Brig Lily was on her way from Liverpool to Africa with a cargo of cotton, rum, guns and gunpowder. After having to take shelter from a storm close by the Calf, they tried to sail through the Sound and the ship ran aground on Kitterland. A woman from Cregneash saw the wrecked ship on the rocks and ran for help. Men came from Port St Mary, and after carrying a boat up the road over the Howe they managed to save eight of the Brig's crew—four were lost, including the Captain.

This was not the end of the story, however. The owners of the ship wanted to get the cargo off her, and men from Port St Mary were sent back on board to get the goods out. As they did this all the powder exploded with a bang that was heard as far away as Castletown and even Douglas. 29 men died. Broken pieces of a watch were found at Ballacorkish three miles away and a man's ear was found five miles away at Scarlett. 22 widows and 72 children were left behind.

This was one of the last major events commemorated in a Manx Gaelic song, as the language faded from general use in the middle of the nineteenth century.

So sudden and terrible was the bang,

Their bodies were shredded on the spot,

And very little time were they given

To raise their petition up to heaven.