

## **Bits and Bobs 2**

### **More General IOW notes**

(Updated list to include some website links. Hope they work.)

### **Resources used for the songs**

#### **The “Stone” Songs**

Percy Goddard Stone (1856-1934)

An architect who lived most of his life on the island at Merstone where he died, buried in Shanklin Cemetery. He restored old churches, rebuilt Carisbrooke Castle and excavated Quarr Abbey.

Stone, Percy Goddard. 1912. Legends and Lays of the Wight

<https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=uc2.ark:/13960/t5p848c78;view=1up;seq=7>

The Legends and Lays were popular tales to be told or sung by the fireside. They were not historically correct in every detail! They were written in the island dialect. He must have met many people around the churches on which he worked, who still spoke in the dialect. He notes that “the spread of education must ever be the death of vernacular” (the Island dialect). He used a variety of sources.

A Lay may be a song, a simple narrative poem, or a ballad. They can be of Celtic origin, there is the Breton Lay. Stone’s are a mix of themes both historical and romantic. Many lays had music but this was often lost. We have put his lays to music, the form is a dramatic early operatic style as used for lays. Others were more natural for folk singing. We made the dialect easier for modern speakers. Stone often gives the background before the actual lay.

#### **The “Noyes” Anthology**

Hugh Noyes (1928-2000)

Noyes, Hugh. 1951. The Isle of Wight Bedside Anthology

Hugh Noyes compiled an anthology of poems, songs, historical writings, essays.. concerning the Isle of Wight. His father Alfred Noyes (1880-1958) wrote the introduction. Hugh moved with his wife to St Lawrence to become dairy farmers. The book is a treasure trove of songs and possible songs! We developed some of them into new songs.

#### **Isle of Wight Words**

Henry Smith and C. Roach Smith of the English Dialect Society 1881.

A dictionary plus some island songs and other useful material. Used on our original recordings. The full text is now available on line.

#### **Oglander Memoirs**

John Oglander 1585 1655 born Nunwell. Diary kept. Useful background reading.

<https://archive.org/details/oglandermemoirs00oglagoo>

## **History of the Isle of Wight**

Sir Richard Worsley 1781. Useful background reading

[https://books.google.fr/books?id=wOZWAAAAcAAJ&printsec=frontcover&hl=fr&source=gbs\\_ge\\_summ ary\\_r&cad=0#v=onepage&q&f=false](https://books.google.fr/books?id=wOZWAAAAcAAJ&printsec=frontcover&hl=fr&source=gbs_ge_summ ary_r&cad=0#v=onepage&q&f=false)

## **The “Long” Songs**

William Henry Long (1839-1896)

Long, William Henry. 1886. A Dictionary of the Isle of Wight dialect, to which is appended the Christmas Boys’ play, an Isle of Wight “Hooam Harvest,” and songs sung by the peasantry.

<https://www.bartiesworld.co.uk/caws/dictionary-of-the-isle-of-wight-1886.pdf>

On the island in the 1970s many of the songs found in Long’s dictionary sections “Hooam Harvest” and “Songs sung by the Peasantry in the island” were standards in the pubs and folk clubs. His collection is a mixture of common songs found throughout England, some that were IOW variants. No music.

The Christmas play he collected was still performed on island around Christmas time. I remember the pubs were so full the mummers could hardly get in and the sword fights, well!!

## **Naval Songs and Ballads**

Edited by William Sharp introduction by Frank Rinder. A mass of naval songs some by Charles Dibdin.

**Other Sources WI, Schools, Vicars, local singers, parlour song books ....**

## **Isle of Wight songs update. Spring 2017**

I got in contact with Clare who sang on the original 25 tape recordings . She remembered we did some rough recordings of about 10 more, and there were 15 after that. This will make about 50 songs in all. She says she is willing to continue on with the project started over 30 years ago.

I have just found in our barn a box load of tapes with those recordings and some others. I have also found some of the paper work regarding other IOW songs. They are a right mix but good.

Sadly Clare says the many recordings of the IOW dialect stuff made by her mother’s friend have gone. Maybe tossed out when he passed away I don’t know. She also said that she appeared in Cowes a few years ago singing some of the IOW songs which went down well.

I remember, I think, one evening Robin Holbrooke and some others doing a set of songs which are like these. There were many good children’s songs.

Enough of rambling. It would be good to record some of the songs on the Isle of Wight live. A song like Brading Haven could be sung in Brading! Atherfield Ledge at St Catherine’s, Come to the Downs at the Arreton Down pub, The Parson of Chale at Chale.....

We would also like to upgrade some of the original Clare tape recordings to digital.