

# N A M A



NORTH AMERICAN MANX ASSOCIATION

VOL 84, No.2 To preserve "Whatever is left to us of our ancient heritage." T.E. Brown Summer 2013

## NAMA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



*Last time I wrote the President's letter we were all looking forward to Spring. Unfortunately, Spring had a very hard time coming this year. Over Easter, the Isle of Man had the worst snowstorm in 50 years.*

*The Manx National Song Book has the song "The Sheep Under the Snow" which contains a*

*very haunting melody. I didn't really understand it until I saw pictures of sheep and other animals that had been buried under the snow. Thousands perished while others were rescued with the help of many people. Workers worked round the clock to rescue animals, restore power and help people in isolated areas of the island. The Isle of Man is to be commended for their response to the storm.*

*Here in the United States there were snowstorms well into the second week of May in the Central Plains and the Midwest. Even though we had some warm days to tease us, here in Wisconsin we had frost last week. I am anxiously waiting to put in my Manx Marvel tomatoes that I received from Mary Kelly. The Isle of Man is noted for their homegrown produce and its quality. The Manx Marvel is a heritage tomato and the seeds were discovered in a seed bank around 2006. Some growers are now producing them. It is larger than a cherry tomato, but small for a tomato. I find it is the perfect size for a BLT or for eating for one person. The taste is great and I'm told it is fantastic for making salsa so I will have to try that.*

*The Isle of Man is working on helping people with longterm unemployment and is actively helping people learn the work skills needed in industries having difficulty recruiting suitable workers. Coaches and mentors are also aiding people find and retain work. There are manufacturing jobs on the Isle of Man that produce parts for jet aircraft, space shuttles, laser surgery and gas and oil rigs. While most of us recognize the fishing, farming, and banking business that is*

*important we might not realize the other aspects of the Manx economy.\* Revenues for visitor spending also went up by 5% this past year.*

*Another fun fact is that the Isle of Man was the first country to award women the vote in 1881. It is also the first country in Western Europe to give people ages 16 and 17 the vote in national elections.*

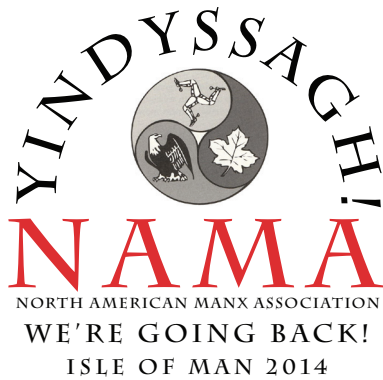
*The more you know about the Isle of Man, the better you can encourage others to join our organization. There are so many unique and fun facts about the island to arouse interest and this is the year to do so.*

**If we all found one person to join, it would greatly increase our membership. The fact that the NAMA Convention will be on the Isle of Man next summer (2014) is an additional incentive. Find a relative, neighbor or friend to join us.**

*Lhiats,  
Jody Morey  
NAMA President*

**Membership:** On the front of this newsletter you should see a dollar amount. It could be \$0 which means Good for You! You membership dues are all paid up. If it says anything else it's time to get out the checkbook and send your membership dues to John Prendergast, 10251 S Bell Avenue, Chicago, IL 60643. And remember, unless you're a signed up member you can't get to attend the Convention next year in the Isle of Man. And if that isn't a big enough incentive, you may not receive the next copy of the super exciting NAMA Bulletin!

**Great Idea:** One of our members had just paid for all his grandchildren to become NAMA members. It's a fantastic way to pass on awareness of your Manx ancestry. Like so many heritage societies, NAMA has a top-heavy membership of elderly people. We MUST attract young members if we are to continue. Please consider



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## *NAMA CONVENTION 2014 -- IT'S ONLY A YEAR AWAY!*

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**Dates:** Starts at noon Thursday July 3rd and ends 10.30pm on Monday July 7th 2014

**Convention Hotel:** The Sefton. There are atrium and seaview rooms available. Please quote **NOR040714** when you make a reservation. Special room rates for NAMA members attending the Convention start at £115.00 and \$120 per room per night, **including breakfast**, will be honored for room nights before or after the Convention. The Sefton can be reached on 011-441-624-645-500 (This includes the international code) or you can email them at [info@seftonhotel.com](mailto:info@seftonhotel.com) (If calling, remember IOM time is ET + 5 hours.)

### **COST**

We are still putting together the program and will mail a full breakdown of costs and travel options later this year. As prices are so much more expensive on the island than in America we are trying very hard to trim costs to the bone. In addition, it is a long weekend and we have an extra day of activities to schedule. Currently, we are trying to minimize the number of events that are charged for, and to offer a la carte choices where appropriate. Currently, we hope that costs will be in the \$250-\$275 range but that could change,

Conventioneers will need to book their flights and accommodation themselves. Flights should be booked as soon as possible. Alternatives to the Sefton include The Antrim, a boarding house with bed and breakfast which is said to be very nice and good value as an alternative. We will have much more hard information on all aspects of the Convention in the Fall newsletter.

### **ADDITIONAL COSTS YOU'LL NEED TO BUDGET FOR:**

#### **FOOD**

- *Thursday* -- A light reception will be offered by Manx National Heritage early in the evening as part of our tour. *(If required, a full dinner should be budgeted for separately.)*

- *Friday* -- Lunch and dinner are included in your Convention Fee today. Evening meal will be heavy appetizers at our 4th of July Celebration. *(If required, a full dinner should be budgeted for separately.)*

- *Saturday* -- On your own for lunch.

- *Sunday* -- On your own for lunch. The Sefton Carvery costs around \$35-\$40 and needs to be booked **well in advance**. Other local cafes and restaurants are within easy walking distance and are less expensive. *Plans for Sunday dinner are in hand but not yet finalized.*

- *Monday* -- On your own for lunch at Tynwald or in Douglas. Set dinner at an Italian restaurant will be offered at \$25 per head. Cash bar at our Last Night Singalong.

#### **EVENTS**

- *Saturday* -- Break-out day. Several activities around the island will be arranged. Those that require travel outside Douglas will incur a transport charge of a few dollars. Other events will be arranged at the hotel at no extra charge.

- *Sunday* -- Optional activity. The Governor's Garden Party at the International Business School in the grounds of the old Nunnery building. The Manx government has offered us 60 free places. First come, first served, to this standing only event hosted by the Lieutenant-Governor of the Isle of Man. A return taxi will cost approximately \$30.

#### **DISABLED ACCESS**

The Sefton Hotel is fully accessible to handicapped visitors. However, the trip to the island is long and complicated. Please check the route you intend to take from your landing airport to the island. As we mentioned in our last newsletter, there is no direct transfer at Heathrow. Dublin and Manchester offer international and internal flights. Check them first for connecting flights.

We will do our best to help disabled visitors participate in all activities. The visit to the Tynwald Ceremony at St. John's Field is the most obvious event that could present difficulties but we will endeavor to be as inclusive as possible. Please be realistic in your expectations.

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## LIST OF OFFICERS:

### Honorary President

Marshall Cannell,  
Wellesley Hills, MA

### Honorary Vice-Presidents

Noel Cringle, Isle of Man  
Dorcas Costain-Blann,  
Isle of Man

### Immediate Past-President

Jim Corlett, Denver CO

### Past-President

Sally Dalquist

### President

Jody Morey, Mount Horeb, WI  
jlmorey@mac.com

### 1st Vice-President

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Will host 2014 Convention in  
Douglas, Isle of Man.

### 2nd Vice-President

Jim Kneale, Clarksville, MD

### 3rd Vice President

Katy Prendergast, Chicago, IL

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## *BORED? GOT A FEW MINUTES TO KILL? LEARN SOME MANX! FREE!*



The latest app for your smartphone, iPad or iPhone is the must-have Learn Manx. It's a super-easy listen and repeat program based on the successful adult language course run by the Manx Heritage Foundation and it's a fantastic resource for all those who are interested in getting to grips with Manx Gaelic. 'Learn Manx' consists of ten units, each consisting of a variety of activities, whilst two additional revision lessons feature the TT Races as learning tools. The app will eventually cover 30 units in total, providing a sound introduction to the language to those unfamiliar with it, as well as a great revision course for those who already know some Manx. Download from the App Store or Google Play. You can also use Learn Manx on your computer at home direct from the website [www.learnmanx.com](http://www.learnmanx.com).

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## *ISLAND OF CULTURE 2014*

Plans are taking shape for the Isle of Man to celebrate Island of Culture 2014. The initiative marks the culmination of a 10-year National Arts Development Strategy, which set out a long-term vision for the arts in the Isle of Man. 2014 will be a year to celebrate the Island's culture through dance, music, theatre, the visual arts, literature, festivals, film and digital innovation - and leave a lasting legacy for creativity and the arts in the Isle of Man. While IOC2014 will obviously give Isle of Man residents the opportunity to celebrate their culture, it's hoped that the wide variety of events will attract visitors, in particular Manx people who no longer live in the Island - which ties in nicely with our Convention planned for Tynwald national week next year.

To keep up-to-date with all the 2014 news, visit [www.islandofculture.im](http://www.islandofculture.im)

You can also follow what's happening at [www.twitter.com/islandofculture](http://www.twitter.com/islandofculture) and [www.facebook.com/islandofculture](http://www.facebook.com/islandofculture)





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*THE SNOW OF 2013 --  
FROM YOUR OWN CORRESPONDENT:  
KELLY MCCARTHY*

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I happened to be on the Island during the Blizzard of '13. It was absolutely unbelievable. Being based in Ramsey, across from the beach, I was astonished to look out of my window to see the ocean broiling against the seawall, just yards from the house. The windows were lashed and rattled with hailstones and sleet, but no snow stuck on the ground so close to the sea. Gradually, the news began to filter through: The Mountain Road was closed. Then, the road through Kirk Michael was closed. Then, amazingly, the coast road through Laxey closed. Ramsey, despite having no significant snowfall was cut off.

We began to hear of 30ft snowdrifts on the hills and inland, of power cuts across the central spine of the island, of zero access to Peel on the West coast. Then the farmers' news began to spread. The newborn lambs were lost in drifts on the hills. Could volunteers with 4x4s get to central meeting spots? We'll walk along the wall where the sheep will be huddled. Bring long sticks to poke in the snow to feel for soft



lumps. People turned up in their hundreds. The Manx Co-operative Society chartered a Hercules cargo plane to bring in provisions. The Manx Electricity Authority worked around the clock to restore power. The roads were still closed. The District Nurses drove their cars until they couldn't and locals in 4-wheel drive vehicles would tow them out of ditches, or drive them on to their patients. The helicopter was de-

ployed for dialysis patients, accidents and women in labor. The Police lost vehicles in snow banks. The news from the farmers worsened. Hundreds of sheep were lost.

Then the Laxey-Ramsey coast road was cleared. Buses could now make it to within a mile of Peel. People trapped in their homes hiked across snowy fields seeking light, warmth, food, fuel. Eventually the road through Kirk Michael was opened -- just one lane for emergency vehicles. Naturally, a few idiots drove down it and delayed the EMS. The hill farmers were distraught; they had lost thousands and thousands of sheep. Cattle, too, had perished. On top of a terribly wet summer their livelihoods were now so imperiled that a relief fund was created to help them get through it all.

It took weeks for the snow to clear from the mountain. The island had not had a snowstorm like this for many years -- a once in a lifetime event for most people.



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*BOB CARSWELL R.B.V.*

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The Island's most prestigious annual award for culture, the Reih Bleeaney Vanannan, has been awarded to Bob Carswell for his outstanding contribution to many areas of Manx culture. It is the only Manx Award which allows the recipient to add letters after their name.



The award was presented by the Chairman of the Manx Heritage Foundation, the Hon Phil Gawne MHK who outlined the extraordinary breadth of Bob's interest in Manx culture. He was described as one of the most knowledgeable and modest of men; a skilled poet, songwriter and translator, a fine musician, singer, and historian. Through his work in broadcasting and education he has made his deep understanding of Manx culture, language and history accessible to a wide audience.

He has been involved in writing and broadcasting in Manx since the 1970s and in providing books and rhymes for Manx language playgroups from 1983. Since 2006 he has been working to develop Manx language resources for the Bunscoil Ghaelgagh (Manx School) and Unnid Gaelgagh (Manx Language Unit). His songs have been arranged and

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recorded by the Mollag Band, Caarjyn Coidjagh and Bar-  
rule and he has been commissioned to write new songs for  
primary schools.

He has danced with the Manx Folk Dance Society, Bock Yuan  
Fannee and Bock Bane and continues to play music at ses-  
sions and with the Calor Gas Ceilidh Band. He has long been  
involved in organising festivals like Yn Chruinnaght and the  
Cooish – on a volunteer basis and involving a considerable  
amount of his personal time. He is a member of the Gaelic  
Broadcasting Committee and is one of the most important  
voices in broadcasting as far as Manx culture is concerned –  
his programs for Manx Radio include Claare ny Gael, Traa dy  
Liooar and Shiaght Laa. He has worked extensively on proj-  
ects such as Caarjyn as Fennee (children’s cartoons) and to  
produce YouTube broadcasts on aspects of culture.

As part of his award, Bob was asked to nominate a Manx cul-  
tural group who would receive a donation of £500 from the  
Manx Heritage Foundation to further their work. He chose  
to give the donation to the Bunscoil Ghaelgagh at St John’s.



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## *THE MANX MUSIC FESTIVAL*

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The Manx Music Festival is an annual music festival held at  
the end of each April in Douglas. It was originally founded in  
1892 after music classes were included in the Fine Arts and  
Industrial Guild, after which the festival gets its colloquial  
name of “The Guild”. The first performance of the Manx Na-  
tional Anthem occurred at The Guild in 1907, accompanied  
by Harry Wood’s Orchestra. Local people and visitors are in-  
vited to take part in various singing, instrumental, drama  
and public speaking classes.

At the close of the festival, winners of the individual  
voice categories compete to win the Cleveland Med-  
al, first donated in 1923 by the Cleveland Manx Society.  
CONGRATULATIONS to mezzo  
soprano Elizabeth Townsend -  
winner of the 2013 Cleveland  
Medal - the highest award in  
the Manx Music Festival.



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## *STAYING IN TOUCH WITH NAMA*

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### **MEMBERS:**

We’re on Facebook at **NAMA 2014 Con-  
vention** and **North American Manx  
Association**.

You can check our **website** to  
find links to Manx Societies across America and Can-  
ada as well as recipes, membership details and ran-  
dom Manx facts. [www.northamericanmanx.org](http://www.northamericanmanx.org). The  
NAMA Members Only area of our website is password  
protected and can only be accessed by paid-up mem-  
bers of NAMA. Type in these passwords when prompted.  
• User Name: nama • Password: tynwald

Our **blog** is used to update members on events of interest to  
Americans of Manx descent. During the run up to the 2014  
Convention it will also share information on trip details.  
<http://namanx.blogspot.com>.



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## *OUR MANX CAT EXPERIENCES*

*BY FRANK EVANS AND MARY KELLY - PART II*

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Being unfamiliar with the “cloak of Manannan” our plan  
to bring home a Manx cat did not take in to account dense  
morning fog often surrounding the Isle of Man. The cat did  
not arrive in London until late afternoon, and we could not  
board a flight for Chicago until the next morning. We had  
to stay that night in an airport hotel, but knew if the cat  
touched English soil, it would most likely be quarantined for  
months (at the owners’ expense). Our arrival at Chicago Cus-  
toms was a bit dicey when it was discovered that the cat had  
“no tail.” I explained that it had not lost the tail, that it was  
a Manx cat that was born that way, and if it had had a tail,  
we would not be importing it. A supervisor was called, and,  
ultimately, they let us pass.

Since adopting that second Manx cat in 1974, we have had  
many experiences with Manxies. In 1977 our winter project  
was to register our Manx-born dark classical tabby with

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white bib and feet with The Cat Fanciers' Association (CFA) as "Manninagh Laxey Rhaa." We also registered her with the American Cat Fanciers Association (ACFA). Even though the standards for Manx cats in America are quite different than in Great Britain, in June she became a CFA Champion.



Mary Kelly with Felix.  
Photo credit: Gary Tuescher

In 1980, on another trip to the Island, I brought another Manx cat back. We named him "Bally Cashtal Kayt," or Castle-town Cat; we called him "Ket," or "Ket-ket." He was a handsome black and white dimpled rumpy kitten. He grew to be a large handsome and well-proportioned cat with a very gentle nature. Ket had a distinctly

different purr and occasionally seem to "coo." Sometime later, we adopted two domestic Maltese Manx rumpy kittens: Tanny and Cara. Tanny, the male, had health problems and had to live on a farm. Cara, the tiny female, lived with us many years. At the age of 19 our beloved Ket met a peaceful end, at home with both of us, and our veterinarian attending.

For five months, Cara, Frank, and I mourned the loss of Ket. Finally, in early December 1998, we called the shelter, and they just happened to have a 3-year old Manx cat named "Felix" for us to adopt. Now in my seventies, I can recall having had feline companions nearly all my life, except for a couple of years, when we had a black rabbit named "Thumper," but that's another story....



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## SOCIETY NEWS

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### Minnesota Manx

Our last meeting was held in Pat Boehne's beautiful party room. Thanks to Pat for being a charming hostess for yet another year. Before the meeting started we settled into the tables chatting back and fourth and eating from a wide variety of delicious pot-luck food. The meeting began by going around the room and sharing a piece of our family history. Some were from people who could not make it the meeting and were read by Joan Gill. Cindy Christian Rogers sent this web site <http://www.eset.com> to share her family history. Mrs. McGonagle sent her greetings and mentioned that her son was interested in finding out more about his Manx heritage and would like to try DNA testing. Joan also brought copies of some post cards she received from Karl Anderson.. Dan and Ilean Christian shared that the Christian name also

comes from Iceland where it may have originated. He than read some of his father, Stephen Christian's, autobiography from 1960. Then Joan and Norm Gill shared a story about a bridge that had a family name on it and how they tracked it down, and how their relatives had come from Glen May and immigrated to both Iowa and Canada. Next, June Sibell shared a story of one of the trips her family had taken to the island and how struck they were to be standing the midst of their early family history thinking this is where it all started. She also shared a book of pictures from the Manx cemetery in the early 1990s. Linda Lange was up next sharing a brief family history and the fact that her husband will be traveling to the island this year. Then Sally Dahlquist told the history of her family by sharing the history of Corrin's Tower in Peel and showed the three different family trees she brought along. Next Janice Leafer told a little about her grandfather who was originally from Lower Foxdale and who worked as an electrician in the iron-ore mines. She then showed a picture of her great-grandmother from ancestry.com. She also shared that it was her mother's birthday today and even though she had passed away she would have enjoyed have a Manx meeting on her birthday. Pat Boehne shared that her great-grandmother and father Thomas and Jane Callister had come from IOM. Thomas had originally been a bound boy and worked for a farmer for room and board till he was 21 after his own father died at sea. She also showed her family tree not only reaching to the IOM but also to New Zealand. Next was Peggy Rudnitski who told of her relatives who came from the IOM to Galva, Illinois and showed several pictures from the later 1800s. People brought all manner of book and pictures there was so much that this is just the briefest of overviews.

### Vancouver Manx

Spring Break arrived and we held our annual Bowling/Pizza afternoon. As usual there was much laughter during the event as we strived to hit those high scores (tried being the operative word).

Bowlers ranged from 3 years old thru to over 80. Prizes were handed out for high score, most enthusiastic and whatever else Kevin could think of. Afterwards, we all enjoyed pizza before calling it an afternoon. Thanks to Old Orchard Bowling Alley in Burnaby for the great service and reduction in rates for our players. Pictures to follow in next newsletter!

### Want to start a Society?

*It's not too hard to start a local society. Seasoned NAMA members are full of useful ideas and are a great resource when getting started.*

## NAMA MEMBERSHIP ENROLLMENT FORM

*PROMOTE AND PROTECT OUR MANX HERITAGE*

Join now and make sure you keep receiving your newsletter and don't forget to mail us if you change your address

Please print your information and mail with your check to John Prendergast at the address below.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_  
 State/Prov \_\_\_\_\_ Zip/PC \_\_\_\_\_

Individual Membership	Dues	Amount
Annual	\$15	_____
LIFE		
Under age 50	\$250	_____
Age 50-59	\$175	_____
Age 60 and over	\$125	_____
Junior (age 1-18 yrs, no bulletin)	\$2	_____

Family Membership	Dues	Amount
Annual	\$20	_____
LIFE		
Under age 50	\$325	_____
Age 50-59	\$235	_____
Age 60 and over	\$200	_____

To become a NAMA member, or to renew your membership, Please send this form and your check or money order to:

**John Prendergast**  
**NAMA Treasurer**  
**10251 South Bell Ave.**  
**Chicago, IL 60643-1901 USA**

**Total Remittance**  
 (in U.S. Dollar or equivalent amount) \_\_\_\_\_

..... Detach Here .....

### *IN REMEMBRANCE*



*(Kirk Conchan Wheel Cross by the late Maureen Costain Richards R.B.V)*

Eleanor "Ellie" Jerner Gawne, of Framingham and Natick MA, passed away due to complications of the flu on January 14, 2013 at the age of 89. She was born in Excelsior, Minnesota in 1923 to Jerry and Sigrid Jerner, attended Cornell College in Iowa, and earned a Doctorate of Education at Columbia University where she met her late husband John O. Gawne. She was very active in many education issues and societies, and wrote several textbooks, including 'Dress,' which was the standard high school Home Economics textbook in the 1970s. An early fear of flying led to her love of cruise ships. She spent so much time on the sea that she was named a (double) Master Mariner on the Holland American Lines. She is survived by her sons, Jonathan Gawne of Framingham, MA, and Timothy Gawne of Birmingham, AL.

**We have two belated deaths to report from Illinois**

Gladys M. Evans, 96, of Kewanee, IL. Passed away on December 27, 2011 at Kewanee Care Home. Gladys was born March 18, 1915, in Knox County, Illinois a daughter of F. Stanley and Eleanor Craine Kennaugh. She was married to Bennie R. Evans in Savanna, Illinois and they resided in Peoria, Illinois. She was proud of her Isle of Man heritage and was a keen member of the Galva Manx Society.

The Chicago Manx Society just learned of the death of Dr. William Aubrey Moore, age 83, who passed away Mar. 17, 2008. He was an Army Veteran of WWII and the Korean conflict and long-time physician in the LaGrange/Hinsdale Area.



North American Manx Association

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PRESORT  
STANDARD  
UP POSTAGE  
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LA GRANGE, IL  
PERMIT NO. 17

*THE SNOW OF 2013*

