

N A M A



NORTH AMERICAN MANX ASSOCIATION

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To preserve "Whatever is left to us of our ancient heritage." T.E. Brown

Winter 2014



GLASS SLIDES DONATED TO MANX MUSEUM FROM BRAD PRENDERGAST, CHICAGO MANX SOCIETY

As you might recall, I took Myra Johnson's glass slides from the Minnesota convention for the purpose of seeing if we could have them restored and/or digitally copied. The restoration process would have been prohibitively expensive, running into the thousands of dollars. It was a challenge to get anyone who has the correct equipment to take digital photos, because of the size of the slides. There is all types of equipment to handle 35mm slides, but not these.



Eventually, Nicole Wozny and I undertook to project the slides and to take a high-resolution digital image of that projected image. Not the ideal situation, but we certainly have a full set of digital images for use by the North American Manx

Association. I contacted the Manx Museum in Douglas, to see if they have the facility to preserve/restore these slides. They did, so when we went to the island we carried them over and presented them to the Manx Museum.

These slides show the IOM at the turn of the 20th Century. The Manx Museum is willing to undertake the expense of restoring and preserving these slides, which keeps our culture alive. Myrra Johnson, who wants the slides donated to the museum in Douglas.

Editor's note: Brad carried the slides to the Island in July and presented them to Edmund Southworth, head of Manx National Heritage.



IS IT PRIMARY OR SECONDARY? BY NAMA GENEALOGIST - LUCY PETERSON

So far, we have talked about gathering family history information in your home and from relatives and entering the data onto pedigree charts and family group sheets. Then we talked about possible ways to organize your information into either file folders or notebook sections.

So, where do we go from here? The basic answer to that is – it depends. No, this is not a cop out! The next step depends on what information you have in order to know what you need. No one can really tell you what is next without looking at your charts and files. And, even then, there will be options.

Take a look at your pedigree chart. Is all the information filled in – births, marriages, deaths, as well as the names? Do you feel your information is very accurate or just possibly correct? I am going to throw in a personal opinion here. I think it is a good idea to make sure every detail going back to at least your great-grandparents and possibly your great-great-grandparents is as correct and documented as you can get it. I would even try to fill out the family group sheets (so adding the siblings) for these couples. The majority of people should be able to do this. You might run into a hitch here or there. You can certainly get information on yourself, parents and grandparents. You choose what you want to do and then set out to do it.

In order to document, you need to find what we call "primary" evidence for each piece of information, if at all possible. Primary evidence is information that is written near the time of an event by a person who was close to the event. If your grandmother wrote in her diary about your father's birth and she wrote it the day of or the day after he was born, that's pretty good primary evidence. If she wrote about it when she was 95 and he was 65, it might be accurate depending on her state of mind, but it might not. Because it was so long after, it would be considered secondary evidence. However, if it is the only record you have of his birth, it is what you go with

(continue to next page)

as long as other evidence (such as his age on a census, age at marriage, pictures where he looks about the same age as a cousin whose birth you know, etc.) makes it seem to fit.

As you get to older generations, you sometimes have to be a little creative to find primary evidence, but often there is a christening or burial record or such. You get as close to primary evidence as you can and try to get more than one piece of information.

For your first generations, you can usually get birth, marriage and death certificates. They are primary evidence of those events. But, you still need to be careful. A death certificate is pretty good primary evidence of the death, but there is usually other information on the certificate. It might give a date of birth – which in most cases is probably correct – but it is not primary evidence of the birth. Why not? It is given at the time of the person's death, so probably not very close to the time of birth. And often the person who gives the information is a spouse or a child who certainly was not present at the birth! And they might be stressed because of the death of the spouse or parent and can give wrong answers even if they really know the correct information. Use this information as a good clue and then check it out in other places.

You need to know that even primary evidence can be wrong. I will give you a very personal example. My mother was going through this process when I was in high school. She went to the courthouse in the town where I was born and requested a copy of my birth certificate. It was all correct except for one little thing. I was listed as a male. That's right. And it was signed by the doctor – my uncle! A clerk had put a check in the wrong box. We had a big laugh and didn't think a lot more about it until I was turning 18 and my name came up on the county draft list. This was during the Vietnam war. I didn't get called up because the certificate at the state level was correct – and we showed them that one. Besides, I had a bum knee and would have been classified 4-F (unfit for military service).

I tell you this because you should know that the most important thing you need when doing genealogy is your brain. You need to think things out and evaluate what you read. You need to find several sources that corroborate each other – especially when you get to generations in the far past.

If you have blank spaces on your pedigree because you don't know from family or other records who your great-grandmother was – stay tuned for the next installment when we will get to adding more people to your tree. For now, try to make sure the ones you have on your tree are the correct by gathering the best evidence you can to document their lives. And don't forget to find the "stories" of their lives as you go. Those are the best part of family history.



NAMA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members

I know it's a little confusing that we have two sets of NAMA Youth Awards, so here's my opportunity to explain them

IOM-USA

The North American Youth Award came about in 2002 when the Isle of Man Department of Education announced that it created an award to be given every two years at the North American Manx Association Convention. The award recognizes young people living in North America for their contribution in maintaining an awareness of the Isle of Man and its culture. The Department of Education and Children aims to encourage young people with Manx connections growing up in North America to perform Manx Music, learn the Manx language, or learn some other aspect of Manx culture and history.

This year, the award was presented to "And Sometimes Y - Manx, Morris & Sword," a youth folk dance team located in Western Massachusetts. The team is led and taught by David Nixon, who will be accepting the award in their honor. Last year, the group traveled to the Isle of Man and performed at Tynwald and other locations.

USA-IOM

The North American Manx Awards are sponsored by the North American Manx Association and presented annually to young Manx people. Recipients receive a specially minted silver medallion. Traditionally, the NAMA President travels to the Isle of Man on the off convention year to present the awards. The Department of Education and Children receives nominations that recognize the achievements of young people under the age of eighteen, as well as two awards that are open to older recipients. The categories are: Manx music, Arts and Crafts that portray Manx life or culture, Manx language, an outstanding contribution to Manx culture by an individual or group, an outstanding contribution to the Manx Community in general, and overcoming a disability.

On another note, there will be a large Celtic gathering in Montreal over May Day weekend next year. The North American Manx Association has signed up to attend. We would love for members to come and along with us. Watch the Spring newsletter, the website and the NAMA Facebook page for more information.

*Lesh gagh yeeearree vie,
Kelly*

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!

(DO NOT SEND TO KELLY MCCARTHY OR THE RETURN ADDRESS ON THE FRONT OF THE NEWSLETTER)

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	Family Membership	Dues	Amount
Annual	\$15	_____	Annual	\$20	_____
LIFE MEMBERSHIP			LIFE MEMBERSHIP		
Under age 50	\$250	_____	Under age 50	\$325	_____
Age 50-59	\$175	_____	Age 50-59	\$235	_____
Age 60 and over	\$125	_____	Age 60 and over	\$200	_____
Junior (age 1-18 yrs, no bulletin)	\$2	_____			

Total Remittance
(in U.S. Dollar or equivalent amount) _____

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

To become a NAMA member, or to renew your membership, please send this form and your check made out to North American Manx Association or money order to John Prendergast.

On the front of this newsletter you should see a dollar amount on the address label. If it's \$0 your membership dues are all paid up! Please advise John if you change your address.

..... Detach Here



PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE – A REFLECTION ON NAMA CONVENTION 2014 ON THE IOM

BY STEPHEN SCHAIBERGER, NAMA CHAPLAIN

My wife, Sharli, and I were part of the NAMA convention on the IOM this summer. It was my first visit to the Isle but I had seen it before through the photos and tales of my parents and grandparents.

There is no better way to appreciate the IOM heritage than to visit the IOM in person. My great grandfather was a stonemason who worked on the Laxey wheel water pump. I've seen pictures of the wheel, I have heard and read tales about it, and I have a miniature replica of it on my lamp stand. But there was something spiritual about climbing to the top of the wheel that is supported by a stone foundation that he probably helped build or repair. To gaze from that vantage point to the surrounding area in which he lived before

immigrating to the US has linked me to him and has enriched myself in a mystical way. It was not just a visit to the IOM but a pilgrimage.

We have a goodly Manx heritage, which is probably why we are members of NAMA! However my pilgrimage to the IOM reminded me that there is more than a past to inspire us. Approximately 60,000 people comprise the Manx citizenry today. They form a free society and are dealing with present challenges to lay a foundation to be Manx on and from that little isle.

The NAMA convention experienced the present Manx society through elected officials who addressed us. I was impressed by the heritage center. Public records and newspapers are and have been digitalized so that we might know not just the dates about our relatives but we might search written records on line to discover news and details about them. This can be done from our own home using our personal computers.

My admiration for this small island community and what they are doing has grown. They have done much to preserve the past and its traditions but they also have done much to

be a present force with an eye to the future. One example that excited me was their initiatives in using the tides to turn turbines to generate electricity. I am convinced that there will be an IOM in the future.

Plan ahead

The convention also pondered the future of NAMA. Any organization needs to plan ahead. We are not getting younger as individuals but our organization must get younger to continue. There is a need for us to pass the torch of Manx appreciation to the next generations. To that effort we discussed youth membership and the need to involve youth at our conventions and at our regional society meetings.

How do we get younger in NAMA?

I personally am going to gift my grandchildren with a NAMA membership this Christmas. I also have placed a visit to the IOM with my children and grandchildren on my bucket list. The IOM is kid friendly. It is intergenerational friendly. Who can resist a call to the fairies as you cross a bridge, or a ride on a horse drawn carriage, or a walk through a restored castle, or wondering through a restored 1800 era village, or eating a bacon sandwich, or touching a small boat that was used to smuggled goods to the IOM, or a stroll down the promenade, or a ride on an electric or steam driven train, or yes, a climb up to the top of the Laxey wheel?

**NAMA has a past. We are a present.
We need to build a future.**



STAYING CONNECTED WITH THE NORTH AMERICAN MANX ASSOCIATION

Visit our website: www.northamericanmanx.org. You can check this website to find links to Manx Societies across America and Canada as well as recipes, Membership details and random Manx facts. **The NAMA Members Only** area of our website is password protected and can only be accessed by paid-up members of NAMA. Type in these passwords when prompted. **User Name:** nama **Password:** tynwald

We're on Facebook at North American Manx Association.

Our blog is used to update members on events of interest to Americans of Manx descent. <http://namanx.blogspot.com>.

WANT TO GET IN TOUCH WITH US?

If you have news you'd like to share with the members of the North American Manx Association, please email Kelly McCarthy at Kelly@mustgoto.com.



THE LINK BETWEEN THE GUILD AND THE MANX NATIONAL ANTHEM

BY DOLLIN KELLY

If it were not for the Guild we wouldn't have a Manx National Anthem. I'll explain.

There have been various songs put forward for consideration as the Manx National Anthem. The one that we sing nowadays, with the air adapted from the traditional Manx tune *Mylecharaine* and the words by W. H. Gill, has now become established as the anthem of the Manx people. However, a commentator in a Manx paper of 1908, when opinion was still divided as to which piece should be chosen for the anthem, suggested that Ellan Vannin, written more than 50 years before by an English woman in 1854, was certainly a fine enough song to be considered, and that a new song with words by 'Cushag', and the traditional Manx air of *Illiam Dhone* harmonized by Miss M. L. Wood should also be considered.

With reference to Gill's anthem the writer said, "It may be doubted whether this 'national anthem' has met with the success hoped for, for there are not lacking people who declare that the music has gained nothing by the alteration [from the minor to the major key], and that the words are too futile even for comparison with those of the poem which does duty in England [God Save the King]."

Gill's anthem had been published that year in the program of the Manx Music Festival, and the writer suggested that, in fairness, Cushag's (Josephine Kermode) anthem should also appear in the program to give the public a chance of deciding.

The first verse of Cushag's song went:

O come all ye people with prayer and with praise,
To bless our great Ruler, the Ancient of Days;
Though nations be shifting as grains in the sand,
In honour and safety may He keep our land.

However, it seems that the festival committee choose to continue to print Gill's anthem each year, and it has consequently, by tacit agreement with the Manx public, become the Manx National Anthem.

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SOCIETY NEWS

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA MANX

From the Northern California Manx: Jack Cormode, 13085 Franklin Avenue, Mountain View, CA 94040
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Post-Convention Cooish.

Social Director Una Reed herself hosted our Post-Convention Cooish for the Northern California Manx on the first Sunday in September and made everyone feel at home.

For those who had not attended the Convention on the Isle of Man and for those who had done so and wanted to relive that joyous occasion, this Cooish was a wonderful opportunity to savor the Manxness of our lives.

In addition to going over the activities of the Convention we also talked about the Youth Outreach program that NAMA is

undertaking. Our members are ready to contact young people in their own families when the program gets started.

To top it off, there is strong interest in attending the 2016 NAMA Convention in Annapolis, Maryland. Our Christmas Cooish will be held on January 11, 2015.

July 20, 2014 from Jean Glass, Canada

Ron and I had a great time in Douglas and as well as the convention had great visits with my cousins. The last time we were over was 2006. Last December in the Manx bulletin there was a write-up about the Aviation Museum that we found very interesting. I did get in touch with Ivor and in fact brought over a Canadian flag, which we dropped off on arrival June 26 so it was there for Canada Day, July 1 and also for the just-completed garden. We had a lovely visit with Ivor on Canada Day, he and his volunteers certainly worked hard to have the garden ready and it's lovely.

Now there is a connection with our family and one of the young airman buried in Andreas. While my dad Sam was in the RAF for almost 5 years, mostly in the Middle East, build-

ing airports, we lived in Ramsey with my Mum's family, the Bridsons, whose resting place is the graveyard at Andreas. When we arrived in Georgetown, Ontario in 1950 my Dad went into a local insurance office to get insurance for his car, the agent remarked "I can't place your accent, is it Irish or Scottish?", to which my dad replied, neither, it's from a little place you have probably never heard of, the Isle of Man. The agent, Mr. Walter Evans, replied, that's where my son John is buried. From that time on, my Grandparents and other family members would comment on "looking in on the Canadians" when they visited the churchyard. My parents on frequent trips back brought back pictures for the Evans family.

In our visit in 2006 and also this time we had also taken over Canadian flags for the gravesites. This year however was rather special as I was taking over my Mum's ashes which Ron and I attended to on June 30 at Andreas, it was a lovely sunny day and while rather emotional was very fitting as even though my Mum lived in Canada more years than in IOM, her heart was always with her dear Ellan Vannin.

GREATER WASHINGTON MANX AREA SOCIETY

On October 25th, the Washington Manx had Afternoon Tea at the "Tea on the Tiber" Tea Room in Ellicott City, MD. It was delicious and almost as fancy as the tea many of us had enjoyed on the Isle of Man during the North American Manx Association Convention. We enjoyed the sandwiches, cakes and delicious choices of tea in the Grand Parlor. We used the time to decide on the 10th of January for our 12th Night Pot Luck and to listen to Jim Kneale tell us



about the boat he and Faith have refurbished. Jim will be hosting the 2016 Convention, which will obviously have a nautical theme as it will be held in Annapolis, MD home of the Naval Academy.

THE MINNESOTA MANX SOCIETY

Our last meeting was at the Anoka library and history center in downtown Anoka (the Halloween capital of the world). The Meeting started off with a relaxing 30 minutes of mingling and filling up plates with all variety of food. Everyone eventually settled in and Jim Anderson read out the latest treasures report.

Next Janice Leafer shared a compilation of her family tree. She also showed a picture of her grandfather who was an electrician for a mining operation until he died in the 1920's of the influenza epidemic. Then Marilyn Anderson mentioned the she had found a free software download on the church



of latter day saints website. After that the Rev. Stephen Schiatberger started his presentation on his trip to Isle of Man. First he talked about the business from the board and how they want to find ways

of increase the youth in NAMA. Then he started his fabulous online slide show showing fairy trees, historic buildings, flowers and many other really cool sites. He and his wife shared stories about their trip to end the presentation. Sally Dahlquist then called the names for this meetings raffle. After that Amy Rudnitski gave a brief explanation on the Handouts she brought. The first handout was on Manx Halloween traditions and the second was on paranormal activity on the isle. Sally then concluded the meeting.



CATHEDRAL ISLE OF MAN

Cathedral Isle of Man – the Island's Cathedral – has launched a major campaign to develop the facilities on site for use not only of the worshipping community, but for the general public and visitors to the Island. The vision to expand the Cathedral's offering is complex, and will require £10 million of investment:

The Dean, the Very Revd Nigel Godfrey, and his team are delighted with progress to date, and with HRH The Princess Royal as their Patron, the Cathedral has already raised over £1 million. This has enabled development work to begin on various areas, updates of which can be seen on the website.

The Cathedral is now looking to reach out to supporters across the world, as well as on the Isle of Man, and would welcome communication from friends in the North American Manx Association. The Campaign Manager Val Garrett can be contacted via campaign@cathedral.im or +44 (0)1624 844830 to discuss the projects and how to donate, including naming recognition for particularly generous gifts. Those wanting to make a gift in the US can do so tax effectively through Cathedral Isle of Man's partner Cathedral in San Diego, the details are as follows: **Cathedral Church of Saint Paul, 2728 Sixth Avenue, San Diego, CA 92103. Contributions should be clearly designated as being for Cathedral Isle of Man. For further information re giving via the Cathedral Church of St Paul please contact Erin Sacco Pineda (pinedaes@stpaulcathedral.org) or Christine Spalding (spaldingc@stpaulcathedral.org, 619-298-7261).**

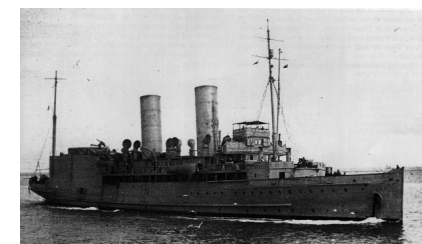


THE ISLE OF MAN AND THE FIRST WORLD WAR

The Isle of Man played an important role in World War One, supplying troops and vessels and running special camps for the internment of enemy aliens. Official records show that 8,261 men enlisted in the armed forces, which was 82.3% of the Isle of Man's male population of military age. Of these, 1,165 gave their lives and 987 were wounded. 269 officers and men from the Isle of Man gained high honors during the Great War, with practically all the main battlefronts represented.

Internment

The Isle of Man was used by the British Government for the internment of enemy aliens during both World War One and World War Two. During 1914-1919 there were two large camps on the Island, at Douglas and Knockaloe near Peel. The first was a requisitioned holiday camp, while the second was



HMS Ben-my-Chree (circa 1915)

purpose-built using prefabricated huts and even had its own railway link. Large numbers of internees were held for up to five years until the camps finally closed in 1919.

The Isle of Man Steam Packet Company had a distinguished military record. During the Great War, 11 out of a total of 15 Steam Packet Company vessels were requisitioned by the Admiralty, four of which were lost, three retained by the Government and four returned to service some four years later. One particular vessel worthy of mentioning is the *Ben My Chree*, which was converted into a seaplane carrier. She made history when one of her aircraft became the first ship-launched plane to sink an enemy vessel. The *King Orry*, which was attached to the British Grand Fleet, had the distinction of leading part of the German High Seas Fleet into the Firth of Forth to surrender.

The Manx Museum

A year-long exhibition at the Manx Museum, entitled "This Terrible Ordeal," seeks to chart the impact of WWI on the people of the Isle of Man. The conflict turned the lives of men, women, and children upside down. No one was left untouched by it. As the Convention visitors will recall from July when we were given a private tour of this exhibition, it is a very moving tribute to the Fallen and the people of Mann.

The exhibition marks the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War in 1914, and looks at the varied experience of people on the Isle of Man during the conflict.

The accounts of soldiers on the battlefields in this first industrialised war form a significant part of the exhibition, but the First World War was a total conflict in which the fighting spread to the seas and oceans of the world, as well as affecting the lives of those on the home front. Large sections of the exhibition are devoted to maritime and civilian experiences, as well as the impact of the internment of enemy aliens upon Manx life.

As far as possible, the participants in this terrible conflict describe their experiences and their reactions to it in their own words. The exhibition also features a number of unique and important objects, many of which have never been on public display before.

Perhaps the most poignant of these is the original wooden cross which marked the grave of a Manx soldier on the Ypres battlefield in 1917. Another intensely personal item is the lock of his daughter's hair carried in the wallet of another Manx soldier in the battles of the Western Front. On show is a reconstructed section of an original Knockaloe hut which housed internees from 1915 to 1918, and the petition signed by around 2,000 Manx people calling for the removal of the Lieutenant Governor, Lord Raglan, because of his refusal to help those in financial difficulties due to the war.

The curator of the exhibition, Matthew Richardson, commented:

"The opening of 'This Terrible Ordeal' marks the culmination of nearly two years of research and planning. Throughout this work, our objective has been to allow the Manx people who lived through these momentous years to speak for themselves, through their letters, diaries and memories. We have worked hard to try to ensure that every section of society is represented here, and so we present the experiences of men, women and even children packing parcels for soldiers. As well as those engaged in fighting, or working in munitions factories, we acknowledge that there was opposition to the war at the time, and we present the story of one of the Manx conscientious objectors who was imprisoned for refusing to enlist".

The exhibition has drawn together material not just from the collections of Manx National Heritage but also material loaned by many private individuals, both on and off the Island, and from other museums and institutions. The exhibition runs for the whole of 2014 and is supported by a range of public lectures, workshops and other events throughout the year.

North American Manx Association

Kelly McCarthy

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Alexandria, VA 22307



MANX NATIONAL ANTHEM

OH LAND OF OUR BIRTH,
OH GEM OF GOD'S EARTH,
OH ISLAND SO STRONG AND SO FAIR;
BUILT FIRM AS BARROOL,
THY THRONE OF HOME RULE
MAKES US FREE AS THY SWEET MOUNTAIN AIR.

(SIX VERSES FOLLOW)

THEN LET US REJOICE
WITH HEART, SOUL AND VOICE,
AND IN THE LORD'S PROMISE CONFIDE;
THAT EACH SINGLE HOUR
WE TRUST IN HIS POWER
NO EVIL OUR SOULS CAN BETIDE.