

N A M A



NORTH AMERICAN MANX ASSOCIATION

VOL 86, No.1

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

Spring 2015



WE'RE GOING TO CANADA!

As everyone who attended the last Convention is aware, the current president of the North American Manx Association is very keen to rekindle enthusiasm and support for Canadian Manx societies. So when the Montreal Celtic Society invited us to participate in Celtic MTL 2015, we eagerly agreed.



Celtic MTL 2015 is a convention to promote and educate the population about the Celtic Nations including: Irish, Cornish (Cornwall, UK), Manx, Bretons (Brittany, France), the Welsh, Scottish, and Galicians (Galicia, Spain).

This convention will have numerous Celtic societies and organizations who will be present to show-

case their heritage, and introduce themselves to people who are interested in learning more about their Celtic background and Celtic culture in general. Furthermore, this show will also comprise of artists, musicians, guest speakers, and performances by locals and visitors from outside of Montreal. This event will have the Celtic spirit in many different varieties!

The North American Manx Association will be hosting a booth at the Montreal Celtic Gathering over May Day weekend. All Celts are warmly invited to attend and we hope to see you there! **If you have Canadian relatives who can get to Montreal, please let them know about this event. For more details check out their website: <http://www.montrealcelticsociety.org>.**

MESSAGE FROM THE TREASURER

Effective January 2015, all membership dues are due. If your bulletin says "Term - Lifetime" membership, you are paid FOREVER. If your membership term is yearly, the annual dues are \$15 for an individual or \$20 for a family.

Please look at the cover of this newsletter, above your name and address; if it says "please pay" and either \$15 or \$20, make your check payable to NAMA and mail it to John Prendergast NAMA Treasurer, 10251 S. Bell Ave., Chicago, IL 60643-1901 (The form is on page 3)



LAXEY WHEEL REPAIRS

A crucial maintenance program has begun at the world's largest working waterwheel, The Great Laxey Wheel. (Photo on back page.)

Designed by the Victorian engineer, Robert Casement, the wheel was completed in 1854 to pump water from the depths of the Laxey mines using water from Glen Mooar to power the wheel. The impressive 72.5 feet diameter structure found immediate popularity and has remained one of the Island's most iconic and dramatic tourist attractions for over 150 years.

The famous waterwheel, Lady Isabella was last repainted between winter 2003 and spring 2004 in time for her 150th anniversary celebrations. As part of her planned cyclical maintenance program, she has recently been clad with scaffolding in preparation for the next program of repairs and redecoration, through the winter of 2014/15.

In 2013, priority preservation work was completed on the T-Rocker, which once helped prevent flooding to the Great Laxey Mine by pumping water from the mine. Works involved

(continue to next page)

strengthening the main timber beams of the T-Rocker, which are some of the last remaining original timber elements of the Great Laxey Mine.

In preparation for the next phase of works, surveys were conducted reveal the full extent of repairs required to the historic structure. The surveys revealed that work was needed on the stone masonry on the wheel housing, together with timber repairs to both the cladding and the wheel structure. Initial works will involve cleaning the waterwheel, followed by removal of vegetation and fungicidal treatment to both woodwork and masonry. A complex tank structure will be built below the waterwheel to prevent biocides washing into the river. Old render, which has suffered decay caused by natural weathering, will be replaced, and then the wheel, housing, risers and viewing platform will be re-painted.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Kelly,

I want to express my appreciation for the article on "Glass Slides Donated to the Manx Museum" in the last edition of the NAMA Bulletin as well as to express my sincere thanks to Brad Prendergast for delivering these slides in person to Mr. Edmund Southworth, director of the Manx Museum, during the last NAMA Convention on the Isle of Man. Not only did Brad hand carry these rather heavy glass slides on several flights safely all the way to the Isle of Man, but he also undertook the task of making high-resolution digital images of them so that they could be retained for future generations of NAMA members for research purposes here in the United States.

I'd like to recount a few interesting anecdotes and information on the origin of these slides. They were used in a lecture entitled "Manxland and the Manx" which my father, Walter Stevenson, presented about 75-100 times in the Chicago area from about 1935 to 1965. The lecture was quite popular as entertainment in the days before 35mm slides or TV were even heard of. On several occasions Mrs. Walgreen, of the Walgreen drug store fame, sponsored the lecture. One of these times was at the Art Institute of Chicago in one of their program series held in their large, rather famous Fullerton hall. At the end of the program my Dad used to sing several renditions of Max songs, some in the Manx language in his rich bass-baritone voice. As a child I managed to carry a rather large Max cat up to the front of the auditorium for viewing. Many had never seen a Manx cat. My mother operated the rather large lantern that was on a tripod. (This lantern, with accompanying slides, was donated to NAMA

around 1990. Norman and Joan Gill picked it up at my home in Scottsdale, Arizona on their way back to Minnesota one year). The entire lecture was shown at the NAMA Convention in Minneapolis in 1994.

Again, my sincere thanks for everyone's participation with regard to the final home for my father's slides. He would have been so honored to have known of it.

Sincerely,
Myrra Johnson

APPEAL FOR HELP

Dear NAMA,

My name is John Murray. I am a retired lawyer (Solicitor) and now resident in Douglas, Isle of Man. I have had a long-standing fascination with the "War between the States" and have visited CW battlefield sites regularly since the 1990s. I am a member of the American Civil War Round Table (United Kingdom). I located your email addresses on the Contacts list of the North American Manx Association website.

The purpose of this email enquiry is to ascertain if your organization can put me in contact with anyone with knowledge of Manx involvement in the CW. I have been researching Manxmen and the CW for the past three years and have to date located some 50 or so individuals (mostly Manx-born but some of Manx descent) who served with the Blue or the Gray. I have obtained their Compiled Military Service Records from the National Archives in Washington and, in respect of a handful, their Military Pension Files. I have also researched their unit histories to try to piece together their wartime service. (Some of my research has featured on Manx Radio and in the *Isle of Man Examiner*.) I would like to find out about others, particularly those who served in Confederate forces.

I have had a number of articles published on CW related issues including one on a Manxman who fought for a Pennsylvania regiment and who, after the end of his term of service, returned to the IOM where he is buried.

Any help that you could provide would be most welcome as I am hoping to publish a book on my researches.

Regards,
John Murray
johnmurray@manx.net

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 MEMBERSHIP		
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 MEMBERSHIP		
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 made out to North American Manx Association or money order to John Prendergast.

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

Total Remittance

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

ONLY SEND MONEY TO: **John Prendergast**

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

Please advise John if you change your address.

..... Detach Here



HISTORY IN HEELS

Manx National Heritage is looking to highlight the untold stories of women in the Isle of Man's history in a series of pop-up displays and events in seven of its venues around the Island.



From March to December 2015, *History in Heels* lets you follow in the footsteps of the women who made Mann. From a Civil War Countess to the fastest woman round the TT course, History in Heels takes a fresh and surprising approach to some of the remarkable Island women and their personal histories.

Co-curator of History in Heels, Jude Dicken said;

"We couldn't possibly tell the whole story of women's history on the Isle of Man. We also wanted to do something

other than an exhibition, and that's when we came up with the idea of 'pop-ups'. We asked ourselves, what we are the stories about women we either don't tell or only partially reveal at our sites. How can we begin to introduce these women to our visitors, get them to hear their voices and think about their stories, perhaps in relation to issues facing women today. Not surprisingly we soon found countless stories to share.

The flexibility of the locations and the differences in the stories has allowed us to be quite theatrical with some displays, in others you'll simply hear from the words of the women themselves, and some will be told in the very location they happened. We're also very excited about using social media to share women's stories and encouraging fun and debate at our History in Heels events."

History in Heels spans women through the centuries, beginning with the Pagan Lady to prisoners at Castle Rushen to the era of Miss Isle of Man and the bathing beauties. Other themes include working women, women in politics and women interned during the wars. It also proudly celebrates the 65th anniversary of the formation of the Isle of Man Women's Institute from its beginnings in Lezayre in 1949.



THE CABIN UP NORTH

BY STEPHEN SCHAITBERGER, NAMA CHAPLAIN

My great grandfather, Thomas E. Nelson, emigrated to the US from the Isle of Man. Waves of Manx found the Mid Western states to their liking: Water and woods were part of the draw. Great grandfather sought spiritual refuge in the cabin up north on Lake Minnewawa. He lived into his 90s and passed his cabin on to he son Clarence who kept the cabin pretty much as he received except for the constant replacement of rotting timbers and repaired worn out doors and windows.

The cabin was basic. The four outside walls were not insulated. The rafters were made up of logs that held up a center ridge to which rough-cut lumber was attached to a slightly pitched roof. Tarpaper roofing kept us almost dry. Inside everything was exposed; the walls and ceiling studs and rafters were uncovered. There were no interior walls. Great grandpa hung ‘curtains’ on twine to insure privacy. He built his cabin for multiple use and flexibility long before these concepts were popular. There were lots of windows facing the lake but just one on each of the other three walls. I was too short to look out of windows not facing the lake.

Thomas knew how to multitask. There was a huge wood stove that served for heating the cabin and for cooking. There were chores to do. Dead trees were cut and stacked to dry. I learned early that firewood heated you up several times before it reached the stove.

We had an indoor sink but no running water. We did have a small hand pump inside the house, which was quite a luxury but you had to have a pail of water handy to prime the pump if you wanted to get more water. Water from the sink drained into a bucket that had to be emptied into the woods every morning as part of the chores. There was a large water pump outside that I could barely operate.

In my earliest memory there was no electricity at the cabin. There were a few oil lamps that dimly lit up the cabin and slowly smoked up the place if the wind wasn’t blowing enough to create a draft. All this insured that bedtime followed soon after sunset. After electricity was installed we kept the lamps handy as electric service was off as much as it was on.

There was no plumbing. We had an outhouse. It was a one-holer. Every three or four years we had to move it because the odor was unbearable. It was not an easy task.

First we had to have a spot that was not a former outhouse site. These sites were marked with “signs” that had become obscure. So, in effect, we had only oral history about where the past sites had been. Digging was through rocky ground that was highly unstable and had to be shored up by precious logs that could have been better used as firewood. Grandpa thought we were getting soft and wasteful when my dad added a toilet seat to cover the hole. Before that luxury there was just a wooden board that plopped down over the hole. The toilet paper was inside a coffee can and it was always damp. If you didn’t like spiders....

We had an icebox. It was cooled by ice, of course. We retrieved the ice from the general store. They had an icehouse behind the store where cubic foot blocks of ice were packed in sawdust. Huge tongs were used to carry the block to a washing platform where we pumped water for cleaning. Getting ice was always the last stop before returning home. A large chunk filled about one third of the icebox.

Did you know that grandpa had no lawn mower at the cabin up north! The yard was a nature wonderland and he and grandma taught us about plants and wild flowers. We picked blueberries in the back yard and some caught poison oak in the front yard. All this changed the day the lawn mower arrived.

This brings me to a spiritual summary. In spite of the primitive conditions the cabin up north drew us every weekend to its humble values. Kids and parents and grandparents and pets all interrelated and had fun together. We learned to share, to do our part for the common good, to do extra work when someone was sick, and to have adventures together. We told stories and shared our dreams. We rejoiced in wonder and awe. And returned to the busy life of plumbing and electricity with renewed gratitude and appreciation for God’s wonderful world and the people with whom we shared the journey.

Immigrants especially needed the cabin “up north”. If I have any regrets it is that for most of us the cabin up north has morphed into a lake home that is almost identical to the place back home. And we have fewer places that help us reveal the magic of wonder and awe, fairies and dragons, elves and gnomes. These are the primitive basic “realities” that help us reach our human potential and our spiritual depth. Pray that you might have a “cabin up north” in your life. Our Manx heritage speaks of such places as “thin” places where earth and heaven touch each other. The Isle of Man has many such thin places. Let us rejoice in them.

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Trustees

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Bill Cassidy, Alexandria, VA

After many years of service Joyce Benjamin has decided to step down as Trustee. The North American Manx Association is truly grateful for her massive contribution to the Association and thanks her for her support and enthusiasm.



RECIPE: UNNI RIISIPUURI

(FINNISH RICE PUDDING)

Although this is not technically Manx, Jeff Looney, a member of the Washington Manx Society has submitted this Norse dish because it always go down so well at their Twelfth Night celebration, and aside from the almond - it could be a Manx rice pudding!

1 C. long-grain white rice	3 C. milk
¼ C. melted butter	½ C. sugar
3 large eggs	½ tsp. salt
½ C. unblanched almonds, sliced	
1 tsp. powdered cinnamon (or nutmeg)	

Preheat oven to 350°F. Cook the rice uncovered, in rapidly boiling water until it is tender, but not mushy. Drain and rinse in cold water. Beat together the milk, melted butter,

sugar, eggs and salt. Combine with the cooked rice and pour into a well-buttered, two-quart, oven-to-table dish. Mix the unblanched almonds with the cinnamon and sprinkle over the pudding. Bake for about one hour or until the pudding is as firm as desired. Press the whole almond into the pudding and cover the hole. Serve hot or chilled. Pass around a pitcher of light cream.



Finns believe that whoever finds the almond in the Christmas rice pudding gets general good luck for the year. Danes say that the finder will marry within the year. Swedes give whomever finds it a lucky marzipan pig.



AND SOMETIMES Y

And Sometimes Y Manx Morris and Sword, the teen dancers based in Massachusetts who received the 2014 NAMA Youth Award recently performed Manx dances in Toronto to admiring audiences.

ASY were invited to the two-day Toronto Morris gathering, and danced in many venues over the Labor Day weekend. Their offerings were well received, and many people wanted



to learn more about Manx dances.

This spring, ASY will perform at the New England Folk Festival Association's annual two-day gathering, April 25-26 in Mansfield, Massachusetts.

This will be another opportunity to showcase Manx culture to a wide audience of folklorists. Please tell your friends.

ASY will perform most weekends in May throughout Massachusetts.



NAMA CONVENTION UPDATES

2016 - June 24-26. This will be hosted by 1st Vice-President Jim Kneale and will be held in historic Annapolis, MD. The host venue will be the O'Callaghan Annapolis Hotel, which is based in Dublin, Ireland and prides itself on being a true touch of Ireland.

Annapolis was selected over locations in downtown Washington DC because it is easier to navigate and significantly less expensive. Like Peel, Douglas, or Port St Mary on the Isle of Man, Annapolis is a port with a rich seafaring history. It is reasonably safe, walkable, and the home of the US Naval Academy.

Among the activities being investigated are a private cruise aboard a pair of schooners, touring the Naval Academy/historic Annapolis, and charting a bus to see the museums in downtown DC.

2018 Update: Katy Prendergast will be organizing the 2018 convention update. This summer, she's hitting the road to see if we could hold a successful meeting in Cleveland or Toronto, and to see if we can encourage either of these formerly large Manx societies to blossom again.



NEWS FROM THE WORLD MANX ASSOCIATION

Our very good friend, Leslie Hanson became the new President of the World Manx Association (WMA) at the AGM held in March, succeeding Peter Kelly who had completed his five-year term of office. The World Manx Association



is the umbrella organization for all the numerous Manx Societies around the world. Handing over the chain of office, Peter commented that Leslie would make an excellent President having many connections with the Manx Societies in America and he has at his own expense travelled to the States for the biannual North American Manx Association congress for several years. Leslie's mother, the late Betty Hanson, was President of the WMA in the 1980s and whilst Leslie has tended to hide his light under a bushel, Peter said he has many hidden talents and is a very capable person. Congratulations, Leslie, we hope to see you in Annapolis next year!



SOCIETY NEWS

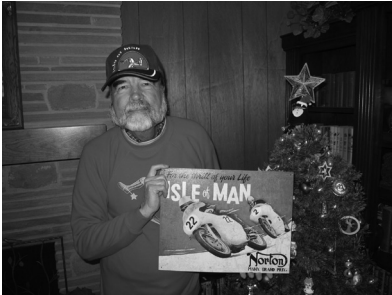
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA MANX

The NorCal Manx held their annual Christmas Cooish on January 11, 2015. (Traa dy liooar) at our 'home base,' the residence of Kim Parker and Peter Herrera. We are always made welcome there. Organized by Social Director Una Reed, we had a very good turnout with old friendships renewed.

Everyone was glad to hear about the progress of the Manx DNA Project. Of great interest were the results on Far(a)gher, Kermode, Cormode, and Cain(e) family names. Along with this, Elaine Stephenson presented her family history research going back seven generations to Charles Caine, married to Elizabeth Bell, in 1823 in Malew.

Geoffrey Smith, Communications Director, is constantly working on updating our email lists, and we are also working on finding previous members with whom we have lost contact.

A list of web sites with special meaning for NAMA members is being developed and will be circulated to our group. And a Summer Cooish/BBQ is tentatively scheduled for July 19, 2015.



This is something that I received last Christmas (2013).

It was given to me by family members who found it at a pharmacy/gift shop in Cedar City, Utah.

Jack Cormode, 13085 Franklin Avenue, Mountain View, CA 94040, (650) 961-6117, jarmode@comcast.net

GREATER WASHINGTON AREA MANX SOCIETY



We held our annual 12th Night party in Springfield, VA. Our Old Year was swept out and the New Year welcomed by a ferocious Viking (Marc Blaydoe, of the Viking Longship Company) who as you can see he came fully armed!

We played parlor games like Ramsey Swap, Pass the Parcel but had to forgo finding the

Manx Cat's tail as we had no little ones at this event, for the first time in years.

We discussed the possibility of going out on one of the longships during the summer, something we've done before and enjoyed immensely. Jim Kneale has also offered to host a cocktail party aboard his glamorous sailing vessel, which he and Faith have restored to pristine glory.

CHICAGO MANX SOCIETY

The Chicago Manx Society held a meeting at the Norwood Crossing Retirement Home, sponsored by Richard and Marylee Corrin. There were 12 people in attendance. We had a lovely dinner at their Snapdragon Restaurant.

After dinner, we gathered in their meeting room, and the meeting was called to order. Minutes of the prior meeting were read, corrected, and approved. The treasurer's report was read and approved.

We had a lively meeting with lots of chatter. Brad brought some old Manx coins, from 1813 and 1839, as well as a old guinea note from the 1790's. It was one of the notes issued by the Manx Fencibles, a military volunteer troop that was raised to occupy Castle Rushen while the regular army troops were away.

Katy Prendergast reported on the 2018 Convention, and the possible sites of Cleveland, Toronto, or Seattle/Vancouver. The next meeting will be held at the home John and Mary Prendergast on Sunday, June 14, 2015, at 1PM. If you will be in Chicago, please let us know. We would be happy to have you join us.



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**

Regular updates: Our blog is used to update members on events of interest to Americans of Manx descent. Guest authors from the Isle of Man make regular additions. You should visit often! <http://namanx.blogspot.com>.



Like Facebook???? We're on Facebook at North American Manx Association.

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.

North American Manx Association

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The Great Laxey Wheel is undergoing repairs