

N A M A



NORTH AMERICAN MANX ASSOCIATION

VOL 87, No.4 To preserve "Whatever is left to us of our ancient heritage." T.E. Brown Winter 2016



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Members,

As the holidays approach, some of us may be sharing it with relatives who we rarely see. The divisiveness of recent US elections has released so much acrimony that any political discussion can quickly esca-

late into something ugly. Time to change the subject before my daughter stuffs cousin Mike's face into the green bean casserole.

This is an excellent opportunity to share our rich heritage with a new generation. Here are some ways to change the topic:

- Tynwald is the oldest continuous democracy and dates back over 1000 years to the Vikings
- Most of the members of the house of Keys are independents. With no structured opposition, every issue is debated on its own merits and by consensus.
- The Isle of Man was one of the first countries to give women the vote in 1881
- It led the way as the first country in Western Europe to allow 16 and 17 year olds to vote in national elections.
- The Isle of Man operates a simple taxation regime with a lower rate of tax on individuals of 10%, a higher rate of 20% and generous personal allowances with a US\$155,000 income tax cap on personal income
- Based on the 2015 IOM earnings survey, the bottom 10 percent of workers earned less than \$388 per week. The top 10 percent earned more than \$1424.
- The unemployment rate is 1.2%
- The budget is balanced and a small surplus is forecast for the 2016-17 financial year

Just plant the seeds. The next generation might not get involved this year, but it might encourage further exploration of this awesome place.

Jim Kneale

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 4)



ON BEING MANX, BY GEORGE WATTERSON

I have not lived on the Island for almost 60 years but I am proud to say I am Manx. My home was 34 Tynwald Street in Douglas which was bulldozed a few years back to make room for an elder care facility.

One of my favorite pastimes as a child was sitting on the front step talking with my Grandad. When I was about 11 years old, my Grandfather was 84. One day he took me for a walk down to Douglas Promenade and I coaxed him to take me out in a rowing boat on Douglas Bay. Boy! did I get a bad scolding when I got home when I told my Mom what I had done. He was a Shimmin, born in 1867 and as Manx as the hills.

I have happy memories fishing with my Dad off the Queen Victoria and Peel piers. Another activity that comes to mind is scavenging with my Dad on Douglas Beach. This was before metal detectors came on the scene. We would take trowels and work over the sand at the point of the high tide water line. We never found anything of value but did go home with a few shillings in coins.

I am very proud of my Dad. He served in the Manx Regiment during WW2. I was two months-old when he went off to war in 1940 and 5 ½ years old when he returned to the Isle of Man in 1945.

(continued page 2)



My Manx ancestry names include Watterson, Moore, Morrison, Shimmin, Corrin, Fargher, Craine, Costain, Sayle, and Lowee. Can't get more Manx than that!

My schools growing up were Tynwald Street, Demesne Road, Ballakermeen and St. Ninians. (Photo is a screen shot of Tynwald School, from the iMuseum.im)

I have retained some of my Manx accent, and quite often someone will ask where I come from. When I reply the Isle of Man, in most cases the response is "where is that." They seem no wiser when I say in the Irish Sea south of Scotland. Anyway, I get an opportunity here to pass on a brief history of the Island. When I say I am Manx sometimes the reply is "like the cat."

I now live in Spokane Valley, Washington. My wife, Carol, and I lived in San Diego for many years before relocating to Washington. I served several years as President and Secretary/Treasurer of the San Diego Manx Society and have retained membership in the Society and I am a member of NAMA.

My journey to Washington starts in 1956. I finished high school and had a summer job working for Keig Photography. At the end of September the job ended and it was time to look for a permanent job. My Dad was friendly with the Engineer Superintendent of the Isle of Man Steam Packet Company and asked him if there were any openings within the Steam Packet Company. He said no, but that he would talk with his contacts at the Cammell Laird Shipbuilding Company in Birkenhead, England. In early January 1957, I travelled to Birkenhead with my Dad for an interview and got the job.

On January 24, 1957, I left the Isle of Man to start work as an Apprentice Engine Fitter. Upon finishing my apprenticeship, I joined the Cunard Steamship Company as a marine engineer in September 1962. The ship I was on carried cargo across the Atlantic to New York and other east coast ports. I left Cunard and immigrated to the USA in February 1965. I married my American-born wife, Carol, in June 1965 and we lived in New York before moving to California in 1972. And then we moved to Washington State in 2010. So here I am, 60 years after leaving Ellan Vannin, an American Citizen living in Spokane Valley, Washington USA.

I am proud to say that I am British by birth, Manx by the grace of God and American by choice.



WHAT THE ISLE OF MAN MEANS TO ME

In 1998, Mary Kelly and I went to the Isle of Man as part of the preparations for the NAMA Convention to be held there in the Year 2000.

Along the way, Mary and I met with Emma Christian who had a show on Manx Radio. Emma was going to interview us for her show.

Talking beforehand, Emma asked me what was such an attraction for me to the Island.

My main point was that it was the rich history of the 'purple-misted isle.'

During the interview, Emma brought up the point "...then it's the history that you find so special?'

I threw her a curve by replying something like 'Oh, no. It's the people, the family connections.'

Emma handled it like a pro, didn't miss a beat and went on with the interview.

But the incident got me thinking. What was it that made the Isle of Man so special to me?

As much as I like to think of myself as a rational, realistic, grounded person, I have to admit that the Isle of Man has a special, even mystical hold over me.

The feelings that I have are for family, culture, friends, history and anything else that creates a total sense of belonging.

By Jack Cormode



I'M AS MANX AS THE HILLS!

My interest in the NAMA can solely be attributed to my family; specifically my grandmother. As the granddaughter of Florence Kneale – Prendergast – Abbinanti, the Isle of Man is literally in my DNA! Many of the NAMA members have met my grandma at some time in their lives. My first conven-

tion was at some point in the early 90s when Board Member Sally Dalquist was hosting the convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota. I got to work on the center pieces (pink carnations in a vase on sliver crackle plates) and it left a lasting impression. I have been to quite a few of the conventions since then, and my love of this organization has grown. I have had the privilege of going back to the motherland twice; once for a convention in the 90s and once for a Homecoming in 2005. At both of these events I got to drive-by the house on the promenade where my grandmother lived as a child. I have met and kept in touch with many of my family members on the island, specifically the Holmes clan (David, Stephen and Andrew). While I identify myself as American, I am very proud of my Celtic roots.

My path to ending up on the Board is simple. My uncle, Brad Prendergast, nominated me and everyone on the board agreed and so did the membership at the NAMA General meeting. That was 6 years ago at the Platteville Convention. Since then I have slowly ascended to the role of vice-president. It's hard to say who is more excited about my upcoming presidency; my family, my co-workers (they are all about the sword and livery collar) or myself. It is great to know that I am part of an organization that is all about conserving a part of my heritage.

As most of you know the 2018 convention will be where I will become the President of the North American Manx Association. The convention will be held June 21st- 24th in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada at the Grand Pacific Hotel (photo). More details will be posted on the website and in subsequent mailings. If you have any questions in the interim you can email me at katyprendergast@gmail.com, please use NAMA as the subject line so you do not accidentally get deleted as junk mail.



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	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	_____			

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.

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



GENEALOGY LESSON FROM NAMA
GENEALOGIST LUCY PETERSON
FINDING NEW NAMES



In the past, we have talked about gathering and organizing your family history items. Then we gave ways to put your information together on pedigree and family group sheets and in folders or binders. Finally, we looked into documenting the records we have with (hopefully) primary sources and/or getting several sources for the same informa-

tion. Each item (birth, marriage, death) should be documented. We've given you lots of time to complete these tasks, so, by now, your charts should look pretty good with well-documented families going back to your great-grandparents or beyond.

So, what is next? There are some choices. Choices #1 and #2 will eventually lead you to #3.

1. If you have a lot more information on the tree you have gathered, you might consider documenting farther back (at least a generation or two) and filling in the families of the ancestors for whom you already have probable names. It might get tedious if you have a lot, so decide to go back a one or two more generations on all lines and then do every name going back on the line you choose for #3. Remember that in the past, a lot of good research was done, but there was no thought of citing sources, so we need to make sure what we have is correct. And these sources can give you clues to other family. Also, some sources may not have been available back then, and those new sources could change our conclusions. This has happened to me. So, be sure to document the lines you are actively working on.

2. If you just have a little more information going back – a few more names here and there on the pedigree – I would certainly try to document them and make sure they are right. Then, you could continue working with those families or move on to #3. Eventually, when you run out of names, they will become part of choice 3.

3. Choose an empty space on your pedigree and begin the process of finding the next generation. It is totally your choice who you search. There is no priority.

Working on choice 1 or 2 is the same that you have already been doing – document the information you already have. Choice 3 is a bit different. When you see a blank on your pedigree chart, you want to make sure that you find everything possible about the person you do know about. Go from what you know to find what you don't know.

To make that a bit clearer, here is an example. The last name on one of your lines is John Shimmin. You know his death, but not his birth. You don't know who his parents are. That is the question you are asking: "Who are the parents of John Shimmin?" With this example, you can see that it is almost a silly question as stated, because I have given you no clue as to which John Shimmin we mean. Obviously, there were many men with this name. Once in a blue moon you will find someone with a unique name, but not often and certainly not often in the generations we are looking at. So, your best method is to find out everything you can about your John Shimmin – where and when was he born, what was his occupation, when did he marry, what did he name his children (in birth order), did he move around, did he leave a will, was he in a will from a parent, uncle, aunt, brother, sister, etc., check his birth, marriage and death records, check every census on which he might be listed, etc. You might also check various records to see how many John Shimmins are in the area. This will help in narrowing down the correct one if there are several.

If you are able to find all this information, you will probably be able to tell which parents belong to your John. If you can find the actual birth record, it will name the parents, or at least, the father. But, there might be 2 or 3 with the same names. So, something such as a will (or several), the place they live, naming patterns of the children (although this is not as strong in the Isle of Man as some other places), occupation or another item will help to identify the correct family. Hopefully, you will find several items that point the right direction. Essentially, identify what records might exist and find him in them.

As you do this, you are following the genealogical research cycle:

1. Identify what you know.
2. Decide what you want to learn (ask a question).

3. Select records to search.
4. Obtain and search the records.
5. Evaluate and use what you learn.

And step #5 of the cycle will take you back to #1 as the information you find will create new questions about new people. For example, when you find John Shimmin's parents, you might want to know who his siblings are and then who are the grandparents... Sometimes this process can be frustrating if you can't find the records or find your people in those records. But there is nothing like making a breakthrough and adding an ancestor to your family tree. Make it fun! I'd love to hear about your experiences.



LOCAL SOCIETY NEWS

On September 18, the **Chicago Manx Society** held a lively meeting at the home of Margie and Doug Brazina. You all remember Margie leading the fantastic craft workshop at the Annapolis Convention last year. It was nice to be at her home and see some of the many craft items she has made. We had a great lunch, and a lively meeting followed. There were 12 people in attendance. Timing was perfect, and we were lucky to have two extra guests, David and Christine Holmes, who were visiting from the IOM at the meeting. There was a lot of talk about Brexit, and how that will affect the IOM. They both gave us a primer on the IOM government, including how both the Chief Minister and the other Ministers (like Laurence Skelly at the Department of Economic Development) are selected. There was discussion about the opposition to Laurence, and what was being said in the press about his operation at DED. The IOM elections were just days away, so we were unable to know how that was to turn out at the meeting. Of course, after the meeting concluded, Laurence was reelected, and was reappointed to as a minister to lead DED for another term. The Brexit discussion will be critical for the economic health of the IOM, and David and Christine did educate all of us on the various issues that might arise.

If you plan to be in the Chicago area, or have Manx friends or relatives in the Chicago area, we would like to meet. It does not have to be a formal, scheduled Chicago Manx meeting. We will make arrangements to meet as your schedule permits. Our network of Manx connections needs updating. We don't charge any dues in the Chicago Manx, and would be delighted to welcome both new members and guests who have an interest in the IOM. You can contact Brad Prendergast or Katy Prendergast (our email addresses are in the list of NAMA officers in this Bulletin).

Florence Abbinanti, Secretary

Everyone at the North American Manx Association wishes to extend our wishes for a speedy recovery to Florence who is recovering from a hip operation. We hear she is pretty much back up to speed but hasn't gotten behind the wheel --- yet. Watch out Chicago!

The North American Manx Association would like to offer our condolences on the passing of our long-time member, Mrs. Mary F. Hathaway of Galva, IL on July 30th, 2016. She had been a member for almost 30 years.

SAN DIEGO MANX SOCIETY

Even though you haven't heard from us for quite a while, we are "alive and well". We're meeting six times a year and have about eleven of our members that attend. Brian Harrison is our president. We try to attend events that have connections with the Isle of Man such as the Star of India Birthday, St George's day ceremony at St Paul's cathedral. Last year we were invited to the commissioning of the San Salvador galleon ship that is a replica of the ship Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo sailed into San Diego in 1542. The ship is part of the Maritime Museum which is also home of the Star of India.

Brian and his wife Hilary and George Watterson are the only members who were born on the island. Sadly, George and his wife Carol moved to Washington state a few years ago and are missed terribly. George was our treasurer/secretary for many years before they moved. They're still members and stay in touch with us.

Hilary went to the Isle of Man with her two adult grandchildren this past summer and was there for the Tynwald ceremony. That occasion reminds us of what a unique island we hail from. We must encourage the next generation to take an interest in the history of the island.

As we draw close to the Christmas season, we wish all of you a Happy, Healthy, Joyful Christmas and best wishes for 2017.

Hilary Harrison



GREATER WASHINGTON AREA MANX SOCIETY

We took our booth to the Central Virginia Celtic Fair at the Richmond Speedway.

This was a great (if very windy) event. Kearsley & Ed Waggoner, Bill Cassidy, Kelly & Bill McCarthy all made a weekend of it and stayed in Richmond. We spread the word about the Washington Manx and the North American Manx Association (NAMA) to many, many people. We even visited a swanky boutique hotel called "Quirk" to enjoy a restorative cocktail.

We signed up a couple of new members and met some really interesting people as you can see from the Scottish Stormtrooper in the photo! Thanks to NAMA for funding our registration and table space; we urge other Societies to take advantage of this funding for official Celtic Festival appearances.



Next year marks the 40th Anniversary of the founding of our Society. We have been reaching out and are gradually replacing members, having found five in the past couple of months. We hope that by hosting lots of small, fun events and publicizing them anywhere we can, that we may revitalize our Society.



If anyone is in the Washington, D.C. area on January 7th, you are very welcome to come to our **GWAMS 12th Night Dinner, Saturday, January 7th, 1006 Cameron Street, Alexandria, VA, 22314 from 2pm-5pm.** Let's kick off our Anniversary year with a party!

Kelly McCarthy

LIST OF NORTH AMERICAN MANX ASSOCIATION OFFICERS:

Honorary President

Lawrence "Larry" Fargher

Honorary Vice-Presidents

Noel Cringle, OBE, Isle of Man
Leslie Hanson, President World Manx Association

Immediate Past-President

Kelly McCarthy

Past Presidents

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Jack Cormode
Norm Standish
Brad Prendergast
Laurence Skelly, MHK
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Brad Prendergast to organize 2022 Convention

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CONNECT TO THE NORTH AMERICAN MANX ASSOCIATION

New Website with easy to type name!

www.namanx.org

Remember, the new website is www.namanx.org. The old website name will still work, but it will re-direct to the new one, as will namanx.com and northamericanmanx.com. Our blog is also hosted here which means you can remain updated on events of interest to Americans of Manx descent. 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. Also a great source of information for the next Convention. Guest authors from the Isle of Man make regular additions. You should visit often!

Regional societies take note, you need to keep your content updated, so either learn how to use WordPress and get Log-in credentials from Jim Kneale jim.kneale@gmail.com, or email us your information and we will post it for you. We're also on Facebook. Our pages are called North American Manx Association and NAMA Youth



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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Snæfell and Jack's 'purple-misted isle.' Thanks to Ray Collister for letting us use his fantastic photo.