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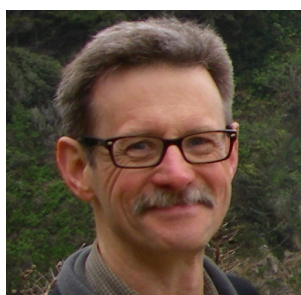


NORTH AMERICAN MANX ASSOCIATION

VOL 88, No.1 To preserve "Whatever is left to us of our ancient heritage." T.E. Brown Spring 2017



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Bannaghtyn! Greetings!

On March 20th I had the pleasure of attending the William Kennish memorial service in Brooklyn, New York. The occasion was to set a proper monument of engraved Manx granite on the previous unmarked grave in Green Wood

Cemetery. Rather than being a somber affair, this was truly a celebration of the life of a prolific Manx inventor of the Victorian era, on the 155th anniversary of his passing. To know more about him Google his name, there is a wealth of information in the internet about this man who would have been as famous as Mark Cavendish in his day.

Four generations of Kennish descendants were present, representing Manx and American sides of the family. The Isle of Man government was represented by Hon. Stephen Rodan, President of Tynwald. Commander Richard McHugh, an assistant Naval Attaché from the British Embassy represented the British Navy, which benefitted greatly from Kennish's methods of directing naval cannon fire. The Manx media was there as well, with manx.net TV producer, Paul Moulton.

Highlights of the proceeding and interviews with several participants are available on manx.net TV. The IOM does not have its own TV station but is not its broadcast TV from the BBC. However, Manx Telecom provides the next best thing, with on-demand TV news and events. The easiest way to get to the segments related to this event is to open manx.net in a web browser, click on "mt tv" in the green bar at the top, then enter "Kennish" in the MT TV search bar at the top. That will display all of the content related to this event (8 clips so far), as well as lots about other Kennishs as well!

Most NAMA members know the nuggets of information that we share about our Manx heritage when the topic comes up: world's oldest continuous parliament, TT races, Waking Ned, etc.

Message from the Editor

Please accept my apologies for the lateness of this Bulletin. Personal circumstances meant that time got away from me and the Spring issue is going to arrive a little later than I had intended. I'll try and catch up through the year. Kelly

Probably the most fun I had was at dinner the evening before, with the group that included several of William Kennish's American descendants. The conversation covered a broad range of topics, and I was able to fill them in on the Manx connections that they hadn't been aware of – especially telling a Bee Gees fan where the band was originally from.

The day of the ceremony was crisp and sunny. It was difficult to tear myself away from engineering shop talk at breakfast with organizer Bob Stimpson (who has over 500 patents). The proceedings began with a well-attended service in a historic chapel filled with stained glass at the cemetery. Fr Rundlett provided a welcome and introduction. Robert Stimpson discussed the resume of William Kennish. Hon Stephen Rodan and Commander Richard McHugh provided an address.

We then retired to the graveside. Stephen Rodan began an eloquent eulogy. It must have been exactly noon at the time, because the deep "bong" of church bells could be heard as he spoke. You can watch the address yourself on manx.net. The marker was unveiled by Bob Stimpson, whose determination in seeing a proper recognition for this *Manninagh Dooie* (True Manxman) was finally realized.

SMALL WORLD

The William Kennish memorial in Brooklyn NY included a brief chapel service at the cemetery. Most of the people arriving at the chapel were those with the group that we were expecting, but there were a few new faces.

There were also several who just poked their head in the door to see the ornate interior of the chapel. One was Miriam Kelly, who is an architect specializing in building conservation. We greeted her at the door and inquired if she was here for the William Kennish memorial. She responded no, she was asking about the Manx flag draped over the railing in front, and then she recognized Steve Rodan (President of Tynwald).



It turns out she is a Manxie from Port St Mary. She just happened to pop in at the right time - there was no indication of any Manx activity from the outside.

Jim Kneale



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.



2018 CONVENTION UPDATE:

I am excited and encouraged with the number of members who have reached out and expressed interest in the 2018 convention. In June of this year the NAMA board will hold their annual board meeting at the convention hotel. Among the many things that will be discussed is the schedule for the convention. Once everything has been finalized the bulletin and website will contain the relevant details. In the interim, please feel free to reach out to me with any question. I love hearing from you guys.

The convention will be held June 21st-24th 2018 in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada at the Grand Pacific Hotel (photo on back of this newsletter). 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.

Note to the Board: Our Annual Board Meeting will be held here during the weekend of June 24th-25th 2017.

Katy Prendergast



IT'S A WONDERFUL ACHIEVEMENT

Last year I (Kelly) was honored to present our North American Manx Awards to young Manx people in the Barrule Suite inside Tynwald. One of the recipients was Callum Brew who won his award for making an outstanding contribution while overcoming a disability. On the day of the Awards he decided to sing 'It's a Wonderful World' for us, and indeed he did make the world more wonderful for everyone who heard his magnificent voice. Usually, that would be the end of our story. But Callum has rewarded us more than I can possibly describe. Anne Minay, our Honorary Life Member who lives on the Island, and attended this event, brings us this news.

North American Manx Award winner Callum Brew appeared in the final of The Next Big Thing (a charity talent contest a

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)



Callum loves to perform. Since being a finalist in 'The Next Big Thing 2016' he has acted in The Lion King and is currently rehearsing for his role as Troy in High School Musical with the Kensington Road Youth Arts Centre.

Callum also has a passion for travel. In the future he would like to become a travel agent and help people get to their dream destinations.

This year Callum has chosen a song that has strongly influenced his life and would like to thank Ballakermeen High School and Nick Roberts for inspiring him over the years.

little bit like TV's *The X-Factor*) held at the Gaiety Theatre in Douglas. Callum was interviewed after his performance of Sam Smith's 'The Writing's On The Wall' by compere for the evening, James Turpin. James asked Callum which of all his performances did he consider the most important, the one that meant the most to him. Callum replied that it was singing 'It's a Wonderful World' following his presentation of the North American Manx award for overcoming a disability. Callum has Asperger's syndrome. He went on to say that he



Manx charity Junior Achievement has organised 'The Next Big Thing' talent competition for the last six years. The aim of the charity is to provide young people with a platform to showcase their talent but also to raise much needed funds to support our work.

Our charity gives young people the opportunity to interact and learn about the world of work. They learn that obtaining qualifications is just one part of their education and this must be combined with extracurricular activities to develop the skills valued by employers. To do this we recruit and train volunteers from business who go into the classroom to work with students.

Each year 5,000 Manx students benefit from the work of our charity. Junior Achievement now offers programmes to every primary and high school in the Isle of Man.

If you would like to support our charity please visit www.jaiom.im or log onto our facebook page [f juniorachievementisleofman](https://www.facebook.com/juniorachievementisleofman)

We hope you have an enjoyable evening and thank you for supporting the show.

has performed in a number of musicals but that performance is the outstanding one for him. Winning the award was very special to him. Although Callum didn't win the competition, his performance was very well received by the audience.

Isn't it great to hear that our encouragement is appreciated!



THE FIRST GREAT MANX HOMECOMING

BY MYRRA (STEVENSON) JOHNSON

It's hard to imagine when there were no homecomings to the green hills by the sea and the rocky shores of the little Isle of Man - it's been such a long time ago. But in 1926 a group was formed that decided it would be nice to make a trip to their homeland once again. It was the first time a trip as a group had been contemplated. Its success led to the creation of the

North American Manx Association. My father, Walter Stevenson, was instrumental in getting this group together and was their guide on the trip back to the little island. I came across some interesting information about this journey in looking through some files of his.

The Homecomers sailed on the chartered White Star liner "Albertic" leaving Montreal on June 3rd, 1927 about 4:00-5:00 a.m. They had had a banquet on board the ship the night before. The "Albertic" arrived in Quebec about noon, and the Homecomers had about 5 hours for sightseeing in that city. There were about 300 Manx people from the United States and Canada that made the trip to their homeland at this time. I looked at this number several times to make sure it was correct, as it was so large. However, I remembered that there were many people from the Isle of Man that had emigrated to the United States around the early 1900's (including my Dad and several other members of his family) - with large groups settling in Cleveland, Chicago and many parts of Wisconsin, some going as far as Vancouver, Canada. (I had some relatives who traveled to the latter).

After an eight-day ocean journey, they arrived in the Isle of Man on Saturday, June 11th at 8:00 a.m. in the morning. According to my Dad's notes, it was a beautiful day. There were about 50 to 70 people that were at the pier in Douglas to greet them, including the mayor of Douglas and other notables, as well as bands. It was a very exciting time for everyone. There was the Mayor's official reception for all the Homecomers early on. Another reception was held by the Douglas Council at the Villa Marina. For nearly two weeks there were "festive preparations" made for them everywhere, according to my father's hand written notes. The famous TT races were also held during the time that the Homecomers were there. The account says that they were treated royally during the entire time they were on the island.

A very interesting incident occurred during this first Homecoming visit, at least as far as my family was concerned. My father was a distinguished and experienced bass-baritone singer. He was known as "the Manx Basso". During the trip he was asked to sing as entertainment on one of the programs that was held during the ocean voyage. As well, in planning the festive dinner that was arranged for them at the Villa Marina in Douglas, my father was asked to sing. However, he said that he would need an accompanist to work with him. He was told that they would get one of the finest accompanists on the island who had just come back to the island after graduating from the Royal Academy of Music in London, a very reputable school. To make a long story short, a romance followed. My father became engaged to this accompanist, whose name was Doris Sale - but he had to follow through on his duties to bring

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.

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

the Homecomers back to the United States. It took him approximately a year to earn enough money to buy another round-trip ticket to the Island, as well as a one way ticket to bring my future mother back to the United States as his wife. They were married in Castletown on April 30, 1928. They did professional work in music shortly after they arrived in Chicago, and were known as the Stevenson Duo. A musical career together ensued. This was all due to the first Manx Homecoming in 1927!

It is unlikely that anybody is still living that went on that first great Homecoming trip. However perhaps their descendants or relatives might be able to tell some interesting anecdotal stories that had been passed down. It would be interesting to hear their reports on it. I don't happen to have the list of people that made that trip so long ago. I believe there were newspaper articles about it in some of my father's material that was donated to the Manx Museum at the University of Wisconsin in Platteville, Wisconsin, if anyone desired to look into it further.



**CLARION CALL TO ALL LOYAL
MANX WHERE EVER YOU ARE!**

We are writing to you as we hope that though you may live far away, you may keep strong links with your Manx roots, and will be happy to hear that one of the iconic landmarks of the Island has a real chance at last of being restored.

Ramsey Pier was built in 1886, designed by the foremost naval architect of the Victorian era – Sir John Coode, as one of his last works. It is the 6th longest pier in Great Britain at 684 meters long. Sir John also built and advised on harbors in Australia, New Zealand South Africa and all over the UK.

For 100 years the pier functioned as a dock for smaller shipping, a landing point, and an unparalleled recreational asset where people came from all over the island and beyond to ride on the little train, fish from its bays, and enjoy the superb view of the northern plain which borders the sea front of Ramsey and Maughold Head.



Over the last 20-30 years the Pier has sat forlornly empty and abandoned. Various attempts were made to work out what to do, both by individuals and the Government, but until last year, **nothing** happened. Now however, a group of retired engineers, naval officers and general Pier enthusiasts have by pure will power managed to convince the Government that something can be done. In the last year they have set up a Charitable Trust (The Queen's Pier Restoration Trust) with all its relevant officers, bank accounts etc. They were then authorized to undertake a full structural survey of the pier. By October every bay, strut and plank had been examined, filmed and structurally assessed. Amazingly the cast iron legs are still in good condition, and though many of the girders will need to be replaced, it is a relatively easy task. Even much of the 150-year-old teak planking is still in excellent condition! The railings, and some of the smaller artifacts are still safely in storage in Jurby.

Please be part of this great public effort and register your willingness to help us – in however small a way. Of course if you – or your children, could come over and spend a few months working with our volunteers in the workshops, in the replacing of defective elements or in cleaning down and repainting the good parts, you would be hugely welcome! As would your donation. *Tom Durrant, Chairman, Queen's Pier Restoration Trust.*

Facebook page: www.facebook.com/queenspiertrust
Website/donation page: <http://www.ramseypier.co.uk>



LOCAL SOCIETY NEWS

NEW EAGLE!

Boy Scout of America Troop 255 of Allison Creek Presbyterian Church, Lake Wylie, South Carolina, USA is proud to announce the advancement of their newest Eagle Scout, 16 year-old Luke Robert Barz, eldest son of Robert A. and Takiko Barz of York, South Carolina and great-grandson of the late Mr. & Mrs. William and Kathleen Keenan of Ravensdale Farm, Ballaugh, Isle of Man, UK. Troop 255 is led by scoutmaster Bryan Thomas. As a Scout, Robert held numerous leadership positions including assistant and senior patrol leader and earned 38 merit badges, the Mile Swim Award and BSA Lifeguard certification.

IN MEMORIAM

UK producer-financier **Steve Christian** died unexpectedly at home aged 53 on February 18, 2017. NAMA members may remember his illuminating talk at the 2006 Convention in Chicago.

He was intrinsic to the development of the Isle Of Man Film Commission, which invested in projects including *Lawless Heart*, *The Libertine* and *Revolver* as well as TV series *The Shadow Line*. He launched production and distribution outfit CinemaNX, which was backed by the Isle of Man government, in 2007 alongside producer Marc Samuelson. The outfit backed titles including *Me And Orson Welles*, *The Disappearance of Alice Creed* and *Chico & Rita*. Christian joined Pinewood Pictures in 2012 when the studio took over management of the Isle of Man's \$38.5m (£25m) Media Development Fund in return for the Isle of Man taking a 19% stake in Pinewood Group.

Marilyn K. Underhill, departed February 16th 2016. Her three daughters are Lifetime members of the North American Manx Association and we extend our condolences to them and their families.

Wednesday, February 17, 2016 HILLSDALE

RECORD | AF

QUESTIONS? Call 517-437-7351

OBITUARIES CONTINUED FROM A2

MARILYN K. UNDERHILL 1930-2016

HILLSDALE — Marilyn K. Underhill, 85, of Hillsdale, passed away Saturday, February 13, 2016 at Drews Place of Village Green in Hillsdale. She was born June 12, 1930 in Kendallville, Indiana to Verne Clifford and Velma (Cain) Knight. Marilyn married Robert Underhill in June of 1954 and after 23 years in Hillsdale and 25 years in Florida, she returned to Hillsdale in 2001.

Marilyn graduated from North Side High School in Fort Wayne in 1948 and from Kalamazoo College, where she was a member of Eurodelphian Gamma and the Kalamazoo College Choir. Marilyn had a love for volunteering and serving others through her work as a Girl Scout camp counselor and leader, Camp Fire leader and board member, and American Red Cross volunteer worker for victims of tornados. She also enjoyed volunteering with Special Skaters Society for mentally and physically challenged children and tutoring mathematic students in GED programs in Florida and Hillsdale. For 13 years, she



was a counselor at Woman's Resource Center in Sarasota where she also served on the board of directors. Marilyn enjoyed working on genealogy researching a great-great grandfather from the Isle of Man, traveling, crossword and jigsaw puzzles. She was a member of College Baptist Church in Hillsdale and former member of Hillsdale Woman's Club, Hillsdale Golf and Country Club, Hillsdale Child Study Club and the Emeritus Club of Kalamazoo College.

Survivors include three daughters, Diane (Roderick) MacLennan of Hillsdale,

Linda (Jack) Mosley of Hillsdale and Laura Dully of Boylston, Massachusetts; five grandchildren, Kathryn (Darren) Vinson, Anthony (Jessica) Mosley, Amanda (Nate) Coy, Amy (Ryan) Sekula and Andrew Dully and 9 great-grandchildren, Hollynn, Ainsley, Addison, Jackson, Silas, Violet, Brendan, Zachary and Aurillia

Marilyn was preceded in death by her parents; brother, James Knight and son-in-law, Kevin Dully.

Funeral services for Marilyn Underhill will be Thursday, February 18, 2016 at 11 a.m. at VanHorn-Eagle Funeral Home in Hillsdale with Pastors Jason Meckelburg and Thomas Burke officiating. Interment will follow at Lakeview Cemetery in Hillsdale. The family will receive friends for visitation on Wednesday from 5:30-8:00 PM at the funeral home.

Memorials are suggested to College Baptist Church, Hospice of Hillsdale County, or the Velma I. Knight Scholarship of Hillsdale College. Please visit www.eaglefuneralhomes.com to leave online condolences.

Societies. Of course, immigration from the IOM to the USA slowed considerably after WWI, and the Ladies' Auxiliary had less and less purpose, which led to its ultimate disbanding following the Madison Convention.

SOCIETIES

SAN DIEGO MANX SOCIETY

Our group had an enjoyable afternoon at the home of our secretary/Treasurer, Ellen Bevier. The meeting was conducted by our new President, Kim Billman. One of our members, Gillian Hughes, has recently had a children's book that she wrote published. We're very proud of her and are all the proud owners of a copy.



Mona Creer

Mona Creer, nee Broadbent, (a longtime member of the Chicago Manx) passed away on December 6, 2016, aged 92. Mona's husband, Clarence, served on the NAMA Board for over 30 years, although never as President. Both Mona and Clarence were proud of their Manx roots, with Mona being a Joughin on her mother's side.

Mona's contribution to the Association was very largely through what was then the Ladies' Auxiliary. Some of our Convention traditions continue from these days. The Ladies' Auxiliary was the group that handled the sales tables at the conventions, the raffles, the program and its advertisements, and they also hosted a luncheon at each convention. Their funds were separate from the NAMA funds and were originally used to support Manx immigrants, principally by helping them to find work in the USA. If an immigrant could not find suitable work in a reasonable amount of time, the Ladies Auxiliary also stood by with financial aid directly. It was modeled after both Cleveland's and Chicago's Mona's Relief

We have acquired two paintings by John Halsall, of Peel harbor and castle. They are original water colors and were donated by Don Beauregard whose wife passed away last year. They were members of the San Diego group but now Don is moving out of town and passed Manx items on to us. He and his wife purchased these paintings for \$450 a piece at the San Diego NAMA convention in 2006. The artist, John Halsall, is Manx and did many paintings of the Star of India. If anyone is interested in purchasing either of these they can contact us at 619.301.8314 or Hilary at hmanxie@aol.com and we'll send you photos. They both measure 39" x 32".

Brian Harrison, celebrated his birthday at our meeting. Our group have decided to meet four times a year instead of six. All in all we had a good time and enjoyed delicious refreshments thanks to Ellen.

GREATER WASHINGTON AREA MANX SOCIETY

We kicked off our 40th Anniversary of the founding of our Society with our traditional 12th Night Supper. But this year

LIST OF NORTH AMERICAN MANX ASSOCIATION OFFICERS:

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2nd Vice-President

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3rd Vice President - vacant

Brad Prendergast to organize
2022 Convention

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Meza, AZ 85202

Genealogist

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Trustees

Dorothy Gawne, Niles, IL
Bill Cassidy, Alexandria, VA
Melanie "Mim" Blower,
Alexandria, VA



we held it outside of a church and enjoyed an adult beverage. Despite a snowstorm, many members, including five new ones, made it to the event. Our party featured our now traditional Laxey Swap, a fun game based on trading gifts.

We hope that by hosting lots of small, fun events and publicizing them anywhere we can, that we may revitalize our Society.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA MANX SOCIETY

Our Nollick Ghennal Cooish was held on January 15, 2017. Once again we met at the home of Kim Parker and Peter Herrera. Such welcoming hosts should be in the lives of everyone.

A bit small of a turnout, only 12, but fairly good considering the weather we had been having. Going from drought to drenching in a few month's time can be unsettling. Of course, we sang 'Ellan Vannin' and 'O Land of Our Birth'. This was followed by a quick lesson in Manx place names.

The highlight of the meeting was Jan Richards giving us insight into growing up on the Isle of Man. Helped by Una Reed and Penelope Midlock, our other native Manx, Jan took us to a world before television, of fishing and farming, public transportation before owning a car, and a local community (Laxey) of neighbors, schools, and church. For those of us not born there, it was all the more reason to dig in and find out more about our Manx heritage.

Our next gathering will be July 9, 2017. Jack Cormode, Mountain View, California

North American Manx Association

John Prendergast
10251 S. Bell Avenue,
Chicago, IL 60643



The William Kennish Memorial is carved from Manx stone from Dhoon Quarry, and was shipped from the Island to mark his grave in Green-Wood Cemetery, Brooklyn, New York. William Kennish died in New York on 19th March 1862 as a result of complications from illnesses he contracted whilst in the New Grenadian jungle. The stone was placed by his descendants, the school-children and the people of the Isle of Man, in the presence of the Hon Stephen Rodan, the President of Tynwald, the parliament of the Isle of Man - home of the world's oldest continuous parliament. The North American Manx Association made a donation to the fund and is represented here by President Jim Kneale (far left in this photo.)