

# NAMA



NORTH AMERICAN MANX ASSOCIATION

VOL 90, No.1 To preserve "Whatever is left to us of our ancient heritage." T.E. Brown Winter 2019

## BLEIN VIE NOA! HAPPY NEW YEAR!

### MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

I hope you all had a very merry holiday season and your 2019 is starting off on a strong foot.

I would like to give a shout out to the NAMA Board for all of their hard work last year with the convention and everything before and after that. There are two Board women in particular who probably don't get the credit they deserve and they are Jody Morey, who is an asset not only to me and the Wisconsin society but really to all of NAMA. Her accomplishments are innumerable, but they include hosting the 2012 Platteville convention and handling all the Manx treasures that remain from the late Mary Kelly's estate. The amount of time and effort she puts into this organization is rivaled only by Kelly McCarthy.

Kelly, besides editing this bulletin, also runs the news section of the North American Manx website ([www.namanx.org](http://www.namanx.org)) as well as the NAMA Facebook page. Kelly also organized the most recent IOM convention, recruits local Manx people to perform NAMA duties on and surrounding Tynwald, and regularly visits the island to be with family. Both women are truly impressive in their own right and are helping to mold me into the leader I hope to be.

I would like to share and update about regional societies. The Chicago Manx and the Wisconsin Manx Society had a very successful joint event and plan to meet again sometime in 2019, hopefully before the next NAMA Board meeting. We intend to invite Minnesota to the party, as their society meetings always look like such fun! The plan is to go visit the Platteville Manx Museum, all are welcome to attend and more information will be provided on the Manx website and Facebook page. I would love to make progress and move forward with a

Midwest regional society, so that as individual society numbers decline, people still have a place to talk about their Manx heritage. I thank all who have had a hand in making this happen.

Similarly, many of our members winter in warmer weather, and as I really dislike snow, I am pondering going to Florida for a weekend and will be reaching out to see if anyone there would like to get together, formally or informally. If anyone in Florida already does this already, please shoot me an invite as I would love to join you.

The 2020 convention is very nearly finalized and we will provide those details as they are arranged. We will be going to Plymouth, Massachusetts which will be commemorating the 400th anniversary of the landing of the Mayflower. This is significant to us because Myles and Rose Standish, who accompanied the Pilgrims on the Mayflower, have Manx connections. We are scheduled to be there 7-10th August 2020.

Over the last few weeks the board has been having some lively conversation about the state of the society and is working hard to figure out how we can engage current and future members. I welcome all to participate and provide us with your thoughts and feedback about what we are doing well, and what you wish we would do more of. Without members like you, this society would cease to exist.

*Lhiats,  
Katy Prendergast*

*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 6) We have set the Junior membership at just \$2 and that takes you right up to your 30<sup>th</sup> Birthday.*

## LIST OF NORTH AMERICAN MANX ASSOCIATION OFFICERS:

### Honorary President

Lawrence "Larry" Fargher

### Honorary Vice-Presidents

Noel Cringle, OBE, Isle of Man  
Aimee Corlett, President World Manx Association, IOM

### Immediate Past-President

Jim Kneale, Greater Washington Area Manx Society

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Jack Cormode  
Norm Standish  
Brad Prendergast  
Laurence Skelly, MHK  
Sally Dahlquist  
Jim Corlett  
Jody Morey  
Kelly McCarthy

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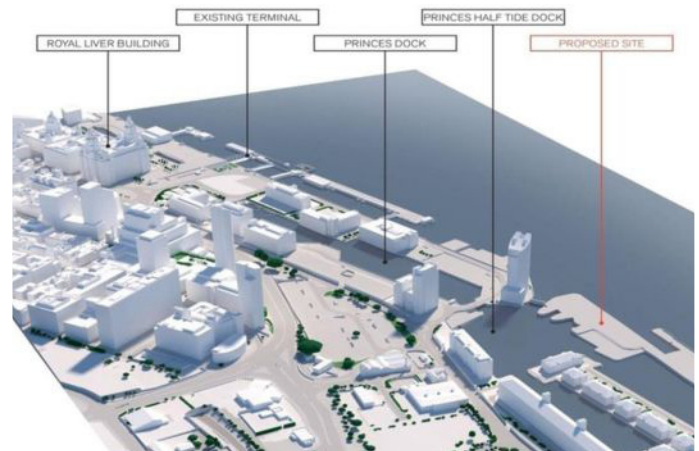
### Trustees

Dorothy Gawne, Niles, IL  
Bill Cassidy, Alexandria, VA  
Mim Blower, Arlington, VA

## NEW DOCK FOR IOM STEAM PACKET IN LIVERPOOL

The first phase of the Liverpool Waters scheme is now underway. It's the next chapter in a £5bn project to transform 150 acres of historic docklands, the biggest regeneration scheme in the city of Liverpool's history. It will eventually see a facility for the Isle of Man Steam Packet built further up the Mersey, as the current one (Princess Parade) makes way for a new international cruise ship terminal. In May 2018, Tynwald Members voted overwhelmingly in favour of taking strategic control of the Island's sea service and invested £48.3 million to purchase 100% of MIOM Ltd, the Steam Packet's parent company, and provide £76 million as a loan to the Steam Packet. The move is aimed at providing long-term stability to the ownership of the Island's lifeline ferry operations.

Images: *Artists impressions of the new Steam Packet Terminal in Liverpool.*



## SOPHIA GOULDEN



A blue plaque honouring women's rights pioneer Sophia Goulden was unveiled on Friday, 28 September at the Douglas home where she died more than a century ago. Douglas Mayor Jon Joughin unveiled the plaque at the house in Strathallan Crescent, to which the Manx women's suffrage activist retired with her husband. She died in 1910. Sophia Jane Goulden, nee Craine, was born in Lonan in 1833. In 1853 she married Robert Goulden at Kirk Braddan and the couple moved to Manchester, where their 11 children were born, among them Emmeline Pankhurst, the famous suffragette.

## NORTH AMERICAN MANX ASSOCIATION GET ON LINE

[www.namanx.org](http://www.namanx.org)

Our website allows you to 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](mailto: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.

### 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@mustgoto.com](mailto:kelly@mustgoto.com)

## IN MEMORIAM

It was with great sadness that the Northern California Manx learned of the passing of Polly Fargher Ernst. She was a mainstay of our society and was a key contributor when the NorCal Manx chapter hosted the NAMA Convention in 1990.

Soon after the Convention, Polly set out to recruit new members using a phone book, a rotary dial telephone, and a list of Manx last names. We won't see that again. But Polly also used her interests and abilities in another endeavor. She researched and curated a vast collection of printed materials about the HMAV Bounty, the Mutiny, and Pitcairn Island. The connection to the Isle of Man was through Capt. William Bligh and Fletcher Christian. She will be missed.

Jack Cormode and Jaki Ernst, November 28, 2018.

## PRINT YOUR OWN MANX POSTCARDS

These are a great mailer to introduce people to the Isle of Man. These Manx note cards have the three-legs flag on the front and interesting facts on the back, with a blank inside. A link to the note cards is here: <http://bit.ly/2OUaoYY>. The file can be printed on 8 1/2 x 11" card stock, cut in half, folded, and they are ready to go. Email or bring the printed link above to any office supply store with printing services, or print them at home.



## LOCAL SOCIETY NEWS

### CHICAGO AND WISCONSIN MANX SOCIETY



*Front Row (seated) Left to Right - Charlotte Larrison, Lynell Cannell, Joyce Benjamin, Florence Abbinanti*  
*Second row, bending down between Joyce Benjamin and Florence Abbinanti: Georgene Voutila, John Prendergast*  
*Standing - Left to Right: Dorothy Gawne, Brad Prendergast, Katy Prendergast, Marylee Corrin, Margie Brezina, Douglas Brezina, Jody Morey, Chris Merritt*  
*Not in Photo: Terry Benjamin*

The Chicago Manx Society joined with the Wisconsin Manx Society for a combined meeting on November 4, 2018, at the home of Lynell Cannell, in Rockford, Illinois. There were 15 in attendance. Both societies are suffering from declining attendance/membership, and a combined meeting was suggested during the Victoria NAMA 2018 Convention. It worked so well that plans are underway to repeat this success. The date and time for the next meeting will be announced soon. If you are interested in joining us for the next meeting, contact Brad Prendergast at [brad@lawyer-brad.com](mailto:brad@lawyer-brad.com), and you can be on our mailing list. Chicago has members from as far away as Northern Indiana, Rockford, Joliet, and scattered throughout the Chicago area and suburbs. Our challenge is finding central locations that can accommodate everyone's commute.

There was a lively discussion about holding a spring-time meeting in Platteville, Wisconsin, the site of the convention and the Manx Museum that was dedicated at the 2012 Convention. All of us are curious about the on-going success of the Manx Museum that was created under the leadership of Mary Kelly. That is a long way to travel for a meeting, but everyone agreed that we should be looking at the museum as a resource. If we can't put together a meeting, a few people are planning to put together a road trip to visit the Museum and see what we can do to insure its ongoing success.

With Katy as the current NAMA President, there was also discussion about the 2020 Convention in Plymouth, MA, as well as the early planning for the 2022 Convention in Chicago. The Chicago Manx, as hosts of the 2022 Convention, are looking for ideas about a convention program. Contact Brad Prendergast with your suggestions.

### GREATER WASHINGTON D.C. AREA MANX SOCIETY



*R-L: Bill Cassidy, Kelly McCarthy, Bill McCarthy, Keith Dozier, Carol Sweaney, Kearsley Walsh, Margaret Quayle and her daughter Jill Spohn.*

We were lucky enough to be a stopping point for the **Draken Harald Hårfagre**, a replica Viking longship which has sailed from Norway to America and is on an East Coast tour. The building of Draken Harald Hårfagre was initiated in 2008 by the Norwegian entrepreneur Sigurd Aase who persuaded the most reputable ship builders and historians in Scandinavia to start the project of creating a really seaworthy Viking ship, much larger than the ones found in excavations. We were amazed at the quality of the build. They used traditional materials including: Oak, tar, hemp, iron and silk. (Yes, silk sails! Apparently Chinese trade was big back then!) We had a marvelous time.

## UNESCO MAN AND THE BIOSPHERE

The Isle of Man is a truly unique place. Nowhere are you more than a few miles away from stunning coastlines and countryside. We have a proud heritage and a vibrant cultural life. Our communities are close-knit, safe places where people look out for each other. We have a robust modern economy. And we have an exceptionally wide range of environmental and social projects that are helping to keep our Island special.



We believe all this is worth telling the world about. As the first entire country to earn UNESCO biosphere status, the Isle of Man is being showcased on a global scale.

UNESCO Biosphere Regions are areas across the globe that have been endorsed by the *UNESCO Man and the Biosphere* programme as outstanding places for nature and for people – places where there is a healthy balance between the two. There are currently 669 biosphere sites in 120 countries worldwide. These regions are also known as biosphere reserves. Although this might sound as though it's about keeping people out, it's actually about enabling people to enjoy these special places to the full and get involved in helping to keep them special.

UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man is all about keeping our Island a special place to live, work and visit. We are the first entire Island Nation in the world to receive this prestigious endorsement from UNESCO.



Some members also marched in the Alexandria Scottish Parade wearing Manx tartan. R-L: Mim Blower, Kelly McCarthy, Kearsley Walsh, Bill Cassidy (and Manxie, the stumpy-tailed Australian Cattle Dog)

### NORTHERN CALIFORNIA MANX SOCIETY

The Northern California Manx will hold their Christmas (Nollick) Cooish on January 6, 2019 at the home of Kim Parker and Peter Herrera. It is always good to get together with our fellow Manx, but there will be a bit of sadness mixed in with the bonhomie this time.

We have received word of the passing of Polly Fargher Ernst, a longtime member. Earlier in the year, we bade a final goodbye to Bill Stephenson, husband of Elaine (Cain-Cleator) Stephenson.

Another loss is that of our own Manx-born Social Director, Una Reed, who has chosen to retire, with her husband, to Florida. She promises to revisit us once in a while. *Jack Cormode, November 28, 2018*

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**NAMA Member Enrollment**

See membership categories below.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Prov. \_\_\_\_\_ Zip/PC \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

**INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP**

**Annual** \$15.00 \_\_\_\_\_

**Life**

Under 50 years \$250.00 \_\_\_\_\_

50 to 59 years \$175.00 \_\_\_\_\_

60 years or over \$125.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Junior Member - Age 0-29 years \$2.00 \_\_\_\_\_

**FAMILY MEMBERSHIP**

**Annual** \$20.00 \_\_\_\_\_

**Life** (2 adults, based on age of youngest)

Under 50 years \$325.00 \_\_\_\_\_

50 to 59 years \$235.00 \_\_\_\_\_

60 years or over \$200.00 \_\_\_\_\_

**SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP** (Not for use by individuals)

**Annual** \$20.00 \_\_\_\_\_

**MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATE** \$5.00 \_\_\_\_\_

*The membership certificate design and coloring have special significance relative to the Isle of Man. A letter of explanation is sent with each certificate.*

**MEMBERSHIP PIN** \$5.00 \_\_\_\_\_

*(1" diameter, has NAMA logo featuring 3 legs, eagle and oak leaf in gold, red and white.)*

**CONTRIBUTION** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

To further NAMA's goals. (United States tax deductible as allowed by law)

(If current or any past employer matches contributions, send any required forms to NAMA for completion. Thank you.)

TOTAL REMITTANCE (IN CANADIAN OR U.S. DOLLARS) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please send check made out to **NORTH AMERICAN MANX ASSOCIATION** to:  
John Prendergast, NAMA Treasurer, 10251 S. Bell Avenue, Chicago, IL 60643-1901



## BEGGAN GAELG – ILLIAM CASSIDY

Bannaghtyn erriu as failt er-ash dys Beggan Gaelg, a column exploring the Manx language, its importance to Manx culture, and having a little bit of fun with a few Manx words and expressions.

Words in and of themselves can tell us a lot about a culture and the world-view of people who speak a particular language. Manx is no exception, and the Manx certainly aren't lacking when it comes to words.



Learn Manx (Ynsee Gaelg), the online Manx-language education center, has been posting a series of often unusual and interesting words from the 1835 *"Fockleyr ny Gaelgey"* or Manx Gaelic dictionary compiled by Archibald Cregeen, a native of Colby born in 1774 and died in 1841. Cregeen was the coroner of Rushen Sheading, an important office at the time. Manx was his first language.

From about 1814, he began collecting material for his dictionary. As J.M. Jeffcott noted in his short biographical sketch: *"Cregeen constantly invaded the cottages of the native islanders for the purpose of obtaining the information he desired. Night after night he repaired to some rural abode where his favourite language was spoken, and there the portly form of the Manx lexicographer might be seen occupying a three-legged stool at the chiollagh. There, beneath the spacious chimney, he elicited from his intelligent, but unlettered, host valuable philological knowledge. Many Manx proverbs with which his work abounds, and which enhance its value, were thus raked up and collated."*

There's one of Cregeen's words for you already, *chiollagh*. In his dictionary: *Chiollagh, s.f. Hearth or fireplace. Pronounced chol-lag.*

Cregeen's labors, Jeffcott wrote, "were not always agreeable to his wife. She naturally considered that her domestic enjoyment was somewhat marred by her husband's seclusion." Fortunately, they both persevered, she in her marriage and he in his labors. One hundred

and eighty years after its publication, his dictionary is an amazing resource demonstrating the richness of Manx that offers a glimpse into the lives of Manx people in the early 19th century.

Cregeen himself hoped it would be "a standing memorial of that very ancient language — the Manks or Gaelic to generations yet unborn."

Some of the words highlighted by Learn Manx are very particular to the Manx and their environment. Note "lossan" below. Also note related words in Cregeen's dictionary include *loss*, a blaze or flame; *lossag*, a small flame or flash; *losht* or *loshtit*, burnt; and *lossanagh*, "having luminous qualities."

**Lossan:** Luminous particles seen in the sea by night, and on fish that are not dry, in the dark; the Aurora Borealis, the Northern Lights.

**Re-holllys vooar y n'ouyr:** The great harvest moonlight, called so for the moon's rising about or near the same time for a week successively, at the time of full, caused by the situation of the earth and moon at or after the autumnal equinox.

**Banejagh or Banjagh:** Lea land, land left for grass, or rather to feed milch cattle on.

**Arkan sonney:** A hedge hog, or a fabulous creature ominous of plenty; A fat little pig.

**Lhiam-Lhiat:** An inconsistent or unsteady person (literally "with me, with you" - ed.)

**Slattey:** Yarding; a custom in this island, in former times, that the constituted authorities could notice any man or woman servant and make him or her serve for one year at very low wages.

Fortunately, that last custom was solidly in "former times" even by Cregeen's time. The word *Slat* or *Slatt* means a rod or staff -- including the rod or badge of office of the "constituted authority," perhaps a coroner or deemster.

For more of Cregeen's vocabulary, follow Learn Manx on Facebook, or pick up a copy of Cregeen's dictionary itself, which has been published several times by Yn Çheshaght Ghailckagh (The Manx Gaelic Society).

Also, try Learn Manx's 1,000 words challenge:  
[www.learnmanx.com/1000words.html](http://www.learnmanx.com/1000words.html)

## North American Manx Association

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The Island's famous Dark Skies