


BULLETIN *of the* North American Manx Association

VOL. 42 NO. 2

"To preserve whate'er is left us of ancient heritage"

DEC. 1968



Old Manx Christmas and New Year Customs

The cruel and curious custom of "Hunting the Wren" has survived in the Isle of Man until recent times.

There are many people who can remember the appearance outside the house of a party of boys singing a quaint carval (carol) and bearing among them a miniature, highly decorated casket, seen to contain some feathers. This "casket" was usually made up of two wooden hoops, tied at right angles, containing a decorated cushion, the hoops being hung with ribbons and paper streamers and evergreens. The "Wren Song" begins:-

"We'll away to the wood says Robin to Bobbin,
We'll away to wood says Dickon to Robin,
We'll away to the wood says Jack o' the land,
We'll away to the wood says everyone.

Countless verses follow describing the chase, slaughter and death of the wren, with vivid details, and usually ending up with "He's ate, He's ate, says Robin etc."

The earliest account of the ceremony is from Waldron (1790). He states that the wren was hunted on Christmas Eve and buried in a secluded corner of the churchyard to the accompaniment of dirges.

In later times a dummy bird was substituted and no sacrifice of the life of a poor wren was called for.

Originally it was believed that the stoning of the bird to death was a reminder of the martyrdom of St. Stephen — hence the custom was carried out on St. Stephen's Day.

Waldron asserted that on Christmas Eve the servants were all given a holiday and it was their custom not to go to bed that night but after the midnight church bells had rung they went in search of a wren.

Another writer stated that the custom originated in the 17th century and that the wren's body was the impersonation of a witch or wicked fairy who would be changed back to her evil form if she reached New Year's Day.

The feathers were preserved with religious care and it was believed that to possess a feather meant that a mariner would be preserved from ship wreck for a year and a fisherman would be considered foolhardy if he entered his occupation without the safeguard of a wren's feather.

Another writer of the same period (1816) wrote — "It is the custom of the inhabitants of the several parishes to catch a wren on St. Stephen's Day."

To the accompaniment of music and the waving of flags the dead bird was

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NORTH AMERICAN MANX ASSOCIATION

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MANX CHRISTMAS

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fixed to the point of a long stick and carried in solemn procession. The feathers were distributed "for luck" and in the evening the naked body of the wren would be interred and after this there would be "wrestling and all manner of sports".

William Harrison, writing in 1841, said "This custom is generally kept by boys on St. Stephen's Day. At early dawn they sallly out armed with long sticks and they commence the chase beating bushes until they find one of the birds. They follow the chase with great shoutings — going from bush to bush. Having killed the bird they suspend it in a garland of ribbons, flowers and evergreens. The procession then commences and the party goes from house to house soliciting contributions in return for feathers "for luck".

The origin of the custom seems to be a mystery. The wren is a bird much recorded in folk-lore and is generally regarded as sacrosanct. In many lands the crested wren is "King of the Birds."

*Reprinted from The Courier,
Ramsey, Isle of Man,
December 30th., 1966.*

William Thwaites in his book "Isle of Man: Its Civil and Ecclesiastical History, Antiquities, Botany, Zoology, Geology, etc.;" published in 1863, writes — "On Christmas Eve, an interesting ceremony is observed. The churches are gorgeously decorated with holly, laurel, ivy, variegated laurestina, and December blossoms and evergreens of all sorts, brilliantly illuminated by wax candles of immense size. After the prayers and sermon, the congregation are informed that those who have carols to sing may commence. Choirs of singers then relieve each other in turn, and the singing is kept up till a late hour. Before daybreak, the singers traverse the streets, chanting "Christians, awake!" and other hymns adapted to the occasion. Formerly, the Christmas festival was continued for the whole twelve days, every parish hiring fiddlers to enliven the festivities, which were attended by persons from considerable distances. On the twelfth night was accented, "The cutting off the fiddler's head." One of the fiddlers placed his head in some maiden's lap and in answer to the mainstye, the fiddler gave the names of two persons who were to be united to each other. Whatever names were given, it was absolutely believed that those two persons would ultimately be married to each other."

CHRISTMAS FARE

According to an old Manx cookery book "Sollaghan" was the traditional breakfast to serve on Christmas Day morning.

"Sollaghan" (Old Manx Recipe)

To make sollaghan, take a basinful or two of oatmeal. Put the meal in the oven or in a pan upon the fire, and keep turning the meal until it is crisped to a reddish colour. Then put the meal into a dish. Add salt and pepper with a lump of butter to flavour it. Then put two or three basinfuls of pot-liquor or broth upon the meal, and stir and mix it until it sticks together in lumps. Fill up the dish with the broth until thin enough to serve out into plates upon the table to eat. This makes a wholesome meal for men."

NEW YEAR CUSTOMS

On New Year's morning the dust had to be swept towards the hearth instead of, as usual, towards the door. If it was swept towards the door, it was considered that the individual good fortune of the family would be swept from the house for the year.

On New Year's Eve it was customary for the housewife, after raking the ashes of the fire, to spread them smoothly

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WORLD MANX ASSOCIATION

The first of the series of W. M. A. Summer Outings was held on May 16th. when we had a very pleasant coach run to the south of the Island, going by way of the popular Slough Road. The Falcon's Nest, Port Erin, had provided a very good tea for our party, and after the meal Mr. H. S. Cain called upon Mr. Cain of Detroit who has been living in Douglas with his sister, Miss Rhoda Cain. Mr. Cain spoke in humorous vein of his early days in U. S. A. Mr. and Mrs. Caley of Bebington were also welcomed and Mr. Caley made suitable reply. We left Port Erin, which looked lovely in the evening sunshine, and had a most enjoyable journey back to Douglas.

On June 20th. we held an evening Outing and were again fortunate in having good weather for our excursion. We made a short stop at Castletown and after looking round the old Capital we went on to Silverdale and partook of a delicious supper in the Café. The party was a large one and our President welcomed all, including a number of Homecomers — Mr. and Mrs. Harry Kelly of Cleveland; Mrs. F. Roseman and Mary; Mrs. M. Edwards, Seattle; Mr. Eden Costain, Vancouver; Mr. Joe Clucas, Laramie, his daughter, Mrs. Wiseman, and granddaughter, Mrs. P. Nicols; Mr. and Mrs. A. Christian, Victoria, B.C.; Mrs. Corrin, Vancouver; Mr. N. Garrett, New Zealand, and Mr. and Mrs. H. Quayle and Mrs. E. Brew also of New Zealand. We had the pleasure of hearing our overseas friends speak to us concerning their visits. We left Silverdale shortly afterwards.

Our third Outing was on July 7th. (Sunday) and proved to be the largest party of all. En route we visited the Mooragh Park in Ramsey and went on to the Grand Island Hotel where 87 members and friends enjoyed a very inviting tea. During the afternoon, the Homecomers welcomed were: Mr. and Mrs. A. Christian, Vancouver, B.C.; Mr. E. Costain, Vancouver; Mr. W. Matthew, London Manx Society; Mrs. E. Sharpe, Wirral Manx Society, and the Mayor of Douglas, Mr. J. E. Callister, and Mrs. Callister whom we were pleased to have with us. We were then conveyed in our coaches to Maughold Church where we received our usual cordial welcome from Rev. W. G. S. Duckworth and Mrs. Duckworth and where the large congregation heard Mr. Duckworth give a most appropriate sermon. We arrived back at Douglas at about 9.15 p.m.

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YOUR NEW PRESIDENT

Sam Penrice, the new President of the N. A. M. A., is well known by many Association members and also by many folk back home in the Isle of Man.

While not a true Manxman, being born in Yorkshire, England, Sam was raised and educated in the Isle of Man and has a great love for the "li'l Island" and for all things Manx. During his early years he lived in various parts of the Island and attended school at St. Johns, Port St. Mary, Braddan and Peel. On leaving school he was an apprentice in textiles at Tynwald Mills, a training which stood him in good stead when he came to Canada where he now owns and operates a textile mill.

Sam was probably best known on the Island in the early thirties as a most successful cyclist. He won many medals and cups in sporting events and greatly prizes a medal he won in the first International Bicycle T.T. race ever held on the Island.

In 1939 Sam married a Manx girl — Hilda Bridson daughter of Cecil Bridson a grand old Manxman who still resides in Ramsey. They were married by the Rev. Halford Young at St. Olave's Church in Ramsey. Their two eldest children were born on the Island; Jean, now Mrs. R. Glass of Oakville, and John whose passing away in Georgetown in his eighth year was a great loss. Their second son, Douglas, now 17 years old was born in Canada as was their granddaughter, Deborah Anne Glass.

From 1941-1945 Sam served with the Royal Air Force in England and the Middle East. At the end of the war he returned to the Isle of Man and took up his position again with Tynwald Mills.

Early in 1947 Sam decided to emigrate to Canada. He arrived in New Brunswick where he took a position in textiles in Moncton and was soon joined by his family. After two years in Moncton they moved to Georgetown, Ontario, where he now operates the Beaumont Knitting Co.

Both Sam and Hilda are active in Church and community affairs and Sam is a Past Master of his Masonic Lodge, a former Anglican Church Warden, and member of several town boards. They both take a great interest in Manx activities and especially in the Toronto Manx Society where Sam served several terms as President.

CONVENTION PRIZE DISTRIBUTION

As usual there were many fine prizes to be won when the drawing was made on the last day of the Convention and thanks are due to all those who made donations. A list of prizes and the lucky winners is given below:

1. Manx blanket
Lily Harrison, La Mesa, Calif.
2. 2yr. Sub. Manx Museum Journal
M. Ireton, Toronto, Can.
3. Manx Tea Cosy Cover
Mrs. Jack Agnew, Dorion, P.Q.
4. Pink Apron & Earrings
Diana Creer, Orland Park, Ill.
5. Ceramic Bowl
Archie Fulton, Vancouver, B.C.
6. Manx Tea-pot Stand
Mrs. James Aura, Fremont, Calif.
7. 6 pr. Sports Socks
Jack D. Cain, La Canada, Calif.
8. Lunch Cloth
Jimmy Nicholl, Willoughby, Ohio
9. Manx Apron & Towel
Irvin L. Hill, Costa Mesa, Calif.
10. Manx Blanket
Mrs. James Aura, Fremont, Calif.
11. Nylon Nightgown
Nell Creer Frame, Woodland Hills, Calif.
12. 2 Aprons, Scarf, Beads & Cigarette Case
Dr. J. W. Frame, Woodland Hills, Calif.
13. 2 yr. Sub. Manx Museum Journal
A. R. Corlett, Oakville, Ont.
14. Manx Tartan Skirt 1gth.
Peter Foster, Clarkson, Ont.
15. 3 Manx Handkerchiefs
H. Corlett, San Francisco, Calif.
16. Carved Plate fr. India
Walter J. Stevenson, Chicago, Ill.
17. Handmade 3 Legs Plaque
J. Douglas, Vashon, Washington.
18. Handmade 3 Legs Plaque
A. R. Corlett, Oakville, Ont.
19. 2 Manx Pictures — Napkins
J. H. Caley, Winnipeg, Man.
20. \$5.00 Money Prize
E. Q. Costain, Vancouver, B.C.
21. Handmade 3 Legs Plaque
Miss Ruth Cubbon, Seattle, Wash.
22. Ramsey Sunset Picture
Norman D. Clucas, Kirkwood, Mo.
23. Tea Towel
Mary Caine Ward, Gardena, Calif.
24. Manx Cat Ceramic Plate
Mrs. Stone, Quincy, Ill.
25. Handmade 3 Legs Plaque
Cindy S. Hulowski, Oromocto, N.B.
26. 2 pr. Woolen Slippers & Apron
Isabelle Burch, Los Angeles, Calif.
27. Decorated Purse
Mrs. J. Rodgers, Vancouver, B.C.
28. Handmade 3 Legs Plaque
Nancy Hughes, Willoughby, Ohio
29. 2 yr. Sub. Manx Museum Journal
Robt. F. Costain, E. Helen, Montana.
30. 2 Manx Tea Towels & Table Cloth
Scott Connelly, Chicago, Ill.
31. Manx Blanket
Mary Cahlik, Brook-Park, Ohio.
32. Linen Tea Towel
Amy G. Satterlee, San Carlos, Calif.
33. Handmade 3 Legs Plaque
Bertha Krel, South Bend, Ind.
34. Box of Jewelry
Mrs. F. W. Eccles, Reno, Nevada.
35. Emb. Pillow Cover
Mrs. W. Beddow, Toronto, Ont.
36. Lace Table Cloth
Miss Susan Shimmin, Rocky River Ohio
37. Handmade 3 Legs Plaque
D. L. Farragher, Buffalo, N.Y.
38. China 3 Legs of Man
D. Quayle, San Francisco, Calif.
39. 2 yr. Sub. Manx Museum Journal
Judy Creer, Orland Park, Ill.
40. Manx Tartan Skirt 1gth.
J. Richard Archibald, Brimfield, Ill.
41. Handmade 3 Legs Plaque
M. Blackburn, Elmhurst, Ill.
42. Electric Hot Tray
Lillian M. Tipper, Panorama City, Calif.
43. Luncheon Set
Rodney Harwood, Don Mills, Ont.
44. Handmade 3 Legs Plaque
M.C. Hanson, Saynor, Wis.
45. Manx Tartan Scarf
M. Krach, Cleveland, Ohio
46. Manx Table Cloth
Jean McEwan, Tonawanda, N.Y.
47. 2 yr Sub. Manx Museum Journal
Mrs. E. Harris, Toronto, Ont.
48. Handmade 3 Legs Plaque
M. Krach, Cleveland, Ohio
49. Plastic Table Cloth
Mrs. T. Quirk, Winnipeg, Man.
50. Manx China Mug
Miss Edith Cubbon, Seattle, Wash.
51. Handmade 3 Legs Plaque
C. Everiss, Cleveland, Ohio
52. Manx Blanket
Jane Foster, Clarkson, Ont.
53. Handmade 3 Legs Plaque
Mrs. M. Agnew, Penticton, B.C.
54. Manx Cottage
Mrs. Harry Kelly, Maple Heights, Ohio
55. Playing Cards
Miss D. Wood, Shawinigan, P.Q.

Ladies who have not already paid their dues for membership in the Ladies Auxiliary to the N. A. M. A. are reminded that they should now be sent to — Mrs. H. C. Christian, 528 Seacrest Drive, Keene Park, Largo, Florida, 33540. Dues are 50¢ yearly but Mrs. Christian suggests sending \$1.00 to cover two years for easier mailing.

NEWS AND CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

"Shee as maynays de ny Maninee trooidnagh yn Seihil"
Peace and happiness to Manx people throughout the world

Norman D. Clucas
Past President

Sam Penrice
President

Bob Kelly
1st Vice-President

Wm Stanley Shimmin
2nd Vice-President

Rev. James Cowin Caley
3rd Vice-President

Hilda Penrice
Secretary

Clarence Creer
Treasurer

Margaret Joughin
Bulletin Editor

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

My Dear Friends:

As Christmas approaches our thoughts turn to the age old message of "Peace on earth, Goodwill to all men." My earnest wish is, that this Blessing may be ours as we enter the festive season, and also for the year ahead of us.

Throughout the past years I have had the opportunity of getting to know so many fine members of our Association, others I only know as names on a membership list. To one and all "Ollick ghennal as blien vie noa" — Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

My wife Hilda, my daughter Jean, my son Doug, also the Executive of the N. A. M. A. join with me in this message to you all.

The future of preserving our ancient heritage depends on sustained membership and interest in the N. A. M. A., I know I can count on you all. With this in mind, I suggest you set your sights on a Convention on the Isle of Man in July 1970.

Every good wish,

Sam Penrice,
President.

WINNIPEG

The Winnipeg Manx enjoyed their first meeting of the winter season with a dinner at the Silver Heights Restaurant, St. James. The rest of the evening was spent at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Corkish. Mr. and Mrs. Len Quilliam brought along a tape recording of songs etc. from the Convention and it was much enjoyed by everyone.

We regret to report the sudden death of J. William Mylrea, a former president of our Winnipeg Society, on November 11th., 1968.

In closing we wish all Manx men and women everywhere a Merry Xmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Margaret Quirk,
President
Dinah M. Inge
Secretary-Treasurer

ROCHESTER

Another year has passed, bringing perhaps some sad memories, but we hope many happy ones. For those of us who attended the 1968 convention, I'm sure there are many happy memories of meeting old and new friends and enjoying California sunshine.

And once again it is that time of the year when we think of our many friends all over the world. The Rochester Manx folk hope that your Christmas will be Merry and the New Year Healthy and Happy.

Alice Garrett,
Regional Director.

FLORIDA

Mr. and Mrs. H. Frick of Fort Lauderdale made a trip to Lake Worth to visit old friends there, Mrs. Annie Jackson's grandson from Cleveland is attending college in Lake Worth.

All the Manx send their best for a successful year for the N. A. M. A.

Wm. Quine,
Regional Director.

CLEVELAND

(The Mona's Relief Society)

Best wishes for a Joyous Christmas and a Happy, Healthy, New Year to friends here and abroad.

Mrs. Amy Abell
and Mrs. Carol Grigsby

Ladies Auxiliary to N.A.M.A.

"This Special Xmas Greeting, is meant for each of you.

And very warmest wishes are coming with it too.

May all the Joys of Christmas and its Happiness and Cheer,

Remain to give you pleasure each day throughout the Coming Year."

Alice Garrett, President
Ethel S. Christian, Sec.-Treas.

WORLD MANX ASSOCIATION

The President, officers and committee of the World Manx Association send greetings to all Manx people on the North American continent — may they have health and happiness at Christmas and throughout the coming year.

Harold S. Cain, C.P., President
Wilfred Wade, F.C.A., Treasurer
Doris M. Clague, Hon. Secretary

VANCOUVER

The Vancouver Manx opened its winter social season last month with an evening of whist, held at the Horticultural Hall. A fair number of members were present to enjoy the evening's entertainment.

We in Vancouver send season's greetings and best wishes for the New Year to all our fellow Manx throughout North America.

P. Tregellis
President

GALVA

Greetings to all Bulletin Readers!

Best wishes for a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Galva Manx Society
Leon Lewin, President
Everitt Quinney, Vice-President
Mrs. Clyde Collinson, Sec.-Treas.

MONTREAL

Our news this fall is very little but we would like to welcome back to Montreal Mrs. Jack Agnew and her daughter Nancy and family after spending 2 years in Germany. We hope soon to have our first meeting of the winter season and will look forward to seeing them then.

The officers and members of the Montreal Manx Society send best wishes to Manx friends everywhere to a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year and may it be a year in which peace may once again cover the earth.

Mrs. A. E. Slout, President
Douglas Corlett, Treasurer
J. Victor Joughin, Secretary

FROM THE MANX SOCIETIES

TORONTO

The Toronto Manx Society have had a good year in their 1967-68 season. On Saturday, May 25th., a banquet was held at the Shamrock to honour three faithful members who are not as young as they used to be. Citations signed by the Lieutenant-Governor of the Isle of Man were presented to William Fick, Frank Williamson and Fred Caveen to show them how much the members appreciate them and the way they turn out to meetings in all kinds of weather. An excellent dinner was served at the Hall. It was a wonderful evening for the three gentlemen.

On Friday, July 5th., Tynwald Day, the Manx flag was flown from the Toronto City Hall. A strawberry festival was held at the home of Mrs. Holt and Mrs. Mitchell and the proceeds went towards the Convention.

The Toronto Manx annual picnic was held at Terra Cotta Park and the Good Lord was good to us. The rain poured down the night before but on Saturday who could have wished for a better day; it was glorious. Quite a crowd attended so the season ended well.

The officers of the Toronto Manx are temporarily staying in as there has been no time for elections with all the activity.

Another season started off with a good evening in September and in October a Hollantide social evening was held in the hall of St. Jude's, Scarborough. A Christmas Bazaar is to be held in November with the funds going to the Christmas entertainment and to the annual donation to the crippled children and to the Toronto Hospital for Sick Children.

The way the Toronto Manx Society is conducted is proving to be very successful and each meeting is well supported. Many new Manx are coming to Canada and especially to the Toronto area. Anyone wishing to have information about the Society can call: Mrs. Shirley Homer, 445-4500, or Mrs. Dot Hall, 463-8144.

The Officers and members of the Toronto Manx Society wish all members and friends of the Manx Societies the length and breadth of the globe sincere Christmas wishes and peace and good health for the New Year.

*Dot Hall,
Secretary.*

CHICAGO

On the 2nd. and 3rd. of November, 1968, the Chicago Manx Society, for the eighth successive year, sponsored a cultural booth at the ninth Annual Folk Fair at Navy Pier, Chicago, and joined with thirty-five nationalities in displaying the culture and crafts of each individual country.

The Folk Fair is divided into three sections and each country must, first of all, have a cultural booth before they can sell at the International Gift Bazaar or at the International Food of the World booths. Navy Pier is an enormous building, one mile long, with booths on both sides of the pier. Each display seems to grow more interesting and colorful year by year and the most wonderful thing about it is that it is all free — no entrance fees at all. Approximately a quarter of a million people come to visit the Folk Fair on each day from Chicago and surrounding towns. Among the visitors this year were Mrs. Clyde Collinson, secretary of the Galva, Illinois, Manx Society, and her husband and the Chicago Manx enjoyed a "li'l cooish" with them. Greetings were received from Mr. Faragher, a wonderful Manxman, ninety-two years young, from Freeport, Illinois.

The Manx cat exhibit which is usually the only live exhibit at the Fair was not possible this year as the Miss Carlsons were out of town. Fortunately, the Isle of Man Tourist Board mailed a picture of a beautiful Manx cat which helped to serve as a substitute.

This year, through the courtesy of Peter Wallis of the Aristoc Hose manufacturing company of Ramsey, Isle of Man, a series of photographs of the machinery at work in the making of hose was shown. Along with the pictures he also sent samples of the real product in the making, from the first stage to the dyeing and finishing of the hose. This was a most interesting and educational demonstration.

Thanks, too, to Victor Joughin of Montreal for his donation of Isle of Man rock in numerous flavors. It was a novelty to see the Manx emblem embodied through the sticks of rock candy.

The backdrop of the booth was draped with the Manx tartan, the Manx flag and Manx posters framed by Cecil Kelly. There was a fine display of Manx woolens and linens, etc., and also a fine assortment of Manx literature, including the latest books of Mona Douglas.

The executive group who promote the Folk Fair encourage the exhibitors to show the culture of the country they

represent and the Chicago Manx Society is proud to be able to hold its own among the older large countries represented. The Folk Fair has taught Chicagoans much about the Isle of Man.

Robert Kelly, president of the Chicago Manx Society, was the chairman and his wife, Jean, was co-chairman and they wish to thank each one who helped in any way to man the booth and to answer the questions of interested people.

To the Aristoc Hose factory for booth display —

To Victor Joughin for Isle of Man rock —

To the Isle of Man Tourist Board for guide books, folders, pennants and Manx cat picture —

Thank you.

*Robert Kelly, President
Emily Kelly, Secretary.*

Golden Wedding Anniversary

An interesting event took place at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Kneale, 6468 Bruce Street, Horseshoe Bay, B.C., when Mr. and Mrs. Kneale held open house to celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary.

Around 175 Manx and other friends attended and Mr. and Mrs. Kneale were showered with good wishes. Messages were received from the Prime Minister of Canada, the Governor-General of B.C., Premier Bennett of B.C. and the Mayor of West Vancouver.

Mr. Kneale emigrated to Vancouver in 1910. He was with the Canadian army during the first war and while on leave he met Mrs. Kneale (Nellie McHarrie). They were married on October 24th., 1918 in St. Mary's Church by the Reverend Latham Locke. They returned to Vancouver in 1919 and have resided there ever since. They have four sons, one daughter (Mrs. Irene Birrell) and 12 grandchildren.

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES?

Membership fees of \$3.00 were due and payable on August 1st. for the year 1968-69 so if you have not already done so please send yours without delay to the treasurer:- Clarence Creer, 14228 Union Avenue, Orland Park, Illinois 60462. Do not forget that there is also an associate membership for \$1.00 but that this does not entitle you to receive a copy of the Bulletin.

KNOW YOUR ANCESTORS

Mrs. Nell Creer Frame of Woodland Hills, California, who has done a lot of work in tracing the history of her own Creer family sends the Genealogical Society's guide to beginning research work which appears below and which should be most useful. She has also sent a list of Branch Libraries under the supervision of the Latter Day Saint Genealogical Library in Salt Lake City. Some of these are listed below and others will be listed in later Bulletins. Any one may write to or drop in and visit these Branch Libraries which are always ready to help with advice or information.

Canada

Librarian: Mr. Willy Buettner
Address: 348 - 3rd St. West,
Cardston, Alberta
Mailing: P.O. Box 839, Cardston,
Alberta, Can.

Los Angeles

Librarian: Mr. E. Kay Kirkliam
Address: 10741 Santa Monica Blvd.,
Los Angeles, Calif.
Mailing: P.O. Box 25668,
Los Angeles, Calif. 90025

Chicago

Librarian: Mr. Owen West

Address: 2801 Labe Ave.,
Wilmette, Ill.
Mailing: 103 W. Berkley
Arlington Hgts., Ill. 6005

Florida

Librarian: Mrs. Lucille Copeland
Address: 4087 Hendricks Ave.,
Jacksonville, Fla. 32207

Spokane

Librarian: Mr. Andrew McComb
Address: N. 919 Pines Road,
Spokane, Wash. 99206

GUIDE TO BEGINNING RESEARCH IN GENEALOGICAL WORK

BASIC CONCEPT

Begin with yourself. Work from known facts toward the unknown.

KEY FACTS

There are four key points of identification in genealogical research: names, dates, places, and relationships.

MAJOR SOURCES

Homes: Family records, old letters, family bibles, journals, scrapbooks, diaries, biographies, photographs, birth-marriage-death records, newspaper clippings, school records.

Relatives: Interviews and correspondence (same as above), newspaper

obituaries and other clippings, military records, announcements, family histories, diplomas, certificates.

Local Depositories: Public libraries: family histories, biographies, town histories and county histories. School or University libraries. Historical Societies: all types of records. Schools: records of admission, attendance, etc. Churches: birth, marriage and death records, admissions, dismissals, memberships.

Town Records: Town clerk: vital statistics, tax lists, meeting minutes, land records (in some), court records. Cemeteries. Sextons. Morticians. Hospitals. Newspapers.

County Records: County clerk: land records; wills; birth, marriage and death records; tax lists. County court: probates, divorces, naturalizations, guardianships.

State Records: Department of Health: vital statistics. Libraries and archives: military, land, state census, etc. State Land Office: deeds, grants.

Federal Records: National Archives: Military records (service and pension). Census records, 1790-1880. Land records. Shipping and passenger lists. Naturalization records.

The Genealogical Society

W. M. A. CALL FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

A plea to young people to join the World Manx Association and help prevent it from going out of existence was made by Association President, Mr Harold S. Cain, at the annual T. E. Brown Memorial dinner held in the Castle Mona Hotel on Tuesday night.

Mr Cain said that the only way the Association could continue would be to introduce young blood into the membership.

He said that to his knowledge, the only Manx Society which had young people as active members was the Toronto Society which had young people on a committee of their own. He added that this was an example which could be followed by others.

In introducing His Worship the Mayor of Douglas, Alderman J. F. Callister, and Mrs Callister, Mr Cain paid tribute to the work Alderman Callister had done during his terms of office.

Mr Cain said that Alderman Callister, who is a life-member of the World Manx Association, had always taken an interest in the affairs of the Association, and he hoped he would continue to do so.

Mr Cain referred to the recent successful convention of societies in the north of England when the attendance was higher than last year.

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CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR CUSTOMS *Continued from page 2*

over the floor before going to bed in the hope of finding a foot track in it the next morning. In the event of the track appearing, if the toes pointed towards the door, it was believed that a member of the family would die during the year, but if it pointed in the opposite direction, it was believed that the family would increase during the year.

A Quaalagh was the first person to enter a house on New Year's Day, other than a member of the family. The custom of "going on the Quaalagh" has probably died out in the Island today, but 60 years ago it was common in every district. In those days, there was always a Watch Night service held in the Church or Chapel on the last night of the year, commencing at 11 p.m. and concluding a few minutes after midnight. Boys attending this service would meet outside the Church after it was over and arrange to go "on the Quaalagh" in a group or groups of not more than four or five. If there was more than one group, the groups would arrange to take different parts of the district. Each group would visit each house in their district. All would gather around the front door and one boy would knock. When the door was opened, all would unite in wishing the person a "Happy New Year". In every case they were invited into the house, but

the boy with the darkest hair had to enter first, as it was very unlucky for a light haired boy to cross the threshold first. Usually they would be given a cup of tea and something to eat. In some of the houses they would probably get a soft drink instead of tea. A few coppers would be forthcoming and, if they were lucky, perhaps a piece of silver, but this was rare.

In earlier times the following verse was recited by one of the boys before leaving the house:

Again we assemble, a merry New Year

To wish to each one of the family here,

*Whether man, woman, girl, or boy-
That long life and happiness all may enjoy,*

May they, of potatoes and herring have plenty

With butter and cheese, and each other dainty,

And may their sleep never, by night or by day,

Disturbed be, by even the tooth of the flea,

Until at the Quaalagh again we appear

To wish you as now, a Happy New Year.

(Translated from the Manx Gaelic)

This verse belongs to the time when potatoes and herring was a frequent meal of the family.

OUR OWN PEOPLE

Mrs. Alice Gawne of Peel, Isle of Man, made her first jet flight at the age of 86 when, with her daughter Miss Vivienne Gawne, she visited her nieces, Mrs. Eleanor Wright and Miss Bertha Kiel, in South Bend, Indiana, recently. Mrs. Gawne noted many changes as this is her first trip to the U. S. since 1903 when she spent four years in Grand Haven, Mich.

One of several trips made by Mrs. Gawne was to the Cleveland area where she saw after many years members of the Wade family — Mrs. John Wade, Mrs. Ethel Wade Patterson, Mrs. Ruth Wade Gerber, Mrs. Evelyn Wade Cass, Alan Wade, Cecil Wade and Frank Sanbor, cousins of Mrs. Wright and Miss Kiel. It was quite a reunion! This was the first time Mrs. Wright had seen her aunt since 1936 but Miss Kiel has visited her frequently in the Isle of Man.

The visitors were delighted with the beautiful trees changing color — and it couldn't have been a more beautiful autumn than this year.

Dr. Ronald Reed, a nephew of Ruth, Edith and Nelson Cubbon, has recently completed his tour of duty with the Medical Corps in Vietnam. He made a trip to Europe on the way home and visited cousins in the Isle of Man and England. While in the Isle of Man he attended the Tynwald day ceremonies and also had a day listening to the House of Keys. After visiting his family in Escondido, Calif., he moved to Seattle where he expects to practice as an M. D.

Ruth, Edith and Nelson Cubbon have moved from Seattle and are now settled in Hemet, California. They don't know if they will find any other Manx there but they intend to fly their Manx flag to see.

Mr. Charles Southward of New Zealand who has recently sent some very interesting items for printing in the Bulletin, reports that the Manx Society in Auckland is functioning fairly well at present though the membership has declined somewhat from former years and is now about 70. This year, the Committee is composed of younger members than has been the case for many years and he is hoping that they will infuse new enthusiasm in the Society.

Mr. and Mrs. William Fick of Toronto recently celebrated their 58th. wedding anniversary.

Willie Kennedy originally from Port Soderick, I. O. M. and now of Huddersfield, England, recently visited the John E. Cannells now living at 514 S. Danville, Newbury Park, Calif. and spent 2 weeks with them. John and Willie Kennedy are cousins and had not seen each other for 50 years. While on the way to visit Mrs. Stevens, formerly Liz. Leece, another cousin in San Diego they stopped to see the Ed. Killips in San Clemente. From California, Willie will go to Baraboo, Wisconsin, to visit a whole colony of Leeces and Kellys, cousins on his mother's side of the family. His mother who lives in Huddersfield is 94 and her brother in Baraboo is over 90 years old and lives with his daughter. To complete his trip Willie will visit Chicago and Pittsburgh from where he will fly home after Christmas. The Cannells take this opportunity to extend warmest greetings of the holiday season to Manx folks both near and far.

Ethel Christian is now getting settled in her new home in Florida at 528 Seacrest Drive, Keene Park, Largo, Florida, 33540, and would be pleased if any Manx folk around that vicinity would get in touch with her and if any going that way during the season would stop and say 'hello'.

Fred and Dot Hall, Coraline and Peter, took a trip in September to the Isle of Man and while there met Mr. G. Keown, President of the South African Manx Society. They were also asked by Mr. Harold Cain to convey his best wishes to the Manx Societies.

Mrs. Ada Cubbon of Galva, Illinois, enjoyed a pleasant reunion with her sisters: Miss Margaret Moore of Douglas, Mrs. Jessie Cain of Pulrose and Mrs. Ben Holt of Toronto, when the sisters from America visited the Isle of Man in September. Mrs. Cubbon was a guest in the home of her brother-in-law, Leo Quayle of Douglas. It was her first trip to the Island after fifty-four years in America.

Mr. and Mrs. Percy Kelly of Rochester have recently returned from a visit to the Homeland, and again enjoyed being there.

Mary and Harry Kelly, their daughter, Florence and her husband, and granddaughter, Mary made a trip to the Isle of Man this summer. It was a whole family affair and they all had a wonderful time with ideal weather. Mary and Harry were there from May until October and saw many old friends.

Mrs. E. Holt and her grandson, Ian Mitchell, spent September holidays in the Isle of Man.

Mrs. Janetta Lewin of Lake Worth, Fla., mother of Fred Lewin and Gladys Moran celebrated her 92nd birthday November 4th. at a dinner at the Famous Restaurant with the family. Many cards and flowers were received. Mrs. Lewin enjoys fairly good health for her 92 years.

Mrs. Leonora Cain and her friend, Miss Grace Coole, from the Isle of Man visited America for the first time recently. They arrived in New York and from there flew to San Francisco to visit Mrs. Cain's brother whom she had not seen for 40 years. From San Francisco, they flew to Florida to visit Mrs. Cain's aunt, Mrs. Janetta Lewin, and her cousins, Fred Lewin and Mrs. Gladys Moran. They enjoyed their visit in America.

MANX WITCH

Both Chicago and the Isle of Man received some publicity this year on Halloween night when the Manx Witch from the Witches Mill in Castletown appeared on the Johnny Carson show.

It so happened that Mrs. Kelly had the picture of the Manx witch in Castletown in the November month of her Manx calendar and the witch was dressed in the same outfit in the calendar as she looked on T.V.

The International Folk Fair opened in Chicago two days after Halloween and Mrs. Kelly felt sure someone would be asking questions. They certainly were — both young and old alike. Everyone seemed interested when they saw the picture and the children especially got a kick out of it. They said they were going to tell their teacher when they went to school that they had seen the picture of the Halloween witch at the Chicago Folk Fair.

1970 CONVENTION

Plans are going ahead for the next Convention to be held in the Isle of Man in 1970. This will require a considerable amount of planning not only for the location of the Convention but also for the arrangement of transportation to the Isle of Man. The tentative dates which have been set are July 1st, 2nd and 3rd, 1970, so as to precede the Tynwald Day celebrations which members will wish to attend.

Watch for further news and details in future Bulletins.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR CUSTOMS (continued from page 6)

By the time the boys reached the end of the round, their tummies would be full and they would have collected quite a few shillings. Before separating the total sum would be equally divided between the group.

*Charles Southward,
Papatoetoe,
New Zealand.*

W.M.A. CALL FOR YOUNG

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He had also received a letter from Mr and Mrs Kneale of British Columbia who recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

In concluding, Mr Cain said that in the near future Association member Mr Percy Coupe would be travelling to London, and he asked Mr Coupe to try and attend the London Society meeting to give the members greetings from the World Manx Association.

A very interesting talk on some aspects of the work of T. E. Brown was given by Mr W. T. Quirk, of Castletown, who included quotations and extracts from the Manx poet's writings.

In giving his address, the Mayor, Alderman Callister, said that this was the third dinner he had attended as Mayor and he added that he hoped the Association would continue to stimulate interest in Manx societies throughout the world.

The toast to kindred societies was proposed by the treasurer of the Association, Mr W. P. Waid, and Mr Alec Bisset, J. P., made the reply after attending the dinner at short notice in place of Mr H. D. C. MacLeod, M. H. K., who was unable to attend.

Miss Doris Clague, secretary of the Association, gave the appreciation to Mr Quirk for his excellent talk, and a vote of thanks to the speakers and to everybody who attended the dinner was given by committee member Miss Barbara Cowell.

Before the meal began, the grace was given in Manx Gaelic by Mr. J. J. Quilliam, committee member, who also acted as toast-master for the night.

A very enjoyable item during the evening was the singing of solos by Mr Jack Gelling, of Ramsey, who was accompanied on the piano by Mrs Marie Van Dook.

The guests had a very enjoyable meal of Manx Broth followed by turkey, and at the close of the evening the gathering rose to sing "Ellan Vannin."

(It is interesting to note that the superstition that a dark-haired man was lucky and a fair-haired one unlucky probably dates from the times of the Norse invasion when the dark-haired Celt was a friend and the fair-haired Scandinavian an enemy.)

WORLD MANX

Continued from page 2

Following this came our August Outing and on this occasion we journeyed to Ballaugh. Ravensdale Castle Hotel had prepared for us an excellent tea. The President, in his remarks, mentioned the passing of Mrs. Quilleash of Laxey — sister of Mr. Harry Kelly and Mrs. M. Edwards; also referring to the death of Mr. W. Weller of the London Manx Society. Homecomers present were — Mr. E. Costain; Mr. J. Clucas; Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Bain, Rhodesia; Mr. N. Garrett; Mrs. M. Weller and Mr. W. Cowell, London Manx Society, and brief speeches were given by them. Various items of interest from letters received were read by the Hon.-Secretary and notices of forthcoming events were given.

Our final Outing of the Season took place on September 12th., when a large party set out for Peel via the South of the Island, affording some beautiful views, and these especially delighted our Homecomers. Having arrived at the Creg Malin Hotel, Mr. H. S. Cain welcomed the company then asked them to stand in memory of the late Mr. Norman Garrett of New Zealand and Douglas. A splendid tea was served and the President spoke of the pleasure in having the following Homecomers with us — Mr. and Mrs. Harry Kelly and Mr. & Mrs. R. Cowin, all of Cleveland; Mr. E. Costain; Mr. J. Clucas; Mr. and Mrs. Percy Kelly, Rochester, New York; Mrs. Smith, Toronto; Mrs. Williams, San Diego; Mr. E. G. Keown, Transvaal Manx Soc.; Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Bain; Mr. Taylor, Liverpool Manx Soc.; and Mrs. A. Greenland, Ex. Secretary, Liverpool Manx Soc. The Hon. Secretary gave out several notices, including one concerning the forthcoming Convention of the N. W. British Manx Societies to take place at Southport on October 12th. — and asked for the support of people living in the Isle of Man. The excursion then proceeded to Douglas via Niarbyl thus ending a programme of happy Outings.

*Doris M. Clague,
Hon. Secretary.*

OBITUARIES

GARDNER, Mrs. L. A. (Cissie) passed away on Monday, September 23rd., 1968, at Grand'Mère, Québec, in her 83rd. year. Mrs. Gardner was an Hon. Vice-President of the N.A.M.A. and was very well-known by all who have attended conventions over the years, for she was a familiar and welcome figure at them all and will be greatly missed. She leaves her husband, a son Leonard of Renfrew, Ont., daughters Edith Webb of Oak Park, Ill., Phillis Heather of Scarborough, Ont., and several nieces and nephews.

HORNSBY, Hugh of 2072 Depatie, St. Laurent, Quebec, passed away on June 1st., 1968, after a lengthy illness. He is survived by his wife, Janet (Sloan); sister May Hornsby, and brothers Jim and Doug. Scottish by birth, Hugh was for many years a member of the Montreal Manx Society with his wife and will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

MYLREA, John William of 130 Sinawik Bay, St. James, Manitoba, died suddenly on November 11th. Mr. Mylrea was a former president of the Winnipeg Manx Society. He is survived by his wife, Blanche, and two sisters and three brothers in the Isle of Man.

QUILLEASH, Ada Amelia, beloved wife of the late Thomas Alfred Quilleash; mother of Mrs. Margaret Quayle, Mrs. Joan Quayle; grandmother of five; sister of Mrs. William J. Gill of Isle of Man, & the late John J. Kelly; also sister of W. Harry Kelly of Cleveland and Mrs. Thomas Edwards of Seattle, U.S.A.; passed away suddenly on August 10th., 1968. Funeral services were held in Lonan Methodist Chapel, interment in Lonan Cemetery.

YETMAN, Percy passed away in Lake Worth, Florida, on May 15th., 1968, and was buried in Lakewood Cemetery, Cleveland, Ohio. He was survived for only a short time by his wife, Elizabeth Julia, who passed away on August 1st., 1968. Mr. Yetman was a member of the N.A.M.A. since its inception.

*To friends and relatives of the above
we extend heartfelt sympathies.*