

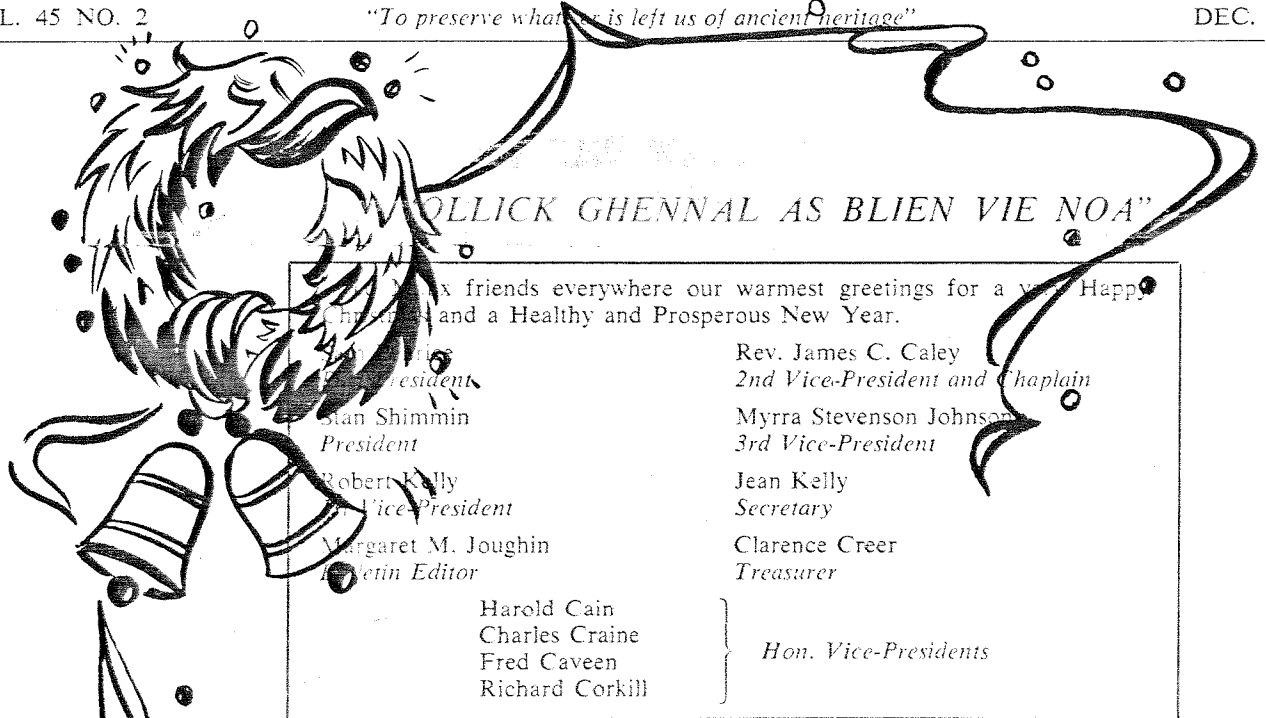
BULLETIN *of the* North American Manx Association



VOL. 45 NO. 2

"To preserve what is left us of ancient heritage"

DEC. 1971



OLLIK GHENNAL AS BLIEN VIE NOA

To our friends everywhere our warmest greetings for a very Happy Christmas and a Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

President
Stan Shimmin

Vice-President
Robert Kelly

Publicity Editor
Margaret M. Joughin

Rev. James C. Caley
2nd Vice-President and Chaplain

Myrra Stevenson Johnson
3rd Vice-President

Jean Kelly
Secretary

Clarence Creer
Treasurer

Harold Cain
Charles Craine
Fred Caveen
Richard Corkill

Hon. Vice-Presidents

Your executive have held a very successful meeting to plan the 1972 Convention in Niagara Falls, Canada, and have decided upon the following dates and place: —

THE OPERATOR BROCK HOTEL, NIAGARA FALLS, ONTARIO, Canada

Registration commences: 2.00 p.m. Friday, September 15th, 1971

Convention closes: 12 noon Monday, September 18th, 1971

A fuller account of the programme will be given by our Convention Co-Chairmen, Past President, Norm Clucas and Sam Penrice, and you will also be hearing from our Co-Chairmen for the Souvenir Booklet and Prize Distribution, Clarence Creer and Bob Kelly.

The World Manx Association are endeavouring to organize a charter flight in order to attend the Convention and this would be a wonderful opportunity to have relatives and friends

1972 CONVENTION • NIAGARA FALLS



Executive meets in Niagara

visit you. Meet them in Niagara Falls, enjoy the Convention and then they could travel back with you. Write to them and tell them to contact either the President of the World Manx Association, Mr. Harold Cain, C.P., Glendhoo Farm, Hilberry, Onchan, Isle of Man, or the Secretary, Miss Doris Clague, 1 Hilary Road, Douglas, Isle of Man.

We have given very careful consideration to choosing the dates as Niagara Falls during July and August is an extremely busy vacation area. In

September all of the attractions are still available without the crowding and we have been given a very favourable rate for accommodation. A week-end was chosen so that if you wish to bring the children along they will only miss a very minimum of school.

This Convention has been planned for YOU. It serves not only to perpetuate this wonderful Association, but also to give us all an opportunity to meet new friends with common interests and to renew friendships with those we would not otherwise meet

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NORTH AMERICAN MANX ASSOCIATION Officers 1970-71

Hon. President

Harry Kelly, Maple Heights,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Hon. Vice-Presidents

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Douglas, Isle of Man
Charles Craine,
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Fred Caveen, Toronto, Canada.
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N.A.M.A. Membership Fee \$4.00 in-
cluding subscription to Bulletin pub-
lished four times annually. Membership
without Bulletin \$1.00.

WORLD MANX ASSOCIATION

The first Outing of the session took place on Thursday, May 20th., when, after a very interesting coach run, we visited Peel, going to the Greg Malin Hotel for tea which was up to the usual high standard of catering. Mr. H.S. Cain, C.P., welcomed all; the Hon. Secretary read various letters from overseas Manx Societies and gave notice of some future events.

On June 10th. the one evening Outing of the season, Laxey Glen Gardens Café had prepared for us a very savoury supper, which was much enjoyed and we were fortunate in having a bright and sunny evening which added to the beauty of the Glen.

Convention

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again. Please plan now to join us. We have some 120 rooms reserved at the Sheraton Brock so make sure that you return your reservation cards as soon as you receive them — avoid disappointment.

When you receive further correspondence from our Committee Chairmen, please be generous in your support. This applies particularly to Societies. We don't have one in the Niagara region, therefore all of the planning must be done by your Executive. We must also be prepared to finance all of the necessary printing, distribution and publicity. Plan a "Convention Night" during the coming months and send whatever support you are able.

All of the executive are looking forward to meeting you in Niagara Falls next September, don't disappoint us.

Stan Shimmin,
President, N.A.M.A.

July 18th was the date of our Sunday Outing and this had the largest attendance of all, almost a 100 members and friends being present, so it was found necessary to use two hotels for tea, these being the Grand Island & Mitre Hotels, where splendid fare was provided. Later we went to Lezayre Church for Evensong when the Rev. A. Clague conducted a most impressive service. The ladies of the church invited us to light refreshments in the Church Hall and this was well appreciated and a fitting close to this popular excursion.

The August Outing took place on the 12th, when we paid our annual visit to Ravensdale Castle Hotel for a very good afternoon tea, and although the weather was inclement when we started out, it was in bright sunshine that we journeyed homeward, stopping for a short time en route at Ramsey.

On September 9th, a coach run to the South of the Island, led us on to Silverdale Glen Cafe, where we greatly enjoyed the high tea served. Afterwards the party, strolling around the lovely glen, took the opportunity of meeting old and new acquaintances out of doors in the sunshine. So ended our series of Outings for 1971 for which we have had many appreciations and to which we were delighted to welcome our Homecoming Kinsfolk.

Doris Clague, Hon. Secretary.

AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION

Would all members please note that any proposed amendments to the constitution or by-laws of the N.A.M.A. must be sent in 90 days before the Convention. This would mean that they should reach the President by mid-June at the latest. The constitution as amended to the date of the last Convention was published in the December 1970 edition of the Bulletin for the information of members.

NUMBER TWO ALL-AMERICAN CAT

"Number two All-American Cat and AA Shorthair of the Year is another male of long AA background, the powerful, splendidly proportioned Glen Orry's Toshee, Black Manx who was All-American Kitten in 1968. His owners are the Misses Carlson of West Chicago/Illinois." Cat Magazine, September, 1971.

Many readers will remember that a picture of Toshee appeared in our June 1969 issue of the Bulletin and that he was exhibited by the Chicago Manx at their booth at the 1970 Chicago Folk Fair.

SOUVENIR BOOK AND PRIZE DISTRIBUTION

Watch for a mailing regarding the 1972 Convention Souvenir Book and Prize Distribution. We will need the support of all N.A.M.A. members to make the Convention a great financial success so that we may carry on for many more successful conventions.

We shall be asking you to send in memorials, greetings and advertisements for the Souvenir Book and you will be receiving information in the mail as to where these and prizes for the Distribution may be sent.

Robert Kelly and Clarence Creer,
Chairmen.

DID YOU KNOW?

THE OLDEST motorcycle races in the world are the A-C.U. Tourist Trophy (T.T.) series first held on the Isle of Man in 1907 and still run on the island.

Lillian Beckwith — Author of Best-Sellers

In the Scottish Sunday Express of August 15th, 1971, appeared the following interesting article written by Graham Williams :

"The mythical village of Bruach with its endless rains and couthy characters seemed continents away from the aloof, two-storey Ballyre House standing at the end of a leafy lane, banks of roses and palm trees flourishing everywhere.

Bruach was situated somewhere in the Hebrides, almost certainly on Skye, Ballyre is the last house on the way to the beach in the sleepy little village of KirkMichael on the Isle of Man.

The climates of the two islands are, of course, entirely different. But the woman who made Bruach famous and who now lives on the island of tailless cats and four-horned sheep has not, she hopes, despite her wealth and fame, changed one little bit.

It was in 1959 that Mrs. Lillian Comber, a crofter's wife in Skye, decided, as the family's finances were low, to offer a book which had lain under her bed for ten years to a publisher.

The book, called 'The Hills is Lonely', was the result of Mrs. Comber's close observance of the mannerisms of the people who live in the Western Isles.

It was brilliantly funny and it was outspoken too. For it exposed, with clinical precision, a way of life that hitherto had always been the subject of gushing romanticism.

Because she wanted to remain anonymous Mrs. Comber used for the purposes of authorship her mother's

maiden name, Lillian Beckwith. The result of her book astonished her.

Although the initial print was only 3,000 copies, within a year it was a best-seller and today it is in its seventeenth reprint, is in paperback, and has long since passed the 100,000 mark.

Now 12 years later the charmingly witty and now middle-aged Mrs. Comber has earned around £25,000 from that first book. Its three sequels, 'The Sea for Breakfast', 'The Loud Halo' and 'A Rope in Case', have been big sellers.

In addition there was a splendid man's book about the rigours of inshore fishing, called 'Green Hand', which, in literary terms, was probably the best of them all. The five books have had a total world-wide sale of more than half a million. And they are still selling fast.

In other words Lillian Beckwith has made a fortune out of the adversity of running a croft. There were those, of course, who said that she had stripped the islanders of every last ounce of self-respect and that she had been too cruel.

But when I went to the Isle of Man to meet Mrs. Comber she was still quite emphatic that she had done the right thing by the Western Islanders.

A comely bespectacled figure hair slightly greying but brown eyes frank and alert she told me :

"The critics who said I was making unnecessary fun of the Hebrideans were all people who had never been to the islands and did not know the people as well as I did.

"It was a revelation for me to meet people of a type I'd never met in books. They deserved to be written about truth-fully and this is what I did.

"And there is no question of my having alienated friends in Skye by writing these books, because many of them still visit me on the Isle of Man, and I know of many people on Skye who are glad to pretend to tourists that they are the originals of the characters in my books.

"The type of person who does object to what I wrote is the type who has gone off to the mainland to make good and wants to forget the humble nature of his origins.

"Eating potatoes which have been cooked in their skins, taking salt herring with your fingers because there were no forks or knives, papering your walls with newspapers — these are all things which I witnessed but which I suppose some people would prefer to forget."

Some critics of Mrs. Comber have tried to imply that as an Englishwoman from Cheshire she spent only a fleeting part of her life on Skye and was therefore ill-qualified to comment on the habits of the islanders.

The truth is that she lived on Skye for more than 20 years and struggled, with her husband Ted and two young children, to scrape a living out of the primitive, rain-swept land.

Daughter of a grocer at Ellesmere Port, Mrs. Comber met her husband — an Australian who is descended from Manxmen — while he was working as an electrician and she as a typist.

When war broke out he was posted to a mine-laying base at Kyle of Lochalsh and she and their two children went to stay across the water on Skye.

Mr. Comber was posted elsewhere two years later and she decided, as she had come to love the solitude of the island, to buy a croft and stay on until the war ended. This she did, at Elgol, on the southern end of the island.

For three years she lived alone with the children and battled to make a success of the hillside croft.

She got to know the people and felt herself something of a pioneer. Husband Ted returned there after the war and joined her in the grim, yet often exhilarating battle against nature. They stayed until 1953, when they moved to a bigger croft on the Island of Soay.

All this time Mrs. Comber had been writing down everything of interest and humour that happened to her.

When in 1959 she finally launched 'The Hills is Lonely', it exploded like a rocket in the undisturbed atmosphere of romantic Gaeldom.

"People say that I wrote about Elgol or Soay or half a dozen other places on Skye, but the truth is that I wrote about none of them in particular," she says, "I composed a village and populated it with the type of people I had come to know well.

"I made myself a spinster in the books because I wanted to preserve my anonymity not that I was afraid of what people on Skye might say, but because basically I am a quiet, peace-loving person."

The secret, of course, gradually crept out, but by then Mrs. Comber had gone back to her native Cheshire. Her mother had died and left her the family home.

"Some authors come to the Isle of Man to avoid taxes," she told me. "But not me. I live here because I love the place and Ted is part Manx."

Now the whole Comber family is together on the independent little island.

Continued on page 7, col. 3

SECRETARY RETIRES

It was with regret that at the recent meeting held in Niagara Falls the executive accepted the resignation of Mrs. Jean Glass as secretary of the N.A.M.A., a post which she had held since the last Convention in the Isle of Man. Jean and her husband have moved to a new location and have taken over a business so that Jean felt that she could not devote the necessary time to her duties as secretary. It was agreed unanimously that a letter of thanks be sent to her for the work she has done whilst in office.

Mrs. Jean Kelly accepted the appointment as secretary. Jean, whose address is 6858 N. Osceola Ave., Chicago, Illinois 60631, is the wife of Robert Kelly, 1st Vice-President of the N.A.M.A., who was featured in the "Know Your Executive" column of the September Bulletin.

NEWS OF THE MANX SOCIETIES

WINNIPEG

The Winnipeg Manx start their winter programme with a wine and cheese party at the home of Mrs. Harry Caley. Harry has just returned from a visit to the Island. May Quilliam and Isabel Clarke left on November 8th. on a special visit to their parents Mr. and Mrs. Harry Corkish, Patrick, who celebrate their Golden Wedding Day on November 16th.

Wishing the Manx everywhere a Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year.

*Dinah Inge, Secty-Treas.
Margaret Quirk, President*

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

The Southern California Manx Society held two picnics during the summer months. On the 17th of May we met in Bixby Park in Long Beach for a combined meeting and picnic. It was a lovely day, we had a good turnout of members and everyone had a very good time. There was one sad note, however, and that was to say farewell to our President Malcolm Kinley, his wife Joyce, and their family of five children, who left California on June 4th. to return to the Isle of Man to make their home there again. Malcolm was presented with an engraved gavel by the members of our Society in remembrance and appreciation of his services as president and former officer. The vacancy of president was filled by Vice-President Philip E. Caley.

We met again for another picnic on September 25th. at Lake Park in Huntington Beach. Rev. James Caley (2nd. Vice-President of N.A.M.A.), his wife, Clarice, and daughter, Jane, had returned from their vacation to the Holy Land and several countries in Europe and they told us of their experiences there.

It is nearing the Christmas season once more and the officers and members of the Southern California Manx Society send greetings and good wishes to all Manx friends everywhere for a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

*Philip E. Caley, President
Norman Corkhill, Vice-President
Ellen Bain, Sec'y Treasurer*

WORLD MANX SOCIETY

A Xmas message to all our Manx friends — May you enjoy the blessings of a happy Christmas, and may good health and good fortune be yours in the coming year."

*Harold S. Cain, President
Doris M. Clague, Hon. Secretary
Wilfred P. Waid, Hon. Treasurer
and all members of the
World Manx Society.*

TORONTO

The Toronto Manx Society have made a good start after the summer holidays. At the first meeting held Sam Penrice brought along his brother Harry Penrice and wife Nancy from the West Riding of Yorkshire Society.

The newly elected officers for the coming season are :

President, William Lahmers
Treasurer, Sue Ellis
Secretary, Dot Hall
Convenor, Eileen Mitchell

May your holiday season and throughout the New Year be filled with contentment, love and peace.

Dot Hall, Secretary.

CHICAGO

We are sorry to report that our Chicago Manx group has had no activity since the summer picnic we had in West Chicago as guests of Ruth and Ellen Carlson at the Glen Orry Manx Cattery.

Some of our wonderful members have moved out of town and we miss them sadly.

The time has rolled around to send greetings to our dear Manx friends everywhere. The following poem, "Christmas Eve", is found in the book Christ and the Fine Arts :

The door is on the latch tonight,
The hearth fire is aglow;
I seem to hear soft passing feet —
The Christ child in the snow
My heart is open wide tonight
For stranger, Kith, or Kin.
I couldn't bar a single door
Where love might enter in.

Anon.

Emily Kelly, Secretary.

VANCOUVER

The Vancouver Manx Society extends best wishes for Christmas and peace in the New Year to all members and friends of the N.A.M.A.

*Fenella Jopson, President
Secretary*

ROCHESTER

When we see the red foliage disappear, and the days become shorter, we realize that another glorious summer has suddenly slipped away.

It is time once again to think of Christmas and the many activities, and time to remember old friends whom we frequently think of during the year.

The Rochester Manx folks add their good wishes for a Merry Holiday Season and may the New Year bring to all good health and happiness.

We hope to see many old friends next year at Niagara Falls.

*Alice Garrett,
Regional Director.*

LOS ANGELES

Greetings to Manxmen all.

It is a real pleasure to take this opportunity to show genuine appreciation for the pleasant relations of past years.

The holiday season is always the time for the expression of good will, and in the spirit of friendship, these hearty wishes are extended to all relations, friends, and pen pals, with the hope that a Bright and Happy New Year will bring an overflowing measure of good health and happiness to you all.

Three men set out to follow a Star,

A star that was bright and clear.

At the end of their journey

They found a stable which sheltered
a baby so dear

At his feet they laid gifts, Gold,
Frankincense and Myrrh.

To give thank for the gift of a child
so rare

and so began the custom held to this
day.

To give present to our loved ones
to celebrate Christmas day.

Lillian Marriion-Tipper.

PEORIA

The Peoria Manx Association enjoyed their annual Basket Picnic on July 25, 1971, in Glen Oak Park in Peoria, Ill., and elected the following officers : —

President

Wm. A. Archibald, Brimfield, Ill.

Vice-President

Ralph Kaighin Carter, Elmwood, Ill.

Secy. & Treas.

Miss Margaretta M. Carter, Peoria, Ill.

A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to Manx friends everywhere.

Margaretta M. Carter, Secretary.

BISBEE

The Bisbee Manx have been traveling this past summer, Mrs. Dillon and her daughter, Peggy Van Camp, to Hawaii, Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Corrin to Mexico City and Mr. and Mrs. James Quill and Mrs. Gertie Quill to California, and in October Mrs. Maude Franks was on a business trip to California for the Phelps Dodge Mercantile Company of which she is "ready to wear" buyer. The Corrins were also happy this summer to receive a visit from their sister, Mrs. Gladys Rogers, and her daughter Margaret LaPrade.

A white elephant sale was being planned for the November meeting to be held at the James Quill home and plans are made for the Christmas meeting to be held as usual at the home of Mrs. Ivy Dillon and her brother, Cecil Corrin.

All members join in wishing everyone a most joyous and thankful Christmas:

God Bless you and your home,
Establish it in the beauty of divine
order and harmony
Endow it with the spirit of divine
love and understanding
Permeate it with the light of wisdom
and peace
Enrich it with the substance of faith
and loyalty
Brighten it with joy and appreciation
God Bless you all and your homes.

Ivy Dillon, Secretary.

THE LADIES AUXILIARY TO THE N.A.M.A.

"May you all have the Spirit of Christmas which is Peace
The Gladness of Christmas which is Hope
And the heart of Christmas which is Love"
Warm Greetings and Best Wishes for a Merry Christmas
And a Bright and Happy New Year.

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

MONTREAL

There is little news to report from the Montreal Manx Society. They are looking forward to their annual party which is being planned for the Christmas season and will be planning further meetings for the coming year.

Greetings on behalf of all the members to Manx friends everywhere for a Happy Christmas and New Year.

*Mrs. E. Sloan,
Honorary President
Douglas Corlett,
Treasurer.*

CLEVELAND MANX SOCIETY

We wish to extend the greetings of the season to our Manx kin and friends everywhere, and hope for a wonderful year ahead for all.

Our Cleveland Manx Society has been blessed with a continual, healthy growth. Much credit for this is due to the untiring efforts of our elected officers and our committee members. It is good to be able to report that the same folks have agreed to serve our organization for another year. They are:

President — Richard R. Kelly
Vice-President — Mrs. Cyril Nicholl
Treasurer — Mrs. Robert S. Cowin
Secretary — Mrs. Richard R. Kelly
27700 Bishop Park Dr.
Apt. 511
Wickliffe, Ohio 44092
Phone: Area code 216 944-5807

Trustees: Mrs. L. K. Abell,
Robert S. Cowin,
and Fred Gorry

By the time you read this, we will have had our annual Christmas dinner party on December 10th at the Cove Church in Lakewood, Ohio. The real Christmas spirit permeates this affair and the whole evening is enjoyed by everyone who attends.

Our October "Sale of Work" was a huge success. After November's meeting, colored slides taken at our August picnic were shown. It was an extra treat to have Richard Corkill of Detroit at this meeting also. He gave us some advance information on the coming convention and is truly a goodwill ambassador for the N.A.M.A.

A brand new year is before us. May we use it wisely and well. And may Manx folk everywhere continue to keep in touch and "Preserve our Ancient Heritage".

Marge Krach, Publicity

GALVA

Galva Manx Society extends heartiest holiday greetings to all Manx friends near and far at this blessed Christmas time.

*De Rollo Kelly, President
Mrs. Clyde Collinson — Secretary.*

"JOHN ROBERT STEVENSON"

A SULBY PIONEER

John Robert Stevenson, son of Thomas and Elizabeth Ann Quayle Stevenson, was born October 23rd, 1835 at the Kerrowmoar farm in Sulby, Lezayre, Isle of Man, which is about 3½ miles west of the town of Ramsey. He had one brother, Thomas, who emigrated to Melbourne, Australia, possibly in the 1880's or early 1890's. For many years the two branches of the family lost all contact with each other and only within very recent years was a new contact established by the writer. Strange to say neither branch was aware that any members of the other branch still existed.

In 1852, at the age of 17 years, John Robert Stevenson came to America in a sailing ship. The journey took about 6 weeks. He first settled in Cleveland but later travelled westward in a covered wagon to look for gold in the Cripple Creek area of Colorado. Cripple Creek lies to the west of Pike's Peak and Colorado Springs and the property on which he worked was later developed by a large mining company which eventually took out more than a million dollars worth of gold. This was verified by a man who knew John R. Stevenson and related the story to my oldest brother Tom when he visited the Cripple Creek area possibly 40 years later.

In 1949 I visited Cripple Creek together with my wife, Doris, and daughter, Myrra, and we went down into one of the abandoned gold mines.

When my father lived in Cleveland, Ohio, he was offered a small farm and considered very seriously about buying it for only a few hundred dollars. When about 35-40 years later my brother Tom went to Cleveland he sent my father a map so that he could mark on it the location of the property he had considered purchasing. It happens that today that same property is part of down town Cleveland. Tom went to Cleveland with his cousin Tom Quayle of Gob-e-Volley, Sulby, whose sister Janet married Daniel Corlett of Balaugh who later became mayor of Johannesburg, South Africa. Janet Quayle taught me as a boy in Sulby school.

After living in America for 8 years my father decided in 1860 to visit his home in the Isle of Man. During his visit the Civil War started and he was unable to return to America as he had fully intended.

Continued on page 6, col 1

KNOW YOUR ANCESTORS

By Mrs. Robert Cowin

The response to our column in the last issue of the Bulletin was very gratifying and we are pleased to receive so many favorable comments. Because of the number of requests received for the ORIGIN OF MANX PERSONAL NAMES, and the time required for research, we will only be able to answer a few each issue.

KERMOME is a Gaelic name, and its original form in old Gaelic was Mac Dhiarmada, son of the Freeman. The final vowel would be unstressed and the Dh aspirated, while the old Gaelic "a" was pronounced "aw" as in modern Irish Gaelic, so early pronunciation would be approximately "Machyormod", which later became our Kermode. The earliest form in Manx records is in the Court Records for 1417, where it is spelt MacGermot, and various other spellings are Mac Kermott (1450), Kermod (1586), Carmont (1787) and Kermothe (1822).

MOUGHTIN is also of Gaelic origin and its original form was Mac Moctain, meaning Son of the Great One. It is found in the Manx records from 1505, and was then spelt MacMoghtan, but by 1673 it had become Moughtin. The name is found mainly in the Lonan and Laxey district.

DUKE appears first in the Manx records in 1511 in the parishes of Rushen, Arbory and Patrick. J. J. Kneen, the only authority who lists it, probably originally was a nickname.

SCARFFE derives from the old Norse Skarfr, meaning a cormorant,

and may have been taken by the family on account of their adopting the bird as their heraldic emblem. It is found in the Manx records from 1408, and as usual with old names has undergone changes in spelling. The earliest form is Skerffe, and there are also Skearffe (1430), Skerrow (1634), Mac Skerff (1515) and Scarrow (1702). Wm. Skerffe and Michael Mac Skerffe were members of the House of Keys in 1408.

CRELLIN, meaning "son of a champion" is found in the Manx records from 1515 and has undergone many changes of spelling. The earliest from is MacNellen (1515), Crelin (1631), Crellinge (1665), Crillin (1702) and Crelling (1675). John Frissell Crellin (1764-1816) of Ramsey, was a member of the House of Keys.

INFORMATION REQUESTED

Mr. T. McCann of 16 Brisbane Street, Douglas, Isle of Man, is compiling a family tree and is lacking information about members of his family who settled in U.S.A. around 1910 to 1920.

He would be very grateful for information about families named: McCann, Casey, McCluskey, Smith or Kean, who may have lived in Philadelphia, Pen., or Camden, New Jersey.

During his research Mr. McCann has come across the name Charles Kewley Callow who died in Los Angeles, Calif., 20 June, 1955, and would like to know if he ever resided in or around Philadelphia.

HARPER'S VIEW OF THE ISLE OF MAN — 1875

PART V

There are three ways of seeing the island. The quickest and cheapest is by the recently constructed narrow-gauge railroad. The most popular is by wagonette, a sort of civilized jaunting-car, accommodating from four to eight persons, which can be hired, with the driver, for twenty shillings (five dollars) a day. The best is by walking, and the occasional use of the railroad between unimportant points. The requisites are a fair degree of endurance, a stout pair of boots, and a water-proof overcoat, the latter being especially indispensable, as scarcely a day passes without the blessing of rain. It was thus that I traveled and I think I saw much that the ordinary tourist misses.

I started out in a northwesterly direction from Douglas to Peel, following for two miles the road leading to Kirk Braddan. Thence we were in a valley of small farms for the rest of our journey. Prior to the re-investment of the sovereignty in the British crown, agriculture was greatly neglected, and the exertions of the peasantry were devoted to smuggling and the herring fisheries. But since that event a decided improvement has taken place, and the best methods of cultivating lands have been adopted. The holdings are very small, and though some include two hundred acres, the greater number consist of not more than a hundred, or a hundred and fifty. About two-thirds of the whole island are productive; the remainder is sterile and neglected. Some of the land in the south resting on limestone is said to be equal to the best in England, and in the north large quantities of marl are found, which possesses highly valuable chemical properties.

Mines of lead, iron, and copper are worked extensively at four places, and the export of these minerals affords a considerable part of the insular income. The lead mines in general yield a mixed ore, two-thirds blende, and one-third lead, in a ton of which there are from seventy-five to one hundred ounces of silver. Quarries of lime, marble, and granite are also worked on a moderate scale at Foxdale, Scarlett, and Ballasalla.

At the beginning of the eighth century the population consisted of about three hundred families, and in 1861 it had increased to fifty-two thousand.

Sulby Pioneer

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About 1864-1865 he married a pretty young Manx lassie-scarcely 20 years old-Jane Cowley, daughter of Robert Cowley, Cramag, Sulby, and brother of the late Robert Cowley, M.H.K. and an aunt of the late Deemster Sir Percy Cowley. To this union 13 children were born, and the writer - Walter J. Stevenson happens to be the youngest and only survivor.

Members of the family emigrated to many parts of the world. Tom the oldest son came to America in 1891 and died in Salt Lake City, Utah, in 1948. Alfred E. died in Vancouver, British Columbia in 1915, and Edith. (Mrs. Henry Cartmell) died in Chilliwack, British Columbia. George emigrated to South Africa soon after the end of the Boer War and died there in 1934. His son Arthur, and two daughters still live there - Elfie May, (Mrs. James Swan-

son) and Mona Ethel, (Mrs. Douglas H. Rymer).

As a boy I can recall my father telling about some of his travels in America, the encounters with Indians, seeing large herds of buffalo, shooting prairie chickens for food etc. But to me, in those days, Ohio, Nebraska, Kansas and Colorado etc. were merely some places in America.

Most of the incidents relating to my father's travels were related to me by my brother Tom who was 20 years older than I. He followed in his father's footsteps some 35 to 40 years later.

By a wide stretch of imagination, if my father had become an American citizen during his stay in America, it is possible that his children might have been born American citizens.

Walter J. Stevenson
8543 East Pecos Lane
Scottsdale, Arizona. 85253

October 15th 1971.

Not a few of the people are descended from the Scotch and Irish immigrants of centuries ago; but the pure-blooded Manx are in a majority. They are jealous of foreigners, and in some remote villages in the mountains and on the coast they intermarry among themselves. In manner they are stolid and reserved, suspicious of questionings, and more disposed to listen than to answer. They are very temperate in the use of strong drinks, and are well-educated and intelligent. Since the year 1703 they have had a complete system of compulsory education.

One of the earliest written laws was directed against drunkenness. "At the Tinwald Court holden on the 24th June, 1610. It is by general consent proclaimed that as oft as any man or woman shall be found drunk hereafter, the party soe offending, if not of ability to pay a fine, shall for the first time be punished in the stockes, the second time to be tyed to the whipping stockes, and the third time to be whipped therein."

The Manx jealousy of alien settlers is shown in a law which enacts "that all Scotts avoid the land with the next vessell that goeth into Scotland, upon paine of forfeiture of their goods, and their bodies to prison." This spirit of "clannishness" even went so far as to proscribe the emigration from the island of all unmarried men and women, under twenty-five years of age, who had not served seven years at labor. But except in this instance the Manx community enjoyed the utmost political freedom under the most effective and least burdensome restraints of morality.

The language which is used in conversation by the peasantry and in some of the legal formulas, is one of the six dialects of the Celtic, expanded by the Icelandic and old Norse. Manx scholars are fond of expatiating on its melody, harmony, and copiousness; but Bishop Shirley did not think so much of it, and declared it to be "an unmitigated portion of the curse of Babel." The native literature is meagre, consisting of several legendary ballads of considerable length, political and satirical songs and carols or carols, translations of the Bible, the Book of Common Prayer, portions of "Paradise Lost", several theological works by Bishop Wilson, and hymns by Watts and Wesley.

English is generally understood, and is spoken with a dialect something like that of the characters in "A Princess of Thule". Was in pronounced wass; indeed, teet; far, fair; great, grade;

mother, mawther; and devil, tivvil. A visitor was told by a native scholar that in the translation of "Paradise Lost" all the nonsense of the original had been suppressed. "'Teet there's a dale of nonsense in the English pome," he added. "I mane the foolish tales about Adam and Eve coortin', and such like. There's none of that nonsense in Manx pote-ry — no, inteet. A dale of Milton's "Paradise Lost" is nauthin' in the world but thrash. The Manx translation is far shoo-pay-re-er — pertickerly those parts of the pome telling about the fights between the tivvils and the anchels — yes, inteet. Ay, man, it's ray-ly wun-thir-ful — it's grand — it's grand uncommon!"

The island does not form part of the realm of Great Britain and has its own legislature, laws, and courts of justice; but it is a part of the dominions of the Crown. Its government is composed of the Queen in Council, a Lieutenant-Governor, and the House of Keyes. The Lieutenant-Governor is appointed by the Queen, and members of the House of Keyes are elected by the people. The principal courts of law are the Chancery, the General Jail Delivery, the Exchequer, the Common Law, the Seneschal's the Consistorial, and the High Bailiff's. The staff of Government and the Queen in Council possess appellate jurisdiction, and for judicial purposes the island is divided into two districts, with a deemster or judge appointed by the Crown for each. These districts are subdivided into sheadings, over each of which is a coroner, who unites in his person the duties of an English constable and sheriff.

To come back to the road, from which I did not intend to wander so far. The day fulfilled the promise of the morning, and I think I was overtaken by only four separate showers in the course of two hours. Several wagnettes dashed past, loaded with merry-makers, who seemed indifferent to the rain, as, indeed, all must be who would see the Isle of Man.

Four miles from Douglas I came to Crosby, a road-side village of picturesque cottages, with gardens in front of each. A bevy of barefooted little maidens advanced, offering baskets of mushrooms for sale. Not disposing of which, they modestly retired, without even asking for a penny. It was surprising how few beggars I encountered, and how few signs of poverty. The smallest cottages were in an excellent state of repair, and the inmates were dressed in substantial and comfortable woollens.

In a grassy field on the right-hand side of the road are the remains of St. Trinian's Church, which was built to the memory of a Pictish bishop hundreds of years ago. I have lost faith in ruins as a general thing, and think them rather disappointing; but St. Trinian's realizes all one's ideas of what a storm-battered, time-eaten old sanctuary should be. It is in a meadow, as I have said — a meadow sprinkled with drops of golden buttercups and snow-flake daisies, and the meadow is at the foot of a mountain. When it was perfect it was about seventy feet long by twenty-five feet broad, but it has not such magnificent proportions now, and the ghosts of all those worshippers who have been baptized and married in it, and are dead, must be crowded for room. The walls at the eastern side are crumbled out of sight, and their dust is cloaked in moss, ivy, and ferns. Only the moist stones at the western end and a part of the northern wall remain, with a voiceless little belfry above them. The roof went long ago, and the story of some marvel-lovers is that there never was a roof at all; in fact, that a mischievous fairy, called the buggane, amused himself with tossing it to the ground, with a loud laugh of satisfac-

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Lillian Beckwith

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Son Geoffrey skippers a fishing boat and daughter Betty operates a crafts centre with her husband. Lillian Comber and husband Ted have a boutique in Peel and they share the running of it.

There is nothing ostentatious about their way of life. She runs an elderly Austin A40 and, although she could afford something far grander, confesses that she takes no pleasure in throwing away money on expensive cars.

The whole family have read and enjoyed Lillian Beckwith's latest manuscript, 'The Business of My Father', which tells of her girlhood in Cheshire. It will be published by Hutchinson next month.

Before I left, Mrs. Comber told me that although her sixth book will, at last, given her the true feeling of being a writer, she still has two ambitions.

'One is to write an historical novel from the point of view of ordinary people,' she said.

And the other? 'Oh, to do another book about Scotland. Its mysteries perhaps. It won't, however, have anything to do with Bruach.'

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tion, as often as it was put on. The circumstances are related so minutely that they are almost to be believed, and whether the story is true or false, it is a matter of fact that there never has been a roof during the lifetime of the oldest villagers, and that two crusty trees have been growing out of the nave so long that they would not pass for middle-aged.

The work of the buggane was all the wicked as the church was built by a pious soul in fulfillment of a vow made during a storm at sea, and it is well for the credit of fairy-land that his sins were atoned for by the good deeds of another spirit, who lives in the traditions of an adjacent field. The field is called Ye Cheance Rhunt, and the fairy is the Phynnoddere, which means in Manx the "hairy satyr." At one time he was a favorite elfin knight, but he was banished from the court and transformed to a satyr on account of his love for a mortal. His reverses did not sour the native sweetness of his temper, and he haunted the meadow at the foot of the mountain for many years, endearing himself to the people by constant acts of kindness. On retiring for the night the mistress of the house would leave a bowl of provisions on the table for him, and when the family were asleep he would enter the kitchen and quietly eat the food, afterward mending all the broken furniture in the house, and chopping wood for the morning's fire.

One day a gentleman wished to show his gratitude to the Phynnoddere, and left a few garments for him in the meadow; but instead of pleasing him, they wounded his feelings by reminding him of his condition. He took up the things, one by one, muttering the while:

"Cap for the head — alas, poor head!

Coat for the back — alas, poor back!

Breeches for the breech — alas, poor breech!"

And throwing them over the mountains into the sea, he disappeared, with a sad cry, never to cross the threshold of man again.

As I made my way back to the road I called for some milk in one of the cottages, where an old lady was seated at her spinning-wheel. I asked her whether the fairies had been about lately, and she looked at me suspiciously for a few minutes before gravely answering no. "But," she quickly added, "I don't mane to say that there be none: no inteet. But it is terrible long cinet wan came anear to me; yes, in-

OBITUARIES

ARMBRUSTER, Frances M. (nee Cowin) of Bay Village, Ohio, passed away Wednesday, October 27, 1971, aged 77. She was the daughter of Stanley and Charlotte (Clucas) Cowin of Union Mills, I.O.M. She is survived by her brother Robert (Bert) Cowin of Westlake, Ohio. Mrs. Armbruster was born in Cleveland, Ohio, but lived four years in the Isle of Man as a child. She was a gifted artist, a member of the Cleveland Manx Society and the Bay Village Garden Club. She will be greatly missed by her many friends.

HORNSBY, Janet Florence (née Sloan) passed away after a short illness in Montreal, Quebec, on August 29th, 1971. She was the wife of the late Hugh Hornsby who predeceased her three years ago and the loving daughter of Mrs. E. A. Sloan (née Effie Maddrell formerly of Peel, I.O.M.) Hon. President of the Montreal Manx Society. Janet is survived by her mother, brother William Sloan of Liverpool, Eng., sisters Mary (Mrs. G. Smith) and Catherine (Mrs. R. Shorroek); twin sister Eunice (Mrs. A. J. Blackwood) and a number of nephews and nieces. She was a loyal and hardworking member of the Montreal Manx Society.

GERBER, Ruth C. née Wade. Beloved wife of Russell S. Gerber, mother of James, grandmother and great grandmother, passed away October 31st. Ruth was the daughter of the late Evan and Sarah Wade, natives of Peel, I.O.M. Other survivors are sisters Ethel Patterson and Evelyn Cass, brothers Cecil H. Wade and Robert A. Wade. She was predeceased by brothers Fred, William and John and sister Edith Sanborn. Ruth was a member of the Cleveland Manx.

teet: ant ta boggane it is in the mountain under the goree, it is." She blessed me as I left her, and fell to crooning an old Manx love-song, as the silky wool sped into the strong fabric:

"For Jurly plain, O Mylechavane,

You left me alone in the glen:

For better or worse there is gold in your purse —

Gold pieces, two hundred time ten."

To be continued

MARTIN, Rev. K. D. died suddenly on September 6th, 1971, and was buried on September 9th. at Baraboo, Wisc., where he had formerly served as an Episcopal minister. The Rev. Martin had lived for some time in the Woodland Hills Retirement Home in Richland Center, Wisc., where he took an active part in conducting some of the services. He is survived by his sister, Portia Martin, who is also a resident of the Home.

MYLCHREEST, Caroline Crellin of Mantua, Ohio, U.S.A. died suddenly on November 1st. She was married to the late Henry Mylchreest, one of the past Presidents of the N.A.M.A. Carrie, as she was affectionately known was born in Peel, Isle of Man, and emigrated to Akron, Ohio, U.S.A. in February 1920. She and her husband moved to Cleveland in 1926, until he died in 1966, and in 1969 Carrie went to Mantua to live with her son Louis and his wife Betty.

She is survived by her son Louis and daughter-in-law Betty, her sisters Selene, Anne, and Flo Crellin of Akron, Ohio, and a niece, Mrs. Bill Jahant, Claremont, California. She was a member of the Cleveland Manx Society, and former member of the N.A.M.A. Funeral services were at the Wheeler Funeral Home in Mantua, Wednesday, November 3rd, and burial in Mount Peace Cemetery, in Akron, Ohio the same day.

RUSSELL, Mrs. Emma Cain of Claremont, Calif., passed away on September 11th, 1971, at Claremont Manor and was buried at Bakersfield, Calif. Mrs. Russell was for many years a member of the N.A.M.A. She is survived by a niece, Miss Kathryn R. Cain, of Palm Spring, Calif.

SHIMMIN, Mrs. Frank L. (Ella C.) of Peoria, Illinois, died June 23rd., 1971, in Methodist Hospital, Peoria. Mrs. Shimmin was state president of the PEO Sisterhood in 1957, past president of Mizpah Circle and served as chairman of the board of trustees of the PEO Home in Knoxville, Illinois. She was born in Riceville, Tenn., and in 1923 was married to Frank L. Shimmin who survives her and who is the most Manx of the Peoria Manx Assoc. members.

To relatives and friends of the above we offer heartfelt sympathy.