

BULLETIN *of the* North American Manx Association



VOL. 56 NO. 3

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

MARCH 1984

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Spring is just around the corner, and most of us will be only too happy for it to arrive. Brr! what a cold winter we've had! It will be wonderful to see the grass once more, and to watch the spring flowers poking their green shoots out of the ground. Spring symbolizes rebirth and the joy of Easter.

With approaching spring come thoughts of the Convention to be held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, August 10-13. Mr Anderson and his committee are working hard to plan an outstanding Convention for us, and there may be some surprises in store. Start making your plans now to attend. I hope we will see many of our new friends that we met at the Homecoming.

By now you should have received information about the souvenir book. Be sure to send your greetings and memorials before the deadline.

Don't forget those recipes, either. We hope to have a large cookbook to offer you, but we need your recipes. Hurry and send them in.

Last November, I received a beautiful scrapbook from the Tourist Board, filled with pictures of the Homecoming. Eddie Lowey suggested that the societies compile scrapbooks of the event, and bring them to the Convention. I think this a marvelous idea, and suggest that everyone who attended make up either a personal scrapbook, or join with others of their family or society. Let's have a scrapbook fest at the Convention!

We are in the process of computerizing the names and addresses of members. In order to keep the listing up-to-date, please notify Clarence Creer, Treas. and Mrs. Hilda Penrice, Bulletin Editor immediately of any change of address, or if your address label is incorrect. If you will cooperate, we will do our best to maintain correct addresses for everyone.

Happy Easter!

Mona Haldeman
President

CONVENTION AUGUST 10th - 13th 1984 THE 36TH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF N.A.M.A.

The 36th Biennial Convention of the N.A.M.A. will be held on August 10-13, 1984, in Minneapolis, Minnesota, at the Marquette Inn.

Minneapolis is one of the foremost convention centres in the United States. Minnesota is the "Land of 10,000 Lakes" and Minneapolis has 13 of them within its city limits.

The Marquette Inn is located in the heart of the downtown area of Minneapolis. It is connected with an elaborate glass atrium and a 57-storey tower. It is the center of an extensive skyway system which is connected to endless shopping centers, world famous restaurants, and many other entertainment facilities.

Minneapolis is the home of many cultural activities. The Guthrie Theatre is the United States' leading professional resident theatre company. Minneapolis has over 90 theatres, including the Children's Theatre Company, the Minnesota Dance Theatre, the Cricket Theatre, and many dinner theatres.

Minneapolis is the home of the Minnesota Orchestra, which is ranked among the best five in the U.S. In our neighbouring city is the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra and the Twin Cities have many other musical groups.

The Minneapolis Institute of Arts features over 65,000 works of art, including pieces by such masters as Rembrandt van Rijn and Picasso. The Walker Art Center is world renowned for its modern art collection. There are also many other smaller museums and art dealers.

There are many highly-rated educational institutions in the area, including the University of Minnesota's Minneapolis campus, the nation's largest, which is a member of the Big Ten athletic programs and is known for its distinguished libraries, Theatre Department, and School of Medicine.

Many national and international corporations are headquartered here such as the Pillsbury Company, International Multifoods, Control Data, I.D.S., General Mills, and many others.

A tour of the city is planned and among the special tours will be one to the world famous Betty Crocker kitchens, tours of the lakes and Minnehaha Falls, and the Minnesota Zoo. Tours can also be arranged to visit the Mayo Clinic at Rochester and to the University of Minnesota, including the James Ford Bell Library. A short Mississippi river trip on a sternwheel riverboat is also planned.

We expect to have a delegation from the Government of the Isle of Man and we have a commitment from Magnus Magnusson, the world renowned archaeologist, who will talk to us about the recent findings of the Viking Age, including the famous excavations at York, England. He will also give us a detailed report on the present excavations taking place at Peel Castle and elsewhere on the Isle of Man.

We are now preparing a souvenir book for the convention, which you may have already received information about through the mail from our convention headquarters. We will greatly appreciate an early response from each of you in order that we can receive the information requested in time to prepare the booklet for the convention.

We will be giving you further details of our program as time goes on. If anyone has any special interests, please let us know so that we can be of help to you. All communications should be addressed to the 1984 Convention Headquarters as shown below:

T. R. Anderson, Convention
Chairman
1984 N.A.M.A. Convention
Headquarters
1914 First Bank Place West
Minneapolis, MN 55402

SMILE!

"I just spoke to my broker" the man boasted, "Which one" his friend asked "Stock or pawn".

North American Manx Association Officers 1982/84

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Douglas, Isle of Man.

Mr. Norman Clucas.
Webster Groves, Mo.

Past President:

Mr. George Curphey.
3 William St., Box 716.
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1914 First Bank Place W.,
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2nd Vice-President:

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6821 Duke Drive.
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NAMA Membership Fee \$6.00 per year (from Aug. 1st, 1982) this includes subscription to Bulletin published four times annually. Membership without Bulletin \$2.00

Life Membership Fees in NAMA:
Members over 50 years of age \$40.00
Members under 50 years of age \$50.00

THERE'S A LOT OF HISTORY BEHIND THAT GOLD BAND

In June, rings are on the minds and fingers of thousands of young women soon to be married across the country. But throughout history, wedding and engagement rings have long represented many ideas beyond the traditional loyalty and eternal love themes. Although the ring (or at the very least, a knot of rushes) has been present when men and women have pledged their wedding vows to one another for over 1,000 years, there seems to be no singular basis for the custom. Instead, many unusual local practices evolved which influenced the exchanging or giving of rings at marriage or betrothal. Did you know that —

The custom of wearing the wedding or engagement ring on the fourth finger came from the ancient Egyptians, who believed that a special nerve of their finger ran directly to the heart?

There was once a strict code issued in Europe requiring that lovers wear gold rings only on their smallest finger.

In the 18th century, during the time of George I of England, the ring, although often placed on the fourth finger at the ceremony, was usually placed afterward on the thumb - probably because of the exceptionally large size of the rings then in fashion.

A ring was often a matter of life or death on the Isle of Man as part of a dramatic scenerio occurring when a young man was found guilty of injuring a maiden in some manner. The young female victim was given a sword, a rope and a ring, signifying that she could have her offender beheaded, hung or forced to marry her.

In Italy during the 15th century, the betrothal ceremony was never done in the presence of a priest - a notary public was the official to see.

When no ring of precious metal was available for a marriage ceremony, a curtain ring from the church curtains sometimes sufficed.

In India, weddings rings were worn only for a few days after the ceremony; at most a ring was worn for a year, then melted down for more "practical use".

Some Hindu women wore an unusual ring on the big toe of their left foot as a mark of the married state.

In some parts of Ireland, the belief is the special virtue of a gold ring was so strong that often the groom would rent one for the altar rites if he were unable to afford the purchase price.

Kenneth D. Collister
Elkhart, IN.

THREE MASTED SAILING SHIPS FEATURED BY THE ISLE OF MAN

Five stamps and a souvenir sheet featuring last century's three-masted sailing ships are on the Isle of Man stamps being issued on Feb. 14.

The stamps are to mark the Karran Fleet of 11 sailing ships which sailed from the Isle of Man to all parts of the world from the mid-1880s to 1920.

The souvenir sheet also features a Falkland Island stamp showing the 1913 wreck of the Lady Elizabeth, an Isle of Man ship, which is beached at the east end of Port Stanley Harbor, main port of the Falklands.

On April 27 two stamps will be issued for European Telecommunications and five stamps showing various aircraft used to carry mail to and from the Isle of Man since inauguration of airmail service there in 1934.

These aircraft stamps will also mark the 40th anniversary of ICAO, International Civil Aviation Organization, headquartered in Montreal.

OUR OWN PEOPLE

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

It was a great day when Mrs. Lillian Marrion Tipper celebrated her 96th birthday on December 11th, 1983. 12 members of her family gathered around her to celebrate, it was a great joy to her when her grandson, Kim, whom she had not seen for some years attended her birthday party.

She received many cards of Good Wishes including one from the President of the United States, also a letter wishing her a happy day from Queen Elizabeth II of England. Mrs. Peggie Palmer, Mrs. Tipper's daughter planned to tape all the messages off the cards and letters so that her Mother could play them over and enjoy her 96th birthday all through the coming year.

Mrs. Tipper is a remarkable lady, active and alert, she still lives in her own home with Beatriz as her companion.

For many years Mrs. Tipper contributed articles and stories to the N.A.M.A. Bulletin, they were much enjoyed by our members. Perhaps Mrs. Tipper is the oldest member of the N.A.M.A.

Good Health and Happiness to Mrs. Tipper, who resides at 7825 Clearfield Ave., Panorama City, Cal. 91402. USA.

LETTER FROM ELLESMERE PORT

Greetings my friends.

Once again we have passed through the portals of another year and with cheerful hearts, we have to accept the uncertain bounty of future providence.

At home in the Isle of Man, I would have been a 'Qualtagh' (the first visitor of the New Year). New Year's Day is historically important in the Island and for me, the source of many happy and exhilarating memories from the halcyon days of youth.

Our Christmas Day festivities were warmed by the mildest weather. The sun shone brightly as we sat down to our festive table; stimulating the impulses of joy and affection which seem to pervade our 'family gathering' during the Yuletide season.

Since that memorable day, we have experienced the worst gales for a generation. Tumultuous winds and tempestuous seas have lashed the Northern Approaches. The heaviest snowfalls in Scotland for twenty years. Blizzards and Floods elsewhere have brought destruction, disaster and death. Infinitely sad but always true, the 'Grim Reaper' never ceases to walk and claim when nature, at its wildest, demonstrates its awesome strength and power.

At times like these, the dark side of the elemental forces attract me into a strange affinity; my celtic imagination becomes superstitious. I ask myself; has the 'Taroo-Ushtey' emerged at last, rampant from the ante-deluvial bogs of the northern Curragh's? Is the malevolent 'Phynoderee' still sitting in some ancient trammon, unmoved by the raging gales? Have the tempests unearthed the hideous 'Buggane' and do I hear its obscene bellow echoing down the glens from the highest hills of Mann? Most sinister of all, on what tombstone sits the 'Keimach' waiting to run swiftly and silently toward me?

My friends, all is well. Today is quiet, cold and serene and when clearing the debris from under the trees at the bottom of the garden, the white heads of the little snowdrops appear in some profusion; whilst in the herbaceous border the Daffodils are growing vigorous and certain. Dare I say it - Spring is very near. The little signs are here - each day the daylight lasts longer, each day the 'murmur' of starlings congregate later in our great oak tree ready to fly to their nightly haunts in the woods at some secret signal. The blackbirds swoop and chatter at dusk, ready and active for their early nesting in February.

What is there left for me to say regarding Spring except to repeat my favourite verse from the mellifluous

Song of Solomon:-

"For lo - the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land."

Kindest regards,
ARTHUR BRIDSON

Taroo-Ushtey - "The Black Water Bull."

Phynoderee "Malicious degraded Fairy."

Buggane "Frightful Manx Giant."

Keimach "The Prancer."

N.A.M.A. COOKBOOK! HURRY! HURRY! HURRY!

Recipes are arriving every day, but we need lots and lots of them to make the cookbook the success we hope it will be. Remember, we want all kinds of recipes, especially any regional ones, or any Manx ones. The absolute deadline is APRIL 30TH. The copy must be sent to the printers in very early May if we are to have the book ready for the Convention. Send the recipes to: MRS. R. F. HALDEMAN, 191 GLENVIEW DRIVE, AVON LAKE, OHIO, 44012. Send them very soon!

If you have any questions, just write to me and I'll try to answer them. Just be sure the recipe is correct, all ingredients listed in proper amounts and directions clear and concise.

Also, be sure your name appears as you wish it to appear in the cookbook..

HURRY! HURRY! HURRY! Get them in before the deadline.

Mona Haldeman

PLEASE DO NOT SEND YOUR RECIPES TO ME — Send them to Mrs. Haldeman, address given above.

The Editor

EXPLANATION OF MANX BONNAG

Several people have asked about bonnag, so I thought I'd better explain. Bonnag is a cross between bread and kuchen, not as sweet as kuchen, but sweeter than bread. It is not a yeast dough, but contains raisins or currants, or other fruits and nuts. It is usually served with butter, much like a bread. It is a favorite with the Cleveland Manx, and we will include recipes for it in the cookbook.

TRAA-DY-LIOOAR FILM

The film "Traa Dy Liooar" is still available for anyone who would like to show it. It requires a 16mm sound projector, and lasts about 20 minutes. If you would like it, contact Mona Haldeman (Mrs. R. F.), 191 Glenview Drive, Avon Lake, Ohio 44012.

ISLE OF MAN ISSUES STURDY PLASTIC BANKNOTE

Credit cards have threatened to displace cash with plastic, and now the Isle of Man has gone all the way - issuing a nearly indestructible plastic banknote.

"You can't tear it with your bare hands, it won't fade, it doesn't get dirty and it's cheap," says chief accountant Christopher Tovell. "They cost the same to mint, but we won't have to replace nearly as many."

He said the new bill, issued only in the one-pound (\$1.46) denomination, has a life of five years, compared with a paper note's nine-month lifespan.

"I even put one in the oven and it only shrunk a little bit," he said.

The Isle of Man, a dependency of the British crown in the Irish Sea issues its own money and its legislature rules over local matters.

WOULD IT MATTER?

POST ST. MARY Commissioners have complained that the Rushen siren, which is supposed to warn of impending nuclear attack or fallout, cannot be heard in their village. In the event of war, they fear, they could be wiped out without warning.

It is difficult to imagine why they think it matters. In the event of a direct attack on the Isle of Man, it would surely be preferable to be wiped out without warning than with it, and we would be very surprised to hear that anyone in Port St. Mary, or anywhere else for that matter, has made adequate preparations which they could set in motion within minutes if they knew that a cloud of radioactive fall-out was approaching.

Their concern is typical of the frighteningly docile attitude with which so many people accept the reassurances of officialdom. They could do better to understand that they are effectively defenceless, and then to set about doing something about it.

Excerpt from the "Manx Star"

NEWS OF THE MANX SOCIETIES

SAN DIEGO MANX SOCIETY

The San Diego Manx Society met at the home of Arline Archer on December 11, 1983, for a lovely Christmas Open House and regular meeting. Fifteen members were present.

Election of officers was held and the following were elected for the ensuing year:

Marjorie Frederick	President
Betty Bruno	Secretary
Ed. Wittenkeller	Treasurer

Christmas gifts were exchanged and a festive time was had by all.

Our next meeting to be held February 12, 1984, at the home of Ed and Aline Wittenkeller has been changed and we will meet at the home of our President, Marjorie Frederick.

Aline Wittenkeller has had heart by pass surgery and as of this writing is recovering well and we expect to have her back with us at meetings soon.

Definite plans for attending the N.A.M.A. in Minneapolis have not been made, however Betty and Bill Bruno are Minnesotans and may possibly be able to arrange their summer vacation schedule to be in Minneapolis in August.

Betty Bruno
5800 Lake Murray Blvd., #21
La Mesa, California 92041

CHICAGO MANX SOCIETY

The Chicago Manx Society had a very lovely ethnic dinner in October, 1983, at the Atlantic Restaurant, on North Avenue. Thirty people were in attendance and everyone enjoyed their dinner very much. After a short business meeting, conducted by Clarence Creer, our president, it was then turned over to Mr. Donald Kanner who had just returned from this first trip to the Isle of Man. He showed many slides of his trip and they were unusual as he showed them on two slide projectors.

Clarence stated he would like to have the next meeting in the spring when our weather in Illinois is good.

Florence Abbinanti
Secretary - Treasurer
9330 S. Richmond Avenue
Evergreen Park, Illinois
60642

CLEVELAND MANX SOCIETY

No meetings were held in January or February but our regular schedule resumes in March. Our annual card party, to be held in May, raises funds for the N.A.M.A. convention.

Our members save cancelled postage stamps from their mail for the Manx "Save the Children Fund".

American cancelled stamps are in great demand over there by philatelists. Elizabeth Clucas, N.A.M.A. Secretary, takes - or sends - these cancelled stamps to the Isle of Man. If you care to save your cancelled stamps for this worthy cause, you may forward them to Liz (small packages please, for she hasn't a large mail box in the apartment) or you may send them to me. Our mail box is a big one!

Marge (Kennish) Krach
319 Ridgeview Drive
Seven Hills, OH 44131

BISBEE MANX SOCIETY

The Bisbee Manx Society reconvened for a regular meeting on January 9th at the home of Ivy Dillon. It was encouraging to have a very good turnout and to welcome Maude and Bill Franks after all their travelling to the Mardi Gras in New Orleans and their fishing trip to Alaska. The usual business meeting was held and a report given by our Treasurer, Christine Rothery, she reported that the usual \$20.00 food baskets had been given at Thanksgiving and Christmas to the needy.

A Pig in the Poke was raffled and won by Bessie McKeeby who also won the door prize. Bingo followed for which the Hostess gave small articles brought back from the Isle of Man as prizes.

A wonderful potluck of goodies with the traditional "Cup of Tay" followed, ending a beautiful renewal of friendships.

The February meeting will be hosted by Ethel Chick.

Ivy Dillon, Sec.
207 Hazzard St.
Bisbee, Ariz. 85603

WASHINGTON MANX SOCIETY

The Board of Governors met on October 14 at the home of Mary Hayslett to finalize plans for the upcoming Christmas Party. Preliminary plans were discussed for the annual dinner at Fort Lesley J. McNair Officers Club on Saturday, April 7, 1984. If any Manx are in the Washington area at the time of the dinner they are welcome to attend. However, we need enough advance notice to make reservations - cost approximately \$13.

On December 3, 1983 we had a very successful Christmas Party at the Rotunda of the British Embassy attended by 77 adults and 15 children. The program opened with welcome by President William Brideson, followed by singing the Manx National Anthem. The theme of the one hour program was Manx Christmas: Ancient to Modern. Mrs. Patricia Skillicorn narrated the folklore and traditions of the ancient and modern Manx Christmas. She sang two solos and led the group in singing Manx carvals, accompanied on the piano by Sally Long and on the violin by Sarah Garske. Garrick Lightowler read the story of the Little Boy's Christmas Tree. Mrs. Avril Shipman explained the folklore of Hunt the Wren, and led the group in singing songs of the story. Mrs. Shipman told of the modern Manx Christmas and involved the attendees in the game of The Family Coach. The program concluded with singing the traditional Good Night Song. Punch, Manx pastries, and sandwiches were served.

Mary E. Hayslett, Secretary
2121 Columbia Pike, Apt. 302
Arlington, Virginia 22204

I.O.M. FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY NEWS

The Society with 300 members world-wide (83 in North America) is still growing. We continue our recording of Manx Monumental Inscriptions, an activity requiring 'comfortable' weather. Work will continue on Old Braddan Churchyard in the Spring, while the first 'old' section of Peel Cemetery will be printed shortly. These will be

available eventually, from Paul Gregson, Daly City, California, in addition to the earlier MI and Census productions.

A group of our members is offering to undertake genealogical research of a more intensive nature than usual, as a fund raising venture. This forms part of the campaign to raise £500,000 in 1983 for Hospice Care in the Island.

People with Qualtrough connections will be interested in a book on the Qualtrough clan, produced by Elizabeth Barlow of New Zealand. For details of this, and the above genealogical research, contact Iris Lyle, Old Manse, Kirk Michael, Isle of Man, British Isles.

After our January AGM, with a little change round in our Committee, we look forward to our future monthly meetings (on the third Friday), including a dinner at Peel Viking Longhouse June 19th, plus the Tynwald Day Homecomers' Tent on July 5th at St. John's, followed by our Open Day Exhibition, provisionally on July 7th.

Our overseas friends and relatives are most welcome to join in our meetings.

NEBRASKA MANX SOCIETY

The Nebraska Manx Society will hold its Spring meeting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Philip Corkill, 2220 South 49th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska on April 29, 1984. A covered dish dinner will be served at 1:00 p.m. By that time we will have more information on the N.A.M.A. convention in Minneapolis, Minn. August 10 - 13.

We will be sending cards to our members but if you are in our area and would like to attend, contact the secretary for more information.

(Mrs. J. C.) Annie E. Robison,
Secretary
R. R. 1 Box 137
Elk Creek, Nebraska 68348

TORONTO MANX SOCIETY

Happy New Year to you all! Our members finished off 1983 with a very successful Christmas party on December 9th. We enjoyed new games and ideas led by Susan Ellis and Tammy Myerson. The number of members that are able to attend our gatherings have a wonderful time and appreciate the collected work of many of our members, especially Dot Hall, that makes our meetings most enjoyable. Our next gathering is our Spring meeting in April.

Our President, Phyllis Linsley, has been on the Island since last Spring. Unfortunately illness has delayed her return to Canada but we are glad to report that she is now feeling better and hopes to be home soon.

Marion Welton

WORLD MANX ASSOCIATION

Our first item of news is a report on the World Manx Association Dinner, held in memory of T. E. Brown, on the 31st October.

The presence of Mr. Peter Farrant, Vicar General, accompanied by his charming wife, Rosemary, gave an added pleasure to members and friends. Mr. and Mrs. Farrant, are especially interested in Brown's Life and Works and are fortunate in having two literary-minded children; Robert, the elder, combining his literary talent with that of performing in Drama, and Lucy, a worthy Competitor in spoken word competitions.

Our evening proved to be a truly delightful occasion, with Mr. T. H. Kelly, of Castletown, proposing The Immortal Memory of Brown in grand style, enlightening his listeners with varied hitherto unknown facts concerning our Great Writer, these being gleaned by Mr. Kelly's deep, yet pleasurable research, over a long period of time.

He told us that Brown was a musician of considerable merit and had composed tasteful settings to some of his loveliest verse.

The excellent Dinner Served at the Castle Mona Hotel was much enjoyed and his was a well chosen venue, on account of its historical background and so fitting in which to Honour Manxman Thomas Edward Brown.

The soloist for the evening was Ernest Thorn, whose songs were well received, with David McIntosh as the talented pianoforte accompanist.

The World Manx Association, "AT HOME" has been arranged for March 21st, 1984, when 'A MARCH MEDLEY', will be presented by Doris Clague at THE EMPRESS HOTEL.

The following provisional dates for Outings are:-

<u>Thursday, May 17th</u>	2:30 pm
<u>Thursday, June 21st</u>	6:30 pm
<u>Sunday, July 8th</u>	2:30 pm
<u>Thursday, August 16th</u>	2:30 pm
<u>Saturday, September 8th</u>	2:30 pm

Anyone wishing to attend, please phone Douglas 6741 or 88453.

Annual Gathering-Thursday, July 5th
- Venue to be arranged.

Kindest regards to all friends.
Doris M. Clague - President
Mary A. Weller - Secretary

ISLE OF MONA

Words by J. W. Gelling, 'Uplands', Crosby, Isle of Man

Tune: 'Blaernwern' by W. P. Rowlands

*Isle of Mona, home beloved,
Here we sing our praise to thee;
Thank thee for the purple mountains,
Glens alive with melody.*

*Let the nations boast of countries
Vaster, mightier far than thee,
But to us thou hast no equal.*

*Ellan Vannin, ben my chree.
Of thy children, some have wandered
Far away across the main,*

*But their love for Ellan Vannin
Softly calls them back again.*

*Oft, at eve, come longing mem'ries
Of the time they used to roam.*

*In the happy days of childhood,
O'er their lovely Island home.*

*Strangers come to see thy beauty,
Wander o'er thy hills so green;*

*Feel the magic of thy spirit
Brooding gently, calm, serene.*

*Mother homeland, grant this favour
To thy children far and nigh,*

*When life's weary days are over,
In thy bosom let us lie.*

RECIPE OF THE WEEK

Here's a dip recipe that's sure to excite any dinner guest.

RAW VEGETABLE DIP

1 pt. sour cream
1 1/3 tablespoon horseradish
1 tablespoon paprika
1 tablespoon minced chives
1/8 teaspoon pepper
1 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon tarragon
Garlic powder to taste
Mix all ingredients together and chill.

MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATES

A membership certificate is still available to N.A.M.A. members for \$1.00 (quite a bargain as you will see). It was especially designed by our Past President George Curphey. It comes with an explanation of the design and colours. The application form has space for your ancestry and these will be filed in the Clague Museum, Cleveland, Ohio. Please write for an application form and then return the application with \$1.00. Write to C. E. Creer, Treasurer.

KNOW YOUR ANCESTORS

by Mrs. Robert S. Cowin
1223 W. Melrose Drive
Westlake, Ohio 44145

One of our members, Mr. H. Thompson Stock of Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan has sent me a very interesting article published by the Lake County Historical Society entitled **MANXMEN COME TO LAKE COUNTY** which I am going to share with you in the next couple of issues of the Bulletin. I hope you enjoy it as much as I did.

MANXMEN COME TO LAKE COUNTY

Annals of The Early Settlers' Association tells us: "A native of the Isle of Man, who was something of a traveler, and who had been on the medical staff of the British Army abroad, visited the Falls at Niagara, passed along the southern shores of Lake Erie, and returned to his Island home.

He was a man of education and superior judgement; and he foresaw that this region was destined to be the seat of a mighty people. So graphic and so enthusiastic was his account of it, that in the year of 1824 or thereabouts one Manx family came and settled in Painesville. Various letters written home to the Isle of Man and passed from hand to hand produced great excitement."

At Kirk Andreas, a village in the north of the Isle of Man, there lived a family of Radcliffes who were always getting letters from America, even in the early days of the century. So many letters came from Ohio that, for years after, the Radcliffe's house was called the "Ohio Cottage." People from all over the island would come to hear the letters read aloud and to think, maybe, of trying to come to America for a new start in life. The Manx farms on the island were small, and it was hard to scratch out a bare living in the thin and rocky soil.

Following are excerpts from old letters printed in the Manx Advertiser in the 1820s.

"I continue to advise you to move to America. It makes no odds whether a man be rich or poor. Advise all to come and do them a favor; they will remember you for it. Tell them to go to New York, up the Hudson to Albany, to Buffalo by the new Erie Canal, from Buffalo by Lake Erie to Grand River, Ohio." William Kelly.

"A man can earn thrice as much here in America per day and provisions are thrice as cheap as in the Isle of Man. It is worth while to come out. Let every man judge for himself; but if we who have come here were in the Isle of Man we would again all come to this plentiful country." William Kelly

"It would give us great joy to see our countrymen here. If you would just come, we are sure you could make a good living. All here are making a good living and all very satisfied that we came to this country, this land of liberty and luxuries." John, William, Patrick Tear and William Kelly.

William Tear and his family left the Isle of Man in May 1826. They sailed for Philadelphia, expecting to cross the mountains by wagon and to join two Manx families who had settled in Jefferson County, Ohio. Oh shipboard they heard of the newly opened Erie Canal. This changed their plans. They went on to New York and took passage for Albany. Here on the canal boat dock, they were accosted by Eliaken Field.

The Manx men, who had traded on the British mainland, usually spoke English as well as their native tongue. However, these newcomers soon became citizens, both in fact and in feeling.

They were a determined group of people, outspoken and honest. They were kind and faithful friends, good housekeepers, flower garden enthusiasts, with an abiding love for their rocky isle. Their Gaelic traditions mingled with the Yankee heritage and brought enrichment to our growing community.

The following letter gives a vivid picture of that early community: Geauga County, Township Leroy, State of Ohio, Nov. 18th, 1826 "Dear Friends and Relations in the Isle of Man,

We have taken this opportunity of writing to you these few lines, hoping they will find you all in good state of health, as we do enjoy at present: thanks be to God, from whom all blessings flow. We have reason to be thankful for his conveying us into a good country, where his blessings do flow in such a manner that the people in the Isle of Man will not believe.

Provisions are cheap, and fuel is for keeping a good axe, and the carrying of it to the house; and wool I count it the same price to the body that works for it as it is in the Isle of Man — one pound of clean wool for one day's work, or a bushel of wheat, or 8 pounds of butter, or 8 pounds of cheese, or 5 pounds of sugar, and sometimes 8 to 20 pounds of beef, or mutton, or pork, or a bushel and a half of onions or four bushels of apples, or half a dollar in money. We mean the laboring class of people, for the tradesman double, and a blacksmith or tailor are 4 to 6 times; and a man working for a day, or a month, or a year, he is counted the same as another one of the family, for here is no one parlour boarding, and there is no one called master, or mistress, or servant, but a free people, and ready to stand

for arms and freedom, and liberty and religion.

My boys, this is the place. And at every field day there on, us a Wesleyan preacher, preaching and praying; the place that we live on, and in my neighborhood, on the one side all Methodist; and on the other side Baptist people. The Ranters have meetings every Sunday, and Wednesday in the second house to ours, and the Methodist every other Thursday in the second house on the other side. About half a mile distant, and a about a fortnight ago, the Ranters in that place did hold a meeting that did stand a few days — and we compare these meetings to a Lovefeasts, for all the members rise up one after another to tell the goodness of the Lord to their souls, and the work of the Lord, working in a glorious, melodious work of salvation.

You did speak to us while we were with you about bears and snakes, that it would be very dismal to awake in the morning and find a bear lying by your door, but people here think it is a blessing or very lucky, for the skin will bring a good price, and they will dine together — but we have seen none; but snakes, of it to kill it — there are about four or five of them. Judy found one, and she put a foot on each end of it to kill it — they are about the size of a whip lash; and if they happen to bite, it is very easily cured; and the people will sleep in the woods, without fear or doubt, and we are prepared to sleep in them too when the time of the trade of the sugar work will come, to be here in the beginning of February, to help us.

Their mills and dryers, all sorts, are plenty enough, but you will not venture to come and enjoy the blessings that are here; and if you will engage to come, you will let us know in your answer. We heard nothing of Philip since we left Liverpool, and if he wrote home you will let us know all about him, and where to direct to find him. You will bring all sorts of cabbage seeds and beans and beets and leeks; and bring no carpenter tools, nor saws of any kind.

I wrote to you on the 17th of July last, stating that we had a good passage to this place. We arrived here on the 5th of July. Father and all of us endured the journey well; he is much pleased with the country, thinking of it far better than he ever saw before. The gun you gave him, formerly in the English service, is now in America, almost daily killing game, that is plenty in our plantations. A lot of 100 acres most excellent land for 336 dollars. 30 acres of this land is improved. The gentleman of whom I purchased is Eliaken Field — hath numbers of thousands of acres which he will sell at a price that is low

enough. Any kind of mechanic can get for his service a dollar a day, many of them 200 cents and the blacksmith 300 cents the day! coopering is a good trade; tailoring is a very good trade — they have 5 dollars for such a coat as James Quine made for me. Work is plenty; I got employment the next day after I arrived. Thomas do well, that is Thomas Kelly, and in fact any person by industry can get as rich as a Lord in a few years. No mistakes about the richness of the soil and the healthiness of the climate, that can be on the Isle of Man. I shall and do recommend any person that can get away, to move to this place; there is water carriage from New York to within 8 miles of my farm - expense only \$1.4. The Yankees are as good neighbors as thought, and not proud and haughty as has been said, as those we left in the Isle, they are kind and hospitable people.

Please to direct me, Geauga County, Township Leroy, State of Ohio, North America, Eliaken Field to his care. I shall continue to advise you to move to this situation of Country; it makes no odds whether a man be rich or poor, if he can get here. Advise all to come, and do them a favour they will ever remember you for it. Give them directions to go from New York to Albany to Buffalo, and from Buffalo to Grand River, Ohio; I am eight miles from there, the people will direct you to my house. So no more at present; and especially remember us to all inquiring friends.

William Tear"

THE FORD TIN LIZZIE

For my Father, Glen Helen was his first desire, he loved that haven of silence and cool shade under the mighty sequoia trees. His voice was full of laughter as he said to me, "Get ready we are off to Glen Helen today and when we get there, I will show you where the rivers meet at the top of the glen." He gave a chuckle and said, "that's where the fairies are my lad."

Taubman Street, Ramsey, the warm precinct of my youth was silent on that Sunday some sixty years ago as we climbed aboard our ancient but revered 'Tin Lizzie'. My Mother sat in the front alongside my father. Adorned in her 'best' her costume was crowned with a square straw hat - festooned with artificial flowers and plastic cherries the whole arrangement 'speared' to her hair by an ornate hatpin of terrifying length.

Dressed in a 'sailor suit' I was wedged in the back seat between my Uncle Jack and my maternal Grandmother - a formidable lady, known to all as 'The Wild Mama.' She was unique - the arbiter of our very

existence. She seemed to terrify most people but somehow, I held a special place in her affections - maybe because I was the youngest grandchild. Uncle Jack was a seaman from the deep oceans of the world; he was as broad as he was tall. His rubicund face was set between mutton-chop whiskers; essentially a kind man, I often found his rough jocularly singularly unpleasant, particularly when he would jog me in the ribs with his massive elbow.

The time was early summer, the warm sun was bright in an azure sky, the air was balmy indeed, one of those days from the long ago when life was a dream and the good things seemed to last for ever.

To this concept, my friends, add the delights of the lovely Manx countryside. The myriad greens of hill and field, blending with golden gorse in rampant profusion and as we chugged along at our maximum speed of twenty miles per hour, we could almost sense the soul of our native land like a throb in the air. Then it filled my heart with a poignant feeling, now in an older age, it would probably fill my eyes with tears.

We passed through Milntown, Churchtown, Glentrammon, Glen Duff, Kerrowmoor, Ballaugh, Michael, Cronk-Y-Voddy, Lambfell - names and places to love and remember - until we came to Creg Willey's Hill. Laughter and enjoyment was the order of the day as we proceeded sedately down the hill until we came to the steepest part at Sarah's Cottage. Suddenly it seemed our old car had gained unusual momentum, we were travelling downward at a much faster speed. I looked at my Father (a man of infinite resource) and I noted that his hands were white with tension as he gripped the steering wheel, - instantly I knew, as did we all, the car was going out of control.

The hedges flew by with increasing speed and the trees at the side of the road became just a blur. At this point, I would like to draw your attention to my lovely kith and kin. My father said that as a family and in times of trouble, we were always quick to invoke the deity. He meant of course, we were all quick to get on our knees and ask for heavenly dispensation. In this time of peril therefore perhaps our actions were predictable. My mother burst into her favorite hymn - "What a friend we have in Jesus." The Wild Mama was singing quite inappropriately, "Jesus Saviour Pilot me". Uncle Jack was mouthing some obscure nautical invocation - like

"Reef the topgallants". Only my father was silent as he fought desperately to control our speeding vehicle. As for me, I distinctly remember throwing myself to the floor of the car shouting "spare the innocent - women and children first," or something like that. Then quite dramatically, amidst this cacophony of sanctimonious songs and cries, our old 'Tin Lizzie' very quickly started to slow down - the flying trees became discernable, the hedges became a reality. In some strange way, it felt as though some giant hand had reached out and was inexorably pulling our car backward.

Eventually, we rolled to a controlled stop hard by the entrance to Glen Helen - our destination. I looked out of the window. The sun was warm on my face, the sky was as blue as ever, the breeze was soft and caressing, my heart had ceased to pound and everything was unchanged. I looked around at my family; miraculously it would seem they were completely relaxed and silent. The terror had gone from their faces, indeed they wore expressions of happy anticipation as we left the car to enjoy our picnic in the depths of the Glen.

To this day, I ask myself, "was it all a dream - did we escape from some horrible fate or was it some strange trick of our collective imaginations." All I can say is that I do not know, but my family companions who have long since gone to their just reward will surely know. They will know

ARTHUR BRIDSON

CAN YOU HELP?

Included in the Mystery Guild Book Club about three years ago, a book was published, a mystery book with an Isle of Man setting, it contained a murder, some lost or stolen jewells etc., not much to go on, no title or author, Miss Helen Miles would appreciate if any of our members know of this book, if anyone can help would you please get in touch with Miss Miles, 31 N. Park Ave., Meadville, PA 16335. USA.

N.A.M.A. CONVENTION AUGUST 10th -13, 1984

It is not too early to start planning to attend the Convention think about it as "the next best thing to a visit back home to the Isle of Man", you will renew old friendships and make new friends. A great programme is being arranged by T. R. Anderson, Convention Chairman and his energetic Committee. There will be many things to see and do, elsewhere in this issue of the Bulletin you will read about all the attractions Minneapolis, Minn. has to offer. Let us make this a wonderful Convention. See You There!

OBITUARIES

CANNELL, William E., age 76, 3013 West Rockton Road, Rockton, Ill., died October 22nd, 1983 in Rockton Ill.

He was born December 13, 1906, in Burritt Township, Winnebago, County, Illinois, the son of George and Catherine Burns Cannell. He married Evelyn Lolling April 21, 1930 in Chicago. He farmed the land in the Rockton, Illinois area all his life. He was a member of St. Peters Catholic Church, South Beloit, Illinois.

Survivors include his wife; four sons, Eugene, Romeoville, Illinois; Roger, Nevada, Iowa; Paul, Rockton, Illinois; and Michael, Cazenovia, Wisconsin; a foster son Thomas, Machen, South Beloit, Illinois; two daughters, Karen Slocum, South Beloit, Illinois; and Mrs. William (Jill) Herrmann, Nelson, Wisconsin; 23 grandchildren and six great grandchildren. He was predeceased by a son Patrick.

Mr. Cannell was always aware of and extremely proud of his Manx ancestry and heritage. He was a member of the N.A.M.A. and the Wisconsin Manx Society. He had the good fortune to be able to visit the Isle of Man on two occasions, the first in 1977 and the second in 1980. On both occasions, he visited with relatives in Kirk Michael, which is where the farm of his ancestors is located.

CHRISTIAN, Thomas Fargher, Veteran of W. W. I. P.P. C.L.I., member of St. Albans Lodge No. 106, born in Ramsey, Isle of Man, May 2nd, 1895. Passed away on December 4th, 1983 in hospital, Ontario, Canada.

Mr. Christian was the youngest of 16 children, he came to Canada in 1912 joining his brother, Bill farming in Alberta, he enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force in 1915. Before moving to Ontario, Mr. Christian and his daughter, Carol lived in Montreal, he was predeceased by his wife in 1978. Mr. Christian was a retired employee of C.P.R. Glen Yard. He and his daughter visited the Isle of Man in 1979, being a very proud Manxman, he was upset when he saw so many changes in his home town. Mr. Christian and Coral attended the N.A.M.A. Convention in 1982 in San Diego, they had planned to make a return visit to the Isle of Man this year 1984.

Both Mr. Christian and his daughter Carol, were members of N.A.M.A., our sympathy goes out to Carol at this sad time.

NICHOLL, Freda Sarah, died November 6th, 1983, in Braddan, Isle of Man, age 96 years. While not a member of the N.A.M.A., her granddaughter, Mrs. Wendy McDowell, was the accompanist at the Banquet given for the Homecomers last year at the Palace Hotel, Wendy is the daughter of the late Bobby Nichol, another daughter, now deceased, was the organist at the Majestic Hotel, when the N.A.M.A. held their Convention there several years ago. The Nicholl family were very talented musically and added much to the musical life on the Isle of Man.

ROYCE, Mrs. Marjorie "Molly", age 73, of Galva, died on Saturday, December 17, at the Kewanee Convalescent Center.

She was born April 9, 1910 on the Isle of Man, and was one of nine children of John and Margaret Tageart Brew. She was educated in the Galva schools and after her schooling was married to Herbert Royce on April 3, 1927 at Toulon, Ill. He preceded her in death October 8, 1978.

She was a member of the Senior Citizens and attended the Assembly of God church in Galva. She is survived by two sons, Allen, of Buda, Ill., and Robert of Galva. One sister survives, Greeba Hartman, Galva; seven grandchildren and six great grandchildren. In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by her parents, five brothers and two sisters.

Funeral services were held at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 21 at the Johnson-Gill-Schuster Chapel in Galva, with Rev. Robt. Karjala officiating. Burial is in the Galva Cemetery. Pallbearers were Tom Page, Ronald Holt, Mervyn Looney, Luke Claycomb, Orville Ossian and John Scott.

Memorials may be directed to the Galva Senior Citizens, or the American Cancer Society.

To relatives and friends of the above we offer our deep and sincere sympathy.

Please don't forget to notify the Secretary-Treasurer and the Bulletin Editor when you change your address.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

As you read this, we shall be into the season known as Lent, which is observed in various ways, but always precedes Easter.

For my own meditations during Lent, I am reviewing the parables of Jesus, especially those which begin, "The kingdom of heaven is like . . ." There are many, some brief, some much longer. But I began with a passage in the Gospel of Matthew where it says, "Again, the devil took (Jesus) to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and the glory of them; and he said to him, 'All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.'" (Matt. 4:8,9)

Strange, this talk of kingdoms in our age; but not so in Jesus' time. It brought to mind my little trip up Snaefell, via Manx Railway, when we were told the old legend: "From Snaefell you can view six kingdoms -- the kingdom of England, the kingdom of Scotland, the kingdom of Wales, the kingdom of Ireland, the kingdom of Man. And the sixth? Why, if you look up, you may glimpse the kingdom of heaven!" Well, the day we were there it was too cloudy to view much more than the "kingdom of Man". But, perhaps that suggests one of our life-problems; we are so distracted by earthly things, we cannot see beyond the fog which enshrouds our feelings and concerns. Jesus also said something else about the kingdom: "Some will say, 'See, the kingdom is here!' or, 'The kingdom is there!' Do not follow them; for behold, the kingdom of God is within you." (from Luke 17:21). And that is true, whether we stand atop Snaefell, or on the beach, or wherever we may be. What God has planted within us, we take with us wherever we go. And since many of Jesus' parables are about growth, may His kingdom grow more and more among us all, every day of our lives.

Herbert G. Kelly
Chaplain

MEMORIALS

Memorials received are accumulated in a Memorial Fund. The Fund is used for special needs and not for normal operating expense, the last Memorial Fund project was the membership directory in 1978.

Please keep the N.A.M.A. in mind when a memorial is in order. Direct memorials to the Treasurer, C. E. Creer, 14228 Union, Orland Park, ILL. 60462. USA.

To those members sending in Obituaries, please include the name and address of next of kin.