

# BULLETIN *of the* North American Manx Association



Ollick Ghennal As Blien Vie Noa

VOL. 59 NOS. 3

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

MARCH 1987

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Larry Fargher and I talked about recruiting at the Williamsburg Convention. Larry has the Beatrice Bayley book on Farghers, and I have it on Bridesons. These people are in and out of difficulty with the postal fraud investigators because they seem to advertise a genealogy, you wind up with a list of names, and some people take offense. Larry was fascinated with his list of Farghers, and I had no idea so many Bridesons exist. If you have the Beatrice Bayley book for your name you are all set to embrace Larry's idea expressed in his plan elsewhere in this Bulletin. If you do not have the book, he suggests another source.

Larry's idea of your own letter is best. For any of you who insist you are speechless, I am quoting a letter I used when I was Third Vice President, and you are welcome to use any bits and pieces:

"You have a Manx surname! Which could mean that you are from, or are a descendant of a family from, the Isle of Man. If so, we would like for you to consider membership in the North American Manx Association.

"It was formed in 1928, and has its roots in the Manx self-help and relief associations formed throughout the United States and Canada by immigrants from the Isle of Man. The earliest was Mona's Relief Society, the Cleveland Manx Society, formed in 1851 and still in

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## SUMMER TOUR — I

June 27	Chicago to Shannon
28-30	Ireland
July 1-2	Scotland
3	England
4-9	Isle of Man
10	Dublin
11	Shannon to Chicago

Barest possible detail because you should have received a direct mailing from Emerald Towers with full details and genealogical forms. If not, please call 800-222-6076.

There are 189 spaces for NAMA members. If they are not sold by April 1, they will be open to all comers. So if you are still considering, don't tarry too long.

## MEMBERSHIP! WHO NEEDS IT?

One of the responsibilities we all have in an organization is to bring in good quality members who share the organization's goals. Last year as Third Vice President I was told my job was to work on membership. To that end I contacted all the Fargher families in the USA, told them of NAMA, and sent them membership applications. This year I will do the same thing for Canadian Farghers, since my new roster has Canadians and Aussies. I am not sure of the number who responded to the Creers, but it seems a high proportion did. Here is how you do it for your Manx family surname:

A. First of all, you need a roster. My wife, Camille, a good supportive Czech, had bought "The Fargher Family Heritage Book" produced by Beatrice Bayley, Inc., dated 1981. This book has a great deal of general history, genealogy, and record information. Additionally, it has a roster of Fargher surname families (some 84), probably from the US Census. There is significant redundancy, so the roster prunes down when you combine the same addresses and eliminate duplicates. By asking them to tell their sisters, aunts, and cousins, you should be able to reach other Manx women who have their husband's surname.

Recently (Oct. '86) I obtained "The Amazing Fargher New World Registry" from Halbert's, Inc., 3699 Ira Road, Bath, Ohio 44210-9989. This soft-cover book has 25 pages of general information, and a roster of Farghers, not only in the United States but in Canada and Australia too. The price was \$19.95 plus \$1.88 shipping. They offered me subsequent issues for \$14.95. This roster has 81 US, 22 Canadian, and 64 Australian families named Fargher. Most Manx names, except Kelly and a few others, are uncommon and unique. Hence, you should obtain similar results if you get a Registry of your surname. I recommend it to you!!!

B. Now that you have a roster of families with your surname, ask Clarence Creer, 14228 Union Avenue, Orland Park, Illinois, 60462, for that many NAMA application blanks to enclose with your letter.

C. Write a folksy letter about our mutual Manx Heritage and common name. You can make originals or have copies run of one letter depending on numbers you find in your roster. I prefer to personalize each copy with their name and a note. If you do the envelopes first it is easy to sign each letter and put a note on it. I had a short paragraph in my letter on my Dad and Grandad's family so they could see if we had any likely ties. Be sure to remind them to pass data on to other relatives not having a Manx surname anymore.

D. Mail your letters. I received at least three or four very newsy letters from around the country. One of the ladies, a widow, even forwarded the letter to her grown family and gave them memberships in NAMA. It works. People can't join us if they aren't aware we exist. You may even turn up some lost relatives. I did. I found the only son of a deceased Fargher uncle. Good luck!

Remember, it is all of our jobs to seek members. Most organizations lose about 10% of their members each year for one reason or another. We may lose more as we have many seniors as members. With about 600 members, we will need about

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## SUMMER TOUR — II

All who registered at the Williamsburg convention received a direct mailing from the Tourist Board concerning a 1987 Homecoming. On a Christmas trip NAMA Secretary Elizabeth Duncan arranged for all NAMA members to receive the mailing, which you should have by now. If not, please call Elizabeth at 216-481-4276.

The two trips are different, and together we hope they will have wide appeal. The two groups will be at the formal Tynwald Ceremonies, and at the more informal World Manx gathering in the afternoon; we hope for a moment when we from America may all stand and see how we did. Also, the last night Emerald Tours party may develop into a bash where both groups can present a bar-b-que or a touch of our culture for the enjoyment of the people of the Isle of Man.

## LETTER FROM ELLESMERE PORT

Greetings my friends,

It is late January and the day is like a diamond — blue sky, sunny, very clear and cold and brilliant. Still, it is mid-winter, the days are short and with the sun low on the horizon and there is yet no sign of the Spring to come except for a few snowdrops in bloom with the daffodils and crocuses just peeping through at the bottom of my garden.

In the early days of January, a sudden sharp thrust from 'the deadly dagger of winter' shattered our complacency and we had to endure some ten days of extreme cold. There was continuous snow, sub-arctic temperatures with cruel biting winds. As ever, it came from the 'Land of the brooding giants' — Siberia, the Steppes and all points East.

Apart from those magnificent voices of the famous Moscow Choir and the inimitable skill of the renowned Bolshoi, I believe personally that no good ever came from that dark, sombre land. I shouldn't be so cynical.

Because I sent my last letter to you one month too early (silly old buffer) I neglected to send our warm Christmas Greetings from this side of the world nor did I send good wishes for the New Year. To rectify and although rather late, I would like to quote one of my favourite short poems for this important season. Written by Marie L. Haskins (1875-1957) it was quoted by the late and good King George VI in the dark days of the last war, in his Christmas Broadcast of the 25th December 1939:

### "GOD KNOWS"

"And I said to the man who stood  
At the gate of the year:

"Give me a light that I may tread  
Safely into the unknown".

And he replied: "Go out into the  
Darkness and put your hand  
into the Hand of God.

That shall be to you better than  
Light and safer than a known  
way".

kindest regards,  
ARTHUR BRIDSON

## CLEVELAND MANX SOCIETY

Starting in March, our society resumed its regular meetings or activities. A theatre party — preceded by brunch — was scheduled for a spring date.

Our annual election of officers takes place in June. Sometime thereafter, the Executive Committee comprised of officers and trustees meet to plan the following fiscal year's program.

Marge (Kennish) Krach  
319 Ridgeview Drive  
Seven Hills, OH 44131-5617

## FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Greetings and a very Happy New Year from the Isle of Man Family History Society. In December, a number of local members enjoyed our first Annual Christmas Dinner which was an outstanding success. Although few in numbers, we had a wonderful meal followed by impromptu entertainment by Mary and John Moore. We hope this year many more members will book early for a very enjoyable occasion.

Owing to a short snap of very bad weather, our Annual General Meeting had to be postponed for one week. We look forward again this year to a very busy time when we will have our Open Day in Peel and we will also be at Tynwald Fair in July. In June we go "Tholthan" hunting with Mike Goldie. In case readers are puzzled — a "Tholthan" is an old ruined building — a farm house, cottage or mill. In February we welcome Mrs. Corlett as our speaker on "Young in the 20's" and in March our speaker will be Mr. R. Forster on "Old Peel Schools". We are fortunate to have Mr. David Freke who will report on the progress of the Peel Dig in April.

We have a full and varied programme of events in the coming year and I will be reporting on all these from time to time.

Sylvia Mylchreest  
Hon. Secretary

## OUR OWN PEOPLE

Miss Sheri Lynn Brideson of St. Augustine, Florida, daughter of Don and Joyce who attended the Williamsburg Convention, had a short visit to the Isle of Man in November. By chance she was staying at the same hotel as a party of American Travel Writers, who were being shown the Island by the Tourist Board, and Sheri was included in most of the excursions around the island. Sheri Lynn also spent an afternoon with Noreen Cottier of Peel, who was able to establish a relationship between her family and Bill Brideson, our new NAMA President, and to extend the family tree back to the wedding of William Bridson and Sara Cain Curphey at Malew Church on January 21, 1864.

Mr. and Mrs. George Clucas of San Luis Obispo, California, spent a few days in Dublin and two weeks on the Island researching family history and visiting friends and relatives. Mr. Clucas' parents hailed from Lower Foxdale and Slieau Whallian, some relatives are still in the area. The Clucas's with Corkill, Corrin, Kissack, Quane, Quilliam, and Teare connections, on a recent visit to New Zealand added Ken- naugh to their list.

## WORLD MANX ASSOCIATION

The T.E. Brown Luncheon on October 24th was held at the Palace Hotel, and proved to be an outstanding success in its interest and enjoyment. The Lieutenant Governor Major General Lawrence New, CB, CBE, and Mrs. New kindly accepted invitations to be present and were received by WMA President Miss Doris Clague and Chairman John Quilliam, after which other Officers and Committee were introduced to our special guests.

Having partaken of lunch, His Excellency proposed the Loyal Toast and replied to the welcome extended to him and Mrs. New. The Governor spoke of the joy which they are both experiencing in residing in our lovely Isle, and how happy he was in returning to the Island where much of his boyhood was spent. He trusted that the work of the WMA could continue to flourish.

The Immortal Memory of the Reverend T.E. Brown, MA, was presented in splendid style by Mr. Keith Kerruish, during which he illustrated with some excerpts from the narrative poems, such as from Betsy Lee, and others providing a wide range of humour and pathos, all being well spoken in the Manx dialect which is so popular. An appreciation to Mr. Kerruish was ably given by Mr. K. Dale, a WMA Committee member, in an eloquent manner.

The final Heritage Year 1986 Concert took place on December 7th in the Gaiety theatre when an item of great interest came in the handing over by the Lieutenant Governor of the Awards so generously donated by the North American Manx Association for talented Manx Youth, and as each recipient came forward to receive an Award they were greeted by sustained applause, and one felt that the excellent gesture on the part of NAMA had been so very worthwhile, giving encouragement to other young folk to participate.

An Award Medal was presented to a 16 year old Ian Sharpe of Ramsey for his determination to overcome the handicap of blindness. Ian was chosen to go with his Worcester College for the Blind team to World Games for the Blind in Sweden, and now represents Great Britain's Disabled Swimming Team. Fifteen year old Robert Agnew of Peel received the medal for music. After winning the Young Musician of Mann competition, Robert participated in an International Piano Competition in Senigallia, Italy, where he came in 6th out of an international field of 36. The Medal for Arts and Crafts went to 18 year old Stephen Mar-

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**WASHINGTON SOCIETY**

The annual Christmas Party was held on Saturday, December 13, 1986, in the Church Hall of Reformation Lutheran Church in Washington, D.C., with an attendance of 57 members including 9 children and 70 guests including 7 children. Australian wine was provided by Orry Kelly, apple cider, roast lamb and roast pork were provided, attendees brought salads and desserts. Many Vikings from the Longship Company attended dressed in 16th Century Viking attire and ate from their shallow Viking bowls and other Viking utensils, the Manx depended a lot upon Viking plastic.

There were games for the children. Ed Sayle was master of ceremonies. Our own Pat Skillicorn sang and played the autoharp. A Viking lady sang Ellan Vanin like an angel. There was a Viking storyteller, and a group of Viking Madrigal Singers presented a concert of 16th Century songs. Bill Brideson thanked the members of the Washington Society for helping so wonderfully well in putting on the Williamsburg Convention. He presented NAMA Resolutions of Appreciation to Bruce Blackstone and the Viking Longship Company, Garrick and Mary Elizabeth Lightowler and the Little People for "The Faerie Times", and Ron Quayle and the Washington Society. He presented copies of the Christmas Bulletin to Bob Nay and Bob Burns, President and Vice President of Emerald Tours, who both expressed their plans and hopes for their first tour next summer to the Isle of Man.

Hillary and Molly Curphey from the Isle of Man attended the Christmas Party. They were holiday guests in the home of their son Ewan Curphey and family of Springfield.

Mary E. Hayslett, Secretary  
2121 Columbia Pike, #302  
Arlington, VA, 22204

**THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY CHAPTER MANX SOCIETY**

On October 26, 1986 Doris and Paul Dobbel had an open house for Kathleen Corkhill from Douglas, IOM at which time Kathleen presented the San Diego County Manx Society a hand carved pewter plaque of the Thor Cross made by Maureen Costain Richards. This was in loving memory of her Aunt Iris Corkhill, the Society's first secretary. It will be held by the acting president and brought to each meeting.

On December 14, 1986 the Society met in the home of Devore and Ruth Smith for a Christmas gift exchange and lovely

(Continued on page 5)

**THE VANCOUVER MANX SOCIETY**

Vancouver Society met in November for Pre Christmas Pot Luck Supper. Saint David's church hall looked very festive with decorations on walls and tree. Long tables were set up with white covers, Christmas streamers down their centres and poinsettias as centre pieces. The supper was as usual bountiful to say the least. It truly was a delight to the observer and to the consumer.

President Chris Stirling welcomed all and led the singing of the National Anthem. After dinner an election of officers was held. The new slate consists of Past President, Flo Tregellis, President Chris

Stirling, Vice President Angus Gillon, Secretary Vera Henry, Tres. Mona Wittsten. Committee members are Donald Cannell, Leslie Gillon, Terry and Joan McCaffery, Jean Stirling, Peter Tregellis, Marlene Quaggan and Nancy Rooney. Later a raffle was followed by a film. A truly enjoyable evening was had by all.

The New Year holds a new beginning. A variety of interesting events are being planned.

Vera Henry  
4305 Prince Albert Street  
Vancouver, B.C.  
V5V, 4J8

**NORTH AMERICAN MANX ASSOCIATION  
FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

January 1 to December 31, 1986

On Hand 1/1/86		\$24,438.55
<b>Receipts</b>		
Dues .....	\$3,650.77	
Memorials .....	.00	
Membership Certificates .....	22.00	
Interest .....	1,332.87	
Pins .....	60.00	
Cookbook .....	217.50	
Gifts .....	10.00	
Convention Advance-Refund .....	1,072.29	6,365.43
<b>Disbursements</b>		
Bulletin-Printing .....	1,937.34	
Editor's Expense .....	702.31	
Treasurer's Expense .....	332.00	
Secretary's Expense .....	6.60	
Allowances .....	1,000.00	
Insurance .....	172.00	
Donations .....		
NAMA-Myles Standish Fund .....	1,000.00	
Friends of Peel Castle .....	750.00	
C.P.A. Fees .....	475.00	
Miscellaneous .....	15.00	6,390.25
On Hand 12/31/86		\$24,413.73
Memorial Fund balance included in above amount		\$ 521.50
<b>Account Balances at 12/31/86</b>		
Orland State Bank — Checking Account .....	\$ 745.12	
Orland State Bank — Money Market Account .....	21,013.02	
National Trust-Canada (in Canadian \$) .....	2,655.59	
		\$24,413.73
<b>NAMA-Myles Standish Fund</b>		
On Hand 1/1/86		\$ .00
Gifts .....	\$5,140.63	
Interest .....	240.93	5,381.56
On Hand 12/31/86		\$ 5,381.56
C. E. Creer, Treas. 1/12/87		

## MANX SOCIETY OF MINNESOTA

At our last Minnesota Manx meeting, we elected the following new officers.

T. R. Anderson, Chairman  
Norman W. Gill, President  
Corrin H. Hodgson, 1st V.P.  
Ruth Cadwell, 2nd V.P.  
Philip Rowland, 3rd V.P.  
Mona Andrews, Secretary  
Sally P. Anderson, Treasurer

Many of you know our new President, Mr. Norman Gill. He and his wife, Joan have attended NAMA Conventions and have visited the Isle of Man for Homecoming. We are especially excited to welcome the Gills because they are both of Manx heritage. Their relatives and roots stem from the towns of Douglas, St. Johns and Peel. We look forward to the Gills' new inspiration and direction of our society.

At this time, we would like to thank our former President, Mr. T. R. Anderson for his relentless dedication towards the development of our society. Mr. Anderson made his longtime dream come true by founding the Manx Society of Minnesota in 1979. Since that time, T. R. and his wife, LaJean have given our society all of their time, energy and love for whatever is Manx! A special thanks to the Andersons' for their active participation and we look forward to Mr. Anderson's continued support as our Manx Chairman.

We would also like to announce that the Manx Society of Minnesota has a new address. Please send any correspondence, donations or dues to the following:

Manx Society of Minnesota  
c/o Norm Gill  
10215 North 38th Court  
Plymouth, MN 55441

Our officers are in the midst of planning our spring meeting which will include the film of the NAMA Convention in Williamsburg, a speech by Joan Gill on Manx folktales and the exploration of the idea of Manx exchange students. A notice will be sent in advance of the meeting containing all the details.

Have a Happy Easter from Minnesota!  
Mona Andrews, Secretary

## NAMA MEMORIAL FUND

The following were honored with a donation(s) to the NAMA Memorial Fund since the last issuance of the Bulletin.

Jack W. Colquitt  
Indianapolis, Indiana  
Deceased December 1986

## KNOW YOUR ANCESTORS July, 1985 —

BY: Mrs. Robert S. Cowin, 1223 West Melrose Drive, Westlake, OH 444145

I must admit when I started writing this column in 1968 . . . almost 19 years ago . . . I did not think it would become such a full time "occupation" . . . nor such a gratifying one. The complimentary correspondence I receive and the enthusiasm I feel when attending a convention, makes me feel that I must continue on with this assignment.

I would, however, at this time like to invite our readers to share their family research through this medium. I would also like to appeal to our membership for a helper . . . perhaps as a co-editor or someone to help with correspondence. If you would be willing to help in any way, I would be pleased to hear from you.

I have several bits of correspondence I would like to share with you this month.

A letter from a Mr. David Primm, 6018 No. Cloverly Avenue, Temple City, California 91780 is asking for help in tracing his ancestors, ABRAHAM and JOHN DE LA PRYME. He has Register Records from Douglas, Ca. 1780-1790. If you can shed any light on this, please write direct to Mr. Primm.

In conjunction with the Heritage Year celebration in the Isle of Man, there are several interesting books/booklets written that I thought some of you would be interested in.

Ramsey 1600-1800 by Constance Radcliffe

The Manx Family Tree by Janet Narasimham (This is a beginner's Guide to the Isle of Man Records)

The Port St. Mary Fish Fleet of 1886

Flail and Fleece United — The History of Union Mills Village, by Priscilla Lewthwaite

A Michael Village Trail by T. L. Cashin

Seed of Isaac — A Family History of the Kissacks of the Isle of Man, by Reginald Kissack.

Wild Flowers of the Isle of Man by Joan Clifton

If any of you are interested in these publications, I will be happy to furnish full details, such as price, source, etc.

I also have duplicate copies of several issues of THE ISLE OF MAN FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY publication which I would be happy to share with interested persons.

April, 1985 —

Article on Bride Parish Church Origin of the names Qualter,

Qualters and Qualtrough

Laxey in the New World

Union Mills in the 19th Century

July, 1985 —  
The Old Church of Kirk Braddan  
The Kewleys of Ballafreer  
October, 1985 —  
Holy Trinity Church, Kirk Patrick  
Last Will & Testament of John Christian of Ballacallow, Kirk Bride — October, 1799.  
January, 1986 — The Faragher's  
St. Luke's Church, Baldwin  
Family History Society Computer Records

## FACE-LIFT FOR CASTLE RUSHEN CLOCK

The Elizabethan single-handed clock on the West side overlooking Castletown Square is to have a face-lift. The aluminum face will be cleaned and repainted and the works of the old clock given a thorough overhaul.

Custodian Iain McKinley has had trouble with the clock for the last month or so, due to some of the bearings being badly worn. The clock needs to be wound daily and difficulties in keeping it running smoothly arose when the mechanism has slipped during rewinding.

The clock was last overhauled in the 1920s, so many parts of it must be sadly in need of renovation. Mr. Clutton of Ramsey is to make new bearings for the clock, and when these are fitted in place of the collapsed parts, it is hoped the clock will take on a new lease of life, and keep good time for another few centuries.

The familiar quarter hourly chime will be missed in the town when the clock is being repaired.

Manx Star

## BISBEE MANX SOCIETY

I have been waiting to write to see if I could get the gang together for a Manx meeting but to date have not been able to do so.

However I am expecting the John Hughes down from Tucson this weekend so may be able to hold some kind of a meeting while they are here. Since you wanted the bulletin news in before Feb. 9th I figured that would be too late for the bulletin.

I want to congratulate you on the good job you did on the bulletin and look forward to the next one.

I think the idea of the map showing the roots of each family a good one but I doubt there would be much of a showing from Bisbee.

Best wishes to all.

Ivy L. Dillon  
Bisbee Manx Society

## THREE LEGS — WHICH WAY?

The question of which way the three legs run has occupied the minds of many for some considerable time.

Of recent years the Manx Government issued a directive as to which way they should run based on evidence found on the Maughold Cross and the Sword of State. All Government departments follow the three legged direction as officially issued.

Another way to easily remember: Kicking Scotland, running from Ireland, kneeling to England.



## WORLD MANX ASSOC.

(Continued from page 2)

tin of Port St. Mary. Robbie McDonald of Ramsey received the Medal for Culture. A fluent Manx speaker and writer, he set up a group to study Manx, and a group to perform Manx music and dance.

One of our WMA members, Mrs. Maureen Richards, was presented the new National award, "Reih Bleeaney Venannan," which was established by the Manx Heritage Foundation at the suggestion of Mr. S.K. Quayle of Worcester, England, who is the donor of the Trophy. The award is given to the person who has made the greatest contribution to cultural heritage during the current year, and was presented to Mrs. Richards for her work on the fresh presentation and appreciation of the art of Manx stone crosses, which it is hoped may be exhibited in Yn Chruinnaught next July. It was a joy for me to attend the Concert as a guest, as President of WMA, and not least as an Hon. Vice President of the NAMA, of which I am most appreciative.

The dates of the WMA events and outings for 1987 are:

May 5th, T.E. Brown Garland  
May 28th, Outing  
June 25th, Outing  
July 5th, Church Service  
July 6th, Annual Gathering  
Aug 20th, Outing  
Sept 19th, Outing  
Oct 31st Luncheon

Anyone wishing to join us on the above dates, please contact Mrs. A. Greenland on Douglas 26602. We shall be delighted to extend the heartiest of World Manx welcomes.

Doris M. Clague, President  
Phone - 843467

Win Livingston, Acting Secy.  
6 Eastfield, Douglas  
Phone - Douglas 24726

## RUNIC CROSSES

The Isle of Man is said to have the largest and finest collection of Celtic and Scandinavian Runic Crosses to be found anywhere in the world. There are 140 of them, 48 of which belong to the Scandinavian period. They cover a span of more than 600 years. In the early 13th Century the great art which had been practiced in the Isle of Man for so many centuries died away.

A Runic Cross is a stone monument with the symbol of a cross, and is inscribed with runes or letters of the runic alphabet. They are usually erected by one friend in memory of another, and although they bear the symbol of a cross there is nothing of Christian sentiment attached to them. The early Norsemen were pagan, but they were noted for their great love of liberty. The 24 letters or runes of the runic alphabet served the literature of the ancient Scandinavian countries of Norway, Sweden, and Denmark.

The largest collection of old crosses to be found anywhere on the Isle of Man is at Maughold Church, where there are 42 of them. Maughold Church dates back to the 13th Century, and is possibly the oldest existing church on the Island. Maughold Church was named after Saint Machutus, a follower of Saint Patrick, and is referred to as "The Cradle of Christianity" on the Island. Saint Machutus died in 533 AD and was buried in Maughold Churchyard. An earlier Celtic Church or Monastery is said to have occupied the same site as early as the 6th Century AD. Many ancient rulers are buried at Maughold, including the first recorded Bishop Roolwer in 1065. Also the great Manx author, Sir Hall Caine in 1931.

Most of the Scandinavian Crosses were found in the north of the Island. The famous "Thor Cross" was found in the Parish of Bride. For many centuries these stone monuments remained unmolested in the old cemeteries, or churchyards as they were called.

Professor Carl S. Marstrand of Norway, one of the most distinguished authorities on the Celtic language in Europe, when visiting the Isle of Man in 1940 said, "You have here in the Isle of Man something unique which even the (Paris) Louvre with all its resources could not buy, a collection of Crosses that is without parallel in the whole world. One hundred and fifty years before Latin letters were brought into Norway and our early literature was written down, these myths were on record on the Isle of Man — not simply written but figured on stone slabs. The wood carvings in Norway which figure the same subjects are centuries later, and are not at

all so expressive or so primitive as those on the Isle of Man."

The Isle of Man should be proud of these valuable possessions.

Compiled by the late Walter J. Stevenson  
Scottsdale, Arizona

## RADIATION RESTRICTIONS STAY

It is going to be some time into 1987 before the last restrictions on sheep and lamb movements in the Island, imposed following the Chernobyl disaster in May, are finally removed.

They are now confined to the central highlands of the Island and affect farmers who graze sheep on the upper hill slopes. This is where the radiation had the most intense effect.

A spokesman for the Local Government Board said it had been found that, while the rest of the Island had been derestricted months ago, the radiation readings in the hills had taken longer to reduce than anticipated.

The experience is similar to that of comparable hill and mountain areas of the United Kingdom affected by the Chernobyl fall-out. The spokesman added that in the Isle of Man lambs brought down from the hills for fattening on lowland pastures were shedding radiation quickly.

There are now facilities at the abattior at Tromode for the live testing of lambs to ensure that none of those contaminated by radiation can get into the food chain, and this system is working satisfactorily.

The Manx Star

## SAN DIEGO COUNTY

(Continued from page 3)

refreshments were served. An authentic IOM flag was flying outside and IOM music was played having been previously recorded. It was voted to change our name to San Diego County Manx Society. It was also voted to continue our membership in the Maritime Museum Association of San Diego. The museum is the Bark STAR OF INDIA which was launched as ESTERPE on November 14, 1863 at Ramsey, IOM. Election of officers took place. Marge Frederick was elected president; Virginia Mellon, secretary-treasurer; Devore Smith will continue as Historian.

The February meeting will be held on the Bark at which time the Society will present them a picture of the original full-rigged ship and the members will be shown film of its sailing on May 25, 1986.

Mrs. R. Virginia Mellon,  
Secretary-Treasurer  
Box #1743  
La Mesa, CA 92044

## UNION PACIFIC — MANX CONNECTION

I have recently had a chance to read the brochure prepared by the Tourist Board for the American market. In it great play is made about the achievements of Manx-Americans.

For some years I have known about tremendous work undertaken by two Manx-American brothers who were the construction engineers in charge of what was probably the greatest undertaking by the United States in the 19th century: the building of the Transcontinental Railway, which was the steel link that brought California and the western states into the Union and opened up the west to immigrants. They were the brothers John and Dan Casement. Until lately, however, all I knew about them was that Jack, as he was properly known, was born in the Island and emigrated as a child with his parents to Ohio. Dan the younger brother was born in the United States.

Quite by chance I picked up a book recently, "Hear That Lonesome Whistle Blow" by Dee Brown, which greatly enlarged on the achievements of these two Manx-Americans.

The idea of a Transcontinental Railway had been mooted as far back as 1840, but it wasn't until the late 1850s that real progress was made, and on July 1, 1862, President Lincoln, while the Civil War was still raging and the Union was suffering defeats, signed the Act which authorized the Union Pacific Railway to build westwards from Nebraska a single line railway to meet with the Central Pacific which was to build eastwards from California. Eventually, after much behind-the-scenes lobbying, the first sod was turned at Omaha on December 2, 1863, by George Francis Train, a UP director who had introduced horsedrawn tramways into Britain and who had returned to America at the start of the Civil War. In the spring of 1864 Peter Dey, the chief engineer, began grading the right of way in preparation for track laying, but the war was going badly for the North and construction ceased. In the autumn of 1864 when General Sherman's army was marching through Georgia, Dey was replaced by a Colonel Seymour who commenced actual track laying on July 10, 1865, but the best rate he could achieve was one mile a week. This rate was clearly of no use either to the Union Pacific or the US Government. The railway was anxious because it only received its Government Bonds after every 40 miles of track was laid. It also received land grants of 12,800 acres of land for every mile laid, plus the right to any iron or coal deposit. An urgent conference was

called between President Durant of the Union Pacific and General Sherman. Sherman recommended General Dodge as chief engineer. Dodge undertook to do the surveying and grading, and called in the Casements for track laying. Jack Casement had risen to the rank of General in the Northern Army, and Dan was a Colonel.

Before the War Jack had been a track hand in Michigan and later a foreman of track laying in Ohio. In his boots Jack was only 5' 4" tall, and Dan 5' nothing. They resembled a pair of bearded mid-gets, but whoever was deceived by their appearance soon joined in the general opinion that they were "the biggest little men you ever saw."

To solve the problem of logistics on a single track railway across hundreds of miles of uninhabited country the Casements invented the work train, which was a self-sufficient small town on wheels. The train was made up of a dozen box cars, each fitted for a special purpose — tools, blacksmith's shop, kitchen and dining cars, sleeping quarters — and at the rear several flat cars loaded with sleepers, rails, spikes and fishplates. The whole train was propelled from the rear, which meant that at the end of the day the flat cars could be hauled back to base to be loaded up for the following days work.

The Casements set a goal of one mile a day, and offered a pound of tobacco a man if a mile a day was reached. They then offered \$3 a day instead of \$2 for a mile-and-a-half a day, and when this was reached they offered \$4 a day for two miles. The Casements had discovered the importance of time and motion studies before the technique had ever been given a name. They were receiving \$800 a mile for less than two miles a day, and \$1,200 for every two miles a day.

At the height of the construction the Casements had 10,000 men and 10,000 horses and mules cutting and hauling timber and laying track. The official meeting of Central Pacific and Union Pacific took place at Promontory, north of Great Salt Lake, Utah, on May 9, 1869.

Now the intriguing thing: Just who the family was, and where they came from on the Island? Were they related to Robert Casement of Laxey Wheel fame? It is obvious their parents must have emigrated some time between 1830 and 1840. I would be grateful if anyone has any further information on the Casement family.

P. A. Craine  
12 Peel Road  
Douglas, Isle of Man

## SNIPPETS OF MANX NEWS

**TELEPHONE TAPPING.** The Isle of Man Government's Chief Minister will have the power to issue warrants authorizing telephone tapping and mail interception under legislation to be laid before the House of Keys.

**WIND FARM.** The Manx Museum and Manx National Trust are opposing plans for a 2.5 million pound "wind farm" on a mountainside in the Island. British Aerospace and Taylor Woodrow have outline approval for wind turbines to generate electricity.

**KING ARTHUR.** A distinguished California Academic, Dr. Norma Goodrich, after 15 years of research has stated that King Arthur established his realm and built a magnificent palace on St. Patrick's Isle at Peel. The Director of Excavations said, "The excavations have certainly proved a sixth century presence on St. Patrick's Isle, and I have to agree that there was something very important happening in the Dark Ages."

**NEW ROLE FOR MANX VETERAN.** Since late 1984 the former Isle of Man Steam Packet ferry "Ben-my-Chree" has been lying idle for sale in Birkenhead Docks. She is an historic ship in many ways. Not only was she the last ship built for the company locally, but she is also unique in being the last steam-turbine powered ship of her type and size operative in British waters. Happily, there is a suggestion and a tremendous amount of support for a scheme in which she would become a floating Museum dedicated to the history of Cammell Lairds Shipbuilding, all as part of a future redevelopment for the Birkenhead/Seacombe Waterfront.

**BANKING.** Deposits in the Isle of Man's banks total more than 3 billion pounds. The Manx Treasury said that in the past year the total rose by 630 million to 3,045 billion pounds, the biggest ever yearly increase.

**SANCTIONS BUSTING.** In the House of Commons recently, Labour's foreign affairs spokesman said that the Isle of Man Government has been conducting talks with a trading company linked to the South African Government which, he claimed, was part of a plan by Pretoria to evade international trade sanctions. The allegation has been refuted by Mr. Miles Walker, the new Isle of Man Government Chief Minister, who stated, "There is no continuing contact at any level between the Isle of Man Government and the South African Government. It must be stressed that the Isle of Man Government does not support the policy of apartheid and will under no circumstances enter into any arrangements which would enable British trade sanctions to be avoided."

## WOMEN — Their influence in the history of the ISLE OF MAN

It is recorded that in Celtic life, women held a high place, and at one time no woman amongst the Celts was without a home, or a protector.

Women evidently took part in some battles in the Isle of Man, during 1096, a battle took place at Santwart (a place exactly unknown, but most probably somewhere near Peel) when the Southerners under McMarus fought the "North-erners under their leader Ottar. The Southerners were just getting the better of the battle, when suddenly the women from the North rushed in, and in a brief period turned the battle in the North's favour. McMarus the Southern leader was slain.

In consideration of their valiant effort, a law was enacted that the women of the North were henceforth to receive half of their husbands estate, but the South women were to receive only one third. Lucky women, but a wise decision. King Orry is reputed to have said — Many good things come from our parents, but a good wife is the "Gift of God".

### Women Votes

Here in more modern times, Manx women were the second in the world to obtain the Franchise, and it is interesting to note that the first were the women of "Wisconsin" in the U.S.A., who voted first about 1875. In 1881, Household Suffrage was adopted in the Island, thus giving the right to all women who were occupiers (owners) of a house, or property of not less than £4 per annum. Under this system, a married woman did not receive a vote, as her husband would exercise it, but all widows and spinsters satisfying the conditions were entitled to it. In 1892 Spinsters and widows who were Occupiers (leasing) Real Estate to the value of not less than £4 per annum were allowed to vote. Adult suffrage was introduced in 1918 and entitled anyone over 21 years of age who had resided in the Island for twelve months to exercise the vote.

It is apparent that women who were landholders had the right to vote in the 17th and 18th centuries, indeed women served on Juries in the Island during the period of 16th to 19th centuries.

In a document now in the Manx Museum it is stated that the electors in the different Sheadings were convened together to give our votes for one selected man to make known our requests, and treat with our Lord touching our holdings in 1700, the most interesting thing about this document is that in the list of freeholders are the names of four

women. It is refreshing to note that the principle of equal rights for women was accepted in the Island more than two hundred years before it was put into practice elsewhere.

The First Woman to be elected to the House of Keys was Mrs. Marion Shimmin, who represented Peel for some years from 1933, since then several women have over the years been elected, and serving with distinction.

It can be noted that Manx women were never placed in the same position of dependence and subordination as in other countries, this shows that democratic ideas existed allowing citizenship equal with men. What MEN — only Manxmen?

As already stated women served on Juries settling the troubles of husbands and wives, however in referring to an old "Customary Law" which once existed imagine the dilemma of the wronged unmarried Manx Maiden who according to the law, was given by the Deemster a rope, a sword, and a ring, so that she might have her choice to hang the man with the rope, cut off his head with the sword, or marry him with the ring.

In concluding "What would this World be without Women"?

We would be mighty scarce.

Geo. Murphey  
31/1/87

### FLOGGING VS BIRCHING

The excellent article "Circling 'round the British Isles" in the September 7 Travel Section of The Washington Post was highly praised by members of NAMA at their 37th Convention in Williamsburg. The interesting vignette on the Isle of Man readily reminded the members of the association of their ancestral home and heritage.

However, a minor error in the article must be pointed out. The Manx have not employed "flogging" per se, but have administered the birch. As of today Tynwald, the thousand-year (or more) Manx Parliament, has not succumbed to pressures to abandon its practice of "birching" its naughty boys, irrespective of age. Nevertheless, since the Court of Strasbourg (presided over by an Italian judge, and with no Manx representation) ruled against birching in the Isle of Man, the authorities have rarely employed this type of punishment — but the pertinent laws still stand. The fact is that the Isle of man is remarkably free of crime, which may prove humiliation is a powerful deterrent.

Garrick M. Lightowler  
Arlington, Virginia

### MANX FILMS

As a result of the Williamsburg Convention we have on hand some 16 mm films which we have not yet been called upon by the Tourist Board to return. So, if you would like to use any of these films for program material for a Society meeting, or at a family get-together, or as an excuse for some Manx friends to get together, you may use any of them for the cost of the postage to return them to us.

Isle of Beauty (Small Reel)

Round Trip

The Isle and The Pussycat

Traa-Dy-Lioor

Roadcraft and Racing

Holiday on Mann (Big Reel)

Diamond TT 2 (Big Reel)

Six Day Trial (Biggest Reel)

William E. Brideson

6821 Duke Drive

Alexandria, VA 22307

### 100 YEARS OF HERITAGE

A magnificently illustrated book has just been launched by the Manx Museum celebrating its Centenary. It has 208 lavishly illustrated large format pages with 335 illustrations including 240 in full color. Chapter headings are The Founders, Digging up the Past, the Countryside in Trust, History in Pictures, The National Archives, The Branch Museums, and Natural History.

Mr. Anderson has a copy, and is so enthused over this new book that he is ordering a whole bunch. We may order a copy from him for \$25 US or \$30 Canada postage paid, saving us the translation and transmission of pounds sterling for the book (12.95) and postage (1.90 within the British Isles). Send orders and checks, made payable to T.R. Anderson, P.O. Box 665, Nisswa, MN 56468.

### FRIENDS OF PEEL CASTLE

Dear Mr. Creer:

How kind of you to forward a cheque in the sum of \$750, supporting the Friends of Peel Castle. I am so glad that you found the visit of Dr. Freke and Miss Holgate interesting and valuable. There are indeed a number of exciting things going on at the Peel Castle Dig. Your cheque will certainly help to continue the good work being done.

If the opportunity arises for any of you to visit the Island, and of course the Dig, you can be in no doubt of a warm welcome. Please pass on the good wishes of the Friends to the North American Manx Association.

Yours sincerely,

Robin Bigland

Hon. Treasurer

Derby House, Athol Street

Douglas, Isle of Man

## Chaplain's Corner

Every year, at Christmas, a friend has given us a boxed amaryllis bulb ready to grow into a lovely flower, usually red or pink, and usually in bloom some time before Easter. (This year, it will bloom a bit early.) At a time when we have grown weary of winter, out bursts a bright new blossom, reminding us of the advent of spring and the new life that it brings. Although many of us in the mid-western states have been fortunate (so far!) this winter in our milder weather, the eastern states have not fared so well, with heavy snows and severe cold. And reports are that the United Kingdom (and presumably, the Isle of Man) have suffered severe weather. To all of you, spring and warmer weather will be especially welcome.

The blooming flowers that brighten our gray days of winter are God's promise that, although our lives have hardship, sorrow and trials, he will not forget nor forsake us, and that just ahead we shall find renewal and joy. The Psalmist saw this when he wrote: "Tears may flow in the night, but joy comes in the morning." (Ps. 30:5). What an ordeal Noah must have endured, with countless days of floods and their aftermath. And we can but imagine the joy that came as he beheld the splash of color, the "bow in the cloud", God's promise of a blessed future. May God so bless you, through whatever the "winters of your spirit" may be, as you look toward the sunshine of spring.

Herbert G. Kelly

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

(Continued from page 1)

existence. We now have thirteen societies and more than 600 members.

"Membership includes receipt of a Bulletin, an eight-page quarterly containing news of members and societies, articles on the Isle of Man, and historical and genealogical information. Biennial conventions are held, the next one will be in San Diego August 6-9, 1982.

"Membership in NAMA is open to all Americans and Canadians of Manx birth or descent, and to those related to them by ties of marriage. Annual dues are \$6, raised from \$4 at the last convention in Nova Scotia.

"I would be proud to hear from you concerning any Brideson. Or, you may forward your completed application and check directly to Mr. Clarence Creer, 14228 Union Avenue, Orland Park, Illinois 60462.

"CIAD MILE FAILTE — One hundred thousand welcomes!"

When you ask Mr. Creer for enough applications for your mailing, please let

## OBITUARIES

**STANLEY C. GELL**, 86, a retired (1964) drafting engineer for the Foote-Burte Corporation of Cleveland where he worked for 45 years. He was a long-time member of NAMA, a member of the Cleveland Manx Society, and Forest Hill Masonic Lodge 644. He was born October 9, 1900, on the Isle of Man. He is survived by his wife Florence Leuty, a son John S. of Willoughby Hills, a brother Robert W. of Houston, Texas, and grandchildren.

**JACK W. COLQUITT**, 75 Indianapolis, Indiana. Born in Oregon, he worked 32 years at A&P Food Stores in Broward County, Florida, retiring in 1966 as a manager. He was a World War II Army veteran and a member of NAMA. He lived in Indianapolis for four years, and was a member of Walnut Grove Chapel. He is survived by his wife Gertrude Cluck Colquitt, daughters Bonnie Jean Williams and Connie Elliott Jones, sisters Alice Oberhardt and Bettie Narducci, and 13 grandchildren.

**ESTHER PERRY HUGHES** died in Timmins, Ontario, on May 26, 1986, in her 100th year. She was born October 10, 1886, in Douglas, Isle of Man, the second child of six girls and one boy. She married Daniel George Hughes in January of 1914 in Douglas, and they emigrated to Canada, residing in the Timmins area of northern Ontario. Daniel died in 1963, and a son Sydney died in 1970. Mrs. Hughes is survived by a daughter Joyce Sullivan of Moab, Utah, grandchildren Danny Hughes of North Bay, Ontario, and Mary Jane Parry of Colorado Springs, Colorado, 7 great grandchildren, and sisters Amy Clarke and Emily Corlette of Douglas, Isle of Man.

**JOSEF C. DINE**, 74, a retired public information director of the Corpora-

tion for Public Broadcasting who also worked for NBC and CBS during a career spanning nearly 50 years, of cancer, on November 25, 1986, at Boston. He was a native of Boston, attended Boston University, was a newspaper reporter and radio announcer in New England and New York, served during World War II with the Army in Europe and the Mediterranean (Combat Infantryman's Badge, two Silver Stars, two Bronze Stars, two Purple Hearts) where he attained the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, served in Washington and was one of the early members of the Washington Manx Society and helped plan local publicity for the Isle of Man Millennium. He lived on Martha's Vineyard since leaving Washington in the late 1970s, is survived by his wife Laurie of Martha's Vineyard, two sons DC Police Sergeant Kim Dine of Washington and Philip Dine of Quincy, Massachusetts, and one brother Howard of Colorado.

**JAMES M. KISSACK** died January 22, 1987, at his home in Ballasalla after a short illness. He was born in Peel on July 3, 1898, emigrated to Canada in 1909, several years later joined his Uncle Fred in Cleveland, served with the American Army in WWI and later made his home in Mentor, Ohio. Upon retirement in the 1950s he moved to Palo Alto, California. Jim was in NAMA since its inception, and took a keen interest in the Bulletin. He attended several conventions, the last was the Golden Jubilee Convention in 1978 at Rocky River, Ohio. When his first wife died in 1980 he returned to the Isle of Man and married Miss Bess Mylchreest. These last years on the Island have been very happy ones, as he had a deep-felt love for the Island. He is survived by his wife Bess of Ballasalla, and a niece and two nephews in America.

him know the name you are working. This gives us an excellent control point to know which names are being worked, and to head off any duplications.

Many thanks to Larry for this idea. Many hands make a big job of work light, NAMA will grow, and you are going to run into some surprising things with this that you are going to enjoy a lot.

Go, go, go!

William E. Brideson  
President

## MEMBERSHIP!

(Continued from page 1)

60 new members, or 5 per month, just to stay even, and we should have another 30-50 to grow. Each of us should have a 1987 goal to bring in at least one member family.

Best wishes in 1987 recruiting yours!

Lawrence L. Fargher  
Second Vice President