

BULLETIN *of the* North American Manx Association



To Preserve "Whate'er is left to us of ancient heritage" T.E. Brown

Vol. 60 No. 3

March 1988

NAMA 88

Get set for another great NAMA Convention! Proud of your Manx heritage? Here is your chance to be with other PLU's (People Like Us). No one will call it "The Isle of MANX", or ask if it is one of the "Channel Islands". Toronto is a great city for eating, sight-seeing, and fun. Here is your chance to take a foreign vacation. What an experience for children if they have never gone through customs and immigration! Here is the chance you only get every two years to see old friends, make new ones, and find relatives you never knew you had. There will be many people there from the Isle of Man itself, particularly with the favorable exchange rate (for them).

By the time you read this, or shortly thereafter you will be receiving a mailing about the convention. We plan to have the same old format you are used to; great food, social events, sightseeing, meetings, and above all, plenty of time to renew old acquaintances. However, in parallel with this since we are hoping to get as many children and grandchildren as possible, since they are the future of our organization. We have planned special events for the children including a special trip to Toronto's famous amusement park and a story teller to keep them busy while the meetings are going on with Manx fairy tales and children's stories like "Manxie the Cat."

The fun will start at supper on Friday, 29 July and run through until noon on Monday, 1 August. What a great time to visit Canada! The snow will be gone, but even if it weren't, the warmth of Manx fellowship would melt it as it will your hearts!

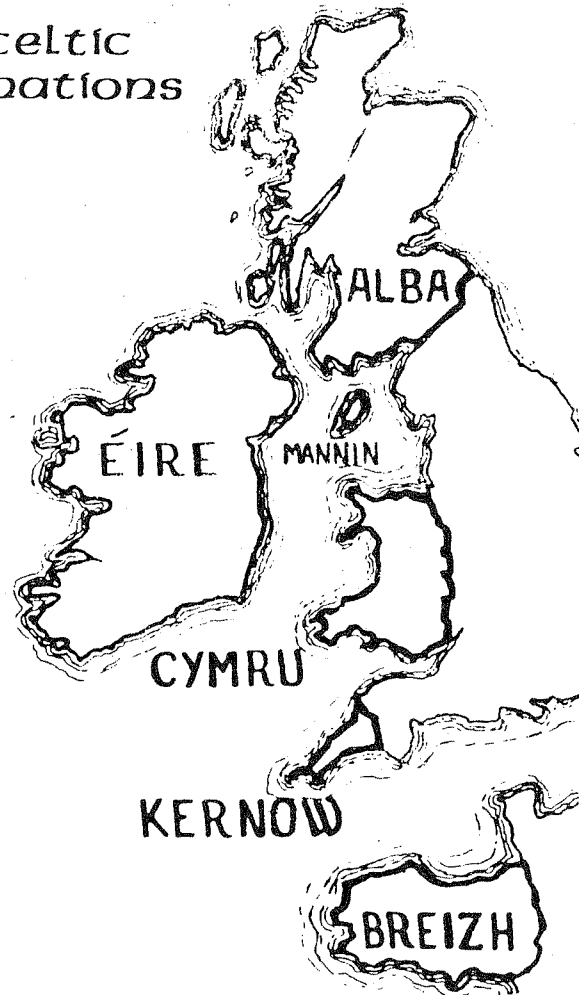
Marshall Cannell

Convention Chairman

(Some of you think our Convention coverage has been a bit thin, and it has. Marshall sent us a package of material for the December Bulletin which we did not receive, have not received yet. We hope you are thinking about the Convention, and that we will see you all in Toronto.)

Editor

celtic
nations



CELTIC NATIONS

The accompanying ancient map was printed in the Washington DC Irish Society Newsletter for December-January 1988.

Scotland was joined to England and Wales by the Act of Union, 1707. The Scottish National Party is working towards the separation of Scotland from the rest of the British Isles, but lacks majority

support. Population: 5,180,000 of whom only 1.8% can speak Gaelic.

Though part of the British Isles, the Island of Man is administered according to its own laws by the court of Tynwald. The Island is not bound by British law unless it opts to be. Population: 65,000 of whom only 165 (in 1961) spoke Manx.

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NAMA Membership Fee \$6.00/year (from Aug. 1st, 1984) 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

WORLD MANX ASSOCIATION

On 31st October, we celebrated the Immortal Memory of T.E. Brown at the Rutland Hotel. 120 members enjoyed an excellent meal. We also enjoyed the scholarly address given by Mr. Bernard Caine.

Usually, after this event in October, the Association goes into hibernation until the Spring but we broke with tradition in 1987 by having a Christmas Luncheon on 19th December, again at the Rutland, where 99 members enjoyed a typical Christmas meal. Alderman Ernest Ackary, dressed as Father Christmas, presented the Raffle prizes and another member, Mrs. Murphy, played carols on the organ and all cheerfully joined in the singing. Mrs. Rene Savage entertained us with recitations and delighted us all as she brought to mind familiar and eccentric characters in our town whom many of us remembered - Fat Jack, Jack Straw, etc., and also favourite shops where we had shopped in days gone by - R.C. Cain's, T.H. Cowin's etc. There was much laughter as she brought back scenes of our youth. It was a happy occasion which we hope will feature in our programme in future years.

On February 13th we have our next Committee Meeting and on March 19th the Annual General Meeting will be held. Our "At Home" dinner will be on April 16th.

Winifred Musgrove

Hon. Correspondence Secretary

FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Christmas is far behind us and although we are experiencing very wet and miserable weather, we look forward to the Spring and Summer. Our Exhibition will be in Douglas this year at the Promenade Church over two days, the 6th and 7th of July, the theme being "Cronkbourne Village". We hope to have a selection of family trees. Cronkbourne Village originally consisted of the houses occupied by the workers in the Sailcloth Mills. These houses still stand today, although they have had a few face lifts since they were first built.

We held our Annual General Meeting in January with a good attendance, the weather being unusually mild. Unfortunately we are no longer able to offer any free research to new members owing to the increase in membership and the time needed to do this work on a voluntary basis. However, we are always pleased to help visitors tracing their Manx family roots and the Society is now listed in the Telephone Directory under the names of the Secretary and the Projects Co-ordinator. We also have our Library housed in the Ward Library in Peel where

our Librarian Miss Noreen Cottier is on hand to offer help and advise.

We have an interesting list of speakers for 1988 starting in February with Mr. Maggs on "William Kennish". We hope to publish some of our speakers' talks in the Journal. I will be reporting on all the coming events during the year. We now hold Meetings all through the Summer and this will mean that visitors will be able to attend Meetings in the months of July and August.

Sylvia Mylchreest
Secretary

MANX ITEMS

CAPTAIN QUILLIAM, born in Marown in 1771, as a young man worked at farming and on the building of the Red Pier in Douglas. He ran away to sea, but was taken off the ship and pressed into the Navy. He was Midshipman at the Battle of Camperdown, and was soon promoted to Lieutenant. At the battle of Copenhagen he was on a light frigate which got in close to the batteries. All of his superior officers were killed and he took command. Lord Nelson came aboard, unknown to the crew, and enquired who was in command. Quilliam was down below and answered, "I am." To a further question, "How are you getting on down there?" Quilliam replied, "Middlin." Nelson was amused at the answer and the coolness of Quilliam in the circumstances. He took the first opportunity to appoint him to his own ship, "Victory."

Quilliam was responsible for the repair of the steering mechanism on the "Victory" at the Battle of Trafalgar, and maintained it in action while the battle lasted. He was promoted to Post-Captain for this. He retired shortly after and came back to live on the Isle of Man. He purchased considerable property and married a Miss Stevenson of Balladoole Arbory. He was appointed to the House of Keys, and took great interest in the Peel fishing fleet. He lived at Castletown, but died at the White House, Kirk Michael, and was interred in Kirk Arbory Churchyard.

SIR GEORGE GOLDIE TAUBMAN was born at the Nunnery, Douglas, on May 20, 1846. He was founder of the former British Colony of Nigeria. Although he obtained a commission in the Royal Engineers, he did not continue military for long, but, becoming interested in the Niger river districts in Africa, he went there in 1877. By 1879 he had amalgamated all the trading concerns in the explored country. After some difficulty he obtained a Charter from the British Government, and overcame considerable opposition from French and German traders.

He relinquished the Charter in 1900, having laid the foundations of Govern

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THE MANX LANGUAGE

Laa Mie! (lay my) You remember that from last time. It means "Good Day." I hope you are saying that every morning, along with "Ta nemshyr aalin" (ta nemshyr aylin), or "Ta nemshyr olk" as the case may be! As you remember, that means "The weather is beautiful/bad."

A useful word to learn is "feer" (pronounced fear); it means "very." I used to play the Manx language tapes in my car every morning on the way to work until my rider made me stop. He now speaks Manx to the extent that he answers every statement I make by adding "feer" to it. For example, to the statement "Ta nemshyr olk," he responds "Feer olk!" meaning "very bad." To "Laa mie!" he responds "Feer vie!" meaning "very good!" See how easy it is to speak Manx? By the way, ignore for now the fact that the "m" in "mie" changed to "v." We will get to that later.

For this lesson we have listed some adjectives that you can add to "Ta nemshyr" to properly describe the weather.

good	mie (my)
bad	olk
beautiful	aalin ("aa" is pronounced as "ay" in the word "bay.")
hot	ch eh
dark	dorraghey (door ah he) The "gh" is pronounced like the "ch" in the Scottish word "loch."
stormy	dorrinagh (door in ak - same "gh")
bright	gial (gee al - with "g" as in "go")
dry	chirrym (cheer im - "im" as in "him")
wet	fliugh (fluke - there is that "gh" again! It is kind of half way between a "k" sound and clearing your throat!)
cold	feayr (fair)

That's it for this time; but you might try saying "very cold" in Manx very fast. Five times is good, ten times is unusual, and more than that means you are not saying it fast enough! Your homework is to practice all these before you go to Toronto on 29 July!!

Marshall Cannell
Convention Chairman



BILINGUAL (REQUIRED)

The following Manx Anecdote is worthy of note especially in early Manx Life.

In the early 18th Century, there were few of the ordinary Manx people in the I.O.Man, who could understand, or speak English.

A number of the Clergy, most who were English, could not speak the Manx language. As a result, these clergymen conducted special services such as Baptism, Marriage, etc., in English, though many of the people were unable to follow it. Tom Brown tells a story of a wedding which took place in Rushen Church under these circumstances.

The Bride and Groom could only understand and speak Manx, but the Marriage service was conducted in English. When the ceremony was over, and the wedded pair got out of the Church, the Bride said to her husband in Manx - "Are we married, Billie?" - to which the husband replied, with some little hesitation, also in Manx - "Faith, I don't know, girl".

G. Curphey
Nova Scotia, Canada

MANX CHURCH HISTORY

The Manx Church is older than either York, Canterbury, Winchester, or London, and it is interesting to note that two attempts were made to join the Manx Church to an English Diocese - Carlisle in 1836, and Liverpool in 1875.

Repair of the Churches in olden days made the Parson responsible for the repair of the Chancel, and the parishoners for the remainder of the Church.

The most ancient Church in the island is Maughold, it dates from the 13th Century, and the original building on this site was probably founded by the Monks of Iona. It was of early Celtic origin and goes back, at least to the 6th Century. Many famous people are buried in the Churchyard including Bishop Rowler of the 11th century during the reign of King Canute. Within this churchyard are 44 ancient Crosses, Celtic and Norse, of which 35 were found in the actual churchyard, the remainder in the Parish, while just outside stands the only survival of parish crosses, of post Norse date, it is of decorated stone, and has the Legs of Man on one face.

George Curphey
Liverpool, Nova Scotia
Canada

MANX ITEMS (Continued from page 2)

ment in Nigeria during his period there, he retired to England, and drew up the first scheme for self-government in Rhodesia. He was made a Privy Councillor, and was Alderman of the London County Council from 1908 to 1919. He died in London on August 20, 1925. Born a Goldie-Taubman, he elected in adult life to adopt his mother's maiden name of Goldie.

ROUND TABLE, on the shoulder of South Barrule, is the meeting place of two Sheadings (Glenfaba and Rushen) and of three Parishes (Arbory, Malew, and Patrick).

ROUND TOWER on St. Patricks Isle is the most complete of the ancient buildings on the Isle, and is the oldest complete building on the Island. The probable date of erection is the Tenth Century. It was a place of safety for the monks who resided on the Island when threatened with raids from pirates. It is 50 feet high, the entrance is 7 feet above ground level, and it is directly opposite the ruined Church of St. Patrick. It is similar to the Irish **ROUND** towers, but there are differences: It has no windows, but there are slit holes near the top looking towards the cardinal points.

ELLAN VANNIN was written about 1824 by Eliza Craven Green, a young English actress performing in the Isle of Man.

MHEILLEA is a good Manx word, pronounced mel-ya. Glover's Illustrated Guide, dated 1870, gives a description: "At the close of the harvest, the reapers at one time bound with ribbons the last handful of corn that was cut, and carried it in procession to the neighboring hill. There while the Queen of the Mheillea waved the corn over her head, they expressed in loudest huzzas their joy at the conclusion of their labor. During the performance of the ceremony, the reapers retired to partake of the festivities of the mheillea, while they gaily kept up with music and dancing till a late hour. At the present day, the Harvest Home is kept up by a feast and dancing, to which the neighbors and friends of the farmer are invited, in addition to those who labored in the harvest. In some parishes a public tea festival is held in some large room or barn, the proceeds whereof are for the poor of the parish.

Hilda (Bridson) Penrice

BULLETIN

Greetings to all women from the Ladies' Auxiliary - Craft items that you have made or articles from the Isle of Man will be appreciated for our Sale Booth at the Convention in Toronto. Please bring them when you come. **Mona Creer**

MINNESOTA MANX SOCIETY

The Minnesota Manx Society held its winter meeting, Myles Standish Symposium, on January 14, 1988, on the University of Minnesota campus. It began with a dinner in the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute. The main meeting was held in the James Ford Bell Library. Curator Dr. Jack Parker provided a display of Historical Isle of Man maps and other manuscripts relating to the period of European expansion in America.

The main speaker of the evening was Reverend Rex Kissack of Kirk Michael, Isle of Man. Reverend Kissack has done extensive research on Manx family histories. He has a paper "Was Myles Standish a Manxman?" Reverend Kissack stated that he has found only indirect and circumstantial evidence to support the idea that Myles was Manx. Thus it is neither proven nor disproved. Some of the findings he shared with us are that there is no trace of Myles Standish in Manx history, but there is record of a Standish family; Myles is not a Manx name, but it could be a form of the name Michael; Myles is not named in John Standish's will, but Myles believed he had claims to land in the Isle of Man. Reverend Kissack raised some interesting questions. Could Myles Standish have died and someone else taken his name? Could Myles have been missing on a voyage and left out of the family will?

The second speaker was Dr. Norman Standish of Dallas, Texas, a direct descendant of Myles Standish. He told of the parallels of physical appearance that occur in the Standish family and of the family's persistence in businesses that seem to be on the decline. Dr. Standish announced the opening later this year of Standish House in Lanark, Illinois. He has spent a number of years converting a home that has housed four generations of the Standish family into a Bed and Breakfast Inn. The house is decorated with Standish paintings, photos and artifacts.

The meeting was followed by a brief question session and social hour.

Joan Gill

Acting Secretary

THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY CHAPTER MANX SOCIETY

On December 6th a reception was held at the home of Doris and Paul Dobbel for the Quilliams of Port Erin, IOM. They were visiting their son, Lawrence, who is on a two year research scholarship at the University of California, San Diego.

Our Christmas celebration on December 13th at the home of Marge and Don Weber for a gift exchange and cookie potluck was very enjoyable.

At the business meeting we again 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. It was reported the figurehead on the Star was being reconstructed and the work being done is excellent. The recent storm did not damage the Star but the **Berkley**, a historical ferryboat belonging to the museum was damaged and is in for repairs.

Election of officers took place with the re-election of the current officers. President, Marge Frederick; Virginia Mellon, Secretary-Treasurer; Devore Smith, Historian. Rev. Smith is compiling heritage information on the members of our Society and hopes to have everyone represented.

Devore and Ruth Smith's son, Geoffrey, was unanimously elected Chairperson. Executive Committee, of the San Diego Chapter of the Sierra Club. The Chapter will be celebrating its 40th year in 1988.

The Society received the Peel Castle Excavation Interim Report of 1985 and 1986 from David Freke, Director, as requested. Although the season's diggings are over they are busy with paperwork and artifacts. There is need of a lot of money to pay for analysis by experts. Our Society voted to send a contribution and would like to suggest other Chapters offer help as anything would be very gratefully received and acknowledged.

Mrs. R Virginia Mellon

Secretary/Treasurer

Box 1743

La Mesa, CA 92044

MANX FILMS

The Vancouver Manx Society wishes to thank Mr. William Brideson for sending us six Manx films we had requested.

The film show was a great success. We has several ex-members attend who had not been to a Manx event in years.

We celebrated the event as a wine and cheese party. However, true to Manx tradition, tea was served as well.

Anyone wishing to take advantage of a real Manx evening and show the films should contact William E. Brideson, 6821 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA, 22307.

Vera Henry, Secretary

Vancouver Manx Society

WASHINGTON MANX SOCIETY

The early Christmas Season was a busy time for the Greater Washington DC Manx Society. More than two dozen new members resulted from widespread media coverage of our October "Evening in Camelot" at a local dinner theater.

One newcomer, the proprietor of the popular Bullfeathers Restaurant in Old Town Alexandria, VA, put on two well-attended afternoon "socials" in one of his banquet rooms so everyone could get acquainted.

A "Manx Heritage Christmas" proved to be the highlight of the year. More than 200 revelers, young and old, filled a beautifully decorated dance hall in Herndon, VA, for several hours of feasting, singing, and dancing. Authentic Celtic and Scottish performers entertained and led us in spirited fun and games into the evening.

We look forward to our Annual Meeting and Banquet in March, with various other events for 1988 in the planning stages.

James R. Woodgates

Vice President

VANCOUVER MANX SOCIETY

Here it is almost the end of January and we in Vancouver have had, so far a mild winter. Snow fell just before Christmas and stayed on the grass and trees but streets and roads were clear so it made for a Christmasy look without the inconvenience of slippery streets.

Our pre Christmas pot luck supper held in November was a great success. President Chris Stirling welcomed all and led in the singing of the Manx National Anthem. The hall had a festive look with swathes of holly and cedar boughs, decorated tree and other Christmas ornaments. The tables had their usual red streamers and pointsetta plants, plus Manx serviettes as an added bonus. The buffet table was loaded with all things bright, beautiful and fattening. After the dinner the children were all treated to Christmas stockings and entertained with lively games. This was followed by a raffle and slides of the Isle of Man.

We have great plans for 1988. Being leap year who knows what the fates will decide.

Vera Henry

3142 West 32nd Ave.

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THE CELTIC WORLD

Physically the Celts are terrifying in appearance, with deep-sounding and very harsh voices. In conversation they use few words and speak in riddles, for the most part, hinting at things and leaving a great deal to be understood. They frequently exaggerate with the aim of extolling themselves and diminishing the status of others. They are boasters and threateners and given to bombastic self-dramatization, and yet they are quick of mind and with good natural ability for learning.

They have also lyric poets whom they call Bards. They sing to the accompaniment of instruments resembling lyres, sometimes a eulogy and sometimes a satire.

The Celts were the inhabitants of Europe in the pre-Roman period, occupying a vast territory stretching from the Pyrenees to the Rhine and from Ireland to Romania. They were barbarian in the classical sense of the word, energetic, quick-tempered, and "war-mad"; but their craftsmen created a brilliant art style and by the first century BC a truly urban society had begun to develop in many areas. It was against these people that the Roman armies moved in the first centuries BC and AD, leaving only a Celtic fringe in Scotland, Ireland, Wales, and Brittany to survive unconquered. When the Roman world collapsed in the fifth century AD, the Celts once more emerged from the obscurity of their windswept Atlantic regions. Populations moved from Ireland to Britain and from Cornwall to Brittany, while individuals – chiefly monks – carried the ideals of Irish monasticism deep into Europe. Politically and culturally the western Celts have been persecuted and subjugated; today their cry for the recognition of their separate identity is becoming louder.

They terrified and fascinated their Greek and Roman neighbors, these "barbarian" inhabitants of the European heartland. They had no written history, not even a written language of their own, no dominant city-states to impose order and unity, no clear-cut boundaries. But as the shifting, roaming Celtic tribes began to settle, clustered here and there around a local chieftan in a natural hilltop defensive site, civilized life took shape. Their skills and resources were many: horsemanship, mastery of the wheel, mining, metal-working.

This ingenuity gave them some control over a harsh environment and allowed for impressive cultural developments. They traded with the cultivated Mediterranean cities, accumulated surplus wealth, built stronger fortress-towns and ever more im-

posing tombs for their leaders.

Before this ancient Celtic world dispersed, to collide fatally with Rome, it enjoyed a brief flowering that has left enduring traces. Its tribes bequeathed a social structure across the centuries to the Irish Celts. Its hillforts were growing into cities and, by the time of the great collision, its craftsmen had become artists.

Skulls that gaze out from stone temple walls . . . statues of animals, horned figures, men-beasts . . . and everywhere triple groupings of gods, priests, heads. Such evidence leaves no doubt that the Celts carried on an active spiritual life, marked by apparitions, cults, talismans, and supernatural symbolism. Roman witnesses, some sympathetic and some contemptuous, have added their words to the record, giving us accounts of coldblooded human sacrifices and superstitious taboos, while explaining the priestly role of the druidic elite. The shadow-world of the Celtic supernatural is filled with landmarks. What our guides do not provide – for no doubt it did not exist – is a master plan, a world system, a hierarchy like that of the Greek and Roman pantheon. Moreover, the deeper significance of so many Celtic religious symbols eludes us as it did the Romans, since the druids imparted their teaching only by word of mouth, in woodland clearings, by sacred springs, or in temple sanctuaries closed to any outsider. And thus we find ourselves with more questions than answers concerning the religion – or religions of the Celts.

The arts of war, in time of crisis, absorbed the efforts and talents of the Celts. Their opponents might thus dismiss them as backward, incapable of seasoned thought, refinement, or the development of sophisticated socio-political institutions. Indeed, their gifts lay in a different area from those of classical Mediterranean civilization. At an early stage the Celts excelled at mining and metalworking, skills that led to all-important mastery of the wheel and the plow. The Celts produced an art that might be called baroque rather than classical: In place of Greek abstraction, a whimsical profusion of detail and daring line. Rather than sober balance and harmonious proportion, a taste for stylization and grotesquery. The Celtic freedom could shock the spectator – force him to rediscover the world, see reality anew. The same creative freshness was to burst upon the European literary scene centuries and centuries later, when the fantastical Irish and Breton legends would fertilize medieval literature.

A time of upheaval came in the fifth



century BC in the Celtic world. Social unrest, population expansion, possibly also climactic deterioration, combined to force large sections of the community to migrate from their central European homelands southward into Italy and eastward to Greece and beyond. Their exploits are vividly recounted by the Mediterranean peoples with whom they clashed. Rome fell to them, and sacred Delphi was overrun. These Celtic warriors, however, were no match for the citizen armies of Greece and the might of Rome. Pushed back once again beyond the Alps, the Celts were destined to suffer a still more momentous defeat in the last century BC. It would be their fate, ironically, to be crushed between new barbarian forces – the Germans to the north, the Dacians to the east – and the efficient, modern Roman legions under Julius Caesar. Celtic Europe came under Roman rule, forced to surrender its identity in the Imperial melting pot.

Gallo-Roman art, a new hybrid, was the cultural fruit of this domination. Gauls would henceforth gain military glory only as auxiliaries serving under Rome. The conquerors of old – once the terror of Europe – had now been conquered.

The long, dramatic saga of the Celts took a new turn soon after the fall of Rome and the disintegration of her Empire. Celtic invaders once more penetrated the heart of Europe, as if repeating history. But these were a new breed of warriors – soldiers of Christ, missionaries from Ireland who bore the Gospel and monasticism to the Continent, beginning in the sixth century AD, to restore Christianity where Germanic marauders had wiped it out. Behind this wave of renewal there lay centuries of undisturbed Celtic survival in the western fringes of Romanized Europe. In Scotland, Wales, Cornwall, Brittany, and above all in Ireland, the Celts held on to their language and art, their spirit and their traditions. But remote as they were, they were not to remain untouched by Christianity. The Christianized Celts of the fringe lands created a remarkable culture, essentially Celtic in its expression and energy but motivated by the new religious force. Its influence went far and wide in medieval Europe, to spark the monastic movement and to inject Celtic myth – Camelot, the Grail, Tristan, and Parsifal – into the literature of many tongues.

They constitute a minority in the late twentieth-century Western world – a series of minorities scattered in diverse nations. From antiquity to the present, they have been tossed this way and that in the stormwinds of international politics. And

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THE CELTIC WORLD (Continued from page 5)

"Celtic fringe" – the term used to describe them today – bespeaks fractionalism and political insufficiency.

Is there more to the Celtic revival than nostalgia, more to their identity than rhetoric and wishful thinking? The Celts of today can point as evidence to the languages they spoke: to Celtic, Irish, Welsh, and Breton, revived by poets and scholars and now spoken daily by many as living languages.

Another sign of Celtic life today, again in the cultural realm, is the survival of custom: dress, music, folklore, old Celtic place-names, and family traditions that derive from the old clans. But the Celts do not base their identity on language and folklore alone. The Celts today may be a fringe group in France and Britain, and a scattered minority in the vast United States – in Ireland they constitute a nation. Whatever the fate of the separatist movements in various nations today, the twentieth century has seen one example of a Celtic revival that is a political reality.

Summaries from "The Celtic World"

by Barry Cunliffe
McGraw-Hill, London

CELTIC NATIONS (continued from page 1)

In 1801 Ireland was formally joined to the rest of the British Isles, but in 1921 after a serious uprising Southern Ireland (Eire) gained its independence. Northern Ireland still remains part of the United Kingdom. Population: Northern Ireland, 1,540,000; Eire, 2,980,000. Gaelic is widely spoken, especially in the west.

Wales was united with England in 1543 and has remained in the United Kingdom ever since. The Welsh Nationalist party seeks separation, but in 1979 the people voted overwhelmingly against devolution. Population: 2,640,000 of which 510,000 can speak Welsh. In 1971 there were 32,725 people who were able to speak only Welsh.

Cornwall is a county of England largely untouched by the English emigrations 400 - 1000 AD. Some sporadic nationalist noises, but no serious suggestion of separation. Population: 380,000. Cornish is a dead language but there are signs of its academic revival.

Brittany became part of France in 1532. Separatist movements are working towards self-government, though with little success. Population: 1,500,000 of which less than 50% can speak Breton.

A National Public Radio network weekend program entitled "Thistle and Shamrock" emanates from the University of North Carolina and is devoted to Gaelic music.

WURLITZER FOR GAIETY

One of the best Wurlitzer cinema organs in the world will arrive on the Island in April, and should be ready to give its first concert in August.

The sixty-year-old three-manual organ, featuring bird calls, ship and train whistles, alarm bells, drums, gong, cymbals, siren, surf, and even galloping horses, has been purchased at a tiny fraction of its commercial value, thanks to the generosity of Mr. Allan Hickling, a 78 year old organ enthusiast who saved the mighty Wurlitzer from destruction thirty years ago.

Built in 1929, it was installed in the City Cinema at Leicester, where it accompanied silent films and entertained for 28 years. It was saved by Mr. Hickling in 1957, and has since occupied the music room of his home, Dormston House in Black County, England.

It has been featured on many radio programs recorded by BBC with famous organists, and it is hoped BBC will continue to feature the organ after it has been installed at The Gaiety.

Excerpted from Peel City Guardian

VISIT ISLE OF MAN?

A mixed bag of reactions has been produced by an American tour group who recently visited the Island.

Points in favor include (1) unspoiled scenery and parks, (2) interesting ships and museums, (3) friendly local people, (4) good food – especially queenies, kippers and cheeses, (5) public footpaths, (6) general cleanliness and lack of graffiti, (7) generally safe, secure, and peaceful, (8) drivers are generally courteous, and (9) a wealth of interesting and historically valuable buildings and architecture.

However, some criticism: (1) The Island is too difficult and too expensive to reach, (2) hard to find modern accommodation and conveniences, (3) too few places open at night, (4) too many petrol stations and restaurants refuse to accept credit cards, (5) not restaurants to give a choice, (6) signposts for motorists – or the lack of them, (7) lack of movie houses, (8) dirty beaches, (9) rundown appearance of the Douglas Promenade, (10) waste of centrally situated space such as the Sea Terminal, and (11) closed guest houses and closed shops which gave an impression of neglect.

The author of the report is involved with a local company and does not want to be named.

Isle of Man Courier

(Air Lingus was working on a new agreement for travel to the Island: America – IOM. The new lower price to be all inclusive, not a separate rate for Dublin – IOM. 1988 Homecomers may wish to inquire of Air Lingus. Editor)

WILDERNESS RUN TO BEN-MY-CHREE

The early gold-seekers who came trudging north to the Yukon over the trail of '98, or who poled and paddled their way down West Taku Arm in northern British Columbia, had a warm spot in their hearts for the wilderness homestead of Ben-My-Chree.

They tramped out of the ruggedness of the Canadian north at 60 degrees north latitude, and came suddenly upon a smiling valley where carefully tended delphiniums rose ten feet high beside a log cabin, and pansies five inches across grew on the silt of glaciers and 22 hours a day of summer sunlight.

Today, the old couple who built the homestead and who made over 800 varieties of plants and flowers bloom within sight of the icy whiteness of Llewellyn Glacier, are gone, but the valley is still probably the most unique show-place in the Canadian north, and the ancient little sternwheeler TUTSHI brings only tourists now through the West Taku Arm to its one port of call, Ben-My-Chree.

The story of Ben-My-Chree is a love story. This is the homestead that Otto Partridge from the Isle of Man built for the bride who followed him into the wilderness. It was for her that he named it in his native Manx, Ben-My-Chree – Girl of my Heart.

For a time, the couple operated a small sawmill near Carcross, but at every opportunity they explored the surrounding waters. In 1900, towing along the houseboat on which they lived, they moved down Tagish Lake into West Taku Arm where they set up the equipment for a small mine. When a sudden landslide wiped out their mining gear, they discovered that it was not gold alone that kept them in the north. They moved ashore and Otto Partridge built his homestead.

The couple established a tradition of hospitality in their new home. The door of Ben-My-Chree was never closed, and a steady stream of prospectors, trappers, adventurers, and steamboat captains came through the log parlour. With them Otto Partridge exchanged tales of the north, and Mrs. Partridge always had a glass of her own mild rhubarb wine.

The TUTSHI still calls regularly at Ben-My-Chree, and although the old couple now lie side by side in the graveyard at Whitehorse, their home is maintained in its original state by the White Pass and Yukon Railway, the company that pioneered transportation in the area. Tourists find the door of Ben-My-Chree open yet, and some of the same hospitality within – a glass of home-made rhubarb wine.

**Vancouver Manx Society
Newsletter**

LANDSLIDE CLOSES ROAD

Some 500 tons of rock and earth fell onto the Snaefell Mountain Road in November. It was blamed on heavy rains the Island experienced in the fall, and on shock waves from an earth tremor which shook the southerly part of the Island. A similar fall happened in the 1950's.

LAXEY WHEEL

The estimated cost of underground work at the Laxey Wheel scheme has risen to complete the opening up of an old adit running from the waterfall to just below the T-rocker in the mine engine shaft.

This operation, to provide visitors with a "safe underground experience", was the main priority of Phase 4 of the Laxey Wheel Heritage project. "Due to unforeseen problems caused by difficult ground," the cost estimates have increased from £75,000 to £130,000.

L'I'L FOLK

BLAISE MACKENZIE NORTHERN born December 1, 1987, in Boston, MA. Daughter of Denis and Bonny (Cannell) Nothem of Chelmsford, MA. Granddaughter of Marshall and Tina Cannell of Wellesley Hills, MA. Great granddaughter of Sallie McKenzie Cannell of Providence, RI. Great niece of John and Mary (Cannell) Andrews of Springfield, VA. All the above are NAMA members. Blaise will be introduced to everyone at the Toronto Convention this summer.

CORRIN & KRYSL NEWS: Parker Addison Krysl Corrin was born January 19, 1988, at Wichita, KS. Mr. Corrin weighed in at 8 lbs 11 oz and measured 20 3/4". His APGARs were 9, 9 and 9. Mother and he are doing well.

LETTER FROM ELLESMERE PORT

Greetings my friends,

After a quiet yet joyful Christmas, we have reached the backend of January. The weather this month has been kind and we have enjoyed a period of mild 'Southwesterlies' - plenty wind, considerable rain, but also high temperature resulting in considerable activity and growth in the garden. The daffodils are in full bud, (some 2 to 3 weeks early) and the little white snowdrops and crocuses in their various colours create a delightful scene.

Even nature seems to be deceived perhaps by the 'false spring'. We do not of course have that amazing variety of colourful warblers - that songbird galaxy, which pours northward to Ontario and the Great Lakes after wintering in Central and South America. We do have, however, 'The Assassins of the Garden' our own growing congregation of Blackbirds, now

on the wing, and as ever, swooping, darting, bickering, bewitching, investing the air with their agitated twittering, filling the ear with their serenades of joyous song.

The main news just now is the serious Seaman's 'strike' with the I.O.M. Steam Packet Coy. - now entering its fifth week. More details on this below.

Meanwhile, surely, the New Year brings its inspiration for the future. 'Let other pens dwell on guilt and misery' - always the optimist, I am looking forward for better things in 1988 with hope and perhaps faith. But not for me to preach, just to entreat all our North American Manx friends to remember with affection and reinforce with happy memories, their ties with our homeland.

There, I can assure you, the grass is still greener, the air is still purer and life still has ancient and timeless serenity. 'The lil old Isle of Man.'

Do you recollect:

"Then memories sweet and tender come like music's plaintive flow of the hearts in Ellan Vannin that loved me long ago, and the fair Isle shines with beauty, as in youth it dawned on me, - my own dear Ellan Vannin with its green hills by the sea."

Yours sincerely,

A.H. Bridson

SNIPPETS OF MANX NEWS

Population Increase. Manx Radio have reported that news from Government sources indicate that 2,500 new residents have arrived in the Isle of Man in the last 18 months. This is in accordance with Government policy to encourage new residents. The interesting thing is that a high proportion of these are younger people seeking work permits rather than retiring pensioners.

N.B. Since reporting the above, it has been suggested that this figure may in fact be much higher. Apparently, there is no system of registration and this aspect of the matter is being looked at urgently.

House of Keys. It will be known that we now have a system of Ministerial Government in the Isle of Man which, contrary to many previous expectations seems to be working quite well. In any event they have just voted themselves a 32% increase in salaries. Generally an MHK now receives £15,000 per annum whilst Ministers receive more up to £18,000 for the Chief Minister. Naturally this has caused some resentment amongst the local populace. However it is not a princely sum in this day and age - it is very likely that the previous salaries were much too low anyway.

Ferry Dispute Deadlock. The main and most important news at the moment

is the strike of Seamen affecting the Island's lifelines.

The following report from the Daily Telegraph sums up the situation: "Attempts by the Man Government to resolve the ferry dispute have been rejected by the National Union of Seaman, which yesterday warned that the strike is likely to continue indefinitely.

Yesterday the NUS refused to attend an Isle of Man Court of Inquiry hearing because it does not recognize the Manx Parliament's authority to intervene. A majority of 160 seamen - two thirds of them living in the Liverpool Area, rejected proposals by the Company to change pay structures and general working conditions. Islanders fear that essential supplies to the Island will dwindle if the strike is prolonged - leading to severe shortages and higher prices for all goods."

Since recording the above, the following developments have taken place:

Mezaron of Ramsey a small freight shipping company have chartered two additional coasters to bring essential supplies to the Island - these are being unloaded at Ramsey and transported by road to Douglas and throughout the rest of the Island.

Manx Airlines have chartered an extra plane for use on a daily basis to carry as many passengers as possible who previously went by sea.

Ship Management Coy. A Ship Management Coy. based at Ramsey have indicated that they have plans to charter a vessel capable of carrying 500 passengers and 50 cars each trip to and from the Island. Where on the mainland they will sail from is not yet known.

N.B. The very latest development today is that the National Union of Seaman has called for an all-out National strike of all ferries involving some 5,000 men in support of the Manx Seamen. The strike to commence this week. Meanwhile, the I.O.M. Steam Packet Coy. have indicated no change in their stand and indeed, they state their plans are well advanced to man their ships, presumably with non-union labour, and recommence sailings within a week or two.

The ferry owners on the mainland have indicated that they will seek legal redress by injunctions to restrain the Union from what may be secondary picketing.

So all in all, we have big problems. Most unfortunate, when this year a great effort was to be made to promote tourism.

Eventually, it will all be settled with no winners. Pity they did not all continue talking. As Sir Winston Churchill was wont to say: "Jaw, Jaw, Jaw is better than War, War, War."

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Dear Manx Friends:

As Chaplain I have responsibility and privilege, at the time of a member's death, to send a word of sympathy to their relatives. But all too often, I do not learn of the death until much later, and often have no knowledge as to who the relatives are. This is also true of our President and Bulletin Editor. The result is there is an unfortunate lapse or gap in our communication. The Manx Family History Society is likewise concerned about this, as they like to be kept informed about our members.

Accordingly, we offer some suggestions that might help all of us. If you have a relative or close friend, of Manx heritage who has died, as soon as possible after the funeral, would you or someone close to the family kindly contact the Bulletin Editor or the Chaplain -or both - giving the following:

Name of the deceased. Date and place of birth, if known.

Date and place of death.

Names of relatives, and relationship (wife, husband, sister, etc.)

Member of what organizations (Manx Association, military, etc.) and offices held if any.

Special interests and achievements would be helpful (such as music, art, athletics.)

If you would help us in following the above guidelines, I'm sure that we would appreciate it, and so would the relatives to whom we are called upon to send our condolences.

Our Bulletin Editor is Mrs. Doris Brideson, 6821 Duke Drive, Alexandria, VA 22307; and the Chaplain, Rev. Herbert G. Kelly, 828 No. "I" Street, Fremont, NE 68025. Thank-you very much!

Herbert G. Kelly
Chaplain

CORRECTION

In the fall issue of the Bulletin, a typographical error in the article about the World Manx Society meeting during Homecoming last summer made it sound as if our 1st Vice President had asked to sit at the head table. The very opposite was true, for he was much surprised when they pulled him out of the back row and said that they had been waiting for him. When his wife, Tina, was also asked to move up in front of the 200 people there, she politely said "NO WAY!!" (but of course she went with Marshall.)

MONA DOUGLAS MEMORIAL

The Manx branch of the Celtic League has commissioned a cultural award to be made every three years in recognition of the lifelong work of the late Miss Mona Douglas. The award will be given to the person who has made the biggest contribution to Manx cultural life. It will be presented this year, for the first time, during the annual general meeting of the Celtic League on the Island from July 22 to 24.

A statement from the league explained: "As most people are aware, Miss Douglas, who was a member of the Celtic League, devoted her life to the promotion and revival of our rich cultural inheritance. Her example has played a major part in the success of that revival today. She gained much support and many friends, not only at home, but in other Celtic countries, through her work. Her revival of Yn Chruinnaught as an Inter-Celtic festival is testament to this."

OBITUARIES

DONALD L. CLUCAS, 68, retired Superintendent of Mails, Santa Ana, CA, died August 10, 1987. He was born November 30, 1918, in Shelley, Idaho, to James Edward and Mary Larsen Clucas. He married Myra Elaine Jones on January 24, 1941, in Los Angeles, CA, and she died on December 1, 1984. Surviving are two sons, Donald Laine of Upland, CA, Gary Lynn of Cypress, CA, and five grandchildren. He was preceded in death by brother Earl, and is survived by brother Edward of Orange, CA, and two sisters, Annette Stirk of Whittier, Ca, and Mary Robertson of Auburn, CA, also several nephews and nieces. He served in the US Army before World War II at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, as a cartoonist and illustrator for the 21st Infantry publication, "The Gimlet." His second tour was with the 10th Mountain Division, and he received a Bronze Star for service as a machine gunner in Italy and the Infantry Combat Medal. He was a member of the LDS Church and his ancestors were Mormon pioneers in Utah. His great grandfather was one of Utah's first senators. He was a member of NAMA.

WILLIAM COLLISTER, 94, of rural Galva, IL, died at Peoria January 30, 1988. He was born October 18, 1893, in Galva, son of Caesar and Louise (Kneale) Collister. He married Alice Eckley February 15, 1935, in Toulon. He is survived by his wife, one daughter, Mrs. Louise Krause of LaFayette, two sons Donald and James, both of Galva, five grandchildren, and one half brother Harold Collister of Shirley, AK. He was preceded in death by two brothers, one half sister, and three half brothers. He was educated in the rural schools, and then began farming in the Galva area. He was a veteran of World War I, and a member of the Galva

Grange, where he called square dancing for many years. Burial in Galva Cemetery.

Dear Mrs. Brideson:

Isabel Lucas, who lives in the Corrin Rest Home in Peel, advised that MARIAN CALLISTER died January 6th. She was also in the Corrin Home. Marian and her husband Percy Callister used to live in San Mateo, CA, before moving back to the Isle of Man. Percy passed away several years ago.

Evlynn J. Corlett
San Francisco, CA

MRS. ELSIE KERMODE, 87, Kewanee, Illinois. Born March 26, 1900, in Lower Foxdale, Isle of Man, to Frank S. and Eleanor Craine Kennaugh, she married Harold W. Kermode on March 1, 1922, in Galesburg. He died April 21, 1977. One brother and one sister also preceded her death. Surviving are two daughters, Elsie E. Taylor of Peoria and Audrey L. Briggs of Kewanee; one son Harold L., Princeton, Indiana; eight grandchildren; five great grandchildren; one great great grandchild; two brothers, Fred Kennaugh of Victoria and Leon Kennaugh of Kewanee; four sisters, Hilda Collinson of Toulon, Mona Horkstrom of Tuscon, Arizona, Gladys Evans of Kewanee, and Connie Johnson of Galva. Mrs. Kermode was a long time member of NAMA.

HEATHER JANE GRAVES, infant daughter of Perry and Jo-Lynn Morgan Graves, Altona, IL, died at her home December 18, 1987. She was born in Galesburg November 28, 1987. Surviving in addition to her parents are one sister, two brothers, four grandparents, and five great-grandparents including Russell and Shirley Kelly of Galva. Graveside services were held in Williamsfield Cemetery.