

BULLETIN *of the* North American Manx Association



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

Vol. 61, No. 3

March 1989

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I write this, the sleet is pounding against the window and the sky is a dark gray. How I wish for Summer, for then we will be strolling down the Promenade in Douglas in the bright sunlight and eating one of the famous Manx ice cream cones. But even now in the dead of Winter, and half way between last Summer's convention in Toronto and next Summer's Homecoming, I am constantly reminded through the mails and the telephone of the Isle of Man and its people on both sides of the Atlantic. Some of these reminders are happy and some are sad. I received a call from Dr. Solomon from Chicago some weeks ago. You will remember him at Toronto with his beautiful Bulldogs. One of his dogs had just been killed. I know that all of you join me in extending him our sympathy. He called to get the pronunciation of a Manx (Gaelg) name for a new puppy. I am happy to say that he called back a few days ago to say that he has the new dog and is doing fine.

I received letters from three people who felt that a political letter they received from our 1st V.P., even though it was on his own letterhead and never mentioned NAMA, was an inappropriate use of the mailing list. Larry regrets that these people were upset, and although he received an equal number of letters from people who strongly supported his action, we will make sure that we don't get embroiled in this type of controversy again. Democrats, Republicans, and Independents are all equal members of NAMA, and no action should be taken to alienate any group.

Now that the election is over and the people have spoken, as Manxmen we should all be proud to have "one of our own" as Vice President of the U.S.A. Steps are being taken to try to get him as a speaker at our 1990 convention in California.

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FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH NOTES

*Guide for overseas people
before leaving HOME . . .*

REMEMBER, To create your 'Family History' for future generations, you need to start with yourself, and then your parents and then their parents and so on. If there are any older members of the family, ask them to help with dates and places of births, marriages and deaths. Try to get as much information about your first emigrant ancestor before you come to the Isle of Man. When your ancestor went to a new place, that country usually recorded information about where they came from. Few records were kept at the place of departure.

1. **DEATH RECORD:** Try to obtain a Death Certificate, usually from the municipal or other local record office in the community where the person died. Look up the grave, sometimes the Headstone Inscription provides pertinent information, or an Obituary in the local newspaper may give details of other relatives. Check also for a Will and Probate Record. If the deceased belonged to any clubs, such as in business, military or social, their organization records may have additional information.
2. **MARRIAGE RECORD:** This record is very important, whether it is a civil marriage or a religious one, or both. This document usually shows the names of the father of both the bride and groom, and sometimes place of residence of both. If you don't know where the marriage took place, the U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402 provides pamphlets "Where to write for Marriage Records" and "Where to write for Birth and Death Records."
3. **BIRTH RECORD:** You will, of course have knowledge and access to your own birth certificate. It is

wise to have the original photographed as it is a valuable document frequently needed in later life. If your parents were born in North America/Australia/New Zealand, etc. before 1880, the records maintained by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Genealogical Library could be able to help you. The Mormon Church has Genealogical Libraries all over the world and there may be one near where you live. The staff are able to guide you in your research and they also have suitable forms available for recording your data. It is vital to record all information when you find it, don't rely on your memory. Also make a note of where and when you recorded it.

4. **CENSUS RECORD:** If you have knowledge of previous addresses where the family lived, it can be helpful to look for the address in a Census. The census in most countries is taken every ten years. However, public access to the record varies, some locations permit researching 75 years after the date of census, others it is 100 years. Again, your local library or a FHS would know about this source for research.

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HOMECOMING

Your reservations may be in hand or well under way. But if you have just become aware, or circumstances have just developed so you can go to the Isle of Man for Homecomers' Holiday 24 June-8 July 1989, or some portion thereof, can you still get in on it? Possibly. Best place to start is with the Tourist Board's representative on this side of the Atlantic, our NAMA Secretary Mrs. Elizabeth Duncan, 436 Audrey Drive, Richmond Heights, Ohio 44143; work phone (216) 382-8000, home phone (216) 481-2476.

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Life Membership Fees in NAMA:
Members over 50 years of age \$50.00.
Members under 50 years of age \$75.00

A FEW 'SNIPPETS' OF NEWS GLEANED FROM THE MANX PRESS AND RADIO

MANX COUPLES QUEUE FOR CHEAP HOMES: The Isle of Man Government is to sell 85 new houses at discount prices to local first-time buyers. Prices for the three-bedroom houses will be between £30,000 and £35,000 less than half their value on the open market. The influx of mainlanders, which has pushed the Island's population from 64,000 three years ago to an estimated 70,000 now, is one of the factors behind a 30% rise in Manx property prices in the last year.

DOUGLAS HARBOUR LINK-SPANS: A Harbours Bill is in front of Tynwald which would enable the Government to purchase the Link-spans at Douglas harbour amongst other things. The reasoning behind this idea is the possibility of Nationalising Sea Transport Facilities in the event of situations arising, as in the past, whereby due to Strikes and other factors, Island Sea communications have been virtually cut off. Apparently, the Government is determined that this should never happen again.

EXIT THE COASTGUARD: After over 100 years, it was sad to note that the H.M. Coastguard station at Ramsey was closed down in January. It is intended that the work will be taken over by Liverpool Coastguard station. Obviously, there are some deep misgivings amongst many sea-faring folk.

This is supposed to be an economy measure by the British Government. It is interesting to note that embodied in the Harbour bill mentioned above are enabling provisions which may pave the way for the establishment of the Isle of Man's own Coastguard service.

NB. Ironical, is it not, when our own Sir Edmund Hillary founded the Royal National Lifeboat Service, built the Tower of Refuge, and heroically led the seamen's battle against the perils of the Sea.

BEDLAM OVER BEDROOMS: On Manx Radio, it was announced that the Tourist Board is faced with an ever recurring problem. During and around T.T. Week, there's just not enough bedrooms available to cater for large numbers of Motorcycle enthusiasts who throng to the Island in that period.

The latest idea is to seek accommodation at Jurby Airport where apparently there are something like 500 beds available.

N.B. It is coincidental that these beds are available because British Army Units who have been using Jurby for Training in residence for many years have suddenly been pulled out, another economy measure of the British Government.

LETTER FROM ELLESMERE PORT.

Greetings my friends,

Sincere good wishes for a grand New Year. I think most people would prefer to forget the sad events of 1988. A year of terrible accidents in this country and internationally, violent natural disasters and indiscriminate slaughter of innocent people by evil terrorists.

So, into 1989 with courage and hope for the future. We are experiencing the most mild and salubrious winter since records began — from latest reports, the best for 300 years. All of nature is in a frenzied state. Crowds of daffodils in full bloom in the Isle of Man in mid-January; garden growth weeks ahead of time and our little feathered friends are singing like crazy in complete and tuneful bewilderment. All, we hope, harbingers for a glorious spring and summer.

Talking of summer, the Isle of Man Tourist Board is making ingenious

plans to revive and invigorate the 'flagging' Tourist Industry. Outside of the hectic T.T. period, it is simply a case that not enough tourists visit the Island in summer.

The North American Manx Homecoming is anticipated with great pleasure and nostalgia and for those NAMA friends who are contemplating coming home, forget the idea that Mann is now just a center for International Finance — a place of glass and concrete — banks and offices — commerce and profits.

Oh no, Dangness still is pounded by mighty seas; Peel Castle stands yet — stark at evening against the most glorious sunsets of the west. The peace and silence of Glen Helen is timeless and the lovely glens and mountains still are constant in their natural beauty. The pure air still retains its scented mesmeric allure. I could go on and on.

Just come home and see!!

*Yours sincerely,
Arthur Bridson*

PRESIDENT

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I received a very nice letter from The Clerk of Tynwald, Professor Bates. He has now settled into his new job and asks if there is anything he can do to help our organization. He is also willing to consider coming over to speak at one or more of our large gatherings (local Manx Clubs take notice). What a thrill if we could have both Vice President Quayle and The Clerk of Tynwald at our convention! One aspect of his letter gave me pause however. We all speak the same language but we constantly have to remind ourselves that meanings may not be clear on the other side of the Atlantic. His secretary apparently thought that "MA" was the Postal Abbreviation for Maryland rather than Massachusetts. The Postal Service figured it out and I got the letter since the ZIP Code was correct, but it does remind us not to take things for granted. I also received a nice letter from Bill Quine of 1493 Merry Rd., Pontiac, Michigan (you noticed I spelled it out), 48054. His sister, Joan Pate, and he are interested in starting a local Manx Assoc., and would like to hear from anyone who can give them advice. I will give his name to Noreen Cottier in the I.O.M. I know from personal experience that she is quite knowledgeable in this area, but I am sure he would also like to get suggestions from anyone else who could help.

I hope that all of our members who live in the areas hard hit this winter with temperatures well below zero came through it without severe hardship. Tina and I have had you all in or thoughts.

If you haven't responded as yet to the mailings to make reservations for next summer's homecoming on Man, please do so now so that we can all be together on that beautiful island!

Marshall Cannell
President



LITTLE PEOPLE

Born, August 2, 1988, to Doreen and Roger Christian of Port Grenaugh, Santon, Isle of Man, God's gift of a beautiful daughter, Hannah Christian Elizabeth. (Roger is Treasurer of the Family History Society, and a member of NAMA.)

WORLD MANX ASSOCIATION

The Officers, Committee, and Members of the World Manx Association send New Year Greetings to all members of the North American Manx Association and we are hoping to see many of you here for the Homecoming this Summer.

On 17th December we held our Christmas party at the Rutland Hotel. It proved to be as popular as the first one held last year. 129 members and their guests sat down to an excellent luncheon. Father Christmas arrived later in the person of Alderman Ernest Ackary and he presented the Raffle prizes to the lucky winners. Entertainment was provided by Mr. Lawrence Kermode who gave some Monologues and sang to his own accompaniment on the guitar. At the end, Councillor Miss Barbara Quine on the organ accompanied the singing of a Christmas carol and the Manx National Anthem.

We were very pleased to have with us on this occasion Mrs. Elaine Shepherd, daughter of Arthur and May Corlett of Glenvine who formerly lived in Castletown. Mrs. Shepherd has lived in Singapore, Mexico City — experiencing the terrible earthquake there, and has now departed for Cape Town where she expects to stay for the next four years.

We were also happy to have with us Mary Lynn Grisham from Canton, New York who is an anthropology student at the University of Massachusetts. She was staying on the Island from 29th September to 13th January and while here was studying Manx Gaelic, Music and Dance.

At our Committee meeting on Saturday, 21st January we were planning our programme for the year. The A.G.M. will be on Saturday, 18th March, the AT Home will be on Saturday, 22nd, April, probably at the Imperial Hotel and the dates and venues for various other outings will be made known at the A.G.M. when the new syllabus should be ready.

Up to now we have had no response to our appeal in relation to a possible Pen Pal scheme to revitalize the Junior Manx Society. We do hope that members of the N.A.M.A. with children and grandchildren will help us to get this scheme working.

Warm wishes from the World Manx Association.

*Mrs. Win. Musgrove
11 Terrence Avenue
Douglas Isle of Man*

P.S. We have had a very mild spell of weather. In fact the National papers were reporting that we were having a heat wave in the middle of what should be winter, and in the Middle East blizzards, Arab children building their first snowmen. Trees are budding and at Kew Gardens dwarf bulbs and witch hazel have started flowering early. These topsy turvy conditions are very strange. We just hope it is not going to affect our summer weather. We want it to be very good this year for the Homecoming. We hope we'll be seeing you again in July.

Win

MANX FOX HUNT

The Manx fox hunt is heating up, with reports from the Forestry Department of signs they believe confirm the presence of foxes in the south of the Island.

An employee of the Department caught sight of a fox in his headlights at night, about 50 yards in front of the vehicle, in one of the plantations. He noted the spot and went back the following day to search for tracks and other evidence.

After discovering fresh tracks he came across droppings and food remains, pieces of rabbit bones and fur. These the Department have removed and will be sent to the Forestry Commission research branch in England for analysis.

Excerpted from Manx Independent

FAMILY HISTORY

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5. PASSENGER ARRIVAL

RECORD: In America, the National Archives (GSA), Washington, D.C. 20408, has passenger lists dating back to 1820 for some ports of entry to the USA. Other countries may also have ship arrival records.

6. FAMILY HISTORY SOCI-

ETIES: If you are a member of the IOM FHS because you have been doing research in your community, they may be able to give you clues from their experiences. Family History Societies may be listed in the Classified section of the Telephone Directory, or the Local Library may have a list of the ones nearby.

NATURALIZATION PAPERS: If the ancestor became a citizen of the country to which he emigrated, there may be relevant information on that document.

NEWS FROM MANX SOCIETIES

AFTER 17 YEARS, GALVA MANX SOCIETY REORGANIZES:

The reorganization meeting for the GALVA MANX SOCIETY was held on February 5, 1989 with 45 in attendance. The turnout was excellent because these 45 hardy souls braved a very cold day and a snow storm.

The Galva Manx Society was formed in 1910 and the Society was active until 1972, about 62 years.

Officers were elected:

President:	Russell Kelly
Vice President:	Dean Gale
Secretary	
Treasurer:	Shirley Kelly
Historian:	Dave Clark

The meetings will be biannual, in February and August. The next meeting will be a potluck at noon (Sunday) in a park in or around Galva. Notification of members will be through the newspaper. Dues will be voluntary contributions by the members to cover expenses.

Families will take turns planning and providing the program for each meeting. The program for the next meeting will be provided by those who will visit the IOM this year.

There was a prayer to open the meeting at 1:30 pm followed by the pledge allegiance to the flag by all. The members were welcomed by Russell Kelly. America and Ellan Vannin were sung by all.

There was an explanation of the North American Manx Association, dues and newsletter; World Manx Association and Isle of Man Family History Society, and newsletter. Members were encouraged to take pride in their heritage and to pass this on to their children. It is imperative that each Manx descendant write down information about family history and take extra steps to preserve Manx heirlooms.

The "Homecomers" tour to the Isle of Man this coming July was discussed and members were encouraged to attend this gala event.

One member present, Mrs. Emily E. Shimmin Robson, was born on the IOM and came to the U.S. when she was 5 years old. She related some of her experiences.

There were 16 families from Galva, 4 from Kewanee, 1 from Bishop Hill, 1 from Cambridge and 1 from Bettendorf, Iowa.

A 20-question quiz about IOM geography and history challenged those present and stimulated discussion.

The group sang Ramsey Town and Harvest of the Sea and the meeting was adjourned at 3 p.m.

Richard Hartley of Laura, IL presented a program on the hammer dulcimer, explaining the mystique and playing very unique music.

The group enjoyed refreshments and browsed at tables that included genealogy, newsletters, bulletins, books, etc. that had been gathered by the Kellys.

So happy to be able to report our success to you!

*Shirley Kelly
Secretary, Galva Manx Society
316 N.E. 6th Ave.
Galva, IL 61434
(309) 932-3848*

VANCOUVER MANX SOCIETY

Our 80th Anniversary party held on December 3, 1988 was a great success. Approximately 85 people sat down to a roast beef dinner prepared and served by the executive committee.

St. David's Church hall had a very festive look. Tables had been set with red streamers held on a white underlay with red poinsettia plants. A decorated Christmas tree plus an abundance of holly, cedar boughs and Christmas decorations completed the picture.

President CHRIS STIRLING started the evening off by welcoming one and all. This was followed by the Lord's Prayer recited in Manx Gaelic by COLLEEN McCAFFERY. After dinner a programme of children's games was followed by a sing song of Christmas carols and Manx songs. Of course, the highlight of the evening was the arrival of Santa Claus in full regalia. Children were given large Christmas stockings after telling Santa their secret desires. Manx recitations plus a raffle completed the evening. A memorabilia table of pictures, etc., had been set up and proved of great interest to one and all.

Congratulations to LESLIE and GLEN McGEE of Langley, B.C. on the safe arrival of a son, AIDEN ALEXANDER, born November 25, 1988. Proud grandparents are ANGUS and JUDITH GILLON of Burnaby, B.C.

Congratulations also to MRS.

KITTY HORNALL on the occasion of her 90th birthday on Christmas Day, 1988. Mrs. Hornall, a long-time member of the Vancouver Manx Society lived for many years in Peel, Isle of Man. She returned to Canada a few years ago and is presently living at the University of B.C. Extended Care Hospital. Best wishes for many more, Mrs. Hornall!

This year, the society sent our shut-ins poinsettia plants. All were delivered early for the recipients to enjoy over the Advent and Christmas periods.

It was lovely to see DOROTHY KILLIP of Lacey this last September. Dorothy had lived in Vancouver many years ago and returned to see great changes in our city and also to renew friendships here and on Vancouver Island.

It is with sadness we report the passing of FRANK MOORE CHRISTIAN. Frank was the last surviving child of a family of eleven children of the late CHARLES and MARGARET JANE (MOORE) CHRISTIAN. He was born in Peel, Isle of Man and came to Canada as a young child. The family homesteaded in Vermilion, Alberta and then moved to Endako, B.C. before settling in Vancouver, B.C. He was founder and owner of Christian and Allen, a dredging and dyking company. They were responsible for most of the dyking in the Delta area. He retired early and raised thoroughbred horses in the Pitt Meadow area. To his sons and daughters, our sympathy is extended.

*Vera Henry,
Secretary
3142 West 32nd Ave.
Vancouver, B.C. V6L 2C 1*

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA MANX SOCIETY

Psyche yourselves up, Manxies! We're under way!

We have plans under way for one of the weekends from 27 July to 27 August 1990. The interest in us is intense. We have had responses already from some of the best hotels in Silicon Valley. The Sunnyvale Hilton, San Jose Hyatt House and Red Lion Inn, and Santa Clara Doubletree, Embassy Suites, and Marriott all want us. The Doubletree Hotel, which is near-new, and the Santa Clara Marriott, which is Santa Clara

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NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

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County's largest hotel at 750 rooms, both adjoin Great America Theme Park. All the hotels are within 2-3 miles of the San Jose International Airport and provide shuttle service. Room costs will be one-half of San Francisco's and likely \$60/night or less. Weather here will be Mediterranean with warm days and cool nights. Some of the many things to do will be spelled out in successive articles. Fargher "cousins" Polly Ernst and Marlene Storey will be very involved as well as the other dozen Manx people who came to our 1st Organizational Meeting. It will be exciting, so plan on it now!!!!!!

Best wishes for a warm March!

*Lawrence L. Fargher
1st VP — Convention Chairman
3028 El Camino Real
Santa Clara, CA 95051
408-244-7785*

MINNESOTA MANX SOCIETY

The fall meeting of the Minnesota Manx Society was held November 12, 1988 at Fairbault, Minnesota. Some 20 hardy members braved an unseasonal slushy snowstorm to attend. The morning began at the Huckleberry Inn with rolls and coffee and lots of talk about the Isle of Man and exchange of family history information.

The business meeting opened with the introduction of those present and a bit about their link to the IOM. The minutes of the last meeting were read. President Gill reported on the NAMA Convention held in Toronto this past summer. His report included playing a tape prepared by Manx Radio highlighting the happenings on the Isle of Man during the last year. T.R. Anderson gave a talk and slide presentation on the history of Myles Standish. The Standish will and other documents found on the Isle of Man prove land ownership. The question of Myles' birth there has not yet been answered conclusively. An architectural study of the Standish home, Ellenbane, is planned. The video "Portrait of Man" was shown at the end of the meeting.

The afternoon continued with lunch and more IOM talk at the Lavender Inn. Many thanks to Nancy Shimmom McAdams for making all the arrangements for this gathering.

Plans are underway to hold our summer meeting at Ironworld USA near Chisholm, Minnesota. The date,

July 22, will coincide with the annual Ethnic Days celebration. If any of our NAMA friends are in the area at that time, please join us.

Joan Gill, Acting Secretary

WASHINGTON MANX SOCIETY

The Greater Washington, D.C. Area Manx Society invites NAMA members to its Annual Dinner Meeting on April 15th at the Ft. Myer Officers Club in Arlington, VA. Our featured speakers will be a representative of Manx Airlines and a dealer in Manx coins.

We also urge you to check your local television listing for a new Public Television series called **TIMELINE**. Filmed in part on the Isle of Man, the historical dramatizations were co-produced by Maryland Public Television.

Washington Manx Society members plan to turn out in force to answer the phones (and fly the flag) Sunday night March 12th in support of local public television station WETA's fundraising campaign. It's a good way to gain some valuable public exposure while helping out a good enterprise.

*James R. Woodgates
2325 42nd Street, N.W., #306
Washington, D.C. 20007*

THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY CHAPTER MANX SOCIETY

On December 11, 1988 the Society met in the home of Rev. Devore and Ruth Smith for our Christmas celebration for a gift exchange and lovely refreshments were served.

At the business meeting we 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 EUTERPE on November 14, 1863 at Ramsey, IOM. Last minute info. — the next sailing date for the "Star of India" will be Sunday, May 28th.

Also, election of officers for the past year 1989 took place. Rev. Devore Smith was elected president; Virginia Mellon, secretary-treasurer; Marge Frederick, Historian.

January 15th Brian and Hilary Harrison held a reception for Brian's brother and wife, Ian and Myrtle Harrison, from Ramsey, IOM. The members of the Society enjoyed meeting them.

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

CLEVELAND MANX SOCIETY

We do not have regular meetings in the "winter months." With the change in format re our programs, as of this writing, it isn't possible to give definite dates or places for forthcoming events. Tentative schedule includes a dinner meeting; an afternoon tea with entertainment by Kathryn Cake, soloist; steam train ride to Akron area; a potluck following regular meeting and election of officers; and a summer picnic.

Visitors are welcome but we advise contacting any of our officers if you plan to be in our area.

*Marge Kenneth Krach
319 Ridgeview Drive
Seven Hills, OH 44131-5617*

ONTARIO MANX SOCIETY

The Ontario Manx is holding a meeting in mid-March to appoint officers and draw up a constitution. We are hoping for a good attendance, as we appear to have quite a number of members.

We have been rather dismayed by the purchase of housing and properties on the Island by nonresidents or ones of very recent residence. This has resulted in nonavailability of any housing for newlywed and ordinary Manx people. It would appear that the speculators have gotten a hold on the Island. Surely our Government can restrict this selling out of our heritage. If we sell our roots, what have we left?

Phyllis Qualtrough Linsley

100th BIRTHDAY

Mrs. Gladys Watts, the only native-born Manx member of the Nebraska Society and a longtime member of NAMA, will celebrate her 100th birthday on April 5th. She was born Gladys Watterson in Douglas, married Arthur Watts also of the Isle of Man, and they settled in Iron River, Michigan, until retirement when they moved to Nebraska. She has been widowed more than thirty years. At age 95 she walked three miles and raised \$50 for CROP, 900 participated and raised \$20,000 for the Church World Service hunger program. She would appreciate hearing from each of us. Her address is 601 South 18th, #103, Lincoln, Nebraska 68508.

A sincere Happy Birthday to Mrs. Watts from NAMA!

FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Greetings from the Isle of Man Family History Society.

The last event of 1988 was our annual Christmas Dinner held in the cozy atmosphere of the Olde Tynwald Restaurant, just opposite Tynwald Hill in St. Johns. We were particularly pleased to have the company of our patron Sir Charles Kerruish and Lady Kerruish and a very pleasant evening was enjoyed by all present. We were saddened by the news of the illness of Lady Kerruish. The latest report is of a considerable improvement in her condition. We all wish Lady Kerruish a speedy recovery.

1989 is a very special year for the Society. It will be our tenth Anniversary year and we are marking the event by the publication of a special extra edition of the Journal which will be sent to all current members.

We look forward as always to seeing our friends from overseas at our summer events. The Open Day will be at Ramsey this year and I will be reporting on this and other events during the course of the year.

Sylvia Mylchreest

SPECIAL COVERS TO COMMEMORATE FAMOUS MANX SHIP

The Manx Cover Club, in association with San Diego Maritime Museum, is to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the full rigged merchant ship "Euterpe" with special printed commemorative envelopes.

The vessel, re-named the "Star of India," was constructed in the Gibson, McDonald and Arnold shipyard in Ramsey and officially launched on 14th November 1863.

The ship began its sea going career transporting emigrants and general cargo from London to New Zealand before it was purchased in 1901 and employed in the Alaskan salmon industry.

She retired from service in 1923 but was rescued by the late James Wood Coffroth who donated the boat to the Zoological Society of San Diego. Lack of sufficient funding prevented the ship's upkeep and her condition declined until Captain Alan Villiers visited San Diego on a lecture tour, and it was decided to undertake her restoration.

The renovation continued until July 4th, 1976 when she sailed for America's Bi-Centenary Celebrations.

Excerpted from IOM Independent News

MANX SHEARWATERS

Last summer was a strange one for birds. A scissor-tailed flycatcher nested on the blueberry barrens at Wells, Maine. Closer inspection revealed a nest of four eggs. No second bird was ever seen, so it was assumed the nester was a female with infertile eggs. Scissortails are summer birds of the southern Great Plains, and usually nest no closer than Missouri, a thousand miles from Maine.

A lark bunting in breeding plumage was discovered on Plum Island on July 23, and on the same day two lark sparrows were found in Scituate. The lark bunting is another plains species, and the lark sparrow is found in the plains and other open lands from Ohio west. It seems plausible that the flycatcher, bunting, and sparrows were displaced draught victims that found their local nesting conditions intolerable.

Meanwhile, the northward shift of the jet stream that produced drought conditions in the plains also produced unusually cold and wet weather in northern Canada. Apparently those conditions were detrimental to the nesting success of birds there. Most conspicuous was the early appearance in Massachusetts of southbound migrant shorebirds. A snow bunting made an unprecedented summer showing in breeding plumage on Martha's Vineyard on July 21. Many breeding adults may have to take a rain check on hatching young this year.

Among the usual numbers of shearwaters in 1988 were an unusually high number of Manx shearwaters. About fifteen years ago Manx shearwaters bred on this side of the Atlantic in Newfoundland. It is very tough to monitor shearwaters movements at sea, and even tougher to trace them to their nests. Usually they choose inaccessible promontories or islands, and return to their nests only at night. There may be an undiscovered colony right under our noses.

*Submitted by
Bonny and Denis Sothorn
from Massachusetts
Audubon Society Journal*

NAMA BOARD MEETING SEPTEMBER 16, 1989

The NAMA Executive Meeting will be September 16 in Cleveland, and we hope all Board Members will be able to reserve that date. The hotel is reserved, and more details will follow as they develop.

INFLATION AT 4.6%

The Isle of Man's rate of inflation rose again last month to 4.6% after levelling at 4.4% in October and September.

Latest figures from the Economic Adviser's office at the Manx Treasury show that cigarette and tobacco prices both went up 2% last month. The fuel and light category went down 0.2%, following lower electricity tariffs and falling oil prices, although coal and coke prices went up.

Increases in the cost of some dental charges contributed to a 2.2% increase in the "services" category of the general index of retail prices.

IOM Examiner

MAXIMUM HOUSE LOANS GO UP

The maximum loan available to house purchasers under the Government House Purchase Scheme has been raised from £30,000 to £40,000.

Moving the resolution at a sitting of Tynwald, Treasury Minister David Cannan said that the Government wishes to encourage a property owning democracy, but would withdraw eventually as other financial sources become available to buyers.

Member for Ayre Edgar Quine said the Government scheme was unrealistic and inadequate. He claimed that when there was a big rise in interest rates, buyers could not afford to continue and would lose their homes. He moved an amendment calling on the Treasury to draw up a new scheme for first time buyers. The amendment was approved by 21 votes to 3 in Keys and 7 to 1 in the Legislature.

Excerpted from IOM Chronicle

SAVE OUR TRAMS AND CATTERY!

Douglas Town Councillors have pledged to fight for the future of the horse trams and the Cattery at Nobles Park.

Members said they would resist any moves to privatise both loss-making facilities at Wednesday's debate on the controversial Kneale report.

"After almost 112 years experience, we are well qualified to run the service. We have a good breeding and training programme, and are conscious of the welfare to animals. If we had increased visitors, I'm sure the Horse Trams would break even or make a profit."

Members also hit out at the proposal

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in the Kneale Report to close the Cattery, which costs £700 per cat to run, and to transfer the animals to the Wildlife Park at Cregnish.

Excerpted from Manx Independent



ISLAND CHURCHES

The Chapel of Ease of St. Mark's in the Parish of Malew, usually known simply as St. Mark's Church, is situated some three miles north of Ballasalla.

It came into existence as a result of a petition from the people of areas then known as the Black Hill Quarter and the Bourn Quarter sent to Bishop Hildesley in 1771. This complained of the difficulties involved in travelling to attend divine service at the Parish of Malew some miles distant and the lack of a conventional school. The Petition requested that Trustees might be appointed to receive voluntary contributions from "well disposed Christians towards erecting a chapel of ease and a schoolhouse in a place convenient for that purpose called "Dream Freaie".

This granted and other formalities observed, the first Trustees, Thomas Faragher of Shenevalley and Hugh Coshnahan of the Kew, purchased part of the narrow triangular plot of land, part of Dream Freaie (Heather Ridge) bounded by the fork in the Ballasalla road and the crossroad to the junction with the Braide road. Land was also obtained to form a glebe (a parish field).

Over a period of time were built, firstly the church, consecrated by Bishop Mark Hildesley in June, 1772, then the schoolhouse to the south, whose foundation was laid in 1774, and a parsonage on the glebe lands.

However, the funds available were inadequate for the satisfactory completion of the task, despite the generosity of the local people and the Bishop and his sister.

The chapel was spartan and had only an earthen floor. The tiny schoolhouse was dingy and airless and had, we are told, as many as eighty scholars crammed into it at times. The parsonage, built on the ruins of an old cottage on a water-logged site, gradually became virtually uninhabitable!

The stipend was about £32 per annum, plus the income, if any, from the gorse-covered, boulder-strewn glebe, and the pupils' "school pence". Quarterly charges ranged from one-

shilling-and-twopence for reading only to three-shillings-and-sixpence for the three "R's" plus Latin!

The first chaplain, the Rev. David Harrison, was promoted to the post of Vicar of Malew after eleven years service and thereafter, not surprisingly, there were several chaplains in quick succession. Those who needed a house for their wives struggled in squalour at the parsonage, whilst single men shunned it and "lived where best they could whilst in this kind of stepping stone to preferment until they were removed to some more tolerable situation in the Church".

At length, in 1829, a man of sterner stuff was appointed in the person of Rev. John Thomas Clarke, a member of a family long established in Jurby. From an early age he had been recognised as an expert in his native Manx tongue and had translated tracts and pamphlets for publication. He had acted as a teacher of adults in Manx before taking holy orders—experience which was to stand him in good stead at St. Mark's.

After an initial fit of pessimism he set to, determined to improve his own lot and to leave a better living to his successors in office. During his thirty-six year ministry, with the help of his flock and financial contributions wrung from both Manx and English sources, he repaired the church and boarded the floor over, improved the parsonage and later built a much more commodious one, erected a new schoolhouse and converted the old into cottages. The rent of these provided income which was used to maintain the church and school. John Clarke also repaired miles of roads from the adjacent parishes and erected four new bridges. To improve and cultivate the glebe fields thousands of tons of rock and boulders were blasted and removed, eight miles of drains laid, and five thousand yards of fences erected.

He and his wife, Elizabeth, had at least four children, ran the school, boarded scholars, and farmed the glebe, as well as attending to the medical and spiritual needs of the congregation. It is little wonder that John Clarke became known as the "Patriarch of St. Marks and its Second Founder".

Since those times a succession of chaplains and teachers served the community of St. Mark's faithfully and well.

Today, alas, neither the school nor the chapel are in regular use, and it is many years since St. Mark's had its own chaplain. The people love their church, nonetheless, and much effort

has been expended in its upkeep of late.

The small rectangular building has a rounded apse and a plain slate roof, with two dormer windows admitting light to the gallery where the organ, originally in the parish church, has recently been moved from below. The open belfry above, built on four pillars, houses the "new bell" bought in 1855 for £21.2s.8d. A visiting expert on bells a few years ago reported that it was about twenty inches in diameter, well cast, with good clear lettering, reading: "Thomas Hodges, Founder, Abbey Street, Dublin, 1854", and that another bell by the same founder, dated 1856, was at Santon.

The church has no outside embellishment, apart from eight baluster finials, a weather vane on the belfry, and a small crosslet on the roof ridge at the east end, in direct contrast to the somewhat exotic (in a Manx context, anyway) style of the schoolhouse and cottages.

The same dignified simplicity characterises the interior, which seems surprisingly lofty. There is little of the ostentation found in the mother church of Malew, the spiritual resort in the past of the "gentry and quality".

The east window, the only stained glass in the church, is a memorial to the Rev. J. T. Clarke and his wife, depicts three appropriately-chosen scenes from the Life of Our Lord. The altar inscription reads: "Holy, Holy, Holy".

Christians are taught that, whenever two or three gather together in God's name, He is there in their midst. However, there are places, some long deserted, where one feels a special sanctity born of years of worship and service. St. Mark's is such a place.

by Bernard Caine, Chairman of the Trustees of the Manx Museum and National Trust, for Manx Life

COMMENTS ON PROPOSED SPEED LIMIT FOR IOM

"No one will take a blind bit of notice of an overall limit."

"I will not be able to move my car out of second gear."

"It's a smashing idea to curb the maniac drivers over here."

"A 60 mph limit — it must be a plot by Citroen 2CV owners."

"If we have to have a maximum limit it should be about 70 mph like in England."

OBITUARIES

RUTH CORKILL HASKELL was born September 30, 1903 in Dover, Kansas, and died November 28, 1988 in Phoenix, Arizona. She was preceded in death by her husband of 54 years, Marion Haskell, and one daughter, Phyllis Rayas. She is survived by four daughters, Barbara Rose, Marjorie Barbee, Marian Perrone, Kathleen Olweiler, 15 grandchildren, and eight great grandchildren. She was a member of NAMA, and finally had a long-time wish come true when she met her pen pal of approximately 60 years, Lily Clucas of Peel, IOM, at the 1978 Cleveland Convention. Her father, Charles Frederick Corkill, was born in Douglas, IOM, and came to America in 1888.

LILY CLUCAS (nee Costain) of Peel, Isle of Man, passed away on December 9, 1988. She was the wife of the late Evan Clucas, and mother of Helen and (NAMA Secretary) Elizabeth, and a long-time member of the North American Manx and World Manx Associations.

MRS. AMY SATTERLEE, nee Crellin, Roseville, California, died January 4, 1989, after a fall on Christmas Day that broke her hip. She leaves two sons, Russell and George, one grandson, and one great grandson. She was 91 years old, and was born in Douglas, Isle of Man.

CURPHEY, Rodney Hutchins, age 8, killed January 13, 1989 on the way to school, in Middle Cornwall, Mahone Bay, Nova Scotia. Born in Halifax, a twin son of Michael and Ingrid (Hansen) Curphey, he was a grade 3 student at Blockhouse Elementary School, a member of New Cornwall Baptist Church and Sunday School, and First Cornwall Cub Scout Pack. He is survived by two brothers, his twin Neal and Jonathon, his parents, maternal grandmother Annileise Hansen, and paternal grandparents George and Irene Curphey, longtime diligent workers in NAMA.

SKILLICORN, Mrs Edna, 95, Tonawanda, New York, died January 10, 1989, in the Beechwood Nursing Home, Amherst. Born in Buffalo and moved to the state of Washington in 1911, she was a member of the first graduating class at Union High School in Bremerton. She returned to Buffalo in 1919 and married Walter D. Skillicorn, who died in 1960. She worked in his construction business as his secretary. She was a member of Kensington Memorial United Methodist Church, a past president of its Women's Guild, and a member of NAMA. Survivors include two grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

KERMEEN, Dr. Robert Vernon, Fairfield Bay, Arkansas, formerly of Galva, Illinois, died November 10, 1988. He was the son of Robert and Arvilla Kermeen. He is survived by his wife Gale, Mexico missionary daughter Cheryl, two sons Robert Brian of Sonora, California, and Dr. Keith Laverne of Escanoba, Michigan, two brothers Donald of Minneapolis and Clayton of Cloquet, Minnesota, also step-father Laverne E. Schmidt of Galva. He attended Palmer College of Chiropractic in Davenport, Iowa, and practiced for 30 years before retirement in 1979.

CRAINE, Thomas A., Mendota, Illinois, born June 17, 1910, died November 3, 1988, burial Restland Memorial Gardens. He is survived by his wife Beulah, daughter Pat (Mrs. Albert Wagner) of Princeton, Illinois, and two sons Ken and Thomas both of Milwaukee.

OBITUARY HELPS

Name, place, date of birth, education, degrees, marriage, children, career, military service, awards, organizations, date and place of death and burial.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

As of February 8, we will be entering into Lent, a season of forty weekdays preceding Easter, the resurrection of our Lord. The word is rooted in an ancient English word for spring, *lencen*, and signifies a time of renewal, which spring means for many of us. During the early centuries of the Church, Lent became identified with the forty days of Jesus' fasting in the wilderness, and was therefore observed by fasting, or the "giving up" of some "temptation" or other. The season is still observed by some in this way. On the other hand, some find Lent to be more meaningful by the practice of *adding to*, rather than by taking away; to center on more depth in one's reading, enhancing our prayer life, a greater measure of service to others.

A colleague has described Lent as a period for reconditioning, for personal self-examination, self-discipline and commitment. In the kind of modern society we all know, we realize how difficult this can be, yet we also recognize how vitally all these are needed, and the Church should be leading the way.

For many of us, the pilgrimage of Lent is an essential journey, symbolic as the way of the cross, a pathway of numerous hardships, sufferings, and new discoveries that we encounter on our way to life everlasting, as Christ has promised. May the joy of our risen Lord be in you this Resurrection Day!

Herbert G. Kelly
Chaplain



Dear Editor,

It is with a great deal of sadness that I forward to you the sudden loss of a lovely grandson, however we all have trials, and tribulations in life, but we must go on.

The vehicle in which the grandchildren were travelling to school, struck what is termed "Black Ice" i.e. ice that is practically invisible, and completely overturned several times, and he was the only fatality. I am pleased to relate that the family are gradually coming to terms with what has taken place, but will always remember their loss, and the most wonderful support of friends and relatives, during this difficult period.

George Curphey

(Box 716) 32 William St.
Liverpool, Nova Scotia BOT IKO

TAKE NOTE...

Another new Society!! Or, rather, a former one reactivated! *Congratulations* to the Kellys and the folks in the Galva, Illinois area for getting together to carry on our Manx Heritage.

Who will organize the next one? (We have heard rumors of two more coming into being.) Good luck! Editor.

