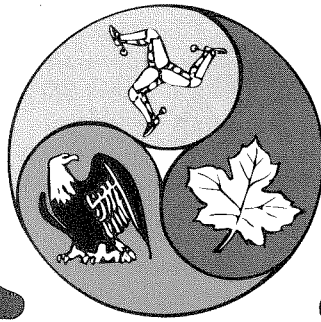


# NAMA



## NORTH AMERICAN MANX ASSOCIATION

Vol. 64, No.1

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

September 1991

### HMS Bounty Print Donated to Manx Museum

In July, LaJean Anderson and family presented a color print of the HMS Bounty to the Manx Museum and National Trust in memory of their Manx husband, father, and grandfather, T.R. Anderson. T.R. was a past president of NAMA and the founder and president of the Manx Society of Minnesota. He began to research his ancestry on the Isle of Man many years ago. He discovered a distant relationship to Fletcher Christian, Master Mate and mutineer of the HMS Bounty. T.R. found that Mr. Christian had extensive ties to the Isle of Man as did Captain William Bligh who married a Manx girl.

T.R. delighted in his find and desired to learn more about Pitcairn Island in the South Pacific. He subscribed to the Pitcairn Miscellany, the Island newspaper, and corresponded with the surviving Christian family. In 1989, T.R. met Bryan Moon, an artist-adventurer who had just recently returned from Pitcairn Island. T.R. invited Moon, of Fontenac, Minnesota, to present a slide show to the Manx Society of Minnesota. Moon discussed his recent expedition to Pitcairn where the mutineers of the Bounty landed 200 years ago.

Prior to Moon's voyage, he painted the HMS Bounty as it approached the Island in 1789. He had properly researched and studied the ship's design and consulted with John Rumsey, Captain of the HMS Bounty, the ship's replica located in Miami, Florida. Upon completion of this



On behalf of the Manx Museum and National Trust, Stephen Harrison, the Museum's curator, accepts the HMS Bounty print donated by the Anderson family in memory of T.R. Anderson. From left to right: grandchildren Betsy Fennema, Eleuthera Anderson, Alicia Anderson, and Thomas R. Anderson III; Stephen Harrison; Virginia Anderson, daughter-in-law; and LaJean Anderson, wife; and in back, James Hurd Anderson, son.

painting, Moon reproduced the original into prints, packed them in a bag, and took them on his South Pacific voyage. During Moon's visit on Pitcairn Island, he obtained on each print authentic signatures of two descendants of Fletcher Christian and Edward Young, a stamp postmarked from Pitcairn Island and a piece of iron ballast from the original HMS Bounty. T.R. Anderson purchased one of these prints not knowing it would later be donated to the Manx Museum in his honor.

T.R. loved his Manx heritage and his connection to Pitcairn Island. The Anderson family has kept the connection alive by adding the Bounty print to the Manx Museum's existing Bounty collection.

### NAMA92 ON THE ISLE OF MAN: GO FOR IT!

Exciting plans are being made for the July 3-7, 1992 North American Manx Association Convention on the Isle of Man and centered around the historic Tynwald Ceremony. Ron Quayle, NAMA First Vice President and 1992 Convention Chairperson, and his wife, Margaret, recently returned from a trip to the Island. They attended this year's

*Continued Page 2*

Tynwald Ceremony and the 80th anniversary dinner banquet and other events arranged by the World Manx Association. They also saw many new and interesting sights on the Island. They particularly enjoyed **Orry and Betty Teare's** personalized tour of some of the Island's wild flower covered narrow and twisting one lane roads. Sites visited included Kirk Maughold with its wonderful collection of Celtic crosses and stained glass windows, a Quaker cemetery, Cornaa Beach and nearby Glen Mona, old Lonan Church surrounded by fields of grazing Holstein dairy cows and many sheep, as well as a visit to the Laxey Woolen Mill with its wonderful assortment of sweaters and other items.

Outstanding support in convention planning was received from the **Manx Tourist Board** and other friends on the Island! Many thanks to **Hilary Dugdale**, Conference Co-ordinator, and **Ellis Killey**, Everymann Holidays General Manager, of the Tourist Board; **Betty Hanson**, President of the World Manx Association; and especially to **Noreen Cottier**, our wonderful NAMA advocate and representative on the Island. Noreen has been a NAMA member since 1928 and is now the Family History Society Librarian. She is well known to many of our members through her attendance and help at many of our conventions as well as for her gracious hospitality to many of our members during their visits to the Island.

An Isle of Man convention provides opportunities not possible in the United States or Canada. The convention will open with a Friday evening reception and buffet at the recently renovated Manx Museum. It is an outstanding museum by any standards and especially for those of us of Manx descent. Besides the museum's many outstanding historical exhibits they have just produced a new exhibit titled "Voice of the People." This

exhibit is a unique and exciting presentation of Manx social history incorporating the latest audio-visual technology. Exploration of over 300 years of Manx history is available including folklore, the Manx language, fishing and mining, internment during World war II, the "good old days" of tourism, the development of the financial sector, and the world famous Isle of Man T.T. races from the perspective of Joey Dunlop who takes you on a fast lap around the T.T. course. "The Story of Mann," an outstanding film describing the Island's history, will be shown to set the stage for our Island visit.

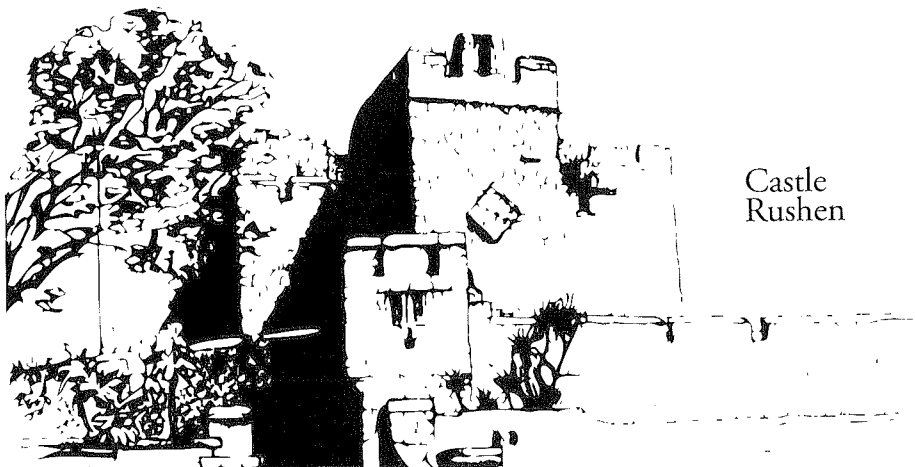
Bus tours to various points of interest on the Island are being planned for Saturday and Sunday afternoons as well as for the Tuesday through Friday after the convention. Places under consideration are Peel Castle, Castle Rushen, Cregneash Village Folk Museum, Laxey Wheel, the Gaiety Theatre and others. Tours using guides with a special knowledge of the Island's history to locations of particular interest to our membership are also being considered. Many of the more famous Manx attractions have recently received extensive upgrading. Castle Rushen was just reopened this July 4th after a £600,000 (about one million dollars) and two year renovation. The renovated castle is once again a proper "Fortress of the Kings and Lords of Mann." Mr. Bernard Cowin, Chairman of the Trustees of the Manx Museum and National Trust, observed that, "Those who remember Castle Rushen as it was will consider the transformation as almost a miracle." Ron and Margaret agree with that comment and were fortunate to be present during the opening weekend. Forty-one members of the English Civil War Society were present to truly make the castle come alive. It is now a "must see" for the first time or repeat visitors to the Island.

The Saturday evening banquet should be a unique event. Graham Crowe, outstanding vocalist and three time winner of the Cleveland Medal, will entertain us. He sang at this year's St. John's Church service preceding the Tynwald Ceremony and at the World Manx Association banquet. Sir Charles Kerruish, president of Tynwald, will be asked to be our banquet speaker. He is a gifted and eloquent speaker. His inspiring presentation was a highlight of our 1986 Williamsburg convention.

Sunday evening is developing into what may be the outstanding event of the convention. Mervin Stokes, Manager of the Gaiety Theatre, has agreed to produce a "Manx Heritage Concert" evening drawing on the best available entertainment talent on the Island. The evening will consist of music, dancing and other entertainment. The best seats in the theatre will be reserved for us and the balance of the over 800 available seats will be sold to the public. Mr. Stokes is a dynamic and enthusiastic manager who has an innovative plan for authenticating, renovating and modernizing the theatre over the next nine years to prepare for the celebration of the theatre's 100th anniversary. It is a beautiful Victorian theatre now and it can only get better! As another of the Island's treasures, it will be a splendid place to enjoy a fine evening of entertainment.

Monday will be devoted to attending the historic and colorful Tynwald Ceremony at St. John's and the Governor's Garden Party. 1992's Tynwald Ceremony will celebrate the 1,013th year of continuous parliamentary government on the Isle of Man. NAMA attendees will be seated in the grandstand to allow better viewing of the ceremony. Following the ceremony, there will be time to visit the Homecomer's Tent to meet and greet other visitors and to chat with members of the Family History Society as well as time to attend the "Tynwald Fair." The Garden Party is for Manx government officials and other leaders as well as for invited guests. The grounds of Government House are lovely; the food is elegant; and the hospitality of the Lieutenant Governor and his Lady is very British. A wonderful party according to Ron and Margaret!

All 130 rooms at the recently renovated Palace Hotel have been booked for our members which include the members of the George Cannon Family Association. The Cannon Family will be visiting the Island at the same time and will be attending many of our functions. We hope they will start a Utah Manx Society upon



Castle  
Rushen

their return home. The Manx Tourist Board Everymann Holiday group is developing a "tour package" for us which will include reduced rates on Manx Airlines from London or Manchester. You will be kept informed as details become available. Other events and tours on the Island are being organized for the Tuesday through Friday after Tynwald. Genealogy and family history research opportunities are also being arranged.

The 1992 NAMA convention on the Isle of Man is fast approaching. Now is the time to start planning your trip to the Island with other members of your extended family. Schedule your arrival for Thursday 2 July, or earlier to allow time to adjust to the 5 to 8 hour time difference. You'll likely have an overnight flight which doesn't allow for a good night's rest. You will have a great time on the magical and wonderful Isle of Man. This is a great opportunity for first time visitors to explore their heritage and for repeat homecomers to reacquaint themselves with the Island's many charms. GO FOR IT!!



## All Roads Lead to St John's

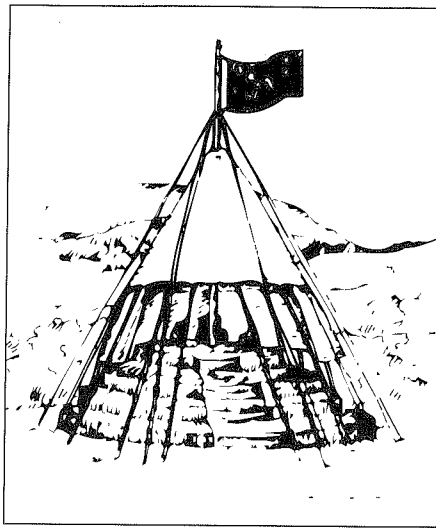
Tynwald Day on July 5, the Isle of Man's national day, is better known to locals as Fair Day.

It is the day when the Manx Parliament, Tynwald, meets in open air session on Tynwald Hill in St John's. The hill is reputed to contain soil from each of the Island's 17 parishes, so symbolising the bringing together of the whole Island.

Members of the House of Keys and Legislative Council, together with the captains of the parishes, the judiciary and court officers sit on the four-tiered hill for the duration of the official ceremony. The proceedings are presided over by the Lieutenant Governor, who is the Queen's representative on the Island, and the laws passed by the branches of Tynwald in the past legislative session are proclaimed from the hill, in Manx and in English.

Before the sitting a service is held in nearby St John's church, after which the official party makes its way along the 120 yard processional way, traditionally strewn with rushes to ward off evil spirits, to Tynwald Hill.

It is also traditional on Tynwald Day to wear a buttonhole of Bollan Bane, or St John's Wort. This is a plant which



Tynwald Hill

appears to thrive in the west of the Island.

Tynwald Day is a colourful ceremony which each year attracts many thousands of Island residents and holidaymakers alike. After a lapse of some years in interest in the 'fair' aspect of the occasion, it has again been emphasised in recent years. Many local organisations and charities are taking the opportunity to have stalls on the fair field either selling various items or raising funds in other ways.

Fair Day has a unique atmosphere of its own which really cannot be described, but should be experienced. For the truly Manx it is a must, and is of course a national holiday.

It is also an opportunity to meet other 'regulars' who one perhaps has not seen since the last Fair Day. There are always many visitors from overseas calling in at the World Manx Association tent and the official guest list usually includes visiting dignitaries from legislatures throughout the world.

Tynwald is now over 1,000 years old, and celebrated its Millennium in 1979. In the earlier days of the St John's festival, people would arrive by foot or horse-drawn vehicle. Then, with the advent of the Island's railway network, much bigger crowds began arriving by train. Now motor transport is the order of the day and the vast and ever-increasing number of cars pose considerable logistical problems for the organisers.

But the police, and helpers on the day, are now well versed in coping with the situation, and ample car parking is always available not too far away from the fair field.

For those who want an unobstructed view of the proceedings, tickets are available for the grandstands which

overlook the processional way, but the majority of spectators take their chance in jockeying for 'a sight' of what is going on from the grassy areas surrounding the hill.

An important part of the annual ceremony comes almost at its conclusion when Manxmen with a grievance which they feel cannot be solved through normal channels, bring the problem to the Island's highest court, Tynwald.

This grievance, called a 'Petition for Redress', must be drawn up according to strict rules governing the privilege, and providing this is so, the grievance will normally be passed on by the Lieutenant Governor for a Committee of Members to examine and report back to Tynwald.

The ceremony ends with the official party returning to the church after which everyone is free to enjoy the fair.

This event should not be missed, not just because of the fun that can be had there, but also for the official part of the day which makes it a unique experience in the heritage of the Isle of Man.

An article from the Isle of Man Examiner, July 2, 1991.



## NAMA Award

Queen Elizabeth II High School's sixth form sculptress won an award for outstanding achievement at the school's prize-giving ceremony.

Gillian Clague, 18, of Glen Vine, received the North American Manx Association's award for art and craft from Mrs. T.R. Anderson, who visited the Island for Tynwald Day.

Two years of 'A' level art work has seen Gillian produce a number of varied sculptures which are currently on display in the school vestibule. She now intends to take the Art Foundation course at the Isle of Man College of Further Education, Douglas.

Innovative results of the two year course include ceramic, straw, papier-mache and plaster pieces. The large 'Sumo Wrestlers' model will find a permanent home outside the school building, while a smaller horse's head ceramic piece will shortly go on display at Glenside Nursing Home, Douglas.

Other models include 'Man and Woman on the Beach', 'Pole Vaulter', 'Tart and a Dog' and 'Man on Stilts'.

Excerpts from the Isle of Man Examiner, July 16, 1991.



# NAMA92 Convention Attendance Survey Form

The North American Manx Association Planning Committee needs your help to obtain a good estimate of the number of people who will be or may be attending the July 92 NAMA Convention on the Isle of Man. This will help them better plan airline, hotel and tour support. Please provide the following information if you plan to attend or are considering attending. These estimates are preliminary and do not commit you in any way. Share this form with your non-NAMA member Manx friends.

1. Do you plan to attend the July 92 NAMA Convention on the IOM? (Check one)  
 a. Yes, definitely plan to attend  
 b. Yes, strongly considering attending  
 c. Yes, may attend
2. How many are there in your family or group? \_\_\_\_\_
3. If there are children in your party, what are their ages? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What city and state or province would you fly from? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Where would you stay while on the Isle of Man?  
You are encouraged to stay at the Palace Hotel at least during the convention.  
 a. Palace Hotel  
 b. Other hotel or commercial establishment  
 c. With friends or family
6. How many total days do you plan for your trip? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Are you interested in participating in tours or other activities on the Island for three or four days after the convention?  
 a. Yes. If yes, what interests you? \_\_\_\_\_  
 b. No
8. Are you interested in participating in tours away from the Island for a few days after the convention?  
 a. Yes. If yes, for how many days? \_\_\_\_\_  
If yes, what places interest you?  
 (1). London, England  
 (2). Southern England  
 (3). Northern England  
 (4). Scotland  
 (5). Wales  
 (6). Combination of the above, specify below  
\_\_\_\_\_
- b. No

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!! If you have Manx friends who are not members of NAMA, but who you believe would like to attend our convention; please give them a copy of this form to complete and return. The more the merrier!! Spread the word!!

**PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM OR A COPY OF THE FORM TODAY TO:**

Ronald J. Quayle, NAMA92 Conv. Chairperson  
3934 Ft. Worth Avenue  
Alexandria, VA 22304

PLEASE COMPLETE BELOW

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street: \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State/Prov.: \_\_\_\_\_

*If you have questions about or suggestions for the convention, you can talk to Ron at 703-370-8975.*



## *President's Message*

"Happy 59th birthday, Larry!" That is how old I'll be (on the 16th) by the NAMA Board of Directors meeting in September. We hope you have had a good summer. It was just a year ago, as I write this, that we had NAMA-90 Santa Clara and many of you were here. (I know it disappointed our Bulletin Co-editor, Norm, that we couldn't even produce a little tremor for him.) Since our last Bulletin, I talked (Telecon) with our fine secretary, Elizabeth Clucas Duncan. she told me it was a plus 90° in Cleveland and she hoped it stayed that warm. Since I go into overheat at about 76° Fahrenheit, and perspire from there up, I wonder who is the true Manxman. I'll have to ask George Curphey - he is smart and well traveled. So Manx like it hot or cool??

Two of our issues at the board meeting will be: (1) our 1992 Homecoming on the Isle of Man, and (2) the best way to do dues billings. Ron Quayle, first Vice-president, and his wife, Margaret, just got back from the IOM and have our convention there outlined. (See article elsewhere in this Bulletin.) Many of our readers **did not** recognize the dues form in the September-December Bulletin. Our follow-up mailing brought in a large bunch.

We have a constant need to recruit to replace members and to build our membership up to 1000 by our Homecoming. Organizations, like all other living things, are either growing or dying. We need to keep growing. Our blood and friends represent a large pool of candidates. Let's recruit them!!

Please save a week or two in 1992 around the 5th of July for our Homecoming and Convention on the Isle of Man. It will be a memorable affair for sure!! However, we need you!!

*Larry*

Lawrence L. Fargher  
President

## Dalby's Talking Mongoose

A freelance American writer is to travel to the Island in October in a bid to trace the history of Dalby's legendary talking mongoose.

This small ferret-like creature, also known as the Dalby Spook and 'Jeff', received worldwide publicity during the 1930s.

He was thought to live at Dorlish Cashen — which translates as Cashen's Gap. The ruins of this Irving family home can still be seen. It is reached by taking a track from Dalby or Glen Maye.

The writer Kenneth Nickel wants anyone with memories and information about 'Jeff' to contact him at 44543 21st West, Lancaster, CA 93536.

Nickel has already contacted the Manx Museum who sent him an article from World War One — when there was the most publicity.

He wishes to make contact with any members of the Irving family, in particular Voirrey Irving who was a young girl at the time of recording events. He is also looking for a copy of the book 'The Haunting of Cashen's Gap' by Harry Price and R.S. Lambert. Any information will be gratefully replied to. This book was published by Methuen and Company, London, in 1936.

Voirrey Irving, who will now be in her 70s, is believed to be living in the Douglas area.

However, unrelated Jack Irving, of Peel, remembers the 'worldwide phenomena' of the 30s.

I heard from old Manx people that there was something strange at Dorlish Cashen long before the Irvings lived there. I believe there was a law case in England where the author sued someone for libel over his book. They had claimed he was mad or something, but the author won the case.

I never went up there, myself, as I was too small to take a great interest, but I remember hearing how a Mrs. Grambie — a spiritualist from South Africa — went there with the late Essie Kermod from Peel.

"The mongoose was in some alarm and wouldn't say anything until, while they had tea, two pennies appeared and a little voice called 'heads'."

The story of the talking mongoose was told on American radio during the 30s. It was so well known there and on the

## MONGOOSE *Continued*

Island that jokes were made up about him.

One was that old Mr. Irving — a scholarly man — was ploughing a field with a single horse. It was dusk on a hot summer evening and his dog followed him to the end of a stretch of furrow to find 'Jeff' lying half out of a rabbit hole.

'Hot night, isn't it,' he remarked.

'Yes,' replied the horse. 'You'd know it was hot if you were doing this!'

'Well,' said Mr. Irving, 'I never knew that horse could talk.'

'Neither did I,' said the dog.

Excerpts from the Isle of Man Examiner, Tuesday, May 14, 1991.

I have since received the replies from the people of IOM and learned very little that was new. One was from a cousin of Voirrey Irving but he didn't know where she was. One said her father had casually dropped in at the Irving farmhouse out of curiosity and came away amazed.

Another said categorically that there were no mongooses (mongeese?) on the IOM and that the only thing strange at Doarlish Cashen was the Irvings themselves! That letter was unsigned — the writer not wanting his name involved in such a farce, evidently. The writer also said that the Irvings were show-biz types and that one of them was a ventriloquist. At least two professional investigators (not to mention a member of Parliament) came away finding no evidence of fraud or trickery — and ventriloquism should have been the first thing they checked out. Another said I could use her Harry Price book and another offered me a place to stay on the Island — at his friend's house!

Answering Larry Fargher's question — no, I'm not Manx; but at the moment, it looks like I will be going there in October.

In closing, if you do print any of this, please send me a copy for my mongoose file — and any responses; maybe some of your readers know of Voirrey Irving.

Excerpts from a letter to the editors from Kenneth Nickel, dated August 5, 1991.

Editors' Note: In the August 13, 1991, issue of the Isle of Man Examiner, there was a full page spread about 'Gef' the talking mongoose. It mentioned Mr. Nickel's upcoming visit and included several interesting facts about Gef and seemed to infer that Voirrey might have been the ventriloquist behind the mongoose.

"Gef had a liking for cream buns and chocolate and was extremely mischievous and chatty — and often very shy. He

claimed to have been born in Delhi in 1852 and brought to Britain by two Indians. He would converse in any language, including Hebrew, and, it was claimed, even 'mystified' the sceptics.

"Three hundred years earlier, the mongoose would have been accepted as a devil's familiar — as animals such as ferrets, squirrels and rabbits often were — and the Irvings probably denounced as witches. Later, poltergeists — disruptive forces which are usually associated with children — would be blamed because of the connection with Voirrey.

"Today, the family would almost certainly be dismissed as self-deluded at best, hoaxers at worst. Still, the Dalby legend lives on . . .

"Gef the mongoose was not available for comment as the Examiner went to press."

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## Laxey Picnic

Whoever said it never rains on a Laxey picnic proved themselves right again this year, but a sudden threatening storm did dampen the afternoon fellowship as the Manx and Cornish descendants gathered for an old-time-like Sunday School picnic.

High winds tore down power lines, and ripped up trees and did considerable damage to structures in the area before the wind's fury had subsided. But, as a member of the Laxey Committee Rosalyn Callin noted, "It didn't rain on our picnic."

The event held in the Laxey Cemetery, rural Mineral Point, attracted people from nine states including the Chaplain of the North American Manx Association the Reverend Herbert Kelly, Nebraska, who, along with Reverend Dave Kellin, Mineral Point, officiated at a morning worship service held in a newly constructed shelter. Lisa Springer and daughter Cara provided the music. A portion of the service was a dedication of the shelter in memory of Robert Callin, founder of the Wisconsin Manx Society (WMS), and initiator of the group known as the Laxey Committee who revived the community picnic a few years ago. Callin's wife, Rosalyn initiated the shelter project in memory of her late husband whose grave site can easily be seen from the shelter.

Steve Weier of Mineral Point was recognized as the builder of the structure that displays a small cross at its highest point.

After the service, a potluck pasty dinner was enjoyed by all who gathered including people visiting from the Isle of Man.

Master of ceremonies for the afternoon was newly elected WMS president Dann Willett, Madison, Wisconsin. Stephanie Stephenson, Mineral Point, whose great-great grandparents had attended the Manx Church that once stood here, presented special music for the occasion. Local historian Ruth Jungbluth told of the communities early day settlers. (Reading excerpts from old journals one learned of wolves on the prairies.) Names like Kelly,



A shelter in memory of Robert Callin was dedicated on July 7 in the Laxey Cemetery where once there stood a Manx Church- the only known one ever built in the United States. Callin was a dedicated member of the Laxey Committee who cared for the cemetery and the grounds.

Kewey, Sampson and Cowley were mentioned.

Visiting relatives in the United States were the Tom Cashins, from the Isle of Man. Cashin said that they are the first generation of his people who could make the trip...thanks to "the big bird in the sky (jet)."

He invited Manx descendants at the picnic to visit the Island of their ancestors. Jokingly he said it would take about an hour to tour the Island. He also told how they had to come to the United States to learn about their family's history. "There are only a few of us left on the Island," Cashin added.

(Several WMS members are planning to attend the 1992 North American Manx Association convention that will be held next year on July 6 on the Island.)

It didn't rain on the 1991 Laxey picnic, but everyone would agree—it came close.

Excerpts from an article by Jeanie Lewis in *The Dodgeville Chronicle*, July 25, 1991.



According to legend, it never rains on a Laxey picnic, but shortly afterwards Mother Nature poured buckets. Strong, tornado-like winds threatened picnickers.

# BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS

## HISTORIC HOMES OF THE ISLE OF MAN

Compiled by John Kitto  
Reviewed by LaJean Anderson

Years ago, when I was in Ireland, I met Desmond Guinness, of the famous Irish beer family. He had encouraged the restoration of old historic homes and castles in Ireland. He wrote and published a fine, coffee-table-size book on the subject. A few years later my late husband, T.R. Anderson, took me to the Isle of Man for the first time. I kept asking and searching for a similar type book on Manx houses. So, in July, this year when I visited our fair Ellan Vannin, I was thrilled to discover a new book, *Historic Homes of the Isle of Man*. It is a

fine volume, printed in hard back and in paperback. My paperback is quality paper and has excellent photographs. John Kitto, the author and compiler, has done extraordinary work in contributing authentic descriptions of the histories of the homes, in addition to the fine photography. Some of the old prints of the houses are from the Manx Museum.

My son and daughter-in-law, and four teen-age grandchildren were eager to see Corrin's Tower, built around 1800, by Thomas Corrin, their Hodgson-Corrin ancestor. We met Ian Anderson and his wife Ruth, (he is a Member of the House of Keys and she is the daughter of the late A.W. Moore) to get the key to Corrin's Folly (as the Manx call it). It was surprising and exciting for us to see the Anderson's home from this book, Ballamoar Farm, Patrick. It is a well-kept, "lived-in" home with its impressive gold "pineapple" pillars in front.

On my first trip to the Isle, my husband and I visited Scarlett House, near Castletown, another home featured in this book. At that time it was the home of J.O.L. Christian. We had tea with his daughter, Erica Curphey, Ballagyr, on this trip. She was a gracious hostess to our four active teenagers.

As I read the descriptions of the fifty or more stately homes, I recognized so many names familiar to all of us in NAMA. Of course, the Earl of Derby,

Duke of Atholl, Monks of Rushen Abbey, Sir Hall Caine of Greeba Castle are all in the book. But so are many other Manx family names, such as: Kermode, Quilliam, Cubbon, Cameron, Quayle, Cowell, Corkill, Moore, Nicholson, Collister, Bridson, Clague, Brown, Clarke, Heywood, Stowell, Mylechreest and Gill. There are pictures and details on the famous Bishops court, which is often in present Manx news.

I want to go back and see the many historic houses described in the book. For those readers interested, this handsome tome is *Historic Homes of the Isle of Man*, compiled by John Kitto, published by Executive Publications and printed by Print Centres Limited, Spring Valley Industrial Estate, Braddan, Isle of Man, 1990. Hardcover cost is £13.95, plus £3.00 p&p for Overseas.

The book is dedicated to the memory of Mona Douglas, the well-known Manx author. The book was originally intended to appear nearly twenty years ago when she was commissioned to carry out the research through the Manx Museum and other public records. Her notes have lain unused in the possession of local journalist Kitto until now.



**Pay Dues Now!**

# SOCIETY NEWS

## WORLD MANX ASSOCIATION

1991 is a very important year in the life of the World Manx Association as it reaches its 80th Birthday. A special celebration was arranged for the 17th July but prior to that from 3rd to 10th July a programme of events was arranged for our Homecomers as well as for our local members.

On Wednesday, 3rd July, Homecomers and representatives of our committee were received by the Mayor of Douglas, Councillor John Christian in the Mayor's Parlour in the Town Hall. Thursday morning a visit was made to the Manx Museum with the opportunity to see the new social history galleries and to watch the video of 'The Story of Mann.' In the afternoon there was a guided tour of the Gaiety Theatre with our Chairman, Mr. Peter Kelly, and Mr. Mervyn Stokes. In the evening, we held our Annual Gathering and Dinner at the Masonic Hall. The special soloist was Mr. Graham Crowe, this year's Cleveland Medalist. 184 members and special guests were present.

5th July, Tynwald Day, many of our Homecomers attended the Tynwald Ceremony at St. John's and visited the Homecomer's Tent and the W.M.A. stall. In the afternoon there was the Garden Party at Government House.

On Saturday, 6th July, there was a visit to Captain Bligh's in-laws' house, their grave, St. Peter's Church and Molly Carrooin's Cottage. Also on view was the oldest electric street light in the Isle of Man (1897) and the party visited Ballakilmartin Farm and an ancient keel. That evening at 8 p.m. there was a Manx Concert in St. Peter's Church Hall, Onchan. Charles Guard, Charles Cain in Victorian Music Hall style entertained us, Rene Savage recited some Manx dialect poetry and Olive Dobson entertained us on the accordeon and led us in a sing-song of old favourites. We had a very enjoyable Coach trip on Sunday, 7th July, and the weather was perfect, warm and sunny. We had tea at Ballacallin and later attended service in the Cathedral, Peel, at 6:30 p.m. Eighty members and guests attended.

On Monday, 8th July, Heritage Tour No. 1 was a trip to Ramsey on the Manx Electric Railway. The party visited the Town Hall to be greeted by Miss Quine, Chairman of Ramsey Commissioners, and to sign the Visitors' Book. In the afternoon a visit was made to Bishops Court where they were taken into the Chapel and viewed the rest of the building from the outside. Then on to Peel where the party was received by Mr. Lightfoot, Chairman of Peel Commissioners, and signed the Visitors' Book. There was some free time before returning to Douglas.

Tuesday, 9th July, was a very special day—W.M.A. Nostalgia Tour—when we visited the locations of former Annual Gatherings in the early days of the Association. Leaving Douglas in the afternoon, we visited the Nunnery, seeing the Chapel and Courtyard; on to Ballaquane House near Peel; one time home of Mrs. Lawton, the second President of the W.M.A. Then to Great Meadow, near Castletown, courtesy of Mrs. Riggall. In Malew Church-yard a wreath was laid on the grave of Mr. Richard Cain, O.B.E. founder of the W.M.A., by his daughter-in-law, Mrs. Wilfred Cain, who was accompanied by her daughter. Then we proceeded to the Castletown Golf Links Hotel for afternoon tea. To round off the day, we had a T.E. Brown concert in King William's College Chapel, after being received and shown round part of the College by one of the Masters, Mr. Adrian Bashforth. Mr. Geoffrey Corkish sang accompanied on the organ by Mr. Bernard Caley, Major Geoffrey Crellin recited from the works of T.E. Brown and Mrs. Dorothy Leece recited in Manx dialect. So ended a very memorable day and all agreed that we were very glad we had made the journey.

On Wednesday, 10th July, a steam-train trip to Castletown completed the week's programme. Visits were made to Castle Rushen with its newly-laid out displays, to the Maritime Museum to see The Peggy in her boathouse, the Old Grammar School and the shops. In the afternoon was a trip to Cregneash where a short service of Thanks-giving was held, led by the Rev. F.H. Bird in the tiny Chapel of St. Peter before the coach left

for Douglas.

For many of us 17th July was the important day—the actual Birthday. We travelled to Rushen Abbey where it all began in 1911. Special guests were invited—Sir. Charles Kerruish, President of the House of Keys, with Lady Kerruish; Mr. Miles Walker, the Chief Minister, with Mrs. Walker; Mr. Victor Kneale, Speaker of the House of Keys, with Mrs. Kneale; Mr. Frank Mitchell, Vice-Chairman of Malew Commissioner, with Mrs. Mitchell and Mrs. M. Taggart, Captain of the Parish of Malew. 113 members, Homecomers, and special guests were present.

The children of Ballasalla School entertained us with music and dancing and after that we all enjoyed an excellent Afternoon Tea.

Special Commemorative Covers with the current Postage Stamp hand-franked to mark the Anniversary were on sale.

Then we returned to Douglas well satisfied and happy after a very enjoyable afternoon.

Now we look forward to 1992 and the next Convention of NAMA. We await news of dates and events.

Best wishes from the officers, committee, and members of the W.M.A.  
Winifred Musgrove  
Hon. Correspondence Secretary  
11 Terence Avenue  
Douglas, IOM

## MINNESOTA

The Manx Society of Minnesota held its summer meeting on July 24, 1991, at Becketwood Cooperative, Minneapolis, Minnesota. The evening began with 32 members and guests gathering for a social hour at 6:00 p.m. Special guests were Tom and Phyl Cashin, Kirk Michael, Isle of Man, who were in Minnesota visiting their daughter and son-in-law, Georgina and Tim Swales. It was followed by a delicious dinner. An additional ten members joined us for the business meeting.

President Norm Gill opened the meeting by acknowledging Elizabeth Bjornaraa for providing the meeting place, Eric Dahlquist for the signs that directed us to the site, Sally Dahlquist for



dinner and program arrangements, and Benjamin Swales, four weeks, as the youngest one attending the meeting.

Treasurer Sally Dahlquist presented the 1990 financial report. At present we have 77 paying members, the largest number in six years, and a mailing list of 110. A large portion of our income continues to be from contributions. While some expenses have been reduced, we still incur large fees for insurance and accounting, plus new costs for membership cards and letterhead stationery. Jim Anderson spoke on the work he has been doing to change the society's status to a charitable corporation to help reduce the cost of these fees.

The main speaker of the evening was Tom Cashin, former head school master of Kirk Michael and past President of the Isle of Man Antiquarian Society. Tom became interested in preserving the history of this area because the native Manx are becoming an ethnic minority due to the influx of new people to the Island. For example, of 28 students in one of his classes, only four had two Manx parents. Thus he has compiled a large collection of pictures, documents, tapes of older citizens, etc. to record the history of Michael. Especially helpful were the school admission register dating back to 1860 and the teachers' log books going back to 1870.

Through a series of slides, Tom took us on a historical tour of Michael. He started with the standing megalith stone nicknamed the "Monkey Stone" because of its shape. Christianity came to the area in the sixth or seventh century. The early church, or keeil, was a sod rectangular formation, perhaps one per family. There remains evidence of these in the area. Michael was selected as the site of the parish church because of its location on a main road. The church was built in 1835 and was required to be large enough to seat every person in the parish. Thus there is a church larger than needed by the village.

Later the Viking settled in the village. They were attracted by the easy landing on the sandy beaches and the safe harbors provided by the coves and glens. When they settled on the rich level land, they forced the Celts into the surrounding mountainous land. The Vikings left a number of memorial stones, making Michael well known for its collections of carved crosses containing a mixture of Christian stories and Viking sagas. One important cross was carved by Gaut in the tenth century, who used runes for the first written record of the Island's name, Maun. Another, the tallest cross on the

Island, was erected by Toalf son of Thorold the Red for his mother.

In 1781 John Wesley brought Methodism to the Island. This religion appealed to the people who were fed up with dominance of the church and the bishop, whose position was as important as that of governor. They liked the idea of having a say in the running of the church and the singing of hymns. Methodism also introduced abstinence and a better way of life, a new social movement.

Michael has been the site of six water mills, the earliest recorded in the 1500s. Millers were important in the village society. Glen Wyllin means Glen of the Mills. At one time there was also a brewery. During the over indulgences of the 18th century there was one pub for every 80 people.

Most early people lived off the land. They had a field for crops and a cow. The father often fished for herring. Then in the late 1800s the railroad joined Michael to Douglas and Ramsey, bringing in tourists. Most households then rented rooms.

Michael is a rapidly growing village. Many of the slides showed the changes in the buildings to accommodate this increase of population. One problem facing the sandy beaches along the coast is erosion due to the rough sea that constantly is cutting into the land.

The presentation was followed by a short question session. There were drawings for several door prizes donated by LaJean Anderson. Members of the Shimmin family shared their ancestors' Manx memorabilia.

Our fall meeting will be in October at a site north of the Twin Cities.

Joan Gill, Secretary  
10215 38th Court North  
Plymouth, MN 55441

## CHICAGO

The Chicago Manx Society held a meeting and a potluck dinner on Sunday, July 28th, at the home of Brad Prendergast in Chicago. There were 17 people in attendance. I am very happy to announce we gained three new members.

We all had a delicious dinner. Then there was a very brief meeting. After the meeting there was a "show and tell" time of articles and newspaper clippings from the IOM. Most of the articles and pictures were very old and had lots of sentimental value. Among the items displayed were a hoyia plant that was brought to the U.S. by grandparents; a

giant 8x10 postcard, dated 1907, picturing the coastline at Peel Castle; an antique puzzle handkerchief, "Where's Kelly?"; a hand-made, gnarled walking stick of a great-grandfather; the Manx tartan in various forms; and many other mementoes prized by their owners.

The Chicago Manx Society was founded in March 1873 as the Sons of Mona. We want to keep alive the great heritage given to us by our forebearers and hope that many others in the Chicago area will join us. For further information, contact: Bob Kelly, President, 6858 N Osceola Avenue, Chicago, IL 60631, 312-792-2584.

We are trying to rotate the location of our meetings to various areas of Chicagoland and our next meeting will be at the home of Barbara and Edgar Brown in St. Charles, Illinois, at one o'clock on November 3rd. We will again have a potluck dinner with a program highlighting some phase of the Isle of Man.

I hope all NAMA members are enjoying a nice summer.

Florence Abbinanti  
9330 S. Richmond Ave.  
Evergreen Park, IL 60642

## CLEVELAND

There have been no summer activities for our Cleveland Manxies but come September 14th, we will be getting together for an indoor picnic...as reported in the last Bulletin. As of this writing, there are no firm plans for other fall gatherings.

Our society's president, Ruth Thormann; vice-president, Margaret Glunt; trustee, Edna Cowin; and member, Ruth Tear, had a fifteen day bus tour in July which started in Vienna and was followed by sightseeing in Switzerland, France, and Germany. Eileen and Jack Elliott visited his relatives in Ireland in June. Mona and Ray Haldeman spent a month out west. One could say that a large nucleus of our most active members have been on the go!

Those who know Edna Cowin, probably heard about her parrot, Polly. She was a beautiful bird and unique in that she whistled and sang songs, and had quite an extensive vocabulary. There were many amusing incidents attributed to Polly's ability to say something wrong at the right time. Polly lived to be 27 years old—all but six months of her life in the Cowin household. She accompanied her owners to Florida, riding in her cage placed on the back seat

of the car. Really a most unusual, intelligent pet and admired by many.

Cleveland Public Radio station WCPA 90.3 FM airs several ethnic programs on Sunday afternoons. Joe Nicholls, an English-American, is a co-host of the program "Sounds of Britain and Ireland" which is broadcast from 4:06 to 5:00 p.m. Sundays. Music, news, interviews with guests, announcements of organizations' events, etc. make up the weekly programs. He would willingly include the Isle of Man as part of the British Isles coverage. Unfortunately, I have been unable to locate any current music of Manx artists or other material that would be appropriate. Maybe I'm looking in the wrong places. Does anyone have any suggestions? Would be pleased to hear from you.

Margaret Kennish Krach  
319 Ridgeview Drive  
Seven Hills, OH 44131-5617

## NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Members returned for our June 2nd meeting to the beautiful pristinus sunny vale setting of Charley Brown's Restaurant in the delightful city, appropriately named Sunnyvale. Here in these restfully quiet surroundings overlooking pools and falls and flowing creeks dotted by various waterfowl we talked, while dining on sumptuous fare, of similar glens many of us have known so well in Ellan Vannin.

Conversations, as usual, were often reminiscence of previous visits to the enchanting Isle and of family members born there, some of recent date, like NAMA President Lawrence Fargher's father on the family's Gretch Voar farm near Laxey; and John R. Corlett whose mother Margaret Cowle entered that wondrous part of the world at Ramsey. Camey Fargher accompanied husband Lawrence to the brunch, as did Eileen F. Corlett with husband John.

Others seated at the dinner table were Leslie and Jennie Corkill of Fremont, whose Manx ties are in Kirk German; Charles F. Kissack, San Jose, a Douglas Manxman; Dale and Jan Skillicorn, Watsonville and Brian and Edna Skillicorn, Sunnyvale (they claim no close relationship). Next, Lee and Jan (Corkill) Widner, San Jose - her Manx branch hails from Maughold; Herb and Marlene (Fargher) Storey, San Ramon - her grandfather was Manx; Edward and Pauline (Fargher) Ernst, Los Altos, ties in Maughold and Ballafayle. To Polly Ernst

our thanks for the timely and excellent laminated dinner mats bearing maps of the IOM....and who presented this reporter some valuable 17th Century Quakeryn information. And, there was John (Jack) Cormode with ancestors Cannell and Corlett in Kirk Andreas.

And finally, Francis W. and Orma Crew, of Kingsburg whose Manx connection begins far back through Catherine Gelling of near Peel who married Quaker John Crew of Nantwich, England. Francis Crew, who is writing a novel Trilogy which includes much about Mannen, has traced his lineage in the Mormon Library at Salt Lake City, and the IOM Museum at Douglas...here he discovered another Francis Crew, a government official situated at Castle Rushen "about three centuries ago."

Throughout the brunch meeting, much information was shared regarding the 1992 IOM Convention and Homecoming. Many voiced their intention of joining NAMA President Lawrence and Camey Fargher on the excursion to the Island next July. Discussions and preparations are expected to continue during our upcoming Northern California meeting in the East Bay in October.

Dale Skillicorn announced he is proposing a Directory of Manx Heritage in the U.S. and Canada, a 300-page book to include biographies with photographs. Dale says a portion of the funds received from Directory sales will go to benefit scholarships. All Manx may participate. Requests for further information or reservation forms may contact: Dale Skillicorn, 729 Palm Street, Watsonville, CA 95076

Reporting,  
Francis Wayne Crew  
1920 Stroud Avenue  
Kingsburg, CA 93631

## IOM FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Since my last report in March issue so much has happened in both world events and our own society that it is difficult to decide on what to include. The Gulf War encompassed so many families on both sides of the Atlantic, with many young Manx men and women serving in this campaign including my own daughter. All being duly honoured with a government reception and guest of honour invitations to the Tynwald ceremony in July, and rightly so, as were their American counterparts honoured on their safe return home.

The Society again joined the NAMA and WMA in the Homecomers Tent at Tynwald and many new friends were made, even though many visitors may have stayed away preferring to wait and make the trip in Convention year 1992. The attendance at our monthly meetings has steadily increased and thought has been given to availing larger premises, so if you put on a good show you'll get a full house. Bob Foster gave an excellent discourse in February on the many and varied reasons for the burst of Manx emigration to the new worlds of Canada, America, and Australia, along with many amusing extracts from letters home from the early settlers. Perhaps some of your forebearers were mentioned.

In March, Mr. Sid Kelly treated us to a delightfully gentle stroll down memory lane via a slide show of the south of the Island under the quaint title "Stones I Have Known", with many memories and anecdotes along the way. Every once in awhile the unexpected happens and our April meeting was such an occasion. Mr. Joe Woods took as his title "What's in a Name", but rapidly digressed to include singing in Manx Gaelic and even Spanish, and then on into the night with various out the cuff anecdotes. An evening of unusual entertainment! May's meeting was a sharp return to reality when Miriam Critchlow gave us a most informative talk on museum records, and gave the packed audience plenty of food for thought.

Our annual outing this year was to old Onchan, Kione Droghad, our tour guide being Mr. Peter Kelly, WMA chairman. Although the weather was a little inclement, the rain did hold off, and an amusing interesting three hour journey back in time was enjoyed by all. We held our annual open day and exhibition in July, the theme being members interest, and many local members provided insights into the more colourful of their ancestors. Our genealogist Mr. Crowe, assisted by Mrs. Christain, conducted family history workshop classes both days. Mr. Jack Hoace from the Mormons spoke about census records. Attendance was good and many new members were recruited. One happy note for myself was that I had obtained some First World War letters written by a soldier to his wife from France and these were displayed in the hope that someone would claim them. It was most rewarding when a sprightly 91 year old gentleman said the soldier was his uncle, and this eventually led to him once again getting in touch with his cousin in Workingham, England, a mere 83 years old, and for

them to renew their boyhood friendship. That's the magic of family history! We hope to schedule our 1992 Exhibition to coincide with the NAMA 1992 Convention and then perhaps we can work the magic all over again.

E.W.Q. Cleator  
Secretary — IOM FHS  
5 Selborne Drive  
Douglas, IOM

## KNOW YOUR ANCESTORS

Since many of you are planning to go to the Isle of Man next year for the NAMA Convention, I have had several requests for geographical data and also some historical data.

### GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Latitude: 54°3' - 54°25' N  
Longitude: 4°18' - 4°47' W  
Area: 227 sq. miles  
Length from Point Ayre to Chicken Rock: 32 and a half miles  
Width from Contrary Head to Clay Head: 13 and a half miles  
Perimeter: Approximately 100 miles  
Distance from Douglas by sea (nautical miles): Liverpool 71, Fleetwood 55, Ardrossan 110, Dublin 83, Belfast 78 and Heysham 58  
Distance by air from Ronaldsway (nautical miles): Belfast 62, Birmingham 145, Blackpool 60, London 220, Liverpool 77, and Manchester 95  
Highest peaks: Snaefell 2,036 feet; North Barrule 1,860 feet  
Longest river: Sulby 10 and a half miles

There are 357 miles of roads.

The Calf of Man off the south-west coast is about one and a half miles by one mile in area and is the property of the Manx National Trust which retains it as a bird sanctuary.

### HISTORICAL DATA

The original inhabitants were the Neolithic and Mesolithic tribes, followed by the people of the Bronze Age and the Celts whose civilization is the basis of Manx culture. Christianity was introduced during the fifth and sixth centuries. The Scandinavian Vikings arrived over 1,000 years ago and from 979 to 1266 Norse rule prevailed in the establishment of the Kingdom of Man and the Isles. The Vikings founded the Tynwald Parliament which has a

continuous unbroken tradition and celebrated its Millennium in 1979. After a brief period of Scottish rule, the Kingdom of Man passed to the English Crown, eventually being given in 1403 to Sir John Stanley, whose descendants were Lords of Man for 362 years before the Lordship reverted to the Crown by purchase. The Lieutenant Governor is appointed by the Crown.

The chambers in which Tynwald (the Parliament of the Isle of Man) and its branches meet are situated in the Legislative Buildings on Prospect Hill, Douglas. During the summer conducted tours commence at 2:30 p.m. each Wednesday and Friday. Those interested should congregate in the reception area of the Central Government Office. (Check for confirmation of this information before you go.)

For those who are planning to do some research on tracing your ancestors during your Convention trip, it is most important to assemble all the information you already have on your family in a notebook to take along; i.e. date of birth, occupation, religion, date of marriage, and above all clues to the place of origin. It is not advisable to rely on your memory for this information.

You will want to visit the Manx Museum Library at the top of Crellin's Hill in Douglas where you will find a valuable collection of material on the Island. The General Registry, on the second floor of the Government Office Building (adjacent to the House of Keys) on Prospect Hill has volumes of records on births, deaths, and marriages; and the details of Wills can be obtained from the Registry of Deeds on the first floor of the same building.

It is sometimes possible at the Manx Museum to get photocopies of pertinent records, and the General Registry will supply certified copies of their records. Both of these services involve a small fee.

While at the Museum you will find a valuable collection of pamphlets, books, postcards, and stamps for sale at a nominal price.

Parish Churchyards are another source of information, and it is suggested that you photograph all tombstones for future reference.

Since there is no city directory on the Island, you will find the IOM Telephone Book helpful.

Maps of the Island to aid you in locating different places are available at the Tourist Board on Victoria Street and the local bookshops sell a very good IOM Ordnance Survey Map.

It is interesting to pause while working on your "family tree" to look into the study of place-nomenclature or toponomy. The place-names in the Isle of Man are of the simplest character; and as a rule, are merely descriptive. Most of the names are of Celtic or Scandinavian origin.

All farms, houses, etc. are known by a name and it is interesting to add this bit of information to your records. Also, it is very helpful, if you know the place-name of the family you are searching. This should always be included in any requests for information.

Some common words in Manx place-names are:

"Balla", a farm or homestead  
"Cronk", a hill or mountain  
"Keel", a church  
"Creg", a rock  
"Slieu", a mountain  
"Knock", a hill or mound.

Very often the place-name is a combination of one of these words plus the family surname.

Mrs. Robert Cowin  
1223 West Melrose Drive  
Westlake, OH 44145-2837

## UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL

### Dorothy E. Gawne

My interest in my Manx heritage began in seventh grade. My dad, Russell Gawne, listed his nationality as Manx on an application for an exclusive golf club in Rockford, Illinois.

Dad and I spent several hours in the library reading about the Isle of Man in reference books when the president of the club wanted more information about Manx people before processing Dad's application. From that point on we always cut out articles that appeared in the local newspaper about the Isle of Man. Some of the articles were saved and some were not.

My dream back then was to visit this place I had read about as a teenager. My dream came true in 1976 when I visited the Isle of Man for my first Manx Convention. I was hooked. I am looking forward to my fourth trip to the Isle for the 1992 Convention.

I am in my second term as

secretary/treasurer of the Ladies Auxiliary. I have just recently been elected program chairperson for the Chicago Manx Society.

I work full time for a yellow page advertising agency in Skokie, Illinois.

I am involved in teaching religious education at St. John Brebeuf Church in Niles. Also, I am a foster parent volunteer for OKADA, an organization that trains hearing/specialty guide dogs. Currently, I am training Toby as a specialty guide dog. I am enrolled in a sign language course so I can get a hearing guide dog to train.

My other interests are sewing, needlepoint, gardening and my summer "camping trailer" in Edgerton, Wisconsin.

**Helen Drom**

The past year has just flown by since I was elected Treasurer.

Keeping the books for the NAMA plus working as bookkeeper for a travel agency, really keeps me "booked".

It has been an interesting year and I have enjoyed the notes and letters received from members. What has been most interesting is looking on the map to find all these towns and cities where our members live.

I was born in Royal Oak, Michigan - one of seven children of Leslie and Annie Jane (Jennie) Mc Donnell. My father was born in Yorkshire, England but was raised in the Isle of Man (Port St. Mary). My mother was born in Port Erin, IOM, as was her mother. The Manx names associated with our family are Cowley, Gawne, Curphey and Taubman.

Lloyd and I were married in 1947 and have five children; two daughters and one son live in California, one daughter in New York and one son in Louisiana.

I am looking forward to retirement early in April, 1992 when I can do more gardening, reading, travel and counted cross stitch and also attend the convention in the Isle of Man. Join me, won't you?



Enjoyed the Bulletins very much. Interesting and many memories. Keep smiling Co-editors, nice to see happy faces after the hard work is done. May Kneale Wils

# OUR OWN PEOPLE

Dan and Donna Christian with their son Thomas and nephew Bradley Christian were on the Island in June for two weeks this year. The two boys and Dan spent many hours fishing from the breakwater in Peel and also did some fairly long hiking trips in parts of the Island where Dan's ancestors had lived. They also visited a second cousin in England, recently discovered through their membership in the Family History Society. Dan's family emigrated to Ishpeming, Michigan, along with many other Manx families in the early part of this century. He now lives at Port Washington, Wisconsin.

by Noreen Cottier

Dan is hoping to gather more information in his bid to trace relatives who had their roots in the West of the Isle of Man. Months of painstaking research has culminated in a detailed family tree. With the expert guidance of Noreen Cottier, librarian of the Isle of Man Family History Society, the family has established strong links with several generations of Christians.

They are now striving to uncover more about Thomas (born 2nd June 1861), Joseph Benjamin (b. 12th October 1862), Jeremiah (b. 1st July 1866) and Ephriam Teare Christian (b. 1st September 1868) who lived in the Patrick area.

Dan is continuing his search through local historical documents and reverence but hopes that any surviving descendants or people with interesting news will contact him.

Excerpts from The Manx Independent, Tuesday, July 9, 1991.

## Top Treasury Job

The signature on all Isle of Man Government banknotes has changed to that of Onchan man, John Cashen, who succeeded William Dawson as chief financial officer of the Treasury.

The appointment of Mr. Cashen as chief financial officer was announced by the Isle of Man Civil Service Commission after a widespread recruitment exercise, both on and off the Island.

Mr. Cashen, 49, has been financial controller of the Treasury, responsible for the management of budgetary policy and the central treasury mechanisms, since 1988. His new role will encompass the provision of financial and economic advice to the Treasury and to the government.

'The next few years promise to be difficult, with the requirement to finance considerable developments to the Island's infrastructure being a priority. Such developments may require an expansion of the economy, which must be controlled and managed within acceptable limits, and I look forward to playing an active role,' said Mr. Cashen.

Excerpts from an article in the Isle of Man Examiner, February 19, 1991. John Cashen is one of our Isle of Man NAMA members.



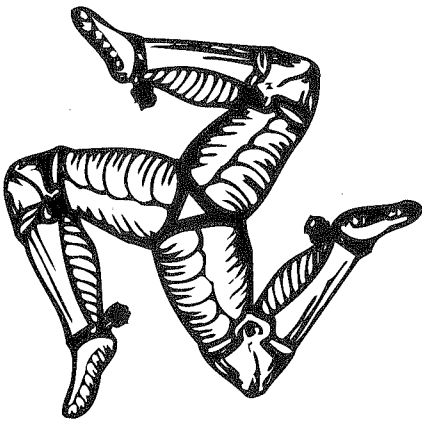
## "Traa-dy-lioor" vs The Present

by Mary F. Kelly

Most Manx people are familiar with the Gaelg expression "Traa-dy-lioor," and translate it as "time enough" or "time galore." Perhaps, that philosophy is one reason we find it so easy to postpone tasks we intend to accomplish. Let's consider that many people believe that time is the most precious of gifts. The time past is bygone; the future is only prospect. The present is the only time that we have to get things done. This is why now is the best time for you to take advantage of the coupon offer below to share the benefits of membership in the North American Manx Association with others you know who enjoy their Manx heritage.

### Complimentary NAMA Bulletin Request Form

Name of Non-member \_\_\_\_\_  
Street \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Prov. \_\_\_\_\_ Zip/PC \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of NAMA Sponsor \_\_\_\_\_  
Send this coupon or a facsimile to: Norman Gill, 10215 38th Court North,  
Plymouth, MN 55441 (This offer expires October 31, 1991)



## The Ballad of the Three Legs of Man

With rumpy hens and tailless cats,  
Three legs instead of two—

Biologist in the Isle of Man

Whatever can you do?

Let's hope that these abnormal hens

At least lay normal eggs,

And thankful be that tailless cats

Have their full share of legs.

If you would solve this threesomeness

Concerning legs and arms

Astrology might serve you well,

'Cos legs you know, have charms.

Then gaze on Egypt's ancient past

When reigned the sun-god RA,

His emblem was a flaming orb,

His sceptre showed his sway.

Now all of you who practise Maths,

Can draw six radii,

But join each pair to make a hinge,

Three legs with knees you'll spy.

From Egypt's land they crossed the seas,

Explain this how you can—

At any rate these legs with knees

Became the Arms of Man.

If to accept this ancient tale

You feel you're not inclined,

I can another one relate

More fitting to your mind.

It is a saga from the North

Of ships that sail the sea,

When plundering Vikings sallied forth

And ravaged Sicily

Till Sigurd said: "We've loot enough

So let us home return,"

and rummaging amongs "the stuff"

He found a lovely urn:

"Egyptian is it? Maybe Greek,

Oh, 'tis a rare design

Three legs conjoined, 'tis quite unique,

This emblem shall be mine."

And so this badge was handed down

(The lands had rest awhile)

Till up spake Godred, Harold's son:

"Let's conquer Mona's Isle!"

And so his ship, Three Legs thereon

Arrived in Ramsey Bay;

"This is a pleasant land," said he,

"Here I'm resolved to stay.

I'll treat you natives as my friends"—

Fate plays some merry pranks,

When Celts and Norsemen intermix

Their progeny is Manx!

And Godred Crovan's wondrous sword

With legs emblazoned clear

Is borne aloft, our Sword of State,

To Tynwald's Mound each year.

And now I'll say farewell to you,

Lest yarns become a habit,

And leave you to elucidate

"Quocunque Jeceris Stabit."

by Nance Caine

54 Westbourne Drive

Douglas, Isle of Man

I have had this poem in my possession for many years and I thought it might be of interest to the Bulletin readers.

Dorothy Bridson

R. R. 1

Desbarats, Ontario

Canada

## ANNIVERSARIES

**Mr. and Mrs. Leon Kennaugh** of 333 Willard Street, Kewanee, Illinois, observed their 50th wedding anniversary at an open house in their honor.

Two hundred friends and relatives attended a buffet-reception and dance on Sunday, June 23, 1991, at Waunee Farm.

Helen Godke and Kennaugh were married June 28, 1941, at St. Paul's Lutheran church. Their attendants were Gladys Kennaugh Evans and Robert Godke.

Their family includes a son, Stanley and his wife, Charlotte, and a grandson, James, all of Galva.

Kennaugh worked for the Galva Creamery; Lockheed Aircraft in Burbank, California; and 28 years for Illinois Power Company. He retired in 1980. Mrs. Kennaugh retired in 1985 from Kewanee Public Hospital after 22 year.

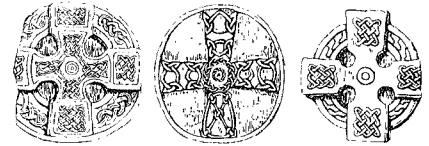
Leon's parents were Frank Stanley and Eleanor Craine Kennaugh from Lower Foxdale, Isle of Man.

**Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Horkstrom** of 1001 West Circle Drive East, Tucson, Arizona, observed their 50th wedding anniversary on May 3, 1991.

Mona Kennaugh and Wallace

Horkstrom were married May 3, 1941, in Knoxville, Illinois, with the Reverend John H. Clarke officiating. (He was Manx.) Their attendants were Ida and Fred Kennaugh. (Fred was born in Lower Foxdale.)

Mona's parents were Frank Stanley and Eleanor Craine Kennaugh from Lower Foxdale, Isle of Man.



## Chaplin's Corner

A biographer of Sir Francis Drake tells how the retired sea captain used to sit in the harbor on England's west coast and enthrall the country lads, not with tales of the pleasures of the sea, but of its perils. He described the raging winds and towering waves, as the great ships rode out the storms, and engaged in the battles with other ships. The stories so enraptured the boys that often they would run away from home and seek to become a part of the great adventure.

As the gospels present the life of Christ and the call he makes, we sense that the Christian life is—or should be—something like that: it has that sort of appeal. How many leaders could enlist their would-be followers by demanding—"If any man would come after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross and follow me". And again, when he has gathered his disciples, he sends them forth with such ominous warnings, "Behold, I send you out as lambs in the midst of wolves. Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals—and salute no-one on the road." Still, they went forth, and on their return reported marvelous results.

This does not mean, for us, that such vital missions should not require careful, thorough preparation. It does stress the primary motive: The spirit of adventure and the commitment that overcomes all obstacles.

Our ancestors had this spirit, to leave the security and relative safety of the homelands and venture into the uncertainties of life in this part of the world. Do we in this day envision new frontiers that shall challenge our youth to go forth, and risk—in the words of our nation's founders—"our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor"? There still remain frontiers to challenge us:

Continued Page 14

poverty, drug abuse, disease, crime. And many of them carry risk, and sacrifice. There still is the challenge in the words of the Master—"He who would be great among you, let him become as a servant." Perhaps that is the trouble with our generation: we see so little of that spirit in modern times.

Herbert G. Kelly, Chaplain



## Is Manx Gaelic Dead?

How can anyone avoid being aware of Manx Gaelic when our Island has placenames such as Ballakilpheric, Cronk ny Arrey Laa, Lhiattee ny Beinne, Magher Breck, Slieau Meanagh and Tholt y Will?

Some 'experts' are happy to propound the theory that a language dies with its last native speaker. Link this thought with the old Manx motto *Gyn chengey, gyn cheer* which, put into the English (rather freely) becomes 'If you are without a native language, you have no country'. Since we lost our last native speaker with the death of Ned Maddrell, at the age of 90 plus, our experts will be adamant that the Manx Gaelic is dead. However, the old tongue can still be heard, (admittedly infrequently), and in spite of these two pessimistic ponderings, Manx Gaelic and the Island of Mann, with its green hills by the sea, are still here.

Manx, like the other two Gaelic tongues, suffered from the powerful influence of the language of our ultimate rulers, who, in our case, arrived in the early 14th century. Essentially a spoken language, only available in printed form after the 17th century production of the Book of Common Prayer and the later translation of the Bible, the survival of Manx can be considered something of a miracle.

An unfortunate consequence of the 18th century visits of the founder of Methodism, John Wesley, was that his disapproval of the use of Manx unintentionally hastened the language's decline. Since at that time the Bible was not available in the language and hymns were not easily translated, stating that true worship was not possible turned many people against their own native language.

However, it was the advent of compulsory education in 1872, which sounded the death knell of the Gaelic. Throwing away the marvelous opportunity of producing literate bilingual scholars, Manx schools used only English. We are told that children who spoke Manx at school were penalised and that parents, believing the propaganda that Manx was uncouth, spoke it to each other, but not to their children.

It only took time for the old tongue to be largely forgotten and by the end of the 19th century, English, being regarded as essential for personal advancement, had become the native language of the majority of Manx people. When emigrants of the last century, many of them native speakers of the Manx, returned home for visits, they were aghast at the decline in the language. What use there was, tended to be in the fisher and farming families, many of whom lived in the more remote areas of the Island.

It was educated people such as historian A W Moore and folklorist Sophia Morrison who founded Yn Cheshaght Ghailckagh, the Manx Language Society, at the end of the last century, hoping to halt the decline. Language classes were organised to teach the Manx their own language - a practice which continues today, with 'official' evening classes set up by the Department of Education and Yn Cheshaght Ghailckagh, while less official groups meet in pubs and homes to continue their studies.

Recently, there has been a considerable revival of interest in allied subjects, such as music and dance, as illustrated by the number of entries in various competition classes in the cultural festival, Yn Chruinnaght. It is reassuring that so many young people are showing an interest in their language, speaking (and singing) it at every opportunity. After many years of indifference, the Manx Government now has a policy of bilingual titles for its departments e.g. income tax forms are headed Yn Tashtey - The Treasury; many street signs are bilingual and some completely Manx and the appointment of a government Manx Language superintendent is pending.

Even after this long period of tolling, the death knell of Manx Gaelic has not yet become final, so our leading question must be answered with a resounding  
CHA NEL - NO!

Leslie Quilliam  
Peel, Isle of Man



## Manx Superstitions

It was unlucky to receive anything from a hand upturned.

At every baking and churning, a piece of dough, and butter, respectively were stuck on the wall for the little people (fairies).

Old Manx people would not turn a herring at the table, but when one side was eaten, they would lift the bone off, and continue eating. To turn the herring would have been tantamount to overturning the boat, when herrings were being drawn from the sea.

If a boat was unlucky at sea, recourse was had to the herb-doctor. A handful of herbs was boiled in a pot and the liquor mixed with rum. This was divided amongst the crew, except a portion which was thrown on the nets.

If it blew a gale at sea, it was no unusual thing for the fishermen's wives to throw salt on the fire. They believed it would lessen the wind.

If a fisherman went out of the house on Monday morning with some part of his clothing put on wrong side out, it had to be left that way for the whole of the week.

When a person was going on a venture, such as a law suit, getting married, or to sell a beast at a fair, it was sometimes the custom to throw an old shoe after him. If the shoe fell mouth up and pointing the way he was going, the venture was likely to be successful. But if the shoe pointed the other way, he might as well turn back and go home again.

A husband's hat was sometimes hung above the bed to frighten the bugganes away.

If a man dreamed of his wife, it was sure to be fine weather. But if, of a strange woman, the weather would be bad.

No person would go out of the house on any material affair, without taking some salt in their pocket, much less remove from one house to another, marry, or put out a child, or take one to nurse without salt being mutually exchanged. Even if a poor person was almost famished in the street, or road, he would not accept any food unless there was salt accompanying it.

Thanks to Hilda Penrice for sharing these with our readers.



# Dues Notice

Your 91/92 dues are now payable! Helen Drom, NAMA treasurer, says that well over 100 people have not paid their 90/91 dues yet. Perhaps there has been some confusion because of the delay caused by the change in treasurer and in the elimination of the pink slip in the Bulletin.

Your dues renewal notice is included

with this issue of the Bulletin. If you do not wish to cut up the Bulletin, just send in the necessary information. If you are a current life member, please pass the form along to a non-member Manx relative or friend and encourage them to join.

Send in your payment NOW so you don't forget. Prompt payment saves your association money since reminder notices are unnecessary. THANK YOU for your cooperation!

## NAMA Dues Renewal Form

The North American Manx Association was organized to bring together those who have Manx Ancestry and an interest in the Isle of Man. The first NAMA meeting was held in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1928. The membership is spread throughout the United States and Canada.

To keep members informed of Manx activities both here and on the Isle of Man, a bulletin/newsletter is issued quarterly. A convention is held every other year and homecoming trips are available periodically. Local Manx Societies have been formed in a number of areas by NAMA members and others of Manx ancestry. Information may be requested on the location of these societies along with a convenient source of Manx books and video tapes.

*See membership categories below. Please print!  
You may change your membership category if you wish to.*

Name (s) \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Prov. \_\_\_\_\_ Zip/PC \_\_\_\_\_

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP	AMOUNT	YOURS
Annual .....	\$ 10.00	_____
Life Under 50 Years Old .....	75.00	_____
Life 50 Years or Over .....	50.00	_____
Junior (age 1-18 years, No Bulletin) .....	2.00	_____
FAMILY MEMBERSHIP		
Annual .....	15.00	_____
Life (2 adults, based on age of youngest)		
Life Under 50 Years Old .....	120.00	_____
Life 50 Years or Over .....	80.00	_____
SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP		
ANNUAL (Not for use by individuals) .....	5.00	_____
MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATE .....	1.00	_____

The membership certificate design and coloring have special significance relative to the Isle of Man. A letter of explanation is sent with each certificate.

TOTAL REMITTANCE \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this form along with a check made payable to NAMA to:  
NAMA c/o Helen M. Drom, 4960 Cherry Avenue, Santa Maria, CA 93455.

NOTE: Canadians may send cheque payable on a Canadian bank at amount shown.

### North American Manx Association Officers 1990/1992

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## NOVELS

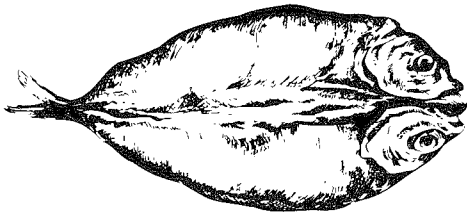
I'm a writer, and I've done two Viking historical romances involving the IOM. Beloved Enchantress (Leisure Books, May 1990) was set there almost entirely. Beloved Betrayer (out in 1992) is set mostly in Dublin and deals with Brian Born and Clontarf. I found so little on Man in 1014, I did a lot of improvising, but it was great fun. Vikings are a great subject.

Joan van Nuys  
240 Case Avenue  
Sharon, PA 16146

## MANX KIPPERS

Manx Kippers are available from Zingerman's in Ann Arbor, Michigan (422 Detroit Street, zip code 48104-1118, Phone 313-663-3354). I am an occasional customer of Z's and I would like to assure you that my experience with Z's is as they advertise, just a 1st Class outfit, with the top quality products. Surprisingly, Z's prices aren't too bad either.

Best wishes and Seihll as Slaynt,  
Tom Caley  
3051 S. Lapeer Road  
Metamora, MI 48455-0340



The delectable Manx Kipper is probably, along with the Manx cat, the Island's most well-known export. After gutting and splitting the herring are soaked in brine and then suspended from hooks in the smokehouse where they are naturally smoked for several hours, many thousands at a time. Once cured they are exported worldwide. Herring have always played a large role in the economy of the Island and as a staple of the diet. Both salting and smoking provided a yearlong food supply.

## THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF MAN

(yn seihll yindyssach vannin)

Members may remember that, in the Seventies, we brought out a "sight and sound souvenir of the Isle of Man." Although this sold widely at the time, the decline of the black disc has led to an increasing demand for a cassette of the material.

Finally, a firm order from the Manx Museum decided us to manufacture a quality stereo cassette which is now available, price £5.99.

Some topics on the cassette are The T.T., Tynwald Ceremony, Laxey Fair, Laxey Wheel, Manx Electric Railway, Horse Trams, Isle of Man Steam Packet Company; some of the songs included are Ellen Vannin, Cutting the Turf, The Fairy Song, Manx Fisherman's Evening Hymn; and the Lord's Prayer recited in Manx.

It is delightful to find how little things have changed. One recent listener exclaimed: "I don't know why I'm crying - I'm not even Manx."

If any of your members would like to have a copy - I shall be happy to send forthwith.

With best wishes,  
Mary Aldrich  
Seaward Limited  
Strathallan Castle  
Port St. Mary, IOM

## SCOUT HISTORY

Fifteen girls were invested in the 1st Michael (Boy)Scouts on Thursday, July

11, in the first official ceremony of its kind on the Island and possibly in Britain.

The Scouting Association's constitution has recently been changed by Royal Charter allowing mixed troops for the first time.

Excerpted from an article in the Isle of Man Examiner, July 16, 1991.

## DEADLINES

We plan to issue four NAMA Bulletins each year. We welcome and need your contributions to the Bulletin at any time. However, listed below are the deadlines by which we must receive your materials in order to make a given issue.

<u>Deadline</u>	<u>Bulletin Issue</u>
February 10	March
May 10	June
August 10	September
November 10	December

Please keep these dates in your reference files. We are looking forward to hearing from you. Photos, preferably black and white, are greatly appreciated with your articles.

## VIDEO

An excellent video, Story of Mann, was produced by the Manx Museum when they opened their new wing. This historical view of the IOM is narrated by Sir Anthony Quayle. If your society would like to borrow a copy of this video, contact Ron Quayle or Norman Gill. Their addresses are listed on page 15.



NORTH AMERICAN MANX ASSOCIATION  
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PLYMOUTH MN 55441-1669

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