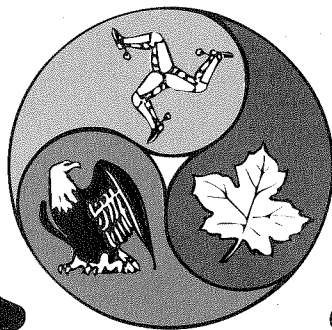


# N A M A



## NORTH AMERICAN MANX ASSOCIATION

Vol 68, No 4

To Preserve "Whate'er is left to us of ancient heritage." *TE Brown*

June 1996

## 1996 CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

Mary F Kelly

The '96 Convention Committee has been working very hard to make this year's convention one that will help provide a warm relaxed atmosphere for Manx people and friends to get together and enjoy a celebration of all things Manx. A real effort has been made to plan activities for everyone from the youngest children to our most senior members. At the same time the committee wants to encourage our adult members to be record keepers of family histories, as well as, historians for our local Manx societies.

The 42nd Biennial Convention of the North American Manx Association will be held at the Inn On The Park, in Madison, Wisconsin, July 19-22, 1996. Registration will begin Friday at 3:00 PM on the second floor of the hotel. There will also be a genealogy room equipped, staffed, and awaiting the arrival of convention guests. It will have resources to help you locate information about Manx family members through the aid of computers, microfilm and microfiche readers, and more. Be sure to bring along the family records that you now have on file so you will be able to add to them.

We are Manx and proud of it! That is why guests attending the President's Reception, on Friday evening, are encouraged to wear the colors of the Manx Tartan. Entertainment will include Bob Jones, a Welsh-born Madison linguist and entertainer, and the outstanding Manx singer, Kristine Kinvig Bregazzi of Braddau, Isle of Man, accompanied by Mona Haldeman of Avon Lake, Ohio. The main speaker of the evening will be nationally acclaimed James L Hansen, FASG, a Reference Librarian and

Genealogical Specialist at the Library of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison. The state's genealogical collection is ranked in the top five in the country along with the New York Public Library and the Mormon Church's Family History Library in Salt Lake City.

On Saturday morning, genealogy research opportunities, quilting discussions, and more will be on-going in the convention hotel. Concurrently, during the Farmers' Market, there will be a variety of Manx music and dance on the State Capitol Square, just across the street from the convention site. Bill Ferguson and Friends will play an assortment of Manx and other Celtic pieces on the bagpipes. The McDuff's Ceilidh Band, including fiddle, guitar, and accordion, will be playing for the Cath Dhu Dancers and the Madison Scottish Country Dancers. At the Madison Children's Museum there will also be Manx storytelling by Joan Gill, of Plymouth, Minnesota. These off-site events are co-sponsored with a grant from the Dane County Cultural Affairs Commission, The Celtic Cultural Center, and the Wisconsin Manx Society.

The members of the Ladies' Auxiliary will gather at The Top Of The Park restaurant promptly at 11:30 on Saturday. A review of the spring survey will be discussed and after the meal Shirley Spencer of Rockford, Illinois will talk about Manx and American quilting traditions.

The second general assembly of the 1996 NAMA Convention will be held after lunch on Saturday. The local Manx organizations will be encouraged to share news about current activities and other NAMA business. Break-away sessions on genealogy, quilting, Manx folklore, and



Minister for Tourism and Leisure, the Hon J A Brown, MHK.

more, will follow. Before the evening events begin the entire group will be asked to gather on the Wisconsin State Capitol steps for a group photograph.

The Master of Ceremonies for the Saturday evening gala will be the Honorable William G Callow, retired Justice of Wisconsin's Supreme Court. The keynote speaker will be the Honorable Tony Brown, Member of the House of Keys, where he is currently the Minister of the Department Tourism and Leisure on the Isle of Man. He will describe and show slides of our beautiful Manx homeland. Wisconsin's first lady of song, Ilona Kombrink, accompanied by Catherine Rundell of Bloomington, Minnesota, will honor our heritage with several Manx selections.

*Continued Page 2*

To share a sense of what the early emigrants from the Isle of Man found when they settled in the southwestern region of Wisconsin (pronounced Wə'skän [t]sə'n) the convention guests are invited to tour that section of the state on Sunday, July 21, 1996. The bus tour will include a visit to Laxey Cemetery, where guests will take part in a revival of the old Laxey Church Sunday School Picnic (and pasty dinner) at the site of the only Manx-built church in America; then go on to the historic Pendarvis Complex at Mineral Point, where the early Cornish settlers lived near the hillside where the Cornish and Manx miners once worked shoulder-to-shoulder in the lead mines; and walk across the street to Soldiers' Park, where bagpipe musicians and Celtic folk dancers will demonstrate their skills and invite audience participation. During the afternoon the guests will also be able to attend a showing of *The Story of Mann*, an award winning feature film prepared by the Manx National Heritage of the Isle of Man, and visit the many little shops in historic Mineral Point, Wisconsin.

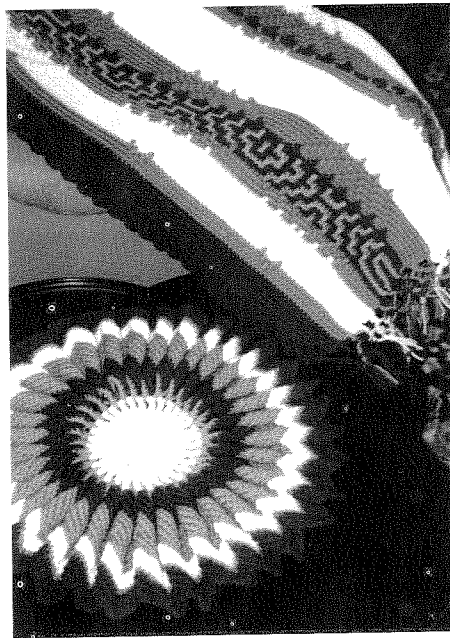
Sunday evening, convention guests will dine in the hotel on some of the delicious foods produced and prepared in Wisconsin. Then relax to the hauntingly beautiful music performed by Emma Christian, from the Isle of Man, presently living in London.

Monday morning will be the last general assembly of the 1996 Convention. The business meeting will conclude with the changing of the officers and the announcement of time and place for our next convention in 1998!

## Convention Raffle

A week's vacation stay will be awarded some lucky raffle winner and guests at a luxury home at south Lake Tahoe, California. This prize has been generously donated to NAMA by Past-President Lawrence L. Fargher. This outstanding home features four bedrooms, two baths, and a large wood-burning fireplace. The location has mountain views, is located near a wildlife preserve, Heavenly Valley Ski Resort, casinos and shopping. What a vacation!

Another outstanding prize will be the lovely afghan and doily (pictured) hand



Hand crocheted raffle prizes.

crocheted and donated by Doris Kelly Harker, Dodgeville, Wisconsin, for the NAMA '96 Convention Raffle. The colors she used in this lovely set are, blue, green, gold, purple, and white—the colors of the Manx tartan. The afghan is not only an attractive focal point for any room, it will also be very warm to use.

Another luxury that is difficult to adequately describe is an overnight stay for two at the beautiful Standish House, built in 1882, in Lanark, Illinois. This prize has been donated by Dr. Norman and Ingrid Standish. The English antique furniture, original Standish art works, full canopy beds, and candlelight breakfast will make the winner's visit a most memorable one.

Other prizes, too numerous to mention, will also be awarded at the start of each general assembly at the convention hotel. They include original art works, custom tee-shirts, Isle of Man souvenirs, and much more.

Raffle tickets may be purchased by mail or at the 1996 Convention for \$1 each or 6 for \$5. If you have not yet ordered your tickets, send your requests to: NAMA '96, C/o Mona Voutila, Registrar, 2809 E. Cudahy Ave, St. Francis, WI 53235. Members attending the convention will find their tickets in the convention packets at Madison's Inn On The Park Hotel. Bring your return address labels to quickly address each one. If you are unable to attend the NAMA '96 Convention we will mark your address on your tickets and forward your prizes to you.

## Motoring to Wisconsin?

Wisconsin has one of the best highway systems in the United States. The fact that the state's roads are carefully maintained also means that as soon as the winter frost leaves, the highway department begins working on bridge and road repairs. Their 1996 budget provides about \$600 million in funding.

If you plan to drive to the 42nd Biennial North American Manx Association Convention in Madison, and want to arrive by July 19, 1995, without unnecessary delays, please consult the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, PO 7910, Madison, WI 53707, about their 4 page guide to current road work titled: *On the Road Again, Wisconsin Highway Construction Zones 1996*. You may also dial: 1 (800) 762-3947 or visit the WEBSITE at <http://www.dot.state.wi.us/dsp/-roadcond.html>

The Wisconsin State Troopers are always ready to offer assistance in a courteous and friendly manner. Just one warning: speeders caught in a construction zone pay doubled fines. They want to encourage drivers to give the road crew a "brake".

## The Manx Wedding

Since June is traditionally the month associated with weddings we thought you might enjoy this excerpt from an article of the same name in *Manx Life*, Winter 1994/95.

In days long past it was quite frequent for the bride and groom to arrive at the church on horseback, the bride accompanied by her father, brother or nearest male relation, and the bridegroom attended by a sister, if he had one, or some other close relation.

One writer described a wedding party proceeding through the countryside with much merriment and firing of guns...It is hoped they were loaded with blank charges.

Country lads would often stretch a rope across the road to the church and the bridegroom would be expected to pay a small sum of money to be allowed to pass.

If the couple were Manx speakers, the wedding might be conducted using the

Prayer Book printed in the Manx language.

If funds allowed for a celebration it would usually be held in a barn, cleared and cleaned for the occasion and decorated with flowers and foliage. There would be plenty of food and ale for refreshment, with milk or buttermilk for the younger ones.

Many parishes had at least one fiddler, who could be hired for the occasion to provide music for the dancing—which would usually go on all night. The dance Petronella, or Peter O'Tavey, was often performed by the bride and groom and their attendants. This is a slow dance where the dancers stand balancing on one leg, bending the knee, and swing the other foot forward, round and back. (This is also the Manx dance taught at the 1994 Convention as a test of whether or not the dancer was under the influence.)

It was the custom for the man to break a piece of the wedding cake over his bride's head at the feast, or for a piece of the cake to be broken into fragments which were scattered over her head as she entered the house after the wedding.

The traditional wedding toast, 'Slaynt as shee, as aash dy vea, as maynrys son dy bragh', which means "Health and peace and ease of life, and happiness for ever", is often used to this day.

Better off bridegrooms who left the church in a carriage would be expected to throw a few coins for the young onlookers to scramble for.

When the couple went home they might well have to pay a ransom to get in, and they might find that the local lads would make a din, blowing cows' horns and banging things together until the payment of a penny or two induced them to desist.



## Order Laxey Manx Tartan

The Manx Tartan colors were chosen to represent the Isle of Man: the blue for the sea, green for the hills, gold for the gorse, purple for the heather, and white for the cottages. Approximately fifty yards of this beautiful 100% pure new wool Laxey Manx Tartan in now available for purchase through the NAMA '96 Convention Committee. This bolt of woven plaid fabric was made with the darker blue background. The fabric is offered at \$30.00 US per linear yard that is approximately 60 inches in width. Please add \$5.00 ship-

ping and handling. Send your check payable to NAMA '96 with your order to Ms Jane Jones, 17 Maple Wood Lane, Madison, WI 53704. Order right away!



The Manx National Tartan.

## Archibald Knox

Archibald Knox, Manx artist, refused to sell, exhibit or even sign most of his paintings, describing them as 'in the main, studies from which to learn my faults'. Today Knox's true genius is given the recognition it failed to receive while he was alive.

American author Stephen Martin's new book, the first on Knox in two decades, is the result of several years' research which began when, as a collector, he was 'seduced and conquered by the strange loveliness' of Knox's designs.

Knox was born in Cronkbourne in 1864. He did not show an interest in going into the family marine engineering works. Knox 'might have lived all his days as a modest, idiosyncratic artisan in a location far removed from public knowledge or interest' if it had not been for others who recognised his talent. One was the great Manx artist John Nicholson who was his tutor at Douglas School of Art.

Others included the English architect Baillie Scott and Arthur Lasenby Liberty, who commissioned Knox to produce Tudric and Cymric metalwork. During a

long and successful career with the Regent Street Store Liberty, he turned out more than 5,000 designs for vessels, textiles, jewellery, frames, clocks, and so on.

Knox and Liberty worked well together, 'In fact it suited him to be eclipsed behind their policy of anonymity,' the book states.

In 1900, just three years into his contract Knox left London for a small cottage in Sulby. 'During this period he experienced the singlemost concentrated outburst of creative energy of his entire career. The results made his reputation as a great designer and are recognised today as some of his most inspired commercial creations' the book notes.

Later he returned to London and a teaching post at Kingston School of Art.

In 1912 he returned to the Island for good and set up his home at 70 Athol Street, Douglas, after a brief visit to America. This marked the end of his work for Liberty except for a memorial stone for Arthur Lasenby Liberty in 1917.

During World War One, Knox served as a censor at the Knockaloe internment camp, spending his spare time painting and carrying out the intricate illuminated lettering for which he is also remembered.

'Throughout the twenties there was no shortage of work and the ever-prolific Knox willingly turned his hand to illuminated public addresses and memorials, programmes for Douglas Choral Union or the Gaiety Theatre, letter headings, brochures, book illustrations, medals for masonic lodges, garden ornaments, even some church silver.'

He collaborated with the monumental mason Thomas Quayle on many projects including a plaque to mark the birthplace of T E Brown and a monument in Maughold churchyard to Hall Caine.

The influence the Island had on Knox's work is a theme returned to time and time again in the essays which make up the 144-page book. During his time in London he and fellow expatriate artist Alfred J Collister attended gatherings of the London Manx Society.

Knox died in 1933 and is buried at Braddan beneath a tombstone he designed.

*Archibald Knox* by Stephen A Martin is published by Academy Editions, hardback priced £35 and paperback at £21.95. It contains more than 300, mainly colour, illustrations. The author, a Jungian analyst and clinical psychologist, is curator of a travelling exhibition of Knox's work which toured the UK and USA.

Source: *Isle of Man Examiner*.



# KNOW YOUR ANCESTORS

## Dates

While looking at some extracted genealogical information one day I ran across the following date: 8.7.43. Now, just what date is this? The person who wrote it was in no doubt, but I certainly was. One possible reading is: August 7, 1943. This is perhaps what the writer had in mind, and the one which most Americans would probably first assume. Looking more closely at the date, you will notice that the numbers are separated by periods rather than commas or slashes. This indicates a European or Australian practice, rather than American, and if that is true, then the date is more likely to be 8 July rather than August 7. The year still presents a problem. While it is probably 1943, it could just as well be 1843 or even 1743.

However, if the year is 1743 and the location is the British Isles or the American Colonies then the day and month change to either October 7 or 8 September. The reason for this is that until 1752 the people in those areas were using the Julian calendar. The beginning of the year under the Julian calendar was 25 March. Because of this, March was considered the first month of the year, making September the 7th month and October the 8th month. It is even the practice in some Isle of Man records to list such an early date as 8 of 7<sup>br</sup>, meaning September. All the months from September through December were named because of their relative location in the year.

We are so used to the year beginning on 1 January, that we are apt to make some awkward mistakes when looking at British and American records earlier than 1752. One researcher, for example, noted that a couple was married on 29th March 1684 and that their first child was born to them on 29 January 1684. Assuming that this meant an illegitimate birth some two months before the marriage, the shocked researcher left the son out of the records of this family. Had he realized that 1684 began with 25 March and ended the next March on the 24th, he would have known that the child was born ten months after the marriage—a perfectly respectable event.

To help keep these kinds of dates more

clear, it has become practice to double date the year when the day and month are between 1 January and 24 March and the year is earlier than 1752. Under this practice, the birth of the child in the above paragraph would be recorded as 29 January 1684/85. This indicates the year as 1684 as it was at the time, but also indicates that it would be 1685 under the new calendar.

The two points I am trying to emphasize are:

- Accuracy of dates requires that you never list the month as a number, but always as letters—three letters or in full. It also requires that the year be listed as four digits, not two. This is a practice followed by all careful genealogists and one which the military has also used for years. Example: 8 Jul 1972.

- Be aware of the change from the Julian to the Gregorian calendar in the year 1752 in the British Isles and the American Colonies. The change was made earlier on the European continent—much later in Russia. The most important change was moving the first of the year from 25 Mar to 1 Jan, but there were also some other adjustments—such as eliminating 11 days in August 1752 to catch up to where the other countries were who had changed to the Gregorian calendar earlier. All dates between 1 Jan and 24 Mar before 1752 should be double listed as to year. Example: 7 Jan 1732/33.

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Eau Claire, WI 54701  
Quayleck@uwec.edu

## Need Help With Your Family Tree?

by Shirley Kelly

Bring your Manx genealogy information with you to the NAMA Convention as we are setting up a "research room". There will be Isle of Man births and marriages on microfiche; 1850 and 1880 census for most of the parishes; monument inscriptions and burial registers for each parish; as well as many other resources from the LSD Library at Salt Lake City.

In case you are contemplating purchasing a genealogy program (or computer), we encourage you to browse through a genealogy program; there will be different programs available.

Internet "on-line" browsing will be demonstrated and I recently found out that NAMA has a home page; that the convention information is available; and

that the Isle of Man has a home page that contains a number of informative subjects that you may read or print out to read later. How exciting!

See you at the convention!

I wonder if your readers can help my husband and myself? We have been researching his Manx origins for many years with little success. He is descended from Daniel Atwell Caley (though the middle name may have been a later addition) who was born in the Isle of Man in 1817 or 1818. He went with his wife, Catherine Collins Caley (origins unknown), to Canada where their first child was born in 1840. They moved to Janesville, WI, in 1860, and their children eventually moved to Minnesota and points west.

Can any of your readers tell us anything about who his parents and their siblings might be on the Isle of Man? Any help will be greatly appreciated. Many thanks.

Jean Getchell  
648 Margaret St  
San Jose, CA 95112

I saw the NAMA Home Page on the Internet. I am a fourth generation descendant of Thomas and Ellinor (nee Sayle) Wade who left Andreas Parish in 1828 and stayed in NY City until 1834 when they settled in Warrensville, Ohio, on Lots 36 and 37. A cousin researched much of the family line back to the 1600s on the IOM. For the past few months I decided to concentrate on tracing all of the descendants of Thomas and Ellinor, trying to find living relatives and build a family history.

I would like to ask a few questions.

1. Were there records of any kind that still exist that might describe the Manx immigrants and their times that relate to the period 1834-1900? If so, where can I find them?

2. What newspapers did the Manx immigrants likely read during this period in Warrensville, ie, where are the most likely places that I can find obituaries and family related information?

3. What church denomination would my ancestors most likely have attended and do you happen to know the name of the most likely church in Warrensville?

4. Do you know of any NAMA members with surnames of Wade, Harrison or Nelson that I could chase down as possible relatives.

Larry Wade  
3110 NW Linmere Dr  
Portland, OR 97229  
Tel: 503-789-3705

## Creme á la Victoria

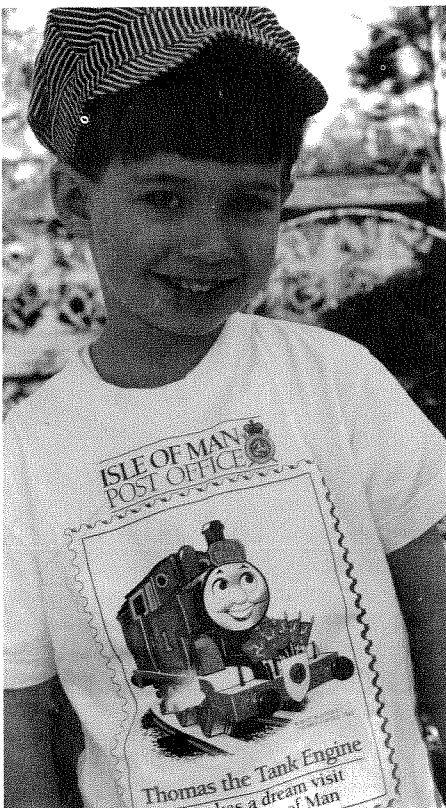
4 sponge cakes, each cut in 3 slices  
7 oranges  
2 oz coconut  
1/4 lb sugar  
1/2 gal water  
1 tablespoonful brandy  
1 tablespoonful noyveau  
1 tin apricots  
Apricot jam  
1/2 pint cream

Spread the sponge cake slices with jam and place half of them in the bottom of a glass dish; peel and slice 4 oranges, pile them on the sponge cakes and sprinkle with coconut. Put on top the remaining sponge cakes.

Make a syrup with the rind and juice of 3 oranges, water, sugar, brandy and noyveau and pour over the cakes. Pipe the whipped cream on top and place round the base half apricots and quarter oranges alternatively.

Mrs Annie Cowley, Peel

Source: *Our Heritage, Recipes from the Past spiced with Words of Wisdom.*



Pictured is Matthew Billman, age 3. His grandparents, Ruth and Devore Smith, have him already excited about the Isle of Man!



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Over the past two years I have discovered that there is a distinct disadvantage living with the co-editor who does the word processing for the Bulletin. There have been constant reminders of the deadline for each issue. However, from now

on she will have to "bug" Mary Kelly! What a relief!

At the moment I am feeling very Manx! With the completion of our vacation home in northern Wisconsin, we have given it a Manx name, Cheu Y Chroink, meaning Hillside; and the sign is ready to be hung over the door. Today we returned from a work session at the Manx cemetery near Castle Rock—a definite connection with our early Manx settlers in Minnesota. Also, I have been in weekly contact with the NAMA Convention Chair, Mary Kelly. What a wonderful weekend the Wisconsin Manx have planned for us!

As I reflect over my two years as NAMA president, there are many happy memories. We thoroughly enjoyed hosting the 1994 NAMA Convention in the Twin Cities. It was an opportunity to meet with NAMA members and to enjoy the many visitors we had from the Isle of Man. NAMA has entered the technology age, with its own home page, thanks to Vice President Jack Cormode. In July 1995 Joan and I had the pleasure of visiting the Island, attending the World Manx meeting on July 4, taking part in the Tynwald ceremonies including the church service and the open air reading of the laws passed that year. We especially enjoyed the opportunity of awarding the NAMA medals to five finalists in music, arts and crafts, Manx language and culture, outstanding contribution to the Manx community and for overcoming a handicap; and giving the Ladies' Auxiliary monetary awards to the two students excelling in the Manx language. These students were all remarkable examples of today's youth.

There have been times of sadness, the passing of three of NAMA's past presidents: Norman Clucas, George Curphey and William Stanley Shimmin. We prayed for the speedy recovery of two other past presidents, Edna Cowin and Robert Kelly. It sounds hopeful that both of them will be with us in Madison.

It has truly been an honor to serve in this position. I only hope that my Manx grandfather and grandmother are aware of the influence they had on their grandchild!

The goal of NAMA, "to preserve what'er is left to us of ancient heritage", continues to be a challenge. As our members become older, it is important that the next generation take up the "torch" and continue to foster the Manx heritage. Each of us has a responsibility to pass on our interest and love of the Isle of Man. Talk about your memories, share your stories, tell about your ancestors, do whatever you can to interest your children and grandchildren in that beautiful "Ellan Vannin". It would be a shame to lose the enthusiasm and love that our ancestors had for the Isle of Man.

*Norm*

Norman W Gill  
NAMA President

# SOCIETY NEWS

## San Diego

Sixteen very festive and patriotic Manx Society members met at the home of Bob and Millie Kermeen on April 14. Our Manx patriotism was evidenced by the many members wearing Manx articles. Marion Kelly was the best dressed in a lovely IOM tartan kilt and vest.

It was agreed to make a \$50 donation to the San Diego Maritime Museum to help with the sailing of the Star of India. We would be so pleased if many of our NAMA friends could visit us this year to view the sailing on August 10 and 18.

We agreed to set aside July 28th to celebrate a belated Tynwald Day as we hold our open house for all San Diegons at the cottage of England in Balboa Park.

As is our custom, we concluded the meeting by singing Ellan Vannin and the Manx National Anthem.

## Greater Washington DC

Members of the Manx Society braved the Blizzard of '95 to attend our annual Twelfth Night Party January 6.

Special thanks to all who labored in the kitchen at the Friendship United Methodist Church, especially Yvonne Quayle, and all who labored at home to prepare the feast.

Bruce Blackistone was once again the "first footer" who welcomes in the New Year and chases out the old one—in this case with a broadsword. Don Quayle performed the duties of the host, or "fer-thie."

We had a varied musical program, with a strong emphasis on traditional Manx music.

We thank Skye Gathering, an acclaimed local Celtic music group led by fiddler John Ward and singer and Manx Society member Beatrice Whitehall. Also contributing was Stefan Graham Christian, son of Jack and Marjorie Christian.

Children and adults joined in two games—the hunt for the Manx Cat's tail and "Flap the Kipper"—which have become a tradition at our party.

A new tradition was launched—the first performance here of the Manx Christmas Mummies' Play. This 19th century play is a comical—and perhaps mystical—combat

between St George, St Dennis and St Patrick.

After dinner, Fred Blonder taught us the Hunt the Wren dance, traditionally performed on December 26. We wound up the celebration by joining hands to sing "Auld Lang Syne".

Special thanks to Avril Shipman and all the members who helped organize the party.

## Ontario

The Ontario Manx Society held their first meeting of 1996 at the home of Carol Christian on Sunday, April 21st. We welcomed a new member Alan Teare, whose Great-Grandfather Fred Teare was born in Douglas. It was very encouraging to see a young member so interested in his heritage.

We were saddened at the passing of Stan Shimmin, a former member and a long time member with the Toronto Manx Society. Stan was also a past President of the NAMA and Hon Vice President. The Society have conveyed their condolence to his wife Joyce and family.

The Annual Picnic will be held Sunday July 28th at the Serena Gundy Park, Metro Toronto, Eglinton Avenue and Leslie Street. Anyone traveling through or expecting to be in the Toronto area at that time would be more than welcome. For further information you can contact Margaret Roche 416-498-7860 or Phyllis Busche 905-889-4652.

Wishing you all a safe and happy summer.

## Minnesota

The Manx Society of Minnesota held their first meeting of 1996 on May 2, 1996, in Bloomington, Minnesota. Nearly 20 members ventured out on one of our first rain storms of the season. We were especially honored to have present Mona R Breckner, who received a plaque in recognition of her 100 years of Manxness! Mona is an inspiration to all of us!

We continue to work on the abandoned Manx cemetery near Castle Rock, Minnesota. Plans are underway to have the area surveyed. Jim Anderson, our legal

representative, has been in contact with the county, the historical society, and the state archaeologist in an effort to have the site recognized and to make them aware of the work that is being done by our group.

The group discussed the upcoming NAMA Convention and the status of the Twin Cities' Celtic Festival. One of our members has a contact who is willing to sew windsocks with the three-legs symbol for the cost of \$20.00. If you are interested in purchasing one, please write to the Minnesota contact person.

The meeting concluded with a sharing of Manx experiences, which ranged from seeing Manx Gaelic in the Pogo comic strip to a copy of a photo of the original Manx church at Laxey cemetery in Wisconsin to a Manx snow dome being returned to Linda Shimmin after several years.

On May 11 some members met to work on the abandoned Manx cemetery. Much has been accomplished in the past three years. All the unwanted trees and other growth have been removed and burned. Now it's down to raking debris and spraying for weeds. Hopefully, our next step will be to fence at least two sides, now that the area has been surveyed. With the help of Rita and Larry Lace, who reside next to the site, we are getting information on the people listed as buried in the cemetery.

On May 23, Rita Lace will give a talk to the Northfield (Minnesota) Rotarians about the Manx, their settlement in Greenville township, and the work being done on the cemetery.

Our next meeting will be August 17th at the summer home of Lewis and Vivian McGonagle near Cross Lake, Minnesota. If anyone is vacationing in the area and wishes to attend, call the McGonagles at 218-543-4551 or Joan Gill at 612-544-5163.

Hope to see many of our NAMA members at the convention in Madison.

## Chicago

The Chicago Manx Society held its meeting on Sunday April 14th at the home of Dorothy Gawne in Niles, Illinois. We had a very delicious pot-luck dinner and had a very enjoyable time visiting and

renewing acquaintances. We had 15 in attendance with one new member that Barbara Brown brought, who was from the Isle whom Barbara met when she had her display on the IOM at the library.

Bob Kelly presented as the program his slide show "Focus on the Isle of Man" on the history, legends, lore and scenes of the IOM that he has presented to four various groups in the Chicagoland area.

About eight of our members indicated that they are planning on attending the NAMA Convention in Madison.

Our next meeting is scheduled in the fall at the home of Laurie and Bob Anderson in Wheeling, Illinois.

## World Manx

At the AGM in Douglas on Saturday 9 March, Captain David Cowell was elected as Chairman of the WMA. Iris Christian, our Chairman since 1992, stood down in order to concentrate on her duties as Mayoress of Douglas when her nephew Councillor David Christian becomes Mayor. Mary Caley has taken David Cowell's place as Vice-Chairman.

The first event of the 1996/97 season, the 'At Home' Dinner, took place on Saturday 27 April in Douglas. A hundred members enjoyed a good meal and afterwards were entertained with a slide show given by Donald Gellion. The slides were of various churches, stones and monuments mainly in the south of the Island.

In my last report I said that we hoped to have our annual Church service in a Methodist Church. Unfortunately the date clashed with a major Methodist District function, so we are to have it in Ballaugh Old Church instead. The date is the same, Sunday 7 July, and will be preceded by afternoon tea in the Viking Hotel, Ramsey.

Finally, best wishes for a Happy and Successful Convention in Wisconsin from all of us here in the WMA.

## Vancouver

We have had a wet Spring here in Vancouver, but Winter is behind us, the grass is green, flowers are blooming and we look forward to a glorious West Coast Summer!

We Manx folk will gather on May 18 at the Maritime Restaurant in Richmond. Tickets have been sold and we anticipate a good turnout. The Society is pleased to contribute a portion of the costs for members and potential members, giving all an opportunity to relax and enjoy an opportunity to dine and socialize with no clean-

up awaiting the hardworking committee members.

Our Summer Picnic will be held on September 22 at Queen's Park, New Westminster. We have found September to be a good time to meet. With the return of vacationers to home and of students to school, our attendance is usually good. Any visitor to the Vancouver area in September is most welcome to attend.

We are establishing our calendar of social activities for the year and we have begun to plan our Fall "Back End Do" which will take place in November.

We wish one and all a restful summer and that NAMA convention attendees have a grand time meeting old friends and making new ones.

## Galva

Galva Manx Society members met at the First United Methodist Church at 1 pm on Sunday, April 28, 1996. The meeting was called to order by the president, Russell T Kelly, who welcomed those present, led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag, and led singing Ellen Vannin and the Manx Anthem.

A memorial service was led by Dave Clarke for the loss of the following members: Mary Ellen Collinson, Carolyn Gale, Betty Krans, Kent Freburg, Mona Kerruish Sale, and Dorothy Shimmin.

Officers for this next year were elected as follows: President, Russell T Kelly; Vice President, Dean Gale; Secretary/Treasurer, Shirley Kelly; and Historian, Dave Clarke.

Information was handed out and members were encouraged to attend the NAMA Convention in Madison, WI in July. The group voted to purchase a page in the Souvenir Booklet.

The Soderberg/Cowell family had the greatest number of family at the meeting and Emily Robson was born on the Isle of Man.

A "thank you" plaque was presented to Russell and Shirley Kelly by Robert Miller for their dedication to the Galva Manx Society the past eight years.

Everyone participated in the program by sharing memories about their ancestors and the stories that were told about the Isle of Man. Refreshments and conversation were enjoyed by all.

## Cleveland

The Purple Heather Concert was attended by 23 members in April, followed by a dinner at a local restaurant. May found 20 of us traveling east to the Welshfield Inn, an historic inn, once a

stage coach stop, and also a stop on the Underground Railroad. We had a delicious dinner, and a brief meeting. We were glad to see several of our members after health problems had kept them away. Catherine Kelly had broken her leg, Florence Roseman had cataract surgery, and Ray Haldeman had by-pass surgery. All are now on the mend.

In June, we will attend the Greenbrier Theater for a live performance of "Sweeney Todd", and those who wish will go on to dinner at a local restaurant.

We will hold our annual picnic on August 3 at the Barn, the party center where Florence Roseman lives. It is a very nice place, and air-conditioned! We have held several of our picnics there.

We were saddened by the loss of two of our members. Carl Devoe, who lost his wife just last fall, passed away in March; Gladys Butts, a long-time member, left us in April. Gladys had been inactive for several years, and in a nursing home for the last few years.

Several of our members are making plans to attend the Convention in July, so we have no activities planned for that month. However, we would be happy to know of any persons visiting the area, and would be delighted to welcome them at any of our functions. Contact any of the officers for directions.

## Society Contacts

(It is important that each society checks their listed contact to be certain it is correct. NAMA and WMA members around the world use these names and addresses.)

### CHICAGO

Florence Abbinanti, 9330 S Richmond Ave, Evergreen Park, IL 60805

### CLEVELAND

Mona Haldeman, 191 Glenview Drive, Avon Lake, OH 44012

### FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Ernest Cleator, 5 Selborne Drive, Douglas, IOM

### GALVA

Shirley Kelly, 316 NE 6th Ave, Galva, IL 61434

### GREATER WASHINGTON DC

Marjorie Christian, 7814 Rebel Drive, Annandale, VA 22003

### MINNESOTA

Joan Gill, 10215 38th Court N, Plymouth, MN 55441

### NEBRASKA

Vicky Gobber, 214 Barrington Dr, Gretna, NE 68028

### NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Larry Fargher, 830 Kiely Boulevard, #200, Santa Clara, CA 95051

## ONTARIO

Bob Watterson, 76 Dunlop St, Apt #605, Richmond Hill, ON, L4C 2M5, Canada

## QUEENSLAND

Joe Quayle, 4/57, Mt Cotton Road, Capalaba, Queensland, Australia 4157

## ROCKY MOUNTAIN

Sheila Kent, 5131 Jellison Court, Arvada, CO 80002

## UTAH

Russell A Cannon, 348 E Winchester Ave, (6400 South) Suite 110, Salt Lake City, UT 84107

## SAN DIEGO

Ruth Smith, 4966 Rockford Drive, San Diego, CA 92115

## VANCOUVER

Vera Henry, 3142 W 32nd Ave, Vancouver, BC, V6L 2C1, Canada

## VICTORIA MANX SOCIETY

Tom Corlett, 6 Burgundy St, Doncaster, Victoria 3108 Australia

## WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Kathleen Craine, 8 McGill Street, Kewdale, Western Australia 6105

## WISCONSIN

Pamela Kelly, 2001 South Thompson Drive, Madison, WI 53716

## WORLD MANX ASSOCIATION

David Caley, Kilmuir, Ballure Promenade, Ramsey, IOM



## Ladies' Auxiliary

Greetings to the Members of the Ladies' Auxiliary!

Now that we are enjoying a change of seasons, we are anxiously awaiting the arrival of the July 20, 1996, meeting of the Ladies' Auxiliary at the Top of the Park Restaurant on the 8th floor of the Inn On The Park Hotel in Madison, Wisconsin. We look forward to another warm reunion with old friends and new ones too. Please remember to send your luncheon reservations in to NAMA '96, C/o Mona Voutila, Registrar, 2809 E Cudahy Ave, St Francis, WI 53235.

The business meeting will share the results of the survey you should have received this past spring. We have received some thoughtful suggestions for directions our organization could take. If you did not get a copy of the survey please notify Mrs Virginia Quayle, Committee Co-chair, 3756 Halsey Street, Eau Claire, WI 54701. In case you have not yet sent your form back, please put it in the mail today!

The program at the convention luncheon will be about quilting. It is one of the traditions that is featured at the Cregneash Village on the Isle of Man. We

are fortunate to have a commitment from Shirley Spencer of Rockford, Illinois, to speak to our group about quilting here and on the Isle.

Congratulations and thank-you to the many people who have already made donations to the Ladies' Auxiliary convention sales table! It is exciting to see and hear about so many beautiful new items. There will be a hand-made afghan, hand-carved 3 legs wood ornaments, needle-point items, aprons, Manx dolls, book bags, flags, sweatshirts, a vest, and more. Anyone not attending the 1996 convention is still encouraged to send their donations to Mrs Virginia Quayle. These items will help us accomplish our many goals.

We look forward to seeing you in Wisconsin!

Mary F Kelly, President



## IOM to Cleveland

Immigrants from the Isle of Man, England, Scotland and Wales were among the earliest to arrive in Cleveland. Immigrants from the Isle of Man formed one of the city's earliest ethnic groups. Cleveland is recognized as the center of Manx immigration in the United States. In 1822, the Corlett family came to America and they enthusiastically encouraged their fellow Manxmen to follow. In May 1826, three more Manx families arrived in Cleveland and settled in the Newburgh area. Another 70 Manx families settled in the Warrensville area on 25 May 1827. Eventually the number of Manx and their descendants in Cleveland would grow to over 3,000. Currently immigration from the Isle of Man has nearly ceased.



## OBITUARIES

**William Stanley Shimmin**, retired Deputy Chief York Region Police and Ontario Police Commission, died March 1, 1996, in his 71st year. A service was held March 5 with full police honor guard, and many of his retired chief friends attending from various parts of Canada. His daughter, two constables Stan had had as recruits, and two ministers of the church gave eulogies. Plans are to deposit his ashes over Douglas Bay, Isle of Man, which he loved so much.

Stan is survived by his wife, Joyce Wise of Alliston; son, Ian Shimmin of Alliston; daughter, Adrienne and her husband Kevin Stewart and their three children of Oshawa; sister Betty and Geoff Morris of England; and brother Mike and Carol Shimmin of the Isle of Man.

Stan has been very active in NAMA, serving as president from 1972 to 1974. More recently he had been assisting with writing the column Knew Your Ancestors. He had a keen interest in genealogy. He will be greatly missed by our members.

**Thomas (Tommy) Cleator** of Cleator, Arizona, passed away February 20, 1996 at the age of 71. Tommy was a legend in Arizona to everyone who knew him. With his dry sense of humor, his wild hair and bush beard he was one of a kind. He loved the outdoors, his small bar on the edge of the Crown King Road, his Airedale dogs, and many other interests.

His father, James P Cleator, was the second Postmaster of Turkey in 1918, which was the name of the mining community before being named Cleator. James Cleator became the sole owner around 1925. Tommy called himself Mayor of Cleator.

Survivors include sons, Johnny and Jim Cleator and John Chichester; daughter, E Gail Folden; sister, Betty Shipman; and a niece and nephew, Jim and Jeannie Shipman.

**Howard Richard Kelly** passed away March 24, 1996 in Eureka. He was born on a farm in Mineral Point, Wisconsin July 24, 1914. Howard was very proud of his heritage and his membership in the North American Manx Association. His was a founding family of the Laxey Church in Wisconsin, of which they were very proud.

Howard enjoyed his family and friends, as well as his activities in the Lions Clubs and raising prize-winning roses. He was renowned among his friends for the original verse he wrote, especially at Christmas time.

He is survived by his wife, Dorothy; sons Richard Kelly and wife Judy and grandson Brett of Perth, Australia and John Kelly and wife Chris and granddaughters Anna and Colleen of Frazier Park, CA; daughters Kathleen Barnes and husband Darrell and grandchildren Robin and David of Worland, Wyoming and Laureen Yearsley and husband Elliott and grandchildren Adelaide, Emmaline, and Quinten of Jakarta, Indonesia; brother Rev Herbert Kelly of Fremont, NE and his sisters Marion Kelly and Alice Zettel of San Diego, CA.







## Chaplain's Corner

The Christian Church through the ages has survived and grown because people who confess faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord have been faithful followers of their Lord. They practice the religious principles of "the Way" (Jn 14:6) as disciples of Jesus Christ, sharing their lives with others of like faith in worship, service and Christian nurture of the young faithfully, daily, weekly (on Sunday) and year after year.

Our Manx Society nationally and locally is similar, depending on faithful followers of the cause of remembering and preserving our Manx heritage. Our loyalty grows out of many sources: our ancestry, our love of the Island nation and its land and people. We are "faithful" when we sustain, promote, promulgate, strengthen and encourage our Manx heritage.

Our Marines live and die by their motto: SEMPER FIDELES, "always faithful". The Chinese show respect and even worship their ancestors. We Manxmen, by God's Grace, should be no less faithful to our heritage of family, nation, beautiful land and fellow Manxmen.

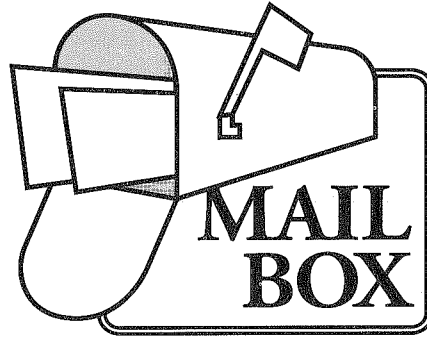
Some of us have closer ties than others, perhaps as current immigrants or immediate descendants. Some descendants have the privilege of personal recollections of our parents or grandparents (as in my own case, my grandfather, Rev John Caley Craine, with whom as a youth I had cherished visits about his love of his homeland from which he emigrated in 1892).

Several charter members of our San Diego Manx Society emulate this "faithfulness" as they remain vital participants since its founding in 1979 with the aid of Noreen Cottier. They are a part of the California NAMA, the largest in North America. They are exemplars of our faith in our Manx heritage: Marge and Don Webber, Arline (Bridson) Archer, Brian and Hillary Harrison, Marion Kelly, Alice (Kelly) Zettel, and Joyce and Malcolm Kinley, and since 1980 Marjorie (Hall) Frederich.

Our thanks and appreciation to these faithful Manxmen who have "kept the faith" and a word of encouragement to the thousands of other Manx descendants (too

many anonymous) to "be thou faithful" (Rev 2:10) and "go thou and do likewise" (Lu 10:37) in your existing societies or in those that need to be founded or strengthened, perhaps by your own faithful participation.

Rev Devore Craine Smith



I am writing to introduce myself and advise you I have been appointed the official US representative for Tourism on the Isle of Man. We feel a great need to provide a local US contact for people seeking to travel to the Isle of Man.

The intention is to also increase awareness and develop special interest tourism business for the island. We would welcome any suggestions you might have to promote the island. One area of immense interest in the US is tracing of ancestors. Manx Museum is willing to assist people in this venture. A thought was to invite travel journalists to do an article on Manx heritage and ancestors. Most effective use would be in areas where many Manx immigrants settled. Any contacts along these lines would be helpful.

As many of you are aware the cost of getting to the island is very costly by air. Consequently I am negotiating with Manx Airlines for special discount fares available to NAMA members.

Laurence D Skelly  
1011 Camino Del Rio South  
San Diego, CA 92108  
phone 619-294-2444, Fax 619-294-2445

WANTED: a Peel Trident, this little buggy would be a hit at our annual homecoming parade. If I can't get a Peel Trident, I'll have to settle for a used golf cart or tricycle, and bring disgrace to the Manx everywhere.

Tom Caley  
Box 340  
Metamora, MI 48455  
phone 810-678-2261

(Editor's note: The Peel Trident, only car produced in the IOM, was one of the smallest cars ever made.)

Manx Airlines—the national airline of the Isle of Man—is looking to recruit a sales agent in the United States or Canada. The geography of the Island will probably be well known to a lot of Americans, many being descended from Manxmen who emigrated earlier this century. Manx Airlines says it wants to recruit a general sales agent with travel trade presence to handle reservations for flights into the Island and aid its development plans.

Contact Manx Airlines sales manager Steve Boyd, telephone 0044 0161 499 7604.



## Manx Industry

A dilapidated hotel on Victoria Promenade in Douglas has been demolished to make way for the largest office development the Island has yet seen. Nothing could better exemplify the way in which financial services have displaced tourism as the mainstay of the Island's economy. The insurance companies, banks, fund managers and firms of professional advisers crammed into the centre of Douglas have blossomed in the last 20 years and now account for more than a third of the Isle of Man's gross domestic product.

The development of a diversified offshore financial centre based on low tax rates and favourable legislation is the Isle of Man's latest way of exploiting its unique historical and constitutional position in the British Isles.

It is not part of the United Kingdom but is a Crown dependency with a high degree of autonomy over domestic, political and legislative matters. The Queen is head of state and the UK government looks after the Island's foreign relations and defence, and maintains a seldom-used veto over legislation passed by Tynwald. The UK and the Isle of Man co-exist on the basis of perceived mutual benefit.

But the Isle of Man does not conform to the popular image of an offshore financial centre: it is neither overcrowded, flashy nor predominantly inhabited by fatcats. Scenically, it is as if a chunk of southern Scotland had been dropped into the Irish Sea with its hills and farmland, its towns, beaches and rainy climate all intact.

The Manx culture shows itself more in Celtic place names and surnames than in

Continued Page 10

the voices of the people, most of whom speak with the accents of the northwest of England. Indigenous Manx inhabitants now make up just under half the population.

It might sound like toytown. But a decade of reform has produced a relatively sophisticated system of government whose members think seriously about the challenges facing the Island. Firmly committed to free market economics, they show flair in the fiscal innovations they make to stay competitive with the Island's rivals, particularly the Channel Islands, Ireland and indeed the UK itself.

Mr Miles Walker, the chief minister, sees financial services as a natural successor to tourism, which followed the decline of the mining industry. "Nothing is forever. I find providing financial services just as satisfying as providing tourism. I don't mind how much bigger the sector becomes provided it doesn't displace the other things in our economy."

Despite the continued fast growth of the financial sector, people in the business community warn about complacency, and are unhappy about the small amount of intentional promotion the government has until recently undertaken, feeling that the Isle of Man ought to be represented at more centres of international business. Source: *Financial Times*, April 5, 1995.



## Manx Mines

Mining in the Island is thought to have begun in the Bronze Age when prehistoric man was attracted to copper in cliffs at Bradda Head, Langness and Maughold Head. But the first documentary evidence of mining is found in a character of Harald, King of Man and Isles, dated 1246, which refers to 'the use of all kinds of mines which may be found within my kingdom'.

In the Middle Ages, lead and possibly silver was mined, the evidence of this was found in an ancient smelting site discovered at Ronaldsway in 1935.

The great days of mining began in the 19th century when ten chief mines provided practically all the lead. Five were in the Foxdale area, there were two in the south at Bradda and Ballacorkish and three in the upper Cornaa valley, the Great Laxey Mine, Snaefell and North Laxey.

Iron, copper, zinc and lead were the chief metals mined, with lead being the

most widespread of the Manx ores. At one period the Isle of Man produced a fifth of all the zinc ore in Britain and 90 per cent of the Manx zinc came from Laxey.

Safety practices were lax and lessons learned from bitter experience. Men were killed in explosions, by falling rocks or timbers and drowned in flooded mines.

Wet, clay covered ladders were the only means of descending into the deep shafts in the 1870s. Workers spent about two hours of their eight hour shift negotiating series of slippery ladders as long as 120 feet, some of the journey carried out in pitch darkness. Only when the air rushing down the shaft lessened could the candles fixed to the miners' stiff felt hats be lit.

This followed a long walk from the entrance along the narrow path on which the wagons ran. The men walked over the rails or in water to reach the mouth of the pit, where they each filled a bottle with the cold water running from the rocks over their heads.

Miners wore flannel shirts to absorb sweat in the hot clammy conditions underground and hats which were weighted with lumps of clay to hold the candle. A bar of iron or 'jumper' was used for boring holes, hammers were used to strike the jumpers and pickaxes to loosen hanging rock. Tools were carried from the surface at the start of each shift.

Compressed air drilling machines were used from the 1880s. It required two men to lift the machine and mount it on a pole to support the weight while drilling.

When tools were downed for the mid-shift snack of bread with sugar sprinkled on, the silence was eerie. An ex-miner recalled, '...hearing the water dripping you'd think it was someone coming, or even the fairies.'

The health of miners, who were usually aged between 30 and 45, suffered in the harsh conditions underground and many died young as a result. It was a dangerous occupation.

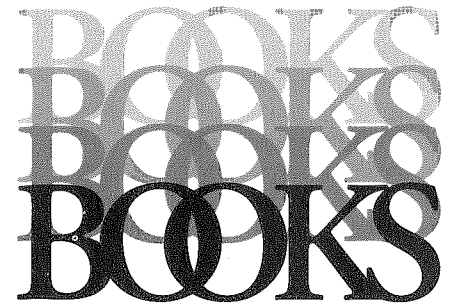
The worst incident in Manx mining history was the loss of 20 lives when 35 men entering Snaefell mine on a Monday morning shift inhaled carbon monoxide from timbers which had apparently started to burn on Saturday. The tragedy left 30 children fatherless.

Men who risked their lives every time they entered the pit and struggled to support their families on the meagre wages paid took a stand against the employers in the Laxey miners strike of 1872. Many meetings were held, much ill-feeling engendered, and finally the men had to resume work on worse terms than before.

As the century wore on, the ore deposits

were becoming increasingly difficult to extract resulting in a slow but steady decline in the fortunes of the mine. It also had to compete with cheap imports from the new mining areas of the world. The first to suffer, of course, were the miners as wages were slashed and redundancies increased. There were bitter strikes, but to no avail. If work could not be found on the Island, miners chose to take their chance farther afield and emigrated to Australia, South Africa and America. In these far away places they applied their skills in new mines.

Sources: *Isle of Man Examiner*, January 17, 1995 and *Lady Isabella and the Great Laxey Mine, Official Guide*.



## Title: *Across the Water* by Sue Dyson

Publisher: Headline Books London 1995  
Reviewed by LaJean Anderson

This story takes place in 1939, when there were many rumors of WWII circulating on the Isle of Man. The heroine of the story is a young woman, Creena Quilliam, growing up in a small Manx town midway between Santon and Douglas. Any of our NAMA readers who know and love the Isle of Man will enjoy the fine descriptions of Manx life in the 40s and 50s. Creena has a strict, religious father, and an orderly, proper, "housewife-like" mother. Creena's parent approve of Creena's friendship with a fine neighbor boy, Frank. They would be pleased if she married him. But Creena wants to be a war nurse and go to nursing school at the huge Royal Lambeth Hospital, "across the water" in London. Reluctantly, but determined, she leaves her family and friends and enters into the war-torn city life of London.

I do not think the author has a particularly fine talent for story telling but she keeps the reader's interest because of the views of the troubles of the Manx people

during the war.

Ms Dyson, the author, makes many references to the lovely Irish Sea, and surrounding countryside. Her description of Government House in Douglas, and of Victoria Street and the Jubilee Clock and downtown Douglas are very real. Any reader who has been to the Isle of Man will recognize and enjoy her familiarity with Douglas Bay, Onchan Head, Derby Castle, Laxey, Ramsey and of course, the summit of Snaefell. The noises and smells of the Steam Packet ferries, and the loading of kippers at the quayside are excellent.

I wasn't impressed by the part of the book taking place in London, or with the author's ability to describe London during the war. Perhaps I am being a little unfair to Ms Dyson because I wanted more about our fair Isle and all things Manx. But this is actually a kind of "Romance novel" and it ranks high above the type that is so popular these days.

So, in conclusion, for me and for most of our NAMA Bulletin readers, anything Manx has a special glamour!

About the author: Sue Dyson is half-Manx. She was brought up in England but moved the Isle of Man while still in her teens. She earned honorary degrees in modern languages and in secretarial work and won special awards in these fields. She now lives in Bedfordshire, England and visits the Isle of Man often.

(Editor's note: This book can be ordered from the Lexicon Bookshop, 63 Strand Street, Douglas, IOM; Fax 011-44-1624-661959.)



There are dimple rumpies, rumpy risers, stumpies and longies, and while they're a common enough sight in the Island, to visitors they are wonders of the feline world. The Manx cat always arouses curiosity and fascination.

A new book, entitled *Tales of the Tailless*, was written by Robert Kelly and published by the Manx Experience, Tromode Park, Douglas. Mr Kelly's research for the book was spread far and wide, and took him over a year. 'I enjoyed the compilation of the book,' he said, 'especially when it brought me into contact with Manx cat

families all over the world.'

In his lavishly illustrated book, Robert guides the reader through folklore surrounding the loss of the Manx cat's tail, and presents some experts' views on the actual possibilities. It brings together a myriad of stories bound to delight cat lovers as well as enthusiasts of the Island in general.

The Manx cat has been recorded in many situations of distinction. Walt Disney had a Manxie present on his film set, while another spent some time in the corridors of government offices in Whitehall. Koko, the gorilla who learned American sign language, was given a Manx kitten when he asked for a pet.

Over the years the Manx cat has been featured on many reproductions, including pottery, headscarves, linen and, most often, on postcards. In 1988 the cat was depicted on stamps issued by the Isle of Man Post Office, and a new set is planned for early 1996.

Source: An article by Mark Hendry, *Isle of Man Examiner*, December 26, 1995.

This curious tale of a Manx cat is related in the latest issue of *Air Mail*, the journal of the Royal Air Forces Association.

On the night of October 1-2 Halifax bombers of 4 Group attacked the U-boat base at Flensburg. Of the 27 aircraft which set out on the mission, 12 were shot down including one crewed by Canadians who had been on the Isle of Man for a rest period a short time earlier and had acquired a Manx tom cat as a mascot.

There were five survivors from the crew of seven and they asked their German captors to look out for their pet cat. The message was passed on to a group of local schoolboys and they searched without success for the mascot.

But it now appears that he did survive after all. Because the local TV station last year ran a story about the mystery of a large number of tailless cats in the area. It attributed them to the missing Manx mascot.



Prince Charles will make his first visit to the Island on board the Royal Yacht Britannia for one day, June 24. He will arrive at about 11 am and leave in the evening, at the invitation of the Prince's Trust, the Isle of Man branch of his charity.

## North American Manx Association Officers 1994/1996

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# FYI

## Dues

August is the end of the NAMA year. For yearly members that is the time to renew your membership. Watch for a renewal form in the mail during that month. Please mail it to Helen Drom no later than October 30th to insure continuity in receiving the NAMA Bulletin. Also, consider giving gift memberships to family and friends, or share a copy of the membership form with them and encourage them to join.

## Cleveland Medalist

This year's Cleveland medalist is mezzo soprano Angela Stewart, a first time winner. The Cleveland Medal is the top prize given at the Manx Music Festival. It was awarded by Lieutenant Governor Sir Timothy Daunt. Angela is a lecturer at the Isle of Man College; and a relatively new mother—her first child was born in December.

A recent ad in the *Isle of Man Examiner* underscores the importance of this honor: "Book now for Cleveland Medal Competition Night. The most prestigious event in the Manx Music calendar when the top local singers compete..."

## New Magazine

The Manx National Heritage has an excellent new magazine *Island Heritage* which is published each spring. The first issue, 1995, was wonderful! Good reading from cover to cover; report on a recent dig, hints on genealogy research, heritage sites and sights around the Island, trying to answer the question "Celtic or Viking heritage", origins of the three legged symbol and much more. It can be ordered from the Manx Museum, Douglas, Isle of Man IM1 3LY.

## NAMA Items

The NAMA pin containing the NAMA logo is easy to wear on collars, lapels, shirts and caps. It sells for \$5.00.

The NAMA certificate depicts the interlacing chain and corner crosses designed by the first Norse sculptors around 1000 AD, as well as the NAMA crest and Manx national flower. Your name will be artfully drawn on the certificate. The cost is \$3.00.

A list of all the members of NAMA is available for \$3.00. This list may not be used for any commercial purpose or solicitation. You might use it to locate Manx when you are traveling, for genealogy research, helping to find Manx for your society or for starting a new society.

Send your orders to Helen Drom (address on page 11).

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 (addresses on page 11).

## Deadlines

We plan to issue four NAMA Bulletins each year. We welcome and need your contributions at any time. 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. If you wish to FAX your material, send to Norman Gill at 612-541-8705.

Traditionally during a convention year the September and December issues have been combined. So the next Bulletin will be mailed in December. However, please send in any articles or items as soon as you have them. This will help insure publishing before the Christmas rush!

## Manx News

The Isle of Man Post Office issued two new postage stamps on April 21, 1996, entitled Women of Achievement, Her Majesty and the Princess Royal. The 30p stamp shows the Queen, Head of the Commonwealth and Defender of the Faith, surrounded by faces depicting the different nationalities of the Commonwealth. The second stamp, 24p, depicts the Princess Royal as president of the Save the Children Fund.

Workmen restoring the Gaiety Theatre have unexpectedly uncovered another piece of its past. An archway which formed part of the original facade of the Gaiety's predecessor, the Pavilion Theatre, has been exposed on an otherwise featureless staircase. The arch will now be placed on the itinerary of theatre tours.

In March Executive Chairman of the Trustees of Manx National Heritage, Mr Moore, laid the foundation stone for The House of Manannan, Peel's new Heritage Center. The stone, designed and produced by Peel stonemason David Gregg, is triangular in shape with red lettering. The trowel used in the ceremony was a very historical one. It was used by Mrs Henry Bloom Noble in 1886 when she laid the foundation stone of the main Manx Museum, which was originally Noble's Hospital. It was used again in 1986 by Mr J B Caine when he laid the foundation stone to mark the new extension to the Manx Museum.

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NORTH AMERICAN MANX ASSOCIATION  
10215 38TH CT N  
PLYMOUTH MN 55441-1669

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