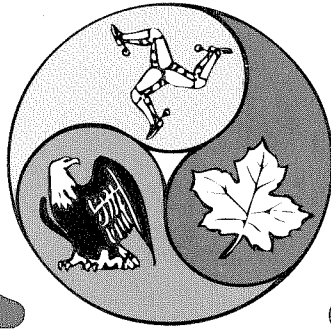


N A O M A



NORTH AMERICAN MANX ASSOCIATION

Vol 67, No 4

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

June 1997

Sheep Thief and Hen Roost Robbery

The lawlessness in the Man countryside in 1869 was very similar to that in the Wild West of America around the same time. The only difference was that it was not a rule of the gun.

Nevertheless, the maintenance of law and order by government was as non-existent in the Isle of Man as in Texas and the people themselves had to band together into vigilante groups in order to protect their property, if not their lives.

Men used to be hanged in the Isle of Man for sheep stealing but by 1869 thieves were being treated so leniently that hundreds of sheep were disappearing every year. This thief of sheep and 'hen roost robberies' became the greatest loss to farmers. The authorities were doing so little about it that farmers banded together to catch the culprits and protect their flocks.

A meeting was held in the British Hotel in Douglas on January 13, 1869, called by the Farmers' Club to consider what measures might be admirable to suppress the agricultural theft prevalent throughout the Island. Most of those in attendance were 'come-over farmers' of which there were many at that date. (By the second meeting on February 24, 1869, the list included as many Manx names as English.) Several of those present said they knew the thieves, but when reported to the police no action was ever taken. It is said that the Manx farmers were reluctant to report the thefts because the perpetrators were often neighbouring farmers or village butchers.

Mr Henry Cadman, presiding over the meeting, said that some of the stolen sheep were slaughtered for meat, others were

being offered for sale at fairs or hawked around the streets. He suggested there should be licence required by anyone selling sheep.

Mr Cadman criticised the police who were Manxmen. 'Because of this, if a policeman catches an offender it might be his brother or a relative and I do not see how it is possible for a native Manxman to do this duty,' he said.

Mr. Cadman went on to say that an intelligent Irishman made the best policeman whereupon Mr J T Taubman retorted, 'It is of no use having a Scotsman or an Irishman here.'

The police had no authority to inspect fields or premises where it was believed there were stolen sheep. Captain Penketh said that under Manx law the police had no power to arrest men even when they were known to be sheep stealer.

The meeting agreed to form an organisation which began its existence under the lengthy title of "The Association for the prosecution of felons and the suppression of crime in the agricultural and pastoral districts of the Isle of Man".

A list of 243 sheep known to have been stolen in recent months, all from inland farms because it was believed losses on farms near the sea were often due to sheep falling over the cliffs, was compiled.

It was agreed that the new association should establish a fund through subscription from members. The money would be used to provide aid and bring prosecutions. Soon there were over 90 members and district committees established to the northern, western, southern, and middle sections of the Island.

At the meeting on May 29, 1869, a letter from the Head Constable, George Goldie was read. The Head Constable wrote that the owners of sheep never gave the police any chance of finding the guilty party because in most cases they gave no information, or when they did, such a length of time had elapsed since the suspected theft that further inquiries were useless. This detailed three cases which had been investigated:

1. Edward Farrant, Esq reported the loss of sheep. Chief Constable Kermode and the coroner searched every suspicious house in Ramsey and the parish of Lezayre without finding anything. Mr Farrant expresses himself to me as satisfied with the exertions used, though fruitless.

2. A case was reported to the coroner that a man named Cowin had stolen mutton in his possession. The coroner seized the meat but lost the man. Chief Constable Kermode followed Cowin to Douglas and with the assistance of Sergeant Hoolinrake and Number 5 Callow took Cowin off the Silloth steamer within a few minutes of its sailing.

3. Mr Brook gave information of sheep being stolen. The cart was followed by the police to a house in Douglas. The meat was quite warm when taken possession of by the police.

His letter concludes, 'I trust ... that the sheep owner will see the desirability of giving early information. Also, the movements of suspicious persons will be watched by the regular police, which cannot be expected from the present rural constable receiving £10 per annum.'

After considering the letter the new

Continued Page 2

association incorporated in its rules a clause that members should give notice with all possible speed of any theft or other punishable offence believed to have been committed in their district.

Farmers and flockmasters were advised to clip the ears of their sheep in such a fashion that they could identify their own. Any person found tampering with the ears was to be deemed as committing a felony and should be reported to the police or coroner.

It was reported to the association that a man named Kelly was known to be a persistent robber of 'hen roosts', but not surprisingly with such a common name in the Isle of Man there was confusion about the man's identity.

A year after the formation of the association some progress had been made. Governor Lock instructed the attorney general to draw up a bill which, among other measure, would enable prosecutions to be made at public cost. Until then any action had had to be paid for by private individuals or from the funds of the association. The bill was intended to stipulate that butchers should be licensed and must keep the skins of all sheep for inspection, but this clause was rejected by Tynwald Court. The Governor proposed to Tynwald Court that £1,800 out of the surplus should go towards the establishment of a country police force.

On February 8, 1873, a Saturday meeting was held at the British Hotel when satisfaction was expressed that the attorney general was acting much earlier but the cases were still delayed because he could not move until all the preliminary steps had been taken and the sheep stealer committed for trial by a magistrate. But members said that sheep stealing was no longer so prevalent as previously and there were no fresh cases reported to the meeting.

It had been four years since the 'Association for the prosecution of felons and the suppression of crime in the agricultural and pastoral districts of the Isle of Man' held its first meeting but law and order had been restored mainly through victims shaming the Manx Government into taking positive action.

Sheep stealing in the Isle of Man, like cattle rustling in the American West, was eventually brought under control mainly through the branding of animals. Nevertheless, rumour in the 1990s had it that it was still going on in the Manx countryside.

Although the association was never formally wound up, the meeting on

February 8, 1873 would appear to have been the last held because the minute book ends there.

Source: *The Isle of Man Examiner*.



New Coat of Arms

A new coat of arms for the Isle of Man was presented at a special sitting of Tynwald on April 22, 1997.

Proposal for a new coat of arms first arose in 1994 during discussions about the new courthouse and what coat of arms should be displayed there. Historically the Royal arms, incorporating the lion and the unicorn, have been displayed in the Island's courthouses but it was suggested that a Manx emblem based on the Three Legs design would be more appropriate.

A committee was set up and arranged with the Garter Principal King of Arms and the College of Arms in London to come up with the new design, which was approved by the Queen.

The new coat of arms is an embellished version of the traditional Three Legs of Man on a red shield surrounded by a crown with the motto *Quocumque Jeceris Stabit* underneath. The new version includes two supports, a peregrine falcon and a raven, both birds native to the Isle of Man.

The significance of the peregrine falcon is that in 1405, Henry IV gave the Isle of Man with all its rights to Sir John Stanley on the condition that he paid homage and gave two falcons to him and every future king of England on coronation day.

The raven is a bird of legend and superstition with a number of places in the Island including raven in their names.

The Three Legs symbol was apparently adopted in the 13th century as the armorial bearings of the native kings of the Isle of Man. Among the earliest surviving representations are those on the Manx sword of state, thought to have been made in 1300. The Three Legs appear on everyday coining from the 17th-19th centuries and the symbol is still used in the Manx flag.

The motto *Quocumque Jeceris Stabit* translates as 'whithersoever you throw it, it will stand'. This has been associated with the Island since about 1300.

The new coat of arms will be displayed not only in courtrooms, but also in Tynwald precincts and various government buildings.

Source: *The Isle of Man Examiner*.

Manx News

How sad! Manx Ices' former factory on Peel Road, Douglas, will be the site of the Island's first McDonald's drive-thru burger restaurant. Ah, the price of progress!

Plans are underway for the official opening of the new Heritage Centre in Peel on July 7, Tynwald Day.

The latest movie to be filmed on the Island is *The Tichborne Claimant*, set in the 1860s and a true story of a drunken Australian butcher and his black servant who try and con an aristocratic family out of their inheritance. It is based on one of the longest court cases in English legal history.

Helen Bouley of Quebec is on the Island to produce a sheepdog film, *Owd Bob*, a contemporary family drama set in the Isle of Man and based on the relationship between an aging farmer and his young grandson.

It was also announced that movie legend Jack Palance is being lined up to star in the latest film version of the Robert Louis Stevenson epic, *Treasure Island*, which is set to be shot in the Island this summer.

The Island premiere of *The Brylcreem Boys*, shot on the Isle of Man, will be among the highlights of the first Celtic Student Broadcasting Festival, a three day event for 30 students from Celtic nations being hosted by Queen Elizabeth II High School at the end of October.

Reverend Wilbert Vee Awdry, creator of that cheeky blue train on the fictional island of Sodor off the east coast of the Isle of Man, has died.

Four prehistoric burial pots containing burnt human remains were uncovered in Andreas. The pots, believed to be from the Neolithic period, are thought to be between 4,000 and 4,500 years old. They came to light after a farmer plowed a field deeper than usual near the Lhen Trench area.

A limited edition print of the long-eared owl on the new 31p Manx stamp is among a set of four wildlife artist Jeremy Paul has published. Dr Paul was commissioned by the Post Office to design a set of six stamps depicting owls. The signed prints are available directly from Dr Paul, Ballachrink, Glen Road, Colby, Isle of Man or from St John's, the Art Gallery, Buck's Road, Douglas, Isle of Man, IM1 3AD.

The 1997 TT races, the 90th anniversary, are proving too popular with an over subscription represented as a major headache. The race management team is

busy evaluating entries and hopes to be able to notify riders of acceptance in May.

Rushen Abbey saviour Graham Gerguson-Lacey has stepped in with a bid to save the abbey ruins for the Manx nation. Mr Ferguson-Lacey plans to carry out an extensive supervised archaeological dig of the entire site in conjunction with the University of Liverpool and Leeds, and hopes restoration work can start before the end of this year.

A Manx woman has won her second Emmy award for news coverage of an assassination in America. Lin Garlic, the daughter of Garside Nield, of Douglas, works in New York for CBS and is part of a team of producers who won the award for outstanding coverage of the Rabin assassination story and America's reaction to it.

Source: *The Isle of Man Examiner*.



Did You Know?

THAT – In 1895 the big Snow came to the Isle of Man, it started on Thursday February 3rd, the next morning, houses were buried almost to the roof, no water was available for weeks except what people could carry from a pipe opened at the reservoir further up the glen, as the river was frozen solid and all the wells were buried, this was in the vicinity of Glen Helen and Cronk-y-Voddy.

THAT – There were many “characters” around Cronk-y-Voddy in the old days, they were generally known by their nicknames, one was Willie Thobm Faie, also called Willie the Fairy, his mother kept a little sweet shop, Willie was a great singer of Manx songs, it was said he used to see the fairies among the trees of the glen, hence his nickname.

THAT – Another character in the same area was Richard Kelly, known as Dick the Taffy, he lived at Monaghan near Lambfell, he used to gather Luss-ny-Cholg and sell it to the visitors, claiming it as the rare Manx cure-all herb, he made quite a lot of money by this trade.

THAT – The Standish family were closely connected with the parish of Lezayre, Isle of Man, Myles Standish (1584-1656), the Pilgrim Father American colonist, and military leader of the Plymouth Colony in New England, was probably born in Lezayre at Ellanbane, his first wife Rose and her sister Barbara (who was Standish's second wife) were Manx.

Source: NAMA Bulletin, March 1973.



President's Message

By chooinee Ihien—we remembered.

It is truly a privilege and pleasure to represent our fine organization wherever I go. So far, I have attended five Manx society meetings (in three states) and spent many pleasure-filled hours in communications with individuals. Now, I am eagerly preparing for the 1997 Homecoming. What an

exciting trip it will be!

Before I go on, however, I want to tell you about the most difficult part of the President's position. It is receiving the news that members have departed this world and acknowledging that we will no longer enjoy their companionship at future meetings. Here are a few examples of the members we have lost. Last year I heard from Dr Dorothy Kinrade, of Canada, about the death of her dear sister Laura Winifred Kinrade who was a teacher in the Toronto Schools for 47 years and an author; later came the news of the passing of Mike Cannell, an active Past President of the Wisconsin Manx Society and personal friend; this year I heard about the death of Bob Camaish, the first President of The Greater Washington DC Area Manx Society; and a few weeks ago I heard about the death of Brian Skillicorn, an engineer and active Manx member in California. We remembered and miss them all.

Along with the deep sense of loss also came the comfort of hearing what the local Manx members have done to show their last respects. To everyone who has reached out to the families of our departed NAMA members, I also want to add my thank you! This type of heartfelt support is why we have enjoyed such a wonderfully strong organization for almost seven decades. The love of our ancient homeland and the bond that exists between our North American Manx Association members are the strength we need to continue to preserve our group.

Since 1928, when our organization began, understandably, we have lost most of the Charter Members. One challenge today is to recruit new members who also enjoy 'all things Manx'. In the few short months since I've been on the Internet, I have received requests for membership forms from coast to coast in North America. We have new members in the states of Florida, Washington, and in Halifax, Canada, who are interested in connecting with others with ties to the Isle of Man for local meetings. The potential for growth is great. It can be done and it is very rewarding. Let's help these individuals locate others in their regions!

At the next meeting of the Executive Board we will be challenged by our Second Vice President to find ways to help new members develop the same sense of belonging that our life members enjoy. Local societies serve a valuable role to keep members connected between our biennial meetings. It is not enough to just enroll new members; we need to have everyone participating, especially the geographically isolated individual Manx members. This problem we will be able to solve, especially with your help! Please send your suggestions to John (Jack) Cormode or any officer of the NAMA (addresses on page 7).

Voish unnane jeh nyn gaarhyn—from one of your friends,



Mary F Kelly
NAMA President

SOCIETY NEWS

Minnesota

The Manx Society of Minnesota held its spring meeting on March 25th at the Edina Hennepin County Library. About 15 members were present. The evening started with a pot luck dinner.

It was followed by a short business meeting. The president gave a report on a very successful mailing to members who had not paid their dues. We are also planning either a phone campaign or mailing to Minnesotans with Manx surnames. Information about the Minnesota Manx group and NAMA has been sent to the Dakota County Historical Society and the Dakota County Genealogical Society, which has requested permission to reprint an article from the Minnesota newsletter. We are also establishing a greater relationship with the Minnesota Genealogical Society and will be submitting an article for their publication and participating in some of their functions. (Yes, NAMA Pres, we are working on outreach activities.) We discussed the upcoming rededication of the Manx Pioneer Cemetery near Castle Rock and recruited workers for several committees and for the clean up on April 19.

Then we all enjoyed the new Manx video, "The Isle of Man, an Island of Contrasts", with its marvelous photography, bits of vintage footage, and a history of the Island from prehistoric time to the present. As it ended we were all ready to pack our bags and visit our own dear Ellan Vannin!

On April 19 about 20 people gathered at the Manx Pioneer Cemetery for a spring clean up. One fallen tree had to be cleared. The rest was raking and cutting down old weeds and a plethora of wild raspberry bushes. The day before a dozen young people from the Castle Rock United Methodist Young group also worked on the cemetery, but were hampered by a spring rain.

On May 9 Joan Gill gave a presentation on Manx Folklore to a group of senior citizens of the western suburbs of Minneapolis. It was well received and many stayed after to view a video of the Isle of Man.

On May 17 and 18 there was a good turnout for the rededication festivities in

Castle Rock. On Saturday people enjoyed a bus tour to the original Manx farms and school, watching videos of the Island, taking advantage of four computers to get genealogy information and to "visit" the Isle of Man, looking at a roomful of Manx pictures, books, artifacts, etc, and entertainment of Manx dancing, music and storytelling. The rededication ceremony of the Manx Pioneer Cemetery included greetings from NAMA, and several officials from the Island, readings from the writings of one of the first Manxmen who settled in this area, a service by two ministers in period costume (one was Reverend Bruce Christie, directly descended from two families of the original settlers), closing with the singing of Ellan Vannin. The Sunday activities began with a church service, followed by a pot luck dinner. The afternoon program included the rededication of the church and a program of Manx slides from the early 20th century and other Manx information. A good time was had by all!

Cleveland

In April, 25 attended the Purple Heather Concert, and then gathered at a local restaurant for dinner. We were delighted to welcome three new members. In May, we toured the Clague House Museum where many Manx artifacts are stored although it is the Westlake Historical Society Museum. Then, we again gathered at a restaurant for dinner and a brief meeting. June will find us at the Clarion Hotel for a meeting and program of piano music presented by Mrs Ruth Lick, who is the mother-in-law of Bill Duncan, husband of our secretary Elizabeth Duncan.

Our annual picnic will be held once more at MacIntosh Farms and will be on August 16. We would be happy to welcome anyone visiting the area. Just contact Alice Cannell at 216-449-1372.

In September we plan to attend the Carousel Dinner Theater for the play "Crazy For You".

In May we met some local people who found us on the Internet, and we hope they will join us in the future. We are always happy to meet people of Manx heritage, and we look forward to having more contact us.

Ontario

The Ontario Manx held their Spring meeting at the home of Carol Christian Sunday April 27th. It was decided at the meeting to have our annual picnic this year at the home of Lil & Pat Kendall, Richmond Hill, Ontario Sunday July 27th. It was nice to see Pauline and Roger Nelson once more, who have been residing on the Island since last summer.

Sunday evening May 18th, at the Best Western Primrose Hotel in Toronto, twenty members of the Ontario Manx met up with a group travelling from Mona's Isle through Ontario to commemorate the Centenary of the Women's Institute. It was a great evening with close to sixty in attendance. There certainly was a lot of talk, laughter and introductions. We really enjoyed ourselves, and appreciated the opportunity to meet with some wonderful people. It was a grand evening.

Wishing NAMA members a happy and safe summer.

Chicago

The Chicago Manx Society held its Spring meeting on Sunday, April 13 at the home of Brad Prendergast on the north side of Chicago. A delicious pot luck dinner was followed by talking about various Manx subjects. We only had twelve in attendance, but everyone had a delightful time.

We discussed how we might celebrate, sometime next year, the 125th anniversary of The Chicago Manx which was founded as the Sons of Mona in March 1873, following the Great Chicago Fire.

The Chicago Manx joined BIGWILL, the British Irish Interest Group of Wisconsin and Illinois which includes the six Celtic nations in their membership.

Our next meeting will be on Sunday, August 10, at the home of Barbara and Ed Brown in St Charles, Illinois. If the weather cooperates, we will have a picnic on their patio. All Manxies of the Chicagoland area are invited to join us in our fellowship.

Rocky Mountain

The Rocky mountain Manx Society met on May 17 for a pot luck dinner at the home of Bob and Rachel LaRue in Erie, Colorado. A recent visitor to the Isle

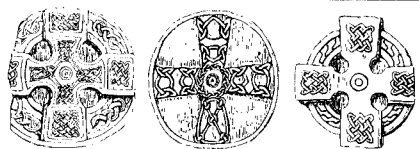
of Man gave an account of his visit and had a picture album of views on the Isle. Manx music was played on the organ, and we sang Ellan Vannin. A few basic phrases of Manx Gaelic conversation were attempted. Manx family roots were discussed.

New President of the group Rachel (Vondy) LaRue, 1984 Pikes Peak Street, Erie, Co 80516-9718. Outgoing President was Sheila (Kelly) Kent of Arvada. Our next meeting is planned for October.

San Diego

The April meeting of the San Diego County Manx Society was held at the home of Brian and Hilary Harrison. Twenty-five folks were in attendance. We were pleased to welcome guest Barbara Spring. We learned that four of our members will be taking trips to the IOM in the near future. Bob Wright told us of his three trips to the Isle—of his fond impressions—and of the friends that he made there. Malcolm Kinley entertained us with a wonderful poem in the old Manx dialect. Joyce Kinley shared a bound biography of the Creer family. We were encouraged to preserve our heritage in book form or video for our children and grandchildren. Our meeting was closed with the singing of the Manx National anthem and Ellan Vannin. Lovely refreshments were served by Hilary and co-hosts Fred and Fenella Speece and Gordon Garrett.

(Editors' Note: For a complete listing of Society Contacts refer to your March issue.)



Chaplain's Corner

Many of us Manxmen have attended the Tynwald Assembly on "Law Hill", held every July 5 for the last 1018 years, the oldest continuing parliamentary democracy in the world. But many of us may not be aware of the significant fact that every Tynwald Assembly is preceded by all participants worshipping at St John's Chapel dedicated to Eternal God, who established and sustains the Nation of Mann.

The Worship begins with a "bidding prayer":

"On this Tynwald Day we meet together to give thanks to God for the many benefits we have received during the past year, to pray for our Island and its Government in the coming year and to dedicate ourselves anew to the service of God and the people of our Island." For "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord." (Ps 33:12)

The Prayer of dedication expresses the concerns for God's blessings upon Mann:

"Almighty God our heavenly Father, we praise Thy Holy name for our Island heritage and we beseech Thee with Thy favour to behold all who dwell here. May Thy blessing rest upon all the labours of men's minds and hands. Keep we pray Thee in Thine Almighty care all who go down to the sea in ships and all who travel by land and air. Help us to order with grace and dignity our common life in town and sheading that we may live and our children grow in health and godliness. May Thy grace be with all who visit our shores that they may find re-creation of body and soul and with us may glorify Thee, the giver of all good things, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

Let this prayer also be for us Manxmen in the New World for on about the same calendar date, July 4, 1776, our own nation was established "under God", declaring that "When in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for a people... to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and Nature's God entitles them...with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor."

Our Manx immigrant ancestors felt quite comfortable in their new nation recognizing that God had established it. Let us therefore on these two auspicious occasions, July 4 and July 5, further dedicate ourselves in fidelity to Almighty God to be truly faithful in our worship, the promulgation of the Gospel and loyalty in service as "one nation under God."

Rev Devore Craine Smith



Did You Know?

THAT – On Bradda Head stands the Milner Tower, it was erected to commemorate the connection between Port Erin and William Milner, the famous Liverpool manufacturer of safes, who lived many years at Port Erin.

THAT – The highest mountain on the

Isle of Man is Snaefell rising to 2,034 ft., this is followed by North Barrule 1,840 ft., Beinn-y-Phott (Penny Pot) 1,790 ft., Garraghan 1,640 ft., to the south is a mountain consisting of Colden at the north end 1,595 ft. and Greeba at the south end 1,383 ft., twin peaks, South Barrule 1,585 ft. and Cronk-ny-Irrey-Lhaa 1,440 ft.



OUR OWN PEOPLE

Hilary Harrison from San Diego is spending a month on the Island, leaving mid May. The weather has been kind just part of the time, and she has enjoyed visiting her family and friends.

We are looking forward to meeting the "Homecomers" when they are here in early July.

I have always wished there was an INDEX of the articles and the SURNAMES mentioned in the Bulletins. A job for someone with a computer and a knowledge of indexing and access to all the Bulletins!

I have a new Email address: Email - noreen.c@advsys.co.uk

Noreen Cottier

Regional Representative in the IOM



Ladies' Auxiliary News

Greetings to Members of the Ladies' Auxiliary!

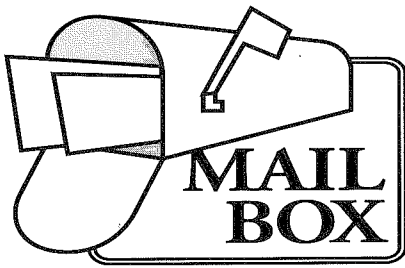
As another reminder to the members of the Ladies' Auxiliary, this organization will continue to exist until the next convention. At that time we should be prepared to take part in ongoing ad hoc committees in NAMA that will continue the important work previously done by the Ladies' Auxiliary.

On behalf of our group, I have given my word to Mr Gordon B Baker, Director of Education, The Isle of Man Department of Education, that we will continue to support the Manx Language awards.

It is my hope that everyone will continue to work hard on arts and crafts projects to be sold at the convention in 1998. Perhaps our donations will raise enough money to again cover the awards. The funds generated from the arts and crafts sales are very important to our organization!

Mary F Kelly

Acting Ladies' Auxiliary President



Saw this article in the March/April *Preservation Magazine* and thought NAMA members might be interested in it:

“What’s strange about this sheep? Nothing. It’s just a rare four-horned churro, bred by Lyle McNeal in Logan Utah. More than 2 million of the off-looking creatures once roamed the Southwest as the Navajo people relied on them for meat and spun their fine wool into rugs and blankets. Then, as the Navajos were moved onto reservations in the ‘70s, fewer than 500 remained. That’s when McNeal started his Navajo Sheep Project. His breeding program at the Utah State University campus now has more than 400 churros. While the sheep may look strange, four horns is considered a blessing.”

(The photo shows a face very similar to Isle of Man Loaghtan sheep, but the fleece appears to be longer and finer.)

Saw this article in the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*. Those British don’t want to recognize a “good whisky” when they see one!

“A glass of Glen Kella may taste like whisky, even to an expert, but the distillers have to stop calling it Manx Whisky, a London High Court judge ruled. Glen Kella looks more like gin and Justice Ronald Rattee decided it had not been distilled long enough to call itself a whisky. Even though the product, made in the Isle of Man, is originally Scotch whisky that is redistilled to remove the color, it cannot be called whisky in Britain because it does not comply with the legal definition of the drink. Justice Rattee said ‘the essential point’ was that to call itself whisky it must have been matured after distillation for at least three years and this spirit had not. His ruling only applies to drink sold in Britain. At a later hearing the judge will decide whether to ban the whisky label throughout the 15 nation European Union.”

Norman W Standish
Solon, Ohio

(Editors’ note: Sulby’s Glen Kella Distillery is re-labelling bottles of its white spirit following this ruling. The new labels

will read, “Kella White, Crystal White Pure Manx Spirit.” However, mention is still made of whisky on the back of the label. The company is considering an appeal.)

Hello from Canada

I enjoy the Bulletin very much and I am very proud to be a member of NAMA and also very proud of my Manx heritage. Just recently my youngest daughter Norma formed her own consulting company and asked me to help her with a name. I promptly thought of Ballanor and more recently she has opened a “fast food” kiosk in our local mall and of course used the name Ballanor Grill, complete with a three legged chef delivering the food. I am very proud of these little symbols of our beloved Isle of Man. It is my sincere wish that I can visit the Island once more and take some of my family with me.

Fay (Corlett) Park
Vermilion, Alberta

The eight bells of St German’s were installed in 1883; they were donated by the people of Peel, and a plaque records the donors’ names. For a few years the bells were rung regularly. In 1907, damage to the foundations was discovered, and ringing had to be suspended until the tower had been rebuilt in 1911. Ringing was then resumed, but not for long; it is not known why it ceased, but the bells have not been rung since 1917, and are now in a decrepit condition.

The primary purpose of our project is to raise sufficient funds to enable the bells of St German’s Cathedral, Peel, to be restored in time to ring in the new Millennium. Once the bells have been restored they will be used at public services, including weddings and funerals, and for other events such as Remembrance Sunday and Tynwald Day.

We are now widening our distribution of information to include Manx people living overseas. I should be grateful if you would make this known to the members of your society. For more information, or to send donations, contact Feoffrey Rigtar, Treasurer, 10 Barrule Park, Ramsey, Isle of Man IM8 2BW, British Isles, UK. Messages can be relayed via Email: manxcan@emterprise.net

Manx Information

We have raided the files of the old NAMA Bulletins again and have a very interesting, concise bit of knowledge

about the Isle of Man to offer to our members. It is **One Hundred and One Things of Interest About the Isle of Man and Its People** by Walter J Stevenson for \$4.00, including postage and handling. It is nine pages of geography, history, folklore, biography, and unusual data. Amaze your family and friends with your knowledge of the Isle of Man.

Here is a sampling of this text:

98. William Kennish was born on a farm near Cornaa, Maughold, on March 19, 1799. He had an outstanding career and became famous for his inventions and achievements. At age 22 with practically no education and knowing only the Manx language, he joined the British navy and in the short space of seven years became master carpenter of the British Mediterranean fleet, a very important position in those days when all the ships were built of wood. In 1849 at the age of 50, after retiring from the British navy, he came to America as a prospector in New Grenada (now Columbia). He made a survey of the Isthmus of Panama and in 1855 submitted to the United States government and other scientific bodies a scheme for a canal without locks to connect the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. Up to that time no canal had ever been projected without locks. The length of the proposed canal was 130 miles and the cost 130 million dollars. William Kennish died in 1862 at the age of 63.

Titles listed in the last two bulletins are still available.

To order, send a check payable to North American Manx Association to Joan Gill (address on page 7).

UP CLOSE & PERSONAL

Pamela Kelly, NAMA Secretary

Pamela K Kelly is the daughter of Mary F Kelly (Cottage Grove, Wisconsin), granddaughter of Maynard Kelly (Dodgeville, Wisconsin), and great-granddaughter of David T Kelly (Baldrine, Isle of Man). Pamela lives in Madison, Wisconsin with her husband Robert J Halpop, and their two sons, Evan (eight years) and Joel (three years).

She is a high-school Spanish teacher at Monona Grove High School. Whenever she gets the chance, she likes to plan and

chaperone trips with her Spanish Club students to Spain and Mexico. She also enjoys reading Clive Cussler books, especially on the beaches of Isla Mujeres (ironically, that's Spanish for Isle of Women). Pamela is planning to join the upcoming tour to the Isle of Man in July 1997.



CHILDREN'S CORNER

In Canada, July 1st is DOMINION DAY; in the United States July 4th is INDEPENDENCE DAY; and July 5th is the national day of the Isle of Man, TYNWALD DAY. Thus the three patriotic days in which we are so interested come very close together.

On Tynwald Day in the Isle of Man, the laws are read to the people from Tynwald Hill, at St John's. The hill is a circular, grassy mound, built by our forefathers many centuries ago for the very same purpose for which it is still used today! It consists of four tiers, rising to a height of just twelve feet.

Before the ceremony, service is held in the little church near by. Then the Governor and all the Island officials march in stately procession to the Hill. The Governor (at one time it was the King or Lord of Man) and the Bishop sit on the topmost tier; the Deemsters, councillors, House of Keys members and others group themselves on the lower tiers, and the people assemble around the Hill. Here and in this manner a summary of the laws enacted during the previous twelve months is read, in English and Manx.

It is of great interest to us that so representative a public ceremony has existed in the Isle of Man for more than a thousand years! The idea of complete representation is carried out in the smallest details, some of which are very picturesque and indicate the poetic feeling of our ancestors. For instance, the earth of which the Hill is formed is said to have been brought from each of the Island's seventeen parishes. The place, St John's, was at one time the exact center of the Island. (It is not so today, because the action of wind and wave down through the years has altered the Island's coastline.) Again, the date is old Midsummer Day, the middle day of the year. The Church, the Governing Head, and all branches of legislature and government are in the assembly on the Hill, and the people themselves are present. This is the setting

in which the laws are read—and they cannot become the law of the land until read in this manner to the people, in English and Manx.

Long centuries ago, Tynwald was simply the parliament of a small nation, far north in the blue Irish Sea and scarcely known to the rest of the world. Today, Tynwald is broadcast to the world by radio, so people everywhere can hear this age-old ceremony of the oldest of parliaments, which nevertheless is as modern as today! We people of Manx descent are proud that we can look back upon a thousand years of such government. The stirring "Hymn of the Manx People" says"

"Then stand up, ye sons of the Vikings, and hold

Your freedom and honor as dearer than gold,

So Rulers and People together shall sing
In peace and agreement, may God save our King."

Source: NAMA Bulletin, August 1938.



OBITUARIES

Brian Skillicorn, NAMA member from Saratoga, California, died on March 30, 1997. Brian was born in Liverpool, though both of his parents were of Manx heritage. After earning an Engineering degree from the University of Liverpool in 1952, he worked as an engineer in that area.

In 1958, he married Edna M Howard and they moved to Montreal, Quebec, Canada where Brian was a microwave tube engineer. His daughters Joan Louise and Margaret Ruth (Peggy) were born in Canada.

The Skillicorn family moved to California in 1978 for Brian's new position as Section Head, Space Communications Division at Watkins-Johnson Company. He also held positions at Kevex Corporation and Cardiac Mariners, Inc.

Brian was internationally recognized as an expert in his field, holding six patents in the areas of electron accelerators, high voltage power supplies, and x-ray sources. He was also active in developing international standards for x-ray systems under the auspices of the International Electrotechnical Commission.

A bit of Manx tartan was placed up at the front of the chapel for his funeral as recognition of Brian's pride in being Manx.



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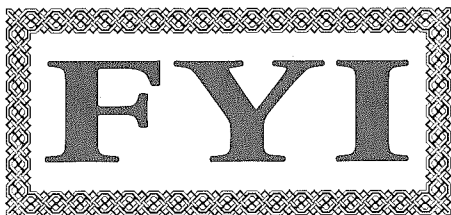
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Manx Books

TE *Brown—His Life and Legacy* is a new book on the Manx national poet. Brown expert Major Geoffrey Crellin, a former MHK and MLC who, in the foreward says, "I am convinced that this is the best and most comprehensive commentary that I have read on the life and work of our great national poet." The book's author is historian Derek Winterbottem of Onchan. The book is illustrated with previously unpublished photos. It is published in hardcover by The Manx Experience, at £17.95, 45 Slieau Dhoo, Tromode Park, Douglas, Isle of Man IM2 5LC, British Isles, UK.

Two decades after she first told them to her three grandsons, Margaret Mitchell has gone into print with her stories. The book, which contains 14 stories, cost £1.95. It has been written with young children in mind. They are innocent fairy stories. It can be ordered directly from the publisher, postage paid, Keith Uren Publishing, 12 Manor Lane, Farmhill, Braddan, Isle of Man, IM2 2EF, British Isles, UK.

The Cleveland Medal

The Cleveland Medal test, as usual, provided the climax of the eight day Manx Music Festival, a 105 year old festival, which began on April 26th at the

Villa Marina in Douglas. Six former winner were among the singers to battle for this top prize. The winner this year was Terence Qualtrough, the first bass singer to achieve the award.

NAMA Items

There is a new NAMA pin, introduced at the 1996 convention. The logo remains the same, but the pin is slightly larger and easier to read. The NAMA pin now has a safety-pin clasp making it ok to wear on collars, lapels, shirts and caps. It sells for \$5.00. Buy one today and be up-to-date!

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 7).

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 Norman Gill (address on page 7).

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.

Deadline	Bulletin Issue
February 10	March
May 10	June
August 10	September
November 10	December

If you wish to FAX your material, send to Norman Gill at 612-513-1757.



Happy New Year!

The NAMA new year begins September 1, 1997. This is your pink slip reminder that means it is once again time for paying dues. If you are a yearly member, please use the membership form to renew before the end of September. If you are a life member, please help your organization by signing up a new member with the enclosed membership form. Send membership forms and dues to NAMA Treasurer Helen M Drom (address on page 7).

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