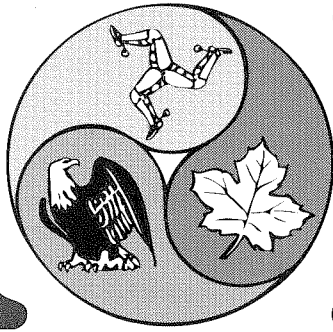


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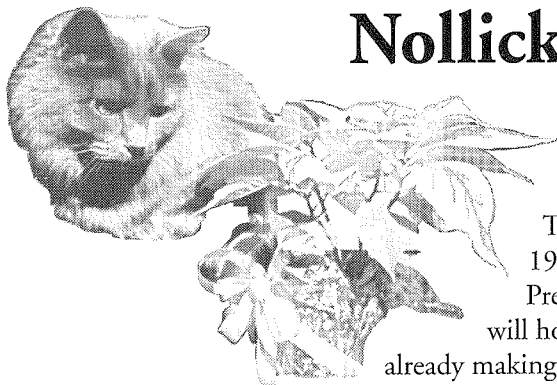


NORTH AMERICAN MANX ASSOCIATION

Vol 70, No 2

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

December 1997



Nollick Chennal! Merry Christmas!

President's Message

This holiday season we are especially grateful for our family and friends. In 1998 NAMA will mark its 80th year of celebrating Manx heritage! First Vice President Don Quayle and The Greater Washington, DC Area Manx Society will host this special reunion October 1- 4th, in Alexandria, VA. We hope you are already making plans to attend.

Holiday family traditions remind-us of ties to our parents and grandparents. While we are busy tying up packages for loved ones, anticipating their smiles, we try to remain conscious of the eternal joy brought by the birth of the Christ child, the greatest gift of all. With so many seasonal tasks to complete, in days that are too short, we fear we may not find the perfect gifts that will continue to be enjoyed long after the holidays have past.

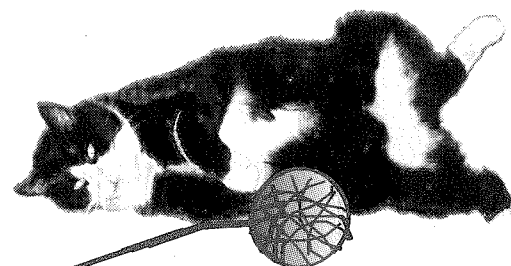
Many years ago, just after the death of my mother, I began to think about what I could give my young daughter that would be a tie to earlier generations. I wanted something that would help build her self-worth and celebrate her unique heritage. Just as I had helped her to learn about Christianity in early childhood, as a teen I gave her a life-membership in the North American Manx Association. It was a good choice. Eventually, I made the same gift to myself and also to my husband. We have each enjoyed so many benefits from our affiliation.

This year, our family gifts will be quite different. We are eagerly awaiting the return of Pamela, Bob, and their sons from Argentina where she has been a Fulbright exchange teacher for the past semester. Our reunion will make this a holiday season most memorable.

Now, on behalf of the NAMA Directors and our family (including Manxies), I wish you many gifts of kindness and in the words of a special friend: "Dy chooilley yearee vie son slaynt as maynrys can ny bleaney shoh cheet!" - - Every good wish for health and happiness the year around.

Mary

Mary F Kelly
NAMA President



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10215 38th Court North
Plymouth, MN 55441-1669

President

Mary F Kelly
PO Box 146
Cottage Grove, WI 53527

1st Vice President

Donald R Quayle
4831 Ft Sumner Drive
Bethesda, MD 20816

2nd Vice President

John (Jack) Cormode
13085 Franklin Avenue
Mountain View, CA 94040

3rd Vice President

Norman Standish
32250 Burlwood Drive
Solon, OH 44139

Secretary

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2001 South Thompson Drive
Madison, WI 53716

Treasurer

Helen M Drom
4960 Cherry Avenue
Santa Maria, CA 93455

Chaplain

Rev Devore Craine Smith
4966 Rockford Drive
San Diego, CA 92115

Genealogist

Calvin Quayle
3756 Halsey Street
Eau Claire, WI 54701

Bulletin Editors

Sally Dahlquist,
Joan and Norman Gill
10215 38th Court North
Plymouth, MN 55442-1669

Trustees

Sally Dahlquist
Edina, MN
Carol Christian
Willowdale, ON Canada
Bradley E Prendergast
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Acting Pres Ladies' Aux to NAMA

Mary F Kelly
PO Box 146
Cottage Grove, WI 53527

Change Your Calendar To October 1-4, 1998!

For all of you who marked your October 1998 calendar as a reminder to attend the 43rd Convention of the North American Manx Association, please change the dates to Thursday, October 1 through Sunday, October 4, 1998. The Planning Committee adjusted the date to take advantage of lower airfares that generally prevail when traveling mid-week and staying over a Saturday evening. Also, many have indicated an interest in combining attendance at the convention with some extended sight seeing in the Capitol area. Many of you are well acquainted with the attractions in Washington, DC but are not quite so familiar with *Olde Towne Alexandria, VA*, which is where the convention will take place.

They say it about places up and down the East Coast, but this time it's true. George Washington really did sleep here—a lot—and dine and dance here; maybe play a little whist or billiards. This, after all, was his hometown—a busy port on the banks of the Potomac about eight miles upriver from his Mount Vernon. He even had a modest town house over on Cameron Street.

Northern Virginia's Old Town Alexandria is hardly an unpaved village anymore. And yet, it is little changed. Its quaint, shady streets run arrow straight in the same grid they have for some 200 years, past some of the same houses. The town's brick walkways are fronted by well-preserved colonial cottages, some only wide enough to accommodate one window and a door; and high-tone Georgians, their fanlights and brass door knockers glinting in the sun and their historic-house plaques announcing their pedigree.

You might plan to come a bit early or stay on a few days and enjoy the culinary delights. The center of Old Town is the intersections of King and Washington Streets, just a few blocks from our convention hotel. King Street may boast more eateries per square block than any other district in the Washington area. The lower end specializes in local-theme cuisine—colonial dishes and Chesapeake Bay seafood. But if you walk uphill seven or eight blocks, a little bit out of the tourist fray, you can find a gourmet's glory land—a plethora of first-rate restaurants specializing in everything from Italian to Vietnamese to Indian to American roadhouse to Cajun to French to Tex-Mex—even to Scottish—cuisines. There

is enough to please everyone's palate.

There are also many historic sites to visit. Consider Mount Vernon, the George Washington Masonic Temple, Christ Church, Gadsby's Tavern, the Lee-Fendall House and the Stabler-Leadbetter Apothecary Shop. Also there are newer attractions like to Torpedo Factory, a torpedo plant used in both World Wars, which now houses the studios and shops of nearly 200 artists and craftsmen, and, of course, the many shops and boutiques along lower King Street near the Potomac River. The Market held here each Saturday morning in Market Square in front of City Hall is reputed to be the nation's oldest.

As mentioned in the most recent NAMA Bulletin, the special hotel room rates are applicable to three days prior to and three days past the convention dates of October 1-4, 1998. Start your planning now to fly in early and leave late and take advantage of all the attractions for visitors. Your kit of materials will contain recommendations of sights to see but you might like to do some advance planning by visiting the Washington DC area on the Internet. For instance, we suggest visiting the excellent Alexandria Internet home page at <http://ci.alexandria.va.us/alexandria.html> or a very comprehensive Washington DC Internet site at <http://www.physics.georgetown.edu/Wash.html>.

Again, if you have specific suggestions for inclusion in the convention, please contact Don Quayle at the address on page 2 or at DRQuayle@aol.com.



Memories

by Hilda (Bridson) Penrice

How beautiful and peaceful the Isle of Man looked as my cousin Pam Corlett and I stepped off the plane at Ronaldsway on July 21, 1997. The sun was shining as we made our way to Royal Ramsey. The trees, wild flowers and shrubs were in full bloom, as we drove in our rented car we both experienced the thought of being "Home" again. The smell of the sea breezes and the perfume of the wild flowers in the hedgerows brought back so many memories of our childhood and growing up years on the Isle of Man and especially Ramsey, the North of the Isle.

Pam is an active member of the Manchester Manx Society and she and her husband Derek and family have lived in England for many years. Her spirit might

be there but her heart is always on the Isle of Man.

We arrived at the home of Mrs Mary Teare, Pam's aunt, indirectly she is also related to me, and we received a warm welcome.

For many years I have kept in touch with family and longtime friends on the Isle, especially Edna Ellison of Ramsey, Sally Bell and Mrs Jessie Greggor of Peel, Millie, Hazel and Mary all of Ramsey and Esme and Colin of Glen Maye. We were entertained from the moment we arrived.

The highlight for me, Pam and Mary was an invitation from the Chairman of the Ramsey Town Commissioners, Mr Geoffrey Quayle, to visit his office on July 22. We were served refreshment by his Secretary, Mrs Chrystal. I remember Geoffrey's parents and grandparents, so we felt right at home. I was born at #5 Taubman Street, right off Parliament Square. My old home is still there and occupied, as is my old Albert Road School, and St Olave's Church where the late Sam Penrice, Past President of NAMA, and I were married on Easter Saturday, April 8, 1939. So many happy and sad memories. I was very honoured to receive from Mr Quayle a beautiful framed photograph of Ramsey, depicting the Mooragh Lake with a Viking ship and Albert Tower in the background. It was suitably inscribed with the presentation date. I will always treasure my picture. Perhaps I was chosen for this honor because I was Ramsey "born and bred" or because of my interest in the NAMA where I held the office of Bulletin Editor from 1972 to 1986 or perhaps it was because come December 1997 I will have been in Canada for 50 years and will celebrate my 85th birthday in November 1997—"there I have said it out loud"!

We visited the family graves at Andreas Churchyard where my grandparents, parents, sister and brother rest in peace. Pam's parents are also there. Then over to Maughold where my younger brother Arthur is buried. After many years of living in England, they returned to their beloved Isle of Man where they passed away.

While in Ramsey we were surprised to learn that my Canadian Manx friends were also "home" on a visit. Alice (Moore) Forter, Oakville, ON; Marion Welton, her daughter Kelly and two sons, Hamilton, ON; and Pauline and Roger Nelson of Ancaster, ON. We had two lovely get-togethers, lunch in the Mooragh Park Cafe and afternoon tea at the home of Alice Foster in Peel. It was like a Manx Society meeting.

We attended a lively supper and concert at the Church Hall in Andreas. Mr Geoffrey Corkish was the mc for the concert. There was a lady from Texas and myself from Canada and we were suitably recognized. I had almost forgotten the Manx sense of humour, so witty, but gentle.

Before leaving for the Island on July 21st, I had spent ten days with my sister-in-law Wynne Bridson who lives in Ellesmere Port. I had a lovely time, she was so kind to me. I met my two nephews and niece and their respective families. I met my brother-in-law Steve Jones and his sister who live on the border of Wales and also my niece Sandra and husband Jimmie. They had lived in South Africa for more than twenty years but have returned to England.

We also had dinner with my two cousins on the Bridson side of the family, Ruth and Ailsa, who after living and working in England for many years have retired to the place where they were born, Onchan. We enjoyed many lovely tasty meals and I would recommend dinner, roast lamb and mint sauce, at the The Grove in Ramsey, which adjoins the Grove Museum; Sartfield, just beyond Kirk Michael; the Swan Cafe right on Parliament Square; afternoon tea at the Grand Island Hotel, Ramsey; pub lunch at the Governor Hotel, Andreas Village. The variety of fancy cream cakes at afternoon teas still make my mouth water when I think about them!

We enjoyed another family re-union at the lovely cottage home of Esme and Colin Jackson, where I met my cousin John Robinson for the first time in almost 50 years. He had lived and worked in England before he and his wife Doris retired to the Isle of Man. What a feast, one cannot diet on the Isle of Man!

What memories come back to me as I write this article. So much of the beauties of nature, the tall mountains and hills, North Barrule standing like a sentinel guarding the town of Ramsey, the slower pace of life and the friendliness of the Manx folk. I know I will settle back here as my family is here, daughter Jean and Ron, son Doug and Dianne, four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. My home is here but it is wonderful to have such happy Manx memories.

I will end with two little lines of a poem I learned in school:

"I remember, I remember the house where I was born,

The little window where the sun came

peeping in at morn."

To all the members of the NAMA, I wish a very happy and healthy Christmas and New Year.



Island Happenings

by Faith Corlett

Two things have happened lately—one is something that Joan Gill has asked me to write about, and the other is something that has had me thinking about it a great deal. One is a cheerful thing, and has nothing to do with the other which is serious. Here they are.

Not long after the Bulletin came out with the story about the Glen Kella Distillery, the mail brought me a Lledo toy truck representing that very place. I have a subscription to a series of vehicles representing various things—places, organizations, events—on the Isle of Man. The Glen Kella vehicle was not part of the series, but is very much worth collecting. The series is sponsored by Ramsey Collectables, in Ramsey, of course, and George Holland, whose business it is, seems to be able to find almost anything in the way of "collectables", and stamps by way of Ramsey Philatelic. It is a good place to shop for Manx related items. The address, for either the Collectables or Philatelic, is PO Box 16, Bircham Avenue, Ramsey, Isle of Man IM99 4AU, via UK. (And by the way, "Collectables" is the way it's spelled, even though my spell-checker says otherwise.)

The other thing on my mind involves history. In August I received a letter from Manx National Heritage. (Did anybody else take advantage of the offer to join as a life member for \$100 a few years ago? If you did, you already know about this, and I hope you have already written your letter.) They are requesting that people write with regard to a development scheme at Rushen Abbey, a National Ancient Monument. In a nutshell, a Mr Graham Ferguson Lacey is planning to build over

The North American Manx Association (NAMA) was organized in 1928 to bring together those who have Manx Ancestry and an interest in the Isle of Man. To keep members informed of Manx activities both here and on the Isle of Man, the NAMA Bulletin is published quarterly—March, June, September, and December. Annual membership dues are \$15.00 for individuals and \$20.00 for family or society.

many of the ruins at the Abbey. Information was enclosed, with a map, a copy of which I am sending to the Bulletin editors with this article. (If you would like a copy of the eight page letter from Manx National Heritage and the map, send the Bulletin editors a self addressed and stamped business size envelope.)

You may be asking why you should be concerned with what goes on there; after all, it is not your backyard they are paving over. But think for a minute—it could be your ancestors that are being paved over instead. I know where my ancestors were back to the seventeenth century, but in the twelfth century, they could as easily have been near Rushen Abbey as anyplace else. My feeling is that since Mr Lacey is a developer who moved to the Isle of Man (ostensibly to do development) he is an outsider of sorts. If he has a right to develop projects there, we certainly have the right—even the obligation—to object to the desecration of our heritage, being descendants and relatives of those on the Island, even though most of us are not there right now.

I am not sure what else I can say about this. I care about it. A lot. I hope there are at least a few people in NAMA who agree, and either have already written letters to Manx National Heritage (I have), or will do so after reading this. Manx National Heritage also suggests writing to the Editor of the *Isle of Man Examiner* newspaper in Douglas, and Members of Tynwald. I do not have the addresses of these, but I think Douglas, Isle of Man, via UK will get the letters delivered.

Good luck to us. And to our ancestors as well, may they not be paved over, now or in the future.



New Women's Celtic Group is Organized

A new organization called Celtic Women International, Ltd has been incorporated in the State of Wisconsin, as a non-profit group devoted to educational and charitable purposes.

The purposes of the new group, CWI, are stated:

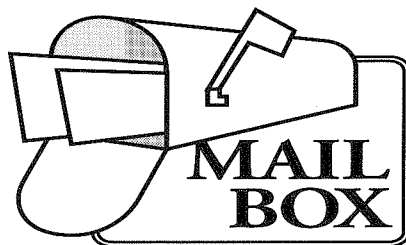
- to celebrate and honor women of Celtic heritage throughout the world, their accomplishments will inspire others to reach a higher potential;
- to produce and host an annual Celtic Women's Conference in Milwaukee which will present topics of concern and interest to Celtic women world-wide;

- to establish and support an endowment fund for the benefit of the Irish Cultural and Heritage Center of Wisconsin, which is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization.

The first Celtic Women's Conference is scheduled for October 8-11, 1998. It will be held at the Irish Cultural and Heritage Center in Milwaukee. Celtic speakers with international reputations of accomplishment will be invited to present topics that are of interest to Celtic women.

Morgan Llywelyn, Irish author of many historical novels, will present a lecture on April 3, 1998 at the Irish Center in Milwaukee. The lecture is sponsored by the Celtic Women International. Ms Llywelyn will also sign copies of her new book *1916, A Novel of the Irish Rebellion*, to be published in April. Reservations for seating and books are suggested.

Any person who supports the purposes of CWI is eligible for membership. Charter memberships are available for a limited time. Applications for membership may be requested by writing to Celtic Women International, PO Box 1384, Milwaukee, WI 53201-1384. The fax number is 414-257-3705; E-mail address: cwi@phantasy.com; Web site: <http://www.cwilt.org> The president of the new group is Ms Jean K Bills, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

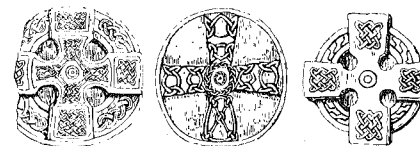


News from Cleveland, Ohio—Adam Schrader left for West Point Military Academy on June 29, 1997. He is the son of Debra and Michael Schrader of Lakewood, his grandparents are Wilbert and Margaret Kless of Mentor.

There are 3,885 teams in 78 leagues in the The MSNBC Fantasy Football Game. My team, MANX CATS, is in league 16. I'm trying to keep the "Manx" name before the public. If I hear from anyone of Manx heritage I shall refer them to the NAMA organization.

Congrats are in order—Sally, Norm, and Joan have done a tremendous job with the Bulletin.

Bill Shimmin
Virginia, MN



Chaplain's Corner

Christmas has profound meaning for people of faith wherever the Christian religion is practiced, including among the people of the Isle of Man and their descendants in America.

One of the most moving experiences of Christmas occurred when, during our two-year stay in Germany, we participated in a midnight Christmas mass in the Church at snow-covered Berchtesgaten in the Bavarian Alps. The sanctuary was filled with 250 Germans. In the chancel was a "Tannenbaum" about fifteen feet high with 300 burning candles. A Star of Bethlehem of burning candles rose above the reredos. The simple service of prayers and carols concluded at midnight with the singing of the beloved Christmas hymn composed by Joseph Mohr and Franz Gruber 150 years earlier in a little chapel a few miles away: "Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht!" The mood was almost a hushed whisper as the Germans sang at a deeply moving, reverently slow tempo of the birth of the Christ Child:

Silent Night, Holy Night!
All is calm, all is bright
'Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace!

Silent Night, Holy Night!
Son of God, loves pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace;
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

May your Christmas with your families, wherever you are in the world, be one of such deep and heartfelt devotion.

Rev Devore Craine Smith



Bulletin Editor

We are pleased to announce that we are no longer seeking applicants for Editor of the NAMA Bulletin. We sincerely thank the talented members who have volunteered to begin serving as Bulletin Editor sometime next summer. Their applications are currently being reviewed by a screening committee and the name of the new editor will be published in a future issue.

SOCIETY NEWS

Rocky Mountain

The Rocky Mountain Manx Society had a potluck dinner at the Arvada United Methodist Church with Sheila (Kelly) Kent as hostess on October 10. Twenty-four members were present including two from Wyoming.

For the program, the video "Isle of Man, an Island of Contrasts" was shown, and well received. President of the group is Mrs Rachel (Vondy) LaRue of Erie, Colorado. The group plans to meet again in the spring, next May.

Greater Washington DC Area

Plans are under way for the entertainment, food, and festivities for our annual Twelfth Night Party scheduled for Saturday, January 10, 1998, at the Friendship United Methodist Church at 3527 Gallows Road in Falls Church, Virginia. As always we hope to welcome a "first-footer", as well as storytellers and musicians. There will be children's games and seasonal carols.

Until then, Nolllick ghennal (Merry Christmas) and enjoy the autumn and holidays!

World Manx

On the night of October 29, 1897, TE Brown died. The centenary of his death has been marked by the WMA in several ways. In July last we asked the young people sending in poems and drawings to base them on TE Brown and his works, and at our annual TE Brown luncheon on October 18 in Douglas the toast to 'the Immortal Memory' was given by Derek Winterbottom whose biography of Brown had been published earlier in the year. In proposing the toast he read from letters written by Brown in the last few weeks of his life in the Island and he described his return to Clifton College and the circumstances of his death there. Derek who now lives on the Island had taught at Clifton College and so was able to give from personal knowledge details of the school and the room where Brown had collapsed and died. His talk was very well received by the members present. Brown's father had been Vicar of Kirk Braddan so it was decided to hold a special service there to commemorate the centenary of

his death. This was held on Sunday 18 October, all the hymns had a Manx connection and the words of one of them, taken from the Clifton College Hymn Book, had been written by Brown himself. During the service there were readings from Brown's works and an especially moving address was given by John Kennaugh. After the service many of those present went across the road to the old Kirk Braddan which was the church at the time when Brown's father was Vicar.

Our next meeting will be the Annual Christmas Luncheon on December 13 to be held at the Rutland Hotel in Douglas.

Finally, from the officers and members of the WMA we send you our very best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Vancouver

PRESIDENT TERRY McCaffrey, on behalf of the Vancouver Manx Society, extends to one and all best wishes for the Holiday Season and for the coming year.

Our Spring Tea was held on May 31, 1997 at the Abercorn Inn, in the city of Richmond, BC. Approximately 50 people met for a lovely buffet dinner. The evening started with President Terry McCaffrey welcoming everyone and inviting them to sing the Manx National anthem. This was followed by the Lord's Prayer recited in Manx. After the dinner, a Manx cat colouring contest was held, followed by a raffle. The event was a great success.

Congratulations are extended to COLLEEN McCaffrey (daughter of Terry and Joan McCaffrey) on her wedding to ROB de GUNST on May 18, 1997. Colleen, a graduate nurse, has been coming to our society since she was a baby. We wish her and Rob much happiness in their new life together.

Our August picnic was well attended. Weather cooperated spasmodically, but by all reports it was very much enjoyed by all.

We were saddened on October 2, 1997 by the passing of long time member and Past President ARTHUR C BELFIE. To his wife, MONA, his sons, STEWART and MICHAEL, his brother, BASIL, and many dear friends, we extend our deepest sympathy. Arthur was born in Empress,

Alberta, went overseas in WWII with a Highland Regiment. On a trip to the Isle of Man, he met his wife Mona (nee Clarke) formerly of St John's, IOM. He was one of our own and will be sorely missed.

The last event of the year will be the End of Harvest and Fall Celebration, known by the Manx as the "Back-end-do". We are hoping for good weather on November 15, 1997 and that we will have a good attendance at this popular event.

Next May 23, 1998, our Vancouver Manx Society will celebrate its 90th anniversary. Special plans are being made and it will be held at the Abercorn Inn in Richmond, BC.

Happy New Year to all!

Minnesota

The Manx Society of Minnesota held its fall meeting on October 18. About fifteen members gathered at the Radisson Hotel South for lunch and a business meeting.

We were honored to have present our oldest member Mona Breckner who celebrates her 102nd birthday in November. Mona was one of several people interviewed on a cable television show on AMC "Long, Long Ago" reflecting on the 100 years of film making. Mona is also working on her autobiography, but delays publication because she keeps doing things that she wishes to include. What a wonderful inspiration she is!

We are still in the process of getting legal title to the Manx Pioneer Cemetery near Castle Rock. There was a lot of interest in a trip to the Isle of Man in the year 2000. New officers were elected: June Sibell, President; Sally Dahlquist, First Vice President; Ken Kneen, Second Vice President; Mary Heltsley, Secretary; and Jim Anderson, Treasurer. Plans were discussed for a May meeting in Duluth. Pat Boehne had the most correct answers to the Isle of Man ABC Quiz compiled by Bob and Jean Kelly of Chicago. She won an overnight stay at the Northland Inn in Brooklyn Park, donated by the Kellys.

John Lace is taking the Anoka High School concert band on a spring trip to England with two days on the Isle of Man.

At each stop the band will rehearse and perform with local high school groups.

There have been reports in Minnesota this fall of sightings of a white bear of British Columbia with the Manx name Kermodie. So far we haven't been able to get it on our membership list.

Christmas greetings to all the members of the NAMA and their families, continued health and happiness.

San Diego

Our fall meeting was at the home of Bob, Millie, and Katie Kermeen. Co-hostesses were Marge Frederick and Barbara Ramondino. Twenty two members and guests were present. Guests Max and Bill Gritzmaker were welcomed. Bill and Judi Lavey returned for their second meeting. Bill expressed great appreciation for the help of Ernie Hughes with his family genealogy.

We were happy to welcome Joyce Kinley after she and Malcolm experienced a very difficult six months. President Fenella Speece presented Joyce a gift from our society to take with her and Malcolm to their new home in Boise, Idaho. We're confident that if there are any Manx folks in Idaho, Malcolm and Joyce will find them.

The San Diego chapter extends best wishes to all Manx folks for a very blessed holiday season and we'll see everyone in Virginia in the new year.

Chicago

The Chicago Manx Society will hold a Christmas Holiday meeting on Sunday, December 7th at the home of Florence Abbinanti, 9330 S Richmond, Evergreen Park, Illinois at 1 PM. We will follow our usual pattern starting with a pot-luck dinner, followed by a program of interest on the Isle of Man.

We had a very enjoyable dinner and program at our last meeting at Barbara and Ed Brown's in St Charles, Illinois.

The officers and members of the Chicago Manx Society wish to extend a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to the officers and members of the North American Manx Association.

Cleveland

In September we went to the Carousel Dinner Theater to see a delightful musical comedy "Crazy for You". Then in October, we gathered at the home of Elizabeth and Bill Duncan. Norman Standish came dressed in a typical Pilgrim costume, and told us about the Standishes in the Isle of Man and of Myles travels to Holland and subsequently to America. It

was a very interesting afternoon. We also welcomed three new members, plus the five who joined in August.

We did not have a meeting in November, but our Christmas Party will be December 7 at a Holiday Inn. Hopefully many of our members will be able to attend. We will exchange gifts, and bring mittens and scarves for needy children. We will also have entertainment. It should be a wonderful time.

Due to the possibility of inclement weather, we will not meet again until March. At the present, the time and location are yet to be determined. However, anyone visiting in the area may contact any officer to find out details, and would be most welcome to join us.

May you all have happy holidays.

Society Contacts

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

Mrs Rachel (Vondy) LaRue, 1984 Pikes Peak Street, Erie, CO 80516-9718

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

SOUTHERN

Dr Barry Vann, 134 Ridge Road, Grenada,

MS 38901

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, IM8 INN, British Isles



Giving Will Be Receiving!

Please be generous this year. Remember to donate to the North American Manx Association. Any amount is appreciated and will go directly to the preservation of our Manx—Isle of Man heritage. As you know, we always need your help to continue our many Manx programs. It will be your family's children and grandchildren who will benefit so very much. And your donations are tax deductible. Keep NAMA in mind as part of your annual giving.

Another way to insure the continuation of the NAMA is to honor loved ones by giving a memorial gift. Or if a loved one has passed away, send some of the memorial donations to the NAMA. These should be sent to Helen M Drom, Treasurer (address on page 2).

If you are planning your estate or writing your will, please consider our organization for Manx memorabilia or monetary donations. It is a registered nonprofit corporation in the state of Minnesota and the registered agent is Norman W Gill (address on page 2).

Our heart warm thanks to our members.

Happy Holidays to all!

Sally Dahlquist, NAMA Trustee



OUR OWN PEOPLE

George Callow of Calgary, Canada was on the Island in July, as was Harold Cowell of Evanston, Illinois. Both were researching their family lines. Jane Nelson and her daughter were busy looking for

their Callow and Cowell ancestry in the Parish of Malew. I was delighted to meet a 'cousin' Claudia Bracken from Logan, Utah whose ancestor, William Watterson was a brother of my great, great, grandfather, James Watterson. Claudia, her husband Richard and son Aaron, stayed in Peel as that was where the family originated. It is very helpful if visitors know the Parish where their family lived before they left the Isle of Man.

Although I had quite a few American and Canadian visitors this summer, not all were members of NAMA. I did give them membership forms to take back with them to join NAMA when they returned.

Most of the other people I met this past year were from Australia, New Zealand and the UK. Two members of The Manx Society of New South Wales brought a framed certificate, making me a Life Member in their Society, as I was instrumental in re-starting the group in Sydney in 1984 when I visited that city.

All Best Wishes for a Happy Christmas to our North American members from the ones living in the Isle of Man, with the hope that many will travel to visit us in the coming New Year.

Noreen Cottier

Regional Representative for NAMA

3 Cowley Terrace

Peel, Isle of Man IM5 1UA

E-mail: noreen.c@advsys.com.im



Corrections

In Volume 70, Issue Number 1, page 1, paragraph 1 it should read Mark Your Calendar, October 1-4, 1998, Washington, DC, giving the dates of the next NAMA Convention. On page 2, paragraph 3, the cost of the new House of Manannan at Peel, Isle of Man should read \$10,000,000 or £6,000,000. In the same paragraph the word Manx precedes maritime traditions. Other corrections, in paragraph 5, include the spellings for Joughin and Mollig names. It should also be noted that Ronald Caine is not employed by the Isle of Man Tourist Department. Computer users should note that on page 5, the Internet address for the Isle of Man Chat area should read <<http://www.isle-of-man.com/cgi-bin/interests/chat/chat.pl>> We apologize for the errors.



CHILDREN'S CORNER

How about a real old Manx ghost story for Christmas?

On a rocky islet looking down upon Peel Harbour stands Peel Castle. It is an ancient ruin now, but our story goes back many centuries, when the battlements were alive with men-at-arms, when armored feet rang on the steep stone stairs, and flags fluttered from the tower of the Keep.

On summer mornings the guardsmen on the walls could look out upon one of the most beautiful coast lines in the world, curving northward with cliffs of purple and green, the sandy shore below running like a golden ribbon at the edge of the blue, blue sea. But in the winter that "fairy shore" was veiled in gray cloud and driving spray, and rain and wind beat in the men's faces so it was all they could do to keep gazing seaward for enemy ships. However, when night fell they gathered in the Castle Guard Room, which was—and is—to the right of the grim, iron-studded doorway. Here around a blazing fire they whiled away the night watch, and through those long hours they had the company of a strange visitor, a black dog, who came with the dark and left with the dawn—no one knew whence or where. The soldiers called him the Moddey Dhoo, which is Manx Gaelic for "black dog," and because they believed him to be a spectre-hound, no soldier would consent to be left alone with him.

There came a wild winter night, the waves rolling up the shore and breaking with a roar like a cannon, and dashing furiously against the rocks below Peel Castle. In the chamber high up in the tower the tapestries flapped against the stone walls and the wind shrieked in the narrow slits which served for windows—and pretty draughty windows they were because they had no glass. Down below in

the little city of Peel, sheltered under the protecting frown of the Castle, everyone was warm in bed with blankets pulled over heads to shut out the sound of the storm, and hoping that the fishing boats had found safe anchorage somewhere. Overhead the flying clouds gave a glimpse of the moon now and then, which shone calmly enough above the tumult, and silvered the roofs of the Peel houses, and the crests of the waves, and made ghastly gleams of light and shadow on the grim old Castle walls.

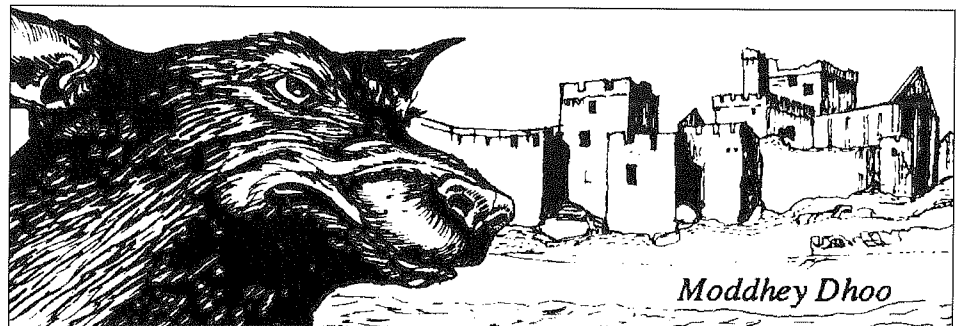
In the Guard Room the soldiers had made a roaring fire, wine cups passed from hand to hand, and with song and laughter they tried to drown the storm and make the night hours pass merrily. But in their midst, stretched before the fire, lay as usual the unwelcome, mysterious visitor, the Moddey Dhoo.

It was time to lock the Castle doors. No one liked this task, as the Moddey Dhoo might follow along the dark, draughty passage. So two men always went together—until this night, when one fellow, with singing and laughing and drinking, was in such high spirits that he wanted to take the keys and go—ALONE! The others argued with him but without effect, and as he departed the Moddey Dhoo rose up from the fire and followed down the passage.

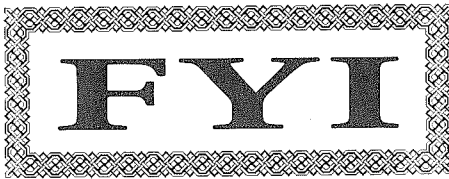
The soldiers stood, pale and expectant—and suddenly from far down the passage came a cry and a clamor which made their hearts stop and their hair stand on end. Presently the adventurous comrade returned, speechless and terror-stricken. He never spoke again, but lay shaking for three days, and then died. No one ever learned a word of what happened that night. But the Moddey Dhoo was never seen again.

Now, if you can tell what happened to the soldier, and where the Moddey Dhoo went, you will know more than anyone else.

Source: NAMA Bulletin, December 1938.



Moddey Dhoo



Manx Workshops

The Centre for Manx Studies has sent us a small brochure of their offerings for the 1997-1998 year. All events are open to everyone with an interest in the subject; advance enrollment is advisable for all events. To receive information on these offerings write to Centre of Manx Studies, 6 Kingswood Grove, Douglas, Isle of Man IM1 3LX, telephone 01624 673074.

Gift Ideas

If you are interested in purchasing unique Manx gifts, from stamps to coins to earrings to framed prints to mugs to much more, write to Island Treasures, Box 10M, Douglas, Isle of Man IM99 1PB for their catalog, Fax 01624 686132. Credit cards are accepted.

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 is easy to wear on collars, lapels, shirts and caps. It sells for \$5.00. Buy one today for a great holiday gift idea.

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 2).

Celtic Pronunciation

At one time most of Europe was dominated by Celtic tribes. The correct way to say it is "Keltic" not "Seltic." Why? While in the English language the letter "C" can be pronounced as "soft" as in cherish or "hard" as in cat,

this option is not available in the Celtic languages—"s" is the only "soft" sound and "c" is always "hard." In short, in the Celtic world, the letter "C" always sounds like the letter "K." Yes the Boston Celtics (Keltics) have a lot to learn.

Source: Program of the Celtic Fest '97, New Orleans.

The Celtic Cottage

Colin McGhee, a master thatcher, has put his craft to work creating miniature Celtic Cottage birdhouses and mailboxes. Each Celtic Cottage is fully weather-proof and hand crafted, with a slanted thatched roof for maximum rain run-off to last for years. We had our birdhouse personalized with the three legs drawn on one side. Prices range from \$65.00 to 165.00, including postage and handling. Write to Colin McGhee, PO Box 133, Amissville, VA 22002, or visit his website

@<http://www.erols.com/mrthatch>

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 |

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

Video

We have two copies of a new video, *The Isle of Man—An Island of Contrasts*, available for loan. This video, produced in

1996, is 65 minutes of breathtaking photography, fascinating commentary and haunting original music by Charles Guard which combine to tell the millions of years old story of the Isle of Man. If your society would like to borrow a copy contact Norman Gill (address on page 2).

Christmas History

Christmas Day is usually celebrated on December 25 but there are still those who believe that the real date is January 5.

Old Christmas Day, or Oie'll Voirrey as it is known in the Island, is still acknowledged and commemorated each year in the south at Kerrowkeil Chapel, near Grenaby.

The discrepancy about the true date of Christmas Day stems from 1753 when, following intensive and detailed astronomical calculations, it was discovered that previous cumulative error of 11 days in measuring the time taken for the Earth's cycle around the sun had been made, and the appropriate number of days were removed from the calendar.

What had been December 25 became January 5.

Many Manx people protested against the change and continued to keep to the original festive timetable, retaining services and celebrations on Oie'll Voirrey, or Mary's Eve, January 4.

For centuries, generation after generation, people in the south would watch at midnight of this night to see whether the myrrh, in reality an aromatic aniseed scented plant called Sweet Cicely, would flower.

The myrrh, it was said, would only flower on the date of the original Christmas Eve.

Source: *Isle of Man Examiner*.

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

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