

NAOMMA

NORTH AMERICAN MANX ASSOCIATION

Vol. 71, No. 2

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

March 1999

San Diego man helps refurbish Manx sailing vessel and preserve history

Mr. Bob Wright of the San Diego County Manx Society has played a major role in the restoration of the *Star of India*, a 205 foot, 125-year-old iron hulled sailing vessel built by Manxmen and launched in Ramsey, Isle of Man in 1863. The grand ship, which now rests at the San Diego Bay's Maritime Museum, has gone to sea nine times since being restored in 1976.

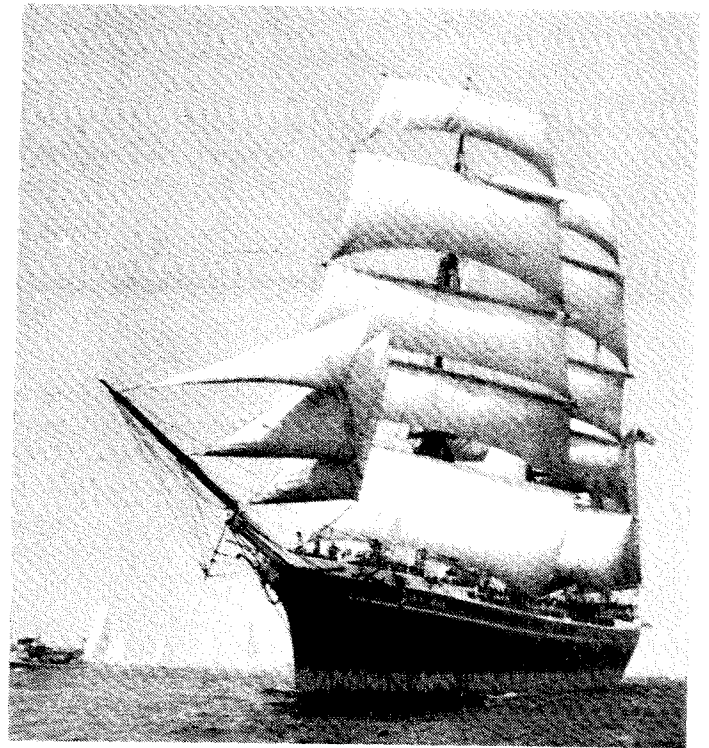
Mr. Wright has always been fascinated with tall ships and the period when sailing vessels from around the world filled San Diego Bay. His love of this era has resulted in its history being preserved for future generations.

According to Wright, San Diego was port of call for thousands of large commercial sailing ships from about 1800 to 1920. Bob's interest in this history was sparked in the 1960s when he helped refurbish the "*Star of India*". He not only helped refurbish the *Star*, but lived aboard the ship for more than seven years.

During this time, he became friends with the ancient mariners who had earned their livelihoods aboard wind-driven vessels like the *Star of India*. As many of these older seamen passed on, Bob began to realize that they were the only link to San Diego's history as a major port for tall ships. Bob began to interview his sea faring friends, recording their stories on a tape recorder. Many of the mariners' tales told of terror-filled crossings of Cape Horn (most southern point of South America) and mysterious ship disappearances or collisions. Other stories told of the day-to-day operations of cannery and lumber vessels off America's West Coast.

In 1970, Bob donated his interview tapes to Sylvia Arden of the San Diego Historical Society. Today, Bob has over 130 interviews recorded and believes his oral history will enable others to gain great insight about San Diego's history from them. Volunteers of the San Diego Historical Society transcribe and edit Bob's tapes. The resulting transcripts are put on file and made available to members of the society.

Bob's love for the sea has made him a knowledgeable



The STAR OF INDIA

historian who can vividly describe the life of a sailor. "These guys used to go to sea and fish by pole commercially. They'd stand in racks at the stern and haul tuna and albacore out one at a time. It was backbreaking, smelly work, but they thought it was the best of times," Wright said. "Sailors would climb a mast in freezing cold or on a pitch black night, identify the right yard (cross mast structure) and pull the proper rope to unfurl a sail."

Bob sailed as a crew member aboard the *Star of India* on its 121st birthday in 1984. He has also made three trips to the Isle of Man and has made many friends there.

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Manx Birthday a BIG Event!

Several years ago, John Quayle Teare of Stowe, Vermont, came up with a marvelous idea — he would celebrate his Manx heritage (John is 100 percent Manx) by celebrating his 60th Birthday on the Isle of Man.

The Canadian had visited the Isle a few times over the years, as had most of his relatives. His idea was to bolster the Manx tradition in his family by planning a three-day Birthday Party.

This past July, he and 40 other relatives (his entire family), all met on the Isle of Man for a fantastic Birthday Bash! The youngest family members were the six babies under three years of age. Everyone

stayed at the Castletown Golf Links Hotel which John noted ... "has excellent food, service, and golf." While visiting the Island, John and his American group were able to join their Manx cousin, Norman Teare, who resides in Peel, in celebrating his 50th Birthday with 150 of his friends and relatives.

During their stay, John and his family played golf, took a bus tour of the Island, and visited several pubs.

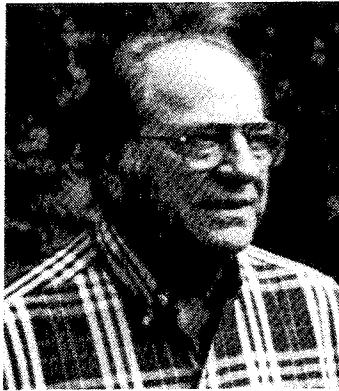
Relatives attending John's Manx Birthday Bash included: his two children, David Teare of London, England, and Sandra Teare of Boston and their families; his sisters, Mrs. Kay Robb, Quebec, and Mrs. Bruce Pearson, Ontario; his first cousins, Mr. John Fulton, Moreland Hills, Ohio, Mr. David Fulton, Indianapolis, Indiana, Mr. Tom Fulton, Chagrin Falls, Ohio, Norman Teare, Peel, IOM; his sister, Marion Teare, Peel, IOM; and several nieces and nephews.



John Quayle Teare (right, center back, with hat and glasses) is joined by several of the many (40 in all) relatives who joined him on the Isle of Man to help celebrate his 60th Birthday!

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.

President's Message



Don Quayle, NAMA President

As we look forward to the next convention, to be held in the Isle of Man next year, one contemplates the sights and experiences to come. Those of us in California, Ohio and the Washington, D.C. areas have recently benefited from a presentation of the history and restoration of the Gaiety Theatre in Douglas. I was fortunate to be in the audience for the slide showing that really illustrated how the Gaiety went from "Rags to Riches" over the past few years.

The General Manager, Mervin Stokes, and the Production Manager, Seamus Shea, had been traveling in the U.S. for three weeks when they arrived in Washington to give their presentation on Feb. 13, 1999. As has happened to many people, Mervin Stokes fell in love with the Island when he visited on holidays in 1969 and he never left. He started the Gaiety a year later and has performed every task, both front and back, and assumed his current position in 1983. He brought Seamus to the Gaiety five years ago. Trained in the technical areas of theatre in Dublin at the Abbey Theatre and various theatres in London, he became interested in the physical attributes of the theatre. Acutely aware of the theatre's outstanding value, not only to the Island but also to theatre heritage, Mervin and The Friends of the Gaiety launched the restoration project in 1990. They are scheduled to dedicate the completion of the project on July 16, 2000, near the time we will be meeting during our 44th Convention.

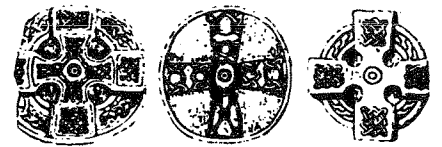
The esteemed theatre architect Frank Matcham built the Gaiety in 1900. Its most successful period was prior to the First World War. Following the war, despite

experiments like ice shows and cinema, the theatre fortunes declined and its owners, the Palace Company, became less inclined to spend money on maintenance. By the late sixties the theatre was semi derelict, although still operational and was a candidate for restoration. The Isle of Man Government purchased it in 1970 to save it for the nation and it was restored to safe operational use. The total restoration appeal, launched in 1990, has successfully restored plasterwork, wallpapers, carpets, and frescoes to Matcham's original specifications from evidence found in the building.

The restoration project will conclude in 2000, in time for Gaiety's 100th birthday, which will be celebrated with a faithful recreation of its opening production of *The Telephone Girl*. Another production in that year, *The Corsican Brothers*, will demonstrate the unique understage trap work. Also, *Joseph and His Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat*, will highlight the theatre's more modern aspect of sound and light and staging.

I do believe that a visit to the Gaiety will be a rewarding experience for all. Those members who attended the 1992 convention will recall the fun evening we had there — and that was just two years into the restoration. Great things have happened in the past eight years, but more are ahead. I have recommended that the Department of Tourism and Leisure produce an attractive brochure about the theatre and the restoration project that our local Manx Societies could use to mail to members to interest those who are not now members of NAMA in joining. Other materials promoting attractions in the Island will be available to use to stimulate interest in making the trip to attend the convention next year. We will encourage them to provide these materials directly to the local societies as we increase our membership recruitment efforts.

— Don Quayle, President



Chaplain's Corner

Rev. Devore Craine Smith

Our Manx National Heritage is preserved best in the lives and experiences of each new generation. Joseph "Joey" Rhodes, age 16, of the San Diego Manx Society is a fourth generation descendant of 1853 Manx immigrant Thomas Kelly. Thomas helped establish the Laxey Church and Community at Mineral Point, Wisconsin. Joey became intrigued with the fact of his Manx ancestry. Great-aunts Marion Kelly and Alice (Kelly) Zettel and Great-uncle Rev. Herbert Kelly (former NAMA Chaplain) were most helpful to him. Joey combined their data with articles from various publications into an oral/visual presentation in his high school honors history class. Joey showed pictures of Manx highlights, including the great Laxey Water Wheel near his ancestral home. Joey continues in his quest to learn more about the Isle of Man. His experience illustrates what can occur in our Manx families if we will tell the stories of our beloved Manx heritage. In like manner, our Lord God had admonished us to preserve our heritage of faith:

Hear, O Israel: the Lord is our God, the Lord alone. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise."
(Deut. 6:4-7 NRSV)

INTERNET SITES

Cyberia cafe, Douglas, IOM

<http://www.mcb.net/cic/cyberia/>

London Manx Society

http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/SAM_WELLER/

Famous Manxmen

<http://www.mcb.net/manxmen/Welcome.html>

Promenade Methodist Church, Douglas

<http://www.methodist.org.uk/promenade>

SF Bay Area Gaelic Society

<http://www.ceantar.org/Ceantar/>



Society News

London Manx Society

The London Manx Society held its Mhelliagh on Saturday, Oct. 3. About 40 members enjoyed a very successful occasion. The celebrations began with the traditional service at the City Church of St. Bartholomew-the-Less, beside the famous hospital. Readings were given by Preston Glass, President of the Society and Professor Bryan Corrin (nominated for election as President in 1999). The Rev. Mia Hilborn of the City Temple gave the harvest thanksgiving address; and the service, which included the Manx Fisherman's Evening Hymn, ended with the National Anthem.

Members then went on to the Bonnington Hotel in Holborn for their buffet supper and entertainment. The day of Mhelliagh was also the birthday of Mary Roberts' granddaughter Stephanie, and this was suitably marked. As always, the Society was greatly indebted to Paul and Dorothy Garbutt for doing so much to make the evening such a success: Dorothy for her sumptuous cake with the secret weight that had to be guessed, and Paul for his two Manx quizzes that taxed the knowledge and memories of everyone. There was much fun, too, in the drawing of the raffle. The evening drew to a close with a sing-song around the piano inspired by Maron Honeyborne.

The year's Cooish gathering was held for the second year running at Mike and Pam Fiddik's house in Middlesex from midday onward on Sunday, Nov. 15. Those who were at the Cooish last year will recall the good time that was had and the same could be said again for this year. About 25 members gathered on a bright November day. The time was spent mostly catching up on news and the enjoyable task of eating our way through a delicious spread. Dorothy Garbutt cooked a whole stone of kippers in the oven in her usual efficient way and Mike in turn mixed punch and washed up a huge pile of dishes.

The Chicago Manx Society

The Chicago Manx will hold its next meeting on Sunday, March 14 at the home of Florence Abbinanti in Evergreen Park, IL. We begin at 1:00 p.m. with an always delicious potluck dinner followed by

a meeting and program about the Isle of Man.

The City of Chicago will be sponsoring its Third Annual Celtic Festival in Grant Park on Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 18 and 19. The North American Manx and the Chicago Manx had a display last year and we hope to participate again this year.

There is a motion picture currently showing in the theatres that should be interesting for the Manx to view. The movie is called "Waking Ned Devine." The story itself is set in Ireland, but it was filmed on the Isle of Man. Several of the Chicago Manx have seen it and say that they recognize some of the places. A Chicago Tribune critic believes one of the actors, Ned Kelly, deserves to be named for a best supporting role in the Oscar nominations.

— Bob Kelly

Cleveland Manx Society

In November, we met at the home of Norman and Ingrid Standish, where we viewed the latest film on the Isle of Man. We were treated to a lot of goodies, several pies having been made by Norman. We had not met in October because several of our members were attending the Convention and traveling.

December's weather cooperated this year, so 48 of us attended the annual Christmas party. We were entertained by a lady playing the hammered dulcimer and a psaltery. She played some Celtic tunes, and explained about the instruments and how she became interested in them. It was a very enjoyable program.

We have not met since December because of the possibility of inclement weather, however, we hope to meet sometime in March, although plans have not yet been made. We would be happy to hear of anyone visiting the area, so please contact one of the officers.

— Mona Haldeman

Galva Manx Society

The Galva Manx Society will be meeting again this Spring, however an actual date has not yet been set. Notices will be sent out to the membership announcing our next meeting soon.

Doug Boock, the editor of the Galva

News, our local newspaper, was sent a complimentary copy of the NAMA Bulletin and upon receiving it, became quite interested in the history of the Manx in our community. He contacted NAMA Bulletin Editor Michelle Smith and wrote a lengthy article on the Bulletin and Galva's Manx history. Mr. Boock plans to interview Manx historians Russell and Shirley Kelly of Galva when they return from their trip to Florida this spring. He plans to write an even more detailed article which will focus on the fact that Galva used to have a large membership, over 600 in the early 1900s and the decline in members over the years. Galva currently has approximately 50 active members. We are excited to have the local newspaper taking an interest in our Manx Society and hope to have more to share as this story unfolds.

Member Doris Friend and family recently viewed the film "Waking Ned Devine" which was filmed on the Isle of Man. She was quite excited to see many areas of the island which she recognized from past visits and has been busy letting other members know about the film. She encourages everyone to go and see it when it comes to your area.

San Diego County Manx Society

Fred and Fenella Speece opened their home for our festive Christmas meeting and party. Fenella's parents, Jean and Jim White were visiting from London and served as co-hosts together with Hillary and Brian Harrison. We were happy to welcome another guest, Paula Greenberg.

Members shared their pleasure in viewing the film "Waking Ned Devine" which was filmed on the Isle of Man.

Bob Wright showed preliminary photos used in the building of the Euterpe (Star of India) diorama and assured us that work was in progress, but slow.

An election was held for the office President and we were pleased that Hillary Harrison agreed to accept the position.

We concluded our business meeting and set about the more important activities of exchanging gifts and enjoying an overabundance of Christmas goodies.

We exchanged our regular February meeting date for an opportunity to learn of the restoration of the Gaicity Theatre in

Society News

Douglas. On Feb. 3, we met at the Maritime Museum next to our Star of India to hear a wonderful report from Melvin Stokes, the general manager of the Gaiety and Seamus Shea, Production Manager. It was indeed a wonderful presentation and we were all in awe learning of the tremendous task of restoring the theatre in such a beautiful and historically authentic way.

We are most grateful to Laurence Skelly, who arranged for the program. Laurence and Hillary Harrison provided a lavish meal.

Northern California Manx

There was a fine Manx gathering at the home of Peter and June Pattison in San Jose on the 10th of January, 1999. Over 25 Manx and Manx-heritage celebrants were in attendance, with six of

them from the family of Doris Means, who just recently discovered the true meaning of being Manx.

First order of business was a potluck luncheon with a fine array of British foods. The two bannags were especially welcomed by everyone. Then it was time to sing "Ellan Vannin" and "O Land of Our Birth" to set the right mood. Next was the awarding of prizes by Dee Hickman. The prizes were "Yn Chrosh-Cuirm" — the traditional crosses of rowan, which had been created by Dorcas Costain-Blann of the Isle of Man. Doris Means was awarded one for being the third person in the door, Beatrice Joughin Garcia won for coming the farthest, and Elaine Stephenson won for having the longest name.

There was some discussion of the latest news from the Isle of Man and how to get it on the internet. Periodic news from the three Manx weeklies is available from <http://www.isle-of-man-newspapers.com> and daily news can be found at Manx Radio <http://www.manxradio.com>. Of a timely nature is the study being launched on the Isle of Man to consider whether the Island should declare its independence. There were also inquiries about the possibility of investing on the IOM, hoping to take advantage of the favorable tax situation there.

Going on to matters that are of more immediate interest, the rest of the conclave was spent discussing the next NAMA Convention which will be held on the Island in conjunction with the Manx Homecoming 2000. The Northern California Manx will serve as the host Society for the Convention.



Here Comes the Convention

By the time you are reading this, there will only be about 475 days until the NAMA Convention/Homecoming 2000 commences.

That may seem like a large amount of time, but it will not be enough when you start thinking about what you will be doing while you are on the Isle of Man. The Northern California Manx, your hosts for the convention, are compiling lists of possible activities and interests. These would supplement the activities that would normally accompany a Homecoming: Tynwald Day; trips to Cregneash Village, Rushen Abbey, and the House of Mannanan; and tours of the Gaiety Theatre and the Manx Museum. There are also archaeological treks, nature walks, crafts works at Port St. Mary, St. John's, and Laxey, and the Manx Heritage Flower Show. Don't forget to leave some time for family visiting and trips to the special places of your ancestors.

A major topic of discussion is how to accommodate and interest the younger people who will be in attendance at convention. Several of the host society have experience in working with youth and are trying to determine how best to provide them with an enjoyable and enriching overseas adventure that will encourage them to take a greater interest in the Isle of Man.

The big questions most of you have are, of course, to do with the convention. You want to know when and where. At press time, negotiations were ongoing and should be finalized within a month. Through Evermann Holidays, affiliated with the Manx Department of Tourism and Leisure, arrangements are being made to set up a very convenient travel package. A week-long stay at a major hotel is proposed, with complete round trip transportation from a major UK airport. If all goes well, the Convention will occur at Tynwald week.

FYI —

We welcome your contributions to the NAMA Bulletin. All information must be received before the deadlines listed below:

Deadline Feb. 10 — March Issue
Deadline May 10 — June Issue
Deadline Aug. 10 — Sept. Issue
Deadline Nov. 10 — Dec. Issue

"Waking Ned Devine"

Several NAMA members have written to let us know about the movie, "Waking Ned Devine." This motion picture is currently showing at movie theaters all over the country. This sweet, funny sleeper is an Irish comedy, which was filmed on the Isle of Man. Many of our members recognized Cregneash and other familiar areas from the Island. If you are looking for a great way to escape from the daily stresses for a few hours, go see "Waking Ned Devine."



Tynwald and the New World

There was at least one new touch of the New World present at the 1998 Tynwald Ceremony, the celebration and renewal of the world's oldest continuous parliament. A watch chain made of California gold was worn by the Clerk of Tynwald, T. St. John Bates.

Part of the Clerk's duties during the ceremony are to come to the bottom of the Tynwald Hill and receive petitions from any member of the public who seeks to have an issue or grievance addressed by Tynwald. The Clerk then presents the petitions to His Excellency, the Lieutenant Governor, on the Hill. The Clerk is appropriately attired in full court dress, which includes black breeches, black stockings, diamante buckles on his shoes and breeches, lace jabot and cuffs, wig and gown.

This past year, the Clerk added the gold watch chain which has come down to him through several generations from his Irish ancestors who had ranching and mining interests in the Sierra foothills of California.

Clerk Bates will wear the watch chain at future Tynwald Day ceremonies linking the ancient history of the Isle of Man with the more recent history of the New World.

Does anyone else know of other connections between the land of our ancient heritage and North America?

—Jack Cormode

(Based on information supplied by T. St. John Bates, Clerk of Tynwald)



In Memory

WILLIAM F.
"FRED"
BREW
William F.

"Fred" Brew, of Billings, Montana, passed away November 17, 1998, at the Deaconess

Medical Center following a long illness.

He was born on June 24, 1921, in Butte, the son of Frederick Henry and Mary Anne (Kelly) Brew. He was raised in Butte and graduated from Butte High School in 1939. He then attended Butte Business College. On June 14, 1944, he married Helen Lomas in Butte. Fred Worked for Continental Oil in Butte from 1941 until 1964.

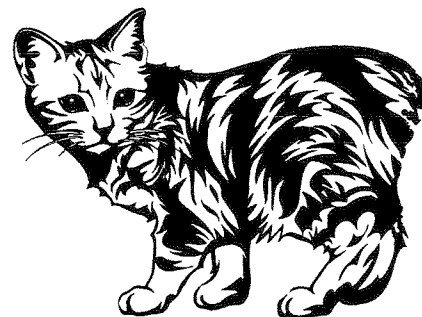
He moved to Billings in 1964 and worked for Volkswagen, Inc. from 1964 to 1968. He attended Eastern Montana College and in 1968 became a partner in Star Service Plumbing and Heating.

He enjoyed baseball, football, bridge and golf. He was a member of the Elks Lodge in Butte and Billings and was a member of the North American Manx Society.

Survivors include his wife, Helen of Billings; two sons and their wives, William F. Brew Jr. and wife, Cora of Billings and Thomas James Brew and wife Judy of Olney, Md.; three grandsons, William F. Brew III, and Michael Vance Brew of Billings, and James Allen Brew and wife, Patricia and step-granddaughter, Terry Lynn Rodgers, all of Jacksonville, Fla.

Funeral services were held at the Smith West Chapel and the interment was at the Mount Moriah Cemetery in Butte. Memorials may be made to the Shrine Children's Hospital, c/o Al Bedoo Shrine, P.O. Box 20673, Billings, MT 59104.

Cat's Corner



The Manx cat originated centuries ago on the Isle of Man where the first records describing the "Tailless" cats were found. It is believed to be a mutation of the Island's domestic cats. The insularity of the Island provides a limited space for the inbreeding of tailless cats. This has reinforced the predominance of the tailless factor gene among its cats.

There are a number of legends that attempt to explain the origin of the Manx cat. One such fable tells of a tailless cat that arrived in 1588 with the Spanish Armada. However, there is no record of this, nor of tailless cats in Spain. Then there is the rumor that the Manx cat came from the Far East on board ships. There are Japanese Bobtails in Japan, but these cats have a twisted, bobbed tail that is genetically different from that of the Manx cat.

A commonly told story of the origin of these breed involves Noah and the Ark. It seems Noah had two tailed (normal) cats that were playing outside of the Ark. When he called them to come on board, the two cats just ignored him saying, "Oh, Traae dy Liooar," (time enough) and kept right on playing. Finally when they did come board, Noah was just slamming the door shut and he chopped off their tails by mistake.

(From the NAMA Bulletin, June 1991, Vol. 63, No. 4)

INTERNET SITES

For Manx Archeology

See: <http://homepages.enterprise.net/djr/>

Encyclopedia of Cleveland, USA, British Immigration. (Inc Manx)

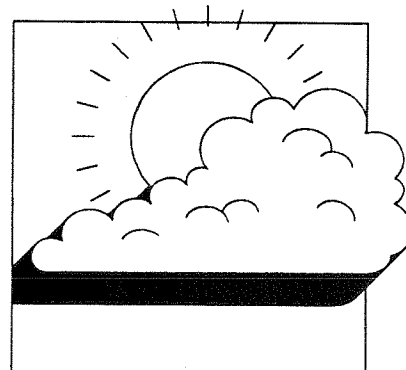
See: <http://ech.cwru.edu/Scripts/Articles.Aspx?ID=B14>
<http://www.manxisle.com>

Pictures of Ballaugh

See: <http://members.tripod.com/adm/popup/roadmap/shtml>

Isle of Man Newspapers

See: <http://www.isle-of-man-newspapers.com>





RECIPES

Plum Pudding

The following recipe is from our Grandma Maud (Kelly) Shimmin.

- 1 cup suet ... chopped fine or ground up
- 1 cup raisins
- 1 cup currants
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup mixed fruit (candied)
- 3/4 cup dried bread crumbs
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1-1/4 cup flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/4 cup chopped walnuts
- 2 eggs
- 1/2 tsp. salt

(Optional ... makes it like fruit cake)

- 1/2 tsp. cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp. cloves
- 1/2 tsp. nutmeg
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/4 cup molasses

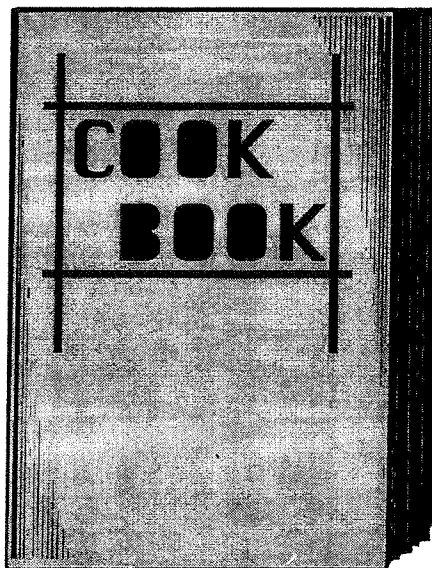
Mix all ingredients. Put into buttered crock or bowl. Set in pan with boiling water 2/3 way up on sides. Cover with small towel or cloth. Steam 2-1/2 to 3 hours. When finished, spoon into bread pan to cool. Chill and keep in refrigerator. Easy to cut when serving.

I cut a slice, put in fruit dish, cover with hard sauce, microwave for 30 seconds and serve warm.

Hard Sauce for Plum Pudding

- 6 tablespoons butter
- 1 cup powdered sugar
- 1 tablespoon boiling water
- Pinch of salt
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 tablespoon brandy
- 1/3 cup heavy cream

Cream butter (or oleo) and sugar. Add water, salt, vanilla and beat until creamy. Fold in: 1 stiffly beaten egg white. Store in refrigerator.

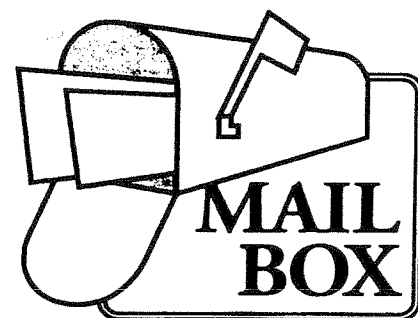


Sterling Sauce for Plum Pudding

- 1/2 cup butter or oleo
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 2 tablespoons heavy cream
- 1-1/2 tablespoons sherry
- 1 tablespoon brandy

Cook to a boil. Chill and store in refrigerator.

Thanks to Mr. and Mrs. William Shimmin of Virginia, MN for contributing this family recipe to this edition of the NAMA Bulletin. If you have a Manx Family Recipe that you would like to share with our readers, just send it to the NAMA Bulletin Editor.



Dear Editor,

An individual member for just one year, your publication is most interesting to me and full of good stuff for an old Manxman. Not even aware that a Manx Association existed, I was delighted to learn about the organization and become involved in a small way as a member. As the editor of an ALCOA Retiree's Newsletter, I have an appreciation for the effort and responsibility which you exert on behalf of NAMA.

Only becoming interested in doing some kind of genealogical study two years ago, a network search of Kaighins revealed about 50 of us are United States listed and of that group, just five responded to my form letter inquiry. Thus far, the ancestral names have been traced back to the end of the 16th century. I suspect a personal visit back to the Isle of Man would be required to capture more complete ancestral information, but my travel ability is quite limited.

Could you please suggest where/how I might purchase a comprehensive history of the Isle of Man and a Manx to English language conversion publication? Thank you for any help you can offer me.

Sincerely,

Irvin K. Kaighin
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e-mail hawkiye@aol.com



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ROCKY MOUNTAIN

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

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