

# N A M A

NORTH AMERICAN MANX ASSOCIATION

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

September 1999

## *Hiking on the Isle of Man*

By Robert F. Bynum

In July of 1998, my mother, my niece Betsy, and I traveled to the Isle of Man for an eight-day visit. My mother's grandfather emigrated from the Isle of Man in 1833 and was naturalized in New Orleans in 1859. Mom grew up in the small town of Elba, Alabama. All of her life she had wanted to visit the Isle of Man and we were all able to do so in July of 1998.

Before going to the Isle of Man, we didn't really know what to expect. I had done some research on the world wide web and used this information to plan the air travel, rent a car, and find lodging. Upon arrival, the beauty of the countryside almost immediately awed us. On the drive from Ronaldsway Airport into Douglas we were surrounded by greenery everywhere. Trees formed a canopy over the road and ferns carpeted the roadsides. We stayed at the Empress Hotel, which is located right on the promenade.

While on vacation, most people like to do tourist activities unique to the location they are visiting plus they like to pursue activities they do back home just to get a local flavor. For example, avid golfers enjoy playing on golf courses all over the world.

My niece and I enjoy hiking. In California's Silicon Valley, where I live, I lead numerous day hikes for the Sierra Club in local areas known as open space preserves. Upon arriving on the Isle of Man, I immediately inquired about places to hike. At the Manx Museum in Douglas, I purchased a map that showed all of the trails on the island.

Good hiking places are everywhere on the Isle of Man. They fall into three basic categories called Public Footpaths, Long Distance Footpaths, and Manx National Glens. Public Footpaths are more urban in nature and are marked by signs that say "Public Footpath". Typically, they begin at an opening in a wall along a sidewalk and weave in and out of neighborhoods. However, they can take you into rural settings. By contrast, Manx National Glens are similar to our own national or state parks, but are smaller. They are more wilderness-like. Long Distance Footpaths are just that. They are long paths up to 60 miles in length that connect cities and are frequently located on old railroad beds.

Two great features about hiking on the Isle of Man are close proximity to all hiking places and late sunsets. Being only 13 miles wide and 31 miles long, you can drive to any place within 30 minutes. Since the Isle of Man is located close to Latitude 54



My niece Betsy in Glen Helen. (photo by Robert Bynum)

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degrees North, the sun sets very late in the summer permitting several hours of late evening hiking. In July, sunset was around 10 p.m. and total darkness didn't occur until about 10:45 p.m.

Our first hike was an after-dinner hike along a Public Footpath near Port St. Mary. It began off a street in Port St. Mary, meandered behind a number of houses, and then went up a hill into open pastures looking east over the Irish Sea towards England. Eventually, this path led to the Chasms, which are deep crevasses in cliffs several hundred feet about the sea. From there, the path led to the southern end of the island giving a splendid view of the Calf of Man. Our return back to the car took us across an open meadow through the Cregneish Folk Museum which is a working village depicting life prior to the mid-19th century. We started hiking around 9 p.m. and finished about 10:30 p.m.

On our second day of hiking, we did two different hikes in one morning. We drove out to Glen Helen, a National Glen located on the road to Kirk Michael from St. Johns. This is a relatively easy hike on a flat trail that runs along one side of a stream, crosses a bridge, and then returns on the other side of the stream. It was a beautiful wooded area with hardwoods and a carpet of ferns. We then took a second hike from St. Johns to Peel on the Heritage Trail Long Distance Footpath, which uses the route of the now defunct Isle of Man Railway. This trail was straight, flat, and lined with trees. It led into Peel and then out along the sea. From here we had a splendid view of Peel Castle. This time we finished hiking by about noon.

Another place to hike is at the Laxey Wheel, which is the world's largest working waterwheel. It is 72 feet in diameter and was built in 1854 to pump water from nearby lead mines. Starting at the base of the wheel you can select from three different walks along the Mines Trail. This path takes the hiker on a walk around the massive wheel, under the rod viaduct and T-Rocker assembly and up a valley where you can see other structures of the mining operation such as the old pump house. We took the longest of the hikes that lasted 40 minutes.

Groudle Glen is another of the national glens. Located on the road from Douglas to Laxey, this beautiful area has a wooded valley with a trail that follows the banks of the Groudle River. Ferns and wildflowers line the trail.

In this article, I have given just a small

***Describing the beauty of this island verbally is like trying to describe the taste of a chocolate chip cookie. To really experience the beauty on the island's hiking trails, you need to visit yourself.***

sketch of the hiking on the Isle of Man. Describing the beauty of this island verbally is like trying to describe the taste of a chocolate chip cookie. To really experience the beauty on the island's hiking trails, you need to visit yourself. Since all of the hiking areas are within an easy driving distance, a hiker can put in a full day of regular activities and then go for a hike after dinner. Also one can go on a morning hike and have the afternoon free. On your next visit, I encourage you to go for a hike. There are trails for all levels of difficulty.

***This article was written by Robert F. Bynum of Fremont, California. Robert is an electronic engineer and graduate of Auburn University, Auburn, Alabama. Robert is a native of Syracuse, N.Y. He and his fiancé Gretchen Luepke are planning to be married this October. He is a member of the North American Manx Society. We would like to thank Robert for sharing his personal story about hiking on the Isle of Man. We invite our members to share any personal stories regarding their Manx heritage or Isle of Man visits and to please send them to: NAMA Editor, 24 NW 8th Ave., Galva, IL 61434. Photos are also encouraged. Thank you — Michelle Smith, Editor.***



**Betsy In Groudle Glen.  
(Photo by Robert Bynum)**

# Society News

## Cleveland Manx Society

We had our annual picnic in August at the Barn in Broadview Heights. This is a lovely party room in the housing complex where Florence Roseman lives. As usual, we all had a very good time visiting with the members that were present, and playing pencil games prepared by Elizabeth Duncan. September will find us attending Carousel Dinner Theater, where we will have our dinner and watch a play.

October and November are still indefinite, but our Christmas Party will be held on December 5th at a Holiday Inn.

We are always happy to welcome visitors. If you are going to be in our area at any time, please let one of the officers know. While we may not have a meeting planned at just that time, we would like to see you if at all possible.

—Mona Haldeman

## San Diego Manx Society

Marge Frederick's home was the setting for our June 13th meeting. Aline Wittenkeller was the co-hostess. They served a great feast.

The highlight of our meeting was the much anticipated report of Gordon Garrett's first trip to the I.O.M. Malcolm Kinley did a wonderful job of showing Gordon the sights. He kept great travel notes and shared details of a most memorable experience.

President Hillary Harrison asked us to keep husband Brian in our thoughts and prayers while he journeyed to Albania on a medical mercy mission. She also shared interesting family history tidbits discovered while on the Isle this summer.

A sale was held on articles donated by Laurence Skelly.

The meeting closed with the singing of the Manx National anthem and Ellen Vanin accompanied by a beautiful CD recorded by The Regal Singers, Musicale, and Manx Youth Band.

On July 11th in celebration of Tynwald Day, we again held open house at the Cottage of England in Balboa Park. Doris Dobbie, Marge Frederick and Ruth Smith provided refreshments while Devore Smith thoroughly educated the public with

videos, maps and brochures. Many people showed great interest, but no new Manxmen wandered in.

Bob Wright made certain that the Manx flag flew on the Star of India during the Festival of Sail in July. That great ship led 13 other tall ships into San Diego Bay. She sailed again on August 7th and 8th. It truly is a wonder to behold and fills local Manxmen's hearts with pride.

— Ruth Smith

## Northern California Manx

It was July 25th, less than three weeks after Tynwald Day, and the Northern California Manx gathered for a luncheon at the Silicon Valley Ramada Inn for a good "cooish" and some convention planning.

Half of our time was spent eating and talking, favorite pastimes of the NorCal Manx (or any North American Manx group, for that matter). Then the official part began with an *a capella* rendering of "O, Land of Our Birth" and "Ellan Vannin", always a good way to start. Then came the prizes, thanks to the generosity of the Manx Post Office and Everymann Holidays.

Manx Stamp sets were won by Polly Ernst for wearing the Manx flag colors; Bea Joughin Garcia for having nine letters in her (first and last) names; and Jan Widner won for being the third person to arrive. Pocket 10 Year calendars were awarded to Pat Stebbins for wearing the Manx 3-Legs; and Jan Richards for knowing the second line of the Manx National Anthem (without looking at a song sheet).

Jack Cormode, Convention 2000 Chairman, had just returned from an organizational trip to the Isle of Man, and led the planning discussions. He began with

noting a couple of items to look forward to. The Bee Gees' rendering of "Ellan Vannin" is about to be re-released in conjunction with a special stamp set. And the Manx Post Office is issuing a special set of three stamps timed to celebrate the new Millennium. They definitely will be treasured by collectors and fans.

Dee Hickman reported on how she has been working with Barbara Dawson of Kirk Michael to set up a concert. It will be the closing event of the Convention Saturday night in St. George's Church in Douglas. Final details are still being worked out, but several well-known Manx singers have been contacted and have indicated their willingness to participate. The concert will be open to everyone on the Isle of Man.

A major organizational advance was made when Bea Garcia accepted the call to serve as Committee Organizer. Her main task will be to put the Chairman on a schedule and maintain a semblance of order and discipline.

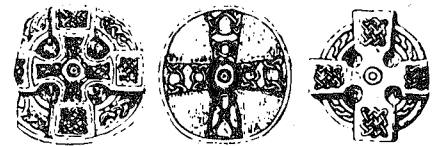
Other positions filled are June Pattison (originally of Douglas) serving as Liaison Leader for the Raffle and Sales. Jan Widner will serve as Convention Treasurer.

## Vancouver, B.C. Manx

Our spring dinner held on May 29, 1999 was a great success. Over sixty tickets were sold. Dinner started at 6:30 p.m. with the singing of "Oh Land of Our Birth." President Terry McCaffrey recited the Lord's prayer in Manx followed by the singing of the doxology. Between the courses the president gave a brief talk on the I.O.M. followed by a story of himself as a young lad on the island. After dinner a

**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.**

# Society News



lively Scottish group performed Manx folk dancing. At the end they asked any who wished to join in — much fun followed.

Congratulations to all of the following:  
Angus Gillon Jr. and Anneve Pacina on their marriage June 26, 1999.

Rob and Colleen (McCaffrey) Degunst on the birth of their son Gareth Alexander on May 3, 1999.

Kevin Gillon and Laura LaForge on the birth of their daughter Megan on May 8, 1999.

Pat (Christian) and Hardy Weber of Quesnel, B.C. on their 50th wedding anniversary on May 6, 1999.

— Vera Henry

## Ontario Manx Society

The Ontario Manx enjoyed a great day Sunday, July 18th for their annual picnic with our usual races and a delicious cold potluck lunch.

The members of the Ontario Manx felt very fortunate that we were able to have our picnic once more at the home of Lil and Pat Kendal, Richmond Hill, On. Lil & Pat have a spacious property with lots of trees to sit under and keep cool, which we really appreciated the day of the picnic. The day turned out to be very hot and humid.

We will be meeting once more at the Kendalls September 11th for our annual "Corn Roast".

The Ontario Manx will be having their fall meeting at the end of October, date pending.

— Phyllis Busche

## In Memory

**PHILIP JAMES BRIDSON**  
November 4, 1922-June 17, 1999

*Philip James Bridson* of Desbarats, Ontario, Canada, died peacefully at the Sudbury Memorial Hospital on Thursday, June 17, 1999 in his 77th year. He was born on November 4, 1922 in Castletown, son of Captain Philip James (Ginger) Bridson and Elizabeth. Predeceased by his parents and sister Betty, he is survived by his brother Bruce and sister Audrey, both of the Isle of Man. Philip had strong ties with the Isle of Man and was truly a Manxman in his heart and mind.

Beloved husband of Dorothy May for 54 years. Dear father of Philip James (Josephine), Michael John (Elaine), Kathleen Joan (Larry) Urbanoski, and William Edward Thomas (Laurel). Loving father of nine grandchildren.

The funeral service was held at Arthur Funeral Home in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, on Wednesday, June 23, 1999 with the Rev. Phyllis Dietrich presiding.

## ISLE OF MAN: WEBSITES

The Isle of Man has castles, tail-less cats, motorcycle races, Vikings, Celts, Victorian steam trains, its own version of Gaelic, and lots of gorgeous scenery. Here are some websites you can use to explore it:

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

A good general website with information on all sorts of Manx things.

: their gallery of natural scenes and old trains at:

<<http://www.isle-of-man.com/galleries/index.htm>>

Another good general site, with photos and links is:

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

For the TT motorcycle races try their page at: <<http://mannet.mcb.net/ttraces/>>

You can also find links at: <<http://www.manxman.co.im/>>

For Manx Gaelic, try: <<http://homepages.enterprise.net/kelly/menu.html>>

You can hear Manx Gaelic spoken at: <<http://tarbh.smo.uhi.ac.uk/gaidhlig/gaelg/goo/>>

Photos of prehistoric sites are displayed at: <<http://homepages.enterprise.net/djr/>>

To learn about Manx gymnasts (and to find links to other British gymnastic sites) see: <<http://homepages.enterprise.net/manxgymnastics/>>

To catch up on the latest news, visit: <<http://www.isle-of-man-newspapers.com>>

And to purchase books on the Isle of Man, see the website of St. Paul's Bookshop in Ramsey: <[http://www.enterprise.net/spbi/cgi-bin/web\\_store.cgi](http://www.enterprise.net/spbi/cgi-bin/web_store.cgi)>

## Chaplain's Corner

*Rev. Devore Craine Smith*

A recent document stated that the Manx are "the smallest ethnic group in America." I tried to analyze what it means to be a Manx "ethnic" before being interviewed by a local writer, Ernie Hernandez, for an article in his series: "Know thy neighbor: ethnics in San Diego County, California." The dictionary defines "ethnic" as "of or relating to races or large groups of people classed according to common traits and customs." What gives us our identity as "Manx"? "Manx" connotes that our "traits" are our heritage through our families, history and customs. These include our cultural elements, tradition, stories, legends, symbols and music. The lore we venerate, remember and pass down through the generations is shared within our families and thus gives identity to us as ethnic Manx.

Some of these cultural elements are the symbolic tailless Manx cats, the legendary protector god Manannan, our 1021-year-old Parliament at Tynwald, our symbol of survival as a nation in our 3-legs flag ("whatever way you throw him, he will stand") and our religious tradition. Religion plays an important part in our ethnic identity, is broad and personally determined. It stems from Patrick's Roman Catholic missions, the Episcopal Church of England, and subsequent religious bodies, such as Methodist, Mormon, Reformed, and others.

All of these symbols and customs give identity to us as a people who originated on Ellan Vannin, the Enchanted Isle. These are the experiences, memories, and revered heritage that make us "ethnic" Manx. They are elements that continue our identity as Manx and we are the living preservation of our Manx heritage.

## Illinois Manx Gathering to Feature Nationally Recognized Speakers

The first ever Illinois Manx Gathering, sponsored by the Galva Manx Society is growing into a major event and will feature several nationally recognized Manx authors and lecturers.

Mr. Norman Standish, 10th generation from Myles Standish, one of America's first Manx settlers and military leader of the 1620 Plymouth colony will be a special guest speaker. Norman is currently serving as Second Vice President of the North American Manx Association. He is constantly in demand for presentations on Manx and Illinois history. This month he is hosting the Soule Kindred Society annual meeting in Lanark, IL, which will focus on the history of the Lanark area during the period when descendants of the Pilgrims joined the great western movement. He also conducts bus tours which follow the Black Hawk Trail and the history of the Black Hawk Indian War, and the Stage Coach Trail covering the trail from Chicago to Galena. For the Illinois Manx Gathering, Mr. Standish will discuss the history of his

family lines from Myles Standish's arrival to the Plymouth Colony to date.

Ms. Joan Gill of Plymouth, Minnesota, will also be a featured speaker at the Gathering. Joan's grandfather came to the United States from the Isle of Man shortly after the turn of the century. It was from him that she developed her fondness and interest in the Isle of Man, its history and folklore. She has spent a number of years collecting folklore and stories from the Isle of Man. The result of her research is a presentation of the folklore history of the Isle of Man, which includes a number of stories, sayings, and proverbs, everyday customs and superstitions, family traditions, shared beliefs and customs; all accompanied by artifacts and visuals from the island. The former editor of the North American Manx Associations' quarterly newsletter, Joan is currently Secretary of the national organization. Her presentation is constantly in demand and she has been the feature Manx storyteller at numerous Celtic Festivals and Conventions across the United States.

The Gathering will also include the beautiful Celtic music of the Mohammed Temple Kilti Band of Peoria. This authentic Scottish Highland Pipes and Drum Corp will provide an afternoon of musical entertainment.

"We are very excited about the first Illinois Manx Gathering and are pleased with the caliber of talented individuals who are planning to participate in this event," said Michelle Smith, one of the organizers of the event. "We are inviting everyone that is interested in our Manx culture to join us." Several dignitaries of Manx descent included on their invitation list are former Vice President Dan Quayle and Galva Mayor Tom Hartman.

The Illinois Manx Gathering is scheduled for September 12th at the Galva Park District. It begins at noon with a potluck dinner. Guests are asked to bring a covered dish to pass and their own table service. They may also wish to bring lawn chairs. For more information about the event, contact Michelle Smith at (309) 932-8272 or Shirley Kelly at (309) 932-3848.

### FYI —

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

**Deadline Nov. 10 — Dec. Issue**

## Peel Castle

Written by Charles Guard

St. Patrick's Isle is one of the smallest islands in the Irish Sea and yet one of the most historic, with an extraordinary history stretching back over eight thousand years.

It has been the home of princesses and bishops, monks and Vikings, peasants and fishermen.

The story begins some six thousand years before Christ when hunter gatherers made their way here, attracted by the abundant fish, and the fresh water of the nearby river.

By the time of the Dark Ages and the unrest throughout Europe, the isolation of St. Patrick's Isle made it an ideal place for safety, for storing grain in times of siege, and for establishing the King's court.

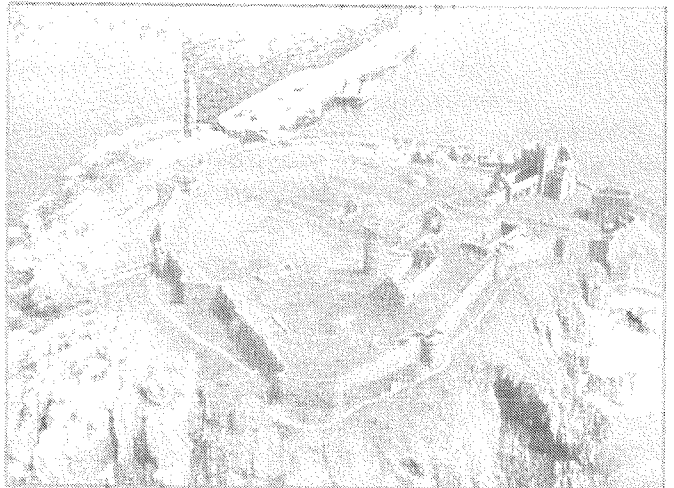
It was here, tradition tells us, that the great Saint Patrick stepped ashore to bring Christianity to the Isle of Man, and a monastery and early churches were established.

This wealth attracted the Vikings who had started to plunder the Irish Sea coasts by the 10th century, and by the 11th century they had built a fort on the Island under the intriguingly named King Magnus Barelegs.

After the Viking period, the Isle of Man was fought over by the Scottish and English powers, and eventually it came under English rule at the beginning of the 14th century, and was gifted to a certain Sir John Stanley by King Henry IV. From this time on, St. Patrick's Isle was used both by the Church and the Lords of Man, though not without frequent arguments as to who was really in control.

Eventually the castle was abandoned in the 18th century when the garrison was moved out to one of the other Island Towns. Soon

afterwards the lead was stripped from the Cathedral roof, and the stained glass removed. Gradually, the buildings deteriorated until today, all we see is a picturesque ruin, albeit on a dramatic sea swept location. The soft pink sandstone has been scoured by centuries of wind racing in off the Irish Sea, and the pillars and arches of the buildings are weathered into strange shapes. Nowadays, instead of the singing of monks or the shouting of soldiers, it is the constant arguing of seagulls that fills the air, along with the endless sound of the sea, over which so much richness and tragedy has come to this tiny Island over so many thousands of years.



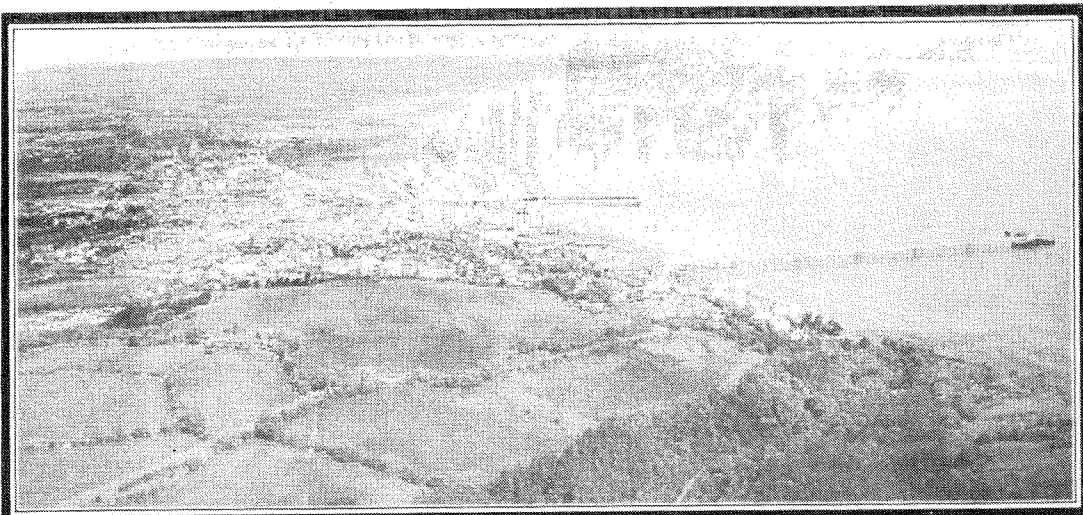
St. Patrick's Isle



## Ramsey and the North

In the ancient Chronicles of Man, circa 1250, the monks of Rushen Abbey have faithfully recorded the name of the most northerly town as Ramsa. Seemingly drawn from the old Scandinavian language, it is translated as Wild Garlic River.

Ramsey has a distinct lack of old buildings having suffered much destruction across the centuries. Olaf, King of Man, was murdered by his nephew Reginald near the harbour in 1154 and a souple of centuries later Robert the Bruce (of spider in the cave fame) passed through on the way to besiege



Castle Rushen. Ramsey has been the gateway for invasions peaceful and not peaceful for aeons and with the building of the imposing Ramsey Pier in Victorian times, landing became much easier. Now a thriving market town, new industries are ensuring that Ramsey is enjoying a leading position in the commerce of the Isle of Man.

## Proposed schedule for NAMA Convention

**By Jack Cormode**

The Schedule for the North American Manx Association Convention next year has been tentatively laid out. The working plan is for Homecoming activities starting on Saturday, July 1 running all through the next week. Saturday, July 8 has a Convert being set up as a Grand Finale. Official NAMA Convention activities are spread throughout the week, to allow the maximum amount of time for regular touring of the Island and visiting family and friends.

Considering all the things to do and see on the Island, every visitor would do well to plan on arriving a couple of days early and staying a little after the Convention is over to get out and explore and enjoy all the possibilities. While you are in the British Isles, you might as well take in Ireland, Scotland or England, or a little bit of each. Travel agents familiar with the area know how to set up a trip personalized to your special wishes.

The tentative schedule is based on a plan developed by Derek Mulhern, Marketing Manager in the Department of Tourism and Leisure, who had been informed as to what NAMA members would be hoping to find. Phil Carr, the recently appointed General Manager of Everymann Holidays, helped put in some of the details, such as reminding everyone that we would be expecting Manx dishes for our Convention dinner.

What you don't see are the special presentations that will be available to us but have not been penciled into specific time slots.

The Gaiety Theatre, celebrating its centenary, will be available for special tours for our members. This is aside from enjoying one of their revival shows in the evening. Members of the Manx Regiment, one of the earliest to serve Allied Cause, will be telling us of the Manx wartime efforts. The Chamber of Commerce and Manx Business Connection want to meet with other business-oriented people in North America to discuss areas of mutual benefit.

There are also big events outside of Douglas like the Laxey Faire and the Great Santon Fayre, and the Isle of Music Festival.

For those of you who have been anxiously inquiring about making travel reservations, it looks like you may have to wait a bit longer. Three different sources in the travel industry have informed me that they are having a difficult time getting the airlines to quote prices for next year. The air services want to wait until late in the year before committing themselves. The Manx Government and the travel agents will continue to press for an early resolution of this matter so that we all can make our final plans.

(Just before the Bulletin deadline, Sir Charles Kerruish, President of Tynwald, announced that, for the Millenium, there would be a Tynwald National Week rather than the usual single Tynwald Day. This shows the support and commitment we are receiving from our heritage land across the sea. Undoubtedly, more details will follow as we learn what is in store for us next year.)

The Northern California Manx are looking forward to hosting you, your family and friends next year at Homecoming 2000.

### **TENTATIVE CONVENTION SCHEDULE — JULY 2000**

Saturday, July 1 — Arrival  
Reception (Canada Day)

Sunday, July 2 — A.M. Church;  
P.M. Gov't Garden Party; Eve —  
Fam. Tree

Monday, July 3 — A.M. Tour  
North; Lunch - Peel; P.M. - Peel

Tuesday, July 4 — A.M. (Bd.  
Meeting); Eve - WMA Dinner; 4th  
of July

Wednesday, July 5 — Tynwald  
Day. P.M. Craft Centre (Cronk Y  
Voddy Sports?)

Thursday, July 6 — A.M. RWY  
to Castletown; P.M. Cregneash &  
South; Eve - NAMA Dinner

Friday, July 7 — A.M. Peel Sea  
Fest; P.M. Annual Gen. Mtg.; Eve -  
Gaiety Theatre

Saturday, July 8 — A.M. Rushen  
Abbey; P.M. Shopping; Eve  
Concert

Sunday, July 9 — Departure; Eve  
- Mariner's Service

# Tholtans of Man

One of the most magical events on visits to the Isle of Man has been discovering the tholtans which dot the Manx landscape. A tholtan is, in its simplest terms, the ruin of an old stone dwelling. In reality, they can be very small or very large, usually hidden away around a corner which the visitor might never find alone. They can be very old or, again, as recent as a hundred years or so. All seem to possess an aura of having been truly lived in with sometimes quite an adventurous connected tale.

Good fortune has come my way with the assistance of Manx friend Ruth Needham. Ruth loves to take me "tracking" — I drive; she navigates. We go places you wouldn't believe a car could manage, and there is usually a "do-able" walk at journey's goal. She has never told me what I will see — that's part of the magic. One is left to be amazed on one's own as to what we see. I've never been less than amazed, and with my native Manx friend leading, I come to know the Isle of Man a bit more intimately.

Two of my favorite "tholtans" are Cashtal Yn Ard — the castle on the hill — and Montpelier, a former hotel. Both have been written about and their true histories are as fascinating as they are diverse. Cashtal Yn Ard, on the northeast side of the island, is tiny. It sits atop a knoll near a farm and not too far from a Viking burial site. It was definitely the well-loved home of an ordinary Manx family which must have been "in each other's pockets" living their daily lives in such a small place. If, however, you take yourself right inside this tree-wrapped tholtan gem, you are suffused with a feeling of harmony and contentment. Look out the front door and you will be



dazzled! The blue sea and sky, and the golden fields reach into each other and embrace you in a cocoon of calm. Treat yourself to a visit here — you'll never forget it. Go a little farther up the road and you will be pulled even further back in time to imagine the spectacle of a Viking funeral! Take the road to Cornaa to see these wonders.

The Montpelier is just as special in its difference. It's not over-large, but as you enter you will see "ghost lines" where a staircase led above, and around corners to the kitchen and cow byre. An approximately Fall 1996 issue of Manx Airlines Manx Tales describes this house and its history. Montpelier is more toward the island's center.

The tholtans of Man have been eloquently described by popular Manx author Gordon Kniveton in his photography book on this subject. Copies are available in several locations on the island, i.e. the

gift shop at the Manx Railway Station in Douglas or St. Paul's Bookshop in Ramsey (e-mail: [www.manxbooks.com](mailto:www.manxbooks.com) or [info@manxbooks.com](mailto:info@manxbooks.com).)

I have never been a poet; yet, following my first visit to Cashtal Yn Ard, verse began to flow. Here are the first words which came to me about this entrancing place:

"Tholtan My Chree"

"Ancient" was everywhere this autumn afternoon.

Voices in the stones spoke of hearth and home through ages of gales and sunshine.

It is not hard, upon entering this pile of hewn stones

To feel the sense of families who lived, loved and labored within its tiny walls ..."

See the magic of the tholtans for yourself in 2000 — their timelessness will fill your imagination!

—Dee Hickman, Aug. 1999

## Isle of Man Family History Society

The Isle of Man Family History Society was formed in January 1979 to encourage the study of genealogy and family history, particularly within the Isle of Man. Being a member in the Society benefits all those researching their families, whether they are Manx born or not. Members living abroad will find it rewarding to discover Island history in this manner.

We hold most of our monthly meetings on the 3rd Friday of each month at the Loch Promenade Methodist Church in Douglas, commencing at 7:30 p.m. An Exhibition or Open Day is usually held each year, where we display Family Trees of members, and copies of our Publications. Members of the Society continue to transcribe and publish vital records for the benefit of all members. We also have a presence in the "Homecomer's Marquee" on Tynwald Day each year, which provides an op-

portunity to welcome our members who may visit the Island at that time.

Our quarterly Journal "Fraueyn as Banglaneyn" (Manx Gaelic) "Roots and Branches" is published in February, May, August and November, and sent to each member. It includes articles of genealogical and historical interest, and the "Members Interests" pages and a "Can you help" section.

For persons living in the Isle of Man whose ancestry is not Manx, our Society Library holds the International Genealogical Index (IGI) on Microfiche for all the British Isles and for other places in the world. Our library is located in at 3-5 Atholl Street, Peel, Isle of Man IM5 1HG. Please contact the librarian for opening times, the address and phone number are shown below.

The following names, addresses and

phone numbers are island members who may provide assistance:

\* **Nigel Crowe** (Chairman), 69 Westbourne Drive, Douglas, Isle of Man IM1 4BB

\* **Ernest Cleater** (Secretary), 5 Selborne Drive, Douglas, Isle of Man IM1 3LT; phone: 01624 622188

\* **David Christian** (Treasurer), 3 Minorca Hill, Laxey, Isle of Man IN44 7DN; phone: 01624 862088

\* **Ann Kaighin** (Editor), Cronk Marrey, Fairy Cottage, Laxey, Isle of Man IM4 7NP; phone: 01624 861717

\* **Phyllis Watterson** (Librarian), 6 Links Close, Peel, Isle of Man IM5 1DG; phone: 01624 843452

\* **Roger Christian**, "Croit-y-Keeil", Port Grenaugh, Santan, Isle of Man IM4 1HF; phone: 01624 822140

\* **Noreen Cottier**, 3 Cowley Terrace, Peel, Isle of Man IM5 1UA; phone: 01624 842527

# 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

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

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## MINNESOTA

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## NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

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## QUEENSLAND

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## ROCKY MOUNTAIN

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

## UTAH

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## SAN DIEGO

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## VANCOUVER

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## VICTORIA MANX SOCIETY

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

## WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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

## WISCONSIN

Jody Morey, 408 Blue View Drive, Mount Horeb, WI 53572

## WORLD MANX ASSOCIATION

Hazel Murphy, Association Secretary  
Purt-ny-shee, Quarterbridge Road, Douglas, Isle of Man, IMZ 3RQ

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NORTH AMERICAN MANX ASSOCIATION  
24 NW 8TH AVE.  
GALVA, IL 61434  
CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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Membership: TYPE: Ind TERM: Life  
Dues (U.S. \$): AMT:\$ 0 Post:\$0 TOT:\$ 0

Dr Mary F Kelly  
PO Box 146  
Cottage Grove, WI 53527

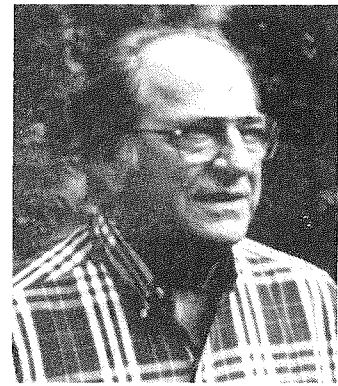


# President's Message

When I was just a wee lad growing up in Utah, the Isle of Man was a mythical place that seemed to exist only in the imagination. I heard tales of the Island from my father and my grandmother even though they had never been there. My grandfather was born in the Isle of Man on a farm named Shenharra which was on the Peel road near St. John. Converted by a Mormon missionary, grandfather left the Island as a teenager and made his way to Utah, home of the Mormons. Growing up there, the Isle of Man seemed like some wondrous, far off place never to be actually experienced but to be treasured for its beauty and folklore nonetheless. Information about my roots existed only in the second-hand stories passed down to the next generation.

Today, thanks to the media and now especially the Internet, nothing is left to the imagination for it is all accessible. While there are not too many movies like *Waking Ned Devine*, which was filmed in the Isle of Man, there are a plethora of web sites one can visit on the Internet to access all the information one could want. In both text and beautiful pictures, we are now able to have immediate contact with 'our land across the sea' and to enjoy all things Manx first hand. If you are not 'connected' yourself, ask your children ... or better yet, your grandchildren ... to help you explore these places.

Possibly the best place to start would be <[www.isle-of-man.com](http://www.isle-of-man.com)> where you will find all kinds of information indexed in a very readable manner. You can spend as much time as you like following the various sources reading and looking at many pictures. Since you are NAMA members you might like to check out our site and find names and addresses to contact. Go to <[www.iom/interests/genealogy/nama/form.htm](http://www.iom/interests/genealogy/nama/form.htm)> and learn who's who in NAMA, the local Manx societies and the Family History Society as well as the World Manx Association. If you want a membership form for a friend, click on the proper button at the end. You can even listen to Manx radio live if your system is equipped with speak-



Don Quayle, NAMA President

ers. Go to <[www.manxradio.com](http://www.manxradio.com)> to listen at any time of day or night. Just remember that they are five hours ahead of our eastern time so if you want to listen to Geraldine Janieson at 9:30 a.m., you have to get up before 4:30 a.m. in the east. I can tell you it is worth it. You will have to have Real Audio to hear them, but you can download a player free by going to <[www.real.com](http://www.real.com)> and following the guide. If you would like to stay with the media but read at your leisure, try the morning papers with your coffee at <[www.isle-of-man-newspapers.com](http://www.isle-of-man-newspapers.com)>

There are three sites that will provide you with hours of pleasure and information since they are so comprehensive. The first was put together by Niall Kelly in an effort to bring all Manx sites under one address. Try <[www.homepages.mcb.net/kelly/manxlinx/](http://www.homepages.mcb.net/kelly/manxlinx/)>. This is an attempt to link many sites together and you can follow by categories or by the alphabetical listings. Mr. Kelly asked people to vote for their favorite site and the winner was <[www.cc.surrey.ac.uk/contrib/manx](http://www.cc.surrey.ac.uk/contrib/manx)> which will take you to A Manx Notebook. Another comprehensive site that does a similar job of cataloguing is <[www.iom.globalgateway.com](http://www.iom.globalgateway.com)> and you will find a good index on the home page. At the end of the page you will find a listing of useful phone numbers. And finally, the Family History Society is inviting everyone to visit next year. Read about that by going to <[www.isle-of-man.com/interests/genealogy/fhs/2000.htm](http://www.isle-of-man.com/interests/genealogy/fhs/2000.htm)>. And please read John Cormode's information about our next convention to be held there next year elsewhere in this issue.

**ATTENTION NAMA MEMBERS — Membership dues for the new fiscal year are due by Oct. 1, 1999. Please use the renewal form on the back of this page. This form may also be used for new memberships. Your membership helps us continue to keep our Manx heritage alive.**

# NORTH AMERICAN MANX ASSOCIATION

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. The membership is spread throughout the United States, Canada, the Isle of Man and other overseas locations.

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

## NAMA Member Enrollment (98/99 & 99/00)

See membership categories below, note postage supplement. PLEASE PRINT

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Prov. \_\_\_\_\_ Zip/PC \_\_\_\_\_

	<u>U.S. AMOUNT</u>	<u>CANADIAN AMOUNT</u>	<u>YOUR AMOUNT</u>
<b><u>INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP</u></b>			
Annual .....	\$15.00	\$22.00	_____
Life			
Under 50 years .....	\$250.00	\$375.00	_____
50 to 59 years .....	\$175.00	\$265.00	_____
60 years or over .....	\$125.00	\$180.00	_____
Junior (age 1-18 years, no Bulletin) .....	\$2.00	\$3.00	_____
<b><u>FAMILY MEMBERSHIP</u></b>			
Annual .....	\$20.00	\$30.00	_____
Life (2 adults, based on age of youngest)			
Under 50 years .....	\$325.00	\$475.00	_____
50 to 59 years .....	\$235.00	\$350.00	_____
60 years or over .....	\$200.00	\$300.00	_____
<b><u>SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP</u> (Not for use by individuals)</b>			
Annual .....	\$20.00	\$30.00	_____
<b><u>MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATE</u></b> The membership certificate design and coloring have special significance relative to the Isle of Man. A letter of explanation is sent with each certificate.	\$5.00	\$7.00	_____
<b><u>MEMBERSHIP PIN</u></b> (1" diameter, has 3 legs, eagle and oak leaf) ...	\$5.00	\$7.00	_____
<b><u>CONTRIBUTION</u></b> To further NAMA's goals ..... (United States tax deductible as allowed by law) (If current or any past employer matches contributions, send any required forms to NAMA for completion. Thank you.)			_____
<b><u>POSTAGE SUPPLEMENT</u></b> (Pays for higher NAMA Bulletin mailing costs to Canada and other countries. Canadian members add amount shown, <u>all overseas (IOM, UK, etc.)</u> members add \$6.00 U.S.)		\$5.00	_____

**TOTAL REMITTANCE (IN CANADIAN OR U.S. DOLLARS)** \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this form along with a check made payable to NAMA to: ➔

NOTE: Canadians should send a Canadian check for the Canadian dollar amount shown. All others send U.S. funds.

NAMA  
 C/O Helen M. Drom  
 4960 Cherry Avenue  
 Santa Maria, CA 93455

**REMEMBER TO COMPLETE THE BACK OF THIS FORM**