

N A M A

NORTH AMERICAN MANX ASSOCIATION

Vol. 72, No.1

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

December 1999

Galva Manx Society Event Draws Large Crowd

A crowd of about 200 people from five different states turned out Sunday, Sept. 12 to attend the first Illinois Manx Gathering, held at the Galva Park District.

Those who attended came from as far away as Minnesota, Wisconsin, Missouri, Indiana, Iowa, and throughout the state of Illinois. All attending with a common purpose, to learn more about the Isle of Man and their Manx heritage. Many came to learn about their ancestors, many to meet others of Manx descent, and many to hear keynote speaker Norman Standish.

The event was attended by representatives of the North American Manx Association, including guest speaker Norman Standish who is currently second vice president, and Mary Kelly, past president of the association. Other notable guests included Joyce Benjamin, president of the Wisconsin Manx Society, and Mr. Rober Kelly, president of the Chicago Manx Society.



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Scottish Highland Pipes and Drum Corp

Finding Our Family's Heritage on The Isle of Man

By George W. Brew

For many years, when one of my children (there are six of them) asked about his or her heritage I created the myth that we were descendants of Brian Boru, one of the Kings of Ireland. I told them that the name was Anglicized when our ancestors came to the United States.

In 1998, for my 70th birthday, I received many memorabilia from my kids. Included were pictures from the Isle of Man and one letter addressed to a Mrs. George Brew in New York from a G? or C? A. Brew in Ramsey, IOM dated 1903 in a handwriting that appeared to have been written by an older person and was quite difficult to read. There was also another letter dated 1908 from a S. Kennish, Ramsey, IOM, stating

that Miss Brew was a helpless old lady who could no longer read or write. These had been found in some old boxes one of them had discovered.

Let me go back a little. For many years, my Grandmother Brew (nee Flynn) lived with us until she died in her 90s. Never once in those many years do I remember her speaking of my grandfather. Fortunately, I did remember my father telling me my grandfather's name was George Roland Brew. I started looking for some information about him by searching for my father's birth certificate. They sometimes show the place of birth of the parents on this document. I know my father was born November 15, 1895. The city of New York did not find any record of his birth, but I was able

to locate his Baptismal Certificate. A call to the Church of St. Charles Borromeo in New York resulted in no additional information.

While surfing the Internet I found the Isle of Man web site and left messages on several message boards, including the one for the North American Manx Association, which I immediately joined. I received a number of replies, but none relating to Miss Brew of Ramsey, IOM.

I also located a page on the IOM web site about a firm called Manx Ancestral Tours on the IOM. I e-mailed them (m-a-tours@advsys.co.uk) for some information about their services and was pleased at their prompt reply. We agreed they would do

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Galva Manx

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The crowd was welcomed to the event by Galva Manx Society President Russell Kelly and Galva Mayor Tom Hartman. Shirley Kelly read a letter to the crowd from NAMA President Don Quayle. After the noon meal, the crowd was entertained by the Mohammed Temple Kelti Band, an authentic Scottish Highland Pipes and Drum Corp from Peoria.



Norm Standish (Photo by Lance Smith)

Norm Standish, a 10th-generation descendent of Plymouth Colony founder Miles Standish, provided the main address. He shared interesting facts about the Plymouth Colony and how his ancestors and other colonists learned to survive its early years. He told of opposition they faced from pirates, having limited food, and enduring the cold winters.

Event organizers were Shirley Kelly and Michelle Smith of the Galva Manx Society.

Heritage

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some research on Miss Brew. Wendy (of Manx Ancestral Tours) responded that she had found Emily Alicia Brew (1815-1913) who it was determined was the sister of my great-grandfather, John Thomas Brew (1819-?).

As a result of this information, my wife Kathie and I decided to visit the IOM in September of 1999 as part of a trip we had planned to the United Kingdom and Ireland. On Sept. 15, we met with Wendy and her husband Andy in Douglas and were presented with the results of their findings, a complete documented professional presentation that would have pleased the chairman of the board of any major corporation. It was an overview of my entire Brew IOM family indexed to every item of research they had collected. Included were copies of birth, baptismal and marriage records, wills, census files, monument inscriptions and graveyard plans.

Wendy found that my great-great-grandfather was Thomas Brew (1785-1831) and his wife was Jane Christian Harrison (1789-1831). It is believed they both died as the result of a cholera epidemic in 1831. His father was James Brew (1747-1808) who married Elizabeth Cribbins (1744-1807). The furthest back was to my great 4X's grandfather John Brew (?-1769) who was married to Margaret Cowle.

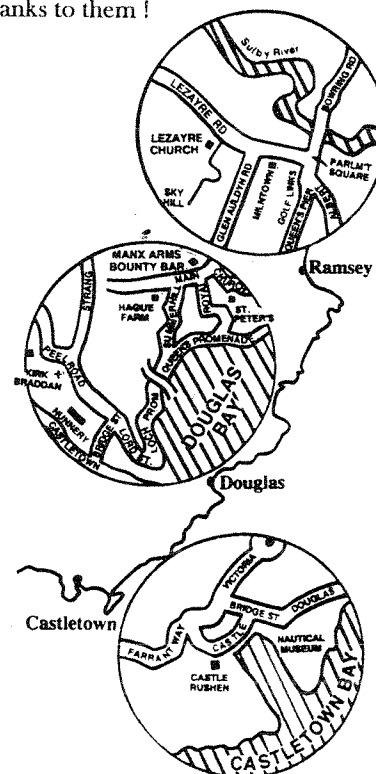
Along with the presentation was an IOM map indicating the location of the Brew family homesteads, Guilcaugh and Kella House. The family business, Kella Mills and Kella Distillers. The churches and graveyards, Kirk Christ Lezayre and Kirk Andreas, where many of my ancestors are buried. We were able to visit all of the locations except Guilcaugh due to a road closure.

While at Kirk Christ Lezayre, we asked

one of the two workers we saw there for directions to one of the monuments we were looking for. He asked for the name and when we told him Brew, a surprised look came on his face. He told us his name was Thomas Brew and his father was James Brew. Unfortunately, we could find no relationship to our family.

Our visit to the IOM was one of the most satisfying and rewarding experiences of my life. Since leaving the IOM we have asked Wendy and Andy to do some additional research because the data on my grandfather was not found on the IOM. So, George Roland Brew remains a mystery to me and is yet to be solved.

Much of the research was successful due to the help of the Manx Museum and the Isle of Man Family History Society. My thanks to them!



Society News

Cleveland Manx Society

In October, over 30 of us gathered at the Welshfield Inn for a delicious dinner and good fellowship. The inn dates from the 19th century in a small town east of Cleveland. The trip out there was beautiful with all of the leaves turning.

The Scotch societies held their annual program in November, and while it is not a function of the Cleveland Manx, we try to support it. Bill Duncan, the husband of our secretary, was in charge, so several of our members attended.

The Christmas Party will be Dec. 5 at a Holiday Inn. We will not be exchanging gifts this year, but will bring mittens, hats, etc. to be donated to a local charity. This meeting is usually well attended, since all members in good standing are treated to the dinner.

We will not meet again until March due to the possibility of inclement weather and the distances some have to travel. Plans for the spring have not yet been made, but the board will meet early in the year to decide our program for 2000. We try to meet around the second weekend of the month, and we welcome anyone visiting the area. Just let one of our officers know. Merry Christmas to all, and may 2000 be a truly Happy New Year.

—Mona Haldeman

San Diego Manx Society

As is our custom, we celebrated a belated Tynwald Day at the Cottage of England in Balboa Park on July 11. Doris Dobbel, Marge Frederick and Ruth Smith served tea, cookies and lemonade to the scores of people who wandered in. Devore Smith showed videos and answered questions about the I.O.M. Unfortunately, we found no new Manx folks.

Lou and Faith Vick hosted our society on Oct. 11. Sixteen members found the front porch filled with tables of free Manx items — from tea towels, coasters and tote bags to tourist brochures and newspaper articles. These items were donated by Marge Frederick, Laurence Skelly, Don Weber and Don Quayle.

Karen Rege filled us in on how to use the local Mormon library and the WWW to research genealogy.

Hilary Harrison reported on Brian's mission to Albania. Brian was able to use his skills to repair equipment needed by missionaries and social workers. He felt that the trip was very rewarding and

successful.

We closed the meeting with the singing of Ellan Vannin and the Manx national anthem.

Lucy Whalen and Gordon Garrett joined Lou and Faith in serving wonderful refreshments including Manx Trifle and meat pies.

— Ruth Smith

Northern California Manx

The Northern California Manx, hosts of the NAMA Homecoming Convention for the year 2000, met once again for a brunch at the Silicon Valley Ramada Inn. It was after the deadline for the bulletin, so this will have to be brief.

We welcomed several new members, Mona Reiss, Kathy McChesney, Robert Smith, and Milton and Ruth Smith, all of them related to Rev. Devore Craine Smith, our NAMA Chaplain. We also welcomed back Marlene Storey, whom we had not seen in a while.

First things first, amidst convivial conversation, the NorCal crew had their usual repast, this time arranged by Jan and Lee Widner. Then we sang "O Land of Our Birth" and "Ellan Vannin", led by our resident musical, Dee Hickman.

We then held a rather businesslike meeting about convention matters, covering everything from meeting schedules to postage rates. Our convention web site should be up soon.

One matter that we like to talk about is the strong support we are already receiving from the Manx. Rev. Brian Partington of St. George's Church, Hazel Murphy of the World Manx Association, Barbara and Peter Dawson of Kirk Michael, and Charles Guard of Manx Radio, just to name a few.

Time to rush this off to the presses.

NOTE: The travel and lodging for two given to NAMA by the Isle of Man

Government will be raffled off early next year. Look for details in the mailing that will be coming your way from Travel Connoisseur, our Manx travel connection.

Vancouver, B.C. Manx

President Terry McCaffrey, on behalf of the Vancouver Manx Society, extends to one and all "Seasons Greetings" and "Best Wishes for a Happy New Year."

We have had lovely fall weather. Makes up a little for our cool, wet summer.

Plans are being made for our fall "potluck supper." This is our last event of the year. It is being held on Nov. 20 at St. David's Church Hall, Vancouver. We hope for a good turnout.

Looking back, our year has been a good one. We have a few new members and of course, like all of the societies, are always on the lookout for more.

Happy holidays! May the year 2000 be a good one.

— Vera Henry

Rocky Mountain Manx

The Rocky Mountain Manx Society met at the Arvada United Methodist Church on Sunday, Nov. 14 for a potluck dinner. The program was given by Attorney Fred Vondy on Manx Law: The Cutting Edge.

Attention was given to offshore estate planning developed by an Englewood, Colo., firm with Manx connections. Manx law provides for asset protection trusts which are used.

Following the program, the group sang "Ellan Vannin" and discussed the coming Tynwald celebration in 2000. We would like to hear of travel plans of other societies.

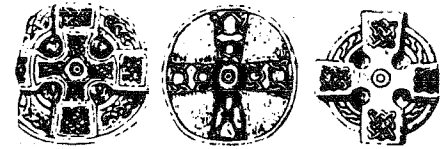
Jim Corlett is new president of our group. 775 Pontiac St., Denver, CO 80220.

— Reporter Albert W. Scarffe

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.

We welcome your contributions to the NAMA Bulletin. All information must be received before the deadlines listed: Deadline Feb. 10- March Issue. Deadline May 10- June Issue. Deadline Aug. 10- Sept. Issue. Deadline Nov. 10- Dec. Issue.

Society News



Chicago Manx Society

The Chicago Manx Society will meet on Sunday, Dec. 5 at the home of Barbara and John Dobbertin in Woodstock, IL. We hope to have a good turnout of Manx friends to begin the holiday season. We will begin at 1 p.m. with a delicious potluck dinner followed by a meeting and program.

We had to cancel our last meeting in October because of illness of our hostess Laurie Anderson of Wheeling.

The Third Annual Chicago Celtic Festival was held in Grant Park on the weekend of Sept. 18-19. We wish to thank

Brad Prendergast for coordinating and setting up the display and also to those who helped man the booth for two days.

We were happy to have five persons attend the Illinois Manx Gathering in Galva on Sept. 12.

Jean and I moved to Rockford as of Sept. 3, but I have been requested to remain as president of the Chicago Manx. Our new address is Robert and Jean Kelly, 2872 Embury Drive, Rockford, IL 61103-9538, phone (815) 639-0698, fax (815) 654-8690.

— Bob Kelly

Chaplain's Corner

Rev. Devore Craine Smith

At the October meeting of the San Diego Manx Society, Hilary Harrison shared a poem that had particular meaning to her as an immigrant since 1965. The poem by Barbara Cowley expresses the feelings of family members remaining in the Island as they think of their loved ones who emigrated to distant lands — often never to return.

MANX REVERIE

She sat there with her sweet old wrinkled face
Lit by a smile, her snow white hair a crown,
And eyes, the childlike blue of innocence—
The lone survivor of a vanished race—

She closed her eyes, and thought of by-gone years:
How simple life had been, and how fulfilled!
This cottage where as a bride she came
Full seventy years ago, and ever since
Had given life of her best — her husband too
A country man, with all his faith and fears
Now gone — she bravely hid her lonely tears:

Her children, grandchildren and great grandchild
Lived far away in London and New York—
One son had fallen in the first Great War
Two grandsons in the second, soon
She hoped to see their faces once again
When her long race was run; she closed her eyes
And said a little prayer that this be so.

She took her knitting up in gnarled old hands
And slowly did another round of sock,
All her time now she knitted, for her own
And distant ill-clad folk the wide world o'er.
As for herself, she had not even been
To England, all her life she had lived here
In gentle peace, upon this gracious Isle.

She could not think what made for discontent
This day and age, her childhood had been hard
And money scarce, but her fine proud Manx folk
Had striven well, and fended for their own
And worshipped God — and owed no man a jot!
Now easier times made no one happier
It seemed to her, nor thankful for their lot..

And, as I watched her, so she fell asleep,
I thought — As we have sown, so shall we reap —

In Memory

JOHN MORLEY, J.P.

His Worship The Mayor Mr. Councillor John Morley, J.P., age 57, passed away Sept. 3, 1999, at St. Bridget's Hospice after a short illness bravely borne. The cause of death was not disclosed but he had contracted pneumonia and recently suffered a mild heart attack.

That Friday, the day of his death, all non-essential civic operations were shut down. The Villa Marina closed its doors and the horse trams were stopped. Flags at the town hall, government offices, Villa Marina, promenade and many business flew at half mast. Isle of Man Football Association matches were postponed over the weekend and the Douglas Promenade decorative street lighting and Summerhill Glen illuminations were switched off for several days.

The funeral, with full civic honors, was preceded by a procession from the town hall to St. Mary's of the Isle Roman Catholic Church, Hill Street, Douglas. There, at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 7, 1999, the service was conducted by the Very Reverend Canon B. Alger and readers included Mr. Councillor David Christian and Mr. Councillor Basil Callow.

Morley had represented the Victoria Ward, Douglas, and was elected mayor of the capital city at the beginning of the civic year by an unanimous vote. In July, he gave an address at the Annual Gathering of the World Manx Association that was attended by a number of N.A.M.A. members.

The Mayor was born in Lancashire, England, and moved to the island in the early 1960s and had worked in the construction industry. Later, he owned well-known hotels such as the Palace View that was renamed the Grasmere, and the Empress Hotel while continuing in the building trade.



Recent construction projects included luxury houses on Majestic Drive, Onchan, and apartments in South Quay, Douglas.

Mr. Morley leaves his second wife, Eileen, children Elaine, Steven, Rachel, and Jonathan, stepson John Porter, and six grandchildren. He was well liked and shall be sadly missed by all who knew him.

ROBERT JAMES BRIDSON

Mr. Robert James Bridson of Debarats, Ontario, passed away peacefully on June 17, 1999. He will be greatly missed by his wife Dorothy and son Edward.

GORDON J. KILLIP

Mr. Gordon J. Killip passed away July 26, 1999. He enjoyed Manx activities all through his life. He will be greatly missed by his loving wife.

CAROLYN K. CAINE

Carolyn K. Caine of Gig Harbor, Washington, passed away June 16, 1999 of Lou Gehrig's Disease. She was a member of NAMA since 1992.

GROVER C. FAYLES, Jr.

Mr. Grover C. Fayles, Jr. of Bella Vista, Arizona, passed away October 31, 1999. He will be greatly missed by his family and friends.

In Memory

VICTOR MILNE BARBOTTLE

Mr. Victor Milne Harbottle of Whiteshell, Manitoba, passed away peacefully on Aug. 24, 1999 at the Lake of the Woods Hospital in Kenora at the age of 85 years.

Mr. Milne, the son of John and Agnes Harbottle was born at Napinka, Manitoba on July 8, 1914. He was educated at the Purple Hill and Napinka Schools. He assisted his father on the farm at Napinka and Strathclair, moving to Alonsa in 1936 where he opened a cafe, the "Dew Drop Inn." In 1940, Milne enlisted with the Lord Strathcona Horse as a carpenter, later discharged in 1946 with the rank of Corporal, C.M.S.C. On May 27, 1941, Milne married Amelia Edna Clarke in Kinosota, Manitoba. They settled in Winnipeg in 1942 and had two sons, Bob and Garry. Upon his discharge from the army, he went into contracting and carpentry business until 1958 when, with his wife, he purchased Crescent Beach Cabins at West Hawk Lake where he touched many lives with his honesty, generosity and sense of humor. Milne was also the

Postmaster at the Whiteshell Post Office for one month short of twenty years. He was a fixture in the Whiteshell Community for the past 41 years and could always be counted on. A talented craftsman and carpenter, Milne enjoyed spending hours woodworking and his pieces are treasured by many. His greatest joy came from making people laugh — always having a joke on hand.

Predeceased by his parents, brothers and sisters, Milne will always be greatly missed by his wife Edna, sons Bob (Wendy) and Garry (Gail) and grandchildren Kevin (Janet), Shaun, Lorne (Kristine), Suzanne (Jason), Sheri (Seaton), and great-granddaughter Emma Gaye Harbottle.

In Loving Memory of
My Beloved Parents

Joshua Stephen Clarke
Alice May Cashin

Both of Glenmoye, Isle of Man
From their daughter, Edna Harbottle

CATHERINE META THURWELL

On Saturday, July 24, 1999, peacefully at
Marathon Court Nursing Home, Catherine
Meta (nee Craine) wife of the late Albert E.

(Bert) formerly of Portland Oregon, daughter of the late R.H. and E.J. Craine of Ballafletcher Farm, Braddan. The funeral service was held July 29 at Kirk Braddan Church followed by interment at Braddan Cemetery. Donations may be sent to the Manx Blind Welfare Society, Derby House, 35, Derby Square, Douglas, c/o Ms. Ann Mather. All inquiries please to Kingswood Funeral Home, Kingswood Grove, Douglas.

REV. HERBERT GARFIELD KELLY

The Rev. Herbert Garfield Kelly died on the 17th of May at Fremont, Nebraska, at the age of 90. Rev. Kelly was Chaplain of the North American Manx Association for sixteen years, from 1976 to the conclusion of his service at the NAMA Convention at Douglas, Isle of Man in 1992. He was born Jan. 4, 1909, and raised in the Laxey Community, site of the Laxey Manx Church, near Mineral Point, Wis. Herbert served Methodist churches for 40 years. He is survived by his wife, Mary Joyce (Meating) Kelly, his sister Marion Kelly of San Diego, California, and four children, Victoria (Mrs. Miles Knudsen), Philip, Herbert Gregory, and Gordon James.

Society News

Isle of Man Family History Society

Thank you for your article on the society in the last bulletin edition. Since then, the society has held its AGM. Mr. Nigel Crowe stood down as chairman and Mrs. Mona Christain took over. The remainder of the committee remained in office. Our new library premises are now at 13 Michael Street, Peel. These were officially ordered by our Patron Sir Charles Kenruish in January 1999. We now have much more space, more microfiche readers, static displays and a new computer system. This is proving to be a much valued asset and will be put to great use during the special Man 2000 homecoming weeks. There is an open invitation to come home to your roots for 2000 on our web site: <http://www.isle-of-man.com/interests/genealogy/fhs/index.htm>. There is much more information on this site and it is well worth a visit.

The year 2000 is also our 21st birthday year and we are planning a special banquet later in the year around October to coincide with the end of the homecoming weeks. We are looking forward to welcoming NAMA delegates in July 2000, which I believe is to be termed Manx National Week,

and we hope to renew old acquaintances and friendships. Perhaps, we might tempt you to join our society as well, like many of us here on the island. Seasons greetings to you all.

E.W.Q. Cleator, Secretary

Our Own People

Bob and Marie Benson of E. Northport, NY, visited the island earlier this year and were successful in tracing their BENSON-COOPER ancestry. They also made a connection with a pen pal for their granddaughter in New York with a young person on the island.

Marta and Jim Wallace, NAMA members from Colorado Springs, CO, enjoyed their visit to the island in July and met Noreen at the Family History Library to research their Quayle and Corlett ancestry, who had spent time in Cleveland in the early 1800 period, before moving to Michigan. The weather was good and they were able to take pictures of the island beauty spots.

Others who visited during the year were Linda Kutnerian and Linda Lawson

from Bellingham, WA; Al Carlisle of Provo, UT; and John Wade from Albuquerque, NM. NAMA membership was suggested to all who visited the island, but their names are not on the list of members I received from Helen Drom in August.

Best wishes to all NAMA members for the coming holiday season and the year 2000 from the 29 Isle of Man NAMA members.

Noreen S. Cottier, Reg. Rep. for NAMA

NAMA Convention 2000 Souvenir Booklet

A committee from Northern California has formed to prepare the NAMA Isle of Man Convention Souvenir Program Booklet. In order for the booklet to be successful, we will need member support. If you are interested in placing an article, memorial, photo, or to be listed as a patron in the booklet, or want more information, please call Dale or Jan Skillicorn at (831) 722-0580 or Elaine Stephenson at (925) 680-0234 or e-mail: beststephen-son@earthlink.net.

President's Message

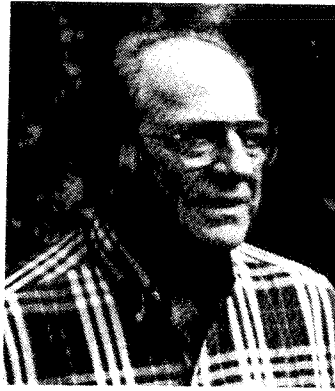
Rich in history, the Isle of Man can look back on a tapestry of events from the introduction of farming in the fourth millenium BC, the Manx Iron Age from 500 BC to 500 AD, the Celtic traditions, through to Christianity and Viking rule of the 9th century. During the mid-thirteenth to early fifteenth centuries, Sovereignty passed frequently between Scotland and England, with occasional incursions from Ireland.

By the eighteenth century, it had become a major center for the smuggling trade. To put an end to this, the British Government enacted a new law in 1765, namely the Re-Vestment Act and purchased the entire Island for just 70,000 pounds sterling. Whilst these measures were designed to save the UK Treasury a lot of money, they deprived the Islanders of their main source of income.

Throughout the centuries, the Isle of Man has developed a way of life and a culture of its own. Many world events such as the Roman and Norman invasions of Britain passed it by and the Island quietly took visits from Irish and Scottish freebooters in its stride. The arrival of the Vikings, however, did leave a lasting mark on the Island. After a period of turbulence the Celts and Vikings came together as one nation and without a doubt the greatest single gift left by these fearsome northern warriors was a unique system of government that exists to the present day.

To explore the history of the Isle of Man in depth, I would like to draw your attention to the Centre for Manx Studies. Founded in 1992 to provide a focal point for research in a wide range of areas relating to the Island, the Centre is able to offer a number of services and facilities to researchers at all levels, drawing on the expertise and experience of its parent bodies, Manx National Heritage, the University of Liverpool and the Isle of Man Department of Education.

A major project the Centre is a new, five-volume History of the Isle of Man, which will present an authoritative account of the Island's story from geological times to the present day. This is a stimulating venture, which is already inspiring important new work and bringing together the achievements of past and present scholars. In order that the *New History* of the Isle of Man can be a worthy successor to A. W. Moore's *History of the Isle of Man*

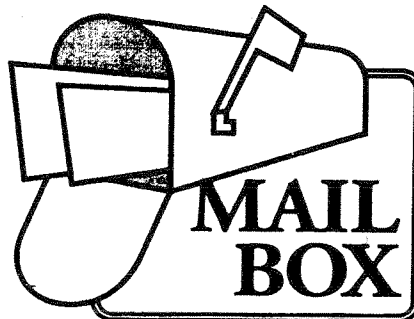


Don Quayle, NAMA President

and an accurate reference base for future generations, funding has been found to support the efforts of over 150 writers and researchers to work on the project.

In addition to publications, the Centre for Manx Studies organizes a number of conferences throughout the year. Some of you may wish to participate in their next conference. Entitled ISLAND: DREAM AND REALITY, this international conference will take place in Douglas from the 29th of June through the 2nd of July of next year, just preceding the NAMA biennial convention. In June of last year, just preceding the NAMA biennial convention. In June of last year, the University of Prince Edward Island, Charlottetown, Canada, hosted a conference on the literature of small islands. So successful was the event that the delegates decided to establish a biennial series of such conferences and the Isle of Man was chosen as the next venue for the year 2000.

If you are interested in attending, contact the Centre for Manx Studies, 6 Kingswood Grove, Douglas, Isle of Man, IM1 3LX. You might wish to e-mail the Director of the Centre, Dr. Peter Davey at <pdj1@liv.ac.uk> or contact them by telephone at 011-44-162-467-3074.



Dear Ms. Smith:

I am a life member of NAMA and always interested in items related to Man.

Our son, Bob, recently found a 19th century photograph (father, mother and son

— not identified taken by Marshall Wane, Artist. This man was an internationally known photographer whose studio was located at 4 Finch Road, Douglas, Isle of Man.

Wane won prizes for his photographic work in Vienna, London, Dublin, Paris, Germany, India and America in the period 1860-1880. I thought perhaps a society member might be interested in this item as part of their Manx family search.

Sincerely,
R. Russell Fayles
(No enclosure)

Dear Editor:

The Manx men and women who left the Isle of Man during the intense period of emigration in the first part of the nineteenth century were almost all staunch Methodists, who took their beliefs and customs with them. The Manx have always been enthusiastic and accomplished singers, who directed most of their musical energies into their hymns and anthems. Most of the surviving manuscripts seem to belong to the south of the Island, suggesting that those from the north travelled with their owners to North America.

The Manx hymn tradition is extraordinarily rich. Over many years of research I have managed to double the number of known pieces, which now approach a thousand. Sometimes the composers of the words and the tunes are identified, more often the writers remain anonymous. Some of the hymns are still remembered today. Caarjyn Coojdjagh, a small choir singing in Manx and based in the south of the Island, have recently recorded some of this attractive music and their CD is due for publication in early 2000.

Undoubtedly, there are still a number of these precious manuscript books in existence, treasured as family heirlooms. They vary in size from 8"x11" down to about 8"x3.5" and are usually handwritten with words and music. Most belong to the 19th century, with the earliest dated 1808 or therabouts.

If you have such a treasure, or know of someone who owns one, the Centre for Manx Studies would like very much to know about them. It would be wonderful to see one, or a photocopy, and to know something of its history, if that were possible. The Centre would, of course, be more than happy to cover the photocopying and postage.

Dr. Fennella Bazin (nee Crowe)
Centre for Manx Studies
Manx National Heritage

Planning for Homecoming being finalized

The planning for the NAMA Homecoming Convention next July is moving at a good Manx pace. Plans are being finalized, but unfortunately costs will not be available at Bulletin press deadline.

Tynwald Week is going to be full of events. What you may not realize is how much is happening before and after that special Manx week in the next Millennium. An easy way to check it out, for those of you who have Internet access, is to go to the Isle of Man Tourism site <http://www.gov.im/tourism> and click on the Events Calendar. Already there are more things to do than you will have time for.

Aside from those events we have told you about in previous bulletins, you will find the Annual International Festival of Music and the Arts at Port Erin, Laa Columb Killey at Ballabeg, and the Historic

Laxey Fair, as examples of traditional activities leading up to Tynwald Week. After Tynwald Day, you might visit the Peel Festival of the Sea or the Summer Fayre and Celidh in Rushen.

For non-traditional events, there are races and exhibitions for Model Boats, Karting, Radio Controlled Air Races, a Double Millennium Walk, Drag Racing, and a Pipe and Drums Competition.

And where do you fit in the Rotoraid Day (a fundraiser for the Rotary), the garden party at Bishops court (a fundraiser for sheltered housing), and the Joint Mariners and World Manx Association Church Service? They may not be rooted in ancient times, but they are activities by and for the Manx.

Then there is the Second Annual Islands Conference, hosted by the Centre

for Manx Studies. This is an international gathering of people who are studying how small islands develop and maintain their cultures and identities. The topic for the Year 2000 is "Islands: Dream and Reality." The first conference was held in 1998 in Prince Edward Island.

Previously we have mentioned a number of events that are a part of the NAMA Convention. We can add another. Through Ellis Killey, an old friend of our organization, the Onchan Commissioners have invited us for a "do" and a visit to various historic sites, such as the home of Captain Bligh, in Onchan.

No more "Traa dy-liaoar." Just a few more days until the new Millennium and then the final countdown to the Homecoming and Convention.

— Jack Cormode

Convention Concert 2000

What a treat! Many of your favorite outstanding Manx artists will be performing in the Convention Concert 2000, Saturday, July 6 at 8 p.m., St. Georges Church, Douglas. The cross section of talent includes everything from Cleveland Medal Winners to Manx folk groups to the spoken word. There will be solo artists of all kinds, singing groups quite diversified and all due to the generosity of these popular performers who are excited to be invited to participate. Manx generosity extends to the Very Rev. Brian Partington, vicar of St. Georges who joins a host of other professionals including Charles Guard and Seamus Shea who are supporting and helping with Concert 2000.

The concert will be open to the Manx public as well as visitors to the convention and only a "retiring donation" (donations left at the door upon leaving) will be accepted following, the proceeds going to the furtherance of Manx culture. Come early for a good seat!

We know you'll enjoy the evening — it will be a wonderful way to end the convention. And it is to be hoped that as many visitors as possible will attend in support of our Manx "stars." If you've ever enjoyed them on cassette, here's your chance to see them in person! They're a grand lot.

— Dee Hickman for
Northern California Manx,
hosting Convention 2000

News

News from the WMA

For the first time in many years, Mary and I missed Tynwald and the annual dinner we were in Helsinki for the Sorptomist's International Convention and took the opportunity to tour Finland and Norway. Although I cannot report directly I understand the annual dinner was very enjoyable.

Our treasurer Doris Lawson has as usual been a tower of strength to the WMA and is the prime mover in organizing our outings and other events. She has done this work in spite of great personal losses in the year. On April 22 her sister Alice Pugh who had been our secretary for many years died after a long battle against cancer. Alice's husband Arthur had suffered another stroke and died on Aug. 13. All of us in the WMA appreciated the work that Alice and also Arthur had done for us over the years and the way Doris coped and carried on her WMA work in spite of her sadness has earned her the respect and admiration of all of us.

Our next main event will be the T E Brown lunch on Oct. 28 after that it will be the Christmas lunch at the Rutland Hotel in Douglas. Our first event in the millennium year will be our Manx Tay and Entertainment on Jan. 29

It is intended to publish a special edition of the WMA Newsletter early in the new year. We hope to publish in it as much news as possible of the various societies

throughout the world including photographs of events and/or officers, I hope to have a photograph of the Celtic Standing Stones in New South Wales and any buildings associated the Manx settlers.

Best wish to all NAMA members for Christmas and the New Year from all of us in the WMA.

— David Caley (e-mail address dcaley@enterprise.net)

Manx Society of Minnesota

About 20 members of the Minnesota Manx met on Saturday, Sept. 18 at 1 p.m. at the Northfield Carnegie Library.

President June Sibell called the meeting to order. Treasurer Jim Anderson sent a written report indicating dues and donations received, \$536.21, disbursements of \$370.59; balance on hand \$3720.71.

June and Joan Gill reported on status of the Manx cemetery in Castle Rock. The Volkert family, who own the land, are suggesting that our group buy the property for \$15,000. We need to contact the Greenville Township board, asking that the land be made a park or be put into public ownership. Names of township board members are needed.

The NAMA convention will be held on the Isle during the first week of July 2000.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 9, for a tour of the Minnesota Genealogical Society Library in Golden Valley.

— Mary Heltsley, Secretary

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