

N A M A

NORTH AMERICAN MANX ASSOCIATION

Vol. 72, No. 2

To Preserve "Whate'er is left to us of ancient heritage." T.E. Brown

March 2000

The Isle of Man

North American Manx Association - 44th Biennial Convention and Homecoming 2000

By Jack Cormode, Chair, NAMA 2000



The people of the Isle of Man have invited all of us worldwide who are of Manx heritage to join them in a great Homecoming for the Millennium. The Manx government has even declared a Tynwald week rather than the usual Tynwald Day, as they welcome us home to our own Ellan Vannin.

The members of the World Manx Association, the mainstay of our Manx extended family, are awaiting our arrival on the Island, as we will join our efforts "to preserve whate'er is left to us of ancient heritage."

There is so much to do and see on the Isle of Man that you cannot manage it all in one week's time, so try to arrange to spend a few extra days on the 'purple-misted isle' with its 'green hills by the sea.' Even then, you will be planning your next trip before you even finally have to leave the island.

The Northern California Manx, hosts of the NAMA Homecoming Convention 2000, have the great pleasure of inviting you to Come Home to the Isle of Man.

Come to your Roots 2000 June 30th to July 9th

The Isle of Man Tourist Board welcomes all attendees of the biennial North American Manx Association convention and homecoming for 2000. There is no better way to celebrate this new millennium than to return to your roots. The Islanders are greatly looking forward to welcoming back many returning friends/relatives' and newcomers alike to the Isle of Man. The Package tour is specifically designed to enhance your stay with a combination of necessary convention meetings, varied tours and free time to allow you to discover the island on your own, at your own pace.

The convention hotel is the Stakis Hotel and Casino (Old Palace Hotel) centrally located on Central Promenade in Douglas.

Accommodations are pre-booked along with all the convention meetings being held there. In addition we also have held rooms at the Welbeck Hotel, a smaller a family run hotel, just off the promenade and easy

walking distance from the Stakis. Extra nights are \$65 per person per night at Welbeck and \$80 per person per night at Stakis. Also UK & European travel arrangements are available.

Laurence Skelly & Travel Connoisseur, the officially appointed representative for the Isle of Man Tourism in North America, is delighted to have been chosen to handle the travel arrangements once again for NAMA. Laurence himself is originally from the Isle of Man and his staff have visited the island and handle groups and individuals alike to the Isle of Man all year long. In addition, they hold special discount airfare contracts to ensure excellent rates and can comfortably assist in further travel arrangements either on the island, UK & Europe. For reservations or to find out more contact Laurence Skelly & Travel Connoisseur at 800-890-7583.

A NAMA 2000 Convention registration form is included inside this months NAMA Bulletin.

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ISLE OF MAN From Page 1

Convention Week:

- June 30 Leave
U.S. or
Canada
for overnite flight to UK and onto the Isle of Man
- July 1 Arrive Isle of Man and taxi transfer to your hotel
Evening Reception at the Manx Museum
- July 2 Brunch at Stakis Hotel, Afternoon tour to Rushen Abby Heritage
Centre with Blue Badge Guides, "Welcome Home" Evening at the Villa
Marina
- July 3 Full day tour of the Island including visits to various Churches
participating in Flower Festival. Lunch included
- July 4 Convention Meetings - See NAMA convention schedule
Optional World Manx Association Dinner
- July 5 Tynwald Day. Full day out including grandstand seats for the Tynwald
ceremony, Lunch and southern tour of the Island, including Cregneash,
Famous scene of "Waking Ned Divine" film.
- July 6 Free Day with included option of Electric Railway Train Tram along the
Northern coastline or Steam Train to the South including Castle Rushen,
NAMA Dinner
- July 7 Full day tour to Peel including visits to the Heritage Centre & Peel
Castle with Blue Badge Guides
- July 8 Free Day, Evening Manx Music Concert at St. Georges Church
- July 9 Depart Isle of Man

Looking toward Port Erin from Bradda Head



NAMA 2000 Volunteers

The Northern California Manx, hosts of the NAMA 2000 Convention, could use a little help. There are a few times during the Convention that we will need some assistance. Mainly we could use some extra hands (and feet) in running the Raffle (excuse me, the Opportunity Drawing), and as attendees sign in. For logistical reasons, we are expecting to have only a small Manx Sales effort, but will appreciate some help in that area also.

To volunteer or for further information, please contact Jack Cormode, Convention Chair at 13085 Franklin Avenue, Mountain View, CA 94040-3922; Tel (650) 961-6117; Email jarmode@aol.com.

Meeting with Manx Business

The Manx Business Connection would like to meet with American and Canadian business persons attending the Tynwald Week festivities. The MBC is the business development agency sponsored by the Manx Department of Trade and Industry, and also works closely with the Isle of Man Chamber of Commerce. The purpose of the contacts would be to find what products and services in North America could be sent to or through the Isle of Man and vice versa.

If you have business connections and are willing to help our land of heritage, please contact Jack Cormode, Convention Chair at 13085 Franklin Avenue, Mountain View, CA 94040-3922; Tel (650) 961-6117; Email jarmode@aol.com.

Pursuing HMS BOUNTY Connections on the Isle of Man

By Pauline Fargher Ernst, Los Altos, CA

Map by Jaki Ernst (daughter of the author)

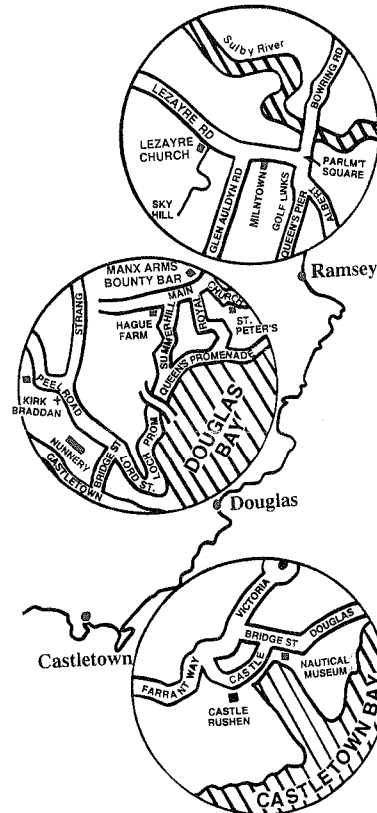
"I am in hell, I am in hell." With these final, mysterious words to Captain Bligh on April 28, 1789, Fletcher Christian and others 'dumped'; the Captain and eighteen of his crew into a small, open boat in the South Pacific Ocean. Over two hundred years later, the intrigue of this event continues to grip worldwide attention. The never-ending debate over "who or what caused the mutiny in the Bounty" has some Bligh and Christian descendants carrying on heatedly. Historically, the Isle of Man's link with this saga is of great importance to the Island, since members of prominent families were involved; therefore, most of the information and artifacts related to the protagonists have been preserved.

Starting in the northern part of the island, here are places connected with the Bounty episode:

In the Lezayre Church, near Ramsey, a brass plate, dedicated in 1922 by Canon Kermode, bears the Christian family arms and the following inscription: "Salus per Christian, To the glory of God and in memory of the following descendants of Gillochist A.D. 1176. The traditional founder of the family of Christian of Milntown in this Parish and of Ewanrigg in Cumberland*"; "from whom through more than twenty-one generations, Milntown passed in the direct male line A.D. 1380 – 1904." There follows a list of male names, beginning with John Mac Crystyn, 1380; includes William Christian, know as "Illiam Dhone," the Manx patriot-martyr, 1608-1662, and Fletcher Christian, R.N., 1764-1793, leader of the mutiny of the Bounty. Now a private home, Milntown, is an

historic building on the island.

Also while in Ramsey you might like to visit the shipyard and slipway, East Quay in the Harbour, as this is where the Euterpe, renamed the Star of India, iron sailing vessel was built



and certified on January 5, 1864; now afloat as the San Diego Maritime Museum in California. While not directly connected with the Bounty story, the Euterpe did touch at Pitcairn Island, September 1, 1867.

On the way to the Douglas area, stop by the Manx Arms Hotel, Main Road, Onchan, where there is a seafarer's welcome in Captain Bligh's "Bounty Bar." Midshipman William Bligh of H.M.S. Ranger, while searching the Irish Sea for smugglers, put into Manx ports for

supplies, met and married Elizabeth Bethan on February 4, 1781. The little, old St. Catherine's Church in which they were married no longer stands but is beautifully depicted in a stained glass window in St. Peter's Church of Onchan. Here also, you may be able to view a facsimile of the Registry Entry of the Bligh's marriage and a model of the old parish church. The tomb of Elizabeth Bligh's parents, Mary and Richard Betham, Custom's Collector, is in the Onchan Parish churchyard. The Betham's purchased Ballafoghague, now a private residence called Hague Farm House, on Summerhill Road, Onchan. The Bligh's are said to have spent their honeymoon here. Their first home on the Island was located a short distance from a hostelry which was Austin Bucknall's place of residence on the North Quay, Douglas Bay.

Other church connections include St. Matthew's Chapel, (now replaced on a different site), in Douglas where Mary Bligh, daughter of William and Elizabeth was baptized on July 7, 1784; Old Kirk Braddan, Douglas, where Mary Christian, sister of Fletcher is buried (August 15, 1786); brother Charles and his mother Ann Dixon Christian are buried on the Island (site unknown). Ann, Mary, Fletcher, and Humphrey had moved about 1780 from Cumberland to the Douglas area several years after Charles, the husband and father died in 1768. Not a church, but the Tynwald Chambers, Manx Parliament (House of Keys) Douglas, also features a stained glass window of the Christian Coat of Arms.

Continued on Page 4

Peter Heywood, son of a Deemster and a Bounty midshipman, was born on the Isle of Man at the Nunnery (rebuilt by the Heywoods and later by others), another famous historical landmark dating back to the twelfth or thirteenth century, near Douglas. After the Nunnery was dissolved in 1540, it fell into ruins, and today of the original buildings, only the chapel remains. It is possible that during Homecoming 2000 we will have an opportunity to visit the Nunnery property as the owner may open for a day just for us to drive through.

It was Richard Betham who recommended Peter Heywood to Bligh. The Bethams, Heywoods, and Christians were friends—even though Fletcher lived in Cumberland he is said to have “retained an association with the Island where nearly all the leading families were interbred.” Therefore, he was recommended by a family connection, Captain John Taubman, to Bligh in 1785 to go on the *Britannia* to the West Indies. Bligh already had a full complement of

officers, hence, Fletcher wrote, “offering to work as a foremaster with little or no pay providing he could mess with the gentlemen.” Bligh accepted his offer. Later, in 1787, of course, Fletcher Christian ‘sailed into history’ on the *Bounty*. And the bitter words of Captain Bligh to his wife after reaching Timor in the open boat are oft-quoted in Manx writings: “I have now reason to curse the day I ever knew a Christian or a Heywood, or indeed a Manks [sic] man...”

Another interesting Manx person with a *Bounty* connection is Nessy Heywood, Peter’s sister, whose extensive correspondence with Peter. Her poetry and literary compositions are still in existence. She is remembered for rushing to London to plead for the life of her brother after he was found guilty at the court-martial of the mutineers. He was later pardoned.

By all means, stroll up Crellins Hill, climb the stairs to the Manx Museum and Library and check the many *Bounty*, Christian, Heywood, Pitcairn Island related articles, and stamps, books, manuscripts, artifacts,

paintings, etc. But do not expect all of these things to be on display in the Museum. Here you will find a pleasant lunch/tea room. The Douglas Public Library on Ridgeway Street also has a rather extensive *Bounty* bibliography.

An interesting nautical museum at Castletown includes an 18th century naval captain’s coat, which may have belonged to Captain Bligh. Also they have a contemporary engraving of Bligh and his crew being cast adrift from the *Bounty*.

Reinforcing the importance of the *Bounty* affair to the Isle of Man are the stamps and a coin (crown issued by the Treasury) encapsulated in the first day cover issued by the post office to commemorate the 200th anniversary in 1989 of the mutiny of the *Bounty*. Other commemorative stamps and coins were also issued at this time.

Before starting any tour of the island on your own, I suggest that you purchase a detailed map. Happy touring and keep a sharp eye out for the fairies as the ‘hang out’ near many of the areas included in this tour!

The Early Days

By Joan and Terry Mc Caffrey, Maple Ridge, B.C.

When it comes to immigration, my wife and I were latecomers. We came from the Isle of Man by boat and train in 1953.

Before leaving Douglas we learned that the Canadian Pacific train from Montreal would need three and a half days to reach our destination of Vancouver. Sure, we knew that Canada was big, but three and a half days still seemed an overly long time. After all, a train could steam out of the station in Douglas and journey all the way to distant Ramsey in an hour and a half – and this even included a stop at St. John’s!

At sea, a few hours out of Liverpool aboard the “*Empress of Australia*” the grey North Atlantic became its usual heaving self. Some shipboard events were cancelled “owing to the motion of the vessel.”

At the end of our train journey, Canadian Manx friends shepherded us from the Vancouver terminus to their home. The Vancouver Manx Society was a hundred or more strong at that time and already forty-four years old. It was great comfort for us newcomers to listen to the folks of Manx ancestry although their accents and some of their

expressions were strange to our ears. New friends, a flurry of new activities and our new jobs helped a lot to keep our minds off those we had so abruptly left behind across an ocean. However, the long process of settling down was not without tears.

Even though we have lived in Canada much longer than in the Isle of Man, traces of our Manx accents must remain because, to this day, a stranger will occasionally ask, “Did you just come out?”

(Note: Terry is President of the Vancouver Manx Society)

Society News

Chicago Manx Society

The Chicago Manx held their December 5th meeting at the home of Barbara and John Dobbertin in Woodstock, IL. It was a snowy day and what with colds, we only had 11 attending. We had a delicious pot-luck dinner followed by an enjoyable visit about things Manx, Christmas, and New Year's customs. Our next meeting is Sunday, February 27th on the north the side of Chicago at home of Brad Prendergast. We will gather at 1 p.m. for a pot-luck, followed by a meeting and get-together. We will be discussing the July NAMA convention, as several of our members are planning on attending. Our following meeting is scheduled for June at the new home of Jean and Bob Kelly in Rockford, IL. Details to follow.

- Robert Kelly, President

Cleveland Manx Society

In December, 48 of us attended the annual Christmas Party, where we enjoyed a delicious dinner, and were entertained by a group from the Claque House Theater.

We were saddened by the death of one of our older members, Winifred Cashen. While Winnie has not been able to be active for a number of years, she was able to attend a meeting in March, 1998.

We do not meet in January or February due to the possibility of inclement weather and the distances some of us have to travel. We will probably meet in March at a restaurant, but the time has not yet been established. The officers will meet in early March to plan the

activities for the year. We usually meet March through June, a picnic in the summer, and then meetings from September to December. We try to meet around the second week-end of each month. We always enjoy meeting anyone traveling in the area around the time of our meetings.

- Mona Haldeman

Greater Washington, D.C. Area Manx Society

About 75 members and friends of the GREATER WASHINGTON, D.C. AREA MANX SOCIETY gathered on January 8th for our first Twelfth Night party of the new millennium (or the last one of the 20th Century, depending on how you view it). As is our custom, the festivities began with a visit from the "First Footer" – a tall, dark, stranger – who brought bread, coal, and coin to help usher out the old year and usher in the new. We then feasted on a groaning board of roast meats and seasonal victuals, followed by carol singing, storytelling, a rollicking dance round of "Hunt the Wren" and the very popular family games of "Find the Manx Cat's Tail" and "Flap the Kiipper!" A popular attraction was our Manx Goods table, which purveyed plenty of newly-stocked woolens, books, brass items, and knickknacks.

President Avril Shipman presided over the fun, welcoming several new members, including a "genuine"

Manxie (Qualtrough) and her BBC journalist husband.

If you plan to be visiting our nation's capital around April 8th, please join us for our 23rd Annual Dinner Banquet at the Fort Myer Officer's Club near Arlington, VA. The cost is \$30 per person. For more information, call Avril Shipman at 202-543-7434 or e-mail Don Quayle at drquayle@aol.com.

Northern California Manx

The Northern California Manx held their January 23rd meeting at the Ramada Inn in Sunnyvale, which has become a second home to us. Due to surgery, our President, Jack Cormode, was unable to attend, but Dee Hickman and Jeannie Wilburn took charge and handled everything with their usual sense of humor and skillful guidance.

Four door prizes were awarded based upon knowledge of the history, customs, and miscellaneous facts about our island. There was a great deal of attention paid to honoring and thanking our sponsors and others who have been so helpful to us in arranging this convention. Volunteers will be asked to take some people to the Banquet as guests, and the members discussed ways of raising money. Two suggestions involved asking each Northern California member to donate \$10.00; another was to ask each Society to make a donation. Among those who have been invaluable are

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. Deadline for submitted information and articles are February 10 - March edition, May 10 - June edition, August 10 - September edition, and November 10 - December edition. Annual membership dues are \$15.00 for individuals and \$20.00 for family or society.

Society News

Peter and Barbara Dawson, Seamus Shea, Charles Guard and Steve Rodan, Manx Minister of Education. Concert arrangements are proceeding nicely. Several well-known Manx artists have accepted most graciously. Charles Guard has volunteered to record the concert and the tape will be available for purchase.

The NAMA Banquet will beheld Thursday night, July 6th, and will cost \$32.00. Marlene Storey has made some alterations to the design for the T-shirts which will be distributed to the volunteers and there will be buttons with the NAMA logo on the front. Last but not least, the travel and accomodations packets have been mailed. Included in the package will be the Opportunity Drawing tickets: \$5.00 each or \$25.00 for six. The Opportunity Drawing is sponsored by the IOM Department of Tourism and Travel Connoisseur. The drawing will be held at the offices of Travel Connoisseur in San Diego. July is nearly upon us and it looks like we will all have a great Time on our Island. We are really looking forward to spending time with all our fellow Manx from around the Earth.

- *Bea Joughin Garcia*

Ontario Manx

The Ontario Manx is alive and well. In September we had a great corn roast at the home of Lil & Pat Kendall of Richmond Hill. The fall meeting in October was held at the home of Carol Christian with a very good turnout. The annual Christmas dinner and party on November 27th was once more a great success. The Canadian weather prevents us from planning any activities during the winter months, we have several members who have to travel a fair

distance. The first meeting in 2000 will be at the end of April, date and place pending.

Bob Watterson, our Chairperson, has come along very well after a hip replacement in November and is raring to go.

- *Phyllis Busche,*
Ontario Manx Society

News from San Diego County

Twenty-seven members and guests gathered at the home of Devore and Ruth Smith for the annual Manx Society Christmas Party.

An election for the office of secretary/treasurer was held. George Watteson graciously accepted that responsibility.

A highlight of the meeting was a call from Malcolm and Joyce Kinley in Idaho. With the aid of speaker phones we were all able to send our best holiday wishes and express just how much we miss them.

After a very brief business meeting we closed with singing Ellen Vannin and the Manx National Anthem. Then we set about the important tasks of exchanging Christmas gifts and eating. Ruth and co-hostess Hilary Harrison served an array of Christmas goodies and a good visit was enjoyed by all.

*"When the summer day is over, and
it's busy cares have flown,
I sit beneath the starlight, with a heavy
heart alone:
Then rises like a vision, sparkling
bright in nature's glee,
My own, dear Ellan Vannin, with its
green hills by the sea."*

Convention Concert 2000

By Dee Hickman, for Northern California Manx

What a treat! Many of your favorite outstanding Manx artists will be performing in the Convention Concert 2000, **Saturday, July 8th*, at 8:00 p.m. at St. George's 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. George's who joins a host of other professionals including Charles Guard and Seamus Shea who are supporting and helping with Convention 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!

(*Editor's note: Please note the date of the concert is Saturday, July 8th. Last months Bulletin contained the wrong date, which caused some difficulties for several of our readers. I apologize for the error.)



President's Message

By Don Quayle, NAMA President

When my Grandchildren come for an extended visit, we often take car trips around the area to visit some of the favorite sites. Usually, when we are about five minutes away from the house someone asks, "Are we there yet?" When we decided a year ago last October to hold the next biennial convention in the Isle of Man, it seemed like it was a long way off. And now I find myself asking unbelievably, "Is it time already?" The answer, of course, is that it is the new Millennium and the convention will be underway in just over three month's time. It is time to pack the bags.

One thing I enjoy doing when I am in the Island is reading the newspapers to get a feel for what is happening and what their editors feel is important for Manx people to know about. Today, thanks to the Internet, that can be done daily in the comfort of my own home. I decided to peruse the papers on a particular day to see what was happening.

There are three major newspapers in the Isle of Man: The Isle of Man Examiner, The Isle of Man Courier, and the Manx Independent. During the first part of February when I reviewed the news highlights, all three papers lead story dealt with the brutal murder of a man in Douglas. It was said to be so horrific that it shocked experienced police officers and there were many appeals to the public to come forward with any information that would be helpful in solving the crime. The Examiner posted six related articles, the Manx

Independent had three, and the Courier just the main story. I thought that was not much different from home; in our local news; tragedy always seem to lead.

The second article in the Courier reported that it seems very probable that 'Kentucky Fried Chicken will wing its way to the Isle of Man.' It seems the fast-food restaurant chain is opening 50 new outlets around the British Isles and a spokesman for the Colonel has indicated that the Island would likely be among them. Alas, that can't happen prior to July so we will have to be content with Manx Kippers.

Other good and positive news reporting indicated that there has been an upsurge in business confidence in Britain which has increased dramatically during the past year and has strengthened mightily over the past two quarters, most notably in the manufacturing sector. And three out of four directors of manufacturing companies now expect higher sales over the next quarter. Of course, the better the business picture throughout the British Isles, the better for the economy in the Isle of Man because of their extensive offshore banking and financing activities.

By this time, everyone should have received the mailing which was sent to all members and interested parties by Laurence Skelly and Travel Connoisseur in San Diego. You should all know that there is a good deal of flexibility in the travel package so do contact them directly at 800-890-7583 or online at

Lskelly@tcsan.com with any questions or variations on travel plans you may have.

The leadership provided by Jack Cormode and his Committee of Northern California Manx has been exemplary, as is best illustrated by this mailing. You will have the chance to meet the key principals in the Isle of Man that have been involved in making this convention and homecoming the best ever. I do encourage everyone to make every effort to go to the Isle of Man this year and participate in our celebration of homecoming. I look forward to seeing you there.

Cat Tales

The Manx cat, as far as it can be traced, originated on the Isle of Man, hundreds of years ago. The taillessness of the cat is believed to be a mutation. The Manx Gaelic language has a word for the tailless cat: stubbin.

Manx cats are described as having personalities like the Manx people: shy, but friendly; witty but reserved; quiet, but active; clever, but trusting. They are known as the "dog lover's cat," because of their love of play and games.

According to Manx folklore, when Noah was ready to close the door to the ark, he accidentally closed the door on the two cats coming aboard and chopped off their tails. The following verse, from an unknown source, has been handed down by the Manx people.

Noah, sailing o'er the seas,
Ran high and dry on Ararat,
His dog then made a spring and took
The tail from off a pussycat.
Puss, through the window, quick did fly
And, bravely, through the waters swam,
And never stopped 'til high and dry,
There, upon the Isle of Man.
The tailless earned Mona's thanks,
And, ever since was called a Manx.

The Manx National Heritage Library

'Scarrit Lesh Mooir, Agt Kianlt lesh Mooinjerys'

By Roger M.C. Sims, Librarian Archivist

In the Isle of Man, genealogical research has always enjoyed a good following. Not only from families long resident on the Island but by descendants of Manxmen who left the island, in great numbers, during the 19th and early 20th centuries to create new lives in North America, Australia, and South Africa. But wherever they settled, the Isle of Man remained and remains today a strong link with the past; as the Manx saying goes, 'Scarrit Lesh Mooir, Agt Kianlt lesh Mooinjerys' (divided by sea, but joined by kin). Genealogy brings a good number of visitors to The Isle of Man and you may wish to see the facilities for genealogical research provided by Manx National Heritage in Douglas, the Island's capital, and by the Isle of Man Family History Society at its Library in Peel on the west coast. The Manx National Heritage Library and the Family History Society in collaboration with the Isle of Man Tourism Department have joined forces to provide the best possible help, advice, and guidance for you during your visit.

As you search to learn about your family history, you may wish to know something about the then prevailing social and economic conditions which led to your ancestors leaving the Island. Perhaps you wish to find out as much as you can about where they lived, worked or worshipped. When you visit the Island, you will be able to find many of the answers to these questions by visiting the churches, schools, farms, and villages on the Island. There are also superb sites and properties administered by the Manx National Heritage, who can explain and interpret the Islands rich history, folklore, and peoples through the centuries. Most actual research will

lead to the National Heritage Library and archives in the Manx Museum.

While researching your family history on the Island, we would appreciate your cooperation and assistance with the following:

- **Be Prepared:** Be clear about what you want to find out at the Library. This means bringing all known facts about the family with you, but in a concise format. A long, complicated story about your family will confuse reading room staff (and possibly yourself), until the point of the inquiry is lost! So do make notes and bring them with you. Come supplied with pencils, paper, etc., and if required, your personal portable computer.
- **Avoid visiting in groups:** There is not enough room for people not engaged in research. If you do come with other people, divide the work up and compare notes over coffee or lunch in the Museum restaurant. Remember to be courteous of others and keep quiet while researching.
- **Ask staff for help:** Our staff and/or volunteers will explain how to use the indexes and catalogues, or point you to relevant leaflets. You will also be shown how to order the records you wish to use, by completing a document request form. Microfilm is also available on a self-help basis. All microfilm, manuscripts, film, or photographs must be treated with care and put away properly. Help is always at hand - simply ask!

We are here to give you assistance and help you make the most of your research time. I encourage you to get out and visit the island; see the marvelous Manx National Heritage sites, savor the Island atmosphere,

experience our unique heritage, and talk with the Islanders. You'll be surprised at how many questions you'll be asked! We will do our part to make your stay as interesting and enjoyable as possible. Although we can't control the weather, we will hope that Mannanan Maclir (the mystical protector of the Island) will be kind in withholding summer clouds and mist. Have a great visit!

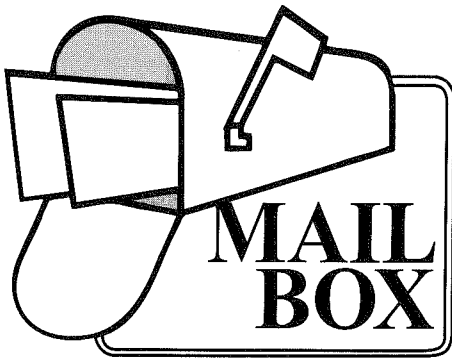
In Memory

PHILIP JAMES BRIDSON

November 4, 1922 to June 17, 1999

Philip James Bridson of Debarats, 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 Elisabeth. 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. Phillip Dietrich presiding.



Letters to the Editor

Dear Ms. Smith,

I am the editor of *New Manx Worthies*, a book which was started in 1995 and which is due for publication in October 2001.

Our team is compiling a successor to A.W. Moore's *Manx Worthies* which was published in 1901 and gave brief, biographical pen-portraits of persons connected with, or living on, the island who he considered were 'worthy' of mention and whose names, he felt, should be 'saved from oblivion.'

The new *Manx Worthies* Project plans to revise the original work, making good any errors or omissions, and produce a Part 2 which will include 'worthies' who have died since Moore's time. The *New Manx Worthies*, we hope, will in the future be first 'port of call' for serious Manx students seeking biographical information as well as an entertaining reference work for those who simply want to dabble in local knowledge.

We are seeking information about some Manx emigrants whose names either do or should appear in Moore's original work. If someone could provide us with

information on the following points we would be most grateful.

1. Dan Casement and Jack Casement of the Union Pacific Railway
 - Names and backgrounds of their parents.
 - Where and when they were born.
 - When and where they died.
 - Any other information
2. Thomas Cottier, a Missouri farmer, born in IOM 3rd February 1829
 - Where and when did he die? (Probably after 1882)
3. Thomas Quayle, a Cleveland shipbuilder, born in Kirk Michael, IOM, 3rd May 1811.
 - Where and when did he die?

A Manx Worthy is defined as –
A person who has played a significantly notable part of Island life or a person with close Manx connections or of Manx birth or descent who has made a significantly notable mark in the outside world.

If any of your reader should have any information on the above or would like to nominate a Manx emigrant who has 'made a significantly notable mark in the outside world' I would like to hear from them. Deadline for information is December 31, 2000.

Yours sincerely,
 Mr. Dollin Kelly, General Editor
 The Homestead
 Cronk Road
 Port St. Mary, Isle of Man
 IM9 5AS British Isles

Dear Editor,

I would like some help gathering genealogy facts about my ancestors from the Isle of Man. I would like to be put in contact with someone that has working knowledge on civic/political structure, what departments keep birth/death records, and other demographical data. I would like to discover how to locate where my ancestors lived on the Isle of Man.

I am planning on visiting the Isle of Man in July 2000 and would appreciate any information you or your readership might be able to supply.

Sincerely,

Ken Archibald
 7400 Camelia Drive
 Hanover Park, IL 60103-3226
 Email: KCArch@worldnet.att.net

Dear Editor,

I am writing to inform you of a new book that I have written called 'Douglas Remembered.' I was born in Douglas, and grew up there in the 1930's. My father used to describe the area of the old town in which he grew up, and which was demolished in the 1930's. It was as strange to me as the Douglas of my childhood is to the present generation. Therefore, originally as a private venture for my grandchildren, I have written the book, describing life in the town as it was for me.

Although the center of a flourishing tourist industry, many of the residents were very poor, so one was presented with the contrast between the extravagance and gaiety of the tourists, and the

hard life of many families, such as mine. Although poor, my family was typical of so many at the time, where we children grew up in a safe and loving environment. I describe the conditions of my home, at school and at work. In addition, there were various 'characters' and charities on the go, and these are recalled. In fact, the book is a stroll down memory lane, full of happy times while growing up in that wonderful town, fast becoming lost beyond recall. Not only have so many buildings been replaced, but also the town's character. The huge crowds of visitors now belong to the past, and the bustle of those times has been replaced with the modern, elegant urgency of a successful financial sector.

The book has over 200 pages, and includes about forty photographs. I am sure that it will be of interest to many of your members. Therefore, I will be obliged if you can find room in your newsletter to mention it. The R.R.P. is 6.99 (pounds) and may be ordered from:

St. Paul's Bookshop

Ramsey

Isle of Man

Tel. +44 - 1624-813733

e-mail:

stpaulbooks@enterprise.net

website <http://www.enterprise.net/spbl/index.htm>

Yours Sincerely,

Allan Gill

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

Manx Tales...

Tar Bubbles and Traction Engines

By Terry Mc Caffrey

Some years ago, my brother and I lived close to the farm at Glendhoo. We attended school in Onchan. On dark, blustery winter afternoons we wouldn't even have dreamed of dawdling on the way home from school, in case any of "them ones" were about.

However, in the great, long afternoons of summer, when time, at least to us, was of no moment, we often explored more challenging ways of getting back to Glendhoo. Picking our way between the gorse bushes on the top of hedges was a popular diversion. Walking backwards down the middle of the road was all right for short distances – cars were a rarity then.

On extra warm days the sun heated the road sufficiently to force small bubbles of tar to the surface. Stepping sharply on one of these bubbles produced a satisfying "pop" and sent up a spurt of sun-warmed water and a little tar. If one's friends got in the way of a bursting bubble it was clearly their own fault.

Perhaps, on this particular afternoon we were combining bursting tar bubbles with walking backwards, but whatever we were doing, we almost ran into a steam tractor engine with a roller on the front end and a tar sprayer attached to the back. We were fascinated and followed the tar sprayer closely, watching the jets of boiling tar hitting the road and old Mr. Bell and old Mr. Quilliam spreading dusty granite chippings on the smoking black liquid. It looked like fun and

we envied them their work.

Mr. Bell and Mr. Quilliam worked on the highway so we thought of them as "highwaymen," although if either had secretly donned mask and dark cape and ridden furiously over the moors by moonlight, we probably would have heard about it – sooner or later. Eventually, we walked past the highwaymen and resumed our leisurely, erratic journey.

We were near Cronk ny Mona, when we noticed, suddenly, that our hands, faces, bare knees, and clothing were covered with a fine sprinkling of tar. Panic followed. What would our Mother say...and do? Perhaps she wouldn't notice...but we knew she would.

A small stream, which we referred to as the river, rises above the Hillberry glebe, flows through Glendhoo and under the bridge on the Glenville road. No longer interested in tar bubbles, we hurried down the Glenville road and, standing on the gravel at the edge of the river, splashed water over ourselves and rubbed vigorously. We found out then, what practically everybody else knew already, that tar doesn't wash off.

Resigned to our fate, we felt that our mother probably had two options – boiling water or sandpaper. Tar-streaked, wet, and very late, we walked over the fields of Glendoo – past the pig-sty and the cowhouse and up the path to our house.

Mothers are eternally compassionate beings. I can't remember whether she cried or laughed when she saw us – perhaps both. I can't remember how she cleaned us up, but I do recall that she didn't use either boiling water or sandpaper.

Editors Note: You can find more of Terry McCaffrey's stories about growing up on the Isle of Man at Keith Handley's Newsletter located on the internet at www.iomvc@easynet.co.uk.

Romantic Bounty novel could be in line for award

From: the Isle of Man Courier, February 17, 2000

A writer who retold the tale of Fletcher Christian and the Bounty mutiny, has been nominated for romance's top award. Fiona Mountain is the first debut novelist to be shortlisted for the Romance Novel of the Year Award in 40 years. Fiona, author of *Isabella*, wrote about Fletcher's love affair with his cousin Isabella Crowe, who grew up together in the Lake District. The book proposes a romantic new theory about the origins of the mutiny which happened just six months after Isabella secretly married a love rival. Scenes featuring the infamous Captain Bligh are set in Douglas when he stayed with Dorothy Taubman, sister of the well-known Manx historical figure, John Christian. Mrs. Mountain, who lives in Oxfordshire's Costwolds, spent two years digging through records to research her story.

Speaking last week, she said she was delighted with her elevation to the last six nominees for the award. Explaining how the book came about, she said she'd decided to write a historical novel because there were no great romances anymore. She said, "I couldn't write a love story with modern characters because great romances don't happen anymore. There are no barriers. Illicitness has gone." And she said her novel wasn't written as a bodice-ripping sex yarn because she wanted somebody very special to read it. "It had to be something that my Mum could read," she said. "There are no throbbing manhoods. There is one love scene, that's all. It is very subtle," Mrs. Mountain said. The author will find out whether she has won the award at a glittering award ceremony at London's Savoy Hotel, on Thursday, April 13. *Isabella* is published by Orion House and costs 9.99 (pounds).

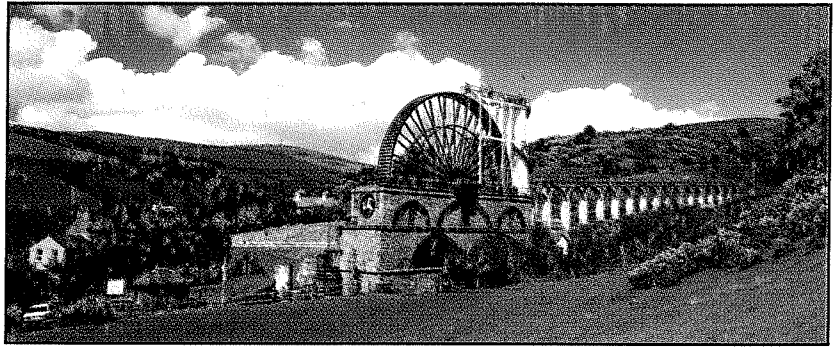
Welcome Home...

To the Isle of Man – NAMA 44th Biennial Convention and Homecoming 2000

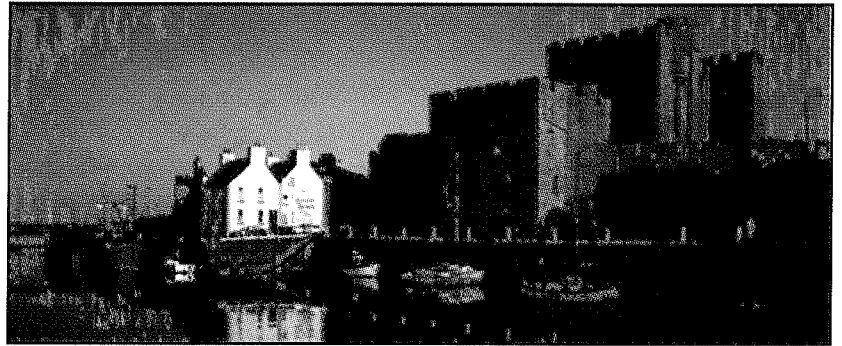
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July 1 - July 8, 2000

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 Includes: Registration packet, Souvenir Booklet, Convention badge, gifts, non-ticketed events.

Adult/Individual	\$40.00	_____	_____
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MEAL RESERVATIONS: Include food service, sales tax, gratuity and party favors.

*** BANQUET** Thursday Evening, July 6, 2000

(For those not signed up for the Convention Travel Package)

Manx Dinner	\$32.00	_____	_____
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Total Remitted _____

Reminder: You must have a NAMA membership to attend the Convention. Dues renewal forms can be found in the NAMA Bulletin or at the NAMA web site.

Sign-up for the World Manx Association Dinner will occur at the Convention

Sign-up for the Bus Tours and Event Transportation for those not taking a Convention Travel Package, can be obtained through Travel Connoisseur.

See elsewhere in this Travel Package for details.

The participant(s), as a condition of attending the NAMA 2000 Convention, hereby releases and holds harmless the North American Manx Association and all of its officers, directors, or agents from any liability to person or property, arising therefrom, by way of travel, hotel, restaurant, food, food service, guide services, or photographer. Program is subject to change at the discretion of the NAMA 2000 Convention Chairperson.

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Please make checks payable to: **NAMA 2000 Convention** and mail to: **NAMA 2000, c/o Jack Cormode, 13085 Franklin Avenue, Mountain View, CA 94040-3922**. All prices are in U.S. dollars. Canadian cheques must be made out for the equivalent of the U.S. dollar amount.

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