

NORTH AMERICAN MANX ASSOCIATION

Vol. 73, No. 6

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

April 2002

NAMA YOUTH AWARD ESTABLISHED TO PROMOTE MANX AWARENESS

Acting on a proposal to promote cultural awareness in the Isle of Man among North American young people, NAMA has established the Manx North American Youth Award and set up a volunteer team to launch the effort. Creation of the award was proposed to NAMA by the Isle of Man's Department of Education.

The first award will be presented at the NAMA 2002 Convention being held next July. The team working on the initial award program for the convention consists of Joan Gill, Norm Gill, Mary Kelly, Devore Crain Smith, Lucy Quayle Peterson, and Jack Cormode, who is serving as team secretary. The committee invites other NAMA members to join the effort.

The following guidelines and procedures have been established for Manx North American Youth Award:

Eligibility: An applicant will be 18 years of age or younger at the time of the Award. He or she must be a resident of North America and must be sponsored by a NAMA member or local society. A member or society may sponsor more than one applicant.

Submissions and Selection: For the first Award, there are not going to be classifications, so entries may be of any type: Music; Dance; Essays; Arts and

(Continued on page 3)

THE GREAT 2002 MANX GATHERING NAMA CONVENTION – JULY 19-23 LANARK, ILLINOIS

REGISTER NOW

The special event that brings together North American Manx descendents and other enthusiasts for the Isle of Man – the biennial NAMA Convention – will take place this year in the historically rich part of the country that drew many Manx families to the United States.

Chairman Norman Standish and his committee have laid out a full program of Manx reunions, socializing, dining, and touring in northwest Illinois for Friday July 19 through Monday July 23.

"Many of our forefathers came to this area in the mid 1800s seeking their fortune in the west," Norman Standish says. "When people said 'Go West, Young Man' this was the west they referred to and we will be able to view many of the challenges that they faced on arrival. This area had a special attraction for people from the Isle of Man because of the lead mining to the North and the coal mining to the South."

Tours of the many special historic points of the area will be available, together with the normal NAMA convention events that knit together the individual local societies of the association. Features of these tours have been described in previous issues of the bulletin. Activities have been planned so that attendees have a choice in which to take part.

Events will begin on Friday July 19 in Lanark, IL at the historic Standish House, and a conventioners' hospitality room will be open each day in the Lanark Heritage Center for coffee, treats and conversation. The general NAMA meeting and Banquet will be held Monday, July 22 in the Stevenson Hotel in Freeport, IL., the largest community in the area. Freeport offers the largest number of hotels and the Stevenson has a coffee shop conducive to socializing.

The registration form with full information about the convention events is

(Continued on page 2)

*Convention Registration Form- Pages 5 & 6
Lanark Area Hotels- Pages 7 & 8*

CONVENTION *(Continued from page 1)*

on pages 5 and 6 of this issue and a list of the many attractive accommodations available in the area is on pages 7 and 8.

The basic schedule of the convention is this:

Friday, July 19 – Reception at the historic Standish House Bed and Breakfast in Lanark, IL. A reception for all attendees will start about 5:00 PM with square dancing, Celtic dancing and barbecue, plus a tour of the Standish House. A NAMA Board meeting will be held at 2 PM at the Heritage Center.

Saturday, July 20 – Bus tour of the farming and lead mining industry.

Sunday, July 21 – Free morning. Bus tour to Galva, IL and coal mining industry. There will be a box lunch and evening trailside dinner.

Monday, July 22 – NAMA general meeting, committee meetings and banquet at the Stevenson Hotel in Freeport, IL.

Tuesday, July 23 – Bus tour of Black Hawk Indian battle fields and historic sites of bandit history.

A special Convention Souvenir Booklet is being prepared by the organizing committee with space available for individuals and societies wishing to include personal greeting or other messages. Costs for messages are \$50 for a full page, \$25 for a half page, and \$10 for a quarter page or inclusions on the patrons' list. Deadline for submitting material for the booklet is June 1.

Special arrangements have also been made for conventioners to purchase in advance of the meeting the special Harry Potter Crown coins recently issued by the Isle of Man government's treasury coin section. NAMA Vice president Laurence Skelly, now an IOM resident, will purchase coins ordered *in advance* of the convention and bring them to the meeting for delivery. Prices for these are included on the registration form.

NOREEN SEWELL COTTIER 1916 – 2001

(Many readers have shared memories of Miss Cottier, who passed away last November. This remembrance was written by Les Quilliam of Peel, her friend, executor and a NAMA member.)

The year 2001 saw a loss of long-term NAMA member, Noreen Cottier. She was the only child of Charles Cottier and his second wife, Nellie Spencer. Both were from Peel, Isle of Man, and settled in Cleveland, Ohio.

Noreen grew up there in contact with many of the other Manx families in the area, particularly those from Peel. She was to keep in touch with members of these families over the years. It is probably from maintenance of such contacts that Noreen will be best remembered – particularly so after she finally settled on the island in 1976.

After school, Noreen worked for the Bell Telephone Company, becoming a supervisor. WW II saw her in WAC communication, service giving her a taste for travel, for she was posted in North Africa and Italy. After the war ended, she moved from Ohio to California, still with Bell, being later joined by her parents.

Noreen's first direct contact with the Island was in 1923 when she traveled to
(Continued on page 11)

NAMA Officers and Directors 2000-2002

Hon. President

Robert Kelly
Rockford, IL

Hon. Vice-Presidents

Mona Haldeman
Avon Lake, OH
Iris Christian
Douglas, IOM
Pres., World Manx Assn.

Past President

Donald R. Quayle
4831 Fort Sumner Drive
Bethesda, MD 20816

President

Jack Cormode
13085 Franklin Avenue
Mountain View, CA 94040-3922
Jarmode@yahoo.com

1st Vice-President

Norman Standish
P. O. Box 105
Lanark, IL 61046-0105

2nd Vice-President

Bradley E. Prendergast
221 N. LaSalle Street, Ste. 1800
Chicago, IL 60601

3rd Vice-President

Laurence D. Skelly
Glen Lea House
Truggan Road
Port St. Mary, IOM IM9 5LD

Secretary

Secretary

Joan Gill
10215 38th Court North
Plymouth, MN 55441-1669

Treasurer

Helen M. Drom
4960 Cherry Avenue
Santa Maria, CA 93455-4947

(Listing continued on page 3)

NAMA
Officers and Directors
(continued from page 2)

Chaplain

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

Genealogist

Calvin Quayle
 3756 Halsey Street
 Eau Claire, WI 54701

Assistant Genealogist

Lucy Quayle Peterson
 1939 West 13930 South
 Buffdale, UT 84065
 lucyqp@earthlink.net

Bulletin Editor

R. Bruce Quayle
 3005 Ridgevale, Rd.
 Wilmington, DE 19808-3638
 pnbcue@aol.com

Trustees

Sally Dahlquist
 Edina, MN 55410-2349
 Carol Christian
 Willowdale, ON M2J 3M5
 Barry A. Vann
 Cleveknnd, TN 37312-4319

Youth Awards *(Continued from page 1)*

Crafts; Literature; Writing or Reading Poetry; Speaking Manx Gaelic. Content material would have some Manx origin or definite Manx connection. The Team will determine the method and media of presentation and the rating system.

Submissions will be directed to Team Secretary Jack Cormode.

Application: Submission for consideration must be accompanied by written form with the name of the applicant; date of birth; home address; telephone number and/or email address; statement of what the entry is; name of sponsoring member or local society.

Dates: Submissions/Entries must be received by **May 25, 2002.**

Award Team: The Team may select one member to be Leader and/or Spokesperson. They may also select a Correspondence and Recording Secretary. Laurence Skelly will continue to act as Advisor and Liaison with the IOM Department of Education and IOM Government at large. The Team will determine the procedures for review and rating of entries and for the final selection of the Award.

Before actual submission of a nomination, it is requested that the sponsoring person or society contact Jack Cormode to coordinate the method of submission. Jack can be reached at 13085 Franklin Avenue, Mountain View, California, USA 94040-3922; phone number (650) 961-6117; Email jcormode@ucsbalum.com.

**LIFE BACK ON THE ISLE
 AFTER 15 YEARS**

A first hand report from Laurence Skelly

NAMA enjoyed a wonderful convention on the Isle of Man in 2000. "Come back to your roots" was the slogan used by Isle of Man Tourism. For me personally I truly returned to my roots that year but on a permanent basis.

My wife Jackie and I were privileged to be married in the sacred chapel at Bishops court, Kirk Michael (now sadly privately owned) in 1985 and directly immigrated to San Diego. We intended to stay for what was a 6-month trial stint that turned into a 15-year worldly experience. Through all this time we enjoyed the support of cousins and this meant a great deal to us. Hilary Harrison, past president of San Diego Manx Society, and family along with Pauline Burt and family were 1st and 2nd generation Manx that helped us in relating to our new life in America. We greatly enjoyed our 15 years in San Diego.

In 1985 when we left the Island the financial boom hadn't really started. The general outlook wasn't terribly bright. Opportunities outside the finance industry were rare and young folk leaving the Island were fairly common. Now 15 years on the Isle of Man is a different story. A success story. The foresight of the Manx government has turned the tide. Clearly a vibrant Island with diversified opportunities galore and a quality of life hard to find better anywhere else in the world today. Unemployment virtually does not exist and tax goes down each year. The reinvestment into education, health, heritage and general infrastructure is tremendous. The Isle of Man now

(Continued on page 8)

**HARRY POTTER COINS
 CREATED FOR IOM**

Coin collectors familiar with the Isle of Man's history of producing special commemorative currency have been delighted by the Harry Potter coins recently introduced by the island's Treasury Department in association with the noted Pobjoy Mint.

Six designs showing Harry Potter are available in 1 Crown size in cupro-nickel, proof sterling silver and proof fine 999/9 gold 1/23oz.

Those attending the NAMA convention may purchase Harry Potter coins by contacting chairman Norman Standish by phone at (800) 468-2307 or by email at standish@aeroinc.net. **Orders must be placed by June 1st.**

President's Message - Spring 2002

Having used this bully pulpit for so many other personal opinion pieces, I think that this message will be more about my family history and the family lore.

Some of you may have heard the following before, but this would have been at conventions and local society meetings. The majority of our members have not been to such conclaves, so you would not know of these stories.

The story goes that, in 1904, my grandfather, Daniel Cannell Cormode, left the Isle of Man for America. He was accompanying Mr. and Mrs. Robert Cannell, friends and newlyweds as they made their way to Bishop, California. There were already other Manx there. Robert Cannell and his family, some Wattersons and Quayles. For such a small town, this meant a significant number of its population was Manx.

Bishop is part of the upper reaches of the Mojave Desert, hot in the summer and cold in the winter and with a very dry climate year round. It is several hundred miles inland from the Pacific Ocean, over 4500 feet in elevation, set in the Owens Valley and dwarfed on its flanks by the Sierra Nevadas and the White Mountains. So different from the Island.

On the boat leaving Liverpool, there was a young Englishman, Stanley Lambert, the oldest child of a London corn merchant, being sent to the New World to scout it out. Uncle Stanley, as he would become, wanted to leave the cold and damp of England. Striking up a conversation with the Manxman who was returning to America, he learned of a place that was just what he wanted. A land of promise, and known as the "Land of Little Rain."

An interesting note to family history researchers - Family legends may not stand up to the test of time and advances in technology. The recently released Ellis Island records, now available on the Internet, do not support the story that my grandfather accompanied his friends on their honeymoon. (I prefer the old story, but the truth will out.)

In 1908, my grandfather returned to the Isle of Man for a visit. This was the same year that Stanley Lambert returned to England and helped his own family prepare for emigration, which they did that same year.

Young Lambert had three sisters, one of them of marrying age and not betrothed. So, it follows that the two from the British Isles were soon wed and began a family.

My grandfather died of typhoid fever when my father was only 10 years old. With other deaths in the family, Los Angeles buying up the land for the water rights, and a general longing for a damper climate and lower elevation, the Cormodes and the Lamberts moved away, to different parts of the Pacific Coast. Only Uncle Stanley and his family remained, to enjoy the dry heat.

Because of the distances and finances, there was no more face to face contact with the Isle of Man except through my father's Uncle Will Kelly, my grandfather's half-brother, who had also come over several years earlier.

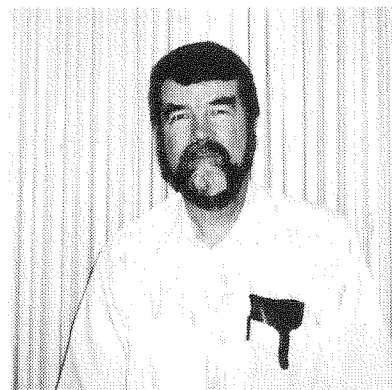
In 1968, while stationed in Germany I traveled over to England and then to the Isle of Man. There I met my grandfather's sister, Aunt Annie Cleator, and his brother, Uncle John. I was the first of my grandfather's lineage to return, sixty years after he had last left the Island. Aunt Annie could still recite the names of the ships my grandfather had sailed to America, and the dates of sailing. I neglected, now to my chagrin, to write it down, as well as other family history.

There are also many cousins I have met in my six visits to Mannin. Each time there are a few more to meet, and a couple of faces missing.

At our different meetings, we often discuss what the Isle of Man means to us, what special hold it has on us. I am not given to superstition (though I always greet the Little People at their Bridge), and I am not given to Celtic mysticism. But I know that the Manx people and that little island give me a special feeling, a bond that transcends kinship. It does not have to be something that you grow up with, though I wish it had been.

My only regret is that my grandfather did not live to tell me about the Isle of Man and to introduce me to my family there.

Please pardon my taking up this space for personal reminiscences. But each of us has a different story of how we came to relate to the Isle of Man. Most stories are of lifelong association with Ellan Vannin, and they are the fortunate ones. For those of us who



NAMA President Jack Cormode

have come later in finding our heritage, we should be thankful that we found it before it was too late.

This will be my last President's Message to you. The next issue will be after our Convention and there will be someone else in charge. I know that you will support the new President as well as you have supported me. This has been a great experience for me and I thank you for the pleasure of providing whatever service I could for you.

I would also like to thank the Manx people, the World Manx Association and the Isle of Man government for their friendship and assistance over the past few years.

Gura mie mooar eu,
Jack Cormode

NORTH AMERICAN MANX ASSOCIATION 2002 CONVENTION

July 19-22, 2002
540 West Carroll Street Lanark Illinois 61046-1017 (800) 468 2307
standish@aeroinc.net

Name(s): _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State/Prov./Country: _____
 Postal Code/Zip: _____ Phone: () _____

Price Number Total Cost

Friday:

Board Meeting: 2:00 PM

Reception at Standish House Bed & Breakfast: \$15.00 _____

5:00 PM to 9:00 PM

Includes square dancing, Celtic dancing and
 barbecue dinner, History and tour of Standish House.

REGISTRATION: \$30.00 _____

Includes Convention Registration, Souvenir
 Booklet, Convention badge, gifts, all non-ticketed
 events. (Children under 17 do not need to pay this fee.)

EXTRA SOUVENIR BOOKLETS \$10.00 _____

RAFFLE TICKETS

\$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00 _____

SATURDAY BUS TOUR: Pickups at Lanark and Stevenson Hotel(Freeport)

Approximately from 8:30 AM to 8:30 PM.

Includes box lunch, and evening trail-side dinner, fees
 for Stevenson Historical Society (Fargher Family History),
 Stockade Tour, Lead Mine entry fee, Stage Coach
 rides and bus fare.

\$60.00 _____

SUNDAY BUS TOUR: Pickup at Lanark and Stevenson Hotel(Freeport)

Approximately from 1:00 PM to 8:30 PM.

Includes side trip to Aledo, Illinois to see Rose Standish wedding
 dress, and Galva IL (Galva Manx Society) for picnic dinner

"History of Manx in Illinois Coal Mining." \$40.00 _____

MONDAY BUSINESS MEETING AND BANQUET:

Bus pickup at Lanark Heritage Center.

Meeting 2:00 PM Reception and banquet 5:00 PM \$35.00 _____

(Group Photo) All meetings at Stevenson Hotel in Freeport IL

Please make checks payable to NAMA Convention 2002. Hereby releases and hold as harmless NAMA and all
 of its officers, directors, and agents from any liability to person or property, arising therefrom, by way of travel,
 hotel, restaurant, or guide services. (MC/Visa/Discover accepted)

TOTAL REMITTED \$ _____

Signed: _____ **Date:** _____

Send to: Norman Standish, NAMA Convention Registration, 540 West Carroll Street, Lanark IL 61046-1017
 by **June 15, 2002.**

**The Heritage Center in Lanark IL will be open at 8:00 AM each day and include coffee, treats, and chairs
 with tables. Sales table will be at the Heritage Center and will be open Friday during the Board Meeting**

NORTH AMERICAN MANX ASSOCIATION 2002 CONVENTION

July 19-22, 2002

**540 West Carroll Street Lanark Illinois 61046-1017 (800) 468 2307
standish@aeroinc.net**

-2-

TUESDAY, July 23, 2002 BUS TOUR OF BLACK HAWK BATTLE FIELDS:

9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

(If we have at least 40 people interested in this history tour, it will be added.)

Includes first stage coach stop built in Carroll County, stone bridge for stage coaches, Kellogg trail to lead mines, Stillman Battle Field and History, Washington Grove on Rock River (Outlaw history), Dixon Ferry Crossing and Indian History, Prophetstown (Indian Village) and Kent Battlefield. All of these sites are within a radius of 30 miles of Lanark IL.

Lunch will be at historic Colonial Inn Bed and Breakfast, Grand Detour IL.

Price: \$ 30.00

Number: _____

Total Cost _____

Hotel/Motel/Bed and Breakfast Reservations:

Everyone is responsible to make their own arrangements for accommodations. A list of sites was included in the Spring, 2002 NAMA Newsletter.

Bus Rides: If you do not intend to use the bus for any individual event, please indicate which ones you wish to skip. We have a fixed number of buses contracted. First come/first served will be used to determine the seats on the buses. We will not be able to accommodate partial buses as this will merely increase the cost to the others. Therefore, early reservations are advised. Those registering late will have to develop their own transportation arrangements.

We look forward to an enjoyable Convention and educational experience on the history of early Manx settlers in Northwest Illinois. Welcome Everyone!

Group Photograph: A group photograph will be taken Monday. Copies will be \$12.00. They will be mailed to you following the meeting. A correct mailing address must be provided. You may pay at the meeting or included this item with your registration.

Harry Potter Crowns 2001

We will arrange for the purchase of HARRY POTTER CROWNS 2001 by advanced purchase. Order must be received by June 1, 2002. Cost is as follows:

Commemorative Crown	\$15/single coin	\$89.50/set of 6
in Silver	\$53/single coin	\$314.55/set of 6
in Gold	\$60/single coin	\$359.55/set of 6

The Heritage Center in Lanark IL will be open at 8:00 AM each day and include coffee, treats, and chairs with tables. Sales table will be at the Heritage Center and will be open Friday during the Board Meeting

NAMA CONVENTION 2002

Hotel/Motel/B&B Accommodations

Time to make reservations. July is a busy time of the year and hotels/motels can fill up early. Following are accommodation possibilities with the distance to convention headquarters at Lanark in parenthesis.

LANARK:

Standish House Bed and Breakfast
540 West Carroll Street
Lanark, IL 61046
800-468-2307
Walking distance to Heritage Center

LAKE CARROLL: (4 miles)

Trailside Inn
21-78 Lake Carroll Blvd.
Lake Carroll, IL 61046
815-493-8484
Free continental breakfast

Hickory Hills Lodging, Inc.
24366 Payne Road
Lake Carroll, IL 61046
815-864-2099
Cottages/suites

MOUNT CARROLL (7 miles)

Country Palmer House
17035 Elizabeth Road
Mount Carroll, IL 61053
815-244-2343
Farm setting/full breakfast

Prairie Path Guest House
1002 North Lowden Road
Mount Carroll, IL 61053
815-244-3462
Edge of town/hearty breakfast

FORRESTON (14 miles)

Evergreen Farm Inn
10003 West Coffman Road
Forreston, IL 61030
815-938-2198
Farmhouse

MOUNT MORRIS (20 miles)

White Pines Inn
6712 West Pines Road
Mount Morris, IL 61054
815-946-3817
State park/cabins/big breakfast

SAVANNA (18 miles)

Super 8 Motel
101 Valley View Drive
Savanna, IL 61074
800-800-8000

Granny O'Neil's River Inn

31 Third Street
Savanna, IL 61074
888-274-4726
Homelike/near downtown

The Nest at Palisades

1740 North Fifth Street
Savanna, IL 61074
815-273-7824
Secluded cabins/Jacuzzi

FREEPORT (24 miles)

The convention's banquet on July 22 will be in Freeport
AmeriHost Inn & Suites
1060 N.IL Hgway 26
Freeport, IL 61032
815-599-8510

Holiday Inn Express

1551 Sleezier Homes Road
Freeport, IL 61032
800-Holiday or 815-232-4455

Country Inn & Suite

1710 South Dirck Drive
Freeport, IL 61032
815-233-3300

Super 8 Motel

1649 Willard Drive
Freeport, IL 61032
800-800-8000

Ramada Inn

1300 East South Street
Freeport, IL 61032
815-297-9700

Stephenson Hotel
109 South Galena Avenue
Freeport, IL 61032
888-320-7820
www.stevensonhotel.com
Remodeled old hotel/walking distance to dinner site.

MORRISON (30 miles)
Hillendale Bed and Breakfast
600 West Lincolnway
Morrison, IL 61270
815-772-3454
Elegant Victorian mansion reflecting owners' travels

OREGON (30 miles)
Pinehill Bed and Breakfast
400 Mix Street
Oregon, IL 610661
815-732-2067
Italianate country villa
Teas and chocolate parties

Colonial Rose Inn
8230 South Green Street
Grand Detour, IL 61021
815-652-4422
Historic town just south of Oregon/ Outstanding dining

LIFE (Continued from page 3)

plays on International stages in several industries and revels in its greater autonomy. With so much going for it the challenges for the new government are how to control and evenly distribute its good fortunes without harming the Island.

One surprising factor was coming to terms with house values. House prices on the tiny Isle of Man in the Irish Sea are almost on par with sun-drenched San Diego. After searching for nearly a year we managed to secure an older house in the south of Island, between Port St Mary and Port Erin. We chose this area as my wife's mother who lives in Port Erin is elderly and on her own. It's a lovely part of the Island. East and West coast within easy walking distance and Cregneish just over the hill. For me it is a little strange as I'm originally from Ramsey, down north. Hard to understand as small an Island but I know very few folk here, up south. Their pleasant and friendly enough but another strange fact is that it's hard finding the real Manx. We happen to be a minority on our own Island. I believe only 48% are true Manx on the Isle of Man today. The endearing term "come-overs" seems to of all changed to "stay-overs". It's become very cosmopolitan with all kinds of nationalities enjoying Island life.

Our 1st year back has been blighted with the Foot & Mouth restrictions. A tough time for all concerned especially the farmers and everyone connected with

CAMP GROUNDS
Lake Le-Aqua-Na State Park
8552 North Lake Road
Lena, IL 61048
815-369-4282
http://dnr.state.il.us

Lena KOA
10982 West Highway
Lena, IL 61048
888-LenaKOA

Emerald Lakes Campground
3351 South Mill Grove Road
Pearl City, IL 61062
815-443-2550

WANT MORE INFORMATION?

1. Norman Standish – 800-468-2307
2. Blackhawk Convention Bureau – 800-678-2108

Mentioning the NAMA Convention may help on rates

tourism. However our vigilance thankfully has paid off as we kept the Island disease free. We now greatly look forward to reacquainting ourselves with the beautiful countryside once more. Even though I write to you in the midst of a real winter, not what I experienced last 15 years, I must say we are happy and content to be back on the Isle of Man.

I look forward to seeing you all at the convention in Lanark, Illinois in July. I know Norm Standish has gone all out for us so it's sure to be great event. Anytime your visiting the Island don't be stranger.

Your friend,
Laurence Skelly

PAUL MCCARTNEY DESIGNS NEW MANX STAMPS

Sir Paul McCartney of Beatles fame has designed a set of six stamps for the Isle of Man Post Office. The stamps are described as "happy stamps, looking like flowers or a butterfly. The limited edition stamps will be issued on July 1st and can be ordered by contacting the Post Office, Paul McCartney stamps, P.O. Box IoM, Douglas, Isle of Man IM99 1BP. British Isles.

Sir Paul says he still has fond, vivid memories of a childhood visit to the Isle of Man when he stayed at a camp near Ramsey on a school group trip by boat from Liverpool.

TWO DECADES OF CONVENTIONS

Memories of Larry Fargher

This summer, in Jack Cormode's year, we will travel to Illinois. Our Heartland Convention will be a new experience. Our Chairman is Norm Standish.

My introduction to NAMA was by my "cousin" Polly Ernst, nee Fargher. As a Los Angeles resident she had seen my political advertising and knew I must be Manx. That was correct, because my dad and his family were from Laxey. She told me I should make the 1881 NAMA convention, so we did.

NAMA-82, our first, was in San Diego. Headquarters was in the Manx Hotel, now gone, I think. The president that year was George Curphey of Nova Scotia. George was from the Convention in Nova Scotia in 1980. Chair and 1st VP was Mona Haldeman. A strong San Diego Manx group and Marge Weber, now gone, assisted her. Highlights included a tour and photo of our group on the Star of India, nee Euterpe, a sailing ship built in 1865 in Ramsey, IOM. Camille and I met many of the NAMA leaders. Another benefit of attending NAMA conventions is meeting other Manx, some even related. We were pals with two sisters born Farghers, from Ohio. We called them and treated them as "Cousins". Twenty years later, Eileen and I still write. San Diego was a great convention town, and after that we were hooked.

NAMA-84 was in Minneapolis and thrown by T.R. Anderson family and the Minnesota Manx. Sally Anderson Dahlquist was a wheel horse in that one. Past president George Curphey and his nominating committee asked Marshall Cannell and me to start up the Chairs at NAMA. It was a good convention, downtown. I knew that weather there wasn't always wonderful when we walked from building to building in Airways, enclosed walks above the streets, without having to go outside. We drove from Minnesota to Dallas via Omaha because I was a delegate from California to the last Reagan-Bush Convention with after NAMA.

NAMA-86 was in historic Williamsburg, Virginia. Led by Bill Brideson and the Washington DC Manx, it was a good program. We all came away with a better knowledge of our American roots. We even had Vikings and a longboat there.

NAMA-88 was shifted to Canada in deference to our Canadian members, even though Marshall Cannell was from the Boston area. With help from local Manx, and his daughters and wife, Marshall threw a good convention in Toronto. That was the first visit to Canada for my wife and me. Toronto is another good city to visit.

NAMA-90 became my baby, and we threw it in what is now Silicon Valley, Santa Clara, California. We formed a NAMA Chapter in Northern California, and they were of immense help. Of course, there was more to do in the San Francisco and Monterey Bay areas than most Manxes had time to cover. And that is actually true of all the convention sites I've been to in the last 20 years.

NAMA-92 was in my year as President. Ron Quayle took us to the Isle o Man. It was a good convention and the first visit to our "roots" for many of us. A Manx convention is a very special one, and the Manx of the island did, and do, a lot to help and make us welcome.

NAMA-94. We went back to Minnesota for a good convention led by Normie Gill, assisted by Joanie and the Minnesota Manx. Beside a good program, this time we saw the largest mall in the country, the Mall of America. We also saw the Mississippi before it gets huge and the city of St.

Paul.

NAMA-96. We went "next door" to Wisconsin, where Mary Kelly, her daughter and the Wisconsin Manx had a great gig. We took a trip to lead mines upstate, saw the Laxey Church and Cemetery and even had "pasties" for lunch. (My dad used to make us "Pasties.") Mary's programs were outstanding. I can't believe how big the University of Wisconsin is.

NAMA-98 went back to Washington, where Don Quayle and the Washington DC Manx threw a great convention in Alexandria, Va. (The DC Manx have more than their share of convention water and I salute them.) Mea Culpa, this convention was moved to the first week in October and because of my involvement in an Alzheimer's Walk those days, this was the only convention I've missed in two decades.

NAMA-2000. Jack Cormode, from our Northern California society, took us back to the IOM. It was super convention, led by President Don Quayle. And allowed us to get even closer to our roots. Jack, with the help of the society and Manx on the island, did a bang-up job and kept us busy and informed. One benefit was having Prince Charles there for Tynwald. Our conventions on the island are sooooo special.

NAMA-2002. Now our 1st VP Norm Standish and some Illinois Manx are at bat. I have a lot of faith in Norm as a chairman and know this will be another memorable time. We are looking forward to seeing old friends, meeting new ones and growing personally via a visit to northwest Illinois. Let's meet there and share this unique memory.

Society News

(The press date of this issue overlaps with the meeting dates of some societies, so that some meeting reports are prospective.)

CHICAGO MANX

The society will meet April 14th at the home of our secretary Florence Abbinanti. A potluck supper is planned followed by a meeting to discuss plans for the NAMA convention in July.

— Robert Kelly, President

CLEVELAND MANX

48 people attended the annual Christmas party. Following dinner a lady portraying Queen Victoria in various scenes from her youth entertained us. Since our anniversary tea in September we have welcomed several new members who attended the party.

The March meeting was held at a local restaurant, and in April Florence Roseman will tell about her experience on the Athenia when it was torpedoed in September 1939. In May the society will go to Middlefield, the heart of the northeastern Amish community. The plans for the June meeting will hopefully include a ride on "Lolly the Trolley" to visit the Lake View Cemetery, site of the Garfield Monument, and the graves of many prominent Cleveland people.— Mona Haldeman

GREATER WASHINGTON MANX

Nearly 50 members and guests of the Greater Washington DC Area Manx met January 5th for our annual Twelfth Night party in Rockville, Maryland. This has become our most popular gathering, as it brings

together parents and children for an afternoon of feasting, dancing, games and other family fun.

The society will celebrate its Silver Anniversary on April 20 at a seafood restaurant. The main speaker will be Christopher Snyder, associate history professor at Virginia's Marymount University, who will share his vision for developing a Celtic Heritage Center in Washington. — Russell Woodgates, Vice President

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA MANX

The Northern California Manx were once again invited to the home of Kim Parker and her husband Peter Herrera. Kim's mother, Mrs. Eunice Parker, and Peter's mother, Mrs. Mary Herrera, acted as co-hosts. We spent most of our time chatting in the inimitable Manx way, but did stop for an excellent deep-dish lasagna dinner with all the trimmings.

Presently someone called for a meeting. So Jack Cormode, who also served as President of NAMA, led a discussion on what is going on in the association. The big news is about the convention that will be held in July in western Illinois. It promises to be a great family event, set in a land of significant historical interest.

Absent from us were Peter and Bea Joughin Garcia, who usually drive up from Southern California to be with us. Their daughter, Deborah Lacock, has a very serious illness, and they had to put aside their normal routine to help out. Mrs. Laycock is an award-winning 1st grade teacher, another example of the contributions of the Manx to the betterment of North American life.

We also learned about another case of Manx-American support in time of need. Our own Dee Hickman had decorated a dozen sweatshirts and sent them to the Isle in October to be used for awards and fundraising sales. Two of the children's sweatshirts had American first department symbols. The sweatshirts were all in Kirk Michael being ready for distribution when a member of the local fire department saw the specially themed apparel. He arranged for them to be part of an auction being held as fundraising efforts by fire departments all over the island. They were

still raising money for their brethren in New York City who had fallen in the 9-11 tragedy. The sweatshirts brought in an additional 120 pounds (nearly \$180), which is a fine return for a special effort.

We ended by singing "Ellan Vannin", looking forward to our next get-together sometime in the spring. — Jack Cormode

SAN DIEGO COUNTY MANX

The December meeting was held at the home of Hilary and Brian Harrison, co-hosted by Carol and George Watterson, with 18 members present. Rev. Devore Smith led in a memorial to Noreen Cottier, a founding member of the San Diego Manx Society, who had passed away recently at her home on the Isle of Man. A native of the United States she had made her home in Peel for many years, and several society members who had visited Noreen while vacationing on the Isle shared their memories of her.

Through the efforts of former San Diego society member Laurence Skelly, the Manx government has approved sponsorship of an award for achievements by young NAMA members. Society member and NAMA Chaplain Rev. Devore Smith initiated the idea of such an award when inspired by the accomplishments of several young NAMA members.

Following the business meeting several members shared memories of family traditions and a gift exchange.

Twenty members attended the February meeting at the home of Doris Dobbell, co-hosted by Virginia Mellon. The Harrisons shared plans for their vacation trip to Australia and New Zealand, and Devore and Ruth Smith shared their Manx heritage and memories of their childhood. —

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)

George Watterson, Secretary

VANCOUVER MANX

President Terry McCaffrey extends best wishes from all in Vancouver to all in the NAMA for the year 2002.

Our pre-Christmas potluck dinner was huge success, opened by President McCaffrey's recital of the Lord's Prayer in Manx Gaelic. Following the singing of Oh Land of our Birth, we enjoyed a dinner with such traditional Manx dishes as potato cake and bonnag plus baked Canadian maple syrup pork and beans, baked ham and roast beef. There were games and other fun for the children and a raffle for one and all. The evening ended with a Sing Song, concluding with Ellan Vannin.

Angus and Judith Gillon have been through our society archives and compiled albums of old and recent pictures, which are being enjoyed at our events.

It is with great sadness that we tell of the passing of Mrs. Bessie Varley, a long time member of our society. Bessie was born in Port Erin in July 20, 1901 and passed away in September 28, 2001. She immigrated to Canada at age

18 and was always a faithful member of the society. Very independent she lived in her one home until age 99, when she moved to a care home at South View Lodge. The society has extended its love and sympathy to the extended Costain family and Bessie's daughter, Ethel Rogers of Seattle, Washington.

— Vera Henry, Secretary

WISCONSIN MANX

The Wisconsin Manx Society meeting in April has scheduled a talk by Norman Standish, 1st vice president of NAMA, on the subject "Standish Family in America-Persistent Settlers." Owner of the Standish bed and Breakfast in Lanark, IL and a direct descendent of Myles Standish, Norman Standish will review Standish history, which he and his wife, Ingrid, have collected. He will also discuss plans for the 2002 NAMA Convention. which he will chair.

The Wisconsin Society was organized in 1981 and strives to educate members and the community about the Manx culture of the past and present. Membership consists of persons of Manx birth or connected to the Isle of Man by ties of descent or marriage.

The Wisconsin society lost a valued member and friend in January when Paul Rabenhorst died peacefully at home in

Madison. Age 71, he had retired from a 38-year career as a high school-biology and science teacher.

Although not of Manx descent, he became a "member by marriage" when he joined with his wife, Ellen, whose grandmother Isabelle Cannell Way immigrated to Wisconsin as a bride. Those who attended the '96 NAMA convention in Wisconsin may recall him as the excellent tour guide who explained the terrain of southwest Wisconsin as we bussed to Mineral Point and the Laxey Cemetery. We extend our sympathy to Ellen and sons Paul Timothy and Jesse — Doris Alff, Secretary



Miss Cottier (Continued from page 2)

Peel with her mother, who was returning to help her sister, after the death of their father, Noreen's grandfather, William Spence. On her settling in Peel fifty years later, Noreen was recognized as "the girl in the red velvet dress."

Her main interest in life was the maintenance of links with Manx people throughout the world via NAMA, the World Manx Association (WMA) and the Isle of Man Family History Society (IOMFHS).

After retiring from Bell in California came time in Australia, where she met up with many members of the Cottier family. It was there a further aspect of her interests was established, for she oversaw the successful setting up of Australian Manx Societies from scratch. Her second retirement came after she decided to leave Australia to settle on the Isle of Man.

Back on the Isle she found a job in the office of a Peel electrical goods business. In Millennium Year 1979 she worked as a volunteer, dealing with the "Roots" letters. This really whetted her appetite for genealogy. Joining the IOMFHS, she became a leading member, at first overseeing its publications. Then came her baby — the IOMFHS Library. This began life in Peel's Ward Public Library, moving later to Atholl Street and then to its present home on Michael Street. During this period many members will remember her being on duty in the Tynwald Day Homecomers' Tent, assisting at several Isle of Man NAMA conventions or guiding her correspondents around the Island. Somehow during this time she found an interval when she managed to retire for a third time.

Over the years her travels included Europe, India, China, Hong Kong, New Zealand and trips back to the US, including Alaska and Hawaii. One of her last trips — a car ride from Cleveland to Florida sharing with another "girl" aged 80+.

Aspiring genealogists will have reason to be grateful for Noreen's advice or research, while her many friends around the world will feel privileged just to have known her.

Chaplain's Corner

Recently I had a visit from Charles Caley, a NAMA member from Denver. He was in San Diego to see his son proudly graduate as a U.S. Marine. In comparing family histories we discovered that we must have a family connection through the Caley families of Sulby and Ballaugh. I am descended from the Caleys of "Balla Calley" across the road from my grandfather's home. A Craine ancestor married a Caley girl and thus my grandfather's given name was John Caley Caine. Another distant relative that Chuck Caley and I possibly share is Arthur Caley, "the Manx Giant" who worked with Barnum and Bailey Circus under the name Colonel Ruth Goshen. He was seven feet eleven inches tall and weighed 640 pounds. I tell my friends that may be why I am six feet four inches and weigh 230 pounds. Arthur Caley's home is an historical landmark. It is attached to the Sulby Glen hotel, a short distance from my grandfather's home. Sometime the study of family history can turn up some interesting facts (and maybe some closet skeletons) perhaps in your Family Bible. Explore your family history and see what you can record for your future generations.

Rev. Devore Craine Smith

NAMA DUES NOTICE

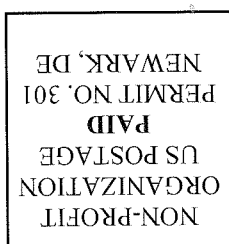
A change made last year in NAMA's schedule for dues payment resulted in some confusion among members as to their status on the association's books. As a result a number of members are now in a delinquent status without realizing it. Not where a Manx wants to be, we're sure.

The mailing label for this issue shows where you stand – paid up or delinquent. Look carefully.

If you are late in paying dues, please rush for your checkbook, complete the enclosed membership form and send dues off to Helen Drom.

Keep your Manx association alive. NAMA needs you, and you need NAMA.

Convention Details Inside



CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

3005 Ridgeway Road
Wilmington, Delaware 19808-3638

Association

Manx

North American