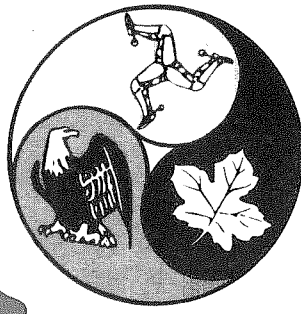


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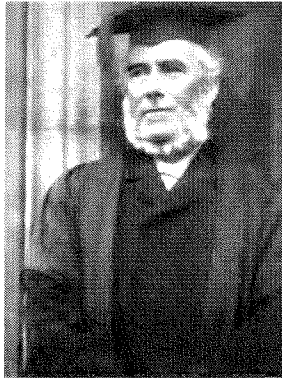
NORTH AMERICAN MANX ASSOCIATION

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

December 2002

Poet T.E. Brown Named Greatest Manx Person



In a poll conducted during November by the Isle of Man newspaper the country's national poet T.E. Brown was voted the greatest Manx person, first among major figures who have shaped the island.

Close behind Brown, just one vote less, was the former president of Tynwald, Sir Charles Kerruish. Both Brown (who received 38 per cent of all the vote) and Kerruish attracted twice as many votes as Illiam Dhône, who the newspaper described as the "controversial Manx martyr". Fourth place in the voting went to businessman and benefactor Henry Bloom Noble and there was a tie for fifth between architect Archibald Knox and Sir William Hilary.

The newspaper defined a "Great Manxman" for the purposes of the balloting as anyone who was Manx-born or who made a significant contribution to the Manx way of life.

Described by many as a poet whose "works will endure forever", Brown was born in Douglas and educated in Kirk Bradden. He settled in Ramsey and wrote lyrical and narrative poems. He died in 1879.

THE NAMA PRESIDENT'S LETTER TO ALL MEMBERS

I hope that everyone had a happy thanksgiving dinner this year. We celebrated our eighth recreation of the First Thanksgiving in Lanark on November 9. We serve a 17th century dinner, students from the Eastland Family Living Class serve the dinner in costumes which they make in class (Indians and Pilgrims) and I write a skit on a phase of Pilgrim history each year to which the students have parts to play. We served over 100 people this year and unfortunately had to turn away over 35. Of course we had our turkey on Thanksgiving with our family.

There are a number of NAMA items which I do want to address. Don Quayle has provided me with a sample letter that I plan to send to each of the Manx organizations similar to NAMA. We would offer to co-sign with the organization president a letter inviting individuals with Manx names located in their territory to join both of our organizations. We would use an Internet search engine such as Switchboard to locate the names and addresses. We would split the cost and, hopefully, have a positive effect on the membership of both organizations. Any comments of other sources of names and addresses would be welcome. I am not sure that I have a current address list for officers of these Manx organizations and would appreciate updates on the list of officers.

Our children and grandchildren will someday shoulder the responsibility for maintaining NAMA and the links it provides to the Isle of Man. To provide an opportunity for our young people to become involved, we plan to offer a free year dues to any individual filing an application form(s) with dues (US \$2.00/year) for their children and/or grandchildren in 2003. Following this first year, the young people would be responsible to maintain their own future membership with NAMA. This would be a wonderful Christmas present. Our heritage is a treasure, which we want to share with our young people. Mary Kelly is designing a special membership certificate that we can award to these young people. Don Quayle worked hard to develop this program and would welcome any suggestions.

Our Treasurer Helen Drom is now awaiting 2003 dues from those who pay annually. She tells me, sadly, that we have a number of present members who have not paid 2002 dues and will not receive newsletters beyond this issue. You can look on the address label on the newsletter to see if there is amount due for this year. Although it is easy to forget our dues, we do not want to lose anyone because of an oversight. Keep up this link to your Manx heritage.

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas

Norman Weston Standish

Sir Charles was the youngest ever speaker of Tynwald, serving from 1990 until 2000, and was nominated for his "efforts to retain our heritage" and "for being a great ambassador for the island and all things Manx."

In the poll, one vote was received for the Bee Gees, the Gibb brothers, of music fame.

Island Inflation At 10 year high

The Isle of Man's annual inflation rate is at a 10-year high, Manx Radio reported at the end of November. It currently stands at 4%, a rise of 0.2% from last month's figure. In the last 12 months the biggest price rises have been in the cost of leisure services, up 10% and food, which rose 8.7%. In the same 12 months period fares and other travel costs were down 8.5%.

A year ago inflation was 0.2%, the lowest figure since records began in March 1977.

Isle of Man Sets Unique Record

Perhaps little noted, but special nonetheless a unique record was achieved this summer by residents of the Isle of Man. They strung up in Douglas the longest chain of bras ever seen in the world.

The event was all in the cause of raising funds for the Isle's Beat Breast Cancer Appeal to raise more than 31,000 pounds for the local breast cancer charities.

The length of the chain, 6.52 miles, was more than double that of a similar chain created in 2001 in Pasadena, CA for the same charitable purpose. An official seal of approval of the chain's length was provided by Chief Minister Richard Corkill, verifying the achievement for the Guinness Book of Records.

Donations for the chain of more than 12,000 bras that stretched from Summerland to the Sea Terminal in Douglas came from a variety of sources, a major one being a local garment manufacturer, Triumph.

Whether challengers to the Isle's record will arise from other sources remains to be seen.

In Memoriam

Clarice Emma Caley, wife of the late past NAMA president and chaplain James Cowin Caley, died peacefully in Kingston, WA February 5, 2002. Born in Stratford, Ontario to Frank and Winnifred Rae Rollinson Walker, she was the descendent of Canadian pioneers. For many years she was active in NAMA activities in the Huntington Beach, California area. She attended the Millenium Tynwald and, with her husband, was presented to her Majesty the Queen. She attended many NAMA conventions and will be remembered for the music provided at convention-related social activities. A brother, sister, two children, seven grandchildren, and five great grandchildren survive her.

David Parker Corkill of Nortonville, KS passed away earlier this year. The son of Herbert and Myrtle Corkhill, he was quite involved in NAMA when his wife was alive. They attended conventions, visited the Isle of Man and members of the family were all lifetime members of NAMA.

F. Wayne Crew, husband of Orma A Crew, died July 19, 2002 in Reedley, CA., age 89. A NAMA member of long standing, he had undergone open-heart surgery several years ago. In addition to his wife, two daughters, two grandchildren and two great grandchildren survive him.

Catherine Jeanette Higgins died February 23, 2002 in Lansing, MI. She had retired after 22 years at the H.W. Knapp Company. She was active in her church. Trinity United Methodist, where she helped publish the church newsletter and worked with the youth. She was very proud of her Manx heritage and visited the Isle of Man on several occasions. On one trip she had the distinction of being addressed by the Queen at Peel School. She is survived by her husband of 48 years, Harold Higgins.

James Phillips, a long-time member of the Vancouver Manx Society, died during the summer. A resident of Victoria, BC he kept in touch with the society by email when no longer able to attend meetings. He was proud of his Manx heritage and for many years the contact person in Canada for the Isle of Man Family History Society.

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Chaplain

Rev. Devore Craine Smith
San Diego, CA

Genealogist

Calvin Quayle
3204 Cherrywood Lane
Eau Claire, WI 54701

Bulletin Editor

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

Trustees

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An Active Manx Lady Celebrates 90 Years

Mrs. Hilda Price, editor of the NAMA Bulletin from 1972-1986 and wife of former NAMA president, Sam Price, celebrated her 90th birthday on November 23, 2002 in Georgetown, Ontario, Canada. An early birthday party hosted by daughter, Jean, and son, Doug, and attended by 160 family members and friends on October 20 anticipated the actual event.

Hilda was born in 1912 in Ramsey on the Isle of Man to Cecil and Jane (Christian) Bridson. She attended Albert Road School and met her future husband, Sam of Sulby Glen, in 1935. The couple were married in Saint Olaves Church in Ramsey on April 8, 1939 and lived in Peel until 1942. At that time Sam enlisted in the RAF and spent the next four years in the Persian Gulf area. In 1947 the family, now with daughter Jean and son John, left the island for Moncton, New Brunswick, where they lived until 1950. A change of employment brought them to Georgetown, where Doug was born in 1951. Sam, a textile manager, operated and later purchased the Beaumont Mills in Glen Williams. Their son John passed away from leukemia in 1955.

Hilda maintained strong family ties both in Canada and the Isle of Man. Both she and Sam were long time-members of the Toronto Manx Society. Sam served as NAMA president from 1970 to 1972 and passed away in 1980. Hilda's activity as NAMA Bulletin editor kept her in touch with her many Manx fiends. She attended many conventions, the last in 1980, and made her final visit to the Isle of Man in 2001.

In addition to her special birthday, Hilda this year celebrated the birth of her fifth great-grandchild, Carter James, born August 3, 2002 in Burlington, Ontario, weighing 7 lbs.14ozs. The baby was the first child for granddaughter Denise (Glass) and Brian Sorenson.

NAMA MEMBER NAMED TO SERVE AS IOM 'FRIEND ON THE GROUND'

Susan Kelly-McCarthy, member in good standing of NAMA and the Great Washington Manx Society, has the special distinction of being one of three overseas Honorary Representatives recently named by the Isle of Man government and the only one in the United States. The other two are Alan Cannell in Brazil and Clive Dawson in Thailand.

Ms. Kelly-McCarthy says her duties as Honorary Representative can be summed up as being "a friend on the ground" for the Isle of Man. "Where possible I am to promote awareness of the Isle of Man, both culturally and commercially, and to act as a liaison point for people of business wishing to have further knowledge of, or contact with, the island," she said.

"In addition I would be expected to render assistance to Manx folk experiencing travel difficulties that would require consular assistance from the British Embassy," she added.

Susan Kelly-McCarthy, who goes by Kelly, comes to her post with strong Manx credentials, as her personal history shows:

"I live in Arlington, Virginia with my American husband and two children. They were born in the Jane Crookhall Maternity Hospital in Douglas, Isle of Man and are true Manx children – although exposure to the American way of life has given them an American accent and a fondness for pizza. I have lived in the US for a little over two years and share office with my husband in Washington, just eight blocks from the capitol. I am involved in publishing and have been a writer and editor for many years."

"I was raised in Port St. Mary and was educated at Rushen Primary School and Castle Rushen High School before leaving the island in 1975 to study for my Business Studies degree in Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Afterwards I spent many years in London where I enjoyed a variety of jobs which seemed to include everything from waiting on tables, to working in movies, to becoming Account Director of a small international advertising agency. It was during this time that people began to call me Kelly rather than Susan, which has stuck."

"My ancestry goes back a long way. The Kellys of Port St. Mary can trace themselves back to the Manorial Roll of 1567. One of my grandfathers was Henry Percy Kelly, High Bailiff of the Isle of Man in 1937-38. (He died in office.) He was made a Bard of both Wales and Cornwall for his contribution to the Celtic languages."

"My father is Dollin Kelly, former Headmaster and an expert on the Manx poet T.E. Brown. He is famous for having performed the epic narrative poem, "Betsy Lee" entirely from memory at various venues as diverse as the Erin Arts Centre, Port Erin, Isle of Man and the Edinburgh Fringe. While visiting recently he gave a talk on the poet to the Greater Washington Manx Association, which was very well received. Many Manx people know my aunt, Esther Richmond, through her work as a long-serving reporter for Isle of Man Newspapers and Manx Radio. My mother is a Moore from Port Erin."

"I am very, very proud to be Manx and honored that the Government selected me for this honorary position. I hope that this written introduction is a prelude to meeting with others who love "our own dear Ellan Vannin"

Susan Kelly-McCarthy (at left) performed her first duties as Honorary Representative in the US when the Isle of Man's Treasury Minister Allan Bell, and Chief Finance Officer, Mary Williams, came to Washington for a meeting with Treasury Secretary



Foundations Are In Place For Manx Language To Flourish

By Valerie Caine

As supporters continue their crusade regarding the future of the Manx language, the recent visit by two eminent language professionals, has only served to encourage local efforts in retaining the language. Professor Colin Baker and Meirion Prys Jones, members of the Welsh Language Board, visited the Isle of Man earlier this summer. Although only a brief visit, they departed with good impressions, and left people on the Island in no doubt that their native tongue was alive and kicking.

Noted as being two of Europe's most prominent minority language professionals, they met with M.H.K.s (M.P. equivalent), civil servants from the Department of Education, Manx National Heritage and the Manx Heritage Foundation. Our two prominent guests emphasised that the most important step in ensuring the survival of minority languages was to ensure the production of new speakers, through education in schools, and by parents speaking the language with their children.

A bedrock of success with Mooijner Veggey (pre-school), the Department of Education's peripatetic Manx language teachers, and the new Manx Medium Class, they believe has ensured security for the future of the language. The Island's Manx Medium Class, currently based at Ballacottier Primary School, drew special consideration from Professor Baker. Julie Matthews, resident teacher, received specific praise. Professor Baker remarked that the teaching and class presentation was amongst the highest he had seen.

Phil Gawne, Manx Language Officer, was greatly encouraged by Professor Baker's remarks, the latter directly involved with teacher training as Professor of Education at Bangor University.

Professor Baker is a man who wears many hats. A highly regarded sociolinguist, he is also a prolific writer on language planning for bilingualism, education of bilinguals and revival of minority languages.

Phil Gawne also received invaluable assistance from the professor in the development of a structure for the revival of Manx, through the Manx National Heritage/Manx Heritage Foundation Language Development Programme.

Many Island residents have given freely of their time in pursuing success, believing that the Island's native tongue will flourish. Therefore, the undoubted growing status and positivity of their work is sure to be magnified. An increasing number of speakers of a minority language, anywhere in the world, are apparently very rare. During his visit Professor Baker suggested that the Isle of Man is probably unique in the world, in having new native Manx speakers produced so soon after the death of the last traditional native speaker.

Organiser of the visit, Phil Gawne, commented, 'It is great to have been given this commendable report from such a high source. Their endorsement of our work for Manx makes clear that increasing Government and business support for Manx, linked with the expertise and tremendous commitment from our language professionals, and organisations, will allow us to retain a strong Manx identity through our national language well into the future.'

206,188 tourists had come to the IOM during the first three quarters of this year, up 15% compared to the same period last year! - David Cretney, Tourism Director

From Fort Collins to Peel: A Special Manx Visit

(Last year the NAMA Bulletin reported on the plans of the Rev, Carol and Dr. Doug Fox, members of NAMA's Rocky Mountain Society, for a special visit to the Isle of Man for which, although of no Manx ancestry, they had developed a special affection. The Bulletin asked how their visit went, so here is their report.)

Some of you may recall reading about our planned visit to the Isle of Man in one of last year's newsletters. If you do, you will remember that Carol, a United Methodist minister in Colorado, was invited to serve the Douglas & Peel Methodist circuit on the Isle of Man from November 2001 through August 2002. Well, we are back home in Fort Collins, now. This article tells some of our story. Much of it was also included in an article about Methodism on the Isle of Man that appeared last summer in the British Methodist Reporter.

We first visited the Isle of Man four years ago and at that time we somehow knew that it was our home! Funny how that can happen! Just a few short months before that first visit we did not know that an Isle of Man even existed, and then, there we were, feeling as if we had known the Isle for eternity. And, of course, it was not the home of our birth. Home was 4,600 miles away in Fort Collins, Colorado where parents, children, grand children and a house all awaited our return. Nor do we have any specific knowledge of any Manx heritage. We continue to refer to ourselves as "Manx want-to-bes." Actually we are sure there is Manx blood flowing through our veins, we just don't know how it got there.

On our first visit to the Isle in 1998, we went to Sunday worship at Promenade Methodist Church in Douglas. When the Minister learned that Carol was a Minister from the States, he invited her to read the scripture. This was our first experience of that famous Manx hospitality, something we have come to regard as one of the greatest treasures of this wonderful Isle. This invitation along with meeting many wonderful and kind-hearted people got us to thinking: Might it be possible to serve the Methodist Church in this place we had grown to love?

(continued on page 5.)

Ft. Collins—Peel
(continued from page 4.)

Well, to make a long story short, after two more years, and two more visits, we found ourselves assigned to the Douglas and Peel Circuit in an interim one year placement till a permanent Minister could be found. For us it has been a “coming home” experience.

We arrived on the Isle of Man on November 1st, 2001. It was windy, damp, cold and dark but we had prepared ourselves for this change. However, what we did not expect was the absolute kindness and open hospitality given to us by the members of the four Chapels assigned to Carol. A day after mentioning that we were cold, a neighbor arrived with a load of firewood for our hearth. Another Chapel member provided the needed “Wellies” so that we could go to the ploughing match that Saturday. Acts of kindness too numerous to list were a part of our everyday experience. There were evenings of home grown entertainment: hymn singing, listening to Manx dialect recitations of T.E. Brown, Mann’s greatest poet, and the best “sponge” we have ever tasted, helped us to forget the cold and wet winter and to appreciate that we had come home. If you know you’re going home, the trip is never too hard! And so our first winter on the Isle was made easier by the warmth of loving and caring people.

Since the Methodist manse in Peel was being renovated, we stayed at the “Sand House Lodge”, a beautiful old Manx cottage just the Peel side of St. John’s. Anyone who has driven the road from Douglas to Peel can’t miss noticing its chapel windows. We had wonderful neighbors at the Sand House, including Charlie & Molly Caine. Charlie & Molly not only keep their farm and tend their sheep, but manage to make the best “Bonag” (Manx traditional bread) on the Isle. Each morning as we sat at our breakfast table we watched Charlie and his dog working his sheep. It was a wonderful way to start the day.

(Learn more about the Fox’s special visit in the next issue)

Yn Chruinnaght 2002 **Features Celtic Music**

As the year 2002 dawned with its sense of inevitability, the future of Yn Chruinnaght, the annual Celtic festival on the Isle of Man, stood with an unsteady gait. A range of circumstances threw the festival into a maelstrom of insecurity. The prognosis was discouraging. However, a nucleus of enthusiasts was not prepared to go down without a fight, and Yn Chruinnaght proudly displayed its Celtic colours to visitors and residents alike again this summer.

Traditionally held in the northern town of Ramsey, this year witnessed a major departure from the much loved (by some) marquee on the infamous Peveril Plot. Followed closely by doom-laden comments the festival boldly repositioned itself at the Grand Island Hotel, on the edge of town.

Typically the week of events takes on a life of its own, with a selection of events to suit all tastes. Committed dancers make positive steps towards the Dance Workshops, whilst others pledge themselves to the Food and Folk Sessions at the local hostelrys.

Dance displays, by both local and visiting groups, encourage busy shoppers to hesitate in their haste. Afternoon displays are traditionally held in the picturesque setting of the Mooragh Park, with the opportunity to relax in a deckchair with the prerequisite ice cream!

Recent additions to the programme have been Manx Language Workshops, giving adults a taste of the Island’s native tongue, and the Mooijer Veggey Gaelic Playgroup, where little people under the age of six enjoy Manx language games, activities and dancing.

Groups new to the Island hailed from Scotland, Wales and Brittany. Make-A-Rak-It (and they do!) journeyed for the village of Fochabers, deep in the heart of Morayshire, Scotland. A six-piece Ceilidh band together for eight years, dancers were not slow to reach the floor when the music started. Despite being based in Paris, members of Kroazhent hold onto genetic links with Brittany. Again a six piece band, this all male line up play traditional Breton tunes, but in the modern idiom.

Yet another group new to Manx shores was Dawnsyr Delyn. Stepping out of Mold in Wales, they are past prize winners in the Pan Celtic dance competition. Formed in 1986 they are international travellers, performances and costumes indicative of their land.

Meanwhile it was impossible to ignore the Emerald Revellers, admirably living up to their name! Having visited Yn Chruinnaght previously this highly motivated group of adults and children stage a colourful performance of dancing, music, singing and story telling from the Irish tradition.

Needless to say Yn Chruinnaght is also a showcase for Manx tradition. The range is far too extensive to reproduce here, but Mona Douglas, whose vision the festival was, would be far from disappointed. Music, song and dance were well represented from groups all over the Island, re-affirming the future of Manx culture.

Despite reservations the festival was hailed a great success and has now confidently stepped into a new era, where we look forward to welcoming you in 2003.

Valerie Caine
September 2002

Young Dancers showed their spirit and energy at YN Chruinnaght, the annual Celtic Festival held at Ramsey last summer.



What If?

*By Calvin Quayle,
NAMA Genealogist*

There are a number of interesting side paths one can wander on in the Parish Registers of the Isle of Man. Little tidbits of information pique the imagination, such as the father and two sons who were married to a mother and her two daughters all on the same day. What was the relationship of these two families that prompted such matrimonial excess?

I have long been intrigued by the large numbers of deaths due to smallpox that were recorded during some of the years on the Isle, and wondered, "What if they had discovered the inoculation for smallpox two hundred years earlier and all those children lived to maturity?" Would not that have altered the history of the Isle of Man?

To illustrate what I mean by the numbers, I investigated the records of just one parish to see what they would show. Of course, not all years recorded smallpox deaths, and I sense that not all smallpox epidemics were noted in the records, but for several decades the keepers of the parish records in Kirk German indicated by an "X" placed by the name those who died of smallpox. There seems to be a pattern of having an epidemic that lasts about a year and then not having another one until three to six years later – when there was a population not immune to the disease.

While there were earlier notations of some smallpox deaths, the first consistent record of burials due to smallpox in the Kirk German record was on 3 November 1764. Three deaths were recorded in November and thirteen in December, including "Thos & Joney son & dau of Thos Crellin 29 Dec." The peak of the epidemic was during January when 35 burials due to smallpox were recorded. This epidemic tapered off slowly until the last burial was recorded on 6 July 1765 as the only one during July.

During this six month period, there were one hundred one total burials recorded – eighty-three of them listed as due to smallpox. The toll was almost evenly divided, with thirty-five male and thirty-eight female deaths.

The second epidemic ran from 14 September 1772 to 25 July 1773. Starting with 4 burials in September and ending with only one in July, the peak was in the month of November, when twenty-two were buried as a result of smallpox. Total number of burials during this period was one hundred thirty-six, while those caused by smallpox were seventy-one. Girls were harder hit this time with forty-one burials compared to thirty for the boys.

The third epidemic was a comparably mild one with only sixteen deaths from smallpox out of 64 total burials. It began on 8 June 1777 and ended on 4 Nov 1777. Eleven of the deaths were male, while five were female.

The fourth epidemic was also less severe and had a peculiar time frame. The first burial was recorded on 13 December 1779 and the last one on 13 November 1781. But there were no deaths between 13 Aug 1780 and 16 Aug 1781 – a full year. Also, this one started only a little over two years after what I am calling the third epidemic, which is not usual. Of the eighty-two burials recorded during this time, twenty were caused by smallpox – equally divided between male and female.

Four years later, a fifth epidemic started on 25 September 1785 and ended rather soon on 12 January 1786. During this time ninety-eight burials were recorded, of which thirty-eight were from smallpox. Again the gender division was equal at nineteen male and nineteen female.

The sixth epidemic was a little over three years later, starting on 5 June 1789 and lasting through the summer months to 2 September 1789, except for two isolated burials recorded in January of 1790 – one dau and one son. This epidemic cost the lives of twenty-eight children, fifteen female and thirteen male. Total burials were fifty-nine.

In the records of the seventh epidemic, we get the first indication of medical attempts to prevent death from smallpox, though no indication of whether these efforts were successful. The indication comes in a note by the recorder that states that those marked "*" died from inoculation while those marked "+" died from natural smallpox. In this period only two were indicated as dying from the inoculation and these were the first two, buried 12 Jun 1794. The last smallpox victim was buried 5 November 1794. Total number buried was forty-nine of which twenty-four were smallpox caused. The male population was hardest hit during this epidemic by the ratio of eighteen to six.

The eighth epidemic was a brief one, lasting from 15 February 1799 to 5 April 1799 wherein eleven children died of smallpox out of a total of forty-one burials. Of those four were male and seven were female.

Almost exactly two years later the last epidemic is recorded in these records and it is the mildest of them all. The epidemic started on 5 February 1801 and ended on 24 April and only five smallpox deaths were recorded – four male and one female. Total deaths during this period were forty.

The Parish Registers of German do not record smallpox deaths after 1801. Either they became insignificant, or they just decided not to mark them as such. Perhaps the inoculations began to work?

But back to my "What if . . .?" During the thirty-six years chronicled above, one hundred thirty-six boys and one hundred forty-five girls died of smallpox in the Parish of Kirk German. Suppose that these two hundred eighty-one people had lived to maturity, married and had children. Suppose that comparable numbers in all the other parishes on the Isle of Man had lived and had children and those children had lived and had children. Would not the history of the Isle of Man have been affected tremendously? Would we have stories of famines caused by over population, or would we have stories of great ingenuity in coping with large numbers of people on a small Island? There is no way to know, except that it is obvious that life would have been different for our ancestors had smallpox been eradicated in 1750.

Society News

Chicago Manx

We gathered for a delicious ham dinner and a good Manx *Cooish* at Brad Prendergast's apartment on August 25, and those who attended the 2002 convention reported on that event.

The Chicago Manx had a display booth at the 6th Annual Chicago Celtic Fest in Grant Park on Chicago's lake-front On September 14 and 15. Eight members shared in staffing the booth and we met many people who had visited the Isle of Man at some time. We also had a visit from an out of town family who were Manx, but knew nothing of the North American Manx Association. We gave them membership information and hope they will join.

Our November meeting was at the home of John and Mary Prendergast. John is a new NAMA trustee. Much discussion was of the 2004 NAMA convention to be held in Chicago, where our conventions were also held in 1933 and 1963. - Robert Kelly



The Chicago Manx Society and NAMA were represented at the 6th Chicago Celtic Fest in Grant Park, Chicago in September. Staffing the booth are (left to right) John Weir, John Prendergast and Florence Abbinanti, all of whom attended the 2002 Convention in Lanark and Freeport, IL.

Cleveland Manx

Our annual picnic in August was the usual fun time, with four of our mem-

bers who had attended the 2002 convention reporting on the meeting and activities. In September we gathered for lunch in a restaurant in an old building that is part of a new shopping area with boutiques, antique shops and such. It had originally been a town that was a Cleveland suburb.

October found us at a Radisson Inn for a late lunch, followed by a speaker describing a cemetery where John D. Rockefeller is buried. He spoke of John D. as a family man, showing slides of the mansion on Euclid Avenue in Cleveland and a country home outside the city.

Our next meeting will be a Christmas party on December 1 with lunch at a Holiday Inn and entertainment by a barbershop quartet. We will also collect mittens and scarves for children.

We will not meet again until March 2003, considering the possibility of winter travel problems. Plans for March are indefinite, but anyone visiting the area is welcome to any of our functions.

May you all have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mona Haldeman

Minnesota Manx

Our society managed only two meeting in 2002, the gathering planned for March having been canceled out by blizzard conditions in much of the state.

On November 2 we gathered at the home of Harriet and John Hodgson for a luncheon of homemade soups and breads. After lunch we had a slide show of their several trips to the Isle of Man with a feature of Corrin's Tower (or Folly, as it is known on the isle). One of their Manx ancestors built the tower on the family property near Peel. Then we toured the newest building at the Mayo Clinic, the Gonda Building, featuring breath-taking glass chandeliers by Chihuly.

The other 2002 meeting was August 17 at the Gull Lake home of LaJean Anderson in Nisswa, where the 25 attending enjoyed a catered lunch. The highlight of the Manx Olympics was the three legged race won by Kali Dahlquist and Jim Anderson.

In 2003 we plan to meeting in April in Bloomington and in June as French Park in Plymouth. All NAMA members in the area at

those times are urged to contact Sally Dahlquist, whom we were proud to have elected NAMA third vice president. - Joan Gill

Northern California Manx

Our society was represented at the Campbell Highland Games in June and the Loch Lomond Highland Games and Celtic Fair in October. The flag of the Isle of Man was proudly displayed and the Manx were recognized as a Celtic nation.

On December 15 we will be meeting at Kim Parker's home in what has become an annual tradition. - Jack Cormode

Vancouver Manx

President Terry McCaffrey on behalf of the Vancouver Manx Society extends to one and all best wishes for the year 2003.

We were visited in July by a youth group from the Isle of Man that was en-route to a wilderness camp on Vancouver Island, where they hoped to see such wildlife as bear and deer. President McCaffrey and other members met the young people at the airport to extend a welcome to British Columbia.

In November we gathered for a potluck dinner at St. David's Church, a traditional annual event.

While our membership stays about the same, we hope for an influx of new folks. Happy Holiday greetings to all. - Vera Henry

Washington, DC Area Manx

If you plan on visiting the nation's capital after the New Year, please join the Greater Washington DC Area Manx Society for its annual 12th Night party. We'll gather Saturday afternoon, January 11th from 1:30 to 4:30 in Rockville, MD, just north of Washington, DC. Contact President Don Quayle at drquayle@aol.com for directions. (Continued on back page)

Chaplain's Corner

During a two-year sabbatical (1967-69) in Germany, my paternal ancestral homeland, Ruth and our two junior high aged children spent a most moving Christmas in Berchtesgaden in Bavaria. We were staying in a US Army retreat lodging near Hitler's SS Headquarters and decided to drive down the mountain on a snowy road and attend the midnight Christmas Eve service in the German church in the valley. Signal pistols were being fired in the bluffs in legendary efforts to ward off evil spirits. We entered the church at 11:00 as the gun firing ceased and the church bells rang.

About a hundred German villagers (no American military families but us – DOD civilian) worshipped as the 15-foot tannenbaum had a hundred candles lit, some igniting errant branches, but quickly snuffed out by the altar boy. As the service began, a three-foot candle-lit Star of Bethlehem frame rose up the reredos in front of us. The service proceeded quietly and reverently and concluded at midnight on December 25th with the hushed singing by these devout Germans of "Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht" which was composed ten miles away at Oberndorf by Fr. Joseph Mohr and music composed by Franz Gruber, organist. It was a profoundly moving mood, sung at a very slow largo tempo. It was a memorable Christmas Eve cherished by my family. May your Manx Christmas be similarly blessed and cherished.

Rev. Devore Caine Smith

Happy Holidays!

Society News

(continued from page 7.)

Prior to that, on December 8th, many of us plan on attending the 20th Annual Washington Revels, featuring a professional/amateur cast of children and adults in a rollicking Dickensian Christmas pageant. There are Christmas Revels in several cities around the country, often with a Celtic theme. Look for them.

Wisconsin Manx

At the society's fall meeting in September, following a catered lunch, local Wisconsin members and the Gills, WMS members from Minnesota, shared details of the Convention 2002 experiences. James Morey entertained with violin music and explained the origins of the Manx Youth Award trophy, displaying it to the joy of all.

With the approach of the holiday season, we wish each of you a bountiful Thanksgiving, a merry Christmas and a happy New Year. - Joyce Benjamin

North American
Manx
Association

3005 Ridgeway Road
Wilmington, Delaware 19808-3638
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