NORTH AMERICAN MANX ASSOCIATION

Vol. 76, No. 2

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

Spring 2005

A Message to NAMA Members From President Brad Prendergast

The 2004 Convention in Chicago was a great success, both in attendance and financially, and I was honored that the membership of the NAMA chose me as its president. I will endeavor to continue the good work of past presidents and the board to keep this organization strong and keep its commitment to preserve our heritage.

As our heritage becomes more and more mixed, the members have to work diligently to teach our children and our grandchildren what it means to be Manx, even if that grandchild is one-half, one-quarter or less Manx. Our children and grandchildren growing up in North America identify themselves as Americans or Canadians. They have been born and raised here, and their parents, and maybe even their grandparents, have been born and raised here as well. But for that Manx heritage to be kept alive. and for our decendents to identify themselves as being of Manx descent, we must teach them about the Island, its history, tradition, folklore, its unique form of government and other components of our ancient heritage.

I knew that I was Manx as a child. We attended the ethnic Folk Fair here in Chicago, and the various activities of the Chicago Manx Society.

(Continued on page 3)

Manx Language Teaching Expanding on Island

"The tide has definitely turned as far as the teaching of Manx in schools is concerned. Since the program was introduced in 1992 it has grown from strength to strength."

That was the view of the new Isle of Man Manx language officer, Rosemary Derbyshire, as she took office in February to replace retiring language officer Phil Kelly.

Preserving the heritage of the island's native tongue means much to Ms. Derbyshire who first heard Manx spoken by her grandfather, J.W. Gelling, who was also a teacher.

"Every child from the age of eight has the chance to learn Manx and they can carry it on to A-level if they desire, "she said. There are now 850 children having weekly Manx lessons. In the Manx medium school in St. Johns the children have all their lessons in Manx.

She says that in the not too distant future she would like to see perhaps children in key stage three, which is years seven to nine, being able to choose Manx as a timetabled lesson in school.

"Any kind of language study is good for the brain," she believes "and the more languages you learn the easier it becomes to learn a language. In the Isle of Man more and more jobs are being created where people use Manx."

JOIN THE NAMA HOMECOMING

This year's Homecoming trip in July offers a special opportunity for NAMA members to sample some of the best of their Manx heritage as well as see first hand a bit of the modern features of island life.

The highlight for many will be attendance at Tynwald Day on July 5 when the island's legislature celebrates its status as the oldest parliamentary body in the world, one dating back more than 1000 years to the island's Viking settlers.

Manx music and dance will be featured at several gatherings for the NAMA group, including at the welcoming dinner being hosted by the World Manx Association.

The island's current and growing position as a center of motion picture and television productions will be the subject of a special tour to the Manx film center in Ramsey.

NAMA's first vice president Laurence Skelly, an island resident, is coordinating arrangement for this special association event. NAMA president Brad Prendergast and other officers will be part of the homecoming group.

A full schedule of events and other details of this event are on page 2.

2005 North American Manx Association Homecoming July 2-8, 2005

- 6 nights accommodations at the Welbeck Hotel or Hilton Hotel in Douglas.
- Bed and full Manx breakfast
- Private taxi transfers for each party from Ronaldsway to hotel and return.
- Welcome Dinner on July 2 with the World Manx Association, with entertainment by the Cleveland Medal winner. Transportation provided.
- Church Service on July 3 at Trinity Church, Douglas. Service led by lay preacher John Kennaugh, Captain of German Parish.
- Transport to/from Mr. President's garden party at nunnery (now the Isle of Man International Business School) date expected to be July 3rd.
- Tynwald Day Celebrations include transport to/from St. Johns and Grandstand seat. Visit and afternoon Manx Tay in the countryside at St. Marks. Transportation provided.
- Full day visiting new film studios in Ramsey, viewing the sets and a reception at Ramsey Town Hall after viewing the plaque dedicated by NAMA to the shipyard that built the "Star of India" and stops at other famous film locations including Niarabyl and a lunch at the Ballacallin in Dalby with its great views of the west coast.
- Farewell dinner on July 7. Manx Night at Port Erin Royal. Traditional Manx Music and dance with dinner. Attendance by local dignitaries. Transportation provided.
- All taxes and services.
- Cost: 475 pounds per person based on two sharing a room at the Welbeck Hotel. Hilton Hotel extra.
- Make reservations through Thompson Travel, Port Erin, Isle of Man. Telephone 011-44-1624-832535 or email at enquiries@thompson-travel.com.
- Ouestions? Contact Laurence Skelly at skelly@manx.net

Floridian Seeks Fellow Manx

A NAMA member who lives in the Tampa, Florida suburbs would like to be in touch with others of Manx heritage who might be interested in forming a local Manx society. She sees the Tampa-Clearwater-St. Petersburg vicinity as an area of likely interest. The NAMA rolls show a sprinkling of permanent members on the Florida west coast, and there are probably snowbirds on the roster who winter there. We don't pass on members' names to others without their permission, but anyone interested in a Manx society or knowing others who might be, let us know and we'll pass the names along. It only takes a nucleus of three or four to get started, and a look through the phone book with turn up many folks with names of likely Manx origin who might be drawn to others of Manx heritage.

Society Meeting News and Schedules

NAMA members are great travelers and welcome opportunities to meet with others of Manx heritage while away from home. The bulletin would like to carry the schedules of future local Manx societies meetings in coming editions and so would appreciate hearing from each society the times and place of future meetings, as well as the name and phone number of a person to contact, Traveling Rotarians and other service club members know where to go when on the road. NAMA members would like the same sort of information. Throw out the welcome mat. Let us know your schedules. Thanks.

And don't forget to send an account of your meetings for the bulletin. The next issue will come out in August, so reports by the end of July, please.

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Chaplain

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Genealogist

Lucy Q. Peterson 1939 West 13930 South Buffdale, UT lucyqp@msn.com

Bulletin Editor

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

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New Manx History Volumes Expected Out This Year

The Center for Manx Studies reports that two additional volumes in the five-volume work entitled *New History of the Isle of Man* are expected to be published this year by the Liverpool University Press.

These are Volume I – Evolution of the Natural Landscape and Volume III – The Medieval Period 1000-1405.

The first book in the series to be published was Volume V - The Modern Period 1830-1999, which came out in 2000.

The extensive research necessary for Volume II titled Prehistory is now finished and the text is being completed and edited.

The last time a work of the scope of the series was attempted almost 100 years ago with the publication of A.W. Moore's History of the Isle of Man, which is still the standard text for the period 798-1830. This history project is considered to be the largest such Manx project ever undertaken by scholars. More information about the History project is available from the Center for Manx Studies at cms@liverpool.ac.uk.

President's Message (continued from page 1)

Kids in my school were Irish, Polish, German, Swedish, Norwegian, Jewish and Manx (my brother and me). and a mix of other ethnicities. My first visit to the IOM was 1979, and I experienced first hand the unique system of government, attending the ceremony at Tynwald Hill. In 1992 we took the entire family back and repeated some of those lessons for the next generation.

NAMA is having an official homecoming on the IOM this year, tied to the date of Tynwald (July 5). I must urge all members that this is an opportunity to teach the next generation, the children and grandchildren about their heritage. I am hoping that every member of the NAMA will consider taking their next generation (or two) to the IOM to introduce, or to continue to build, that love of our heritage in the generations to come. First Vice President Laurence Skelly has made some wonderful arrangements, and you and your family will have an opportunity to share the Manx experience with many other homecomers and natives alike.

The other item that I want to focus on during my administration is to move the NAMA into the 21st Century. I am relatively new to e-mail, and I know that many of you are far more adept at the Internet and the latest forms of communication than I am. However, I believe that we need to build an e-mail database of our members, as well as an e-mail database of others who have an interest in things Manx. Our treasurer John Prendergast and I are attempting to collect the e-mail address of every member. We plan to use this list to circulate items of interest to our members. While we know that spam is a problem for everyone, the NAMA board and we plan to use this sparingly to keep everyone up to date on items of interest as a supplement to the bulletin. My e-mail address is beeves@juno.com and I would welcome a note from each member so that we can add your name and e-mail address to our database.

Finally, and most importantly, membership in the NAMA is the only way that we can keep doing the work of preserving and contacting members and persons who have interest in our heritage. As our membership ages, it grows more difficult to bring in the new, younger members. For that reason, we are asking our members to help a younger family member by paying their dues and making them a new member of NAMA. Dues are still reasonable, and a good value when they receive our bulletin each quarter. If we pay their way, they will learn their heritage, and we can continue to have a strong organization for generations to come.

Brad

In Memoriam

David Lloyd George Corlett was born in Salida, CO on June 21, 1917. His parents were Ora Ann (Latimer) and Thomas William Corlett who was born in Lonan Parish, IOM in 1863. David died in Durango, CO on November 7, 2004. He was a member of the Rocky Mountain Chapter of NAMA.

David and Jean, his wife of 63 years, were small business owners in Dove Creek Colorado for 30 years. Upon retirement from the family business, David & Jean spent many years traveling generally in their private airplane. As Baja Bush Pilots they traveled extensively in Mexico, Central America, the Caribbean and a large number of the States. Over the last few years, David had become interested in his roots in the IOM resulting in three trips to the IOM. In 1984, he and Jean flew to Quebec to meet and talk with Manx relatives. His daughter-in-law Sandy became his researcher.

During WWII David was an instructor pilot for the US Army Air Corps and was an active pilot for 50 years. A lifetime Mason, in 1982, David served as the Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Colorado Grand Lodge. In addition, he was active in many local and regional civic organizations.

David is survived by his wife Jean, four children, four grandchildren and one great grandchild. James, the oldest of his four children is the current Third Vice President of NAMA.

"KIRREE FO SNIAGHTEY" "SHEEP UNDER THE SNOW"

A Recollection by Terry McCaffrey

I was quite young when I first read W.H.Gill's tragic poem. I pictured the dark outlines of men and dogs, crouched low against the storm, trying desperately to reach their flocks, scattered across the wild Brandywell or over the raw, exposed flank of North Barrule. What my brother and I experienced as children was much, much closer to home.

In the late thirties, my family lived close to Harry Cubbon's farm, down in Glendhoo. In our safe, young lives I believe that we even enjoyed the occasional "disaster" - such as when a tree blew down and blocked the farm lane, or the nearby stream ran brown in spate - or in this instance when a rare blizzard reached down into our glen.

The snow had started in the evening. We youngsters had gone to bed in high spirits, listening to the moan and hiss of the gale around the eaves and looking forward to toboganning and building snow forts next day. In the early morning darkness our parents had seen the unaccustomed movement of storm lanterns in the nearby farmyard. As soon as we were able, my brother and I, heavily clad, plodded down to the farmyard, eager to be involved in whatever adventure was about to unfold. Harry Cubbon and Willie, his farm hand, carried shovels and long poles. Their mood was sombre. Ned, the farm dog, flitted like a shadow between us. The morning was cold and still. In the yard the snow was only a few inches deep. The gate to the field behind our house was blocked by a drift so we climbed over it. A high sod hedge separated this field from our own back garden. Tufts of grass poked through the thin snow in the middle of the field. Against the high hedge the snow had drifted deeply, the top scalloped like a desert dune.

Harry and Willie probed gently where the drift was deepest. After some time they began to dig. Help had come too late for this sheep. Fleece clotted with snow it was laid on the snow bank. Ned sniffed at it briefly and trotted away. He was a farm dog. He had seen it all before.

Several more sheep were pulled out and laid along the snow bank, but between them, several came out alive - perhaps barely alive, but, thankfully alive and, after what seemed a very short time, able to get to their feet.

The adventure to which we had looked forward had not turned out the way that we had expected. We didn't live on the farm - just close to it. For most of the time we were able to ignore the harsh reality of farm life. This time it had met us face to face.

Unlike the flocks in W.H. Gill's "Ny Kirree fo Sniaghtey," some of Harry Cubbon's flock did survive - 'though I can still see those dark, crumpled forms scattered along the snow bank, so close to our own back garden.

(Terry Mc Caffrey is president of the Vancouver Manx Society)

LET US HEAR FROM YOU

This bulletin is your publication for news about NAMA matters, local Manx society activities and happenings on the Isle of Man. It is also a place to share recollections about the island and other Manx matters. We welcome items via e-mail to pnbcue@aol.com or through the post to: NAMA Bulletin, 3005 Ridgevale Road, Wilmington, DE 19808. Thanks.

Summer Is a Good Time To Look at Ancestors

Spring is in the air and it is soon time to make plans for summer vacations and activities. What a great time to have some fun with your ancestors! A trip to ancestral hometowns can be a great thing to do. Explore the local scene and do something that ancestor might have done – a treat at the local soda fountain or a picnic in the nearby canyon or woods. Go to a park and tell the kids all about Grandma. Even though times change it is still possible to get a "flavor" of where they once lived. If the old homestead is still there, so much the better. These trips can be an afternoon or a few weeks across continents. (A week on the Isle of Man sounds enticing.)

If traveling is not on the agenda (or in the expense account), you can have a "Grandpa" day right at home. Invite all the family. Fix his favorite meal. Display photos and memorabilia. Play some old-fashioned games. And tell "I remember Grandpa when..." stories. Be sure to turn on the tape recorder. And, most of all, have fun! It is a great way to tie past generations to future ones.

- Lucy Q. Peterson

Another Manx Display to Consider

NAMA members and other friends of the Isle of Man often wear sweaters, hats, jewelry and other items to display the island's three-legged symbol. Now another means to this has surfaced. Chaplain Devore Smith recently shared this photo from a friend showing her son's salute to his ancestor's home. The letters on the tattoo represent the names of his three children. The photo was displayed on a blogger website last summer.



Galva, Illinois A Center Of Manx US Settlement

Early settlers from the Isle of Man were saluted as key participants in the history of Galva, Illinois and Henry County when that community celebrated its 150th anniversary in August 2004. "Isle of Man influence has endured decades", the Galva News noted in an edition marking the occasion.

Many accounts of early Manx settlers have been compiled, one by Mrs.Charlotte Pratt and Mrs. John Farraget in 1930, and later augmented by Mrs. Clyde Collison.

"A Glimpse of the Pioneers" was the title selected by Mrs. Pratt and Mrs. Farraget, who wrote in their introduction:

"Vision, courage and tenacity of spirit were prerequisites in any form of pioneering, Our own people imbued with this indomitable spirit left the Isle of Man as early as 1826 for the new world. They overcame terrific obstacles, yet they remained optimistic and cheerful. They lived to see marvelous changes and contributed much to the growth of the community in which they settled. The earliest Manx settlers in the state of Illinois arrived in 1849 and by all accounts became farmers."

The Pratt-Farraget account reviewed the history of many individuals, among them these men:

Thomas H. Kelly. A son of John and Jane Corlett Kelly on Onchan who came to the United States in 1849, the journey being made in a sailing vessel coming by way of New Orleans and thence up the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers to Peoria, Illinois. He came with about a dozen young Manx men, among them John Keighin and David Keighin from Peel and John Crellen.

From Peoria Mr. Kelly went by stage 220 miles to Brimfield, where he farmed several years. There was at Brimfield quite a settlement, including the families of Cowley, Collister, Keighin, Patty and Kermeen. Coming from the Isle of Man where the climate is moderate these people found the Illinois winters very severe. All supplies were hauled by wagon from Peoria and all their grain hauled there for marketing.

From Brimfield Kelly moved to Galva. Where he bought a farm and shortly married Catherine Ann Mylchreest, daughter of John and Ann Cowley Mylchreest, who had come to Brimfield from Peel in 1848. Galva developed quite a Manx settlement with families of Carran, Kewley, Kermeen, Lewin, Crow, Killip, Corkill, Clucas, Farraget, Kelly, Kneen, Collister and Mylchreest. He helped build schools and also the first Methodist Church, hauling lumber from Rock Island.

After about 10 years Mr. Kelley sold the farm and purchased one at Kempton about 100 miles southeast of Galva. There again another Manx settlement gathered and pioneering was done. The township was named Mona. He later moved back to Galva, where he died in 1911 at age 81.

<u>James Kermeen</u> arrived in New Orleans in 1849, the sailing time being 13 weeks. During a river voyage up the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers, cholera broke out and 70 people died. He proceeded from Peoria to Brimfield by stagecoach, later settled in Galva. He became a successful farmer and married Julia Corlett, who had come to Galva in 1854 with her parents and her mother's five brothers. When the Civil War broke out, three of Mrs. Kermeen's uncles joined the Northern Army; two of whom were killed in action and were buried in the south. Mr. Kermeen passed away at age 91.

<u>John Kermeen</u> arrived in Peoria by water in 1855 when he was 15, and then by stage to Brimfield, where he became of farmer. He married Anna McKane and their honeymoon consisted of a visit to a country store at the present site of Princeton, IL, about 40 miles from Galva.

Edward Kewley settled first in Buffalo, NY on 1850, where his wife and little daughter later joined him. Five years later they moved to Adrian, MI, but finally the clannish instinct was too strong and they joined the Manx colony in Galva, where they settled down to farming.

John Corkill came to this country in 1866, arriving in Portland, Maine and coming directly to Galva where he farmed for 5 years. He eventually went into the coal business; opening a shaft for himself and later with two others opened three shafts near Galva, which they sold to the Herdian Coal Company. He bought 160 acres of land in 1860 and began its development.

Robert Looney of Kirk Maughold landed at an eastern port in 1850 and gravitated to Brimfield. After four years he returned to the Isle of Man, married Eleanor Corkill and returned to Galva the following spring to take up farming.

In an interview with the Galva paper, Mrs. Shirley Kelly said that she knows of 300 families with Manx names living in the Galva area.

Society News

Minnesota Manx Society -

The Minnesota Manx met on April 18 at the Anoka (a community just north of The Cities) Historical center and Library, One of our members, Marilyn Craine Anderson, is an active worker at the center. She is known as the "cemetery" lady because one of her jobs has been to document all the burials in Anoka County up to 2000. She also has been putting all their inventory in the computer.

It was a small, but enthusiastic group. After a box lunch plans for the 2008 NAMA Convention were discussed and some committees formed. Linda Lange gave an excellent slide presentation on the Isle of Man.

– Joan Gill.

San Diego Manx Society -

Twenty-five members of the San Diego County Manx Association met December 12th for their Christmas meeting at the home of Ruth and Devore Smith. Gill and Ernie Hughes were cohosts. Christmas Carols were sung by members prior to the start of the meeting. Camille Armstrong provided accompaniment on the piano.

Hilary Harrison very graciously agreed to serve another 2-year term as Society President.

Malcolm and Joyce Kinley telephoned from their home in Idaho to wish all a Merry Christmas. Malcolm entertained members by reciting a Manx poem. Malcolm has an amazing recall of Manx poetry with the accent to go along with it.

John Halsall, a Manx artist who is well known for his paintings of the Star of India, was recently honored by the San Diego Maritime Museum. The Museum rolled out the red carpet for John and his wife with a display of his paintings of the Star of India. John presented one of his Star of India paintings to the Museum.

Following the close of the business meeting, we sang Ellan Vannin. Gifts were exchanged and a fantastic spread of Christmas goodies, prepared by our hosts, was enjoyed by all.

The February 13th, 2005 meeting was held at the home of Bob and Millie Kermeen. Hilary Harrison was co-host.

Ruth Smith introduced guests Kim & Myrtle Westin who she met at the 2004 NAMA Convention. Myrtle's mothers in law's family were Kellys from the Isle of Man

Karen Rege put on a photographic presentation of her working visit to Vladivostok over Christmas and the New Year. Vladivostok is the sister city to San Diego. The presentation was very informative. It really opened our eyes about the conditions for children in Russia, particularly in Vladivostok. It also was very informative about the housing situation for the Russian people. Karen is to be commended for her work for the orphanages of Vladivostok.

Sadly, we are mourning the passing of Marge Fredericks, one of our most beloved members. Marge joined the Society in 1980 and served several terms as President. Marge was 94 years old.

- George Watterson

Vancouver Manx Society -

The month of February in Vancouver was cold but the sunniest on record. When the temperature warmed up there were snowdrops, crocuses, then daffodils and tulips. All the trees that bloom burst into blossom.

We had our first committee meeting of 2005 at our Vice President's home. Every tree on the street where his family lives was in full bloom and touching across the road. The day was sunny and many people were taking pictures, the scene was so spectacular. It was hard to go indoors to conduct our meeting.

The committee made plans to honour Tynwald Day, July 5th, by having dinner together at a restaurant.

The date was set in July for our annual picnic. Angus and Judith Gillon again gave us use of their "back yard". Last year there were 35 people in attendance.

Our "Back End Do" was tentatively set to be held in October. This is our major potluck dinner event of the year.

Finally our centenary is December 3, 2008. It seems a long time away, but we discussed a few ways on how to celebrate this occasion, we will ask our members for their input to honour our 100th year celebration. – *Barbara Condon*

Washington Manx Society -

Members and guests of the society

gathered at a restaurant on Washington's Potomac River waterfront April 23 for the 28th annual meeting of the group. William Cassidy opened the meeting with a prayer in Manx.

Gregory Stuart, a multi-talented singer, provided the evening's entertainment. Harpist, flutist, guitarist and more, who serenaded us with Celtic (including Manx) songs both solemn and silly. Kelly McCarthy reported on the latest news concerning the former Chief Minister and other goings-on about the island.

At the gathering the following were elected as society officers for two-year terms: President – Kelly McCarthy; Vice President – Phyllis Whitten; Secretary – Jim Kneale, Jr.; Treasurer – Sally Barnhart; Past President- Charles Christian; governors – Don Quayle, Russell Woodgates, Brent Warner, and Arlene Whiten; Governor Emeritus – Avril Shipman.

Members in the Southern Maryland Celtic Festival made plans for the annual participation.

The society's website – www.manxdcsociety.com - shows photos of the annual dinner and other information about the group. – *Russell Woodgates*

Wisconsin Manx Society -

The Wisconsin Manx held its biannual meeting on Sunday April 24 in the Midvale Community Lutheran Church in Madison. A special feature of the meeting was a video of the 2003 Tynwald ceremony. Tynwald is the traditional outdoor session of the Manx parliament, which dates back to the eighth century during the Viking settlements.

At the meeting members who will fly to the Isle of Man this summer finalized their plans, and those who had previously traveled to the isle shared their memories of special places.

NAMA Friend Needs Mail

NAMA members may remember Mrs. Wyn Musgrove of Ontario, Canada. She is now resident in a clinic on the Isle of Man and would welcome hearing from old friends. Her address is Mrs. W. Musgrove, Sunnydale Clinic, 9-1011 Stanley View, Douglas, 20M, IOM 2-3JA



NORTH AMERICAN MANX ASSOCIATION

The North American Manx Association was organized in 1928 to bring together those who have Manx Ancestry and an interest in the Isle of Man. The membership is spread throughout the United States, Canada, the Isle of Man and other overseas locations.

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

NAMA Membership Enrollment Form

PLEASE PRINT

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	State/Prov.	Zip/PC _	-,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,
INDIVIDUAL	MEMBERSHIP		AMOU
Annua Life	11	. \$15.00	
	Under age 50	. \$250.00	
	Age 50 to 59	. \$175.00	Military and a second
	Age 60 and over	. \$125.00	
Junio	or (age 1-18 years, no Bulletins)	. \$2.00	
FAMILY MEMB	ERSHIP		
Annua Life	(2 adults, based on age of youngest)		
	Under age 50	. \$325.00	***************************************
	Age 50 to 59	. \$235.00	
SOCIETY MEM	Age 60 and over	. \$200.00	***************************************
	1	. \$20.00	
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and co	ploring have special significance relative to the Isle	, \$5.00	
Man. A	letter of explanation is sent with each certificate.		
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The 1"	round pin displays the NAMA name and motto with	\$3.00	
svmbol	s representing the Isle of Man, USA, and Canada.		
POSTAGE SUPI	LEMENT for international mailing costs	ĆE OO	
(fee r	aid by non-residents of the United States)	\$5.00	
FREEWILL DON	ATION to the NAMA, a nonprofit Association		
	co che mana, a nonprofit Association		

To receive membership benefits, send this form and your check or money order to:

NAMA, John Prendergast, Treasurer 10251 South Bell, Chicago, IL 60643

First Manx Church in US Built 150th Years Ago

Wisconsin area people of Manx and Cornish heritage will gather on June 12 to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the founding in the Mineral Point area of the Little Manx Church on the Hill, the first Manx church built in the United States.

While the church building erected by immigrants from the Isle of Man and Cornwall no longer stands, descendents of the pioneer families had met for many years at the church cemetery to picnic and renew friendships. After a lapse in the annual gathering, a variation of the picnic was held with a potluck lunch at Linden United Methodist Church, which was followed by a trip to Laxey Cemetery. Those attending the 2003 gathering decided that a reunion should be held bi-annually, and this year's event falls on the 150th anniversary of the church



Showing the Manx Flag and Colors: James Kermott, a member of the San Diego Manx Society, saw that the other "gaelicks" were represented in that city's big St. Patrick's Day parade. The kilts in true Manx colors were made for him, in Peel several years ago.



A Celtic singer entertained at the Washington Manx Society dinner.

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