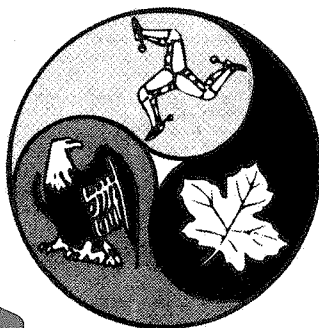


N A M A



NORTH AMERICAN MANX ASSOCIATION

Vol. 76, No. 3

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

Summer 2005

Homecoming 2005: A Grand Occasion

By Joyce Coen Benjamin



NAMA President Bradley Prendergast accepts a medal of appreciation from the Commissioner of Ramsey for the special plaque installed by the association marking the building of the Star of India in the city.

After a year of planning, more than 25 NAMA members met on the Isle of Man to celebrate their Manx heritage. The 2005 Homecoming began on Saturday July 2 with the World Manx Dinner. NAMA President Brad Prendergast and his mother Florence Abbinanti, who was celebrating her birthday, sat at the head table with dignitaries from other national Manx association. We were entertained by Geoff Corkish, a former Cleveland award winner.

A garden party at the Nunnery (now the International Business School) was held on Sunday afternoon

(Continued on page 3)

NAMA 2006 Convention Set for San Diego

Plans are underway for the next biennial NAMA convention, which will be held in San Diego, California beginning on August 26, 2006 First Vice President Laurence Skelly has announced.

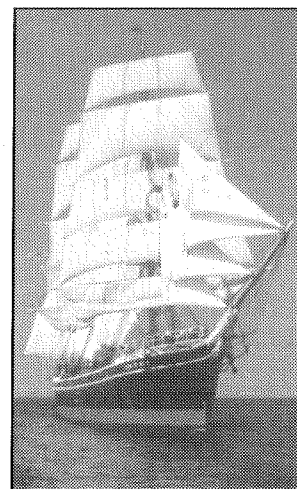
The three-day event will be held at the handsome Bahia Resort on Mission Bay.

San Diego is ranked as one of America's premier cities and is home to the famous 'Star of India', built on the Isle of Man. The city features handsome beaches, a world-famous zoo, Mexico oldtown and Seaworld.

A private function will be held on board the Star of India as well as a harbor cruise on another boat.

A convention rate of \$119 a night has been arranged at the hotel, which can be reached at www.bahiaresort.com.

Watch for more details in future bulletins.



The Cleveland Medal Important to IOM Music

(In 2005, as it has been since 1923, the awarding of the Cleveland Medal is an important event among musicians and music lovers on the Isle of Man. Competition for the medal is followed in the newspapers and on the radio. CJ Burhenne of the Cleveland Manx Society writes here about the history of the award.)

While on a recent visit to the Isle of Man, a NAMA member read a news story about "The Cleveland Medal". He contacted me and asked if it was truly related to Cleveland, Ohio and if so what the history behind it was.

I knew what the Cleveland Medal was, but needed to talk with the Cleveland Manx Society's Secretary, Elizabeth Duncan for input regarding the history. Elizabeth was born on the Isle of Man, and takes the Cleveland Medal back with her every Christmas to be awarded to the Guild member that wins the Guild competition.

(Continued on page 3)

Manx Items Now Available Through Online Shopping

Stay-at-home Manx who travel by the Internet now have a new online shop in which to buy over 100 unique products from the Island including gifts, books, dvd's & videos. The address is www.isleofman.com,

The shop is designed to make shopping for Manx gifts much easier and allow local wholesalers/shops the ability to promote their products online. Shoppers can browse products by category (books, dvd's etc) or by name (cuff links, mugs etc) and instantly buy and have it delivered to your door or your intended gift recipient anywhere in the world.

Of special interest is a new CD of Major Goeff Crelin reading poems by T.E. Brown supported by traditional Manx music played by Breesha Madrell on her flute.

isleofman.com has had a many as 15,000 visitors online. The initial offering of products is only a start as they have over 300 products to list and will introduce them all in the near future. Anyone producing Manx related gifts, publishing books, CD's, prints etc may contact isleofman.com about posting their products in the Manx shopping mall.

IOM Parents-To-Be Urged To Choose Manx Names

Prospective parents on the Isle of Man are being encouraged to consider giving their child a traditional Manx name.

Manx National Heritage and the Department of Health and Society Security have produced a booklet that features boys and girls names of Manx origin and what they mean.

The booklet includes the most popular names – such as Juan (well born) for a boy and Breeshy (shining) for a girl – and has less commonly used names such as Fintan (a little fair one) for a boy and Blas (flower) for a girl.

The booklet is available at GP surgeries, the Jane Crookall maternity unit and neonatal units. A list of the names suggested can be found at www.gov.im/nmh.

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Isle of Man Steam Packet Company

A sticker produced for the 150th Anniversary of the Isle of Man Steam Packet Company in 1980. For more information on Manx Steam Packet memorabilia, go to www.manxlink.com

Medal (Continued)

The Cleveland Medal was originally sent to the Isle of Man every year by the Ladies Auxiliary Group, which was part of Cleveland Manx Society. The first medal was sent in 1923 to be awarded to the vocal soloist that won the Manx Music Festival (also known as The Guild). The festival is held in May, and it is the most coveted prize of the Festival. After a series of competitions, the six finalists from each category (soprano, mezzo soprano, contralto, tenor, bass, and baritone) square off and the top winning soloist receives the Cleveland Medal.

The Cleveland Medal was originally solid gold, but the cost of gold has forced the Cleveland Manx Society to now provide a gold plated version of the Medal. Initially it was the Ladies Auxiliary, a branch of the Cleveland Manx Society, that raised the money for the Medal. But due to membership decline (aging membership), the Ladies Auxiliary branch of the Cleveland Manx Society was disbanded. Now the Cleveland Manx Society has taken over the responsibility of providing the Cleveland Medal.

The reason the Cleveland Metal award was created by the Ladies Auxiliary was during the 1920's most of the Society were born on the Isle of Man. Music was a large part of their lives and they were all very good singers. They missed their homeland and wanted to do something special to acknowledge their musical roots back home. They felt that providing a prize for The Guild to offer after the competitions would do the trick! And it did, as the tradition continues to this day.

Homecoming (Continued)

by Tynwald President Noel Cringle and members of the Tynwald. Special guests were his Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, Air Marshall and Mrs. T.D. MacFadyen. The setting was very imposing the beautiful hilltop stone Nunnery building. And grassy lawns stretching to an area containing tents where tea, sandwiches and sweets were served. With music provided by the official band, everyone enjoyed the event.

The Sunday evening worship service at Trinity Methodist Church was a special Mariners Service with, music and scripture related to the men of the sea and their families. This being the Annual Flower Festival Week select churches were festooned in beautiful displays of blossoms and greenery. Trinity was one of those churches. The service was led by John Kennaugh and concluded with the congregation joining special guest participants: Christine Bragazzi, a Cleveland Award winner, Harry Galbraith and the Mariners Choir in a sing-along of some familiar and some not familiar hymns.

Tynwald Day, July 5, being the major event of our Homecoming, was highlighted by a major rain storm, the first on that special occasion in 40 years. The usual pageantry, pomp and air of excitement prevailed, even as umbrellas were opened. Brad Prendergast and Florence Abbinanti, Robert Kelly and his niece, Carol Pilgrim were among the participants in the service at St. John's Chapel and the procession down the reed covered path to Tynwald Hill. The entire ceremony relating to the reading of the recently past laws and the petitioners continued as the rain fell.

On Tuesday we were treated to a bus tour of the island, with narration about times, places and events given by historian, archeologist and lecturer Frank Cowan. In the circle from Douglas to Ramsey to Castleton and back to Douglas, with stops at villages in between, we visited a movie production site, photographed the plaque at Ramsey where the Star of India was built, watched as Brad received a plaque of recognition from the Commissioner of Ramsey and an unexpected stop to Balladoole to view the site of an archeological dig of a Viking ship.

The farewell dinner was held at Erin's Port Royal Hotel on Tuesday. Once again Mr. Corkish entertained us with Celtic songs. Then a group of local dancers displayed their talents, and a young fiddler added to the wonderful evening. Mr. Noel Cringle made the evening complete by leading us in the first verse of Ellan Vannin and reciting in a great poetic style the many remaining verses.

Family Genealogy Notes

Birthday and anniversaries have been on my mind lately. We have recently celebrated the Fourth of July, Canada Day and Tynwald. They each reminded us of a country's past. We can do the same with our own roots. Why not celebrate ancestral milestones? Have a birthday party for Great Grandma on her birthday. Do it up with ice cream, and cake and balloonists and her favorite meat. Pull out photos and memorabilia. And then have an "I remember..." time with the tape recorder going. You can even give birthday presents. This could be in the form of research – adding to her family group sheet or pedigree or life history. Or it could be in becoming a better descendent. Or cleaning up her gravesite. You get the idea. So, pull out your calendars and enter in a few celebration days. The kids will love it.

- Lucy Q. Peterson

The Little Manx Church Founding Remembered

On June 12, 2005 Wisconsin Manx and Cornish people (see photo) celebrated the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Little Manx Church on the Hill. The commemoration began at the Sunday morning church service of the Linden Hill Methodist Church in Linden, Wisconsin.

Mae Reese, Wisconsin Manx Society historian, presented a history of the Laxey Church to the congregation and visitors. In the tradition of the old Laxey Picnics, the church service was followed by a bountiful potluck which included Cornish pasties. The attendees then drove to the nearby Laxey Cemetery where they visited, reminisced and honored their Manx and Cornish ancestors.

Andy Willett, Bagpiper and son of Wisconsin Manx Society members Dann and Jean added a special touch to the day's events with his piping, playing at the church, the potluck and the cemetery.

– Judy Reese Schlueter



Annual NAMA Culture Awards Presented to IOM Youth

In July for the 26th year in a row awards were presented by NAMA to Isle of Man students who were judged to have made special contributions to preserving Manx culture'. The presentations were made by NAMA president Brad Prendergast during the association's Homecoming event on the island. He was joined for the presentation to the Speaker of the House of Keys, Hon J.A. Brown and the president of Tynald Hon N. Cringle.

Entries for the award competition are submitted by students and others to the Department of Education which judges them.

The winners by category were announced by Miss Betty Hanson, who has been involved with the project from its inception.

Music – Russell Gilmore, a sixth form pupil and a trumpet player in the Manx Youth Orchestra.

Arts and Crafts – Becky Crease, age 17, a student in Art and Design.

Manx Language– Kirsty McManus, a high school student participating in special Manx course and a Manx Bible reading program.

Outstanding contribution in Manx Culture – Tony Eccles, age 15, who focused on his vocation as an actor, taking part in many notable productions and reciting in both Manx and English.

Outstanding Contributions to the Manx Community – Rosie Graham, a age 17 who gives of her time to assist residential activities of younger students

Overcoming a Disability – Stuart Cannell, age 18, who has accomplished outstanding school work despite his muscular dystrophy and has been offered a place in the International Business School

Most Progress in Manx language – Isabel Morrison and Gemma Hurst, both 10th graders who have displayed special interest and talent in their Manx language studies.

Manx Dictionary Compiler Honored for His Work

In a special ceremony at the St. John's Arboretum Doug Fargher who compiled the definitive English-Manx dictionary was saluted as one of the most important men in Manx culture. A tree in his name was planted in the arboretum which is normally reserved for dignitaries and heads of state.

The dictionary was published in 1979 and was said by Rushen MHK Phil Gawne to be the fundamental work that made headway for Manx to become modernized and be established in the island's schools

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.

IOM Officials Welcome NAMA's Honorary President

A highlight of the Homecoming trip by NAMA members in July was a Garden party for the group hosted by the president of Tynwald, Hon. Noel Q. Cringle, shown at left in the accompanying photo. There he greeted Honorary NAMA president Robert Kelly (center) together with His Excellency IOM Lt. Governor Air Marshall I.D. Macfadyen. During his visit to the island Mr. Kelly was invited by the headmaster of Castletown High School to speak to its students about migration of Manx people to North America. He spoke at a school assembly and attended a number of classes to answer questions on the subject.

Mr. Kelly was one of eight members of the Chicago Manx society to make the Homecoming trip, and he and others of the group reported on the event at a meeting of the society later in the month. In September the society will again participate in the annual Chicago Celtic Fair in Grant Park, where they will display symbols of their Manx cultural heritage.



NAMA Membership Enrollment Form

PLEASE PRINT

Name _____ Date _____
 Spouse _____ e-mail _____
 Street _____ Phone _____
 City _____ State/Prov. _____ Zip/PC _____

<u>INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Annual	\$15.00
Life	_____
Under age 50.	\$250.00
Age 50 to 59.	\$175.00
Age 60 and over	\$125.00
Junior (age 1-18 years, no Bulletins).	\$2.00
<u>FAMILY MEMBERSHIP</u>	
Annual	\$20.00
Life (2 adults, based on age of youngest)	_____
Under age 50.	\$325.00
Age 50 to 59.	\$235.00
Age 60 and over	\$200.00
<u>SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP</u> (fee paid only by societies)	
Annual	\$20.00
<u>POSTAGE SUPPLEMENT</u> for international mailing costs.	\$5.00
(fee paid by non-residents of the United States)	
<u>FREWILL DONATION</u> to the NAMA, a nonprofit Association	_____
TOTAL REMITTANCE in U. S. DOLLARS or equivalent amount	\$ _____

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

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

Society News

Cleveland Manx Society

It's picnic time. July 16th was the date for the annual Cleveland Manx picnic which was held at Macintosh Farm in Broadview Heights. It is always nice to get together with our fellow Manx friends and share stories and fun.

This year has been a busy one for the Cleveland group. Recently we have visited the new Crocker Park shopping/restaurant complex on the west side of the city and the Trout Club on the east side. But don't think it's all just fun and games for us. Our group is also involved in giving back to the community. One of our Manx women, Maggie Keenan, will spend two days in August cycling 150 miles to help raise money to help people who have multiple sclerosis. Maggie participates in the "Peddle to the Point" fundraiser each year, riding her bike from Cleveland to Cedar Point and back again. Another member, Carol Burhenne, went skydiving for Make-A-Wish. As a wish granter, she decided to "take the plunge" with a child that requested a skydiving wish.

We look forward to meeting again in August at the historic Colony Dining Room at Baldwin Wallace College. In September we will get together for a walking tour at Kirtland's Historical Village.

In closing, we wish our President, Alice Cannell, a speedy recovery from her recent surgery.
- CJ Burhenne

Rocky Mountain Manx Society

The Rocky Mountain Manx met May 22 for a potluck dinner at the home of Bob and Rachel (Vondy) Laue in Erie, Colorado. The program was given by Douglas and Carol Fox on their recent trip and work at Peel, IOM. Rev. Carol conducted Lenten

and Easter services at the Peel Methodist Church and circuit. Also present for the meeting were Jim and Val (Hull) Whan who live part of the year in Port St. Mary. The program closed with the singing of Ellan Vannin.

Minnesota Manx Society

The Minnesota Manx met on June 25 at LaJean Anderson's home on beautiful Gull Lake in northern Minnesota. The weather was so wonderful that business was held to a minimum and fun and relaxation were the order of the day. Co-President Sally Dahlquist gave an update on plans for the 2008 NAMA convention to be held in the Twin Cities. Several committees have been formed and ideas are being exchanged. The society is saddened by the passing of William Shimmin, a charter member and past president. - Joan Gill

San Diego Manx Society

The San Diego Manx Society held its April meeting at the home of Faith and Lou Vick, with 15 members present. Ruth Smith organized and presented a Manx version of Bingo in which Manx names take the place of the numbers used in regular Bingo. The Vicks shared experiences from their tour of Egypt and Jordan in March

The society accepted an invitation from San Diego's St. Paul's Cathedral to take part in its 41st anniversary of St. George's Day. George Watterson accompanied by his wife, Carol, and Devore and Ruth Smith carried the Manx flag in the parade of British Commonwealth flags into the cathedral prior to the Evensong service. Leading the parade was the San Diego Scottish Pipes and Drums.

At the June meeting Kermeen Fristrom gave a talk on his Manx heritage which features his memories as a young boy visiting his grandfather's home in Galva, Illinois.

The next meeting of the San Diego Manx will be held October 9. For anyone visiting San Diego at that time who would like to attend the meeting, please contact George D Watterson at 619-460-2785. - George Watterson

Vancouver Manx Society

In May we said goodbye to Jo Homell who passed away after a battle with cancer. Jo was a retired police officer with the RCMP, Vancouver and West Vancouver police forces. He spent several years in Ceylon as a liaison officer with that country's police forces. Joe was a great storyteller, relaying many interesting stories of his life and career. Rene, his wife, is our music maestro, leading us in our sing-alongs. Joe faithfully brought Rene's electric keyboard to our dinners. He will be greatly missed by all our members.

Then in the same month we received news of a new member of our society. Mate and Ian McMeiken welcomed a baby boy, Cameron. It will be some time before he participates in the children's games at our "duos".

May also brought the cruise ships to Vancouver. I live near the harbour and when walking my dog in the early morning hours between 6 and 7 AM I see the ships sail under the Lion's Gate Bridge into the harbour and dock. Yesterday I watched three large ships come into view. I heard the birds squawking - crows, seagulls and pigeons - then two mature white-headed bald eagles appeared and landed on a utility pole at the water's edge right in front of where I stood. Now that really takes your breath away.

July 5 - Tynwald Day -, Many of our committee members gathered together for dinner to

celebrate the occasion. Greetings came from our World Association.

July 16 –Our annual picnic went forward rain or shine. . We had tarps in reserve.



July 24 –

Member Mildred Costain celebrated her 100th birthday. See the above photo. The family honored the occasion with a tea. Mildred has written a chronicle of the Costains from their leaving the Isle of Man to settling in Vancouver; all the family history and pertinent information for all the Costains to know. - Barbara Condon

Washington Area Manx Association

On Saturday July 26th the new Washington Area Manx Association President Kelly McCarthy held a "Celtic Mingle" at the Auld Shebeen Irish Pub in Fairfax, VA. As an informal outreach to other members of the metro area Celtic community she invited other Celtic groups to come and listen to Na Maragan, a Celtic music playing duo comprised of Ed Bradshaw and WAMA member Liam Cassidy. (Visit their web site for more details – www.namaragan.com)

Around 40 fellow Celts from various sources came to enjoy the music and "craic". Irish, Welsh and even a Breton were in attendance and the event was

deemed such a success that plans to hold another gathering on Old All Hallows Eve, November 12, are underway.

Contact Kelly McCarthy at Kelly@mustgoto.com or 703-718-0172 if you'd like to come to our next "mingle" or for details of the next WAMA event. – Kelly McCarthy

In a separate report Russell Woodgates noted that aside from the above gathering things had been fairly quiet for the society. The Southern Maryland Celtic festival in May had been pretty much rained out, but the two-day Potomac Celtic festival drew a find attendance.

Please visit www.manxdcociety.com for information on membership, history and activities, as well as links to interesting Manx-related web sites.

Wisconsin Manx Society

The Wisconsin Manx are pleased to announce that Joan Gill of the Manx Society of Minnesota will speak October 23, 2005 in Madison. Wisconsin. Joan will speak on Manx women. We gather at 11AM for conversation and sharing the previous six months activities. Lunch is served at 12 noon. In addition to Joan we will discuss the Laxey picnic we held in June and also hear from members who attended the 2005 Homecoming to the IOM.

Our meetings are held at Midvale Lutherans Church twice a year. We always welcome visitors and hope that you can plan for a wonderful fall weekend in Wisconsin. The Celtic Women's Conference will be held October 20-22 in Milwaukee. This is only 60 miles from Madison so you can have a great hour days. For further information concerning the meeting on October 23 or if you would like to join the Wisconsin Manx Society and receive our wonderful newsletter, please call Georgene Voutila – 414-483-6328 or email at jdieball@wi.rt.com .

If you'd like to include an article in the next newsletter, please send by the end of October.



Manx at Sea

Elizabeth Clucas-Duncan of the Cleveland Manx Society reports that when British Night was held during a cruise to Norway she and three friends ably represented the Isle of Man with Manx flags on their dinner table, a flag in the ship's lounge and other ways.

In Memoriam

William Stanley Shimmin, age 80, of Virginia MN. died Sunday June 26, 2005. He was born March 13, 1925 to Stanley and Maude (Kelly) Shimmin.

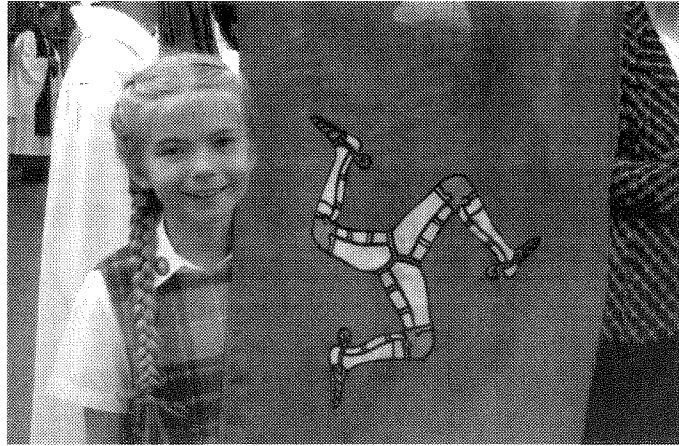
Bill graduated from Virginia Roosevelt High School, attended Virginia Junior College, graduated from St. Cloud State University and graduated from the University of Minnesota with a graduate degree in Business and School Administration. Between these educational events he served in World War II as a Navy Seabee.

Bill had a variety of work experiences: teaching, coaching, school newspaper and annual advisor, business manager. He was charter member of the Manx Society of Minnesota and served as president for several years. He was active in politics, Lions Club, American Legion, VFW and numerous teaching asseverations. He had a passion for reading and curling.

He is survived by is wife Fran, sister Audrey Dorton, and daughters Linda Lokensgard and Joy Olsson and a granddaughter and two step grandsons.

Chaplain's Corner

On Sunday May 1 members of the San Diego Manx Society again participated in the Festival of St. George at St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral. Members carried the Manx flag in the street and aisle processions together with many San Diego British organizations. St. George is the Patron Saint of England. And the celebration commemorates the legend that claims that St. George rescued the King's daughter from the jaws of the dragon with his lance. Our Manx granddaughter Rebecca Evangeline Billman (pictured) took part in the procession last year.



-Devore Craine Smith

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