

NORTH AMERICAN MANX ASSOCIATION

Vol. 77, No. 1

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

Spring 2006

Robert Kelly Gift to Association Honors His Wife and Parents

Robert Kelly of Rockford, IL, honorary president of the North American Manx Association since 1998, has made a gift of \$12,000 to NAMA.

The gift is in memory of his wife, Jean Pilgrim Kelly, who passed away in May 2004. She had been active in NAMA matters with her husband for many years and served as secretary of the association from 1972 to 1974.

The gift was also in memory of his father and mother, Robert Cecil Kelly (1889-1971) and Emily Knight Kelly (1892-1974) who were both enthusiastic members of NAMA and the Chicago Manx Society. They joined NAMA in 1928 and were on the first NAMA Homecoming to the Isle of Man, the third NAMA convention, in 1930. His father was born in Peel, IOM, and his mother's parents were from Kirk Michael, IOM.

In his letter to the association, Mr. Kelly wrote "My father all through the 1960s pushed for a Memorial Fund for the NAMA following the convention in Chicago in 1963. He got nowhere with it. I hope this will get it going. I realize you will have to put it into NAMA funds for now and it will have to be discussed at the Convention in San Diego in August."

Mr. Kelly attended his first NAMA convention in 1930 when it was held on the Isle of Man. This was the third NAMA convention and the first convened on the Isle of Man. He became a NAMA member at the Chicago convention in 1933, joining as the association's first Junior Member.

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EVENT FILLED CONVENTION PLANNED FOR SAN DIEGO

NAMA's 2006 convention set for August 27-30 in San Diego, California will offer attendees a rich menu of Manx socializing, Isle of Man remembrances, association business, and opportunities to soak up the history and beauty of what the San Diego Manx Society calls "America's Finest City."

The convention will be held in the handsome Bahia Resort Hotel set on a peninsula in the heart of the city's Mission Bay.

The convention registration desk will open on August 27, check-in day at the hotel, and activity will begin with a welcoming reception for attendees that evening. Early arrivals will have an opportunity for sight seeing during the day, while the NAMA board stays indoors for an afternoon business meeting.

The biennial association general meeting will convene the morning of August 28. Following an afternoon free for sight seeing or recreation, conventioneers will leave the hotel for the famous San Diego Maritime Museum and a private tour and reception aboard the famous Ramsey-built sailing ship "Star of India."

The group will then move next-door to the "Berkeley", an old bay area steam ferry, for dinner and a special Manx entertainment concert by King Chiuallee, one of the Isle of Man's young musician groups.

On the morning of August 29, noted Ramsey landscape photographer Myci Corrin will present a special show covering 40 years of his work in the Isle of Man.

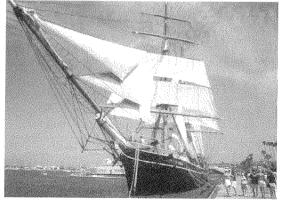
On optional cruise of San Diego Bay will be offered on the afternoon of the 29th. The convention will close the evening of the 29th at a farewell banquet in the

hotel. A special guest speaker for the occasion will be Sir Noel Cringle, President of

Tynwald, the isle's legislature.

Registration packets for the convention will be mailed to all NAMA members in a few weeks. The convention registration cost will be \$160 a person, which covers all events except the optional harbor cruise.

A convention rate of \$119 plus tax per night twin or double room has been arranged with the Bahia Resort. The hotel can be contacted at www.bahiaresort.com or 800-576-4229.



The historic ship "Star of India", built on the Isle of Man, will be the setting for a special reception and tour for NAMA conventioneers.

NAMA Members Gifts Help Preserve Manx Heritage

A message from President Brad Prendergast

Over the years many members have aided the NAMA in its endeavors to promote our heritage by their generous gifts. Three recent events have given us much to celebrate toward this goal.

As this bulletin reports, Robert Kelly, our Honorary President, gave an exceptionally generous donation to NAMA in honor of his wife Jean. I have been privileged to know Bob Kelly for as long as I can remember. When I was 9 at the 1963 convention, Bob and Jean were active in the planning and work to make the convention a success for the children who attended. Over the years, Bob and Jean attended many conventions, and Bob has served as both President and Honorary President. He continues to serve as president of our Chicago society. He has been a guiding light for me as I served as convention chair and his knowledge has guided the association for years. We cannot thank Bob and Jean enough for their generosity, both financially and for their gifts of time.

Myrra Johnson, a long time member presently living in Arizona, has attended many conventions over the years and was an active member of both the Chicago Manx Society and our Association. Part of our heritage is preserved not just in our traditions but also in photographs, books and other records of the Manx in North America and of participation in NAMA conventions and ether functions. Myrra has been kind enough to donate many old convention photos, books and other records. These records become part of the many items that NAMA Trustees hold for safekeeping and for viewing at conventions and other occasions.

Finally, through the efforts of former NAMA president Mary Kelly we have the prospect of a permanent location to properly store with professional archivists many of your records and items of memorabilia. As reported elsewhere in this issue, the University of Wisconsin-Platteville plans to create a museum related to regional history and culture, much of which includes the earliest Manx settlers in the United States. The university has presented NAMA with a proposal for participating in this exciting venture, a proposal that will be considered by the NAMA board at its next meeting. We appreciate the tireless efforts of Many Kelly, one of many dedicated members who keep working to preserve our heritage.

NAMA Youth Award Nominations Sought

The Manx North American (Youth) Award is a beautiful triangular shaped three-dimensional block of Manx black limestone that is carved with the three-legs emblem. At each NAMA convention one of these prestigious awards from the Isle of Man Department of Education shall be awarded to a student or small group of students, 18 or younger, with Manx family links who makes a contribution to maintaining an awareness of the Isle of Man and its culture.

Those nominated for the award must demonstrate interest in one or more aspects of Manx culture or history which may be evidenced within disciplines of learning the Manx language, performing Manx music, poetry, dance or by sharing knowledge of Manx culture or history through essays.

Nominations will be accepted from individual NAMA members or local societies. Each nomination must be in the form of a one-page description of the nominee's "body of work" that is evidence of their understanding of the Isle of Man and its culture through performance. The individuals or those nominating them must also provide a cover letter with names, addresses and telephone numbers of three references that may be used by judges. All entries should be mailed directly to Mary Kelly, P.O. Box 425, Platteville, WI 53818 or emailed to Kelevans@centurytel.net and must arrive by May 31, 2006.

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Book on World's Manx Due Out This Summer

A new book telling the story of how men and women of Manx heritage have settled around the world is expected to be off the press and ready for readers this summer.

The Manx Connection chronicles the travels of Isle of Man author John Quirk to record the history of Manx abroad, from the early pioneers to how today's overseas Manx retain their links to the isle of their heritage. Quirk spent several months visiting Manx-related families in the United States in 2004, followed by visits to South Africa and Dubai, and then several weeks in Australia and New Zealand last year.

Quirk had hoped to have the book on store shelves by last Christmas, but the volume of research to be digested and his workload with the Isle of Man newspapers prevented that.

The author plans to have the new book available at the NAMA 2006 convention in San Diego, CA, although he himself cannot be there. Obligations as best man at a long-planned friend's wedding will keep him close to home.

Anyone wishing to put their name down for an early copy can drop Quirk their name and postal address at manxconnection@hotmail.com or manxconnection@manx.net More details on publication and sales arrangements will be in the next NAMA bulletin.

GIFT (continued from page 1)

After filling a number of lesser posts, he was elected NAMA president in 1972 at the Niagara Falls convention and as such presided over the 1974 convention in Arlington. He was named Honorary President in 1998 "by virtue of my being the Senior Past President."

In his lifetime Mr. Kelly has attended 30 NAMA conventions, undoubtedly a record, and hopes to see many NAMA members in August at the convention in San Diego.

Family History Library, an Online Resource

One of the major Family History libraries in the world is the LDS Family History Library in Salt Lake City. It is a genealogist's dream – five floors of books and films. One whole floor is dedicated to the British Isles and many Manx sources are on microfilm. You can "rent" these microfilms for basically the cost of shipping and handling and have them sent to a Family History Center near you. To find a list of the centers and the library catalog (and many other sources) go to www.familysearch.org

But most of us have American roots. In the past two floors of the library have been devoted to US and Canadian research. One was books and microfilm. The book collection was divided into two parts. The first is the "locality" section – all books that relate to a particular area. state, town etc. The second is the "surname" section. These are the family histories that have been compiled and published and filed alphabetically.

The great news is that this collection is being put online, unless a book has a copyright problem. It will take some time, because there are a lot of books. But it is already being done and what is done is searchable. It is at the BYU site: www.lib.byu.edu. On that page click "Online Collections at BYU." On the next page select "Text Collections". Then you want the "Family History Archive" (Warning: You might get lost checking on other items on that page.) At this point you can search by keyword. There is an option to search the entire text, but that could be a little overwhelming. Just type in a surname and see what comes up. Remember – this project is fairly new, so that not many books are done. And there are resources being included from a few other repositories. Keep coming back often to see what is there. You might get hooked. – Lucy Q. Peterson

Wisconsin University at Platteville Plans 2007 Museum Opening

The University of Wisconsin-Platteville is moving ahead with the establishment of a new museum to showcase the development of southwest Wisconsin and adjacent areas of Illinois and Iowa, with a section to feature Manx history in the area. The museum is expected to open in the 2007-2008 school year.

In addition to allocating permanent space for displaying Manx items, the university has offered to house and preserve many of the treasures now held by trustees of the North American Manx Association. Members of the association would have access to these items for display at NAMA conventions and other events. The NAMA board is considering the UWP offer and will respond officially later this year.

The university's interest in Manx matters reflects the close proximity of Platteville to the Laxey Cemetery that evidences the early settlement of Manx immigrants in the area. Manx people were first drawn to southwest Wisconsin and adjacent Illinois and Iowa areas in the 1800s because of the topography, the availability of land and the job opportunities in farming, mining and other trades.

The new museum, developed through Chancellor Dr. David Markee's leadership, will be in the new Luce Center and located in the University's Ullsvik Hall. Dennis R. Cooley, director of University Relations and the UWP Foundation, is a contact for anyone wishing to make financial donations to the museum project. He may be reached at Ullsvik Hall, 1 University Plaza, Platteville, WI 53818 or by email at cooleyde@uwplatt.edu. The museum has offered to serve as a repository for artifacts collected by Manx descendents and other individuals. Questions about the museum can be directed to James Hibbard by email at hibbard@uwplatt.edu.

Stephen Harrison, director of the Manx National Heritage, in Douglas, Isle of Man, has provided guidance for the museum. The UWP Museum Committee is composed of Dr. Thomas Lundeen, Dennis Cooley, Mary Freymiller, John Krogman, James Hibbard and Dr. Mary Kelly. Kelly is a former president of the NAMA

Chaplain's Corner

By Rev. Devore Craine Smith

Important elements in my Manx heritage have been the musical and liturgical worship of the church. These stem from the mid-nineteenth century experience of my Manx family in the Sulby Methodist Church and my parish school of the Church of England. These roots have been nourished by my family for four generations. A monument of this history is the chancel pulpit used by John Wesley (see photo). The pulpit was displayed in a booth in a country fair on the Isle of Man that our family attended in 1968.

John and Charles Wesley were phenomenal contributors to hymnody of the Methodist Church. They wrote hundreds of hymns that are used by all Christian Churches. My grandfather John Caley Braine was nourished by the inspiration and richness of the Methodist Church. He was a lay minister on the Isle of Man and after coming to America pursued his

Light the world.

education and was ordained as a Methodist minister in Illinois. His daughter, my mother, Mona Elizabeth Craine raised her eight children in the nurture of the church. Churches in Illinois were blessed by my grandfather's ministry.

I grew up singing in church choirs with my family and after university and seminary served several California churches. Our children participated in church choirs and other activities. Now our grandchildren have followed the tradition. Matt and Becky are in church choirs. Matt plays the organ and now sings in the Minneapolis Boy choir.

Thank you John and Charles Wesley for your gracious gift of word and music.

NAMA	Membership	En	rollm	ent	Form

Promote and Protect Our Manx Heritage Please Print

Name_	Spouse					
Street_	CityState/Prov	_Zip/PC				
Phone_	e-mail					
	Individual Membership	Amount				
	Annual\$15					
	Life					
	Under age 50\$ 250					
	Age 50 – 59\$175					
	Age 60 and over\$125					
	Junior (age 1-18 years – no bulletin)\$ 2					
	Family Membership					
	Annual\$20					
	Life (2 adults based on age of youngest)					
	Under age 50\$325					
	Age 50 to 59\$235					
	Age 60 and over\$200					
	Postage Supplement for international mailing costs\$ 5					
	(fee paid by non US residents)	C				
	Total Remittance in US dollars or equivalent amount)				

To become a NAMA member, please send this form and your check or money order to:

John Prendergast, NAMA Treasurer 10251 South Bell, Chicago, IL 50543

Reminders of the Island's Age Keep Appearing

A pair of recent discoveries on the Isle of Man serve as reminders of the island's history.

The first can be described as really *ancient* history for it involves a set of antlers unearthed near Kirk Michael that are judged to be about 11,000 years old. College students exploring cliffs in the area made the find. It is thought that the island remained suitable for giant deer hundreds of years longer than surrounding islands.

Students have named the deer Eric the Red.

The other discovery was a collection of 22 Tudor silver coins located by a metal detector enthusiast on farmland on the west of the island. The coins are judged to be from the time of Henry VII and Henry VIII.

The discoverer, Andy Whewell, had two years before found hundreds of Viking and Anglo-Saxon coins on farmland in Glenfaba.

Mr. Whewell believes that there are many more coins and other items waiting to be found.

LET US HEAR FROM YOU!!

We welcome items via e-mail to pnbcue@aol.com or through the post to: NAMA Bulletin, 3005 Ridgevale Road, Wilmington, DE 19808.

The summer deadline is June 14th!

The Sinking of the S.S. Athenia; An Isle of Man Trip Adventure

(A member of the Cleveland Manx Society recently gave a talk about her experience aboard the S.S. Athenia when a German U Boat torpedoed it.)

Mrs. Florence Roseman (Florence Kelly at the time, daughter of Mary and Harry Kelly) was 14 years old when she and her mother went to the Isle of Man to visit relatives. During their visit they learned of Hitler's activity in Germany from her father, who did not go on the trip but who encouraged them to return sooner than originally planned .All earlier passages were already booked, however, forcing them to stay with their original travel plans and come home on the S.S. Athenia.

As they left Liverpool on September 2, 1939 they learned that England and France had declared war on Germany. The United States had not yet joined the war. The next day they were cruising in the North Atlantic Ocean, (about eight hours after war had been declared) heading for home. Florence decided to go out on deck while her mother stayed in the lounge to read. To get onto deck you had to pass through black curtains over the entry way and then out the door. The portholes were also painted black to prevent any light from escaping onto the deck, so as not to be seen by other ships.

As Florence went out onto the deck an explosion happened. Panic ensued and everything went pitch dark. Florence was unable to find her mother and it was too dark to go back inside the ship, so she waited patiently for her mother to come out onto the deck. When she found her, they went together to the lifeboat stations. It was clear that the ship was going down in the icy water.

When they got to the lifeboats, the first boat available to them only had one place left. Determined not to be separated (that Manx heritage at work!) they said they would wait for a lifeboat with two seats together. The lifeboat they should have been on was launched and a rope broke! The boat tipped and spilled everyone into a cold, oil-filled sea. Everyone was rescued, but they were wet, oil-soaked, and cold.

Florence and her mother got into the next lifeboat and they were told to row with all their might – they had to escape the suction from the sinking ship. So row they did, in the rain and cold - the sea rolled with such large waves that many were quite sick - but they continued to row to escape the ships suction. They had to use their shoes to bail out the lifeboat.

In the morning, no other lifeboats could be seen. They had all drifted and rowed in different directions, but four ships could be seen on the horizon. One of those ships, the destroyer HMS Escort came to their rescue. The destroyer dropped rope ladders for them to climb up and the sailors helped them get aboard. They were on the destroyer for twenty-six hours while it continued to cruise the area dropping depth charges. Approximately 1,200 people were rescued, but 130 were killed in the blast and the sinking of the ship.

Finally, the day to leave for home finally came. The ship that came to get them was from the United States. A large American flag flew from the mast and American flags were painted on the sides of the ship. At night, the flag had lights shining on it because everyone knew that Hitler did not dare attack an American ship and so draw the United States into the war.

This ended Florence's story about the S.S. Athenia, but that was not the last cruise that Florence took. In 1947 she sailed on the Queen Elizabeth I into South Hampton. Well, they tried to sail into South Hampton – the ship got stuck in the mud for two days! The tide came in and the tide went out and there they sat. Finally, they were pushed out of the mud! I don't know about you, but if Florence asks me to go on a cruise with her – I think I'll pass!!

CJ Burhenne

Society News

Chicago Manx Society

We met on December 4, 2005 for a Christmas gathering. There were 11 people in attendance, and we had a very good potluck supper. We had a short business meeting, and then a little entertainment. We played a game called "name some Christmas carols" using just the initials of the first sentence of the song. There were no prizes, but I gave out small craft dolls as little gifts, which were enjoyed very much. The next meeting will be at the home of Lynell Cannell in Naperville, IL on April 2, 2006.

– Florence Abbinanti.

Cleveland Manx Society

We had a wonderful Christmas party on December 4, 2005. It was held at the Holiday Inn Hotel on Rockside Road. A lovely dinner was provided and the Carolers from Broadview Hts. Spotlights Community Theater who dressed in Dickens era costumes and sung everyone's favorite Christmas Carols entertained us. We collected a nice donation of mittens and socks for the Salvation Army.

During our party, the Cleveland Medal was passed around for everyone to see. Elizabeth Duncan took it back to the Isle of Man with her when she returned for Christmas Holiday. If you are not aware of what the Cleveland Medal is, you can check your back issues of NAMA and you will find an interesting story describing the history of the Cleveland Medal.

We are taking a break in our monthly lunch schedule for January and February. On February 18th the Executive Committee met to plan and discuss events for the upcoming year. The committee members are Alice Cannell, President, Thomas Cannell, Vice President, Elizabeth Duncan, Secretary, and Shirley Porter, Treasurer. The Trustees are Florence Roseman, Ronald Teare, and Mona Halderman. Our Sunshine Chairperson is Eileen Elliott and our Historian is CJ Burhenne. Our first meeting in 2006 will be held in March at Finamore's Restaurant. We have a few exciting events planned for 2006, includ-

ing a scenic train trip to Penninsula, Ohio.

Please join us in wishing a speedy recovery to our Vice President, Thomas Cannell who is doing nicely after a knee replacement. We wish him a speedy recovery!

- C.J. Burhenne

San Diego Manx Society

The San Diego Manx Society enjoyed a lovely sunny afternoon at the Del Mar home of Bob, Millie and Katie Kermeen. Gordon and Helen Garrett were co-hosts.

Devore and Ruth Smith attended the September meeting of the San Diego Maritime Museum. Ray Ashley gave an interesting power point presentation of the Museum's recent trip to Scotland, England and the Isle of Man. The participants loved the IOM and would love to go again.

Linda Beauregard entertained us with a wonderful account of her Manx genealogy. Linda and Don have worked together on researching their families' history. They brought wonderful photos and charts and told of their searches. It is interesting that genealogy records have tied together three of our local Manx families; the Kermeens, Fristroms and Beauregards

We were disappointed to learn that Don and Audrey Russo have moved from San Diego to their new home in Oregon.

Society President, Hilary Harrison, called the December 11th meeting to order and asked the Rev. Lou Vick to lead us with an invocation. Lou's invocation included the deeper Christian message of the song the 12 Days of Christmas. Two special guests were present. Alex Pasqueretta is studying the Manx language as he wants to contribute to keeping the language alive. And Marshal Corlett, who is originally from the Isle of Man, and now living in England.

We were to learn that Ed Wittenkeller, after a long illness, Thursday, August 27 – 31, 2006 at the Bahia Hotel on the Bay. had passed on peacefully in his sleep.

The San Diego Manx are looking forward to welcoming conventioneers to "Americas Finest City" for the NAMA Convention to be held Sunday through Thursday, August 27-31 at the Bahia Hotel in the Bay. – George Watterson

Vancouver Manx Society

November 5 was the day of our annual "Back End Do." The weather was set, rained all day, and when the committee and friends decorated the hall and set up the tables with fall colours, the big question was, "Would this wet weather deter our members from attending the 'do'?" The doors opened for dinner and there was a great turnout. We had good food, lots of laughs and catching up on everyone's news of their families.

We were entertained when dinner was over by a display of Irish dancing by Noreen and Sam Roud's grandchildren. That type of dancing sure has feet stamping and hands clapping. Then our raffle was next, conducted by our Vice President, Angus Gillon, another form of entertainment. There is usually something that catches your eye and you hope to get it if your number is called. Also, a lot of heckling and hooting if you go up more than once. It's a lot of fun and a good moneymaker for the Society.

The evening was a great success and a wonderful way for our Manx members to keep in touch.

Christmas signifies that the year is nearly over and a new year is coming, and sadly, on December 18, our oldest member of over 100 years in age, Mildred Costain, passed away in her sleep. Mildred was a teacher for over 44 years, starting her career teaching in log cabins and ending as a principal of a Vancouver elementary school. Mildred's father, Ernie Costain, was one of the founders of the Vancouver Manx Society. In the early years, there was a celebration on New Year's to welcome the New Year and say goodbye to the old.

The beginning of 2006 is a quiet time for our Society. We look forward to summer and our picnic, the first get-together of the year.

- Barbara Condon

Let fellow Manx know what you're up to send us your Society News!

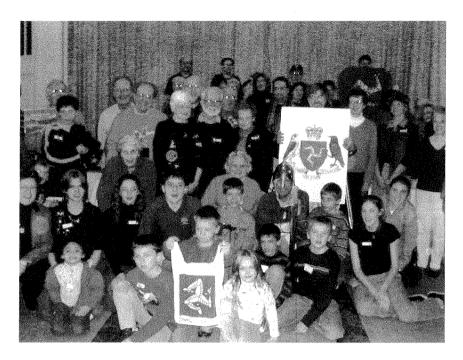
Washington Area Manx Society

WAMA held its annual celebration in a church in northern Virginia on Januaryb7th. The proceedings were opened by our quaaltagh, or first footer. This year Bruce Blackstone from the local Longship Company arrived in full Viking regalia bearing gifts of light, food and heat and chased out the bad luck for us.

The potluck supper was groaning with pork, turkey, salads bonnag and cakes – just as well as 15 growing children in the firm of the "Clan of Man" or the Crenshaw family arrived as our newest WAMA members. As reported in the last NAMA bulletin the Crenshaws hail from many different places and ethnicities and have decided to become "Manx" to make life easier. They showed us all how to dance traditional Manx folk dances.

WAMA is also blessed with its own professional musician, Bill or Liam Cassidy. He is one half of a Celtic band called Na Maraghan that performs in local pubs and restaurants. The band performed for the 12th Night guests as well as accompanying our traditional Manx games such as "find the Manx cat's tail:" and "Pass the Parcel".

We also posed with a Manx Shoprite grocery bag that features the Three Legs of Man. Manx Shoprite is a local grocery chain that runs a game called "Fly the Flag" in which people take a Shoprite bag to the far corners of the globe and send back photos for the store's website. Our picture will be on Manx Shoprite's new website. Other shots can be seen on www.iominline by clicking on the "Fly the Flag" link. – Kelly McCarthy



The Washington Area Manx annual Twelfth Night celebration attendees posed for a Shoprite picture.

In Memoriam

Abelbert M. Cowley, a long-time member of the North American Manx Association, passed away in July 2005 at the age of 94. Both Mr. Cowley and his late wife Alice, who died in 1998, were members of the Cleveland Manx Society and lived in the Cleveland area all their lives. They visited the Isle of Man in 1979, and he attended the 2000 convention there. The Cowley's daughter Lynn lives at 7115 Ridge Road, Parma, OH 44129.

Check the Address Label

Do you need to renew your NAMA membership?

The majority of NAMA folks are life members of the association and receive their bulletins automatically.

Many others have yearly memberships that have to be renewed regularly, *a fact often forgotten*. The mailing label on this copy of the bulletin will tell you if it is time renew. If it shows that money is due, please send a check to NAMA's treasurer: John Prendergast, 10251 S. Bell Avenue, Chicago, IL 60643 – 1901 USA. Keep your membership alive and your NAMA Bulletin coming

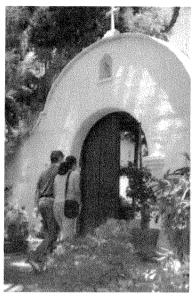
Manx Children Study Their Island Home

Manx parents who have gaps in their personal knowledge of the Isle of Man now can always ask their children for help. The 2001 Education Act in the isle requires that the school curriculum make provision for the teaching of the culture and history of the Isle of Man.

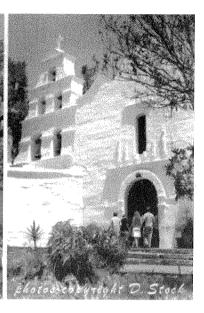
Manx history was introduced in primary schools in 2004 and last September geography classes started for the Key Stages one and two, with plans to extend the programs to Key Stage three.

Teacher Dave Brown, who was involved in preparing the curriculum for Manx geography, says children respond positively to something right on their own doorstep.

NAMA Convention August 27—30, 2006 San Diego, California







San Diego's colorful missions are one of many scenic pleasures awaiting visitors to the city.

Convention information begins on page 1.

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Manx Morth American