

NAMA

NORTH AMERICAN MANX ASSOCIATION

Vol. 77, No. 3

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

Winter 2006

Greetings from San Diego



NAMA Convention members aboard the 'Star of India'

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- Great in '08! The next NAMA Convention will be in Minneapolis, MN !
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NAMA President's Message

San Diego Convention seems such a long time ago now! Maybe it's because I'm writing this in the dark of winter on the Isle of Man!

I firmly believe the Convention was a tremendous success. So many people said how much they enjoyed the Convention and the beautiful city of San Diego. The Bahia resort was a magnificent setting for the event with its lovely views across the waters of Mission Bay.

The highlight for many folk was the visit on board the "Star of India" aka "Euterpe", built in Ramsey in 1863 and today the world's oldest active ship. The sight of the Isle of Man national flag flying high made it an extra special visit. And you can be sure the Manx national anthem was sung mighty proud and loud on board for all of San Diego to hear!

The convention's special guest of honour, the President of Tynwald Noel Cringle, and his lovely wife Mary truly enjoyed their first visit to San Diego. As did our other guest the President of the World Manx Association, Dorcas Blain-Costain and her charming husband Burt. Both couples were visiting San Diego and California for the first time and we hope it won't be their last as they made many new friends.

A major factor in the success of the Convention was the San Diego Society folk who made everyone feel so welcome. I have a big, big, thank you to say to Hilary Harrison, local Society President, and her many helpers for everything they did to ensure it all went well on the night! Great job.

As your new President for the next 2 years my aim is to serve the members and look towards the future on how we can build this fine association. Living back on the Island is unique for a current NAMA President. I hope to use this geographical position to work more closely with government and other bodies to enhance our Association and ultimately gain more members.

One of our biggest issues is the matter of declining membership. The North American Manx Association has a strong and proud history that deserves a greater position among other ethnic national organisations. Building our membership, and in particular helping the younger generation take an interest, is a task in which we must all play a role.

Some time ago a scrape of the US Census told us that over 1 million people living in the US have true Manx surnames. It's more than likely that fewer than 1% know their true heritage lies with the Isle of Man. The benefits for NAMA of reaching these people are massive in terms of potential new members and building local societies. Making contact in a cost-effective and purposeful way is a mammoth task. A long-term and sustained program in partnership with the Isle of Man Government and/or Manx private enterprise is a direction I wish us to consider. We would all have a mutual interest and benefit at the core of the venture. It's with the thought of the "Manx Million" I leave you and ask you to contact me and/or board members with comments and suggestions regarding this potential direction.

Lhiats as Aigh Vie (Regards and Good Luck),

Laurence Skelly

Chaplains Corner

When Noel Cringle addressed the Convention at our banquet, he stressed that we are family. It does feel like that when we get together every two years. It's like the family coming home for the holidays.

Our San Diego Manx family enjoyed having you here. We, however, greatly missed four of our members who recently passed away. They would have been so proud to host you in San Diego.

ED and ALINE WITTENKELLER were active members for many years. Aline gathered the sea shells that were on the banquet table. MARION KELLY was a charter member and the sister of former NAMA chaplain, Herbert Kelly. MARGE FREDERICK was dedicated to serving our society and often served as president.

Their contributions to our Society leave fond memories and are just a part of their immortality.

Have a Blessed Christmas.

Ruth Smith (Chaplain's Assistant) for Rev. Devore C. Smith

Traditional Manx Christmas Greeting

*Nollick ghennal erriu as blein feer vie,
Seihll as slaynt da'n clane lught thie,
Bea as ghennalys eu bio ry-cheilley.
Shee as graih eddyr mraane as deiney,
Coooid as cowryn, stock as story,
Palchey phuddase as skaddan dy-liooar,
Arran as caashey, eeym as roayrt,
Baase myr lugh ayns uhllin ny soalt;
Cadley sauchey tra vees shiu my lhie
As feeackle y jiargan nagh bee dy mie*

A merry Christmas on ye, and a very good year,
Long life and health to the whole family,
Life and merriment living together.
Peace and cheerfulness 'twixt women and men,
Goods and wealth, stock and store,
Plenty of potatoes and herring enough,
Bread and cheese, butter and beef,
Death like a mouse in the corner of the barn;
Sleeping safe when you'll be in bed,
And the tooth of the flea, may it not be good.

Hunting the Wren

Hunt the Wren Day is on December 26th, also known as St. Stephen's Day. It is a tradition peculiar to the Isle of Man and to Ireland in which groups of children would hunt down a real wren until it was caught or died of exhaustion. The wren would then be paraded around the town to the accompaniment of singing. These days, a fake wren is used, but the participants still dress up and decorate a pole with flowers and ribbons.

The tradition is a descendant of the old Celtic tradition in which the wren, who represents the waning year, is killed by the robin, the representative of the coming year. There are many variations on the songs sung during the event, but most of them describe the hunting down of the little bird and end with a verse entreating the listeners to reward the singers with money.

Publication Deadlines

We plan to publish four issues of the NAMA bulletin during 2007. Please send in your news, stories, snippets and photographs by email, post or carrier pigeon to me using one of the contact methods listed below.

The deadlines are as follows:

<u>Deadline for copy</u>	<u>Issue</u>
February 20	Spring
May 20	Summer
August 20	Fall
November 20	Winter

Contact information:

Mail articles (I will type up handwritten or printed materials) to:

Andrew Ravenscroft, 6330 Inner Drive,
Madison, WI 53705.

Email to: ravenscrofts@charter.net

2006 Manx Youth Award

The Clan of Man, Shenandoah Junction, WV, received the 2006 Manx North American Youth Award. The award was announced at the opening reception held at the Bahia Resort, San Diego, California, on August 27th. Kelly McCarthy, Honorary Representative of the Isle of Man Government in the U.S.A., 2005-2007 President of the Washington Area Manx Association and Trustee of the North American Manx Association accepted the beautiful triangular-shaped three-dimensional block of Manx Pooill Vaaish black marble that is carved with the three legs emblem on behalf of the group. The award presentation was made by Honorable Noel Cringle, President of Tynwald, Isle of Man, for the Isle of Man Department of Education. McCarthy thanked everyone involved in bestowing this honor on The Clan of Man and she told a moving account of what they have achieved.

The Clan of Man includes eleven children from one family. They are Anne (now 19), Carlos (18), Thomas (16), Jared (15), Sydnee (14), Caleb (13), Robert (12), Brent (12), Alexander (10), Zachary (10), Michaela (8) & Meredith (5) Crenshaw. This remarkable group of children has come to embrace Manx culture through dance. Most of these children have overcome numerous challenges in their short lives. Many were adopted into the Crenshaw family from foster care. They come from a variety of ethnic and cultural backgrounds.

In 2003, the producer of the Chesapeake Celtic Festival in Maryland approached their mother, Celtic singer, Kelly Crenshaw, and suggested that she find an outlet for her children's creativity. The producer dubbed the group 'The Clan of Man' in a tribute to their many backgrounds. Because their mother is a singer, the original suggestion was the formation of a children's choir of some sort, but that would have left out the one child from the family who can't speak. So, the family jointly selected dance as their chosen activity.

The children were enthusiastic about the project and originally decided to demonstrate a variety of folk dances. They looked at videos, read books and



listened to music. Then, they received a response from Joan Cowell of the Manx Folk Dance Society in Douglas. The Manx Folk Dance Society offered to underwrite their entire learning process and sent a box full of instructional materials – videos, tapes, sheet music, written instructions, etc. They were hooked and decided that The Clan of Man would concentrate solely on Manx Folk Dancing. Ironically, the name now fit perfectly and the family began to claim the Isle of Man as its own.

Since then, the children have performed and taught Manx Folk Dancing at the Chesapeake Celtic Festival. It's always a great favorite among children and adults alike. They have been interviewed for a newspaper article on the Isle of Man and have received lots of local recognition. Nursing homes and private parties have been a popular showcase for their talents and information. They have also taught dances to the attendees at the Washington Area Manx Association's Twelfth Night Party.

These children have found a wonderful outlet in their newfound Manx heritage. They enjoy learning and perfecting their dance techniques and are proud to display their Manx flag and other Manx symbols. Interested parties may contact The Clan of Man at (304) 876-1384.

Mary Kelly

The presentation of the award

I felt very proud to be able to accept the NAMA/Board of Education award from Noel Cringle, President of Tynwald on behalf of the Clan of Man. His presentation speech followed my description of the children from the unique Crenshaw family and how they came to learn Manx folk dancing, and he very eloquently seized on something significant.

Noel said, "It is very fitting that this family, who have no common heritage of their own, should now possess their very own piece of the island that they have chosen for their adopted nationality." I passed this on to their mother, Pastor Kelly Crenshaw, who was very touched to hear that her "Clan" had won the NAMA award. She told me the children worked very hard to learn and perfect their Manx dancing techniques. The children were so proud that they organized a small party, preparing everything themselves, for the congregation at their church where I made the presentation (Sunday morning is the only time you can get a family this large all in one place!).

Everyone wanted to hold the award and there were a few moments when I wondered how a slab of marble would respond to being dropped on a church floor!

Now, of course, they all want to visit the Isle of Man. If anyone has any ideas about how to get a family this large to the Island, please let Kelly Crenshaw know!

Kelly McCarthy

Melissa Carriger given Honorable Mention

Melissa Carriger, age 7, Ventura, California, was nominated for the North American Manx Award and given a letter of recognition for her research about the Isle of Man and her sharing information at school about her great-grandfather's homeland, the Isle of Man.

In the Spring of 2006, Melissa was in the 2nd grade. As part of the curriculum of Juanamaria Elementary School, each child was to study and report on

'Traditions Around the World'. Most children choose to research their own ethnic heritage.

So Melissa, whose great-grandfather Daniel Cannell Cormode came to the United States in 1904, found out what she could on the Isle of Man. Although she had family resources available to her, most of her research was done on the Internet.

Mary Kelly

It's Never Too Early!

It is never too early to think about the young person or group you would like to recognize with a nomination for the Manx North American Youth Award. The Manx North American Youth Award is a beautiful triangular shaped three-dimensional block of Manx Pooill Vaaish black marble that is carved with the three legs emblem. At each N.A.M.A. convention one of these prestigious awards from the Isle of Man Department of Education shall be awarded to a student or a small group of students, 18 or younger, with Manx family links that makes a contribution to maintaining an awareness of the Isle of Man and its culture. They 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, drama, or by sharing knowledge of Manx culture or history through essays.

Nominations will be accepted from an individual N.A.M.A. member 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. The individuals, or those nominating them, must also provide a cover letter with the name and age and address of the nominee as well as the 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 kelevans@centurytel.net and must arrive by May 31, 2008.

NAMA CONVENTION 2006

The San Diego Manx Society is pleased to report on the success of the 2006 NAMA Convention. From all accounts, our guests from societies across North America and the Isle of Man enjoyed their brief visit to San Diego. And, we hope that they will pass on to their families and friends how the San Diego Manx was honored to host the Convention. And should you visit San Diego again, and if your schedule allows, we invite you to contact our members and join us at one of our bi-monthly meetings.

The following is a brief summary of events and happenings at the Convention. Registration on Sunday, August 27, went very smoothly and according to plan. Ninety eight of the one hundred and four attendees were registered. We thank everyone who spent generously at the Gift Shop to load up on Manx souvenirs. The NAMA Officers met for a board meeting Monday afternoon.

The first main event was the Reception held Sunday evening. It provided the opportunity to rekindle old friendships, meet new members and catch up on news and events that have occurred in the two years since the Chicago Convention. Hors d'oeuvres were served and entertainment was provided by Tony Cummins, who sang and played guitar.

Kelly McCarthy, of Alexandria, Virginia, accepted the NAMA Youth Award on behalf of the winner, The Clan of Man. The Award, first presented at the 2002 Convention, is intended to encourage young people with Manx family links to recognize and celebrate their roots and to keep Manx culture alive in their family and community. However, the 2006 Award was awarded to a young group of people not having Manx links. It is a very heart warming story. Kelly Crenshaw is the mother of fifteen children. Thirteen of the children have been adopted by Kelly from foster care. The children come from underprivileged and varying ethnic groups.

In 2003, the producer of the Chesapeake Celtic Festival in Maryland approached their mother and suggested that she find an outlet for her children's creativity. The producer dubbed the group "The Clan of Man" in a tribute to their many backgrounds. Because their mother is a singer, the original suggestion was the formation of a children's choir of some sort. But that would leave out the one child who can't speak. So, dance was the obvious choice.

The children were enthusiastic about the project and originally decided to demonstrate a variety of folk dances. They looked at videos, read books and listened to music. Then they received a response from Joan Cowell of the Manx Folk Dance Society in Douglas. The Manx Folk Dance Society offered to underwrite their entire learning process and sent a box full of instructional materials – videos, tapes, sheet music, written instructions, etc. They were hooked and decided that The Clan of Man would concentrate solely on Manx Folk Dancing. Ironically, the name now fit perfectly, and the family began to claim the Isle of Man as its own. Since then, the kids have performed and taught Manx Folk Dancing at the Chesapeake Celtic Festival. It's always a great favorite among children and adults alike. They have been interviewed for a newspaper article on the Isle of Man and have received lots of local recognition. Nursing homes and private parties have been a popular showcase for their talents and information. Most recently, they taught dances to the attendees at the Washington Area Manx Association's Twelfth Night Party.

These children have found a wonderful outlet in their newfound Manx heritage. They enjoy learning and perfecting their dance techniques and are proud to display their Manx flag and other Manx symbols. It is a well deserved honor to have chosen The Clan of Man for the 2006 award.

The reception came to an end with Tony Cummins leading everyone in the singing of Ellan Vannin.

On Monday morning the Association Annual General Meeting was held. Following lunch, Lucy Peterson presented a well attended genealogy seminar. Later that afternoon, buses transported members to the San Diego harbor for a guided tour of the San Diego Maritime Museum's Star of India built in Ramsey in 1863. The Convention group picture was taken on the Star of India. Some of the group also boarded the HMS Rose, from the movie "Captain and Commander" as well as a Russian submarine, which is a recent addition to the Museum. Following the Star of India tour, a dinner featuring Mexican cuisine was served on the Berkeley, a former San Francisco Bay ferry boat, which is now part of the San Diego Maritime Museum. The evening's entertainment was provided by Noel Cringle, the President of Tynwald, accompanied by his wife, Mary, on the piano. They performed Manx folk songs. Dorcas Costain Blann, President of the World Manx Society and an honoree Vice President of NAMA, recited poems in the Manx dialect. The evening came to an end with the singing of Ellan Vannin and the Manx National Anthem.

Tuesday's schedule of events kicked off with a program of Manx landscape photography presented by Laurence Skelly, a former resident of San Diego and member of the San Diego Manx Society. Laurence also set-up a web cam telephone hook-up so that NAMA members could talk with friends and relatives on the Isle of Man. On Tuesday afternoon, a party of fifty-four boarded a sightseeing boat for a two hour guided tour of San Diego harbor. Many aboard commented on the beauty of the harbor and the San Diego skyline.

The Convention closed with the farewell Banquet on Tuesday evening. Music and song by harpist, Mary Rathburn, was performed during the dinner. Dorcas Costain Blann, addressed the Convention and read Manx Poetry. The Guest of Honor Speaker, Noel Cringle, began his remarks by reading a Convention greeting from Helen Callow, former Mayor of Douglas, and thanked the San Manx for the warm

welcome extended to him and his wife, Mary. Noel went on to say how important the links between the Isle of Man and Manx Americans are, and stressed the importance of family, particularly, the family of mankind world wide. In explaining the constitutional duties of the President of Tynwald and the Island's relationship with the United Kingdom and the European Union, Noel commented on how the Isle of Man must stand on its own feet and become more independent. Noel closed by stating the fiscal success the Island has achieved over the past 40 years.

At the end of his speech, Noel was called upon to conduct an auction which included two paintings donated by noted Manx artist John Halsall. The high bid for both paintings went to Don and Linda Beauregard of the San Diego Manx Society.

The Rev. Devore Smith then read the Memorial Roll of the NAMA family who passed on in the two years following the 2004 Convention.

Brad Prendergast introduced the NAMA Officers for 2007 and 2008 who in turn were inducted by past President Robert Kelly.

Incoming President Laurence Skelly, presented awards to Dorcas Costain-Blann and Noel Cringle citing their support and contributions to NAMA. Laurence closed the evening by thanking all the NAMA members in attendance for contributing to the success of the Convention and wished the Minnesota Manx Society all the very best for a successful 2008 Convention.

George Watterson
San Diego Manx Society

Society News

Chicago Manx Society

Members of the Chicago Manx are never in doubt as to where the meeting is being held!



The picture shows John Prendergast's House appropriately identified for the Society's November meeting.

Cleveland Manx Society

The Cleveland Manx met at the "Red Barn" in August for our annual picnic. We played a few games and then enjoyed a picnic lunch. We welcomed visitors from Australia who have joined us in the past. In September we met at the Raintree Restaurant in Historic Chagrin Falls. After lunch we wandered through the shops and took a look at the Falls.

In October we met at Carrie Cerino's Restaurant for lunch. We had hoped to hold a meeting but the restaurant was too crowded. Our November meeting had to be cancelled at the last minute. The Restaurant had an electrical fire so our plans went up in smoke. We are looking forward to our annual Christmas Party on December 3rd. We will be collecting mittens, hats, socks, etc. These are given to the Salvation Army every year to be passed out to the children for Christmas. Just a note to let you know Mona Haldeman is recovering from heart surgery that she had in October. We miss her and wish her a speedy recovery.

Alice Cannell

Manx Society of Minnesota

We got off to a slow start this year and had our first meeting on August 9 at the Sheraton Hotel in Bloomington — site of the 2008 NAMA Convention. It was a small but lively group who enjoyed a delightful meal in the Nine Mile Cafe. Pat Boehne shared a 1928 IOM newspaper with a report of the NAMA spent information we want to share with other members. The highlight of the evening was watching a 45-minute IOM travel documentary including historical and contemporary information about the Island. The movie was extremely well done and made us all want to plan our next visit there. We had the usual exchange of Manx heritage with our introductions and drawing for several Manx door prizes.

We met again on October 29 at the same location. This time we had a look at the Manx Sales Table items left from the convention in San Diego and came up with a list of others we would like to have available in 2008. Sally Dahlquist also brought along several examples of things from past conventions, such as souvenir booklets and tote bags. We are very excited about our plans for the youth attending the 2008 convention. They have a variety of interesting and relaxing activities planned. We signed up some more volunteers to work on the convention. We also received three new memberships. Peggy Rudnitski will create a list of 12 questions about Manx heritage to ask our members with the idea of publishing a heritage booklet. It was voted that our society donate \$500.00 to the new Manx Museum in Platteville, Wisconsin. We are planning a March meeting in Anoka and a June get-together in French Park in Plymouth. If any members of NAMA are in the area at that time, please join us. Contact Sally Dahlquist or Joan Gill or more details.

Nollick Ghennal as Blein Vie Noa to all the NAMA members.

Joan Gill

Vancouver Manx Society

Member George Illott and his brother Fred are featured in a documentary titled "As Time Goes By Reunion", shown on the B.C. Knowledge Network channel, and soon to be seen on the PBS channel in Washington State. This documentary tells the story of a freighter smashing into, and destroying, the tugboat "Teeshoe", owned by George's father, with all hands losing their lives. The only survivor was passenger twelve-year-old Fred, who was thrown into the frigid waters and lived through the ordeal. All the grown children of the crew meet, and by speaking about their memories, put to rest the effects of the tragedy.

October 28th was the day of our "Back End Do". We had a great turn-out for this dinner. Lots of Manx plaid was worn, and what a surprise! Dave Costain came dressed in full Manx regalia – the kilt, dress jacket, socks, and all the accessories. Of course, everyone looked for their cameras! We had lots of laughs trying to do a Manx quiz. We sang a few songs, held the raffle, and held an election resulting in the reelection of the existing committee with the addition of three new members.

Barbara Condon

Wisconsin Manx Society

The Wisconsin Manx met on October 8 at the Midvale Community Lutheran Church as usual. Despite a slight delay due to a problem with the building's new automatic security system that tried to keep us out, we were able to get access to our meeting room. After a delicious buffet lunch we welcomed first time visitor Jean Hamm and her daughter Mary as well as past NAMA President Norman Standish and his wife Ingrid.

The members enjoyed a program presented by Carol McLernon on nineteenth century life in the mining area of Southwestern Wisconsin, an area that saw Cornish settlers as well as the Manx.

Among the matters reported at the meeting were that Wisconsin's 13-member delegation was the largest at the San Diego event. With perfect weather and many activities, no one could be bored. The Wisconsin contribution to the festivities was a beach party and bonfire with s'mores, and it was enjoyed by more than 30 delegates. The reception on 'Star of India' was a highlight of the Convention, and replicas of the sailing ship were among the many raffle prizes. Long time members agreed that visiting with friends made at former Manx events was especially heartwarming.

Andrew Ravenscroft from minutes by Dorrie Alff

One hundred years of the TT Races

A hundred years on and thrill seekers still venture to the Isle of Man every summer for the same reason the gentlemen of 1907 did, the Tourist Trophy more commonly known as the Isle of Man TT.

It was the spirit of competition and advancement that brought the original TT competition to the Island as racing on the highways and byways of Britain was impossible, forbidden by Act of Parliament and by the introduction in 1903 of a 20mph speed limit

Since then, the motorcycle races have been a signature sporting event on the Island, attracting 40,000 people and 12,000 motorcycles each year. The 2007 Centenary season promises to be the best ever, with a range of special events planned on top of the usual racing drama.

Practice week begins on May 26th, with the first race on June 2nd. The event ends on Friday, June 8th. Anyone planning a trip to the island during these dates is advised to book early.

Department of Tourism & Leisure

“Tourism Awards 2006”

Judging of the Isle of Man Department of Tourism and Leisure Tourism Awards has been completed and those short listed in each category were invited along for the presentation at the Villa Marina in Douglas on 24 October.

There were seven categories where guests using the facilities could make a nomination and in addition there was a category where those involved in the Tourist Industry could nominate themselves for the best website and advertising campaign.

Tourism and Leisure Minister Hon David Cretney MHK said: “Today is a time to celebrate some of the successes of the businesses that have been delivering excellence in the area of Quality & Service throughout 2006. The nominations were made by guests using the facilities offered throughout the industry. There were some fantastic comments made detailing why they thought a particular property deserved a “Tourism Award”. These awards will be recognised as a hallmark of quality, that the winners will be proud to display.”

Over two thousand nominations were received and an expert panel of judges, made up from people with many years experience in the Hospitality and Training Industries, have chosen the following winners:

Best Hotel: The Regency Hotel

Best Small Hotel/B+B: Aaron House, The Promenade, Port St Mary

Best Self Catering: Colooney Bungalows, Cooil Road, Braddan

Best Customer Service: Billy Stowell, Nautical Museum, Castletown

Best Restaurant: The Garrison, Castletown

Best Event: Mr Killey, Bowling Festival

Best Tourist Attraction: Isle of Man Steam Railway

Industry Nominated Award: Julie and David Maddrell from Ballahane House and Cottage

Ever fancied a Manx tartan kilt?



Celtic Gold in Peel, Isle of Man has a subsidiary company named Mannin Kilt who can custom-make Manx kilts to order. Complete with all the paraphernalia including a sporran with 3 legs engraved on it.

Celtic Gold has a well established reputation on the Island for their fine Manx Celtic jewellery. Since they branched into the kilt field they operate a rental program for kilt-hire that is often used in Manx weddings both on and off Island.

Check out their website for more information as they do ship to North America.

www.celtic-gold.co.uk

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2006 - 2008

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Notes from the Editor

As the new editor of the NAMA Bulletin I would like to take this opportunity to thank Bruce Quayle both for his service to the Society in editing this newsletter, and his graciousness and assistance as he handed the baton on to me. For those of you whom I haven't yet met, I'm a London-born, Manx-bred, son of a Peel woman. If that hasn't struck fear into your heart, read on.

You may notice a couple of things that are a little different about this issue. Firstly, the lack of the familiar red is due to the local printing costs. I'm looking out for a better deal from the printers, and plan to bring the color back in the next issue. Secondly, the bulletin is for the most part written in American English as befits a publication from these shores. If there is the odd lapse into English spelling or poor grammar, it is an error on my part and not that of the original contributors, all of whom know their language far better than I do.

Finally, I warmly encourage all of you to send in your contributions, whatever their subject or length. Even in this electronic age the value of the printed word in binding communities together should not be underestimated, and a bulletin like this can only thrive with through the contributions of the members.

*Andrew Ravenscroft
December 2006*

GREAT IN '08

NAMA CONVENTION

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

Calling all Manx to the "greatest" NAMA convention ever! Mark your calendars for **Friday, August 1st through Sunday, August 3rd, 2008** and travel to the Sheraton Bloomington Hotel in Minneapolis, Minnesota. This will be an action-packed convention for everyone. We will have separate events for the classic Manx and the cutting-edge younger generation.

Our convention hotel is a perfect venue, only 10 minutes from the MSP International Airport, with free shuttle to the hotel, as well as an on-site Avis car rental which is 17% less than renting a car at the airport. The hotel staff is friendly and helpful, and the rooms are comfortable, cozy, and reserved at a favorable rate of \$104.00 per night (double) excluding tax. Between NAMA meetings, there is easy access to downtown Minneapolis or St. Paul, and a free shuttle to the must-see Mall of America, the biggest shopping and entertainment area in the country!

Classic Manx Events

Join us on Friday for a traditional Manx afternoon tea with slides and a movie of the Isle of Man. The Manx sale table will be open for a browsing and shopping for a unique Manx gift. That evening, we will cruise down to the James Ford Bell Library at the University of Minnesota to view an IOM exhibit, and enjoy the President's reception, dinner, and incredible Manx dancing.

Saturday will begin with a genealogy workshop, lunch with a humorous Manx speaker, and the NAMA General Meeting with the informative regional representative reports. Enjoy our Grand Banquet in the evening with a special IOM speaker, passing of the swords, and a Manx singing production! Our convention will conclude on Sunday with a delicious brunch, memorial service, a Manx storyteller, and viewing of a Manx video. The afternoon will be free for investigating the surrounding area including the Mall of America. Then, come on back to the hotel for an informal dinner designed to get to know your Manx friends better.

Younger Generation Agenda

But the real reason to attend the NAMA convention is for the younger generation events. We guarantee it won't be boring! Come and help us decorate our special room, go swimming, see IOM movies, practice Manx dancing, do some map and sash-making, lead the bag pipe procession, eat at our special table, create your Manx family tree, listen to a Manx storyteller, make Manx t-shirts, hear the history of Manx swords, and join the Manx Film Crew who will produce a video. Oh, and convince your relatives that you need to go to the Mall of America!

There will be no doubt that it will be "Great in '08". So don't miss the Manx Fun!

Sally Dahlquist
1st VP
651-450-8567