

# NAMA

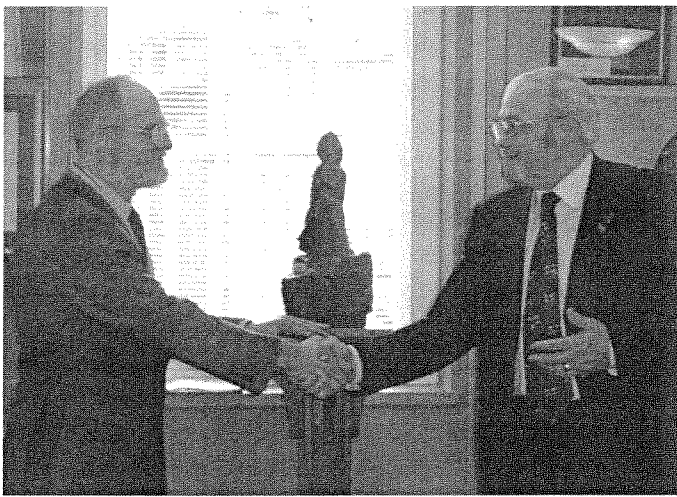
NORTH AMERICAN MANX ASSOCIATION

Vol. 78, No. 1

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

Spring 2007

## Dollin Kelly is Mannanan's Choice of the Year



Tony Brown (rt.), congratulates Dollin Kelly, RVB, on his award

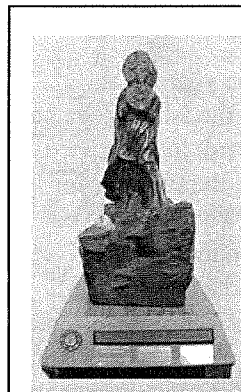
*Reih Bleeaney Vanannan* (RBV - Manannan's Choice of the Year) is an annual award made by the Manx Heritage Foundation to the person or group who, in the opinion of the panel of assessors, has made the most outstanding contribution to Manx culture. The panel of assessors is appointed by the Manx Heritage Foundation and represents Manx cultural organisations: *Cheshaght Ghailckagh*, *Yn Chruinnaght*, the Isle of Man Arts Council, the Manx Heritage Foundation and Manx National Heritage. Recipients are entitled to use the letters RBV after their name. They are also invited to name a Manx cultural cause which receives a donation from the Manx Heritage Foundation to further its work.

This year's RVB winner was Dollin Kelly. He was awarded it for a lifetime of commitment to Manx culture. Some of you have met him as he has spoken to the Washington Manx about T. E. Brown, the Manx National poet, in the past and has met other NAMA members over the years. He is also my father.

Those of you who were at the San Diego NAMA convention may have met his granddaughter Jessica Richards who holds the unique honor of having two grandparents who have received this award, her grandmother, Maureen Costain Richards won it in 1987, the year it was first awarded. Maureen also carved a celtic design on the side of the marble.

The award was presented by the recently elected Chief Minister, Tony Brown who was using the occasion to execute his last official function as Chairman of the Manx Heritage Foundation. It is the only time the Chief Minister has presented this award and he used the occasion to comment on how far he had travelled since he had been taught by "Mr. Kelly" in primary school.

Kelly McCarthy.



### *The Reih Bleeaney Vanannan*

Inspired by Manxman Mr Stephen Quayle of Kidderminster, the RBV is the natural successor to the Manannan Trophy. The new trophy was awarded for the first time in 1987.

The trophy consists of the figure of the sea-god Manannan standing on a piece of *Pooilvaish* marble, resting on a plinth. It also contains traces of quartz from South Barrule, one of Manannan's fortresses, and a brooch of Laxey silver. The trophy is only held for a year, though the recipient also receives a silver and enamel medal.

# NAMA Notes

## NAMA President's Message

Here we are approaching spring of 2007 and before long it will be a year since we all enjoyed the convention in San Diego. Time certainly does fly!

As President I seem to receive a good number of family history requests that always amaze me. How do people suddenly decide to do their family tree and what do people think when they discover their ancestry lies on a tiny island called the Isle of Man? It is always enjoyable communicating with these folk as they always seem to have equal enthusiasm for their family tree and learning more about the Isle of Man.

Visiting the Island recently was Kelly McCarthy who was on the Island to witness her father receive a highly acclaimed award for Manx culture. Kelly's own mother received the same award some years earlier so Kelly herself has a lot to live up to! It was nice to meet with Kelly and hear about her Washington Society activities. The bulletin is key to keeping in touch with other societies and something I am sure we all look forward to receiving on our doorstep.

I wish to congratulate Andrew Ravenscroft for his sterling first bulletin and thank him for being so prompt on this his next issue. Andrew will welcome stories and reports from both your local society and news from home. It's easy to use the Internet for Manx news, etc, but it's also easy to forget those who don't have access to the web. This makes the bulletin that much more interesting and important to these folk.

With this year being a non-convention year it's an excellent time to think about visiting the Island. We have so much happening this year it's difficult to keep pace. I for one will not take a holiday during the summer for fear of missing some of the great events. The TT 100 year centenary is the biggy but there are so many more. Walking festivals, Viking Festival and a star-studded music festival with rock legends "The Who" headlining and, making it even more surreal, it's being held in Peel! Check out [www.visitisleofman.com](http://www.visitisleofman.com) for more information.

For a number of years we have had our website facility kindly hosted by [www.isleofman.com](http://www.isleofman.com) and I wish to review our online requirements.

During the board meeting last year we touched on this

topic and do need feedback from members as to what they feel is important to us on the web.

The "Manx Million" I mentioned in the last issue is a project still under review and I welcome any feedback from the members.

Here's hoping to see some of you "back home" on the Isle of Man this summer. If not, I'll be at the board meeting in Minnesota!!

Lhiats,

Laurence  
March 2007

## Genealogy -Putting Flesh on the Bones

Have you ever filled out a pedigree chart? You start with yourself. Then you add your parents. Next come their parents, your grandparents. So far, so good. You know most of all of these quite well. Now for the great-grandparents. You probably have their names, but did you know them? Maybe one or two. And then you get to the great-great-grandparents. You didn't actually know any of them. Do you know anything about them?

Sometimes our ancestors just seem like names and dates on a piece of paper. That is the bare bones of genealogy. Boring. But we have to remember that each one of these names represents a real person. And every single person who ever lived has a "story". Discovering the story is putting flesh on the bones (and what makes family history addictive!).

If you don't have a life sketch or history of your ancestor, don't despair. There are myriads of places to look for clues. Perhaps you will find many, perhaps not. You won't satiate your curiosity completely. But you can put together something to help you know that person better.

For starters, take a look at what you already have. You have a name and dates. Take a look at those dates, both on the pedigree chart and the family group sheets.

# NAMA Notes

How old was he when he married? Did she have a lot of children? Or just one? Was he the oldest of many siblings? Was she a widow for many years? Did he die during a war? Did he live a long life? You get the idea. Just having basic information actually tells you a lot about the family - but you have to do a little thinking and comparing.

Here's an example. I have an ancestral couple named Daniel and Lydia. They had nine children. Three are named Daniel and three, Lydia. Hmm.

Guess I should look at some dates. Yes, some of these children died very young. The first Daniel and Lydia were twins. And they died at three weeks. Oh, and the second Daniel and Lydia were also christened on the same day. And so was Mary. Triplets! They all died within a few weeks. Wow! This lady had five children in less than a year. And buried all of them. I think I am feeling a little connection to her as I think about how she must have felt. The remaining four children were all single births, and they all survived. Oh, but look at this. The father/husband died a few months after the last child was born. And these two youngest daughters (one is my Lydia) were married the very same day...

See how much can be gleaned from just looking at the names and dates we already have? We'll check out some other ideas in the future. Have fun connecting to your family hi-story.

Lucy Peterson  
Genealogist

## Notes from the Editor

For this edition of the Bulletin I changed a number of things. I moved to new desktop publishing software (Scribus) that has the twin advantages of being a) very customizable, and b) free. The downside has been that the learning curve put back the publication date for this issue by a week or so. For the next issue, however, I now have a standard template with all the fonts and styles pre-set which will make future editions easier to produce. For those interested in producing their own newsletters or other publications, the software is available at [www.scribus.net](http://www.scribus.net). It is open-source software which will work with any operating system, but it does require some knowledge of desktop publishing terms, or a willingness to learn. I'm happy to help any NAMA members who would like to use it.

I also changed the main typeface on the text to 11 point, which is slightly smaller than the last issue and allows for more content to be included. I appreciate, however, that this may affect the readability of the Bulletin. Looking at previous years, it seems to have been produced in either 10- or 11-point typeface, so I hope that this will not be a concern. All comments on layout and readability are very welcome and will help me to ensure that the NAMA Bulletin remains a valued publication for the membership. Please contact me with any comments at the address shown below.

Andrew Ravenscroft  
Bulletin Editor

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# NAMA Notes

## Chaplain's Corner

While flying over Iowa to visit my Manx daughter and family I read in the Airline seat-pocket magazine of an inspiring event that occurred in Iowa below me in the 1860's. "William Pitts was a dreamer. While traveling by stagecoach from Wisconsin to Iowa in the 1860's, the music teacher envisioned a church on a lovely spot in Bradford, Iowa. Inspired by the area, he wrote the song: Church in the Wildwood, tucked it away and forgot it. Imagine his surprise to discover that a little brown church in the vale had been built in 1962. Bradford's Puritan Congregational Church members built it entirely with donated materials. But they had to buy paint and the cheapest was brown. Today the Little Brown Church is celebrating its 150th year." Maybe this story can inspire you to do something similarly to shape the history of your little church where you are.

Rev. Devore Craine Smith

## Crucifixion Stone, Calf of Man



An outstanding example of Early Christian art was found on the Calf of Man in 1773 when field walls were being built. The Calf of Man Crucifixion Stone is believed to date from around 800-850 AD and probably derives from an Early Christian chapel known as a keeill. The stone, a piece of local slate, is part of the central panel of an altar frontal on which is carved in low relief a crucifixion scene portraying the still-living Christ since his eyes are open.

## In Memoriam

### CLARENCE CREER

Clarence Creer, a long time and loyal member of the Chicago Manx Society and the North American Manx Association passed away February, 2007 after a long illness. He was born in Orland Park, Illinois, and lived there all of his life. He met his wife, Mona Creer at a Manx Convention many years ago. Clarence and Mona were married for 52 years, and have two daughters, Diana and Judy.

Clarence was a past treasurer of the NAMA, having served from 1967 to 1990. He was also the president of the Chicago Manx Society from 1976 to 1990. His wife, Mona Creer, was the President of the NAMA Ladies Auxiliary for many years. Clarence was employed at Argonne National Research Laboratory for 32 years. Clarence's father was born in the IOM and Mona's mother was also born in the IOM. Both faithfully attended many conventions and homecomings to the IOM.

Brad Prendergast

### MELVIN LINDAUER

Melvin G. "Mel" Lindauer, age 83 of Muscoda, died suddenly at home on Friday, March 2, 2007. Mel was a longstanding member of the Wisconsin Manx Society, rarely missing a meeting. He was born Aug. 29, 1923, in Linden Township, the son of George and Mable (Callin) Lindauer. After serving as a paratrooper in the US Army at the close of the Second World War, he settled back in southwestern Wisconsin, marrying his wife Oneida Jenks on October 7, 1950.

Mel farmed with his parents for a short time then trained as a mechanic, eventually joining Nelson Muffler in Mineral Point where he worked in a number of roles, becoming Plant Manager in 1960. Mel worked for the company at a variety of Wisconsin locations before retiring in 1991. He was an active member of many civic organizations, and he will be very much missed by the Wisconsin Manx.

Andrew Ravenscroft

# NAMA Notes

## Ashton Cannell – A Manx Artist Rediscovered' Exhibition at the Manx Museum

Manx National Heritage began its 2007 exhibition programme with an exhibition entitled 'Ashton Cannell – A Manx Artist Rediscovered'.

The Ashton Cannell exhibition was formally opened on Friday 26th January by Norman Sayle, a student contemporary of Ashton Cannell at the Douglas School of Art in the 1940s, in the presence of the Lieutenant Governor and Lady Haddacks. A packed private view of over 100 guests heard Norman Sayle and Hugh Cannell, the artist's cousin, speak about Ashton Cannell and their memories of him and his work. Martin Moore, Chairman of the Trustees of Manx National Heritage, also paid tribute to Ashton Cannell and his work on behalf of Bert Wright, President of Wapping Group of Artists, who said of the artist:

"Ashton Cannell was a Wapping Group of Artists member for many years and was highly regarded by both the members and the many clients of the Group. His work was always in demand. "Ash" enjoyed the companionship of painting with the Group and particularly enjoyed the weekly outdoor painting sessions held at various venues along the River Thames."

Edward Ashton Cannell (1927-1994) was born in Port Erin and brought up in Port St Mary, where his father was the well-known manager of the Isle of Man Bank. Educated at King William's College, Ashton Cannell first trained as an artist at the Douglas School of Art and then later at the Liverpool College of Art in the 1940s. Following graduation, he taught at the Douglas School of Art and then moved to London to teach art. He went on to establish himself as a successful artist in London through exhibitions and membership of several art societies, such as the Wapping Group of Artists. One of his Manx watercolours, entitled 'Shrouded Hills near Niarbyl, Isle of Man' is part of the prestigious British Government Art Collection.

The new exhibition displayed the wide variety of artwork that Ashton Cannell produced during his artistic career. It ranged from watercolours and oils capturing timeless images of Thames river scenes and Manx landscapes through to ephemeral watercolours of a single moment caught in time.



Edward Ashton Cannell (right) with Martin Pleskus and NAMA member Avril Quiggin at Port St Mary c.1965.

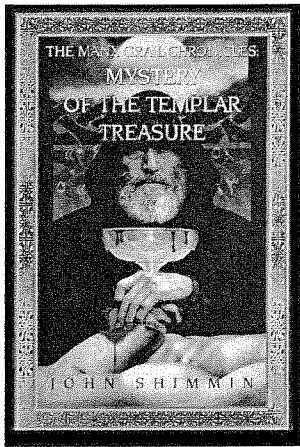
One of the most picturesque of these scenes is bizarrely of a snow-covered London street entitled 'Winter of Discontent', when the dustmen's strike had left rubbish piled and uncollected in the streets. Other more unusual work includes a series of cartoons produced in the early 1960s for the Daily Express, and which unusually for older cartoons are still extremely funny today.

Yvonne Cresswell, Curator of Social History at Manx National Heritage said: "Ashton Cannell may not have initially been the most well known of Manx artists, but I hope that this exhibition will help to establish him as an important Manx artist. I have been overwhelmed by the help and support that has been provided by Ashton Cannell's many family and friends in the staging of this exhibition. They have all been generous in loaning artwork and providing information about him for the exhibition.

A theme that can be seen through many of his paintings is one of a fascination with light and a quest to try and capture the changing moods and effects of light, in particular that of sunlight bursting through dark clouds. Another theme and fascination appears to be with water and Ashton Cannell had a wonderful talent of capturing water and rain in its many forms from puddles and streams through to the river Thames and the sea.

Of special interest to NAMA members is that Mrs Avril Quiggin Shipman of the Washington Manx contributed to the exhibition her reminiscences from time she spent with the artist.

# Literary Corner



## Mystery of the Templar Treasure

by John Shimmin

Mystery of the Templar Treasure is an intellectually intriguing mystery/suspense thriller, based on a true 1868 murder/suicide. It is a dramatic and lively tale set on the Isle of Man.

The story begins when James Killey kills three of his five daughters by throwing them down the 25 foot deep farm well, then committing suicide by jumping in after them. It is revisionist history at its most provocative, reinterpreting traditional beliefs in the Knights Templar, King Arthur and the Holy Grail.

The story takes place on the Isle of Man where both ancient and modern lives become intertwined in Druid ceremonies and Celtic myth. One hundred forty years later, James Killey's body is accidentally exhumed and two small artifacts recovered from his grave. Robert Corkish, the only present day living relative, is given the artifacts, but soon discovers there was a secret James took with him to the grave. Robert soon learns the artifacts contain concealed clues leading to an ancient Knights Templar treasure and the possible resting place of the Holy Grail.

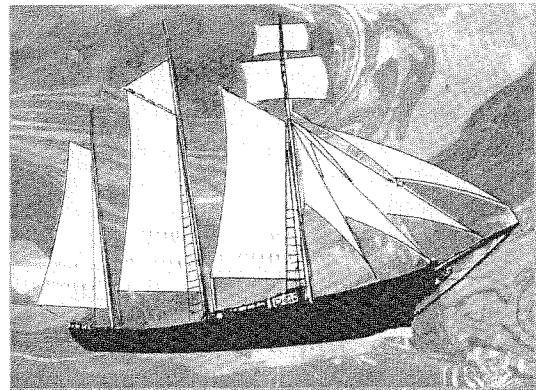
Investigating the puzzling relics proves more than he bargains for when he inadvertently draws the attention of the Dragon's Court, a secret religious society that will stop at nothing to find the Grail. Robert, and the others he recruits to his aid, must spin a web of red herrings for the dangerous agent of the Dragon's Court in a perilous pursuit across the island. Just when things seem to be going right for Robert, some new problem crops up, turning the tables on the small cabal, starting the roller coaster ride again.

Synopsis by the author, John Shimmin. Further details available at his website: [www.manxgrail.com](http://www.manxgrail.com). The book retails at \$24.95, plus \$2.50 shipping costs, and may be ordered from John Shimmin via his email: [jshimmin@manxgrail.com](mailto:jshimmin@manxgrail.com). **Special NAMA discount:** NAMA members in the continental USA can get a special discount of 10% plus free shipping. To receive the discount, please use the word "Manxman" in the subject line of your email.

## The Amaryllis Tontine

by Denys Drower

The Amaryllis Tontine is a period drama set in the second half of the 1800's and concerns the adventures of Captain Ffynlo Quirk, a Manxman plying his trade across the Irish Sea and particularly to Cornwall. The story follows Quirk as he becomes part of a tontine, a small group of owners, of the ship Amaryllis. The rules of the tontine are that the profits are split between the owners, and that should any of them die the others inherit his ownership. The plot thickens as while Quirk is away at sea captaining the ship on behalf of the tontine, strange fates befall the other members.



At its heart, The Amaryllis Tontine is a tale rich with the atmosphere of the times. Drower has clearly researched his maritime history and the story is full of interesting facts and asides about the nature of sailing at this point in history and the advent of steam power. I found that the details sometimes got in the way of the story - there was a little too much documenting of the finances of the tontine for my taste - but it is packed with incident and evokes in a lively fashion what the sailing life must have been. The book contains helpful footnotes explaining maritime terminology where necessary, and a map of the sail plan at the front of the book is useful in understanding what is happening on board ship.

The author is better known on the Isle of Man as a poet. The Amaryllis Tontine is his first novel, published at the age of 86, and was published with the assistance of the Isle of Man Arts Council. I look forward to seeing Mr Drower's next novel.

NAMA members may purchase The Amaryllis Tontine directly from the author at his address: 12 Faaie Craine, Ballaugh, Isle of Man. Email enquiries are welcome at [denys@manxman.co.im](mailto:denys@manxman.co.im). The book retails at 6.95GBP, and a discount will be given to NAMA members if they mention that they saw the book in the NAMA bulletin.



# Literary Corner

## Isle of Man Telephone Cards - A Handbook for Collectors

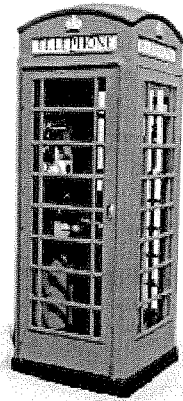
by David Woodcock

For almost two decades, the Isle of Man produced some of the world's most stunning images on plastic phone cards, hundreds of thousands of which were tossed away after their time was up in the telephone kiosk.

But now author David Woodcock has pieced together the fascinating history of the Manx telephone card by delving deep into his own extensive collection and bringing the best images to life again in the pages of his new book.

Not only are the phone cards colourful and evocative, but Manx Telecom's creativity and stylish design over 17 years has also left a lasting legacy - for collectors and lovers of the Isle of Man alike. The relatively small numbers of the cards produced and their high quality has now made these once throw-away pieces of plastic some of the most attractive and collectable phone cards in the world.

Mr Woodcock recalls the stories behind the phone cards' colourful subjects and allows the reader to enjoy a slice of the history and rich culture that the Isle of Man has to offer.



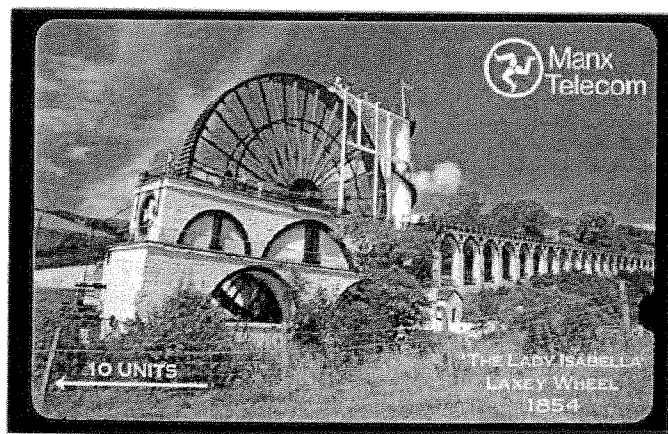
The island's flora, fauna, marine life and fishing industry are examined along with heritage havens such as Cregneash Folk Museum and the House of Mannanan at Peel. Manx traditions are evoked in unique Christmas customs, the shenanigans of St Mary's Eve, the Fairy Bridge, the curious Manx cat and the origins of the three legs of Mann.

Important heritage attractions include St German's Cathedral, Peel Castle, King Orry's Grave and Thorwald's Cross-Slab. Iconic landmarks celebrated on the phone cards include the Tower of Refuge, the Laxey Wheel, the island's five lighthouses, the Gaiety Theatre and the Millennium sculpture at Ballafletcher.

Running to 104 pages with 241 full colour illustrations, the book is published by Lily Publications, Ramsey, Isle of Man, price £15.

The book is available online from the publishers at their website: [www.lilypublications.co.uk](http://www.lilypublications.co.uk) and directly from him at [www.researchpod.co.uk](http://www.researchpod.co.uk) and from principal bookshops throughout the Isle of Man. NAMA members may also purchase the book using Paypal; David's Paypal account is [david@researchpod.com](mailto:david@researchpod.com).

Synopsis by the author, David Woodcock, a social historian with a particular interest in industrial and technological development.



One of the illustrations from the book - The Lady Isabella

## MANX KILTS

In the last issue there was mention of a source for kilts on the Isle of Man. For those looking for one closer to home, the following is on offer:

MANX KILT SUIT for sale by original owner, who has outgrown it and prefers to sell it to a Manx person rather than to a "stranger". Kilt skirt and jacket are Snaefell Tartan (brown and cream). Label reads: "Genuine Manx Tweed Designed and Woven at St. George's Woollen Mills Ltd. Laxey, Isle of Man, Pure New Wool". Sells at Laxey for 120.00 pounds. My price of 145.00 dollars includes shipping. Kilt size is Womens 18 (UK sizing); Jacket is Womens XL Worn about three times; perfect condition, smoke-free environment. For measurements, contact [troxlerc@elon.edu](mailto:troxlerc@elon.edu) or phone (336)584-9282.

# Robert's Silver Medal

In 1895 the Big Snow came to the Isle of Man. It started on Thursday the third of February and lasted days. Houses were buried in snow to the rooftops. The river was frozen solid and all the wells were covered with snow and ice. No Manx man or woman could remember such a storm.

A treacherous wind blew and a terrible blizzard followed the Big Snow on the night of February seventh. Many ships were wrecked around the coast of the island, victims of the cruel wind and crushing waves. Perhaps there were some who thought they heard the cries of lost mariners who never made it back to shore, as the Manx were a superstitious people who believed the wails of the sea birds and the moans coming from the wind and wet were the cries of souls lost at sea.

Several men from the small seaside village of Port St Mary ventured out on that chilling night to see the distress signal coming from the steamer 'Vigilant'. The 276-ton steamer was headed to Belfast when the blizzard overtook her and drove her to the isle's rocky shore. A call was made for volunteers and Robert Cain was ready and so were five other young men who were neighbors living on the same street. Thus they came to be known as the 'Lime Street Heroes'. There was no hesitation with their response to attempt to rescue the crew of a ship in danger. Any able-bodied Manxman would not ignore a call for help.

Twenty-two year old Annie Cain had tears in her eyes as she kissed her husband and whispered a prayer for his safe return. Robert pulled his woolen cap over his dark locks of curly hair knowing it would neither keep him warm or dry on such a threatening night. He kissed her good-bye and looked at her with his green eyes showing not fear but determination.

Annie stood in the cold with the fierce wind blowing against her small frame and watched the men depart for the snow-covered beach. With all of them dressed in their heaviest mackintoshes, it was impossible to tell them apart as they disappeared into the night with only a couple of lanterns to give them light. Shivering and wet she left her vantage spot to find warmth and shelter in one of the homes on Lime Street. She must not show the others how fearful she felt. Annie like her husband would be brave.

The men knew they were risking their lives. They were not a trained rescue crew, nor did they have a proper lifeboat or the necessary equipment to handle such an

undertaking. An abandoned harbor boat was the best they could find and they decided to use it. They had to cut blocks of frozen snow out of the boat before they could launch it. Robert and his friends pushed the harbor boat into the dark icy Irish Sea. It was a miracle it stayed afloat in such a storm.

Robert was not a fisherman like his father or a mariner like his two brothers but he knew how to handle a boat. It was his birthright. His father and older brothers had taught him well and he had been on other rescue boats before, but never in such a blizzard. His shoulders and arms were strong and muscular from his trade. He was a shipbuilder who used his head and his hands to make a living.

He used his knowledge of the sea to ward off the waves, which were quickly filling the boat with water. While some pulled the oars the others bailed the water out of the boat. Even though they were up to their knees in icy water they shouted encouragement to each other and kept the harbor boat from capsizing. Somehow they managed to reach the 'Vigilant' and rescue six survivors from the wrecked steamer.

They told the ones left on board that they would come back for them. However, as the Manxmen were returning to Port St. Mary they saw the properly equipped Lifeboat from Castletown heading towards the Vigilant and ready to pick up the remaining crew. Soon afterwards the heroic six men from Port St. Mary were awarded silver medals for gallantry.

Their heroic deed convinced the community that a well-equipped Lifeboat was needed for Port St. Mary. Today a beautiful Lifeboat is stationed there. It continues to be staffed by volunteers and supported by charitable donations. The story of the Lime Street Heroes is remembered to this day in Port St. Mary on the Isle of Man, as some descendants of the rescue still live in this picturesque seaside village.

Robert Cain was my grandfather. We never met. I had heard of the rescue as a child, and a cousin provided further details for me. The latter sources are the Isle of Man Weekly Times dated February 24, 1981, and a written account by Mr Terry Kelly. The medal is in the possession of another cousin with the same name as our grandfather.

Elaine Jones Stephenson.



# Society News

## Chicago Manx Society

The Chicago Manx last met on November 12th at the home of John and Mary Prendergast on the south side of Chicago to celebrate the Holiday Season. The members attending enjoyed themselves very much.

We voted to have our next meeting on Sunday March 25th at the home of our President, Robert Kelly in Rockford, IL. Bob has arranged for us to start our meeting by gathering in the main Retirement Home for a dinner to be served at 1:30 PM instead of the potluck dinner we normally have. [Editor's note: the newsletter did not come out in time for this information to be useful to members, although notifications were also sent by email and several of the Wisconsin Manx attended the event. We look forward to a report on the meeting in the next issue].

Robert Kelly

## Cleveland Manx Society

Thirty-five members of the Cleveland Manx Society met at the Holiday Inn on December 3rd for our annual Christmas Party. After dinner we were entertained by the "Hot Shots", a husband and wife team playing harmonicas. It was an excellent program which was enjoyed by all.

As per usual our members were very generous in their giving of brand new mittens, scarves, socks and hats, etc. These donations are given to the Salvation Army every year and they distribute them to children for Christmas. We will meet on February 24th at Liz Duncan's home to plan our meetings for 2007. We meet once a month starting in March when the weather is a little more favorable.

Alice Cannell

## Manx Society of Minnesota

The Manx Society of Minnesota is busy working on the 2008 Convention. Active plans are underway for a Manx dance group to perform at the convention. We are busy working on two agendas -- one for the younger generation and one for the members. We are planning to have a display of the Minnesota Manx members Manx connections. Plus much more!

Our first meeting will be March 24th in Anoka, Minnesota. We are planning a summer outing at French Park in Plymouth, Minnesota, probably in June. Any NAMA members in the area at those times are welcome to join us. Contact Joan Gill at 763-544-5163 or by email at [nwjlgill@earthlink.com](mailto:nwjlgill@earthlink.com).

Joan Gill

## San Diego County Manx Association

The San Diego County Manx Association held their December 10, 2006, meeting at the home of Devore and Ruth Smith. Twenty two members were in attendance. Hilary Harrison graciously accepted another two year term as Society President.

Hilary commented on the many calls she has received on how wonderful the NAMA Convention was with compliments to the San Diego Manx for their role in making the Convention a success. Hilary read greeting cards from Dorcas Costain Bland from the Isle of Man and NAMA past President Mary Kelly, complimenting the San Diego Manx for their efforts in making the 2006 Convention a great success. Ruth Smith read a letter from Norm Standish complimenting the San Diego Manx as hosts of the 2006 NAMA Convention. Norm had kindly donated for the auction a framed picture of the Star of India that was won by Larry Fargher of Santa Clara, CA.

Hilary indicated that Mary Kelly, of the Wisconsin Manx Society, is working on putting together a collection of North American Manx Association historic items and Manx memorabilia for display in the University Center of the University of Wisconsin-Platteville Campus. Mary will gratefully accept all donations.

Hilary read from a 1979 NAMA Bulletin an article announcing the formation of the San Diego Manx Society in 1979. The article listed the members in attendance at the first meeting of the Society. The bulletin was handed over to Society Historian, Ruth Smith, for inclusion in the Society archives.

Ruth Smith indicated that she had written to the daughter of the late Aline and Ed Wittenkeller remembering her parents. Aline and Ed were long time members of the San Diego Manx Society.

# Society News

In the letter she mentioned that Aline's collection of sea shells were used as center piece decorations on the Convention banquet tables. Ruth mentioned she had received a phone call from former members, Malcolm & Joyce Kinley, of Boise, Idaho. They are keeping well, and they asked Ruth to forward their very best wishes to everyone in the San Diego Manx Society.

Reporting on vacation highlights were: Lou & Faith Vick who traveled to Russia, Bob & Millie Kermeen who toured the route of the Lewis and Clark expedition, Bob & Joyce Wright who journeyed to Costa Rica and also did a road trip in New England and Devore & Ruth Smith who visited their daughter and family in Minnesota.

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

In other news, Manx native, George Watterson, was sworn in as a citizen of the United States in a ceremony held in Golden Hall, San Diego. The Oath of Citizenship was given to one thousand three hundred and twenty one people from eighty nine countries.

## Vancouver Manx Society

This is a quiet time for us, no meetings scheduled which was lucky as our weather has been terrible. Heavy rains, hurricane force winds, snow, then an extreme cold snap, black ice, and when it warmed up, fog. One night when the winds were so strong, there I was out on my deck at 4:00 a.m. moving tubs of soil, chairs, and my screen door that had come loose and all ended up against the deck railing. In the morning when walking my dog there were trees uprooted and blown around like matchsticks. The radio had announced that our famous Stanley Park had an estimated 1,000 damaged trees. I live near the harbour where Ocean Fisheries has a repair depot on a floating barge, it had broken free and was out in the harbour. All the fishboats were safe as I could see their masts where they had sheltered.

At our Fall pot-luck dinners, one of our committee, Dorrit Ilott, prepares a quiz on the Isle of Man as part of the evening's entertainment. We try to answer, have lots of laughs, talking, then Dorrit gives us the correct answers. A copy of the quiz follows, and of course, the answers.

## Isle of Man Quiz

1. What is the mountain range on the Isle of Man called?
  - a) Snaefell Range
  - b) Inland Mountains
  - c) Manx Slate Mountains
2. How did hedgehogs arrive on the Isle of Man?
  - a) They were always there
  - b) Shipwrecked and handed out as 'pets'
  - c) Created by the Little People
  - d) Brought by the Vikings
3. What was the special feature of the giant that lived near 'Bishops Palace'?
  - a) Eight eyes
  - b) Two heads
  - c) Three legs
  - d) Made of stone
4. What was the 'look-out tower' near Dreswick also called?
  - a) Dreswick Head Tower
  - b) Herring Tower
  - c) Watterson's Tower
5. What famous site is said to be near Fairy Bridge?
  - a) The Meayll Circle
  - b) Old Viking battlefield
  - c) Headquarters of the Little People
6. Tynwald Day is always on July 5th (Midsummer's Day), unless
  - a) Bad weather
  - b) Falls on a Sunday
  - c) Good herring run
7. King Olaf II (who brought Christianity to the Isle of Man) was also known as
  - a) Olaf the Good
  - b) Olaf the Holy
  - c) Olaf the Fat

Answers at the bottom of the next page.

# Society News

## Washington DC Area Manx

The Washington DC area Manx Society held their annual 12th Night party on Saturday, January 6th. Our ever-faithful Viking, Bruce Blackistone arrived with his spear and sword to chase away the old year, and brought the traditional gifts of coal, bread, and money (see photograph, right). Brent Warner kept the spirit of the season alive with the old-fashioned art of live storytelling, recounting the folk tale of the buggane of St. Trinians. Bill Cassidy played his tin whistle as the warm up, and then the musical group "Celtic Harmonies" performed ... well, Celtic Harmonies. What fantastic voices.

Thanks are due to Mary Cannell Andrews, her daughter, and to Von Quayle for tirelessly working in the new-to-us kitchen. Thanks also to the Crenshaws for manhandling the tables and chairs and helping decorate the room; to Mim McCarthy and Avril Shipman for making the pass-the-parcels; to Kelly for donating; to Don Quayle for auctioning and to Lesly Beers for stumping up \$130 to buy a copy of the "Manx Worthies". Thanks to Sue Smiley and Honora Finklestein for donating signed copies of their murder mystery and cookbooks for the raffle and to everyone who came, joined in, and enjoyed themselves.

Jim Kneale, Secretary

## Wisconsin Manx Society

The next gathering of the Wisconsin Manx is on April 29th in Madison, Wisconsin. NAMA members from other nearby societies (and indeed those from far away) are welcome to attend and can contact Judith Bonnett at 608-884-8905 to make arrangements.

The program will include lunch, society business, and a screening of the DVD 'Wild Mann - Wildlife of the Isle of Man'. Further information is also available on the Society website [www.geocities.com/wisconsinmanx](http://www.geocities.com/wisconsinmanx).

Andrew Ravenscroft

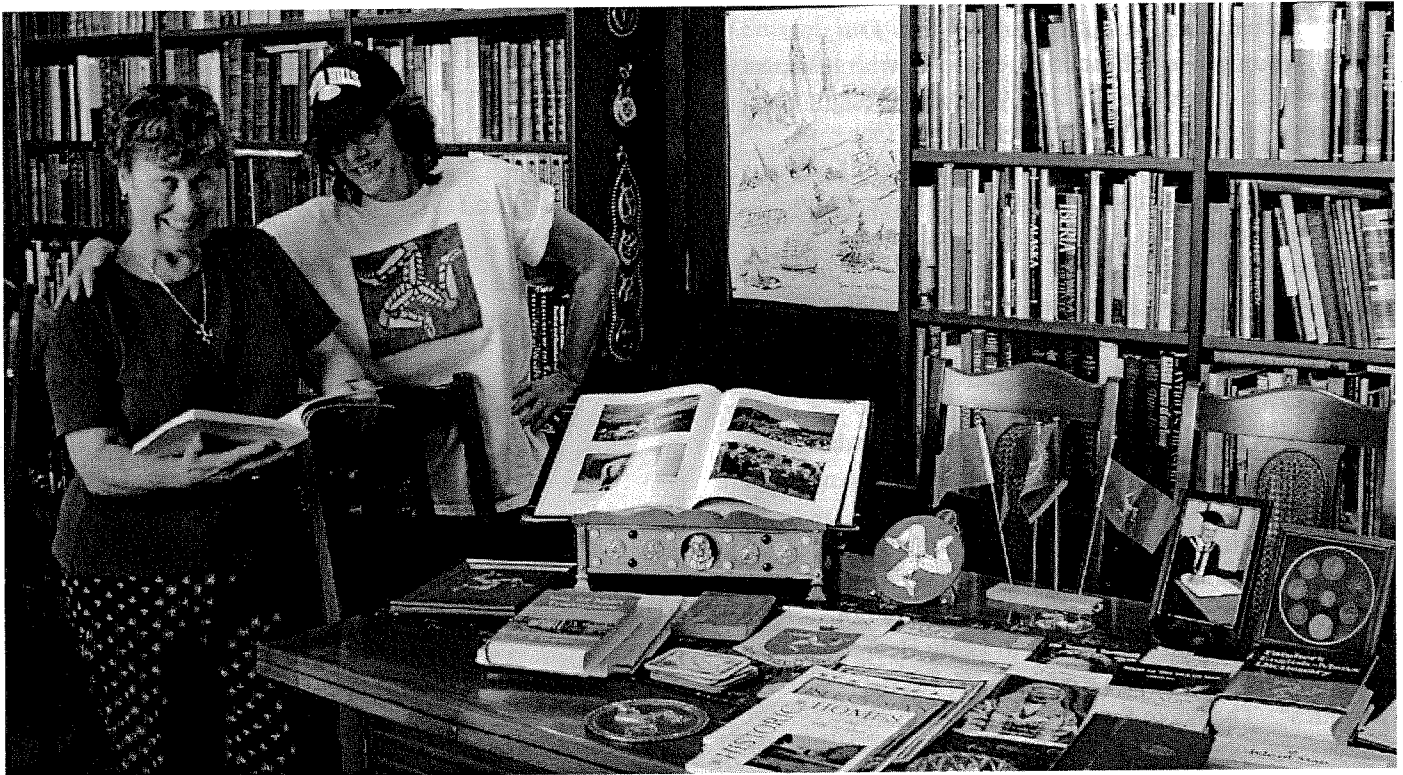
**Answers to the Vancouver Manx quiz: :**

1=c, 2=b, 3=c, 4=b, 5=c, 6=b, 7=c



Bruce Blackistone in full viking regalia

# Manx Rule! From Isle of Man to Minnesota



Minnesota Manx Co-President Sally Dahlquist and Secretary Joan Gill welcome you to NAMA'08!

Are you ready for some Manx music and dancing? Want to know more about the history of the Isle of Man? Are you searching for your Manx ancestors? Do you know how the Manx immigrated to Minnesota? Or, do you just want to party with Manx family and friends? Then, set your destination for the North American Manx Association Convention in Minnesota on Friday, August 1st through Sunday, August 3rd, 2008.

The convention promises to be great for the whole family. That's right! There is something for the classic Manx as well as the younger generation. Classics will enjoy visiting our Manx sale table for unusual gifts, sip tea while watching an Isle of Man movie and slide show, attend an educational genealogy workshop, listen to humorous Manx speakers, hear informative regional NAMA reports, and take pleasure in an engaging Manx storyteller. The younger Manx will gather in a special room to view a Manx movie, create Manx family trees, hear the history of Manx swords, design Manx sashes and t-shirts, listen to a Manx storyteller, make a Manx film at the convention, and go swimming in the pool. But the fun doesn't stop here.

Don't miss an exciting experience of an original Manx happening! View the special dance presentation of Traed y Ddraig, the Minnesota Welch dance group. They are working on Manx dances that include our younger Minnesota Manx members. Audrey McClellan is coordinating this effort with input from John Dowling of Perree Bane, the renowned Manx folk dance group.

Another very cool, must-see event will be a collaborative exhibition at the James Ford Bell Library on the campus of the University of Minnesota. We are calling it "Manx Rule! From Isle of Man to Minnesota", a short history of the IOM from 1800 to 1930's that celebrates our Manx heritage and immigration stories of our Minnesota Manx members. There will be a rich and interesting display of Manx memorabilia including IOM maps, prints, paintings, photos, hangings, jewelry, books, and more.

Come hear the Manx music, experience the bag pipe procession, clap your hands as you watch the Manx dance, and, most of all, close your eyes and dream of our home - the Isle of Man! The Manx Society of Minnesota is waiting for you. Let's make it "Great in '08!"