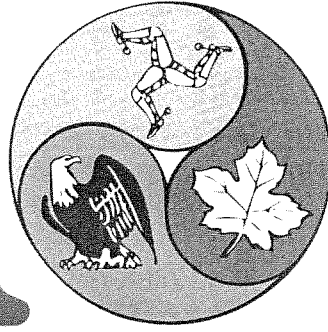


# NAMA

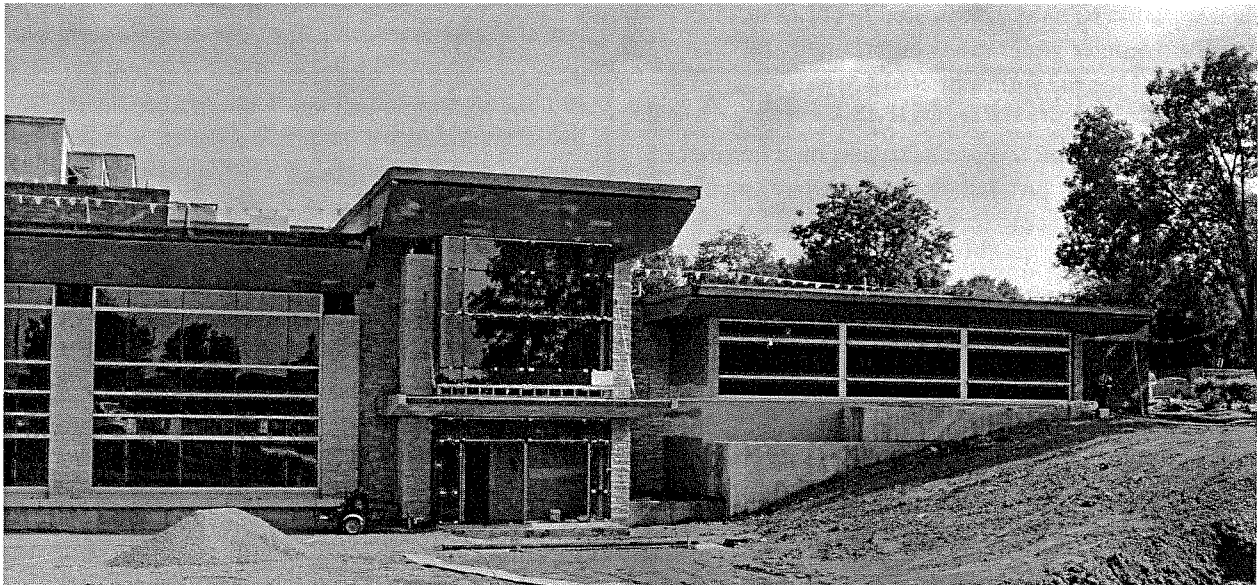


NORTH AMERICAN MANX ASSOCIATION

Vol. 78, No. 2 To Preserve "Whate'er is left to us of ancient heritage." T.E. Brown

Summer 2007

## Manx Collection to be housed at Luce Center Museum



The museum will be in the Luce Center (pictured) which will be housed on the first floor of Ullsvik Hall

Work is well under way on the new Luce Center Museum in which the Manx Collection will be housed. This recent photograph shows a view of Ullsvik Hall which is located at the corner of West Main and South Hickory Streets in Platteville, WI. The interior construction of displays will begin early in 2008 and the museum hopes to open later next year.

Approximately 2,500 square feet of space has been designated for museum displays (with additional space for archives) which will include articles documenting the history of the University of Wisconsin at Platteville and their development of core curricular offerings as well as documentation of the settlement of the region.

Included will be a room designated as the North American Manx Museum. The naming rights for the area were secured by an extremely generous donation of \$100,000 made by our NAMA Honorary President, Robert Kelly, in honor of his parents, his wife Jean and himself.

His generosity will ensure that the Manx Collection will get the visibility it deserves within the Museum, and that there will be greater recognition of the role played by the Manx settlers as they brought their culture to the United States of America.

In addition to his financial contribution, Robert has pledged to donate his Manx-built grandfather clock, 2 antique platters, a collection of first-day stamp issues, and coins from the Isle of Man.

Other significant donations have been received from Craig Caine, The Minnesota Manx Society, The Wisconsin Manx Society, Mona Moughton, Hillary Harrison, Bob Wright, and an Anomonymous donor. There will be more about the in-kind collections in future issues.

# NAMA Notes

## NAMA President's Message

Greetings from Minneapolis!! The board meeting has just been held at the site of the next convention, Sheraton Bloomington, Minneapolis and was extremely well attended. Sure sign of a great convention next year!

1st Vice President Sally Dahlquist and her team did a fantastic job organising the meeting and making us all feel so welcome. The Sheraton Hotel is a true quality hotel and will be an excellent convention facility for NAMA. Sally will provide details of the full and exciting programme she has in store and please note there is a separate schedule dedicated to children. Keeping the younger generations entertained and engaged is vital for the future of NAMA.

We enjoyed healthy and lively discussion on a number of topics that shows how passionate are the board members of NAMA.

One of the new directives was for us have a greater online presence to increase our profile to the wider world, keep members informed and create new communication tools, improve efficiency of the association and most importantly attract new members. A committee chaired by Kelly McCarthy, and including Andrew Ravenscroft and me, has been formed to work with web expert Jim Kneale from the Washington Society to define and implement our updated online presence. Another aspect will be the opt-in involvement of local societies who may wish to link to the national website.

Our Manx liaison with the University of Wisconsin, Mary Kelly, gave some wonderful news about the status of the Manx Museum within the University. Bob Kelly has made a significant donation towards the cause that will ensure North American Manx Association will gain naming rights to the Manx portion of this facility. Mary will provide full details of this remarkable gesture and the full benefits to NAMA's future presence in Wisconsin.

Mary Kelly is also chairing the Manx Youth award and will be seeking nominations for next year's convention.

Brad Prendergast reported on a valuable tax initiative that members may take advantage but it only available for a limited time. Brad is to give full details in an article in the next newsletter so please take note.

The "Manx Million" project is under review at IOM Government level regarding their involvement. I have met with the President of Tynwald and Chief Minister to outline our proposal to make contact with the Manx million people in North America that have Manx surnames. Our aim is to work in partnership with IOM Government to establish that contact and invite them to learn more about their heritage and the Isle of Man in general and hopefully become members of our Association. Our membership continues to decline and new long-term initiatives must be sought to build our membership. Local societies have had reasonable success in the past doing mail-outs to Manx surnames in their immediate locale and this concept is the very same but on a grander scale.

In closing, I invite all members to start thinking about the Convention for next year as I know it will be a huge success and I recommend that you book early!

Laurence Skelly  
15th July 2007

## Genealogy - Putting MORE Flesh on the Bones....

Last time we talked about sketching out an ancestor's life by analyzing the names and dates we may already have. Another strategy is not so specific to a particular person. It is possible to find out how people lived in various times and places. There are many sources that can tell us what daily life was probably like. We need to take into account the time period and the location. We also need to know the class or status of the person.

Now we are ready to research. We can read literature that was written in the time period. That can help give us a feel, but it might not be completely typical. If newspapers were around, a few issues might give a real glimpse into the issues and problems that were on our grandparents' minds. It is fun to see what prices are advertized -- and what items they are advertizing! There are usually "society" comments and notes. In later time periods you might actually find that your relative was just returning from a journey or that cousin so-and-so has been visiting for a week.

An internet search can bring wonderful results.

# NAMA Notes

Type in the place and time period, e.g., England 1700s. There will most likely be a number of hits. More narrowed areas will not yield as many hits, but might be quite enlightening.

One of my favorite methods for this is by reading books on the subject. There are numerous volumes that work. I happen to own an old one entitled *The Lives and Times of Our English Ancestors* by Frank Smith. It is divided into centuries and describes the various aspects of life — such as religion, different occupations, what homes were like, etc. It gives details such as when carpet began to be used or who could afford glass for windows. It tells what kinds of things were legal or illegal and how someone might be punished. It tells about schooling and home life and what farm implements were being used. It makes it easier for me to picture my ancestors in their environment. And that makes them come alive!

Lucy Peterson  
Genealogist

## Annual NAMA Awards Ceremony on the Isle of Man



North American Manx Association award winners with Betty Hanson, Dorcas Costain-Blann and Laurence Skelly.

Young people's achievements were celebrated at the annual North American Manx Association awards ceremony on the Isle of Man.

Welcoming guests to the event, Education Minister Anne Craine recalled visiting a NAMA conference in Washington with her late father, Sir Charles Kerruish, at which she forged friendships.

'Manx links and travellers extend across the globe. Wherever you go, where there's a Manx association, there's a friend waiting for you,' she said.

Betty Hanson, honorary vice-president of the World Manx Association, has been involved with the presentation of the silver medals since the awards were introduced in 1979 for the NAMA millennium project.

Introducing the awards at Friday's ceremony, she said: 'The people of the Isle of Man are deeply grateful to the North American Manx Association.

NAMA president Laurence Skelly presented the medallions and said that while the awards had evolved the standard of students had risen.

Rachael Bruce (Isle of Man Newspapers)

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# An Immigrant's Tale

*By way of illustrating the resources of the Luce Center Museum and the NAMA Collection that will be housed there, we offer this interesting piece of research. Mr Hibbard's research into John Cowley - a Manx immigrant to Wisconsin - provides a fine example of the kind of detailed history that can be uncovered about our past using the sort of resources and archives that the Luce Museum and others preserve for the public record.*

## Background

First, let me introduce myself and explain a little about where I work. I am James Hibbard and I work as the University Archivist in the Southwest Wisconsin Room at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville (UWP), which is located in the southwestern part of the state of Wisconsin, U.S.A. The Southwest Wisconsin Room (SWWIS Room) serves three functions: first, it houses the university archives; second, it is a local history/genealogical room, and, third, it is the repository for the Wisconsin Historical Society's materials for Southwest Wisconsin. Those materials, which range from 1830s to the 1930s, consist of public records (such as circuit court papers, property tax rolls, population census records, naturalization papers), and private papers (such as letters, diaries, and business ledgers). In short, the SWWIS Room (<http://www.uwplatt.edu/library/swwis/>) is a treasure trove for the students, professional researchers, local historians, and genealogists.

As part of its strategic plan, UWP has decided to establish a museum on campus. This museum will highlight the history of UWP and of the surrounding area through exhibits on the university, area minerals and fossils, and the North American Manx Association's (NAMA) collection. The hope is that parents, students, faculty, and other individuals will come away with a much better understanding of UWP and southwest Wisconsin. The museum is going to be located in the soon-to-be expanded Ullsvik Hall on campus. The museum will be located in the eastern half of Ullsvik Hall, which has been named the Luce Center, after Charles Luce, a major benefactor of the project. On May 9, 2006, a groundbreaking ceremony was held. The Luce Center and new museum is scheduled to open in 2008.

In 2004 a museum committee was formed to shape the mission of the museum and to operate in an advisory capacity. The committee membership consists of Thomas B. Lundeen (professor emeritus), Mary Freymiller (former archivist), Mary Kelly (Past President of NAMA), Dennis Cooley (UWP Foundation Director),

John Krogman (Associate Vice Chancellor of Information Services), and James Hibbard (University Archivist). In our discussions concerning the museum, Mary Kelly, of Manx descent, suggested that we consider housing and exhibiting the NAMA's materials. The committee agreed and presented the proposal to UWP's Chancellor David Markee, who gave it his approval as well.

## Laxey Manx

The deciding factor to exhibit the NAMA materials was the historical influence of the Manx on Southwest Wisconsin. Since the 1840s the Manx have been a part of the Southwest Wisconsin landscape. The area that the Manx settled was in the northeast part of Linden Township of Iowa County, located four miles north of Mineral Point (about 25 miles northeast of Platteville). It became known as Laxey, named after the village of Laxey on the Isle of Man, where most of them had originally lived.

Primarily farmers, the immigrants constructed the only Manx-built church in North America, Laxey Church. Constructed in 1855 from fieldstone, Laxey Church served as the center of the Manx community until the 1940s, when it was razed. Today, all that is left is the Laxey Cemetery that had once surrounded the church.

When I was asked to write something concerning the future museum and the SWWIS Room for publication, I decided that the best way to introduce you to the SWWIS Room and its resources—and by implication its incredible potential as a center for the NAMA collection—would be to conduct research on a person who immigrated from the Isle of Man to the Laxey area of Linden Township.

## Choosing John Cowley

My research began simply enough; after thumbing through the biographical section of the History of Iowa County, Wisconsin, 1881, I came across John Cowley. I cannot really say why he stood out, for there were many individuals who listed the Isle of Man as their birthplace, other than to say that he fit the criteria that I was looking for: a person born on the Isle of Man who immigrated to the United States, lived his life in the Laxey area of Linden Township in Iowa County, Wisconsin, and who is buried in the Laxey Cemetery that surrounds the site of the Laxey Church. The highlights of his autobiography are as follows:

# An Immigrant's Tale

*“farmer, Sec. 36. . . born on the Isle of Man in 1830; came to America, and to Wisconsin, in 1853, and, the following January, bought 100 acres; now owns 301 acres of land, with a fine house. His wife, Jane Kneal, was born on the Isle of Man, and they married in 1853; they have seven children living—Persilla, Matilda J., William, Fulton, Alfred Lancaster, John J. And Clarence E., and Joseph John (deceased). In politics, he is a Republican; and in religion, a Primitive Methodist, and has been a local preacher for about fifteen years. . . owns one-half interest in the cheese factory and creamery with Mr. Brent.”*

Granted, the autobiography was a vanity publication (as all autobiographies in the old county histories were paid for and written by the actual persons), but it contained a fair amount of useful information, laying a good foundation from which I could reconstruct John Cowley's life. Little did I know what surprises John Cowley's life would hold.

## Reconstructing John Cowley's Life

Noticing that he immigrated in 1853, I searched for and quickly found his Declaration of Intention to become a “Citizen of the United States.” He applied on November 7, 1854, in Iowa County, probably in Dodgeville, the county seat.. It noted that he was “A native of England aged about 25 years.” It did not surprise me that it listed “England” as his nativity, naturalization papers of that era often noted general, rather than specific, locations. (In case you were wondering, there was no naturalization paper for his wife Jane; in the 19th Century wives and children became citizens when the husband naturalized.)

Knowing that obituaries often give details not found elsewhere, I searched for John and Jane Cowley's obituaries. Determining exact death dates for the Cowleys was problematic, however. The Laxey Cemetery burial listing that we have in the Southwest Wisconsin Room listed the following Cowleys:

Cowley, John J	Age 5 Years	Died May 2, 1865
Cowley, Matilda	Age 16 Years	Died Sept. 6, 1881
Cowley, Clarice	Age 2 Years	Died Sept. 5, 1876
Cowley, John	Age 86	1829 1915
Cowley, Jane	Age 80	1832 1912
Cowley, Infant Son of A. L.	Age 2 days	Died Oct. 20, 1907

Seeing no exact death dates listed for John and Jane, I turned to the probate records of Iowa County. Fortunately, their estate was probated and I found that

Jane died on September 20, 1912, and John died on March 28, 1915. (Iowa County Probate, Micro Series 7, Roll 281, Case 382NN.)

Unfortunately, I was only able to locate John Cowley's obituary. It noted that he “*was born in June, 1829 at Ballacollister, Lonan, Isle of Man. When twenty-four years of age he married Jane Kneale and the young couple with hope and courage as their chief asset started for the New World and landed at Cleveland Ohio; they lived there about a year and then came to Iowa County. . Mrs. Cowley preceded her husband to the land of rest a little over two years ago, after his wife's death Mr. Cowley visited the land of his birth and on his return brought with him his niece, Mrs. Olive Hudgeon and her daughter Miss Olive Qualtrough. . . during his younger days he preached the gospel effectively and his hold on God's truth remained firm to the end. The church was dear to him. . . he lived in the same neighborhood for over sixty years and was honored and revered by all. Death summoned him on Sunday March 28, 1915.*

*Funeral services were held from his late home and the Laxey church on Wednesday afternoon. . . Burial was made in the Laxey church yard.”*

It's noting that they “landed at Cleveland Ohio” was a significant clue to their route of travel. They would have crossed the Atlantic on a steamship, sailed up the St. Lawrence Seaway to Niagara Falls, taken a train from the falls to Buffalo, New York, and thence another steamer to Cleveland. When they departed from Cleveland a year later, they would have taken a steamship west to Detroit, Michigan, up Lake Huron, past the Straits of Mackinaw and down Lake Michigan, landing at either Milwaukee or Kenosha, Wisconsin. From there they would have traveled overland to Iowa County. This was a typical route to Wisconsin from 1845 to about 1860, when railroads changed it.

From there I searched the US population censuses for him. The censuses further corroborated his autobiography. I located him in the 1870, 1880, 1900, and 1910 US censuses. He was surely living in Wisconsin in 1860, but I have yet to locate him in the 1860 census. As it turned out, the most important census, in terms of his family's story in America, was the 1870 census, which is listed below:

# An Immigrant's Tale

County of Iowa, Wisconsin, Town of Linden, enumerated on June 2, 1870.

Name	Age	Occ.	Real Estate Property		Birthplace
			Value	Value	
Cowley, John	40 m	Farmer	11,000	1,000	Isle of Man
" , Jane	38 f	Keeping House			Isle of Man
" , Priscilla	12 f				Wisconsin
" , Matilda J.	4 f				Wisconsin
" , William	3 m				Wisconsin
Kermode, Thomas	13	Farm Laborer			Isle of Man

The only substantive change in the 1880 census was that it added the Cowley's youngest child, Alfred, who was nine years old.

Our Laxey Church records also filled in some of John Cowley's life. I was able to determine that he served as the "Superintendent" of the Laxey Sunday school in 1864 and 1865. In 1864, moreover, the church held a "*public Dinner on the 4 of July,*" at which the annual report was read. This occurred during the American Civil War and shows that the Laxey Manx had become patriotic Americans: they had embraced their adopted country's Independence Day celebration (Platteville Micro 6, Reel 1).

With his general family information in hand, I now turned to reconstructing his land purchases.

## The Cowley Farm

John Cowley did not start out living in the Laxey area. The earliest surviving tax roll for Linden township, 1859, shows that he owned a 160 acre farm in sections 4 and 9, southwest of Mineral Point. Ten years later, sometime in late 1869 or early 1870, he purchased, what was to be, his permanent farm, the southeast quarter (160 acres) of section 36, which was located in the Laxey area, six miles north of Mineral Point.

From the 1880 Agricultural Census, it appeared that John was a very successful farmer. That census listed him as owning 300 acres (his autobiography says 301) in the Laxey area. Valued at \$11,000, his farmland contained 170 acres of tillable land, 60 acres of meadows, pastures, and 70 acres of Woodland; he had 20 Milch cows, 18 calves; he produced 14,000 gallons of milk in 1879; he had 135 sheep, 30 pigs, and 60 chickens. In terms of his crops, he had 80 acres of Indian corn, 40 acres of Oats, 35 acres of Wheat, 15 acres of Flax, and 1 acre of potatoes. In addition, he had a 12 acre apple orchard.

Excepting for the potatoes, which were probably a family crop, John Cowley was clearly producing farm products for the larger market.

## First Surprise: Creamery Business

After seeing how successful John was at farming, it was easy to see why his autobiography noted that he operated a cheese factory and creamery with a Mr. Brent; Cowley was a born entrepreneur. Fortunately, determining who Mr. Brent was and where the cheese factory and creamery was located was easy: it was noted in Mr. Brent's autobiography, located on the previous page in the county history. The relevant passages are as follows:

*"John Brent, of the firm Cowley & Brent, cheese factory and creamery, Sec. 1. . . was born in Cornwall, England, in November 1845. . . [he] owns a half-interest in the factory built in April, 1879, with the capacity to handle 10,000 pounds of milk per day. His wife, Martha Jane Trigoning, was born in Linden."*

Brent's autobiography answered the questions where the creamery was located, section 1, and when it was started, April 1879. Because businesses almost invariably get sued, it led me to search the Iowa County Circuit Court records for possible lawsuits that could help fill in some of the creamery's story. Not surprisingly, the Cowley & Brent business had been sued; what surprised, however, was who sued. From the court cases, it is clear that the firm of Cowley & Brent operated from 1879 to September 1882, when the partnership was dissolved. A manufacturer of cheese and butter, one of its biggest buyers was the "*Geo. P. Braun & Co. Commission Merchants,*" based in Chicago. In September 1881 alone, Cowley & Brent sold and shipped 546 tubs of butter to Braun. (Iowa Series 24, box 135, folder 2.)

Unfortunately, the Cowley & Brent partnership went sour. In 1887 a long-standing dispute between the former partners finally erupted. According to Cowley, Brent, who handled most of the purchase orders for the firm, purchased "*fence wire and other articles for his own personal use. . . which he charged to the said firm of Cowley and Brent.*" The argument quickly became personal when both men accused the other of lying. The tipping point came when Cowley published a letter in the local newspaper, accusing Brent of multiple misdeeds. Brent sued Cowley for "*false, scandalous, and defamatory libel.*" The case, however, was never brought to trial, and in 1897 the judge dismissed it. Who was telling the truth? Probably Cowley, for the judge ordered "*that the said defendant [Cowley] recover of and from the said plaintiff [Brent] his [court] costs.*" (Iowa Series 24, box 154, folder 13.) Cowley, moreover, lived the rest of his days in on his farm, whereas Brent ended up leaving the area.

# An Immigrant's Tale

## Second Surprise:

### Jane Kneale Cowley

In researching the Cowleys, I was fortunate to have online access to the 1851, 1861, 1871 & 1881 censuses of England, which includes the Isle of Man. And as luck would have it, I located John Cowley when he was just 21 and unmarried, living with his family in the 1851 census:

1851 Census, Isle of Man, Parish of Lonan, Name of Street, Place, or Road and Name or No. of House: 53 Ballacollister.

Name	Rel. to Head of Family	Marital Status	Age	Occ.	Place of Birth
John Cowley	Head	mar.	54	Freehold Farmer 7 ac (2 men)	Isle of Man Lonan
Margaret Cowley	Wife	mar.	43		Onchan
John Cowley	Son	Un.	21		Lonan
Elinor Cowley	Dau		4		Lonan
Edward J. Cowley	Son		1		Lonan
Jane Kneale	Wifes Dau	Un.	18		Lonan
Isabella Kneale	Wifes Dau	Un.	14		Lonan
John Kneale	Servant	Un.	16	Farm Servant	Bride
Ann Stowell	Servant	Un.	34	House Maid	Lonan

The unexpected surprise was Jane Kneale's entry at the same household. According to the census, Jane Kneale was Margaret Cowley's daughter from another marriage.

Given that Jane Kneale's age was 18, it places her birth date in 1832 or 1833, depending on when the census was actually recorded. That corresponds with the birth date of John Cowley's wife Jane Kneale Cowley, who, as we know from the Laxey Cemetery burial list, was born in 1832. Hence, if this is the same Jane Kneale that John Cowley married in 1853, then he married his stepsister.

This would not have been an uncommon occurrence in a rural community, where the marriageable population was limited.

The other salient point to take away from this census is it notes that John Cowley's father had only 7 acres of land.

This was not an anomaly, for most other farms listed in that census were in the neighborhood of seven to fifteen acres. This, however, gives us a understanding why John Cowley and other Manx were migrating to America: they could increase their land holdings exponentially at a relatively low cost. It was no coincidence that John Cowley noted in his autobiography, that he "came to

*America, and to Wisconsin, in 1853, and, the following January, bought 100 acres; now owns 301 acres of land, with a fine house."*

## Third Surprise: Thomas Kermode

The last surprise in this research occurred at the Laxey Cemetery. One of the Cowley gravestones, a small obelisk, was used for four people: John J., Matilda and Clarice Cowley and Thomas Kermode. Thomas was listed as being 16 years old and died on February 16, 1873. He was the thirteen year old farm laborer listed in the 1870 census with the Cowley family. After searching the 1861 census of the Isle of Man, I was able to find a Thomas E. Kermode, age four, listed in the Parish of Lonan. His father was John, a farmer of 13 acres, and his mother was Ann. He had five other siblings.

This was probably the same Thomas Kermode who worked for John Cowley as a farm laborer. We will never know exactly how he came to Iowa County, Wisconsin, but he was the only Kermode in the 1870 census, indicating that he may have come over with a family friend.

From this distance, I was not able to connect Thomas Kermode with the Cowley family, but I have a hunch that he was related. In any event, the fact that John and Jane Cowley had Thomas Kermode's name carved on the gravestone of their children speaks volumes about the character of the Cowleys.

I hope that you enjoyed this story. There are many more just waiting to be discovered in the old, dusty ledgers located in the Southwest Wisconsin Room.

For more information on the new museum, NAMA Collection, or the Laxey Manx, please contact me:

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# Society News

## Chicago Manx Society

The Chicago Manx met on Sunday, March 25 at the home of the President, Robert Kelly in Rockford. We began with a lunch in Wesley Willows Retirement Home and then moved to Bob's home a block away where we had an enjoyable meeting.

We had a small turnout, but had a nice representation of Wisconsin Manx members.

Our next meeting will be Sunday, July 29 at the home of Florence Abbinanti in Evergreen Park.

We will hear about the plans for the 2008 Convention in Minneapolis, MN.

Robert Kelly, President.

## Cleveland Manx Society

The Cleveland Manx had their first meeting on Sunday March 18th at Houlihan's in Westlake. We discussed the programs that were planned for the rest of the year. We try to plan our events on the east & west side of Cleveland alternately since our members are so spread out.

In April we tried something different, breakfast at a Pancake House on the East side. In May we will be at Blake's Seafood Restaurant in Crocker Park. We are having a contest, asking the members to wear something Manx - pins, hat, scarf, jewelry, etc. There will be a prize for the person wearing the most items.

Alice Cannell

## San Diego County Manx Association

The San Diego County Manx Association held their February 11, 2007, meeting at the home of Brian and Hilary Harrison. Twenty members were in attendance. The meeting got under way with the playing of Ellan Vannin recorded by Robin Gibbs of the Bee-Gees.

Society President, Hilary Harrison, read a letter she had received from Manx resident John Quirk. John had visited San Diego in November 2005 to gather information for a book he is writing regarding the lives of Manx natives and descendants of Manxmen who had emigrated to North America, New Zealand and Australia. Whilst in San Diego he met with Brian and Hilary Harrison, Ernie and Gill Hughes, Devore and Ruth Smith and George Watterson.

Hilary indicated that she had talked to Eric and Helen Curphy of Costa Mesa, California. The Curphys are keeping well and Eric had recently celebrated his 80th birthday.

George Watterson received a greetings card from Malcolm and Joyce Kinley of Boise, Idaho. Malcolm and Joyce have made plans to travel to the Isle of Man on April 1st. They are both keeping well and looking forward to their summer on the Island.

Bob Wright, a volunteer with the San Diego Maritime Museum, provided news on upcoming Museum projects. The Museum is talking with the US Navy about obtaining the recently de-commissioned USS Dolphin, the last diesel powered submarine. The Dolphin was involved in an accident off the coast of San Diego several years ago, and the quick action of a crew member saved the submarine from sinking. If successful, the Museum will moor the Dolphin next to the Russian submarine currently moored adjacent to the Star of India.

Members planning vacations are: Lou & Faith Vick to Bulgaria, Bob & Joyce Wright to the English Lake District, Hilary & Brian Harrison to the Isle of Man and Ernie and Gill Hughes to England with a few days spent on the Isle of Man.

The Society received a letter from St. Paul's Cathedral of San Diego with an invitation to take part in their anniversary of the feast of St George to be held on May 6th. Preceding the evening service, Devore Smith will carry the Manx Flag in the procession along 5th and 6th Avenues.



# Society News

## Vancouver Manx Society

A new year brings thoughts of Manx get-togethers, seeing old and new friends, and catching up on all the news, but this year also brought sadness. Two of our old time members passed away, Isabel Gell and Mona Bohemier.

For many years, our society held a spring tea at the home of Dr. Gordon and Isabel Gell. Dr. Gordon passed away years ago and Isabel this January 30, 2007. It was Isabel's wish that the family have a remembrance tea, not a funeral. So on March 10, family and friends gathered to honour Isabel. Members of our society in attendance were Mary Cazalet, Dorrit Ilott, Nancy Rooney, Mona Witsten and Barbara Condon. There was "remember Isabel moments" and our Dorrit Ilott gave a very lovely tribute to Isabel.

On February 28, Mona Bohemier passed away in Lillooet, BC, where she had been living. So we hadn't had the pleasure of her company at our meetings for many years. Two years ago while on vacation, our Vice President, Angus Gillon, and his wife Judith, visited with Mona at her retirement home. Isabel Gell and Mona Bohemier were sisters-in-law.

I had the pleasure of a phone conversation with Maureen Stoodley of Victoria, a NAMA trustee. While we chatted, Maureen mentioned that when she and her husband retire, they may move to Anmore BC. Anmore is on the mainland of BC and not far from Vancouver. We look forward to having them as members of our Society.

Our first meeting of 2007 was held April 28. The day was warm and sunny, a welcome respite from rainy days. Our host and hostess, George and Dorrit Ilott had a Manx flag flying outside their home to greet us. After catching up on the news of our committee members, we got down to the business of the Society. We planned a picnic for July 21, the Back-End Do for fall on October 20, and a committee dinner for Tynwald Day, July 5. President Terry brought to the meeting an old ledger book of our society, dated 1930 to 1950. We can relate to some of these entries when planning the 100 year celebration. Also, Brian Ilott had been browsing through used book stores and found an 1896 Manx song book, containing music and English lyrics for many Manx songs. What a treasure to have.

Barbara Condon

## Washington DC Area Manx

Our 2007 annual business meeting was held at the Pier 7 Restaurant in Washington DC in conjunction with our annual spring dinner. Approximately 27 members were in attendance.

We elected our new Board who will hold these positions from April 2007 to April 2009.

President - Kelly McCarthy (kelly@mustgoto.com)  
Vice President - Don Quayle  
Secretary - Jim Kneale  
Treasurer - Cris Doria Warner  
Governor Emeritus - Avril Shipman  
Governor - Charles Christian (Immediate Past President)  
Governor - Brent Warner  
Governor - Harold Quayle  
Governor - Nicole Peterson  
Governor - Russ Cherry

Following the business portion of the meeting, our guest, Mr. Christopher Stott, presented a fascinating Powerpoint presentation regarding the Manx Space industry, which is now the second largest contributor to the Manx economy behind banking. Chris was born in Onchan, schooled in the UK, and is currently a professor of space law in Houston, Texas. He is also the Honorary Representative of the Isle of Man to the Space Community, and President of ManSat Ltd..

His talk was fantastic. Not only did he describe how the Manx Government is aiming to have every space satellite registered on the Manx Space Registry, but it wants each one to be financed, operated and insured through Manx companies. Apparently, the law governing a ship - space or otherwise - is that of the country where it is registered. So, if we ever make it to "the final frontier", we may all live under Manx law. (Let's hear it for a Convention with the Mars Manx in 2080!).

Chris is also president of a company that is retro-fitting a Soviet spaceship to go into space. (By the way, his wife is a NASA astronaut.) Chris also took the opportunity to elaborate on the high standard of Manx education. ManSat Ltd is strongly committed to the support of space education on the Isle of Man.

# Societies and other notes

They offer two annual summer scholarship programs to Manx students: the International Space School Scholarship, a scholarship for Isle of Man sixth form students to attend NASA's International Space School in Houston, Texas for a month long summer study program; and the ManSat Fellowship for Further Education, open to all Isle of Man students currently attending any institution of higher education. Manx students consistently out-perform students from other countries, despite coming from such a small country, something the Manx people should allow themselves to be proud of. The evening ended with a raffle for a Manx teddy bear and two Manx mugs.

Kelly

## Wisconsin Manx Association

The most recent meeting of the Wisconsin Manx was a sad occasion due to the recent death of Mel Lindauer (reported in the previous edition of the Bulletin). It is always difficult when we lose a longstanding member and a good friend.

Our next meeting is on October 21st in Madison, Wisconsin, and all are welcome to attend. You do so at your own peril, however, since the meeting will feature a presentation by Andrew Ravenscroft on the Folklore of the Isle of Man. All sorts of mythical creatures including the Buggane, the Moddey Dhoo and possibly even a Taroo Ushtey will be in attendance. Further details are available on the Association website (<http://www.geocities.com/wisconsinmanx/>) or by contacting Andrew at the address on page three of this Bulletin.

## In Memoriam

Mona Haldeman passed away Wednesday, May 16, 2007. Mona was a past President of NAMA and Treasurer of the Cleveland Manx Society for many years. She held the position of Hon. Vice President of NAMA for many years as well.

Mona and her husband Ray rarely missed a meeting. From the music selected for her funeral it was evident she took pride in her Manx heritage. Mona and Ray were married for 59 years. They have a son, two daughters and seven grandchildren. She most certainly will be missed.

Alice Cannell

## Chaplain's Corner

This Summer Matthew Glenn Billman, my fourteen-year-old Manx-descendent grandson will travel to Sydney Australia to perform with the 40 members of the Minnesota Boychoir. I expect there will be immigrants from the Isle of Mann who will come to hear their concerts.

Matthew has been singing with the Minnesota Boychoir since since 2005 when his family moved to Minnetonka in 2004. He can share with us his experiences down under at our Convention at Minneapolis, Matthew's home town, July 31 to August 3, 2008.

Rev. Devore Craine Smith

## Old Manx books

Greetings from the Isle of Man.

Just a quick note to let NAMA members know that I am disposing of my very large collection of second hand and antiquarian books about the Isle of Man. It took me many years to build up my library of Manx books, but now at my age, I have decided, rather reluctantly, to seek out good homes for my books where they will be loved and appreciated by someone else.

The most efficient way that I have found is to put them up for sale individually on Ebay. If any members of your society are collectors of Manx books they can check out my listings. My Ebay name is manxbooks.

Alternatively if anyone is looking for any particular old Manx books they are welcome to contact me direct at [oldmanxbooks@manx.net](mailto:oldmanxbooks@manx.net)

It is not often that a large collection such as mine becomes available for purchase, and I hope it proves of interest to the members of NAMA.

Best wishes,

Dave Wilson.

# More NAMA Notes

## NAMA Opportunities

NAMA has some wonderful opportunities for you to be of service to your fellow Manx. Our Secretary, Joan Gill, has announced that she thinks it is time for someone else to have a chance at the job. The NAMA amanuensis attends all Executive Board meetings and General Membership meetings, recording the minutes and keeping everyone informed. You also get to maintain the organization's correspondence and file its records, while serving as a regular NAMA Board member.

For this you will receive a \$300 yearly honorarium and receive a transportation reimbursement for travel (less \$100) for non-Convention meetings. NAMA is also always on the lookout for eager candidates to fill such positions as Vice-President or Trustee. Such positions too will receive the travel reimbursement. If you would like to do your part to support NAMA, please contact:

Jack Cormode (650) 961-6117 jarmode@yahoo.com  
Norm Standish (815) 493-2307 standish@aeroinc.net  
Brad Prendergast (312) 755-1000 beeves@juno.com

Don't forget that your local Society could utilize your talents. Get in contact and find out how!

### NAMA Membership Enrollment Form

Promote and Protect our Manx Heritage

Please print your information and mail with your check to John Prendergast at the address below

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse \_\_\_\_\_  
Street \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Prov \_\_\_\_\_ Zip/PC \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

Individual Membership	Dues	Amount
Annual.....	\$ 15	_____
<b>Life</b>		
Under age 50.....	\$250	_____
Age 50 to 59.....	\$175	_____
Age 60 and over.....	\$125	_____
Junior (age 1-18 years, no bulletin).....	\$ 2	_____

Family Membership	Dues	Amount
Annual.....	\$ 20	_____
<b>Life</b> (2 adults, based on age of youngest)		
Under age 50.....	\$325	_____
Age 50 to 59.....	\$235	_____
Age 60 and over.....	\$200	_____

**Total remittance** in US dollars or equivalent amount \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

# NAMA Board in Minneapolis



The NAMA Board met at the site of the 2008 Convention to get a feel for the facilities. With all of the Manx regalia that was on display, I'm sure they'll remember us when the Manx arrive in force next summer.

The Board reviewed a wide range of issues as well as the arrangements for the Convention. Perhaps the most important issue that was discussed was the question of how NAMA can increase membership and participation as it works to fulfil its role of preserving Manx heritage in North America. Some recent initiatives - the revitalization of the NAMA website and the establishment of a Manx presence in the Luce Center Museum - present opportunities for the Association to reinforce its value to those of Manx descent living in North America. Laurence Skelly's article in this issue speaks to the ongoing need to reach out to the "Manx Million" that came to these shores.

The upcoming Convention will provide an ideal opportunity not only to celebrate Manx culture, but to discuss amongst ourselves how we can do that in a way that keeps the culture alive and thriving on this great continent. The next issue of the Bulletin, in October, will provide more information on the Convention and how to reserve rooms, so look out for it and join us in Minnesota next year.

## KIDS RULE! at Minnesota NAMA

Calling all Manx kids and their friends to the **North American Association Convention** in Bloomington, Minnesota on Friday, August 1st through Sunday, August 3rd, 2008!

Come chill at the pool, listen to great music, and shop at the Manx sale table. If you arrive early, we'll have a pizza party, decorate our special room at pool side, and dance to CD's mixed by our very own Manx girl, "DJ" Dahlquist.

Other great Manx activities will include making IOM maps and sashes, tie-dying t-shirts, and building family trees. You will hear stories of the history of Manx swords and the Isle of Man. We'll even kick back and watch a Manx movie, and better yet, make our own movie at the convention. Are you ready to have a GREAT time?

Don't miss meeting some real live Manxmen, Eddie Lowey, Minister of Education and Laurence Skelly, President of NAMA. Enjoy the special dances of *Traed y Ddraig*, the Minnesota Welsh group; see the cool exhibit

"Manx Rule! From Isle of Man to Minnesota", and hear the Manx singing presentation by "Good Show Productions!"

We plan to play Manx bingo, take an IOM quiz, help distribute Manx raffle items, and win some fantastic prizes. Also, don't forget to tell your parents you want to go to the Mall of America with its amusement park. It's a blast!

Kali Dahlquist and Jean Lavelle of the Minnesota Manx Kids Committee are waiting to hear from you. Send an email to [sdahlqu@inverhills.edu](mailto:sdahlqu@inverhills.edu), tell us you're attending, and give us your ideas of what to do at the convention. Let's make it "**Great in '08!**"

P.S. Watch for details about our NAMA Convention hotel registration in our fall bulletin!

Sally Dahlquist  
1st VP NAMA