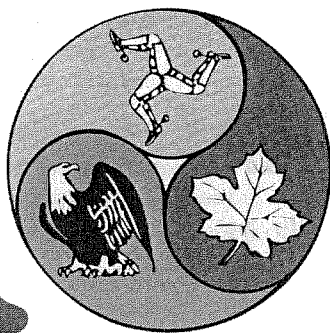


NAMA



NORTH AMERICAN MANX ASSOCIATION

Vol. 78, No. 3 To Preserve "Whate'er is left to us of ancient heritage." T.E. Brown

Winter 2007

Isle of Man Tourism advertising rated among best in the UK



The Department of Tourism and Leisure on the Isle of Man is celebrating after having been nominated for an award for two best poster adverts and best poster campaign in the Travel Advertising Awards 2007.

This prestigious award is judged by some of the leading lights of the travel and marketing industries, and the competition is tough. The Isle of Man Department of Tourism and Leisure was short listed out of numerous nominations.

Director of Tourism Geoff Le Page said: 'Although the Isle of Man was unsuccessful in winning a prize on this occasion, I am delighted, and it is indeed a great honour, that the Department of Tourism and Leisure was nominated for a top award in the Travel Advertising Awards 2007. It's all credit to the Tourism Division's hard working team who put in long hours designing and preparing the adverts.'

The event is known as the top awards ceremony in the UK travel advertising calendar and is designed to recognise the best creative work in the travel industry.



NAMA has a new website! www.northamericanmanx.org

NAMA is pleased to announce the launch of our new website.

This exciting development not only provides a new place for NAMA members to keep in touch and to discuss our common heritage, but it also provides a hosting site for the web sites of NAMA member societies who want to take advantage of it.

See page 4 for the full story!

"Great in '08" hotel reservations now available

The NAMA Convention approaches, and in this issue we have details on how to make your booking for accommodations at the Convention Hotel.

The Minnesota Manx have arranged a great deal at a super hotel on the south side of the Twin Cities. For prices and booking information, see the back page.

NAMA Notes

NAMA President's Message

Early Seasonal Greetings from *Purt Le Moirrey* (Port St Mary)!!

The North American Manx Association has reached a technical milestone in as much we now have our very own website: www.northamericanmanx.org Our thanks go to committee members Kelly McCarthy and Andrew Ravenscroft to helping this become a reality. Jim Kneale from the Washington Manx Society is our webmaster and has done us proud. There is a wealth of information on the site with some excellent links to other Manx related websites including an interactive site for learning Manx language.

All local societies are welcome to add their information or link their own sites. Its very important we use this facility to promote our association and communicate with each other. Kelly McCarthy has set-up a blog (online journal) where members may post information of interest. Please take some time to review the website and let us know your comments. Good websites continually evolve and your input is valuable.

Membership is an issue both nationally and locally where we all seem to suffer. And the biggest issue is gaining youthful members. Making contact via this modern medium will help us in looking for Manx immigrants and descendants or those who just have an interest in the Isle of Man.

Hopefully the website will encourage them to contact and learn about the benefits of our association and local societies. The interest can be genealogy, heritage or perhaps an interesting place to visit on vacation. Adding more information/content to the website will help us build our online presence and move up the search engine position. That in turn will allow people to find our website and ultimately learn about NAMA.

One of the biggest ways that potential members will find us is via an online genealogy search and its something we must consider as to how we can entice membership. I know learning about the family's past is extremely fascinating.

My own father did our family tree and traced us back to Ireland before the Isle of Man in the 15th Century and found that the Skelly name has its origins in story tellers!! Could explain a few things!

A few weeks ago I met a couple visiting the Island from Vancouver who told me that their local society is quite strong in terms of members but they were unsure how many if any were members of NAMA. This is an interesting point as I feel there are many other local society members likeso. We need to consider how one can become a member of the NAMA as well as a local society. I welcome comments and will open a blog on the website to discuss views.

The Isle of Man national advertising strap-line is Freedom to Flourish. The term is put into a promise "The Isle of Man is a land of possibility where people and business will find the right environment in which to reach their full potential, whatever that might be".

The government encourages private business and associations to use this term as a positive message about the Island's benefits. I wonder how we can use this term to help our association and understand the benefits to members. We welcome comments via the website blog.

2008 is now looming and the "Great in 08" convention in Minneapolis will here before we know it. I encourage all to contact Sally and her team to enquire about the exciting programme and get your place booked. We have a limited number of rooms on allocation so please don't do a Manx "*traa dy liooar*" (time enough) and book too late! Remember bring the children and grandchildren. Sally has organised a brilliant young Manx programme for them too.

The Manx Youth Award will be due again and its time to consider nominations. Please contact Mary Kelly about this fabulous award donated by the Department of Education on the Island. They wish to support North American Manx youth to learn and understand about their heritage. The award is presented to a new winner each convention.

We hope to see some of the previous winners of this award at the convention and look forward to welcoming new North American Manx youngsters.

Best Regards,

Laurence Skelly
President

NAMA Notes

Former Bulletin Editor celebrates 95th birthday

We received news of the family of Hilda Penrice. As well as being very active in the Toronto Manx Society, Hilda was Editor of the NAMA Bulletin from 1972 to 1986, and was secretary of the Association prior to that. Her late husband, Sam, was President of NAMA during the 70's. Her daughter, Jean, writes to let us know that Hilda celebrated her 95th birthday party in Georgetown on Nov. 18.

As you can see from the reports below, the Penrices have not only been busy adding new little members to NAMA, but they've been taking them back to the Isle of Man too!

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT - IT'S A GIRL

Mrs. Hilda Penrice of Georgetown, Ontario is thrilled to announce the safe arrival of her 7th Great Grandchild, a little girl, Sarah Jane, born August 28, 2007 at Joseph Brant Memorial Hospital. Proud Parents are Denise (Glass) and Brian Sorensen, Burlington. Sarah joins Hilda's other Great Grandchildren, Rachele and Ryley Harris of Georgetown and Lindsey and Brian Mortimer and Carter and Emma Sorensen of Burlington.

VISITING THE ISLE OF MAN

Doug and Dianne Penrice, along with grandson Ryley Harris, of Georgetown, Ontario, recently visited England and the Isle of Man. Doug is the son of Hilda Penrice and the late Sam Penrice who emigrated from the Isle of Man in 1947 to Canada. Doug and family had a great time visiting relatives in Yorkshire, Dorset and then over to the Isle of Man. While the weather was somewhat dismal they really enjoyed visiting Ramsey, Peel and Sulby Glen, where Hilda and Sam used to live.

Some weeks later, Hilda's daughter, Jean along with her husband Ron Glass of Burlington also made the trip back home. The occasion was the 60th wedding anniversary of Harry and Nancy Penrice (formerly from Sulby Glen) now living in Mirfield, Yorkshire. After visiting relatives in England, Jean and Ron spent a week in Douglas, under sunny skies and had great visits to Ramsey, Peel and Sulby Glen, where Jean had lived as a little girl.

Notes from the Editor

The advent of the new NAMA website is an opportunity for increasing the communication among our membership, and a means of attracting new members to the Association.

While the NAMA Bulletin offers one avenue for us to keep in touch across the miles and the years, the website offers some unique opportunities. In particular, it offers the opportunity of an on-line meeting place, and the benefits of immediate communication of events and matters of interest to the NAMA membership, and I hope everyone will stop by and make good use of it.

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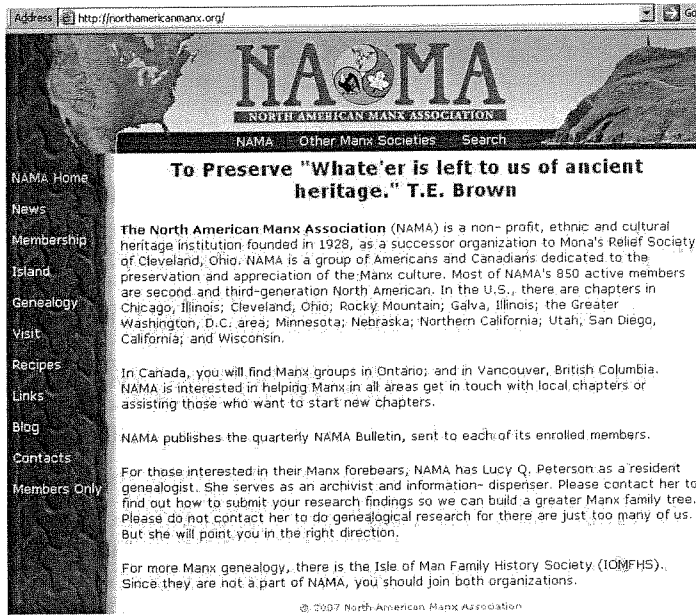
Jodey Morey
Mount Horeb, WI

Secretary

Joan Gill

New NAMA Website

New North American Manx Association Website



In an effort to increase our profile to the wider world and attract new members, we have launched a new website. It can be reached by typing northamericanmanx.org into the address of your web browser (Internet Explorer or Firefox, for example).

This replaces our old website at isleofman.com. They hosted the website for a number of years, but it was difficult to keep updated and add content to. They will be continuing to host the Isle of Man Family History society website and genealogy bulletin board at <http://www.isle-of-man.com/interests/genealogy/fhs/>.

The new website includes a lot of new content when you click on the following links:

- Other Manx Societies - Displays links to other Manx societies in North America and around the world. Includes accurate links to all that we have been able to find, and will be updated as our member organizations get online (see below).
- Search - Searches the publicly available content on northamericanmanx.org. This includes any regional websites that we host.
- News - Recent activities, pictures of events, and upcoming events.
- Membership - Membership form to print and mail, with an online version coming soon.
- Island - Introduces the Isle of Man to visitors to our site
- Genealogy - Listing of Manx surnames, including

links to name-specific websites. If you know of any more, I would be happy to add them.

- Visit - Helpful tips about travel to the Isle of Man.
- Recipes - Collections of recipes for traditional Manx foods.
- Links - A large categorized listing of links of interest to our members.
- Blog - North American Manx Association weblog
- Contacts - contact information, similar to the listing found in this newsletter
- Members Only - A password protected area that is only for our members. Currently this contains a listing of our archive collection, previous newsletters, and any other information that we wish to share, but not with the general public. When you click on this link, you will be prompted for a user name and password.

The password will be the first two words of the latest NAMA newsletter. The first article of the Summer 2007 newsletter started with "Manx Collection to be...", so enter "Manx" for the user name and "Collection" for the password.

New [your organization here] Manx Society Website

Would your local manx society like to have their own website? Part of the package with our internet hosting company is a massive amount of storage space for webpages. The Galva Manx Association now has a website at northamericanmanx.org/galva/. The San Diego County Manx Society webpage is currently under construction.

If you provide the information, I can create a simple webpage for your organization similar to ours. If one of your members is interested in expanding or updating it, I can provide an account and password for that purpose. It doesn't require any special computer software, and can be relatively easy if you don't change the general format. In addition, if you would like to move your website from geocities.com, you won't have to show their annoying advertising.

If interested, contact me:

Jim Kneale Jr.
Webmaster
(410) 531-6685
jkneale@comcast.net

Literary Corner

A Manx Christmas

It can be a nice touch, and a reminder of your heritage, to add a Manx greeting to the cards you send out this holiday season. Adrian Cain, the Manx Language Officer for the Manx Heritage Foundation, sent us some interesting phrases that you might want to consider, and these are printed below.

For the more ambitious among us, the Foundation's website at www.learnmanx.com is an outstanding resource, providing all sorts of help in learning Manx, including interactive games, tools and Manx stories.

Seasonal Manx expressions

Bannaghtyn y Nollick

Seasonal Greetings

Nollick Ghennal

Happy Christmas

Nollick Ghennal as Blein Vie Noa

Happy Christmas and a Good New Year

Bannaghtyn

Blessings/greetings

Lesh yeearreeyn share

With best wishes

Lesh yeearreeyn share son y Nollick as y Vlein Noa

With best wishes for Christmas and the New Year

Lesh yeearreeyn share ec yn imbagh casherick shoh

With best wishes at this holy Season

Shee as Boggey erriu

Peace and Joy to you

Lesh Shee as Graih

With peace and love

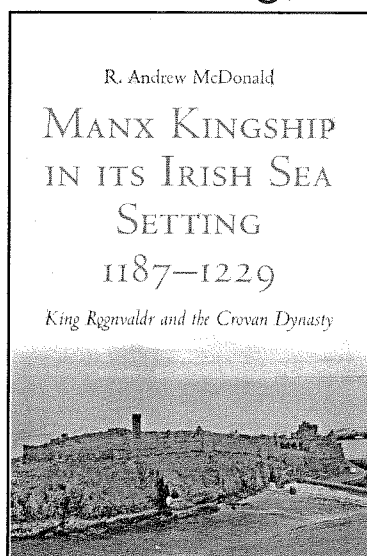
Hee'm oo 'sy vlein noa

See you in the New Year

Shee erriu car ny bleaney shoh cheet

Peace to you throughout the coming year

Manx Kingship in its Irish Sea Setting, 1187–1229



King
Rognvaldr and
the Crovan
dynasty

By R Andrew
McDonald

For over forty years King Ragnvald Godredsson of Man and the Isles (r. 1187–1226) was a power to be reckoned with in the seas between Britain and Ireland. Praised by Irish bards and Icelandic saga-men as a great warrior, Ragnvald was also a devout Christian prince who patronized religious houses round the shores of the Irish Sea and maintained diplomatic relations with the rulers of surrounding lands and beyond. Despite his contemporary stature, Ragnvald and his dynasty have been largely ignored by modern historians.

This book explores Ragnvald's reign within the framework of the dynasty to which he belonged (the Crovan dynasty) and the ultra-competitive arena of the Irish Sea basin in the decades around 1200. It explores kinship, marriage, succession, military power, foreign relations and religious patronage, and concludes with a detailed analysis of late Norse Manx kingship within a broader British context.

The book will be launched in the Manx Museum in the Manx National Heritage on Friday 14th December. The event will start at 7.30pm and will feature an introduction from Manx National Heritage, and a 20 minute talk by the author on his book.

The book is available to buy online at www.fourcourtspress.ie and there is a 10% discount for online purchasers.

Catalogue Price: €55

Web Price: €49.50

Literary Corner

The Manx Connection

John Quirk is a Manx writer who recently traveled around the world visiting Manx societies overseas, including NAMA member societies. His book, 'The Manx Connection', recounts his experiences among the Manx abroad and it has just been published. We caught up with John as the final draft of his manuscript went to the publisher, just before he rushed off to marry his fiancée Emma, and asked him a few questions about why he undertook his journey and what he found along the way. For space reasons, this article is an edited version of the interview. Read the full interview at the NAMA website: www.northamericanmanx.org.

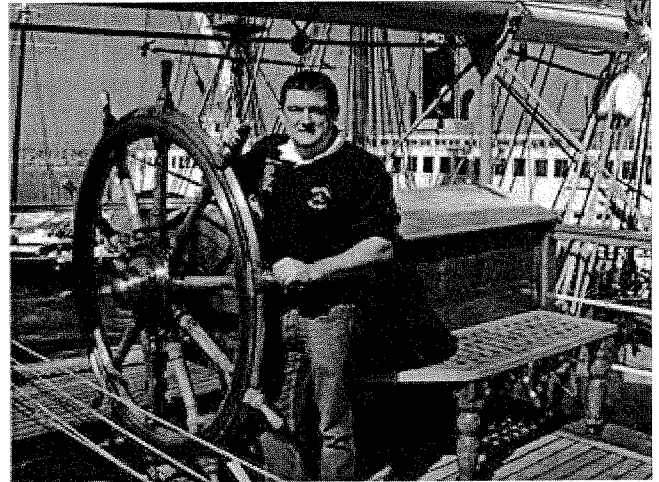
Tell us about your book – where did the idea come from to write a book about the Manx overseas?

In spring 2003, I was lucky enough to interview two writers for the Isle of Man Examiner. The first was John Connolly, an Irish author who writes dark thrillers with a hint of the supernatural, who I'd been a huge fan of since his first novel, *Every Dead Thing*, was published in 1999. The second was Pete McCarthy, author of *McCarthy's Bar* and *The Road to McCarthy*, two humorous travel books. The first saw him travel around Ireland, sticking to the old adage that you should never pass a pub with your name above it, while the second saw him travel the world looking for the 'original McCarthy'.

I'd been a journalist for several years and had dabbled, in my spare time, with fiction ideas, starting several novels and scripts, but without ever really having the courage of my convictions to see something through to the end. There was also an element of self-doubt, a fear that what I was writing wasn't up to scratch.

Meeting John Connolly gave me the inspiration I needed. He told me that if I wanted something badly enough, then I had to work bloody hard at it, and it would come. The idea for *The Manx Connection* came after meeting Pete, who sadly died from cancer fifteen months later, just about at the time when I was planning my trip to the US.

I'd been interested in trying my hand at some travel writing, but obviously work commitments (and limited annual leave) made that difficult. I asked Pete what his family thought of his travelling, being away for long periods at a time. He smiled, and said: 'I cheat.'



The author aboard *The Star Of India*, San Diego

He explained that he did the travelling in small doses - he'd head off to Africa for a few weeks, then return home for a month or two, then head to Canada, then back home... and so on.

It planted a seed in my mind, that perhaps I could do something similar. All I needed was the basic idea, which popped into my head about six months later. I'd been racking my brains trying to think of something that was unique, something that would sell to a Manx market, as I thought I would have a better chance of interesting a local publisher than aiming for one of the big names in the UK. Then, one night, I was thinking about the *Road to McCarthy* and Pete's search for McCarthy's around the world. I thought about doing something similar, for Quirks, and then it just arrived - that light bulb moment when I thought, forget about 'just the Quirks', how about all the Manx around the world...?

What were the common threads that you found among the Manx Associations that you visited?

Obviously, the thread that links them all is a love of all things Manx. There is real pride there, both in those who are Manx-born and had emigrated, and those who are third or fourth generation American, Australian or whatever.

Whilst there is an interest in current events in the Isle of Man, the real desire is for history, with culture a close second. It was mentioned on a few occasions that one of the reasons that those of Manx descent might have such a strong interest is that the Island's history dates back farther than that of the likes of, for example, the US or Australia, and that perhaps they feel a need to delve deeper than just the last few hundred years.

Literary Corner

You've traveled a lot, and your biography on your website says that you returned to the island in 1996 only planning to stay for a year. What changed that?

Why aren't you part of the overseas Manx Connection?

Now that's a tough one to answer. When I returned in 1996, it was intended to be for a year or so, just to find my feet and decide what I wanted to do with my life. But circumstance often takes over - I started to make good progress at Isle of Man Newspapers, at certain times I was in relationships, I realized I had a fantastic group of friends, not to mention strong family ties... and, as it happens, before you know it, one year has turned into five, and five into ten.

When planning the Manx Connection, I had intended that, on my return and completion of the book, I would look to travel extensively and, hopefully, move on. However, whilst in Dubai, I met a young lady called Emma, who was originally from London, and who I stayed in touch with. We met up several times in the months that followed and in September 2005 she moved to the Island - and by the time you're reading this, we will have been married and on our honeymoon...

We both love traveling, but as Emma's young son, Ryan, has just started school here, it seems the Island will be our home. At least for a little while...!

If you were to live somewhere other than the Isle of Man, where would you most like to live, and why?

I have a problem deciding which is my favourite place in the Isle of Man, so I've no chance of picking a favourite place to live around the world! The best I can do, I think, is to pick a few places in the countries that I visited.

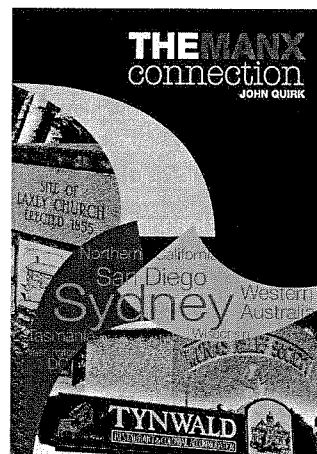
In the US, I'm spoilt for choice. Some places I felt more drawn to than others, mainly because I saw more of the city, town or area. However, if I had to choose, I think it would be a toss of the coin between California (San Francisco or San Diego, either would do) or Minnesota. That said, and I know this might not find favour with some, but I loved the five days I spent in New York on a previous trip, and would quite gladly put up with an apartment in Manhattan. That said, I found Washington DC fascinating. You see the problem I have...?

Now that the Manx Connection is published, what's next for you?

I've several projects to launch into. The first is another non-fiction book. It's the life story of The Manx Giant, Arthur Caley, who ended up in the US working for Barnum's circus. Also, Emma and I have started a sideline business, Nemesis Publishing, and will be bringing out a biannual anthology called Vertigo featuring 'dark, edgy' fiction [from Manx writers], with each story around the 5,000-word mark.

However, my main focus over the next year will be progressing the several fiction projects that I have at various stages of development. There are two 'young adult' novels - aimed at teens but with a crossover (hopefully) to adult readers. Then it will be a case of submitting to agents in the UK in the hope of landing a publishing deal, but I'm realistic enough to know that there are thousands of 'would-be' authors out there living the same dream, so it's a longshot.

Still, if you don't try, you never know what you can do...



The Manx Connection is available to NAMA members for a special price of **£7.50**, a 25% discount off the retail price of £9.99.

Airmail shipping to the USA is £6.80, making a total cost of £14.30.

You may pay by Mastercard/Visa, or cash/currency orders in US dollars. To order the book, please contact The Manx Experience at the address below. When ordering, please be sure to identify yourself as a NAMA member.

The Manx Experience, 24 Sunnybank Avenue,
Birch Hill, Onchan, Isle of Man IM3 3BW, British Isles
e-mail - mail@manxexperience.co.uk
tel - 00 44 1624 627727 fax - 00 44 1624 663627

Visit John's website: www.manxconnection.com/

Society News

Chicago Manx Society

The Chicago Manx had a booth at the Chicago Celtic Fest in Grant Park. It was scheduled for two days (Saturday & Sunday) and the weather was wonderful for both days. Brad, John Wier, Rich and MaryLee Corrin, and myself set up the booth. After the booth was set up the visitor started to come to the booth as the name Isle of Man is so unusual. Also the pictures and magazines we have of the famous Manx cat really draws attention.

In the afternoon Lynell Cannell came to man the booth. It was lots of fun and we had some good laughs. On Sunday, John and Brad and myself again set up the booth, as you have to take it apart in the evening, but it was not so hard as we left the ropes and clips hanging in the booth and also the table skirts were left on. Sam and Sandra Slocum arrived at the booth about noon on Sunday, and they were very good about answering all the questions that the visitors had. During the afternoon we were able to see some of the other activities that were presented: sheep herding, pole throwing, telephone pole hurling and lots of dancing.

Florence Abbinanti

Manx Society of Minnesota

Our group has been busy making plans for the "It will be great in 08" NAMA Convention. There have been several small group meetings to discuss various aspects of the convention. Plans are coming along nicely. The schedules of events for both adults and youths are set.

Both look very interesting and exciting and details will be in a future NAMA Bulletin. Menus for the events have been selected and in many instances members will have a choice of what to eat. The Sales Table will have a nice selection of Manx items. We already have some splendid items for the raffle. It looks great.

The Society did have a general meeting on September 16th at the home of Norm and Joan Gill. It started with lots of good conversation, especially about things Manx.

We enjoyed a delicious pot luck dinner. The business meeting was generally about the upcoming convention. Lots of good ideas were shared. The evening ended with a silent auction of Manx memorabilia as a fund raiser for our convention fund.

Joan Gill

Nicaraguan Manx

We now have a "Nicaraguan Manx" presence in Managua, Central America, aka Alixe Cannell Huete, and family: Dr. Jorge A. Huete, and their son, Gabriel Huete-Cannell. Alixe is Marshall and Tina Cannell's youngest daughter, and all of them fiercely proud of the Manx connection, and very happy to have been to the 2000 Convention on the Isle.

In Latin American countries, one's last name includes one's mother's maiden name, always after the father's name...therefore, Gabriel Huete-Cannell. And it is hyphenated to avoid confusion in the US. In the Latin Countries it is not hyphenated.

Vancouver Manx Society

On June 16th last, the first meeting was held to discuss ideas on how to celebrate our society's 100th birthday next year.

Since this time, the Centennial Committee has decided on a date – Tynwald Day, July 5th, 2008, booked a hall and put together an invitation form which will be mailed to our members in the New Year.

The next meeting of this committee will be in October at which time we shall know of further plans for this event.

On Tynwald Day, as in every year, our committee celebrated the day with a dinner together. On July 14th the Christian clan reunion drew 150 guests.

President Terry and Secretary Barbara were representatives of our Society. Terry gave the blessing at dinner and extended an invitation to everyone to help us celebrate our coming 100th on July 5th, 2008. Terry and Barbara met quite a few of our Society's "out of town" (Christian) members. It was nice to "put faces to the names" on our list.

Some of the ladies that made this reunion a successful reality are Mary Cazalet, Barbara Claridge, Noreen Roud, Josie Holmes and Linda Thorpe. They are also members of the Vancouver Manx. At the end of my report is a poem that was written by Josie Holmes, honoring Charles and Margaret Christian from Peel, the patriarchs of the Christian clan.

Society News

July 21st. was our annual picnic day. The overcast weather didn't deter twenty five brave souls from attending. Vice President Angus set up umbrellas over the tables for protection from the elements. The back yard of Angus (Jnr.) and Anneve Gillons' is a great place for a picnic. We enjoyed a menu of burgers, hot dogs and yummy desserts. We had lots of fun just talking, eating and watching the childrens' games run by Kevin Gillon – and it didn't start to rain until we were packing up to go home!

On August 10th, committee members Terry, Angus, Judith, Mona and Barbara met and had dinner in Vancouver with Washington D.C. President Kelly Mc Carthy and her great family.

After dinner we gathered in their hotel suite to enjoy Dollin Kelly's reciting from his extensive knowledge of the works of poet T.E.Brown. September 22nd. marked the final committee meeting for this year. We reviewed what we had done this year, discussed plans for setting up our own website and for our "Back End Do" on October 20th.

Barbara Condon

In Memory of Charles and Margaret Christian

Over one hundred years ago this all began
When our ancestors left the Isle of Mann
The Father and his eldest sons
Had come to a country that had just begun
To open up some new frontiers
To hardy folks who had no fears
Of leaving behind their native land
To face the prairies, wide and grand.
Clearing trees and working the soil
And building a home took a lot of toil
And blood and sweat and ups and downs
To help establish brand new towns.
And when their house was nearly fit
The rest of the family took the next ship.
The Mom and eight children made their ways
Across an ocean for seven days.
It must have been a trying trip
To watch that her children did not slip
Beyond her sight and out of her hands
Until they touched on good dry lands.

They then began a trip by train
For miles and miles, past fields of grain
And lakes and forests, towns and mills
To a place not know for its hills
To settle in a log built shack
And then there was no looking back
To all the things they once had known
When they made Vermillion their new home.
It's thanks to them that we all live here
In a land that we hold very dear
To all our hearts, this Canada west
Which surely is the very best.
We owe you a lot you adventurous pair
For carrying on through joy and despair
Leaving a legacy for the Christian clan
Who have their roots in the Isle of Mann.

Wisconsin Manx Society

The Wisconsin Manx Society met on October 21st for our fall get together. As usual, there was a good turnout by members and we enjoyed the opportunity to catch up and swap stories.

We were especially pleased that Sally Dahlquist was able to come over from Minnesota to attend the meeting and talk to us about the arrangements for the upcoming Convention. With the Twin Cities being a relatively short drive from southern Wisconsin, we hope that many of our members will take the opportunity to attend the Convention next year.

The program for the meeting was appropriately themed, with Halloween just ten days away, featuring a talk by Andrew Ravenscroft on 'Folk Tales of the Isle of Man'.

The presentation covered the tradition of storytelling on the Island, and featured readings from a variety of stories, including The Buggane of St Trinians, The Cormorant and the Bat, and of course The Moddey Dhoo of Peel Castle.

A copy of the handout that was prepared for the presentation is available from the WMS website at: www.geocities.com/wisconsinmanx/folktales.doc

The Wisconsin Manx meet again in April 2008.

Societies and other notes

Chaplain's Corner

On September 26th, 2007, my sister Mona passed from our Manx family which was established by our grandfather, Reverend John Caley Craine, born (1866) and raised in Sulby, Isle of Man.

He emigrated to America by steamship in 1888 at the age of 21 and settled in Illinois where he entered college and seminary to become a Methodist minister and served churches in Illinois. His three children he gave Manx names: Sulby Devore, Janet Lezayre, and MONA Elizabeth, our mother, after the name given their island home by the ancient Romans. In turn, my mother named her third of seven children MONA.

She so loved her Manx heritage that she helped make it possible for 26 of Grandfather Craine's descendants and families to attend the Douglas, Isle of Man, NAMA Convention and enabled them to visit in the house (Cooil Bayne) at Sulby where our Manx family started.

Rev. Devore Smith

Considering a charitable donation to NAMA?

If you were thinking about making any charitable contributions this year, please consider NAMA as a possible recipient of your generosity.

The North American Manx Association has been the beneficiary of a significant contribution as a result of the changes to the US tax laws which will enable us to continue the organization in a strong, stable manner. If you are interested in making such a contribution, this is the best time to do so under the present law. Only this year, ending December 31, 2007, individuals may make contributions to recognized charitable organizations (approved under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code), and may give contributions that would have normally exceeded the limits previously imposed.

This power was part of the Pension Protection Act of 2006, and enables a donor to give both principal and interest from an IRA or from a Roth IRA, not to exceed \$100,000 per spouse for 2007. If you plan to give funds to NAMA under this law, you must tell your IRA trustee that you want the funds to be paid directly from the IRA to NAMA, and not to you. The fund trustee will make

the withdrawal at your direction and send the check directly to the Treasurer. Any such donation must be completed before the end of the year. This donation does not result in any taxable income to the donor for withdrawing the money.

Any such donations should be sent to the Treasurer, John Prendergast, at 10251 S. Bell, Chicago, IL 60643. The NAMA is a recognized charitable organization under the IRS rules, and qualifies for such donations. Any donation made will be put towards preserving our ancient heritage. Your tax advisor can assist you, or you can contact our immediate past president, Brad Prendergast, for further information.

Brad Prendergast can be reached at his office (312-755-1000) or by email (beeves@juno.com) for further information.

The Chronicles of Mann

The Manx newspapers have launched a campaign to return the Chronicles of Mann to the Isle of Man on a permanent basis. The story, from their website, is as follows.

The Chronicles, described by many as the most important document in Manx history, are currently the centrepiece of an exhibition at the Manx Museum.

But they are only in the Island on loan and are due to go back in December.

They are owned by the British Library, although it is not fully clear how they first fell into British possession.

The Chronicles are the oldest written record of the Island's Norse-Gaelic period from 1000AD to 1316.

They are believed to have been compiled by monks at Rushen Abbey and it is thought they fell into private hands after Rushen Abbey was dissolved in 1540, during the reign of Henry VIII.

iomtoday.co.im, in conjunction with the Isle of Man Examiner, is looking for support for their campaign for the return of the Chronicles to the Isle of Man on a permanent basis.

To join the campaign, you can email your support to: newsviews@newsiom.co.im, stating you would like to see the return of the Chronicles of Mann to the Isle of Man on a permanent basis.

More NAMA Notes

Researcher seeks help

My name is Peadar O Muircheartaigh and I am the Government of Ireland Scholar at the Keough-Naughton Institute of Irish Studies, University of Notre Dame. My academic interest is in the Gaelic language(s) of Ireland, Scotland and Mann. The recent resurgence of Manx Gaelic in Mann means that more notice is being taken of the language in serious academic circles. One area of research which has been forgotten about however is the fate of the Manx language in North America.

I am undertaking research into the Manx language community in North America. I wish to find out the extent to which Manx was a community/family language for those Manxmen who migrated to America over the years. Much research has been done on Irish and Scottish Gaelic communities in America; little interest however has been taken in Manx Gaelic communities in the US and specifically in Ohio. I would be most grateful for any information regarding the Manx language your members may have. This includes attitudes towards the language held by Manx migrants either positive or negative. I must stress that any information would be greatly appreciated.

Peadar O Muircheartaigh
422 Flanner Hall, University of Notre Dame, IN 46556
Office phone: 574-631-1875

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	_____
Life		
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	_____
Life (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 60643-1901 USA

Book your spot at the 49th Biennial Convention!

Sheraton Bloomington Hotel, Minnesota - August 1-3, 2008

The NAMA Convention is fast approaching! It is time to celebrate with all the Manx in Minnesota.

The preferred venue is set at the Sheraton Bloomington Hotel just 10 minutes from Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport. From here it is easy access to the Twin Cities and the Mall of America, the country's largest shopping and entertainment complex – a must-see before you leave!



The Sheraton Bloomington Hotel, Minnesota
Easily accessed from the airport or the highway

Space is limited, so please don't wait to make your reservations. You can make them easily by telephone at 1-866-837-4278 or by email at <http://www.starwoodmeeting.com/Book/MANX>. ***Please advise that you are with the "North American Manx Association" to receive our exceptional rate of \$104 per night (excluding tax) single/double rooms only.***

Rates are good for three days before and after the Convention so make it a family vacation! The Sheraton Bloomington Hotel, Minneapolis South is located at 7800 Normandale Blvd., Minneapolis, MN 55439-3145

Our Hotel has an attentive and hospitable staff, exclusive Sheraton Sweet Sleeper Beds, guestrooms that allow for optimum comfort and productivity, and a variety of choices for dining. Guestrooms have available in-room movies, coffeemakers, voice mail, and data ports (for minimal charge).

The Hotel has three restaurants and a lounge, swimming pool, jet spa, sauna, exercise room as well as game, meeting, and grand banquet rooms.

Courtesy transportation is available to and from the Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport (MSP) departing the airport to the hotel every hour at the top of the hour from 7:00am until 10:00pm & 10:30pm., and every bottom of the hour from the hotel to the airport. Taxis are available as well. Shuttles to and from the Mall of America leave every 2 hours. Also, cars may be rented from Avis on site at the Sheraton Hotel for 17% less than at the airport.

Now is the time to reserve your hotel room at the special rate because there are a limited number available!

Please join us for the NAMA convention packed full of history, music, dancing, celebrating our Manx heritage, renewing friendships and making new ones. It is all here in Minnesota waiting for you.

Let's make it "Great in '08"!