

N A M A

NORTH AMERICAN MANX ASSOCIATION

Vol. 79, No. 1

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

Spring 2008

NAMA Donation Supports Restoration of Historic T.E. Brown Window



The T.E. Brown stained glass window at the Manx Museum, Douglas, IOM.

The North American Manx Association was the beneficiary of a very generous contribution by our Honorary President, Robert Kelly. Mr. Kelly's donation enabled the NAMA to give a contribution to the Manx National Heritage to fund the restoration of an historic stained glass window commemorating the Manx writer T.E. Brown.

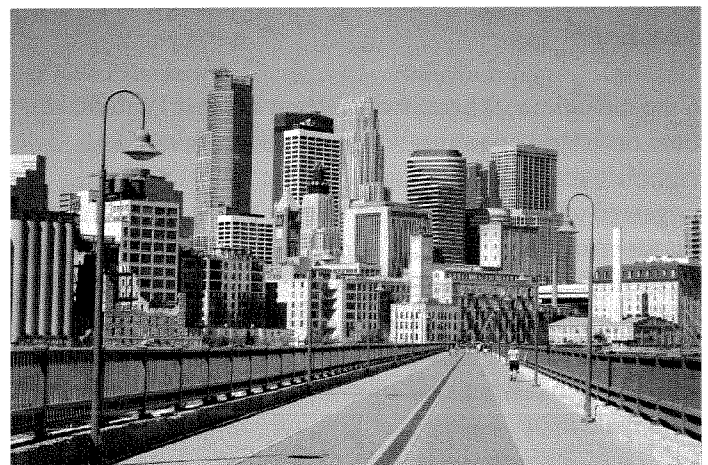
The Manx National Heritage operates the various museums and historical sites on the island, including the Manx Museum in Douglas, IOM. The museum, which operates with both government and private funding, maintains a wonderful collection with the same goal as NAMA, i.e., to preserve our ancient heritage. Part of that heritage is our written heritage, as personified by literary giants such as T.E. Brown. Born in Douglas in 1830, Brown wrote many volumes of poetry as well as prose works. The window commemorating him (pictured, left) was commissioned after his death in 1897 and was designed by the Manx artist William Hoggatt.

See page 3 for more on this story.

Minnesota Summer - Biennial Convention details announced

The Minnesota Manx are pleased to announce the agenda and other information for the upcoming biennial Convention this August. Book your spot now, using the red registration form inserted in this issue of the Bulletin.

There is an exciting program planned, and you will find the agenda in the center pages of the Bulletin. Further stories on the Convention, including information on the raffle, may be found on other pages in this issue.



Minneapolis skyline

NAMA Notes

NAMA President's Message

Blein Vie Noa (Happy New Year in Manx!) from Port St Mary, Isle of Man.

I hope you all enjoyed the festive season and 2008 will be a healthy and joyous year for you all. We all know it will be "Great in 08". Fantastic slogan for the convention, Sally.

Being a Convention year we're all looking forward to visiting Bloomington, MN where Sally Dahlquist and her eager team have organised a fascinating programme.

Sally has made a big effort to involve the youth and organised an exciting programme just for the youngsters. I am sure we all recognise this is an area in which we need to concentrate our efforts and engage the youth of NAMA. They are the future and we need to find ways to offer interest. The time of year is very busy for us personally so we can't travel out as a family but I intend to bring along my daughter, who is 14, as I believe she will enjoy Sally's youth events.

May I remind members to consider nominations for the Youth award that we present each Convention. Mary Kelly is accepting nominations and will help anyone who has any questions regarding eligibility.

Quite a number of members have mooted the idea of a homecoming for 2009 and I want to canvas views from general membership. It's been several years since the last and whilst I know several have visited the Island independently in recent years, it could well be a good time to make an official "Homecoming". This is the year to decide and likely it should be left till the Convention to confirm.

In the meantime if there is significant interest I can make some on-Island enquiries with various agencies about possible events we can tie into. Some folk have suggested guided walks in the Manx countryside. I have just the man, John "Dog" Callister, who will gladly guide a walking tour and give a fantastic insight to country life past and present on the Island. Another is a boat tour on the Katrina around the coast of the Island. Let me know your views and what kind of events you might like to participate in.

In closing may I encourage members to make their reservations for the Convention as soon as possible. The hotel room allocation for the special rate is already filling and you know its going to be "Great in 08", so please book now.

Looking forward to seeing everyone in Minnesota.

Yours,

Laurence Skelly

Genealogist's Notes

Even after several days in the 40s, the pile of snow in front of my house could still hide my entire family!

Many of you probably have something similar. I do believe I am ready for Spring to find her way here.

From what I have read, our Manx ancestors showed a great deal of energy as they ushered in the warmer weather. A grand celebration occurred at the time the animals were sent from their shelters to the outdoor pastures. The celebration honored growth, abundance (especially in the harvest) and good luck.

A great bonfire, a "sun charm", was lit and from it all the hearths in the area were re-kindled. Sheep and cattle were driven either through the fire or between two fires to ward off disease and evil. Some of the people would leap over the fire — the young for luck in obtaining a spouse, a pregnant woman for an easy delivery, etc.

The youngest member of the family gathered primroses and threw them at the door of the home for protection. "Crosu cuims" hung on the doors to ward off the mischievous.

Green was the focal color, so a "tree" was erected and greenery was "woven" around it, symbolizing growth. The Maypole. The celebration of "Boaldyn". May Day.

Maybe we can dream about it while the snow melts.

Lucy Peterson
Genealogist

NAMA Notes

Restoration of T.E. Brown window (cont. from front page)



T.E. Brown (pictured, left) was educated on the island, partly by his father, and went on to become a Fellow at Oriel College, Oxford. His poetry was published in collected volumes beginning in 1873 with a collection entitled *Betsy Lee*.

Brown's poetry was unusual in that he wrote not only in English, but also in the Anglo-Manx dialect, a hybrid of English and Manx Gaelic. Later in life, his letters were collected and published, including those he wrote to Hall Caine, another great Manx writer.

The work on the restoration of the T.E. Brown window shows the power of support from members of Manx cultural organizations such as NAMA. Robert Kelly's latest donation via the NAMA covers the £35,000 costs involved in moving and restoring the window, including building a new wall in which to display it.

Robert Kelly has been a longtime member of the NAMA, and is the Honorary President. The Honorary President is the most senior past president. Bob's wife Jean, while not Manx, was also an active member of the NAMA, and was active in the Ladies Auxillary while that was active. Before her death, she attended many conventions and trips to the IOM. Bob made his generous contributions in honor of Jean and his parents, both of whom were active members during their lifetimes.

The NAMA thanks Bob for his generous contributions which have been put to good use in preserving Manx cultural icons such as the T.E. Brown window. If you might be thinking of making donations to the NAMA, either presently or as a testamentary gift, you can contact Brad Prendergast at the address on the right. Brad can work with your lawyer/financial advisor for the language needed for a will or other trust.

NAMA Website

Remember that you can stay up to date with the latest news and join in discussions on Manx matters at the NAMA website www.northamericanmanx.org.

The password-protected Members Only area is accessible only to paid up members of NAMA. The current log in information is:

User name: **NAMA**

Password: **Donation**

NAMA Officers and Directors 2006 - 2008

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10215 38th Court North
Plymouth, MN 55441-1669

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NAMA Notes

NAMA Archives - help needed

For some reason I have in my workroom a box of items from the NAMA archives. Perhaps it is because we are hosting the Convention this August.

They are great to look through. While doing just that I discovered some gaps. We are hoping our members or local societies (Cleveland, Chicago, San Diego, Vancouver, Northern California) might be able to help us fill these empty spaces.

If you have any of the missing items and wish to part with them either bring them to the Convention or mail them to: **Joan Gill, 10215 38th Court North, Plymouth, MN 55441-1669.**

If you don't wish to part with them, could we please copy them? If you have any information about the conventions or where we could find these materials, please contact Joan Gill, 763-544-5163 or by email at nwjlgill@earthlink.net

Conventions with no souvenir booklet or photo:

1950 Windsor, Ontario
1951 Toronto, Ontario
1952 Buffalo, New York
1955 San Francisco, California
1956 Toronto, Ontario
1957 Vancouver, British Columbia
1960 Cleveland, Ohio

Conventions with no souvenir booklet:

1929 Toronto, Ontario
1931 Buffalo, New York
1932 London, Ontario
1933 Chicago, Illinois
1934 Windsor, Ontario
1935 Cleveland, Ohio
1936 Winnipeg, Manitoba
1937 Rochester, New York
1938 Hamilton, Ontario
1939 Lincoln, Nebraska
1940 Montreal, Quebec
1941 Buffalo, New York
1948 Peoria, Illinois
1953 Cleveland, Ohio

Conventions with no convention photos:

1961 Montreal, Quebec
1963 Chicago, Illinois
1965 Toronto, Ontario
1968 Huntington Beach, California
1970 Isle of Man
1972 Niagara Falls, Ontario
1974 Washington D.C.
1976 Isle of Man
1978 Rocky River, Ohio
1980 Halifax, Nova Scotia
1982 San Diego, California

Notes from the Editor

As I think about the upcoming Convention, and the opportunity it presents to connect with members of NAMA from across North America and the IOM, I found a letter I received from Carol Christian especially poignant and relevant.

She writes:

On January 1st 2008, I received word from David Musgrove that Winnifred Musgrove of Douglas, IOM, had just passed away. She will be greatly missed by myself and all her Manx friends.

I first met Wynn and Jack at the Williamsburg, VA, Convention in 1986. Wynn and Jack attended many, many conventions. They belonged to more than one Manx group in the Isle of Man and were very active. I visited with Wynn during our 2000 Convention in the IOM.

My father, like many, came from the IOM. All three sons and their father came to Canada before WW1. I returned with Dad, his first visit home, in 1949.

For a small isle, it's full of beauty and history.

I wish one and all a great success at the coming convention.

Sincerely,

K. Carol Christian
North York, Ontario
January 28, 2008.

2008 Manx Youth Award

Call for Youth Award Nominations

Everything about the Isle of Man can be a virtual treasure hunt, starting with its' location on maps, in the Irish Sea. It is a distinctive island nation that claims the world's oldest continuous democracy, the birthplace of many talented performers, unique native animals: Manx cats, the four-horned Loughtan sheep, and the Manx Shearwater birds.

Manx people use many interesting forms of transportation including: ships, electric trains, narrow-gauge steam trains, horse drawn trams, autos, and cycles. The Isle of Man also boasts having the world's largest working water wheel, and the shipyard where the oldest existing merchant marine ship, the Star of India, was built. These are just a few of the topics that have been explored and enjoyed by our young people.

Folklore, music, and dance traditions from the Isle of Man delight people around the globe. The beautiful racehorses on the Isle of Man awe equestrians; while their world famous Tourist Trophy motorcycle races excite others. Young stamp collectors are attracted to the beautiful stamps issued by the Isle of Man Post Office. Coin collectors enjoy learning about the many unique coins produced by the Pobjoy Mint for the Isle of Man Treasury including series about famous events, cats, fairies, and there is even a Harry Potter series.

By going to the new NAMA Internet web page, (<http://www.northamericanmanx.org/>) and following the links you can find images and information about these Manx topics.

Since 2000, The Isle of Man Department of Education has provided a Manx Youth Award, which is a beautiful Pooill Vaaish black marble triangular stone carved with a Manx three-legs design and the convention year in which it was awarded. Each stone is a piece of the Isle of Man, to be treasured for a lifetime.

If you know of a worthy boy or girl, or a group of youth under the age of 18, who show special interest in Manx culture and share it with others, please write a short letter to nominate them for the 2008 Manx Youth Award.

The panel of NAMA judges will select the winning entry based upon the body of activities described in the letter of nomination rather than for any singular activity or deed. All letters must contain the names, ages, and contact information for the individual or group being nominated and the name and address of the adult or society making the nomination.

The winner(s) will be announced in early August at the 2008 NAMA Convention, in Bloomington, Minnesota.

Now, more than ever, we urge all our NAMA Members and local Manx Societies to send Manx Youth Award nominations to:

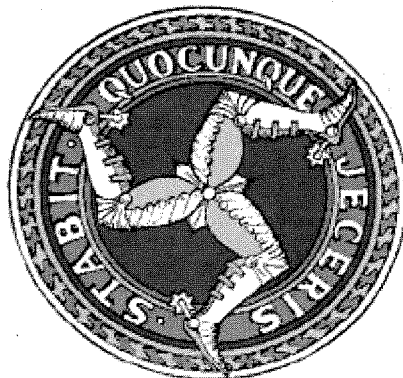
Mary Kelly
NAMA Awards Chair
P. O. Box 425
Platteville, WI 53818

or email to: kelevans@centurytel.net

by **May 30th, 2008.**

Previous award winners are James Morey, Wisconsin; Kali Dahlquist, Minnesota; and The Clan of Man, West Virginia.

Qualifications for previous award nominations have been based upon Manx music and dance performances, sharing information about Manx culture in schools or communities, participation at Manx society events, participation in NAMA convention activities, and in some cases travel in the Isle of Man.



Convention Agenda

North American Manx Association Convention August 1-3, 2008

Sponsored by the Manx Society of Minnesota
Sheraton Bloomington Hotel, MN

Set sail for Minnesota, "Land of 10,000 Lakes", with the whole family to enjoy a fun-filled time at the 49th NAMA Convention.

You don't want to miss it because there will be something for everyone! Great sights, sounds and inspirations of the Isle of Man including gifts, workshops, speakers, raffles, reports, storytelling, and sharing Manx heritage! Young Manx will have a blast with the Manx movies, games, family trees, sword fighting, sashes or t-shirts, storytelling, great food, and swimming in the pool.

View the Manx library exhibit "Beyond the Irish Sea – Immigration from Isle of Man to Minnesota" that celebrates our Manx heritage, Minnesota Manx immigration stories, and a rich display of Manx memorabilia. Participate in a special dance presentation of *Traed y Ddraig*, the Minnesota Manx/Welsh dance group, and hear a wonderful Manx/British singing production of your favorite Manx tunes. Come to Minnesota where we plan to make it "Great in '08"!

Tentative Agenda

July 31, 2008 – Thursday

3.00pm	Registration (<i>Foyer</i>)
4.00pm - 8.00pm	Executive Board Meeting (<i>Executive Plaza Suite</i>)
6.00pm	Working Executive Board Dinner

August 1, 2008 – Friday (*Atrium 6*)

10.00am - 4.00pm	Registration (<i>Foyer</i>)
Noon	Official Opening of 2008 Convention – NAMA Hon. Pres. & President
12.15pm	Vintage IOM Glass Slideshow
1.15pm	Movie of the Isle of Man
4.00pm	Bus Departs for <i>JF Bell Library – U of Minnesota</i>
5.00pm	View Manx Immigration Exhibit
5.30pm	NAMA President's Reception & Dinner
6.30pm	Minnesota Manx, NAMA & IOM Presidents' Welcome Noel Cringle, President, Tynwald, IOM - Welcome
7:00pm	<i>Traed y Ddraig</i> – Manx/Welsh Dancing
8:30pm	Return Bus Tour via Downtown Minneapolis
9:30pm	Music, Conversation & Dancing (<i>Atrium 6</i>)

Convention Agenda

August 2, 2008 – Saturday (*Atrium 6*)

9.00am - 11.00am	Registration (<i>Atrium 6</i>)
9.00am	IOM Bingo with Prizes
9.15am	Genealogists - Lucy Peterson & Marilyn Anderson
10.45am	Manx Museum Presentation, U of Wisconsin-Platteville
11.30am	Luncheon with Chris Stott, IOM Honorary Rep. for Space Affairs & Alex Downie, Legislative Council, IOM/Silent Auction begins
1.30pm	NAMA General Meeting – Society Reports/Election of Officers
3.00pm	Becoming a Swordfighter in the Middle Ages – Mike McClellan
5.00pm	Official NAMA Convention Photo (<i>Plaza Reception Lobby Stairs</i>) NAMA Reception/Music/Silent Auction
6.30pm	Grand Banquet Dinner (<i>Plaza 5 & 6</i>)
7.00pm	Mistress of Ceremonies – Fran Shimmin
7.30pm	Eddie Lowey, Legislative Council, IOM
8.00pm	Noel Cringle, President, Tynwald, IOM – Live Auction
8.45pm	Manx/British Singing – Good Show Productions
9.45pm	Presentation of New Officers/ Passing of the Swords
10.30pm	Music, Conversation & Dancing

August 3, 2008 – Sunday (*Atrium 6*)

9.30am	Memorial Service – (Honoring Minnesota & NAMA Manx)
10.00am	Brunch
10.15am	IOM Quiz with Prizes
10.30am	Kids Video Presentation
10.45am	Manx Storyteller – Andrew Ravenscroft
11.30am	General Meeting/2010 Convention/Installation of New Officers
1.30pm	Free Afternoon - Time for Mall of America & Sightseeing Optional Walking Tour
5.30pm	Informal Dinner at <i>Tony Romas, Mall of America</i>
6.30pm	Sharing Manx Stories
8.00pm	Manx Movie – Back at the Hotel – <i>Plaza Executive Suite</i>

Manx Sale Table Hours

Friday	10am - 3pm & 9pm - 10pm
Saturday	8am - 3pm & 5pm - 6pm
Sunday	9am - 11am

Manx Raffle Drawing Times

Friday	12, 1.15pm, 3pm, 9pm, & 9.30pm
Saturday	9.15am, 10.45am, 11.30am, 1.30pm, 3.00pm, 6.30pm, 7.00pm, 7.30pm, 8.00pm, 9.30pm, 10pm
Sunday	10am, 10.30am, 10.45am, 11.30am, 1.00pm

SEE YOU IN DENVER, COLORADO
FOR NAMA CONVENTION 2010!

Society News

Chicago Manx Society

The Chicago Manx held our meeting at the home of one of our new members, Sam and Sharon Slocum in Plainfield, IL on Sun Dec 2, 2007 to celebrate the Holidays. It was a snowy day but we had a nice turn out.

We began with a pot-luck dinner, followed by our business meeting and then a time for fellowship. Sam's parents were former members of the Chicago Manx, but they were missionaries and spent time at various locations. Sam and his parents lived for a time on the Isle of Man.

The Chicago Manx had a display once again at the Chicago Celtic Fest in Grant Park on the lakefront on Sat and Sun, Sept 15 and 16.

Our next meeting will be in April at the home of John and Mary Prendergast on the south side of Chicago. Several of our members are planning on attending the convention in August.

Robert Kelly, President,
Chicago Manx Society

Cleveland Manx

The Cleveland Manx had their annual Christmas Party on December 2, 2007. We all brought new hats, scarves, mittens, socks, etc. to be donated to the Salvation Army. They in turn distribute them to needy children for Christmas.

After our dinner we were entertained by Carol Kmiecik who did an impersonation of Amelia Earhart. We then had a drawing for gifts. Our Treasurer, Shirley Porter, purchased and wrapped enough items so that everyone went home with a gift.

Our planning meeting is scheduled for Feb. 23, 2008 at the home of Tom and Alice Cannell. Our first meeting will be in March, and hopefully the worst of Winter will be over by then.

Alice Cannell

Manx Society of Minnesota

Sally Dahlquist, Co-President of the Minnesota Manx, along with the able Treasurer, Joan Gill, have called upon the Minnesota Manx to record their family histories for Bulletin Number Three to be published in time for the NAMA Convention in August, 2008. Members have rallied to the call and sent in memoirs, histories, souvenirs, newspaper articles, and photos of family and friends all relating to family immigration stories or trips to the Isle of Man.

Bulletins One and Two were printed in the 1980s by T. R. Anderson, founder of the Manx Society of Minnesota. A traditional black and white scholarly approach was the original pamphlet format. With the advances in desktop publishing, Bulletin Three will feature a glossy color process that will hopefully reflect the living history of the Minnesota Manx Society Members, making it more enjoyable to read and hopefully capture the interest of all Manx to record their own stories.

Jean Lavelle is pulling the material together and Amy Peterson has volunteered to help with publications.

Thanks to all that have contributed towards Bulletin Number Three! The final published volume will be provided as a free gift from the Minnesota Manx to all attendees of the 49th NAMA Convention in Minnesota.

Sally Dahlquist

San Diego County Manx Association

The San Diego County Manx Association held our October 14, 2007, meeting at the home of Don and Linda Beauregard. Nineteen members were in attendance.

Gordon and Helen Garrett announced that they had recently celebrated their Fifth Wedding Anniversary. Gordon shared with members the highlights of their anniversary vacation to Hawaii and Helen talked about her career in the US Navy.

Lou and Faith shared highlights and photographs of their River Danube vacation. The cruise took them through Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, Romania, Hungary and Slovakia.

Society News

George Watterson read from the World Manx Association newsletter an article written by Dorcas Costain-Blann where she describes her trip to San Diego and the 2006 NAMA Convention with husband Burt. Hilary and Brian Harrison shared highlights of their vacation that took them to the Isle of Man, then on to London and a barge cruise through the Norfolk Broads.

Our Christmas party was held on December 9th and hosted by Devore and Ruth Smith with Gill and Ernie Hughes co-hosts. Due to illness Millie Kermeen, Doris Dobbel and Helen Garrett were unable to attend. Millie called just prior to the start of the meeting. Millie informed members that she had recently suffered a stroke. She said she is recovering quite well and volunteered to host our June 2008 meeting.

Hilary gave a warm welcome back to the Society to Don and Audrey Russo, former members who have returned from Oregon to live in Lakeside, San Diego County. Audrey is originally from Colby, Isle of Man. Hilary read a Christmas greeting card from the World Manx Association and e-mail greetings from Dorcas Costain Bland on the Isle of Man.

Gill Hughes volunteered to fill the post of Secretary/Treasurer for the next two years, taking over from George Watterson who had served in the position for six years. Ruth Smith retains the post of Society Historian for another two year term.

Following the close of the business meeting we sang the Manx National Anthem, Ellan Vannin and Christmas Carols, with Camille Armstrong providing accompaniment on piano. Gifts were exchanged and fantastic spread of Christmas treats prepared by our hosts was enjoyed by everyone.

George Watterson

Vancouver Manx Society

The last "get-together" of 2007 was our Back End Do, held on Saturday, November 20th. The name of this event is derived from the "back end" of the visiting season in Mannin – in September and October when so many Manx people had a chance to rest and plan for the following visiting season. Those days, of course are long gone.

At our Back End Do we had a good turnout, a great spread of food (prepared by our members) and our very popular raffle. Following dinner, the standing committee of the society was re-elected. We were entertained by the singing group Corryvreckan with old sea shanties as well as with some of our Manx songs.

Committee member Brian Ilott produced another challenging Manx quiz (reproduced in part, below). He enjoys researching Manx history to make up these puzzlers. His mom, Dorrit launched the quizzes a few years ago. As always, the evening closed with the singing of "Ellan Vannin."

Brian and his dad George are also setting up a website for our society

Barbara Condon (Secretary)

MANX QUIZ

By Brian Ilott (Vancouver Manx Society).

1. An account of the Viking attack at Peel claims that the Vikings were disguised as.....
 - a. Herring fishermen
 - b. Honest traders
 - c. Holy men
2. What historical event was to have taken place at the first recorded Tynwald in 1228 A.D.?
 - a. Delayed by bad weather
 - b. The slaying of King Reginald
 - c. The first T.T. race.
3. What does "T.T." stand for?
 - a. Titans Trophy
 - b. Tourist Trophy
 - c. Tynwald Trophy
4. What was laid on the path at Tynwald Hill?
 - a. Herring for Lir
 - b. Rushes for Mannanan
 - c. Hammers for Thor
5. What was the nickname of the volunteer Manx soldiers who went to South Africa?
 - a. The Manx Battalion
 - b. The Noble Nine
 - c. The 7th. Volunteer Battalion

Societies and other notes

Washington Area Manx Society

Date: January 5th 2008. Location: Washington D.C. Metro Area.

Event: 12th Night Do

"OK, the turkey's nearly done. The salad is in the car. We'll get ice and soft drinks on the way. Better throw in some plates - last year there weren't enough serving dishes. What! Is that the time? I need to get showered. Apply shampoo. Damn! I forgot to invite the Viking to be our *quaaltagh* (first footer). Avril, our oldest member, will be gutted. And did I confirm the band? I don't think I did. Better call another member, Liam Cassidy and get him to organise his duo as back up. Abandon shower, call people, find Manx earrings. Where's that parcel? Right everyone! In the car!

Later... Arrive at Church Hall in Arlington, Virginia, and adorn doorway with Manx flag windsock. Explain to custodian that it's not a racist symbol and give standard speech on location, history and independence of the IOM. Race downstairs and organise setting up of tables and chairs. The members start to arrive with their "pot-luck" food items as determined by their last names. Hot vegetable A-F, Salad G-M, Dessert N-Z. We have a lot of Christians and Quayles so it's just as well Tom Sweeting turns up with huge cake iced with a map of the Island. Explain to Avril (a Quiggin - she brought fruit) that I had forgotten to invite Bruce the Viking (he even wears chain mail) - hmmm, she's not impressed. Prevail upon a Governor of the Board to sweep out the old year and see in the new. Check on stalwarts in the kitchen who are transforming random contributions into a proper Manx bunfight. We're good to go.

Hurray! The original band has turned up. That's great. Ooops, and here's the back-up. If I keep my mouth shut the members will think I'm brilliant to get two sets of Celtic musicians. OK, now I can start the proceedings. The *quaaltagh* does a great job, we knock out a splendid rendition of the Manx National Anthem (only because we have Kelly Crenshaw, a professional singer and pastor of her church, who has taught all 15 of her children to sing the MNA and to sing it LOUD.)

The grub starts to vanish and the bands start to play. The children get restless so we have a game of "How Green you are" using a huge fake cat's tail. Then Pass the Parcel.

There are 34 layers of paper on this and it takes a while but finally the huge tub of Cadbury's sweets is won by a Crenshaw kid. Let's do the raffle. Hurrah - Brent, the stand-in *quaaltagh*, won the Laxey Mills blanket.

Now to the coffee and Tom's cake and let's listen to the bands as they get together for a finale. Perfect. It's nearly over. Make a huge circle and we'll all sing Auld Lang Syne. And that's it for another year. The 12th Night celebration of the Washington Area Manx Society is over."

Kelly McCarthy, President, WAMS

Wisconsin Manx Society

The Wisconsin Manx Society has been in hibernation through the long snowy Wisconsin winter. This year has been especially snowy, with Madison, among other Wisconsin cities, registering its largest seasonal snowfall ever. It's at times like this that a lad from Peel wonders why he moved halfway around the world to a town where such weather is even possible. Of course, the arrival of spring soon puts paid to that and we're all looking forward to the thaw.

Spring means that we will be gathering again, and the next meeting of the Wisconsin Manx will be on Sunday April 20th starting at 11am at the Lutheran Church Hall in Madison. All are welcome, and further information can be found on our website which is now hosted at the NAMA site: www.northamericanmanx.org

Andrew Ravenscroft

Chaplain's Corner

My grand-daughter Rebecca Evangeline Billman, of Minneapolis, Minnesota, had the privilege of attending Tynwald at Saint John's on the Isle of Man while participating with her family in the 2000 Convention of the North American Manx Association.

Using photos she took and other documents and mementos she is compiling a diorama for a classroom presentation on the Manx Government, a 1,000 year old democracy established in the Isle of Man by the Norman vikings, the oldest continuing democracy in the world.

Rev. Devore Smith

More NAMA Notes

Convention Raffle

We are very excited about the many great things that will be raffled during the August Convention. These include many items relating to the Isle of Man, from tea towels and hankies to canvas landscapes, from key chains to engraved three leg mugs, from Manx inspired needlework pictures to books. Raffle tickets can be purchased for these items by any NAMA member. Check the registration form in this issue for details on how to order. If not attending the Convention, items will be mailed to winners.

Those attending the Convention will be able to take part in two auctions on Saturday, one silent and the other live. Again there will be a variety of Manx items offered in the silent auction, including items not available at the Manx Sales Table. Three vacations, Maui, northern Wisconsin, and Illinois, will be on the block in the live auction, plus a beautiful crystal piece with the Manx toast etched on it, and Manx jewelery.

At present we are still looking for and accepting donations for both the raffle and the auctions. If you have a donation, please send it to: **Joan Gill, 10215 38th Court North, Plymouth, Mn 55441-1669**, or e-mail her at nwjlgill@earthlink.net to let her know that you will be bringing your donation with you to the Convention.

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 _____

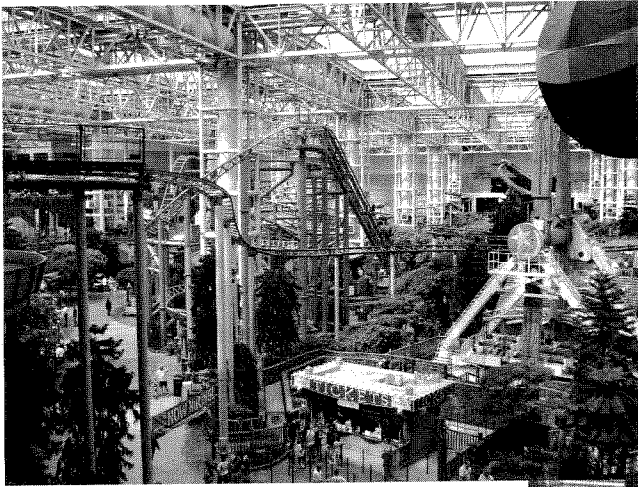
To become a NAMA member, or to renew your membership,
please send this form and your check or money order to:

John Prendergast, NAMA Treasurer 10251 South Bell, Chicago, IL 60643-1901 USA

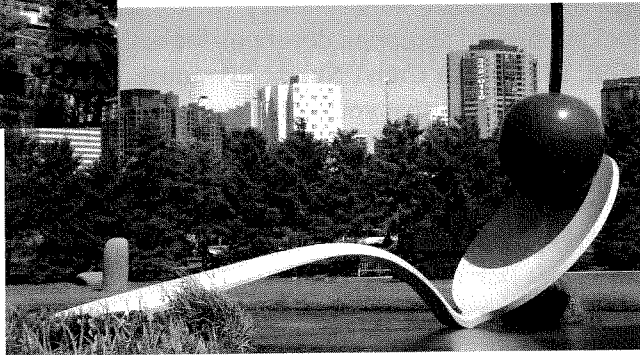
NAOMA

NORTH AMERICAN MANX ASSOCIATION

NAMA Biennial Convention
August 1-3, 2008
Bloomington, Minnesota



Nearby Minneapolis/St Paul is a lively city with striking landmarks that include the roller coasters in the Mall of America (left), the Weisman Art Museum (right), and the the Sculpture Garden (below).

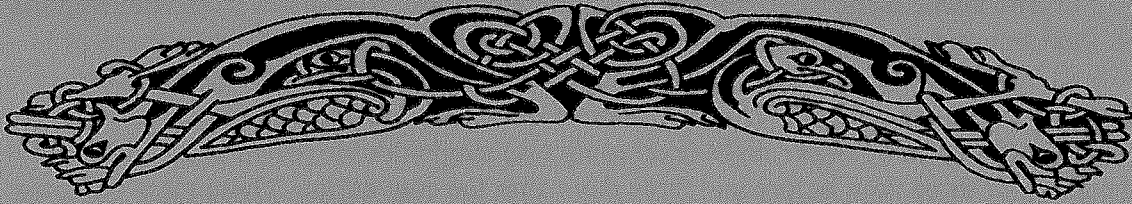


CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

North American
Manx Association
6330 Inner Drive
Madison, WI 53705-4303

Registration Form

NAMA Convention August 1- 3, 2008



Print full name of all registrants (and ages for those 18 or younger) below:

Full address:

Telephone number:

E-mail address:

Any special requests:

Registration:

_____ number of registrants (by April 15) @ \$165 _____
 _____ number of registrants (by May 15) @ \$175 _____
 _____ number of registrants (by July 15) @ \$185 _____
 _____ number of children (under13) @ \$85 _____

Saturday Grand banquet only:

_____ number @ \$75 _____

Convention Photo:

_____ number @ \$10 _____

Souvenir Book Ads, Greetings, Memorials:

_____ number of full page @ \$60 _____
 _____ number of half page @ \$30 _____
 _____ number of quarter page @ \$15 _____
 _____ number of names on the Patron List @ \$15 _____

Raffle tickets:

_____ number @ \$1 each _____
 _____ number @ 6 for \$5 _____

Number of meal choices:

Saturday Luncheon

_____ Smoked Turkey Club Sandwich or _____ Grilled Chicken Salad
 _____ Kid's Hot Dog w/Fries or _____ Kid's Hamburger w/Fries

Saturday Grand Banquet

_____ Grilled Chicken Pasta or _____ Roast Pork Lion
 _____ Grilled Salmon Filet (additional \$3)
 _____ Kid's Spaghetti or _____ Kid's Chicken Fingers W/Fries

Sunday brunch

_____ Ham Omelet (Potatoes, Fruit Cup) or
 _____ Daybreak (Fruit Cup, French Toast, Scrambled Eggs)
 _____ Kid's Daybreak or _____ Kid's Omelet

Grand Total: _____

_____ number interested in having dinner Sunday evening at the Mall of America

Registration Information

Welcome to the 49th biennial NAMA Convention!
Come and celebrate your Manx heritage and meet new and old friends!

Hotel Reservations:

The venue is the Sheraton Bloomington Hotel just 10 minutes from Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport. Your reservations can be made easily by telephone at 1-866-837-4278 or log on to <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. These rates are good for three days before and three days after the convention. These rates will only be held until June 28th by 5:00 pm CDT.

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.

Registration Fee:

Offers a wonderful package of a welcome goodie bag, souvenir booklet, immigration magazine, convention fee, Friday Welcome Italian Buffet and dessert, transportation to the Isle of Man Bell Library Exhibit and Manx Dancing, Saturday Luncheon, Saturday Grand Banquet with Manx music, and Sunday Brunch.

Raffle Tickets:

You can take part in the raffle even if you are not attending the convention. A list of the great prizes will be forthcoming. Tickets sell for \$1.00 a piece or 6 for \$5.00. Mail in your request, include address stickers, and we will enter you in the drawings.

If you are attending, you will receive the raffle tickets in your convention packet. It is a good idea to bring along address stickers for ease in filling out the tickets.

Souvenir Book:

Contributors may submit ads, greetings, or memorial messages whether or not attending the convention. A copy of the souvenir book will be sent to all contributors. Please include a photo-ready copy of your material with your registration form or send electronically to fairygodmother29@yahoo.com (Amy Peterson).

Make checks payable to North American Manx Association. Isle of Man attendees may pay in full at the registration desk, but please return this form.

Please mail registration form, souvenir book copy, and check to:

Joan Gill
10215 38th Court North
Plymouth, MN, 5441-1669

You may e-mail Joan at nwjlgill@earthlink.net with any questions.

We Look Forward To Seeing You—Let's Make It "Great In 08"

