

NAMA

NORTH AMERICAN MANX ASSOCIATION

Vol. 80, No. 2

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

Summer 2009

Manx painting bought for £14.99, sold for much more

There was quite a stir recently when a watercolour by a famous artist who made his home on the Isle of Man was bought for a song by a housewife in Kent, England.

The original watercolour by Manx artist William Hoggatt was bought for £14.99 (about \$25) at a second-hand shop. The watercolour was later valued by an auction house at between £1,500 and £2,000 (\$2,500 to \$3,200).

What's more amazing is that the buyer didn't know it was a Hoggatt painting when she bought it. Linda Culpin bought the picture because she thought "it looked professional", but was as surprised as anyone when she found out the history of the artist and the likely value of the painting.

Prior to the auction she was hoping that the Manx Museum would acquire the painting when it was put up for sale. The painting, a romantic landscape scene, was probably painted in the 1920's - 1930's.

Notwithstanding the excitement generated when she first announced her find, there was an even bigger stir when the painting was put up for sale on July 8. The watercolour exceeded expectations at the Bonham's of Chester auction house, fetching a total of £3,000. At the time of writing no public information was available as to who was the winning bidder.

Readers of the NAMA Bulletin with sharp memories will remember that William Hoggatt designed the stained glass windows in the T.E. Brown window at the Manx Museum. We reported on this in the Spring 2008 NAMA Bulletin when the funds needed for the moving and restoration of the window were generously donated by NAMA Honorary President, Robert Kelly.



NAMA member Myrra Johnson saw the story about Culpin's find and wrote this note about her recollections of the artist.

"I happen to have two Hoggatt paintings that I inherited from my mother, who knew Hoggatt personally. My mother received these paintings as a wedding present in 1927. They hung on the walls of my family home when I was young. I also framed and gave another Hoggatt painting to my daughter Jennifer who has it up on one of the walls of her home. Hoggatt used to have a small home in Port Erin. I remember going there when I was about 6 years old. All I remember was that Mrs. Hoggatt gave us tea and fruit cake, and I could hardly get the fruit cake down, as it seemed as though she had put soap into the making of it. It surely seemed like it to me at an early age! I don't remember much else except this incident! His paintings are very interesting. The one I gave Jennifer is of the lights of Douglas harbor at night."

She adds this interesting footnote that NAMA Members will find especially interesting: "I also forgot to mention that I donated a Hoggatt painting sometime around 1972-1974 to be given as a raffle prize at one of the Manx conventions. Whoever received that painting may not be living now, but their heirs may be "sitting on a gold mine" too!"

NAMA Notes

NAMA President's Message



Happy Tynwald Day to all of you! It is a special time of the year for all Manx around the world.

Best wishes for a wonderful national day celebration of the Isle of Man, its laws, history, and heritage.

As you know, Tynwald was derived from the 10th century term "*thingvollr*" or Parliament field. This open-air meeting of the Manx people reviews publicly all laws passed for the year.

What an exciting time for the Manx to assemble! Gathering to celebrate our heritage and finding our Manx are the goals of the North American Manx Association. Where are we? Who are we? And what are our Manx stories?

NAMA hopes to work with the Isle of Man to find our Manx and preserve our heritage. At one time, the "Manx Million" project was proposed, with assistance from the Island, to search and locate Manx. More follow up will be conducted on the Island this July to kick start this fantastic idea. We encouraged renewed engagement and will report back any progress made.

In 2008, we gathered our Manx at the NAMA convention to share our heritage. We tracked down our Minnesota Manx and published our members' stories, pictures, and connections to the IOM. We are not stopping there!

We hope to help assemble details of our Manx in Wisconsin, Chicago, Denver, Washington, D.C., and beyond.

We will be contacting you and your society to begin conversations to write down your Manx histories. We strongly urge you to start talking at your next Manx meeting to share your stories, show your pictures, and write them down!

We challenge you to find new Manx members to join NAMA as well.

The "Find Your Manx" contest will begin on Tynwald Day, July 6th and run to Noon, Saturday, August 7, 2010.

Treasurer John Prendergast will announce the Society with the most new NAMA members at the 2010 convention in Denver. The winning society will be recognized at the convention and receive a traveling Manx Membership Award, and will be highlighted in the NAMA Bulletin.

So, call your members, find your Manx, and celebrate your connections to the Isle of Man.

It is the time of year to gather and celebrate!

We look forward to assisting you in preserving our ancient heritage, and in helping you "Find Your Manx".

Good luck and best wishes for the greatest Tynwald Day celebration ever.

We will be thinking of you as we participate in Tynwald Day on the Isle of Man.

Lhiats,
Sally Dahlquist,
NAMA President

In memoriam

It is with great sadness that I report that Ruth Smith, wife of our Chaplain Devore Craine Smith passed away suddenly of a stroke. She was a wonderful cheerful woman who supported our Manx connections with dignity and enthusiasm.

At this time Rev. Smith has asked to take a leave of his post as NAMA Chaplain.

Our prayers and hearts are with the Smith and Billman families during this difficult time. We will miss Ruth's happy face and strong presence at our meetings but know that she is smiling down at us.

Sally Dahlquist

NAMA Notes

Notes from the Editor

A few people have asked for guidance on submitting articles for the Bulletin, so I thought I'd jot down a few notes along with the submission and publication dates for the next two issues.

When laying out the Bulletin I cut and paste into my desktop publishing software (Scribus) so I prefer electronic submissions in the form of an email message, Word, TXT, or similar file types.

People often have original documents or photographs that accompany their pieces. If you have access to a scanner then you can send me PDF's or graphics. Any format is fine, but please submit them in high resolution so they'll give a high quality image when printed. The PNG format is best, but JPG files will work too. I'll convert and crop them as necessary to get the best resolution. If you don't have access to a scanner, photocopies can be sent to my postal address and I'll scan them in.

Please submit stories, anecdotes, reports and pictures of anything of Manx interest. It's always good to hear people's individual stories, and there's no real minimum or maximum size to what you can send. As a general guideline articles are typically of between a hundred words at the low end and about 1500 words at the higher end.

My email and mailing information is in the NAMA Officers and Directors box on the right.

Next deadline for submitting articles:
September 14th

Fall Bulletin publication date:
October 1

Winter deadline for submitting articles:
November 30

Winter Bulletin publication date:
December 15

Thanks very much,

Andrew Ravenscroft

NAMA Website

The NAMA website continues to grow with submissions from member manx societies and associations, and you can go there for up to date news between bulletins. Please drop in and visit at www.northamericanmanx.org.

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

User name: **nama**
Password: **tynwald**

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The Manx in Missouri

This is part two of George Callow's article about the Missouri Manx. In the previous installment, we learned how the Manx first came to Missouri and followed the story of the arrival of William Banks (Kermode) to the state. This final installment picks up after the birth of Banks' son, Joseph, about 1848, and the death of his first wife Wah-Rush-Ka-Me shortly thereafter.

The Civil War and beyond

Less than a year after Joseph Banks was born, William Banks took another Indian wife, Jane Newasha, a teacher and member of Sac-Fox tribe. A son of the second union was named William Banks Jr., who was born August 24th, 1849.

Jane died of blood poisoning (before the 1850 census), and at her request was buried in the burial grounds of her people on the Sac-Fox Indian Reservation near White Cloud, Kansas. Prior to 1860, Banks senior, by an act of the Missouri state legislature, had his son William's birth legitimised. William Banks never "remarried".

He raised the two boys at the "Rock Farm" by the spring. A black slave woman (aged 45 on the 1850 census) helped with the housekeeping and looking after his sons. On the 1860 US census, William Banks is recorded with his two sons Joseph and William, both listed as age 11. The 1860 slave schedule shows that he was the owner of three slaves, one of whom was the woman who had looked after his sons when they were babies.

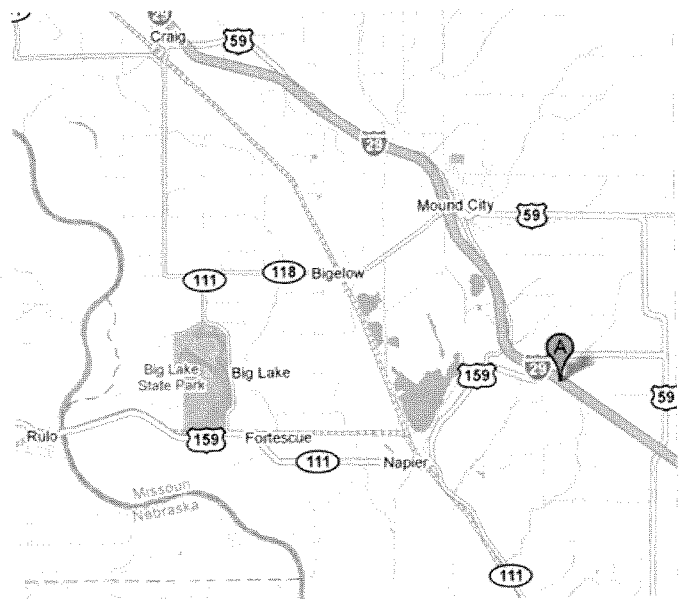
Slave owners of border Confederate States who confirmed their support of the Union were compensated for the loss of their slaves after the Civil War. Since William Banks retained all his other property, it can be assumed he supported the Union. Confederate supporters were subject to having their lands confiscated after the Civil War but could request pardons and have their estates reinstated.

In 1865, his niece Catherine Galbraith, whom he had requested to come from the Isle of Man to be his housekeeper, and his nephew Robert Galbraith born on the Isle of Man, were staying with him. (William Banks had an elder sister, Catherine Kermode who was baptised 1809, KK German. She had married Peter Galbraith, a Scottish light house keeper in 1832, KK German. They had a number of children including Catherine and Peter).

After selling the ferry in 1856, William Banks became engaged in farming, stock raising, the timber business and occasionally loaning money. With these ventures, he became financially very successful. He owned some 1280 acres in 1855.

Both his sons married and had children. Joseph Banks married 7th April, 1872 in Missouri, to Elizabeth Ellen Simmons who had some Mandan Indian ancestry* but was generally considered white. To them were born five children, Oscar, Ettie, Willie, Ada, and Bessie. William Banks jr. married March 25th, 1872 in Holt County to Sarah Helen Wake, a white woman. To this marriage, nine children were born: Lewis A., Annie, Walter, Leona, Theresa, William Henry, Matthew, Alice, and Sidney A.

William and Helen Banks were given a 477 acre Banks farm north of Forest City as a wedding gift. A tract of land from this farm was donated to establish the Banks school which was later moved (after 1911) and renamed Monticello. On the 1880 census, Joseph and William Banks jr. were listed as farmers on separate parcels of land in Holt County. Joseph Banks, who was farming on rented land, did not receive a wedding present of land. He and his father had become estranged and they never settled their differences.



Holt County, marked with an A on the map is in the northwesternmost corner of Missouri, close to the Missouri River.

*Some of the Mandan had European features including blonde hair and are thought to have had been in contact with Scandinavian explorers as early as the 14th century. They did not encounter later European explorers until the early 18th century.

The Manx in Missouri

In August 1868, nearly the entire original tract of land including Iowa Point was flooded by waters of the Missouri River which changed its course two and a half miles west. Iowa Point was therefore, left high and dry. A new landing was developed by other owners on the Kansas side of the river and the name Iowa Point was transferred with William Bank's permission, to the new location.

The house which was not destroyed by the flood was still inhabited in the early part of the 20th century. All that remains today of the original Iowa Point site, is the ruins of William Bank's "Old Rock House" which has been designated an historic landmark and vestiges of the lime kiln. In the 1940's, the big spring stopped flowing as a result of heavy blasting in a quarry on the other side of the limestone cliff.

William Banks senior lived in what was considered a modest dwelling (resembles a Manx cottage but had a wood shingle roof); the ruins of which are located just south of the town of Oregon.

He died at his home on the evening of March 2nd 1895 at the age of 84 years.

His estate was estimated to be worth \$35,000 (7,150 pounds sterling or in today's money approximately \$6,573,000 or 3,592,000 pounds sterling).

By the terms of his will, the home farm of 160 acres which included the "Rock House" and "Big Spring" together with all livestock viz. four mules, three ponies, twenty six head of sheep, and forty or fifty shoats (recently weaned pigs), as well as 160 acres of bottom land,* went to his niece Catherine Galbraith who had been his housekeeper for 30 years.

According to her funeral card, Catherine Galbraith, who was born May 5th, 1833 in Kent, England died May 31, 1917 at the residence of her brother Peter Galbraith. She made bequests to a number of relatives and friends including her brother, his children, her sister Jane Christian (wife of James Christian) and her nephew John Peter Christian, both living in Peel, Isle of Man.

In his will William Banks also gave a life estate to the remaining 320 acres of his land to his son William and the residue to William's children, after the last born reached the age of 21.

*Bottom land: low-lying land adjacent to a river.

A trust fund consisting of \$3000 (613 pounds) of bank stock and the sale of 160 acres was created to pay for all taxes, repairs and improvements on the devised land during the life of William Banks jr. and the residue divided equally amongst his children.

William Banks did not mention either his son Joseph, who had predeceased him or Joseph's heirs. Joseph's four surviving children contested the will in a very determined suit which was carried to the state supreme court of Missouri but they lost the case and received nothing from the estate.

The grounds on which the judge based his ruling were that the marriage consummated in Missouri, under Indian custom, was not a valid marriage under Missouri State law. If William Banks had been married on the Indian reservation in Kansas, under Indian custom, and then brought his bride across the river to Missouri, the marriage would have been recognised, and Joseph's heirs could have inherited a portion of his estate.

Joseph's children who were less than half-bloods with Indian status, had each been granted 80 acres of good land on the Iowa Reservation and received two annuities a year from the government.**

INDIAN LAND FOR SALE

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OF
YOUR OWN
ON
EASY PAYMENTS



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WITHIN
THIRTY DAYS

FINE LANDS IN THE WEST

IRRIGATED IRRIGABLE GRAZING AGRICULTURAL DRY FARMING

IN 1910 THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR SOLD UNDER SEALED BIDS ALLOTTED INDIAN LAND AS FOLLOWS:

State	Acres	Price per Acre	State	Acres	Price per Acre
Colorado	5,211.21	57.27	Oklahoma	54,664.00	\$19.14
Idaho	17,013.00	24.85	Oregon	1,020.00	18.43
Kansas	1,684.50	33.45	South Dakota	120,445.00	16.53
Montana	11,034.00	9.86	Washington	4,879.00	41.37
Nebraska	5,441.00	36.65	Wisconsin	1,069.00	17.00
North Dakota	22,610.70	9.93	Wyoming	865.00	20.64

FOR THE YEAR 1911 IT IS ESTIMATED THAT 350,000 ACRES WILL BE OFFERED FOR SALE

For information as to the character of the land write for booklet "INDIAN LANDS FOR SALE," to the Superintendent of S. Indian School at any one of the following places:

ALABAMA: Tuscaloosa	ARIZONA: Phoenix	CALIFORNIA: San Francisco	CONNECTICUT: Hartford	DELAWARE: Dover	FLORIDA: Tallahassee	GEORGIA: Atlanta	ILLINOIS: Chicago	INDIANA: Indianapolis	IOWA: Des Moines	KANSAS: Topeka	KENTUCKY: Louisville	LOUISIANA: New Orleans	MAINE: Portland	MARYLAND: Baltimore	MASSACHUSETTS: Boston	MICHIGAN: Lansing	MINNESOTA: Minneapolis	MISSISSIPPI: Jackson	MISSOURI: St. Louis	MONTANA: Helena	NEBRASKA: Omaha	NEVADA: Carson City	NEW HAMPSHIRE: Concord	NEW JERSEY: Trenton	NEW YORK: Albany	NORTH CAROLINA: Raleigh	NORTH DAKOTA: Bismarck	OHIO: Columbus	OKLAHOMA: Oklahoma City	OREGON: Salem	PENNSYLVANIA: Harrisburg	RHODE ISLAND: Providence	SOUTH CAROLINA: Columbia	SOUTH DAKOTA: Pierre	TENNESSEE: Nashville	TEXAS: Austin	UTAH: Salt Lake City	VIRGINIA: Richmond	WASHINGTON: Olympia	WEST VIRGINIA: Charleston	WISCONSIN: Madison	WYOMING: Cheyenne
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WALTER L. FISHER, ROBERT G. VALENTINE,

Representatives of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

**"The Dawe's Act of 1887 provided that individual Indians could own their own plot of land. Hailed as a liberal reform when introduced, the real purpose and effect of the law was to break the communal tribal ownership of the land. Tribes rarely if ever were willing to sell land but individuals could be persuaded to sell for cash, guns or liquor. Millions of acres were transferred to white ownership as a result."

The Manx in Missouri

Their names are included on an 1892 list of landowners of that reservation which is located in north-east Kansas. Their father Joseph Banks was buried in the cemetery of the Iowa reservation, near White Cloud Kansas.

He likely died before 1892 since his name does not appear on the 1892 landowners' list. Each orphan child under 18 was to receive 80 acres under the General allotment Act of 1887, while the head of a family would have received 160 acres.

Joseph Banks who had the Iowan name of Kulach Boula (man who walks in the dark and is not afraid), was a successful farmer, raised mules and sold them to the US Army. One day, he drove a loaded wagon of corn (maize) pulled by a newly broken team of mules to the weigh scale located at the bottom of the very steep bank of the Missouri River at White Cloud, Kansas. A barge was waiting by the weigh scale to take delivery. Someone who had a grudge against him, possibly because of his part Indian ancestry, pulled the whistle on the barge, just as the wagon was going down the steep slope. The mules, startled by the noise, panicked and overturned the wagon. Joseph Banks was thrown underneath and crushed to death.

In another twist, William Banks Jr. who was a half-blood, died at his home in Preston, Nebraska Feb. 24th 1899 of typhoid fever. At the time of his death, he was occupying his allotment under Indian laws on the Sac-Fox reservation which borders the Iowa reservation.

His remains were brought to Holt County to be buried. Despite his substantial inheritance, he had moved to the reservation in Richardson County Nebraska March 26, 1896 in order to claim his Indian status benefits which also included 160 acres of land. He was survived by his wife and seven of his children. His children were each entitled to 40 acres as well, so there was incentive for the family to claim Indian status. His eldest son, Lewis took over management of the Holt County farm in 1901.

An unusual story concerns Alice Banks, the daughter of William Banks jr. As a small child she was lost in a tornado near Preston, Nebraska. Two hours later, she was found unhurt but several miles from her home on the Sac-Fox Indian reservation. One might speculate as to whether this incident triggered the imagination of Frank Baum when he wrote about Dorothy Gale in "the Wizard of Oz."

Conclusion

William Banks' life was simple as was his surroundings. He was daring in his youth, thrifty, enterprising and readily made friends. He was described as having a jovial disposition and hospitable in manners. His letters to the Isle of Man influenced a few families to migrate to Holt County prior to the Civil War. They were the Cottiers, Teares, Kneales, Kellys and Callows.

They in turn wrote to others on the Island about their experiences which resulted in a second wave of Manx migrants whose surnames included Galbraith, Stevenson, Kennish, Skelly, Garrett, Kermeen and Corkill.

The Holt County Manx, by not all concentrating in one area as was the case in some of the north east states, were able to integrate easily. They contributed well to their community and their surnames can still be found in telephone and business directories of the county and state.

An indication that the early Manx settlers were well regarded can be seen by the comment in a 1911 Holt County newspaper article. "No Holt County Mankman has sought refuge in the county infirmary, learned a trade at the expense of the state or took up free boarding and lodging with a sheriff. So let's take off our hats to our Mankmen".

George Callow

Greetings from the Manx Society of New Zealand

We wish to greet you on this eve of Tynwald in the Isle of Man and send to you all - President, Committee and Members of your Society - our very best wishes and hope that your celebrations planned prove to be very happy ones.

Thank you for the Christmas Cards you have sent over the years. Very much appreciated by all here.

Kind regards from the South Pacific -

Lorraine (President), Committee and Members of the Manx Society of New Zealand (Auckland)

Society News

Chicago Manx Society

The Chicago Manx held their last meeting at the home of Brad Prendergast in the south loop area of Downtown Chicago on Sun, Mar 8, 2009. We were able to see the many changes that have occurred to the downtown area in the past several years. The day was not too pleasant as it rained and thundered a good portion of the time. We began with a potluck lunch and then had our meeting. We only had 13 people in attendance because of the weather, but an enjoyable time was had by all.

Our next meeting will be on Sun Aug 16, at the home of Sam and Sharon Slocum in the south suburbs of Chicago at 15432 S Creekside Dr, Plainfield, IL 60544. We will again have a potluck followed by our meeting. We have an enjoyable time visiting.

We will discuss the Chicago Manx again participating in the 13th Annual Chicago Celtic Fest to be held in Grant Park on Chicago's Lakefront at Jackson Blvd and Columbus Drive on Sat and Sun, Sept 12 and 13, each afternoon.

Robert Kelly,
President,
Chicago Manx

Greater Washington Area Manx Society

2009 Spring Dinner and General meeting.

The meeting was held at the Pier 7 Restaurant, Water Street, DC, on Saturday April 25th 2009. We held our usual business meeting and then we welcomed Honora Finklestein & Sue Smily – our fabulous writers – to present their “Case of the Battered Barrister”.

This whodunit was played out by members of the audience as they dug deep to discover who had done for the unfortunate advocate A. Boyd (A body) whose outline lay on the floor, securely roped off with POLICE-DO NOT CROSS tape. It was a splendid event. Sue and Honora wrote the playlet themselves and had set it on the Isle of Man in a fictional hamlet called Barreygarrooo. There were around 11 parts, superbly played by the members of the audience.

We also welcomed a real-life cop, John Gregg, from the Alexandria City police who is the inspiration behind one of the main characters on Sue and Honora's books.

Kelly McCarthy

Manx Society of Minnesota

June 24, 2009 Meeting

The Manx Society of Minnesota met on June 24, 2009 at Jake O'Connor's Irish Pub in Excelsior, Minnesota near Lake Minnetonka. The Irish didn't seem to mind being invaded by their Celtic Manx cousins.

After a great dinner, we moved to our Co-President Janice Leafer's home. It was built in 1870 in the French Second Empire Design with Mansard roof and is known as the Porter/Dillman House on the Excelsior Historic Register. It was a treat to wander back in time through the house. Joan Gill and Jean Anderson Lavelle brought pamphlets, newspapers, and photo albums of Joan's and T.R. Anderson's trips to the IOM for Tynwald dating back to the Millennium Celebration in 1979.

The weather was perfect, even the mosquitoes were hiding out, so in the tradition of Tynwald, we had a short procession to the spacious back deck overlooking Janice's lovely garden. Norm Gill agreed to represent the Speaker of the House of Keys only if he did not need to make a speech. Janice Leafer represented the clergy and led us in a moment of silence remembering our Manx forefathers, the Manx around the world, on the Isle of Man, in North America, in Minnesota and Manx Wannabes.



Society News



The honored guest was HRM Queen Elizabeth II and her Guard of Honor, Kali Dahlquist and Ginger Anderson.

Sally Dahlquist acted as Deemster first by reading fun facts about Tynwald and then listing 10 laws she wished to authorize as President of NAMA and Co-President of the Manx Society of Minnesota. However, Jim Anderson, acting as Bailiff, had to step in to settle the disputes when greivances were proclaimed by Freeman Joan Gill and Pat Boehne. Final agreement seemed to only be that all were in favor of declaring June 26, 2009 Janice Leafer Day by the Manx Society of Minnesota.

They continue to be popular amongst the Finnish from the Northern Minnesota Iron Range, also brought there by miners from Cornwall.

Jean Anderson Lavelle

Rocky Mountain Manx Association Meeting

Video of a recent trip to the Isle of Man to attend the Tynwald was featured at the May 17, 2009 meeting of the Rocky Mountain Manx Association. Ed Garrett and his son Doug, who were fortunate enough to attend the Tynwald, provided the video. Also included were scenes from their sightseeing and research trips.

The meeting was held at the home of Rachel LaRue in Erie, CO, and attended by 18 people. Progress on the planning of the August 5 -8., 2010 NAMA Convention was discussed, and Pat Hall volunteered to contact Lawrence Skelly regarding a representative/speaker from the Isle of Man for the Convention

This was followed by the traditional three cheers for the Queen. Manx cake, coffee, ice tea and lemonade were served in final celebration. Our next meeting will be in September. Date and location to be decided. We will attempt to make pasties. Pasties are thought to have been introduced into the IOM by miners from Cornwall.



Mona Claycomb

Society News

Vancouver Manx Society



It snowed at the Celtifest St. Patricks Day Parade in Vancouver, when a few stalwart Manxies flew the Flag!! Josie Holmes, Dorritt & Brian Ilott, Fenella Deakin, Tess & Lesley McGee, Brian Kaneen & Rod Deakin (who took the picture).

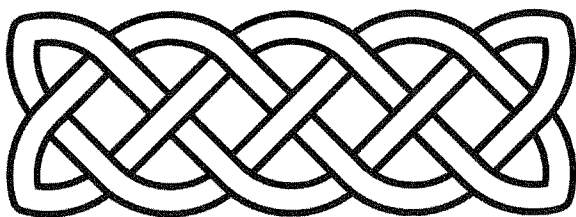
In April we held a bowling & pizza event, where competition amongst the teams was fierce, with the team with the lowest score waving the Flag in great style!!

The Society's next event will be its annual picnic in Stanley Park on Tynwald Day.

It is with sadness we inform you of the passing of Brian Lawson on Sept. 5th 2008 which was noted in the January edition of the Isle of Man Family History Society magazine. Brian recognised that as an expatriate, researching family history from a distance was difficult.

He developed a web site and a Manx Genealogy message board to assist the Manx Genealogy Society in their research. Brian was a respected member of the Isle of Man Family History Society and in 2001 was awarded a Plate in recognition for this work in Manx Genealogy.

Fenella Deakin



Spotlight on Mona Belfie

Last month I had the pleasure of visiting with Mona Belfie, our oldest member at the age of 94 and her eldest son, Michael who was visiting from Toronto.

Mona was born in St. John's, Isle of Man, on November 8th 1914, to Arthur and Eleanor Clarke (nee Teare from Peel). At 4 years of age she went to St. John's school which boasted three classrooms. She left at 15yrs. and worked in "Newsons" in Douglas, a fancy goods store selling cigarettes, newspapers and "odds and ends."

In 1939 Mona took the big step of moving to England "down south somewhere" she said, where she worked in the NAAFI of an army camp for eight weeks whilst awaiting word of her application to the English Govt. to work in the Security Division of the Secret Service.

During this time she met Canadian Arthur Belfie from Winnipeg at a camp dance... they were married in Peel in 1940. After being accepted by the Secret Service, Mona returned to the Island, where she went to work in the internment camp in Port Erin, her "cover" being that of a nurse looking after the sick. Although it was difficult times, she has fond memories of the time spent there; her son Michael recalls being cared for by the internees while Mona was at work! He stated that his Dad used to say "you can't mess with Mona...she has a gun in her purse"!

On September 19th 1946, war bride Mona sailed into Halifax on the Queen Mary with her two young sons, Michael nearly 5yrs. and Stuart 1yr. She recalls there were two or three ships that sailed in that day with over 15,000 passengers. Chaotic! They took the train to Winnipeg and were met by husband Arthur, who was on leave, and his parents and brother and discovered that they would all be living in the same house. An exhausted Mona was not amused! Chuckling, Mona said that Arthur came home from work one day to learn that she had sold the house and that they and the two boys were moving to a smaller one with no room for anyone else! Arthur was one of the last military personnel to return to Canada in 1947 having been involved in the demobbing of the troops.

Mona was a stay at home Mum in those days, while Arthur worked for the Winnipeg free press. In 1952, they were transferred to Hudson Bay, which she said was "bitterly cold, but lovely".

Manx Notes



She and the family enjoyed their time there, and Mona was surprised one day when she went into the post office and the Post Mistress asked her where she was from. On replying that she was from the Isle of Man, the Post Mistress said that she was too! Talk about a small world. They became good friends during the year they lived in Hudson Bay. They then moved to Calgary, Edmonton and then to Grand Forks where the Mounties escorted them out of town for their own safety, as the printing office had been burnt down! They then decided to move to the beautiful West Coast they had heard so much about.

Arthur continued with his work in the printing industry and Mona went to work for the Children's Aid Society, in charge of the Assessment Centre. With the help of Orry, their Great Dane, they cared for many delinquent children in their home.

On asking Mona about her childhood on the Island, she recalled the excitement of "Fair Day" (Tynwald Day). Little sleep the night before in anticipation of seeing friends she hadn't seen since the year before, the stalls, dancing, sweets and the food that her Mother prepared for the people who came to tea after the Fair; juicy ham and tongue, bread and butter and all the fancy cakes! As little ones they weren't interested in the Ceremony itself!

She recalls that each Sunday she went to church morning and evening and Sunday school in the afternoon, looking forward to the yearly Sunday school picnics, going on the charabanc (coach) to Glen Wyllin and Peel and the strawberries and ice cream at Rushen Abbey. During the holidays, she and her friends would climb up Slieau Whallian at St. John's and pick blackberries, put them in a jar with string around the neck for a handle and take

home for a pie. She remembers walking from St. John's to play on Peel shore and going to the picture house for a tanner (6 pence) a time. One story she related was about her Father, who worked for the Highway Department. He kept the dynamite used on his job in the cold storage pantry, amongst the crock pots containing the fish and food put down for the winter!

Mona's memories of the Vancouver Manx include picnics at Stanley Park, the "big do's" at the end of the year, the concerts with sing alongs and Malcolm Kinley and John Cannell, Dorothy Maxwell and she singing "there's a hole in the bucket." In 1956 the Vancouver Manx hosted the North American Manx Society Convention. Mona along with Bill Lawson, who was President at that time and his wife Isabel, as well as committee members spent many hours fund raising and planning the event. Great times enjoyed by all.

Ah, sweet memories... Thank you Mona. The Committee is very pleased to welcome Mona as an Honorary Member of the Vancouver Manx Society.

Fenella Deakin, President Vancouver Manx Society

How We Came

A feature of the 2010 NAMA Convention to be held in Denver, Colorado (August 5-8) will be vignettes telling how we Manx descendants came to be in Colorado. The following is one of those short histories.

A Ship Lost at Sea and Financial Ruin

By Mona Claycomb, Loveland, CO

My great great grandfather was William Kennish of The Corony, Maughold, Isle of Man. The Corony was a corn (wheat) mill on the Cornaa River, and had been owned for generations by the Kennish family.

In 1867, William Kennish borrowed against The Corony to purchase a shipload of wheat from America.

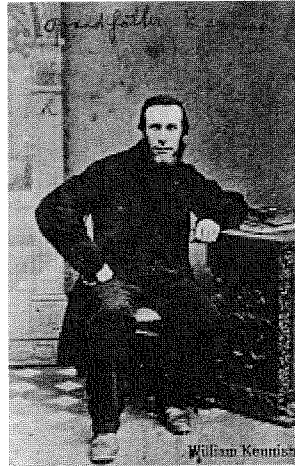
Unfortunately, the uninsured ship sank, financially ruining William Kennish and forcing the sale of The Corony, or so the story goes.

Manx Notes

William moved his family, which included his wife Catherine "Kitty" Callow of Cardle Veg, and 10 of their 13 children to Mound City, Missouri in 1870, where there was a substantial Manx community, and became a farmer.

William and Catherine's oldest son, William, had died at the age of 8 in Maughold. Two girls were left behind to collect their father's debts, and were later reunited with the family in Mound City.

William Kennish's grandson, also William Kennish, came to the Greeley, Colorado area from Mound City in 1907 to help his cousin, Will Kelly, build fences. He eventually married and settled in Wiggins, Colorado, and became a merchant and farmer.



William Kennish,
1826-1897



Catherine Callow Kennish
1826-1897

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



NAMA Membership plea

People who are Manx don't always know it. Sometimes it takes a bit of digging. So I was wondering whether I could ask the NAMA Membership for some help in tracking down more Manxies. It dawned on my that a good way of getting exposure would be for us to write Letters to the Editor of our local newspapers, including the free ones, that stretch across the USA. Usually, these letters are much sought after by Editors as they fill space and don't cost anything.

So, please, if you have time, copy this letter and send it to your local newspapers, you can either sign it yourself or put in my details. Elaborate if you like!

And if you'd like me to email it to you so you can cut'n'paste it to save writing it out, or if you'd just like to give me the newspaper's contact details, just email me: kelly@mustgoto.com

Dear Editor

My family originates from the Isle of Man, a small, independent island nation located in the Irish Sea between England and Ireland. People from the Isle of Man are called Manx. I am a member of the North American Manx Association and we are trying to locate people of Manx descent. The best way to find these people is through their names as the Isle of Man is a Celtic nation with a lot of unique names.

There are many names, some that look usual like Brew or Cain or Teare, and some that look very unusual such as Qualtrough or Mylchreest. Many Manx names begin with Call, Cann, or Qu. There is a comprehensive list on the Genealogy page on our website
<http://northamericanmanx.org>.

If you think you might be Manx, email kelly@mustgoto.com to find out how to get in touch with other Manx descendants in your area.

Gura mie ayd -- That's "thank you" in Manx Gaelic!

Your name or
*Kelly McCarthy
1006 Cameron Street
Alexandria, VA, 22314*

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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Manx Association

North American