

NORTH AMERICAN MANX ASSOCIATION

VOL 84, No.1

To preserve "Whatever is left to us of our ancient heritage." T.E. Brown

Spring 2013



NAMA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



I'm hoping everyone had a good holiday season and by the time this newsletter reaches you I'm sure many of us will be looking forward to Spring. Although it may take some time to reach Wisconsin, I have taken advantage of the snow this year to try out a little snowshoeing. It's a good workout if you want to try it.

The University of Wisconsin-Platteville Alumni Association publishes the magazine "alumni today". You can download it from <http://alumni.uwplatt.edu/?page=AlumniTodayIssues>. In the Winter 2013 edition they wrote a very nice article regarding the grand opening of the North American Manx Museum, museum displays and hours that the museum is open to visit. These are Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri from 9-4 and Tuesday from 12-8 pm.

What's exciting is that 31,600 copies of the magazine are sent out to all 50 states! Just think of how many more people have been made aware of the museum. I hope that curiosity will encourage many to visit. We are very privileged to have an electronic version of the "Chronicles of Man," the earliest document depicting the history of the Isle of Man.

We are now looking forward to the 2014 convention on the Isle of Man. Make sure you save the dates July 3 - 8, 2014. You won't want to miss any of the activities being planned. Try to encourage some family members to attend if they have never visited before. Once you get them to attend, they will certainly want to come back for a return trip.

Continue seeking out possible new members to help NAMA grow. All of you are very important to ensure that NAMA will be able to preserve our ancient heritage.

Lhiats,
Jody Morey
NAMA President

P.S. Thank you for your interest in the Manx umbrellas.
They all sold.

NAMA CONVENTION 2014 -- UPDATE



The next NAMA Convention will be held on the Isle of Man between Thursday July 3rd and Monday July 7th. Included in the long weekend will be an all-day coach tour to island beauty spots,

a reception at the Manx Museum, a raffle for a Manx quilt, a star-studded NAMA Banquet, a tour of Tynwald, a trip to the Tynwald Day ceremony at St. John's, optional Governor's Tea Party attendance, and many more fun events.

HELP!!!

We are trying to work out how many Members are thinking of attending so we can get a better grasp on costing and how many Tynwald bleachers seats we should reserve. If you are considering coming to the Isle of Man for the 2014 Convention, please email Kelly@mustgoto.com with the number in your party. Don't worry--it's just a guide.

TRAVEL NOTE: NAMA will not organize transport on and off the island. Useful tips for getting there will be posted to the NAMA blog and website and included in the upcoming NAMA Bulletins. Please note there is no longer a direct flight from Heathrow to the IOM; you will have to change airport. London City, Gatwick and Luton Airports offer flights to the island and can be accessed by bus from the main Bus Station in Heathrow Airport (www.nationalexpress.com). It is possible to reach London City by Underground (The Tube) and Docklands Light Railway. (www.tfl.gov.uk) Remember these transfers will take some time -- do not plan your flights too close together. Taxis are available at Ronaldsway (IOM) airport.

Manchester and Dublin both offer flights to the island as well as America and their transfers are within the same

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airport. Dublin is especially easy. Bear in mind the Isle of Man airport is regularly delayed by fog. It makes sense to leave plenty of time between flights for your trip home. Maybe take a day in London, Dublin or Manchester?

Don't like to fly? The ferry still operates through the Isle of Man Steam Packet to and from ports in England and Ireland. www.steam-packet.com

Convention Hotel

The Sefton Hotel in Douglas is our convention base. July is busy so you are urged to book now. The hotel has special room prices for NAMA members attending the Convention at £115.00 and \$120 per room per night, including breakfast, depending upon view. All room options can be viewed on the NAMA Blog. <http://namanx.blogspot.com>. Enter Sefton in the Search box. Please quote this reference number: NOR040714 when you make a reservation.

The Sefton can be reached on 011-441 -624-645-500 (This includes the international code) or you can email them at info@seftonhotel.co.im Please quote this reference number: **NOR040714** however you make your reservation.

(If calling, remember IOM time is ET + 5 hours.)



GO WEST YOUNG MANN!

A note from our new Chaplain, the Rev. Canon Stephen Schaitberger.

I am humbled to be elected to be chaplain to this wonderful community honoring our Manx Heritage. I have big shoes to fill as our late chaplain the Rev. Devore Craine Smith served us with excellence.

Let me share with you a bit of my Manx heritage. My great grandfather, Thomas E. Nelson, decided to emigrate to the USA during tough times back home in the early 1900s. He kept going west to Minnesota where he was a stonemason and worked on many public service projects, including a bridge spanning the Mississippi River. Our family owes a lot to the Manx Guild of Stonemasons who taught him his craft, and to the Works Progress Administration who offered a hand up. Thomas lived to a ripe old age and went swimming on his 90th birthday in Lake Minnewawa in northern Minnesota.

Going west is a Manx characteristic not only for those of us

in North America but also for those living on the Island of Man. Celtic people came from Eastern Europe. They were amongst the first people converted to Christianity during the first century A.D. Their travels west brought them across Europe and to the Isle of Man, Scotland and Ireland. They might have gone further but until 1492 there was thought to be no further west to go! Along the way they developed a Celtic Spirituality, which has woven itself into all of us with Manx heritage, albeit unawares. We Manx are on a never-ending movement from darkness to light, despair to hope, sadness to joy. We can now proceed west enough to "return home by another way!"



MANX Y-DNA PROJECT

There is a distinct group of family names which are unique to the Isle of Man; and the Manx population is a mixture of old Irish, Viking and some Scottish DNA. The purpose of this worldwide project is to try and clarify some of the early genetic origins of the Manx and to try and identify where the early Manx settlers came from. Wouldn't it be cool to find out if you are a Viking or a Celt?

If you are male and possess one of the following family names, and you know that your paternal line ancestors came originally from the Isle of Man - then you are invited to take part in this project. Just visit the website for more details at www.manxdna.co.uk. If you are accepted, there is a charge that varies depending on how many markers you test for.

Bell Boyde Brew Bridson Cain(e) Caley Callister Cal-low Cannell Cannon Carran Carine Casement Cashen/in Christian Clague Clarke Cleator Clucas Colquitt Col-lister Condra Comish Coole Corkill Corkish Corlett Cor-mode Corrin Corris Corteen Costain Cottier Cowell Cowin Cowle Cowley Craine Crebbin Creer Cregeen Crennell Crellin Cretney Cringle Crowe Cubbon Curphey Far(a) gher Fayle Gale Garrett Gawne Gell Gelling Gill Gorry Halsal(l) Hampton Hogg Joughin Kaighin Karran Kaye/Kee Kegg Kegginn Keig Kell(e)y Kennaugh Kennish/Kin-nish Keown Kermeen Kermode Kerruish Kewin Kewley Killey Killip Kinley Kinrade Kinvig Kissack Kneal(e) Kneen Lace Leece Lewin Looney Maddrell Martin Moore Mor-rison Moughtin/ton Mylchreest Mylrea Nelson Oat(e)s Quaggan/in Qualtrough Quayle Quilliam Quine Quark Quirk Radcliffe Sayle Scarffe Shimmin Skillicorn Stephen Stowell Taggart Tear(e) Vondy Watterson, Wattleworth Hat Tip to Marshall Cannell for this story.

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*Will host 2014 Convention in
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STAYING IN TOUCH WITH NAMA

MEMBERS: WE NEED YOUR EMAIL ADDRESSES. SOMETIMES WE'D LIKE TO CONTACT YOU ABOUT IMPORTANT AND TIME-SENSITIVE EVENTS AND ISSUES. PLEASE EMAIL Bill@wjmassociates.com with your email address.



'Like' us on Facebook at North American Manx Association and check out news and updates -- especially photos of the Isle of Man - from links we post from Manx media and local photographers. **NEW!!!! NAMA 2014 Convention** is the place to watch as I load news and updates on the Convention. Not on Facebook? Find a kid and get them to show you how!

Website

You can check our website to find links to Manx Societies across America and Canada as well as recipes, membership details and random Manx facts. www.northamericanmanx.org.

The NAMA Members Only area of the site is password protected and can be accessed by paid-up members of NAMA. Type in these passwords when prompted.

User Name: nama

Password: tynwald

NAMA Blog

This website is used to update members on events of interest to Americans of Manx descent. During the run up to the 2014 Convention it will also share information on trip details. <http://namanx.blogspot.com>.

Want to get in touch with us?

If you have news you'd like to share with the members of the North American Manx Association, please email Kelly McCarthy at Kelly@mustgoto.com.

OUR MANX CAT EXPERIENCES

BY FRANK EVANS & MARY KELLY



Mary Kelly with Felix.
Photo credit: Gary Tuescher

Last summer, while attending the 51st NAMA Convention, many people visited the historic home of one of the founders of Platteville, WI, Major John H. Rountree. While there, they may have met "Felix," the resident 18 year-old female Manx cat. She was a 3-year old Maine Coon Manx stumpy who had been abused before we, Frank Evans and Mary Kelly, adopted her from a local Humane Society in 1998. Generally, we have avoided taking her to veterinarians because she, understandably, has problems trusting strangers. In 2008, Felix growled so constantly that our vet could not listen to her heart and then he suggested administering a general anesthetic for her check-up. We declined, fearing she might not recover. On another occasion, when she needed an antibiotic shot, it was administered through a car window in the clinic parking lot!

Last January, after more than 40 years of raising Manx cats, it seemed we might not have a Manx cat during the year we expected to entertain so many Manx friends attending the NAMA Convention. This time, Felix had bit a hole on her left thigh. We had no choice but to reluctantly sign consent papers that allowed the veterinarian to give her a general anesthetic injection. It was done while Felix was still in her carrying case, and after a couple of minutes she was ready for a "day at the spa." She was given her shot, cleaned and clipped. When ready, she had another injection to reverse the anesthetic, and she came around, to the amazement and gratitude of her anxiously awaiting "parents."

The first Manx cat we adopted was an all-black stumpy kitten that came from a Cuba City, WI, farm in 1960. Since he was used to being out-of-doors we went outside with him. Almost at once, he scampered up high in a tall tree. After that we kept him on a short leash. As a kitten, he was afraid of our brassy parakeet. As an adult cat, things were very different. At that time, Mary's family owned and lived in dormitory for men students. Some residents would tease him



and he would fight back. He was huge and known for being able to spring from the kitchen floor to the top of the old refrigerator, where he would wait to pounce on people. As fierce as he was, sometimes he would lie beneath the toddler's stroller, and allow her to pull on his fur. Four years later, we moved and he was given to another family.

In July 1974, my father, Maynard Kelly, 75, daughter, 13, and I made our first trip to the Isle of Man. It was a trip we planned so my father could visit the homeland his father had left a century before. The local newspaper carried an article about the government-run cattery at Nobles Park and indicated they had cats for adoption, but the waiting time was several months. Of course, we all wanted to see the tail-less cats, but we knew adopting would be out of the question since we would only be staying on the Island for another week. While Dad and I marveled at the variety of colors of Manx cats, my daughter swooned over the kittens and talked about how much she wanted one. Before I knew it, the woman in charge had told her they just happened to have a young cat for her, "ready to go."

Knowing it would be no simple matter to transport a live cat back to Wisconsin, but finding no way to talk my daughter or father out of the idea, I began by calling the American Consulate in London. They told me that importing a Manx cat from the Isle of Man was not prohibited, as long as it went directly to the States, as the Isle of Man had not had a case of rabies in a century. Soon we made arrangements, paid the fees, got approval from the IoM authorities and left the Island to tour in England. We planned to meet the cat at London Heathrow's cargo the day it left Ronaldsway Airport, and then take the next flight to Chicago O'Hare International. Could this plan work? *Next installment: Manx Cat Flew and Flu.*



SOCIETY NEWS

Wisconsin Manx Society, Inc. - On Oct. 7, 2012, members met with relief, excitement, appreciation and congratulations for those who had successfully planned and hosted the 51st Biennial North American Manx Convention in August, after years of planning and fundraising. Jody Morey, Mary Kelly and Joyce Benjamin were especially thanked by our President, Georgene Voutila for their cooperation, foresight and persistence to produce such an interesting meeting. Advance publicity for the Convention caught

the interest of several newcomers, some of whom have become new WMS members. U.W. Platteville Chancellor, Dennis Shields and staff and students received high praise for their special efforts to keep schedules and food Service running smoothly throughout the week.

The debut of the new Manx Museum in Ullsvik Hall on the Platteville Campus was a highlight of the convention and all were gratified that it was possible for Bob Kelly, our philanthropist member to be present for the occasion. Other NAMA members and organizations, as well as those of Wisconsin, are placing donations of historical Manx items in the museum. Since the extensive traveling library of WMS has become too big to travel, it's a relief to know that all Manx and heritage-related books that are not reclaimed by owners will be taken to the Southwest Wisconsin Room in Ullsvik Hall, where they will be available to visitors and students at UW-Platteville. John and Norma Bircher are remembered for their many years of storing and bringing our "Library" to meetings. Since our WMS website has been declared "non-functional" by some, it is hoped that there might be a Platteville student who could teach us to maintain it and help to keep it current.

The Chicago Manx Society - We held a meeting at the home of John and Mary Prendergast on October 21, 2012. Bob Kelly, due to declining health, sought to resign as President of the Chicago Manx Society, a position he held since the middle 1990's. Richard Corrin, our own NAMA Trustee, was unanimously elected as President. We all shared our stories from the Wisconsin convention and enjoyed a delicious potluck meal.

Our next meeting will be held at the home of Dorothy Gawne, in Niles, Illinois, on Sunday, April 14, 2013, at 1PM. A potluck meal will be served at 1:30PM, and a meeting will take place at 2PM. We would invite any interested Manx people to join us that day. For more information on the upcoming meeting, or to join the Chicago Manx in the future, contact Brad Prendergast (beeves@juno.com).

Northern California Manx - With our usual 'traa dy-liooar' attitude, we held our Christmas Cooish in January. As always, we were welcomed to the home of Kim Parker and Peter Herrera, Most Gracious Hosts. In addition to our usual attendees, we had a special guest, Vanessa Vierra (Larry Fargher's granddaughter). We had a very nice potluck dinner, organized by Una Reed, who has 'volunteered' to serve as our Director of Planning, Logistics and Consumables. We even had a 'business' session, begun with the singing of "Ellan Vannin."

There was sad news to report - the passing of Bob Kelly, Past President and corporate memory of NAMA. Bob's family had made the very kind gesture of sending one of Bob's Manx ties to Larry Fargher, another Past President.

NAMA's growing presence on the web and our own Northern California Manx Society Facebook site were discussed. Coincident with this, Stafanie Midlock 'volunteered' to be our Director of Communications and Media. The 2012 NAMA Convention held in Platteville, WI was interesting news to the group. The dedication of the Manx Museum at the University received a lot of attention. We also liked hearing about the National Brewery Museum in Potosi, WI. Everyone wanted to know more about the next NAMA Convention, to be held at Tynwald time on the Isle of Man. As the details and information sites become available, they will be sent on to our intrepid band.

A highlight of our gathering was Elaine Stephenson giving us a biographical sketch of her grandfather, Robert Cain, a shipbuilder from Port St. Mary. Elaine was celebrating her 80th birthday, and she isn't afraid for the world to know.



New!!!! Ontario Manx Society - There's a really good chance we could get a new Canadian Manx Society up and running soon! Sue Black and Lesley Hawkes (nee Axford) from Napanee have been talking to us about rounding up some Manxies in the Province. Please email Lesley if you would like to join or help out. Her email is thehawkesr@xplornet.ca. There is also an Ontario Manx Society Facebook page.

It's not too hard to start a local society. Seasoned NAMA members are full of useful ideas and are a great resource when getting started.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

NAMA was delighted to receive Christmas cards from the Hon. Clare Christian, President of Tynwald, the Hon Steve and Mrs. Rodan, Speaker of the House of Keys, and the London Manx Society.

From: Barry Hughes, IOM Family History Society, Lancashire Family History

You don't know me, but I'm 77 years of age and British of Manx extraction. My Manx father never forgave for having been so inconsiderate as to be born on the English mainland!

I have just found your fascinating NAMA website and wonder, as a member of the Isle of Man Family History Society, if your members are aware that the Manx National Heritage iMuseum has just gone online at <http://www.imuseum.im>. The free online genealogy records in particular (click the Explore Family History link) will no doubt be of value to the Association, particularly since a search returns a short transcript and not just an index to registers.

The Manx General Registry (for B/M/D certificates) is at <http://www.gov.im/registries/general/civilregistry> although registration on the island began only in 1878.

iMuseum family history records cover:

Baptisms on the Isle of Man, 1600-1981

Marriages on the Isle of Man, 1589-1900

Burials on the Isle of Man, 1598-2003

Isle of Man Census Index for 1841, 1851, 1861, 1871, 1891, 1901, (1911 is in progress and will be added shortly)

Registered Deeds, 1880-1910

I carry out family history research in the island's archives at the Museum library in Douglas, and find the newly online records a wonderful addition, as I'm sure your members will.

From: Georgene Gelling Voutila

I was fortunate to "win" the voice auction for the generous donation for a week in Maui at Larry Fargher's condominium. If Larry is generous to again donate this as a fundraiser, please do not hesitate to bid! This wonderful condo is situated directly on a beautiful sand beach. The two bedrooms and baths were comfortable. We really appreciated the washing machine and dryer on the same floor. The building is only three stories, which makes for easy walking. The sunsets were gorgeous! We saw whales spouting in the distant. We had good friends join us and we all had enough room and privacy. There are elevators, which made it convenient as we were bringing our groceries in. The manager of the condominiums was very helpful. I hope to go back again. Thanks Larry!!!



(Kirk Conchan Wheel
Cross by the late
Maureen Costain
Richards R.B.V)

IN REMEMBRANCE

Frances G. Scoll-Remeika, Wisconsin Manx Society charter member/genealogist, Frances G. Scoll-Remeika born November 19, 1915 died November 5, 2012. Fran and her younger siblings grew up with an understanding that they were "British" but she discovered and pursued their Manx ancestry after learning that their maternal grandmother had been daughter of Thomas Cannell, born on I.O.M., married in Kirk Michael, 1848 and buried at Barrow-in-Furness, England in 1879. Fran and Dann Willett, of WMS found they had a Manx grandmother in common, but they were uncertain about their relationship to Mike, Bob and William Cannell, who were also WMS members. Fran encouraged her sister, Doris Alff to be part of the organizing "charter members" and eventually carry on as an active member of NAMA when she was unable to be involved. Fran particularly appreciated Manx hospitality and assistance when she visited the Island.



THE WORLD MANX ASSOCIATION



The World Manx Association is a non-political organisation based in the Isle of Man. It was founded by Richard Cain O.B.E. in 1911 after an appeal by the Manx poet T.E. Brown in 1897 for a hearty welcome to homecomers.

Its objectives include the uniting of Manx people throughout the world, and the welcoming of homecomers, persons with Manx ancestry who are visiting the Island. It acts as a focal point for the ex-patriate Manx Societies, which while are independant of the W.M.A may affiliate with it, and an Annual Newsletter is circulated to them. On Tynwald Day, July 5th there is a Home Comers Tent on the fairfield at St Johns where homecomers and the general public are welcomed by the W.M.A and an exhibition of children's art and creative writing is displayed. We are looking forward to joining with them when we visit next July.

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 _____

Phone _____

City _____

email _____

State/Prov _____ Zip/PC _____

Individual Membership	Dues	Amount
Annual	\$15	_____
LIFE		
Under age 50	\$250	_____
Age 50-59	\$175	_____
Age 60 and over	\$125	_____
Junior (age 1-18 yrs, no bulletin)	\$2	_____

Family Membership	Dues	Amount
Annual	\$20	_____
LIFE		
Under age 50	\$325	_____
Age 50-59	\$235	_____
Age 60 and over	\$200	_____

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

Total Remittance

(in U.S. Dollar or equivalent amount) _____

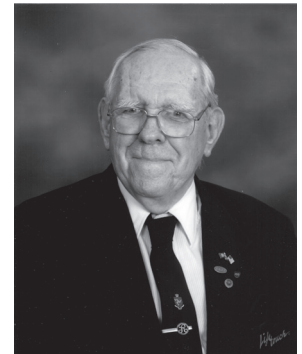
John Prendergast
NAMA Treasurer
10251 South Bell Ave.
Chicago, IL 60643-1901 USA

..... Detach Here

Bob Kelly.

As we mentioned in the last issue, our dear friend, Past President, and former Honorary President, Robert 'Bob' Kelly of Rockford, IL passed away on November 15th, 2012.

Bob loved his country and enlisted in the Army at 17, serving in the 100th Infantry Division during its march across Europe in World War II. He was awarded the Purple Heart and other honors. He was a proud descendant of the Isle of Man and served as the Honorary President of the North American Manx Association having been Junior Member No. 1 in his youth. He is a former President of the Chicago Area Manx Society and a member of the Wisconsin Manx Society.



Both Bob's generosity and his love of heritage are reflected in his generous bequests, made in the name of him and his dear, late wife, Jean, to the North American Manx Museum at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville, and the Manx Museum in Douglas, Isle of Man. The donation to Platteville has been well recorded. The photo shown here is of the famous T.E. Brown window, which was originally located in the old T.E. Brown room in the Douglas museum. It was moved in 2008 and Bob contributed to its dramatic relocation within the building. The window was designed by Manx painter, William Hoggatt, and holds a special place in the cultural heart of the nation. It is fitting that Bob should have a memorial in both of the lands he held dear.

North American Manx Association

Kelly McCarthy

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