

N A M A



NORTH AMERICAN MANX ASSOCIATION

VOL 86, No.2 To preserve "Whatever is left to us of our ancient heritage." T.E. Brown Summer/Fall 2015



UPDATE: WE'VE BEEN TO CANADA - TWICE!!

As promised in the last issue, some of the Board attended the Montreal Celtic Society festival, held over May Day weekend. It was great fun and we were a bit of a hit. It seems that the Manx are very underrepresented at Celtic events, and some keen people heard about it on the radio and made the trek downtown to see us.

In an amazing coincidence, new (and very enthusiastic) member Jon Hislop discovered that his grandmother lived in the house now owned by Kelly McCarthy's dad! One of our new members was kind enough to bring us a NAMA Directory from the 1950s listing many Canadians. We signed up three new families including Jon's, Laurel and Ron Hewitt, and Catherine and Joseph Timmons. We hope to run a report of the Montreal Manx's first get-together very soon.

We are excited to re-ignite the Manx connection in Canada. Right now we are beefing up our efforts to have the Maple Leaf element of our logo well represented as our organization moves forward. In common with most cultural societies, we have problems attracting and keeping younger members who feel distanced from their heritage. Canada is no exception. Any suggestions or assistance are most welcome.



WHAT KATY DID - IN TORONTO!

BY KATIE PRENDERGAST

In our continued effort to reach out to our Canadian members I, 2nd Vice-President Katy Prendergast, drove to Toronto, Ontario to meet with Sue Black, a Manxwoman by birth who has lived in Canada for over 40 years. We spent the Labor Day weekend touring both Toronto and Toronto Island as potential locations for the 2018 Manx Convention. Despite

being Canada in early September, we experienced some of the hottest days of the year. I was introduced to the underground pathways of downtown Toronto, and it was quite nice and quite similar to the subterranean town center we discovered in Montreal. On the many tours and sites that we took in, I couldn't help but notice the major difference between the two cities, which is the explosion of condominiums. However, as a lifelong Chicagoan it was nice to hear that Toronto likes our lakefront so much they are trying to emulate it there!



Sue Black and Katy Prendergast

Sue is very keen in helping to restart the Ontario Manx Association and was provided a list by the Treasurer John Prendergast of everyone who lives within an approximate four-hour driving distance of Toronto. It is the hope of both Sue and NAMA that Toronto will be successful in hosting a Society meeting sometime in the spring/summer of 2016. For anyone else who is interested in reaching out to Sue her email is: sueb408@gmail.com or check out the Ontario Manx Association Facebook page.



Toronto shoreline

The 2018 Convention Committee still has one more location to visit and we will be in Victoria BC on October 16-18th. All members are invited to join the committee for dinner on October 17th at a location to be determined. For more information please contact: katyprendergast@gmail.com.

MESSAGE FROM THE TREASURER:

Please look at the cover of this newsletter, above your name and address; if it says "please pay" and either \$15 or \$20, make your check payable to NAMA and mail it to John Prendergast NAMA Treasurer, 10251 S. Bell Ave., Chicago, IL 60643-1901 (The form is on page 3)

Do not mail it to the return address on the newsletter or to Kelly McCarthy as she loses them.



REVEREND AL TURNS 90!



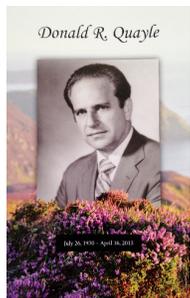
Sandy Corlett celebrates the 90th birthday of Rev. Al Scarff, a founding member of the Rocky Mountain Manx Society.

On September 6, 2015, The Reverend Al Scarff celebrated his 90th birthday at the John Collins United Methodist Church in Denver, CO. Al still conducts Sunday services at this church. He was one of the founding members of the Rocky Mountain Manx Society. NAMA members know him through his substitute Chaplin duties at the 2010 NAMA Convention in Denver

and leading the attendees in singing Ellan Vannin at the conclusion of the final prayer.



REMEMBERING PAST PRESIDENT DON QUAYLE



Donald R. Quayle

North American Manx Association Past President and the first president of National Public Radio passed away on April 17th 2015. Don Quayle was 84 years old. A service of Remembrance was held on Sunday June 14th, 2015 at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Rockville, where we once celebrated the life of his dear wife Von when she passed

away a few years ago. The crowd who came to pay their respects was vast and came from every walk of life.

His love of all things Manx was reflected in the choice of image used on the Service card. His children, Shar Hellie, Debra Quayle, Karen Hall and Bryce Quayle each gave a joyous and emotional recounting of their lives with their parents and the wonderful gifts Don had given them through his humor and good nature. He was truly a lovely and remarkable man.

Don had a long career in public broadcasting, in both television and radio. NPR's Susan Stamberg reflected on his impact.

Don was principled, decent and astute. In the euphoric tumult of our first years, he navigated the choppy seas of building a public radio system. He knew NPR had to serve you, our listeners, above the competing needs of stations, boards and funders.

Putting the network's first program, All Things Considered, on the air in 1971, he presided over a dedicated and scrappy staff, and always said his job was to build a structure in which creative people could flourish.

Today's NPR goes far beyond the structure that Don worked to establish from 1970 to 1973. It's now grown to 900-plus member stations — a giant leap from the original handful. And All Things Considered is the first of many programs NPR now produces. But the systems and sensibility he put in place (and yes, even some of the people) continue to flourish, thanks to his initial guidance.

Five years ago, Utah State University, his alma mater, presented Don with an honorary doctorate of humane letters for his "significant contributions" to public broadcasting. He was as thrilled about that as he was when he first saw the snazzy new Washington, D.C., headquarters in which we now work.

He was warm and kind in his enthusiasms. At the heart of them, in addition to his family, was his belief in the work you hear, here on NPR, every day.

To the Washington Manx Society he was a stalwart and dear friend. To the North American Manx Association he was a wonderful President, an invaluable Board member and friend to all.



UPDATE : APPEAL FOR HELP

Remember how John Murray asked about Manx involvement in the Civil War last issue? This is a message I received recently signed by "Lyle and Shirley Howard and our Manx cousins."

Dear NAMA : We are very pleased with our contact with John Murray on the IOM regarding his piece in the Spring Newsletter about his interest in Manxmen who served in the American Civil War. He gave us information on our Great Grandfather Philip Killey of Lamphell that we did not have before. Our grandmother never talked about her parents except her father was ill after the war and our mother, the family amateur genealogist, did not find information about his service. But she did not have internet access during her time. Due to Mr. Murray's search, of the Illinois State Archives and the National Archives in Washington, we now have Philip's enlistment date, rank, 112th Illinois Infantry that became a mounted unit, possibly served in the Knoxville, Tennessee, campaign, was mustered out of Union service in June 1865, and he received a pension due to his illness until his death.

NAMA MEMBERSHIP ENROLLMENT FORM

PROMOTE AND PROTECT OUR MANX HERITAGE

Join now and make sure you keep receiving your newsletter and don't forget to mail us if you change your address!

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

Name _____ Spouse _____
Street _____ Phone _____
City _____ email _____
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Individual Membership	Dues	Amount
Annual	\$15	_____
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Under age 50	\$250	_____
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Under age 50	\$325	_____
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Age 60 and over	\$200	_____

To become a NAMA member, or to renew your membership, please send this form and your check made out to North American Manx Association or money order to John Prendergast.

(DO NOT SEND TO KELLY MCCARTHY AT THE RETURN ADDRESS ON THE FRONT OF THE NEWSLETTER)

ONLY SEND MONEY TO: **John Prendergast**

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

Total Remittance

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

Please advise John if you change your address.

Detach Here



REST IN PEACE PHILIP CORKILL

A message to the family of NAMA Life Member Philip A. Corkill

NAMA sends condolences to Emily M. (nee Norman) Corkill whose husband Philip (89) died on January 3, 2015 in Lincoln, Nebraska. Philip was a lifetime member of the North American Manx Association and had visited the Isle of Man several times and could trace his genealogy to the 1600s.

NAMA also sends condolences to the following survivors: Sue of Lincoln; Philip Jr. and Jane of Lincoln; Alice Jane and Mark Gay of Las Vaas; Andrew N. and Elsa of Riverside, California. Grandchildren: Neco Martinez, Bridger Corkill, Andrew Vontz and Analiese Vontz; brother Paul D. Corkill of Ball Ground, Georgia.

We hope all will consider building on Philip's love of the Isle of Man by also supporting NAMA through membership and involvement.



SEVEN CELTIC QUESTIONS

WITH KELLY MCCARTHY

SEVEN CELTIC QUESTIONS

Answers: 1) Philip A. Corkill, 2) Emily M. (nee Norman) Corkill, 3) Sue of Lincoln, 4) Philip Jr. and Jane of Lincoln, 5) Alice Jane and Mark Gay of Las Vaas, 6) Andrew N. and Elsa of Riverside, California, 7) Neco Martinez, Bridger Corkill, Andrew Vontz and Analiese Vontz, 8) Paul D. Corkill of Ball Ground, Georgia.



Following the Montreal Celtic Fair, Celtic Life International interviewed the current President of the North American Manx Association. This was the outcome.

-What are your own Celtic roots?

I am Manx. My father's family goes back over 500 years in the same fishing village, Port St. Mary, on the Isle of Man, where I grew up. The 1511 Manorial Roll shows the then MacKellly family on the same farm that one of my cousins still farms today. When I wander around the island of my childhood there are signs everywhere that we've been around a long time. My maiden name is Kelly but I use it now as my first name. It's how I carry my Celtic identity with me.

-Why are those roots important to you?

Most people like to have roots. It's interesting to me that when the North American Manx Association hosts a table at a Celtic event people come and tell me they're Manx. And when I ask when they came to America they'll say something like 1715! It's clear that people identify as being American but have a sense of "being" from somewhere else.

My roots are important because to me, the Isle of Man is so much more than a rock in the Irish Sea. Its beauty is permanent. Its people are stubborn and kind. We have clung to our independence despite attempts to consume it, and have hung on to our self-governing status despite various assaults from the UK and EU. We have the oldest continuous parliament on the planet. We acknowledged women as equals many years before our neighbors. We sent more than our fair share of men to fight in the world wars. Through ingenuity we developed world-class industries to deliver a first-class standard of living to people of all walks of life. I'm proud of our resourceful and caring environment that treasures its culture, its people and its pristine environment.

-What does it mean to you today to be of Celtic heritage?

When I moved to America in 2000 I got swept up in the Washington Manx Society and actually thought it was an odd thing to do. I'm Manx, I figured, I know all about the island. I don't need to be in a heritage society. But then I woke up to the fact that the Celts played an enormous part in the building of America. I look at towns like Christiansburg in southwest Virginia, which was named for a Manxman, and reflect how such places needed to be built from the ground up. Then I got involved in the North American Manx Association and met people whose ancestors came to America from the island to labor, to mine, to farm, to fish, and I thought: I want this story to be passed to my children. They were born on the island but moved here when they were little. I want them to know that a just a few generations back, their compatriots came to America and stamped their Manx mark on this new land.

-How are you involved with the Celtic community?

I am the current President of the North American Manx Association. I also manage its blog at <http://namanx.blogspot.com>, run the Facebook pages and edit the Bulletin. So I need to keep up-to-date with Manx events in order to share them with the wider North-American Manx community. I am trying to build a bridge between the Isle of Man, and Canada and the United States. I try to keep the Manx authorities aware of opportunities for outreach in the US and Canada, and to encourage people over here to go back "home" and find out more about their heritage. Currently,

I am on a mission to bring more Canadians back into the North American Manx Association, but I'd also like to see a resurgence in the heartland of America. It's estimated there are a million people of Manx descent in America, and we'd like to find them and share a little of their Manxness with them.

-Why is it important to keep Celtic culture alive?

I'm not sure it's that important in the grand scheme of things, but it's interesting to have some connection to where we came from. Going back to what I said about the sense of belonging that Americans have for their "home countries," and the history of the Celts in America, I believe we need to do a better job of explaining what we all left behind and why. And I truly believe we need to more widely promote how important the contribution of Celts to the American cultural landscape has been.

-Is enough being done to preserve and promote Celtic culture generally?

I think the arts do a really good job at getting the Celtic message out. But my big dream would be to have a National Celtic Museum. I think it's time to toast the Celts that built the country and share their stories. On the Isle of Man we have a visitors' heritage trail called the Story of Mann that links everything from the Celts, to the Vikings, to the crofters, fishermen, farmers, miners, schools, and government in a seamless trip around the island. I'd like to see something like that here. All of the Celtic nations could share their unique contributions to the America we know today in one place. The National Mall in Washington D.C., maybe??

-What can we be doing better?

As each generation stretches us further from the Celtic exodus of the 19th and 20th centuries, the link to a "homeland" becomes more tenuous. If we wish to fan the flames of Celtic heritage, we must attract young people to our associations and events. And while social events like Celtic Fairs are a brilliant way to deploy our best weapons — music and the craic — I believe there is a real market for a Celtic Studies elective in colleges and universities.

LIST OF NORTH AMERICAN MANX ASSOCIATION OFFICERS:

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Leslie Hanson, President World
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Norm Standish

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Dorothy Gawne, Niles, IL

Bill Cassidy, Alexandria, VA



STAYING CONNECTED WITH THE NORTH AMERICAN MANX ASSOCIATION

Visit our website: www.northamericanmanx.org. You can check this website to find links to Manx Societies across America and Canada as well as recipes, Membership details and random Manx facts. **The NAMA Members Only** area of our website is password protected and can only be accessed by paid-up members of NAMA. Type in these passwords when prompted. **User Name: nama Password: tynwald**

Regular updates: Our blog is used to update members on events of interest to Americans of Manx descent. Guest authors from the Isle of Man make regular additions. You should visit often! <http://namanx.blogspot.com>.



Like Facebook???? We're on Facebook at North American Manx Association.

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.



SUDDENLY ROYAL



The Isle of Man has been broadcast all over the world through the TLC program "Suddenly Royal" which is following the progress of David, Pam and Grace Howe as they pursued David Drew Howe's claim to the Manx throne.

In the show they began to explore the land, get acquainted with the traditions, learn the Manx language, and even hire an etiquette coach and royal advisor. From attempting to host royal garden parties and sipping tea with the highest social circles of the Isle, to participating in the World Tin Bath Championship and getting lost during an RV tour, this fish out of water experience proved to be challenging, comical, and often times emotional for the family.

The Manx people were hospitable but skeptical, and as usual, the real show-stealer was the beauty of our magnificent homeland.



MUSIC BY ELGAR, LYRICS BY T.E. BROWN

*"Weary wind of the west,
Over the billowy sea -
Come to my heart, and rest!
Ah, rest with me!"*

*"Come from the distance dim,
Bearing the sun's last sigh;
I hear thee sobbing for him
Thro' all the sky."*

*So the wind came,
Purpling the middle sea,
Crisping the ripples of flame -
Came unto me;*

*Came with a rush to the shore,
Came with a bound to the hill,
Fell and died at my feet,
Then all was still.*



2016 CONVENTION UPDATE

2016 - June 24-26. This will be hosted by 1st Vice-President Jim Kneale and will be held in historic Annapolis, MD. The host venue will be the O'Callaghan Annapolis Hotel, which is based in Dublin, Ireland and prides itself on being a true touch of Ireland.

Jim is VERY keen to hear from members about their ability to walk around Annapolis, which is an old town with winding roads. He is specifically interested in how people might tackle the Naval Academy. It has a large campus and only security-cleared bus drivers are allowed on it. The museum is very accessible, but the grounds, while flat, are extensive. It is .09 miles from the hotel. His decisions about outings will be based upon feedback so please email him at jim.kneale@gmail.com with your thoughts on mobility issues.

Meanwhile, Bill Cassidy is working with musicians, Manx language enthusiasts and local historians to put together a few workshops exploring Manx culture and Manx influences on America. Also, plan for a fun night in the hotel bar! Fuller details will arrive with the winter issue of the Bulletin.

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WEARY WIND OF THE WEST

FOUR-PART SONG

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THE MUSIC COMPOSED BY

EDWARD ELGAR.

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1 2 1

This lovely choral piece "Weary Wind of the West" by Sir Edgar Elgar has lyrics from our own Manx National Poet, T.E. Brown.

Email Kelly@mustgoto.com for a copy of the music and be sure to check it out on YouTube.



NORTH AMERICAN MANX ASSOCIATION YOUTH AWARDS 2015



Young people who make an exceptional contribution to Manx culture, language and the community were honored by the Northern American Manx Association (NAMA) over Tynwald weekend, July 2015.

Awards are presented annually to under 25-year-olds who have excelled in their field, with the winners receiving a specially minted silver medallion. This year these were presented by NAMA lifetime honorary member, Anne Minay (photo).

World Manx Association president Leslie Hanson (photo) and Professor Ronald Barr, chief executive of the Department of Education and Children, judged the nominations. Tynwald president Clare Christian thanked NAMA for its continued commitment to the awards, saying: 'This is an exciting year for Manx culture with the island taking the lead with Kernow (Cornwall) at the Lorient Festival and no-one can fail to be aware of the how vibrant the Manx language, music and dance scenes are at the moment, with new material being produced all the time.

'So it is wonderful in this vibrant environment to have more young people embracing these aspects of Manx culture and reaching the high standards which are required to win the NAMA awards.

'As well as these artistic expressions of our culture, recognition is given to those who contribute to our community, an equally important aspect of Manx life in a world where there is a tendency for people to communicate electronically rather than face to face.'

Daniel Quayle, aged 17, of Ballakermeen High School, was recognized for his outstanding achievement in Manx music. (Incidentally, Daniel is also one of the forces behind the Facebook page NAMA Youth, which is looking for assistance from American young people of Manx descent.)



IMPORTANT MANX DISCOVERY MADE IN PEEL



Christopher Shimmin
(Courtesy Manx National Heritage)

A forgotten play by perhaps the Island's greatest playwright, Christopher Shimmin, has been discovered in the Leece Museum in Peel after being lost for nearly 100 years. The typewritten manuscript is of the play, *Mrs. Kelly's Slough*, is by Christopher Shimmin who was born in Peel in 1870.

He emigrated to America at the age of 21 but eventually returned to the UK for work. He became a monumental mason in Peel during WWI, making many graves for the enemy aliens of Knockaloe internment camp. He was elected one of the first ever Manx Labour MHKs in 1919 and served in Manx government until his death in 1933. Shimmin began writing plays in Manx dialect around 1912 and he soon became known as the Island's greatest ever playwright. Amongst the most famous of his nine plays are the comedies, *Illiam Kodhere's Will* and *Luss ny Graih*, and the drama, *The Third Boat*. But amongst the acknowledged list of his works never appeared the play found in the Leece Museum, *Mrs. Kelly's Slough*.

Having been lost for almost 100 years, the play was discovered in a suitcase which once belonged to the great Manx dialect performer, Gladys Cowell. The discovery was made by James Franklin, who was researching her as a part of the ongoing Kathleen Faragher oral history project funded by Culture Vannin.

The play can be found on the Manx Literature website: <http://manxliterature.com/sort-by-genre/plays/mrs-kellys-slough/>

Christopher Shimmin (Courtesy Manx National Heritage)

North American Manx Association

c/o Bulletin Editor
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Alexandria, VA 22307



NORTH AMERICAN MANX ASSOCIATION INVADES MONTREAL!

L-R New member Jon Hislop, President, Kelly McCarthy, 2nd Vice-President
Katy Prendergast (seated) and Secretary Bill McCarthy