

N A M A



NORTH AMERICAN MANX ASSOCIATION

VOL 90, No.2 To preserve "Whatever is left to us of our ancient heritage." T.E. Brown Spring 2019

THE 2020 CONVENTION



Plans are progressing for the 2020 North American Manx Association Convention. It will be held at Hotel 1620 right on Plymouth Harbor and will run from 7th-9th August 2020. We have blocked off rooms and you should quote **NAMA2020** when reserving your room. **Only book the hotel directly by phone or on their own website. Please, please, please do not book in any other way, as we could be financially liable if we fail to hit our room allocation. Our specially negotiated rate at this busy harbor hotel is \$229 per night.**

If you don't wish to stay at the convention hotel there are many alternatives but please remember this will be a very busy year for Plymouth as it is the 400th anniversary of the landing of the settlers aboard The *Mayflower*.



This is an American celebration and we have some fun events planned. We will also reacquaint ourselves with Captain Myles Standish, the militia man aboard the vessel, who is of Manx descent, and delightfully links our American and Manx heritages.

While flights to Boston are plentiful, the bus link to Plymouth stops short of the town and will require a taxi pick up from a drop-off point. You might want to consider renting a car. The hotel has lots of parking spaces. Please mention any disabilities when you reserve your room. **Hotel Phone Number: +1 (508) 747-4900**

Note to the BOARD: When reserving rooms for the Board meeting on August 10th this year, please quote **NAMA2019**

THE MANX IN CLEVELAND

I found these interesting notes on the Case Western Reserve University website. It's contained within an encyclopedia of Cleveland history and includes this section:

*Manx, immigrants from the Isle of Man, in the Irish Sea, form a unique ethnic group. Cleveland, in fact, is the center of Manx immigration in the U.S. Most Cleveland Manx came from the Kirk Andreas section of the Isle of Man. Dr. Harrison, a British army physician, had visited the Reserve, and after returning home told his brother, Rev. Harrison, of the opportunity in Ohio. Manx farmers, many of whom faced adverse conditions and resented class distinctions, welcomed the news. In 1822 the Corlett family came to America, leased 50 acres of Newburgh land from the **CONNECTICUT LAND CO.**, became farmers, and enthusiastically encouraged their fellow Manxmen to follow. In May 1826 3 more Manx families (the Kelleys, Teares, and Kneens—13 people) settled in Newburgh, each family purchasing a farm, establishing a Manx settlement that drew further migrants. Another 70 Manx families settled in the Warrensville area on 25 May 1827. Eventually there were over 3,000 Manx and their descendants, bound by their own unique Gaelic*

(Continued page 2)

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 6) We have set the Junior membership at just \$2 and that takes you right up to your 30th Birthday.

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*language, which they used almost exclusively with each other and in their religious services, offered by Rev. Patrick Cannell, a Methodist preacher who came to **NEWBURGH** in 1826. Cannell first held services in his log house, and later in the schoolhouse on the Corlett farm. The original schoolhouse was replaced in 1842 by "Manx St. School." In 1851 21 Manxmen established Mona's Relief Society to provide emergency assistance. On 7 Dec. 1899, a ladies' auxiliary was organized. In 1913 the group affiliated with the World Manx Society.*

*The community's major cultural organization, the Manx Choral Society, was organized in 1926 by John E. Christian. It performed at the 1st Intl. Manx Convention, held in Cleveland in Aug. 1928. The North American Manx Assn. was organized at that convention; Christian was elected chairman. In 1923 the Cleveland Manx "sealed their link with the Isle of Man" when they presented a gold medal award at the Manx Musical Festival. This honor is awarded annually and is the strongest cultural bond between the homeland and Cleveland. Among noted Clevelanders of Manx descent are **Dr. WM. T. CORLETT**, lawyer W. Sheldon*

*Kerruish, shipbuilder **THOS. QUAYLE** and builders **JOHN GILL & SONS**. Although immigration from the Isle of Man has nearly ceased, the closely knit Manx community, numbering an estimated 1,100 immigrants and descendants in 1970, continued to foster its culture and history into the 1980s.
<https://case.edu/ech/articles/m/manx>*

CLEVELAND MANX SOCIETY

The CLEVELAND MANX SOCIETY was organized from Mona's Relief Society and Mona's Mutual Benefit Society, which provided assistance to immigrants from the Isle of Man, Mona once being the name of the Isle of Man. Mona's Relief Society was organized by 21 Manx settlers in 1851, 25 years after the first Manxmen arrived in Cleveland, for "the mutual improvement of its members, and the charitable relief of" Manxmen in need. It was supplemented 4 years later by Mona's Mutual Benefit Society, a fraternal insurance society charging monthly dues and providing sick and death benefits. In 1935 the Benefit Society had 200 members.

Between 1876-86, Mona's Relief Society had 268 relief applicants and paid \$1,745. The society bought a burial lot in **WOODLAND CEMETERY**, burying 60 there until 1911, when it bought a larger lot at Highland Park Cemetery. Mona's Relief Society became a major social and cultural institution in the Manx community. In 1853 it began annual Manx festivals, and in 1880 initiated an annual picnic; both raised funds for relief work. By 1886 the society had 65 members; it began a debating club for young people in the late 19th century. In 1899 an endowment fund was created and the Ladies' Auxiliary was established; its quilting and sewing meetings provided a more regular income for the society's relief work. The society supported "the First Great Manx Homecoming," a visit to the homeland, in 1927. By the mid-1970s, Mona's Relief Society was known as the Cleveland Manx Society, and had 133 members. <https://case.edu/ech/articles/c/cleveland-manx-society>

WANT TO GET IN TOUCH?

www.namanx.org

If you have news you'd like to share with the members of the North American Manx Association, please email Kelly@mustgoto.com and she will post on the namanx.org website or post to the North American Manx Association page. Email Bill@mustgoto.com with information for the Board to share. Contact our Treasurer/Membership Secretary John Prendergast by email at jprendergast4cdot@yahoo.com

CALL FOR INFORMATION REGARDING THE BRIG "LILY"

There is the solemn stillness of a deserted village pervading Port St Mary. Almost every house is one of mourning, the shops are shut up and the blinds down throughout the village....

The above was a quote from the Mona's Herald 5th January 1853 within a report on a disaster that had taken place on Kitterland the week before. Twenty five of the men that died that day whilst salvaging cargo were from Port St Mary, two from The Howe, Rushen and two policemen from Castletown.

I am currently researching the families that were involved in the disaster. I would like to invite anyone who is a direct descendent, relative of the men involved please get in touch. Also, any stories, artefacts relating to the Brig Lily disaster would be of great interest too.



Names: *John Fell (Fayle), William Cowley, William Kermode, Edward Gale, Henry Gale, John Gale, Thomas Witted, John Cubbon/Cubbin, William Lawson, Thomas Callister, William Taubman, John Callister, Samuel Callister, John Callister, Thomas Turnbull, George Costain, William Waterson/Watterson, Thomas Nelson, Charles Clugston, Enos Lace, Robert Callister, Edward Qualtrough, William Waterson/Watterson, William Cone, John Hudgeon/Hudson, Edward Waterson/Watterson, John Waterson/Watterson, John Craigs, John Wright ~ Cathy Clucas, Port St Mary, IOM*

BEGGAN GAELG – ILLIAM CASSIDY

I'm all for *gimman*. That's the Manx word for driving, as in, *Ren mee gimman dys Florida ec y Nollick* — "I drove to Florida at Christmas". From Northern Virginia to my parents' home in South Florida is a 16-hour trip, for me, two days of driving. What to do with all that time in the car? Listen to Manx language CDs, of course! So somewhere in the Carolinas, I popped two CDs from *Cowag*, a series of language-learning booklets from the Manx Heritage Foundation, into the dashboard.

I'm not sure I-95 is the best place to concentrate on understanding and repeating Manx phrases as you hear them, but there is something to being a "captive audience," unable to look at a page or rely on text.

Many people have difficulty learning this way, which is why so many learners of any language may be caught rifling through pocket phrase books in their hands or on their smartphones.

But the only route to speaking is to at some point put the books aside and apply your ears. *Cowag*, which follows the language patterns in the Manx adult course *Saase Jeeragh*, offers a great opportunity to do that. Two CDs follow two main sections: One offers basic vocabulary starting with *kys t'ou* (how are you?) and working up through increasingly sophisticated (though still fairly simple) conversations. The other offers a breakdown on irregular verbs and more conversations and vocabulary. This is also the best way to pick up the nuances of Manx pronunciation, of which there are many. For example, the “-agh” word ending at times is pronounced as in “ach” with a guttural “ch” or “gh” as in Scottish “loch” and at other times it’s pronounced “-ack.” The bb in *lhiabbey* (bed) is pronounced as “v” and the cc in *laccal* (liking) is silent. The important thing is to listen and learn and pronounce the words as best you can — not to wait for “perfection” before daring to speak Manx. Different speakers on the CDs pronounce the same words slightly differently, and sometimes one speaker will do the same as well.

The ability to practice Manx while driving is limited, but you can use *Cowag* in your own home or with a group as well. There’s another new Manx-language learning program you can try at home as well, and it’s free. That’s *Glossika’s* Manx lessons. *Glossika* is an online program offering instruction in more than 50 languages. The lessons are structured on repetitive listening and speaking exercises meant to be done a little at a time each day. A1 is the lowest level.

I’ve been studying Manx for some time, but even a short time spent on *Glossika’s* A1 and A2 lessons revealed a lot of vocabulary and expressions hard to get elsewhere, all read by Manx Language Officer Adrian Cain. *Glossika’s* aim is to get you to repeat these words, phrases and sentences until they’re built into your “muscle memory.” The more reps, the bigger your vocabulary becomes, the more you’ll understand, and the more you’ll be able to say. To get started, go to <https://ai.glossika.com/>, start your training, and choose Manx. ~ *Illiam*

EMINENT VICTORIAN ENGINEERS STAMPS

The Isle of Man Post Office will be launching a stamp issue on the 200th anniversary of the birth of Queen Victoria (24th May) entitled “Eminent Victorian Engineers”. They feature Manx engineers: **William Kennish**, **John Jonathan Kermode**, **John Callow**, **Benjamin Alfred Dobson**, **Thomas Cummings Gibson** and **Charles Greenway**. Bob Stimpson of the Victorian Society on the Isle of Man provided the images which have been superbly developed and colored. Visit iompost.com for more information on these stamps



LOCAL SOCIETY NEWS

ROCKY MOUNTAIN MANX SOCIETY

Memories of Reverend Dr. Al Scarffe: Al Scarffe was a Manxman and a Methodist Minister. He was also the most humble man I ever met.

I met Al through the Rocky Mountain Manx Society. He along with Sheila Kent and Rachel LaRue founded the RMMS. For almost 20 years, Al was a fixture at the semi-annual gatherings. He would arrive after conducting a Sunday service with his Laxey plaid cap and matching tie. Before the meal, he gave each of us a slip of paper with a prayer in Manx which we would recite in unison. We ended the meetings by singing “Ellan Vannin” accompanied by Lois Scarffe on the piano. After Lois’ passed, we sang accompanied by Al’s tape recording of Lois and him performing.

When the RMMS and I held the 2010 NAMA convention in Denver, Al filled in as the temporary NAMA Chaplain

as Chaplain Reverend Devore Smith became ill and could not travel. Al was an amateur genealogist. In fact, he and Sandy (my wife) determined that he and I were cousins, as my great great grandfather married one of Al's ancestors.

Late in life, Al was the minister at The John Collins United Methodist in South Central Denver. It is a small historic church from which it is reported that Al retired three times. It was at John Collins UMC that Al conducted a memorial service for my mother. Almost to the day, two years later, the funeral for the Reverend Dr. Albert Scarffe was held at John Collins UMC. The small church was filled to capacity. Several members of his family spoke of their memories. I spoke about his being a Manxman and his dedication to the RMMS. Several members of the small congregation spoke of how much Al meant to them. We will all miss Al. I think Lynn Cupitt said it best, "A wonderful man and will always be in our Manx memories." ~ *Jim Corlett*

GREATER WASHINGTON D.C. AREA MANX SOCIETY

On April 27th we attended the 41st Southern Maryland Celtic Festival and hosted a booth funded by the North American Manx Association. This is a benefit of NAMA membership for a local Society that we encourage all societies to use. It was a perfect day with blue skies and sunshine, and the constant buzz of bagpipes, singers and dancers. We promoted the Island and the North American Manx Association by our presence and by updating our Facebook page throughout the day. As a result, a lady in Toronto reached out asking how she could start a local society and we have been busy working to introduce her to other Ontarian Manxies.



(Treasurer: Cris Doria Warner, President Kearsley Walsh, Secretary Kelly McCarthy)

We participated in the parade, talked to interested fellow-Celts all day long and were lucky enough to be positioned right by the caber tossing and bale-pitching Scottish Games. Our member, and NAMA Governor, Bill Cassidy gave the Welcome Address in Scottish Gaelic as Scotland was the honored country at this year's festival. It was a wonderful day out!



(NAMA Governor Mim Blower and Grace Hurley serve Guinness to thirsty Celts!)

MANX SOCIETY OF MINNESOTA

Our last meeting was at the Good Earth and as always it was a wonderful warm inviting environment with excellent service and food. We started with a social time then ordered food as everyone settled in for the presentations. We had presentations history of ships and ship building. Also a mini-presentation of a few paranormal tales. After the presentations it went back to social time and people discussed family histories and ideas for upcoming meetings. It was another good meeting and fun was had by all. Our next Meeting, in May, will celebrate 40 years of The Manx Society of Minnesota! Contact Marilyn Craine Anderson for more details. marealtor99@yahoo.com

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA MANX SOCIETY

The Northern California Manx, held our Annual 2018 Nolluck Ghennal Cooish on January 6, 2019, at the home of our ever-gracious hosts, Kim Parker and Peter Herrera. After our potluck lunch, accompanied by animated conversation (not all of it was about the Isle of Man), we began our meeting.

We started off with some sad news – the passing of Polly Ernst, an NCM stalwart. Her daughter, Jaki, was with us to commemorate the occasion. We also had recently learned of the passing of Doris "Dee" Hickman,

NAMA Member Enrollment

See membership categories below.

Name(s) _____

Street _____

City _____ State/Prov. _____ Zip/PC _____

Email address _____

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

Annual \$15.00 _____

Life

Under 50 years \$250.00 _____

50 to 59 years \$175.00 _____

60 years or over \$125.00 _____

Junior Member - Age 0-29 years \$2.00 _____

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP

Annual \$20.00 _____

Life (2 adults, based on age of youngest)

Under 50 years \$325.00 _____

50 to 59 years \$235.00 _____

60 years or over \$200.00 _____

SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP (Not for use by individuals)

Annual \$20.00 _____

MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATE \$5.00 _____

The membership certificate design and coloring have special significance relative to the Isle of Man. A letter of explanation is sent with each certificate.

MEMBERSHIP PIN \$5.00 _____

(1" diameter, has NAMA logo featuring 3 legs, eagle and oak leaf in gold, red and white.)

CONTRIBUTION \$ _____

To further NAMA's goals. (United States tax deductible as allowed by law)
(If current or any past employer matches contributions, send any required forms to NAMA for completion. Thank you.)

TOTAL REMITTANCE (IN CANADIAN OR U.S. DOLLARS) \$ _____

Please send check made out to **NORTH AMERICAN MANX ASSOCIATION** to:
John Prendergast, NAMA Treasurer, 10251 S. Bell Avenue, Chicago, IL 60643-1901

who had moved with her husband, Ray, to Las Cruces, New Mexico, a number of years ago. We noted several other absences, mainly for health reasons.

In addition to Jaki Ernst, we had other guests. Elaine Stephenson was accompanied by her son, Tim, and her good friend, Joy Delapine. Always glad to have new faces in our group. After singing "Ellan Vannin" and "O Land of our Birth," we briefly discussed some cultural activities that might be available to us.

The main part of our time together was spent in a free-floating discussion and suggestion session. The topic of concern was "What to do about NCM (and NAMA) declining membership and lack of interest by Young People?" Everyone participated and showed the level of concern that we all share.

We are trying to work out a way to cheer on Mark Cavendish when he comes through our area, cycling in the Tour of California. ~ *Jack Cormode*

NAMA MEMBER WINS LONDON MANX QUIZ

The popular quiz that features in the quarterly magazine of the London Manx Society has been won for the third time running by an overseas reader of Manx descent. After successive wins for Richard Moore of Durban, South Africa, originally from Kirk Michael, it's the turn of Brad Prendergast of Chicago Manx Society who is also a vice president of the North American Manx Association. His prize is £20 of fuel kindly donated by Mylchreest Car Hire when he rents one of its vehicles next time he is at Ronaldsway. It was a close run thing. He beat one of the regular London winners by getting his answer to the editor one hour ten minutes faster.

The questions

1. The House of Manannan is to be found in (a) Castletown, (b) Douglas, (c) Peel, (d) Ramsey?
2. Cashtal yn Ard is a (a) natural rock outcrop (b) Neolithic tomb (c), 9th century fortress, (d) 17th century army training area?
3. Castle Rushen clock appears on the Manx coin of the denomination (a) 10p, (b) 20p, (c) 50p, (d) £1?
4. The Orchid Line runs in (a) Ballaugh, (b) Castle-town, (c) Douglas Head, (d) Port Soderick?

5. The missing Mary Weller Yn Cruinnaght award for Solo instrumentalist 11 years and under was found at (a) Andreas Village School, (b) Gaiety Theatre, (c) Manx Museum, (d) Ramsey Town Hall?

The answers: C B B A D

GENEALOGY

We mentioned sometime back that it is worthwhile to put your family information of the Family Tree at Family Search. Remember that this site is open so that other people can see your deceased relatives (not the live ones). They can also make changes. So, this is not the place to keep your permanent records. But, you might be surprised at how soon you run into ancestors that are already on the site. It could be as close as your grandparents. So, if you haven't already done so, go to www.familysearch.org and set up an account.

Once you get your account set up, there are a lot of fun activities you can do. For example, you can play a trivia game where you put in the date of an event, such as your wedding day or your grandfather's birthday. The screen then pops up with a list of categories. The category might be the price of gas. It will give you 4 options to guess what that might be. It continues until you get it right, even if it's the last option left. So, who won the Super Bowl the year you were married? Or who was the president the year your grandfather was born?

There are a ton of other activities that we will mention in the future, but you can go ahead and try them out. In the meantime, keep adding information to your tree. ~ *Lucy Peterson*

North American Manx Association

John Prendergast
10251 S. Bell Avenue,
Chicago, IL 60643



Can you help us? This photograph was taken in Seattle in 1936/37. We can only name six people and wonder if you can identify more? Email brad@lawyerbrad.com if you can. Starting at the right end (woman in light colored dress, is Ethel Catherine Boyde Walker). Moving right 4 people, in the front row (standing), the first woman in white is Ellen Grace Walker. The third woman in white is Bessie Catherine Walker Trowbridge (holding a baseball bat). In the center of the photo, next to Bessie, wearing a dress with a prominent collar, is Sylvia Helen Doran Walker (holding some sort of item). Move to the back row. There is a gap near the center of the photo, then two men. The many on the right (closest to the center of the photo) is Jack William McPherson. The man wearing the tie, to his right, is Captain Alfred Hayes Walker.