

The Althing



August
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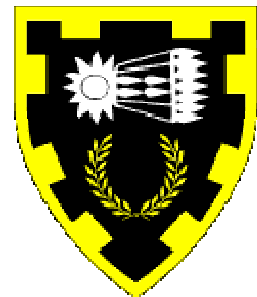
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Precedence Editor (Deputy to Comet Pursuivant)

Pavel Dudoladov

Youth Fighting Marshal (Deputy to Knight Marshal)

Ceindrech merch Elidir

Thrown Weapons Marshal (Deputy to Knight Marshal)

Thorfinna hrogn Josepsdottir

Contents

Baronial Contacts	2
Letters from the Barony Officers	4
Official Policies of the Debatable Lands	9
BMDL Court Report	15
Outdoor Practice Schedule	15
Events	16
Important Dates	16
Steltonwald and Cour d’Or Contacts	Inside Back Cover

Disclaimer

This is the Althing, a publication of the Barony-Marche of the Debatable Lands of the Society of Creative Anachronism, Inc. It is not a corporate publication of the Society of Creative Anachronism, Inc., and does not delineate SCA policies. Opinions are those of the authors and may not reflect or imply the view of the Althing or any member of its staff. Content is used with permission.

Publication

The Althing is published every month except August, with an Arts and Sciences issue published once a year. If you'd like to join the Althing mailing list and receive your newsletter by e-mail, you can do so here: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bmdl_althing/ or it is available for free on the Barony web site www.debatablelands.org. Paper copies are available for those without Internet access. Please contact the chronicler with an address to have a paper copy mailed to you at 412-366-5844. If you would prefer to write, the address is on the outside cover.

Submissions

Any gentle wishing to submit articles, artwork, poetry, etc, to the Althing is invited to do so. Please send your work to the chronicler. All material in the Althing is copyrighted to the individual contributors. The chronicler reserves the right to edit, refuse, or reprint any submissions. The submission deadline for the Althing is the first Wednesday of the month.

Baronial Discussion E-List

Need more info on an upcoming baronial event? Just want to chat? To subscribe to the barony emailing list, go to <http://lists.andrew.cmu.edu/mailman/listinfo/sca-bmdl>, and follow the instructions on the page.

Art Work

Cover Art and Interior Pages: Mythological and Fantastical Creatures CD-ROM and Book, Dover Publications ©2002.

The Althing's submissions deadline is the first Friday of the month – send your contributions to Elss at chronicler@debatablelands.org.

Greetings from the Baron and Baroness!

U nto all Good Gentles of this Industrious Barony Marche of the Debatable Lands do Byron and Ariella send Pennsic Greetings!

Vivant to all those who made July's Barony meeting a real success! Our regrets that the Baroness' illness has precluded her from several activities this month including that meeting; she hopes to be well by War.

We have been traveling to other Lands of Aethelmearc this last month, but now all focus is on Pennsic War and the Baronial encampment. Please come by the Debatable Lands camp in N10 at Pennsic to sign up for Gate Guarding on Wednesday of War Week. We need people to stand for either one or two hours with whatever weapon they think appropriate for guarding Aethelmearc Royal! We also would love to have you retain for us this Pennsic. Sign ups for that can be done at our camp or through Lady Elss and Lady Catriona.

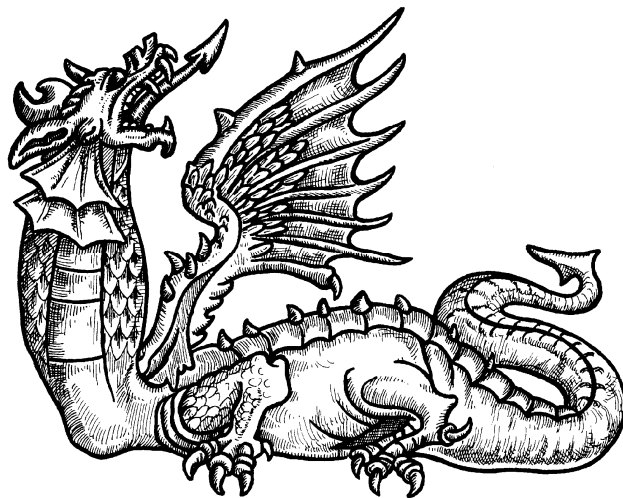
Though there are many wonderful happenings on our Pennsic schedule, we wish to specially invite all in the Barony to join us for Opening Ceremonies Sunday morning on the battlefield and for our Baronial reception and court Sunday August 8th starting at 6:30pm in Aethelmearc Royal. Thanks in advance to Lady Zianna for volunteering to coordinate food for the reception. We will try to see some Arts and Science classes as we walk through the tents as A&S monitors; please let others in the Barony know when you are teaching and the title of the class.

We wish you good luck with your Pennsic preparations and with enjoyment of the War. We have received a few letters of recommendation and really treasure these. Please let Pennsic inspire you to jot down or discuss with us those who deserve notice in our Barony!

Written this twenty eighth day of July, three days before the Gates of Cooper's Lake open to us all,
Byron and Ariella

Chronicler's Note: This missive from Their Excellencies Byron and Ariella was delayed along the road by war, torrential rains, bolts of lightning from the heavens above, impassable highways, monsters in the forest, and a huge flying dragon, as illustrated below, that attempted to eat the messenger. (Well, that's what the messenger says, anyway.)

Nevertheless, thanks to his stalwart bravery, I am able to bring Their Excellencies' words to you!



From the Seneschale:

Just a few words of thanks and some reminders this month:

Thank you all very much for coming to July Barony Meeting. We had a wonderful time practicing and prepping for Pennsic and socializing with friends.

- ❖ Thanks to Lord Liam and THL Constance for running the Garb Goodwill. It looked like lots of folks got some badly-need garb for Pennsic! And thanks to them as well for bringing the water jug and lemonade. It was HOT!
- ❖ Thanks to Lady Aibhell for hosting the kids' table, complete with face painting!
- ❖ Thanks to Lady Annaleigh, our Chatelaine, for guiding the new folks, whether they were new to the SCA or just new to our area. And many thanks, too, to those of you that helped in that same endeavor.
- ❖ Thanks to our T-shirt sales people, Master Tofi, and Mistress Alea.
- ❖ Thanks to THL Brandubh and Mistress Ts'vee'a for their help with the girdle books and schedule. Thanks to Master Philip for providing the file to the blank schedule, based on a design originally by Lady Alana.
- ❖ Thanks to all those martial specialists and marshals that moved the times and spaces of their activities to accommodate our social gathering.
- ❖ And thanks to Their Excellencies, Byron and Ariella for their strong support.

Congratulations to all those who authorized during July Barony meeting, and to Maestra Gianna, who achieved the rank of Master Bowman on that day. Vivant!

A very large THANK YOU to THL Roana for being an excellent Gold Key steward for over 5 years! Vivat!! And thanks to Baroness Alex for taking over the position.

And now, some reminders of upcoming events and activities:

- ❖ Saturday, August 28th, 10am - 5pm: EVENT! Post-Pennsic Picnic
- ❖ Sunday, August 29th: Pitt Activities Fair, Contact Lady Rosalia, our College Liaison, for details
- ❖ Wednesday, Sept 1st, 4:30 - 6:30: CMU Activities Fair, Contact Lady Rosalia, our College Liaison, for details.
- ❖ Thursday, Sept 2nd, 7pm: September Barony Meeting, featuring Dance Practice! This is our newcomers' meeting, so please wear garb if possible. There is not a planned Officers' Meeting.
- ❖ Saturday, Sept 11th: EVENT! Children's Crusade in Steltonwald

Also, just a quick reminder that the Non-Member Surcharge is now \$5. If you'd like to become a member of the SCA, you can sign up online at www.sca.org, or let me know if you need a paper copy.

Please let me know if you have any feedback, questions or concerns about the Barony-Marche. Our local policies, reasoning, and official-like stuffs are an open book, and I have a personal policy of total transparency. Any gentle is welcome to approach me for a discussion about any local (or non-local, for that matter) SCA subject.

Have fun and be safe!

In Levitate et Caritate,

Hilda, Seneschale



An Invitation to the September Barony Meeting

Join us for September Barony Meeting on Thursday, September 2nd! It will be a newcomer-friendly social meeting, beginning at 7pm, followed by Dance Practice at around 8pm-ish.

Please wear garb if you can, and bring any projects or items that you'd like to share with Barony members and newcomers. This is the perfect place to show off your new knowledge from those classes you took at Pennsic!

There will be very little in the way of announcements and lots in the way of relaxed socializing and talking to the new folks. See you there!

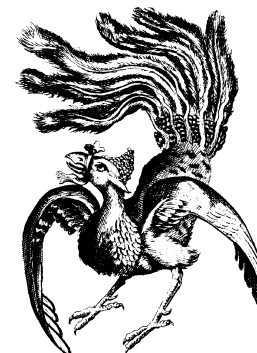
In Levitate et Caritate,

~Hilda, Seneschale

PS:

Here are some directions, including info about the CLOSE parking garage, which is FREE at that time of night: <http://www.cmu.edu/university-center/directions/index.html>

And here's the floor plan of the University Center. We're on the 2nd floor in the Peter/Wright/McKenna Room: <http://www.cmu.edu/university-center/about/floorplan.html>



The Directors Are Coming to da 'Burgh

The Directors and Corporate Staff would like to extend a cordial invitation for all to attend the Fourth Quarter Meeting of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. to be held in the Kingdom of Æthelmarc.

Saturday, October 16, 2010,
9:00 a.m.
Embassy Suites
Pittsburgh International Airport,
500 Cherrington Parkway
Coraopolis, PA 15108.
(412) 269-9070.

The Society is growing everyday. The Directors and the Corporate Staff would love to meet you and get your ideas and input on what direction the SCA should take. We hope to see you there!

Please note: this meeting is a modern business meeting, and modern clothing is appropriate.

Questions? Contact ea@sca.org



Event Note:

October 16, 2010 Fall Crown Tournament, Shire of Blackwater (Allegany, NY)

Greetings to all in the Barony from Elss of Augsburg, Chronicler:

Thank you so much to those of you who took the time to take our Althing Survey. Below are the results of the multiple choice questions. The results are given in percentage, with actual number of responses in parentheses. Fifty people completed the survey!

Question 1*: The Debatable Lands newsletter, the Althing, has been available online for two years now. Should we keep it online (with free paper copies available upon request), or change back to paid paper copies (subscriptions)? 50 answered, 0 skipped.

Keep it online: 66% (33)
No preference: 24% (12)
Change back to paper subscriptions: 10% (5)

Question 2*: We'd like to provide one special edition, paper-copy issue of the Althing this year. Would you be interested in receiving one? 49 answered, 1 skipped.

Yes: 57.1% (28)
No, online is fine : 36.7% (18)
No, not interested : 6.1% (3)

Question 3: What kind of content would you most like to see in this special issue? 48 answered, 2 skipped.

Arts & Science Articles: 75.0% (36)
Articles about SCA Life: 47.9% (23)
Artwork: 45.8% (22)
Stories and/or Poetry: 41.7% (20)
Baronial Order of Precedence: 39.6% (19)
Biographies about people in the Barony: 39.6% (19)
Calendar: 35.4% (17)
Baronial Policies: 33.3% (16)
Event Announcements: 22.9% (11)
Letters from the Officers 18.8% (9)
Other: 11 replies (the unique suggestions: recipes, cartoons, photos, youth activities, list other medieval activities in Pittsburgh, "you know you're in the SCA when" stories, Dark Pages, newcomer issue)

Question 4: Tell us about any other suggestions you have for the Althing. 14 answered, 36 skipped.

Thank you very much for the constructive responses to this question.

*Note that this survey was online only, so Questions 1 and 2 have an inherent bias.

Remember, if you want a paper copy sent to you, please call me at 724-759-3333. Also, if you would like the Althing delivered to your email inbox, go to <http://www.debatablelands.org/althing/> and follow the link to join the [bmdl althing](#) Yahoo group

In service --

Elss of Augsburg

Chronicler of the Debatable Lands



Notes on Thrown Weapons from Elss of Augsburg

The Barony-Marche of the Debatable Lands sponsored a tournament at Pennsic this year for the very first time! It was a challenge to all throwers to hit some unusual targets.

The Beginner category was open to all throwers who considered themselves new to thrown weapons. Six competitors threw their choice of axes or knives at large bunny pictures, with the winner being Evan mac Ultain.

The Intermediate category was for those throwers with some experience. The six throwers from the beginner category all decided that they had now enough experience, and as a group, all competed in this category as well. After throwing axes and knives at small bunny pictures, the winner was Weldir verun Aurther.

The Advanced category was full of competitors with solid experience, plus the intrepid six from the previous two competitions. To pass to the next round of competition, each thrower needed to break a balloon from the ten foot line, and six throwers did so. In the next round, from the twenty foot line, two throwers broke their balloons, and advanced to the third round. In the final round, both competitors threw from the thirty foot line, and three rounds were thrown before Lord Dominic Seamore, broke his balloon to win the tournament.

Congratulations to all of the winners and competitors in the First Annual Thrown Weapons Challenge from the Debatable Lands!

In service --

Elss of Augsburg

Thrown Weapons Marshal of the Debatable Lands

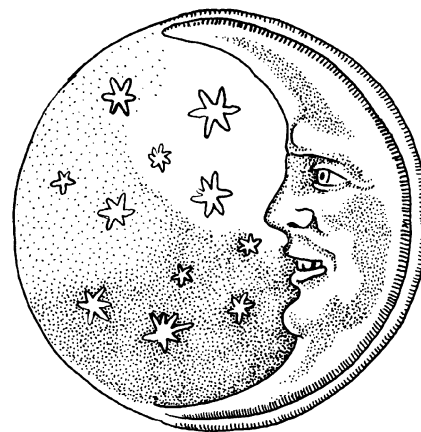
Aethelmearc Region 2 Thrown Weapons Marshal

Thrown Weapons Practices

Here is the schedule for thrown weapons:

August 29 th	No practice (We follow the archery schedule, hence no TW)
September 5 th	No practice (Labor Day)
September 12 th	Regular practice
September 19 th	Regular practice
September 26 th	Regular practice
October 3 rd	Archers to the Wald (with Thrown Weapons!)

Please note that these practices are social gatherings as much as martial activities. All are invited to bring a chair, sit and relax, chat, work on a Pennsic project, or just enjoy the fine weather and the fighting.



Important Events Coming Up!

College Activities Fairs

Sunday, August 29, 2010: Pitt Activities Fair, Contact Lady Rosalia, our College Liaison, for details.

Wednesday, September 1, 2010, 4:30 - 6:30 pm: CMU Activities Fair, Contact Lady Rosalia, our College Liaison, for details.

Kingdom Curia

At Their Excellencies' Castle, please contact them for more information.

September Barony Meeting and Newcomers' Meeting

Thursday, September 2, 2010 at 7 PM – CMU University Center, 2nd floor in the Peter/Wright/McKenna Room, followed by dance practice. Please wear garb if possible.

Childrens' Crusade (Steltonwald)

September 10-12, 2010, including the Barony Rapier Champs!

Archers to the Wald (Steltonwald)

October 1-3, 2010 at the Beaver Valley Archery Club, including Kingdom Archery Champs!

October BMDL Officers Meeting

Wednesday, October 6, 2010 from 8 PM - 10 PM, CMU Campus, Porter Hall, Room A18C, open to the populace, as always.

SCA Board of Directors Meeting

Saturday, October 16, 2010 in Coraopolis.

Agincourt V

Saturday, October 23, 2010 at the Unitarian Universalist Church of the North Hills (2359 W Ingomar Road, Pittsburgh, PA, 15237-1625), including Barony Youth Combat Champs!

November BMDL Officers Meeting

Sunday, November 7, 2010 (tentative... and no, there is no Steelers game that day)

BMDL 12th Night

Saturday, January 15, 2011 at the Lodge in North Park, Pearce Mill Road, Allison Park, PA 15101. The site will open at 10 AM and close at 10 PM.

The calendar on our website has been updated: <http://www.debatablelands.org/calendar.html>. Please let the seneschale or webminister know of any changes, additions or deletions.



BMDL Fighter Practices Continue on Sunday August 29th

Come join us at the BMDL fighter practice, Sunday August 29th at [Washington Blvd Park](#), from 1pm - 5pm. Fighter practice will continue on Sunday afternoons from 1pm until 5pm unless other notice is given. As always, all interested parties are welcome. Youth fighters and fencers must provide their own marshals.

Of note: Iron Key loaner equipment will be departing no later than 4 pm. All loaner gear will be grounded by 3:30 pm cleaned, packed and reloaded in the vehicle by 3:55 pm.

See you at practice - Shiro

Lord Ogami Arashimoto no Shirou
Squire to Sir Ogami Akira

BMDL Baronial Knight Marshal
BMDL Iron Key

From the Captain of Archers

Just a reminder...There will be no archery practice on Sunday, August 29th or Sunday, September 5th. Practice will resume Sunday September 12th.

In service to the Barony-Marche,

Urho Waltterinen

crossbow1953@earthlink.net

(home) 1-412-247-4467, (cell) 1-412-501-5239

Per valde mustache adveho valde officium

A Message from the Rapier Champion for Their Excellencies Byron and Ariella

Their Excellencies Thomas Byron of Haverford and Ariella of Thornbury will hold Their Baronial Rapier Championship at the upcoming Children's Crusade II on 11 Sept in the Canton of Steltonwald.

Anyone interested and authorized to fight adult rapier is welcome to participate, though the final section of the tournament will be limited to BMDL citizens. The tournament format will most likely be round-robin using heavy class rapiers. The tournament will be held in the morning (exact time to be determined, but aim for a 9 or 10am start), so please be prepared early. Any Marshals in Training who are not fighting are encouraged to show up and assist with marshaling.

Further details on the event can be found on the Steltonwald website:

<http://www.steltonwald.org/childrens.shtml>.

YIS

Don Clewin Kupferhelbelinc

Rapier Champion for Their Excellencies Byron and Ariella

English Land Tenure: An Introduction

These are a series of short articles on land tenure, written by Dani of the Seven Wells.

The nature of feudalism changes greatly from century to century and from country to country – or even within a country. These articles will focus on England (especially south-eastern England, where most of the population lived), especially in the years around 1300 A.D. They will also deal primarily with land holding as it applied to the lower rungs of the feudal ladder – peasants and lesser gentry.

There was no private property in land. Whether you were an Earl or a serf, you didn't own land; you rented it. In early post-Conquest years many tenants held land in exchange for military service, but by the thirteenth century most military service had been commuted to cash payments.

A tenant¹ could sub-infeudate a holding – subletting (as it were) part of it. This did not affect what he owed his Lord: If a knight held 1200 acres in exchange for a rent of twenty pounds a year, and he chose to raise the money by renting out four 200-acre holdings for five pounds each, that was his private business, as long as he paid his twenty pounds.

A tenant could alienate land – with his Lord's permission, which (if he was free) was routinely given in return for a kickback. This didn't mean selling the land (since the tenant didn't own it), but rather selling the 'lease' – the right to hold the land at the traditional rent. The land market was intensely active; the English were not sentimental about ancestral lands. Nor, except at the lowest levels, were holding necessarily compact. A tenant might hold pieces of land scattered over several counties.

Broadly speaking, there were three classes of land-holders in England – aside from the king, who was in a class by himself. There were the greater Lords. This included both temporal and ecclesiastic Lords – there wasn't much social or practical difference. There were the gentry – knights and esquires with relatively small holdings. And there were the peasants, free or serf, who usually hoped to rent enough land to feed their immediate families.

The lines between these groups was fuzzy – some knights were richer than some barons; some were poorer than some franklins – but broad-stroke generalizations may be useful: There was an upper crust of about two hundred families, including Earls who reckoned their income in thousands of pounds, and barons who reckoned their income in hundreds of pounds (per year). There were about twenty thousand families of gentry, who were likely to reckon their income in the tens of pounds². And there were about a million families of peasants, at a time when income from day labor was about a penny (1/240 of a pound) a day. Even the serfs participated in the land market, albeit at a practical and legal disadvantage.

Reference³:

Dyer, Christopher, "Standards of living in the later Middle Ages", Cambridge University Press, 1989.

¹ The term 'tenant' applies all the way up the feudal ladder. At the top, the two hundred or so lords who held land directly from the king were termed "tenants in chief".

² Income was more important than pedigree. Legislation was passed in the thirteenth century requiring anyone with an income of twenty pounds or more to become a knight.

³ I'm going to try to give one or two references with each article, rather than include overlapping bibliographies with each article, or than bringing them all together at the end.

English Land Tenure: A View from the Top

In principle, any land not kept by the King in post-Conquest⁴ England was divided among some two hundred “tenants in chief” in exchange for services – specifically military services, often expressed as a number of knights. A tenant in chief could sub-infeudate part of that land to sub-tenants, in exchange for their support (and military services). They could do the same in turn with part of their own land.

Technically, the land was granted for the tenant’s maintenance, while the tenant served his lord, and could revert to that lord. In practice, by the thirteenth century, the holding passed from father to oldest son, though the Lord received a fee when the heir inherited. A family could only lose the holding for treason – which included picking the wrong side in a civil war – or if the direct male line died out. The usual custom in the latter case was for the land to be divided among the daughters, who were married as their lord decreed. (Yes, this meant that the lord could expect excellent bribes from suitors.) The lord also got to be, or to select, the guardian if the heir was male but still a minor. The guardian got to pocket the estate’s profits. (Yes, this meant that the lord could expect excellent bribes...)

The nicely-pyramidal structure of tenants and sub-tenants didn’t last. On the continent, nobles often had coherent territories. The Count of Foo ruled the County of Foo, which served as a basis of his military and economic power. In England, a Lord might hold slivers of land, scattered across several counties, from several other Lords – or from their tenants or sub-tenants. A tenant might rent small plots of land from another tenant – or sub-tenant, or even peasant – in order to rationalize a holding. England became a crazy-quilt of sub-holdings, which prevented most English nobles from building independent power bases.

The exchange of service for land didn’t last either, and was gradually commuted to cash payments. (When you are renting one fifth of a knight’s fee, it become impractical to show up for eight days duty a year.) By the thirteenth century, a tenant in chief probably couldn’t tell you who technically owed him service, and possibly couldn’t tell you how many knights he technically owed the king.

References:

“Rural England, 1085-1135: A study of Social and Agrarian Conditions”, Reginald Lennard, Clarendon Press, 1959.

“The English Nobility in the Late Middle Ages: The Fourteenth-Century Political Community”, Chris Given-Wilson, Routledge 1996.

⁴ Many source treat the Norman Conquest as a great divide, with feudalism on one side and something freer and fuzzier on the other. It may be a mistake to give the Norman Conquest too much credit for the way English feudalism developed. William was able to impose a nearly-pyramidal system backed up by an efficient (for the time) bureaucracy largely because Saxon England was already traveling down that road.

English Land Tenure: An Acre of Land

Acres serve as a useful shorthand when discussing the who's who (and who's not) of England, at all but the upper reaches of society. If a man is said to have held a couple of hundred acres, we understand that he was probably an esquire, or a petty knight. If another man is said to have held thirty acres, we understand that he was probably a relatively-wealthy peasant. A five-acre holding probably meant a peasant who hired himself out, because five acres won't feed a family. In order to understand this shorthand, we need knowledge that everyone would have had at the time: What is an acre? What can you do with it? What does it cost?

An acre is a plot of land about 9/10 the area of a football field. Like a football field, it has a specific shape. Today we use 'acre' purely as a unit of area, but in period it was a plot of land 220 yards wide by 220 yards long – less than half the football field's width by more than double its length⁵. Thus we see period references to “the width of an acre” or “the time it takes to walk an acre”.

There seems to be a consensus that the acre's size came from its function: It was the amount of land that a team of eight oxen could plow in one day. It was also the right shape for the activity. 220 yards was a furlong (as in “furlong”) – about the distance you'd want your oxen to pull the plow before giving them a bit of a break. It takes a day to plow an acre because at the end of the 220-yard pull you've plowed a strip about a foot wide. You have to go back and forth about three dozen times to plow the entire acre. (You want your acre to be long and skinny because turning a team of oxen with a plow is a pain. Peasants were usually allocated farmland in long thin strips.) Conveniently, 22 yards is the length of four ox-goads, so a plowman could measure the width of an acre with his 16-1/2 foot ox-goad.

The most important crop was wheat. Wheat is typically measured in bushels (50-60 pounds, depending on various factors) and quarters (8 bushels, about a quarter of a ton). It takes about 2 bushels of grain to plant an acre of wheat, and in a moderately-good year 8 bushels might be harvested from that acre. In bad years, those two bushels of seed might yield as little as four bushels of wheat. By way of comparison, a bushel of modern seed grain will yield over twenty bushels of wheat, and yields of 50 bushels per acre are common.

If we save 25% of the crop for next year's seed, an acre yields about 6 bushels of grain for consumption. So a farmer with fifteen acres and a two-course rotation (that is, with half the land fallow in each year) would have about 45 bushels of wheat per year – before taxes. (This is an abstraction. The farmer in question would actually plant a mix of crops, herd a few animals, tend a garden, and have some access to woods or meadows.) 45 bushels will feed a small family with a bit left over.

That brings us back to the aforementioned shorthand. If you held 30 acres, you were a comfortable peasant, albeit probably a serf. If you held 15 acres, you were holding your head above water, but a bad harvest could do a lot of harm. In the thirteenth century, about half the peasants held far less than fifteen acres.

Reference:

Excerpts from Walter of Henley's “Husbandry” – a thirteenth-century manual for estate management – may be found at <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/1275manors1.html>. You may consider the numbers he gives indicative, but don't trust them too far. They're optimistic.

⁵ The English acre varied a bit from place to place and time to time, until the Normans standardized it at 220 yards by 22 yards. The Scottish acre was a bit larger.

Society Stories

When I was a freshman at Pitt, I went to the Activities Fair. I came upon a table with two guys sitting there in funny clothes, which I recognized as medieval, even then. “Cool,” I thought. I took a pamphlet and wandered away. When I got back to my dorm room, I looked at the pamphlet, called “Forward Into the Past”. It explained medieval re-creation the SCA way – based on chivalry and honor, with kingdoms, knights in shining armor, heraldry, pageantry. “Awesome! I want to do this,” I thought.

So that weekend, I went home, dragged my mom to the library, found a (crappy, I know now) book about medieval clothes, bought some blue polyester in two shades for an under dress, and gold lamé for a tabard-thingy, and had my mom sew it. I went to my first event in Schenley Park, where there was a class on period gaming, a class on hats, a bardic circle, and food like I’d never seen. Everyone was dressed up, and I felt like I’d stepped into a fairy tale. Some friendly girls lent me their cloak to sit on. “I really like this,” I thought. So I went to dance practice, which was loud and exciting and fun and easy, and where people laughed and quoted Monty Python and the Princess Bride. And they flirted with me and kissed my hand. “Yes,” I thought. “These people...these are my people.”

Those first few weeks of my exposure to the SCA were full of connections and fun and growing affection. The girls who lent me their cloak are my best friends to this day. I dragged some guy I met to the dance practice and married him seven years later. I now camp at Pennsic with some of the people that helped write the pamphlet that so interested me at the fair. That beginning in September 1997 built the foundations of cherished friendships, an amazing expansion of knowledge and experiences, huge personal growth, and a hell of a lot of fun. And still going...and still learning...and still having a hell of a lot of fun, 13 years later.

So here we are, at yet another September, and the freshmen are filing in to the campuses, away from everything they’ve known, and looking to try new things. Hopefully we’ll lure them to our September Barony/Newcomers’ Meeting on September 2nd. Some of them, some time down the road, could be your best friends, your colleagues, your campmates, your spouses, your champions, your king or queen.... So I’m asking you, the people of the greatest Barony in the Knowne World:

What can you do to make those connections for the people coming to the Newcomers’ Meeting on September 2nd? And beyond? How can you help form their Dream?

In Levitate et Caritate,

Hilda, Seneschale



COMING EVENTS

Post-Pennsic Picnic

Saturday, August 28, 2010

Barony-Marche of the Debatable Lands

The laundry is done and the tent is finally dry and put away. What else is there to do but come to a nice, laid-back event? The Barony-Marche of the Debatable Lands is hosting a Post-Pennsic picnic on August 28, 2010, at the Overlook Shelter in Schenley Park, Overlook Drive (no street address), Pittsburgh, PA 15213. The site opens at 10 and closes at 5pm.

Activities for the day include rattan fighting, fencing, lawn games, dancing on the grass, choral music, hand-sewing, a heraldic consultation table, and other activities as occur to folks. There is a small playground available next to the shelter. The site is discreetly wet, no glass containers allowed. There is no electricity at the site.

Fee for the event is \$4 and a contribution to the pot-luck luncheon. Fees are waived for students and gentles under age 18. Make checks payable to "SCA Inc - BMDL". The non-member surcharge of \$5 must be charged to those who pay a fee and cannot show proof of SCA membership. Fees may be paid at the door.

The pot-luck luncheon is being coordinated by Mistress Margaret Makafee (Gretchen Beck) who may be contacted with questions at grm+@andrew.cmu.edu Questions may be directed to the autocrat, Mistress Ts'vee'a bas Tseepora Levi (Gail Lefkowitz) 1617 Rosecrest Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15201, Phone 412-361-0718 6-10pm, email: lefkowitzga@earthlink.net

Directions:

From the North: Take I-79S to I-279S towards Pittsburgh. You will go through the Fort Pitt Tunnels, please stay in the right lane. Take the exit at the end of the bridge onto I-376E. The next exit on the right is Oakland/Monroeville (Exit 3A). Stay in the right lane to take the exit. This will put you onto Forbes Avenue. Shortly after the exit, there will be a light at Craft Avenue. Turn right on Craft. Go one long block to a light at the Blvd of the Allies and turn left.

*The Blvd heads downhill starting at UPMC-Magee Womens Hospital, then starts up again at Bates Street. Keep going straight until the road levels out again. Shortly after the road levels out, there will be signs for Oakland/Phipps Conservatory. Take an easy right onto Panther Hollow Road. Turn immediately right onto Greenfield Road and then another immediate right onto Overlook Drive (one-way road) and follow it up to the Overlook Shelter. You will pass the "Camp David Lawrence" on your left. The Overlook Shelter is a little further up the road on your right. If you get to Schenley Oval, you've gone too far on a one-way road, so be careful.

From the South: Take I-79N to I-279S to I-376E to the Oakland exit (3A). Stay in the right lane to take the exit. This will put you onto Forbes Avenue. Shortly after the exit, there will be a light at Craft Avenue. Turn right on Craft. Go one long block to a light at the Blvd of the Allies and turn left.

From the East: Follow I-376 W into Pittsburgh and take exit 3A (Oakland). This is approximately 2 miles after the Squirrel Hill exit. Turn right (uphill) on Bates Street to the next light, which is the Blvd of the Allies. Turn right onto the Blvd of the Allies and head uphill. See * above, starting with the 2nd sentence.

Children's Crusade II (Toys for Tots Event)

September 10-12, 2010

Hookstown, Pa

As the drums of war fade from another successful Pennsic War, the Canton of Steltonwald invites one and all to assemble for a weekend of fighting, fencing and feasting.

Friday evening there will be a torchlight dagger tourney. Saturday will begin with Baronial Champions Tourneys for heavy weapons and rapier. Immediately following the Champions Tourneys we will begin the Charity Tourneys. For entry into the lists we ask for a donation of one toy per combatant.

All are encouraged, but not required to bring a donation to Toys for Tots. This is a perfect opportunity for us to make a difference in a young child's life as individuals and as a Kingdom.

The event will be held at Raccoon Creek State Park in Hookstown, Pa. Site opens on Friday Sept. 10th at 5pm and closes on Sunday Sept. 12th at 12pm.

Saturday's lunch and feast will be prepared once again by Lord Bovi and we all know that means a great meal. Any dietary concerns should be sent to david_black42@yahoo.com

Event registrations can be mailed to Lord Reynard le Vavasseur (tebryn79@yahoo.com) (Jason Rosati) at P.O. Box 345, 226 Green St., Koppel, Pa 16136 (please include the P.O. Box in the address when mailing). Checks should be made payable to "SCA, Inc - Canton of Steltonwald". The \$5.00 per person non-member surcharge will be collected at check-in for those gentles without proof of membership.

Adult		Children Ages 17 to 6		Children Ages 5 and Under	
Site Fee	\$10.00	Site Fee	\$5.00	Site Fee	Free
Feast	\$8.00	Feast	\$5.00	Feast	Free
Lunch	\$3.00	Lunch	\$3.00	Lunch	\$1.00
Lodging	\$5.00 per bunk	Lodging	\$5.00 per bunk	Lodging	Free

For those who would prefer to print their own directions or use a GPS, the address for the site is Raccoon Creek State Park, 3000 State Route 18, Hookstown, Pa 15050

Directions: Take your best route to PA-60(376) Take exit #12(Monaca/Shippingport) onto PA-18 S towards Shippingport for 15.1 miles. The park entrance will be on your right. Signs will be posted from this point leading you to the proper area.

Any questions regarding the event may be directed to the Autocrat, THL Gabriel Hawkes (Troy Headland) at battalion73@yahoo.com or by phone at (724)494-9855.

There is no tent camping on this site but day shades and pavilions are allowed on the list field. For those people wishing to stay in cabins they come in a few sizes. 2, 4 and 12 person cabins are available. If you plan to attend with a larger amount of people and are staying in a cabin please give that information in your pre-reg so space can be allotted accordingly. Additionally, for those staying in the cabins, it is recommended that you bring an air mattress or something of that nature as the beds are simple steel frames with uncomfortable steel springs. The site is dry and no animals are allowed unless they are assistance animals.

Archers to the Wald

October 1-3, 2010

Beaver Valley Archery Club

The Canton of Steltonwald invites one and all to come and fling your arrows and other sharp pointy objects at this year's Archers to the Wald! Many of the well-known marshals of our Kingdom including many Scarlet Guard members will be running various ranges throughout the day, including several roving, novelty and long distance ranges. There will even be some archery classes offered. Many of the Scarlet Guard members have also agreed to make themselves available for one-on-one coaching, tips and techniques throughout the day. Their Majesties will be in attendance for the Kingdom Archery Championship. Their Excellencies of BMDL will also hold the Baronial Archery Champions for adult and youth. A full weekend planned for archers to shoot things.

In addition to all things archery, there is plenty of space for a thrown weapons range, heavy weapons and fencing as well. We welcome merchants, but please contact the Autocrat as inside/table space is limited. The site is open to primitive tent camping (no shower facilities) this year for all to set up Friday night and get in a full day of event fun.

The day will end with a fabulous feast created by none other than Countess Aidan ni Leir. Feast is limited to 48. Please consider pre-registering for this event as the numbers for feast will be based on our preregistration numbers. If you have any special dietary concerns, please contact Aidan at 724-203-4014 (Please no calls after 10 pm) or helen.pinto@comcast.net.

This event will be held at the Beaver Valley Archery (BVA) Club, 277 Rothart Dr, New Brighton, PA 15066. The BVA Club is a mundane archery club featuring over 53 acres available for shooting. The site opens at October 1, 2010 at 6pm and closes at October 3, 2010 at 1pm and is discretely damp. Site Fees for this event are \$9.00 for adults, \$4 for children 6-17 and free for babes in arms (5 and under). Site fee includes a light lunch. Feast fee is \$9 for adults, \$5 for children under 17. The customary Non Member Fee (NMS) of \$5 will be added if you are not a member or do not have proof of membership.

The autocrat for this event is THL Fintan na Coiled (Mark Smoot), 2259 Todd Road, Aliquippa, PA 15001, 724-857-0994 (Please no calls after 10 pm), fintannacoiled@comcast.net Please send reservations to Lady Muirgheal inghen Dubhghaill (Heather Hupp) 509 Hillcrest Avenue, Beaver Falls, PA 15010, 724-622-7240, katlyne_macroth@hotmail.com. Reservations need to be received by September 29, 2010. Please make checks payable to SCA Inc. - Canton of Steltonwald.

Directions:

From the South: Make your best way to I-79 N. Take exit 87 for PA-68 toward Zelienople. Turn left at end of exit ramp onto at Evans City Rd/PA- 68. Continue to follow PA-68. You will make a left turn onto N Main St/PA-68 (approx 1 mile). Turn right at W Beaver St/PA-68 (approx 1/4 mile). (Please note there is a 7Eleven on the far right corner of this intersection.) Continue to follow PA-68 for about 6 miles. You will make a right onto Rothart Road. There is a large metal sign for the Archery Club above eye level on the corner. Follow Rothart Road for about 1 mile. Turn left into the Archery Club.

From the North: Make your best way to I-79 S. Take exit 88 Zelienople. At end of ramp turn right onto Little Creek Road, continue for about ½ mile and turn left onto Perry Hwy/US 19. In approx 1.5 miles, turn right at W Beaver St/PA-68. (Please note there is a 7Eleven on the far right corner of this intersection.) Continue to follow PA-68 for about 6 miles. You will make a right onto Rothart Road. There is a large metal sign for the Archery Club above eye level on the corner. Follow Rothart Road for about 1 mile. Turn left into the Archery Club.

Agincourt, October 23, 2010, Barony Marche of the Debatable Lands

“For now sits expectation in the air
and hides a sword from hilts unto the point
with crowns imperial, crowns and coronets” -Henry V, 2. Prologue

Noble populace take heed of an impending battle upon the Debatable Lands. Heroes shall be made and honor shall rule the field! We welcome one and all to the Unitarian Universalist Church of the North Hills (2359 W Ingomar Road, Pittsburgh, PA, 15237-1625) for a day of fighting, feasting and revelry. The day's events will include a combat archery challenge, melee fighting, fencing, an arts and sciences display and a grand feast to finish the evening.

Your Autocrats for the event Lord Liam MacanTsaoir (medicmacintyre1521 9 {at} yahoo.com) and THL Constance Glyn Dwr guarantee a day not to be missed. Lady Elss of Augsburg will prepare a superb lunch for all who attend. A special Children's Lunch will also be prepared. Lady Odrianna vander Brugghe has plans for a grand feast. Reservations may be mailed to THL Hildarun Hugelman (Krista Cogan 3815 Baytree Street, Pittsburgh PA 15214).

Fees as follows:

Adults Off Board: \$11, On Board: \$19
Teens aged 13-17 Off Board: \$10, On Board: \$18
Kids aged 6-12 Off Board: \$6, On Board: \$14
Babes ages 0-5 \$0, \$0

BMDL Twelfth Night, January 15, 2011 Barony Marche of the Debatable Lands

Rejoice in the Holiday Season at the celebration of Twelfth Night in the Barony Marche of the Debatable Lands!

All are Welcome for this day of Fun, Frivolity and Food! There will be music and song, gift giving and getting, accompanied by the good food of a potluck dinner and the company of good friends!

The Barony Marche of the Debatable Lands is pleased to announce that Twelfth Night Festivities will be held on Saturday, January 15, 2011 at the Lodge in North Park, (no street number) Pearce Mill Road, Allison Park, PA 15101. The site will open at 10 AM and close at 10 PM, so that all may have enough time to enjoy the day.

The populace will be happy to note that this is a FREE event -- there is no charge at the door and no non-member surcharge! No reservations are required. Because it is also a potluck dinner, each person is requested to bring a dish to share.

The autocrat for this event is Lady Elss of Augsburg (Rocky Hayeslip); all inquiries may be directed to the autocrat at elss_of_augsburg@yahoo.com or to Rocky Hayeslip, 221 Pine Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237 or by cell at 724.759.3333.

Please note that many, many activities are being planned for adults and children. More information and directions will be available in the October, November and December Althings.

Mark your calendars now for the BMDL Twelfth Night Celebration on Saturday, January 15, 2011 at the Lodge at North Park.

THE CANTON OF STELTONWALD OFFICERS AND MEETINGS

(Beaver County)

Seneschal

Lady Madeleine de l'Este
madeleinedlest at yahoo.com

Knight Marshal

THL Robert Marston
kardasl+@pitt.edu

Arts & Science

Bonita of Steltonwald
novakbonnie at hotmail.com

Exchequer

Baron Master Geoffrey fitz David
chinaex at ccia.com

Captain of Archers

Muirgheal inghean Dubhghaill
captainofarchers at steltonwald.org

Castelain

Lord Bóvi Farmaðr
david_black42 at yahoo.com

Web Minister

Maestra Gianna di Aurelio
giannadiaurelio at comcast.net

Minister of Youth

Tomasia da Collina Ventuso

Canton Meeting

Third Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m.
Beaver County Courthouse
madeleinedlest at yahoo.com

A&S - Every Thursday

Bonita of Steltonwald
novakbonnie at hotmail.com

Archery

Wednesdays, 6 PM - 9 PM,
except the third Wednesday of any month
Muirgheal inghean Dubhghaill
Beaver Valley Archery Club
captainofarchers at steltonwald.org

Fight practice

Every Tuesday, 6pm, at the Economy Grange
Contact THL Robert Marston

Sewing

Aoibheil of Dun Holen

<http://www.steltonwald.org/>

THE COLLEGE OF COUR D'OR

The College of Cour d'Or is currently dormant. For information regarding local colleges and Universities, contact the Baronial College Liaison

College Liason

Rosalia Iuliana Andreere

CMU Rooms Reservationist

Margaret Makafee

Els of Augsburg
c/o Rocky Hayeslip
221 Pine Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15237

The Althing is the newsletter of the Barony-Marche of the Debatable Lands.

August Issue AS XLV (2010) Vol. 31. No. 7

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Download or read the Althing every month at <http://www.debatablelands.org/althing/>

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