Survey: 50th Anniversary of the Society for Creative Anachronism

Greetings Atlantia,

Please look over the following email and survey

LD Jehan-Franc deBlauvac Kingdom Seneschal,
Atlantia Free Scholar, Gryphon Hall

Unto the assembled Kingdom Seneschals of the Knowne World do Duchess Elina of Beckenham and Master Llewellyn ap Teirnon, Stewards of the SCA 50 Celebration send greetings:

Hello,

As you know, we have been entrusted with putting together the 50th anniversary celebration of our organization in Danville, Indiana in 2016.

To this end, we are trying to gauge what the members of the organization find important to highlight. It would be very easy for us to concentrate on our own interests and we do not wish to do so.

After testing among a select group, we have developed a SurveyMonkey questionnaire to collect the needed data. It is anonymous (unless the user chooses to give us their information). In addition, users may go back and fill it out again if they feel that they have missed something.

Would you please include the following link in your next monthly letter? In addition, could you please have it posted onto your Kingdom website as well as Kingdom newsletters, facebook groups and online mailing lists?

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/CTCYS3N

The survey is already live and will remain active until January 1.

Thank you for your help in this and we look forward to working with you as the event grows closer.

Thank you,

Elina and Llew

A Heraldic Consult Table Is Coming to You!

Did you know there are eight warranted heralds in Nottinghill Coill, four in Hidden Mountain, and one in the Shire of Border Vale Keep? Why is this something you would want to know?
If you are interested in registering a name, a device, a badge, or a household name, you will need a warranted herald to submit the paperwork and fees for you. Only a warranted herald can conduct heraldic business in the Kingdom of Atlantia.

With 13 warranted heralds between the two baronies and the shire, one would think finding assistance with all the research and submission guidelines would be fairly easy. Too often that is not the case.
One of the best places to obtain assistance is at a Heraldic Consult Table at an event.

What to expect at a Heraldic Consult Table

No matter what stage you are at in developing your persona, a name, or a device, one of the heralds at the consult table will be able to assist you. However, depending on the resources at hand, you may not be able to complete all the research needed to submit your device. All is not lost, however. You may get enough information to take back to your local herald for the finishing touches. Maybe the research and paperwork has been done, but you have not been able to submit it. That can be done at the consult table.

A small library of resources will be available for name and device research. The heralds will be able to assist with name construction and device composition. Interpreting the rules for submitting names and devices is the purview of the herald.

If there is internet access, there will be greater access to acceptable resources. More importantly, the heralds will be able to provide preliminary conflict checking.

Hanging around a consult table is also a great way to learn about heraldry. Volunteers are always welcome. People who can draw and color are in great demand.

Finding warranted heralds and heraldic consult tables

The roster of warranted heralds and their contact information is available on the website of The Atlantian College of Heralds, found here: <http://heraldry.atlantia.sca.org/roster.htm> A warranted herald is required for submissions to the College and accepting fees.

Other gentles in the Kingdom are also heralds, and they can assist you with your research. Don’t hesitate to speak with one of these heralds.

To inquire about a heraldic consult table at your next event, please contact me. As Silver Shark, I arrange to have tables at as many events as feasible.

In Service to the Dream,
Catguistl Silver Shark
catguistl(at)gmail.com

Posted by Gina Shelley  No comments:

Recommend this on Google
The Medieval Almanac

Life on the Farm

By Barunin Gisela vom Kreuzbach

Gisela.vomKreuzbach@gmail.com

Farming came to Europe about 11,000 years ago, apparently in two waves from the Middle East where the science of deliberate agriculture originated. It allowed the hunter-gatherer peoples who populated the vast European Continent to settle into permanent stable holdings, villages and, eventually, cities.

In our period of study agriculture moved from being a matter of mere subsistence to become the primary economic engine and source of wealth for all of Europe. Everyone, from the meanest serf to the pope danced to the rhythm of the seasons.

Coaxing grain, fruit and vegetable from the thin layer of top soil in the Middle Ages and Renaissance was a highly labor intensive prospect. At certain times of the year nearly everyone, save the vicar and the lord of the manor himself, was involved in producing the best possible harvest. Most of the year, however, those we would call peasants and serfs worked the land.

Peasants generally contracted with the local lord for protection and support and farmed land they might own outright or they owned the rights to in exchange for labor in the lord’s fields and pastures. It could not legally be taken from them without good reason based on criminal act or abandonment on the part of the farmer.

Serfs, on the other hand, were bound to the local noble by debt of owed labor, rent and levies. Debt that was, at times, deliberately structured to keep individuals and their families indentured. Land ownership might be hereditary but so was debt.

Through the early part of the Middle Ages in Europe, most land was assigned to manors of various sizes, generally about 600 acres according to several sources. After the Norman Conquest there were more than 9,000 such manors in England. Nobles held at least one, often more, manors.

The part of Europe that is now Austria, Switzerland, Germany, France and the Low Countries, had a population that fluctuated between 10 and 15 million from 1 CE to 600 CE. That more than doubled to 36 million by the 13th Century. Some attribute the faster growth to the introduction of new, more effective plow designs that allowed more land to be brought to till. Just to give you an idea of how sparsely populated the area was at that time, the same area now supports 250 million.

Farm yield of the manors was vital to keep the staff and families of the castle, hall and village fed. Sale of surplus yield and finished goods became increasingly important as the economies grew. As weather improved, so did productivity. As the economy and trade strengthened and the
population increased, so did the need for cleared arable land.

More land and more productivity required more labor. Serfs who owed debt obligations were cheaper than hired workers or freeholders who sold their goods. It benefitted the nobility to make it harder to remain a freeholder … a free land owner and to drive more of the local population into servitude.

“At the beginning of this period (900 - 1200 CE) the main source of wealth was agriculture, and it remained so throughout. Lords had established their control over it in much the same way that they had established their rights over men, amalgamating rights, which had been theirs on their own estates with public rights and then extending them over as many people as possible within their lordships. The control of local justice and of obligations to forced labour, the offer of ‘protection’ and levying of taxation, were the essential means by which free peasants were reduced to servitude, hereditarily bound to their tenements and liable to arbitrary levies and labour services. Poor harvests and flight from marauders were both factors which could lead a freeman to surrender his liberty, but it was likely that the pressure came from above and was not willingly conceded from below, because the most rapid subjection of the peasantry came not in the tenth century, at the time of greatest instability, but rather in the eleventh when harvests were improving and lords looking for the means to build in stone rather than wood.” (Holmes, 1988)

This author illustrates his point by noting that 80% of donations received by the Chartres cathedral between 940 and 980 were from peasant freeholders. That figure dropped steadily but slowing until the time of the Conquest when it held at about 38% for 30 years. Between 1090 and 1130, however, only 8% of donations to the cathedral were given by free peasants.

The eleventh-century bishop of Laon called peasants the class that “owns nothing that it does not get by its own labor and provided the rest of the population with money, clothing, and food … Not one free man could live without them” (Gies & Gies, 1978)

So they worked. All of them. From toddling child to elderly grandmother, each worked at tasks suited to their strengths and limitations.

Men being, in general, physically stronger than women and unhampered by pregnancy and small-child care, worked in the fields and forests, clearing land, plowing, setting fences, building structures, bringing in harvests, shearing sheep and butchering livestock.

Women generally kept the home and village, tending livestock and gardens, carding, spinning and weaving wool, making ale, cheese and butter. At times women helped in the fields as well, sowing, helping with the harvest scything, tying, and winnowing.

Children began to work nearly as soon as they could walk. Very young children would be stationed in gardens (tofts) and fields (crofts) after planting and sowing to scare birds away. As they aged, they’d be tasked with climbing to the top of trees to get the fruit adults could not reach, feeding livestock, tending herds at pasture, weeding fields and garden plots, gathering wood and helping with the harvests.

Life was work. Work was life. There was little distinction made for most people. All danced to the rhythm of the seasons.

Even though land was usually allotted to individual families based on seniority, type and amount of work as well as need, fields were most often worked communally allowing for larger plots … usually ten times as long as they were wide which made tasks such as plowing … And turning a team of oxen … a much easier endeavor.
Oxen, some more specialized tools and some larger equipment were generally owned by the entire village and sometimes were stored in the church.

Fields were laid out around the village in such a way to contain both good and poor soil in each. With crop rotation, this gave a greater chance of good harvests each year.

A three-field system of crop rotation was used during much of our period in which a plot was sown two years in a row and let fallow the third to allow the soil to recover. Crops were rotated as it was long-noticed that if wheat or rye (Wintercorn) followed peas, beans or oats (Springcorn) the yield was greater. They didn’t understand the cause but today we know those crops are nitrogen-fixing crops that replenish the nutrients used by the wheat. During the fallow year fields were fertilized with livestock dung and marled, a process of spreading clay for the carbonate of lime.

Using the map of Willen to illustrate, this year the Middle Field might be sown with winter wheat, the South Field with oats and the North Field left fallow. Next year the North Field would be sown with wheat, the Middle with Oats and the South left fallow.

What type of crops were planted or livestock kept and the timing of agrarian activities varied from one region to another based on everything from local traditions and preferences to availability of certain plant and animal varieties to climate based on elevation or latitude.

Wheat, rye, barley and oats were fairly ubiquitous as were peas, cabbage, beans and turnips. Eggplant came from Persia and generally stayed in the warmer climes. Cattle were widely raised for meat and, in Europe, for milk.

Sheep were just as widely tended for wool and meat but in the Near and Middle East sheep and goat’s milk was preferred. Europeans have the genetic ability to digest cow’s milk into adulthood. Those of Middle Eastern descent tend to lack the ability and use the much easier digested fermented goats milk.

Barley was largely used for beer. Rye and wheat for flour and as a cash crop. Hay and oats generally went for animal feed, though, of course, not always and not everywhere. A quip from period says, “Oats, food for horses in England, but men in Scotland,” to which the reply was, “Aye, and where do you find better horses or finer men?”

A minimum of 36 bushels of wheat (the yield of four acres in an average year) was required to support a peasant’s family for the year. An acre produced about 7 - 8.5 bushels of grain per acre in Medieval Europe where modern farming methods, on the same land, yield four times that at 42.5 bushels.

That yield was only about double the amount of seed used, 4 bu per acre. Barley would bring about 20 bushels per acre ... leaving about 15 after taxes and seed were pulled ... from only 2 bu of seed. Oats yielded a 300 to nearly 400 percent increase giving 10 -11.5 bu an acre from 3 bu of seed.

Peas, an important component in the medieval diet across Europe as a protein source, gave 8.5 - 10 bu per acre from 3 bu of seed.

“Because of relatively small yields, medieval agriculture was highly sensitive to adverse weather conditions, both summer droughts, winter freezes, and periods of overabundance of rain. This meant that a certain level of crop variety was necessary as insurance against the possible destruction of an important staple.” (Glick, Livesey and Wallis, 2005)

What did they grow?
“Sour and sweet cherries of all kinds, both cultivated and wild, grow in such great quantity that...
sometimes it happens that more than sixty carts of them are in one day brought through the gates of the city, and they are available for sale in the city at any hour from mid-May until almost mid-July. Plums, too, white, yellow, dark, damascene, likewise in almost infinite quantity, are distributed ripe from shortly before the Kalends of July until the month of October.

“At the same time plums begin to appear, pears, summer apples, blackberries and the figs named ‘flowers’ appear in abundance; then follow cultivated filberts; afterwards the cornel-berries, particularly appropriate for ladies; also jujubes and peaches amazingly abundant; likewise, figs and grapes of various kinds; also almonds, although few of them; wild filberts, nuts in unbelievable quantity, which all citizens who like them enjoy all the year round after all meals. Nuts can also be mixed, ground, with eggs and cheese and pepper to stuff meat in winter. Also an oil is obtained from them which is liberally consumed among us. Then again, winter pears and apples and crabapples grow, all of which abundantly supply our citizens through the winter and beyond. Also pomegranates appear, most useful to the sick. Grapes of many kinds are abundant, and they appear ripe about the middle of July and are available for sale until the Kalends of December or thereabouts.”

Bonvesin della Riva, On the marvels of the City of Milan. From the Latin. (1288) (Lopez & Raymond 1995)

His wonderfully descriptive PR letter aside … crops generally produced in most of Europe in our period were:

Peas, lentils, lavaş beans, cabbage, onions, shallots, leeks, garlic, herbs, carrots, beets, turnips, rutabagas, parsnips, greens, parsley, chickpeas, navy beans, wheat, rye, barley, oats, millet, flax, hemp (for ~fiber~), apples, pears, cherries (sweet and sour), olives, figs, quinces, mulberries, walnuts, chestnuts, (Warmer climes had almonds, peaches, plums and in Italy and Spain, citrus)

Sheep, cattle, goats, chickens, pigs, horses, oxen

After the Muslim conquests in the East during the 8th and 9th Centuries techniques and cultivars from the Subcontinent such as rice, sugar cane, citrus fruits and cotton were appropriated throughout the Islamic world. Crops cultivated in monsoon conditions, in Europe had to be irrigated. Something the Arabs called “Indian Farming” (ilaha hindiyya). As these techniques and crops spread through Persia toward Europe, they picked up Persian cultivars … eggplant and artichokes.

And so it continued until today, new technologies, and new varieties increasing our access to food and our enjoyment of it.

14th C English Poem

Januar: By thys fyre I warme my my handys
Februar: And with my spade I delfe my landys
Marche: Here I sette thynge to sprynge
Apriile: And here I here the fowlis synge
Maii: I am as lught as burdie in bowe
Junii: And I wede my corn well mow
Julii: With my sythe my mede I mowe
Auguste: And here I shere my corne full lowe
September: And with my faylle I erne my brede
October: And here I sawe my whete so rede
November: At Martynesmasse I kylle my syne
December: And at Chritemasse I drynke redde wyne

Winter
JANUARY
Repairs to tools, buildings, fences, Some planting of early vegetables such as peas and onions depending on locale, Weaving, Crafting new tools, baskets, rope, nets, leather straps, Pruning Mature Trees, Clearing ditches, cutting wood, breeding sows, spreading fertilizer, early lambing

**FEBRUARY**
Plowing in Southern lands, Planting, Fertilizing and amending soil with chalk and lime, Repairs, Clearing new fields, Pruning fruit trees and stalking vines, Lambing, Mending fences, Planting willows, Lambing, Calving

**Spring**

**MARCH**
Spreading Manure, Plowing, Planting early vegetables depending on locale, also flax and hemp, Sowing (scattering seeds in large fields such as grains for fall harvest and hay), Harrowing, Calving, Pruning Vines, Lady Day, March 25 marked the unofficial beginning of the new year for many as this day was the mile marker for returning to the fields.

**APRIL**
Pruning Young Trees to encourage stronger more productive growth, Weeding, Scaring Birds, Planting pulses (peas and beans), cabbages, onions, carrots, parsnips, beets, leeks, turnips. Orchard Trees, Harrowing, Household gardens would have been planted in this time with sage, basil, thyme, rosemary, fennel, Parsely, dill, mint,chives, daisies, dandelion, wormwood, nettle, primrose, rocket, spinach, lettuce, cress, borage, rocket. Weaning calves, Dairy work comes into full swing, Farrowing piglets

**MAY**
Weeding, Scaring Birds, Planting New Trees, Gathering Early crops such as cherries, strawberries, Digging Drainage Ditches, First plowing of Fallow fields, Capturing new swarms of bees, Mark sheep, Plant garden vegetables and pulses in cooler climes, Roof thatch repair begins

**Summer**

**JUNE**
Wash and Shear sheep, Harvesting (two main harvests, hay, barley, vetches, oats, peas, beans in late spring - early summer, wheat, rye and grapes late summer. If a spring grain crop was planted then another grain harvest in late fall), Weeding, Shearing Festivai

**JULY**
Shearing continues, Hay Mowing continues, Harvest of winter crops continues, Plowing harvested fields and harled fallow fields under, Gathering berries, Weeding, Harvesting flax and hemp, Washing, Carding and Spinning the wool, Gathering Wood a nearly year-round task to ensure enough fuel for winter as well as resources to craft tools, fences and repair buildings

**AUGUST**
Harvesting Grain (winter crop in cooler climes) and hay, Tying sheaves and storing for threshing and winnowing later, Washing, Carding and Spinning the wool, Plant turnips
Autumn

SEPTEMBER
Harvesting grains (spring crop), Honey and wax, peas, apples, pears, blackberries and grapes, Breeding cattle, Tying, Threshing, Winnowing, Milling (The first record of a windmill in England was 1185 in Yorkshire. Shortly afterwards, Pope Celestine III declared the air used by windmills was owned by the church and so a tax must be paid to the church for their use.), Plow fields for winter grain planting, Sow winter grain, Washing, Carding and Spinning the wool, Pruning Fruit Trees, Harvest Festival, Sell excess livestock

OCTOBER
Last Plowing, Tilling, Harrowing, Sowing winter wheat, oats and barley, Milling, Weaving, Carding and Spinning the Wool, Brewing, Drive pigs to forage on Acorns and beechnuts, Harvesting Grapes and begin production of wine and verjuice, Breed sheep. "About nones on 2 Oct., 1270, Amice daughter of Robert Belamy of Staploe and Sibyl Bonchevaler were carrying a tub full of grout between them in the brewhouse of Lady Juliana de Beauchamp ... intending to empty it in a boiling leaden vat, when Amice slipped and fell into the vat and the tub upon her ... the household came and found her scalded almost to death. A chaplain came and Amice had the rites of the church and died by misadventure about prime the next day" (Amt, 1993, p. 189).

NOVEMBER
Butchering begins (Nov. 11, St. Martins Day), Salting/Smoking Preserving, Weaving, Gathering Willow and Reed for weaving baskets, Gathering Acorns for pigs feed, Gathering fuel wood for winter, Threshing and Winnowing, ideally suited to rainy and cold days, comes into full swing.

Winter

DECEMBER
Butchering, Salting/Smoking Preserving, Weaving, Gathering Willow and Reed for weaving baskets, Digging drainage ditches, Graves, Solstice and Christmas Celebrations

Bibliography


Top Eleven (free) Resources for Medieval Research

By Catherine Ambrose

Not all of us have access to online databases that universities now offer their students. As a matter of fact, most of us have no idea what is offered now, since it’s such a change from when we were all in school once upon a time. How do we get access to the research we need, and without paying upwards of a thousand dollars a year for a resource that we rarely use?

Some of these resources require local library cards – but for the most part, obtaining a library card is free if you live in the area.

1. Interlibrary Loan

Let’s face it: not all libraries have everything, especially if you live in a smaller town or city. With the advent of the internet, however, we’ve gotten a step closer to freedom of information by allowing books to be lent world-wide through a process known as “Interlibrary Loan”. If your library doesn’t have a resource that you need, talk to your librarian about it, and usually within a few weeks that resource will be in your hands – and
usually at no cost.

2. WorldCat – (http://www.worldcat.org/)
The mother of all library catalogs, WorldCat is a catalog that taps into nearly every library around the world, including many local libraries. Not sure where to find something you’ve been wanting to get your hands on? Switch over to WorldCat and you can see at a glance where the book is carried and how far it is. You can even request a loan straight from the site, as long as you belong to a local library. It’s a combination of one-stop shopping and research.

3. JSTOR
If WorldCat is the mother of all library catalogs, JSTOR is the father of all historical research databases. Combining a massive number of regularly-updated scholarly journals and magazines, JSTOR offers the best of the best in historical research, and all of their sources are peer-reviewed and checked thoroughly. While many local libraries do not have access to JSTOR, state libraries usually will and a card is just as easy to obtain there.

4. Google Scholar – (scholar.google.com)
There has always been a battle fought between freedom of information and who that information really belongs to. This is where Google Scholar steps in, offering a middle ground of articles from older journals (ideal for historical research), article abstracts (summaries), and citations. Want to find out who the best are referring to in their research? Google Scholar has citation information too.

5. Online Subject Bibliographies
Chances are, if you’re facing a research problem for the SCA, it’s already been addressed. By searching for your specific problem and the term “bibliography” in your preferred search engine, lists of resources that are related may just pop up, compiled by fellow SCA members and researchers alike. If anything, this will give you a great place to begin.

6. Historical Atlases
Can’t find any information on your culture during the time period you want? Check a historical atlas. Place names change (a lot!). For instance, what we know now to be Germany has once been part of the Prussian Empire, and before had been divided up into dozens of smaller kingdoms and parcels of land. Historical atlases will give you the names you need, and the information to go along with them. Like much else, these atlases exist both in libraries and online.

7. Cambridge History of…
If you’re looking for something on a specific culture, encyclopedias won’t have the depth you’ll most likely need. The Cambridge History series features entire volumes on specific cultures. The series has a great reputation among scholars, and is popular enough to where many libraries hold the books.

8. Heralds and Librarians
In the case of finding information on your persona, what better resource is there than your local herald? With all the tools on naming, culture, and heraldic devices at hand, the herald is the first person you should check with if you’re starting persona research. Plus, most heralds have the experience to go along with the research; chances are that they’ve gone through the process plenty of times.

While most haven’t specialized in medieval history, librarians are trained in the art and science of search. Bring your questions in to the research or reference desk, and your local librarian will be more than happy to help get you started. They’ll also be able to help you with all the other resources listed here.

Need some general information? Bartelby is a website that features full text of thousands of encyclopedias, reference books, fiction, non-fiction, and many, many other sources. Of particular note is The Oxford Shakespeare with full text of all of Shakespeare’s work, and entire sections on mythology and religion – excellent for medieval research.

10. British Library Online (http://www.bl.uk/), British Museum Online
With manuscripts being scanned in for the local public on a daily basis, all the information you need for research like this is right at your fingertips. Not only does the British Library and British Museum websites feature complete interactive manuscripts and entire exhibits right there online, they also offer the information with which to back it all up.

11. Other SCA Members
In many cases, one of the best resources to have at your disposal is people. Have a question on something specific? Ask someone in the SCA who focuses on the area. Peers (especially Laurels) are wonderful for this, because they've already done the research on their subject.

There's absolutely no limit on geography. Ask around; find out who might know, and shoot out an email. Chances are that the recipient will be thrilled and more than a little humbled to have been approached. After all, that's what the SCA is about: sharing what we know with other people.

Konnichiwa & Greetings to the Populace of Nottinghill Coill!

As I, Baron Takeda, compose the missive, Our Baroness, Ariel, travels to the northern reaches to lend aid to our Kingdom of Atlantia in the Pennsic War! We wish Ariel safe journeys and many good times.

We wish to Thank all those Gentles that have sent in Award recommendations. We have received numerous missives about many deserving Gentles and looking forward to recognizing these Gentles for their efforts. For those that have yet to send in Letters OR don't know what Awards there are, you will find the Link to the Baronial Awards below:

Nottinghill Coill Baronial Awards

This link provides the Names & Descriptions of Awards in Our Barony and a list of those that have already received them.

There are many events coming up in the next few months. Please take the time to write us letters of those Gentles you find deserving of recognition.

Our Emails are:

Takeda: barontakeda (AT) yahoo.com
Ariel: gillasd (AT) bellsouth.net

Thank you for your assistance, as always we remain....

In Service to the Dream,
Takeda & Ariel
Baron & Baroness of Nottinghill Coill
Arts and Science Resources

There are so many people in the SCA with so many varied interests. But when your interest is in something distinctive or not widely practiced in your area it may be hard to find the resources and support you need. So go to Facebook and have a look at this page: SCA Related Special Interest Facebook Groups & Pages Directory (https://www.facebook.com/groups/scadiscussiongroup/doc/10150718194786242/).

From the 14th Century Mafia to Gluten-free and Paleo in the SCA to the Slavic Interest Group (for those interested in all aspects of Slavic life and culture) – you’re likely to find some kindred souls here.

Another superb resource is Atlantia’s own Arts & Sciences links website: http://moas.atlantia.sca.org/wsnlinks/. Did you know that right now there are 8,500 (yes – eight thousand five hundred!) links on this site?

And there’s even a separate page devoted to the Performing Arts: http://moas.atlantia.sca.org/performingarts/.

So, start browsing and have fun!

Your Baronial A&S Champion,

Dame Morwenna Trevethan

Sunday, June 30, 2013

Hidden Mountain Baronial Trailer Stolen

The trailer of the Baron and Baroness of Hidden Mountain was stolen out of our yard this afternoon. It is a plain 6x8 white single axle trailer with about 3/4 of our gear including the 20x30 Baronial pavillion, hand made and decorated boxes with dinnerware service for 8, banners, tables, table linens, serving gear, serving bowls and platters, some cooking gear, 4 rugs, the Baronial thrones, and our green take down chairs. Most of the cooking and serving gear is marked HM or Hidden Mountain. The feast gear is black and white, with a pair of Claybaby goblets with the Baronial arms on them. Pillows, a box of heraldic banners of the past B/B of Hidden mountain, two boxes of general heraldic banners, directional signs, and the fighting eric were also in the trailer.

So needless to say, if anyone comes across any of our gear, please contact me at adendra {AT} homesc.com. Please feel free to forward this.

Aodh Adendra Marland,
Baroness Hidden Mountain
mka Brenda Brenda Johnson
The Marshall’s Cross: A Song by Sir Bryce de Byram

RAZO: Henry Curtmantle, King of England, had his eldest son crowned in his life time to assure both the succession of the Crown and the preservation of his empire, which stretched from the Pyrenees to the far North Sea. He established William Marshall, a simple household knight, to the role of sire in arms to his son Henry, called “The Young King”. But fate’s wheel turned against the King’s device and The Young King died of a flux. On his deathbed he bade The Marshall to carry his crusader’s cross to Jerusalem, which William did “doing more in two years than most do in ten”. Upon his death bed The Marshall, now raised by fortune and courtly skill to Regent of England under the minor King Henry III, returned to the Knight Templars, whom he served for as a lay brother while in Palestine, for the salvation of his soul.

CHORUS:
The hammer blows of combat are the sweetest psalms I know
Sing Exalt and Hosanna at the coursing of the foe.
This cross I wear for Henry I will bear unto my grave
My oath fulfilled my duty done and two souls shall I save.

The Marshall sore with grieving he has come now o’er from France.
His shield, his sword, his hauberk and his ever steady lance.
In service to the Young King did this captain ply his trade.
The spirit fled, the oath assumed now captive to a shade.

CHORUS
'Take up your arms', said Henry, Roi the father to the knight
'Employ your skill, harass the foe and strike with all your might.
But come ye back to England and unto my court attend.
A king is ever needful of true valiant, loyal men.'

CHORUS
And so did William travel to the land height Palestine.
As confrere to the Temple for a time he was consigned.
His bread, his wine, his mass he took with brothers all around
Until at last his oath discharged he found him homeward bound.

CHORUS
Now many years and many kings the Marshall he did serve.
One called a rogue, one hailed a hero pledged unto the Lord.
The Marshall at his death bed, as Regent to the Crown
Called forth his loyal vassals and he bid them stand around.

CHORUS
'When I was o’ver in Outremer I pondered on my death
And so I claim the Temple as I draw out my last breath.
May God and Michael guide me as I flee unto the grave
My vows fulfilled, my oath discharged, and two souls have I saved.'

CHORUS ('have I saved')
Greetings to the Populace of the Barony of Nottinghill Coill, from Baroness Ariel Benne Douw

I was lucky enough to be able to attend the Hawkwood Baronial Birthday on the weekend of May 11, 2013. What wonderful neighbors we have! To start with, I arrived at the site Friday evening and immediately, I had several good gentles from Hawkwood, including Her Excellency Hawkwood, Baroness Deirdre, to help me unload and tote my (considerable) accoutrements down the hill, through the mud to my cabin. Did I mention wonderful neighbors?!?

On Saturday, many of the good folk from Notthinghill Coill (and at lease one that we have adopted - you know who you are!) arrived and I had very much help all day! Thank you to Lord Savage, Our Baronial Equestrian Champion, who took it upon himself to be My main retainer for the day. Many thanks go around to all who helped me set up and tear down the pavilions and all the things that went under the pavilion. Many thanks to Lady Marie-Helene for providing the lion's share of the food - all of it hand made from scratch and all of it wonderful! More thanks go to Lord Wilhelm for helping Hawkwood by being the heavy marshal for the event and to Dame Morwenna for being the Chirurgeon In Charge for the day (as usual!). Once again, the Great Barony of Nottinghill Coill showed great service, courtesy, and honor!

During the day, I attempted something I had not tried before. I threw axes at a large chunk of wood. OK, I found out I have NO talent in thrown weapons. But, young Brenden, son of Lord Carrick, also attempted thrown weapons for the first time and although he didn't win anything he showed great talent to the point that the winner of the thrown weapons tourney passed his prize to Brenden to encourage his continued practice in thrown weapons. Brenden also has significant archery talent as evidenced by his winning the Youth Archery Tournament! Congratulations young Brenden!

In the evening, we were served a wonderful feast followed by lots of fun! There was the traditional "full contact musical chairs" played to live bagpipe music by Her Excellency, Deirdre. It was very much fun to watch and His Majesty had lots of fun participating! Then there was the Kilted Sumo Wrestling. I haven't laughed so hard in a very long time! His Majesty also was an active and entertaining participant in this! There was also dancing and much other amusement.

I had a wonderful time during the entire weekend. I am sorry that His Excellency, Baron Takeda, was not able to attend. I know that he would have also had a wonderful time and been proud of the Nottinghill Coill populace at this event. I look forward to visiting Our neighboring Cousins in the future.

In Service to Our Dream!
Ariel Benne Douw
Baroness, Nottinghill Coill

This is the September 2015 issue of the Quill, a publication of the Barony of Nottinghill Coill of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. (SCA, Inc.). It is not a Legalese converted by Web2PDFConvert.com