

St Andrews Guild

Royal Parchment

July

2003

Good Gentles All,

From Our Most Royal majesty unto thee, Our loyal subjects, sincere good tidings!

What a most wondrous and exciting season we have begun! Our progress throughout Our blessed realm, this Scotland, has been splendid, and We are met with warm welcome and marvelous entertainment at every turn!



It is with greatest pride that We do receive the many praises from dignitaries and fair folk of the lands where Our path doth take Us. Your hard work and good endeavors are marked by all. It is a testament to each of thee, of thy loyalty and affection unto Us. We are most exceedingly grateful for thy hard work on Our behalf and for the betterment of Saint Andrews. Our good, high chancellor, Sir Drew MacQuain, did inform Us of thy great exertions in detail. We and the Duke are extremely proud! It well comforts Us to know that during this year of transition and change, Our good gentles are true and up to the task of the merry work that brings us such joy and comradeship! We do ask all to bear true faith and with steady heart, full of love and care, keep Saint Andrews all as it has ever been, a well-worn joy for all.

Our attendance upon the shire of Placerville was a recent joy to share! What a grand faire it was – full of intrigue and entertainment! We will remember it in Our heart for years to come! Two such wonderful days of pageantry and friendship, as not to be missed. Alas, all who did not attend, with all thy greatest effort, abide with Us at our next pilgrim's stop. Not a moment should be missed of Our extraordinary court's progress.

With so much more ahead of Us, We are filled with anticipation at what awaits! In just more than a fortnight hence, We will be among the shire folk of Pittsburg and then Pleasanton. Both will be memorable times We are sure. It is Our desire to see as many of Our good gentles attend with Us as are able. Ardenwood, Campbell, Dunsmuir - all were wondrous!

We are so proud of Our good gentles, and increasingly confident in thee to make this season of change a most successful season of unchanging success. We bid you fond farewell unto the time when Heaven shines down upon our next meeting.



We do remain, by God's good grace, and Our people's love and affection,

Queen of Scotland and the Isles

Maria Regina de Scotia

FROM THE DESK OF THE GUILDMASTER

As I have said at notes at every faire Thank You all for getting us this far into the faire season! My Goal for St. Andrew's is to set our own benchmarks. With your help and God's good weather we are on a solid course. With the help of the Assistant Guild Mistresses my job is much more manageable. Let us continue on the road that we now travel and see where it leads. Thank you to all the Heads of Households for their hard work and assistance with their houses!

Your Guild Master,

Sir Drew MacQuain



SHASTA HIGHLANDS RENAISSANCE FAIRE

Just like the mailman, neither wind, nor rain nor stormy weather will keep St. Andrew's from shining at Faire!! And shine we did!! The weather was wet, the ground was muddy but the spirit of St. Andrew's showed through.

There was jousting- The Frenchman!! What a cad to be following our fair Queen and making unwanted advances. The Royal Guard, dancing, feasting and a display of arms work not seen in many years. Our own Royal Guard was joined by the armored knights of the Fireblood guild in a show of skill to enchant and amaze all.

This is a must not miss faire for next year!!



PLACERVILLE RENAISSANCE FAIRE

In May our faire Queen did progress to the shire of Placerville where the English were in abundance. She did enjoy a fine repast with the good Lord Dudley on Saturday and then did send him packing back to her good cousin in England. On Sunday she was smitten by the attentions of the handsome and well spoken Lord Darinley.

The highlanders did show their best side as they opened the new St. Andrew's Wicked Eye Tavern to a round of drinks - on the house so to speak. There was croquet and archery and our good Guild Master did "peep" his own people!! What fun that was!

Let us not forget that St. Andrew's did show their stuff by traveling forth and enjoying the merriment of the "dragon slide" and the laughter and joy of sharing space with our fellow Scots.



HOUSE OF COURTIER'S

Even the rain and mud and occasional swamps couldn't prevent the courtiers from playing host in our court at Anderson. As guests entered between rainstorms (and sometimes during) they were welcomed and drawn into conversation. Many of them signing the "Passports" of the local 7th grade students looking for some extra credit. Out of the mud, the ladies and gentlemen of the court performed a full dance show in a light rain, and managed to easily entice several guests to join in. They kept the Queen busy with meeting many guest and visitors who kept coming despite the wetness. Bishop Gordon started the first in a series of gigs designed

to demonstrate 16th century Catholicism. This gig was continued and expanded Sunday at Placerville. There is

a large and historically important gig being worked up by Lady Lindsey and the Gig Committee portraying Mary Stuart's first Mass in Scotland, which as you may remember was initially intercepted by some rather irate Reformers who intended on putting a stop to it. The event culminated in James Stewart (Mary's brother) protecting her right to a private Mass even though he himself was a solid Reformer. It should be a very exciting and tension producing gig. There will be roles for those portraying Catholic and Reformers alike. You won't want to miss out on this! Stay tuned for developing details.

Speaking of Placerville, it was as sunny as Anderson was damp. This was our first time at this event and we played Mary's court against St. Matthew's Elizabethan one. This event was very heavy in storyline and so the Courtiers were kept busy being spies and envoys between Scotland and England, with Lady Charlotte provoking both of the Queen's wrath's, with her scandalous behavior in Scotland and unwanted messages in England. I think she had too much fun! Lady Lennox was also a figure in both courts, promoting her son's (Lord Darnley) courtship of Mary. Saturday we welcomed Lord Dudley from the English court as a rather rude and loutish visitor. However, our ladies and gentlemen never stooped to his level and they treated him with respect, well, at least to his face. As for those who were a little surprised and upset by Lord Dudley's uncouth behavior, never fear, it was exactly as planned and Her Majesty had a delightful time insulting him back. And on Sunday, Elizabeth was so enraged to hear of Mary and Darnley's betrothal, she would have thrown something at Lady Charlotte if only something had been at hand. The choir was in tip-top shape both days, often providing commentary with their musical selections. Listen closely some time and you'll hear. Dance Mistress Lady Kyra MacNeil had more dancers than space on the stage at the main gate. How wonderful to see not only Courtiers dancing, but Irish and Royal Guard as well.

As you see, the Courtier Household is beginning to blossom and grow. Other households keep raising the bar (like the Highlanders, literally) and the Courtiers are beginning to step up the pace also. If

HOUSE OF AMBASSADORS

While we were all a bit, um, damp during Anderson, we did enjoy our first repast with Her Majesty. The highlight of our weekend was (after Her Majesty of course) interacting with the seventh graders as they came to get their papers signed! We did correct those who had believed the world is flat, and conducted mini "civics" lessons!

Placerville was a truly grand event for us all! The repast with Her Majesty was truly scrumptious

you have any ideas you want to run by your Head of Household, please do so. If you have a great gig you would like to try out, contact the Gig Committee for more information. And don't forget, the Courtiers are always on time this year!!



House of Emissaries

*Knock knock!
Who's there?
The Emissaries!*

Working with faire boards, acting with other guilds, designing shows, new looks, and bonding as a family; the Emissaries' House has started this year with a bang! Emissaries have grown leaps and bounds, both in size and in purpose. We've welcomed a number of new members and have a terrific household staff at last - the Queen's feast was never better! Our work behind the scenes proved fruitful and improved. St. Andrews relations with both with faire boards and other guilds, as the hug circle at Placerville confirmed.

We're looking for more of the same. More gigs with Italians, Macclains, St. Matthews, Galbraith, more invitations to new events like the Sonora Renaissance Faire Scheduled for September. More fun, interactions, friendships, a more renowned St. Andrews.

(special thanks to Lord Stephen!!) and an opportunity for much lighthearted banter for all. Throughout the weekend our littlest member, Lady Ashleigh, was the best helper, right down to washing all of the silver at tear down! Of course on Saturday we did get to attend Dame Judith's knighting, which was the first time the Dames have performed their new ceremony. It all went off without a hitch, and the Ambassadors were well pleased!!

For future events the Ambassadors are working on learning stories from their native lands to share with all of the children (3-103) whenever needed. We do request that all remember that when Her Majesty is dining with the Ambassadors that she is on her "break" and should not be disturbed. (Many Thanks to the Royal Guard who stood guard for the whole meal!) We would also like to remind everyone that the Ambassadors house would love to welcome new members from all ranks and styles!

IRISH HOUSE



Beannachtai Mor o Éireannach!

In the time of the young cows (Spring) and Feiseanna Mor i Éire (The Great Faires in Ireland), the Irish Princess has been called back to Ireland to attend her duties at her father's Court and arrange the great Feasts with their wondrous entertainment. Much story telling, exquisite poetry and splendid music will ensue and the Irish will somehow find a way to continue the ancient way of bringing our crafts, stock and trading goods to Faire where we meet, make merry, catch up on news and make plans to rid ourselves of the Invaders. At these Faires, many young people (and those young-at-heart) meet their potential mates and the Clans renew bonds, so this is an important time for diplomacy!

During this time, the Irish House is under the guidance of two loyal and creative Ladies- Lady Sionna ni Briain and Lady Morianne McDonell. Each is doing her best to continue the goal of being sure the Irish are represented well and ever at Her Majesty's service.

Lady Sionna is demonstrating ever expanding creative magic with wondrous masks for the Fairy Show the Irish are recreating and Lady Morianne makes sure all the administrative links are in place. We are grateful to each for their hard work and dedication. The Irish are also busy recruiting and we have some very exciting potential new members!

Our Captain, Lord Sean O'Briain put in a stunning performance as "The Grey Man" at Placerville Court, with Sionna's handiwork, which was expertly augmented costumed by his Bhean chéile, Lady Sionnan, who is also busy with her own needlework and creative ventures. The golden throated Ladies, Noirin and Kathleen ni Briain offered their talents to Her Majesty and our goodly Lord Naecedin made sure the wee folk were attended to properly (a truly important task!). We also extend a warm welcome to the newest Irish member, Lord Roark, who is also most skilled with his needle. (We acknowledge the great Irish fishermen, who after making their maritime ropes, began tying those complex knots which began the localized knotwork that identified where an individual came from and ultimately was copied by those who knitted the knotwork into our famous

sweaters). Lord Roark continues this tradition with his remarkable handiwork.

Princess Aislinn would like to sincerely thank everyone for attending their duties in her absence and promises to bring to Court some excellent samples of Irish wares and news of the Emerald Isle upon her official return.

God Save Ireland!

Ladies-In- Waiting

A very heartfelt thank you to all the ladies in waiting for all their hard work, dedication and sticktoitiveness! You have gone above and beyond the call of duty. Both the Queen and I appreciate your being there, in good weather and bad!

Hopefully, our ranks will increase and you won't have to work so hard. How many ways can I say Thank You!! You are all the best and I love you one and all, as I know the Queen does. We look forward to seeing all of you at our next event.

**Anon for now – Dame
MacQuain**



Gentlemen of the Queen's Own Royal Guard:



It's a grand year for Her Majesties own Royal Halberdiers. The year started off with a grand showing of guardsmen at the Opening of Parliament. Not only well represented in numbers, but in their appearance and demeanor. A box, handmade by Corporal Liam MacLaidlaw and signed by all the guardsmen present, was presented to His Grace, MacQuain on behalf of the entire guard.

Shortly after O of P, the guard recaptured an old tradition by holding a "dining in," a formal dinner for members of the guard, and their Commander in Chief, Sir MacQuain. The dinner was held at "The Highlander," a Scottish restaurant in Sacramento. It proved to be an eventful evening. The owner, a Scot, took an immediate liking to the guard and began presenting all with gifts of free (high quality) Scotch. During the dinner, on behalf of the entire guard, Corporal Teage Seaton presented Sir Drew with a new dagger suitable for eating, or killing English. Throughout the evening there were grand toasts and singing, and the bond between the guardsmen was strengthened.

At Anderson Faire, the Sergeant of the Guard, Phelan MacGregor surprised and

delighted the guard and the guild by presenting halberds polished, as they'd never been before. The "new" halberds proved to be a bright spot in the otherwise cold and wet environment and the guardsmen developed a new sense of pride in their weapons of choice.

The halberdiers have also shown that they possess other skills aside from their abilities with swords and halberds. The fair at Anderson found them in the "The Wicked Eye Tavern," the Highlander's bar, singing and fist fighting.

The faire at Placerville saw the knighting of another of the guardsmen, Sir Ian MacMillen (the day after his lovely wife Lady Whisper), thus providing the guard with at least four knights among their ranks.

Plans for events for the guard through the year continue apace. New recruits are continually being contacted and added to the ranks, and potential members abound. There is rumor of a "Dining Out," another tradition to be revived whereby the guardsmen will have another formal dinner, this time including guests, and guests of honor. It promises to be an unforgettable evening. And the members of the guard will continue to impress and delight the folke of the guild, and the folke of the various shires we visit, with their singing and dancing talents, bar brawling, and of course their martial skills.

"Clatter From the Highlands"



So much has happened since our last missive! We had a most wondrous time at Shasta Highlands Renaissance Faire in Anderson, despite the soggy weather. All the mud and the straw spread about made the Tavern all the more realistic! The Tavern! God's Tooth, the Tavern! The MacLaren Clan spearheaded the Sacramento Guild House in building "The Wicked Aye Tavern" (we do heartily thank the Irish for helping us come up with the Tavern name!), which I dare say is the envy of all of St. Andrew's. Taniste Thomas MacLaren added the piece de resistance as he scripted our first gig "Trouble in the Tavern", complete with a song by Lord Phelan MacGregor (not bad for a Royal Guard) and a dance choreographed and led by Lady Kyra MacNeil. Then there is the sword duel and weapons demonstration by Master Thomas and Lord Phan. Lady Dragon MacLaren has established a Highlander website and it can be found at: <http://tavern.winterbreeze.com> or you can link to it from our guild site!

There is so much going on, I'm afraid I will forget something or someone. I cannot adequately praise the fold of the highland Household, the Sacramento Guild House, and all folk who have us off to such a wondrous start this year! We have so many new folk who have jumped right in with both feet and have made this the greatest year the highland household has ever seen!!

The Cedar Springs Faire in Placerville was absolutely wonderful! The Tavern is not only a favorite gathering place of St. Andrews folk, but of other guilds as well! We were honoured with Chieftain Ian MacIain visiting several times, as well as King Christian of Denmark and our own Sovereign! Why, Queen Elizabeth was even seen wandering by, although she dared not enter! Then there were the trespassers we found hiding against the Tavern wall when we returned from parade, who were ferreted out by a game of darts! The faire board gave us permission to "christen" the Tavern with a round of drinks on Saturday night after the faire closed. Not bad for a "dry" faire! We even withstood a catapult assault by Clan Galbraith as they mercilessly fired volley after volley of Peeps at the Tavern! (5 second rule for the wee lads and lasses)! Visitors also had the privilege of witnessing and "ancient pagan rite" involving blood letting and the consuming of some God awful rot gut, as Chieftain Iain the Black and I initiated Master Thomas and Mistress Rebecca as Tanistes. This all had to take place while her Royal Majesty was out of Court, as the blood letting and calling upon "The Ancient Ones" was much too uncivilized for Her to be subjected to.

The Highlanders Household also has a tradition of presenting an outstanding Highlander with the Chieftain's Favor at the end of each faire, a Celtic wolf's head pin. At the Shasta Faire in Anderson I was most honored to present Tobias Ferguson with the Wolf's Head for his hard work throughout the long, wet weekend and his contributions to the building of the Tavern. What a way to start the faire season with St. Andrew's! he plays a mean game of Coit's Rings as well!

At Placerville, Alexander and Lily Bunch attended their first faire as part of our St. Andrew's family and they were awesome. Aside from working nonstop all weekend to keep all of St. Andrews on our feet, they provided a seemingly endless supply of ice to both the encampment and actor's camp. 'Tis rare that two folk are presented with the Wolf's Head at one faire, but they both worked so hard as a team that the decision was obvious. Master Tobias, and master and Mistress Bunch join the ranks of other dedicated Highlanders who have earned the Chieftain's Favor: Courtney MacLaren, Moira MacLeod, Thomas MacLaren, Morna MacGregor, Rebecca MacLaren and Crotach MacLeod.

the Highlanders look forward to our fist battle of the year (soon....please...), as well as a duel between myself and Morna MacGregor (my long lost sister...we wee born in a brothel and separated at birth, but you've all heard that story), some more bawdy songs, and who knows what else!!!!

I would like to thank all the folk of the Highlands for such a wondrous start to a new season and thank all for hard work, imagination, and creativity!! Above all else I offer my most heartfelt thanks to our Guild Master, Sir Drew MacQuain for leading us and encouraging all of us to use our imaginations and allowing us to dream.

GOD SAVE ST. ANDREWS!!!!





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Saint Andrews Ancient Order of Noble Scots

2003 Calendar of Events

September

- 6th & 7th Sat. & Sun. Northern Pleasure Faire Walkabout
13th & 14th Sat. & Sun. Sonora Celtic Faire (Sonora, CA) 2 days – Full set-up
20th & 21st Sat. & Sun. Northern Pleasure Faire Walkabout
27th Saturday Royal Scottish Picnic (Buchanan Park, Pittsburg, CA)

October

- 4th Saturday Ben Lomond Scottish Festival Walkabout (Santa Cruz, CA)
18th & 19th Sat. & Sun. Folsom Renaissance Faire Walkabout. (Folsom, CA)
18th Saturday Antioch Highland Games Walkabout. (Antioch, CA)
25th Saturday St. Andrews Awards BBQ (Buchanan Park, Pittsburg, CA)
(Last guild meeting of the year for entire membership.)

November

- 1st Saturday Greening Day (MacQuain Castle, Brentwood) – Props Repair.
8th Saturday 21st Annual ROYAL WINTERS FEAST (Brentwood Community Center)
(Invitations will be sent – details & map will be included)
9th Sunday Stow the keep day – Noon til Night (MacQuain Castle, Brentwood)

Updated: 7/2003

See monthly mailings for maps and further details of the above events.

Not receiving the monthly mailing?

Contact Dame Bronwynne at donna_cary@hotmail.com or (559)323-5009

You may also contact the Guild Master, His Grace, Sir Drew Douglas MacQuain (925)240-1562