



# The Parchment



Issue 3

Saint Andrews Noble Order of Royal Scots Guild

July 2006

*Warm greeting to Our beloved subjects and honored guests of the realm,*

*The warmth that is summer sits now upon us, and We look back upon the first half of this year of progresses with a heart warm and glad. The Scottish games We didst attend in Livermore were as unique as Calaveras, cloaked as it were in winter white. Yea, though not as cold, 'twere an event marked by the damp and wind. Howsoever, Lady Louise didst help bide the time with instruction for the court in French.*

*Our brief stop in Modesto commenced leisurely but warm. There showed but few of us in attendance, as the call of Valhalla was strong. We didst enjoy each other's company and made light and merry. Master Cullen Elliott impressed us full well with his ability to juggle guests, both coming and going, and his wee lass all at the same time. We smiled to note that a few of the Highlanders did decide to join us whilst we played games in court. 'Twas refreshing to have them join Our company.*

*The final three stops upon our progress wait afore us. Preparation to be done is notable and We trust one and all shall contribute as expected. We look forward to what new and entertaining moments ye shall have for Us.*

*Until then, We remain,*

MARICR

Maria Regina de Scotia  
Mary Stuart, Queen of Scotland and the Isles



## Special Announcement

- What:** Willits Celtic Faire
- When:** Saturday & Sunday, August 5th & 6th  
(Pittsburg Reharsal has been canceled)
- Where:** Recreation Grove Park (same park as previous years)  
corner of Commercial and S. Lenore Streets, Willits, CA
- Directions:** from the bay area take Highway 101 past Santa Rosa & Ukiah.  
Willits is right on 101. To get to the faire site, you will turn right  
onto Commercial, and the park is about 2 blocks down on the  
right (you will pass a park on the left and a police station).
- RSVP:** Please respond at your earliest convenience if you plan to  
attend to [sirmacquain1562@yahoo.com](mailto:sirmacquain1562@yahoo.com).
- More Info:** For more information on the faire (including area  
accommodations), please check out their website at  
[http://rustyswordproductions.com/willits\\_ren\\_faire.htm](http://rustyswordproductions.com/willits_ren_faire.htm)
- Camping:** Actors Camp will be set up in a corner of the faire site. We are  
uncertain if showers are available at this time. More information  
will be sent out as it is available.

### Advertise in the Parchment

Parchment advertisement slots are  
available as follows:

4 issues:	
1/4 page	\$25.00
1/2 page	\$50.00
3/4 page	\$75.00
1 page	\$100.00
2 issues:	
1/4 page	\$12.50
1/2 page	\$25.00
3/4 page	\$37.50
1 page	\$50.00

### *The Parchment*

is published approx.  
every three months.  
It, in conjunction with  
the monthly  
newsletter, is the  
major communication  
source for all Guild  
folk.

If you have interest in  
contributing to *The  
Parchment*, please  
contact Lady Kyra  
MacNeil.



## ~ A Missive from the Guild Master ~

Saint Andrews, one and all ~

What a grand season of Progress we are having! Though the weather Gods have been having their fun, Saint Andrews continues to shine through it all!

We are but half way through Her Majesty's Season of Progress with many of our grandest Faires and Games yet to come. I hope you have all made plans to be at Pittsburg, Pleasanton, and Truckee ~ now take note that you can add Willits to your calendar! We were personally invited by the Fair Board, and it looks to be a wonderful revival to one of our old favorites!! I hope to see Saint Andrews represented in great numbers, even with the short notice.

Our guild has been having an extremely successful year, all thanks to you - Her Majesty's loyal and loving subjects. I wish to extend a hearty and warm welcome to all of our New Members, their talents and efforts make us shine all the brighter! To all of our long standing members, and all those in-between, might I say thank you for all of your loyalty unto Her Majesty, I am ever humbled to lead such a great group of people!

I do remain,

Sir Drew Douglas MacQuain  
Duke of Dunvegan Castle  
Lord Chancellor of Scotland and the Isles  
Cardinal Knight of the Knights and Dames of Saint John of Jerusalem  
First Knight of Saint Andrews

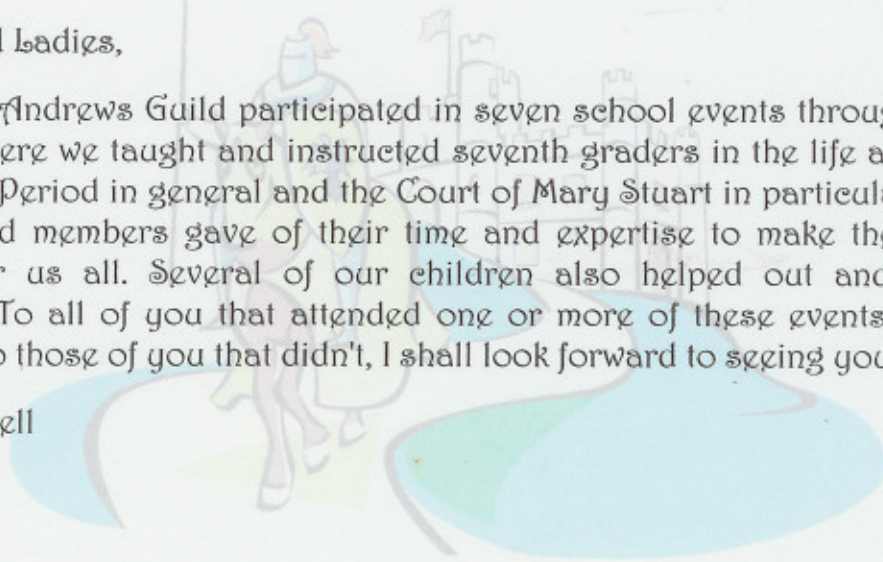


## ~ Youth Outreach Program ~

My Lords and Ladies,

This year St. Andrews Guild participated in seven school events throughout Northern California. There we taught and instructed seventh graders in the life and times of the Renaissance Period in general and the Court of Mary Stuart in particular. Twenty-nine different Guild members gave of their time and expertise to make these days more enjoyable for us all. Several of our children also helped out and their help is appreciated. To all of you that attended one or more of these events, I wish to say thank you. To those of you that didn't, I shall look forward to seeing you next year.

Sir Guy Maxwell





15 July 1562

Dame Britta Southernland Heilie'  
Glen Orchy, Scotland

I have just read yer missive from some time ago. I was wantin ya ta know dear Lady that a man matching the description of yer goodly husband did pass this way but a few days ago.

He did come to the gates of the keep aroond sunset and asked fer a place ta stay the night. We didst allow him in and he partook of the eventide meal with us. Never did we hear his name, but he did tell many wild stories of battles and men at arms. Tales of men he called Dragoons. Never had we heard such tales. He also talked of far away places that had things ta see that we could not even believe. Being he was such an aged man we did humor his stories as entertainin.

This man didst appear ta be in goodly health, although a bit confused and not quite certain of who or where he was. He did not appear ta be equipped fer travel through the hielands, tho we didst make sure that he had a warm dry place fer a respectable stay, as any good heelunder would!

He did stay wi us fer a few nights and then one morn when we rose he had left into the dark. Me owne goodly wife didst say that he had taken a package of food and drink fer travelin. So he should be fyne fer a few days at the least.

I felt that ya should know these things fer ya was lookin fer your goodly husband and all. One of me owne men didst say they saw him walkin eastward.

May God aide you in your quest,  
Chieftain Heber MacPhearson





## ❧ The Dogs of War ❧

Good Day Gentlemen of the Guards and Dame Raven,

For those who missed out on the Livermore Highland Games, you missed a grand time. The battle on Saturday was one of the best pike line-ups that we have seen at an event to date. Thou the sky decided to dump upon our heads on Sunday, the guards had a most enjoyable repast and a grand time was had by all who attended. To all who were able to attend the Campbell Scottish Games, I would like to thank you all for being there. I am sorry I missed out.

Looking ahead in our schedule we will have the Pittsburg Scottish Festival, the Pleasanton International Scottish Games, and the Truckee Renaissance Fair. These plan to be fun and exciting events and I hope you all will plan to attend.

I do remain your captain,

Sir Keegan Gunn



Friday night at Pleasanton - Fair, Saint Andrew's will be hosting a Spaghetti Feed. The cost is \$6.00 per person (children under 16 are \$3). If you purchase your meal prior to August 26th, dessert will be included in the price of your meal. If you pre-reserve (i.e. let Kyra know you're going to be eating), by August 26th, you will be put into a drawing for a prize.

Please contact Lady Kyra [lady\_kyra@yahoo.com or 408-733-1145] to make your reservations as soon as possible. If you fail to reserve your spot, there is, unfortunately, no guarantee that we will have enough for you. Gramgrey!

## ❧ The Ladies in Waiting ❧

Good Folk of Scotland

As we progress into the later half of the season, we shall miss the snows of Angels Camp; the rains of Livermore; the mosquitoes and sprinklers of Modesto; and the winds of Campbell. We shall instead look forward to the sweltering heat of Pittsburg and Pleasanton.

We have a new look to the Queens pavilion (more throne room, less hoop room) and a new Queens Banner, thanks to Lady Seton.

Through the joint efforts of everyone, we have favors to see us through the season (although we can always use more!). Lady Fleming, Her Most Gracious Majesty and the Ladies in Waiting Thank You!

Taking a cue from "the dogs of war" the Ladies in Waiting have purchased household T-shirts and sweatshirts. Look for our new image soon. A special thank you goes to Lady Fleming for all the extra work in getting them to us.

Please be sure to ask Lady Seton about her trip to Scotland this past July. I'm sure she has some wondrous tales and pictures to share.

'Til next I see you all, I remain

Dame Mary Beaton  
Royal Countess of Grzech and Glenrothes  
Countess of Grzech and Bandon  
Chamberlain of the Ladies in Waiting





Dia Duit, Good Day,

The Queen's progress to the shire of Livermore was most enjoyable to the members of the Irish Household, in spite of the typical Scottish weather. Our good warrior Maitiu was able to attend on Saturday, and he and Ian MacCarraig participated in Saturday's battle. It was most exciting when a small flock of sheep didst wander onto the battlefield, to be herded by a good sheep dog and his handler, but not without a few minutes of worry that they would wander into the battle and be slaughtered. Hmmm, our good Queen Mary might have had mutton for supper that evening...

In Court, we did see the Ambassador from Austria causing a bit of a stir with his attentions to several ladies of the court. If he hopes to win favor with Her Royal Majesty mayhap he should be more circumspect in his interactions.

The Queen did progress to the shire of Campbell next, and again the Irish House did have a good showing, and we all enjoyed ourselves. We also celebrated the natal day of young Faolan while in Campbell; he thoroughly enjoyed having all those in Court wish him a happy Natal Day - many thanks to all. The game of Towers was quite well received by all, Guild members and spectators alike. Cookie did prove herself to be a challenging opponent; we look forward to seeing all comers challenge Cookie at the next faire.

We of the Irish House are looking forward to progressing to Pittsburg next; it should prove to be a most enjoyable faire this year! We Irish mercenaries are honing our battle skills so that we might serve Her Majesty most well.

In service to her majesty,

Cailin Rua Kelly  
Chamberlain of the Irish House



This is where to go for information regarding your St Andrews Membership. The Guild Calendar, important history, guidelines, costuming ideas, household pages, fun and helpful links - good stuff for everyone!

If you haven't already, log on today and have a look around - check in often, as the site gets updated as new information becomes available!



## Calling All Dancers

Pray Heed! Calling all Dancers! If you will be at Pittsburg and believe you'd like to dance (or are capable to do so, but not necessarily willing (you know who you are), please come to Willits Faire to practice both days. We will be on stage at Pittsburg the following weekend and REALLY need the practice!

If you cannot make the rehearsal, but would still like to dance, please contact me at your earliest convenience at 408-733-1145 or email at [lady\\_kyra@yahoo.com](mailto:lady_kyra@yahoo.com).

Gramgreyl Lady Kyra

Gentle reminder: Pray remember, when performing on stage, to wear period appropriate garments from the skin out (don't overlook undergarments, shoes & hosiery!). The audience will be below us & may have a chance to find out first hand what a Scotsman wears beneath his kilt.



## Clatter from the Highlands

Good Den to all of the Highlands and St. Andrews:

We have progressed far this year. Since the cold and snowy Calaveras we have traveled to the shires of Livermore, Modesto and Campbell.

The gods of weather did not smile so much upon the travels of Her Majesty in Livermore with rain and damp conditions all weekend. We did persevere and make it through the weekend. The battle was well met and well fought by both the royals and the rebels. It was wondrous good however to be on the winning side for one battle. The highlanders were well represented and those who fought, did so valiantly. One of the high points of the weekend was when Mistress Katie and Master Philip did try and give a small package to Lady Louise in court. The good Lady did have quite the conniption about the package and Her Majesty needed to look at this and hear about the commotion. The Chieftain did need to come to the defense of the new Highlanders. We also were joined at this event by Master Faolin, a new highland man who will be a great asset to the group.

The Chieftain was not at Modesto, but did hear that fun was had by all whom attended. Games were played with Her Majesty and merriment was had by all.

We then progressed to Campbell shire and although again the weather was not perfect, at least it was dry. Campbell, despite the heat was a most fun event with much game playing and sword fighting going on. Our own Mistress Cookie did have many a game of towers with several men, including Lord Bothwell. I do hear that a re-match is in the works for Pittsburg shire. We shall have to see.

Our next event will be the guild camp out. I do hope to see a goodly turn out of Hegg-lunders at this event.

Ever Loyal to Her Majesty  
Chieftain Heber MacPhearson

## Her Majesty's Jewels

To the wee ones,

It has been a while since we have seen each other. I hope all is well. I look forward to seeing each and every one of you at the Pittsburg Fair. Fun and games await.

God Save The Children

Until then,

Lady Morrigan MacKenna  
Chamberlain of the Children's Household



## Thor's Hammer Royal Honors

At the beginning of all of the Fairs where we perform, the Star Chamber is asked to take most particular note of outstanding efforts during the event. At the end of the weekend, a vote is cast amongst them, and a Thor's Hammer is awarded during the Hug Circle to that person whom the majority agree made the greatest individual contribution to our success. This is a once in a lifetime award, a signal honor, and is worn proudly by each recipient, for all who look thereupon shall honor them as they well deserve, as one of the most valued supporters of our Guild.



2006 Honorees:  
Robert McCutchen  
Who will be next?



## From the Borders

By Sir Guy Maxwell

Many of you have heard me refer to myself as the *Warden of the Western Marches*. But just what was a Warden? What did he do and what were the Marches? I hope to, by a series of articles, explain these questions, as well as look into the lives of the people that inhabited these areas; their lives, their culture, their relation to one another and the laws that governed and united them. Let me start by saying that *Marche* is a French word that means "frontier", while *Warden* comes from the Anglo-French word "warden" meaning a guard or sentinel. The easiest way I find to relate to this area is to think of the American West in the 1870's.

The Scottish-English frontier is the dividing line between two of the most energetic, aggressive, talented and formidable nations in history. It was a battlefield that stretched from Solway Firth in the south-west, north-east to the North Sea. It was a land dominated by raiders, freebooters, plunderers, rustlers, Border lords and outlaw riders. Along the central part of this area runs the tangled ridge of the Cheviots, a rough barrier of desolate, treeless tops and moorlands with little valleys and gullies running in every direction. While not high, they are steep enough to discourage travel by horseback. These are bleak windswept ridges of rough grassy turf, lonely in and by themselves. On either end of the Cheviot Range are the coastal plains with their rich farmlands, tree lined valleys, green meadows and rolling hills. These hills stand out as barren crags with names like Foulbag, Bloody Bush, Flodden, and Black Flag. All in all a lonely yet beautiful land.

The border country was divided for administrative purposes into six areas known as Marches, three on the Scottish side and three on the English. Each of these six Marches had a governing officer known as a Warden, appointed by their respective governments. It was their duty to defend the frontier against invasion from the opposite realm in time of war and in time of peace to put down crime and cooperate with the Wardens across the border for the maintenance of law and order.

The Eastern Marches were the smallest of the six. Made up of good farmland and with no natural defenses, they afforded the easiest passage with the best forage for an invader as well as providing easy access to Edinburgh, Berwick or Newcastle. The Middle Marches were something else. They fronted each other across the Cheviot and as such saw the most raiding. As the country was broken, it was ideal for going unseen and for hiding out. These Marches were covered with stone towers and castles that acted as homes for the raiding families and places of defense against an aggressor. It is here that Liddesdale, the Hermitage and the Tarras Moss as well as other formidable places are to be found. To the south-west lie the Western Marches that include the Dumfriesshire Plains and the beautiful valleys of the Annan and Nith Rivers. It is the land of the Inglewood and Westward forests. It was also a place of constant feuding and turmoil. It was home to the castles of Caerlaverock, Langholm, Greystoke and Carlisle. The Western Marches were also the location for a tract of land known as the 'Debatable Land'; a unique area with a special place in border history.

Lying within the Western Marches, the Debatable Land was an area some four miles wide and twenty miles long; bordered on the north by Landholm and the mouth of the Liddesdale and in the south by Solway Moss. To the east is the Liddel Waters and to the west is the river Sark. It is a land of green meadows, small hills, and level farmlands bordered by hedges. The land is ideal for the pasturing of cattle and the many nearby rivers make for good fishing. It is divided by a trench and bank that runs east to west called Scots Dike. But for all of its beauty, this is a troubled land with no permanent dwellings or villages. It is the refuge for large numbers of border riff-raff and fugitives. Inhabited mainly by Armstrong's and Graham's of both Scottish and English descent, it is an area whose ownership was disputed by both England and Scotland. Neither country held the other responsible for the activities of the people living there. It was agreed by both that anyone should be free to rob, burn, plunder and kill within the Debatable Land without being held guilty of any crime. It was thought that the only way to deal with the area was simply to devastate it and so make it totally unfit for human habitation. This both sides did frequently to no avail. The Debatable Land remained a thorn in the side of both England and Scotland throughout the period we portray.



## ☞ Ruffing it with the Courtiers

### & Ambassadors ☞

#### Drinks All Around!

We're coming up on what have historically been our two hottest faires, Pittsburg and Pleasanton. It wouldn't hurt to review some of the things we need to remember to keep us vertical and functioning.

Of paramount importance is getting enough fluids. How much is enough? A study by the Israeli Defense Force showed, that soldiers who drank one liter of water per hour (that is about two pints, or two bottles of drinking water) were able to withstand the rigors of marching in the desert in mid-August, the hottest month in one of the hottest places on earth. A liter may seem like a lot, especially if you try to down it while sitting at a computer in an air conditioned office like I did. Even when the heat is on, and our bodies are buried deep under layers of velvet and brocade, a liter may still be a rather ambitious goal, but one worth aspiring to. Find out how many times you need to fill your drinking vessel to get one liter. Some good rules to go by are never let your cup go dry during the hot hours of the day. If you find your cup in its hanger more than half the time, you are probably not getting enough water. Also, you should have to visit the privy about every two hours. If you are not, you probably aren't getting enough.

That much water can get pretty tiresome, and it is useful to vary the kinds of fluids you drink. Gatorade is a good choice too, but many kinds of fruit juices are not because of the sugar content. Carbonated beverages are not recommended, as they tend to make you feel like you have consumed more than you actually have. A soda or two during the day won't kill you, but make sure you are pushing water and Gatorade as well. Remember also that caffeine can have a dehydrating effect, but if you are used to drinking several cups of

coffee or sodas a day, it's best not to try quitting cold turkey on fair day. The only thing worse than getting sick from the heat is getting sick from the heat AND having a caffeine withdrawal headache.

Don't forget to eat! Not just grazing at the health and safety tables, but also getting a good breakfast and at least one substantial meal during the day. If you can't stomach fair food, bring something to have for lunch.

Finally, keep an eye on the people around you. When a person is in the initial stages of going down from the heat, he/she is often the last to know about it. Look for people who are red-faced, or worse still, pale. Notice if the person becomes withdrawn and stares off into space for minutes on end. If you see him or her shivering despite being in full sun in triple digit weather, it might be time to suggest to that person they dress down and rest for a while.

If we take care of ourselves and watch out for the well being of each other, we won't just survive the faire, we will enjoy it.

Lord James Stewart  
Chamberlain of the Courtiers &  
Ambassadors Household





## Ren-Speak 101

Pronunciation Examples of  
Shakespearean English

"To be or not to be..."

tow bay or not tow bay...

"When in disgrace with  
Fortune and men's eyes,

I all alone be-weep my outcast  
state."

hwɛn in dis-grɛs' with  
foR'-tyoon and mɛnz ɛ'ɛɛz,

ɛ'ɛɛ ol ɛ lawn be-weep mɛɛ  
ɛh-oot kahst stɛht.

## Youth Outreach Program

The end of the school year is quite busy with events; many thanks to all who were able to attend any of the events this year. For those new folk to the Guild, we are an educational guild and are quite busy in the spring doing demonstrations for several middle schools throughout the Bay Area. Most children begin to learn about the Renaissance during the seventh grade, and several of the school events that we attend are at those schools that children in our guild attend. If you would like to find out more about the school events, please see Cailin Kelly in the Irish House.

The RJ Fisher Middle School event was very successful. We had two sessions of dancing, led by Dame Raven and Sir Guy Maxwell which were quite successful. The lads and lasses had a grand time learning two dances

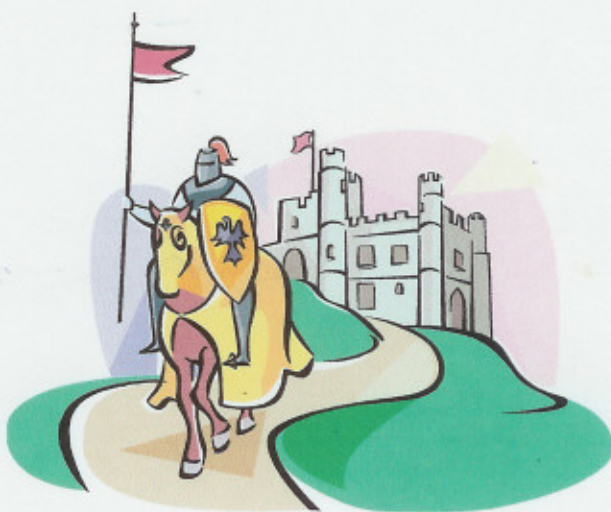
during each session. The children were also treated to a short discussion on fashion and daily life in the sixteenth century.

The other gentlemen in attendance from Her Majesty's Court taught armor and weaponry, led by Captain Morgan MacCarraig, Sir Ryk Tucker, and Sir William Maitland with the assistance of Ian and Andrew MacCarraig. The kids were all fascinated by the variety of weapons and the armor that was worn by those in the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

Another school event in May was the Walter's Middle School Event. It was well attended by many members of St Andrew's, and the school made us feel most welcome. Everyone spoke about some aspect of the 16<sup>th</sup> century or life in court, and the weapons discussion was a great success, as always. The kids and teachers seemed to enjoy it, and we expect to return again next year.

I was unable to attend the Truckee event, but I have heard that it was great fun. Our school events are completed for this year, and we look forward to being invited back to many of them again next year. Thanks to all who helped out with the school events this year.

Cailin Kelly





## Seamstresses & Tailors

Below is a listing of those good souls that can sew a new gown or doublet for you!!

Lady Cheri MacCarraig  
Fremont, CA  
510-770-1443

Dame Brianna de St Jor  
Yellowstone, WY  
307-344-9213

Dame Mariota Arres  
Antioch, CA  
925-734-6032

Dame Judith Von Holstein  
Modesto, CA (Tams Only)  
209-577-4761



They are all independent contractors – Give them a call and put in your order! Can you sew? Care to earn some money plying your craft, please contact Lady Kyra if you are interested in adding your name to our Seamstresses & Tailors list. Members only, please.

### In need of Children's Costuming?

We may have something available to fit your poppet in the 'Children's Costume Trunk'. Has your child outgrown their garb? Why not donate it to the Guild for future use? For information, please contact Lady Kyra at lady\_kyra@yahoo.com or 408-733-1145.

## Reminders

Reminders to all Saint Andrews Members....

- ❖ Viands should be brought to each event to share with the entire guild...this is not lunch, rather viands are snacks that are out for all of us to keep our energy levels up all day. If you have questions on what you should bring please contact Chieftain Fleber or your Head of Household.
- ❖ Heat is always a concern at the upcoming events in August and September. Do not wait until the day of an event to start hydrating yourself...start drinking extra water 4 or 5 days in advance...and never turn away an offer of water at these events! Our Highlanders do an excellent job trying to look out for our health, please help them by helping yourselves to both water and viands ALL day! And don't forget the sunscreen...make sure you put it on as part of your costume in the morning!
- ❖ Shade, find it and stay in it as much as possible!! Enough said! :)
- ❖ Children - while we have a wonderful Children's Household, we do want to make sure that everyone remembers that they are not a babysitting service. :) Children's activities are planned, and they do have duties to perform, but it is the parent's responsibility to keep watch over their children throughout the day. Of special concern is Pittsburg, which does not have fencing or gates - it is a free faire for patrons, so wandering can be a problem for unsupervised children.



## ❧ A Missive from the Assitant Guild Master ❧

Greetings good Gentles of St. Andrews!

Just a small missive to tell you all how wonderful you are! We have been truly blessed with such loving and loyal members! Her Royal Majesty's Progress to both Livermore and Campbell shires were met with grand merriment and every show was beautifully performed! Grand Merci to you all for helping to make St. Andrews shine!

Now we prepare for our busiest time of year - August and September...and we will indeed be busy! We have added a new Fair to our schedule! (hopefully every one noticed!! Emails and notices here in the Parchment were to help inform all!) Willits is welcoming Her Majesty's return on the first weekend in August! Coghair!!! Then, just the following weekend, we progress to Pittsburg! Whew - a weekend off then it's rehearsal for Pleasanton, and then Pleasanton itself on Labor Day weekend. But don't put away those garments...Truckee Fair is two weeks after that!!! Sigh...my horses get weary just thinking of the miles soon to be traveled! But this is what we live for - the opportunities to come together and create a beautiful encampment and take on our alternate persona in Her Majesty's court! What a wonderful hobby we have!!!

I look forward to seeing you all very soon - if not at Willits, then at Pittsburg! Remember we need you all, each and every one of you help St. Andrews shine, so please make every effort to be at as many of these events as possible! And please contact your Head of Household to confirm your participation (they need to know who will be present to plan for coverage and gigs!!!)

Anon for now,

I Do remain,

Dame Bronwynne Alexandra Melville  
Duchess of Sterling  
The Queen's Chamberlain  
Assitant Guild Master

## ❧ Missing Garb ❧

Your assistance is requested! A few years ago I loaned out Tory's blue & silver nobles dress (blue velvet with silver jacquard underskirt) to someone, but have forgotten who. If you are that person, if you could please either return the dress, or let me know, I'd be most appreciative, as we have need of it. Please call me at 408-733-1145 or email at [lady\\_kyra@yahoo.com](mailto:lady_kyra@yahoo.com).  
Gramerey





Monsieur Francois Helie does post the following missive as he searches unsuccessfully for his Scottish wife...

Le 1 Juillet, 1562

Ma femme, Ma Cherie,

Il y a plus d'un an depuis que j'ai eu le plaisir d'être avec vous. Quand j'ai quitté la France il y a deux mois j'ai laissé mon frère Jean comme gerant de mes affaires. Mon voyage n'a pris que cinq jours, et depuis mon croisière je te cherche sans te trouver. Je rencontre obstacle après obstacle en te cherchant dans ce pays étrange que tu appelles chez-vous. Un homme géant qui a comme nom "Bear" et sa toute petite femme m'ont démontré la première goutte d'hospitalité que j'ai reçue ici. J'étais très malade et la fièvre me brûlait les sens. Bear et son petit ange se sont soignés de moi et m'ont donné un abri confortable. Ils voulaient que je reste avec eux plus longtemps pour faire certain que ma santé soit revenue, mais je croyais avoir déjà imposé assez longtemps! Alors je continue de voyager partout sans connaître où aller, je suis perdu en plusieurs manières. J'ai peur que mon rhume revienne et j'ai de la misère à respirer parce que je tousse souvent et mon souffle m'est quité. Est-ce que je retrouverai ma santé si je te trouve? Ça me surprend qu'aujourd'hui ma tête est assez claire pour prendre ma plume en main et écrire un petit mot! Je deviens de plus en plus faible et de temps en temps je crois que je vais perdre mes sens totalement. L'idée que je ne te trouverai pas me rend fou plus vite. J'ai entendu des nouvelles que vous me cherchez aussi, et que vous passez le temps à tous que vous rencontrer. My Chere Brittah, si seulement on pouvait ce trouver dans ce pays abandonner par Dieu avant que je prenne mon dernier soupir.

Avec amour sincère et fort, votre mari,

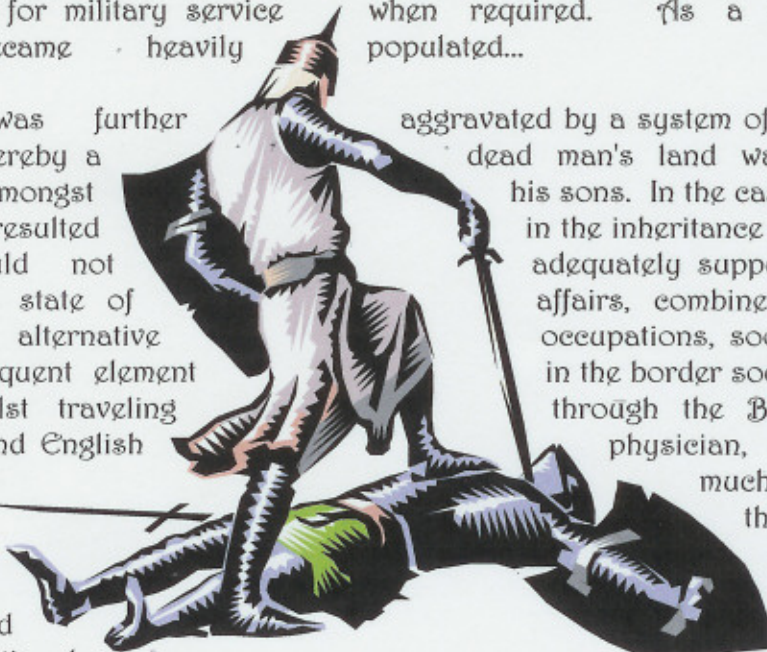
François Helie



## The Border Reivers

For, as the buffer zone between two of history [sic] most fractious neighbors, this land became a battleground and the effect of their constant warring was to leave an indelible mark on the Border folk, creating aside a society that, by the beginning of the 16th century, had become a dangerous thorn in the side of both nations. The two nations however, continued to regard each other with suspicion and in order to install a bulwark against the ever present threat of invasion, both governments actively encouraged settlement of their Border districts, offering land and low rents in exchange for military service when required. As a consequence, the countryside became heavily populated...

Overpopulation was further aggravated by a system of inheritance known as "gavelkind", whereby a dead man's land was apportioned in equal measures amongst his sons. In the case of large families, this practice often resulted in the inheritance of meager strips of land which could not adequately support a man and his dependents. This state of affairs, combined with a lack of legitimate alternative occupations, soon gave rise to an ever-growing delinquent element in the border society. Theft became endemic and whilst traveling through the Borderland in 1547 Andrew Boorde, an English physician, noted that the country "lay in much poverty and penury and that there were many outlaws and strong thieves, for much of their living standeth by stealing and robbing". In spite of national differences



families on either side of the border had much in common. Living off a harsh land with an inhospitable climate nurtured a tough, insular and contentious people.

"A hearty mixture of landowners, tenants and hill farmers, they were as it seems "not acquainted with many learned or rare phrases", and it took a little to offend them. Law and order in the form of central government was far away, and more often than then not when a dispute did arise between them "they expect no law but bang it out bravely, one and his kindred against the other and his; they will subject themselves to no justiege, but an inhumane and barbarous manner fight and kill one another; they run together in elangs [clans] as they term it, or names. This fighting they call feides, or deadly feides [feuds]."

Religion, it would seem, did not prove to be a moderating influence on their behavior either. "Amongst these rude and superstitious people even the priest went with sword and dagger" and many border churches were, by necessity, strongly fortified. What religion they did acknowledge was of the strictly practical kind. The Scottish historian, Bishop Leslie, whose history of Scotland was written between 1572 - 76, tells us that their devotion to their rosaries was never greater than before setting out on a raid, and on the Scottish border it was the custom at christening to leave unblessed the child's master hand in order that unhallowed blows could be struck upon the enemy!

Men at Arms Series: The Border Reivers  
by Keith Durham and Angus McBride



# 2006 Calendar of Events

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### August

Sat & Sun, 5 & 6	<i>*NEW EVENT*</i> Willits Celtic Renaissance Faire Recreation Grove Park, Willits, CA	2 Day Event Full Set Up Walkabout
S&S, 5 <sup>th</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup>	Sutter Creek Renaissance Faire, Orangevale, CA	
Sat & Sun, 12 & 13	Pittsburg Scottish Renaissance Faire ( <a href="http://www.angelfire.com/ryalm2/hrp/P&amp;RF">www.angelfire.com/ryalm2/hrp/P&amp;RF</a> ) Buchanan Park, Pittsburg, CA	2 Day Event Full Set Up 11am - 4pm Walkabout
Saturday, 26 <sup>th</sup>	Guild Training Day / Rehearsal, Buchanan Park, Pittsburg, CA	
S&S, 26 <sup>th</sup> & 27 <sup>th</sup>	Golden Gate Renaissance Faire, San Francisco, CA	

### September

Sat & Sun, 2 & 3	Scottish Highland Gathering & Games ( <a href="http://www.caledonian.org">www.caledonian.org</a> ) Alameda County Fairgrounds, Pleasanton, CA	2 Day Event Full Set Up Walkabout
S&S, 9 <sup>th</sup> & 10 <sup>th</sup>	Northern Faire, Gilroy, CA	
Sat & Sun, 16 & 17	Truckee Renaissance Faire ( <a href="http://www.truckeergnfaire.org">www.truckeergnfaire.org</a> ) Truckee River Regional Park, Truckee, CA	2 Day Event Full Set Up Walkabout
S&S, 23 <sup>rd</sup> & 24 <sup>th</sup>	Northern Faire, Gilroy, CA	
Saturday, 30 <sup>th</sup>	Northern Faire, Gilroy, CA	

### October

Sunday, 1 <sup>st</sup>	Northern Faire, Gilroy, CA	Walkabout
Saturday, 7 <sup>th</sup>	Guild Training Day / New Folk Orientation, Buchanan Park, Pittsburg	11am - 4pm
S&S, 7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup>	Northern Faire, Gilroy, CA	Walkabout
S&S, 7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup>	Renaissance of Kings, Hanford, CA	Walkabout
S&S, 14 <sup>th</sup> & 15 <sup>th</sup>	Northern Faire, Gilroy, CA	Walkabout
S&S, 21 <sup>st</sup> & 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Folsom Renaissance Faire & Tourney, Folsom, CA	Walkabout
Saturday, 28 <sup>th</sup>	Barbeque Social & Schedule for 2007, Buchanan Park, Pittsburg, CA	11am - 4pm

### November

S&S, 4 <sup>th</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup>	Props Repair Day, Dunvegan Castle, Brentwood, CA	10am - 6pm
Saturday, 11 <sup>th</sup>	Winter's Feast, Location TBD	12pm - 10pm
S&S, 11 <sup>th</sup> & 12 <sup>th</sup>	Kearny Park Renaissance Festival, Fresno, CA	Walkabout

a/o 7/18/06

**Note:** Winter's Feast invitations will be going out in September, however tickets are available now! Members can purchase advanced tickets from Dame Raven for \$15.00, until September 17th, after that tickets must be purchased at the door. Tickets at the door or for non-members are \$20.00. Come join us for music, merriment and fun for all ages!