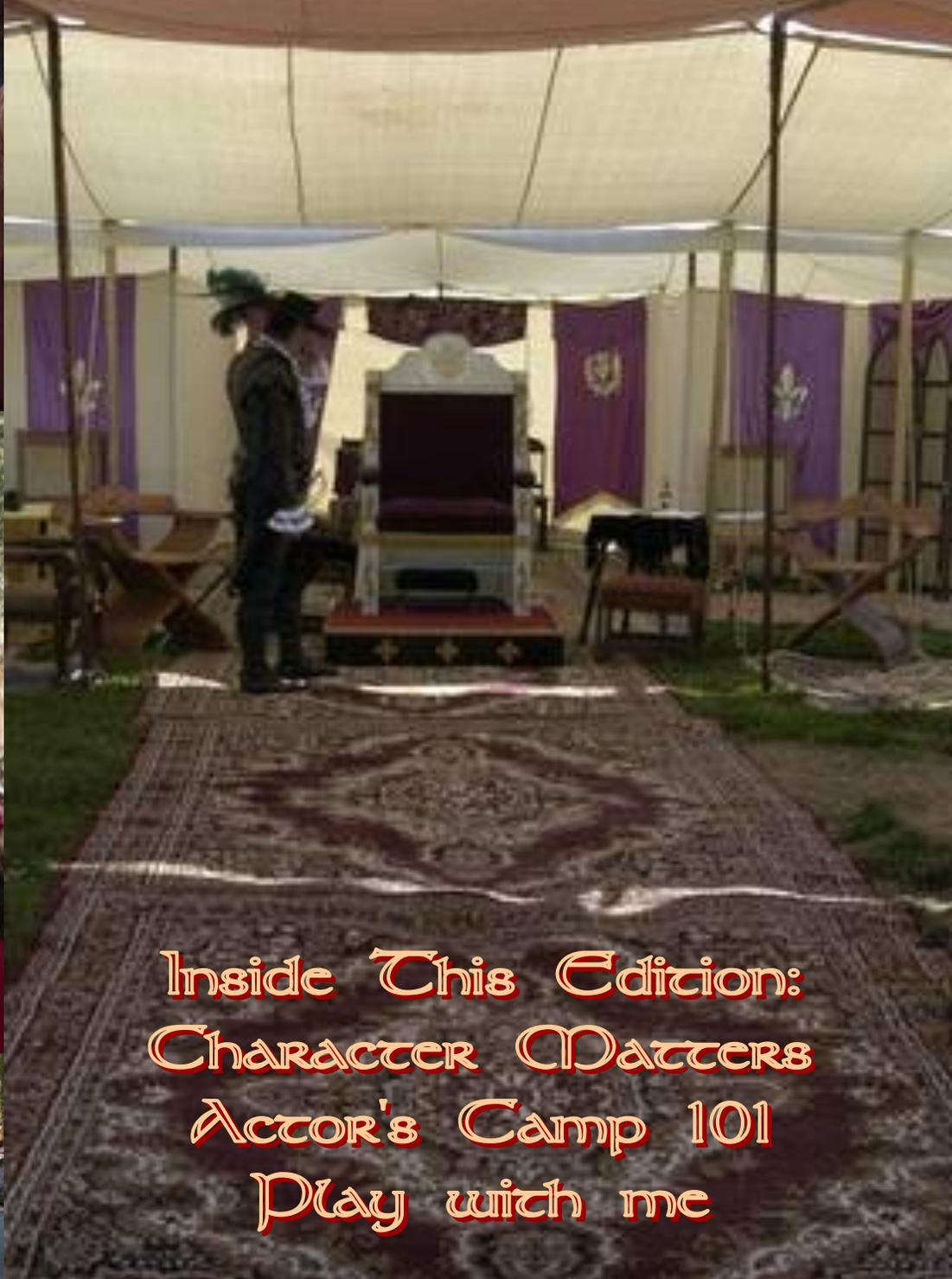


SAINT ANDREW'S NOBLE ORDER OF ROYAL SCOTS GUILD

February 2008

PARCHMENT



Inside This Edition:
Character Matters
Actor's Camp 101
Play with me



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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

My Lords and Ladies, good Gentles all,

I trust that all are rested and ready for the new faire season to begin.

This issue was compiled with the idea of promoting the similarities we all share:

- why we joined the guild,
- why we are even attracted to participating in the "renaissance world",
- and what it is we might do as individuals to enhance our own experience while simultaneously advancing the premier status that St. Andrew's has earned to date.

I have gathered a smattering of opinions and viewpoints from individuals within our own guild as well as from some individual's who are very familiar to us in a variety of roles. Their experience as heads of other guilds, long-time ren participants, and even as faire producers and promoters can provide a direction that each individual, household, and the guild at large can follow to ensure a sense of accomplishment and success in following either a personal agenda or to ensure the guild's mission as we progress from one event to another. I cannot tell you the gratitude I have for these people who took time out to allow me to interview them, to write and edit submissions, and for allowing me to steal images and bios from their websites for us to use so as to promote our common cause.

I hope then, that you will read between the lines and find the tools you need to make your "dreams" come true.

I do me remain, most humbly,

Jo Graden,

Editor Parchment and Scroll Publications

GREETINGS UNTO OUR GOOD FOLK OF SCOTLAND AND GUESTS OF THE REALM,

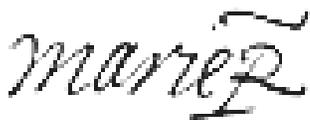
Nothing pleases us more than to welcome thee back to a new season of progress with the Guild of St. Andrews. Be thee a long standing member or newly minted one, thy presence honors and enriches our court.

This past winter in Our travel abroad, We were struck by the beauty of the cities We did visit; the wonder of the architecture, and the magic of being in a new and exciting place. Sadly, We were also struck by a surprising indifference of welcome. Be not alarmed, for We never felt to be unwanted. Howsomever, We were oft struck by a lack of warm reception to our enthusiastic inquiries to people of the shire. Mayhap they were over-tired by the constant influx of guests to their homeland; or mayhaps numbed by the tedium of questions and observances heard many times afore from prior visitors. What be new to us, be old to them.

Thus, it occurs to Us that we are all, at some point, guilty of such unintentional indifference to our own guests. Being upon the receiving side of this un-notice causes Our heart to break at the thought that a guest to our corner of the world might ever feel insignificant. In sooth, any small gesture may make a world of difference to their perceptions. To give example: A meeting of the gaze, a simple smile, a tip of the hat or murmured "good day", all of which stand as warm welcome in a foreign land. Whilst We go upon progress this year, as thou goest about thy day, be ever watchful of guests, even as thou art hither and thither about the faire; pay them mind even if 'tis but brief. Assuredly, 'twill make a memory of their day by enriching their visit to our "homeland". They will remember being a welcomed guest, rather than an unnoticed part of the throng. One's memories of travel is oft colored by the people one meets more so than the buildings one enters, no matter how impressive they be. Whilst our encampment be sumptuous to the eye, 'tis the heart of our visitors we must needs touch.

Whilst thou strive to make that human connection with our guests, forget not our fellow guilds and vendors. Make thy greetings to one and all and be the example for our new members to follow. Mind that our world is a stage and we are the players; extend thy hand in invitation for all to join in the game.

Fond regards,



-A MISSIVE FROM THE GUILD MASTER-

Your Most Gracious Majesty,
Noble Lords and Ladies,
Good Gentles all,

It is my great wish to extend best wishes to one and all of Saint Andrew's Royal Order of Noble Scots this new year!

We are fast approaching the Royal Opening of Parliament, whereby the business of Her Majesty's government shall be attended to insure that as we go forth on Progress, the details are sure to fall into place with ease, because those trusted in service toward that end are duly placed. Scotland cannot function at its highest without this commitment to service, for no one can shoulder the weight of its government alone! We are too great an entity! I kneel in humble gratitude to those so willing to give of their time and effort to insure the success of our mission.

After the government is put into place at the Opening of Parliament, it is but a blink in time before we begin the Progress with Her Majesty. Therein we provide the Court for the public to visit, while we entertain and educate as Her Majesty bids us to do. No doubt there will be dancing and merry-making, as well as intrigue and politics, as we travel with the Royals to help win new allies and strengthen old bonds that have protected Scotland these many years.

Each and everyone participating in creating the magic of Her Majesty's Court and all its components in the year 1562, may take pride in knowing that your efforts (sometimes scrutinized, sometimes mulled over with fascination) will provide the centerpiece, not the backdrop, at every stop along our way. Ours is a great mission indeed, but one we are so very capable of achieving because it is a mission of the heart.

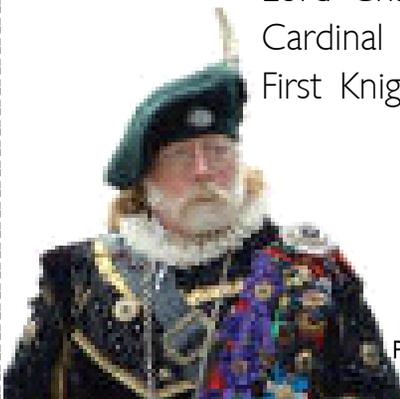
Sir Drew Douglas MacQuain

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 the Knights of Saint Andrews



Photograph by Steven Sui

-SAINT ANDREW'S NOBLE ORDER OF ROYAL SCOTS-

-MISSION STATEMENT-

The Saint Andrews Noble Order of Royal Scots is a Renaissance Guild. We are a non-profit organization and reenact the court of Mary, Queen of Scotland, as it was in the year 1562. The members of Saint Andrews guild are diverse but with some things in common; a love of history, a desire to entertain, and a commitment to have fun as we practice our hobby of historically accurate reenactment. We give the public a living diorama to enjoy as we bring an exciting period of Scottish history to life. A time filled with pageantry, chivalry, danger and intrigue. It's a LOT of fun and we hope you enjoy our show!

Once all the court is assembled, the guests of the highland games are invited to come forth and meet the Queen, and throughout the day's many events – dances, battles, weddings, intrigues! - we seek out guests of the faire to join in and play some fun or dramatic part. We feel that a lot of the value we bring to an event is this deliberate interaction with the guests. We aren't a static display! You may find yourself being chosen as the Queen's champion in a deadly duel to defend Her Majesty's honor - or to save all of Scotland from the terrible English!

In addition to performing at faires and games, our group offers costumed history classes for schools. Our members are enthusiastic amateur actors and we bring not only the costumes of the period, but also the language and customs.

When you see us Scots in Renaissance period costume, do say hello - and see what happens! Thanks for coming to faire! Have fun and **God Save the Queen!**

Her Majesty is always looking for people to join her court! We are a family-oriented group, and welcome infants and children with parental accompaniment. For more information, contact the Guild Master, His Grace Sir Drew Douglas MacQuain at: sirmacquain1562@yahoo.com or call 925.240.1562.

COMMUNIQUE FROM THE CHAMBERLAIN

Lords and Ladies of Saint Andrew's:

Last year being my first full year as Chamberlain and Assistant Guild Master for Saint Andrew's, was an eye opening experience, to say the least. It was not as simple as I thought it would be. The difficulties of running the guild are immense and can be very time consuming, but I discovered I enjoy working to solve the problems that arise.

When I assumed the position as AGM, I told the membership, that I thought communication was most important within the guild and that I would always be available to the members of the guild. Needless to say you did not hesitate to take me for my word. You have come to me with your problems and hopefully I have provided a solution. If we did not have communication between the members and management, I think things would get out of control and Saint Andrew's would not be what it is today.

We had a very busy schedule last year, especially during the month of September. This year is also looking very eventful, with August and September being very demanding. I know everyone would like to make every event on the calendar, but sometimes that is not possible. That is okay. Make the faires you can and have fun when you come.

This year we are going to get the mentoring program off the ground. This may take some help from you the members, to help the new people who have decide to join our family. I ask you now, that if a new member needs some help either with their costume or character that you direct them to the appropriate committee to insure they get the help. The new member might be hesitant to ask for help, so be watchful and help when you can.

Since I am talking about the committees, I will make a small statement about the gig committee. If you are on this committee, your responsibility is not only to evaluate new gigs, but to also think of some new gigs for Saint Andrew's to perform at faires. I know we have talented people out there who are always thinking of something to have some fun with. Put it on paper and get it moving through the committee, so we can perform it for the public.

Before I close, I want to thank the Event Committee for the wonderful Winter Feast Celebration that they put on. A lot of hard work and preparation went into ensuring this was a very special event. I do believe everyone had a most wonderful time. This one was one for the history books. **OUTSTANDING JOB!**

I look forward to seeing you all at Opening of Parliament and the beginning of a new and wonderful year. God Save the Queen!

I remain your humble servant,

Sir James Hepburn
4th Earl of Bothwell
Lord Royal Great Chamberlain of Scotland

Photograph by Steven Sui



FROM THE ROYAL GOVERNESS OF THE QUEEN'S COURT



Welcome to a new year!

This year for the guild should prove to be an exciting adventure for all those who choose to join us. I, personally, look forward to the new characters that a few of our long-standing members are creating for themselves. Last year we caught a glimpse of Sir James Hepburn's lovely sister, Janet. She is going to be a joy to have around the court (I just hope that her dear brother can handle all the spending she does of his money). And there are at least two others that have changed up their characters; but I will just let you find out who they are for yourselves.

This year we are working on a different approach in the running of the committees and the mentoring program and your help with these is valued and appreciated to be sure.

I hope to see all your smiling, happy faces this coming year and it is my personal hope to help make it Saint Andrews best year ever.

With much love and devotion,
Dame Raven Gunn Sinclair

Every day is a journey.....make tomorrow an adventure to remember. – R.S.

2008 GUILD COMMITTEES

(Committee Heads were undetermined at time of publication)

Character:

Isla Scott
Janet Hepburn
Jillian MacKenzie
Maitu' de Faoite
Cullen Elliot
James Mosman

Gig:

Elena MacPhearson
Mariota Arres
Philip Alexander

Event:

OP/WF:

Brittiah Hélie
Sara MacBride
Morna MacGregor
Mary Katherine

Costuming:

Isla Scott
Janet Hepburn
Gwendolyn Elliot
Morna MacGregor

Picnic:

Alice Sinclair
Brittiah Hélie
Elena MacPhearson

IN SERVICE TO HER MAJESTY

Good my Lords and Ladies of St. Andrews,

I would like to welcome you all back to another year of renaissance endeavors. I hope that everyone had a very enjoyable time off.

As we start off this new season the Ladies-in-Waiting are pledged as always to continue to provide for Her Royal Majesties health, welfare and comfort. It is our fondest wish that she wants for nothing during the course of any event. We share with you the desire to work together to make this the best year ever for St. Andrews Guild.

Lady Livingstone informs me that we are in need of adult favors for this coming year, so if you can help please do so. I am looking forward to seeing you all at our remaining training days and at our first event, the Opening of Parliament, in February.

I remain,

Dame Mary Beaton

Head of the Ladies-in-Waiting Household

RUFFING IT WITH THE COURTIERS

Good day my Lords and Ladies,

Happy New Year! I do so hope you had a great Holiday and enjoyed the time off. Now that the Holidays are over it's time again to start gearing up for this year's progress. We have fun and exciting things planned for all to enjoy.

Please plan to attend the training this year. Besides having dance practice we will also be having sword training. I know a lot of you had said that you wanted to learn so now is your chance. So remember to bring your rapier to training but if you don't have one I'm sure there will be some to borrow. I'm also trying to arrange to have some sword training at one of our household meetings.

I would also like to ask everyone to try and attend at least one of the props repair days. We need everyone's help to keep our encampment looking its best.

I look forward to seeing everyone at OP. And remember our first stop on progress is at Sonora, not Angels Camp.

God Save the Queen!

Lady Annebell Somerville

Viscountess of Cumbernauld

CALLING ALL DANCERS

Good day my Lords and Ladies,

As indicated in my letter to the Courtiers and Ambassadors' Household I am hopeful that one and all enjoyed a happy holiday and made good use of the time off from guild events. Now that the holidays are over however, it is time to start thinking of how we can improve upon those aspects of the guild that we know are an important part of the guild efforts toward re-creating the Court of Her Most Gracious Majesty. God Save the Queen! One of those very visible aspects of Court life is the dance show.

I would like to thank everyone who participated in the dance shows last year. I think they went very well and were well received. This year I want to get a bit more organized and add to our repertoire. I will be planning more dance practices throughout the year and also will be holding dance practice at the various training sessions. It would be useful if I could put together a list of everyone who would like to participate. Even if you think you have 2 left feet I believe I can teach you to be graceful on the dance floor (Or grass as the case may be).

Please contact me and let me know if you are interested in regularly participating. I can be reached by email at dragonqueen95@yahoo.com, or you may call me at (925)833-8132, (925)548-4059.

Absent that, just let me know the next time you see me.

I look forward to dancing with you all.

Your humble dance mistress,

Lady Annebell Somerville

Viscountess of Cumbernauld

THE DOGS OF WAR

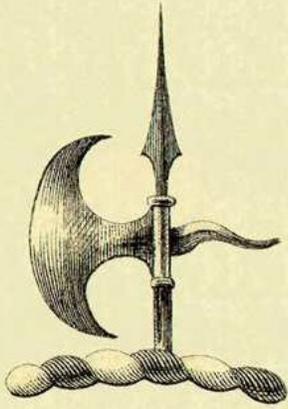
A new season approaches and I, for one, am looking forward to it. As always the Guard stand ready to defend the queen. We'll have a new season of trooping, fighting battles and of course most importantly protecting Her Majesty. God save the Queen!

This year we start with a new tent, thank you very much Sir Drew and a new halberd stand. Opening of Parliament in February and Sonora in March, speaking if which do not forget Lord Teage Seaton will be knighted at Sonora in the Knights of Saint John. Come and watch this great event.

Captain D. Somerville

The story of Wallace poured a Scottish prejudice into my veins which will boil along there till the flood gates of life shut in eternal rest.

- Robert Burns



FROM THE WICKED AYE

Good Den to All of St. Andrews,

Since last we placed quill to parchment, things in the Highlands have been very quiet. We didst progress for Winters Feast to the Shire of Tracy. There a most wonderous time was had by all. The food was good, the drink was good, the entertainment was good, although for this auld highlander the best of the evening was the company. With greate Honor, didst our owne Master Philip receive the Guild Thors Hammer. I do believe that he shall wear it well and proudly in the upcoming year.

There are several new members in our highland family that I would like to make welcome; Mistress Meghan, Master Jack, his goodly wife Mistress Paulette, Master Thomas and his wife Mistress Isabella, and perhaps the goodly husband of our owne Sara, Master Gary, who was seen dressed in kilt and tam at Winters Feast and was caught enjoying himself. Also new to our family, Magnus and his two sons, more men for MacPhearson's Brigade! It is with great sorrow in our hearts that we bid farewell to our owne Mistress Katie MacCleod, as she travels to the Highlands to care for her cousin.

As Chieftain of the Wicked Aye, I do wish to remind all the members of St. Andrews that the tavern is a stage and needs to be treated as such. Pray do remember that the public can see and hear you whilst in the tavern proper. We do welcome you to come eat and rest, just pray remember to eat with period utensils and period plate that you yourself bring to faire. Such items can often be procured at area thrift stores; items to watch for are simple wooden plates and at the Cost Plus World Market it has been rumored that silverware of a period look has been espied for a much lesser cost than many sold at faire. Remember to keep your conversations lively and in period speake (BFA). For example, when referring to your car breaking down, talk of your horse throwing a shoe, or the carriage needing repair. I challenge you to be creative when speaking of mundane things.

That business being said, when next we are all together, come raise your cup with me at the Wicked Aye and we shall toast the health of our Queen.

In Her Majesties Service,
Chieftain Heber MacPhearson
Viscount of Mulben
Laird of Mulben Castle.
Baron of Mulben Burns.



HER MAJESTY'S JEWELS

Another year and we are up and running again! I have been given the task of writing on how to make a better faire experience and how to help our household play with the other houses more. This topic falls right in with all of our other goals for the year!

The Children's house has always been the "Rogue House" of the guild. All of the other houses are there to serve the Queen and her court, but we exist as a service to the members of the guild. We give the kids a place to be kids and to relax. We do crafts, work on etiquette, and play games. This year we are going to branch out and have a purpose. It is our goal to have jobs that even the youngest of our members can do. (OK, so maybe not Eleanor, we'll give her another year or so!)

What are we going to be up to this year? One of our biggest goals is for the children to have their own gig. The Guild Master has requested for them to portray court. This would be something we could do to help provide entertainment in the court when Her Majesty is not present, therefore also giving the Courtiers and Ambassadors a break. It will take a lot of practice, so once the script is done, we will work on our play at the guild trainings, at faire, and whenever we get the chance! This could be a real chance for our wee ones to SHINE!

We also want to continue to encourage all of the children to apprentice out to learn to be parts of other households. This is where your child may find his or her love of faire. Many parents of older children have told me that they can't get their child to go to faire anymore. They say that their child was bored. Maybe if the child were encouraged to join a house of their own, to form friendships, and to know that they have an important part to play in the guild this wouldn't have happened? So please, help you child find that house where they fit. Find one person in the house that you trust, and get them started. Birdie is going to be joining with us this year to help with this important task! Also, don't worry if your child joins a house that may require a change of garb, we may have it in the Children's trunk! (As your children are looking about to find where they may fit, remember that the Ladies in Waiting are always in need of a helping hand and are waiting for the right recruit to join them!)

Another objective that we would like to accomplish is to have guest speakers and teachers present to the kids at each faire. This could be anything! Weapons safety from the Guard or the Mercenaries, court etiquette from the Courtiers, or Shinty 101 by the Highlanders would all be fun and educational for the kids. Or maybe an individual has a skill or craft they would like to present? (The kids loved Bon's drum project last year!) By all means, come and share your talents with the Children's House!

Finally, we are going to take on an ambitious art project this year. We are going to discuss heraldry and then make banners with our own symbolic images and colors. These banners will be hung in and around our house to showcase the talent of our young members.



So get excited about this upcoming faire season and think about what you may be able to teach the next generation of St. Andrews!

Until Opening of Parliament,
Gwendolyn and Akira

FROM THE MISTS

Happy Holidays to one and all!

I hope that everyone had a restful and enjoyable off season. As we approach the new year, the mercenaries are hoping to develop some new gigs for Her Majesty's court to enjoy. We are hoping to have them completed soon, and ready for everyone once the faire season gets into swing.

We find ourselves in need of recruits. We ask that you please keep in mind that we are no longer "just" Irish – we are a band of mercenaries and as such are willing to accept other nationalities into our ranks as well as the Irish. So, if you find someone in your travels about faire, who does not wish to be a courtier or ambassador, nor a guard or highlander, please send them our way. We would appreciate the chance to talk to them. We will even consider ex-pirates, um, forgive me... ex-privateers... :-)

Since there are also folk who are not warriors in our household, but rather are camp supporters, please keep in mind that not all who join our household need be fighting men and women. As such we will consider such past times that would have been done in traveling camps, or local crafts (such as the Irish and their soap making, or spinning or weaving...) There would even have been past-times for men, blacksmithing, making chain mail and other armor, and any others that you might be able to think of. If you have any talents in regards to these, and would be willing to share them with us and give us some information that we can share with the patrons, we'd love to talk to you!!

We plan to also do more sword fighting, and hope to participate in more battles as well. We hope to do weapons demonstrations to discuss weapons other than those discussed by the Royal Guard, such as axes, maces, spears, bow & arrow, crossbow, and probably a discussion of armor as well. As we build up our own weapons cache, if any guild member has a renaissance era weapon or piece of armor that we could borrow during faires, we would greatly appreciate it.

We hope to bring more to the guild this year to entertain the patrons, and we also hope that we may be able to share some wonderful times with the friends that we have all made within the guild.

We look forward to seeing you all at faire!
Cailin Rua Kelly Seaton
Chamberlain of the Irish & Mercenaries
Ambassador of Education for Her Majesty



KNOW THY SELF

BY GWENDOLYN ELLIOTT



As the new faire season is approaches, it's time to think of who you are and why you are traveling with Her Majesty's progress. I can't stress enough how important it is to have a character. If you know who you are and where you came from it helps you to become someone new and it helps others to interact with you. It was to these ends that we began a preliminary biography worksheet to help new highlanders, but it could be adapted to any house. This is just a starting point to get preliminary ideas flowing. I am sure that others may have more ideas, or there may be a better tool out there, but the point is to use SOMETHING and determine who you will become at faire.

Many of us have been in the habit of just being part of the background of the Queen's court or the tavern. Why stay in the background? Why not make a character who can come out of the tavern or get off the benches in court and interact? This is what will enhance your faire experience and bring Her Majesty's Court to life for our patrons. Knowing who you are gives you a jumping off point, something to discuss, and even a vantage point for arguing. Being able to project, as our dear Elena did at Calaveras, that you are "the daughter and sister of a Chieftain and will not be talked down to" gives you a great point of character. But how can you do that if you don't know who you are?



So take this worksheet and use it if you will, or use something else that you find especially useful toward the same end, and create who you are. I have included an example for use as well. This simple exercise will change your faire experience if you let it!



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BIO WORKSHEET

• Your Character's Full Name: _____

• Your relationship to your clan chief (are you a brother or sister? Niece or nephew? Have no idea?) _____

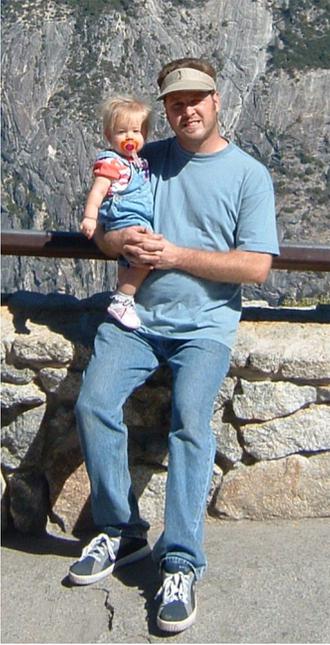
• Why did you leave the highlands to travel with the Queen? _____

• What is special about your character? What do you contribute to the court? Talents? Abilities? _____

• Who were your father and your mother? Why are you allowed to leave? _____

Do you have family in the Queen's progress? _____

BIO WORKSHEET (WORKED)



- Your Character's Full Name: Cullen Elliot
- Your relationship to your clan chief (are you a brother or sister? Niece or nephew? Have no idea?) His great-grandfather was Robert Elliot, the 13th Chieftain of Clan Elliot. Robert was the Captain of Hermitage Castle under James IV, and he died at the Battle of Flodden along with many other Scottish nobles. Cullen's grandfather, James Elliot, became the 14th Clan Chieftain, but in the turbulent years following the Battle of Flodden, James V stole the Elliot's rights to Hermitage Castle away and gave them to Patrick Hepburn, 3rd Earl of Bothwell and father to the Current 4th Earl of Bothwell, James Hepburn. James Elliot died early in 1543 from a combination of nagging injuries sustained from the battle of Solway Moss and a severe case of pneumonia, and Cullen's uncle, Robert Elliot, became the 15th Clan Chieftain, a title he still holds today, in this year of our Lord 1562.

• Why did you leave the highlands to travel with the Queen? Cullen, as the most learned in the family, is off to Mary's Royal Court for several purposes. Cullen's main objective is to be the envoy for Clans Elliot and Armstrong, and the area of the borders known as the Middle Marches. He is also there to lend support to Sir Guy Maxwell, an important noble of a neighboring clan, as he can, especially in situations that can benefit the Clan. Unbeknownst to any but his immediate family, however, Cullen also has a secret mission in his duties as envoy to the Queen's Court - to follow the movements and dealings of the Earl of Bothwell, and if the right opportunity presents itself, to use any opportunity to discredit him, bring him out of Royal Favor, and restore the stewardship of Castle Hermitage to Clan Elliot, to whom it rightfully belongs.

• What is special about your character? What do you contribute to the court? Talents? Abilities? Cullen has been thoroughly educated and can read and write. He is also known to dabble in chainmail armor and brewing of beer. He is a fair swordsman and handles himself capably in battle when he must.

• Who were your father and your mother? Why are you allowed to leave? Cullen was born in 1532 to John Elliot and Winda Armstrong Elliot, the second of five children.

• Do you have family in the Queen's progress? Cullen's brother Braden has joined him on this progress. He has also met and married his wife, Gwendolyn Elliot, and they have a daughter, Laurana Margaret. His wife has family in the Highland house. She is cousin to Maitiu MacRoibeard de Faoit and Margaret Fionnuala "Cookie" MacPherson.



BUILDING BLOCKS

A random sampling of the guild membership was polled for the purpose of comparing the skills, talents and personality traits that individuals felt they can draw on while trying to reach specific goals for themselves through the guild experience. Likewise it is interesting to note the similarities and differences in specific reasons/goals for joining the guild in the first place.

Real Name: Marsha Murphey

Faire Name: Mary Katherine MacLeod

What is it you wanted to achieve for yourself in joining Saint Andrew's? I like to make friends and have fun with friends.

What is it you think you personally bring to fair that benefits the guild and the fair experience? I bring hard work and artistic skill.

Real Name: Sheila Cooper

Faire Name: Ailesh Devitt

What is it you wanted to achieve for yourself in joining Saint Andrew's? Meet people to have fun and overcome my shyness. Also, just to be a part of the experience.

What is it you think you personally bring to fair that benefits the guild and the fair experience? Background music in camp with my recorder.

Real Name: Matt White

Faire Name: Maitiu' MacRoibeard de Faoite

What is it you wanted to achieve for yourself in joining Saint Andrew's? To ren-enact history, tell and teach and share history. I love battle pageants.

What is it you think you personally bring to fair that benefits the guild and the fair experience? Stories, songs, enthusiasm, camaraderie.

Real Name: (Child did not identify him or herself on questionnaire)

Faire Name:

What is it you wanted to achieve for yourself in joining Saint Andrew's? I want to have fun and enjoy myself.

What is it you think you personally bring to fair that benefits the guild and the fair experience? My cheerful and positive personality.

Real Name: Alice Miller

Faire Name: Lady Alice Sinclair

What is it you wanted to achieve for yourself in joining Saint Andrew's? history and teaching, friends, family of choice, being part of something larger

What is it you think you personally bring to fair that benefits the guild and the fair experience? History and teaching, talk to strangers easily, friendly, experience (12th year!)

(Continued on page 16)

Real Name: Sandy Lynn

Faire Name: (to be determined)

What is it you wanted to achieve for yourself in joining Saint Andrew's? Love ren faire and no longer want to be a "tourist"; love costuming

What is it you think you personally bring to fair that benefits the guild and the fair experience? Artist, seamstress, love to cook, love period and Celtic art; graphic artist/illustrate

Real Name: Richard Hills

Faire Name: Argyle

What is it you wanted to achieve for yourself in joining Saint Andrew's? To be a part of a Noble group of Scots to interact with.

What is it you think you personally bring to fair that benefits the guild and the fair experience?

Tenure in Ren Faire in general with wide perspective, considering the different hats I've worn. Also my acting experience to bring one of Scotland's leading nobles to life. And being able to improve with anyone.

Real Name: Nancy Andreasen

Faire Name: Birgette "Birdie" Anderson

What is it you wanted to achieve for yourself in joining Saint Andrew's? I wanted to learn more about history in regards to Scotland. I also wanted something that I could do with my children that would both be educational and fun at the same time.

What is it you think you personally bring to fair that benefits the guild and the fair experience? I don't know that I do much other than write an entertaining column for the Parchment and help entertain the older children during faire.

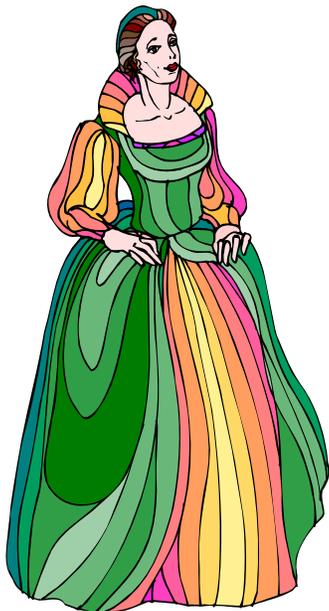
Real Name: Noel Seaton

Faire Name: Cailin Kelly Seaton

What is it you wanted to achieve for yourself in joining Saint Andrew's? To have fun, to learn to swordfight

What is it you think you personally bring to fair that benefits the guild and the fair experience?

Organizing the school gigs and doing presentations, talking to the people and sharing my interests with fair attendees



Real Name: Beckie McBride

Faire Name: Sara Agnes MacBride

What is it you wanted to achieve for yourself in joining Saint Andrew's? New friends and experience new things while exploring another creative outlet.

What is it you think you personally bring to fair that benefits the guild and the fair experience? I bring inexperience to the guild and therefore have questions and insight to things that those with more experience may have overlooked

Real Name: Tina Anderson
Faire Name: Britta Sutherland Hélie
What is it you wanted to achieve for yourself in joining Saint Andrew's? To have fun and escape reality
What is it you think you personally bring to fair that benefits the guild and the fair experience? My bubbly personality; engaging the public about their faire experience.

Real Name: Ken Hilberg
Faire Name: Connor Ellis
What is it you wanted to achieve for yourself in joining Saint Andrew's? To experience a different time period in some way and to learn how to use my sword.
What is it you think you personally bring to fair that benefits the guild and the fair experience? I'm good natured and interact well with others.

Real Name: Teage Seaton
Faire Name: Teage Seaton
What is it you wanted to achieve for yourself in joining Saint Andrew's? To be knighted for to be a knight is already within you – you live it, in faire or in mundanes.
What is it you think you personally bring to fair that benefits the guild and the fair experience? Honor, loyalty (to Her Majesty and to the Royal Guard and to my Captains).

Real Name: Stephen Shepherd
Faire Name: Lord Angus Morris of Lewis
What is it you wanted to achieve for yourself in joining Saint Andrew's? Historical fun
What is it you think you personally bring to fair that benefits the guild and the fair experience? Experience, knowledge, age

Real Name: Derrick Andreasen
Faire Name: Faolin Anderson
What is it you wanted to achieve for yourself in joining Saint Andrew's? Want to earn special prize from Birdie
What is it you think you personally bring to fair that benefits the guild and the fair experience? Don't know

Real Name: Debbie Jones
Faire Name: Morna MacGregor
What is it you wanted to achieve for yourself in joining Saint Andrew's? Make new friends, have fun and let my alter ego/personality come out.
What is it you think you personally bring to fair that benefits the guild and the fair experience? My creativity and willingness to do anything that needs to be done.



(Continued from page 17)

Real Name: Franz Kinkhorst

Faire Name: Faolan Kelly

What is it you wanted to achieve for yourself in joining Saint Andrew's? Want to be in the Royal Guard 100%

What is it you think you personally bring to fair that benefits the guild and the fair experience? Help to carry swords, run messages, help with bar brawl

Real Name: Mathieu Andreasen

Faire Name: Conner Anderson

What is it you wanted to achieve for yourself in joining Saint Andrew's? Want to earn Phoenix award; want to become a great messenger

What is it you think you personally bring to fair that benefits the guild and the fair experience? Don't know

Real Name: Katherine Kinkhorst

Faire Name: Kat Kelly

What is it you wanted to achieve for yourself in joining Saint Andrew's? To earn Phoenix award

What is it you think you personally bring to fair that benefits the guild and the fair experience? Help with set up and tear down

Real Name: Randy Cooper

Faire Name: Lochland Devitt

What is it you wanted to achieve for yourself in joining Saint Andrew's? Have my character down; mix more with the people (faire goers); help the Irish House get established

What is it you think you personally bring to fair that benefits the guild and the fair experience? Hard-working, work well with others. I like to help be more sure

Real Name: Clark Huffer

Faire Name: Duncan Somerville

What is it you wanted to achieve for yourself in joining Saint Andrew's? Have fun; enjoy the experience of re-enacting a Scot and being in battles

What is it you think you personally bring to fair that benefits the guild and the fair experience?

Being one of the Royal Guard and showing in the trooping shows; helping people understand history through interactive talk and action.

Real Name: Veronika Roberts

Faire Name: Dame Bebhain MacDomhnaill

What is it you wanted to achieve for yourself in joining Saint Andrew's? In high school I hung out with the computer nerds and orchestra geeks; two or three of the girls there were very involved in working Northern Faire and they would regale me with stories of what happened at faire. I was enchanted with the thought of dressing up and being someone else. When the choir teach at my school needed someone to assist in directing practices for our Madrigal Choir, I got the job AND I got to wear a bog dress! I wore that very same bog dress the day I was recruited into St. Andrew's in 1995. The choir for the guild was directed by Dame Claudia at that time and when she gave up

(Continued from page 18)

the position I was voted in and that is what I have been doing, almost continuously since.

What is it you think you personally bring to fair that benefits the guild and the fair experience? I bring lots of love for my fellow actors and friends, and a desire to make people happy, through hugs, smiles and music.

Real Name: Mark Pittsenbarger

Faire Name: Chieftain Heber MacPhearson

What is it you wanted to achieve for yourself in joining Saint Andrew's? To surround myself with like-minded people all working on something I am passionate about. To have some fun.

What is it you think you personally bring to fair that benefits the guild and the fair experience? Love of history of the period. Willingness to ad lib with almost anyone. Never say no. Great fondness for my fellows.

Real Name: Jerri Lynn Levers

Faire Name: Gwendolyn Elliot

What is it you wanted to achieve for yourself in joining Saint Andrew's? I was tired of just going to faire and wanted to be a part of it. I wanted to find a fun, family centered place for us to be and St. A's was it.

What is it you think you personally bring to fair that benefits the guild and the fair experience? That's hard to answer. I am not a natural actor, so I began as more of a "support staff" person (Lugging water and keeping the bar stocked). Now I am more comfortable with some acting, singing (in a group), and dancing. I also love playing period games with the kids, shinty with the highland ladies, and introducing people into Court.

Real Name: Tami Huffer

Faire Name: Annebell Somerville

What is it you wanted to achieve for yourself in joining Saint Andrew's? Having fun; helping others in being more comfortable at fair; gigging and performing; helping to have the best guild in whatever way is needed.

What is it you think you personally bring to fair that benefits the guild and the fair experience? Leadership; helping the guild with maintaining the Court; helping the new guild members learn the ropes.



SAINT ANDREWS AND ME

BY SIR GUY MAXWELL



I guess my story's much like everyone else's. I have always been interested in history and the lives of people throughout the ages. I have no favorite time period and find interesting things to read about no matter where my interest might take me. I'm particularly fond of military history and consider myself well versed in the subject. Growing up I remember some of my earliest heroes were the early Spanish explorers such as Cortez, Pizarro, Coronado etc.. I read anything I could get my hands on that would lead me to adventure.

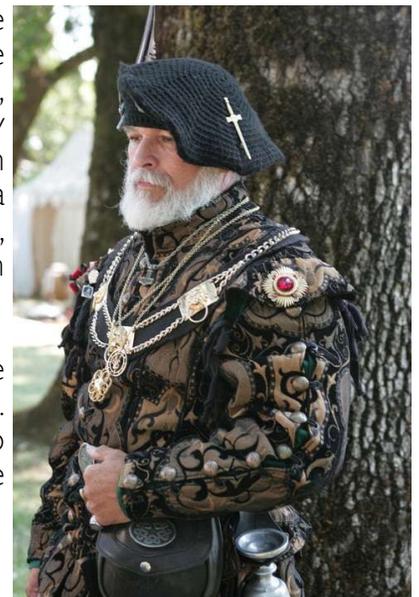
I enlisted in the Navy upon graduation from high school, ready and willing to do my part to keep America free. Serving in the armed forces refined my views on many aspects of military life and war in general. It offered me the opportunity to travel to far away places that I had only read about. I was able to see and experience many different cultures in both the Far East and Europe.

So how does all this relate to St. Andrews and the Renaissance world? Let me begin by saying that I wish I could have begun doing this much earlier than I did. As I started going to Renaissance faires I found them to be very informative and entertaining. I liked the color, the people and the general air of the events. Like most people who attend the faires I bought my share of useful items, but the one that changed everything for me was a combed morion helmet just like those worn by my childhood heroes. The helmet led to a shirt and the shirt led to a pair of breeches and both to a new understanding of the Renaissance experience. I was dressed and now fit in.

Let me say at this time that it was all one sided as my wife thought I was nuts. To her credit, she humored me and went along, eventually saying that if we were going to do this she wasn't going to be a peasant. Little did I know at the time what that would mean. All changed for us one day at Novato's Blackpoint in 1997 when we were approached by Lady Cora McMillian (aka Cheryl Looney). "How would you like to wear that helmet more than six weekends a year?" she asked. I said yes and was hooked. Lady Cora introduced us to Sir James Melville, who introduced us to St. Andrews Guild and a whole new world opened up to us.

Sir James taught me what it was to be Renaissance. I fell in love with the Court of Mary Stuart and with Scotland. St. Andrews Guild gave me the tools to create for me a time long past. The people, the props, the training all have added to my portrayal of Sir Guy Maxwell. As Guy Maxwell, I try to impart into those I meet what it was like to be in 1562 Scotland, and to give more than just facts. If I can increase a persons' knowledge or sense of enjoyment of the time spent with us, then I feel as if I'm giving back a little of what the experience has given me and that in itself is rewarding.

Faire to me is a time away from modern cares, a simpler time when things were more black and white and living was less complicated. A time I feel in many ways was better than what we have today. As to the people of St. Andrews Guild, they are like an extended family to me and as such I look forward to sharing my excitement with them.



THE ROYAL SCHOLAR'S PERSPECTIVE

BY LORD JAMES STEWART

The theme of this Parchment is "How to Enhance the Faire Experience." My first question was "Enhance the experience for whom, the participants or the patrons?" But after some thought, I realized that one really can't separate the two. If we enhance the experience for ourselves, it will benefit the patrons, and vice versa.

I saw a documentary on Disneyworld about a year ago, and one of the things that impressed me was the network of tunnels built under the park. The reason for these tunnels was so that workers could get to any attraction without trudging through the park in costume. That way, you wouldn't have cowboys walking through Tomorrowland or whatever, destroying the illusion of what they were trying to present.

I think the key to enhancing the faire experience for everyone concerned is to maintain the illusion of the 16th century as much as possible. We don't have underground passages, but there are simple things we can do.

First, stay in character. The single most difficult thing we have to do is stay in character. From the moment you arrive at faire, people will try to pull you out of character. It might be a guild member who needs a hand moving furniture or a vendor who is trying to convince you of the quality of their wares, or maybe it's a patron who just wants to make someone in a historical costume say something modern. All of them, for various reasons, will try to connect with your 21st century persona. Most of us have trouble switching back and forth. Is it any wonder that a lot of us walk around in our fancy period clothes, talking on our cell phones, drinking out of plastic cups, wearing sunglasses. Try to get into character first thing in the morning and endeavor to stay there all day long, even in your private conversations with guild members, even with your dealings with vendors and especially when you talk to patrons.

Second, beware of anachronistic items within the encampment. Ice chests, food containers, cans, cell phones, ball point pens, anything that is obviously made from plastic. All of these items are necessary for 21st century life, and are also needed for maintaining the proper functioning of the guild at faire. The patrons should not see them though, because those items did not exist in the 16th century, and we are trying to provide the patrons (and ourselves) a depiction of 16th century life. There are lots of places where modern looking things can be stowed. If you have a lot of things you need to keep together, buy a chest. Affordable wooden boxes, baskets, chests, steamer trunks, etc. are available. And if all else fails, you can always cover it in burlap.

Lastly, use BFA (Basic Faire Accent). It is a sore spot for some guild members, because they feel self-conscious doing accents and they don't feel comfortable using archaic language. The problem is, a faire does not sound like a faire unless people are using weird sentence structure and "thou-ing" each other and rolling our "R"s. Last year at the picnic, over and over again it was requested that BFA be taught at our trainings, so there is a desire to learn and a willingness to use what we learn at faire. We will try to make opportunities to learn BFA at our trainings. If you are unable to attend the trainings, there are some books and pamphlets available on BFA and EME (Early Modern English).

We don't need an expensive infrastructure to make the faire an entertaining and educational experience. Although, if someone wants to build us a park with such conveniences in place, I for one wouldn't say no.

SING WE AND CHANT IT - THE IMPORTANCE OF MUSIC IN ROYAL COURT

BY DAME BEBHAIN STEWART

During the Renaissance, there was no television or radio; no i-pods or movie theaters. If you wanted entertainment, you had to make it yourself. If you were lower or middle class, you had only a little bit of time for entertainment, but for the nobility, who had nothing but time on their hands, there were hours to fill and, when in court, a queen to entertain.

The ideal courtier was well versed in many things, from sword play to playing tennis; from letter writing to public speaking. Deportment and good manners were held in high regard, and the ability to play an instrument or sing was highly desirable, and most courtiers studied music, if not to play or sing, at least to be able to discuss music intelligently. The more ways you had to please the queen, the more favor you could gain with Her Majesty.

Imagine what it would have been like to be a noble in the royal court of Mary, Queen of Scots in the year 1562. Imaging that it is afternoon; the noon-time meal has ended and Her Most Gracious Majesty sits on her throne in a large hall, enjoying the company, cheerful banter and sometimes sharp repartee of her courtiers. Jestis are made, poems are read and riddles asked, and from time to time songs are sung either by individuals or by groups.

The most common form of song they would have is the madrigal. Usually three to five parts, the madrigal is a form of song where the tune and the lyrics are similar in character, so that happy lyrics are accompanied by happy music and sad lyrics are sung to plaintive melodies and harmonies.

Instrumental music was popular as well. Ladies learned to play the virginals, a harpsichord-type keyboard instrument. Both genders were encouraged to learn the lute, and various sizes of viols were played as well, often in what were the earliest versions of the string quartet.

What we are trying to achieve with the madrigal choir in Saint Andrew's is a re-creation of court entertainment – to please Her Most Gracious Majesty and the rest of the court, and to have a good way to gig, and to fill the court with music and activity when Her Majesty is away. There have been many times when patrons have stopped and been drawn in to court by our singing; it's really a small show within a show.

Of course, a choir needs members and practice, so we are always looking for members and we have training one night a week in Fremont. We are also planning a one-day “sing –posium” where we will work both on easy rounds and, for those who are interested, more intensive study of madrigals with multiple parts; bass, tenor, alto and soprano. We would love to have interested people come and learn the music and perform with us in court. Contact me for more details: bebhain@sbcglobal.net .



Happy Singing!

CREATING THE ILLUSION

BY RICHARD HILLS



"All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players ..."

As a Renaissance re-enactor, and long time thespian, the words of Shakespeare quite often ring in my head. As the organizer for the Pittsburg Scottish Renaissance Festival for ten years, the above Shakespearian quote comes first and foremost in my mind.

When Diane and I started the festival in 1996, it was our goal to portray Scottish history as accurately as possible. We quickly found that Renaissance Re-enactment is a fine juggling act (tongue-in-cheek not intended) between history and entertainment. We could require that all vendors and actors (of course) come in costume, and all the vendors "dress" their booth in a period fashion, but we could not bring ourselves to turn the dry creek bed, or pond overflow into an open running sewer. Nor, could we introduce plague-infested rats into the environment. The best we could come up with was a few hungry, pesky meat bees! And that wasn't even appreciated. One year we tried to re-create what it might be like to burn down an entire village, but the local fire department came to the scene before we could break out the bucket brigade!

"To be or not to be ...", that is indeed the question. So, in the long run, we decided that Renaissance re-enactment was a special breed of Edu-tainment. The theme of the Pittsburg Scottish Renaissance Festival was at all times drawn from the pages of Scottish history. When we re-enacted the baptism of James VI, we did not break the City's budget in doing so, even though the 16th century ceremony nearly broke the Scottish Royal coffers. But we did let it be known within the scripting of that particular re-enactment that is what happened. Like Shakespeare, re-enactment is all about informing your audience what has happened, not necessarily showing them what happened. In Henry the V, we do not see the carnage after the brilliant monologue, "Saint Crispin's Day", but there is an entire scene following the monologue that goes into great detail of said carnage. So it is with our 'show'. We did a Battle Pageant every year; it was (is) a great crowd pleaser. But no arms go flying away from their bodies. All eyeballs are accounted for after the battle. And if we are extremely lucky there will not be a single scratch on any of the players. The battlefield is populated by 30 or so able bodied actors, not hundreds or thousands of soldiers... but we suspend disbelief for a glorious moment for the illusion of reality. As the director of a re-enactment event I wanted to pull all the various talents together for the betterment of the entire 'show'. One of my fondest and proudest moments was when one year's opening progress took about 10 minutes to pass. It was not that it was moving that slowly, but rather every single guild was represented in the progress. Many of the guilds brought their ENTIRE membership to be in the progress; people working together to create something special.

That is and will always be my driving focus for Ren Faire... suspend disbelief for the illusion of reality. It doesn't matter if I'm portraying the Earl of Argyle, or if I'm stomping around as the director of the event. It is my desire, my endeavor to see others enacting together to create



for those not brave enough to do so... a world that perhaps only time has forgotten ... and "we few, we happy few, we band of brothers ..." shall "step back into a time when legends were made!"

INTERVIEW WITH BILL WATTERS

CONDUCTED AT FOLSOM FAIRE, OCTOBER 21, 2007



How and when did your ren "life" begin?

1984; I was a 7th grader on an English field trip with the rest of my class went to the Kansas City Faire in Bonner Springs, that was the first time and pretty much fell in love with it. I was a "gamer" at the time (Dungeons and Dragons and that kind of thing), and so the next year (1985) I went with some other friends and were part of the "Dungeon Exhibit" which was a kind of a walk through living history of the Inquisition and torture devices and performed there until I came to California when I came out to finish college in '89 and from there until now have been out here in California.

What guild(s) have you been a member of?

Kansas City Faire was a cast faire, in other words everyone was cast into individual roles, I was a member of the Dungeon as previously mentioned and then just as a general street character as middle-class (I played a Frenchman actually), and then when I came out to California, I was first at St. Alban's School of Defense (we were a sword fighting troupe directed by Michael Cawelti) at Northern Faire. By the end of that season I had met Stacy Haysler, (the former guildmistress of Santa Maria) and by that following Southern Faire I had joined Santa Maria's which had formed in the mid 80s.

I personally believe that there is a lot of information that people just don't know (for instance I don't even know that this is Santa Maria's that I'm sitting in now), so to be better informed helps people to play better – and that's what I am trying to help "my" guild with....

The more people can make it out into the "streets" the more they know. Generally speaking, when you walk across the street there's no way to tell who "they" [referring to a guild across the street] are, other than they're another random noble collection; and I think people are trying to do more with that, but that's the area we should all focus most on.

What prompted your moving into the production area?

At Northern Faire, the Italians originally walked progress as part of Court, but over time we have stepped into just lending a hand because the Blackpoint crowds were incredibly tight and security was an issue; and so we wound up doing parade control, security, and perimeter control for progresses... then moving out from there and starting with the first year of Folsom Faire we were asked to come out and help with basic security services and the first version of Northwinds was born at the first Folsome Faire (15 years ago now); Santa Maria's didn't do small faires for a while — they only did Southern and Northern and so we developed Northwinds originally to bring a service to the short run faires, helping parade control and other various functions, with security, check-in, the things that Northwinds does again now (after a long hiatus).

What is the most personally satisfying aspect of your life in ren faire or ren faire production?

The satisfaction of watching people grow and develop and finding out new things about themselves, or the world in general. The satisfaction of a new guild member who comes in shy and bashful and either finds whole new elements of himself and developing new hobbies that they like, new crafts, new adventures about things, or sometimes when a rough-and-tumble comes into faire and they grow up and mature, that's also pretty rewarding. As far as the patrons in the streets it's all about the small children who light up when they see a princess in a pretty dress, or a young lad whole like to

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pretend at being a knight or something like that... That's what makes it worthwhile.

So in their personal growth, that they're experiencing, how are you able to contribute?

It's everything from being an example, to playing "big brother", to just making sure that the general culture and atmosphere to which they are exposed is hopefully, more often than not, a healthy one. Seeing areas where they can grow/develop and by helping provide them the opportunities to give it a try.

How can guilds and vendors better participate in faire to make the faire an experience that the patrons will have greater appreciation for?

From the patrons point of view: What fair is about is the immersive experience. Without the immersive experience we are a collection of stages of varying levels of interest with a bunch of vendors. What makes fairs more special, when you get people talking about the magic of faire, has to do with the amount of which characters are in the streets, that they feel like they are in a little thriving village faire or community and if that experience doesn't exist then it becomes very distant and rather cold. And ultimately the patrons can either take it or leave it; they usually will come maybe to see the shows, more likely they are coming to shop (is their first reason), and if you want them to come back you need to instill that this is an experience that they want to repeat, that it was fun, that they will tell their friends about it and that they have got to go try this and be a part of it for themselves.

On a personal and/or character level would you please describe your character and how others can best play off him?

He is the Italian representative from the Court of Florence to whatever the local monarch happens to be, whether it is Elizabeth, Mary, or Henry; best ways to do it can be anything from Court gigs like Privy Councils, Star Chambers, calling up and/or accusing him of bringing in Catholic heresies into the local area, we can be supporting the "other side" whoever the "other side" happens to be, we can be transporting black powder and guns, there can be



basic mercantile gigs – though they can be difficult to relate to the crowd, there can be conflict gigs or brawls, we do letter writing and poetry; any of these sorts of things are always welcome and if people have an idea of how the Italians (in Florence in particular which were large banking conglomerates at the time – not so much traders, they had silks and merchants and everything but really they were known more for the money at the time, and also importing and exporting of artisans), anything along those lines would be open...and I'm open to most gigs whether or not I win, lose, or draw, its always fun to play.

AND WITH THAT, PLEASE MEET:

Don Giovanni Marco di Abestanzi Conte di Pienza e Cavalieri di Santo Stephano

The story thus far...

Born the second son to Uberto d' Abestanzi, Baron d'[] in northern Italy, my family was moderately prosperous since the Albetzzi reign in the 15th century. While I was still a teen the French and Swiss swept through the Northern half of the Italian states. Trying to avoid the decimation of trade and populace Uberto made a deal with the Frenchman leading the army and surrendered the town leaving it and the government intact. Two years later Don Lorenzo di Medici pushed the invaders back across the mountains and the family and barony came back under the province of Tuscany.

As the Medici banner neared the city there was much concern about the ramifications to the family and I was sent to flee the city in case charges of treason against the state would be brought against the family. I fled along with the retreating French troops back to Normandy and then across to

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England where the Albetzzi family still had some shipping concerns at Bristol and I could safely hide there until the dust and settled. Within a few months I had heard of my father's imprisonment and the Duke's unfavorable view on the occurrences at []. Trying to garner better sources of information from home, I took up a position as a translator and poet in the court of the Countess of Bath.

Proving to be a terrible poet, I focused my learning's to swordsmanship as I seemed to have some proficiency at it and continued to fear assassins appearing out of nearly every shadow.

In my third year in Bath, the then Contessa di Rosetti di Medici made her first voyage to England on behalf of her brother, the Duke of Tuscany. She traveled with the Countess of Bath en route to meet up with Queen Elizabeth's court on progress through the countryside of England. Terrified of the Countess' reaction if she found out, I attempted to impersonate a French attaché. She quickly saw through the disguise (not helping that I only knew a smattering of French) and called for me to give account of myself. Deciding to keep a potential enemy close by to keep an eye on me, she bade me join her entourage as her lawyer as my familiarity with English trade law and contracts would help her dealings with the English Queen. I won her favor, though not entirely her trust and she promised amnesty from the Duke's wrath if I would return with her to Italy. The Bande Nere troops who were accompanying her pressed me into service and learning how to assist in the protection of the Contessa.

Returning to Italy, I went on a dispatch to the Vatican to deliver news for the Contessa and wound up in service to the Pope Clement VII in relaying the information and news that I had learned while in England especially information regarding the Queen.

By just past my 22nd birthday, I returned to Florence and became the Consigliere to the Contessa and had become squired to Don Vincenzo. With each new trip to England and Scotland, I accompanied the Contessa and became more involved with Gresham and Walsingham and their spy networks in the South, and with the various Clan Chiefs in the North.

I spent from my 24th to 26th year in the North of Italy fighting with the Bande Nere against the Germanic incursions into Italy. Proving to be a better commander than soldier, I was made an Aide de Camp and assisted in the successful defense of several passes in the Southwestern Alps. I was Knighted into the military order of Santo Stephano at 27, the same year that my father was released from prison and returned home.

Soon after I was made Baron di Pienza and given my first opportunity to travel to Scotland as an ambassador to the Catholic Queen Mary. I spent two years in Scotland and with Mary's court gaining slow acceptance by the Clan Chiefs and building up some ongoing trade between Italy and Scotland as well as heading up a small army of Scottish and Landsknecht mercenaries putting down three small revolts in Western Scotland, ending with Mary knighting me into the Order of Saint John of Jerusalem.



With papers from Queen Mary, I returned to the Vatican to deliver word regarding the status of England between Mary and Elizabeth. Included in the papers was a petition from Mary to me to be made a Cardinal elector for Saint John, which occurred on Easter of my 31st year.

The Contessa had become a Duchessa by acquisition of the duchy which made up the Western portion of Sicily, and continued her role as Ambassador to the court of Elizabeth, continuing to keep me in her employ even as she elevated me to the rank of Counte di Pienza. Word of the Duke's illness came while they were still in England and the Duchessa returned to Florence to head up the affairs of state. I was made Ambassador from

Florence to the Courts of England and Scotland and bade continue the work in the name of the Grand Duchy of Florence and His Holiness. In order to project a more civil aspect than that of an outright soldier, my condotta was released by the Duke and retired from active military duty, leading an entourage of several powerful families from Tuscany and continuing the work the Duchessa had begun.

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Academics, students of theater, renaissance enthusiasts, and actors are invited to this interdisciplinary conference aimed at bringing together all those interested in learning about Renaissance era and the role of the re-enactor within the Renaissance setting. The weekend workshops will put aspiring actors in touch with the people “in the know” who will provide “first-hand knowledge and an inside-the-character perspective. This year will also feature sessions for event producers as well as entertainment and vendor coordinators, bringing a new level of communication and sharing the knowledge gained over the years of experience between the people who make it all happen. If you’re getting ready for your first time, or have produced multi-weekend events for decades, there’ll be something for everyone.

More Meeting & Greeting than ever before.

There are some events you will never want to end. This is one of them. The Symposium will open Friday with an evening [reception and mixer](#). Saturday, there will be a full schedule of [classes](#) followed by an evening [diner/banquet](#) reception and a lively karaoke party. A packed program of activities and classes continues on Sunday.

Guilds, Vendors, and the Public.

This year we will have more guilds and vendors with more wares to help you get ready for the new season. Whether you are a renaissance enthusiast ready to join a guild, or an event producer looking for new groups to staff your event, come and see the plethora of re-enactment choices for your perusal.

Have something to share?

There are always more things to learn. If you have a class/session idea that

INTERVIEW WITH GREG KURLINSKI

AKA COLM MACIAIN

The Knights of St. John's of Jerusalem
Clan Iain Abrach - Maclain

Conducted at Folsom Faire, October 21, 2007



How and when did your ren "life" begin?

If I'm not mistaken in '92 or '93 a small group of us who had put together various and sundry costumes that well, though an effort was made were to say the least amateur, went to "Northern". And from that effort we were spotted by a well known recruiter of Northern Faire who gave us a card for Iain Abrach Maclain, who as he understood it was looking for new members. And so, we met up with Ken (at the next event that was possible, which turned out to be Folsom Faire); at the time, Ken's group was also intermixed with what later became the McClure and various other septs which were all kind of homogenous in one setting at the time - later a lot of those groups split off and did their own thing - and so Ken was looking for new people to fill in his own guild as the other groups were becoming of their own and starting off on their own. And so, we got all the information from Ken, we saw him at faire, we saw the guild and how it worked, and myself and I believe it was five or so others at the time decided that this would be something we wanted to do.

What guild(s) have you been a member of or associated with?

I have only been a member of Iain Abrach's.

What prompted your moving into other phases or levels of the ren world? I know that you are involved in St. John's of Jerusalem, is that not correct?

Yes. The Knights of St. John's of Jerusalem is an organization that Ken Wiepert and Theodore D'Estes started 25 - 30 years ago when they were at Northern Faire. And it was meant at the time to be a way of indicating that someone has gone above and beyond (inside) the guild that they were in at the time. Over time, it has come to symbolize people who have done above and beyond what ren faire even expects of an actor, not just a given guild. At Valhalla, maybe 10 years ago, is when Ken selected myself and two other people to be knighted into St. John's and at that time we were... We were knighted at Valhalla and I had a particular interest in helping Ken help organize it, deal with internal issues, not so much doing the ceremonies but helping get our own guilds to events, helping the St. John's organization to be seen more, and so when later on when a position opened up when Theodore retired from the organization, when one of the only two named positions opened up, I volunteered and was elected to the position of Grand Abbott.

For the sake of the article, and for those new people in the renaissance world, Ken's full name is...?

Ken Wiepert and Theodore D'Estes.

What is the most personally satisfying aspect of life in ren faire and/or production?

The community; not just making 500 extra friends, but actually having friendships with people who hail from a huge variety of backgrounds in real life: you've got computer geeks, blacksmiths that are actually blacksmiths, you've got carpenters who are actually carpenters, you have professional actors, you have stage musicians....

Are you guild master...?

As far as my own guild is concerned I am the assistant guild master.

And what is it that your group here is trying to accomplish?

Iain Abrach itself represents Scottish 16th century highland's life (as opposed to the noble side - which is

amply taken care of by many other groups); we do more of the common (I don't want to use the word peasant) but the common folk of the Highlands; so everything from weaving, to spinning, dying of the wool, to cooking, also a little bit of the weapons work (although other guilds do that a little bit better than us in some cases, but we do have a representation of that)... and the fun part for us is always trying to make up an excuse for why the heck we are in England (laughter).

It may seem obvious, but why do you think that is important for the public to participate in (instead of just say, nobles)?

The noble class is well represented. Ken actually set out what our guild was envisioned to be, and we have not changed that. The noble class was well taken care of by guilds that have courts, by guilds that play high nobles of Scotland and that would just be repeating. There were few, if any, guilds that did the simpler life of Scotland.

How do you think that other guild, and even the vendors, could enhance your participation?

Our participation?

Your participation, the group's, the guild's participation... how could they better play off of "you"?

That has actually been one of the things that I have always considered to be my role, is to think of, and/or respond to ways to get our guild to interact with others; for instance, the craftsmen I mentioned before – the blacksmiths, the carpenters, and such – I make sure that, or I at least try to occasionally get our group to interact with them for barter, for trade, for goods, (for instance purchasing a spinning wheel); a lot of our own furniture is actually made by made by some of the wood smiths that do faire, and we try to do that "in play" at faire as much as possible, instead of behind the scenes. We actually make the arrangements with them and get the measurements during faire time itself. Also, with other guilds, trade, hiring out of swordsmen, are all ways of working that into the faire atmosphere as well.

On a personal/character level please briefly describe your character and how others can best play off them.

Like many people at faire I have a number of different personas; the one I play when faire is open is not the Grand Abbott. That is not a title I would generally respond to as far as my character when in kilts and such; I am not necessarily addressed as a Grand Abbott because that is not the character I portray. I just play a salter – a very simple craftsman, merchant of a very small village in the Highlands of Scotland. If there are people who wish to interact with me as Maclain it would be, depending on where they are coming from (for instance if it was a noble or something like that) you'd be talking to the common folk with the purpose of wanting to buy something, or trade for something, to try to purchase labor, perhaps you had a merchant ship that was going from Point A to Point B and you were looking to see if you could get additional goods on that ship or additional manpower for that ship, or it could be worked so that "we" were the ones working your fields that you own, or that it was your wool that was being spun and dyed and so arrangements for what color dye to use, what it should be weaved into and functions like that. When people try to interact cross-guilds you have to take into account what that other guild does and ask yourself in history how would your character have interacted with that group? Black Friars (which happens to be across from us at this faire) there are many reasons why nobles would want to interact with them: hire their services for teaching, simply passing a well-thought of Italian on the streets of London would be a point of interest unto itself (e.g., "why are you here", "how well renowned that particular swordsmen was", even a noble would take note of that).

Editor's Note: Since the time of this interview, Greg no longer holds the position of Grand Abbott with the Knights of St John of Jerusalem. The position of Grand Abbott is now held by Bill Watters (whose interview appears on pages 24-26 of this edition).



EULOGY FOR JOAN MARIE WIEPERT

BY DEANNA JESUS
OF CLAN IAN ABRACH-MACIAIN

The first day I met Joan, she and Ken were holding a Renaissance Guild meeting in their home. She opened her home and her heart to a group of new members. She tucked us under her wing, where Ken was the face and voice of Iain Abrach, Joan was the spirit and drive.

As I started taking on more responsibilities in our guild (and the Dames), she would help me to focus my energy. She helped me to understand people... how to work past the drama of politics and emotions, how to get to the heart of a situation and be a true leader. To me, Joan was a stable rock, a wise woman, a sage.

I admired Joan for her persistence in what she believed was right and appropriate. I may not have agreed with her definitions...or her tactics... but I ALWAYS knew she was going to stick to her guns. For her, there was a "right" way of doing things...Joan was solid in her beliefs both practical and esoteric.

As Joan and Ken aged, as they moved in their journey of life, we watched Joan fight Breast Cancer...she never swayed from what she needed to do, she wanted to live life to its fullest, and because of her strength she was able to give us more time to get to know her wonderful spirit.

What I will remember most about Joan is her energy, the love she gave us, her dedication to every member of the guild and how she always had time for any of us that wanted it. There are many funny moments I remember, but my strongest memory is the first time I saw Joan "take the stage" at faire. She gave an impromptu speech. ...and she spoke softly...quietly...and as she spoke everyone slowly became silent to hear her and focus on her voice...everyone was listening intently to her every word. She spoke to us about how women (both Renaissance and Modern) need to remain tough and unwavering, how we are the cement that binds families together, how our real power is held in our hard work, our determination, and our love. She told us to be strong, for our families, our beliefs, and ourselves. By the end of that speech, she had a HUGE crowd gathered; sitting at her feet...I will never forget her strong presence.

What I will miss the most about Joan is her voice, she always spoke her mind, she ALWAYS had an opinion, and she never hesitated at letting you know what she believed should be done. At the beginning of my relationship with her that made me frustrated or I would roll my eyes, now I understand how important having your voice heard is. Joan, you taught me wisdom... and for that I will never be able to thank you enough.



THE HONORING OF KENNETH WIEPERT

LORD IAIN MACLAIN, HIGH CHIEF OF THE SCOTS, LORD OF THE ISLES, CLAIMANT TO THE EARL OF ROSS

...written with love by Deanna Jesus

Once upon a time, long ago back in the late 80's and early 90's there was a group of friends who played Dungeons and Dragons. These friends were a tight group, and for fun one year they decided to dress up and attend Northern Faire out at Blackpoint. We'd all been to faire before, but this time, we wanted to participate, to dress in costume...to BE part of faire. A small group of them, who had taken "the other fork in the road" met up with His Grace Sir James, aka Theo D'Este. Seeing this gaggle of "turkeys", he approached us to see about our interest in joining a guild. Something that I will never understand, other than to say that we looked such amateurs, was that he referred us to another guild...not his own, St. Andrews. He connected us with a small Scottish group called Clan Maclain. The man that ran that group was Ken Wiepert.



We were invited by Ken to a brand new event called Folsom Ren Faire. He said "come out, play with us, see if you like it." We went, we played, we fell in love. Not just with playing faire, but with a group of people who welcomed us in, showed us the ropes, taught us, and nurtured us. The following January, these same group of friends joined Clan Maclain, and formed a small sept clan called MacDonnell. We all walked into Ken and Joan's home, and were made to feel right at home from the very beginning. Our first faire that we attended as Maclain's was the Sonora Faire - at the Sonora Fairgrounds...before it went to Angel's Camp...before the year of the flood. We had sewn and worked on costumes for days, and stayed up all night, the night before to be ready. We thought we looked so awesome...we were SO wrong. I have a picture buried somewhere, all of us with that spark in our eyes. The spark of awe, history, performance; we were now officially a part of "Faire."

I started a small newsletter (in the days of paper and the post office) so we could organize rides for our little group...and one day Ken said "I like what you do, would you be willing to write a newsletter for the whole guild? I was honored...thrilled...and dare I say it "smug." Ken had picked me...me...wow. This is how it felt to me...he was our Chief, he was our Guild Master, he could do

(Continued on page 32)

(Continued from page 31)

no wrong...I was going to learn some very important lessons from this man. He had picked ME. Over the course of the next few years, I worked closely with this man. The very first thing I learned? He was directionally challenged! For whatever reason, if I got a map to faire from him, or an address, it always seemed to take us on an even greater adventure. I also learned about planning and organizing a volunteer organization. I learned from him how to lead, and how to be a strong leader. As Ken aged, Tim (my husband) and I took on more and more responsibilities for the Guild. Ken was (and is) still the founding father, our guide and teacher. I admired Ken for more reasons than I can possibly write here, but what I will write is that over time, I came to love him; not just as our Guild Master, but as a Grandfather, a mentor, and a friend.

As we all got older, I remember about ten years ago, Ken being SO thrilled and excited about turning 65. Seems that most of the men in his family hadn't made it that long, and he was excited to break that record. Somehow none of us back then, twelve years ago ever thought about Ken aging, or he and Joan passing away as frail human beings. They were both bigger than life, and of course they would be with us – always. We all thought that Ken would be happiest if he passed away at faire, with his boots on. That may not have happened in “real” life, but in our hearts, the Chief of the MacDonalds, otherwise known as Clan Maclain died at home in Glencoe Scotland, surrounded by those that loved him. In our hearts, he will always be that strong and virile man, holding his axe above his head, telling all of us to “Stand Down” after parading through faire.

I learned from Ken about family. How you take the good with the bad. I learned about myself, that I wasn't infallible, but that a good person admits when they are wrong, and fixes what may have gone awry. I also learned from him that leadership wasn't something sought after...it was something that is born in you...something that can be nurtured and brought out by setting the best example. Ken will forever be with us in spirit, his legacy is Clan Iain Abrach ~ Maclain. As long as we hold him in our hearts, he is alive in all of us.





JOAN MARIE WIEPERT

JANUARY 8, 1933

- DECEMBER 24, 2007



KENNETH WIEPERT

1930 - 2008

A SCOTS FAREWELL

- Anonymous

When I come to the end of the road
And the sun has set for me
I want no tears in a gloom-filled room
Why cry for a soul set free?

Miss me a little but not for long
And not with your head bowed low
Remember the love that we once shared
Miss me, but let me go.

For this is a journey we all must take
And each must go alone
It's all a part of the master plan
A step on the road to home.

When you are lonely and sick of heart
Go to the friend we know
And bury your sorrows in doing good deeds
Miss me...but let me go

MEET AND GREET

(THE GUILD NEXT DOOR)

Castlewood re-enactment guild *seeks to educate and entertain the public, while creating friendships and developing our own knowledge and understanding of the past.* We portray the household of Anthony Browne, Viscount Montague and his family. A noble must travel in style and that entails a large establishment all working to maintain the comfort and appearances of their masters. From the Lord to the Scullery maid, everyone knows their place and their duties to maintain the proper order of life and society. All Nobles within Castlewood are related to Lord Browne.



Lord Anthony Marie Browne,
Viscount Montague, Knight of
the Garter, Lord Lt. Of Sussex



Lady Elizabeth Browne Somerset,
Countess Worcester, Baroness
Herbert (Anthony Browne's Sister,
married to the Earl of Worcester)



Lord Henry Somerset, Earl Worcester,
Baron Herbert, Knight of the Garter



Lady Mary Somerset Grey,
Baroness of Wilton (sister to
The Earl of Worcester)



Lady Elizabeth Gage of Firle (sister in law to Sir Anthony Browne)



Lady Elizabeth Somerset Savage of Clifton (sister to the Earl of Worcester)

As all our nobles also play household characters don't be surprised to see someone who looks a lot like them in lower class garb. We can only explain their suspicious resemblance to members of the family by the fact that old sir Anthony had a bit of a roving eye but of course we don't talk about that.

The guild came into being originally as the Redding chapter of St Andrews guild. With the creation of the Shasta Highlands faire by founders Kevin and Cynthia Browne the focus Redding group grew beyond the scope of their original guild affiliation. In 2001 St Andrews Guild recognized Castlewood as a separate entity. In 2002 the Browne's moved to Florida and turned the guild over to Joel Radell, Jeremy Schneider, Mercina Cotton, and Pam King who restructured the guild to its current format. Pam and Jeremy retired as GM's in 2007 but continue to be active members. Long-time members Julia Wallis, and Jana Malmberg replaced them.

As far as ideas for interacting with our characters, you're Scottish, we're English, so there is some national rivalry. We are also one of the only noble catholic households in England, what you want to do with that will depend on whether or not your character is catholic. As a final note the Viscount Montague literally wrote the book on household management. He was the Emily Post of Elizabethan England. Have fun!

If you wish more information regarding our guild, membership, or characters check us out on the web at:

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

FAIRE THEMES AND GIGGING

From Online Correspondence with Marti Miernik
Princess Anna Jagiellonka
Royal White Eagle

In recent days Rusty Sword Production's Yahoo Group ran a discussion on deteriorating guilds and lack of involvement from guild members on the faire circuit. In answer to some of the points made in that discussion Ms. Miernik offer's up the following thoughts:

"I fervently believe in themes for faire and surveys done with the public suggest that the public is more likely to return when themes are well played. As a producer, however, I see too many guilds wrapped up in what they are doing and forgetting that there is a whole world of other guilds around them. It is my belief that themes can get both individuals and guilds as a whole more involved in the work of creating an interactive atmosphere for the ultimate enjoyment of the public, but so too that the person participating as an "actor at faire" year in and year out does not become bored and/or complacent.



Nothing frustrates me more from faire production standpoint than when I see guild members oblivious to what faire producers want to showcase. I have to believe that this is because the guild master does not make the effort to send his membership the info or prepare them as to how they can play to the theme. It also concerns me that some guilds seem unable or unwilling to spread their wings and try new things, which I have trouble identifying with especially because I personally get bored easily and so doing the same things over and over again is not an option for me. In my role as a Guild Master, it is my fervent belief that we should want to challenge our members to try out new roles, gigs, themes, if for no other reason than to keep them interested and happy in their choice to rejoin year after year. The people of my guild joined, I think, for the express opportunity to be beautifully costumed, not as mannequins, but as involved and committed actors.

Improvisation can be hard, especially if you don't know where or how to start. And it is especially difficult for new members who perhaps are just feeling their way around the group. Ergo: the theme; an anchor of ideas to help them extend themselves in a specific direction. Furthermore, a theme lends itself so that vendors and guilds can play off one another and provides the vendors the opportunity to better participate while hawking their wares and services. Faire is not just a showcase but a practice field for building character, interacting with other characters, staging, mixing BFA with improvisation and playing to the theme provides some cohesiveness that everyone (actor or audience) can appreciate and build from.



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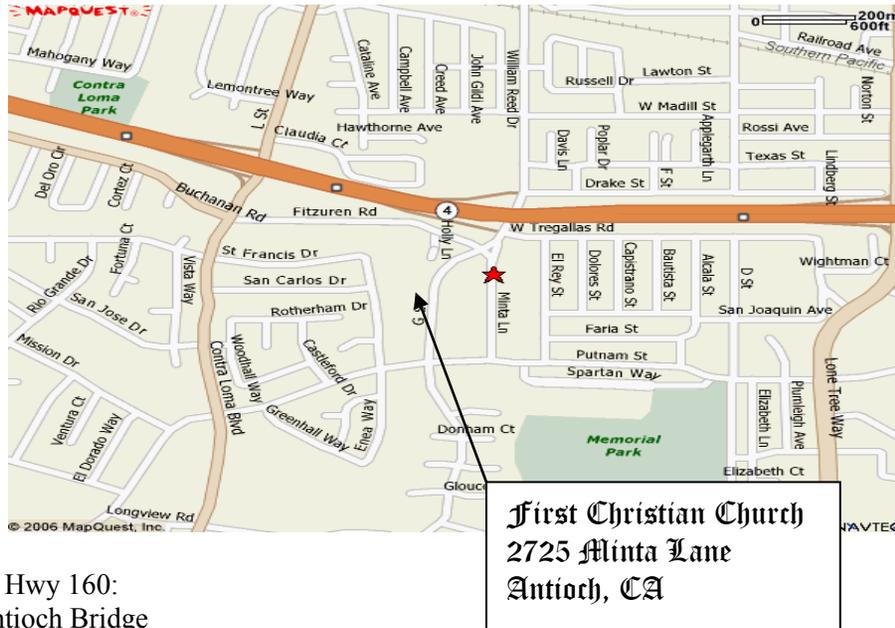
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9th of February



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From Sacramento on Hwy 160:
 Hwy 160 over the Antioch Bridge
 This turns into Hwy. 4
 Exit at Lone Tree
 Left under the freeway
 Right on Tregallas Rd.
 The church is at the intersection of Minta/G Street & Tregallas

From Modesto:
 From I-5 or Hwy. 99
 Take Hwy. 4 West through Brentwood
 Left on Lone Tree
 Follow Lone Tree through Antioch
 Left on Tregallas
 The church is at the intersection of Minta/G Street & Tregallas

From Bay Area:
 Take Hwy 680 North to Hwy. 4 East
 Take G Street Exit
 At the stop sign, the church is to your right

This is a formal, costumed event with Her Majesty officially opening Court for the new year. It is an official business meeting, announcements, Lands & Titles issued, etc. and a good chance to see the formal side of the Court. This event is for St. Andrews members, as well as those folk who are curious and possibly interested in joining the guild.

- ~ Each person please bring a food item in a cast away container to feed ten people. ~
- ~ **Repast & Courtiers/Ambassadors bring a main dish; Highlanders & Irish bring a side dish; Royal Guards & Ladies in Waiting bring a dessert. ~**
- ~ Each person should bring their own favorite non-alcoholic beverage, and their cup. ~
- Pray remember this is a Church, therefore alcoholic beverages are not allowed.**

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ACTORS' CAMP "101"

BY PHILIP ALEXANDER

Actors' Camp: Also sometimes known as "mushroom city," this is an area set aside by the faire board at most weekend-long events to allow camping by the faire participants. This is generally available from noon Friday until tear down on Sunday.



Pleasanton Games, 2006 Photo by Gwendolyn Elliot

As there is mostly good weather in northern California, staying in actors' camp can be a great way to travel to faire and stay with faire friends. While there is often an area nearby for rvs, this focus is primarily on tent camping. Sometimes rvs are mixed in with tents and often times people tent camping will join their rv-ing friends in the evening for potlucks, parties, movies, and general frivolity. Facilities available can range from a dry, barren patch of dirt with no amenities to after-hours swimming pools, hot showers, and group dinners. At most faires actors tent camping is free. Specifics will change from faire-to-faire and from year-to-year within the same faire. It can be dirty, noisy, and rowdy; at times the weather can be a challenge. It is also almost always hilarious fun, good camaraderie, and filled with good times!

Equipment

Your basic concerns are *space (dryness, warmth), food,* and some attempt at *privacy.* **Space (dryness/warmth).** Always at a premium, and tents are usually packed together, making "privacy" a relative concept. Some people bring a jeep-load of stuff; others carry all they need on a motorcycle.

At most faires almost any inexpensive tent will provide privacy and dryness. It is always a good idea to have a couple of extra waterproof tarps (larger than your tent) and some spare rope and stakes with you. Early and late season faires can require a more substantial tent. Many folk have been snowed on at both Truckee and Calaveras faires. Livermore and Pittsburg can be quite windy.

Warmth-coolness. After faire attire will range from shorts at some faires to fleece and down at others. A warm hat is your best friend in cold weather or on chilly mornings. In hot weather an ice chest with cold drinks is most enjoyable.

As always at faire, stay hydrated! It is as easy to dehydrate in cold weather as it is in hot weather. Only you know whether you "sleep hot or cold." There are people who use 3 sleeping bags and portable heaters (NOT recommended – think carbon monoxide poisoning!) in their



Livermore 2007 Photo by Cullen Elliot

tents when it is 70 degrees outside; there are also people who use nothing but a sheet when it is 30 degrees outside. It never hurts to have an extra blanket in the car. For warmth being off of the ground always helps. Portable chairs and air mattresses can be quite restful after a full day at faire (of course, so can a nice motel room –snigger).

Food. This is always a challenge at faire. “Faire food” itself ranges from good to inedible. Sometimes you can purchase a decent breakfast at faire, sometimes coffee, and often neither. After a day at faire the thought of “faire food for dinner” can be most repellant. Remember, you haul everything you use in and out, and you may not have running water for cleanup. Small folding tables and camping stoves are often used to advantage for morning coffee, hot cereal, ramen noodles, etc. Quality snacks (cheeses, deli meats, yogurts, tortillas, bagels, etc.) in an ice chest are a great backup for tired bodies. Bring water, a minimum of one gallon/person/day. A canister of baby/sterilizing wipes is your friend – good for dishes and bodies!

A good mantra is, “Keep it simple.” Then, join your friends at a potluck, restaurant, pool, or forest, and have a marvelous evening!!!

Odds and Ends

Sometimes (rarely) you can park by your tent. Other times you can drive in to set up your camp, and then must remove your vehicle. Worst case, you have to carry your stuff 100-200 yards to set up a minimal camp. Sometimes it's a jackpot, and you set up all together! *<The more people we know for sure are camping, the more space we can claim. This backfires if we claim more space than we actually need. >*

If you have the space, small tables, chairs, and wagons to haul them all can be useful.



Pleasanton Games, 2006 Photo by Gwendolyn Elliot

Faire by Faire Information

This section refers to previous years' faires and is subject to change. Specific faire information will be posted on Saint Andrews main chat (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SaintAndrewsGuildChat>.) as the faires arise.

Sonora Celtic Festival. It has been several years since I roamed the Tuolumne county fair grounds. Due to deadlines and the relocation, information on this faire will be posted to the main chat. The Tuolumne county fair grounds (motherloadfair link) has onsite rv camping available. This is an early season faire. Be prepared for rain and/or snow.

Livermore Scottish Games. There is no official actors' camp. Participant sites are available about ¼ mile away (long walk) at the rodeo grounds. Sites were \$25 for the weekend, and had electricity and water. It can be very windy here. Sites are hard packed dirt. Tents may be pitched by the rvs. Camping is also available a few miles away at Del Valle Regional Park (ebparks link).

Campbell Highland Games & Celtic Gathering. This is a one day event. No camping.

Willets Renaissance Faire. Actors' tent camping has been on a shaded, grassy area inside the faire perimeter. Breakfast is sold by the promoters. We have been able to drive on for load/unload. Parking is across the street. Rvs have been parked across the street; one area is dirt, the other is

paved. There are no hookups for rvs.
Several of our rv-ing members have stayed at the local KOA (koa link).

Pittsburg Scottish Renaissance Festival. Actors' camp is across the street in a school field. There is a grassy area for tents, and a small paved area for rvs (no hook ups). Tenters must carry their gear 100-200 yards to set up. There is no close water. After-hours, showers (communal, think locker room) and the swimming pool have been available across the street. A local service organization has sold breakfast the past few years. Pittsburg is often windy and hot.

Pleasanton (Caledonian) Games. A limited grassy area is set up about ¼ mile from the guild's site for actors' tent camping. Space is tight at this faire, plan on arriving early on Friday. There is no close water. Rv spaces may be reserved close by the tent area (Caledonian club link). Some full hookup sites are available. This faire is often hot (100 degrees +) and there is little shade. Vendors sell breakfast, usually very crowded. The Caledonian club usually hosts a Friday night potluck for actors.

Truckee Renaissance Faire. There is a grassy area at the west end of the faire for tents and a dirt area at the east end for rvs. Water is not close. There are a convenience store and good restaurant across the street. After unload vehicles must be moved to the regular parking area. Truckee can be cold nights and mornings, in the mid 20s. There is a possibility of snow. There are several close campgrounds for tents/rvs (see links).

Jousting Championship. Location not yet announced for 2008.

Shasta Dragonwood Celtic Renaissance Festival. The grassy soccer field for tent camping was not available for setup until 9:00 PM on Friday last year. The adjacent parking lot has space for small rvs (no hookups). Breakfast is available from the vendors. There is no close water, and it was a long walk last year to the privys. Several members stayed nearby at the JGW rv park (thecampingsource link).

Useful Links.

Sonora

<http://www.sonoracelticfaire.com/>.

<http://www.motherlodefair.org/camping.html>.

Livermore

<http://www.livermoregames.com/>.

http://www.livermoregames.com/home_camping.html.

http://www.ebparks.org/parks/del_valle.

Campbell

<http://www.campbellgames.com/>.

Willets

http://www.rustyswordproductions.com/willits_ren_faire.htm.

<http://www.koakampgrounds.com/where/ca/05257/>.

Pittsburg

<http://www.pittsburgfaire.com/home.asp>

Pleasanton

<http://www.caledonian.org/campingregistrationform.html>.

Truckee

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

<http://www.coachlandrvpark.com/default.asp?file=Directions>.

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/tahoe/recreation/tkrd/summer.shtml#camping>.

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http://www.parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page_id=503.

Joust

<http://www.joustingchampionships.com/>.

Shasta

<http://www.shastafaire.com/>.

<http://www.thecampingsource.com/Campgrounds/California/Redding/JGW%20Rv%20Park.htm>.

2008 GUILD EVENT CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

2/3 - PROPS REPAIR

9 - OPENING OF PARLIAMENT

MARCH

1 - TRAINING

2 - PROPS REPAIR

8/9 - SONORA CELTIC FAIRE (OLD ANGELS CAMP FAIRE)

13 - ST. MARY'S SCHOOL

APRIL

5 - TRAINING / PRIVY COUNCIL MEETINGS

19 - PICNIC

25 - FISHER MIDDLE SCHOOL

MAY

3 - MODESTO SCHOOL

9 - SAN LORENZO MIDDLE SCHOOL (Tentative)

17/18 - LIVERMORE HIGHLAND GAMES

21 - FISCHER MIDDLE SCHOOL

23 - MISSION DELOROS SCHOOL

JUNE

6 - TRUCKEE SCHOOL

7/8 - VALHALLA (WALKABOUT)

14 - PICNIC

21 - CAMPBELL HIGHLAND GAMES

28/29 - FAIR OAKS (WALKABOUT)

JULY

12 - TRAINING / PRIVY COUNCIL MEETINGS

19/20 - SLO (WALKABOUT)

26 - PROPS REPAIR

AUGUST

2/3 - WILLITS FAIRE

9/10 - PITTSBURG RENAISSANCE FAIRE

23/24 - GOLDEN GATE RENAISSANCE FAIRE (WALKABOUT)

30/31 - PLEASANTON HIGHLAND GAMES

SEPTEMBER

20/21 - TRUCKEE RENAISSANCE FAIRE

27/28 - SONORA JOUST (WALKABOUT)

OCTOBER

4/5 - ANDERSON RENAISSANCE FAIRE

18/19 FOLSOM FAIRE (WALKABOUT)

25 - BBQ SOCIAL / PRIVY COUNCIL MEETING

NOVEMBER

15 - WINTERS FEAST

A LITTLE BIRD DIDST TELL ME...

By Lady Birgette "Birdie" Anderson

Author's Annotation: As many of you know, I play a young noble whose mother was the only child of a Scottish nobleman and father who is a Jarl of Norway. My eldest brother inherited our father's property in Norway and my second brother inherited our mother's property in Scotland. Since my brother, Finn, was to be in Scotland, our king, Frederick II of Denmark and Norway, requested that Finn be an official ambassador to Queen Mary I of Scotland. When Finn and I arrived in Scotland there was an issue of where our property ended and the neighboring lord's property began. I was sent to my Cousin Alice Sinclair so that she could introduce me to Court and find me a proper husband. I was also given the job as acting as the voice for the ambassador from Norway. This year I have chosen to begin using several simple Norwegian words in both my writing and my speech. As such, I have used several Norse terminologies in this piece and will try to define each word for you. I will try to remember to define the terms in further issues, as I will try to remember to use such lovely vernacular in the future!

Far-father, Mor-mother, Bror-brother, Fetter-cousin, Slott-castle,
Min-mine, Dyr-dear, Elskling-darling, Venns-friends,
Venninne-friend.

Out of the Mouths of Babes...

I had the distinct pleasure of attending Winter's Feast and was delighted to see the entire affair through the eyes of my favorite wee poppets! Those adorable wee ones were most fascinated at everything they didst see. They stared at the decorations, their mouths water as they eyes devoured every tasty morsel in the Wassail Parade, and they danced their hearts out to they sweet refrains played so wondrously by Avalon Rising. I could not but smile fondly remembered from my own childhood how big and bright didst seem the Yule season and the decorations that didst fill my far's slott. The aroma of spruce trees and pine boughs filled the air. I was quite drawn into the merriment by all the wee ones laughter and their gasps of surprise at each new found item of interest.

My own dear pages, dressed quite handsomely, didst issue a gift to Queen Mary of a favor that they didst studiously spend hours making for Her. She was most delighted by the gift and didst bestow them with a smile and the sweetest thanks. They were seen to almost walk upon the very air with delight at Her pleasure in their gift. They didst go on for quite sometime regaling me with the scene over and over again. I was most assuredly delighted that they were so excited.

My beloved venninne, Lady Jillian, didst arrive with a small army of children in her wake. They chattered like magpies at every delightful thing they didst lay eyes upon. Young Jacob didst help to carry a dish of bangers in the Wassail Parade. The poor lad didst die, quite handsomely well, from tasting the bangers. Needless to say our beloved Queen Mary didst not partake of that dish!

When the meal was served, the children were near to drooling to fill their platters with snippets of every item available to them. I do believe that there may have been several upset tummies later in the evening from one to many child devouring a few too many of the sweets that were so delicious. I must admit that I too may have had far too many sweets for my own good. They were sinfully

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delicious and far too difficult to pass up!

I had whispers from several children telling me of the games they partook in out of doors. They chased each other about until they were all exhausted and collapsed in a pile upon one another and after a brief respite they were once again off to the chase! Ah to have such energy! One can become most thoroughly exhausted from just watching those wonderful wee bits at play!

When the musicians began to play their melodious harmonies, the children were the first upon the floor to begin the dancing. They didst put the adults to shame! These wee bits have been watching us and quite obviously learning each dance with panache! I saw them produce dance steps that I most assuredly could never have done! They were able to dance far longer than any of us could have and the musicians didst not tire from performing for those sweet innocents! I didst notice that several of the young lasses were quite popular and was sweetly remembered of my beloved far! After my first dance, my far didst gift me a dagger to wear upon my person to help ward off the young men who were of the too friendly sort! Perchance these young lasses should be gifted as such rather soon! My own page, Conner, didst take most well with one of my dearest venninne, Morna's young wards. Those two dears danced perchance a few too many dances together! Me thinks there may be talks of a betrothal afore much longer.

As the night wound down, so too did our wee bairns! They began to wear upon their sweet visages sleepiness. I was certainly most delighted to have shared this experience with these delightful children! It was most refreshing to have them near me and to share in their laughter and their joy. They didst remember me of past Feast with my beloved far and my brors. I didst feel deeply the pangs of longing to be again in my beloved Norway in my far's slott. I wouldst wish my far alive and dancing with me at just such a Feast as this! Gramercy my dear wee venns! Min dyr elsklings, I am indebted to each of you wee elsklings for sharing your enthusiasms and your happiness with me!



Out of the faithful mouths of Birds...

GUILD HOUSES

WE HOPE THAT YOU ARE IN CONSTANT CONTACT WITH YOUR GUILD HOUSE LAIRD OR CHATELAINE! PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CONTACT THEM FOR HELP WITH ANYTHING GUILD RELATED...COSTUMING, CHARACTER BUILDING, HISTORY...AND LET THE FRIENDSHIPS BLOOM!

ANTIOCH GUILD HOUSE

925-754-6032

KITHNKIN@PACBELL.NET

CHATELAINE-DAME MARIOTA ARRES

MODESTO GUILD HOUSE

209-526-8812

SINCLAIRCASTLE@ICNO.COM

CHATELAINE-LADY ALICE SINCLAIR

SACRAMENTO GUILD HOUSE

530-305-4355

MYSTIC_KODIAK@YAHOO.COM

LAIRD-LORD LOGAN GUNN

HAYWARD GUILD HOUSE

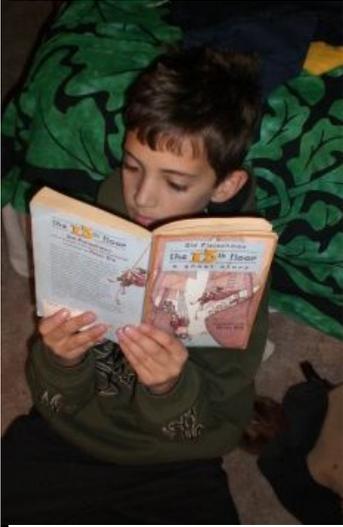
510-886-4762

SEARL@EARL-FAMILY.ORG

CHATELAINE-LADY JILLIAN MACKENZIE

BOOK REVIEW

Submitted by Conner Anderson, age 10



I just finished reading a book called, *The 13th Floor* by Sid Fleischman, over my winter break from school. My

momma, my brother and I read it at bedtime almost every weekend. It was really exciting. The main characters are Buddy who is 12 or 13 and Liz, Buddy's sister, who is 22 and works in Legal Aid. Their parents died in a plane accident and leave them with a lot of bills. One day they find a message on their answering machine from someone claim to be one of Buddy and Liz's ancestors. She tells them to go to the building where their grandfather once had law offices and find the 13th floor. Liz and Buddy go and find the 13th floor and a lot of really neat adventures. There is a pirate, a treasure, a treasure map, a 10 year old girl accused of witchcraft that Liz has to help, and so much more. I really liked the book and I asked my momma to help me write a letter to the author so that I could ask him some questions. Momma found Mr. Fleischman's website and we got to see a picture of him with Harry Houdini's wife! And their was a cool magic card trick! I really like magic tricks and I am trying to learn this one too. There was a lot of stuff about Mr. Fleischman's other books on his website too and we are going to read the Whipping Boy next. Momma helped me write an e-mail to Mr. Fleischman and the next day momma said I had an answer. I think that everyone should read this book because it is fun. My brother really liked the book even though he did miss some of the stuff because he didn't always stay awake until momma had finished every night. He wants to read the book again! I really hope you like reading *The 13th Floor* by Sid Fleischman, and if you want to know more about him you go look at his website too. <http://www.sidfleischman.com/>

YOUTH OUTREACH PROGRAM

To Her Majesty's subjects, One and all!

We are gearing up for not only faire season, but also for a new season of school presentations!

For those of you not familiar with our school presentations, during the late winter and early spring we visit several schools (mainly middle schools) where we do a living history day for the children. These events are always well received, and we hope that they will be attended by our guild members again this year!

At these school presentations we talk about many subjects, including but not limited to: court etiquette, fashion, customs, weaponry, dance, crafts, politics... whatever you might have an interest in and care to share with the children is welcome.

Please keep in mind that the dates on the current calendar are all TENTATIVE dates. Not all of the schools have gotten back to us with firm dates yet, those on the calendar are based on when we did those school events last year (with the exception of Lady Jean's school, which is a firm date). So PLEASE do watch your email for messages from me as the New Year begins, and I will be sure to keep everyone informed.

Many thanks to all of you who have participated in the past – I look forward to working with everyone this year.

In Service to Her Majesty,
Cailin Rua Kelly Seaton
Ambassador of Education for Her Majesty



ASK THE ARGYLES

Greetings,

I am to be havin a question fer the Argyles:

The other day I was huntin and I came across a great black wolf! I swiftly beat it o'er the head with me club and took it home. While skinning the beast I realized this would make a most exalent gift for a lass I have had a fancy fer fer some time now. Howsomever when I presented the pelt of the beast to her she was quick to proclaim that I had in fact killed and skinned her dog! How was I supposed to be knowin this? It was out in the forests by itself and looked right feral... My question is: how should I be makin amends to the poor lass fer her dog?

Dog Hunter

Dear Sirrah —

First we must be tellin' ya... n'er go hunting in the forest alone. There be meaner and nastier things there than wolves in the forest. Ho ho... Sometimes our own wife will ride there twa!

Yet in serioiusness — were this her brother or sister... fither or mither, ye would be required to pay a mertax. If the beast was so loved, then mayhaps ye should pay 1/3 of that tax to the family. A good healthy dog is of significant value in the way of security and food.

After that we be thinkin' ya need to focus yer affection on another lass!

By mynown hand, with pen to paper —

Archibald Campbell,

High Chief of the Clan Campbell

Mac Caliean Mor

Eyrl of Argyle — fifth of that name

High Lord Justice General of Scotland

Sheriff of Argyleshire and the Isles

Knight of Lochaw

Editor's Note: Unfortunately Lady Jean could not be reached for her comment or insights. We trust she is not lost in the wood where her goodly Husband suggests she oft' likes to ride!



THOR'S HAMMER ROYAL HONOREES

At the beginning of all of the faires 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 singular 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.

Our Apologies! If you find that you were inadvertently left off of the complete list of Thor's Hammer or Children's Thor Hammer Recipients, please let Lord James Hepburn (<mailto:earlofbothwell1562@yahoo.com>) know so we can add you to it. Grammercy!!

Christopher Alexander	Mary Livingstone	Ian MacLeod	Hannah Maxwell
	Innes MacAlister	Katie MacLeod	Bronwynne Melville
Philip Alexander	Orion MacAndrew	Maureen MacLeod	John Melville
Mariota Arres	Elsbeth MacBeath	Moira MacLeod	Shiona ni Briain
Mary Beaton	Cheri MacCarraig	Jillian MacKenzie	Aaron Rockwell
Katelyn Blackthorne	Morgan MacCarraig	Conor MacMillan	Mary Seton
Bregan Borland	Shannon MacCodrum	Cora MacMillan	Alice Sinclair
Charlotte Carmichael	Bebhain MacDomhnaill	Ian MacMillan	Raven Sinclair
Maitiu'de Faoite	Pryderi MacDomhnaill	Kyra MacNeil	Brianna de St. Joer
Cullen Elliot	Emma MacDowning	Fionnoula MacPhearson	Jennith Stewart
Gwendolyn Elliot	Tucker MacDowning	Heber MacPhearson	John Stewart
Adam Gordon	Christina MacGeorge	Drew MacQuain	Sara Stewart
Alexander Gordon	Phillip MacGeorge	Megan MacQuain	Annebell Somerville
Bonnie Gunn	Rose MacGeorge	William Maitland	Duncan Somerville
Keegan Gunn	Brittiah MacGregor	Juan de Marana	Ryk Tucker
Shaila Gunn	Jessica MacGregor	Robert McCutchen	Wolfgang Von Deckel
Claudia Hamilton	Kael MacGregor	Sabina de Mendoza	Marta Von Mier Jegiel-
Helen Henderson	Morna MacGregor	Guy Maxwell	lonska
Andrew Hepburn	Thomas MaLaren		Johan Von Pluym