The Parchment

Issue 4 | Saint Andrews Noble Order of Royal Scots Guild | October 2006

To Our beloved friends and family of St. Andrews Guild,

We do send Our warmest wishes for a joy filled and bountiful season to one and all. We must say, first and foremost, 'tis been a most memorable season of progress. From the March snow of Angels Camp to the October snow of Truckee we hath experienced a delightful year. Our hopes are such that one and all didst enjoy full well their year also. Whilst fraught with challenges and hard work we did reap the rewards of true friendship and the knowledge of a job well done. We hath suffered the loss of a few members, whether by their own decision to move on or by their passing from this lyfe on to the next, and we hath gained a few members with the hope they do enjoy this delightful mass we call home.

The winter season is upon us and 'tis time for rest and relaxation, however not afore the traditional merriment of Winters Feast. We look forward to seeing one and all at the festivities.

May all thy days be filled with prosperity and peace. May they be inscribed and sealed for a happy and healthy year. We hath all benefited from thy expertise and creativity.

Fond Regard,

MARIER

Maria Regina de Scotia

Mary Stuart, Queen of Scotland and the Isles

Saint Andrews Nobel Order of Royal Scots' 31st Annual

Winters Feast

Her Royal and most Gracious Majesty,

Mary, Queen of Scotland and the Isles

doth inoite all to attend

Saturday, Nooember 11th

Noon to 10:00 p.m.

Prepare thyself for a wondrous day full of merriment and feasting!!

Performances by Bangers & Mash

Wassail Parade

Court games throughout the day & eoentide!!

'Tis certain to be an eoent to remember!!

Be sure to bring a Feasting Dish to share, your own beoerage(s) of choice, your cup, and your finest garb!

For more information, please call His Grace,

Sir Drew MacQuain at 925-240-1562.

We look forward to seeing eoeryone there!

Tickets will be aoailable at the door for $20.00

A Missive from the Guild Master

Wow what a year this has been!!!!! In all the planning and care given to Her Majesty's progress, there was never any plans for the weather conditions that were played out this season.

I am still in awe as to the honor the members of Saint Andrews have for the ROYAL progress. I would like to thank every member for all that you do to make this a Royal Guild, without the membership it would be a very low key event. From freezing to boiling and back again, plus rain and wind. The topper was the birth of a new member in the middle of the faire at Pittsburg. Welcome to each and all that have given your time and effort to join our Majesty on her Royal travels about the shires.

As our season of progresses have ended, we now set in place one of the most pleasurable events that the guild produces, Winters Feast. Which will again end her Majesty's progess for the year. We will feast and drink and dance till it is late into the evening. This is a gift to all that take part in the celebration of a year in the Court of MARY, QUEEN of SCOTS. With a warm heart and a helping hand to all. I hope the guild lightens your modern day world and takes you to SCOTLAND to serve the court of the Queen.

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

A Winters Feast Aside

Good Folk of St Andrew's,

As we near Winter's Feast, I ask that ye remember that this is indeed a feast. When bringing food for the feast, please do NOT bring health & safety type viands. Prithee, leave your pickles, chips, salami, cheese, etc. at home. A bag of chips does not a side dish make. The operative word is FEAST. Also, do remember to bring your MUG/GOBLET and assist any guests in doing the same.

We will have professional, hired help in the kitchen. Please remember, that they do not know you from Adam (or Eve). Please do not expect them to keep track of your things/dishes, even if your name is on the bottom. Do not bring dishes/platters/bowls that you are worried about. If you bring food on a silver platter, etc. at the end of the evening it will no doubt be washed and packed in the silver trunk. It is not reasonable to expect the worker bees to examine every item before it goes in the trunk for a name engraved on the bottom, nor is it reasonable to expect them to remember that 8 hours ago you pointed out that a certain platter is your personal property.

PLEASE, leave your treasured platters, serving spoons, etc. at home and save yourself some grief. The kitchen help will transfer your dish/food from the disposable container you bring it in to a guild platter/bowl/plate, etc. The guild also has a supply of serving utensils.

The kitchen help will NOT BE COOKING. They are servers, carvers, and cleaner-uppers. Please make sure the food you bring is already fully prepared. The kitchen is small and there is not room for more than the kitchen staff.

GRAMERCY!
Lady Brittah Sutherland He'lie

Ruffing it with the Courtiers & Ambassadors

Progress: The Royal Road Trip

While at faire, has anyone ever asked you why a Queen would be sitting in a tent, meeting the unwashed masses? Have you had an answer?

When we are at faire (unless told otherwise) we portray Queen Mary of Scotland and the Isles and her court on Progress in the year 1562. So what is a Progress?

Royal courts during the Renaissance were in constant motion. About every month or so, the Monarch, his/her servants, guards, advisors, craftspeople, cooks, stable hands, and all courtiers and ambassadors and their staffs would pull up stakes and move from one Royal Residence to another. This change of scenery was not just a whim, it was a necessity. A large group of people living in a large manor house, castle or palace was a logistical nightmare.

All of these people and their animals had to be fed and watered. Of course, there would be livestock that could be slaughtered, fruits, grains and vegetables that could be harvested, and local wild game to round out the menu. But just how long could an estate support literally hundreds of people, without benefit of refrigeration, preservatives, canned food, or any of the things we in the 21st Century take for granted?

As much a concern as what is going into people and animals is what is coming out of them. Think how many pounds of solid waste and how many gallons of liquid waste a person or an animal would make in about a month. Multiply it by several hundred, and try to deal with this mess without indoor plumbing, and running water.

So, the livestock has been slaughtered, the local game decimated, and the local gardens and fruit trees have been stripped bare, and the cesspits are overflowing. Now what? Move, of course. Move to another Royal Residence which is clean, well stocked and ready to be descended upon by the nobility, like a great swarm of silk and velvet clad locusts.

This is NOT a progress.

A Progress is when the Royal Court ventures forth into the countryside, usually during the summer and fall months, when the weather was warm and the dirt roads were dry. A Progress served several purposes. First, it got the court out of the major population centers during the season when plague, dysentery and typhoid typically ran rampant. It also got the monarch out in front of the people, quashing the common rumors that the King or Queen was sick or dying or horribly disfigured by small pox. Consider also the impact of seeing a jewel encrusted King or Queen on simple country folk. A glimpse of such a person, anointed by God to rule, would buy a lifetime of loyalty. Perhaps best of all, this Royal Road Trip wasn't paid for out of the Royal coffers. Local nobles would fight for the prestige to host the Royals and would throw themselves headlong into bankruptcy for the opportunity to impress the King or Queen. The court moved as it needed to, and it did so on the local noble's dime. Everyone was happy, with the possible exception of those that had to clean up after the party had moved on.

So when someone asks what a Queen is doing in a tent, tell them we are on Progress. Just don't mention we are eating them out of house and home, and leaving them with tons of poop and hundreds of gallons of pee.

Lord James Stewart
Chamberlain of the Courtiers & Ambassadors Household

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 signal honor, and is worn proudly by each recipient, for all who look thereupon shall honor them as they well deserve, as one of the most valued supporters of our Guild.

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 Lady Kyra MacNeil (lady_kyra@yahoo.com) know so we can add you to it. Gramercy!

Past Honorees (in alphabetical order):

Christopher Alexander
Philip Alexander
Mariota Arres
Mary Beaton
Katelyn Blackthorne
Bregan Borland
Margaret Bothwell
Charlotte Carmichael
Maitia' de Faoite
Cullen Elliot
Adam Gordon
Alexander Gordon
Bonnie Gunn
Keegan Gunn
Shaila Gunn
Claudia Hamilton
Helen Henderson
Andrew Hepburn
Orion MacAndrew
Elspeth MacBeath
Cheri MacCarraig
Morgan MacCarraig
Shannon MacCodrum
Bebhain MacDomhnaill
Pryderi MacDomhnaill
Emma MacDowning
Tucker MacDowning
Christina MacGeorge
Phillip MacGeorge
Rose MacGeorge
Brittah MacGregor
Jessica MacGregor
Kael MacGregor
Morna MacGregor
Thomas MacLaren
Ian MacLeod
Moira MacLeod
Conor MacMillan
Cora MacMillan
Ian MacMillan
Kyra MacNeil
Finnoula MacPhearson
Drew MacQuain
Megan MacQuain
William Maitland
Juan de Marana
Robert McCutchen
Sabina de Mendoza
Guy Maxwell
Hannah Maxwell
Bronwynne Melville
John Melville
Shiona ni Briain
Aaron Rockwell
Mary Seton
Alice Sinclair
Raven Sinclair
Brianna de St. Joer
Jennith Stewart
John Stewart
Sara Stewart
Annabelle Sumerville
Duncan Sumerville
Ryk Tucker
Wolfgang Von Deckel
Marta Von Mier
Jagiellonska
Johann Von Plymm

Children's Thor's Hammer Honorees:
Marni Carmichael
Mikeala Carmichael
Scott Carmichael
Andrew MacCarraig
Tory MacNeil
Brianna MacQuain
Tyler Seaton

2006 Honorees

Clatter from the Highlands

Good Den to all of the Highlands and St Andrews:

We didst finish Her Majesty's Royal Progress with a flourish this season. With stops at the shires of Pittsburg, Pleasanton, Willits, Truckee and an excursion to Angels Camp/ Sonora for the Jousting Tournament.

The addition this year of many new highlanders to our ranks has lightened the workload for all and allowed more time for merriment. Koghair to all of the Highlanders, from your Chieftain! The Wicked Aye was always staffed and running and many a good gig was performed. Up to and including the great fight between the Earl and Countess of Argyll, complete with many items flying thru the aire.

We have some new games that are becoming regular at the tavern, most notably shinty. Well met "ladies" in getting that one out there for the public. We shall continue to work on the "live" table and set a stage for many period activities for patrons to observe.

The Wicked Aye also hath many new adornments to improve the look. From Master Cullen we have targe stands to display the targes we made. This has been most well met and hath received many a compliment. From Mistress Katie we did receive two lovely banners that will be proudly displayed in the tavern. A special grammercy to Lt. Duncan Summerville for the weapons rack that all seem to enjoy using. I have high hopes for a new table or two in the tavern for next year to provide additional seating.

I do look forward to seeing all at Winters Feast for the end of the season party. If you have not come before please make every effort to attend, a wondrous time will be had by all. I also look forward to seeing everyone at prop repair days. Do watch the highlander group page for activities over the winter.

I thank you all for a wondrous season and look forward to next year with great anticipation.

In Her Majesties Service,

Chieftain Heber MacPhearson
Chieftain of Her Majesty's Highlanders
Baron of Mulben Burns

Her Majesty's Jewels

To the wee ones,

It has been a great year and I hope you all had as much fun as I did. We have been through all kinds of fun stuff from scavenger hunts to fan making and to top it off we have Winters Feast fast approaching. What fun we shall have...

Please don't forget, over our winter break, to think of things that you would like to do next year. Let's try to make it bigger and better.

God Save The Children

Until then,

Lady Morrigan MacKenna
Chamberlain of the Children's Household

From the Borders, Part II, The People

By Sir Guy Maxwell

The people of the borders have been described in many different ways. Words such as barbarous, vengeful, crooked and deceitful are just some. They have been said to be active, bold, independent, faithful and loyal. In truth, all of these describe the border people, a hardy mixture of lords, landowners, tenants and hill farmers.

In the 1500's both governments actively encouraged settlement of the border marches. They offered land and low rent, as well as a form of independence, in exchange for military service. A result of this was the over population of the region. While it is impossible to say for sure how many people inhabited the borders during the time period we portray, certain calculations based on muster rolls, church records, and government documents of the time would place the figure around 120,000 English and 45,000 Scots.

Because they lived in such a harsh land with an inhospitable climate, Marche men on both sides of the border developed a strong sense of community and belonging. It was this common heritage that seemed to unite those living on the borders against all outsiders. This bond created by geography, common social conditions and a shared spirit of lawless independence was only strengthened by the influence that kinship and clan loyalty played in their lives. After all who needed the protection of Edinburgh or London when you had your kinsmen and your chief? To this was added marriage.

Marriage

Intermarriages were frowned upon and actually discouraged by both governments as an act punishable by death. These marriages though were generally ignored by the border officials, since affairs of the heart know no boundaries. In regards to marriage, any girl 12 years of age or more and any boy of 14 years or more could legally marry without the consent of their parents. This is not to say that arranged marriages for family as well as political reasons did not occur, but most often love won out. Trial marriages, called hand-fastings were also common. The hand-fasting lasted for one year and at the end of that time the partners could either finalize the ceremony or go their separate ways. Any children born during this time were regarded by law as legitimate. If the hand-fasting failed for any reason, the raising of any child born was the responsibility of the one who objected to the marriage. It was also the common practice of women during this period to use a surname different from that of her husband (usually it was her father's), why I haven't been able to find out.

Homes

A document issued in 1596, a little after our time stated that there were some 520 villages and homesteads scattered throughout the Scottish Marches. In our time Carlisle in the English western Marche, was the only actual city in the border region. It boasted a cathedral, a grammar school, a great market, multiple shops and tradesmen, as well as a sizable garrison. Other major towns located in the borders were Dumfries, Teviotdale, Hawick, Kelso, Jedburgh, Alnwick, Harbottle and Otterburn. Villages flourished as trading centers, ports or river crossings and acted as distribution and collection points for farm produce, livestock and merchandise, legal or not. Villages were permanent and relatively safe except in time of war. Also villages and towns offered a higher standard of living. Outside of the villages and towns a persons' home depended on his wealth. At the top of the list were the mighty castles of the rich and famous. Built of stone with towers and curtain walls, they were often strategically placed and acted as seats of government and power. Next came the tower house, or Pele Tower as it was called, built of stone and mortar, it was 30'x40' square, two to four stories tall often surmounted by a parapet or walkway. These

towers more often than not were surrounded by a defensive stone wall, or barmkin, 15'-18' high and 3' thick. Enclosed within the wall were the dwellings of the lord's retainers and possibly a chapel. These towers served as rallying points in times of trouble.

The home of a less wealthy gentleman or prosperous farmer was the bastell house. Built on the plans of the tower houses, these were two storied buildings of stone, rectangular in shape 30'x40' with walls 20'-24' high and 4' thick. Bastell houses were often found in clusters for greater safety and as such formed the bases around which towns and villages grew. Below the tower houses were the wooden homes of the more or less permanent tenant farmer, built of wood with log walls joined with mortar. The roof was beams covered with earth or sod with a dirt floor. These homes were often enclosed with a wooden palisade. At the bottom of the list was the home of the nomadic farmer or herdsman, these were crude dwellings with walls of turf, roofs of thatch and floors of dirt. These offered the barest of shelter and protection and were for the most part fire proof. They also could be abandoned with no loss in times of trouble.

Education

Education was confined to the monasteries and was for the wealthy or well to do. The majority of the border people had no formal education relying instead on the school of hard knocks to survive.

Religion

While religion was important to the border people, it was not a major influence in their lives. For as many as professed religion, there were that many more that didn't. All were superstitious in many ways. What religion they did acknowledge was of the strictly practical kind. Mainly Catholics, their devotion to their rosaries was never greater than just before setting out on a raid. While large cathedrals were found in cities and chapels in the larger homes, abbeys were found scattered throughout the land. Much of their wealth was accumulated by trading; a more useful income was derived from the wealthy landowners who felt it necessary to make gifts to the monks in order to be assured a place in heaven. The purchase of absolution enabled the reivers to pursue their violent and unlawful activities with a clear conscience.

Food and Drink

The agricultural system of the borderers followed a regular pattern. From autumn to spring was devoted to raiding. The tilling of the fields and the caring for the livestock took place in the spring and summer. Sheep were raised primarily for their wool and cattle for their hides. Borderers lived on a diet of flesh (beef, poultry and some mutton) and fish. They enjoyed fresh milk, cheese, and butter. Borderers took very little beer or wine, with ale being the usual drink. Beef broth was drunk on occasions. They grew grains in the fields (oats, rye and barley), which were made into a sort of porridge. Bread was a rarity in the rural areas and when baked took the form of hearth cakes of oats or rye.

Fun and Frolic

Like all frontier people the borderers enjoyed times of getting together whether it was with kinsmen, at truce days or at market. Music, dancing, hawking, hunting, fishing and cock fighting were favorite pastimes. Like so many warlike people, the borderers were sports enthusiasts and gambling was a way of life. They would bet on almost anything, with dice, cards, football (a primitive form of rugby) and horse racing being the most popular.

These then are the people of the Border Marches.

The Ladies in Waiting

As we come to the close of another year of renaissance endeavors, I look back on a year filled with fun and diversity. As always we had our difficulties, the weather, the schedules, the different attitudes that make up any group and the unexpected surprises. But we overcame them all and in the process managed to spend quality time with our extended family and friends. It was a time of both work and play and in between we brought a little bit of Scotland to the public and to the school kids we taught.

I would at this time like to personally thank each and every member of the Ladies in Waiting household for a very fine year. Your hard work, commitment, and attendance went a long way in making my job as your Chamberlain that much easier. Again thank you.

As we approach the Holidays and our time away from the Guild, I wish you and all of Saint Andrews the very best of the holiday season and look forward to seeing you all next year.

In Her Majesty's Service

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

Reminder: Dues are due at Opening of Parliament February 2007

The Dogs of War

Good Day to All,

Since our last parchment, we have had many a good faire. Pittsburg had a big surprise for the Guard and all those in the guild, when our own Lt. Teage Seaton did become hand fasted to Lady Cailin Rua Kelly, of the Irish Household. It was kept secret from almost all in the guild until the ceremony was commencing. It was quite touching. At Pleasanton, we were kept busy with a few new shows and gigs. Truckee on the other hand, was grand with the fresh air in your lungs and a mighty fine trooping show. We swore in three more members into the guard that faire; Lord Andrew Stevenson, Lord Jake MacAllister and Lord Sam MacAllister. The high point of the weekend was when the guard was paid for their services for the year. Next on our event calendar would be the Social BBQ on Oct. 28th, hopefully many of the guard will attend so that we can get some swordplay in. Winter's Feast is just around the corner, along with our annual Dining Out in December. I hope all of the guards are to attend both of these events; they are always such a fine time to gather and have some fun. Until next time.....Kobain Bon Rei

Faithfully yours,

Dame Raven Gunn Sinclair
Adjutant to Her Majesties Royal Guard