

SAINT ANDREW'S NOBLE ORDER OF ROYAL SCOTS

FEBRUARY 2009

Parchment



A Man of Means

HEPBURN ANCESTRAL HOMES pg.24

Plus! Retrospective on Knighthood pg 27-39

SAINT ANDREW'S NOBLE ORDER OF ROYAL SCOTS

Parchment

February 2009

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Letter from the Editor

My Lords and Ladies, Good Gentles,

Rationally I know I am powerless to stop change, even to slow it down when it seems to be cascading as an avalanche upon me, yet I resist and balk and try to hold it off nonetheless and always to my detriment. So it comes as no surprise to me, if no one else, that this was how I responded to the news of Sir Drew's resignation from the guild and the renaissance world that was so important to him for so many years. I was personally catapulted into dark emotions of blame, shame, and guilt for what I felt was the part I personally played in his decision to leave and worried that the guild would fall apart and dissolve into a bittersweet memory. I didn't feel I could continue with Saint Andrew's, and truth be told I was (on more than one occasion) determined that I too needed to resign from the guild entirely because it seemed so ugly and sad....

Save for the fact that I, for one, believe in the mission behind the guild and know that I support that mission still. Also, if the guild were to fall apart did I want to contribute further toward that sad end by being one of those to leave? And what about the friends I had made that were now thrust into leadership roles that needed backing and the knowledge that they would not be left standing alone? These questions and ideals kept cutting through the depression and I knew I had to "Forth On" and somehow glean something good from the unpleasant realities and crisis of the past.

With my membership application and dues mailed off I recommit to working alongside (and for) the guild I have come to love and hope to see ever improve and stand as a premier example of how to educate and entertain our communities while we grow as individuals and in unity. I raise my cup to those whose personal paths have taken a turn in another direction, and to those who shoulder the hard work of delivering the guild into the future; I wish you all the best of luck in your choices, all my love, and the happiness we all desire! To that I dedicate this issue of the Parchment.

Truely,
Jo Graden, Publisher Parchment/Scroll

Greetings unto one and all,

A grand and wondrous New Year Wish unto ye faire folk! The year has turned quickly again to our new season. New, indeed! For many changes have been wrought. We give warm accolades to our new Lord Chancellor, James Hepburn, Earl of Bothwell. Though his face is familiar to all, the mantle of Guild Master is new to his shoulders. We are pleased well to see what adventures he has in store for us all.

We have been asked to talk about the “job description” of our positions. Whilst I am not a part of the management team of Saint Andrew’s, the Queen is, perhaps, the highest profile representative of this guild. My responsibilities are akin to the ultimate hostess; welcoming guests, greeting friends and acquaintances, entertaining VIP’s, contributing to ceremonies, giving time and attention to those who request (sometimes there is no request! Surprise!) and providing opportunities for interactions and entertainment. To achieve this, I do two things:

Research the event; what is the setting, who is going to be there, what are the activities, what is my schedule, what background reading is needed, what props or gifts are appropriate?

Prepare, prepare and do a little more preparing.

Ultimately, however, (to paraphrase another monarch) “I am Queen only if YOU say I am Queen.” For example, if a guest asked “Where is the Queen?” and everyone pointed at Lord Cullen and Lady Gwen’s daughter, Laurie, well then, for all intents and purposes, she is Queen. I can only do my “job” by YOUR good graces. The guests know who the Queen is because each and every one of you agrees to point in the same direction. Other wise, I am just another lady in a big, pretty dress. I thank you for your support and hope that I represent Saint Andrew’s to your satisfaction.

I am entering into my 8th year as Queen. Lord Bothwell will be the third Guild Master with which I have stood. Sir James Melville was the one who put me in the position in the first place and for the past seven years it has been Sir Drew MacQuain. I am looking forward to the changes our new Guild Master has in store for us; it should prove to be an exciting year. I look forward to more interactions with you and finding more ways to entertain the guests who will choose to spend their precious coin at faire, in what will, no doubt, be a difficult economic year. Let us make merry and make a contest of how many smiles we can create at each event.

Fond Regards,

marie



~ Communiqué from the Guild Master ~

On November 15th, towards the end of our Winter's Feast celebrations, Sir Drew Douglas MacQuain, our Guild Master for the past six years, announced he was retiring from his involvement in the renaissance world and as the Guild Master of Saint Andrew's Noble Order of Royal Scots. For six years this giant of a man, took control of this guild and through hard work and dedication, made Saint Andrew's the shining example of what a premier renaissance guild should be.

Sir Drew's love for the members of Saint Andrew's can be thought of as the same love a father has for his children. His whole focus was to see that each member of Saint Andrew's had a place where they could go and travel into another time and place and portray a part of history. The smiles on the faces of everyone involved, was his reward for a job well done. With his leaving, I want to say, "Thank you, Your Grace, for all the hard work you put into making sure we were well taken care of. You will be missed very much".

With Sir Drew's retirement, the duties of leading the guild have fallen on my shoulders. This is something I never believed would happen. Nevertheless, here I am... Guild Master of Saint Andrew's Noble Order of Royal Scots. A guild of members with so much love for portraying history and love for each other that it is one big family. With Sir Drew's retirement the question arises: "Where, then, am I going to take this family into the New Year?"

First off, some of you will remember some of the things Saint Andrew's did during faire under Sir James Melville (Guild Master of Saint Andrew's prior to Sir Drew). I'm talking here of the pomp and circumstance that was prevalent throughout the faire weekend. I think we have become too familiar with each other, to the point that highlanders call nobles by their given names instead of addressing them by their titles, etc. People walk by the throne without showing proper reverence, regardless of whether the Queen is seated or not. These are just some of the things we need to get back to if we are going to educate the patrons on what it was like during the 16th century.

I have been in talks with Renaissance Productions discussing which faires Saint Andrew's could go to and at the moment, there are eight events we are welcome to attend; i.e., Sonora in March, Livermore in May, Campbell Games in June, Willits and Golden Gate in August, Truckee is said to be returning in September, and Shasta in Anderson come October. We have also been invited to go to Sycamore Island near Fresno to participate in their battle pageant. (Please note: both Golden Gate and Sycamore Island will be without the Royal Court).

Speaking of battle pageants, it is my intention that at each faire we attend, Saint Andrew's will be putting on a battle pageant, whether it is the Johnston Cattle Raid or some other battle, as one of our shows. So get your pikes and swords read. The patrons love to see a horde of Scots fighting; in fact, it was one of the points of interest that drew Brittah and me to Saint Andrew's in the first place.

There will be changes this coming year, some of which I have mentioned, but nothing I don't see that Saint Andrew's can't handle. I have had so many members come to me giving their support and willingness to help out wherever they are needed, that I know we, as a family, will thrive and our motto this year of "everything will be fine in '09" will prove itself true.

In closing, I want to wish each of you, and your families the happiest of New Years and that all your wishes come true. If I can be of help to any of you, please feel free to contact me any time.

I remain,
Sir James Hepburn,
4th Earl of Bothwell



The Chamberlain's Surprise

Lords and Ladies of Saint Andrew's,

Only in Scotland can a young man wake up one morn as a lowly Marquis and go to bed that same e'en as Chamberlain of Scotland. Life is full o' surprises.

With the departure of Sir Drew, we were able to benefit from a practice that had never been done before. We have a new Guild Master who has had some experience with the operations necessary to run the guild. Sir Drew had to step into the position with little experience and rely heavily on his reputation within the "renaissance world" and some of the more experienced members of the guild to maintain the reputation and activities of the guild.

Sir James Hepburn already has both a good reputation in the renaissance world and experience with our favorite fairs and their leadership. Without meaning to sound egotistical, he has shown he knows the value of the members of the guild and quickly established his various support persons.

I was extremely honored that he asked me to take on the responsibilities of Assistant Guild Master immediately after Winter's Feast. I like to think we compliment each other's skills and experiences and will make a good team. Where he has experience with the fairs, fair boards, contracts, and the operations on fair days; I have experience with the "real world" operations of the corporation and guild. I hope he feels he can "forget" about the business and finance side of the guild and concentrate on making our guild and shows as successful as possible.

As Chamberlain, we have already agreed we will both work closely with the other organizations that can be so important to us. I will, of course, be especially involved with both the Knights of Saint Andrew's and the Knights of St. Johns of Jerusalem. I am also going to be responsible for managing the various means of communications we have. Our Parchment and web site are the two best means of advertising our guild and attracting new members. Working with Lady Janet and Lady Isla will be my honor.

The fairs we will attend, their dates, the arrangement of our encampment, shows we will perform, our school events, and whatever unexpected (but inevitable) challenges will arise are all questions that are yet to be answered. But, the one thing we can always rely on is the members of the guild. Our ability to innovate and improvise has always been surprising.

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

Sir James Mosman
Marquis of Traquair, Earl of Lanark, Bishop of Glasgow
Chamberlain of Scotland



Farewells and Heartening

Doug LaMee



As surely most will know by the time of this publication, Doug LaMee (Sir Drew Douglas MacQuain) recently retired as Guild Master of Saint Andrew's Noble Order of Royal Scots. I've been asked to share my thoughts on Sir Drew and I'm very pleased to do so. I've known Doug for nearly twelve years and have worked closely with him these past five years.

Doug is a very complicated and talented individual. He's a very good cook, an accomplished worker in wood, a talented tailor, a fair bowler (though he has yet to bowl three good games in a row) and like most of us he has his share of faults.

In 2003 Doug took over the reins of Saint Andrew's Guild during a time of internal turmoil, confusion, and little respect for the guild from the

Northern California Renaissance "world". Over the past the past eight years as assistant Guild Master to Sir James Melville and then as Guild Master, he has worked to raise Saint Andrew's respectability in the eyes of that same Renaissance community.

Sir Drew established the Knights of Saint Andrew's to encourage and reward the hard work and continued contributions of the guild's own members and has steadily increased the look and substance of the Guild. It has not always been easy and mistakes were perhaps made along the way, but he did his best and he certainly gave it his all. Perhaps to his own detriment and consternation Doug constantly tried to please everyone while still placing the Guild first. Doug worked and worried about the Guild, (sometimes too much in my opinion) 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year!

In the end it was too much for him. Saint Andrew's has grown; we have many new and enthusiastic people with fresh and innovative ideas. Saint Andrew's has a new outlook and is going into 2009 more financially stable than ever. Much, if not all, of this is due to Doug's leadership and hopes for the guild and its members. I have been his Aide, his Secretary of State, his gofer, and his sounding board; but first and foremost I was and am his friend, and I for one will miss him.

Sir Guy Maxwell



My Lords and Ladies of Saint Andrew's,

Due to personal and family situations, Dame Beaton and I will be leaving the Renaissance "world" for a while. It has been a hard decision for us to make and we will miss you all greatly. It will seem strange to not suit up and go on progress with our most gracious Queen and her Court.

In our nearly twelve years with the Guild we have had many fine adventures, met many wonderful people, and carry away more memories

than you can count. We wish you all the very best and hopefully look forward to seeing you from time to time in the future.

God Save The Queen!
Sir Guy Maxwell



Sir Guy Maxwell, My Friend “In Deed”

Sir Guy Maxwell (Howard “Nip” Helton) joined the Saint Andrew’s guild one year before I did. But, because he attended the same guild houses I did (including, eventually, attending my own Antioch guild house), I came to know him very well.

Most people don’t know that Sir Guy started out his “ren” life as an Englishman and as a soldier who had fought on the continent. That is one of the reasons he tended to wear pants instead of a kilt. Then, as he created the character of Guy Maxwell, he studied the Border folk (and “border reivers”) and found out it was appropriate to continue to wear pants in this Scottish guild. He put a lot of time into studying the Maxwells and border life.

He had a strong sense of duty to whatever organization he joined. Over the years, he was a well-known character in the Saint Andrew’s guild, the Saint Giles guild, the Knights and Dames of Saint John of Jerusalem, and the Knights of Saint Andrew’s. When Sir James Melville decided to leave the Saint Andrew’s guild and start the St. Giles guild, he asked Sir Guy to come with him to build his group of “lancers” and help run that guild. Sir Guy made the commitment to Sir James to be with St. Giles for one year. After that time, he came back to his family in Saint Andrew’s where he stayed. His value to this guild was such that he became the “liaison” (right hand man, gofer) to Sir Drew MacQuain and kept that man “sane” throughout the fair day.

As the Chatelaine of the guild house he attended, he came to my house at least twice a month. As anyone who has run a guild house knows, there are many meeting nights when very few (or even, no) members show up. With Sir Guy, even if he was the only member who attended, we ended up with a

productive evening having discussed (and “solved”) many of the issues of the guild.

Sir Guy was especially kind and helpful to me because, for many years, he served as my chauffeur from Antioch to the various school events we had. Sir Guy was also my “Gentleman in Waiting” after each trip. It always fell to him to begin the unlacing so I could get out of my gown and not have to wear it for five more hours until my husband got home from his business.

As you can read elsewhere in this Parchment, Sir Guy was one of the most important members of the Knights of Saint Andrew’s and, clearly, one of the people who made that organization great. In fact, when Sir James found out Sir Guy was leaving the guild and the Order, he even tried to induce Sir Guy to stay by appointing him back to the Knight’s Council until the end of this year; in spite of Sir Guy not being a paid member. That is how important the leadership of the Order considered Sir Guy to be.

When Sir Guy left the guild he had attained the titles of:

- Baron of Nith Waters
- Baron of Cairn Waters
- Baron of Annom Waters
- Count of Caerlaverock
- Count of Terregles (Lord Herries)
- Earl of Dumfries
- Earl of Nithsdale
- Cardinal Knight of the Knights of Saint John of Jerusalem
- Council Secretary in the Knight’s Council
- Knight of the Realm of the Knights of Saint Andrew’s

I will miss my friend greatly and hope he will return to our world often.

Dame Mariota Arres



Auld Lang Syne

Well known in many English-speaking countries, and often sung to celebrate the start of the new year at the stroke of midnight on Hogmanay (the Scots word for the last day of the year), **“Auld Lang Syne”** is, in fact, a Scottish poem written by Robert Burns in 1788 and set to the tune of a traditional song. *Auld lang syne* literally means “old long since”, but a more idiomatic English translation would be something like “long, long ago”, “days of long ago”, or “olden days”. “For old times’ sake” or “to the (good old days)” may be modern-day expressions, in common use as toasts, that capture the spirit of “for auld lang syne”. Most common use of the song involves only the first verse and the chorus. Confusion about the exact meaning of the words has led to a common use of “For the sake of” or “For the days of” in the last line, despite this not being the traditional lyric.

Burns’ original Scots verse	Scots pronunciation guide	English translation
Should auld acquaintance be forgot, And never brought to mind? Should auld acquaintance be forgot, And auld lang syne?	Shid ald akwentans bee firgot, An nivir brocht ti mynd? Shid ald adwentans bee firgot, An ald lang syn?	Should <i>old</i> acquaintance be forgot, And never brought to mind, Should <i>old</i> acquaintance be forgot, And <i>old</i> times since?
CHORUS: For auld lang syne, my jo, For auld lang syne, We’ll tak a cup o’ kindness yet, For auld lang syne.	CHORUS: Fir ald lang syn, ma deer, Fir ald lang syn, Wil take a cup of kyndnes yet, Fir ald lang syn	CHORUS: For auld lang syne, my dear, For auld lang syne, We’ll take a cup of kindness yet, For auld lang syne.
And surely ye’ll be your pint-stowp! And surely I’ll be mine! And we’ll tak a cup o’ kindness yet For auld lang syne.	An sheerly yil bee yur pynt-staup! An sheerly al bee myn! An will take a cup o kyndnes yet, Fir ald lang syn.	And surely you’ll <i>buy</i> your pint <i>cup</i> ! And surely I’ll <i>buy</i> mine! And we’ll take a sup o’ kindness yet, For auld lang syne.
CHORUS	CHORUS	CHORUS
We twa hae run about the braes, And pu’d the gowans fine; But we’ve wander’d mony a weary foot, Sin auld lang syne.	We twa hay rin about the braes, An pood the gowans fyn; Bit weev wandered monae a weery fet, Sin ald lang syne.	We <i>two</i> have run about the <i>slopes</i> , and <i>picked</i> the <i>daisies</i> fine; But we’ve wandered <i>many</i> a weary <i>foot</i> , <i>Since</i> auld lang syne.
CHORUS	CHORUS	CHORUS
We twa hae paidl’d I’ the burn, Frae morning sun till dine; But seas between us braid hae roar’d Sin auld lang syne.	We twa hay pedilt in the burn, Fray morning sun til dyn; But seas between us bred hay roared Sin ald lang syn.	We <i>two</i> have <i>paddled</i> in the <i>stream</i> , <i>From</i> morning sun till <i>dine</i> *; But seas between us broad have roared <i>Since</i> auld lang syne.
CHORUS	CHORUS	CHORUS
And there’s a hand, my trust fiere! And gie’s a hand o’ thine! And we’ll tak a right gude-willy waught, For auld lang syne.	An thers a han, my trustee feer! An gees a han o thyn! And we’ll take a right gude-willy- waught, Fir ald lang syn.	And there’s a hand my trusty <i>friend</i> ! And <i>give</i> us a hand o’ thine! And we’ll take a right <i>good-will draught</i> , For auld lang syne.
CHORUS	CHORUS	CHORUS

* dine = dinnertime

Noble Encouragements

Good Morrow Good Gentles of Saint Andrew's,

I would like to thank all of you for being part of the Saint Andrew's family for yet another year. I feel that this is going to be a very exciting and eventful year for all of us. That being said, I would like to inform all of you that with this new year also comes a new position for me within the guild; I am now the Secretary of State for Saint Andrew's Noble Order of Royal Scots. I feel that being granted this position is both an honor and a privilege and I will do my best to take on the responsibilities this office holds with the utmost pride and dedication that I truly believe I have always given Saint Andrew's. I know that the guild has a new Guild Master now and I fully stand behind him. I feel that he will bring our guild to a new level and guide us into becoming a guild that not only is well respected, but runs like a well tuned clock. We will have training sessions that will be informative and worth the time to attend, so let's all plan for those in our calendars and make the effort to attend and participate fully. I look forward to the many events that we have planned and to seeing all of you again.

'Til then...

Dame Raven Sinclair
Marquioness of Girnigoe
Secretary of State of Saint
Andrews Renaissance Guild



Greetings and Salutations,

Allow me to introduce myself, I'm Bob McCutchen. Most of you know me as Her Majesty's mouthpiece (the Herald). For the 2009 faire season, I have been selected as a new member of the Privy Council.

Let me start by addressing the roles and responsibilities as assigned to me by our Guild Master. My official title on the Privy Council is Guild Operations. This encompasses several areas, with the first being an avenue of communication between the members at large and our Guild Master. I am an intermediate step in the communication process, by being the sounding board for suggestions and concerns. Let me define communication as: the bi-directional exchange of information.

I am one of the communicators between the Guild and Faire Promoters, taking my queue from our Guild Master. In this capacity, I will be assisting in the planning of props and pavilions taken to faire. This will be guided directly by the number of members attending each respective event. Given this new directive, it is imperative that we are accurate with our Head of Household, when asked about faire attendance. If you want to be gate listed, we expect your attendance as a participant at faire.

I serve Saint Andrews in an advisory capacity, not in an adversarial role. We can all leave drama for the stage. Constructive criticism is always welcome, as we all

benefit from improvement. Know that your comments and concerns will be communicated to our Guild Master, and that he is the final authority when making decisions.

There will be other responsibilities assigned, as our Guild Master deems necessary. My coup is always open for the collateral duty of ale sampler. One must always make certain the ale is fit for consumption. This is done for the betterment of all. We wouldn't wish any stale ale to harm our goodly GM.

Your support with clear and concise communication is always welcome. I don't believe in sugar coating, as one always complains when the sweetness of the exterior, gives way to the unpleasant reality of it's contents.

Let's have a totally awesome time this coming faire season.

Humbly in service,
Lord Robert McCutchen
Her Majesty's Herald and Great
Steward



Good Day my Lords and Ladies,

I am pleased to announce that I have applied for and have been accepted onto the Privy Council as the Operations Manager.

I have been with Saint Andrew's for six years now and

have learned a great deal, the good and the bad, and will try to know the difference. I applied for this position because I feel I can bring to the Privy Council new ideas and can do what ever needs to be done for our guild that it may be a fun place to be. I am dedicated to having the best royal court around., but to do this we need everyone to fully participate. I have worked with a lot of you and have listened to what you have been saying. If you have suggestions please let me know and I will bring up what you have suggested to the Privy Council. I will then follow up with you as to the outcome but please remember that our Guild Master always has the final word. I fully support our Chancellor and do believe he will be a great leader to us all.

God Save the Queen!
Squire Annebell Somerville
Viscountess of Cumbernauld Castle



Gatelisting and Dues

Pray heed!

As always; your membership form, Indemnity Waiver, and contribution are due on or before the date of the Opening of Parliament. Also, normally, these items are required before you are eligible to be placed on the gatelist for the first fair of the year (the Sonora Celtic Festival). But, this year, the ability for us to submit names to the gatelist closes on the same day as our Opening of Parliament. In fact, I will be completing and submitting our gatelist prior to the Opening of Parliament.

Obviously, this means we will not be requiring your forms and contributions prior to putting names on the gatelist for that one fair. You *will* need to indicate to your Head of Household that you are going to attend this fair to be added to the gatelist. Although not required by the Fair Board, we would appreciate having you indicate whether you are going to be in attendance on Saturday and/or Sunday. Your Head of Household ***absolutely must*** know this information as soon as possible.

Also, normally, that Fair Board puts a restriction on the number of members we can put on the gatelist. This year, as in the past, they are currently restricting us to forty (40) listed members. In the past, the Guild Master has been able to convince the Fair Board of the need to allow more names. But, there is no guarantee they will do so: even for this year.

Except for the Guild Master himself (who, for your information, has already paid), when it comes to adding names to a gatelist, *no one* in this guild is more important than any other. Therefore, the way we add names to the list will be according to the date your *completed* paperwork and contributions arrive to me. First come, first served!

The *strict* criteria for this fair will be:

1. I have the completed paperwork and contributions (for each member of your family) in hand,
2. You have previously indicated your attendance to your Head of Household.

The forms are available on the web site (<http://www.saintandrewsguild.com/>). If you do not have Internet access, you can call me at 925-876-3539 and I will send copies to you. I will also be at the training day on Feb. 21 to hand out and receive forms and contributions.

If the fair board does not allow us to have more names on our list, this could mean that some who have completed their paperwork and contributions might still not get on the gatelist. Let this be fair warning! We will continue to do what we can to gain the privilege of gatelisting for every member. But, we are *all* at the mercy of the Fair Board.

God Save St. Andrews!
Sir James Mosman
Assistant Guild Master and Treasurer

Heads Up

At present the attendance requirement for all Renaissance Production events for performance /groups/guilds is 10% of the gatelist. Beginning with the '10 season, the number will move to having workshops required of all gatelisted individuals once every three years (this means that a person would have three years to meet the requirements, then another three years, etc). More details in full will be published in the months to come. However, the sessions taken at the '09 Symposium will count both to the current 10% metric as well as counting toward the upcoming 3 year requirement phase.

Children under 12 years of age will not have workshop requirements nor or moving forward.

There will be a Q&A session both at this year's Symposium as well as at events over the course of this year for groups and individuals who may have questions and suggestions.

Renaissance Productions Presents

7th Annual Renaissance Workshops & Symposium

February 6th - February 9th, 2009

Doubletree, Modesto, California

• Workshops

BFA: Basic Faerie Accent
Women's Lifestyles
Improvisation in the Street
Characterization
Costuming
And Many More...

• Panels

Heard theatrical directions, vendor coordinators, site managers, and more talk about their roles and wish lists for the upcoming year

• Roundtable Sessions

Guildmasters: Playing nice with others
Event Coordinators: Pulling it all together
Military Captains: Playing safe, looking good

• Event Producers & Staff

Sessions for event producers on various business aspects of creating and delivering quality shows for today's audience

• Vendors

Learn new tricks, and explore how others are connecting with patrons

• Guild Recruiting

Interested in joining the new faerie scene? See which guilds are looking for new members, find out more about them, pick the one that suits you best

• Shopping

Need new character accessories or costumes? Here's the right place to buy!

Day Feb 11th \$20/wednesday

Feb 13th & 14th \$25/wednesday

At the door \$30/wednesday

www.renaysymposium.com



SONORA CELTIC FAIRE
23RD ANNUAL
MARCH 13TH, 14TH, 15TH 2009



MOTHER LODGE FAIRGROUNDS
SONORA, CA

*Her Most Royal and Gracious
Majesty,*

*Doth Request Your Presence at the
Royal Opening of Parliament
For*

*Saint Andrew's Noble Order
of Royal Scots*

*Saturday, the 28th of February
1:00 PM to 6:00 PM (set up at 9:00 AM)*

*First Christian Church
2725 Mint Lane
Antioch, CA*

*As Welcomed Subjects and Honoured Dignitaries,
Your Presence is Required at this Important
Ceremony of State*



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 on 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 Saint Andrew's 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. ~

*~ **Highlanders & Courtiers!** Ambassadors bring a main dish; Repast & 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.

Lest Ye Forget, Annual Taxes (Dues) are Due with Your Application

<i>Under 16</i>	<i>Gratis</i>
<i>16-17 & New Folk</i>	<i>\$60.00</i>
<i>18 & Up</i>	<i>\$120.00</i>
<i>Family Rate</i>	<i>\$300.00 (regardless of size)</i>

Letters from Heads of Households

In Service to Her Majesty...

Good My Lords and Ladies of Her Majesty's realm,

As I write to you this day, I find myself reflecting on all the wondrous journeys we have enjoyed during our progress about Scotland this past year. We have many fond memories of those we have traveled with and worked beside, as we humbly served Her Majesty. While many of us will be joining the ranks of those who are able to continue Her Majesty's progress, there are those who have other matters of state that need their attention, and will not permit them to continue this journey. They will always be with us in our hearts, and want them to know we support their commitment in taking care of what is most important for their well being.

While I look ahead to a new year of progress, one has a feeling of excitement as the plans are being made. You will see many changes in the Ladies-in-Waiting household, with the first being the appointment of Lady Mary Livingston (aka: Davina McCutchen) as the new Head of Household. As Lady Livingston, I have had the pleasure of working under my predecessor Lady Mary Beaton, for the past few years. During this time, I have observed the many ways she was able to manage the challenges brought to our household, all with poise and grace. She has had several years of experience and brought a passion like no other, to the responsibilities as the Ladies-in-Waiting Head of Household. It is my personal goal to carry on this passion, as we

progress with Her Majesty during the coming months.

Regarding favors. We have many fantastic ladies among us, who have spent many hours putting hundreds of favors together. As you know, "many" favors are bestowed among those who visit Her Majesty while on progress. It is that little something, that makes their experience that much more memorable. We do have favors to get us a good start for the year, however, we will need to continue to fill the favor supply. For those who have not made favors and are interested in learning how, please let me know. I will provide instructions and also show examples. Thank you to all who have made favors for Her Majesty. It is because of you that so many, can take a little bit of Scotland home with them.

I have heard much conversation amongst Her Majesty's subjects, that there are a few of you, who are interested in being a part of the Ladies-in-Waiting household. Please note this interest on your St. A's membership application, which can be found on our website: www.saintandrewsguild.com. It is not until you have submitted your application, and paid the required dues, that I will be notified of your intentions. Once I have officially received your name(s) from our Guild Master, much more information will be provided. I am doing my homework, taking many notes, and organizing all the details. Once I have received a list of those interested, I would like to plan an afternoon together before our journey to the shire of Sonora.

I think it is important that we have this opportunity to go over all the expectations and duties that have been assigned to this household. Having this time together will allow us to learn from each other, and share what is important for being successful participants at faire. It is our primary goal to make certain, that all who visit Her Majesty's Court, walk into the 16th century and out with a great experience. With your help, we will make this household both prosperous and rewarding.

I look forward to seeing everyone at Opening of Parliament. Hugs to all, and cheers for a very successful 2009.

Humbly in Service to Her Royal Majesty,

Lady Mary Livingston
Ladies-in-Waiting Head of Household

Ruffing It with the Courtiers

Good day my Lords and Ladies,

I do hope everyone has enjoyed the Holiday season. And to start the year off right, we celebrated twelfth night and a grand time.

I hope everyone is rested and ready to begin our new progress with our beloved Queen. We start the New Year with major changes in the people we have and love. Sir Drew, Dame Megan/Cameron, Sir Guy, Dame Beaton, Sir Keegan and Dame Sheila have decided to retire or take some time

off from the guild. They have all been with the guild 12 or more years and they have made many contributions and touched many lives not only with our guild but with all of the ren community.

Sir Drew has accomplished a lot in the 5/6 years as Guild Master. At that time our guild's reputation with the rest of the guilds and promoters was not the best and he has done a wonderful job taking us from being at the bottom to being on the top and receiving the best court award and a Thor' Hammer. Lord Cameron has done a lot to help make the Royal Guard one of the best military group around. I am honored to have them as friends and hope you will join me in wishing Sir Drew and his lovely wife the best and hope they enjoy their retirement and their travels.

Sir Guy and Dame Beaton have also contributed a lot. I have learned a lot from both of them. It is always a pleasure to work with them. I have learned a lot about running a house hold from Dame Beaton. Sir Guy is a marvelous dancer and was a great help to Sir Drew with the operations of the guild. He is always willing to help out. (That is when Sir Drew didn't have him on a mission.) I treasure their friendship greatly and hope they that they just can't stay away and will be back.

Sir Keegan and Dame Sheila are also loved and respected in the ren world. You can not walk across the field with them without being stopped by someone every few steps or so, who wants to chat.

Sir Keegan has done a great job leading the Royal Guard. Dame Sheila has done a lot to help us with our attire, she has helped many a person to make sure we are properly dressed for our progress

Calling all Dancers

Good day to you all,
I hope everyone has enjoyed their time off, but it's time to start gearing up for the New Year. I hope you are ready to dance. I have some new dances I hope to introduce to you. I will be scheduling some practices throughout the year so watch your email for times and dates. So come join me and have some fun and learn to dance. If you know your left foot from your right I can teach you how to dance!!

Your Dance Mistress,
Squire Annebell Somerville
Viscountess of Cumbernauld



Although we will miss them, we move onward and upward. And to lead us through is our new Guild Master Sir James Hepburn the Earl of Bothwell.

With our support he will take the great foundation that Sir Drew has started and move us forward and upward with his leadership, he has the ability to make us even better then before. He can not do this alone. We all need to step up and help where we can. I believe this year will be grand.

I look forward to seeing all of you at O of P. And our first stop on our progress Sonora!

God Save the Queen!!
Squire Annebell Somerville
Viscountess of Cumbernauld

The Dogs of War

My Lords and Ladies of the Realm,

'Tis a new year and a new faire season which you must well know brings with it many changes. We have lost several of our greatest

through Scotland.

I would like to thank each one of you for all the help and love you have given us. And hope to see you in our travels though Scotland.

leaders, namely Sir Drew MacQuain, Sir Guy Maxwell, and Sir Keegan Gunn. Nonetheless, both time and the guild of Saint Andrew's marches on. Our new Guild Master, Sir James Hepburn, has decreed (to the Guards' delight) the return of the Johnston Cattle Raid battle pageant and/or other such battle shows. It does a Guard's heart good to throw a heelund chief into the stocks where he belongs.

This season the Guard look forward to improving our swordsmanship and our trooping show (with the added honor of having the Queen participate in those trooping shows). With Her Majesty's presence in the trooping show "kobain bone ree" (meaning, protect the Queen) will take on a proper meaning for the patrons of the fair as they observe and ask questions of our members.

Sir Keegan Gunn has stepped down as the Captain of the Guard. This was only one of several titles he held along with Field Marshall (of the many battle pageants), Cardinal Knight of The Knights of Saint John's of Jerusalem, Knight of The Knight's of Saint Andrew's and member of the Star Chamber, Head of the Royal Guard Household for many a year, and other titles and leadership roles too numerous to list. His wisdom, presence and enthusiasm will be missed not only by the membership at large but by the "renaissance world" as a whole.

Sir Drew MacQuain was not only a great Guild Master but a good and valuable friend. His patience and dedication helped bring our guild from the bottom to being one of the best and well

respected guilds in northern California. Sir Drew and

Cameron will be greatly missed!



Forth On!
Squire Cpt. Duncan Somerville

"War is part of the spiritual climate of Scottish life"

John Keegan

From the Wicked Aye

Pennd by the Chieftain's Scribe:

Good Den Ta All of the
Highlands,

Tis been a long and cald winter fer us all. Some of the warmest moments were when we all did gather at Castle Elliot for a fun and family-filled day. Grammercy to the Elliots for hosting a clan gathering at their new castle.

The upcoming season doth promise ta hold many new beginnings for Saint Andrews most especially with the retirement of Sir Drew (who will be missed greatly), the naming of the new Guild Master and Assistant Guild Master. Koghair to Sir James Hepburn and Sir James Mosman (respectively). I for one am looking forward to seeing where all we will travel together this year.

Yer auld Chieftain shall be returning again this year with many an experienced campaigner at my side. I do look forward to all who will be returning to the highlands thys year, as well as those who will be joining us for the first time.

A few that will be missed amongst us will be Cookie, who shall not be returning this year. My goodly sister Elena shall be attending Her Majesty as a lady in waiting; do not choke, for I feel this is a goodly placement for her to position the clan weel with the court. Magnus shall be joining the Royal Guard and we do wish hym weel, although myne owne self

couldst not stand the regiment of it all.

During the off months I have been speaking with Captain Somerville and have some good ideas for new gigs for which we can hopefully get the support of both the Highlanders and the Guard. We shall also be bringing out some of our great gigs of the past, so be prepared for the bar brawl and Johnston's cattle raid. We shall also be having the Chieftains table. This will be an area for active crowd participation, and also the place for the Chieftain to rest his weary bones. So do think of a period game to be playing, a period craft to be performing or perhaps a period conversation to be having. This shall make the day go quickly and encourage the patrons to be much more involved.

I have rambled long enough for this Parchment so, I will close with this: I do look forward to seeing all of you at the Royal Opening of Parliament in February. Please do try and attend, because with so much change and transition there is much of which to become informed and such is always better learned and understood first hand.

In Her Majesty's Service,
Chieftain Heber MacPhearson
Count of Mulben
Viscount of Mulben
Laird of Mulben Castle
Baron of Mulben Burns

Her Majesty's Jewels

Greetings Saint Andrew's families!

Can you believe we are going to begin another faire season? How many changes we

have seen and how many more are on the way? One change for our household this year is that Akira is expecting an "addition" to her own family and has stepped down and will not be co-heading the household with me for this year. We will miss her! So kids, when you see her, please give her a big, careful hugs and let her know she is missed!

Another change will be that we are going to be practicing skits with the children. We will hopefully see the children portray the court this year. Catherine has agreed to be our "queen" and we will recruit others to fill in as many positions as possible. It should be fun!

One thing that will not change is the continuation of our apprenticeship program. I am so happy with how well the households have taken in our children and made them a part of their activities! Remember, keeping our children active and participating will help foster their love of what we do. So where will you apprentice this year?

So what do we have to look forward to this year? A busier faire schedule, a new Guild Master, and some new skits to stretch the talents and imagination of our children! So let's enter this new year with enthusiasm and energy, shall we? I can't wait to see you all at Opening of Parliament!

Gwendolyn Elliot

From the Mists

To all of those who faithfully follow Her Majesty,

While last year was certainly interesting and entertaining, this next year is promising to be better! With many locations already chosen for her Majesty's progress to stop on its travels, we are looking forward to a busy year. Do not proclaim me a soothsayer or a witch, but I predict that there will be many occasions for Her Majesty's Mercenaries, Highlanders and Guard to fight this next year, and we are all rowdy enough to enjoy a good fight. This past year saw us further develop the bar brawl, as well as engaging in some sword play as well. I hope to see a great deal more of this in the future; but again, please do not proclaim me a witch and have me burned... I am but a humble Irish Mercenary!

The Irish are hoping to get some new gigs going this year, indeed if we receive approval we will need a volunteer to be a traitor in Her Majesty's court. I know that we are loyal citizens of Scotland, and as faithful servants to Her Majesty would never dream of being a traitor against Her, but it should be a fun gig if we can indeed find a volunteer to portray a traitor for a short time.

I am also planning on purchasing some historic games as well (that is if the tax collector does not demand too high a price from me this season). I do hope that we can entice some of our folks into court to play these games with us, and to entice the public in as well.

We are currently a small household, but we hope to grow. I am growing my collection of weapons, both for use at our school presentations (look for my article on school gigs in this latest parchment) as well as at faires, and I do hope that through our weapons presentations, games, and

other activities we might be able to interest more folk to join our little household and serve Her Majesty.

Along the lines of being Mercenaries, I will share here some information that I have found on a few of the weapons that I have been researching. Now for my disclaimer: most of my research has been through secondary sources, or even more removed from that... I cannot guarantee its accuracy, and if you disagree with any of it please do come see me with your sources, I would LOVE to see and hear of any information that you may have. As Mercenaries, we would use all of the weapons and tools available to us, so whereas a weapon might be something primarily found in Germany, or Italy, or elsewhere, anything that would help us to fight would be something we would be interested in, thus we have weapons such as the Francisca described below. So please enjoy my brief descriptions here; and again if you have any further information or sources I would love to know about them.

Francisca

The Francisca is a throwing axe that was used mainly by the Franks in the early Middle Ages – however evidence of the francisca has been found in Germany and England as well. The Francisca is different from a battle axe because of shape of its head, which is a curve or S-shape. It was this head that allowed the francisca to bounce randomly when it missed its target and hit the ground. The benefit of this type of throwing axe would be when approaching an enemy formation. By throwing an axe (or more likely several of them) which is unpredictable in its path, the enemy lines would likely be broken as men attempted to get out of the path of the wildly bouncing axe. Even if the axe missed all targets,

by breaking up the line it has achieved a goal by breaking up the formation of the enemy, thereby weakening them.

Battle Axe

Battle Axes were lighter than utility axes, and usually had a narrower blade as they were designed to cut human limbs and not tree limbs. Battle axes fell out of favor for a time as swords became the preferred weapon among knights, but as plate armor developed, battle axes were found to be useful for cutting through the plate armor by concentrating the weight of the head and force of the blow on a smaller edge. Battle axes could be single or double headed. The standard axe was usually arm-length, whereas long axes could be up to 5 feet in length.

If you are in the market for an axe, please keep in mind that there are many fantasy battle axes out there, especially the double headed – so when looking for a battle axe, look for one that looks more utilitarian and less fancy, as fancy won't get you any points on the battlefield, although they are lovely to look at.

Spear

Spears would have been excellent weapons to carry into a fight; it was mainly used as a thrusting weapon in battle and was used mostly in formations. The javelin, a lighter version of a spear, would be used more as a projectile weapon.

Because of the spears length, one could keep the enemy at a further distance than a sword would allow; spears historically are approximately five and a half to eight feet long. Spears were usually fought with in a formation, usually with a shield in one hand and the spear in the other, although they could also be wielded with two hands as well. Having a shield

would allow the warrior to protect himself from spears wielded by his opponent, and also from possible projectiles being launched from behind the spearmen (arrows). During the Renaissance the spear was developed into pole-arm weapons such as the halberd that we are familiar with, mainly to combat the heavier armor in use at that time.

I found an interesting article on the use of the spear with the “over-arm” grip versus the “under-arm” grip at <http://www.lloydianaspects.co.uk/weapons/spear.html>, if anyone is interested.

Sling

The sling is a very basic weapon that has been used throughout history (think David and Goliath). It is inexpensive and easy to make, and projectiles for it are readily available in any stream. It does some skill to learn the correct throwing method, but in many cultures young children began using a sling at an early age, thereby developing great skill by adulthood. There is some evidence that a projectile from an expert sling-man can travel 150 meters to 500 meters. In addition to rocks, later sling men developed sling bullets, made from lead. Since these could be more uniform in shape and weight than rocks, these might have been more reliable and accurate than rocks.

Again, these short descriptions are not meant to be in any way a complete historical account, they are just to share some general information about the various weapons available to us. I hope to share more information about other weapons in future parchment articles.

Cailin Rua Kelly Seaton
Chamberlain of the Irish & Mercenaries

Education Matters

The Royal Scholar's Syllabus

- by Lord James Stewart

Training 2009

Permit me to introduce myself. I am Andrew Mitchell, AKA Lord James Stewart, Earl of Moray. I am in charge of your training this year, as I have been for the past several years.

I was speaking with the new Guild Master last month about training priorities. He had noticed a certain laxness in court etiquette, a lack of formality which had not been there when he first joined the guild. Truth is, I've noticed it too. It caused me to think about what had changed in the guild to make this come about.

When I first joined Saint Andrew's back in the mid-nineties, there was no doubt who was in charge. Theo D'Este (Sir James Melville) was the Guild Master, the Treasurer, and the Trainer. He would appoint a Star Chamber to govern the guild, but it was purely an advisory body. Everyone knew who held the reins of power.

Training and orientations were required. There was no excuse for not knowing the rules of courtly behavior, and Sir James didn't hesitate to point out when someone violated those rules. Infractions were punished with angry words, and occasionally drubbings (as Sir James put it, "a liberal sprinkling of cold water upon the head of an offender," but often other parts of the body got soaked as well.) His will was enforced by the Queen's Guard, who were recruited based upon size and strength, and his personal bodyguard the Seneschals, who outnumbered every other household in the guild.

Under such circumstances, it is not surprising that people were a little on edge in court, and very cautious about how they behaved.

Things have changed, mostly for the better. But we aren't as sharp as we used to be. The new administration would like to see a return to the Pomp and Ceremony of old. That will start with training. We will be re-focusing on some of the practical and

performance based aspects of training. If you attend training, you will have no doubt what is expected of you in court. And with the less expansive encampment required of us by faire boards, you will be in court more often than before, regardless of your household.

The knowledge will be there, but will that knowledge translate into an improved performance? The Guild is no longer micromanaged by a single person, backed by a group of foppishly dressed thugs. People no longer need to worry about being physically dragged before the Queen and the entire guild and subjected to humiliating punishments. The dreaded "Dear Traitor" letter does not arrive in people's mail boxes to announce their expulsion from Saint Andrew's and the promise that their reputation would be ruined in the renaissance world.

I think such measures are not necessary to produce a top flight royal court. But if knowledge is not enough, perhaps the new Guild Master will appoint an Officer in Charge of Protocol. Someone who would monitor the adherence to courtly manners and would take measures to make sure the court would run the way it should. A nit-picky someone who would tirelessly enforce even the most trivial rules of conduct. Someone who would let the power go to his head and who would be a pain in the backside to any and all in the guild. Someone like...me.

Pray it doesn't come to that.



Youth Outreach Program

by Cailin Rua Kelly Seaton

Calling One and All to teach the young ones about History!

As the new year starts we are look forward to several school events again this spring! We have

several returning favorites from the past, and possibly some new schools as well!

We already have on the calendar the following events:

🕒 Wednesday April 8 – a Livermore school where our own Lady Cara does teach – date still to be confirmed

🕒 Thursday, April 23 – Returning to the Gilroy school arranged by Lady Bronwynne's dear sister

🕒 Friday, May 8 – King City school where our own Collin, of Her Majesty's Guard, teaches

🕒 Thursday, May 21 – Fisher Middle School in Los Gatos

As you can see we are off to a roaring start!

For those of you who have not yet attended a school event, they are *wonderful* experiences! The children are all eager to learn and have some interesting insights and questions sometimes. If you have not attended and wonder what we do, we perform a Living History day at each of the schools. The particulars of the event are as varied as the schools that we attend, but it usually includes discussions of court politics and fashion, dancing or period games, and always the weapons. Even if you are new to the guild, you can attend one of the school events – I learn something new at each event just by listening to our other members talking to the kids – there is a wealth of knowledge among our folk! For example, do you know the origin of the expression “Don't throw the baby out with the bath water” or “the whole nine yards”? If you attended some of our school gigs you might. Do you know how long someone will usually last after being wounded in battle? If you attended a school gig you might. Do you know about Sumptuary Laws? Again, youth outreach program...

Please consider joining us for one of these events. As each date approaches reminders and attendance calls will be sent out via email. And as always, the dates are always on the guild calendar on our website.

Yours in Service,
Cailin Rua Kelly Seaton
Ambassador of Education for Her Majesty

Attention!

Truck Driver Needed

“There is only but 48 days until our first event in Sonora and we still do not have a driver for the truck to take our props to faire. As stated at the general membership meeting we NEED someone to drive the truck. If one isn't found we will not be attending faire. It should not be necessary to point out that the first time I have to tell a fair producer that our guild will not be attending after all, well, we can count on never being invited to another event by those producers.

I realize that Sir Drew drove the truck in the past... that is neither here nor there as Sir Drew is no longer with the guild to meet this need. We need a volunteer to drive, period.

The truck is a 24' box, with an automatic transmission. The cost of the fuel is paid for by the guild. Load up will take place on Thursdays and the truck should arrive at the faire site by early the Friday afternoon of faire and then return to Newman on those Mondays following the event.

Anyone interested in the responsibility should contact me (Sir James Hepburn, Guild Master) by email or phone as soon as possible.”

**earlofbothwell1562@yahoo.com or
(209) 862-4147**

The Study of Sword with Davenriche

By Cailin Rua Kelly Seaton

It is expected that during this next progress Saint Andrew's will be engaging in more battles, and other skirmishes. With that in mind the Guard, Highlanders, and Mercenaries are looking forward to improving and honing our current techniques and learning many new ones. That being said, on the first day of November, several members of Her Majesty's Court had the privilege of spending a day with Steaphen Fick of the Davenriche School of Martial Arts. Our goal was to improve our skills with broadsword and rapier, and that we did indeed do. This class was the first step in moving toward our goal. Steaphen taught us many maneuvers which we will be able to use in our training and sword demonstrations; we all are looking forward to working with the rest of our comrades in Her Majesty's Court to add these new moves to our growing skills.

In attendance were Captain Teage Seaton, Captain Duncan Somerville, Squire Annebell Somerville, Captain Blackadder, Grady Witherington, Cailin Seaton, Lieutenant Logan, and one of Logan's comrades, Mike. We were also greatly honored with the presence of Her Majesty's own brother, Lord James Stewart, who showed great skill with a sword. In addition to these folks, we were also joined by several of Steaphen's regular students.



We all learned several new defensive techniques, as well as how to counter them, which included several techniques for disarming our opponents, as well as some grappling techniques. Captain Duncan and Captain Teage had several ideas as to how these moves could be added into our existing routines, and Lady Annabel and I are looking forward to involving more of our highlander ladies in the world of swordplay. All in all, the class was well worth the price and we hope that if there is interest we can arrange future classes with Steaphen, so please keep your eyes and ears open for announcements.

If you have interest in taking Steaphen's classes on an ongoing basis (Teage has been attending for several months now



and has been learning quite a lot), he can be contacted via his website: www.davenriche.com, by phone at: 408-857-0120, or email: davenriche@yahoo.com. His current studio is in Santa Clara, and he plans to open a new studio in Fresno soon. He will also be offering a class at the Renaissance Symposium in February, so that would be a great introductory class if anyone is interested.



We all wish to thank Steaphen for his wonderful teaching! He taught us only a few of the basics of the vast body of knowledge that is available in Renaissance Martial Arts, but what he taught us will be invaluable to us improving our theatrical swordplay to impress our visitors. Thanks to all who attended!



CANNED FOOD DRIVE

at Opening of Parliament
February 28th, 2009

to benefit the
First Christian Church's
food pantry

All donations will be warmly received
Those bringing 4 or more canned food items will be entered into a drawing for complimentary ticket to '09 Winter's Feast



Hermitage Castle, east view across Hermitage Water

A Place to Call Home

Hermitage and Bothwell Castles

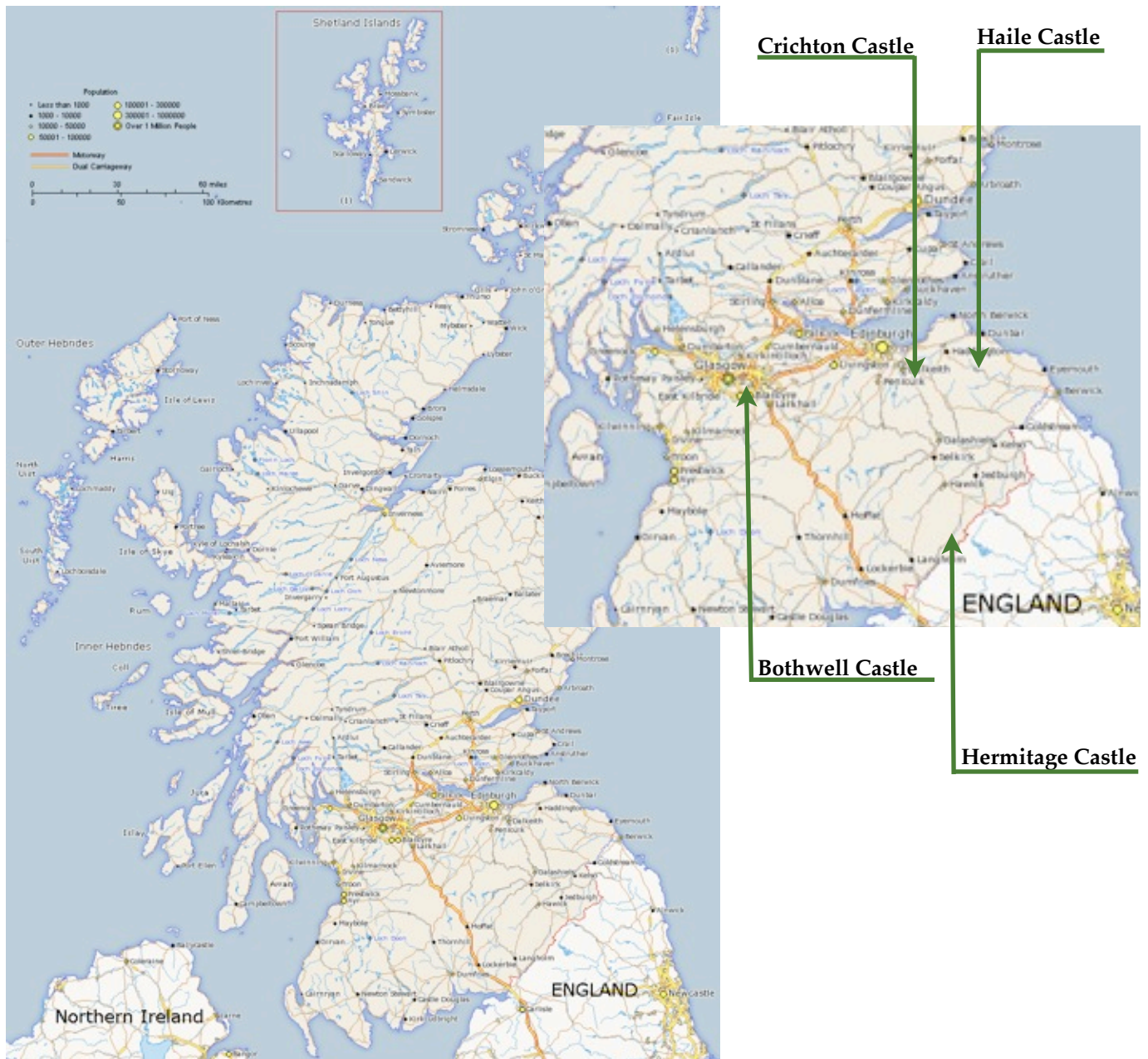
Our Good Earl, James Hepburn, fourth Earl of Bothwell never chanced to live in the castle named for the earldom that he inherited from his father, Patrick Hepburn, the third Earl of Bothwell. In fact, it was in 1492 that James IV, doubting the loyalty of the Archibald Douglas, fifth Earl of Angus, instructed that Hermitage Castle (shown above) be exchanged for the less strategically sensitive Bothwell Castle (until then held by the first Earl of Bothwell, Bothwell Castle (seen right). One might



speculate that the Douglas family might object to such an exchange save for the fact that Janet Douglas was then married to Patrick Hepburn (first Earl of Bothwell).

So it was then that the forbidding and oppressive Hermitage Castle is considered the ancestral home to our Good Earl. Seen either from the east or west (see photo right) Hermitage Castle is a forbidding and despairing place with an architectural style of sheer stone walls relieved only by a blind arch.





The setting also does the castle few favors. Its riverside location high in the valley of the Hermitage Water ought to be enchanting, but the bleak and open moorland that surrounds Hermitage Castle on its other three sides suggests a profound loneliness and sense of oppression. However, this would have been an important look to achieve when you consider that the location of the castle was not far from the border between Scotland and England in the olden time and so was an important stronghold for centuries. Truth of the torture and punishment imposed on the castle's prisoners of war and wrongdoers, woven with tales of myth and magic, lent itself to the belief and understanding that the castle's inhabitants were not to

be made light of or recklessly considered.

Indeed, the only hint of romance in Hermitage Castle's story came in October 1566, when Mary, Queen of Scots received the news that the fourth Earl of Bothwell had been injured in a fight then dropped everything and rode from Jedburgh (some 25 miles away) to be by his side. Still married to Lord Darnley at the time she could not be seen to stay at Hermitage with Bothwell so after two hours she returned the 25 miles to Jedburgh. En route she stumbled into a marsh and contracted a cold from which she nearly died. But it was this act of kindness to her friend and oft advisor that would later be used against her as

evidence that she married the Lord Earl of her own volition.

Hailes Castle

Home to the Hepburns' before the acquisition of Bothwell or Hermitage Castles, however was Haile Castle, in

Haddingtonshire south of Dunbar in east Lothian. Built as a fortified tower house in the 1290s it was

given to Adam Hepburn after he rescued the Earl of Dunbar from being trampled by horses. After inheriting the lands and right to title to become first Lord Hailes, Sir Patrick Hepburn dramatically extended the castle and a massive tower of at least four



stories was built to the west of the original construction and a lower tower to the east to form a long north range and curtain wall, with a moat beyond. The end result was one of the best placed and most spectacular small castles in Scotland, looming above the river Tyne, blocking its strategic route, and preying on the route to Edinburgh.



It was here, to Haile Castle that James Hepburn brought Mary, Queen of Scots on the 5th of May 1567 following their ill-fated marriage at Dunbar at the end of April of that year.

Crichton Castle

Another ancestral property of James Hepburn was Crichton (pronounced "cry t'n") Castle in Midlothian (southeast of Edinburgh and west of Haile Castle). William Crichton, third Laird of Crichton, having conspired against James III in 1483 was besieged at Crichton Castle and forced to flee. King James III gave the castle and its lands to his favorite, Sir John Ramsey, who he created Lord Bothwell. But he too became involved in treachery and so Crichton was

given to Patrick Hepburn, Lord Hailes who then became the first Earl Bothwell.

By the time of this transfer of ownership to Ramsey and then to Hepburn, William Crichton had built around an existing tower house three ranges surrounding a courtyard and a south west tower, and within the south



range was built a great hall. He also built the collegiate church situated nearby (see bottom right of column one). As you enter Crichton Castle the most remarkable aspect of this

renaissance mansion is that immediately obvious as the diamond-faceted red stonework facade on the north range is truly amazing and is the castle's trademark feature.

Queen Mary was a guest at Crichton Castle at the marriage of her half-brother,

Lord John Stewart, to Lady Janet Hepburn, the fourth Earl's younger sister and only sibling. The celebration had been arranged at Crichton by the Good Earl and it would be Janet Hepburn's son from this marriage (Francis) who would be given the property and conferred the title of Bothwell by James VI following the downfall of Queen Mary and death of James Hepburn.

-- Lady Janet Hepburn, Mistress Bothwell
Baroness of Earn Waters
Viscountess of Dunsyre Castle
Chatelaine of Dunsyre Castle

A KNIGHT'S TALE

By Dame Mariota Arres & Sir James Mosman



Because of our interest in mid-16th century history, most of us already know a lot about knights, their code of chivalry, jousting and tournaments, or other information we picked up from books; classic stories like *Beowulf* (or any of the other variants of the Arthurian tales) or not-so-classic stories like *Prince Valiant*. Movies like the various *Robin Hood* stories or *A Knight's Tale*; and on to the equally classic portrayal of Don Quixote or the Knight Errant by one of my favorite actors: Bugs Bunny, have added to what can be a questionable storehouse of knowledge.

So, instead of covering the better-known information, I started looking for information about why one becomes a knight, their early years as a squire, and their life after becoming knighted. Being Scottish, I will focus more on Scotland in my discussion than on England.

Who were the knights and why did they exist?

To start with, prior to the mid-9th century, Scotland and England (as we know them) did not even exist. They were still two loosely associated groups of kingdoms. These kingdoms fought each other and only banded together when it was necessary to defend the greater common interest. Of course, Scotland was fairly late in adopting a unified government compared to

England, France, Spain, and even the Scandinavian countries. But, in all cases, the concept of a “nation” with ideas about national pride, national defense, and national welfare did not exist. Even during the 16th century, the Scottish clans tended to select whom they fought or joined with and when based on how much land, power, and wealth they could gain. In fact, many of the Earls of Scotland had land and income in England with the resultant divided loyalties.

Prior to the reign of the Scottish Malcolm III (1058-1093), selection of a monarch in (or for that matter, any leader) was via a process called “tanistry”. Tanistry is where a leader is chosen between the best qualified (or the only one the group can agree to) rather than simply the succession down through the generations of a family. Malcolm III had six sons by two marriages. With the introduction of Norman nobles to Scotland (with their “progressive” ideas), he changed the process of selection by *tanistry* to selection by *primogenitor*, which had previously been adopted in England. By making this change, Malcolm insured that his sons would succeed him to the throne. In fact, five of his six sons did become monarch.

This change in succession carried on throughout every level of the land. Under primogeniture, the first son of a noble became the heir apparent to the title, lands, and power of the father. This left any remaining sons with the choice either to assassinate their older brother in such a way that would enable him to take over the title or seek their fortune in some other way.

It became common practice for the second son to enter into the Church. By this means, they gained the power and wealth of the Church. These positions were often “bought” by their father. If the son had a real interest in becoming a priest, he could take his vows and live the life of piety and chastity. But, if he enjoyed the company of women (either temporary or long term) their father would often buy him a position as a “commendator” abbot or bishop where he would have the benefits of the church without taking vows.

This leaves the question of what happened to any other sons of the noble. **That** is where knighthood had its start. Knighthood didn’t just spring up out of nowhere, nor was it a rank among the military. Because there was no concept of a nation, there were no “standing armies”. When the monarch needed a large gathering of men to defend the borders of his country, he had to call upon his nobles to provide them. These clan groups were commonly made up of farmers, craftsmen, and other retainers from the noble’s lands. It was the noble who was their liege-lord (not the monarch).

Out of this arrangement came the process where the younger sons of a noble would gain their land and wealth by pledging themselves in the service of another noble. This was the genesis of the knight.

A knight was, fundamentally, a mounted warrior who fought in the service of his liege lord. Because they fought on horseback, they had great advantage in speed and maneuverability with the ability to charge into a battle, strike from above, and then exit and the ability to charge over and over. This made them into a very elite and feared weapon. The cost of the horses and equipment of a knight was such that only noble sons or men who distinguished themselves in battle could aspire to knighthood.

Sons of nobles were sent away at age seven to another castle to serve as a page. They would begin their training in obedience, good manners, and swordsmanship. At age fourteen, they became a squire, whose job was to help a knight prepare for battle, maintain both the armor and weapons, and, occasionally, even follow the knight into the battle itself.

After four years experience at warfare the squire could become a knight and be “dubbed”. As you probably know, dubbing was the ceremony in which a monarch or liege-lord tapped the squire on the shoulder with the flat of a sword. Because of the religious connections and vows of piety, this ceremony often followed a vigil: a night of prayer and contemplation before an altar.

The newly dubbed knight would fight either under his own banner (and be known as a *knight bannerette*) or under the banner of another (as a *knight bachelor*) and would be accompanied in battle by his own pages and squires, along with other servants.

A knight required the services of several attendants: one to conduct his horses; another to bear the heaviest weapons; one to aid him in mounting his battle horse, or help him to his feet if dismounted; and a fourth to guard prisoners (especially those of noble birth) for whom a high ransom could be expected.

Although the word “knight” most often conjures images of the magnificent warriors and Crusaders of the medieval period, the origins of knighthood go back to ancient Rome and the *equites*, the mounted officers who held a special position in Roman society. Medieval knighthood had its roots in the Roman

practice of “commendation”, in which a Roman soldier would attach himself to a superior officer, pledging his military service in return for the granting of a piece of land.

Each warrior who was made a lord in this manner would use the income from his land to equip himself with weapons and at least three horses: the battle horse, which was led by hand and used only for fighting (hence the expression “to get on one’s high horse” when one is ready for a confrontation); a second horse, or courser, for traveling to and from the battlefield; and a pack horse for his luggage.

As a landowner, the knight possessed two luxuries that ordinary peasant farmers could only dream of: time and money. The knight’s money went toward the purchase and upkeep of his battle horse and weapons and his time was spent honing the skills that were so essential to his profession. Once in possession of his own area of land, a knight would often grant pieces of it to various retainers, who would then repeat the process. The land would thus be divided over and over, until the original area was composed of small parcels, each the minimum required to support a single knight (about fifteen hundred acres).

Thus formed the relationship from one knight up to the knights who provided his land and wealth, then up the ladder to the original liege lord and, eventually, the monarch. This arrangement was called “feudalism” and seems to have arisen in many parts of the world at approximately the same time with variations becoming part of each country’s laws as they conquered and were conquered by others. England had a long history of feudalism where monarchs received military service from land owning elites. The Normans further refined it after 1066 to include the “pyramid” of fealty described before. The “standard” commitment by any knight to their liege lord was forty days per year. But, this could add up when they were expected to serve their immediate liege lord, and his, and his, all the way up to the monarch.

If a knight was the greatest weapon an army could have, whom was this weapon used against? As I said earlier, land was power. Whether you were a king or a noble, the more land you could acquire, the more powerful you became. So, nobles fought other nobles for their lands and kings fought other kings for their country.

But, constant fighting is very expensive, both in terms of money and lives. So, short periods of war were separated by longer periods of peace; and peace was the enemy of a knight. A knight had to constantly prove his prowess. He needed the opportunity to take wealthy prisoners for ransom. He needed to take land for his liege lord so his liege lord would reward him with more land for himself, and he needed to prove himself an able leader so other knights would want to follow him and declare him as *their* liege lord.

The tournament came about as a means to gain these necessities without the expense of a war. Knights would come together and challenge each other. If one was lucky enough to unseat another knight from his horse, he often got to keep all that knight’s armor, weapons, and horse. These he would either add to his inventory, or sell them to some other knight, or ransom back to the original owner. But, these tournaments were not fought like the ones we saw recently. The lance was not blunted and deaths were more often the result.

Thus the tournament became an expensive activity as far as a liege lord was concerned. Eventually, the church also sought to curtail the loss of life. Many say this was the impetus of the

Crusades. The church made it desirable to journey to the Holy Lands by offering economic incentives and notoriety to any knight who volunteered to become a “Warrior of Christ”.

Historians cannot agree on how many Crusades were fought. Some say four, others say as many as fourteen. It is fairly well agreed that only the first two Crusades accomplished their objective of returning some city or country to Christianity by forcing out the Muslim tribes.

In 1095, at the Council of Clermont, Pope Urban II called on all of Christendom to take up arms against the infidels who controlled Jerusalem. He used every possible argument to entice the French knights to take up the cross and fight, detailing the sufferings of the Christians in the Holy Land under the rule of the Seljuk Turks and reminding the knights of their reputation for courage and piety. But, it wasn't until he offered the listeners the possibility of territorial conquests in Palestine and promised Papal protection for the property and family of any Crusader and complete forgiveness for their sins that the knights started to show enthusiasm for the adventure.

Enthusiasm for the Crusade began in the north of France. Hugh the Great, Count of Vermandois and brother of King Philip I of France; Robert Curtose, Duke of Normandy and son of William the Conqueror; and Robert II, Count of Flanders were the first to volunteer. Not to be outdone, leaders of the Low Countries, Godfrey of Bouillon, Duke of Lower Lorraine, and his brother Baldwin of Boulogne also joined the movement. The number of volunteers soon became so great that the men were organized into four distinct armies. As an indicator of the religious, and economic zeal, generated by the speeches made by Pope Urban II, it is recorded that the one army that was led by Godfrey of Bouillon consisted of ten thousand knights and thirty thousand foot soldiers.

As I said at the beginning, I don't want to go into the various battles of the crusades. Suffice it to say, that after only the first two Crusades, the Muslims learned to use “hit and run” tactics and to stay away from the heavier, slower, and more devastating attacks by the mounted knights. In addition, the proximity to the Orient, where gunpowder was first introduced, provided for the early introduction of cannons and guns to combat the mounted knights and made victory by a mounted force more difficult.

The end of the knights as we know them

The medieval army actually created the situation that spelled its own end. It is true that the advent of gunpowder, cannon, and muskets made the charge of a group of heavily armored knights on horseback inefficient. But, in reality, it was economics that killed off the fighting knight.

As kings and nobles consolidated more wealth and land beneath them, they were able to form larger armies. It thus became more cost effective to organize and train many soldiers armed with relatively inexpensive equipment than to invest in the expensive armor and training that knights required. In addition, the costs tended to undercut the nobles ability to raise private armies thus helping to consolidate the new, centralized monarchies even further.

Once again, Scotland was the exception to this rule. The use of the clans as separate fighting units allowed the nobles to retain their power longer than those of other countries and for the monarch to avoid the cost of having a standing army. Thus the *fighting* Scottish knight retained his status longer than elsewhere.

The increasing cost of provisioning a fighting force also created a class of businessmen who loaned money or equipment to nobles to equip their retainers. This new class of moneylenders soon gained seats at Parliament. In addition to the Noble and Ecclesiastic “houses” of Parliament, a “Temporal” house was added composed of powerful and wealthy businessmen. Since the monarch was faced with getting his fighting force from the nobles but the money to go to war from the church or businessmen, there also rose up the need to recognize those who provided support from some place other than the back of a horse.

Knighthoods started to be given to nobles (for their support in administration of a region or the nation); they were given to sailing captains; they were given to businessmen who gave to the treasury or who negotiated beneficial trade agreements; and they were given to politicians and ambassadors who made treaties with other nations thereby, all together, avoiding the costly realities of war.

Thus the power and prestige of a knight changed from being one who brought power to his liege lord from the back of a horse to the one who brought power to his liege lord by the pen, or words, or intelligence in addition to the sword.

Before you start getting the idea that it was the “businessman” who diluted the power and prestige of the knights you should know that it was the Knights Templar themselves who first started the practice of loaning money and arms to other knights; in return for payment with interest. After the first two Crusades, the Knights Templar had become so large, rich, and powerful they needed to “diversify”. So, they began the business of lending money and arms for others to fight wars. It is said that at one point, the estimated annual income of the order was about six million pounds sterling per year, an unbelievably large sum for the time. This power and prestige caused great envy among the leaders of some countries. Eventually, a campaign of rumors and fear orchestrated by Philip the Fair of France and Pope Clement V resulted in the Knights Templar being disbanded and their leaders executed and their wealth distributed to various kings and the church.

It was only at that point that private businessmen began filling the needs of the nobles and kings by lending money and arms for their on-going and frequent wars.

St. George

While researching this report, I came across an interesting piece of trivia. Like many persons in Medieval Europe, most knights were superstitious and believed in talismans and charms. One talisman that survives from that day portrays St. George, the patron saint of knights and fighting soldiers. Stories were often told of a man whose life was saved when a shot fired during a battle was deflected by the talisman of St. George that he wore. Demand became so great for this medallion that businessmen started minting a special St. George talisman. On one side was St. George on horseback thrusting his lance at a dragon, with the inscription: *S. Georgus Equitum Patronus* (St. George, protector of knights”) the reverse side featured a ship with a taut sail on a rough sea and Christ asleep on the deck with two terrified apostles, and the inscription: *In Tempestate Securitas*. (“Security in the storm”).

This concludes the presentation of information pertaining to historical knighthoods. Now, I will present some information that most members of Saints John don’t know, but probably should.

The history of The Knights and Dames of Saints John of Jerusalem

Although only the first and second Crusades were considered to have achieved their objectives, it is the third Crusade that had the biggest impact on the members of the Saints John.

The marriage of Henry II of England and Eleanor of Aquitaine produced four sons; two died young; the third, Richard became known as Coeur de Lion, the Lionheart; and the fourth was John, who conspired against his brother with Richard's great rival, Philip II of France. Born in 1157 at Oxford, Richard spent much of his youth at court in Poitiers, caring more for the family possessions on the continent than their English ones. In spite of the impressions we get from movies, after taking the English throne in 1189, he only spent six months of his ten-year reign in England.

Along with Phillip II, Richard took part in the Third Crusade, leaving for the Holy Land in 1190. He had an eventful trip out, conquering Messina and Cyprus and marrying Berengaria of Navarre in 1191 while en route to Jerusalem. He nearly conquered the Holy City twice and together with Phillip, he did capture the city of Acre.

But, eventually, Richard's failure to declare allegiance to Phillip II for his Norman and Aquitaine dukedoms turned them from friends into bitter enemies. Phillip returned to France and began plotting with the ambitious John.

John and Phillip made an agreement that in return for John handing over some Norman border lands Phillip would keep Richard out of England. In 1192, Phillip arranged for Leopold V of Austria to capture Richard and imprison him in Durnstein Castle where he was held until 1194 and the payment of an enormous ransom.

Richard then proceeded to England where he crushed the rebellion of his brother John. You probably recognize all of this as the basis for the story of Robin Hood.

To members of Saints John, the important part of this tale actually takes place right *before* the failed attempts to conquer Jerusalem and expel the Muslims from the Christian Holy City.

During a very interesting interview with Sir Iain MacIain, he told my husband and myself the story of how and why he began the organization we all know as the Knights and Dames of Saints John of Jerusalem.

Thirty-two years ago (1976), word was getting around that the Northern Renaissance Faire was a "pagan" faire. So, to counteract that, Sir Iain MacIain MacDonald created an organization to recognize people who were part of renaissance life by becoming knighted and swearing an oath to God.

He originally came up with this idea because he is related to one of the Barons who followed Richard the Lionheart on the third crusade. Outside the walls of Jerusalem, the morning before the first battle, Richard gave permission to all his Barons to knight worthy men *in perpetuity*. Since he is a descendant of one of these Barons, Sir Iain took that as his right to create "knights" in his order.

The original name of the organization was the Holy and Military Order of the Knights of the Saints John of Jerusalem. The "Saint(s)" part of the name came about because Sir Iain didn't want any entanglements with the Knights Hospitaller or Knights Templar because of the use of a name similar to

“their” Saint John of Jerusalem.

One time, I asked Sir James Melville why the name used Saints (plural). He thought Sir Iain meant to use the plural since there are 127 references to *a* St. John in “The Book of Saints”. In reality, Sir Iain says he only intended it to show honor to St. John the Baptist and St. John the Evangelist.

The organization was always intended to be a *cross* between the Knights Templar and the Knights Hospitaller. In fact, Sir Iain is a Past Commander of the Knights Templar within the Masonic Order.

As a symbol of one’s knighthood, he could have designed a dalmater that was truly unique. Instead he simply made a modification to other dalmaters. The white cloth is meant to represent the white linen that was wrapped around Christ in his tomb. The red cross on the front represents the blood of Christ. The red cross on the back represents all those who fell in the Crusades.

Some orders only wore a red cross on the front or the back, but Sir Iain decided to use a dalmater with crosses on both front and back.

As a simple means to differentiate the women from the men, he decided to make the Dames dalmater just the opposite: white crosses on red cloth. The difference has no other meaning.

Sir James Melville was the first person knighted by Sir Iain. Understandably, Dame Joan was the first woman knighted. But, she was actually the second to be named as a Grand Dame. He didn't tell me the name of the first Grand Dame. All he said was that she had passed on.

There were originally supposed to be twelve Cardinals who are authorized to perform knightings, hand-fastings, etc. six Cardinals were named by Sir Iain and six by Sir James Melville. For the Dames branch of the organization, the plan is to have the same number of Grand Dames and they have the same abilities as the Cardinals. Technically, it is true that any knight can make another knight. But, it is also true that historically it was either the monarch or a high-ranking liege lord who made a new knight. Whereas, in the knights of Saints John, Sir Iain made a variation on this theme. One of his very few rules was that the “high ranking liege lords”, who are the Cardinals and Grand Dames, are the only ones who can perform the knighting ceremonies. Sir Iain’s ceremony does allow for the presence of a Queen, if the person to be knighted comes from a guild with a queen, and having that Queen “dub” the new knight on the shoulder, thereby giving the *appearance* that it is she who is making the new knight. In reality, it is the presence and sanction of the Cardinals or Grand Dames that makes the ceremony official.

You may also hear some Cardinals referred to as Carmalingo, Carmalingo Cardinals, or Carmalingo Knights. We have two such knight in Saints John. Once again, the more familiar you become with the organization created by Sir Iain, the more involved, well thought out, and multi-layered it becomes. In the Catholic Church, upon the death of the Pope, a Carmalingo Cardinal can step in and temporarily run the church. During that time, it is the Carmalingo Cardinals who elect the new Pope. In the Knights of Saints John, part of the responsibility of the Cardinals (as Carmalingo) was to select a new Grand Abbott when Sir James Melville left the organization and the new Grand Master when we lost when Sir Iain.

The Knights of Saints John are not affiliated with any other knighting organization either in the United States or abroad. It is incorrect for anyone to say that their being knighted by the Knights of

Saints John got them accepted, listed, or whatever by the Lord Lyon of either Scotland or England.

By Sir Iain's recollection, there are approximately 150 knights and dames in the organization right now. After the last Knight's Convocation at Willits, Sir James Melville asked my husband to take "the big brown book" and transcribe all the names and addresses into a computer file for him. He maintained that database until the new Grand Abbot took it over. At that time there were 122 Knights, Dames, and Squires on the list. Some of those that weren't listed were because they had either died, moved away, or were inactive and he didn't know about them.

He was asked him about the ceremony used by Saints John. We thought Sir James Melville probably wrote the ceremony, but Sir Iain said it was one of the things he did *prior* to the first knighting and was part of his plan to remove the pagan rumors surrounding the Northern Renaissance Faire.

As mentioned above, Sir Iain was very high in the Masonic organization. The knighting ceremony we use was, in fact, taken largely from various Masonic ceremonies.

The only change Sir Iain made from his original design was to expand the organization to include knights from England, and possibly other countries. That will still follow the original premise of the organization which was to accept all Christian people who have met some criteria and been knighted.

I know it's easy to lose perspective when a person tells you a long list of names and (especially) historical dates. So, to try to help you understand where all this fits in with our guild, I'd like to ask a question: At what location, and on what day, was the last time the mounted, armored knight used in a battle on British soil?

It was at Flodden Hill on Sept. 9, 1513. I'm sure you know that is the date and location where King James IV and most of the nobility of Scotland died in one brief battle. Think about it, after all the years (and all the stories) of knights on horseback being the most formidable weapon on the battlefield, their day had past. Future battles would be fought with gunpowder and large, but mobile, fighting forces.

In fact, my husband's 16 times Great Grandfather Sir, Andrew Mosman was knighted after that battle by Queen Margaret in the name of King James V. He was a goldsmith who answered the call by his king to go fight in England to defend the Auld Alliance. Luckily, he was knighted with a group of survivors who had fought well and lived.

We portray a time only fifty years later, and yet by this time, Sir John Mosman, Sir Andre Mosman's son had been knighted strictly for his contributions as the Crown Jeweler to James V and Queen Marie de Guise.

Times have changed. But, the good name and thrilling history of the knight will live forever.

Chivalry Is

A kind word to a stranger,
A smile for those in need,
Sincerity in every action,
Both in word and deed.

Not the glory in the winning,
But honor in the game,
A hand outstretched to help a child,
Unseeking of fortune or fame.

Anger quickly managed,
Prudence swiftly sought,
Strength for those with weakness,
And character that can't be bought.

Beyond the battles on the field,
Past he crowds beneath the tee,
Grace, courage and honor,
Is what Chivalry means to me.

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To the Members of the Knights of
Saint Andrew's, Order of the Royal
Thistle, and to the Members of Saint
Andrews Renaissance Guild:

I am hereby privileged to inform all of you that the new Grand Master of the Knights of Saint Andrews will be Sir James Mosman. The New Grand Master came to be after a vote was taken amongst the Knights. The majority vote went to Sir James Mosman. Sir Guy Maxwell will remain as the Secretary for the Order as he has done a fine job in the past and we look forward to his future work to be just as grand, if not better. We are busy improving and creating new ceremonies for the coming year. We are also looking forward to raising those that were Squired last year to full Knighthood.

Sincerely,
Dame Raven Gunn Sinclair
Knights Council Judge for the Knights of
Saint Andrew's, Order of the Royal Thistle

The Meaning of Chivalry:

An ethical code that was prevalent in Medieval Europe. It was the Honor code of the knight. Its primary virtues were:

- Mercy (Towards the poor and oppressed. They were supposed to be harsh with evil-doers.)
- Humility
- Honor
- Sacrifice
- Fear of God
- Faithfulness
- Courage
- Utmost graciousness and courtesy to women harsh with evil-doers).





Knights of Saint Andrew's Order of the Thistle

by Sir James Mosman, Grand Master of the Order



Happy 5th Anniversary to the Knights of Saint Andrew's, Order of the Royal Thistle!

As written in an article elsewhere in this Parchment, most of the knights and dames in the Saint Andrew's Guild were originally honored to be knighted into the Knights and Dames of Saints John of Jerusalem. During the early years of the Saint Andrew's Guild, Sir James Melville was the Guild Master and also the Grand Abbott for the Knights of Saints John. He was the sole authority for selecting who would be knighted and performed all the ceremonies. When Sir Drew MacQuain assumed the position of Guild Master, a move was made to no longer allow the head of Saint Andrew's to be the authority for knighting members of the guild. But, after some "vehement" negotiations, Sir Iain MacIain agreed instead to open a new "priory" called "The Knights of Saint Andrew's" and knighted Sir Drew MacQuain as the first member of the order. That prestigious and important event happened on Sunday of the Calaveras Fair in 2004. Essentially, that makes the Calaveras Fair (now the Sonora Fair) the place of the "birth" of our honor group.

Early in the development of the rules for our order, we decided it would be understood that the term "knight" referred to both the male and female members of the Order. So, although the name of the Order of Saints John refers specifically to the "Knights and Dames", we wanted everyone to understand that all our members are equal and we did not draw any distinction on the basis of gender. The Order of the Royal Thistle will never have meetings of just the Knights or just the Dames. We prefer to indicate our equality by maintaining the rule of "One Knight, One Vote" in all things. We also wanted to make the honor more exclusive and based on real accomplishments, not just time in the guild or selection by the Guild Master or any individual. This makes the honor more desirable and recognized by the members of Saint Andrew's and other organizations as a indication of the knight's value and contributions to the guild of Saint Andrew's.

To begin, let me make it plain that (as in most organizations) most of the ideas, plans, etc. were made by individuals or small groups but discussed, improved and, eventually, approved by the members of the Order. Thus, throughout this article, certain individuals will be named and recognized for their efforts. When appropriate, I will name those individuals. But, please remember, this Order has always been one that worked toward a common cause.

After the creation of the Order, months went by where the organization did not appear to progress beyond a name and a single member. But, behind the scenes, ideas were being discussed and plans made to have a meeting of the most likely candidates to be brought into the Order. That first meeting was held in August, 2004 between the members of the Saint Andrew's Guild who were already Knights of Saints John.

The agenda at this first meeting was mainly to establish high level guidelines and principles that could be turned into some By-Laws and operating directions. Prior to that meeting, I had done research on the Knights of Saints John, other knighting organizations (both historical and present day), and other fraternal groups and developed a document with potential questions to present and be discussed. Sir Ryk Tucker and Sir Karras (a friend of the Order) also developed and presented documents describing the rights and commitments of a knight.

From that meeting, ballots containing ideas for approval were developed and mailed to those present at the meeting. Sir Drew, Sir Guy Maxwell, and Dame Raven Sinclair compiled the results of the ballots into a document that became the first draft of our By-Laws. It's significant that, after five years, most of the changes that have been made were to clarify items and to add items not established at that original meeting.

We are also very proud that our By-Laws have been shown to the leaders of various other honor organizations in other guilds and the Knights of Saints John and universally praised.



Tabards were approved by the order. Originally, they were planned to be blue with a gold edge border with a white saltier cross. After Dame Mariota Arres discovered information about the “Order of the Thistle” and their historical significance, that organization’s green and white colors became an obvious option. I saw a picture in a catalog from “Museum Replicas” with a man wearing a tabard they offered for sale. I scanned the picture and used Photoshop to create four sections on the tabard and change the colors on the sections so they were blue and gold or green and white. Then I created a web page showing the two designs and asked the Order to look at the page and submit their comments and votes for the one they liked the best. The vote for the green and white design was almost unanimous.

Plans were then made to induct members into the Order. Dame Mariota and I used the photo I had created of the tabard to develop the sewing patterns for the tabards and, eventually, the original tabard that we presented to Sir Drew. To create the tabards for the remainder of the original members we took measurements of each member and cut out the pieces for the tabards. Then we had sewing parties to assemble the outer shells of the tabards. The final touch we added was to have name tags embroidered with the names of each of the knights and sewed them into their tabard. This makes it easy to identify your own tabard and adds a small reminder of the honor for each knight.

Dame Mariota also did research into other organizations and the symbols they used to represent their own organizations. Based on comments she had read in various books, she started doing research on an organization supposedly founded by an early monarch of Scotland called “The Order of the Thistle”. This was to be an honor awarded by the monarch to people from both Scotland and other countries and represent great recognition by Scotland in the same way the Order of St. Michael represents France and the Order of St. George represents England.

The more we learned of the history of the Order of the Thistle and its knights, the more we wanted to create some sort of relationship with our knights. Dame Mariota redesigned the badge of that order to be used for our own badge. Of course, much consideration was given to making sure we continued to show our respect and to honor the original order while redesigning this new symbol for ourselves. After discussing the changes with members of our Order, I used Photoshop to modify the badge. But, we wanted our badge to be more than something we were able to use on our letterhead.

To make our tabards even more unique, we decided to add a small, embroidered copy of the badge in the upper left, white section over our heart. The symbolism appealed to us. We decided to allow our knights to add

one variation to their tabard. To personalize their tabards, a knight is allowed to add a copy of their person Coat of Arms on the upper right, green section. No other variations are allowed.

As I was negotiating with the embroidery company for the badges on our tabards, they were wanting to find someone to purchase one of their new products. They had just begun making patches and emblems by a process using gold or silver metal thread. We decided to purchase copies of the badge of the Order made in this very impressive way so our knights would have a way to show their honor at the times they could not wear their tabard. Take the opportunity to ask one of our knights to show you this badge at one of our events. They are very impressive and a symbol we all proudly wear.

It was purely accidental, but very advantageous that we had such a large number of knights who belonged to one Guild House. The Antioch Guild House had Sir Drew MacQuain, Dame Megan MacQuain, Sir Guy Maxwell, Dame Mary Beaton, Sir Keegan Gunn, Dame Shaila Gunn, Dame Raven Sinclair, Dame Mariota Arres, and myself attending meetings twice a month. During the first two years of the Order, we had the opportunity to talk about the Order and come up with ideas to present to the rest of the Order.

Up until this point, the only true member of the Order was Sir Drew. We had many discussions about how, why, and when we would induct other members into the Order and finally decided it was appropriate to induct those same members of the guild who had earned the honor with the Order of Saints John. Because it was now close to the end of 2004, it was decided we would hold our first knighting ceremony during Opening of Parliament in 2005. Because she had been helping Sir James Melville and the Knights of Saints John with ceremonies for many years, Dame Mariota was asked to write a new ceremony that would be impressive and, at the same time, fit within a short time allowed after the Opening of Parliament ceremonies.

It was a very impressive ceremony. The 23 knights being inducted were lined up in two lines with the newest knight (Dame Raven Sinclair) standing next to the earliest knight (Dr. Sir Darren Ross). As the knights walked to the front of the room, they split left and right so they ended in a semi-circle facing Sir Drew, going right to left from earliest to newest.

Sir Drew opened the ceremony with words about the order and then started around the semi-circle, bringing each person into the Order. In a show of respect and solidarity, Sir Colm macIain, the new Grand Abbot of the Order of Saints John, assisted Sir Drew by tapping each knight with the spurs of their position.

The original knights of the Order were:

Dr. Sir Darren Ross	Dame Megan MacQuain
Sir Keegan Gunn	Dame Bonnie Gunn
Sir Ryk Tucker	Sir Andrew Hepburn
Dame Shaila Gunn	Dame Shannon MacCodrum
Don Bernardino de Mendoza	Dona Sabina de Mendoza
Dame Bronwynne Melville	Dame Brianna de St. Joer
Sir William Maitland	Dame Megan Maitland
Sir Craig Melville	Dame Judith Von Holstein
Sir Ian MacMillan	Dame Mary Beaton
Sir Guy Maxwell	Dame Mariota Arres
Sir James Mosman	Dame Hannah Maxwell
Dame Raven Sinclair	

Since the day when the original group was knighted into the Order, we have added Dame Brittah Helie (Sir James Mosman, Champion), Sir James Hepburn (Dame Raven Sinclair, Champion), Squire Charlotte Carmichael (Sir Ryk Tucker, Champion), Squire Alice Miller (Dame Brittah Helie, Champion), Squire Duncan Somerville (Sir James Mosman, Champion) and Squire Annebell Somerville (Dame Hannah Maxwell/HRM, Champion). The reasons you may not recognize some of the names are beyond the scope of this article. Please ask me for an explanation and I'll be happy to talk about it.

One of the most important items that came out of that first meeting of the Order was the need for the "Knight's Council" and the process for selecting its members. It was decided that two members would be selected as a privilege of the First Knight (Dame Bronwynne and Sir Keegan) and two members would be selected by the vote of the Order (Sir Guy and myself). Dame Bronwynne took the title of Secretary and Sir Guy, Sir Keegan, and I became the Council Judges. For this article, I also won't go into the significance of the various positions.

After two years, Dame Bronwynne left due to a move to Maine, Sir Guy became Secretary, and another "character" (Dame Raven) was elected to the Council. As expected, she proved to be the perfect addition and has worked very hard to advance the Order. I use the term "character" lovingly because I am very proud of the fact that, for the past three years, the council has consisted of a group of people who have brought their own individuality to the group but have done so with an unswerving commitment to a bigger group that is the Order of the Royal Thistle.

We always want the knights and squires to be involved. The by-laws provided descriptions for two positions called "Officer of Heraldry" and "Officer of Ceremonies". Sir Ryk Tucker volunteered to bring his knowledge of heraldry to the Order and Dame Mariota continued her efforts to bring new ceremonies to the Order. Their work has helped make the Order recognizable and remembered by all who see our ceremonies.

It has often seemed like every meeting of the Knight's Council has brought some change to the By-Laws. But, because of the commitment of each council member, they have always turned out to be changes that made the Order better in some way. As the years have gone by we've added sections to clarify the roles of the members of the council, changed the nominating and squiring sections, added a clause to ensure Sir Drew would be the only person to ever be known as "First Knight", and many other changes, additions, and clarifications. Sir Guy Maxwell was the keeper of our By-Laws and became our "walking encyclopedia" for answers. With his knowledge of the By-Laws, we always had a place to start our discussions and could end with meaningful changes.

When Sir Guy moved to the Secretary's position, one of the Council Judges was expected to take the responsibility of planning and managing our meetings. Dame Raven Sinclair has proven to be capable of running a business meeting and managing four other strongly opinionated knights. With the agendas we set for ourselves, it was important that someone keep us on track and manage each person's desire to "get in the last word".

I realize this article has gotten very long, but (upon this historical anniversary) I thought it was important to document the history of the organization. This organization was established with the hope of fostering a sense of accomplishment for each new knight and ownership for every member of the Order. I am confident we have succeeded in that goal.

Once again, Happy Anniversary to the Knights of Saint Andrew's!

Squiring the Somervilles

Goodly Knights, Dames, and Members of Saint Andrew's,

I wish to take this opportunity to thank the Knights of St. Andrew's for the honor being squired this past year at Anderson. Being a knight of St. Andrew's is the highest honor possible for me. The ceremony was wonderful. My daughter, her husband, and my grandson were able to attend making it that much more special.

I would especially like to thank Sir Drew for being my Champion. Although he has retired from the guild it is my sincere hope that he will be in attendance at the knighting ceremony.

I would also like to thank my new Champion, Dame Hannah Maxwell for taking on the responsibility. I am deeply honored and will do my best to keep up the traditions that being part of the Knighthood signifies.

Your most humble servant,
Squire Annebell Somerville

Good Morrow my Lords and Ladies,

It is with great honor that I was squired into the Order of the Thistle on the occasion of this past Winter's Feast. I would like to express my gratitude to all the Dames and Knights for allowing me to be a part of this great Order.

I would also like to thank Sir Keegan Gunn and Sir James Mosman for being my Champions. Additionally, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to all the people involved in the squiring. The magnificent entrance given to me by the Guard while being piped in, standing alongside both Sir Drew and Sir Guy will be a most cherished memory I hope I never forget.

I look forward to serving the Knighthood in the best traditions of a knight and I am proud to wear the green and white squiring ribbon. When the time comes that I am able to don the full dalmater it will be with the greatest honor I can possibly imagine.

Thank you one and all,
Squire Cpt. Duncan Somerville



Actor's Camp 101 Revisited

By Master Philip Alisdair

Actor's 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.



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



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://](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SaintAndrewsGuildChat)

groups.yahoo.com/group/SaintAndrewsGuildChat.) as the faires arise.

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/>.

Willits

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

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

Truckee

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

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

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

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

Shasta

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

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

Sonora Celtic Festival. You need to get to this actors' camp early. There is very limited onsite parking. Think a small tent space, with room for a small table and chairs. Self contained rvs were welcome last year; first come, first served, as space permitted. There are showers. 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 faire. No camping.

Willits 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).

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).

Shasta Dragonwood Celtic Renaissance Festival. This has been different each of the past two years. One year we were on grass, the next on the tennis courts (no tent stakes/tie-downs). Last year the weather was bad - some slept in cars, some bailed to motels, and some of us slept in pavilions. We kept a tight rein on those in camp, yet all had fun. We had a fire pit, BBQ'd, and cooked an awesome breakfast (Thanks to Master Tom and Mistress Isabel). Breakfast is also 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).

Proposed 2009 Guild Calendar

FEBRUARY

6 thru 8 – RENAISSANCE SYMPOSIUM – Modesto
21 – TRAINING – Niles Staging Area/Trailhead Park, Fremont 11AM-3PM
28 - OPENING OF PARLIAMENT - Antioch

MARCH

7/8 – PROPS REPAIR – Newman / emergency repair
14/15 - SONORA CELTIC FAIRE – Sonora
28 – TRAINING – Location TBA

APRIL

4/5 – PROPS REPAIR - Newman
8 – LIVERMORE SCHOOL EVENT
18 – PRIVY COUNCIL / HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD MEETING
23 – ST. MARY'S SCHOOL EVENT – Gilroy
25/26 – TULARE FAIRE - Visalia

MAY

2 – TRAINING – Location TBA
8 - SAN LORENZO MIDDLE SCHOOL - King City
16/17 – LIVERMORE HIGHLAND GAMES - Livermore
21 – FISCHER MIDDLE SCHOOL – Los Gatos
30/31 – VALHALLA (WALKABOUT)

JUNE

5 - TRUCKEE MIDDLE SCHOOL – Truckee
6/7 – VALHALLA (WALKABOUT)
13 – PICNIC GAMES
20 - CAMPBELL HIGHLAND GAMES – Campbell
27/28 – FAIR OAKS (WALKABOUT)

JULY

18 – TRAINING –Location TBA
18/19 – SLO (WALKABOUT)
25 – PRIVY COUNCIL / HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD MEETING

AUGUST

1/2 – WILLITS FAIRE – Willits
15 – PICNIC GAMES
29/30 – GOLDEN GATE RENAISSANCE FAIRE

SEPTEMBER

5/6 – PLEASANTON HIGHLAND GAMES (WALKABOUT)
19/20 – TRUCKEE RENAISSANCE FAIRE

OCTOBER

3/4 – SHASTA RENAISSANCE FAIRE – Anderson
17 – TRAINING & BATTLE PRACTICE – Location TBA
17/18 FOLSOM FAIRE (WALKABOUT)
24 – PRIVY COUNCIL / HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD MEETING

NOVEMBER

7 – WINTERS FEAST – Livermore
14/15 – SYCAMORE ISLAND - Madera

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	Sara MacBride	Bronwynne Melville
Philip Alexander	Brittiah MacGregor	Craig Melville
Mariota Arres	Jessica MacGregor	Mary Seton
Mary Beaton	Kael MacGregor	Alice Sinclair
Charlotte Carmichael	Morna MacGregor	Raven Sinclair
Maitiu'de Faoite	Katie MacLeod	Brianna de St. Joer
Cullen Elliot	Maureen MacLeod	John Stewart
Gwendolyn Elliot	Jillian MacKenzie	Sara Stewart
Bonnie Gunn	Fionnoola MacPhearson	Annebell Somerville
Keegan Gunn	Heber MacPhearson	Duncan Somerville
Shaila Gunn	Drew MacQuain	Ryk Tucker
Andrew Hepburn	Megan MacQuain	Johan von Pluym
Breanna Kerr	Robert McCutchen	
Mary Livingstone	Guy Maxwell	
Innes MacAlister	Hannah Maxwell	