

Saint Andrew's Noble Order of Royal Scots

Parchment

There's Nothing
Like a Dame!

The Knighting of Alice Sinclair
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The Four Marys Page 18

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 all,

Afore you now is the latest Parchment which is specifically redesigned to feature one of our members (in this case Dame Alice Sinclair) for their contributions to Saint Andrew's Royal Order of Noble Scots. This is a theme I will be working from for the next several issues. It is my thinking that in so honoring the individual(s) we will discover the good example and confidence the rest of us work to emulate for the betterment and insurance of the guild as a whole.

I still very much wish to publish any and all activities of the Guild, smaller representations of the Guild, or Guild members as individuals working within the "renaissance realm" or in our 21st century communities. Examples of these are found within these scant pages on the presentations made to the Boy Scout Troop 939, the Youth Outreach Program, the guild's participation at the Cain's Crossing event...

But where are the articles on the Livermore event, the doings at Tulare and Valhalla, the Truckee school event and the spring picnic and games? Folks, I beseech you to, upon your participation, submit your views and experiences for all to learn from and enjoy. The Parchment does not write itself and cannot function as the training device it could be without each of you in someway giving of your time, talent, perspectives and contributions.

Truely,
Jo Graden, Publisher Parchment/Scroll



Greetings unto ye Good People of Scotland and honored guests of the realm,

Our year of progress be now underway, we have traveled to the village of Sonora to greet Our people full well. 'Twas a fine two days, mild in weather and frolicsome in nature. We were well pleased with the new royal pages, especially Master Cole who didst offer his time to Our Ladies in Waiting whilst We toured the local area. Verily, he be a gentleman in the making. We must thank our Royal Guard for the parting pint of Ale they didst make available upon the final closing parade. How unexpected! How thoughtful!

With the sad absence of villages of Campbell, Shasta and Truckee our progress shalt be spare this year. But as with life, there be years of plenty and years of few. One canst only hope that fortunes shalt turn about anon. In the meanwhile, We be assured that Our Lord Chancellor shalt find activities to occupy one and all. As an old friend is wont to say, "Idle hands are the devils workshop." And it doth frighten Us full well, with the thought of the more malapert ladies of court needing to keep themselves entertained at everyone else's peril. E'en the Royal Guard might sleep less easy knowing that certain nobles be up to mischief. Ye know who ye be! Thou art being watched, e'en now!

Progressing on...whilst on visit to the scholars of St. Mary's school, Our path didst cross with that of Dame Bronwynne Melville. Most impressed were We that e'en though she hast been absent from our presence for a span of years now, she hast lost not one ounce of her courtly knowledge and behaves as yet of a lady of high rank is wont. She be much missed. As an aside, but no less of import, We do thank full well Lady Mary Katherine MacLeod for her terpsichorean assistance at the same said event. Gramerci!

Thus in closing, methinks all wilt treasure our times together this season as each time it shall be dear unto us all.

Fond Regards,

marieP



The Guild Master's Message



From His speech at the 2009 Opening of Parliament:

At this moment in time, things have changed and are changing even now as We sit here in Parliament. So, I would like to speak to you today about “CHANGE”.

First there has been a change in the leadership of Saint Andrew's. Sir Drew MacQuain's retirement announcement at Winter Feast was a surprise to most of you. After his five-year reign, he decided it was time for him to pass the mantle of leadership to someone else. So, the next change is one of me being installed as Guild Master of Saint Andrews and as with every new administration, new change will come about. Some of you will embrace the new changes and others will still be saying, “but we've always done it this way or we have always done it that way”. Well times have changed and this is the new and improved Saint Andrew's, doing new and exciting things instead of the same old boring stuff we have always done.

We will still put on our Royal Court where the patrons can still meet with Her Majesty, but we are going to change and be set closer to the patrons so we will be able to have interaction with them, make them feel like they stepped into the 16th century. We are going to change from volunteers who come to just play, to ACTORS who come to perform as part of their having fun at faire. Our thinking will also change. Once you put on your costume and enter the faire, you are “ON”. You are whom ever you have decided your character is to be and there is no such thing as the 21st century. If you have joined Saint Andrew's with the thought of sitting back, drinking ale, and going shopping, then my words to you are, “Just pay at the gate”. I am also asking for you to change your thinking about what we do at faire as far as shows and gigs. Do a little thinking outside the box and bring things that not only entertain the patrons, but also something they can be involved in.

So, in closing, there will be a lot of change in Saint Andrew's during the next year. Some will be immediate and other changes will happen as we go along. Some of us fear change, but not all change is bad and Saint Andrew's will continue to be the premier renaissance guild it has always been.

God Save the Queen!

Sir James Hepburn
4th Earl of Bothwell



A Missive from the Chamberlain

Lords and Ladies of Saint Andrew's,

We are midway through another year of uncertainty on the Renaissance Fair circuit. We've all heard stories of how hard the "economic situation" has hurt so many aspects of everyone's lives. But, until a couple of months ago, it never occurred to me just how much it might affect the fairs we attend. I would have thought people would be happy to have some relatively inexpensive opportunities to escape the problems of everyday life. But, less than half way through the year, four of our fairs have been cancelled.

The silver-lining on this problem is that Saint Andrews has always been known for it's ability to innovate and adapt to situations. As soon as the Guild Master started getting messages about some fair boards considering cancellation of their events, we started planning ways to provide the best experience for our members for the remainder of the year.

The first event we are planning is the camp out at Marble Quarry in Columbia. We have contracted for the campsites for the weekend of Sept. 26 & 27 and will provide those campsites at no cost to our members who wish to pitch their tent. There are trailer hookups and cabins on site, but members will need to pay for those. It is a small token of appreciation from us to the members.

Lord Bothwell has also sent off at least one request to be accepted to another fair (to be announced later) and we are looking for more fairs to offer.

As with most of our other adaptations, this is also a learning and planning experience. We are learning of other fairs in our area and are working to try to become the Royal Court for some of those. We are also working on ways to attend "English" fairs and still be the Saint Andrews Noble Order of Royal Scots. We have an upcoming Privy Council meeting with this as one of our topics.

Anyone who attended the fair at Cain's Crossing saw that we can maintain our "story" while expanding our options for the coming years. Personally, I had as much or more fun at that fair as I've had at any of our usual fairs over the past few years. It was also good to hear and feel the very real appreciation and respect that fair board and Royal Court had for Saint Andrews.

We are already working on options for next year and are confident you will enjoy being members of the Saint Andrews Guild.

Grammercy,

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



Noble Encouragements

Greetings and Salvations,

A few words from Lord Loudmouth as some of you refer to me. Allow me to first ask for your forgiveness if you were one of the unlucky recipients of my outburst at Livermore tear-down. I would love to tell you it will never happen again, but... Let's face it, if you were one of the troupers that showed up to support our organization you know just how uncomfortable it was.

As most have heard we have changes coming and change is not new to us. In the brief time Cary and I have been with the guild, we have seen Dame Bronwynne, Doug and Sherry, and many other friends exit the guild for a variety of reasons, and now we will see one of our dearest friends step down as well at the end of the year. I ask that we pull together and look at this change in a positive light. I believe change brings new challenges and opportunities for growth and improvement. I am personally deeply saddened to see Laurie move on, but look forward to seeing her at faires in a more relaxed setting.

We must all support the new monarch and the guild as a whole in true Saint Andrew's fashion and flair. Let's help the new monarch, once selected, transition into her role with all the grace and style as her predecessors exhibited. This will keep Saint Andrew's in favorable light with the producers for without them we are nothing more than a group of people with really outdated fashions hanging in the closet.

As we prepare for the Willits faire, let's consider this; it is the last faire for the year, it is Laurie's last faire with us as the Queen, and it is one of my personal favourite faires. Let's make it the best one yet.

I realize this is a short article, but I am sure you're as tired of reading this as you are tired of hearing me at faires.

Live long and prosper,
Lord Robert



Good My Lords and Ladies,

I would like to take a few moments and describe a recent experience. My husband and I made plans to attend a faire, scheduled for St. A's as a walk-a-bout. Given that we would be in attendance without our Monarch, I contemplated as to what I should wear. I normally do not attend faire without my nobles, however decided to wear something a little more comfortable and less formal. Once I decided on my attire, I had to find shoes that I knew would be comfortable for a long day of walking about the shire. I could not leave without a proper hat to match what I was wearing that day, along with a bit of magic potion to protect my skin from the sun's rays. Was reluctant to take my camera, but knew there would be many photo opportunities to be had. I'm now ready for my day to begin.

As we approach the renaissance village, I find myself looking to see what wonderful experiences await us. After parking our chariot, we pay for our tickets and approach the gate. Everywhere there are people dressed in garb - those standing at the entrance, some of the patrons waiting in line and many who have already made it inside. What a splendid site for someone who may be attending a renaissance faire for the first time. Once inside, I feel my excitement build as all the sights and sounds of this magnificent village come to life.

We had not walked far, when a kitchen vendor caught my eye. I love kitchen gadgets and cookbooks. Had a wonderful conversation with the craftsman/woman, purchased a couple of historic books and continued further into the village. It wasn't long when we noticed familiar faces. Took a few moments to stop and chat with members of our renaissance family. Shared hugs with all and proceeded on our journey.

I had a wonderful time looking at all the wares, watching the craftsman demonstrate their skilled trade and enjoying the entertainment found in so many places about the village. Spotted many folk with fabulous garb, and of course found several opportunities to take flemish paintings. Enjoyed a wonderful repast, as we prepared for the rest of our day. Helped my husband lighten the weight of his coffers, chatted with several of our renaissance family and friends, then headed to the chariot for a ride back to our mobile castle.

As I reflected on the day's events, I came to one conclusion. It's great to be a part of this wonderful renaissance experience, however I would prefer to be in garb. My husband and I had decided to visit this enchanting village in street clothes and hoped to blend in with the crowd. We wanted to see what it was like to be a patron again. While we had the appearance of other patrons on the outside, I really had a difficult time on the inside. From the patron's perspective, a renaissance faire is like walking into a wonderful dream. You can experience so many things that you didn't know existed, all while learning a bit of history. As a re-enactor in garb, you are a part of that history the patron is experiencing.

I enjoy the camaraderie of my fellow renaissance friends and family. It warms my heart to see the smiles on children young and old, as they take in all the splendor of this wonderful renaissance world. I like being able to play dress up (so to speak) as an adult, forget about the 21st century, mentally put on the final touches of my renaissance character, then take the stroll back into time. It's so rewarding as a re-enactor to bring history to life. I'm not only teaching others about the 16th century, but am learning much about that time period myself. The more involved I get, the more I want to learn and absorb, hoping that I will be that much more prepared for the next renaissance faire.

I challenge each of you to partake in the mundane experience at one of St. A's walk-a-bout opportunities. If you're like me, you will find that once you have made the decision to literally step into the 16th century, it's difficult going back to your modern day self when at faire. I appreciate more than ever, how much I enjoy making the mundane experience as magical as I can.....for everyone else.

I do remain,

Lady Mary Livingston
Humbly in Service to Her Majesty as the Ladies-in-Waiting Head of Household



Good Morrow all,

Since our last parchment we have had the Livermore games and although it was small it was fun. It was a joy to see those who were able to attend on Saturday. The highlight of the day was Dame Alice's knighting and I was honored to be part of the ceremony. As for Cain's Crossing since I was not there I will let others speak for how wonderful a time that was.

As most of you may have heard in March I suffered a stroke. I lost the use of my left side. Since then I have been slowly regaining the use. I can walk fairly well and I am starting to be able to close my hand. I should make 100% recovery. I would like to thank everyone for their emails and cards and for the support and caring that you all have shown me.

Sunday night after the Livermore games when my wife arrived home I received the sad news that Her Most Royal Majesty would be retiring at the end of this year. Your Majesty, I will definitely miss you and hope that your progress from this point on is filled with joy and fun.

So with a the new year come new changes, like each year, the Guard stands always ready to serve the Queen. Long live the Queen!

On a personal note, I want to set the story straight that someone has been spreading: It was nothing less than a giant war horse that kicked me upside the head during battle practice, not the wee coo that I was wrestling out in a field like the daft fool on a bet. So don't believe those wild highlander stories you are hearing in the tavern.

Squire Cpt. Duncan Sommerville

By means of patience, common sense and time, impossibility become possible. - Sir Colin Campbell

Ta all of St. Andrews and the Highlands,

Tis been to long since yer auld Chieftain had his scribe write down anathin from the Tavern. Since last I didst write, we ha done a few thins. We didst travel ta the shire of Sonora fer the first of Her Majesties progresses. The faire was a great success, gigs were done and done weel, patrons were interacted with. I for one dist feel the new

management of the guild did a wonderful job of pulling us together and allowing for us to do our things. I wouldst make welcome the two newest of the highlands. Master William and Mistress Elizabeth. Also a welcome to Meghan MacPhearson, she didst joyne with us for the first time in Sonora. There stories and demonstrations didst entertain most well. Ta those who have not met these new people do make yer selves known. We didst see many an auld friend out and about.

St. Andrews has had several training days in Fremont. If ye hath not been ta one then I highly recommend that ya do attend. Lord James Stewart doth do an admirable job of teaching us many things that will be most well met as the season progresses. Tis also a place ta meet with yer friends and ta plan out new gigs for the season. We do have some areas that will be needing people ta fill in as participants in small gigs soon. So do please be willing to step up and in to one of these gigs as this is where the fun is.

If ya do have an idea do write it down and present it ta myne owne self and I willst pass it along ta management.

With all me wind expended since I canna write nor speak near as much as Master Philip and Maitiu I shall end my missive with the idea that I look forward ta seeing all of you as we progress further.

In Her Service
Chieftain Heber MacPhearson.
VisCount of Mulben



Good Morrow one and all!

I do hope that you all had as wonderful a time in the shire of Sonora as I did have! Several of us fought side by side with the Highlanders during the Johnson Cattle Raid, and the crowd did seem to enjoy our battle. I suspect that in the future we will again be helping the good Lord Johnson to reive some cattle... oh no, I mean lead some cattle home with us... no, I mean... it wasn't

our fault, the cattle just followed us and wandered into our fire pit, yes, that is it!

Regardless, we have some new folks joining us this year, and I look forward to working on some new gigs with everyone. If you have an urge to be in any of our gigs, please let me know, we will see if you can play an existing part or add a new one where we can! We have several events coming up this year, and I hope that everyone will have as much fun at them as we did at Sonora.

Cailin Rua Kelly Seaton
Chamberlain of the Irish & Mercenaries
Ambassador of Education for Her Majesty

Guild Event Calendar

JULY

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

AUGUST

8/9 – WILLITS FAIRE – Willits
15 – PICNIC GAMES

SEPTEMBER

5/6 – PLEASANTON HIGHLAND GAMES
(WALKABOUT)
12/13 - ARDENWOOD SHAKESPEARE
FESTIVAL AND RENAISSANCE FAIRE -
Ardenwood (Setup pending approval with faire
board)
26/27 - PICNIC/GAMES/CAMPOUT - see
page 16 of this edition for details

OCTOBER

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

Historical Perspective

By Lord James Stewart

Lady Janet Hepburn sent me a missive asking me to compare the guild in transition with the Scotland of Mary Stuart's time. An interesting exercise, to be sure.

Saint Andrews, like Scotland, is in transition. We have new leaders, but we retain enough of our veteran performers that there is bound to be conflict. Conflict is healthy, and it is the hallmark of a healthy organization to have disagreements and dialogs and compromises. Anyone who monitors the chat group, who attends guild meetings, who attends guild events will know that there is a struggle between that which is new and unknown and that which is tried and true and entrenched.

An example of this is the set up of the encampment. For years, Saint Andrews has prided itself on having the biggest, grandest encampment at the faires that we attend, and why not? We are the royal court at most of our events, and our court should reflect the grandeur of being the home of God's representative on earth in the form of the monarch. In the words of our Guild Master, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it." But in our zeal to create such a splendid place for our Queen, we may have made a place with so many pavilions surrounding our performance space that we may have in fact concealed our court rather than put it on display. Such a configuration may have intimidated possible visitors rather than welcome them. We are moving now in a direction where the first thing that a person sees when they approach our encampment is the splendor of our Queen and Court. I think everyone agrees that the court at Sonora hasn't looked so good in years. Perhaps it has never looked so good. It took a fresh perspective to do this.

As re-enactors of history, it is our job to teach the lessons of history. But we must heed those lessons ourselves. The time of Mary Stewart's return was a time of great potential. The problem was this conflict degenerated from a dynamic, transforming force to one in which rival factions attempted to seize power and wealth to satisfy their own selfish ends. We must not allow what happened to Scotland in Mary Stuart's time to happen at Saint Andrews.

Education Matters

The Royal Scholar's Syllabus

by Lord James Stewart

Training 2009

As we head into the dog days of summer, it might be worthwhile to look at what we have covered so far on our training days.

Our first training day was dedicated to polishing up our old Johnston Cattle Raid Scenario, and working on courtly behavior. I can't say much about the cattle raid because I wasn't involved with it this time around, but it appeared to be a spirited exercise in simulated murder and mayhem in which no real blood was spilled. Who could ask for anything more?

Courtly behavior has been less than satisfactory in recent years. The Queen had noticed it, the guildmaster had noticed it and even many of the members had noticed a lessening in formality. We decided to work on that, reviewing how to speak to the Queen, the appropriate way to reverence both the Queen and the empty throne, and the correct forms of address for each other and her Royal Majesty. I completed that day thinking progress had been made, and I thought I saw a difference at the first faire of the year in Sonora.

If our first training day we learned to walk the walk, on our second we learned to talk the talk. Projection, BFA and Scottish Accents were the orders of the day. A good time was had by all as each of us got the chance to meet and greet and hurl insults in our clearest and best Scottish Accent. The lesson on Scottish Accents was courtesy a CD of the Proclaimers' 500 Miles. Those that missed that day missed an opportunity to work on Projection, BFA and rolling one's r's. Those that missed that day also managed to avoid the trauma of hearing me singing along with the Proclaimers.

In the coming months training will be taking a new direction. The leadership of the guild is right now evaluating the needs that the guild has shown at its first two faires and the plan is to come up with something really special for July, in time for our next big gig in Willits.

Youth Outreach Program

by Cailin Rua Kelly Seaton

Good day one and all!

It has been expressed to me that some of you who are new and have not yet attended a school event may not know what happens with our Youth Outreach Program and therefore be hesitant to join us for a school event. So, I will address that issue here and now. Each school event that we attend is slightly different as each school or teacher has different ideas about what it is that they want from their event. But most of them follow the same general idea. Here I will describe each event in brief that we are doing/have done this year.

Livermore Charter School

This was our first year at the Livermore Charter School – our own Lady Cara is a teacher there. We started off the day giving a brief background on Her Majesty, her crowning at 9 months, travelling to France and marrying the Prince, becoming Queen and a widow within a year, and returning to Scotland. Her Majesty was unable to attend this day, but Lord Bothwell did attend and spoke to the children next. Each of our attendees then stood up and gave an introduction of themselves and a brief description of their role in Her Majesty's court. (Do not fear here, if you are new and don't really have something specific that you do in Her Majesty's court, this could be as simple as "I am a Highlander travelling with Her Majesty on progress".) We had a presentation from some of the ladies and gentlemen on Fashion – this was fairly informal and several folks jumped in with different input during this discussion. Lady Jillian also presented on the food and spices that were available at the time, and the importance of them.

Sir Ryk gave a presentation on weapons and battle, assisted by myself and Seamus of the Royal Guard. We had about 10 folks in attendance, some of the more experienced members took the lead in the presentations, but several of the newer folks helped out and added some wonderful insights as well.

St. Mary's School, Gilroy – Thursday, April 23

St. Mary's school is ALWAYS a wonderful school to attend. Our own Dame Bronwynne's sister has children attending this school and has always shown us a wonderful time at this school. This event has been done for many years, and is a little more structured. At this event, all of the children dress in the costume of a historical character; these characters cover medieval through Renaissance times, so we can have Genghis Kahn sitting next to King Henry.

After we enter into the Auditorium and briefly introduce those from our court in attendance, the children are given the opportunity to introduce themselves as well. The kids are then split into groups and we have 3 or 4 different presentations at this time. These presentations might include teaching a period dance, playing some period appropriate games, discussing fashion, court intrigue, and of course weapons.

After this, we are served a wonderful lunch by the parents and teachers, we eat alongside of the children in the auditorium. We have everything from fresh fruit, chicken legs and wings, bread, cookies, and other items

(especially those that would have been eaten with the fingers...)



After lunch we all get back together in one group and the children often do presentations to Her Majesty – these could be presentations of projects that they have done (they build some terrific castles at this school, as well as draw a renaissance scene, design their own coats of arms, and so forth); in the past they have also done songs and dances for Her Majesty.

After this we wrap up the day with questions and bit more discussion and pictures of course. The kids at this school always look forward to being in the 7th grade so that they can participate in our Living History day!

King City School – Friday, May 8

In truth I have not attended this school event myself, but it is at the school of Lord Collin in Her Majesty's Guard. I always hear wonderful things about this event. Here, the children have their own court established with a King and Queen and we portray visiting dignitaries. They have some wonderful ceremonies and provide us with lunch as well. Since this event is so far south, and it starts early in the morning, a stipend is given to those who wish to attend so that they may stay in a local motel the night before. I'm sorry that I cannot be more detailed about this event, but as I said I have not yet had the opportunity to attend. But everyone that is able to attend has always had a great time!



photos courtesy of Steven Sui

Fisher Middle School, Los Gatos –

Thursday, May 21

Fisher Middle School is a more scaled down event for us as a guild, the school has a full-day Renaissance Day and has other groups come in to give presentations and interactive exhibits as well as us, including a falconer, and trebuchets which the children are allowed to fire across the quad. For us, we have two presentations after lunch, one on weapons and one on dance.

The dance presentation is actually teaching the children, usually 2 dances (as we have 50 minutes to present) and we can always use the assistance of anyone in the guild, even those without experience with dancing, as this is a great opportunity for you to learn as well.

The weapons demonstration is also 50 minutes long, and is given by whoever can attend and has knowledge of the weapons. Usually it is Sir Ryk and/or myself who are in attendance for this presentation, but anyone with knowledge (or who would like to learn more) should attend – I've been able to learn quite a lot by listening to Sir Ryk at the school presentations! Each presentation is given twice as we have two groups who rotate through the rooms while we are there.

Mission Dolores School, San Francisco – Friday, May 29

Again, Mission Dolores is a completely different format than the other schools, mainly because all of the classes have the opportunity to come through the auditorium while we are there. The children all have projects that are set up on tables throughout and the kids can walk around visiting each project/demonstration at will. The kids from various classes are given approximately half an hour each to walk through the tables and visit with us.

At this event, our folks usually just mingle among the children answering questions about various aspects of their dress, their character or the Renaissance in general. Last year I also had a table set up with the weapons and armor and answered several of the questions that were asked. Other members of the guild brought along fabrics and other items to present and discuss; I would like to expand this year if possible, so if any of you have some ideas please let me know. Some possible additions are a display of fashion, food and spices, or currency, artwork or pottery, or some other items that can be put on display. I would love to expand the information that we

offer to the kids, while keeping the informal atmosphere that this school seems to enjoy for this event.

At lunch time they supply us with a light lunch of sandwiches and sweets.

Truckee School – Friday, June 5

This school event, in Truckee California, is sponsored by Lady Jean Stuart. I have heard many great things about this event as well. Our guild members have done demonstrations on weapons, period crafts, and various other activities applicable to the time period. The students also have presentations for Her Majesty (portrayed ably by Sandy) and lunch is served. I have not as of yet personally attended this event myself, but everyone speaks highly of the level of energy and interest that is shown by the kids at Sandy's school.

Most of our school events are at schools associated with our guild members in some way. We have added some new schools (like Livermore) recently in addition to long term schools, and we may be adding another one in San Jose next year, as my daughter Kathryn will be in 7th grade and is very excited to have us come and do a Living History day; hopefully folks will be up for driving down this way next year...

So as you can see, we have a variety of school events – there are many folks who present repeatedly at the events, so for those of you who are new, worry not! You will not be expected to attend your first event and make a presentation of any sort unless you wish to. Many times our members attend to provide “color”, to provide another example of period dress and mannerisms, and if they have input, it is ALWAYS welcome.

Sometimes the format of our presentations must change and adapt depending on who is available to attend at a certain event. If our dance mistress is not available, we make adjustments to the schedule and do a talk on court etiquette, or the politics of the time, or food, or even bathing habits (such as they were!). So as you can see, it's easy to put your ‘feet in the water’ to test it out, and see what a school gig is for yourself. You will always be welcome!

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

The Knighting of Alice Sinclair

by Dame Brittah H'elie



“Good Gentles of Saint Andrew’s, good Nobles of the Land, and commoners alike, do ye assemble yourselves for the Noble Knighting Ceremony of the Knights of Saint Andrew’s!”

So began the knighting ceremony of Dame Alice Sinclair. Guild members, vendors, friends, and family attended the knighting ceremony. Bruce Mosman played the lute during the ceremony, adding a wonderful musical touch to the event. It was a pleasure to see Dame Alice’s son Mitch once again. Fifteen years ago it was Mitch who urged his mother to attend faire, as he and his friends needed a ride to faire. Her husband Marty attended, as well as Alice’s sister and many other family members and long time friends. Lord Christopher Andrew visited from King City and participated in the ceremony by carrying the Knighting Cross. Dame Alice wore a lovely gown of black and antique gold fashioned by Lady Catherine Cameron.

Her merits were recounted for all to hear; fifteen years with Saint

Andrew’s, five years as the Modesto Guild House chatelaine, recipient of the Thor’s Hammer in recognition of her hard work and dedication at faire.

She was a charter member of the Event Committee, planning Winter’s Feast, Opening of Parliament and other events, and she has been the chair of the Picnic/Social Committee for the past two years. Dame Alice has collected recyclables and forwarded those funds to the guild for the past five years, she gives 10% of her table sales to the guild as well. She has brought many folk into Saint Andrew’s and into the renaissance world. As almost a full score of names were called out, those she has introduced to renaissance faire stood as testament to Dame Alice’s good will and open heart. She has met her challenge of creating, organizing and carrying out events



for our guild children at each event. This truly was a challenge for her, and she enjoyed spending time with the children and getting to know them better. The list of her merits continued as well as folk coming forth to speak of Dame Alice’s good heart, honor, and friendship. Dame Alice recited the Knights’ Code and she was accepted by her fellow knights.

Sir Ryk Tucker brought forth Dame Alice’s Coat of Arms which Dame Alice designed and Sir Ryk fashioned with elements of her Sinclair Clan insignia.

“I do strike thee once for virtue, I do strike thee twice for purity, I do strike thee thrice for chivalry through eternity. We do proclaim thee a Knight of St. Andrew’s. Holding the rank of Knight of the Realm and the title of Dame, thus to make thee more worthy of thy

honors and do recognize thee at once as a true Knight of the Order of the Royal Thistle.”

“In the name of God, for righteousness of spirit!
In the name of St. Michael for strength and righteousness of thy sword arm, and in the name of Saint Andrew, for purity and loyalty of heart. We do proclaim thee Royal Knight of the Realm, Knight of Saint Andrew’s Order of the Royal Thistle.”

With these proclamations of the Grand Master of the Knights of Saint Andrews, Order of the Royal Thistle and Her Most Royal Majesty, ‘tis done. Dame Alice walked wearing Tabard and Knighting Cape under a long and imposing Honor’s Canopy of swords (and an occasional broom).

Friends and family held an impromptu reception under the shade of the Royal Guard canopy where Dame Alice was congratulated, and guests were treated to viands from the Tavern. As the afternoon came to close many in attendance joined Dame Alice for a celebratory dinner at a nearby restaurant. Dame Alice and many others remained in garb to the delight of restaurant staff, patrons, and Dame Alice’s friends and family. Toasts were made to honor the new Knight.

‘Twas a grand day for a grand woman, a loyal and trusted friend, and a most worthy Knight.

God Save the New Knight!



A Knight of Firsts

by Sir James Mosman

When Dame Alice Sinclair said the final words of her Oath of Knighthood, it completed a process that had been in action for over a year. Although the amount of time from nomination to knighting was not unique, almost everything that happened within that time was.

As you would expect, the steps to knighthood starts with a member being nominated. Then the nominee has to be approved for consideration by the Knight’s Council. The Council Judges then take time to discover and document all the activities that may (or may not) lead to being approved to be squired. The Council Judges present their discoveries to the Knight’s Council who then decide if the nominee should be presented for approval to the entire Order of the Royal Thistle. If the nominee is approved, the person making the nomination normally becomes the Champion for the new Squire and the various ceremonies and activities proceed ending with the knighting ceremony.

Although this is the normal process, one of the practices of the Knight’s Council over the past five years has been a willingness to try new things and processes hoping to improve the Order and the honor of knighthood.

In Dame Alice’s case, almost every aspect turned out to be a new. experimental process. The steps to her knighting changed from the very start. Where, prior to her, the process had been for the nomination to come first followed by the “discoveries”, we got an unexpected chance to try something different. At a meeting of the Council Judges, I presented a new chart showing all the information pertaining to attendance, promotions, leadership positions, special activities or contributions that I could find for every member going back to when the member first joined. Although I had hoped it was information we could use in the future, I was completely surprised when Sir Keegan and Dame Raven pointed out how easy it made it to see which member was the most deserving to be nominated next. That person was Dame Alice. The row of information representing her years with St. Andrews stood out easily. The next day, Sir Keegan Gunn presented a letter of nomination to the Knight’s Council. This was the first case where the “discovery process” proceeded the nomination. It was also the first time that the nomination and approval by the Knight’s Council happened in a single meeting.

This brought about another “first” for the Order. For some time the Council had been working to make the Champion/Squire relationship more impressive, long term, and ceremonial. We were trying to get away from it being just “Wham, Bam, Thank You, Sir!” and more of a commitment for the Champion and an honor for the Squire. We had decided that to do

the relationship correctly, no knight could be Champion to more than one Squire at a time. But, at the time of Dame Alice's nomination, Sir Keegan was already the Champion for Squire Somerville. This created a situation (for the first time) where we had a Squire with no Champion.

Our By-Laws actually do address this situation. We used this as a chance to put out a request to find a knight who would volunteer to take the responsibility of Champion for a Squire they did not nominate. After a short time, Dame Brittah Helie volunteered to take that responsibility.

After the members of the Order had approved her nomination, it was time for the first of her ceremonies. Although both the Squiring and Knighting ceremonies had always been very beautiful and moving; there had always been a problem with the number of participants and the movements of the participants. Sometimes there weren't enough people to do the parts adequately. Sometimes, there were so many we were getting in each other's way. The solution was to have Dame Mariota rewrite the ceremonies. We asked that all the members of the Knight's Council be given parts to perform and that the ceremonies have plenty of participants without blocking the view of the audience.

We decided that these ceremonies were part of the show that is expected of the St. Andrews Guild. So, we scheduled the squiring ceremony for Dame Alice to take place at an "English" fair (definitely a first). This

was also the first time we had the ceremony presented so the audience saw it from the side for better viewing.

But, of course, it was the knighting ceremony that benefitted from these changes the most. Of course, the squire no longer has her back to everyone. It is now possible to see the squire saying the words of the ceremony, to see the way the ceremony affected the squire, and easier to see the various vestments being placed on the squire. Dame Mariota worked very hard to make the wording more poignant. The biggest change was to take what were, essentially, the same speaking parts and spread them out more among the participants. In the future, this will mean the speaking participants will be better able to practice and learn their parts and make the entire ceremony more natural. This was the first time that the Council Secretary was in control of the ceremony rather than the Grand Master. In future ceremonies, all the members of the Knight's Council will have better defined roles. But, one of the biggest changes (that can only be sensed and not really seen) was that we had a small rehearsal and some preparation for all the knights prior to the ceremony starting.

Then, if that is not enough "firsts", the day ended with a celebration dinner hosted by the new knight that was greatly enjoyed by everyone who attended.

We hope everyone (especially Dame Alice) enjoyed these changes. We will always strive to improve the experience and increase the honor for those deserving of being knighted into the Knights of Saint Andrews.

Saint Andrew's Picnic/Camp out

On September 26 and 27th, Saint Andrew's will hold the second scheduled picnic of the year. However, this year we have added a new twist to it, by including a camp out. The picnic will be held at the Marble Quarry RV Park in Columbia. Saint Andrew's has reserved the nine tent sites at the park and will be paying the rental for the sites in appreciation for all the hard work the members have contributed to Saint Andrew's.

For those that have RV's and wish to use them instead of a tent, you will have to make reservation for a RV site in the park on your own. Contact Marble Quarry RV Park at 209-532-9539, or at www.marblequarry.com to reserve your site. The Park does have a couple of cabins available for rent.

Scheduled are the second half of the games competition and a potluck lunch and dinner with festivities going into the evening. Information on the potlucks will be forth coming. If you have any questions about the event, please contact His Grace at 209-862-4147 or email him at earlofbothwell1562@yahoo.com. Come and enjoy a weekend of fun.

**Saint Andrew's Winter's Feast
"The Masque"**

7th of November 2009

**Veterans Memorial Building
522 South L Street
Livermore, CA**



**Merriment, Food, Dancing to Avalon Rising Band
Prepare Your Masque, Finest Gowns and
Doublets Without Delay!**

~

**Tickets will be available for purchase as of the 8th of August
Saint Andrew's Members ~ \$25.00
Nonmembers ~ \$30.00
All Lads and Lasses under age 18 ~ Gratis**

**Advance tickets available by contacting Dame Brittah
H`elie**

(209) 862-4147

BrittahM@yahoo.com

Tickets also available at the door



Meet the four young women selected by Mary de Guise to be the trusted and always present companions to her royal daughter, Mary.

The Four Marys

What was the role of a royal Lady in Waiting during the mid-1500s? What were the duties of a royal lady in waiting? The definition and meaning is defined as: A lady of a royal court appointed to serve or attend a Queen, Princess, or high ranking noblewoman. A Lady in Waiting was not quite a servant, considered more to be a “noble companion” who, by their status and nobility, could better advise a woman of station. The Lady in Waiting was an important member of the royal court and played an active role in participating with court entertainments, such as masques, dance, and musical entertainments. The high-ranking role of a Lady in Waiting can best be illustrated by the very fact that their presence was permitted, even encouraged and requested, beyond the Presence Chamber (the general public room where the

Queen met her political guests), into the Privy Chamber (the room that marked the frontier between the public and private life of the monarch) and the Bed Chamber where the Queen’s most intimate requirements and conversations were met and held.

I, Mary Livingston was born in 1541 as the 6th child of Alexander Livingston, 5th Lord Livingston of Callandar and his second wife Lady Agnes Douglas, daughter of John Douglas, 2nd Earl of Morton. My father became Mary Queen of Scots’ official guardian in 1543, accompanied her to France in 1548, and remained there until he died in 1553.



I am one of four young children, who were chosen by Mary of Guise, Mary Queen of Scots’ mother, to accompany the Queen to France in 1548. I was selected due to the close connection both with the royal house of Stewart and with France, as my mother was French. When we arrived in France at St. Germain, we were too young to have any actual duties. King Henri II sent the Four Marys to the nearby Priory of St. Louis at Poissy to be educated, after which we became full-time maids of honor to Mary Queen of Scots. During this time I become very robust and athletic, and have acquired the nickname Lust or Lusty.

We returned to Scotland with Mary Queen of Scots in 1561. The Four Marys, also known as the Ladies-in-Waiting, are at the center of Court life. We sit around the Queen in court, serve her at banquets, and accompany her to mass. We like to read poetry and engage in stately dance. We are always splendidly attired, which is a reminder to all of our family's power and influence to her Majesty. Behind the scenes, we look after the Queen's clothing, jewels and other personal belongings of value. We help nurse her when she falls ill and accompany her when out riding or attending public festivities. During our more private moments with the Queen, we often receive gifts of clothing or jewels, gossip about the young men we know, and take care of our various other duties.

While Lady Fleming is considered chief among the Four Mary's, by reason of her mother's royal blood, my responsibility is that of the Head of Household to the Ladies-in-Waiting. I make certain that as a household, together we provide what's necessary for Her Majesty's health, comfort and well-being.

I am **Mary Fleming**, one of the four Mary's and Ladies-in-Waiting to Her Royal Majesty, Mary I of Scotland. I am also Her Majesty's half-cousin, for we share the same grandfather, who was King James IV of Scotland. I accompanied her Majesty to France when we were only five years of age and we have remained the best of friends through these many years. Although, I did enjoy my time in France and



learned many things, I am happy to be serving my Queen in Scotland. We do have a grand time in Court and I do enjoy doing whatever Her majesty dares me to do. I am told that I can out do Her Majesty for getting into mischief. Mayhap, the Royal Guard can attest to this.

In court, I sit to the left of the Queen and care for the favors she does present to her people. I assist seeing to Her Majesty's needs and accompany her as she progresses about the Shire. I also inform the Royal Guard when Her Majesty is arriving and go with the guard to fetch Her Majesty from her carriage.

My name is **Mary Beaton**. I am a lady in waiting to her most gracious majesty Mary Queen of Scots. I was born in 1543 to Robert Beaton, the 4th Laird of Creich and keeper of Falkland Castle and JoAnna Renwall, a lady in waiting to Marie de Guise.

I am the third of five children, my brothers being David and James, my younger sisters Lucretia and Anna. At the age of Five I was chosen by Marie de Guise to accompany Her Majesty to France, to become a lady in waiting. Shortly after arriving in France I was sent to the convent of Poissy to be educated in the French manner. It was here I developed a fondness for poetry, that has been a passion for me ever since.

In 1561 at the age of 11, I along with the other Mary's returned



to her Majesty's household. I eventually returned to Scotland with her majesty the Queen in 1561.



I, **Mary Seton** am the daughter of George Seton, 6th Lord

Seton, and Marie Pieris, a French-born Lady in waiting to Marie de Guise, consort of King James V of Scotland. As a child, I became a Lady in waiting to the future Mary Queen of Scots, along with three other girls of similar age and of a similar standing in Scots society. We were chosen, with the exception of Mary Fleming, for our Franco-Scottish parentage. In our court, I help see to the comforts of our Queen Mary.

My main responsibility is to take care of and record all gifts given to Her Majesty. I also have arranged visits with other guilds and help with any other needs that Her Majesty may have at the time. I was the only one of the four of us not to marry, and continued in service with Queen Mary, in Scotland and during her captivity in England.



photos courtesy of Steven Sui

Guild in Action

Presentation to Boy Scout Troop 939

Last year with Winter's Feast approaching fast on the horizon Mistress Sara McBride put us in contact with Boy Scout Troop 939 through family contacts. The Scouts were willing to work in our Winter's Feast kitchens and buffet tables. We could not have asked for a more hard working, delightful group of young men to help us with the daunting task of preparing our buffet tables, keeping coffee, punch, and water flowing, carving the boar, turkey, beef, and leg of lamb, and the most difficult task of all, cleaning up the kitchen at the end of the evening. Ian Granger was the young Scout in charge of the lads for the event. Our every wish was his command. Each time the Event Committee let Ian know of a particular task we needed completed he responded, "I'll see that it's done". The lads and their adult leaders were acknowledged at Winter's Feast by receiving a favor from Her Majesty as the evening neared its end. Their work was so admirable and so very appreciated we were determined to honor them further.

With specifications set by the Troop Leader, Captain Duncan Somerville and Lady Annebell Somerville agreed to take on the task of making embroidered merit badges for each of the lads and their leaders. They created a white badge for each Scout and leader, and a special purple badge for young Ian Granger. Each magnificent badge is embroidered with our St Andrew's Coat of Arms. These are official badges, which the lads may wear on their uniforms. Sir James Mosman and Dame Mariota Arres created beautiful Letters Patent for each Scout as well,

proclaiming each young man in "The Order of Merit for good and true service to our community".

Our original plan was to present the Merit Badges and Letters Patent to the boys at Livermore Scottish Games and Celtic Celebration, however the date conflicted with their calendar. We went to Plan B which was to make the presentation at a Scout Meeting. Plan B turned out to be the best plan as the rest of the Troop was present and able to participate in the presentation.

Sir James Hepburn, Sir James Mosman, Lord Cullen Elliott, Lady Gwendolyn Elliott, and Dame Britta H'elie attended the Troop meeting the evening of June 1st. With the pounding of his staff

and a hearty "Pray Heed in The Great Hall" Sir James Mosman called the boys attention and announced our wee troupe in true Saint Andrew's style. With

Lady Gwendolyn on camera each lad and leader who worked Winter's Feast '08 was called forth as Sir James Hepburn presented with their

each

Letters Patent and Merit Badge. But the best was yet to come. Sir James Mosman and Lord Cullen took center stage and gave the Scouts a weapons demonstration, explaining the use of each dagger and sword. The boys loved it and enjoyed their time with our Lords as they closely examined and held each sword.

Our acknowledgement of the Scouts and weapons demonstration was very well received and appreciated by the boys and their leaders. The Troop is anxious for Winter's Feast '09 and has already offered their services once again.



Our Winter's Feast 2008 Kitchen Staff:

Scouts –	Leaders –
Ian Granger	Jeff Hagerty
Matt Adio	Clarence Granger
Patrick Feltz	Diane Granger
Christopher Hagerty	Ruth McKernan
Max McKernan	
Derek Moreda	
David Thomas	

Cain's Crossing

St Andrews was invited to attend Cains Crossing Renaissance Faire the 9th and 10th of May in Auburn as a band of traveling Scots. So travel we did to the late 16th century. Those who typically play historical characters with St Andrews altered their characters accordingly. Our good Lord Bothwell has long gone mad and died while imprisoned, so Lord Kael MacGregor was resurrected. With King James VI on the throne in Scotland a contingent of St Andrew's converged on Cains Crossing with but one lonely pavilion, fittingly the Courtier/Ambassador pavilion. We made quick work of our set up Friday afternoon and looked forward to being across the Green from The Dauntless. And what a blessing, we were right on the edge of Food Vendor Row! St Andrews was represented by Lord Kael MacGregor, Mary Katherine MacLeod, Master Philip Alisdair, Mistress Morna MacGregor, Mistress Sara McBride, Sir James Mosman, Dame Mariota Arres, Lord William Lundin, Herr Johan Von Pluym, Dame Brittah H'elie, Lady Sidney Doyle, and Lady Marie Carmichael.

Saturday we gathered at the front gate, carrying Haggis made by Dame Alice. St Andrews and other guilds processed through the village carrying our offerings for Queen Elizabeth's Repast. Oddly, as The Haggis was presented to Her Majesty She required Lord Kael to taste the offering himself before Her Kitchens would accept the treasured Scottish treat. Although Lord Kael has previously suffered from poisoning, a repeat performance was not to be had. The Haggis was delicious and well received by Her Majesty. We have all enjoyed Dame Alice's Haggis at Winters Feast and know full well that it is indeed a delicious delicacy. During Repast Master Philip and Lady Mary Katherine

entertained Queen Elizabeth with poetry and stories from the Highlands.

Later in the afternoon Her Majesty, Elizabeth I, visited our encampment and raved about The Haggis and our presentation. Throughout the weekend we were in Court several times with presentations of feast contributions and entertainment. While strolling past Court and throughout the village we of course showed proper reverence to the Throne and those of higher station. Through both our training sessions and our "on the job" training at faire this has all become second nature. We did receive several compliments and words of appreciation from other guilds and members of the Court for our willingness to "play" and for showing proper reverence and Court etiquette throughout the weekend. (HINT #1: training is valuable, come to training. HINT #2 You are always "on" at faire, what you do matters and adds (or detracts) from the faire).

Throughout the day on Saturday our Alchemist and Coal Merchant Lord William Lundin demonstrated his chemicals, pinching pennies from the willing. On Sunday Lord William found a spot of shade under a nearby oak tree, spread out a few blankets and whiled away the day telling stories to over 80 children.



Throughout the weekend we played Towers and other games with each other and any willing guests. The faire site was near an airport; therefore dragons overhead was an ongoing event. We shared Dragon Tears with children throughout

the village as we wandered the faire and ducked out of sight as the dragons flew overhead. We chatted with guests in food lines, reading love poems to them and encouraging them to read poetry to each other. Lady Gwen, Lord Cullen, and Mistress Maureen came by for a visit and it was indeed

wonderful to see and chat with them. Sunday Lord Kael and Captain MacClaren of the Dauntless shot at each other and felled innocent bystanders (as usual). Such are the effects of firearms and libations.

A great faire, great Haggis, great stories, great games, great friends, great root beer floats!



Haggis as made by Dame Alice Sinclair

-Sort of from the Sinclair cookbook-

- 1 pound of lean ground beef (12-15% fat)
- 1 pound of seasoned pork sausage (two of the rolls)
- 1 pound of chicken livers (or other liver)...I like chicken, slightly frozen
- 2 large onions chopped
- 2 Cups steel cut oats
- 1 Tb. Seasoning salt (whatever you have on hand)
- 1 tsp hot sauce more if you would like it spicy
- herbs.....I used about ½ tsp marjoram and ½ tsp herbs d'provence approximately
- fresh ground pepper.....can't tell you how much
- 1 ½ C broth (chicken if using chicken livers) I used 2 cans

I PUT ONE ONION (LARGE CHOP) AND THE SEMI FROZEN, RAW CHICKEN LIVERS IN THE FOOD PROCESSOR TO MAKE A SLURRY.

Fry sausage until it is partly cooked, not browned, breaking it up.

Use a large fry pan, with heavy bottom or cast iron pan.

Pour the liver & onion slurry in and cook with the sausage.

In a very large bowl, mix together:

the ground beef, oats, seasonings, the second chopped onion, and all the liver/onion/pork sausage mix. Mix well with your hands or a heavy duty wooden spoon.

Mix all meats, onions, seasoning, oats, and pack into a large (or two smaller) Pyrex pans. I used a mixing bowl. Pour the broth over the meat mixture.

Do not try to mix it in. Cover bowl loosely with foil.

In the oven, put a large pan (roasting pan) on the lower or middle rack. Set the bowl in the pan and fill the pan with water. This makes the steamer for the Haggis.

Steam in a 325 oven for 4 hours. Great for a chilly day, as this will help to heat the house !

After 3 hours, check, and add more broth if needed, and more hot water to pan, if needed.

You can keep the Haggis steaming for 6 hours with no problem, just keep adding more water to the bottom pan.

Best warm right out of the oven, or re-heat if making ahead.

Robert Burns' Address to a Haggis

Burns Original

Fair fa' your honest, sonsie face,
Great chieftain o' the puddin-race!
Aboon them a' ye tak your place,
Painch, tripe, or thairm:
Weel are ye wordy of a grace
As lang's my arm.

The groaning trencher there ye fill,
Your hudies like a distant hill,
Your pin wad help to mend a mill
In time o' need,
While thro' your pores the dews distil
Like amber bead.

His knife see rustic Labour dight
An' cut ye up wi' ready slight,
Trenching your gushing entrails bright,
Like onie ditch;
And then, O what a glorious sight,
Warm-reeking, rich!

Then horn for horn, they stretch an' strive:
Deil tak the hindmost, on they drive,
Till a' their weel-swallow'd kytes believe
Are bent like drums;
Then auld Guidman, maist like to rive,
'Bethankit!' hums.

Is there that owre his French ragout,
Or olio that wad staw a sow,
Or fricassee wad mak her spew
Wi' perfect scunner,
Looks down wi' sneering, scornfu' view
On sic a dinner?

Poor devil! See him owre his trash,
As fecless as a wither'd rash,
His spindle shank a guid whip-lash,
His nieve a nit;
Tho' bluidy flood or field to dash,
O how unfit.

But mark the Rustic, haggis-fed,
The trembling earth resounds his tread,
Clap in his walie nieve a blade,
He'll make it whistle;
An' legs, an' arms, an' heads will sned
Like taps o'thrissle.

Ye pow'rs, wha mak mankind your care,
And dish them out their bill o' fare,
Auld Scotland wants nae skinking ware,
That jaups in luggies;
But if ye wish her grafu' prayer,
Gie her a Haggis!

Standard English Translation

Fair full your honest, jolly face,
Great chieftain of the sausage race!
Above them all you take your place,
Stomach, tsripe, or intestines:
Well are you worthy of a grace
As long as my arm.

The groaning trencher there you fill,
Your buttocks like a distant hill,
Your pin would help to mend a mill
In tie of need,
While through your pores the dews distill
Like amber bead.

His knife see rustic Labour wipe,
And cut you up with ready slight,
Trenching your gushing entrails bright,
Like any ditch;
And then, O what a glorious sight,
Warm steaming, rich!

Then spoon for spoon, the stretch and strive:
Devil take the hindmost, on they drive,
Till all their well swollen bellies by-and-by
Are bent like drums;
Then old Master of the house, most like to burst,
'The grace!' hums.

Is there that over his French ragout,
Or olio that would sicken a sow,
Or fricassee would make her throw-up
With perfect disgust,
Looks down with sneering, scornful view
On such a dinner?

Poor devil! See him over his trash,
As feeble as a withered rush,
His thin legs a good whip-lash,
His fist a nut;
Through bloody flood or field to dash,
O how unfit.

But mark the Rustic, haggis-fed,
The trembling earth resounds his tread,
Clap in his ample fist a blade,
He will make it whistle;
And legs, and arms, and heads will crop
Like tops of thistle.

You powers, who make mankind your care,
And dish them out their bill of fare,
Old Scotland want no watery ware,
That splashes in small wooden dishes;
But is you wish her grateful prayer,
Giver her a Haggis!

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

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