

Spring 2011

The Parchment



Saint Andrews Noble Order of Royal Scots



the **P**archment

Publisher

Saint Andrews Noble Order of Royal Scots

Editor

Master Philip Alisdair MacAlister

Chief Minions

Squire Squared, the Bogtrotter

Mistress Maureen o' MacLeod

Column Scribes

Her Most Gracious and Royal Majesty, Mary Stuart

James Hepburn, Fourth Earl of Bothwell

Richard Mossman, Earl of Lanark

Archibald Campbell, Fifth Earl of Argyle

James Stuart, Earl of Moray

Chieftain S'ara MacBride

Lady Mary Fleming

Articles

Mariota Arres

Maitiu' de Faoite

Brittiah Sutherland H'elie

Craig Melville

Fionna Ross

Cailin Rua Kelly Seaton

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Good Gentles All ~

It is with the greatest respect that I add columns from Earls Moray an' Argyle. May it lead to much discourse and discord.

I wish to focus your thoughts on our squires. Thee Ladies Gwendolyn and Mary (aka: Gwen and Katie), as well as good Lord Maitiu'; I would hold this hand in any game. Aye, an' their stories, an' many others, be in part two....

What, I ask myself, is part two? This wee publication be growin'. An I fear faster, perhaps, than some peoples majik connection. Therefore, smaller bytes....

I Remain,
Master P.

A letter intercepted between Her Majesty, Mary Queen of Scots, and her lady in waiting, Lady Mary Seton.



Our Dearest Lady Seton,

We would begin this missive by letting you know how much your presence was missed on the first stop in our progress. We did travel to the site of the faire on Friday, so that We could attend the joust with the school children. Lady Jean did travel with Us, with Lord Cullen Elliot driving Our carriage with all of Our necessities for court. We were ever so pleased to find Our dear brother, Lord Moray, along with dear Lusty, Master Thomas, and Mistress Isabella awaiting our arrival at the field. Our Good friend, Lord Patrick, did have a royal box bedecked and awaiting our arrival!

What a grand time we had! The knights were all quite handsome, and they did fight most bravely. Our dear Lusty was even called to the field to receive a rose from one of the knights, as his special champion! We did blush and giggle at her good fortune! (Lusty did gift her rose to a sweet little girl later in the day, her sweet nature not allowing her to pass by the child without giving her a treat!)

As you do know, Seton, We always suffer such a mix of emotions when we attend a joust. We do love watching the tournaments for their sport, but do fear them after our dear father-in-law, King Henry's, fatal accident in France. We did feel a great jolt of terror every time one of the gallant knights was thrust from his horse! To add to Our terror, We, Ourselves, were almost injured as well. We were sitting in our box, exclaiming at the hit that one of the dear knight's took, when a portion of one lance did take flight straight to Our box and Our Royal person! Our dear Master Thomas did throw himself into the path of the oncoming lance, plucked it from the floor of Our box, and presented it to a fearless young lad in the crowd. Needless to say, Lusty and I did watch the trajectory of the broken lances with more wariness after that!

The following day found Our little group a bit more complete, but still lacking for the want of your smiling self. Dear Beaton and La Flamina did attend us, as well as our sweet French cousins. We did have to laugh yet again, dear Seton, as Beaton, La Flamina, and Lusty did all arrive wearing their lovely green gowns! We commissioned a special Flemish painting of the occasion! Court was the liveliest that we have ever seen it! We had so many of Our subjects wishing to see Our royal person, that Lord Cullen did extend Open Court to twice its allotted length and did still turn some away. Our French cousins did nobly step into action and did introduce a great many of Our subjects, beautifully displaying the grace and beauty with which they are known in France. Such were the crowds, that We did condescend to meet and greet Our subjects in the street and did have to curtail our shopping so that Our presence did not impact the vendors' ability to sell their goods! (Never fear, Our dear friends did still leave this beautiful faire with at least one precious trinket a piece!)

La Flamina did attend all of the remaining jousts with Us, and was truly excited when her chosen champion, Sir Charles, won the whole of the competition at the end of the weekend! We did also have with Us at least two guards, Lord Bothwell, and our dear herald Lord Lyon. Lusty and Beaton did trade off jousts sweetly with one another, so that each of them could partake in the fun at least once per day. Our brother James did attend every joust but one at Our side, entrusting Us to Lord Argyle's care in his absence, and he proved a most worthy companion. (We do fear that at least some of sweet Jean's claims to his barbaric ways must be false! We cannot see how he could display such love to Ourself and then treat Jean in the way that she claims. Mayhap we can find a way to intervene and show Jean the way that a loving wife, such as We were to Francis, treats her lord and husband? Your advice on this, dear friend, would be most sincerely appreciated and valued.) Also, Chieftain Sara did have at least one highland lass with Us at every event, filling the goblets of Our entourage and seeing to Our every whim. (She is a truly worthy successor to Chieftain Heber.)

We did hear that James spent time in the shire, trying to find Us a husband from within Our own realm. We are not sure about his success in this endeavor. Mayhap We will hear more of this venture on the future.

Our guard did turn out in grand form! You would have been most truly impressed! We saw so many cherished faces that have been absent in the recent past, and their trouping was most exquisite! We are sad to say that they did frighten one poor lad into tears with their charge, but Our royal person felt safe ensconced within their number, and Our dear Captain Teage did assure Us that the child was well afterward. We did hear that the guard also did a wondrous sword demonstration, but We did miss it in Our obligation to Lord Patrick and the joust.

As you can tell, dear friend, Our weekend was full to overflowing and lacking nothing but your company to make it perfect!

We do pray that this missive finds you well and on your way back to Our side,
Your loving Queen and friend,

Marie Stuart





COMMUNIQUE FROM THE CHANCELLOR

As I sit down to write this article, I think back to the faire at Sonora and how wonderful it was to be there with out all the politics. The new area for our set up was great in that we had all the room we needed and then some to make our encampment bigger. I regret not bringing the fourth pavilion and I'll make a note to not forget it at any of our next events.

The crowds were marvelous. It has been a long time since I have seen so many people waiting to meet Her Majesty. She did a magnificent job as our Queen. The new site may have helped bring the people in, but deep down I know it was because our encampment looked so grand, thanks to Lord Cullen and all those that were there to help with set up. Also, there was so much interaction going on by our members that you literally pulled the patrons into playing with us. Lord James did an outstanding job, both in the gig of trying to find the Queen a husband and interacting with the ladies who would wonder past, trying to get them to marry him. He even had Master David play his violin to provide music while he wooed the ladies. Outstanding work, Lord James.

It was a great weekend with plenty of energy. Everyone worked very hard to ensure Saint Andrews put on the best show ever. It was hard for me to keep count of how many people came and said how good we looked. Patrick Karnahan told me that Saint Andrews were "Rock Stars," and I agree; you put your heart and souls into this event. I thank you so very much for all your hard work.

At hug circle, I said I considered all of the members of Saint Andrews as family, and I do. All of you are the best family any person can have and I love you all very much.

Now it is on to Cain's Crossing in May. It is an English event, and the only one we do, but they want us there because they like what we do. I know we will put our best foot forward and let them know that we like to play with them. Again, thank you all for you hard work.

I remain,
Your humble servant,

James Hepburn
4th Earl of Bothwell
Chancellor for Scotland and the Isles



Chamberlin's Missive

In preparation for the Opening of Parliament, the Chamberlain prepares a speech about "the state of the guild." It didn't take me long to discover that so much has happened, and is still happening, that the speech almost wrote itself.

A short version of the status would be to say the guild is in a better state than at any time in the 12 years I've been a member.

A longer version would be to say that we have more fairs, new fairs, and fairs that appreciate us. This has caused us to become better actors and educators, fair after fair after fair. And although we have fewer members, they all seem to be "better" members.

Even before the Opening of Parliament, 1/3 of last year's members have already paid their dues for *this* year. This is not just helpful to our finances, but knowing the level of commitment to the guild by our members is also very helpful when we make our commitments to a fair board.

The encampment is starting to be active for the entire day, not just when Her Majesty is on the throne. It is becoming a place where our members *want* to stay. I *very much* enjoyed the improvisation fun we had at Shaver Lake and other fairs. This not only entertains the fair patrons, but, at the same time, helps our members become better actors.

The latest evidence of the improved state of the guild is the obvious effort that members are putting into learning about and portraying historical characters. I've seen this cause some members who portray "made up" characters to start building a history and story around even those characters. Basically, members are trying to become more than simply "window dressing" in our encampment.

This is all very heartening and very, very impressive. I, for one, am prouder of this guild than I have ever been.

On another topic: I have long been an advocate of handing out favors for the many kindnesses members do for other members. I decided to stop just "advocating," and start "practicing what I preach."

In what I intend as one of many personal recognitions, I have given Lady Seton my favor in appreciation for the many times she has held my scripts and helped me through various ceremonies.

I will soon be showing my appreciation for other members by offering my favor to them. I hope some of you will decide to follow my example and start offering favors of your own.

We begin this year in a state where we have more and better shows, fairs, and members, and where I, for one, intend to show my appreciation more often to those who make this possible.

I wish the best during this year for all of you.

God Save the Queen!

James Mosman
Earl of Lanark
Royal Chamberlin





The Great Stewards Notes

Good Day to all of Saint Andrews. I plan on being brief about this, as it is the first time I have written in this capacity.

Since taking on the role of AGM of operations I have enjoyed the greatest of support from my guild family, and I want to take a moment and say a heartfelt thank you for that. That being said, I am most pleased with the performance of Saint Andrews at the Sonora event. Our court was full and busy, gigs went off when planned, and everything ran as smoothly as I have ever seen. So for that I again say thanks to the guild at large, and to the Heads of House for making the schedule, and to our esteemed Camp Master, who kept things flowing appropriately throughout the weekend.

At props repair on Saturday we had a good turnout and accomplished many things on the repair list; I am sure that on Sunday more will be accomplished.

We as a guild are a family and a team, and the more we pull together, the better things will go. I encourage all to attend trainings, repair days, picnics and events. At trainings, many things are talked about, and everyone from old-timers to new folks can learn something. On repair days, as always, many hands will make light work.

I look forward to this faire season; I know we can turn heads and have the best of times.

Archibald Campbell
5th Earl of Argyll
Royal Great Steward



Opening of Parliament

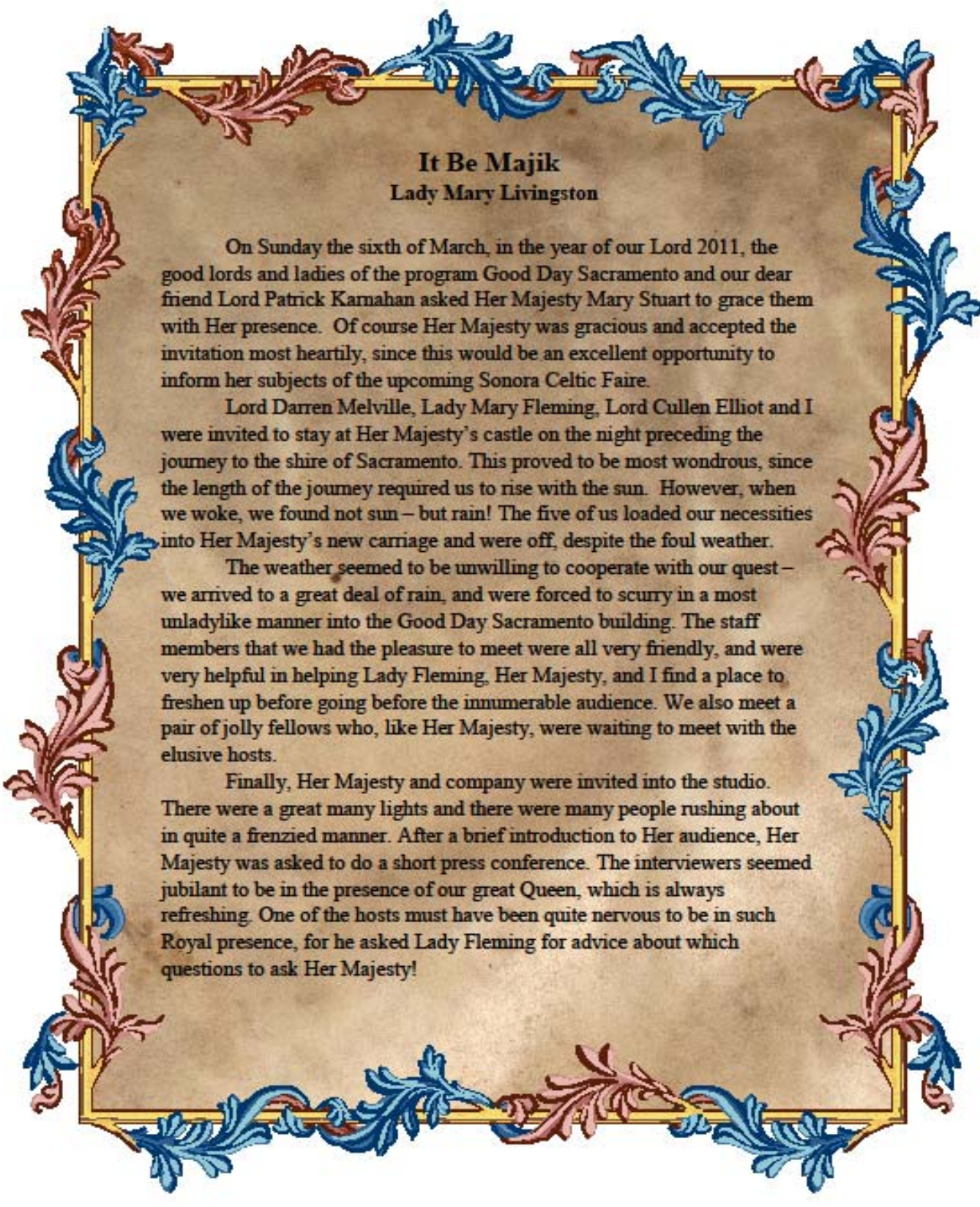
In the year of Our Lord 2011
Cailin Rua Kelly Seaton





And the newest Squire in the Knights of the Thistle





It Be Majik

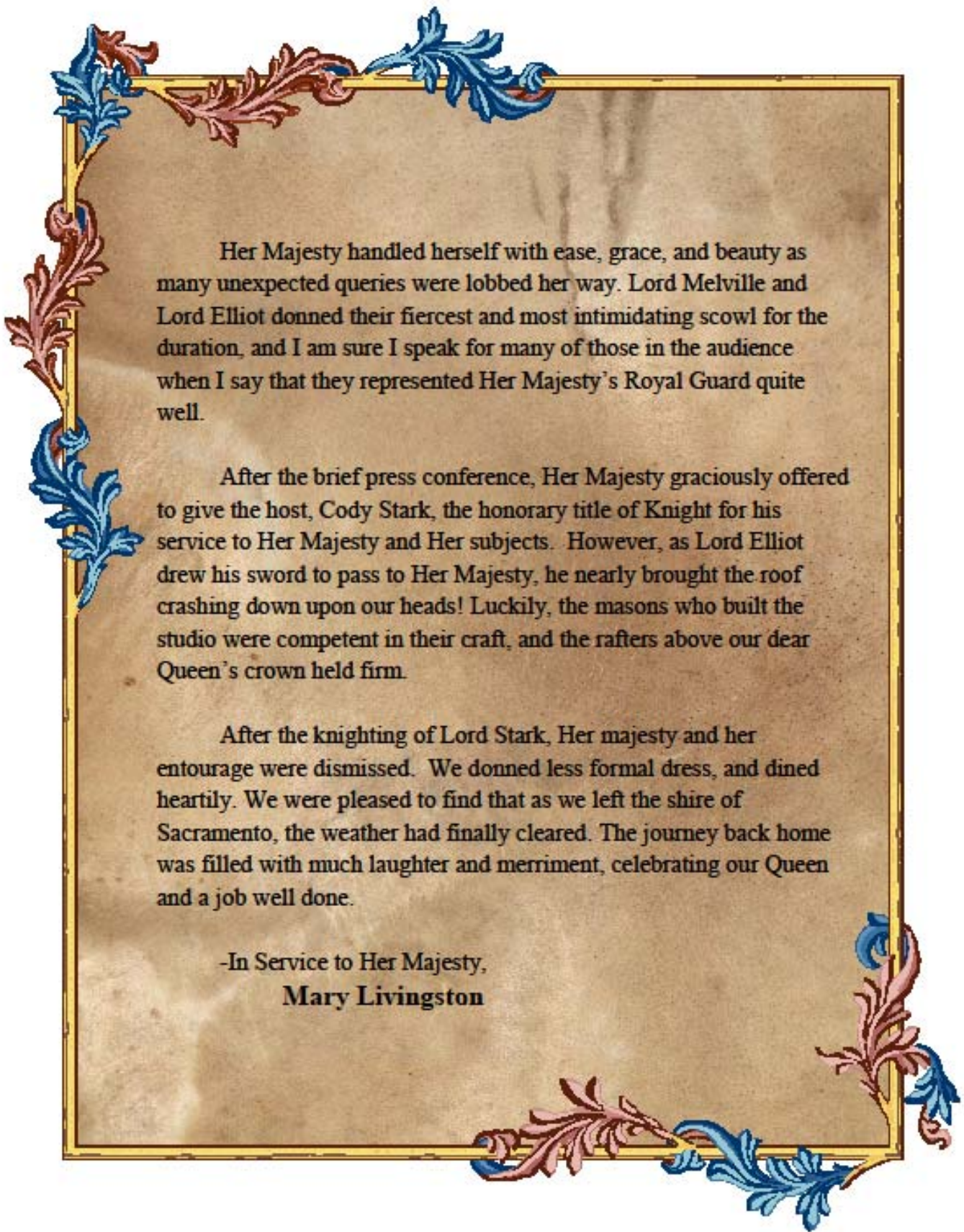
Lady Mary Livingston

On Sunday the sixth of March, in the year of our Lord 2011, the good lords and ladies of the program Good Day Sacramento and our dear friend Lord Patrick Kamahan asked Her Majesty Mary Stuart to grace them with Her presence. Of course Her Majesty was gracious and accepted the invitation most heartily, since this would be an excellent opportunity to inform her subjects of the upcoming Sonora Celtic Faire.

Lord Darren Melville, Lady Mary Fleming, Lord Cullen Elliot and I were invited to stay at Her Majesty's castle on the night preceding the journey to the shire of Sacramento. This proved to be most wondrous, since the length of the journey required us to rise with the sun. However, when we woke, we found not sun – but rain! The five of us loaded our necessities into Her Majesty's new carriage and were off, despite the foul weather.

The weather seemed to be unwilling to cooperate with our quest – we arrived to a great deal of rain, and were forced to scurry in a most unladylike manner into the Good Day Sacramento building. The staff members that we had the pleasure to meet were all very friendly, and were very helpful in helping Lady Fleming, Her Majesty, and I find a place to freshen up before going before the innumerable audience. We also meet a pair of jolly fellows who, like Her Majesty, were waiting to meet with the elusive hosts.

Finally, Her Majesty and company were invited into the studio. There were a great many lights and there were many people rushing about in quite a frenzied manner. After a brief introduction to Her audience, Her Majesty was asked to do a short press conference. The interviewers seemed jubilant to be in the presence of our great Queen, which is always refreshing. One of the hosts must have been quite nervous to be in such Royal presence, for he asked Lady Fleming for advice about which questions to ask Her Majesty!



Her Majesty handled herself with ease, grace, and beauty as many unexpected queries were lobbed her way. Lord Melville and Lord Elliot donned their fiercest and most intimidating scowl for the duration, and I am sure I speak for many of those in the audience when I say that they represented Her Majesty's Royal Guard quite well.

After the brief press conference, Her Majesty graciously offered to give the host, Cody Stark, the honorary title of Knight for his service to Her Majesty and Her subjects. However, as Lord Elliot drew his sword to pass to Her Majesty, he nearly brought the roof crashing down upon our heads! Luckily, the masons who built the studio were competent in their craft, and the rafters above our dear Queen's crown held firm.

After the knighting of Lord Stark, Her majesty and her entourage were dismissed. We donned less formal dress, and dined heartily. We were pleased to find that as we left the shire of Sacramento, the weather had finally cleared. The journey back home was filled with much laughter and merriment, celebrating our Queen and a job well done.

-In Service to Her Majesty,
Mary Livingston

My First Faire

My first faire - Sonora! Effie and I set out on Friday afternoon and it was a glorious day to be travelin'. Soon enough it was time to unload the truck and set up camp. Once all was unloaded, it was quite wondrous to see the encampment as it started to go up. I quickly learned "holding a pole" takes more than me back can withstand for long, so I have come to conclude that floofing, fluffing, and bar keeping is how I must be of help.

That evening, we met up with dear Ollie and Fiona for dinner in wee Jamestown just down the way. Our evening together was grand and we enjoyed tasty viands and good company.

Saturday morning came bright and early. As I neared the encampment, I found myself quite nervous. Tavern work I had never done as sewing has been me trade. My dear Megan was quick with a hug and assuring words and I am still grateful to this day. I was honored to receive a favor from HRM and wear it proudly upon me bodice. It was with easy rhythm we Highlanders fell to work in the tavern and soon I felt as though I had always been there.

I was able to stroll round the shire and talk a bit with some of the folk there. Everyone I met was so friendly and kind. Anya introduced me to some of her Viking friends in the encampment nearby and I enjoyed the warmth of their fire and the aromas of the kettles of good food as they simmered. The sights, sounds, and smells of the faire were well met this day.

On Sunday, Fiona and I sang some hymns in the encampment, something I had not expected to do, but greatly enjoyed. I was blessed to attend Her Majesty at one of the jousting tournaments, which was most exciting. It was with great joy and humility I observed the respect and honor the good gentles of the shire greeted HRM as we made our way to and from the tournament.. I so enjoyed the parades, the children meeting HRM, the kilting of Master Thomas, our guards in troupe, and our French ladies. I much appreciated the rich meats prepared at the campfire and the warmth of said fire on Sunday when the weather was less fair. There were so many things to enjoy. The rain held out until the last piece was put back on the truck and we made for shelter to form our parting circle.

I love the circle. Circle is there where we are 'us', no longer in garb, done for the day, happy and sad at the same time and so proud of what we've accomplished as a family and guild. We share our wins and losses, good and bad times alike. I looked round from face to weary face, listening to small chatter, watching the heartfelt hugs, the likes I have not seen in all me travels thus far.

To all me newfound friends and family I say a heartfelt thank you! Too many names to list, you are all most grand. I may have walked into the tavern shaking like a wee leaf, but was not long before it was at home I felt. What a wondrous weekend and great first faire it was. Glay va!

With warmest regard,

Mistress Maggie MacDuff



Sonora Celtic Faire

Fiona Ross

For me, the faire weekend began the moment I left work. From that instant I wanted to do nothing but belt out my favorite Irish songs. Shortly after getting home from our busy workdays, Oliver and I hurriedly finished packing our carriage, picked up Anya, and headed for the lovely shire of Sonora. We arrived at around seven of the clock that evening. After getting settled and checking in at the fairegrounds, Ollie and I joined Effie and Maggie at Azzos, a fine Italian restaurant in Jamestown. After good food and a great many laughs, we headed back to our respective lodgings.

Saturday was a busy day, with a full schedule and a faire full of patrons. Soon after the morning parade, I was on tavern duty with Effie. We created much mischief together that day, singing, wandering about the Shire, and taking in the Bard's Cloak of Tales show to see his new story,

"The True Story of How I Put the Bubbles in Beer." The highland ladies also played a

lively game of shinty, with no rules and patrons for wickets. Lord David Beaton impressed everyone with his proficiency on the violin, an instrument he took up just last year. Good thing I was kept so busy, as I saw little of my husband; the guards were extremely busy at this faire, guarding the queen, trooping, and sword fighting.

The Queen, attended by assorted persons and two of her guard, went to the joust two times a day. This was no staged show; these knights really were out to beat one another. Several knights were unhorsed and even more lances were shattered. National Geographic was filming the joust, and I look forward to seeing it on my moving portrait box.



Three of the knights were seriously injured, and I am sure they are in our prayers.

Lady Marion Ogilvie and her sons hosted brass rubbings for the patrons, with replicas of genuine engravings from historical persons, and various Celtic designs. Using gold wax on black paper, patrons created a rubbing of the engraving of their choice. On Sunday, our alchemists, Master William and Mistress Elizabeth, were also performing their show for the public.



Sunday had a more relaxed pace. Maggie and I sang hymns together; I was eager as always to get someone else to sing with me. My parents came to the faire on Sunday, and I was finally able to present them to her Majesty. They have come to see us at faire before, but never when we were the court. Thank you everyone for being so kind and welcoming to them; we may be able to persuade them to come play with us more often.

At hug circle that evening, his Grace presented the Thor's hammer to Lady Livingston, a well-deserved honor. There were two Phoenix Awards, for Lords David and Alexander Beaton. Lord James also made a presentation, to Lord David, to thank him for his violin accompaniment as Lord James accosted young ladies to tell them of his sudden and yet undying affection.

It was truly a wonderful weekend. At every St. Andrews event I am reminded of how fortunate I am to have found such dear friends.



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Les Femme des Affaires

During the weekend at Sonora shire we were joined by three ladies from Les Femme des Affaires who augmented our Royal Court by portraying historical characters.

These were French ladies of the Court who did indeed travel with HRM from France to Scotland:



Guyonne du Brueil, Dame de Puyguillon (Kim Dirato) was Lady of the Bed Chamber, who stayed with HRM for a total of ten years. She only stayed in Scotland for a year after Mary's came back to be Queen.

Demoiselle Suzanne Constant (Sandi Berg) First on the French Maids of Honor. She was the daughter of parents who served Mary's mother Marie De Guise. She left France with HRM to Scotland for a year and who after a year returned to France with Dame De Puyguillon.

Isabelle Camp, Dame de Cobron (Jessica "Moxie" Dentice). She was a governess of the girls and young ladies of honor.

They were indeed an asset to our entourage at Sonora Court. They stepped up for introductions at Open Court. They were wonderful with the children, making the children's time standing in line to meet Her Majesty fun and interesting.

All three helped the Court to be full during the times court needed to be seen as active while others were needed to attend HRM at the joust, and helped by joining the dancing.

May they be always a welcome addition to St. Andrew's Guild. We welcome their openness, kindness, willingness to help and humor.

Thank you so much Ladies, on behalf of St. Andrew's and Her Most Royal Majesty!

Lady Jean Stewart Campbell

Sister to Mary Stuart, Queen of Scotland and the Isles
Countess of Argyle

Three Squires

They come from tymes old,
Three squires, so bold ~
Each from their own mold,
Three hearts, made of gold.

The good Mistress Katie,
From proud Clan MacLeod ~
She dost stir up much shite,
Witty, ruthless, and loud.

Comes beloved Mistress Gwen,
She of goodness and light ~
She sees through all strife,
Bringing fairness and right.

Out from the bogs,
Squire Squared, our Maitiu' ~
He dost brew much good ale,
Makes our wits bid adieu.

We salute you most fondly,
With much Love, as well ~
We be grateful ye came,
An' decided to dwell....

mp

~ Squire Mary Katherine MacLeod ~

Dame Brittah Sutherland H'elie

It is my honor to Champion Lady Mary Katherine MacLeod as she prepares for Knighthood in the Order of the Royal Thistle.



Lady Mary Katherine has been a member of St Andrews since 2006; she has earned both an individual Thor's Hammer and the perpetual annual Guild Thor's Hammer. She has answered the call for Mentors and has mentored many new members, assisting them with character development, garb, and ensuring they feel welcome and included in the guild. She has been instrumental and in fact has spearheaded efforts to assist both our previous and current Majesties in creating and repairing their garb, she has assisted (and oft times created) garb for other members without compensation simply in an effort to help a fellow guild member, and in turn help the guild look it's best. She has been a member of the Event Committee since it's inception in 2007, a very time consuming endeavor. She is instrumental in arranging our own little guild corner in Actors' Camp and has worked diligently to establish a positive relationship with faire security staff in charge of Actors Camp. She is involved and works diligently in all aspects of guild life, from props repair, is usually waiting at the encampment at faire for the truck to arrive, through the event, and teardown. She attends many school events, and has acted as Dance Mistress in Dame Annabel's absence. She previously worked with Dame Annabel in assisting Sir Drew with his files and other administrative tasks. She is also responsible for keeping Attendance at all guild events. She is past Games Champion. While her athletic prowess in itself does not make one worthy of Squiring, it is indicative of Lady Mary Katherine's level of participation in the guild in that she comes to events and participates fully. Lady Mary Katherine was the first guild member to volunteer to work the 2010 fundraising Firework's Booth and volunteered for 13 shifts. When all scheduling was completed she worked 5 shifts. At the end of each shift, each and every time she told me "Call me if you need me".

She is always willing and more often than not volunteers to assist the guild and its members in any way she can. This is to say, it is not necessary to go to her and ask her to help with a project or task; she sees a need and steps up without being asked. I have never seen an "agenda" with her; her efforts to help others and the guild are purely altruistic.

In addition to her dedication to St. Andrews, she is involved in community service projects involving sewing Christmas stockings for the homeless, shut-ins, and soldiers, as well as making red heart shaped pillows for adult and pediatric heart surgery patients.

Lady Mary Katherine was Squired at Shaver Lake Renaissance Faire in 2010. As her Champion I struggled to think of worthy challenges for her. She does so much for others on an ongoing basis that I did not want her challenges to create more work for her. At her Squiring I gave her a locket, which held portraits of me and Her Majesty. She is to wear that locket and her Squire Ribbon at all guild events. Furthermore she is to sit down and not get up from her perch for a minimum of 30 minutes at each guild event. This is indeed a challenge for her, as moss never has a chance to grow on her feet. She is to learn the Knights' Oath. She has taken on the responsibility of finding my sister Lady Morna a new husband, which involves creating ongoing gigs. She has taken it upon herself to design and fabricate a new Squire ribbon, which was adopted unanimously by the Knights' Council.

Lady Mary Katherine is a most worthy Squire.

Squire Gwendolyn Elliot

Sir James Hepburn

It is my great honor to champion Gwen Elliot to be a knight in the Saint Andrews Knights of the Royal Thistle.

Gwen had been a member of St. Andrew's for over seven years. She was a member for I believe one year several years prior, left the guild and returned in 2003. In 2007 she took on the responsibility as the Head of the Children's Household, leading that household with grace, imagination, and caring for 2 years. Frankly, leading a household of sometimes angels and sometimes demons in itself ought to ready a person for sainthood. She researched and gave guidance in regards to children's and highland garb, and has served on the Costume Committee.



She stepped back from faire life briefly in 2009 out of necessity, but couldn't stay away long and returned in 2010 in the role of Her Majesty, Mary Stewart. She answered the call without hesitation when the guild needed her the most. She has worked diligently and tirelessly in learning all she can about Mary Stewart, Scottish and European history, and court life of the 16th century. She took on this role with little training or notice, and has made the role her own.

She has done extensive research on garb of the Mary Stewart's Court and is working toward recreating many of Mary's gowns and accessories in a concerted effort to fully fill this role. Despite these time consuming tasks, she still finds time to help others in research for their garb and often helps with the fabrication of garb for guild members, to include hosting several "Sewing Days" in her home.

She has attended many "Loads" and "Unloads" after an event, and has broken with tradition of past leading ladies and is an active participant in set up and tear down of our encampment at events. She works diligently to create and maintain positive working relationships with other guilds and faire performers.

This year the guild ran a fund raising fireworks booth. During the month of June, Gwen volunteered and attended multiple trainings and orientations held by the fireworks company. She volunteered to work as many shifts in the booth as was needed and did indeed work 6 shifts throughout the week the booth was open. This included loading and unloading boxes of fireworks from the trailer in temperatures exceeding 100 degrees, and working in non-air conditioned booth in those temperatures.

In addition to her dedication to St. Andrew's, Lady Gwendolyn is an active member of the "Twilight Quilter's Coven", a nonprofit organization that makes quilts to be auctioned with the proceeds going to "Alex's Lemonade Stand" to combat childhood cancers.

Gwen has been a dedicated, hard working, and contributing member of the guild for over seven years, has readily accepted and excelled with added responsibility, the latest responsibility being a pivotal role as leading lady.

Gwen's Squiring ceremony will take place at Cain's Crossing Renaissance Faire on the 7th of May. Her Challenges will be announced at that time.

I look forward to her day on May 7th when she is Squired into the order.

Squiring of Lord Maitiu De Faoite

Sir Craig Melville



At the Opening of Parliament, I had the privilege to make the announcement for the Squiring of Lord Maitiu De Faoite. It is an honor to be his Champion, as he is an extremely deserving person.

Lord Maitiu has been a member of St Andrews since 2002. Over the last 8 years he has been one of the hardest working and most reliable members of our Guild. He is always active in some way during a faire, be it: set up or tear down; lugging around ice/water; fighting in battle shows; dancing; singing in court'; and teaching about Scottish and Irish history. He brings a positive energy into everything he does, which transfers to those around him. Never once have I heard him tell someone "no" or complain.

Maitiu is serious about increasing his knowledge and those of other Guild members. He took it upon himself to attend a Gaelic language institute in Ireland and often teaches and uses the language at faire. He helps others research and write their biographies, as well as fictional stories for Tavern tales.

Maitiu also does many unselfish and helpful things outside of Guild. Lady Maureen was struck with adversity and in desperate need of repairing a retaining wall in her backyard. Due to health issues and finances she could not repair the wall on her own. When Maitiu found out, he and a small group of Guild members responded and took on the task. After working in the toiling heat, removing the failed wall, lifting heavy cinder blocks and reconstructing the wall, the group completed the job.

When Chieftain Heber's basement flooded, Maitiu once again was there to help. He moved furniture, pulled out the soaked carpet and helped repair the damage. He was also there with steady hands and a strong back, when the chieftain had to move.

The examples of Maitiu's kindness, friendship and helpfulness go on and on. Rarely are they mentioned or is he recognized, as he should be. In 2006, at Pleasanton Maitiu was chosen for one of St Andrew's highest honors. He received the Thor's Hammer for his outstanding and hard work at that faire. He wore this coveted honor proudly, never taking it off until I witnessed one of the most unselfish and knightly acts I had ever seen.

In August of 2008 we tragically lost Alberto Lara, a new Guild member, whom Maitiu had met only a few times. A connection was made between them and Maitiu came to the funeral. He passed on kind words and presented Alberto's wife with his Thor's Hammer. He gave up his prize possession to a family he hardly knew, in a gesture that still echoes in my mind to this day.

In and out of faire Maitiu exemplifies what it means to be a Knight and now he is taking the steps to Knighthood. Please join me in congratulating Lord Maitiu!



The Knights of St. Andrews

The Knights of St. Andrews never rest!

Normally, the time between Winters Feast and the beginning of training, meetings, etc. for the new year constitutes a rest for guild members. But, this rest period did not exist for the Knights of the Order of the Thistle. In fact, all of us had some work that we did over the three months.

As I said in my last report, the Knights' Council has spent most of the past year rewriting the document that guides our order. In the past, that document was referred to as our "by-laws". One of the things we changed was that we now refer to those rules and guidelines as "The Measure". During the knighting ceremony, we refer to "The Code and The Measure" as something we strived to live to. So, we wrote the "Code" into the "Measure" as a way for our knights to be able to read and understand their commitment.

Over the winter months, the knights had their first "electronic" convocation. The Order tries to have, at least, one Convocation each year so the entire group can get together and talk about issues, changes, ceremonies, and other items of interest to us all. This year, I sent out an agenda for the convocation and, subsequently, it was decided that we could have discussions and input via email rather than spending time and money to get together. As far as I'm concerned, the experiment worked very well. This shows us that we don't have to be governed by a calendar. In fact, we can have productive and spirited "meetings" at any time.

One final item for this period was to receive and approve a nomination by Sir Craig Melville to make Lord Maitiu de Faoite his squire. This nomination was accepted by the Council and subsequently approved by the Knights of the Order. You should see Sir Craig begin to present some challenges to Squire Maitiu. These challenges are what we have established for the Champion, the Order, and the Council to determine when the squire is ready to be knighted. These challenges are meant to be a serious measure of the squire. At the same time, they are meant to be fun and also done as entertainment for the fair patrons.

We now have three squires hoping to become knights soon. The Knights of the Order of the Royal Thistle are looking forward to adding three fine members to their ranks.

Gramercy,

Sir James Mosman

Grand Master

Knights of St. Andrews



Pray Heed!

For those of you who don't know me (and also those that do), I play Lord James Stewart, Earl of Moray. I have also been tapped with the honor of leading the newly formed Noble Household this year. It was about a year ago that some unkind things were said in the aftermath of this faire, about St. Andrews in general and the courtier household in particular. There was a kernel of truth to many of these criticisms, and with that in mind I was prepared to roll up my sleeves and do whatever was necessary to ensure that there would not be cause to criticize us this time around.



Sonora 2011 is history. The Noble Household performed brilliantly. I wish I could take credit for this, but the fact is the members of the household came forth and made sure the court was lively and colorful both when the Queen was in court, and when she was elsewhere in the shire attending to other matters. They engaged the patrons both in court and in the "street" where the patrons entered the faire. It was truly a team effort, and thus far I have heard nothing but praise in regards to our performance this year at Sonora.

That being said, we can't get cocky. We need to continue to show our stuff in the faire year to come. We need to be there to support our Queen or our Duke, and we need to engage people both in and out of court, especially the families. Some of these folks come year after year to our events and we can't allow ourselves to be overshadowed by St. Andrews performers of years gone by. We have a legacy to live up to.

Perhaps five or ten years down the road, there will be faire patrons who will say "St. Andrews was good again this year, but not as good as they were in 2011." If that should happen, I hope it will have been us peacocks of the court who will have contributed to that perception.

Good Morrow Good Gentles,

I hope this missive finds you well and fully recovered from our journey to Sonora shire. It was so wonderful to see everyone work together to put on such a show. A few of the Ladies in Waiting were not able to make the journey and wore sorely missed. Lady Livingston and Lady Beaton were truly wondrous in the various tasks I asked of them. I could not have survived the weekend without them. Over the winter months, Her Majesty and myself, spent a great deal of time at Her castle working on gowns, hat and jewelry and setting the standards of dress for our household. We learned a great deal and had a glorious time. I have learned how to take a vision, some fabric and work to create a beautiful gown. I thank all of those who have helped me especially Her Majesty and Lady Jean.



Dear friends I will close this short missive with a small challenge. Our Guild is a living, breath entity. We are ever in a state of change, always for the better, whether this change is a new fair, new gig or a character change. We all have to work together to keep this love of ours alive. With that being said, I will lay the same challenge at your feet that I have laid at my own. I am challenging myself to make at the very least, (I hope to do more), one load, one set up, one unload and one school event. Yes, it can be a difficult challenge with all the factors influencing our lives but I feel that if we all can meet this challenge we will help lighten the burden of those who are always at these events. I have been in the past and always have found it very rewarding. Trainings, picnics and other non fair events are also very rewarding and I encourage all to come. I would love to see all your bright smiles as often as I can. This is how we build the family bonds we have with one another.

Adieu for now dear ones,

Lady Mary Fleming
H.O.H. Ladies in Waiting

Good Gentle Folk of Saint Andrews,

As I write my first missive to you I feel most honored to be chosen as the Chieftain of Her Most Royal Majesty's Highlanders. I will do my best to be the best leader I can. I do have large shoes to fill as I am taking over for our esteemed Chieftain Heber MacPhearson. Heber did go on a missive and it is thought that he has met his demise. His most beloved wife, Megan MacPhearson who is still with us does not believe it so. He will hopefully be pleased with the job I do wherever he may be.



Our first progress to the beautiful shire of Sonora was well met by the Highlanders and all there in the service of her Most Royal Majesty. We did welcome a new Highlander to our midst, Mistress Maggie, who fits in quite well with our rambunctious troupe. Returning to us from his travels is our good poet, Master Philip; we will again be entertained by his goodly words. We do welcome him with open arms. Mistress Morna, Chieftain Heber's Tánaiste did go to court to use her skills as a healer as the queen's personal apothecary. We will miss her in the tavern but Mistress Isabella Campbell has taken her place as the new Tánaiste and we are sure she will do a fine job.

During our stay in the fine shire of Sonora both Master Thomas and Master Philip did guard the stocks for many a wayward lad or lass. Many wee Flemish paintings were taken to remind all of their transgressions. Master Thomas, having hunted down a wild boar, did cook a fine ham on the spit that was enjoyed by all. The Wycked Eye was a buzz during our stay and alive with good food, much merriment and lovely song. The Highland ladies along with their friends "The Peanuts" did entertain both themselves and the visitors to the shire with a wild game of Shinty. Many gentlemen were 'accosted' by the ladies. We look forward to the next opportunity to play and offer an invitation to all to join us be you Highlander or no.

As the season progresses all of us are looking forward to spending much time with our St. Andrew's family. Wishing you all well until we meet again; Anon.

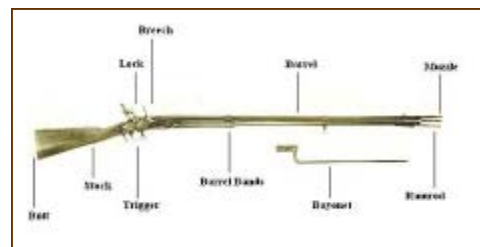
In Her Majesty's Service
Chieftain S'ara MacBride

Sixteenth Century Muskets

James Stuart, Earl of Moray

Firearms had been in use, in a token way, since the middle ages. By the year 1562, the military authorities had thoroughly embraced this new and exciting way to kill people.

The state of the art infantry firearm of the 16th century is the match-lock musket. The musket consists of three components: The lock, the stock, and the barrel. If you have all three, you have an operating weapon. If you are familiar with the term “lock, stock and barrel” to indicate completeness, this is where that expression came from.



The leather bandolier worn by musketeers is not a fashion conceit, or a renaissance form of insect repellent. It is a bandolier of charging bottles, each containing a pre-measured charge of gunpowder that can be poured down the barrel. A slightly smaller bottle contains the priming powder. A small quantity of this powder is poured into the pan. In a leather pouch on the bandolier normally on the hip are kept the musket balls. These are normally .72 caliber or greater, or at least 72/100 of one inch. This projectile could penetrate any armor of the time with relative ease.



Ignition of the weapon was achieved by slow match, a cord approximately the diameter of one's little finger that had been soaked in a vinegar and saltpeter solution. The match would burn approximately as quickly as a modern cigarette. The match would be placed in the jaws of the serpentine on the lock near the burning end. When trigger bar was pressed, the burning end would be forced into the priming pan. The priming powder would ignite, flame

would shoot down the small touch hole into the main charge in the barrel. The resulting explosion would push the musket ball at it's target.

I would demonstrate this at faire, but the Lords of Liability have proclaimed that such live fire demonstrations are forbidden. However at some faires there will be large pitched battles where many such weapons will be employed in service to the Her Majesty the Queen.

God Save the Queen!



The Phoenix Award

In 1994 Lady Kyra MacNeil, Chamberlain of the Children's Household created the Phoenix Award to be awarded to deserving guild children. Lady Kyra's successors, Lady Morrigan MacKenna, Lady Gwendolyn Elliot and Lady Akira MacCallan continued with this award. Currently we do not have a Chamberlain of the Children's Household, so His Grace has decided to resurrect this wonderful accolade himself. The award will not necessarily be given out at each faire, but as His Grace feels it is due. Please let His Grace know if you think any of our poppets are deserving of this coveted award. As established in 1994 to become a member of the revered "Order of the Phoenix", you must follow these guidelines:

Recipient must/may:

- ~ be under 16 years of age
- ~ follow all Guild rules at all times
- ~ be an extremely hard and conscientious worker
- ~ receive this award only one time

Honorees

Andrew Gunn	Darren Melville	Jeanette MacCarraig
Ian MacCarraig	Marni Carmichael	Mikeala Carmichael
Scott Carmichael	Andrew MacCarraig	Tory MacNeil
Brianna MacQuain	Tyler Seaton	Cameron MacRanald
Alexander Beaton	David Beaton	



Thor's Hammer Royal Honorees

At the beginning of all of the faires where we perform, Guild members are asked to take most particular note of outstanding efforts during the event. At the end of the weekend, nominations are given to the Guild Master and a Thor's Hammer is awarded, during the Hug Circle, to that person nominated by their peers and determined by the Guild Master to have made the greatest individual contribution to our success. Additionally, the Guild Master may upon his discretion determine the value of work performed by an individual to enhance the membership's guild or faire experience and so honor that individual with a Thor's Hammer.

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.

If you find that you were inadvertently left off of the complete list of Thor's Hammer, please let Lord James Hepburn know at:

earlofbothwell1562@yahoo.com

so we can add your name to the list.

Christopher Alexander

Philip Alexander

Mariota Arres

Mary Beaton

Charlotte Carmichael

Isabella Campbell

Thomas Campbell

Cullen Elliot

Gwendolyn Elliot

Maitiu' de Faoite

Bonnie Gunn

Keegan Gunn

Shaila Gunn

Andrew Hepburn

Janet Hepburn

Breanna Kerr

Mary Livingston

William Ludin

Innes MacAlister

Sara MacBride

Brittiah MacGregor

Jessica MacGregor

Kael MacGregor

Morna MacGregor

Katie MacLeod

Maureen MacLeod

Jillian MacKenzie

Fionnula MacPhearson

Heber MacPhearson

Drew MacQuain

Megan MacQuain

Davina McCutchen

Robert McCutchen

Guy Maxwell

Hannah Maxwell

Bronwynne Melville

Craig Melville

Darren Melville

James Mosman

Fiona Ross

Mary Caroline Rutherford

Cailin Rua Kelly Seaton

Teague Seton

Alice Sinclair

Raven Sinclair

Brianna de St. Joer

Andrew Stevenson

John Stewart

Sara Stewart

Annebell Somerville

Duncan Somerville

Steven Sui

Ryk Tucker

Johan von Pluym

Grady Witherington



The Saint Andrew's Guild Thor's Hammer



The Saint Andrews Guild Thor's Hammer started in March of 2006 at the Celtic Faire in Angels Camp. The Guild had set up our encampment for the faire on Friday. On Saturday morning, we awoke to a blanket of snow which had fallen during the night. Part of the Queen's pavilion had fallen down because of the weight, and many of the guilds and entertainers were packing up and leaving.

Saint Andrews gathered up it's members, pushed a lot of snow off of the pavilions, packed up what we could so our equipment would not be ruined, and moved our members down to the main gate of the faire. There we commenced to entertain any and all patrons entering the faire, with sword duels in the snow, and encouraged patrons to joins us in having an all around good time.

A knighting was held for one of the producers of the event, and the Queen went on parade though out the shire, showing that, no matter what the weather, the Celtic Faire would go on as planned.

Because of Saint Andrew's can do attitude, and our not packing up and going home, the producers of the event presented the Guild with a silver Thor's hammer. Since the gift was presented to the Guild as a whole, Sir Drew decided that each year the Thor's hammer would be passed on to an individual within the guild who personifies that "can do spirit" of Saint Andrews. At present, Lord Cullen Elliot (aka: The Elliot), holds the award.

The Guild Master at Winter Feast makes the announcement of who will have the honor to be the new recipient of the Guild Thor's Hammer, and that person wears the hammer throughout the year.

Honorees

2006

Dame Raven Sinclair

2007

Master Philip Alisdair MacAlister

2008

Mistress Gwendolyn de Faoite Elliot

2009

Lady Mary Katherine MacLeod

2010

Lord Cullen Elliot

Pearting Shots and Random Ramblings

