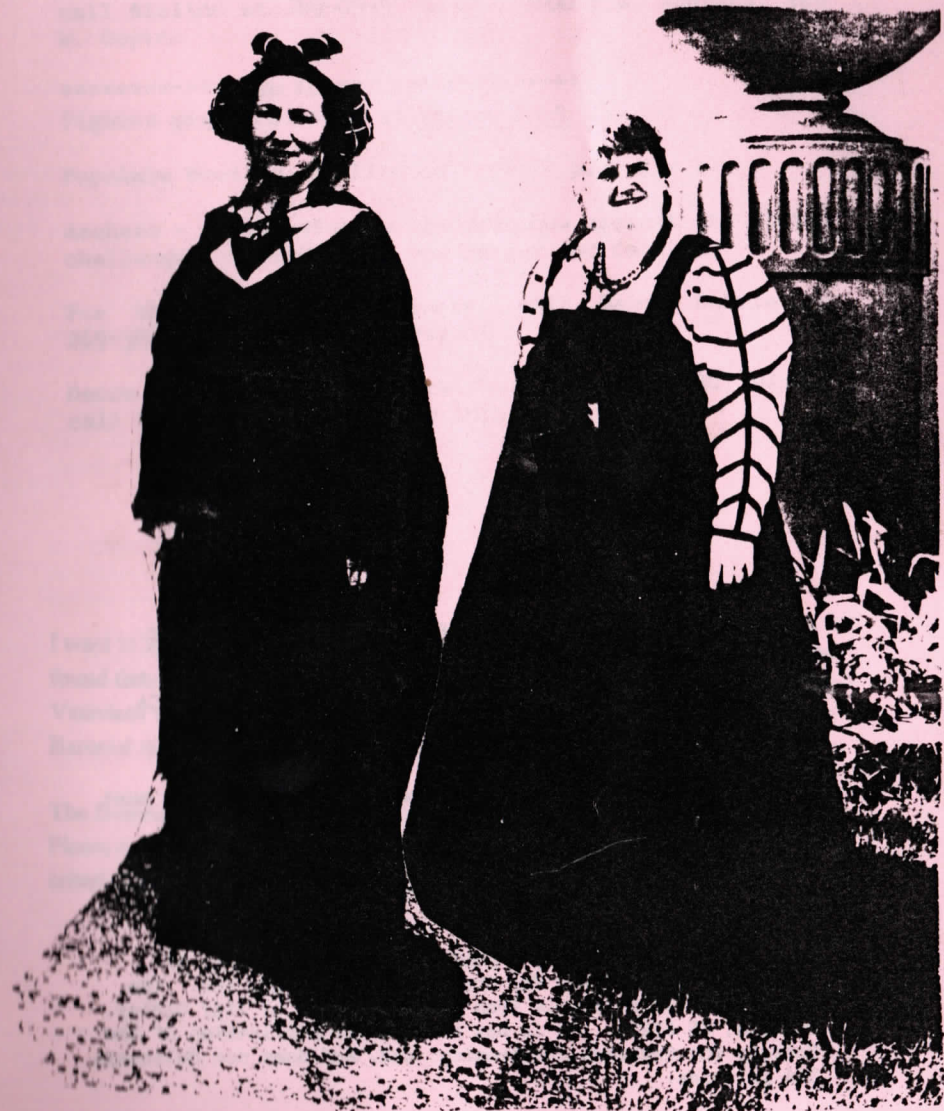


Dragonflyre



April 96

CALENDAR

Calligraphy and Illuminations: Meet the 2nd Tuesday of the month, 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. If you are interested call Aislinn at 269-0999, 6:30 - 9:00 p.m. Address: 922 W. Dayton

***** NEW LOCATION*****
Fighter practice: Noon at Watson Park

Populace Meeting: N. Linwood Park, 7 p.m. May 15

Archers - do you wish to try your bow against the winter challenge? Call Michael von Berger for details.

For the use of the **Armory**, call Baron Gabriel @ 269-3853. Tuesdays encouraged!

Dance is at N. Linwood Park, Wednesday at 7:30. please call Eliane at 265-2507 for information.

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This is the Dragonflyre, a publication of the Barony of Vatavia of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. The Dragonflyre is available from Deborah Taylor at 1137 Gidley, Wichita, KS 67216. It is not a corporate publication of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. and does not delineate SCA policies.

I want to applaud the new Vatavians who tested the waters at Mongols Rule and found them to their liking. I would also like to give my thanks to the established Vatavians who made these newcomers feel welcome, at Mongols Rule and at all Baronial meetings. La Andalusa de Almandrales (fka Odinisa the Grim)

The Baronial Championship will be held at Bearfest in Westumbria on May 4. Please contact the appropriate Champion for your interest area to find out the criteria for that Championship.

Unto the Populace of Vatavia comes these spring greetings from the Baronage!

The temperature is rising, tents are dotting the hillsides at events, fighters and dancers are enjoying the beautiful afternoons and evenings, and, lest we forget where we are, the wind is picking up. In other words, it's spring! Outdoor events are becoming all the rage now in the kingdom, so we are dusting off the camping equipment we last saw at Estrella.

At the time this comes out, Renfaire is nigh, and once again we need all the help we can get. Please remember we put on this demo not only for fundraising but to show the SCA in the best light possible, to show the City of Wichita that ****Something Wonderful**** is happening in their midst. So keep it in mind when you go before people that don't know us that YOU are their first impression. And I know that I speak for the Chatelaine when I ask that if you see someone you don't know at an event or an SCA function of any kind, try to make it a point to seek them out and say hello. Do you recall how you felt when you wanted to join but didn't know anybody?

The next populace meeting (at north Linwood, by the way) is going to be somewhat different from the usual format; some tables will be set up with various crafts and guilds demonstrating their wares or talking about their interests. Wander about if you can, see what you like, and sign up for the meetings! There are so many activities available in the SCA, so many things to learn, experiment with, do, that it fairly boggles the mind. Think of this date as an extra-curricular activity day from high school or college and you'll get what we are hoping you'll get out of this.

Gabriel ap Morgan

Rhianwen ferch Bran ap Gruffydd

Unto the Dashing Lords and Beautiful Ladies of Vatavia come greetings this warm spring day from Lady Ellane.

I am happy to let you know that dance has grown by leaps and bounds. The unofficial DeLaire head count last night was 'at least 40 but probably closer to 50'. However, we always have room for more.

For those of you who may be interested in joining us, we have our teaching session the Wednesday before populace and an open dance session the week after populace. Garb is encouraged for the open dance but not required.

The schedule for May and June is as follows: place N. Linwood, time 7-9

May 1- open planning session

May 8 - Class

May 22 - Fun & Party

June 12 - Class

June 26 - Open

We will have 'spit and polish' sessions on May 29 and June 5. Garb is required. These sessions are for advanced dancers who wish to learn how to do professional quality performances. They will be filled with serious work, and just may not be for everyone. You never know until you try.

We have a lot of performances in the works for the coming year, so now is a really good time to start. We'll all try hard to make you feel welcome.

OFFICERS' MEETING April 1, 1996

17 members attended: 14 officers / deputies / champions, 3 members of the populace

Agendas from different officers were distributed. Prior to the reports the Seneschal asked each officer to briefly state their duties and responsibilities and who of the populace they represented.

The composition of the Finance Committee and the results of the first meeting were presented. The recommended budget was explained. Related paperwork on the interest groups was passed around for comments from the officers. It was announced that the Kingdom Treasurer had recommended that the treasurer step down early to avoid having the majority of the local officers' warrants all ending at the same time.

The interpretation of the new waiver policy in regards to marshal activities was debated. Clarification from Kingdom level officers will be obtained on the matter.

All of the officers were reminded that copies of their quarterly reports are to be sent to the Seneschal and Baronage. Information on arts and sciences activities was requested for that quarterly report.

Upcoming activities were presented. Calligraphy will be having a meeting April 9th. The weekend of the 13th some dancers will perform in the Namron demo for their Med Faire. It was proposed that a Super Wednesday be organized for all group activities. This is still in the planning stages.

The Herald has two items from the group to be sent up to the Kingdom submissions herald. The Treasurer is waiting on some outstanding checks to finalize the report on the Mongols event. Handling of un-cashed checks was covered. The Chatelaine has started advertising in local publications to attract new members:

Fighter practice will move to Watson Park, beginning Sunday the 7th. The possibility of an evening practice during the week is being looked into. Those wishing to do the fighting demonstration at Ren Faire are to come to fighter practice. Demos and demo fighting will be covered.

Upcoming events were covered. BUSH, the Baronial University for Societal Humanities, will be held April 6th, at Minisa Park Building. 6 to 7 outside teachers are coming.

Ren Faire plans are being finalized. The requirements for new activities were discussed. The schedule will be similar to last years.

The Champions event will be held in conjunction with the Bear Fest event at Wilson Lake, May 3-5. Championship requirements for each competition were covered.

Bids to autocrat the Baronial Birthday Bash will be requested. This is usually a mid summer mini event.

Valor preparations continue. The prizes have been taken care of. The question of timing for promotion of the event was brought up. Other concerns were covered.

Several items on the Baronage agenda had already been covered in other discussions. Officers' comments on the handouts were presented. Recognition of interest groups and the goals for this process were explained.

The meeting adjourned.

People from all over came to Mongols Rule and enjoyed the event. I received the following letter afterward. I asked Company Nevermore's permission to reprint it so that all the people who worked so very hard to make the event the success it was could see it.

I, of course, sent back that Calontir's just a very friendly place and that the credit for the event should go to the autocrats and their staff.

My good Lady,

I am just sending this pigeon back down to Vatavia to thank you and the Baron for your hospitality towards us during our brief time in your kingdom. Our long ride back to Nordskogen necessitated our early departure, and we didn't want to wake anyone up just to say farewell. My unit all had a wonderful time meeting everyone down in Vatavia, and none of us regretted the trip in the least.

Our trip back was slowed slightly upon crossing the Minnesota border, where the fates had whipped up a blizzard for our return. (It dropped nine more inches of snow...sigh..) But even that didn't really dampen the trip (excuse pun...) as we found an opportunity to push another traveller's car out of a ditch, and back onto the highway, and then promptly return to our cars, hooting and posing, and drive off into the night without even leaving our names. (It doesn't take much to amuse mercenaries on a twelve-hour road trip...)

I just felt it necessary to tell you all what a great time we had. Our barony isn't nearly as fun to be around as yours. My first introduction to the SCA was less than friendly. So was the introduction for a few of the other members of my group...thus why we are mercenaries, rather than a baronial household. It's a long and boring story, so I'll spare you the details. We did have three members along who had never been to an SCA event before, and your people showed them every bit of the friendship and camaraderie that I wished I would have had.

You should know that you live in a wonderful barony, and I have no doubt that yourself and the Baron are a very big reason for that. Don't ever change.

If I lived in Vatavia, I wouldn't be a mercenary.

If you have need of us/me, just call.

Thanks again,

Gareth the Black, Company Historian, Mercenary Company Nevermore."

Thanks to everybody who helped out at the Shakespeare's birthday party on April 18. Special thanks to Gawayne, who organized the fighting demo, Eliane, who choose the dances and helped organize the dancers. Extreme special thanks to those who filled in at the last minute (and they know who they are) due to people who, at the last minute, couldn't participate.

And last but not least, thanks to Vatavia and the property master for the list poles and ropes. This is one of the demo's where Vatavia has a chance to shine. This year, we have shone even more brightly, I hope we can do shine even brighter in future demo's.

Lady Phillipa Lloyd de Tarifa

Greetings are heartily extended unto Their Excellencies Vatavia and Their populace from Their Baronial Champions.

Bear Fest III is just around the corner and with that comes the Spring Baronial Championship. The champions are very grateful to Their Excellencies and the good citizens of Westumbria for permitting us the opportunity to have the championship at Bear Fest. We are looking for a large turnout in each of the areas. Below is the different criteria for each championship. Please note that while anyone from anywhere can win the different competitions, only the highest ranking Vatavia can be champion. Feel free to contact the appropriate champion with any questions you may have. Michael von Bergen has graciously agreed to coordinate the Archer Championship, so please contact him for questions pertaining to that area.

Borec/Fighter - Bring all your toys, it's gonna be grand! The roll of the dice determines which system you will fight for each bout. The number of systems you are authorized in will determine the odds of rolling a particular system. Number of participants will dictate whether this will be a single or double elimination tourney. Final bout will be two out of three.

A&S - Two arts and one science OR two sciences and one art required. Additionally, anyone wishing to be baronial champion must have attended at least half of all populaces and official baronial events for the last year. Kingdom Criteria will be used.

Luchistnik/Archer - The totals for all the scheduled shoots will be compiled to determine the Archer Champion.

Zevack/Bardic - One piece prose, one piece poetry/song, and one piece performer's choice for the total of three pieces. Kingdom Criteria.

The Champions wish at this time to thank Their Excellencies and the populace for the opportunity to have served as Your champions. We hope that through our humble attempts in each of our areas, the members of the barony benefitted in small way.

Duinchinn MacCracken	Eleanor ferch Rhiwallon	Jovan Greyhawk
Borec	A&S	Zevack

From the Renfair autocrat

Vatavia asks that all it's citizens give 4 hours a day to help the barony. If you haven't signed up - do it. If you sign up - show up on time. If you come in through troll, be prepared to tell the troll where you are working, and when. We want everyone to have a wonderful time, and if we all share the work, everyone can. There is no "protected" parking this year - the early bird parks the closest! The best place to park (for us) is directly behind the old Gym (red brick building on the north side of McCormick), but anywhere they have parking is fine. We need to be on site, ready to go at 9:00. There will be a general meeting both mornings on the list field.

The people in charge of the various areas are (drum roll please): Lelia - troll and sales, Gabe - photography, Ala - information, Fergus - fighting, Aislin - Bash a knight, Doc - carousel, Annys/Marie - heraldry, Ida - waterbearing, Eliane - dance, Me - living history and everything else. Give them all a big hand (I mean that in the most literal sense).

Our Barony does this demo to earn money and recruit new people. We hope you have a great time, but remember, we are here to work for our Barony. Since this is a time-specific demo, only a certain type of garb will work. Please have your garb approved by Phillipa and remember, wear only the garb approved by her. We have gotten great feedback from the KN co-ordinators because we stick to this. They have begun to believe that we do have an idea about the times we are trying to recreate.

You might ask yourself why we care what they think, and that's a good question. In the past, when we were a younger group, (and building everything from scratch) we wore what we had. Lots of polyester. Tennis shoes. Jeans to fight in. We knew we were slowly building our SCA gear, and we would do better in time. BUT, KN only knew that we were calling ourselves a non-profit, educational organization, and they didn't think much of our idea of "education". In many ways, this is a small community, and perceptions are shared. Just ask some of the people at WSU. We had never done anything on the WSU campus, but the impression many of the staff had was very negative. Word travels. Anyone who has tried to get a new site for an event can tell you how important it is for that "word" to be a good one.

The ambiance at Renfair is unique. It's the closest thing to a medieval village we are likely to experience in 20th century Kansas. Enjoy it, have a great time, just remember that we, the Barony of Vatavia, are there to help make the magic for 30,000 moderns.

Brialen

And now the EXCITING conclusion to "Estrella - according to Pav"

In the first bridge we were the third unit in. The object was to take 60% of the bridge. The two units in front of us were all light cav/skirmishers. Before the beginning of battle, at Valen's prodding, I declared this battle to be for our lovely Queen and my dear comrade Adilith. (She cried and made us cry when she heard.) At the gun, they ran full tilt into the running units from the other side. Both sides took horrendous losses at the half way mark on the bridge. After about 3-4 minutes of fighting we were the front rank. We pushed the foe back a step until the bodies got so thick that we could not advance. (No holds called for clearing the dead. We grounded the shields and started to kill the foe in great numbers with little losses. But, we could not advance over the bodies. Gilligan called for the shields to retire so that the dead could be drug out of the way and we could get at the foe. Of the original 8 scutums that wen in, 6 retired to the rear. We formed a reserve unit to the rear of the bridge. The dead still kept either side from advancing. Great carnage ensued but neither side could push the other so the battle ended as a draw. 50% of the Calon army survived the battle.

The next battle we were held in reserve. After about 12 minutes of a 30 minute battle the overall commander asked us to supply a break through. We went up the right flank in a column of 4. Our commander asked that the first 4 scutums be of the highest quality. He hand picked them. They were Count/Duke Valens, Duke Gabe, Count Cire and Old, Fat, Slow Pavel. (I was/am very proud to have made that cut.) As we advanced the right two scutums (Valens and I) were jammed up on the 4 ranks of spear fighters that were engaged. Cire and Gabe took two columns to the fore and were engaged. Cire and Gabe took the two columns to the fore and were causing some damage to the foe. But they needed a strong right anchor. I was beginning to despair of getting among the foe when Valens recognized the leader of the spearmen blocking us. (Duke Veron I believe.) Valens got his attention and told him that if he would let us through we would get him to the foe. He took one look and moved his fighters with the call of "Move over boys the Pro's are here." As I advanced I noticed that our other two columns were heavily engaged with the middle of the foe's line. I chose the gap in the two shields nearest the right side of the bridge. Leaping two dead bodies (Pavel leaping, kinda boggles the mind a little doesn't it?) I landed, on my knees, blowing the outside shield off the bridge. Valens jumped right into my hip pocket with his scutum. So we have two scuti hard pressed into the right flank of the foe. A mixed column of Veron's spear and Calon troops is pressing hard on Valen's and my left flank. Valens and I are throwing hard wraps into the unprotected sides of the troops crushed in front of us. (The marshals commented on the ferocity of our attack.) The foe's line was weakening every second. Right as they started to really break a giant of a man decided that I was too dangerous to live. He stepped up to me, ignoring Kian and Hufta'a pole shots. Grabbed the top corner of my scutum and my left knee. Picked me up like I weighed nothing (270 lb of Pavel was mildly disconcerted by this) And threw me from the bridge and out of the fight. Our forces went on to carry the bridge. I swam to shore to prepare for the next battle.

We were once again to play last reserve. The Outlands were our Allies for this one. We did not fight, as the Outlands carried the bridge with no help from us. They fought well. We stood in a tight formation to give the catapult a good target. It fired at us, the last to the battle. With us not dodging and packed into a good target it got one kill, Kian (the biggest target.) Still the siege weapons added to the feel of the battles.

Next was the three way castle battle. We were with the Outlands. Our plan was to attack to our right and ignore the left. The Thiegns of the Outlands (sorta a Hyrd) were to attack all out and hold back their scrimishers. (I thought they would have been better used as leavening for the men at arms and Red Company of the Outlands army. The Outlands has plenty of Chiv to use as fire and forget weapons.) At the gun the army took

off at fast run. This quickly left me behind. My two dedicated arty (Hufta and Kian) stuck with me. When I got to the line it was a mess. Many of the scuti had died because of the confusion of our attack. I moved to the center of the foes line and dropped. Was able to get quite a few good clean kills on folks who extended past me. Hufta and Kian were wreaking great damage to the ranks in front of me. We soon had pushed them to their gate and were trying to push them out. I looked to my right and there was Adilith with her little roman center grip trying a unassisted charge. I lumbered to my feet and jumped to cover her left side, with Kian and Hufta still with me, as we advanced into the foe's right flank, we were making great head way. Then a man larger than Kian did a full bore charge and gakked my my legs among the dead. The strike bowled me over and gakked my knee pretty good. (ouch. OUCH!) As I was going down I was doing a damage assessment. I had decided that I was hurt about the time the large fighter landed on top of me. (As he knocked me down he un-masked the twin firepower of Hufta and Kian with 7.5; glaves.) I then decided that I was indeed hurt and started, politely but with great conviction, asking for a hold. (screamed my bloody head off.) Calon troops carried me to the side of the battle in the resulting hold. To keep my fighting pants from being cut I had them strip them off. The chirurgeon commented with suprise that I was wearing purple underwear. Bronwyn and Adilith assured them this was right and proper thing as I was a Calon soldier. (no lace, KSCA wear lacy frilly undies, we MSCA just wear colorful but plain undies. Catch me at an event in the right frame and I will tell you the whole story.) After a little discussion the chirurgeon agreed that I was going to the Calon camp and not Chirurgion Point. Her Gracious Majesty rode with me to camp. To distract me from the 'slight discomfort' of my knee we sang 'No Nobeas" all the way. I'm not sure how that battle ended to the resurrection battle. Some other will have to tell of those.

The last night was upon us. Everyone leaving left food and drink for us braving the last night. It was a great night of story telling, drinking and eating. Was very good to be Calon then as folks kept coming up and telling us what a great job we did.

Before I forget. Our logistics troops did a great job this year. The water and gatoraid were never far from a thirsty lip. The soup was hot and plentiful. There were fighter biscuits, dried apples, jerky and oranges for the taking. Our support troops did a great job. Thanks guys.

I will not bore the reader with story of the trip home. Suffice it to say that it took us 60 hours, over \$700.00 in repairs and two separate forced layovers. *sigh*

Pavel
Proud Calon Scuti Fighter

BARON Gabriel ap Morgan ap Hywel David Cooper	Boy Duke
BARONESS Rhianwen ferch Bran ap Gruffydd Joan Struer	269-3853
SENESCHAL Eckerich Rothvalken von Stromberg John Platz Chatelaine Odindisa the Grim	684-1953 269-9354
CALTROP Leonhard von Lowenturm Jim Purkey	682-1669
TREASURER Maeve Kelley de Navarre Terry Thorndyke	682-4468
CHRONICLER Brialen Ulfa dottir Vikings Debbie Taylor	524-0917
KNIGHT MARSHAL Fergus Rob McMillon	681-0268
MINISTER OF ARTS AND SCIENCES Kerare de Joreses Carolyn Haddaway Minister of Children Aislin	686-6893 269-0999
ARCHER MARSHAL Michael von Bergen Michael Hornbaker	721-1955
SERF LINE	264-7373
A&S Champion Eleanor ferch Rhiwallon Wendy Donaldson	685-8510
Bardic Champion Jovan Greyhawk Henry Jennings	682-2346
Fighter Champion Duncan McCrakin Vaughn Weaver	686-4170