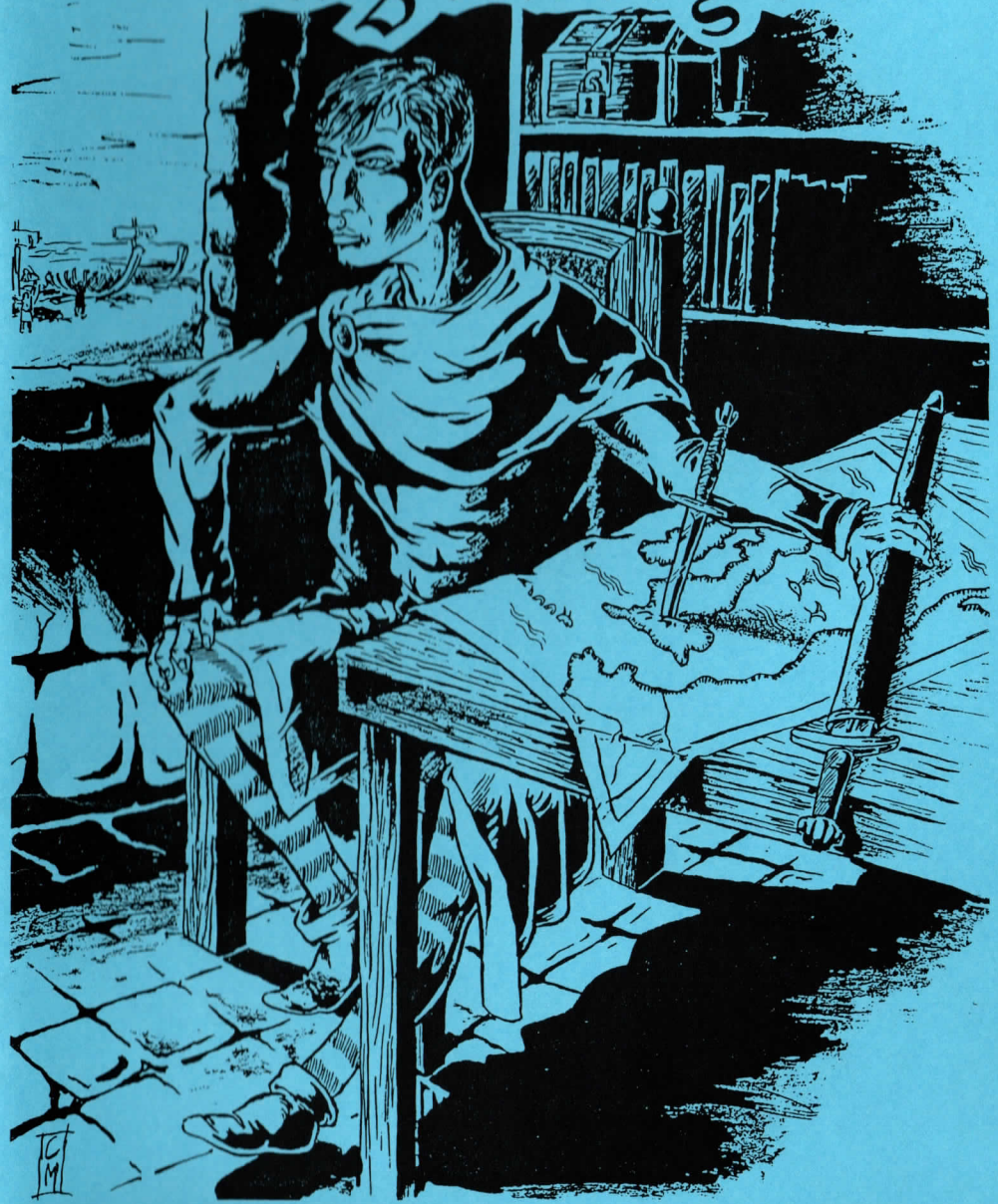


The Dragonflyre
C/O Chris Moore
3223 S. Mt. Carmel
Wichita, KS 67217

The Baroncy of Valasia
Dragonflyre



◆ March A.S. - XXXIII - (1999) ◆

◆ Baronial Officers ◆

Baronage

Cherbi & Cherbin

Khulan & Kerare.....265-9825
 Rick & Carolyn Haddaway.....tristan@feist.com
 (please no calls on Fridays-contact the Seneschale if necessary.)

Officers

Seneschale

Eleanor ferch Rhiwallon.....685-8510
 Wendy Donaldson.....winslet@feist.com

Chatelaine

Cerridwyn o'r Eurglede ferch Owain ap Bychan O Glyndyfrdwy.....524-0478
 Deborah Billings.....cerridwen@terraworld.net

Minister of Children

Open, please see Seneschale to apply.

Historian

Friar Thomas Bacon.....685-1182
 David Moreno

Callrop

Brialen Ulfsdottir Vikings.....524-0917
 Debbie Taylor.....deb_124@hotmail.com

Treasurer

Maeve Kelly de Navarre.....682-4468
 Terry McKellop

Property Mistress

Christine Joye Stewart.....943-1879
 Jerri Barr

Knigh Marshal

Takahara Otoshi.....267-3456
 Tracey Gillaspy.....otoshi@hotmail.com

Knigh Marshal Deputy

Ebhan MacRuairi.....686-4724
 Evan White

Archer Marshal

Roderick de Graham.....788-8826
 Allen Graham

Minister of Arts/Minister Of Sciences

Open, please see Seneschale to apply.

Chronicler

Corrigan MacKenzie.....945-1536
 Chris Moore

Electronic Publications

Connor M'Adwry.....267-3456
 Warren Thomas.....vatavia@geocities.com

Serf Wint.....264-7373 (264-SERF)

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◆ From the Baronage ◆

As we fly into spring, our detachments return from the Western Deserts. Ambassadors also traveled South and investigated rumors of raids along the border Wastelands.

Heavy North winds bode a fruitful year. Yet bandits appear to be operating along our southern borders and along the steps. We will maintain communications with our brothers and noble cousins of the Wastelands for mutual defense. The gam will deliver communications throughout this alarm.

We will call a "Gathering of the Clans" and prepare ourselves. CalonCon will convene the first of March. Detachments will then prepare in support of Sulwars. Carry not, for our tasks are before us. Spring fast approaches, as does Ren faire, Shakespeare in the Park, and Lilies War. The VATAVIAN ORDU GROWS, our people prosper, herds flourish, we renew old allies and gain new alliances.

Khulan
Cherbi

Kerare
Cherbin

Of These Lands That Burn



◆ From the Seneschale ◆

Greetings are warmly extended to Their Excellencies VADIA and all who may read this missive.

I pray all have returned safe and sound from the sands of Estrella, full of stories of the victories of the Calon Army and individual accomplishments. Hopefully, there will be an opportunity to share these tales at our *Gathering of the Clans* event in El Dorado. Many people are working hard to ensure this event will be very grand as is proud VATAVIAN tradition.

A multitude of thanks and good wishes to those who assisted with the *Queen's Prize Tourney*. The event would not have went nearly as well as it did without so many VATAVIANs generously donating their time to Barony and Kingdom. In particular, I would like to thank Her Majesty Lenore, Mistress Alina, Their Excellencies Khulan and Kerare for the opportunity to serve; Lord Otoshi, Lady Sibeal, Lord Magnus, Her Excellency Annys, and Lady Alx for their assistance in coordinating various areas; and those many good gentle folk who stayed and helped with clean up! I know how badly you wanted to go to dinner, home, etc. Thank you so much for putting in that extra time to help us all ensure that we left the site better than we found it.

It was fantastic to see those VATAVIANs who made it to WolfStar in Ansteorra. Everyone seemed to have a great time despite the rainy weather. We made many new friends who we hope to see at our upcoming events.

Rapidly the calendar advances to Renfaire. Please give His Excellency Khulan and Lady Alexandria, the event stewards, every assistance that you can to help present the Barony in our usual outstanding way. Hopefully, we have all returned our completed surveys so that the Renfaire committee can see what you as members of the Barony would like to see or do at this year's Renfaire. Thank you, thank you, thank you to the members of this committee who have so graciously volunteered time and services throughout the winter.

Applications for MoA&S (due tonight), Chirurgeon, and Minister of Children. Please see Their Excellencies or myself if you are interested.

In humble service to Coronet, Crown, Kingdom, and Society,

Eleanor ferch Rhiwallon

◆ From the Knight Marshal ◆

Unto the gentle populace of VADAVIA come these greetings from TAKAHARA OTOSHI, Knight Marshal.

Thanks to everyone who helped out at the Regional fighter Practice on January 30. The fighter practice seemed to go well. I would especially like to thank Eghan and Cilian for all their hard work. They were the first ones on site and the last ones to leave.

Also, as I write this, we are planning to take a war host to ANSTEORRA to defend the honor of the Dragonfly on February 6th. I anticipate much glory as the mighty warriors of VADAVIA travel south to do battle with the brigands who wrongfully accuse us, and I further anticipate many good stories being told of our adventure.

As you read this, we are only a few short days from the fun of GATHERING OF THE CLANS in EL DORADO. Even though we just had a Kingdom level event, we must do everything to continue to show VADAVIA's hospitality to the rest of the Kingdom. CONTACT your friends and encourage them to attend.

Another event in the future to keep in mind: MARCH 12-14th, Gulf Wars in Mississippi. Last year was absolutely too much fun and I strongly encourage everyone to try and attend this event. The drive is only about 12 hours and the event is worth every minute of the drive! It will be another good opportunity to show the prowess of the VADAVIAN fighters! If you want to go and do not have a car, call around. Someone should have space in a vehicle. If you have a large vehicle and have space, spread the word and take someone who would like to go but think they can't.

FIGHTER PRACTICE, weather permitting, will continue at South Linwood park near the south park building. The entrance is off Mt. Vernon, just east of Hydradic. Practices will be on Sundays at 1:00 p.m. War college is at Eghan and Alx's in the event of nasty weather. ARMORING continues at the Baronial Armory, Tuesday nights, beginning around 7:00 p.m. When we start to get more daylight in the evening, the pell will be opened up.

In service to VADAVIA, CALONTIR, AND the DREAM,

O+OSHI

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◆ From the Deputy Chronicler ◆

From the deputy of our excellent Chronicler come these warm greetings to their Excellencies and the mighty populace of VADAVIA. Truly these are the 'Lands that Burn', for even in the dead of Winter it is pleasantly warm.

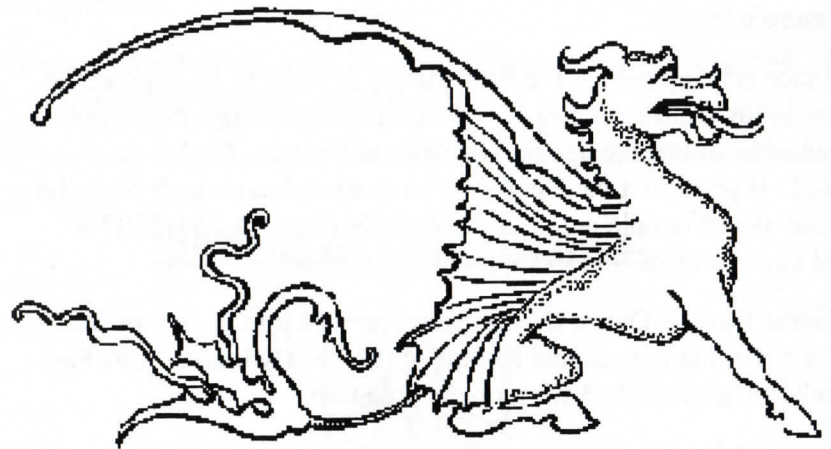
Firstly, I would like to congratulate all who were given awards at Queen's Prize Tournament. I felt that all were deserving, especially her Excellency Anngs. Way to go guys!

I would also like to send my thanks to all who submitted in a timely manner this month and to all who did submit. You made my first issue easier to deal with. I hope that it measures up to the unspoken standard set by Lord Corrigan.

Lastly, as a personal favor to myself, please submit articles for the Dragonflyer. As Odindisa said, "This is your flyer". Not only will it make future issues better, it will help make Lord Corrigan's job much easier.

In service to Crown and Coronet,

Gonnor M'Adwry



◆ Announcements & Meetings ◆

The March Populace Meeting will be on March 17th, at the student activity center on the WSU campus, at 7:00 p.m. Please reference the map section of your Southwestern Bell telephone book. Please call Eleanor at 685-8510 or Khulan and Kerare at 265-9825 if you need information.

Anyone wanting further information about the SCA, please call Lady Cerridwyn at 524-0478.

Officers meeting will be held on March 3rd, 7:00 p.m., at Dawson United Methodist Church. Please call Eleanor at 685-8510 if you need information.

Winter Archery Practice is on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month at Archery Plus on South Seneca, from 3:00 p.m. until whenever. Cost is \$6. Questions, call Lord Roderick at 788-8826.

Fighter Practice continues at South Linwood Park at 1:00 p.m. War College occurs at Ebhan and Alyx's house in the event of foul weather. Armoring continues at the Baronial Pell and Armory on Tuesday nights at 6:30 p.m. (Pell practice is cancelled for the Winter). Please call Lord Otoshi at 267-3456 or Ebhan at 686-4724 for more info.

Dance is being held at the Ramada Inn at 7335 E. Kellogg in the lower lobby from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. each Sunday, depending on whether or not the banquet facilities are in use. Garb is required. If you don't have garb, we have some loaner garb from the Barony which people may use. Call Lady Eliane at 265-2507 or Lord Connor at 267-3456 for more information.

Middle Eastern Dance is on Sundays at 5:00 p.m. (*when the banner is flying*) at Khulan and Kerare's, 1815 S. Hydraulic. Call Her Excellency at 265-9825 for more information.

The next Ren Faire Steering Committee meeting will be February 23, at Their Excellencies house, 1818 S. Hydraulic, at 7:00 p.m.

On the second Monday of each month there will be a Baronial Archery Class, presented by the Fletcha de Leon household as a service to the Barony. Classes are held at 9400 E. Lincoln, Apt. 613. For more information, contact Katya de Leon at 682-1263, or email boqueron@juno.com.

Bardic is held on the last Monday of each month. In March it will be held on Monday the 29th, at 7:00 p.m., at Lady Cerridwyn's home, 3551 S. Walnut. For more information, please call Lady Cerridwyn at 524-0478.

The Welsh Group meets on the 4th Thursday of each month. In March it will be on Thursday, the 25th, at Lady Cerridwyn's home, 3551 S. Walnut. For more information, please call Lady Cerridwyn at 524-0478.

Calligraphy and Illumination is held at 1422 N. Topeka (one block east of 13th and Broadway) at 7:00 p.m. on the 1st Thursday of each month. For more information, Contact Lord Godrick at 267-4152.

Costuming/Fiber Arts is held on the third Monday of each month at 1739 S. Water, 7:00 p.m. The Costuming/Fiber Arts interest group now has several boos and sewing machines available for loan to members of the populace. Call Lady Sibeal at 265-4643 if you have questions.

Renaissance Faire is April 23-25. A Newcomer's Meeting will be the following weekend on May 1st.

The Heralds have a short message for the populace about names and arms:

'Submit to your Heralds!'



See anything that caught your fancy at Queen's Prize Tournament? Want to learn how to make it? Then keep your eyes open for upcoming BUSH and Stealth Arts Surveys! Coming your way **soon!**

Lord János is organizing a dance band to accompany the Dragonfly Dancers. If you can play a simple melody on a plausibly period instrument, or can maintain a steady rhythm, then join us. Practices are at 7:00 p.m. Sunday at János' home. For more information, please contact LD. János at 264-3576 (evenings) or email him at LdJanos@aol.com.



THE BARONY OF VATAVIA HOSTS A

Gathering of the Clans

A SCOTTISH GATHERING full of fun, festivity...and maybe a little feuding, in the Barony of Vatavia, on Saturday, February 20.

SITE will be 206 N. Griffith, the 4-H Building in El Dorado, Kansas. (*discreetly wet site*)

TIMES are 9:00 am site opens, 10:00 pm site closes.

Fee is \$5.00, non-members/\$4.00, members (family cap - \$20/16). "Eat Your Way Through Scottish Society" feast is \$5.00. Make checks payable to: Society for Creative Anachronisms, Inc., The Barony of Vatavia.

The days activities will include:

fighting will be a series of highland border raids, with fighters in clans, attempting to capture the opposing clan's livestock, grain, and booty.

ARCHERY will be a Scottish themed tournament, with fun shoots afterwards.

ARTS and SCIENCES will be divided into three categories:
Best Art or Science with a Scottish theme; Best Scottish Garb (not a kilt, or the like); Brewing Competition.

bardic will be a story for the children during the day, and a story, song or poem during the feast. Winner by popular acclaim.

highland games will be held in the afternoon and include putting the shot, braemer toss, tossing the sheaf, hammer throw, tug of war, and maybe even a caber toss.

INDOOR ACTIVITIES throughout the day.

feast will be three removes, one each for the lower, middle, & upper classes. First: a flavored oatmeal pottage; Second: choice of sausage or haggis; Third: beef with sauce.

merchants are welcome and encouraged.

crash space contact Baroness Kerare or Lord Corrigan.

pipers are encouraged to attend!

updated directions To get to El Dorado: North, take HW 77 south or I-136 south, then take HW 96; East, take I-35 south or HW 54 west; South, take HW 54 north; West take HW 254 east or I-35 north. Once in El Dorado: from the north exit, head into El Dorado, where you will meet up with Central, turn left; from the south exit, 254 continues through town (in town, 254 changes to Central). Two blocks past Main St. take a left, at the corner of Central and Griffith. The site will be on the right; the 4-H Building is behind and connected to the Butler County Community Center. Address is: 206 N. Griffith.

event steward
Lord Corrigan MacKenzie - (316) 945-1536

co-event steward
Baroness Kerare - (316) 265-9825

feast steward
Lady Cerridwyn - (316) 524-0478
(Anyone with allergies or special dietary needs,
please contact the Feast Steward.)

March - Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	Armoring 6:30 p.m. 2	Officers Meeting 7:00 p.m. 3	Calligraphy and Illumination 7:00 p.m. 4	5	CalonCon Standing Stones Columbia, MO 6
Fighter Practice 1:00 p.m. 7 Middle Eastern Dance 5:00 p.m. Western European Dance 7:00 p.m. Dance Band Practice 7:00 p.m.	8	Armoring 6:30 p.m. 9	10	11	12	Middle Eastern Hafla 13 Lonely Tower Omaha, NE Midrealm Royal University Decennial Shire of Dark River Moline, IL Gulf Wars Kingdom of Meridies
Fighter Practice 1:00 p.m. 14 Archery Practice 2:00 p.m. Middle Eastern Dance 5:00 p.m. Western European Dance 7:00 p.m. Dance Band Practice 7:00 p.m.	Costuming and Fiber Arts 7:00 p.m. 15	Armoring 6:30 p.m. 16	Populace Meeting (at WSU Campus) 7:00 p.m. 17	18	19	Our Favorite Vices 20 Shadowdale Iowa City, IA Brewfest Lost Moor St. Joseph, MO
Fighter Practice 1:00 p.m. 21 Middle Eastern Dance 5:00 p.m. Western European Dance 7:00 p.m. Dance Band Practice 7:00 p.m.	22	Armoring 6:30 p.m. 23	24	Welsh Group 7:00 p.m. 25	26	Baronial Birthday 27 Forgotten Sea Kansas City, MO
Fighter Practice 1:00 p.m. 28 Archery Practice 2:00 p.m. Middle Eastern Dance 5:00 p.m. Western European Dance 7:00 p.m. Dance Band Practice 7:00 p.m.	Bardic Circle 7:00 p.m. 29	Armoring 6:30 p.m. 30	31			

The Barony of Three Rivers proudly presents:
The Gathering of the Chieftains IX

Date: Saturday, February 27th, 1999
NEW Site: Shrewsbury Civic Center
5200 Shrewsbury Ave.
Shrewsbury, MO 63119

There will be an Information Desk near "Troll" which will have an updated Schedule of events as the day progresses, directions to local merchants, and other helpful info.

SITE RESTRICTIONS & DETAILS:

This site offers lots of parking, showers, and is "Beverage Friendly"! (In the interest of "ambiance" we ask that beer bottles and aluminum cans be kept out of sight as much as possible - Thank You!) Only Smokeless/Dripless Candles are allowed by the site. (some are available at the grocery stores located a few blocks away) No Pets allowed indoors. (Working Animals Excepted)

Martial Activities:

The traditional mass weapon and 26" (or less) roundshield in one "tree", and 6' spear in the second, so bring both systems! There will also be authorizations.

Merchants:

\$10 Merchant fee, Reservations necessary. Each merchant will receive one 8x2.5 table for a total of around 5x10' space. Contact Dafydd (details below) for merchant reservations.

Arts & Sciences:

Judges' Favorite list-legal mass weapon, Celtic knotwork in any medium
Research Paper Topics:
Celtic History, The Roots of Calontir

Children's Activities

Children's activities will occur throughout the day, parental participation encouraged, and if the weather is nice there's also a park next to the site.

A Feast Of Chieftains will be a two course remove with appetizers and desert.

Fees:

Site: \$ 5 - Adults \$2 - six to twelve year olds
Feast: \$ 8 - Adults \$4 - six to twelve year olds
Merchant Fee: \$10

Make checks payable to: SCA, Inc. -Barony of Three Rivers,

For questions about this event, or to reserve merchant space, contact:
Cynghellor (Chief Steward) Dafydd ap Owain ap Cadell (Todd Perkins) 314.645.3107
todd@inlink.com

For questions about the feast, contact:
Heiliad (Feast Steward) Caillin Ohicidhe (Debbie Carr) 314.535.0175

Directions to the IXth Gathering of Chieftains, Feb. 27th, 1999:

Heading into St. Louis, MO from I-44 Eastbound, proceed East on I-44 to the Laclede Station/Murdoch exit. Turn Left on Murdoch (2nd light) and follow it to Shrewsbury. Turn right on Shrewsbury and follow it to its end.

William, Duke of Normandy

His Lordship Friar Thomas Bacon

FOR many people, William's life begins in 1066 with his audacious invasion of England and his great victory at Hastings. But as with any major turning point in history, much preparation took place before those events of summer and fall. The story of what led to those events of that year starts before William was even born. This is that story. The story begins with the birth of Edward the

Confessor, the last Anglo-Saxon king of England. His mother was Emma, daughter to the Duke of Normandy. During the time of Cnut's reign in England, Edward stayed and grew up in Normandy. In this way was the fates of Normandy and England linked.

William's father was the son of Emma's brother, thus William was second cousin to Edward, and on this based his claim on the English throne. William's own birth in Falaise in 1028, was the result of a dalliance of Robert I with a tanner's daughter named Herleve or Arlette. Hence William's less edifying sobriquet: "the Bastard".

William's childhood came to an early end when his father died in 1035 on his way back from a pilgrimage to Jerusalem. The next twelve years were chaotic as William attempted to secure his rule over Normandy. Three of his guardians died violently, and his tutor murdered. Finally in 1047 came the most serious revolt which William put down with the help of Henry I of France in the battle of Val es Dunes.

Secured at home, William began to expand the borders of Normandy. His attention first turned to the County of Maine. His interest was not so much in acquiring lands as it was checking the growing power of Count Geoffrey Martel of Anjou whose lands were on the other side of Maine. Count Geoffrey had recently dispossessed the Count of Maine and occupied a city, Alencon, next to the border of Normandy. With the help of Henry I, William took Alencon in a night attack, and during the winter of 1051-52 took the strategic castle of Domfront in a siege.

However in 1052, alarmed by the growing power of William, and reconciled with Geoffrey, Henry turned on William, and fostered rebellion in the eastern part of the duchy. In 1054, Henry invaded Normandy, but was defeated at Mortemer. A pillage raid was conducted in 1058 and stopped at Varaville. The threat of Henry and Geoffrey ended in 1060 when both died. It was until 1063, however that William took possession of the rest of Maine.

At the same time, to shore up another front, William married Matilda, the daughter of Count Baldwin V of Flanders. At the time the negotiations for the marriage began in 1049, Baldwin was rebelling against the Emperor Henry III. Pope Leo IX supported the emperor, and so as part of the campaign against Baldwin, denounced the proposed marriage as incestuous. Nevertheless, around 1052

the marriage took place. William finally reconciled with the pope in 1059 and built two monasteries near Caen as penance. They made an interesting couple. Judging from a single surviving thigh bone, that may not be his, William about five foot ten. When Matilda's tomb was reconstructed in 1961, an examination showed she was only four foot two. There is also some evidence that they actually had

some affection for each other, a rarity for such marriages.

Also during this time, William visited England in 1051 where apparently King Edward named him his heir. In 1064, Harold Godwinson was shipwrecked on the coast of Ponthieu. There are two conflicting stories why Harold got in the Channel. The more oft told tale was that Edward had sent him to Normandy to reconfirm William's succession. Another simply has it that he was out fishing. Whatever the reason, he was captured by the Count of Ponthieu. William quickly demanded and secured Harold's release. He then took Harold to Rouen and hosted him with great hospitality. He even took him on a campaign against Brittany. Most important, according to the Norman chronicles, William received from Harold an oath of fealty and promise to help him secure the throne of England.

Edward the Confessor died on January 5, 1066. The next day, Harold was crowned king. That summer William assembled his army and built a fleet to take them across the Channel. Citing Harold's oath, he enlisted the Pope's support, charging Harold with perjury and usurpation. The effort acquired the air of a grand adventure, not unlike the first Crusade that was to come. Recruits came from as far as southern Italy. Contrary winds kept at port till the end of September and away from his intended beachhead. But the delay was to William's advantage, as by the time he did sail, Harold had been drawn North to deal with Harold Godwinson, allowing William to land unopposed and into history.

By the time William conquered England, he had been a ruler for over thirty years. And he ruled England no differently than he ruled Normandy. Much of what he did in England had already been tested in Normandy. But what most often goes unnoticed in this transition is that it was not as sudden as the military conquest would make it seem. Since the time of Emma, Normans had been emigrating to England and becoming a part of the ruling class. In some ways, Edward the Confessor was as much Norman as he was English. As can be seen from above, the Norman Conquest was not a sudden turn in fate for England, but the climax of protracted ambition.

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◆ The Wanderings of Godric ◆

A SAXON OF KLAXONBURY IN NORTHUMBRIA

Lord Godric

The Danes were too much for us. They were always too much - not always that they were too many, for it was our land and not theirs, but they were too much here on our land for us to drive off, too much were they here for some of our own lords to oppose, so after a time some even of our kings let them be. Even Alfred of Wessex, when he wasn't raising his enemies in Mercia or his allies in the North, spent most of his time fighting the Danes, and in the end he let them, he gave them leave to fill our land and stay.

My father opposed them, as all his fathers had done, as I was raised to do, until in the end it seemed the cause was lost to us, when all the lords of England twice betrayed King Ethelred, and gave the Kingdom to Danish Cnut, Sweyn's son. I was born in my father's house at Klaxonbury which stood between the Ure and the Nidd above the City of York toward the Monastery of Ripon, in the year that Ethelred recovered his senses enough to call slaughter on all the Danes in the land. He had been king twenty-four years, and had heaped shame upon shame upon his own head and us all, buying peace with silver Danegeld, each time more and yet more as the heathens mocked and bled us. Perhaps he thought he was buying time until the end of the age, when Christ would come and judge us all, and the Devil and his imps would be cast into the eternal fires - but the fateful year came, and went, and the next, and when the prayers and the terror were gone, the King knew his enemies were still Danish (or so he thought then), so he ordered all those who could wield a sword to be slain by stealth. In the midst of this carnage on St. Brice's Day was I born into this world.

My father was in the south at the time of the slaughter, and with the war remained there while Sweyn filled his implacable vengeance for the death of his sister, wife of Pallig. In my tenth year, in the 1012th year of our lord, Ethelred again paid the Danegeld, 48,000 pounds of silver, as much as the whole nation might have produced in five years. Canterbury was sacked, and the Archbishop killed when he refused to raise his ransom. Still the Danes went in companies everywhere, and sacked and slew. The next year Sweyn coming north to Yorkshire annexed it as his own, and the weary English nobles proclaimed him king. Ethelred fled to the Duke of Normandy, and my father with him. In the next year, when Sweyn had died, my father and the King returned and all England rallied. At twelve years I went (a little early) to serve my father in the south, and lived with the King and then Edmund his son, whom they called Ironside, as they fought the Danes and Sweyn's son Cnut.

Edmund was only ten years my senior, but before he was twenty he showed he had the heart of a Saxon king - he defied his father's weakness and with his sword won a place to stand against the

Danes. But he died and the English lords again by one assent gave the kingdom to Cnut, and forswore the House of Wessex. My father was known to this king. He was taken and slain, and none defended him, so much was England changed.

I fled to the channel, and made my way to Normandy where also my lord Edward, son of Ethelred by his second wife, Emma sister of Richard the Duke of Normandy, lay hid. But soon word came that to bind the English closer to his rule Cnut had taken Queen Emma to wife, and so neutralized Duke Richard who had been our strong friend. Henceforth life became more difficult for the hundreds of Saxon exiles in Normandy, for although we were still protected we could not be preferred against the will of the Duke's powerful brother in law. Although my father was known there, instead of having a place at some noble's table and being taught the arts of war I was given a place with a merchant - one of Richard's vassals, a greedy half tamed northman named Gailliam, who since I had learned numbers and letters from the monks at Ripon, set me to counting sheep and casks and coins on the quays of Lisieux.

Still Normandy was an exciting place, for all the Normans have the vigor of their heathen kin, of which they are the chiefest part, and yet they had taken as a prize one of the richest lands of Christendom, and reveled in it not as a plunder for rapine but as a well dowered and beautiful bride. While the Franks struggled to replace the fallen house of Charles the Great, the Normans embraced everything that was Frankish, Christian, and noble, and for the most part turned their raiding companies into civilized courts, and their thievery by the sword into profitable trade. Duke Richard's father had searched even to find a town in which his son could learn his native tongue, and great lords vied to become bishops, abbots, and priests.

I chafed at my downfall, but I learned my trade well, and by the time I was sixteen years old my master (for I was as his apprentice in the merchanting - Duke Richard the Good saw that we were not enslaved) let me deal on my own account, and I made him good profit in English woollens and leather, and wine from the south by exchange. Great lords will have their wars, as is always true, and so while I was in my nineteenth year, and wondering how I would break from this Norman master's yoke, Duke Richard (he was the second of that name) brought quarrel against his liege lord, Robert the King of the Franks. My master conceived that he could make great profit by supplying the Duke's army on this short expedition, and then being sick sent me to see to his business.

King Robert, also the second of his name, came and met Duke Richard in Normandy, and finding neither was inclined to fighting they set to parley. Since they were on my duke's (disputed) lands, to carry this point he insisted on playing the host, so that I found myself purveyor to the royal court for a fortnight and more. I scoured the lands all about for provisions, visited and assessed all the ducal estates and monastic and church lands (the Normans had by gifts and appointments gained control of all the church's properties), and Richard, desiring to impress, allowed me to pay liberally of his treasure and promises. Still, I was lucky that it was late in the summer of an exceptionally good year in that countryside. So

the parley was altogether a great success: the Franks ate and drank to great excess, and the Normans led the way, this being one of the chief exercises of diplomacy. After passing a pleasant season, the King granted the two tiny and now impoverished villages to his Duke in fief, and Duke Richard again swore fealty to the King, although he may have been the mightier of the two. Some persons in the royal court were well impressed with me as well, and offered me a place in his Majesty's service. Here was my chance to escape service under Gailliam and strike out on my own. I sent a great profit to the Norman, chiefly the promises, and keeping a good share for my pains, chiefly the coin, I went into the service of the King of the Franks. Duke Richard gave me leave as a gift to the King, and in thanks and for compensation made Gailliam the greedy his own chamberlain.

At Paris, however, I was assigned duties more suited to a cleric: the keeping of rolls of royal accounts, while the profitable work of buying and selling belonged to Franks of privilege. As a consequence I begged to be let out of the palace at least to inspect the goods I was recording, and used an apparent inaccuracy (a fee of 100 sheep had been settled with 10 pigeons) to insist that I go myself to see about it. When finally they let me out, however, I raised a terrible row, for the man who owed the sheep was an agent of Albert, Count of Namur, whom he had also been cheating of his dues. As an agent of the King I took all this with great dignity and veiled threats (for all my 20 years) to Lord Albert, and after painting a fearsome picture of his peril, offered a way out. "The King will accept," I said, "120 sheep to fulfill your duty. And to restore your honor, you should deliver this faithless servant to the Royal justice." For some reason Albert of Namur accepted all this with a smile and a nod, and waved me out of his presence. I sold the sheep to the Abbot nearby without removing them from the Count's field, being careful to give and get separate receipts for 100 and for 20, and wrote a recommendation on the one that the man Seburs (who neither read nor wrote) be set to work on the royal estates, as he had particular skill tending pigeons. "So the English boy returns with his 100 sheep!" they laughed at me when I returned to Paris, "and with his Pigeon, too!"

It was no surprise that I was sent next spring to Count Albert's court, by his particular request, to see to the collection of the summer's fees while Albert went to war. In this manner for several years I was loaned to various lords of the Franks for collections and assemblage of goods for weddings, local saints' feasts, and minor campaigns, so long as none went against the Royal will. Being English I was not directly the King's subject, but he required homage of me which I readily gave. My particular skill was collecting dues, and negotiating the terms when I could see that the fee could not be paid, or that it was in my lord's interest to be either lenient or sharp. "The King's Preeot", they called me, although I held no such exalted office, or "The King's Godric", or "The King's Saxon Pirate", depending on whether it was they who had hired my services.

In ten years of this service I had only profited, and though no official advancement had been offered me, I knew that the Frankish court respected my skills, and that I had been some credit to my lord the King. I was in Burgundy negotiating a particularly difficult settlement, which involved the Royal privilege over certain monastic estab-

protection, but when he, too, soon died Burgundy was partitioned, and the greater part made subject to the Empire.

CONRAD, the second of that name, holy Emperor, came out of the north into Burgundy to secure it from the Franks, in despite of the solemn peace made between King Robert and the Emperor Henry II, and in which I had had a part. For Conrad was not of the house of Saxony whence Henry had come, but the electors had chosen him from the Salian Franks, said to be ancestors to the Franks who ruled south of the Rhine. Great pageants and feasts were held in his honor, involving much work on my part, but while I was busy assisting his retinue's departure I was suddenly called into his presence. He looked me up and down once, then said in a Frankish more like my father's Saxon tongue "Good. So I have the King's Godric as well," and I was taken out and given a horse on which to ride in the imperial train to Franconia.

The emperor was obliged to maintain an imperial dignity, and desired above all else to increase the imperial domain, but had received something less than even a royal demesne. His lands were scattered all over German Francia, and for all their acclamation at his accession, his Italian subjects were more expensive than they were loyal. As a result he was always desperate for money, and squeezed every penny possible from every subject he could claim as his own or bully from another. I was set to work even before we reached Mainz, collecting 'gifts' from the Rhenish farmers below Cologne. I was actually glad not to go to the palace, however, since Conrad's first daughter in law was the daughter of Cnut, the Dane.

I was hounded mercilessly, driven for more and more extractions, and nothing of my former solicitude for the needs or abilities of the vassals to pay, was allowed. It was cash, nothing but hard coin accepted, and always more than was due, no less. For almost four years I wandered the countryside making enemies wherever I went, forcing people with imperial threats, and enforcing those threats when need be with expropriation of property, indenture, and even slavery. I went from 'the King's Godric' to 'the Emperor's Godrick,' and sometimes 'The Godric' behind my back. But the name which had been a badge of honor in the mouths of the nobility became fearful, and spoken like a curse by great and small. My unhappiness had indeed made me sharper, but I knew with a deep fear that I could not last long. There were too many enemies, now, I had enemies all around me, and at court where I should have been welcomed, was the Emperor's son Henry and his devoted wife.

All this caught up with me in Thuringia. Eckbert the Margrave, the second by that name, was a friend of mine, friendly enough to help me with the Emperor's business from time to time. The Emperor, as suzerain, had set his own tax on all the mills in the empire, that was in addition to the normal lord's sixth, which every lord has the right to take of all that is ground in his local mill. The Emperor demanded two groats value from each bushel ground into flour, and one of ground into meal. I had gone to Eisenbattel to get a little rest, and to talk with my friend about how we were ever going to be able to collect this new tax.

◆ Officers' Minutes ◆

February 3, 1999 - 19 members attended:

16 officers/ deputies/ champions/ stewards; 3 members of the populace

Several members are planning to attend the Wolf Star event. There will be fighter practice the day after the event since interest has been expressed and a marshal is available. Final preparations for Gathering of the Clans are being finished. It was noted that most of the planned activities can be done inside if the weather requires it. There will be sign up for volunteers to help with this event at populace. Transporting the needed property to the site was arranged. The Champions have begun discussions on their event to be held at Beaumont, which will be a demo also. BUSH bid details were requested. A bid for Crown Tournament in December 1999 was presented. It was recommended that a Valor committee be established after the Clans event. Finally consideration between two potential Valor sites is being done.

This month's Dragonflyre will be produced by Lord Connor who also runs the web site. The web site capabilities were discussed. Ideas for additions to it were made. The Chatelaine has an SCA 101 event planned for the weekend after Ren Faire. More new comers packets will be printed for that. It was requested that members help the several newer members at events and meetings to feel welcome. The heralds noted the elevation of Her Excellency Annys to the status of Court Baroness at Queen's PrizeTourney.

Lady Christine requested that loaner garb be made available to her church for the month of March to assist in the new theme for one of their programs. The garb requested is currently with the dance interest group. There are four demonstration requests being arranged. Lord Magnus is organizing the Masonic Lodge request. There are two presentation requests from Rosehill Middle School. One is for Feb.9th; the other March 10th. Approval was requested for a scout presentation tentatively set for April 13th. It was approved. Confirmation will be sent to Shirley Childress for our participation in the Beaumont Tower Festival June 5th.

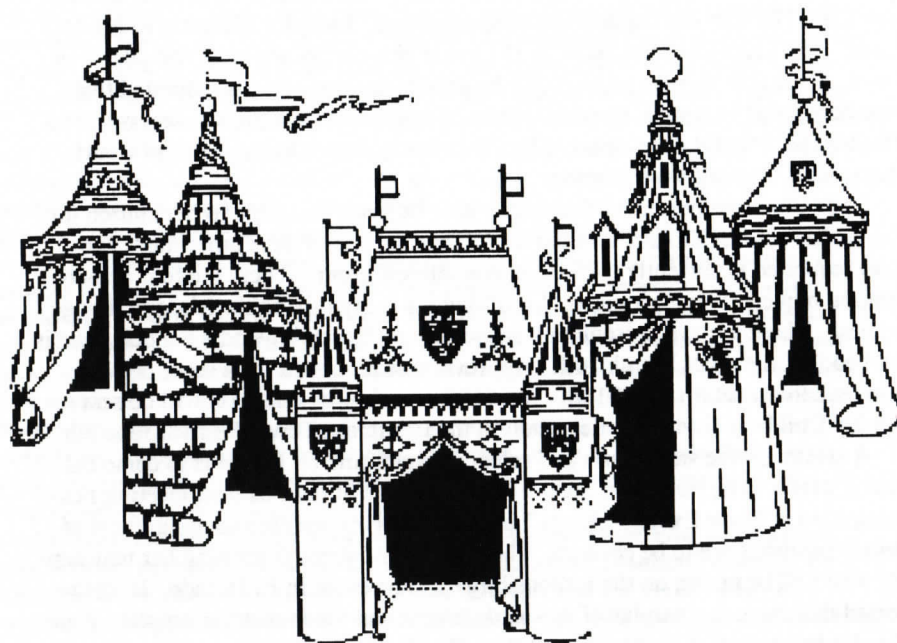
A survey on the stealth arts and sciences nights and on BUSH is to come out after Estrella. The Ren Faire Steering Committee will hold its next meeting February 23rd at Their Excellencies at 7 p.m. The survey results and assignment of deputy positions are to be covered. The Property Mistress is training her new deputy who will be taking on the responsibility for the event in El Dorado. It was reported that there is a surplus of pre-made tokens and token making supplies available for future use. It was requested that all individuals with Baronial property in their possession make that information available so an accurate, updated inventory can be made with the locations noted.

The Exchequer reported a balance of \$1983.80. The final figures for Queen's Prize Tournament were unavailable. The event steward and treasurer are still closing the account books for that event. Fighter practice continues to be held on

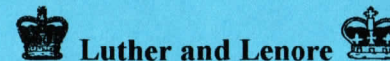
those days that weather permits. During inclement weather the War College will meet instead at Lord Ebhan's instead. There are two newly authorized marshals, Lord Vlad and Lord Cilian. They will be fully warranted in the near future. There was a good turn out at the regional fighter practice with some of the less active fighters in attendance.

Attendance at Calon Con this year is mandatory for some offices. Let the Baronage and your Kingdom superior know if you will be unable to attend. Others interested in office positions are encouraged to attend and learn about that office. Lady Eleanor will be co-authoring a Queen's Prize Steward's handbook. She has requested input from the populace, both positive and negative. It was noted that talking during officers' reports at populace and during court (including QPT) has caused distractions. The populace is asked to be aware of this and please refrain from doing so, or to go to a location which will not interfere with meetings or court.

The meeting adjourned.



◆ Their Majesties' Calontir ◆



Luther and Lenore



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◆ Valavia's Web Site ◆

<http://www.hit.net/~lestat>

Run by Lord Connor M' Adwry

◆ Credits ◆

Chronicler (this month):	Lord Connor M' Adwry
Officers Minutes:	Her Ladyship Marie Chantal Delaire
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