

Shire of Al-Sahid Newsletter

Scorpion Tales

August 2009

Chronicler: Caitlin Christiana Wintour

Around the Shire

The Chronicler apologizes for the missed July issue and the late August one! On the plus side she is gainfully employed and extremely busy. On the minus side she didn't do the Chronicler job well. My deep apologies and now back to work — on the newsletter that I enjoy doing very much.

August Shire Meeting

The Shire meeting was August 11 at the home of Teka and Killian. The A & S meeting will be Tuesday evening 7:00 P.M., August 25 also at Killian's and Teka's. We will be making war site favors.

There will be a special on-site War Planning meeting on Wednesday August 26, at 6:30 pm. Site: Schmidt Park.

July Officer Reports

Seneschal – Davi d'Orleans: The shire office of Arts & Science is now available. I would prefer that the office be held by someone that does not hold another shire office if possible. Please email me if you would like to be considered for the office.

Chatelaine – Jane de Sealynn: Not present, at Pennsic, Nothing to report.

Webwright – Valdis: Not present.



Constable – Khadashka Foma: Not present, at Pennsic, nothing to report.

Marshal – Christian de Guerre: Present, nothing to report.

Lists – Christmas Caryl: Present, nothing to report.

Chirurgion – Teka Turmanov: Present, nothing to report.

Herald - Magdalyn Tinker: Present, nothing to report.

Chronicler – Caitlin: Not present. Reported "Please submit articles for Scorpion Tales" per email.

Children's Minister – Marina Flores de Luna: Present, nothing to report.

Exchequer – Wzystan Albright: Submit-

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Seneschal's Corner

Wars and Rumors of War ...

The War of An Tir-West over the July 4th weekend resulted in both Kingdoms (and attending Knowne World Populace) being victorious in gaining memories of epic battles, heroic deeds and the finest displays of chivalry, courtesy and hospitality. This war is highly recommended and well worth the drive. (Call it a vacation if it helps you justifying the travel)



For those fortunate enough to be making the great pilgrimage to the east for Pennsic War; I salute you and pray thee a safe journey. (We expect an accounting of your blessings upon your return)

Highland War will be upon us soon and the thought of it sparks a flame in one's heart with anticipation of fellowship (with our dear

friends), colorful bruises (from our dear friends) and sharing each other's contributions to our dream.

There is rumor of another Great Western War. I can almost hear War (and party) drumming from the distant North. It is time now to stake the shire's claim to the Northern lands. The camp of the Shire of al-Sahid has been created on the Great

Western War website. Please land allocate as soon as possible. The 100'x100' grids will fill up quickly. The faster we grab, the more chance we have of obtaining adjacent space and be able to camp together. It is not necessary to pre-register in order reserve space.

Lecture for the Day:

My thanks and appreciation goes out to everyone for making our shire a warm and fuzzy place. It was brought up at the June meeting that we should contact and welcome back prior shire members that may not know how active and warm and fuzzy we have become. Please don't hesitate to let someone know how much they would be welcome back. The shire pavilion has become quite the hang-out at events due to your welcoming and friendly attitudes. This is super, let's keep that up. Lets' not forget to notice and show appreciation for the talents of our fellow shire members. Please don't be shy or bashful about showing off some of your arts & science projects. You may find you share common interests with another member or your work may inspire another Michelangelo.

*Pardon my Fumbling,
If I can't bear your Grumbling,
I'll soon be Stumbling,
And alone be Tumbling*

(Translated from Davi's French to English)

Your constructive criticism is welcome and appreciated; Let me know how I can improve in my job as Seneschal.

Your Old Servant,

Davi

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ted account balance. Statement mailing address correction has been handled.

Presentations – Magdalene: Orange cranberry muffins made by Teka was presented to Lyondemere at their anniversary. Next required presentation will be Crown Tournament and Highland War.

Arts & Science – open: Shire tables need to be completed, Davi and Magdalen's' home will be open Sunday morning, 8:30 A.M. for those that would like to come and help finish them.

Highland War

Autocrat Report (Teka)

- Valdis has added information regarding Brewing Contest and Youth Combat to the Highland War website.
- We have applied for a merchant permit from the city.
- We need a check for \$50 to insure the school for use of its property as a battlefield.
- We need a count of the Shire's remaining straw for archery and battlefield. Ryan offered to get a count by next meeting.
- Christian will work on the war programs and needs a digital copy of last year's program as a template.

Highland War discussion

It was agreed to rent the Westwinds Sport Center exercise room for A & S classes. Blase offered to teach a basket weaving class. Motion was made by Teka, seconded by Wytan, to budget \$200 for A & S class supplies. Motion carried.

It was agreed to pay for extended shower availability and the Sports Center, Davi will arrange rental. Motion was made by Teka to budget \$80 towards sanitation supplies (glow sticks, toilet paper, soap, etc.), seconded by Blase. Motion carried.

Val to take inventory of water bearing supplies and make list of what is needed (water, oranges, pickles). Ryan will obtain recycling containers to be distributed around war camp. Davi will see if portions of the park will be available for early set-up Thursday evening. and if showers can be rented for extended hours. Bales of straw for battlefield cannot be stored within school site due to school activities, will be set aside outside school grounds Thursday. Christian will check to see if the Shire can use Ragnar & Anastasia's trailer for bale transport. (Trailer offered by Davi & Magdalene will not be ready by war.)

Ishmael needs to be contacted to confirm that he will run the Archery Tournament. Motion was made by Teka to budget \$50 towards children's activities, seconded by Davi. Motion carried.

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Old Business

It was agreed not to do the demo at the city's "Spice of Life Cultural Festival" due to schedule conflict with Dun Or's Anniversary. We might do a demo at schools, Teka and Marina will look into it. Since this would be a publicized demo at park or college grounds, Davi will look into official demo qualifications.

Plastic maps for use with the Shires Dragonwing were purchased for \$161.66 by Jane as previously approved.

\$25 was donated to CP Prize Tournament as previously approved.

Christmas will purchase rapier equipment as previously approved. Christmas will provide final cost and list of inventory. Motion was made by Teka, seconded by Killian to store equipment at Christmas's where rapier practice is being held. Motion carried.

Hosting 2010 Fall Coronation and Queens Champion Tournament: After discussion, a motion as made by Christmas, seconded by Val to offer and commit to hosting event. Motion carried with 10 ayes, 1 opposed, 1 abstain. Shire members to check on proposed event sites. Event Autocrats should be separated by responsibilities of Coronation, Feast (with deputies for chef, table charge, side dishes, etc.), and Tournament. Davi to confirm bid acceptance with Kingdom.



Prayer of St. Francis

Lovingly submitted by Davi for historical and enlightening reference

*Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace!
 Where there is hatred let me sow love;
 Where there is injury, pardon;
 Where there is doubt, faith;
 Where there is despair, hope;
 Where there is darkness, light;
 Where there is sadness, joy.*

—Attributed to Saint Francis of Assisi (1181 - 1226)

Relics for All

By Lord Xaviar the Eccentric

(Reprinted with permission from Stefan's Florilegium. Relics are an interesting part of ecclesiastical history, and something our personas would have known about.)

The Earliest reference to the Black Rood of Scotland places it with the Anglo-Saxon princess Margaret, the Elder sister of Edgar Atheling of the House of Wessex. Edgar and his two sisters were taking refuge in Scotland. It is only after Margaret became the wife of King Malcolm III Ceanmore (r.1057-1093) around the year 1070, that she is listed as the bearer of this priceless relic. It is said that with its influence she brought about the end of the Celtic religion.

It is described to be a casket in the shape of a cross, containing what was believed to be a piece of the true cross, set in an ebony crucifix, richly ornamented with gold. Margaret who was canonized in 1250 bequeathed the Rood to her children. St Margaret is said to have pressed it to her lips and eyes, and expired clasping it with both her hands.



The contemporary biographer of her son, King David I (b 1084-1153), relates that the "Black Rood of Scotland," had become regarded by all the Scottish people with feelings of love and awe during the twelfth century. In 1128, King David founded the Holyrood Abby. It was said that on the night of a tussle with a muckle hart', David had a dream that advised him to make a house for deacons devoted to the Cross' (Holyrood Ordinale, c.1450). The Monastery of the Holy Rood was completed on a site near the spring of St Margarets (then known as St. Davids) in 1141 for the Augustinian Friars.(Keay,311)

Its next documented location was the castle of Edinburgh. Where it was kept as an heirloom of the kingdom. It remained there until the year 1291 when with many other relics of Scotland, it was delivered to King Edward I (Long shanks; 1239-1307). King Edward I used it to give increased solemnity to the oaths of fealty, which he exacted of the magnates of Scotland.(Kill,342)

When the hapless King David II (son of Robert the Bruce; b.1324-1371) invaded England in 1346, he took the Black Rood with him. He believed that God through this relic would insure safety to his person, and victory to his armies. David was defeated and taken capture by the Lord of Raby. The Black Rood of

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Scotland along with other spoils of the battle, were offered up at the Shrine of St. Cuthbert in the Cathedral of Durham. The coming of the Reformation brought about the cathedrals pillaging and all traces of it vanished.

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Quotes of the Month

“He who is born in imagination discovers the latent forces of Nature. . . . Besides the stars that are established, there is yet another — *Imagination* — that begets a new star and a new heaven. “

“That which the dream shows is the shadow of such wisdom as exists in man, even if during his waking state he may know nothing about it... We do not know it because we are fooling away our time with outward and perishing things, and are asleep in regard to that which is real within ourselves. :

“The universities do not teach all things, so a doctor must seek out old wives, gipsies, sorcerers, wandering tribes, old robbers, and such outlaws and take lessons from them.”

-- Paracelsus, 16th century alchemist and physician

On the Creating of Sheet Walls

By Lady Meliora Leuedai de Ardescote

(with many thank you's to the gentles of the Middlebridge)

(Reprinted from Stefan's Florilegium. It's a little late to do this for Highland, but it would be great for a shire or personal campsite at GWW.)

Sheet walls are used by many SCA groups to add to the atmosphere of a school or other mundane location used for an event. Basically, these are sheets that have had a brick-type pattern added to them so that they will appear, from a distance, to resemble castle walls. They are easy to create, hang and store.

Sheets can be obtained from purchase, or donations from gentles or other groups. The group that created our Barony's sheet walls obtained the sheets from a hospital, who donated old sheets. We have 40 in all, so the donation was a large one. I would recommend checking with local hospitals if you plan on doing a number of walls. Paint can be obtained from hardware stores. They usually have mismatched paints for sale at a reduced price. Look for acrylic paints in flat earth tones, whites and the like. Water based paints will be easy to clean up, but will dry to be a permanent paint.

For preparation, use RIT or other black (or dark brown) fabric dye and mix it so that it is weak (dilute it down). You can test a corner of each sheet to see how long it will take to dye the entire fabric to the desired shade - mortar gray (if the sheets are of made of a different fabric blend, they may take the dye differently). If the sheets turn out to be different shades, they can always be used in different locations or down different hallways.

Dye the rest of your sheets (you can use a couple of new garbage cans if you have a lot of sheets or don't want to use the washing machine). The gray on the sheets will be the color for the mortar and for the center of the bricks. The brick pattern will be created by painting over the gray sheet. If the dye on the sheet turns out to be too dark, run it through the washer a couple of times, or use a lighter paint to create the brick pattern on the sheets.

When sheets are completely dry, use masking tape to tape the mortar pattern onto the sheet (this will create lines between the bricks). If you are creative, you can do door or window shapes, as well as wall patterns, but random patterns usually take longer than a standard pattern. Then place the sheets on a solid surface that can be cleaned up easily (like a tile floor or driveway) and look for a place with good ventilation. Use sponges, towels or dry paint brushes to paint on the bricks by patting on darker shadings of acrylic paint over the tape, starting from the center and working outward. Paint until the bricks look good, then allow them to dry.

When the paint is dry, remove the tape and discard. At this point, you can paint on vines and ivy, cracks in the brick or other details.

Using the sheet walls is relatively easy. You can make holes in the corners of the sheets (preferably with an eyelet maker) to hang the sheet walls, or just put them up with duct tape.



See You



At War!



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