



Our Soon-to-Be Baron and Baroness!



Alexander of Hawkwood and Catriona nic Hugh Mclae

Unto the people of the Barony of Brendoken are sent warm greetings.

We were quite surprised two nights ago when we each received a phone call from Her Majesty, Queen Guenièvre concerning "a few Barony matters" she wished to discuss. In the midst of Alexander's frozen water pipes and rolling blackouts, news that the Barony would finally come into being was truly wonderful!

To all those who have worked so hard to create this new barony, both in the past and present, congratulations. A Thank You and a pat on the back are not nearly enough. Hoobah and good job!

To the populace of the local groups who have endured a seemingly endless wait, the jumping through "one more hurdle", and took the time to return their polls, this Barony reflects your

support and efforts.

Finally, to Gordon and Arwenna: To all of us, this was never about competition. We were two different couples with so many common thoughts and dreams for this group. We all knew the Barony would be in good hands, regardless of who got to wear the hats. Your council has been, and will be, helpful to us both. What ever involvement you choose to have in this Barony, we will lend whatever help and support we can. Regardless, our friendship will continue to prosper.

To everyone in the Barony of Brendoken, we look forward to serving as your Baronial couple as we set the foundation of what will be a great Barony.

Thank you,
Alexander and Catriona

Knight's Marshal Needed

Unto the Populace of the Barony,

With a new year and the next chapter in this Barony's history beginning, I find it necessary to step down as Baronial Knights Marshal. Those wishing to step-up as my replacement should contact me as to your intent by Feb. 15th.

Please send your letter of consideration to:

Lord Alexander of Hawkwood
Michael J. Gerlach
4665 Fulton Rd. 330.669.2586

Smithville, Ohio 44677

Or send it via email to:

hawkwood1@hotmail.com

Baron and Baroness Baron

Lord Alexander of Hawkwood

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Baroness

THL Catriona nic Hugh Mclae

Marti Smith
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330-453-9663 catriona@neo.rr.com

Baronial Officers

Seneschal:

THL Ailith Mackintosh

Kate Soehnen
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Lady Genovefa da Terranova

Holly Taylor
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A Challenge from Alexander

Within the next month, I will be stepping down as Baronial Knights-Marshal. As one of my last acts within this office, I would issue a challenge to the fighters of this new Barony.

In a week's time, there will be an event in the Barony of the Clef-lands to our north. I would challenge those fighters who plan to attend, to stand with me on the list field for 1 hours time against any challenge that might be brought by our opponents. If you would accept the challenge, please contact me so I may know our numbers.

Rules for the tourney and such at this event are posted below. Let me know if you have questions.

Alexander

Greetings to all from Sgt. Lothar de Normandie.

I have been asked to present a brief summary of the rules governing the forthcoming Pas de Armes in the Barony of the Clef-lands. I'm not sure it will be brief, but here goes.

Banned Weapons

1. War shields. These will include scutum, war heaters, and oversized shields deemed to large. The final say shall rest with the Marshal in charge and his deputies.
2. War spears. That is any spear over six foot in length. We are making exceptions for six foot dueling spears.
3. Seven and a half foot pole arms. Standard 6 foot pole arms will be allowed.

We do intend to have available a right or a left handed heater shield, for those whose shields do not meet the standards.

Armor requirements are standard Midrealm and SCA standards. However, we do ask that you try and look your best for this tourney. So please dress up for the occasion.

Directly following the grand procession, your host Baron Sir Ephraim shall address the fighters assembled and put forth his challenge, then the main tourney shall begin. The schedule for the Authorizations will be shortened if we get through them fast enough, thus allowing us to move everything else up.

Tournaments

The main tournament for the day shall be a five man team singles tournament. The teams shall be composed of two sword and shields, one Florentine, one great weapon, and one weapon style of choice (the choice to be made by the team). Two teams will enter the list and each member will fight a single bout against an opponent with the same weapon style. The team with the most victories will advance to the next round. So please begin forming your teams now.

Please have your teams registered no later than 10:30am.

There will also be a pair of list for open challenge fighting one will contain a barrier. All challenges will be vocal and loud enough to be heard by the gallery of ladies judging the tourney. Bouts in these list can be any style chosen however please keep counted blows to three.

We will also try to squeeze in another tournament but that depends on the day.

Judges

This tourney is based on the virtues of chivalry, to that end. The entire day shall be watched by a gallery of ladies. These ladies will choose victors of the day for various reasons, not just prowess. They will also have the ability to grant the Maiden's Grace to any fighter on the Field. Upon deciding to give the grant unto a fighter, the bout they are in will be stopped and they or their opponent shall be granted either a hindrance or an advantage. The fight shall then continue. Only the gentle with the white staff can stop a fight for this purpose. Again, the Ladies can do this to ANY fight, ANY where on the list field.

This system of judging is to remind us all of the importance of those that inspire us to fight. Please take the time to acknowledge the ladies of the gallery and the list mistresses.

Prizes

There are no prizes in the modern sense, although the fighters chosen as victors by the ladies shall be granted a hero's portion of a remove at feast to share with their friends.

If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at dockus@sbcglobal.net

Yours in service,

Sgt. Lothar de Normandie

Investiture Chamberlain Chosen

Our soon-to-be Baron and Baroness Alexander and Catriona have asked me to be their chamberlain to help with them during the investiture day, Feb 21, at Alderford's Masque of Courtly Love: Lucky 7.

If you have a gift to present, need time with them, or wish to donate largesse to them, please contact me. Contact info is below. Please remember that I teach until late on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and will not respond to email on those days.

Katarina Peregrine
Baronial Herald, investiture day chamberlain
karenjohnson@neo.rr.com 330-945-6773



From the Seneschal

Just a couple of weeks ago we found out that we are going to be a real, honest-to-goodness barony! How very exciting! I cannot begin to tell you how proud I am and how pleased that we, each and every person within the barony, could work together to create something wonderful.

I believe with all of my heart that we have built something which will last for decades—a barony where all are welcome to play, regardless of their personal feelings regarding the barony. And I do believe that all will support the baron and baroness regardless of whether they were their personal choice or not. For the sitting baron and baroness, while important and treasured, are transitory.

Many rumors have come to my ears. If you have questions, *please* come and ask. Getting information from someone who knows is much better than reacting to speculation and rumors. To dispel some of the rumors that are currently flying about, I am providing answers to the ones that I have heard:

1. *The Investiture is being done as quickly as possible so that it is done before the numbers come out.*

That is most certainly NOT the case. First of all, the tallies will **NEVER** be released. Period. No one but Their Majesties and the Kingdom Seneschal know them and they are not going to share! Secondly, Investiture is being held quickly so that we might have it in a locale within our barony. Otherwise, we might have to have had it in another area entirely—for instance, at Middle Marche's Winter War Maneuvers.

2. *Alderford should share the proceeds of their event with the barony. After all, they're going to make scads of money from the event.*

THIS IS NOT A BARONIAL EVENT. Alderford has been gracious enough to allow their event to be pretty much completely overtaken by Investiture. The day's schedule revolves around the investiture and His Majesty's desires.

3. *Alderford arranged for their event to be the Investiture.*
Nope. Their Majesties chose the event. They are not often in our area, and in Their kindness and wishing to please the populace of the new barony, desired to hold the Investiture at an event within the barony. And so, They chose the Masque of Courtly Love in the Marche of Alderford.

4. *The chosen baron and baroness wanted to be the landed nobility because of the power they would have.*

THERE IS NO POWER. This is a hobby and we're pretending that they are the sitting nobility.

What being is baron and baroness is, is work. A lot of work. They help to create the magic that makes our pretend world seem a little more real. They lend an air of majesty and grace. They move among their populace, making sure that the people feel valued and cherished and that they know that their efforts are deeply appreciated.

5. *I wanted to be seneschal because of the power I would have.*
Again, no. My job is to make sure that folks play by the rules. I am also the barony's legal representative in the modern world. I can sign contracts, but that's about it.

What I have had is some very difficult times. Times when I have had no idea how to resolve a problem. Times when I've been so disheartened that I wanted to quit. But then there are the times when I've been so proud of our people that I thought my heart would burst. When we've pulled together to make something wondrous happen, such as the demo for the clients at the Medina County Achievement Center.

No power. None. Just lots of hard, sometimes heartbreaking work.

It's also been said that I accepted the position of seneschal from Nigel for the awards I could get. Absolutely not. There are less stressful ways, less heartbreaking ways, to earn awards. Trust me on this one.

I don't miss much. There are other rumors flying about, but these are the ones that needed answers right now. If you have questions, *please ask me*. I give you my word that I will do my best to find out the answer to your question. Rumors and innuendo help no one and solve nothing.

On February 21 we begin a new chapter in the barony's journal and in the stories of our 4 groups and the people within them.. We begin our existence as a full status barony; one which will have baronial champions, events, revels, martial and A&S activities and much more.

I look forward to seeing you all at the Masque of Courtly Love .

With warmest regards,

~ Ailith

Regalia Coordinator

Brice le Corbet has volunteered to be Regalia Coordinator for our Baron and Baroness. Please contact him if you are interested in helping to create any of the Baronial Regalia.

He can be reached via email at brice-le-corbet@neo.rr.com or by phone at 330.875.4081. No calls after 10PM, please.

Items currently being worked on include:

Baronial Coronets
Winter Cloaks of State

Items desired:

Thrones
A Box to serve as a Table between the Thrones
Summer-weight Cloaks of State
Feast Gear with the Baronial Arms (2 sets)
Light-weight Baronial Coronets (leather, perhaps)