



Portcullis

Newsletter of the Barony of Brendoken
Volume VIII - Issue 5- June 2009

Warm greetings are sent to the Barony of Brendoken,

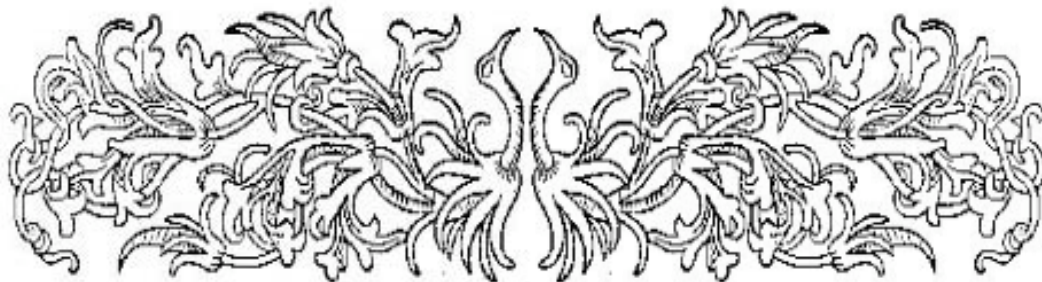
Einar and I had a great time camping with members of the Barony at Aethelmarc War Practice and are looking forward to hosting another Baronial camp at Northern Oaken War Maneuvers. I am looking forward to presenting Their Majesties with a Brendoken gift basket at NOWM as well. The "Runa's Ranger's" belt favors will be among the gifts presented. I will be very proud if Brendoken archers are chosen to display them.

If you have previously requested a Brendoken Tabard, we have a supply on hand. Please see myself or Einar at any of the local events that we are attending.

We are looking forward to the Brendoken Camp at Pennsic War and are very excited and hopeful on getting the land assignment we want. Anyone who plans on camping with the Barony at Pennsic needs to be pre-registered. As in years past, the only campers permitted will be those that are pre-registered. Camp rules, fees, and chores will be forthcoming as soon as we can get things organized with Lord Gabriel Baum, our excellent camp master.

Einar and I will also need a list of people willing to volunteer with the Fighter's Café, The Baroness Tea, and Brendoken Revel at Pennsic. You need not be camping with the Barony to volunteer.

In Service,
Maerwynn and Einar
Baron and Baroness of Brendoken



Brendoken Business Meeting
May 3, 2009

Attendance: 18

I. Officers

A. Baron Einar and Baroness Maerwynn

1. Fabric bought to make more baronial fighter tabards
2. Discussion of where the last made fighter tabards might be
 - a. Baron Einar is going to make a list of who has fighter tabards now
 - b. It was thought Lady Bekea might have a list
3. Hoobah to Baron Alexander who entered each event at the championships
4. The baronial couple plans to be at the Gwyntarian meeting on April 16th
5. A group from the barony is camping together at Aethelmearc War Practice
 - a. Contact Their Excellencies if you wish to camp with them
 - b. Community fire is planned, but not a cook out
 - c. If you plan to camp with the barony at this year's Pennsic, make sure to get on the e-list
 - i. If on the e-list, send a message if you plan to camp with the group or want to be in the meal plan

B. Seneschal

1. He needs the group seneschals to send him their reports by May 10th
2. Ron of Gwyntarian is the seneschal drop-dead deputy

C. Exchequer

1. There is \$4,635.85 in the checking account
2. Get receipts from Brendokenfest in ASAP
3. Projected profit from Brendokenfest: \$587
4. Profit from Qina: \$1,789.42

D. MoAS

1. Paperwork for the changeover has been sent up the food chain.

E. Chronicler

1. New issue of the Portcullis is available
2. Please keep sending in articles for the Portcullis

F. Chamberlain

1. \$86.50 was made in the auction for the Baroness's Tea and Sundries Fund
2. A gift basket for Runa and Eikbrandr needs to be made
 - a. Please make donations for largesse
 - b. They do not have to be hand made items

G. Herald

1. Except for the last baronial court, Brendoken's OP is up to date
2. A name and device has been submitted for a bardic household: Gorsedd

H. Signet

1. Blank scrolls are welcomed and sought
2. Discussion
 - a. Of making blank scrolls to give to kingdom
 - b. Having Scribal nights at each groups' meeting
 - c. Challenge other baronies to make blank scrolls
 - d. Baroness to give a challenge: requests the active illuminists of the barony produce one blank scroll per month over the next year to give to the barony
3. Asked that the information be taken to the local groups via the seneschals

II. Groups

A. Alderford

1. First Friday demo in downtown Canton, Oh, on June 5th
2. Everyone is welcomed/encouraged to attend

B. Gwyntarian

1. Nothing new

C. Thistle

1. Making connections with other SCA groups
2. In discussion with a Dalton Church for potential event site

D. Three Towers

1. All day demo for Ashland Middle School in late May
2. A new family from the shire attended Brendokenfest and volunteered in the kitchen. They also helped with chopping veggies prior to the event. Hoobah!!
3. Possible demo: Blueberry Festival, which conflicts with Melee at Roswell
4. Site flyer for Entrenchment ready to be approved
5. Recipes from Lord Gile's feasts can be found at <http://giles.freehostia.com/>

III. Old Business

A. Brendokenfest: April 25, 2009

1. 110 people attended (including children)
2. Equestrian participation: 8 (last year there were 4)
3. Lady Ursula and Maistor Iustinos suggest to NEVER use this site again
 - a. Poor communication
 - b. No contract to sign for a very long time, when there was a contract, it was dated 6 weeks prior
 - c. Price increase of 150% with no discussion
 - d. The track are was paid for, but they rented it out to another group
 - e. No hot showers as promised and broken glass cut someone using the showers
 - f. Discussed sending a letter of complaint
 - i. Group asked Lady Ursula to send the one she has already drafted
 - ii. Send to both the County and the Fairboard Committee
 - g. Other venues will be investigated
 - h. Good things about the event"
 - i. Weather was great!!
 - ii. Gile's feast was great
 - iii. Giles received \$456 for feast costs, but only \$312 was spent. The difference of \$144 they have given back to the barony. Hoobah!!

IV. New Business

A. Discussion of where to have postponed Thrown Weapons Championship

1. Suggestions: at local group's meeting, at baronial June 7th meeting, at 3 Towers event, June 20th.
2. Lady Mageen needs to be contacted to check with Historical Society if Mishler Mill is the chosen site.

B. Discussion about revamping Brendoken's website

1. Changing to content management style
2. New information about the new Kingdom website and possibly hosting the barony's website there

C. Kingdom Amorer's Guild is looking for a replacement to head the guild.

1. He is willing to show someone what needs to be done for the position, which includes organizing a KAG meeting and showing up at said meeting

D. FYI, Baroness Katarina is allergic to bees and carries an EpiPen. Please be aware of this should she need help.

Baroness Catriona respectfully submitted these minutes



From Lady Brighid's Kitchen

By Lady Brighid

From The Project Gutenberg EBook of The Forme of Cury, by Samuel Pegge
<<http://www.ibiblio.org/pub/docs/books/gutenberg/etext05/8cury10.txt>>

TART DE BRY [1]. XX.VIII. VI.

Take a Crust ynche depe in a trape. take zolkes of Ayren rawe & chese ruayn [2]. & medle it & e zolkes togyder. and do erto powdour gyngur. sugur. saffroun. and salt. do it in a trape, bake it and serue it forth.

[1] de Bry. Qu. Brie the country.

[2] Chese ruayn. Qu. of Roisen. V. ad 49.

Yes, the above recipe is written in English, Middle English. The recipe is for a cheese tart. This is my rough translation:

Take a crust an inch deep in a pan. Take yolks of eggs raw and [roan colored] cheese and mix them together. Add powdered ginger, sugar, saffron and salt. Put it in the pan, bake it and serve it forth.

And this is my redacted recipe:

Cheese Tart

Piecrust for single crust pie.

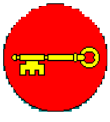
1 lb cheese shredded (any cheese you like the flavor of)
4 egg yolks (or 2 whole eggs for a slightly healthier version)
1/2 tsp minced ginger
1 tsp sugar
A pinch of saffron

Line a pie plate with crust, trim and crimp the edges. In a large mixing bowl, blend the eggs and shredded cheese. Sprinkle the spices on and stir gently once more. Fill the crust with cheese mixture, and pat flat with the back of a spatula. Bake at 375° for 30 minutes.

A note about piecrust: For many years I could not get the hang of piecrust. I used Jiffy Pie Crust Mix. I have recently played with piecrust a lot and now I can usually produce a decent crust from scratch. I still don't have a quantifiable recipe. I am not scientific cook. I tend not to measure. For piecrust, I put about a cup and a half of all-purpose flour in the food processor. I add a pinch of salt and somewhere between 1/2 and 3/4 cup shortening and process until it's all crumbly. Then I drizzle water into the processor while it is running until it the crust starts to ball up and has the right consistency.

A note about redaction:

The original recipe could very easily be interpreted to produce something akin to cheesecake. That is a testimony to the fact that changing the amounts or types of certain ingredients can drastically change the results. In this case, choosing a softer cheese and bumping up the quantity of eggs and sugar would drastically change the resulting tart.



From the Seneschal

Unto the citizens of Brendoken doth Giles fitz Alan send greetings:

The time quickly approaches to prepare for war on our eastern border. As war with the Tiger draws nigh, I urge all to prepare. Cross authorize, practice, and ready that new weapon style, or support our warriors as they prepare to meet the Tiger in support of the Middle Kingdom.

If your skills are not in the combat arts, teach. Knowledge itself is a valuable tool. Since the arts and sciences season has ended there is time to prepare that new class for the next group of competitors. Take a new member under your wing and start them on the path to success.

In Service,
THL Giles fitz Alan



From the Rapier and Archery Champion

During my service as both Rapier Champion and Archery Champion, I shall defend our Excellencies Einar Blakklar and Maerwynn of Warwick from threats of an arrow's reach and closer, though I certainly would let Lord Lloyd soften 'em up a bit if they are of the "near" variety.

I recognize that providing service to both the archery community and the rapier unit will keep my days full.

As the Archery Champion I shall endeavor to offer encouragement, provide advice if asked, to teach what I may and to bolster archery activity in our Barony.

As the Rapier Champion, it is my intention to continue the tradition of excellence that Brendoken Rapier has come to mean. In order to do so, the unit must continue to have a highly visible and effective battlefield presence. I feel that a dutiful Champion should recognize the skills and capacities of the members of his unit and therefore I have offered the position of Commanding Officer for all rapier melee activity to Gabriel LaPorte during my term as Rapier Champion. Gabriel LaPorte has the time, ability, and experience to attend command meetings and successfully execute the duties of this position.

Regarding to the command structure for the newly developed combat archery unit, with Their Excellencies support, I shall serve as captain. I have asked Mihajlo of Nerche to serve as my first lieutenant for combat archery.

Service and Honour
Edward of Thorn

St John's Day

As with most Christian holidays, there is a component of a pagan festival in the celebration of St John's Day. For Christians, this time of June celebrates the Feast Day of St. John the Baptist. It is one of the very few saints' days that mark the anniversary of the birth, rather than the death of the saint.

The Feast of St. John, June 24th, coincides with the June solstice also referred to as Midsummer. And while in today's calendar, this event denotes the beginning of summer, the term "midsummer" may have derive from the early pagan tradition which said there were only two seasons: winter and summer. The summer solstice is the longest day of the year in the northern hemisphere and occurs around June 23rd. The festival has been called Midsummer, Litha, or St. John's Day. The tradition is for the holiday to begin the evening prior to the actually day.

The word "*Solstice*" is derived from two Latin words: "*sol*" meaning *sun*, and "*sistere*," to *cause to stand still*. This is because, as the summer solstice approaches, the noonday sun rises higher and higher in the sky on each successive day. On the day of the solstice, it rises an imperceptible amount, compared to the day before. In this sense, it "*stands still*."

While the Christian saint's day was meant to be a solemn and prayerful time, parishioners soon highlighted the eve with the lighting of bonfires, feasting and merrymaking. People believed that mid-summer plants had miraculous healing powers and they were picked on this night. Bonfires were lit to protect against evil spirits, which were believed to roam freely when the sun was turning southwards again. Many people believed that fairies dance at midnight on midsummer's eve. In later years, witches were also thought to be on their way to meetings with other evil powers. In some areas, people would say prayers, asking for God's blessing upon their crops. They would also take ashes from the fire, and spread them over their land as a blessing for protection for their crops. It was also common to have music, singing, dancing, and games during the festival. The fire was used for destroying small objects of piety such as rosary beads and statues without disrespecting God. It was also common for people to jump through the flames of the bonfire for good luck.

All this merrymaking, which included the birth of children nine months later, caused the church fathers to put a stop to these practices. As was said in the 15th Century by John Mirk, of Lilleshall Abbey, Shropshire, "...men left such devotion and used songs and dances and fell into lechery and gluttony turning the good, holy devotion into sin." Edicts were mandated to end such pagan activities. Parades and other festivities were canceled. However, the common folk pretty much ignored the banns and continued to celebrate Midsummer in the traditional way.





Upcoming Events

"Then I commended mirth, because a man hath no better thing under the sun than to eat, and to drink, and to be merry..." Ecclesiastes 8:15

The bards in northern Oaken have taken these words to heart and have prepared several opportunities for just such activities!!

Lord Llywelyn Glyndwr and his Lady Juliane Bechaumpe challenged Lord Robin McCauley, called Robin the Pirate and Robin of the Whip, and his Lady Rayne of Tara, to meet all comers in a Bardic Brawl, second of that name, at the North Oaken War Maneuvers, June 13, AS XLIV. The participants shall be a two-member team. Each Team shall present two bardic Pieces, of not more than five minutes duration each, exemplifying the Masculine Virtues and the Virtues Feminine. There is no Restriction on the content of the Pieces. Let it be Song, or Dance, or Tale; Acrobatics or Juggling or Breathing Fire; or Instrumental Music, or any other Thing, which is intended for performance before an Audience, so long as they conform to the Theme, set out above. Lady Juliane Bechaumpe is the Mistress of the Revels; Lord Llywelyn Glyndwr titles himself: just the Chief Barista. The combat shall commence at 4:30 pm

This is not the only entertainment to beguile us that day, be aware that the Kavehane opens at 11 AM, a Roundtable discussion is at 1 PM, a Harper's Hour at 3 PM, Pre-court entertainment at 5:30 PM, and a Bardic Revel after dark!

On June 26-28, 2009, the Barony of Cleftlands and the Shire of Eastwatch will host a Bardic Roundhouse, which is a gathering of the growing bardic community in northern Oaken and of our neighbors and friends: bards, aspiring bards, and those who just enjoy listening. Activities will include bardic circles, classes, roundtable discussions, and a bardic coffeehouse for jamming, tech-talk and gossip. For details see: <http://www.eastwatch.org/bardicroundhouse/index.htm> Pre-registration is strongly recommended.

Three Towers is hosting Entrenchment IX: A Wild Hare on June 20, 2009. Featured will be a Pas d'Paws and a Wabbit Hunt melee for heavy fighters, plus combat archery authorizations. The fencers will use Hounds to flush the Hare out of the burrow so that the Hunter can close in for the kill. A&S activities will include a "bunny count".... best use of a hare or rabbit in any medium. For the archers there will be numerous Wabbit themed novelty shoots. Chef for the feast is Lord Giles who will feature foods from 14th Century English cookery. Go to <http://www.marchofthreetowers.com/> for details.

Born in June??

Sign of the Zodiac: Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Ruling Planet: Mercury

Element: Air

Quality: The intellect

Ability: Writing and communications

Traits: Mercurial, expressive, lighthearted

Birthstone: Pearl

Flower: Rose

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 2009

- 6- An Elizabethan Faire
Tirnewydd, Columbus, OH]
- 7- Baronial Meeting- 4-6pm
Smithville, OH
- 12-14- NOWM XIII
Cleftlands, Cleveland, OH
- 12-14- Push for Pennsic
Hawkes Keye, Lebanon, OH
- 13- Butt's and Bale's V:
Middle Kingdom's Thrown Weapons Event
Dragon's Vale, Ligonier, IN]
- 20- Encampment in the Woods IX
Three Towers, Mansfield, OH
- 26-28- Bardic Roundhouse
Cleftlands} [Chardon, OH]
- 26-28- Border Raids, Meridies

July 2009

- 2-5- Known World Dance Symposium
Ealdormere, Hamilton, ON
- 5- Baronial Meeting- 4-6pm
Smithville, OH
- 11- Brawl At The Crooked Dragon XII
Falcon's Quarry, Wellington, OH
- 17-19- Simple Day
Sternfeld, Indianapolis, IN
- 24-Aug 9- Pennsic War XXXVIII
Slippery Rock, PA

August 2009

- 4- Baronial Revel/Meeting- 6pm
Baronial Encampment, Pennsic War 38
- 21-23- Melee at Roswell
Alderford, New Philadelphia, OH

September 2009

- 4-6- Known World Heraldic
and Scribal Symposium
Lonely Tower, Calontir, Omaha, NE
- 4-6- Harvest Day
Winged Hills, Pleasant Hill, OH]
- 5-6 Middle Kingdom Academy of Defense XII
Ravenslake, Lake Villa, IL
- 11-13- Saxon Summer IX
Shire of Rivenvale, Hubbard, OH
- 18-20- Pounce VIII
Catteden, Findlay, OH
- 26-27 - Fall Coronation {TBA}

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