



THE AURORA

AUTUMNAL
EQUINOX

AS XXXV

(September/October 2000)

The Baroness' Walk

AN ARCHERS FIRST CLINTON

By LORD FINN O'NEILL

The faith of my Baron was placed in my hands. I was to protect the Baroness! My head was reeling from the moment Baron John MacLeod the Black gave me formal permission as a Yeoman candidate to join the official escort of Baroness Kirsten MacBheath and to see Her Excellency safely to the castle of Baroness Amanda Kendall of Lionsgate. I was thrilled!

We arrived upon the site of the former castle of Lionsgate to find it in smoldering ruins. Brigands! Panic was quickly subdued by Baroness Amanda who assured us she had another castle, just built, over on yonder... we just had to reach it through the brigands.

We quickly formed a plan. I nodded my regards to the others proudly wearing the Borealis Tabard; Mistress Joan the Just, Lord Magnus the Hunter, Lady Bronwin the Mischievous, Lord AEsth-lestan of Carlisle and Cyriac of Kent. I saluted Baron John MacLeod the Black, my Baroness' personal protector as I took position beside Magnus, Borealis Silverwolf Light Champion, on the left archer flank.

There were many noble fighters. Baroness Amanda had her protection of Sergeants, Yeomen and Gallants. Baroness Cattea of Montengarde had her Guard as well. We had many talented fighters but inferior numbers.

Master Thorvald Grimssom took control of my archer unit. I was relieved to know Master Thorvald was in charge with his vast knowledge of battle. He quickly conferred with the battle leaders then explained to us our job - to protect the left flank from brigands with our arrows.

We set out. I grew nervous as we approached a forest containing a bridge over a stream, a perfect area for ambush. All passed uneventfully. The lead unit emerged into a clearing, and shouts were heard. Several seconds later word was passed back that the Lost Vikings had joined our procession! Our anxiety was relieved somewhat.

Immediately we were attacked from behind! My unit killed two brigands before the heavy rearguard slaughtered the rest, freeing us to continue with our mission.

By this time the Lost Vikings were fully engaged in a battle with brigands in the open field, so we charged across the stream and through the woods to support them. As we arrived, the Lost Vikings had pushed the brigands across a creek and held the bridge for the Baronesses to cross the stream at an alternative crossing.

Our group held back, to protect the Baronesses. My heart wrenched with grief as I dared not break rank from my unit to answer the shouted calls from the Lost Vikings for archer protection. The Baroness' safety was first priority.

Suddenly, a hole opened up and we charged across the stream and through the trees, tripping over dead bodies, to secure the field for the Baronesses to safely gain the castle. It was a turkey shoot from then on. Standing beside Magnus, we mowed down the enemy.

A brigand snuck past our defense. I hopelessly rattled an arrow off his helm as he swooped in for the kill. He slaughtered my true friend Magnus, then came for me. As I lay dying from massive wounds, saw my Baroness, Her Excellency Kirsten MacBheath, entering the castle - safely.

In My Death, I saw Victory!



SILVERWOLF RESULTS

Silverwolf Heavy

Einar The Sweetie Pie

Silverwolf Light

Mistress Joan the Just

VINFEST II

September 30, 2000

Incipient Canton of Vingaard
Grande Prairie, Alberta

Oyez, Oyez: THE GRAPES ARE COMING! THE GRAPES ARE COMING! Avoid the wrath of grapes and join us at Vinfest II in Vingaard this harvest season.

Daytime activities will include Rapier and Heavy Prize Tournaments, target archery and some introductory SCA classes. Once again the renowned "Grape Stomp" shall follow the evening feasting. The hall shall ring loud with cries of the conquord: "squish them, squash them, mash them, stomp them..... make them whyne! This is the ultimate adventure in sensuality and will separate the strong from the "weak-of-foot". We are also pleased to include an evening hand fasting ceremony to celebrate the engagement of our own Lord Finn O'Neill to Sadb ingen Thuathail.

RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED

Site fee: \$10

Meals: \$15—breakfast/lunch/feast on Sat. (limited to 100)

Crash Space Available. (Smalls under 12 free)

-make cheques payable to ASCA Canton of Vingaard

Registration for site/meals:

Autocrat: Sadb ingen Thuathail (Vicki Feyrer)

sadb_ingen_thuathail@hotmail.com (780) 354-3803

Alternate contact: Thorndyke the Blue (Lance Astle)

lga@idmail.com (780) 532-4378

Feastocrat: Kazimierz (Scott Dyrkach) (780) 814-5548

sdyrkach@telusplanet.net or kazimierz@telusplanet.net

- Please contact with any food allergies

Indoor merchant space will be available during the day, please contact autocrat to reserve a table, outdoor merchanting welcome all weekend.

Directions to site:

Follow Hwy 43 to Grande Prairie, turning LEFT at the Hwy 43/Hwy 2 junction. Follow Hwy 43 South/100 St to 116 Ave (just past McDonalds - watch for "Hwy 43 West/Alaska" overhead sign). At 116 Ave, turn RIGHT. Follow Hwy 43 to 100 Ave (by Staples). At 100 Ave, CONTINUE HEADING SOUTH, now following Hwy 40 South/Wapiti Road(108 St) (watch for "Hwy 40 South/Wapiti Road" overhead sign). Follow Hwy 40 South through and out of Grande Prairie. Continue south of Grande Prairie 8km, and turn LEFT at "Camp Tamarack" signage.

From Dawson Creek: enter Grande Prairie on Highway 43 past airport. Turn right on highway 40/Wapiti Road. Travel south of Grande Prairie 8km; turn left at Camp Tamarack signage.

Site Information:

Camp Tamarack is located approximately 8km South of Grande Prairie Alberta on Hwy. 40. The site is wheelchair accessible. There are indoor showers/washrooms on site. Limited outdoor tenting space (note: this is September in Northern Alberta). Limited floor crash space in seminar cabin. RV site in close proximity to the camp.

STONEWOLF THEME FEAST

October 21 & 22, 2000

Canton of Stonewolf
Cold Lake, Alberta

Come ye all good gentles, the Canton of Stonewolf invites you to our annual Theme Feast and the 4th Annual Baroness Adeline's Bop & Die Tourney! October 21st and 22nd at the Cherry Grove Hall. This prize tournament has become a favorite of Avacalians over the years, so don't miss out on the fun, the pageantry, and the feast!

The Bop & Die is the chance for all you motivated individuals to try your skill and your luck. Skill in fighting and luck in the dice rolls. Remember, even if you are not the greatest SCA fighter, there is a game of chance in this tourney, and you may still be the winner! This year, by popular demand, the return of "Spear the Spare Produce" after the Bop and Die Tourney will be run, and the VWF (Viking Wrestling Federation) tourney will be run in the evening after the feast.

This year's theme is "Welcome to the Orient". There will be on going games throughout the evening that everyone can participate in. Bards, dancers, entertainers, come and show your talents! Best garb and best table setting in keeping with the Theme are only a few of the contests to be held. The feastocrat is cooking up (pun intended) an Oriental feast of epic proportion for your enjoyment. Please forward any allergies to the autocrat ahead of time.

Please note that since this is a theme feast, we've made arrangements to have some of the tables in the oriental style (very close to the floor), therefore if you wish to dine in this fashion, please bring pillows, mats or cushions to sit upon.

The Hall will open on Friday, October 20th at 6pm. Crash space available at the Hall. Merchants welcome (no merchant fee)

Saturday Schedule:

12:30 armor inspection

1 PM Bop & Die starts

Spear the Spare Produce after the Bop & Die Tourney

On going - various eastern games and pastimes

6 PM Oriental Feast begins

Between Removes - best orient garb, best orient table setting

Anyone can offer to entertain!

After the feast - VWF!!!!

Sunday Schedule:

Clean up will begin at 10:00 am sharp. There is another event taking place on Sunday afternoon, and we must be finished cleaning by then. Anyone staying at the Hall, please note the early wake up call.

All other timings are at the discretion of the highest ranking royal attending the feast.

Fees:

Site Fee \$5.00

Feast Fees (includes site fee): \$13.00 17 yrs and up, \$7.00 13 yrs to 16 yrs, 12 and under free

Directions:

The Cherry Grove turnoff is a few kms south of the town of Cold Lake, on highway 28. Turn off onto highway 55 East and head about 8 km to the hamlet of Cherry Grove. The hall is on the north side of the highway. As usual, there will be SCA signs posted from highway 28 right to the hall.

Contact numbers:

Autocrat: HL Rhowyn Arden the Bard (Wendi Hyde) mwtraub@jctnet.ab.ca or call during the day and leave a message on the machine (780) 826-6871

Co-Autocrat: Morgan O'Malley (Christina Hunt) (780) 594-0374

Feastocrat: Baron Alheim dur Wundersman (Stu Hiar) (780) 594-1083 gail.hiar@portagec.ab.ca



Thyra the Pink, Deicyn Moil &
Lord Finn O'Neill at Quad War



Vicountess Valeria
at Clinton War

BOREALIS STANDING CALENDAR

	Veraquilon	Stonewolf	Vingaard
Monday	7 -10 pm Fighter and Rapier Practice every week; Dance Practice/Music rehearsal on 2nd and 4th Monday of each month; Near Eastern dance troupe rehearsals on 1st and 3rd Monday (contact Asha for details); Canton Curia meeting on 4th Monday of the Month. Bonnie Doon Community Hall, 93St and 93rd Ave.		
Tuesday		Arts & Science Classes: 7:00 – 9:00 PM Cold Lake South Library	Fighter Practice (Heavy/Rapier): Grande Prairie Regional College room L106. 8:00 pm until we drop. For more info contact Cyriac at 539-7388.
Wednesday	1st Wednesday of Month Capilano Community Hall 10810-54 Street • Business Meeting @ 7:30 PM • Tavern Night @ 8:30 PM		
Thursday		Fighter (Heavy and Rapier) Practice Grand Centre Elementry School 5:00 – 8:00 PM	
Saturday			Feasts: Generally the 2nd Saturday of each month, location varies. Contact Melisand de Alemayne at: dpearcy@telusplanet.net or (780)538-3946
Sunday	1pm to 4pm Archery practice on weekends where there are no events at Mistress Joan's home south of Leduc. Call ahead to (780)986-6623 before noon. Practice will only happen if someone calls.		Arts & Sciences gathering almost every afternoon at Sidonia & Magnus's house in Beaverlodge. Call (780)354-8733

Borealis Webpage: <http://www.tnc.ab.ca/~sca/>

There are several groups in the Barony dedicated to various activities:

- The Groaning Board is a cooking guild who puts on theme feasts throughout the year. You can contact Edwina of Loxley at MGARRISO@epsb.edmonton.ab.ca
- Our Medieval Dance troupe rehearses every two weeks and performs at various demos and events. Contact Mordecai Salzer at rms@cha.ab.ca or Catherine of the Rowan Tree at cjackel@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca
- We have a Fibre Arts guild called the Black Sheep Guild who get together to spin, weave, dye etc. You can contact Alyne of Kendal at lgottesf@gpu.srv.ualberta.ca
- There is a fighting household in Veraquilon known as the Lost Vikings. See them at:

<http://www.lostvikings.com>

Champions of Borealis

Silverwolf Heavy

Einar the Sweetie Pie

Silverwolf Light

Mistress Joan the Just

Silverwolf Rapier

Lord Dante

Arts & Sciences

Lady Sidonia Dokianos

MARRIAGE IN MEDIEVAL TIMES

By Rachele Carter

When someone says the word marriage today we think about two people who are in love and who want to spend the rest of their lives with each other. Marriage is a serious commitment, one that isn't taken lightly for most people. One wouldn't likely marry a stranger they just met for instance. In the Medieval Times, however, marriage was quite different. Women didn't have a choice as to who they would marry. Most of the time they didn't even know the man before they were married. Marriage was different in other ways back then too. There were many reasons a marriage could not take place, and strict rules for whether or not a divorce was allowed. Despite the differences in various aspects of marriage, the marriage ceremony has stayed rather similar over the years. We also carry on some of the same traditions in today's society.

In the middle ages marriages were done by arrangement. Women were not allowed to choose who they wanted to marry. However, sometimes men were able to choose their bride. Marriage was not based on love. Husbands and wives were generally strangers until they first met. If love was involved at all it came after the couple had been married. Even if love did not develop through marriage, the couple generally developed a friendship of some sort. The arrangement of marriage was done by the children's parents. In the Middle Ages children were married at a young age. Girls were as young as 12 when they married, and boys as young as 17. The arrangement of the marriage was based on monetary worth. The family of the girl who was to be married gives a dowry, or donation, to the boy she is to marry. The dowry goes with her at the time of the marriage and stays with the boy forever (Renolds).

After the marriage was arranged a wedding notice was posted on the door of the church. The notice was put up to ensure that there were no grounds for prohibiting the marriage. The notice stated who was to be married, and if anyone knew any reasons the two could not marry they were to come forward with the reason. If the reason were a valid one the wedding would be prohibited (Rice).

There were many reasons for prohibiting a marriage. One reason was consanguinity, if the two were too closely related. If the boy or the girl had taken a monastic or religious vow the marriage was also prohibited. Sometimes widows or widowers took vows of celibacy on the death of their spouse, and later regretted doing so when they could not remarry. Other reasons which also prohibited marriage, but were not grounds for a divorce, were rape, adultery, and incest. A couple could also not be married during a time of fasting, such as lent or advent. Nor could a couple be married by someone who had killed someone (Rice).

The church ceremony in the middle ages took place outside the church door before entering the church for a nuptial mass. During the ceremony in front of the church doors the man stood on the right side and the woman stood on the left side, facing the door of the church. "The reason being that she was formed out of a rib in the left side of Adam (Amt, p.84)." The priest begins by asking if anyone knows of any reason the couple should not be married. He also asks this of the man and woman so they may confess any reasons for prohibiting their marriage (Amt, p.84).

The ceremony proceeds with the priest saying, "N[ame] wilt though have this woman to thy wedded wife, wilt the love her, and honor her, keep her and guard her, in health and in sickness, as a husband should a wife, and forsaking all others on account of her, keep thee only unto her, so long as ye both shall live? (Amt, p.84)" Then the priest, changing the wording of "as a husband should a wife", asks the same of the woman. Both the man and the woman should answer by saying "I will (Amt, p.84-5)." At this time the woman is given by her father. The wedding continues with the saying of vows. Both the man and the woman, with the exception of the words wife and husband, say, "I N. take thee N. to my wedded wife, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness, and in health, till death do us part, if the holy church will ordain it: And thereto I plight thee my troth (Amt, p. 85)." At this time they are given to the priest to bless them. He gives them back and the ring exchange occurs. They bow their heads and the priest gives them a blessing. As husband and wife they enter the church, where they kneel before the altar. At the altar the priest gives a prayer and a blessing, thus ending the marriage ceremony (Amt, p.85).

Some of the things that took place during the time of a wedding have be-

come traditions, and are currently practiced today. The marriage ceremony, for example, contains much of the same wording as was used in the middle ages. Today, the man and the woman stand on the same sides of the altar as they did in the middle ages. The wedding ceremony of today also includes a ring exchange, and the ring is put on the fourth finger, the same finger it was placed on during the middle ages. Even nuns marrying the church wore a ring on their fourth finger. In the middle ages a couple and their families would have a large feast after the wedding, this is still carried on in today's society (Rice).

One advantage we have today is the acceptance of divorce. People today can get divorced for practically any reason. In the middle ages there were few reasons the wedding could be dissolved. One reason was if either the man or woman were not of legal age, 12 for girls and 14 for boys. If the husband or wife had previously made a religious or monastic vow or were not Christian, the marriage would be dissolved. The last reason a marriage could end was if the woman, not the man, was incapable of sexual relations (Rice).

Marriages in the middle ages were done by arrangement. Most of the time the man and women did not know each other prior to their wedding. The marriage involved a dowry, and a ceremony beginning at the chute door and proceeding into the church. After the couple were married there were few reasons for divorce which were strictly adhered to. Over time marriages have carried on similar traditions and have also changed to involve the man and woman in deciding who they want to marry, and most importantly: LOVE.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Amt, Emilie. Women's Lives in Medieval Europe. New York, Routledge:1993

YULE FEAST

December 2, 2000

Canton of Veraquilon (Edmonton, Alberta)

Greetings to all good gentles, for all are invited to join the Barony of Borealis in celebrating the yule season. We are planning Ithra classes during the day. Classes are still being scheduled, but needlework and lady fighter classes are confirmed. A warm and welcoming feast awaits for your evenings pleasure. We expect to dance the night away with much abandon.

Autocrat: Lady Asha Delgejin (Janet Muisse) 12835-96 St, Edmonton, AB, T5E 4A9, (780)456-6542 janet.asha@home.com Reservations and Co-Autocrat: Gabriel of Rockhaven (780)440-5014 dysaster@ecn.ab.ca Ithra Contact: Alis Talairan de Perigord (780)461-6610 aharwood@nucleus.com

Feast fee: \$15.00 includes site 12 and over Site fee: \$5.00

Contact autocrat for crash space. Merchants are welcome (limited space) at no fee. When making a reservation, please indicate if you are bring someone who is younger than 12 years old. We are planning to provide Pied Piper events and a special feast menu.

Directions: Bonny Doon Community League Hall 9240-93 Ave, Edmonton

AVACAL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 2000

30	Vinfest	Vingaard
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October 2000

07	Myrganwood Anniver- sary	Myrganwood
14 & 15	Grand Ithra	Montengarde
21 & 22	Theme Feast	Stonewolf

November 2000

04	Ferrets Feast	Valley Wold
24 - 26	Avacal Coronet	Montengarde

December 2000

02	Yule Feast	Veraquilon
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Avacal Webpage: <http://www.avacal.org>

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BULLETIN BOARD

Barony Positions Open:

Master of Swords
Chatelaine

Please Contact For More Information:

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Veraquilon Canton Positions Open:

Gold Key
Pied Piper
Chronicler
Waterbearer
Scribe

Please Contact For More Information:

Alis Talairan de Perigord

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The Signery

My name is Sigmund Grotli, mundane: Brad Johnson. I am offering my services to paint banners, signs, crests and shields in heraldic form. I also do a unique form of artwork called "scratch board" that I am offering to all battlemen who want artwork done from photos of them in battle. If interested, messages can be left at 780-376-3561. Correspondence can be sent to:

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Chroniclers Scrawl



Greetings Friends,

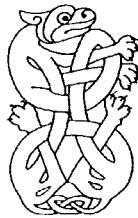
This has been an amazing war season. I was able to attend a number throughout Avacal, as well as making the pilgrimage to Clinton this year. All time outside of heavy mundane commitments was dedicated to these attending these events so the Aurora has suffered as a result. However, I have met many more people from this Barony and I have gained more insight into its function.

I congratulate Lady Asha Delgejin in becoming Barony Seneschal. I am sure she will keep on me to meet deadlines and I hope she will urge others to make submissions as well. This is your newsletter and it is available to all individuals, households and cantons of Borealis.

With Vinfest we begin the feasting season, and I hope to meet and get to know more of you during the winter this time.

In Your Service,

LORD FINN ONEILL
BOREALIS CHRONICLER



THE AURORA Online:
<http://www.tnc.com/~sca/aurora>

November/December
Issue Deadline

October 25, 2000

THE AURORA
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This is *THE AURORA*, a publication of the Barony of Borealis, encompassing Northern Alberta; a branch of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. *THE AURORA* is not a corporate publication of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. and does not delineate S.C.A. policies.

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Month Year grid for card expiration date

Card Expiration Date Signature

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