

# Kenning Points

*"A new chapter for Smoking Rocks"*

*AS XLVIII (January 2014)*

The people of Smoking Rocks welcome our new Baroness Molly Blythe and Baron Ceawlin Alreding. We express our support for you. May your reign be a peaceful and prosperous one. However human nature is such that conflicts and the sounds of war are never far removed from our peaceful days. We want you to know that we all stand by you and that just as our fighters are always preparing and improving their skills, so are our artisans. They are working hard to design new banners and flags which will gloriously fly high above our army. Our musicians are also practicing their drums and pipes so that they too will be ready for battle. All of these efforts will make our kingdom proud. In short the people of Smoking Rocks are never idle. In Ihrem Dienst, Marguerite von Elfenau your chronicler.



Overwhelmed.

I think if I had to choose a word for how Molly and I are feeling at the moment it would be overwhelmed. I was for taking Sunday off, kicking back and watching some TV on the couch, but after comparing our schedules.... It seems like we've spent the last month saying "Thank You" to people. I know we said it a LOT yesterday. But we really do have a lot of people to thank for yesterday. We are going to try not to forget anyone, but it's a very long list. Thanks to Baron Cerdic and Baroness Caitlin and Allyson: Normally at a Local Event we are pretty involved, and have a feel for how the day is going, but yesterday was different. Cerdic and his family put in some long hours to make sure our day went smoothly. Puck, Marion and their family, and their kitchen crew - Lady Saraïd, Lady Isabeau du Valle, Lady Tatiana, Lady Nejla, Yohn Yohnson and the servers who included Tatiana Minor, Adam, Deven, Justinus, Ulf, Courtney and various other children who we didn't know. Puck your food is great! I just don't need two platters the size of a Buick for lunch! (That is in response to the little show during lunch yesterday....) The food was great, and I really enjoyed the fish. My Family (see a pattern here?) Lady Kristen de Kennet, Godgifu Shirley (me Mum), Kerry and Patrick and my nieces Laura and Ella: It was terrific that you came to the event, but coming with needle, thread and scissors to help put the finishing touches on our Investiture garments was going above and beyond. Baroness Nest verch Tangwistel: Along with Baron Cerdic and Baroness Caitlin, Nest has provided the example of what a Baroness should be. Her dedication to the group will not end with her "abdication" and we truly appreciated her counsel when we were told we were next "at bat." Lady Elaina Howys of Mornignthorpe: New Baron and Baroness. New Seneschal. In some circumstances this would be a recipe for disaster, if not High Drama. Efficient and practical, Elaina was a huge help to us as we prepared for our new roles. And her tailoring is a thing of beauty. Master Padraig, Lady T and Tatiana:



Baroness Molly Blythe & Baron Ceawlin Alreding

My Knight and his family are ever at our side when we need them. And sometimes they give us the space we need too. Perfect. Hladige Eilidh and Hlaford Aiden: Eilidh turns out yard after yard of gorgeous Saxon embroidery at the drop of a hat. We got married in her handiwork, and were Invested in it. One of the real joys we get from our SCA experience is that we get to show the Known World her work.

And while Aiden was just “hanging around”, he saved our bacon by helping us carry and set up. Lady Anna Dokeianina Syrakousina and Lady Laisair (Heather von Halstern). These ladies have been slaving away in Smoking Rocks, as well as my Native Barony of the Bridge for years. They both took time out of their very busy schedules to help us with our investiture garb as well. “Will no one rid us of these Meddlesome Monks?” Master Ulric Von Der Insel was our “Protocol Droid” who helped us with dovetailing our Court with their Majesties.

And while the schtick we planned for Fergus Redmead didn’t come to fruition, just having him available was peace of mind. He did, however, do a great job organizing the brewing panel (and congratulations on your Journeyman achievement). Big thanks to Sabina Luttrell, Johannes von Heugel, and Solskinn who selflessly manned the gates;

Thank you Sabina also for being there when Molly needed help at several critical points.

Thank you also to Adam, Maggie, and Alice (Elizabeth) of Seven Oaks. You were great help as our retainers and did a wonderful job. Mistress Michel Almond de Champagne and Hladige Sunnifa Heinreksdottir: When we got “the Job” we knew we needed Regalia.

The most important part- the Coronets- were a source of great worry to us. Important symbols, critical to the ceremony and the only thing we had no hope of making ourselves. We were going quietly desperate when these two ladies came to our rescue. And the results, as you have seen, are stunning. Alys Attewater, for running the youth activities at the event: Maurin Lessault and the members of Stonebridge Gambol for teaching and leading the dances; and Rufus Bowie and Fracta Modi for playing the dance music, processional music, and the beautiful pavan that was composed for the occasion.

Mistress Anne Elaina of River's Bend, Mistress Fiona O'Maille, Mistress Saerlaith ingen Chenetig and Sir Varus for our (unexpected) beautiful scrolls. To our poor, suffering Herald, Lady Amy verch Richard, who put up with our endless Court Docket revisions, with grace.

And to Their Majesties, Kenic and Avelina, and their Highnesses, Brennen and Caoilfhionn, our deepest, most humble thanks for Your confidence in us.

In your service we remain, Ceawlin Alreding and Molly Blythe,  
Baron and Baroness, Smoking Rocks



Holding Court for the first time



Officers swearing fealty



## A Shire's 12th night

By Johannes von Huegel  
with excerpts from Padraig MacEanruig

Having been to at least ten of our “Shire's Twelfth Night” celebrations, this time I was struck by how intimate the night's festivities seemed to me. I missed the opening welcome played out in the balcony above the events room, but did arrive in time for the dancing, led by Baroness Aseneth. There were at least a half-dozen different dances being taught by the Baroness and everyone was able to perform them in a reasonable fashion and were all having a good time circling around the dance floor. Anyone who knows me is aware of my foot problems and the difficulty I have in standing for any length of time, but I have to tell you that I considered more than once jumping up and joining in the fun. The Ladies were happily moving with the music provided by our Barony's famous musical group ‘Fracta Modi’ and the Lords were just as charming in their attempts at keeping up.

Next, I drifted into the feast room for a taste of the ‘day board’ so temptingly spread out for all to enjoy, then wandered from table to table sometime introducing myself and always delighted by the games our Shire guests played and the arts and crafts they were working on.



## **A Shire's 12th night continued:**

Upon hearing much laughter and shouts of delight from the events room I moved back in to see what it was all about. Have you ever seen the game of wolves, lambs, and shepherds? Well I don't know how to describe it exactly. I'll try. Picture a pile of stuffed animals representing a flock of sheep (three of them). Now, standing above those sheep is a shepherd and on their hands and knees protecting the sheep are two blindfolded Sheppard dogs. From across the room slinks three others, not blindfolded, representing the wolves. Their goal is to steal the sheep without being caught (touched by the blindfolded shepherd dogs). The Sheppard stands above them and attempts to guide them toward the oncoming wolves with voice commands. I don't know how successful either side was (the players were switched several times). But I could see and hear from the laughter and shout of encouragement that everyone truly enjoyed the sport.

After sweeping up the debris from the wolves & dog battles the famous Barony of Smoking Rocks apple bobbing began. It is like no other such event that I have ever witnessed. There are apples bobbing about to be sure, but no water barrels. These apples (two of them) bob from each end of a head high string hanging from opposite ends of a spinning axle spoke. The two opponents attempt to take a bite of one of the apples, sometimes indeed the same apple. The strategy usually employed is to try to keep your opponent away from his apple by causing the apple he is pursuing to spin away from him and at the same time attempting to bite the other apple. As often as not the two combatants scuffle for the same apple knocking into each other and many times one or both end up on the floor. O yes, each participant is required to keep his hands behind his back under his belt. Almost always both opponents survive and one bites the apple thus is declared the victor.

The highlight of the evening of "Twelfth Night" is a feast meant for a King. Our King and Queen of the Bean that night were Russell Far-eas and his beautiful wife. They were seated at the center of the head table while each guest couple was announced and the presented to the royal couple. As the guests entered the feast hall they paraded to a special musical presentation, A Pavane, played again by 'Fracta Modi'. When all had entered and found their places the royals of the night wished us a fair hello and announced that all should 'take what rest ye may', we were all invited to be seated. The feast was plentiful and there were many toasts offered to our kingdom royals and lesser nobles. A display of singing was performed by Lady Lauralie. All the while more of the "Islamic Feast of the senses provided by our own Puck who has come back from the East brimming with ideas for delectable treats never before dined on in our fair Shire in Northumbria". There was also a presentation of a drama starring Baron Cerdic, Master Paidraig and his wife Lady Tatiana, Lady Angela Costello, Lady Lauralie, and Lord Ulric von der Insle. So it begins:

"Travelers have descended on the hall to enjoy the Yule tide, tragedy has struck. A monk carrying a papal letter has visited the hall. Brother Jacomo Giocoliere had carried word that the Turk has been defeated and Jerusalem is free. Of course the Demnse had already had such word, as Robin Goodfellow, the Deputy Seneschal has returned months before with that news. He had been sent ahead by the Lord to make provision for the return of the main force. But months have passed and word of massacres and defeats as crusaders try to reach Damascus has also filtered back and many of the women, including the Mistress of the Manor, fear the worse. Now only twelve days prior, and after the great Christmas Mass, the Good Brother Jacomo has been found dead! Who has slain him? And where are the men folk at this time of need? How will the Ladies solve this puzzle with rumors of indiscretions and found out confessions abound; now it seems fingers of guilt point in every direction!"

Here I will have to claim ignorance in that toward the end of the drama Baron Cerdic and I were having our usual snoring contest. You will have to ask someone else who the murderer turned out to be.

### *Neuf Weasel (Ice Weasel) The premier winter fighting event !*

Ice Weasel IX (Neuf Weasel)  
Pvt. George F. Schindler VFW Post #2547  
61 Rockland Street  
North Easton, MA 02356

Site opens 10 a.m., closes 8 p.m.  
Adults: (18+) \$7 day (includes dayboard) / \$8 supper  
Children: (6-17 years) \$4 day / \$4 supper  
Children under 5 are free  
\$5 Non-member surcharge

#### *COMBAT TOURNEYS*

11:30 AM Bear Pit tourney  
Triad drills in the afternoon as well as fencing bear pit,  
(weather permitting)  
Fighters will also have a chance to show off their courtly  
manners as they champion a gentle of their choosing be it  
through poetry, song, verse, interpretive dance or some  
other performance during supper.

#### *A & S CLASSES*

10:30AM-11:30 Non-Verbal Combat Communication  
(Yay! A martial class! And it's scheduled so you can attend  
before suiting up!)  
12PM- 2PM Dayboard (not a class but we need to fill up on  
honey butter)  
1PM-2PM Elizabethan Hats/ Millinery  
2PM-3PM Sprang  
3PM-4PM Recorder History and Lessons  
4PM-5PM Kumihimo

#### *FAMILY ACTIVITIES*

11:00-12:00 Service to the event  
12:00-1:00 Break for eating of food  
1:00-2:00 Soap Carving  
2:00-3:00 Games (outdoors if weather is nice, indoors if not,  
possibly a combination of the two if the weather is in be-  
tween)  
3:00-4:00 Fiber Arts - simple weaving and/or finger looping,

See you all there!



## A new kind of "Fight Training" @ the PAL in Fall River

Awesome practice today. Learned a ton. This is a new era in freehold fight training. Everyone needs to make the next one we have next month. It was a great time. Totally different than anything we have done in years. It is a kinder gentler more training oriented approach to fight training. If you have not been around recently and fight in the Freehold line please come to the next Freehold rebuilding day it is awesome. The PAL has been renovated now too and is beautiful and heated.



Also if you have loaner gear and are not intending to fight again or for a while we have a room for gear and are in desperate need of getting some of our loner gear back for new folks to try. Thanks



By Richard Leviathan  
November 30, 2013

## Worcester's Higgins Armory receives a Scadian send off:



*On Saturday December 28, 2013 a small group of Scadians, including many from the Barony of Smoking Rocks, gathered at the Higgins Armory to bid their beloved Museum farewell in true medieval style.*

**"By Paula J. Owen TELEGRAM & GAZETTE STAFF**

WORCESTER — Tuesday December 30, 2013 at 3:45 p.m., the medieval castle doors of the Higgins Armory Museum are to close for the last time. Three generations of the Higgins family will be present for the occasion. The collection is moving to the Worcester Art Museum, and the building is being sold.

## A Smoking Rock's fighters tale from the 100 minute war:

This year has been so good for Combat Archery. The Acre event Pennsic and 100 Min War has let me get in close to 8 hours of combat archery in, in one year where as I think in the previous 6 years or so of shooting CA I have not managed to get in more than about 2 hours a year of shooting. This is also the first time in the years I have been doing it where I have had almost no problems with anyone getting hit except for one guy at pennsic. Yes they still don't like it but I have had far less complaints and personal insults. The one guy at pennsic yelled "I hope you feel like a man using that thing" My response was "When your not dead come back I will kill you again any weapons form you want." It was funny also I had a guy at the end of one of the CA battles I had killed him with a pole and then I had killed him with a sword and shield and he said to me "aren't you an archer?" With a confused



look on his face. Fighters still tend to take it easy on Combat archers and they do not hit them. I think they are still under the influence they are not heavy arms fighters and can not hit them. Maybe it is just courtesy. Either way I welcome guys to hit me as hard as they would anybody else if they get close enough to do so. I like this cause the older and more injured I get I still feel useful.

Richard Leviathan  
November 24, 2013



# Announcements

## Healing Thoughts !

As many of you may know, Master Feral von Halstern was struck down a few weeks ago by a sudden brain injury. While the prognosis is generally good, Master Feral has a long and difficult recovery ahead of him. As of this writing, he is still be kept sedated most of the time in order to give his brain a chance to reduce it's swelling. While many people have asked about visiting him, he is still in the intensive care ward, and they are trying to keep him as still and quiet as possible as that is what he needs most at this time. Some of the local members of his household have some access to him, and are able to give updates to his condition (yes, they have his permission to do this). The extent of his injuries, and their consequences are not known, but again, his doctors seem pleased as his progress. At this point, all we can ask for is that you keep him in your thoughts and prayers.

Thank you  
Ceawlin and Molly

## We are Greatful !

For all the hard work of the folks who spend countless hours planning and preparing for each and every event Smoking Rocks puts on every year. It is always evident how much our guests, who often travel far, enjoy their time as they keep returning and the many tales of their travels enrich our peoples lives in return.

**Vivat ! Vivat! Vivat!**

If you want to help going forward know that we always welcome & appreciate new talent and fresh helping hands !

## Thank you!

Ceawlin and I would like to thank the artisans and crafters of the Barony who contributed items for the gift basket that we presented to Baron Dorio and Baroness Jocelyn on the event of their Investiture at Birka last week! Thank you to Robert Howys of Morningthorpe for his drop spindle, Solskinn for her fused stained glass sun catchers, Fergus Redmead for his bottle of cranberry mead, and Richard Leviathan and Leviathan Munitions for the steel ring and forged iron hook! The gifts were greatly appreciated by their Excellencies of Stonemarche and they wished to convey their thanks to you all. We're immensely proud of the generosity and talents of our people!

YIS,  
Molly, Baroness Smoking Rocks

## Meeting Minutes of the December & January 2013/14 Barony of Smoking Rocks Business Meeting

*This is an abridged version of the minutes. For the full version, please visit the Barony of Smoking Rocks yahooogroup.*

### Officer Reports:

**Arts & Sciences:** No news reported.

**Chancellor Minor:** good attendance by children during investiture, and activities are planned for 12th nite event.

**Pursuivant:** No news to report , still awaiting approval of devices submitted after last group meeting.

**Knight Marshall:** Fight Practice @ the newly renovated PAL in Fall River. Looking for more loner gear, Combat archery interest is on the upswing

**Chronicler:** Needs stories, articles and more for the quarterly newsletter, please send to ruthbechtold@gmail.com

**Exchequer:** Ice weasel check sent, latest bank statement missing due to bank robbery, Seneschale's name is now on the account, 3 officers are now able to sign checks. CA corp. has approved MA as subsidiary.

### Old Business:

**Investiture:** .Successful event, over 100 attended, only 55 stayed for feast. Autocrat compliments and thanks go out to all the responsible parties.

### New Business:

**Twelfth night:** Event is listed on Church calendar, feast menu is listed, Seneschale is satisfied that event is in good hands.

**Ice Weasel :** Site is all set, supper consists of starch & vegetables, additional \$100 approved by majority, Andris is in need of kitchen staff, event is listed on kingdom site.

**Baronial Birthday:** Still working on finalizing a local. Haakon is feastocrat menu will be late period mediterranean kitchen staff needed.

**Baron & Baroness time:** They will attend Stonemarche's investiture and are looking for gifts to present to new barons. They are also looking for suggestions and input on future baronial awards. New banner is so beautiful and will need a better stand, help is also appreciated. Baroness can be contacted using her gmail account.

**Seneschale Time:** Website has all correct info up now, there might be pressing times when email votes could be necessary, please respond timely in such a case. Only Neshla MOL has shown interest in Chate-laine position, all agree that she would be good for this job, she might need help at times from others as she now holds two positions.

### Next meeting:

February 2, 2014 @ Mistress Michaela's home in Whitman

Yours in Service,  
Lady Marguerite von Elfenau, Chronicler

# REGNUM

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