E.K. KING'S & QUEEN'S RAPIER CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT.

On Saturday October 10, 2015, a most beautiful sunny day with no clouds in the sky, Baron’s Ceawlin Alreding and Molly Blythe welcomed the new King and his Queen of the East to hold their annual rapier tournament in the lands of the Barony of Smoking Rocks. The gods must have favored us that day! Many fencers and fighters traveled near and far, about 160 in all, to the spectacular fort by the sea to attend this tournament and so decide the new champions for the King and Queen that day.

Report by the Kingdom MOL: Lady Sabina Luttrell

There were 66 entrants in the tourney. They were broken up into 8 lists to fight a Round Robin. A round robin is when each participant fights every other participant from that list. The top two scoring rapier fighters from each list advanced to the Double Elimination portion of the day. 16 fighters participated in the double elimination tourney. A double elimination allows fighters to lose a bout and be considered “wounded” but not “dead”. They get to continue in the looser’s bracket until they lose a second bout.

The final four rapier fighters were: Master Thomas de Castellan, Master Donovan Shinnock, Allerick Van den Broecke, and Don Nathaniel Wyatt. The finalists were: Thomas de Castellan and Donovan Shinnock.

The Queen's Champion was chosen by Queen Caoilfhionn to be Lord Llewellyn Walsh.

Both Champions were honored in that afternoon’s court in front of Fort Tabor.

THANKS TO ALL THAT MADE KING AND QUEENS' RAPIER CHAMPIONS A SUCCESS!

We were very excited to be asked to do this event, and are grateful that our Sovereigns, Brennan and Caoilfhion, saw fit to allow us to try an event outside of our normal "idiom". (Also, this is the first Kingdom Level Event we had ever auto crated and we were scared to death!) It has long been our goal to be able to have an event and be able to look at the pictures of it afterwards, and not see the parking lot as a background for all the activities we do. Their Majesties were terrific to work with. Any concern we had was met with "Can you make it work? Yeah? Fine. Do it. We trust you."

Thanks are due to the Royal Household, who were kind and patient and answered all our questions, and were excellent about replying quickly, as we were under the gun, time wise.

Thanks to Sir Antonio and Lady Sorcha, the Champions, who provided valuable advice and feedback.

Thanks to Lord William Death, who really made the Event possible.

Thanks to Malcolm Bowman, Royal Herald for his help with Court.

Also big thanks to Baron Einar (Billy Fish), and the Queen's Guard for helping us tear down in amazingly short order.

The Rapier Community itself was a pleasure to host. Cheerful, obliging, and patient with the site restrictions, they made a beautiful day even more so with their attitude. You guys are great!

The people of Smoking Rocks. Whether they were in the initial scheme, or got dragged into the mire of paperwork the City required, or ran and ran all over the earth running errands and messages, they were the real reason the event ran so well. Specifically, Elaine and Solskinn, who went to Bureocratic hell and back, Fergus as Royalty liaison, Sabina and Nejla for the MOL table, Marguerite for troll (along with Kris- thanks sis!) Serafima for making the tokens, William and Sigmar for being dogs bodies, Alys for running kids activities, Master Par for help in the original scheme, Amy, our ever-patient Court Herald, Sile for managing gold key, Tiernan and Eben for running heavy list, Johannes for help with set up and breakdown, Nest for bringing All the Things (and setting them up and tearing them down with Fergus and Sabina) and Teo, for representing! Whew! Did I miss someone? I'm brain-fried. Please let us know if in our exhaustion we missed someone, so we can give credit! C&M

Our Barony is a powerhouse and we are so very, very grateful for their support in the most challenging event we personally have ever run. And lastly, a large, heartfelt thank you to the populace of the East, whose good stewardship of the site, and love of history shone through and utterly charmed the staff of the Military Museum. They want us back!

In Service, Ceawlin and Molly Proud Baron and Baroness, Smoking Rocks.
BARONY TWELFTH NIGHT 2016

Event details:

Come one come all. In this the year of our Lord, 1275, we wish to open our 12th night celebration to any and all who may be traveling through our northern region of Wales, whether they be traveling as pilgrims, diplomats, tradesmen or yes, even tax collectors. We throw open our doors to you to come and join us in our own Baronial Celebration of 12th Night.

We shall hold games during the day including such favorites as apple bobbing and sheep rustling, along with less active recreations such as board games. We even plan on holding a puppet show between games for the joy and entertainment of the younger amongst us, be they young in age or attitude. There will also be room around a crackling fire to dedicate to the quieter pursuits for those who just wish to converse with friends or work on small projects. During which time the music of Fracta Modi will sooth the breast while enlivening the mind.

There will be dancing during the time used to reset the feast hall. A series of Branles will be called which can be mastered quickly by most even if they are not especially familiar with them.

The feast will be run by the inestimable Mistress Caitlin Fraser and therefore we will have a return to savory toasted cheese and furmenty.

Partial Feast Menu:

Savory Toasted Cheese
Roasted Pork Stuffed with Herbs and Grapes
Autumn Squashes with Apples and Fried Parsley
Fig and Raisin Cream
Chicken Pie, Roast Beef
Stuffed Eggs
Furmenty, Buttered Worts

Site Opens: 10:00 am       Site Closes: 9:00 pm

We hold true to the 10 foot rule, and wish anyone appearing in the main event area to be clothed appropriately.

This year refunds will only be processed if requested by Dec 26 in writing.

Event Location
Unitarian Memorial Church
102 Green St
Fairhaven, MA 02719

Directions: find your way to Route 195 in Massachusetts. Take exit 18 towards Fairhaven. Take your first right onto Bridge St, Green St is about your 11th left (counting on what you consider a road). Take a left onto Green St, and the church is on the right.

Event Fees “Make Checks Payable to: SCA MA Inc Barony of Smoking Rocks”

Site: Pre registration before Dec 19th- $10
     Fee at door - $15
Children 5 to 17 - $10, Children under 5 - free
Non member surcharge - $5
Feast: Feast - $15
Children under 10 - $10, Children under 5 - free

Contact Information

Event Steward:
Tanya Sanders; Nest verch Tangwistel
Phone: 508-878-1354 email: eastarch@yahoo.com

Send Reservations to:
Solskin, MKA Liz Gerald
PO Box 1605, Onset, MA 02558
CHRISTMAS / YULE TRADITIONS: By Melissa Snell “Medieval History Expert”

Among the Pagan traditions that have become part of Christmas is burning the yule log. This custom springs from many different cultures, but in all of them its significance seems to lie in the iul or "wheel" of the year. The Druids would bless a log and keep it burning for 12 days during the winter solstice; part of the log was kept for the following year, when it would be used to light the new yule log.

For the Vikings, the yule log was an integral part of their celebration of the solstice, the julfest; on the log they would carve runes representing unwanted traits (such as ill fortune or poor honor) that they wanted the gods to take from them.

Wassail comes from the Old English words waes hael, which means "be well," "be hale," or "good health." A strong, hot drink (usually a mixture of ale, honey, and spices) would be put in a large bowl, and the host would lift it and greet his companions with "waes hael," to which they would reply "drinc hael," which meant "drink and be well." Over the centuries some non-alcoholic versions of wassail evolved.

Other customs developed as part of Christian belief. For example, Mince Pies (so called because they contained shredded or minced meat) were baked in oblong casings to represent Jesus' crib, and it was important to add three spices (cinnamon, cloves and nutmeg) for the three gifts given to the Christ child by the Magi. The pies were not very large, and it was thought lucky to eat one mince pie on each of the twelve days of Christmas (ending with Epiphany, the 6th of January).

The ever-present threat of hunger was triumphantly overcome with a feast, and in addition to the significant fare mentioned above, all manner of food would be served at Christmas. The most popular main course was goose, but many other meats were also served. Turkey was first brought to Europe from the Americas around 1520 (its earliest known consumption in England is 1541), and because it was inexpensive and quick to fatten, it rose in popularity as a Christmas feast food.

Humble (or 'umble) pie was made from the "humbles" of a deer -- the heart, liver, brains and so forth. While the lords and ladies ate the choice cuts, the servants baked the humbles into a pie (which of course made them go further as a source of food).

This appears to be the origin of the phrase, "to eat humble pie." By the seventeenth century Humble Pie had become a trademark Christmas food, as evidenced when it was outlawed along with other Christmas traditions by Oliver Cromwell and the Puritan government.

The Christmas pudding of Victorian and modern times evolved from the medieval dish of frumenty -- a spicy, wheat-based dessert. Many other desserts were made as welcome treats for children and adults alike.

The tree was an important symbol to every Pagan culture. The oak in particular was venerated by the Druids. Evergreens, which in ancient Rome were thought to have special powers and were used for decoration, symbolized the promised return of life in the spring and came to symbolize eternal life for Christians. The Vikings hung fir and ash trees with war trophies for good luck.

The Church would decorate trees with apples on Christmas Eve, which they called "Adam and Eve Day." However, the trees remained outdoors. In sixteenth-century Germany, it was the custom for a fir tree decorated with paper flowers to be carried through the streets on Christmas Eve to the town square, where, after a great feast and celebration that included dancing around the tree, it would be ceremonially burned.

Holly, ivy, and mistletoe were all important plants to the Druids. It was believed that good spirits lived in the branches of holly. Christians believed that the berries had been white before they were turned red by Christ's blood when he was made to wear the crown of thorns. Ivy was associated with the Roman god Bacchus and was not allowed by the Church as decoration until later in the medieval ages, when a superstition that it could help recognize witches and protect against plague arose.

Christmas may owe its popularity in medieval times to liturgical dramas and mysteries presented in the church. The most popular subject for such dramas and tropes was the Holy Family, particularly the Nativity. As interest in the Nativity grew, so did Christmas as a holiday.

Carols, though very popular in the later middle ages, were at first frowned on by the Church. But, as with most popular entertainment, they eventually evolved to a suitable format, and the Church relented.

The Twelve Days of Christmas may have been a game set to music. One person would sing a stanza, and another would add his own lines to the song, repeating the first person's verse. Another version states it was a Catholic "catechism memory song" that helped oppressed Catholics in England during the Reformation remember facts about God and Jesus at a time when practicing their faith could get them killed. (If you would like to read more about this theory, please be warned that it contains graphic descriptions of the violent nature in which Catholics were executed by the Protestant government and has been refuted as an Urban Legend.)

Pantomimes and mumming were another form of popular Christmas entertainment, particularly in England. These casual plays without words usually involved dressing up as a member of the opposite gender and acting out comic stories.

(The original article can be found at: http://historymedren.about.com/od/dailylifesociety/a/xmas_traditions.htm)
MARKET DAY AT BIRKA:

Market Day at Birka is fast approaching (January 29-30, 2016) and once again our Barony will be participating as the Smoking Rocks Artisans Collective, showcasing some of the wonderful work that our artisans create. Some Baronial members, such as Lady Guendalina Francesca di Antonio Cristiano, merchant regularly at SCA events and maintain sales websites online; others work primarily on commissioned projects throughout the year, while others (such as yours truly) only sell items once a year at Birka.

The ARTISANS COLLECTIVE started almost 10 years ago, when Richard Leviathan and Henricus Guotman launched Leviathan Munitions Armory, selling armor kits and finished pieces for fighters doing SCA and WMA (Western Martial Arts). Leviathan Munitions rented table space at Birka and invited other members of the Barony to merchant their wares. Over the years, members have sold armor, garb, cutlery, soaps, books, jewelry, pottery, fiber arts supplies, crossbows, Northern Army & East Kingdom stickers and T-shirts, and other SCA-related swag.

Today, RAGNAROK BLADES – founded by Lords Richard Leviathan and Haakon Ragnarsson to supply SCAdians with knives and other wickedly sharp and pointy objects – serves as the anchor shop for the Smoking Rocks Artisans Collective, if you will.

Richard and Haakon sell their handmade blades year round via their website and SCA events here: https://www.facebook.com/Ragnarok-Blades-1569531983292266/ and are this month’s featured artisans interviewed in this issue of Kenning Points.

LEVIATHAN MUNITIONS ARMORY
https://www.facebook.com/pages/Leviathan-Munitions-Armory/157120784342509 still sells armoring supplies, metal fasteners, leather and metal armor items and shield blanks. Lord Richard, who happens to be a soapmaker for a company that sells natural, handmade soaps, also usually brings samples of his work to sell at Birka.

LORD ROBERT HOWYS OF MORNINGTHORPE, formerly of the construction trade, spends his retirement puttering around his shop crafting items from wood, ranging from drop spindles and jewelry boxes, to parquetry inlaid chests and crossbows. This coming Birka, Robert will be featuring two types of folding X-frame chairs, made from your choice of either layered plywood laminates or solid wood pieces with brocade fabric seats and backs.

Although Lady Guendalina Francesca di Antonio Cristiano keeps her own tables at Birka (her shop, called LADY GUENDALINA’S CLOSET is usually located near the front doors of the exhibit hall), she is one of the Barony’s longest established merchants. Passionate about helping ladies cover and adorn their hair, she began selling beaded and crocheted snoods in 1997. She expanded into selling metal lacing rings, corset boning, trims, and cameo jewelry and now sells a wide range of adornments for garb and hair through her website: http://www.ladyguen.com/products/, Etsy page: https://
FALL CROWN TOURNEY 2015

We would like to take a moment to thank and congratulate the combatants and consorts who joined us in the Fall Crown Tournament and who did a fantastic job representing the Barony with honor. Thank you to Baron Wulfhere of Stonemarche and his consort Baroness Isabeau du Valle, Lord Richard Leviathan and his consort Mistress Nest verch Tangwistel, and Lord Haakon Ragnarsson and his consort Lady Sunnifa Heinriksdottir.

Thank you also to Nest, Sunnifa, Josh, Mahk, and Gwenllian, and all the other Smoking Rock members and friends who plied everyone with hot beverages to ward off the chill, who helped us with the set up and breakdown, and who generally made folks feel welcome at the Baronial Hospitality Table that day. You all made an already great event even nicer!

with gratitude,
Baron Ceawlin and Baroness Molly, Smoking Rocks
ARCHERY PRACTICE UPDATES:

There was a Halloween Spook tacular archery practice held at Trader Jan's in Fall River on Friday, Oct 30!! The evening was filled With FUN!! PRIZES!! & HALLOWEEN THEMED TARGETS!!

This picture features skull bowling-archer's style...rumored to have been invented by a few of the more morbid bowmen at Agincourt.

On Friday Nov 20, 2015 Lady Ammalina Taikizhavi visited our baronial archery practice at Trader Jan's with her Girl Scout Troop to learn about archery. “I really cant thank Mistress Nest, Lord Godric FitzEdmond, Lady Bronwyn and Baroness Molly enough for running an archery class for Girl scout troop 1124. The girls had a blast!”

Ammalina

E.K. ARCHERY ROYAL RANKS PER 10.25.2015

“SMOKING ROCKS” (one can find the complete list at: http://archery.eastkingdom.org/rankings.php)

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MARKET DAY AT BIRKA

JANUARY 29 TO 30, 2016

RADISSON HOTEL MANCHESTER NEW HAMPSHIRE

Don’t forget to visit the tables of our varied Smoking Rocks merchants!

Meeting Minutes October & November 2015

Barony of Smoking Rocks Business Meeting

This is an abridged version of the minutes. For the full versions please join the Barony of Smoking Rocks yahoo group.

Officers reports:

Chancellor Minor: At K & Q rapier tournament 15 children participated. Everyone enjoyed playground on the grounds of the Fort.

Chattelaines: Baroness Marion has resigned from the Co-Chatelaine position Lord Rufus will hold position alone.

Chronicler: No corrections to previous minutes. Looking for a deputy.

Exchequer: 3rd quarter Reports have been sent to E.K. Heads up on new NMS fee regulations and more details to follow.

Herald: Nothing to report at this time.

Knight Marshall: Fight practices are ongoing in Fall River @ PAL, Free Hold Godrick is the contact person. Crown is coming up the following gentles will fight: Baron Ceawlin, Baron Wulfhere, Lord Haakon, Lord Richard and Alton Hughes.

Thrown weapons is planning for practices to start in spring 2016.


St. Elegius is scheduled in 2 weeks, dance practice ongoing in Rehoboth. Anyone interested can plan an A & E event with Sunnifa first.

Steward: Purchased stain for barony shed and she will apply soon.

Old business:

K/Q rapier event report: 158 adults and 15 children attended, 45 flyers handed out to spectators, weather was fantastic. City was pleased with our group. Military Museum folks want us back. Thanks to everyone who helped make this event a success.

12th Night: All is shaping up well, budget approved and deposit paid.

Event write up has been posted. Best to pre register in advance to hold space for dinner and to pay less, charge at the door will be higher. Children under 5 are free. Mistress Caitlin is all set for meal.

Ice Weasel: Date is set for February 13, 2016. Preferred location is Christ Church in Swansea. Hall is huge, one room for classes and Library next door offers space for additional classes. Large kitchen available for Lord Haakon who will provide day board and a simple supper. Dinner will be capped at 40 so pre-registration will again be important to save space. Bad time of the year with uncertain weather. Often fighters do not stay for supper. Next meeting Seraphima and Molly will present a more detailed budget for board to approve.

Barony Birthday: Possible site found: the Stone Church in Raynham. Cost is affordable and grounds are fine for fighting and fencing. Tentative date: April 30th 2016. Budget will be ready for vote next meeting. A Persian meal is planned by Baron Fergus. 40th anniversary theme: “Ceawlin and the forty thieves”. Sabina will reach out to KM & champions regarding tournaments.

Charter changes: discuses and solidified.

New business:

Nominations for Baron and Baroness are now open. 60 days to submit nominees and for them to accept. Send written proposal to Seneschal. Next meeting we will discuss balloting. Baron Ceawlin nominates Sabina and Fergus.

Other news: Armenian Camp folks are ready for us. Solskkinn will get more details for next meeting, possible fall event.

Birka: Richard has reserved 5 table for Smoking Rocks artisans.

Baron & Baroness time: Molly brought sample of future “site booklet” we need to compile data on past and future events for our records and to help with event planning. Share existing and future spreadsheets also. Thanks to Godrick for great Halloween shoot. Ceawlin is now fencing Marshal. Artisans please submit pictures and details on your art/craft for the newsletter.

Next meeting: December meeting @ Fergus and Sabina’s home 7pm

IYS Marguerite von Elfenau Chronicler Smoking Rocks.
ARTISAN SPOTLIGHT:

Smoking Rocks, a barony of the East Kingdom is located along the south eastern coast of New England. We are about 85 members strong and besides armored combat there are many hidden artistic talents amongst our group. It is our Baroness’s wish to for me to interview those members and write up brief introductions to them and their craft over the next months. This is my attempt to locate those artisans and produce a historical account and at the same time introduce them and their skills to the populace of the East.

ARTISAN NAME: Lord Haakon

PERSONA: I am a 10th century Dan member of the knights hospitaller who has just returned from the first crusade now living as a land owner in Spain.

ART/CRAFT: I KNOW YOU MAKE KNIVES AND OTHER SHARP OBJECTS OUT OF STEEL AND WOOD BUT I WOULD LIKE YOU TO GO INTO A BIT MORE DETAIL ABOUT THAT. MY QUESTIONS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

PLEASE EXPLAIN WHAT GOT YOU STARTED MAKING THOSE SHARP THINGS?
I wanted a knife and did not want to pay for it.

WHAT TIME PERIOD DO YOUR OBJECTS REPRESENT, ARE SOME OF THE KNIVES REPRODUCTIONS OF ACTUAL WEAPONS USED DURING YOUR TIME PERIOD?
Most of the knives I make are from as early as 9th and 10th century they are viking knives.

WHAT KIND OF MATERIAL DO YOU USE?
We start with the steel blanks and make them a few different ways, some are hand forged and some we do what is called stock removal, it is a more modern way of making knives. Though I do enjoy just forging them the handles are made of wood or bone.

WHERE DID YOU LEARN YOUR SKILLS?
I am Self taught. By trial and error lots and lots of errors.

DO YOU PREFER TO WORK ALONE OR DO YOU WORK WITH OTHERS AT DOING / CREATING SIMILAR ITEMS?
It depends some days I enjoy just turning the music up and making what I want to make other times Fred and I work together.

DO YOU TEACH YOUR SKILL TO OTHERS AND IF YES HOW DO YOU LIKE TO BE CONTACTED BY INTERESTED PEOPLE?
I am always willing to work with someone that wants to learn how to do it

DO YOU SELL YOUR KNIVES SOMEWHERE AND WHERE WOULD THAT BE?
We do set up a table at Birka and some at Pennsic we also sell our knives on ebay.

Lord Haakon, I thank you very much for taking your time and answering my questions: People can contact him on the barony facebook page or through our yahhoo group. 

IYS Marguerite von Elfenau

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A J Preciado enjoyed his first event, at the King and Queens rapier tournament by Fort Tabor, in the arms of his loving parents. He is well on his way to becoming a future fencer by the looks of it.

Naia and Diego Borcelos picked a spectacular sunny day for their first official event. They enjoyed the day very much and were officially welcomed by the King and Queen during court.
Baron and Baroness
Ceawlin Alreding & Molly Blythe
(Ken Howe & Mali Lim Howe)
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malichan9@gmail.com

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Deputy Exchequer:
Sile Inghean MicCharthaigh (Fran McCarthy Young)

Chancellor Minor:
Alys Attewater (Ann Carpenter)

Deputy Chancellor Minor:
Rufus Bowe (George Anzivino)

Chatelain:
Rufus Bowe (George Anzivino)

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