

# THE HAWK'S FLIGHT

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2009



Young and alone on a long road,  
Once I lost my way:  
Rich I felt when I found another;  
Man rejoices in man,

A kind word need not cost much,  
The price of praise can be cheap:  
With half a loaf and an empty cup  
I found myself a friend.

~ The Havamal



# THE HAWK'S FLIGHT

The official Newsletter of the  
Shire of Blackhawk,  
Middle Kingdom

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2009



## welcome to the BRAND NEW HAWK'S FLIGHT!

Thank you to everyone who made my first issue of the Hawk's Flight a success: Lady Caenell for her culinary prowess, Lord Patrick for his historic insight, Sir Gunther for his talent of observation, Lord Sebastian for enduring endless questions and of course, my patient Lord Thorfinn for all of his technical (and emotional) support. I hope everyone enjoys the fruits of their labor, and finds something of interest within these pages!

As proud as I am of this

issue, I'm always looking ahead to future issues. Since the next Hawk's Flight will be the January/February issue, I thought it would be interesting if someone could write an article about the history of St. Valentine, or perhaps on love gestures throughout the ages. Maybe an article on what exactly is traditionally given in the SCA as a gesture of love and loyalty would be nice.

I've also been tossing around the idea of starting a regular column on the history of our shire members' personas. I, for one, am curious about everyone's per-

sonal stories, especially as I attempt to suss out my own. If you're so inclined, take a moment to write a brief history, a story, or a poem about your persona and send it my way. I'm sure that I'm not the only one who wants to learn more about you.

Book reviews are also always welcome. As history buffs, our medium is books, whether it be historical fiction, or books meant to educate and theorize on history. Most of us have several of these books in our collection. Take a moment to write a review (good or bad) so others know which books to

purchase and take time to read, and which books to leave on the shelf. This includes historical cookery books, too!

And, as always, if you go to an event, or a demo, or anything SCA-related, feel free to type up a short synopsis of your adventure and pass it along to me. I'll be expecting a blurb about the Craftsman's Fair, All Souls and Boars Head, just to name a few. I know that if we all work together, we can turn our little publication into a wealth of information and entertainment that we can all glean something from.

Thank you for your cooperation!

YIS,

ASA



### OFFICERS OF THE SHIRE OF BLACKHAWK

**Sceneschal:** *Lady Antine Andersdottir* (Antina Richards-Pennock)

**Light Weapons Marshal:** *Lord Michael Ashley* (Michael Pennock)

**Exchequer:** *Lady Henrikje Novella Duin* (Janna Bailey)

**Herald & Regional Youth Marshal:** *Lord Sebastian Elgar* (Peter Czyzewski)

**MOAS:** *Lady Meadhbh Winters* (Heather Czyzewski)

**Webminister:** *Lord Thorfinn* (Mark Mitchell)

**Heavy Weapons Marshal:** *Lord Erik de Nevell* (Erik Moan)

**Chirurgion:** *Baron AElfred of Chester* (Allen Reed)

**Chronicler:** *Lady Ása Farbjörnsdottir* (Tricia Reed)



## Upcoming Midrealm Events

### • November

- 13-15 - *Crystal Ball XXVI--A Russian Winter Ball {Barony of Shattered Crystal} [Dupo, IL]*
- 14 - *2nd Annual Feast of Winter Nights {Shire of Afonlyn} [Muncie, IN]*
- - *Flaming Gryphon Baronial Championship {Barony of Flaming Gryphon} [Miamisburg, OH]*
- - *Grand Tourney {Cynnabar} [Ann Arbor, MI]*
- - *Youth Fighting Symposium {Shire of Greyhope} [LaPorte, IN]*
- 21 - *Bardic Madness XI {Barony of the Cleftlands} [Euclid, OH]*
- - *St. Nicholas Toys for Tots Tourney {Barony of White Waters} [New Carlisle, IN]*



### • December

- 5 - *Boar's Head 2009 {Caer Antherth Mawr} [West Bend, WI]*
- - *Christmas Tourney 38 {Barony of the Flame} [Elizabethtown, KY]*
- - *Midrealm Heraldic and Scribal Symposium {Shire of Mugmort} [Hilliard, OH]*
- - *Toys Tourney {Canton Of Iron Oak} [New Lothrop, MI]*

### • January

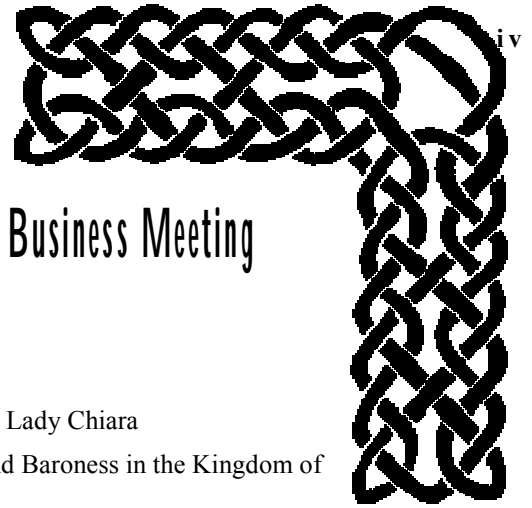
- 9 - *A Tudor Christmas {Barony of Middle Marches} [Columbus, OH]*
- - *Pentamere 12th Night {Barony of Roaring Wastes} [Davisburg, MI]*
- - *Twelfth Night with Bardic Feast and Baronial Artisan Competition {Havenholde} [Urbana, OH]*



*Ladies work on sewing projects at fighter practice.*



## THE HAWK'S FLIGHT



# Minutes from the September Business Meeting

I. Meeting opened at 6:25 p.m.

II. Officers Reports

A. Herald: Lord Sebastian Elgar

- i. i. Originally members of our shire, Lord Daffyd Gwynfardd and Lady Chiara de'Danielli (Dave and Danielle Vance) were made Court Baron and Baroness in the Kingdom of Drachenwald, at the end of August.
- ii. Herald's report is due at the end of September and will be on time.

B. MOAS: Lady Meadhbh Winter (report was presented by Lord Sebastian Elgar)

- i. Reminder that A&S night is held at 6:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of every month at the Lady Meadhbh Winter's House. Contact the MOAS for directions.
- ii. In place of the November business meeting, there will be a Craftsman's fair. Please bring your crafts to show.

C. Rapier Marshall: Lord Michael Ashley

- i. Report was due in on September 1<sup>st</sup>, and made it in on time.
- ii. Light weapons practice is held every Thursday at 6:30.

D. Web minister: Lord Thorfinn von Brandenburg

- i. The site is in the process of being moved.
- ii. The list of officers will be updated within the week.

E. Heavy Weapons Marshall: Lord Erik de Nevell

- i. For the past two weeks, members of Carriag Ban have been traveling up to Blackhawk to practice
- ii. Heavy Weapons practice is held every Thursday at 6:30 p.m.

F. Exchequer: Lady Hendrikje Novella Duin

- i. The current balance of the shire's checking account is \$2,280, which does not include the current rent payment
- ii. Rent will be paid within the week

III. Announcements

A. Lord Patrick von Brandenburg's birthday was September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2009

B. Lady Antine Andersdottir and Lord Michael Ashley celebrated their anniversary on September 6th

IV. Old Business

A. RUM (October, 2010) – Committee: Baron AElfred of Chester, Lady Antine Andersdottir Lord Michael Ashley

- i. The Committee is still looking into sites. There will be more information at October's Business Meeting

B. Practice in the Park: Lord Thorfinn von Brandenburg

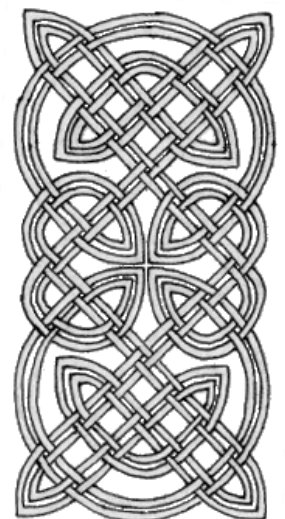
- i. Information was exchanged to begin contacting different parks to seek permission
- ii. The subject was tabled until next spring.

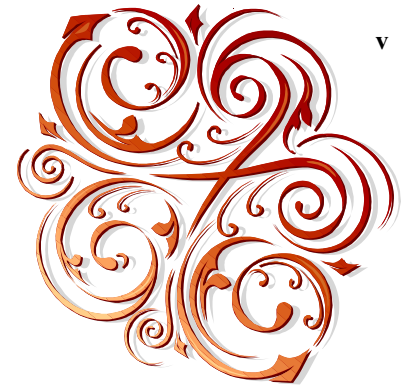
C. Officers

- i. It was agreed that the current Chatelaine and Thrown Weapons Marshal were going



*Lord Thorfinn fights Lord William le Pied at fighter practice.*





to be contacted to see if interest was still there

ii. Lady Ása Farbjörnsdottir will be taking over the position of Chronicler

D. Shire Business Cards

i. A vote was taken on where to purchase the business cards

ii. It was decided to get them printed through Vista Print.

E. Rock Con Demo

i. A vote was taken on whether or not to hold a demo at Rock Con on the 25<sup>th</sup> of October, 2009

ii. The Demo will be held at 10:30 a.m. Both light and heavy weapons are expected as well as A&S

V. New Business

A. Shire Auction

i. A question was raised about holding the shire Auction in April (2010).

ii. The idea was raised to hold a Shire A&S Fair combined with an Auction and invite local groups to join us, dovetailing a small event with the auction.

iii. The discussion was tabled until the MOAS could be present.

VI. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

## Minutes from the October Business Meeting

I. Meeting opened at 6:32 p.m.

II. Officers Reports

A. Sceneschal: Lady Antine Andersdottir

i. Report was in on time

B. Herald: Lord Sebastian Elgar

i. Report was in on time

C. Rapier Marshall: Lord Michael Ashley

i. Report was due in on September 1<sup>st</sup>, and made it in on time.

ii. There will be a demo at Rock Con on October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at 10:30 a.m.

D. Web minister: Lord Thorfinn

i. The site is in the process of being moved.

ii. The list of officers will be updated within the week.

E. Heavy Weapons Marshall: Lord Erik de Nevell

i. For the past two weeks, members of Carraig Ban have been traveling up to Blackhawk to practice

ii. Working on becoming an official Marshall

F: MOAS: Lady Meadhbh Winters

i. In lieu of November's business meeting there will be a craftsman's fair on November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2009

III. Announcements

A. Lady Meadhbh Winters and Lord Sebastian Elgar celebrated their two-year wedding anniversary on October 20th



*Samona Yvonne Zehring shows off her seven layers at an event in Northshield.*



*Warder Terrance of Tynedale repairs one of his rapiers at fighter practice.*



## THE HAWK'S FLIGHT

### IV. Old Business

- A. RUM (October, 2010) – Committee: Baron AElfred of Chester, Lady Antine Andersdottir Lord Michael Ashley
  - i. The Committee has talked to several sites, and a few more of our members have stepped up to look into sites. More information will be available at the December business meeting.
- B. Practice in the Park: Lord Thorfinn von Brandenburg
  - i. A certificate of insurance is needed before any practices can commence in any Rockford Park District parks
  - ii. The subject was tabled until next spring.
- C. Shire Business Cards
  - i. An order was placed for 250 cards from Vista Print. They will hopefully arrive before the Rock Con demo
- D. Demos
  - i. Shire members have been asked to participate in a demo in Carraig Ban on October 24<sup>th</sup>, from 1 to 4 p.m.
  - ii. There will be a demo at Rock Con on October 25<sup>th</sup>, at 10:30 a.m.

### V. New Business

- A. Business meetings
  - i. A question was raised about holding business meetings every other month instead of once a month. A vote was passed to continue to hold business meetings every month, on the second Thursday of the month, at 6:15 p.m.
  - ii. A question was raised about the old tradition of wearing garb to business meetings. It was agreed that any members of the shire who wished to bring back the tradition were welcome to wear garb.

### VI. Meeting adjourned at 6:59 p.m.



### Reminder!

A&S Night is the second Tuesday of every Month. The next two will be on the 8th of December, 2009, and the 12th of January, 2010! For directions, please email [moas@shireofblackhawk.org](mailto:moas@shireofblackhawk.org).



### Reminder!

Armory Night every Tuesday @ 6:30 p.m. at Baron Sir Gunther von Brandenburg's house. For directions, please email [ritter996@yahoo.com](mailto:ritter996@yahoo.com).

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## Dag and Anne Marie's Crown Tournament

Submitted by Baron Sir Gunther von Brandenburg



*Lady Meadhd Winter's fibre arts display at the Wesley Willows demo.*

October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2009, I had the rarest of occasions, a Saturday off, and by some amazing coincidence, it turned out to be Crown Tourney. So, William and I set out to attend the even. We arrived a little bit late, but right on time for the actual tourney.

There were several fighters from Illinois: Sir Gueric, Sir Killian, Sir Ix, Viscount Sir Gaylen, Master Einar, and Baron Robert. The Illinois Mutual Destruction Society was in full effect (whereby, if

more than one Illinois fighter is in the tourney, they will draw each other and one will be taken out).

The tourney was quite enjoyable to watch. Every bout was clean, every fighter fought with honor and skill. The Illinois fighters all went pretty far in the tourney, with Sir Killian making it to the finals, facing Sir Rutger, who emerged as the victor and took his place as our new Prince of the Midrealm.

### Paw Paw

#### Demo

Submitted by Lord Thorfinn

On Saturday October 25<sup>th</sup> Breddelwyn ap Taliesin, Lord William le Pied, and I went to Paw Paw, IL in the Barony of Carraig Ban for a public demo in the park. The weather broke and the sun came out so the public watched on. There was a very nice A & S display with sewing, looms and a custom made armor and weapons display by Gustoff. Around twenty-five SCAdians were there to answer questions and display their arts, crafts, and skills. Pictures will be posted the the Shire's facebook page.

## ROCK CON DEMO

Submitted by Lady Ása Farbjörnsdóttir

On the 25<sup>th</sup> of October, the Shire of Blackhawk, joined by selected members of the Carraig Ban heavy weapons crew, held a small demo at the Rock Con Convention at the Indoor Sports Center in Loves Park, Illinois. There was fencing, there was heavy weapons, and of course, there was an A&S

display, and ladies in pretty garb. While on-lookers were scarce, the demo seemed to get quite a bit of press for us and provided ideas for future demos. It also gave us all a chance show off our latest projects and techniques, including two spinning wheel demonstrations. It would be

helpful if Shire members began thinking about ways we can improve this demo for next year's convention, including signs and ways to advertise. Any ideas should be brought to the next business meeting.



*Lord Sebastian Elgar's fencing equipment at the Rock Con Demo.*

## The Cut-and-Thrust Program

Submitted by THL Patrick von Brandenburg CE

Though almost all members of the SCA are familiar with heavy weapons combat using rattan weapons, and most know of rapier fencing, and even youth combat, many still do not know that there is another category of fighting in the SCA- the Cut and Thrust program.

At first glance the question would seem to be, "Why do

we need another style of fighting?" The answer is simply that none of the other styles of SCA combat require the use of period-specific fighting techniques. When the SCA was formed and the current style of heavy weapons combat evolved, there were no easily-available sources on how the weapons were actually used, so the techniques

had to be reverse engineered in the laboratory of the list field. Techniques which worked were passed on to friends, and those which were less successful were dropped by the wayside. When youth combat was introduced the situation was essentially the

*Continued on page viii*



needed to be found- one which would allow the safe use of period technique as it was intended.

The Cut and Thrust program allows the use of steel weapons (from approved makers) using both thrusts and percussive cuts. To avoid the danger of escalating use of force and subsequent damage to participants, a few limitations are employed. The first is that the cuts must be done in the correct manner, so that they would actually cut the opponent if the blade were sharp.

The usual heavy weapons "flat snap" would result only in an impact, which will not cut well. A proper cut moves the edge along the opponent, either toward them or away from them. A simple way to see this is to try cutting a ham or a turkey in both ways. An impact cut will slightly damage the food, and possibly scatter stuffing all over the table, but a proper slicing action will result in a large "wound" which allows you to cut off a portion.

The second limitation used is that all of the actions used must be documentable period techniques. The documentation requirement unfortunately rules out the use of styles earlier than about 1300 AD- the date of the earliest-known surviving fighting manuscript. The student who wishes to study Cut and Thrust must find a period manual to study from, and when authorizing must specify what style they are using. In addition to displaying ability in the style they must also display knowledge of the style, answering questions about the weapons used and

techniques taught by the specific period master they are using. For example, someone studying the tradition of the German master Johannes Lichtenauer would need to be able to discuss the weapons taught, names of the various guard and blows, give a discussion on the underlying philosophy of the system, and list some of the other masters from this tradition. Only after passing the verbal portion of the exam is the participant allowed to attempt the fighting portion of the authorization. During this portion they are expected to demonstrate the use of the style against their opponent, and the style should be recognizable to other practitioners of the style.

The last limitation is that the aspiring Cut and Thrust fighter must study with an authorized marshal, as only marshals may train new fighters. The marshal they work with must agree that they are ready to authorize, and must recommend them to the authorizing marshals. Once the fighter is authorizing in Cut and Thrust they may explore other period styles, but they must continue to use documentable period techniques with any other weapons. I first authorized in the rapier of Capo Ferro, using cuts and now also study the backsword of George Silver and the longsword and sword and buckler of Johannes Lichtenauer.

What don't we allow? We do not allow grappling, other than fleeting contact. We do not allow full-speed, full-force blows- control must be used and the cuts must be done correctly. We do not allow the use of Viking or Mongol styles of

fighting- we have nothing against these cultures, but we simply have no documented techniques to use. We do not allow the use of lightsabers- these are fictional weapons. We do not allow melees- the degree of control required cannot be maintained in a melee situation. We usually don't do tournaments, though we have done a few. When we have a tournament we are required to maintain the same level of control as when we do drills.

So- you are now interested in this style of combat, and want to know where to start. Probably the best place to start is to do a web search for the Company of Saint Jude. This is a small group, of which I have the honor to be a member, dedicated to bringing historical combat into the SCA. Most members of the Company are in the Midlands, though we also have a North-shielder or two. Any of these people would be a good place to start. Or, you could email me at

sgtpatrickvonb@gmail.com, and I would be happy to get you pointed in the right direction.

As for period techniques outside of the Cut and Thrust program, such as grappling, well... that is another article.



*"Sitting Fencing Master" (1452), believed to be Johannes Lichtenauer*

same, though the new combatants were able to apply some of what had been learned by the heavies. With the introduction of rapier combat came the realization that there were surviving manuals of period technique which could be used to fight in a more period style, but such period technique was used only by a few. The "whatever works" school of thought still had (and still has) many adherents, so these few apostles of period technique continued their work almost in seclusion.

For those attempting to recreate the period techniques one of the largest stumbling blocks was that these techniques did not appear to work well in the heavy list, due largely to the rules and equipment being used. Also, the use of these styles in the rapier list was complicated by the facts that 1) all period masters taught the use of the cut, and 2) cuts were not allowed in rapier. A new venue



*THL Patrick von Brandenburg and Lord Michael Ashley demonstrate cut and thrust techniques at the Wesley Willows demo.*



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## Lady Caenell's Dreaded Stew Recipe

Submitted by Lady Caenell Verch Ailwyn



35 lbs Turnips, peeled  
5 lbs Parsnips, peeled  
3 to 5 Rutabagas, peeled  
5 Leeks  
3 Trees of Celery  
15 lbs Baby Carrots  
Black Pepper  
Sea Salt (or coarse salt)  
Fresh Rosemary  
Fresh Thyme  
Fresh Basil (if you can't find fresh basil, I've also used fresh parsley)  
Enough Chicken Stock (or chicken bullion) to almost cover veggies (plan on making at least three gallons – I lost track)  
30 lbs Meat (Chicken works well, but if you want to use beef or lamb, still use chicken stock for the stew base – the veggies don't look or taste as nice in beef stock). The nice thing about a stew/soup is that you can use pretty cheap cuts of meat and because you're cooking it forever at low heat, it still is tender and tastes good.

Cut the veggies into bite sized pieces. Either cut the meat into bite sized pieces or leave in bigger chunks if you're going to be more precise about serving (dig around for one chunk of meat each bowl of veggies). Brown, salt and pepper the meat (olive oil is good for browning, and leaves enough oil to keep the meat moist and tender during stewing). Dump the veggies in fairly equal proportions into each roaster, about 1/3-filling the roaster. Put the meat as a next layer, then more veggies (it should leave the roaster about 3/4 full). Add salt and pepper to taste (note: you'll want to do a precook on this one, turnips suck up salt and pepper even more than potatoes and I kept adding a lot of salt but have the least idea how much). Pour the chicken stock in so as to almost cover the veggies (where you can see it, but they aren't floating). Cover.

Set the temperature to a very low heat setting if you're cooking for at least five hours, or low if you're cooking for less than that. Thirty minutes

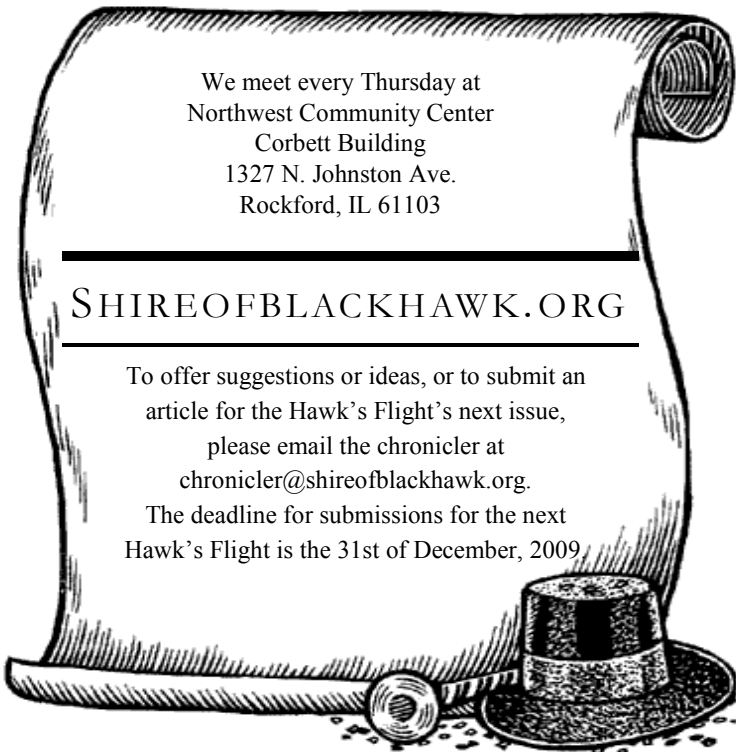
prior to serving, toss in the rosemary, thyme, and basil, just pushing them under the surface of the liquid (about two "trees" of rosemary, thyme per roaster, about four leaves per roaster of basil). If you're not into leafy things, you can take them out last minute if you leave them on the stem. If you're serving people that like leafys, strip them off the stem and chop them for one of the roasters. If they have allergies to one of the seasonings, you can leave that particular seasoning out of one of the roasters without ruining the flavor.

Remember, your meat will be cooked long before the veggies are done, so keep stirring, and check for doneness with a turnip or a carrot from the top of the roaster

(they'll be the least cooked), and keep adding liquid as needed (as long as you keep things covered, you shouldn't need to add a lot of liquid – turnips are (surprisingly juicy). If things get too watery, leave the lid cocked for a little while so you lose some steam without losing all the heat.

This can all be done in precook as long as you refrigerate and keep the meat and veggies separate until cooking day. When you're reheating, chicken stock is perfectly appropriate to add, but so is plain old water.

Serves about 75 people. Goes well with fresh bread and either honey butter or herb butter and a nice tart apple.



We meet every Thursday at  
Northwest Community Center  
Corbett Building  
1327 N. Johnston Ave.  
Rockford, IL 61103

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To offer suggestions or ideas, or to submit an article for the Hawk's Flight's next issue, please email the chronicler at [chronicler@shireofblackhawk.org](mailto:chronicler@shireofblackhawk.org). The deadline for submissions for the next Hawk's Flight is the 31st of December, 2009