



The Thorn

Shire of Blak Rose Volume 30, Issue 3

Shire Wars Now and Again

Shire Wars VIII will be held at Camp Bashore again this year, October 19-21. The Shire of Owlsherst is hosting this year; however, for *next year's* Shire Wars, our own Shire of Blak Rose will be hosting, and planning has already started for that event.

Officially it will be called Shire Wars IX, but in my meeting notes and other communications I will usually refer to it as Shire Wars 2019 to clarify between events. Although many of us are familiar with Roman numerals, they are not naturally linked to the year in which each Shire Wars occurs. And even though Shire Wars VIII planning will end in October 2018, there will still be reporting on that event into calendar year 2019. I believe referring to the two instances of Shire Wars by their years instead of their Roman numbers will keep confusion down.

Blak Rose will need many volunteers to host a successful event in 2019. Please contact our Seneschal to offer your services or to volunteer for the planning committee.

After a hiatus since winter 2015 (Volume 27, Issue 1), the Thorn is back in publication for 2018.

We make a note of this to prevent our readers from frantically searching the archives for the missing copies.

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Recent and Upcoming Events in the Shire

McLain Celtic Festival

Two Mile House, Carlisle

Saturday, September 1

All members of the Shire are welcome to join us for this demo. We are in need of interactive activities and people who like to talk about what they do in the SCA. The more the merrier for this event. The contacts we make at this event have a true love of history and have the highest chance of coming to a second event of any other demo we do.

You are expected to remain in our area for most of the time, unless you purchase a ticket at the entrance. We are allowed to bring in our own food and drink, but there are also food vendors available on site.

Shire Wars

Bashore Scout Reservation

160 Moonshine Road, Jonestown, PA 17038

Friday-Sunday, October 19-21

Join the Shires of the western reaches of our Kingdom as we celebrate the anniversary of the Battle of Hastings! Declare for the Normans or the Saxons as you participate in the myriad planned activities.

See the Shire online calendar for the most updated information



Officers' Notes

Tuathflaith - Chronicler

We are having problems with the Blak Rose forum. An upgrade to the East Kingdom server is not compatible with the older software the Forum uses. We could use some help updating that. In the mean time, the agenda and minutes are available at the group's Yahoo page. Facebook is used to put out short notices, but we use the forum to store information that will be referenced over time, which is something social media does not do well. Such things as event site information, lists of materials needed for arrow-making, and storage of meeting minutes are posted to the forum where they are easy to find for years afterward. As such, it would be nice to have an updated version of that technology.

I am working on the McLain Celtic Fest and with Dauphin County Parks and Rec. to improve the functionality of their Maypole. I continue to post the nag list to officers and run archery practices.

A Tale of Our Past

from Eleazar

Here's a song parody that I wrote MANY years ago. Its inspiration was the so-called "Summer Re-Run Crown Tourney." The winner of Spring Crown Tourney discovered that he had inadvertently failed to renew his membership. He wasn't eligible for the crown he had just won. He notified the Kingdom Seneschal at once.

This was before Owlsherst split from Blak Rose. Our border was the Maryland border, and we were running a camping event jointly with the then-Shire of Bright Hills of Atlanta. Kingdom asked us to sponsor the new Crown Tourney at that event. We did.

After the event, I penned this song, giving new words to "Song of the Shield Wall." That song was a poem by Rudyard Kipling about the Anglo-Saxon King Harold and the battles he had to fight in October 1066, culminating with his death at the Battle of Hastings. The poem was set to music by SF fan Leslie Fish and is a longtime SF fandom and SCA favorite.

Song of the Autocrat

By Eleazar ha-Levi

To: *Song of the Shield Wall*

By Doyle and Williamson

Hasten all households; all members muster
Down to the place where our Seneschal speaks.
For Kingdom has called us upon the farspeaker
To run an event here in only eight weeks.

We'll make a meal for a King and Queen's palate.
We'll deck our halls with bright banners of gold,
And schedule stuff to amuse lord and lady.
A kingdom event we were given to hold.

Hasten O Troll-crat down to the post box.
Reg checks come in like the slow-moving tide.
The number of on-board, the number of off-board
Are numbers we need for what we must decide?

Draw up a budget and pinch every penny.
Later, whenever our story is told
They'll say that we splurged, as they say we cut corners.
A kingdom event we were given to hold.

Hasten all helpers to the Event hall.
SCAdians come from all parts of the land.
Our big day is here, and I hope we can hack it.
Let's hope we pull off everything that we planned.

Fighters will find this a place fit for battle.
Dancers will dance, and old stories be told.
A Great court is held, and a three remove supper.
A kingdom event we were given to hold.

Hasten on homeward, all you who joined us,
Telling the tale of the fine time you had;
The pomp of the Court and the gossip abundant.
The beef was too cold, but the mead wasn't bad.

Clean up the hall and put back all the tables.
Wash out the kettles, the tablecloths fold.
And write the report that we send to Exchequer.
A kingdom event we were given to hold.

A Jewel at Pennsic

By Sol la Cantor, Orlaithe in vothfrolí and Sebastianne La Rousse

There is a magical place I've heard about at the War for many years. As I was walking I met up with the fair Mistress Judith who was headed down to the lake to teach a dance class in the style of 15th century Italian balli. She told me of this magical place that transformed her experience at Pennsic...

I followed her down toward the Bog and there was a large courtyard before the gate that stood at least two stories high. We entered in and crossed the threshold into a smaller courtyard with columns and seating underneath porches for those wishing to be in the open air but not exposed to the heat of the day. We processed through the columns to the main hall where on the ceiling was a painting that looked like the Sistine Chapel. I was stunned. It was even more incredible as it was not simply a replica of the work of that talented artist Michelangelo, but rather, the faces in the painting were the faces of those who had helped achieve this mini-architectural wonder on the shore of the lake.

Our hosts provided refreshing water to moisten our lips in the heat of the day. In the evening other beverages were provided, such as ale, wine and mead. Cherry mead, black raspberry and lingonberry; all stimulated the palate.

Baron Gaston Bardicci, the Baron Bardicci of Pennsic 47, clearly means to enthrall his guests. The whole environment is a feast for the senses. When asked how he makes the magic happen, the Baron simply snapped his fingers and a handsome toga-clad man came to him, offering him a tablet, and then proceeded to be a desk for his excellency. A list of ideas helping to set the scene was proffered.

Speaking of scene, Gaston added to the villa this year with a grand bedroom on the 2nd floor with a 4 poster bed. The balcony attached to the great chamber looked over the azure of the lake touching the the midnight of the sky. To further set the scene, there was music in the inner courtyard, the ballroom, and the balcony. Voices and instruments filled the villa with enchanting sounds. A German aria rang out in the darkness.

The aroma of rose flavored sweets and candied fruits scented the air when extended to the guests. Behind those offering the candies were more youthful servants offering water and towels. Fire twirlers bordered the lake, adding to the spectacle for the noble guests.

Not just the performing arts bedazzled the eyes of gentry who'd come to this fine casa. A stained glass rosette was set in the wall of the villa with the image of the Baron. The Baron's fine features were also displayed in the first floor chapel.

What is this magical place? The Casa Bardicci. It is a service to making the magic of Pennsic happen. I found the Casa Bardicci enchanting, as did my cliente, her ladyship Pia. So also did the lady Orlaithe, attended to by her husband Connall, and the lady Sebastianne tell me of their wonder and awe at the spectacle of Casa Bardicci. It is an experience worth having and worth repeating.

Archery 'Toons



Submitted by Jessica Hanwell
known in the Society as Lady Alice Hanwell

What is the Shire of Blak Rose?

The Shire of Blak Rose consists of medieval and Renaissance re-enactors who are spread across Central PA in Perry, Cumberland, and Dauphin counties. We are active members of a not-for-profit worldwide educational organization known as the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. (SCA, Inc.) The SCA is devoted to recreating the arts, sciences, skills and warfare of pre-seventeenth century European culture. For further information on the SCA, please check out the webpage at www.blakrose.eastkingdom.org or contact a local officer. For a listing of local events, please visit the web page of the East Kingdom of the SCA at <http://www.eastkingdom.org>.

The Shire of Blak Rose in the 21st Century Online Addresses of Interest

Blak Rose Web Page with
Forum and Calendar

<http://blakrose.eastkingdom.org>

To Subscribe to the
Blak Rose Yahoo Group

blak_rose-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

On Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/947540052044354/>

Or search for “Shire of Blak Rose”

Officers of the Shire

Seneschal

Alana O’Keeve

Deputy: Aidan the Hostile

Exchequer

Sol la Cantor

Deputy: Tuathflaith Chleirigh

Herald

Eleazar ha-Levi

Deputy: Irena Krakowska

Minister of A&S

Magdalena Gdanska

Chronicler

Tuathflaith ingen huí Chleirigh

Chatelaine

Orn Shieldbreaker

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