

The Crimson Letter

The Official Newsletter of the Shire of Crimson River ♦ January 2010 ♦ AS XLIV



Mistress Gwenith ferch Arthur, OL

Kingdom Calendar

January 2010

- 9 12th Night Collegium, Barony of Bryn Madoc
- 9 Glaedenfeld 12th Night, Shire of Glaedenfeld
- 9 12th Night/Youth Combat Collegium, Shire of Arenal
- 16 Menhir, Shire of Rising Stone
- 16 Collegium Event, Shire of Talmere
- 23 Diverse Pleasures VII, Canton Des Forges
- 23 Jour d'Amour V, Shire of Drakenmere
- 30 Winter Collegium, Shire of An Dun Theine
- 30 Turf Wars I, Barony of Osprey

February 2010

- 6 Midwinter A&S, Barony of Southdowns
- 13 All's Faire in Love and War, Shire of Phoenix Glade
- 13 Glad Tydings, Shire of Vulpine Reach
- 20 Golden Lily, Shire of Beau Fort
- 20 Black Griffin, Barony of Thor's Mountain
- 27 Convivium Collegialis, Shire of Glynn Rhe
- 27 Meridian Maneuvers, Shire of Ravenwood

March 2010

- 3 Northern Regional War Practice, Shire of Esaraigh
- 14-21 Gulf Wars XIX, King's Arrow Ranch
- 26-28 Crossroads of Jerusalem, Shire of Owl's Nest

April 2010

- 1-4 Fool's War
- 10 Spring Coronation
- 17 Dreamstone, Bryn Madoc
- 17 Hit List, Osprey
- 17 Golden Iris, Gladenfeld
- 24 Black Axe, Iron Mountain
- 24 Not So Grand IV, Loch an Fhraoich



In this Issue...

Living the Dream

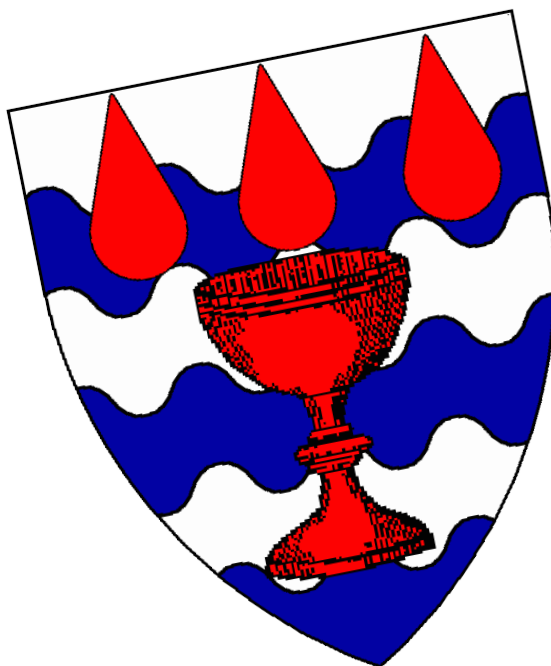
Munchkin's Menagerie

Viva La Resolution!

Grilled Sausages

Photos from around the shire!

Personal Heraldry of Mistress Gwenith ferch Arthur



Barry wavy argent and azure, a chalice and in chief three gouttes gules





The Shire of Crimson River

Shire Officers



Seneschal

THLady Celeste Alienor Courtenay de Montmorency (Tausha Walker)
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Knight Marshall

Sir Mordan Persenchenev (Jonathan Moore)
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Lord Legio of Orkney (Jody Lee Alberd)
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Castellan

Jacques (Eugene Tenasse)
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Web Minister

Takeda Sakura
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"Men should be either treated generously or destroyed, because they take revenge for slight injuries - for heavy ones they cannot."

-Niccolo Machiavelli





The Shire of Crimson River *Shire Meetings*



Populace Meetings

First Thursday of the Month @ 7pm, Northwest High School
Band Room, 800 Lafayette Road, Clarksville, TN 37042

Dance Practice

Second Monday of the Month @ 7pm, Northwest High School
Band Room, 800 Lafayette Road, Clarksville, TN 37042

Arts and Sciences

Second Thursday of the Month @ 7pm, Doc and Vicki's House,
439 Fabian Place, Clarksville, TN 37043

Newcomer's Meeting

Third Monday of the Month @ 7pm, Books-A-Million, 125 South
Hampton Drive, Clarksville, TN 37040

Armor Making

Every Tuesday Night @ 6pm, Sir Mordan's House, 18 Bunker
Hill Road, Clarksville, TN 37042

Join us as we live the dream!





From the Seneschal's Quill

Greetings All!

I hope this missive finds you all well and in good spirits! Happy New Year! This year, we have our regular two events scheduled and we are bidding for Border Raids for next year! Andreit has been working hard to find us a site and has worked out a budget for the event. Everyone has been working hard and has made this group unique and fun! In this new year, I hope that we continue to learn more things, attend more events, and be the cohesive group we are striving to be!

*This month, Andreit, Jacques, and I are teaching classes at Glaedenfeld 12th night. I encourage as many of you as can to go to this event. My Domesday report is done and I have sent it in. Any officers who would like a copy of the Domesday, please e-mail me at ren-tausha@hotmail.com. If your GOOFS (**G**reater **O**fficer **O**f **S**tate) requires a Domesday from you, please e-mail me or give me a copy of your report.*

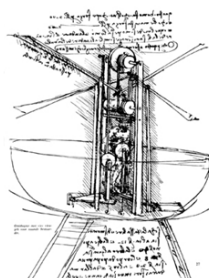
If you have more ideas about things we can do, please do not hesitate to call me!

THL Celeste Alienor Courtenay de Montmorency



ARTS AND SCIENCES ALONG THE CRIMSON RIVER

By: Lady Ginevra Brembati



Saluti dear friends,

Now is the time to contemplate your new year's resolutions. Hopefully, this will be the year you achieve your A&S goals. If you are looking for inspiration for your next project, January is bringing us two arts collegiums in easy driving distance. January 9th, Glaedenfeld presents the 12th Night Collegium. This collegium will include a special scribal arts track. Then on January 16th, Rising Stone hosts Menhir. This year, Menhir will focus on non-European cultures during the Middle Ages. On February 6th, Southdowns hosts Mid-Winter A&S, a great opportunity to see what great things others are working on.

Here in our shire, Lord Etienne will be teaching a class about alchemy. Maybe, just maybe, he will show us how to turn lead into gold. Then in February Lord Legio will present a class on favors and tokens of love, what a perfect way to prepare for St. Valentines Day.

Happy projecting to you all.

Ciao,

Lady Ginevra Brembati





The Chronicle's Corner

Greetings once again my Lords and Ladies!

This month's issue hails the New Year and bids fond farewell to the old. A time for new beginnings, Vadoma gives us a look into the history of New Years in "Viva La Resolution". We also pay tribute to our own resident Mistress of the Laurel in this month's installment of "Living the Dream".

Next month, in addition to our regular features, we'll take a look at romance in the Middle Ages.

Response to The Crimson Letter continues to be exciting and it wouldn't be possible without the support of the most exciting shire in the Known World! Keep up the good work and keep the dream alive.

Strength and Honor!

Lord Legio of Orkney

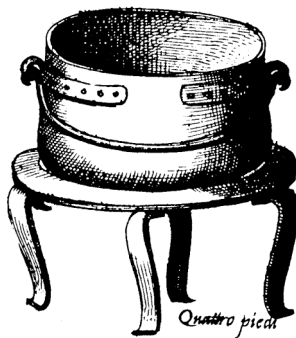


Grilled Sausages

By: **Mistress Jadwiga Marina Majewska**

You will need:

10 cloves garlic, finely chopped or crushed
2 tsp. baking powder
1/2 tsp. ground cloves
2 tsp. well-crumbled dried oregano
2 tsp. black pepper
2 tbsp. kosher salt (or sea salt)
3 tbsp. sweet paprika
1 lb. ground chuck
1 lb. ground pork
1 lb. ground turkey (or lamb)



Soak the garlic in 1/4 cup lukewarm water. Stir in the baking powder, cloves, oregano and pepper. Add the salt and paprika to the ground meats. Pour in the meat, the garlic-water mixture, then add 1 1/2 cups more water. Blend mixture so that it is firm but not too stiff. For maximum flavor, cover the meat and leave it in the refrigerator for several hours (or overnight).

To shape sausages, wet hands and take a scant 1/2 cup of mixture. Form it into a sausage (tube shape) about 4 inches long and 1 inch wide. continue until all of the mixture is used. Cook on a hot grill or in a greased skillet until sausages are dark brown on all sides and no juices ooze out.

This amount of ingredients will yield about 25 sausages.

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"I'd like to do a story about the medieval ages where in every scene you'd sort of feel that you were in the 12th century. That would be great to get that feeling. "

-Oliver Stone

Isn't that what we do every weekend?



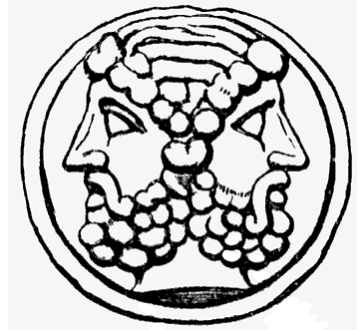




Viva La'Resolution

By: Vadoma

New Year's resolutions date back over two thousand years to ancient Rome. The key figure in the Roman New Year was the god Janus, which is where we get the word January. Janus had one head but two faces, one in front and the other in back. Although there are many legends for the two faces, the ancient Romans believed that Janus could look back at the past and ahead to the future at the same time. This ability made Janus the ideal patron for New Year's Resolutions, a time for reflecting on the past and making plans for the future.



The ancient Romans were great for making resolutions, but weren't able to decide on exactly when the New Year should begin until Julius Caesar created the Julian calendar. This idea went along quite well until the Middle Ages when the rise of Christianity moved the date of the New Year to certain holy days, first December 25th and then to March 25th. At the time, March 25th seemed particularly appropriate as a date to signify newness, as it comes in the spring when new crops are planted and nature begins to bring new life. While these dates seemed appropriate in a Christian sense, both dates created inaccuracies on a solar calendar so in the 16th century, Pope Gregory XIII revised the Julian calendar and returned New Year's Day back to January 1, where it has remained until the present day.

Today, we still use the Gregorian calendar the world over.

Although some cultures choose not to follow the sun as the basis for their calendar, all societies celebrate the New Year as a great new beginning, and many societies follow the tradition of making resolutions. New Year's Day is a time to put the old year behind us and start out fresh, with a new beginning and a clean slate. There is no better time than to celebrate looking back on the past and creating new resolutions to guide our future.

With this in mind, we have several SCA New Year's Resolutions from our members:

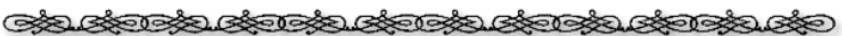
- ❖ THLady Celeste Alienor Courtenay de Montmorency would like to find herself doing more with the Arts and Sciences, studying more French music, and doing more research on her persona.
- ❖ Lady Ginevra Brembati would like to steel her courage and enter into an Arts and Science competition this coming year.
- ❖ Niccolo Talenti has a goal of being able to go to events as he has in the past, at least ten or eleven in the year.
- ❖ THLady Andriet di'Pisan wishes to tempt all our palates and enter into a Kingdom Arts and Science contest for her superb cuisine.
- ❖ Lord Legio of Orkney has set his eyes on a higher goal this year and wants to fight in the Crown Tournament.
- ❖ Lord Dakyn de Blakemere wishes to attend Pennsic War this year.
- ❖ Ioniati wants to find herself more involved with the SCA as an active member.
- ❖ Iosa Merch Macsen feels the calling of the muses and desires to finish her embroidery work. Also, she feels the call of travel and wants to attend Gulf Wars and Pennsic this year.
- ❖ Jacques has truly been bitten by the travel bug, not only does he wish to attend his usual one event a month, but

has goals of attend another ten events on top of that.

- ❖ Mistress Gwenith Ferch Arthur wishes to begin working with her pottery again and build up a nice inventory of items.
- ❖ Adam would like to find himself fighting before march.
- ❖ Vadoma wants to make garb for the fellas in her life.

With these hopes and wishes in our hearts we move bravely into a new year and rally the cry...

Viva la Resolution!!!



Living the Dream

By: Vadoma

She started her journey with the SCA in Los Angeles, California in 1993. She had gone to see a Renaissance Faire and was given information on an SCA group in San Diego. She went to learn more and soon found herself a member of the Barony of Calafia in the Kingdom of Caid. Seventeen years and two-



thousand miles later, the Shire of Crimson River is pleased to present our esteemed resident Mistress of the Laurel, Mistress Gwenith Ferch Arthur.

Her persona actually gives us a little history of Mistress Gwenith herself. Her maiden name is Arthur so she already had a last name that she wished to be part of her persona's name. Using the name of Gwendolyn wouldn't have been within period practices, but she found Gwenith to be close to it and felt very comfortable with it. Along with the name Ferch, which means "daughter of", she came up with her Welsh name of Gwenith Ferch Arthur.

Many time periods and cultures call to Mistress Gwenith and she finds herself bouncing around from Welch, Viking, Italian Renaissance, and Celtic. She feels particularly drawn to the Celts, especially with their love of art that she finds fascinating. The

Celts loved to decorate everything and that calls to the artist inside of her since she herself has been painting since early childhood.

Having an artist for a Father, and a very creative Mother that was always happily doing crafts, Gwenith found herself drawn into a world alive with the wonders of creating works of art. She has been drawing and painting from a very early age and even sewing since she was sixteen years old. She enjoys making garb, and although she may make a tunic or two for herself, her greatest joy is in making garb for the use of others.

Her greatest artistic love would have to be pottery in which she was self taught. Feeling her hands in the clay gives her a release for her spirit and she enjoys making many different things. Gwenith loves the fact that pottery is so versatile. It has the ability of making useful items such as feast ware (which can then be painted Celtic style), to realistic looking items such as statues or suits of armor.



Right now, Mistress Gwenith has two apprentices that she calls her own, Jacques and Takeda Sakura. She and Jacques are in the process of building a studio to be able to work out of during their times of creation. Mistress Gwenith has the belief that taking on an apprentice is more than “just” teaching. It takes time and commitment from both parties and can take ten years or more to reach the level expected of a member of the Order of the Laurel. Apprenticeship is not just fellowship and fun, but a dedication to really learn the craft at hand.

Staying true to the dedication that she believes in, Mistress Gwenith has been honored with several grant, armigerous and baronial level awards including the Harp Argent, Lux Caidis,

Gilded Thimble, Golden Trident and Signum Reginae.

The crowning moment for Mistress Gwenith came in 2007 when she was elevated to the Order of the Laurel by Edric V and Faizah, King and Queen of Caid for her achievements in the arts of Costuming and Pottery.



Each year Mistress Gwenith tries to attend as many events around our area as she can and is hopeful that one day she'll be able to attend Gulf Wars, or even Pennsic.

Once before, Mistress Gwenith, held the office of Castellan. She enjoyed the companionship and helping others find their way into the SCA just as she was shown. She considers that maybe one day, in the far future; she might enjoy that office again. Although having said that, she has no ambitions for what she sees as more leadership positions, her muses are far too demanding of her to allow the time it would take for such roles.

So, when your pathway crosses that of our own dear Mistress Gwenith Ferch Arthur, enjoy the fact that you have met one of the free spirits that artistry has to offer. Not only stop to smell the roses, but also the wonder of beauty that can be crafted by her talented and dedicated hands.



Munchkin's Menagerie

By: Legio of Orkney

How many words can you find from the list below?

D G T S A E F G J F M R A S Q U I R E
A M H O U I O U Y E E D F G H J K L H
N D C X U C H I V A L R Y Y H Y U J F
N F D S W R R L Y S B V O X Z S D I O
O L K M N O N D T T R K D Y C D E E S
S H I R E W G A J K L N U Y A L F J H
O P O I Y N N Y M F E I F D E L R O D
C S E M E R I D I E S G F E P I T R U
I E Q E S C D U O O N H C B N I O Y Q
A S A F E C X K L J J T R O L L N N K
T S A F N W R E M R A T D A N A A P Q
A P P R E N T I C E S E V Z M Q O D Y
T E Q E S G T Y U N A C I L E P E D Y
I C D U C H E S S I O P A B E D F G H
S K L H H D C X Z A Q U Q A E R T Y H
Y Y U J A G F D S A R M O R U B V C X
H E R A L D R Y M E H N Y O T R F D E
C D E E S W S A L C C O U N T L J U Y
C O U N T E S S I Y H N Y Y F E D F D

TOURNAMENT

PELICAN

MERIDIES

DUCHESS

DUKE

COUNTESS

APPRENTICE

ANNO SOCIATATIS

KNIGHT

CHIVALRY

SENECHAL

HERALDRY

BARONY

TROLL

LORD

SHIRE

ROYALTY

LAUREL

CROWN

ARMOR

FEAST

COUNT

SQUIRE

LADY

GUILD

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Submissions

The Crimson Letter is prepared on a PC using Microsoft Publisher 2007. Submissions are preferred via email to orkneyfng@hotmail.com, with the submission as an attachment to the message. Attachments must be compatible with Microsoft applications. Microsoft Word documents are preferred.

Submission Deadline

The deadline for hard-copy and email submissions is the 20th of each month. If a delay is anticipated, please contact the Chronicler. **Corrections to information in The Crimson Letter should be brought to the direct attention of the Chronicler ASAP.**



What's going on here?

**History.
And it's FUN.**

**Come to an SCA meeting to
find out for yourself.**

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