

The **C**rimson Letter Summer Issue 2013



Newsletter for the Shire of Crimson River



*Figure 1 Huntsman from Horae,
Paris (Pigouchet for Vostre) 1496/97*

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Royalty of Meridies

King Ulrich and Queen Katerina
Heirs: Their Royal Highnesses
will be determined at Spring
Crown List.

Officers of Realm

SENESCHAL

Master Kevin Eriol

MARSHAL

Sir Valdimarr de Tamewurthe

EXCHEQUER

TH Lady Jutta de Warwick

ARTS AND SCIENCES

Mistress Maudeleyn Godeliva Taillour

HERALD

Viscountess Gwynna Emrys

CHRONICLER

Lady Anneke von Eisenberg

Officers of the Shire:

SENESCHAL

THL Ginerva Brembati

MARSHAL

THL Dakyn de Blakemere

EXCHEQUER

THL Andriet di Pisan

ARTS & SCIENCES

Baroness Emmelyne

HERALD

Lord Etienne of Burgundy

CHRONICLER

Lady Miklós Magdolna

CHATELAINE

Lady Laomedea Eliadore Asanes

WEBMINISTER

Lady Sakura Takeda.



Ye Olde Scuttlebutt

A little bird told me:

Magnus of Crimson River received his Award of Arms or AOA at Iris Fair on April 20th.

THL Ginerva Brembati received a perfect score on her Bee Keeping entry at Iris Fair. At Border Raids Ginerva was awarded Order of the Guiding Hand.

THL Lord Legio was awarded his GOA and entered the Legion of the Bear at Border Raids on May 18th.

New to the Area!

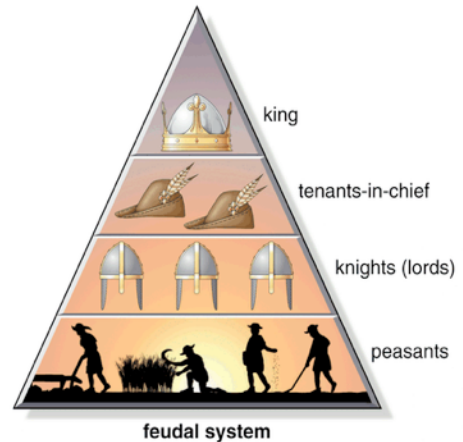
Moving here soon is **Sir Sean of the South** and **Lady Elaria filia Robert** with their daughter **Kara**. They're Originally from the Kingdom of Atenveldt (Arizona), then Ansteorra (Texas). From Alaska we have **Lord Kenneth Haldane** Everyone give them a warm welcome.



What was Feudalism?

The concept of Feudalism was simple; every person was born into their role in life. If you were the king then you sat on the top below God, saints and angels. The people below the king were the nobility, then the trades and finally the serfs who were tied to the land. This arrangement seems quite one sided, however it was in some ways very complex with its obligations that flowed both ways.

There is an idea today that that the peasants could not even think of rebellion and that they were beaten down to the point of never asserting themselves. This was not true when in 1381; the laborers were in an uproar over the poll tax. It levied a tax on everyone equally, who was not nobility, to fund a war. This seemed odd to the peasants who worked the land, and had been accustomed to paying taxes by their farm labor. The nobility saw their control over the peasant population eroding due to the dearth of workers due to the black plague. For the



first time a laborer could demand better pay and living conditions (Ormrod).

The lord of the manor had the obligation to his serfs or peasants of providing them land to work, protection and justice (Cannon). What did the king owe the lords then in this system? The lords had the day to day task of managing the peasants and getting out of them the taxes to pay up to the king. What was in it for them?

The king would grant his vassal (lord) land to hold for him, a title and certain incomes from the land. The lord would swear fealty to the king and promise to aide him with fighters and supplies if need be. The King was obligated in return to protect the realm, the rights and privileges of his lords (Cantor).

The system worked as long as there was a good base population at the bottom to do the work and the middle management was happy. King John learned the error of trying to run roughshod over his lords by ignoring his duties, promises and faced signing the Magna-Carta or being deposed. The eventual breakdown of the feudal system came first with the plague that allowed laborers mobility and finally when industry made it possible for thousands to relocate to the cities.

Fun Fact

Contrary to popular belief, medieval English people bathed quite regularly in public baths designed for that purpose. This was due to the belief that “cleanliness is next to Godliness”. Public baths were eventually opposed by the Protestants in the 16th century because of prostitution being common there.

Source: <http://listverse.com/2008/09/30/15-fascinating-facts-about-medieval-england/>

Bibliography

- Cannon, J. A. *Serfdom, The Oxford Companion to British History*. London: Oxford: University Press, 2002.
- Cantor, Norman F. *The Civilization of the Middle Ages*. New York: Harper House, 1994.
- Ormrod, W. M. *The Peasants' Revolt and the Government of England*. January 1990. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/175483> (accessed Aoril 29, 2013).

Don't miss out on shire activities!



Keep up with the shire calendar located at:

<http://crimsonriversca.org>

or the kingdom calendar at:

<http://www.meridies.org>



Wanted!

Have you written A&S (Arts and Sciences) papers? They could easily be used for the newsletter! Please send me articles, pictures and the scuttlebutt on who has an award or just great things to know about one another.

Officers I would like to start running some brief letters from you on things we should know about and areas you need help.

For example things like people to teach on A and S Nights.

All suggestions or comments can be emailed to:



Lady Miklos Magdollna
sisteroffortune@yahoo.com

SCADIAN HOROSCOPES

PELICAN 3/21 -4/19

IN THE NEW YEAR YOU ARE TIRED. YOU NEED MORE REST PUT THAT HELIUM HAND DOWN.

SQUIRE 4/20-5/20

THINGS IN YOUR HOUSE ARE DUSTY, LIKE YOU'RE A AND S PROJECT. GITER DONE!

FENCER 5/21 -6/21

THE STARS SAY TO BRING BANDAGES TO THE NEXT EVENT, BUT NOT FOR YOU.

APPRENTICE 6/22-7/22

THE T-TUNIC YOU MADE 4 YEARS AGO IS SHOT. MAKE A NEW ONE.

CHIRUGEON 7/23-8/22

YOU'RE HEADING FOR AN UNCERTAIN DESTINATION, DON'T TRUST APPLE I-PHONE MAPS.

HERALD 8/23-9/22

NO ONE LISTENS TO YOU.

KING 9/23-10/22

NEVER DRINK MEAD THAT IS LESS THAN A MONTH OLD.

CONSORT 10/23-11/22

SOMEONE IS TOO SHY TO ASK YOU HOW YOU MADE THAT, VOLUNTEER TO TEACH AT AN A AND S NIGHT.

LAUREL 11/23 -12/22

THE NEXT EVENT SITE HAS MAN EATING POTHOLES. YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED.

KNIGHT 12/23-1/22

GAME OF THRONES IS NOT DOCUMENTATION. SORRY.

CHATELAINE 1/23-2/22

JUST LIKE YOU CAN'T COURSE A CAT, NO MATTER HOW HARD YOU TRY... STOP TRYING TO EXPLAIN THE SCA TO YOUR FAMILY. THEY ARE HAPPY THAT YOU ARE NOT A TREKY

SCRIBE 2/23-3/20

STOP LOOKING AT YOUR NEIGHBORS RATTAN PATIO FURNITURE AND SEEING SWORDS.

