



A Cleftlands (Middle Kingdom) Newsletter - 6/18/2022

An Event to Remember - Northern Oaken War Maneuvers XXIV

by Lady Claricia de la Mere

Last Saturday, June 11, the 24th Northern Oaken War Maneuvers was held - and held in style. With warm sun, temperatures in the mid-70s, and about 400 of our closest friends, the event felt like a warm hug of welcome after missing the past two years.

NOWM has been a Cleftlands staple since 1997, in partnership with the Shire of Falcon's Quarry, whose land we borrow for the weekend. While it is usually a camping event, this year we kept it to one day of outdoor activities. This event boasts a history of memorable moments, from storms to hot air balloons - and of course, pirogies! You can read more memories, find out all about how NOWM came to be, and see pictures of years past in our [June 14, 2020 issue](#)

Event stewards **Lord Meinhard Hammerschmidt**, **The Honorable Lady Brangwayn Snowden**, and **Baroness Gianna Vettori** organized a cadres of staff (see the staff list <http://nowm.cleftlands.org/staff/>) and helpers - all amazing individuals who worked very hard to bring the magic to life. They prepared the camp and organized a day full of tournaments, classes, and activities so that there was something for everyone.

While banners flew and cries rang out across the field, heavy and rapier battles took place from morning up to court, as well as tournaments of skill. Classes on everything from cookbooks to shipwrecks were held in the cool shade of the pavilion, next to craftspersons practicing their skills and answering questions. Several merchants set up under the trees to sell their wares, still leaving plenty of room for the bocce field.

Their Majesties of the Midrealm welcomed their Royal cousins from Aethelmearc to practice their skill on the field, and many Barons and Baronesses from across the Kingdom shared our hall. We also had visitors from the more recent past, as youth recreating the camp and uniforms of Ukrainian soldiers from the early 20th century wandered amongst us. They may just decide to move back farther in time after spending the day asking questions and seeing everything the SCA has to offer.



Baron Crispin testing his grill.



A NOBLE competitor

In the afternoon, the fine tradition of the NOBLE bardic competition took place to the delight of many spectators. The Northern Oaken Bardic Lagnieppe of Excellence (NOBLE) invites the groups of North Oaken to send a champion (an individual or group) to compete for the trophy cup. Each performer then presents two pieces and are judged by a panel to determine the winner. There were many fine entries, but after much discussion Cleftlands' own **Lord Ezra Ha-Yona** presented an emotional piece about the camaraderie found in the SCA and took the prize.

Baron Crispin ended the day by grilling up some hot dogs for any who needed a snack to get them through the evening's Royal Court without their stomach rebelling. Court began by recognizing the winners of the day's tournaments, and then with many awards for service. **Maggie O'Donnell** was elevated to the Order of the Pelican, and **THL Snowden** was surprised by being put on vigil to join that fine Order at Pennsic.

Continued on next page.

NOWM 2022 - continued

In addition to the NOBLE cup, other tournaments and their victors were:

- **Warder Brice Colquhoun**, who was the Battlefield Coordinator, won BOTH the spear and ladder of re-known heavy combat tournaments.
- The rapier list fielded two tournaments: the winner of the singles Points Tournament was **Adam der Strom**, and the winner of the Heavy Ball Tournament was **Team Bada\$\$**.
- Archery fielded two tournaments and the North Oaken Regional Championship. **Lord Dungan MacRogan** won the Royal Round, but the North Oaken Regional Championship was tied between **Forester Edward of Thorn, Forester James Barkley, and Lord Darkstone**. The tie came down to how the archer performed in the Friend/Foe Tournament, which **Lord Darkstone** won, making him also the North Oaken Champion
- The Baroness's Bocce Tournament was won by **Sidonie of Eastland** - who may have many more years of triumph ahead of her as she is only 10 years old!

Then of course there were the Kingdom awards. While we don't want to spoil the surprises for those who received recognition but weren't able to make it, here is a list of awards given to Cleftlanders that we can share:

- **The Cleftlands Yule Elves** - Purple Fretty
- **Aethelwynn skirra Demma** - Purple Fret
- **Hrafnkell Inn Rauði** - Award of Arms
- **Karl von Leipzig** - Purple Fret
- **Laurelen Darksbane** - Kingdom Augmentation of Arms - Beacon
- **Alys Katharine** - Kingdom Augmentation of Arms - Beacon
- **Cadfan of the Autumn Wood** - Order of the Greenwood Company
- **Constanza de Mendoza** - Dragon's Heart

Congratulations to all!

If you attended NOWM, thank the event stewards and staff for everything they did to give people a good time. I hope you took away wonderful memories - and no ticks! Look for NOWM again next year in the second week-end of June.

News of the Society

- The Society seeks a Webminister. Applications are open until June 30: <https://www.sca.org/news/applications-open-society-webminister/>
- The Society also seeks an Archivist (history within history!). Apply by July 31. <https://www.sca.org/news/applications-open-sca-archivist/>
- New! Society seeks Youth Programs Officer. Apply by August 31. <https://www.sca.org/open-position-society-youth-programs-officer/>
- The April President's Report is available: <https://www.sca.org/news/april-2022-presidents-report-now-available/>
- Are you pre-registered for Pennsic? Pre-registration ends June 19 - <https://www.cooperslake.com/prereg/account/gatefees.php>

News of the Kingdom

- The Midrealm has heirs! Congratulations to Prince Dag (soon to be King for the 8th time!) and Princess AnneMarie (soon to be Queen for the 4th time!).
- The Kingdom Webminister position is becoming available - you don't need all the technical skills, but awareness of website back-end processes is a plus as the position will be wrangling a team who will handle the technical details. To learn more contact webminister@midrealm.org

On the Road to Rouen

By Forester Cadfan of the Autumn Wood

In the forests outside the town of Rouen in northern France all is quiet. The air is warm, but not oppressive, though there is a hidden tension throughout the wood. The path winds between tall pine trees, sentinels dense and close, silently waiting, watching the road. Their green needles form the canopy high above, filtering the sunlight of a cloudless sky.

In the English ducal encampment men and women are in constant motion readying themselves and the war camp for the imminent conflict. We have come here at the behest of the English king, under the command of Duke Laurelen Darksbane to present the English claim to these lands. We are ordered to enforce the claim by force of arms, if necessary. I provide my name for the rolls and receive my pay for the services I will provide. I am prepared to do what needs to be done with a stout heart and a ready arm.

This event was unlike any in the history of the Society for Creative Anachronism. The scenario: An English duke and a French duke meet in the forests outside the town of Rouen to engage in battle. Participants were required to be in 14th century attire for the duration of this deed which lasted from 10:00 in the morning until 6:00 in the evening. Each Duke had a camp for their personnel and their fighting men and women. During the course of the day multiple different objectives were delivered to the Dukes who then had to act upon them, such as securing flags or capturing specific enemy combatants.

Based on the rules of the Combat of the Thirty at Pennsic, unlike regular SCA combat, the preferred means of dealing with an opponent is to capture them. Return the captive to the war camp and they have to promise to deliver a ransom appropriate to their rank and station. In fact, the only way to dispatch someone in full armor was to hit them in a place that was unarmored. Not only is this very difficult, since they are fully armored, but you would also lose out on obtaining whatever ransom that person had.

The day began with a speech by Duke Laurelen about our purpose in France and he was presented with a sword as a gift from the Company of the Emerald Chapel. We then assembled ourselves and met the French force near their camp. Duke Maynard of the French spoke disapprovingly of the English invaders and Duke Laurelen delivered the claims of the King of England. Since the English were not willing to withdraw and the French were not willing to surrender each force returned to its respective camp to make ready for battle. Skirmishes and full blown battles were fought in the woods throughout the day. The Duke's staff managed heralding, ransom payments, and records-keeping while the combatants clashed against each other and the terrain. Everyone was tripped by fallen logs and roots at least once.

At the end of the day it was accounted that the French were victorious, having earned a greater amount of ransom payments than the English. The two forces again met where they had in the morning and Duke Maynard presented Duke Laurelen with a sword to commemorate the day. The event steward, who worked with the two Dukes over the years of planning this event, made a shield bearing the arms of the city of Rouen to be given to someone who the Dukes felt earned the honor. They chose to give it to Lord Enzo for all of his hard work. That night the dukes and select members of the two forces feasted in the English camp.

With such a positive response from all assembled it was agreed that this event will happen again in two years. With certainty, it is a day to look forward to.

The assembled English camp pay heed to Duke Laurelen



News of the Barony

- We did not receive any applications for Demo Coordinator, so the role will fall to the Chatelaine until someone can be found. If you're interested, please apply <http://www.cleftlands.org/officer-application/>
- June 29 will be the Baronial swap meet/rummage sale and cookout. Baron Crispin will be on the grill providing hamburgers, hot dogs, and a veggie option - please bring things to buy/sell/trade, cash to buy things, and a dish to share!
- July 20 will be our last meeting before Pennsic break. We plan to have a food truck!
- August 24 will be the first meeting back after Pennsic break.
- Are you storing any goods that belong to the Barony? Society is requiring that we keep track - please contact the Seneschal to figure out your situation (seneschal@cleftlands.org)

5 Questions for Cleftlanders - Lord Meinhard Hammerschmidt (mka Michael Declercq)

1.) Who got you involved in the SCA?

I met a young woman at an event when I was involved in the Sports Car Club of America (SCCA). She described the medieval group as lots of fun, stated that there was a local group in Toledo, OH and that I should check it out. I visited that group and the one in Bowling Green and was hooked.

2.) What are your two main activities in the SCA?

My two main activities are creating and service. Both activities are catch-alls as I don't do just one thing. I enjoy creating period leather belts and bags, wood boxes and chairs, tent poles and rope kits, making mead, and whatever else sounds good at the time. Service is an all-encompassing activity as it includes event setup and tear-down, helping in feast kitchens (involves food), hauling tents and equipment, autocrafting events, serving feasts (again, food) and teaching where I can. I hope that inspiring others is part of the service as well.



3.) You do a ton to help the Barony, much of it behind the scenes - I bet you've seen some things :) Tell us about an awesome or...interesting moment that happened while you were staffing an event.

A most interesting moment of staffing happened at NOWM on a Friday night one year when I was invited back to hang out with the Ukrainians on site after I was "done working". They welcomed me into their gathering as if I was one of their own. I was fed and "watered" and I have spent time with them there and back in Parma ever since. It was a wonderful feeling being brought into a tight community like that and being able to learn their culture has been amazing.

4.) You've been heavily involved with running NOWM for some time - what do you love about this event?

I've been assisting with NOWM since I started in the SCA and still living in Toledo. There is something about the site. The escape from the city lights and the mundane world. I typically escape there from Wednesday before the event until I drive away on Sunday afternoon. I have my peace and quiet to camp and fire cook and take in the nature that surrounds me. The event grows slowly as the tents are assembled and people arrive with smiles and excitement. The camps fill and the fires glow at night with the sounds of laughter and music. The others arrive on Saturday and enjoy the full site with all the ambiance and atmosphere. I love seeing the smiling faces enjoying the fruits of long labors. It's a wonderful feeling.

5.) What's something you'd like to continue for NOWM in the future?

I want to continue to get fresh blood involved with the event. I want others to realize that building an event of this magnitude is not performed by one person, but a team that makes it all come together. This has been a part of me and my SCA life for over twelve years and I want others to cherish the fruits of the labors as I have. I want this event to grow and evolve to be a legacy of those that started this event over twenty years ago.

Fletchings of Spring 6: A Greenwood Day (May 21, 2022)

By Lord Tarmach ben Yehuda al-Khazari

The sixth Fletchings of Spring archery event was held on May 21st, once again using the excellent site of Punderson State Park. More than 30 people were in attendance, a good number for the space.

Prior to the lunchtime cookout, there were targets set up for practice, and for shooting of Royal Rounds, which are a specific regimen of distances to be shot timed and un-timed. Scores for Royal Rounds are maintained by the Kingdom as a ranking system for all archers. Overseeing the morning shooting were His Excellency [Baron] Forester Edward Brackenburye and Forester Caitlin inghan Neill.



Following lunch, Her Excellency [Mistress] Forester Zuriel Nightshade arranged a few novelty shoots for people wishing to remain on level ground. The more adventurous were divided into teams of four each (one of whom would be a Forester, and no more than one crossbow per team). The teams then participated in a Woods Walk along an archery path through an adjoining wooded area maintained by the park. Marshal-in-Charge Cadfan created and set targets for ten of the fourteen stations. The victors of the Walk were Team Darkstone, whose members were Darkstone, Nypa and Willelmus of Brendoken, and Forester James Barkley. They were rewarded with metal dragon bookmarks provided by Lady Miriana of Cleftlands. There were additional bookmarks given to winners of the Novelty shoot – I apologize, I do not have their names recorded here.

We managed to close site at the time we had planned, spurred on by the deep rolling rumbles of thunder from an approaching storm. Five minutes after I watched the last attendees leave site, the skies opened up with torrents of rain and hail.

A few additional notes – many thanks to Lord Robert atte Northclyfe for service as our Gatekeeper, and to Master Dmitrii Zhiron, who attended to “just help out.” His assistance was most welcome. Barone Pietro brought his younger nephew Fiorello, who had never before tried archery. He did well with a crossbow, and equally well with a handbow. So well did the young man do with the borrowed handbow that its maker, Gladius, told Fiorello to keep the bow to use in future. Bravo, Gladius, and Well Met.

Finally, our number included Baron Ronan Haukrson of Shadowed Stars. He was overheard to remark, while taking pictures during the Woods Walk, that He would be sharing his photos with His populace “to show them what they were missing.” Great praise for our event, indeed.

This Week in History

June 17 1397 - [Queen Margaret I of Denmark](#) forms the Kalmar Union that joined Denmark, Norway, and Sweden (then including Finland) for over a century.

June 18 618 - Li Yuan becomes Emperor of China and initiates the Tang dynasty, which lasts for three centuries.

June 19 325 - The First Council of Nicaea adopts the first Nicene Creed.

June 20 656 - Uthman (aka Osman) is assassinated after being one of the most successful Rashidun caliphs (leaders of the Muslim community after the death of the prophet Muhammad).

June 21 1582 - Oda Nobunaga, a powerful Japanese daimyo, is forced to commit suicide by his own general.

June 22 158 BC - Third Macedonian War ends with the victory of the Romans against Macedonian King Perseus.

June 23 1266 - The Venetians defeat the Genoese fleet and capture all its ships at the Battle of Trapani.

June-July 2022 Cleftlands Events

- Wednesday, June 22, 6:30-10pm - **In-Person Cleftlands Meeting** St John of the Cross School, 140 Richmond Rd, Cleveland OH 44143.
- Wednesday, June 22, 7:00-9pm - **Figure Drawing** - at the weekly meeting - St John of the Cross School, 140 Richmond Rd, Cleveland OH 44143.
- Thursday, June 23; 7:00-8:30pm - **Armors' Guild Meeting** - Ealdred & Clairiel's Garage: 234 Adams St, Berea, OH 44017; <https://bit.ly/3vBVzBR>
- Saturday, June 25; 8:00am-8:00 pm - **Demo at the Ohio Scottish Games** - Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds; 19201 E. Bagley Road, Berea OH 44130; [https://www.facebook.com/events/1083595602200362/?acontext-t=%7B%22event_action_history%22%3A\[%7B%22surface%22%3A%22group%22%7D\]%7D](https://www.facebook.com/events/1083595602200362/?acontext-t=%7B%22event_action_history%22%3A[%7B%22surface%22%3A%22group%22%7D]%7D)
- Tuesday, June 28, 7:30pm - **Needleworkers' Guild Virtual Meeting** - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88261643621?pwd=UGx1TTdPcVdNNWtHZFhDZkxYR0d5Zz09>
- Wednesday, June 29, 6:30-10pm - **In-Person Cleftlands Cookout and Rummage Sale**; St John of the Cross School, 140 Richmond Rd, Cleveland OH 44143.
- Thursday, June 30; 7:00-8:30pm - **Armors' Guild Meeting** - Ealdred & Clairiel's Garage: 234 Adams St, Berea, OH 44017; <https://bit.ly/3vBVzBR>
- Wednesday, July 6, 6:30-10pm - **In-Person Baronial Meeting & Practice**; St John of the Cross School, 140 Richmond Rd, Cleveland OH 44143.
- Thursday, July 7; 7:00-8:30pm - **Armors' Guild Meeting** - Ealdred & Clairiel's Garage: 234 Adams St, Berea, OH 44017; <https://bit.ly/3vBVzBR>
- Tuesday, July 12, 7:30pm - **Needleworkers' Guild Virtual Meeting** - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88261643621?pwd=UGx1TTdPcVdNNWtHZFhDZkxYR0d5Zz09>
- Wednesday, July 13 6:30-10pm - **In-Person Cleftlands Cookout and Rummage Sale**; St John of the Cross School, 140 Richmond Rd, Cleveland OH 44143.
- Thursday, July 14; 7:00-8:30pm - **Armors' Guild Meeting** - Ealdred & Clairiel's Garage: 234 Adams St, Berea, OH 44017; <https://bit.ly/3vBVzBR>
- Wednesday, July 20, 6:30-10pm - **In-Person Cleftlands Meeting and Food Truck - LAST MEETING BEFORE PENNSIC BREAK** St John of the Cross School, 140 Richmond Rd, Cleveland OH 44143.
- Wednesday, July 20 7:00-9pm - **Making a Roman Necklace** - at the weekly meeting - St John of the Cross School, 140 Richmond Rd, Cleveland OH 44143.
- Thursday, July 21; 7:00-8:30pm - **Armors' Guild Meeting** - Ealdred & Clairiel's Garage: 234 Adams St, Berea, OH 44017; <https://bit.ly/3vBVzBR>

Society Disclaimer: Although the SCA complies with all applicable laws to ensure the health and safety of our event participants, we cannot eliminate the risk of exposure to infectious diseases during in-person events. By participating in the in-person events of the SCA, you acknowledge and accept the potential risks. You agree to take any additional steps to protect your own health and safety and those under your control as you believe to be necessary.

Photo credits: Road to Rouen, Lord Meinhard, and the Fletchings of Spring archers courtesy of Lord Tarmach ben Yehuda al Khazari. NOWM photos provided by Lady Claricia de la Mere

The Four Seasons: Summer is courtesy of the Cleveland Museum of Art. As of January 23, 2019, the Cleveland Museum of Art is an Open Access institution, using the Creative Commons Zero (CC0) designation for high-resolution images and data related to its collection. This means the public now has the ability to share, collaborate, remix, and reuse images of many as 30,000 public-domain artworks from the CMA's world-renowned collection—all without asking permission. In addition, portions of collections information (metadata) for more than 61,000 artworks, both in the public domain and those works with copyright or other restrictions, are now available.

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Upcoming Midrealm Events

June 18 - Martial RUM - Gods of War! Classes and demonstrations around the arts martial. Logansport, IN 46947. Learn more:

<http://placeforstuff.net/events/2022-MRUM/>

June 18 - Performing Arts Symposium 3 - It's a Magic Number; Urbana, IL.

June 25 - NORAD and NORAMP on the Marche; North Oaken Regional Academy of Defense and North Oaken Regional Armored Melee Practice; Freemont OH 43420. Learn more:

<https://marchofthemarshes.midrealm.org/norad2022/>

July 1-3 - A Simple Day in the Country; Classes, armored and rapier pickups, archery. Danville, IN 46122. Learn more:

<https://sternfeld.midrealm.org/simple-day/>

July 8-10 - Push for Pennsic; Combat, archery, thrown weapons, youth fighting, A&S. Camping. Troy, OH 45373.

July 8-10 - Tyger Hunt 37 & Ale to the Victors 8; CANCELED

July 29-August 14 - Pennsic War; Battles, pageantry, shopping, food, classes, court, archery, arts displays, camping, parties, performances, walking, campfire songs, "there you were". Slippery Rock, PA. Learn more:

<http://www.pennsicwar.org/>

Random Period Object - Cleveland Museum of Art



The Four Seasons: Summer, Pieter van der Heyden, Netherlands, 1570 CE

<https://www.clevelandart.org/art/1995.16>

Making and selling prints was very popular in Europe in this time period. Companies sprang up to take advantage, including the one that made this print: Auz quartre Vents (at the Sign of the Four Winds) in Antwerp.

A man named Pieter Bruegel actually made the drawings, but Pieter van der Heyden created the engraving. This is part of a series based on a tradition in illumination where the labor of peasants marked the different seasons.

Cleftlands Officers' Contact Information

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- Quartermaster: The Honorable Lady Sarra Bossard; quartermaster@cleftlands.org

Call for Content

We want to make sure there's a central place to get information and see posts that might get buried, or resources that might not be shared.

If you have info to share - an upcoming virtual gathering, activity ideas, or a great website, please contact me: clariciadlm@gmail.com. Thank you and stay well!