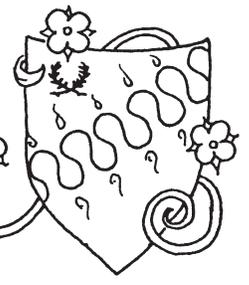


THE

forum



The newsletter of the Cleftlands, Vol. 4: Issue 18, August, 2001

Special War Reporting Issue

Peace With Honor

Although the Eastern Tyger won the war this year, as Sir Alaric, Oaken commander, said, "We won the morale point." The Midrealm swept the last two point battles from the East with a fury and grace that reaffirmed the unconquerable spirit of the Dragon's army.

The Midrealm had a weak start as the East took all the Champions battles with the exception of the Rapier battle which was won by our incomparable rapier combatants. Alas, this was not enough to prevent the war point going to the East as they won the Archer Champions' and Allied Champions' battles. Still, hearty congratulations are due to our fencers, Brice Colquhoun and Vincent Furnier, who were in the battle. Vincent made it through with no losses, to boot.

Unsubstantiated rumor has it that the Midrealm lost the Archer's champions shoot by only six points. Archers- to your bows to practice for next year!

The next war point battle was the Woods, and a brutal contest it was, with high temperatures and a dry wind stirring up a thick cloud of wood-chips and dust under the sheltering trees. To add to our difficulty, the Midrealm was on the 'steep' side of the woods, resulting in a tough walk up from Resurrection point.

Oaken was given the task of holding one flag, and up until very nearly the end of the battle, it was held. Cries of cheer went up from the Oaken ranks as the cannon sounded to end the battle, those on the front lines having only seen the Easterners attack and be repelled again and again, they did not suspect that the battle was lost until the marshal's reports were in. It was, indeed, a close contest.

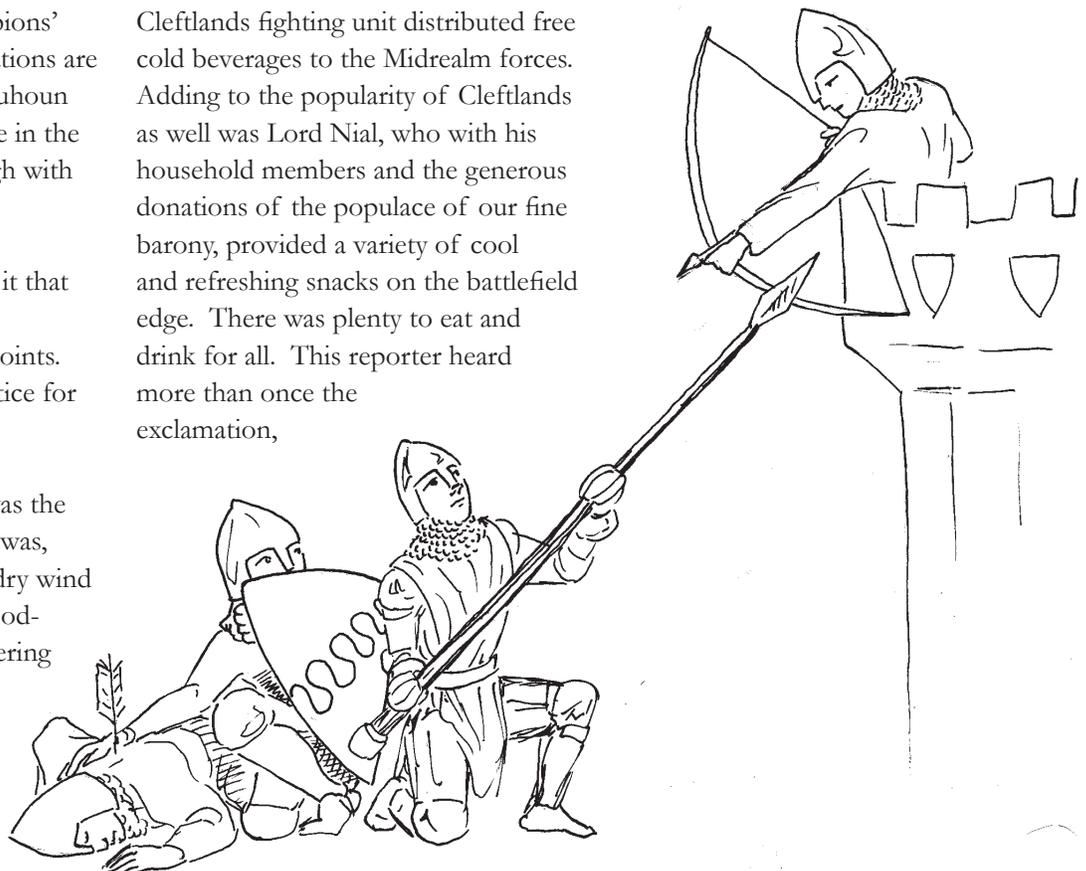
Contributing greatly to the 'morale point' was Stephan Von Lubeck, who had brought two kegs of Pen Dark beer and an iced cooler of Gatorade to the battle, and with the assistance of the Cleftlands fighting unit distributed free cold beverages to the Midrealm forces. Adding to the popularity of Cleftlands as well as Lord Nial, who with his household members and the generous donations of the populace of our fine barony, provided a variety of cool and refreshing snacks on the battlefield edge. There was plenty to eat and drink for all. This reporter heard more than once the exclamation,

"Cleftlands? You guys rock!"

Thursday brought cooler temperatures and a thankfully overcast sky to the field battles. While the unit fought bravely and many feats of courage and prowess were done, superior numbers won the day for the East.

Undaunted, the Oaken army returned early from their lunches to move hay bales for the Mountain Pass battle. Hoobah for service on the field!

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Off the field at Pennsic

Dame Alys Catherine put in her last year as Pennsic class coordinator, after six years in the role. It was a triumphant close to her tenure, with over 1200 classes extending through the entirety of Pennsic. Many classes were taught by Cleftlanders. Ealdred taught three classes, adding a class on medieval roses to his usual soap and sauce lineup. Lyonnete taught her Burgundian costume for the first time at Pennsic to a packed tent. Edward FitzRanulf utilized his mundane skills as a history professor to edify the known world on Machiavelli's "Art of War" and Medieval field manuals. Robert taught his exceptional leather carving. Aldermoureis taught techniques on illuminating armor, and also assisted Dame Alys and her deputy, Angharad, in organizing the immense class schedule.

Throughout Pennsic, it was hard to miss the service of Cleftlanders. Did you know that the grand banners that are displayed during Great Court are largely the work of Clariel? That the 'data trailer' where all the vital and tedious data entry for Pennsic is done is run by the Goat Clan, which includes our own Lady Celeste, Gwenhyfar and Antarcus? Kathryn ferch Rhys spent a lot of time in the security forces. And, as always, chiurgeons, scribes, and waterbearers of the Cleftlands were everywhere to be seen.

Cleftlanders contributed to the building of the Pennsic Fort. If you were able to make it to the battlefield, you might have noticed the burning nebuly of Cleftlands proudly displayed on the right-hand tower of the fort. Donasian, Lord Nial, myfanwy, and many others made the long trek out to work on their weekends.

We made a strong showing on the archery range as well. Many Cleftlanders brought their bows along to shoot. After shooting ten points, Sir Ephraim issued a personal challenge: the first fighter to beat his score would receive a swords-length of rattan. If a fencer beat his score first, they would receive a wooden buckler, and if a non-combatant beat him... well, he'd figure something out.

As Ephraim made this announcement at the Baronial party on Friday night, someone asked what would happen if they tied his score, and he announced that anyone who tied his score would have the honor of fighting Sir Theo! Many scores of 9 and 11 were then predicted.

The auction at the baronial party raised \$1037 for charity and featured many fine items crafted by our artisans. There was a tie this year for highest-ticket item: first, a heraldic surcoat to be

made by Katrine du Val was purchased by her lord Olaf for \$75 "So she doesn't have to make it." Also going for \$75 was a safe-flex dagger bought by Ann. Prices were lower than last year, either because less mead was consumed before the auction, or because so many Cleftlanders had worked hard to make a shopping war point for the Midrealm at Midnight Maddness. In the end, everyone was extremely satisfied with their purchases.

Entertainment included a fire eater and Valorian's drumming, as well as an enforced 'stage' area- if you stepped onto the stage, you had to perform. Among other renditions, we discovered that Ephraim knew songs of a distinctly different variety than the battle song..

Also during the baronial party, Sir Alaric announced that he is taking on Crispin as his man at arms, and placing him on a quest first to improve his heraldic appearance on the field (eyes did scan for Crispin when Katrine's surcoat was on the auction block) and second to attend a fighting event in every barony of the Oaken and Pentemere regions. Congratulations to Crispin on his new status, and good luck on this undertaking!

A good time was had by all, as has come to be expected. It was, in a word, Pennsic.



The Debut of Clariel

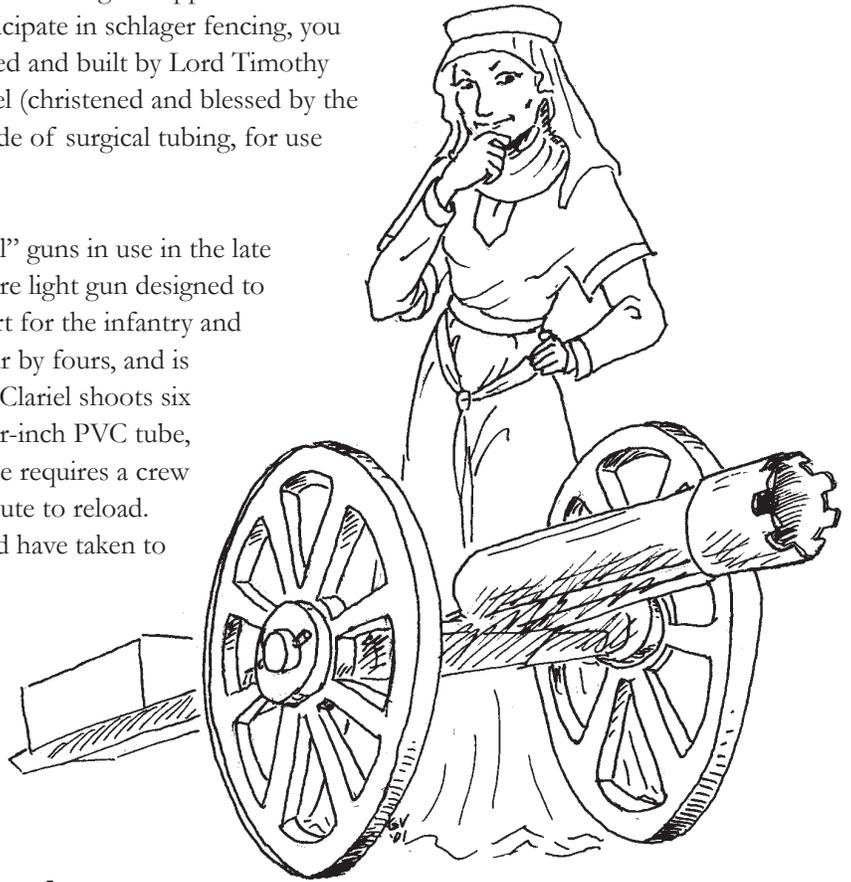
by Edward FitzRanulf

Clariel made her debut in two rapier melees this war to great applause. For those who thought that Clariel du Vent Argent didn't participate in schlager fencing, you are right, she doesn't. But Clariel, a "canon" designed and built by Lord Timothy Woodhill, and Lord Edward FitzRanulf does. Clariel (christened and blessed by the goddess Clariel herself) shoots six rubber-bands made of surgical tubing, for use in rapier melees, out of a three-foot long barrel.

Clariel represents the "galloper" or "regimental" guns in use in the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries. These were light gun designed to move rapidly about the battlefield to provide support for the infantry and cavalry. Clariel rides on a field carriage made of four by fours, and is supported by four-foot diameter spoked wheels. Clariel shoots six rubber-bands at a time, from a barrel made of a four-inch PVC tube, to a maximum range of about twenty-five yards. She requires a crew of four, and takes between thirty seconds and a minute to reload. This reloading time closely parallels the time it would have taken to reload a galloper gun in period.

Clariel was a great hit at the war, with many interested gentles stopping to examine her and ask questions. Manned by Lord Edward

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A New Squire for Cleftlands

by Milesent Vibert

On the afternoon of Saturday, August 18th members of Syr Theo's household and friends, including most of the Cleftlands knights, gathered in the shade before the Rune Stone at Pennsic for a small, dignified ceremony in which Geoffrey Fauconnet was created a squire to Theodric.

Geoffrey was given six months to complete an arduous quest for his knight. The aspiring squire was allowed to choose the start date for his quest and while he was waiting acted as the "Protector of the Rose" to Syr Theodric's Lady, our Chatalaine Lady Alexandra.

Geoffrey's quest was two part. The

first part was a test of prowess. Geoffrey had to fight 10 knights and 10 squires from outside the Barony, and two knights and two squires of the Cleftlands. Each knight or squire had to sign a book which Geoffrey kept and was asked to make notes on Geoffrey's skill. Geoffrey fought three bouts with each 'as if for the Crown' and three practice bouts.

The second part of the quest tested the more genteel aspect of chivalry. Geoffrey had to make an arts and sciences project and submit it to a competition. Also, he was to learn three dances by heart and be able to teach them to Lady Alexandra. Our Dance Guild mistress was quite pleased

with this quest and Geoffrey's progress. Rather than only learning the three dances he had chosen, he consistently filled out dance sets displaying his service as well as grace.

The Pennsic ceremony was conducted five months after Geoffrey took up the quest. He had completed the first part, and had nearly finished the second. Syr Theodric saw no discrepancy in holding the ceremony early to have it at the special venue of the rune stone, and besides, Geoffrey's A&S project was only unfinished because he chose to hand forge the nails and findings rather than purchase them. A delay completely in the spirit of the quest.

Hoobahs!

Two Cleftlanders received AoAs at Midrealm court at Pennsic: Miyamoto Notaro Chisato for his service wasing dishes at events and Elayn Von Koeningsburg for her service as an archery marshal.

Valhalric was knighted on the field at Pennsic, after the bridge battles on Friday. Afterwards, a touching ceremony was held by House Darkyard on Runestone hill. While he does not always attend our meetings, Sir Valhalric is a member of the Cleftlands and increases our total of knights for the barony to a staggering sum.

Baron Munenouri of Roaring Wastes was knighted during Midrealm Court, with Syr Theodric and Lady Alex taking part in the ceremony, in full Japanese costume. Theo processed in with the sword for the ceremony. All involved looked magnificent.

Earlier that day, Baron Munenouri presented Rutgar with the award of the Baron's Favor at Their Excellency's baronial court, for his service and courtesy to Iasmin, Baroness Roaring Wastes. The award was granted with the addition of 10 koku. One koku is an amount of land which would produce enough rice to feed one person for one year (this follows in the manner of His Excellency's Japanese persona). Rutgar may hold this land for as long as Their Excellencies occupy the Baronial seats. (Now Cleftlands finally has some real landed nobility!)

Hoobah to Klaus for a stunning performance in Combat Archery this year-earning him the coveted Nosse Eldessar "Holy Handgranade" award. The award is for the most improved non-belted fighter in the household, and this is the first time it has been given to someone who was not a full member of the household. During the Mountain Pass battle, Klaus entered the battle with no ordinance and a borrowed crossbow, gleaming what he could from the field and killing more Easterners than any of us!

Hoobahs to Lady Sarra Bossard, Darius and Lady Alex for the outstanding effort they put forth preparing for the Baycrafters Demo this year. Despite important distractions such as the Pennsic war and preparing for this fall's Coronation.

While Darius is consumed by his duties as Autocrat for Coronation, his deputy Sara Rex has been acting as Demonstration Co-ordinator. Certainly a hubah is in order for taking up such a daunting, and important, task.

Clariel (continued from page 4)

FitzRanulf, Lord Timothy Woodhill, Lord Pietro da SanTybaldo and Jason she participated in the two schlager fort melees at the war this year and was such a great success that it seems likely that several other rubber-band cannons will appear at the next war.

The development of the rubber-band canon will continue, with the "Clariel II" having improved range, accuracy, and an easier loading procedure. Other projects under consideration include building a limber for the gun and having the gun horse drawn at Baron's War. Lord Timothy is talking about (unless sanity intervenes) a battery of six guns for next Pennsic. Let the arms race commence.

Distillations of Ether

The Cleftlands Website has been upgraded, now there are unlimited connections at any one time, greatly increasing the number of visitors we receive each day! (Previously, the web server software limited us to ten hits at a time.)

Also a preview of the Dance Guild video shot last June is now posted on the Dance Guild page, (<http://cleftlands.cwru.edu/cleftlands/dance.html>) It looks great! Please note to view the movie you have to have the Quicktime movie player installed on your computer. Quicktime is a free download from <http://www.apple.com/quicktime/>

Your webmistress is keeping an up to date version of the Baronial Directory on Cleftlands.cwru.edu, currently it is not available on line. If you have any updates for the Baronial Directory, including new awards, changes of address, new email addresses, etc, please email Milesent at gmv@po.cwru.edu, or see her at meeting. (Check near the dancers.)

Calendar

September 1-3 Baycrafter's Medieval and Craft Fair

September 8-9 Commoner's Crown {Mynydd Seren}
[Bloomington, IN] - Saxon Summer {Rivenvale}
[Hubbard, OH]

September 10 Dance Guild Meeting, Euclid Public
Library

September 13-16- Armoreddon {Border Downs}
[Sioux Falls, SD]

September 14-16- Harvest Day {Winged Hills}
[Clifton, OH]

September 15- Known World Animal Husbandry
Symposium {Rivenstar} [Lafayette, IN]

September 22 Coronation of Rangvaldr and
Arabella in Cleftlands

September 28 Gwyntarian Dance night

September 28-30- Rendezvous at the Bridge
{Riviere Constelle} [Princeton, IN]

October 6- Cloved Orange Ball & Pas d'Armes
{Sternfeld} [Indianapolis, IN]

Baycrafters! Baycrafters! Baycrafters!

The fair is not far off now, and everyone is needed. Teach classes, help entertain the children, fight, fence, and show the city of Bay Village what a wonderful time they can have in the SCA.

Baycrafter's Medieval and Craft Fair is every year during Memorial Day weekend at Huntington Reservation in Bay Village, OH. It has been our premier demo for many years, and this year we are taking it up a notch. Darius, Alex, and Sarra are coordinating activities. Please see them to volunteer some of your time. Get on the list to enter the fair for free.

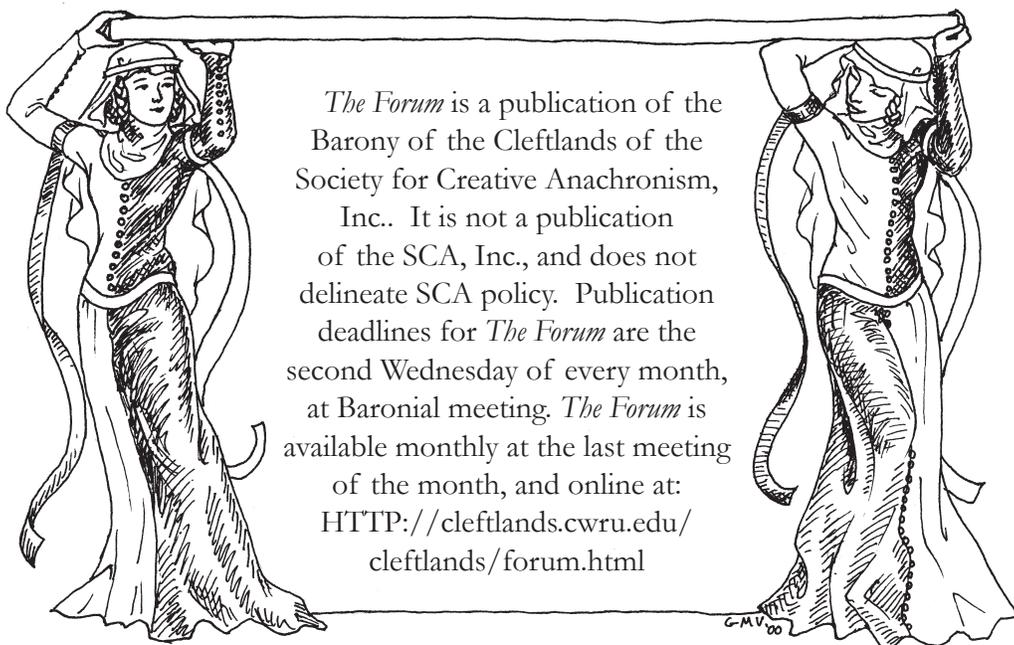
October 12-14- Known World Academy of the Rapier
{Tree-Girt-Sea} [Chicago, IL]

October 13- Event {Dernehealde} [Athens, OH]

October 20- Crown Tournament {Andelcrag} [Battle
Creek, MI]

October 26-28- Known World A&S 2001 {AnTir} [Seattle,
WA]

October 27- Red Dragon {Tirnewydd} [Columbus, OH]



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