

## A Cleftlands (Middle Kingdom) Newsletter - 18 December 2023

### Know More About Knights - The Chivalry of the Cleftlands



*The Knighting of Sir Sirius at Regular Event in the Cleftlands 2020*

*by Lady Claricia de la Mere*

We've pontificated about Pelicans and last month you learned about Laurels so now it's time to chat about the Chivalry. Our wiki ([http://wiki.cleftlands.org/Category:Order\\_of\\_Chivalry](http://wiki.cleftlands.org/Category:Order_of_Chivalry)) says there are 19 knights in Cleftlands, give or take some territory. I got feedback from four of them to find out more about what it means to be in this oldest Peerage order.

Knighthood the highest recognition one can receive for martial prowess in armored combat. (Rapier combatants have their own Peerage, the Order of Defense. Cleftlands does not have any members in that group - yet.)

The first Knight was created at the very first SCA event in 1967. That was David the Herald, later known as Ardril Argo verKaeyesc, who was simply dubbed a Knight on the field after the tournament. Things have changed!

The badge for the order is a white belt - white belts are the only belt color officially reserved. Other belts are widely understood to symbolize other things, but those associations aren't official. Knights may also wear spurs and a simple gold-colored chain. Knights are referred to as "Sir", "Dame" or

the equivalent. Per ancient Society law only a Knight can create another Knight - so if the Royal elevating a new Knight and is not one themselves, a Knight must have their hand on the sword while the oaths are being sworn.

So, what does it mean to be a Knight?

"I have often said that I am not pretending to be a medieval knight," said Duke Syr Laurelen Darksbane (knighted 1978). "I am a 21st century knight. I, along with my brethren in the Order, have sworn a powerful and very real oath. Made a very real promise. To be more, better, in offering myself as a servant. The rank confers one very specific privilege. That is to be first among servants."

"Being a member of the Order of Chivalry means different things to different members but, to me, it means being a role model, an exemplar of the best qualities of our Society," said Count Nikolai Grigorevich Petrov (knighted in 1999).

Baron Syr Calum MacDhaibhidhe (knighted 2013) said, "It means it is my job to try and make the SCA as fun as possible to as many people as possible. I am a servant of all of the people of the Kingdom."

Sir Crispin Dela Rochefoucauld (also knighted 2013) agreed: "I would like to think that all of them look towards giving back to the SCA, whether that is teaching, service, or arts. I think the Order does a good deal more than some people know. Whether it be acts of charity or service to the Society behind the scenes.

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### Yule Revel This Week - Join the Fun Wed., Dec. 20

A yearly tradition not to be missed! This year's festivities include:

- Not a Cookie Exchange: Bring items of the equivalent of a dozen cookies, and for each you bring, take 1 home.
- Cooks Guild Challenge: Make a food that looks like a holiday ornament.
- Games
- Dancing
- Musical performances

# Knights of the Cleftlands - continued

The path to the Chivalry is similar to the other Peerages, where, often, one undergoes training and guidance with a particular person for an amount of time ranging from a few years to forever. It seems more common for Knights to have first been squires, compared to members of the other Peerages who were not apprentices or proteges before their elevations. That is not always the case, though - Baron Syr Calum was not a squire before he was knighted, and neither was Duke Laurelen.

You may hear Knights talking about their "lineage," meaning, who they were knighted by, and who that person was knighted by. Almost all Knights in the Middle Kingdom trace their lineage back to Duke Cariadoc, who was the first King of the Mid-realm. Here in the North Oaken region, spurs are a representation of that sense of legacy. Spurs are put on the new Knight's feet during their elevation, and a list is read out of the names of the other Knights who have worn them. The Knight is usually also given their own, personal spurs so that they can pass on the legacy version.

Squires can often be identified by a red belt and, sometimes, a plain silver chain. This can vary by Kingdom - many other Kingdoms don't allow squires to wear silver chains. Like with proteges and apprentices, the relationship between a squire and their peer can be either very structured or very casual. As squires, hopeful candidates strive to improve their martial prowess, but that's not all there is to it.

"There's a fair bit of travel in your quest to gain skill at arms," said Sir Crispin, "which gives you a good working knowledge of the Kingdom and how other groups operate. Oftentimes there's a lot of maturing that happens as you become more recognized partly due to the fact that more people are scrutinizing your behavior and nudging you to become more chivalric."

Chivalric virtue, as defined by Duke Laurelen, includes: Chivalry, Courtesy, Honor, Nobility, Gentility, Loyalty, and Humility.

"You must still prove all the other knightly virtues," said Baron Syr Calum. "No matter how skilled at combat you are, being a thug or a bully will get you dismissed from consideration for Knighthood."

While most Knights strive to be examples of those virtues, part of a squire's path is learning who to look up to.

"On my path to Peerage, I learned that not all Knights are good role models," said Count Nikolai. "Most are, or at least try to be, but there are others who just didn't behave in a Peer-like fashion. That said, they did become role models, just not the kind I wanted to emulate."

As with the other Peerages, there are meetings where the members of the Order discuss candidates and vote, giving their counsel to the Crown as to who is ready to be elevated. Previous articles discussed elevations, and those for a Knight can be similar but greatly depends on the people involved. In general, a vigil is held beforehand (where the person to be elevated receives advice, counsel, well wishes - and usually snacks). The elevation itself happens in a Royal Court where members of the other Peerages and the populace often speak of the good that the future Knight has done. Every elevation is different!

Here is Duke Laurelen's story: "I was an unbelted fighter when I entered the Crown Tourney lists in Northwoods that fall day in October 1978. Though very active in the SCA for six and a half years, I had been fighting but 15 months. I was not any Knight's squire, though I was Baron Cleftlands and well-known. It was the third Crown Tourney to which I had been invited and my prowess was such that I was fortunate to be undefeated that day, making it to the finals where I met my good find and fellow Cleftlander, Alen Elegil. The finals were halted by the King just before the second fight began and I and my opponent (Alen) were offered the accolade of Knighthood there on the field. King Nathan was unbelted, so Duke Andrew stood on one side, and Duke Dagan (to whom Alen was Squire) stood on the other. Two swords rose and fell in unison as both of us were made Knights simultaneously by two Dukes. This was a unique event, the like of which was never before seen or since."

Sometimes it is these unscripted moments that provide the most memories, as with from Baron Syr Calum's elevation: "Then came the part of the ceremony when the King asks 'Is there a belt?'. The assembled knights looked at each other with dawning horror on their faces. Normally an elevation is planned out well in advance. Arrangements are made to have a belt, chain, spurs, and possibly a sword or other gifts on hand and ready to be given to the new knight. The decision to elevate me had been made less than 2 hours ago. There had not been time to make arrangements. Into that sudden awkward silence Duke Syr Laurelen said 'Yes, your Majesty', stood up, took off his own belt, and handed it to the king. Syr Silverthorn did the same for the chain, and Syr Karl did the same for the spurs."

"The belt, chain, and spurs are deeply personal item for knights," explained Baron Syr Calum, "there are a lot of emotions and personal meanings tied up in these items. Knowing this, after court I went to each of these three Knights to return their items to them, and thank them for the loan for the ceremony. Each of them said 'It wasn't a loan.' I am not ashamed to say these amazing acts of generosity brought tears to my eyes."

Then the Knight gives their oath. You can find the Chivalric Oath and the Crown's responses on page 7.

There is one more optional aspect of the elevation that is particular to Knighting: what's known as "the buffet." It is, simply put, a blow given to the Knight during their elevation. It could be a slap to the face, or a punch to the shoulder.

*Continued next page.*

# 5 Questions for Cleftlanders: Sinclair (modernly known as Randy Needham) (he/him)

## 1) What was your first SCA event and how did you find it?

My first SCA event was the "Brawl at the Crooked Dragon" 2022. Prior to that I had been coming to some practices between Falcon's Quarry and Cleftlands for a few months leading up. The way I got involved was through the local HEMA club "Lake Erie Historical Fencing". I had been a member and a couple of the members are long-time SCA people and would talk about Pennsic and the other fun events. They thought I would enjoy and be a good fit. I was skeptical as I did not know what to expect, but after I attended my first meeting I was hooked. Very thankful they extended the invitation, and everyone was so welcoming.

## 2) What are your 2 favorite SCA activities so far?

My 2 favorite SCA activities are rapier fighting, which is part of what brought me into the SCA, and the variety of guilds. So far I have been able to participate in a few of them and learn new skills and refine other abilities. The nice part about the SCA is you can have a little or a lot of involvement, and activities that can fit into a variety of work and life schedules.

## 3) What SCA activities are you looking forward to trying in the future?

I am looking forward to getting into the armor combat. I have been working on my kit and feel I am ready to dive in now. I also want to spend more time with Needleworkers' Guild, creating a more complex wardrobe.

## 4) Do you have an SCA persona? Tell us about them and/or what period in SCA history draws you in?

I don't have an official persona yet, but a few working ideas that mix a good story and a dab of family history. It will be based on a second son who won't inherit title nor land, but has means to get around and find adventure. I am late period for rapier and my armory kit is based on the Scottish Border Reivers of the same period. My first dip into the world of reenactment of any type was Viking. I have built period-correct shields and various leather goods as I was getting into that years prior to knowing the SCA was a thing. With me dipping into rapier fighting first, and having a love for the English Civil War (which is outside our era), I gravitated towards later period.

## 5) What is your favorite SCA-related movie and why?

This is a tough question, as there are so many. I would say for fantasy set during that time period as an 80's child, would be "Conan the Barbarian" and "Red Sonja". As for something grounded in reality, I would say "Alexander Nevsky", "Arn, the Templar," and "Kingdom of Heaven" are my favorites and I can watch them over and over again.



# Knights of the Cleftlands - continued again

To be clear, though it is a long-standing SCA tradition, including the buffet is the choice of the vigilant. It is done with the instruction to "bear these blows and no others." Meaning to stand up for what is right. However, some say that it is the words of the dubbing that are the "blows" to be borne: "In remembrance of oaths given and received. In remembrance of your lineage and obligations. Be thou a good knight" - they must uphold those words, not physical blows. Receiving a buffet has become increasingly common, so that Baron Syr Calum's choice to exclude it at his elevation was unusual. Why include a buffet at all?

"To me," said Count Nikolai, "the buffet serves as a reminder that even though you have just achieved Peerage, you must always remember that you're a servant to the Crown. I think it's an incredibly powerful show of humility for a person who has literally fought their way into this position."

After Knighthood, the common sentiment is, as with other Peerages, that's when the real work begins.

"The process of BECOMING a knight is all about increasing your skills, and showing your worth," said Baron Syr Calum. "The process of BEING a knight is all about helping everyone else. Teaching others the skills of armored combat is the obvious and easily seen part of the job. However, as a Peer of the realm it is your job to help lift up and inspire everyone, not just the armored fighters. It really is the same job as every Peer has."

"We in the Order are not making believe," said Duke Laurelen. "Because we believe. With all our hearts. That it's real. Because we are real. Doing all we may to actually be all we promise."

Count Nikolai's words sum it up: "I try to live up to the preconceived notion of what a Knight is - every day of my life."



# Adventures in Frumenty: A Cautionary Tale for Novice Cooks

by Lord Tarmach ben Yehuda al-Khazari/

I enjoy cooking, more so now that I'm retired and can approach the kitchen at a leisurely pace. My wife has collected many cookbooks over many years, some dating to before 1900, and the TV is often on to another cooking challenge, set on one side of the Atlantic or the other. My skills have continued to heighten from all of this input.

Being in the SCA has *broadened* my food interest.

My local Barony holds a meeting and fighter practice nearly once every week of the year. At the end of each month is a "dessert revel" that encourages more socialization, especially with newer members. Often the head of our Cooks Guild offers a challenge theme or ingredient for the revel, and at the end of this past November, "cranberries" became the pivotal item.

It's understood that the food we prepare doesn't need to be period, that whatever we bring will be welcomed. To try to avoid making a cake or cookies with cranberries, my wife and I agreed that we would explore other foodstuffs. She selected a cheeseball recipe. I decided to make a frumenty.

The idea of cooking grains such as rice or oats, in liquid, goes back many centuries before SCA-period. Frumenty, which is wheat cooked in milk, is documented in the 1390 manuscript, *The Forme of Cury*. It is also mentioned, as *frumentee*, in a mid-14th century North Midlands poem, *Wynner and Wastoure*, and a few other period texts. The basic recipe is to parboil the wheat in water, then strain it and boil in milk and add sweetener.

Easy. But how much to prepare for a dessert revel, where people are sampling according to their appetites?

There are many frumenty recipes online, and the beauty of the internet is that many recipes note how many the item will feed. To further simplify things, many recipe sites allow you to adjust the number of portions to what you need, and the recipe is automatically adjusted.

Easy peasy. I selected a simple recipe and made adjustment for 15 portions. The ingredients list now showed 4 cups of whole grain wheat, 16 cups of water, four cups of milk, honey, and fruit, which was to be stewed cranberries. I figured to prepare the dish in my 6-quart crockpot so volumes would be easily handled, and serving was simplified. I found whole grain Bulgar wheat at my local Whole Foods store, so I set to work in the kitchen, allotting some five hours to cook on high, with occasional stirring. I installed a Crockpot condom....uhm, liner (wonderful things, makes clean-up a snap), poured in the grain and water and, seeing things were just at three-quarter depth in the pot, I turned on the power.

At this point, the more experienced cooks are nodding sagely and muttering, "Grain expands..." To this I add a corollary, "...and different grains expand differently..." I've cooked rice in past, I've made oatmeal for breakfasts – this stuff has an expansion factor approximately the same as the foam insulation sold in aerosol cans.

By the end of four hours, there was still about 3/4 cup of water pooling in a wheat-y bog. Moreover, the grains still were not completely softened but had risen past the three-quarter depth, rather than simply absorbing the water. And the lid of the Crockpot would never hold back the fury of this menacing, growing monster.

Realizing I would still be needing to add milk to this, I grabbed a slotted spoon and transferred out perhaps a third of the wheat (about several cups worth) into another container, then dumped the rest of the mass into a large pot and set it on the stove at medium heat. Once the water had sufficiently cooked out, I added a reduced amount of milk and added three tablespoons of honey, then the stewed cranberries. After a few stirs, it went back into the lined Crockpot. I then left the kitchen and sat down to dinner with the missus.

A few minutes into our meal, I noticed that the Faithful Hound had not been in the room for several minutes. I called for him, and he returned to our sides, licking his jowls. Seems he was able to reach the unfinished portion of frumenty and helped himself to a few licks. I didn't want to simply toss the remaining grains into the trash, so I struck upon an idea...

After meeting was over that evening, I drove around to the back of our meeting site where there is a modest bit of forest. I took out the container of "be-dogged" frumenty from the car and dumped it into the snow alongside the drive, in hopes the local woodland creatures would appreciate the food-gift. As I drove off, though, I could not help but recall the final scene of the 1958 classic Steve McQueen movie, "The Blob," where the terrifying alien scourge had been chilled to an inert state and airlifted to the North Pole. If you hear of strange sightings, come springtime, around east Cleveland, Ohio, I deny everything....

## Upcoming Midrealm Events

**Jan 6 2024 - Ayreton Twelfth Night;** A relaxed day of gifts and gaming. \$15. Hinsdale, IL  
<https://ayreton.midrealm.org/twelfth-night/>

**Jan 6 - 12th Night in Pen-tamere;** Dancing, classes, music, merchants, feast. \$25; feast \$18. Saline, MI  
[cynnabar.org/twelfthnight/](http://cynnabar.org/twelfthnight/)

**Jan 13 - Middle Marches Twelfth Night: Marco Polo East Meets West;** Gaming, youth activities, classes, lunch, Middle Marches A&S Championship, feast. \$15, feast \$12. Delaware, OH  
[middlemarches.midrealm.org/events/twelfth-night/](http://middlemarches.midrealm.org/events/twelfth-night/)

**Jan 20 - Winter Revel;** Games, a roaring fire, competitions for hot chocolate, brewing, and bread. Potluck lunch and feast. \$20. Ionia, MI.  
<https://sites.google.com/view/barony-of-andelcrag/winter-revel>

**Jan 27 - Festival of Maidens 49;** Classes, rapier, heavy, bardic circle, newcomers' swap, silent auction. No fee. Urbana, IL.  
<https://caergwyn.midrealm.org/festival-of-maidens-49/>

**Jan 27 - Winter Wassail;** Games, crafts, dance, silent auction, snack bar, potluck feast. No fee. North Jackson, OH.  
<https://rivenvale.org/events/winter-wassail/>

**Feb 3 - Tournament of the Arts, Spring;** Tournament of the Arts, lunch, merchants. \$17 pre-reg; \$20 on-site. Fairborn, OH.  
<https://rivenvale.org/events/winter-wassail/>

## Wanted: Baronial Chronicler

After almost 5 years in the position, THL Jolicia is looking to step down from the Chronicler position in March and is looking for a replacement. What does the Chronicler do? THL Jolicia says:

In pre-Internet days, there were few ways to distribute the Barony's news, and the Chronicler's job was vital. Now there are multiple ways to learn what's happening, but the Chronicler is still important as the person charged with taking notes at Baronial meetings and distributing them (and ensuring the required Baronial newsletter gets done). Here are some of the skills and abilities needed to be an effective Chronicler:

- Reliable access to a computer, the Internet, email, and Facebook.
- Attend most meetings. You can arrange for a deputy to fill in for you on occasion.
- Ability to take notes quickly and accurately during meetings, and be able to communicate clearly in writing. I have devised a format for the minutes that stays the same from week to week, which makes the job easier and faster.
- Some internet savvy - the minutes are published in a blogging software called Word Press, which is easy to learn. Word Press generates a link that the chronicler posts on the baronial Facebook page and the Cleftlist.
- Minutes should be distributed within 6 days of the meeting. If there is news pertaining to a Saturday event, the Chronicler may want to distribute the minutes by the Friday prior to the event.
- Newsletter - Baronies are required to publish newsletters at least quarterly. The Chronicler can delegate the newsletter to a deputy. [Which is the current situation - Internebbles is run by a deputy to the Chronicler, but this situation is up to the parties involved.]
- The Chronicler also files brief reports with the Kingdom chronicler four times a year.

Please contact [chronicler@cleftlands.org](mailto:chronicler@cleftlands.org) if you'd like to know more about this Baronial officer position. Or apply at: <http://www.cleftlands.org/officer-application/>

## News of the Barony

- Congratulations to Eofor (Paul) who is the next Baronial Iron Key, replacing Lord Tryggr!
- There is NO MEETING on December 27. There will be a meeting on January 3.
- Mistress Constanza is stepping down from her position as the Baronial armored combat marshal. To apply, go to <http://www.cleftlands.org/officer-application/>
- Congratulations to Duke Eikbrandr who won the Baronial rapier tournament in November.
- The revel on January 31 will feature a Baronial Court and a one-course feast. Desert will be potluck, so bring something to share! There will be a youth puppet show.
- April 13 Cleftlands will be holding the Standard Bearers event in Euclid - potentially combined with the North Oaken Regional A7S Fair. See event stewards Lord Tarmach, Lady Ginevera, or Sir Crispin for details.
- May 19 brings another tradition, the Fletchings of Spring archery event, hosted by Lord Tarmach. This will also be the Baronial archery championship.
- September 28 Cleftlands hosts another Kingdom event, Midrealm Fall Coronation. THL Jolicia, Lady Jaqueline, and Lady Lupa are the event stewards.

# November-December 2023 Cleftlands Events

- Wed. Dec 20 6:30-9:45 pm - **Yule Revell** - St John of the Cross School, 140 Richmond Rd, Cleveland OH 44143.
- Thurs. Dec 21 7:00 pm - **Armorsers' Guild Meeting** - Ealdred & Clairiel's Garage: 234 Adams St, Berea, OH 44017; <https://bit.ly/3vBVzBR>
- Wed. Dec 27 - **NO MEETING - Holiday break**
- Wed. Jan 3 6:30-9:45 pm - **Baronial Meeting**- St John of the Cross School, 140 Richmond Rd, Cleveland OH 44143.
- Thurs. Jan 4 7:00 pm - **Armorsers' Guild Meeting** - Ealdred & Clairiel's Garage: 234 Adams St, Berea, OH 44017; <https://bit.ly/3vBVzBR>
- Wed. Jan 10 6:30-9:45 pm - **Baronial Meeting**- St John of the Cross School, 140 Richmond Rd, Cleveland OH 44143.
- Wed. Jan 10 8:15 pm - **Class at Baronial Meeting - Getting the Word Out: How to Advertise Your Activities and Communicate Like a Pro**; St John of the Cross School, 140 Richmond Rd, Cleveland OH 44143.
- Thurs. Jan 11 7:00 pm - **Armorsers' Guild Meeting** - Ealdred & Clairiel's Garage: 234 Adams St, Berea, OH 44017; <https://bit.ly/3vBVzBR>
- Sat. Jan 13 10:00 am - **Garb-a-Thon** - Twinsburg Public Library. Get details on the Facebook event: [Link](#)
- Wed. Jan 17 6:30-9:45 pm - **Baronial Meeting** - St John of the Cross School, 140 Richmond Rd, Cleveland OH 44143.
- Thurs. Jan 18 7:00 pm - **Armorsers' Guild Meeting** - Ealdred & Clairiel's Garage: 234 Adams St, Berea, OH 44017; <https://bit.ly/3vBVzBR>
- Wed. Jan 24 6:30-9:45 pm - **Baronial Meeting** - St John of the Cross School, 140 Richmond Rd, Cleveland OH 44143.
- Thurs. Jan 18 7:00 pm - **Armorsers' Guild Meeting** - Ealdred & Clairiel's Garage: 234 Adams St, Berea, OH 44017; <https://bit.ly/3vBVzBR>
- Wed. Jan 31 6:30-9:45 pm - **Baronial Revel: A Midwinter's Solemnities** - St John of the Cross School, 140 Richmond Rd, Cleveland OH 44143.
- Thurs. Feb 1 7:00 pm - **Armorsers' Guild Meeting** - Ealdred & Clairiel's Garage: 234 Adams St, Berea, OH 44017; <https://bit.ly/3vBVzBR>

## This Week in History

- Dec. 17 1538 - Pope Paul III excommunicates King Henry VIII of England.
- Dec. 18 1075 - [Edith of Wessex](#), Queen of England and wife of Edward the Confessor, dies after a long illness. Much of her life is known because she commissioned a biography of Edward, the Vita Ædwardi Regis.
- Dec. 19 966 - Sancho I of Leon, also called "Sancho the Fat" dies after eating a poisoned apple.
- Dec. 20 1522 - The Knights of Rhodes surrender to Suleiman the Magnificent. The knights relocate to Malta and become known as the Knights of Malta.
- Dec. 21 69 - Vespasian, Nero's former general, is declared Roman emperor. He is the 4th (and final) emperor to rule in that same year (after Galba, Otho, and Vitellius).
- Dec. 22 401 - The eastern capital of the Tang dynasty, Luoyang, is captured by rebels led by a former salt smuggler, Huang Chao.
- Dec. 23 1588 - "The Day of the Dagger": Duke Henry of Guise is assassinated by bodyguards of King Henry III of France in front of the king. Duke Henry was a vocal opponent of King Henry's mother, Catherine de Medici, whose network of spies included Duke Henry's mistress at the time.



## Random Period Object - From the Cleveland Museum of Art

Sacrificer Container; Central Andes, Wari; c. 770-890

<https://www.clevelandart.org/art/2007.193>

Size: ~4.25 x 2.75 x 3 inches

Wood and cinnabar

Take a close look at this figure and you'll see it has its knife to the throat of the human in its lap. This feline-headed supernatural entity also wears severed heads on its belt and another that dangles from its trachea from the back of the figure's head. The Sacrificer is often depicted in Wari art. See more pictures online to see more angles.

The Wari, in what is now Peru, are believed to have practiced sacrifice as part of their religion, although it was likely rare. The use of the vessel is unknown. Other such vessels contained powdered lime, which was used to chew ritually-important cacao leaves, but this one only contained cinnabar.

Cinnabar is a bright red form of mercury sulfide. It was used to refine mercury, as well as being the source of the pigment vermilion and others. It occurs naturally, but because of the mercury component can be toxic.

## News of the Kingdom

- The new Seneschal of the Midrealm is Duchess Arabella Silvermane. Congratulations!
- The Kingdom Minister of Arts & Sciences is seeking a replacement. To submit your interest, send a letter with your modern and SCA resumes to [kmoas@midrealm.org](mailto:kmoas@midrealm.org) by 31 December 2023.
- The next Tournament of the Arts will be 3 February 2024 in Fairborn, OH.

## Oaths of Chivalry for the Midrealm:

*I here swear fealty and do homage to the Crown of the Middle Kingdom  
To ever be a good Knight and true.  
Reverant and generous,  
Shield of the weak  
Obedient to my liege  
Foremost in battle  
Courteous at all times  
Champion of the right and the good,  
Thus swear I, [NAME].*

The Crown usually responds in the same way for all Peerages, although there is a response specific to the Chivalry should they choose to use it. The general response is (Tolkien fans may recognize the wording from when Pippin swore fealty to Denethor):

*This do We hear, and shall never forget.  
Nor fail to reward that which is given.  
Fealty with love, service with honor  
And oath breaking with vengeance/justice. [different Crowns choose whether to say "vengeance" or "justice"]*

*Or, the Chivalry-specific version:  
This do We hear and shall never forget:  
To be your liege,  
Rewarding fealty with love, valor with honor,  
And oath-breaking with vengeance/justice.*



# Cleftlands Officers' Contact Information

- Baron: Barone Pietro Nicolo da San Tebaldo; [baron@cleftlands.org](mailto:baron@cleftlands.org)
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- Web Minister: Baroness Gianna Vettori; [webminister@cleftlands.org](mailto:webminister@cleftlands.org)
- Chronicler: The Honorable Lady Jolicia atte Northclyfe; [chronicler@cleftlands.org](mailto:chronicler@cleftlands.org)
- Youth Officer: Lady Chaiya Leah bat Dovid; [youth@cleftlands.org](mailto:youth@cleftlands.org)
- Demo Coordinator: Lady Shahzada al-Zahra; [demo@cleftlands.org](mailto:demo@cleftlands.org)
- Iron Key: Eofor; [ironkey@cleftlands.org](mailto:ironkey@cleftlands.org)
- Youth Marshal: Sergeant Bastian Eychener; [youthmarshal@cleftlands.org](mailto:youthmarshal@cleftlands.org)
- Quartermaster: The Honorable Lady Sarra Bossard; [quartermaster@cleftlands.org](mailto:quartermaster@cleftlands.org)
- Gold Key: Lady Leonne de Fresne; [goldkey@cleftlands.org](mailto:goldkey@cleftlands.org)

## News of the Society

- The Society is accepting applications for Society Seneschal/Vice President for Operations. If you love bureaucracy, learn more: <https://www.sca.org/news/applications-open-society-seneschal-vice-president-for-operations/>
- The SCA Corporate Office will be closed from Monday, December 25 through Monday, January 1.
- The October 2023 President's report is available: <https://www.sca.org/news/october-2023-presidents-report-available/>

### Newsletter Content

Did you miss an issue? Want to review an old favorite? All copies of the newsletter are stored on the Cleftlands website. Find them here: <http://wiki.cleftlands.org/Publications>

For suggestions and comments, please contact the editor at [clariciadm@gmail.com](mailto:clariciadm@gmail.com).

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