

Barony of the Cleftlands; Middle Kingdom; May/June 2024

Cleftlands Goes to War: Baronial Activities at Pennsic

Tuesday 30 July (Tuesday of Peace Week) - 10 am - Meet on the Battlefield for the raising of the Baronial Tent. Bring a hammer. (Penciled in - changes will be announced on Facebook)

Saturday 03 August - 8 am - Artillery Crews muster at Newbridge Encampment to walk the guns out for the Battle of LaRoche (Castle, 9AM)

Saturday 03 August (Middle Weekend) - 5 pm - Opening Ceremonies on the Battlefield. Any who wish to march with the Barony in the Midrealm procession should muster on the road outside Middle Kingdom Royal Encampment no later than 4 pm.

Monday 05 August (War Week) - Noon - Rapier Company muster at the Camp of the Three Bears for a 12:30 march to the Rapier Town/Cathedral Battle (1 pm)

Thursday 08 August (War Week) - 9:30 am - Archery Company muster at the Camp of the Three Bears for a 10 am march(ride) to the Archery Field. (This conflicts with the Armored Woods Battle.)

Thursday 08 August - 6 pm - Middle Kingdom Court in the Middle Kingdom Battlefield Tent. Arrive early, bring your own chairs.

Friday 09 August (War Week) - 9 am - Armored Company muster at the Camp of the Three Bears for a 9:30 march to the Armored Field Battle.

Friday 09 August - 4 pm - Meet on the Battlefield to drop and fold the Baronial Tent.

Come home prepared to share a tale or a boast of great deeds you witnessed at the War!

What It's Like to Enter a Kingdom A&S Faire

by *THL Lyonnete Vibert*

On Saturday of Memorial Day Weekend, I packed up bright and early to drive to the Hancock County Fairgrounds in Findlay, Ohio, for Kingdom A&S. Against a changeable sky, I saw a fat rainbow over verdant fields, a good sign for the day to come, wherein I would be entering my silk bliat in the competition.

The fairground was also hosting a flea market that day, and a few food booths as one would expect to see at a fair. The mood was bustling and happy as I found a parking spot and headed to the Arts and Sciences area, clearly denoted by the familiar candle in a window banner. We had a fair barn to use, with tables set up all along the sides for entrants, marked with little red flags with numbers. I chose number 18 as a lucky one and set down my things, taking my garb to the nearby restroom building to change.

The restrooms were fairground restrooms, regretfully rustic, but they did the trick as far as providing a modesty screen, and at least they did have a few mirrors.



THL Lyonnete's A&S entry at Cleftlands Standard Bearers. Photo by Master Milesent Vibert.

Entering Kingdom A&S Faire - continued

I decided instead of wearing another dress and changing into my bliaut for judging to just wear the gown all day. At first this seemed a poor decision, as the temperature rose quickly, already past 80°F at 9am. Still, while my silk gown was unpleasantly insulating, it was also breathable, and idleness was enough to keep me comfortable.

The organization of the face-to-face judging for 25 entrants with, if I heard correctly, over 45 entries, took a little more time than expected, but the competition was underway with the first judging block at 10:30. I wasn't being judged until 12:30 so I took the opportunity to check out the flea market, which was full of fun and interesting items, then the Publick House, which was cozily situated in its own picnic shelter right outside the larger barn that would hold court, and already buzzing with a small group of people talking, a musician playing a guitar, and various crafts being worked on.



Spinning wheels at the "crafter's green". Photo by THL Tarmach ben Yehuda al-Khazari.

The main barn had the SCA merchants, a nice selection thereof, and some lovely day camps. This included the "crafter's green" which had plentiful space for various activities, including a full-size loom and two spinning wheels, a display of a collection of facsimile books of hours, and more. All of the gentler arts were well on display.

I returned to my table a little early and found two judges already there, reading over the documentation packets I'd left. We got to talking... and kept talking until it was actually time to be judged! It felt more like a conversation about the project than "judging."

I felt good, and unconcerned for my score, because, I reminded myself, I had already won the best prize: I get to keep this dress.

I moved on to my stint as a judge, and passed another pleasant hour discussing other people's work. I got to judge a piece with Sir Crispin, who was serving in his capacity as regional A&S Minister. Overall, my impression was that the competition went smoothly. The only griping about

judging I heard was judges relating stories of their own bad experiences in years past!

Soon it was time to break down the A&S hall and prepare for court! The spacious hall, again where the merchants and Crafter's Green had been, was kept cool with plentiful fans. The Baronage processed in, and were well represented, our own Pietro and Aurelia joined by nearly every other barony in the Kingdom! (One friend speculated that there were three missing?)

At court, Paul of Cleftlands received his AoA for his many enthusiastic actions.

The results of the A&S Faire were announced, and your humble baronial arts champion had the second highest score! Third place was also a piece from our region, the fabulous native clay Brendoaken oven made by Lady Eleonore van Tyne, apprentice to our dear Baronnessa! There was no shame in not taking first place when it went to the exquisite hand-forged chain made for the newest lady knight of the Midrealm! That piece deservedly got a perfect score of 30 out of 30!

As the shadows lengthened and the heat cooled, I headed home, regretting I could not stay for Sunday's tournament. I know from photos shared that the fighting took place in the large barn. Cleftlands was well represented on the lists with Mistress Constanza and Countess Nessa both fighting for on the Crown List, for Baron Callum and Earl Winthegn respectively, and Sir Crispin reprising his appearance on the list for the honor of Baroness Gianna.

There's No Place Like NOWM - The 26th Northern Oaken War Maneuvers Event Delights All Once Again

by Lady Claricia de la Mere

On June 8th, Cleftlands' held the beloved summer event, Northern Oaken War Maneuvers (NOWM), for the 26th time. Once again, the event was fortunate in the weather, which was warm but not unbearable, with clear skies and sun. Tsar Ivan and Tsaritsa Katalena presided over the field, where heavy and rapier fighters spent the day practicing the arts of war.

One of the best aspects of NOWM, other than the beautiful site, is that there is something for everyone. Melees on the field, classes under the pavilion, any number of merchants, a craftsperson's green, bocce tournament, Royal Court - and, of course, pirogies for lunch!

Speaking of court, multiple Cleftlanders were called up to be recognized for their deeds. Lord Günther Arnbach and Lord Ladislas "Vlad" Vulcu were both inducted into the Order of the Cavendish Knot (for those who have shown proficiency on the field of rapier combat or exemplary service in furthering such field). The Honorable Noble Ragna stórráða Úlfsdóttir joined the Order of the Willow, and Their Excellencies Clairiel du Vent Argent and Ealdred of Gwyntarian were given a Royal Augmentation of Arms. This means that they can add a specific symbol to their heraldry, by Royal decree. In this case, the symbol is a goutte sanguine, or a drop of blood.

A new holder of the NOBLE Cup was also announced: Sgt. Patraic O Dochartaigh. "NOBLE" stands for "North Oaken Bardic Lagniappe of Excellence" and the cup is awarded to the winner of a bardic competition amongst participants from the North Oaken region.

There were other recognitions as well, including the winner of the annual bocce tournament - although unfortunately this reporter could only hear the name as "Matthew." Also, the North Oaken Regional Archery champion is Master Edward!

At the end of the day, our Baronial Exchequer, THL Robert, reported that 447 people attended the event, and the barony even made a profit: \$1945.52.

Many thanks to the Event Steward team for pulling off a flawless experience: Baroness Gianna Vettori, Forester Cadfan of the Autumn Wood, and Mistress Brangwayn Snowden. See you next year!



Royal Court at NOWM, featuring Their Excellencies and Their Majesties. Photo by THL Tarmach.



NOWM rapier bridge battle. Photo by THL Tarmach.



Battlefield court at NOWM. Photo by THL Tarmach.

News Regarding Coronation Event Change

Good gentles of the Barony of the Cleftlands,

This past weekend, we received word of a potential change of plan for Fall Coronation at the Kingdom level. Due to their Highnesses' distance from our planned site (they live in the Chicago area, 7.5 hours from our site), it had been requested that Coronation be held closer to their home Barony.

Since then, we have been working with our Seneschal, Jolicia, and Kingdom officers to work out a plan to keep Coronation at Cleftlands, but unfortunately it has ultimately been decided at the Kingdom level to move the event to Constellation, in the Indiana area.

Please know this change has nothing to do with Cleftlands or the event bid itself; I quote the Kingdom Seneschal in saying "The bid from the Barony of Cleftlands was exceptional as always, which is no doubt why it was approved months ago. The main issue is the distance of the location from Their Highnesses. It would mean a great deal to them to have their families and many of their local friends attend. Unfortunately the Cleftlands bid would put the event 7.5 hours away.

The Barony of Cleftlands always has exceptional hospitality, and I sincerely apologize for any hardship or issues this places on the group."

We know this will be deeply disappointing to the event staff and all of those who have already put time and effort into this. We don't have enough words to tell you how much your work to put this event together has meant to both us and the Barony as a whole.

We wish all of you the best,

Pietro and Aurelia, Barone and Baronessa Cleftlands

News of the Barony

- **FALL CORONATION MOVED: Fall Coronation on September 28 will no longer be hosted by Cleftlands, and has been moved to a new location at the Jasper County Fairgrounds in Indiana.**
- Rapier marshal Lord Reinhardt (Labros) Mit Dem Bartand has been replaced by Lord Günther Arnbach.
- Social Media officer Lord Hrafnkell Inn Rauði Eykelsson has been replaced by Mela of Cleftlands.
- Chronicler THL Jolicia atte Northclyfe has been replaced by Lady Katherin verch Rhys.
- Many thanks to all who participated in the Scottish Games Demo on June 22!
- Forester Muldonny McVriw is the new North Oaken Exchequer.
- Þórý Veðardóttir (Thory Vedardottir) will be stepping in as the new Kingdom Shield Herald.
- Congratulations to the following local award winners:
 - Gwyneth Cole joined the Order of the Royal Vanguard after serving as Archery Champion.
 - Gianna Vettori was given the Award of the Doe's Grace at Coronation.
 - Kenton of Cleftlands and Peter of Cleftlands received their Award of Arms.
 - Crispin dela Rochefoucauld & Tarmach ben Yehuda al-Khazari joined the Order of the Dragon's Heart.
 - Sirius received a Royal Augmentation of Arms.
 - João Afonso Terciopelo de Galicia joined the Order of the Silver Oak.
 - Jocelin D'Eyncourt joined the Order of the Willow
 - TryggR Gillason joined the Order of the Red Company
 - Edward Brackenburye was elevated to the Order of the Laurel
- In the latest SCA-wide Grand Archery Tournament rankings, Cleftlands and Brendoken once again dominated the top 10 in handbow spots: Forester Gwyneth ranked first, Forester Muldonny ranked third, Master Edward ranked fifth, and Forester Cadfan ranked tenth.

Upcoming Midrealm Events

July 4-7 Known World Dance and Music Symposium XIV; Classes on music and dance for all levels of skill. \$145/\$135 for non-members/members for the full weekend. <https://www.kwds.org/>

July 12-14 - Push for Pennsic; Armored, ranged, rapier, A&S. Camping. \$20/\$10 for non-members/members. Troy, OH <https://flaminggryphon.midrealm.org/page/push-pennsic>

July 13 - Tyger Hunt 38; Armored, ranged, rapier, A&S. Camping. \$20/\$10 for non-members/members. Feast: \$10. Sterling Hts, MI <https://northwoods.midrealm.org/activities/canton-and-baronial-events/tygerhunt/>

July 26-Aug 11 - Pennsic; Literally everything. \$265 for 2 weeks, \$225 for one week. Slippery Rock, PA <https://www.pennsicwar.org/>

Aug 24 - Melee of the Knave VI; Armored, ranged, rapier, A&S. No fee. Feast: TBD. Canton, OH <https://knavemelee6.weebly.com/>

Aug 24 - Medieval Threads; A&S - celebration of the fiber arts and textiles. Fees TBD. Howell, MI https://www.wealdlake.org/Medieval_Threads/medievalThreads.html

Aug 29-Sept 2 - Mounted War Games XIII: Bakers Dozen of Fun; Armored, ranged, rapier, equestrian, A&S. Breakfast, lunch, and dinner served. Fees TBD. Blufon, IN <https://shadowedstars.midrealm.org/mounted-war-games-xiii/>

News of the Kingdom

- New Royalty have been crowned since the last issue: the current Rulers of the Middle Kingdom are Tsar Ivan Shishov and Tsaritsa Katalena Ivaniaia zhená Shishova.
- The new Prince and Princess of the Kingdom are Kilian Fendrich and Jalida al-Hasannah, after Prince Kilian won Spring Crown Tourney.
- Lady Grainne Ruadh won the Kingdom A&S Faire with her entry of a life-size Roman mummy.
- New Kingdom Officers:
 - Minister of Arts & Sciences: Tommaso Franceschi
 - Exchequer: Aidan Blackstone
 - Earl Marshal: Robert Thorne
 - Kingdom Rapier Marshal: Lisabetta von Atzinger
- Going to Pennsic? Need to fill some time, or just want to help the war effort? Volunteer for Midrealm Royal? There's a handy online sign-up sheet and you can choose from being a Peer on Duty, Gate Attendant, Guard, or Retainer for Their Majesties or Their Highnesses. <https://signup.com/mobileweb/2.0/vspot.html?groupkey=62252148054>
- The reduced torso armor experiment in rapier melees cannot be used if the field is more than 40 people. This means it will not be in place at Pennsic.
- The First Deputy to the Kingdom Seneschal is working on a Kingdom Events Rotation policy. Details to be announced as they are determined.
- Want to know what everyone's talking about? Head to the new official Midrealm Discord server: <https://discord.gg/f5dGsYva>

News of the Society

- The April 2024 President's report is available: <https://www.sca.org/news/april-2024-presidents-report-now-available/>
- The new Deputy Seneschal for Investigations/Assistant VP for Operations is Baronessa Attia Prima, OP (Amanda Grayson): <https://www.sca.org/news/people-on-the-move-deputy-society-seneschal-for-investigations-assistant-vp-for-operations/>
- If you haven't already read it, the outgoing Society President wrote a farewell letter: <https://www.sca.org/news/thank-you-from-the-outgoing-president/>
- And the incoming President, Bo Pham, published a letter as well: <https://www.sca.org/news/words-from-the-president-sca-inc/>
- Okay it's happened for real - a new Peerage has been approved, pending name and heraldry. This Peerage will recognize excellence in ranged martial pursuits. <https://www.sca.org/news/new-peerage-approved-pending-name-and-heraldry/>

Upcoming Cleftlands Events

- Wed. July 3 6:30-9:45 pm - **Baronial Meeting** - Ss Robert and William School, 351 E 260th St, Euclid OH
- Wed. July 3 8:15 pm - **Class: Hands on Viking Hood Tutorial (at Baronial Meeting)** - Ss Robert and William School, 351 E 260th St, Euclid OH
- Wed. July 3 7 pm - **Garb Helpdesk (at Baronial Meeting)** - Ss Robert and William School, 351 E 260th St, Euclid OH
- Wed. July 10 6:30-9:45 pm - **Baronial Meeting** - Ss Robert and William School, 351 E 260th St, Euclid OH
- Wed. July 10 8:15 pm - **Class: So You're Going to War (at Baronial Meeting)** - Ss Robert and William School, 351 E 260th St, Euclid OH
- Thurs. July 11 7:00 pm - **Armors' Guild Meeting** - Ealdred & Clairiel's Garage: 234 Adams St, Berea, OH 44017; <https://bit.ly/3vBVzBR>
- Fri. July 12 10 am - **Garb-a-Thon** - Friends of the Bedford Branch Library. <https://www.facebook.com/events/1140431140603773>
- Wed. July 17 6:30-9:45 pm - **Archery Tournament and Cookout at Baronial Meeting (weather permitting)** - Ss Robert and William School, 351 E 260th St, Euclid OH
- Thurs. July 18 7:00 pm - **Armors' Guild Meeting** - Ealdred & Clairiel's Garage: 234 Adams St, Berea, OH 44017; <https://bit.ly/3vBVzBR>
- Fri. July 19 10 am - **Garb-a-Thon** - Parma Snow Library. <https://www.facebook.com/events/1446008762757480>
- Wed. July 24 6:30-9:45 pm - **Unofficial Meeting and Fight Practice** - Ss Robert and William School, 351 E 260th St, Euclid OH
- Wed. July 31 6:30-9:45 pm - **Unofficial Meeting** - Ss Robert and William School, 351 E 260th St, Euclid OH
- Wed. Aug 7 6:30-9:45 pm - **Unofficial Meeting** - Ss Robert and William School, 351 E 260th St, Euclid OH
- Wed. Aug 14 6:30-9:45 pm - **Unofficial Meeting** - Ss Robert and William School, 351 E 260th St, Euclid OH
- Wed. Aug 21 6:30-9:45 pm - **Baronial Meeting** - Ss Robert and William School, 351 E 260th St, Euclid OH
- Wed. Aug 14 6:30-9:45 pm - **Armored "Tournament of the Sword" and High Summer Solemnities** - Ss Robert and William School, 351 E 260th St, Euclid OH

A Sampling of Historical Events in May and June

- May 1 1328 - The Treaty of Edinburgh-Northampton ends the Wars of Scottish Independence as England recognizes Scotland as a separate state - for a time.
- May 2 1519 - Happy day of birth to Leonardo da Vinci - Italian Renaissance man.
- May 3 752 - King Bird Jaguar IV ascends to the Mayan throne.
- May 5 1260 - Kublai Khan becomes ruler of the Mongol Empire.
- June 1 1495 - The first known batch of Scotch whisky is recorded by John Cor, a Dominican Friar in Stirling.
- June 2 455 - Vandals enter Rome, then spend two weeks plundering it in what is known as the Sack of Rome.
- June 8 632 - Death of the prophet Muhammad, the central figure of Islam.

Random Period Object - From the Cleveland Museum of Art



Incense burner and stand for an altar cross, Lower Saxony, Germany, 1150-1175

<https://www.clevelandart.org/art/1926.555>

Size: ~7 1/8 x 5 inches

Cast bronze, engraved, gilded and chased

At first glance this looks like it could be Baba Yaga's hut or Howl's moving castle, this is meant to depict a Christian/Catholic church. The four "towers" are apses, and the center is a lantern tower. Lantern towers are the tall structures built at the junction of the four arms of a cross-shaped church, so that the light that comes through the windows will shine down in the center.

Why it has dragon feet, however, is unknown; but the open turret in the center (on top of the lantern tower) suggests that it may also have been a stand for altar crosses.

One theory about this piece is that it was made to be used in a traveling court, so that it could serve multiple purposes and be easy to transport.

Event Reports from the Baronial Exchequer

Curious about how the recent Cleftlands events fared? THL Robert atte Northclyfe has shared the latest figures.

As mentioned on page 3, NOWM recorded 447 attendees. Of those, 25 were children. This is a more costly event, and the reported expenses were \$2385.52. Because of the large attendance, though, the profit was still \$1945.52.

At the Standard Bearers/North Oaken A&S Faire (headed by THL Tarmach, Lady Genevra, and Baron Crispin) event held on April 13, 113 total people attended: 112 adults and one child. After reported expenses of \$641.69, the group made \$120.82.

Fletchings of Spring, Cleftlands' annual archery event run by THL Tarmach, was held on May 18. A total of 43 people attended, all adults. Reported expenses were \$253.04, and the group made \$88.69.



*Cleftlands archers at Fletchings of Spring.
Photo by THL Tarmach.*

Cleftlands Officers' Contact Information

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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 clariciadlm@gmail.com.

The image of the woven silk cap 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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