

PEAKS' PROGRESS

A NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTHERN PEAKS REGION



Congratulations to Morty of Malagentia, New Rapier Champion of the Northern Region!!

Report by Lord Quentis Quintilius
Mortis, photo by Lady Camille
Desjardins

The Shire of Malagentia held the esteemed Northern Region Rapier Academy and first official Northern Region Rapier Champions Tourney on May 3rd. The event was held at the Saco Middle School in Saco, Maine and attended by 46 gentles who came from throughout the Northern Region, some coming from as far away as the Shire of the Northern Outpost.

The Academy was held in the morning and included classes on Beginning Fencing, How to Win a Tourney, Melee Tactics, Marshalling, and Period Cut & Thrust Forms. After a generous dayboard that featured sword-shaped dish of broth with fire, a field of 18 combatants entered the list for the Champion's Tourney. The final bout was fought between Sir Ivan Ulricson and Morty of Malagentia. Morty took the hard-fought best of five series, defeating Sir Ivan 3 bouts to 2 to become the first Northern Region Rapier Champion.

Morty, also Stonemarche's current Baronal Fencing Champion, was presented with a scroll by Mistress Carolyn de Lapoint and a leather baldric emblazoned with the heraldry of the 10 groups comprising the Northern Region crafted by Lord Quentis Quintilius Mortis. The event was autocrated by Lord Quentis Quintilius Mortis, the sumptuous dayboard was orchestrated by Lady Gwenllian Wreic Bleddyn, classes were organized by Captain Christian Woolfe, Marshall in Charge was Captain Jean Du Montagne, Mistress of the List was Molly of Thunder Mountain (assisted by Mistress Anastasia Guta), and gate was managed by Master Miles of Whitewood Hall.

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This is a completely unofficial newsletter of the Northern Region, sometimes called the Northern Peaks Region, of the East Kingdom of the Society for Creative Anachronism.

Anyone interested in working on future issues of Peaks' Progress should join the list NRNewsletter@yahoo.com or email Lady Albreda Aylese at AlbredaA@aol.com. No experience is required, and we'd love to get reporters from across the Northern Peaks Region. All opinions welcome! Submissions for the Fall issue are due by August 1, AS 43/2008 - AA

Northern Region Championships:

7/3 - 7/6 Northern Region
War Camp and Rattan
Championships – Glen Linn

Still Needing Hosts:

Archery
Bardic
Arts and Sciences

New Royalty in the Northern Region!

By Master Liam St. Liam



When Coronation comes around this Fall, the Northern Region will be represented on the throne of the East Kingdom for the first time in four years.

Princess Alethea Eastriding, who lives in the Shire of Glenn Linn, will be queen of the East, reigning with Prince Darius, who will be on the throne for the fourth time. Not since the East was reigned by Jarl Thorson and Countess Svava in A.S. XXXIX, has the Northern Region been represented on the throne. Her Highness, who has lived in Æthelmarc and Drachenwald, as well as in several places in the East, moved to Glenn Linn last August.

Earlier this year, Duke Darius asked if he could fight for her in Crown Tournament, which was held last month in Lyndhaven. His Grace strove to sit the throne again, but Duchess Roxanne did not desire another reign. Since Darius and Roxane knew Alethea from her work as one of their royal heralds, he asked her for the honor. His Grace defeated Duke Andreas Eisfalk in the finals of Crown, making her the princess.

Her Highness started in the SCA in Æthelmarc, in the Fall of 1998 in the Shire of Sterlyng Vayle, mostly as a fighter, with the elegantly-named I-80 corridor unit; Sterlyng Vayle, Myrkfaelin, and much of Delftwood.

She qualified as a fighter in February of 1999 and began her fighting career by flying down during spring break to Gulf Wars VIII, infamous as Gulf Wash, the War Nature Won.

“They canceled the war. My tent collapsed. I had a wonderful time, and was given my AoA by Morguhn and Meirwen, for assistance above and beyond the call of reason while at Gulf Wars,” she remembers. “Far more valuable than the AoA at the time was the dry, warm spot in on the floor of the cabin that was Æthelmarc Royal. The weather was really foul.”

(Princess, continued on page 3)

Upcoming Events in the Northern Region:

Smithwick:

6/20 - 6/22 - Midsummer Gathering
Early Feb – Masqued Ball

Endewearde:

10/10 - 10/13 – Endewearde Hunt
Mid October - Bare Blade Brawl and Ball
Late Feb – Tourney
April - Jehan’s Fencing and Fighting at the Fort

Malagentia:

O’Love 7/11 - 7/13 Great Northeastern War XXII
GNEwar.org
Early October – Harvest Moon
April – Spring’s Inspiration 8

Stonemarche:

6/6 - 6/8 Midsummer's Faire: Ali Babba and the Vikings
8/29 – 9/1 Harper’s Retreat
1st wknd Oct Baronial Birthday
Early Nov Topaz Ball 2?
Mid Dec - Baronial Yule
Late Jan - Market Day at Birka Birka.org
April - Where did Madoc ab Owain Geyned go?
May - St Cuthbert's Archery Tourney III

New Wyndhame: N/A

Ravenscraig: (protoshire)
N/A

(Princess, continued from page 2)

Her by-name, Eastriding, is something of a pun, as she spent her first year in the society moving steadily east. She graduated from college and left Aethelmearc to spend the summer living in the Province of Malagentia, though at Pennsic she camped and fought with her first home of Aethelmearc, and was invited into Caer Cinnuint, the household of Duke Morguhn, Duchess Rowan, and then-Countess (now Duchess) Meirwen.

She traveled even farther eastward that fall, to the shire of Thamesreach in Drachenwald, where she lived for two years while studying, with a trip home in the summer for Pennsic. She continued the household tradition of serving as a Royal Retainer whenever needed, for both Drachenwald and Aethelmearc.

When she graduated from school in London, she moved via Pennsic to the Barony of Carolingia, where she spent two happy years in the Canton of Aschehyrst, serving briefly as chronicler there, playing harp with the Waytes of Carolingia, and singing with the Quire.

During that time she was taken as man-at-arms by Her Grace Sir Rowan, and first met Their Graces Darius and Roxane during their second reign. In the fall of 2003 she moved back to Aethelmearc for a year, and became squire and protégé to Duchess Rowan, but continued to participate in the East as well, with her friends from Carolingia.

In 2004, she crossed kingdom borders for the final time (so far), moving to the Barony of Concordia of the Snows, where she went back to school yet again in the spring of 2005 -- with a schedule that precluded fighting for the last few years.

She worked as a member of the Royal Household during the reign of Thorson and Svava, and was given a Queen's Cypher and a Queen's Order of Courtesy by Svava. During that reign she came to the attention of Baron Ernst Nuss von Kitzingen, who took her on as a student of heraldry, with the blessing of Duchess Rowan. She served as a Royal Herald, either officially or pinch-hitting an event or two, for all but one of the four reigns since then. She has served several times as lady-in-waiting as well as Herald, receiving a Queen's Cypher from Roxane and a Grant of Arms from Duke Brion and Duchess Anna.

Last summer she finished her second Masters degree and married Master Liam St. Liam. At that point, since she felt she was now established in and playing almost exclusively with the East, she reluctantly returned her squire/protégé belt to Duchess Rowan at this most recent Fall Crown.

She was settling in for another stint on the Heraldic staff and serving as lady-in-waiting to Her Majesty Brenwen when Duke Darius came with his proposal.

(Upcoming Events Cont.)

Panthervale:

9/27 Lost Tip Archer's
Gathering V
Early Dec Panthervale Yule
Memorial Day Weekend
Pantheria XIV

Mtn. Freehold:

9/19 – 9/21 30th Birthday
Bash – come celebrate!
11/8 Mimir's Well II
Mid Jan - Freehold Yule
Spring 2009 – Northern
Lights *NorthernLights.org*

Coldwood:

6/20 - 6/22 20th Opening of
the Inne – party time!
Early-October Closing of the
Inne
Early Feb - Parentalia

Glenn Linn:

7/3 – 7/6 Northern Region
War Camp, K&Q's
Equestrian and Northern
Region Rattan
Championships
Mid Feb - Blades and
Blarney

Northern Outpost:

last wkd Feb - Winter War

Call for Teachers:

NRWC 7/3 – 7/6

Contact Lady Moreta at
moreta@roadrunner.com
especially messy classes!

Mimir's Well 11/8

Contact Lady Albreda at
AlbredaA@aol.com

The Chronicle of Mountain Freehold

as recorded by Duchess Marieke van de Dal

A long, long time ago, a clever and talented Lady went to be educated at the University in far-off Ithaca, and there she discovered the wondrous activities of the Society for Creative Anachronism. When her education was complete, in 1978, she returned to her home in Vermont, and thought it would be a Good Thing to start a chapter here. She decided that Mountain Freehold would be a good name to capture the independent spirit of the folk who dwell here, and that the “kelpie” (a sort of sea-monster sea-horse) would be a good creature to represent us, being somewhat similar to the beastie who allegedly inhabits Lake Champlain.

The very first members of Mountain Freehold were herself (Lady Mairi), her cousin Patrice (later, Viscountess Mistress Gwenlhain), her good friend Raesean, her parents, Lord Hugo the Knifemaker and Lady Mary, her brother Tearlach (later Master Tearlach), and several strapping young lads who chose names like Buliwulf, Wicliff, and Mulle. The first event held in Mountain Freehold was in Feb. 1979, and was called “The First Ice Tourney, Feast, and Snowball Fight.”

In Fall of 1979, Mairi started actively recruiting students on local college campuses, using quaintly worded, mysterious ads placed in the student newspaper to lure us in. The first crop of UVM & Trinity recruits included Marieke, Dafydd, Sean o Wode, Rudth of Ruthin, Cenwulf Godfyrt, Singiefu Waerfast, Randal of the Dark, Dragor the Gray, Ariel, Kevos & Caroline Spartalian, and Windstorm on a Farmer’s Mossy Field. Mairi taught us the dances and songs that she’d picked up in Ithaca, and the fighters taught themselves to wield sword and shield, with the help of occasional visitors from outland groups. We made good progress, and later that fall, we held two more feasts.

The group grew rapidly from there. We had a high presence on the UVM campus, giving us a constant stream of fresh new faces. Eventually, a Medieval Studies Suite was created at the UVM Living/Learning Center for SCA students – at one point, the Suite housed about a dozen students. Unfortunately, the Medieval Suite was discontinued after several years, due in part to the poor academic performance of its inhabitants!

The first of many Freehold events at Montgomery Manor, the “Harold Godwinson Memorial Tournament” was held in Sept. 1980. Master Ekkehardt and Mistress Anna now inhabit this scenic site, which was built originally as a replica medieval village by an eccentric gentleman who allowed us use of the property. At a Montgomery event in 1981, it was written into the chronicles, after a note that the event lost \$50, “it is suggested that we not buy a keg of beer if so many people are brewing mead and wine.”

In September of 1981, our shire’s rapid growth was acknowledged by the Royalty, who elevated us to the status of Barony and created Lady Mairi our founding Baroness. Before long, active subgroups (called cantons) started to form; these were Goblintooh Gap (Middlebury area), Narrenbeck (Burlington town area), and Cambria Keep (UVM). In fact, the Barony of Mountain Freehold encompassed all of Vermont.

Our new-found status as a Barony was not fated to last long. By spring of 1983, we entered our Time of Troubles, which ended with the resignation of Mairi as baroness, and her voluntary exile to the northeast corner of Vermont, where she founded a new shire called Smughandel Vei. Mountain Freehold, in a temporary state of upheaval as a baroness-less barony, chose Dafydd o Llyn Cwellyn to serve as Baronial Vicar (confirmed by Royal Decree) until our status was clarified. (*see Freehold, pg 5*)

(Freehold, from pg 4)

By spring of 1984, our Time of Troubles was coming to a close, and we gained permission to become the first “Province” in the East Kingdom (apart from the Crown Province of Ostgardr, of course.) Provinces are pretty much the same as baronies except they have no ceremonial head. Our group continued to grow and thrive despite the political chaos. The Canton of Griffins Keep (in the Brattleboro area) was established in Fall of 1984, and the canton of Hazelden (Montpelier) was active starting in 1985. At this point, the Freehold was holding five well-established and well-attended events a year.

In Spring of 1985, we took the bold step of hosting a Crown Tournament . We were all hoping that Randal of the Dark would win, but he put off that feat until Fall of 1986, when he won the crown for his chosen consort, Marieke. In Fall of 1990, Randal again won the crown, but this time it was for his wife, Katherine, and their first Coronation was hosted in Mountain Freehold. (They went on to reign two more times, but by then they had moved away from the Freehold). The Crown came again to a Freehold inhabitant when Duke Lucan fought and won for Marieke, in Spring of 1999, and their Coronation was held in Mountain Freehold in Fall of 1999. Our most recent native Royalty, Thorvald Halversson (called 'Thorson'), won the crown for Svava of Stonemarche in the fall of 2004.

Now during all this excitement of having Royalty from three different reigns under the Freehold banner, we continued our active schedule of events and activities. However, sometime around 1995, it struck some of us that we were putting a lot of effort into maintaining the rather elaborate bureaucratic structure required to maintain our lofty “provincial” status (reports and officers and a minimum number of paid members and suchlike), and it seemed like a good idea to simplify and streamline our group mechanics by stepping back down to a more humble “shire” type of group. Since shires cannot have subsidiary groups, the Canton of Hazelden developed into the independent Shire of Panther Vale, and our southernmost territory, formerly occupied by the Canton of Griffin’s Keep, went on to become the Shires of Riverstone, Dun ni Slieve, and then Wyndhamshire. From time to time in the Freehold, there are rumblings of “Gee wouldn’t it be fun to have a Baron or Baroness again,” and who knows what lies in our future...

And here concludes our History - at least, the first 30 years of it!

And in Celebration...

20th Opening of the Inne at Coldwood

The Inne won't be legal until next year, but it can't drink anyway, so who cares? Come celebrate two decades of relaxed fun with our Northern Region family and our hosts, the Grand Grandchamps, on the weekend of the 20th to 22nd of June, on their estate in Peru, New York. You **know** the Coldwood crew will roast some poor beast into scrumptious goodness, that the fighting will be amazing (and fun to watch), and that we'll sing, carouse, and tell stories until the small hours of the morning prove just how old we're all getting! Please see the East Kingdom site for more event details.

Mountain Freehold's 30th Birthday Bash!

Please join the Shire of the Mountain Freehold in celebrating our 30th Birthday from September 19th to 21st at the Brewster River Campground, nestled against the flank of Mount Mansfield, in Jeffersonville, Vermont. In true Freehold fashion, we haven't determined all of the details yet, but we have reserved the site (the same one we used last year), and will be having a great weekend reminiscing and celebrating with Freeholders past, present, and in spirit! We'll have good fighting and food, of course, but we'll also be passing around photo albums and recounting stories that many of us would probably just as well assume stayed unopened and unrepeated, but where's the fun in that?