

THE STERNFELD STAR

BARONY OF STERNFELD

FEBRUARY 2010, A.S. XLV



THE STERNFELD STAR
LISS CAPELLO, CHRONICLER
(ODILE DE BRIENNE)
1208 HOOVER LANE
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46260-2830

In this issue:
Officer Reports!
Yule Court Report
Sternfeld Clock Monthly Update
Meet the BUSYBODY...
Next Business Meeting: Thursday, February 18, 2010
St. Timothy's Episcopal Church
Everyone welcome—No experience necessary!

☪ CALENDAR ☪

--Local and selected events only--

Consult **The Pale** or www.midrealm.org for complete event listings.

February 2010

- 2, 9, 16, 23 **Fighter Practice, Krannert Family Center**
6 Candlemas 23 {Shire of Dragonsmark} [Lexington, KY]
13 Val Day {Three Hills} [Kalamazoo, MI]
18 **Business Meeting, St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, 6:45-9pm**
20 Alderford's Masque of Courtly Love Presents R.U.M. {Alderford [Canton, OH]
Midlands Regional A & S {Baile na Scolairi} [Bloomington, IL]
27 North Oaken Regional Academy of Defense {Marche of Thistle} [Dalton, OH]
Winter's End {Barony of Fenix} [Edgewood, KY]

March 2010

- 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 **Fighter Practice, Krannert Family Center**
5-6 Golden Seamstress {Barony of Roaring Waste} [Dearborn, MI]
6 Ceilidh XXII {Barony of Flaming Gryphon} [Dayton, OH]
Eastwatch Dance and Gaming Revel {Eastwatch} [Fairport Harbor, OH]
Inkin' in Lincoln II {Shire of Rokkehealden} [Gilberts, IN]
13 Feast of St. Patrick {Shire of Afonlyn} [Muncie, IN]
It's All Fun and Games {Canton of Rimsholt} [Wyoming, MI]
14-21 Gulf Wars XIX {Kingdoms of Meridies and Gleann Abhann} [Lumberton, MS]
18 **Business Meeting, St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, 6:45-9pm**
20 Terpsichore at the Tower XVI {Barony of Cynnabar} [Saline, MI]
26-28 Winged Hills Collegium {Winged Hills} [Dayton, OH]
27 Cynnabar Baronial Investiture {Cynnabar} [Dexter, MI]
Rogue's Return {Shire of Swordcliff} [Virginia, IL]

April 2010

- 6, 13, 20, 27 **Fighter Practice, Krannert Family Center**
3 Spring on the Steppes {Shire of Qat al-Jafar} [Lebanon, IN]
10 Grand Tournament of the Unicorn XVIII {Marche of Unicorn} [Oxford, OH]
Norse Life and Culture Seminar {Canton of Three Hills} [Kalamazoo, MI]
Rites of Spring – Travels in the Known World {Canton of Athelington}
[Princeton, IL]
Slavic University {Shire of Sylvan Glen} [Shepherdstown, WV]
Spring Training {Shire of Rivenvale} [Lowellville, OH]
15 **Business Meeting, St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, 6:45-9pm**
17 A Day at the Castle {Incipient Canton of Northgate} [Stanwood, MI]
Feast of Three Saints and a Honeybee with Constellation Regional A&S
{Barony of Rivenstar} [West Lafayette, IN]
Mugmort Melees V: Attack of the Barbary Corsairs {Shire of Mugmort}
[Circleville, OH]
Qaina – A Middle Eastern Dance and Music Event {Barony of Brendoken}
[Akron, OH]
22-25 Blackstone Raid XIX {Barony of Blackstone Mountain} [Ripley, WV]
24 Awakening – Armored Egg Hunt {Shire of Baile na Scolairi} [Bloomington, IN]
Ides and Arrow {Incipient Canton of Iron Oak} [New Lothrop, MI]

☪ WHERE TO FIND US ☪

- ❖ FIGHTER PRACTICE - Every Tuesday, 6:30-9 pm. **Krannert Family Center, 605 S. High School Road.** Contact Seneschal Lady Katrina (Katrina Pogue), katrinasternfeld@gmail.com.
- ❖ BUSINESS MEETING - Third Thursdays, 6:45-9 pm. **St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, 2601 E. Thompson Road.** Contact Seneschal Lady Katrina (Katrina Pogue), katrinasternfeld@gmail.com.
- ❖ DEAD LANGUAGES CLUB - Second Wednesdays, 7-9 pm. Master John and Mistress Leanore's house, 1626 Marlborough Lane. Contact Master John & Mistress Leanore (John & Ellie Wright), elliepel@aol.com.
- ❖ OPEN HOUSE/READING NIGHTS - Every Wednesday, 7-9 pm. Master John and Mistress Leanore's house, 1626 Marlborough Lane. Contact Master John and Mistress Leanore (John and Ellie Wright), elliepel@aol.com.
- ❖ DANCE PRACTICE – First and third Mondays, 6:30-9 pm. **St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, 2601 E. Thompson Road.** Contact Lady Brigide Rose von Metten, wulfarose@yahoo.com.
- ❖ COOKS' GROUP - First and third Sundays, 4-6 pm. Abot Johann's house, 3901 Marrison Place. Contact Abot Johann (Marcus Loidolt), mjloidolt@yahoo.com.
- ❖ ARTS & SCIENCE NIGHT - Last Thursday evenings, at **Victory Memorial United Methodist Church, 1932 Woodlawn Avenue.** Contact Abot Johann (Marcus Loidolt), mjloidolt@yahoo.com.
- ❖ ARCHERY PRACTICE – Every Wednesday, 6:30-9 pm. **7800 Records St. Suite B.** Contact Lord Bran (Kelly Burgess), kburgess1@comcast.net.
- ❖ MONTHLY BARDIC CIRCLES AND RANDOM POST-REVELS - scheduled sporadically but enthusiastically. Contact Lady Floriana (Daisy Roberts Blair), 317-280-1930, or Lady Lucia (Kathi Coutinho), 317-293-0983.
- ❖ GILDED COSTUMERS - First Thursdays (& occasional weekends), 7-9 pm. Various locations. Contact THL Odette (Paula Ryan), 317-996-4630, odettedamboise@gmail.com.

Barony of Sternfeld: www.midrealm.org/sternfeld

Middle Kingdom: www.midrealm.org

Society for Creative Anachronism: www.sca.org

Sternfeld Yahoo Group: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/sternfeld/>

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FROM THE BARON AND BARONESS



Greetings to the Best Barony in the Known World,

It has been a stellar month for Sternfeld, starting with our Baronial Holiday Court where we got to spend the day with our SCA family. For those of you who haven't heard, we have new fencing and rattan champions; they are Lord Bjorn and Lord Androu, respectively. Thank you to everyone who entered. THL Waltrudis won the Barony's cooking competition. Yummy.

Just this past weekend, we had our annual winter archery event, Better War Through Archery. We both enjoyed the inside heated site and heard many good comments from the archers. We got a new archery champion at this event, Captain Arch. The feast was absolutely delicious. Our only complaint is that we were so full because we just had to have some of everything. In the evening, there were many people who were enjoying the leisurely pursuits of dancing, gaming, bardic and talking.

We would recommend that, as our populace is attending events, and would like to meet with others from the group, that you post your plans on the e-list. This can also allow people who would like to car pool to conserve funds and attend more events.

This is also the season to start planning for Pennsic. If you plan on going and would like advice, Her Excellency runs the Barony's encampment. Many members of the group also camp with households. Each encampment has its own rules and, usually, a small fee to take care of camp costs for firewood and propane to heat showers. Unless you want to camp out the sticks, be sure to pre-register for Pennsic by June. There are also many details of making sure you have enough garb and camping supplies that you'll want to plan for early.

In service,
BARON TORQUIL AND BARONESS MOIRA

COURT REPORTS

Yule – January 9, 2010

Afternoon Court

Svenki Magnusson the Varangian – stepped down as Rapier Champion, Border Guard

Bjorn Arnaldsson – stepped up as Rapier Champion

Evening Court

All Baronial Officers – payment for services given

Ulfr Imason – stepped down as Rattan Champion, Border Guard

Androu mac Lochlainn – stepped up as Rattan Champion

Zoe – Yeoman

Michael de Quarmby – Yeoman

Thorfinn Davidusson – Yeoman

Matilda de Grinstead – Yeoman

Waltrudis von Metten – cooking contest winner

Audrey Adelia – clock commission

Sean of Sternfeld – Ursa Minor

Katarina of Sternfeld – Ursa Minor

Max – Ursa Minor

Gunther Wolfhart – Ursa Minor

Jessica Blue Eyes – Ursa Minor

Becca – Ursa Minor

Morvran Bettws ab Thomas of Cardiff – Winged Crescent

Jocelyn Bright Eyes – Silver Acorn – from TRM Dag and AnneMarie

Androu mac Lochlainn – Nova

Rowena Lindsey – Nova

FROM THE CLERK OF THE ROSTER

The January 2010 edition of the Baronial Roster has been published. If you have yet to receive a copy, please send me an email and I can make sure to get one to you. I am making this document available sorted by either SCA name or mundane name, so let me know your preference for that as well! I am always accepting updates, so send them in! I appreciate it.

Yours in service, LADY ODILE DE BRIENNE

Lenten dishes, while the topic for Sunday, February 21 will be lambing and kidding.

Notice

Dance Practice will meet twice this month from 6:30 – 9 pm at St. Timothy’s Episcopal Church (2601 E. Thompson Road). Everyone is welcome to join. The dances planned for Monday, February 1st include Old Mole, Hole in the Wall, and Return of Spring, while Monday, February 15 will include The Friar and the Nun, Amoroso, Love in a Bottle, All in a Garden Green, Roses White and Roses Red, and Gelosia.

Notice

An interest has been expressed in the Barony organizing and creating gift baskets for Their Royal Majesties and Their Royal Highnesses – either as gifts for Them when they attend our events, or as largess offerings to assist Them with providing gifts for other Royalty or to their Populace. We are in need of someone to spearhead this effort. Please speak to Moira, Torquil, or Katrina if you are interested in heading it up!

Notice

The date of the 2010 Constellation Regional A&S Faire has finally been set for April 17. Now is the time to be planning you’re A&S entry! Master Llew has been spreading the word that he will personally ensure your entry gets to the judging, if you are unable to take it yourself.

Notice

Have you nominated anyone for a Kingdom award lately? If you know someone whom you think is worthy of an award, nominate them! Our King and Queen depend on Their populace to submit nominations to assist Them in bestowing awards where they are deserved. It’s easy to do, and gives you another great reason to attend Court. Check out <http://www.midrealm.org/op/recommend/> today.

Notice

Congratulations to Lady Katrina of Sternfeld and the Honorable Lord Azrael ben Shemhazai on the birth of their daughter, Autumn-Rose, on January 8!

Notice

Pregnancy watch: 2!

COURT REPORTS



TIBITS



The word trickles out from the Baron and Baroness that half of our taxes were returned to us by a mysterious grey-cloaked stranger... hmmm.



After several months of planning, the Youth Combat program in the Barony will be starting up. Youth combat classes will be held on the 4th Tuesday of the month at Fighter Practice. The first class will be held this month on February 23rd, and will be taught by Baroness Moira. The Barony is still looking for a dedicated person to spearhead this effort, so please speak to Lady Katrina or Baroness Moira if you are interested!



The second voting for Baroness Moira & Lady Ersebet's Simple Day bid was approved at January's Business Meeting. Please contact them to volunteer to help out at Simple Day in July!



We are seeking bids for Baronial Birthday event, typically held in early May. If you are interested, please contact Lady Katrina or Baroness Moira, or bring a bid submission to February's Business Meeting.



The first Tuesday of every month at Fighter Practice is also Garb Night. Everyone is encouraged to wear their garb while they are socializing.



Costumer's Group will meet Thursday, February 4, from 7 – 9 pm at the Panera Bread at Willow Lake West (2902 W 86th St # 220, Indianapolis: on 86th Street just east of Michigan Road. This is in the strip mall with Trader Joe's grocery store.) The topic will be 15th Century Burgundian, lead by the Honorable Lady Odette d'Amboise.



The Cooks' Group and Ars Rustica Group will be meeting twice this month from 4 – 6 pm at Abot Meister Johann von Metten's house (3901 Marrison Place, Indianapolis). Sunday, February 7 will feature meatless



FROM THE HERALD



Hello, my name is Michael G. Kieffer. I am known in the society as Llywelyn ap Llywarch (name in process). I have been in the SCA for six year now with a small year break after my first two years. I have accepted the position of the Barony's Herald. This is my first Baronial position. I will strive to learn all I can and to help make our Barony even better than it already is. Bear with me as I learn. It will not take long. Feel free to reach me for anything needed that I can help with. If I cannot help I will be more than happy to help find the person that can.

LORD LLYWELYN AP LLYWARCH



FROM THE SIGNET

Here is installment number three on creating your own Illuminators Model Book, if anyone wants help or has questions please email me at ksteele@hisadaamerica.com.

<http://www.gutenbergdigital.de/gudi/eframes/index.htm>

Minium and purple, these two colors belong together on the foliage, one on the right and the other side left; and you shall first draw the foliage with a lead, then retrace it with a pen, and then paint in the minium or the purple color, one side minium or purple and the underside purple or minium, as you like, as it is shown here. Then take red and outline the minium and the purple color, both all around, with a brush, and draw a double vein into the middle of the foliage, as it is shown here. Then take again the dark red and thin it properly with pure gum water, just as the light red, as described above, and paint both the colors with it and shade them, as shown here. Then take again the dark red and shade the light red with it, as it is described above, as shown here. Then heighten the purple with lead white and heighten the minium with lead yellow, as is shown here.

Blue and aurum musicum, the two colors belong together on the foliage, one on the right, the other on the left. Here, too, you shall first draw the foliage and then trace it with a pen with thin black color or with thin ink, then polish; and then paint with the blue or with aurum musicum, one side blue, the underside aurum musicum, as you want to arrange it, as it is shown here.



Then draw around both of them with dark red, all around, namely the above named two colors, as it is shown here. Then take again dark red and thin it, and shade with it the two colors in the same way as the minium and the purple, as is shown here. Then shade them with the red the same as the above named colors, as it is shown here. After that take lead white, and with a small brush you heighten both colors, as it is written above and as it is shown here.

The assis or the great gold ground you make thus: Fetch ground chalk, which is ground well and is also well dried, from a painter. This chalk, grind it once more on a grindstone with well-beaten egg white; and then fetch bolum armenum at the apothecary's, and grind so much into it, that the chalk will turn a red flesh color therefrom. If there is as much of the chalk there as a small tree nut, then take of the bolus, as much as a small hazelnut and grind it well into the chalk with the egg white; and then take sugar-candy as much as half a hazelnut, that is to say half as much as of the bolus; and then take cinnabar as much as half a pea. Rub all this well together with the egg white, that it becomes like lard, and then put it into a horn, which should be clean, and stir it with a small piece of wood and temper it to the thickness of cinnabar, so that it flows easily from the pen; and let it then macerate and add again and again egg white, until it is well macerated, and stir it well; and let it stand three or four days, and the longer it stands, the better it is and will be. §

How you shall temper all colors and grind them §

Blue you shall not grind, unless it is rather coarse. If it is coarse, grind it on a grindstone, which should be really smooth, or on a glass pane or a slab of marble. Then take the blue and lay it into pure lye, overnight or an hour or two, and grind it then on a stone without the lye with egg yolk. Then rinse it really well with lye or with white wine or with pure water, and let it then dry on a paper or in some dry dish. When you have rinsed it clean and fine and dried it, then take pure gum arabic water and temper it therewith, that it may flow easily from the pen. The gum water should be pure. so that it is neither too thick nor too thin and neither too strong nor too weak. so that it should be right and also not too light. The blue should be tempered, so

What is your family like?

I have a very small family. I have a sister, four cousins, my husband, no children, and the rest of my family died in the Plague of '79.

Have you always lived in London? What was it like before the plague?

Yes, I've always lived in London. I remember before the plague. The population was much higher, by about a quarter. Government and civil law was not as available. Henry VII, who is on the throne right now, has centralized many of the commercial permitting and licensing requirements, so instead of the government having to follow the King everywhere, there are bureaus in the city. He also instituted a ship tax to pay for the defense of the seashore, which everyone, even the inlanders, have to pay. Even though London is inland, it lies on a tidal river and still smells like hell.

What have you heard about the new world across the sea?

There are all kinds of rumors and strange stories coming out of the new land. I would never travel there. The air is probably impure and would cause all kinds of illness. Also, evil spirits have trouble crossing water, which is why I live on the north and west bank of the river, rather than the stews. Public baths, theaters, dice dens, dogfights, cockfights, bear baiting... in Southwark they practice *all* the seven deadly sins.

Have you ever refused to make something for someone?

Yes. Oh, yes. Some concoctions are not to be discussed, especially those containing pennyroyal. The pessaries to prevent pregnancy, also, since all sex is naturally to procreate, so failing to that end is both grave sin and almost treason, as the King represents the law of God on earth.

Any last words of wisdom?

Be very careful of novels and stories that are coming out of the printing press for mere entertainment! You are wasting time.

You, too, can arrange for your persona to speak live to the press! All levels of depth, from the anachronistic to the thoroughly-researched, are welcome. Also, it's fun! Send word to Lady Odile if you would like to be featured in an interview.



meet the Busy-body

AN INTERVIEW WITH
LEANORE DE VERTEARBORS

Tell me where you live and what you do?

I live in London. The year is 1498, and I am an apothecary. I have a small business along the Thames, where the river bends towards Westminster. I may own my stock, but not the building. I have to rent the building from a distant cousin. I live above my place of business. I am permitted to practice as an apothecary because my father was an apothecary, and he died in the Plague of 1479. Women within the Guild families are permitted to carry on the business – widows, daughters, sisters, sometimes mothers. Henry VII, our beloved sovereign King, has allowed apothecaries to work under the auspices of the worshipful company of Greengrocers.

What kind of merchandise do you sell?

I sell herbs and concoctions that have been prescribed by a doctor of physic. It's important that I be able to read and write both the English and French, and I know some Latin – not necessarily enough to understand everything, but enough to impress my clients and confound my competitors! I sell an infusion of peppermint for an ill stomach, caused by a surfeit of black bile. Ill health is caused by an imbalance of the four humors. To restore health is to restore the balance of the humors. The physician determines what humor is out of balance and prescribes the cure.

Do you sell love potions?

Oh, of course. Aphrodisiacs; some of them are excellent – unicorn horn; figs are very good. It's nice to be part of the grocer's guild because they provide protection against accusations of witchcraft. There's a very fine line between medicine and heresy with some of these substances.

that it flows easily from the pen and from the brush; and if it does not want to flow, take a little sugar-candy, that makes it flow easily from the brush. Aurum musicum, you shall not grind it hard, you shall grind it with pure well water, and then you shall temper it with pure gum, like the blue, without the sugar. But you shall rinse it with pure well water and then temper it, as it is written above, not too strong and also not too weak. § /

Nota. Dark brown or dark red

The dark brown or dark red make thus: Take half an ounce of brazilwood, grated or beaten, and put it into a stone jar. that the brazilwood fills half the jar; and then take strong lye and warm it, that it is lukewarm, and pour the lye over the brazilwood, the width of a finger, and stir it well; and take right away one-eighth ounce of ground chalk and stir it in and grate right away a quarter ounce of burnt alum; stir that in as well and look and see whether it will dissolve right away, as though it would foam; and let it stand three or four or five days. If you let it stand longer, it will get browner; and then pour it onto hard chalk through a cloth || and let it dry. || Then rub it with pure thin gum, not too strong and also not too weak, in the same way as the blue, without sugar-candy

In Service,

LADY WALTRUDIS VON METTEN



FROM THE KNIGHT'S MARSHAL



Salutations,

We are into February and fighter practice has started to pick up a little. This is due, in no small part, to our neighbors to the north and south, whose younger fighters sometimes join us in our efforts to improve. I would just like to say thank you to them for traveling here to play with us.

I would also like to agree with a suggestion which was made, that we reinstate first Tuesday of the month melee practice. Like it or not, time passes. While we have sharpened our individual skills, summer melee season dictates that we sharpen our group skills as well. For the new fighters in the group, this will be a chance to gain some experience and practice with the rules of engagement, so that summer will not be such a shock.

In Service,

LORD ULFR IMASON

FROM THE PROPERTY MASTER

I would like to thank everyone who helped with the loading and unloading of the Baronial Trailer for BWTA: Liesl, Brendan, and Bran. It makes it so much faster when we have at least 6 people to help. We were out of there within 1/2 hour on load day!

Our next event for the trailer should be the Demo at Krannert sometime in June. I hope we have mucho help then, as we will need to load, set-up and reload the list fence. We won't have to unload it, though, if it is going to be used for Simple Day and the Renn Faire.

In Service,
LADY TALIA WYNTERSCALE

STERNFELD CLOCK
MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

Greetings to the good Gentles of the Barony of Sternfeld, Pursuant to the commission I have received from their Excellencies, Torquil and Moria, Baron and Baroness of Sternfeld on behalf of the populous of Sternfeld, I am submitting this progress report.

In the Middle Ages, mechanical clocks were very novel items, and usually formidable undertakings for the community bring them about. As such, the commissioners demanded progress reports from the builder to make sure the clock could/would be built. I am taking a page from history, and will be keeping the Barony updated on my process. I will also include snippets of history to hopefully enrich our understanding of mechanical clocks in general and of this clock in particular.

Mechanical clocks appear to be a uniquely Western European invention. It also seems to be the only major invention to take place in Western Europe since the fall of the Roman Empire. Everything else appears to have been borrowed from other cultures. There had been other ways of telling time. There was even the very technically advanced water clock. But Western Europe seems to have needed something more from time than what these

other time devices could give. Therefore, sometime in the mid to late 13th century, the mechanical clock appears, or rather evolves.

There were many threads of need and technology that came together at this time to make it possible for the mechanical clock to work. Experts disagree on where the first clock appeared. Most of the oldest surviving clocks appear in southern areas, like Italy; while many of the oldest records appear in northern areas, like England. I tend to favor England as the birth place not simply because of the documentation, but because they had a greater need for the mechanical clocks. Their weather made most other forms of time keeping ineffectual. However, Italy had the greater external influences of technology thereby making it easier for such a device to be invented. I guess the jury will have to remain out on the actual birth place.

These new devices had to be made large due to the limitations of the technology of the day. However, they really only needed to be 2 or 3 feet tall to work adequately. The 1st clocks probably were about this size or a little bigger, but they and their records simply do not exist. It appears that shortly thereafter, these communities decided that since you need to go big with clocks, why not go much bigger. And so by the end of the 13th century, tower clocks were being built. These large clocks would take a year or so to be built and became the pride of their communities.

The Sternfeld clock will not be so grand. One of the requirements is that it be transportable. That is hard to do with a tower. In my current design, it will be less than two feet tall and should be set on a table for ease of viewing the dial and hearing of the chimes for the Canonical Hours. It will chime the Canonical Hours, not every hour.

I welcome any other recommendations the people of Sternfeld would like to have on this clock. I am not sure what I can and cannot incorporate into this device but I welcome any opportunity to try.

Next month, I will be submitting a time schedule and a finalization (hopefully) of the design. I hope to have this clock operational by Simple Day and would like to have it available for use at the Fisher's Renn Fair for the use of the Scriptorium and Church, but I hope the rest of us can enjoy it as well.

In service to the Barony of Sternfeld,
MISTRESS AUDREY ADELICIA
Horologer/Clockmaker