

# The Skraeling Althing Chronicle

## PRINCE QUILLIAM AND PRINCESS DAGMAR ONCE AGAIN THE HEIRS OF EALDORMERE

By Chronicle Staff

The strength and security of any land can be linked directly to its line of succession. A kingdom without a clear succession is a Kingdom in peril.

Thankfully, Ealdormere is once again secure as Their Majesties have chosen a new Prince and Princess to follow in their footsteps, should the need ever arise.

On the 28<sup>th</sup> of May, in the Barony of Skraeling Althing, Their Majesties held Their Crown Tournament to select Their heirs.

The tournament was strongly fought, full of noble deeds and honourable combat.

Skraeling Althing was well represented, with both Hlafdige Ælfwyn et Langanwuda and Lady Morag Taylor contesting for the crown and doing the Barony proud.

After a long and boisterous tourney, Jarl Thormot Quilliam was victorious, fighting for the honour of Jarla Dagmar Halvdan.



Jarl Thormot Quilliam preparing to face THL Bjarn Aaronson in the semifinals of Crown Tournament

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Photo courtesy of Lord Dafydd ap Alan

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## BARONIAL OFFICERS

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Lady Emelote of Calais

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Lady Asha

## UPCOMING GATHERINGS IN THE BARONY

### Practices and Meetings

Please contact the local group to confirm details about specific scheduled gatherings.

### Harrowgate Heath

Armoured Combat Practice  
Thursdays at 7 pm

### Archery

Schedule varies month to month

### Canton Meetings

First Sunday of the month

### A&S Days

Schedule varies month to month

### Dance Practice

Schedule varies month to month

### Greyfells

Canton Meetings

Meetings (which often include A&S and other activities) are held from 7:00 to 9:30 pm on Tuesdays each week.

### Rapier Practice

Tuesdays at 7 pm

### Caldriþing

Armoured Combat Practice  
Wednesdays at 7 pm

### Rapier Practice

Thursdays at 8 pm

### Choir Practice

Sundays at 1:30 pm

### Canton Meetings

Second and fourth Sunday's of the month at 4 pm

### Instrumental Practices

Sundays at 12:00 pm

### Tor Brant

Gatherings vary from month to month.

If you are interested in attending Tor Brant scheduled activities, please contact the group to confirm their next scheduled activity.

## LOCAL SENESCHALS

### Seneschal of Caldriþing

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### Seneschal of Tor Brant

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### Seneschal of Harrowgate Heath

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## FROM THE QUILL OF THEIR EXCELLENCIES OF SKRAELING ALTHING

Greetings unto the knowledgeable Barony of Skraeling Althing from your scholarly Baron Giovanni and Baroness Lucia Lia Lámh

As we fondly consider the past year, We are still astonished and proud of the productivity of Our people.

Our Barony is known throughout the Kingdom of Ealdormere, and the Knowne World, for the quality and quantity of our handiwork.

This is a great source of pride for Us.

All our Cantons host A&S meetings, some with themes like scribal-

arts or armour making, and some without.

It is this community that is formed around making and doing that is the foundation of the Knowne World.

The knowledge and care teachers bring to the student, and the enthusiasm and passion the student brings to the teacher, that is the cycle that re-charges the energy of a group, no matter what the subject.

The motivations for wanting to learn new skills and history are many.

From the modern warrior wanting to learn how a medieval soldier solved

a specific chafing problem, to the politico wanting to win an argument (forks are period!) or wanting to try to make one of everything because everything is interesting, we are all students of some form.

Share with Us the knowledge you have earned and the projects you are undertaking. We are your eager pupils.

Or write an article about your latest project for the Chronicle.

In Your Service

**Baron Giovanni and Baroness Lucia**

## COURT REPORT

The following awards have been given out to members of Skraeling Althing at recent events both in the Barony and at outside events.

Wassail to all of the recipients!

### Break the Back of Winter

Bunny Tails:

Hostilius Mendus  
George of Skrael  
Masamori  
Guillaume Dangeau

Hare Salient:

Lady Constance of Caldrithig  
Lady Avelyn Wexcombe of Great Bedwyn  
Lady Marguerite Gingraix

Hare Valiant:

Lord Archibald Weatherford

### Dandelion Festival

No court was held

### Crown Tournament

*Kingdom court:*

Award of Arms:

Lord Aurik Burnsson  
Lady Annette of Caldrithig

*Baronial Court:*

Bunny Tails:

Kaġlin of Harrowgate Heath  
Cennèdig of Flichesburg

Hare Salient:

Lord Robert the Blue  
Lord Duncan Gabha MacLachlan  
MacLeod

# Skraeling Althing Chronicle

## CROWN TOURNEY - CONTINUED

Once the succession had been secured, there was a short court where several good gentles recieved well deserved awards.

Then the celebration began, with Skraeling Althing pulling out all the stops. There was music, dancing (including a May pole), food and revelry.

**Below:** Lord Aurik and Lady Eleanor sing as part of the choir.



**Top Left:** Lady Morag is introduced with her family during Crown.

**Top Right:** Hlafdige AElfwyn et Langanwuda prior to Crown Tournament

**Bottom Right:** Lord Sandarr and Lady Marguerite raise funds for Her Highness Dagmar's charitable work. To shave, or not to shave, that is the question?

Photos courtesy of Lord Dafydd ap Alan

# The Skraeling Atching Chronicle

## MAKING OAK GALL INK WITH THE SCRIBES

By Lord Aurik Burnsson

The lowly scribes of the land – nothing more than meek, ink-stained perveyors of fanciful lettering and frivolous illustrations made upon parchment. Wouldn't you agree?

If so, you would be sadly misinformed. For we are also dabblers and specialists of the alchemical arts as well! For on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of May, Anno Societatis 46, the Scribes of the Canton of Caldrihtig gathered at the household of Elsebeth Fferbryn to practice this – their more mysterious craft – to make medieval ink. And I have been commissioned to tell you how it's done.

The ingredients for the ink include oak galls, hot water, copperas (iron sulphate), sap collected from the acacia tree (gum arabic), and chalk. The tools: a hammer, mortar and pestle, two ceramic bowls, funnel, fine weave cloth and several small inkwells with stoppers.

Now to decypher the seemingly enigmatic process.

1. First, one must collect the oak galls and crush them into a fine powder using the hammer then mortar and pestle. These galls hold one of the key chemicals to create our ink – gallotannic acid. This natural acid is extracted by pouring the powdered galls into a bowl of hot water and letting the mixture to

soak for a short period.

2. Whilst the gall solution sits, we take the sap and place it into the second bowl of hot water to let the sap soften and dissolve.

3. Again, while waiting for the sap to dissolve, we need to prepare the chalk by grinding it to a fine powder.

4. After the gall solution has sat, we add the other key ingredient – copperas – into it. When added, copperas reacts to the tannic acid held within the gall solution, turning it into a mystical, deep purplish-black colour. Astute observation will reveal the longer this solution sits, the more ebon it becomes.

5. The sap solution is then added to the first to bind the acid and copperas. If this is not done, the components of the solution will soon separate, rendering the ink useless.

6. Finally, the chalk is added to counteract the slight acidic nature of the solution. Again, if this step is ignored, the ink will eventually disintegrate the parchment, and thus undo the annals of recorded history... a terrifying thought for any scribe

or learned soul.

7. We, then, aggitate the solution to encourage a most thorough mixing.
8. Pour the solution through the cloth into empty bowl, so as to filter out the solid particles. We now have our ink.
9. Using the funnel, pour the ink into the various inkwells and distribute amongst your scribes.

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Self portrait by Ulrich of Greyfells



## BARONIAL COUNCIL NOTES

Baronial Council has met twice since the last issue of the Chronicle was published.

Here is a brief summary of the main issues discussed at these meetings.

If you would like more information about the Baronial Council and these meetings, please contact the Seneshal, Lady Constance, or your local Canton Seneschal.

### **April 9 - Break the Back of Winter**

Skraeling Althing is scheduled to host Kingdom A&S in the Fall. At least one bid is being put together.

An event proposal was brought forward by Duncan for the new Baronial camping event, to replace the old Baronial Muster/Autocrat's Day Off. Council requested some changes to the details and budget and agreed to vote at the next meeting once the changes were made.

Lady Brayla was voted in as the new Baronial Exchequer.

**Next Meeting** – Dandelion Festival

### **May 14 – Dandelion Festival**

The award recommendations page on the Skraeling Althing site is working and some changes have been made to reduce the amount of spam being received.

The Barony is beginning the search for our next Baronial Persuivant. Lady Gina's term is now complete. The new Persuivant will be selected in time for Feast of the Hare. Interested candidates should contact the Seneschal, Lady Constance.

Lord Duncan's revised bid for the Baronial camping event was approved.

The Baronial bylaws project was discussed. The project has stalled somewhat and needs to be revived.

Discussion around the new Baronial chairs, some metal reinforcement is needed. We will explore options. It may be easier to purchase new travel thrones as originally planned rather than trying to modify the current chairs, which were a gift.

### **Next Meeting:** Baronial Muster

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Questions or concerns may be

## OAK GALL - CONTINUED

Initial tests of the ink showed it might have been a little thin, as more frequent dippings of the quill were needed.

However, further observations made by our previous Baronial Signet – Lady Marguerite Gingraix – showed the ink seems to slowly thicken over time, which is most likely due to drying of the ink, and if the ink is not used within a few weeks, the ink thickens enough as to become unusable.

As an initiate scribe, I was amazed to bear witness to this mysterious, alchemical art in action.

Not only that, I was also thrilled to be a welcome participant in its creation, knowing that my efforts will benefit the scribes of Caldritigh, or even perhaps all of Skraeling Althing.

directed to the Baronial Chronicler, [Lord Dafydd ap Alan](#).

Issues of the Chronicle are posted to the Skraeling Althing web site. You can subscribe to the Chronicle by e-mailing the Chronicler.

The Chronicle also has a Facebook page. You can follow news about the Chronicle, and be notified when new issues are available, by following the Skraeling Althing Chronicle on Facebook.

# The Skraeling Atching Chronicle

## THE EARLY DAYS OF HARROWGATE HEATH

By Lord Dragul Maksimov Vodnikov

Let's look back to the beginning. No, let's go farther back... to the proto-beginning.

Their Excellencies, Eleanor and Menken were having a new-years swaray. Somewhere between getting wine for my lady and meatballs I was approached by the Baronial Seneschal. "Vod... why don't you have a canton down your way?" and the tiger was out of the cage.

Many phone calls, some discussions, a couple lunches and a few months later the first meeting was held in Winchester to see who would take positions in the yet unnamed canton.

In support, Their Excellencies as well as Kingdom personnel showed up to for support and to help guide... let's face it starting a new canton isn't something most of us have done.

Honestly I can't remember everyone who was there, but it was a mix of folk from Winchester and Kemptville, and a few brave souls from Ottawa, who liked the idea of helping build something from scratch.

I believe the starting line-up was Herr Reinhart Von Altenburg as our Herald, The Honourable Baron James the Mercer as our Exchequer, Lady Gina Dragoni as our MoAS, my Lady Aevianna Nordengel as

our Chatelaine, Chronicler, and Webminister, and I was the Seneschal.

We found out what was required and set about the tasks needed to apply for incipient-canton status. We had enough paid members, all the must-have offices were filled and we had ideas for free meeting locations, fund raising and an event... things were moving like a siege tower to a castle.

We had a great mix of folk coming out to play. Seasoned veterans of the society and brand new folk who were starry eyed and full of enthusiasm and chutzpah.

I do remember asking who wanted to start a new canton that reminded them of all the little things that first brought them to the SCA, things like fresh event ideas, cool and use-

ful site tokens, and a place where young and old could play together. There were smiles and nods, and then I think Lord Richard of Dragon Castle gave a wassail.

Time passed, and we held our first event with sponsorship from Greyfells, which was well attended by the rest of the Barony, a feeling of support and friendship was definitely in the air.

Our little canton store made us funds which were held by the Barony until we were all grown up, our membership had doubled, and we decided on the name Offengard, later changed to Harrowgate Heath.

Looking back at it, when I was asked to start a canton, I wondered if I could pull it off, but when you have good friends and high spirits... well here we are to stay.



Her Excellency receives a gift from Septentria at Break the Back of Winter  
Photo courtesy of Lord Dafydd ap Alan

# Skraeling Althing Chronicle



## TRAVELOGUE FROM A VISIT TO THE OLD WORLD

By Lord Dafydd ap Alan  
Baronial Chronicler

For a history buff from Canada, travelling to the UK causes quite the culture shock. Everywhere you turn, you see buildings that could be older than our country, artefacts of the people and life that we in the SCA try to recreate.

Surrounded by this type of cultural history, it's impossible to come home without being inspired in some way.

Over the course of our three week trip, we saw items that we have studied regularly in books (or will be studying more closely now that we've seen them in person) and walked the halls of historic homes and castles decorated as they would have been in period.

Here is a quick summary of our trip, with some of the highlights:

### London

I don't have nearly enough room here to describe everything there was to see in London. Over the course of the week that we were there, we went to a handful of museums, watched Shakespeare at the recreated Globe Theatre and visited various historic sites (the Tower of London and Westminster Abbey among the list).

From a research perspective, many of the artefacts we found in the

museums were really interesting, like the Sutton Hoo helm, and the Rosetta Stone. I expect to be doing some more research on some of the leather items to find out more about the techniques that were used so that I can try to recreate them.

### Wiltshire

In Wiltshire, we were greeted by a pair of bunnies frolicking among the stones of Stonehenge. Now that's a true Skrael welcome! We visited Salisbury Cathedral to see the Magna Carta, and went to the Roman baths in Bath.

We also took the time to travel to Wexcombe and Great Bedwyn, where Lady Avelyn's person is

from, and spent an afternoon in the local archives, handling original documents from as early as the 13<sup>th</sup> century.

### Wales

In Wales, we visited Cardiff and later Swansea, where my persona is from.

Alas, not much of the period history remains in Swansea as most of it was destroyed either during the various Welsh uprisings in period, or during the bombings during the war. This is going to make my persona research more complicated unfortunately.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### In Skraeling Althing

June 25 – Summer Siege  
Hosted by the Canton of Harrowgate Heath (Chesterville, ON)

July 15-17 - Baronial Muster  
Hosted by the Barony of Skraeling Althing (Eganville, ON)

### Out of Barony

June 25 - Tir Mara Rapier Championship  
Hosted by Barony of L'ile du Dragon Dormant (Pointe-des-Cascades, QC)

June 29-July 3 – Trillium War  
Hosted by the Canton of Ardcreag (Whitby, ON)

July 15-July 17 - Coppers, Crossbows and Caravans  
Hosted by Barony of L'ile du Dragon Dormant (Ste-Anne-des-Lacs, QC)

July 29-Aug 14 – Pennsic War  
Hosted by The Kingdom of Aethelmarc (Slippery Rock, PA)

Sept 2-5 - Baron's Howe  
Hosted by the Shire of Brennistein Vatn (Bonfield, ON)



# The Skraeling Atching Chronicle

## TRAVELOGUE - CONTINUED Hereford

After leaving Wales, we stopped in Hereford on the way to Yorkshire. This was primarily to visit Hereford Cathedral, where they keep the Mappa Mundi, which is a world map dating back to the 13<sup>th</sup> century. Very impressive!

However, while we were there we also discovered that the cathedral is home to a massive period library and archive dating back to the 12<sup>th</sup> century. Alas, we didn't have the time to properly explore it. Perhaps on the next visit!

## Yorkshire

In Yorkshire, we visited the various museums in York, checking out many interesting Viking artefacts including the Coppergate helm. We visited several Tudor buildings and immersed ourselves in the historic feel of the streets of York.

We also stopped in Leeds, and spent some time at the Royal Armouries. It was full of interesting weapons and armour, including Henry VIII's Field of Cloth of Gold armour and one of the most interesting and unique rapiers I have ever seen.

As you can see, it was a full trip with many memories, and will fuel our research and A&S projects for many years to come.

## TEN TIPS FOR CARVING

By Meisterin Siglinde Harfnerstochter

1) Use a sharp knife. Really - it's safer than a dull knife.

2) Always cut away from yourself.

3) To the extent possible, keep your fingers and other body parts out of the way. Things like a vise, clamp or leather apron are very helpful for this.

4) Have bandaids readily available (remember to wash the wound before bandaging).

5) Decide what design you want to carve, then cut away everything else.

6) Undercutting (going more acute than a 90 degree angle) will help your design stand out.

7) Basswood is a very easy wood

to start learning fine carving. Its fine grain and relative softness make it quite forgiving. It is also period and readily available at Lee Valley.

8) Invest in a knife that is really comfortable in your hand. It will be there a lot.

9) If you mess up, start again. Most carving materials are renewable resources, and getting good takes practise.

10) Practise at every possible opportunity. This is a small, portable, relaxing craft. Do not follow this advice when travelling by air.

Note: Arterial bleeding and stitches should be reserved to the nobility. Try to avoid emulating your Baroness.



The dining hall in Barley Hall, a Tudor merchant's house in York

Photo courtesy of Lord Dafydd ap Alan



## UPDATE ON THE A&S 50

My name is Lady Emelote of Calais ([Emelote.of.calais@gmail.com](mailto:Emelote.of.calais@gmail.com)) and I hail from the Canton of Harrowgate Heath.

I have been a member of the SCA for four years now...boy how the time flies! I have always had an interest in costuming, cooking and research. So, I decided that I would like to expand my knowledge of other aspects of these topics.

That is why I became interested in doing the Arts and Science 50 Challenge.

It has been one year since the A&S 50 Challenge was featured in the May issue of the Skraeling Althing Chronicle and I know that we have had many new members join since the article was published.

I know Skraels have been very busy working on various Arts and Sciences projects. Did you know that you might already be well on your way to completing this challenge?

The great thing about the challenge is that you can start at any time (and include items from as early as May 2007) to put towards this challenge. The end goal of this challenge is to have 50 items completed by the society's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2015.

We are only four years away, but that means we still have time! ([www.A&S50challenge.org](http://www.A&S50challenge.org).)

To give you an idea of how this works, what I have challenged myself to do is to complete **The Breadth Challenge** - do/make/learn 50 new and different things.

For example, I want to work on jewellery, leather working, embroidery, Tablet weaving, inkle loom work, brewing, cooking, baking, calligraphy, illumination. Basically I am looking at trying as much as I can! The more I can learn the better! I also want to add more skills to my costuming and research too.

There is a Yahoo group that has been organized for Ealdormere to use for ongoing A&S 50 discussions. Please join and let us know what you are working on and ask any questions to fellow challengers.

Have a question, ask us! We might be able to help or at least point you in the right direction. I would like for us to have more discussions and show off what we have been working on. You can sign up for the challenge on the Ealdormere yahoo group [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Ealdormere\\_AS50/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Ealdormere_AS50/).

Now I know some are going to be more specific, go for it! This is to challenge you and learn new things.

Go on! Tell us what you want to do! I hope to see what you are working on in the future!

## MY FIRST EVENT - DANDELION

By Jaye Procure

When my husband, Paul, suggested I join him at Dandelion, I was not really sure what to expect. I knew little about the SCA.

Feeling a little like Cinderella, I was busy getting garb prepared for Paul and our son, but had no idea what I was going to wear, as I had no idea who I wanted to be.

I need not have worried. As soon as we arrived, I felt at ease.

We helped Lady Avelina unpack the feast. Soon Lady Lucia arrived with promised garb for me.

Soon, I became someone I didn't recognize. It was fun.

Dandelion turned out to be a small affair, but it afforded lots of opportunity for getting to know those who were there.

Always a history buff, I also got to fill in some of the day-to-day aspects of history; clothing, food, and music.

My persona is still undetermined, but I think I'll be back.

Thank you to all who made it such a good day.