

The Skraeling Althing Chronicle

Greetings unto those present in the Barony of Skraeling Althing from your once and future Baron Giovanni and Baroness Lucia;
At this time of year we try to take a moment to look toward our future and reflect on our past. Although we have not set any "New Year's Resolutions" for the Barony, we do still consider the future and imagine where our Barony will go.

The newest member of our Barony was born to Martin and Christine of Harrowgate Heath on the Seventh of November. His name is Lief. As he grows he, like our many Baronial children, will both witness and shape the future of our Barony. For this reason, we hope that young families will continue to feel welcome in our group just as we were with our daughter. . We enjoy watching the children grow in age and in a depth as they explore everything our Society provides. We know our Bunny Scouts will welcome him, play with him, and show him the secret Bunny-Scout hand shake.

As he grows, Lief will also see his home Canton, Harrowgate Heath, continue to thrive and grow adding his enthusiasm and energy to our great store. Perhaps Lief might be a tall strong fighter like his father, and defend his Skraeling family at a border dispute with the Barony Dragon Dormant in 16 years. In time he will see the crowning of our future Skraeling Kings. He may even be a future Skraeling King.

Perhaps, instead, the Arts and Science will be his pleasure. Maybe Lief will be fall in love with weaving or carving or smithing or pottery.

Being more of an artisan than a fighter, as his skill grows his skills will add to our renowned. With dedication he could win Pentathlon and Skraeling Althing will boast another Ealdormere A&S champion. Certainly this year has proven that he need not wait as long as it takes to fight in Crown.



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Upcoming Gatherings in the Barony

Practices and Meetings

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

Caldrithig

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

Greyfells

Canton Meetings (which often include A&S and other activities) are held from 2:00 to 6:00 pm every Sunday.

Rapier Practice - Tuesdays at 7 pm

Harrowgate Heath

Canton Meetings - First Sunday of the month

A&S Days - Scribal nights - 7:00 pm on the first Tuesday of every month

Armouring & General A&S – 7:30 to 9:30 pm every Monday

Armoured Combat Practice - Thursdays at 7 pm

Archery - Schedule varies month to month

Dance Practice - Schedule varies month to month

Tor Brant

Gatherings vary from month to month. Please contact the group to confirm the next scheduled activity.



**Skraeling Althing/Septentria 12th Night.
12 January 2013**

Once again the venerable Baronies of Skraeling Althing and Septentria are joining forces to celebrate 12th Night with the help of Ealdormere's newest Shire, Bastille du Lac.
Please, come and join us, as we celebrate the good things in life and enjoy the company of our friends.

http://www.skraelingalthing.com/12th_night/main.html

Township of Tyendinaga Recreation Hall
363 McFarlane Road
RR#1 Shannonville, ON
K0K 3A0

Site opens at 11:00am
Site closes at 10:00pm

Site fee:
Adults: \$10.00 (KET included) plus NMS as required
Children under 12: \$5.00
Children 5 and under: free

Feast fee:
Adults: \$15.00
Children under 12: \$7.00 (must pre-register. There will be no children feast prices available day of the event).

Feast pre-registration is strongly encouraged.
Please make cheques payable to "SCA inc.
Canton of Greyfells"

There will be no lunch available on site. Please make your own arrangements.

Event Steward and Reservations steward:
Posadnitsa Xristina Viaceslavova (Melina Chestley)
xristina@rowanhall.org
[613-572-1372](tel:613-572-1372)

Feast Steward:
Bethoc ingen MaelFechin (Lesley Donaldson-Reid)
bethoc12thc@yahoo.ca
[416-621-0974](tel:416-621-0974)
*Please, no phone calls after 8pm.

Allergy liason:
Dafydd ap Alan (David Gottlieb)
dafydd@rogers.com
*All allergy issues should be directed to Dafydd as soon as possible in order to make accomadations.

Site Directions;

Take your best route to the 401
Exit at Shannonville Rd (Regional Rd #7) and go North
Turn Right onto Lazier Rd
Turn Left on McFarlane Rd



Skraeling Althing/Septentria 12th Night. 12 January 2013

Activites:

Fake A&S or at least, the not quite so plausible A&S

Have you ever wanted to make one of those super fancy circular hats you see all the fashionable saints or other persons of note wearing in all their portraits throughout the middle ages? Then this competition will be for you. The idea is to create an A&S entry based on an interpretation of those gimmicks (so to speak) that you see used by artists in a variety of mediums in the middle ages. The halo behind a Saint's head is one of the more obvious examples to use but feel free to use other ideas.

This competition is being sponsored by Baroness Lucia of Skraeling Althing.

Bardic Competition

Skraeling Althing and Septentria both have long histories full of good people and proud moments. Creating songs, poems, stories etc about our Baronies is an excellent way to inspire those around us, to keep the memories alive and to pass away some of the long winter hours. And for this 12th night the bards (or those who just want to participate anyway) are challenged to create and perform songs/poems/stories/etc about the Baronies. However, since it is 12th night after all and things tend to get somewhat mixed up, we feel that the bardic challenge should be no different. Therefore, those members of Skraeling Althing are challenged to write about Septentria and those Septentrians are to write about Skraeling Althing.

Heraldic Banners

Class by HE Percival

For all those planning to participate in the upcoming Banner Making class being run in the Canton of Greyfells, this would be an ideal class for you to take.

Jousting Tournament

The giant twister board will be making it's appearance once again. Be prepared. Or afraid. Your choice.



Local Seneschals

Seneschal of Caldrethig

Lady Marguerite Gingraix

CaldrethigSeneschal@skraelingalthing.com

Seneschal of Greyfells

Lady Pesha

GreyfellsSeneschal@skraelingalthing.com

Seneschal of Tor Brant

Lord Ulricus Wulbrandus von Geuse

TorBrantSeneschal@skraelingalthing.com

Seneschal of Harrowgate Heath

Lady Gina Dragoni

HarrowgateHeath@skraelingalthing.Com



Fishing in the Middle Ages by Meisterin Siglinde Harfnerstochter

My interest in fishing grew out of my interest in netting, which I had first learned in order to make hair nets. In 2009, when I learned I was going to be going to work at l'Anse aux Meadows for ten days, I decided I needed to make a fishing net and a mysterious bone object that had been identified as a line winder for fishing. This led to several years of intermittent research on Viking Age fishing techniques, and that has since spread to fishing more generally in the Middle Ages. Here is some of the information I have collected about the main techniques for catching fish.

Fishing with a Net:

No pieces of net that have been absolutely confirmed as fishing net have survived, though one piece of net from Lund may have been fishing net¹. The best evidence for fishing nets comes from sinkers and floats². Some of the possible sinkers are round and with a hole in the centre. It is possible that they might also be loom weights³. There is also a wooden net stick from Lund (1000-50), believed to be an object for lifting fishing nets⁴. Fishing with large nets would have been very difficult because of the weight involved. However, small nets were used, as can be seen in an 11th C illustration from Italy⁵. Smaller nets were used to trap fish in rivers. There is also an image of a dip net in a 16th C woodcut⁶. Dip nets are used to catch bottom feeders such as crabs.

1 Roesdahl, Else. Viking Age Denmark. London: British Museum Publications Ltd, 1982, p 66.

2 Graham-Campbell, James. Viking Artefacts: A Select Catalogue. London: British Museum Publications Ltd, 1980, p 13, 190.

3 Collins, AEP. Excavations in Lough Faughan Crannog, Co. Down, 1951-52. Ulster Journal of Archaeology, Third Series, Vol 18 (1955) p 62, 69

4 Graham-Campbell, p 13, 190.

5 Italian School's Ms Grec 479 Fishing with a Net, illustration from the Halieutica by Oppian (tempera on vellum) located at the Biblioteca Marciana, Venice, Italy, created around the 11th century.

6 Jost Amman's The Fisherman (woodcut) located at the Bibliotheque Nationale, Paris, France, 16th century.



Medieval Fishing cont...

What were the nets made of? The most likely source of twine for nets is hemp. Hemp ropes and nets were used until modern times; although hemp doesn't survive well in the archaeological record, the recent discovery of a field in Norway provides strong evidence of hemp cultivation⁷. Because hemp deteriorates quickly in water, some sort of grease was probably used to protect the nets. At the fortress of Louisburg (which is outside the SCA period, but very well documented for historical accuracy), linseed oil mixed with pine tar is used on the nets and fishing lines. Both these materials were readily available in Europe during the Middle Ages, so it is reasonable to assume that they might have been used on fishing lines and nets.

What knot was used to create nets? I use a sheetbend, working from left to right. I use a traditional netting needle, which is shown in this image of Arachne⁸. Without the line, it looks like this: Most of the images identified as netting needles are not compelling, as they could just as easily be pack needles or nonbinding needles. They do not have any way of holding extra line, and this is essential for efficient netting. However, one image is intriguing, as it includes what may be a gauge for keeping the net loops the same size⁹. With practice, no gauge is needed, however. While in l'Anse aux Meadows, former fishermen who worked at the site said they had learned the sheetbend for netting. Some of them made an extra knot to ensure absolutely no slipping. The size of the loop matters - too small a loop and you will catch immature fish. Too large a loop, and your fish can swim right through.

⁷ <http://sciencenordic.com/norwegian-vikings-grew-hemp>

⁸ *De mulieribus claris* (BNF Fr. 599, fol. 17v), 15th-16th century

⁹ <http://nms.scran.ac.uk/database/record.php?usi=000-100-102-537-C>



Medieval Fishing cont...

Fishing Weirs:

Fish weirs were relatively common. There were references to fish weirs in Anglo-Saxon grants of property and boundary charters, and in some place names. The weirs used a combination of poles, woven fences, nets, and traps. Several examples are linked below.¹⁰ Fishing weirs may have been the most efficient fishing method compared to the amount of effort expended. A weir operates by using structures to funnel the fish (or eels) into a narrow area with a net or fish traps at the apex. The Hemington site (first of the examples below) has pictures of one of these traps, made of woven wicker. Weirs could be placed in rivers or on the sea shore¹¹.

Fishing with a Line:

According to one source, bottom fishing with baited hooks weighted with grooved-stone sinkers was the most common method for saltwater fishing¹². It is not clear whether this was done using a long line, with hooks attached along the line and the weight at the bottom, or whether there was a single hook on each line. Another possible use of the line with a hook is to have a row of shorter lines suspended from a line that is strung between two poles or pilings. As the fish swam in at high tide, they would get caught on the baited hooks. At low tide, the fishermen would simply walk (or boat) along the line and unhook the fish.

¹⁰ <http://www.le.ac.uk/ulas/projects/hemington.html>, <http://www.ucd.ie/news/2011/02FEB11/180211-Secrets-of-Irish-medieval-fishing-site-will-be-lost-to-the-tide.html>, http://unlockingessex.essexcc.gov.uk/uep/custom_pages/monument_detail.asp?content_page_id=89&monument_id=7199&content_parents=48, <http://medievalnews.blogspot.ca/2009/03/1000-year-old-fish-trap-found-with.html#!/2009/03/1000-year-old-fish-trap-found-with.html>.

¹¹ Hagen, Ann. A Second Handbook of Anglo-Saxon Food and Drink Production and Distribution. Hockwold cum Wilton: Anglo-Saxon Books, 1995, p 162, 163.

¹² Fitzhugh, William W. and Ward, Elisabeth I (editors). Vikings: The North Atlantic Saga. Washington: Smithsonian Institution Press, 2000, p 33.



Medieval Fishing cont...

There were several styles of fishing hook, and all seem to be relatively large: this may reflect the fact that fish were larger in a time before over fishing, or it may reflect the fact that smaller hooks didn't survive in the archaeological record. The iron hooks commonly had a loop through which the line was tied, or a spatulate end, and the line would be tied below that flattened bit. At least one bone gorge from Birka has also survived¹³.

Another fishing technique may have been to use hand-lines. The evidence for this comes primarily from three u-shaped line-winders. The line would have been wound around the arms of the fork in a figure eight. The whalebone one pictured is from S—lmhovd, Norway. I have made a cow bone version of this line winder and played with it at l'Anse Aux Meadows. My biggest fear is that it could slip out of my hands should I catch a large fish.

There is little evidence for fishing with a rod in northern Europe before the 14th C. However, there is an image of Roman men fishing with rod and line from the 2nd C¹⁴, a German image from the 14th C¹⁵, and one from France in about 1400¹⁶.

13 Graham-Campbell, p 13, p 190

14 Roman Men fishing on the Nile, from Villa Nile, Leptis Magna located at the Jamahiriya Museum, Tripoli, Libya.

15 Herr Pfeffel, <http://digi.ub.uni-heidelberg.de/diglit/cpg848/0599?sid=9331570548e4b5a35c0ba83edbe89e37>

16 http://utu.morganlibrary.org/medren/single_image2.cfm?imagenam=g3.001rb.jpg&page=ICA000131430

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Spear Fishing:

Various forms of leister were used for salmon fishing, and possibly to catch other fish in shallow water. A leister is a form of harpoon that has a piercing tip and backward-facing barbs. The aim is to hold the fish on the spear head, rather than necessarily killing it outright¹⁷. Examples of two different designs are shown. The first is from Fossesholm Norway, and the second is from Rise, Norway. Both are made of iron¹⁸.



¹⁷ http://www.woodcraftwanderings.org/fishing_1.html

¹⁸ Graham-Campbell, p 13, p 190



Greetings from the Baronial Seneschal

From Lord Nathaniel Jonessone, 'The Dane' "
Greetings and salutations onto the fair
populace of the Barony,

I, Nathaniel Jonessone do stand humbly before you as the acting Baronial Seneschal, and it is with bowed head and little bravado that I do thank the Officers of this fine Barony for giving me the chance to serve them, and the populace in this position. I look forward to working with and along side not just the Officers but Their must illustrious Excellencies Giovanni and Lucia, who are in many ways responsible for my reemergence within the SCA. I am glad to serve with them while they still watch over the lands of the Hare. I wish to also welcome and introduce my acting deputy Her Excellency Mistress Rozalynd of Thornabee on Tees, whose knowledge of the SCA and its people will be welcome to someone who has been away for as long as I have. Last, but far from least, I wish to thank the Honourable Lady Constance of Caldrihtig for her devoted service before me, her patents will be hard to fill indeed. I hope everyone will be patient as I learn my way around, and i look forward to seeing as many of you as I can at upcoming events both within the Barony and abroad.

In Service,

Lord Nathaniel Jonessone, 'The Dane' "

Contacts and Officers

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Archery In Skraeling Althing

This past year saw a great resurgence in archery in our Barony. Skraeling Althing fielded several archers at events around the kingdom and the knowne world, including at Pennsic.

Regular weekly practices were held in Harrowgate Heath all summer, with attendance between 10 and 27 people.

Several gentles in Caldrithig and Harrowgate Heath have been looking at getting combat archery up and running in the Barony, and have been experimenting with building war crossbows and other equipment.

In the greater kingdom, the Yeomen of the Wolf were reactivated at Fall Coronation. This is a participation-based group. To qualify for membership, you must shoot a scored round on five separate occasions within one calendar

year. One of these must be at a different location than your local group's practice. To maintain membership, you must shoot a scored round on three separate occasions per year.

What is happening for archery in the Barony next year?

Harrowgate Heath plans to continue weekly archery practices once the weather warms up.

Greyfells and Tor Brant are also looking at setting up regular archery practices. Work on fielding a combat archery unit in the Barony will continue. Caldrithig also has a number of new Archery Marshals in Training who hope to complete their training this year and work towards having archery become active in all corners of our Barony.