

Skraeling Althing Chronicle

From the Quill of their Excellencies of Skraeling Althing



There is nothing quite like travelling through this wonderful kingdom and the known world to truly experience the SCA in its entirety. We have the best club in the world, and there's no better way to appreciate this than by experiencing all it has to offer. We encourage Our populace to travel when possible to witness all these experiences.

Travelling allows us to learn new things and meet new people. One can take classes on topics for which teachers not available in your area. It provides the opportunity to learn new fighting styles, try new tournament formats, to see and experience new kinds of events.

Travelling also affords us the opportunity to spread our culture to other kingdoms, and in turn bring some of their culture back with us. Ultimately this brings us closer together as a group, and allows us the

opportunity to make new and great friends all over the world.

While road trips are fantastic for meeting new people and see new things, travelling together is also a great way to get to know your local friends. Long drives are an ideal time for conversation – from casual chats to planning group projects. It

gives you lots of time to discuss ideas and inspiration, share theories and research, and strengthen the bond in your local community.

Further, by sharing your travelling space, it allows those who might not have the opportunity to travel the ability to witness and experience the greater kingdom and world. This then often inspires many a new person into feats of greatness, all it takes is a little space and charity.

We also encourage people to be open to the journey, take a look at the world around you, and do not be afraid to stop at that small roadside shop or store. It is always amazing what might be found and seen in the small out of the way places. We often like to take different routes to events purely to witness new parts of the countryside. We have found many interesting things through this practice (and some great restaurants).

We ask you to take the time, do some travelling both inside and outside of the barony.

Enjoy yourself, make new friends, fight new people, learn new things. Above all, however, be safe and come home.

Safe Journeys,

Shahid and Catherine

Baron and Baroness of Skraeling Althing

Index

<i>From the Quill of their Excellencies of Skraeling Althing</i> -----	<i>Page 1</i>
<i>Index</i> -----	<i>Page 2</i>
<i>From the Seneschal</i> -----	<i>page 3</i>
<i>Travel Tips: Baroness Lucia</i> -----	<i>Page 3</i>
<i>A Story of Travel: Diana Ishara Laing</i> -----	<i>Page 5-6</i>
<i>Upcoming Events: Kingdom and Baronial</i> -----	<i>Page 7</i>
<i>Upcoming Events: Practices/ Meetings, Volunteer Opportunities</i> ---	<i>Page 7-8</i>
<i>Send me your content!</i> -----	<i>Page-9</i>

Getting the Chronicle

So how do I get the Chronicle? Here are some ways to accomplish that, depending on your own styles.

There will be a PDF posted on the Baronial web page, ranging as far back as the May 2010 issue. Any member who wishes can subscribe to receive an e-mail when the latest issue of the Chronicle becomes available.

In order to do so, please send an email to the Chronicler. As well consider joining the Skraeling Althing Facebook group (Skraeling Althing Chronicle).

That will let you stay in touch and find out when the new issues are published.

If you require a hard copy - just ask the Chronicler.

From the Seneschal's Pen

Greetings, good gentles all.

As the seasons change, so oft do the representatives of our fair lands. My new position as Baronial Seneschal for Skraeling Althing is both daunting and humbling, as I am a newcomer to this place. The outgoing Seneschal TH Lady Eluned verch Angor and deputy Baron Giovanni have paved the path well for me. I greatly appreciate their skills and efforts, and hope I will be worthy of their legacy. With your support I am certain I will be able to assist in keeping the Barony rolling along smoothly.

Please feel free to email me at seneschal@skraelingalthing.com to share your triumphs, concerns, or just to chat. I am more easily reached that way, and can arrange to speak with you. Thank you for this opportunity, I look forward to the game.

In service,

Sorcha of Kilmongan.



Traveling Wisdom by Baroness Lucia

Travelling from Ottawa to SCA events

- * Bring your own pillow, it will help you sleep at night, or in the back seat.
- * Eat on the road instead of stopping for a sit down restaurant meal. You will save an hour of travel on the trip.
- * Instead of fast food pick up stuff at Grocery stores. There are usually large ones near the highway. This will also save you money.
- * Bring lots of drinking water.
- * Gas is sometimes cheapest at the Port Hope exit.
- * Gas is most expensive at Enroute stops.
- * Best gas station restrooms are at the Flying Jay in Napanee.
- * The Enroutes have wireless if you need to check something, but it will be hard to connect to at busy times of day (lunch time, dinner times).
- * Buy a GPS device. It's better than relying on cell phone reception.
- * Leaving Ottawa at 8-10:00 am or 3:30-4:00 pm on Friday means you mostly miss Toronto traffic. Leaving at noon means sitting in thick traffic. There are no safe travel times on weekends.
- * If you are stuck in traffic play the "what if you won crown" game or "what should I enter into Pent" game with your travelling companions or enjoy the quiet time. No point of getting stressed.
- * Make sure children have sometime to entertain themselves with that is not loud enough to distract driver and can reach the snacks themselves.
- * Make sure you can see out of the back window of your car, you don't actually need to bring every SCA thing you own.



Always take your hare with you!

The Master Thief of Caldriithig by Diana Ishtara Laning

It has previously been told (see Enid and the Hare - in the Spring Chronicle) how a daughter of the Noble Wolf of the Cold River mated with a creature that was half jackal and half cow. Their resulting offspring was a creature who possessed the intelligence of the noble blood line, married with the cunning and thievery of the jackal and the insatiable hunger of the cow. Hear now the tale of that offspring.

In his youth, he was ungovernable. He raided farms, stole chickens, and would consume them whole at one sitting. He stole sausages and hams from smoke houses. The pies and fruitcakes of the Children of the Hare were not safe when he lurked in the night. Once, he even stole and consumed the food that had been set aside for the feast at the highest of their sacred days. Although he appeared to the naked eye as an ordinary dog, and a vapid one at that, he could break into larders and sealed chests. No one ever saw him perform his acts of thievery, but the effects of his carnage were widely known, especially to the Artisan who had been appointed by the Children of the Hare to care for him. He became known as the Master Thief of Caldriithig, and his legend grew. Parents evoked his name as a cautionary tale to children. They must always clean their plates lest the Master Thief of Caldriithig smell the uneaten food in their house and break into the house to consume the food ... and consume the children as well. When people would not share of their bounty with those who had none, the curse of "May the Master Thief of Caldriithig teach you a lesson" oft did more to reform the gluttonous than did the preaching of the pious.

In time, age befell the Master Thief. While before he had the outward appearance of an ordinary dog, he now had the outward appearance of an old and lazy dog. Those who saw him lying on the hearth of the cottage of the Artisan doubted the veracity of the accounts of his pilfering. "Those are merely bard's tales," they'd say. "And everyone knows that bards lie." Eventually, the deeds of the Master Thief of Caldriithig became the stuff of distant legend. Over the years, he had witnessed the Artisan take on many apprentices.

Now, in the autumn of his life, the Master Thief took on an apprentice of his own, a girl named November Rose. Many young children pass through a phase of taking what is not their own. They are caught, disciplined, and thieve no more. November Rose, by contrast, had entered that phase and never left. When neither whipping nor an appeal to morality had cured her of her penchant for thievery, her parents, in desperation, had abandoned her. Initially, their companionship was one of mere convenience. He had a warm hearth on which she could sleep; she had the fine opposable thumb for the further perfection of his crimes. Between the distractions of her art, her shop, the coming and goings of her apprentices and friends, as well as her own children, the Artisan never seemed to notice November Rose.

"That is how it should be," the Master Thief told her. "We are alike. We are mere shadows to which no one pays heed." "Does it not bother you that the Children of the Hare treat you like an old, worn out dog?" November Rose asked, idly chewing on a stolen cookie. "You are the Master Thief of Caldriithig. They should fear you, not trip over you." "Once I was a legend. Now I am forgotten. Word fame is well and good, but inconspicuous and overlooked suits our purposes more," was his reply.

As time went on, the friendship between November Rose and her master grew. He taught many of his tricks, although not all; for a master never wholly teaches all to the apprentice, especially in the world of thievery. One day, the Artisan had her horse stolen. She had been required to journey across the Cold River to the wild and dangerous northern side, where law enforcement did not enjoy the same reputation for competence as did the fertile southern side where dwelled the Children of the Hare. On the northern side, in the land of the Sleeping Dragon, she had tied her horse to a stone hitching post, as she did when at her cottage. However, when she returned from her business dealings, she had found her horse to be gone. When all traces of a search had led to naught, the Artisan had no choice but to acquire another horse. Shortly after the completion of the acquisition, which was at great expense to her, she again had to ride to the northern side to

complete the business of the previous journey. Again, she had tied her horse near the shop to which she traveled. But when she returned to the post, although every other horse remained, hers was again missing.

To have lost two horses in one week was scandalous. The sheriff of the northern shore was of no help in their recovery, merely observing the thefts to have been committed by the same person. “The scaffold or noose would be too good for that thief,” her friends said in consolation over pints of ale. “I hope he gets caught in the act,” another volunteered. “I’d like to get my hands on that master thief,” a third boasted. November Rose pricked up her ears. “Master thief?” That titled belonged to her master alone. “Now is the time,” she urged him the next day. “You must avenge the Artisan who has fed and sheltered you over the years, now that she is in her hour of need. There must be honour, even among thieves. You must come out of hiding and reveal yourself once more for who you really are.”

Suddenly, his eyes brightened, casting off the years like a cloak. And so, when the Artisan, had, for the third time, to journey to the wild northern shore, she did not journey alone. For although she never knew they were there, November Rose and the Master Thief journeyed too, at a distance. Once the Artisan had tied the horse, they watched her enter the shop where the patron of her arts resided. Sitting down to wait, to all passers-by, they gave the outward appearance of a little girl out for a walk with her pet dog. Hours passed and then, suddenly, there he was. A man of nondescript visage with a tattered hood over his head walked boldly to the Artisan’s horse and began to untie it. “Stop!” yelled November Rose. “You are a thief! Go away, you little brat” the horse thief snarled. “This is not of your concern.” “Stop,” said November Rose, in a voice that was calm and unshaken. “Stop now or you will pay the price.” The horse thief turned briefly and laughed. “Pay the price, will I?” Drawing a dagger from his pocket, he stepped away from the horse and towards November Rose. “I’m going to teach you what paying the price does truly mean.” “Now!” she yelled. The horse thief tried to take another step towards her, but instead found himself face down on the cobble stones.

He struggled under the weight of his attacker and heard vicious growling. Quickly, he raised the hand which held the dagger to blindly stab at the beast who was digging its claws into his back. He was quick, but the Master Thief was quicker. With a ferocious bite, the hand that held the dagger lay severed on the ground. The horse thief screamed with pain, clutching his wound with his remaining hand. With haste, November Rose snatched up the dagger. And as for the hand, the Master Thief grabbed it with his teeth, lobbed it into the air, and opened his jaw to consume it with one bite. As the horse thief staged away, November Rose called to him, “Be gone from this land and never return. These lands are the dominion of the Master Thief of Caldrihtig and woe to anyone who comes to take from this land, except for he.”

When the Artisan returned from her employ, she was relieved to find her horse as she had left it. The Artisan had many business dealings on the northern shore and never again was the victim of horse theft. As time went on, she considered the loss of the two horses in the span of one week to have been a joke of the Fates. She never knew how her loss and her honour had been avenged by the Master Thief of Caldrihtig and November Rose. As for the horse thief, not only did he not return to the land of the Cold River, but all fellow thieves and would-be thieves who met the one-handed scoundrel heard of beast who had inflicted his wound.

And thus the Children of the Hare continue to enjoy prosperity in a land with one of the lowest incidence of crime in the known world, never realizing that their safety is due to the word-fame of the Master Thief of Caldrihtig.



Travel with whatever makes you happy.

Officers of the Barony of Skraeling Althing

Landed Baroness: Her Excellency, Catherine Townson

baroness@skraelingalthing.com

Seneschal: Sorcha of Kilmongan

seneschal@skraelingalthing.com

Signet (awards): TH Lady Alais de Poitiers

signet@skraelingalthing.com

Exchequer: Lady Jane Caldwell

exchequer@skraelingalthing.com

Marshal: Mistress Ælfwyn of Longwood

marshal@skraelingalthing.com

Web Minsiter: Lady Avelyn Wexcombe of Great Bedwyn

web.minister@skraelingalthing.com

Landed Baron: His Excellency, Shahid al-Hassan

baron@skraelingalthing.com

Herald: Lady Song Zidie

herald@skraelingalthing.com

Chronicler: Consaidin Breathnach

chronicler@skraelingalthing.com

Minister of the Arts and Sciences, Lord Dafydd ap Alan

moas@skraelingalthing.com

Chatelaine: TH Lady Constance Payne

chatelaine@skraelingalthing.com

Scribe to the Baronial Council: Lady Jane Caldwell

scribe@skraelingalthing.com

Canton Seneschal Contacts:

Caldrithig: Lord Michael Corviser

caldrithig@skraelingalthing.com

Tor Brant: Lady Brennait Bellfluer

tor.brant@skraelingalthing.com

Greyfells: Lord Eoin MacAlpen

greyfells@skraelingalthing.com

Harrowgate Heath: Lady Morag Taylor

harrowgate.heath@skraelingalthing.com

This is the Skraeling Althing Chronicle, the quarterly newsletter for the Barony of Skraeling Althing in the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. There is no subscription fee. The Chronicle is not a corporate publication of the SCA Inc, nor does it delineate SCA policies. All rights remain with the original author, photographer or artist. Questions or concerns may be directed to the Baronial Chronicler. 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.

Art used in this edition

Cannibal rabbit - Le livre de Lancelot du Lac & other Arthurian Romances, Northern France ca. 1275-1300 Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library, MS 229, fol. 287r <http://discardingimages.tumblr.com/>

Rabbit with puppies - Pontifical of Guillaume Durand, Avignon, before 1390. Paris, Bibliothèque Sainte-Geneviève, ms. 143, fol. 174r <http://discardingimages.tumblr.com/>

Photographs used by permission of Mary Darling.

Events

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

More details on Kingdom events can be found on the Kingdom of Ealdormere web page at <http://www.ealdormere.ca/>

Around the Kingdom:

Althing: September 25th - 27th. Held by the Barony of Septentria. The Althing will be held at the Home Stead of Mistress Aurelia Gabriana and THL Graeme de Lise de Cherbourg. The location is at 3421 Concession Road 5, Orono Ontario. Detailed and excellent directions are available on the Kingdom of Ealdormere Event calendar page.

Huntsman's Harvest: Saturday October 3rd. Event will run between opening at 10 Am and Midnight. The venue is the Germania Hunting and Fishing Club, 4240 Trinity Church Road, Binbrook, Ontario. Again I would suggest the excellent and clear directions provided on the Kingdom of Ealdormere Event calendar page. Please note: there will be a Kingdom of Ealdormere Open Privy council meeting during this event. The meeting is open, all are welcome and invited to attend and observe.

Fall Crown Tournament: Saturday October 17th. Hosted by the Canton on Caer Draeth at the Ivy Orange Hall, 5080 Side Road 20; Thornton On. The event will run between 9 AM and 10 PM. Directions are available on the Caer Draeth Website.

From Our Barony:

Feast of the Hare: Saturday November 7th. The Canton of Caldrithig hosts the Feast of the Hare: the Gathering at Caerbannog. The event is being held at the Greely community Center, 1448 Meadow Drive Rd, Greely, ON. Event runs between 9am and 10pm.

Practices and Meetings:

Greyfells: upcoming Matters martial from Eoin MacAlpen.

18 Oct 2015: Stan Reading Drill Hall, 1400 to 1800 - our monthly fight practice/A&S/Meeting. Come on out, Gear up, and get into the swing of things...YES Horrid pun intended...lol. Bring projects you are working on, hoping to start but aren't quite sure where/how to begin...

Or come for the idle chit chat and good company!

As we are now paying for our use of the Drill Hall, we will be 'passing the hat' for donations to help us offset the costs. There will also be an upcoming fight practice on 15 November as well.

Directions: From Highway 401

Make your way to Kingston on the 401 and head south on Highway 15. When Hwy 15 ends, take a left on Hwy #2 and head east.

Second set of lights (Princess Mary Ave) take a right into the gates and follow the road south. Turn left at the last intersection (Byng Ave) and take a right into the parking lot between the two buildings.

Caldrithig: Fight practices

The Canton of Caldrihig will be holding fight practices on the Wednesday of each week. Currently the hours of the practices are between 8 and 10 PM. The hours shift to between 7 and 9 PM in the Summer months. The practices are located at the Sandy Hill Community Center, 250 Somerset Street East, Ottawa. A map is provided on the Caldrihig web site as well.

I would be remiss to neglect honouring the Rapier lists of Caldrihig as well. Caldrihig holds a Rapier practice every Thursday night, running from 7:00 to 9:00 PM. Rapier practices are held in room 202 of the Jack Purcell Community Center, Ottawa. The center is located at 320 Jack Purcell Lane, Ottawa.

Harrowgate: Fight Practice

Harrowgate Heath holds their fight practice every Thursday night at the St. Joes' School Gym in Cornwall in the winter months. Maps are provided on the Harrowgate Heath web site for the benefit of the well prepared traveler. The practices are held between the hours of 6:30 and 9:00 PM.

Tor Brant: Fight Practice – Tuesdays, 6pm. 4 Derek Drive, Petawawa, ON.

Skraeling Althing demos/volunteer opportunities:

Truly, it is no secret that the Modern Medieval world is an extremely busy one. Many are the events that call to us each month. So, allow me to point out a few that are almost upon us. These events listed are events that have asked for us to attend. If any are interested, please see the barony of Skraeling Althing upcoming events page for a sign-up sheet.

Saturday September 26th: - Breast Cancer Action Ottawa Fundraiser. Location is at the corner of Baseline and Clyde. This is a one-day fundraising event for Breast Cancer Action Ottawa. According to the information provided on the Skraeling Althing website, this is a support service provider for those battling breast cancer. The event planners have requested that the SCA attend to provide some colour, drama and excitement. Combat services at the event will be provided by Armoured Company of the Sword.

October 4th: the Geek Market. Held at the Nepean Sportsplex. The Geek market is a 2-3 day convention, catering primarily to local artisans and local geek-related social clubs. The barony has been provided a free table at the event, and 2 free admissions. I am informed that we have applied for some stage time to conduct a combat demonstration. We are encouraged to dress for flair, for attention; lets unveil the peacock splendor of the barony!

October 4th: Fight for Life, Hintonburg Community Centre. This is a one day family oriented fundraiser for Youth Services Bureau, specifically for their sexual health and education services. The Barony has been asked to provide some interactive and family friendly stations, displaying some of our A&S crafts. Once again, drama and colourful flair are encouraged. Here the combat services are to be provided by Les Maitres d'Arms.

October 30/31: the University of Ottawa Open House, the "Arts" building, University of Ottawa. In this event the centerpiece is a series of presentations to promote the U of O History Department to their potential new students. We have been asked to lead an hour of dancing, combat form demonstrations and (perhaps) other displays. The event has some rather specific requirements concerning the talents required, due to the requests made by the event staff. Sessions will be 1 or 2 hours on one of two days.

Friends, Skraels, Gentles: Send me your content!

A small forward before I get to the meat of the matter: I am Consaidin Breathnach, the new Chronicler. My name is pronounced rather like Constantine Brannock; just in case anyone was wondering. Thank you to Baron Shahid, Baroness Catherine, Baroness Lucia and Sorcha of Kilmongan for the amazing support as I adjust to my new role.

As many will know, the Skraeling Althing Chronicle is the newsletter for the Barony of Skraeling Althing. This fine and noble periodical is to be published quarterly. In part, this Chronicle is a repository of information about upcoming events, activities and tales of interest: in short, of the news and activities from across our Barony. With only the facts of our fine events and noble challenges, however, the chronicle could become dry reading. That is why I'll always be eager to receive submissions, tales, stories; recipes; new content for upcoming issues of the Chronicle. Herein is your chance to bring to the pages of the chronicle the information you wish to share, or the wisdom you have earned in battle, or even the tales and articles that you always wanted to read yourself. Here are a few notions of what we'd be looking for in the days to come:



- *Histories: many of you know such great and inspiring tales about the worthies you have walked our lands, of the people and events that shaped the Barony and even the Kingdom we know and love today. Tales that will predate my own knowledge of this fine society. Tales I'd love to read and share.
- *A&S Projects: do you have a project you've been all about lately: something you've worked hard on? Let us know some of the details. Have you just cleared a set back that was holding you back from making the next dream project a reality? Share the triumph and we'll share it on the page...
- *Persona: who are you "really?" Many of us have so much more to our persona than a name, a date and a lovely set of fine clothes. So introduce yourself to the kingdom. Tell us the tale of how your persona reached these shores. You're done the research, you've written a history. So please consider sharing it with us.
- *Events, demo's, battles and other successes: there are so many amazing events that we share, but no two are ever alike. And sometimes we can't all see everything. So if you had a great time at an event, if you were at a demo and have a clear memory of what happened, do let us know. Share your adventures.
- *Artwork: with so many of our fine citizens blazing such trails in their arts, it would be hard to imagine that there are no lovely pieces waiting to be shared. Do you have a scroll that you made as a labour of love? An original bit of art? Send it in; tell me the tale behind it; and I'll do my best to share it with the Known World (or likely with the Barony). I'd only ask that you explain how to properly spell your Persona name so I can properly attribute your pieces authorship.
- * Photography: Events just come to life when you have photographs to capture the joy, the camaraderie, and the adventure. If you have pictures you are willing to share, send them in; help me make our Chronicle that much more vibrant.

This is my first tilt at the list as Chronicler. I must yield to the wisdom of my predecessors in so much more than this. I'm told that the best length for your articles would be between 200 and 400 words. However, I can assure you that from time to time the Chronicler will be happy to find ways to fit in that extra long piece. There will be a need for pieces comedic and thoughtful, insightful and a bit cheeky. (I say just a bit because we do have bophers about). All are needed.

I look forward to seeing what you have to share.

Consaidin Breathnach. Baronial Chronicler, Barony of Skraeling Althing