

Thunder's Quill Spring 2023

A quarterly newsletter from the Barony of Donnershafen

Gyrth and his able assistant Godelieve are the new Chroniclers and this is our first Quill. We would like to greatly thank Baroness Marina for her time as chronicler, especially utilizing more digital content as we transitioned in and out of the pandemic. We hope to carry further the new things she put in place. Since we already have frequent updates and event news on our social media sites, we would like to use the Quill as more of a spotlight on some of the ways our folk are interacting with each other and the wider SCA. Since we are a great Barony encompassing a lot of land, this could be a chance to get to know more about each other.



Dispatches from Donnershafen—What's new with our Baron and Baroness



Isabel and Kjell have gone to a lot of events since Vikings Come Home! Their presence has meant a lot to our populace and has encouraged large attendance from our group at events.

They have been to : Donnershafen 12th Night
Pentamere 12th Night
Winter RUM
Val Day
Pop Culture Con
and other events.

Their Excellencies have plans to go to :

Spring Coronation May 17th
Battle of the Inland Seas May 21
Crown Tournament May 28
and other events.

The place to really keep track of their Progress through our lands and beyond, is to visit our WEBPAGE <donnershafen.com>

There is word of our B&B starting a new event this fall, stay tuned to discussion on our social media platforms and business meeting minutes (see the back page of this newsletter for how to find those).



BARDIC SKIRMISHES II HOSTED BY LOCAL BARD

Do you know who in our illustrious Barony, was Event Steward for an event that encompassed the entire Knowne World? Taliesin Wordweaver strung together the virtual event January 27th-29th! Born as a spin-off of the Great Bardic War out of necessity during the pandemic, the first Bardic Skirmish was held in January last year, and was such a success that it was held again this year, and is already planned for next January as well.

What is a Bardic Skirmish anyway? It's an online event with many facets: there was a series of Themed Challenges to stretch and nurture your Bardic Skillz, and a selection of classes in a wide variety of subjects ranging from how to construct poetry to musical performance to Bards as Chatelaines. There were also Roundtables where everyone was invited to share their ideas, and such

games as Mad Bard Libs, and Themed Bardic sessions such as Across the Rainbow Bridge, where people shared memorials and elegies.

The three Challenge themes this year were Rallying Cries, Common Folk, and Mystic Traditions. A highlight was a session in which people shared anthems they sing in their kingdoms, focusing on rallying cries and battle cries. This morphed into each presenter belting out their song as well as explaining how it was created. The crowd went wild!

Besides the prepared classes, there were hangouts and discussions that lasted long into the night with no firm agenda and loose rules. It may surprise you to know that none of the sessions was recorded, so that all interactions were live, and the atmosphere was free and easy; dignity schmignity! Roundtable discussions went where they went and could be emotional, silly, or peppered with shenanigans.

What did it take to Event Steward this whole thing? Which was attended by folk from every single kingdom of the Knowne

World? Taliesin rounded up and supervised a Tech Steward, Class Coordinator and Deputy, Consultants, Schedulers, a Shenanigan Coordinator, Hosts and Teachers for each class and breakout session, and lots of Moderators. Maebh, Gyrth and Godelieve from Donnershafen were Mods. Taliesin had to give G&G a Zoom lesson to bring their skills up to speed. Mod duties were helping people get into the sessions they were looking for and included meeting lots folks from far flung lands such as a person who had been at Pennsic One! As you can imagine, this took several weeks, oh who are we kidding, months, of preparation and training on Taliesin's part. She learned to move among Bards and techies all over the Worlde. She put our barony on the map for a lot of participants.

How many folk participated all told? The precise answer is lost in the bardy mists. What's a shenanigan? Wouldn't you like to know?



Media Review by Sardonic Swan [Taras Bulba](#) is a 1962 film that may have escaped your notice. It has some fantastic scenes shot with hundreds of horses going at full speed while their bloodthirsty Cossack riders bond by yelling, "Zaporozhti!" which means, "Cossacks!" And a scene in which Andriy must prove he's not a coward, by proving that he's an idiot! You will gain insight into why Cossack culture didn't last. It's a little later than our period, set in the early 1600's. You will lose track of whom the Cossacks hate: it's the Poles, no the Turks! Whatever, Zaporozhti! Women's roles are ridiculous, and you'll keep reminding yourself no actual horses were harmed in the making of this film. The aforementioned scenes are amazing, as is Yul Brenner's over-the-top performance as Taras Bulba. He is magnificent and it's all set to Franz Waxman's score which was nominated for an Oscar and today acknowledged as one of the great action movie scores of all time. Tony Curtis is the costar. He spends most of the movie looking scared of Yul Brenner. You can watch it on Tubi for free with a few commercials.

Officers' News:

We have a new [Exchequer](#)! Lady Thorny has taken over this often thorny task. She does her reports and has published the Domesday Report to our webpage.

There's a new [Webminister](#) too; Baroness Maebh! Depending on how long you've been playing SCA you may remember she has held this position before and of course, did an excellent job. She has got the webpage updated already. See the Back Page of this Quill to find out more about the webpage and how to navigate there.

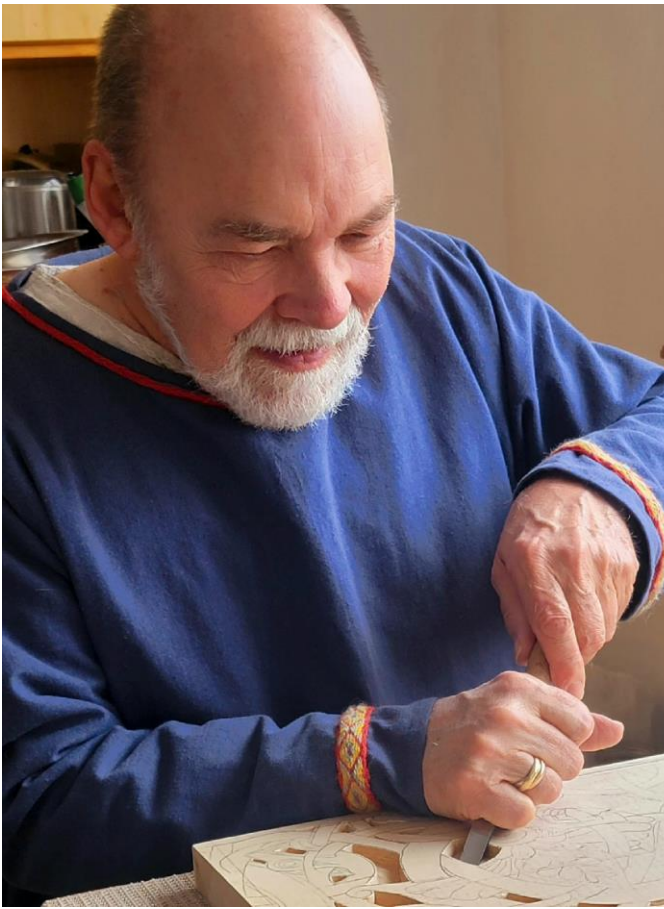
Lady Taliesin continues to do a fantastic job as [Social Media Officer](#); if you learned about us on Facebook, it's because she is on it. She has also stepped up to the role of [Chatelaine](#) and is gathering garb and thinking deep thoughts about ways to engage new people.

Lord Gyrth has become [Chronicler](#); his experience producing newsletters for other groups makes him comfortable with (legally) swiping images off the web and formatting. Godeleve is his deputy and they are figuring it out.

Lady Godelieve is still [Herald](#). She is excited to say she was warned by Taliesin that when Liam/William started making beautiful printed banners for our folk there would be a wave of people interested in working on their devices and names to go with them. Taliesin was right! Gyôa got her new name and device registered, Sol and Gyrth have submitted their names, Wulfric has got a somewhat new name and a new device almost ready to send in, and Maebh is working on her device. Godelieve is having a great time consulting, even though she is not always right. When you're wrong, you learn a lot. She is encouraging any interested folks to join in the fun, especially as Court Herald. She made you a tunic to wear!



Meet the Folk:



Owain ap Howell

Joined SCA in 1990 in the (then Canton) of Roaring Wastes.

Member of House Darkyard

Awards: White Wolf (Northwoods Baronial)

AoA 1992

Willow 2022

Unbelted Champion for Ilsa II at Pennsic XXI

Interests then: Heavy weapons fighting, armoring, leatherwork, dancing.

Interests now: Archery, woodcarving, leatherwork.

Favorite event: Pennsic XXI— We were part of Dag and Ilsa's entourage for their second reign and were invited to camp in Royal Encampment. I fought for her Majesty in the Unbelted Champions Tournament, and shot archery and fought on the field for House Darkyard.



Gyða in spaka Hrafnisdóttir
(formerly Muirne ni Branach)

Joined SCA in 1990 in Roaring Wastes, along with Owain.

Member: Sisters of the Snood

Awards: White Wolf 1991 (Northwoods)

AoA (as Muirne) 1992

AoA (as Gyða) 2022

Interests then: Cooking, needlework, dance, herbalism, brewing/vinting

Interests now: Herbalism (medical and culinary) dyeing and pigments, tablet weaving, spoon carving, illumination, cooking, and whatever rabbit hole I can find.

Favorite Event: Winter Revel. The lodge at Bertha Brock has always been amazing, we cooked simpler fireside feasts and drank and danced 'til we dropped. Then spent the night on bedrolls in the upstairs lofts. Oh, yeah, and snowball fights!

Fartes of Portingale

This is a sixteenth century dish of lamb meatballs done in a Portuguese style, according to Elizabethan concepts of what is Portuguese style. Fartes are typically a light and delicate pastry according to Lorna J. Sass in To The Queen's Taste, a collection of Elizabethan recipes. The original recipe is taken from The Good Huswives Handmaid, originally published in 1588.

Original Recipe: *How to make Fartes of Portingale. Take a peece of a leg of mutton. Mince it smal and season it with cloves, mace, pepper, and salt, and Dates minced with currants: then roll it into round rolles, and so into little balles, and so boyle them in a little beef broth and so serve them forth.*

Translation:

How to make mincemeat of Portugal. Take a piece of a leg of mutton. Mince it small and season it with cloves, mace, pepper, and salt, and Dates minced with currants: then roll it into round rolls, and so into little balls, and so boil them in a little beef broth and so serve them forth.

Interpretation:
1 lb ground lamb ½ tsp ground mace
2 Tbsp currants ½ tsp salt
6 dates, minced ½ tsp ground pepper
2 cups beef broth ½ tsp ground cloves

Combine lamb, currants, dates and spices, mixing well. Take meat mixture and form into ½ inch size balls. Place balls of meat into boiling beef broth, for about 10 to 15 minutes, stirring as needed until meat is fully cooked, then serve.

References: <https://thepastisaforeignpantry.com/2020/07/12/farts-of-portingale-1594/>

Sass, Lorna J. *To the Queen's Taste: Elizabethan Feasts and Recipes Adapted for Modern Cooking*. [New York]: Metropolitan Museum of Art, 1976. Print.

"The Good Huswives Handmaide for the Kitchin, London 1594." *The Good Huswives Handmaide for the Kitchin, London 1594*. N.p., n.d. Web. 26 Sept. 2012. <<http://www.uni-giessen.de/gloning/tx/1594-ghh.htm>>

The Good Huswives Handmaide for the Kitchin ... Imprinted at London: By Richard Iones., 1594. Print.



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Baronial Officers:

Baron and Baroness: Kjell Smidr and Isabel Taylor

Seneschal: Lord Wulfric of Donnershafen

Exchequer: Lady Thorny Bodvarskona

Chatelaine: Lady Taliesin Wordweaver of Donnershafen

Herald: Lady Godelina aka Godelieve
<donnershafen.herald@midrealm.org>

Webminister: Baroness Maebh ingen Carthaig

Chronicler: Gyrrh of Donnershafen

Minister of Arts and Sciences: Lady Oswin Elderkin

Knights' Marshal: Baron Kjell Smidr

Social Media Officer: Lady Taliesin Wordweaver of Donnershafen

Youth Minister: Lady Evelan of Donnershafen

Social media:

<donnershafen.com> This is our [WEBPAGE](#). Here you will find official information about our Barony and also the SCA, info about our big event, Vikings Come Home, and other events we are sponsoring. This is the place to find out what the Baron and Baroness are going to next (their Baronial Progress), also their likes and dislikes, so we can travel with them and keep them happy. They work hard to make us a great Barony. Our Baronial Order of Precedence is found on this page, too. That is where you can see people's SCA and mundane names and the awards they have. This is where our Domesday report is published. There is so much more, so click on over there. This webpage is maintained by our Webminister, Baroness Maebh. You can find her contact info under Officers on the webpage, as well as contact info for the other Baronial Officers.

<Barony of Donnershafen–Middle Kingdom of the SCA> This is our [Facebook PAGE](#). Its content is similar to the webpage discussed above, with the difference that it is on Facebook, and there are more frequent event updates about smaller events such as monthly meetings, online P.U.B. Nights, and Donnershafen Days. This Facebook PAGE, like the webpage, also contains official information about events. This FB PAGE is managed by Lady Taliesin, our Social Media Officer.

<Friends of the Sable Swan> is our [Facebook GROUP](#). This is where we have casual conversations, arrange rideshares, chat about events, including events of interest that are outside our Barony or online, and say hi to friends near and far. You will also find up-to-the-minute links to events we are sponsoring and online happenings. Our photos and business meeting minutes are here. If you are not already a member of this FB GROUP, you'll be required to agree to a few unsurprising ground rules and answer a few questions to join. This FB GROUP is managed by Lady Taliesin, our Social Media Officer.

