



Thunder's Quill

Fall 2023

A quarterly newsletter from the Barony of Donnershafen

Gyrth is away attending to his able assistant Godelieve at her bedside. I, Meabh, your trusty webminister, will do my best to fill in as chronicler. Please forward any questions or submissions to my email: [donnershafen.webminister \[at\] midrealm \[dot\] org](mailto:donnershafen.webminister@midrealm.org).

BLACK SWAN FACTS

- ❖ *Cygnus Atratus* is its scientific name
- ❖ The black swans typically fly at night
- ❖ It is the only swan species mostly black in color.
- ❖ They are native to Australia and the aboriginal name for them is Koltjak (call'jack)
- ❖ They do not migrate but are nomadic and move place to place in search of food
- ❖ Their wing span is up to six feet and weigh upwards of 20 pounds
- ❖ A large group is called a "bank" but a group in flight is called a "wedge"



The Barony of Donnershafen has been busy with two events this fall. Vikings Come Home XXXI and Smithys, Bakers and Wrights. Please enjoy these pictures taken during these events! Images were taken by Mistress Isabel.



**SMITHYS, BAKERS
AND WRIGHTS
2023**





**VIKINGS COME HOME
2023**



Bring Me Home

Baroness Meabh shares the story behind the Donnershafen song she wrote.

When a challenge was set forth to write a poem, story or song about the Barony, I knew I wanted to write a song. I had been listening to a CD by Mary Jane Lamond where she had recorded traditional gaelic folk songs. I particularly liked Hi ri him bo. I envisioned someone singing the verses and everyone joining in on the chorus. The verses describe different aspects of our barony. Here is a break down.

Chorus: Oh bring me home to Donnershafen
 Oh bring me home, home to the black swan
 Oh bring me home to Donnershafen

There is a place of northern lands
Where the thunder rolls o'er golden sands

The first verse describes the dunes and beaches of our area. Story has it when our group was named, a thunderstorm was coming across Lake Michigan, hence our name, Donnershafen; Thunders Haven.

The borders are safe as the swan doth soar
Her sable wings fly ever more

This verse is pretty self-explanatory in that it describes our Barony's device, the black swan.

Great scholars gather from far and near
To share their knowledge to those who'll hear

This speaks to our spring event we used to hold called Collegium Artium Vulgarum. It was a day of classes and a guest speaker followed by a potluck feast.

There's story told of a joyous feast
Where they serve you honeyed roasted beast

Donnershafen's VCH feasts were once popular for their honey roast beef and I wanted to keep that sweet memory alive.

Grand fires burn against the cold
Where their songs are sung and stories are told

The bonfires of Vikings Come Home are center of this verse. I wrote this before the Woolly Spammoth became a thing. I should write a new verse to commemorate it.

Their women and men are strong and proud
Tho' "non summus exmpla" they cry loud

I had a hard time trying to find a rhyme to exmpla. I imagined people shouting our motto and the verse then quickly came to me.

I had attended an event called the Silver Hammer in Tennessee in October. They had a bardic competition during feast with the theme "home". So I had the pleasure of sharing my song and can proudly say I am now the Silver Hammer Bardic Champion. I have a lovely beaded velvet sash. Of course, I didn't read the fine print and now have to return next year to run the competition and pick the theme. Road trip anyone?!

BACK PAGE

Baronial Officers:

Baron and Baroness: Kjell Smidr and Isabel Taylor

***Seneschal:** Lord Wulfric of Donnershafen

***Exchequer:** Lady Thorny Bodvarskona

***Chatelaine:** Lady Taliesin Wordweaver

***Herald:** Lady Godelina (aka Godelieve)

***Webminister:** Baroness Meabh ingen Carthaig

***Chronicler:** Gyrth of Donnershafen

***Minister of Arts & Sciences (MOAS):** Lady Oswin Elderkin

***Knight's Marshal:** Baron Kjell Smidr

Social Media Officer: Lad Taliesin Wordweaver

Youth Minister: Lady Evelan of Donnershafen



All *great officers have official emails and be reached at [donnershafen.\(office title\)@midrealm.org](mailto:donnershafen.(office title)@midrealm.org)
Their emails can also be found on the website.

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. Contact information for the officers can be found here as well. Under the Document Library tab, you can find past Quill's and the Order of Precedence. The OoP is a list of participant's modern names, SCA names and awards received. The webpage is managed by our webminister.

<Barony of Donnershafen - Middle Kingdom of the SCA> This is our Facebook PAGE. The information collected here is similar to what's on the webpage with more frequent updates about our events, business meetings, online P.U.B. Nights and Donnershafen Days. This is managed by 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 those outside the Barony or online, and say hi to friends near and far. 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 page is managed by our Social Media Officer.