

The Thorny Truth



Shire of Rosenfeld

February 2009

Being A. S. XLIII

Shire

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Applications due Feb. 28

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Applications due Feb 28

This is *The Thorny Truth*, a monthly publication of the Shire of Rosenfeld of the Society for Creative Anachronisms, Inc. (SCA). *The Thorny Truth* is available from Sarah Redford 1002 San Marcus St. Jacksonville, TX 75766. It is not a corporate publication of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. and does not delineate SCA policies. All submissions must be received by the 15th of each month to be considered for publication in the subsequent month. The Chronicler reserves the right to refuse any submission. Those accepted will be published as space becomes available. For any submission other than an officer's missive, a signed release form will be needed. "Tassel Making" used with the permission of Mistress Dyan du lac Calendre. "The Black Death..." used with permission of Duchess Julia de Montoya. "Of Mists, Myth and Magic" and "Coming Attractions" used with permission of Lady Sarah di Rimini.

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Meeting & Practice Information

February 1: **Fighter Practice** **2:00 pm**
(1st Sunday) [McWhorter Park, on Toler Road, Longview, TX](#)

February 8 **A&S Class:** **2:00 – 3:00 pm**
(2nd Sunday) **“Tassel Making” by Mistress Dyan**
Officer’s Meeting **3:00 pm** (Open to All)
Populace Meeting **4:00 pm** (Open to All)
[Genecov Room, Tyler Chamber of Commerce, Tyler](#)

February 15: **Fighter Practice** **2:00 pm**
(3rd Sunday) [Bergfeld Park, corner of 4th & Broadway, Tyler](#)

No meetings or practices are scheduled during Holiday weekends. Changes in meeting or practice dates will be posted to the Rosenfeld List so please check your email on applicable Sundays for updates.

For more information regarding meetings, please contact the Seneschal. For more information regarding fighter practices, please contact the Knight Marshal. Their contact information is located on inside front cover of this publication.

Shire Website <http://rosenfeld.ansteorra.org>
Shire E-group <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Rosenfeld>

Guild Information

The Shire of Rosenfeld currently has several active guilds. Please contact the following individuals for information regarding current projects:

Scribal Guild
Lady Carletta da Nicolosi
Carletta_Nicolosi@yahoo.com

Weavers Guild
Duchess Julia de Montoya
juliademontoya@gmail.com

Sewing Guild
Lady Sarah di Rimini
Sarahofrosenfeld@gmail.com

February 21st is the next meeting of the Sewing Guild. The Guild will meet at 11:00a.m. at Duchess Julia’s home in Longview. Bring a mid-day snack to share. The information offered this month will be on patterns. Coming soon, all information from the Guild meetings will be accessible on the Rosenfeld website.

The Scribal Guild will meet on the last Thursday of the Month at Lady Carletta’s home. Please contact her for more information.



FROM THE SENESCHAL

Unto the Shire of Rosenfeld I give greetings and Welcome.

Here is a quick draft of notes from Kings Roundtable Jan/09.

- Kudos went out to Baron Tostig for his job as herald to Rosenfeld.
- Mistress Rhiannon was noted for her service as Central Regional Exchequer. This office will be coming open in July.
- The Rosenfeld Scribal Guild is 1 of only 19 active scribal guilds in this Kingdom.
- A gentle reminder was given to all officers about responding promptly to all emails and phone messages even if that response is just to say they were going to find out the information and get back with them. A simple acknowledgement goes a long way. And a follow up a day or two later is a good idea as well. Master Pug noted his computer problems as example to the “Just say something” rule. Half of his outgoing emails over several months were never sent due to a problem on his own laptop. Quick and regular communication helped avoid problem situations because of this virus.
- Scanned waivers emailed to the Waiver Secretary are now acceptable.
- Scanned and digitally signed Exchequers reports are now acceptable. However, unsigned or unsupported reports received are not considered as submitted reports. Make sure all reports requiring supporting documentation and signatures have them before sending them up to your Regional or Kingdom Officer.
- Warrants were signed for the following members of Rosenfeld: Lord Charles (Seneschal), Lady Brangwyne (Exchequer), Baron Tostig (Herald), Sir Ian (Knight Marshall), Lady Stephanie (MoAS), Lady Alessandra (Hospitaler), Lord Wolfger (Virtual Scribe), Mistress Rhiannon (Central Regional Exchequer) and Duchess Julia (Central Regional Chronicler).

Wonderful news Rosenfeld!! Rosenfeld has been contacted recently by The Royal Heirs and asked to do the Coronation and Kings Champion event. These plans are currently being finalized. His Excellency Baron Tostig Logiosophia has accepted the Event Steward position for this event. Vivat Rosenfeld!

Three Queens 2009 is progressing wonderfully. All three principals have been secured and are already actively recruiting. Please see the event report also in this newsletter.

Sadly, due to health issues, our Chroniclers' office became suddenly open for bid. The Central Regional Chronicler has appointed Lady Sarah di Rimini as Acting Chronicler until the selection process can be completed. Thank you Lady Sarah.

Other Offices coming open in the first half of 2009:

1. Heralds Office in July. Applications due by June 30th.
2. Knight Marshal in July. Applications due by June 30th.
3. Chronicler office is open immediately. Applications due by February 28.

If you are interested in any of these offices please get in touch with the Seneschal or the current Officer who will be happy to assist you in submitting your application to the Regional.

If you are interested in being a deputy for any officer, please contact that officer directly. Deputy Officers should be willing and able to take over an office if the need arises. An officer may be a deputy to another

officer except in certain situations. Every officer and deputy must be warrantable for that office (current in his or her membership, required classes arranged where necessary, etc.).

The Office of the Seneschal is also looking for a Deputy who wants to learn the position and possibly transition into the Office as of January 2010. I have received inquiries, but as yet no applications for this opening.

Now is the time to submit your ideas and budget for our annual May Day Demo. This year, the first weekend will be on May 1st thru the 3rd. I am looking forward to seeing who will be our Steward for this event.

Lastly, we have come upon the time of year where the hearts of our fighters begin to look forward to Gulf Wars. Anyone planning on going, and who wishes to camp in the Rosenfeld encampment, please post their tent sizes to the Rosenfeld Gulf Wars list at RosenfeldGWEncampment@yahoo.com as soon as possible so we may begin planning how to fit us all in.

I look forward to being with each and every one of you,

Ed. Charles Ó Floinn

Charles Flynn
Seneschel to the Shire of
Rosenfeld, Ansteorra, SCA



Greetings from the (Acting) Chronicler of Rosenfeld

Unto Rosenfeld, I send greetings:

It is my great pleasure to announce the first online issue of The Thorny Truth. This venue will allow us to have as large a newsletter as we like without worrying about postage prices. I challenge each one of you to send in an article, photo, website link, poem etc... for consideration a couple of times a year. This is your newsletter so let's make it the best it can be.

In service

Sarah

<http://www.ansteorra.org/publications/forms/PubPerm.pdf> is the link to the form for permission to publish.



From the Minister of Arts & Sciences

I would like to thank Lady Susanne Nightegale de Caldwell very much for the interesting class on brewing hard cider. I have extra copies of the handout if anyone who was unable to attend wants one. I had asked Lady Susanne how much alcohol one can brew without getting in trouble with the modern authorities, and she was not sure. I found the federal regulations about how much of what you can brew. No distilled spirits may be brewed without paying taxes. For beer and wine, the limit is 200 gallons of each per household with 2 adults, or 100 gallons per household with 1 adult. Contrary to what the brewing stores will tell you, the federal regulations state these beverages may not be brewed by anyone under the legal drinking age in the locale where the brewing is taking place. If you are dying to know more, the details are at www.ttb.gov.

Our next class is an unexpected surprise. The King has called a fighter practice for the day after Candlemas, which happens to be the day of our meeting this month. Since Mistress Rhiannon is a fighter, she has asked to be rescheduled to another date. Accordingly, Mistress Dyan will teach tassel making. I actually did not know anyone made tassels. I guess I assumed they appeared by spontaneous generation on pillows and other available surfaces. Bring your scissors and join me in learning how they are made and how to attach them to surfaces so it looks like they grew there of their own accord.

There is no class scheduled for March. Many of our number will be at Gulf War, and the meeting is often moved around to accommodate this fact. Instead, we will have a project work day in which anyone who wishes to may gather and work on their projects and commiserate on being left behind while others go to war.

Finally, I am planning on attending Kingdom A&S. I do not have room for any humans in the truck, but if you cannot go and wish to display your work, I will be happy to take it down to the event and set up your display. Please pack your items well and include a picture of how you want your display set up.

Lady Stephanie Lilburn



From the Knight Marshal

Unto the Populace of Their Majesty's Shire of Rosenfeld
Sir Ian Mac Baird sends good greetings,

Sorry to say that there is precious little to report. We have not had an official practice lately. The good news is that the cold weather is on the down hill side of its courts and cool to warm weather is not far off.

Of course...Gulf War is not that far off either. High time to train up for the upcoming battles.

At this time I would like to once again post the Knights Marshal office for applications. The transition from Seur Tomas to Centurion Damon as the regional KM has been made and the time seems right to let the younger folks serve in this capacity. These applications will be open until the end of February with copies needing to be sent to Centurion Damon, Lord Charles, and me.

Until next time then, be well, train hard, and be proud with every fiber of your being that you are Ansteorran.

Serving the Crown in Their Shire of Rosenfeld,
Sir Ian



Heraldically Speaking...

Unto the friends and members of Rosenfeld, Greetings,

It was a delightful surprise to see one of our own honored at the Regional Twelfth Night in January. Lady Sarah di Rimini was awarded the Sable Comet of Ansteorra for her work in the Shire of Rosenfeld. For Lady Sarah, Vivat!

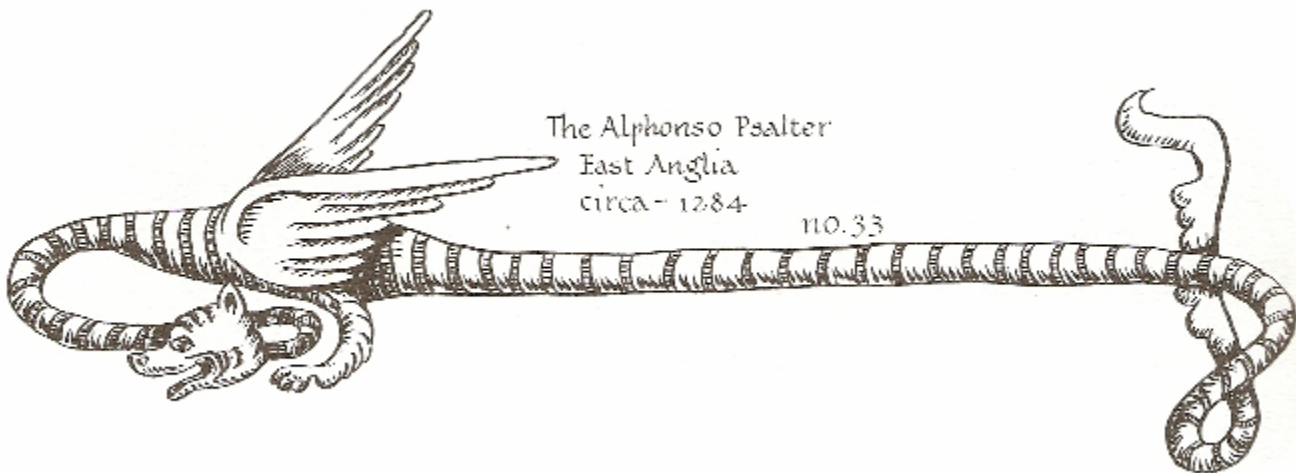
Once again, this summer sees the expiration of my warrant as Shire Pursuivant. Reporting your efforts has been a pleasure. Who will have that pleasure in the future? No experience, vocal or artistic talent needed – just a willingness to report and help others learn. Please talk with me about it.

Forms for applying for any Office are on the Ansteorra Website. Applications go to the supervising Officer (In this case, The “Eclipse Herald”). Their contact information is in ‘The Black Star’ and on the Ansteorra Website. Copies go to the current officer and the seneschal.

“Keep catching each other doing good things and telling on them. They deserve it.

“Support and Flourish”,
Tostig

Editor's note: Baron Tostig was also honored at the Regional Twelfth Night. For his excellent work in heraldry he was awarded the Sable Thistle of Ansteorra. Vivat Baron Tostig!





From the Rapier Marshal

It was great to have all of the college students back for practice during January and sad to see them off in their many directions for class but that is part of life.

I apologize to the Shire, but I will be at a conference for work on the first of February and will be unable to attend fighter practice that day. We will be returning from Kingdom Arts and Sciences on February 15th (the third Sunday) and probably will not be back in time to make practice on that day.

Her Royal Majesty has requested a Kingdom wide rapier practice in Bryn Gwlad on the second Sunday of February in preparation for Gulf War in March. I hope to see some of our rapier fighters there.

In Service
Rhiannon



Scribal Guild

Due to the Christmas holidays, there was no Scribal Guild Meeting in December. The next meeting will be Thursday, February 26 at the home of Lady Carletta.



Tassel Making!!

Tassels can offer a crowning touch to just about anything! Whether for ceremonial, spiritual or simply everyday accessories, tassels were a valued embellishment of almost every culture throughout recorded history. The Latin word for clasp is *Tassa*. In 12th Century France a clasp like ornament used for fastening a cloak was called a *Tasseau* and tassels were called *Houpe*. Over time, the word *Tasseau* changed to mean an actual *Tassel* instead of a clasp.

Come explore the fabulous history of tassels on Sunday, Feb. 8th at 2 pm! We will use a traditional technique to create a basic tassel & apply a needle woven embellishment. Supplies will be available & you are welcome to bring any special threads or yarns you may want to use. Please furnish your own scissors.

See you then & we will *Houpe* it up!

Mistress Dyan

The Black Death and its Effect on Fourteenth Century England

Part Six (Final)

The quality of education was also affected by the Plague. This was attributed to several factors. There was a loss of highly qualified instructors, the loss of future intellectual thinkers, and the lower quality of incoming students.

Death or migration caused the loss of highly qualified instructors. The level of education suffered due to the lack of instruction from these brilliant masters. Without their teachings, the knowledge base became “watered down” with subsequent generations of instructors.²⁵

As exceptional students on their path to becoming brilliant masters themselves succumbed to the disease, the future of education was forever changed. Death or migration took away from future students the opportunity to be taught by future intellectuals.²⁶

The factor that most affected education during this time is the quality of incoming students. Teachers became scarce at all levels; not just at the universities. Lower level instruction, as in primary and secondary schools, became victim to the Black Death and resulted in lowering the quality of the (educated) student that entered the university.²⁷ A student is only as good as the instruction he received in his formative years.

There were many religious schools that filtered students into the universities. These “feeder institutions” taught classes in liberal arts as well as other curriculum. The same factors affecting regular universities such as student enrollment, teacher availability, and the quality of instructors and students affected these schools as well.²⁸

The cycle of lowered education was self-perpetuating. Until the decline of the plague and until qualified masters returned to teaching, the educational system suffered but was not halted. Students enrolled, teachers taught, and future instructors rose from the system albeit they were not of the same caliber as previous scholars. But the decline in the educational system was not truly felt during this time. It took a decade and, sometimes, another generation to see the end results of the Plague on education.

By the time the Plague subsided, the clergy renewed its commitment to education. In fact, with the death of a great number of the population, money was “concentrated in fewer hands,”²⁹ Those hands belonged to the Church. New schools, both elementary and secondary, were founded. The death of many of the clergy created a demand for more priests and teachers and the Church answered the call.³⁰

The reduction in enrollment at schools and universities was attributed to other factors by some modern scholars. Opportunity for highly sought positions had diminished as the Black Death made its way through England and diminished her population. The patronage system had collapsed to some degree and a university education was no longer a critical factor to attaining a good position. According to Guy Lytle, it was wiser to forge new relationships with those in high positions with the crown or the Church in an effort to secure a worthy position.³¹

²⁵ Courtenay, 706.

²⁶ Courtenay.

²⁷ Courtenay.

²⁸ Courtenay, 708.

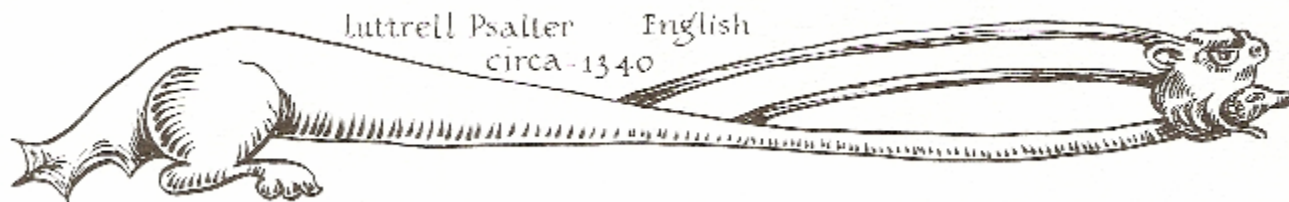
²⁹ Courtenay, 709.

³⁰ Courtenay, 710.

³¹ Courtenay.

No doubt the Plague affected England's economy and education system in a severe way. According to Hatcher, the Black Death merely hurried up changes that were already in motion. Some go much further and stated changes began a full half-century earlier. Credit was given to those who had large spheres of influence and theoretically manipulated the economy through that influence.³²

³² Hatcher, 6



OF MIST, MYTH AND MAGIC

by Lady Sarah

The Tomato

Originally cultivated by Aztecs and Incas as early as 700 AD, the tomato is native to South and Central America. Tomato derives from "tomatl" its name in Nahuatl, the language of the Aztecs.

As a member of the nightshade family, tomatoes bear more than a passing resemblance to henbane, mandrake and nightshade-deadly plants that probably kept the tomato from becoming immediately popular. They were appreciated for their beauty but considered poisonous for hundreds of years.

German folklore claims that witches used plants like mandrake and nightshade to summon werewolves, a practice known as lycanthropy. The common German name for tomatoes translates to "wolf peach" and because of this they were avoided. The tomato species was given the name *Lycopersicon esculentum*, which literally translated means "edible wolf peach."

The French referred to the tomato as "pommes d'amour" or "love apple", as they thought them to have stimulating aphrodisiacal properties.

Italy was one of the first European countries to embrace the tomato, and called them "pomi d'oro" or "apple of gold", as early tomatoes were usually small and yellow.

Tomatoes are about the newest food of world-wide importance. It is only within the last 200 years or so that they made their way from the South to the Northern U.S.

www.tomatoesareevil.com

www.homecooking.about.com

www.plantanswers.tamu.edu/publications/vegetabletravelers/tomato

ECIPE

by Rhiannon

This is an enjoyable dish for the season with the bright red and yellow creating a wonderful color contrast. I suggest using food coloring here but you could substitute Saffron for the yellow and sandalwood for red.

Roial Spicerye

Bryndons. Take Wyn, & putte in a potte, an clarifyd hony, an Saunderys, pepir, Safroun, Clowes, Maces, & Quybibys, & mynced Datys, Pynys and Roysonys of Corauns, & a lytil Vynegre, & sethe it on the fyre; an sethe fygys in Wyne, & grynde hem, & draw hem thorw a straynoure, & caste ther-to, an lete hem boyle alle togederys; than take fayre flowre, Safroun, Sugre, & Fayre Water, and make ther-of cakys, and let hem be thinne Inow; than kyte hem y lyke lechyngys, an caste hem in fayre Oyle, and fry hem a lytil whyle; thanne take hem owt of the panne, an caste in-to a vesselle with the Syrippe, & so serue hem forth, the bryndonys an the Sirippe, in a dysshe; & let the Sirippe be rennyng, & not to styf. - Two Fifteenth-Century Cookery-Books

- 4 1/2 cups flour
- 2 cups sugar
- 1/2 cup (or more) cold water
- few drops yellow food-coloring (optional)
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- vegetable oil
- 1 bottle (750 ml) of an inexpensive sweet red wine
- 1 1/2 cups honey
- 1/2 cup red wine vinegar
- few drops red food coloring (optional)
- 1 tsp. each pepper, cloves, & mace
- 1/2 cup each chopped dates, currants, & pine nuts (or slivered almonds)
- 1 cup figs

Bring the wine & honey to a boil; reduce heat and skim off the scum until clean. Add the vinegar, red coloring, pepper, cloves, mace, fruits, & nuts, return to a boil, then reduce heat to a low simmer.

In a separate bowl, mix together the flour, sugar, & salt. Dye the water yellow with a few drops of coloring, then slowly work into the flour enough of the water to make a smooth dough, similar to pie pastry. Roll out on a floured board, then cut in strips about 1 inch wide and 4 inches long. In a deep skillet or pan, fry the strips in oil until lightly browned and very crisp. Drain. Place the cakes on a serving platter, then spoon on the fruits & nuts. The yellow cakes and the red topping make an interesting contrast in colors, and the wine will soften the cakes.



Three Queens II: *In the Name of the Rose*

Greetings Rosenfeld!

Plans for our next Three Queens are well underway. We have secured our Queens, started working on filling the staff positions, and will, in just a short time, have a website linked to the Kingdom Calendar. (Of course, not all information will be available but rest assured, they will keep coming back to check for updates!)

Our sources tell us that Queen Berengaria has already made great strides in forming her army and those that will, otherwise, participate on her behalf. But I doubt that Their Majesties, Isabella and Margaret will sit idly by as Their enemies plan for their victory!

Please feel free to share any suggestions with us and we will most certainly do our best to work them in, if possible. Additionally, check the Staff List on the egroup's "Files" section and see where you might be able to contribute. It is never too early to plan!

Our thanks to those individuals who have already stepped up to help!

In Service,

*Lady Sarah
Duchess Julia*

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Chronicler

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Hospitaler

Taking applications

Minister of Arts & Sciences

Lady Sarah di Rimini
Sarah Redford
sarahofrosenfeld@gmail.com

Virtual Scribe

Taking applications

Kingdom of Ansteorra Event Planner

February 2009 (A.S. XLIII)

Summer Round Table Bids Due

- 6-8  [Candlemas](#) - Bryn Gwlad (Austin, TX) *PED*
- 13-15  [Kingdom A&S](#) - Stargate (Houston, TX)
 Unofficial Event: [Regional War Practice](#) - Elfsea (Fort Worth, TX)
- 20-22  [Coastal Invasion/Seawinds 25th](#) - Seawinds and Loch Soilleir (Corpus Christi, TX)
- 27-1 [A Day in Sherwood](#) - Bjornsborg (San Antonio, TX)
Unofficial Event: [In the Company of Wolves VIII](#) - House Wolfstar (Oklahoma City, OK)
Out of Kingdom Event: [Calontir 25th Anniversary](#) - Barony of Three Rivers (St. Louis, MO)

March 2009 (A.S. XLIII)

Laurel's Prize Tournament Bids Due

- 6-8
- 13-15  Out of Kingdom: [Gulf War XVIII](#) (15th - 22nd) - Gleann Abhann
- 20-22  Out of Kingdom: [Gulf War XVIII](#) (15th - 22nd) - Gleann Abhann
- 27-29

April 2009 (A.S. XLIII)

Summer Round Table Bids Due

- 3-5 A Day In . . . - Raven's Fort (Huntsville, TX)
 Elfsea Defender - Elfsea (Fort Worth, TX) *PED*
 Unofficial Event: [Medieval Faire Demo](#) - Namron (Norman, OK)
- 10-12    Defenders of the Rose - Tir Medoin/Shadowlands (Temple/College Station)
Wiesenfeuer Baronial - Wiesenfeuer (Oklahoma City, OK)
- 17-19  Stargate Baronial - Stargate (Houston, TX) *PED*
 Defender of the Flame - Glaslyn (Denton, TX)
- 24-26   Lysts at Castleton - Multigroup Event (Austin, TX)
 Champions of Bonwicke - Bonwicke (Lubbock, TX) *PED*