



## CALENDAR

Weekend events are marked in bold typeface, local activities are in normal typeface, and holidays are marked with asterisks.

### APRIL

- 1 \*\*\* All Fool's Day \*\*\*  
First Day of Rhino Season
- 3 \*\*\* Easter Sunday \*\*\*  
Daylight Savings Time Starts - Spring Forward!!
- 4 Biz Meeting/Fox Tales Distrib.
- 9 Coronation (Crimson River)  
Local Archery Practice
- 11 Class: Period Food
- 16 Fool's War VI (Novus Matisco)  
Candlelight Camp (S. Gray Bear)  
Local Archery Practice
- 18 Class: Music/Fox Tales Deadline
- 23 Iris Faire (Glaedenfeld)  
War of the Pearls (Seleone/Axmoor)  
Glory Wars (Eagle/Thorngill)  
Forest Wars IV (Blackmoor Keep)  
Local Archery Practice
- 25 Class: Dance
- 28 Magic Carpet Con (Dalton, GA)
- 30 Weekend at the Borglar (Grey Niche)  
Quest for the Holy Grail (An Dun Thelne)  
Dreamstone XV (Bryn Madoc)  
Local Archery Practice

### MAY

- 1 \*\* SCA New Year (AS XXIX) \*\*\*
- 2 Biz Meeting/Fox Tales Distrib.
- 7 Black Axe (Iron Mountain)  
Sable Swan (Glynn Rhe)  
Class: Fabric Painting, part 1
- 14 Crown List (Thor's Mountain)
- 16 Class: Fabric Painting, part 2/Fox Tales Deadline

Fighter practice is held on Sunday afternoons in Warner Park at 2 p.m. (weather permitting); chapter meetings are at Trinity Lutheran Church at Hixson Pike and Highway 153 on Mondays at 7 p.m. Archery practices are held at Choo Choo Archery Lanes on Bonny Oaks Drive at 12 noon (on scheduled Saturdays).

## BEST BETS

4/1 Rhino Season Opening Day: All Known World chapters celebrate this holiday in various ways. In the Shire of Ant Hill, they're having the first annual Rhino Roast Cook Out, featuring grilled rhino fillets, "rhino rounds" (rhino 'hot dogs'), fresh rhino steaks (rare, medium, or charcoal), rhino chili (bring a fire hose), and neu rhineaux flambe (they got a feastcrat with a Norman persona...). All for only \$12.95; includes first class bus fare to and from the event site, an after-feast mint, and all the lime Jello (tm) you can eat! Info: call (999) ANT HILL.

4/28 Magic Carpet Con, Dalton, GA: Dalton's very own Science Fiction/Fantasy Convention. We have a demo scheduled. Note: If this year's is successful, next year, they'll try to get Anne McCaffery, if it flops, there won't be a MCC next year. Contact Seneschal for details on free entry to the con.

4/30 Quest for the Holy Grail, Cullman, AL (125 mi.) \$10, \$7.00 daytrip. Two tourneys: "Death by Dismemberment", "I'm Not Quite Dead Yet", French Taunting Contest, "Bring out your dead" wheelbarrow race. Sideboard supper, dancing under the stars, discreetly dry site. Tenting only.

### Regnum

Seneschal	Lady Rachele du Pied Leger Rachel Lightfoot (706) 965 - 7947
Knight Marshall	Lord Forddwydd Meredydd, Esq. Craig Rethwilm (615) 624 - 3458
Herald	Laird Cailean michAlasdair A'Sinclair Jason Tryon (615) 624 - 2040
Arts & Sciences	Lee Comyn Lee Cummings (615) 855 - 0303
Hospitaller	Lady Diana Fiona O'Shera Diane Walker (615) 875 - 5417
Reeve	Mistress Lijsbeth Tijz van Brugge Leslie Dulin (615) 886 - 6256
Historian	Lady Madelena de Luna Joy Day (615) 891 - 9410
Minister to Children	Heather of Loch Maree Spring Tryon (615) 624 - 2040
Chronicler	Lord James Toxophilus Jim Long (615) 894 - 6487
Lore Keeper, Meridian College of Bards	Lady Egelina Rabbette Rabbit Kadrach (615) 877 - 6299

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A RECENT ISSUE OF "SCIENCE" MAGAZINE SPECULATED ABOUT THE GENETIC TRAITS INHERENT IN THE "Y" CHROMOSOME, THE GENE WHICH DETERMINES MALE GENDER. THAT ARTICLE INSPIRED ME, MISTRESS DAPHNE NEWTON-APPLETREE, TO PURSUE THE IDEA FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF THE CURRENT MIDDLE AGES.

WITH THE HELP OF MODERN SCIENCE AND A PLATOON OF TAVERN WENCHES, GENETIC SAMPLES FROM ONE CLASS OF MALES WERE SECURED. I THEN PULLED DOWN THEIR GENES TO FORM MY OWN HYPOTHESIS.

DO THESE GENETIC TRAITS APPEAR FAMILIAR? SOMEDAY THEY MAY HAVE A SHOT THEY CAN TAKE!

ISN'T SCIENCE WONDERFUL?

### Y-Chromosome Map of a Typical SCA Squire

11.32	Dislike of Dancing (TRIP)
11.31	Preference of Mead over Beer (URP)
p 11.2	"No-S**t-There-We-Were" Stories (PAV-L)
11.1	Recessive Tendency toward Renaissance Persona (FOP)
11.1	Aspiration to Knighthood (SIR) (Note: unlinked to ability)
11.21	Tendency towards Mid-Period Persona (HEN-V)
11.22	Viking Override Factor (L-RIK)
	Medieval Authoritarianism (HRM)
	Mundane Authoritarianism (BoD)
q 11.23	Ability to Identify any Duke Dressed in Solid Black in a Large Melee (IC-HG)
	Rhinohiding (LITE)
	Limited Awareness of Limited Wardrobe (2-2NIX)
	Ignorance of Period Footwear (NIKE)
	Duct Tape Skills (MOR)
12	Trailer Packing (STUF)

\* - Samples consisted of toenail clippings

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## ASK OLD FOX

Dear Old Fox,

I am in a quandry. At events, I try to re-create the Middle Ages as faithfully as possible, including the food I eat. I must profess, however, a weakness for one delicacy which -- in its modern and most tasty form -- is not period: CHOCOLATE!

Should I try to create period confections and to convince myself that they are just as good as my beloved chocolate? Or should I just throw caution to the wind and indulge my finicky sweet-tooth?

Please help,

A Hopeless Choco - holic

Dear Hopeless Choco - holic,

*Everybody runs the "but I want to be period" gauntlet. For one person, it's the fabric they use, for another, it's the songs they sing, and some even try to eat only period foods. But everybody fudges a little. And when it's chocolate, everybody goes for the sweet.*

*So remember, there is nothing on this earth better than chocolate. And, if people do make snide comments, you can toss your head and walk away the victor because you have chocolate and you're having the best time of your life with it!!!*

*Yours in Chocolate Heaven,*

*The Old Fox*

**Old Fox Quiz Question:** Why and when did Friday the 13th become such bad luck?

**Answer to last month's question:** "In the game of chess, what did the bishop use to be?"

*The church was asserting itself in all aspects of life in its early days. So, when the crusaders brought back a game of strategy from Persia that simulated two kingdoms at war, the church had to have its influence. It could not stand having a popular board game around which did not show the church's prominence. It was not satisfied with any piece -- it had to be the one next to the crown.*

*In deciding what this piece might have been, let's look at the other pieces first:*

**Pawns:** Slow moving infantry, peasants -- Moved in mass in straight lines and in one direction only.

**Castles:** Missile weapons were launched from them -- again in straight lines, but in any direction. They were originally elephants with a fortified castle atop. Still, they could move in any direction but only in straight lines.

**Knights:** (Calvalrymen) They were mounted and maneuverable and covered short distances quickly, used a lot in flanking maneuvers.

**King:** Surrounded by his court, he is slow to move in any direction.

**Queen:** She's a woman. She does whatever the hell she wants. Actually, she was protected by light cavalry and therefore could move very quickly.

**Bishop???:** It moves diagonally. It tacks to the wind. It was a symbol for the navy: *A Warship!*

## MISSIVES

Unto all the gentles at Vulpine Reach:

The Collegium Sionnach presented by Vulpine Reach was an excellent event to attend. I, not yet a member but who had attended four or five other events, decided to invite some special friends to this particular event. Those of you who saw my friends and I at the event probably were able to guess with little difficulty that they were deaf.

I would like to take this little space and time to say THANK YOU for welcoming them into your group with open arms, showing them a wonderful time, and allowing them to participate fully in all the activities. My friends enjoyed themselves entirely and would like to come again and bring additional friends with them. Thanks All.

- Joanna Mayfield

From Heather of Loch Maree,

Unto the good populace of Vulpine Reach:

Good greetings all,

I hope this missive will find you all in good and healthy spirits and ready to face the upcoming tourney season with vigor. I have recently taken the office of Local Minister of Children. In the capacity of this office I may call upon you from time to time to help me. Before everyone panics, I wouldn't ask you to actually assist with the children unless you wanted to.

The assistance I was speaking of involves designing an outline for a class (please include a hands-on session along with any other information) on a medieval subject of interest to you and/or your persona (scaled to a child's level of interest and understanding). I intend to have our goslings doing many and diverse things from making replicas of the Sutton Hoo to preparing heraldic displays, to serving at feast. If I can be any assistance to any of you, just let me know.

In Service,

Heather

Heather of Loch Maree

Written this fifteenth day of March at Dun - Feith in the Shire of Vulpine Reach in the kingdom of Meridies.

From the very soon-to-be-replaced assistant K.M.:

Ah, yes -- Spring, when fancy turns to thoughts of MAYHEM!! VIOLENCE!! FIGHTER PRACTICE!!

## MISSIVES (cont.)

(Well, at least mine do.)

Yup. It's that time of year - and this is a friendly reminder that now's the season to sort through your armor, take a good look at what needs repairing or replacing and get yourself up to standards before the season really starts. Keeping your gear 'up to snuff' is your responsibility, and, simply, you have no legitimate excuse for not meeting Kingdom requirements. If you need help, ask. I have never seen a request for aid with armor turned down. If you need current regs, let me know and I will be happy to provide you a copy for only a hug (provided you're not too sweaty and icky) and I will tote the marshall's tool-thing to practice in case you have questions on helms and sticks and stuff.

Speaking of practice...since it looks like after only four years I will finally have gear together this season (Jason, Leo, where's my stuff???) , I would love a whole bunch of really patient 'dance partners' and some muscle to collect me off the ground when I land on my attitude, so ya'll stop hibernating and come on out to Warner Park. And, if you're in the mood for adventure (as opposed to the certain comedy mentioned above), Jason mentioned he will be practicing out-of-shire this season (Decatur?) and will be glad for company.

SEE YOU SOON,

*Gay/wind*

P.S. Tox, it wasn't a broom - it was my transportation back West...Besides -- Topcrats DON'T sweep.

We are in the process of forming a madrigal group here in Vulpine Reach. We need people who are willing to spend a little time learning music in a group setting with an eye toward casual performances (usually at events or demos). If you are interested, please give me your name and pharspeaker number. Also let me know if you are interested in doing instrumental music in a group setting.

Laird Davoc Walkere, 875 - 5417

### "Dances With Foxes" T-Shirts

\* Suitable for painting \*

\$ 10 each. Sizes: Large, X-Large

See Mistress Lijsbeth

*For music lovers among our populace:*

My friend at St. Paul's Episcopal Church (down town) has informed me that the Canterbury Cathedral Choir will perform Saturday, April 16 at 7 pm. Admission is \$15. Please send SASE and a check designated "Canterbury Choir" to:

St. Paul's Episcopal Church  
305 West 7th Street  
Chattanooga, TN 37402

## Collegium Sionnach Financial Report

Name of site: Booker T. Washington State Park

Date of event: February 4 - 6, 1994

### Income

Total funds received:	\$395.90
Less refunds:	00.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$395.90</b>

### Expenses

Site Deposit:	\$70.00
Site Balance:	80.00
Food:	101.15
Prizes:	00.00
Equipment Rental:	00.00
Cleaning costs:	6.98
Repairs/Reimbursement for damages:	00.00
Misc. costs:	00.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$258.13</b>
<b>Net Income/Loss</b>	<b>+\$137.77</b>

## Event: Baronial Tax Revolt

The populace in Owl's Nest is revolting!! Wild rumor, which runneth before as a pack of dogs, whispers in the night of rebellion in the south.

Crown officials were notably silent on the matter, but one witness stated that the rebel forces in the Canton of Owl's Nest routed the forces of the Baron of South Downs back into the woods. This reporter noted that several soldiers from the baronial forces sported fresh-looking wounds or new limps.

What began as a day of fun and frolic in the Canton turned deadly serious as the day wore on. Many gentles gathered in the woods of the Canton for a day of tourneying and fun. Reportedly, the baron of the South Downs -- in great wrath over the delay in collecting his taxes -- sent forces into the area to take his gold by force. Mercenaries from the Barony of Grey Niche joined the South Downs forces, bent on exacting their due from the downtrodden and oppressed populace of Owl's Nest.

Unfortunately for the baronial forces, the gentles assembled seemed inclined to join forces with the "Nesters", as they called themselves. Lead by a flamboyantly dressed Landskennecht and with tactical advice from a wiry, crimson-clad Moor, the Nesters and their allies took to the forest with the tax money. The Landskennecht, greatsword in hand, swore to die before giving the populace's gold over to the baron.

One wild Scotsman from the north said, "These lowlanders wi' their cravin' fer gold brings nowhat but trouble, I tell ye. Na' lowland baron na matter what 'is stripe'll be layin' claim to oor lands, by Vulp. These lowlanders ha' got ta be shoon in bloodie taerms wa' waits their armies in the Highlands."

## Revolt (cont.)

It is known at this time that the forces of the baron were routed in the forest. Later, baronial forces caught the forces of the Canton in a nearby field; through much slaughter and loss of blood and life, the baronial army was forced back to whence they came.

Glad of heart and light of spirit, the Nesters feasted their allies and lavishly spent the monies won from the baron to celebrate their freedom. The feasting and revelry lasted long into the night with much good cheer.

This is my accounting. Excuse me, I have to go clean my glaive.

- Laird Caulem much Alasdair A'Sinclair

## Event: Collegium Black Gryphon

On February 26, the Barony of Thor's Mountain invited Meridians to come, to learn, and to enjoy! This year's Black Gryphon was largely devoted to the performance arts; there were classes in the bardic arts, from storytelling to juggling. Additionally, there were also classes in such obscure topics as brewing/vinting contest stewarding and physical conditioning for archers.

The weekend began Friday evening with the arrival of the collegium's guests. The trolling went smoothly (I had preregistered) and there followed plenty of time for everyone to get acquainted or to renew old friendships. As for me, I did both along with getting high on permanent markers while coloring heraldic submission forms.

Next morning, the Barony provided a filling breakfast and the classes began. For me, the choice was intermediate bodhran, beginning juggling, early literature, brewing/vinting stewarding, and the archery conditioning class.

So after banging, dropping (I turned several oranges into freshly-squeezed juice...), discussing, serving, and stretching, I was ready for the break before the Court. Oh, yeah...I had lunch in there somewhere. There's this about the collegium: you really stay busy during the day.

Court was a unique event, since the King and Queen were on hand. Many awards were presented to the assembled gentles. Conversely, due to a sign-up mistake, the representatives of Vulpine Reach (Lady Rachelle, Lady Madelena de Luna, Joanna Mayfield, Lora Greymare, Teresa, Lord Hezekiah, Lady Diana, Laird Davoc, and Lord James) ended up presenting the Shire's Royal Tribute during *Baronial* Court. The presentation included much groveling, since the Tribute was due at the Crown's coronation last fall!

The collegium's feast was a masterpiece in period cooking; it was a Lenten feast, complete with menus containing Indulgences "...purchased from the Church for the butter and eggs used..." and including

such dishes as Candied Orange Peel, Herring, Stewed Beef (for the old and infirm only), Onion Tart, Spiced Beets, "Barnacle Goose with Sawse Corans", Burgundy Mushrooms, Apple Tarts, Saffron Rice, and Pine Nut Candy.

After the feast, there was dancing galore (I only sat out one dance, for the record. I have this bad background of either being worn out or physically damaged by this time of day...) while a thinkwell discussion was taking place in the downstairs hall with the crown. Then, thoroughly blown, I retired for a night of very sound sleep.

The next morning came way too soon, with its requirement for packing and once more separating from friends old and new. A loading of the wagon, a quick bite of breakfast, and we were on our way home.

### NOTICE

Pennsic War is August 14 - 20! Gentles interested in attending Pennsic as part of a Vulpine Reach encampment should contact Lord Hezekiah of the North River or Teresa at 624 - 5414.

### AND....

Gentles with food sensitivities and / or allergies should notify the Tourney of the Foxes Feastcrat (Teresa Mayberry) in writing.

## Essay: Tea

According to legend, the use of tea was discovered by Emperor Shen Nung of China about 2737 B.C. The earliest known mention of tea appeared in Chinese literature of about A.D. 350. The custom of tea drinking gradually spread to Japan and other countries of the Orient.

In the 17th Century, the Dutch introduced tea into England. The "China Drink" was taken in the Chinese manner, in bowls without milk or sugar. It was regarded as a medicine and in 1658, a bowl of tea was an expensive luxury.

In 1662, Charles II married Catherine of Braganze from Portugal. Tea was a well-established drink in Portugal at that time and she introduced this fashion of drinking tea to the English Court circles. Within 10 years, imports had tripled. Yet, tea was still a comparative luxury, for demand now outweighed supply.

By the 18th Century, tea had become so popular that the English government was quick to seize upon the demand as a source of revenue. The high import tax gave rise to a large-scale smuggling business.

In 1757, some doctors thought that tea might be dangerous to the health, so they advised the addition of milk to help dilute it. Such warnings went unheeded, however.

Until 1830 tea still came from China. The British

## Essay: Tea (cont.)

tried planting tea in Assam, Daijeeling, and on the island of Ceylon. Today, nearly half the tea drunk in Britain still comes from India, with the rest coming from Ceylon and Africa.

Ref: World Book Encyclopedia, Vol. 19,

World Book, Inc., 1983

The Cooking of the British Isles,

Adrian Bailey and Time, Inc. 1969

- *Lydyth the Huntress*

### GRAFFITI

"Look, people can play chess on my kneecaps." - Teresa

- Teresa

"It's not normal to hit your nose with your bowstring..." - *Ld. James*

"Pfft! Pfft! Never kiss a horse that's shedding!" - *Lora Greymare*

"Are aspirin and antacids for the autocrat covered in the event policy?" - Teresa

"...If flossing is a pain in the rear, you're doing it wrong..." - *T.H.L. Glas*

"How can a Rabbit be squeeddy?" - Teresa

"Jim gives good newsletters!" - Teresa

Warmest Greetings unto Lord James Toxophilus this 14th day of January, 1994, from Princess Juliana of Dunbar.

Gentle Lord:

I have greatly enjoyed reading your Shire's newsletter, *Fox Tales*.

While reading the December issue, I noticed an ad for Devices. Since Heraldry will be one of My concerns while on the Throne, I thought it would be nice to answer your ad.

I have enclosed copies of Gareth's and My personal device and a copy of the Prince's and Princess's Arms.

Please do not feel that you must include these in your newsletter, but if you want to We are in agreement.

Please know I am here if you have need,

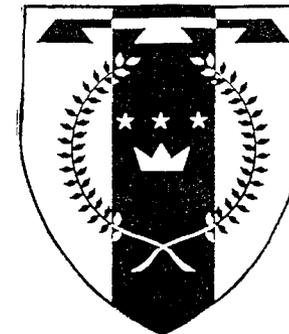
HRH Juliana of Dunbar

Your Royal Highness,

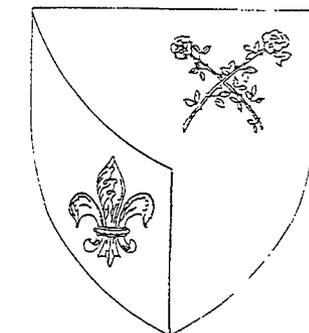
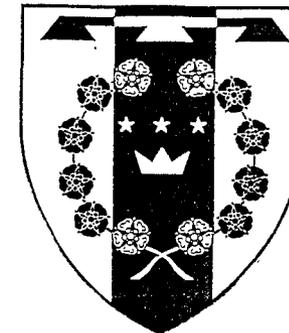
I count it a great honor to post both Your and His Royal Highness's Arms and devices and I thank you both for the submission to our Shire newsletter.

Best wishes to you both as you take the Throne of this grand Kingdom of ours. Very Sincerely,  
- Lord James Toxophilus

The Arms of the Prince and the personal device of HRH Gareth.



The Arms of the Princess and the personal device of HRH Juliana of Dunbar.



# FOX TALES

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SHIRE OF VULPINE REACH

C/O JIM LONG

1305 LA BREA ROAD

CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE 37421



WHY SOOTSMEN SHOULD NEVER  
DO THE KARRBISHKA!