

FOX TALES

The Newsletter of Vulpine Reach

OCT 1997 "ALL THE NEWS THAT'S FIT TO ENGRAVE" A.S. XXXII

King Padruig & Queen Linnett Slain

On September 13, the Shire of Glaedenfeld, with Vulpine Reach's assistance, held a gathering to welcome and celebrate the visit of our Meridian Sovereign and Consort to these environs of eastern Meridia. Few realized that this would be the final visit of our Royals to any of their lands of the South.

The day began beautifully to the sounds of gherles in the kitchen of the great hall preparing a morning meal for the gathered populace. There were also the sounds from the archery field as THL Balderich and the local Provost of the Range made preparations for a tournament to honor the Queen of Meridies. In all respects, this day began as other such days involving a visit of Their Majesties had.

By the middle of the afternoon, however, events had taken what would later be revealed as a sinister turn; as Their Majesties held Court among the flower of Meridies, admittance to Their Court was requested by apparently harmless (and mentally unstable) members of the kingdom. Initially, their request was held up in favor of more pressing matters of Kingdom business. As Court proceeded, though, the request was repeated a number of times and presented more insistently each time.

Finally, after all the immediate business had been dispensed with, this small faction was allowed entry into the Presence. Before anyone really knew what had happened, both our King and Queen lay dead before the populace - killed at the hands of madmen. Although the mad tricksters were quickly arrested by the Royal Guard, the damage had been done - Meridies was without a Leader.

His Royal Highness, Prince Áilgheánan made short time in arriving at Vulpine

Reach and exerting his claim to the throne of Meridies. So eager was he, in fact, that with the aid of a mystic clay cup wielded by Duke John the Bearkiller and with the recognition afforded his possession of the signet of the Royal Heir, he was crowned King Áilgheánan.

However, being a headstrong man in his youth and bearing a fiery temper and demeanor, the newly crowned King displayed a singular lack of the compassion and empathy towards the populace required of the Crown of Meridies. Such a despotic beginning to the rule of our Kingdom is the seed from which springs unrest and internal strife. The King needed a moderating force, a source of all that's beautiful and compassionate, a Queen.

Thus did Áilgheánan the First attain that balance of strength and gentleness, temper and moderation, firmness and compassion that he lacked alone, upon taking the beautiful and strong Calleja as his Queen. So well bred to the task was she as to be borne into His Majesty's Court upon the shoulders of her countrymen.

Once more, Meridies is strong and vibrant with Their Majesties Áilgheánan and Calleja upon the Throne. Long Live Their Majesties!

Vulpine Reach Loses A Friend

On the evening of September 13, a dear friend to all of the SCA and our shire passed away suddenly. Cartoonist Baron William Blackfox, C.P., died of natural causes in Tulsa, Oklahoma. William was best known for his *WARTHAVEN* comic strip and the graphic novel *Vixen's Keep*, and had a number of friends here in Vulpine Reach. Dear friend, you will be greatly missed.

CALENDAR

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

October

- 6 Local Biz Mtg./Fox Tales dist.
- 11 ** Yom Kippur **
Fall Crown List - S.Downes
- 13 ** Columbus Day (obsvd) **
Class Mtg./TBA
- 18 Local Archery Practice @ Choo Choo
Wine List - Glynn Rhe
Golden Dragon - Wrymgeist
Return to the Aerie - Eagle
Wild Hunt - Arenal
- 20 Class Mtg./TBA, Fox Tales deadline
- 25 Samhain - Grey Niche
Tourney of Red & Gold - Saltkeep
- 27 Party at Lady Catherine's House
- 31 ** Halloween **

November

- 1 Silver Hammer - Thor's Mt.
Feed the Hordes - Dragonfly Marsh
Warlord Tourney - Small Grey Bear
Unchained Doom - An Dun Theine
- 3 Biz Mtg./Fox Tales dist.
- 4 ** Election Day **
- 8 Local Archery Practice @ Choo Choo
Fighter's Collegium - TBA.
- 10 Class Mtg./TBA
- 11 ** Veteran's Day **

Meetings and Practices:

Local chapter meetings are at Trinity Lutheran Church, Hixson Pike and Hwy 153 on Monday evenings at 7:30 p.m. Fighter practice is held at the Tennessee River Park behind Chattanooga State Technical Community College near the railroad bridge on Sunday afternoons at 2:30 p.m. Contact Lord James at 949 - 4394 for information on Archery Practices.

BEST BETS:

10-10 Fall Crown List, Camp Rutledge, Hard Labor Creek State Park, Rutledge, GA (166 mi.) Prices: Weekend \$25, Daytrip \$15, members deduct \$5, "off-board" deduct \$5. GA. State Parking Pass \$2 extra. Tournament for the next Royal Heirs of Meridies, Red Rose Ball, Kingdom Poet Laureate & Bard Competitions, Classes. Beds in cabins for 120, feast limited to 150.

11-1 Silver Hammer Tourney, Big Ridge State Park, Marynardville, TN (139 mi.) Prices: Weekend w/feast \$23 before 10-24, \$24 thereafter, weekend "off-board" \$15 before 10-24, \$16 thereafter, daytrip w/feast \$15, members deduct \$3. Double-elim tourney, melee, armor inspection starts Friday night, Tourney starts 10 a.m. SHARP! A & S competition, bardic contest during feast. 140 beds in unheated cabins. Site is discreetly dry; park is BONE DRY.

REGNUM

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In Memory of

Baron William Blackfox, C.P.
(Mark Wallace)
1953 - September 13, 1997

Friend and artist.



From the Chronicler

U into the good gentles of our fair shire from your friend and head scribbler.

When you read this, our work with Glaedenfeld and the Mountain Arts Guild will be over and we can breathe a sigh of relief for a short while.

September, though, was a month of great changes; our Kingdom now has a new set of rulers, the most strenuous month we have had in a while will be past, and we got news of the passing of a dear friend.

Most folks here in Vulpine Reach have never met Baron William Blackfox in person, although everyone here has seen and enjoyed his WARTHAVEN comic strip. In fact, I hadn't met him until two years after I started publishing his strip in March, 1993. Baron William normally didn't allow publication in newsletters for chapters below baronial level, but with a little sweet-talking (plus the bribe of one tape each of *Sunday Knight Live* and *The Wizard of B.o.D.*), he agreed to let me run WARTHAVEN in *Fox Tales*. We corresponded in the meantime and finally met at Pennsic 24 (1995). I won't go into the details of how we met - those of you who know me well have already heard the story - but suffice to say, it was one of those strange meetings that are common in the Society.

In the past two years, life had been hard for William; he had had some job problems and then, early in 1996, his mother (his sole living parent) passed away. Just before Pennsic of this year, he wrote telling me of his finally getting his mother's estate settled and that he might just see his way clear to attend Tourney of the Foxes. However, after the hectic two weeks of Pennsic, plus all the travel involved, he had to pass on visiting with our shire. Then, on the evening of September 13, William died suddenly of natural causes. Services were held on September 21 at St. Mark's Methodist Church in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Before his passing, William had sent me several month's worth of WARTHAVEN strips, which I will run. I feel he would've wanted it that way and would've been happy knowing he was still bringing joy to his many fans. For this month, however, I followed the ideas of

Laird Davoc and others who felt that a blank page with the memorial announcement was appropriate. You will see WARTHAVEN running one month later in your newsletter than in *Popular Chivalry* (if the kingdom Chronicler decides to complete the strip's run). You will also see two strips he sent me early on as "emergency fills" - insurance against the postal service losing a strip.

Lady Caoilfhionn and Don Nikolai gave me poems that I want to share with you about William's passing and I obtained permission to print another I saw on the Rialto. It's hard for me to say goodbye to him, but I hope you'll join me in bidding a fond farewell to one of our own - a Vulpine in name and heart, William Blackfox, Companion of the Pelican, Court Baron, Companion of the Fox, and friend.

- Lord James Toxophilus

Prayer For Baron William Blackfox

Oh, mighty wind hear my cry, listen to the words of legends gone by.
You know the stories of kings and warriors,
You keep the knowledge of might and power.

Yet, one man alone has begun a journey -
A forever quest toward lands unknown.

His honor is great, his courage is strong,
His chivalry unfailing and his lovingdying,
Yet travel he must to foreign realms
That no man on earth has ever returned from,

To live a life so lovely and free.

His life on earth has touched so many,
His love and his knowledge was felt by all.
He understood so much and shared much more -

Not one day passed without speaking his name,
For he was known throughout the world.

In this I know, a kingdom mourns to see him
leave so young and so loved.

And not just one, but every kingdom
throughout the world.

Each person I meet, I see them clearly:
Their head is bent in silent thought of our
dear friend that travels so far.

Hear their words, their cries, their love and
carry them with you so he may hear.

No words can match the good he has done;
The lives he has touched are more than I can
count.

Just hear my cry - my one last thought.
Please, if you can, for no one else can reach
him now.

Carry the love, thoughts, and sorrow of all
who miss him to his new home,
So that he may know he is not alone - just
deeply missed and loved by many.

Baron William Blackfox, we love you so
much,
And we will miss you until our own journey
begins and we meet again.
Until that time, I will do my best to gather
stories of olden days,
And when we meet, oh, the stories to tell...
Of chivalry, courage, honor, and valor: the
qualities you always showed and honored.

May you rest in peace, without pain or
sorrow,
And greet us with a smile on our own
journey home.
Until that time, VIVAT! VIVAT! VIVAT!
Baron William Blackfox.

- Lady Caoilfhionn Caomhanach

Eulogy

Judge not a man nor woman on the deeds
that they have done
Nor on riches that they have, nor on races
they have won.
Judge them not on beauty, nor on the creeds
to which they hold.
Judge them not on wisdom, nor on the fact
that they are old.

But think of all their actions and on those
they leave behind,
Of all the feelings that you have when you
call them to mind.
Think of their life from start to end and all
that lies between,
Of all the things that you have shared, the
things that you have seen.

For the true value of a life is not measured
by wealth,
Nor by longevity, by possessions, nor by
one's health.
Measure by the impact they have made on a
person's life,

Be they your friends or family, your
husband or your wife.

Remember them with gladness, for the times
that you have shared,
Recall the happy moments and the times
when you were soared.
Think of all the things you did whenever
they were around,
Or the times you both just watched the sky,
lying on the ground.

Though we gather here together, upon this
mournful day,
In memory of a life well-lived, by one
passed away,
I leave you with these words of joy, that you
will one day see,
That all our loved ones still walk the paths
of our memory.

They now reside in memory, when all is said
and done,
In things once shared by light of day or of
the setting sun.
Of all the ways they shared our lives, of all
they did and said,
Captured within our memory, replayed
within our head.

For as long as we hold their memory, locked
in our heart,
None will ever truly die and be forever
apart.
For we can see them all around us, in the
grass, in the trees,
We can feel their gentle presence in the soft
summer breeze.

One day, we will walk that road - like those
who have gone before,
To rest within God's gentle arms, at peace
forevermore.
And when our time comes to enter that
sweet and promised land,
All our loved ones will gather near and take
us by the hand.

- Don Nikolai Grigorovich Nabokov

WILLIAM BLACKFOX

The pipes are stilled, no longer will they
sound,
To herald the beginning of a court,
No more with joy will revels now abound,
Nor will his voice of songs raise in support.

The quill laid down will not be used again,
To tell Warhaven's tale in simple frames,
No longer at his wit shall we all grin,
Nor smile at his parodies of names.

Such a great soul gone, in but a blink,
And we are left to mourn in sorrow deep,
And though to his fond memory I'll drink,
For now I can do nothing else but weep.

Oh William, it was too soon to depart,
We who remain will hold you in our hearts.

- *Master Chidoock the Younger*



From the A & S Minister

To all good gentles of
Vulpine's Reach,
greetings!

I have reconsidered Craft Madness Night. It appears that it would be more beneficial to the shire if we made Craft Madness an independently scheduled thing. Turnout has been very irregular due to many member's busy schedules. Therefore, if you would like to try your hand at embroidery, leatherwork, calligraphy, linoleum block cutting, candlemaking, or our friend the keyhole neck facing (or darn near anything else I have the tools for) just let me know and we will schedule a date to work on it. Most of these things are easy to do with the right tools, and I will be happy to show you how. I also want to make sure that you have the opportunity to try these things out and find out if you like it before you invest serious money in the matter.

On that issue, I would like to let the shire know that I have gotten back into making glass beads. I have found a way to do it that is moderately safer and less expensive, and can be done at my house. You may also find it amusing that the first bead I made on my new torch was a "Companion of the Fox" bead, (for good mojo) and the second was a "Phoenician Head" (because it is the hardest I know how to make so far). For those gentles who express an interest and an aptitude, I will show you how to make beads and let you make your own. Part of the instruction will show you how you can kill yourself if you handle the equipment incorrectly. No, I am not kidding. If you are still with me after that, you will do just fine.

And to the issue of what to put in the A

& S report. If you made something, learned something, or taught something, it is great to put in. Medieval books, or books on period subjects that you have read, are suitable entries too. If it makes your life easier to write things down on a piece of paper at home and give it to me at the meeting, that is fine as well. Little-known things that are valid A & S entries - Making SCA - legal weapons and armor. Animal husbandry. Performing music at an event. Researching your name and device. Growing period herbs. Doing research on feast. Making a period musical instrument. There are many others. If you aren't sure, just ask. It does not necessarily have to be documented, or competition-quality, to qualify for my report, but it helps. I do want to remind you that the focus is on medieval re-creation, not just arts and crafts.

Basically, I use the A & S report to show the shire what you have been doing, so that they can recommend you for awards. I also use it to know the degree of your efforts to determine how much attention you pay to period methods. Sometimes I may ask you for more information on what you did. This is often because I want to understand more about your project so that I can better explain it in my report. I don't promise to be an expert in everything, but I do promise to be interested in what you do, and to help you further your interests and recognize you for your efforts in any way I can.

In Service to Vulpine Reach, I remain,
- *Lady Kate the Green*

Stars Above The Fox

Greetings again to all of the inhabitants of Vulpine Reach, from the barely awake Astronomer. I have scanned the night skies for the interesting and odd for your enjoyment and have yet again found a beautiful selection. However, I must start by suggesting that before you venture into the night with me you dig out your warm woollies that will keep you toasty warm. Along with the warm clothing you should prepare a hot coffee, tea, or my favorite the ground cocoa bean. Find a soft blanket or mat of some sort and go to a dark location where you can see most of the sky. Now let's see where to begin.

To the south this month you will see

Jupiter continue to drop into the western sky. Take advantage of this opportunity and chase down your nearest sailor for his telescope. The view will be worth the effort. If you get the chance and the equipment is available, see how many of the moons of this beautiful giant you can spot. You don't have to have a telescope to see the moons of Jupiter, however - you can see them on a clear night with a pair of 10x50 binoculars.

Leaving Jupiter move to the West. On the horizon we need to say farewell to Sagittarius. He will set within the next month and take with him a collection of star clusters. Sagittarius rides the great river of stars known as the Milky Way in the southwestern sky. Because of this, there are a number of star clusters that are visible around this constellation. If the sky is very clear and you look at Sagittarius you may see fuzzy gray patches. Each of the patches is a star cluster. Don't be surprised if you see them out of the corner of your eye, and then loose them when you try to focus directly on them. When you find one, take a pair of binoculars and look at the fuzzy patch. You may be very surprised.

On the subject of fuzzy patches, let me introduce you to a very famous one; last month I introduced you to Cygnus. Find Cygnus in the center of the Milky Way almost straight up flying north. When you have found the cross of stars that make up Cygnus, look to the east off of the wings, or the smaller line of the cross. To the east you will see a large square, which is the center of the constellation Pegasus. While facing east follow the curving line of stars from the lower left corner of the square. The line should pass through two bright stars. At the second bright star, look left for three bright but fainter stars in a line. Next to the third star in this line is a small bright, but fuzzy spot. This spot is Andromeda. Andromeda is the most distant Galaxy visible to the unaided eye.

The dance of the heavens will bring several interesting occurrences into the October sky. The new moon of October 1st will be repeated in this month on October 31st. On the eighth of October Jupiter will become stationary in the sky at 3 am. And on the Morning of the 21st the sky will flash with meteors as the Orionid meteor shower

peeks.

Enjoy the night sky over Vulpine Reach as the Autumn months turn cooler and the sky turns clearer. But, on a safety note, please be careful while walking at night, and gazing at the sky. Be careful not to trip over another star gazer that is as caught up in it as you are. In service to the Shire, the self appointed Astronomer of Vulpine Reach.

- *Anthony Basham*

The Fox Files

"S" mise Sean MacLeod, tha mi'a a Thornhill." That is to say, "My name is Sean MacLeod, I am from Thornhill."

I am a (very) late 13th century Scot-Highlander. I am starting to study G'aidhlig (Gaelic), and will soon be looking to become an apprentice falconer (mundanely). I am also interested in woodworking, archery, dance, herbalism, animals, artillery, and a fairly long list of other arts and sciences. I have recently moved here from the shire of Thornhill (Montgomery, AL). I have been in the Society since late in '93 with bursts of activity separated by more inactivity than I would have liked.

Mundanely, I am Matt Lewandowski. I am a PC technician looking for work. I have in the past been an upholster, and still have my industrial grade sewing machine. (if any of you have canvas jobs it is a good help). I also ran a mobile auto and boat detailing business. I can generally be very talkative so if you want to know anything about me feel free to ask.

- *Sean MacLeod, (no alphabet soup)*

It's a Bardic Thing!!

On Monday, October 27, Lady Catherine will be holding a Halloween Party/Bardic Gathering at her home. Please bring an hors d'oeuvre or treat to share as well as a five-minute story, poem, or song! Halloween Costumes are desired (at least garb, please). Go north on Hixson Pk to Middle Valley Rd. Turn left onto Middle Valley and go to Gann Rd. Turn left and go to North Dent and turn right. Take the next right into Cambridge Point, then the next left - that's Haverton Crossing, and look for #7905 (has a black door) 847-0996.

The Newby Chronicles, part two or "Six Months & Still Here!"

Hi, gang! Yet another long-winded article from the resident red-head. (I thought I'd prepare you by warning you ahead of time that I was going to write for days...see? It's happening already!!)

Okay. RUM was very, very hot!! I think for the most part, if it hadn't have been for the air-conditioned hall and the swimming pool, I'd not be writing this article. I'd still be on-site as a small puddle. Melting is NOT one of my favorite past-times. I traveled with Laird Davoc and Lady Diana. I liked the music they played on the way down (I fell asleep for the first time ever on a road trip, but I still heard the music!!). I think I'll remember this event for a while, seeing as how before feast, I got a nose bleed. I don't know how it happened, either! Just a freak o' nature, I guess. Anyway, the classes were okay (the pool was even better!). Next event, please!!

Alrightee, then. Now we get to Tourney. As you guys already know, it was more work than play. But, play I did Saturday night. Let's just say I rolled into Cabin B around, oh, 4:25 the next morning. I also did quite a bit of shopping and fell into the pool for about an hour. For the newest newbies: you all rule! I hope you'll enjoy other events that you don't have to work so hard at! Onward!! To the next event....

This brings us to Coronation. I find it somewhat ironic that this Coronation marks my being in the SCA for six months (my first event was Spring Coronation). Anyway, I did a smart thing and asked for Friday off. I got on-site between 11:30 and 12 and helped with general set-up and various other things...and then the weekend was mine from 7 p.m. on! (And I remember taking pictures, too!) To make a long story short, -how cliché!- I went to Court(s) and enjoyed feast. The White Rose Ball was fun, too. The only thing I *didn't* enjoy was the fact that I got my truck stuck and couldn't move it until the next morning when the dew dried. Otherwise, the weekend was WAY COOL!!!

Okay, I'm done. Once again, I must congratulate you for making it through. (One more thing before I go - I missed my

dance partner. He had told me at Border Raids he was going to try to be at Coronation, but he didn't make it. Oh, well. Maybe he'll be at Silver Hammer (hmmmmmm). Anyway, Ciao!!

- Cassandra Maguire

Best of the Web

(One Scotsman's Opinion)

Here are just a few of the excellent sources on the Web. A very brief description follows each URL address, but really, it's best to check them out on your own.

www.archief.nl/pag04n.htm

Dutch Maritime History. Lots of links.

www.r3.org

Homepage of the Richard III Society. Lots of very good 15th century English information, including text of period documents.

<http://orb.rhodes.edu>

The Online Reference Book for Medieval Studies. This is one of the most complete and impressive sites I've ever seen. Lots of Bibliographic material as well as other sources and texts.

www.slue.edu/costumes

The history of Costumes online, with bookplates. LOTS of illustrations.

www.traders.co.uk/reneegade/whatis.htm

Ballard's Regiment. English Civil War Reenactment group. Lots of musket & Pike. www.discover.net/~nqgiven/merchants.htm

Late Period & Piratical Supplies, from comic books to costumes to real naval artillery and wooden ships! Including several suppliers of fencing equipment.

I'll try to have more sites for next month's Fox Tales. Yours in service to the Dream. - Ian MacInneir of Inveraray, called Donovan

From the Director's Chair

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped with the production of A Midsummer Night's Pennsic Commedia. Power failure notwithstanding, the audience reaction proved to be a rousing success.

My first round of thanks goes to the cast - I'll list them here with their character's names for easier recognition:

Lord An Wilhelmsen - Flavio the square

Lady Francesca D'Angelo - Mistress Francheschina

Isabell - Isabella (a newbie)

THL Alexander Ravenscroft - Oratio (a newbie)

Matthew Forehand - Pedrolino (man-at-arms)

Lord Tormod Dubhgunn - Capt. Spavento

Lord Ursus Grimm - Pantalone the Merchant (father of Flavio)

Many of the actors have had little or no prior stage experience. All of them made up for this - as well as for the lack of rehearsal time available - with their creativity, humor, and willingness to pull together. Despite the fact that some had incredible amounts of other work to do for Tourney (still others had illness to overcome), everyone managed to carve several hours out of busy Saturday for much-needed rehearsal time. For all of this, I am extremely grateful.

Next was our lighting and sound crew, Jean-Guillaume du Cheval (or, as I like to call him, Pre-Industrial Light and Magic) who, incidentally, was NOT responsible for the power failure (that occurred off-site). He was able to do his job with wiring that looked more than a little scary. Also, Lord Tormod's mundane theatrical experience proved invaluable in stringing up the set, as well as with his helpful directorial input.

Our intermezzi were provided first by Laird Davoc Walkere and, next, by Lady Jehanne de May. These diversions provided much-needed moments for the actors and director to try to pin their heads back on relatively straight.

Due to Lord Tormod's mundane responsibilities, we will not be able to perform that play again until either Winter or Spring. I would like to spend the meantime with everyone else working on our craft (yes, that is a theatrical term). I would like to hold periodic workshops to concentrate on improvisation, voice and diction, character development, etc. So, if anyone else is interested in participating, please let me know. It would be nice to have a large group so that we could possibly take our shows on the road without putting too much strain on the same people time and

again

Lastly, I would like to thank (posthumously) Flaminia Scala, as well as all the other directors and actors from that period who worked so hard to develop such rich theatrical form for us to use. In period, acting was not nearly so glamorous a profession as it is today. For some, acting is a basic need, much like food or sleep. No matter how much persecution actors suffered in the past, they kept the art alive for us here today, and for that I am thankful.

- Lady Rachelle du Pied-Leger

ARMORING WORKSHOP

There will be an armor making/repairing workshop at THL Richard Fenwick's house on October 18. Bring your own materials or workpieces and we'll see what we can do about starting or finishing your armor.

Kate's Corner

Greetings to all on this fine day in Meridies! I would like to offer to all a big thanks for all the help you have done in putting on two huge events so soon to each other. I am so proud to be a member of this shire - we all took on the responsibility and we all did it. I know that I am just about senseless from lack of sleep, and I know most of the rest of you are as well. I would also like to thank those who looked out for me because of my increased responsibilities as the newest member of Sir Griffin and Mistress Stephanie's household, House Wayfarer. One day I may learn that I am really only one small person and I have to sleep sometime. Thank you for being patient with me.

Special congratulations go to all those shire members who got well-deserved (and long-deserved) awards. I have never seen so many Grant of Arms and Argent Comets given out. It speaks well for our shire that we are blessed with so many faithful and tireless citizens. Please know for those who did not get awards this time that others do notice your efforts, but sometimes those in authority want to make sure you will stick around, or are watching you to make sure your efforts are consistent. Sometimes these

things take a while.

Another point is that you cannot get awards without being a member, or going to events. Just going to two events a year is not enough for the Crown to be able to know who you are. Also, remember to sign in at trol. The Crown does check the list - if you haven't signed in by a few hours before court, they don't know that you're there, and if you're not there on the list (even if you are at the event), you won't be called up in court. I have seen it happen.

On other fronts - thanks to the newest members of the shire for working so hard and doing so well. I personally am grateful to have such a fine crop of people writing nice articles in the newsletter, being enthusiastic, coming out to fighter practice, picking up trash and cleaning out the toilets. Please know that every thing you do for the shire, even if you think it is insignificant, is appreciated and noticed. Also, know that I am not just saying this. It is not like me to give out false praise.

And to all of you for your help in preparing me for the upcoming Crown List, a most heartfelt thanks. You have shown me great honor in volunteering your time, your advice, and your efforts on the behalf of Sir Shaltar and myself. I lack the words to tell you how wonderful it is to be supported by such fine people. I am greatly humbled by your desire to help me. Know that I gain strength from you, and hope to be worthy of your support should we prove victorious that day.

- Lady Kate the Green



From the Seneschal

Unto the amazing gentles of the Shire of Vulpine Reach does the Laird Davoc Walkere send grateful monthly greetings.

My lords and ladies, you humble and amaze me. I add my thanks to those already expressed by the autocrats of Coronation. You all did wonderful work in putting this event on. I have heard only complementary comments from the leadership of Glaedenfeld and Thor's Mountain. I also thank you for the work you all did at the Renaissance Fair, I think everything went very well. We have once again shown our

best to our community, as well as to our Kingdom. May we continue to do so. I don't know about anyone else but I am looking forward to a calmer month for October.

I remain yours in service to Meridies, Their Majesties, and the people of Vulpine Reach.

Davoc

Life in the SCA:

The Top-Ten Disadvantages of Having a Mundane Spouse

10. That look on his face when you say you have a very important meeting at an upcoming event.
9. A weekend spent helping an SCA friend move counts towards your "event allowance."
8. Ditto for demos and seeing movies in garb....
7. Having to daytrip everything.
6. Using "Mistress Rosamund says..." as a preface to your argument doesn't carry the weight that you're used to it carrying.
5. "Communal" vans and pickups suddenly become *his property* to relinquish grudgingly (too bad he doesn't feel the same about the dishwasher...).
4. After you've spent a grueling weekend driving great distances to an event, *he's* fresh as a daisy first thing Monday morning.
3. Cloven fruit.
2. No slack given when it comes to leaving piles of stuff around the house for a few days after a trip.
1. Hearing, "I hope you don't get into an accident wearing *that* thing," every time you leave the house in garb. - Lady Rachelle

Acknowledgments

Special thanks to the contributors to the October issue of Fox Tales:

Lord Ursus Grim Lady Kate the Green
Laird Davoc Walkere Cassandra Maguire
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Don Nikolai Grigorovich Nabokov
Lady Caoilfionn Caomhanach
Lady Catherine Barrett of Canterbury
Ian MacInerrie of Inveraray ("Donovan")
Lady Rachelle du Pied-Leger
And especially to Baron William Blackfox

Vulpine Reach Talent Directory

The Vulpine Reach Talent Directory is designed to help old fogey and newcomer alike in finding assistance. Keep in mind that we are all volunteers; just be patient and keep trying if you don't get hold of us on the first try.

If you have a talent or skill in a particular field and would like to help others but you aren't on the directory, contact me! It's a simple matter to add your name. If I've listed your skills incorrectly or you are unable for some reason to provide assistance in whatever capacity, contact me! It's also a simple matter to change your entry or drop your name from the directory. We're looking for a few good men (and women) - with know-how and a willingness to help out other shire members.

Lady Rhiannon of Ravenswood (Mary Barkubein, 698 - 2691) Crochet
Mellisande of Remes (Brenda Britton, 870 - 0511) Embroidery
Carnolus of Britian (Vernon Cockareil, 375 - 6760) Engraving, Wood carving
Mistress Lijsbeth Tijz van Brugge (Leslie Dulin, 886 - 6256) Visual Arts, Research, Documentation, Cooking, Early period Stuff
Lord Ursus Grim (Charles Dodson, 265 - 3948) Illumination and all things scribed
Lady Francesca d'Angelo (Teresa Ivey-Dodson, 265 - 3948) Embroidery, Spinning, Camping, Illumination, "Anything Italian"
Lady Egehna Rabbette (Rabbit Kadrich, 866 - 8266) Sewing, Costuming, Research, Lact-making, Camping
Lady Rachelle du Pied-Leger (Rachel Lightfoot, 706 - 965 - 7947) Music, Period Theatre, Heraldry, Dancing, Sewing
Lord James Toxophilus (Jim Long, 949 - 4394) Archery, Wine making, Performing Arts, Writing, Music (penny whistle and bodhran), Camping
THL Alexander Ravenscroft (Brian Moore, 870 - 5132) "Anything Heraldic"
Lady Kate the Green (Betsy O'Shee, 629 - 1238) Glass bead-making, Period Jewelry, Basic garbing, Enthusiasm, SCA'dian Survival Tactics, Leatherwork without Pain, Documentation
Lord Wilhelm Fixer (Steve Parker, 478 - 3129) Fighting, SCA weapons making
Lord Lhywelyn ap Alawn (Lindy Pate, 825 - 6258) Fighting, Brewing, Fencing, Brewing, Wood working, Brewing, Armoring, Brewing (but not all at the same time)
THL Richard Fenwick (Ken Scott, 698 - 5007) Fighting, SCA weapons making, Armoring, Heraldry
THL Julia of the Flowers (Julie Scott, 698 - 5007) Art, Cooking
Lady Elisande de Citeaux (Diane Taylor, 877 - 3825) Bobbin lace making, Spinning, Weaving, Embroidery, Calligraphy, Illumination
Laird Davoc Walkere (Randy Walker, 875 - 5417) Music, Bardic Arts, Performing Arts, Archery, Jewelry making
Lady Diana Fiona O'Shera (Diane Walker, 875 - 5417) Cooking, Sewing, Costuming, Jewelry making, Pottery, Ceramics, Herbs, Gardening
Brigid of Gaels (Tina Williams, 375 - 6760) Engraving, Wood Carving, Wood Working, Herbalism

FOX TALES

The Newsletter of the Shire of Valpine Reach
c/o Jim Long HCR 65 Box 35, Dunlap TN 37327

