



The Clouded Issue

A Newsletter for the Barony of Grey Niche
Kingdom of Gleann Abhann

Fall, 2016

Published Quarterly

APA filled with Classes, Parties & Friends

By Master Cormac the Bald

As all residents of Gleann Abhann know, the heat of our kingdom's summer is intense, and can cut down on the joy of attending events. When it is so hot that just stepping outside feels like entering a sauna, one often finds that going to spend a weekend camping, or staying in a cabin with minimal air conditioning, to be a less than attractive. There are reasons our kingdom calendar is so light during the months of June, July, and August compared to the other nine months of the year and those reasons are named Heat and Humidity. Which is why the idea of going to an event that is being held in a very nice and VERY air conditioned hotel was so appealing.

The Academy of Performing Arts was held the weekend of July 22-24 at the same hotel the event was first held, the Cabot Lodge in The Shire of Iron Ox, known to the modern world as Jackson, Mississippi. Outside the weather was hot, humid, and muggy when it wasn't pouring down rain. Inside the atmosphere was comfortable, cool, and filled with friends, some of whom I had known for years, and some I met for the first time that weekend.

The APA event was originally created by the Shire of Iron Ox, which hosted the event for a number of years. The first one was at the Cabot Lodge, but in the prior two years the event had to be held at different locations in Iron Ox, and this year marked its return to the hotel it was first held at, and in some ways it felt like a bit of a homecoming. It felt good, comfortable, to be back at the Cabot.

This year the group hosting APA was not The Shire of Iron Ox, but the Companions of the Order the Silver Lamp. As an autocrat I can appreciate the work involved in organizing an event staff from many different groups and different areas, and as an event attendee I can tell you that they did a great job. Three Pelicans from Seleone were running troll when I checked in. The classes were organized by someone from Louisiana. The teachers were drawn from groups all over the kingdom. The three musicians providing music at the Ball were from Grey Niche

(Her Excellency Arielle), Seleone (His Excellency Seleone) and from Iron Ox. The young lady organizing the Ball was from our neighbor to the east, Meridies. It was truly impressive to see how all these people, from all these areas were able to work together to present such a wonderful event.

There are many reasons to go to an event: some go for the fighting, some for the classes, some for the arts and sciences, some go for the parties. I go to spend time with people, to spend time with old friends, to make new ones, and to create memories that when I look back on them later will help me make it through the days when I'm suffering from not being among those friends for far too long. I wish I could tell you what classes were offered (there were a lot of them), but I cannot. Nor can I tell you who taught those classes. What I can tell you, however, is that I went to APA for the most basic reason for spending time in the SCA; to surround myself with friends and to make new ones. The nearly two hundred other attendees had their reasons for attending, but I believe we all shared that reason, and I KNOW the event was successful. Stories were told, and memories were made. You, or at least I, can't ask for more than that.



Congratulations

*Jacob Gempel von Essen &
Adelheid von Hohenstein
who were married August 6*

Regnum

Baron & Baroness—Master Guillermo Berenguer de los Almogavars & Mistress Arielle de Brabazon

Seneschal—THL Ivan Alexovich

Arts and Sciences—Lady Sarah De Warenne

Herald—THL Sean Patrick O'Donnell

Chatelaine—Baroness Jacqueline d'Anjou

Reeve—Lord Geirmundr Hrafnsson

Historian—THL Rhiadain n'a Rind Ailue

Knight Marshall—THL Thorgrim Riftwalker

Chronicler—Duchess Linnet MacLeod

Youth Marshall—Baron Uilleam mac Uilleam,
called "Waffle"

Quartermaster—Baron Uilleam mac Uilleam,
called "Waffle"

Rapier Marshall—Master Damiano Elie Bellini

Live Weapons Marshall—Lord Eoghan MacIomhair

Minister of Children—Baron Elvis Montego

Webminister—Baroness Teresa Berconi

Sheriff—Lord Hrafn Knutsson

From the Seneschal...

Unto the most Gracious and Noble populace of Grey Niche, THL Ivan Alexovich sendeth greetings.

It is coming up on a year since I became your servant as Seneschal, and I am long overdue to write to you all. Thank you for trusting me with the responsibility of serving this group. Many of you know me and some of you don't, so I feel that it is helpful to tell you all a little bit about myself. I had served in ages past as Knight's Marshall and later as Reeve. This service was over twenty-five years ago, so it's been awhile. Needless to say, things have changed. In ages past, I was squired to the most noble, kind, and gracious knight - Sir Lee Fribrand. Mundanely, I am a manager in a casino -The Horseshoe in Tunica.

I would very much like to thank everyone within our fair Barony for all the help that they have extended me, as I continue to learn how to serve this office, and our group. I have learned more in the past year about how the Barony, Kingdom, and Society function than I ever thought possible, and I couldn't have done it without an enormous amount of support.

We are undergoing some changes, and would appear to be handling them well. Officer changeovers are going smoothly, and we are growing in numbers as well as in depth. "More people doing more things." Has been one of the guiding principles that drives my thought processes and actions.

We have had successes. We have a small but growing cadre of new fighters. The SCA locally has had good representation to the mundane world, which has driven quite a bit of interest as well as new membership. Interest in Live Weapons has grown considerably in the past year. We are seeing more rapier activities now than ever before.

Some challenges that face us right now revolve around adjusting to some recent changes. With the recent retirement of Baron Turlaugh NGranda Fer, we find ourselves needing to fill a role that he has for so long most graciously and adeptly filled - the need for sitting Troll. This need can't be overstated - without Troll volunteers, we don't have events. Many of our officers are in need of deputies. The warrants (time in service to the office) typically lasts two years, and replacements should ideally have at least a year of exposure to the office before taking over. Don't fret if you have never served before - you'll get a lot of support from the group, as well as the fact that prior officeholders are almost universally willing to help. Also, your humble Seneschal will aid you in any way that he (or she) can.

All in all, I have to say that being your Seneschal has given me a new perspective on the nobility, kindness, and grace of this group and the people in it. My greatest sin is that of pride. I find that I am proud to be able to serve so great a group as the Barony of Grey Niche.

Your servant,

Ivan

Bids are due now for

Candlemas 2017

&

Beltain 2017

*Contact the Seneschal with questions
about the bid process.*

From the Baron and Baroness...

Greetings everyone! As we write this missive, the Niche is only a few days away from hosting Kingdom Arts and Sciences Faire. This is quite possibly a first for our group; it has not happened in the time we have been here. Our regular site, Piersol Group Camp in Shelby Forest, is also the location for Spring Coronation 2017. Very exciting times for the Barony!

We are looking forward to our fall event, Samhain, in just a few short weeks. Please don't forget to send in those award recommendations. It means so much to us, as we cannot be everywhere and see every effort that the members of our group put forth.

Grey Niche is indeed a barony full of people who make the effort. From the folks who autocrat and feastcrat, to the Baronial officers, to the stalwarts who attend every fighter practice, or step in and teach a class when no one else is available, to the individuals who represent us to the public at demos, to the people who have made it their job to take up the slack where needed—thank you! We feel very lucky to be members of Da Niche!

Guillermo and Arielle

Sonnet #29

In celebration of the 400th anniversary of the death of William Shakespeare in 2016

When, in disgrace with fortune and men's eyes,
I all alone beweepe my outcast state
And trouble deaf heaven with my bootless cries
And look upon myself and curse my fate,
Wishing me like to one more rich in hope,
Featured like him, like him with friends possess'd,
Desiring this man's art and that man's scope,
With what I most enjoy contented least;
Yet in these thoughts myself almost despising,
Haply I think on thee, and then my state,
Like to the lark at break of day arising
From sullen earth, sings hymns at heaven's gate;
For thy sweet love remember'd such wealth brings
That then I scorn to change my state with kings.

Contributed by THL Rhiadain



Photo Credit: THL Giacomo Falcone. Used with permission.

					XII		I	
		II	V	VIII		IX		
				IX		III	VIII	
	VIII		VI				III	V
VII	VI				VIII		IX	
	IX	V		IV				
		IV		III	IX	I		
	I		II					

Geirmundr's Games

Thanks to Ld. Geirmundr Hrafnsson's suggestion, we will have some kind of game in each issue of the newsletter.

The first member of the Barony who solves the puzzle will receive a prize at the next business meeting. Please submit your solution to:
chronicler@greyniche.net

Time stamp on correct entries will decide winner. These games and prizes are for entertainment purposes only.

Good luck, I started you off with a really hard one, but I promise it is solvable.

- Linnet

The rules of the game are simple: each of the nine blocks has to contain all the numbers I—IX within its squares. Each number can only appear once in a row, column and box.



Martial Activities...

Grey Niche recently held a regional fighter practice at the Mid-South Renaissance Faire. The first weekend, August 20 & 21, drew ten fighters while the second weekend, August 27 & 28 only drew seven or eight according to group Knight Marshall, THL Thorgrim Riftwalker. Baron Ali al-Badawi al-Maghribi organized the troops for this demo.

The Knight Marshall is looking for a replacement deputy who can take over the position in October, 2017. If you are interested, please contact the Knight Marshall or the Seneschal.

Heavy Combat

Wednesday night practice
5:30 p.m. til dark
Greenbrook Park
Southaven, MS

Heavy Combat, Light Weapons & Youth Combat

Sunday practice
3:30 pm til done
Audubon Park
Memphis, TN

Archery & Thrown Weapons

Weekend practice
12:00-2:00 p.m.
4214 Billy Maher Road
Bartlett, TN
Contact Sheriff for dates or watch the Grey Niche
Archery & Thrown Weapons Facebook page

Archery—Traditional Shoot

1st Wednesday night of each month
6:00-8:00 p.m.
Everything Archery
5454 Pleasant View Road
Memphis, TN
*there is a fee for this activity

Aphar Fair 2016: A View from the Regional A & S Faire

By Mistress Arielle de Brabazon

Every August I make the pilgrimage to the Shire of Lagerdamm to attend Aphar Faire, one of the longest running events in our area. Aphar Faire is host to one of Gleann Abhann's Regional Arts and Sciences Faires, and as Kingdom Minister of Arts and Sciences, I take care of the organizing and set up. My apprentice, TH Lady Ida de Lorca was along for the ride, and she managed to stay out of trouble for the most part—but more about that later.

When we arrived, tables had already been set up for the entries, and many of the displays were already in place. I helped entrants fill out their paperwork, assigned judges to the various items, and then turned my attention to the entries. We had seven scored entries, one "Comment Only" entry, and several items that were for display only. Grey Niche was well represented by our own Baroness Jacqueline d'Anjou, who entered a display of cochineal dyes with varying pH levels.

Baroness Jacqueline's Dye Entry. Note the different shades of red and purple.



Other entries included a beautifully presented box of Japanese foods from the pre-Edo period, wood blocks for printing fabric, a Tudor dress, scrolls, two pigment entries, and hand-spun wool. In the "Display Only" area was some of Master Addison's lovely portrait work, as well as a windlass for winding fabric during the dye process, built by Lord Eldred Ulfsson.



A variety of Japanese delicacies presented by Baroness Katryne MacIntosh the Strange.

As people stopped by to see the Faire entries, several of them left small gifts of largesse, such as beads, notes, and candy, next to the items that caught their attention. Someone asked me what the small piles of candy and trinkets were for.

As I started to explain, Ida blurted out, "I thought that candy was out for people to eat!"

"So...you ate the largesse?"

"Well, yeah! I didn't know. It was just sitting there. Nobody told me not to."

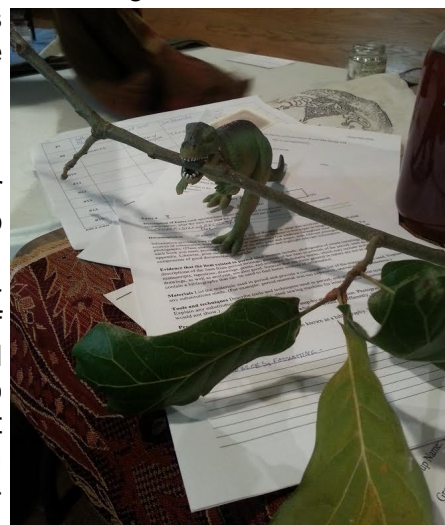
"You just eat stuff off the table without knowing where it came from."

"I was hungry. Besides, it was wrapped. Not like it would make me sick or anything."

"You ate the largesse."

"You ATE the largesse!!"

There was an empty truffle wrapper lying on the table, mute testimony to the apprentice's transgression. Countess Emma del Trees, who witnessed the exchange, rushed out of the room, then returned with a small limb from an oak tree. Handing it to me, she said, "I thought you might need this. It's the Branch of Correction." Certainly an appropriate gift from someone named Tree. Ida was starting to break a sweat by this point. Fortunately for her, Mistress Tipperith kindly replaced the ill-fated truffle with another one. However, the Branch of Correction has come home with me, in case any of my apprentices are in need of discipline. Note to self: don't leave candy unguarded when Ida is in the vicinity.



T-Rex guarding the Branch of Correction

Photo Credits: Master Cinaed of Eden. Used with permission.

GLEANN ABHANN KINGDOM A&S 2016

"WHEN THE RAIDS ARE OVER."

The Barony of Grey Niche

We will celebrate 'A day in the life of early RUS.' This DOES NOT mean that A&S entries must be themed RUS. **A&S will be open to any and ALL A&S entries.** We encourage everyone to enter. However, anyone can sponsor a RUS themed competition within A&S and offer a prize.

The hall will be set up for A&S with the patio outside for entertaining. There are several meeting rooms for classes, one of which will host the knights meeting. The field will be set up with alternating merchants and class tents with the center courtyard for bardic arts and viking games. The far end of the field will be for archery and classes pertaining to archery. The middle field will be for fighters to teach and hone their craft. There will be demos set in a mini viking village.

Feast will have seating for 100. A central grill will be set up for those that wish to go that route. Libations will be served through a Skald's Cup Fundraiser; ID will be required. Traveler's Fare, Feast, lunch, and BOTH breakfasts are included on board.

September 16-18, 2016
Piersol Group Camp, Meeman-Shelby Forest State Park
910 Riddick Road, Millington, TN 38053

The site opens at 5:00 PM on Friday September 16, and closes at 10:00 AM on Sunday September 18

	Site Registration / Daytrip	Bedspace Registration	Tenting Registration	Feast Registration
Adult Member Discount Registration	10	5	5	5
Adult Registration	15	5	5	5
Child Registration	4	1	1	5

This site now **ALLOWS** tenting. Tenting rules are:

- o **No vehicles allowed on the field**
- o **No digging / trenching allowed**
- **No camp fires – fires are limited to the community firepit near the hall.**

Only cash will be accepted at door.

Pre-reservation is through PayPal, 50% of bed spaces (70) and feast spaces (50). PayPal cutoff date 9/2/16.

Children 6 and under are free (does not include bed and / or feast). Child price is for under 12 years of age.

This is a discretely wet site (no original containers - pack out your empties)

Merchants must speak with Park Authorities for fee information.



No family shall pay a Site Registration higher than three (3) adult member registrations for admission to an event as long as they all have proof of membership. This does include bed / feast spaces for more than those covered by the three (3) paid adult member registrations at the hosting Group's discretion. Family is defined as One (1) or Two (2) custodial adults, plus legal dependents age 17 or under. Proof of immediate family relations and age may be required

Autocrat:

Sir James The Holy
James Erby
870.394.6417 / writejerby@yahoo.com

Feastcrat:

Countess Jane Falada of Englewood
Leslie Luther Fulton.
901.568.1346 / janefalada@hotmail.com

Reservationist:

Giacomo Falcone (mka-James Baker)
Phone: 901.826.2448 (no calls after 9pm)
Email: kimo.aubrey@gmail.com

Mail Checks to: Barony of Grey Niche: PO Box 11184, Memphis, TN

Make Checks Payable to: SCA-TN Inc., Barony of Grey Niche

Directions to Site: Take your best route to the corner of HWY. 51 and North Watkins St, just north of Memphis. Take North Watkins approximately 6 miles north until it ends at a T intersection. Turn left onto Locke Cuba Road and go about one mile to a stop sign. Turn Right at the stop sign onto Bluff Road. Go about half a mile and turn left into the park entrance. Take the first right, immediately past the visitor's center and then the first left. Follow this to the Piersol Group Camp. SCA Signs will be posted.



Barony of Grey Niche Presents:

Samhain: "United We Stand"

October 28-30, 2016

Piersol Group Camp, Meeman-Shelby Forest State Park
910 Riddick Road, Millington, TN 38053



We invite everyone to join us in war of the Picts vs Scots and unify a nation under *Causantín mac Fergusa*. We will have melee tournaments, A&S and Bardic Filk contests, Thrown Weapons, Archery and Rapier tournaments, and so much more, concluding with Dancing and Revels.

Registration Matrix	Site Registration	Bedspace Registration	Tenting Registration	Feast Registration
Adult Member Discount Registration	8	12	12	7
Adult Registration	13	12	12	7
Child Registration	4	6	6	4

- **This site now ALLOWS tenting. Tenting rules are:**
 - No vehicles allowed on the field
 - No digging / trenching allowed
 - No camp fires – fires are limited to the community firepit near the hall.
- Early bird discount, subtract \$3.00 by October 1st.
- For member discount, *proof of membership required at door.*
- Only cash will be accepted at door.
- Children under 6 are free (with no bed or feast). Child price is for 6-12 years of age.
- This is a discretely wet site (no original containers, pack out your empties)
- Merchants must speak with Park Authorities for fee information.

*No family shall pay a Site Registration higher than three (3) adult member registrations for admission to an event as long as they all have proof of membership. **This does not include feast spaces** for more than those covered by the three (3) paid adult member registrations at the hosting Group's discretion. Family is defined as One (1) or Two (2) custodial adults, plus legal dependents age 17 or under. Proof of immediate family relations and age may be required.*

Autocrat: THL Susanna inghean ui Caimbell 901-618-3576 (no calls after 9pm)	Feastcrat: Duke Sir Kane Redfeather 901-849-1046 (daytime only)
CoAutocrat: Lady Sarah de Warenne 901-338-8614 (no calls after 9pm) scurnutt@gmail.com	Reservationist: Giacomo Falcone kimo.aubrey@gmail.com

Pre-reservation is through PayPal, 50% of bed spaces (70) feast spaces (50), And 30 camping spaces. PayPal cutoff date 10/14/16
Mail Checks to: Barony of Grey Niche: PO Box 11184, Memphis, TN
Make Checks Payable to: SCA-TN Inc., Barony of Grey Niche
Site opens at 5:00pm, Oct 28th. Site closes at 10:00am Oct 30



Directions to Site: Take your best route to the corner of HWY. 51 and North Watkins St, just north of Memphis. Take North Watkins approximately 6 miles north until it ends at a T intersection. Turn left onto Locke Cuba Road and go about one mile to a stop sign. Turn Right at the stop sign onto Bluff Road. Go about half a mile and turn left into the park entrance. Take the first right, immediately past the visitor's center and then the first left. Follow this to the Piersol Group Camp. SCA Signs will be posted.

Ren Fair is Great Demo Opportunity

By Lady Sarah de Warrenne

Greetings to all! We had a wonderful demo this last month, taking place on August 20, 21, 27, and 28, 2016. We went to the Mid-South Renaissance Faire where we were given space to display our martial prowess and arts displays.

This year we were able to have a set time on the field to do fighter demos, which was well attended. We have already had several respond wanting to join as a result. We also had several artisans who displayed their talents despite the weather sometimes getting in the way. Baroness Jac and Mistress Arielle manned a dye pot, showing everyone how to use natural dyes. Kevin was hammering away at copper bowls, which often drew people's attention to us. One day, Master Leto painted scrolls for the enjoyment of everyone. Lord Hrafn showed how to do Naalbinding, while Baroness Teresa did some work on a blanket. We had a lot of display items as well. We showed off armor, weapons, bows, handmade arrows, illuminations, sewing crafts and more.

It was a rough couple of weeks for us weather wise. It rained almost all of the week leading into both weekends, making the park very muddy. Our area was back off the main path and the road was not well kept, so it was difficult to traverse. This was especially true during the first weekend when it was raining during the Faire. It did dry off a bit on the second weekend and on that Sunday the road was good enough we had a lot of people come to see the booth. We are working on changing where we will be next year so that we have a bit better draw. Certainly having the fighting on the field helped, since it was right up front where everyone could see. They also didn't have to walk through the mud pit to get to it. We were also discussing having more pavilions next year so that we could have more demos but not having everyone crowded under the one tent with the display items.

Overall, the demo went well. We learned a few more things on how to make it a better demo next year. Now here's hoping the weather cooperates more at that time too.

Meeting Calendar...

September

20—Business Meeting
27—A & S—Greyeux Tapestry

October

6—Business Meeting
11—A & S—Leather Tooling
18—Business Meeting
25—A & S—Greyeux Tapestry

November

3—Business Meeting
8—A & S—TBA**
15—Business Meeting
22—Holiday Break
29—Dance Practice

December

1—Business Meeting
6—A & S—TBA**
13—Open
20—Holiday Break
27—Dance Practice

**Please contact the A & S officer if you are interested in teaching one of the TBA classes.

All meetings are held at 1750 Madison, Suite 303
Seating is limited, it is recommended you bring a chair.

FIGHTER HAIKUS

By Anonymous

*Helmet ringing loud
Like a bell on Christmas day
Thought I had it block'd*

*A-and-S entry
Kane said nylon's period
Judges gave a five*

*Young squire with big sword
Old knight with older armor
Sounds like that one hurt*

Every effort has been made to present correct information as a form of communication to the members of the Barony of Grey Niche. Please send all corrections, concerns and suggestions to Duchess Linnet MacLeod at chronicler@greyniche.net.

This is the September, 2016 issue of The Clouded Issue, a publication of the Barony of Grey Niche of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. (SCA, Inc.). The Clouded Issue is available from Linda Lee, 1212 Faxon, Memphis, TN 38104. It is not a corporate publication of SCA, Inc., and does not delineate SCA, Inc. policies. Copyright © 2016 Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. For information on reprinting photographs, articles, or artwork from this publication, please contact the Chronicler, who will assist you in contacting the original creator of the piece. Please respect the legal rights of our contributors.