



The Clouded Issue

The Newsletter of the Barony of Grey Niche

Summer

Anno Societatis LI

2016

Nichers Make Long Trek to SCA 50 Year

The third weekend of June, about a dozen members of the Barony of Grey Niche made the long trek to Danville, Indiana to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Society for Creative Anachronism. The total number of participants was 2,228. The site was the Hendricks County 4-H Fairgrounds and Complex, a location well suited to the event. The weather was hot, and a bit humid at times, with a storm or two thrown in mid-week, but there was plenty to do, much of it in the shade or in air-conditioning.



One of the highlights of the event was the Kingdom displays. What an amazing show of history and artifacts! Our own Countess Joan of Ook and Baroness Jacquette d'Anjou did an excellent job with the Gleann Abhann display, which included dozens of photographs of everyone from the Royalty to the populace. In addition, there was an outstanding video presentation put together by HRH Danielle de la Roche. *(Photo at left—courtesy of Leslie Luther Fulton)*

Every type of martial and arts and sciences activity was represented. You could do it all—or just sit back and talk to multiple generations of SCA folks, going back to the founders.

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The photograph to the right (courtesy of Leslie Luther-Fulton) is of Duke John the Bearkiller with Lady Jadwiga Wlodzislawska, pointing to his place in history in the lovely needlework she created, a Bayeux Tapestry-style record of historic moments in the SCA.



In addition to the main building, which housed displays and provided space for balls and performances, there was a covered equestrian arena and barn, plus a number of other buildings and covered areas, all along a paved promenade with a median of seasonal plantings. Merchants and food vendors lined the promenade. The merchant area was a treasure trove, and The Gode Bakery, a Gulf Wars favorite, was there, appeasing the appetite of the masses.

Heavy and light weapons combat, as well as equestrian activities, took place in covered structures, so no worries about sun or rain spoiling the joust. On Friday, a special equestrian event called a carousel was held. While musicians played, the horses were guided by their riders into a variety of formations—something to behold!

Just past the merchants were various areas for arts and sciences activities. The cooking area boasted a period set up, plus a hands-on class in building a clay bread oven. Next door was the dye area. The photo at left (courtesy of Donna Hopper) shows Baroness Jacquette d'Anjou straightening fabric over the top of a windlass, while her apprentice sister Margherita turns the crank, and another lady at the left pokes at the dye pot with a long paddle of the sort used for crawfish boils.



Next to the dye area was the Great Machine, a giant wheel run with dog power. Across the road was a period smelting experiment, where the participants took turns manning the hand operated bellows for eight solid hours.

If you were unable to attend, or just want to relive the experience, the SCA 50 Year Celebration Facebook page is still up, with photos and information, including a virtual tour of the History Hall.



Honoring Heroes: Beltaine 2016

Our traditional spring event here in Grey Niche was blessed with perfect weather. For once, we did not live up to our rainy name and reputation. Even the mosquitoes behaved themselves. The Silver Torque Tournament began with a procession of the fighters and their consorts, who were introduced to Their Excellencies Guillermo and Arielle. (The Crown was not in attendance this year.) The List Mistress, Duchess Linnet McLeod, paired the combatants for the double elimination list, and the tournament began. Alongside the tournament field were merchants and tents for classes, so everyone could be outside for the fine weather. The winner of the tournament was Earl Faelan Haraldsson, who was presented with the silver torques for himself and his lady, Duchess Linnet. Below, Baron Guillermo congratulates Earl Faelan on

winning the Silver Torque Tourney. *(Photo courtesy of Juli Pfaehler Rose)*

Court was held outside as well, on the patio next to the feast hall. Their Excellencies Grey Niche welcomed newcomers and invited the children to follow (mob?) Baroness Jac and the basket of toys she carried. A highlight of court was the presentation of the title Hero of Grey Niche to two very special people. The first was Baron Turlaugh an Grandda Fir, who served our Barony many, many years as Sheriff. The second was Baron Larcombe the Merchant, who donated countless items of merchandise for fundraising in the Barony.



In the evening, Lady Catina Marciano prepared a wonderful feast, which was followed by the Heroes Ball for those not too full to dance. TH Lady Leonora Di Vitale was dance mistress, and kept things moving until the wee hours.





Fighters take the field as Nichers look on. *(Photo courtesy of Jac Cordray)*

Shelby Farms Demo

The wind was brisk and the weather was about ten degrees cooler than predicted, but on the morning of Saturday, April 2nd, members of the barony of Grey Niche were out at Shelby Farms setting up the Baronial pavilion and marking the list area for a demonstration at Shelby Farms Down to Earth Festival. The fighting, as always, attracted a lot of attention, but spectators also got involved in the Viking games provided by Baroness Jacquette d'Anjou and Countess Joan of Ook. TH Lady Leonora di Vitale set up a display of sekanjabin and other items. Several members brought out silk banners to display, or worked on small weaving projects. One of the very young visitors asked Baroness Arielle if she might sit in the "Queen's Chair". This resulted in several parents taking pictures of their children on the Baronial throne. There were plenty of concessions nearby, so members of the demo team took breaks for funnel cake and other delicacies. The weather turned out to be quite pleasant after the morning chill, but a number of folks ended up with wind burn. At right: spectators and members of the Barony watch the fighting, as Baroness Arielle stands behind the throne, trying to keep warm. *(Photo courtesy of Donna Hopper)*



Upcoming Area Events

This list includes demos and events in west Tennessee, north Mississippi, and Arkansas.

St. Swifthun Service Collegium	Shire of Pilgrim's Fount	July 16
Academy of Performing Arts	Shire of Loch Bais (site in Jackson, MS)	July 22-24
Midsouth Renaissance Faire (SCA demo)	Barony of Grey Niche	August 20/21 & 27/28
Aphar Faire	Shire of Lagerdamm	August 22-24
Midsummer Knights Dream	Shire of Smythkepe	August 26-28
Castrum Cantatas	Shire of Coill Fhionnabhann	September 1-4
Gleann Abhann War College	Shire of Ravenshold	September 9-11
Gleann Abhann Arts & Sciences Faire	Barony of Grey Niche	September 16-18
The Silk Road	Shire of Tor an Riogh	September 23-25

Meetings

The Barony of Grey Niche is located in the greater Memphis, TN area and is part of the Kingdom of Gleann Abhann. Meetings are located 1750 Madison Avenue Suite 303. Business meetings are the first Thursday and third Tuesday of each month. Arts and Sciences meetings are the second and fourth Tuesday of the month. Fifth Tuesdays are dance practice. Meetings start at 7pm. For more information, please see the baronial calendar at the barony's website: <http://www.greyniche.net>.

Fighter practice is held twice a week. On Sundays, practice is held 2:30 until 5:00 (or until it gets dark). The location is Audubon Park, at the corner of Southern Avenue and Goodlett, in Memphis. On Wednesdays, practice is held from 5:30 until 8:00 at Greenbrook Park in Southaven, MS.

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