THE VIGILANCE NOVEMBER – DECEMBER A.S. L - 2015



IAN KENNOVEN IS INDUCTED INTO THE AETHEMEARC'S ORDER OF THE CHIVALRY AT HARVEST RAID XXII

PHOTOGRAPH BY BARON STEFFAN

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Joy and Sugar Walls at Harvest Raid

By Maestro Filipo De Sancto Martino aka That Guy Phil (Originally published in The AEthelmearc Gazette, Wed. Oct 7th, reprinted with the permission of the author)

Secluded in the woods on the shores of Lake Chautauqua, in the jewel of Æthelmearc known as the Shire of Heronter, I mixed a jug of Manhattans by candlelight some ten feet from where a great friend sat vigil. It's Harvest Raid, baby. It's an afternoon, two nights, a day, a huge feast, and a wake up at one of Æthelmearc's premier events. It's an exclusive SCA getaway. Your social directors out-do themselves every year by cramming as much fighting, fencing, thrown weapons, archery, entertainment, food, drink, and socializing into every minute in a rustic camp cut out of thick wood on the shore of a beautiful lake. For a SCAdian it doesn't get any better than this outside of Cooper's Lake. Frankly, if Cooper's Lake had a VIP campsite secluded from the rest of Pennsic with the best scenery and facilities tailored to a discerning limited and lucky few; Harvest Raid would be that VIP site.



Lake Chautauqua. Photo by Her Ladyship Cordelia Colton

I digress, but that's what I do.

My apologies for being late on this assignment. The lovely estates of the Casa De Martino and my beautiful family within were more appealing than writing. I did find myself engaged in the great works of the changing demands on one's lands as the seasons change. So before some would fear that a man who once published thousands of pages be stymied by a short report, or that a man who laughed at people who mocked his ability to spell or use grammar correctly would now hide from the spotlight of a blog, I shall once again put medieval-sounding cliché to work and pound this out like a blacksmith striking a red hot ingot.

I digress, but that's what I do.

This year was very special as it hosted the Coronation of Their Majesties, Tindal and Etain.

The last courts of Their Majesties Timothy and Gabrielle, which spanned from Friday night to Saturday morning, were very impressive and set the pace for the magic that was to make up the whole weekend. Friday night saw two separate courts.



Baron Tadhg receives the Order of the Gage. Photo by Master Filipo.

The first took place in the dark of night in the illuminated Fencing Pavilion where Their Majesties Timothy and Gabrielle sent Baron Benedict Fergus atte Mede to vigil to contemplate elevation to the Order of Defense. The second court took place soon after on the stage of the Main Lodge where first Their Majesties Timothy and Gabrielle inducted Baron Tadhg Sotal Ó Néill into the Order of the Gage. His Knight, Duke Maynard Von dem Steine, and his Pelican, Duchess Líadain ní Dheirdre Chaomhánaigh, placed the medallion around his neck. Watching this was THL Ian Kennoven, who was retaining for Their Majesties. Was this a mere coincidence? I think not. Prepare for a classic ambush in court. To his surprise, and only his surprise, he was called before them and became even more surprised when the Order of the Chivalry was called forth to take him off to vigil. And yes, my friends, this was only Friday night. It was relatively early Friday night as much Vigil style activity, snacking, socializing, and cocktails prevailed. I did mention mixing Manhattans in a large glass jug.

A ten-thirty AM Saturday court meant a leisurely Harvest Raid breakfast. Yes, they serve breakfast. Coffee, oatmeal, French toast, and good company in the Main Hall made a good start for the day. It's nice to settle into the day's activities without being rushed. I hate running from troll to have to find a changing room and a place to stow the gear while I sip back the rest of my

Tim Horton's black coffee in its glaringly non-period coffee cup. I hate dashing about spilling coffee while saying quick hellos all the time knowing I'm making myself later than I want to be. No worries, mate. This is Harvest Raid. I have time to be social while chilling as if I were in some European bistro.



Photo by Baron Steffan Wolfgang von Ravensburg.

Court was awesome. TRM Timothy and Gabrielle gave some great people some well-deserved awards. Check out the court report when it comes out. It was grand. I'm not mentioning any names, but one guy's head became so swollen with pride that his head no longer fit the Court Barony Coronet the King had made with his own hands. You have to be careful, some of these awards can go to your head. The elevations of now Master Benedict Fergus Atte Mede to the Order of the Master of Defense and that of now Sir Ian Kennoven truly portrayed the personalities of each man. They were well done and very inspiring.



Sir Ian swears his fealty as a knight. Photo by Baron Steffan.



Master Fergus swears fealty as a Master of Defense. Photo by Baron Steffan.

During the court, the Oracles of Delftwood appeared to share great cryptic visions and to warn TRMs Timothy and Gabrielle that their time was running short. I believe there were promises of rivers of blood, locusts, and general old school natural disaster doom theory paradigms and such. It was very well written and performed.



The Oracles of Delftwood. Photo by Baron Steffan.

The Oracles of Delftwood would appear a few more times as court progressed from the end of TRM Timothy and Gabrielle's court and segue into the Coronation. The guards, retainers, seamstresses, and court personnel were thanked for their hard work during this reign and were released from duty. His Majesty then released His beautiful, gracious, and generous Queen Gabrielle from service. At as many Coronations as I have seen, this moment is always emotional for all involved.

The Heir, Sir Magnus Tindal, came forth to claim his right to the throne. His Majesty expressed great joy that the Prince would be succeeding him. Kingdom officers stepped forward to confirm Prince Tindal's right of succession.



Sir Bear attests that Tindal won Crown Tournament and is the true heir. Photo by Baron Steffan.

With that, King Timothy removed the crown from his own head and placed it upon Tindal making him the 37th King of Æhelmearc.



Magnus Tindal is crowned King. Photo by Baron Steffan.

His Majesty Tindal then called for His Inspiration to join him.



Princess Etain is brought forth to be crowned. Photo by Master Filipo.

Reclined regally upon a lectica, Princess Etain was carried into court surrounded by an ornate procession of oracles, warriors, retainers, Roman banners, and more. It was a spectacle to behold. The Roman presence was carried off so very well. It was a pleasure to see SCA theatrics merge with pomp and circumstance. Note to you readers out there, it is truly appreciated when people go that extra mile to bring the show to life. The newly established court took positions around the dais. Kingdom officers and the Peers of the Realm all came forward by Order to swear fealty. All the usual traditions and procedures were followed, officially launching the Reign of Magnus Tindal and Etain, Augustus and Augusta Æthelmearc.



Magnus Tindal and Etain, Augustus and Augusta of Æthelmearc.

Photo by Baron Steffan.

Within moments of morning court ending, all SCAdians present launched themselves into the daily activities. Court chairs were pulled down quickly and list ropes soon replaced them. Industrious people of Æhelmearc hustled armor bags, bows, axes, and knives here and there heading towards their various places of play. I sipped on my drink and took in all the enthusiasm and building anticipation and delight in activities about to begin. I was inspired and went to lunch. Don't judge me. I wasn't the only one because that line for the sideboard was long. I had never seen the Main Hall that packed for lunch. Considering court had just let out as the food was hitting the tables, may have had something to do with that. Socializing may be the SCA's greatest activity. The tabled bustled with "top notch" greetings and conversations. It was good to see people enjoying each other's company. We are truly a social organization.

This day hosted the Kingdom Heavy Championship and another leg of the Æhelmearc 500. During Evening Court, Their Majesties called forth the top five finishers in the Heavy Weapons Championship. They named Duke Duncan Von Holstern the winner and new Kingdom Heavy Weapons Champion. Sir Byron has an excellent account of the tournament and finishes here.



Duke Duncan is chosen as heavy weapons champion. Photo by Baron Steffan.

The Æhelmearc 500 (aka AE500) is an ongoing bear pit series now running over a year. The bear pit goes on until one fighter has amassed fifty wins. All the points that each fighter achieved that day are tallied with previous scores from the previous AE500. Duke Maynard reached fifty points first that day and leads in the series' total point score.

Harvest Raid is legendary for its huge feasts. Duke Cygnus set a bar that many still try to reach. This year's "feast with out limits or bounds" was prepared by Margaret of Enniscorthy and her staff. There were many fine dishes and everyone walked away full. At one point we needed to bring people back to the tables exclaiming, "We know you are full and cannot eat another bite. You can't imagine that more food would be coming, but we remind you, 'This is Harvest Raid." Some would say that her best dish of the night came out last and that was a sumptuous Goat Stew and some very nice Pork roast.

In the darkened candlelit hall there is magic. The tables are full, the smiles are broad and the stories and laughter flow as freely as the drink. Plate after plate of joy is passed around. I look at the head table and see the Crowns of Æthelmearc. It is all as it should be. There should always be Crowns at Harvest Raid. It just seems right. It's a noble and legendary event. The children eat a little and then scamper off to play with their new friends. The raised hearth behind my head becomes a perch for small children. Gwendolyn the Graceful walks from table to tale entertaining each with a song. Lodthin Viccarsson and my wife Cordelia discuss each dish. Life is good.

A special treat came from Sir Ian Kennoven who presented to the Crowns of Æhelmearc with an exquisitely ornate and tasty treat. Upon a festively decorated table of fine ornate linens did Sir Ian present a hand made sugar tower filled with candied almonds and two small siege weapons. He invited His Majesty and His two awesome children forward to take turns shooting the mini ballista and catapult at the tower.



Sir Ian and the children use catapults to destroy the sugar tower. Photo by Baron Steffan.

The crowd cheered and laughed over the amazing spectacle. When the walls came down, the children came forth and collected broken sugar walls and almonds in bare hands and ran to their family tables to show their spoils of war. It was truly a grand and generous gesture by one of Æhelmearc's finest.

The children were a big part of the weekend. It was good to see the children playing together at their own games and at a few pre-planned activities. Harvest Raid is a beautiful site and it was great to see the kids playing hide and seek along the wooded paths by the chapel and playing by the lake. His Majesty and His children took time to launch homemade ships into the water. It was nice to see the children be children and enjoy the day. The children were called up during court

to receive gift bags, which greatly occupied them. It was fantastic to look outside the hall windows to see the children sprawled upon the patio enjoying toys and treats from Their Majesties.



Photo by Baron Steffan.

Harvest Raid is all about the woods, the lake, the Main Hall and the campsites. The Hall where people come together, the fields that hold great tournaments and the wooded paths that free the soul. It is so scenic and in so many ways so surreal. You find yourself so removed from everyday life that what you need to do thousands of miles away drift away like the smoke from campfires. There is something magical about walking from a camp down wooded paths to field with a cloak for warmth and a lantern for light. I have found great peace walking through areas where the moonlight is cut by thick spider webs of tree branches. With an ornate axe at my side and cold ale in my mug I find something lost now found enveloped with in this primordial atmosphere. I am so deep in the moment all worries are cast asunder. I hear the crackling of a bonfire in camp. The laughing and boasting of my friends cuts the cool air and echoes over the lake.



Photo by Her Ladyship Cordelia Colton

We have been fortunate to camp in the same cabins, in the same spot, for over a decade. Many of the faces have changed through that time. Life calls out to many in different ways and takes them in different directions. They are not forgotten as we tell their stories. We recall past Harvest Raids and share memories of tournaments, great feasts and greater friends. We tell of the boar hunts, and the running of the bulls. We talk about what had better games, the Plague Party or the Viking Party. It was fifteen years ago that my Knight, Duke Maynard was knighted by King Cygnus. We happily recalled his vigil, which included fighting bouts against all comers including the Black Knight who took no blows, vows of silence, and more. We remembered other vigils like that of Sir Tristan. Fifteen years ago I proposed to Cordelia, my beautiful wife and best friend. Many good things have happened in those woods by that lake. So many good times and good friends that it is a mandatory yearly pilgrimage for my family and me.

It's Harvest Raid, baby, and it doesn't get any better than this.

YIS			
Maestro Filipo			
Still mad as a hatter and "Get Dow	'n Tonight"	after all th	ese years

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Kingdom A&S Champs Hosted by Shire of Angels Keep

October 31, 2015

Be it known throughout the Sylvan lands and enchanted forests of AEthelmearc...that upon All Hallows Eve, that mystical time when past, present, and magic merge, the Shire of Angels Keep will host the Kingdom Arts and Sciences Championship. Work your magic in your chosen Art, bring forth the results of your eldritch, medieval Scientific research, and display it for the masses whilst their Sylvan Majesties peruse the displays and choose Their Champion.

The date will be October 31, 2015, at the Auburn United Methodist Church, 99 South St (State Hwy 34), Auburn, NY. Site will open at 9am, and close at 7pm. Anyone still on site at that time will be put to work, helping with clean-up.

A bewitching dayboard will be provided for the populace, expertly prepared by Ly Eleanora de Rosewycke. Food concerns may be addressed to her at rosewycke@aol.com. Fee for this day will be \$13.00 per adult, and \$7 for children under 12, babes in arms are free. The \$5 non-member fees will apply.

No feast will be served, but a list of restaurants will be available that day, or on our website, www.angelskeep.net.

Autocrat for the this event is THL Moniczka Poznanska (Martha Powers 253 Seymour St, Auburn, NY 13021) moniczkap@verizon.net or 315-515-3086.

Reservations can be mailed to Kristina Lindstrom, 6674 E Lake Rd, Auburn, NY 13021. Please make checks payable to SCANY, Inc – Shire of Angels Keep.

Directions to the Auburn United Methodist Church, 99 South St, Auburn, NY 13021:

From North, West or East, find your best route to I-90, the Weedsport/Hwy 34 exit. Follow Hwy 34 south into Auburn, the church will be on the right-hand side of the road. Hwy 34 is South Street once you cross Arterial. From the South, find your best route to Hwy 34, go north into Auburn, the church will be on the left side of the road.



Barony of the Rhydderich Hael Investiture

Hosted by Barony of Rhydderich Hael December 12, 2015 9 AM - December 12, 2015 9 PM





Join us in the Illustrious Barony of the Rhydderich Hael for the Investiture of Magnus de Lyons and Miriel du Lac on December 12, 2015 from 10 – 9 pm. The event will be held at Wrights Corners Fire Company, 4043 Lake Avenue, Lockport NY 14094.

We bid a fond goodbye to Baroness Isolda filia Georgii and Baron Carolus Loke as they retire to their country land holdings and pass the coronets on to their successors. Yet as we know, any time of noble transition can be fraught with danger and intrigue. Magnus and Miriel will need your help to ensure that their new station is secure from the rumoured uprising forming in the southern wastes of the Barony. You, the populace will be given clues, weapons and aids to quell this insidious scourge during the day as our new Baron and Baroness Quest for a Secure Throne.

Fencers rejoice, as there will be space for rapier pursuits. If weather permits, there are copious fields for heavy fighting and combat archery (and if it does not, a giant snowball battle is planned).

There will be an A&S competition with the theme of Baronial Heraldry. Entries that could be given as largess afterward would be appreciated. This competition is wide open; EZ-DOC is acceptable for documentation.(http://larsdatter.com/ezdoc/)

The site is wet (period containers please) and we encourage candles for dinner; help us bring back the magic of feasting by candlelight. There will be dancing between removes; masks encouraged and a prize will be given for the Best Mask.

The Head Chef is Lord Bovi Davidson. Feast menu and details forthcoming closer to the event.

Autocrat is Mistress Ysabeau Tiercelin, 7132 Taylor Rd, Hamburg, NY 14075,

carnabyservices@yahoo.com, 716-860-1550.

Send reservations to: Melissa Hannon (THL Zofia Kowalewska), 53 Koester St, Buffalo, NY 14220, melblackrose@mail.com, 716-867-5550.

Costs are as follows:

Site Fee 8.00 Adults 5.00 6-17 Free 6 and under 20.00 Family Cap

Feast Fee 8.00 adult 4.00 4-17

Free 4 and under, but must register if chair needed

\$5 NMS fee will be charged to non-members. Make checks payable to SCA, NY Inc. Barony of Rhydderich Hael.



Æthelmearc Twelfth Night and Saturnalia Celebration

Hosted by Kingdom of AEthelmearc January 9, 2016 10 AM - January 9, 2016 10 PM





For those who missed last year's marvelous celebration, on January 9,2016,we will be back at the Washington Lodge #265 Caldwell Consistory Cathedral, 150 Market Street, Bloomsburg, PA 17815. Site opens at 10am. The gate will close at 2pm. The event ends and the site closes at 10pm.

Come One Come All to the Celebration of Saturnalia with our Most August Imperiatori, Tindal and Etain, featuring the renown competition for Sylvan Bard of AEthelmearc.

Keep your strength up for reveling by partaking of the splendid lunch presented by Baron Janos Mezzaros, and after a day full of activities, you may choose to sit Above the Salt or Below the Salt for a Saturnalia Feast also created by Janos and his Company of Cooks.

You may choose your entertainment throughout the day: dancing (Instruction during the day and dance in the evening), an arts contest with roots going back to the days of Cicero (more info to come), games of chance (including a Kingdom fundraiser) and games of skill.

Come in your most brilliantly-hued haute couture. As did our ancestors, we too will revel in the Roman fashion. There will be a Kings Choice and Queens Choice for best dressed in Saternalia sartorial splendor. And as the Sun turns, so too shall our social order, and as befits our celebration, our Lord and Lady of Misrule too shall make their choices known.

Merchants are welcome. In lieu of a merchant fee, we are asking for donations for the fundraiser. Due to limited space, you must reserve ahead of time. Please contact our Merchant

Liaison Baroness Rosemund von Glinde (Wendy Hart, baronessrosemund725@yahoo.com, 716-949-4984)

Other activities and information will be forthcoming on the web and on the Kingdom and Twelfth Night Facebook pages as well as here in the AEstel.

Autocrats for your event are Lady Antoinette de Lorraine (Ashley Green, antoinettedelorraine@gmail.com, 570-317-4575 - before 7pm) and Mistress cori (Clare Jackson, thecoribird@gmail.com, 716-517-8570 TEXT is best).

Please send reservations to Edith of Winterton (Caroline Elliott, 38 East Chateau Terrace, Amherst, NY 14226, edithofwinterton@gmail.com, 716-574-1354). Please include an email with your reservation for followup. Please include any food allergies when you make your reservation.

The cost for this wondrous affair is:

SITE FEE (includes lunch):

Adult: \$14.00

Minor age 13-17: \$7.00 Minor age 0-12: Free

Family Cap SITE FEE ONLY: \$35.00

BELOW THE SALT (Site Fee + Below the Salt dinner)

Adult: \$22.00

Minor age 13-17: \$15.00 Minor age 0-12: \$8.00

ABOVE THE SALT (Site Fee + Above the Salt dinner):

Adult: \$27.00

Minor age 13-17: \$20.00 Minor age 0-12: \$13.00

For Children age 0-12 there will be an alternate Children's Feast available at a children's table in the feast hall for \$3.00.

For those whose minor children do not eat event dinners at all, parents may reserve for them with site fee only. We will have a table in the feast hall for kids who are not partaking any feast whose parents are, so that the kids may still be in line of sight without taking a feast seat. Reservations required.

Off board tables will be available for people who wish to stay at the event and bring their own feast. Please make your checks payable to: SCA PA, Inc.- Kingdom of AEthelmearc. A \$5.00 non-member surcharge will be collected at the door from all non-member adults.

Festival of the Passing of the Ice Dragon

Hosted by Barony of Rhydderich Hael April 2, 2016 9 AM - April 2, 2016 8 PM

April 2nd, 2016 the Barony of the Rhydderich Hael once again invites to make a pilgrimage to the Annual Festival of the Passing of the Ice Dragon. It will be held at the Connecticut St Armory, 184 Connecticut St in Buffalo NY 14213. The Festival of the Passing of the Ice Dragon is steeped in tradition, pageantry, martial and gentle arts. We will be featuring a new take on the traditional 'Pent' contest to highlight the talented artisans and scholars of Aethelmearc and beyond! For those of a more martial bent, we invite you to participate in our grand fencing or heavy tournaments. When you need a break, be sure take in the sights and sounds of the day from several public galleries while enjoying a magnificent assortment of tasty treats from our free day-board. The lower halls will be filled with Merchants and there will be ample public lounging area in the Tavern.

Doors will open to the public at 9am and everyone must be off site by 8pm. As this is an active military installation everyone must have photo ID with them, except for minors with their guardian.

Advance admission is \$15 for adults(18+), youth under 18 are \$5 and children under 8yrs old attend free. At the door, adult admission will be \$17, youth \$5.

Salon reservations *MUST* accompany a paid adult admission and will be \$25 again.

A Non-member surcharge of \$5 will apply at the door to anyone unable to prove current membership in the SCA

Reservations may be mailed to our reservations clerk: Katerin Starcke (mka Jane Pattison) 500 Old Niagara Rd, Lockport NY 14094.

Make checks payable to: SCA NY Inc - Barony of the Rhydderich Hael

Autocrat: Wolfgang Starcke (MKA Eric Belser) 500 Old Niagara Rd, Lockport NY 14094 wolfgang starcke@roadrunner.com or 716-201-1717 (between noon and 10pm only please)



An Additional Report on Harvest Raid

May be found at: http://aethelmearcgazette.com/2015/10/20/court-report-coronation-the-last-courts-of-timothy-and-gabrielle-september-25-26-a-s-l

Shire News:

Congratulations to Master Antonio de Luna on being named Queen's Inspiration at Hunter's Moon.

Congratulations to Lady Renata Rouge on achieving the rank of Caster at Hunter's Moon (Thrown Weapons score of 60 or better)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NOVEMBER

1 DAYLIGHT ENDS

7 HERALD'S AND SCRIBES (MYRKFAELINN)

HTTP://AETHELMEARC.ORG/EVENTINFO.PHP?EVENT=1086

11 VETERAN'S DAY

13 FRIDAY THE 13TH!

14 AECADEMY (RIVERSEDGE)

HTTP://AETHELMEARC.ORG/EVENTINFO.PHP?EVENT=1008

20-22 FABRIC, FIBER & FIGHTING XIII (ACG)

HTTP://AETHELMEARC.ORG/EVENTINFO.PHP?EVENT=1066

26 THANKSGIVING (NO MEETING!)

DECEMBER

5 QUEEN'S RAPIER CHAMPIONSHIP (BMDL)

HTTP://AETHELMEARC.ORG/EVENTINFO.PHP?EVENT=1095

7 PEARL HARBOR

7 HANUKKAH BEGINS

12 RHYDERRICH HAEL MASKED BALL INVESTITURE (HAEL)

HTTP://AETHELMEARC.ORG/EVENTINFO.PHP?EVENT=1083

14 HANUKKAH ENDS

21 DECEMBER SOLTICE

24 CHRISTMAS EVE

25 CHRISTMAS DAY

26-Jan 1 Kwanzaa

31 New Year's Eve

JANUARY

1 NEW YEAR

2 HERONTER 12TH NIGHT (HERONTER)

HTTP://www.heronter.info/Events/12thnight2015.html

6 EPIPHANY

9 AE 12TH NIGHT (ACG)

HTTP://AETHELMEARC.ORG/EVENTINFO.PHP?EVENT=1009

16 Bog 12TH NIGHT (ST SWITHIN'S BOG)

HTTP://AETHELMEARC.ORG/EVENTINFO.PHP?EVENT=1080

18 MLK DAY

23 BMDL 12TH NIGHT (BMDL)

HTTP://AETHELMEARC.ORG/EVENTINFO.PHP?EVENT=1082

FEBRUARY

6 FEAST OF SEVEN DEADLY SINS (DELFTWOOD)

HTTP://AETHELMEARC.ORG/EVENTINFO.PHP?EVENT=1074

8 CHINESE NEW YEAR

13 BMDL INVESTITURE (BMDL)

HTTP://AETHELMEARC.ORG/EVENTINFO.PHP?EVENT=1089

14 VALENTINE'S DAY

15 PRESIDENT'S DAY

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