

At Branches Reach

The War is Over!

How was the War? It was wet. And hot. And when it wasn't wet or hot, it was humid, but we came out on top anyway. With a final tally of 11 to 6, the Dragon devoured the tiger. The fighting was fierce, honorable and fun. Collected within you will find a small sampling of what happened that you may have missed.

Shire Members Receive Awards

THLord Vladimir Mechnik - Companion of the Gage with Grant of Arms

Lady Tommasa Isolana - Companion of the Keystone

Rouland of Willowbrooke - Companion of the Zule (Endless Hills - service)

Runa Thorgrimsdottir - Participant in Ladies of the Rose Youth Archery Tournament

Ian (Ragnar Thorgrimsson) also participated in the Ladies of the Rose Archery Tourney.

Lord Duncan MacAengus of Skye

Selected as Most Chivalrous fighter in his division at 3 consecutive youth tournaments (those sponsored by Atlantia, East and AEthelmearc)

THL Thorgrim Skullsplitter - Member of AEthelmearc 15 man melee Team

— Submitted by by Yvianne de Castel d'Avignon, OL



All photos courtesy of Yvianne de Castel d'Avignon, OL

At Branches Reach

August 2007

Special points of interest:

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The Battle of the Thirty

by Yvianne de Castel d'Avignon, OL

The Battle of the Thirty is a Historical Melee at Pennsic based on a real event from the Hundred Years War. The circumstances are so bizarre that some mistake it to be an emprise, or arranged passage of arms. The fight, written about by many including Jean Froissart, is one episode in the struggle for the succession of the duchy of Brittany between Charles of Blois, supported by the King of France, and John of Montfort, supported by the King of England.

The French party held the castle of Josselin, and the English held the neighboring city of Ploermel, 7 miles away. There were many skirmishes and encounters between the two garrisons, but for the well trained and eager knights it was mostly a life of monotony. Thus it was agreed upon to send 30 knights from each camp to engage on foot in a Chivalric Battle reminiscent of those fought in the Romances and Legends. The fight was arranged midway between the two locations. The only authorized weapons were sword, dagger, axe and spear. The Combat des Trentes (Fight of the Thirty), took place on March 27, 1351 on the Moor of Mi-Voie. The series of bouts to the death lasted all the day long and were interrupted for a rest break. Though the French eventually won the day, the combat did not have any real effect on the war. The renown attached to those who participated in this illustrious engagement lives on even today.

The Pennsic Battle of the Thirty is much more brief, lasting only about one hour. The reputations of many of those who participate in it are just as legendary as its medieval namesake. It is an attempt to create a more medieval interpretation of combat as well as demonstrating a high level of accuracy in 14th century fighting kits upon the field. Participation is by invitation only (and this year our own Sir Aengus was requested to join in the fun). The combat conventions are slightly modified from SCA standards. Here are just a few of the rules:

No basket hilts--all swords will have cross hilts.

No unpadded polearms--all pole weapons must have an appropriately-shaped head of significant mass.

Blows to the body and limbs have no effect.(assumed-plate standard)

Any blow with a two-handed weapon to the head will count towards a "stun". If you are struck three times to the head in any single engagement you are counted as stunned and must yield.

Anyone who gets beaten so hard he can't continue may choose to yield.

Anyone who is completely unarmed must yield.

Anyone who touches the ground with anything other than the soles of his feet must yield.

If you "must yield" (see above) or choose to do so, then anyone can simply point his weapon at you and say something to let you know he's captured you

All captured combatants will be required to pay for their release to gain access to the remainder of the battle. Ransom varies greatly - from fabric, glassware, hand-made soaps and strands of gemstones ... to armor, weapons or a day's wages.

The Battle of the Thirty has become an annual tradition at Pennsic. It usually takes place on the battlefield after Opening Ceremonies. It is truly remarkable to behold. The prowess, valor, chivalry, honor, as well as the overall appearance of the combatants and the melee itself are as close to the real thing as most of us will ever get, either as a participant or as an observer.



Sir Aengus MacEam before the Battle of the Thirty at Pennsic XXXVI



Stefan's Florilegium Files

Over the past sixteen years in an ongoing effort, I have been collecting bits of useful information from various newsgroups, mail lists and articles submitted to me by their authors. In order to make this information available to others, I have placed this information in a series of files I call Stefan's Florilegium.

The Florilegium is on the web at: <http://www.florilegium.org>

I am always interested in new articles. If you have written an article that would be of interest to others in the SCA, please send it to me for possible inclusion in the Florilegium. Contact me for more details.

I am also interested in volunteers who might be interested in helping me maintain the Florilegium. Everything from collecting materials, editing and web work is needed. Again, please contact me for more details.

THLord Stefan li Rous Ansteorra stefan at florilegium.org

Here are the new files for this month:

In the ACCESSORIES section:

hnd-fan-hist-art "A Brief History of the Hand Fan" by Lady Drueta de la Rosa.

In the COMBAT section:

Scabbard-Mkng-art "How to make a Seax Scabbard with a Metal Edge Binding" by Ana Deissler.

In the FOOD-BOOKS section:

food-hist-links Links to info on medieval food and cooking by Dame Aoife Finn of Ynos Mon.

In the FOOD-FRUITS section:

Watermelons-art "Regarding Watermelons" by THL Johnnae Ilyn Lewis.

In the FOOD-SWEETS section:

Dresng-t-Dish-art "Beyond the Soeltie: Garnished, Fringed, Dressed and Flourished" by Maestra Serena da Riva.

(This is an update to this file, rather than being a new file but it has had a substantial amount of new material added)

In the PERFORMANCE ARTS section:

Iambic-Pent-art "That Thing Shakespeare Wrote In or iambic pentameter" by Ingeborg Axebreaker.

Here are some of the updated files.

forestry-msg Medieval forestry.

fst-entertain-msg Entertainment at period and SCA feasts.

high-table-msg Setting up and serving the High Table.

ice-chests-msg Using ice chests at SCA events. Disguises.

languages-msg Sources for learning Anglo-Saxon, Latin.

Norse-crafts-bib Bibliographies on Norse crafts.

rose-syrup-msg Making rose syrup. It's uses. Sources.

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Shire Officer Openings

THL Thorgrim Skullsplitter will be stepping down next month. We need a replacement Seneschal. Submit your letter of intent to Thorgrim or any other officer soon.

Baron Feliciano is stepping down as Exchequer. Submit letters of intent soon.

The office of Deputy Seneschal is going to be open next month. Submit letters of intent soon.

Captain of Fence will be open in December.

Letters of intent must be submitted to an officer of the Shire. Elections will be held at the officer's meeting just before the general meetings.



Aengus captures an opponent and removes him from the field to discuss ransom

Shire Officers

Seneschal(07/07)—THL Thorgrim Skullsplitter
(James Gurney) (724) 283-9321
112 Pine St, Butler PA 16001
Thorgrim@zoominternet.com

Exchequer(07/07)—Baron Feliciano Grimaldi
(Thom Spellicy) (724)-282-1459
708 East Pearl St, Butler PA 16001
Aristotles.lovechild@zoominternet.com

Herald(10/07)/**Webmistress**—Mistresse Yvianne
de Castel d'Avignon (Pauline Hassinger) (724)-283-
7984)

344 Wagner Ave, Butler PA 16001
yvianne@zoominternet.com
Deputy Seneschal(7/07)—Lord Geoffrey Mont-
gomery
(Jeff Montgomery) (724)-282-2261

2921 Old 422 East, Fennelton OA 1634
alchemytech@juno.com

Arts and Sciences—Vacant

Chatelaine—Vacant

Chirurgion—Chrysty Tanski

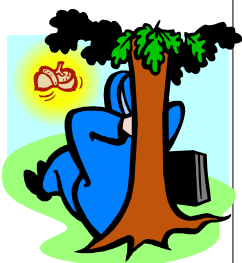
Knight Marshal—Vacant

Capt of Fence(12/07)/**Chronicler**(04/08)—Lady
Meg the Mad!!!

(Megan Coriale) (724) 226-1350
1024 Maple Street, Natrona Heights PA 15065
megancoriale@yahoo.com

Captain of Archers—Vacant

Minister of Lists—Vacant





August 2007

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
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September 2007

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