

Chronicles by the River's Edge

The Quarterly Newsletter of The Shire of the March of St. Martin

Winter (December) 2006

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This is Chronicles by the River's Edge, a publication of the Shire of the March of St. Martin, in the Kingdom of Ealdormere, of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. This newsletter is not a corporate publication of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. and does not delineate SCA policies.

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Visit the group web site at www.geocities.com/marchofstmartin for a link to archived copies of this publication.

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This space has been reserved for messages from the Populous.

Please submit your messages, announcements, and pictures to the Chronicler. Quarterly deadlines are March 1, June 1, September 1, and December 1.

Hear Ye,
Hear Ye!



Greetings,

Please send contributions (articles, artwork, ideas or announcements) to my e-mail address (above) or to my mailing address (on the cover page).

**Anne Fairamay (Lynn Smith),
Chronicler**

This space has been reserved
for messages from the
Officers of the Shire to the Populous.

March of St. Martin Calendar Of Events

DATE(S)	EVENT	LOCATION
Jan 6	Skraeling Althing Twelfth Night	Kemptville, ON (Barony of Skraeling Althing)
Jan 13	Kingdom Twelfth Night	Mississauga, ON (Canton of Vest Yorvik)
Jan 20	Rising Waters Twelfth Night	St. Catherine's, ON (Barony of Rising Waters)
Jan 27	Snowed Inn VI	Pickering, ON (Canton of Ardchreag)
Feb 17	Silk Slippers and Crossed Swords	Guelph, ON (Canton of der Welfengau)
Feb 24	Practicum 2007	Ottawa, ON (Canton of Caldrihig)
Mar 3	Winter War VIII	Woodstock, ON (Shire of Trinovantia Nova)
Mar 17	March Event	Kingston, ON (Canton of Greyfalls)
Mar 24	Late Winter Shoot	Peterborough, ON (Canton of Petrea Thule)
Mar 31	A Kid in King Roak's Court	Fort Erie, ON (Barony of Rising Waters)
Apr 7	Clancy Day XX	Windsor, ON (Starleaf Gate, Kingdom of the Middle)

**March of St. Martin meetings: Wednesdays (Mid-September to Mid-June) 7:30 - 10:00
in the Northern Secondary School cafeteria (NE corner of Indian and Michigan)**

Most of the above information was gathered from the Kingdom of Ealdormere web site and/or newsletter, *The Tidings*. Please refer to www.geocities.com/marchofstmartin or these publications for further information on the events listed.



Arts & Sciences

The **A&S topic/project of the month** allows us to tackle group projects, or explore and play with different methods and materials. Techniques will be demonstrated, ideas will be shared, and items will be manufactured. These monthly activities will take place at the regular Wednesday night meetings, unless otherwise advised. Participation is encouraged but not necessary. As always, you are most welcome to bring your own, possibly totally off topic, project to work on.

A&S Topic/Project of the Month

January – Winter weather calls for **winter wear**. Capes, cloaks & hoods will be explored.

February – Lady Cassandra Cresswell will offer a **boot making** workshop.

March – We'll try working with the **inkle loom**.

Can you talk about a technique, lead a workshop, or perhaps there is something you'd like information or instruction on? Please offer your ideas for future A&S topics or projects of the month to Minister of Arts & Sciences, Lady Una Sewenna (contact info on page 1).

Event Logistics

By THL Gerrard Carpentarius

Organizing an SCA event? How do we do that?

- The very first thing to be done is to establish a willing “**Event Steward**”.
- Get the “**Event Binder** “. (How to! Plus all forms needed.)
- That willing person must then establish a **Date** for the event.
- Establish who would be a willing **Cook**. Bids may be given by anyone interested. A simplified bid for just doing feast or just for lunch may be made.
- Constantly **remind the Cook** that we are just a small Shire with **limited persons and limited hall space!!**
- Contact **the Hall** and book it.
- Contact the **Ealdormere Calendar** and book it. Sending the proposed “**Tidings** “ event information along with your SCA membership number and expiry date.
- **Organise all persons as to various other tasks.**
- With the Seneschal, go to the hall and **sign hall contracts and leave deposits.**
- With the Seneschal, go to L.C.B.O. and **acquire Liquor Licence. Order all alcohol and beer.**
- Acquire **Site Tokens / Feast tokens / prizes**
- Make certain all is organised (ready) **2 weeks prior** to event.
- Day of event: **Be able to delegate / multi task / make executive decisions** on very short notice.
- Follow up with **reports** (Event reports x 4) your copy / Seneschal Copy / Exchequer / Minister for Shires, within 30 days of event.



Ask Aug

Need some sage advice, or perhaps the answer to a perplexing problem? No need to look far and wide... Aug knows all... and will attempt to come up with some sort of answer. Please remember, Aug has wisdom and knowledge, but no professional credentials, so Aug's advice might be nothing more than entertaining. Send your questions (real or otherwise) to "Ask Aug, c/o the Chronicler".

Dearest Aug,

Please satisfy my desire to know the answers to my question.

My question is...

How might we better attract and integrate new people into our Shire, and the SCA?

Signed,

Felix the Curious

Dear Felix,

The first thing new people should do is to make contact to with the **Group Chatelain**. A Chatelain **will explain who, what, when, where, and why, we do what we do in the SCA**. Currently the March of Saint Martin Chatelain is Lady Cassandra Cresswell.

Our Shire is in desperate need of a **Herald**. This person **helps to develop names / personas, and heraldry**. More information can be obtained by contacting, Deputy to the Trillium Herald, Lady Cainneighen Hui Chatharnaig (Kelly Garlow), 436 Forest Avenue, St Thomas, ON N5R-2K9, email: kgarlow@sympatico.ca

Our group would also be greatly aided by a **Boffer Marshal**. We could offer parents of youth a more appealing environment if we can help them watch over, guide, and just plain **entertain our young Boffer fanatics**. Try contacting: The Marshal of Minor Combat, Viscountess Moria the Black (Michelle Moll), 124 Balmoral Ave. N, Hamilton, ON L8L-7R6, phone: (905) 312-0794, email mmoll1@cogeco.ca

The SCA is more about what you (or they) want to bring to the group. **Arts & Sciences** encompasses a large part of what we do. Common A&S activities include sewing, leatherworking, scribal work, bardic works, cooking, etc. See the Shire Arts and Sciences officer for suggestions, and **make your interests and abilities known**. Our group Arts and Sciences officer is Lady Una Sewenna, email: nsewon@xcelco.on.ca, phone: 519-336-1216.

I do hope that my answer has satisfied your curiosity, and I would like to offer my best wishes for the growth and prosperity of your Shire in the New Year!

Aug the All Knowing

On the Cover

Sarah of the March models her new pink sideless surcoat with coordinating black underdress, made by Lady Una Sewenna and Anne Fairamay.

Cooking with Lady Cassandra

by Lady Cassandra Cresswell



Cheese Pies

Ingredients:

- ❖ Phyllo pastry
- ❖ 500 ml cottage cheese
- ❖ 3 eggs
- ❖ feta cheese (about the size of a deck of playing cards)
- ❖ 1 bunch of steamed broccoli or one box frozen spinach(all the water squeezed out)

In a blender put the cottage cheese, feta cheese and eggs. Blend until smooth and creamy looking. Lightly pan spray muffin tins. Open the phyllo pastry and cut into 3 in strips the width of the pastry (6-8 in long). Layer these in the muffin tins, leaving enough hanging over to fold back for the top. If using spinach, mix it in now to the cheese mixture. If using broccoli add a few florets to the bottom of the tart shell. Spoon in enough cheese mix to just about fill the muffin tin. Alternate folding the pastry over the top. Bake at 350° for 25 to 35 minutes or until the bottoms are a deep golden brown. Serve warm or cold.

Word Search

an original by TH Lord Gerrard Carpentarius

Occupations :

A	H	S	T	A	B	L	E	B	O	Y
P	D	T	I	S	T	R	U	R	R	E
P	R	O	I	J	E	S	T	E	R	G
R	A	Y	M	M	K	R	N	N	A	A
E	U	M	R	E	S	E	V	N	T	P
N	G	A	R	I	N	K	N	A	V	E
T	F	K	I	N	G	N	C	T	N	A
I	R	E	C	H	O	I	F	A	S	T
C	A	R	P	E	N	T	E	R	L	A
E	M	R	E	K	A	M	W	E	R	B
R	E	M	O	O	R	G	K	O	O	C

- APPRENTICE
- BLACKSMITH
- BREW MAKER
- BUSKER
- CARPENTER
- COOK
- FARMER
- GROOMER
- GUARD
- JESTER
- KING
- KNAVE
- PAGE
- SERVANT
- STABLE BOY
- TANNER
- TINKER
- TOYMAKER

Sweet ? Leftovers !

The Three Tests

(an anytime story for children of all ages)

by TH Lord Gerrard Carpentarius, the Toymaker

There once lived a great and noble widowed Queen who had ruled her kingdom wisely for many years. Queen Neleh knew the people and the lands very well, as often she would disguise herself as peasant or as merchant or as a fishing net mender. She experienced all the things that the people experienced. Sometimes her experiences were wonderful and some times they were terrible. Sometimes they were strenuous and other times leisurely. Queen Neleh was in fact a student of life. However, it was now time to choose a successor to wear her crown.

Queen Neleh had three children, all fully-grown. In fact they were triplets. She had two sons and one daughter each worthy of ruling the kingdom. The boys were called Brayok and Carltay and her only daughter was called Aural. Each had been educated by the most worthy of scholars. Queen Neleh summoned her children before her. She explained that now was the time for choosing. She also explained that she had decided on giving three tests. Whichever of her children performed them the best would wear the crown. Well all three of the children were competitive and loved a good challenge and the prize of being ruler of the lands was extremely tantalizing.

The first challenge was to take place immediately. Queen Neleh rose from her throne and described the first challenge. "Your first task is related to the fact that our kingdom flourishes. It flourishes to the point where it has become difficult to keep track of all the produce that our lands and seas can offer. Your first challenge therefore will be to produce the largest number that will represent any number of items or things. You will all return here in four months time." The two sons immediately ran to consult with their scholars. Prince Brayok was advised that since the grape harvest was now at its peak that this would truly represent the largest number of items. Prince Carltay had been advised by his tutors that since this was the season for sardines that this harvest would truly represent the largest number of items. Princess Aural however did not consult with her tutors she was content to tend her small garden.

Both sons gathered as many servants as they could and off they went one gathering grapes the other gathering sardines, both laughing at their sister for tending to her garden. However try as they both did the collecting and counting of all those grapes and all those sardines took such a very long time that both began to spoil. In fact much of what they had both had they sold to some unknown buyer in desperation to pay for what they had gathered. So the two sons gathered what they could and stood before the Queen with what little they had collected. Prince Brayok summoned his servants to bring in bag after bag of the now rotting grapes. Prince Carltay summoned his servants to bring bag after bag of now rotting sardines. Princess Aural did not summon any servants and did not seem to have anything with her. Queen Neleh approached her three children and repeated the challenge. "Your first task was related to the fact that our kingdom flourishes. It flourishes to the point where it has become difficult to keep track of all the produce that our lands and seas can offer. Your first challenge therefore will be to produce the largest number that will represent any number of items or things. You will all return here in four months time." I see that two of my children have been somewhat successful save for the stench. Therefore I shall hear what their solution is first.

Prince Brayok exclaimed that he had originally collected 10,000,000 bushels of grapes each containing 100,000 grapes unfortunately most of what he had gathered was now rotting. His tally now stood at the total of 10,000,000. Prince Carltay what have you provided as answer to my challenge? Prince Carltay explained that he too had collected the same number of sardines but because of spoilage most of what he had collected had also begun to rot. His total also stood at 10,000,000.

Queen Neleh now stood before her only daughter. Princess Aural you stand before me empty-handed. Have you forfeited your solution to this first challenge? Princess Aural simply smiled and waved her hand and servant after servant after servant entered carrying bag after bag after bag of dried raisins. With a wave of her other hand servant after servant brought forth bag after bag after bag of salted sardines. These things number 10,000,000 times 100,000 times two. This however is not my solution to the first challenge

Princess Aural then reached to the pouch that hung at her side. She then proceeded to open the pouch, spilling its contents on the floor.

This she said represents but a small portion of the innumerable grains of sand that outlines our kingdom and all kingdoms. However I believe that the challenge was to produce the largest number that will represent any number of articles or things. I now welcome my two brothers to consult with their most worthy tutors to jointly arrive at a new solution. The two brothers seeing what their sister had brought and done, gathered all of the tutors, and after many debates arrived at yet another solution to the first challenge. Prince Brayok wrote out onto a slate as many numbers as he could possibly fit onto it. There this must be the greatest number ever they exclaimed. Queen Neleh studied the slate and proclaimed that this truly was a great number. She handed the slate to her daughter and asked if she could produce an even larger number.

(What do you think the princess did? To find out, contact the "Toymaker" or wait for the solution.)

The Queen displayed the slate to the two Brothers and proclaimed that princess Aural had successfully completed the first challenge. This truly infuriated the two brothers.

Queen Neleh then pronounced that the next challenge was to begin. She led all three of her children to the great hall. Now the great hall measured some 100 feet square. It had been cleared of everything except a very huge carpet that ran almost from edge to edge. In the center of the carpet in the center of a tall cylinder was a three-sided pyramid precariously balancing on one of its corners. Queen Neleh spoke, "Your second challenge is to retrieve the object on the cylinder in whatever manner you can. However you may not walk on or touch the carpet and the object must not fall to the carpet. The object measures one foot by one foot by one foot. You have but one day to solve this challenge.

The two brothers were both frantic and determined to solve this challenge. They consulted every great tutor and scholar that they possible could. How ever princess Aural simply stood at the edge of the carpet with a contemplative look on her face. Soon she arose and retired to her bedroom for a good night's sleep. The next day the Queen summoned her children to the great hall. I shall repeat the challenge announced the Queen. "Your second challenge is to retrieve the object on the cylinder in whatever manner you can. However you may not walk on or touch the carpet and the object must not fall to the carpet. The object measures one foot by one foot by one foot. You have had but one day to solve this. "Who shall be first?" asked the good Queen.

Prince Carltay insisted that he would go first. Prince Carltay stood at the edge of the carpet with a great pole that had a basket attached onto its end, beside him stood many tutors and scholars. He began extending and extending the great length of pole with the basket attached on its end until it hovered just slightly above the precariously balancing one foot by one foot by one-foot pyramid. Unfortunately the great length of pole made control very difficult and soon the pole and basket began to waver. Suddenly the basket touched the balancing object causing it to topple. The prince tried to catch it in the basket as it fell. However he was not quick enough and the object fell to the carpet. He had not been successful.

Queen Neleh, after many attempts, reset the pyramid as before. Now stood prince Brayok grinning with his many tutors and scholars. Beside him he held a great contraption that crisscrossed and crisscrossed like so many scissors, at is end was attached a set of large pliers. He began to squeeze the crisscross sections and the pliers; the contraption extended outward and outward, until the pliers held the pyramid firmly in its grasp. His eyes filled with glee and his tutors and scholars cheered. The cheering continued and prince Brayok stood gloating with his prize at hand. Unfortunately the moment the prince went to retract the scissors like device the pliers opened up and once again the pyramid fell to the carpet. Prince Brayok had also failed.

Queen Neleh once again reset the pyramid and turned toward her daughter. Princess Aural stood at the edge of the carpet totally alone. She had no devices beside her. Queen Neleh approached her daughter and stated once again that she appeared to be unprepared to solve the second challenge. Princess Aural simply smiled at her mother and once again reached into her pouch and withdrew a _____?_____ .

(To find out, contact the "Toymaker" or wait for the solution.)

This made both brothers furious, and both claimed that she had cheated. This time Queen Neleh laughed, and then in a scorn-full voice looked at both of her sons and simply exclaimed that the final challenge would be in three days and that they would have only one hour to solve this final challenge. For three days both brothers plotted and even sent out spies in hopes of learning the nature and of the solution to the final challenge. However no-one seemed to have any knowledge of this or of any of the challenges.

On the third day the Queen summoned her children to the thrown room. All that she had with her were three identical flat pieces of wood. Queen Neleh stated: "Each flat pieces of wood represents a square foot of land. In my other hand I have several grains of wheat. Whomever can plant the most seeds on their square foot of land will have succeeded in this final challenge. The only restriction is that all seeds must be of equal distance from one another. This time both brothers insisted that their sister go first that way they would have more time in which to come up with a solution or add to whatever solution that their sister could arrive at.

Queen Neleh then turned over a great hourglass and all watched as the sands of time fell through. Princess Aural sat on the floor starrng at the square for some time. Finally she asked if she could measure the square. The Queen stated that all might measure their squares. The princess left and was gone for quite some time. Meanwhile the two brothers seeing that the sands of time beginning to dwindle became anxious.

First, prince Brayok took the bag of seeds and distributed one seed in each corner of the board. There he exclaimed these are all the same distance apart. But Prince Carltay only laughed to himself he new that the distances of the seeds from corner to corner diagonally was not the same distance as the distance of the seeds horizontally or vertically. (Side to Side) He took out three seeds and placed them in the shape of an equilateral triangle. This he claimed was the most seeds that could be planted at equal distance from one another.

Suddenly Princess Aural entered the thrown room, however she did not carry any measuring device in fact once again it seemed as though she was not prepared to solve the challenge. Queen Neleh approached her daughter and asked if she had an answer to this final challenge before the sands of the hourglass stopped falling. Princess Aural stood watching the sands of time falling to such an extent that it appeared that there would not be time enough to solve this challenge. Then she calmly walked over to her square and also placed three seeds in the shape of an equilateral triangle. Then with a wave of her hand one of her servants entered carrying _____ (you will find the answer within this story) she took the _____.

(Can you figure out what she did? Does this solve the third challenge? You can read the conclusion to this story or you can contact the "Toymaker". However, for all of those who truly attempt to solve all three challenges the "Toymaker" will offer a great reward! Answers to the Three Tests will be given at an upcoming meeting!)

Conclusion:

The day came for coronation. I am certain that you know whom it was that Queen Neleh chose as her successor. Queen Neleh could not resist asking now Queen Aural how she had come to solving the three challenges so well, and which of her tutors had shown her such wisdom. Now Queen Aural turned and laughed and then smiled. She looked into her mothers eyes and simply said "Why it was you dear mother. When you worked in the fields as peasant in disguise, they're in a distant plot so worked I. When you tended nets, I also tended nets. When you plied your wares as a merchant, so I followed. Although it is true that I learned much from my tutors, the most valued lessons that I learned, I learned from you."

The End?