

Chips

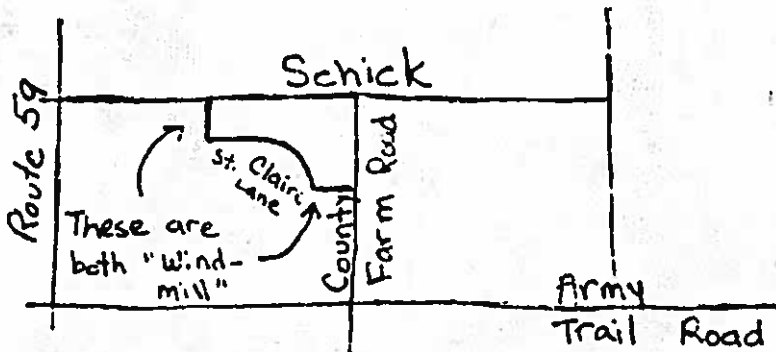


Moot Points

Talk at our March moot was split between plans for the 25th Year Celebration, the political uproar in the SCA corporate level and the 19th-century replica Viking ship that recently "sailed" from Chicago to its new home in West Chicago (Derr has photos of the "voyage").

The shire's main task in preparation for the event is making enough list poles and ropes to mark off the bearpit lists. While Ethelwulf is in charge of producing the poles, we need volunteers to make rope flags. Directions are on page 3 - have fun! You can bring finished flags to the April 24 moot or to the event April 30. We also will finalize who's serving as waterbearers and at the list tables at the next moot.

Despite some scheduling confusion during the March moot, April's gathering has definitely been set for the 24th at Gavin and Katherine's house, 1952 St. Claire Lane in Hanover Park (372-0416). Be there - or we'll think up April Fool's jokes to play on you!



Potpourri

Here, as promised in Moot Points, are Arwyn's directions for making list rope flags. Take any scrap fabric in white, emerald green or scarlet (the Midrealm's heraldic colors). Cut elongated diamonds that are 6 inches wide at the center with 16-inch-long sides. Finish the edges, then fold in half and sew the sides together to form a triangle. Leave an inch unsewn on each side at the top, then sew straight across at that point to form a casing for the list rope.

See how easy? If you have questions or suggestions, call Arwyn at 351-5802.

Attention, all fighters! The April 14 combat practice has been cancelled, since Roselle United Methodist Church is using its basement that evening for a rummage sale. Our next practice will take place Thursday, April 28, at the church, 206 S. Rush St. in (you guessed it) Roselle.

The church also has scheduled a cleanup day Saturday, May 7, which might give us a chance to work in exchange for free practice time. Call Katherine at 372-0416 before April 15 if you'd be interested in pitching in.

Lost: A hardcover copy of A Visual History of Costume in the 16th Century, loaned out by Katherine sometime in the distant past and never sighted again. If you find a stray copy buried in your library, give her a call or bring it to the next moot.

As We Liked It

Lots of people turned out March 19 for As You Like It, Illiton's Shakespearean event, including Arwyn and Ethelwulf; Katherine, Gavin and Gregory; Derr; Jess; Ashley, Gueric and Caitlin; Talbot and Freydis; and Eric, Einar and I. Ghetto-dwellers Terrance and Kambreda; Crinnin and Adelicia; Edmund and Katrina; Cassandra and Christopher; and Bhry joined the fun, as well.

Roughly 35 fighters came to test their skills against the Killer Shrew, the Chivalry and each other in a series of tournaments. First, three-man teams challenged the "shrew", made up of five Illiton fighters roped together. I heard that Terrance and Crinnin were two-thirds of the team that finally killed the beast, but that could just be a vicious rumor.

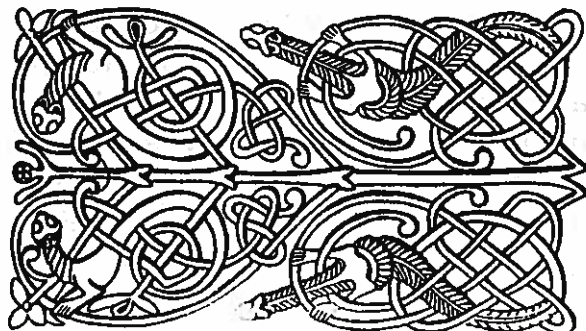
Then the Pennsic Unbelted Champions challenged the four Chivalry members present - Edmund, Talbot, Einar and Guillaume le Fort - in another series of melees. The knightly (or should that be beknighted) crew swept at least the first three rounds of that competition, though Einar had to kill three opponents in one flurry from his knees to preserve one of their victories.

I have no idea who won the bearpit tourney, though speculations as we left the daysite favored Ivar (formerly Morgath) of the Constellation lands. I have even less of an idea who won the archery competition, since it was held off-site and we couldn't stay to hear the contest winners announced. Likewise, I cannot imagine which intrepid

lord won the ``drag race, in which masochistic men tried running in ladies' garb -- though I did hear Lord Paul the Simple of St. Carol on the Moor made a fetching second-place finisher in his Elizabethan court ensemble.

What I did see mostly consisted of Eric and Christopher running around the gymnasium, swinging on the swings outside and battering down the drawbridge of the cardboard castle in the children's play area. Their non-stop antics proved especially instructive to Adelia, who announced at the event that she and Crinnin are expecting their first child the week after Pennsic. Fortunately, she could take solace from watching six-month-old Caitlin, who sat quietly in her baby seat and looked adorable the entire day. Gregory spent much of his day making his entry for the garbed beastie contest and chivalrously sharing his toys with Eric and Christopher.

Vicious rumor has it that while Eric, Einar and I wended our way homeward, the feast-goers gorged themselves on savory beef stew served on bread trenchers, half a roast chicken apiece and a delicious almond tart, among other dainties. Judging by the tempting odors that wafted from the kitchen all day, that's one rumor I tend to believe.





Hearth & Kettle

Were you expecting a recipe for something edible in this space? April Fool!

While medieval kitchens were designed primarily to produce meals, householders also used them to make more unappetizing necessities, from soap to dyes to wolf poison. Here, verbatim, are a few period conveniences you can whip up in your own kitchen.

A Healing Bath

Boil together hollyhock, mallow, wall pellitory and brown fennel, danewort, St. John's wort, centuary, ribwort and camomile, heyhove, hayriff, herbbenet, bresewort, smallage, water speedwell, scabious, bugloss and wild flax which is good for aches. Boil withy leaves and great oats together with them, and throw them into a vessel and put your lord over it and let him endure it for awhile as hot as he can, being covered over and closed on every side; and whatever

disease, grievance or pain ye be vexed with, this medicine shall surely make you whole, as men say.

Toothpaste

To keep the teeth both white and sound, take a quart of honey, as much vinegar and half as much white wine, boil them together and wash your teeth therewith now and then.

Or, if you're fresh out of honey and wine...

The heads of mice, burned, are said to make an excellent powder for the scouring and cleansing of the teeth, called tooth soap.

Fresh out of mice, too? Try this handy concoction:

A Cake to Kill Rats

Take one ounce of aconite, two ounces of good arsenic, a quarter of a pound of pork fat, a pound of wheat flour and four eggs. Make bread of this, cook it in the oven, cut it in strips, and fasten it down with a nail.

And, for larger pests...

A Powder to Kill Wolves and Foxes

Take the root of hellebore and dry the root well, but not in the sun. Remove the earth and then make a powder in a mortar. Mix into this powder a fifth part of well-ground glass and a fourth part of lily leaf. Mix and crush all this together so that it can be put through a sieve. Take honey and fresh blood in equal amounts, mix them with this powder, make a paste that is stiff and thick, form large pieces the size of a hen's egg, cover these pieces with fresh blood, and put them on stones or little tiles in places where wolves and foxes are known to go [the local singles bar?].

It's income tax time again - that annual rite that's as welcome a sign of spring as mud, blocked gutters and thunderstorms.

Before you start organizing your own tax revolt, though, perhaps you should consider what happened to William FitzRobert, who tried the same thing in London in 1194, according to this account by 12th-century chronicler (and unwitting Chips correspondent) Roger of Wendover.

"About this time there arose a dispute in the city of London between the poor and the rich on account of the talliage, which was exacted by the king's agents for the benefit of the exchequer: for the principal men of the city, whom we call mayors and aldermen, having held a deliberation at their hustings, wished to preserve themselves free from the burden, and to oppress the poorer classes.

Wherefore William FitzRobert, surnamed "with the beard" because his ancestors in anger against the Normans never shaved, made opposition to the same, and called the mayors of the city traitors to our lord the king for the cause above-named; and the disturbances were so great in the city that recourse was had to arms.

William stirred up a large number of the middle and lower classes against the mayors and aldermen, but by their pusillanimity and cowardice the plans of William's confederates

e Revolting:

nger in Medieval London



in resisting the injury done them were dissipated and defeated: the middle and lower classes were repressed, and the king, his ministers and the chief men of the city charged the whole crime on William.

As the king's party were about to arrest him, he, being a distinguished character in the city, tall of stature and of great personal strength, escaped, notwithstanding their exertions, defending himself with nothing but a knife, and flying into the church of St. Mary of the Arches, demanded the protection of our Lord, St. Mary and her church, saying that he had resisted an unjust decree for no other purpose than that all might bear

an equal share of the public burden, and contribute according to their means.

His expostulations, however, were not listened to, the majority prevailed, and the archbishop, to the surprise of many, ordered that he should be dragged from the church to take his trial, because he had created a sedition and made such a disturbance among the people of the city.

When this was told to William, he took refuge in the tower of the church, for he knew that the mayors, whom he had contradicted, sought to take away his life. In their obstinacy they applied fire, and sacrilegiously burnt down a great part of the church. Thus William was forced to leave the tower, almost suffocated with the heat and smoke. He was then seized, dragged out of the church, stripped and, with his hands tied behind his back, conveyed away to the Tower of London.

Soon after, at the instigation of the archbishop, the principal citizens and the king's ministers, he was taken from the Tower and dragged, tied to a horse's tail, through the middle of London to Ulmet, a pitiable sight to the citizens and to his own respectable relations in the city: after which he was hung in chains on a gallows.

Thus William of the Beard was shamefully put to death by his fellow citizens for asserting the truth and defending the cause of the poor: and if the justice of one's cause constitutes a martyr, we may surely set him down as one. With him also were hanged nine of his neighbors or of his family, who espoused his cause.''



Medieval Marketplace

Looking for something glittery to shine up your warm-weather garb? Bead Different in Westmont offers lots and lots of sew-on and glue-on jewels, pearls, beads and baubles suitable for the glamorous anachronist.

Individual glass or plastic gems range in price from 10 cents to \$2, while packets of 12 cost between \$1.50 and \$4. If you're really looking to dazzle your friends with Elizabethan splendor, the store carries single- and double-strand rhinestone ropes for \$10-\$30 per foot. It also stocks "Western-style" trade beads that would look equally at home on a Viking apron.

Bead Different is located at 214 E. Chicago Ave. in Westmont, between Route 83 and Cass Avenue. It's open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays, and accepts all major credit cards. For more information, call the store at 323-1962.

Almanac

April 1: Murcod Ballagh first person to be executed by guillotine, in Merton, Ireland, 1307; Sultan Tamerlane died, 1405; Robert III of Scotland died, 1406; Sigmund I of Poland died, 1548

April 2: Charlemagne born, 742; Arthur, Prince of Wales died, 1502; Sir Francis Drake sailed to fight the Spanish, 1587

April 3: Edward the Confessor crowned, 1043

April 4: Sir Francis Drake knighted, 1581

April 6: Richard the Lionheart died, 1199; Laura de Noves, Petrarch's inspiration, died, 1348

April 7: St. Francis Xavier born, 1506

April 8: Lorenzo de Medici died, 1492; Ponce de Leon discovered Florida, 1513

April 9: Edward IV of England died, 1483; Duke Richard of Cornwall named Lord High Protector of Edward V, 1483; Francis Rabelais died, 1553

April 10: James V of Scotland born, 1512

April 11: Edward IV re-deposed Henry VI, 1471; Sir Thomas Wyatt beheaded for plotting against Mary I of England, 1554

April 13: Henry IV of France proposed Edict of Nantes to grant rights to Protestants, 1598



April 14: Ethelred the Unready crowned, 979; Edward IV's forces defeated the Lancastrians at the Battle of Barnet, 1471; Lord Bothwell died, 1578

April 15: Leonardo da Vinci born, 1452

April 16: Dutch republic founder William of Orange born, 1533; Guy Fawkes born, 1570

April 17: Ferdinand and Isabella of Spain proclaimed Christopher Columbus viceroy over any land he discovered in the New World, 1492

April 18: William Shakespeare registered 'Venus and Adonis' with the London Stationers' Office, 1593

April 19: Sir Francis Drake attacked Cadiz, 1587

April 21: Philip II of Spain born, 1527

April 22: Isabella I of Spain born, 1451;
Henry VII of England died, 1509

April 23: Ethelred the Unready died, 1016

April 24: Mary, Queen of Scots married the
Dauphin Francis, 1558

April 25: Edward II born, 1284; Mt. Aetna
erupted, 1536; Oliver Cromwell born, 1599

April 26: William Shakespeare baptized, 1564;
Ferdinand Magellan died, 1521

April 28: Edward IV born, 1442

April 29: Sir Peter de la Mare became first
Speaker of the House of Commons in England,
1376

April 30: Chevalier Pierre Terrail de Bayard,
Victorians' symbol of perfect knighthood,
died, 1524





On Forestry

*How wondrous is the twining trellis rose!
Its buds burst forth in lush and glorious bloom.
Spreading its petals where the soft wind blows,
It fills the woodland air with sweet perfume.
So lustrous shines the rose that no one sees
The dark and sturdy oak to which it clings.
None marks its stature as the king of trees,
Nor lauds the welcome shade its branches bring.
But when the west wind keens its mournful wail,
And fearful thunder makes the heav'ns resound,
The oak's strong arms still guard the forest trail
While tattered rose-vines wither on the ground.
Although the rose be fairest in the land,
Upon the oak tree let my fortunes stand.*

Gwendolyn merch Llewelyn

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