

CHIPS

(OF VANISHED WOOD)

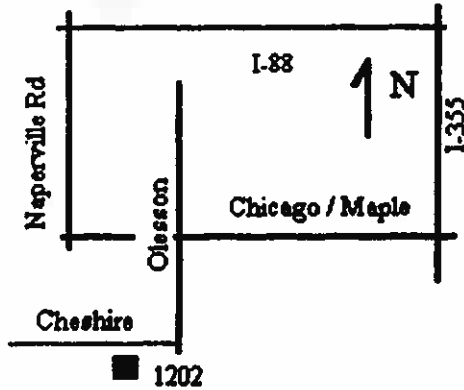


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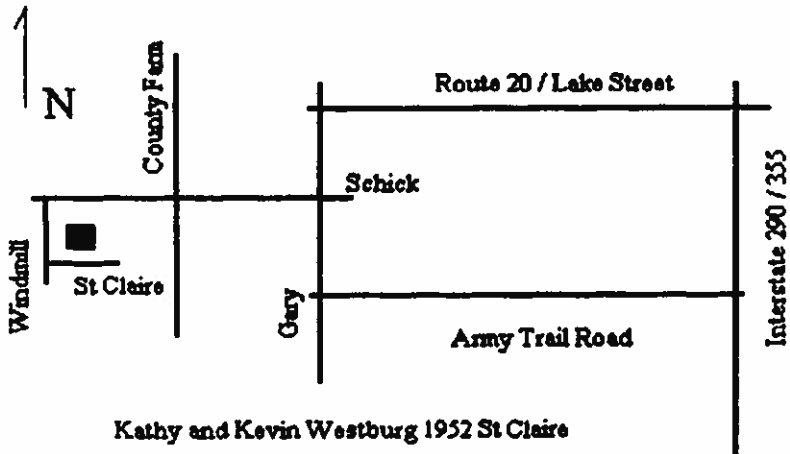
MARCH, A.S. XXXI, ANNO
DOMINI 1997

Moot Points:

March's Shire Moot will be held Sunday, March 23rd at the parent's home of Avelyn of Brodick (Laura Cavanaugh), 1202 Cheshire, Naperville IL. As usual, the moot will begin around 6:30 pm, (630)- 305-9773.



The next sewing guild meeting will be held Sunday, March 16th at Katherine von Schlossenwald (Kathy Westburg) at 2pm, (630)-372-0416.



Kathy and Kevin Westburg 1952 St Claire

Vanished Wood Officers

Seneschal

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Bloomington, IL 60108
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Minister of Children

Lhiannon of Folkestone
Jess Mroz
3327 S. Wisconsin, #10
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Upcoming Events

MARCH

29 Terpsichore at the Tower, Shire of Cynnabar
(Ann Arbor, MI)

APRIL

1 Baronial Championship, Barony of Andelcrag
(Kalamazoo, MI)

18-20 The Spring Event, Barony of Rivenstar
(Lafayette, IN)

19 Feast of the Return of the Dragon,
Shire of Far Reaches
(Marion, IL)

26 Awakenings, Shire of Bali na Scholari
(Bloomington, IL)

26 Peasants Revolt, Barony of Northwoods
(Lansing, MI)

Electronic Pilgrim

by Ethelwulf Kildare

Being the month of Saint Patrick, this electronic pilgrim is devoted to various Irish websites. As always, if you have any sites that you think others should know about please send them to me at ebless@aol.com.

Ceolas

<http://celtic.stanford.edu/ceolas.html>

The self proclaimed home of irish music, this site boasts the largest online collection of information on Irish music. Instruments, dance, artists and live tours are covered. Also includes MIDI sound samples for downloading.

Welcome to the Island

<http://www.paddynet.ie/island/>

Mystical is all I can say about this "Voyage of discovery through the fifth province of Eireann..." Includes information on folklore, mythology and St. Patrick.

Story of MacDatho's Pig

http://www.emory.edu/EMORY_CLASS/irish/Mac_Datho/

A very long web page but it features the Irish and english versions of this Irish folktale.

A to Z of Irish Folklore

<http://www.atlantic.ie/atlanticisland/arts/flatoz.html>

A virtual dictionary of Irish folklore terms as well as mythological information. Unfortunately, the page is not laid out the best and it could take some time if you want to get to a term starting with a Z.

Gaelic Celtic Culture

<http://www.vretail.com/gaelic.htm>

An interesting site covering topics on ancient Celtic views of the family, marriage, law and societal structure.

Barbarians on the Greek Periphery? Origins of Celtic Art

<http://faraday.clas.virginia.edu/~umw8f/Cze/HomePage.html>

Although this dissertation covers 5th century Celtic art, it may be of interest to those with very early period persona.

The Book of Kells

<http://www.honors.indiana.edu/~atrium/kells.html>

Warning: you need a very fast connection or a lot of patience to view this site. Currently the site has six pages from the book of Kells. Although the home page has thumbnails of the pages, you can download a full size version...and it is soooo slow.

Chrys' Page of Celtic Stuff

<http://edweb.concord.wvnet.edu/~deanca/celtic/>

A site with many topics including art (with clipart and windows icons!), clothing and costuming, clans, history and even usenet resources.

Conrad Bladey's Irish Studies Pages

http://www.ncf.carleton.ca/~bj333/Home_Page/home.html

Although the first page takes some time to load, its eight pages long, this is actually a real fun site. As you travel through the various topics, food, music, dance etc... you can play various MIDI music samples as background music.

Dalriada

<http://www.almac.co.uk/es/dalriada>

Covers a wide variety of subjects, law, crafts, folklore, other cultures (e.g. Picts) and genealogy. Seemingly this site is the Dalriada Celtic Heritage Trust on the Isle of Arran.

And if I have not said it before...check out the shire website at <http://users.aol.com/vanishwood/welcome.htm>

“Lord of the Dung-Heap” Personas on Parade

The persona is probably the most diverse aspect of what we do in the Society. For some it's a convenient tag to know which artifacts should go with what when developing a new costume; for others it can be as elaborate as an entire alter ego. Whichever the case may be, however, it is the collection of all of us playing in our different personae that encompasses the SCA.

Way back in the dim ages when I first joined Vanished Wood, Gwendolyn used to run an article called “Personas on Parade.” This was a chance for Shire members to construct a brief biographical sketch of who they were supposed to be. Some were funny, some were informative, some were just a good read.

Here's one way such a background can appear.....

Sir Talbot Mac Taggart, Lord Muckley, was born on the vigil of the Feast of the Nativity of the Virgin Mary, in the Year of Our Lord Thirteen-Hundred and Sixty-Four. He was the first born son of Sir Donald Mac Taggart, and Lady Elizabeth de Beaumont.

Sir Donald's father, Duncan, was the first of the Mac Taggarts to live in England. His father was Taggart Mac Taggart, Earl of Ross. As a powerful Scottish

noble, Earl Taggart was granted large land holdings in England's north country by King Edward I, called Longshanks, to discourage rebellion. With the ongoing struggles between England and Scotland, Earl Taggart moved his wife and son to his chief Yorkshire manor of Muckley, where he arranged his son's betrothal to Elizabeth Talbot, daughter of the powerful John Talbot, Earl of Shrewsbury, who was looking to broaden his ties beyond the Welsh Marches.

In 1314, at the battle of Bannockburn, Earl Taggart made a fatal error. He judged the strength of Edward's forces to be superior to the will of the Scottish people, and backed Longshanks with his highlanders from Ross Shire. Like many of the traitors, Earl Taggart was slaughtered in the battle. His family was disinherited, and the Earldom passed forever from his children's hands.



After he came of age in 1328, the disinherited Sir Duncan did his best to make himself into a proper English lord. Through loyal service to the crown in Wales and France, Sir Duncan was able to maintain the lordship of Muckley, and even to secure a fine match for his son, Donald, with a lady of the Beaumont family. Unfortunately, the Scottish, Welsh, and French wars of first Longshanks, Edward II, and Edward III were all very costly to the English crown. With Earl Taggart dead, and his Scottish holdings forfeit, the family's greatest use to the King was the value of their land. Subtly, so as not to offend the Earl of Shrewsbury, the Mac Taggart lands were slowly reappropriated by the crown, and passed on to other more "useful" lords. By the time Sir Donald entered his majority upon his father's death at the battle of Crecy (1346), there was little more to pass on to his son than the manor and village of Muckley.

Muckley is a small village in the West Riding of Yorkshire. The name is of Norse derivation, meaning "dung field." When the Vikings found it, it must have been every bit the dismal place it is today. Eric Bloodaxe,



Viking ruler of York, ordered a military camp to be established to keep a lookout for approaching enemies on the hill that is now Muckley Manor. This base was abandoned after less than a year, when it was discovered that nobody ever went through this area. However, the camp was there long enough to establish a small village, which remained after the Vikings withdrew.

The village now consists of 18 squalid hovels, a small parish church, and the manor house. Historically, the place was unremarkable, except that in the late 12th century, King John and his entourage rode through the village and stopped for water on their way to the city of York. To this day, the well bears the name of "King John's Well." Not much else of note has happened in this village.

Today the village is ruled by Sir Talbot Mac Taggart. While historically Scottish, he is every bit the English



lord. He prefers the title Sir Talbot, Lord Muckley, to the more traditional “Mac Taggart.” Sir Talbot has cast his marriage nets far afield to secure a marriage which will return his family to higher standing.

His wife, Dame Freydis, is the 15th daughter of Earl Haakon of Norway. The Earl was eager to make this match with an English lord, not so much for political reasons, but to find a mate for his youngest daughter, who required very little in way of a dowry. While Talbot’s social standing may not directly benefit from this marriage, he strongly suspects that his children may be able to use this link to the Norwegian royal family to their best advantage.

Thanks to Talbot for letting us use this. If anyone else would like to write a persona biography, no matter how long or short, for CHIPS, we’ll be happy to run it.



From the Chronicler:

The shire website has finally been uploaded. The site, <http://users.aol.com/vanishwood/welcome.htm> features a virtual tour of our shire. What I need now are papers you have written and would like others to see on the internet. I encourage you to look at the site but if you don't have access below is a list of areas that I am currently seeking submissions on. Since this site is still, and most likely will forever be, under construction, if you would like to populate an area of the virtual city, please tell me. I will gladly create your own half acre in cyberspace.

Current topics planned: Illumination / calligraphy, period writers, costuming, embrodiery, cooking, brewing, armouring, music, dance, vikings, amusement and fighting.

Finally please note the following changes to the shire directory.

Avelina: area code change to 847

Eugina: change name to Eugenia / email gbasham27@aol.com

Lhiannon: change email to jessm72@aol.com

Wulfgar: change email to tmbewolf1@aol.com

Shire News and Business

(Because "Culwyn's Corner" just sounded plain stupid...)

The Shire's 1997 event shall be based on a Russian theme, and autocrated by Ashley Daralis and Katherine von Schlossenwald. The event's theme will be carried over by incorporating ideas from period Russian folk tales, and my understanding is to unite all the planning around a common theme, time and place, rather than just roughly calling it "Russian." For more details, or suggestions, contact either Ashley (630)-378-5413 or Katherine (630)-372-0416.

Also, with all Domesday deadlines passed, Gueric der Wilde Fuchs is the shire Exchequer as of this month's moot. Anyone with outstanding business should contact him — preferably after giving him a few weeks to get a feel for what is in the files, and the responsibilities of his position.

Pennsic: Yes, I know this sounds early, but alas, it's not. The Pennsic staff is implementing a pre-registration policy this year. While this does not mean that if you don't pre-register, you can't get it, it does mean that groups requesting land space will only be considered for an amount of land equal to the its number of pre-registered members. More information on this should be coming out to everyone in the next month,

and I'll let you know if I see it before you do. In the meantime, if you are planning on going to war, or at least are certain enough you're willing to gamble on pre-registration, you should begin coordinating that with whomever else you are planning to camp with....
....which leads right into the announcement that there will again be a "regional" encampment for Illinois at the War this year. As of this point, my understanding is that Baron Devin from Swordcliffe will be the land-o-crat, and more information should also be available on this in the near future.

Finally, regarding the name survey: complete it and snail or email it to Dietrich. It seems obvious at this point that a new name for the region is not all that far away, and if you have any opinions on this at all, this is the best time to start voicing them. There needs to be some sort of consensus in order to move either forwards or back to the drawing board, and if no one responds....then the few who do will make the decision. Okay, enough preaching.

See ya'll next month.

This is **Chips**, a publication of the Shire of Vanished Wood of the Society for Creative Anachronism Inc. **Chips** is not an official publication of the Society for Creative Anachronism, and does not delineate SCA policy, nor necessarily reflect the views of that organization at large. Subscriptions may be obtained by contacting Earl Bless, 306 B. Morningside Drive, Bloomingdale, IL 60108

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