

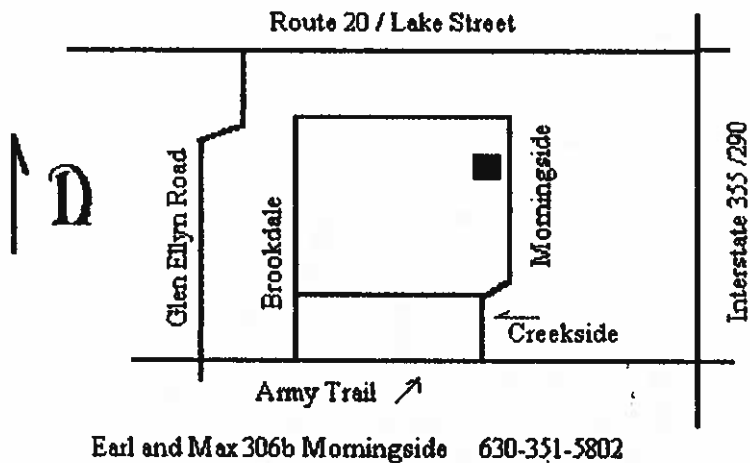
Chips



October AS XXXX
1997

Next Shire Moot

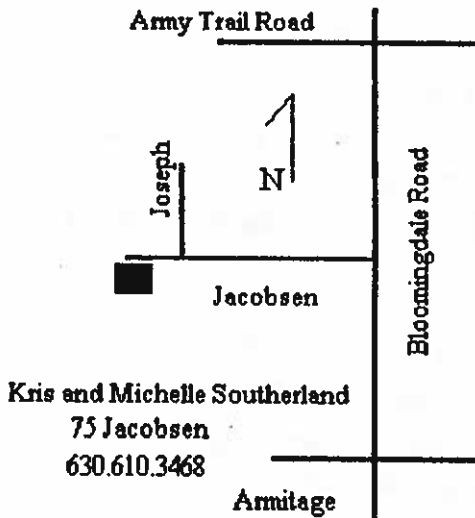
The next moot will be held October 26th at the home of Ethelwulf and Arwyn (Earl and Maxine Bless) at 6:30pm.



Thanks!

The shire would like to thank those who participated in the Borders book store demo held on October 11th in Wheaton. We received a \$50 gift certificate which we used to buy two new dance CDs Monteverdi's Contemporaries and Danses Populaires Francaises and a cookbook of traditional Spanish food (ohh a Tapas feast??). Those who helped included Sahar, Seamus, Jasmine, Adriane, Kris, Michelle, Katherine, Gregory, Ethelwulf, Arwyn, Culwyn, Twm, Bal, and Ashley

Next Brewers Meeting



At the last brewers guild meeting, Ethelwulf made an all grain batch of Stout using a decoction mash method and Kris made a chocolate mint coffee stout. Everything seems to be percolating just fine although the yeast beasts are finding Kris's batch tough to chew. Heck with all that stuff I would

too..although it did smell good while brewing.

The next brewers guild meeting will be held November 23, at Kris Southerland's house, Phone (630) 510-3468. Brewers need to get there at noon to get starters going, the rest can come by at 2pm. At the meeting we would like to discuss and taste stouts and porters. Find a few cool samples and bring them to the meeting. Call Kris ahead of time if you would like to make something.

Shire Moot News:

At our September moot we sampled all of the main courses Katherine plans on serving at the Shire's Russian event this January. Judging by how fast the plates were cleaned, I'd say everyone in the Shire was fairly pleased with the menu, and it looks like another memorable feast will be in the offing at the event.

Derr presented a possible future site to the Shire. He has joined the "Fraternal Order of Vikings" (I have no idea what they do, but I bet ya they play bingo!), who maintain chapters in Minneapolis, Rockford, and elsewhere in the US. The Rockford lodge owns a huge property that is fully developed with power, a full kitchen, showers, the works. As a member, Derr can get this for a ridiculously low fee (I think it was under \$200). Of course, we'd have to clear this with Black Hawk, and the site has the water turned off during the winter, so it isn't really feasible to use for the Russian event, but all and all it sounds like a great future possibility.

Derr also brought a documentary on the Old English poem "The Battle of Maldon," which we watched after the business meeting. I think Markland (who did the re-enactment) needs some work with their fight choreography, but the costumes, weapons, and props looked good.

The Shire has also officially reactivated our long dormant Brewer and Vintner's Guild. The first meeting was held at Ethelwulf's on October 5, and I understand it was well attended.

On the same day as the guild meeting, we held a newcomer's workshop, which was attended by Adriane, Valerie, Gwen, Kris, Michelle, Niniane and Katherine. Thanks to everyone who came, and thanks to Ethelwulf and Arwyn for hosting it.

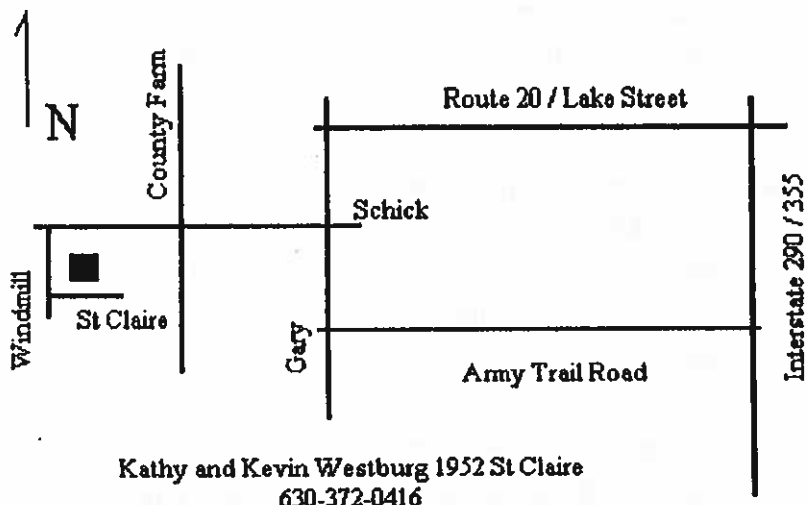
Well that's about it. Be sure to make it to our next moot on October 26, at Ethelwulf and Arwyn's, and I'll share with everyone Seamus' master plan to secure a fighter practice site of our very own. (How's THAT for a teaser?)

Note from the Chronicler:

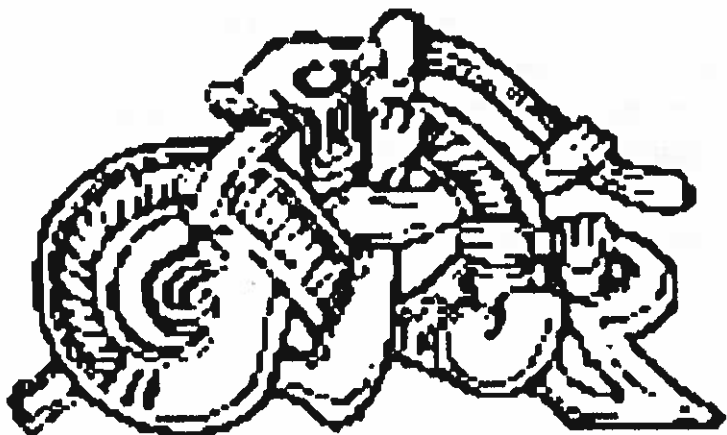
While I was trying to lay this month's Chips out, my version of Page Maker blew a gasket and I had to try and lay this out in Word. Please excuse any irregularities you may notice this issue. We hope to resume our regular layout next month.

Ethelwulf Kildare

Ohhh Scary Halloween Party!

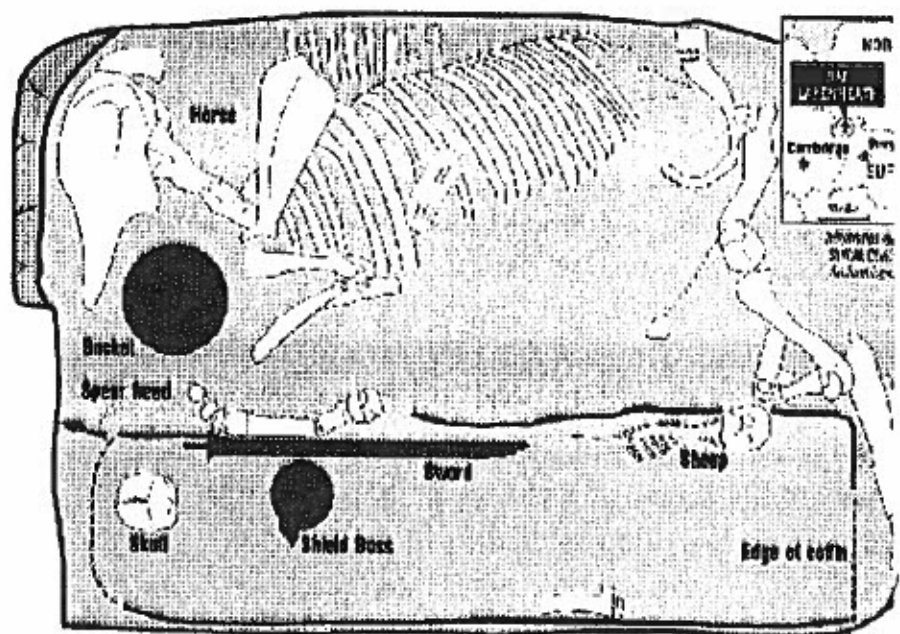


Katherine and Gavin are offering up a sacrifice of their home for a Halloween party. The party is November 1st at 8:30pm. Bring a dessert and perhaps your favorite beverage. RSVP by the 29th by calling Kathy or Kevin at 630.372.0416. Oh on a final note, costumes (not carb!) is required...



Bones, dem bones, dem Dry bones....

by Culwyn



Last week, a 1,500 year old grave in which a horse and rider were buried together was found by British archaeologists in Suffolk.

More amazingly, the site, which is on the grounds of an RAF air force base, is actually part of an Anglo-Saxon cemetery that has yielded nearly 200 graves from the 5th - 7th Centuries. The cemetery is on Lakenheath airbase, which is now leased to the USAF, and was excavated when the British Ministry of Defense invited archaeologists on site before work commenced on a new dormitory block.

Although horse burials are known in Scandinavia and the Frankish kingdoms, they are rare in Britain. The famous Sutton Hoo burial is only one of four such graves uncovered, and no sign of harness or rider was ever found. The other three sites were uncovered in the 19th Century and were either looted or poorly excavated.

The warrior's grave was probably originally covered by a burial mound. The mound is gone, but the side ditch remains, protecting the contents to a remarkable extent. There are enough bones to determine that the warrior was nearly six feet tall, and was buried with a sword, spear, and shield. The wooden elements of all three have rotted away, but the shield boss and fitting, the spear head, and the sword itself, are all intact. Alongside the warrior are the bones of a sheep, perhaps sacrificed as an offering, or to provide sustenance in the afterlife.

The horse lay next to the coffin, and had apparently been sacrificed by a sharp blow to the skull. A wooden feed bucket was buried next to the horse's head. Most amazingly, however, is that the horse was still wearing its decorative harness. The bridle was decorated with gilt ornaments, and the rivets, woolen and felt remains of the saddle lay near the body. The actual bridle straps and bit look much like their modern counterparts, and were also highly decorated. Like its rider, the horse was very large for its day, standing about 16 hands tall. As expected, there were no stirrups found, nor any indication they were part of the harness.

Near this warrior was found another sword-bearing warrior, and the remains of a woman ornamented with large, ornate brooches. Judging by the wealth of his neighbors, and the presence of the horse, archaeologists believe the warrior to have been a high ranking noble, if not a favored royal champion, or royalty himself.

The Lakenheath site will be protected from looters by both the MoD police and USAF military police while the excavations continue. To facilitate this, the MoD is also funding the dig, and will delay construction until the researchers are finished. The archaeologists hope the cemetery will not only provide clues as to who the warrior may have been, but where the Saxons buried in the cemetery lived.

Check out the Angelcynn website to find out more:
<http://www.hrofi.demon.co.uk/angelcyn/index.html>

Sources:

BBC news release 10-7-97

British Telegraph newspaper 10-7-97

Ben Levick, Angelcynn Living History 10-9-97

Book Report: *Dark Age Warrior*

by Culwyn

To arms and armor aficionados, particularly those interested in the development of the sword, Ewart Oakeshott is almost a living legend. A founder of the respected Arms and Armor Society, he is the author of numerous books, including *Records of the Medieval Sword* the most complete and thorough chronicle and categorization of surviving Medieval swords.

In the 1970's however, Oakeshott also wrote an entire series of books for young adults. One such was "Dark Age Warrior," which I stumbled upon a few weeks ago at the Wheaton Public Library. The book is a chronicle of the Germanic migrations, and the arms, armor, and fighting methods of the "barbarian" warriors of the 5th through 9th centuries, A.D.

I actually found it in the adult reference section, rather than the young adults. Although the author's language was simple and clear enough to be understood by young people, it did not seek to simplify or talk down to them, and his descriptions of pattern-forging, sword classification, and tactics are in many ways better explained than in many "adult" works currently available.

Oakeshott quotes freely from the various chronicles and lays of the period to support his analyses and theories, and he takes the time to branch out beyond Beowulf and the Finneburh Fragment, which have simply been quoted to death.

Oakeshott also spends some time explaining the difference between the Migration/Dark Age warrior and his weapons and his later Viking Age counterpart. Although similar, there are significant differences between the two, and Oakeshott does an excellent job of showing why Tacitus' Germania of 100 AD can only be loosely used to describe the warriors of the 6th century, let alone the 11th, again much more thoroughly than many "adult" works ever do.





Electronic Pilgrim

What did Ethelwulf dig up this month on the web?

The British Archaeology Page

<http://britac3.britac.ac.uk/cba/ba/ba.html>

Tons of articles and news including news on brains being found in the skulls of a 15th century grave site. Yum yum!

Current Archaeology

<http://www.compulink.co.uk/~archaeology/>

Contains many interesting papers including one on the origins of city layouts in England. Ohhhh scary!

Archaeology Ireland

<http://www.kernia.ie/archaeology>

Papers on found hoards of Hiberno-Viking jewelry as well as an analysis of skulls and back bones of those spit on spikes from medieval Dublin. Brahhhhhhh! Boo!

And on a less gruesome note:

The Cat's Meow

<http://realbeer.com/brewery/cm3/index.html>

A great brewing site with tons of recipes.

The Omomastikon:

<http://www.fairacre.demon.co.uk/>

A great list of names from period sources, including England, Europe, Japan and Muslim. A must see and most likely the only site you will need to find a name.

And as usual, send your suggestions for web sites to me at ebless@aol.com and make sure you visit the Vanished Wood web site at:

<http://users.aol.com/vanishwood/welcome.htm>



Shire Officers

Seneschal

Culwyn Bleidd Caernarfon
Gregory Mele
1760 College Lane South
Wheaton, IL 60187
(630) 260 - 9233

Exchequer

Gueric der Wield Fuchs
Jim Harding
137 Fairwood Drive
Bolingbrook, IL 60108
(630) 378 - 5413

Marshall

Udo of the Icy Waters
Aaron Popowitch
5535 Linden Ave
LaGrange IL 60525
(708) 246 - 0487

Chatelaine

Ashley Daralis
Dayle Harding
137 Fairwood Drive
Bolingbrook, IL 60108
(630) 378 - 5413

Minister of Arts and Sciences

Eugenia de Baysham
Gina Basham
514 N. Marion St.
Oak Park, IL 60302
(708) 763 - 9725

Herald

Niniane de Bretagne
Chris Waterous
1527 Oakwood
DeKalb, IL 60115
(815) 754 - 4863

Chronicler

Ethelwulf Kildare
Earl Bless
306 B. Morningside Drive
Bloomington, IL 60108
(630) 351 - 5802

Minister of Children

Lhiannon of Folkestone
Jess Mroz
3327 S. Wisconsin, #10
Berwyn, IL 60402
(708) 484 - 6549

1998

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. Regular and Internet Subscriptions are \$5.00 for 12 or 18 issues respectively and may be obtained by contacting Earl Bless, 306 B. Morningside Drive, Bloomington, IL 60108 ebless@aol.com

Upcoming Events

October:

25 Pas d'Honour, Madison WI

November:

1 Crown Tournament, Indianapolis IN

8 Harvest Challenge, Chicago IL

December:

6 Boar's Head, Milwaukee WI

January:

24 Festival of Maidens, Champaign IL



CHIPS of VANISHED WOOD
c/o Earl Bless
306 B Morningside Drive
Bloomington, IL 60108