



Myrtleholt
of The Kingdom An Tir

THE LEAFLETTE

The official newsletter of the Shire of Myrtle Holt • OCTOBER 2014 (AS XLVIII)

THIS ISSUE

A Baronial Journey

A Look Inside the An Tir Library...

A Good Game of Quilles

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CALL FOR CONTENT

Lords and Ladies,

You are hereby invited to submit ideas, songs, recipes, stories, pictures, drawings, and any manner of content you wish to share with your fellow inhabitants of the Myrtle Holt.

Contact your Chronicler and let's chat!

A Shire's Journey to Barony

By Vicountess Jennet MacLachlan of Loch Fyne

Just over three years ago the shire of Myrtle Holt members started discussing the possibility of changing our shire to a barony. We decided to move forward in this SCA world that we call our game. We realized at the time that there was a lot of work ahead of us. We needed to become a barony in behavior and look, before we could even think about starting the official process. First order of business was to strengthen our shire in terms of membership, officer participation, event schedules and especially our finances.

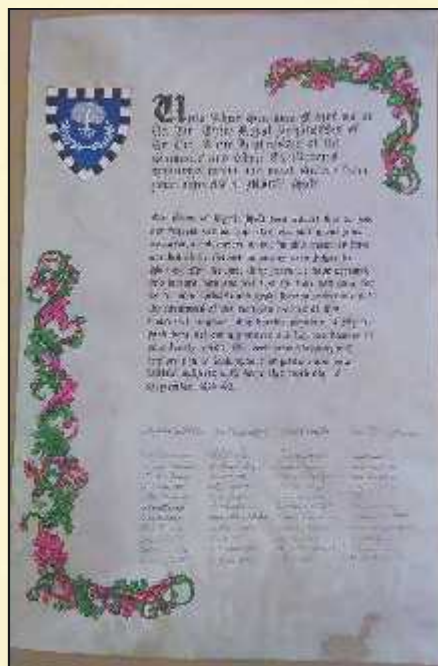
So starting with strengthening our shire in terms of membership. Everyone felt very strongly that we loved the dynamics of our group and most importantly we did not want to lose that. We have grown, yet we remain a family. How is this possible? It is because we all realize that THIS IS A GAME.

Life must and does come first but our game is very important to us. It is our escape from the rigors and turmoil of real life. We get to decide how successful our alternate lives are and that is a huge gift.

More importantly we are an ever growing family and yet all our new members must feel welcome and like they belong and are a part of our family. This is our goal.

It was decided that ultimately, the strength in our branch, as a shire or as a barony, was maintaining our welcoming open-arms to bring newcomers into our branch. This we never want to lose.

We have run very successful events both within the shire and within the principality. In the further past, we had two very successful long-standing events.



A SHIRE'S JOURNEY, continued

We always start off our year with Hogmanay, our Scottish New Year celebration and feast. The feast always includes haggis and the event always includes a “bonny knees contest” as a close out to the feast, filling us with mirth, leaving us ready to tackle the new year. This year we are holding our first ever Myrtle Holt Rapier Championship at Hogmanay.

Our second long-standing event is our St. Eggbert's Feast. Over the years this event was held at different times of the year, it has become anchored in the Spring in the last three years. Another of our traditional feasts where classes and the Gate Keeper tournament are a must for this event. Historically, the Gate Keeper Tournament is the legacy given to us by the incorporation of the Shire of Caver's Gate over a decade ago.

“We came to the conclusion that it no longer seemed reasonable to hold an event that recognized only one of our fallen...”

Every year we offer at least two classes that have never been offered before. From our Ghillie Brogue shoe making class to butter making classes there is something for every age group.

Around four years ago, we lost one of our long standing shire members. She wasn't the first to fall, and in recognition of a previous member we used to hold a third less advertised Shire Birthday event with a Tournament in his honor.

We came to the conclusion that it no longer seemed reasonable to hold an event that recognized only one of our fallen, and the result was the adding of our third major event each year, our Ancestral Remembrance Celebration event, lovingly known as ARC.

It became a focus of this event to provide a highly family-friendly environment, with activities for all ages, but with a special emphasis on children -- our members of the future, our legacy. And over the last three years, this event has grown, not just in focus on the now seven members of Myrtle Holt that have passed on, but to include all the fallen members of the Summits, becoming a focal for the populous of the Summits to come, share their memories of fallen comrades, and to share in bringing the love of our fun to future generations.

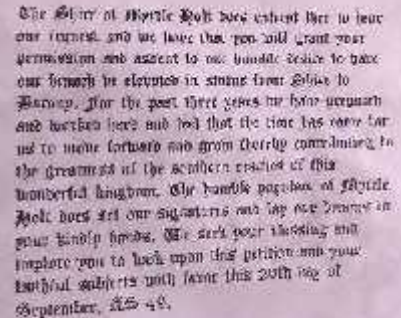
The success of all three of these events over the past three years has allowed us to reach another goal. We have moved our bank account into a much more healthy state.

At nearly twice the balance on deposit we had three years ago, we are now ready.

So we started to do a polling. Did all members want us to become a barony. Our vote was a unanimous yes. So, did we have some candidates for our Baron and Baroness who were both willing and able and ready to be put forward.

At the time of the initial polling, three couples were put forward as potential nominees. Though one couple has now moved outside the branch boundaries, with two couples, there are still sufficient potential baronial candidates to meet the criteria to move forward.

At Coronet we, the members of the shire of Myrtle Holt, presented a petition to Their Majesties, Their Royal Highnesses, Their Highnesses of the Summits and Their Excellencies, the Tanists of the Summits to move from a shire to a barony. Our petition was a request for permission to start the process of change. His Majesty expressed great support for our intention and our petition was very well received.



The Shire of Myrtle Holt does extend here to have our coronet and we have that you will grant your permission and assent to our humble desire to have our branch be elevated in status from Shire to Barony. For the past three years we have been much and worked hard and feel that the time has come for us to move forward and from thereby contributing to the greatness of the southern reaches of this wonderful kingdom. Our humble petition of Myrtle Holt does set our signatures and the one names in your kindly hands. We ask your blessing and implore you to look upon this petition and your faithful subjects with favor this 20th day of September, 1554.

So, what is the next step?

Well, we have to continue to multiply and grow as the family we have become. We have to work together and we have to be a Barony. We have to look like a Barony. So we are starting on regalia in the form of thrones, coronets, chains and cloaks. Our arts and sciences projects for the next few months have taken on a whole new turn.

This is the beginning of a new era for the shire and members of Myrtle Holt and we look forward to this with great anticipation and enthusiasm.



Perhaps what you're looking for is in the library...

By HL David de Rosier-Blanc

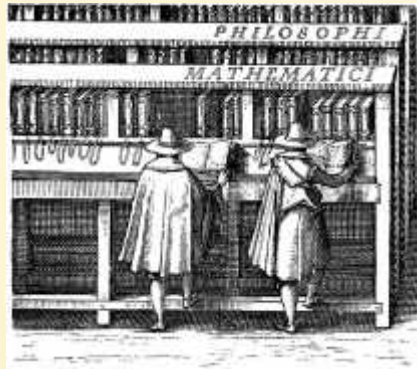
Off the kingdom homepage (ie. antir.sca.org) the left hand "menu" has a bunch of choices. The old homepage didn't have this "left-hand menu" but was much more robust, but ok, that was the past, this is now, and I'll just have to get over it.

The bottom-most choice is "Library". This will take you to a page which has a sort of "table of contents" at the top. The table of contents is softly organized by domain of each "department", or "officer category" of the SCA.

So like any good corporate entity, the SCA has a "president" or in our period naming context, "seneschal", Treasurer is "exchequer", Secretary is "chronicler", etc.

The shelves of the library are organized in this format, in other words, by context of answering the question, "If I were a X officer, this is information I'd need". So, if you were sitting there thinking, "I wonder how financial reporting is done?" you'd go off to the treasurer's info, or the "exchequer shelf" and see what's all there.

Let us say that perhaps you're looking for the Target Archery Marshal (TAM) information. In the SCA organizational structure, all separate disciplines of martial activities are grouped under a department head known as the Earl Marshal... the grand poobah of all things martial, and most especially directly the head of all Heavy combat activities. He gets this honor because, well, the first martial thing that the SCA did was have people run around and hit each other with sticks...



*"And he was proud of the book
and thought it was good."*

Then they decided this hurt too much so they decided to put on some protection (armor) and pad the sticks a bit. And then, when the sticks broke on the armor they decided that they needed to put armor on the sticks, so they added duck tape... and because the duck tape did only part of the job they decided that they should put strapping tape under the duck tape so that the stick, when it still broke, ended up not flying off, or splintering, and getting stuck between pieces of armor with red gooey blood stuff leaking all over the place, the pieces would stay together.

Then because things were getting more detailed there became issues with everybody having enough memory space for remembering all the details of this complex set of safety standards so that they could get everybody on the same page, they decided to use their writing skills to create a document that contained all the things that needed to be done to keep the red gooey blood stuff from being able to get all over the shiny armor stuff (because, one doesn't really want to educate our youth as to exactly how gruesome our medieval past really was, only mostly give them a good feeling of what it was like.

Besides, sort of "growth limiting" for a organization if the stick-jocks keep expiring themselves or racking up big hospital bills!)

And because we live in a "medieval-esque" world, we all live in kingdoms, and because there was this sense that individual kingdoms should have some level of autonomy, they should be able to write their own set of rules to keep the gooey red stuff under wraps. So, because they are stick jocks they thought that if they named the rules for things with something catchy and easy, say, like the first 3 letters of the alphabet, they could all remember it better.

So it became known as the ABC's... The Antir Book of Combat. And it was the first book on the shelf bequeathed to the Earl Marshal. And he was proud of the book and thought it was good.

He spent much time staring at the book, and leafing through the pages, and putting back on the shelf again... and appreciating its fine form... and the world was a good place.

Then, some stick jock got it in his head that perhaps he didn't want to use just a stick, because he was a rebel, and attached an axe head to his stick... Then the earl marshal looked in his book, and found that there were no words explaining how the ax was to keep the red gooey stuff from leaking out, and the world became cloudy with consternation.

So then the book was amended to have rules for axes... and then really long sticks called pikes... and then there were the glaves... and then there were the scimitars... and the earl marshal's once elegantly simple tome became quite lofty, and the librarian had to build a better set of shelves.

Library... continued.

Except the librarian wasn't really a woodworker, and had to go off and find somebody with those skills, and it came upon the world that a minister who could organize all things crafty and artsy so that librarians could find woodworkers... And thus was created the Minister of Arts and Sciences. And because there was this thing called "equal rights" the MoAS also wanted a shelf.

And then there were others, like the exchequers, who had much paperwork at their command, who also wanted a shelf, on which to put copies of their paperwork, and the rules that they started making for making the paperwork all conform with other kinds of the paperwork generated in other realms...



"The woodworker was very busy for a time..."

And back in the purview of the Earl Marshal, some dope came along and decided that they wanted to take long thin toothpick like sticks and shoot them at things and people and the Earl Marshal needed a new book. Because even he, though a stick-jock as he was, could see the difference between shooting toothpick-like sticks at people as being different from shooting the toothpick-like sticks at inanimate objects.

So, after much deliberation, a new book was created, called the Antir Book of Target.

Because it was already decided that the heavy fighters should not put targets on themselves, as being viewed as "bad form", this book would be all about shooting things with targets on them, thus being inanimate non-human things.

And because his world was just about as complicated as he could stand, the Earl Marshal decreed that there would be an underling who was responsible for all the writing and rules surrounding shooting things with thin sticks and another stick with a string stretched between its ends. And there was created the Royal Archer, and with him a flock of Target Archery Marshals and deputies.

And another book was added to the Earl Marshal's now burly shelf in the library, and the Earl Marshal saw that it was good, and sat by the fire, smoking a cigar, and staring appreciatively at the growing library. He even invited the Royal Archer over from time to time to share brandy and stare at the shelf in peaceful reverence.

But after a time, the conversations became stale, and the populace became restless and bored with hitting each other with sticks and started (like every good populace does) getting innovative and thought that perhaps hitting each other with thin pieces of metal instead might be more interestingly dangerous. The need for an adrenaline rush being what it is and all.

And the Earl Marshal, decided that perhaps a new book was in order. Thus was created the Antir Book of Rapier and with it a new buddy to drink brandy with and discuss the



complexities of all these methods of the populace to whack each other with different kinds of objects.

This new friend because more simply called the Rapier Marshal. And he was an elegantly well clad man, who added a great deal of culture and refinement to the fire-side conversations appreciating the shelf of books.

As the world continued forth, the diversity of methods of whacking continued and somebody thought it might be fun to try riding a one ton beast around and try to whack things with sticks. And the populace wanted to shoot toothpicks at people in armor, and the populace wanted to throw things at targets, and throw things at people in armor.

The Earl Marshal liked the way things were going and so he kept on the method of adding fireside friends who then added more new and exiting books to his shelf and coming round to chat and discuss the new ways that the populace was finding to whack things and people with sticks and metal bits and thus was born the Martialate of the Kingdom because there were so many deputies, the Earl Marshal needed a bigger smoking room.

And while all this was happening, there was great envy growing in other officers. Why was the Earl Marshal allowed so much shelf space, and so many buddies to write and appreciate books... they saw the grandeur of it all and wanted this grandeur for themselves.

Library... continued.

So they too began writing more books, and putting them on their shelves.

So now there is the Great Library of Antir... wherein any of the populace can come to share and appreciate the great books, organized by each of the officers of the Kingdom. One must only approach the library with a question, and think upon the question from the direction of "which officer would have had this problem and would have needed to solve it?" then one will find the right shelf, and likely a wonderful book with which to wile away the cold hours of winter.

So, visit <http://antir.sca.org/Pubs/index.php> and enjoy...



Postscript: (and disclaimer) Any resemblance to real historical accuracy of the sequence of events depicted is purely happenstance and good luck on the part of the writer.

Any use of terms such as "stick jock" and perhaps any other things that might sound less than complementary, are done only with a jocular intent. No dispersions are being cast. I too love to hit people and things with sticks so I am included in all referential implied or explicit here within. Any references to smoking or the drinking of brandy imply only my own romantic notion of the way of the world and are by no means mean that I condone or promote such activities or imply that any of these things are condoned or promoted by the SCA.

I do condone and promote sitting by warming fires reading and chatting with friends over the contents of books... these things are good. I'm pretty sure the SCA condones and promotes these things as we seem to do a fair amount of this at our events.

Quilles, a Medieval Game

Several games were offered by the Family Youth Coordinator at this year's ARC event. When asked about one of the games, Squee mentioned, "Devil Among the Tailors is a form of Skittles (aka Quilles). As we have another game called skittles, and a game with 'devils' in the name is less than appealing to some, I call it Quilles."



Wikipedia tells us that Quilles involves the placement of nine small pins, or quilles, placed in a 3 x3 configuration. A wooden ball (our Myrtle Holt version is chain mail) hanging from a string attached to the top of a vertical wooden post rising from one corner of the playing board.

There are numerous variants of this table-top game, and usually involve alternating turns between players; the first player to reach a certain number of knocked down pins, wins.

However it is played, it is certain to be fun with any age of player. Feel free to visit the Children's area at our next Myrtle Holt event and ask someone to play a rousing game of Quilles!

Next Issue Highlight

Make sure to join us in our next issue, to learn about this year's ARC:

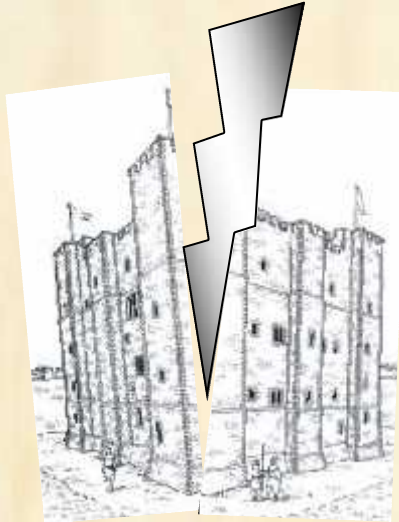
Find out what classes were offered, who won the archery, equestrian, and fighting events, who took prizes for the Garbology competition, and read the list of those remembered .

Dayshade Challenge: A Household Divided!

Vicountess Jennet MacLachlan of Loch Fyne meets His Lordship David de Rosier-Blanc in a fundraising challenge to address the poor state of the Arts & Sciences pavilion.

Her Excellency proposes to raise funds to replace the current pavilion with a completely new gull-wing structure utilizing wooden support posts.

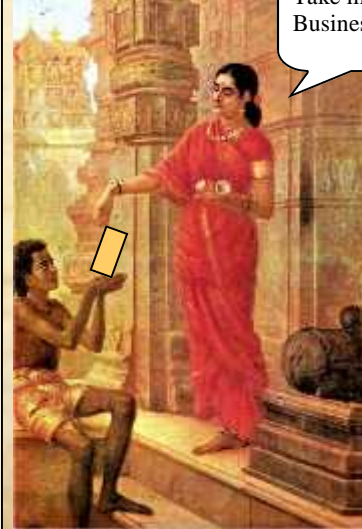
His Lordship, the Minister of Arts & Sciences, proposes to replace the support posts of the current pavilion, keep it, and recondition it.



Myrtle Holt Business Cards Now Available!

Ask your Seneschal

Here...
Take my
Business Card



Officer Excerpts

- Seneschal:** An update to Kerby Park Committee membership, with a recommendation offered to have a December "Autumnal Cleanup" event at Kerby to rake up leaves.
- Marshall:** Check the calendar for Fighter Practices as it was recommended to alternate between Palmerton Park and Riverside Park to increase visibility.
- MoAS:** Garbology at ARC had a good turnout and was impressed with the quality of the Brewing entries. Calls for both Baronial A&S projects and for class ideas.
- Archery:** Hunt and Castle Zombie Shoot went well.
- YAC:** No practices. Two combatants were at ARC.
- FAC:** Need to have a work party to finish up two multi-use boards which will result in adding another four games to inventory.

Upcoming Event Teams

Hogmanay January 2015

Autocrat Team: Visc Jennet MacLachlan and Katarine

Feast Team: Christiana and HL Felicia of the Truelane (Flea)

St Eggberts April 2015

Autocrat Team: Primary autocrat needed. Co-autocrats of Squee and Crystal Butler

Feast Team: Christiana and HL Felicia of the Truelane (Flea)

Investiture December 11-12, 2015

Autocrat Team: Visc Jennet, Christiana, Squee, Loree, Morris

Feast Team: Monique and Aelfrich, Feastocrat in training: Edward Tanner (Benjamin)

October 2014

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

			1	2	3 ARC	4 ARC
5 ARC BizMtg 11a	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 Palmerton Park Fighters 9a A&S 10a	13	14	15	16	17	18 Glyn Dwfn Sewing Party
19 Riverside Park Fighters 9a A&S 10a	20	21	22	23	24	25 Samhain Glyn Dwfn
26 Palmerton Park Fighters 9a A&S 10a	27	28	29	30	31	

Shire Officers



SENESCHAL
Lady Brynhildr Smidsdottir
(Megan Blattel)



ARTS & SCIENCES
HL David de Rosier-Blanc
(David Bianco)



GOLD KEY
Constance Campbell
(Christina Hager)



CHIURGEON
Pending



SCRIBE
Lord Torfi
(David Fadley)



HERALD
Lord Bjolan Bjornson
(Rev. James A. Otto Sr.)



HEAVY MARSHAL
(Albert Wessels)



WEBMINISTER
Lord Thorlof Anarson
(Josh Plater)



EXCCEQUER
HL Rathyen de Bures of Acton
(Sharon Chism)



CHRONICLER
Sarah Givens



DEPUTY GOLD KEY
Alina MacMurrich
(Amanda C. Cowin)



DEPUTY CHIRURGEON



CHATELAINE
Vacant



HERALD IN TRAINING
Eric Liefson
(Glenn Allen)



TARGET ARCHERY MARSHAL
Visc Jennet MacLachlan of Loch Fyne
(Janet Bianco)



EQUESTRIAN MARSHAL
HL Robert Buffle
(Robert Chism)

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