



THE SHIRE OF OKENSHIELD

OKENSHIELD... NEVER YIELD!

Volume 16, October 2015

Upcoming Event Dates! (near and semi-near central KY)

1. **Return of Hunt for Rogue October** - Cincinnati Area, Saturday Oct 3rd
2. **Poacher's Peril II (Oct) has been CANCELED.**
3. **Meeting of Oaks (a.k.a Shire Meeting)** - Manchester Library in Clay County Kentucky, Monday October 12th from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM. ***Potluk! Please bring food to share.***
4. **House O'Hagan Costumed, Gaming, and Socializing get together** - Saturday Oct 31st, 5:00 PM to 11:59 PM. Winchester, KY
5. **Hammer and Annville IV** - Saturday, November 7th 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM. At the Gymnasium in Annville KY.
6. **Christmas Tourney** - Saturday December 5th, Elizabethtown Kentucky.



Congratulations

- To Helvia Marius who received the Award of the Willow for skill in Illumination! (August at Battle of Oken-Hills 2)
- To Lord Aroko "Rockstrike" Sutoraiki for receiving his Award of the Purple Fret! (August at Battle of Oken-Hills 2)
- To our newest authorized fighter Gabriel of Okenshield! (August at Battle of Oken-Hills 2)
- To Lady Sadb Ingen Neill (Chris Shaw) for receiving her Award of Arms. (May at Border Raids)
- To Lord Dearg (Red Hurts) and Lady KoKitsune "Calla" Yuri of Marius. Both received the Award of the Willow. Red for skill in cooking and Jana for skill in Illumination. (May at Border Raids)
- To Sgt Criomhthann CuRua (Jeff Currie) and Sgt Agmundr Marius Von Atzinger (Robbie Tomlin), both we entered into the Order of Rec Company, are now Sergeants in the Army of the Middle Kingdom. (May at Border Raids)
- To Lord Gedrian Von Atzinger for receiving his Award of the Purple Fret (received at Martial RUM in April)
- To HL Edyth Miller (Janis Hurst), who is now officially an apprentice to a laurel under HRG Sir Cellach MacChormach.

Welcome

We would like to welcome our newest recruits: Gaius Marcus Rufius, Mercia Hilarius Rufius, Morgoth "Blackfist" Marshal, Sengoku Muromachi, Jacob, Jonathan, Chad, Laura Lee, Malcolm, Teona, Sierra, Ronnie, Lorrie, and others. A big thanks goes out to William Harman who has already directed several interested people to our shire. And to Clan O'Hagan and William Harman Sr, after returning to the SCA, have been welcome attendants to our shire.



Notice & Announcements

Lady Sadb ingen Neill will be stepping in as the Deputy Chatelaine for Lady Constance Dryden.

From the office of the Chatelaine: Lady Constance Dryden will be stepping down as Chatelaine, Lady Sadb ingen Neill will officially be taking over the office after the kingdom required time frame. First announced in the Sept 14th "Meeting of Oaks".

From the office of Herald: I am still looking for someone to take over for the office of Shire Herald. You do not have to be good at art or drawing. Please contact me if you are interested.

From the office of Web-minister: We will hopefully be upgrading the website soon. If anyone has any suggestions, ideas, or request please let me know (Bryan Roberts).

Shire Members Map

We have put together a map of the members of the shire. If you would like to go into it and add your Name please [CLICK HERE](#)

Member Surveys

We have put together a few questionnaires, please take some time to fill them out.

- Existing members questionnaire:
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1J9fDPIY7PKET8k0G7hcQ-mBVMlfE-fCH9VKG3l2OImI/viewform>
- Heavy and rapier questionnaire:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/19M_562gud1E1LZaSkHwT_VGDULnbMJEaQ-HU81g9w0/viewform

The New Camp Site for Gulf Wars (2016)

Elder Brother Brannith Marius of House Marius

There are some points that we will need to cover for the "permanent" camp site.

- Property Taxes** - We will, as group, have to pay property taxes. I would propose that all who (consistently) camp there pay their share of the property tax each year.
- Shower house** - The only bad part about the new location is that we will be further away from the showers. Many of us have talked about building (or buying) a shower house for the site. This could be one of the small portable types (even the tent type sold at Wal-mart) for the site. This will need to be figured out before Gulf Wars 2016.



- **Pre-register** - We have gotten past our “3 year probationary period” but we still need to get our required pre-registrants, which is 20 each year. Remember, any person(s) camping with our group **MUST** pre-register.
- **Preparing the site** - If all goes as planned we will be (possibly) arriving a day early to start fixing up the site. We can use all of the help that can be offered. Everyone camping needs to help in some way.
- **Any members of the shire are welcome to camp at the site, but you must pre-register and the “group camping with” will be Marius.**

How to Pass your Device

Jared Alexandre Blaydeaux, Pursuivant, formerly of Caid

“Hello, my name is Jared and I’m a recovering Herald.”

[room responds] “. . . Hi, Jared!”

We’re going to address here how to design and create an heraldic device (NOT a “coat-of-arms” – that’s something else, usually a garment bearing your device), for use in the SCA. No, these rules are not exceedingly “period”, because different nations throughout history have used different rules. These are the ones which have been agreed upon in the SCA.

Things have gotten a lot more complicated since I first joined the SCA, [mumble] years ago. My name and device passed the College of Arms (they who decide such things) at the January meeting in Anno Societatis VIII (January, 1974). There weren’t as many members then. My own membership number is 8028. I understand numbers are in six digits now. So, yeah, my device is middle-aged.

Why is it so hard to find a device that will pass the College of Arms? Simple, after 50 years, there are probably more than a few people who have had the ineffable good taste to want the exactly the same thing that you do. For instance, as of the last report, there are nearly 2600 devices that have a rose incorporated as part of their device. Think about that. How many variations or combinations must there be in order to avoid conflict? Those are called “points of difference”, and you have to have a particular number of them to avoid conflict with someone else’s device. I had to give my own son a “Permission to Conflict” letter, because he wanted a device that looked kind of like mine, but with a golden axe across the annulet diagonally, instead of across it.

So, here’s what you do:

Start by listing your favorite animals, flowers, colors, objects or whatever you want on your device. Then, think about what they *mean* to you. This is important, because if you can’t get your first choice, your consulting herald can help you find something that *means* the same thing. My former consort is REALLY good at that, but she’s in Caid. I recommend you start by going here:

Heraldry for non-Heralds

<http://heraldry.sca.org/armory/newprimer/>

This will teach you some of the ins and outs. If you’re confused, feel free to e-mail me at firedrake@earthlink.net and I’ll give you all the help I can. If you’d like a copy of my basic heraldic coloring book, I’ll be happy to send along a PDF file.



The simple rules are:

No “color on color” – you can have color on metal (argent or Or (see why that’s important?) or metal on color or either one on a fur (heraldic furs are a little weird – let’s not get into that right now).

No obviously modern devices. The old reference was to a young lady called Snulbugga the Fairhaired, who wanted a hot pink sewing machine. Neither the color or the machine are appropriate in SCA period. You MIGHT get away with a sewing needle (threaded) on a red field, but that’s likely to be as close as you get, unless you find someone more inventive than I am.

You can divide a field vertically (per pale) or horizontally (per fess), or diagonally in either direction.

Heraldic colors are:

Gules = Red Azure = Blue Vert = Green Purpure = Purple Sable = Black	To which are added the metals, Argent = Silver Or = Gold
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So, start with the color you want your shield to be. Then start adding the items or symbols you want. Don’t make it too complicated: remember, you’re going to be painting this on shields or sewing it on banners or garb for a long time. Then check the SCA Ordinary and Armorial here:

<http://oanda.sca.org/>

to see if you conflict with anyone else. This may take you a few tries. Then contact your local herald to see if they’ll help you submit it. I don’t know who the nearest official one is. I haven’t talked to the Kingdom herald about myself, and my heraldic “rank” is from Caid.

In my case, my device is what’s called a “canting” device. Meaning, it’s a visual pun on my name, Jared Blaydeaux.

“Sable, an annulet vert fimbriated argent, overall a sword fesswise point to sinister Or.” This means “On a black field, an annulet (circle), fimbriated)bordered argent (silver) overall, a sword fesswise (horizontally across the whole annulet), point to sinister (to the left – as one is holding a shield), Or (gold). Why is “Or” capitalized? It’s a metal, and we want to distinguish it from the word “or”. Think of “herald-eze” as a programming language, and you’re on the right track. It has to be precise. In fact, the description of my device has changed 3 times in 41 years, as the College of Arms has gotten more and more meticulous.



Here’s what it looks like. Ignore the blue-and-white ribbon and pendant with the crescents, the helm with pearls and the mantling. Those are for matters of rank, and for another time, but here’s the device.

I’m relatively new to the Midrealm, so I don’t know all the Kingdom-specific awards, or how the kingdom College of Arms does things, but I’ll find out and get back to you.

From the Web-minister:

The Okenshield members page has now be updated (to the best of my knowledge).

<http://www.midrealm.org/oakenshield/index.php...>

Minutes from the last “Meeting of Oaks”

Shire of Okenshield Meeting
Monday, September 14, 2015 from 6:00 to 7:30pm
Laurel County Public Library

Agenda

1. Standing Items
 1. Review Agenda. Agenda is OK-ed by those present
2. Officer's Reports
 1. Knight's Marshal (Bryan) reported that there were no major changes since the last report.
 1. We have one new authorized fighter in the shire.
 2. The shire is trying to get some more loaner gear helmets for new fighters.
 1. Member of the populace suggested that we need more gear for new fighters.
 2. Member of the populace suggested that the shire should acquire some fencing loaner gear.
 3. Special Report on the State of the Shire –TABLED until final draft completed.
 1. Seneschal's report (Deputy Autocrat for Oken Hills) (Chris)
 1. Everyone did a fantastic job with organization and execution of the event.
 2. We made \$30, which is fantastic as many small events are losing money.
 3. Member of populace suggested possibly changing this event to a day-trip as most attendees do not seem interested in camping.
 4. Member of the populace suggested that it may be more fun to move camping event from the “dry” site, to encourage more socializing during camping hours.
 5. Member of the populace suggested that perhaps adding a planned beverage to the feast may improve the meal.
 1. Herald's Report (Bryan)
 1. The Herald taught classes on heraldry at mundane schools since last report.
 2. The Herald is way over the term limit for his office. Therefore, should there be interested parties, please consider becoming the Herald for the shire.
 - 2.5 Chatelaine's Report (Stephanie)
 1. The chatelaine is currently working to get a list from SCA corporate of paid members so that the official census of the shire will be known.
 1. The current Chatelaine would like to step down from the position. She would like to initiate the process for a change in office.
 1. New Business
 1. Date of Future Events and Planning.
 1. Member of the populace suggested that in November the weather is too cold or rainy for archery tournament.
 2. Member of the populace suggested that there are too many activities happening earlier in the year, both in the shire and events to conflict with in other areas. The timing is related to open space on the kingdom calendar and availability of the site.
 3. Member of the populace suggested an alternate site for an events happening after Labor Day. Kentucky Splash Water Park, Williamsburg. This location may be favorable due to proximity to I75, campsites with electric and water and available bathrooms with showers.
 4. Member of the populace suggested that it may be beneficial to have a joint event with another group to share costs and get more people to attend.
 5. Member of the populace suggested that while the feast at Oken Hill was fantastic, perhaps less variety of dishes or better portion control would cut down on leftovers. Other options such as high feast and low feast to assist the cook with planning how many would attend were suggested.
 6. Member of the populace suggested that choosing event staff and volunteers early, along with completed event info on the website well in advance of the event may help to attract new people to Okenshield events.
 7. Member of the populace suggested that a container should be purchased to keep “gold-key” clothing in to assist the Chatelaine with keeping track of the garb.
 8. Several members of the populace suggested ways to have more available armor for the shire including Stephanie allowing her armor to be used at practices and purchasing more inexpensive armor. An armor making day for the shire was also suggested.
 1. Website Overhaul (Bryan)
 1. Web-minister believes that he can make a better website. The populace suggests that he proceed with their blessing.
 2. Member of the populace suggested that it might make sense to deviate from the previous tradition of listing all of the shire members attended events. Keeping awards, classes taught and major achievements was encouraged.
 3. Member of the populace suggested that there could be a separate page for paid versus attending members or new people versus those that have been active locally to cut down on work associated with populace changes. Possibly a “Friends and Supporters” page.

1. Bake Sale Proposal (Sam)
 1. The last bake sale was profitable. There should be a bake sale at Hammer and Annville to support the general shire fund.
 2. The sale should not be a cake auction as at prior event, but should include individual items for sale. Some of the items could be SCA specific shapes such as a Hammer and Annville.
 3. Rudhraighe offered to make cookie cutters.
 4. Member of the populace suggested that items be donated by shire members.
 1. Ending Items
 1. Date and Time of Next meeting, Monday, October 12, 2015 6:00pm Place TBD as the library will be closed for remodeling.
 1. Other Stuff
 1. Knight Marshal suggested that the populace consider available locations for indoor fight practices. – Winter is Coming Y'all
 2. Red and Janis Hurst graciously donated garb and archery supplies to the Shire of Okenshield. – Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!
- 4.3 Adjournment 7:21- Not bad.

Schedule of Practices

Proposed Schedule of Practices within the Shire of Okenshield (next schedule, work in progress):

Practice	Date	Time	Where	MIC
Hazard Fight Practice	Sunday, Oct 25th	2:00 PM	Perry Co Park	Sgt Criomhthann CuRua
Hammer & Annville (event)	Saturday, Nov 7th	9:00 AM	Hacker Gymnasium, Annville	
Hazard Fight Practice	Saturday, Nov 14th	2:00 PM	Perry Co Park	Sgt Criomhthann CuRua
Annville Fight Practice	Sunday, Nov 22nd	3:00 PM	Hacker Gymnasium, Annville	Sgt Brannith Marius
London Fight Practice	Saturday, Nov 28th	2:00 PM	Levi Jackson State Park	Sgt Agmundr Marius Von Atzinger
Christmas Tourney (event)	Saturday, Dec 5th	10:00 AM	Elizabethtown KY	
Annville Fight Practice	Sunday, Dec 13th	3:00 PM	Hacker Gymnasium, Annville	Sgt Brannith Marius
Hazard Fight Practice	Saturday, Dec 19th	2:00 PM	Perry co Park	Sgt Criomhthann CuRua

New Business Discussion

Topic: Expansion of time limits in office for Financial Officers. It has been proposed that we lengthen the term limits for officers who are required to be on bank signatory cards.

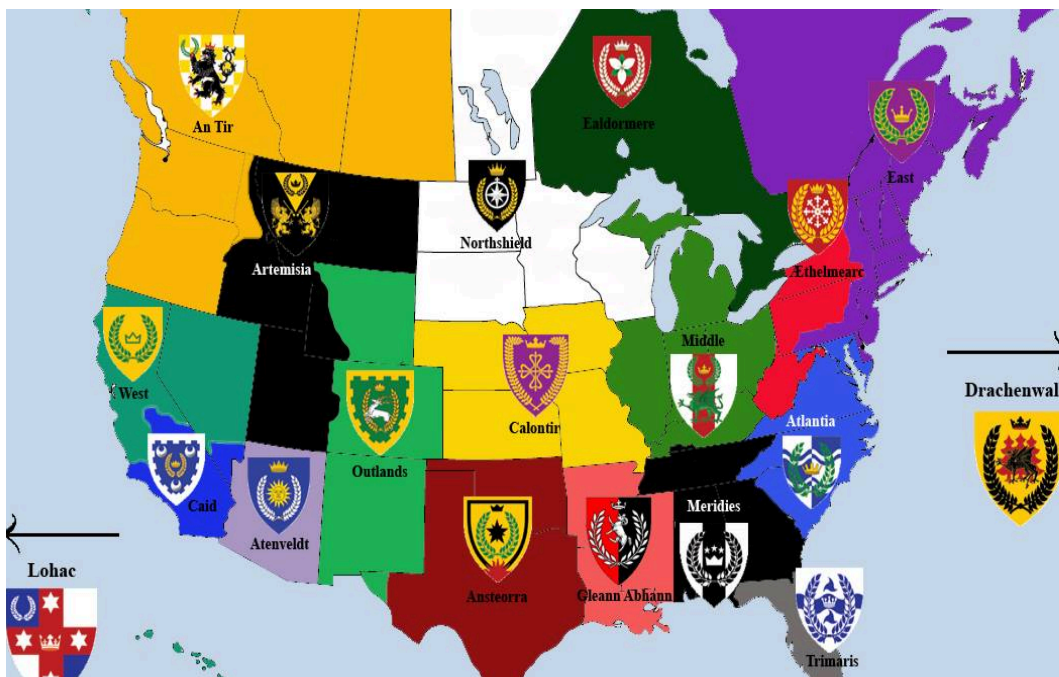
Topic: Seneschal proposes change to definition of “Quorum” as used in the Shire Charter

Quorum (Section 3) is currently defined as: A quorum shall consist of three officers, one of which is the Seneschal or Exchequer, and greater than 50% of the Populace present at the meeting.

Do you support reducing or eliminating the populace requirement to conduct needed business? Populace members in attendance will still be required to cast votes.

6 votes in favor of reducing requirements

2 votes in favor of eliminating requirements



SCA In North America




Sergeant Brannith Marius

Some of you recently asked me about the kingdoms of the SCA. Here is a map of the kingdoms in North America. When you attend an inter-kingdom event it is usually between two or more of the kingdoms. Gulf Wars, for example is between Ansteorra and Trimaris, but is held on Gleann Abhann land and Meridias helps with the administration. Pennsic, as another example, is

traditionally between the Middle Kingdom and the East kingdom and is held on Aethelmeare land. Border Raids is between Middle Kingdom and Meridias, and Blackstone Raids is between Aethelmeare and the Middle Kingdom. There are several other large events “out West” that involve Kingdoms in that area. If there is an event that is more “local” (non-inter kingdom) then it is usually between baronies or regions or involve a theme (say Norse vs Celtic or something like that). Such as the one region of the Middle Kingdom versus some other region of the Middle Kingdom.

In the beginning there was only one Kingdom, then the East was created and then Middle Kingdom. It progressed from there. After a certain area of a kingdom gets enough members it can form a principality. A principality is a semi-autonomous area of a Kingdom that may eventually “break away” and form it’s own Kingdom. At one point the areas that are now Calontir, Northshield, and Ealdormere were all part of the Middle Kingdom. Gleann Abhann was part of Meridias and Aethelmeare was part of the East Kingdom. There are many more examples of this. Currently several Kingdoms have principalities that may some day “break off” into their own kingdom. This includes West Kingdom, An Tir, Artemisia, Atenveldt and Drachenwald (Europe). The Kingdom of An-tir has very recently split up into An-tir and Avacal ([CLICK HERE](#) for map)

Officers of the shire

 <p>Exchequer, Heavy MIT Deputy Shire Archery Marshal Archery Marshal Lady Helvia Marius (formerly Heather Kyrien Marius) (Heather Sears) 606-560-1122 heathermarius.housemarius@gmail.com</p>	<p>Seneschal, Heavy MIT Deputy Web-minister, Shire Tetrarch Lord Aroko "Rockstrike" Sutorai Nick Gabbard 606-280-5298 nick.gabbard@okenshield.org</p> 
 <p>Chatelain, Chirurgion Lady Constance Dryden of Marius (Stephanie Hoke) 606-521-8351 stephanie.hoke@okenshield.org</p>	<p>Lady Sadb ingen Neill Autocrat for Battle of Oken-Hills II, Deputy Chatelain (Chris Shaw)</p> 
 <p>Shire Archery Marshal Okenletter Editor Mistress of Fighter Support Lady Kokitsune "Calla" Yuri of Marius (Jana Karsnitz) Janakarsnitz at gmail dot com</p>	<p>Knight's Marshal, Herald, Webminister, Sergeant, Regional XO Sergeant Brannith Marius (Bryan Roberts) bryan.roberts@okenshield.org</p> 
 <p>Rapier MIT Krystyna Isabelle Ludavicska (Christina Dawn Ingram Schumacher)</p>	<p>Sergeant Heavy MIT Crimhthann CuRua (Jeff Currie)</p> 
 <p>Heavy MIT Lord Richard "Bearhammer" Marius Richard Hobbs 606-560-3987 richardhobbs03@gmail.com</p>	<p>Sergeant Lord Agmundr Marius Von Atzinger (Formerly Hector Marius) (Robbie Tomlin)</p> 
 <p>Heavy MIT Lord Gedrian Von Atzinger (Charles Melton) 606-813-6912</p>	