

The Carraig Banner: A View from the Tower

July/September 2023 -- Anno Societatis LVIII

Message from our Baron

Within the vibrant tapestry of the SCA, the heartbeat that sustains the essence of this extraordinary community lies in the selfless dedication of its volunteers. Nowhere is this commitment more crucial than in the ranks of deputy positions, where individuals find themselves not only shaping the future of the SCA but also leaving an indelible mark on the lives of its members.

Volunteering for deputy positions within the SCA is an enlightening experience, offering countless opportunities for personal growth, camaraderie, and the chance to make a lasting difference. From deputy heralds to seneschals, marshal deputies to arts and sciences officers, each role contributes to the flourishing of our local groups.

One of the most significant advantages of serving as a deputy is the chance to develop leadership skills. As a deputy, you'll have the opportunity to work closely with seasoned veterans, learning from their expertise while honing your own ability to organize events, coordinate activities, and guide fellow members. Such experiences not only foster personal growth but also empower individuals to take on greater responsibilities and make valuable contributions to their local and regional communities.

Volunteering as a deputy allows individuals to leave a lasting legacy within the SCA. By investing their time, skills, and passion, deputies have the power to shape the direction of the organization, influencing policies, introducing new ideas, and inspiring others to carry the torch forward. By contributing, deputies ensure that future generations can experience the magic and wonder of this remarkable community.

We humbly ask those who are even remotely interested to just say something to our officers group and we can start you on the path of our future leadership!

- Baron Honda

Message from our Marshall

Fighting practice has resumed on Tuesdays near the NIU lagoon. For information, email Hunter Joseph at carraigban.marshall@midrealm.org, or message him on Facebook. At the June business meeting, there was a discussion of possibly holding additional fighting practices in Elgin and/or Batavia.

Updates from the Chronicler

- Polling for the new baronage is completed and materials have been forwarded to the necessary parties. We have not yet heard what the Crown's decision is.
- The 1st Thursday of each month, A&S is being held at the Gail Borden Public Library main branch in Elgin, IL. Other Thursdays, it remains at the DeKalb Public Library. Updates are available on the barony's Facebook page, except for business meeting Thursdays (see below)
- Business meetings are now the 3rd Thursday of even numbered months, alternating at the Gail Borden and DeKalb Public Libraries. The June meeting was at Gail Borden.
Upcoming meetings:
Thursday August 17 – DeKalb
Thursday October 19 – Gail Borden (Elgin)
- The Barony is having a conversation with Stronghold Retreat Center [<https://strongholdcenter.org/>] in Oregon IL, about assisting with their Olde English Faire October 7-8, 2023. If you are interested in participating, please save the dates.

50th Anniversary of Carraig Ban

Carraig Ban started meeting 50 years ago this year. (We became a barony a few years later.) Baron Honda and our historian, Baroness Winifred, are working on a video documentary to celebrate the anniversaries.

From the Historian: [Winifred Halsey] The beginning of Carraig Ban, Part Two

1974

We were an official group now. We still had the original 9 people plus one or two more people, whose names I'm not sure of. One of them was a person named David. The Durer-like woodblock print we have downstairs was done by him. He was an art major. The print is the knight from Durer's *Knight, Death and the Devil*. It was wonderfully done. Even in our early days we had some talented people.

Susan Sizemore, a childhood friend, and I attended a variety of events during the summer particularly enjoying the interaction between the Horde [http://middlewiki.midrealm.org/index.php/Dark_Horde] and the kingdom officials. One of the better fighters in the Horde was Dagan Du Darregone. (This becomes pertinent soon.)

[chronicler's note: http://middlewiki.midrealm.org/index.php/Dark_Horde says, in part, "the role of the Horde is to serve as an anti-aristocratical alternative within the SCA."]

Susan, a young man called Renard, the Fox, and I attended Pennsic III. Bearengaer was King. Rory, who travelled by himself, found Susan and I a place to sleep in one of Andrew's [Sir Andrew of Seldomrest] squires' tent. It helped that I sometimes babysat Andrew's children. The large tent was more than a bit crowded, but we managed. The Horde were in full force at Pennsic III and the partying was excellent.

Also at Pennsic III, Rory became blood brothers and squire to Sir Cyprian of the Wheel who had two personas. Sir Cyprian was European. He also had a Dark Horde name I don't remember.

The 1974 fall crown had an interesting contestant: Dagan DuDarregone. Interesting mostly because he won. Hard to be in opposition to the "powers that be" if you are in fact that "power." It was amusing. This was also the first Crown Tourney that Rory fought in. If memory serves me (and it may not), the first part of a crown tourney was an unbelted fighters tourney, contesting to get the remaining spots on the crown tourney list after the knights had decided if they wanted to fight.

In later fall of 1974 we had our first REAL event – with a tournament, a real feast, and everything. The main course was game hens, quite medieval. I was the cook. An interesting aspect was that I was hospitalized the Friday night before the event and I was supposed to be the cook. Susan and Rory did fine without me. The post revel – which was always part of an event in those days – was held in my apartment. It got a bit rowdy I am told, as was frequently the case, the neighbors knocked on the door to ask for a bit less noise. As both myself and my roommate weren't there, it was a bit puzzling to the neighbors, but the noise was toned down.

The event was well attended. We had the Middle Kingdom Princess, HRH Lindanlorien, Rolac's wife and Caellyn Fitzhugh, who would later become a duchess.

The group was on its way.

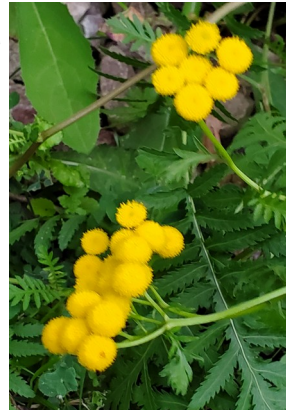
And interesting side note to this first event: Rory lost one of the game hens in his car. It wasn't found until the smell became a bit overwhelming.

Tansy (*Tanacetum vulgate*, L.)

article and photograph by THL Grainne ingea Donnchadh

In *Herbs for the Mediaeval Household*, tansy is listed as an herb for cooking. A “tansy” was an egg dish mixed with the young leaves of the plant. It was a favorite dish around Easter to celebrate the end of Lent. It was thought to be good for the “bad humours” that a diet of salted fish caused. It was also in a fourteenth-century recipe for a plague cure. Some people still use tansy in a tea for stomach cramps and as an intestinal worm expellant.

Now that you know it was used during the Middle Ages, you’re probably wondering what kind of plant it is. Its leaves are finely divided and feathery. The button-like yellow flowers cluster together on the top of the plant. Tansy is best started with seeds or from divided roots. It’s a creeping rhizome plant that will spread easily. Tansy will thrive in almost any soil with good drainage, doesn’t need much weeding because it grows fairly thickly, and doesn’t have many diseases or pest problems. This plant has the possibility of becoming a weed, but I thin it’s rather cheerful.



The best time to harvest tansy is in the summer or early fall when it is in full bloom. The leaves and flowers are separated from the stem then dried in the shade to keep its dark green color.

Resources:

Bown, Deni. *Encyclopedia of Herbs and Their Uses*. Dorling Kindersley, New York, 1995.

Foster, Steven. *Herbal Renaissance*. Gibbs-Smith Publisher, Salt Lake City, 1957.

Freeman, Margaret B. *Herbs for the Mediaeval Household*. The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, 1942.

Sausage Pie

created by Lady Etain Eame

reprinted by permission of Lady Etain Eame

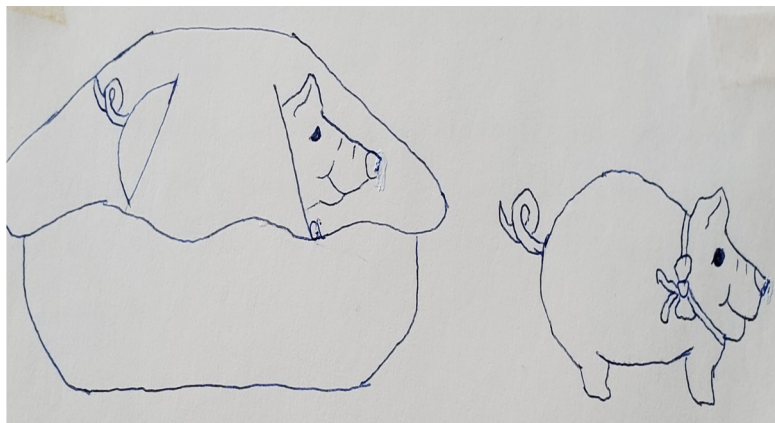
contributed by THL Grainne ingea Donnchadh

drawing by THL Grainne

uncooked pastry shell
12 oz roll of sage sausage, cooked,
cooled, and crumbled
4 eggs, beaten
½ cup grated cheese (swiss, parmesan,
etc.)
1 pinch each nutmeg, ginger, and pepper
¼ tsp salt

Mix together the meat, cheese, eggs, and seasonings. Put in the pie shell and bake at 375° for 45 minutes.

Can also be doubled and baked in a pastry-lined springform pan.



Lady Etain created this recipe after the manner of a medieval recipe, Pork Tart, which is found in *Pleyn Delit* by Heiatt and Butler.

Calendar of Selected Events

A complete list and current official information linked from <https://midrealm.org/events-calendar>

July 28-August 13, 2023

Pennsic War 50

Slippery Rock PA

<https://www.pennsicwar.org/>

August 26-27, 2023

Feathered Fox Inn

Big Rock IL

<https://foxvale.midrealm.org/feathered-fox-inn/>

September 2, 2023

Midlands Academy of Defense

Urbana IL

<https://placeforstuff.net/events/2023/MKAoD/>

September 08-10, 2023

Baroness Wars X

Taylorville IL

<https://swordcliff.midrealm.org/events/baroness-wars-x>

September 23, 2023

Fall Coronation

Greenfield OH

<https://middlemarches.midrealm.org/events/fall-coronation-2023>

September 29-October 1, 2023

Michaelmas and Shutzenfest

La Harpe, IL

<https://midrealm.org/events/michaelmas-and-shutzenfest-midlands/>

<https://illiton.midrealm.org/events/>

October 6-8, 2023

Feast of the Chase

Waterloo, IL

<https://shatteredcrystal.midrealm.org/feast-of-the-chase>

October 14, 2023

Cooking Symposium

Metamora, IL

<https://illiton.midrealm.org/events/>

October 21, 2023

reserved for Fall Crown

see <https://midrealm.org/events/fall-crown/>

for details as they become available

Baronial Officers

Baron

His Excellency Honda Heihachiro
carraigban.baron@midrealm.org
Landed Baron/ess is an appointed title and office given to an individual by the Crown of their Kingdom. They become the local extension of the Crown and a representative for the populace of their Barony.

Seneschal

Lord Alexicratus
carraigban.seneschal@midrealm.org
Serves as president of the group, acting as administrator and legal representative of the SCA.

Exchequer

Lord Akiyama Hiroaki
carraigban.exchequer@midrealm.org
Serves as treasurer for the group.

Herald

Lord Akiyama Kazuhiko
carraigban.herald@midrealm.org
Official messenger for the Barony and researcher of book heraldry.

Marshal

Lord Alexicratus
carraigban.marshal@midrealm.org
Trained officer who oversees armored combat activities for safety purposes.

Minister of the Arts and Sciences (MOAS)

Lord Akiyama Kazuhiko
carraigban.moas@midrealm.org
Responsible for the encouragement of arts and sciences, and reporting on the group's activities.

Chatelaine

Piero Patroclus
carraigban.chatelaine@midrealm.org
Assists new individuals navigate the SCA.

Chronicler

Lady Gillian Durham
carraigban.chronicler@midrealm.org
Documents group activities, and produces the Baronial Newsletter.

Signet

Lady Bien-Venue La Riote
carraigban.signet@midrealm.org
Coordinates volunteer artists of the society to create awards scrolls that are given out to members of the SCA for their accomplishments.

Social Media Officer (SMO)

Lady Bien-Venue La Riote
carraigban.socialmedia@midrealm.org
Manages Baronial information that is circulated on social media outlets.

Web Minister

Lady Honor La Riote
carraigban.webminister@midrealm.org
Responsible for maintaining the Baronial Website.

Quarterminister

Lady Thana Speedo
Stores and catalogs Baronial equipment and provides access to it to stewards and officers for the running of events.

This is the July / September 2023 issue of the official newsletter of the Barony of Carraig Ban, a branch of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. It is not a corporate publication of SCA, Inc., and does not delineate SCA, Inc. policies.

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