



Let it be Knowne

May-Jun 2021

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Monthly Shire Meetings

Monthly Shire Meetings take place on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7 pm, unless rescheduled due to conflicts. They are held on Zoom - please email Lady Cordeilla Sharpe at 223686@members.eastkingdom.org in advance to request the meeting link.

Contact Us

Website: <https://owlsherst.eastkingdom.org>

Announcements by email:

<https://groups.google.com/a/owlsherst.eastkingdom.org/g/announce>

<https://groups.google.com/a/owlsherst.eastkingdom.org/g/announce>

Facebook: <https://facebook.com/owlsherst>

<https://facebook.com/owlsherst>

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Disclaimer

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Calendar of Activities

Please check the Owlsherst Website, Email List, or Facebook Group for announcements & updates regarding activities

Wednesdays 7-9 pm: Chat/social hour on the Discord Server
Wednesdays beginning 5/12 6-8:30 pm Shire Gathering at YFCotB³
Some Fridays 7-10 pm: Movie Night - check email list or FB for details

May

Wed 5/12 Shire Gathering - 6-8:30 pm - YFCotB³

Sat 5/15 - Sun 5/23 The First Bardic War - Virtual²

Sun 5/16 Ethereal Court IX of the Eastern Consules, Tindal and Alberic - EK Live Stream¹

Sun 5/16 Moon Dancer Winery meet-up 1-6 pm

Wed 5/19 Shire Gathering - 6-8:30 pm - YFCotB³

Wed 5/19 Fletching Arrows Class - 7 pm online²

Fri 5/21 Nostalgic Sing-a-long Bardic Circle 7pm to ?? at Wulfgar & Linette's²

Sat 5/22 - Sun 5/30 EK Laurels' Challenge & Exhibition - Virtual²

Sun 5/23 Cook's Guild 1-5 pm at Conall & Orla's LIMITED SPACE²

Tue 5/25 Owlsherst Shire Meeting 7pm (Zoom)²

Wed 5/26 Shire Gathering - 6-8:30 pm - YFCotB³

Sat 5/29 Wars of the Roses - Concordia of the Snows (Virtual)⁴

June

Wed 6/2 Shire Gathering - 6-8:30pm - YFCotB³

Sat 6/5 Southern Region War Camp - Carillion²

Sat 6/5 Sparkly and Shiny III: A New Spring - Virtual⁵

Wed 6/9 Shire Gathering - 6-8:30pm - YFCotB³

Sun 6/13 Ethereal Court X of the Eastern Consules, Tindal and Alberic - EK Live Stream¹

Wed 6/16 Shire Gathering - 6-8:30pm - YFCotB³

Tue 6/22 Owlsherst Shire Meeting 7pm (Zoom)²

Wed 6/23 Shire Gathering - 6-8:30pm - YFCotB³

Sat 6/26 Sommer Draw - Bergental⁶

Wed 6/23 Shire Gathering - 6-8:30pm - YFCotB³

¹ <https://youtube.com/SCAEastKingdomEthereal>

² check email list, website, or Facebook for links to virtual meeting rooms or physical addresses

³ YFCotB - York First Church of the Brethren 2710 Kingston Rd. York PA

⁴ <https://concordia.eastkingdom.org/events-demos/>⁵

<https://www.eastkingdom.org/event-details/?eid=3732>⁶

<https://www.eastkingdom.org/event-details/?eid=3729>

IN-PERSON SHIRE GATHERINGS TO MOVE TO WEDNESDAYS!

Starting Wednesday, May 12, 6-8:30pm, at York First Church of the Brethren, 2710 Kingston Rd., York

Due to Covid-19-related State and SCA regulations, in-person Owlsherst practices are being limited in location and scope. Masks and contact tracing information are required. Please see <https://owlsherst.eastkingdom.org/activities/covid-19-requirements/> for a full list of requirements to attend practice.

Moon Dancer Winery, Cider House, and Tap Room Meet-up Sunday, May 16, 2021 1330 Klines Run Rd, Wrightsville, PA Some Owlsherstians will be gathering on a Sunday afternoon at a local winery and cidery for some camaraderie. **NOTE:** this activity will likely require being unmasked for some portion of the time in order to eat and drink; do not attend if you will not be comfortable with that. There is a large patio with outdoor seating and the activity is intended to be outside.

Nostalgic Sing-a-long Bardic Circle Friday, May 21st, 7pm - ?? Wulfgar and Linette's house in Etters, PA Calling all singers and lovers of old SCA music! A bardic circle full of nostalgic songs from the early years in the SCA will be held around a campfire at Wulfgar and Linette's house. Songbooks will be made available to sing from; if you have old songs you want to share, check the list of songs already provided which will be posted on Facebook, and if your song isn't included, bring at least 10 copies.

Masks will be required. Do not come if you are sick with any symptoms. Bring your own chair, drinks, small flashlight or lighting to see your music. Contact Linette (Elizabeth H. Wood) for the address if needed, and to reserve your spot. Due to space limitations, we will not be able to accommodate more than 15 people total.

Virtual Classes in Owlsherst! A series of virtual classes has been scheduled for Spring 2021. These will be held on various Wednesdays, and the scheduled classes are listed in the Calendar in the issue - but you should also check the Owlsherst website (<https://owlsherst.eastkingdom.org/events/>) for current information.

Spring topics include SCA Customs & Etiquette, How to Learn a Foreign Language, Cooking, Making Rattan Swords, Researching & Building a Persona, Fletching Arrows, and more!

A portion of these classes will be recorded and posted online for later viewing – if you do not consent to being recorded you will need to turn your microphone and camera off.

Zoom links will not be posted publicly. Please contact the Owlsherst Zoom Coordinator, Lady Cordeilla Sharpe, at 223686@members.eastkingdom.org before 5:00 p.m. Eastern, on the date of the class to request the link.

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Current Officers List

Seneschal (Chapter President) Lady Orlaithe inn voth-froli

seneschal@owlsherst.eastkingdom.org

Deputy Seneschal Maîtresse Linette de Gallardon

deputy-seneschal@owlsherst.eastkingdom.org

Exchequer (Treasurer) Lady Fabrisse of Owlsherst

exchequer@owlsherst.eastkingdom.org

Deputy Exchequer Lady Leonilla Kalista Kievliana

deputy-exchequer@owlsherst.eastkingdom.org

Chatelaine (Newcomer Contact) Unna Rose

chatelaine@owlsherst.eastkingdom.org

Deputy Chatelaine Lord Donnchadh Mac Lochlainn

deputy-chatelaine@owlsherst.eastkingdom.org

Knight Marshal Master Wulfgar o' the Wood

knights_marshall@owlsherst.eastkingdom.org

Rapier Marshal Lord Jacques de Villiers Saint Oryen

rapier_marshall@owlsherst.eastkingdom.org

Archery Marshal Unna Rose

archery@owlsherst.eastkingdom.org

Thrown Weapons Marshal Lord Gerhard Stormeclocke

thrown-weapons@owlsherst.eastkingdom.org

Youth Marshal Tiarna Seán Dubh

youth-fighter-marshall@owlsherst.eastkingdom.org

Minister of Lists Lord Conall na Seamar O'Conghaile

mol@owlsherst.eastkingdom.org

Herald Lady Leonilla Kalista Kievliana

herald@owlsherst.eastkingdom.org

Chamberlain Mistress Ketilríðr Brúnadóttir

chamberlain@owlsherst.eastkingdom.org

Deputy Chamberlain Lady Cordeilla Sharpe

deputy-chamberlain@eastkingdom.org

Webminister Lady Cordeilla Sharpe

webminister@owlsherst.eastkingdom.org

Deputy Webminister Maisie of Owlsherst

deputy-webminister@owlsherst.eastkingdom.org

Chancellor Minor Lady Widow Kait of the Kenders

chancellor-minor@owlsherst.eastkingdom.org

Minister of Arts & Sciences Lady Sarra atte Brouk

moas@owlsherst.eastkingdom.org

Chronicler Maîtresse Linette de Gallardon

chronicler@owlsherst.eastkingdom.org

Deputy Chronicler Lord Marcus D'Orleans

Persona Corner

Linette de Gallardon

A Personal Account of the Terrible Pestilence in Paris and Northern France

It was late in the eighteenth year of Philippe de Valois' reign, the same year that we French were villainously defeated by the English near Abbeville.¹ I was 16 years old, and it was then that we first heard of strange and tragic happenings in the East. A visiting clerk said that a terrible pestilence was raging out in China, spreading through Tartary and beyond, and over dinner he and my father had a heated discussion about whether the heathen Easterners were receiving the just retribution of God for their evil ways. And that was all the thought we gave it; how could we possibly be concerned with something happening so far away as Cathay or Persia? The clerk's news caused as much worry for us personally as did the traveling minstrel's imaginary tales of love and daring.

As the months went by we heard more news of this pestilence. India was depopulated, some said, and eastern lands were covered with corpses, people fled in vain to the hills to escape the scourge. In lands whose names I had never heard before, none were now left alive. In Crimea, Tartars had besieged the town of Caffa, with many good Christian merchants inside, and had thrown plague-dead corpses with their great catapults into the town, causing the death of many in that city.²

In December of the next year, we heard that Sicily suffered now, too, from this pestilence, which sent its victims raging with fever and covered them with horrible pus-filled boils. Some said that the coming of the pestilence could be seen as a black cloud of evil smoke, and all who breathed it died. Still, we did not worry too much. Now, with all that I know, I would wish I had paid closer attention to those rumors, and my parents also, but perhaps that was not as God willed it.

Despite the news of disease flourishing in Italy and of the terrible deaths it caused, our lives still followed their usual quiet paths. Sicily, Genoa, Florence; these places were far away and no threat to we in the north. Certainly we made no plans to visit Italy in the near future, but that did not depend on news of the pestilence; we simply had no need, although my parents did hope to pilgrimage to Rome in two years' time.

My father and mother journeyed to Burgundy in the spring of my eighteenth year, for my father had some business to attend, and left my brother in charge of the manor and village. They returned unexpectedly early, three days before the Feast of the Annunciation.³ The pestilence was north of Avignon, they said; they had stayed at a hostel in Nevers with merchants fleeing that city, and had deemed it best to return home quickly. My father especially seemed weary, his eyes hooded against headache. Soon that evening he fell ill, his skin flushed and hot to the touch, and even so, he shook with chills. My mother and I helped him to bed in the solar, and did not say what

we feared.

The next day my father was worse, tossing and mumbling feverishly. We bathed him in cool water to soothe his fever, and it was then we found a hard little knob, even hotter to the touch, nestled in his armpit. Our eyes met above his soapy, slumbering head, and we knew then: plague.

We sent to Chartres for a physician, for surely one would come out for a family of our standing, but before the messenger had even returned that evening, my mother had also fallen ill. Striving to care for my father, she had taken a chill, and her symptoms repeated those exactly of my father; for a moment as she shook with fever and delirium I saw comprehension and fear in her face.⁴

The physician came the next day, when my parents were, seemingly, a little better; both fevers were less, and they took a little broth. The doctor, an imposing man who had studied at Montpellier, said he had heard the measures necessary to fight the pestilence. It was an evil miasma, foul air in Nevers, that had caused my parents' illness, and therefore we must guard against similar infection. We should have sweet herbs strewn about, and some burning to fill the air with their scent; this would keep away the bad air and prevent others from infection. He bled my parents, saying that their blood was especially black, and this showed the evil humors were being released with the blood, and told me he would return in two days. For that time I should give them a syrup he gave me, fruity and fresh-smelling, and tend them as well as I could.

That I did, but they only worsened. My mother began coughing terribly, hoarse bubbling sounds as she gasped for air, eyes too bright in her drawn face. Dark splotches appeared on their arms and legs. Their boils, or biles as the physician had called them, swelled to enormous size. One of my father's was fully the size of a small apple, and my parents shrieked in agony whenever I touched them, however gently, to bathe them. All about them and filling the chamber was a terrible stench; all matter they exuded was foul, so horrible that I began to hate my proper duty of caring for them.

The physician did return, for which I do commend him, knowing now that many doctors did not serve so bravely. He arrived at their bedside just as my mother gave her last harsh breath, her eyes staring in a face I barely knew. I wiped the last spray of bloody mucus from her chin and closed her eyes, and thanked God I had brought the priest in to shrive both mother and father the same day the doctor first saw them.⁵

My father was little better than dead, and the doctor shook his head after examining him. "You must pray to God for help," he said, and left without giving further

advice.

My brother all this time was absent; he had visited our parents once in their sickroom but when he realized it was the pestilence he hurriedly remembered "duties" in the village and manor that had to be attended to. I sent a boy to get the bell ringing my mother's death and tended my father while the sorrowful notes washed over me.

The next day my father died. My brother returned

home as the bell tolled again, and I stonily ignored him while our parents were buried side by side. Dully I wondered if God would strike me, too. But, strangely, although word of more illness and pestilence in Avignon and Lyons came to us, no others on our manor were stricken and we began to think we had escaped lightly. "Perhaps it would not come as far north as Paris," said our priest, crossing himself.

To Be Continued...

Notes

¹ The Battle of Crecy, 1346.

² This story, recorded by the Piacenzan chronicler Gabriele de Mussis, came from tales he heard from sailors, and is unlikely to be entirely true, given what we know of plague's method of infection; i.e., the need for insect and rodent hosts or live human victims.

³ Three days before March 25th: March 22nd.

⁴ Plague's incubation period from time of infection to appearance of first symptoms is approximately six days; distance from Nevers to Gallardon is perhaps 100 miles, about 5 days travel.

⁵ Physicians were not usually allowed to see the patient until after the priest had seen them, the priest representing to the medieval mind a far more potent force than the typical doctor.

Persona Corner is a new feature - a place for shire members to share information and inspiration about their persona. Interested in creating an article for *Persona Corner*? Contact the Chronicler!

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SHIRE WARS NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

Shire Wars is scheduled for Oct. 15-17, 2021! The Event Steward, Eleazar ha Levi of Blak Rose, is still looking for staff members from participating shires. If you are interested in volunteering to help plan or run this event, please contact Eleazar at 20668@members.eastkingdom.org. Unfilled roles include: Bardic Activities Coordinator, A&S Coordinator, Silent Auction, Set-up and Decor crew, Tear-down Coordinator, Facilities upkeep, Prize Scroll Scribes & Illuminators.