



Let it be Knowne

Sep-Oct 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>

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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 beginning 6-8:30 pm Shire Gathering at YFCotB³

Thursdays 7-9 pm: Chat/social hour on the Discord Server

September

Wed 9/15 Shire Gathering - 6-8:30 pm - YFCotB¹

Thu 9/16 Online Mexitaly Night Social - 7-9 pm - Discord²

Wed 9/22 Shire Gathering - 6-8:30 pm - YFCotB¹

Wed 9/23 Online Mexitaly Night Social - 7-9 pm - Discord²

Sun 9/26 Cook's Guild - Hearth Cooking - 1-5 pm at Orlaithe's house²

Tue 9/28 Owlsherst Shire Meeting 7pm (Zoom)²

Wed 9/29 Shire Gathering - 6-8:30 pm - YFCotB¹

Thu 9/30 Online Mexitaly Night Social - 7-9 pm - Discord²

October

Wed 10/6 Shire Gathering - 6-8:30pm - YFCotB¹

Sat 10/7 Online Mexitaly Night Social - 7-9 pm - Discord²

Wed 10/13 Shire Gathering - 6-8:30pm - YFCotB¹

Thu 10/14 Online Mexitaly Night Social - 7-9 pm - Discord²

Sat 10/16 Shire Wars IX: The Battle of Kulikova - Hosted by Blak Rose - Camp Bashore³

Wed 10/20 Shire Gathering - 6-8:30pm - YFCotB¹

Sat 10/21 Online Mexitaly Night Social - 7-9 pm - Discord²

Sat 10/23 EKCOP - Winter Nights - Stonemarche - Virtual⁴

Tue 10/26 Owlsherst Shire Meeting 7pm (Zoom)²

Wed 10/27 Shire Gathering - 6-8:30pm - YFCotB¹

Sat 10/28 Online Mexitaly Night Social - 7-9 pm - Discord²

¹ YFCotB - York First Church of the Brethren 2710 Kingston Rd. York PA

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

³ <https://shirewars.eastkingdom.org>

⁴ <https://www.eastkingdom.org/event-details/?eid=3743>

Heavy Combat, Rapier, Archery, and A&S at Shire Gatherings!

Wednesdays, 6-8:30pm, at York First Church of the Brethren, 2710 Kingston Rd., York PA

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.

Cook's Guild Hearth Cooking Workshop Sunday, September 26, 2021 approximately 1-5 pm Conall and Orlaithe's House, West York PA An outdoor cooking session will be held at Conall and Orlaithe's. Space is limited so please contact Orlaithe at 202970@members.eastkingdom.org to confirm that you can attend. Non-cooking partners welcome to join at dinnertime. Cost for food will be shared by all - estimated to be around \$10 per person. Wear natural-fiber clothing to be safe around open flames.

Shire Picnic has been postponed to the Spring

Special Shire Gathering Elizabethtown, PA A special Shire Gathering will be held on Saturday, October 2, 2021, from 1-4 pm (subject to weather and a possible time change). Heavy weapons, rapier, A&S, and other activities are possible. Masks will be required as always. Bring your own food and drink to hang out afterward! Please bring a few Dollars to contribute toward the cost of portable toilet rental, and endeavor to carpool if possible due to limited parking.

Please contact Lord Dorian for additional details, including address and directions.
67383@members.eastkingdom.org

Monthly Shire Meetings 4th Tuesday of every month, starting at 7pm Online via Zoom Check the mailing list for schedule changes due to conflicts. These meetings are open to the public. Contact Cordeilla Sharpe at 223686@members.eastkingdom.org to request an invitation to the Zoom.

Shire Champions! Shire Wars will feature champions from all participating local groups in grand competition! So, Owlsherst needs champions for heavy weapons and rapier!

The heavy weapons and rapier champions for Owlsherst will be chosen at the Shire Gathering on Wednesday, September 29, 2021. Eligible gentles include all members of Owlsherst and SCA members who regularly attend Owlsherst functions. All combatants must be planning/able to attend Shire Wars in order to compete for Champions' spots.

Contact Master Wulfgar (heavy) or Lord Dorian (rapier) for further details.

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Current Officers List

Seneschal (Chapter President) Lady Orlaithe inn voth-froli
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Deputy Chronicler Lord Marcus D'Orleans

Persona Corner

Linette de Gallardon

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

In the first installment, Linette related how rumors of pestilence eventually became reality for her town of Gallardon, eventually devastating her family and claiming the lives of her parents.

It was in May when my brother came to me and gave me a shocking order: now that our father was no longer alive to "indulge" me, and as I was the ward of my brother, he had decided I should be married as any decent woman my age should, as soon as propriety allowed. However, he said, I was somewhat older than the usual young bride, and so he therefore had to settle on perhaps a less than desirable choice. Pierre d'Auneau had offered before for my hand, and my father had said no; my brother now said yes, and would not listen to any angry words I had for him. Sieur Pierre was not the worst man I could have married, but he was far from the best, and I refused to consider it. Threats, fits, and several broken potteries later, I knew that my brother was unmoving, and so in the night I arose, took my carefully packed bags, and left on my palfrey. I took nothing but that which was my own; my mother's jewels, which she left to me; a few of my most serviceable gowns, my cloak, my horse, and my harp.

I went to Paris, spending one night miserably under a bush before reaching it. I hoped that my brother would be mollified by the thought of my dowry saved, and would not look too hard when it was apparent my path went to the largest city in France. Once there I sold one of my mother's rings, and with the money from that transaction rented a room in a shabby but respectable house and went about finding a way to start a new life.

But soon came more rumors, of plague nearer than Lyons, and of thousands dying across the countryside. I had not been in Paris more than ten days when the goodman who owned the rooms I rented told me the charcutiere he bought his meat from had lost his wife to the pestilence. A week later it was a family three streets over now stricken; two more, and there was not a person that I spoke to who did not know someone who had died or was dying. I bought bread and wine and such foods as would stay good, and retired to my little rooms, hoping to stay closed away from the pestilence, and so most of what I remember I saw from my window looking out of the street. Even that I kept covered by shutter and stuffed with wool to keep out the air, burning herbs to purify that air that did come in. Every day, it seemed, there were more and more bodies brought down the street to be buried. At first the dead were given due ceremony; the body would be borne by several men on a bier and with several neighbors and priests in the procession. But as the numbers of dead grew, the care lessened, until many were merely carried piled on litters or wagons to the nearest church, where priests said the last office for several poor dead

souls at one time. The bells of churches rang constantly: St. Pierre-de-Montmartre, St. Denis, others that I could hear from my rooms in the north of the city, their doleful sound oppressive in the summer air.

It seemed to me that many must have taken my own path and hidden themselves away, for the streets seemed almost deserted but for those gathering the dead each day, and a few furtive souls, scurrying along with herbal nosegays held tightly to their faces to ward away the pestilence. I knew, too, that many had left the city, fleeing to the countryside. The goodman's wife collected rent from me again, and I gave it to her reluctantly, wondering if I too should flee the city. And yet, I knew that the countryside was no sinecure of safety; had not my own parents died from this same plague, despite never coming near Paris or any other large city in recent months? So I paid for another month, and ventured out briefly for more supplies and news.

The noble lady of La Vennorie had died, said one woman selling bread, and also the priest of that parish, so that her people were forced to send to a nearby parish to bury her. But that priest refused to come to La Vennorie and risk catching the pestilence, and he also refused to allow the lady's body to be taken into his own village for burial there. The lady was eventually buried properly, in the park of her own manor, despite the difficulties imposed, and La Vennorie transferred to the nearby parish.¹ My outrage at that priest, refusing his chosen duty to tend souls in need - and a lady of the manor especially! - warred with my own fear: would I have been able to do differently? I consoled myself that I had been a true daughter to my parents, and cared for them until death, unlike so many who, on finding a loved one ill, ran without compunction.

I heard that the Jews had caused the pestilence by poisoning the wells, said with vehemence by a butcher who seemed to vent his anger with each slice of the knife. They were the very instruments of the devil, in his opinion, and caused all this suffering out of pure malice. For myself, I have never found Jews to be evil or malicious, though their ways are different to me, and I also question that well-poisoning could spread so much pestilence, when the doctors have already said that the very air is what carries it.²

Indeed, I heard of more deaths than could be imagined; some said that 200 were taken each day to the Hotel Dieu, that thousands had died in Paris already.³ Some died as my mother and father had, after days of agony, fever, and coughing; others went to bed well and never awoke, dead before morning. Some said that merely being in the same room as someone with the pestilence, or meeting

their gaze, could infect one; others said dully that it did not matter what one did, God was punishing us and would stop when and where He willed.

Supplies were dear, for little trade took place and few entered Paris with much beyond that which they intended to keep. Still I managed to supply myself adequately and fled quickly back to my rooms. My last sight before running up the steps into the house was that of a neighbor dragging something out the door and laying it without care beside the steps. Vile odor rose from it towards me, and I realized with a shock it was his wife's body. For a moment his eyes met mine dully before I turned to go inside. Was it fear that made me think his gaze was feverish?

Whether it was fear or not, it was clear to me that my rooms were no safer than living out on the streets, and even though God would surely determine whether I fell ill or not, surely He could not object if I did what I might to survive. Had He preserved my life while I nursed my parents only to have me perish alone in Paris? I prayed not, while I gathered together my things and tried to think of somewhere to go. The news was mostly of the south and west; perhaps to the north or west the pestilence did not hold such sway. I would go toward Germany, and hope that God willed my life, not my death. I suddenly could not spend another night in Paris, and left that very afternoon, glad to lose only the money I had paid in rent earlier that day.

To Be Continued...

Notes

¹. The story is well-known, but I have changed the names and time of year; the real lady was from La Leverie, near Vire, in Normandy.

². Although theories the Jews were responsible were obviously rampant, from the number of massacres that occurred during and immediately after this period, most men of learning did not subscribe to them. However, they also did not attempt to publicly in tractate or oratory to absolve the Jews of blame, either, as it was a dangerous opinion to tout too loudly in those times. Several rulers and Pope Clement VI acted strongly in defense of the Jews, but as a private citizen Linette is unusual in mentioning even as much as she does.

³. Guillelmi de Nangiaco's chronicle mentions the Hotel Dieu, Paris' principal hospital, and that "for a long time more than 500 dead were carried daily . . . to the cemetery . . ." I lowered the number, as it is yet early in the plague in Paris, but even so, remember the medieval chroniclers' tendency to exaggerate for dramatic effect.

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 to be Held October 15-17, 2021 - Now a Royal Progress Event!

Join us for an event inspired by the Battle of Kulikova (September 8, 1380) between the Mongol Golden Horde and the Russian princes led by Prince Dimitry of Moscow!

This event will feature:

- Heavy Weapons & Rapier Tournaments
- Archery & Thrown Weapons
- Youth Combat
- Arts & Sciences Competitions
- Bardic & Dancing Activities
- A boxed-lunch dayboard
- Merchants
- Camping

Volunteers are always needed. Please contact the Event Steward, Eleazar ha Levi, at shirewars@owlsherst.eastkingdom.org.

For additional details, please visit <https://shirewars.eastkingdom.org> and <https://www.eastkingdom.org/event-details/?eid=3640>