

December

Happy Holydays!

A Look at Traditions in December

December 25th was declared the birth of Jesus Christ by Pope Julius I in 350 ad, thirty-seven years after Emperor Constantine issued The Edict of Toleration. This edict effectively legalized the Christian religion. The original birthdate had been forgotten over three hundred years. This date was chosen to compete with other festivals during or near December 25th.

In the Persian Empire people were celebrating the Birthday of the Unconquered Sun. The Romans had Saturnalia around the winter solstice. In Mesopotamia the population cheered on Marduk's struggle against the forces of chaos. Greeks celebrated the battle Zeus made against the Titans.

A wide range of Christmas traditions came from non-Christian cultures and religions. The lighting of candles on a tree was practiced by the Norse to show honor to Woden and Thor during their battles with evil in winter. A story was told in the fourth century about a man called St. Nicholas who gave a poor man bags of gold as dowries for three daughters. These bags are symbolized by shiny red balls hung on trees. Romans and Celts hung holly branches to ward off evil. Explore the origins of your traditions.

May your Holydays be treasures, and may your New Year be filled with wonderful discoveries.



UPCOMING MOOT & PRACTICE:

- *Dec. Moot: Dec. 13 at the home of Baron Janvier and Baroness Alexandra starting at 1:00 PM*
- *Heavy Weapons and Fencing Practice, See the Shire Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/102651729820675/>*
- *If you have anything you want to add, contact Lady Anna at the following: HollyHeise@Gmail.com*



Courtesy of Lady Beatrice

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THE CHRONICLER'S QUILL



This Month in History

December 1

December 1, 1135 - England's King Henry I died. He had fallen ill seven days earlier after eating too many lampreys. He was 66, and had ruled for 35 years.

Birthday - 1 December 1083, commonly Latinized as Anna Comnena, was a Byzantine princess, scholar, physician, hospital administrator, and historian. She was the daughter of the Byzantine emperor Alexios I and his wife Irene Doukaina.

December 4

4 December 1259, Treaty of Paris settles the future of English possessions in France: Henry III broadly agreed with to give up claims to lands his father John had lost in northern France. Normandy, Anjou, Maine, Touraine and Poitou were given up in return for keeping control the Channel Islands and Gascony in the south west. In exchange, Louis IX of France gave up his support for rebellious English barons.

December 7

December 7, 43 B.C. - Cicero (Marcus Tullius) died. He was a writer, statesman, and was considered ancient Rome's greatest orator.

December 13

December 13, 1545 - The Council of Trent, summoned by Pope Paul III, met to discuss doctrinal matters including the rise of Protestantism.

December 13, 1577 - Francis Drake departed Plymouth, England, in the *Golden Hind* on his voyage around the world.

December 14

Birthday - French physician Nostradamus was born in St. Remy, Provence, France (as Michel de Notredame) in 1503. He wrote astrological predictions in rhymed quatrains, believed by many to foretell the future.

Birthday - Tycho Brahe, born Tyge Ottesen Brahe on this day in 1546. He was known for his accurate and comprehensive astronomical and planetary observations.

December 15

Birthday - Emperor Nero was born on this day in 37 AD.

December 16

Birthday - Catherine of Aragon (also spelled Katherine of Aragon), 16 December 1485 was the Queen of England from June 1509 until May 1533 as the first wife of King Henry VIII. Henry's divorce of her led to a break with Rome and formation of the Church of England.

December 17

December 17, 1538 - Pope Paul III excommunicated King Henry VIII after he had declared himself supreme head of the Church in England.

Birthday - Paracelsus (born Philippus Aureolus Theophrastus Bombastus von Hohenheim), on 17 December 1493, was a Swiss German Renaissance physician, botanist, alchemist, astrologer, and general occultist. He founded the discipline of toxicology. He is also credited for giving zinc its name, calling it zincum. Modern psychology often also credits him for being the first to note that some diseases are rooted in psychological conditions. He was an early proponent of cleaning and protecting wounds, stating that illness resulted from attack by outside agents, and he was likely the first European physician to use Laudanum as a treatment for pain.

(Continued)

THE CHRONICLER'S QUILL (CONTINUED)



This Month in History

December 19

19 December 1154. Henry II, the first 'Plantagenet' king, accedes to the throne of England, Wales, Normandy, Anjou, Gascony and other parts of France.

December 24

December 24, 1508 - London houses receive piped water again, for the first time in over a thousand years, since the Romans left town!

Birthday - Ignatius Loyola 1491 was born in northern Spain (as Inigo de Onaz y Loyola). He founded the Catholic Jesuits (Society of Jesus).

December 25

December 25, 440 - Church leaders agree to fix the date of the birth of Christ. Previously some people had celebrated it in May, others in January.

Christmas 1176, First 'eisteddfod' is held at Aberteifi in Cardigan: Lord Rhys ap Gruffyd held a winter court at which contests were held between top entertainers of the period. The winner of the 'eisteddfod', or 'session', was to be seated in the bardic chair. Bards, poets, harpists and other music makers engaged in contests in pursuit of the seat of honour.

December 27

Birthday - German astronomer Johannes Kepler (1571) was born in Wurttemberg, Germany. Considered the father of modern astronomy, he discovered the elliptical (oval) shape of the orbits in which the earth and other planets travel around the sun at a speed that varies according to each planet's distance from the sun.

December 29

December 29, 1170 - Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury, was murdered by four knights acting on orders from England's King Henry II.

December 31

Birthday – 1514, Andreas Vesalius was a 16th century Flemish physician, widely referred to as the founding father of the modern human anatomy. He was born in Brussels, Belgium, to Anders van Wesel (court apothecary to Charles V of Spain), and his wife, Isabel Crabbe.

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THE TIME OF OUR LIVES: FALCON'S KEEP MEETING MINUTES

Here follows the minutes of the Moot at the house of Lord Vincent, November 22.

Officer Reports:

Seneschal:

Insurance submitted for Haire Affaire. Lady Kate wishes to create a new officer position. This individual would be in charge of Social Media accounts (Facebook, etc.). The Social Media officer would most likely report to either the Chatelaine or the Webminister. More discussion of this matter should be in future moots.

Chatelaine:

Kate has signed a contract for Evercon, and questioned the moot on their plans to attend and possibly assist in doing demonstrations or classes.

Wausau library Demo will be January 30, from @10-1. Need volunteers.

Lady Emelye will step up to be the new Chatelaine. Lucia dell'Emelia (MKA Caity Carmody) will be her deputy. (Note: As of this writing, it was unclear whether Lord Baldwin would also be a deputy Chatelaine; however, it has unofficially been confirmed that this is so. -Pedro)

Rapier Marshal: Justinian reported his purchase of the hard shell golf bag carrier worked out well on his recent journey to KWAR, and is confident it will work well for the Shire. He reported there were 4 new beginning fighters. He also reminded the Moot that the final practice for the year would be December 14.

MOAS: Mistress Ealasaid reported Griffin Needle was a great success. She noted the Shire's sweeping all categories for the event.

She repeated her suggestion that all Shire members wear their garb to moots when possible. "Garb Encouraged, But Not Required"

Lady Mary has volunteered to be MOAS deputy.

Officers not present: Exchequer (physically); Chronicler; Heavy Weapons Marshal; Webminister; Herald.

Old Business:

A brief discussion of Griffin Needle ensued. The only drawback noted (other than the Shire's apparent dominance of the event) was space needs. There were no negative comments from the site. It was concluded that the site would be used again.

New Business:

Event Planning

EverCon: Planning for classes/ demos discussed. Among the ideas that came up was a charming one for the Norse persona. Specifically, it will compare and contrast the popular media idea of the Norse with the historically correct Norse model.

sed again.

THE TIME OF OUR LIVES: (CONTINUED)

Haire Affaire:

Confirmed personnel:

Justinian: Rapier Marshal.

Mistress Ealasaïd: Feastocrat.

Lady Kate: Children's Activities.

Other personnel, so far not confirmed, are:

Ralik: Heavy Weapons Marshal

Alyce: Merchantocrat

Emelye: Troll

(Note: To confirm/decline, please email Lady Beatrice, if you are unable to talk to her directly.)

Fee Structure will remain at last year's schedules for now. A reminder:

\$8.00 Adult

\$10.00 Feast (Non-refundable)

\$5.00 Student

\$3.00 Youth (6-17)

\$5.00 Non-Member Fee

Children 6 and below are free.

It is anticipated that they will not change, but more discussion may be needed.

Lady Kate is planning to have children's activities in the morning, and Youth Boffer in the afternoon.

There is a possibility for activities that involve open fire on a small scale. This is not confirmed, pending approval of the school and contacting the appropriate gentles for classes. There will be a space for activities such as woodworking.

Mistress Ealasaïd informed the moot of her feast idea. It will involve a course covering each era of Scandinavian history from Viking times to the Late Renaissance era. She brought a winter soup for the moot to try that will likely be included in the feast. (It was very good.)

Other needs:

No Classes as yet. A class coordinator is required. Silent Auction will need someone to tend to it.

Lady Beatrice, anticipating the attendance of the event by royalty, suggested the idea of having 'taxes' paid at the event.

Upcoming Moots:

December 13. Baron Janvier and Baroness Alexandra's house.

January 31, Baron Guttorm and Mistress Ealasaïd's house. WORK MOOT for Haire Affaire.

As usual, any errors, inadvertent omissions, and other fripperies are the sole responsibility of Lord Pedro, your humble scribe and correspondent.

OFFICERS OF FALCONS KEEP

Seneschal: Lady Katherine de Saint Denis (Katherine Seibel)

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Social Media Relations: Lady Yoshida Kiku litlflrt@mtc.net

Historian: Pedro de Benavides (MKA Bart Forman)

EVENTS CALENDAR



December, 2015

Boar's Head - A Traditional Yule 👑 🍷 🏰 🍷 🏰 Saturday December 5, 2015 50
Barony of Caer Antherth Mawr (West Bend WI)

Live By the Sword II Saturday December 12, 2015 50
Shire of Rudivale (Grafton ND)

January, 2016

Nordskogen Twelfth Night: Dreikönigsfest 👑 🍷 🏰 🍷 Saturday January 9, 2016 50
Barony of Nordskogen (Anoka MN)

Yuletide Saturday January 16-17, 2016 50
(Newell SD)

Winter War Maneuvers 👑 🍷 Saturday January 23-24, 2016 50
(Lincoln NE)

February, 2016

A Scandanavian Haire Affaire 🏰 🍷 Saturday February 6, 2016 50
Shire of Falcon's Keep (Auburndale WI)

Brigid's Fyre III; The Barroom Brawl Saturday February 6, 2016 50
Shire of Orlova Dolina (Solway MN)Northshield Kingdom Arts and Sciences Open Division and Triathlon
Tourney Saturday February 13, 2016 50
Shire of Silfren Mere (Stewartville MN)

Lupercalia Saturday February 20, 2016 50
Shire of Rivenwood Tower (Garden City MN)

Fighting in the Shade (FITS) Saturday February 20, 2016 50
Barony of Jararvellir (Madison WI)

Fighter's School Saturday February 27, 2016 50
Barony of Windhaven (Fond du Lac WI)

March, 2016

That Moot Thingy XV!(16) Friday March 4-6, 2016 50
Canton of Coille Stoirmeil (Tomah WI)

Ides of March XXV Saturday March 5, 2016 50
Shire of Trewint (Brookings SD)

Gulf Wars XXV Sunday March 13-20, 2016 50
Kingdom of Gleann Abhann (Lumberton MS)

April, 2016

Spring Coronation Saturday April 9, 2016 50
Shire of Rivenwood Tower ()