



The Newsletter

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Published on behalf of the shire of Falcon's Keep and
student members of Falcon's Gate

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Cover Story:

“Sunrise the morning of Monday, August 1, with the Grindbygningen standing in the fog.”

From the upcoming pictorial [Chronology of the Viking Hall Construction and Raising](#). Used with kind permission of Owen Christiansen.

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Submissions are accepted until the 20th of the previous month, preferably as a Word document inserted into an email. Send to both the Chronicler and Deputy Chronicler. Submissions are the property of the contributor and may not be used without permission of the author or artist. Contact the Chronicler for further information.

The Mewsletter is published monthly. It is available from Bart Forman, 620 N Ash Ave, Marshfield, WI 54449. This publication will be available on the Falcon's Keep webpage at www.falconskeep.org. If you require a paper copy, please contact the Chronicler. If you wish to make a contribution to defray mailing costs, please give it to the Exchequer of Falcon's Keep.



The Chronicler's Quill

Saludos hasta el folk de la Comarca
de la Falcon's Keep !

This edition is somewhat different, as I did not have minutes from the last moot. This is my error; next month's Mewsletter will have moot minutes from both months posted to keep current.

The planning for the Haire Affaire is in its final stages. Of course, to keep things interesting, that entity that is known as fate, entropy, etc. has given us several last minute issues. The most serious of these: our fine Autocrat may not be able to be there. Fortunately, there are already contingency plans in the making to answer these challenges. I am confident that the gentles in our fair Shire will be stepping up to meet these challenges. If you're not sure what you can do, feel free to ask. We'll certainly find something for you to do!

On a final note, I extend an early warm greeting to the Royalty that will grace us with their presence at Haire Affaire. While I was unable to attend Gulf Wars, I understand our fair Kingdom distinguished itself yet again thanks to fine leadership. Grace and victory be upon you, and to our fair Kingdom. NORTHSHIELD... VIVANT!

Atentamente en el Servicio,
Pedro de Benavides

The Grindbygningen: A conversation

In January, Falcon's Keep held their monthly Moot in a Grindbygningen that had been planned by Baron Guttorm and erected with the help of several members of Falcon's Keep. It was a unique experience to be able to be in a period building in winter— at least, unique to the editor.

Baron Guttorm has graciously allowed the editor to share some information regarding its historical origins, as well as his story of how the building was planned and assembled.

Part 2: Challenges and rewards

Q: Once the plan began to come into reality, what kind of setbacks did you have?

A: The major setback was the size and weight of the posts. To explain: I wanted to make the building impressive so that people would say, 'wow.' This wasn't for me. This was because I wanted to put the building in a proper historical setting and also inspire people to consider how the buildings were being built and used.

We were limited in how much we could spend, so that limited the size of the building. I came up with a 14' wide building 28' long, which was within our budget. It is on the small side for long-houses, but there are examples of buildings that size.

In York, for example, that size was typical for Viking town-houses. In Greenland, that was the size of the church that Leif Erickson built for his mother (although the reconstruction in Greenland, which I have not seen, appears smaller to me from pictures).

A long and wide building would impress and inspire people; but what of a 28' long building? Two ways to impress and inspire people, in my opinion, were to use large timbers and make a high central aisle. To this end, I designed the building with 8" x 8" posts and beams, and made the central aisle with 12' long posts, putting the peak at about 14'.

The Grindbygningen: A conversation

However, I had not anticipated how heavy the timbers would turn out to be. No doubt Janvier and Alessandro, who helped me move timbers around, will attest to the weight of the timbers; just moving the timbers to make the joints became a major and time consuming effort. This added significant time to the overall construction of the building.

Another setback was the weather. Of course, you anticipate some bad weather and try to build that into your schedule; however, we had a lot of rain last June and July [of 2011]. One example of the challenges the weather posed concerns my decision to pour concrete pillars to put the posts on. These pillars are similar to concrete pads or columns used in modern pole barns. However, as it rained every other day, my 5' deep holes (after stripping the black dirt off the clay) would fill with rain. I'd have to pump the water out.

Then, I found that I had miscalculated some of the positions of the posts, and I had to reposition the holes. Luckily, I found my error before pouring the pads. Even so, it was a pain to dig up the column forms and re-dig them- by hand- in the mud. Luckily, that was the only mistake I made in the design. Everything else worked out and fit perfectly. I was off 3/8" on a length of 28' which is as perfect as anyone could hope for. I did have a problem with the concrete pads moving from the rain and during pouring; but I was able to adjust the height or length of the posts to compensate. And we only lost one brace during cutting the posts and beams; this required a quick replacement. It's still in, and is off by about 1/2". Eventually, I'll replace it with a correct length brace.

The Grindbygningen: A conversation

Q: Finally, what were the good things– the “boons”– that came out of this project? And would you consider taking interested people on a tour?

A: I think the biggest boon was this: until one actually builds one of these longhouses, one really doesn't understand and appreciate the knowledge, skill, and craftsmanship that went into the Viking hall or longhouse. Reading about it- and even traveling to see reconstructions- just does not do justice to this real part of Viking age life. I believe that the people who helped with the cutting of the pieces, and raising the timbers have experienced some of this.

Until that first Grind went up, I didn't know if any of my design would work. As Elk and I pushed and moved the first posts while Bruce raised the grind with his backhoe- all of this being in the rain- the adrenaline was flowing. Then, the grind was up and in position. Elk turned to me with wide open eyes and a giant smile, expressing what I felt, and he shook my hand.

That's when you truly know you are alive, doing something few others have experienced. That's an experience I'll never forget; and I hope everyone who was there also experienced it. I just wish I could share that feeling with more people. We are planning to erect another building this coming summer. It will be much smaller and simpler, but still a real building to be used as the Vikings did. I have an archeological report about a similar building in Norway. The report explains how it was used and how they intend to use the reconstruction; so this is a real outbuilding from the Viking age.

I would love to take others on a 'tour'! The biggest problem will be condensing the information and experiences into a reasonable time.

In the interest of time constraints and preservation of continuity, this page is left blank for the print edition.

Web pages of interest:

www.sca.org

www.northshield.org

www.falconskeep.org

www.uwsp.edu/stuorg/falcon/index.htm

www.medievalhorseandclothing.com

Facebook Groups:

Shire of Falcon's Keep

Falcon's Gate at UWSP

Falcon's Keep Rapier Fighters

Don't forget to check out our Yahoo group:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/falconskeep/>

Falcon's Gate and Fighter Practice:

Fighter Practice: HEC 154

Monday evening 7:00 PM

(HEC: Health Enhancement Center)

Falcon's Gate: DUC 211

Thursday evenings 7:00 PM

(DUC: Dreyfus University Center Building)

Please check the Falcon's Gate or Falcon's Keep group pages or the Yahoo group page for changes.



Event Calendar

April, 2012

Northshield Spring Coronation

Saturday April 14, 2012

Shire of Vilku Urvas (Grand Rapids MN)

THACO 3

Saturday April 21, 2012

Barony of Nordskogen (St. Paul MN)

Western Regional Melee Practice

Saturday April 28, 2012

Shire of Dreibrucken (Bismarck ND)

May, 2012

Northshield Spring Crown Tourney Saturday May 12, 2012 as XLVII

(47) Barony of Castel Rouge (Ile des Chênes MB)

Burn, Baby, Burn! Pyre of Fire! Friday May 18-20, 2012 as XLVII (47)

Shire of Shattered Oak (Haugen WI)

Lamb to Loom Saturday May 19, 2012 as XLVII (47)

Shire of Turm an dem See (Random Lake WI)

Youth get a Castle : II Friday May 25-27, 2012 as XLVII (47)

Barony of Caer Anterth Mawr (Kiel WI)

Castle Fever – The Siege of Hohenzollern Castle Friday May 25-28, 2012

as XLVII (47) Shire of Silfren Mere (Rochester MN)

June, 2012

Mermaids Friday June 1-3, 2012 as XLVII (47)

Shire of Turm an dem See (Valders WI)

Border Skirmish Friday June 8-10, 2012 as XLVII (47)

Barony of Caer Anterth Mawr (Elkhorn WI)

Lilies War XXVI: Family Feud Friday June 8-17, 2012 as XLVII (47)

Kingdom of Calontir (Smithville MO)

Rockhaven Archery – Reloaded! Saturday June 9, 2012 as XLVII (47)

Shire of Rockhaven (St. Augusta MN)

Crispin's Archery Thing (CAT) Saturday June 30, 2012 as XLVII (47)

Barony of Nordskogen (East Bethel MN)

Mad Dogs and Englishmen Saturday June 30, 2012 as XLVII (47)

Shire of Border Downs (Adrian MN)

March Moot
Sunday, March 25, 2011
At the home of Baron Guttorm and Mistress
Ealasaid
C3808 Heartland Hills Road in Stratford

Cooking will begin @10:00 AM
Business Moot 1:00 PM

From the North and East: take 153 toward Stratford, Turn left onto H (gravel road). At the stop sign turn right onto Balsam. Cross bridge and shortly afterward turn left onto Heartland Hills Road. When you reach the fork it does not matter which way you go as we are at the bottom of the loop in a cedar house with red garage doors.

From the South: take 97 North toward Stratford. Turn right on C toward Rozellville. In town turn left onto M and drive to where it takes a sudden turn to the right, then continue straight onto Balsam (gravel road) and continue about a mile. Turn right onto Heartland Hills. When you reach the fork it does not matter which way you go as we are at the bottom of the loop in a cedar house with red garage doors.

Please note that this is a Working Moot. Garb will not be required. For those that wish to wear garb, choose garb that is comfortable and well used. Or, to put it another way: garb you don't mind getting dirty.

Officers of Falcon's Keep

Seneschal: Lady Beatrice of Falcon's Keep (MKA Jennifer Beebe)
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arianna_rogan@yahoo.com

Pursuivant: Lord Grimr inn Harfagri (MKA Dennis Russell)
851 East Rd, Rib Lake, WI 54470
715-427-0402 grimr_fairhair@yahoo.com

Deputy Pursuivant: vacant

Exchequer: Lady Mary Of Falcon's Keep (MKA Mary Welker)
104 N. Florence St. Rothschild WI 715-297-1230
venom@charter.net

Deputy Exchequer: : vacant

Knights Marshall: Lord Ralik Ravenwolf (MKA Douglas Hizer)
450 Pepper Ave Wisconsin Rapids WI 54494
715-712-0834 (please do not call before 5pm)
Cell Phone: 715-213-3768

Marshall of Fence: Ysabella de Muerte (MKA Elizabeth Rundquist)
3511 Airport Ave Wisconsin Rapids WI 54494

Marshall of Archery: vacant

Minister of Arts & Sciences: Lady Emelye Ambroys
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ans@falconskeep.org

Deputy Minister of Arts & Sciences: THL Alexandra Wasserman
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