

# The Newsletter

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The Newsletter  
Elspeth Christianson  
C3808 Heartland Hills Road  
Stratford, WI 54484



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

January 2009

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Submissions are accepted until the 15th of the previous month, preferably as a Word document inserted into an email. Send to both the Chronicler and Deputy Chronicler. The last Thursday of the previous month is the mailing date. 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.

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*Officers of Falcon's Keep*

Seneschal: Lady Mary of Falcon's Keep (MKA Mary Welker)  
104 Florence St, Wausau, WI  
715-297-1230 [venom@charter.net](mailto:venom@charter.net)

Deputy Seneschal: Arianna de Luca

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

Deputy Pursuivant: vacant

Exchequer: Aisli

Deputy Exchequer: ?

Knights Marshall: Lord Robert the Mase  
[mase@charter.net](mailto:mase@charter.net), 715-347-4999

Marshall of Fence: Lord Vincent Palmer (MKA Conan James)  
1215 Parker Ave Apt 10, Mosinee, WI 54455  
715-693-7369 [nomed@mtc.net](mailto:nomed@mtc.net)

Marshall of Archery: ?

Minister of Arts & Sciences:  
Lady Emelye Ambroys (MKA Tabitha Degenhardt)  
620 N Ash Ave, Marshfield WI 54449  
[ladyemelyeambroys@gmail.com](mailto:ladyemelyeambroys@gmail.com)

Deputy Minister of Arts & Sciences: Oz the Baker

Minister of Youth: vacant

Chronicler:  
Mistress Ealasaic nic Phearsoinn (MKA Elspeth Christianson)  
C3808 Heartland Hills Rd, Stratford, WI 54484  
715-687-4870 [ealasaic27@gmail.com](mailto:ealasaic27@gmail.com)

Deputy Chronicler: vacant

Chatelaine: Lord Alessandro of Falcon's Keep (MKA Jason Welker)  
104 Florence St, Wausau, WI  
715-297-0718 [chaosgeneral@charter.net](mailto:chaosgeneral@charter.net)

Deputy Chatelaines: Lord Gabriel Michalik

Web Minister: Lady Reina Gunnora (MKA Raynee Randall)  
1934 Eva Rd Apt 5, Mosinee, WI 54455  
715-572-3079 [reina\\_gunnora@yahoo.com](mailto:reina_gunnora@yahoo.com)

Deputy Web Minister: Guinevere Aloisia of Falcon's Keep

## January Moot

Sunday January 4, 1 pm

At the home of Mistress Ealasaid & Baron Guttorm

C3808 Heartland Hills Rd, Stratford

715-687-4870

We will have the usual potluck. Instead of listing a single ingredient, I would like to encourage winter fare—that is anything that would have been available to your persona in January.

### Directions:

**From Marshfield** go north on 97 toward Stratford. Make a right onto Hwy C toward Rozellville. In Rozellville, at the stop sign go left (north) on Hwy M. \*A couple of miles beyond Rozellville, M makes a sudden turn. Follow M as it veers to the right, but when it veers back to the left, go straight onto a gravel road (Balsam), follow Balsam about a mile. You will pass a pond on the left. Look for a sign to the right of the road for the Heartland Hills subdivision. Turn right onto Heartland Hills Road. \*\*When the road makes a "Y" stay to the left. It is the 3rd house (cedar with red doors)

**From Wisconsin Rapids or Stevens Point** go west on Hwy 10 toward Marshfield, but near Auburndale turn right onto Hwy M. Continue North through Rozellville, Then follow directions from \*.

**From the Wausau area** go west on 153. You will be looking for Hwy H which is about 10 miles outside Mosinee. The landmark is Teasers. Turn left (south) on H. At the stop sign turn right onto Balsam (also a gravel road). Cross the bridge and look for Heartland Hills Road on the left. Follow directions from\*\*.

## Web pages of interest:

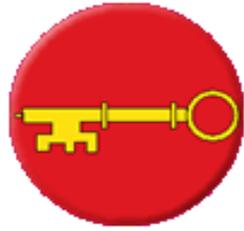
[www.sca.org](http://www.sca.org)

[www.northshield.org](http://www.northshield.org)

[www.falconskeep.org](http://www.falconskeep.org)

[www.uwsp.edu/stuorg/falcon/index.htm](http://www.uwsp.edu/stuorg/falcon/index.htm)

## Greetings from your Seneschal!



Greeting Keepers

The date has been set and the next event is coming together. We are looking for various volunteers to help with all areas of the event. The site is the same as last year. Mistress Ealasaid will be planning the feast so once again we should be in for a treat. If you are interested in helping in anyway please sign up on the website at <http://www.falconskeep.org/HaireAffaire/volunteers.html> or contact Lady Emily Ambrose at [ladyemelyeambroys@gmail.com](mailto:ladyemelyeambroys@gmail.com)

We are still looking into a new site for Poormans'. We may have to change the date of our event along with the site. If anyone has additional sites they think would be suitable for our event please get site information and a contact name to me as soon as possible.

We will have a demo at the DC Everest Middle School on 01/10/2009. If interested we will have some arts and crafts on display and some fighting as well. You can contact me for more information.

This will be my last entry to the Mewsletter as Seneschal. I would also like to thank all the hard working volunteers we have in the Shire.

YIS

Mary of Falcon's Keep

Cover: Janus is a Roman diety associated with doorways and beginnings. January is named for him.

Clipart courtesy of FCIT

# The Chronicler's Quill



Greetings onto the folk  
of the Shire of Falcon's Keep,

January is a time of new beginnings and this issue is the first mostly electronic edition of the Newsletter. You should be able to see it on the Falcon's Keep webpage and it can be emailed as well. While it is nice not to spend time fighting with the printer to get it to make 25 correctly collated copies, the main challenge of getting material for publication is still the same. I thank all of the regular contributors for the year past and encourage anyone who has not contributed to resolve to do so in the future. Officers are encouraged to submit reports. I also need cover material, writeups of events you have attended and descriptions of projects you have undertaken. It has been a long time since I received any personal stories—this is your chance to tell everyone in the shire your own story!

If you have not yet signed the permission to publish your identifying information, please do so as soon as possible. If you are an officer, autocrat an event or host a moot it is essential that people be able to reach you. New officers, if your information is missing or incomplete on the officer's page it is because I do not have the right information. I apologize and will correct it as soon as you send me the information.

Last, but not least, I am seeking a deputy. I have been chronicler for two years now. My mundane job is getting busier with the departure of my colleague, and I would love to have someone to train so that I can eventually "retire". If you are interested please let me know.

YIS  
Ealasaid

## CALENDAR

### January 2009

- 10 Twelfth Night [Nordskogen-Columbia Heights, MN]
- 17 Big Herr-y Deal [Castel Rouge-Winnipeg MB]
- 17 Tree-Girt-Sea 121th Night 16thC Roman Masque  
[Tree-Girt-Sea, Midrealm, Chicago IL]
- 31 It's Only a Flesh Wound [Jararvellir-Jefferson WI]

### February 2009

- 6-8 that Moot Thingy [Coil Stormeill-Tomah WI]
- 7 Herzkreig [Svaty Sebesta-Vermillion SD]
- 14-15 Un Fete d'Amor [Midewinde- Minot ND]
- 14 Tournament of Chivalry [Windhaven-Fond du Lac, WI]
- 21 Lupercalia [Rivenwood Tower-Nicollet, MN]

### March 2009

- 15-22 Gulf Wars
- 28 Ides of March [Trewint- Huron SD]
- 28 A Haire Affaire of the Heart [Falcon's Keep-Wausau WI]

### April 2009

- 4 Spring Coronation [Jararvellir]
- 18 Provost Challenge [Coldedernhale-Pierre SD]
- 25 Western Regional Melee Practice [Dreibruken-Lincoln ND]

### May 2009

- 9 Spring Crown
- 16 Beltaine by the Bay [Darkstone-Ashland WI]
- 14-17 Quest for Camelot [Schattentor-Nemo SD]
- 22-24 Midsummer in the Highlands  
[Trewint-Wessington Springs, SD]
- 29-31 Mermaids [Turm an dem See-Valders WI]

### June 2009

- 25-28 Moorsih tavern [Midewinde-Borraineau ND]

**Fighting/Rapier practice is held on Monday Evenings at 7pm UWSP Quandt Gym Balcony and adjacent room. Please see website for directions.**

## Minutes 12-7-2008

### 1. Reviewed items from the last meeting.

#### 2. Officer reports

Seneschal : Next moot is on January 4th at the home of Baron Gut-torm and Mistress Ealasaid

Chatelaine; Evercon is coming up on January 10th. Please see Vin-cent if you wish to fight, or Mary if you want to bring an art or sci-ence project.

Exchequer: The current book balance is \$12,417.15 There are still expenses that need to be paid from this.

Chronicler: Publisher software will cost \$169, Mistress Ealasaid is looking into it's ease of use. We still need submissions for the Mews-letter. If you haven't done you persona background now would be a good time!!

Web Minister: Nothing to report/Absent

Knights Marshall: Nothing to report

Archery Marshall: Looking for equipment donations even if the item is broken.

Rapier Marshall: Nothing to report/Absent

Minister of Arts and Sciences: If you need help or information for the 50 year project please contact Lady Emelye

Herald/Persuivant: Nothing to report/Absent

### 3. Update on Haire Affaire

Date March 28th

Looking for site token ideas

### 4. Officer Changes

Aisli will be replacing Isabeau as Exchequer effective Jan 1, 2009

### 5. We voted to purchase 2 new masks for the fencing loaner gear. The vote was passed unanimously

### 6. There has been no updates as of yet on the Poorman's site

Thank you.

Mary of Falcon's Keep

## Anachronists Book Review:

### Lady Eve of Lynn

One of the first Authors that I reviewed in this column was Edward Marston. That was in February 1995, I have followed the Elizabethan Theater Mystery series through the years. This series revolves around a group of actors known as Lord Westfield's Men. For some reason I have not been able to find the first book in the series. Recently Mistress Ealasaid sent me a copy of one of the earlier books in the series *The Mad Courtesan* This was first published in 1992 it was also one I had not been able to locate. I wish to thank her for sending me this book to review. I have also followed Marston's series that follow the courts in settling disputes pertaining to the Domesday Books. Be it is the 11th century or the 16th you can't beat Marston for pure entertainment.

Well I Did it again, After thinning down my selection of books last year, I swore, I was not going to fall for any more book club offers. Well the people at the History Book Club put out a come-back offer I couldn't refuse. When the box containing my order came, I dropped every thing to delve into the first of Allison Weir's selections that I had chosen.

*Eleanor of Aquitaine* proved to be a very readable balanced account on the life of the most remarkable women of the Middle Ages. I can not see myself crossing a mountain range on horse back in the middle of winter at my age much less at the age of 80. I don't think Lady Anna could do it either.



## Celebrating the New Year

New Years has not always been January 1 (and still is not in many cultures). The old Roman calendar started the New Year on March 1 so that the 7th, 8th, 9th and 10th months were appropriately named September (literally 7th), October (8th), November (9th) and December (10th). The Roman republic before 222BC considered the new year to be the day the consuls took office (the calends i.e. 1st day of May). Julius Caesar reorganized the roman calendar to start with January 1 and named the new first month January after the Roman deity Janus who symbolized doorways and therefore beginnings.

In the early middle ages in Europe, dating often started with an important feast day either Christmas, the Feast of the Annunciation (March 25), Easter, or occasionally the Feast of the Circumcision (January 1 since Jews circumcise on the 7th day). You will note that several of these dates (Christmas, Annunciation, and circumcision) are all related to Christmas being December 25 which is in itself controversial. Some evidence suggests that Jesus of Nazareth may have been born in the spring. In any case, through much of the middle ages Epiphany (later 12th Night) was a greater celebration than either Christmas or New Years.

The situation is further complicated by the change from the Julian to the Gregorian calendar in 1582 and disagreement as to the correct dating of Easter. This results in some Orthodox churches using different dating. Other countries (such as China) still use lunar dating so that the date of New Years varies relative to the Gregorian/Julian calendars. The Islamic new year also varies in comparison to the Gregorian calendar.

Some nations use spring (around the time of the vernal equinox) as their new year and probably have done so for centuries. This includes Persia, India, and much of southeast Asia, except Vietnam

which follows the Chinese lunar calendar.

Some northern nations have a tradition of using a date in fall as the new year. The ancient Celts celebrated the new year at Samhain (forerunner of Halloween). The Hebrew “head of the year” Rosh Hashanah also occurs in the fall.

The agreement to celebrate the new year on January 1 is relatively recent. The dates that January 1 became the official new year are as follows:

|                          |      |
|--------------------------|------|
| Venice                   | 1522 |
| Sweden                   | 1525 |
| Holy Roman Empire        | 1544 |
| Spain, Portugal          | 1556 |
| Denmark, Norway, Prussia | 1559 |
| France                   | 1564 |
| Scotland                 | 1600 |

The Scots celebration of the New Year called Hogmany includes the first foot tradition. The first person to cross the threshold on New Years day, preferably a dark-haired male brings gifts to symbolize different kinds of luck. On traditional food is black bun, a sort of dark raisin cake with a pastry covering on the outside.

The unifying ideas seem to be that there is a time of new beginnings, often associated with various types of divination, practices for protection from evil, and resolutions for the future.

Ealasaid