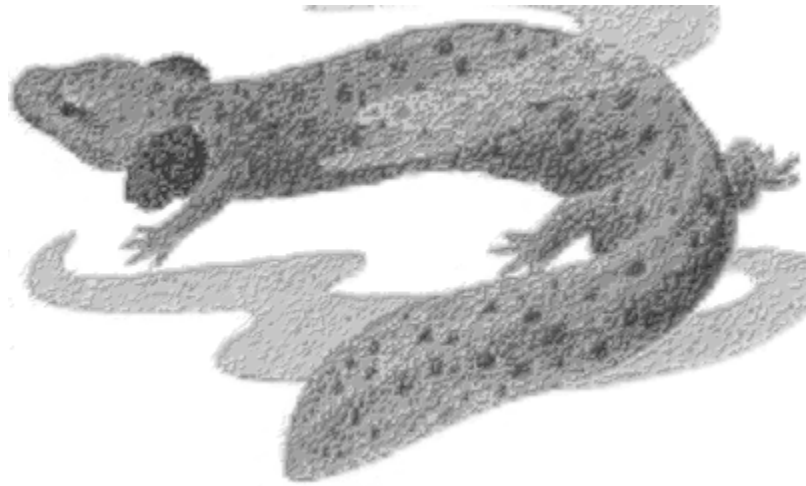


The Mudpuppy



September, 2005

A.S. 40

Calendar of Events

September 2005

17 - 18 Lakewood Ren-Faire XXIV
(Barony of Carillion - Lakewood, NJ)

24 Coronation of Darius and Roxane
(**Barony of Settmour Swamp - Westfield, NJ**)

25 Curia Regis of Darius and Roxane
(Kingdom of East - Bridgewater, NJ)

24 - 25 Celtic Classic Festival and Demo
(Shire of Eisental - Bethlehem, PA)

October 2005

1 East Kingdom University
(Shire of Rusted Woodlands - Rockland & Orange Co., NY, Bergen & Passaic Co, NY)

7-9 Kingdom Crusades
(Kingdom of East/Atlantia - Darlington, MD)

14-16 Rescue of the Haunted Academy at Ghost, Ghouls and Goblins
(Barony of Carillion - Manalapan Township, NJ)

29 Love & War in Iron Bog
(Shire of Iron Bog - Moorestown, NJ)

November 2005

5 Haus Von Halstern 3rd Annual Winterwolf Tournament
(Shire of Rusted Woodlands)

5 Noisemakers - A Music and Heraldry Schola
(Bailiwick of Iveyinrust - Philadelphia, PA)

12 Seraglio
(Barony of Settmour Swamp)

19 100 Minutes War
(Shire of Rusted Woodlands)

19 Agincourt 2005: Ce Qui Si? (What If?)
(Crown Province of Ostgardr - Huntington, NY)

Practices and Activities

Archery Practices:

Tuesdays – 6:30pm in Pittstown (exit 15 off Route 78). Sundays by advance notice, only.
Also, there will be archer practice at the youth fighter practices, 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month.

Arts & Sciences Activities:

1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 7:00pm, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 346 High Street (Rt 609), Hope, NJ. Contact the NW Canton Seneschal for information.

Monthly Business Meetings:

2nd Monday of the month, location changes. See the Mudpuppy or the Baronial website for location and directions.

Fencing Practices -

Wednesdays 7-10 pm, at St. George's Episcopal Church, 550 Ridgewood Rd, Maplewood A donation of \$3 to \$5 dollars is requested to cover the rental cost. **Thursdays** 8 - 10:30 PM, at the North Stelton Fire Company, 70 Haines Avenue, Piscataway, NJ 08854.

Youth Fighter Practices:

2nd and 4th Sunday of the month, assuming that we do not have a conflict with a major holiday, church function, or local SCA event.
Time is from 1:30 pm to 4:00 pm.
St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Rte. 31, Flemington

Settmour Swamp Fighter Practice:

Wednesdays 6:30 pm - 10 pm Nutley, NJ

It costs money to rent this site, so a \$5.00 donation is requested! If you have questions please email Sir Tanaka Raiko salvacion_hank@hotmail.com. Should you get lost, Tanaka's pager is 201-232-9337.

Calligraphy Workshop

1st Tuesday of the month at the home of our Baron and Baroness, 39 Claire Dr., Bridgewater, NJ 08807

Directions to Practices

Fighter Practices, Moose Lodge, Edison

From I-287 South take Exit #3 – New Durham/Metuchen. Turn RIGHT at light onto New Durham Road. At next light, make a RIGHT onto Talmadge Road. At next light turn LEFT onto Coolidge St. Go 0.2 miles; make a LEFT into Moose driveway/parking lot.

From I-287 North take Exit #2B – New Brunswick/Rte. 27 South. Turn traffic flows onto Rte. 27 South. At third traffic light turn RIGHT onto Talmadge Road (Sturgis Road). Go 1.8 miles to 3rd light; make a LEFT onto Coolidge St. Turn LEFT into Moose driveway.

Youth Fighter Practices, St. Paul's, Flemington

St Paul is located along Route 31 in Flemington, next door to the Hunterdon Medical Center, two miles north of the Flemington Circle
From Route 287

Go I-287 to US-202 (Exit 17), go Southwest on US-202 to Flemington NJ

Make first right in circle to get on NJ-31 North Follow signs to Hospital Make first Left past Hospital onto Gaunt Place, church is on left.

From Route 78 in Pennsylvania

Go East on I-78 to NJ-31 (Exit 17) Then Go South on NJ-31.

Follow signs for Hospital.

Make right onto Gaunt Place church is on Left.

From New Jersey Turnpike south to I-78 WEST/NEW JERSEY TPKE EXT EAST RAMP towards EXITS 14 TO 14C/CARS-TRUCKS-BUSES.

Merge onto I-78 WEST RAMP, Merge onto I-78 W.

Take I-78 EXPRESS Lane W towards GARDEN STATE PARKWAY / CLINTON.

Merge onto I-78 EXPRESS Lane West. I-78 EXPRESS Lane West becomes I-78 W.

Take the I-287 exit, exit number 29, towards SOMERVILLE (US-202/206).

Merge onto I-287 SOUTH RAMP., Merge onto I-287 S.

Take the US-202 SOUTH/US-206 SOUTH exit, exit number 17, towards SOMERVILLE (US-22 W) / FLEMINGTON.

Stay straight to go onto US-202 S. until you reach Flemington Take first Right on circle to stay on NJ-31 North Follow signs to Hospital Make first Left past Hospital onto Gaunt Place, church is on left.

From Garden State Parkway

Go North on GARDEN STATE PKWY (Portions toll) to I-195 (Exit 98).

Go West on I-195 to I-295.

Go North on I-295 to I-95 SOUTH.

Go South on I-95 SOUTH to NJ-31 (Exit 4).

Go Northwest on NJ-31 to Flemington

Take first right on circle to stay on NJ-31 North Follow signs to Hospital Make first Left past Hospital onto Gaunt Place, church is on left.

From Philadelphia

Go North on I-95 NORTH to New Jersey.

Go North on I-95 NORTH to NJ-31 (Exit 4).

Go Northwest on NJ-31 to Flemington

Go 1/2 way around circle to stay on NJ-31 North Follow signs to Hospital Make first Left past Hospital onto Gaunt Place, church is on left.

Nutley Fighter Practice

Note: Many of the exit ramps from Route 3 are sharp curves.

From NJ Route 3, Essex/Passaic County (East or West):

Take the MAIN AVE, NUTLEY-PASSAIC exit

At the bottom of the ramp, make left onto Main.

Go past Bradlees to the next light, make a right onto Kingsland,

Go to the first light, and turn left onto Franklin.

At the third light make a right onto Chestnut

Go one block and make left onto Hillside Crescent. The church is on the left-hand side; park on the street.

Alternate directions that will help you avoid some traffic:

From the South

Take the Garden State Parkway to Exit 151. , at the end of the ramp make a right onto Watchung Ave.

At the next light make a left onto East Passaic Ave.

Take your 2nd right onto Coeyman Ave.

Take the 1st right onto Bromley Place.

Bromley Place turns into Glenview Place.

You will come to a stop sign at Ridge Road right after a curve (be careful).

Continue straight and Glenview becomes Chestnut St.

Continue straight through the traffic light at Bloomfield Ave.

*at the top of the hill, at Prospect St, Chestnut jogs to the right. Continue on Chestnut.

Take the next right onto Hillside Crescent. ,the church will be on the left after the curve.

From Route 3 Westbound

Take the Passaic Ave exit.
At the end of the ramp, make a left onto Passaic Ave.
Follow directions from ** below

From Route 3 Eastbound:

Take the Passaic Ave exit.
Stay to the right and merge with Ward Ave.
At the next intersection (50ft or so), make a left onto Passaic Ave.
**Passaic Ave turns into Cathedral Ave.
Stay to the right at the fork in the road.
At the end of Cathedral, make a right onto Kingsland St.
Take the first left onto Bloomfield Ave. (Across from Roche and at the railroad tracks).
Take Bloomfield Ave to the traffic light at Chestnut St. This should be the second traffic light, but there have been lights added to that road since I lived there. (Chestnut is one of those). The three streets on the left before Chestnut are Raymond Ave., Beech St. and Mountainview Ave.
Continue from * above.

From the Seneschal

Welcome back to all those who attended the great Pennsic War. I hope those of you who were able to attend had a good time. Now that we have returned, we have a busy slate of activity planned for the coming year. I look forward to seeing all of you at the events hosted within the barony, and I thank you all for helping out and volunteering.

On September 24th, we will be hosting the Coronation of Darius III and Roxane III in Westfield. There will be a plethora of activity, from the last court of Kelson II and Geneviere II to the first court of Darius III and Roxane III. There will be armored combat, fencing, youth activities, and more. A Roman feast is being prepared by Master Alexandre Lerot d'Avigne.

In November, the barony will be hosting Seraglio. Thankfully, December is a time for us to rest, relax, and recover. Oh, and don't forget to enjoy the holiday season, because come January, our barony becomes a hotbed of activity again. So far, we have the following events planned:

- January, we will be hosting Twelfth Night at the Salaam Shrine in Livingston.
- February bring the Flying Things Schola, which will be held at St. Paul's in Flemington.
- March we will be hosting our annual event, Mudthaw.
- May brings about our annual Memorial Weekend camping event, Quest.

Speaking of these events, we need people to volunteer to autocrat, cook, and run some of the activities (including troll, marshal activities, dayboard, cleanup, setup, etc.). At the September Baronial Business Meeting, we will be choosing an autocrat and cook for Mudthaw. In November, we will be selecting an autocrat and cook for Quest. If you are interested in applying for any of these positions, please contact me.

Of additional note, I am currently seeking a deputy for the office of Seneschal. The only requirement is that you are interested enough to apply. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Yours In Service,
Lord Owynn Greenwood
Seneschal – Barony of Settmour Swamp

This is the September 2005 issue of *The Mudpuppy*, a publication of the **Barony of Settmour Swamp**, a branch of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. It is not a corporate publication of the SCA, Inc., and does not delineate SCA, Inc. policies. Subscriptions are available for \$12 per year. Make checks payable to "SCA, Inc. – Barony of Settmour Swamp."

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Get Involved!

A note from your Chatelaine
Gabrielle Gealbhan an Ruadh

Become a member of the SCA

When you are a paying member of the SCA you will get a subscription to the "Pikestaff" (the kingdom newsletter) and you can also subscribe to your local newsletter

Get a copy of the "Knowne World Handbook"

Though somewhat regional, this publication is the main source of the SCA rules of etiquette, political structure, guidelines for period garb, fighting, arts and sciences many other activities we do.

Garb

You may borrow garb from Gold Key until you feel comfortable and know what style is for you. Many of our members would be happy to start you off in the right direction. You may choose to make your own or to purchase it. Either way is fine. You will want something that suits you and fits your wants and needs.

Check out the Guilds

The SCA is based on social gatherings. History is our common link and we can strengthen friendships even further by meeting with others who share our same hobby. Whether it be cooking or fiber arts, calligraphy or wood work, most guilds meet at least once or twice a month. Check the website calendar for contact info regarding get-togethers and workshops.

Go to Events

All we work on and get together for all comes together at our events! If you don't go to events you miss the end result of your efforts and the efforts of your friends. Events occur all over the East Kingdom every weekend. Ride If you are traveling from out of town and need a place to stay for the night, contact the Chatelaine of the group that is sponsoring the event to which you are traveling. The chatelaine will be able to point you in the direction of places to stay or people who are willing to let you crash on their couch.

Volunteer!!

I can't stress this enough! The SCA is volunteer organization. Volunteering is ESSENTIAL to keep things moving. Events don't just happen by themselves. MANY, MANY people volunteer their time. It's the volunteers who make the events happen. Without

volunteers, who would Autocrat or Feastocrat the events? Who would help serve? Who would Marshall the fighting arts? Who would display the gorgeous arts and projects ? Who would set up? Clean up? So get the point? Without volunteers, events don't happen! Volunteer! Make a friend! Some of the best friends are made this way and it will give you an opportunity to feel like you are a part of things rather than just a spectator.

Talk to People

Get to know your fellow SCAdians! Asking questions can often provide unlimited conversation! Who knows! Someone else may share that same quirky interest you have! You'll never know unless you open your mouth and extend your hand.

Be Fiscally Responsible

The SCA can be as expensive or "cost effective" as you make it. Before spending your hard earned money on materials or gear, talk to someone who has what you are seeking. They can often help you find the best source for both quality and price. If someone made it, they had to get the "stuff" somewhere. Communication can be a money saver!

Things to Avoid

We all want to 'belong' to something. You may be tempted to join a household or attach yourself to a group right away. If you do this, you may find out later that their goals are not your own. They may be studying an area of history or a culture in which you are not really interested. There is no rush. Take your time, you can often find a group that really suits your purpose. You don't have to join any household. Many SCAdians are "free-floaters" who have friends from many groups.

Names and Devices

Take your time when deciding on a name and device. It's best to wait until you are really sure it's what you want. Once you toss out a name, remember, people will latch onto it pretty fast. Be sure it's one that you want to be called. When designing your device, be sure it is one that actually suits you. Take the time to research your persona and learn about the time and place from which he/she hails.

Meetings

Take the time to go to a monthly meeting. Attend a workshop or two that may pique your interest. Check out a fighters practice or maybe an archery practice. The montly officer's meeting is designed for the officers to hash over monthly business and also upcoming events. This is an excellent meeting to go to to see how things are put together. You will learn of upcoming events, SCA politics and also get a chance to volunteer and meet others as well.

Coronation of Darius and Roxane

Saturday, September 24th, 2005

Hosted by Barony of Settmour Swamp - Westfield, NJ

Event Last Modified: July 11th, 2005

Salvete, cives Orientis!

The Barony of Settmour Swamp is honored to invite all to attend the Coronation of Darius and Roxane, on 24 September, AS XL.

The celebration will take place from 10am to 10pm at the Westfield National Guard Armory. A light dayboard will be available during the afternoon, and in the evening Master Alexandre Lerot d'Avigne will present a 3-course feast of Roman dishes. (Menus available at our website.)

In addition to the pageantry of Court and Coronation, there will be outdoor lists for fencing, armored combat, and youth combat – a celebration of the martial prowess of the East! And the fine arts will be well-represented, with dancing during the break between courts, and an Arts & Sciences competition. Her Highness Roxane encourages artisans to enter Persian-themed items; other items are welcome as well. A schedule of court times and other activities will be posted closer to the event.

General Reservations:

Reservations are highly encouraged. It will help us make sure we have enough dayboard for all, and will speed your check-in – we expect over 400 attendees! The site fee is \$10 for adults (\$13 for non-members), \$5 for children (6-17). The feast costs an additional \$7 (regardless of age – but infants or very small children who will not be taking up a chair need not pay for the feast.) Make checks payable to: "SCA, Inc. - Barony of Settmour Swamp" and send to Baroness Elizabeth Hawkwood c/o: Beth Dobo, 71 Sky Manor Road, Pittstown, NJ 08867. To avoid the non-member surcharge, include proof of membership, or show it at the door. Please list the modern and SCA names of all guests, children's ages, the type of reservations, and a self-addressed stamp envelope (or address where we can reach you). In return, we will send you a letter for Express Check-In at the event.

Those attending the feast please take heed: the check-in table will close at 5:00 pm, and unclaimed reservations will be sold off to those waiting.

Merchant Reservations:

The merchanting fee is \$5 per 10'x10' space – limit 2 spaces. We encourage you to bring your own tables; we may be able to rent tables for your use at \$10 each, if you request them by September 9th. Merchant set up is from 8-10 am; rented tables must be returned before the feast; others must start breakdown by 7pm. Contact Lord Malcolm Bowman, the Merchant Liaison, with any questions: malcolm@sourcechronicles.com; 201-343-4294. To guarantee your space, please reserve by September 16th. Send your merchant fee AND event fees (listed above) to Lord Malcolm c/o: Murray Blehart, 289 Elm Avenue, Bogota, NJ 07603. Make checks payable to "SCA Inc, Barony of Settmour Swamp". Please note your space requirements, the name of your business, the modern and SCA names of all people being preregistered, and an address where we can reach you.

Reservation Refund policy:

If, after sending in a reservation, you are unable to attend, please contact the autocrat before the event. Site fees & merchant fees will be refunded after the event. Feast fees will be refunded if we are able to resell your feast space.

Site notes:

The NJ Transit train station (Raritan Valley line) is less than half a mile from the site. The hall is handicapped-accessible – handicap parking is behind the building. No flames of any kind are allowed at the feast.

Contact:

You can reach the autocrat, Mistress Jessa d'Avondale, at mlecin@optonline.net or 732-563-1029.

Directions:

Westfield National Guard Armory (500 Rahway Avenue)

(For other directions, contact the autocrat, or use maps.google.com)

By Train (NJ Transit - Raritan Valley Line):

At the Westfield station, get to the south side of the tracks. Go to the right (West) on South Avenue, then turn left onto Westfield Avenue. Turn right onto First Street, continue for 0.2 miles. Turn left onto Rahway Ave, the Armory will be on your right. Total distance is less than half a mile.

From Garden State Parkway – exit 135:

The parkway exit puts you on a circle – exit onto Central Avenue, towards Westfield. Go 2 miles, turn left on West Grove. Go .5 miles to the T-

intersection; turn right on Rahway Ave. The Armory is 0.7 miles ahead on left.

From Route 22:

At the Sears in Watchung, NJ, go South on Terrill Road (Westbound: take the jughandle after the Blue Star Plaza). Go about 1 mile, after crossing the bridge over the train tracks, turn left on Route 28/South Avenue. Go 2.5 miles to the light at West Broad St and turn right, make an immediate left onto Rahway Ave. The armory will be on your left.

NJ Turnpike:

Take exit 11 for Garden State Parkway North, follow as above.

Event Website: www.settmourswamp.eastkingdom.org/events

At-a-Glance Event Information

Site:

Westfield National Guard Armory
500 Rahway Avenue
Westfield, NJ 07090

[Show me a map!](#)

Site Opens: 10 am

Site Closes: 10 pm

Event Fees:

Site : \$10 for adults (\$13 for non-members),
\$5 for children (6-17).

Feast: \$7 (regardless of age – but infants or very small children who will not be taking up a chair need not pay for the feast.)

Send Reservations to:

Baroness Elizabeth Hawkwood c/o: Beth Dobo, 71 Sky Manor Road, Pittstown, NJ 08867. Please include the modern and SCA names of all guests, children's ages, the type of reservations, and a self-addressed stamped envelope.

Merchant Day/feast reservations should be sent to the Merchant Liaison.

Autocrat:

Jessa d'Avondale - Marla Lecin, 362 Cherry Avenue, Bound Brook, NJ 08805. mlecin@optonline.net; 732-563-1029

Other Contact Information:

Merchant Liaison: Lord Malcolm Bowman (Murray Blehart); malcolm@sourcechronicles.com; 201-343-4294. Murray Blehart, 289 Elm Avenue, Bogota, NJ 07603.

Make Checks Payable to: SCA Inc - Barony of Settmour Swamp

A Solstice Saga

by Morgaine Sidhe Rodbjorn an Bheithir with assistance from Lady Lydia

The Aesir were gathered in the Feast Hall of Asgard for the Winter Solstice Celebration; they were very, very hungry and were growing weary of the wait; for it was written by the Norns, the Weird Sisters, at the beginning of time that the Aesir must have their Solstice Feast before the light of the next day's Sun was full or Dire Consequences would befall them all. And there was a Festival Hourglass with sand trickling out that the Norns had set into motion.

So, they waited. And still they waited. Soon, it came to pass that Frigga Allmother went to into the kitchen to inquire as to the delay. It seemed that someone had given the help off, this Holiday Eve, as a reward for good service. The blame would not be laid amiss at the feet of Loki the Trickster; for he wanted to discover what the Dire Consequences would be.

The Gods, Odin, Frigga, Thor and Sif, Loki, Hel, Baldur and Nanna, Heimdall, Tyr, Frey and Freya and the myriad of Other Gods who Dwell in Asgard debated they went back and forth as to what they should do in order that their Feast might come to pass and the year might successfully turn. Finally, Frigga Allmother, stood and declared, "I shall have no more of this bickering in My House. We shall look to Midgard to find the mortal most fit to cook the food that is extraordinary enough to be set upon Our Table". So She Decreed; so it was Done.

Each of the Aesir had their own favourite mortals and put them forth; some of them not even cooks! What madness was this? The Gods could not possibly cook their own feast, they are Gods; and They do not know how. And the Feast must be served before the Solstice passes; as set forth by the Norns, for None but One wished to be apprised of the Dire Consequences. They argued and talked amongst themselves; Thunderbolts and Lightning were hurled, storm clouds gathered up in the rafters of Asgard. The mountains rumbled with the Conversations of the Gods.

They searched and searched, viewing candidate after candidate on Midgard and none seemed fit even to serve the Gods their drink, let alone prepare it. Finally, Odin, the Allfather, became fed up with the noise his family was making. He stood and hurled the hourglass against the wall and all of the remaining sand trickled out. At this the Norns, the Wisest Ones came from their corner in the Hall and said to Odin, "We have seen the One, Odin, your Chosen from

amongst the Mortals". Odin cried, "Yes. Yes, he is the one. He is a "doer, a maker, a leader...born to play his part" {"Myths of the Norsemen", RL Green p. 22}, Favourite of Mine from amongst the Humans. I shall show him to you now! And you shall attend!"

And so, Odin spilled the ale remaining in his drinking horn onto a plate on the table and waved his hand over it and scribed for his Chosen One. He cast his Eye upon it and the scene in the plate resolved to show the bearded face of a human man. The scene widened and the Gods were able to see a Great Bear of a Man in a Bright Red Mechanical Conveyance. They saw that he too, was on a quest for the things he needed to cook his own Annual Solstice Feast; as was his wont. He is a leader of Men and Women and feels it his Duty to feed his people; it is also his Joy.

The time before the Solstice Sun would rise passes quickly, so Odin dispatched his Daughters, the Valkyrie, to spirit this Mortal away from his home on Midgard so that he might prepare for the Gods their Solstice Feast.

This Bear of a Man, his name among the Humans was Carl Irik; The Valkyrie plucked him from his chariot quickly; set him upon their mounts and ushered him across Bifrost, the Rainbow Bridge to Asgard. Heimdall, Bifrost's Guardian, afforded him Great Honour and bowed him through the Gates of Asgard.

Carl Irik found himself in the Feast Hall of Asgard, surrounded by the Aesir and was momentarily confused. "I have no time for this foolishness," he thought, "this must be a prank. I have a Feast to prepare for my people". As if in response to his thoughts, Odin said, "I know, Carl Irik, that your people await the Feast that you yearly cook for them. But We need you here, to cook our Feast, for Us. It seems that someone," His One Eye trained upon Loki, "Has dismissed our Cooks for the nonce. Since you are My Chosen Favourite Mortal, because I have long observed you and found you to be a Leader among Men and a Provider for your own people; We have Chosen you to cook Our Solstice Feast; you are the only one who is Worthy. Can you do this task that we have set you, so that the Year may Turn for all?"

"Yes." said Carl Irik as he realized what had befallen him, "I can." And he was shown into the Kitchens of the Halls of Asgard. He surveyed the ingredients that had been set out by the absent cooks. He nodded to himself and with acceptance said, "It will be an honour to prepare for you a Solstice Feast the likes of which you have never before seen or tasted!" Frigga promised him, "You shall have the finest foodstuffs at your disposal; you may pick herbs and spices

from the very branches of Yggdrasill with which to flavour our meal. You shall use the very Fires of the Sun and Moon with which to cook our Meat". "Thank you", he said, "I shall use them well. But as you have charged me with this task I ask that you now permit me to carry it out". And Lo! As he shooed the Gods, albeit politely, out of what was now His Kitchen; he firmly and definitely had the situation in hand and under control. He began his preparations; he set the fowl a-brining, the joint a-roasting and the asparagus a-vinegretting.

Time must have passed, for Carl Irik heard a rumbling from the Hall; it grew louder and louder. He entered the Hall from the kitchens to find the Aesir hurling at one another dishes and bread, Thunderbolts and Lightning, drinking horns, indeed, anything that was not nailed to the floor of the Hall. Thor grew impatient, and banged his mighty fist on the table, breaking the fine, thick wood, and said loudly, "Give us our Solstice Feast! We are hungry and the time grows short!" As all of the Aesir gave voice to their hunger, Carl Irik could not hear himself think. With much experience in calming the most rambunctious of Feasters, he said firmly, making sure he was heard over the rumbling of the Bellies of the Gods, "I will serve no Feast before its time".

"Please, my Lords and Ladies, allow me to assuage your mighty appetites with some Spirits". And as if by Magic, flasks of Fine Potables appeared. "Here are some of my Homebrews," he said with a twinkle in his Blue Eyes, "Have a Beer. Relax"; he flashed a knowing grin as he turned back to the Kitchen to complete his assigned task.

And so the hours passed and the Gods became more and more restless, behaving like silly children in the throes of their increasing drunkenness and hunger pangs.

Carl Irik made very good Homebrew.

Loki Troublemaker, slipped out from the fray and into the kitchens and demanded of this mortal, "What is taking so long? Our hunger grows by the moment!" "Perhaps", he thought, "I can stir up some more delightful disarray". But before he knew what befell him, Loki found himself with a knife in his hand. "What has happened?", he wondered. And Lo! It seems that Carl Irik set to work, Loki the Trickster, who thrives on disorder, to neatly chopping the leeks.

Thor, the Thunderer scanned the Hall and noticed that his brother was missing. He went into the kitchens to stop Loki doing whatever mischief he was surely at in order to further postpone our Feast; only to find Loki engaged in a task that was both necessary and even more shocking than that, helpful! Thor found The Jokester chatting amiably with Carl Irik. Soon, as if in a blur, Thor found himself stirring a large stewpot. "Is this Lamb?", he queried The Cook. "Yes",

Carl Irik smiled, "And when you are done with that stew, you can bring out that Big Hammer of yours; these potatoes need to be smashed. No lumps." And so did Mjолnir make short work of those potatoes.

And as the hunger gnawed at their Godly Bellies, as the Year ran out, one by one, the Aesir popped their heads into Carl Irik's Kitchens to try to hurry their long awaited Feast. And one by one they disappeared into the kitchens of Carl Irik and found themselves chopping or stirring or kneading or basting. And soon all of Them, the Great Gods of the Norsemen found themselves happily helping to cook their own Solstice Feast.

And has such a thing ever happened before, in all of the Annals of Asgard? How has this come to pass? How had this Man, this Human, this Carl Irik, who was brought from Midgard to cook for Them, coerced the Gods into helping cook Their Own meal? "And", thought Odin Allfather, "We are making merry with each other whilst doing it. My family is working and talking and laughing together. Together! And with no violence to mar this Time of Change! A Great Feat, indeed". This Man was possessed of very strong Magic; he had it in him always; that is why he was Odin's Chosen.

And so, Odin Allfather, after having eaten this Godly Solstice Feast, ensuring the Turning of the year, pushed his chair away from the great table, patted his belly in contentment and breathed a sigh of pure happiness.

Odin's family, the Aesir, were making noise and laughing as he could never recall them having done before. As the sounds of eating and drinking began to wane, he looked questioningly at Frigga, who knew her Husband's mind well, nodded her agreement. And Odin bade the Aesir be silent; and lo, this eventually came to pass.

"For this Wondrous Feat that he has carried out; this Feat that none other has ever accomplished, this Feat of bringing the Aesir together to dine as a family, in Happiness and Good Cheer, allowing the Year to Turn in its proper time; Carl Irik, Mortal shall be elevated to Our Order and become Aesir.

He shall hereafter be known as:

"Carl Irik Rodbjorn, God of the Kitchen".

(...in a very real and legally binding sense...)

Canton of Marwick Officers

<http://www.marwick.eastkingdom.org>

Seneschal: Mistress Jessa d'Avondale (Marla Lecin)732-563-1029

362 Cherry Avenue, Bound Brook, NJ 08805webmaster@...

Knight Marshal: Lord Simon Fitzgilbert (Scott Thomas)908-259-9070

ScottT88@comcast.net

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