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# Ramshaven Herald

A.S. XLVII November 2012

## Where'd the Time Go?

Baronial site	<a href="http://www.ramshaven.com">www.ramshaven.com</a>
Online group	<a href="http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SCA-Ramshaven">Http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SCA-Ramshaven</a>
Bryniau Tywynnog	<a href="http://www.treheim.ca/bryniau">Http://www.treheim.ca/bryniau</a>
Der Welfengau	<a href="https://sites.google.com/site/cantonofderwelfengau/home">Https://sites.google.com/site/cantonofderwelfengau/home</a>
Kingdom of Ealdormere	<a href="http://www.ealdormere.ca">Www.ealdormere.ca</a>
Upcoming Events	<a href="http://www.ealdormere.ca/listcalendar.php">Www.ealdormere.ca/listcalendar.php</a>

## From Our Baron and Baroness...

It seems time passes quickly while having fun and being busy. Since Pennsic War we have experienced Baron's Howe, which was a wonderful opportunity to camp with the northerners, witness Mjoll Ulfsdottir receive her Orion, cheer on the heavy armour combatants in one of the most entertaining torchlight tourneys we have witnessed so far, and hang out with "Our" Majesties (now our Graces) Edward and Rylyn.

Coronation was in the far North of Ealdormere. Tears fell while we listened to the heartfelt thank you's Our Queen delivered. I was thankful my linen veil was reasonably soft as it doubled as a handkerchief that day. The populace of Ealdormere was excited to hear that, for the reign of our new Majesties Roak V and Elizabeth I, we must consume chocolate! Wassail to that! Mind, the King proclaimed that we should partake in Airag, which is fermented mares milk. I am sure their reign will be both interesting and entertaining. We look forward to seeing them at Wassail for the clash of the Spanish and Portuguese.

Pumpkinfest Goes Medieval was a huge success - thanks to all who came to participate. 52 volunteers in all attended, including Their Majesties. We were pleased to see so many new members participate from Ramshaven. The weather was chilly in the eve, but the sunshine in the day (despite the weather forecast) was more than ample to warm our bones. The Pumpkinfest committee was so impressed with our group that we have been promised a prime piece of land should we wish to return next year. Wassail to all who attended! Not only did you contribute to the great success, but made our hearts swell with pride.

Huntsman's Harvest, a Ben Dunfirth gathering, doubled their numbers this year. More heavy fighters, more fencers, more archers than in previous years. It was wonderful to see so many from Ramshaven attend, including our parents, THL Kolbjorn, and THL Wencendl our archery

champion. She shot very well for the pride of Ramshaven. Eileen of the March was a true inspiration at the Pumpkinfest Demo. She not only talked to on-lookers explaining different crafts and materials but also encouraged and donned her fencing kit to impress the crowds. For this, we entrusted her with our summer tag-a-long medieval newbies, Patch and Petal. The potluck feast had us pleasantly stuffed with such an array of dishes that they had to be divided into removes! Thankfully, the drive home was uneventful as we were both very sleepy with our full tummies and a very full day.



Scotchtoberfest was a fantastic experience. The fighting, the fencing - side by side the Scots and the Germans battling it out for first place. So much fun, I can't remember who won in the end! The feast was excellent, and we enjoyed a Bardic Circle late into the night. In court, we proudly presented Robert of the Great Sword, Lord Herr Röd Grönwith and his lovely Elizabeth, our first award of the Guidon de Sang. It was interesting to learn that Emir nic Aiden was previously awarded to be an honorary member of Ramshaven. We are pleased to have Emir's patronage and therefore, extended the honour.

Crown Tournament was also a wonderful event. Congratulations to Their Royal Highnesses Trumbrand & Kaylah!

The Kingdom A&S goodie bag is full to the rim - thanks to everyone who donated! There are so

many interesting items. We wonder who the lucky winner will be?

We are looking forward to seeing everyone at Wassail. It should prove to be a most interesting event as the Spanish battle the Portuguese in the mysterious Yucatan. The Mayan lunch counter sounds particularly intriguing. I believe I get to be a judge for the cookie cook off. Yay! What will everyone come up with for the pot luck feast?

Some exciting things to look forward to:

Sweat shop tabard making! As soon as we get the fabric ordered we will set up schedules.

How thrifty can we be? Out of the same fabric we will create interesting Ramshaven attire for the rest of our marshaled activity participants. Kit, from Der Welfengau, came forward with a fabulous article earned from Alyce de Sheppy which will make our fencers look unified and dignified.

What else can we squeeze from our fabric? Our Herald apparently looks shabby and also needs to be up-dated and unified with Heralds of our great Kingdom. Ten panels of embroidery...or paint or applique. The patterns are pre-determined we just need to do the work. Or we could spend a pile of money and have someone do it for us. Let us know what you think?

If there are any further ideas you would like to share with us please feel free to contact us at [penda.sibylla@gmail.com](mailto:penda.sibylla@gmail.com)

We have also updated the Ramshaven Roll of Honour which can be located at [http://www.ramshaven.com/the\\_barony.html#officer\\_awards](http://www.ramshaven.com/the_barony.html#officer_awards). In addition there have been some updates to the website, with most of the 'more content to follow sections' now filled in.

Well Wishes to Everyone,

Penda & Sibylla, Baron and Baroness of Ramshaven

## About Airag

By Penda and Sibylla

Airag is the traditional national beverage of Mongolia. The most important animal of the Mongols is the horse. Horses don't only serve as riding animals - the mare's milk also has a special status.

Preparation:

The milk is filtered through a cloth, and poured into a large open leather sack (Khukhuur), which is usually suspended next to the entrance of the yurt. Alternatively, a vat from larch wood (Gan), or in modern times plastic, can be used. Within this container, the milk gets stirred with a wooden masher (buluur).

The stirring needs to be repeated regularly over one or two days. Traditionally, anyone entering or leaving the yurt would do a few strokes. The fermentation process is caused by a combination of lactic acid, bacteria, and yeast, similar to Kefir. The stirring makes sure that all parts of the milk are fermented equally.



Airag refreshes, and sparkles softly on the tongue. It contains a small amount of carbon dioxide, and up to 2% of alcohol. The taste is slightly sour, but quite agreeable after getting used to it. The exact taste depends both on the characteristics of the pastures, and the exact

method of production. The beverage is a rich source of vitamins and minerals for the nomads. Hospitality mandates to present a bowl of airag to each visitor. A Mongolian will normally empty it, but it is also acceptable to just take a sip and return the bowl. To reject the offer right away would be gravely impolite.

Similar to [Isgelen Tarag](#) (Kefir), it is possible, but not as common, to distill Airag into [Mongol Arkhi](#) (milk liquor).

#### Health Questions:

Mare's milk is usually not consumed raw, because it tends to have a strong laxative effect (that effect can also be applied for medical treatment). Instead, it almost always gets fermented into Airag. Fermentation destroys the lactose in milk, converting it into lactic acid, ethanol, and carbon dioxide. This makes Airag acceptable for lactose intolerant people, which includes many Mongolians. Without fermentation, mare's milk contains significantly more lactose than milk from cows or yaks.

## Heraldrydiculous

By Khevron



Heraldrydiculous comics and other fun Heraldry funnies can be found at [www.Khevron.com](http://www.Khevron.com) ...

## Middle Ages on the Green 2!

Bryniau's second installment of MAG on August the 25th, was another successful, idyllic picnic day of music, games, combat and fun. This year held at Laurel Creek Conservation Area, at the

Critter Picnic Shelter, we hosted a number of new people, for whom this was their very first event, as well as a number of curious park visitors. Many thanks to Gerard taking care of the rapier list, then HRH, now His Grace Sir Edward for looking after the combat field, Catriona and Daniel for Thrown Weapons, Cu for the website and organizing badminton, then HRH now Her Grace Rylyn for bringing the roast and having the period bbq set up, and my dear family for helping with set up and take down. Indeed, many thanks to all, for everybody had their part in this magical day!

## From Duchess Rylyn's Cooke booke: Soft Cheese

Special thanks to Leslie Falzone for this recipe

Heat 4 liters of Homo milk with a little bit of salt until just about boiling, not boiling however. (Around 100 degree C if you are using a candy thermometer)

Turn off the heat, stir in 1/3 cup of malt vinegar. Give it a very tiny stir, just like one 's' shape in the pot. It should start to curdle. If it does not add some more souring agent, do not stir this time.

Let it cool, as long as you like, a couple of hours if you want or cover it and put it on your back porch to cool faster. (or in the snow)

Then gather up the curds in cheese cloth. Let hang to dry, it can be as wet or as dry as you would like. I left it overnight.

You can use any souring agent (lemon juice or other vinegar) for this cheese and it makes a big difference as it is the main flavouring agent.

## Wassail 2012: Conquest of the Yucatan

Saturday December 15th, 2012 9am-10pm  
St. Agatha Community Centre

The year is 1527 A.D. In the sweltering jungles of the Yucatan, groups of Spanish and Portuguese conquistadors are staking their claim to the rich lands of the Mayans, in order to take their gold before the others!

Choose your side, and take part in the many activities of the day to claim territories on the map of the Yucatan. The most effective conquistadors not only win the lion's share of the gold (and bragging rights), but also get first crack at the ship's rations (also known as the Pot Luck Feast!)

Check out the event website, <http://wassail.lilleypress.com> for full details on the day's events, including details on Lord Dietrich's Bardic Challenge!



## Follow Us on to Glory

By Dietrich von Sachsen, to the tune of Follow Me up to Carlow

Harken now unto my words,  
I sing of Eald'mere's western lords,  
Of their green lands and mighty hoards,  
With gold and silver laden.  
Gentles all, kind and brave,  
Skilled with pen and voice and blade  
Who make the foe-men all afraid,  
The folk of bold Ramshaven!

### CHORUS:

Curse and swear, run in fear,  
Rams will do whate'er they dare,  
Now ye Southrons have a care,  
And quake before our fury.  
Up with polearm, out with sword,  
On we'll go, with flags unfurled,  
At the foe; we've given the word,  
Follow us on to glory!

See our bright swords in the Van,  
Charging forward 'cross the land,  
See all the children of the Ram  
Beneath our banners Scarlet.  
We are born of fighting stock,  
We'll hold firm like a rock,  
And give the foe-men quite a shock,  
When we throw down the gauntlet!

### CHORUS

From Tor Brant to Trino',  
Does our fame and repute grow,  
Of Welfengau and Bryniau  
Our deeds with glory blazing!  
When in forge or in the field,  
Our brave folk take up the shield,  
And we never shall flee or yield,  
From where the Rams take haven!

### CHORUS x2

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