

The coat of arms of the Canton of Ardchreag is a shield-shaped emblem. At the top, there are three red mountain peaks. Below the peaks are two green laurel wreaths. The central part of the shield is a dark green field with a white cross. The cross has four arrows pointing outwards from its center. The shield is set against a background of the title text.

The Histories of the Canton of Ardchreag

Part the First, penned by Lord Raffe Scholemaystre

So, thus begins the historie of the canton of Ardchreag. A group young but old, experienced and novice, a group that was looking to the future while revering the Past. It was the Canton upon the Cliffs.

April XXV

It was in the month of April, A.S. XXV and those who were to found the canton on the cliffs to the east of that old fort of Eoforwic, began by gathering out on those very cliffs to arch.

As the arrows flew a camaraderie developed among this group of archers, many of whom resided in this unsettled area sometimes called Scarborough and Pickering. These gentles had to travel far to the keep at Eoforwic, though they did keep good company there. During a meal of pastries, they began to discuss the founding of a settlement in the east. The gentles felt that it was worthy of further discussion.

Later that same month, at the Ealdormere Arts and Science Fair, hosted at Skeldergate, the gentles from the cliffs began to lay the foundation to the new group. The gentles that were involved with these early discussions were: Alan of the Highcliff, Ayriel Blackwood, Raffe Scholemaystre, Raedmund de Arden and Siegfried Brandboern.

May and June XXVI

The slow development of the group took place over May and June AS XXVII. Readmund and Siegfried first authorized during this time, Siegfried did so at the festival at Orangeville. Raffe was designated as acting Seneschal and gentles old and new expressed interest in settling in the new canton. This core began to attend activities throughout the principality, identifying themselves with the purposed canton.

The Group met formally for the first time on June 6. The Principality Seneschal, Master Ricard of Sabletree and Lady Nicholaa of Eoforwic attended to add support and advice to the group. Raffe Scholemaystre became the groups designated Seneschal, Margaret was noted as Minister of Arts and Science with Readmund acting as her Deputy. Siegfried Brandbeorn was chosen to act as Pursuivant. Alan was nominated as Archery Lieutenant, while Rhys yr Saethydd became our qualified chiurgeon. Also in attendance was Ayriel, Jhered and Sam Forkbeard.

The group also settled upon Canton Upon-the-Cliffs, as an acting name for the group. They decided not to settle on a name until October so that gentles who became members in the early fall would be part of the discussion. The group continued to arch together throughout this month.

August XXVI

The time had come: the rumours were true. Hostility had again led to our good forces meeting with those of the East again in combat at the Debatable Lands. A number of Gentles from the Cliffs attended to Stand with the Ealdoremerean Prince, Kildare and his beautiful Princess Katherine and his Liege, King Ronin and the fair Queen Ka tya.

The tension was high as the King Ronin met his brother King Randal of the East. The two forces were lined facing each other when the kings began to argue. An arrow was brought forth to be broken in twain to indicate that combat was necessary to settle their dispute. Yet by something akin to divine intervention, the arrow would not snap. The Kings took this to be a sign and declared the hostilities over and suggested that a Grand Tournament be held in its place. Although many gentles from the north still felt the desire to war with their cousins from the Eastern Kingdom they accepted the word of their King and Fought Bravely for Ealdormere. Siegfried, Readmund and Agnar fought at this Pennsic, Siegfried and Redmund for the first time.

While at Pennsic XXI, the Curia of the Middle Kingdom met. The discussion of whether the Canton Upon-the-Cliffs be accepted at this time or not was dependent on two factors. Firstly, Duke Palymer requested that we appoint a Marshal and secondly, the note from the Pursuivant Seigfried, had yet to reach the Dragon Herald, Talan. Raffé and Seigfried were able to solve this problem and receive Talan's acceptance and the group was officially recognized as the Incipient Canton Upon-the-Cliffs, at the middle Kingdom's War Court. Although the Middle Kingdom lost the Greatest Whacking Tourney in the Knowne World, the new canton came away from Pennsic as the newest group in Ealdormere.

The fledgling Canton-Upon-the-Cliffs returned to that northern Jewel of the Crown, Septentria, following the coming of peace at Pennsic XXI. Although the Kingdom was defeated by the Tiger, it had birthed a new canton.

Shortly following the war, Sam Forkbeard invited all good gentles wishing to settle in the new canton to feast and revel at his humble keep. Many good gentles did answer the call, while many friends, such as Master Hector and Lady Madinia came to give support. A good time was had by all. As the fires burned low Raffé, Sam, Alan and Connor talked of Households. The discussion was lively, however at that time no households were formed.

September to December XXVI

In early September the canton moved into its Keep. This keep was during other times kept as a schoolhouse, in the area known as Clairlea. The hearth was set and the good gentles gathered to talk, share and dream about the Knowne World. The group met on the second day of the week, from seven bells to ten bells.

The group discussed many different names before settling on the name Ardchreag, which was Gaelic for High cliffs. This name was adopted and the Canton-upon-the-cliffs had a true name

Shortly after the group formed Connor was awarded his Arms and there was much mirth at his disdain for the given honour. The group also started to prepare to host not one but two events in the new year. Raedmund continued to impress all with both his skills as a Fighter and his skills as an Artisan. He hearkened back to the olden days of Septentria. The group was slowly developing a distinct personality, as a group that worked hard but had a (slightly warped) sense of humour. As the Yule time approached all was well in the young canton.

January XXVI

The good gentles of Petrea Thule held the Septentrian Twelfth Night in January of AS XXVII. A lively group of gentles were present and the Canton's first household started to take shape. The House BlackArd, headed by Siegfried, came into being. Other members included Alan, Connor, Raedmund, Rhys, Sam, Drac, Alexa & Thorvald.

On the 24th of January, the canton held its first event: Persona Pursuits. This was based on an idea that Raffé had originally presented as a small workshop but which grew into a full event. Alexandrina handled all the

logistics of the event as Autocrat, while Raffe, as Guestocrat, dealt with contacting the different period specialists. The feast was a Pot-luck. Which was presided over by Drac. About 75 gentles came out on the rainy day to the Ajax Cricket Club (booked with the help of Thorvald) for a day of discussing history and the concept of persona. All in all the day was a success.

February XXVI

In February, Raedmund attended the Estrella War and our Canton held its second event: The Second Almost Spring Archery Shoot. This event unfortunately conflicted with the Skrael Practicum which did hinder turnout. Lady Elise autocrated this event, with Sam Forkbeard as co-Autocrat. Raffe ran a games competition and Margaret cooked a well-received feast. The event, being held on the 27th of the month, fell on Raffe's birthday. To honour this (and because the Royalty had to back out due to illness) the Kitchen presented him with a peacock. It was an enjoyable event.

March to April XXVI

It was during these times that the canton chose to inquire of the graphic artist David Sim about the usage of his character, Cerebus. He gave us permission to use his character and we gained our first mascot. About this time the group also found a tavern to gather after a meeting, it was called the Scotch Corner.

In the Spring of the year our new Marshal, Raedmund de Arden, began our first regular fight practices. They were held in a local commons off Eglinton road near McCowan. Raedmund, Raffe, Drac, Leodegrance, Alexa and others turned out. Slowly, Raffe was beaten into good fighting shape and was soon ready to authorize.

When the decision to split Septentria had been made a year previously, our Baron Cordigan and Baroness Diana, who had settled in the area of the new barony, stepped down and they sought successors. The search had started the previous spring and the short list of Lady Ursala & Thane Grimwulf, Lady Katherine & Lord Odd and Lord Ieuian & Lady Adrielle was polled. At The VII Ealdormerean Coronet Tourney at Trinovantia Nova did Ieuian McKellmore and Adrielle Kerrac become our Baron and Baroness of Septentria. At this time, as well, Raffe received his Award of Arms.

May XXVII

As the Summer approached the canton prepared to host the First Septentrian War Practice. The site had been found and preparations were well on the way.

In May, many gentles traveled to Bryniau Tywynnog to celebrate the First Rites of Spring. This event included Fighting, Archery (across a pond) and many other activities. In a typical Chreaggar manner, bread balls flew a plenty. The young Prince Killdare and Princess Leila were on hand to enjoy the day.

June to July XXVII

Early in June, many of the canton did travel to Petrea Thule to enjoy the Pikeman's Pleasure. At this event there was a lady called Olga, who took many a breath away. Some said that she looked like Wee Duncan, but I do not know. She (and Duncan himself) became more physical after being hit by a cloven bread ball, tossed, as the rumours said, by a certain French Alchemist.

Gentles also attended Market day, survived the heat of Murder Melee and visited the Italian Renaissance. Also, Raffe and Siegfried hunted Unicorns at Tor Brant. June was a busy month for the gentles of Ardchreag.

On that first weekend of the summer, the gentles of our fair Canton did invite all the gentles of Septentria and Ealdormere to a War Practice held at a place called the Heber Downs. Siegfried did a good job acting as the autocrat, while Utsi opened the first Tavern. The fighting was sluggish due to the heat, but somehow Raffé was able to Authorize. (Pity, I suppose.)

The Tavern, run by Ursala, was enjoyed by all who ate there. Most were amazed at the work Alan was doing on his Pavilion, and at Sylar's forge. At the Canton's Birthday Bash, Justinian sang and Flying Turtles were first sighted by Margaret. They were sighted many more times that evening, due to a keg brought by Ulvar. During the reveling did Lord Raffé insult Lord Vlad with his tippets and this led to a challenge. Vlad challenged Raffé to a duel at the next Septentrian War practice, the weapon being Vodka.

The Baroness was so pleased with this site upon the Downs that she ordered that this event become a regular part of the Septentrian Calendar.

The canton for the summer met at a grammar school nearby Clairlea, as its doors were shut during the summer. Here Marion first entered the society, although she shortly would be off to Bryniau Tywynnog. It was here that Blaine first put his eyes on her and both were smitten.

August XXVII

After the first War Practice, the Canton was preparing for its first trip to War as an established canton. Alan and Highcliffs worked hard to secure us a little piece of heaven down by the old Septentrian swimming hole.

The site was nice and cool and away from the hustle and bustle of Pennsic. The river flowed by and the trees gave shade. Many gentles spent many hours resting in the hammock. Gaerwen, Gwynfyr and Anthea all of Eoforwic joined the Band from the Cliffs. For Eoforwic had been sent to the far reaches of Pennsic, upon the Saringtie, near the rolling sea. Gaerwen was to become an unofficial Ardchreager for each Pennsic ever after.

The War went as usual, with the East the victor but many good battles were fought. Raedmund, Siegfried, Berus and Raffé all fought at Pennsic XXII. Raffé acted as the Standard Bearer for the Baron of Septentria.

In the course of the week Jhered and Katerina had some misadventures and Raedmund was again dressed in pink. (The Baroness had bumped her head and couldn't remember him fulfilling his pledge....) and Berus, Raedmund, Raffé, and Alan each received a Bears Claw.

Berus entered into a Chivalric friendship with the Queen that deserves to be told in full by a better storyteller than this scribe.

September XXVII

The canton returned to the northlands in good spirits. We had had a very successful first year: three successful events and a pleasant encampment at Pennsic. As we entered our second year, the canton returned to the warmth of its keep at Clairlea. Many Gentles wandered to events through out the Principality and a few ventured down to the Midrealm proper.

Raffé had bought a keep and was pleased at the number of Chreaggers that came out to help him pack his wagons. The canton showed the community spirit that a mature group has.

In September, Alan and Highcliffs and Raedmund de Arden both received well deserved Awards of Arms.

The canton waited through out the fall for its name to be accepted by the College of Heraldry. This was the last major requirement that the canton required to go to full status. By this time both the Kingdom and Principality Seneschal expressed the opinion that we were ready to be full status. But we had to wait a while longer on the heralds.

Margaret expressed her desire to step down in the early fall and this was to be the first of many changes in the ranks of the officers over that fall.

October XXVII

October A.S. XXVII ended with many from the canton visiting Greyfells for their event. However, none were able to get on to feast so the Chreaggers tried to go a freakin'. Due to it being the Halloween weekend, they were not successful.

At the Feast of the Hare our good Baron & Baroness laid claim to the Skrael. The Skrael force was almost crushed except for the Bravery of Cennedi who defeated two foes but finally succumbed to Edouard.

November to December XXVII

Shortly thereafter the Principality gathered at Bryniau Tywynog for the Wassail. There was much merry making and silliness, with Raffe being chained to an incredibly ugly woman who looked a bit like Blaine. Many that day went and sang the season around the town.

At the dance event at Skeldergate, two surprise individuals arrived, as well as all of the knights in the Principality. These two were the King, Sir Finn and His Prince, Sir Jafar. Something was afoot. At court that day, Prince Cordigan was put on Vigil for his knighthood.

January XXVII

In January AS XXVII, Raedmund stepped down as Marshal after Domesday and Berus Wolfsonne became the new group marshal. He instituted the alternating of meeting nights with fight practices. This was to continue for quite some time. The group gathered in December for its Wassail and again January for our 12th night gift exchange. It was again by draw. While, Kenneth was selected to succeed Raffe as seneschal.

Members of the canton, traveled to Monadh for their first New Year's Day event and enjoyed the Archery and revelry greatly. The Baronial 12th Night was held in Bryniau Tywynnog. This last Septentrian 12th night held before the division was a pleasant one. Gentles traveled far and wide through that winter visiting places through out the region. While at home Katerina continued planning, in conjunction with Thevenin, the Ealdormere Arts and Science Fair, which Ardchreag was hosting.

For a while Archery was offered on both Mondays and Fridays. Though Friday was the choice of the archers, Alan could not always attend, and did miss a few evenings helping with the marshalling.

At the Kingdom 12th Night, Thorbjorn Osis was placed on vigil for his Knighthood and received such two weeks later at Coronet Tourney. At that time Gunther won the Coronet for his lady wife Jolicia.

February to March XXVII

Master Sylard journeyed far to share his knowledge of pewter casting with us in March. It was well received and enjoyed by all. Drac continued his training to authorize in the spring. The Canton held a school Demo at the collegiate that Edrick was a student at and this was to have a profound effect on the canton.

Also in the early spring, the Heralds sent back word that the name Ardchreag had passed. We were ready to apply for full status. The turmoil that had surrounded the Tankard was resolved when Sam stepped down due to work related issues and Bridghid became chronicler with Edrick as her deputy.

At the Ice Dragon, in the East Realm, Edouard, Richard Larmar, Alfwine, Readmund and Siegfried, fought well in the five-man Bearpit and did the Barony proud. At the Clancy Day, Prince Cordigan had his buffet and was thus made Ealdormere's sixth active knight. At Gunther & Jolecia's investiture, at Vest Yorvic, did our Baron and Baroness present pastry in the shape of the White Bear of Septentria.

April XXVII

The canton hosted a small but pleasant Arts & Science Fair in Whitby, during April. It was autocrated by Katerina and Thev, with a Tavern feast by Cameron. There was plenty of dancing, led by a newcomer from the East Kingdom known as Roswitha, who was later known as Rosina. The highlight of the event was Baron Menken's comedy about Sir David and his Squire Cordigan. This amused Seigfreid to no end.

May to June XXVIII

At Pikeman's in early June, The Skrael had aligned with many including the Hrogan to get revenge for the insult at the last feast of the Hare. Fighting was enjoyable and there was a bridge battle over raging water. This was where Luke first ventured out of the keep.

When it became clear that Kenneth would not be able to take the office of Seneschal, he stepped aside. Both Alan and Blaine (who had just recently returned from studies in Bryniau Tywynnog) were approached to take the position. Both agreed that whoever did not win the poll, would act as the deputy to the other. Alan took the poll.

There was a canton encampment at Murder Melee that year. Alan, Drac, Alexa, Sam, Conner and a few others made up this camp at one of the hottest Melees.

July XXVIII

On that first weekend in July, the second Septentrian War Practice was held. As demanded by the Baroness, it was again held at Heber Downs, with Seigfreid as Autocrat. Berus acted as the marshal. There was a woods battle, Vlad's duel with Raffé (Raffé survived). The Tarnished Tankard was run by Utsi. Kelly brought beer and Queen Garlanda was also present. Also here did Drac authorize and Alan did continue to develop the archery field.

Later in the month, at the Coronet Tourney at Bryniau Tywynnog, Earl Syr David beat Viscount Roak to place a coronet on the head of his lady, Elina. This event is also remembered as the event with a swimming hole and a distant site where the tournament itself was held.

August XXVIII

At Pennsic we again camped at what was to become known to some as the Traditional Land of Ardchreag and to others as Ardchreag's Refugee Camp. There was rain, and fire and floods. It was an eventful War. There were many highlights, including the on-the-field Knighting of Prince Gunther and Baron Menken, and later the Laurelling of Madinia for costuming. The Middle again loss the War but we did take the Archery war points. The biggest highlight was when the canton was called up in court and was made full status.

September to October XXVIII

Many Chreaggers traveled to Bonfield and it was enjoyed by all. Thistledown at Monadh, gave Alan many ideas that would produce fruit come next summer. And at Eoforwic's Lord Mayor's Market Day, Berus and Sybille of Amberhall received their Award of Arms.

Der Welfengau hosted the Investiture of David and Elina. Here Moria was made a Baroness of the Court, and Breannon was created a Laurel for her metalworking. Blaine received his Award of Arms.

Greyfells' annual event was held at Wallace Hall, the most beautiful hall used in Ealdormere. Here Herr Conrad of Bryniau Tywynnog did announce his plans to marry Lady Alyse of Greyfells.

The following week, on the day known as Hallow's eve, Ben Dunfirth hosted the Crown Tournament for the Middle Kingdom. Sir Thorbjorn Osis took Sir Stephen to become Crown Prince of the Middle. Osis fought for the lady Valthiona, the wife of his friend Sir Colly,. After receiving his coronet, Osis proposed to his lady, Mistress Caitlain. And Lady Marion of Heatherdale was awarded her Award of Arms.

At the Canton, Lady Bridghid stepped down as chronicler due to her new role as mother to baby Kate, and has only been seen rarely since. Edrick, her deputy, continued in his role with Raffe being selected as her successor. Alexa was busy preparing for Persona Pursuits II, while Raffe and Seigfreid were preparing to step down as Seneschal & Pursuivant respectfully. Melchoir, who had come from Petra Thule, worked on starting a singing group. About this time both Kevin and Matthew settled on the Cliffs.

November XXVIII

On the first Saturday in November, at Persona Pursuits, Raffe passed the large, black, wooden Seneschal's key to Alan while Wolfgang, better known as Drac, drank the cup to become our Pursuivant. The guard had changed. The event was very small with only a few visiting from afar. Katerina and Seigfreid prepared a tasty feast, though there were said to be many adventures in the preparing of it. However, those there did have a good time and thus this event, therefore, could be viewed as a success, even though many coins were lost.

The following week, many attend Feast of the Hare. Shocking to many was Seigfreid donning his armour. Drac, Alexa, Edric and others attended.

The group had a disappointing Halloween Bardic circle, but Rosina continued to teach dance in a manner that few couldn't enjoy. Also at this time the Fighters and the dancers would share the hall once a month. It was an interesting sight. It led one to wonder if Hole in the Wall could be done using rattan to poach?

Word came from the King of Arms that the device of the canton had passed. There was much rejoicing.

December XXVIII

In Early December Lady Etaoin traveled from Drachenfaust, to teach us about felting. After much rubbing a number of hats developed. Notable of these were Alan's green Robin Hood cap and Raffe's Orange ...umm...prophylactic like thing.

On the day of Dec. 4, some Vikings raided Eoforwic, led by Prince Sir Thorbjorn Osis Brandsson. Five Battles were fought, including a Bridge Battle, and a beach battle and a city brawl of fencers. The Spawn held the day and defeated the city dwellers. Many a brave warrior lost his 'life' that day. Many were surprised to see Raffe in armour and more surprised that he was among the last off the field. A good time had by all.

The potluck feast that Lady Ursula na Clann na Rath organized was well received. Lord Callac held a post-revel at his keep. Callac provided some of his renowned Ale for revelers enjoyment.

On December 4, the good gentles of Ealdormere gathered in the forest north of Bryniau Tywynnog to celebrate a Wassail. Although there was no tournament this day much fun was had by all. The goodly host had provided many games for their guests as well as an archer's woods walk hunt. Alan, Luke and Raffé all spent time in questing after the woodland creatures. Luke had a marvelous day, so spoke Alan, being one of the better archers of the day.

The Principality court was again fairly informal with a number of Awards of Arms being given. All were to gentles of the host area. Countess Caitlin held her second on-site A & S activity; this time it was Illumination and Calligraphy. The results were donated to Their Highnesses for their future usage.

The feast was tavern-style and fairly informal. Bread ball fights ensued. The serving wenches' humour was often tried by rowdy gentles and it is hoped that no offence was taken. And if lines were crossed apologies were readily sent. Sir Cordigan's rendition of "Belgar's Song" was a highlight and Justinian's sing-a-longs livened up the feast. The feast was followed by dancing, as well as a snowball fight. Many gentles began their journey home early due to the blowing snow that began late in the afternoon.

January XXVIII

The good gentles of Septentria gathered at St. Brigid's Parish Hall on January 14 to celebrate the Twelfth Night. It was a busy and eventful day. Although the event was hosted by Eoforwic, many Chreaggers spent the day helping Lady Ursula in the kitchen, acting as Herald and doing other tasks in aid of the innkeeper, Lady Ines.

Many notable people seemed to be very different that day. The Baron was shorter and without his spectacles, while the Baroness was not quite herself. Both complained of a head injury. Glandydd seemed shorter and Kes taller. Most strange... Two strangers were at the feast and were named the King and Queen of Fools. The King of Fools said his name was Richard but due to his size was called "Little Dick". Their court was lively. Nicolae was named as executioner and no one was allowed to be as tall as the Queen. Three gentle ladies were named as keeper of the Queen's cocks. The King and Queen sent forth a challenge for all gentles to watch for others not acting as they should and bring them forth. The punishment was to wear the badge of dishonour...the "Brown Nose", a phallic symbol of contempt. Many a good gentle wore this as the day went on.

The revelry consisted of dancing, fighting (both heavy and fencing,) feasting and courts. There were subtlety contests (one for most patriotic, the other for most profane). The Dragon with its "equipment" flaunted won the profane while Raffé's "Lady Ealdormere and the Wolf" won the prize for most patriotic. The feast was excellent in all ways, however, this was a forgone conclusion when it was learned that Lady Ursula would be in charge.

Later in the day, the Baron and Baroness, who seemed more like themselves, held court. Mistress Breannon and Lord Ulvar relieved a Bear's heart for their services and Lord Thevenin de la Cote was given the honour of bearing the Cup of Teach Ceartha Mor till Twelfth Night next. In Our Lord & Lady's view he had been the gentle in Septentria who had best upheld the vision of The Dream. The Baron told a tale of Dwarves and treasure and a gift of the cup wrought in silver and gold; the tale of how Teach Ceartha Mor came to be.

Each Canton paid their taxes. Most followed their order of presenting a new Fighter, fencer or archer bearing a lance with a pinion of their canton on it. Ardchreag, was faulty on this and provided instead a pile of tabard blanks as well as some cloth to offer to the King. It is hoped that we will complete our taxes by the war practice.

The Crown Prince spoke to the gentles and talked about his plans and hopes for Pennsic and I believe that most feel that his changes are just and will insure a safer and more enjoyable War.

The Feast of the Twelfth Night in this 29th year of the Society was a wonderful celebration of Septentria and the dream. Wassail.

The canton's 12th Night activities went well. The gift exchange game was tried for the first time and was a great success. Katerina and Seigfreid prepared a mini-feast (of food not used at Persona Pursuits) for our enjoyment. Hector and Medina visited to give talks and Drac led an interesting discussion of Heraldry. At this

time Kenneth took the mantle to become our new Arts and Science officer replacing the rarely seen Ailith. Matthew stepped in to be our Minister of Children as well.

February to April XXVIII

At the Coronet Tournament at Pont Y Seyth, Readmund, fighting for Countess Catlin, made it to the final four, with Cennedi losing to Roak in the final. Roak was again fighting for Tarkwin. The two other canton members who were scheduled to fight or be fought for were disappointed. Berus had the flu, while Nicholi, fighting for the honour of Katerina was unable to fight. At Court, Eatoin was given a well-deserved Laurel for her work and teaching about felt. Many members of the canton were wearing the proof.

They came and taught a lesson on shoemaking that had people leaving with patterns for shoes and Melchoir gave a talk and demo about Tai Chi.

In March, a few gentles traveled to the small Music Day event at Greyfe lls. It was a quiet but pleasant day attended by Raffé and Edrick. A few other members, Alan, Jhered and Rhys traveled to Flaming Sky for their feast of the Seven Deadly Sins.

Dinas Gardd, Pont y Seath and Caer Draeth co-hosted this years Arts & Sciences Fair. It was generally well attended and had some interesting twists.

Firstly, there was fighting. And at an A & S fair that was news. The fighters had a list out under the cool sun. There was also some fencing indoors later in the afternoon.

A gentle guest had brought with him a nearly completed replica of the Beaux Tapestry, and gave all interested a tour across it. The good gentles later gathered in a lounge upstairs for the performance arts, there were recitals, music and magic.

The feast was pleasant but Mistress Eation had the servers working at a blistering pace and this was the shortest feast I can remember.

Katra and Megan judged, while Raffé entered the Pentathlon. Luke and the Rat also came down from the Cliff for the day.

An amusing day was had by all at the Investiture of TSH Roak II and Tarkwyn II, held at Ben Dunfirth's annual Lady Mary Tournament. The site was spread over several buildings at a Community Centre, and the fighting was outdoors (thank heavens it wasn't raining). The Royals and Nobility who were in attendance were: Her Majesty Queen Rebekah, Their Serene Highnesses David and Elina, Althegn/Prince Roak and Althegna/Princess Tarkwyn, Their Excellencies Baron Byron and Baroness Fiona of Rising Waters, their successors Baron Malik and Baroness Genevieve, and Baron Tarkatai and Baroness Thora of the new Barony of Ben Dunfirth. With all this nobility, it's hardly surprising that there were a lot of courts, and creative ones at that! Raffé had the privilege to serve as court herald for most of them.

In the morning's court, Lady Alainore was again recognized for her service as our exchequer, as was Lady Alexa for her embroidery skills. Tragically, TSH David and Elina succumbed to poison just as Althegn Roak returned with news of his victory over Ealdormere's enemies, and he was made Prince. Althegna Tarkwyn came forward in full armour from her place in Roak's retinue, much to everyone's surprise. David and Elina's bodies were carried from the hall on shields, and the search continues for their assassin.

The Lady Mary Tourney was fought bravely and honourably, and was won by Tarquin the Red (The Queen's Champion). Many claim to have seen the ghosts of the Dead Prince and Princess haunting the field that day....

Mussels and roast duck were among the fine dishes served at feast.

The evening court began memorably with a real fire-breather (Rising Waters' entertainer Lord Poncrats) heralding the entrance of Her Dragon Majesty. The Baron and Baroness of Rising Waters held their last court before handing over their offices (and the Sacred Mummified Chainmail-Wearing Duck) to Malik al-Rahman and Genevieve Chastelaine d'Anjou. The Canton of Ben Dunfirth was elevated to Baronial status, and gifts to the new Baron Tarkatai Bahadur and Baroness Thora Thorikildottir included, strangely enough, the Sacred Mummified

Duck of Rising Waters... let them figure out what to do with it! A Purple Fret was given to "honorary Ardchreager" Gaerwen of Trafford, and the late Elina de Braose returned from the dead to receive her Viscounty coronet.

May XXIX

After a longer than expected trip, the gentles from the Chreag arrived at the site for Thorbjorn Osis and Valthiona's Coronation, set up their tents, socialized and eventually slept.

They rose to a beautiful day. Ardchreag was represented by Berus, Raedmund, Raffé, Katerina, Megan and Luke. There were merchants and other activities such as a May Pole and a running of the hounds throughout the day, as well as a bear pit tourney and Archery.

Shortly after lunch, King Brannos and Queen Rebekah held their final Court. After they had given their final awards Sigurd arrived with a message. The king was summoned to war in the east. He left his queen in the care of the Sisters of Snood. After leaving his Royal Regalia in the care of the Kingdom's great officers, he and a group of followers departed. The Kingdom was without a King.

That evening after feast the populace met at a small chapel near a lake. Two pyres had been lit and the Thrones were sitting on the dais. Sigurd arrived and drawing back his hood, asked for claimants to the throne. Each of Osis' squires came forth, one at a time, each representing a quality of Kingdom: Zadok - strength, Etian - bounty, Sexton - courage, Worrigan (Bubba) - love, Berus - justice, and finally Raedmund - honour. Each had that quality but not enough to rule a kingdom.

Sigurd then asked, "If there was no one who had the virtue, the will of the people and the rule of law, to claim the Dragon Throne?"

Then a cloaked, Sir Thorbjorn Osis strode forward. Pulling off his cloak and pulling his sword, he stated to Sigurd, "I did win this Kingdom. You are between me and something that is mine." Osis stepped to the platform, claimed the crown and placed it on his head. He then took the sword of state swung it high. He was our King.

Valthjona was crowned his Queen, The King and Queen of the East visited and gave gifts. Brannos and Rebekah were called into court to become Count and Countess and Rebekah was named to the Order of the Rose. The Great offices swore fealty. In an interesting change, Osis, called up the Knights, Laurels, Pelicans, Roses and Landed Barons and Baronesses. After each group had sworn fealty, the King asked them to face the populace and charged them to serve the gentles of the Kingdom.

There was reveling late into the night in the King's cabin (shared by both the King of the Middle and the King of the East.) The Squires and a few friends (like Katerina and Megan) played an interesting drinking game.

Early the next day camps were taken down as the long trip back to Ealdormere was begun.

June XXIX

On June the third, the gentles of Ealdormere gathered by the creek for another Pikeman's. It had been a rainy evening and early morn so much of the days activities were held indoors. A large selection of Chreaggers were there, including Luke, Seigfried, Katerina, Megan, Mel, Raffé, Raedmund, Alan, Sebastian, Jhered and Rhys. Luke had brought a newcomer named Michael who had been arching with the canton for some time.

The Archery was enjoyable (especially the Baron shoot) and Countess Caitlin was taught the finer points of archery. The highlight of the fighting was the challenge by Sir Menken to fighting 40 battles. The feast was pleasant and at court Berus was named to the list pending for unbelted champions for Pennsic. Wassail!!!

For the second year in a row, Murder Melee was in the Savannah; however, the temperature was much more pleasant this year due to a cooling breeze. Master Hector was placed on his second vigil, this time for a

Pelican, Elaine (Pronounced Avolane) received a Laurel in Herbalism and Rhys ap Bledri was squired to Sir Mordain. Wassail to All!!!!

The 10 men Melee combat and the Archery were both enjoyable.

July XXIX

Siegfried did his usual job of putting together another great War Practice. His order for good weather arrived as usual and Utsi and the Tarnished Tankard crew prepared good meals again. Berus ran some nifty fighting. The Bar brawl was well received and on Friday the Midnight Melees were held. Alan introduced his "killer" moving archery butt --it killed Luke's Bow. There was much merriment and Kelly's kegs were well enjoyed, but our thirst wasn't what we expected. Funny thing; there weren't many sightings of Flying Turtles this year. Luke's "Royal Action Figure" will be one of the highlights of this War Practice as are both Utsi's court baronet and the tributes spoken on behalf of Hector at his induction to the Order of the Pelican. It was a pleasant and enjoyable time. Even Troll was enjoyable this year.

The court at Septentrian War Practice was a good one, and a busy one. Raffe was treated to his first taste of the presence of his Majesty, Sir Thorbjorn Osis Brandsson. And what a presence it was. Luke got his Award of Arms, and kind words best well remembered from the King. Lady Ursula was finally given a Court Barony, Hector of the Black Height was inducted into the Order of the Pelican, and Alan at Highcliffs was given his Dragon's Barb for his wonderful endeavours with archery.

Further, Mercedes issued a challenge to Osis' boys on behalf of a group in Lochac. The challenge was a non-alcoholic drinking contest - Milk and Raspberry Cordial! It may not be alcoholic, but it sat just as poorly in the stomach.

Finally, the White Bear Fian accepted challenges - taking up the challenge were Hereward the Fardweller, Edward the Red, Augustine de Charbonnieres, and Rhys ap Bledri. Rhys won his challenge bout, and is now an honoured (and very well-spoken!) member of the Fian.

About this time Connor and his new wife announced the birth of their daughter, Maeve. Connor, who had been rarely seen of late, became even a less frequent visitor until he left Ealdormere for Trimaris. The canton again changed their keep to that of Porter Grammar School for the summer. We had completed our third year and the group decided to put a bid in for hosting the January Coronet Tourney.

On July 30th, the gentles of Ealdormere gathered in Caldrithig to enjoy the 12th Coronet Tournament. It was a pleasant, sunny day as the contestants lined the field. Each fighter stood before the throne and introduced their would be consort; except Berus who had his booty, lady Gearwen—won at the attack of Eoforwic—dragged up. He said that he hoped to gain her respect. Raedmund did not fight, but stood with Caitlin when she asked for the boon of having a Laurel granted. (Raedmund seemed so disappointed when Catlin said he couldn't fight.) The fighting went well, although, Berus was not the victor. Verus and Mordain were the finalists, with Mordain and Alflaida being selected as the heirs to the Lupine Throne.

The feast was quite good and plentiful. They produced two roasted pigs for our enjoyment. There was the usual singing and other feast enjoyments. At court, Lilibata Rudenka was made a Laurel for her work on things Ukrainian. There were numerous awards given to local Skraels and there were the Banishments (nuff said). Also, Ardchreag was given approval to host the next Coronet.

Septentria shone at the Orangeville Faire as the most noticeably large group within our contingent. Petrea Thule, Monadh, House Galbraith, and of course Ardchreag, made their presence known. Edrick, Jhered, Blaine, Marion, Drac, Siegfried, Melchior and Alexa were there to enjoy the archery, fighting, merchants and atmosphere of the weekend. Evenings were spent in our cozy campsite around one of the fires.

August XXIX

The first week of Pennsic XXIV was spent quietly socializing and wandering. It was a pleasant and relaxing time. The Rat had an interesting caged experience. Most people started arriving at mid-week. Slowly the

site grew. Seigfried choose to camp elsewhere, while Berus and Ray camped in the Royal Encampment. It was too hot and humid to do much of anything the second week. The fighting was changed to 9 AM and 5 PM. The AM muster time was not met with much cheer. Most of us spent a good chunk of time in the swimming hole, which was much busier than in the past.

On the middle Sunday, Prince Roak held a Bardic circle. It was slow in building but the music was good. Unfortunately, just as it was hitting its stride, a rain warning came through. Gentles dispersed quickly to secure their camps.

At court, Foote and Grainne were given a Court Barony. Ragni was made a Pelican and Alastire and Tannis were made Laurels. Baronial Court was held at Monadh, Foote's schtick was one of the most humorous moments in court that I have ever seen. Berus said that Part one (at the Champion's dinner the night before) made it even more humorous still.

An unhappy note was Nicholi's injury. He broke both ankles in a battle. Thankfully, he has recovered to fight again.

The two weeks were enjoyable. Kings Osis and Timothy did a good job of making it a cleaner war.

September XXIX

September again brought the canton north. Before gathering at the Cliffs many traveled further into the northlands to make the pilgrimage to Bonfield. In September, Gwynith was first seen, having been introduced to the Society at Alexa's summer demo in the park. Dwynwen came with Sebastion and Constance, but were soon to attempt to form a Canton called Whit's End.

Many had awaited this day for many years. Two great events were to finally transpire. The first of the Skrael was to become our Prince and Birstan was to Authorize in heavy armed combat. Many came to Skeldergate on the 30th of September to witness these two events.

In the morning, during the last court of the aged Roak and Tarkwyn, many awards were given out. Brand was inducted into the Fellowship of the Trillium, Marion was given a Bee and Rhys ap Bledri was awarded a Golden Otter (a few times—you know how the memory of the old can be....) Then, we welcomed our new Prince & Princess, Mordain Blackcloak and Aelflaeda FitzAlain. Elizabeth Cadfan (Kes) was put officially on Vigil for her Laurel, during the Midrealm court.

The fighting was held outside, as was the fencing. Both looked well attended and all seemed to have a great time. Unfortunately, Birstan was unable to authorize due to an injury that sidelined him for a while. A duel between the Squire brothers of Etiane and Morgawain was most memorable.

Some beautiful work was shown at the Arts & Sciences table. Many enjoyed the flirting contest or just socializing with old friends and new. All in all the day was quiet but pleasant. As usual Utsi, with a lot of help from Seigfried, prepared another excellent feast. During Feast, Seigfried and Nicholae were both squired by Duke Sir Finvarr.

Then came Evening court. This being Osis's last court in Ealdormere, there was a lot of business. Some of the highlights were: Rhys ap Bladri being named the Princess's Champion while Verus, who met Mordain in the finals, was named the Prince's Champion. Mordain also awarded his 'father' Roak with the Wolf's Tooth. During Kingdom court, Gwendlyn was given a Willow for her work in costuming, "Andy" was given his Award of Arms as was Skallagrim. Venshaven and Eoforwic were both awarded the Purple Fretty, while Raffé and Mercidies were given Purple Frets. Nicholaa and Pankratz each received a Willow; the former for costuming and the latter for his performing of illusion skills. Brand was fired twice this day as Principality Herald, once in the morning court and again by Osis. While fired he received his Dragon's Heart. Don't fret, Osis hired him again. Menken the Principality Seneschal also was awarded a Dragon's Heart. Kes was Laurellled.

The House Galbraith, whom like the Spawn are from the host College of Skeldergate, had heard King Osis say that some of his Squire pups were getting unruly. To aid the King, House Galbraith gave Osis a set of dog collars and leashes. Once connected the Squires were given over to Baron Foote's watchful care.

October to November XXIX

The fall passed quietly. The group planned for the Coronet, people traveled to many revels but few were recorded in word. Rhys went to Rising Waters Birthday Bash, while later, Edrick, Raffé, Seigfreid, Alexa and Drac journeyed to the Skrael for the Feast of the Hare. At this time Xristina and James Eric replaced Enid and Henry as Baroness & Baron of Skraeling Althing.

December XXIX

The Good gentles in Bryniau Tywynnog again hosted the Wassail, and again it was an enjoyable day. The fighting was good and many games were on the tables to amuse the population. The feast was split into two removes, one being the English remove in the honour of Richard and the other being a Middle Eastern meal for Saladin. Katerina was apprenticed (for Cooking) to Aibhilin of Skye.

At the Principality Moot much of the discussion centred around Ealdormere becoming a Kingdom. It seemed that a strong push towards this end was underway. The Old Wolves of Finvarr, Sylar and Rickard all spoke in favour of doing this now. Finvarr noted that Ealdormere then had about the same population as the full Middle Kingdom did when he was King of it. The biggest concern was that the populace might become too inward looking.

January XXIX

As another year passed, a number of officers asked to be relieved of their duty. Berus passed the Marshalet onto Seigfreid, Alaniore and Alexa, two of our earliest officers, also stepped down. Alainor's successor was Kevin, while there was no chosen successor for Alexa. Then Alan dropped an anvil on the group; he too was stepping down. Blaine suddenly became the group's Seneschal.

For the third consecutive year a small number of gentles traveled into the northland to celebrate the New Year with the good gentles of Monadh. Raffé and Seigfried made their way north and enjoyed this cozy event. The Archers of Monadh set up a challenging hunting course, where Raffé was given the name Barkslayer. Finvarr had praises for Monadh gathered from all over the Knowne World and Kes had a singing contest, and of course the feast was great.

After the Yule, the group again held its gift stealing game at its 12th Night to great success. They then got down to the last minute planning and preparation for their first really large event. The group spent two weeks doing the mirror site tokens and many other finishing touches.

Caer Draeth invited the Barony to enjoy the Twelfth Night celebrations with them. They had a spacious hall and lots of activities planned. Gaerwen and Hugo were the Queen and King of Fools and did a good job creating mirth and mischief.

A Baronial officer's meeting and a Baronial Seneschal's meeting were held. These were both productive and some very good ideas came out of them. The idea for Ealdormere Kingdom cloaks would require a great effort by all to be successful and the Baronial T-shirt with the slogan "Septentria - The Heart of Ealdormere" looks like it will be a great success.

The feast was good and Foote's story of how the knights got their spurs is a classic.

At court, Ines sang her children's song, Hereward the Far-dweller became Baronial Pursuivant, Drac, Raffé & Aslinne (of Vest Yorvik) received Bear's Hearts and Leonora of Monadh was given the Cup of Teacha Mor. Like usual Ardchreag didn't get their taxes in on time. (they were presented at Coronet.) We had a good turn out, including: Seigfried, Drac, Alexa, Little Matt, Kevin, Luke, Rhys, Alan and Raffé. All in all a good time was had by all.

The group hosted the Coronet Tourney XIII, at the end of January. It was successful.

February XXI X

After Coronet the group took a long needed quiet period and allowed the new officers a chance to settle in. Later in the spring the group decided that the next event they would hold was Bring out Your Dead, a death inspired event to be held in October. Again many gentles traveled afar but few brought back tales.

The usual "Flying Circus" event was transformed into a place where the newly forming Guilds were given a stage. Raffe fought at the Tourney. At court Nicolaa was put on Vigil for her Laurel and the Argent Wolf Fion was created for the Artisans to challenge.

March XXI X

On the second of March, a comfortable group gathered in Greyfells for a pleasant feast and tournament. Raffe fought and Selgfried acted as a list Marshal. Unfortunately, only these two made it to the event. Raffe went out early in the double elimination tourney that was eventually won by Guillium. Raffe looked a bit better in the sparing later. Feast was pleasant. At Court Carreg y Bladd was declared incipient by the Prince.

April XXI X to December XXX

Ben Dunfirth put on a Feast of the Checky to help celebrate the upcoming Marriage of Brand, and therefore, we had an event that featured that yellow and black pattern.

At the tourney, many fine ladies were given a checky favour to give to the fighter they felt best earned it. Many fine fighters received a favour for various acts of valour, skill or chivalry. Lord Etain, sometime known as Hugo, was the finest fighter in the lists that day.

Eoforwic was the host of the Arts & Sciences Faire this year and it was held in the same site as they held the second to last Twelfth Night. There was fighting, judging, an auction, dancing and a potluck feast. Raedmund and Raffe had entries. Raedmund took a First Place in the mead and dye craft categories. Raffe received seconds for his shoes, Houppeland, and pewter buckles.

In the Round-robin Tourney, Osis easily won. Second place was held by three Spawn men: Colgar, Zadok and Raedmund. They went into the lists together; one would survive. Raedmund took both of his opponents legs, he then seemed to wait for them to fight each other. In boredom, I guess, Raedmund intervened to pin Zadok. Colgar took advantage and instead of taking Zadok he clocked Raedmund and then went on to defeat Zadok. Colgar also was named the most chivalrous on the field. Raffe again fought. He put up some good fights and came close to winning a few battles. He finished with one victory.

In the A&S, part of the day the Judges worked frantically trying to evaluate articles that they often did not have the background to judge as wisely as they would wish. Many were judging into the early evening. In the end, Catrin of Chascewell was named the victor and took the silver cup of the Arts Champion for AS XXX.

Court was brief. The winners of the day's activities were announced and then those who wished had three hours to dance.

Investiture day for Moria and Roak started out quietly, The Fighters were ready to begin fighting shortly after court. What we were about to witness was the taking of Ealdormere by the strength of numbers.

Prince Mordain and Princess Aelflaeda were readying themselves and their children for a crusade that was described as "...that way" and tying up the loose ends of their reign. They gave out a number of awards including a Bee to Edward the Chaste and a Princess' favour to Eoin. They declared Caldrihig full status and dismissed their household including their regent Moria. To help fund their crusade a kindly monk gave them funds in return for a piece of paper, said to be the mortgage for Ealdormere. Then the Royal Family took their leave.

Shortly thereafter, the rumble of movement heralded the coming of a large company of armed gentles lead by Roak and his 'sister' Moria. They debated with the Monk, Justinian, over who owned Ealdormere. A messenger was sent to return the former Royals. Here, Moria and Roak convinced them that Ealdormere needed a present Prince and Princess and they had the support and might to care for the Principality. Mordain passed his Coronet on to Roak and then Aelflaeda did the same for Moria. Then the two Viscounts flanked by their number took their leave.

Then a thundering voice was heard, "WHAT IS GOING ON HERE!" It was the King. After explaining the situation, King Tarquin had the new royalty swear homage and then court was closed.

In the afternoon the fighters fought (Osis Won....are you surprised), The Fencers fenced, the Chronicler's chronicled and the gentles enjoyed the good company. Luke was given his Black and White Spawn Tabard. Nicolaa sat her vigil. Then, another big surprise...Lady Rosina del Bosco Chiaro was put on vigil for a Laurel, for dancing. Our group had its first Peer. Feast was an excellent two remove delight prepared by Aslinne.

In evening court, Moria and Roak learned to make sure they knew who and what was being presented in court as Dame Kes with the help of the ladies of Eoforwic, showed Baron Foote the problems that the Fish of Knowledge had conceived. Moria & Roak also commissioned all Bards of Ealdormere, past and future, to write and sing songs to rouse the Principality. Later, William, Seneschal of Septentria was awarded a Purple Fret; as was Ardchreag's Alexa. Nicolaa and Rosina were both elevated to the Order of the Laurel. Then the last piece of business, Baron Sir Menken was called to be inducted into the Order of the Pelican. Throughout the hall voices noted his efforts within the Society, after each statement came the comment, "This, Menkin has done."

January to April XXX

In the Spring the Group was again more active. Thorbjorn Osis again won the Crown and this would require the service of the Hrogan members of the canton, such as Luke, Berus and Redmund now spending most of their time at Skeldergate. The Group also helped Colgar with a family project of removing for the winter a large pavilion.

May XXXI

Skeldergate's May Day was a pleasant event. There was socializing, fighting and a feast requiring adult accompaniment. Raffe fought in the small Tournament. This was a Round Robin Tourney. Osis won, followed by Berus. Raffe did well taking matches against Eion & Ed the Chaste.

After the fighting there were socializing and games. In these matches Raffe came out the victor over Os, Luke and Ed. Then there was the feast. Dish after dish arrived, each with their own perverse humour. Men squirmed as the phallic barley dish was gleeful chopped by the ladies. The food was fantastic and fun; if a little odd. High marks go to the cooks for quality and presentation of this feast. The bread ball fight was enjoyable as well. The evening ended with dancing and the May Pole ritual.

While many were enjoying the Lady Mary Tourney, many from our canton were enjoying themselves and providing some community support for a Cub camping trip.

Alexa, Drac, Edric, Little Matt, Thorvald, Caroline, Alan, Blaine and Raffe all contributed to help support this project. Each provided instruction in their field of expertise. After lunch Raffe and Drac armoured up to give a short heavy weapons combat presentation. After fighting a best two out of three, three blow tourney, (it ended in a tie.) Drac tried to capture the fair maid Alexa. Raffe went to her rescue but was stopped by the calls of the cubs for her death....Too bad...

At the trip one of our members was tagged with a new name. A number of cubs took to calling Edric "Princess."

At the camp fire, many of the Scadians sang the E-Song, and taught the Cubs to wassail.

June XXXI

Petra Thule again welcomed the good gentles of Ealdormere to their annual Pikeman's Pleasure. Like usual the Tournament was a Warlord Tourney and there was plenty of archery and other silliness.

Raffe was the only Chreagger in the Tourney and was captured by "Gus" in the first round. In the second round he had his event highlight of killing his first knight. Cordigan was to fall to his sword. As the event progressed, the teams grew until the Finals were Baron Sir Bess and Prince Roak's teams. Roak came out the victor. The archery was well received and the first part of Ulvar's Archery Challenge was shot. Alan, Raffe, Luke and Michael all competed. Later in the day there were numerous novelty shoots. The Thuligans also provided a boffer tourney which Luke and Michael took part in. Like usual, Baroness Adrielle's feast was excellent and enjoyed by all.

At court, Robert le Sawyer and Thev got into some hot water over claiming unused land in Ramshaven. The Baron apologized to his brother Cordigan and then with a wink and a nod told the two not to get caught next time. Cordigan also presented a dress sword for the Fencing champion. Seigfried and Grimmy each relieved an armband for their service to the Barony. Melchior was awarded a Bear's Heart; while Hamish de Lloyd was granted his long over due Award of Arms.

The weather at Murder Melee in the meadow was nice this year and there was a cool breeze, so fighting wasn't too bad. After the Tourney there were some larger battles. Through out the day, the archery field was open.

Just before supper, Colgar the Innocent was Squired to Osis in a ceremony that was attended by about 75 people. After that Caitlin and Osis fed those there. Court was long and full of misquotes. Each Barony had a short court; the highlight being Ben Dunfirth's unveiling of new Principality Thrones. Court ended before Marion could be officially invested as Herald. That would happen at War Practice.

On the Sunday, Raffe and the other Seneschal's of Septentria gathered to discuss a plan to increase their ties and work more closely together. A number of ideas were floated and the group agreed to meet again at War Practice. The most noteworthy of these plans were to, as a team, host Osis and Catlin's Coronation and make a 'War Wagon' for the Principality to use to haul armour at Pennsic.

July XXXI

At War Practice VI it flooded. The rain started mid-day on Saturday, during the Moot of Moria and Roak. It rained and rained; it seemed to be a flood of Biblical proportions. Alan added a new feature to his Archery field this year—a moving target. It was named Bow-killer after it destroyed Luke's bow during the Moot. The Cart took to rolling and there was no stopping it till the damage was done. Baronial Court, in keeping with the wet nature of the event, was held in a small pool. Again the Tankard fed all who wished.

At Coronet, held in Bryniau Tywynnog, Sir Menken faced his lady, Sir Elizabeth in the final; Elizabeth being the winner. Siegfried fought in this list for the honour of lady Keja. Nicholi was awarded a Willow for his work in 15th century research and costuming, while Berus was awarded a Purple Fret.

The Group started to go to Thompson Commons to enjoy a fire and merriment at the end of each month. These were pleasant gatherings of the group.

August XXXI

Pennsic XXV was generally a good time. Cear Draeth was added to our encampment as our newest refugees. Alan had problems at the Border and the Guard would not let him cross. Ealdormere held a friendship battle with Calontir and at one battle was sent to fight with our cousins from Aethelmerac. During this battle, Raffe saw the Princess with her Cousin, the Princess of Aethelmerac. The glow on her face inspired him so greatly

that he begged Lady Marion to write a song—"United at War". Kenneth, our camp "Pop", injured himself with an axe and hobbled around for quite a few days. One of the highlights of this Pennsic was having the Baronial Court at our encampment. It was a beautiful evening, the water was running over the rocks and the majesty of Septentria was there for all to see.

September XXXI

At Bonfield, just short weeks latter, a knight showed up. Many thought he was Sir Hugo, that long gone first knight of this area. But he was gone before he spoke. No one knows if it was him or not. Again Ardchreag had a good showing at this event.

October XXXI

As the fall approached we again re-entered our keep at Clairlea and began the planning for our Feast to celebrate the dead. Siegfried felt that since his Grace, Sir Finvarr was close to being that and it being the 25th anniversary of his Knighting that it would be a good thing to include a surprise Tournament in his honour. About this time Seigfreid took to being called Ziggy, and he arrived back from an event in the East with tales of the pleasure of cards and gambling. The good gentles of the Cliffs took to these new games quickly. Most beloved was the game called by some Pochspieal and Glic by others. Blaine soon introduced Pimerio. Eventually, Raffé found some Grouts and Pennies from the time of King Richard II of England. The Chreag started to develop a reputation for gambling.

Part the Second, penned by Colyne Stewart.

There then follows a period of silence, stretching from the fall of A.S. XXXII until February of A.S. XXXV. Ardchreag's historians fell under a strange malaise, and records were not kept or updated. From scraps of information left to us, current Chreagger historians will attempt to piece together these lost years of our history.

November-December XXXI

Little Matt hosted a canton wassail at his keep. Berus became engaged to Marion. Ardchreag and Eoforwic gathered together to go wassailing and gather food for the needy.

At Septentrian 12th Night, hosted by Monadh, Ardchreag paid their Baronial taxes in the form of gambling supplies. Blaine received a Bear's Heart, and Dom Nicolae became holder of the Cup of Teacha Mor.

At this time the officers were: Lord Blaine Sylvan, Seneschal; Lord Edric Anderson, Pursuivant; Kevin of Ardchreag, Exchequer; Lord Siegfried Brandbeorn, Knight Marshal; Laird Kenneth Macdonachy, Minister of Arts and Sciences; Lord Raffé Scholemaystre, Chronicler; Lady Calliste, Chatelaine; Arglwydd Rhys Yr Saethydd, Chirurgeon; Lord Alan atta Highcliffs, Archery Lieutenant.

January-February XXXI

At Candlemass, hosted by Skeldergate, Little Matt received his Award of Arms. Multiple members of the canton (unfortunately not named) were part of a group awarded a Purple Fretty for their efforts in organizing Coronation.

March-April XXXI

Inez Rosanara received a Golden Otter at the Coronet Tourney for her bardic skills.

May-June XXXI

At this time Marian of Heatherdale became Pursuivant.

Rhys Yr Saethydd and Gwynith of Ardchreag did enter into holy matrimony.

July-December XXXI

Ardchreag again answered the call to war, sending what fighters and scouts it could muster.

Raffe was inducted into the Order of the Silver Oak at Investiture for his research into medieval games and education.

During this six month period of time Raffe became Seneschal, while Siegfried took over as Pursuivant; Theodora Komnena became Exchequer and Lord Luke became Knight Marshal. The Minister of Arts and Sciences position was vacant.

January-February XXXI

At Septentrian 12th Night, hosted by Carreg Y Blaidd, news came that Ealdormere was to be granted full kingdom status!

At the canton's 12th Night, Ulrich von der See on Greenhithe came with a petition and bribes to change Greenhithe's borders to include the lands mundanely known as Whitby. This request was granted. Ulrich was to become a chronic visitor to Ardchreag, and eventually a dual citizen with Ardchreag and Greenhithe.

March-April XXXII

The first Ealdormerean Crown Tourney was held, with Lord Siegfried Brandbeorn making the final six. He received a Wolf's Tooth for his skill and honour on the field that day.

May-June XXXIII

Pikeman's Pleasure in Petrea Thule was a glorious day for Ardchreag. Rhys became the Baronial Champion of Septentria and Ulrich was awarded his Award of Arms.

At this time Dom Nicolae Cioran became Knight Marshal.

July XXXIII – January XXXIII

No records from this time have yet been found.

February XXXIII

A canton moot was held this month where many items were discussed.

March-April XXXIII

No records from this time have yet been found.

May XXXIV

At this time Raffe was Seneschal, Lachlan MacLean was Pursuivant, Damara was Exchequer, Dom Nicolae was Knight Marshal, Anne and Grimbald Thorbjornson were the joint Ministers of Arts and Sciences, Elf was Chronicler, Eirik Anderson was Chatelaine, Arglwydd Rhys Yr Saethydd was Chirurgeon and Alan Atta Highcliffs was Archery Lieuteneant.

June XXXIV

At this time Eileen LeMesurier became Seneschal.

July XXXIV-July XXXV

No records from this time have yet been found.

August XXXV

At Pennsic XXIX, in August AS XXXV, Elspeth Fraser Dowglas became a man-at-arms to THL Sarnac Kir.

September XXXV-January XXXV

No records from this time have yet been found

February XXXV

In February, A.S. XXXV Colyne Stewart and Thorfinna gra'feldr came to the Cliffs, having lived for the previous four years only a few blocks away from the keep at Clairlea. Thus began a time of great expansion for the canton, as many new members would join the Canton-upon-the-Cliffs over the following months. The officers at the time were listed as: Eileen LeMesurier, Seneschal; Eirik Anderson as her Deputy; Damara of Stonehaven, Exchequer; Lachlan MacLean, Pursuivant, Melchior the Carver, Minister of arts and Sciences; Brandt das Lederwerker, Knight Marshal; Eirik Anderson, Chatelaine, Web Minister; Raffe Scholemays tre, Chronicler.

March XXXV to May XXXVI

There then followed an unfortunate incident, where the populace of the Cliffs fought amongst themselves, and Brandt was no longer our Knight Marshal. The general populace of Ardchreag knew nothing of these doings, and spent their time traveling to such events as Berus' Squires' Bar Room Brawl in Skeldergate and Lady Mayor's Market Day. Market Day in particular had a fair number of Chreaggers present, though unfortunately, many caught the Black Plague.

To Petrea Thule did a small group of Chreaggers go, to once again enjoy the Pikeman's Pleasure. Battles were fought, food was set, and many new friends were made. Siegfried was called before the Baron Cynred and the Baroness Gaerwen and made Sheriff of Ommemee, within whose borders we were thus employed.

June XXXVI

Tragedy then struck the canton in the new year of A.S. XXXVI, as one of its members, slated to become the next Seneschal of Septentria, passed away. Ulrich von der See, originally of Greenhithe, died on June 4, A. S. XXXVI. His funeral was attended by many of the Society, and at the request of his family, garb was worn. The service was beautiful, with Fursto, Ulrich's lady, reading from a number of poems and songs written for her Lord. A last moving touch was the playing of "Call the Names" by Marian of Heatherdale.

July XXXVI

The canton carried on and pulled together as only a group like the Chreaggers could. For Ulrich had been co-autocrat of the upcoming Ealdormere War Practice. Everyone banded together, and the event went off as a great success. A service was held for Ulrich, and a part of his ashes were scattered to the winds. Of winds there was much that War Practice, with tents and shades being blown free from their moorings. When the wind did not blow, the clouds wept upon us. Still, the Galbraith party went on, rain or no. Ardchreag camped together in a circle, with a great ring of friends and compatriots expanding out behind them. Newcomers Mahault and Berend van der Eych came and impressed all present with their pavilion and Viking bed. At this event Eirik Andersen stepped up as Seneschal, while Crispinus Spellar became Chatelaine and Colyne took over as Chronicler. By this time Eanor of Amberhall had become the canton's Knight Marshal, Emma Gunter was Deputy to Damara, and Eirik had created the position of Quarter Master, which he himself filled. Siegfried, the Sheriff of Ommemee, was called forth at Court by the populace of Ommemee, to answer charges of corruption. A great scroll, measuring longer than a man was read, listing the crimes he had perpetrated. The Sheriff reportedly put the insurrection down quickly. Marian of Heatherdale was put on Vigil for her research into Arthurian legend, and Crispinus amused all by putting on a dress and dancing for certain gentlemen (though Baron Cynred refused a dance, hand on axe). Baroness Gaerwen was authorized as a Level 2 Scout, and Ardchreag hosted the Bardic Circle on Sunday night.

As more new folk flocked to the Cliffs, and many new fighters began to train, Brandt das Lederwerker opened his keep to all those who needed armour. Said armour workshops were to become an on-going tradition.

August XXXVI

In August the call to war came again, and the Canton sent many fighters and scouts to the cause. These included: Brandt das Lederwerker, Eanor of Amberhall, Siegfried Brandbjorn, Volodymyr (Vlad) Blahuciak, Raffe Scholemaestre as fighters, and Lachlan MacLean, Fursto de Robyne and Colyne Stewart as scouts. The fighters of Ardchreag, and of Septentria, and of Ealdormere were in the forefront of the fighting, gaining the Middle many war points. Though we lost the War, Ealdormere proved how strong we are militarily.

Off the field, at Great Court, Marian of Heatherdale was elevated to the Laurelate with much pomp and circumstance. She was ushered into the hall by brass instruments, and had her Peerage scroll sung to her by the Bards of Ealdormere in a style of one of her songs. Ardchreag had its first home-born Peer.

Also, Vlad became squired to Duke Finvarr, and Raffe was elevated to the position of Baronial Seneschal. Raffe and others were also recognized by Master Hector for bravery and discipline on the field. It was reported that House Fhtagn, a Household reputedly sprung out of Ardchreag, held its first initiations. These reports are unsubstantiated.

At this time Damara of Stormhaven became Deputy to Eirik as Seneschal, and Lachlan became Deputy to her as Exchequer, and Marian became Deputy to him as Pursivant. Lachlan is also listed as Scout Marshal at this time.

September XXXVI

In September many from the Chreag traveled far north to Bonfield Battle IX, the warnings of the immense cold by Lina Carville not-with-standing. Lina's warnings turned out to be true, with many a Chreagger freezing that first night. Iolanda de Albornoz was heard to comment that she was "as miserable as a Latin American in Bonfield." Ardchreag again had their own encampment, which merged with that of House Red Herring, as many from the Cliffs were Herrings as well. Many of our number participated in the battles, and those not authorized to fight became prey and hunters in the Great Hunt. Mort of Ardchreag and Blaine both survived said hunt.

Ulrich was toasted with mead brewed by Berend van der Eych, called Ulrich's revenge.

House Red Herring planned on capturing one particular Chreagger, who kept slipping from their nets. They took Mort instead. Another House born of the Chreag, that of the Tallywhack, held their first initiations, and entered in friendly rivalry with the Herrings.

Later the same month our King Roak fulfilled a promise made at Pennsic War, and was removed and burned within a wicker man for the sake of the Kingdom. Princess Rustique and her frog-Prince Aaron then ascended to the Thrones at Kynges Town in Greyfells.

During this time Eirik gave the duties of the Quarter Master to Thorfinna. Berend and Mahualt were named as acting Chiurgeons by the Kingdom Chiurgeon. Colyne, Thorfinna and Crispinus formed the Septentrian Performing Arts Troupe, and the Games Guild of Ealdormere. Such a Guild could only sprout out of a canton renowned for its love of gaming and gambling.

October XXXVI

The time had then come for an heir to Ealdormere to be found. In October, Skeldergate hosted the Crown Tourney of Aaron and Rustique. Members of Ardchreag arrived early, establishing our settlement, and saving us space. A good thing, as over twenty Chreaggers arrived that day. Many new members made this their first event, including: Wulfgang of Ardchreag, Janice of Ardchreag, Stephen Scrymgeour and Jennifer the Younger of Ardchreag. We sat in our corner, munching on meat, cheese and bread, cheering on the fighters. As it turned out, Stephen's pick for the winner, and his lady Jennifer's became the two finalists. In the end, Jennifer was

triumphant as Sarnac Kir defeated Sergeant Malik abd' al-Rahman to become Prince of Ealdormere, making his Lady Wife Joleicia Princess.

Brandt held a belt-making class that day, and Colyne taught a class on tafl for the new Games Guild.

The feast was the best that many of the Chreaggers had ever known. So good was it, that no bread balls were thrown. Four of our number were called up and recognized by the Queen for their skill at the Arts and Sciences, namely: Mahault van der Eych, Iolanda de Albornoz, Berend van der Eych and Elspeth Fraser Dowglas.

During that day both Colyne and Thorfinna were inscripted into Royal duty; Colyne to stand spear with friend Eogan, and Thorfinna to act as Lady-in-Waiting to Her Majesty.

On the Twenty-Second day of October, A.S. XXXVI, the canton held a moot in the keep of Brandt das Lederwerker and Gailana Dunkel Pfare. Twenty good gentles did attend, and ten points were covered to the satisfaction of all within ninety minutes. It was the most enjoyable moot. It was decided there that a large warehouse, owned by our current hosts, would be available to house our meetings, fight practices and archery. All agreed that once said keep was available, it should be tried, as many were tiring of having no permanent keep. Some new officers were raised at this moot. Michaela of Ardchreag became Deputy to Eirik in his capacity as Web Minister and Iolanda was named Archery Lieutenant. Previous to this, Melchior had taken Mahault on as his Arts and Sciences Deputy.

November XXXVI

Scotchtoberfest drew a large crowd of Chreaggers to der Welfengau, numbering over twenty. For many this was their first event, and they must have liked it, for they've been to others since. Colyne's Games Guild held a beginner's tafl tournament, and Colyne got to meet and talk games with Ragnarr Kennari (a veritable font of information). Her Majesty Rustique took this opportunity to sign the Guild's charter. Five of the canton's newest members, Wulfgang (not Drac), Jennifer, Michaela, Randy and Janice brought with them enough food for the canton lunch that it rivaled what the event itself was serving. For dinner, the canton populace went to Sir Jack's Inn of the Donkey to celebrate the birthday of Colyne's brother Shane, who had come out to the event. On the way, the Ardchreag standard fell from their wagon, the loss being discovered upon arriving at the Inn thirty minutes later. Undaunted, Thorfinna and Stephen Scrymgeour set out and somehow managed to find it in the gloom, none the worse for wear.

A small company of Ardchreag's artisans traveled to Rising Waters for the Kingdom Arts and Sciences Competition. Though they found the competition to be less than what they'd hoped, they nevertheless had a good time, and had the opportunity to talk with other skilled members of the populace.

Eirik traveled to Skrealing Althing for Feast of the Hare. Much socializing was done.

At this time Colyne became Deputy Seneschal. Lachlan McLean stepped down as Deputy Exchequer. Marian of Heatherdae stepped down as Deputy Pursuivant and Thorfinna gra'feldr became Deputy Pursuivant.

December XXXVI

Six Chreaggers braved the cold to travel to the newly created canton of Bellfored Keep in the Barony of Ben Dunfirth. Arriving early, they helped Baron Brand hang Ben Dunfirth's banners. Foolish, foolish Baron. One of said banners fell down later in the day, braining the Queen. Ardchreag denied all knowledge of the incident. Arts and Sciences classes were held, and the fencers put on a fine show.

Bryniau Tywynogg hosted this year's Wassail, and a grand party it was. Colyne ran a gaming tourney in tafl and tabula (backgammon) which kept him bust for most of the day. Master Rufus won at tabula. Our illustrious Baron and Baroness were called into court and told that Cynred's new wives would soon be his. No one was more surprised than Gaerwen! Later, Septentrian familial love prevailed, and a carol circle grew around the Baronial presence. When it was announced that the Princess Joleicia, that day put on Vigil for the Laurel, was lonely, the entire Barony went to her aid and serenaded her with song. A Kingdom Moot was also held that day where all learned that the Kingdom was loosing money. All in attendance pledged to find ways to keep our glorious Kingdom's coffers full.

At this time Berend van der Eych became the canton's Chiurgeon and the canton moved into Gailana's large keep.

January XXXVI

The winter of AS XXXVI had been a light one. Temperatures were moderate, and snow was almost unseen within Septentria. Then, in January, the gods treated the populace to their pent up winter rage. Snow fell, wind howled, rain soaked. Still, we northfolk are a hardy people and these intermittent storms could not stop us from traveling the kingdom we love so well. Many Twelfth Night celebrations were held and many Chreaggers foraged forth to attend as many as possible.

The largest contingent descended on the Royal City of Eoforwic for the Barony of Septentria's Twelfth Night. So large was their group that they were granted permission to create a presence, though such a thing was not supposed to be done that day. Much fun was had as our seneschal, Eirik Andersen, was cut down by the Peasant Army; as Iolanda took part in the Fools Competition; and as Wulfgang was locked in the stocks. Our taxes were paid, being a spear crafted by Brandt, a banner sewn by his Lady wife Gailana, and a container of soil from our glorious canton's lands.

Eirik, recovered from the attempt on his life, passed the Horn of Wessex on to Aenas Oakhammer of Skeldergate. Colyne and Thorfinna were named Baronial Bards of Septentria, and Colyne also received his Award of Arms.

Another well-attended event was the yearly Brawl, sponsored by Sir Berus Jarl of Skeldergate. We fell upon his inn in force to escape the winter dull-drums and were well rewarded for our efforts. For Baron Tancred of Rising Waters was spreading his wares, which included his suit of armour. Chreaggers went home with about half of it, including the helm (which now graces Berend's head). Wulfgang and Eirik took to the boffer lists and mighty Wulfgang chased our host about the hall before mercilessly cutting him to ribbons. Upon learning the identity of his victim Wulfgang made a face that will live long in our memories!

At court Thorfinna was granted her Award of Arms.

During this time Gailana Dunkel Pfare became Exchequer, and Wulfgang of Ardchreag became Deputy Chatelaine.

February XXXVI

On a drizzly Saturn Day morning, the Canton of Ardchreag gathered at their Inn. For later that day the populace of the Kingdom of Ealdormere were to arrive for a day of tourneys, games and merriment. The Inn was to have renowned guests that day, for not only were Their Royal Majesties to attend, but Their Excellencies Septentria, Ben Dunfirth, Skraeling Althing and Rising Waters were expected, as were knights and other champions traveling from foreign kingdoms. A Pas d'armes was planned for that day, a glorious tournament full of pomp and pageantry.

So the Chreaggers fell to work, preparing the Inn. Ivanna set up a corner for children's activities, while Vlad and Colyne set up the Lists. Elisabetta and Crispinus set to work preparing lunch while Iolanda and Michaela began supper. The Gatekeeper Mahault and her half-Giant assistant Wulfgang took up their positions by the door, Wulfgang wearing a sign about his neck that read 'Troll Komplaynt Dept'. (Wulfgang's true heritage is a matter of much speculation amongst the scholars on the Cliffs.)

The Games Guild spread its wares about the hall, and as the people arrived, they quickly took to these seats. Many engaged in a game of Glic that lasted for eight hours. Jean-Margaret set up an Arts and Sciences competition table in the rear of the hall, where many skilled artisans displayed their wares. Beside her, Gailana sold tickets for a penny raffle and a silent auction that raised much gold for the kingdom.

Though plagued by a cold, Colyne sat at his post at the List table, signing in fighters and recording their challenges. When Baron Cynred signed in, he insisted that Colyne bite his membership and fighting cards to insure that they were genuine. Thorfinna was approached by the Pas team led by Sir Evander MacLachlan, and asked to act as their Herald. She willingly consented, though she had never heralded in public before. The Company of the White Heart was led by Richard Larimer, who held the Septentrian reliquary to his chest. Many

brave and noble fighters took the field that day, including Baron Brand of Ben Dunfirth, Baron Sir Menken Brecken of Skraeling Althing and our Canton's own Brandt das Lederwerker (who had authorized in Great Weapon earlier that morning). The two Pas teams sent out their captains, who fought one on one, Larimer emerging as the victor. Both teams then set upon each other in force until their differences were resolved. Upon that happy note the teams held the field against all comers, including Baron Cynred, His Royal Majesty Aaron and Chreagger Elspeth.

When the fighting was completed, Wulfgang was dragged from his position at the door, had a shield strapped to his arm and was sent out to continue his habit of battling Peers by getting a lesson in sword and shield by the King. (Later that day, he would face Cynred with boffer weapons.)

Wulfgang had a very full day indeed. Master Hector, who bought a complaint from him, began to heckle the poor giant as Wulfgang found his tongue-tied. When finally he blurted, "Well, how can you expect me to think with all that plaid in front of me!" Hector was no longer listening. He also found himself under attack by three nefarious Chreaggers who assaulted him with baguettes during supper. Sadly, he succumbed to his wounds. Happily, he miraculously revived enough to run about with a boffer and bash many good gentles that night.

When the fighting was done, and the List polls safely put away, it was time for the Septentrian Performing Arts Troupe to go on. Sickness had stopped the performance at Septentrian 12th Night, and Colyne's sickness almost cancelled it again. The Troupe pressed on, and the play went off well, with the hall stopping all activity to watch, and to interact, as it went on. Much frivolity was created by the bumbling acting, and that is all we could have asked for.

Supper began with a laugh as Colyne got Wulfgang to walk the length of the head table, both ways, while bowing to each set of five Peers that sat there. After poor Wulfgang had retaken his seat, Thorfinna and Colyne stood up to sing for the hall. It was the first time Colyne had performed in public, and it nicely showed why Colyne is not a singing bard. Still, folks laughed, and that was the intent.

When the most excellent supper was over court was held. During kingdom court many Chreaggers were awarded Arts and Sciences prizes, and Mahault and Berend were both granted their Award of Arms. This was greeted by thunderous applause.

Also during court our Canton and its populace were praised by King, Queen, Baron and Baroness. I have never heard such an outpouring of public praise before. It made me very proud to hail from the Cliffs.

After court there were many activities. There was the boffer fighting I already mentioned, as well as a chess tournament. There was even some Eastern dancing and drumming which all enjoyed (except for one spode who was rude enough to actually complain to them of the noise they were making). The chess players battled long into the night until finally Stroenwold Wulfesbana won the day.

At midnight the Inn closed its doors, and the populace of Ardchreag returned to their homes, worn and weary but happy in a job well done. Many thanks must go out to all those who helped that day, including the autocrats Eirik and Thorfinna, Berend (who ran many errands), Lachlan (who served as servocrat) and many, many others.

At this time Brandt das Lederwerker became Chatelaine.

March AS XXXVI

A small group of Chreaggers traveled to the annual Winter War. At this event Wulfgang Donnerfaust was sworn into HRH Sarnac Kir's entourage. Sarnac (now Sarnac Ba'adur) was knighted that day to much fanfare.

Colyne and Thorfinna attended War College, with the aim of authorizing in sword and shield. With them went Mahault, Berend, Wulfgang, Jean-Margaret and Brandt. With their support and cheering, both did indeed authorize (Colyne even managing to defeat his opponent in the Tourney round—Theign Cynred Broccan).

At the same time, others traveled to the Barony of Skraeling Althing's 20th Anniversary. These included Eirik, Siegfried, Vlad, Kenric and Tatiiana.

The call went out for all who would be Septentrian Baronial Champion to travel to Vest Yorvik for a tournament to be held at their event Bad in Plaid. Many from the Cliffs attended (including Mahault, Berend, Teah, Ivanna, Eanor, Colyne, Thorfinna, Iolanda, Gunther, Siegfried and others), though only Siegfried took part in the battles. Though Siegfried took the day, Lady Seonag nicThomais was selected to represent Septentria due not only to her martial skills but also to her generous nature when praising the skills of her opponents. Wassail Seonag!

Iolanada and Teah were both recognized by Her Excellency Gaerwen and Her Majesty Rustique for their plaid fashions (Iolanda was dressed as a plaid Mongol) and Colyne was awarded a bracelet for the story he told during feast.

At court both Colyne and Thorfinna swore to the Isengesitha (the army of Septentria).

At this time Mahault van der Eych officially became the canton's Minister of Arts and Sciences, and Thorfinna gra'feldr became Pursuivant. At the Baronial level, Crispinus Spellar became Chronicler, and Piero di Paxiti da Vincenza became Signet.

April AS XXXVI

The end of the SCAdian year found the populace of Ardchreag extremely busy. Iolanda de Albornoz traveled to Petrea Thule for the Late Winter Shoot while the van der Eychs, Colyne, Thorfinna, Eirik, Gunther and Eanor went to stay at the Ravenhill Farm in flaming Sky. While there they attended Humour Us!, a most wonderful and wacky event. Colyne fought at an event for the first time, taking part in a search for the Holy Grail. While on the quest he got to battle Duke Sir Finvarr, and learned how to dance while in armour. The feast, prepared by Eanor's mother Ragni, was exceptional.

The following week many went to Ramshaven to partake in classes at Forward into the Past.

The week after was Caer Draeth's Spring Tune and Commissariat Fundraiser. Colyne, Thorfinna, Eirik, Raffé, Kenric, Gunther, Brandt, Gailana, Iolanda, Marian, Wolfgang, Jean-Margaret, Elspeth and Eanor were in attendance (likely others as well, that this poor, distracted scribe did not see). The weather was bitterly cold and Colyne abandoned the field nursing his wrists ("Cold. And gonna rain. Yes sir.") Classes were attended, games were played, and feast was et. At feast there was much singing, with Hector calling on Gaerrad to entertain Their Majesties An Tir and Middle.

News had been coming for months that our King and Queen, brave Aaron and gentle Rustique, would have to leave us on a quest, and many of the people of Ardchreag traveled far to Rising Waters to see them set off. These good gentles included Colyne, Thorfinna, Mahault, Berend, Elspeth, Piero, Marian, Eanor, Gunther, Wolfgang and Jean-Margaret. It was a glorious day for traveling, and it was good. Their Majesties held their final court where special awards were given and gifts received. Baron Foote, pushing before him a monstrous cart hung with bells, told all how Aaron must leave us to fulfill a wise woman's predictions. For their true love to remain, Aaron and Rustique must abdicate the Thrones, and set off together to return the empties (handily strung on a string by the good Foote). Their was much cheering for the newly non-Royals, and they were pelted with many frogs (for Aaron was a Frog Prince when first he won Crown Tourney). As they left the keep Sir Has was heard to remark, "Preslee has left the building."

Sarnac Ba'adur was then called to claim the Crown of Ealdormere and keep our lands safe from invaders. His Lady wife was heralded into court by drummers and dancers and much fanfare. Together they recited their pledge to protect Ealdormere and serve her people and it was well said. They then called forth the Great Officers, Barons, and the members of the three Great Peerage Orders: Chivalry, Laurel and Pelican.

When Baron Brand of Ben Dunfirth took his oath of fealty he presented Sarnac with a bag containing the heads of our enemies. Sarnac gave these heads to the keeping of Master Hector, bidding him place them on pikes so that all the enemies of Ealdormere could see the fate that awaited them. Master Hector, the ever-subtle, then shook the bag at Caesar, King of the Middle Kingdom, who was in attendance with members of his Legions. The crowd chuckled as we realized that the whispers were likely true, that we would fight with the East this year, should peacæ between the Middle and east prove impossible.

And indeed, at the evening court, it was declared that there would be War, and that Ealdormere would fight for the East. So Chreaggers prepare thyselfes. Weither you fight with Kingdom, Baronial or Household armies, patch your armour and sharpen your swords. Soon the Wolves of the North shall sweep South and devour all who would oppose us.

Generals were chosen to lead us, one of whom comes from our own lands, Her Grace, Duchess Eanor of Amberhall, who was also named as our new Khan's Champion.

And so the Line of the North is secured.

May AS XXXVII

Ardchreag had been invited to put on a demonstration of our chivalric fighters by the leaders of a young person's association within the borders of Greenhithe. Ardchreag, with Greenhithe's blessing and assistance, set out on a sunny Saturn Day morn. In attendance were Mahault van der Eych, Berend van der Eych, Teah van der Eych, Thorfinna gra'feldr, Colyne Stewart, Brandt das Lederwerker, Ivanna the Oblivious, Ivanna's son Joe, Eirik Andersen, Iolanda de Albornoz, William the Younger, Alex (a friend of William) and Aldred and Wulfwyn from Greenhithe. Mahault, Berend, Thorfinna, Colyne and Brandt suited up and sparred for over an hour in the woods of Camp Samac (not Camp Sarnac, as Colyne was calling it) while they awaited the Beavers. The Beavers, who were partaking in a Medieval themed weekend long camping trip, were on a quest, walking through the woods in search of a treasure chest. Ahead of them suddenly they could hear the sounds of combat. A score of excited youngsters ran out of the wood to see Ardchreag's fighters in action. Brandt sat them down in a row and explained about the armour and how the SCA mode of combat was run. Eirik then began to herald the battles. The Beavers would call out who they wanted to battle ("Red and Black!" "Green and White!") and then cheer their chosen champions on to victory! The unarmoured SCAians were also called on to battle with boffers. As a finale, Berend and Mahault faced off against Thorfinna and Colyne, with Brandt prepared to come in to replace the first fighter to fall. Happily, this scribe can report that Colyne and Thorfinna emerged victorious, though it was a hard earned win. Wassail to all Ardchreag's fighters!

The Beavers then invited everyone back to their cabin. As the fighters removed their armour, Eirik, Aldred and Wulfwyn taught the Beavers the SCA Maltese Bransle. Eirik and Alex then set up a boffer field for the children. Songs were sung, armour bits were tried on, the Holy Grail was uncovered, and there was much merriment.

On May 5th, Ardchreag was honoured to host a Baronial Fight Practice at Thompson Park in Scarborough. Fighters and fencers came from Petrea Thule, Eoforwic, Greenhithe territory, and Arddhreag. Many good gentles who do not fight sat and talked and sung songs and sewed and spun. It was a very good opportunity for people from across the Barony to meet in a laid-back friendly environment. All told there were approximately sixteen people in attendance.

While the fencers fought there was some one-on-one armoured combat, followed by shield wall drills. Thorfinna, a good gentle named Will, and Colyne formed a shield wall while Baron Cynred, Tiberius (of Petrea Thule) and Druss (Squire to Sir David) poked, prodded and pulled at the wall. (Colyne commented that all the experienced fighters were with spears, and all the newbies with shields. The Baron laughed and said, "Welcome to Pennsic!") When it was over, the shieldwall was told that if all the shield men in Ealdomere could fight as cohesively as those three our Kingdom would be in good shape. (The more experienced fighters then looked at each other and japed that all that would mean was that House Darkyard would be sicked on us.)

The practice lasted for two hours though it was another hour before all packed up their carts for the rides home.

Wulfgang and Jean-Margaret traveled south-east again to the lands of Rising Waters to attend Lady Mary's Memorial Tournament. Both were very busy working as entourage to Sarnac and Joliecia, but they did report that Roak finally won the tourney.

Once again Fenris, the great wolf, swallowed the sun over the lands of Ealdormere, and many made their way to the Barony of Ramshaven. There they battled for the pleasure of the Aesir, and Fenris let light back into the land. The Chreag was represented by, amongst others. Eanor and Siegfried.

To secure the Crown of Ealdormere, a tournament was held to decide successors to the Khan and Khatun. Eirik Andersen, old-time Chreagger Megan, Wulfgang Donnerfaust and Jean-Margaret were in attendance as Roak won his second tournament of the month to win the title of Princess for his Lady Arlette. May they protect our Lands well!

At this time Ivanna the Oblivious became Minister of Children.

June AS XXXVII

Ardchreag's populace turned out in force in Petra Thule for the annual Pikeman's Pleasure and set up two pavilions along the lovely river that ran through the event site. Still there was not enough room to house everyone. Those from the Chreag included: Thorfinna, Colyne, Berend, Mahault and Teah van der Eych, Gailana, Brandt and little Kyle, Iolanda, Olyfia, Ivanna, Wolfgang, Jean-Margaret, Tiarna, Vlad, Siegfried, Kenric, Tatiiana, Eirik and possibly others. With us were four friends from down Greenhithe way: Misty, Wulfwyn, Aldred and Colin.

The wind that day gusted and swelled like a mad creature and the van der Eych pavilion could not take the buffeting. Eirik's and Thorfinna's survived the day though Thorfinna's kept blowing out of its supports. Whenever a particularly harsh gust of wind blew everyone grabbed a leg of one of the tents to ensure they didn't blow away. (Kind of like what happened at War Practice last year.)

Thorfinna took part in the Warlord Battle and ended up on Earl Sir David's team by the end of it. Thorfinna learned how to use her shield to good effect against Vlad's spear as he battled her Warlord, under the gentle words of Earl Sir David. "Push his spear, Thorfinna! Get in there! Block!" Earl Sir David led his team down to the river to face Sir Evander MacLachlan's more experienced team. With Evander stood His Highness Roak, Duke Sir Finvarr, His Excellency Sir Menken, Sir Mordain, Aaron Jarl, Baron Siegfried and others equally skilled. Now, Earl Sir David's team was a good one, but many were still newer fighters. Still, he led them into glorious battle and they won almost as many engagements as their enemy. Still, in the end, it was Sir Evander who emerged victorious. Wassail Evander!

While the bridge battles raged, Berend and Iolanda shot the bow, Ivanna worked on a new Septentrian tabard and much conversation was had.

Later that day a Seven Deadly Sins Tournament was held, where a knight took on the part of each deadly sin. As there were only six knights on hand, Siegfried also portrayed a sin—that of Envy. My, how all the Chreaggers laughed to hear that. Eirik almost fell off his chair.

When the battles were all over, it was discovered that Cynred had not fallen in the water. For many years past he had always fallen in, giving the shallow river under the bridge the name of Cynred's Bath. To rectify matters, Cynred walked upstream and flung himself into the water as it cascaded down a short falls and into a pool before the bridge. Not to let his Baron take a plunge he wouldn't Streonwald Wulfesbanna accompanied him. Both were still in full armour.

At Baronial Court Colyne was ensnared to ensure that the Baronial banner did not fly away and was given a Septentrian baldric to wear and a Septentrian patch as token. Kirstiken, former entourage of Countess Rustique and now entourage of Her Highness Arlette, gave everyone standing in court all chocolate as well. Seong, wearing her Champion's collar, and Eirik stood behind the Thrones with Petrea Thule's Seneschal Keja and Tiberius while all awaited the arrival of the herald, Streonwald. Apparently, the bath hadn't been good enough for him and he was in the shower. Colyne suggested they have him herald court in a towel. Gaerwen engaged the crowd in conversation and Cynred regaled all with "Born on the List Field" until finally a calm, cool and casual Streonwald strode up the hill. One young man had his Lady called up into court where he proposed to her! Many awards were handed out, though court had to get up and physically move inside as many of the Thuligans who were so awarded were inside working. Amongst the awards Melchior and Eileen were awarded Bear's Hearts and Vlad was given a Bear's Claw. Tempus Peregrinator was also given a Bear's Claw and the Title of Officer of Misinformation for his efforts in confusing our southron neighbours with tales of Wallpaper Festivals, moose hatcheries and the like. When the call came for those who wanted to swear to the Isengesitha, Mahault van der Eych swore as a Scout.

Wolfgang and Jen-Margaret were invited to sit at head table during feast at Their Excellencies side.

While everyone feasted there was much entertainment. Earl Sir David had six roses, which he would give to those who stood and pontificated on the loveliness of their Ladies. Colyne stood and won Thorfinna a rose. (David had previously given Gailana a rose.)

Keja then called on all to come up and sing bawdy songs. Thorfinna, having written one only a few weeks past, was able to fulfill her obligation of opening a Septentrian hall, and sing a bawdy song at one and the same time. Although many fine songs and tales were told, at the end of the night Thorfinna's was chosen as best and she received a CD entitled, "The Art of the Bawdy Song."

Thorfinna later went to head table and told them a tale of her love for Septentria, which got quite an emotional reaction. Their Highnesses gave her a ring as token of her tale, and Gaerwen gave unto her a Septentrian patch and belt favour.

After dinner Eirik gathered up as many Chreaggers as he could find for group photographs. Thorfinna, Mahault, Gaerwen and Colyne linked arms and sang, "We're off to see the Wizard," as they skipped from one location to another. As everyone crammed on the bridge they hoped it would take the weight of so much camaraderie.

People began to hitch up their wagons as rain began to fall. When asked on our way out the door if we had enjoyed ourselves we laughed. It was one of the best events we had yet been to. For that Ardchreag will always have a special place in its heart for our sister canton, Petrea Thule.

Only a small contingent of Chreaggers braved the foul weather to partake in Murder Melee. They included Eirik, Thorfinna, Brandt, Wolfgang, Jean-Margaret and Colyne. Brandt, Thorfinna and Colyne fought with Septentria during the ten-man-melee (unsurprising as they were all Isengesitha). The rain held off the Saturn Day until after the fighting was done; at which point the heavens wept and those of the Cliffs scurried for home.

At this time Iolanda de Albornoze became Minister of Arts and Sciences as Mahault van der Eych became Deputy Baronial Minister of Arts and Sciences.

July AS XXXVII

Ardchreag celebrated its 10th anniversary at its 10th annual War Practice event. Colyne produced ArdX, a 10th anniversary yearbook, to mark the occasion, which premiered at EWP. The event was a great success, with record breaking attendance any many, many activities. Iolanda organized Arts and Sciences classes while Colyne and the Games Guild hosted a very well attended night of gaming and gambling. Duchess Eanor organized a military muster that caught the attention of the local media. The armed might of Ealdormere looked glorious in heraldic tabards, banners flying, spears glinting, shields warding off the intense and searing heat.

Ardchreag had four fighters authorize that weekend. Wat of Sarum went first, followed a day later by Mahault van der Eych, Berend van der Eych and Wulfgang Donnerfaust. William the Younger also authorized, as a Level One Scout. Fursto de Robnye was raised to the rank of Journeyman within the Chirurganate while Wat, Berend and Mahault all swore to the Isengesitha. Wulfgang swore fealty to the Khan, while Gunther was taken as one of the Khan's personal guard.

Cookies truly rained from the sky at court as no less than seven Chreaggers won awards. Brandt das Lederwerker and Ivanna the Oblivious were awarded a Bear's Heart, Luke Wulfessone received a Bear's Claw (through House Hrogn), Lachlan MacLean received a Bear's Claw, Iolanda de Albornoz and Damara of Stormhaven received their Awards of Arms, and Master Rufus of Stamford was given a Maiden's Heart. To top things off, the Canton itself was awarded with a Bear's Heart.

Prizes followed. Thorfinna won the Ladies Viking Toss, Berend won the Mead Brewing Contest and is the holder of the Ealdormerean Book of Mead, Eirik Andersen was presented with a horn by Garraed Galbraith and Ivanna was given a token by Colyne in his role as Baronial Bard.

Garraed Galbraith was caught unawares at the Galbraith 10th anniversary party and was put on vigil for the Order of the Laurel, while Viscountess Rylyn Buchanon was elevated to the Order of the Pelican at court.

Many canton members went badger hunting, armed with Melibus (cocoanut rum and vanilla Coke).

It was a most tiring, but most pleasing event.

A large group from the Cliffs traveled to Bastille du Lac to pass the day in the company of a band of pirates that had made a truce with the Khan. Among them was Iolanda, the van der Eychs, Wulfgang and Jean-Margaret, Gunther, Eanor and Heloise, Tarian and Eirik. Archery was shot, battles were fought, bread ball battles erupted at feast as Eanor led the pirating lasses of Ardchreag from table to table stealing loaves. Many games of bowls were played, with even the Khan stopping to toss the balls.

At this time Colyne stepped down as Canton Chronicler to become Baronial Chronicler. Mahgault van der Eych took over the Canton newsletter while Tarian verch Gadarn became Deputy to them both.

August AS XXXVII

War drums once agasin sounded across the lands of Ealdormere and the Canton of Ardchreag was quick to send its representatives south to Pennsic War XXXI. They supplied five fighters towards the Septentrian fyrd, being Berend van der Eych, Colyne Stewart, Mahault van der Eych, Thorfinna gra'feldr and Wat of Sarum. Colyne, Thorfinna and Wat all received Bear's Claws for their martial contributions to the War. Wat fought in all war-point battles, the friendship battle and pick-up fighting. (This was his first War, and he was said to have fought with the strength of seven men.) Berend, Colyne, Thorfinna and Eirik Andersen all took turns guarding Ealdormere Royal, Berend standing two shifts.

Berend joined the Ealdormere Engineering Corps and assisted in the building of a sedan chair for the Kha'tun.

During Septentrian court Colyne was given the byname "the Wordsmith" by Streonwald Wulfesbanna of Caer Draeth for his Bardic endeavours and Wat officially swore to the Isengesitha.

Duchess Eanor was presented with a spear by the now Sir Vitus of the Midrealm for her efforts in generaling the Woods Battle.

Alaani was awarded a Bear's Heart for her efforts as an Ambassador to House Mjолnir (which officially adopted her at War).