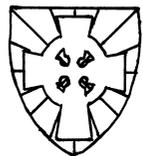


*The Shadow Knows*  
c/o Pat Mullins  
1811D Potomac Place  
College Station, TX 77840

# The Shadow Knows

February AS XLIV (AD 2010)



Newsletter for the Shire of the Shadowlands  
The Capital of Ansteorra

## Their Royal Majesties

Owen ap Aedden & Genevria de Bette  
Eric and Jennifer Jackson  
crown@ansteorra.org

## Their Royal Highnesses

Jean Paul de Sens &  
Gilyan Alienora Clonmacnoise  
coronet@ansteorra.org

## Calendar of Events

(From the Kingdom Calendar)

## Officers of the Shire of the Shadowlands

### Seneschal

Sir Rhodri ap Gwythyr  
Paul Foster  
shadowlands.seneschal@gmail.com

### Treasurer (Accepting Applications)

Lady Catan ingen Míchl  
Kristin Denton  
shadowlands.treasurer@gmail.com

### Herald

The Shire of the Shadowlands does not  
Currently have a branch herald.  
If you need assistance with heraldry please contact  
the Orbis Herald (Southern Regional Herald) at:  
southern@herald.ansteorra.org

### Chronicler

Lord Pædríc OMullan  
Pat Mullins  
shadowlandschronicler@yahoo.com  
979-492-9959

### Hospitaler

Alfrun of the Shadowlands  
Morgan Wagon  
morgan.wagon@yahoo.com  
817-526-4786

### Historian

Lord Pædríc OMullan  
Pat Mullins  
shadowlandschronicler@yahoo.com  
979-492-9959

### Knight Marshal (Accepting Applications)

Lord Bastian Eisengart  
Jedediah Tressler  
jed.tressler@gmail.com

### Rapier Marshal

Don Conner MacGillivray  
Benjamin White  
benjamin.white@gmail.com  
339-222-2311

### Archery Marshal

OPEN  
ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

### Web Minister (Accepting Applications)

Lady Catan ingen Míchl  
Kristin Denton  
vs.shadowlands@gmail.com

### Minister of Arts and Sciences

Lady Brigid Cunningham  
Sarah Gray  
sarah.gray.88@gmail.com

### CAAA Advisor

Mistress Kaitlyn McKenna  
Robbin Foster  
Mistresskaitlyn@gmail.com

This is *The Shadow Knows*, a publication of the Shire of the Shadowlands of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. (SCA). *The Shadow Knows* is available from Pat Mullins, 1811D Potomac Place, College Station, TX, 77840 or online at <http://shadowlands.ansteorra.org/>. It is not a corporate publication of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. (SCA) and does not delineate SCA policies.

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### February 2010 (AS XLIV)

5-7..... Candlemas - Bryn Gwlad (Austin, TX)  
Winter Kingdom - Northkeep (Tulsa, OK)  
12-14..... Kingdom A&S - Steppes (Dallas, TX)  
Out of Kingdom: Estrella War XXVI - Kingdom of Atenveldt (Florence, AZ)  
19-21 ..... Bjornsborg Spring Event - Bjornsborg (San Antonio, TX)  
26-28 ..... Quest for the Round Table IV - Tir Medoin (Rockdale, TX)

### March 2010 (AS XLIV)

5-7..... OPEN  
12-14..... Out of Kingdom: Gulf War XIX (14th - 21st) - Gleann Abhann  
19-21 ..... Out of Kingdom: Gulf War XIX (14th - 21st) - Gleann Abhann  
26-28..... OPEN

### Populace Meetings

March 2.....8:00PM Rudder 502

April 6.....8:00PM Rudder 407

### Practices

Practice	Time	Location	Contact
Archery	Sun 3:00PM	Austin's Colony Park	Lord Bastian jed.tressler@gmail.com
Chivalric	Thur 7:00PM	TAMU Main Drill Field	Lord Bastian jed.tressler@gmail.com
Rapier	Thur 7:00PM	TAMU Main Drill field	Don Conner benjamin.white@gmail.com

### Guilds

Guild	Time	Location	Contact
Brewers	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Wed 6:30PM	TBA check the list	Lord Bastian jed.tressler@gmail.com
Blacksmithing	1 <sup>st</sup> Wed 6:30 PM	Bastian's house	Lord Bastian jed.tressler@gmail.com
Cooking	3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed 7:00PM	Isabelot's House	HL Isabelot isabelotdeforess@gmail.com
Dance	1,2,4 Sun 7:00PM	266 G. Rollie White	Lady Morina elwenaduialloth@yahoo.com
Italian Dance	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday 6:00PM	General Services Complex Lobby	Lady Morina elwenaduialloth@yahoo.com
Musicians	1 <sup>st</sup> Mon 7:00PM	Brigid's Apt	Lady Brigid sarah.gray.88@gmail.com
Scribes	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Mon 7:30PM	Kaitlyn's house	Lady Luciana pchanjeni@sbcglobal.net
Singing	3 <sup>rd</sup> Mon 7:00PM	Brigid's Apt	Lady Brigid sarah.gray.88@gmail.com

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## The Shadow Notes

Congratulations to Sir Jean Paul de Sens, who survived bitter cold and a grueling tournament to become the new Crown Prince of Ansteorra, with his Princess, Gilyan Alienora Clonmacnoise.

Congratulations to Lady Catan, who, at Fall Ball, received a much deserved Sable Comet for her service to the Shire of the Shadowlands – Capital of Ansteorra.

Congratulations to Mistress Kaitlyn, who outlasted the defending Bransle-Off champion, HL Antonello, to win this year's Bransle-Off. Kaitlyn also won the Ansteorran Geographic Heraldry Quiz, with 98 of a possible 102 answers correct.

Congratulations to Squiggles, voted Best Minotaur in the Minotaur's Maze.

Congratulations to Lady Malka and Lord Iacobo, two Shadowlander expatriates who received AoAs in January in the Kingdom of the West. Vivat!

Many thanks to Lady Brigid Cunningham, our MoAS and Music Guild principal, for organizing live musicians for Fall Ball. Thanks also to the other musicians: Mistress Amata Amati d'Arezzo, Master Avatar of Catsprey, Feyd Da'ud ibn Jabir, Damian Grey, David Denton, and Gilligan.

Safe travels to Lord Tuathal (Twill) who will be spending the spring in Italy.

Benders Guild is now meeting 3 times a month, with the first Wednesday being blacksmithing, the second and fourth Wednesdays brewing. There is a tax for attending blacksmithing of one (1) bag of natural lump charcoal (not charcoal briquettes).

Lady Catan's term in office as Treasurer of the Shadowlands will end in April. **This office MUST be filled.** It requires only basic accounting skills and looks GREAT on a resume. Interested parties should send the Ansteorran Application for Kingdom Office (available at the Kingdom webpage {[www.ansteorra.org](http://www.ansteorra.org) } ) to the Kingdom Treasurer and the Southern Regional Treasurer (HL Isabelot), with copies to the local Seneschal (Sir Rhodri) and the local Treasurer (Catan). As with all officer positions you must be a paid member to hold this office. **This position will be open for applications until the first of March.**

The Offices of Knight Marshal and Web Minister are both accepting applications until the positions are filled.

## Thanks and Credits

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## Officer Reports

### From the Seneschal

The event was awesome!!! Congratulations to the newest holder of the Sable Comet for service to the Capital of Ansteorra, Catan!!!

Many thanks to all those who helped and those who came out and had fun.

Start thinking of the next fun thing you want to do. It has been a while since we did Quest for the Pretty Good Mug or Siege the Day. About time for yet another special Shadowlands event.

Don't forget dance has moved over to G. Rollie. Directions to room were posted on the list recently, even though they did sound like something out of a B horror movie.

Rhodri

### From the Treasurer

The End of Year (EoY) report has been completed and just needs to be signed. As of December 31, we have \$5127.71.

I would like to remind everyone that the office of the Treasurer is open for applications until March 1st. Isabelot and I are perfectly willing to train you and help with any questions you may have while in office. As long as you can keep a check book, you can do this job!

Catan

### From the Fall Ball Event Steward

Hello. I hope everyone had a good time at the Ball, because if not, it was your own fault. :) There were many activities to choose from: rapier maze, stained-glass window activity, group heraldry quiz, charter painting, table and outdoor games, the Minotaur maze, birthday cake, etc. culminating at the end of the night with the Ball.

Many little gifts were given out for various notable acts. Sir Rhodri for teaching table games most of the day, Mistress Kaitlyn for properly identifying the most groups for the heraldry quiz, Howard for being particularly helpful to the event staff, and Kimberly (Squiggles) for best Minotaur (by acclaim).

I was remiss in thanking people in court that night. I forgot to thank Paedric for designing and making the site tokens and Orazio for organizing gate. I thanked Kolfinna for organizing set up and tear down, Kaitlyn for decorating and supplying the games, Connor for marshaling the rapier fighting

and Crowley for organizing the creation of the rapier maze, Bastian for running the Minotaur maze, Alwyn for organizing the food on site, Brigid for providing the musicians, Morina for organizing the dances and the musicians for playing during the day and for the ball.

Mistress Kaitlyn won the dreaded Bransle off. There was stiff competition from Antonello and Alfrun, so much so that I was wondering if we were going to have to give out 3 prizes! The prize was a pair of crocheted booties in Shadowlands' colors.

For those of you who missed it, ask about Master Avatar dancing *Petit Vriens* with his bagpipes! I hope someone got a picture!

At final count, there were 53 through gate, with 1 arrival after gate closed. Due to the donation of monies at the gate and failure to claim reimbursement for food and supplies, we made \$128 this year. Shadowlands rejoice!

Your humble autocrat,  
Catan

*From the Minister of Arts and Sciences*

**NO REPORT RECEIVED**

*From the Chivalric Marshal*

All is quiet before the storm of war. Which is to say the weather has been making life less fighty fun. For those who need armor or weapons before war, get with me ASAP so we can get it done. Practices will continue on Thursdays at 7:00 on the Drill Field. Additional practices may be called for Sundays, depending on attendance. For those looking to fight in the Capitol Guard at war who are not authorized, remember, no authorizations will be done at war, so you must get safe and checked out before March. Thats not much time, so get to it. For those not authorized yet, there is still a place in the noble company for you, so sign up for the auxiliary.

In other news, I am announcing the opening of my office for applications. Applications will be open until next month, (March 1st) or until a suitable replacement is found, whichever comes second. Im not going away, just opening the office for anybody who is interested.

Bastian

*From the Hospitaler*

Thank you all for a wonderful event, and thank you all the newcomers that joined us! Gulf War is in just a couple months, so if you need clothing or equipment, speak up now! Do not let lack of equipment or garb stop you! If

you are unsure what fabric to buy or what you need to camp at War, send an email to the list-serve. Someone from our Shire will be happy to answer your questions or even take you on a shopping trip.

For senior shire members, if you would be happy never to see the purple paisley pants again (even as part of a maze), please donate your unwanted garb- particularly T-tunics!

In service,  
Alfrun

*From the Rapier Marshal*

**NO REPORT RECEIVED**

*From the Web Minister*

Hello again. I would like to remind everyone that the office of Webminister is open for applications indefinitely.

If anyone has any pictures they have posted on the web and would like to share with the Shire, please send me a link and I will add it to the pictures page.

As always, let me know if you are having an activity that you would like to have listed on the Shire calendar and I will make sure it gets posted. Please allow 24 hours for me to receive your request.

Thanks.  
Catan

*From the Chronicler*

Twelve newsletters in twelve months. I'm pretty sure that is a record for the Shadowlands. I hope y'all are all feeling well informed. Thank you to the officers who submitted reports, Ronald for the cover photo, and a HUGE thank you to Lord Orin for his article about William the Conqueror, more of which will appear in a later issue.

Paedric, Chronicler

*From the Historian*

In January of that same year the Shadowlands did host Fall Ball, (Take II They're Small). It was there that Lady Catan received a Sable Comet for service to the Shire of the Shadowlands – Capital of Ansteorra. Mistress Kaitlyn won the Bransle-Off and Geographic Heraldry Quiz, and Squiggles won Best Minotaur in the Minotaur's Maze.

*Paedric*, Historian

## This Month in the Middle Ages – February

1. In 1327 – Teenaged Edward III is crowned King of England, but the country is ruled by his mother Queen Isabella and her lover Roger Mortimer.
2. In 962 – *Translatio imperii*: Pope John XII crowns Otto I Holy Roman Emperor, the first Holy Roman Emperor in nearly 40 years.
3. In 1488 – Bartolomeu Dias of Portugal lands in Mossel Bay after rounding the Cape of Good Hope, becoming the first known European to travel so far south.
4. In 960 – The coronation of Zhao Kuangyin as Emperor Taizu of Song, initiating the Song Dynasty period of China that would last more than three centuries.
5. In 1576 – Henry of Navarre converts to Roman Catholicism in order to ensure his right to the throne of France.
6. In 891 – death of St. Photius I the Great, Patriarch of Constantinople.
7. In 1497 – The Bonfire of the Vanities occurs in which supporters of Girolamo Savonarola burn thousands of objects like cosmetics, art, and books in Florence, Italy.
8. In 1587 – Mary, Queen of Scots was executed at suspicion of having been involved in the Babington Plot to murder her cousin, Queen Elizabeth I of England.
9. In 1555 – Bishop of Gloucester John Hooper is burned at the stake.
10. In 1306 – Before the high altar of Greyfriars Church in Dumfries, Robert the Bruce murdered John Comyn, his leading political rival, sparking revolution in the Scottish Wars of Independence.
11. In 1531 – Henry VIII of England is recognized as supreme head of the Church of England.
12. In 1554 – A year after claiming the throne of England for nine days, Lady Jane Grey is beheaded for treason.
13. In 1503 – Disfida di Barletta – famous challenge between 13 Italian and 13 French knights near Barletta.
14. In 842 – Charles the Bald and Louis the German swear the Oaths of Strasbourg in the French and German languages.
15. In 1564 – birth of Galileo Galilei, Italian astronomer and physicist (d. 1642)
16. In 1249 – Andrew of Longjumeau is dispatched by Louis IX of France as his ambassador to meet with Mongol Khagan of the Mongol Empire.
17. In 1600 – The philosopher Giordano Bruno is burned alive at Campo de' Fiori in Rome for heresy.
18. In 1229 – The Sixth Crusade: Frederick II, Holy Roman Emperor signs a ten-year truce with al-Kamil, regaining Jerusalem, Nazareth, and Bethlehem with neither military engagements nor support from the papacy.
19. In 1594 – Having already inherited the throne of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth through his mother Catherine Jagellonica of Poland, Sigismund III of the House of Vasa is crowned King of Sweden, succeeding his father John III of Sweden.
20. In 1472 – Orkney and Shetland are left by Norway to Scotland, due to a dowry payment.
21. In 1595 Hanging of Robert Southwell, Jesuit poet, for being a Catholic priest, at Tyburn, England.
22. In 1452 Murder of William, the Earl of Douglas, by James II, King of Scots
23. In 1455 – Traditional date for the publication of the Gutenberg Bible, the first Western book printed from movable type.
24. In 1587 Excommunication of Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra, author of "Don Quixote"
25. In 1570 – Pope Pius V excommunicates Queen Elizabeth I of England.
26. In 1551 Execution of Thomas Arundell
27. In 1560 – The Treaty of Berwick, which would expel the French from Scotland, is signed by England and the Congregation of Scotland.
28. In 1574 First burning of heretics by the Inquisition in the New World.

# Poetry Corner

This month's poetry Corner is a couple of limericks, a period poetic form from Ireland. I wrote them a couple of weeks ago while I was supposed to be working.

## Limericks

By Lord Pædric O'Mullan

From the Shadowlands there came a man,  
Went to war with a very smart plan.  
“All day I will fight,  
Then I'll party all night,  
I can sleep when I'm dead, yes I can.”

From the Shadowlands there came a lass,  
Full of dignity, honor, and class.  
Went to war with a bow,  
Let the enemy know:  
“If you run you'll get shot in the %\$\$.”

## Getting Started in Calligraphy – Part 4 By Lord Pædric O'Mullan

### Inking the Pen

If you are using a felt-tip pen this will not be a problem for you. If you are using a cartridge pen, good luck! Getting the ink to flow in a cartridge pen was one of the reasons I started using dip pens. If you are using a dip pen, dip the pen into the bottle of ink about 1/4 to 3/8 of an inch, just enough to get the reservoir (the little brass thing on the back of the nib) into the ink. Not dipping far enough to get the reservoir into the ink won't accomplish anything, dipping too far may make a mess on your fingers, your project, or your surroundings. Remove the nib from the ink bottle and remove excess ink from the nib. This may be done by gently wiping the tip of the nib (both sides) against the neck of the ink bottle. At least, so I've heard. Never worked too well for me. I usually blot the nib (again, both sides) gently on a napkin or tissue. Not enough to draw the ink out of the reservoir, just enough to remove the excess drop at the tip of the nib which will cause a splotch on your paper. Now your pen is ready to write.

### Nib Angle

The angle of the nib while writing is what produces the distinctive differences in various scripts. For Gothic letters the nib should be at about a 45° angle. This produces medium-width lines on the vertical and horizontal, thick or very thin lines (depending on direction) on the diagonals. For Uncial letters the nib should be at about a 15° angle, which produces thick verticals and thin to very thin horizontals and diagonals. Nib angle will vary with each style of script you try, and most calligraphy books will tell you the angle needed for each.

### The Stroke

When writing with a calligraphy pen it is important to always go in a direction such that you PULL the pen across the paper. For right-handed people this is generally from top to bottom and left to right. Diagonals should also go left to right, whether going downward or upward. Pushing the pen will often result in the nib catching on the paper, which can cause splotching or spraying of ink.

### Wrong-handed Writers

There are special nibs for left-handed people, but they usually have to be special ordered. I've never tried one, but I don't really see how they could help, since the writer would still have to push the pen to make a left-to-right stroke, and the writer's hand would still drag through the wet ink of the letters already written. Instead, I recommend that southpaws turn the paper, 90° to the right for straight-wristed lefties, 180° (upside-down) for hook-wristed lefties. This is the method I have used for many years, and it has worked well for me, as well as for other left-handed people I have suggested it to. If you have trouble translating the instructions in your right-side-up exemplar simply turn the book upside-down as well. As you become more comfortable writing upside-down you will find it easier to read right-side-up while writing upside-down.

### Next Month – An actual Alphabet

# King William: Bastard, Conqueror, Subjugator of Innocent People?

By Lord Óringr Ketilsson

Many of the people we might look to as heroes and or role models have come out of the middle ages. Some are exactly the way they have been portrayed in history texts, but many are not. In this paper I will attempt to clarify and do away with the one common misconception: the notion that William the Bastard, Duke of Normandy, King of England, was not the man that we are often taught he was, but that he was, rather, a conqueror in every sense of the term, acting out of self interest rather than a lofty ideal of honor or chivalry. Most of our education about William tells us that he won the Battle of Hastings in 1066 and thereafter ruled England with an iron fist. We do not learn that he was faithful to his wife and to God, and to his own people, or that he was brutal, selfish, greedy, and manipulative to everyone else.

William was tough and determined; he led his own troops into battle and fought beside them. He was wounded with the others and killed with the others. None of this is surprising when we learn that he was of Scandinavian blood.

But the question I am addressing is not if William was a good man or a good ruler. I believe that he was these things. But did he live a Chivalrous life? Was he a man that we should look up to as a hero, or is he a glorified brigand that took a country by the sword and ruled it by the same? To determine the answer to this question, first we must have a working definition of Chivalry.

The question of Chivalry has plagued mankind for the last eight hundred years or so. What is Chivalry and what does it mean to us? The never ending quote that “Chivalry is dead” looms above us in our daily lives and makes the women of our era feel as though they are missing out on some kind of special treatment. I believe that they are missing out on something, but I am not sure that people today would want the kind of Chivalry that existed in the middle ages.

Chivalry is an extremely hard concept to define. Most of what makes Chivalry difficult is its illusiveness and the fact that we no longer live according to a code of Chivalry. But there are different versions of chivalry: the idealized notions born out of the Arthurian Romances, of damsels being saved by knights; then there is the version handed to us by modern day popular culture, specifically in movies, but not limited to them; then there is the more historical sense of chivalry, born out of the

courts of Charlemagne.

Chivalry was the concept that those who have the right to bear arms should use them to protect those who do not have such a right, the armed protect the unarmed. Chivalry is the concept of respect for one’s peers and hosts while enduring hardships of your own, if necessary. For one to be noble one must be more than just born into a good family, one must also act nobly. Chivalry is respect towards ladies and the idea of courtly love, or, the kind of love that would inspire a knight to fight well on the tournament field and act as a gentleman in court.

Chivalry is the code of conduct that commands a knight or person of rank to constantly be aware that he is a representative of his lord and of Christ, and that he has a duty as that representative to exemplify the highest code of conduct possible. He was a protector of the Church and king.

“William, Duke of Normandy, was the direct descendant of the first Duke of Normandy, a Scandinavian emigrant named Rollo,...it would appear that his Southerly orientation came about after the banishment from Norway for the plundering of his own people” (Lloyd 59.) Rollo earned his own duchy by converting to Christianity and paying homage to the French king, who gave Rollo his daughter in marriage as part of the deal. But most of Rollo’s subjects were predators, which “...called for the most vigorous and ruthless suppression of crime, and Rollo was quick to provide it” (Lloyd 61).

Thus, we can see with clarity the line from which William was born, and the kind of swift justice he was accustomed to; from the very beginning of Normandy’s existence, the Duke of Normandy was seen as a strict ruler over his subjects, the kind of ruler who would not tolerate lawlessness of any kind. This attitude would carry from Rollo to William and consequently to the English after William conquered that land.

William was a bastard son, born of a peasant woman whom his father had noticed along the roadside while out riding one day. This lineage would haunt William for the entirety of his life, and prove to be a block in the path of his rule. William inherited the duchy of Normandy when his father died while returning from a pilgrimage of repentance; we are not sure why he was on pilgrimage, but many doors of opportunity opened for others who also wanted the duchy when he died. William was eight years old. He ended up spending much of his early life hiding from those who would kill him to have his inheritance.

All was decided for William when he went to the French king and asked for the king’s assistance in putting down a rebellion. At the Battle of Val-es-Dunes the rebellious Normans were subjugated by William, and his insurrectionist cousin, Guy of Bayeux, had all his own plans for the Dukedom crushed. William’s career had begun.

The next several years saw William as an able leader and fighter. Many a siege was laid by William on those who were rebellious, but one of the quickest sieges was when the Hammer, or Geoffrey of Anjou, had decided that he wanted a piece of the southern portion of Normandy for himself. After Geoffrey had already gained land to the east of his own territory he began to harry along the border of Normandy. William, with the king's blessing, rode south to engage Geoffrey and reclaim the territory that was his and the King's.

Two forts had been built by Geoffrey on the border. Domfort stood in Maine, and Alençon was on the Norman side of the frontier. Alençon was sufficiently remote so that its people felt safe from William and his army. The Normans advanced and surrounded Domfort. But William would not attack Domfort first, he needed to make an example, "...therefore, he planned a surprise night march against Alençon, forcing apart the defenses and taking prisoners. Thirty or more of these had their hands and feet cut off, seemingly at William's instructions, after which the rest of the defenders surrendered. Indeed, not only Alençon was overcome by these atrocities. The news struck such fear in the defenders of Domfort that they, in turn decided to surrender, leaving the duke the master of his southern frontier" (Lloyd 74).

It was by these methods and the success he found in using them that finally settled Normandy into a peaceful land, more or less, from which William could rule as duke. But William had just begun his conquests. Having a taste for victory on the battlefield, he turned his sights to more personal matters: marriage. He sought the hand of Matilda, the daughter of Baldwin V, who was related to Robert II of France and could trace her heritage to Charlemagne on her mother's side and to Alfred the Great of England on her father's side. But Matilda's first response to William was one of scorn. However, William was not to be turned down so easily. "The story had it that, when she rejected his advances, the duke forced his way into her chamber at Bruges and, in his fury beat and kicked her, so impressing her with his mastery that she declared she would marry nobody else" (Lloyd 75).

But the duke, and his bride to be, met with much difficulty, mainly that Pope Leo IX pronounced a ban on the marriage. The two were wed though, in the Norman town of Eu. In 1059, when the Pope lifted his ban, the couple had two religious houses built, each representing a house for the two sexes. The houses also represented the union William would later enjoy with the Church. He would gain much in the way of political power for the building of the houses, the Abbeys of St. Stephen and the Holy Trinity.

Matilda and William produced four sons and at least five daughters,

perhaps six. Matilda was his life partner and helpmate, and was the best alliance William would contract. The belief is that he was faithful to Matilda for the entirety of his life. A rare act in the face of other kings and their innumerable courtesans, and the fact that William himself was a bastard son. It is very commendable, if indeed it is true, and by itself it showed William to be a man of virtue, even if he was prone to violence. It is exactly his use of violence in subjugating his own people that presents the largest problem in accepting him as an honest and just leader and king.

William sat in Normandy awaiting the word of the death of Eadward, king of England, so that William would be able to claim the crown of England. Harold, the prince of England, had already gone to Normandy and sworn himself the Duke's vassal. All knew of the failing health of the King of England. The English crown had been promised to William, he was simply biding his time until the right moment to claim it for his own. Many were waiting for the death of Eadward in order to receive the best inheritance possible, the kingdom of England.

Eadward did die, as old, sick men do, but the throne was not vacant long enough for William, or anybody else, to claim it. There was much talk amongst the nobility of who should inherit the crown of their country, and apparently William's name was brought up. He did have a claim to the throne on his wife's side of the family. Many English nobles thought the duke who had made Normandy so great a duchy could do the same for England as well. But William was not the choice of the people of England to rule them. They chose instead Harold, son of Godwin, as their rightful King.

"The news was not slow in reaching the ears of that mighty rival across the sea, who had long marked the kingly seat as his own heritage, and who could now complain to the world that his heritage had been torn from him by his own sworn vassal" (Freeman 55). And so was the attitude of William, Duke of Normandy, as he listened about the expedient ascension to the throne of England by Harold. The duke negotiated as patiently as he knew how, but the end result was the invasion of England.

Was William right in his conquest? Did he have rightful claim to England, or was he just land and power hungry? His wife was a descendant of Alfred the Great of England, but did that give William the right to invade and take what he wanted? Chivalry, that concept which commanded a knight's behavior, and William had been dubbed a knight, said that it was wrong to take by force that which is not rightfully your own. The definition of chivalry that we are working with in this paper does not make allowances for usurpation. So, did William act in a chivalrous manner?