

# The Shadow

## Knows

January AS XXXXVIII (AD 2014)

Shadowlanders II

Rain and muck  
and weather cooling,  
students frantic  
with their schooling.

Archers Gaining  
Skills and bruises  
They who practice  
beat the snoozes.

Chivalric skills  
and attitude  
Strike fast and hard  
But never rude!

Kapier fighters  
know whose smart  
To wield a sword  
slim as a dart!

Goodly food  
Comes from cooks  
Who chop and prepare  
from ancient books.

Lovely Garb  
And woven trim  
Resulting from  
Both skill and wim!

Oyez! Oyez! Oyez!

Runs with Scissors / Plays with fire  
&  
Eisteddfod

January 18



Come and Play!

Melted sand  
And fire fierce  
Beads are melted  
and are pierced.

fire and metal  
forged in heat  
Tools and weapons  
Both to meet.

Leather worked  
By tool and damp  
Make protection for  
each champ.

Bags and belts  
Of leather soft  
Useful items  
round garb off!

Ink and pen  
Make paper sing  
And make for scrolls  
that royals bring!

If this poem makes you  
cringe  
Get off your duff  
And send one in!

Newsletter for the Shire of the Shadowlands



Capital of Ansteorra



**Their Stellar Majesties**

Aaron MacGregor and Nicollet Deuville  
[crown@ansteorra.org](mailto:crown@ansteorra.org)

**Their Stellar Highnesses**

[coronet@ansteorra.org](mailto:coronet@ansteorra.org)

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 Ann Seeton, PO Box 9224, College Station, TX 77842, 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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## Shadowlands' Officers and what they do

### **Seneschal: \_\_ OPEN \_\_ Acting: Mistress Kaitlyn McKenna**

[Modern name: Robbin Foster]

The Seneschal acts as the local business manager for the group, helps facilitate answers to SCA questions, schedules Shire activities, and helps keep the group on course. Contact at: [shadowlands.seneschal@gmail.com](mailto:shadowlands.seneschal@gmail.com) or 979-218-8870

Taking applications!!!!!!

### **Herald: \_\_ OPEN \_\_**

The Shire of the Shadowlands does not currently have a branch herald; if you need assistance with heraldry please contact the Eclipse Herald (Southern Regional Herald) at: [southern@herald.ansteorra.org](mailto:southern@herald.ansteorra.org)

### **Hospitaler: \_\_ OPEN \_\_ Kaitlyn McKenna (acting hospitaler)**

[Modern name: Robbin Foster]

The hospitaler is the keeper of the loaner garb and general go-to person for getting started. They greet newcomers and help them become oriented to and involved in the present middle ages. If someone needs to borrow garb or equipment for an event, the Hospitaler helps them to check out loaner items. Contact at: [shadowlands.hospitaler@gmail.com](mailto:shadowlands.hospitaler@gmail.com) or [shadowlands.seneschal@gmail.com](mailto:shadowlands.seneschal@gmail.com)

### **Knight Marshal: Lord Aldred of the Shadowlands**

[Modern name: Gregory Loots]

The Knight Marshal is in charge of the Chivalric activities for the shire. This includes heavy fighting, armor, and learning about chivalry, which is after all, one of the major reasons why anyone would choose to join our society, and guiding all fighters to develop good safety habits. Contact at: [grloots@aol.com](mailto:grloots@aol.com) or 512-740-3028

**Lord Aldred of the Shadowlands** is an Anglo-Saxon whose interests include chivalric combat and dancing. He has a particular interest in pole arms. He has many limitless enthusiasms and a bizarre obsession with washing dishes.

### **Rapier Marshal: Staltus**

[Modern name: Steven Blakely]

The Rapier Marshal's job is to ensure that fighters obey the safety rules of the Kingdom and are not presenting a danger to themselves or others. In light of that, it is recommended that everyone go to <http://rapier.ansteorra.org> and read the current Rapier Rules for Ansteorra. It is CRUCIAL that all the fighters make themselves intimately familiar with these rules. Fun must be done safely as possible! Contact at: [saltus@gmail.com](mailto:saltus@gmail.com)

**SALTUS is an edgy blade, certainly sharp enough for the task of educating others in the safe handling of pointy objects, who teaches the duck and thrust of rapier fighting. If you find out his persona's culture and time, do tell!**

### **Archery Marshal: Kaitlyn McKenna**

[Modern name: Robbin Foster]

The Archery Marshal supervises the safety of all official shire archery activities, as well as helping archers get started with archery. Marshal training is currently happening. If you are interested in target archery or combat archery, please contact [shadowlands.archery@gmail.com](mailto:shadowlands.archery@gmail.com). Loaner gear is available at practice.

**Mistress (or Baroness) Kaitlyn McKenna** is a 15th Century Burgundian lady trapped in marriage with an old Welsh knight. She is recognized in the Arts and Sciences by the Order of Laurel and in many officer positions, but especially as an Exchequer, by the Order of the Pelican. Her interests include costuming, weaving, fiber arts, dance, archery, and anything to do with the 15<sup>th</sup> century. Kaitlyn is a master instigator, inspiring and helping others to achieve their own goals. Look for a friendly lady with very nice garb. **Kaitlyn McKenna** participates in target and combat archery. She can help you make bow strings, bolts, arrows, leather chivalric armor, and general leather working.

### **Historian: Lord Paedric OMullan**

[Modern name: Pat Mullins]

The historian keeps track of the old tales of past members, adventures and misadventures of the populace of the Shire of the Shadowlands. He keeps documents, photos and other items of interest so they can be placed on display to illustrate the long and

honorable history of this Shire. Contact at: [shadowlandshistorian@yahoo.com](mailto:shadowlandshistorian@yahoo.com) or 979-575-7834

**Lord Pædric OMullan** is a late Elizabethan street performer and sometime Shakespearean actor. He has, in the past, been a jester, but now he's unemployed, so he is nobody's fool. He usually wears some combination of red, blue, and/or yellow, the colors of his arms. Pædric is Historian for the Shire of the Shadowlands. His interests include (but are not limited to) Bardic (performance arts), Heraldry, calligraphy and illumination, pewter casting and drumming.

### **Minster of Arts and Sciences: \_\_\_\_\_ OPEN \_\_\_\_\_**

The Shire of the Shadowlands does not currently have a Minster of Arts and Sciences; if you need assistance with Arts and Sciences please contact the Seneschal at: [shadowlands.seneschal@gmail.com](mailto:shadowlands.seneschal@gmail.com)

### **Exchequer: Lady Isabelot de Forens**

[Modern name: Anna Lichorad ]

The Exchequer is the local treasurer. The Exchequer keeps the ledger of expenses up-to-date and in agreement with the bank statements, sends reports monthly, quarterly, and yearly to the Regional Exchequer, runs all financial committee meetings (typically after Populace meetings), and maintains an up-to-date inventory list including that which is available for loan. To borrow inventory (usually armor or garb) for an event, contact the Hospitaler and then the Exchequer to sign it out. Contact at: [shadowlands.treasurer@gmail.com](mailto:shadowlands.treasurer@gmail.com)

**Honorable Lady Isabelot de Forens** is 13th century French lady from the Burgundy region of France. Her father died with no male heirs but was enlightened and left his lands to his only daughter to manage. She enjoys cooking, managing the household accounts, dance and shooting archery.

### **WEB Minister: Theophanes (Tiffani) of the Shadowlands**

[Modern name: Bryan Wagner]

Manages our web presence. Contact at: [vs.shadowlands@gmail.com](mailto:vs.shadowlands@gmail.com)

Theophanes is his given name, but most know him as Tiffani. He is a citizen of the Byzantine Empire with interests in archery, food, and any other activity time permitting.

### **Chronicler: Anna Maleine**

[Modern name: Ann Seeton]

Produces a newsletter each month to be handed out at the Populous meetings. Everyone is welcome to contribute to make our newsletter wonderful. Contact at: [shadowlandschronicler@yahoo.com](mailto:shadowlandschronicler@yahoo.com)

**Anna Maleine** is late 10<sup>th</sup> century Byzantine; the daughter of a powerful Cappadocian family. She is living and studying in Constantinople during a time of peace and culture under the powerful Emperor Basil II (976-1025).

### **TAMU Advisor: Rhodri ap Gwythyr**

[Modern name: Paul Foster]

The TAMU advisor is a member of the staff at TX A&M and makes possible the existence of this group on campus. Without this person, the local student body might never know the fun that can be had through the SCA.

Contact at: [sir.rhodri@gmail.com](mailto:sir.rhodri@gmail.com)

**Sir Rhodri ap Gwythyr** is an old Welsh Knight who has been in the SCA many years, done many brave deeds, and is a reliable source of answers if you are interested in Chivalry!

### **TAMU Student President: Anastasia**

[Modern name: Ashley St. John ]

The TAMU SCA President is in charge of getting rooms for the SCA to use on campus. The President is a contact person for students and the other student officers. This is an important position and looks good on a resume! Contact at:

Anastasia is a fine upstanding young women of the middle ages with a spirit of service to her fellows. Please welcome her as our TAMU Student President.

### **Thanks and Credits**

Badge of the Shire of the Shadowlands, Runs with Scissors/Plays with Fire logo, The Hunt of the Ramrods, and This Month In History by Lord Pædric OMullan (William P. Mullins) – all rights reserved. Poem 'Shadowlanders II' by Anna Maleine (Ann Seeton)—all rights reserved. All items used with permission from the original creators.

# Shadow Notes

| Be a Social Shire   | Plan to Participate  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>This month's Populace meeting is hosted by Isabelot- do thank her!</b></p> <p><b>DANCE!</b> Second and fourth Wednesdays and Sundays, Wednesday on campus 6-8pm, and Sundays in Shannahan's from 7-9pm. Turnout has been good. Come and Dance!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seneschal office is open for applications.</li> <li>• Volunteers are needed for the January Event.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;">Their Stellar Majesties the King and Queen of Ansteorra—<br/>Aaron, King, and Nicollet, Queen—invite the populace to the<br/><b>Seventy-First Crown Tournament</b><br/>When: Saturday, 11 January 2014<br/>Where: Barony of Raven's Fort at the HEARTS Veterans Museum in<br/>Huntsville, TX.</p> <p>Their Majesties request that Letters of Intent be delivered to them no later than Monday, 6 January. Letters of Intent may be delivered to 4312 Clarno Drive, Austin, TX 78749, or to <a href="mailto:crown@ansteorra.org">crown@ansteorra.org</a>.</p> | <p><b>Runs With Scissors/Plays With Fire is January 18th. This is OUR event so be sure to volunteer in some capacity and attend.</b></p> <p><b>Next big Shire Goes To is GULF WARS. Now is the time to begin preparations and the gathering of garb and equipment. Sign up early and be sure to mark down that you will be camping with the Shire of the Shadowlands.</b></p> <p>The Banner Painting at the Library was a success. Be sure to watch for more preparatory activities and come help to make this event marvelous!</p> <p><b>VERY IMPORTANT!</b><br/>Seneschal's office needs someone! Get those applications in, YESTERDAY!</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Another round of activities is coming.<br/>Be a social shire. Plan to participate!</b></p> |

## WORDFAME

HERE WE HAVE A NEW PLACE IN WHICH TO RECORD THE COMMON CIVILRY OF OUR SHIRE. PLEASE FEEL FREE TO SEND IN THE NAMES OF PEOPLE YOU WOULD LIKE TO THANK AND A SPECIFIC EXAMPLE OF WHAT THEY DID. —CHRONICLER

TRISTRAM—IN NOVEMBER YOU MADE WELCOME A YOUNG FRIEND OF MINE WHO IS QUITE SHY. HE HAD A MARVELOUS TIME AND MAY BE BACK—THANK YOU.

PAEDRIC—THE BARDIC WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE WITHOUT YOUR HELP. THANK YOU.

KAITLYN—YOU TAKE SO MANY ROLES TO KEEP THIS SHIRE RUNNING, I SEE IN YOUR ACTIONS WHAT I THINK A PELICAN AND A LAUREL OUGHT TO BE LIKE.—THANK YOU FOR BEING SUCH A GOOD EXAMPLE.

## OFFICER'S REPORTS

### From the Historian

In December, nothing of historical import happened in the Shire. Or, if it did, nobody told me.

In Service,  
Lord Pædric OMullan

### From the Chronicler

Greetings Good Gentles,  
Get ready, we are bearing down on our own fabulous event: Runs with Scissors/Plays with Fire and Eistefod! If you draw or photograph, write lyric, poem, or prose, then your contributions to our Shire newsletter will be most welcome! This month begins a new column called Word Fame to publish thanks and call outs. I have a few people I want to point out this month, and hopefully this will catch on. If anyone does something helpful and nice for you, send your thanks here to be published for all to see!

In Service,  
Anna Maleine

# This Month In the Middle Ages: January

## January 1

0379 Death of St. Basil  
0414 Athaulf, King of the Franks, marries Galla Placida, sister of the Emperor of Rome (Honorius)  
0533 Death of St. Fulgentius  
0633 MEICEN (Defeat, and death of Edwin, King of Northumbria, by Cadwallon, King of Gwynedd (?))  
0898 Death of Odo, King of the Franks; Charles "the Simple" becomes King  
1048 Death of St. Odilo  
1198 First "Feast of Fools" in Paris, France  
1449 Birth of Lorenzo de Medici  
1511 Birth of Prince Henry of England, who survives no more than six weeks  
1562 Huguenots abolish Catholicism in Castres, France  
1588 Death of Qi Jiguang, "the greatest of Ming generals"

## January 2

0394 Death of St. Macarius  
1119 Death of Pope Gelasius II  
1322 Death of King Phillip V, "The Tall" of France  
1492 Surrender of Granada by the Moors

## January 3

0964 Roman Citizens attack Vatican  
1399 Timur-i-Leng defeats Emperor Mahmud of India  
1521 Martin Luther excommunicated  
1565 Ivan the Terrible threatens to abdicate  
1590 Death of Robert Boyd of Scotland

## January 4

0536 Two monks return to Constantinople with the secret of the manufacture of silk leading to the Byzantine silk industry that produced silks found in collections all over Europe.  
0871 READING (Danes defeat English)  
1254 William of Rubrick is granted an audience with the Khan of the Mongols

## January 5

1066 Death of Edward, "the Confessor," King of England  
1371 Accession of Pope Gregory XI  
1444 Pope St. Eutychianus publishes *Writs of Common Wisdom*  
1477 NANCY (Swiss defeat Charles "the Bold"); Death of Charles "the Bold"  
1497 Funeral of Beatrice del Este

## January 6

1367 Birth of King Richard II of England  
1425 Birth of Henry IV "The Impotent" King of Castile  
1066 Coronation of Harold II (Godwinson) as King of England  
1286 Formal Coronation of Philip IV, "the Fair," King of France  
1311 King Henry VII of Germany crowned King of the Lombards  
1352 Jean II, King of France, founds the Order of the Star  
1355 Charles IV crowned King of the Lombards  
1373 Death of St. Andrew Corsini  
1400 A conspiracy attempts the murder of Henry IV of England and his family  
1449 Constantine XI becomes Emperor of Byzantium

## January 7

1502 Birth of Pope Gregory XIII  
0312 Martyrdom of St. Lucian  
1131 Murder of St. Canute Lavard  
1285 Death of Charles I of Anjou, King of Naples and Sicily  
1451 University of Glasgow founded

## January 8

1081 Birth of Henry V, Holy Roman Emperor  
0482 Death of St. Severinus of Noricum  
0712 Death of St. Gedula  
0786 Death of St. Abo  
1198 Death of Pope Celestine III; Election of Pope Innocent III  
1285 Death of St. Thorfinn  
1337 Death of Giotto  
1455 Death of St. Lawrence Giustiani

## January 9

0309 Death of St. Marciana  
0639 Death of Dagobert, King of the Franks  
0650 Death of St. Finian  
0710 Death of St. Adrian of Canterbury  
1324 Death of Marco Polo  
1349 Basle's entire community of Jews is burned  
1569 St. Philip of Moscow, Primate of the Russian Church, is killed by Ivan the Terrible  
1570 Massacre of Novgorod begun by Ivan the Terrible

## January 18

0336 St. Mark becomes Pope  
0697 Dance and Song Banquet last given by the Japanese Emperor

0888 Death of Charles III, "the Fat" King of the West Franks

1095 Death of St. Wulfstan

1256 Beheading of Marie, wife of King Louis II of Bavaria

1270 Death of St. Margaret of Hungary

**January 20**

0250 Martyrdom of St. Fabian, Pope

0473 Death of St. Euthymius the Great

0842 Death of Theophilus, Emperor of Byzantium

1265 The first English Parliament called, by Simon de Montfort

1320 Coronation of Wladislaus, King of Poland

1479 Death of John II, King of Aragon

**January 21**

0259 Death of St. Fructuosus

0304 Martyrdom of St. Agnes

0861 Death of St. Meinrad

1189 Phillip Augustus, King of France, Henry II, King of England, and Fredrick Barbarossa, Holy Roman Emperor, begin assembling the troops for the Third Crusade

1506 Papal Swiss Guard first enters Rome

1525 Founding of the Anabaptists, by Grebel Conrad, in Zurich

**January 22**

0304 Death of St. Vincent of Saragossa

0628 Death of St. Anastasius the Persian

1295 CONWAY

1561 Birth of Francis Bacon

**January 23**

0667 Death of St. Ildefonsus

1002 Death of Otto III, Emperor of the West

1264 Annullment of the Provisions of Oxford

1275 Death of St. Raymond of Penafort

1295 Coronation of Pope Boniface VIII

1565 TALIKOTA (Moslems defeat Hindus)

**January 24**

0076 birth of Hadrian, Roman Emperor

0041 Caligula, Roman Emperor, assassinated

0097 Death of St. Timothy

0661 Murder of Ali by a Kharajite

0772 Death of Pope Stephen IV

0817 Death of Pope Stephen V

1376 Death of Richard, Earl of Arundel

**January 26**

0166 Death of St. Polycarp

0404 Death of St. Paula

0648 Death of St. Conan

0724 Death of Caliph Yazid II (of grief over the death of his favorite singing girl)

1100 Death of St. Eystein of Norway I

1108 Death of St. Alberic (Aubrey)

1266 Charles of Anjou becomes King of Sicily

1316 Revolt in Wales by Llywelyn Bren

1316 ARDSCULL (Edward Bruce and Irish fight English)

1347 University of Prague authorized by the Pope

**January 29**

0591 Death of St. Sulpicius

1118 Death of Pope Paschal II

1327 Coronation of Edward III of England

1535 Emigration of Huguenots from France

1579 Union of Utrecht

**January 31**

1574 Birth of Ben Jonson

0314 St. Sylvester becomes Pope

0410 Death of St. Marcella

0626 Death of St. Aidan (Madoc) of Ferns

1298 Peace of Tournai

**WANTED: small jpg files of each Shadowlander's arms or device, preferably sized 1 x 1.5 inches. Thank you!**

# Exchequer Report for Shire of the Shadowlands

Greetings Shadowlands! I hope the New Year finds you well and ready to have fun at our event as that time is quickly approaching. Below you will find the approved budget for 2014.

## Shadowlands' Budget 2014

### Income

|                 |               |
|-----------------|---------------|
| Event Profit    | <u>\$ 200</u> |
| Subtotal Income | \$ 200        |

### Expense

|                   |              |
|-------------------|--------------|
| Hospitaler        |              |
| Demo              | \$ 70        |
| Printing          | \$ 30        |
| Treasurer         | \$ 20        |
| Seneschal         | \$ 20        |
| Chronicler        | \$ 30        |
| Marshals          |              |
| Rapier            | \$ 10        |
| Chivalric         | \$ 10        |
| Archery           | <u>\$ 10</u> |
| Subtotal Expenses | \$ 200       |

**Net Profit (Loss):**                    **\$0**

In service,

Isabelot de Forens

War is coming! The Shire of the Shadowlands, Capital of Ansteorra, proudly presents:

# Runs with Scissors/Plays with Fire together with Kingdom Eisteddfod

January 18, 2014 (AS XLVIII)

Site opens at 8:00AM and closes at 11:00PM

War will soon be upon us and it is now time to prepare and learn new skills. The day will be full of learning of fiber arts and fire arts. Come for the Classes, Competitions and War Practice, stay for the Ball in the evening.

The site has ample tables and chairs, indoor restrooms, and lovely wood floors for dancing. Candles allowed with proper containment of wax. Site is wet in period containers. Pets are allowed outside on leashes. NO PETS allowed in the hall. This is a day event, NO CAMPING.

Merchants welcome. Please contact the Mistress Shanahan the Fey and/or M'lady Alexandria Rose at [silverdrumjewelry@gmail.com](mailto:silverdrumjewelry@gmail.com) to make arrangements.

Kingdom Eisteddfod, where their Majesties will choose their bardic champion, will be part of the day's activities. Check the website for more details.

In preparation for war, we will have a number of tracks of both fiber arts and fire-related arts classes/workshops throughout the day. The contact for the fiber class tracts is TH LadyMaggie Hallenberg at [widow\\_elspet@yahoo.com](mailto:widow_elspet@yahoo.com) and for the fire class tracts is Lady Morina Ó Donnabháin at [elwenaduialloth@yahoo.com](mailto:elwenaduialloth@yahoo.com). Advance reservations for specific classes can be made with these ladies by email with an ACCEPS reservation number. See the website for more details on the classes.

For those whose interests lean in a more martial direction, there will be a War Practice.

As cooking is one of the Arts of Fire that everyone can appreciate, an Iron Chef competition will help our cooks to prepare for War. The number of teams is limited and all teams must register with TH Lady Isabelot de Forens at [isabelotdeforens@gmail.com](mailto:isabelotdeforens@gmail.com) by 12/31/2013. See the event website for rules and other details.

There will be a viking whipcord braiding race and an inkle speed weaving race, where the insignia generated will be given to the kingdom, as well as charter painting that will take place in the hall during the day.

In the evening, the Shadowlands will be hosting a pot luck meal, with the Shire providing some of the meat. Bring a dish to serve 4-6 others. Please bring serving utensils and an ingredient list if possible. If your item needs heating, please contact the potluck coordinator. Refrigerator space is limited; please plan to store your item until feast time.

There will be a Ball Saturday night.

**Site fees:**

Adult: \$9.00 prepaid through ACCEPS ([accepts.ansteorra.org](http://accepts.ansteorra.org)), \$10 at the door

Youth (6-17): \$5

Child (5 and under): free

Non Member Surcharge (NMS): \$5

Make checks payable to: SCA Inc./Shadowlands

Minors must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. They may also attend with a 21 year or older adult with a signed and notarized Minor Event Waiver Form from the parents.

**Directions:**

Sons of Hermann Hall No 301, 6785 FM 111, Deansville, TX.

For those with GPS, the coordinates are: 30.429829,- 96.759168.

For the rest of us: Make your best way to TX Highway 21 @ Farm to Market Road (FM)60 (~8.0 miles west of TX Highway 36 in Caldwell, ~15.1 miles east of U.S. Highway 77). Turn SOUTH on FM 60 and go ~2.4 miles to FM 111. Turn right on FM 111 and go ~0.5 mile. Site will be on your left.

Check out the website for a map! [shadowlands.ansteorra.org/event](http://shadowlands.ansteorra.org/event)

Visit our web page at [shadowlands.ansteorra.org/event](http://shadowlands.ansteorra.org/event) for more information on:

| War practice<br>Classes   | Competitions<br>Dance list for the Ball | Nearby hotels<br>Crash space   |
|---|---|--|
| <p><b>Co-Event Steward</b><br/>Mistress Nina of the Lost Caverns<br/>Kim Schreuders<br/>4603 Oakmont Circle<br/>College Station, TX 77845<br/><a href="mailto:nina@oakenstaff.org">nina@oakenstaff.org</a><br/>435-770-3940</p> |   | <p><b>Co-Event Steward</b><br/>Lady Morina Ó Donnabháin<br/>Renee Pitcock<br/>3327 Longleaf Circle<br/>College Station, TX 77845 <a href="mailto:elwenaduialloth@yahoo.com">elwenaduialloth@yahoo.com</a><br/>979-220---9842</p> |

# The Hunt of the Ramrods

Being a (more or less) True and Factual account of the Events and  
Adventures of Team Ramrod during the Great Hunt at  
Bring Out Your Dead 2.0 in the Shire of Gates Edge

By Lord Pædríc OMullan, Bardic Champion of Gates Edge

Five bold warriors set out upon the hunt, their faithful hounds, Ram and Rod, baying at their sides. These warriors were brave and fearsome men: two barons, two Centurions, and a noble lord. The hounds were released, told to hunt, raced into the forest, casting for scent. The hunters followed, searching for game.

Before the hounds could find their prey the hunting party stumbled upon a lion. King of the jungle, that lion was as strong and brave as our own Ansteorran King. Cornered in his lair in the woods, the fierce lion tried to hold the hunters at bay. Alas for the lion, it was surrounded and felled with one mighty stroke by Centurion Dietrich Wyss.

As the hunters searched for their wayward dogs, they encountered a bear. What the bear was doing I cannot say. But it was a bear. It was in the woods. Once more the hunters surrounded the giant furball. All struck at once, all claimed the kill. But I tell you truly it was the bringer of tears, Lord Eberhard Stürmære, called Panda, who slayed the bear.

As he ran through the woods, Sir Morgan Blackdragon, the Baron of Northkeep, having travelled far from his home to attend the hunt, encountered a giant tree just as it was about to attack a wandering bard. With a mighty thrust of his spear, Sir Morgan slew that tree before it could grab the bard. It was truly a great and noble act, and the bard was very thankful.

Finally the hounds found a scent, and began to race through the forest, baying loudly. It must be the boar. As quickly as they could, the hunters gave chase.

Finally the hunters burst into a clearing. It was indeed the boar the hounds had found. Or had the boar found the dogs? Its mighty tusks had laid open both dogs as they gamely attacked it. Ram lay where he had fallen, already gone to doggy heaven. Rod crouched at the edge of the clearing, whimpering and licking his wounds. Sior Tomas Niallagain, Baron of the court of Ansteorra, stepped up, and with one mighty blow of his sword he struck off the head of that murderous pig.

Centurion Jason Drysdale was the fifth member of that mighty hunting party. Often he blazed a trail through the forest for the other hunters. Alas, there was not enough game in the woods, and Jason was unable to claim a kill. At the hunting party's return, Centurion Jason was transformed into a hunting hound named Scout, and aided the other parties in the hunt. At the end of the day it was Scout, the hound, who was Champion of the Great Hunt. But that is a tale for another bard.

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