



Aurora Borealis

The official newsletter of the Crown Principality of Tir Mara

Second Quarter 2011

Volume 6 Issue 2

Editor's Notes - Spring in the Northlands

Lady Camilla Brigida di Bruno

Happy Spring, everyone. I hope your winter ended well and ideas and enthusiasm are beginning to sprout anew with the season.

In this issue I have added the new section called "The People in Your Neighborhood" and would like to thank Sir Gareth for being the first submitter. I'm now looking for the next one :) Anyone at all. We often see people at events or hear their names and we "know" who they are, but what do we really know? So please, share your story or something about you with your neighbors.

I am also currently looking for any Arts and Sciences related articles you may wish to share with your neighbors. If you have an interesting "How To", an informative link, a new technique you have found to be helpful, please share so we all can learn and grow in our area of interest. By the way, this includes the combat arts and armoring. I am an equal opportunity opportunist ;)

I am always open to any suggestions you may have. Thank you for playing with us.

Camilla
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Upcoming Events in Tir Mara

May 20th - 22nd
Middleground III
<http://www.eastkingdom.org/EventDetails.html?eid=2139>
Shire of Lyndhaven - Jacksonville, NB

June 10th - 12th
Baltanes Festivities XXIV
<http://www.eastkingdom.org/EventDetails.html?eid=2142>
Barony of Havre des Glaces - St-François-Ile-d'Orléans, QC

June 25th
Tir Mara Rapier Championship
<http://www.eastkingdom.org/EventDetails.html?eid=2149>
Barony of L'Ile du Dragon Dormant - Pointe-des-Cascades, QC

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DISCLAIMER:

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or from the Tir Mara Chronicler:

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Other Events to make note of:

May 7th

Crown Tourney

<http://www.eastkingdom.org/EventDetails.html?eid=2132>

Shire of Hartshorn-dale - Plymouth Meeting, PA

May 27th - 30th

The War of the Roses

<http://www.eastkingdom.org/EventDetails.html?eid=2109>

Barony of Concordia of the Snows - Pattersonville, NY

June 17th - 19th

King & Queen's archery champions/Vinland Raids IX/EK War College

<http://www.eastkingdom.org/EventDetails.html?eid=2133>

Barony of Smoking Rocks - Yarmouthport, MA

June 24th - 26th

East Kingdom War Practice

<http://www.eastkingdom.org/EventDetails.html?eid=2115>

Shire of Eisental - Lehighton, PA

June 24th - 26th

Knowne World Heraldic & Scribal Symposium

<http://www.eastkingdom.org/EventDetails.html?eid=2135>

Kingdom of Atlantia - High Point, NC

The People in Your Neighborhood – Sir Gareth

My name is Sir Gareth Grey de Wilton. I was born in the town of Rouen, on the shores of the Seine River in Normandy on April 28th, 1170.

My father was Joseph Grey de Wilton. He was a soldier and served under Richard fitz Godbert de Roche. In 1167 he embarked on the invasion of Ireland, landing in County Wexford. During his 3 years in Ireland he met and fell in love with Emily O'Boyle. After being wounded in battle, he returned with his new wife to Rouen in late 1169. He returned to woodworking in his father shop, as he had done in his youth. Upon his fathers' death in the winter of 1174, he inherited the shop and expanded it including hiring more workers. In the years to follow as Rouen prospered, so did his shop.

At a young age, like my father before me, I apprenticed in woodworking. Noting the same spirit in me that was in him, my father taught me about soldiering and the ways of the sword. My mother being a pious woman and fearing for my soul taught me to read the bible, took me to church every week, and made sure my prayers were done nightly. And so this continued until my 18th year.

In 1187 Jerusalem fell to the Saracen King Salah ha-Din Yusuf. By that fall Pope Gregory VIII issued the papal bull 'Audita Tremendi' calling for the Third Crusade. In the summer of 1188 a group of Templars came to Rouen seeking pious men willing to free the Holy Land from the evils of the Saracens with a promise of eternal life in heaven should we fall in service to God. I never looked back.

"A Templar Knight is truly a fearless Knight, and secure on every side, for his soul is protected by the armor of faith, just as his body is protected by the armor of steel. He is thus doubly-armed, and need fear neither demons nor men."

- Bernard de Clairvaux, c. 1135

Tir Mara Championships

The following events are in need of an autocrat/event bid:

Tir Mara Archery Championships
(for Summer 2011)

Tir Mara Rattan Championship
(for Fall 2011)

Tir Mara Arts & Sciences Championship
(for Fall 2011)

Tir Mara Rapier Championship
(for Spring 2012)

*If you are interested in running an event to house any of these championships, please contact the current champion to see if they are interested in helping with the endeavor.

If there are any groups considering a bid for a Kingdom level event, please advise the populace of the region, so that we, as the Crown Principality, can work together to avoid potential event conflicts. We have a yahoo mailing group called "northprinc" to help facilitate communications across our vast region.

Contribute to the CP *Aurora Borealis*:

The next edition of the Crown Principality of Tir Mara Newsletter, the *Aurora Borealis* is due to be available online by April 1, 2011.

All contributions for the next issue must be received no later than June 1, 2011. No submissions after that date will be accepted for the July issue.

Contributions should be sent to:

Lady Camilla di Bruno
(chronicler@tirmara.eastkingdom.org)

Please note:

Newsletter editors reserve the right to edit content as required for space and content. We will do our best to present your contributions in full, however, some edits may be required to accommodate for limited space.

Officers of the NSR:

Seneschal

Mistress Gwenhwyfar dinas Emrys

Exchequer

Lady Mariota of Kildare

Earl Marshal

Master Conrad Connor MacAllyn

Badger Herald

Mistress Lyanna of Kernough

A&S Minister

Mistress Elizabeth Darnley

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Lady Wulfwyn

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Principality - What Does It Mean?

Mistress Gwenhwyfar Dinas Emrys

For the purpose of this document, a Principality refers to a full Principality and not a Crown Principality.

A Principality is an area within a Kingdom, ruled by a Prince and Princess. The difference between a region and a Principality is that a region does not have a ceremonial representative, a collection of laws and policies, or a heraldic identifier. A Principality also has the ability for its ceremonial representatives to bestow principality level awards.

A Principality has to have the following, in order to become a Principality:

- ❖ A body of laws and policies
- ❖ Heraldry passed by the Kingdom College of Heraldry
- ❖ 100 members within their borders
- ❖ All major officers positions filled (Seneschal, Exchequer, Knight Marshall, Minister of Arts and Sciences, Minister of the Lists, Chatelaine, Herald, Chronicler)
- ❖ A record of well attended events
- ❖ Sufficient members of the orders conferring Patens of Arms (Knights, Laurels and Pelicans)
- ❖ Sufficient caliber of fighters to provide appropriate competition in a Coronet Tournament.

What does this mean to YOU?

A Principality does not change the fact that we still belong to the East Kingdom. Several Principalities have stayed in their status for several years, never moving to full Kingdom status. (*The Principality of Cynagua and the Principality of the Mists, inception 1979, Tir Righ around 2003.*) The populace of the Principality would still have the same rights and privileges as any other person residing in the East Kingdom, and we still follow the same rules and regulations as the East. People of the Principality should not feel that we are betraying the East Kingdom, or that the East Kingdom is trying to get rid of us. Becoming a Principality adds status to the East Kingdom, that they are able to foster growth in the Kingdom, that they can AFFORD to have a Principality!

What does a Principality do for US?

A Principality can have many different roles.

- ❖ Bring unity to the groups within the Principality
- ❖ Foster relations between the groups and start working to share knowledge bases and skill levels.
- ❖ Encourage more pomp and splendor at eventsHave a rallying point under the Principality Heraldry, for wars, and competitions
- ❖ To create our own customs, unique to us as a people, different from the East Kingdom
- ❖ A chance for those groups who have never seen or hosted royalty, (or do so infrequently) to hold principality level events.
- ❖ In the event that East Kingdom Crown does not get to come to our area, the Prince and Princess can give out the awards for the King and Queen in absentia.

What does having a Prince and Princess mean to US?

A Prince and Princess support and promote the members of the Principality. They help to bring to the attention of the East Kingdom Royals those gentles worthy of recognition. They also help foster unity within the borders of the principality, serve as a focus point for our groups, and give a royal presence where we did not have one before. They have the ability to recognize gentles with awards, and can represent our groups on the Kingdom stage.

What's the bad stuff?

Not everything is rosy at the Principality level. If it was, everyone would be doing it! Here are some of the areas where we may feel a negative impact:

- ❖ We as a Principality would be required to hold two coronet tournaments per year. We would be adding these two events to a fairly busy calendar, and we would have to make sure we don't conflict with Kingdom level events.
- ❖ Those groups not supporting the Principality movement may feel bitter about the change in status from region to Principality, thus decide not to play.
- ❖ There may be a decrease in the amount of Royal visits to our area. (With having a Prince and Princess, there may be awards given out by the Tir Mara Royals that would have been given out by East Kingdom Crowns.)

So these are the facts with regards to a Principality. Remember, a Principality is what you make of it. Let's make something we can all be proud of!