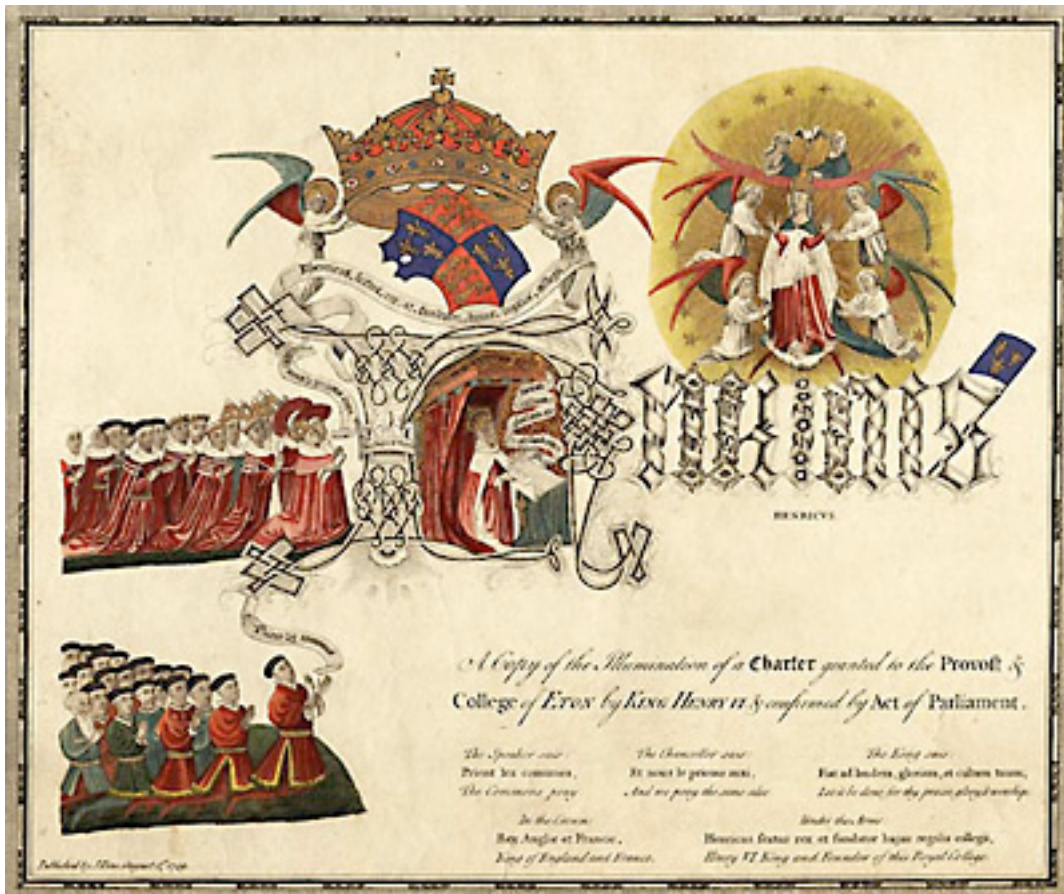


The Blade



Eton College Charter

June 2010

Missive from the Crown

Good Day Galandor,

Their Majesties are taking a much-needed break after the rigors of Banner War. They would like to thank all those who attended and made Banner War a lovely event. Congratulations to the three newest knights within the kingdom. Huzzah and well met.

In Service,

Gaelen

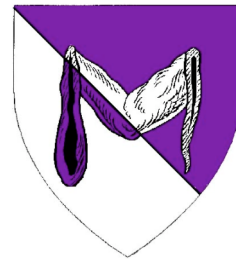
And

Anne

Rex



Regina



Calendar of Events

June

- 6th – Arts and Armour Day (Solaris)
Marchioness Dame Mynwyn verch Gruffydd
- 19th – Feast of Fun (Solaris)
Marchioness Dame Mynwyn verch Gruffydd
- 23rd – Solaris Fight Night (Solaris)
HRM Gaelen
- 26th – Door County Renaissance Faire (Northwatch)
HH Mina Lavigne

Events

June 19th - Feast of Fun

Oyeh, Oyeh! Announcing the first ever Feast of Fun. This will be a non-traditional feast in which the focus will be less on than food and more on the fun. Out for the populace's amusement will be several games; period and in the period style; for enjoyment. Come and try your hand against your fellows and perhaps learn a new game or two.

This feast will be a pot-luck, with the kingdom providing meat and the sides and desserts provided by the populace. Site fee is one side or dessert dish to feed 8 – 10 people and 1 crown, or 3 crowns without a dish.

Site will be at my keep starting at 4 pm. This will allow time for a good game to whet your appetite before we feast and plenty of time for games during and after the food. Come and enjoy good food and great company.

Marchioness Mynwyn verch Gruffydd

Directions: Take the US 60 east to Gilbert Road. Turn left (north) at Gilbert and go about 3 miles to University. Turn right (east) at University and go to the next light. Turn left (north) at 25th Street and go three blocks to Contessa. Turn left (west) on Contessa and go down to 2421 on the left (south) side. For those of you coming from the north and west valley, be careful of the Loop 202 as it's been under construction and closed off and on. Call 511 for information on any closers.

June 26th - Door County Renaissance Faire

On the weekends of June 26th and July 3rd, the populace Northwatch will journey north to participate in the first annual Door County Renaissance Faire. From 10am-6pm Saturday and 10am-4pm Sunday, we will be giving demonstrations of arts, combat, and dance as well as selling goods to raise money for the territory and kingdom. We will also be hosting an arts tournament each weekend, so please bring your arts with you to be judged. If you have any questions, please see the Meetup discussions or contact Princess Mina (mturner@rcn.com). Hope to see you there!

Location: Just north of Carlsville between Sturgeon Bay and Egg Harbor. From Highway 42 turn East on Monument Point Road and go ½ mile to Faire entrance

Site Fee: Free, but we are collecting donations from members to pay for food and travel expenses.

HH Mina Lavigne

Announcements

From the Chronicler

It has come to my attention that there might be something amiss with the email address for the Blade. I then ask you for the next little while to send things both to blade@ecs-galandor.org and to my personal email listed in the forum. Please indicate that you have sent the item to both addresses. Through this I can hopefully determine if this was just a minor hiccup or if there is indeed an issue. Thank you.

Chronicler

Extras

Heraldry Corner

It's time for another device to increase your heraldry knowledge. This month's device belongs to Eirikr Kylonen the Broken-Handed.



The blazon is sable (*black*) the sun in its splendor (*radiating out*) or (*gold*), an eagle displayed (*flattened to display all limbs*).

Chronicler

Solaris Edge

First off, all of Solaris congratulates our two newest knights, HRM Gaelen for his admission into the Order of the Knights Minister and Sir Marcillius Evintorianalaxis-abalandi for his admission into the Order of the Knights Artisan. Many huzzahs to these two exemplars of their field.

Second, I have started a class that requires me to leave fighter practice early. I will be doing so for the couple of months. Because of that, if you have to speak with me, remember to come early in order to leave enough time for that conversation. Also because of this, I won't be hosting this month's tourney as I would have to leave well before it's finished. HRM Gaelen has graciously accepted this event. I am confident in my populace and know that my Captain of the Guard as well as all the Knights in my realm will make sure fighter practice continues in good order and I look forward to returning all my attention there at the end of July.

Marchioness Dame Mynwyn verch Gruffydd



Eton College

Henry VI of England is known largely for his ineptitude as King, resulting in the War of the Roses. He was a child King who grew up caring more for religious matters than matters of state. Because of this, he left the ruling of England to others who by and large used the position to advance their own agenda. While more is written about the other principles of the time, Henry made a lasting mark on the arts and education of England.

One of the most enduring of these contributions has been Eton College. The College was founded to provide free education for seventy poor boys who would then attend King's College, also founded by Henry in 1441. Today it educates over 1300 boys age 13-18 with many distinguished politicians among the alumni. While buildings have been modernized and some have been added, many of the classrooms have stood in the same place for over 550 years.

And that's your Medieval Minute.

Chronicler

Articles

A Short Biography of Alfred the Great

There have been scores of Kings and Queens of England but only one has ever been awarded the title of “the Great”. Although his military and cultural accomplishments are legendary, this title was never used during his lifetime. He was simply known as King Alfred. Alfred saved England from the Danes and unified the English people. He founded the English navy and reformed its army. He was a promoter of universal education and, some have claimed, was one of the fathers of English prose. There are ample reasons why the Victorians acclaimed him “Alfred the Great”.

The Anglo-Saxon kingdoms in England emerged in the 5th and 6th centuries after the departure of the Romans. They were agricultural societies and the vast majority of their people were farmers. The concept of kinship was the thread that bound these societies together. By the 7th century, most of these kingdoms had adopted Christianity. By Alfred’s time, there were a little over one million people scattered throughout England. Despite their occupation, they were not a peaceful people. The Saxons remembered their roots. Warfare between kingdoms and individuals was an accepted part of their social and political life. Saxon kings were elected by the nobility on the basis of their ability to protect their people and to ensure prosperity. However, the type of warfare that Saxon society was about to experience had not been seen by them for decades. By the 830s, successive waves of Norwegian and Danish raiders arrived upon the shores of England. They appeared without warning, spread terror in their wake, and disappeared back onto the sea. By the 850s, these raiders were no longer interested in only plunder. They were bent on conquest. There was little available land in the Norse countries. England enjoyed a surplus of both land and plunder. The only thing the Danes had to do was rid themselves of the Saxon nobility.



Alfred was born in 849. He was the youngest of the five children of Aethelwulf, the King of Wessex. There is little known about Alfred’s early life since there are few surviving documents. He traveled to Rome in 853 and 855. He was raised in the royal court which was unusual for that time and culture. The customary practice was to have a noble family foster or help raise children. As a young man, he could neither read nor write but loved the traditional poetry of the Anglo-Saxons which he memorized as it was read to him. Aethelwith, his only sister, married Burgred, one of the Kings of Mercia,

when he was four or five. Mercia was one of the largest southern Saxon kingdoms. He lost Osburh, his mother, when he was six and his father had passed away by the time he was 11. Death was a common companion of Alfred's youth.

Alfred was 16 when the Saxon kingdom of Northumbria fell under the Norse war-hammer. Its King was blood-eagled as a sacrifice to Odin and the Kingdom was lost to the Danes. Aethelred I, one of Alfred's brothers, became King of Wessex in 865. Alfred was 17 years old and became his brother's Viceroy (or second in command). A great Viking army attacked Mercia. King Burgred and Alfred's sister called to Wessex for aid in 868. Alfred and his brother responded with a small army but were unable to achieve any significant military results. The bonds of kinship between these two Saxon nations were further strengthened with the marriage of Alfred to Ealhswith, the daughter of Aethelred Mucal, a Mercian nobleman. Alfred became a member of the Royal Courts of both Kingdoms. By 869, the great army of the Danes fell upon the Saxon Kingdom of East Anglia and King Edmond, who would later be made a Saint, died tied to a tree having been used for sport by Norse bowmen.

Wessex was the next target of the Danes. They began their assault upon that Kingdom in 870. Aethelred and Alfred led their armies against the Danes with varying degrees of success. They won victories at Englefield and Ashdown but suffered defeats at Reading, Basing, and Meretun. Aethelred, the last of Alfred's brothers, died of his wounds only twenty-eight days after the battle of Meretun in 871.

Alfred became King of Wessex at the age of 22. All of his siblings had passed away with the exception of one. Most had died in battle with the Danes. The fate of his Kingdom looked grim. The Danes had established permanent settlements in Northumbria, north Midlands, and East Anglia. During the first year of his Kingship, the Danes turned their attention to Mercia. Burgred and Aethelswith were forced to flee to Rome. Both would die as exiles. Ceolwulf II was installed as the new King of Mercia with the support of the Danes in 873.

Wessex was now the only Saxon kingdom which had not been conquered by the Danes. Alfred couldn't defeat them militarily and he was rapidly running out of options. He paid tribute ("Danegold") for the next five years. He and his armies fought off successive waves of Danish invaders in 876 and 877. In January of 878, a Danish army lead by Guthrun left Danish-controlled Mercia and made a surprise attack on Chippenham, Alfred's royal villa. This pre-emptive strike was likely aided by intrigue by Wulfhere, an Ealdorman of Wiltshire, and the Archbishop of Canterbury, both of whom had grown tired of the taxation caused by the payment of Danegold and in the hope of better treatment when the inevitable came to Wessex. Alfred and a small group of loyal retainers were forced to flee for their lives. The Danes had taken control of the last independent Saxon kingdom.

Alfred became a hunted man in his own Kingdom and disappeared into the wild marsh lands of Somerset in the dead of winter. His father's kingdom and his people were on the edge of cultural extinction and England was able to become a Scandinavian country.

Unlike many of his fellow nobles, Alfred refused to surrender in any way, shape or form. For the next seven weeks, Alfred and his followers turned the tables on the Danes. It was now the Saxons who appeared without warning, spread terror in their wake, and disappeared back into the marshlands. They conducted a series of guerilla raids against the Danes and their Saxon puppet king. Their base was the small island of Athelney. Alfred sent messengers throughout every shire of Wessex seeking to assemble an army to take back their kingdom and to meet at Egbert's Stone.

Saxon armies were traditionally raised only from the immediate area where an attack was to be defended against or to be launched from. Despite this tradition, almost 4,000 Saxons from over three counties quietly slipped away from their towns, homes, and fields to join Alfred in battle against the invaders. On May 4, 878, they marched upon Chippenham and defeated the Danes at the Battle of Edington. After twelve days of feasting, Alfred made Guthrum a Saxon prince and adopted him as a godson. In one brilliant stroke, Guthrum and his captains were integrated into Saxon society. Their success in that society was dependent upon their loyalty to King Alfred. Guthrum and his people moved into East Anglia. He would remain a loyal vassal to Alfred until the end of his life.

England was separated into English and Danish spheres of influence as a result of the Peace of Chippenham or, as it is sometimes called, the "Treaty of Wedmore". The Danes remained in East Anglia, East Mercia and Northumbria. Their area would later become known as "Danelaw". The southwest and west of England was reserved for the Saxons.

Alfred had regained his Kingdom but it was a land devastated by war. He devoted the remainder of his life to rebuilding his country. In order to protect Wessex's borders, Alfred systematically organized a navy and its corresponding coastal defenses. He personally participated in a few of his new navy's engagements to ensure its effectiveness. He created over thirty burghs, heavily fortified defensive centers, across his kingdom. Each burgh was located less than a day's march from another and had its own market which helped pay for its upkeep. The burghs further aided in the development of trade throughout southern England. This defensive network substantially discouraged further attention from raiders. Alfred reorganized the Saxon army and set up a rotational system where one half of his army was ready to take the field at any time. He and his army were able to beat off the Danes in subsequent attempts to invade Wessex and captured the city of London in 886. He extensively fortified London to withstand any further attacks. Alfred established his overlordship in West Mercia, unified Wessex, continued to retake parts of Mercia from the Danes and was ultimately able to bring the Princes of southern Wales under his authority.

In addition to his military accomplishments, Alfred focused on the cultural and literacy needs of his people. Many of the monasteries and educational centers had been pillaged and burned as a result of waves of Danish raids. Old monks were dying before they could teach the younger monks to read Latin. He assembled the best scholars he could find in southern England and abroad. This group translated major Latin works into

English to make them accessible to his subjects. He codified Saxon laws for his kingdom and mandated that the laws be written in English so that all of his subjects could know what was expected of them. This codification laid the foundation for English common law. These laws mandated that the sons of freedman learn to read and write in English and further mandated the learning of Latin for royal offices. He established royal schools to educate the children of his nobles. He commissioned the history of the Anglo-Saxon people called the “Anglo-Saxon Chronicle”. At least eight copies of this document still exist today. He even learned to read and write English and Latin at age 38.

Alfred and Ealhswith had four children. These children built upon the foundations that had been laid by their father. Aethelflaed, their daughter, married the King of Merica and became known as “the Lady of the Mercians”. After her husband’s death, she ruled the Saxon Kingdom of Mercia and became one of the most famous of the Saxon Warrior Queens. She personally led her armies to victory over the Danes at Derby, Leicester, and York. She built fortresses in Warwick and Stanford. Edward, their son, became King of Wessex and aided in driving the Danes out of York and East Anglia and dedicated his life to the re-conquest of Danelaw. Together with his sister, they built a chain of fortifications in the south and middle of England and would jointly lead a major attack against the Danes in 917. Together with Alfred’s other kin, they would help drive the Danes out of Northumbria and East Anglia. Aelfthryth, another one of their daughters, would marry Baldwin, the Count of Flanders. Matilda, a descendent of that union, would eventually marry William the Conqueror.

Alfred the Great died on Friday, October 26, 899. He was fifty years old and his reign had lasted almost thirty years. He had pulled England from the brink of destruction and re-forged its people with a national identity. He was buried in the old Minster at Winchester. At the time of his death, he was the best known of all of the Saxon Kings.

Lord Sir Paul de Marseilles

Sources: Justin Pollard, *Alfred the Great* (John Murray, 2005); Mike Ashley, *A Brief History of British Kings and Queens* (Carroll & Graf, 2002); Kenneth O. Morgan, *The Oxford Illustrated History of Britain* (Oxford University Press, 1989).



Hierarchy of Galandor



CROWN OF GALANDOR – TRM Gaelen O’Flaharty and Anne of Brackley



Principality of Northwatch – TH Sir Robert Sanguin and Dame Mina Lavigne
– **Great House of Northwatch** – Lady Squire Elix DeVries



Marquisette of Altiora – HE Jarl Sir Jaster Mereel



Marquisette of Solaris – HE Marchioness Dame Mynwyn verch Gruffydd
- **Semag Hall** – Lady Dame Lorelei von Bremerhaven
- **Peregrine** – Lady Squire Josceline Marie Tourneau



Province of Stahldrache – Graf Sir Adon von Hesser

Royal Officers of Galandor

Kingdom Herald – Baron Sir Gerrit Kendal – herald@ecs-galandor.org
Minister of Arts and Sciences – Lady Squire Josceline Marie Tourneau – ans@ecs-galandor.org
Minister of Combat – Sir Adon von Hesser – marshal@ecs-galandor.org
Minister of Rolls – HRM Gaelen O’Flaherty – rolls@ecs-galandor.org
Sovereign of Arms – Lady Dame Lorelei von Bremerhaven – fleur@ecs-galandor.org
Royal Exchequer – Lady Dame Lark Evintorianalaxisabalandi – exchequer@ecs-galandor.org
Royal Hospitler – Lord Sir Kheldar – hospitler@ecs-galandor.org
Royal Chronicler – Marchioness Dame Mynwyn verch Gruffydd – blade@ecs-galandor.org
Kingdom Web Minister – Baron Sir Gerrit Kendal – webminister@ecs-galandor.org
Kingdom Secretary – Baron Sir Gerrit Kendal – secretary@ecs-galandor.org
Kingdom Regalia – Marchioness Dame Mynwyn verch Gruffydd

Current Listing of Galandorian Royalty

King and Queen of Galandor – TRM Gaelen O’Flaherty and Anne of Brackley
crown@ecs-galandor.org

Principality of Northwatch – TH Sir Robert Sanguin and Dame Mina Lavigne
sirsanguinius@ecs-galandor.org

Marquissette of Altiora – HE Jarl Sir Jaster Mereel
Altiora@ecs-galandor.org

Marquissette of Solaris – HE Marchioness Mynwyn verch Gruffydd
solaris@ecs-galandor.org

Province of Stahldrache – Graf Sir Adon von Hesser
siradonvonhesser@yahoo.com

ECS Websites

Imperial Website:	www.ecs-imperial.org
Kingdom of Galandor:	www.ecs-galandor.org
Kingdom of Vega:	www.ecs-vega.com