

THE FLAMEBEARER



The Barony of Wiesenfeuer

Anno Societatis LV Being March 2021

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The Baronesses of Wiesenfeuer

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Reeve

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please unless it is an emergency that affects the Barony

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Jessica Bramhall

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Statement from the Members of Wiesenfeuer

You may have heard about us from a friend, found us on a web search, saw our displays and demos at the Norman Medieval Fair or any number of local events or schools. Regardless of how you've found us, we're glad you did. The Barony of Wiesenfeuer is part of an organization called the Society for Creative Anachronism (SCA). It's an international organization dedicated to the researching and recreating the arts and skills of pre-17th century Europe. The "arts and skills" of Europe, and any people that Europeans had contact with, are far reaching in scope and depth. Arts include everything from making soap or butter, to making of instruments, woodworking, ... the list goes on. Anything that was made or done in the Middle Ages or Renaissance is fair game. Skills would include fighting, fencing, archery, thrown weapons, and all manner of games and talents played and practiced in six hundred years of history.

The SCA is a hands-on participation-based way to learn about history. Hit your (armored) friends with rattan sticks, fence like a musketeer or pirate, or learn to shoot a bow like Robin Hood. Learn any number of arts and crafts from people that have developed skills and techniques for making and doing things the way they were centuries ago.

Beyond the competitions and projects, the royalty and ceremonies, the SCA is all about having fun. The Society is a great place to meet people with similar interests, make new friends, and be involved.

So come out to an event, go to a meeting, or contact our hospitaler at <http://wiesenfeuer.ansteorra.org>.

Welcome to Wiesenfeuer

Message from the Baronesses

Greetings unto the Barony of Wiesenfeuer, our Cantons of Haldtre and Myrgenfeld, and all interested gentles.

We come to you fresh from attending the King's Roundtable where ourselves and our officers were able to attend classes and conference with others from across our Kingdom to learn and share ideas about how to better serve you and Ansteorra as a whole. If you were able to attend and learned anything that you think may help our fine Barony, please reach out. We would love to hear from you.

On a more unfortunate note, we have also had conversations with the Seneschal leadership and must announce the upcoming dissolution of the Canton of Haldtre. It's been over a year since the Canton went on Hiatus, and we have had a few meetings to try to mend bridges and open conversation about what would be required to reopen the group. That does not seem possible at this time. All the members of Haldtre are still members of Wiesenfeuer and we would love to see you continue to play and work with us, hopefully without the stress of paperwork and maintenance that offices require. The name and heraldry of the group will be held by the Barony. If at any time the circumstances change and Haldtre can return, their heraldry will be available to them, as will our support.

Our Baronial event is coming up next month, so be on the lookout for more information soon, there should be a lot of fun activities and competitions. Our autocrat will also need a lot of support. Even virtual events cannot run themselves. That also means it's time to look around for those who are doing great things and let us know by putting in award recommendations. Firestorm Ink has been working on some beautiful new charters that we would love to use to recognize deserving members.

We know finding the spark of the dream can be especially difficult these days and want you to know we are in this together. As your Baroness' we always have an open door for you, please do not hesitate to reach out if you need us with your thoughts, concerns, or even if you just need a sympathetic ear. Wiesenfeuer's current COVID numbers are showing hope that we may be able to be together in person soon. We encourage you to continue to follow CDC guidelines so that we can all help speed this along together.

HL Muireen Chernaig
Baroness of Wiesenfeuer
Kingdom of Ansteorra
She/Her
405-519-6763

Beatrix Alfray Bea's Signature
Baroness of Wiesenfeuer
Kingdom of Ansteorra
405-659-2854

Message from the Seneschal

Greetings Wiesenfeuer,

The virtual Round Table was an interesting and different experience. There were some technical difficulties but some quick adjustments helped overcome many of them. I saw several of our officers and populace in the ones I attended. Thanks to all who took time to learn more about how things are done.

As expected the pandemic and restriction against in-person events and activities has had a negative impact on our membership numbers. Overall Ansteorra has lost about 29% of our paid memberships since May 2020 (1797 to 1278). The Northern Region has lost about 24% (658 to 500). We still have enough to pursue principality status. Please try to keep your memberships active.

Wiesenfeuer's 2nd virtual baronial is fast approaching. The event bid will be selected at the beginning of the March Populace meeting. There will be an event discussion after the meeting is over. Please consider volunteering to help. Even a virtual event takes a lot of work to make it successful.

Recently we have the following changes to baronial officers

- Chronicler = Alexis Valyan
- Minister of Arts and Sciences = Eadwyn seo Gathyrde

Thank you all for your service.

The following offices are open. Please consider applying

- Historian
- Thrown Weapons Marshal
- Youth Rapier Marshal

In Service,

Elric Dracwin
Wiesenfeuer Seneschal

Message from the Archery Marshall

Greetings,

I hope everyone is recovering from the historic arctic weather we had last month. There were no practices in February due to the stopped status and the weather. But the Earl Marshal has reported that the groups are headed in the correct direction for practices to start up again. Please be sure to watch Wiesenfeuer's Facebook and Discord for any announcements about when practice will resume.

When the barony is allowed to hold practices and the weather cooperates, archery practice it will be from 3 PM to 5 PM on Sundays, at 5102 Woodhollow Rd, OKC.

Targets will be set up for both regular target archery and combat target archery. As well as a Royal Round Shoot for those interested.

All practices will be following the guidelines of the Ansteorra Martial Practices Reopen Plan. There is an Ansteorra Health Screening Questionnaire that each individual will have to acknowledge. Everyone at practice will be wearing a face mask (covering the mouth and nose) and practicing the best social distancing practices. There is NO access to a restroom on site.

If you have any questions please feel free to email me at Archery@Wiesenfeuer.Ansteorra.org
In Service,
Isaac Bane

Message from the Arts and Sciences Minister

Greeting to the Populace,

There were three A&S meetings and one Herbal Guild class in the Month of February.

On Feb 4th we had a virtual book sharing meeting where we shared a book that has been useful, inspiring or educational in our A&S journey. If you missed out I'm planning on doing this meeting again. I love to see what other books people are reading.

On Feb 11th and 18th we had virtual Open A&S where we brought our projects and chatted, everyone is welcome to come and hang out with us.

On Feb 25th we had Myrgenfeld/Wiesenfeuer Herbal Guild meeting we talked about remedies for dry skin. If you are interested in the Herbal stuff check the Myrgenfeld/Wiesenfeuer Herbal Guild Facebook page.

For March there will be a virtual class on, March 11th starting at 7pm, on Introduction to Fingerloop Braiding taught by Masina Da Ferrara. Come join us and learn a new skill.

Keep an eye on the Wiesenfeuer and the Wiesenfeuer Arts & Sciences Facebook pages for more announcements.

In Service

Eadwyn seo Gayhyrde (Ginger Sorrels)

Arts & Science Minister

Message from the Chronicler

Greetings!

I am happy to be here and able to serve the best Barony ever. I would love to feature your original art, classes, SCA related photos or even your small doodles. This is your newsletter and I really want to see you reflected in it. If you have anything you would like to share, feel free to email me at the Chronicler email and we can talk.

Our Lovely Cantons

Myrgenfeld

Canton.myrgenfeld.ansteorra.org

Haldtre

Currently on Hiatus



Contact Seneschal for meeting information
at: seneschal@myrgenfeld.ansteorra.org

Baronial Champions

Chivalric— Lord Godfrey of Del Rapier—Honorable Lady Margaret MacDuff

Archery— Lord Mateo di Genua

Thrown Weapons— Levi of Adlersruhe

Middle Eastern Dance—Mistress Kajira Camber

Middle Eastern Drum— Lady Emma
O'Ruairc

Arts and Science—Matthew Mac Gille Fhaolain

Bardic—Ermagerd de Tours

Youth Champions

Youth Rapier— Cainnear Lylle

Youth Chivalric—Cainnear Lylle

Youth Middle E. Drum—Isabella of Patrin Or

Youth Middle Eastern Dance— Lillian of Patrin Or

Youth Bardic— Haven O'Connor

Youth Arts and Science— Patrick son of Isaac Bane

Weasels (Baronial version of pages)

Cainnear Lylle ---Steven of Wiesenfeuer

The Firewatch

Ahlanna A'Becket

Aldric de Kerr

Godfrey of Del Tainah du Bois

Skjoldulfr Hildabjarnarson

HL Wilhelm Meis

Royal Liaison

Meabh inghean Rois

Ladies-in-waiting

HE Caterina Giovanni de Gilead

Lady Ainier of Patrin-Or

Sainte du Bois

HL Shanna Camber

Lynnette le Long

Meetings and Events

There are many activities within the Barony. Whether you are interested in Fighting, Arts and Sciences, or Just learning about the times and people we are striving to recreate, there is al-ways something to do. Many Friendly members in our populace are willing to show their craft or help out with whatever you may have interest in. See the calendar page and the meeting schedule list for the scheduling of practices, scribal nights, arts and science meetings, and other activities. Come out and join in the fun!

Populace Meeting:

Populace meeting will be held virtually at 7:30 PM Monday, March 1st. It is preceded by a social hour where people visit.

To join the video meeting, click this link: <https://meet.google.com/igu-gqrf-tvu>

Otherwise, to join by phone, dial +1 331-215-7910 and enter this PIN: 397 181 569#
To view more phone numbers, click this link: <https://tel.meet/vdu-ipyb-dhn?hs=5>

Notes if you are unfamiliar with Google Meetings...

Your screen should shift to show the video or static image of the person talking.

Sometimes they are a little pixelated but will sharpen.

There is an "all meeting" chat available by clicking the chat/conversation bubble icon at the upper right.

You can see a list of all the attendees by clicking the multiple persons icon with the attendance count at the upper right.

For information about any other virtual meetings contact the officer in charge of those meetings.

Guild Meetings:

Scribal Guild

Greetings,

For those interested in the arts of calligraphy and illumination of medieval manuscripts, FireStorm Ink, the Namron-Wiesenfeuer Scribal Guild, meets virtually every Tuesday evening starting about 7:00 PM. Links are posted to FireStorm Ink's and Wiesenfeuer's Facebook pages. Please feel free to contact me if you are interested, I am happy to send out personal invites as well.

We welcome those of all experience levels as well as those looking for a group to hang out with.

In Service,
Isaac Bane

During this time of forced deceleration...

The groves take on blossoms, beautifying the cities,
 gardens grow more fair, the world hastens —
 all these things make the hurrying heart mindful,
 the soul to its travels, to him who so imagines
 on the flood-ways, to travel far away.

Excerpt from “The Seafarer” anonymous Anglo Saxon

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 2021

March 13th there will be a Virtual Kingdom Court at 4pm
Links available on the Kingdom of Ansteorra Facebook page

April 2021

4/16-18th : Wiesenfeuer Baronial VIRTUAL Event
Stay tuned for more information

May

To be determined



Gregorian pocket calendar, 1421 ; This work is in the public domain in its country of origin and other countries and area where the copyright term is the author's life plus 100 years or less and in the United states because it was published (or registered with the US Copyright Office) before January 1,1924.

Storytime!
Brought to you this month by HL Ivo Blackhawk

“The Most Legendary Sword You've Probably Never Heard Of.”
 By HL Ivo Blackhawk
 Originally blogged as “Sword Sunday #43”

This story has all the makings of a best-selling novel, complete with a court case against a major corporation, palace intrigue, secret societies, a spy, and a murder. But our story starts sometime in the early 1900s with the looting of a tomb.

We don't know the exact date, or time, or even who carried out the deed. And as easy as it is to envision the event happening under cover of darkness, by candlelight, and with black cloaks on, the truth of the matter is that it could very well have been a regularly scheduled event, set in between lunch and tea, or just after breakfast.

Who knows, right?

But the fact of the matter is that some time just before the world was embroiled in "the Great War", men working under the orders of the 5th Earl of Warwick entered a tomb in St Mary's Church in Warwick, and proceeded to empty the location of everything but the body and the sarcophagus itself. While we may never know if the act itself was conducted clandestinely, the results were not. One sword, one dagger, and two helmets have been on display to the public in Warwick castle ever since.

And now, a century later, that sword is back in the news, but to understand why, we need to first understand who it was who first owned it.

Sir Fulke Greville, (*who would, at the time of his death be properly styled Fulke Greville, 1st Baron Brooke, de jure 13th Baron Latimer and 5th Baron Willoughby de Broke KB PC*) was something of a renaissance man for his day. Author, courtier, exchequer, playwright, Greville was arguably one of the leading minds of his time. It is now also believed he was a high ranking, possibly the top member of the order of the Rosicrucians.

Don't let the name Rosicrucians shoot by you without taking it in. The Rosicrucian society was a spiritual and cultural movement, and mystical order in the early 17th century. The foundation was based on a the story of a German physician, mystic, and philosopher who was called Father Brother Christian Rosenkreuz (Literally "Rose-cross"), who was reportedly born in 1378, and lived to be 106, and practiced what today some scholars believed to be form of Sufism. Rosenkreuz, and per the story, practiced a personal ethos of healing the sick without accepting payment. The foundations of the order, again, per the tradition, was Rosenkreuz and eight followers agreeing to maintain a secret fellowship while working though their lifetimes to continue to heal others and better themselves.

All of this entered the public eye in the year 1600 when a series of manifestos was published in Germany, and then the rest of Europe, telling the story of Rosenkreuz to the larger public, and saying that 'the time was right' for the secret order to reveal themselves to the world, seeking good men to join them.

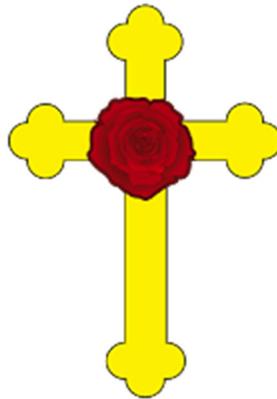
The movement's manifestos promised to revamp philosophical, literary, ecclesiastical/religious, artistic, and scientific (or "alchemical") thinking of the day by making use of 'lost' or 'hidden' practices. While the actual practices talked about either did not work, or were never revealed, (in fact, the whole history of the order is widely speculated to be little more than a work of creative writing), the impact of its promises was very real.

The manifestos (3 of them in total) would directly influence and inspire the works of movers and shakers across Europe. Michael Maier (1568–1622) of Germany would go on to be named Pfalzgraf (Count Palatine) by Rudolf II, the Holy Roman Emperor. His works would include ardent, and strident defense of the Rosicrucians. Other historical figures included Teophilus Schweighardt Constantiens, Gotthardus Arthusius, Julius Sperber, Henricus Madathanus, Gabriel Naudé, and Thomas Vaughan.

Robert Fludd (1574–1637) and Elias Ashmole (1617–1692) of England would also credit the writing of the Rosicrucians with influencing their works, helping to bring the order fully to the English aisle.

German theologian Daniel Cramer published a treatise in 1617 entitled "Societas Jesus et Rosae Crucis Vera" (The True Society of Jesus and the Rosy Cross).

Art, poetry, and history across Europe began to see references to the order, some almost coded, others obvious.



For what we do presage is not in grosse,
 For we are brethren of the Rosie Crosse;
 We have the Mason Word and second sight,
 Things for to come we can foretell aright.

— Henry Adamson, *The Muses Threnodie* (a poem from 1638).

The name of the order was also its own self-explanatory brand, with a gold cross and a rose at the intersection becoming the badge for members and adherents.

It was in this philosophical tumult that we find Sir Fulke Greville, personal exchequer to Queen Elizabeth I, and then to James I. When you consider the history of the English royal family and their ability to spend and loose money to the point of literal bankruptcy many times over throughout history, the selection of a person charged with organizing that money was a mark of the highest trust, and put Greville in very high circles.

Greville was no meek individual. A prolific writer, he was a poet, man of numbers and letters, scholar, and lawmaker, on top of being a combat veteran and member of the English high-born. Before his rise to prominence, it is known that participated in the Battle of Coutras in 1587. He also for a short time in Normandy under King Henry III of Navarre in the French Wars of Religion in 1591. In his later years, he would serve as the parliamentary representative for Warwickshire at multiple meetings of parliament.

On top of, and aside from his public life, Greville's sharp mind, extensive education, and work with both letters and numbers made him a more than capable spy for the crown. Not only knowledgeable of foreign customs and language, but he almost certainly was one of the early code-masters used in England. Even if the letter was intercepted and read before its delivery, the use of codes could help protect the message itself. In an age before computer encryption and frequency hopping radios, such abilities would have been worth Greville's weight in gold to whoever hired him.

Greville's skills also included the dramatic and the political. He famously penned "Four Foster Children of Desire", a small production written specifically to be put on before the french ambassador during a visit to Whitehall. At the time, the French were working to arrange a marriage between Elizabeth I and Francis, the Duke of Anju. Internationally, it would have joined two of the dominant military powers of Europe. Domestically, however, it would have relegated the English Queen to the status of empty figurehead, and broodmare to have Francis's children. Under the laws of the day, had she given birth to a son by Francis, the child would immediately have more power and political value than his own mother. Greville was opposed to the marriage, and use the visit to say as much. In the play, "Four Foster Children of Desire", the "Children" lay siege to the "Fortress of Perfect Beauty". After two days of challenges the Children admitted defeat. In the context of the sensibilities of the day, the message to the ambassador was clear; Elizabeth (who would never marry, and never see her power as monarch pulled from her) was 'unattainable' by the French.

For a man who lived the life he did, Greville's end was both tragic, and horrific. A personal servant of his attacked him in 1628 over a disagreement as to Greville's will. While the wound itself was not life threatening, the treatment included sealing it with pig lard, which quickly infected the injury. Greville reportedly died in agony, weeks later, from what today would likely be called sepsis.

But the story does not stop there.

Almost 400 years later we come to Rene Greville, descendant of the late Fulke Greville, and, among other things, his biographer (under the pen name of A.W.L. Saunders). According to Rene, what remains of the tomb of Fulke have multiple icons and inscriptions that suggest he was not only a follower of the Rosicrucians, but likely even one of their leaders in England, possibly even the order's highest member of the time.

'My own research into the monument [...] and the remains of the stained-glass windows of the Chapter House, make it almost certain that Greville was a very high-ranking member of the Rosicrucians,' - Rene

If this is true, and per Rene there is evidence aplenty to support the claim, that would put one of the most elite of the English courtiers of the day as a member of the society, and even its leader.

The relevance here is not only historical, either. A great many modern societies, including the Freemasons recognize the influence of the Rosicrucians, with some individuals believing that the latter was, in fact, part of the founding effort of the former. Iconography of several orders, historical and modern, include the use of the rose cross, an image not widely used before the rise of the Rosicrucians.

"Once Freemasons and Rosicrucians understand what that sword is it could be like the Mona Lisa. Millions of people could turn up at the church wanting to see the sword which would bring the church to a halt." - Rene Greville.

And this brings us back to the 1900s looting of Fulke's tomb. According to Rene, the sword includes an emblem of the rose cross, and a more detailed study of it might reveal more information. It is important to remember that Faulk was a code master in his day, so the idea of hiding his membership by way of code or related imagery on something like a sword is not only possible, but likely for a man with the theatrical pedigree he had.

The problem, though, is that the sword was not available for such close study. Still in the custody of Warwick castle (owned by Merlin Entertainment), the company was not interested in allowing such a closer study, and did not allow Rene access to the weapon. Finally, in late 2019, he took the case to court, sewing for custody of the weapon that, per his challenge, was rightfully his. The year long legal fight was described as costly, and exhausting.

"Merlin [entertainment] held out and held out until 24 hours before a hearing was to be brought and they caved. In legally-binding emails they agreed to return the items to the church. I love the sword but it's a bit of pain to me as my family have spent thousands [of British pounds] on this whole thing." - Rene

With the connections that the sword has, and the names of the people who were in, or involved in Fulke Greville's life, the potential value of the weapon is bordering on astronomical.

'The most expensive sword ever sold went for £7.7million and I believe this would go for something similar as there's nothing like it in the whole world.'- Rene
In something of another major historical connection, Rene is hoping that 'the items' to be returned include several manuscripts that he believes were removed from the tomb as well, and never put on display. If his theory is true, they might hold evidence that Fulke was the actual author of Shakespeare's Antony and Cleopatra, as well as possibly several of the bard's other famous works.

I'm very happy that the sword is going back but now my interest is what else the Earl of Warwick took from Fulke's sarcophagus. I believe that boxes full of letters and documents came out and they will answer questions on the Essex Rebellion, the Armada, Elizabeth I's death. They could reveal Fulke wrote Anthony And

Cleopatra and other works of Shakespeare. My dream is to find those documents before I die. Fulke was at the centre of everything and what he says could change history as we know – even at my age it's so fascinating.'

- Rene

Source:

Descendant of 17th century Freemason spy Fulke Greville has won a legal battle.

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-8827407/Descendent-17th-century-spy-wins-court-battle-antique-sword.html>

Les Rose-Croix, Paris (1972)

The Rosicrucian Emblems of Daniel Cramer: The True Society of Jesus and the Rosy Cross (Edinburgh, 1991)

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