

The Dancing Moon

September-October, 2019

Infantry!



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ART, ARTICLE, AND PHOTO CREDITS

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Minutes of the September and October, 2019 Meetings

Monthly Business Meeting Minutes, September, 2019

Officer Reports:

Exchequer – Balance is \$3262.53, so far only \$50 has been laid out for Autumn Arrows

Minister of Arts and Sciences – Collected info for quarterly report. HL Nest will teach leather and embroidery on it in October. No September class, due to Autumn Arrows prep. There will be a variety of A&S events at Gryphon's Fest: Basket weaving, a poetry competition, and a 'Stolen materials' competition.

Cut and Thrust – Nothing to report.

Chronicler/Webminister – The Autumn Arrows flier is on the web. Marjorie may be taking over, details TBD.

Archery – Good weekend just past, Nest, Caitin, Martin, and several others were at King's Company, Disa won Fyrd Recurve Champion.

Knights' Marshal – Absent

Old Business:

Past Autumn Arrows/Spring Spears – Nothing to report

Other Old Business – Nothing to report

New Business:

Next Autumn Arrows/Spring Spears – Discussed several details about the upcoming Autumn Arrows, clarified Rose is doing all the Inn, turns out most of the stuff that is traditional Welsh cuisine is on the Queen's 'No thanks' list so some scrambling will ensue for the Feastocrat, fortunately no major food purchased yet.

Parties/Picnics/Gathering/Events -

Assistance to/from other groups, demos, etc. - Baron Jon will be running archery at Toys for Tots.

Other Calontir business:

Largess and tithes to the Crown, – Seneschal announced a reminder that largess for Chieftains should be on people's minds

Other New Business – Mistress Roselyn and Lady Caitin Rose are preparing a bid for RUSH, using the Church. We may combine Spring Spears with RUSH if we get the bid. If so we will need to cancel our hold on the Civic Center for that date.

Concluding Matters:

The next business meeting will be Monday, October 7th, 2019, the FIRST Monday in October, so the feast leftovers will be fresh and form the basis of the potluck. There will NOT be a meeting on the second Monday (October 14th), it is the Columbus Day holiday. Normal meetings resume after Columbus Day.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Official: THL Paul Adler (Vince Zahnle)
Seneschal



**When the meeting goes on
for far too long...**

Monthly Business Meeting Minutes, October, 2019

The October meeting was convened at 7:30 p.m., October 7, 2019, THL Paul Adler (Modernly, Vince Zahnle), Senseschal, Presiding.

Officer Reports:

Exchequer - Baron Jon reported that the current on-hand bank balance is \$4,268.19, after event expenses for Autumn Arrows. The event was technically a loss per Exchequer accounting but in real terms that does not account for either Inn or the fundraising auction, so in reality was netted a bit under \$1,000 for the effort.

Minister of Arts and Sciences – Lady Marjorie collected information for her quarterly report. She noted HL Nest will be teaching a class in October with a follow-up in November on leather painting and embroidery. She also brought up that a large A&S display is planned for Kris Kinder. She congratulated HL Dulcibella for winning the poetry competition at Gryphon's Fest.

Chronicler/Webminister – HL Dulcibella noted she will have the newsletter out soon.

Archery – THL Thomas noted there had been several practices last quarter, and that per usual practice the start time would shift to 2 p.m. for Winter hours now. There will be a practice October 21st, TBD otherwise. Any Archery Marshal who wants to run one on another date should contact Thomas for the key to the range.

Knights' Marshal – HL James noted that two practices had occurred and noted HL Paul had marshaled at Gryphon's Fest and Crucible at the Crossroads this past quarter.

Herald was absent but nothing is pending on names or devices.

Old Business:

Autumn Arrows:

All Autumn Arrows receipts have been turned in. Reporting requirements have been covered by HE Jon with HL Paul's concurrence as Steward and Seneschal, respectively. Very small amount of lost and found seems to have all been accounted for with arrangements to return the one or two items of value left. HE Jon passed out presents from the Queen which she gave at the AA feast. AA had 38 competing archers, winners as follows:

Hus – Daniel Martel

Fyrd – Asher (Also the Overall and Branch Champion)

Unranked – Kolr

HL James noted that 8 AA attendees completed at least part of the TWIC.

Other matters:

HL James noted that he had met with the Amtgaard group in Rolla and passed on some of our excess Gold Key garb, which was apparently very well received.

New Business:

Except for the Seneschal and Chronicler/Webminister, quarterly reports for all officers are due on October 15th. The Seneschal must get all your reports before doing his own, which is due the 20th. Please be sure to CC the Seneschal when you report, or forward your comeback copy to him via email if your automated report form does not allow you to CC additional parties (vince.zahnle@gmail.com).

Spring Spears – We will be replacing Spring Spears with Spring RUSH if our bid is accepted, HE Rose and HL Caitin are the proponents for the bid. If accepted, the St. Robert Bellarmine church will be the location. It was noted that we need an updated inventory in order to justify the storage area expense. Timing and arrangements were discussed.

The Holiday party was discussed, location will be at Alan and Marjorie's, date still soft. Also discussed moving our New Year's Eve get-together there (A Monday night), possibly with a game night the evening before (Sunday, December 30th). Decisions will be made at the next business meeting.

Largess and tithe to the Crown were discussed, members encouraged to start working on largess projects now. Tithe amount discussed, amount of \$500 to be presented at the Chieftains event in February along with largess.

HE Jon will be having his delayed buy required meeting with Maeve at Toys for Tots.

Other

The next business meeting will be Monday, November 4th, as the second Tuesday falls on the Veterans' Day holiday. Location TBD, may not be able to get the church.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Official: THL Paul Adler (Vince Zahnle)
Seneschal

THE RENAISSANCE... OF INFANTRY!

By HL Paul Adler



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Infantry, the Queen of Battle. (1) Through most of recorded history, it was that, and remained so except for certain particular periods. The Medieval period is one of those exceptions, and despite the many things popular fiction gets wrong, they kind of have that right. But before that time, in most of the ancient or Classical world, infantry ruled the battlefield, and horsed cavalry and chariots were either an auxiliary arm or a force that was only heavily employed as the principal arm of decision by certain nations in terrain uniquely well-suited to it. In those times, cavalry arms and armor were little different than those of light infantry, and the cavalry a light but highly mobile force, used to supplement the main power of the infantry force and protect it from the light forces of the enemy, or on rare occasions used more as dragoons (Infantry mounted for mobility, dismounted for combat once in position – 'Horse Marines').

Leaders might be mounted, wagons and pack animals employed, but that was all for mobility, sustenance, or command and control, not as a principal combat arm. The weight of battle was carried by the Hoplite of the Greeks, the phalanx of Alexander with its 18-foot sarissas, or the legionary in the evolution of the legion from the early manipular legion to its final state in the cohort legions of the Empire.

Cavalry certainly had its days, like Alexander's Companions (An elite 'Life Guards' upperclass force with the best armor, weapons, and mounts), who with him in personal command forced the Persian

line in the critical battle at the River Granicus. (2) But this victory had much more to do with Alexander's extremely clever tactics, his audacity, the fact his cavalry was a chosen elite, and a bad match of chosen cavalry weapons on the part of the Persians vs. the Macedonians (Macedonian lance vs. Persian javelin) than it did with any inherent capability of cavalry.

On the whole, though, cavalry was more typically used for screening, reconnaissance, pursuit, and keeping enemy cavalry from committing any interference with one's own baggage train or camp followers. The legions of Rome classically had one *ala*, or 'Wing' of cavalry (And in the provinces, often another *ala* of local auxiliaries, just as the centuries of the legion itself might well have another shadow force of provincial or allied auxiliaries up to its own numbers. Theoretically the size of the *ala* was 512 troopers (About 8% of the Legion's infantry numbers), but as is ever the case in military affairs, the table of organization number was not necessarily the real number, and in practice this force might vary anywhere between that of a single century (80 legionaries plus support and leadership in the case of the later cohort legion) to a full cohort (10 centuries), with or without local or allied auxiliaries, and depending on the political, military, and resource situation. (3)

In our youthful first interests in the Middle Ages, we pretty universally learned the classic popular 'Knights in armor' sort of thing from movie spectaculars and popular fiction, complete with all the fallacies about the weight and immobility of the mounted knight. And all of that wasn't entirely wrong, no matter how appallingly garish or flamboyant the clothing and armor in those Golden Age of Technicolor extravaganzas may seem once we learned more. There was a period when the mounted knight reigned supreme, and nothing could stand before properly-employed cavalry...or what would be called in modern wargaming terms "Superheavy cavalry." They were the top dogs, the pinnacle of the social ladder, and, in a mass, the breakthrough weapon of their era before which no infantry could stand...until the end of the era.

Their era of dominance roughly corresponds to the widespread adoption of the stirrup in Europe, some centuries after its invention during the Jin Dynasty in China (Among other claimants) early in the Common Era (4). It was only this invention, along with saddles designed to capitalize on it, that enabled heavy cavalry to act as a true shock arm instead of simply being limited to raiding, pursuing a routed enemy, or being a distraction while desperately trying to use the same weapons as the infantry but sitting on the slick fur of moving, scared horse. Aside from being able to brace a heavier, longer spear than (For instance) a Roman legionary's thrusting spear, the stirrup gave the cavalryman vastly improved control of the horse, and greatly lowered his chance of being dumped in the middle of a sharp pivot by the mount, directed or otherwise.

The introduction of this revolutionary technology is thought to have been by way of the steppe Avars interacting with the Byzantine Empire, around the year 600, not so long after the final Fall in the West. It spread rapidly throughout the West from that point, quickly being recognized as what today's military jargon would call a 'Combat multiplier' – a thing that seriously increases the combat power of a branch or type of weapon.

In a remarkable bit of synchronicity, even before the stirrup arrived on the scene, and reaching an advanced state in the waning years of Rome, the cavalryman and his horse were becoming increasingly well-armored. Rome had gotten its nose bloodied fighting with the Parthians at the eastern boundary of the Empire. In fact the Parthians, along with the Scythians, (5) were one of the nations that set the high water mark for Rome's expansion in that direction, now referred to as southwest Asia. We still owe the phrase 'Parthian shot' (Or parting shot in a corrupted form) to the mounted archers of the Parthians, whose arrows would keep the unarmored horse of the legions at a distance while they broke contact.

The Parthians *did* have heavy cavalry, the *kataphraktoi* or cataphracts, which had scale armor for not only the rider but the horse, and on top of their formidable close combat ability, also carried the Parthian horse bow. Deployed in numbers, they were more formidable than the elephants of the Carthaginians, since they could evade and refuse engagement with anything the Romans fielded that could bear them, but quickly move and annihilate any smaller Roman detachments they caught in the open. The Roman cavalry as it was constituted was simply no match for them, but could at least generally avoid destruction at their hands, being more lightly mounted.

The Romans not being the sort of people to fret over cultural appropriation in words, dress, art, technology, or especially warfare, were suitably impressed by the well-armored cataphracts. Even without stirrups, they began to experiment with and adopt these types of armored, mounted warriors for uses beyond the traditional role of cavalry in the legions. Some *foederati* (client, allied, or vassal states), particularly to the east, may have brought the idea back to their own homes after campaigning with Empire forces on the eastern frontier.

As fate and the tides of history would have it, this innovation was never realized in numbers sufficient to save Rome in its final days, and the innovation of the stirrup that would have made this force a world-beater arrived in the century after the fall. With the fall of the Empire, the successor states despite their ambitions to emulate Roman power lacked the social and industrial organization to implement the mobile armored warfare that became possible at that point. And so, infantry remained dominant by default, its weaponry and tactics coasting in neutral.

Toward the end of the Dark Ages, a resurgent West in the form of Charlemagne on the Continent and Alfred in England reached a stage of relatively stable political consolidation that the industrial and logistic support to field heavy and superheavy cavalry in decisive numbers again became a possibility. The *Chanson de Roland* is replete with mounted charges, spitting preposterous numbers of the (Lightly-armored) Moors on lances. Of course the Song of Roland as it has come to us was actually written down some two hundred-plus years or so after the actual battle to the death in the Vale of Roncevaux. so it is impossible to say that it literally reflects the mode of warfare in the 800s as opposed to when it was finally recorded for posterity in the 1100s. There are illuminations from Carolingian pages that show well-armored mounted Franks and they were definitely partial to long, eared spears, but their horses were unbarded and the armor lacked the face protection that the cataphracts and the Roman emulations are known to have used. (6) Still, the fully-armored fighter equipped with stirrups and a saddle designed to suit charging with a long spear made them much more lethal than the average Roman *ala* trooper, wearing a breastplate, open helm, and greaves while surfing on his horse and trying to get a shot in with a 7- or 8-foot legionary footman's spear or a *spatha* longsword. So we can fairly say that at some point between Roland's immortal defense of the pass and the dawn of the Crusade era when it was written down, the power of the mounted knight became the dominant shock arm of maneuver on the battlefield and we entered the legendary era of mounted knights in armor.

Cavalry is essentially an offensive arm, in a position defense the horse only amounts to something very expensive to lose that doesn't help defend the ground one iota, though the full body armor of the of the mounted knight is a great value. There is also ground that attacking horses can't negotiate at the charge, so attacking a force of dismounted knights is not only difficult, but a terrible idea since closing speed, impact, and density of the line are all lost in that case. So even in the full flower of mounted knighthood, there were battles where infantry – mainly dismounted armored knights, with the advantage of good defensive ground and support by ranged weapons – still won the day, notably Crecy, Poitiers, and Agincourt (7). In a war of maneuver, or what passed for strategic warfare in those days (Cutting a swath of fire and death through the enemy's helpless peasantry and their farms and towns), cavalry was king outside those special circumstances.

Problems always beg for solutions, and the common perception is that gunpowder weapons were the solution to the problem of armored cavalry. Not so, gunpowder weapons began appearing in Europe as early as the Hundred Years War and despite making it a lot deadlier they didn't become a critical factor until well into the 1600s, and didn't become dominant until the 1700s.

What really signaled the end of the era of the mounted knight was not the sort of technical innovation that had brought it about, but the return of highly-disciplined military, cohesive units unhampered by issue of peerage hierarchy or knightly honors, an organizational killing machine similar to the citizen legions of Rome. That would show its force at the Battle of Granson in March of 1476. To summarize it briefly, The Duke of Burgundy, historically troublemakers both within France and for her neighbors, had chosen to beat on the Swiss with a show of force involving his chivalry slaughtering a lot of the disobedient mountaineers, a motley collection of kingless cantons in a loose defensive federation. This was the first substantial encounter between the disciplined Swiss pikemen and mounted chivalry, and in short it turned out rather badly for the Burgundians, in fact the 'Burgunderbeute' (Loot from Burgundy) made a lot of Swiss wealthy (And as lore from uncited accounts goes, married, as the women in the extensive Burgundian camp train were carried off home by the Swiss). (8)

The success of the Swiss as mercenaries in subsequent years added to their reputation and spawned many imitators like *Landsknechte* in German-speaking territory and *lansquenets* in the French. This rise of infantry armies was roughly contemporaneous with the start of the Renaissance in other arenas such as art, science, and engineering, and not as is often supposed by the advent of gunpowder weapons in sufficiently versatility and numbers to vanquish heavy cavalry...though the day was coming fast when that would drive the nails in its coffin.

It's a question of philosophy for another day as to whether breaking the nobility's monopoly on battlefield power was a cause or an effect of that advancement in humanity's lot. It turns out that as powerful as class-based elite formations with expensive equipage may be, they are essentially limited in available manpower in a way trained and disciplined infantry (As opposed to peasant levies) is not. Only in the Early Modern Era, in the time of Napoleon, would cavalry again briefly become a powerful shock arm, but only one among three equals, a day which again passed into history with the Minie system musket and breechloading rifles.

It wouldn't come again until the fully developed tank appeared, but even by the end of World War 2, infantry weapons that would defeat armor were becoming more and more common. Today the armor is astoundingly good, but few nations can or have reason to employ them in mass numbers and their use is more commonly as supporting assault guns like a descendant of horse artillery rather than cavalry. While the best of them are easily capable of taking on enemy tank forces, the reality is that since the end of the Cold War the probability of them being used in a mass way for that is tiny among the major powers. Infantry has once again been restored to her crown.

Notes:

(1) A phrase embedded in modern military lore, not only in English-speaking countries, which gained currency in Napoleonic times

<https://www.benning.army.mil/infantry/magazine/FAQs.html>

(2) Wikipedia article, Battle of the Granicus

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_the_Granicus

(3) United Nations of Roma Victrix (Website). “The Cavalry (Equitatus) and Auxiliary”

<https://www.unrv.com/military/roman-cavalry.php>

(4) Stix, Gary, “The Stirrup - Invention of the stirrup may rival that of the longbow and gunpowder,' Scientific American, September 1, 2009.

(5) Turnbull, Percival, “Empire,” Microsoft Encarta article <http://wwwg.uniklu.ac.at/archeo/chrono/empire.htm>

(6) See, for instance, Muetherlich and Gaedhe, Joachim, Carolingian Painting, Plates 45 and 46, George Braziller, New York, NY 1976.

(7) There is a school of thought that these three battles themselves represent the rise of infantry, but in fact they really represent terrible tactical decision-making by the French, who used their available forces terribly, to attack in situations for which they were very poorly suited, and which strongly favored the defending English forces. The reasons they were such disasters for the French and triumphs for the English owe much more to unique weaknesses of the latter and unique strengths of the latter, than to any real emergent lesson about a coming obsolescence of superheavy cavalry.

(8) Battle of Grandson <http://www.burnpit.us/2014/03/battle-grandson-swiss-army-defeatsburgundians-under-charles-bold>

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SHIRE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Weekly venue for our shire meetings:

St Robert Bellarmine Catholic Church:

367 Old Highway 66, St. Robert, MO, 65584

Please submit next issue’s announcements to the Chronicler by November 25, 2019.

The Dancing Moon is always published bimonthly (every other month) during the third week of each month (or as close to it as possible). Publication will be issued in January, March, May, July, September, and November (or as close as can be managed). If you find an error that needs correcting in the shire newsletter or on the shire website, please inform your web minister or chronicler ASAP. It may make her grumpy, but she needs to know.

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Send requests for membership in the closed shire Facebook Group to lezahnle@gmail.com

**Congratulations to the Shire's New A & S Champion,
H I Thomas Fleishacker!**

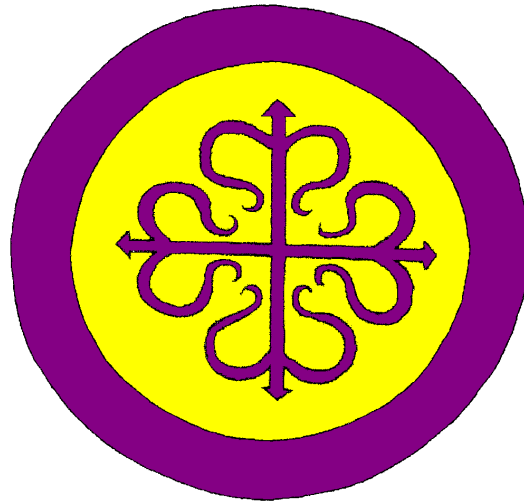


Photo by Cathy Glueck (SKA Lady Catin of Edington) ©2019. Used with permission.

**Congratulations to the Shire's New Archery Champion,
Baron Jon Tristram!**



Photo by Cathy Glueck (SKA Lady Catin of Edington) ©2019. Used with permission.



Shire Officers

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CHATELAINE

Open

Shire Calendar -September, 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Archery Practice 4 PM Beaver Creek Conservation Area Rolla, MO. (Tentative)	2 6:45 PM Weekly Meeting Project Night St. Robert Bellarmine Catholic Church, St. Robert, MO	3	4	5	6	7 King's Company of Archers Amlethsmore Smithville, MO
8 Archery Practice 4 PM Beaver Creek Conservation Area Rolla, MO. (Tentative)	9 6:45 PM Weekly Meeting Business meeting/Potluck St. Robert Bellarmine Catholic Church, St. Robert, MO	10	11	12	13	14
15 Archery Practice 4 PM Beaver Creek Conservation Area Rolla, MO. (Tentative)	16 6:45 PM Weekly Meeting Project Night St. Robert Bellarmine Catholic Church, St. Robert, MO	17	18	19	20	21
22 Archery Practice 4 PM Beaver Creek Conservation Area Rolla, MO. (Tentative)	23 6:45 PM Weekly Meeting Project Night St. Robert Bellarmine Catholic Church, St. Robert, MO	24	25	26	27	28 Gryphon's Fest Barony of Three Rivers, St. Louis, MO
29 Archery Practice 4 PM Beaver Creek Conservation Area Rolla, MO. (Tentative)	30 6:45 PM Weekly Meeting Project Night St. Robert Bellarmine Catholic Church, St. Robert, MO					



Shire Calendar – October, 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5 Autumn Arrows Calanais Nuadh, Rolla/St. Robert, MO
6 Archery Practice 4 PM Beaver Creek Conservation Area Rolla, MO. (Tentative)	7 6:45 PM Weekly Meeting Project Night St. Robert Bellarmine Catholic Church, St. Robert, MO	8	9	10	11	12 Fall Crown Torney Barony of Forgotten Sea, Smithville, MO
13 Archery Practice 4 PM Beaver Creek Conservation Area Rolla, MO. (Tentative)	14 6:45 PM Weekly Meeting Business Meeting/Potluck St. Robert Bellarmine Catholic Church, St. Robert, MO	15	16	17	18	19
20 Archery Practice 4 PM Beaver Creek Conservation Area Rolla, MO. (Tentative)	21 6:45 PM Weekly Meeting Project Night St. Robert Bellarmine Catholic Church, St. Robert, MO	22	23	24	25	26
27 Archery Practice 4 PM Beaver Creek Conservation Area Rolla, MO. (Tentative)	28 6:45 PM Weekly Meeting Leather Embroidery Class St. Robert Bellarmine Catholic Church, St. Robert, MO	29	30	31		



Driving Directions:

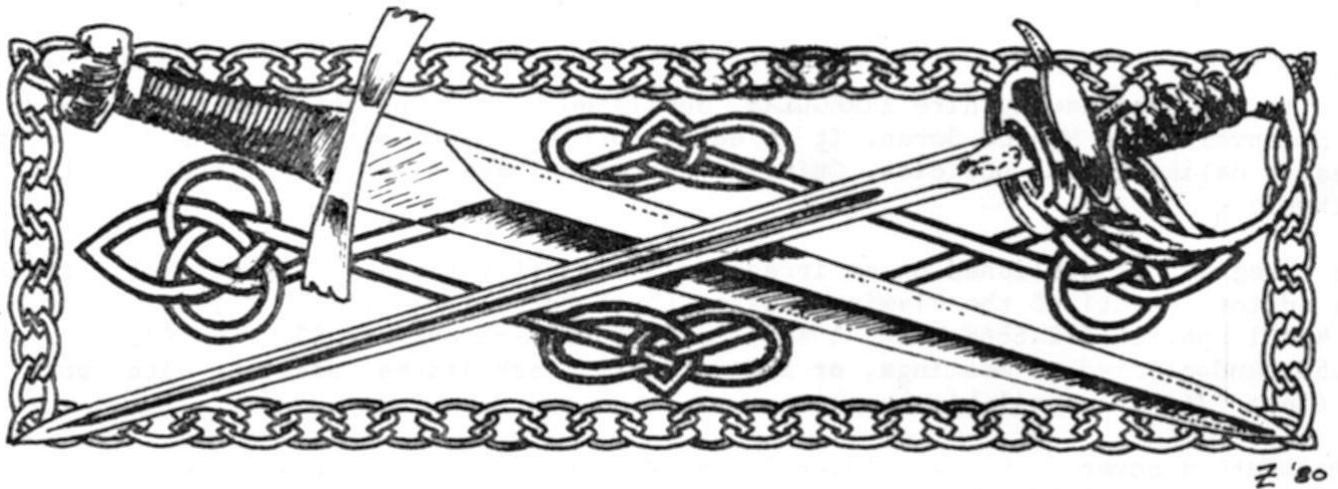
Archery Practice - Beaver Creek Conservation Area: No Crossbows. No Archery in freezing temperatures (32° F). From Rolla, take Highway 63 south. The range gate will be on your left, immediately across the highway from the VFW post. Drive through the gate to the top of the hill, park and take the line! Please check calendar for changes or cancellations.

Shire Meetings - St Robert Bellarmine Catholic Church:

367 Old Highway 66,
St. Robert, MO, 65584

Please check calendar for changes or cancellations.

Fighter Practice: Currently Suspended. Usually held in conjunction with archery practice unless otherwise announced via Facebook or shire Yahoo email list.



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