

Minutes - Council Meeting - September 13, 1987

Roll Call - All groups were eventually represented except Jarnvid, House of Ono, and the Longship Company.

- Maryland has lost their voting rights pending submission of member roster and approval at an Althyng.

Business Items.

- The council passed a motion to make rosters available to Markland members for \$5.00. They will be available after Hastings.
- The council passed a motion to pro-rate dues, and charged the Witan to set a due date for all dues payments and implement the system.
- The new Markland Handbook will be available October 1, 1987. The price will be \$10.00 for non-members, and \$5-6.00 for members.
- The Lammastide Fair Report - Markland netted \$192.79, with individual groups raising in excess of \$800. The council passed a motion for Chort to run next year's Fair on October 15-16, 1988 at the Mt Airy Winery. The Council also passed a motion to hold the Battle and Feast of Hastings at next year's winery fair.
- Virginia groups will begin the Incorporation process to enable them to regionalize within Markland.
- Council passed motions to 1) setup a separate bank account for the specific purpose of raising money to purchase land in the name of Markland, and 2) transfer \$3,000 from the contributor's fund to the land fund.
- As approved by Althyng, and deemed feasible by the Witan, the Plague will become a bi-monthly publication.
- The Markland Constitution is being revised.
- The Sisters of the Order of Saint Anysia were appointed official archivists of Markland.
- It was suggested by Deirdre that Markland change its name to "Markland, Ltd." instead of it's current cumbersome name "The Markland Medieval Mercenary Militia, Ltd.", to improve public relations.
- The proposal that Markland endorse only four official events per year was dropped.
- The new Recreational Fighting Rules were approved at the Council.
- Chancellor of the Fighter's Council gave his report.
- The schedule and Calendar of events was updated.

The Meeting was adjourned.



Alderman's Report, September, 1988

MARKLANDERS,

Hello! The council meeting was held on September 13, 1987 at my house. Thanks to everyone who attended. Many topics were discussed and voted on. Every member of Markland should ask their chapter representatives for details. Unaffiliated Marklanders should ask one of the Witan members for a detailed account. As I mentioned in my contact letter, I want everyone to feel free to call me at (301) WAR-LORD. I love talking on the phone! The other Witan Members are Beth Gaylor (the Bocman), Steve Vaught (the Sheriff), and Fred Bauer (the Bailiff). Look for their reports in this Plague.

Let's talk about events - the fall is full of exciting events this year! Hastings has finally been set for October 10th, and will be held at the University of Maryland. The Fall war is going to be excellent; March de La War has planned a great weekend (Nov 13, 14, and 15). If you haven't been to a war before, go to this one! Remember to dress warm and bring a musical instrument if you have one (and can play it) for some singing around the fire. I'm sure Weird-weapon Charlie and Eric will present some interesting songs and stories! There are several Yule Feasts in early December. One of them is in Richmond (held by Mead). Mead puts on a good feast so if you can make it down South, go. The Solstice feast will be on December 19, in Rockville, Maryland. This is going to be a wedding feast as well as the oathing ceremony! In addition, the members of March de La War will be holding a frat tournament at the site of the Solstice feast hall which has adjoining fields. We can really enjoy ourselves this fall thanks to those running the events. See you there!

Melusine DeGodervya
Alderman of Markland



On the Care and Feeding of Marklanders
by Chort and Teanna

There is a first time for everyone and everything in Markland. Lately we have heard some people criticizing others a bit too sharply. New members trying Markland for the first time and old members trying something new need good words not bad. Here are a few notes on how to deal with your fellow Medievalist.

1. Put yourself in their place... yeah, yeah, I know it's painful to remember that you too once thought the vikings, King Arthur's Knights, and the guys in the frilly collars all existed at the same time... that you once showed up at a rec with a cardboard helmet and duct-taped sword... remember how hard it was for you, and give the new guy a chance.
2. Be NICE... ok, I know that's well nigh impossible for the average Skraeling, but try it, tell people what's RIGHT with what they're doing, then politely inform them of what could be done better. You make nothing but enemies by chopping up someone's attempt at costume or act, and you may loose a potentially great (when they learn more) addition to Markland.
3. If you've got too loud a mouth and too obnoxious a manner, tell a diplomatic friend (or Chort or someone) that you think that guy's neon green tunic sucks raw ostrich eggs, and let him change Green Tunic's attitude for you. For all you know, Green Tunic might have a backyard full of sixteen gage steel and be a welder by trade...
4. Offer to help the New Recruit... so the neon Green tunic reeks... point him in the direction of someone who sews. Invite him to an armour-making session. You'll probably emerge as a hero, not an as-h-1e (BLEEP..whoops missed. ED).
5. Above all, find a balance. We are in this for fun. FUN. Try to remember that. There is room for perfection... you can always improve what you're doing... especially when it's a public oriented event. But there is room for imperfection too. And interpretation. We are dealing with a time period that cannot be documented down to the last strap-end. We are dealing with people who have to recreate this stuff out of next to nothing. Give them credit for what they HAVE done, give them a little room to grow and improve.

Notices of New Marklanders in the Boggie Swamp

On August 27, 1988, Wiltread and Raeadrille are proud to announce that Benjamin Thomas Becraft entered this world at 6 lbs 12 1/2 ounces, yes another little "viking".

To the known free world, the Count and Countess of Lyonese (MEAD) are proud to announce the birth of their heir, Kaitlin Elizabeth Bridges, on September 13, 1988 at 8 lbs 6 ounces.



Report from the Fighter's Council Meeting
September 12, 1987

1. The Council decided that each Fighter's Council would elect a Marshal to preside over that meeting. Steve Vought, Shire Reeve of Markland, was elected Marshal.
2. It was also decided that a Chancellor for the Fighter's Council be elected to record and report the decisions and recommendations made by the Council. Fred Pollnitz (Aldred) was elected Chancellor.
3. Steve Vought delegated the presiding of the meeting to Fred Pollnitz.
4. The council decided that Fighter's Councils should be held a minimum of four (4) times a year, or how ever many more are necessary. It will be the responsibility of the Shire Reeve of Markland to hold these meetings. As an incentive, the Shire Reeve will be rewarded with "several" beers at each meeting he holds.
5. The Council recommends the adoption by Markland of the Recreational Fighting Rules as written by Marko Jankovic and ammended by the Council.
6. The Fighter's Council has requested the following information, by January 1, 1988, from the Council of Steel Qualifiers:
 - a. How they plan to publish and/or disseminate necessary information to the Fighters of Markland.
 - b. Criteria for what the Steel Qualifiers do and what their responsibilities are.
 - c. Criteria for becoming a Steel Qualifier and what the induction process is.
 - d. Rules or general methods by which the Council of Steel Qualifiers is run or operates.
 - e. Response to the preception of many fighters that the Steel Qualifiers is a clique and are not inducting Qualifiers on anything other than that basis.

Marklander's have always been able to pride themselves on their tolerance and understanding. Recently we are beginning to be confronted with a subject which tests our patience and prejudices and which requires the greatest of tact to handle. I refer to the increasing number of children at events.

I currently possess none of the above mentioned nuisances, but many of my friends do or soon will, so both sides of the problem are of interest to me. It is one of the things which does not need to be a source of friction if it is handled promptly and with courtesy. The presence of children at an event can be a great asset or an incredible bother and event organizers must be willing to let members know clearly (but nicely) why children are or are not welcome.

Children in garb at public events add atmosphere and enhance our image as a re-creation group. They also encourage adults with children to join our group because they know they will have something in common with other members. Long-time members do not wish to limit their participation just because they now have families. Events which encourage families with such things as children's ticket prices will be better attended and greatly appreciated by parents. It is a shame to think we could lose some of our most experienced and active members because we cannot accommodate our changing needs.

At the same time, there are some circumstances under which the presence of children could be seriously considered to be a hazard and event organizers would do well to clearly state the problems. Inconvenient medical facilities or seasonal weather considerations should not be ignored. Lack of running water on site may be a real factor in determining if parents should bring their children. Camping events may be too noisy at night for children to easily sleep. If family camps cannot be separated by any distance, it may be a bad idea to bring the boggies. Also there may be some events at which the organizers simply cannot accommodate a child's needs or are not meant for children to attend.

The solution to all this lies in communications. Parents will have to contact event organizers to find out about potential problems. Event organizers will have to do a little more planning and advertising. It is very easy to assume that one event is like another. It is also very easy to make a mistake in that assumption. If parents consistently make their needs known, those who wish to have well attended events will respond to those needs. We will not always be able to anticipate every contingency, but then we never have. Our children are here to stay and will continue to be a growing part of our population. Let us make them welcome and treat them as part of our growing family. They may be little barbarians now, but who knows? There may be a future Aelderman among them.

Deirdre O'Siodhachain

Prior to the Battle of Hastings
by Aethjofr

On January 5, 1066 the Anglo-Saxon King, Edward the Confessor, died and all eyes were on England, as a shaky reign had left three legitimate heirs, Harald Hardrada of Norway, Harold Godwinson of England, and William of Normandy. By election Harold Godwinson was given the throne, yet the new English king knew he would have to defend his crown.

Though Harold Godwinson was expecting an attack from the south, on September 20, 1066 Harald Hardrada invaded Scotland, raiding along the coast. Harald Hardrada was then met by his ally, Tostig, Harold of England's brother, bringing the total force to an overwhelming number. The two armies invaded Northumbria where they met resistance at Fulford Bridge near York, but Hardrada and Tostig defeated the Northumbrian Earls and continued southward. Soon the news of the failed attempt to repel the invaders reached Harold Godwinson. In turn, the English King subjected his army to a series of forced marches to reach the opposing force at Stamford Bridge. On September 24, 1066, having caught the Norwegians off-guard, the invasion was routed and Harald Hardrada was killed.

Not a week after Harold Godwinson defeated the Norwegian invaders, news reached him of a full-scale invasion from Normandy led by the infamous William of Normandy. Once again Harold raced his tattered army down to the south of England, stopping at London for part of a week to pick up recruits. The two armies met on October 14, 1066 at Senlac Hill with an estimated 6,000 to 8,000 men on each side. After a long, tiring battle, Harold's shield wall fell to a series of feigned cavalry retreats. By 6 PM the back of the Saxon army was broken, Harold Godwinson was dead and William of Normandy had won the English throne.

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(as of September, 1987)

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Current Dues:

Basic Markland Membership \$10

This is the basic membership fee
which includes 1 years worth of
Plaques, First class postage and you
are covered by the group liability
Insurance at official group events

Personal Accident Insurance \$4

Adds personal accident insurance to
the basic membership - this is highly
recommended especially for fighters

Contributers Fund \$20

This includes all the above and in
addition \$6 goes into the fund.

Title \$25

This is your very own title. It must
not already be held by someone.

Ad rates for this publications are as follows:

Full Page \$30.00 Half Page \$15.00
Quarter Page \$7.50 Eighth Page \$3.75

Requests for less than 1/8th of a page will pay the 1/8th page
rate. Groups are entitled to 1/2 page free, additional space is
at the above rates.

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The 19th Annual Battle of Hastings
and the Battle of Stamford Bridge

The Battle of Hastings and the Battle of Stamford Bridge will be fought on October 10, 1987, at the University of Maryland, College Park, MD. Stamford Bridge will begin at 11:00 am. Form-up and inspection is at 10:00 am. Hastings will begin at 2:00 pm. Form-up and inspection is at 1:00 pm. Marko Jankovic is to be Battle Master for both battles. Contacts: Marko Jankovic at (301) 747-0748 or Aldred at (301) 773-0876.

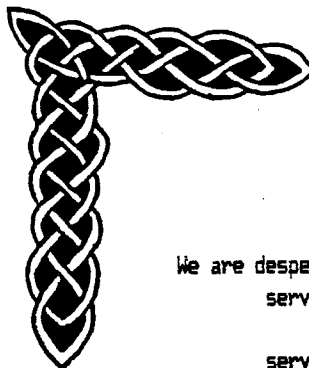
The following are some guidelines for the battles. We hope that these guidelines will not turn anyone away from this event. They are being provided so that participants know how they should look, and what equipment they will need. We realize that there is little time to prepare before the battles. All we ask is that you do your best to follow these basic equipment outlines.

1. The rules of Markland Re-Creational Fighting will be in effect.
2. Bows and arrows must pass standard Markland fratricidal rules.
3. Participants should wear 11th century Norman, Saxon, or Norwegian garb:
 - a. NORMANS - Kite-shaped shields, long-sleeved, knee-length tunics and mail, nasal helmets, cross-gartered pants or hose.
 - i. Archers - Bows, (please paint your fiberglass bows brown), enough arrows for five volleys, garb same as above.
 - ii. Fyrd - Kite shields (or round shields with center grip and boss), spangen helms, mail shirts (optional).
 - iii. Archers - Same as Norman archers, above.
 - b. SAXONS - Long-sleeved, knee-length tunics, cross-gartered pants or hose.
 - i. Housecarls (King Harold's elite troops) - knee-length mail, two-handed axes, nasal helmets.
 - ii. Fyrd - Kite shields (or round shields with center grip and boss), spangen helms, mail shirts (optional).
 - iii. Archers - Same as Norman archers, above.
 - c. NORWEGIANS - Long-sleeved, knee length tunics, trousers, mail shirts, spangen helms, swords, axes, spears, round shields with center grip and boss.
4. Garb should be of wool or linen.
5. NO Sneakers or obviously inauthentic footwear. (knee-length Apache boots and engineering boots should be covered by pants.)
6. NO Bluejeans or obviously inauthentic pants.
7. Eyeglasses should be worn only if absolutely necessary.
8. NO fur tunics, NO coats of plate, NO plate armour, NO barrel helmets, NO two-handed swords, NO fantasy apparel, NO exposed duct tape, NO morning stars, NO flails, NO panty hose, NO tights.

Hastings Battle Plan
October 10, 1987

There will be a total of 5 charges. The Battle of Hastings will start when the Saxons form up, and it will end when the Normans leave the field. Action will procede as follows:

- I. Both sides form up.
 - a. Saxons form shield wall
 - b. Normans march onto the field, Bishop Odo blesses William's army, and Tallifer's charge.
- II. First Charge
 - a. Archers fire
 - b. Cavalry charge
 - c. Infantry attack and withdrawal
- III. Second Charge
 - a. Archers fire
 - b. Infantry attack, Norman left flank withdraws late, Saxon right flank pursues Normans down hill
 - c. Calvery charge, attacking rear of Saxon right flank, Saxon right flank are all killed.
- IV. Third Charge
 - a. Archers Fire
 - b. Infantry attack - Saxon left flank follows Norman right flank
 - c. Cavalry charge - Saxon left flank are killed
- V. Fourth Charge
 - a. Archers Fire
 - b. Cavalry Charge - King Harold is killed, Housecarls protect body
 - c. Infantry Charge and withdrawal
- VI. Fifth Charge
 - a. Archers Fire
 - b. Cavalry attack
 - c. Infantry attack and kill or rout remaining Saxons
- VII. Odo blesses William and Normans march off the field.



!!!! HELP !!!!

We are desperately in need of people to:
serve as banner carriers
provide banners
serve as unit commanders
gather arrows
help with crowd control
assist the clergy
serve as messengers

Military Equipment at the Battle of Hastings

by Aldred

The past few years have seen a gradual improvement in the quality and historical accuracy of the garb, arms, and armour at Hastings. Blue jeans and tennis shoes have been banished forever from the battle. The purpose of this article is to give a brief overview of the history and configuration of the armour and military equipment used at the Battle of Hastings.

For most of western Europe up until the 11th century, military forces consisted mostly of large, rather unarmoured peasant levies led by a proportionally small group of relatively well-armoured professional soldiers. A soldier of good fortune may have had a helmet, a shirt of mail or other metal armour, sundry leather armour, and a shield. A peasant may have had a spear.

The development of armour accelerated in the 9th century with the increased use and development of heavy cavalry. This occurred first in France (and the French would lead military technology and developments for the next five or more centuries). The increased use of cavalry meant that such soldiers used their horses to bear the weight of their armour, allowing them to wear much heavier armour than before, for much longer periods of time without it fatiguing them. In the course of the next two centuries, the shirt of mail or hauberk as well as the cloth tunic underneath would be lengthened to at least the knee if not longer. In addition to a larger hauberk, mail leg armour (hosen) became more widespread. Shields also became much larger, the kite shaped shield replacing the earlier circular shields.

By the middle of the 11th century, Frankish influence was very widespread. Use of heavy cavalry, knee-length tunics and armour, and kite shields extended all over western Europe, as far as the Roman (Byzantine) Empire, and north into Scandinavia.

This influence was very evident at the Battle of Hastings. At the time, the common tunic fashion was at least knee-length; for the Normans and French, the tunics were longer. Body armour for the professional soldiers (the bulk of the participants at Hastings) was at least knee-length and generally 3/4-length sleeves. Helmets had developed into a large conical helmet with a large nasal (a piece of metal extending down the front to cover the nose or more). Kite shields were being used on both sides with the Saxons having a small number (a ratio of 5:1 on the Bayeux Tapestry) of round shields. Overall, the military equipment was very similar at Hastings for the Normans, French, Bretons, and Saxons.

A Re-creation Yule Feast

On December 12, 1987, will be held a very special Yule Feast. At it we will try to re-create elements of Christmas celebrations from the Middle Ages. This means that those attending will all take part in the ceremonies and entertainments which marked this most joyous, extensive, and eagerly awaited holiday. Since the true holiday lasted twelve days and nights and we have but a single afternoon and evening, we will try to re-create selective, but representative customs.

The hall will open at noon and guests will be greeted and escorted to their places where servants will attend to setting their table. When entering the hall, each guest will be given a piece of Twelfth Cake. The lucky fencer of the bean will sit at the high table with his or her chosen companions. At about 12:45 there will be some ceremonies to properly open the season. The feast will begin at 1:00. There will be three courses served at two hour intervals. The first will be poultry (hopefully goose), the second pork, the third beef, and the fourth a desert. Each of the first three courses will consist of at least three dishes: a meat, a vegetable, and a starch (such as rice or noodles). The first course will be served with bread trenchers. We will serve cider and water to drink, but you are welcome to bring an alcoholic beverage if you desire.

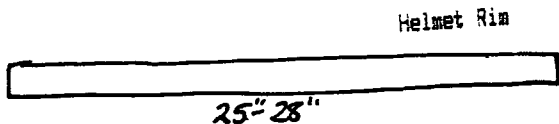
Between courses there will be some pre-arranged game or entertainment. However, as at a true medieval feast, the guests will be expected (but not required) to provide for the common amusement. Bring a song, a dance, a story, or a bit of interesting research on a Christmas custom. Whatever you feel may be interesting or amusing to the feasters. Your contribution need not be of professional quality because we are all amateurs as were the feast guests in the Middle Ages. Because the seating is limited to 64 people who will be there to share this experience, you will be heard. Guests are expected to grant every courtesy to their fellows.

There is no set time period for garb, but wear your best in honor of the holiday. Bring your finest feasting gear to do justice to what promises to be an excellent meal.

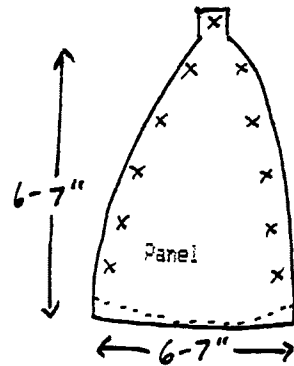
The site will be St. Clements Church on Quaker Lane in Alexandria, VA. Tickets are \$12.00 between now and December 6. No tickets will be sold after that time. Babies in arms are free, children under 12 are \$9.00. Parents note that small children may find a feast this long tedious. There will be ceremonies during which they will be required to sit quietly, so please be advised. For tickets and information, contact: Deirdre O'Siodhachain (Terry Sheehan) 65C Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770. Telephone (301) 345-2167 (there is an answering machine, call anytime).

I am currently recruiting for servers and entertainers. I am especially interested in having young people of about age 10 to 16 who will help with services to enhance the atmosphere. I also am looking for beggars, mendicant friars, and the like to round out our social classes.

Great Polish (10th-13th Centuries AD)
(or Norman Helmet) by Andrey Ihorsson



General shape to attempt to shape panel into.



Front Panel, other panels omit the tab

This is a style of helmet used all over northern Europe, common in the west from the 10th century onwards. In Viking usage it was first popular in the Slavic/Norse contact areas, gradually becoming more popular in general use in place of the occulatum style helmets which were the traditional native Norse style descended from the Vendel era. By 1066 the helmet style had become dominant and remained so for the next century or so.

The helmet consists of 4 triangular panels of metal riveted together in overlapping sections. A rim at the bottom gives the helmet great strength. The nasal bar covers the nose and reinforces the center of the front panel over the wearers forehead.

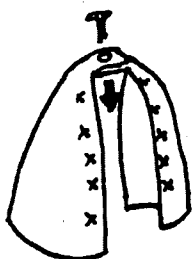
The Parts needed to make the Helmet:

1. Cut out 4 triangular panels of metal out of 16-18 gage sheet metal. They should all be the same size.
2. Make a strip of metal about 25" - 28" long to act as a rim. Bend it into a circular shape around your head at about the level of your ears with 1/2" of space on all sides. Remember the width of the 4 panels will be multiplied times 4 in the finished product.
3. Nasal Bar (Optional) use a strip of metal long enough to go from middle of a panel to the end of your nose. Note: For strength, the nasal bar should be of at least 16 gage steel or brass.

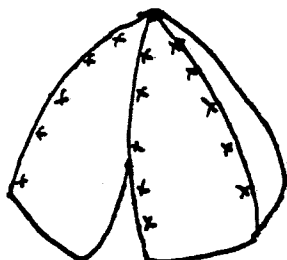
Tools needed: (or what I generally use)

Wys metal sheers, Ball Peen Hammer, 6" Wire cutters, Electric Drill, 1lb 4d Common nails, Black & Decker work bench, long iron rod to rivet on (clamped firmly into a vertical position), 2 pair vise grip pliers, Wooden stump (to hammer panels into dished shape). (optional) Dremel Tool with 1" metal cutting wheel.

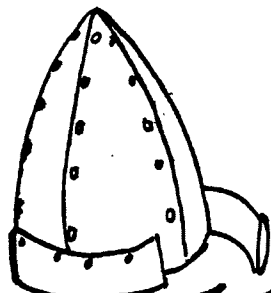
Bend over tab to fasten front to back when you attach the first two panels. The front and back panels will overlap the side panels.



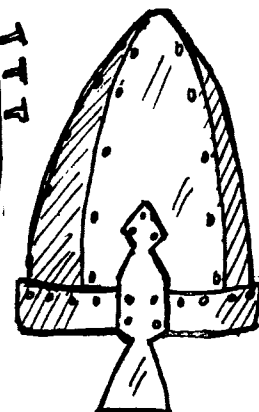
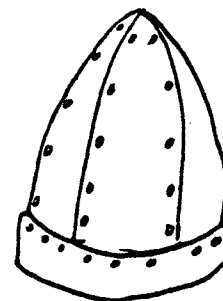
Rivet tabs like so, front to back



EXTRA PANEL METAL CUT AWAY (front view)



Clamp rim; drill, rivet and start over again.



Putting it all Together:

- A. Use the nails and wire cutters to make steel rivets. Each panel should have 4 or 5 rivets securing it to the one it overlaps. A like number of rivets secures the rim to each of the 4 overlapping panels.
- B. Dish the 4 panels until they can be fit together standing to form a conical cap. Then hammer them so they smooth out. (called planishing).
- C. Starting from the top, begin riveting the four panels together. Rivet the front to the back panel first. They will sit on top of, overlapping the two side panels.
- D. Continue riveting slowly, using the vise grip pliers to hold parts secure to each other as you work.
- E. Rivet the rim to the panels by clamping it, drill a hole, and rivet, then proceed to the next one. The rim should be longer than the base of the helmet, and the extra should be trimmed off before completing the riveting.
- F. Rivet the Nasal to the helmet, placing it in the center of the front panel.
- G. Drill holes to mount a chin strap, and rivet in long strips of leather to make the straps from.

WE DID IT!

On August 1st and 2nd, MARKLAND put on a Medieval Fair at Berrywine Plantations, Mt. Airy, Maryland. For two days some 200 Marklanders and friends entertained themselves and 4000 civilians. We had Educational displays, Frat Fighting, Recreational Fighting, Crafts, Merchants, Music, Dancing, Food, Drink, Mead, Camping, Swimming, lots of work, and LOTS of FUN. It seems as though we have a success on our hands. The public loved us. The winery wants to do it again. And between Markland, Longship Company and the Various Markland sub groups, the Militia has raised over \$300 in 2 days. For a first event we did well. We learned a lot, the public may have learned a little, but at least they had a good time. I would like to thank everyone who showed up, helped, volunteered, sweated, and generally made the fair. We all did a good job. There were a few problems which we can work on for next year. Which brings me to the next point . . .

LETS DO IT AGAIN !!!!!!!

On October 15 and 16, 1988 Markland will be having our next Medieval Fair at the Berrywine Plantations. This will be a HASTINGS FAIR. The fair will feature our annual recreation of the battle of Hastings. We would like to have everyone who showed up this year to show up next year, plus all those who didn't make it this year. There will be more information in upcoming Plagues, and Flyers. For more information, contact CHORT (301) 552-9115.

SPREAD THE WORD !!!!!!!!

THE ELF HILL TIMES

is a bi-annual journal publishing articles of interest to medieval re-creationists.

Issues of particular interest to Viking Marklanders include

- No. 6 Old Norse Literature; Old Norse for the Home Student
- No. 11: solarsteinn (Sunstones for Navigation)
- No. 13: Norse Tent Design
- No. 14: Landkortabok: An Atlas of the Norse World
- No. 18: The Lindefat: Belt Ornaments & Tools in Medieval Norway
- No. 20: Viking Poetry Without Tears
- No. 22: Wrapped Viking Overskirt

An Index to all 22 issues is only \$1.50 including postage.

Cost per issue is \$2.50; postage is \$1 for 1-2 issues. Address the Editor, Alfarhaugr Publishing Society, 1908 Oak St., Eugene, OR 97405.

**** Make checks payable to ****
Alfarhaugr Publishing Society

We are currently seeking dealers in the eastern US. Write the Editor for discount and order info.

Minutes - Summer Althing - July 18, 1987

Roll Call, All groups were represented except Maryland and Danejaw.

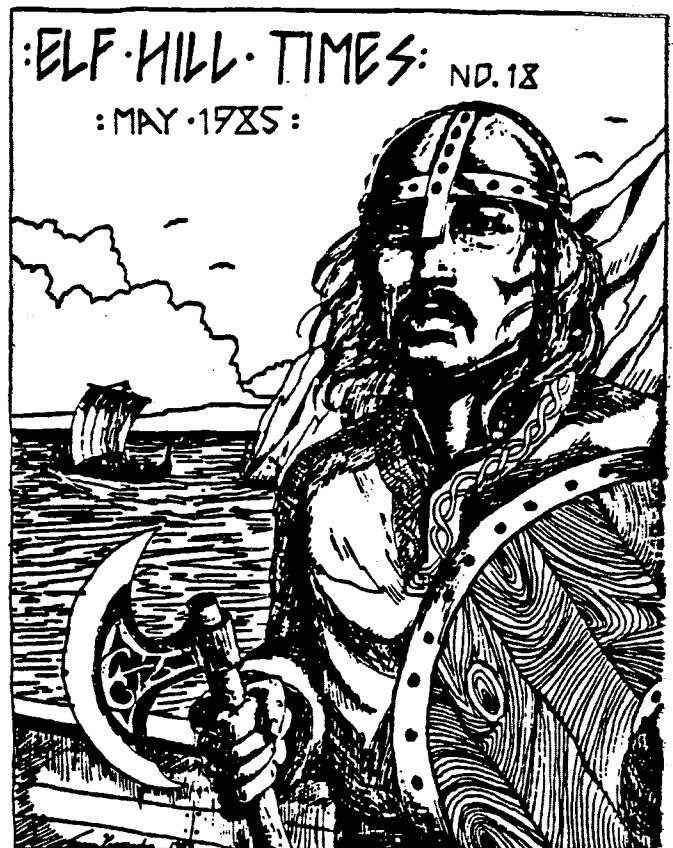
NEW Business.

- Calendar Update
- Witan Member's Reported
- Proposal to require minimum attendance at public events was made by Pindarus, discussed and withdrawn.
- We need to recruit and welcome new members.
- Nessa has available tunic patterns and fabric
- Boden will provide Ladie's Gate for frat wars.
- Chort is still Quarter Master/Keeper of the Stuff.
- Communication within Markland needs to be improved.
- Tostig is forming a specific Viking Re-enactment Group within Markland.
- Marko announced the formation of a 14th Century Free Company
- The Plague should be improved to further serve as an agent of communication for Markland.
- The Fyrd passed a motion to increase frequency of the Plague to bi-monthly, if the Witan deemed it financially feasible.

Elections.

The New Officers are:

- Aelderman - Debbie Goldberg (Melusine)
- Shire Reeve - Steve Vaught (Braun)
- Bailiff - Fred Bauer (Nicholas)
- Boorman - Reverend Mother Elsbeth



Paid Advertisement

The Wargames Research Group in Great Britain publishes a series of books aimed at wargamers and miniature painters which would be of great use to SCA and Markland folk interested in military dress, armament, and equipment. Volumes which cover our period include Armies of the Dark Ages, 600-1066, Armies and Enemies of the Crusades, 1096-1291, Armies of Feudal Europe, 1066-1300 (which this reviewer has not examined and is now out of print), Armies of the Middle Ages, Vol. I, The Hundred Years War, the Wars of the Roses, and the Burgundian Wars, 1300-1487, and Armies of the Middle Ages, Vol. II, The Ottoman Empire, Eastern Europe, and the Near East, 1300-1500. All of these are written by Ian Heath who seems to have done his homework. His bibliographies are extensive and include many primary sources. The series also covers ancient Greece, Rome, Near East and China.

Each volume includes a section on the military organization of each ethnic group, short descriptions of the major battles of the period, and sketches and descriptions of the military dress and equipment of each group. The sections on military organization, battles, and tactics are very well researched, quoting from ordinances, contemporary accounts, and other period sources. The dress and equipment sections give careful attention to details, including notations on materials and colors, antecedents and development, and comparison with other contemporary styles. In one case Heath even points out that the accepted date for one manuscript may be 20 years too late judging from the internal evidence of armour styles popular in 1400. The illustrations are clear line drawings redrawn from original sources which include rock carvings, frescos, decorative carvings, mosaics, plaques, seals, grave effigies, manuscript illuminations, lists of regulation equipment, descriptions in chronicles, etc. All in all, the accuracy here is high. This is good historical research. These are excellent resources for the layman as well as the expert.

What I found particularly interesting were the descriptions of the military banners, standards, and flags of each ethnic group. This is the sort of material that is rarely concentrated so conveniently in one place.

The volumes have been distributed by The Rafm Company, Inc., (19 Concession St., Cambridge, Ontario, N1R 2G6, Canada), but Wargames Research Group Publications may be distributing on its own now, so contact your local game or hobby store. Or you can write directly to Wargames Research Group, 35 Long St., Devizes, Wiltshire, SN10 1NT, Great Britain, for a catalog. Send a self addressed envelope and 2 international reply coupons (available at the post office). The books may be difficult to obtain from any other sources, for they have no ISBN numbers.

Armies of the Dark Ages, 600-1066 (London: Wargames Research Group, 1980), \$16.25. This 128 page volume covers Byzantine, Sub-Roman, Pictish, Irish, Visigothic, Lombard, Merovingian, Carolingian, Ottonian, Viking, Russian, Slav, Avar, Khazar, Magyar, Bulgar, Pecheneg, Ghuzz, Alan, Armenian, Sassanid, Arab, Andalusian, Near Eastern, Saxon, Norman, Italian, and Spanish armies. The 114 item, 2 1/2 page bibliography ranges from general surveys like Oman's History of the Art of War in the Middle Ages to specific

articles like "The Pechenegs" from the Slavonic and East European Review.

Armies and Enemies of the Crusades, 1096-1291 (London: Wargames Research Group, 1978), \$18.75. This 119 page volume describes the "warriors and armies with which Moslem and Christian vied for control of the Holy Land," including Franks, Hospitallers, Templars, Armenians, Syrians, Seljuks, Fatimids, Ayyubids, Mamluks, Assassins, Byzantines, Georgians, Mongols, and Ilkhanids. The organization is similar to the preceding volume with sections on military organization and major battles and 44 pages of line drawings and descriptions of military dress and equipment. There are also two appendices--one on military service owed in the Kingdom of Jerusalem and one on the Catalan Grand Company--as well as a 2 1/2 page bibliography.

Armies of the Middle Ages, Vol. I, The Hundred Years War, the Wars of the Roses, and the Burgundian Wars, 1300-1487 (London: Wargames Research Group, 1982), \$25. In 192 pages this volume focuses on England, Burgundy, France, the Free Companies, Moorish Granada, Ireland, Italy, the Low Countries, Navarre, Scotland, Spain, and Switzerland, and, in addition to the usual sections on organization, major battles, and dress and equipment, includes discussions of tactics and artillery. Appendices include notes on banners, coats of arms, liveries, and orders of chivalry as well as a 3 page bibliography.

Armies of the Middle Ages, Vol. II, The Ottoman Empire, Eastern Europe, and the Near East, 1300-1500 (London: Wargames Research Group, 1984), \$25. This 201 page volume, like its companion, includes extra sections on tactics, and artillery as it gives an overview of Albania, Bulgaria, the Byzantine Empire, the Catalan Company, Cilician Armenia, Cyprus, the Sultanate of Dehli, the Golden Horde, the Holy Roman Empire, the Hospitallers, Hungary, the Hussites, Lithuania, the Mamluks, Moldavia, the Morea, Muscovite Russia, the Navarese Company, the Ottoman Empire, Poland, the Principality of Achaea, Serbia, the Teutonic Knights, the Timurid Empire, Transylvania, the Empire of Trebizond, Venice, Vijayanagar, the White Sheep Turks, and Wallachia. Appendices cover the heraldry of the Balkans, the Holy Roman Empire, Poland, and the Crusaders as well as a 3 1/2 page bibliography.

The Bailiff's Report...

First off, the boring financial stuff. These figures are for the period of July 17, 1987 (just prior to the Summer Althyng) through September 16, 1987.

Income: Memberships	\$1308.00
Titles	75.00
Insurance	126.69
Contributer's Fund	101.28
Land Fund	230.53
August Fair and T-shirt Sales	1210.50
Hastings Feast ('87)	540.00
Total Income	3592.00

Expenditures:	
Handbook Covers	\$ 38.81
Althyng Hall	116.45
August Faire and T-shirts	1040.03
C&P Telephone	48.29
Hastings Feast ('87)	700.00
Total Expenditures	1943.58

Net Income:	
General	\$1316.61
Contributer's Fund	101.28
Land Fund	230.53

Current Balances:	
General	\$1703.68
Contributer's Fund	1196.01
Land Fund	3230.53 (Note)

Note: The Current Balance reflects a \$3222.20 transfer from the Contributor's fund to the land fund, authorized at the September 13th Council Meeting.

Now for the Important Stuff...

At the council meeting, a proposal for Markland to sell rosters was approved. The rosters will be for sale (at \$5.20 each) to MEMBERS ONLY. These will be for the PERSONAL use of Marklanders only, and will be prominently marked as such. However, some people may not want their address, etc. to be included. In your copy of the Plague, you will find a card with the information that will be included in the roster. If you do not want to be listed, just check the appropriate box and return it to us (you will need to provide your own stamp). Also return the card if there are any errors, or corrections you wish to make (such as listing your medieval name). Please DO NOT return it if everything is correct, and you wish to be listed. We will be printing the rosters shortly after Hastings, so if we don't hear from you, you will be listed as-is.

An additional item at the council meeting was a proposal to have all memberships expire at the same time, which was approved. A detailed plan for changing-over to the new system will be presented at the next council meeting.

As a last item, I am hoping to get new membership cards out to everyone, but this probably won't happen before the end of the year.

If you need to reach me, either write me at the PO Box, (PO BOX 715, GREENBELT, MD 20770-0715), or call me at (301) 552-2383 (evenings).

Nicholas Landsman, Bailiff

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