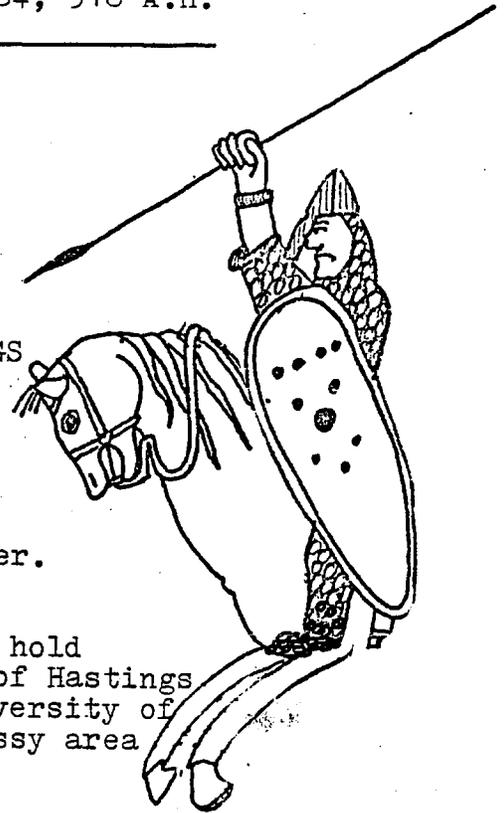


THE 16th ANNUAL BATTLE of HASTINGS



Bill Sudbrink (Guilliam Fitz Edward), Battlemaster.

The Maryland Medieval Mercenarie Milita will hold Marklands 16th annual reenactment of the Battle of Hastings on Saturday, October 20 on the campus of the University of Maryland. The battle will take place on the grassy area behind Lot 1 and the Adult Education Center.

Hastings will take place in conjunction with the Stamford Bridge Battle this year. We plan for this to be the largest event on record. Publicity for this event will be massive. Thanks to Emily Evans, every TV station, radio station, newspaper and local journal in the Baltimore-Washington-Richmond corridor has been notified. Over seventy letters were sent out.

Displays Depicting Saxon, Viking and Norman life will be at the battle. School children from local elementary schools have been invited to attend. Contact Kate (Warlord of Maryland) if you would like to guide children and teachers. Also, crowd control is needed. Contact Kate Condray.

The battle plan will be traditional, with 3 charges, archeers ant the lot. Horses will be attending. Due to the extensive media attention we ask participants to observe the following:

- 1) Round kite or oval shaped (scutum) shields only. NO HEATERS.
- 2) NO JEANS.
- 3) NO INAUTHENTIC FOOTWEAR AND NO BARE FEET. Please folks, if you can't get nice looking leather footwear, spring for some brwon burlap and wrap it around your tennis shoes.
- 4) NO FUR! It is not authentic.
- 5) One handed swords, bearded axes, clubs or spears only. Spears on approval only.

This event is covered by Markland Insurance and only steel qualified fighters will be allowed to fight with steel. DON'T FORGET YOUR DISK!
Contact me at (301) 864-3343.

Looking Forward to a Great Battle,
Guilliam



HASTINGS IS UPON US... on Saturday, October 20, 1984 will be our 16th Annual Re-enactment of the Battle of Hastings. We have many things planned for the day and the evening. I hope all of you can attend and participate in Markland's biggest event of the year. Below are notes on the day's events, the feast, pre-Hastings workshops and lectures, books to read, and a contact list as well as maps.

Day's Events:

8:30 - 9:00 am - Many stout Markland Militia members will be roping off the Battlefield, constructing the bridge, raising a long tent, setting up display booths, etc. We invite other early rising Marklanders to help Saturday morning. (The more hands the lighter the work.)

10:00 am - School children may start arriving (depending on how they RSVP). Tour guides and other knowledgeable people should be on hand to answer the children's questions. (If you would like to be a tour guide, please contact Kate, (301) 474-8796. Also, battle commanders for Stamford Bridge should be on hand for last minute conferences.

11:00 am - Weapons check and form-up for the Battle of Stamford Bridge. Fighters should be at the site before 11am. For specific details about the Battle of Stamford Bridge, see Thaurin's article in this Plague.

11:30 am - (or soon after) the Re-enactment of the Battle of Stamford Bridge.

12:30 pm - Between battle displays and entertainments, we are expecting the largest crowd ever for the Battle of Hastings. To help illustrate the people and cultures involved in the battles and the events leading up to the battles displays will be available. For more information, see Anadis's article, this Plague. Entertainers and minstrels are encouraged to come and show off to the crowd.



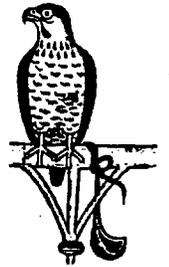
Commanders for the Battle of Hastings should be on hand for last minute conferences.

1:30 pm - Form-up and weapons check for the Battle of Hastings. Please be at the site before 1:30pm if you want to fight in the battle. For specific information on the battle, see Guillame's article, this Plague.

2:00 pm - (or thereafter) the re-enactment of the Battle of Hastings.

3:30 pm - The annual Hastings Fratricidal Tournament will commence. The tournament is for heavy infantry only. For more information, contact Aldred (Fred Pollnitz), (301) 773-0876.

While the tournament is in progress, clean-up of the field and display areas will commence. We want to leave the field in better shape than we found it, so we may continue to have battles here. I will count on everyone's help in cleaning up.



6:30 pm - Doors to the feast hall will open.

The Feast will be held at the White Oak National Guard Armory (see map for directions). Along with beer, cider and bread, the menu will consist of Cheese Gnocchi, meat tarts, Chicken Soup, Mini Smorgasbord (ie smoked fish, cheese, cheese filled eggs, vegetables, sausages) Marinated Vegetables and desert. Music will abound at the feast. Not only will there be taped music, but Clam Chowder has agreed to play for the fyrd as well. If you have tapes you would like to have played (medieval or Irish folk music), please bring them in. If you can play medieval or Renaissance music, bring your instruments and play! Most of all have a good time.



You can buy tickets (limited quantity left) from Leta Hall, Ivan Chort, Olender or Kate at Maryland's Tuesday night gathering, Vinland Dance Practice or other major Markland events. You can also send a check and self-addressed envelope c/o Kate, 440-6 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770. If you can't afford a ticket, and you are willing to serve at the feast, there are a limited amount of serving tickets available. For further information, call Kate at (301) 474-8796.

Workshops and Lectures: Prior to Hastings, the Maryland Militia will be holding several workshops on shields, swords (wooden), band helmets, and garb. Times are usually set-up about a week in advance. Any other Marklanders who would like to participate in these workshops should check the door of the Maryland Militia's office, room 3102, Stamp Union Building, University of Maryland, or by calling Kate.

Tuesday, October 16, 1984, Midgard will be sponsoring an intensive indoctrination seminar on Hastings. Crowd control people and Tour guides are especially encouraged to attend this seminar in the Armory at the University of Maryland.

Further Reading:

Battles: Markland Handbook
1066 the Year of the Conquest by David Holworth
King Harald's Saga, Penguin Classic
Middle Ages, National Geographic

Garb: Markland Handbook
Evolution of Fashion 1066 to 1930: Patterns and Cuts by Hamilton, Hill and Bucknell
Middle Ages, National



Stamford Bridge



The vikings will be split into two forces; the main force (mostly unarmored) and reinforcements (armored).

The Saxons will be split into 3 forces; left, right, and center.

- 1 Vikings set up in loose semi-circle in front of the bridge.
- 2 Saxons march on with non-combatants in front
- 3 Non-combatants leave field at a run
- 4 Saxons charge
- 5 Speeches by Harold, Harold, and Tostig.
- 6 Saxons charge
- 7 Viking Reinforcements arrive
- 8 Saxons charge and force vikings to retreat across bridge
- 9 Berserker remains on the bridge, planned routine
- 10 Saxons charge across bridge surrounding vikings
- 11 Harold Godwinson gives quarter to Olaf.

Displays at Hastings

This year, we have planned several displays to educate and entertain the public at Hastings, especially between the two battles. Six are planned so far:

- The Longship Company will be there with the Gyrfalcon and some new material. e.g., maps of the invasion routes in 1066 and of the extent of Viking voyages in the New and Old Worlds.
- Astrid is creating a display on Saxon culture which will include weaving, storytelling, riddles and short informative talks on Saxon military equipment.
- Tinoran is planning a Viking display that will focus on the Vikings' daily lives and the tools and utensils they used.
- Edouard and Mogr are doing the Normans and may include a castle and a "Spot the Norman" line-up.
- Thorkatla et al, (more assistants most welcome!) are reproducing a section of the Bayeux Tapestry and will spend Hastings day working on a second section.
- Lydia and Teressanna are doing a display on herbal lore.



There will also be Markland recruiting table. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP with any display, call me, Anadis, at (301) 422-8665. (6900 23rd ave., Hyattsville, Md. 20783)

If you or your group want to do a display, please call me. Bear in mind that:

- 1) it must relate to the Battle of Stamford Bridge, the Battle of Hastings, or an aspect of Viking/Saxon/Norman culture.
- 2) I have to know about it by OCT 8!!

Thank you and enjoy the shows!

NEXT PLAGUE: Submission deadline is Tuesday, November 27, 1984.
The December Plague will be mailed December 1, 1984.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- October 13, 1984 Council Meeting, University of Maryland, Student Union Building, Contact Ceirdwyn, (301) 474-2676.
- October 13, 1984 Administrative Meetings, University of Maryland. See schedule under additional notes from the Witan.
- October 20, 1984 16th Annual Battle of Hastings, Stamford Bridge, a Tourney and a Feast. See articles this issue of the Plague for more information. (Not yet insured- but should be.)
- November 3 and 4, 1984 Fall War, run by the Brotherhood of Aggression, contact Brett Abbott at (301) 596-5138. (Not yet an insured event.)
- December 11, 1984 Clinton Library, the Madrigalia and Dance Troupe will be doing a Christmas Concert. Contact Volodya at (301) 474-2676. (Not an insured event.)
- December 22, 1984 Yule Feast, run by Bardoom. Cabells Mill, Walney, Va, at 6:00 pm. Contact Earl Miller (703) 256-6328 or Kim Moyer (703) 437-7147. Ticket price not yet set. (This is an insured event.)
- January 5, 1985 Winter Althyng, in New Jersey, more details in next Plague. (This is an insured event.)
- February 2, 1985 Namegiving Feast, Mercenarie Guild. Contact Kerris (Linda Guild) (301) 434-0230. More details in next Plague. (Not yet an insured event.)

The Plague

Editor.....The Old One
Assistant Editor.....Wihtread of Inc
Assistants to the Assistant.Raeadrille
Kerris
Nori

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\$15 for 1/2 a page, \$7.50 per 1/4 page,
\$3.75 for 1/8 or less of a page.

From the Bailiff

I want to thank all the artists who submitted artwork for the Hastings handout. All the entries received were quite good, however there were two outstanding entries. As a result, it has been decided to make two handouts, one for Hastings and one for Stamford Bridge. Martin Kealey of the Select Fyrd will be doing the Hastings book. Thomas Ball, whose work was on display at the Mayfair, has been chosen to do the Stamford Bridge book. Both artists will be awarded lifetime memberships. Congratulations!



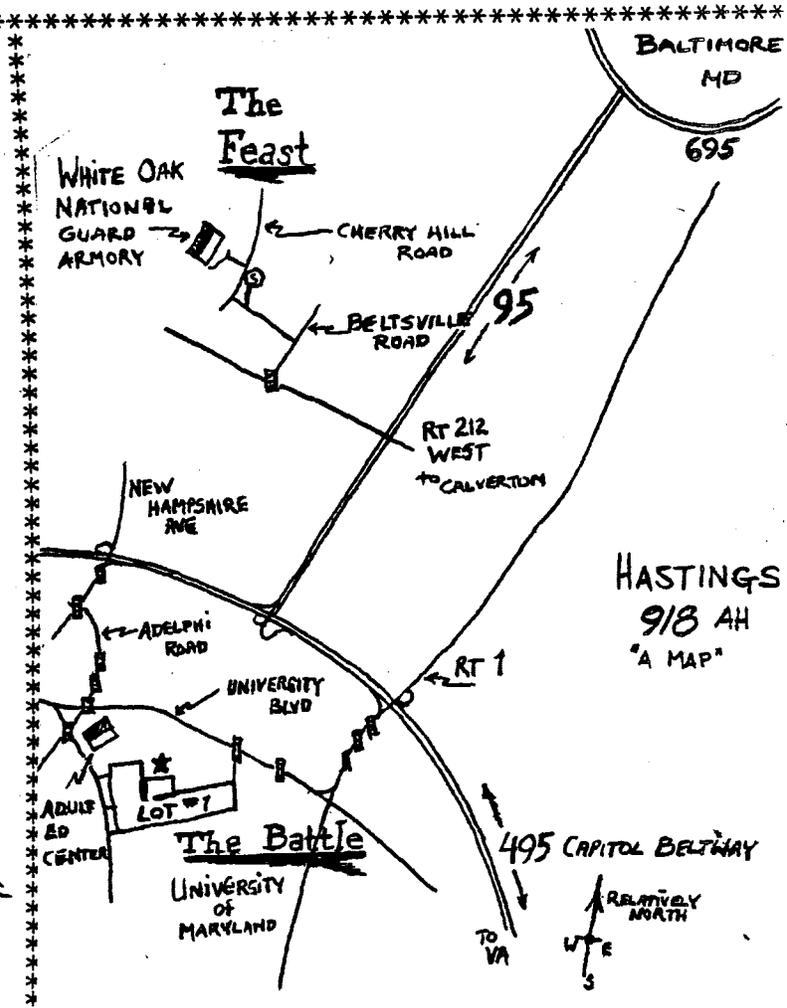
My apologies to those members who have not been receiving their Plaques. I have spoken to the Post Office and, unfortunately, there is little I can do about the situation. If you or someone you know has not been receiving their Plaque, PLEASE send me your current address, group affiliation, and whatever other information you deem appropriate, so that I can confirm your membership listing. Be aware that 3rd class bulk rate mail is not forwarded. My best advice to those having difficulty and who need timely information is to pay the extra \$2.00 for first class postage. If first class postage mail is not delivered or forwarded, I can complain with more authority.

Thank you.

Dierdre, Bailiff

Professional quality photos of MARKLAND garb now available!!

Contact Kerris (Linda Guild) at (301) 434-0230 or Readrille at (301) 699-3599 for slide shows and ordering information.



Sponsored by the Mercenarie Guild

The Normans Were Good Guys

by Morgl Mildrsson

Last year after Hastings, Astrid went on and on about the brutish Norman invaders. Well the truth hath many aspects, and half the truth is often a great lie. Here is some information that should stir the pot, and make people scramble to make the good guys from Normandy look bad.

William of Normandy was, as so many of us know, the bastard son of Robert II, Duke of Normandy. But few know the story of the hows and whys of his accession.

Normandy existed as an entity from the time of the Roman Empire. In the 9th century many Norse seamen and their friends took to viking about. One of the first areas to suffer their depredations was the lower Seine River Valley. Most notable among them was Hrolf the Ganger. He was outlawed in Norway, (probably for totally viking somebody over, and getting caught) and so he and his band plundered their way along into Normandy. Charles the Bald, eager to protect his realm from further ravages, offered the recently depopulated province to Hrolf. Hrolf was baptized and became Charles' vassal. Hrolf's band now had the land they could not get in Norway. These Northmen quickly adapted the French language and customs to suit their own needs. Later because of the origins of this State, viking bands were welcomed as equals. Normandy became a forward base for expeditions against England and Ireland.

Due to the nature of the Northman, Normandy became a much more violent place very quickly. At each succession there was a civil war as the King of France and his counts around Normandy supported their favorites against the others. When William was born he came into the thick of it. In 1034, Robert II decided to go to the Holy Land. William was made heir apparent with the support of the more powerful families in Normandy. In 1035, Robert II died in Bithynian Nicea while returning from Jerusalem. Having witnessed the chaos that followed the deaths of William I, Robert I, and Richard, the Archbishop of Rouen and several of the more prominent families made an alliance. They kept Robert's wish and made William the Duke, in spite of his legitimate cousin Nicholas. (something about a tart in a lake... ..a sword.....king of all Britons) Two years later the Archbishop died and fratricidal chaos was the result.

Things sort of muddled along for ten years or so, attempts on his life being frequent. Several of his regents were murdered in his sight. Then in 1046, a revolt erupted against his largely nominal power. William asked his liege Henri I, for Succour. At Val-es-Dunes in the spring of 1047 they met and scattered the rebel forces. During this battle, William personally managed to kill off his major enemies. He also saved Henri I's life. Two years later, Henri paid him back; Henri supported

Guy of Burgundy, William's cousin, against him. From 1047 on, William's career was the Study of War, The Puissant Practise of the Art of War, and The Glorious Fortunes of War. Thus passed 13 years of his life. His personal prowess and impetuous bravery earned him RESPECT.(what do you calla man with a .44 magnum?) (sir!)

In 1051 some English exiles entered his service. It is here that the plot thickens.

Contemporary to William were the Brothers de Hauteville that founded the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies. It was in Italy that the Normans grew in their expertise at warfare. Astrid missed an important fact of life, the fact that the Normans were fighting for their lives. They did not have time for learned pursuits beyond the prerequisites for governing. From the massacre at Cannae in 1014 forward, the Normans learned the Art of War. Their tutors were the Kataphractoï, and the Varangians. They learned the principles of speed, mass and surprise; lessons learned in a most sanguine manner. They learned the value of reconaissance, security and the tactical evolutions associated with combined arms. News of the wars found its way back to Normandy. William and Harold Godwinson learned a lot from it.

It was in 1052 that Harold Godwinson happened to be in the service of William. It was during the Mainish Campaign, when they were seiging Domfront, which had been taken over by some rebels supported by Mainish troops. Here William demonstrated the principles of Speed, Mass and Surprise. He left a force at Domfront to prevent a sally. With the remaining majority, he made a forced march at night and attacked the Mainish city of Alencon just before dawn. Harold Godwinson lead a spectacular assault that quickly captured a gatehouse. The attackers had complete surprise and quickly occupied the city. But the inhabitants taunted William with hides, waving them at his entourage, calling to mind his step-father the tanner. In a rage, he ordered the city destroyed and its inhabitants massacred. As the army was marching back to Domfront, smoke rose from the ruins of Alencon, signalling to the rebels the defeat of their backers. Somehow the sight of William's host advancing victoriously from a massacre, laden with booty, and Alencon's still burning ruination in the unnerved the defenders. The next day Domfront surrendered. Harold Godwinson was knighted by William at the end of the campaign. He swore fealty on the relics of saints, a holy oath, and did him homage.

After 13 years of nearly constant warfare to unify his duchy, William began immediate preparations for war abroad, c. 1060. According to one of four Saxon Chronicle(A,B,C&D,This one being "d"), Edward had promised him the throne of England.

In 1066, Harold Oathbreaker, forsworn and niggardly,(and mercenary after my own heart) accepted the Witan's appointment as King. William demanded he surrender the

Crown. The Liar refused and was excommunicated(by the POPE!). So Noble was this Saxon that he made war against his own liege and tutor. At Senlac Hill they fought. William wore the relics on which Harold had sworn fealty into the fray. Harold's men on three occasions were bested by his mentors guile.

The Normans made up for the lack of lancers and good heavy infantry by their tactics and use of the terrain. The Archers would fire. Then groups of one or two score knights would charge up and throw their javelins. If they made a hole in the line they would ride into it weilding their swords and maces. The infantry would then close up to maintain the contact. Thirteen years of constant practise at arms made its mark. The Normans, despite the lack of lancers, matched the Saxons. Veteran knights, once unhorsed, would call out Harold for single combat. Then they would walk into the fray, usually giving better than they took. Near Hastings they had good reconaissance, thus intelligence, and a fair knowledge of the terrain. William, following the example of Roger de Hauteville at Messina, shipped enough horses for all his army's knights. This gave him enough cavalry that the Saxons would be unable to manuver against them. While the day went on both sides tired, but William needed a decisive stroke. He could not let Harold get away. Finally, after discussion with his captains and counts, he planned the final assault. The archers were order to shoot from range, and this was coordinated with a renewed assault. The Mercenaries of the right broke thru the Saxon left, and the massacre began. William killed Gyrth even as he stood over his brothers's body. About dusk the last housecarls fell.

The Normans used the Byzantine tactic of massed archers to shoor in their charge. A few Normans, like Tallifer and Roger de Montgomery, even used couched lances. (if they all had there would have been a Saxon-kabob party!)

Asking Astrid is a good idea, and everyone is entitled to their own opinions. Harold Oathbreaker got what he asked for. I guess everybody has a few skeletons in the closet. Even the Saxons.

Sources:

William the Conqueror c. David C. Douglas 1964, University of California Press
The Making of the King, Alan Lloyd 1966, Holt, Rhinehart and Winston, New York, Chicago, and San Fransisco.

Invasion 1066



Valuable Holy Relics for sale at Modest Prices. Teeth of the Apostles. See Timothy of Normandy.

Report on the Summer Althyng

The Althyng was held on July 28, 1984, in Cockeysville, Maryland and was hosted by the Skraelings.

Markland contingents won the 1st Director's Award in the Takoma Park Parade held on July 4, and a prize (title not known) in the St. Patrick's Day Parade held on March 11.

Old Business: The Horse Rules, which were printed in the last Plague, were approved for the second time and now are an official addition to Markland's rules.

The committee which was set up during the March Council Meeting (see report in last Plague) has postponed its reports until the questionnaire results have been gathered.

New Business: Markland has a Red Cross blood donation number which is 8126. Those Marklanders who donate blood can use this number to give credit to Markland.

Several questions were raised about what we are going to do with the questionnaire results. The Witan is going to compile and print the results. If members want to have discussions about the results, meetings will be arranged, either at a local group level or on a Confederation-wide basis. Thanks to all members who returned their questionnaires!

A welcome-to-Markland group is forming to help new members meet other Marklanders, learn how things are done, and where to go for information on costumes, armour, events, etc. We do get members who do not know other Marklanders and it is hoped this group can help them in particular. Martha Bodine has volunteered to help organize this, so call her if you are interested, (703) 237-7568.

Rosters are available from Deirdre (Terry Sheehan) for \$1.50. Members can help keep the rosters up to date by telling people who complain they are not getting their Plaques that they (the people complaining) should notify Deirdre. Also, people who change groups or are listed under incorrect group headings should send her a notice. If all these are done in writing, (I suggest a postcard) the changes are more likely to be done. Groups are still responsible for sending in correct rosters, but individuals should not rely on this.

The steel qualifiers made a safety suggestion for recreation fighting. Based on experience, if your fight scenario calls for a blood bag bursting, the individual with the blood bag should break it. Fighters should not try to break each other's blood bags.

The Select Fyrd announced that its newsletter is available to group leaders. Their mailing address is: Select Fyrd, Thomas Quinn, P.O. Box 220, Blue Bell, Pa. 19422.

Announcing the opening of the Dental Practice of Timothy of Normandy in beautiful Silver Spring. Saturday and evening hours available. Almost painless, sometimes. Call 587-6394 for appointment.



The election for Witan officers was held. The new officers are:

Aeldorman	Ivan Chort (John Montrie)	(301)596-5138
Sherrif	Edouard du Nord (Edward Watts)	(301)937-5181
Bocman	Ceirdwyn (Leslie Brents)	(301)937-5181
Bailiff	Deirdre (Terry Sheehan)	(301)AMA-WIND

If members want to talk with the Aeldorman about anything relating to Markland, Ivan announced that he would accept collect calls before 11:00 p.m. If you leave your name and phone number Ivan can call you back (he has MCI) for less money, so please do this, unless you want to pay for the phone call, which is also acceptable.

Group Reports: (Events which have occurred between the Althyng and the printing of this report have been listed in the past tense.)

Maryland - Stamford Bridge and the Battle of Hastings will be held on October 20, at the University of Maryland, College Park in the field by parking lot 1. A feast will be held that evening in the White Oak Armory. Tickets are \$8. until September 30, when the price goes up to \$10. For tickets, send a stamped self-addressed envelope and a check payable to Maryland Medieval Mercenary Militia, c/o Kate, 440-6 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, Md. 20770

Clan Cambion - Pennsic War was held at Cooper's Lake, Pennsylvania, on August 17-19.

Danelaw - The Winter Althyng will be hosted by the Danelaw on January 5, 1985. Markland participated in the Cloisters Museum celebration on September 23. A feast was held on the preceding Saturday.

Select Fyrd - Markland will be participating in the Mt. Hope Winery Renaissance Festival on September 28-30. Historical accuracy is important: the desired period is Norman England, 1185-1195.

Bardoom - Two feasts are planned: one at the end of November, and a Yule Feast on December 22. Also, Bardoom asked to host the 1985 Summer Althyng.

The Empire - A medieval library has been started; books will be available for loan to other Marklanders. For more information, call Lord Silver (301)942-8454.

Longship Company - The longship is in the water. Crews are always needed and welcomed. Please call either Heimdallr (Alan Centa) (301) 270-3916 or Attlee (Bruce Blackistone) (301) SOW-BOAR.

The Northern Fyrd - An end-of-the-summer war is being planned.

The Brotherhood of Aggression - The Fall War will be held on November 3-4.

Other announced events: Markland participated in the Greenbelt Labor Day Parade.

Marklanders provided the half-time show for the Maryland Jousting Tournament at the Oxen Hill Recreation Center on September 16.

Additional Notes from the Witan

The new Reeves Guildmaster is Bec (Brett Abbott); he is taking over from Kent. The new Plague assistant editor is Wihthead (Robert Becraft); he will continue to be assisted by Nori (Gayle Abramson). Many thanks to Boden (Bob Bodine) for coping with The Plague for so long.

Monthly schedule updates are available from Bereak (Mike Bartman) if you send him a stamped self-addressed envelope at 9906 Broad Street, Bethesda, Maryland 20814. Event announcements should be sent to him, as well as to Ceirdwyn. His schedule will be used in The Plague. We are hoping to release four Plague's a year during September, December, March, and June.

The Witan is holding a series of administrative meetings in conjunction with a Council Meeting on October 13, at the University of Maryland, College Park. The meetings will be held in the Student Union. Please enquire at the Information Desk for the room numbers. The University is having Homecoming that weekend, so parking will be scarce and you may have to walk a ways to the Student Union. Carpools are recommended. The schedule of meetings is as follows:

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| 10:00-11:00 a.m. | Steel Qualifiers Meeting (attendance restricted to steel qualifiers) |
| 11:00-12:00 noon | Fighters' Council Meeting (all Confederation groups should send representatives; however, attendance is limited to fighters, either steel or fratricidal) |
| 1:00-2:00 p.m. | Reeves' Guild Meeting (people who are interested in becoming reeves, or who are reeves are welcome to attend) |
| 2:30-5:00 p.m. | Council Meeting and General Discussion of Questionnaires (The length of the Council Meeting will determine the amount of time left to discuss the questionnaire results.) |

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