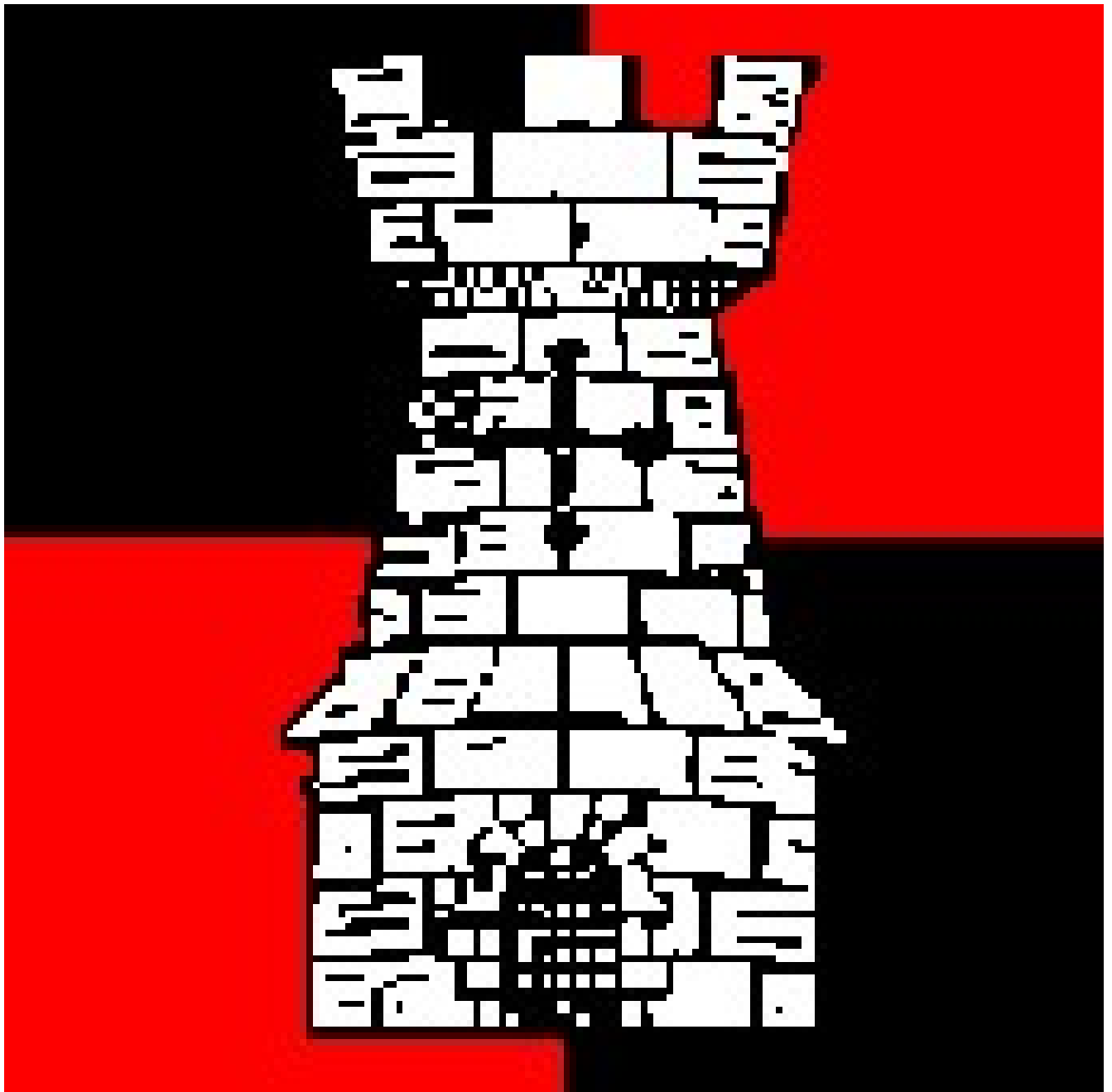
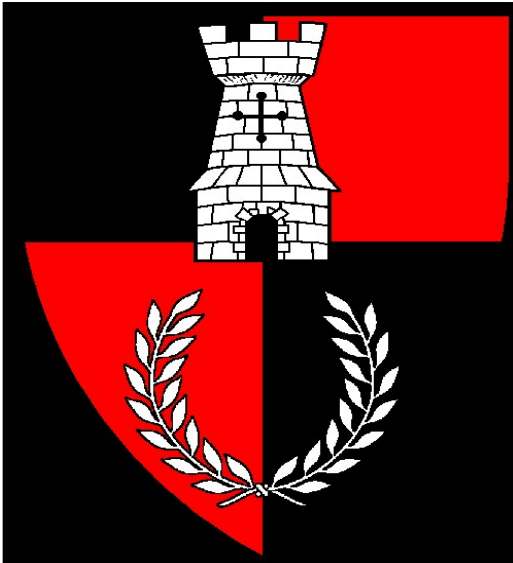


# The Banner

August 2020 A.S LIV

Volume 31 Issue 08





## Welcome to the Barony of the Lonely Tower!

Greetings and warmest wishes to all who have wandered into these lands of the Barony of the Lonely Tower.

The Barony of the Lonely Tower is the local SCA group for the Omaha/Council Bluffs metro and surrounding area and part of the Kingdom of Calontir, which covers most of Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and a small portion of Arkansas.

If you are unfamiliar with the Society of Creative Anachronism (SCA), you can find out more information by visiting the Society's introduction page. We would also encourage you to visit the SCA's Newcomer's Portal.

The best way to get involved with us is to attend as many local meetings and events as your mundane (modern) life allows - however, we understand life comes first and this is just a hobby. You may participate with us as much or as little as you like.

When you attend activities, be sure to introduce yourself and let us know what your interests are. Don't be afraid to ask lots of questions as our Barony is filled with members who would love to answer them for you.

To find out more about our events and activities, be sure to check out our website as well as the calendar at the back of this newsletter. For more information or to ask specific questions, feel free to contact one of our officers listed on the last page.

Welcome to the Current Middle Ages - We're excited to have you!

*Be sure to visit the Society for Creative Anachronism's Pinterest page.*

*They have over 75 boards and hundreds of pins to help in whatever you're interested in.*

## Disclosures

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*The Banner* is received paperless copy and paper copy free of charge by all members of the Barony of the Lonely Tower, on a monthly basis.

Those outside the Barony wishing to receive a paper copy of *The Banner* may do so by sending a \$15 donation per year to cover mailing costs.

## Baronial Positions



Baron Augustin le Blinde &  
Baroness Aleit de La Thomme  
Baron & Baroness of the Lonely Tower  
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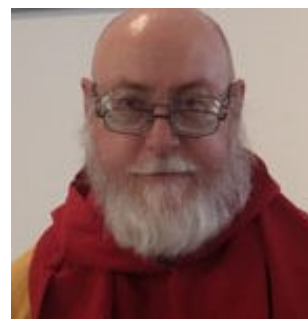
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## From the Baron and Baroness of the Lonely Tower

Unto the Barony of the Lonely Tower do We, Augustin and Aleit, send warmest greetings! We recently learned of the disappointing news that events have been canceled through at least January 2021. We know this is the right decision for the health and safety of the Kingdom. We will continue to gather in the park and host archery practice provided we can all stay safe and comply with social distancing and face-covering mandates.

During this time of limited activity, We want you to know that We miss you greatly and We are here for you should you need any support. Whether you have questions about the state of things during this pandemic, or if you just need someone to talk to, please reach out to Us via email or Facebook. We would be happy to have a conversation or set up a Zoom session. Going forward this year, business meetings will continue to be held by video conference and all are welcome to participate.

We would like to announce that Sir Aleksandr Yaroslavovich Vyetikov has been selected as our barony's next Seneschal. While we don't know yet when his duties will officially begin, We deeply appreciate his willingness and enthusiasm to serve. We also greatly appreciate all the work HL Anne has accomplished in her tenure and look forward to a smooth transition when the time comes. We are in great hands with their leadership during this trying time. In addition, We wish to congratulate Lady Eadaoin inghean Chionaodhafor being selected as the new Minister of Arts and Sciences. She has great ideas to increase participation in A&S, to continue the work of Lady Zafara, whom we deeply appreciate for her outstanding service in that role.

Despite these unusual circumstances, We are pleased that you are continuing to hone your crafts, learn new skills, engage with each other and make the most of these trying times. Please stay safe and healthy, and know that We look forward to the time when we can all be together again.

With love,  
Augustin & Aleit,  
Baron & Baroness

## Greetings from the Seneschal.

We are slowly seeing summer come in and end, but that does not mean an end to outdoor gatherings. We are still meeting at Elmwood Park every Tuesday night at 7 pm, to talk, show off projects, plan projects and talk fighter stuff. Reminder that there are very few groups in the Kingdom that are even doing in person anything at the moment, so it keep things safe and us still seeing people other than co-workers, family or our reflection a few items: 6 Feet of distancing, this is not suggested or a "hey maybe" it is required! Face Masks, wear them; and please keep everything tucked in.

Looking forward, if things are not canceled, the Barony is hosting Masters of the Duel on September 26th at Thrive Space in Waterloo. Please check the upcoming Banner and the webpage for more details. We will need volunteers for the gate, and some help wrangling other things needed. Farther out, we are also the host for January 2021 Coronation and we will need volunteers

In Service,

- HL Anne Von Weingarten

# Chatelaine Chat

## The Plague Times...Episode 3: Online Events and Classes

So, now that the Board of Directors have announced that all events will be cancelled until at least January 31st, 2021, except local gatherings, as long as local requirements are followed. Many events have shifted to an online platform for the current and foreseeable future. Currently there is a virtual Pennsic occurring complete with classes and shopping! Many merchants are struggling, so supporting them during their sales for Midnight Madness would be extremely helpful. Not only do you get to help merchants make a living, but you get the added benefit of upgrading your SCA kit.

There are now online events being hosted from SCA groups all over the world. Now is an excellent time to join in those fun activities! As a new person, you have the opportunity to learn a lot by attending online classes, virtual roundtables, and competitions (even as just a spectator). While many things do get shared to our barony page. Do not be afraid to search for various Facebook groups and events. The following link is actually a google spreadsheet of special interests within the SCA. It is not a full list as many new groups have come into existence since the beginning of the plague, but it does give an amazing overview of many diverse groups that exist.

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1tivMgCWVvExL8iNxJ5V1Vwm0Aup1GszUQhahPhr1bt4/edit?fbclid=IwAR3fyI6O2QFXD-7UiPZ94CkUL0CkB-rkpDtUtt4fdYkFMmB7B7IAr5HRmss#gid=1664277384>

If you can't find something specific that you're looking for, please ask on the Baronial Facebook group. Someone may know where to look, or be a part of a group that you're looking for. Please do not be afraid to ask questions of your fellow Calontiri, we are here to help!

Yours in Service,

Lady Jorunna Refsdottir

# Exchequer Checking-In

Greetings to the populace.

Our bank account is holding stable at the moment: \$4187.61. This will change as the end of year bills come in, but that cannot be helped.

All activities for the foreseeable future are on hold until TRM state otherwise. Here is to hoping that winter coronation happens?

Reminder that Letters of Intent for the position of Exchequer are requested. Send them via email to the blt.seneschal@gmail, [blt.baronage@gmail.com](mailto:blt.baronage@gmail.com) mailboxes...you can include the blt.exchequer if you like, but it is not required. August 10th is the cut-off. Interviews will take place after that time. I would remain as the deputy for a year, to settle the new exchequer in.

In grace,

Cristina.

# Monthly Cryer Report

---

## Financial Committee Notes

Finance Committee Meeting 20200623

Held virtually via email

Agenda:

Increased storage fee

July coronation 2021 bid

Financial Policy review

Bank Signature card change

Discussion for all items will go through ...26 June

Votes required by...26 June, 1145pm.

### Storage

Our storage fee has gone up \$8 per month, effective 1 July 2020. This raises our annual fee from \$1084 to \$1115.

Is this acceptable?

If not, how shall we rectify it? Storage at members homes is not a good plan.

### Coronation bid

Review the bid forms—site info and budget

Shall we do this? alterations? Suggestions?

Signatures will be required--Seneschal has stated that a firm "yes, I approve of this bid" is required of each member so that it can be pushed up.

### Financial Policy

In a few months, the Baronial Financial Policy must be formally reviewed and ratified--we are way overdue. I have attached it here for preview only; the formal review will take place in October as per the policy.

## Financial Committee Meeting Cont.

### Bank Card--information only

Need to add the new Seneschal, remove Kay, and leave Ann since she will be the new deputy.

This has to be done in person, with the new seneschal, myself, and one other signatory--probably Ann. Once I have the required information (name, address, phone number, membership number and expiry), I will send the change to kingdom and society for approval. When that is approved, I will make the appointment with the bank. We are required to bring two (2) forms of official photo ID with us; the appointment takes a couple of hours.

And we will need to do it again when the new Exchequer takes over...no we cannot wait and do it just once. The society would audit us in a hot minute and hell would break loose.

When adding discussion points, please remember to reply to all. I will edit the email chain as necessary for easy reading to include into the records.

In grace,

Cristina.

Attached were the increase email, the financial policy, and the bid

Roger: I do not feel that the strage increase is too excessive as long as it isn't too burdensome to maintain. I agree that storage at a members residence is not an option.

The bid for coranation looks good and I do not have any issues with it.

Everything else looks good.

Seneschal: I am good on increasing the storage unit rental. Items in one place is a good thing.

And reminder, vote for the coronation bid!!!

Astrid: I am good with both the increase payment for storage and for the Coronation bid.

M.Mikhail: I think the increase in the storage fee is acceptable, so I say go ahead with that..

The Coronation bid looks fine to me. Are we going to get new paperwork done for the change of dates? If so, then I say yes. If not, then we need to discuss it further.

## Financial Committee Notes Cont.

This was the end of the discussion. It was a unanimous vote for both accepting the bid and the storage increase.

""

EOF

# Garden Grotto & Cooking with Cristina



## Mentha x species --- Mints



\*(peppermint on the left, mint on the right...and escaped sprouts can be seen on the far upper right and lower right of the photo)\*

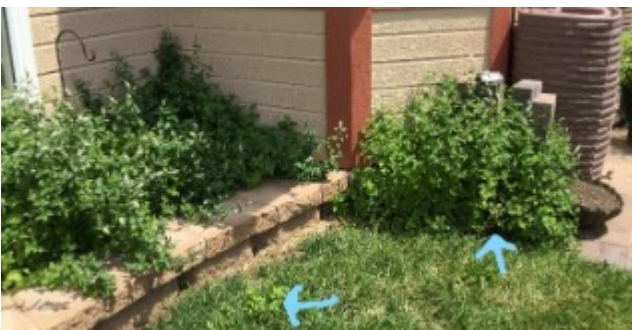
This rather wondrous herb has been around for an unknown amount of time...it has been passed down in written history as least as far back as Pliny in the turn of the era (BC to AD). Loved by most, it has innumerable shining qualities, within the body and without.

There are dozen of species of this herb—some grow, flower and give seed; while others are hybridized and can only grow on by cuttings. I have several in my yard and hesitate to specifically name them without a DNA test. However, for the purposes of this article, I will call one into the court of reckoning, and call it “Mint”.

This mint was grown from seed a decade ago—he is now a beast of epic magnitude. I do not exaggerate; he has sent runners from his bed 20 yards underground to pop up near my apple tree (or what was an apple tree and is now a twig due to a neighbour’s herbicidal tendencies). He has also sent runners the other direction, around the house, through brick and stone, to invade my flower beds.

Beware.

Many plants, herbs especially, want full sun and moderate water. Mint likes to be different; he likes wet



Beware.

Many plants, herbs especially, want full sun and moderate water. Mint likes to be different; he likes wet feet and moderate sun. Mint, he makes due with his spot in the back—he has shade until noon, protection from the worst of the winds and snow, and mostly has water to suit. His cousin, I will call him Peppermint, is not happy with his decade-long location with much less of everything—but he keeps coming back every year. Wet feet, in plant speak, means they have a higher water requirement and don't mind occasionally soggy roots. Not living in water, it won't do well, but the sporadic drenching days make them happy. Ideally, consistent heavy water, protection from the worst elements, and afternoon shade would be ideal—say the eastern side of the house. I do have mints on the south, north, and east sides of the house—west wins. The north side gets too much sun due to angles; the south is the main bed due to duration and the sprinklers give the runners it sends out the majority of the water. However, the mint on the south side is the first thing up in the spring and lives till nearly January out my backdoor.

Remember my warning of the invasiveness? Easy fix is to keep it in a pot—don't be fooled by the “put a pot in the ground” ideas...mint is sneaky and smart and determined. It will escape like a toddler and you will never eradicate it.

A nice thing about mint is its “cut and come again” philosophy. It is a bifurcate; meaning that it sends out two side sprigs at nodes, and those side nodes will then split and then again in true hydra-style. This is common with all Lamiaceae such as lavender, basil, and mint. What this means, is that you can cut off the growing tip for harvest or pruning, and it will branch out—creating a more shrubby appearance rather than a sky-scraper. Handy for keeping rambunctious Mint in check and semi-contained.

After harvesting, wash the sprigs well...soak them for a few minutes in cool water and swish gently.

Many garden natives love to hitch a ride and can eat your harvest as it sits on your counter.

Mint can be used fresh or dried. I find fresh works well in tzatziki sauce, salads, and with fresh fruit. For teas and sekanjabins, I recommend dried as the oils are more concentrated and the results tastes more minty and less green. I strongly urge you away from drying in a dehydrator, oven, or microwave as the oil content can be lowered.

Cooking Corner: Drying Mint...and pretty much any leafy herb

Requirements: Fresh herbs, needle & thread, or string, open dimly lit area for hanging.

Drying these herbs is reminiscent of stringing popcorn for the holidays. Idea is to slowly dry the herbs at low temperatures with plenty of airflow to inhibit mold. Drying concentrates the flavors and can keep you in your favorite herbs all winter.

Some herbs don't dry so well—Italian basil being one of them. Not to say that you can't, just that the flavor-profile is a bit lesser than its fresher brethren. On the other end, oregano and marjoram totally come into their powerhouse of flavor after drying.



Next easiest (definitely easier on the other end) is to pull the leaves off the sprig and string them like a popcorn string (or a lei). These do pose the possible problem of retaining moisture between the leaves as they are pressed closely together. This can be solved with a daily walk by them and shifting them apart, keeping them from being pasted together.



After a week of hanging, crush a leaf with your fingers; if it crushes, it's done—if it crumples it needs more time.



Once dry, however you manage it, keep them in an airtight container in a dark, cool place. Empty glass jars of various origins and the back corner of my pantry are my preferred.

In grace,  
Cristina.

# Musical Notice

## Drink Me a Drink

Words: [Conn MacNeill](#)

Music: [Karelea's Song](#)(sp?) by David R. Watson (Iolo Fitz Owen)

Source:

(note: this is usually sung more slowly and dramatically than my midi file shows)

[MIDI](#) / [NWC](#) / [PDF](#)

I once loved a lady, bright eyed and bonny,  
a love beyond reason, to the depth of my soul.  
'Til one day she came to me, said she loved me no longer  
In pain beyond bearing, I ride on alone.

*So drink me a drink, lads, to ladies and battles,  
I'll drink you a drink, lads, to pain and dead friends.  
And wine is my refuge, from torment and sorrow,  
those things you find joyous, in woe sure shall end.*

I once had a fair friend, a sweet friend and merry,  
skilled with his weapons, and quick with a jest.  
One fine summer's evening, 'neath the far walls of Acre,  
he died on a spear point, that was meant for my breast.

*So drink me a drink, lads, to ladies and battles,  
I'll drink you a drink, lads, to pain and dead friends.  
And wine is my refuge, from torment and sorrow,  
those things you find joyous, in woe sure shall end.*

(NOT ALWAYS SUNG) My Lord lives in Scotland, my brother in England,  
and feelings between them, run hot as a fire.  
Once met in a tourney, and honor it fled them,  
now all that is left me, is their funeral pyre.

(NOT ALWAYS SUNG) I once was a farmer, a grower of saffron,  
my old family holdings, twixt two castles lay.  
But war changes all things, my life's no exception,  
the killing of men is my job to this day.

Three things seeks a soldier, a true bonny lady,  
a battle with honor, and a sweet cup of wine.  
But you'll find that in solace, the two are unsteady,  
the third that is drink, lads, brings peace every time!

*So drink me a drink, lads, to ladies and battles,  
I'll drink you a drink, lads, to pain and dead friends.  
And wine is my refuge, from torment and sorrow  
those things you find joyous, in woe sure shall end.  
So I'll drink you a drink, lads!*

## Baronial Awards

All members of the SCA are encouraged to send in award recommendations for those members of the populace that they believe are worthy of recognition. Below are the names and brief descriptions of awards given in the Barony of the Lonely Tower.

**The Cord** - The Cord is simply that, a cord in the Lonely Tower colors that denotes the person wearing it is an active member of the Barony.

**The Rose Window** - The beauty and craftsmanship required in the making of a rose window gives us the definition for this award. The Rose Window is given for promise in the pursuit of the Arts and Sciences.

**The Column** - The support needed to keep the Lonely Tower standing comes from its many Columns. This award is given to those who have helped serve the needs of the Barony of the Lonely Tower.

**The Defenders of the Gate** - *Cave Canes!* "Beware of the Dogs" is the motto of this fair Barony. And well said, the knights, huscarls, fyrdmen, fighters, archers and equestrians of this barony have given us ample reason to be proud of each area of endeavor in the martial arts. Thus this award is given to those who are a part of our martial presence at tournaments held in the Lonely Tower and throughout Calontir and the Known World.

**The Goose Migrant** - Where the goose flies, so it takes with it the spirit of this land. This award is for those who have traveled widely within or without Calontir, representing the Barony wherever their paths may lead them.

**The Keystone** - Given to those without whose presence the Barony would likely not have become nor likely remain the beloved place we all share. In this award we seek to honor those who enhance, embrace or support the Barony and by extension the Kingdom and Society.

### Baronial Champions

#### Arts & Sciences Champion

(1st Quarter)

Aethelwyn aet Ullancumbe

#### Cut & Thrust Champion

(2nd Quarter)

Master Rolf Hobart

#### Archery Champion

(3rd Quarter)

Lord Owain the Younger

#### Armored Combat Champion

(4th Quarter)

Sir Bjarm Rorikson

#### Officer's Warrants

10/2020 - Archery Marshal

01/2022 - Chronicler

01/2021 Exchequer

01/2021 - Anser Pursuivant (Herald)

01/2020 - Chancellor of the Exchequer

03/2020 - Minister of Arts & Sciences

06/2020 - Seneschal

01/2021 - Knights Marshal

08/2021 - Web Minister

### Credits

Baronial Positions photo page 3:

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# August Events

<div> <div>&lt; 2019</div> <div>&lt; JUL</div> <div> AUGUST 2020</div> <div>SEP &gt;</div> <div>2021 &gt;</div> </div> <div> Month ▾</div>						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Cancelled: Pennsic War
2 Cancelled: Pennsic War	3	4 Summer Baronial Gather	5 Archery Practice 7:00 pm	6	7	8
9 Cancelled: Pennsic War	10	11 Summer Baronial Gather	12 Archery Practice 7:00 pm	13	14	15 Cancelled: Heraldshill Ar
16	17 Business Meeting 7:00 p	18 Summer Baronial Gather	19 Archery Practice 7:00 pm	20	21	22 Cancelled: Cattle Raid
23 Cancelled: Cattle Raid	24	25 Summer Baronial Gather	26 Archery Practice 7:00 pm	27	28	29
30	31					

# September

<div> <div>&lt; 2019</div> <div>&lt; AUG</div> <div> SEPTEMBER 2020</div> <div>OCT &gt;</div> <div>2021 &gt;</div> </div> <div> Month ▾</div>						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Summer Baronial Gather	2 Archery Practice 7:00 pm	3	4	5 Canceled: Kings Compar
6	7	8 Summer Baronial Gather	9 Archery Practice 7:00 pm	10	11	12 Canceled: Griffin's Fest s
13	14	15 Summer Baronial Gather	16 Archery Practice 7:00 pm	17	18	19 Cancel: Vertigo 9:00 an
20 Cancel: Vertigo	21 Business Meeting 7:00 p	22 Summer Baronial Gather	23 Archery Practice 7:00 pm	24	25	26 Canceled: Masters of the
27	28	29 Summer Baronial Gather	30 Archery Practice 7:00 pm			