



the Jeoman

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The official Newsletter of the Barony of Bright Hills



Le Livre des conquêtes et faits d'Alexandre, Paris, musée du Petit-Palais, folio 86 recto from Wikimedia



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A Note from Your Chronicler

Sing the songs of the season, enjoy a good feast, and merrily give gifts of friendship to those around you. It is the holiday season and that seems to put everyone in a festive mood. During Christmas in the Medieval time period it was the longest holiday season of the year and for good reason there was no farming or little outdoor labor. So the peasants had a 2 week vacation so to speak which ran from Christmas to Epiphany, thus the 12 days of Christmas. A time for merry making and celebration. Wouldn't it be nice if we could rest from our winter labors for two weeks and then start back with plough races or the such.

I am looking forward to our Baronial 12th Night on January 13th where I will get to see all of you good gentles in the new year.

Yours in Service, Story, and Song,
 Lady Scholastica Joycors

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Submission Guidelines: Articles and artwork (including photographs) and all required signed releases are due by the 20th of the month prior to publication. For articles, pictures, and all other submissions to *The Yeoman*, please submit to the Lady Scholastica Joycors at brighthills.chronicler@gmail.com. Email submissions are preferred; please submit using rich text format (RTF) or as an attached MS-Word file (DOC) for all articles.



the barony of bright hills



U nto the populace of Bright Hills, greetings from your Baron and Baroness. The Winter Holidays are here, time to celebrate family and friends. In this light, Bright Hills will have a 12th Night Celebration on the 13th of January from 7pm till 10 pm in Sykesville. Yes, it is a Friday the 13th, as we are the 13th Barony in Atlantia it is a perfect day for celebration. More information will be coming but for now prepare your favorite dish to share and we look forward to seeing everyone.

Our next fighter/archery practice and gathering will be on the 11th of December at the Baltimore bowman from 12 till 4.

Our next Virtual Bardic will be 23 December starting at 7pm. We look forward to hearing songs, poetry, and stories for the season.

Baronial Birthday is fast approaching. Many hands make light work, please contact the Autocrat if you can help.

Also at birthday, Wanda and I will be stepping down as Baron and Baroness, the polling for our successors will be taking place this month.

We ask our Champions to devise a way to select their successors and get that information to the Autocrat so it can be included in the event flyer.

Please, if you have seen someone do above and beyond work on anything, let us know. We wish to make sure that everyone that is deserving be recognized by the Crown of Atlantia or by Bright Hills.

There are a few Officer and deputy positions that need filling, we are a volunteer group, and the Barony needs your help. If you are interested, please speak with the Seneschal, Mistress Jeanne Tenneur de Bec.

As the New Year approaches, we wish everyone a healthy, prosperous, and fun year.

“Always the Best”, the motto for Bright Hills. We see this displayed every day from our populace. We ask that you continue with your good works, be patient and remember that others may be under higher levels of stress than yourself. Take care of yourself, we are just a phone call away or even a virtual meeting away and we are always ready to talk to our family from Bright Hills.

Yours in Service,

Gordon Kinloch and Wanda the Wanderer
Baron and Baroness of Bright Hills





Business Meeting Minutes



November 11, 2022
started online at 7:05 pm

In Attendance: Gordon and Wanda Kinnie, Becky Ritterhouse, Mylinda Butterworth, Alexander Fowler, Dagny austkona, Debbie Eccles, Rebecca and Kollack von Zweckel, Richard Muti, Graham Wright, Jill Peters,

Officer Reports:

ChateLain

Baroness Rebecca von Zweckel (Becky Kepple)

It's been relatively quiet these last few weeks. 1-2 new people have either reached out to Wade or he has spoken to them thru his other volunteer position and personal activities.

He is also following up and continuing working with several of the people he had made contact with earlier this year.

Barb is continuing working with the tema from the Irish Festival and they are all set up and ran today. Tomorrow will start at noon. I plan on being there with my STEM table top siege for at least 4-5 hours. Looking forward to seeing some of you there.

I would like to get with the webminister on getting more access points for the Chatelain email address I would like to be able to access on more than 1 laptop or even my phone.

Chronicler

Lady Scholastica Joycors (MyLinda Butterworth)

Yeoman out. Melissa Jarrett/Joslin approached me about becoming the Chronicler deputy when the position is available. She used to do public affairs for the government and thought this is a place she could apply her skills.

Exchequer

Lady Clara von Wonsiedel (Michelle England)

No report.

herald

Lord William Ringlancer (Bill Soucy)

Held a virtual consult - no attendees. Dame Alexandria and Wynn are going to hold a heralds zoom chat.

knights Marshall

Sir Kollack von Zweckel (Kenneth Kepple)

Four of us made it up to Aethelmearc's Corn Maze event, a great time was had and well forth the 2.5 hour drive. We have had one heavy practice since our last meeting which consisted of four fighters. Currently weather permitting the next scheduled practice is Sunday December 8th, please check Bright Hills web page (<http://brighthills.atlantia.sca.org>) for updates on practice schedule. I have nothing else to report at this time.

MoAS

Mistress Deirdre O'Bardon (Debbie Eccles)

Baron Gordon held a virtual bardic on October 29. Lady Scholastica has continued to publicize and read period stories online and hosted a Needles, Fiber, and More online challenge. I purchased a bowed psaltry last weekend at a harp retreat and hope that it will appear at a bardic near you soon (after the new strings and horsehair for the bow arrive.)

There is a Clothiers Guild being formed by two newcomers, Elyzabeth and Melissa, and I have seen a lot of positive comments. They held their first get together on November 3, which was attended by 7 people. The next gathering is tentatively scheduled for November 17 but a place to host is needed. Will be held at Mistress Wynne from 7-9.

Lord Faolan has been busy creating period clothing which has received favorable comments on the Book of Faces. Meisterin Johanna has started tablet weaving again. Mistress Tatiana has been working on embroidery projects, largess, beadwork and making medallions.

Lord William Ringlancer hosted a heraldic consult, but I don't have the details.

If you are doing something in the Arts and Sciences, please let me know so that I can promote your good work.

Richard Wynn will be an additional deputy and will step up if Deirdre needs to step down.

MINISTER OF THE LIST

Lord Alexander Fowler (Hunter Fowler)

No report.



Youth MINISTER • VACANT

WebMINISTER

Lady Dagný austkona (Rachael Knoblauch)

No report. How much information do we want to put on the Baronial Calendar.

Seneschal:

Mistress Jeanne Tenneur de Bec (Becky Ritterhouse)

Yesterday that SCARs is going away at the end of the month. They are going to work on getting a replacement since the software is no longer being supported. So we will have to rely on mailing things in. Process for new baron and baroness is underway. The polling should open the Monday after Thanksgiving, November 28. If someone wants the polling by mail they will have to contact someone. Need to schedule a virtual meet and greet, probably about the same time as the polling goes out.

BARON AND BARONESS

Godai Kinloch and Wanda the Wanderer
(Gordon & Wanda Lee Kinnie)

The loss of SCARs was not popular. Reminder on Dec 1 all COVID restrictions are lifted by Society. Have to pre-register for 12th Night, the baron and baroness are not going. Bright Hills 12th Night. Unevent is coming December 4. The baron and baroness will be going to 100 minutes war.

Guild Reports:

COOKS GUILD. There is a Cooks Guild meeting scheduled this Sunday at the Baltimore Bowmen. The previous Cooks Guild meeting was prior to the last business meeting. However, the Cooks Guild cooked for a wedding on October 23.

EVENTS:

Birthday - Working on the calendar and spike. Graham as MOL.

Trial by Fire/Lochmere Arrow - Final report is in. Expense: \$4236.16 - Event profit \$2134.23. We need to get this spiked as soon as possible so we don't compete with Royal Archery. Ask them to spike it in October. It was moved and seconded that we will allow Royal Archery to use the Bowman in a time that is not September. passed. Looking September 22-24 for Trial by Fire.

Baronial 12th Night: Planning event at a space in Sikesville, supposedly there is a small kitchenette. There is some adjacent parking at strip mall. January 13th. We are treating this as an activity and not a formal event. It will be a potluck. 7-10 pm.

Royal Rabbit Demo - possible time change for having in the spring. Suggestion April 29th instead of in the fall.

Irish Festival Demo in November. Set up in the cow palace. There are no tables between the pillars so there is no way to hang anything. The event is open from noon to 11 PM. Sunday it is noon till six. Need to get there a little bit early if you want parking.

Old Business

Baronial Bardic on December 23rd.

New Business

Talk about A&S at North Carol High School. Kingdom is having trouble find a space.

Next meeting will be December 16, 2022 at 7:00 PM.

Meeting ended at 7:55 PM

Any corrections or additions to these minutes should be sent to the Chronicler at brighthill.chronicler@gmail.com





Atlantian Calendar of Events



for more details go to <http://www.atlantia.sca.org/events/atlantia-calendar-events>

December 2022

3-4	UnEvent	Atlantia	online
9-11	Jul Toy Tourney 2022 (Q, K)	Nottingham Coill	Pickens SC
10	Dun Carraig Baronial Birthday	Dun Carraig	Waldorf MD

January 2023

7	Kingdom 12th Night 2023	Atlantia	Winston Salem NC
28	Henry's Holiday Huzzah - Midwinter's	Lochmere	Lothian, MD
28	Tourney of Manannan Mac Lir	Tear-Sea's Shore	Ridgeville, SC

February 2023

4	Winter University of Atlantia	Atlantia	
10-12	Nottingham Coill Baronial Birthday 43	Nottingham Coill	Bennettsville SC
11	Bright Hill's Baronial Birthday and Investiture (K Q)	Bright Hills	Manchester MD
11	Days of Love III	Marinus	Virginia Beach VA
11	Sir Walter Raleigh Ball	Buckston-on-Eno	Burlington, NC
17-19	Tournament of Ymir (Q K)	Windmasters Hill	Ellerbe NC
25-26	Raven's Cove Baronial Birthday	Raven's Cove	Richlands NC

March 2023

4	Kingdom Arts and Sciences Festival (KQ)	Atlantia	
11-23	Gulf Ward (P PR)	Glen Abhann	
24-26	Hidden Mountain Baronial Birthday and Investiture (K Q P Pr)	Hidden Mountain	Bennettsville, SC
25	Defending the Gate	Sudentorre	Spotsylvania, VA
31-02	Spring Coronation 2023 (K Q P Pr)	Storvik	Upper Marlboro, MD

Thanks to His Excellency Gordon & Calontir Trim, we have procured 300 yards of Baronial trim!!!!

We have exclusive rights for ONE year and then Calontir Trim will sell the remainder. We will be selling it at the price that we purchased it for: \$3.00 per yard. All money will go to the Barony! Checks, which is the preferred payment, made out to "SCA, Inc., Barony of Bright Hills" will be accepted, but cash will be accepted as well. Sorry, no others forms of payment at this time.



December Local Events

- 11 Baronial Gathering/Archery Practice at the Baltimore Bowman at 1 PM
- 11 Gathering/Heavy and Rapier Fighter Practice at 12:30 PM
- Web Minister Office Hours 7-8 pm (Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/iph-nbed-bib>)
- Heraldic Consult/Open House
- 23 Baronial Bardic



CANDIDATES FOR BARON AND BARONESS OF BRIGHT HILLS

To complete the polling on line, go to the Kingdom of Atlantia website. Select the "Populace Resources" tab.

Go to the "Polling System (ESP)" tab. If you don't have an account, choose "Request an Account" and follow the instructions.

Log in to your account and select "Baronial Pollings". Then complete the Polling.

Polling ends 12/20/2022



Unto Their Royal Majesties of Atlantia Anya Shchulepnikov and Abran de la Barra and the excellent Seneschal of Bright Hills, Mistress Jeanne Tenneur de Bec, does Mistress Anne of Hatfield send fair greetings.

Noble Monarchs and esteemed seneschal, it is my intention to submit my name for your consideration for the position of Baroness of The Barony of Bright Hills. Although it is no longer common, I run on my own merits, without a consort.

The portion of Baroness is one that I have experience with, as I founded the East Kingdom's Barony of Dragonship Haven in 1978 CE. Growing quickly from canton to shire, I was the seneschal who guided its progress and I was the individual chosen to be the Founding Baroness.

In my almost fifty years of membership in the SCA, I have held numerous positions at all regional levels of the organization. On the local levels, they include chronicler, list office, and seneschal. On the kingdom level, I served the East for 4 years [1981-1985 CE] as the Mistress of Lists. During my tenure, I created and implemented the authorization card system and the fighters' data base. It is worth mentioning that this was at a time when computers were not widely available outside of industry: the 900 person database was maintained by me alone on an Apple IIE.

After stepping down as the Kingdom MOL, I immediately stepped up to found the Keepers of Athena's Thimble, the kingdom's embroidery guild, by serving as the founding guild mistress. As such, my duty was to create all of the guild structure and to sing the praises of needlework to the kingdom. To speak to the quality of my work, the structure is still in place 48 years later, with minimal changes.

The Barony has been in a prolonged period of inactivity, as has the Kingdom. I believe that it is necessary for the Baron/ess to encourage the Barony members to return to the activities we have known and enjoy for all of these years, and to recruit new members. Although I have been on a sabbatical for some years, I do believe that I am capable of serving in this position. I hereby submit my name for your consideration.

Please feel free to ask for any further information that you might require.

I remain, Your Majesties' most humble and obedient servant

Anne of Hatfield

SCA membership number 001509

Orders of the Pelican and the Laurel

Founding Baroness of the Barony of Dragonship Haven

Founding Guildmistress of the Keepers of Athena's Thimble



Unto Their Royal Majesties, King Abran de la Barra and Queen Anya Shchulepnikov; Their Excellencies Baron Godai Katsunaga and Baroness Wanda Ostojowna, and to the wonderful populace of the Barony of Bright Hills do Lord Graham MacRobert and Lady Freydis sjona send greetings.

After much consideration of the responsibilities and obligations of such an office, we humbly submit the following Letter of Intent for consideration as the next Baron and Baroness of Bright Hills. We beseech you to review our qualifications below and take measure of our worthiness of such an Office.

Lord Graham MacRobert joined the SCA approximately 30 years ago after relocating to the Bright Hills lands. Bright Hills is the only SCA home he has known through his 30 years, and he has dedicated much of his time to service of the Barony. During his tenure he has held the offices of Baronial Seneschal, Baronial Knight's Marshal, Heavy Weapons Deputy, Deputy Seneschal, and Baronial Warlord. Lord MacRobert has also dedicated his time to assisting at events by serving as Marshal-In-Charge, at Baronial gatherings by serving as a heavy marshal, and assisting at demonstrations by speaking to the public about the SCA and the wealth of experiences and knowledge it holds.

The lands of Bright Hills have been home to Lady Freydis for her entire life, and she is familiar with the varieties of good gentiles that also call this area home. Although Lady Freydis has only been known to the SCA for seven years, she has exhibited her leadership abilities by serving as Seneschal to the Barony for four years and led the Barony to successfully navigate through the recent plague years. In addition, she has also dedicated her time to the Barony by serving as a scribe and has supported the growth of the Barony by displaying her skills within the arts and sciences at local demonstrations, speaking with the public about the SCA, and providing hands-on experiences for youth.

We, Lord Graham and Lady Freydis, both wish to continue to serve the people of Bright Hills, to continue to follow through on the groundwork laid by our predecessors in order to 'bring the magic back' as we emerge from an unprecedented global pandemic, and to continue the traditions of the Barony while also establishing new ones.

We wish to continue our support for growth of the Barony, and the activities which make Bright Hills the shining star of the northern Atlantian border. The Arts & Sciences, marshal activities, and the service We, the people of Bright Hills, provide to the Kingdom are all parts of the brilliant constellation that make Bright Hills unique. We also aspire to continue our close relations with our neighboring Baronies and Shires, and to support the Kingdom in all its endeavors and whims.

If chosen, We, Lord Graham and Lady Freydis, pledge to comport ourselves in a manner befitting our position, to represent the populace of Bright Hills with pride, and to bring honor to the Barony.

Respectfully Yours in Service to the Dream,

Lord Graham MacRobert

Lord Graham MacRobert
Graham Wright
443-375-0257(no calls after 10pm)
Graham351@gmail.com
Member #104391
Expiration: 30 Sep 2022



Lady Freydis sjona

Lady Freydis sjona
Casey Keener
410-852-0621
Frejya2004@gmail.com
Member #231897
Expiration: 31 Aug 2023



Lore from the Larder



LAMB OR MUTTON STEW

'Take veel other[wise] motoun and smyte it to gobettes. Seeth it in gode broth; cast therto erbes yhewe gode won, and a quantite of oynouns mynced, powdour fort and safroun, and alye it with ayren and verious: but let it not seeth after.'

– Curye on Inglysch, IV.18.

Serves 6

Redaction by Macsie Black

Ingredients

900g boneless stewing lamb or mutton

425ml chicken stock

2 medium onions, peeled and finely chopped

1 tbsp chopped parsley

1/2–1 tsp each fresh rosemary leaves, thyme leaves, and savory or marjoram leaves, bruised in a mill
(use less if using dried herbs)

1/4 tsp each ground ginger, cumin and coriander

Salt to taste

225ml white wine

2 eggs

2 tbsp lemon juice



Method

Cut the meat into 5cm cubes. Put the stock into a stewpan and bring to the boil. Add the meat and bring back to the boil. Skim if needed, then add the prepared onions, herbs, spices, salt and wine. Reduce the heat, cover the pan and cook gently until the meat cubes are cooked through and tender (1–1 1/2 hours). Beat the eggs with the lemon juice until blended, then take the pan off the heat and stir the egg mixture gradually into the stew to thicken it slightly. Do not re-boil.

The British Museum: How to cook a medieval feast: 11 recipes from the Middle Ages.

<https://www.britishmuseum.org/blog/how-cook-medieval-feast-11-recipes-middle-ages>

Curiosity Corner



Mistletoe Lore

by Lady Scholastica Joycors



Mistletoe has been the subject of many legends and traditions for hundreds of years. Ancient Druids considered mistletoe sacred because it grew without roots in the ground and assumed that it must have been planted by the gods. Mistletoe was thought to ban evil spirits and bring good luck and great blessings. It is said that when warriors met beneath mistletoe, they had to lay down their weapons and call a truce for a full day. Even Shakespeare in *Titus Andronicus II* called it 'baleful mistletoe'. So how did it get to be known as the kissing plant?

MISTLETOE AND THE DRUIDS

The ancient Druids believed mistletoe to be an indicator of great sacredness. The winter solstice, called 'Alban Arthan' by the Druids, was according to Bardic Tradition, the time when the Chief Druid would cut the sacred mistletoe from the Oak. The mistletoe is cut using a golden sickle on the sixth night of the new moon after the winter solstice. A cloth held below the tree by other members of the order to catch the sprigs of mistletoe as they fell, as it was believed that it would have profaned the mistletoe to fall upon the ground. He would then divide the branches into many sprigs and distributed them to the people, who hung them over doorways as protection against thunder, lightning and other evils.

The Druids are thought to have believed that the berries of the mistletoe represented the sperm of the Gods. When pressed, a semen like substance issues from the white berries. Mistletoe was considered a magical aphrodisiac. Girls standing under a sprig of mistletoe were asking for a bit more than a kiss, it seems.

It is interesting to note that mistletoe was excluded from church decorations, probably due to its connection with the Druids and its pagan and magical associations. This ancient ban on mistletoe is still widely observed even today.

MISTLETOE AND NORSE MYTHOLOGY

It all began with Frigga who was the Goddess of Love and Beauty and her son, Balder, was the God of the Summer Sun. Once, Balder dreamt of his death. He was obviously worried and told his mother about the strange dream. Frigga was worried not only for the life of her son but also for the life on Earth because she knew that without Balder, all life on Earth would come to an end. Thus, she did her utmost to avoid such a mishap by going everywhere and appealing to every being in air, water, fire and earth, to promise her that they would never harm her son. She was promised the safety of her son by every animal and plant under and above the Earth.

However, Loki, the God of Evil, who was an enemy of Balder and always had evil designs in his mind, was aware that there was one plant that Frigga had overlooked. It grew on apple and oak trees and was known as Mistletoe. Thus, Loki made an arrow and placed a sprig of this plant at its tip. He then beguiled Hoder, the blind brother of Balder and the God of Winter, and made him shoot this arrow at Balder. Balder immediately died and everybody was worried as the Earth turned cold and life became dreary. For the next three days, every creature tried to bring Balder back to life but he was revived only by Frigga and with the help of mistletoe. Her tears on



the plant became pearly white berries and she blessed it such that anyone who stands under the mistletoe would never be harmed and would be entitled to a kiss as a token of love.

KISSING-BOUGH (which was popular before the introduction of Xmas Trees).

A garland of greenery, shaped like a double hooped May-garland or crown, was hung from the middle of the ceiling in the main room. It was adorned with candles, red apples rosettes of colored paper and a bunch of mistletoe suspended from the center. The bough itself is called ' the mistletoe'. The candles were ceremoniously lit on Christmas Eve and then every evening throughout the 12 days of Xmas.

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http://www.thewhitegoddess.co.uk/articles/mythology_folklore/mistletoe.asp

A Dictionary of British Folk Customs, Christina Hole, Helicon Publishing Ltd., 1995

The Golden Bough, Sir James Frazer, Wordsworth Editions, 1993

You don't need to believe in **Yule**, the Scandinavian fertility god, to enjoy the tradition of Yuletide carols and greetings.

You don't need to be a **Wiccan** to enjoy the tradition of wreaths or decking the halls with holly.

You don't need to be a **Druid** to enjoy the tradition of hoping for a kiss under the mistletoe.

You don't need to believe in the god **Saturn** to enjoy the tradition of decorating a Saturnalia tree in your home.

You don't need to believe in **Thor, Odin, or St. Nicholas** to enjoy the tradition of a visitor bringing gifts at night.

You don't need to believe in **Sleipnir**, Odin's flying 8-legged horse, to enjoy the tradition of listening for the sound of hooves on your roof top.

You don't need to believe in **Mithras** to enjoy the tradition of celebrating the sun's rebirth on December 25th.

And you don't need to believe in **Jesus Christ** to enjoy the tradition of renaming this ancient holiday to Christ's Mass.

All you need to enjoy these winter festivities is to be merry. **Merry Christmas**

from www.Truth-Saves.com



ODIN THE FIRST FATHER CHRISTMAS?

Lady Scholastica Joycors

In the beginning long before Christianity spread throughout the world, Pagan rituals and customs were prevalent throughout the lands and there was another whose arrival was long awaited by the inhabitants of northern Germany and Scandinavia – Odin the Wanderer or Wodan, the father of all the gods. Also known as the warrior god, the legends that became part of our Santa tradition were mostly of the benevolent kind. It was Odin who traveled the skies by night on his sled with his eight-legged horse Sleipner bringing gifts of bread for those in need. We know this because someone actually transcribed oral tradition into 13th century texts, making these stories as old as dirt.

Viking lore says that the northern Germans and Scandinavians celebrated Yule, a pagan religious festival heralding the arrival of the winter solstice from mid-December to early January. During this time, many believed that Odin, disguised in a long blue-hooded cloak, would travel to earth on his eight legged steed Sleipnir, to observe homesteaders gathered around the campfires to see how content the people were and for those in need of food, he left his gifts of bread and disappeared.

According to lore the children of these lands would anticipate the arrival of gift-bearing Odin and would fill their boots with straw, carrots or sugar and place them near the fireplace so that Sleipnir could come down to eat during his midnight rides. Odin would then reward these kind children by replacing the food with gifts and candy treats inside the boots (sounds a bit like leaving cookies and milk for Santa and carrots for the reindeer).

By now, you can see that many of those traditions transcended time albeit with slight changes: the eight-legged horse became eight tiny reindeer; the boots by the fireplaces would eventually become stockings “hung by the chimney with care;” and the food and candy, well those became toys from the chief toymakers of the land – Santa and his elves!

Although Odin and Santa share many characteristics in that they both are older men with white beards and donning cloaks, there is one striking difference between the two – Odin is missing his left eye. According to legend, Odin ventured to Mimir’s Well, near Jötunheim, the land of the giants, as not Odin himself, but as Vegtam the Wanderer. To gain knowledge of the past, present and future, Odin had to drink from the Well of Wisdom but he had to pay a price. For this knowledge he had to sacrifice his left eye and today, it lies at the bottom of this Well of Wisdom as a symbol of the price he paid for the wisdom he possesses.

When Christianity went into full swing, Odin evolved into Saint Nicholas or Santa Claus and today, the children await the arrival of Sinterklaas or Santa Claus or both. According to legend, Odin, the father of all the gods, portrayed one of twelve characters each month of the year. In December, he became Jul and the season of his arrival was known as Jultid or Yuletide. So my question still remains is Odin the original Father Christmas? The evidence says yes whether you want to believe it or not.

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- <http://www.ibtimes.com/santa-claus-pagan-origins-5-influences-behind-father-christmas-1736863>
- <http://irminfolk.com/is-santa-clause-odin/>



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The Bard's Corner

Where story, poem and song gather together for the sharing

Luda, The Reindeer Maiden

A Siberian Folktale

As told by Scholastica Joycors

On a wintry day in Siberia, a very long time ago, the Moon gazed down on the snowy fields. He watched the people traveling across the land together, he grew lonely, and so he drifted nearer and nearer to watch them more closely. After a while he decided that he needed to visit this place and get to know the people better, so the Moon transformed into human form so that he could move more freely about the world mingle with the people and studying their ways.

While he was traveling about he came upon a wandering herd of reindeer led by the reindeer herder's daughter, Luda.

Every winter, the reindeer herder gave Luda a magical reindeer and sent her to lead his large herd from their home deep in the snowy land to lush faraway pastures. As the reindeer traveled towards the pastures, Luda played her flute to entertain herself and to fill the long, dark, lonely days.

Many times, as the Moon traveled across the sky he had heard the maiden's melodies. Now that the Moon was traveling on earth, he heard the familiar music, and it beckoned to him. He began to follow the reindeer maiden and her herd. He watched her every movement; he gazed at her face. He listened to her wistful tunes and his heart swelled within in him and before long he felt like he could not live without her and must marry her and take her back to the sky. So much did he believe that would cure his loneliness he resolved to capture her..

But the magical reindeer sensed the Moon growing closer, and she heard the voice of one of her reindeer whispering, "The Moon wishes to capture you. You must take care." Luda also felt the Moon's presence and wondered what she should do. You see, she had no desire to be captured - not by the Moon or anyone. She loved her life just as it was. She loved taking those long treks across the snowy landscape. She loved her music. She loved the friendship of she had with her animal herd. And fear began to swell up in her heart.

The reindeer sensed Luda's fear and slowed down enough that the Moon caught up with the herd. The reindeer maiden whispered to her magical reindeer, "Help," and with his magical powers, he turned the maiden into a snowdrift and so that she disappeared.

When the Moon reached the herd, he looked around, puzzled, he asked, "Where has your maiden gone?"

The creatures ignored him. They simply moved on, trampling icy snow underfoot, taking great care not to step upon Luda. As soon as the magical reindeer saw that the Moon was lost among the herd, he turned the maiden back into human form, and together they dashed toward the sturdy yaranga, the tent where the maiden slept at night.

Meanwhile, the Moon searched through the herd and found her not. Suddenly he saw a light, he looked up, and he rushed toward the tent, but just before he reached the opening, the magical reindeer turned the maiden into an oil lamp.

The Moon walked inside and cried, "I've found you," but there he saw only a bed and the tent poles, a block and a hammer, and in one corner a shimmering oil lamp. He scratched his head and wondered, "Where are you? Please come out I wish to marry you..." He listened and looked but all he saw was the flickering light of the lamp and heard only the steady breathing of the great herd of reindeer outside.

The Moon called again. "Where are you? Please come to me," he pleaded. But there was no one answer.

He walked outside and once again began to search through the herd, and the moment he was outside, the maiden transformed into her own body. There was a twinkle in her eye and a smile on her face as she opened the tent flap. She cried into the frigid air, "What's wrong with you? Can't you see I'm right here!"



Hearing her voice, the Moon raced back toward the yaranga, but before he reached it, the reindeer maiden again turned into an oil lamp. Now the Moon was growing frantic. "Where are you? I hear your voice but where have you gone?"

Again, nobody answered, and again the Moon walked outside to search, and once more the reindeer maiden turned into herself, and again she walked to the opening of the tent and called, "What's wrong with you? I'm right here..."

Each time the Moon tried to find her, the Luda transformed her shape once more, and in this way, she remained hidden from his sight.

The Moon was desperate. He rushed this way and that, crying, "Please, please...let me find you, let me see you..." And in his frantic search, he grew exhausted.

When the maiden saw that the Moon had grown weak and tired, she grabbed a sack, slipped out of the tent and threw the bag over the Moon's head. Then she bound his legs and arms and pulled him inside her warm tent. She smiled. "Now I have captured you! How do you like it?"

The Moon begged, "Please, set me free."

"And if I do? What will you offer me in return?"

The Moon thought awhile. Trapped inside that tent, unable to move, he longed for the sky, for the sweetness of his nighttime journeys, for the freedom he had so loved. "I promise if you set me free, I shall return to the sky, and I will offer light to your people."

The maiden thought about this for a while. Then she said, "But sometimes we will wish for darkness."

And so the Moon agreed. "When the people wish for darkness, I shall disappear, and I shall measure out the year, season by season. Each month I will give you a different light. There will be times for hunting and times for frost, times for new leaves and times for newborn calves and brand new days."

The reindeer maiden smiled, but then she thought again. "If I let you go, you will grow stronger and try and capture me again. I too love my freedom."

The Moon realized they both wanted similar things and as much as he loved Luda, the reindeer maiden he had learned his lesson. He now understood why the maiden loved her life just as it was. "You have my word. As much as I love you I love my freedom too so I will care for you and your people from my place in the sky."

And so, the reindeer maiden set the Moon free, and he changed from his human form and drifted back to the sky.

From that day forward the Moon kept his word and spread his light upon the earth, and sometimes he hides his face as his heart sighs when he remembers the reindeer maiden, and his light fades or even goes out. It is in those times that the people know the Moon is dreaming of Luda that courageous and wondrous reindeer woman he loves.



The Barony of Bright Hills



Practices

Heavy & Light Weapons Fighter Practices and A&S classes are held the second and fourth Friday nights from 7:30 PM-10 PM at the Baltimore Bowman see



Business Meetings are held from 7 PM-8 PM the fourth Friday of the month as an online meeting

Sunday Afternoon Archery Practice

Most Sundays 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm (See Calendar)
Location: Baltimore Bowmen Site

Go to www.baltimorebowmen.com for directions. If the gate is closed, check to make sure it is not locked. If it is not locked, open it and drive down the hill to the butts. If the gate is locked, park your car and walk down the hill to the butts. Please join the BH archers google group to receive practice schedule emails NOTE: PRACTICE WILL NOT BE HELD WHEN THERE ARE WEEKEND-LONG EVENTS AND WHEN THERE ARE EVENTS AT THE BOWMEN SITE.



INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

If Baltimore County Schools announce they are closed or closing early, there will be no practice that night. You can usually hear the school closing lists on virtually any local radio station broadcast throughout the morning.

Cook's Guild

Baroness Jeanne Tenneur de Bec, phone at 410-239-8794, or by e-mail at beckyritterhouse@yahoo.com.

Meets second Sunday of the month. Check calendar for location and time.



Guild Gatherings

Electronic Connection

Bright Hills Website

The Baronial website, <http://brighthills.atlantia.sca.org/> contains a listing of current officers, regularly scheduled meetings, events and other items of interest. If you have an item for the website, please send it to the Webminister,

Dagný austkona at rmknoblauch@gmail.com

Bright Hills FaceBook Page

The new baronial Facebook page is located at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/brighthills/>. Further information can be obtained from the administrators Lady Reyne Telarius at robynbecker@comcast.net, and Dagný austkona at rmknoblauch@gmail.com

The Yeoman On-Line

<http://brighthills.atlantia.sca.org/yeoman/yeoman.html>

*Everyone is encouraged to contribute to
The Yeoman*

Please, remember that all submissions for The Yeoman should be accompanied by an SCA release form. Below are the links to the necessary forms.

Society Chronicler forms:

[http://www.sca.org/docs/library.html#release forms](http://www.sca.org/docs/library.html#release%20forms)

Release form for writing or artwork:

<http://www.sca.org/docs/pdf/ReleaseCreativeFillable.pdf>

Release form for photographs:

<http://www.sca.org/docs/pdf/ReleasePhotographerFillable.pdf>

Release form for models (the subject of your artwork or photograph):

<http://www.sca.org/docs/pdf/ReleaseModelFillable.pdf>





Regnum

The Barony of Bright Hills

Please try not to call after 9 PM



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Deputy Youth Minister

VACANT



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CURRENT BARONIAL CHAMPIONS:

- Archery:** Lord Lewin de Partone
- Arts and Sciences:** Lærimoðir Deirdre O'Bardon
- Bardic:** Lady Scholastica Joycors
- Baronial Warlord:** Baron Kollack von Zweckel
- Brewer:** Lady Livi de Samuele

- Equestrian:** Mor Inghean Ui Dochartaigh
- Heavy Weapons:** Okai of Bright Hills
- Thrown Weapons:** Lord Trygvvi
- Rapier:**
- Children's Archery-** Cedric and Moira

