



The Apple Press - June 2024

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## Hrefna Ulfvarinsdottir



I had the pleasure of meeting Hrefna at the first shire meeting I attended for the SCA. She came up to me and introduced herself as Hrefna Ulfvarinsdottir. I repeated the Hrefna part and badly mangled her last name explaining was unable to pronounce it let alone spell it.

She giggled explained it was Viking and it was okay Hrefna was fine, That's how she was down to earth unpretentious no matter how many honors and accolades she received she always gave credit to her staff.

Among her many accomplishments she autocrated several of the Siege of Glengary events, along with shire Twelfth night celebrations and was a co founder of the Pennsic Camp The Brotherhood of The Sliver Apple. One of the few camps in Pennsic to have its very own Breakfast Club. Which was started by Hrefna fixing Breakfast for everyone in camp in the morning. As the days weeks and then years past we had more people who came over from neighboring camps. Hrefna soon was known as the Baconnator for her delicious bacon and eggs.

What I will miss most is those beautiful photos she posted each day on Facebook and that wonderful laugh. It was so light , lyrical and joyous. I Imagine she is now up in Valhalla with all the Vikings organizing the kids actives another of her favorite thing to do and cooking bacon for the viking fighters to feast on when they get done with their next melee. Hrefna You were and always will be a part of our shire you loved and always be loved and remembered. Rest In Peace

Photos and writing by THL Katherine of Caithness

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## **Inks Guild**

Inks Guild meets every other Wednesday at Angelinio's house. This last time turnout was so large a extra table had to be set up to accommodate the scribes .

Angelino furnishes the painting supplies and the blank scrolls to paint. If you prefer you can bring your own painting supplies. He will help you with what colors to use and technique . The guild works on

scrolls for our kingdom as well as gifting them to other kingdoms. If you are an artist or want try to painting come out and join us one night.



Photos and writing by THL Katherine of Caithness

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# Shire Day in the Park



On 26 May, Shire of Sylvan Glen held its first Shire Day in the park of 2024 at the Sam Micheal's Park in Harpers Ferry. The turn out was large, with shire folk dressed in garb and some not. Spread over a large area divided into various groups, people were working on A & S projects and talking with each other.

The cooks guild prepared a wonderful dayboard featuring Russian food that included soup, chicken, and pierogie along with a very sweet drink made with honey and spices. In between the snacking, talking and A & S projects there was plenty of Heavy Fighter and Rapier practice to be had.

Our next Shire day in the Park will be on Sunday 30 June 2024 . The cooks guild menu will be Andalusian . Garb is encouraged but not required. Bring a chair, your dayshade, an A & S project, fighting or rapier gear and come join us.

Photos and writing by THL Katherine of Caithness

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## Count Jehan

Count Jehan was perhaps the oldest member of the SCA that I knew. Not only has it been said that he attended every Pennsic War but his encyclopedic knowledge of the middle ages was legendary. Although I did not know him well I can honestly say that he loved the SCA and embraced its values of chivalry and service. He was a Citizen of many kingdoms in the SCA before settling down in Misty Highlands in the Kingdom of Aethelmearc In 1970 he founded the barony of The Middle Marshes in Ohio where he received the titles of baron and laurel for his poetry. Upon moving to Connecticut he fought for and attained the title of King of The East. I first met him at the Passing of The Ice Dragon. When it was time for court it was business as usual, until Jehan appeared a scroll was handed to him by the herald. I was sitting next to Marjia a member of the shire at the time who introduced us and gave her a questioning look. She just smiled back and said listen. Jehan proceeded to read the scroll aloud in Latin flawlessly and without missing a beat said “for those of you who speak the common tongue.” He read it again in English. It was much later I learned he spoke a few more languages. In later years when his health no longer permitted him to fight he was still on the field of battle as a Marshall. Jehan was a true scholar with a wonderful sense of humor. He will be missed.

Writing by THL Katherine of Caithness

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# Katharine's Corner

Almost everyone has a bluetooth device but where did those tech geniuses come up with that name? History of course. King Harald (Bluetooth) Blatant Gormssien king of Denmark and Norway. The name Blatant (bluetooth) old Norse appears in one of the old chronicles of the late 12th century. Harald must have had a prominent blue / black tooth that was dead in his mouth. While the Vikings were a very clean and tidy people they were short on dentists. He ruled from 958 to 987 when he met his untimely death being murdered by or on his sons orders. Talk about family disagreements. One thing he did accomplish was to bring all the Viking Tribes of Norway and Denmark under the rule of one king and thus allowing them to communicate better. There is no sense attacking or making a deal to trade with one village if your Danish or Norwegian brother has already been there or vice versa .

Fast forward 1996: The age of the internet and the thing that's glued to the hand of every teenager; the SMARTPHONE! The tech geniuses at two phone companies Nokia and Ericsson wanted to standardize a new technology that supported short distance communication between a smartphone and different devices such as IPAD or Laptop computer. As the meeting progressed a code name for the project was needed and one person came up with Bluetooth. When asked why he replied King Harald Bluetooth who united Norway and Denmark. If tribe C had made a deal to trade with tribe A and tribe B pillaged and burned tribe C, there would be nothing to trade which is bad for business and most likely would start a war between tribes. Thus no trade no voyages to far off lands etc. So it was to all the Vikings benefit if they were united.

Bluetooth was to be a temporary name; they tested out such names as Personal Area Networking Or PAN and Radiowire but they really didn't catch on, so they stuck with Bluetooth. Think about it, what better name for a communication device to be named after someone who brought the Vikings together? Who says history doesn't matter?

