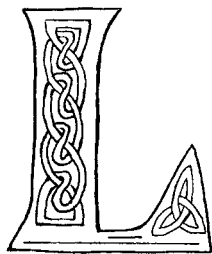


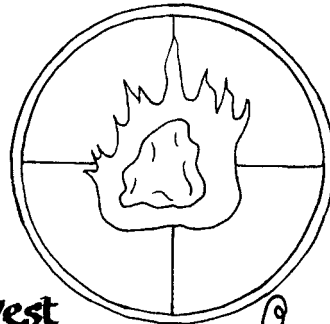
The Scarlet Letter

Shire of Loch Ruadh



The Shire of Loch Ruadh
invites you to

Lughnasad



Celtic Celebration of the Harvest
August 8-10, 2008
Canton First Monday Trade Days
Canton, TX

Activities:

A&S Competition Chivalric Competition
Rapier Competition Archery Competition

Knife, Axe & Spear Throw

Loch Ruadh Titled Bard

Youth Activities will include:

A&S, Bardic, Archery, Rapier, Boffer,
and the Donnybrook (watermelee).

Feast Menu:

Cold Meats

Vegetable Salad Pea Salad

Carrot Sticks Cheeses

Bread and Butter

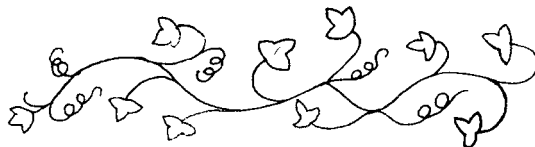
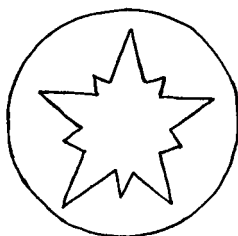
Fruit

Site Opens at 4:00 p.m. on Friday

Closes at 12:00 p.m. on Sunday.

Site is wet in period containers.

Pets must be on a leash
and attended at all times



July/August
(A.S. XLIII) (C.E. 2008)

Officers

Seneschal

Lady Brighid Nic Seward
(Sarah Rozell)
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Wylie, TX 75098
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Hospitaler

HLady Aingeal Mac an Ghabhann
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Subscription and Submission Information

The Scarlet Letter is a bi-monthly publication available free online at www.lochruadh.org. Printed copies will be available free of charge at populace meetings. Please let the Chronicler know if you want a printed copy so there will be enough available. If you would like a printed copy mailed to you, you must pay for postage. Postage is 0.41 x number of issues left in the year.

Submissions must include a written statement (email is fine) stating that permission is granted to publish in electronic and print format the article, photograph, poem, artwork, etc.

This is the July/August 2008 issue of *The Scarlet Letter*, a publication of the Shire of Loch Ruadh of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. (SCA, Inc.). *The Scarlet Letter* is available from Crystal Dozier, 5832 Lyle St, Ft. Worth, TX 76114. It is not a corporate publication of SCA, Inc. and does not delineate SCA, Inc. policies.

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Loch Ruadh Web Page:

<http://www.lochruadh.org>

Note: All Loch Ruadh meetings, practices, and gatherings are posted on the Loch Ruadh online calendar at www.lochruadh.org, and reminders are sent out on the the Loch Ruadh email list.

The email list is maintained on the Kingdom of Ansteorra web server and can be accessed at www.ansteorra.org. Both of these contain address information with online map links for directions. If you don't have computer or email access, please contact the Seneschal or any other Officer for directions.

"Tales of Building the Gate" by Lord Padraig Ruad O'Maolagain (Sam Milligan), "Loch Ruadh Lughnasad Ad" by HL Aingeal Mac an Ghabhann (Angelia Myers), "Loch Ruadh Invitation" by Floria Blackdragon (Crystal Dozier) and Rose de Harwell (Jacklyn Crisp) All Rights Reserved. All clip art images taken from www.hasslefreeclipart.com. Permission to use on Terms of Service page which can be found at: www.hasslefreeclipart.com/pages_terms.html. All items used with permission from the original creators.

Seneschal

Greetings Loch Ruadh,

The good news is that I have healed enough to resume my duties as Seneschal. I would like to thank Aingeal for stepping in and keeping things going while I was out of service. She did a great job of keeping me in the loop and keeping things moving forward.

The offices of Archery Marshall and Exchequer are still open for bids. They will remain so until July business meeting on the 16th. We currently have one bid for each office. We prefer, whenever possible, to have more than one bid so that the Regionals have a couple from which to choose. If you are interested then please get your bids in soon. If you need help getting a bid together, let me know and I will help you!

Lughnasad is fast approaching! Planning is going well, but we still need volunteers! We need some help for set up, working gate shifts, working security shifts, among other things, so please make sure you sign up to help out. If you're not sure what you can do then speak with Terrence, Pdraig, Aingeal, or myself and we can get you going on something. If you can't commit to something prior to the event then please make yourself available at the event. There are always things that need done. Many hands make light work - so volunteer as much as you are able!

In Service,
Lady Brighid
Seneschal



Chronicler

Lughnasad is coming up fast! Please send in your stories of our wonderful event for the next Scarlet Letter so those who could not attend can see what they missed and those that were there can relive fond memories. The deadline is August 20.

In Service,
Floria Blackdragon

Archery

Bids are being taken for Archery Marshal now. Any one interested should put in a bid to the Central Archery Marshal, Bridget and myself by Officer's meeting, July 18th.

All archers should be sharpening up their points for Lughnasad. We will have the usual Dragon slaying for the Children and a Archer's duel at twenty paces for the adults.

Practices this period have been the usual 6 to 10 people.

Gruffydd Mawr ap Rodri,
Archery Marshal, Loch Ruadh

Hospitaler

Greetings Loch Ruadh,

The group is having a good summer. We have had a few new people join us and several have contacted our group. We currently have 118 members reading our list and I only have a few emails that I do not recognize. As we enter this busy time getting ready for Lughnasad please do not forget to greet that unfamiliar face. Please let me know if I can help get anyone ready for Lughnasad.

In Service to Loch Ruadh,
HL Aingeal Mac an Ghabhann
Hospitaler

Exchequer

Greetings Loch Ruadh,

We are beginning to ramp up to Lughnasad and receipts should be coming in. Thank you for being mindful of your budgets and for your frugality. There are many opportunities to volunteer for Lughnasad including Gate shifts. Sign up for a Gate shift early and often.

My office is up for bid. This is not a difficult job, but it requires responsibility and accuracy. I would like to thank all those that have put in a bid or intent to.

Your exchequer,
Antonia Visconti

Chamberlain

Greetings Loch Ruadh,

I want to express my thanks to Terrence and Floria for their generous donations to the library. Terrence donated Gulf War booklet XVI, the library is now only missing the Gulf War X booklet to complete the set. Floria donated a copy of The Renaissance in Europe: A Cultural Enquiry - Courts, Patrons and Poets. So far this month 4 people have checked books out of the library. I hope to have the complete library catalog available on line soon.

If when cleaning out those closets, drawers, nooks, crannies and tubs you find something that belongs to the Shire you can contact me, bring it to a meeting or drop it off at Aingeal and Caerell's. You will receive my thanks and whatever it was can be added to the inventory.

If you are a coordinator for Lughnasad and need equipment on site please contact the autocrat, Terrence with a list of your needs. The load out crew can't put it on the trailer if the autocrat didn't know you needed it.

Loch Ruadh Chamberlain,

~~*~*(~'~, Dana ,~'~)~*~*~*

Gulf War Gate

For those that were not at Populace I am very happy to report that on our last trip to the Gulf War land we were able to complete enclosing the gate! I would like to thank everyone that lent a hand, both on this trip and the previous trips. The work on the gate is far from over, but this was a large hurdle that we overcame.

I would like to plan our next trip sometime in the two months after Lughnasad in September or October. On our next trip we need to finish concrete work on the underside of the gate horizontal, patch and fill gaps in the concrete on the existing structure, and weatherproof the very top of the gate somehow. We also need to be moving toward adding some type or design of wing wall and improving the concrete work around the doors to fully cover the frame.

If you have not seen pictures of the gate, please contact me and I will be glad to show you the pictures I have on my computer.

Lord Terrance adte Syke

Minister of Arts & Sciences

Greetings from your A&S Minister! I am currently very busy trying to prepare for Lughnasad, but stand by for some short notice A&S activities between now and August 8th. Sometime in July I will have an A&S class on soapstone casting that will include stringing and finishing our Lughnasad site tokens. We will also be having a get together to make our children's archery dragon before Lughnasad. Please look for these to be scheduled and help if possible.

On the list I mentioned an exhibit in Oklahoma City that is showing Roman artifacts and I seemed to have several positive comments. I will be asking around in the next few weeks to see if there is interest in attending and as it would be such a long trip, if carpooling or staying overnight might be agreeable.

Our Knights Marshall recently discussed with me the idea of holding a joint Fighter practice and A&S at the park some Sunday. At present my idea is to have a "Do Your Own Thing" day, where those not fighting are encouraged to bring whatever A&S project you are currently working on. This would also help our Hospitaler, as those visiting may also be interested in some of the A&S activities. Look for this event in conjunction with a future Sunday Fighter practice.

I would like to also take time to recognize everyone that has been taking a hand on our A&S activities. Let me thank everyone that has been hosting S&I's, Needleworkers Guild, and our other A&S classes and activities. Each and every one of you, we could not have done without your help and support!

Lord Terrance adte Syke



Lughnasad Autocrat

Lughnasad draws near! Although we are a little behind in some areas, most of the planning for Lughnasad is going well. In the next few days we will be announcing dates for load out for equipment we need on site and we will be passing sheets to sign up for gate and security watches.

All of the coordinator slots have been filed, but we will be looking for other volunteers for loading and unloading, list mistresses, water bearers, feast servers, and the vast numbers of other volunteers needed to make a successful event. We also need donations for prizes and silent auction items.

Most of all we need your attendance! Do Loch Ruadh a great favor and invite everyone you contact to our event and plan to be there yourself! No matter how well an event is planned and run it will never be a success without attendees! So please, help us to make Lughnasad a success!

Lord Terrance adte Syke

Tales of the Building of the Gate

Padraig Ruad O'Maolagain

As many Ansteorrans gathered for the annual weekend-long festival of Steppes Warlord, a hardy band of Loch Ruadhans made the long journey to the Gulf Wars site, Kings Arrow Ranch, in the hinterlands of Gleann Abhann, to complete the gate we erected on our land there.

This stalwart crew consisted of Kaz, Antonia, Ari, Rinna, Mario, Alric, Gruffydd, Terrence, and this humble bard. We left Loch Ruadh late on Friday afternoon, arriving on site in the wee hours of Saturday morning. Alric has been sojourning in Gleann Abhann due to his mundane job, and had arrived some hours earlier, setting up a tent and patiently awaiting our arrival, with beer chilling in the cooler. After making camp, despite the late hour, we relaxed for a short time and indulged in a most welcome draught of nature's most perfect beverage (beer) before retiring.

Although our bedtime was quite late, we were nonetheless up not long after sunrise to begin the workday (it's hard to sleep when the sun is shining through the tent and the temperature inside is rapidly rising into the nineties). Antonia cooked us a wonderful breakfast of

pancakes and sausage to fortify us for the long day ahead, and though we were sorely tempted to linger over our meal, as soon as we were finished eating, we fell to the task before us.

As with nearly all building projects, our work involved several unplanned trips over the next day and a half, first to Lumberton for cement mix, then to Hattiesburg for wood, tools, and for replacements for tools that stopped working properly. (If this seems odd to you, you either 1) are not a man, or 2) have never undertaken any sort of building project. The necessity for multiple unplanned trips is a natural law, much like gravity or Murphy's Law.) Without Kaz's and Alric's willingness to use their own funds to make the purchases, we would not have been able to get as much as a third of the work done that we did. We owe them a large debt of gratitude (as well as repayment from the Gate Fund as soon as we can raise the money).

Everyone worked long and hard in the Gleann Abhann heat and humidity, including Ari and Rinna, who fetched and carried and were up and down the ladders, handing up the cement-soaked burlap to the adults applying it to the uprights and the crosspiece. At one point or another, all of us wished we were Mario's age, as he went up and down the dirt road next to the campsite with his toy dump truck, or attacked the nearby vegetation with a wooden sword - he, at least, had a lot of fun. It will be interesting to see him with boffer weapons as soon as he is of age - he has the makings of a real warrior.

An amazing amount of work was accomplished that day, and we worked until it was nearly dark. The heat, humidity, our general exhaustion and the fact that we were all more or less covered in cement (plus the problem that the hot water wasn't on in the shower house) prompted us to seek out rooms at the Kings Arrow Ranch motel (formerly the Georgetown), not only for the showers, but to be able to sleep in air conditioning. After cleaning up (hot showers are the apex of civilization, with air conditioning a close second), we made our way to Hattiesburg for a late dinner, waited on by a young lady at Mazzio's Pizza who had attended her first Gulf War this year and is a member of the Shadow Legion. Those of you who have been to War may recall that Shadow Legion's encampment is just up the Queen's Highway from Loch Ruadh, at the upper intersection of Queen's and Duvant Circle, so we invited her to come and visit us at the next War. Returning to the inn after our meal, we were all too tired to even attempt a bardic gathering. I settled for playing a couple of songs and drinking a beer before collapsing in bed for the night.

The next morning Alric and I headed back to

Hattiesburg to pick up supplies as soon as Lowe's opened at 8:00am, while the rest of the crew headed back to the land to work at other tasks until we returned. We had hoped to leave for home by the early afternoon, but problems, necessary modifications in what we were doing, and another trips to Hattiesburg for more tools/supplies pushed our completion time, and therefore our departure time, further and further back. We did finally manage to leave before dark, with the greatest portion of the work done, and the gate wholly covered if not in its final and complete form. The last thing we did was to hang the sign to proclaim for all to see that this is Loch Ruadh. While not in its finished, final form, the difference between the mostly open structure that had stood since our previous Gate work trip and the fully covered gate with the sign attached is incredible.

Departing when we did was a most excellent happenstance, as we had promised Chantel to get Terrence back in time for them to celebrate their first wedding anniversary - and though it was indeed the wee hours of the morning once again when we arrived in Terrell, at least he was home for that important day. Alric, unfortunately, had to return to Vicksburg, where he has been in exile for his mundane employment. After accompanying Terrence to Terrell, Gruffydd and I set off separately for Loch Ruadh, where I arrived home just as the false dawn was lightening the eastern sky. And so ended our weekend's adventure.

The tasks that we accomplished:

The rest of the uprights, along with the sides and top of the crosspiece are now covered by the same sort of burlap and cement mortar mix with which the lower portions of the uprights and the corner posts have been covered. For the underside of the crosspiece, Kaz had built a separate framework that we covered with the burlap/mortar mix that was to be lifted up and attached to the underside of the crosspiece (between the uprights) with screws. While the concept was good, the reality didn't work as well as hoped, so we came up with the alternate plan of getting 1/4 inch plywood, coating one side with water sealant, stapling burlap to the other side, attaching it to the underside of the uprights with screws, and then using a paint roller to coat the surface with mortar. We managed to get the plywood cut, sealed, covered and put in place, but ran out of both time and energy, so the bottom, while covered, is not yet coated in mortar. The Loch Ruadh sign was hung from the underside of the crosspiece rather than being fixed to the front of the crosspiece as previously planned, both because the crosspiece needs more mortar/burlap to be applied to complete it,

and also to provide the sign more protection from the elements. It can be relocated later when the crosspiece is completed, if desired.

Tasks that still need to be done:

1) Coat the underside with mortar. After the initial coats have been applied, we can subsequently work on building up heavier layers in some areas to give it a more uneven and weathered appearance. This may require the application of some more substantial medium than the burlap that is presently there, to support the initial coating of mortar.

2) Frame the top, either with 1/4 inch sealed plywood, or as Terrence has suggested, the slab styrofoam that is used in house building. The styrofoam has the advantage of being lighter and already waterproof. Either way, the resulting surface will then be covered with mortar. The existing pitch of the structure will ensure rain runoff. This will also provide us with watertight storage space inside the uprights.

3) Recoat the entire structure in more mortar, using more burlap where needed to seal any gaps, holes, or too obvious sharp right angles. As with the corner posts, this will give the structure a more stone-like appearance, plus the more coats of mortar we apply, the stronger and more watertight the overall structure will be.

4) Add sconces, torches, ensigns, or whatever else is desired. Complete the wing walls.

5) Alric and I have plans to make Celtic knotwork designs to add to either end of the sign - they will be raised out from the surface rather than carved into it like the lettering.

While the gate is not "done", all the major work is completed, the entire structure is now covered, and looks much better than it did with the exposed framework. A second work trip later in the year should allow us to do much of the work I've listed above, and also to concentrate on mowing/clearing that we didn't have time to do this trip. The completed gate will be a wonder to behold, and in my opinion, one of the most impressive gates on the Gulf War site.

I've been asked if there have been any songs or tales to come out of this work trip. I do have at least one filk in mind, to the tune of "The Battle of New Orleans", but so far my muse has been uncooperative in helping me to complete it. I do promise to work on it though, and perhaps one or two other ideas niggling at me - it seems to me that perhaps an epic poem in Norse alliterative style might be appropriate for this whole project. But we'll see.

Kingdom Calendar

July

- 4-6 open
- 11-13 Coronation - Stargate (Houston, TX)
- 18-20 Queen's Champion - Bryn Gwlad (Austin, TX)
- 25-27 Crown Tournament - Mooneschadowe (Stillwater, OK)
- 25-31 Out of Kingdom - Pennsic XXXVII

August

- 1-3 Out of Kingdom - Pennsic XXXVII
- 8-10 Out of Kingdom - Pennsic XXXVII Lughnasad - Loch Ruadh (Benbrook-Weatherford, TX)
- 15-17 Steppes Artisan - Steppes (Dallas, TX)
- 22-24 King's Round Table - Mooneschadowe (Stillwater, OK)
- 29-01 Gothic Wars XVII - Trelac (San Angelo, TX)

September

- 5-7 Gate's Edge Fall Event - Gate's Edge (N Houston, TX)
- 12-14 Laurel's Prize - TBA Jagermeister - Ffynnon Gath (San Marcos, TX)
- 19-21 Defender of the Fort - Raven's Fort (Huntsville, TX) Mooneschadowe Triumphe of the Eclipse Mooneschadowe (Stillwater, OK)
- 26-18 Elfsea Defender XXVI - Elfsea (Ft. Worth, TX)

October

- 3-5 Battle of Three Kings XIV - Send in the Khans - Rosenfeld (Tyler, TX)
- 10-12 Namron Protectorate - Namron (Norman, OK) Tourney by the Loch - Loch Soilleir (Clear Lake, TX)
- 17-19 Ursae-Lyons - Bjornsborg (San Antonio, TX) Battle of the Pines - Graywood (Lufkin, TX)
- 24-26 Samhain Celebration - Eldern Hills(Lawton/Ft. Sills, OK) Seawinds Defender - Seawinds (Corpus Christi, TX) Central Regional Academy of the Rapier - Rosenfeld and Dragonsfire Tor (Tyler, TX)
- 31-2 Bryn Gwlad Baronial - Bryn Gwlad (Austin, TX)

Events in Loch Ruadh

July

- Wed 2 - Populace Meeting IHOP on Quebec 8:00 pm
- Sat 5 - Lord Padraig's Annual Wake Lord Padraig's
- Sun 6 - Fighter Practice Z Boaz Park 10:00 am Archery Practice Dutch Branch Park 2:00 pm
- Tues 8 - Needleworkers Guild Meeting Mistress Caterina Fregoso's
- Tues 15 - Fighter Practice Lord Padraig's 7:00 pm
- Wed 16 - Officer's Meeting 8:00 pm IHOP on Alta Mesa

Sat 19 - Lughnasad Planning Meeting 2:00 pm location tba

Sun 20 - Archery Practice Dutch Branch Park 2:00 pm

Mon 21 - Scribes & Illuminators 7:00 pm HL Aingeal and Laird Caerell's

Tues 22 - Needleworkers Guild Meeting Mistress Caterina Fregoso's

Sat 25 - Bardic Thomas and Floria's

August

Fighter and Archery Practice for August TBA.

Wed 6 - Populace Meeting IHOP on Quebec 8:00 pm

Fri 8 -Sun 10 Lughnasad Canton First Monday Trade Days

Tues 12 - Needleworkers Guild Meeting Mistress Caterina Fregoso's

Wed 20 - Officer's Meeting 8:00 pm IHOP on Alta Mesa

Tues 26 - Needleworkers Guild Meeting Mistress Caterina Fregoso's

Loch Ruadh's Meeting Places

Archery Practice
Park Road
Dutch Branch Park
Benbrook, TX 76126

Fighter Practice
Z Boaz Park
S Z Boaz Park Rd
Benbrook, TX 76126

Mistress Caterina Fregoso
4341 Meadowknoll
Fort Worth, TX 76123
817-423-4807

Thomas and Floria's
5832 Lyle St
Fort Worth, TX 76114
817-738-7720

Populace Meeting
IHOP
5920 Quebec Street
Fort Worth, TX 76135

Officer's Meeting
IHOP
3700 Alta Mesa
Fort Worth, TX 76133

Laird Caerell & Honorable Lady Aingeal's
2604 Creekwood Ln
FortWorth, TX 76123
817-294-8136

Lord Padraig's
3808 Arroyo Drive
Weatherford, TX 76087
817-599-4192



*The Shire of Loch Ruadh invites you to
Lughnasad*

The Celtic Celebration of the Harvest on August 8-10, 2008
at Canton First Monday Trade Days, Canton, TX
Opens at 4:00pm Friday and closes at 12:00pm Sunday.

Activities

Titled Bard of Loch Ruadh Competition
A&S Competitions
Chivalric List
Rapier List
Archery Competition
Knife Axe & Spear Throw

Children's Activities

A&S
Bardic
Archery
Rapier
Boffer
The Waterball Melec

Sumptuous Warm Weather Evening Sideboard

Fees:

\$11.00 for adults (plus Non Member Surcharge if not a paid member), \$9.00 for children 13-17, \$5.00 for children 6-12, Children 5 and under are free.
\$33.00 family maximum.
Sideboard included with site fee.

Co-Event Stewards: autocrat08@lochruadh.org
No calls after 9:00pm

Lord Terrence adte Syke / Terry Sikes
1562 Dogpatch Dr., Terrell, TX 75161
Home : 972-524-6509

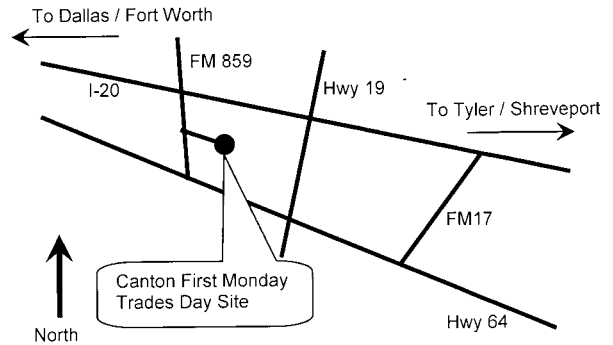
And
Lord Padraig Ruid O'Maolagain / Sam Milligan
3808 Arroyo Drive, Weatherford, TX 76087
Home: 817-599-4192 or Cell: 817-271-9513

Merchant Contact

Lady Sybil O'Dowd
Donna Floyd
817-805-1609
merchant08@lochruadh.org

Site

Canton First Monday Trade Days, Canton, TX
Opens at 4:00pm Friday and closes at 12:00pm Sunday.
The site is just off of I-20 about 1 hour east of Dallas.
From I-20, take exit 526. Go south on FM 859 approx 1.2 miles to the west gate entrance.
The site has shaded camping with water, electric outlets, showers and flush toilets.



Web Site <http://www.lochruadh.org/lughnasad/>

Pets are allowed as long as they are on a leash and attended at all times
Make checks payable to: SCA Inc. /Shire of Loch Ruadh.
Minors must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. They may also attend with a 21 year or older adult with a signed and notarized Minor Event Waiver Form from the parents.



**The Scarlet Letter
Shire of Loch Ruadh**

Floria Blackdragon
(Crystal Dozier)
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