

# The North Wind

NEWSLETTER OF THE BARONY OF LIONS GATE



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## In This Issue

A Message from  
your Baron

A Guide to SCA Research  
Projects Part 2:  
Documenting Your  
Research

Uncle Niall's Grand List  
of Medieval Whodunnits

Keys to the Kingdom

A Re-Creationist's Views  
on 'Living' in a Tent

Coming Events and  
more...



*Leather artistry by Angharad verch Cenydd*

## A Message from your Baron

Greetings Good Gentles of Lions Gate,

I hope you are all enjoying the sunny weather. Much has happened since last I sent words to you. We have a new Prince and Princess – long live Sethric and Kolbera – Summits has new heirs, three of the Kingdom's southern baronies have new rulers, we have some new officers and champions, and we are rolling out a new website.

Baroness Arianna and I have been travelling to other Baronies to see our cousins and spread the glory that is Lions Gate. We attended Aquaterra's Ursulmas Tournament and witnessed the changeover of their Baron and Baroness. Thank you Bryson and Angharad for your years of service and welcome to His Excellency Baron Sir Geirleikr and Her Excellency Baroness Sayyida. Baroness's War followed, hosted by the fair Barony of Vulkanfeldt, and just last weekend, we travelled to the orchards of Terra Pomaria to attend their premier event, Bar Gemels. There we witnessed the changeover of their Baron and Baroness Lin and Weylyn to His Excellency Thegn Clovis and Her Excellency Baronessa Ximena. Much merriment and Tablero followed.



In the next few months we have some exciting happenings. Several of our champions will be changing over at Lions Gate Champions and Lion's War. I encourage all gentles to enjoy the challenges at these events and compete for the titles.

We have heard of the Viking threat to the English Isle of Seagirt. I, as a Norman, am planning to go their aid and help.....protect them.....and I encourage all of you to join me in this noble effort. I am sure that they will welcome us with open arms and be incredibly thankful for our.....protection.

Also, we have Lion's War! (The event formerly known as TOA). It will be held on the August long weekend and will be an event like no other. Each and every discipline in the Society shall be represented with challenges of skill and stamina! We even have a castle, thanks Vikingr!

The testing of our Sergeantry and Courtier candidates will be happening at Lion's War, and the new Combat Archery championship will also take place at this war. We are also working on a Youth Championship for this event, as we would like to see our youth engaged and recognized in areas beyond combat. More info to come on this.

In Service to Lions Gate,

**Baron Cyneric**

### ABOUT THE NORTH WIND

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# A Guide to SCA Research Projects Part 2: Documenting Your Research

Written and contributed by Tanikh bint Farida al Bakim

## What is Documentation Anyway?

Essentially, it explains what you have been learning about your craft/item/subject and what you have been doing with that knowledge *in writing*. A term I prefer is 'provenance': Proof – does not just imply written sources, but *any* source of proof.

Basically, you have to answer three questions:

1. *What did they do?* (Brief explanation)
2. *How do I know this?* (This is a catalogue of your research - the 'sources', where you prove your 'what did they do')
3. *What did I do?* (Is it what they did, if not why not? e.g. 'I carved a replica of the ivory comb in size and design, but did not use real ivory because it is illegal to acquire' or 'I cannot afford silk damask, so I used a good synthetic approximation with the same weight and similar pattern for this bodice')

Depending on what you are using it for, you will want to be more specific in your explanations and more critical of your sources. For a local competition, sometimes oral provenance is enough. For Kingdom A&S, you will need a bit more and in writing / photos.

Beware of SCAisms, or 'everyone knows that'. Never say never (or always) It is better to say 'there is no evidence for' rather than 'they never' – and back it up with proof. Lack of proof against something is *not* proof for!

'Traditional' does not always mean ancient. More often than not, it can only be dated back to the 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century.

## Good Books vs. Bad Books

What are you looking for? How accurate do you want to be? Are you just going for the 'some attempt at' or do you want to reproduce a period artefact down to the smallest detail? This will determine how critical you are of your source.

Look for footnotes, references to sources, pictures (too many or too few? do captions state date and museum or collection?), date the book was written (the more recent the better in general), how is the book structured? Is it too general or too detailed for what you want?

Good books will have most if not all of the following elements:

title page	illustrations	tables, charts, graphs
copyright page	photographs	family trees, maps
table of contents	notes	glossary
introduction	citations	bibliography
chapters	appendix	index

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## Taking Photographs

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When taking photographs of architecture or of artefacts in a museum, be sure you have a reliable camera you trust and know how to use. Slides generally capture better detail than print film (high resolution digital cameras are the exception), and be sure you have the right kind of film for the venue (some museums use tungsten lights so you must have a filter or specific film or your pictures will come out yellow) You can use slower speed film and a tripod for outside architecture shots, but you will need high speed film for low light in museums. Also please respect the 'no flash' (or no photography!) rules in the museums. Make detailed drawings or ask if the museum sells slides or photos of the artefacts if you need to.

Note also that if you are photographing through glass, you may need a manually focusing camera, as auto-focus tends to focus on the glass and not the artefact behind it.

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## Taking Good Notes

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Only write on one side of the index card or notepaper - it makes organising your notes easier later.

Write all the bibliographic information (or museum catalogue number) at the top of the page for future reference.

Make notes in point form or short sentences. Put verbatim copying of author's words in quotes even in your notes in case you want to cite it later.

If you want to get a fairly long passage, you might just want to save time and energy and photocopy the page(s). Just remember to photocopy the title page of the book too, or write the information on the top of the photocopy. You can also trace line drawings out of books if you have no access to photocopiers or to save on copying costs (you just have to have tracing paper with you when you go to the library).

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## Mistress Asha's Five Research Elements:

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1. *Identification*: an outline describing the object or process
2. *Observation*: an examination of the object or process
3. *Study*: acquisition of the background, history and particulars of the object or process
4. *Experimentation*: a recreation of the object or process to demonstrate understanding
5. *Analysis*: a report that makes a coherent whole out of what began as disassociated facts

This is a good format in which to organise your research project, and to lay out your documentation/provenance as well.

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## Organizing Your Documentation:

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There are many ways to document your research. There is no one right or best way, as it depends on what you are doing it for. Are you writing up a card for a display? Are you documenting a contest entry? Are you going to write a paper? Are you performing a period play, pageant, or musical presentation?

- ◆ Keep it relevant, and in the case of provenance for competitions, keep it brief and to the point as well - judges have a limited amount of time to review it.
- ◆ For competitions, it is good to have an idea of the judging criteria ahead of time, and to know what kind of 'documentation' (or provenance) is expected. Get a copy of the judging form if you can (if there is one).
- ◆ Include things that are directly relevant to your work, but leave out that which is confusing or irrelevant.
- ◆ Include *clear* pictures, patterns (or scale diagrams), recipes, etc. in your presentation where helpful.
- ◆ A bibliography or list of references is a MUST.
- ◆ Credit those who helped in your research.
- ◆ Explain any conclusions or theories you have used, and back them up. Don't ignore or delete anything that contradicts your sources, you can refute them (e.g. five books say X, only one says Y, so I am inclined to go with X as the most plausible)
- ◆ Use point notes and/or headings for long or complicated documents so judges and readers can reference them quickly. You might want to highlight important points.

Please TYPE or WRITE NEATLY, and for heaven's sake, please do NOT calligraph your documentation. It must be NEAT and EASY TO READ.

Keep it all together in a binder, folder, or at least staple the pages together. Use a separate binder or folder for each entry in multiple entry competitions.

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**Check out 'A Guide to SCA Research Projects Part 3: "On Being More Authentic"' in the July 2019 issue of the North Wind.**

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## VACANT OFFICER POSITIONS

**The Barony of Lions Gate Needs YOU! Baronial officers are needed to keep the barony strong and the dream alive.** Our current process is to ask for applications for any opening and the outgoing officer for their recommendation. Ideally this is someone has been working with the officer and is aware of the details of the role. Please send your application or letter of intent to [Lionsgate.seneschal@tirrigh.org](mailto:Lionsgate.seneschal@tirrigh.org), [lionsgate.baron@tirrigh.org](mailto:lionsgate.baron@tirrigh.org), [lionsgate.baroness@tirrigh.org](mailto:lionsgate.baroness@tirrigh.org). Our current open Officer positions are:

- Minister of Families
- Sable Loat Pursuivant
- Warden for Youth Armoured Combat

Fulfilling the role of Deputy to an Officer is a great way to learn about the workings of any Office. We highly encourage anyone who is interested in learning more about a particular office to apply to the following Deputy positions. If you are interested or have any questions about the position, please contact the Seneschale.

- Deputy Minister of Stables
- Deputy Webminister
- Deputy Chronicler

# Uncle Niall's Medieval Whodunnits



A list of well-researched and compelling reads recommended by Niall an Bachach:

Author	Series Name	Books in Series	First Book in Series
Michael Jecks	Knights Templar Mysteries	40	The Last Templar
Conn Igguldin	Wars of the Roses	4	Stormbird
Karen Harper	Elizabeth I (solving mysteries!)	9	The Poyson Garden
Ellis Peters	Brother Cadfae	25	A Morbid Taste for Bones

## SCA HARASSMENT AND BULLYING POLICY

From the Society Seneschals Handbook:

### XXIV. SOCIETY SENESCHAL POLICIES & INTERPRETATIONS

#### 4. Harassment and Bullying

The SCA prohibits harassment and bullying of all individuals and groups.

Harassment and bullying includes, but is not limited to the following:

- offensive or lewd verbal comments directed to an individual;
- the display of explicit images (drawn or photographic) depicting an individual in an inappropriate manner;
- photographing or recording individuals inappropriately to abuse or harass the individual;
- inappropriate physical contact; unwelcome sexual attention; or retaliation for reporting harassment and/or bullying.

Participants violating these rules are subject to appropriate sanctions. If an individual feels subjected to harassment, bullying or retaliation, they should contact a seneschal, President of the SCA, or the Kingdom's Board Ombudsman. If a participant of the SCA becomes aware that someone is being harassed or bullied, they have a responsibility pursuant to the SCA Code of Conduct to come forward and report this behavior to a seneschal, President of the SCA or Kingdom's Board Ombudsman.

**The following statement must be posted at gate at every SCA event in a size large enough for people to see it as they enter our events. This language must likewise be quoted in ALL site handouts at every event a site where a handout is made available.**

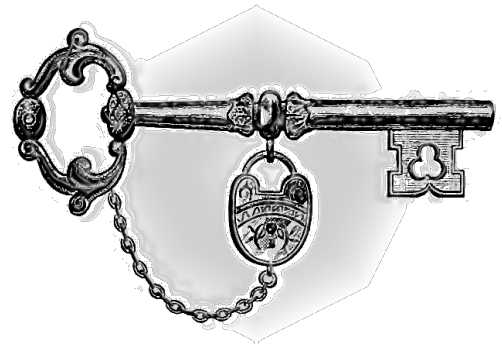
- THE SCA PROHIBITS HARASSMENT AND BULLYING OF ALL INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS.
- Participants engaging in this behavior are subject to appropriate sanctions.
- If you are subjected to harassment, bullying or retaliation, or if you become aware of anyone being harassed or bullied, contact a seneschal, President of the SCA, or your Kingdom's Board Ombudsman.

# Keys to the Kingdom

An ongoing series of columns from Lions Gate's Chatelaine

## Event Preparation for the New Comer

So you've made it to a couple of practices, and event season is looming on the horizon. Here are some ideas on what to bring!



**Day Events:** Many events early on in the year are single day outings. For these, you will need your garb (appropriate to the weather, of course), shelter, maybe a chair, food, and whatever supplies you need for the activities you plan to take part in. (If you have nothing for those yet, at the least bring a notebook and writing implement, so you can collect contact info from folks who are doing the things you want to!) If the event is a feast or a revel, you will want to put together a feast gear set, as well.

**Camping events:** as the year progresses, more events will be multi-day affairs with camping on site. Obviously you need to be more prepared for these: garb, shelter, food and activity supplies all still apply, but you will want to add bedding and ways to prepare your food and keep your kitchen sanitary, as well as toiletries and incidentals like light sources and bug repellent.

**Garb** is what we call the medieval clothes we wear at events. If you are a more organised type of person, you can make a pre-event checklist, so you don't forget any important things: accessories like shoes, a belt, pouch, veils, or cloak clasps are small and easily overlooked in the excitement of preparing for your first few events. Make sure you have all the layers you may need, depending on the expected weather, and a good idea is to pack a spare set of clean modern clothes to keep in your car in case you need to change into something dry if the weather turns inclement. Rudimentary garb is fine: all the SCA requires is "an attempt at pre-seventeenth century attire". For longer events, you will likely want a change of clothes, as well as a few options for undergarments, sleepwear, and for layering.

There is often loaner clothing available, which can be arranged through the local area's Chatelaine (if she knows you are coming, and may need some!) Some branches mark their loaner clothes with a badge, others may have donated or specially made items for folks to throw on over their modern clothes, or you may want to check the local branch's online forums for suitable items for sale or for clothiers willing to make you garb to order. It is an investment, so make sure you like the period, styles and colours before throwing down a lot of cash on outfits!

**Shelter:** For a day event, simple sunshades are an affordable, easily decorated option for giving you a comfortable place to sit. If you need to travel light, many folks make do with a cloak and hood for cold or wet weather, or a parasol for bright sun.

For the longer camping events, it is not necessary to have a perfectly authentic pavilion, ever, much less when you are just starting out! It is impressive and can add a lot to the ambience of an event, but if your tent stays in place in the wind and keeps you dry in the rain, that is what really matters. A lot of people choose to camp in modern tents and trailers because they pack down smaller and are easier to maintain than the classic pavilions and marquees, so there is no stigma attached to using these modern options. As you play, you may opt to disguise and decorate the modernities of tents and modern camping by making or purchasing fabric covers or wooden chests for your coolers and other belongings, but these are just nice touches to make your space more medieval-looking.

***Furnishings:*** for a day event, a folding camp chair or stool can be all you need to be comfortable. There are even extant medieval examples of wooden camp chairs and small tables that fold down, but again, when you are starting out these are hardly necessities. For a longer event, you will want a cot or bedroll, (whatever you require as far as camp comfort goes), and I highly recommend a chair for every member of your group, a table to cook on, and a suitable camp stove and kitchen utensils like a cooler, pots and pans and dishes. A light source is a super good idea as well, as quite often you will be cooking after dark. Make sure your camp kitchen has ways to start your stove, and that you are comfortable operating your camp stove before the event.

***Food:*** We all need to eat, so it's one of those things you want to make sure you are prepared for, whether you are just out for the day or are camping for a full long weekend.

At a sit-down feast, usually with tickets purchased well in advance and a published menu, you will only need to bring your feast gear (plate or trencher, bowl, cup and eating utensils) and all the night's food will be served to you at your table. For other day events, you should bring what you and your companions would need to eat over the course of the day. You can look into specific foods for your persona and era, or if you have not gotten that far in your personal research yet, you are pretty safe bringing along some bread or crackers, cheese, fresh or dried fruit, and juice. Obviously, if you have specific dietary requirements, you will need to ensure you have what you need for the day.

For longer camping events, menu planning for what you will eat and ensuring you have the cooling and heating materials necessary to keep the food safe and edible is just good planning. Some events have kitchens you can purchase into, where a cook takes care of the purchasing and preparation of food, but these are not guaranteed, and also may not be able to cater to specific dietary requirements, so if you have special needs, you will want to make sure you are covered.

***Activity Supplies:*** everything we do has necessary supplies and material, which you will gather as you participate. This category includes armour and weapons for the combatants; bows, arrows, bracers and gloves for the archers; looms, spindles, works-in-progress and thread for the fibre crafters; instruments and songbooks for the bards, and so on. Whatever you need to do the art or craft you are into, make sure to pack that along.

***Additional Packing Advice:*** Last thing into the vehicle is the first thing out, so pack accordingly. If the first thing you will need is a ground sheet for your tent, don't pack the ground sheet first, or you'll have to empty your vehicle to get to it!

Traveling light or taking transit? Pack somewhat lighter than you can carry, as you want to make sure you have the energy to have fun once you get to the event! I highly recommend wearing garb if it is practical to travel in, as it is both more convenient and can be a great conversation starter with possibly like-minded modern folks!

Bring more food than you are likely to eat: sharing food is a great way to make a friend, and you may surprise yourself with how hungry you are after a day of fighting, marshalling or heralding! Definitely bring more water: we tend to be underhydrated as a culture, and a headache is a bad thing to have at an event.

Pack your toiletries as an ongoing kit: trial sizes of toothpaste, mouthwash, antiperspirant, soap, shaving cream and shampoo and conditioner are easily available in many brands, and it just makes sense to keep them packed all the time. Good ideas to add can include sunscreen, bug repellent, analgesic cream, and bandaids. Also medications: always make sure to pack a few options of whatever medications you take on the regular. Some good generic ideas are painkillers, antacids, cold and flu pills, antihistamines, throat lozenges, and chapstick.

Coordinate with your travel companions: communicate beforehand who is bringing what, so you waste less space in your vehicle. If you can pack the day before the event, you save that travel time. Plan out the route and



any necessary meal or rest stops well beforehand, and I like to double check with Google maps that the route makes sense.

**Bring cash:** very few event gates or merchants take credit cards or debit, so make sure you have cash enough to get in the door and to purchase whatever you might want to at the event. I like to ensure I have an emergency \$20 bill tucked into my pouch in case I need it.

**A notebook and writing implements** is always a good idea: there are even options that look great with garb and do not detract from any one's medieval experience. These don't need to be large: in fact easily tucked into your pouch is a very reasonable size. I use mine to take notes on everything, but mostly as a way to get contact info from folks I want to reconnect with after the event. You can always use your phone, but we are trying to avoid excessively modern things, and one of the joys of the SCA is being able to disconnect from the modern world.

I hope this article helps you pack effectively for your events this season, and I also hope I get to see you out there! Until we meet, take care, and happy eventing!

**Briana Cassia**

Baronial Chatelaine of Lions Gate

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## Upcoming Baronial Events

**1 June / AS 54**

**Lions Gate Champions** - Werner Loat Park

4250 Piper Street, Burnaby, BC

Event Stewards: Master James Wolfden and Duncan of Aberfoyle

**Be it known to all who may be lovers of Chivalry that there will be held on the 1st of June 2019 at the historic site of Warner Loat Park a series of Champion Tournaments for the Barony of Lions Gate.**

Champions will be chosen in Archery, Armoured Combat, Rapier, and Thrown Weapons. All challengers are summoned to vie in single combat for the right to be named Champions and stand by their Dread Baron in times of war. For those who prefer the finer arts, we offer the challenge of a depicting The Bog Beast in any medium.

As the site does not allow crossbows, the tournament to determine the Combat Archery Champion will be moved to Lions War on the August Long Weekend to allow participation from all combat archers.

**Site Open:** 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.      **Site Fee:** \$15 (\$5 discount for SCA Members)

**2 - 5 August / AS 54**

**Lions War** - Island 22 Equestrian Site

45695 Cartmell Road, Chilliwack, BC

Event Steward: Caemgen mac Garbith ui Andrais

Barony of Lions Gate hosts a 4-day long weekend camping event including: solo and group martial activities, A&S and bardic, newcomer and Sergeantry Trials activities (more information to come).

For more information on upcoming Baronial events, please see the events calendar on the Barony website at <http://lionsgate.tirrih.org/events/events.php>

# A Re-Creationist's Views on 'Living' in a Tent

Written and contributed by Tanikh bint Farida al Bakim

In the SCA, (and other living history re-enactment groups as well) at some point we are going to want a tent (or some other protective structure) to live in for the weekend. As well, some of us also want to be historically accurate, yet still work within a limited budget and with materials available to the modern world. There may also be ethical issues about some materials, such as ivory or whalebone structural elements, or enough leather to make a whole tent out of. We may also be trying to create a tent used by a culture that existed in a very different climate from our own. In addition to all this, we may have storage issues at home for bulky bundles or long poles, and limitations on length and/or weight for transporting the same. We will have to work around these challenges.

The first step is to assess what we need in our tent. After that, research into what types of tents existed in our chosen time and place, get an idea of what we would ideally like to have, and how it was constructed, historically. The last step is to find a solution that fits both our budget and construction skill level, meshed with how much we are willing to sacrifice historical accuracy for budget/convenience. Sometimes we might even find the historical solution is better (or at least as good as) the modern one!

Tents, in some fashion or another, have probably been around almost as long as we have. Even apes are known to build temporary shelters of palm fronds. We have come a long way since then, and can now put a whole circus (or roof a sports stadium!) inside a tent..

Even the most outlandish mountaineering tent still has its basic structure founded in the roots of time, and everything old really is new again...

## Tents as Primary Residences

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As far back as History can document, there have been vast numbers of Nomads who's only residence has been some sort of portable shelter. According to a CIBA review article, (written in 1969), as many as 15 million people still lived in tents year round (I am still in search of more recent data, on Nomads, but the BBC stats 2015 state 24.5 million homeless and refugees living in 'tent cities'). This includes peoples such as the Asian Steppes Nomads who reside in Girs or Yurts, the Reindeer Hunters of Northern Scandinavia who live in tee-pee like tents, and North African Nomads such as the Tuaregs who live in wide tents.

## Tents as Temporary Structures

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All sorts of uses appear historically for tents, or temporary shelters, and there are just as many (if not more) uses for them in modern times.

Historically the uses range from quarters for Armies on campaign, temporary day shelters for tournaments and fairs, booths for travelling merchants, to canopies for portable chairs of state, and so on. We still use them for recreation, travel, sunshades for camping or backyard bar-b-q's, for special events in parks and fairgrounds, and the like.

## Types of Tents

Depending which source you read, there are a number of ways of classifying tents, and looking at the progression of their development. Essentially, you are looking at single central pole or multiple poles that come to a single point (like a Lapp tent or tepee), a variation on the tepee where the poles are bent over and stuck back into the ground (wigwam or 'loaf' style tent, or modern dome), or where one pole is supported horizontally (pup tent or Viking wedge style), and then interior frame structures such as Yurts or modern 'easy-ups'.

The Seven Basic Types (as quoted from Master Gerhard Kendal):

1. Wall-less: A 'roof' pegged down at the edges, then propped up with poles in the centre. Examples: Bedouin camel hair or Tibetan Yak wool tents.
2. Roofless: Wall poles tilted and secured to meet in a cone. Can be one room or divided into more. Examples: Indian Tepee, Scandinavian Lapp Tent.
3. Rigid Wall: Lattice wall with rigid roof poles supported on top of the walls. Covered with Felted cloth or leather, most commonly. Examples: Ger/Gir, Yurt.
4. Centre Pole: Rigid centre supporting pole. The modern external frame tent is based on this. The frame is designed to eliminate the pole in the centre of the 'living space'. Round or square, it can have one room or be divided into 2 or more. Examples: Persian, European, Modern Umbrella tent.
5. Ridge Pole: A horizontal pole supported at each end, with the roof suspended over it. The roof can be made of straw, wattle (woven reeds or withies), leather, linen, hemp or silk. One side of this tent can be raised to make it into an awning. Examples: Viking tent, Soldier's tent, Pup tent.
6. Rigid curved wall/roof: Sticks forced into the ground, bent over 180 degrees and stuck in the ground again, with the covering laid over this structure. Examples: Wigwam, Tuareg tent, 'Sugarloaf' tent, modern dome tents.
7. Wall Tent: Ridge pole design combined with vertical walls, often with multiple rooms. Examples: Greek, Roman, Mediaeval Officers tents, Modern 'cabin' tents.

A Note On Canopies over doors: These are extremely rare in historical depictions, but are very practical in rainy environments such as the Northwest Coast of North America or in the United Kingdom.

### RIDGE POLE TENT – AN EXAMPLE



*(photo and information courtesy of Master James Wolfden)*

**Geteld/Bell Hybrid tent sewn by Dame Margaret Hamilton of Stirlingshire from canvas painter's tarps.**

The first two times it was used, Master James and Dame Margaret weren't sure how it would hold up in the rain, so they set up a 2-man modern dome tent inside (just in case).

It held up well, so they stopped using the dome tent after that. They chose to make the tent 6.5 feet tall so it would be easier for them to put up and take down on their own. To speed set up, they use two portable holes to hold the support beams.

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## Tent Colour

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In Europe, bright colours appear to be most popular for most times, especially in stripes. However white or off-white are also seen frequently, with colour used on details such as along seam lines (waterproofing?) on valences, and so on. For more nomadic peoples, the body of the tent would be the colour of the wool (usually brown or black), but often painted with intricate designs, especially around the entrance(s).

With regards to constructing your own, remember that some colours will make the people inside the tent look ill (yellow, green and blue), and that red and blue are colours that tend to fade rapidly.

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## Modifying Modern Tents

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An external frame tent is just a modified structure to eliminate a centre pole inside the tent. You can add dagging or valences to cover these poles, or a fly should hide them. Cover the zipper with a 'tapestry' or replace the zipper with toggled or tied doors (a little less convenient, but won't have the 'zipping' sound). You can hang banners from corners or nearby the tent on their own poles.

Dome tents are based on the wigwam style of construction, and many cultures used them. You can create a 'cozy' to go over the tent that looks appropriate, but as long as it does not actually touch the tent under it, it does not need to be waterproof as the tent will have that function.

Beach or Patio Umbrellas can be converted to tents by hanging walls from the outside edge, and pegging the walls to the ground. These have limitations in size and in the amount of weight they will tolerate (remember to factor in how much the fabric will weigh if it gets soaked with rain).

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## Making Your Own Tent

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Design - What do you want it to look like? How historically accurate do you want to be? (A centre pole with roofline ring will reduce the footprint of the ropes [crowsfeet or not] from the more accurate rope from centre pole out past roofline design) How easy will it be to erect for the usual number of people who will be living in it (and their physical limitations)? How much space will it take up in your vehicle, and how much will it weigh if you have to transport it home wet (single piece construction vs separate walls from roof)? Will the poles need to be sectional to fit in said vehicle?

Canvas - You can use 8-10 ounce Sunforger (or equivalent) for walls, but you might want to go a little heavier for the roof if the tent is large. And yes, I do recommend canvas over nylon, even the sun-resistant rip-stop type. Nylon does not look or behave like silk, despite what some say. Nylon really does require the same kind of care as canvas if you want it to

last, despite what some say. (Hang or set up until completely dry, keep it clean - regular mild dish soap and water, rinse well, and so on). That being said, if you really are set on it, some of the heavier grades of rip-stop nylon are okay, if less breathable (so it will require a sturdier structure, or more aerodynamic shape). However they are a little lighter than equivalent strength canvas, but the roof at least will most likely require a fly (as a heat baffle as well as to prevent leaks in wet weather). Whichever fibre you choose, make sure that it is impregnated with a fire retardant.

The best type of seam to use is a lapped seam (like the ones on jeans).

A fly, or internal hangings, are also a good way of keeping the tent warm in the cold, cooler in the heat, and hangings make a tent look more 'historical'. Smaller areas are easier to heat...

Poles - Painted wooden poles are the most attractive, as well as the most historically accurate, but aluminium or fibreglass resin may be lighter if constructing smaller structures. They are not strong enough for large tents. Historically, there is provenance for round, square, and hexagonal poles.

Ropes - Hemp, Jute, or Nylon. All have their strengths and weaknesses. Natural fibres have a tendency to stretch a bit more, but will last longer (and look more appropriate) if properly cared for. If you can find a good hemp rope, you are ahead of the game. Whatever fibre you choose, use quick adjust clips or sliding blocks (see diagram) to be able to adjust the rope tension for changes in temperature and humidity (both the ropes themselves and the tent fabric will change). The larger your tent and the longer your rope span, the more critical this is.

Pegs - Wooden stakes or strong cambered (angled lengthwise) steel or iron stakes are best and most appropriate. (Remember to pack a mallet to pound them.) An alternative is 10"-12" spikes from the hardware store with large washers soldered or otherwise adhered to the ends work too. Plastic or aluminium stakes do not hold the ground very well, and bend or break too easily. When pounding stakes, they should be angled 90 degrees to the rope (not perpendicular to the ground) for best stability.

Portable holes - there are 2 types; ones with a sharp end for pounding in the ground to stabilize poles, and ones with a flat plate on the bottom to hold poles so the structure can be erected indoors. They are often used to support awnings so there are few or no ropes in high traffic areas.

## The Site Plan

Now where am I going to set up this wonderful new tent I have?

Well, where is the list/war field? The Market? The Noisy section? The Quiet section? Where are the closest biffies? Closest garbage tip? Closest water supply? Is there an 'enchanted ground' for period encampments, and if so where is it? How close to/far from these do I want to be?

Now that you have chosen the area, what about your site itself? You should erect your tent with the door facing away from open water to reduce effects from wind. Don't put your tent in the bottom of a hollow, because if it rains you will end up in a shallow lake (or at least an unpleasant muddy bog). If you have to opt for a slight grade, place your head(s) uphill (prevents waking

## ALTERNATIVE IDEA: TUDOR ON WHEELS



**As a creative and comfortable alternative to a traditional tent, Seamus McKinneach opted to construct a Tudor home on wheels. Once the home is set up on site, the wheels are hidden with a stone-patterned skirting.**

*(photo courtesy of Seamus McKinneach)*

feeling ill or with a headache, or so the person at the bottom of the slope does not end up crowded by those 'uphill' sliding or rolling down).

Choose a site with some shade, particularly in the afternoon, if you can, or erect your sunshade such that it provides its optimum shade in the afternoon.

If you camp with children and/or pets, investigate the hazards of the site and educate yourself and your children about them, and camp away from them if you can (examples are open water, toxic or aggressive plants or wildlife, barbed wire or electric fences, and so on).

When you lay out your site plan, think 'open courtyard' in the centre or on one side, surrounded by the group's main dining shelter and sleeping tents if it is large, or your tent fronted by said shelter (fly or canopy) if it is not. Mediaevally, this was a defensive strategy as well as being an ergonomically sound one. The most important tents were in the centre, surrounded by decreasingly valuable/lower status ones. Consider the prevailing winds for your camp and cook fires as well (See my other article that deals with camp kitchens specifically for more detailed information). If you have a fire pit or camp fire, you must lay out a 'fire safety zone' around it. This means a clear path around the fire where no tools or furniture are allowed to be set, and tent or awning ropes do not cross. You don't want someone tripping and falling into the fire, or getting too close and setting clothing or other items on fire.

Lighting: You will need to provide SAFE lighting at night, and mark your tent ropes with bits of white cloth or other markings that will make them more visible, especially at night. This is especially important near paths or high traffic areas. If you intend to have open flame lighting or a fire pit (or even a camp stove), you must take along a fire extinguisher as well, and have it in an easily accessible place that everyone in the camp is aware of. Please, please, please do not use tiki torches (or rush lights) in fire season (or at all, for that matter). Candles in enclosed lanterns, or olive oil lamps are the only period lighting sources I would recommend over battery powered lights.

## Heraldry

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Finials on top of tent poles can both add a period feel and help to hold the tent fabric onto the pole in strong winds. Rooftop finials with pennants are common in historical illustrations. Some are postulated to be, in fact, wooden vanes.

You can paint your device (or an heraldic motif that represents you) on, above, or on either side of the door of your tent, all of which appear in period illustrations of encampments.

You could also construct a freestanding standard, banner, or pennant that has your arms or a heraldic motif that represents you on it (how about a swinging placard with an illustration that represents your craft or the name of your 'inn' -like a prancing pony?- outside your merchant tent).

*HAVE FUN! - It is going to be your 'home away from home', so, ultimately, YOU decide what it will look like, YOU are the one you have to please...*

\*For more information, see my articles on Camp Kitchens, Emergency Tent Repair, Complete Camping Course (Formerly Tourney Survival), and Tent Construction

# Lions Gate Meetings & Practices

Unless otherwise noted, the fee for practices is \$5 for each adult (children are generally free). More information on regular practices and meetings can be found on the Barony of Lions Gate events calendar at <http://lionsgate.tirrigh.org/events.html>.

## Baronial Council

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**Third Wednesday of the month (usually not held in December).**

Vancity Community Room - 3977 North Road Burnaby BC Canada V3J 1S2

Parking in the rear of the building or on the street, no washroom but there is a gas station next door that allows those using the meeting space to use theirs.

Do not use the underground as the gate closes at 8 pm but there are plenty of spaces in the lot at the back of the building as well as on the street. Overflow parking across the street at the strip mall.

The door to the meeting room is next to the ATM vestibule

**Baronial council is where the "business" side of the Barony is run. All members are encouraged to attend, and there is no cost associated with council.**

Archos Morweena, Seneschale, Barony of Lions Gate

Council minutes can be found on the Baronial website at: <http://lionsgate.tirrigh.org/minutes.html>.

## Monday Night Practice (during wet months only - resumes September 23)

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Westwinds Community Church, 6331 176th Street, Surrey. **Please use back entrance to parking lot.**

**Directions:** Find Cloverdale: Highway #1, from East or West - take the 176th Street/Cloverdale exit to Cloverdale, or Highway # 10 - hooks up to 176th, follow the signs to Cloverdale.

Border Crossings: again, follow the signs to Cloverdale - the truck crossing is 176th Street on the Canadian side of the border, the Peace Arch crossing will lead you to the #10.

### Heavy Combat, Rapier Combat, Cut & Thrust

**Every Monday evening, 7 pm to 10 pm.** For more information, notices, and the most current location of the Monday Night Practice, see our Facebook Group.

### Monday Night A&S

We are adding some classes to help support the Monday Night Fight Practice. The purpose of these classes are to have more people attend the practices and pay site fee. If an instructor requires more of a fee for supply costs, we will indicate that in the description. Please check the Facebook Group for updates on these classes, or contact the A&S Minister at [lionsgate.artsnsci@tirrigh.org](mailto:lionsgate.artsnsci@tirrigh.org) for details.

## Tuesday Night Practice (May 21 to September 17)

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### Heavy Combat, Rapier Combat, Cut & Thrust

**Every Tuesday evening, 7pm to 10pm during the summer. (May 21 to September 17)** at Baron Cynric and Baroness Ariana's home. Please email [lionsgate.marshal@tirrigh.org](mailto:lionsgate.marshal@tirrigh.org) for the address.

## Thursday Night Practice

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### Rapier Combat, Heavy Combat

Every Thursday Night, 7:30pm to 9:30 pm - Justice Institute of BC, 715 McBride Blvd, New Westminster, BC (in gym basketball court)

Parking is free, at the back of the hall; access is from the alley. The site is a 10 minute bus ride from Columbia Skytrain station and centrally located for all of Lions Gate.

## Archery & Thrown Weapons Practice

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### Archery Sundays and Thursdays ♦ Thrown Weapons Sunday only

All archery and thrown weapons practices are held year round at Taisce Stables, 4586 96 St. Delta, V4K 3N3. Parking is in the gravel area as you drive in.

### Sunday Archery & Thrown Weapons

Set up begins at 11 am. Help is always welcome and appreciated! Practice starts at noon and runs to 3 or 4 PM.

**POTLUCK:** This occurs every Sunday in tandem with our practices. Please bring something to share: drink or food item.

### Thursdays - Archery Only

6pm to 9pm, (there will be no loaner gear available at this practice)

For more details and updates check out the Lions Gate Archery and Thrown Weapons Facebook page or contact the Baronial Archer at [lionsgate.archery@tirrigh.org](mailto:lionsgate.archery@tirrigh.org).

## Arts & Sciences

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### Arts & Sciences Nights

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month from 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm, there is a social get-together to work on projects. Sometimes there will be a class offered. Details will be posted on the calendar and the Baronial Facebook page. You can also contact the A&S Minister at [lionsgate.artsnsci@tirrigh.org](mailto:lionsgate.artsnsci@tirrigh.org) for details.

### Wednesday Cook's Meeting

On the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month from 7 pm to 9 pm, people interested in medieval cooking get together to eat and chat about food. Bring some food to share (medieval or otherwise) and join the culinary fun! Details will be posted on the calendar and the Baronial Facebook page. You can also contact the A&S Minister at [lionsgate.artsnsci@tirrigh.org](mailto:lionsgate.artsnsci@tirrigh.org) for details.

## Equestrian Activities

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Practice Information for 2019 to come, please stay tuned.



# Compendium



**Their Royal Majesties of An Tir - King Kjartan Dreki and Queen Sha'ya Kjartanskona**  
([king@antir.sca.org](mailto:king@antir.sca.org), [queen@antir.sca.org](mailto:queen@antir.sca.org), [crown@antir.sca.org](mailto:crown@antir.sca.org)).



**Their Highnesses of Tir Righ - Prince Sethric Einarsson and Princess Kolbera Varsdottir** ([prince@tirrigh.org](mailto:prince@tirrigh.org), [princess@tirrigh.org](mailto:princess@tirrigh.org)).



**Baron & Baroness of Lions Gate - Baron Sir Cyneric Bearson & Baroness Arianna Freemont of the Clan MacBeighn**  
([baron@lionsgate.tirrigh.org](mailto:baron@lionsgate.tirrigh.org), [baroness@lionsgate.tirrigh.org](mailto:baroness@lionsgate.tirrigh.org))

## Baronial Council

**Seneschale:** Archos Morweena  
(please email for contact phone number)  
[Lionsgate.seneschal@tirrigh.org](mailto:Lionsgate.seneschal@tirrigh.org)  
Contingency Deputy Seneschal: His Lordship  
Cáemgen mac Garbith ui Andrais

**Family Activities Coordinator:** Vacant  
[lionsgate.families@tirrigh.org](mailto:lionsgate.families@tirrigh.org)

**Chancellor of the Exchequer:** Her Ladyship  
Archos Anika Styfe  
[lionsgate.exchequer@tirrigh.org](mailto:lionsgate.exchequer@tirrigh.org)  
Contingency Deputy Exchequer: Vacant

**Chamberlain:** Fergus of Glamis  
[lionsgate.chamberlain@tirrigh.org](mailto:lionsgate.chamberlain@tirrigh.org)

**Sable Loat Pursuivant:** HL Sergeant Laric Godwin  
[lionsgate.herald@tirrigh.org](mailto:lionsgate.herald@tirrigh.org)  
Deputy: Her Ladyship Theodora van Zeeland

**Minister of Stables:** Sgt. Brynja Kortsdottir  
[lionsgate.marshal@tirrigh.org](mailto:lionsgate.marshal@tirrigh.org)

**Minister of Blades:** Davin Adair  
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**Baronial Archer:** Master James Wolfdon,  
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**Minister for Thrown Weapons:** Duncan of  
Aberfoyle, [lionsgate.thrownweapons@tirrigh.org](mailto:lionsgate.thrownweapons@tirrigh.org)

**Minister of Lists:** Mistress Agnes Cresewyke,  
[lionsgate.lists@tirrigh.org](mailto:lionsgate.lists@tirrigh.org)

**Minister for Equestrian:** Her Ladyship Briana nic  
h'Eusaidh, [lionsgate.equestrian@tirrigh.org](mailto:lionsgate.equestrian@tirrigh.org)

**Warden for Youth Armoured Combat:** Vacant  
[lionsgate.yac@tirrigh.org](mailto:lionsgate.yac@tirrigh.org)

**Chronicler:** Bashira bint al-Rakkasah  
[lionsgate.chronicler@tirrigh.org](mailto:lionsgate.chronicler@tirrigh.org)

**Librarian:** Vacant [lionsgate.library@tirrigh.org](mailto:lionsgate.library@tirrigh.org)

**Minister of Arts & Sciences:** Lady Millicent of  
Eaglescliff, [lionsgate.artsnsci@tirrigh.org](mailto:lionsgate.artsnsci@tirrigh.org)  
Contingency Deputy: Her Ladyship Eleanor  
Odlowe

**Bardic Arts:** Vacant, [lionsgate.bard@tirrigh.org](mailto:lionsgate.bard@tirrigh.org)

**Dance:** Vacant [lionsgate.dance@tirrigh.org](mailto:lionsgate.dance@tirrigh.org)

**Gamesmaster:** Mestr Gareth Doiron  
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**TUTR Coordinator:** HL Tanikh bint Farida al Bakim, [lionsgate.tutr@tirrigh.org](mailto:lionsgate.tutr@tirrigh.org)

**Chatelaine:** HL Briana nic h'Eusaidh  
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Deputy: Master James Wolfden

**Gold Key:** Dame Arianna Freemont  
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**Scribe:** Elvina Effynewoode  
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Deputy: Her Ladyship Ciana di'Libri

**Webminister:** Laird James Irvein  
[lionsgate.webminister@tirrigh.org](mailto:lionsgate.webminister@tirrigh.org)

## SCA MISSION STATEMENT

The Society for Creative Anachronism (SCA) is an international non-profit volunteer educational organization.

SCA is devoted to the research and re-creation of pre-seventeenth century skills, arts, combat, and culture, focused on Western Europe and its cultural contacts, and employing knowledge of history to enrich the lives of participants through events, demonstrations, and other educational presentations and activities.



*Photo courtesy of Mistress Agnes Cresewyke*