

Raven's Herald

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Nobility and Heroism

January, 599

War Hero Maximillian Greystone Named Duke of Ravenholt

Last month, Baron Maximillian Greystone of Westmarch was named Duke of Ravenholt, filling the seat recently vacated by the tragic death of Duke Alaric Malinruin. In a solemn ceremony, His Royal Highness Prince Kevynn Blackfox led Baron Greystone through a ceremony in which he publicly accepted his Land Bond

quest. HRH Prince Kevynn then gifted Duke Greystone with an amulet crafted by King Mykel's own smiths as a symbol of his commitment to work with the new Duke in holding together the Duchy in this time of need. Greystone, as with Duke Alaric before him, accepted the title honorably, stating that he proudly accepted his

quest to rebuild the lands of Ravenholt.

In his first official act after the ceremony, Duke Greystone named Sir Jason Askani to the post of Baron Regent of Westmarch. He then charged Barons Moonwind and Johann with the task of helping the Baron Regent Askani and the Minotaur clans clear and rebuild the decimated

lands of lower Westmarch and Capulus.

In an address to those gathered at the ceremonies, HRH Prince Kevynn informed the populace that a request for assistance has been sent to Lake Hollum and that King Mykel is being kept apprised of the situation as well.

There is some question as
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Chaos Gate Opens in Westmarch

This New Year's Day, a number of Ravenholt travelers gathered near the estate of a deceased former noble of Evendarr known as Rosehart. Rosehart was involved in dealings with the Black Rose. His estate was destroyed after his death, but mysteriously, appeared to have been rebuilt overnight near the turning of the year, and there were rumors of hauntings and of undead in the area. Numerous adventurers gathered to explore it, to deal with the

undead threat, and to seek out treasure that might otherwise be left there. Others were driven to take shelter in a nearby inn by a ferocious blizzard.

The travelers almost immediately discovered that all was not as it seemed. The inn was haunted by strange invisible spirits which may have been some form of CHAOS elemental. The proprietor of the inn himself appeared to be an insubstantial spirit. Most
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Duke Greystone Announces Multi-Phase Plan to Rebuild

As his first act as the new Duke of Ravenholt, His Grace Duke Maximillian Greystone announced a multi-tiered plan to rebuild our devastated lands. He has ordered a census of the remaining populace be done by each Barony, as well as a survey of existing resources as the first stage of redevelopment. Each Barony will report on resources it has which are found to be lacking, as well as resources it has in excess.

Farmers are asked to report on expectations for spring plantings. The Ducal Army and volunteer workers will be sent to help farmers who have lost family members and support staff. Anyone with mining experience will be asked to travel to the interior of Capulus and Westmarch and see about reopening and reactivating as many mines as possible.

Ritual components will be rationed until further notice.
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to why Baron Moonwind, who had seniority, was not granted the title, but looking at Duke Greystone's war record is enough to make anyone understand why Prince Kevynn felt he was the man to rebuild our desecrated lands. Additionally, while we cannot confirm it, there are rumors that His Grace may in some remote way be related to the Ravenhurst family.

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tice. Anyone with collections of such items should turn them in to their local guilds for inventory and use in creating items needed for the rebuilding.

Carpenters and stonemasons will be asked to report to the capitol city to work in double shifts for the duration of reconstruction.

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importantly, a Gate that was apparently to the Plane of Chaos itself had opened nearby. Many of the adventurers went to speak to a powerful Chaos elemental that resided in the Gate, attempting to discover what had happened.

The Chaos elemental and its invisible "children" or minions, oddly enough, did not seem hostile, though their behavior was unpredictable and their motives obscure. Apparently, the Gate had opened when Rosehart attempted a ritual of some kind, and the Chaos elemental twisted it to his own purposes. The elemental referred to as the Gatekeeper by the adventurers who encountered it, spoke of seven Rooms that would come into phase over the next few days, each holding Rosehart's secrets and lore.

In order to learn how to access these rooms and attain this treasure trove of knowledge, first the gathered adventurers had to break a vicious code that had been discovered early in the gathering. After many hours of labor, this was finally accomplished, primarily by Anastasia, Tyrus of the ARC, and Tolarus MacLeod.

Groups were sent to each of the rooms, where papers were discovered ranging from ritual scrolls - some of them with entirely new effects - to notes on magical

theory, to philosophy, to coded information that seems to pertain to Gate creation. The information was largely collected and organized by the efforts of Nivienne of Westmarch. The groups were put together under the guidance of Baron Regent Askani and Vladimir of Westmarch, Guildmaster Amra Asland Al-Qadim, and later by Baron Johann, who arrived later with more of his court. Some of the Rooms held undead guardians so powerful and vicious that they had to be ventured two or three times before the heroes of Ravenholt could finally win through.

Rumors had indicated that the Black Rose might be in the area, and the snowbound travelers discovered that the powerful and nefarious undead group was indeed about; they wished to enter the

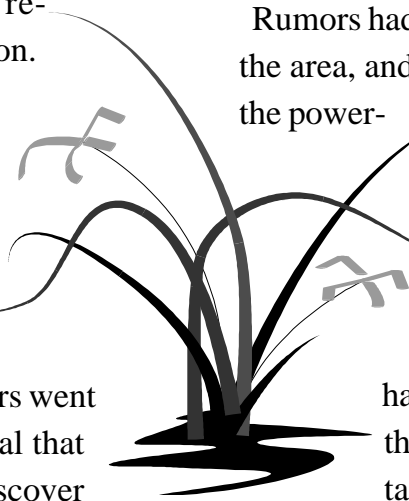
Room that would open at midnight on Saturday to obtain some item or items that Rosehart had held for them there.

The assembled warriors then faced a harsh dilemma. They lacked the numbers and the power to be certain of surviving a confrontation with the Black Rose, but it was clear

that for the good of the Duchy they must be stopped from gaining what they sought if at all possible.

Baron Johann led the brave heroes who were willing to try to trap the Black Rose in the Room, which would seal for a year after its hour of being in phase was up. The warriors believed they were going to near-certain death, but ventured forth anyway, that these vile enemies of the Duchy of Ravenholt would not triumph unopposed. A battle ensued against several of the Black Rose's infamous number, but the undead were in the end able to escape the Room by way of a strange shadowy curtain which had been seen in earlier Rooms and which transported anyone touching it to just outside the Room in a random direction. The heroes pursued, but were unable to catch the undead, who presumably got what they came for and left the area. No losses were taken in the battle, however.

It is uncertain whether the Chaos Gate remains open or the Gatekeeper still in place, and the nature of the items gained by the Black Rose is as yet unknown.



Harmonic Breakthrough

By Corban May

On Sunday, January 3rd, 599, a major advance was made in harmonic magic. Notes recovered on several adventurers detailed experiments with the creation of harmonic focii. This experiment was replicated with success. Assistant Guildmaster Tyrus assisted by Kainon Andrews, and Anastasia, was able to copy a harmonic focus of the Heal Disease. This is an important success because harmonic magic has no currently known formal magic system. Harmonic focii have been known to exist, but previously, their manner of creation was a mystery.



Gates Test Intelligence

A series of black gates have been opening lately in Ravenholt. These gates open seemingly at random in places where people are gathered. Those entering them are generally presented puzzles or riddles to solve, and are rewarded with treasure when they are successful.

The gates seem to be opened by otherplanar beings who are curious and wish to study the people of Tyrra, possibly in a search for other intelligent beings. The gates have gone to various other planes, including Fire, Darkness, and Air.

In one case, these beings apparently needed inexperienced adventurers to retrieve an essence of shadow. The group was rifted to the plane of darkness and retrieved the essence, however the rift was shunted and the adventurers found themselves tested by riddles. Coellad Arija solved or created most of the riddles the group needed to return safely.

Other townsfolk who have entered these gates include Ulrich, Anadel of Maelstrom, members of Morbihan, and many others. Each time those who pass the gate are greeted with puzzles, riddles, and other tests of intelligence or agility. Treasure generally appears to reward the successful. Some townsfolk have apparently been offered information as well.

Letters to the People of Ravenholt

To the People of Ravenholt:

I would simply like to convey my many thanks to all who helped me about a month ago when I came to Ravenholt seeking help.

I do not know any of you personally, and I'm sorry to say I didn't learn names, either. Still I would like to thank here those who I do recall - the Court of Eastwyck, for protecting me while a solution to my problem was sought - the two Gypsies and all other townsfolk who fought the two who hunted me, as I could not affect them myself - the two men who love land so much, who stood as my protectors while we were on the beach - and most especially I want to thank Captain Greymeir for giving Mika, my former crew member, the proper funeral she deserved, and for everything else he did for me.

Thank you all! I am certain I would not be alive if it were not for your help and protection against those who hunted me. If I ever may be of service to any of you, please do not hesitate to call upon me at the Garson's Bridge Orphanage.

Humbly yours,
Aribella Kid

Greetings and Welcome to All!

This is to announce the Grand Opening of the "Soldier's Rest Inn" on the weekend of February 5th through 7th, 599 Y.E. We are located about two hours South and West of Ravenholt City, following the shoreline of Lake Ardynn. For our Grand Opening Weekend, there will be many various entertainments to delight the senses. Music, Storytelling, Dance, Bardic Competition, and a Carnival are scheduled for your participation and enjoyment. Bring your festive best for a weekend of enjoyment.

On a sadder note, I am also looking to hire adventurers to help solve a mystery.

An old traveling companion of mine met his demise in some ruins nearby; as of this time he has not resurrected. I seek information as to the cause of his death, and seek to eliminate the threat for the future prosperity of my inn.

Public Notices

Anastasi and Johann: The gauntlet has been thrown down. I take the challenge you so valiantly make. Know now, that I will be the victor. I accept no defeat.

Seeking ritual components of all varieties. Especially the rarest kinds. Will pay very well for them. Seek any member of the ARC for details.

The ARC has bought the ritual scroll for channel harm undead. The scroll has a limited amount of uses, and so we would like to make sure it gets utilized most efficiently. All those interested in use of the scroll, please contact a member of the ARC. We will determine who is best qualified. Thank you.

Announcing the joining of Lochinvar MacLeod and Annalyra MacBryan into the lifelong commitment of marriage. The ceremony will be performed during the spring thaw. We wish them a long and prosperous marriage together.

Voltreg and all their friends and family at the ARC

The group Omega is accepting applications from any wishing to become members and/or serve as town guardsmen. Contact Sheriff Logan.



Lizardman Watches Posted

Due to the unusual freeze and thaw cycles this season, it is anticipated by local weather prognosticators that our lakes' Lizardman population may awaken earlier than usual. As such, all citizens living on any of Ravenholt's numerous lakes and ponds are asked to keep watch for any unusual activities.

Please do not attempt to apprehend any lizardmen that do appear, unless well armed and traveling with others. Report any odd happenings to a member of the town guard or to the Ducal Guard.

To all who would hear:

Sir Valimar of the Court of Cumberland, has taken on the mantle of Champion of Arms for the Barony of Cumberland on the 9th day of October.

On the 11th day of October, 598, the position of Court Healer was granted to Dulcinea Bronwyn.

- Baron Alan Moonwind

In case anyone was wondering, the two-handed coppered sword that I found seemed to have been in the possession of the late Jai. I returned it to its former owner, Voltreg. If anyone has a Will written by Jai, or knows what he wanted done with his other belongings, let me know. Otherwise, I will guess that he would have wanted us to use what he had for the good and defense of the Duchy.

Sheriff Logan

Wanted: I am in need of Meteoric Iron, Lightning Storm Focii, Lightning Bolt Focii, Elven Steel, Dwarven Steel, Dragon Iron, and any form of Elemental Earth in order to fulfill an Order. Please contact Amra Asland Al-Qadim! Safe Journey to you!

Missing

Seeking information on the location of Aurora Bronwyn. She has been missing for some time and her family is EXTREMELY worried about her. Those with ANY information about her location, please, please bring it by the ARC as soon as possible. I thank you in advance for everyone's assistance in these endeavors.