

# *Raven's Herald*

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*Courage and Honor*

March, 601

## **Duke Greystone Announces Wedding Ceremony**

After a victorious battle outside Burton-on-the-Blood, in which the latest of the recent golum attacks was thwarted, it was announced that His Grace, Duke Greystone, is to marry the lovely Lady Samara Aislain who has rarely left his side during their whirlwind courtship over the past year. Lady Samara is said to be a generous and giving woman who always has time to speak with any who seek audience. Several who have met with her describe her as understanding and open, willing to listen to even the most tragic of

life stories.

According to inside sources, Duke Greystone, already smitten with the Lady, discovered a newfound sense of urgency to, "Live life as it should be lived!" after his recent death at the hands of what now appears to be a guerilla force from both in and outside Ravenholt. Upon his return to life, his first words, according to Viscountess Tristemere Mirabad and several others who supported the Guildmistress in her efforts as she handled his resurrection, were "I must ask for her

hand. I have been a fool to wait so long!"

Duke Greystone has posted a 500 gold reward for information leading to the capture of any more members of this group calling themselves "the Resistance" (see "The Resistance Revealed" in this issue) and a 1000 gold piece reward for the capture, dead or alive, of the man directly responsible for the killing blow which took His Grace's life this past New Year's feast. As reported in January's Herald, the man is described as shorter than average, with

dark hair and a low voice. No more could be determined in the frenzy of the attack.

Sheriff Wolfstar urges all good citizens to aid in making the wedding day a success by clearing the area of golums, Lizardmen, and other such unpleasant creatures. All are welcome to attend the ceremony and the feast to be held after in the betrothed couple's honor. Additional guards are being hired to work the city limits so that all who wish to may attend.

## **Golum Attacks Increase**

Reports from outlying farms have shown a recent marked increase in golum attacks on area residents. While young children and the elderly are being kept indoors, it seems as if young, healthy residents are the most common target of these attacks. What began several months ago as minor skirmishes with one or sometimes two golums appearing, has picked up in intensity with attacks ranging from three to as many as seven or eight golums at a time. The majority of these golums appear to be rocklike in nature, and are often harmed by shatter spells, but as the numbers grow, so, too, the variety.



## **Lizardmen Hibernation Ends Early This Year**

Reports from locals living near major area lakes and slow-flowing rivers report that they have seen several Lizardmen crawl forth from the waters earlier than in previous years. As anticipated by area weather specialists, the recent thaws are likely to blame. Anyone observing such emergencies should report them to the town guard or Dark Lions.

# The Resistance Revealed

Several leaders of the so-called "Resistance" were recently captured as they attempted an abortive attack on the capitol city recently. Key among them were the known necromancer, Nork (last name unknown), believed to be their leader, and Lucas, previously of Niman. After Sheriff Wolfstar evaluated the situation with the captured men, and made his report to His Grace, it was reported to this paper that the Sheriff believes there to be little remaining threat to the Duchy from this terrorist group. He was quoted as saying, "We got that necromantic bastard, Nork. It's only a matter of time before we sweep up the last remaining crumbs."

The Resistance is believed to have been behind a recent treasonous pamphlet

claiming that His Grace is plotting to overtake His Royal Highness Prince Kevynn for the throne, and calling into question the behavior of several key members of His Grace's staff, including Lady Tristemere and Sir LeeOrick, Wielder of Bane.

There is a reward for further information leading to the capture and dissolution of the last vestiges of this small group.



# Farming Family Found Dead

Shortly after the thaw, it was discovered that some time during these past hard winter months, four local Ravenholt siblings were found murdered on their farm off Market Road. Corporal Winter of the Town Guard was led to the scene during the early Spring patrols, after being met on the road by a local

seer, Zea Shehrevar, in near hysterics, ranting about the murder and mayhem. Apparently, a strong vision had come to her of "...great turmoil and attack, leading to death!" She stated that the vision was obscured by some unknown

force, so she cannot know who the murderer or murderers might be.

Corporal Winter reported that the bodies were found in positions that indicated apparent violent attack. After some discussion with area residents, it was determined that this family has been living in semi-solitude, attempting to farm some rough ground, for nearly a year. Few residents remember speaking with any of the family members, but it is believed that the family name is Albin. No motive has been determined at this time, although from the condition of the scene, it is believed by some to have been a robbery gone horribly wrong. Any information regarding these deaths should be directed to local authorities or to this paper.

# First Gathering of Ravenholt's Spring Season Delayed

Due to the unexpectedly long winter and heavy snows in the areas around Ravenholt, His Grace Duke Greystone has declared that the first Gathering of the Spring season be moved to the week end of April 27. While weather reports

from our local weather workers expressed that the days would be warm, the vast quantities of snow and ice in surrounding areas have not dissipated sufficiently. Said one of the more experienced weather workers, "It shows all the

signs of early Spring, warm days (though not as warm as I had hoped) and cold nights...It may rain on Saturday." In spite of the spring-like predictions, it was later agreed by all that, given the large numbers of visitors and merchants ex-

pected to attend from other lands, it would be safer to postpone the gathering so that all could arrive safely. Numerous caravans have reportedly been stranded due to area flooding by Lake Ardynn.

# Hightown Rag

So what's with Sir LeeOrick's new wardrobe? It seems like every other day he's wearing a new, more elegant tabard. Give the man a shiny white sword and he becomes a fashion plate?

And Baron Moonwind seems to be all the rage with the ladies these days. It seems he's the Duchy's most eligible bachelor since he moved from Baron-Regent to Baron Sources in-berland Rang-ally *is* that On to West-ever-imposing lord Zomar, as sents impec-what about that spat we heard about with his younger brother, Tariq? Tariq will never become Warlord of his people with *that* attitude.

since he Baron-Regent p r o p e r . side his Cum-ers say he re-nice a guy. march. The Baron War-always, pre-cably. But

## Lowdown on Lowtown



The Bazar are once again said to have thrown the party to end all parties recently. Sigh. Just how *many* parties can there actually be? They never really have been at that hot since Magenta, Buck, and the Machine. I did protecting the spirit of a gypsy they claim you didn't really want to be a vampire.

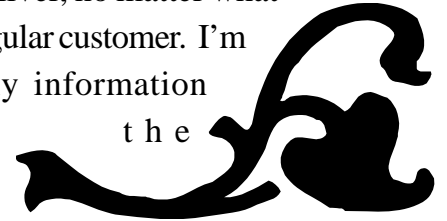
The Mage's Guild still hasn't regained its full strength since the disappearance of Madam Zara and the theft of the Guild's ritual scroll collection. Assistant Guildmistress Keyla seems depressed of late, and her resurrections seem to lack luster. It's said she misses her little trysts with that mysterious farmer, Ulrick, who seemed quite smitten with her. We wonder what happened there? Until next month!

### Missing

**One well-used magical sword. Last seen in or around Rundin, Eastwyck. Blade sharpened to precision for two daggers' blows more damage than a normal weapon. Runes sometimes visible on hilt. It is not recommended that untrained warriors attempt to make use of the blade. Please send word care of this paper if found. Considerable reward available.**

# Man Gone Missing

A local merchant, Walter Twolus, has reported that Jonathan Caruthers, an elderly near-hermit and customer of his, has not been seen during his last two supply runs. While he reports that it is not unusual for Old Man Caruthers to be away, he is concerned since, when he arrived with his latest delivery, the last bundle of provisions had gone untouched. In investigating the Caruthers cabin, he found a layer of dust on everything, and no signs of recent use. Twolus reports, "He was an odd bird – always paid in silver, no matter what the bill, but he was a regular customer. I'm kinda worried." Any information should be directed to the Raven's Herald.



## Mysterious River Sightings

By Jace Zagrius

Several local townsfolk have spoken to this intrepid Raven's Herald reporter. After the recent high waters and extremely high river levels, there have been many reported sightings of indistinct figures seen in and around the waters. One of the sightings inspired a search party as young women were apparently swept away into the rushing water sand not seen to resurface. It is unknown if the insubstantial figures about the shore are in any way connected to the women who have gone missing. No further information has been gathered regarding these people.

## Spring Brings Strange Rustlings to the Woods

Sounds we have not heard over the harsh cold months are now beginning to recur around our beautiful Ravenholt borders. The gentle rustles of branches as creatures move their way back to their spring-time habitats from winter burrows makes for a soothing accompaniment to the ever-gentling temperatures. The mellow songs of early spring birds are delightful counterpoints to ever-increasing glimpses of shapes as they move through the woods and a bevy of tracks show up in the few-remaining drifts of snow and tracts of mud.

# Public Notices

Baron Warlord Zomar and Clan Mansur welcome all who wish to be pupils of the honorable art of war to attend our weekly combat sessions. Live steel will, of course, be in use, with varying levels of difficulty depending upon students' abilities. Combatants wanted for the advancement testing of our graduating class – Life spells will be made available. Thieves and other technicians need not attend.

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Need the perfect wedding gift for His Grace and the Lady Samara? Come see Amra in the Merchants' Guild for an ideal selection, ranging from healing elixirs to custom detailed garb and gear.

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All things are circular, and all that ends begins anew. Life on a farm is hard but fair. Consider this.

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Need components? Protection? Visit the Beggar's Den and we'll find what you need.

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To all my Bretheren and Sintern there in Ravenholt: It has been long since we shared a drink and listened to stories. I hope this finds the Baljar tribe strong and thriving.

I have somewhat unsettling news to report of here in Avendale. A certain Justin (undead) has been threatening the enclave with extinction and has killed gypsy children. This must be stopped. This is a call to all our fellow gypsy and didikai, if you can, please try to travel to Avendale in the next month. We are only so many strong and your help would be appreciated beyond words!

Sincerely...

Thorn Baljar

Bandoleer of the Avendale Baljar gypsies

Citizens of Ravenholt - Let it be known that I am seeking any of the following, specific ritual components:

Hawk Feathers - Pure Blue Quartz

Star Sapphire - Wand of Lightning-Struck Oak

Lesser/Greater Air Elemental Essence

Ozone from a Fresh Lightning Strike

Thunder of a Lightning Storm

And, one of any of the following Ritual Scrolls:

Enchant, Elemental Aura, Channel Spell

I must obtain these by the next Storm Season.

May the April Winds Guide your Path,

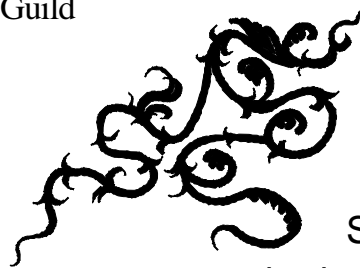
Curyll Taylor Stormydd

Weatherworker of Cumberland

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I am looking to update my list of current members of the Ravenholt Mage's Guild. I am looking to get your name and team affiliation as well as any other notable piece of information that you would like me to have. Please stop by and let me know. Thank you for your assistance.

Keyla, Guildmistress, Ravenholt Mage's Guild



Alora's Henna

Safe, beautiful, temporary, body art.

Choose one of my designs or make your own.

Not ready for a long-term commitment?

Try a Henna tattoo first!

-Alora Baljar  
Sedgewick

