

Raven's Herald

Vol. 22 Number 3

Long Live Ravenholt!

August, 609



New Duke for Ravenholt

Hear ye, Hear ye!

Prince Kevynn Blackfox announces Gerard Bartholomew Walters as the new Duke of Ravenholt. His appointment was announced to the Nobles and adventurers of Ravenholt

on Sunday, June 14th, with official oaths being sworn on the first day of July this year (609 Evendarr Reckoning).

Long live Duke Gerard Bartholomew Walters,
Long live Prince Kevynn Blackfox,
Long live King Mykel Endarr II
Long live Evendarr

Invasion Into the North?

Within the last few weeks, it was reported that a small town 'appeared' on the outskirts of land claimed by the Gorethalury Clan of Barbarians in the northern reaches of the Northlands. The Gorethalury are considered territorial and confrontational. It is reported that the town that appeared was quickly overrun by the Gorethalury and all inhabitants were captured and/or slain. From what the Herald has been able to gather, the Gorethalury deemed the appearance of this town as an attack by Evendarr and more directly TerraClaw, who the Gorethalury openly oppose. While expeditions have been made to investigate this town and the encounter, the Gorethalury have been on high guard and won't let anyone near the site. From a distance, the architecture of the buildings looks different than any found in Ravenholt, but without close inspection, specifics cannot be confirmed. Duke Walters confirms that this appearance was not his doing or approved by his people, and asks that anyone with information regarding this please share with Sir Daramor, First Knight, Sir Dheran, Warlord, or any member of the ducal or noble courts.



Oaths to be Sworn

Let it be known:

That any with oaths to the Duke of Ravenholt will be asked to retake those oaths to Duke Gerard Bartholomew-Walters by falls coming (the 19th of October, 609 ER). As the oath-bearer, it is your responsibility to make these arrangements. Any failing to retake their oaths are subject to removal of title/position.

By my hand,
Kevynn Blackfox
Prince of Northmarch



Tournament of Nobles

Hear ye, Hear ye!

His Grace, Duke Gerard Walters is proud to announce a Noble Tourney at the upcoming Ravenholt gather. Each of the four Baronies of Ravenholt are expected to participate, visiting Noble teams are encouraged to participate as well. Prizes will be rewarded, though the honor of being the victor is the greatest reward. Here are the expected competitions in no particular order:

- * Colors/Presentation
- * Single Melee Combat
- * Single Spell Casting Duel
- * Mass Melee / Group Combat
(field a team of 4 court members)
- * Puzzles/Riddles
- * Toast (at dinner)



Nobles Called Forth

Let it be known:

That His Grace, Duke Gerard Walters of Ravenholt requests and requires any with bonds to the land of Ravenholt to present themselves, either in person or writing, to him by the 15th of September, 609 ER. His Grace will be reclaiming any outstanding bonds, those not to current Nobles and servants to the lands. If not presented by the 15th, through the abilities granted to him by Prince Kevynn Blackfox, those bonds will be reclaimed.

Pantherghasts Seen About the Duchy

Several travelers have reported seeing Pantherghasts about the Duchy, although none can confirm if there are several creatures or the same one seen several times. Reports have stated that even though they feel the hairs on the back of their necks stand up as though the creature were lurking in nearby shadows, and the shapeless form moves silently about them, after several minutes the creature departs and the feeling passes. Those that have encountered the beast(s) felt as though it were looking for something or someone. Initial reports began mid-Winter and have grown steadily over the months. Everyone should be on their guard while walking the roads at night. Any further information would be greatly appreciated.

Scouts Missing

On the eve of the attack upon Skurg, Eastwyck, three scouts were sent in different directions. Since that night, no word of two of the three scouts has been heard. No attempts at resurrection by these men have been reported, though word has it they did not reach their destinations. One scout has been reported as intercepted by the former Baron Cecil Eastwyck, and was returned with his aid. If anyone has news of the other two scouts, please send word to Mayor Wilbur in Skurg.

A Fallen Soldier

On the afternoon of Saturday, June 13th, 609, a decorated Ranger with long service to the Duchy of Ravenholt was struck by a fatal blow. Reports have it this final strike was delivered while defending fellow rangers from imminent danger. Luckily no one else was killed during this attack. Per his wishes, the Ranger's name has been kept from this article. He fell in battle doing what he had done his entire life, protect those he cares for. The Raven's Herald wishes the best to his family and friends.

Strange Elemental Lizard Man Killed

Citizens of Eastwyck living between the banks of the River Norther and the southern slopes of the Northern Downs mountain range, and between Kester and Goblins Bane, have been listening to bards and other travelers tell a tale of the court of Eastwyck, led by Baron Telaris himself, beard the den of a strange creature that had been ravaging the countryside of late.

This beast, reported to be a lizard man of great size and strength, with shimmering blue scales like the river that flowed under them, leading bands of others that seemed like mirror images to this creature, had been claiming large numbers of livestock and depleting fishing pools. When attempts to contact the creature resulted in people 'frozen in place' and left in dangerous wilderness areas, or just killed and devoured themselves, the locals became terrified. Before they even had a chance to send for help, Baron Telaris arrived with his court, including Dame Rillien, Sir Byron, Talon, Aelfric, accompanied by visiting noble Lord Tristan Huntington, to do battle with the creature. Reports from curious shepherds in the low hills that followed the courtly troop tell of a massive struggle between the court and the lizard man's forces, and how some words shouted during the battle seemed to indicate that the creature was fused with Chaotic and Water elements, as well as energy of Time, a fact that drove Baron Telaris to greater efforts to contain and defeat the threat. One witness believed he overheard an exchange between this lizard man and the baron indicating that the creature's band were all versions of himself from the possible future, though it hurt the witness's head to try and grasp what that might have meant.

In the end, after a ferocious struggle that taxed the court, the lizard man was brought low, and the baron removed the creature's heart to ensure its final death. Since this victory, this area of Eastwyck has become peaceful again, and grateful citizens have returned to their normal routines.

public notices

Greetings to Everyone,

I am still looking to obtain and variety of traps. If anyone has traps they wish to part with please speak with myself or a member of Westmarch at the next gather. I am also looking for oil of slipperiness and discussions with other Alchemists.

Squire Cypris

Grist for the Mill

By Savannah, your lovable, if not irritating, reporter for the Raven's Herald



Apparently Sir Raven is Lovable:

On the rare occasion your brilliant reporter makes a mistake and she is big enough to fess up. At least one person has loved Sir Raven. In June of this year, Sir Raven's daughter made her appearance to Tyrre. To protect her and the mother, their names and locations are being kept secret. If you see Sir Raven at the next gather, be sure to con-

gratulate him and forgive his greater unslept appearance.

Now we must find out if skill with a blade can equate to skill with a diaper. So, the countdown begins as he trains to defend her from all suitors. A big question is, when she will attend her first gather, and will her mother allow her to follow in Daddy's foot steps. This reporter is looking forward to seeing a portrait of daddy and daughter in full court regalia.

Speaking of babies;

The Court of Westmarch seems to be full of babies. Upon returning from some distant adventure, our favorite married couple of the court returned with a green baby. Rumor was that this was a rescued Orc child who was in the care of the court. This duty was quickly passed to Luna of the Healer's Guild, who attended to the child's needs.

No question can be raised as to the care Luna provided. However, one must question the origins of the child. In the last Grist, we drank from a tale of fractured wedded bliss. This most recent gather saw the couple appearing very happy and in dire need of a room at the inn as they tried to prove they were still madly in love, or at least lust.

Was this a test of Torin for fatherhood, Squire Rose for motherhood? Are they testing the waters for a slew of Gypsy babies running around Westmarch? Is the child actually one of theirs from a tryst prior to marriage? Do we have a jealous ex-lover seeking their child, and plotting to retrieve the heart of a lost love (literally or figuratively)? Are the passions real between the couple? The plot thickens. Let us see what marital adventure our friends take us on next!!!

Mandrake and Baron Wolfstride:

Last issue, the mill was grinding and Baron Wolfstride was not attempting to obtain the position of Duke; it was rumored that his ambitions had waned. A shift seems to have occurred from the first to the second gather of the year. During the feast at the last gather, he was seated the head table. The fact that no other Baron was seated there indicates he must have been considered a serious candidate for the position! Where do his ambitions really lay? Are there ambitions, is there a retirement, forced or otherwise, pending?

There is a lot of history with former Baron (Mandrake) Capulus. He obviously could obtain the Barony again if he wished, but could he obtain more? This could be the first real challenge to the power of the current Baron for his title.

Or...

Is this the way Baron Wolfstride bows out and takes to a quieter life-style? One can see how he would resemble his predecessor, especially with his success in Capulus, but is this a prelude to vacating his position? Confusion settles at this point. He is the longest serving Baron of the current class, however his once mighty court has shrunk. There was a time when the court boasted higher numbers, multiple strong, well seasoned adventurers with a field presence that could not be challenged. His power now seems to be based in politics and not the field. Has victory on the field been traded for victory in debate or a comfortable court life? Is he under another influence which desires more power? Will he and the remainder of his court disappear never to be heard from again and an empty keep be once again found in Capulus?

Other Items:

Baron Telaris did not stand down for Cecil Eastwyck and remains the Baron. Apparently he did not feel it was TIME. However one has to wonder about what influences may be set upon the Baron from the amount of time he spent in the Lost City. He seems to be becoming comfortable as the Baron of Eastwyck, but we all know how quickly a title can change.

A new scavenger was noted running around. The little brown mouse, who seems to have quickly made friends. When was the last time we saw a mouse like that and with the feline presence in Ravenholt, is she at risk for becoming a snack? This reporter recommends to she not carry mint!!!

Luna seems to have acquired a friend in the newly Squired Cypris. This situation screams for more attention and gossip.

Continued on page 4

Trolls Dispatched

His Grace sends his congratulations to the Nobles of Ravenholt (and visiting dignitaries) as well as all adventurers that fought a valiant war against the fae-imbued trolls. Through the wisdom and strength of her people, Ravenholt ousted these beings and removed their foreign power. Reports have been coming in that with the fall of the troll/fae citadel in the Dragon Teeth Mountains, and the demise of their leader, the troll threat is no more. Rumor has it that the fae being known as Busirane guised himself, as the fae are known to do, and usurped the powers of the felled leader of the trolls. At this time, no further details are available, but any with information are encouraged to share it with Sir Dheren of the Ducal Court.

A History Test (Edition #2)

It's said that if we forget history, it repeats itself. Why not test yourself and see how much of your Kingdom's history you recall? Check your answers in the next issue. Almost all these questions can be answered by careful research in the Herald archives.

- Question E:** What was the name of Northstar's ship?
Question F: Who had minions known as "Storm Hounds?"
Question G: How were ransoms to be paid whenever demanded by L7?
Question H: What was the previous name of Malinruin, Westmarch?

Answers to Edition #1

- Question A:** Who was responsible for changing the name of Pook's Haven to Farmington?
Answer: Acting Baron Arracor Stormhaven
- Question B:** When did King Richard Endarr die?
Answer: March 2, 592
- Question C:** Who/what killed Lord Pious to his permanent death?
Answer: Urich the Vampire
- Question D:** What did Count Malignar Jakorren, Lord Chancellor Wulfwinn, Baron Brendan Dwyer, Count Andros Paragon, and Baron Alaric Malinruin have in common?
Answer: They were all members of the Companions of the Circle.



Foxcroft Merchants

Cantrip Tomes Enchanted
Specialty Items Acquired
Buying, Selling, & Trading of Components
Our Specialty

Shandlin's Ferry—Gone Again?

Thirteen years ago, strange mists swallowed up the small township of Shandlin's Ferry. These mists separated the town from the rest of the Duchy of Ravenholt for years before finally receding, offering friends and families a chance to reunite, to hear of the harrowing tales from inside this small, isolated vale.

Now, this town would seem to verify that it is cursed. In the week following July 14th, several different sources reported to the authorities of Eastwyck that Shandlin's Ferry again seems to have vanished from the land. In this instance though, it was not a wall of mist or some other supernatural force preventing people from entering the area. Instead, each of the reports said the same thing: while journeying along the trader's road along the River Norther, the travelers would not realize they'd passed through the area of the township until the evening hours proved they'd been on the road for much longer than they should have.

These reports include two "wandering fix-it" people, who go from community to community to do repairs and similar small jobs; a merchant whose teamsters arrived for a pickup of dried fish; and the wife of a local smith, who was visiting family in Martin, and returned to find only the main trader's road going through a large expanse of flat land where Shandlin's Ferry once stood.

What happened to the town, and its residents (none of whom have been found save for the woman who was away, as mentioned above), remains a mystery that concerns the baronial authorities, who had nothing more to say than, "We're investigating, and we will find our people."



Grist from page 3

The squire was also noted to have rifted out with Squire Rose at the last gather. As you may recall, in the prior Grist we noted when Torin and the court rifted out leaving Rose behind, the Squire was present. Now he rifts off with Rose. Is he playing both sides of the fence in our favorite couple's alleged dispute.

The real question regarding the new Squire is why he has suddenly taken a larger presence in the Duchy. He has popped in and out for many years now, keeping a lower profile. Known to be a tech and spending many battles hiding behind Sir Raven, this current behavior seems odd. Did he suddenly grow a backbone?

The Tyrran Traveler August, 609 E.R.

by *Kia'Amat Tan'Anin, Clan Tan'Anin*

Inorian Empire

Year 139 I.C.

Sir Gerard, Knight of Drisend, 3rd Inorian Militia reports that the city of Drisend is embattled by a massive force of undead (presumably under the guidance of the Liche, Velnom, who has been taking other portions of Inoria). There is a general call for evacuation by those citizens in the outlying regions.

Empire of Galerus

Year 159, Galerusan

General Stratos Elections for Town council are being held for District XXII on August 22nd. Citizen residents of Stratos are empowered to vote in these elections and those unable to attend the gather may send a vote by proxy. After the election the Council will appoint the new Doge of Stratos and new appointees take office on Monday August 24th.

Kingdom of Avendale

Year 1909 Brisbanian

Orc incursions are on the rise throughout Nebulonde, with most raids occurring in the dark of night. The Shadowswarm are being held off, but barely, at several key fortifications as refugees of various attacks are being reintegrated in the larger towns and villages of Avendale as well as at several more temporary encampments.

Kingdom of Kaurath

Year 1114 K.H.

Her Majesty Princess Rutheil Kaurethel, Harani of Innos Hallal, is in negotiations with emissaries from the Keskaurani, but cautions that the talks are fragile, and asks that citizens make the Keskaurani feel at ease in Kaurath.

Meanwhile, goblin forces from the Green Blood Nation continue to raid villages as the crown attempts to clear them from the lands they hold.

Duchy of Dragonaire

Troops are gathering under the leadership of Lord Eric Fairbanks and Sir Ehlrik 1st Knight of the Amythest Dragons, in preparation to take back the duchy of Dardania from the Orc Warhost.

Duchy of Tyrangel

A considerable force of Trolls had been garrisoning at the old Fortress of Reah-ki in preparation for a massive attack on the western border of the region that began several weeks ago. The forces were roused by a combined push from Araman and Marentha and are believed dispatched for good.

Duchy of the Firemarch

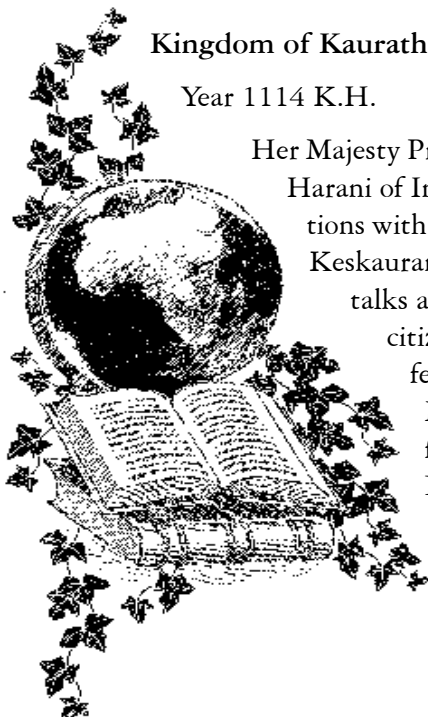
Baron Palor Xenos of the Barony of Elliston has declared that a new city will be constructed in honor of the region's late Lady Guildmistress, Desma Wainwright. It will be named Desma's Wright. Sir Markenn Cooper is polling citizens to find an ideal name for the mainland county. Suggestions thus far include Flamesguard, Devonshire, Fairwind, Soldathaus, and several others.

Territories of Willowdark

Lord Regent Teerik Willowdark fell to his seemingly permanent death in a duel of honor against the bandit leader Lycor, having left orders that should he be killed, he not be given a Life spell. Magical portents determined that his death might not be all it seemed, however, though heroic means would be needed revive him. Soon after his death, his spirit spoke to several of his closest allies and called for aid. In order to re-forged his spirit, however, citizens had to fight dark aspects of his form, one after the other. First came the Aspect of Despair, then the Aspect of Jealousy, then Anger and Fear. Once each shard of his form had been gathered, they were reintroduced to the portion of his spirit that held Hope, and he was returned from beyond death.

The Mydian Valley

A massive earthquake rocked the region in mid-August, collapsing numerous mines and killing many miners. Bridges at several key river crossings have been damaged or outright collapsed and the landscape has shifted markedly. Massive flooding from shifted rivers has left many towns decimated, with no reports whatsoever from Haven, Riverstone, and the Green Stag territory.



Pre-Registration Special - Season Closer

In celebration of the final event of our 20th anniversary season of Ravenholt, we are proud to announce that the preregistration (at least one week prior to the event) price for the October 16-18 event will be only \$55.00 per person. The price for week-of/at-the-door will still be \$85.00 per person however, so register as soon as possible. The camp has a maximum capacity, so make sure to sign up early to get in on this deal. If we reach camp capacity, we'll let you know as we will not be able to allow unpaid (at the door) registrations.

Thank you,
Ravenholt Staff

Scholarly Pursuits

In honor of the 20th Anniversary of NERO, here are a few blasts from the past to see how much you know about the game (Answers will appear in the next issue of the Herald):

OOG Q9: When did the Shandlin's Ferry campaign begin?

OOG Q10: When did the Half Crown stop being used?

OOG Q11: When did "Cast on the Fly" come into game?

OOG Q12: What was the name of the company NERO ran under while at the Ware site?

Answers to May Edition OOG Scholarly Pursuits:

OOG Q5: Who made up the first three-generation staffing family in NERO history?

A 5: Bev Nichols (Grandma), Paul McClusky (Son), Paul Goodwin (Grandson)

OOG Q6: What was the goblin stamp pay rate for site cleanup help in 1994?

A 6: 1-5 goblin per hour, depending on the job

OOG Q7: When was the concept of the "Winter Revel" first introduced?

A 7: February, 1994

OOG Q8: What was TIAC?

A 8: The Internet Access Company, which gave NERO players discounted email accounts



NERO Mass 2009 Schedule

All events at Camp Haiastan in Franklin, MA

Ravenholt Late Summer Weekend 9/11-9/13/09

Ravenholt Season Closer Weekend 10/16-10/18/09

Staff Contact Info

Owner:

Annemarie Boswell (508) 967-6527

NEROMassOwner@neromass.com

P.O. Box 3122

South Attleboro, MA 02703

Event Registration (Effective 1/1/2009):

Phone: (781) 210-0926

Mail: RHRegistration@neromass.com

<http://www.neromass.com/register.html>

Character Update (ALL CAMPAIGNS)

Steve Beliveau, Sr. (781) 210-0926

(between 6 pm and 9 pm EST)

RHupdate@neromass.com

RAVENHOLT

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Ravenholt Logistics: RHlogistics@neromass.com
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For additional staff listings, see:

<http://www.neromass.com>