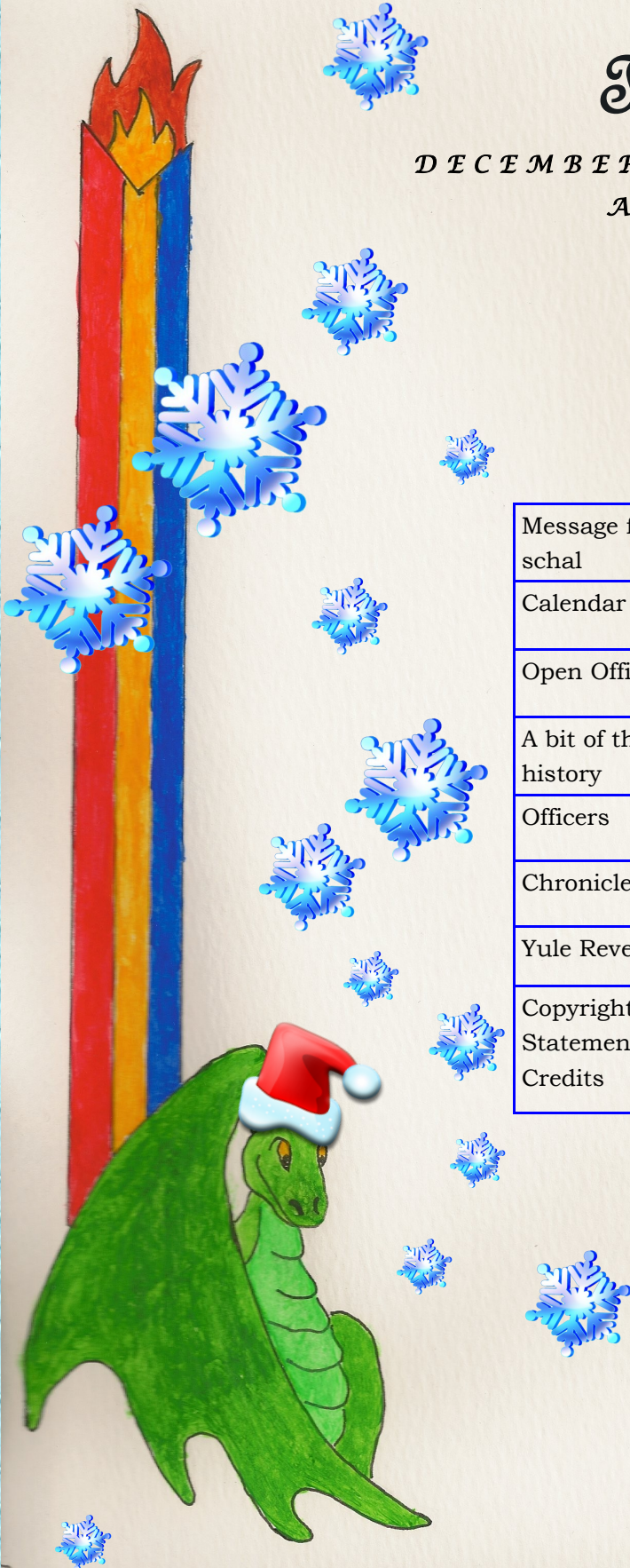


Tales of the Tor

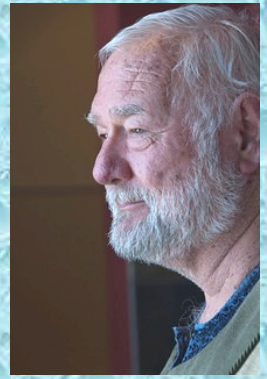
DECEMBER 2014

ANNO SOCIETATIS XLVXI

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Message from the Seneschal



Greetings DFT,

Wow what a year we have had but I feel we, as a family, have survived and we are stronger for it. We overcame a boat load of obstacles and had a great Guardian and a fantastic Yule. We are restarting our heavy fighting and we have one of the best web sites in the known world. Our rapier fighters are carrying our name to the far reaches of the Kingdom and beyond. We have had a very active A&S group. Our numbers are growing and thank you Victoria for sharing, the youngest and newest DFT family member, at Yule.

It has been a great year and next year will be better yet. What a great game we play.

Have a Merry Christmas, Joyous Holidays and a Happy New Year

BE SAFE,

In your Service

Lord Franklin Whitenhale of Cheshire

Seneschal of Dragonsfire Tor





DECEMBER 2014



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 <u>Rapier Practice</u> 6:30	2	3 <u>Elfsea Chivalric</u> <u>and Rapier</u> <u>Practice 7:30</u>	4 Scribal Guild 6:30	5	6
7	8 <u>Rapier Practice</u> 6:30	9	10 <u>Elfsea Chivalric</u> <u>and Rapier</u> <u>Practice 7:30</u>	11	12	13 Forge Night
14	15	16	17 <u>Elfsea Chivalric</u> <u>and Rapier</u> <u>Practice 7:30</u>	18 Scribal Guild 6:30	19	20
21	22	23	24 <u>Elfsea Chivalric</u> <u>and Rapier</u> <u>Practice 7:30</u>	25 	26	27
28	29	30	31 <u>Elfsea Chivalric</u> <u>and Rapier</u> <u>Practice 7:30</u>			



Open Offices

Greetings,

The position of **Dragonsfire Tor Rapier Marshal** is open for APPLICATIONS. It will be open until the office is filled.

If you are interested in this position please complete an Application for Office on the Kingdom website <http://seneschal.ansteorra.org/forms/ApplicationJan08.pdf>

It's simple, just fill out the application on-line and send it to the Kingdom Web Minister with a copy of your Driver's License and SCA card (black out your driver's license number) at central-rapier@marshal.ansteorra.org;

Please send a copy of your application to Elfsea Baron and Baroness at

baron@elfsea.ansteorra.org baroness@elfsea.ansteorra.org

And please include a copy to me at seneschal@dragonsfire-tor.ansteorra.org

The position of **Dragonsfire Tor Web Minister** is still open for APPLICATIONS. It will be open until it is filled. If you are interested, please complete an Application for Office on the Kingdom website <http://seneschal.ansteorra.org/forms/ApplicationJan08.pdf>

send the application to the Kingdom Web Minister with a copy of your Driver's License (black out your driver's license number), and SCA card at

vscribe@ansteorra.org<vscribe@ansteorra.org>;

Please send a copy of your application to Elfsea Baron and Baroness at

baron@elfsea.ansteorra.org baroness@elfsea.ansteorra.org

And please include a copy to me at seneschal@dragonsfire-tor.ansteorra.org

The office for Dragonsfire Tor A&S Minister is also open, and remain open until filled. If you are interested, complete an Application, on the Kingdom website. <http://seneschal.ansteorra.org/forms/ApplicationJan08.pdf>

Fill out the application on-line and send it to the Central Region A&S Minister with a copy of your Driver's License and SCA, (black out your driver's license number).
central@moas.ansteorra.org

Please send a copy of your application to Elfsea Baron and Baroness at

baron@elfsea.ansteorra.org baroness@elfsea.ansteorra.org

And please include a copy to me at seneschal@dragonsfire-tor.ansteorra.org

And finally the office of Dragonsfire Tor Hospitaler, is also open for APPLICATIONS. If you are interested, please complete an Application, on the Kingdom website

<http://seneschal.ansteorra.org/forms/ApplicationJan08.pdf>

Fill out the application on-line and send it to the Central Region Hospitaler with a copy of your Drivers License and SCA card, (black out your driver's license number).

central@hospitaler.ansteorra.org

Please send a copy of your application to Elfsea Baron and Baroness at

baron@elfsea.ansteorra.org baroness@elfsea.ansteorra.org

and please include a copy to me at seneschal@dragonsfire-tor.ansteorra.org

Please contact me if you have any questions about these positions.

In your service,

Lord Franklin Whitenhale of Cheshire

Seneschal of Dragonsfire Tor

A bit of the Ruthven family history just for you. Our Story begins in Scotland in May of the year of our lord 1600 .In the Royal gardens at Holyrood house. It is a warm day and young (only 18) Alexander Ruthven has fallen asleep on a bench. King James the sixth together with his friends round a hedge to see him there. His doublet has come open at the throat to reveal a locket which the King recognizes. He should, as he himself gave it to the Queen for her birthday three years earlier. Words are exchanged and Alexander is told to leave court at once .Our story now moves forward to July of that same year. John Ruthven, The third Earl of Gowrie returns from the continent having finished his education there. He meets with the King and points out that his family had assumed a debt of 40 thousand pounds in the crowns name. The Earls grandfather was high treasurer of Scotland for the King's grandfather. The debt with interest now stands at 80 thousand pounds. The Earl cannot pay these people until the king pays him the very overdue debt the crown asked his grandfather to assume so many years ago. The King says he cannot afford to pay him right now. The Earl wishes to know what he is to tell those waiting for their money. The king gives him a letter saying no one may ask him to pay any debt for the time of one full year from this date. Since the Earl has no hope for more than this letter he takes it and goes home to Gowrie House and his brother Alexander plus their two youngest brothers. The Stage is not set for what history will call "The Gowrie Conspiracy". One day a month later in August the king ask fourteen of his nobles to hunt with him in the woods. They ride till mid afternoon when the King says they are near Gowrie house and he had been asked to stop by today. They arrive and tell the Earl this. He wishes to know who asked this of the King and is told Alexander did. That sounds very odd as his brother was ordered out of the royal presents three months earlier but one cannot dispute ones King. A meal is quickly made and eaten in the garden. Alexander stays inside and out of the Kings presents. The King finished eating and tells all to wait for him while he goes to speak with Alexander. They meet in a second floor room between the two towers of Gowrie house. No one but the King knows what is said but James the six opens the window and yells" Treason!"

The earl of Huntington grabs John Ruthven by the doublet and says "traitor Thou shall die the death!" John asked just what treason are we talking about? Since none of the fourteen really know it is decided they will go ask the King. John wishes to come with them pointing out it is his house. They say no till the King shall say it is okay. The Third Earl of Gowrie will be Dam if he will wait permission to enter his own house but only waits in the garden till they are up the front stairs then runs to the rear tower and up the back ones. There he finds his brother stabbed and looking for help. Alexander says "The King has killed me" and dies in his brother's arms. John Ruthven was ever a true Kings man, but there are some things you just cannot let pass and murdering your brother in his own home is one of these. Yes, Even if he sleeps with other peoples wife's. John grabs two rapiers and runs up the stairs. Fourteen to one are bad odds, but two things helped John. One was that the battle was fought in a room ten by thirty (so his foes could only fight two or three abreast) and two John had learned to fight case in two years spent in Italy. The end of five full minuets saw little change. John was still at one end of the room and the King at the other .With the fourteen a little worse for wear but still holding the in between. The Earl of Huntington finally worked out if John had come up the back stairs there must be another entrance in the back tower so exiting the front stairs came back up that way and stabbed John right in the back. John fell and was cut to pieces. For this act of great bravery Gowrie House becomes Huntington Castle. To the victor go's the spoils and all that. The two dead brothers are arrested along with the two still living little ones and carried off to Perth for trail. The trail is delayed one week because the King wishes the Ruthven family servants to testify and as the testimony of a low born person can only be admissible if they are tortured first. In Perth (were the Ruthven's were sheriff for 300 years) there are no such devices and so they must be sent for. The king opens the trail with an on the record statement that" not one word in defense of the brothers may be spoken". He says the Ruthven's are part of an English plot to kidnap him even though there is no witness or evidence to prove it. The tortured servants agree that all the things the King say's

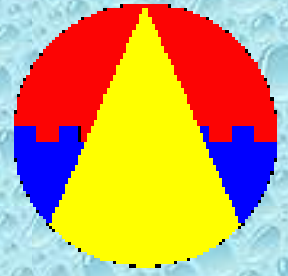
their masters did are so. The dead brothers offer no other explanations and are convicted in short order. They are indeed ordered to "Die the death" and their week dead bodies are drawn and quartered. God pity the guy who had to do that. A National day of thanksgiving is order by the King that he was not killed in this terrible plot. History shows that the people of Scotland, Not believing there King was ever in any danger did little to celebrate this great day. The quarter parts were on display in the four largest cities in the Kingdom. This left only the matter of John's two littlest brothers, both also convicted of High treason as well .William, who at 11 was the oldest, and Patrick who was only 9 years old. Please do not ask me how a 9 year old can be convicted of High Treason, I just do not know. They were imprisoned. Three years later when James the six of Scotland became James the first of England they were moved to the tower of London. That same year of 1603 saw Shakespeare write his famed play about a king of Scotland who was a murderer and a really bad guy. You got to love good old Will! The Clan was outlawed and the Name Ruthven could not be used by any person as their name under penalty of death. 12 years later the last brother (Patrick) was finally released. Thank heaven, or I would never have been born to write this. There is no historical record showing any of the people owed crown money guaranteed by a now nonexistent Clan where ever paid anything at all. Would you have asked for it? Many years later in 1697 an English court admits this could not have been a fair trial and the name is restored, but not the title or land. If you wish to read this tell for yourself, Do not bother with Wikipedia, It has only the Kings version, silly and farfetched at best. You can find part of it in the Oxford dictionary of Sir Names and the rest In Burkes Peerage. Other sources mention it but you have to really look hard. The truth is often like that.

Lord Angus Patrick de Ruthven of DragonsFire Tor, Kingdom of Ansteorra.

P.S. I have not been outlawed by any crown, but the day is young!



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Greetings

I apologize for the very late posting of the Newsletter. I wanted to get the Yule pictures in the newsletter and there were other things going on as well.

Yours in Service

Lady Diana the Just

chronicler@dragonsfire-tor.ansteorra.org











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