



The Clarion

Newsletter for the
Barony of Ben Dunfirch



June 30, 2023 - AS 59

Barony of Ben Dunfirth, Kingdom of Ealdormere

June 30, 2023 - AS 59

Events Calendar:

Events as listed on the Kingdom of Ealdormere Calendar from June-August 2023:

Date: June 15-18, 2023

Event: Murder Melee in the Meadow

Location: Binbrook Conservation Area,
5050 Harrison Rd, Binbrook ON

Description: Fighting! Fencing! A&S!
Scriptorium and Mead making discussion.

Hosted by: The Barony of Ben Dunfirth

Date: June 28 - July 3, 2023

Event: War of the Trillium

Location: 3421 Concession Rd 5,
Clarington, ON L0B 1M0

Description: Get your melee on in the final
largescale practice before Pennsic!

Hosted by: The Barony of Septentria

Date: July 21 - 23, 2023

Event: Baron's Brouhaha

Location: 973 Conc. Rd 8, Tiverton, ON

Description: Welcome to their Excellencies
Penda and Sibylla's Farm! Enjoy a weekend
of A&S, Marshaled Activities, Camping,
Potluck Feast and a really big bardic
bonfire at night. BYO lunch.

Hosted by: The Canton of Northgeatham

Date: July 28 - August 13, 2023

Event: Pennsic Wars 50

Location: Coopers Lake Camp, Slippery
Rock, PA

Influct not on an enemy ebery injury in your power,
for he may afterwards become your friend.

- Saadi

Please refer to the Kingdom website www.ealdormere.ca for the most recent and updated information with regard to events and meetings.

Ben Dunfirth Business Meetings/Fight Practices for Summer/Autumn 2023:

Mondays at 7pm from May-August 2023

Dundas Lions Memorial Community Centre: 10 Market Street, Dundas ON

No Meetings on: May 22 (Victoria Day), July 3 (Canada Day stat),

July 31 (Pennsic), August 7 (Civic holiday)

Summer Breeze

The hot weather of the summer has finally arrived, after a bitter winter and chilly spring!

Trillium Wars over the Canada Day long weekend was incredibly fun and the weather was perfect. Many kingdom level awards were granted, and newcomers were welcomed with joie de vivre and humour.

As usual, the battles and one-on-ones were an excellent training up for Pennsic Wars later in August, and it was wonderful for everyone to enjoy each others' company.

Pennsic 50 was an incredible experience, and the weather was mostly beautiful, except for the last couple of days when Thor decided to visit Coopers Lake for an extended visit!

Please enjoy this Summer edition of the Ben Dunfirth Clarion!

- *HA* Meredith, Ben Dunfirth Chronicler

Territories Claimed

Territories claimed by the far roving members of the Barony of Ben Dunfirth:

- Punta Cana, Dominican Republic
- High Commission in Skraeling Althing
- Several more of the 999 islands, Ontario/NYS
- Waimea Canyon, Hawaii
- Joshua Tree National Park's "Skull Rock", CA
- Palm Springs Air Museum, CA
- The Hague, Netherlands
- Holguin, Cuba
- Ben Braha, Prague, (Orloj)
- The Rock of Gibraltar, Drachenvald (Spain)
- The North East Fountain, Louisville, Kentucky
- Tekit Easy Island, Jamaica
- Rincón de la Vieja Volcano, Costa Rica
- The Hall of lights in the Laurel Caverns, PA
- Isla De Jocea, Cuba
- A newly declared Ben Dunfirth bar, the Bastion of An Tír, and a little land along the trail nearby
- The 3rd Red Rock on the Right, Denver CO
- Fumarole at NÁMAFJALL, Iceland
- Den of Evil, Blood Moor (Diablo)
- New Ben Dunfirth, Neo-Ealdormere (No Man's Sky)
- Mind Palace, Ealdormere proper
- Spooky Hallway, Gatineau, QC
- The Moon (in Lunar Eclipse only), Earth
- H62C (H-Block), Howard Springs Quarantine Facility, Darwin, Northern Territory, Australia
- Steak & Shake, Erie PA
- Porcine Signpost, Elkhart Fairgrounds, IN
- "Bacon Rock", Luray Caverns, VA
- Punta Cana, Dominican Republic
- Willemstad, Curacao



From Their Excellencies



Photo by Armiger Fischer

Greetings to Ben Dunfirth from
Your Benevolent Baroness and Baron

Summer is here and we have been busy with camping events and the prep for Pennsic 50. Our own Murder Melee in June was a fantastic event and one that will remain in in our memories for years to come!

One again our deepest thanks and gratitude to our new and returning Officers who do a most excellent job keeping the great machine of our Barony running we literally couldn't do it without you.

Looking forward to seeing everyone out on the fields at Pennsic 50!

Yours In Service,
Baron Jørgen and Baroness Meredyth
Baronials of Ben Dunfirth



What's "Period"?

In my brief time in the society I've heard "period" used in many different ways and I think it would be useful to break down some of the many things people mean when they talk about "period".

Period refers to a time & place

Without the context of what the SCA is, the term period is meaningless: period must refer to a time and place. At present the big-tent SCA "period" covers pre-17th century time-wise, and does not limit place (save that we've not dressing up as aliens from Alpha Centauri). SCA's place used to be narrower: prior to September 2018, the SCA homepage more explicitly demarcated the focus of the Society as "pre-17th-century Europe" (emphasis mine) and earlier-still versions of the website mark the focus of the society as "Western civilization before 1600, [with a] concentration on the Western European High Middle Ages". Period may be narrowed situationally: if you are reproducing an 500's Persian style, using early-modern dyes may not be period to your goals.

Period is not binary

A common point of contention regarding period is what it takes for something to "belong" to a time and place. If, of thousands of extant artefacts, we have one that uses (or perhaps suggests the use of) a technique, then what do we make of this? Clearly there is evidence it happened, but at the same time some may not see it as characteristic of that period. The rules for names and heraldry in the Society, which must be highly defined in order to allow the College of Arms to accept/reject submissions with consistency, has corner-cases and carve-outs. Affordance is made (with conditions) to documentation as late as 1650, recognizing that something which can't quite be dated to pre-17th century was quite likely in use earlier. Individually Attested Patterns allow for registration of devices that are "period" to a specific time and place with different heraldic norms than the Society "core style", which is based on Western European heraldry. Even the way we use the word "period" makes it clear this is not a yes/no question. How else could we say something is very period? When discussing something's period-ness, it can be helpful to describe what informs your assessment: is it evidence that it was done in period (i.e. time & place)? That is could have been done with the material available in period? That, in keeping with the spirit of "period" life, you used materials available in your natural surroundings, and produced something suited to your own needs? I find it helpful to qualify what I mean by period, or even bypass the word entirely.

When discussing the historicity of something in detail, it is often best to move beyond the word "period" entirely and focus on the specific. When I submitted a knit pouch to Kingdom A&S this year, here's what I wrote about the yarn:

[This project uses a] mercerized cotton yarn. Cotton is a well-documented [fiber] appearing in Middle Eastern and North African textiles, including knit socks. Note that the mercerization process was not discovered until 1844.

When we move beyond "cotton is period, but mercerization is not," so much becomes possible! "Period" is a useful shorthand for something appearing in a time and place, but I would suggest we put "Is it period?" back on the shelf alongside "Is a hot dog a sandwich?", "Is Die Hard a Christmas movie?", and "Is the SCA a larp?"

Call For Entries

Our Clarion editions of old are a perfect example of what can be done when we all contribute article ideas and A&S Project Show and Tells. Let's keep the participation flowing, as I'm always happy to include your suggestions in the next edition.

This is your invitation to share; please contact me about photos you may have taken at events, stories (new and old) you want to tell or be told, and other article ideas that involve Ben Dunfirth.

Please contact me (HE Meredyth Llwellyn) at bdchronicler@gmail.com and make sure to include your SCA name and contact info where I can best respond to your message.

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Although the SCA complies with all applicable laws to ensure the health and safety of our event participants, we cannot eliminate the risk of exposure to infectious diseases during in-person events. By participating in the in-person events of the SCA, you acknowledge and accept the potential risks. You agree to take any additional steps to protect your own health and safety and those under your control as you believe to be necessary.

The website is the most up to date source for announcements, dates and information.

This is the quarterly issue of The Ben Dunfirth Clarion, a publication of the Barony of Ben Dunfirth of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. (SCA, Inc.). The Clarion is available from Meredyth Llwellyn, bdchronicler@gmail.com or the Ben Dunfirth website. It is not a corporate publication of SCA, Inc., and does not delineate SCA, Inc. policies. Copyright (c)2023 Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. For information on reprinting photographs, articles or artwork from this publication, please contact the Chronicler, who will assist you in contacting the original creator of the piece.

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