



The Althing

A quarterly publication of the
Barony-Marche of the Debatable Lands
in the
Kingdom of Æthelmearc

Located in these modern times in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and surrounding areas

From the Baronage

A missive from Their Excellencies of The Debatable Lands

Hello Debatable Lands! Salve Accolens!

We have big news! The years have flown by and it has been our pleasure and privilege to serve as Your Baron and Baroness, and so it is with full hearts that we announce that we have invoked the ancient policies of Baronial Elections. We announced at Our Court at the Barony Social in September that we intend to step down to make way so that others may have a chance to serve as the stewards of these great lands. It is our wish that we will be attending the investiture of our heirs following next Pennsic in approximately one year's time.

As we will be stepping down as Baron and Baroness of the Debatable Lands in about a year, Our Seneschal and the election committee (formed at the Oct business meeting on 10/5) will communicate further in the next couple of weeks, and will keep you updated throughout the process via our electronic outlets. The nomination meeting will occur in November at our social meeting, date TBD. In the meantime, those curious may wish to read the election section of our Baronial Policies, found at www.debatablelands.org.

It's an exciting time for our Barony indeed! We look forward to the coming months, and to chatting with those interested in running in the election. Feel free to reach out to us on the matter anytime!

And on recent happenings: Pennsic was incredible, and we'd love to thank all who made our first Pennsic War in 3 years a memorable one indeed! We thoroughly enjoyed the performances of our choir and I Genesii, as well as witnessing the prowess of our Champions in the the Known World Champions' Tourneys and the most GLORIOUS day on the Field at the Bridge Battles, where the Debatable Lands fielded a unit, and our beloved Sir Guillaume was knighted. Of course, one of the brightest highlights for us was our Pennsic Baronial Social and Court, followed by an amazing Kingdom Court, at which so many of our people were rightly recognized for their



photo credit: Silence de Cherbourg

good works. The social was a smashing success, thanks to Lady Arthes and her staff, THL Ceindrech, Lady Astrid, and Lord Skjoldr, with set-up and clean-up by Lord Yakub, Sam, THL Meinolfr, Kit, Jay, Lord Ronan, Yarden, Lord Tourlough, Lady Fine, and more folks we missed! Thank you to our support and staff as well - we couldn't do it without you! Our heralds Lord Ronan and Lord Reinhard, our retainers Rei and Elinor Walden, and our Guards and Champions, Yarden, Yakub, Cyrus and Meinolfr. Also, our camp staff Master Emrys, our Reeve, and his deputies Mistress Ren and THL Margery, Lord Ronan and Lord Niall the firemasters, and Niall as well for streaming ALL the Courts!! A special thanks and welcome to all our wonderful newcomers, especially Jen for the scrumptious surprise camp dinner. And to all those we didn't name, but who helped and spread the joy and love... thank you, from the bottom of our hearts!

We had an amazing time at the Baronial Social on Sept 17th, with many thanks to THL Ceindrech and her staff, and the folks that jumped in to help with our Court: Master Emrys, Carl, Lady Fine, Elle, and Lord Turlough. And a big welcome to all our newcomers!

In Levitate et Caritate, and Cheers,

Baroness Hilda & Baron Brandubh

From the Seneschal

Greetings Noble Populace,

As is our custom; Business meetings are held on the 1st Wednesday of even numbered Months; The Next Business Meeting will be October 5, 2022 at 8 pm via Zoom, meeting details will be posted to the Barony Blog; Storfrettir. The last Business Meeting of the year will be held December 7th, 2022. All members of the Debatable Lands are encouraged to attend our meetings to participate in the ongoing of running our Barony.

Our next social meeting will be November 13, 2022 at the Rose Barn in North Park. (303 Pearce Mill Rd, Allison Park, PA 15101 and follow the signs to the Rose Barn). It will be our Harvest Revel and include Nominations of the Office of the Baronage. As Their Excellencies said, please feel free to review the Baronial Policies regarding elections located <http://debatablelands.org/resources/policies-and-forms/> and consider who you might wish to see lead Our Barony in the coming years.

I will be announcing more details regarding the Baronial Election, The Zip Codes which belong to the Debatablelands and those that would require a rest for a ballot as we finalize agreements with The Kingdom regarding zip codes within the Crown's land becoming part of the Barony's official borders.

Thank you to all of the Officers of the Debatable Lands and Our Populace for your gifts of service, prowess, and art shared with the Kingdom and the Known World at The Pennsic War. Everywhere I looked, I saw the comet leading the way. You bring such strength and beauty to Our Society.

Thank you to Her Ladyship Ceindrech verch Elidir and her staff for running the September social meeting. It was a wonderful day to enjoy fellowship and a chance to share new skills and passions.



photo credit: Schneider Photography

In Service,

Muirgheal

She/her

muirgheall@gmail.com

address and phone number in the dark pages

In Mentem Insania

A True Crime Series from Meesteres Odriana vander Brugge

Alice Kyteler, Part I of III

Alice Kyteler (1263 - 1325(?)) was born in Kilkenny Ireland in 1263, the only child of Flemish merchants. She may have been a four-time husband-killer, leader of a cabal of witches, and enthusiastic lover of the demon Robin Artisson. Or she may have been a successful moneylender, unlucky in love, and a doting mother who was willing to go to any lengths to ensure a proper inheritance for her only biological child.

History

Let's talk about what was going on in Ireland in the late 13th and early 14th centuries. There was significant financial growth all over Western Europe before 1300, but upon the turn of the century, a series of circumstances kicked off what eventually led to the European Famine of 1315. Leading up to 1315, significant climate and demographic changes were taking place in Western Europe, including Ireland. There were colder winters and wetter summers, and this negatively affected the crops.

The Papacy was much stronger than the Monarchy during this period, so the church was the center of legal disputes and the arbiter of all morality and social norms. In 1305, the Papacy was exiled to Avignon; however, the power of the church didn't really diminish among the populace.

Once the Great Famine struck in 1315, the Church lost parishioners, which means it lost revenue. Churches in Ireland were hit just as hard as everywhere else. They also had the added complication of the conflict between Henry II and Thomas Beckett where the struggle of the Papacy and the Monarchy were given human forms. This financial situation and the tension between church and state, in my opinion, have much to do with what happened to Alice.

Let's meet the major players in the accusations and trial:

Alice Kyteler: Alice's family came from the Low Countries, but there's no indication as to where. Guessing is basically impossible because, with economic mobility, there are too many factors to narrow down a location. Assuming that Alice eventually entered her parents' business, it is highly likely that they were moneylenders or accountants or involved in trade in some way. This would have given

Alice the middle-class upbringing that would allow Alice to be able to have enough education to be a successful businessperson, which she was.

There is little information about Alice prior to her marriage to her first husband William Uitlagh (Outlawe) (best name, ever) around 1280. She remained married to him until his death in 1285. Alice would have been between 17 and 22 years old during her marriage to her first husband, where she produced her only biological child, William.

Petronilla de Meath: Petronilla was born in 1300 and was Alice's servant during her fourth (and final) marriage. There is little to no information about her outside of the details of the trial itself. We know that she had a child and that she was flogged and then burned to death in Alice's stead in 1324.

Arnold Le Poer: A relative of Alice's 4th husband, he defended her innocence and was himself accused of being part of a cabal of witches. He died in 1331 in prison, awaiting trial for heresy.

Roger Utlagh (Outlawe): He was the brother of Alice's first husband, William. He was a member of the Order of the Knights Hospitallers (a military order). He served in the English Army against the Scots during the invasion of Edward the Bruce. After his military service, he was entitled to sit in Parliament, where he gained a reputation as an able and skilled statesman. He was so respected that he was appointed Lord Chancellor of Ireland in 1321, serving four years. Between 1320 and his death in 1341 he frequently acted as Justiciar or Deputy Justiciar (a Justiciar is an administrative position acting within the courts).

The Husbands:

William Uitlagh (Outlawe): William Outlawe, was a successful moneylender with adult children when he married Alice. She and William produced her only recorded biological child, also called William Uitlagh. To keep these two men separate, I will be calling the older William "William" and the younger William "Liam."

There are a few years where there is no information, but eventually, Liam took over William's business. I assume that it was either left to him or it was left to Alice, who then allowed Liam to take on that business when he was older. There were stepchildren from William's earlier marriage, and I believe that they were written out of the will. I base that on what happened next.

In 1302, William's adult children, still bitter about her getting a cut of their father's business, accused Liam and Alice of killing their father. This accusation went nowhere as there was absolutely no indication of foul play of any sort.

Adam le Blund and Richard de Valle: A year after being accused of killing her first husband, Alice married Adam le Blund, also a very wealthy man. He died only a few years into their marriage and in 1309, she married Richard de Valle. When Richard died five years later, Alice had to take her stepchildren to court to recover her widow's dower of 1/3rd of his business.

Sir John le Poer: In 1316 she married Sir John le Poer. He had children from a previous marriage, and it was his illness and death in 1324 that triggered the accusations of witchcraft.

The Bishop

Richard de Ledrede, Bishop of Ossory: Richard de Ledrede was born sometime between 1260 and 1270 and became a Franciscan Friar, eventually being elevated to Bishophood in May of 1317. He was given Ossory as his Bishopric and remained there until his death. The Bishopric itself felt the sting of the various ills that befell Ireland during the early 1300s, to the tune of -47% in the depreciation of its donations after the invasion of Edward Bruce. Kilkenny, however, was not terribly affected. This will become important later. He was known as a "scourge of heresy & witchcraft" (Greene, 1952) and dedicated himself to the eradication of witchcraft. He was of the absolute belief that witchcraft was alive and well and that his position as a shepherd of men was to ensure that the evil of witchcraft did not overtake his charges. His legacy, other than the trial, was that he made improvements to St. Canice's Cathedral and composed 60 short Latin hymns (to replace secular hymns he disapproved of) called the "Red Book of Ossory."

Super Illius Specula

Before we get to the trial, we need to discuss the authority under which Ledrede was acting, "Super illius specula" (Over the glasses), a Papal Bull written by Pope John XXII in 1326. This document officially decreed witchcraft as heresy and that it could be tried under the inquisition. I can, and eventually will in the future, do a whole analysis of it, but for now, here is the full wording, in an English Translation from James Walsh, MD, PhD in his paper "Decretal Super Illius Specula".

"Seeking to discover how the sons of men know and serve God by the practice of the Christian religion, we look down from the watch-tower where, though unworthy, we have been placed by the favoring clemency of Him who made the first man after His own image and likeness; setting him over earthly things; adorning him with heavenly virtues; recalling him when a wanderer; bestowing on him a law; freeing him from slavery; finding him when he was lost; and finally ransoming him from captivity by the merit of His passion. With grief we discover, and the very thought of it wrings our soul with anguish, that there are many Christians only in name; many who turn away from the light which once was theirs, and allow their minds to be so clouded with the darkness of error as to enter into a league with death and a compact with hell. They sacrifice to demons and adore them, they make or cause to be made images, rings, mirrors, phials or some such things in which by the art of magic evil spirits are to be enclosed. From them they seek and receive replies and ask aid in satisfying their evil desires. For a foul purpose they submit to the foulest slavery. Alas! this deadly malady is increasing more than usual in the world and inflicting greater and greater ravages on the flock of Christ." Section I. -Since, therefore, we are bound by the duty of our pastoral office to bring back to the fold of Christ the sheep who are wandering through devious ways and to exclude from the Lord's flock those who are diseased lest they should infect the rest, We, by this edict, which, in accordance with the counsel of our brother bishops, is to remain in perpetual vigor, warn all and in virtue of holy obedience and under pain of anathema enjoin on all those who have been regenerated in the waters of baptism not to inculcate or study any of the perverse teachings we have mentioned, or, what is more to be condemned, practice them in any manner upon any one." Section II. -And because it is just that those who by their deeds make mockery of the most High should meet with punishments worthy of their transgressions we pronounce the sentence of excommunication which it is our will they shall ipso facto incur, who shall presume to act contrary to our salutary warnings and commands. And we -firmly decree that in addition to the above penalties a process shall be begun before competent judges for the infliction of all and every penalty which heretics are subject to according to law, except confiscation of goods, against such as being duly admonished of the foregoing or any of the foregoing practices, have not within eight days from the time when the admonition was given amended their lives in the aforesaid matters. "Section III. -Moreover, since it is proper that no opportunity or occasion should be given for such flagitious practices, We, in conformity with the advice of our brother bishops, ordain and command that no one shall presume to have or to hold books or writing of any kind containing any of the before-mentioned errors or to make a study of them. On the contrary, we desire and in virtue of holy obedience we impose the precept upon all, that whoever shall have any of the aforesaid writings or books shall, within the space of eight days from their knowledge of our edict in this matter, destroy and burn them and every part thereof absolutely and completely; otherwise, we decree that they incur the sentence of excommunication ipso facto and, when the evidence is clear, that other and greater penalties shall be inflicted upon culprits of this kind."

As you can see, it's a straightforward condemnation of witchcraft and its detrimental effects on the souls of all good Christians (which, really, was the whole world in the eyes of the Roman Catholic church). This was the basis upon which Ledrede sought trial in the church for the supposed witchcraft of Alice Kyteler and her co-conspirators.

And this is where we will pick back up next time in the second half of the story of Alice Kyteler, Part II.
[references will be included after Part III.]

Court Report: Debatable Lands, Pennsic XLIX

The following is the report of the Court of Their Excellencies Brandubh et Hilderun, Baron and Baroness of the Barony-Marche of the Debatable Lands, held at Pennsic War XLIX on the 7th day of August anno societatis 57 by Lord Ronan Ó Conaill reporting herald seconded by Lord Reinhard Regenbogen, and with thanks to Lord Niall Mac Raedwulf for serving as ethereal herald and recording the proceedings.

The Baron and Baroness welcomed all to their court and reminded everyone of the events at war that were to follow: champions tryouts and tournaments, Vigils, Elevations, the Barony's bridge battle fighting unit, and the Debatable Choir and I Genesis performances. They then bade the populace to seek their comfort.

Their Excellencies first called forward Master Antonio de Luna to conduct business before the court. Master Antonio then called forward Sayyid Matthias de Lupo Corsi and took him as his protegee.

Lord Patrokles Athenaios was next requested in attendance to be recognized for his skill in the martial forms of heavy fighting, fencing, thrown weapons, and archery. For this he was awarded an Iron Comet. Scroll by THLady Sumayya al Ghaziyah.

Lord Godzimir the Golden was then bade to approach Their Excellencies so they may recognize his service to the archery community and his contribution to the arts with the founding of the Archers Guild. For this he was given a Silver Comet and a scroll by THLady Gesa von Wellenstein with words by Baron Alaric MacConnal.

Their Excellencies invited THLady Nicola Beese to attend them so they may thank her for her service in running the Gold Key and Scriptorium West and award her with a Gold Comet with a scroll by Mistress Graidhne ni Ruaidh.

Lord Yakub al-Musafir was then called upon to be recognized for his prowess on the archery range and was awarded an Iron Comet. Scroll by Ihtizaz bint al-Gani.

Their Excellencies next had Lady Astridhr Thorolfssdottir brought forth so that they may show their appreciation for her service at troll, as a retainer, helping with setup and clean up at events, and her general good works behind the scenes. She was awarded a Gold Comet and scroll by THLady Gesa von Wellenstein with words by Baron Alaric MacConnal.

Their Excellencies invited THLady Nicola Beese to attend them so they may thank her for her service in running the Gold Key and Scriptorium West and award her with a Gold Comet with a scroll by Mistress Graidhne ni Ruaidh.

Lord Yakub al-Musafir was then called upon to be recognized for his prowess on the archery range and was awarded an Iron Comet. Scroll by Ihtizaz bint al-Gani.

Their Excellencies next had Lady Astridhr Thorolfssdottir brought forth so that they may show their appreciation for her service at troll, as a retainer, helping with setup and clean up at events, and her general good works behind the scenes. She was awarded a Gold Comet and scroll by THLady Gesa von Wellenstein with words by Baron Alaric MacConnal.

Sir Maghnus an Chnoc na n'lorá was then invited before Their Excellencies so they might speak on his deeds. Kindly old Sir Maghnus, venerable dead elder of the College of Cour d'Or, with decades of holding office for the good of the barony under his belt, and still remaining a steadfast and reliable fighter at our practices was then inducted into the Order of Copernicus, whereupon he made it known that he wished to take on the moniker of the "Weird Uncle of the Barony". Scroll by Lady Rose O'Tierrany upon a text by Baron Alaric MacConnal.

Their Excellencies then invited the populace to join them on September 17th for the Baronial Social to be held at Hawkeye Park.

Their Excellencies called forward all scribes and wordsmiths who contributed to scrolls that went out during court to be recognized and receive a token from Her Excellency.

Finally Their Excellencies were attended by Master Emrys Eustace, Lady Arthes MacLeod, and Sayyid Matthias di Lupo Corsi who were thanked for all of their works in serving as Baronial Camp Reeve, providing the food for the post-court social, and helping maintain the Baronial camp respectively.

The court of Their Excellencies was then closed.

The court of Their Excellencies was later reopened so that they may call before them THLord Guillaume le Noir du Bordauex. They recognized his service as a heavy fighting marshal, assisting at events, and helping to create the Stellar Tourney and so awarded him a Gold Comet with a scroll by THLady Gesa von Wellenstein and words by Baron Alaric MacConnal.

There being no further business, the court of Their Excellencies was then closed once more.

Court Report: Debatable Lands, 7 Pearls Tournament

The following is the report of the Court of Their Excellencies Brandubh et Hilderun, Baron and Baroness of the Barony-Marche of the Debatable Lands, held at the Seven Pearls event hosted by the Barony of the Rhyderrich Hael on the 27th day of August anno societatis 57 by Lord Ronan Ó Conaill, reporting herald.

Upon opening Their court, Their Excellencies greeted the populace and then gave leave to the Barony of Thescore to conduct their courts.

Upon the closing of THescore's Baronial Court, Their Excellencies called forward Sir Tigernach mac Cathail of the Barony of Endless Hills whereupon they recognized him as the Champion of the Seven Pearls Archery Tournament. Sir Tigernach was then presented a scroll with illumination by Lady Aibell ingen Chernachain, calligraphy by THLady Rachel Daliceux, and words by Baron Brandubh O'Donnghaile.

The court of Their Excellencies was then closed.

Court Report: Debatable Lands, Baronial Social

Their Excellencies Brandubh et Hildrtun held court at their Baronial Social Meeting, Saturday September 17, A.S. 57 (2022). Master Emrys Eustace height Broom reporting Herald.

After greeting the populace, They invited everyone to enjoy the trays of cupcakes available. Largess provided by the generosity of Mistress Ts'vee'a bas Tseepora Levi in honor of Her Excellency Hilderun's Birthday.

With sweet tooth sated, the populace wished her Excellency a happy birthday.

Newcomers to the SCA were gifted with tokens from their Excellencies, and welcomed warmly. Likewise,

those who taught or ran activities that day were also gifted, and praised for their good works. Finally, Kit was given a Pirate Booty Chest (arrr!), thanking her for traveling so far from the Middle Kingdom, providing hot mulled cider, teaching a class on lashing and representing well talk like a pirate day.

Morikawa Rei, of King's Crossing, was given the Cometus Amicus, or friendship comet, for her enthusiastic participation in online A&S outlets, including sewing, scribal, and woodworkers' guilds. The award was limned and scriben by Mistress Shiran al Sussiya, with words from Master Alaric MacConnel.

Lord Thorinn of the Debatable Lands was given a Gold Comet for his support of family, the AE bar, camp, and archery, scroll forthcoming by the hand of Lord Reinhard Regenbogen.

Lady Gredechin Morin de Nordenberg was also given a Gold Comet in absentia for her works as archer, retainer, and A&S deputy, scroll made by Lady Forveleth Dundee.

Lady Elizabeth of the Debatable Lands received her Gold Comet. For a decade she has been a member of the baronial camp, providing quiet respite, helping barony, kingdom, and others with set-up and tear-down, and lightening the mood with song. Scroll scriben by THLady Rachel Daliciuex, and limned by THLady Aiball Shul-vine, with words by Master Alaric MacConnel.

Lady Ceindrich ferch Elidir was called forward. It was noted by their Excellencies that, wherever there is a need, she sees it and leaps to solve it. Their Excellencies presented her with a token of thanks and gave her leave to thank her staff.

Drawing the court to a close, their Excellencies reflected on their seven joyful years as Baron and Baroness of the Debatable Lands, but expressed a desire to see others rise to fill that purpose. They invoked the Baronial election policy, announcing they intend to step down in one year's time, giving time for interested candidates to announce their intentions.

Thus ended the court, on a beautiful late summer day.

Their Excellencies of the Debatable Lands

Baron Brandubh Ó Donnghaile
baron@debatablelands.org

Baroness Hilderun Hügelmann
baroness@debatablelands.org



Their Royal Magesties of Æthelmearc

King Amthor Inn Sterki
ae.king@aethlmearc.org

Queen Ceírech Na Hínnsi
ae.queen@aethlmearc.org

Their Royal Highnesses of Æthelmearc

TBD
ae.prince@aethlmearc.org

TBD
ae.princess@aethlmearc.org

Officers of the Debatable Lands (Term End)

Seneschale (2/24*)
Muirgheal inghean Dubhghaill
seneschal@debatablelands.org

Comet Pursuivant (8/24*)
Jehannette Bouchart
herald@debatablelands.org

Knight Marshal (10/23)
Guillaume le Noire de Bordeaux
knightmarshal@debatablelands.org

Arts and Sciences Minister (4/23)
Ishiyhama Gentarou Yori'ie
ansminister@debatablelands.org

Exchequer (6/23)
Forveleth Dundee
exchequer@debatablelands.org

Chronicler (12/23)
Silence de Cherbourg
chronicler@debatablelands.org

Webminister (4/23)
Reinhard Regenbogen
webminister@debatablelands.org

Mistress of the Lists (2/24)
Vika Vyborskakaia
lists@debatablelands.org

Chatelaine (6/22)
Svava Jorundottir
chatelaine@debatablelands.org

* - second term; cannot renew

Baronial Positions and Deputies

Captain of the Archers

Rónán Ó Conaill
archerymarshal@debatablelands.org

Marshal of the Fence

Jorundr hinn Rotinn
fencingmarshal@debatablelands.org

Thrown Weapons Marshal

Kumagaya Kentarou Masamoto
thrownweapons@debatablelands.org

Equestrian Marshal

Gesa Von Wellanstein
equestrian@debatablelands.org

Youth Fighting Marshal

Jasmine of Tarn Clan
youthcombat@debatablelands.org

Steward

Alaric MacConnal
steward@debatablelands.org

Baronial Signet

Rachel Dalicieux
signet@debatablelands.org

Editor of the Dark Pages

Arianna of Wynthrope
darkpages@debatablelands.org

Historian

Ts'vee'a'bas Tseepora Levi
historian@debatablelands.org

Gold Key (Loaner Garb)

Nichola Beese
goldkey@debatablelands.org

Iron Key (Loaner Fighting Equipment)

Guillaume le Noir du Bordeaux
ironkey@debatablelands.org

DISCLAIMER

This is the Q3 2022 issue of the Althing, a publication of the Barony Marche of the Debatable Lands of the Society of Creative Anachronism, Inc. It is not a corporate publication of the Society of Creative Anachronism, Inc., and does not delineate SCA policies. Opinions are those of the authors and may not reflect or imply the view of the Althing or any member of its staff. Content is used with permission. 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. Please respect the legal rights of our contributors.

PUBLICATION

The Althing is generally published quarterly with content that has been submitted to the Chronicler officer and select content from Stófréttir. The Althing is available for free on the Barony website, www.debatablelands.org. Paper copies are available for those without Internet access. Please contact the Chronicler to have a paper copy mailed to you. Image of Halley's Comet from the Bayeux Tapestry from Wikipedia Commons and is in the public domain.

SUBMISSIONS

Any gentle wishing to submit articles, artwork, poetry, etc. to the Althing is invited to do so. Please send your work to the Chronicler. All material in the Althing is copyrighted to the individual contributors. The Chronicler reserves the right to edit, refuse, or reprint any submissions. The Althing's submission deadline is generally the 15th of the last month of the quarter (March, June, September, December). Send your contributions to chronicler@debatablelands.org for inclusion in the next issue.