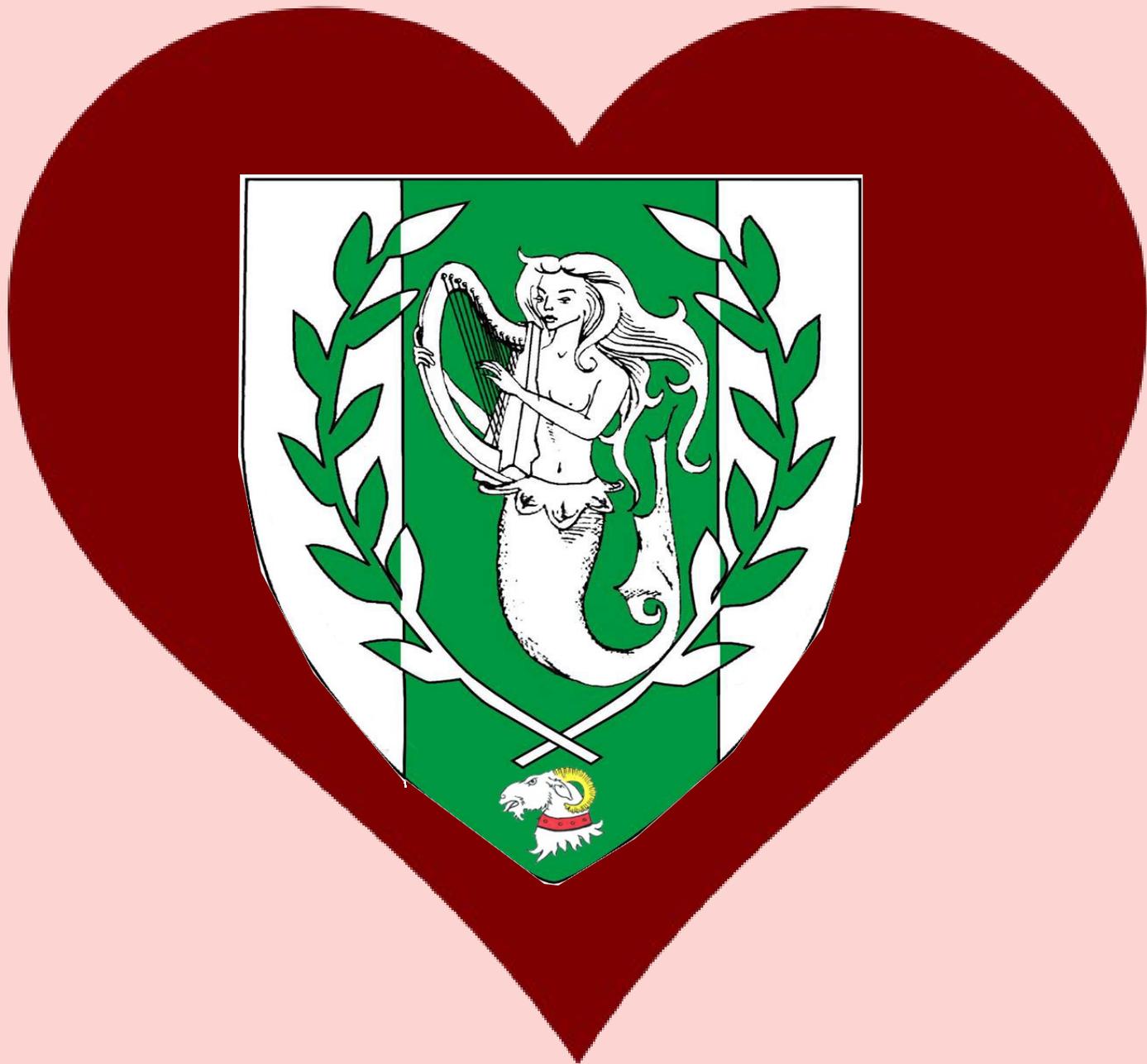


Waterspark



February 2020

Volume 40 Issue 2



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Knights Marshal - Heavy :

Baron James Cooke the Sinister/
Jimmy Cook

Marshal - Rapier :

Emeric de Zara / Neal Zeman

Walter Fitz Alen/ Scott Stewart

Fighter Practice – Every Tuesday

We are doing shop until after Gulf Wars instead of practice. Gulf Wars isn't far off come do those repairs, help or just sit and tell a story . Starting at 6 pm and ending ???.

14 East Cadron Ridge Road, Greenbrier AR 72058

Equestrian Marshal :

Helena de Navarre aka Amber Everson

Horse and archery practice-

Regional Practice

251 Dogwood Lane Austin AR 72007

2/29/20, 3/28/20, 4/11/20, 5/23/20,
6/27/20, 7/18/20, 8/8/20, 9/26/20,
10/10/20, 11/27/20, 11/28/20, (these
two days are back to back practices
only, not an event), 12/19/20



St Valentine's – a minor day in a medieval calendar packed with festivals

February 13, 2017 9.06am EST

Author [Sarah Peverley](#)

Professor of English,

University of Liverpool

The feast of St Valentine has been associated with love since the Middle Ages. Back then Valentine was one of many saints honoured in the Christian calendar alongside major religious festivals, such as Christmas, Easter, and Pentecost.

In medieval times people lived their lives according to the liturgical – or ceremonial – year. But many festivals on the religious calendar also tracked seasonal changes, marking the darkest and lightest times of year, times of planting, harvesting or using up stored food, or signalling the need for people to tighten their belts in periods of traditional shortage.

Little is known about the St Valentine who was martyred on February 14. There are [several Valentines in the Catholic martyrology](#) so it's unclear whether he's the same saint mentioned by [John Gower](#) and [Geoffrey Chaucer](#), the first English poets to associate the feast of St Valentine with [the mating impulses of birds](#) – which were thought to begin looking for their mates on February 14 (this may have been associated with the sounds of the first songbirds after winter).

But what we do know is that Valentine was not one of the more important saints venerated by medieval people – nor was his feast one of the 40 to 50 festa ferianda, or celebratory festivals, which required people to abstain from work in order to fast and attend mass.

Candlemas

Far from being the main event in February, as today's British [high street retailers](#) would have us believe, St Valentine's Day was vastly overshadowed by [Candlemas on February 2](#) – or to give it its proper name, the Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary – which commemorates when Christ's mother presented her holy child in the temple 40 days after his birth.

Each parishioner participated in a solemn candlelit procession before hearing mass and offering a penny to the church. How people celebrated the rest of this work-free day is not clear – though records of other religious holidays reveal that singing, dancing, playing games, drinking, watching plays and feasting were standard forms of entertainment, despite being frowned upon by church officials. Secular distractions aside, Candlemas had huge popular appeal because it celebrated spiritual renewal through Christ's light in the darkness of winter. It heralded the end of the cold season and the candle stubs blessed by the priest were believed to ward off evil and protect the bearer from harm for the rest of the year.

Shrovetide

Another festival that has echoes today was **Shrovetide**, a carnival period before Lent that ran from **Septuagesima Sunday** until Shrove Tuesday – or as it is popularly known, Pancake Day (Mardi Gras). Shrovetide was similarly well-liked because it provided the opportunity to make merry before the strict rules governing diet, sex and recreation kicked in for the 40 days of Lent, when fasting was obligatory and marriages forbidden.

Second only to the festivities witnessed throughout the 12 days of Christmas, when excessive feasting, music, dancing, and games were the order of the day, Shrovetide, was a time for ordinary people to indulge in food, drink and raucous entertainments, watch plays, and play the popular – but dangerous – game of football.

Shrovetide also had a practical function. It legitimised the consumption of the last of the food stored over winter before it turned bad, allowing people to prepare mentally and physically for Lent at a time when there was traditionally a shortage of food. The carnival atmosphere also offered a release from the frustrations of winter. Taking its name from the act of shricing – or confessing – sins, Shrovetide captures the very essence of how the medieval calendar absorbed, governed and brought meaning to everyday life.

To everything a season

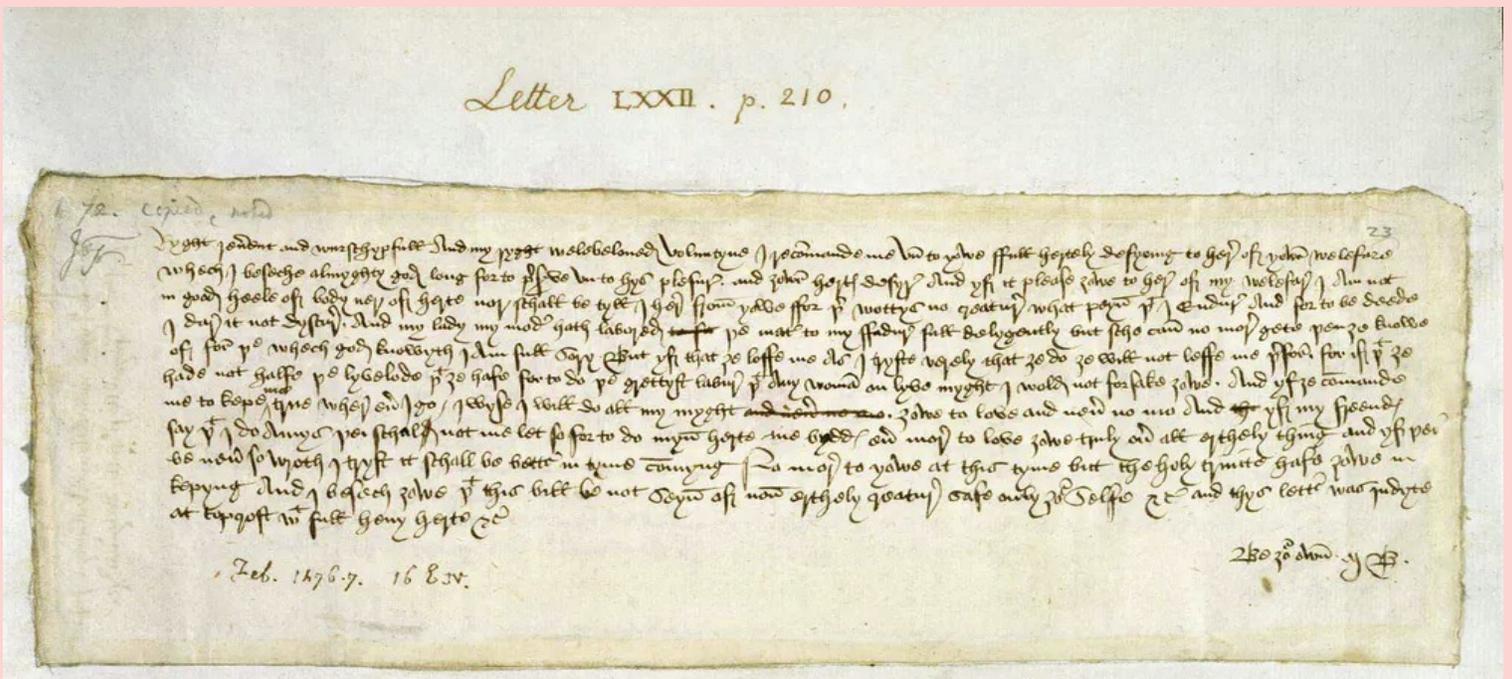
Of course, there were many other holy days, or holidays, providing occasions for celebration. Christmas, Easter and Pentecost (which celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit to the disciples after Christ's ascension) were the principal religious periods – balancing penitential fasting and solemnity with time away from work, merriment and gift giving. And the outdoor revels of early May and summer also played an important role in people's lives, giving rise to secular rituals such as "Maying" (gathering blossoms and dancing around the Maypole, etc), **mummings** and various forms of secular and religious plays. Events such as these took full advantage of the spring and summer months, with warmer days providing ample opportunity for large numbers of people to gather together outside and celebrate the natural seasons of rebirth and growth.

The complex seasonal rhythms of the liturgical year remained consistent in England right up until the Reformation, when the observance of saints' days **was abolished and events in the temporal cycle were modified**. That some of the Catholic feasts, such as Valentine's Day, Shrove Tuesday and Halloween (All Hallows Eve) survived **the Reformation** to remain in our cultural calendar today, is undoubtedly due to the rituals and traditions that secular folk attached to them, an issue that brings us full circle to St Valentine.

Be my Valentine

By the end of the Middle Ages, the meaning of Valentine's Day had expanded to incorporate human lovers expressing their feelings in hope of attracting or reaffirming a mate. In February 1477, one would-be lover, Margery Brews, sent the **oldest-known "Valentine"** in the English language to John Paston, referring to him as her "right welbelouyd Voluntyn". At the time Brews's parents were negotiating her marriage to Paston, a member of the Norfolk gentry, but he was not satisfied with the size of the dowry offered by her father.

The couple married shortly after, so Margery's heartfelt letters clearly appealed to her beloved. While we have to wait until the Tudor period to witness the now familiar concept of bestowing material gifts on one's Valentine, it is Margery's Valentine that best captures the essence of how the saint's day transformed from being a lesser-known feast on the medieval liturgical calendar to one of the most important days of the year for hopeful and hopeless romantics, regardless of religion.



Province of Lagerdamm



Province Website

www.lagerdamm.org/

Province Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/ShireLagerdamm/>



Business Meeting – Second Sunday of the month

Location: Faulkner County Library,
usually in one of the big meeting rooms on
the west (left) side of the library.

Time: Approximately 1:30PM-4PM

Arts and Sciences:

Our "Arts & Sciences" are the crafts, skills, and technologies from the time period and cultures that the SCA covers. Participants research, study, and practice these skills and then share their results with others. You will see them in use and on display at our events - the recipes used for a feast, the armor worn in combat, the scrolls presented in Court, and the costumes (garb) we wear, just to name a few.

Our A&S mistress has scheduled the meetings for the coming year.

3/1, 4/5, 5/10, 6/21, 7/12, 8/16, 9/13, 10/25, 11/22, 12/13

These are all on a Sunday afternoon, at the Faulkner County Library. Watch the Provinces Facebook page for any changes.



This month's letter presented to you by Sir Alfrickr:



L I I B S K T R A H S K X H L
J U S B Z Y E F E O B R A I E
M O X Z O R F A A R N H Q C U
J W B I O E T L W X I R L X I
D Z N D C B M L Q E W M H W H
N P A T O X B E C T G K D H A
G A I P T L U G R V P Q Q A T
R O W O Y E V I T C A T T A D
N O O E H A O A G B W V G W C
L R X L H W W N O B W X D L X
R S M R X N O C X C W G Y N E
V E I P H R R E H N D K O L O
Y R N L D V R X Z O O V E R O
B B O R V O A S I T K J Z E H
S C M K P F D Z M A A N G E L

ADMIRER
ADORE
AFFECTION
ALLEGIANCE
ANGEL
ARROW
ATTACTIVE
AWE

Barony of Grey Niche Presents

Candlemas

A Fiber Arts Collegium

Saturday, February 1, 2020

Come join us for a day of learning and sharing. Teach, learn, or simply spend time with others practicing and talking about the Arts and Sciences. Site opens at 8am with the first classes starting at 9:00. Site closes 6pm.

Shire of Smythkepe Presents:

Gleann Abhann Fighter's Collegium & War Practice

Friday, February 21 at 6pm to Sunday February 23 at 10am

Gulf Wars XXIX,

March 14-22

Events in April:

Spring Coronation:

April 3-5, 2020

The Coronation of Caillin III and Danielle III

The Barony of Small Gray Bear invites all good
gentles to join in celebration as we crown
Gleann Ahbann's Heirs!

Awe Hail!

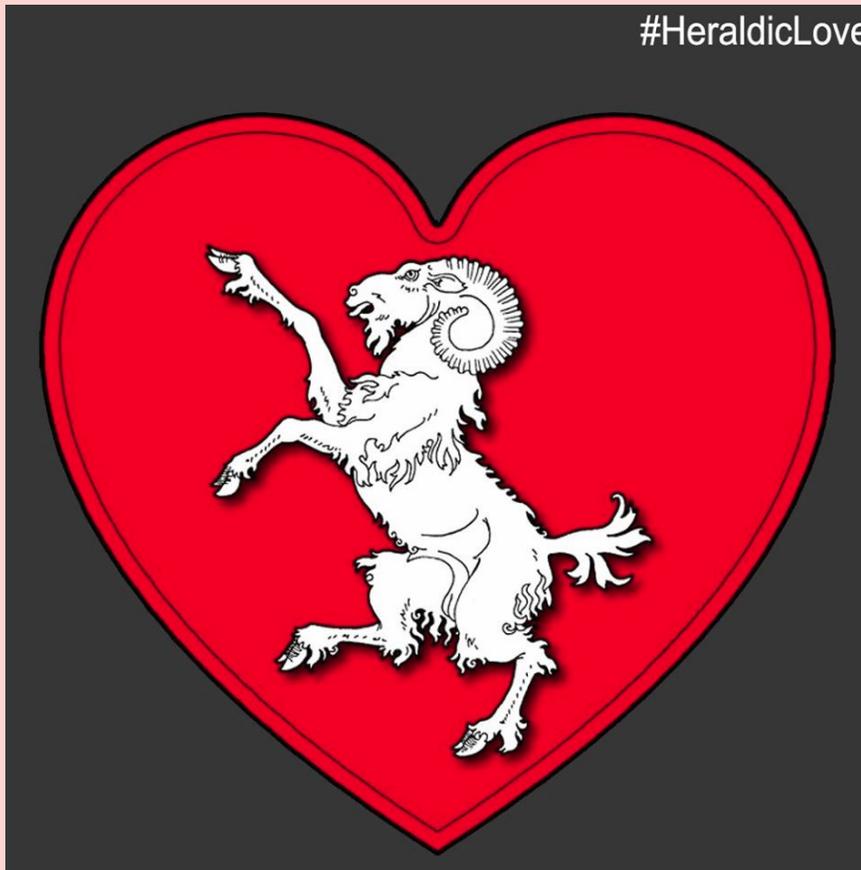
The Province of Lagerdamm Presents:

Newbie Collegium:

Provincial Peddlers

Come experience all the wonders and mysteries the market has to offer. Watch as warriors take the field for honor and glory! Attend “make-it-and-take-it” classes. Archery, equestrian, and live weapons held throughout the day. And back by extraordinary demand! Come shop at the CASHLESS Newbie Market! Wrap up the day with dining and dancing. April 17 - 19, 2020 at Camp Formosa11186 Highway 336 W, Clinton, Arkansas 72031

#HeraldicLove



"This is the February 2020 *WaterSpark*, a publication of the Province of Lagerdamm, Kingdom of Gleann Abhann, of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. (SCA, Inc). The *WaterSpark* is available from Suzanne Daniel, 146 Lamar Rd. Clinton, AR 72031. It is not a corporate publication of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. (SCA, Inc), and does not delineate SCA policies. Copyright © 2020 Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. For information on reprinting photographs, articles, or art work 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.