



# Oldentaløz

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE  
BARONY OF OLDENFELD



## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- [Viking Yule Traditions](#)
- [Upcoming Events](#)
- [A Very Viking Yule](#)

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <a href="#">Coronet's Message</a>         | 2 |
| <a href="#">Seneschal's Message</a>       | 2 |
| <a href="#">Baronial Activities</a>       | 3 |
| <a href="#">Farewell and Welcome</a>      | 3 |
| <a href="#">Baronial Officers Listing</a> | 4 |
| <a href="#">Yule Flyer</a>                | 4 |



Scan with your smart-  
phone camera to go  
the Oldenfeld website

## YULE, PAST AND PRESENT

**H**aaakon Haraldsson (c. 920 – 961), the third king of Norway, is credited with the first attempt at the Christianization of Norway, which he did principally by linking the pagan midwinter celebration of Yule and the Christian holiday of Christmas. As told in the *Heimskringla*, the royal dynasty of Norway written in Old Norse by poet and historian Snorri Sturluson circa 1230, King Haakon I was a popular, successful ruler and was also known as Haakon the Good (*Hákon góði* in Old Norse). At a very young age, Haakon was sent by his father, King Harald I, to the court of King Athelstan of England, to be fostered by King Athelstan and kept out of harm's way. The English king raised him in the Christian religion of Roman Catholicism. When news of his father's death and half-brother Eirik the Bloodaxe's ascension to the throne reached England in c. 932-933, King Athelstan sent Haakon home with ships and men to take the throne. Haakon gained the support of landowners by promising to overturn taxes levied by his father, and Eirik the Bloodaxe was forced to flee the country with his family soon after.

King Haakon hid his Christianity at first to retain the support of the chieftans of the heathen land, but he was successful in rescheduling Yule to coincide with the Christian celebration of Christmas by imposing fines for failure to comply. Traditionally, Yule was celebrated in a heathen temple for three nights, and it involved livestock sacrifices, blood ceremonies, and the consumption of great amounts of food and ale. The sacrificial blood (*hlaut*) was collected in a vessel (*hlautteinar*), borne around the fire, and blessed by the man who made the feast. The blood was then smeared on the idols and walls of the temple, and sprinkled on all present. The meat of the animals was blessed, boiled, and served at the feast. Toasts were drunk first to Odin, second to the gods Njörðr and Freyr, and third to the king. Memorial toasts (*minni*) were also made to departed kinsfolk. However, King Haakon's popularity was such that, over time, many stopped

making sacrifices and even allowed themselves to be baptized. According to the saga of Haakon in the *Heimskringla*, Haakon eventually requested clergy from England "to have the gospel preached in the whole country," but his efforts were so unsuccessful that even his own court poet memorialized Haakon's passing by writing of the gods welcoming him into Valhalla.

In modern societies, a number of the pagan Yule traditions persist. Although the origins are unclear, the Yule log is frequently associated with Germanic paganism and most likely was an entire large tree, carefully selected to provide warmth and endurance through the entire three-day celebration of Yule. The symbolic log was thought to bring prosperity and provide protection from evil spirits. Today, the Yule log is frequently represented in European countries by a chocolate sponge cake, decorated to resemble a log. The Yule boar, or *sónargötr*, was sacrificed during the traditional Germanic pagan celebration of Yule; this was likely in the name of Freyr, whose mount is a gold-bristled boar. During the ceremony, solemn oaths to the king were sworn on the bristles of the sacrificial boar on Yule Eve. In modern Germany and Scandinavian countries, the tradition persists in the marzipan pig, which is given as a gift at Christmas or the New Year to bestow good luck and fortune in the coming year. The same tradition is also represented in modern times by the Christmas ham. The feast day of Saint Stephen (December 26) is also thought to represent another attempt to relate Yule traditions to Christmas and Christianity; late medieval Swedish art depicts St. Stephen bringing a boar's head to the Yuletide banquet, in what historians believe was an attempt to replace pagan rituals dedicated to Freyr with celebration of a Christian saint.



## CORONETS' MESSAGE

Unto the Populace of the mighty Barony of Oldenfeld do we offer warm greetings;

The long, sweltering days of summer have passed and our 2013 event season is upon us! We're grateful to Lord Coil-each and his event staff for a successful Grape Harvest, and equally grateful to Baron Cedric and Master Simon for a great Panhandle Skirmishes; we're sufficiently geared up for the magic that is Yule! Everyone remind friends, newcomers, and visitors throughout the Kingdom that this is a Toys for Tots event!

We thank those of you who submitted award recommendations. If anyone has any questions about how this process goes, please let us know - this applies especially for newer members; reminder

- you are not required to hold any rank or title to make award recommendations, either to us or the Crown via the Kingdom website.

Speaking of new members, we're thrilled at the turnout of excited and engaged new members at Harvest and congratulate all of you for finding like minded people, sharing your excitement for our game, and especially for \*following through\* on getting them to see what we do and share in our collective Dream. Oldenfeld is as strong as it is because we're thriving and growing; we really believe that the future strength of a group can be gauged by the outlook of its newest members. If this is true, then our Barony will be in good hands for many active years to come!

As we engage in our event season, let us all thank those who volunteer to staff and work events, those who offer to teach classes both in and outside of events, and to thank those who help out in ways large and small; sometimes, even the most fleeting moment of praise or assistance can resonate across distance, time, and kindred spirits. I'll talk more about this at Yule.

Enjoy the cooler days, catch up on yard work, enjoy your weekends more, and we'll share our Dream again soon.

Hail Oldenfeld!

Miklos and Marie



## SENE SCHAL'S MESSAGE

Unto the Populace of Oldenfeld,

For those of you who do not already know, as of Oldenfeld's Harvest event this past September, HL Umble the Mumbler has stepped down as Seneschal after three and a half years of dedicated service. I am very grateful that Umble has spent so much time and energy helping me learn about and prepare for the Seneschalship. Since becoming Deputy Seneschal I have been profoundly impressed by the amount of tireless service Umble has put into his Office and into this Barony. I will do my best to live up to his example.

Looking ahead, we have many more events coming up and many Baronial projects that our officers and our Excellencies have proposed. I will work hard towards seeing that these goals come to fruition. Also, I firmly believe in transparency within the Barony on all issues, including our obligations as a Barony and our finances. If you have an opinion or concern about Baronial issues, I encourage you to take the time to attend the twice-monthly Baronial business

meetings and lend your voice to the discussions. Your participation is what keeps our Barony healthy and strong.

I wish to extend a heartfelt thanks to the event staffs of our recent events: Harvest and Panhandle Skirmishes. Despite the pull of mundane obligations, the individuals running both events did an excellent job. I also extend my thanks to everyone who helped out at either Harvest or Panhandle, whether it be in the kitchen, at gate or registration, or on the field.

Having just put on these two successful events, we have Yule just around the corner. As a Toys for Tots event, we will be collecting new, unwrapped toys at Yule to donate to the U.S. Marine Corps' program which distributes toys to needy children in the community. You may bring a toy to registration for a reduced event fee, and toys will be required to participate in the William Marshal tournaments at the event. The more toys you bring, the more opportunities you have to compete!

Those of you who I see out there volunteering and running events are true gems and I appreciate all of your hard work. I appreciate seeing so many of the same souls helping; however I strongly encourage more and different individuals to get involved in our upcoming events. "Many hands make light work." If you are interested in volunteering at an event, being on event staff, or even running an event, it is never too early to get involved. Participation is what we are all about and I am always grateful to those who contribute their time and energy. If you need guidance on how to put together an event bid or what it entails to be an event steward, please contact me or one of the other officers.

I look forward to serving the Barony over the next two years. If you have any questions or concerns or ideas for the future of the Barony, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours in Service to the Dream,  
Lord Aesmund De Gardeyn

### A Viking Christmas Poem

'Twas the night before Yule and all through  
the Hall  
Not a creature was stirring, not warrior nor  
thrall  
And I in my armour, my greaves and my helm  
Was drunker than anyone else in the Realm.

I staggered upstairs and fell into bed  
While four quarts of mead were ablaze in my  
head.  
Then up from below came the sounds of a  
brawl  
So I grabbed up my axe and ran down to the  
Hall.

I missed the last step and crashed down in a  
heap  
Thinking, "Why can't those low-lifes down-  
stairs go to sleep?!"  
When what to my wondering eyes should  
appear  
But two brawny strangers, wielding mallet  
and spear.

I said to myself, "We'll soon have them beat!"  
Then I noticed ten warriors laid out at their  
feet.  
I gave out a yell and leapt into the fray....  
I'll always regret my poor choice of that day.

For the one laid his hammer to the side of my  
nose  
And up, up, up to the rafters I rose.  
Then came a lone frightened voice from the  
floor,  
"Those are no mortal warriors – that's Odin  
and Thor!"

Then they looked at each other and they said,  
"Battle's done.  
Now they know who we are, it no longer is  
fun."  
Then Thor raised his hammer, and his elbow  
he bent,  
And with a loud crash, through the ceiling  
they went.

I crawled through the Hall and flung open the  
door,  
Not really sure that I'd seen them before.  
The snow bathed in starlight, the moon like a  
glede,  
I saw them ride off on an eight-legged steed.

And I heard them exclaim, 'ere they flew out  
of sight,  
"TO HELA WITH CHRISTMAS, WE JUST LOVE A  
GOOD FIGHT!"

— Author Unknown

## BARONIAL ACTIVITIES

### Upcoming Events

#### November

16 [Heraldic, Scribal, and Service Symposium](#) (Darkwater)

23 Bungle in the Jungle ([Starhaven](#))

29–Dec 1 [Long Nights at the Celtic Caravan](#) (Marcaster)

#### December

6–8 A Very Viking Yule ([Oldenfeld, Camp Indian Springs](#))

14 [Yule Event](#) (Sea March)

#### January

3–5 A Pas d'Armes ([Sangre del Sol](#))

3–5 Hero of the Chalice  
([Wyvernwoode](#))

3–5 [Trimarian Archery Day](#)  
(Swampkeype)

11 Cattle Raids ([Starhaven](#))

17–19 Trident Tourney & Kingdom  
Art/Sci ([Darkwater, Camp Kiwanis](#))

25–26 [Hoggetowne \(An Crosaire\)](#)

31–Feb 2 [Hoggetowne \(An Crosaire\)](#)

#### February

7–9 Lion's Tourney ([Oldenfeld, Camp Indian Springs](#))

### FAREWELL AND WELCOME

Thank you for reading Oldentales and allowing me to serve the Barony of Oldenfeld for the last two years. As my time in this office approaches its end, I would like to announce the next chronicler, HL Umble the Mumbler!

I will be moving on to a new office, serving as Oldenfeld's new Minister of Youth. I look forward to the experience!

### Recurring Baronial Events and Meetings

The Barony of Oldenfeld holds business meetings at 7:00 pm on the first and third Thursdays of each month. These meetings are held in the upstairs meeting space at Publix on Ocala Road.

[800 Ocala Rd. Tallahassee. 32304](#)



Heavy fighter practice is held on Sundays at noon at Tom Brown Park.

[Tom Brown Park, Tallahassee. 32301](#)

Rapier practice is held once a month at various locations. Please monitor the [Oldenfeld Yahoo! Groups](#) for updates on practice dates and locations.



Archery practice is held at the home of Mistress Mairi Ceilidh and Master Octavio on Sundays at 3:00 pm. Please check the Oldenfeld calendar for updated schedules, and join the [Yahoo! Group page for Oldenfeld](#) for more archery practice updates.

[2020 Ox Bottom Rd. Tallahassee](#)

The Oldenfeld Ensemble meets on Mondays, from 7:00–8:00 pm, at the home of Lady Daedra and Lord Coil-each (Shana and Jon Pelt). This is open to anyone in the Barony who would like to sing or play an instrument. If you are interested in joining the ensemble, please contact [Master Octavio](#) or [Daedra Forbes](#).



[WWW.OLDENFELD.NET](http://WWW.OLDENFELD.NET)

## OLDENFELD BARONIAL OFFICERS

### Coronets:

HL Miklos von Baeker and HL Marie le Mains



**Seneschal:**  
Lord Aesmund De Gardeyn



**Rapier Marshall:**  
Lord Coileach



**Chronicler:**  
Lady Aurelia Cassia Pelagia



**Constable:**  
HL William Ulf



**Combat Archery Marshall:**  
Vacant



**Historian:**  
Lady Daedra Forbes



**Hospitaller:**  
Mistress Juliana Foxcroft



**Live Weapons Marshall/Ranger:**  
Lady Cristiana Hunter



**Librarian:**  
Lady Perrine du Coeur Joyeux



**Minister of Children:**  
Lady Aurelia Cassia Pelagia



**Art/Sci Minister:**  
HL Athelyna de Oldenfeld



**Web Minister:**  
Lady Braya of the Wood



**Heralds:**  
Lord Coileach, HL William Ulf



**Exchequer:**  
Lady Katarina Krista



**Heavy Marshall:**  
Don Seamus MacDhughail



**Chamberlain:**  
Count Ardien Dochesefford

*If you are interested in a vacant office or becoming a deputy for any of the offices listed, please contact the Seneschal or current officer.*

### Event Stewards

HL William Ulf  
(Jack Cannon)  
[jackcannon@hotmail.com](mailto:jackcannon@hotmail.com)

Lady Katarina Krista  
(Bonnie Davidson)  
[katarinakrista@gmail.com](mailto:katarinakrista@gmail.com)

### Reservations

Lady Meabhe the Mad  
(Kim Crowe)  
[the\\_mad\\_muse@yahoo.com](mailto:the_mad_muse@yahoo.com)  
39 Short Vine Street  
Crawfordville, FL 32327  
(850) 491-3670

### Feast Steward

HL Athelyna de Oldenfeld  
(Susan Humphries)  
[suehumphries3@hotmail.com](mailto:suehumphries3@hotmail.com)

### Equestrian Steward

Count Ardien Dochesefford  
(Norman Doxford)  
[sir.ardion@gmail.com](mailto:sir.ardion@gmail.com)

## A VERY VIKING YULE

HOSTED BY THE BARONY OF OLDENFELD  
<http://2013tmt.wordpress.com/>



FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6—SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8  
CAMP INDIAN SPRINGS, 2387 BLOXHAM CUTOFF RD  
CRAWFORDVILLE, FL 32327

### Event Fees

Day Trip \$18\*  
Weekend \$28\*  
Feast \$10  
Non-members add \$5

*No family charged more than 3 adult fares.*

*\*Save \$3 on site fees by bringing an unwrapped toy for each attendee for Toys for Tots!*

Make checks payable to SCA—Barony of Oldenfeld  
Site open to the populace at 5:00 PM on Friday  
Site closes at 11:00 AM on Sunday

Visit the website for more information, <http://oldenfeld.net/nextevent>