
The Newcastle Courant

St. Matthew's Guild of Historical Actors

August 2000

Making History Fun Since 1565!

OFFICERS

Directors:

Dan Lewis 447-3423
Nathan Schmidt 419-1395
Rebecca Bocchicchio 729-4678

President:

Peter Covington 689-6229

Vice-President:

Mimi Walker 393-0804

Treasurer:

Cathy Rowe

Secretary:

Shawn Houk 967-1714

COMMITTEE HEADS

New Members:

Rhonda Rumrey 447-3423

Education:

Rhonda Rumrey 447-3423

Costume:

Rebecca Bocchicchio 729-4678

Construction:

Liz Martin 419-1395

Plague Rat Dancers:

Lola Pudinski 836-0837

SITCOM:

Peter Covington 689-6229

Scots:

Lola Pudinski 836-0837

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Meet Our Newest Members

Perhaps the people would like to know who those two old weird people are that have joined St. Matts???? The characters we play are historical ones: Sir Thomas Fludd and his wife Elizabeth Andros Fludd. The Fludds lived in the county of Kent, near the little village of Bearstead, which is not too far from Maidstone, about 50 or so miles from London. Their manor house is called Milgate. Sir Thomas served as paymaster to Elizabeth for France & the low lands. He had jurisdiction over the counties of Kent, Surrey and Essex as well as the cinque ports of the southern coast. The Fludds had six sons who survived childhood and two daughters. Though you won't find them listed in many history books you can find their son Robert. He was next to the youngest son and grew up to be a physican, a metaphysician and a tutor to many of the great families of Europe. If you have a chance to visit England you can see the statue of Robert Fludd displayed in the chapel at Bearstead and (hidden almost from view, behind a stairwell) the memorials to Sir Thomas and Elizabeth.

God save & keep you,
Elizabeth Fludd a.k.a Sandy Cook

Director Elections!

Election fever is abroad in the land, and St. Matt's is no exception. The two-year terms of two St. Matts Director positions, those currently held by Dan Lewis and Rebecca Bocchicchio, will be up soon and the vote to fill them will occur at our next Guild meeting on August 19, 2000. Nominations were taken at the last Guild meeting, with the result that both Dan and Rebecca are up for re-election. Joining our incumbents on the ballot is Kathy Stefun.

All Journeymen (and women) are eligible to vote in this election. Take some time to talk to the candidates, consider the issues, and come prepared to vote on the 19th. Don't miss this election, it's one where your vote and your opinion really do count! What do our Directors do, you ask? All will be revealed at the meeting.



What You Missed At The July Guild Meeting

Minutes of July 15, 2000 meeting at Round Table Pizza

Meeting was called to order by Peter Covington, President, at 12:20 p.m.

Minutes from the previous meeting were read and approved (brief break for feeding faces).

New members Charlie and Sandy Cook were introduced, also Mike Nunes' daughter Daphne.

President's report: The work day went well. Some members have indicated they will be going to Pittsburg Faire.

Vice President: Nothing new to report.

Plague Rat Dancers (and Scots): Dancing is being held on Wednesday's, at Lola's from 6:30 to 8 (or so) More participants would be welcome. Some singing may take place after the dancing but it will not be "practice."

Construction Committee: Liz thanked everyone for coming - and we'll be needing another work day. July 29 will be the next one - 9:00 - 12:00. Bring metal scrapers, scissors. Will have another one on August 19 before the guild meeting. The bench-building project will be put off until February or so. Inventory was begun on equipment. Hopefully, the organizing of the equipment will be continued as things are used. Shawn and Kathy will be doing some new banners for the stages. Yvonne and Michael will work together on backdrops. Re-upholstering the chairs has been started.

Folsom Faire Committee: Mimi reported that there would be a vendor's meeting next week.

Costume Committee: Liz briefly discussed jewelry for middle class. She said 1928 brand had some very period-looking items at the Vacaville factory stores. Liz also mentioned the Sacramento Costumers Guild and will be glad to share information about them with anyone who asks.

Newsletter: Nathan will continue to do the newsletter. He would like more contributions from members.

Peter stated that since all dues information was lost in Rowe's fire, all dues will now be due in April, starting next year. If you have not yet paid this year, please pay by end of August.

Mike has made some new Inn signs, since the ones we have are aging. He showed several wonderful signs he has done.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

Minutes of St. Matthew's Business meeting, held July 15, 2000 at Round Table Pizza

Business meeting was called to order at 1:00.

There was a quorum present.

The budget as published in the latest newsletter was discussed.

Lola made a motion to approve the budget, Linda seconded the motion. The motion to approve passed unanimously.

More information on the budget item "Members General" in the amount of \$1100 was requested.

Nominations for the Board of Directors were opened. Two

positions, those currently filled by Dan and Rebecca, are open for election.

Rebecca Bocchicchio was nominated (she indicated earlier she would accept another term). Dan Lewis was nominated (unknown if he would accept another term). Kathy Stefun was nominated (she accepted).

Nominations were closed. These candidates will be announced in the next newsletter. Elections will be held at the next guild meeting.

The Business meeting was adjourned at 1:15

Upcoming Events

Every Wednesday Plague Rats DanceParty at Lola's

Aug. 12-13 Pittsburg Faire

Aug. 19 Work Day and Guild Meeting/Director election

Sept. 16 Guild Meeting

Sept. 30-Oct. 1 - Hanford Faire

Oct. 21 Guild Meeting

Oct. 24 Folsom Load Up

Oct. 25-27 Folsom Set Up

Oct. 28 & 29 Folsom Renaissance Faire and Tournament

October 30 Folsom Tear Down and Unload

Life in Elizabethan England: A Compendium of Common Knowledge, 1558-1603 - PART II

Some Numbers, Measures, & Clocks

The metric system has not been invented yet, so:

- Land is measured in acres.
- Beer is measured in gallons and pints.
- Distance is measured in miles, feet, and inches.

Age is correctly expressed in “long” form only after age 20. That is, you are one-and-twenty (21) or five-and-thirty (35) but never thirty-and-five. Teenage numbers are as we use them now: sixteen, seventeen, etc. Never ten-and-six, which means 10 shillings 6 pence. Nor six-and-ten, for that matter.

Clock time may be expressed either as :

- Two o'clock (yes, really)
- Two of the clock
- Half past 2 (or quarter past)
- The bawdy hand of the dial is now upon the prick of noon!

Numbers are frequently written in lower case Roman numerals, with the last “i” in a number written as a “j”, such as vij for 7.

Games

Drinking may be done in taverns, ale houses, or tippling houses.

Gambling is gaming (game-ing).

Playing with dice is dicing. A good dice game is Hazard, rather like Craps.

The word for backgammon is tables. The “acey-deucey” version is called the Corsican game. You can lose a good deal of money in a tabling den.

Two good period card games are **Primero** and **Taroccho** (ta-RO-koh), played with tarot cards.

A whore house or stew is also a bawdy house or a leaping house or a shugging den.

A drab is a woman of low character or a prostitute. A punk is a whore who may work in a stew. Working girls in Southwark in the domain of the Bishop of Winchester are also called Winchester geese.

A drabber is someone who spends too much time with such women.

Tennis is played indoors, sometimes for high stakes.

Note: Scottish money is worth about one-quarter of the English in the same denominations. That is, a Scottish pound is worth about five English shillings. Irish money is worth even less, and they may want to pay you in nails. (Be wary when gaming with either.)



This is the one in a series of excerpts from *Life in Elizabethan England: A Compendium of Common Knowledge, 1558-1603, Elizabethan Commonplaces For Writers, Actors, and Re-enactors*, written and edited by Maggie Secara. On the web at: www.renaissance.dm.net/compendium/

Don't Miss The Next Guild Meeting
and Work Party
on Saturday, August 19, 2000!

Work Party at the Rowe's at 9:00 a.m.
(or 8:00 if you can get there earlier)
followed by
Guild Meeting at Noon
Roundtable Pizza
4403 Elkhorn Boulevard

**St. Matthew's Guild
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