

---

---

# The Newcastle Courant

---

---

St. Matthew's Guild of Historical Actors

July 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

### **Newsletter:**

Nathan Schmidt / Liz Martin  
5160 Gorham Way  
Sacramento, CA 95835  
E-mail:  
nschmidt@ispchannel.com  
Elsbeth@ispchannel.com

### **WebMistress**

Lola Pudinski  
pandora@softcom.net

### **E-mail administrator:**

Nathan Schmidt  
admin@stmatthewsguild.org

## Huzzah! From Peter

Fair Oaks Faire was a new high point in the recent history of St. Matthew's Guild. Not that Fair Oaks exuded some extraordinary charm in the 100-degree weather, but all of you made St. Matt's encampment a wonderful place to belong. Like the Bee photographer said, we really were the best.

It all started with set up on Friday. Everyone was calm. Everything was ready. Everybody was hip to do faire. Margo ran her work crew like a slave driver, Linda volunteered her old, falling apart truck to fetch poles from the Rowes, some new people (Cathralynn and Michael as well as others) pitched in and all of us smiled regularly during set up. What's that? Calm, enjoying ourselves and each others company during set up? My favorite part of set up was the miracle toolbox. To my never-ending amazement, Liz had prepared a tool box with everything we needed in ONE PLACE. St. Matthew works miracles. During set-up, an activity and energy came into the camp that never left throughout the weekend.

I realized later how the excitement was created. I came in Saturday morning and the encampment bustled with people I liked. And so many of them too. In the four years I've

been a member, the guild has been big, and there's been people that I love hanging out with, but never before has it been this really big group of people I like hang out with! I'm still floating from the fun. Ryan and Kevin vied for the championship of the world, Rhonda saved Gwen from a heat fit, Lola sent us to oatcake heaven, and we never knew that Meg Tackett had such a down and dirty side to her. Mike Nunes told keen stories about southern guilds. And Nathan Champion (well named) handled his coconuts with amazing dexterity. There were so many people contributing so much and we enjoyed every minute of each other's company. Thank you Renaissance theatre, thank you hay shleppers, thank you cooks and moms and actors clean up crews. Thanks for a wonderful faire.

Then finally, when it was all over, we sat Denny's and laughed and laughed. That's when we decided on our t-shirt slogan, "It's all about us."



## What You Missed At The June Guild Meeting

Minutes of June 17, 2000 meeting at Round Table Pizza - Watt and La Riviera

Meeting was called to order at 12:10 p.m.

Guests were introduced

President's report: There was some discussion about the upcoming Fair Oaks Faire, a paper was sent around to sign up for the gate list. A Master's meeting was planned, after lengthy discussion it was scheduled for Monday at 7:00 at the Covington home. Items to be discussed will be the budget and new journeymen.

Plague Rat Dancers: Due to increased interest (huzzah!) dance meetings will be held at Lola's on Wednesdays at 6:30.

Construction Committee: Liz reported that a workday is need to repair the towers. Those interested in helping are to meet early (9:00) on the next guild meeting day, Saturday, July 15, at the Rowe's. The meeting will follow, probably at a nearby pizza restaurant. Members are reminded to bring work materials, such as gloves. Liz also reported that the new pavillion will arrive in early August.

Folsom Faire Committee: Dan mentioned that he had a video of a group of jousters he wants to show for consideration for Folsom. There will be a falconry demonstration, and negotiations are underway with other groups. He also reported that Sound and Fury are unavailable. This news was met with a general aura of sadness from the group. Mimi reported that things are on schedule and normal for this time.

Costume Committee: Rhonda urges members not to buy anything before taking to her, Liz or Rebecca. She recommends borrowing a costume before making a decision. Additional costume workshops will be put off until winter, because we are all getting so busy.

SitCom: Peter is pleased to report that St. George and the Dragon has been very well received. The group will be working on a new something for Folsom. The next meeting will be announced. (a video of St. George was shown after the meeting)

Perish the Thot: Mimi stated that she will trade an empty tape for a recorded tape with anyone who's interested in the songs.

Web site: Lola reported that the web-site is up and still under construction. Everyone in attendance who has seen the site is suitable impressed with the site. The site also has e-mail available for St. Matt's members. Lola still would like to see more photos and character bios for the site.

Newsletter: Nathan asked that a synopsis of the meeting minutes to be available for the newsletter and web site. All information for inclusion in the newsletter should be in early - at least two weeks before the guild meeting. Also, a new member's pamphlet will be redone by Liz, Rhonda and Rebecca.

Scots: Lola has been asked (begged) to provide oat cakes for Fair Oaks Faire.

There was continued discussion about the upcoming Fair Oaks Faire: lunch, cost for same, who was cooking (Peter & Nathan, yay!). A description of sippie cups was given.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

---

---

### Upcoming Events

---

---

**August 12-13** Pittsburg Faire

**October 24** Folsom Load Up

**October 25-27** Folsom Set Up

**October 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 I

## Philosophical Introduction

The past is not all the same place. This is important.

For that matter, the Renaissance is not the same thing from beginning to end. Our own world has changed substantially from the middle of the century to its last decade. Is it safe to suppose that because absolute monarchs still ruled Europe and the steam engine remained undiscovered that the world was static through out the period? Well, no. So it seems important to point out right now, up front, that this little bit of the Renaissance in Northern Europe under discussion here is not the Middle Ages and is not the Baroque. It is its own special thing. It is Elizabethan, with a little edge of Tudor.

As writers and particularly as actors (or re-enactors), we often speak of the past in the present tense. Not because we can't tell the difference between then and now, or even because we wish to have lived then, but because while we're doing it, we need this information to be real and

immediate and everyday. For us, the past is very present indeed. And when we talk in persona, or write dialog, or develop a scene, it is useless to speak of what they did, when we need our audience to understand what they do. Which is why, you will notice, this little book is presented more or less entirely in the present tense.

So this is not a series of essays or articles, but rather bites of Elizabethan life that are, have been, or should be "common knowledge" for those of us who work and play in the 16th Century on a regular basis. It is primarily social history, not political or military. It is neither exhaustive nor comprehensive, but it is what the Elizabethans do, present tense. Links to other sites should fill in the blanks, although I can't account for anyone's authority but mine own.

In living history, we often say that we are playing a chapter, not a page of history. It's a very big chapter. Elizabeth reigns for 45 years, but there are only 10 years

between the end of Henry VIII's reign and the beginning of Elizabeth's. We tend to think of Shakespeare and that lot as quintessentially Elizabethan, and central to our whole idea of what Elizabethan means. But Will was born in 1564, very near the beginning of the reign. His adult career (or our awareness of it) doesn't begin until 30 years later, way near the end. The Elizabethan experience was well under way by the time he entered it, and he outlived it, after all. But this is a chapter, not a page.

Throughout this chapter, lots of things change, but not the legal age for marriage. In '99 as in '58, pennies are made of silver, and an Angel is worth 10 shillings. Gentlemen still put their servants in livery, but the army (such as it is) does not. Peers cannot be arrested for anything except felony, treason, and breach of the peace. Turnips are still on the common man's menu while potatoes are not. The world is still composed of Air, Earth, Fire, and Water, and Judgment Day still awaits us all.

## Services and Occupations

<i>You get...</i>	<i>From the...</i>
Books	Stationer or bookseller
Cloth	Mercer
Hats	Milliner or Hatter
Suit of Clothes	Tailor
Shirts/Smocks	Seamstress
Ready made clothes	Draper
Arrows	Fletcher
Bows	Bowyer
Horseshoes	Farrier
Other iron work	Blacksmith
Armor	Armorer
A Portrait	Limner
Legal Service	Lawyer
Drugs etc.	Apothecary
Dentistry	Barber Surgeon

A Mercer

Is the cloth retailer: the local fabric store is a mercer's shop. One may be a silk mercer or wool mercer, for example.

### *On your own staff, your...*

Man of Business	Is your accountant, looks after your investments.
Steward	Oversees the running of your estates.
Factor	Does business for you in London, or in another country.
Nurse	Takes care of infants and young children.
Wet Nurse	Breast feeds the baby (maybe as long as the first 2 years.)
Tutor	Educates your children

### *In Town...*

A Stapler	Buys and sells raw wool; also silk and linen.
A Draper	Deals in cloth (wholesale), plus some ready-made garments and dry goods.

This is the first 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/](http://www.renaissance.dm.net/compendium/)

Don't Miss The Next Guild Meeting  
and Work Party  
on Saturday, July 15, 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  
of Historical Actors**  
P.O. Box 601362  
Sacramento, CA 95860

