
The Newcastle Courant

St. Matthew's Guild of Historical Actors

September 2000

Making History Fun Since 1565!

OFFICERS

Directors:

Dan Lewis 447-3423
Nathan Schmidt 419-1395
Rebecca Bocchicchio 624-7790

President:

Peter Covington 689-6229

Vice-President:

Mimi Walker 393-0804

Treasurer:

Cathy Rowe

Secretary:

Kathy Stefun 483-2642

COMMITTEE HEADS

New Members:

Rhonda Rumrey 447-3423

Education:

Rhonda Rumrey 447-3423

Costume:

Rebecca Bocchicchio 624-7790

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

The Many Faces of Mimi

The Celts

Meaghan ni Dowd Fitzpatrick and *Eileen MacAoidh* are identical cousins. (Anyone remember Patty Duke?) They wear pink or tan leines, brown underskirt and green "bog dress." The only way you can tell them apart is by the airestade (sp?) Eileen wears. They are very similar in personality and lifestyle. They are both quiet, otherworldly herbalists and healers, often thought to be a little pixilated. They like to sit quietly and spin yarn or embroider, when no one is in need of healing.

The English (in order of status, lowest to highest)

Agatha Pugh (lower class): An old, hobbling, poverty-stricken woman of unforgivable personality. She wears a patched underskirt, simple tan bodice and green overskirt. Agatha is known to be a harpy. She often is seen chasing her poor benighted husband, Hugh Pugh, with a broom and beating him about the head and ears for not working and spending all his time and her few pennies on strong drink.

It's not known which happened first; whether she became a harpy out of her aggravation with his laziness or if he began drinking because she's so mean. I don't do her much because she offends my friends.

Constance (Balfour) Bidwell: A tavern wench with a jolly personality. She

wears a burgundy bodice, green underskirt and dark brown overskirt. She is twice married. Her first husband died under mysterious circumstances upstairs at the Cock and Bull Tavern (not the Inn) down at the wharf. It's rumoured that he had a second smile below the first. She has lost her poor dear second husband. He's not dead, just lost. So to fill her days, she works at the Inn for her Master and Mistress, the honorable Cranes. Besides being jolly, she is also rather venal, so she also takes on additional work for Mistress Judith Baker, shopping, bead and embroidery work. The rumours of her taking on upstairs trade at the BZB Inn, however, are false. We run a respectable establishment! Just read our rules and you would know that.

Mistress Judith Baker (upper middle class / lower upper class): Wife of the Guildmaster of the Guild of Hostmen (the colliers or coal merchants guild), James Baker. She wears a beaded, brocade underskirt, and coral overskirt and bodice with coral or beaded brocade sleeves. The Bakers are quite wealthy and Judith flaunts it unremittingly. She is quite supercilious and literally looks down her nose at all but her close friends, Griselda Sticknell and Gillian Brickhouse. James is frequently tied up in business

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What You Missed At The August Guild Meeting

St. Matthew's Guild

Minutes of Aug. 19, 2000 meeting

Round Table Pizza

Meeting was called to order by Mimi Walker, Vice President, at 12:35 p.m.

There were no officer's reports

Committee reports:

Costume Committee: Everyone is reminded that new costumes need to be approved by the Committee.

Construction Committee: Liz thanked everyone for their attendance at today's work day. Unfortunately, the towers are still not done, and the ticket booth has not even been started. Another work day is needed. Saturday, Aug. 26 will be a painting day to continue work on the towers. The wine garden will be worked on during set up at Faire. Dan Lewis spoke about "thatch" for the roof of the wine garden. He will bring a sample to the next meeting. The next work day will be at the Stefun home on September 16, the day of the next guild meeting. The work day will start at 9 a.m. with a break for lunch and the meeting, and the work day will continue after the meeting. Yvonne has the backdrop for the stage under way. The possibility of providing shade for the stages at Faire was discussed. Whether to have the Tavern at Faire was also discussed. It needs some refurbishing.

Education Committee: The guild has been invited to do "meet and greet" at a birthday party on Sunday, Oct. 15 at a home in Granite

Bay. More info to come for this event.

Folsom Faire Committee: Mimi stated that someone is needed to provide food for faire workers during set up at faire. This would include shopping, serving, etc. for about 40 people. Margo and Yvonne will work together on this, and should also contact Sandy Cook who has some experience in this area.

Faire Entertainment: Dan was pleased to announce that Shawn and Dave will appear at Folsom this year. This news generated a great deal of enthusiastic comment from the members who know who Shawn and Dave are.

New Members Committee: Liz, Rhonda and Rebecca are working on a "new member's handbook"

Plague Rats: Dancers are meeting almost every Wednesday at Lola's - still want to see more people. There will be no dancing on 9/6.

The meeting was turned over to Director Nathan who took a careful count of members in attendance, declared that a quorum was present and that elections for Guild Board of Directors could be held.

Rebecca Bocchicchio and Dan Lewis were running for re-election to the board, and have been duly elected.

Rebecca and Dan both gave stirring acceptance speeches.

In view of the resignation of Shawn Houk, the Secretary, Kathy Stefun has been appointed to fill that vacancy.

The Hanford Renaissance Faire (Sept 30 - Oct 1) was discussed at some length. Several members

want to go, and discussed whether or not to have a guild encampment.

Those who went to the Pittsburgh Faire reported on their experiences.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Stefun, Secretary



A really funny cartoon could be in this spot. Someone please draw something!!

Upcoming Events

Every Wednesday Plague Rats DanceParty at Lola's

Sept. 16 Work Day and Guild Meeting at the Stefun's

Sept. 22 Nathan's birthday, call Liz for details.

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

Life in Elizabethan England: A Compendium of Common Knowledge, 1558-1603 - PART 3

Money: The Basics

All coins are silver or gold, including the pennies. If someone gives you a modern copper penny, tell him it is too debased to use.

Movie correction: There is no copper money. Some older coins are debased with copper or brass, but no one would mistake a shilling for a penny on this basis, as they do (for theatrical reasons) in *Lady Jane*.

There is no paper money. You cannot, for example, have a 5-pound note.

The basic denominations are *pounds*, *shillings*, and *pence*. 12 pence make a shilling. 20 shillings make a pound. In writing, the abbreviation for: penny is d, shilling is s, pound is £

The Coins In Your Pocket

A *sovereign* is a gold coin worth 1 pound (but try to think of it as 20 shillings). There is no coin called a “pound” until after 1583, although that is the basic monetary unit.

The *angel* is one of the most common gold coins in circulation. The angel is worth 10 shillings (1/2 pound). You would never say you owed somebody 6 angels. But you might say you gave your servant an angel to spend at the faire. To coerce someone’s servant, you might suggest that the sweet voice of an angel would convince him.



The *crown* is the most common coin, worth 5 shillings, issued in both gold and silver. The crown is also equal to a *Venetian ducat*, a *Flemish gelder*, or a *French écu* (sometimes called a *French crown*).

Half-a-crown is worth 2 shillings 6 pence (sometimes expressed as “2 and 6”).

The *shilling* is a silver coin worth 12d.

The *sixpence* is a silver coin worth six pence.

A *groat* is a silver coin worth 4 pence.

The *penny* is a silver coin worth a penny (never a pence). You might have several pennies in your pocket, to the value of several pence.

A coin worth 2 pence is called *tuppence*.

A half-penny is called a *ha’-penny* (not a ha’pence).

The *farthing* is a 1/4-penny fragment so tiny as to be impractical, but still in circulation from less inflated times.

The *guinea* does not yet exist, and will not be minted till the late 17th century. Don’t refer to it.

The *mark* is “money of account”. That is, it is a value worth 2/3 of a pound (13s 4d) but there is no coin worth that amount in the 16th century. It is often used in high-level transactions, such as selling land, figuring feudal fines, or calculating dowries.

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/

Real Townsfolk of Newcastle-upon-Tyne ca. 1565

To assist in choosing names and developing characters for our newer members, and for those of us who are ready for something new, Rebecca has provided the following list of real residents of the town of Newcastle-upon-Tyne at the time of our faire. In addition to character development, we can also use this information to develop households and relations between our characters.

Bishop of Durham—James Pilkington

Mayor—William Carr

Sheriff—Anthony Swinburne

Aldermen

Robert Ellyson
Sir Robert Brandlynge
Cuthbert Ellyson
Bartram Anderson
Richard Hodshon
Christopher Mitford
Oswald Chapman

Local ships

The Premeros (owner Robert Ellison; master Thomas Grey)
The Mary Flower (Cuthbert Hunter; Edw. Tailor)
The Grace of God (Roger Rawe; John Bayttes)

Warden of the west marches

Henry, lord Scroop

Warden of the east marches

Francis, earl of Bedford

Priest

George Carr

Curate

Robert Wood

Baliff

Anthony Thomlingson

Clerk of the town court

Bennet Chessye

Merchants

Cuthberth Sticknell
Thomas Bewick
John Green (wife Margaret)
Gawen Aydon (who was also paid for "scourging a boy about the town, and for setting a man on the pillory for two days."
Wife Agnes)

Master Mariners

James Anderson
Richard Harrigatt

Collector of Holme Cultram

Richard Benson

Schoolmaster

Humphrey Grey

Waller

Bartram Alleson
Thomas Blackbull
Andrew Potts

Mason

Matthew Potts

Slaters

Roger Watson

Carpenters

Christopher Brown

Leadworkers (for windows?)

Thomas Fletcher
Thomas Peerson
William Galyghtly

Joiners

Thomas Rand
Thomas Py
Thomas Tomson

Smiths

James Trewghet
John Brown
Rodger Howbourn

Glazier

George Ewyne

Glass seller

Mistress Selby

Stonemason

Henry Orde

Plumber

John Pierson

Lime seller

Robert Rede

Mariners

William Wilkinson
Edward Johnson
Michael Sklaitor

Butchers

William Wilkinson
William Dykeson

Cooper

Alexander Rowell (wife Isabel)

Grocer

Robert Bewicke

Shoemaker

Simon Jackson (wife Isobel)

Fool

John Watsome

Sergeant

Christopher Wilson

Tailor

John Fressell

Merchant apprentice

Cuthbert Carr

Peddlers

John Brown
Jenkin Brown (were put under warden's protection after being slanderously called Scots and threatened with imprisonment for it)

Barber

Richard Thomson

Jay Family

Ralph (tailor, d. 1562)
Janet (wife)
Matthew and Richard (sons)
Elizabeth (daughter)

The Fenne Family

James (father, grocer and apothecary, d. 1565)
George, Robert, John, Christopher (brothers)
Jane and Elizabeth (George's daughters)
Johanna (his wife)
Joan (Christopher's wife)
Robert Eden (his apprentice)
Eleanor Anderson (his servant)

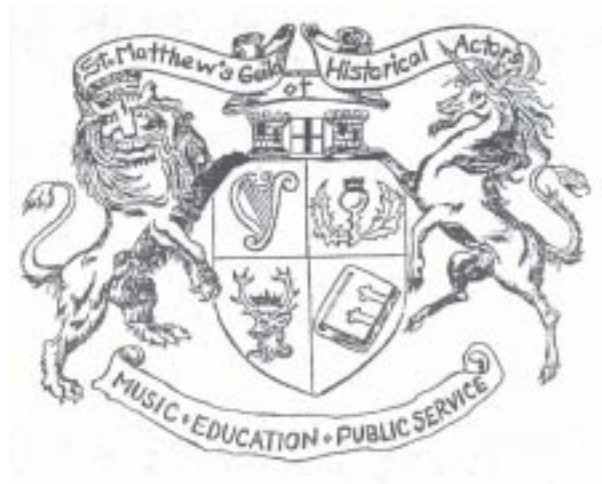
Townswomen

Janet Dodds (single, age 30 in 1562)
Janet Clerk (went to court in defamation suit vs. Agnes Aydon in 1565, Agnes having called her a cutpurse)
Janet Sawter (ducked in 1563 as a scold)
Isabel Carlell (sued William Brandlind, heir to Sir Robert, for the maintenance of their illegitimate daughter Margery)

The Many Faces of Mimi (Continued)

dealings and with buyers "just around the corner" in the Stinky Cheese or Rampant Artichoke Inns (or whatever we're NOT at the moment). Judith will occasionally be seen playing the hostess with James' business partners and buyers at Inns and shows in the shire, while he deals with other buyers elsewhere. She very much likes to spend her husband's money.

~Mimi



Don't Miss The Next Guild Meeting
and Work Party
at the Stefun's
4812 Yucca Way
North Highlands, CA
on Saturday, September 16, 2000!

Work Party starts at 9:00 a.m.
followed by
Guild Meeting at Noon.

**St. Matthew's Guild
of Historical Actors**
P.O. Box 601362
Sacramento, CA 95860

