

# Clyffe Notes

September 2017

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Barony of Dun Carraig

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Special poetry issue,  
featuring the work of Lady  
Adriana Michaels.

(No business meeting notes or reports  
in this issue)

Business Meetings are held on the  
first Tuesday of each month,  
7:00pm at  
Big Larry's Comic Book Cafe,  
Leonardtown, MD 20650.  
For directions go to  
[duncarraig.net/directions.shtml](http://duncarraig.net/directions.shtml)



*Calliope, Muse of elegy. Marble, Roman artwork  
from the 2nd century CE.*



### Ealdgyth's Lament

Ruby Joust Poeta Atlantiae Competition

Lady Adriana Michaels

(Form - Anglo-Saxon Alliterative Verse)

Widowed and weeping / woeful my lot  
 Ever an exile / endless my sorrow  
 In trials tearful / twice widowed  
 Of kingdoms broken / a queen again  
 Harold my husband / at Hastings slain  
 His crown claimed / his kingdom falling  
 Bravely my brothers / brought me to shelter  
 Fearful was our flight / fleeing from London  
 To a stout city / safe behind walls  
 Armies advance / onward in conquest  
 Sorrow surrounds us / safety is fleeting  
 Can walls withstand / William's forces?  
 I wake weeping / waiting in dread  
 Loud lamenting / but not for my lord  
 A husband I hardly knew / How shall I mourn him?  
 Once I was wed / to the Welsh king  
 Eager he allied / with Aelfgar my father  
 Brief was my bliss / broken in war  
 English armies / ambushed his forces  
 Hacked off his head / to Harold sent it  
 His kingdom sundered / among kinsmen divided  
 I was not eager / again to wed  
 Pawn and peace-weaver / passed between men  
 I weep for my fate / fearful, uncertain  
 For the child I carry / his kingdom taken  
 Where will we wander / weary exiles?  
 Seeking safety / searching for a home

### Even through Flame

Lady Adriana Michaels

Team Faith

A peasant girl who cannot write  
 No noble lord or gallant knight  
 But God commands and I shall go  
 To save my country from her foe  
 My faith I'll keep, my voices heed  
 And serve my Lord in word and deed  
 At Vaucouleurs, I make my plea  
 For armored knights to escort me  
 To Chinon where the Dauphin stands  
 And bring God's aid into his hands  
 You mock and jeer at what I say  
 But still my voices I'll obey  
 To prove the words I say are true  
 God's message I present to you  
 The Dauphin's forces fall this day  
 And lose their battle at Rouvray  
 In two days' time, a message read  
 Confirms for you the things I've said

We ride to Chinon swiftly now  
 And I before the Dauphin bow  
 Though in the crowd he seeks to hide  
 My voices point me to his side  
 To prove that God has sent me here  
 I whisper secrets in his ear  
 That none could know, save God and he  
 This gives him cause to trust in me  
 To Orleans he sends me then  
 To break the siege and aid his men  
 I pray and raise my banner high  
 The armies clash and soldiers die  
 Nine days of battle fiercely fought  
 With steadfast faith is victory bought  
 God keeps His pledge, we turn the tide.  
 We break the siege and onward ride  
 To Reims our holy mission bring  
 To free our land and crown our King

What I have promised, I have done  
 Many great victories France has won  
 But at Compeigne, an ambush laid  
 Am I abandoned and betrayed?  
 My voices silent to my need  
 An archer drags me from my steed

I'm thrown into a tiny cell  
 Alone within a private hell  
 Unanswered questions, doubt and fear  
 For why should God have brought me here?  
 At last my voices speak at length  
 To succor me and give me strength  
 For all the trials I've yet to face  
 I ask for God to give me grace

From prison into court I'm led  
 For trial by those who wish me dead  
 All English judges who presume  
 To act as God and seal my doom  
 With subtle questions to ensnare  
 And oaths they wish to have me swear  
 With threats of torture they'd compel  
 And threaten me with death and hell  
 Unless I break my every vow  
 Deny my voices here and now  
 Tell secrets I have sworn to keep  
 I am afraid, but will not weep

When in their tricks I am not caught  
 They have me to the scaffold brought  
 Pages are placed into my hand  
 With words I cannot understand  
 But I must sign or die this day  
 I know not what the pages say  
 In faltering fear I sign the page  
 But in their eyes I still see rage  
 In four days' time, the truth I learn  
 No matter what, they'll see me burn  
 They steal the dress I'm told to wear  
 And leave my soldiers' clothing there  
 I see that I was wrong to sign  
 To leave the truth I knew as mine  
 I dress myself in soldier's clothes  
 Armed with my faith to meet my foes  
 And I recant from all their lies  
 To seek the fire that purifies  
 My secrets I shall never tell  
 Although you make me walk through hell  
 The saints have called to me by name  
 I'll stand steadfast, even through flame



### **Bashing the Bard**

A Smack Poem for the A.S. 51 Gyrrh Oldcastle  
Memorial Poetry Smackdown  
By Lady Adriana Michaels

The crowning jewel of all the written word  
The writer who puts others all to shame  
Has stolen every story that he's heard  
And carelessly misspells his own damn name

Plays fast and loose with history as he wilt  
With clocks in ancient Rome to strike each morn  
Young Hamlet at a college not yet built  
And Aristotle quoted ere he's born

He makes up words to suit each poem's need  
With meanings mashed and stretched to make them fit  
Producing scores of headaches as we read  
And struggle vainly to make sense of it

But his worst crime, should he be charged upon it,  
Has been inspiring me to write this sonnet

**Documentation: Ealdgyth's Lament**

## Anglo-Saxon Verse

The poem is Anglo-Saxon alliterative verse (the same verse style as Beowulf). It has a fairly loose meter, with two stressed syllables in each half line. The number of unstressed syllables varies from line to line. Rather than rhyming, it has alliteration, with one or both of the stressed syllables in the first half-line alliterating with the first stressed syllable of the stressed syllables in the second half-line, usually the first.

The rules for Anglo-Saxon alliterative verse are a little different than modern alliteration. First, the focus is on the stressed syllables, whether they come at the beginning of the word or not. For example, "fighting forever" looks like it alliterates, using the "f" sound at the beginning of both words. But, since "forever" is accented on the second syllable, it doesn't. "Finding misfortune," on the other hand, would be considered alliteration in Anglo-Saxon verse. The other bit of weirdness is that all the different vowel sounds are considered to alliterate with each other. So, you could alliterate not only "axes and apples," but also "axes and elephants" or "axes and ice cream."

Anglo-Saxon verse also uses kennings---compound words or phrases used to metaphorically rename an object or concept. Kennings are useful in alliterative verse, because they allow objects to be renamed to fit the alliterative structure. "Peace-weaver," which I used in this poem, is a kenning that refers to a woman married to an enemy in order to secure peace.

Another common figure of speech in Anglo-Saxon verse is ironic understatement that uses a negative to emphasize a positive. (A modern example would be "not bad looking" to mean handsome.) I pictured Ealdgyth being distraught at being expected to marry the man responsible not only for her husband's death, but who also may have had some hand in her father's exile, so I used "I was not eager / again to wed" to emphasize that.

## Events in the Poem

This poem is inspired by the Norman Conquest in 1066. Harold Godwineson, the recently crowned king of England, was killed in battle with William of Normandy's forces, paving the way for William to claim the English crown. Since my persona is Anglo-Saxon, the Norman Conquest fits very nicely with the theme of "Endings."

I wanted to explore this from the perspective of William's queen, Ealdgyth. She married King Gruffudd ap Llewellyn, the first and only king of Wales, in approximately 1057. Her father, Aelfgar, had been exiled for treason, and the marriage cemented his alliance with the Welsh king. Her husband was killed when Harold Godwineson invaded Wales in 1063, and the kingdom of Wales was broken up. Some time between 1063 and 1066, Ealdgyth was later married again, to Harold. When Harold was killed, her brothers took her from London to Chester, a walled city near Wales which was the last to fall to William. It's not known what happened to her after she went to Chester. It's also not entirely certain which of Harold's children, if any, she bore. Harold had a common-law wife (married according to

pagan traditions rather than Christian ones) prior to his marriage to Ealdgyth, and had several children with her. To muddle things even more, she was also named Ealdgyth, called Edith the Fair or Edith the Gentle Swan. It's been speculated that Harold's son Harold was Queen Ealdgyth's son.

I was struck by the rather depressing symmetry of Ealdgyth's life. She had two husbands, both kings who were killed in battles that spelled either dissolution or conquest for their respective kingdoms. Wales was divided into three kingdoms, while England came under Norman rule.

Sources

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### Even through Flame

(8-syllable rhymed couplets, traditional form for French lais. Lais are primarily a 13th and 14th century form, while Joan lived in the 15th century. I thought a simple verse form, without a lot of metaphor or ornamentation was appropriate to represent Joan's point of view, as a peasant girl who was praised for her simplicity and humility.)

### Documentation: **Bashing the Bard**

Since Shakespeare is famous for his sonnets, I thought that was the most appropriate verse form to use when ragging on him. Traditionally, a sonnet is fourteen lines of iambic pentameter, with the rhyme scheme abab, cdcd, efef, gg, and my sonnet follows this pattern. I did use an extra syllable in the couplet at the end in order to use a feminine (two-syllable) rhyme, but Shakespeare's Sonnet 20 does the same thing throughout.

Sources:

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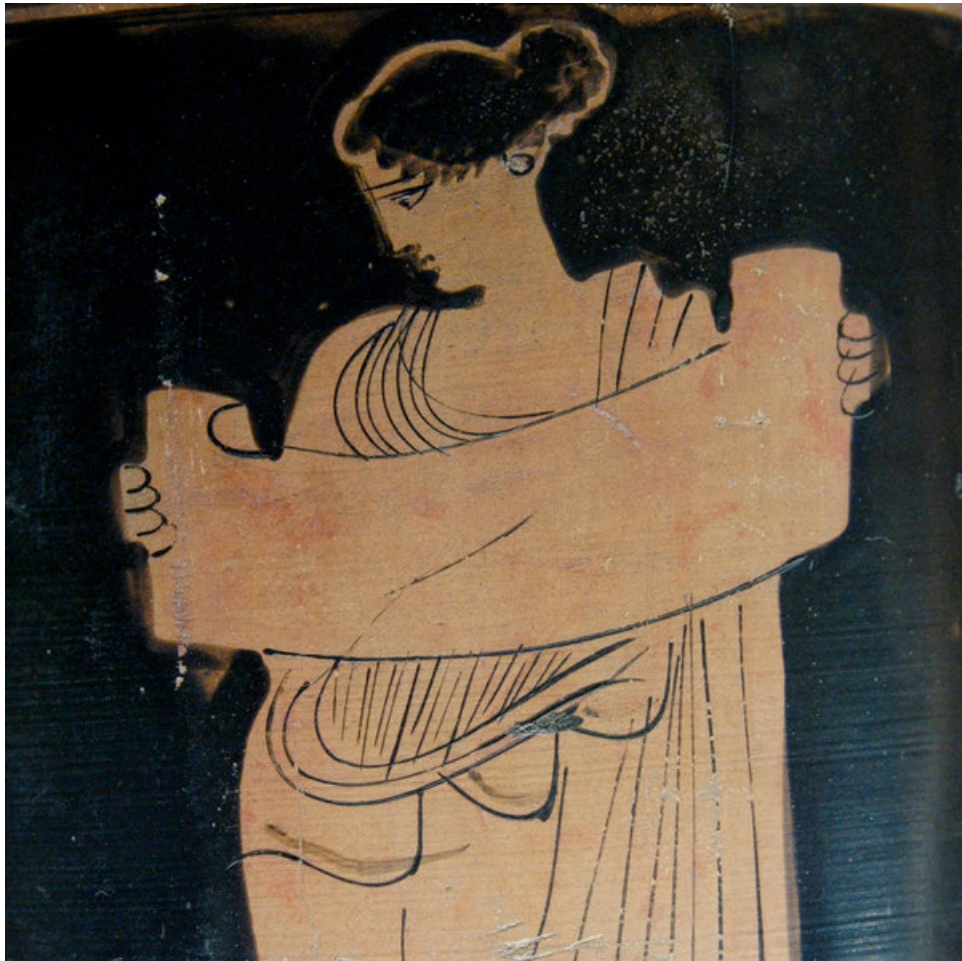
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*Musa reading a volumen (scroll). Attic red-figure lekythos, ca. 435-425 BC.*



# SEPTEMBER 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<b>1</b> Archery Practice 7:00 PM Baron Jonathas' house	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> <i>Labor Day</i>	<b>5</b> Baronial Business Meeting 7:00 PM Big Larry's Leonardtwn	<b>6</b> Fighter Practice 7:30 PM Southern CC Lusby	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Archery Practice 7:00 PM Baron Jonathas' <u>house</u> Trial by Fire	<b>9</b> Trial by Fire Bright Hills Glen Arm, MD
<b>10</b> <i>Grandparents Day</i>  Trial by Fire Bright Hills Glen Arm, MD	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Fighter Practice 7:30 PM Southern CC Lusby	<b>14</b>	Archery Practice 7:00 PM Baron Jonathas' house	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Fighter Practice 7:30 PM Southern CC Lusby	<b>21</b> <i>Rosh Hashanah</i>	<b>22</b> <i>Autumnal equinox</i> Archery Practice 7:00 PM Baron Jonathas' <u>house</u> Battle on the Bay	<b>23</b> Battle on the Bay Lochmere Investiture Upper Marlboro, MD
<b>24</b> Battle on the Bay Lochmere Investiture Upper Marlboro, MD	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Fighter Practice 7:30 PM Southern CC Lusby	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Archery Practice 7:00 PM Baron Jonathas' house	<b>30</b> <i>Yom Kippur</i>

## Baronial Progress

Key:

(BnB) – Baron Harald and Baroness Ceridwen

(B) – Baron Harald

(Ba) – Baroness Ceridwen

The Baronial Calendar displays events at nearby locations.

It is not a schedule of all Atlantian events.

For all scheduled events go to

www "dot" atlantia "dot" sca "dot" org "slash" events "slash"  
atlantia-calendar-events

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[chronicler"at"duncarraig.net](mailto:chronicler@ducarrraig.net)

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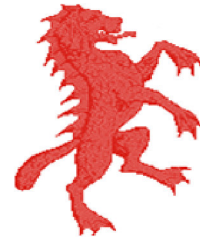
Please send your SCA and modern name(s) and your address.

## Baronial Regnum



### Baron and Baroness

Harald Brandarm Olafssen  
and  
Ceridwen ferch Owain  
c/o John & Linda McLaughlin  
[BnB@DunCarraig.net](mailto:BnB@DunCarraig.net)



### Seneschal

Master Christopher Mac Coning  
[Seneschal@DunCarraig.net](mailto:Seneschal@DunCarraig.net)

### Chancellor of the Exchequer

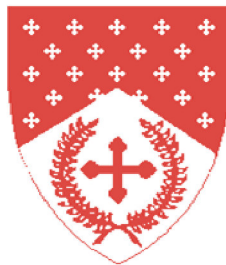
Duke Ragnar Blackhammer  
c/o Charles Kane  
[Exchequer@DunCarraig.net](mailto:Exchequer@DunCarraig.net)

### Mistress of Minors

Caitriona Bheachadoir  
[MoM@DunCarraig.net](mailto:MoM@DunCarraig.net)

### Chronicler

Mary Poschet  
c/o Mary Mosher  
9825 Tayloes Neck Road  
Nanjemoy, MD 20662  
(301) 246-4143  
[Chronicler@DunCarraig.net](mailto:Chronicler@DunCarraig.net)



### Knight Marshal

Cristobal Espada de Avalos  
[KnightMarshal@DunCarraig.net](mailto:KnightMarshal@DunCarraig.net)

### Herald

Cristobal Espada de Avalos  
[Herald@DunCarraig.net](mailto:Herald@DunCarraig.net)

### Minister of Arts & Sciences

Alexina mac Suibhne  
[MOAS@DunCarraig.net](mailto:MOAS@DunCarraig.net)

### Mistress of the Lists

Baroness Lore Bubeck  
[MOL@duncarraig.net](mailto:MOL@duncarraig.net)

### Chatelaine

Lady Coblaith of Dal Riata  
c/o Elizabeth Redding  
4600 Innsbruck Court  
La Plata, MD 20646  
text at 301.751.9101  
[Chatelaine@DunCarraig.net](mailto:Chatelaine@DunCarraig.net)

### Quartermaster

Lord Matthew of Summerdale  
c/o Matthew Keck  
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Tall Timbers, MD 20690  
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[Quartermaster@DunCarraig.net](mailto:Quartermaster@DunCarraig.net)

### Webminister

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### Baronial Champions

Armor: Erwin Bloodaxe  
Rapier: Cristobal Espada de Avalos  
Archery: Knuter  
Arts & Sciences: Alexina mac Suibhne  
Bardic: Mary Poschet

### Historian

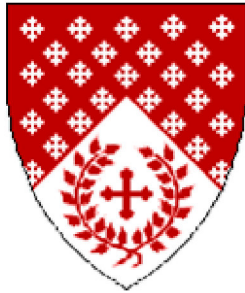
Lady Serena Giovanna de Verona  
[Historian@DunCarraig.net](mailto:Historian@DunCarraig.net)

### Baronial Marshalate

Archery, Siege Weapons:  
Baron Jonathas Reinisch  
Rapier: Cristobal Espada de Avalos  
Thrown Weapons: Caitriona Bheachadoir

## Barony of Dun Carraig

Mary Poschet  
c/o Mary Mosher  
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<https://archive.org/details/bookofbayeux00bell>

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