



# the skein

wherein ARE WOUND  
the JARARVELLIR JARNS



The Skein  
Paul Goldschmidt  
5625 Highland Way  
Middleton WI 53562



AUGUST 2007 A.S. XLII



## BARONESS:

Her Excellency Eithni ingen Talorgain (Jean Hetzel) 4934  
Goldfinch Dr, Madison WI 53714, 628-7782, 226-0846,  
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## BARONIAL OFFICERS



**Archery Captain Co-Captains:** Lady Sirona (*Vicki Stekly*) 241-7534, berkana@execpc.com; Lady Jois Corbet (*Deena Thompson*) 226-0846, corvusjoyous@gmail.com



**Chatelaine:** Lady Elizabeth Wren (*Kristine Anderson*) 608-333-6413  
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**Chirurgicon:** Lady Fiona (*Lyn Andreasen*) 446-6438,  
tskrangsangel@lycos.com



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goldschp@tds.net

**Demo Coordinator:** Annora le Spindlere (*Vicki Spindler*) 835-2617,  
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detroyes@hotmail.com



**Knight Marshal:** Stephen du Bois (*Stephen Ward*) 886-3909  
sward1@chartermi.net



**Minister of Arts & Sciences:** Roisin igen Ailill (*Rebecca Heidelberg*) 244-4621, roisin106@aol.com



**Pursuivant:** Reinholdt von Trollenhagen (*Mark Doyle*)  
338-5895, mark.doyle@wush.com

**Rapier Marshal:** Rosa de la Mer (*Joanna Anderson*) 270-0001,  
prissybi@gmail.com



**Seneschal:** Robert the Stout (*Robert Trefz*) 441-6150, rtrefz@tds.net

**UW Reservations:** Amy of Jararvellir, uwreservations@jararvellir.org



**Web Minister:** James (*James Krot*) 989-493-1953,  
jamesjkrot@yahoo.com

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Baronial Web Page: <http://www.jararvellir.org>

Baronial Email list: [jararvellir@minstrel.com](mailto:jararvellir@minstrel.com)

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**SUBMISSIONS & SUBSCRIPTIONS:** Subscriptions for 2007 are free, but there is a recommended donation of \$1 per issue to cover postage and copying (Full year = \$12). Submissions will be edited for grammar and spelling. Anything that is in poor taste or violates SCA publication guidelines or copyright law will not be published. *The Skein* is published monthly on the first Wednesday after General Meeting. The submission deadline for each issue is the Friday before the General Meeting of the publishing month. Submissions are accepted in any (legible!) format and via e-mail. Please also include any publication restrictions beyond those of this newsletter.

**ART CREDITS:** the cover art is from the website Karen's Whimsy.

## CANTON OF COILLE STOIRMEIL

(Monroe & Juneau County, WI)

<http://www.coillestoirmeil.org>

Seneschal: Kori Redjohan (Corriene Cameron)  
400 High St Apt G, Norwalk WI 54648  
cte71259@centurytel.net, (608) 823-7863

Monthly Meeting: First or second Sunday of the month at the Nest in Tomah

## OUTPOST OF WULFHOMM

(Monroe and surrounding area, WI)

[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Canton\\_of\\_Wolfhome](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Canton_of_Wolfhome)

Seneschal: Ambriose (Ambrose N Paust)  
408 Alvin St, Blanchardville WI 53516  
angusbruiser@yahoo.com, (608) 214-4692

# BARONIAL MEETINGS, GUILDS, AND CONTACTS

*Please call the contact person to verify when & where an activity is held!*

**Archery Practice UW Stock Pavilion Sun 12-2PM, Wed. 6:30-9PM.**

Contact: Lady Jois (Deena) 226-0846, Lady Sirona (Vicki) 241-7534

**Armoured Combat UW Stock Pavilion Wed. 7-10PM, Sunday 2-4PM**

Contact: Stephen du Bois (Stephen Ward) sward1@chartermi.net

**Armormaking Tuesdays 7PM. 3314 Ridgeway Avenue**

Contact: Master Giles (Ed Gilbert) 244-2845, horsebows@mail.madtown.net

**Bardic Night: Fourth Sunday, 6–8PM, Escape Java Joint, 916 Williamson St**

Contact Ingrid the Crafty (Ingrid Stark) 249-8795, ingridthecrafty@yahoo.com; or

Reinholdt von Trollenhagen (Mark Doyle) 338-5895, mark.doyle@wush.com

**Brewing & Vintning Third Monday. Various locations (call for info)**

Contact: Robert the Stout (Robert Trefz) 441-6150, rtrefz@tds.net

**Calligraphy & Illumination Tuesdays 7PM. Call for location**

Contact: Lady Eile (Alicia Cronk) 250-4595, leleth.faery@yahoo.com

**Clothier's Guild Alternate Mondays, 7PM. Contact for location and dates.**

Contact: Iohanna (A. Rebekah Turner) 957-9072, arebekah@gmail.com

**Cordial Guild First Tuesday 7:30PM Contact for location**

Contact: Lady Cianna Kharleen (Carrie Wilkey) 846-8008, cianna@teadame.com

**Equestrian (not currently active but information available)**

Contact: Alissende de Montfaucon (Tammy Thompson) 212-5433, alissende@centurytel.net

**European Dance Sundays 3PM. UW Campus—check TITU for room.**

Contact: Lady Thea

**Fletching Fridays 6:30PM (call ahead) 5418 Imagine**

Contact: Lord Toussaint de Caluwe (Tyson Patterson) 838-4092

**Fool's Guild Alternate Wednesday 6:30PMish, UW Stock Pavilion.**

Contact: Lady Aliénor Hathaway (Mariessa Dobrick) 658-8941, reesa83@aol.com

**General Business Meeting Usually 1st Sunday, 7PM, Edgewood College,**

Predolin Hall — call to verify meeting date and location.

Contact: Robert the Stout (Robert Trefz) 441-6150, rtrefz@tds.net

**Instrumental Music Mondays 7PM-Beginners, 8PM-Advanced.**

UW Campus—Check TITU

Contact: Lord Nikolaus der Ausländer (Clint Hotaling) 846-0859, n\_auslander@hotmail.com

**Middle Eastern Dance and Drumming Wednesday 8:15pm, UW Stock Pavilion**

Contact: Lady Kenya (Heather Cushing) 298-0103, evilkenya@tds.net

**Needlearts Tuesdays 7:30. Call for location**

Contact: Ivan (John Beebe) 298-0918

**Rapier Practice Wednesday 6:30-9PM, UW Stock Pavilion**

Contact: Rosa de la Mer

**Social Practice Wednesday 9PMish Irish Waters on University Ave**

Contact: HE Eithni (Jean Hetzel) 628-7782

**Thrown Weapons Sundays Noon, Second Wednesdays 7PM, UW Stock Pavilion.**

Contact: Vacant

**Vocal Music Thursdays 7 PM UW Campus—Check TITU**

Contact: Lady Aliénor Hathaway (Mariessa Dobrick) 658-8941, reesa83@aol.com

## EPISTLE FROM THE BARONESS

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Greetings unto the Populace of Jararvellir from Baroness Eithni ingen Talorgain!

First and foremost this month, a hearty congratulations to the autocrats and crew of Warriors and Warlords XIV! Despite the site change, the windstorms, and the heat, WW was a wonderful and enjoyable event. Many people came together to find this alternate site and to make the accommodations to make it work. Countless hours, even above and beyond the usual huge amount of time expended on the event, were spent making this year a success. Special congratulations to the autocrat staff who handled all the challenges with exceptional grace under pressure and also to the waterbearers, surgeons, and marshals who helped keep people cool and hydrated so that we had NO transports to the hospital for heat related injuries, despite the heat and lack of shade. To them and all the staff and crew of Warriors and Warlords XIV – Vivant!

With WW passed, the Pennsic War always quickly follows, and even more quickly than usual this year, since the War has been shifted a week earlier to accommodate school schedules. While this will make for a quick turn-around and an extra burden on the washing machine, I'm sure the War will be a splendid time for all attendees. Indeed, I leave for the War in the morning and am greatly looking forward to the classes, the battles, the shopping, and the special atmosphere that can only be found at Pennsic. I hope I will see many of you there, supporting the griffon on the field and off, and I hope to return with many stories of glorious deeds done at War. Travel safe, those that sally forth, and defend the fishy plains, those that stay to guard the home front! Until next month...

Yours in Fishy Service~

**eithni ingen TALORGAIN**

# AUGUST GENERAL MEETING minutes

*In attendance: Robert the Stout, Marian Elizabeth Wollenschläger, Nikolaus der Ausländer, Annora le Spindlere, Iohanna Carracci, Tatiana McGowan, James, Fiona the Younger, Wren, Yseult de Cherbourg, Reinholdt von Trollenhagen, Sol, Paul Wickenden of Thanet, Ermina, Ivan, Cwen, Jois, and Toussaint.*

**Chronicler (Paul):** I am still looking for a deputy and, more immediately, for someone to take minutes and someone to do copying for the September *Skein*. Contact me if you are willing/interested. [Ermina has volunteered to fill the post of deputy and Fiona will do distribution in September]

**Demo Coordinator (Annora):** I am working on the Library Mall demos. There may be a conflict with using the site on Wednesday but I am working on it.

**Archers Brunch (Sol):** The next archers brunch will be on 8/19 at Hoyt Park.

**Chatelaine (Wren):** The newcomers' breakfast at WW went well and we also have had a few new members here at fighter practice. The Harry Potter demo was good and the kids especially loved being chess pieces!

**Music Guild (Nikolaus):** The music guild is currently in its Summer nadir. We are working on the repertoire, with our next planned performance being at Boar's Head.

**Marian:** Nothing.

**WW (Yseult):** I want to give many thanks to the staff who worked very hard in difficult conditions at WW this year. The attendance was lower (with a bigger drop) than we expected, but we still made money. We are still waiting on a few items, but the profit is at least \$2300 (half of which is Jara's). The weather was hard on us and people may hold that against the site (although it was not really the site's fault). The site would have us back but the decision will belong to next year's autocrats.

**Iohanna:** Nothing.

**Stock Pavilion (Reinholdt):** We do not have the Stock Pavilion for several of our regular dates in September (5th, 9th, 12th, 16th, and 19th).

**Heraldry (Reinholdt):** There is heraldry happening. I will hold the next open house on August 22nd at the Stock Pavilion.

**Ermina:** I can help the Chronicler.

**Needlearts (Ivan):** Needlearts has been happening, although I have been unable to attend. I hope to be more active again.

**Cwen:** Nothing.

## LOCAL NEWS

### STOCK PAVILION SCHEDULE

We do NOT have the Stock Pavilion on September 5, 12, 16, or 19. Stay tuned for announcements about the September Library Mall demos on Wednesday. On other dates, we have our regular dates and times. The official schedule can be found at:

<http://www.ansci.wisc.edu/Facilities/stockp.htm>

### JARARVELLIR ARTILLERY BRUNCH

Sunday, August 19 at 11am

Please join us for the first Archers' barbecue of the season, starting at 11:00 a.m. in Hoyt Park. We'll provide the hot coals and condiments, bring a grillable item for yourself. We'll be ready to cook at 11:00. Feel free to provide something else for people to munch on, though it's not required. Please bring your own feastware since we don't provide dishes. At noon we will retire to the Stock Pavilion for archery practice. Loaner archery equipment is available. You are welcome to join us at one or both locations.

#### Directions to Hoyt Park:

FROM THE EAST--take your best route to Regent St. Head west on Regent, keep going past West High School and the cemeteries. Continue on Regent, it will take you into Hoyt Park. Keep driving past the sign for the park and the parking lot for the large park shelter (on your right), continue down the street as it meanders along. Eventually the houses on the left give way to an expanse of lawn with picnic tables and stone fireplaces. On the right, the woods with picnic tables and stone fireplaces drop away and a scenic overlook with parking for several cars appears just before the road starts to meander downhill. Park there. Go across the street to the table with the SCA people sitting at a table with a tablecloth.

FROM THE WEST--take your best route to Midvale Blvd. Turn onto Hillcrest, located halfway between the Mineral Point and Regent intersections. Go several blocks on Hillcrest and turn left onto Owen Parkway (note that you will pass Owen Dr. along the way). The street sign is hard to see, but if you reach Westmoreland you went 1 block too far. Owen Parkway will take you up into Hoyt Park and turn into Regent St. Look for the lawn with stone BBQ's on your right and the scenic pullout on your left. You can park in the pullout, or continue down the street to a lot on your left as you leave the park.

Questions? Contact Sol (233-5433 or [fula\\_chris@yahoo.com](mailto:fula_chris@yahoo.com))

Gifts of authentic period garb in the size of "extra-stately" should be made to:

TRYSTAN DER FACHELTRAEGER,  
THEE MOST WYCKED SHERIFF IN ALL  
OF JARARVELLIR

(With thanks to her Eminence Baroness Eithni ingen Talorgan for the loan of her garbing snobbery.)

Looking for good documentation? Do you have a question for Trystan? Let him know, write to Trystan c/o the Chronicler (Paul Goldschmidt, 5625 Highland Way, Middleton WI 53562, [chronicler@jararvellir](mailto:chronicler@jararvellir)).

## EVENTS

### OUT AND ABOUT

For more information visit the individual group's website (easily accessed from <http://www.northshield.org/events/>).

#### August 2007

31-2—**Autumn Rose**, Rokeclif  
(Galesville WI)

#### September 2007

8—**Northshield Fall  
Coronation**, Falcon's Keep  
(Wisconsin Rapids WI)

21-23—**Siege the Day III**,  
Shattered Oak (Hixton WI)  
29—**30th Baronial Birthday  
Celebration**, Windhaven (Green  
Bay WI)

#### October 2007

6—**Reapers Revel**, Rockwall  
(Johnstown WI)

**Archery (Jois):** People are enjoying the new arrows. We have had a good number of people taking part. We recently rebuilt the targets and have enough materials to do so again. Gille-Michael is inviting archers up for alternate weekends for shooting on Saturday and Sunday (with camping on Saturday night).

**Loaning Archery Equipment (Jois):** Do we have a policy about loaning out archery equipment? [Yes, marshalls can take stuff to events, but private individuals should not take stuff for personal use]

**Fletcher's Guild (Toussaint):** We have a good stock of equipment and supplies and continue to meet at 6:30 on Fridays.

**Exchequer (Fiona):** This year we had \$1000 in the WW emergency fund. Should we put it back in the general fund or hold it out for another year? [Let's hold for another year (will help with moving sites and we are not settled with Marv)] Should we write out the profit check to Jara from the WW proceeds? [Iohanna suggested that we just table the discussion for now. We will wait and hear what Nordskogen says. We can discuss this further next month (Robert will check with them and report back)]

**HP Demo (Tatiana):** Thanks to everyone who took part at the Harry Potter demo, and especially to Reinhold!

**Webminister (James):** The regional webminister has given us new requirements for the use of pictures on the site that I will need time to implement. I will try to do updates to all email addresses in November. I am also working on updating the awards list. Next month, I hope to be able to present ideas for the new site design.

**Baronial Cornet Repairs (Robert):** Eithni would like to do repairs to Baronial coronet while she is a Pennsic. She estimates it will cost about \$50 [Meeting approved to set aside \$75]

**Only a Flesh Wound (Robert):** Kristin Leifsdottor (autocrat for Only a Flesh Wound) would like to have an additional \$150 for advertising in the *Northwatch*. [Questions about what the break even estimate is and what the money will be used for. Robert will check with her and report back next month—request tabled]

**Domain Renewal (Robert):** Domain renewal is due for Jara and WW sites by the end of the month. It's only \$8.75 a domain per year. [Jara will renew for two years; WW staff will make their own decision about the WW domain renewal]

**Staff Changes (Robert):** In September we will be voting on Tatiana as the new Exchequer. Ivan has offered to become deputy seneschal.



NEXT GENERAL MEETING: SEPTEMBER 9,  
AT 7PM, EDGEWOOD COLLEGE

## SCA in the CAPITAL TIMES

The Capital Times came to the Stock Pavilion as part of an article they wrote on medieval re-enactment groups. The eventual result was published this month and can be read online at <http://www.madison.com/tct/entertainment/200301>

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## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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**Thrown Weapons Marshal** — the Thrown Weapons Marshal is responsible for the safe set up and operation of the Barony's thrown weapon practices. The Marshal is also responsible for the Barony's thrown weapon equipment. You must either be a TW Marshal or MIT (or willing to become one) to hold this position. If interested, please contact John Bartholomew of Flanders (Jack) or Robert the Stout.

**Deputy Knight Marshal** — the Deputy Knight Marshal is responsible for assisting the Knight Marshal in overseeing fighting in the Barony. This includes running fight practices, and keeping records of the fighters in the Barony. You need to be either a Marshal or a Marshal in Training to hold this position. Contact Stephen Du Bois if you are interested.

Dear Alys Eigh du Es Cheque Semes,

As your sheriff and arbiter of all that is sensible I have nothing but the highest esteem for those gentles who coax us towards a higher standard of authenticity. Our society profits from their oversight, and I have seen a veritable evolution of society standards over the last 18 years. We are, after all, a medieval recreation society -- without some standard by which to measure our efforts we would be little more than a bunch of shirtless LARPerS. (Note to any shirtless LARPerS who take offense at this characterization: If you feel that your honor requires defense by all means I exhort you to take up your adorable plushie-weapons and seek me out for satisfaction thereof.)

Certainly our martial activities are the foundation of our society, but the artisans and enthusiasts who craft our garb, our metalwork, our jewelry (and so forth, etc.) are without a doubt the ones who allow us to proudly place the words "research" and "re-enactment" prominently upon all of our publications. It is by their grace that we are a society with an educational mandate, as opposed to a clot of poorly adjusted varlets who never got over being shoved around in middle school by the popular kids.

Furthermore the realm of authenticity is the milieu in which our artisans may engage one another and test themselves. The fighters and fencers in our society have ample opportunity to measure their mettle, after all- who are we to deny our laurels their version of a pas d'arms? Imagine the catharsis- the triumph- when Mistress Thread-Counter trumps her rival's card-woven trim and hand-embroidery with an inkle-woven, natural-dyed woolen trim hand-applied onto a flawlessly period hand-sewn tunic. (Okay, neither can I, but I have it on good authority!).

On the other side of the coin, few in the SCA have the time, the patience and/or the resources to pursue their hobby with so keen a devotion to authenticity - but that's okay. I don't expect everybody to be as good as I am with a thrown stiletto or at artfully crushing the spirit of the underclass. The compulsively authentic have their game and their rules - anyone is welcome to enter their arena, but if you do so be prepared to face a drubbing that that will leave you nostalgic for the merely physical humiliations of the list-field.



capital for three days. They treated the inhabitants humanely, burning few buildings, but nevertheless the incident was shocking, for it had been almost 800 years since a foreign force had occupied Rome. This incident is sometimes regarded as the beginning of the Middle Ages.

1391: Jews massacred in Palma de Mallorca.

1456: The printing of the Gutenberg Bible is completed.

August 25, 1580: Battle of Alcantara. Spain defeats Portugal.

August 26, 1278: Ladislaus IV of Hungary and Rudolph I of Germany defeat Premysl Ottokar II of Bohemia in the Battle of Marchfield near Dürnkrut in Moravia.

1346: The Battle of Crécy. King Edward III of England and his son the Black Prince were victorious over the French in this battle early in the Hundred Years' War. The military supremacy of the English longbow over the French combination of crossbow and armoured knights is established.

August 28, 1296: The Ragman Rolls signed. After defeating the Scots at the Battle of Dunbar and marching through much of Scotland capturing castles and confiscating treasures, Edward I called a meeting at Berwick. He summoned all Scottish land owners, churchmen and burgesses to swear allegiance to him. Some 2,000 freeholders signed the "Ragman Rolls", now one of the most valuable sources of research into Scottish history.

1521: The Turks occupy Belgrade

August 29, 1533: Inca emperor Atahualpa is executed in Cajamarca by the garrote.

1541: The Ottoman Turks capture Buda, the capital of the Hungarian Kingdom.

August 31, 1056: Byzantine Empress Theodora dies suddenly without children to succeed the throne, ending the Macedonian dynasty

## DEAR TRYSTAN

*Dear Trystan,  
What are your thoughts on authenticity?*

*-Alys Eigh du Es Cheque Semes*

## THE ANTI-CALENDAR

(A listing of events that have already happened)

Compiled by Reinholdt von Trollenhagen

August 1, 527: Justinian I becomes Byzantine Emperor.

607: Ono no Imoko is dispatched as envoy to the Sui court in China (Traditional Japanese date: July 3, 607).

1291: The Swiss Confederation is formed.

1461: Edward IV is crowned king of England.

1498: Christopher Columbus becomes the first European to visit Venezuela.

August 4, 1578: Battle of the Three Kings. When Portuguese king and religious zealot Sebastian decided to subject Morocco to Christian rule, he allied with deposed sultan al-Mutawakkil and landed at Tangier with an army of 20,000 men. Outnumbered by 'Abd al-Malik and his brother Ahmad, the Christians were forced to retreat. While crossing the Wadi al-Makhazin, many of the European force drowned, including Sebastian and al-Mutawakkil. The next morning, the very ill 'Abd al-Malik died as well, giving rise to the battle's name. Sebastian's death left Portugal without a king, and the empire came under Spanish control for the next 60 years. Ahmad became the new sultan of Morocco and was known as Ahmad al-Mansur -- Ahmad the Victorious.

August 5, 1100: Henry I crowned King of England. On the day of his coronation, Henry I issued a charter that promised not to exploit church vacancies, guaranteed "just and legitimate" reliefs, and indicated a return to the laws of Edward the Confessor. His desire to tone down the oppressive Norman government was accompanied by an interest in winning control of Normandy, as well.

1305: William Wallace, who led Scottish resistance to England, is captured by the English near Glasgow and transported to London for trial and execution.

August 8, 1509 - The Emperor Krishnadeva Raya is crowned in the town of Chittoor in the present-day state of Andhra Pradesh, India. His accession marks the beginning of the regeneration of the Vijayanagara Empire after a period of internal strife.

1585: John Davis enters Cumberland Sound in quest for the Northwest Passage.

August 9, 681 - Bulgaria is founded as a Khanate on the south bank of the Danube, after defeating the Byzantine armies of Emperor Constantine IV south of the Danube delta.

1048: Pope Damasus II dies in Rome, after reigning for only 23 days.

August 10, 991: The Battle of Maldon. The Vikings defeated Lord Byrhtnoth

and his valiant English warriors in a battle that would have remained obscure were it not for the Old English poem that immortalized it.

August 12, 1332: Battle of Dupplin Moor. Edward de Balliol was victorious in this battle over the forces of Donald, earl of Mar, regent for David II.

1339: Battle of the Vorskla River. The Golden Horde achieved a great victory over Lithuanian ruler Vytautas, ending his attempt to control southern Russia.

August 13, 1415: Henry V of England lands at Chef-en-Caux, France with 8000 men.

1516: Treaty of Noyon between France and Spain signed. In it, Francis recognizes Charles's claim to Naples, and Charles recognizes Francis's claim to Milan.

1521: Tenochtitlán (present day Mexico City) falls to conquistador Hernán Cortés

1553: Michael Servetus arrested by John Calvin in Geneva as a heretic.

August 14, 1183: Taira no Munemori and the Taira clan take the young Emperor Antoku and the three sacred treasures and flee to western Japan to escape pursuit by the Minamoto clan. (Traditional Japanese date: Twenty-fifth Day of the Seventh Month of the Second Year of Juei).

1385: Battle of Aljubarrota. In this significant battle, the forces of King John I of Portugal defeated those of King John I of Castile, securing independence for the Portuguese kingdom. The battle was commemorated by the construction of the nearby Monastery of Batalha.

1598: Irish under Hugh O'Neill, Earl of Tyrone, destroy English force at the Battle of the Yellow Ford.

August 15, 778: Battle of Roncevalles. At the Pass of Roncevalles in the Pyrenees Mountains, northeast of Pamplona, the rear guard of Charlemagne's retreating army was massacred by the Basques. This battle forms the basis of the heroic legend of Roland, recounted in The Song of Roland

1185: The cave city of Vardzia was consecrated by Queen Tamar of Georgia

1309: The city of Rhodes surrenders to the forces of the Knights of St. John, completing their conquest of Rhodes. The knights establish their headquarters on the island, and rename themselves as the Knights of Rhodes.

1517: Seven Portuguese armed vessels led by Fernao Pires de Andrade meet Chinese officials at the Pearl River estuary.

1534: The Society of Jesus is founded by Ignatius of Loyola with Francis Xavier and other students

1549: Jesuit priest Francis Xavier comes ashore at Kagoshima

August 16, 1513: Second Battle of the Spurs. An invasion force led by Henry VIII of England and Emperor Maximilian numbering 30,000 strong, defeated the French at Guinegate, France, in the Second Battle of the Spurs. This second battle received its name because the defeated French cavalry fled the field, many allegedly losing their spurs, which gave the battle its name. A second story suggests that the French ran so fast that only their spurs could be seen over the dust. It was also named after the first Battle of the Spurs, which was fought in 1302 near Courtrai, Belgium, between the rebellious Flemish towns, led by Bruges, and an army sent by Philip IV of France, who had annexed Flanders in 1301. The French were totally defeated. The spurs taken from the fallen French knights formed so prized a trophy that they gave the battle its name.

August 17, 1274: Edward I crowned King of England. Known as "Longshanks" for his extraordinary height, Edward, son of King Henry III, was a strong-willed, militaristic king who succeeded in subduing Wales but failed to conquer Scotland. He made significant changes to feudal law, strengthening both the Crown and Parliament at the cost of the old nobility and gaining the appellation "the English Justinian" thereby.

1427: First band of gypsies visits Paris.

August 18, 1572: Wedding in Paris of the Huguenot King Henry III of Navarre with Marguerite de Valois, in a supposed attempt to reconcile Protestants and Catholics.

1587: Virginia Dare, granddaughter of Gov. John White of the Colony of Roanoke, becomes the first English child born in the Americas.

1590: John White, the governor of the Colony of Roanoke, returns from a supply-trip to England and finds his settlement deserted.

August 19, 1561: Queen Mary Stuart returns to Scotland.

August 20, 636: Battle of Yarmuk: Arab forces led by Khalid bin Walid take control of Syria and Palestine away from the Byzantine Empire, marking the first great wave of Muslim conquests and the rapid advance of Islam outside Arabia.

August 22, 1485: The Battle of Bosworth. In this battle, Richard III was killed by invading Henry Tudor, who took the crown as King Henry VII, decisively ending the Wars of the Roses

August 23, 1328: King Philip VI of France is crowned.

1541: French explorer Jacques Cartier lands near Quebec City in his third voyage to Canada.

1566: Calvinists are granted rights in the Netherlands

August 24, 410: Visigoths Sack Rome. Under command of King Alaric, the Visigoths besieged Rome when negotiations with the empire for land and supplies broke down. On August 24, allies of Alaric within the city opened the gates, and the Visigoths plundered the