

WHY WAS THE MAGNA CARTA WRITTEN?

It was a complicated series of events that brought King John to the meadow of Runnymede on June 15, 1215. In 1199, on the death of King Richard I, John inherited a realm that had been increasing in size since William the Conqueror won the battle of Hastings in 1066. By 1215 John faced the choice of signing the Magna Carta or losing the English crown and what remained of the English lands. This paper will attempt to briefly describe the events that led to the rise and complete collapse of the realm.

William the Conqueror died in 1087. He had intended to leave the Duchy of Normandy to his eldest son, Robert Curthose, and England to his second son, William Rufus, but Robert predeceased his father, and William inherited both lands. William Rufus died suddenly in a hunting accident in 1100 - one of the archers shot him in the back, fearing that he saw a boar attacking his King. William's younger brother Henry did not attend the funeral, but instead rushed to London and seized the crown jewels and the trea-

sury. Henry was crowned king shortly thereafter.

When King Henry I died in 1135, his only heir was his daughter Matilda, Empress of the Holy Roman Empire through her marriage to Emperor Henry V. On his deathbed, King Henry required the barons to swear fealty and pledge their support for Matilda. The barons agreed, but before Matilda could get to England to be crowned, the crown was seized by Stephen of Blois. Stephen's claim was through his mother, who was a daughter of William the Conqueror. Stephen received enough support from those who believed that a male heir through a female line was preferable to a female heir through a male line that he managed to retain his position as crowned King of England throughout the bloody civil war that ensued over the

right to the throne. Stephen named his son Eustace as his successor. In 1152 Eleanor, Duchess of Aquitaine in her own right, was divorced by Louis VII of France. With unseemly haste, she married Henry Plantagenet, son of the Empress Matilda and her second husband, Geoffrey of Anjou. Upon Geoffrey's death, Henry had inherited the Anjou lands, which included the counties and duchies of Normandy, Maine, Anjou, Tourraine, Poitou, La Marche, Angouleme, Berry, Saintonges, Perigord, Limousin, Agenous, Gascony, and Berne. The addition of Aquitaine to Henry's sphere of influence gave Henry sufficient presence to press his claim to the English throne, a claim which naturally Stephen disputed. However, when Stephen's son Eustace died in 1153, Stephen named Henry as his successor.
Upon Stephen's death in 1154, Henry and Eleanor were crowned King and fueen of England.

During Henry's reign, the Angevin lands were expanded to include Brittany, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, and the Vexin, a narrow strip of land that separated Henry's Normandy from Phillip's France.

This irritated Phillip no end.

As anyone who has seen "The Lion in Winter" knows, Henry had unusual family problems. Henry and Eleanor had four sons, Henry, Richard, Geoffrey, and John. Henry also had a series of mistresses, of whom Eleanor publicly disapproved. In 1170, under considerable pressure from his sons and wife, and threatened with civil upheaval in Aquitaine and Brittany, Henry established a succession. Henry the younger would inherit the crown of England, Normandy, and Anjou; Richard would inherit Poitou, Geoffrey would inherit Brittany, and John would inherit nothing. Henry II crowned his son Henry as heir to make things somewhat more equitable, and granted John an inheritance in the castles of Chinon, Loudun, and Mirebeau. Aquitaine remained Eleanor's, to do with as she chose.

Henry's decision to leave some land to John was not acceptable to his other sons. There was much arguing and intrigue, which was inflamed when the Young King died and the English crown again became a matter of dispute. The remaining sons connived and allied for the crown, and Eleanor supported their rebellion to such an extent that Henry had her imprisoned. (For this, and other reasons as well.) Despite her isolation, Eleanor remained quite active in her sons' affairs, and is thought by some to have controlled the English secret service from her prison chamber. The matter was never settled to anyone's satisfaction, and when Henry II died in who held everything else.

Richard was a romantic figure, the subject of wonderful tales, but he was a bad king. He managed to keep the throne until his death in 1199, at least partly because he spent all but six months out of England on Crusade. Richard did not want to stay home and rule; he wanted others to stay home and rule in his name as well as raise money for the Crusade. He once said that if he could get a decent price, he would pawn the crown jewels and the city of London.

Richard left England in the care of a committee of nobles, including his brother John, all of whom were closely watched by Eleanor, released from prison on Henry's death. The nobles in charge of England had conflicting interests with one common bond: they agreed that England needed to raise more money. John wanted money and land of his own, one noble wanted noney to provision Richard's army, and another simply wanted money. The impact on the populace was the same for all: higher taxes; more frequent taxes; higher royal fees for charters, licenses, customs, toll, obtaining permission to marry, permission not to marry, fines for marrying without royal permission; mandatory foreign military service for longer periods than dictated by custom - the list is long. All of this was blamed on John, although he was probably not completely culpable. He happened to be a convenient target and scape-goat for Richard, who was on holy Crusade, saving Jerusalem from the horrible things that 12th century England knew would happen to the heart of Christianity if it were left in Muslim hands. John was not popular, and when the English lands came to him on Richard's death, the populace was not predisposed to accept him.

John inherited all of the problems that had been growing in the kingdom for years, and none of the charm, grace, charisma, or force of his forbearers in dealing with them. John needed money. The Crusade had drained English coffers, and the costs of running the government and constantly preparing to defend against French tactics he had used as regent, and this angered commoners and nobles alike. Ivanhoe and Robin Hood stories could be told when it was still possible that good King Richard would come back to save England from the evil regent, but who could save England from evil

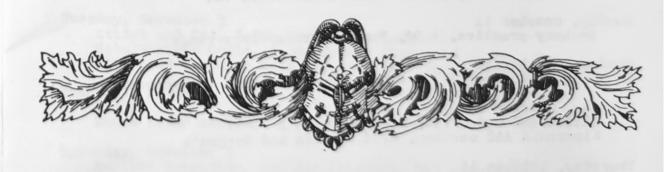
King John? And then, things got worse when John quarreled with Pope Innocent III in 1207.

Innocent, one of the most politically astute of the medieval popes, named his candidate, Stephen Langton, as Archbishop of Canterbury in 1207. John had a candidate of his own, whom he thought would be more amenable to royal needs than to religious ones. Innocent bridled at the challenge, and in 1209 placed England under interdict. No masses could be celebrated, no sacraments could be administered, and consequently no Englishman could die in a state of grace. Innocent thought that the interdict should rally enough pressure to force John to leave Innocent and the Church alone, but John did not back down. In 1213 Innocent proclaimed John deposed, and offered the English crown to King Phillip of France. This did not particularly please anyone, but support was growing for the notion that getting the matter of the English souls settled was more important than who wore the crown. In 1214 John took an army to France, to defend his right to the crown, and was soundly defeated at Bovines. John needed to placate the barons in order to retain the support he needed against Phillip and Innocent so that he could keep the English realm. By this time, Phillip had taken most of the English lands on the Continent, and John was in serious danger of losing his crown.

The barons and towns agreed to support John, but at a price. If John would confirm, in public and in writing, the limitations of royal rights and the extent of the rights of the barons and towns, he would be supported. John died King of Francisco

John lost the English lands on the Continent for a number of reasons. John raised money, at whatever the cost, to replace what Richard had spent on Crusade. He placed the people in mortal peril of their souls. And, he demanded more from the people than had been required by an already unpopular monarch than any king within living memory. In less than twenty years John managed to lose a power base that had been building over two hundred years, from 1066. (defined as barons and townspeople) had certain rights that may not be overridden. The rights confirmed in the Magna Carta were we will look at other events that involved referral to or reaffirmation of the Magna Charta Libertata.

Lady Elin Redlock Historian's Guild of Three Rivers



CALENDAR

Saturday, September 26
Wedding Party for Shadan and Alix, Standing Stones (Columbia, MO)*
Toxophiles, Aeries Keep (Clinton, IA) *
IKAC, Far Reaches (Carbondale, IL) *

Sunday, September 27
Fighters practice, 12:00, between McMillen and Womens Building Archery practice, 4:00, Forest Park archery range

Monday, September 28
Dance practice, 7:30, Negay's house

Tuesday, September 29
Stitch and Cat, 7:30, Magic Labyrinth
Canton Riverhold, 8:00, Zarifa and Morgan's (phone # 464-0548)
Hands-on arts and sciences activities

Thursday, October 1
Deadline for November MEWS
Dance after meeting

Saturday, October 3
Samurai's Challenge, Couer d'Ennui (Des Moines, IA) *
MidRealm Coronation, Cynnabar (Ann Arbor, MI)*

Sunday, October 4
Archery practice, 4:00, Forest Park archery range

Monday, October 5
Officers meeting, 7:30, Hrolf and Swietoslawa's
Dance practice, 7:30, Umrath Hall (?) (or Negay's)

Tuesday, October 6
Stitch and Cat, 7:30, Magic Labyrinth
Metalworkers Guild, 7:30, County Stargaard
Canton Riverhold, 8:00, Zarifa and Morgan's. Business meeting.

Thursday, October 8
BARGE deadline

Saturday, October 10
Decadence III, Lonely Tower (Omaha, NE) *
Interkingdom Phun (Clovis, NM) *
Sacking of Europe, Iron Steed (Galesburg, IL)*

Sunday, October 11
Archery practice, 4:00, Forest Park archery range

Monday, October 12
Dance practice, 7:30, Umrath (Negay's house if necessary)

Tuesday, October 13
Stitch and Cat, 7:30, Magic Labyrinth
Riverhold A&S meeting, 8:00, Zarifa and Morgan's

Thursday, October 15
BARGE
Dance after meeting

Saturday, October 17
Shriner's Hospital demo, 1:00 - 3:30 *
Orc Wars, Grey Niche (Memphis, TN) *

Sunday, October 18
Archery practice, 4:00, Forest Park archery range

Monday, October 19
Officers meeting, 7:30, location to be announced
Dance practice, 7:30, Umrath

Tuesday, October 20
Stitch and Cat, 7:30, Magic Labyrinth
Riverhold business meeting, 8:00, Zarifa and Morgan's

Saturday, October 24
Celtic fuest, Gnomountain (Grinnell, IA) *
MidRealm Crown, Grey Gargoyles (Chicago, IL) *

Sunday, October 25
Fighters practice, Wash. U. campus, time to be announced Archery practice, 4:00, Forest Park archery range

Monday, October 26
Dance practice, 7:30, Umrath

Tuesday, October 27
Stitch and Cat, 7:30, Magic Labyrinth
Riverhold Arts and Sciences meeting, 8:00, Zarifa and Morgan's

Thursday, October 29
BARGE deadline

Saturday, October 31
Bears'Haven demo
Halloween Party, Longridge (Sikeston, MO) *
Event, Elkshire (Norfolk, NE)(tentative)

Sunday, November 1
Deadline for December MEWS
Archery practice, 4:00, Forest Park archery range

Monday, November 2
Officers meeting, 7:30, location to be announced
Dance practice, 7:30, Umrath

Tuesday, November 3
Stitch and Cat, 7:30, Magic Labyrinth
Metalworkers Guild, 7:30, County Stargaard
Riverhold business meeting, 8:00, Zarifa and Morgan's

Thursday, November 5
BARGE
Dance after meeting

Saturday, November 7
Scribes Symposium, Mag Mor (Lincoln, NE) (tentative)
Commoner's Crown, Mynydd Seren (Bloomington, IL)
Feast of All Souls, Vanished Wood (Schaumberg, IL) *

INFORMATION ON UPCOMING EVENTS

Wedding Party

Sept. 26 Standing Stones(Columbia, MO)

By request of the couple (Graf Syr Shadan and Lady Alix), this will be a very informal event. There will be no court and probably no royalty. This is a camping event, and the site is such that most campsites are not directly accessible by road. Evening feast will be roast pig (if the boar hunt is successful) and potluck, and lunch will be Standing Stone soup. See the flyer in the September MEWS if you want more information.

Toxophiles

Sept. 26 Aeries Keep (Clinton, IA)

A toxophile is one who is fond of archery. This event is planned to honor the archers of the Midrealm and Calontir. Day's activities are practice, IKAC shoots, champion's silhouette shoot, archery seminars, thrown weapon contest, "slave" auction, an exhibition of favorite SCA items, blank scroll contest, chess tourney, oblong chess contest, feast. More information in September MEWS or PALE.

IKAC

Sept. 26 Far Reaches (Carbondale, IL)

There is not much to be said about this, but shooting begins at 10:00 am. Picnic and camping areas are available, but no food is supplied. Contacts for more information are listed in the September PALE.

Samurai's Challenge Oct. 3 Couer d'Ennui(Des Moines, IA)

A tournament in five parts - 500 pace armored run, Japanese style archery, double elimination bastard sword tourney, haiku, single elimination polearm/spear tourney. There will also be competitions in archery, haiku, and Japanese flower arranging, demos of origami, koto, dressing Japanese, Japanese customs and phrases, and a Japanese style feast. On Sunday there will be a Ninja's Revenge boar hunt. There will be travelling trophies awarded for the five-part tournament and for the boar hunt. More information is in the September MEWS.

MidRealm Coronation Oct. 3 Cynnabar (Ann Arbor, MI)

A double elim tourney, the coronation of Eliahu and Elen, an illuminated scroll contest, a griffin contest, and a feast. More details, feast menu, maps in the September PALE.

Decadence III Oct. 10 Lonely Tower (Omaha, NE)

This time the theme is the high road to Cathay. There will be a double elim tourney and lots of contests. Competitions include medieval munchies, painting and drawing, decadent linerick, brewing and vintning, heretical heraldry, SCA photo, herbalism, persona biography, free-style embroidery, decorative pillow/floor covering, poetry, counted embroidery, miscellaneous crafts, and decadent nightwear (no costume is no costume). The feast will consist of four removes, one each from Portugal, the Holy Land, India, and Cathay. Iberian, Middle Eastern, East Indian, and Chinese costumes are strongly encouraged, and there will be an informal theme costume contest. Supplementary information is in the September MEWS.

Greetings unto the Known Horld PHrom Lord Marcus the Vintner, that traveling Outlandish Troll.

Hell the dog days oPH summer are almost over, it is now time to think PHUNNE. that is correct, the Phirst Annual Inter-Kingdom Outlandish PHUNE is to be held October 9-12, 1987 near the Shire of Scorpion's Hollow, in the Kingdom oPH the OUTLANDS!!! Their Majesties Artan and Tara, along with the Outlandish Trolls and Lady Kendra Lianne of Scorpion's Hollow have Tons oPH PHun planned for the second weekend in October. PHighting, PHrivolities, and PHambly PHun are on tap, so bring the whole PHambly or Household. There are water PHowl living on the site therePHore we ask that PHido, PHoo-PHoo, PHelines, and PHerrets, and other Pets stay at home.

As I have traveled through the Known Horld, I have seen many diPHPHerent ways to have PHun. He plan to induldge in as many PHorms oPH PHun as time permits. Please keep in mind that trolls have a unique way oPH telling time. Chronometer cancer may be removed PHrom the wrist quite easily and painlessly at the gate.

PHighting will include an open PHield melee, a Mad Dog Tourney, a castle ressurection battle, a troll bridge battle, and a Royal Guard Melee. Baronies, Principalities, Kingdoms, get your 7 persona non white belted guard ready. The PHield will be open PHor any PHorms oPH PHighting we can PHit in as time permits. There will be a Marshalls BreakPHast at DANN to PHormalize the PHighting oPH the day. Any PHighter awake at that time oPH day is welcome

PHor those who do not wish to PHight, there will be several events which should please even PH.U.B.N.B.A.s There will be an impromptu Arts and Science Computition, a Quest, A Games Area, a Bardic, and oPH course an Opening and Closing Court. Several Kings and Queens PHrom PHar away Lands and will be treated as grandly as I have been treated in their Kingdoms.

PLEASE TAKE NOTE; AS A MEMBER Oph HOUSEHOLD ROLLING THUNDER, DRUMS MAY BE IN phULL phoRCE AT ANY TIME EXCEPT COURTS AND BARDIC. As a courtesy, the drummers will set aside their drumsticks at midnight to soPHten their chythms.

Murchants are oPH course welcome, He would like a donation oPH their wares

PHOT the GREEBLIES (those under the age oPH ten) we have the OUTLANDISH CHILDRENS COLLEGE COOPERATIVE. Parents please note the word COOPERATIVE this is not a baby sitting service, we expect an hour per child to supervise the GREEBLIES.

About the site. The site is Ned Houk Park 10 miles north oPH Clovis New Mexico, U.S.A. Mote the spiPHPHy map. The site is damp (discreetly wet). Heather is unpridictable, days in the 704-804 (PH) 404-504 (PH) after dark The site PHee is \$5.00 American and a joke, pun, PHunny story, or a practical joke, and oPH courses smile on your PHace. An outline oPH your practical joke must be submitted to thew Chuckle Comettee bePHore the event. You will receive more inPHormation when you pay your site PHee.

As Phun-o-crat, I will be camping at the gate to answer any questions and to handle any complaints. I do not handle complaints very well. Please submit any complaints on paper with a copy Phor the Phun-o-crat, one Phor the Autocrat, one Phor the Crown oPH the Outlands, one Phor your Crown. one Phor the Senechal of the Outlands, one Phor your Senechal, and oPH course one Phor yourselPH. That should do it.

OK so you live PHar away and do not plan to come to our PHUNNE. This does not mean you can not play. Submit to the PHun-o-crat, by Post Office, your tall tale oPH woe, ambd the persona with the most creative tall tale will be honored. Be creative, aPHter all, that is our middle name.

PHor inPHormation, suggestions, comments, and snide remarks, contact the PHUN-O-CRAT:
Lord Marcus the Vintner
P.O. Box 63
Albuquerque New Mexico USA 87103

IPH you wish to help with any aspect oPH the weekend, let me know and i will PHorward your Persona to the proper Kingdom oPH the Outlands OPHPHicer. I would like to thank Lady Kendra Lianne, the Senechal oPH Scorpions Hollow l'Hor hes assistance in the planning and logistical support she and Shire has given Their Hajesties Artan (rymes with Argon) and Tara, and myselPH (not Hajestic. With out her and her supportmy liPHe would be a bit more harried than it already is. IPH you PHind my humor a bit crass and would like to communicate with a real human instead oPH a troll, you may contact her:

Sacking of Europe

Oct. 10 Iron Steed (Galesburg, IL)

This sounds like a fun event. It boasts of a day of ransom, revelry, and last minute skirmishes over the division of loot. There will be a novice tourney, a prize tourney, and a free-for-all booty melec, as well as simpleton sacks, a contest for pages that might have come from DaVinci's notebook, a "We Didn't Know What to Do with It So..." contest, storytelling to explain why the items provided were taken, crossbows & catapults, and a traditional chess tournament. There will also be a victory feast and a booty auction. Site information will be in the October PALE, but other information is in the September PALE.

Shriner's Hospital demo Oct. 17 Shriner's Hospital

We have been invited back to Shriner's Hospital for another demo. Once again, there will be an opportunity to visit children in isolation before the demo starts. The demo includes fighting, dancing, storytelling, and costuming. Some important things to remember: no children under 17, no steel, watch your language. There will be more information and a detailed schedule in the next BARGE, or talk to Luranne at a meeting.

Orc Wars

Oct. 17 Grey Niche (Memphis, TN)

Grey Niche against the Orcs. Lots of melees, so bring lots of different melee weapons. Saturday's feast will be a re-creation of the "Feast of the Assassin", and there will be a middle-East dance contest during the feast, and Orc Olympics during the day. Reservation price includes camping space, feast, and breakfast Saturday and Sunday. See the September MEWS for more information.

Celtic nuest

Oct. 24 Gnomountain (Grinnell, IA)

The entire event has a Celtic theme. Saturday will be devoted to adventuring "loosely based on Celtic myths", fighting and an arts and sciences display will be included in the quest. Display items should be of a Celtic theme, and the feast will also be Celtic.

On Sunday there will be archery, fighting, and bardic activities. Again, a Celtic theme is encouraged. Crash space is available on site; there will be children's activities during the day. More details are in the September MEWS.

MidRealn Crown

Oct. 24 Cynnabar (Ann Arbor, MI)

There is a flyer in the September PALE, but it really isn't much more than an announcemnet of the tourney. More details are supposed to be in the October PALE.

Halloween Party

Oct. 31 Longridge (Sikeston, MO)

This sounds like a relaxed event, as Yule Feast usually is. Site opens at 1,00 pm. Scheduled activities include fighters practice, Arts and Sciences display, feast, costume party, and for kingdom children as well also be a medieval Halloween party trick or treating will follow. Feast is potluck (what to bring September MEWS.

This event is sub-titled "The Best of Vanished Wood". There will be authorizations, a novice tourney, a prize tourney, knuckle bones, best death and best lamentation contests, the medieval museum, a feast of old favorites and some new things, and the world-famous beer-wenching contest. Most of the information for this event is in the Seneschal's flyer (at least according to the PALE), but the autocrats' addresses are listed in the September PALE.

MAP TO INTERKINGDOM PHUN Lady Kendra Lianne C/G Terri Vogt TO CAERTH 516 Gidding Clovis New Mexico U.S.A. 87101 505 762 6621 She keeps oddhours and may be asseep when she answers the Pharapsager. De Phorwarned, 40 CAN THE COSA MARILLO OUTLANDS ANSTEDREA 70 Gemi ANNOUNCEMENTS

Canton Riverhold again has a regular meeting place and time. We are meeting every Tuesday night at 8:00 pm at the home of Zarifa and Morgan in Barnhart (Janet Griffin and Scott McCormick, 464-0548). The meetings on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month will be primarily business meetings. The meetings on the 2nd, 4th, and 5th (if applicable) Tuesdays will be primarily devoted to Hands On Arts and Sciences Activities.

If you need more information or if you know an interested Jefferson County resident who is looking for his/her local SCA call Lady Zornica Rugmaker (Peggy Skrha-Carlson, 942-2175).

Congratulations to Elestr and Vainoe on the birth of their second daughter on Monday, September 21. She weighed 9 lbs 3 oz.

At Coronation, Roderick FitzDrake and Richard of Wolfwood were knighted on the field, Duke Sir William received the Sword of Calontir for his conduct at Pennsic, Lord Andrixos received a Cross of Calontir for overwhelming service, and Lord Huginn received a Laurel for his skill in research.

The following books are owned by Lady Elin Redlock

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