



L'EMPRISE DE L'ESCU GULES



(The Enterprise of the Red Shield)

Each year we recreate the medieval celebration of 12th Night. On January 22nd, 2010 we will be doing this at the Hopkins Point Lodge in Mendon Ponds Park. We, the members of the Company, would like to extend to you and yours an invitation to join us for this celebration and portrayal. All that we ask of you is the courtesy of a reply (hopefully in the affirmative) so that we can plan accordingly.

Historical Background of 12th Night

After the fall of the Roman Empire, Christianity spread into what is now Europe and the British Isles. At this time, the Early Christians set the birth of Jesus at the time of the Winter Solstice to coincide with pagan celebrations in order to supplant them. This celebration of Christ's birth on or about December 25 was a purely religious celebration consisting of church services. Also developed was the legend of the three kings. Believed by scholars to have started in the Balkans, this legend called for the presentation of gifts to the Christ child. These gifts were presented 12 days after his birth. This was the beginning of Twelfth Night, marked today in the church calendar as the beginning of Epiphany.

What we celebrate today as Christmas has developed from the Middle Ages celebration of Twelfth Night. The Twelfth Night celebration, at the time we are recreating, was typically centered on the local feudal lord opening his feast hall to his vassals. Customs relating to different regions developed well into the Late Middle Ages. Examples are: lighting a bonfire to drive away the darkness (from a pagan custom), crowning the lord and lady of the bean (or misrule) to take the place of the feudal lord for one night, staging of morality plays, burning of the Yule log, etc. Many of these customs are present today in the celebration of Christmas.

With that bit of historical introduction out of the way, we'd like to familiarize you with how we plan to celebrate 12th Night.

Redshield 12th Night Celebration

The initial greeting or "Wassail" will be given by the members of the Company. This will be at the entrance to the hall. You will have a choice of either spiced wine or mulled apple cider (non-alcoholic) for the Wassail toast. Please note that no weapons are carried in the hall. We are under the "Peace of God" and only the Company men-at-arms may be armed in order to maintain the peace.

During the early afternoon guests may pass the time with a games of skill such as Alquerque and Chess, or in friendly conversation, according to their pleasure. Once all guests have arrived those Company members present will greet all assembled and instruct that the revelry commence. The Galette de Rois will be brought forth and each person will have a share to their liking. The Lord and Lady of the Bean will then be selected from the assembled guests, and will sit in state to preside as they wish over the remainder of the day's merriment. The Yule log will be placed in the hearth upon the arrival of our guests and the feasting will commence. This year we plan to have a full sideboard of food throughout the afternoon and evening. Consider the entire time to be one long feast so that we may do whatever we will throughout that time. After feast, the Company may also conduct yearly business.

This year's menu will include:

- Ypocras and mulled cider
- Fine Cakes and Gingerbread
- Du giste de Venaison
- Roast Pork
- Smoked Chicken
- Black Porray
- Cepa sub cinere
- Potage
- Wine and Ale

Background of L'Emprise de l'Escu Gules

The Enterprise of the Red Shield is a group dedicated to preserving and recreating the arts and customs of France and Western Europe from the latter part of the 14th and early 15th Centuries.

Simple Rules for Reenacting: "The Ten Foot Rule"

Any re-enactor at a Redshield event should appear to a reasonably educated observer to have the manner and appearance of someone who did or might have lived in the geographic area and historic era being covered (Western Europe during the latter part of the 14th or early 15th centuries) from a distance of ten feet. Simply put, if you are planning to attend our 12th night celebration we ask that you use this rule of thumb to participate, hence no obviously modern items in view. This is not as hard to do as one might think. Simply dress yourself and check in a mirror or have someone else look at you from a short distance ☺

N. B.

🛡 In an effort to help promote the atmosphere, we request that you not enter the hall in street clothes. Please change into appropriate costume prior to entering the hall. Our hall is a single large room but there are rest rooms nearby that will be available for changing if needed.

🛡 We ask that all guests plan to arrive, at your leisure, anytime after 1:00 PM

And finally:

Repondez s'il vous plait

Directions

We will be in the Hopkins Point Lodge in Mendon Ponds Park.
The park's official address: 95 Douglas Rd. Honeoye Falls, NY 14472

From the South take Rt 390 North to Rt 251 East, follow 251 E for approximately 5 miles to Clover St. (Rt. 65) and turn left onto Clover heading North. Follow from **

From the East take I-90 West to the Exit for Rts. 490 & 96. Off that exit take Rt. 490 for a VERY short distance (less than 1 mile) to the exit for Rt. 96. Take Rt. 96 South for approximately 2 miles to Rt. 251 and turn Right heading West. Continue on 251 for approximately 9~10 miles to Clover St. (Rt. 65) and turn right onto Clover heading North. Follow from **

From the West take I-90 East to the exit for Rt.390, take 390 North to Lehigh Station Rd. (Rt. 253), take Lehigh Station Rd. heading East for approximately 4~5 miles to Clover St. (Rt. 65) and turn right onto Clover heading South. Follow from **

** Take Clover St. (Rt. 65) to the Hopkins Point Rd. entrance; follow this winding road down the hill. When you come to the fork in the road, bear right toward the pond. After you make this turn the lodge will be immediately visible on the right up a slight rise.

If you have any problems or questions please call Michael @ 585-202-6330