The Third Page

Inscribed at St. Kermit's Abbey, Glen Frontenac, Scotland
Thursday, August 9, 1212

Felicitas est calidum catulus - St. Lucy

CASTLE FRONTENAC BIDS A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST PAGES!

Sixty-five prospective knights have answered the call of Sir Hugh Barton to come to Castle Frontenac, here at Glen Frontenac in the Scottish Highlands, to help in his Quest to find the Barton Grail. Welcome new recruits!

Sir Hugh and his loyal staff are waiting to instruct you as you progress from page to squire, and finally are inducted into the Ancient Order of the High Falls as a full Knight of the Order. As you go on through the week, you will learn the arts of knighthood - jousting, making chain mail, archery, swordsmanship - and will perform feats of valor such as swimming and running and climbing. Strange visitors from the mystic East will show advanced weaponry such as slingshots and BB guns. You will design a coat of arms and learn about the plants and animals of our Glen. You will cook - and eat.

Along your path to knighthood you will face tests of chivalry, and meet with your fellow pages over a campfire. The monks of the Abbey of St. Kermit will invite you to a Vespers service. After a final Tournament, you will be dubbed a Knight.

Begin your Quest, noble Page, and may the Force be with you!

What happened to the Children's Crusade?

Since 1071, when Seljuk Turks defeated the Byzantine Army, Christian pilgrims have been prevented from visiting Jerusalem, and reports reaching Europe say that Turks have persecuted Christians in the Holy Land. There have been four Crusades, so far, trying without success to recapture Jerusalem and the Holy Land from the Turks. The First and Second Crusades were in 1095 and 1147. Richard the Lion Heart, King of England, led the 3rd Crusade - part of the money for his effort came from our Scottish King William the Lion, who purchased the independence of our country for 10,000 Merks. The Fourth Crusade was only ten years ago, in 1202.

The latest attempt was made in May of this year, 1212. Stephen, a shepherd boy about twelve years old, appeared at Saint-Denis, France, where King Philip of France was holding his court. He had a letter for the King, which, he said, and Christ himself had told him go and preach the Crusade. King Philip told him to go home, but Stephen began to preach at the entrance to the abbey of Saint-Denis and to announce that he would lead a band of children to the rescue of Christendom. The seas would dry up before them, and they would pass, like Moses through the Red Sea, safe to the Holy Land.

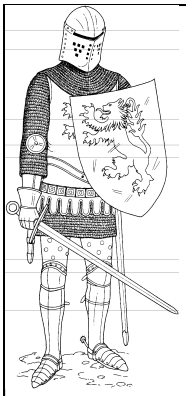
Children came flocking to his call. Some spoke of thirty thousand children, not one over twelve years of age. Some of them were simple peasants, whose parents had willingly let them go on their great mission. But there were also boys of noble birth who had slipped away from home to join Stephen. When the blessing of friendly priests had been given, and when the last sorrowing parents had been pushed aside, the expedition started out southward.

It was a painful journey. The summer was unusually hot. The drought left little to spare in the country. They depended on charity for their food, and water was scarce. Many of the children died by the wayside. Others dropped out and tried to wander home.

At last the survivors reached Marseilles. The whole expedition rushed down to the harbor to see the sea divide before them as Stephen had promised. When the miracle did not take place, there was bitter disappointment. Then, two merchants of Marseilles offered to put ships at their disposal and to carry them free of charge, for the glory of God. Stephen eagerly accepted the kindly offer. The children were taken aboard and set out to sea. They were never seen or heard from again.

Castle Frontenac Schedule For Thursday

8:30AM	Registration Begins
10:00	Opening / Tour of Camp
12:30PM	Lunch
1:00	Rest Period
2:00	Program Session 1
3:00	Program Session 2
4:00	Program Session 3
5:45	Retreat - Parade Field
6:00	Dinner
7:00	Free Time
8:00	Campfire - North Point
9:00	Quiet Time



Know your Heraldry - Tincture

When you're a knight, and wearing a helmet which covers your face, it's important that people be able to tell who you are, or at least what side you're on. That's what heraldry is for - even if no one can see your face, they can see the "coat of arms" or crest on your shield.

You can't just put anything on your shield and call it a "coat of arms", though. Every part has a name and a meaning. The language of arms is called "Heraldry", and we'll be looking at how you design and describe your coat of arms according to Heraldry.

First, there's "tincture" - that means what colors do you have on the crest? The possible colors are blue ("azure"), red ("gules"), purple ("purpure"), black ("sable"), green ("vert"), gold or yellow ("or") and silver or white ("argent"). So, if you have a blue shield with a white stripe (called a "bend"), you'd describe your crest as "a shield azure with bend argent". There are also patterns, called "furs".

Fire Devastates London

July 10, 1212 - London, England (NP) – A Great Fire has struck London, burning most of the city to the ground. Over 3,000 people are said to have died on London Bridge alone.

The fire began in Southwark, directly to the south of London Bridge. The flames destroyed Our Lady of the Canons Cathedral in Southwark, and strong southerly winds pushed them towards the bridge, which also caught fire. London Bridge had only just been rebuilt in stone, and the structure itself survived the blaze. However, King John had authorized the construction of houses on the bridge, the rents from which were supposed to pay for its maintenance, and it appears that these were lost to the flames.

According to a witness, "An exceeding great multitude of people passing the Bridge, either to extinguish or quench it, or else to gaze at and behold it, suddenly the north part, by blowing of the south wind, was also set on fire, and the people which were even now passing the Bridge, perceiving the same, would have returned, but were stopped by the fire." Many people died either in the blaze or while attempting to escape on overloaded boats that had come to their aid.

The Order of Saint Kermit

The monks of our local abbey, the Bartonian Abbey, are members of the Order of Saint Kermit (or "O.K."). The Order was founded in the year 711, as the first order of monks to be open to tend to the needs of weary travelers at all hours. Because of the color of their habits, Bartonian monks are known as "Greenfriars".

Our founders, the blessed Ima (O.K.) and Yura (O.K.) are famous for having invented the meal which even today greets all of our Abbey's guests. For this, they are known to history as the Fish Friar and the Chip Monk.

Our order is named after the holy Saint Kermit, patron saint of amphibians, pigs, fleece and ping-pong balls. Our motto, in the words of the Saint himself, is "non est facile quod viridis".

While monks of other orders take vows of poverty, chastity and silence, our brothers take vows of hilarity, photography and puppetry. While you are in Glen Frontenac, we hope that you will visit our Abbey and get to know the Brothers of our Order.

- Brother Michael Fulvus, OK

Fashion and Etiquette

When you visit the castle, you will want to behave correctly so as not to embarrass your noble family. Lords and ladies living in today's modern stone castles in this 13th century are a lot cleaner than their dark ages forefathers. For one thing, they wash themselves, all over. They use soap, which is made by boiling mutton fat with ash and caustic soda. They use a special twig to brush their teeth with.

As soon as they attend to their cleanliness (well, they actually have servants to do the attending part for them), they go about getting dressed. Men and women wear similar clothes; there are stockings of wool or silk to put on, a shirt with long detachable sleeves - of course, this has to be stitched on every time the shirt is worn. Once this tedious task is finished, a gown is worn over all this and secured with a brooch. Ladies also wear a tight bodice over their gowns.

If they are going out and it is cold, they will wear a roomy coat, and if the weather is really threatening to freeze their various bits and pieces off, a fur-lined mantle will be worn, also fastened at the shoulder by a brooch.

You should expect your station in society to be judged by the length of your garments - poor people wear short clothes.

The leather shoes they wear are extremely fine. An elegant gentleman is the one whose shoes are such a tight fit that nobody can understand how he ever got into them, never-mind how he planned to get out of them at bedtime.

Help Wanted

LEECH COLLECTOR - Join the exciting world of modern medicine! Easy work, just wade barefoot in a swamp all day and let leeches attach to your legs and suck your blood. Pick off the leeches at the end of the day and sell them to the nearest barber-surgeon. No experience necessary, some pain tolerance a plus. See Lady Kathlene at the Hospitorium.