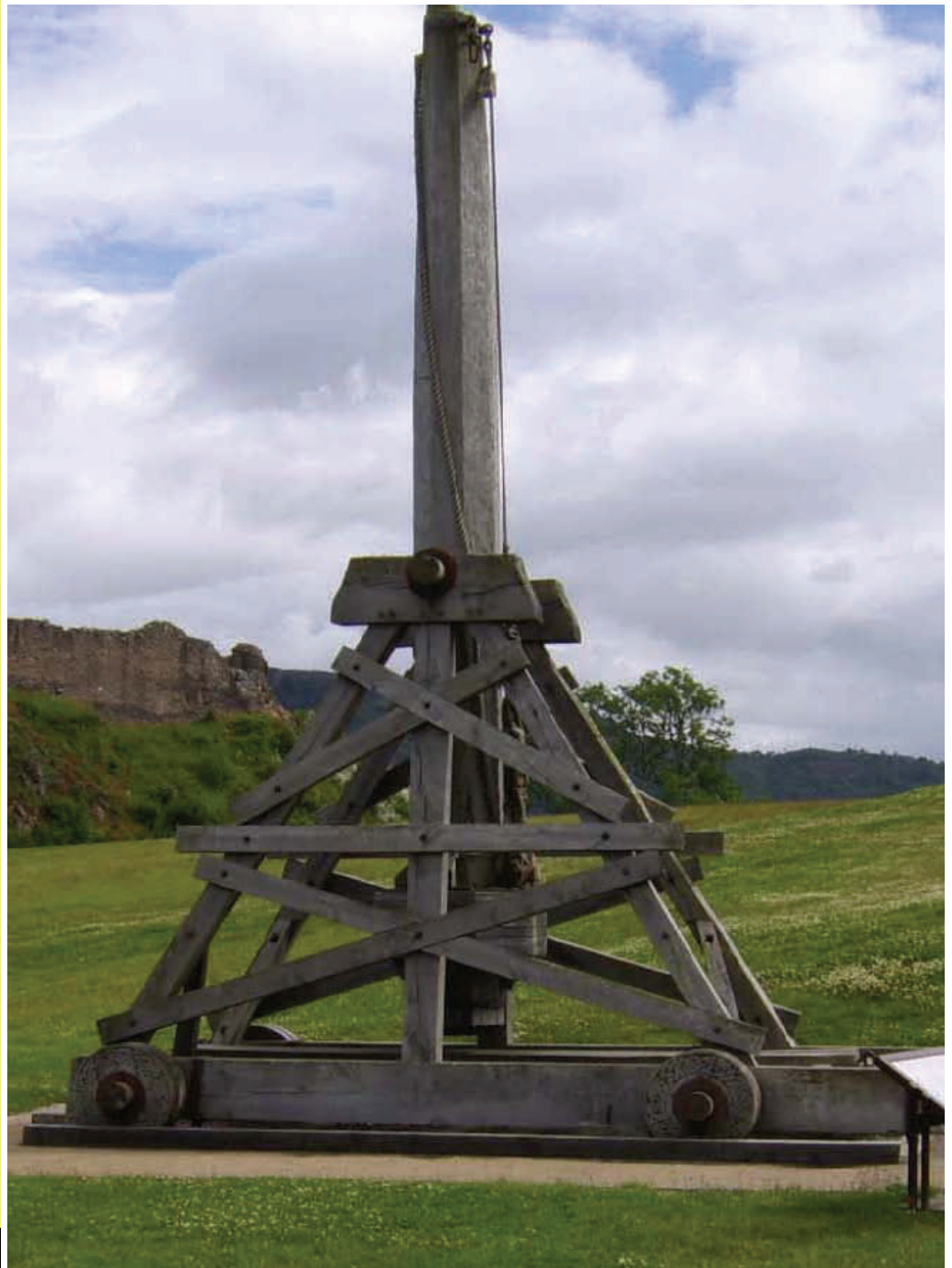


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**March/April**  
**Anno Societatis XXXXV (C.E.2011)**

# **The War Wolf**

**The Scarlet Letter**  
**Shire of Loch Ruadh**



# Words from the Seneschal

Greetings unto the Populace of Loch Ruadh!



Gulf War is nearly upon us! Circumstances will prevent me from attending this year, but the Shire has a very healthy contingent of our populace going, and I trust they will bring back tales and pictures to regale those of us who must remain behind to protect the Kingdom. A wish for a safe journey there and back, and much enjoyment while you are there to those who will represent Loch Ruadh at the War! Even if you are not going to War, your help will still be appreciated at the storage shed load-out before War and the load-in afterward. Many hands make light work.

Applications for the Office of Webminister/Virtual Scribe have closed. I had hoped that I could announce the name of the new office holder in this missive, but I am still awaiting word from the Central Regional Webminister on the confirmation. I will, however, say that we received only one application for the Office, acceptable to both the outgoing Webminister and me, so there is probably little doubt as to the outcome.

Speaking of applications for offices: My Warrant of Office as Seneschal will be up in July, and I will be stepping down. As you know, Seneschal is one of the Offices we must have filled in order to remain an active group, so I hope that everyone will give serious thought to applying to become the new Seneschal. While it can be a challenging job, it is also a very fulfilling one. While most of the job seems to be paperwork and running meetings, the reality is that without these things and the other duties the Seneschal is responsible for, there would be no SCA groups at any level. If you have any interest at all in applying for the Office and have questions, please come talk to me and I will answer them as completely as I can. And don't forget the fantastic benefits; why, my salary doubled from the first time I was Seneschal years ago! ( $0 \times 2 = 0$ ) But we all know we don't do it for money or compensation or fame – it needs to be done, so we do it so that we can all continue to participate in this game we enjoy so much. I will officially open the Office of Seneschal for applications at Populace meeting in April, to be closed at Officer's Meeting in June. As with all Offices, you must be a paid member to be considered for this Office. Applications should be sent to the Central Regional Seneschal, with a copy to me, and must include proof of membership and a copy of a photo ID with the ID number blacked out. I hope to see several applications, as I know that we have many people in Loch Ruadh who have the skills and qualifications to do this job well.

## Seneschal (con't)

Time and weather overtook us in trying to get more work done on the standing stones for the Gate on our Gulf Wars land, and now must wait until after War to be completed. Please keep in mind that we need to get the stones themselves completed and then transported to and set up at King's Arrow Ranch as soon as possible. We will discuss timetables and schedules after War.

We have asked for the weekend of 14-16 October for our event this year on the Kingdom Calendar, and have received confirmation of that date. Lord Kaz and Lady Kat have put in a bid for the event, to be known as the Loch Ruadh Fall Brawl, which was approved by the Populace at our last Populace Meeting. We hope to be able to use the Middlefaire site again, and look forward to another great and exciting event, not the least because we will choose our Premier Chivalric Champion this year.

Lord Alric proposed that we submit a bid for King's College to be held on Saturday, 18 June, at TCU, the same location we used to host Roundtable last July. The bid was approved by the Populace and has been forwarded to Kingdom for consideration.

Lady Constance asked me questions that I thought were both insightful and inspiring: why do we no longer have presentations on aspects of the SCA at Populace Meetings like we did at one time, and are we going to resume having classes at Fighter Practices? And the answers are: I'm not sure why we stopped, but we are going to start again; and, we will start having classes at Fighter Practices again. If you were at the last Populace Meeting, you know that I gave a presentation on Awards and Titles in the SCA. In March, Lady Cait will give a presentation on Court Etiquette, and we will ask for suggestions on what people would like to know more about for future presentations. I have asked Lady Catrin as MOAS to coordinate classes to be held at Fighter Practice, and we will be asking for suggestion for topics for these classes as well.

As always, don't hesitate to speak with me in person, call me or email me with any ideas, questions or concerns that you have about the Shire.

In Service to Loch Ruadh,

Padraig



# Herald

Unto the Shire, Greetings!

Thanks to those who came to the Garb and Banner workshop we held in this month. Although I spent the time chasing down needles to replace those broken by our seamstresses, I am told that it was an enjoyable time. My apologies for not being in attendance. Two very nice Ansteorran shield banners were created and I hope to hang these on the gate at war.

I am still awaiting word on the registering of Annest's name and Aingeal's device. Both of these should be in the final stages of registration. If you have a name or device you have been thinking about protecting, please get with me and we will file the paperwork.

For those of you heading to Gulf War, I will see you there.

Kazimierz the Sinister  
Herald of the Shire of Loch Ruadh

# Chronicler

Greetings

As many of our Shire members head off to the east for Gulf War XX, it is my hope that there will be letters back to those keeping the home fires burning. I also hope that some of the good gentles will write of their experiences at this most memorable Gulf War experience. It's not everyday we are able to celebrate such a milestone with friends and family. I'm sure there will be stories of glory to be told and memories to be shared when our Shire members return from their adventures. We have quite a large group attending this wondrous war, but there are sure to be more than enough adventures to go around.

Please document your experiences and share them with the populace in the next issue of the Scarlet Letter.

In Service  
Lady Fiona inghean ui Mheadhra



# Exchequer

Greetings unto the populace of Loch Ruadh.

Our year has started off with praise from Kingdom. Apparently at King's Round Table, there were several groups that were on the "bad" list for not having their Exchequer reports on time analysis. I am happy to report that Loch Ruadh was not among the groups in trouble. We currently have \$2635.64 in our coffers and hopefully the amount will be higher after our event. Now I am off to pack for WAR.

In Service to the Dream  
Lady Vivian McKinnon

# Archery Marshall

Greetings

This is a slow time of the year for archery because of the weather. At the last practice we had 1 SCA shooter and one non SCA shooter. Before that, numbers vary from a good day of about 6 to a bad day of none. Next practice will be 2/27/11. That will be the last practice before war.

In Service  
Tegwared McCauley

# Hospitaler

Greetings

Well, here we are again, another month gone by with no new members. I have talked to several people. It's the same as getting people to other activities, always a reasonable, if not convincing excuse (yours truly included). I hope that with the new season upon us after Gulf War, we can try in earnest to be more active, and recruit new blood in our group.

In Service,  
Marion



## **The Triskele and The Star** Pádraig Ruad Ó Maolagáin

Two soldiers met on field of war, both clad in armor fair  
To fight for King and honor bright had drawn each of them there  
They were but two of many, there arrayed upon the plain  
From different lives and Kingdoms, still, these two were much the same

The first, an Ansteorran, in his tabard black and gold  
Upon his chest, for all to see, the Sable Star was bold  
His gaze was calm and level as he looked across the field  
“No matter what,” he told himself, “the Black Star shall not yield.”

His worthy foe, Trimarian, was garbed in blue and white,  
The Triskele of his Kingdom shining clearly in the light  
He soberly regarded all the ranks of gathered foes  
“They shall not take us,” did he vow, “no matter what the blow.”

With shields held firm and weapons drawn, and banners flying high  
Each warrior breathed a final prayer, and hoped he would not die  
Though should his death be called for, there upon the field of strife  
Then die he would with honor, more important than his life

The armies stood as carved from stone, all waiting for the word  
Across the silent meadow green, a whisper might be heard  
At last, the flags were raised up high, the cry came to “Lay on!”  
And forward surged each army, swiftly to the fray were drawn

A mighty crash! A fearsome roar! The battle now was joined  
Every soldier gave his all, his blood to spend like coin  
The Black and Gold, the Blue and White, both strove with bold attempt  
And many fell to rise no more; no warrior was exempt

The Ansteorran charged head on, Trimarian the same  
And in the heat of battle, each remembered not his name  
Nor knew why he did struggle ‘gainst the enemy at hand  
Nor why all these men should die to gain a piece of land

The conflict raged, while more men fell, the field now deep in dead  
Till suddenly it seemed that each stood in the other's stead  
"The Black and White? The Blue and Gold? Which colours do I wear?  
And do I raise sword 'gainst myself as I am standing there?"

Each swung a blow in counter to a face that seemed his own  
And both swords met at highest arc, and jarred each to the bone  
Then as one man they shook their heads, the Triskele and the Star  
And came back to the battle plain from somewhere else afar

They stood there an eternity that seemed quite still and cold  
And had not yet raised shield again when came the call of "Hold!"  
They knew not who had won the clash, it mattered not a whit  
For something passing strange had chanced, that overshadowed it

Then later in the tavern, with full tankards topped with foam  
The two did sit and talk a while of family and home  
And of the odd and curious thing that happened on the field  
That caused them not to pummel nor demand the other yield

Now could all men trade places with the foeman that they fight  
And see themselves from his side as they struggle for the right  
Mayhap there'd be less bloodshed, and mayhap no more war  
Except for this at which we play, and shall do evermore

And fight we shall, in friendship, there upon the honor'd field  
With spirits high as we draw up the line with sword and shield  
And only thus, we'll tell the world, will we engage in war  
Respected foes, yet friends no less, the Triskele and the Star

# Minister of Children

Greetings Loch Ruadh!

This year, Ansteorra will have Wednesday at the Page School for Gulf Wars! Come on by and see what all we have waiting for our youth. We will have scroll painting and a mock court (imagine a play where you are the star).

We will also have the following schedule on Saturday.

## **Main Tent -**

10:00 - Open House and Social, Parents and Kids all welcome!

12:00 - Known World MoC Social and Luncheon - All Kingdom and Principality MoC's are invited for lunch

So come on out to Gulf Wars! We would love to see you there!  
In Service to the youth and Shire of Loch Ruadh,

Lady Cait O'Hara  
Minister of Children

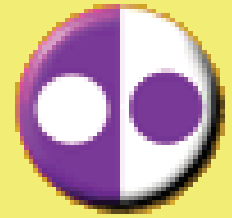
## **From the GW Camp Coordinator**

Greetings.

We have 32 people camping with us this year. I am currently working on the camp layout and should have at least a rough draft by March Populace.

Shed Load out is March 5 at 10 Am at Caerell and Aingael's. A list was posted to the Loch Ruadh list of what was needed from the Shire. If you are able to carry one of those items to war, please meet us at the shed! Even if you cannot carry something to War, please come and help load up those who can – as the old adage goes “many hands make light work.

In Service  
Alric  
Camp Coordinator





# Minister of Arts and Sciences



Greetings Loch Ruadh,

Many thanks to HL Aingeal for teaching a class on gores and gussets for garb. The class proved informative and useful.

The banner and garb workshop became banners and youth armor and we had a great turn out. Thanks to all who came and joined the fun. New Ansteorran banners will grace our camps this season.

Our March activity will be Scribes and Illuminators which will be held at Baroness Dana's home rather than that of Caerell and Aingeal. Join us in painting scrolls for the Kingdom. I am working on setting up a calligraphy and illumination class series to be held at each quarterly Scribal night. We will start out with beginning Scribal and Illumination skills and progress through more advanced techniques as the series continues.

April's activity will be a class as yet to be determined. Contact me if you have a suggestion or a request. Also in April we will resume the practice of having an activity in conjunction with Fighter Practice. The activity may be a group game like bocce ball, a class, a lecture, a musical session, or a group work day. Bring along a snack to share and be prepared to enjoy your-selves!

The next time you see HL Ameline Du'Bois, the Bodacious Baroness, congratulate her on her success in becoming the newest Kingdom Artisan and entrant for the Gulf War Artisan Competition. VIVAT Ameline!

Artisans, please be aware that there is an extensive A&S resource section in the Shire's Library, always available during Scribes and Illuminators at Caerell and Aingeal's, and by appointment, with Baroness Dana at other times. Call or e-mail me at anytime that you have questions or inquiries about the various A&S pursuits. If I can't answer your questions I will find someone who can. All Artisans are encouraged to enter A&S competitions at local and Kingdom events, the experience is invaluable.

Keep in mind that if you have an interest in the Office of A&S Minister that becoming a Deputy is a great way to get your feet wet.

Many Thanks,  
Catrin verch Rhys, MoAS

## Women Knights in the Middle Ages

Were there women knights in the Middle Ages? Initially I thought not, but further research yielded surprising answers. There were two ways anyone could be a knight: by holding land under a knight's fee, or by being made a knight or inducted into an order of knighthood. There are examples of both cases for women.

### Female Orders of Knighthood

#### THE ORDER OF THE HATCHET

There is a case of a clearly military order of knighthood for women. It is the order of the Hatchet (orden de la Hacha) in Catalonia. It was founded in 1149 by Raymond Berenger, count of Barcelona, to honor the women who fought for the defense of the town of Tortosa against a Moor attack. The dames admitted to the order received many privileges, including exemption from all taxes, and took precedence over men in public assemblies. I presume the order died out with the original members.

Here is a [description](#) taken from Ashmole, The Institution, Laws, and Ceremony of the Most Noble Order of the Garter (1672), Ch. 3, sect. 3:

"Don Raymond, last Earl of Barcellona (who by intermarriage with Petronilla, only Daughter and Heir of King Ramiro the Monk, united that principality to the Kingdom of Aragon) having in the year 1149, gained the City of Tortosa from the Moors, they on the 31 of December following, laid a new Siege to that place, for the recovery of it out of the Earls hands. The Inhabitants being a length reduced to great streights, desired relief of the Earl, but he, being not in a condition to give them any, they entertained some thoughts of making a surrender. Which the Women hearing of, to prevent the disaster threatning their City, themselves, and Children, put on mens Clothes, and by a resolute sally, forced the Moors to raise the Siege.

"The Earl, finding himself obliged, by the gallentry of the action, thought fit to make his acknowledgements thereof, by granting them several Privileges and Immunities, and to perpetuate the memory of so signal an attempt, instituted an Order, somewhat like a Military Order, into which were admitted only those Brave Women, deriving the honor to their Descendants, and assigned them for a Dadge, a thing like a Fryars Capouche, sharp at the top, after the form of a Torch, and of a crimson colour, to be worn upon their Head-clothes. He also ordained, that at all publick meetings, the women should have precedence of the Men. That they should be exempted from all Taxes, and that all the Apparel and Jewels, though of never so great value, left by their dead Husbands, should be their own.

From the Internet

# Gulf War Necessities

A G S T B S E T I C E C R G C R S S R W I E C A  
 R R R O R R T H N D S E H E P T V I K V I L O R S  
 P T M T F I S R L C F U E S T H I R E L M W M O  
 T E O O D O A L I O V M S T O O S P C K F I F S D  
 T O R L R E R E O D A R L L R W G M F Y I I P T W  
 R I S I O O W D R B R E L E A M R M O R E E A M  
 C K O F R O N R C E T H H S E A N R O O  
 S A A I D W N C N G I F C I H N R T M T B H  
 S F M E S M B U M K S I T O R S D E S S T O  
 S C M P H T F G V O S D K E T T R C S U S R T  
 U T E B O O A D A H I S I S U L E N L I O T  
 A D A D U C F R I R C H E W C N H O G S K G A C D  
 D D R T N O H A C A B I I K F A A C A P M R E O  
 O C L F O M A O H A K E E G K R R P D F L B H G  
 O O T D W T B A I I E N I O E E F A L M A R S  
 T I N L S G B H I R V T I I V E T K O R M E T V  
 N O K R T T D U O O N E N T R G N R D B K R  
 R C I D T R E G T F L B T S M A A I N D O H M  
 S F S V L T M S S M M A O T D K W E R D A I F T  
 D N A S C E O N T T D T A K P B A G O O I N  
 O C T I K I E T L A S N L E O T O O W S O D I  
 I I T N O A H U D K A K D D E M O R N E I I  
 L S L O A R K D S A E D H S A M R R I U S O I M E  
 O C C R A S I A M M C O T A C M O D R B F A O  
 O C S E I T D C T S T O E T T T F K D C M R

armor

tent

warm bed

fire stick

comfy shoes

first aid kit

adult beverages

period garb

warm cloak

camp chair

cook stove

food

shield

sword

spear

helm

tiki torch

rain gear

sunscreen

food

# Kingdom Calendar

## March:

**13-20 Out of Kingdom—Gulf War XX—Glenn Abhann (Mississippi)**

**25-27 Baronial Investiture at Raven's Fort—Raven's Fort (Huntsville, TX)**

## April:

**1-3 Elfsea Defender—Elfsea (Ft. Worth, TX)**

*Unofficial Event—Medieval Faire of Norman (Norman, OK)*

**8-10 Stargate/Loch Soilleir Joint Baronial - Stargate (Houston, TX) \*PED\***

**Wiesenfeuer Baronial - Wiesenfeuer (Oklahoma City, OK)**

**15-17 SCA Board of Directors meeting - Houston, TX**

**Defender of the Flame - Glaslyn (Denton, TX)**

**22-24 Easter Weekend**

**29-1 Beltane - Namron (Norman, OK)**

**Bjornsborg Spring Event - Bjornsborg (San Antonio, TX)**

**Guardian of the Tor XX - Dragonsfire Tor (Stephenville, TX)**

# Loch Ruadh Calendar

## March:

**2nd Populace (7:30 pm) IHOP on Quebec**

**5th Shed Load Out for Gulf Wars  
10:00 AM at the home of HL Caerell and HL Aingeal**

**7th Scribes and Illuminator's (7:30 pm) Baroness Dana's home**

**13-20 [Out of Kingdom—Gulf War XX](#)—Gleann Abhann (Mississippi)**

**23d Officer's Meeting (7:30 pm) Kaz and Antonia's**

**26th Ceilidh (7:00 pm) location TBA**

## April:

**6th Populace (7:30 pm) IHOP**

**20th Officer Meeting (7:30 pm) location TBA**

**23th Ceilidh (7:30 pm) location TBA**

For event locations, check the Loch Ruadh online calendar.

### **Seneschal**

Lord Pdraig Ruad O'Maolagain  
(Sam Milligan)  
3808 Arroyo Drive  
Weatherford, TX 76087  
817-599-4192  
seneschal@lochruadh.org

### **Hospitaler**

Lady Marion Fay Holmes  
(Frances McKinnon)  
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White Settlement, TX 76108  
817-433-4008  
hospitaler@lochruadh.org

### **Archery Marshal**

Lord Tegwared McAuley  
(Terry Varner)  
5628 Big Sky Dr.  
Joshua, TX 76058  
817-389-2873  
archery@lochruadh.org

### **Exchequer**

Lady Vivian McKinnon  
(Pam Bedwell)  
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White Settlement, TX 76108  
(817) 913-2328  
exchequer@lochruadh.org

### **Herald**

Lord Kazimierz of Loch Ruadh  
(Dennis Polley)  
8762 Gray Fox Court  
Fort Worth, TX 76123  
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herald@lochruadh.org

### **Chronicler**

Lady Fiona inghean ui  
Mheadhra  
(Pamela Boles)  
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Burleson, TX 76028  
817-426-4631  
chronicler@lochruadh.org

### **Minister of Arts & Sciences**

Lady Catrin verch Reis Of  
(Kathy Varner)  
5628 Big Sky Dr.  
Joshua, TX 76058  
817-846-9586  
moas@lochruadh.org

### **Knight Marshal**

Office up for bid

### **Web Minister**

HL Caerell MacDomnaill, CIM  
(Curtis Myers)  
2604 Creekwood Lane  
Fort Worth, TX 76123  
817-294-8136  
webminister@lochruadh.org

### **Minister of Children**

Lady Cait O'Hara  
(Sonja Crocker)  
2766 West Hwy 199  
Springtown, TX 76082  
817-629-6424  
moc@lochruadh.org

# Officer Information

## **Please Note:**

All Loch Ruadh meetings, practices, and gatherings are posted on the Loch Ruadh online calendar at [www.lochruidh.org](http://www.lochruidh.org), and reminders are sent out on the Loch Ruadh email list. The email list is maintained on the Kingdom of Ansteorra web server and can be accessed at [www.ansteorra.org](http://www.ansteorra.org). Both of these contain address information with online map links for directions.

If you don't have a computer or email access, please contact the Senechal or any other Officer for directions. The Scarlet Letter is available from Pamela Boles at:  
108 NE Rosamond, Burleson, TX  
76028

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[chronicler@lochruidh.org](mailto:chronicler@lochruidh.org).

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Chronicler, Shire of Loch Ruadh  
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Burleson, TX 76028

# **The Scarlet Letter**

## **Shire of Loch Ruadh**