

Henge Happenings

Imbolc 2005 - Issue 65

The Henge of Keltria, PO Box 4305, Clarksburg, WV 26302-4305

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Imbolc, the Feast of Brighid, is also known to Keltrians as the Feast of Stirring. At this time, we honor both Brighid, Lady of the Fire, who embodies *imbas* (or the “fire in the head”), and Angus Óg, the Young God, who embodies love (or the “fire in the heart”). Around us, we can notice the almost imperceptible signs: the days are growing longer, the trees are a bit less sleepy, and creatures scurry about in anticipation of the cyclical rebirth of the warming earth. Imbolc is a promise of better days ahead.

This is a time for “spring cleaning” in the spiritual sense, and a time to recharge our spirits for the coming active season. As the Earth imperceptibly dissolves away the decay of the previous season under the pure white cover of snow and ice, so we also take the time to eliminate from our inner (and perhaps outer) selves those things that no longer serve us, those things that hold us back from fulfilling our destiny. It is time to clean the corrosion from our spiritual battery so that the current can once again flow freely. Brighid and Angus Óg together heal the wounds of our heart, inspiring and encouraging us to begin anew with fresh confidence.

Looking ahead to just one of the approaching season’s activities, we expect the Annual Meeting of the Membership to take place in the territory of Garrán an Eich Órbhuí. Keep your eye on future Henge Happenings issues for specific dates and details.

May your Imbolc be blessed with the fires of inspiration and love.

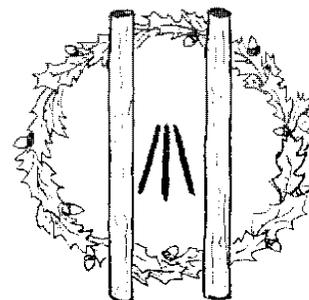
- TopazOwl

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Henge Happenings
Issue #65
Editor: Tony Taylor

www.keltria.org



*Available only to
members of the Henge*

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Henge Happenings is
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**Protected by the Berne
Convention.**

LETTER TO VETERAN'S ADMINISTRATION - NATIONAL CEMETERY ADMINISTRATION

October 15, 2004

National Cemetery Administration
Memorial Programs Service (41A1)
810 Vermont Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20420

Dear Sir or Madam:

The Henge of Keltria is a Celtic Reconstructionist religious path dedicated to revering the Nature Spirits, honoring the Ancestors, and worshiping the Gods and Goddesses of our Celtic Ancestors. The Henge of Keltria is a nonprofit religious corporation formed in 1985, and we are dedicated to providing information, training, and networking to those who practice or who are interested in Keltrian Druidism, Druidism in general, or other Celtic Earth-based religions. At this time we have over 100 active members in both the United States and Canada.

Our national officers are: C. Leigh McGinley, President; Mary-Alice Taylor, Vice President; Tony Taylor, Secretary; and Karl Schlotterbeck, Treasurer.

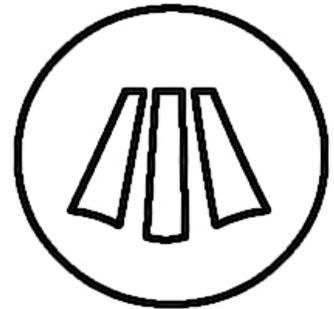
The tri-line "Awen" symbol is an appropriate symbol of our faith, and as such, we feel it should be an available choice for Druid veterans as a marker for gravestones.

Sincerely,

C. Leigh McGinley
President, Henge of Keltria

**Available only to
members of the Henge**

THE TRI-LINE "AWEN"
SYMBOL IS AN
APPROPRIATE SYMBOL
OF OUR FAITH,



ADVERTISE IN
HENGE HAPPENINGS
For a copy of our advertising guidelines, please send a SASE to The Henge of Keltria. Attn.: Advertising Guidelines, P.O. Box 4305, Clarksburg, WV 26302 or visit us on the web at:
<http://www.keltria.org/hengehap/HH-adver.htm>

FROM THE TREASURER

Available only to
members of the Henge

	<p>Psychic Consultations with Wren</p> <p>Palmistry & Tarot</p> <p>Appointments in Clarksburg, WV. Telephone consultations available.</p> <p>304-629-3569</p> <p>Electronic Payment through Paypal</p>
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E-MAIL?

If you have E-Mail, please
Send your E-Mail address &
your membership name &
number to Henge Office:
henge-office@keltria.org.

Also, subscribe to the
Keltria-L E-Mail list. just
sent an e-mail to:
**[keltria-l-subscribe@
yahoogroups.com](mailto:keltria-l-subscribe@yahoo.com)**.

GROVES & GROUPS

FROM GARRÁN AN EICH ÓRBHUI:

*Available only to
members of the Henge*

TRUE ENLIGHTEN-
MENT IS NOTHING BUT
THE NATURE OF ONE'S
OWN SELF BEING FULLY
REALIZED.

*Available only to
members of the Henge*



THE BARD'S PATH

THE ANCESTORS - PART 2 OF 3

By C. Leigh McGinley

[Ed. Note: The Henge of Keltria Correspondence Course is intended to assist members of the Henge to improve their understanding and practice of Keltrian Druidism. This is part two of three parts to be run in Henge Happenings of Lesson X of the Henge of Keltria Correspondence Course.]

GOD AND ANCESTOR CONFUSION

As indicated previously, the Otherworld is made up of many different lands, rather like our own world has many different geographical places. The Land of the Living (described with many names) and the Land of the Dead share the same space, as two aspects of the Otherworld, which may well indicate that the Gods and the Ancestors share the same space as well. The Irish Book of Invasions tells us that the people of Nemed, the Fir Bolg, and the Tuatha de Dannan were all related people. These people, especially the Fir Bolg and the Tuatha de Dannan (who were both descendents of Nemed), lived and interacted among the Sons of Mil. We know that the Sons of Mil are the Gaels, and truly can be considered our ancestors. Yet the line blurs with Donn, Son of Mil, who became the Lord of the Dead – a God.

This begs the question: can the ones we now worship as Gods, the Tuatha de Dannan, also be considered our ancestors? Some people believe so, even though evidence of a blood relationship between the Gaels and the Tuatha de Dannan is nonexistent. This is certainly an interesting dilemma, and one that is really beyond the scope of this lesson. However, no discussion of the Ancestors would be complete without at least touching upon this subject. In considering this, we should realize that the Tuatha de Dannan, when faced with doing battle against the Milesians (which would have devastated the land they revered so much), simply withdrew into the landscape, or agreed to take the “underground half” of Ireland, where most Irish believe they continue to live. Their dwelling in the sidhes gave our forebears the instinctive respect and love for the land and sacred places. This is a legacy without a doubt – a part of our heritage that cannot be denied.

So even if we cannot find evidence that the Tuatha de Dannan were related by blood to the Gaels, they could still be considered “ancestors of spirit” as the ancient inhabitants of Ireland and the very essence of Her being. They are the foundation of our spirit and our spirituality.

THE TRADITION OF SAMHAIN

Samhain is traditionally the time to honor one’s ancestors. This is a time when the sidhe mounds open up, and the Otherworld and this world are mingled in the “no-time.” Our ancestors, the dead, are counted among the

CAN THE GODS BE
OUR ANCESTORS?



PRESIDENT TOPAZ OWL



IMMORTALITY

We believe in **the immortality of the spirit.**

LEARNING

We believe that **learning is an ongoing process** and should be fostered at all ages.

denizens of the Otherworld who walk among us. It is the duty of the living to show their returning ancestors the proper respect and hospitality. Doors and windows are left unlocked as an invitation for the spirits to enter. It is thought that a “slua” or host of invisible people wander from house to house, with those belonging to each house remaining to share the festival with their kin. Food is set aside to be consumed by the dead, and it is forbidden the living to touch it. The whole thing includes games and fun as if to entertain the ancestors who return, rather like a family reunion.

We can see from this that a Celt’s relationship to a dead kinsman or friend doesn’t end with death. Instead, it is known to continue on a different plane, and communication with the dead is actually sought after. These traditions help us realize that death, as the ancient Druids might say, is only “a midpoint in a long life,” and that our ancestors are reachable — that they watch over us and communicate with us still.

Keltrian Seers often communicate with the Honored Dead at Samhain, using whatever tools with which they are comfortable. These communications are shared among the Grove members as appropriate. Some Groves set up an “ancestors’ altar” during Samhain, a second altar or shrine with items of significance placed upon it: old photographs, family mementos, cherished heirlooms, and the like, to honor their personal ancestors at that special time. These items encourage questions among the Grove members, and so help to facilitate discussion about each person’s individual lineage.

HONORING THE ANCESTORS

While Samhain is an important time to honor the Ancestors, it is not the only time. Keltrian Druids honor the Ancestors every day, even if it is only in some small way, for we are keenly aware of the fact that without them, we would not exist.

Perhaps one of the most significant ways we honor the Ancestors is the fact that they are the first of the Triad invited to each and every Keltrian ritual (the other two of the Triad being the Nature Spirits and the Gods). The Ancestors are invited as respected Elders. Some Keltrians also consider it significant to use items that once belonged to a parent or grandparent (or an “ancestor of spirit”) as ritual tools as another way to honor their ancestral connections during ritual.

Aside from ritual, there are many other ways to honor the Ancestors in your everyday life. For instance, many Keltrians find it important to research their family trees as part of their training, and think of this genealogical research as a project to honor their ancestors. This work includes visiting gravesites, examining town histories, and discovering the origin of surnames. It is truly amazing what one learns about oneself from the history of one’s family. This family history should be shared whenever appropriate with family members and interested others so that it will not be forgotten. One should also encourage Grove members and friends to explore their own roots and take pride in their unique heritage.

Another way to honor the Ancestors every day is to learn a Celtic language. Most of the Celtic languages are in danger of dying out from

KELTRIAN DRUIDS HONOR THE ANCESTORS EVERY DAY



TOPAZOWL

By-Laws Available
A copies of *The Henge of Keltria By-Laws 2004-2005 Edition* are available from the Henge Office for \$5.00 (postage paid).
An on-line version of the bylaws is available for no charge on the web at <http://www.keltria.org/Acrobat/Bylaws04.pdf>

disuse. Many Keltrians feel that allowing the language of your ancestors to die would be an insult beyond repair, and for this reason, these Keltrians learn their ancestral Celtic language as a way of honoring the ones who came before them and helping to continue the traditional ways. This honoring of the Ancestors has the added advantage of helping those of us who don't live in modern Celtic societies to understand and relate to the Celtic mindset (which is very different from the mindset of our own culture) through the study of the words and imagery that are used to convey important concepts.

Yet another way to honor the Ancestors is to learn and retell the traditional stories of our People. These stories – historical or mythological – teach the traditional ways to the next generation, ensuring a continuation of our rich culture. Stories such as Cuchulainn and the Red Branch of Ulster or Fionn mac Cumhail and the Fianna contain a plethora of ancient cultural information that should be preserved for future generations to ponder and to take pride in.

One may join an Irish-American or Scottish-American Cultural Institute or Heritage Society, which, through events, classes, and special seminars of interest to those of Gaelic heritage, encourage one to explore one's own heritage in greater depth.

But perhaps the most important way to honor the Ancestors is to live your life in an honorable way, a way that reflects well on your People, both those who came before and those who will come after. Your very existence honors the Ancestors if you live your life in a good way, a way that would make your People proud.

TO BE CONCLUDED NEXT ISSUE.

DIVINITY IS MANIFEST

We believe in **Divinity as it is manifest** in the Pantheon.

There are several valid theistic perceptions of this Pantheon.

RELIGION

We believe in a **living religion** able to adapt to a changing environment. We recognize that our beliefs may undergo change as our tradition grows.

T-Shirts now Available

The Henge now has T-Shirts available on-line at:

<http://www.cafeshops.com/keltria>.

Check them out. We anticipate having a full line of Henge of Keltria merchandise over the next few months.

Particular thanks to Ken F. for his beautiful artwork displayed on the back of this t-shirt.



BACK



FRONT

LIVE YOUR LIFE IN AN
HONORABLE WAY



VISIT THE
HENGE OF KELTRIA
WEB SITE

<http://www.keltria.org/>
Frequently asked questions,
reading list, mailing list,
membership information
and more!

The Druid's Path

DRUID VETERAN'S HEADSTONE PROJECT

By Tony Taylor

The Veteran's Administration (VA) allows for thirty-eight different emblems of faith to be included on headstones and markers. For the past several months, the Henge of Keltria has been working with other Druid organizations to request that the VA include a Druidic symbol in their list of allowed emblems of faith. At the last annual meeting, the members discussed the issue at length; an agreement was reached that the Awen symbol (/|\) was the most desirable symbol of faith for inclusion due to several reasons including simplicity and universality. The Henge drafted a letter of support for the use of the Awen symbol as an emblem of belief for Druids. That letter went out under the Henge President's signature. [See Page 3 - Editor.]

In order to further support this initiative, we would like to ask all veterans, spouses of veterans, and anyone else eligible for veterans burial benefits to write a letter to the Veterans Administration indicating their wishes that the VA allow for the use of Awen as an emblem of faith for Druids. Such a letter should be honest and heartfelt. Let them know how you feel about being buried without a symbol of faith. Let them know who you are and what you would like them to do.

The following letter is a sample template for your use. Please expand upon it with your feelings and situations. We also ask that you send the Henge Office a copy of your letter so we may refer to our members' letters in subsequent correspondence with the VA.

<<Date>>

National Cemetery Administration
Memorial Programs Service (41A1)
810 Vermont Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20420

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am a <Service> veteran who served my country from <Service Start Date> to <Service End Date>. That service included combat service in <Campaign>. As I consider the options available regarding my final resting place, I have become concerned that an emblem of belief or symbol of my faith is not available to be placed on my Veteran headstone or marker. Having long been self-identified as a Druid, it is my wish to be able to have my headstone or

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

How do you feel
ABOUT BEING BURIED
WITHOUT A SYMBOL
OF FAITH?



NATURE

We believe that **nature is the embodiment of the Gods and Goddesses.**

WISDOM

We believe that **our purpose is to gain wisdom through experience.**

FROM THE INTERNET

By Tony Taylor

DRUID'S SALMON SALAD

Those of you who reside in the southern Massachusetts area or travel to Cape Cod might want to check out "The Kinsale Inn" in Mattapoisett, MA. Built in 1799, it is the oldest seaside inn in the nation and still operating in it's original structure.

Besides the pub with a traditional Irish feel and an interesting inn with beautiful views of the bay, there is a fine restaurant. The restaurant's menu includes a Druid's Salmon Salad.

The Druids Salmon Salad: Poached fillet of Wild Salmon served over a salad of baby spinach leaves, crumbled goat cheese, sliced cucumber, grape tomatoes and finished with a Lemon Ginger dressing.

Sounds excellent to me. Check them out at <http://www.kinsaleinn.com>

ARCHAEOLOGY CHANNEL VIDEOS

The Archaeology Channel has a number of vidios on-line. Of particular interest to Druids are Danebury: Ritual and Religion in the Iron Age and Silbury Hill. Many other videos on related subjects are available on-line. Check out their video guide at: <http://www.archaeologychannel.org/content/videoguide.asp>

TWO RECEIVE DRUID SCHOLARSHIPS

The PITT News reported that two deserving students received the Druid's Cathedral Fountain Scholarship. These awards were sereptitiously left in the recipient's mailboxes. There were no witnesses.

"The Druids" is a secret honors society historically made up of campus leaders. Formed at Pitt in 1920, "The Druids" was a certified student organization until 2000. At that time the school instituted a new requirement for organizations to list at least ten of their members. The Druids declined to share members' names and became secretive.

It is good to see a group calling themselves "Druids" doing good and getting positive press.

For the complete story, See: <http://www.pittnews.com/vnews/display.v/ART/2004/11/16/419976175999c>

DRUID DEER DANCE

The North Haven {Connecticut} Post reports that Susan Arnold, music director at Worthington Hooker School in New Haven, embraces as many

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

"THE DRUIDS" ARE A
SECRET HONORS
SOCIETY...

Available only to
members of the Henge



Available only to
members of the Henge

religions and cultures as possible during the December holiday season. During the celebration, her school's third- and fourth-graders presented English holiday wassails, a poem about the Muslim festival of Eid Ul Fitar, drumming in celebration of Kwanzaa, as well as opening with a "druid" deer dance.

For the complete story, See: http://www.zwire.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=13531730&BRD=1638&PAG=461&dept_id=9364&rfi=6

TIME AFTER TIME

Longtime "friend of Druids" and writer for Keltria Journal, Mairéid Sullivan has released a new film, *Time after Time*. It is a celebration of the great heritage of ancient Celtic, American and Australian peoples.

"*Time after Time* is a symphony of images and music of three of the most ancient cultures and weaving them into a film of enormous, moving beauty. ... to marry songs, poetry and pictures of sublime landscapes and sites of deep resonance across Ireland, North America and Australia." Take a look at the 8 minute preview of *Time after Time* on Mairéid's website, <http://www.lyrebirdmedia.com>.

DRUID LABORATORY

I saw a note in EuropeETravel.net about Park Asterix (North of Paris) having a new "Druid Laboratory," which promises to be "weird and wonderful." The idea certainly piques my interest. I wish I could read French so I could learn more about the attraction. There is more at <http://www.parcasterix.fr/som.htm>.

TO COMMENT ON ITEMS "FROM THE INTERNET",
PLEASE SEE THE WEB LOG AT: [HTTP://KELTRIA.BLOGSPOT.COM](http://keltria.blogspot.com).

...CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9 - THE DRUID VETERAN'S HEADSTONE PROJECT:

marker indicate my faith through the use of the tri-line "Awen" symbol. Awen is often displayed as three rays descending from a single unseen point such as /|\. It is my understanding that several Druid Organizations have submitted a specific pattern for use of the tri-line Awen symbol on veterans' markers. I ask that you consider inclusion of that symbol as an emblem of belief available to individuals who wish to be Druid identified.

Sincerely,

<<NAME>> /|\
<Address>
<City, State, Zip>

CC: <The Henge of Keltria, PO BOX 4305, CLARKSBURG, WV 26302>

DRUID LABORATORY
-
WEIRD & WONDERFUL



ASTERIX



SUBMISSIONS

Submissions to Henge Happenings become property of The Henge of Keltria, Inc., a nonprofit religious corporation. Members submissions are solicited based upon subject matter, Bardic, Seer, Druid, or Solitary Special Interest Groups.

FROM THE MAILBOX

By TONY TAYLOR

LOST ZODIAC OF THE DRUIDS

I received a letter and press release from Gregory A. Clouter, the author of *The Lost Zodiac of the Druids*, which promises to be an exploration into the secret cosmological beliefs of the Druids. Clouter, a graduate of Archaeology from the University College of Lampeter worked at the Cornwall Archaeological Unit. He now , provides the results of an intensive study based upon a new interpretation of the Gundestrup cauldron. Clouter appears to have blended his understanding of the Coligny calendar, the Cauldron, and Celtic mythology and beliefs. His focus is on Sovereignty and threefold death of kingship. It has me intrigued enough to have me add it to my list of future purchases.

INNER TRADITIONS CATALOG

I received the latest Inner Traditions/Bear & Company catalog (Spring-Summer 2005). I certainly have mixed feelings about the latest turn in books. Dan Brown's books are extremely popular and most of the new offerings relate to his subjects. In this edition of the catalog, none of the new books are Celtic or Druidic (or even Wiccan for that matter). I found this disheartening. On the other hand, perhaps this means that being Celtic is no longer the "in thing." I didn't see any books of particular interest to me; but my friend Dan might find *Colloidal Minerals and Trace Elements: How to Restore the Body's Natural Vitality* worth a peruse.

The CD "Ritual Drumming: Evoking the Sacred through Rhythms of the Spirit" may be of interest. It is to be released in April 2005 ISBN 1-59477-072-7. I guess I'll put that one on my wish list too.

RIUAL DRUMMING
IT'S ON MY WISH LIST



Keltrian Remembrance Cord Starter Kit

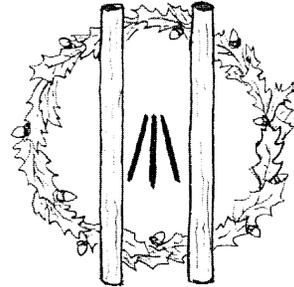
New and improved with Stone & Fossil Beads
\$12.95 each plus \$3.85 P&H per order

Send check or money order to:
The Wren's Magick
RR1, Box 348
Clarksburg, WV 26301

NATURAL LAW
REFLECTS THE WILL OF
THE GODS

We believe that
Natural Law
reflects the will of
the Gods and
Goddesses.

BELIEFS OF THE HENCE OF KELTRIA



1. We believe in **Divinity as it is manifest in the Pantheon**. There are several valid theistic perceptions of this Pantheon.
2. We believe that **nature is the embodiment of the Gods and Goddesses**.
3. We believe that **Natural Law reflects the will of the Gods and Goddesses**.
4. We believe that **all life is sacred** and should neither be harmed nor taken without deliberation or regard.
5. We believe in **the immortality of the spirit**.
6. We believe that **our purpose is to gain wisdom through experience**.
7. We believe that **learning is an ongoing process** and should be fostered at all ages.
8. We believe that **morality should be a matter of personal conviction** based upon self respect and respect for others.
9. We believe that **evil is not a matter of inheritance but of intent**, therefore actions are not in themselves evil. Rather, it is through the **intent behind actions** that evil can manifest.
10. We believe in the **relative nature of all things, that nothing is absolute, and that all things, even the Gods and Goddesses, have their dark sides**.
11. We believe that **individuals have the right to pursue knowledge and wisdom** through his or her chosen path.
12. We believe in a **living religion** able to adapt to a changing environment. We recognize that our beliefs may undergo change as our tradition grows.