

Voices of Invocation

1595 Newsletter

Fondest greetings to all readers. This year we have some excellent presentations including works that are the summation of long years of diligence. I would like to thank everyone for sharing their passions with the Empire, and helping show the dedication of our guild.

The History of 'Star'

By Porcelina A. Rowan

The History of Star



The Horse of Kinges Wood

Let's Get to Know Star!

According to archival and physical evidence found in Kinges Wood, a horse named Star once lived at the Capitol. A look around the manor property reveals clues about who Star was in her day, and we can guess what role she may have played in this area years ago.

A name plate with a star shaped emblem can be admired in the Embassy Tavern, which was formerly a stable. The space we use to house beverages offered by the tavern keeper had once been her stall, which is a restful space dedicated to keeping a horse when they are not working or grazing in the fields, or in times of inclement weather. Often hay and grains to feed horses and other livestock plus straw for bedding can be stored in an upper level of a stable, which in our case at times in the past had offered a place for overnight reprieve for citizens and guests, located right above her stall.

The lower level of what is now the Majestic Inn may have previously been the carriage barn, where a cart or plow and other tack would have been stored. Let's investigate these details and other information about horses to get an idea about what Star's life here at the capitol may have resembled.

Straw for bedding (yellow, top); Hay for eating (green, bottom)



Harvested Oats (left) and Barley in a field (right)



What Would Star Need to be Happy and Healthy?

Horses are herbivores, so their diet consists entirely of grains and grasses plus some fruits and vegetables. While 'turned out' in an outdoor, fenced-in field called a pasture, Star could leisurely graze on a variety of grasses and keep well on that diet if merely a pet. More substantial feed is required if she is expected to work, since she will burn far more calories and need quality food to maintain her physique. Hearty grains like oats and barley will keep her fueled for any task. If she is under the weather or during the colder months, a warm

bran mash can be offered to help keep up her weight and stamina. A nice crunchy carrot or apple is always appreciated, but should be given just as a treat.

Their coat will need occasional attention, as well. A curry comb is a simple tool to brush the fur on the body, taking care to follow the hair direction. Grooming is a great way to bond with a horse and also stimulates blood flow. Removing debris like dirt and stones from their feet with a hoof pick ensures better comfort and performance while preventing founder, which causes lameness. This means a horse will hobble around in pain and therefore be unsuitable for riding.



A horse wearing a halter affixed to cross ties, waiting to be groomed in a stable

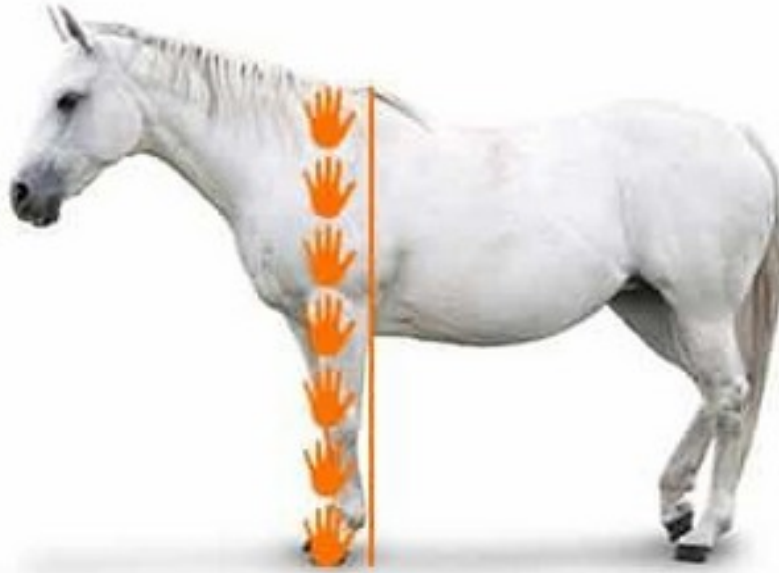
Curry Comb (left) and Hoof Pick (right)



What Kind of Horse Was Star?

Based on the portraits seen at the beginning and end of this narrative, we can deduce that Star was a mare, or adult female horse. The less obvious way to determine this is to notice her slender neck and subtle body - male horses are more muscular. She is considered to be a light breed, indicating she is not a draft horse, which are designed to be large and capable of pulling heavy loads. Rather, her sleek physique would make her ideal for riding under saddle, though still capable of pulling light carts. Also, she appears taller than a pony, which measure no greater than 14.2 hands high at the withers. One hand of measurement equals four inches to the peak of the shoulder blade.

Looking at the confirmation, or body characteristics, we can presume her breed(s) based on recognized standards. Several factors lead me to believe she is a mix. Given her overall size plus propensity for her to position her rear legs slightly farther back than square, I will suggest she is part Morgan Horse. The rich cheek bone and deep chest lends to Quarter Horse. Lastly, her dual coloring makes her a Pinto, which is considered both a color and a breed.



A Quarter Horse being measured in Hand units from the hoof to the peak of the shoulder, called the withers.



A Morgan Horse Mare

What if Star Had Been Used for Breeding?

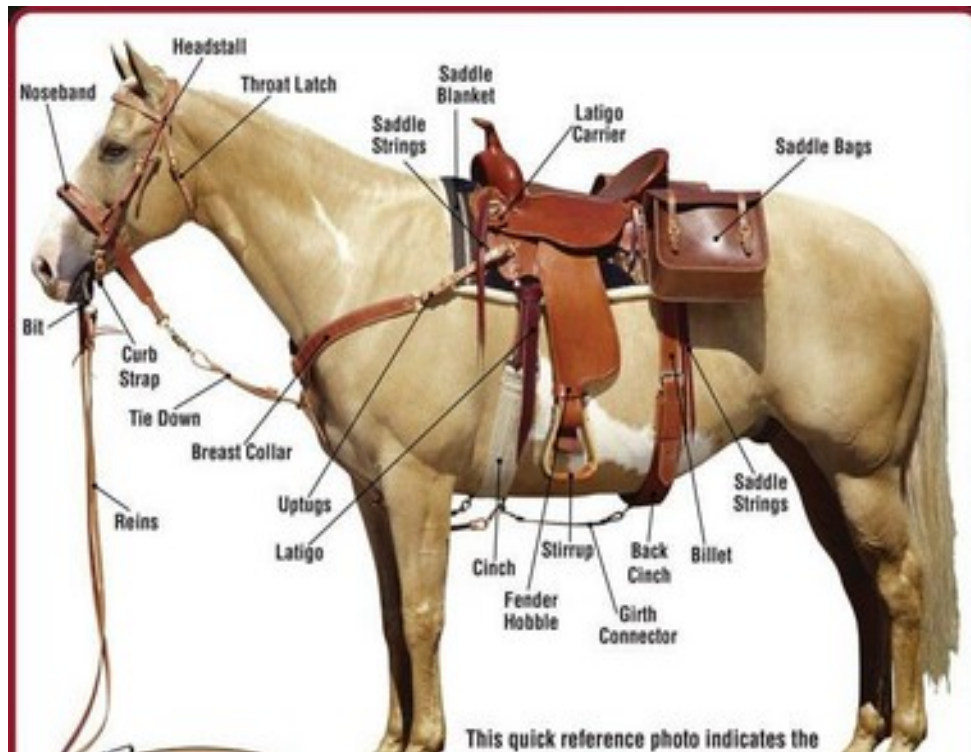
Since Star was a Mare, it's possible that she could have been a mother. Mother horses whose career is having babies are considered Brood Mares. Baby horses are called foals, with males being colts and females being fillies. In many breeds they are considered juveniles until they are four years old!

Offspring may have inherited the pattern gene where color alternates a white coat. In the case of Star and this baby, they are considered Overo since there is more white present in the coat than other colors, the opposite of which would be called Tobiano. Black and white together is called Piebald, whereas any other color with white is Skewbald. In many circles, two-colors are usually considered Pinto, though a tricolored horse is often referred to as a Paint Horse. In this case, imagine a horse with a brown and white body but black mane, tail, and forelock (the hair). This would be called a Bay Paint (Bay is a brown coated horse with black hair). Foals gestate, or develop within the womb, for approximately 11 months. For this reason and duration of nursing before weaning, a mare will have no more than one foal every two years.



A Weanling foal who is old enough to have finished nursing and begun halter training but still young enough to spend most of the time with its Dam, or Mother. Had Star borne offspring, one could have resembled this baby.

What Would Star Wear in Order to be Ridden?



Here in the new world, most riders will use either Western or English tack [hereafter described in this order, as seen in the related images]. Tack is a term to describe the variety of equipment worn by a horse while being ridden. The two varieties perform generally the same tasks though are designed for specific jobs.

Saddle – a leather seat to assist the rider in staying on the horse while riding. Fastened with a cinch or girth that wraps around a horse’s midsection behind the front legs. Notice the difference in form.

Saddle Pad – a cushion placed beneath the saddle to offer comfort to the horse while also absorbing excess sweat to avoid chafing.

Bridle – headgear used to communicate direction of travel and stopping commands to the horse through the bit in their mouth, as indicated through the use of reins held by the rider.

Bit – the metal device that goes in the horse’s mouth, attached to the bridle and reins.

Halter – a casual piece of headgear, often made of a woven material, worn for leading a horse when not under saddle.

The History of Star



The Horse of Kinges Wood



Richard Hawkins and His Two Discoveries in 1594

By His Excellency, King-Palatine Thrommel Breckonridge

Sir John Hawkins



Richard Hawkins



Richard Hawkins was born in 1562 and was the son of Sir John Hawkins. Sir John Hawkins was an English merchant who profited from the slave trade and was an English Navy Vice-Admiral that was victorious over the Spanish Armada. Sir John Hawkins' son, Richard Hawkins, was considered an English explorer and privateer in his own right. Initially he worked with his uncle, William Hawkins, and his father Sir John Hawkins, but eventually he bought a galleon called the Dainty in 1593. A group of three ships, the Hawk, the Fancy, and the Dainty, would proceed to sail from England towards Brazil and beyond.



Tip of South America and the Magellan Strait

As he was sailing towards the mouth of the Magellan Strait at the tip of South America, he encountered a storm that blew his ship eastward. On February 2, 1594, Richard Hawkins saw land and noted, *"...about nine of the clocke in the morning, wee descried land, which bare South-West of us, which we looked not for so timely and coming neerer and neerer unto it, by the lying, wee count not conjecture what land it could be... It hath great Rivers of fresh waters; for the out-shoot of them colours the Sea... The Land, for that it was discovered in the Reigne of Queene Elizabeth, my Sovereigne Lady and Mistris, and a Mayden Queene, and at my cost and adventure, in a perpetual memory of her chastitie, and remembrance of my endeavours, I have it the name of Hawkins Maiden land...the Westernmost part lyeth som threescore leagues from the neerest Land of America"*. It will be interesting to see how long the English are able to retain claims to this newly found collection of islands off the coast of some of the major colonies of the Portuguese and Spanish.



Hawkins Maiden Land (Falkland Islands)

Soon after Richard Hawkins and the crew of the *Dainty* left the newly found islands to make their way through the Magellan Strait and up the western coast of South America. They eventually made their way to their destination of Valparaiso, a coastal Spanish port, to plunder it.

The second discovery Richard Hawkins noted while on this voyage was an observation about the efficacy of citrus fruits, specifically “*sower oranges and lemmons,*” for successfully treating scurvy. Richard Hawkins wrote, “*This is a wonderful secret of the power and wisdom of God, that hath hidden so great and unknown virtue in this fruit, to be a certaine remdie for this infirmitie*”. It should be noted that in the later portion of the voyage only the *Dainty* remained as the *Hawk* had been purposely sunk after several sailors died due to scurvy and the *Fancy* left to return to England after it got separated from the *Dainty*.



Oranges and Lemons

The symptoms of scurvy had been documented as early as 1550 BC in Ancient Egypt. The early symptoms of scurvy included malaise and lethargy. After one to three months, the individual would develop a shortness of breath and experience bone pain and potentially muscular pain. Symptoms of skin changes such as roughness, easy bruising, small red or purple spots on the tongue, gum disease, loosening of teeth, poor wound healing, dry mouth, dry eyes, and emotional changes would appear thereafter. In later stages of scurvy, a yellowing of the skin, fluid retention, a low output of urine, nerve damage, fever, and convulsions were experienced and eventually lead to death.

In the 13th century, the Crusaders frequently developed scurvy. By 1497, Vasco da Gama knew of the curative effects of citrus fruits as such were used during his expeditions. Unfortunately the knowledge of this curative was not readily shared or known. In 1536, the French explorer, Jacques Cartier, while exploring the St.

Lawrence River, learned from the local Iroquoians about boiling the needles of the eastern white cedar to make a tea to help those that were dying of scurvy. By 1579, the Spanish friar and physician, Agustin Farfan, published a book in which he recommended oranges and lemons for scurvy. It should be noted that scurvy had been a serious problem to many sailors that took long voyages and thousands had died over the 16th century from the disease.



Eastern White Cedar

Guild of Invocations Newsletter Masterwork Update

By King-Palatine Christopher Chamberlain

My contribution to this years Newsletter will be much different than past years. Partly because I wanted to present my intention of Masterwork, but also because with the change in when we are holding our Guild Festival, we do not have a selected theme to guide my usual myth contribution.

As some of you may or may not know, I am a wanderer of our Empire. Due to the very fact that my region is vast and it takes me long periods to travel to Imperial Gatherings, my time spent living among the Natives and living off the land, and also my decades of being a clergyman for Gods who are of the very earth we live upon. These have lead me to encounter some truly remarkable and sometimes dangerous creatures.

After speaking with our Guild-leader, His Lordship, Baronet Giovanni Albrizzi and gaining his approval, I have decided to begin compiling these encounters in a sort of ongoing and ever updating book for Imperial Citizens. Below, you will find an example of what I hope to include with an entry. Should more encounters happen with the same creature, more information will be added.

Another part of why I wish to present this in this fashion is to make a request to all Imperial Citizens. Should you ever receive a rumor from your peasants that a strange or possibly magical creature is in your Region, please let me know. Not immediately, per se, but perhaps at the next Imperial Gathering. Any information I can glean from my research into a creature within your personal Region will of course be relayed to you to possibly assist in how you as the Regional Ruler wish to handle the matter.

My hope is that when at least a sizable document is put together, I may be able to place it upon the Tome of Visions and Knowledge for all to review, much like our Treatise of the Markets. Perhaps we can name it something along the line of Manual of Monsters! Maybe not, though, since I hear there are wizards along the coast that have something similarly named and get rather upset if they feel you use anything similar to them.

Lastly, I am willing and hoping to make this a collaborative effort of sorts as well. Once I have a format finalized, I will welcome anyone who wishes to add an entry for something they have encountered. Your name will, of course, be on the entry as the contributor. If you have find that an entry already exists, but you have information that you think needs to be added, that will also add you on as a contributor.

I hope that the prospect of this Masterwork of mine is exciting to at least some of you. Please find a couple of sample entries below. One is rather basic, but I was in a rush and unable to do more than observe for a time. As it is more recent, I have not had time to do additional research on it.



Fur Coated Elephant

First Encountered by – Christopher Chamberlain

Date of First Encounter – January 2, 1593

Location of First Encounter – An uncomfortably short distance from Rogues Port

First Impressions – Only encountered two, but that seems like more than enough. Appearance is close to that of a regular elephant but there is much more fur rather than the stringy sparse hair you would usually see.

Tusks also look longer and more curved.

Found eating tufts of grass, possibly only eats plants.

Last Known Status – Alive and wandering



Red Dragon

First Encountered By – A group of people with little to no concept of self preservation, including the following – Lhaeros Gefährlich, Nathaniel Eld, Khloey Rose (paralyzed at the time), Robin Snowflower, Porcelina Rowan, Christopher Chamberlain, Cullen DeFilch, Gareth Ironhand (deceased)

Date of First Encounter – October 18, 1588

Location of First Encounter – Caverns beneath a monastery, West of the Sink Hole of Tirgovisite

First Impressions – The breathing fire is unfortunately accurate to the stories. Strongly suggest bringing a clergyman that can help with resisting fire. Does not like to have its lair disturbed. This one, at least, also fits the stories about hoarding treasure.

This dragon was alone. Not as large as the stories all claim, though certainly big enough to be intimidating. Could have been a juvenile.

Last Known Status – Deceased, peaceful interaction was not possible.

Burning Wood, Artistically

By Princess Margaret Stanley

In the past year, I have had a few inspirations for projects. I do wish to write about one that is nearing completion, and shall be presented to its intended recipient soon. I do not have any portraits of the process, so I have included only a portrait of the project's current condition.

Roughly a year ago, I was asked to create a wooden signboard with a design burned into it for one of my kin. The concept requested doth feature an image of a local woodpecker, the "Yellow-Bellied Sapsucker", perched upon a branch with the words "Sapsucker Haven" above and a simple design framing the piece. My kinswoman is fond of the sapsuckers that have been feeding from her willow tree, and her husband wanted to gift her with the sign for her home.

This was not intended to be a secret or surprise gift, so I did consult extensively with her upon the various elements and what she doth prefer. A single bird, perched upon a mostly upright branch with many sap-wells, framed in willow leaves was the final design.

As I am not skilled at carpentry, others did source, shape, and sand the board for the piece. 'Twas late summer when I did receive the board, and began to work.

To begin, I did create the elements of the design on parchment, and lay them out in pieces upon the board to try the fit. I did combine a portrait of a sapsucker created by a master artist with a sketch of one branch of my kinswoman's willow tree, with details added from a portrait of sap wells drilled into another willow tree, framed by a cartoon sketch of several leafy willow branches. I did a good deal of resizing of the images before I was satisfied with the proportions.

Once I had the design, I acquired some parchment coated upon one side with graphite for the transfer of the image. I did secure the graphite parchment to the board, with my template secured atop it, and did use a hard stylus to trace over the lines of the image. This did transfer some graphite onto the board (as if I had drawn the design in pencil directly upon the board) for me to trace in turn with a hot iron.

I did work upon a small area of design at a time, beginning with the lettering. As I traced with the iron, I kept a sheet of parchment betwixt my hand and the wood so that the oils from my skin would not affect the color of the board. I have had the experience of seeing embroideries done by my hands come out darkened from the amount of handling (easily remedied by washing for fabric, more difficult for wood), and did think upon that and act to prevent it in this piece.

Once I had the entire design burnt into the wood, I did await a day when the weather was warm enough to work upon it outdoors, and did use a bit of sanded parchment to smooth the roughness that the burning point did leave. In all, I am well pleased with the results, and I do plan to apply a sealing varnish as soon as the weather doth warm enough for it to dry properly, as well as some hardware for hanging the finished piece.

I shall say that I did not come into this project with a great deal of experience at burning designs into wood. I have dabbled in it a few times several years ago (before Henry and I did travel to come to the Empire!), so I did seek advice from those more practiced in the craft before I did apply any tools to the wood. This was very much a learning experience, and I did enjoy it greatly. I do have inspirations for a few more, smaller, woodburnt images, and perhaps I shall be able to share one of those in the future.

The final piece doth measure seventeen by twenty-two inches, and is done on a board of red pine. I plan to varnish with a clear coating, so that the color of the wood doth show through.

Sapsucker Haven



DP

Legends and Lore: Vampires and the confusion therein

By Baronet Giovanni Albrizzi

I had previously written to you all regarding the somewhat morbid topic of the undead, and touched upon the broadness of it. I did, at that time, mention the Ghul or Ghoul and further expanded upon it after encountering the undead version thereof and noted in my submission that there was a greater definition to be found in the root of the word from its homelands in the lands of Arabia. It had been my intention at the very beginning to cover multiple high profile or well known undead so that the well read and discerning citizen who reads my articles would be well informed and could defend themselves. This has been deeply educational, and not in ways that I had anticipated. Take for example, the undead known as the Vampire. This is to many a well known monster in the realm of lore, a living corpse that rises from its burial grounds to drink the blood of the living before the dawn rises. Is that always the case though? I have found it is far from that. Indeed, the definition of what a vampire is is not nearly as agreed upon as a casual interest may think. Every portion of its definition may be called into question and debated. Please allow me to give you several examples, and a great caution to my fellow students of lore.

First, close to home, especially among natives among the lands of the Kingdom-Palatine of Conquest, the Kingdom-Palatine of SchwartzRose, and points north into the foreign territories, I have heard tell of a being called the Kanontsistóntie's. It is also known as the Kunenhrayenhnenh or Dagwanoenyent, apparently, depending upon the specific Peoples one is speaking to. This is definitely an undead, in that it is simply a severed head that floats independently, but it is a flesh eating creature rather than a blood drinker per se. Is it a vampire? I'm uncertain. I would hazard a no, but it was the closest offered to me when I inquired. It perhaps says much that to date none interred in these lands before our arrival rose with such a hunger, or perhaps it is simply my own failings as a linguist and my inability to make my inquiries through an interpreter sufficiently. The interpreter was French, after all, and can only be so trusted. For sake of note, I was informed that tricking the floating head into eating hot coals instead of flesh may destroy it, but I wish you luck should you find yourself the target of such a rare being.

Going to the ever sunny and cheerful lands of England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland we have a host of conflicting reports including some I would like to dwell on later. It seems over the centuries, things being reported as faery, devil, and undead have gotten rather confused. I was told by an able bodied seaman, Patrick Murphy, that this may be down to not wishing to upset the local clergy. What may be deemed Pagan and heretic may be told safely simply by changing the creature from one to another. I can understand that, while a good Catholic myself, some of my own studies have certainly given the priests reason to ask me to up my donations so they may take the time to properly pray for my soul. Take for our first instance the leannán sídhe. This is related to me as a beautiful woman, who offers love and affection to talented men of Ireland, and if they accept she provides them great insight into the arts, enhances their talents, and eats at their lives, draining their vitality until they die early. However, this is related to Fae, not an undead. Almost identically in Scotland is the baobhan sith, who is also a beautiful woman in form, but who wears a dress to cover ungulate hooves like a deer. They dance with men making merry, and leave them drained fully of blood. This inclusion of unusual or animal feet crops up in many ancient texts as well of deadly women described as demons who lure in and drain men, from Mesopotamia and the Arabian areas including lion's paws, bird feet, and bronze. Perhaps one should simply make certain to look down carefully at footprints before deciding upon one's date.

Not to be happy with only having blood drinking faery women, England and its surroundings further details the revenant, which at first glance is thought to be a corpse with unfinished revenge, but may actually include simple warnings, and may not be a corpse at all, but a ghost. William Parvus of Newburgh and Archdeacon Walter Map of Oxford, English historians of the 1100s, wrote independently of such beings in their histories

mostly as accounts of dead spirits carrying messages to their living descendants, stating that while they included examples, such incidents were so numerous that to record them all would overwhelm the records.

Traveling instead north of Tuscany or Greece, into the lands of middle Europa, we get the clearest examples of vampires. In the tome Neplach's Chronicle, written a mere century and a half ago or thereabouts, there is an accounting of a young shepherd boy named Myslata, who died and was buried, but returned to walk among the living. He would speak with them, often scaring them. In time, after multiple deaths, his grave was exhumed and he was poked with a stick, a great deal of blood came out and he was burned. It was recorded that during the process, the corpse screamed. So here we have an inarguable vampire, yes? Well, perhaps not. There is no record of blood drinking, instead the boy only needed to say the name of the person in their home, and they would die 8 days later. Neplach also records in 1344 how a woman in Levin likewise returned from the grave, killing multiple people and dancing upon the corpses. She was likewise exhumed and staked, with similar bloody results. She was also recorded to have eaten at her clothes, and they were blood soaked when removed from the mouth. When the deaths did not stop upon driving the stake into her and reburying her, they decided to burn her, but needed wood from the church as per Neplach normal wood would not catch fire near her corpse.

Not terribly far from here is the Slavic and Romanian lands. These two have a rich amount of scholarly works on vampires, though they classify them as Moroi, or Strigoi. Strigoi can be either living or dead, and the living ones were deemed as witches with split or dual souls and hearts, which allowed them to send one soul out of their body to drink blood in the night. Many were noted to have red hair and blue eyes... and while I've heard similar things about red haired people in my home country, it seems a bit judgemental to myself. I include it merely for fullness. Killing strigoi was said to simply allow them to return to continue their terror as an undead. As a strigoi, moroi, revenant, or vampire? I could scarcely tell you, and I'm not certain any others could clearly.

In summation, I think the best advice I can provide in this arena is to keep an open and sharp mind. Cross check sources, and do not apply a mindset of "all fits into neat taxonomy" no matter how pleasing that may be. If you think you are encountering something that defies logic and reason, in the world of the fantastical, seek aid from the religious and from the learned. Treat each case as potentially unique, and do not assume you have all the knowledge immediately. Remember, in such strange places, what you do AND do not know can kill you. It's just a question of how it is applied.