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SUMMER 1999
ISSUE #26

Special "Gathering of the Tribes" Issue!



The Tribes Gathered

Land - At Last!

**Training Tomorrow's
Leaders**

A Policy of Preparedness

**Kennewick Man:
The Saga Continues**

**Genetics and Beyond -
The Ultimate Connection**

News from the AFA

GUILDS

of the Asatru Folk Assembly

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THE RUNESTONE is a journal of the ancient Northern European religion known as Asatru. It is dedicated to our Gods and Goddesses, the people of the North, and to the values of courage, freedom, and individuality within the context of kinship.

THE RUNESTONE is published four times a year by the Asatru Folk Assembly. Subscription are \$12 per year in the US, \$15 per year in Canada, \$18 overseas (\$24 airmail), payable in US funds to the ASATRU FOLK ASSEMBLY, P.O. Box 445, Nevada City, CA 95959.

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Webpage location: <http://www.runestone.org>

The opinions in this publication, unless otherwise noted, are those of the author. We read all correspondence, but other commitments may prevent replies. For best response, keep your letters to one page and one or two subjects.

Submissions of articles, photographs, and line-artwork are invited. Please enclose a SASE if you wish to have them returned.

Publisher & Editor: Stephen A. McNallen
Production & Webpage: Sheila McNallen

Special thanks to photographers for this issue: Robert Ward, Tina LeBouthillier, Annabel Lee, Jim Craig

We had billed it as "not just another Asatru gathering"
...and it wasn't!

The Tribes Gathered

Stephen A. McNallen

Our intention was to create a watershed in the history of Asatru in Valand; to make a real difference in the way we lived our religion here on this continent. Did we succeed? Only time will tell - but from here, the results look pretty good!

When our guests began arriving Thursday afternoon, we put them to work.

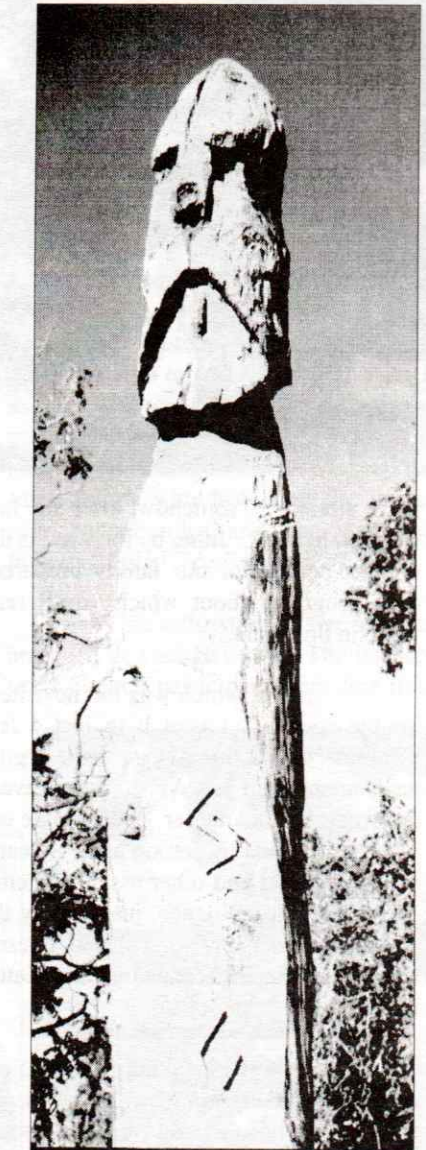
There are always some preparations that need wrapping up, and luckily we had willing hands that didn't flinch when we asked them to spread snow over the dusty lanes, or to help erect the pole Gods and rope off the banquet!

Although we had scheduled events for Thursday, they were not to be. The continual arrival of our friends, plus the flurry of final tasks, made any planned agenda hopelessly optimistic (I don't think we would have learned that after all these years!). But no one seemed to mind, and boredom was not a problem as we worked, and visited, and gave our visitors time to set up their camp sites. By the time we sat around the fire Thursday night, there was a decent crowd of Asatruar ready to get a preview of the coming days.

Breakfast on Friday morning came with a new spirit in the air, a sense of things to be done. We were determined to live up to our reputation for setting a fine table - and I think all will admit that we succeeded, meal after meal. Stephanie organized things in the kitchen, and a team of volunteers helped execute the plan. Every meal began with a blessing of the food. And the tables! Katie brought a trunk loaded with flowers, rune-painted rocks, a Green Man, and other decorations that changed from breakfast to lunch to dinner. I recall looking up during one repast to see two black ravens - fake ones, that is - clinging to the branches of the oak tree around which the tables were arrayed. We never quite knew what would await us when we sat down to eat!

Family Preparedness and Youth Outreach

Our fast was hardly broken before we were carrying benches to the lecture area ("Bragi's Den," according to the sign). Within minutes, Valgard Murray was outlining practical steps that everyone could take to prepare for



hard times. Food storage, water, power - Valgard systematically covered one area of concern after another. Hands raised with questions showed that the folk were interested.

Valgard was followed by Julie, head of the Back to Basics Guild. Her focus was not on storing food, but on producing it! Vegetable gardens large and small (including window boxes for apartment dwellers), chickens and other critters all seemed much



more attainable, somehow, after she had finished her talk. Julie, by the way, is the contact person for our family preparedness program, about which you'll read more in this issue...

...And which was the next item on the agenda! I kept it to just a few minutes, explaining that I was urging each member of the AFA - and every Asatruar, for that matter - to emulate our Mormon friends by setting aside a year's supply of food and other essential items. This is simple prudence, justified by the *Havamal* and the *Voluspa*, and doesn't make us any stranger than the local Latter Day Saints.

By now (speaking of food!) everyone was pretty famished. So we broke for a leisurely lunch, and to give people time to browse along our straw-strewn merchant street ("Coppergate"). Here they found Valgard's World Tree tent, Irish harpist Tynowyn's pavilion, Julie's selection of stones and other merchandise, Thorgrun's sample "porta-hall" (a miniature shelter/shed for Asatruar), and a wonderful table set up by Ed and Tina of the Aerospace Technology Guild!

As the afternoon began its advance, our panel discussion on "Youth, Culture, and Asatru" met. Robert Taylor of the Wulfings was the moderator. Three younger people accompanied him



- Michael Moynihan, Annabel Lee, and Noah Richins. The final verdict was that Asatruar should not be afraid of the young, and that superficialities like hair styles or unconventional dress shouldn't become obstacles that keep us from reaching these young men and women. The roles of music and the Gothic culture were covered, as well, and these were seen as possible avenues for approaching the young.

Calling the Ancient Tribes!

Almost before we knew it, the horn was sounding for dinner. Then, as the shadows lengthened across the landscape, we assembled for the Calling of the Tribes. Silent except for percussion provided by Michael and Markus, we walked the grassy trail to the blot-place. Three eight-foot tall images of Odin, Thor, and Freyr had been fashioned by Thorgrun, and were arranged in a triangle in the center of the roped-off circle, awaiting us. When we were ready to begin, three women came forward carrying bowls, which were placed at the feet of the Gods. Each of the Mighty Ones was invoked in turn, and invited to our stead with drink. Then, their help was asked as we summoned the Germanic tribes of Europe. We called them from the earth, one after another - the Cheruscos, the Alemanans, the Vandalos, and many others. When they were with us - and there

were many signs of their presence - we gave them drink and asked that they give us strength and guidance as we worked to form the tribes anew.

Building Tribes

Saturday was the most densely-packed day of the Gathering. In "The Tribal Future of Asatru" I opened with a plea for the renewal of the tribes, detailing why other approaches were inadequate and pointing out both the advantages of the tribal model and possible pitfalls. Rejecting the historical examples of the left and the right, I proposed the "Visigothic model" as an alternative which was non-totalitarian, assertive rather than aggressive, and which was organic to our people.

Dr. James Russell, author of *The Germanization of Early Medieval Christianity*, followed my comments with an address titled "Healing our People." His closing words summarize his message: "Our religiosity of group survival should encourage us to reject the mindless trash of a multicultural consumer society and lead us to a deeper appreciation of our magnificent cultural heritage and an increased familiarity with the art, literature, and particularly, the music that has shaped our people throughout the centuries. This religiosity should help remove whatever ethical inhibitions to action which may remain in the hearts of our



...and finally, if it is conscientiously applied, our religiosity of group survival will heal us and place us back on track toward the fulfillment of our destiny, the ever-evolving, eternal life of our people and our culture."

After numerous questions and answers, Dr. Russell was able to rest as Wiley Winschall and I presented a special piece of our developing tribal culture - the first-ever *Vinnish Word-Board*. One of the things that distinguishes a tribe or a nation is its language. Ours is Vinnish, the tongue of Vinnland. At last, we have made an initial attempt to formalize its vocabulary, and above all, to recognize the importance of the words that we use and how they set us apart from mainstream society. Copies of the *Vinnish Word-Board* are available from the WFA for \$6.50, postpaid.

Back at the podium, it was my turn to take us beyond theory. "Tribes - How to Make Them" was the subject. Essentially, this boiled down to promoting the tribal concept, beginning to train leaders in a systematic way, and setting up an intentional community, a sort of proto-tribe, as a model. Lessons learned would be applied by other groups across the country, and as we acquired the skills we would make the shift from communities to tribes.

Now it was time to talk about land. I spoke of how land gave us a sense of place to go with our sense of folkhood, how it demonstrated permanence and stability. I elaborated by telling all the things

we could do with land, how we could have a place for blot and for gatherings, but also how land could be the core of a community, a location for gardens, offices, a school...and the holy acres of a tribe.

Bringing the discussion out of the theoretical, I showed them photos as well as a video we had shot on some beautiful acres in the mountains. And then the bombshell - I revealed that, thanks to the generosity of Hardy Felgate, we actually had this land! The crowd was properly astounded, and responded with shouts and applause.

Blessings of Tyr & Pushups!

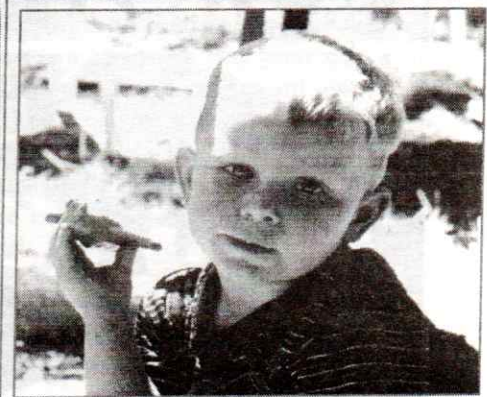
We had crammed a lot into the morning, and the folk were ready for lunch.

No sooner had our midday meal begun to settle than it was time for the Tyr-blot to open the Regional Thing of the Asatru Alliance. Valgard, impressive in his full regalia, led us in procession to the enclosed grove

that we usually frequent. There, the leader of the Alliance called on Tyr and gave him blot, then brought the blessings of the God to the assembled folk. I assisted as the horn was passed to one person and then the next, and as weapon steel was blessed in the traditional manner.

The blot done, the folk filed through the narrow gap in the trees that marked the entrance to the sacred site. Some stayed behind for the Regional Thing session of the Asatru Alliance, where business would be discussed in preparation for the upcoming Althing. Those not representing Alliance kindreds went on to other activities - such as the Warrior Guild's fitness course erected on the "Plains-of-Strength." (Credit for this goes to Franz - the same fellow who fashioned the horse-head banner poles, and who made the famous "Tribal Tees" a reality.)

This consisted of ten stations arranged in a rough circle. The instructions to each participant went like this:



next station and throw a twelve-pound shot, twice...dash to the next post and do a quick ten pushups...run to the next point and knock out another ten pushups, then grab a splitting maul in one hand...run to the next post and grab a sword, then use it to decapitate three opponents...sprint (well, by now, jog) to the following station where you whack at a hunk of wood with the maul...and stagger across the finish line to wrap up with another ten pushups.

For some reason, people were hesitant to give it a try, so Kevin went "recruiting" at one of the concurrent events - a mead and cheese tasting session on the patio. A score of Asatruar were standing around, enjoying the superb mead contributed by a number of our brothers and sisters, and exploring the marvelous brew prepared specially for the Gathering by *braumeister* Dave Moore. However, there's nothing like a maniac with long red hair and a knife at his waist to motivate even the most devout of party-goers, and within a few minutes there was a not-yet-eager line of participants waiting to fire their starting arrows. Soon the bashfulness evaporated, and all were having a good time at the games, or were at least getting a reality check on their level of fitness!

Throughout the day, we had heard the intermittent squeal of microphone feedback and bits of music wafting from the improvised stage back in the lecture area, and after dinner, as the light began to dim, we gathered there to see a wondrous sight: A shining metal sunwheel reflecting the fires of half a dozen torches, and musicians ready to play for us! Robert Taylor passed a horn of mead to Michael, Annabel, and Markus, who then treated us to an hour of music. They opened with a rendition of the Odinic mantra, "Herjafather," which brought tears to the eyes of many of us as we recalled the close friend, now gone, who wrote it. As they moved on to traditional songs from the British Isles, a full moon rose over the trees, and the spirit of the ancient tribes was with us once again.

When the music was through, the hour was late. Still, many of us rallied for *sumbel* around the fire before heading off, tired from a momentous day, to our respective beds.

Frigga, Flowers, & Valkyries

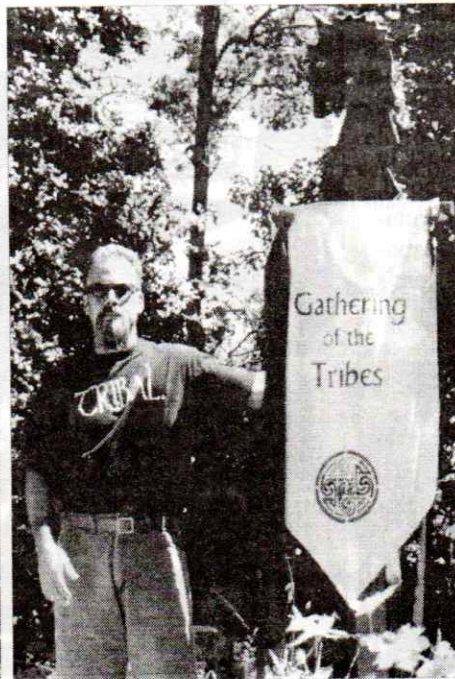
Sunday morning's light dispelled the sense of magic of the previ-

ous evening, but held an expectant power of its own. We consumed the traditional Spam breakfast, prepared by Valgard himself. Thus fortified, we lined up for the Frigga Blot and Blessing of the Children, organized and led by Sheila. First, the women and children led off, then the men followed as we moved solemnly to the ritual grove where we had honored Tyr the day before. At the stone horg, the children stood on the inside with their gifts of flowers. Surrounding them were their mothers and the other womenfolk. The men formed a shield-wall around the outside as Sheila offered blot to Frigga with intensity and passion and gave the Goddess a straw sunwheel decked in ribbon and flowers. When we left the blot-place, we knew that an essential balance had been served - and that rites like this would be a part of all our major gatherings in the months and years to come.

Things were winding down now, and we were feeling the wear-and-tear of the previous three days. We were more than ready, then, to sit in a shady circle and listen to Robert Ward's talk on valkyries and shield maidens. In his usual thorough and well-researched manner, he recounted the historical precedence for women fighters and their connection with the world of the Nordic supernatural.

A simple lunch... packing and departures... and soon it was time for a short closing ritual and final farewells. The Gathering of the Tribes was over.

But the work of building Asatru's future is just beginning...





STEPHEN A. McNALLEN

LAND

At Last!

In our quest to create the Euro-tribes that will populate Vinland in the 21st century, we have always understood that a community is made up of people, not of land. Notwithstanding, we need land to give a sense of place to correspond to our sense of folkhood; to be the *boden* for our *blut*.

Finally, after years of dreaming and scheming, the Asatru Folk Assembly has land of its own!

As all readers of *The Rune-stone* know, we had spent months in the search. Place after place was scratched off our list as it proved too expensive, or too remote, or not remote enough, or just uninspiring. Finally, we got a call from Julie who had in turn gotten a call from the real estate woman: A piece had come up for sale...It wasn't listed yet...Maybe we would want to look at it?

We did. We liked it. It was at a good altitude in the mountains - high enough to be forested with conifers and to be wonderfully cool while the valley was baking...just right for growing things...easy to access, but remote enough for privacy...and the view across the Rubicon River canyon encompassed ridge after ridge of tree-clad scenery.

Long-time AFA stalwart Hardy Felgate looked at it, and he liked it too. He decided to buy it for the AFA, keeping a part for himself. But first, he wanted a rune reading to verify that it was the wise choice.

Gathering my runestaves and a white cloth, I went to the grove where we give blot. Casting the runes, I sat and contemplated them. They were auspicious! Delighted, not to mention relieved, I went back to the house to call Hardy and give him the good news. As I did so, I commented to Sheila that, since she was doing yard work, she might mow the uncomfortably deep grass in the blot-place.

An hour later, we were heading out of the house, on our way to meet with Hardy and visit the AFA's land-to-be. I looked all the usual places for my glasses, but couldn't find them. Bookshelves, the sofa, out on the deck - no luck. Finally, we searched in the grove, where I had read the runes. The largest piece we found was a single shard of photo-gray glass; the lawnmower had reduced my spectacles beyond the point of recognition. A gift calls for a gift, and to see that-which-should-be, I had to sacrifice a measure of my ability to see in the here-and-now. If nothing else, the loss of my glasses gave me vast confidence in the accuracy of my reading!

Time has confirmed the runecast. The deal went through without a hitch. In the process, we found that the parcel was even larger than we had thought, and that it had unlimited water, and included a shaded area with picnic tables and a small building!

But we are not resting on success. This last weekend, we were up at the land clearing brush and moving logging debris into piles to be burned. We felled some dead trees, and Thorgrun pulled three red cedars out of the burn pile to be carved into "pole Gods" like those that made our blot-place at the Gathering of the Tribes so energy-filled. It was hard work, but we balanced it with sitting around the fire at night telling tales, and in the easy conversation that comes to people who are growing together - growing into a community, a tribe.


So what does the future hold for our land? Last Sunday we walked across it, picking out where the showers/restrooms will go, and the parking lot. We found a great place for the garden - right by two giant oaks whose branches arch toward each other; a small horg and a statue of Nerthus might look just right in that natural shrine! Over on the far side there is a perfect location for an orchard. Several possible ritual sites present themselves; I shall have to spend some time on the land to select a couple of special spots. A pond is a very real possibility.

"Phase One" includes the essential infrastructure - restrooms and showers - plus some neatly groomed camping places, a fine ve or sacred enclosure, and at least minimal structures for food preparation and eating. All the buildings will incorporate Nordic designs such as the typical carved dragons on the roofs. This first phase will enable us to host sizeable gatherings.

After that, we'll work on a large hall that will capture the heroic spirit of our Folk - and on the gardens, orchards and such to which I referred earlier. And eventually there will be more and varied ritual sites, headquarters for the AFA, and so much more. The only thing slowing us down will be funding!

One strongly-shared feeling is that this land should be a place of learning. Herb and Hardy spoke of a college. In a separate conversation, Kevin and I talked of a sort of "monastery." I had in mind the Druidic colleges, or the institutions which must have existed at Uppsala when the hof there was at the height of its glory. On another level, we expect that eventually there will be a school here for our community's children. To begin with, our aim will be more modest; men and women enrolled in the Gothi/Gythja/Leadership Course will come here for parts of their training. Even our late-night talks around the fire last Saturday were part of the informal transmission of lore. In years to come, Asatru will see great leaders emerge from these acres.

But there is more. Yesterday we got a letter from Esther Johnson, whose husband Dick played such a role in our first meetings here in California. His eulogy appeared in the last issue of *The Runestone*. She sent a check for a tree, to be planted in Dick's name. Already, this land is taking on the role of a repository of our history, our heritage. As his tree sinks its roots into the dirt of the Sierra, so will our roots fasten all the more securely to this holy soil.

A dream has come true, thanks to hard work and generosity. But in another way, the adventure is only beginning! 

Training TOMORROW'S Leaders



One of the most important things to come out of the Gathering of the Tribes was the AFA's new leadership course. As we've said many times, it is imperative that we develop competent tribal leaders for the next century - and now we have taken a giant step in that direction!

The Gothi/Gythja Course won't, by itself, produce another Alarik or Boudicca, but it will impart a firm grounding in the essentials of Asatru leadership. It will also provide a way for individuals to document their experience and knowledge, so they can carry out the public roles required of clergy in the exterior society.

To be eligible for the course, a person must be an AFA member, and must not be dependent on public assistance. He or she must be at least twenty-one years old upon finishing the course.

It takes the average person about a year to meet all the requirements. There are books to be read and reports to be written, classes to be taught, and rune castings to be done and recorded. During this time the candidate's formal work is carefully evaluated, along with his or her character and, where possible, actual performance as a leader.

No fee is charged for the course. However, those taking it must meet with a designated AFA representative at least twice, and are expected to journey to northern California for personal instruction at least once. Advanced training will be given at the California sessions.

How the Course Works

To sign up, a prospective student asks the AFA for a detailed course outline and for an application form. This is filled out and forward to me for initial screening. If it is approved, I forward it on to Kevin McNeece, the Lore Giver. The applicant must then meet with me, the Lore Giver, or a designated individual in his or her region. After a meeting and interview, the applicant becomes a student and begins work.

When all requirements have been met, the person's learning is evaluated by the Lore Giver and by the Asatru Folk Assembly, and final approval is given.

As these words are written, fewer than a dozen individuals have committed themselves to the course. But in years to come this number will swell, and the leaders who emerge will someday lead our kindreds and tribes to victory and fame.

Will you be one of them?

Concerning Food Storage and Production:

A Statement by Stephen McNallen

After much discussion and thought, I have submitted the following statement to the Board of Directors of the Asatru Folk Assembly, which has given it their endorsement:

All members and supporters of the AFA, and indeed all Asatruar within or without our organization, are strongly encouraged to emulate our Mormon friends and set aside a year's supply of food and other basic provisions.

"Strongly encouraged" means just that - this is not a requirement for association with the AFA, but neither is it a half-hearted recommendation which will be mentioned once and then forgotten. *My intention is that a spirit of readiness becomes a permanent part of the "culture" of the Asatru Folk Assembly, and that such precautions become the norm rather than the exception.*

This is not done with any particular disaster in mind - neither war nor computer failure nor financial collapse. We are not becoming "survivalists" any more than are the local Mormons when they carry out an identical program.

On the other hand, Asatruar have two parts of our religion which validate a program of preparedness. One is the calamitous time predicted in the *Voluspa* when the Gods and their allies, and the giants and their minions, will do battle with each other. Asatruar are not bystanders in this conflict, nor will we be spared through some equivalent of the Christian "rapture" which will bear away all believers. I strongly believe we will be here, on the scene, aiding the Gods in whatever way we can - and before anything else, that means surviving as individuals, as families, and as a Folk. The exact form of Ragnarok is not known to us, nor is the time of its coming, but we would do well to prepare just as do the Einherjar in Odin's hall.

Additionally, the very spirit of the *Havamal* - of Odin's practical advice to the ordinary men and women of Midgard, rather than to his chosen heroes - is one of prudence and preparedness. A program for storing food and other supplies is entirely in keeping with these principles.

In short, the two most renowned poems of the *Poetic Edda* validate this project: the *Voluspa*, with its heroic and cosmic vision, and the *Havamal*, with its very down-to-earth practicality. With such documentation, it is clear we are working within the purview of our religion rather than merely responding to temporary crises on the world stage.

Finally, we would not want to be a burden on our neighbors, or on relief efforts, in times of mundane catastrophe. If we are prepared, attention can be given to those who need it more than we.

With all these things in mind, I am asking each of you to begin setting aside food and essential items sufficient to last your family a year. For those in a position to do so, thought should be given to food *production* in addition to storage. And remember that survival is not merely an individual affair but a group endeavor, so network with your fellow Asatruar where possible to assist each other.

In the weeks and months to come, we will show you ways to do this that are not a drain on your resources, or on your storage capabilities. Guidelines will be provided, and advice and assistance given. In the meantime, I suggest that you not wait for further instructions, but exercise your initiative and begin now to prepare.

Your person to contact for advice and information is
Julie Tobin,
PO Box 407,
Georgetown, CA
95633
norstar@cwo.com.

Other AFA News...

Libertarian writer Claire Wolfe devoted about half her column of June 24th ("The Heathens of Hardyville") to the AFA. The subject was pagans and heathens in the pro-freedom movement - a hot topic, since the recent furor over witches and pagans in the military had many conservatives beating that old "America is a Christian nation" drum once again. We added a special link to our web site quoting Thomas Jefferson's praise for the pre-Christian Anglo-Saxons, and another in which we presented an Asatru perspective on the right to bear arms. Hits on our web site have soared as a result of this exposure.

World Net Daily is a conservative, and generally Christian, daily news web site which attacked the military for extending official recognition to Wiccans and pagans. The AFA contacted all its members who get our email update and urged them to write the editor - which they did. A couple of Asatruars got their letters published online, and the others must have had a telling effect as there was a rapid backpeddling and explaining on the part of the more rabid bigots. We *can* make a difference!

Our latest news release was largely ignored by the establishment media. To give it greater circulation, we sent it around to various email lists, not the least of which was our own *Bearclaw* recipients. AFA members Frank and Keira presented it to a local weekly, which not only printed it exactly as it was sent, but put it on the front page!

Do you have similar newspapers in your area which might be receptive to our news? Let us know, and the AFA will put them on the list for future releases.

The European Heritage Project had a table at a "Multi-Cultural Celebration" recently - staffed entirely by AFA members! A couple of surprises awaited us. First of all, the coordinators for this Yuba City event had no problem including Eurofolk among the cultures represented. Secondly, we were astounded by the apathy of our fellow European-Americans, and by their fear of the material we had to offer - information on European-American concerns such as skin cancer, the high rate of smoking among our youth, problems of low self-esteem, and so forth (with a touch of Asatru on the side). Despite the widespread ethnomasochism we encountered, the occasional one-on-one breakthrough made it worthwhile. We shall continue to search for ways to reach our Folk.

HearthStone, the Genealogy Guild webpage, is now online. We offer free surname listings and are including resources which might aid Asatruars in their family research. If you have material for inclusion, please send it to Sheila McNallen, c/o AFA. For emails, use "HS" in the subject line. <http://runestone.org/hrthstn.html>



asatru@jps.net - our alternate email address! Just before the Gathering, our Internet provider went down - again. This time we had four days of agony knowing we had last minute correspondence which wasn't getting to us. With two email providers, your messages will definitely get through. Now, the problem is finding the time to answer the hundreds of emails that come in each week!

Website Continues to Grow
It may not be picking up awards, but the AFA website is undoubtedly one of the most diverse and content-oriented websites on the web. We now have close to 200 pages and several hundred pictures online. For Asatruars looking for others, we have THE GROVE. Get the address or email of others in your area - or include your own! Send the following: your name, address, kindred affiliation & URL if available, and your interests.

AFA News & Events Archives has all of our cutting-edge articles going back to Winter of '97.

We continue to modify and update as shown by our improved Directory page. If you know of website links that should be added, send them our way!

Our deepest thanks...
to Hardy, Julie and all of the folks who are making our land a reality; to Katherine, Robert, Ed & Tina for providing us upgrades in our computer capabilities; to Carol for the artistry and spiritual might that she incorporated into Steve's new gothi robe; to Franz for the carved banner standards, the T-shirts, and the Viking Games course at the Gathering, to Reinhold and Stan for their work on behalf of K&L and the AFA; to Mary for her compilation of the *Vinnish Word Hoard*; to Michael, Annabel, & Markus for the gift of inspiration, and to the rest of you who have donated time and money in making the AFA the voice of the Folk!

KENNEWICK MAN: THE SAGA CONTINUES!

AFA Back in the Fight!

On July 2, we sent out a news release announcing that the Asatru Folk Assembly was back in the battle for Kennewick Man!

Things had been looking...bad. We didn't have an attorney. We could have afforded only the most meager legal fees, even if we *did* have someone to represent us. For all practical purposes, the AFA was out of this fight. And then, we got an email from our previous attorney, noting that we hadn't had much luck, and offering to help out.

We accepted. We are very grateful to Michael Clinton for taking on this task, despite the demands of his professional and family life. Even now, we are working on strategies which will optimize the resources we have at our disposal.

But being back in the fight is a long way from being victorious! We have a lot to do in the months to come - and we definitely need your help!

Government Racism Continues

One of the hallmarks of the Kennewick Man case from its very inception has been the unbridled favoritism given the Indians by the government. The religion and heritage of European-Americans has not been given the same legal protection accorded the religion and heritage of American Indians...and things aren't getting any better!

Some while back, the court ordered at least some testing of Kennewick Man. All the scientists involved were hand-picked by the government and approved by the Indians. All of them were sworn to confidentiality. This research, which was paid for by your tax dollars, is kept secret from you.

The Indian tribes, however, were given the results of the testing - the only group so honored, even though they are not plaintiffs in the case. The reason was allegedly so that a consensus could be reached! Science by consensus, racism by decree, injustice simply because they have the power, for now. When are we going to take that power from them?

Red Ochre?

Not surprisingly, the bits of the study that have been leaked to the press have all been favorable to the Indians. According to the court scientists, Kennewick Man wasn't killed by that Indian spear point in his pelvis, but by an abscessed tooth. And they say he was deliberately buried, which gives the Indians a psychological advantage with the sentimental American public. Also, it was possible his corpse had been covered with red ochre, a form of naturally-occurring iron oxide found in rocks.

This is interesting, if true. Let's suppose, for the sake of argument, that Kennewick Man was actually buried. The Solutrean culture

of ancient Europe also covered its dead in red ochre. Dr. Dennis Stanford of the Smithsonian notes that the Solutreans produced a type of complex projectile point very much like the Clovis artifacts of North America. To make things more intriguing still, caches of both Clovis and Solutrean points are found with ochre sprinkled in them. It could be that the government has not helped the Indian cause by pointing out the possibility that Kennewick Man was covered in this mineral pigment before burial.

HOMICIDE IN KENNEWICK

Video Suppressed!

Runestone readers will remember that a British company made a video titled *Homicide in Kennewick*, and actually let us tell our side of the story. Well, don't cheer just yet - or rather, only give half a cheer! The finished product aired in England. It was sold to the Discovery Channel in the US, and then it disappeared from public view. It never showed on this side of the Atlantic - even though the Discovery Channel must have paid a good deal of money for it.

Now we learn that another video on Kennewick Man is in the making. It's being produced by - you guessed it - the Discovery Channel! You will not be surprised to hear that we have *not* been asked for our input.


A Kennewick Man Coin?

The latest news is that there may soon be a coin with Kennewick Man's likeness on it. Rest assured it will not be minted by the US Treasury Department, but rather by Heritage and Tradition, of Canada. This organization has produced high-quality "coins of tradition" with Asatru themes for years. Profits will go to help in the legal battle - as always, Serge Huard and his associates are demonstrating their open-handedness when it comes to the Cause. Details will follow!

Please Help!

We are fighting a battle against an opponent who has unlimited resources. It's no secret that the Kennewick Man case has the attention of the White House. The government has thrown piles of taxpayer dollars into what is virtually a war of aggression against the Euro-tribes, and they can keep it up indefinitely.

With the few thousand dollars at our disposal over the last three years, we have put up resistance out of all proportion to our means. But if we *have* more, we can *do* more. Hiring a law student as a researcher costs ten dollars an hour. Courier fees and other expenses add up. Above and beyond such ordinary expenses, we have located several expert witnesses who can drastically alter the course of this case. But they cost money that we don't have, yet..

I don't know how to put it any plainer than this: If you care about Kennewick Man, and if you're sick of the treatment we're getting from the fine Federal folks, please back your concern with a check! 

FINAL NOTE: In recent days, the tempo has accelerated. We've been forced to dip deeply into our resources. We need your backing!

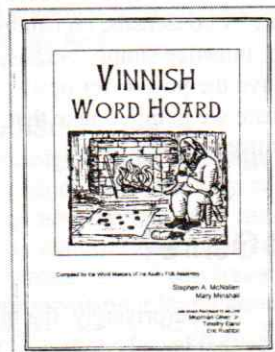
How you can help the AFA's Kennewick Man Legal Fund

- ✓ Send tax deductible donations, payable to the AFA
- ✓ Help us get exposure on talk shows and other media
- ✓ Refer us to others who are interested in KM
- ✓ Help us locate underwriters for this cause
- ✓ Tell your friends about Kennewick Man, and tell them to tell others!

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GENETICS & BEYOND

the Ultimate Connection

Back in the early 1980's, I wrote a short article in *The Runestone* called "Metagenetics." The shock wave from those three pages has caused more controversy than anything else I have ever written. The mere mention of metagenetics causes some people to go into a rage and a rant - so, both to inform my friends and infuriate my enemies, I decided it was time for an update on the subject!

In the original piece (which can be found online at <http://www.Geocities.com/Athens/Forum/5056/AFA3.html>), metagenetics was presented as the idea that "ancestry matters - that there are spiritual and metaphysical implications to heredity." I tied together such varied topics as Jung's theories of archetypes, rebirth in the family line, psychic links between twins, and the Norse concept of the soul to support that statement.

The basic outlines remain the same. However, I have made refinements, added information from British biologist Rupert Sheldrake as well as other writers in psychology and the life sciences, and generally thought a great deal about just what metagenetics means in the long run.

If I had to modify the definition of metagenetics after all these years, I'd say that it was "the hypothesis that there are spiritual or metaphysical implications to physical relatedness among humans which correlate with, but go beyond, the known limits of genetics." This is more complicated than the simple sentence from the 1980's, but it is somewhat more exact - and it opens the possibility that the mechanism involved might not be as simple as information stored in the DNA molecule.

The evidence in support of metagenetics is drawn from several disciplines, and I won't go into it here. I am writing a book which will set it out in great detail. In this article, instead, I will mention some of the main features of the hypothesis, and then discuss just what it all means!

Features of the Metagenetic Hypothesis

Metagenetics is characterized by -

Relatedness - It describes a connection, independent of time and space, which links human beings. (The general principles governing metagenetics also apply to animals, plants, other organic kingdoms, and indeed all self-organizing systems to include crystals and molecules. Metagenetics, though, is a subset of this grander scheme and applies specifically to humans and their spirituality.)

Similarity - We are used to things being related in time and space, but this is not essential to the operation of metagenetics. Instead, metagenetics says that people who are genetically related to each other share a non-physical bond that is not dependent on location or time, and that the closeness of that bond is determined by the degree of similarity. Our language unconsciously expresses that idea, as we talk about being "close" or "distant" relatives.

Hierarchy - The idea of similarity implies hierarchy, because all things are not equally similar. All humans are related, and for that matter it is true that we are "kin to all life," as some folks are fond of saying. However, we are not equally related to all. Within the broad circle that is the human family there is a collection of concentric circles representing the many Folksouls - and even this is no neat and tidy arrangement. Individual families, clans and tribes have their own subdivisions or "mini-Folksouls," and the whole is dynamic and shifting.

Holism - The components that make up the individual human being are often represented as body, mind, and spirit, though the psychosomatic (mind-body) complex in traditional Germanic lore is considerably more complicated than this. All these parts are related in a holistic way. People commonly acknowledge that the body and mind affect each other, but fewer of them understand that the body (to include the brain, the nervous system, and the apparatus of heredity) is also connected to the spiritual or religious.

Spirituality - Relatedness and similarity influence the temperament, values, psychic connection, probable reincarnation, and the general tone of spirituality or religion. Some of these things - temperament and values, in particular - may have their origin in the actual coding of DNA, but the mechanism for the other connections may not be within the realm of the physical sciences as they are presently understood. There seems to be a continuum at work, as shown by the diagram on this page.

Implications of Metagenetics

Several things quickly become obvious.

Ancestry matters. Most Asatruar will agree with that statement, but fewer will understand that the ancestors are with us, now and always, because of the time-transcending nature of the metagenetic bond. To the extent that rebirth occurs within the family line, we *are* those ancestors, manifested again in Midgard! Furthermore, that bond is special - it is closer than our bond to non-ancestors.

We are not "one."

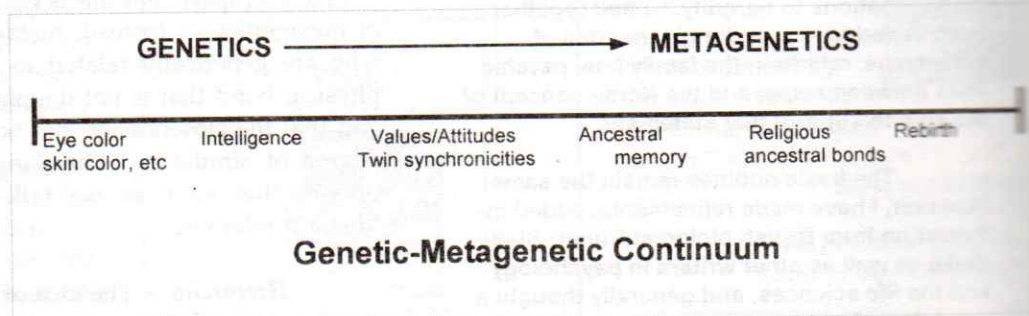
Although there is a level on which every person is connected through the collective unconscious of humanity as a whole, the closeness of the connection varies immensely. Indeed, to

some extent we are linked to all life - but that hardly causes us to value protozoa, goldfish, and camels as much as we do our brother or our father! The degree of connection is determined by similarity.

There are no solitary rituals. All our deeds feed back into the collective unconscious (C.G. Jung) or the morphic field (Rupert Sheldrake) - or in traditional Asatru terms, the Well of Urth. It seems to be that the more intense the emotion accompanying the deed, or the more symbolically alive an action is, the more it will affect all those who are members of the group in question. Our blots, our oaths of might, and our other exchanges with our Gods and Goddesses, then, can be expected to influence all Asatruar, and all our brothers and sisters of European descent, in a fairly immediate way. A whole nest of hierarchies are jostled by all our significant acts.

Our religion is a function of who we are, not just what we believe. Since the human being is a holistic entity, our spirituality cannot be considered something apart from our physical ancestry. In terms of both genetics and metagenetics, our ancestors are encoded into our very beings. From values and temperament - which have been shown to correlate statistically with heredity - to the deeper issues of spirit, our forefathers and foremothers continue to influence us. It seems reasonable, then, to predict that people will tend to be most fulfilled by the religious and spiritual paths of their ancestors. Properly presented, the ancient ways of one's people should exert a powerful draw on the individual.

The beliefs of our ancestors are largely confirmed by modern psychology and the biological sciences. Most especially, the Jungian collective unconscious and Sheldrake's hypotheses concerning "morphic fields" and "morphic resonance" are very close to the Germanic ideas surrounding the Well of Urth, in which *orlog* or "fate" is laid.



Metagenetics - an Evolving Concept

Metagenetics, then, continues to mature as new information becomes available. Far from remaining static over the last decade and a half, it has incorporated new evidence and has found validation in the writings of other scientists as time has gone by.

The transcendental importance of the ancestral bond has always been sensed by Asatru, and by other native religions around the world. We who acknowledge that bond now have striking validation of what our inner voice has told us all along! &

PUBLICATIONS

- Huginn & Muninn**, P.O. Box 1159, 121 Reykjavik, Iceland. Dedicated to the Nyal philosophy associated with Asatru in Iceland. \$10 US, preferably cash.
- Linn**, P.O. Box 75952, Oklahoma City, OK 73147. Quarterly journal of Frigga's Web. \$20 annually, \$28 international rate. Make check or money order payable to Frigga's Web.
- OD Briefing**, P.O. Box 2022, Sandusky, OH 44871-2022. The voice of the Odinic Rite; **always** good for a fresh perspective on our religion. \$8 per year for non-members, payable to the Odinic Rite Vinland.
- Odin's Talking**, Box 4333, University of Melbourne, Victoria, 2052 Australia. Very good writing, particularly "Ota's Talking" and lots of information that you won't find anywhere else. \$12 Australian, plus \$4 for airmail.
- Odin's Word**, Box 557, Smithville, TX 78957. Publication of the Rune Gild; edited by Ian Read of England. \$10 per year.
- Odin's Word**, Box 3062, Watertown, NY 13601. A magazine dedicated to the Anglo-Saxon religion. Lots of material with "a good picture." \$15 per year.
- Odin's Word**, P.O. Box 100, Payson, AZ 85547. Journal of the Asatru Alliance. An important publication which has grown with the Asatru community over twenty years. Over 80 pages of content. Highly recommended. \$18 for four issues.
- Odin's Word**, **Asatru Page (Odin's Nation's News)** A comprehensive online update of all the breaking news and events in the Asatru community. <http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Forum/5056/index.html>.

PRODUCTS

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