

DARK TIMES

VOLUME 14, ISSUE 3

MARCH 2013

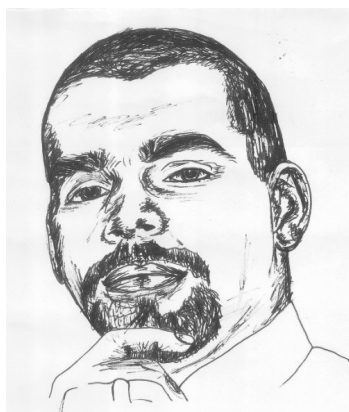
THE END OF AN ERROR

After years of cultivating enemies and allies, a previous brush with death and the arrival and departure of dozens of Kindred, Viscount Charles Augustus Aldworth has finally met his end at the hands of Jonathan Carter, Prince of Manchester.

The Court of Glasgow was shocked as Carter entered the room, casually carrying their Prince, a stake buried in his chest. The arrival of the Prince of Manchester was heralded by Justicar Greene, who oversaw events. Carter hoisted Aldworth before his Court, explained that Aldworth had tried to take Manchester, and promptly tore the head from Aldworth's shoulders and left him to crumble to dust before the stunned onlookers.

Carter claimed Glasgow by right of conquest, and called upon any challengers to

his authority to step forward. Surprisingly, confronted by the obviously enraged Brujah warrior, with mostly healed scars still visible across his face and the



knowledge that most of Glasgow's military might was missing, no one took up the challenge. Carter stalked from the room, having added Prince of Glasgow to his titles of Prince of Manchester and Liverpool. Justicar Greene offered no objection to the development, which most took as recognition that Carter's annexation was legitimately done.

The truth of what happened in Manchester, what drove Aldworth and some of his Court to attack an established and martially capable Prince, or the disposition of Angus or Marcellus, has not yet been heard. Perhaps some of it never will be.

A MESSAGE FROM BOOK

Little more than a month has passed since the destruction of Aldworth yet one could be fooled into thinking it was an age.

One would presume that given the circumstances, respectable members of the court would show decorum and take stock of the situation. Instead, rumour mongers and power grabbers spend their time trying to show political gumption. If only their subtlety wasn't as rapier as a maul.

Let me make it clear that members of House Tremere in Glasgow are not looking to seize or obtain praxis. We have sup-

ported the hierarchy of the domain in the past and will continue to do so to the best of our abilities; despite what others may have you believe.

Honeyed tongues and silken words are for naught if the promises they provide bear no fruit. For each task a tool, and for each tool a purpose. Try not to confuse your place, nor your purpose.

Humble regards,

Mr Book, of House Tremere, Regent of Glasgow

BOON TRADING:

- *Minor Boon granted by Evelyn to Markus Brand*
- *Minor Boon granted by Simon Haile to Ricky Brown*
- *Blood Boon owed and paid by Simon Haile to Prince Carter*
- *Major Boon granted by Simon Haile to Prince Carter*
- *Major Boon granted by Simon Haile to Eleanor Plunkett*
- *Major Boon over Simon Haile transferred by Prince Carter to Duke*
- *Major Boon over Simon Haile transferred by Duke to Robert Melik*

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

END OF AN ERROR	1
MESSAGE FROM BOOK	1
TRENCHARD'S TREACHERY	2
GLASGOW IN FEBRUARY	2
POETRY CORNER	4
CRIME TIDAL WAVE	4
GRIM TALE OF TWO CITIES	5
UNCOVERING ARTHUR	5
HARPY HOUR	5

TRENCHARD'S TREACHERY



February must have been an embarrassing month for Glasgow's new head Ventrue, after numerous newspapers based in the city published an exposé which put both Mr Trenchard and the recently departed Viscount Aldworth into the public spotlight in a very uncomfortable way.

The article named Augustus as a Glasgow businessman, who had arranged for a hit to be performed on Aldworth while he was on a business trip in Manchester, as part of a plot to take the aristocrat's influence and financial assets in Glasgow. The story painted a picture of a bitter rivalry which had been waged across the industries of Glasgow, and an outclassed Trenchard had turned to the only method left to him to secure victory.

There is surely no chance that this story is

the result of the work of ordinary investigative reporting – the details of Aldworth's death are vague and sketchy. Which leaves the question of who thought to expose both Augustus Trenchard and the destruction of Viscount Aldworth to such open scrutiny. And was this simply a move intended to embarrass the Seneschal of Glasgow, or is there a deeper meaning behind it?

With the reasons for Aldworth's fate still unclear, and Trenchard's enhanced prospects in a city freed of his biggest potential rival in the Ventrue, there have been whispers that Trenchard may have engineered the Viscount's fall. If so, that may cause the residents of Glasgow to question if they have inherited yet another power mad Ventrue – and if the Seneschal is truly a force to be reckoned with.

“...AT THE TIME
ALDWORTH
TOOK THE
THRONE,
GLASGOW WAS
A MESS.”

GLASGOW IN FEBRUARY - SIMON HAILE

A lot has happened since last I wrote. Where could we start but in the demise of Viscount Aldworth by the hand of the conquering Prince Carter. Prince Carter entered the Glasgow court with the torpid form of Viscount Aldworth, told the assembled that this was the fate of all who dared to attempt to take his throne, and then, under the watchful eyes of Justicar Greene, ripped off Aldworth's head who quickly disintegrated into fine ash. Qui gladio ferit, gladio perit.

These dramatic scenes where the end of a feud which has taken up most of the last year and the beginning of this one. It would appear that Viscount Aldworth saw himself in a situation which would be resolved by attempting to attack Prince Carter in front of his assembled Primogen in Manchester. Together with Aldworth stood Angus and Marcellus of clan Gannagrel who thus far have been said to have survived the assault upon Carter and will should they return from Manchester likely be shrouded in extensive debts and bond of blood to Prince Carter.

While it is easy to disavow Aldworth now, for this, his last decision was rash and has been proved to be his undoing one should not for-

get that whilst Glasgow now needs a more level headed prince at the time Aldworth took the throne Glasgow was a mess. Under his predecessor breaches to the Masquerade of a near unprecedented scale were common place and the court itself was home to all manner of freaks, hoodlums and other undesirables. Aldworth was needed to clean house and bring Glasgow back into a court of the Camarilla and not some sanctuary for all manner of weird and wonderful outsiders to our society.

Up until recently I always considered our current new Prince as a weakling in the domain of Princes. It is easy to be blinded by a large section of his domain run by Anarchs, Setites and other questionable characters openly operating within his city, the talk of fair representation of all no matter their history or standing. I now though, have seen the error of my ways, and have begun to understand the ties of steel and blood that keep the court of Manchester operating smoothly. Maybe, having had the pleasure of his exquisite vitae, I am a little biased as it has been centuries since I experienced the like of the feelings his blood have stirred within me but I believe I understand why he is not giving this domain to one of his own trusted lieutenants or allies but has instead chosen to keep



GLASGOW IN FEBRUARY CONT...

those bound to him in Manchester in place and instead with the help of his man Duke to select the Prince of Glasgow from Glasgow's own ranks.

The politically astute amongst you will no doubt have worked it out already but the new Prince of Glasgow, likely to be installed before the shortest night of this year, will be Aldworth's former seneschal Augustus Trenchard. That is of course assuming he manages not to personally offend Prince Carter before then and to stay alive and capable from the attempts of those who might wish to rule the domain by force.

There will be no doubt, in keeping with the stories we have heard about Manchester, some declaration that the next Prince of Glasgow requires a mandate, popular support from the elders and commoners alike and that anyone who proves themselves at being able to cajole or extort this will have an opportunity to become the new ruler. Heaven forbid Duke might even suggest a vote the like we have just seen in Ireland. This though is nothing more than window dressing and make believe as behind the scenes things are quite clear that Trenchard has been selected to rule.

Ancilla Trenchard has many desirable qualities in the new leader of Glasgow. In his role as seneschal he has dealt successfully with all the major factions within the court of Glasgow. He has been privy to the Primogen Council meetings and so is aware of the current status quo. He is personally strong enough to keep the position but weak enough to require support and hence it is less likely that he will risk his position doing anything foolish. His temperament is much more calm and level and he is a man of reasoned debate and arguments. He has no strong affiliations to either Ventrue camp in Britain and there are debts available on the market if one needs to sway his hand one way or another and compared to many of the recent arrivals in Glasgow, myself included, he has been there working quietly for a number of years getting to know the ways things are done.

Duke, Prince Carter's man in Glasgow, will no doubt make his own announcement but has thus far has agreed that up until now there are no changes to existing feeding grounds, domain

granted by Aldworth or the like. Trenchard is still acting as seneschal, and hence in Carter's absence speaks with his voice and authority, apart on the matter of acceptance. This right and responsibility has, for now, been granted to Duke. Of course it is likely that whilst ancilla Trenchard in his position will defer to Duke's judgement on many issues but whilst in the domain of Glasgow Trenchard is already your man.

Now this situation offers a whole range of opportunity to enterprising members of the domain. Trenchard will need to show the support of those within the city of standing and influence and your support is likely something you can, and if you play your cards right, will, be rewarded for. Of course the opposite is also true and those who stand against Trenchard or fail to support him will likely earn the ire of the Prince in waiting.

Before I finish this article there are a couple of things I wish to remind you about. One is a kindred who through this transitional period has impressed me with their competence, political acuity and ability to organise with the domain. The Nosferatu ancilla Ricky Brown, often referred to as the Faceman. In light of his obvious skills and influence within the domain he has been granted the role of interim sheriff and I would bet that in the months and years to come he will go much further.

The second is that Prince Carter in his wisdom and grace has allowed my little gathering to go ahead on the evening of Friday the 15th of March. Whilst I have with Aldworth's demise and the free for all on his estates and belongings lost a few of my exhibits it will no doubt still be a grand occasion with a number of worthy attractions. Prince Carter has granted his hospitality to all those invited and I apologise in the delay in getting those invitations to the honoured guests.



“...THE NEW
PRINCE OF
GLASGOW...WILL
BE ALDWORTH’S
FORMER
SENESCHAL
AUGUSTUS
TRENCHARD.”



POETRY CORNER



Freedom

Freedom is the wind on your face, the air
that you breathe.
Freedom is the words that you say free from
disgrace,
Your opinions and views, hurtful but clean.

Freedom is when you do what you must,
when you need.
Freedom is when you show what you mean
regardless of trust,
Your life and actions, short but true.

True freedom doesn't exist outside out
heads and hearts.
True freedom is what we build ourselves, to
force the system,
to show them we won't be stepped on with-
out consequence.

You can take our lives, but you can't take
our freedom.

By Anatos

Memoirs of a Gangrel

Heart beats, feet pound.
Breath draws, hard ground.
Fear smells, trail grows.
Trees part, prey shows.
Back turns, neck bares.
Claws sink, skin tears.
Blood flows, thirst quenched.
Body chills, ground drenched.
Form shifts, wolf prowls.
Hunger flares, beast howls.

Anon

"...THIS WAS THE
ALDWORTH
MANSION, LESS
THAN A MONTH
AFTER HIS
VIOLENT
DEATH."

CRIME TIDAL WAVE

A one night crime spree struck Glasgow on
Friday the 15th of February, with numerous
fires set across the city, at the same time as
a terrorist threat was called in to the air-
port. Police were pulled one way and then
the other as they sought to stem the flow of
destruction.

With so many incidents stretching police
resources on an already busy weekend
night, a simple armed robbery almost went
unnoticed – at least at first. The venue for
this armed raid? A large villa in the
Milngavie area. Of small significance in a
city like Glasgow. Except that this was the
Aldworth mansion, less than a month after
his violent death. A connection the police
couldn't make, but glaringly obvious to
anyone with all the pieces.

Armed men burst onto the grounds, over-
powering the guards and systematically
moving through the building, overcoming
all resistance. The guards at the mansion

were clearly armed too, putting up resistance
and sparking a fire which raged across
the grounds.

None of the attackers were left behind,
though the process of establishing if any of
them were injured in the process is ongoing
– with such a wealth of evidence, it is taking
the police some time to analyse it all. The
Serious Crime Unit has taken over the inves-
tigation of the raid, along with linked investi-
gations into the spate of other crimes to as-
sess if there was any link.

What is known is that a lot of valuable items,
including a wall safe, were taken from the
building. Distracted off-duty staff were
called in to identify some of the bodies and to
help police determine if the purpose of the
attack was robbery, a message, or connected
with the news articles accusing Trenchard of
murdering Aldworth. The Serious Crime
Unit are expected to report later this month.



A GRIM TALE OF TWO CITIES

Edinburgh's studied insult to Aberdeen did not go unnoticed at the Winterball; no one could mistake the growing hostility between the two cities, and at the heart of the dispute has been Dundee and the contested possession of the Stewardship.

Despite being held by Thomas Carmichael for his sire for many years, the recent resurgent claim by Aberdeen has been stirring up tensions. Edinburgh no doubt intended the war to be cold and remote, a battle of words and wits. The Gangrel Prince of Aberdeen took a harder line though.

Perth, a central location in Scotland with strong transport links, had been considered to fall within Dundee's remit. Ian Dunnoch made it his home, his domain in all but name and supported by Carlisle. Now Dunnoch has fled – he was noted arriving in an Edinburgh Elysium with a panicked aura and

looking for his childe urgently.

Rumours spread quickly, with many espousing the belief that Carmichael had grown tired of Dunnoch's self importance and the older Toreador had thrown out his subordinate. A more recent, and insidious gossip has sprung up though, claiming that Dunnoch was intimidated and driven out by the dangerous attentions of some of the Aberdeen Outlanders.

If true, this marks a significant step up in the conflict and a direct challenge to Dundee. With the domain's small size and numbers, it seems unlikely that Carmichael can hold without his Sire's aid. Perhaps that is the intention, to force Edinburgh to stretch itself defending Dundee and denigrating Carmichael in the process. If so, the Steward of Dundee has a careful line to walk between protecting his territory and being seen as weak.



“...THIS MARKS A SIGNIFICANT STEP UP IN THE CONFLICT AND A DIRECT CHALLENGE TO DUNDEE.”

UNCOVERING ARTHUR

The latest in a long line of recent searches for the resting places of notable historical figures, another excavation was carried out in York in a new search for the resting place of King Arthur. Some remains of buildings and corpses dating to the Roman occupation of Britain were unearthed, but little to offer any justification that this was the grave of the fabled king.

Legend tells of Arthur lying beneath Avalon, the legendary isle of the dead, awaiting the time of Britain's greatest need when he would return. Professor John Highfield, a respected archaeologist, had not previously

been involved in Arthurian searches, but a newly discovered carving on another dig lead him to believe the search in York had some merit.

The extensive search near the west corner Eboracum tower revealed findings from three different eras, and many of the rare finds are exciting collectors and archaeologists across the country. Although the dig was a disappointment for Professor Highfield's Arthurian search, others are now taking up the dig to continue the search for further artefacts.



HARPY HOUR

Speechless is how I would describe myself when I heard that the Viscount has been torn apart by Prince Carter and lost his city (along with his head). Follow by “He what?!” “How?” and “Can't believe I didn't see that!”. The death of a Prince is becoming a Glasgow tradition, with two of the last three Princes dying before their Court, and Aldworth almost cut down in his first reign.

Now, in the aftermath of Aldworth's demise, all are scrambling for their place and the city is a mire of politics and power plays. Coteries are forming among the neornates, while the older Kindred make their own decisions, and everyone watches to see how Carter leaves Glasgow. Outsiders watch for who will emerge on top, and if Carter's wrath will stretch to others beyond

Dark Times

Dark Times
Chambre Dix, Hotel Britannique a Paris
75001 PARIS
FRANCE

Phone: +33 (1) 47 77 12 34
Fax: +33 (1) 47 77 98 76
E-mail: darktimes@gvlarp.com

NAMES PROVIDED WILL BE
PUBLISHED WITH THE ARTICLES.
WE CANNOT GUARANTEE
ACCURACY OF ANY ARTICLE.

The Dark Times is a publication for the benefits of members of the Camarilla only and is made available at the monthly court held by the Prince of Glasgow. The newsletter should only be made available to other Kindred, and all care should be taken to ensure that it cannot breach the Masquerade.

The Dark Times accepts submissions, and any Kindred should forward their contribution to the address to the left. We look forward to your efforts.

Yours,

Editor in Chief of the Dark Times

DARK TIMES - BRINGING LIGHT TO
THE SHADOWS

HARPY HOUR CONT...

Aldworth – including Marcellus and Angus, who have yet to be seen again.

~

“A Prince is killed, before his Court, by an outsider and none offer any explanation, reason or justification? Is this what passes for justice for Greene? We must call upon him to make his reasons for supporting Carter known, or else treat this as the affront to Clan Ventrue which it appears to be. Viscount Aldworth was a Prince and was deserving of the proper respect which accompanies that position.”

Words of Queen Anne, overheard in Birmingham

~

Oh. My. God. Which of us saw *that* coming?! I get such a *chill* when I think of the events of that night! But I shall not dwell on such things and shall instead welcome Glasgow to the fold. Dear friends, I hope to get to know you all much better soon.

Lucretia Reflection, Harpy of Manchester

~

Do I believe that Augustus had any part in what happened to Aldworth? Certainly not. A loyal servant and competent Seneschal. I'm certain this is someone's foolish attempt at a

joke or else a naked and crude attempt to discredit him. No doubt the Kindred of Glasgow will be wise enough to see the ploy for what it is, and find the person who would endanger the Masquerade by putting any of us in the spotlight.

Henry Newbolt, Harpy of Birmingham

~

A blood debt? Recorded and left for all the world to see... Is that wisdom, naivety or simply railing against a punishment? Blood isn't Prince Carter's usual tool in my understanding, I wonder what drove him to inflict it in this case. If it was as a punishment, and the crime was not revealed, why would Haile reveal the sentence? Or perhaps this is part of the penalty. There are so many questions.

Margery-Houndsworth Stone, Harpy of London

~

Aberdeen's thoughts on Edinburgh? All that needs to be said, has been said. This matter will not be resolved by words. And words are all the weapons that Edinburgh has at its disposal. Best they retire with grace while they can.

Karen Mills, Secretary to Reginald Albertson, Aberdeen

~

Best Regards,



A monthly summary of British Camarilla news, politics, gossip and rumour, straight from the Harpy's mouth.