

## AFA UPDATE

### A PROJECT OF THE ASATRU FOLK ASSEMBLY

Issue 58

Odin's Day, January 5, 2005

Contact email: [info@runestone.com](mailto:info@runestone.com)

Please tell your friends about *AFA Update* and suggest they subscribe! They can do so by going to [AFA\\_Bearclaw-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:AFA_Bearclaw-subscribe@yahoogroups.com).

### YULETIDE MEDITATIONS A SUCCESS

I want to thank each of you who wrote to express your appreciation for the Yuletide meditations the AFA sent out during the twelve days of this holy season. If we contributed in any way to the depth of your Yule, we are more than repaid!

Next year we will have a much more comprehensive Yule project - aimed not only at our fellows of the Germanic Way, but also pitched to the larger culture around us. We're already laying the groundwork for this, and you'll be hearing from us early next fall as we get ready to "keep the Yule in Christmas."

Again, thanks for your enthusiastic response!

### MORE ON AMERICAN ROOTS, COMMON LAW, ETC.

In the last regular issue of the AFA Updates, we revealed the theocratic ambitions of those who would, in effect, make Christianity the only protected religious choice for Americans. We provided links to web sites inhabited by these radical elements, and countered with Thomas Jefferson's statements on the pagan origin of Anglo Saxon Common Law.

Here is some supplementary information (from <http://www.religioustolerance.org/quotes7.htm>) that you can add to your collection of intellectual ammunition for educating others (and it is just that sort of education, tastefully done, that will help us turn the tide in this ideological battle):

Thomas Jefferson - "Christianity is the most perverted system that ever shone on man."

Also, his statement: “I have examined all the known superstitions of the world, and do not find in our particular superstition of Christianity one redeeming feature.”

Or his note on February 10, 1814, that “Christianity neither is, nor ever was a part of the common law.”

Many other quotes from Jefferson, Paine, Franklin, Adams, and others can be found at <http://www.herbertwarmstrong.com/christian-founding-fathers2.htm>.

I must say again that my reason for including material like this is not to ridicule or attack the many good Christians who are tolerant and who oppose the theocrats as much as we do. I have no ill will toward Christians - after all, most of my recent ancestors have been Christians! - but those who would limit freedoms to the rest of us must be exposed for what they are.

Above all, the point is this - we must make the connection in people’s minds between our pre-Christian, European heritage and today’s institutions of liberty!

## BORN FIGHTING: HOW THE SCOTS-IRISH SHAPED AMERICA

You may wonder how James Webb’s book ended up on the AFA Update, since it clearly is about the Scots and Irish rather than the Germanic peoples. If you have examined a copy of Born Fighting, however, the relevance will be obvious. Webb is enthusiastic about ancestry, particularly his own - and one which is shared by many of the readers of this update.

Webb’s contention is that the culture of the Scots-Irish is, to a surprisingly large extent, the culture of Middle America. He traces our individualism (and our corresponding clannishness), our pioneering spirit, and our distrust of authority to this enterprising and cantankerous ethnic group. On the one hand, I believe he overlooks the fact that these elements are found to some extent in all the European immigrants to America’s shores. He nevertheless makes a strong case for a disproportionately strong Scots-Irish influence on the traditional American way of life.

Hadrian’s Wall stretched from east to west across northern England, marking a line close to what is, today, the border between England and Scotland. Roman rule stopped at that line. Later, feudalism in Scotland never took root beyond a rather superficial level, because of the Scottish insistence on being ruled by clans, with such government as there was built from the bottom up, and leaders chosen by the clansmen. Webb describes how this independent people, bottled up from the south, applied their energies to migrations, trade, and warfare back and forth between Scotland and northern Ireland. It is from this exchange that the Scots-Irish developed.

Although Webb does not put it in these terms, we might conclude that Scotland - protected as it was from Roman rule and, to a large extent, from the ill effects of feudalism - preserved the pre-Christian attitudes and social structure better than the rest of Europe. To the extent this is true, it makes sense for us, whether Celtic or Germanic or what have you, to examine the Scots and the Scots-Irish in detail.

Such knowledge is particularly relevant to our goal of taking the message of Asatru to a larger audience. As the leftists say, "To take the revolution to the people, you have to go to where the people are at." Webb's book is helpful to those of us who need to understand just what it is that moves and shapes our key target audience.

## DONATIONS!

The Asatru Folk Assembly is a 501 c (3) religious organization, and donations to it are tax-deductible. If you're a person who will be itemizing your deductions for 2004, it's still not too late to donate to the AFA rather than to the government!

## ODIN LIVES!

The groundbreaking radio program Odin Lives! is broadcast every Thursday night at 8 PM Eastern Time on a frequency of 7.415 MHz. This broadcast is repeated the next Tuesday morning at 12:15 AM on the same frequency. You can learn more by going to their web site at <http://www.odinlives.org>.

## IMPORTANT DATES

January 9 - Day of Remembrance for Raud the Strong. King Olaf Tryggvason of Norway executed Raud by making him swallow a snake. His crime was refusing to give up Asatru, the religion of his forefathers. Tryggvason then confiscated Raud's land and all his other wealth. Praise Raud by lifting a horn (or cup or glass) in his honor, and by doing something deliberate to spread the holy lore that King Olaf tried so hard to stamp out.

January 22 - Thorrablot. Coming in the depths of winter, when we all need our spirits lifted, Thorrablot is our obvious antidote to the blues. Thor, most approachable of the Northern deities, is its cheery, gregarious patron. Build a snow statue of the hammer-wielding God, or go winter camping, or have a party. Take a walk without your coat, mentally accepting winter, and go home for a shot of brandy.

Hail the Holy Ones!

Hail the AFA!

Stephen A. McNallen  
Asatru Folk Assembly

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND WHO SHOULD BE GETTING THESE UPDATES?  
Please refer him or her to [AFA\\_Bearclaw-subscribe@yahogroups.com](mailto:AFA_Bearclaw-subscribe@yahogroups.com).

VISIT OUR WEB SITE at <http://www.runestone.org>.