



Clamps Companion

MEET YOUR LOCAL TOWNSFOLK

By Quinten

In an effort to help the local inhabitants of Clampsboro get to know the people in the area, I will be interviewing a town member, officer, residents or other notables in the area. It will give you the opportunity to share information about yourself, tell your side of things, and let people get to know everyone the nobles, the shield at your side, the caster at your back and the townsfolk putting food in the stall.

For this column's third interview, we'll be interviewing one of the officers of the Sea Lion's Mercenary company, Dame Madeline de Troyes:

MEET... THE DAME WITH THE DRAGON'S BREATHE

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GADABARI WISDOM

- To cure hiccups, bite your thumbs and blow on them.
- The early man never borrows from the late man.
- If you forget to wash the spider, it's a sure sign of company coming.
- Gratitude is the memory of the heart.

MEET YOUR LOCAL TOWNSFOLK (CONT.)

What is your full name, title, and position?

Dame Madeline de Troyes of Trengiton, Second of the Sea Lions

Are you associated with any groups or Organizations?

My mother's family, the de Thierry, and the Sea Lions

Where were you born and raised?

Out in the country, at the ancestral fief.

What caused you to take up the sword/bow/globe/fireball instead of becoming a baker?

I showed a proficiency for reading early on, which was enough for my mother to hire a tutor in the Celestial arts. In addition, it was assumed that because I was illegitimate, I would be acting as a Seneschal for one of my younger siblings, and Celestial magic is a good tool for that. After I learned how to use it, I couldn't imagine doing anything else.

“I like running in close and casting as many spells as quickly as possible. Fall upon your enemies like a thunderbolt.”

What is your preferred way to engage in combat?

I like running in close and casting as many spells as quickly as possible. Fall upon your enemies like a thunderbolt.

Do you have any non-combat or crafting skills you'd like to share with our readers?

I draw and paint with some skill. I had a very broad education, though. I can also sew, spin, weave, cook, and sing.

If you could impart one pearl of wisdom to people starting out what would it be?

Take a chance- as long as you've got a healer nearby. Learning to overcome fear is harder than learning caution. A charge at a caster is risky, but it is necessary. Be bold.

What is your fondest memory?

When Chrétien was courting me, one of the things he did was plan this entirely elaborate treasure hunt. We went all around his family's land, looking for clues and solving puzzles together. I thought it was a grand lark his best friend had put together for us on the occasion of our birthdays. When I got to the end, there was this clever little box where you have to slide all the panels around. I finally got it open, and there was a note inside to turn around.

I did, and Chrétien was holding a ring.

What is your deepest regret, or decision you wish you could have reversed?

I wish, deeply, that I had recognized the rot within the Avandrian capital sooner. I was a country girl, up to my ears in my own small affairs and the affairs of my family, and I paid little mind to what the capital was doing. Things change slowly in Avandria, and I did not think something like this would ever



MEET YOUR LOCAL TOWNSFOLK (CONT.)

happen.

What is the biggest danger you have ever overcome?

The most scared I have ever been was on the plane of air. My normal fighting style has always been to move around a great deal and get close. Being unable to move at any speed left me much less effective.

What is the scariest thing you have ever faced off against?

The horrible stitched-together undead that was also on fire. You know, the big one.

What makes a good adventurer in your eyes?

A strong moral core paired with flexibility of execution. A good adventurer needs to be able to give orders, take orders, coordinate, act alone, fight efficiently, and die gallantly, to paraphrase a writer I know.

What do you do when you're not smiting evil or trying to kill things that tried to kill you first?

I carry on a lively correspondence with friends and family. That's been disrupted of late, but there is a whole art to it. What paper and envelope do you use, what kind of sealing wax, what scent you put on it, the color and type of ink, whether you include a gift or pressed flowers or a sketch... I hope it will pick up again once we sort out this mess.

If you had no inner monologue what would we most likely hear?

"I really need more wine before I deal with this."

What is a message you'd like to send to our readers?

That I am grateful for all the assistance that has been lent to my country by the residents of Clampsboro and beyond. This fight for my country is not one that we could win alone.

Who would you count as your greatest or longest ally?

My dear husband is always the first to my side. After that, my mother, who has been standing up for me since before I was born.

Who is your biggest rival/ most hated foe?

Dame Jacqueline Dumas. She has taken the country I love and bent it to her own foul ends. The havoc she has wreaked upon us will take decades to heal.

What is your favorite color?

Blue! I know, it's stereotypical for a Celestial caster, but I look great in blue.

What is your ideal date?

A delicious meal, a bottle of the finest wine, and then an entertaining performance of some sort. I do like Opera.

You're entering the tomb a 6000 year dead king, the Sarcophagus begins to open, what do you do?

Check that the door isn't slowly and dramatically closing behind me. If it is, throw a Dragon's Breath and run. If it isn't, throw Dragon's Breaths until it stops moving or gets too close. If it gets too close, run.

Alcohol preference: mead, wine, beer, grain alcohol, whatever is in your cup.

Wine, preferably white and sparkling.

Are you a Cat or Dog person?

Cats. Though I do love the big shepherd dogs we had at home. They looked like white bears.

If someone is trying to impress you/earn your favor what should they do? Beside defend the town.

Be a good conversationalist. Tell me good stories. Have an opinion on

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MEET YOUR LOCAL TOWNSFOLK (CONT.)

things. Tell me things I don't know. Ask good questions.

What is your greatest pet peeve?

People who are rude to new adventurers. We were all there once. Even if they make a mistake, that's part of learning, and let them who has never walked into a trap cast the first stone.

When I'm about to go off adventuring I always remember to take my?

Parasol and fan. You never know when it is going to rain, or when the sun is going to be too bright or too hot.

Favorite Joke.

What is the difference between a cat and a comma? A cat has claws at the end of its paws, and a comma has a pause at the end of its clause.

If you could only eat one food for the rest of your life what would it be?

Chocolate-covered strawberries.

“What is the difference between a cat and a comma? A cat has claws at the end of its paws, and a comma has a pause at the end of its clause.”



BRAVE SIR CAPTAIN

By Edward Peepers

Bravely bold Sir Captain
Rode forth from Clampsboro.
He was not afraid to die,
Oh brave Sir Captain.
He was not at all afraid
To be killed in nasty ways.
Brave, brave, brave, brave Sir Captain.
He was not in the least bit scared
To be mashed into a pulp.
Or to have his eyes gouged out,
And his elbows broken.
To have his kneecaps split
And his body burned away,
And his limbs all hacked and mangled
Brave Sir Captain.

SUITABLE SOLUTIONS

STARRING SIR STANFORD

Dear Sir Stanford,

Red Legs accosted my sons when they were on their way home from market day. They took their coin – coin our family needed to live – and severely injured my youngest. What can we do about them?

Concerned Citizen

Dear Concerned Citizen

It's a common misconception that rabbits love carrots. We like carrots, certainly, but we like a great many other things too. Celery, short hops on the beach, hugs and cuddles OOH ESPECIALLY HUGS AND CUDDLES, and also illustrated children's stories. Carrots don't even grant you improved vision, that's better attributed to a healthy, balanced diet.

Sit Stanford



Dear Sir Stanford,

Have you ever wished you could set your own labor hours? Make handfuls of copper in just a few days? Be the envy of all your peers? Well now you can, thanks to Tony's Tasteful Tonic! Tony's Tasteful Tonic cures* all manner of maladies, including but not limited to poison, gout, leprosy, headache, unwanted lady lumps, forget-it-well, low dihydrogen monoxide levels, forget-it-well, death, undeath, near-death, and forget-it-well. Receive a discount on your first case, then sell it to your friends for a tidy profit! Act now and receive a referral bonus – for every friend you refer that buys a case, receive an two extra bottles absolutely FREE**

*Your results may vary.

**With purchase of a second case.

Magnificent Limited-offer Membership

Dear MLM,

Funny you should ask, I was knighted in recognition of my read guard defensive maneuvers during the Rodent Rebellion, by Her Woolliness, Queen Tibellia herself. I don't like to get into details, we lost a lot of good livestock and the emotional wounds never really heal. But suffice to say we routed the rats, massacred the mice, and scattered the stoats. They won't dream of raiding our grain stores for seasons. Seasons, I say! Now I do believe it's time for a nap.

Sir Stanford

A BREAK FROM SPRING IN WINKLEPERRY FALLS

Go west, young adventurers, go west!

A host of mercenaries was recently sighted passing through Clamps. When asked where they were headed, one piped up to say “Winkleperry Falls, post-haste!” before his fellow travelers shushed him with disapproving looks. “We decided it was time for some well-earned rest and relaxation, away from the daily stresses and bureaucracy in the capital,” added a particularly muscular and well-armed cavorter before flipping a silver in the direction of your intrepid reporter.

Clearly they were not aware that the truth cannot be bought, at least not from the Companion! One couldn't help but notice a very large container in their wagon. Perhaps it was full of spirits and other social lubricants? Though that wouldn't explain the small holes drilled into the side...

CLASSIFIEDS

Contact Edward Peepers to post - 1 Silver per Word

Wanted for Theft from a Noble: Lord Silaris seeks assistance locating his dear friend Onyx the Sarr, last sighted in Clamps. She stands about 5'3" and looks to be at least nineteen harvests old, boasting a light colored top coat. She carries a small, spirit linked dagger. 50 gold reward offered for information leading to her recovery and return of the white spear in her possession.

GRIND OPENING! Need a break from the hectic frontier lifestyle? Want a quick boost on your way to your next battle? Grind Coffee House has drinks and treats for the discerning adventurer. Sweets and savories, hot and cold, you'll find something that hits the spot! Find us at #3 on the main street! Open late!

Missing: My son, Gurasson, is missing. He was last seen playing in the woods. Husband believes that he ran away and joined the army, but I think the Fey got him. Grandmere believes that it was the Spiders. Please help! Reward of everything I have if found... Goodwoman Hylithe

Mercenaries for Hire: The Sea Lions seek adventure, glory, and coin. Let us worry about your troubles whilst you enjoy your wine. Ask for Captain Chrétien de Troyes.

Formal Scrolls & Components: Has an indecipherable formal scroll recently come into your possession? Not sure what to do with all your extra bat wings and monster teeth? The Sea Lions will pay for quality formal components and scrolls.

Are Your Parents Dead? Are you or do you know an orphan? These lands have seen tremendous suffering. If you lack guardians and holdings, seek Edward Peepers for help. There can be a better tomorrow, together.

Garibaldi Trading Cards: Live forever. Contact Edward Peepers for details.