

# The Henge of Keltria Henge Happenings

Imbolc 2013 - Issue 97

Druidism for the 21st Century™

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# from the president

## Imbolc 2013

By Tony Taylor

### Be a Henge of Keltria Facebook Follower

Facebook is a wonderful tool to help stay in contact with friends and organizations. Did you know that there are both supporters and followers? "Liking" a page makes you a supporter. Being the supporter of a page only shows your support for the page. According to Facebook, pages that you "like" will amount to about 15% of what posts to your newsfeed. That means that you can miss important information on your favorite sites.

On the other hand, if you consider a page a vital source of information you want to receive it in your news feed, become a follower. It is easy. Go to the page you liked (such as the Henge of Keltria Page. If you haven't liked the page before, like it now. Once liked, hover over the "Liked" button. Then click on "Get Notifications" and "Show in News Feed" and check the box. You will be notified when that page is posted to and it will show in your news feed.

The Henge of [Keltria Page](#) on Facebook is very selective about the information posted. Only page admins,



President Tony

all of whom are Henge Board members, may post to the page, (although others may comment). We generally post less than one posting per week, so we don't inundate our members with postings.

Become more than a Henge of Keltria Liker with these easy steps. Please message [Tony Taylor](#) on Facebook with any questions. (Friend him too!)



#### Important Henge eMail addresses:

Please use the form at <http://www.keltria.org/emailns2.htm> to contact any of the Henge Officers: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Trustees. Also, you may contact the Council of Elders: Archdruid, Elders or any of the Keltrian Groves or Study Groups via that webpage form.

You may contact the following directly via eMail:

- The Henge Office at [Henge-Office@keltria.org](mailto:Henge-Office@keltria.org)
- Submissions for Henge Happenings may also be sent to [Henge-Office@keltria.org](mailto:Henge-Office@keltria.org)



#### The 2012 Henge of Keltria Website Cloud



This new artwork is a world of words which appear on the Henge of Keltria website. It is available as a regular and large coffee mug, a note book, and t-shirts. Check it out at:

<http://www.cafepress.com/keltrijournal>





# The bard's path

## WERE THEY WARRIORS?

by Steward of the Wood

War has been a factor of the human existence for tens of thousands of years. Our Celtic ancestors reveled in war among themselves and with others and the Bards revered warriors like Cúchuláinn and Finn mac Cumhaill in tales. Have you ever wondered if your ancestors were soldiers or supported armies? Common touch points in the USA are the American Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, the American Civil War, World Wars I and II, and the Vietnam War. Entire organizations, such as the Daughters of the American Revolution, have developed around this interest in our ancestors.

Learning whether an ancestor served during a war used to be quite tedious, but recently has become much easier. Increasingly, documents about military involvement of past wars have become available online or at least streamlined through federal, state, and local processes.

My grandfather served in World War I and my father and uncles served in World War II. I always wondered if my ancestors also fought in the Civil War and Revolutionary War. Growing up in the state of Tennessee in the U.S. where sympathies were very mixed between the Union and the Con-

federacy, I also wondered for which side my ancestors fought. Were they arrayed on both sides? In addition, since my ancestors originated from England, Scotland, Ireland, and Germany, I was not certain whether they fought for the American Republic or the English during the American Revolutionary War.

Like many Americans, rumors and stories abounded within my family as to whether ancestors fought; and if so, for whom they fought. As I embarked on my now-consuming ancestry quest a few years ago, I decided to investigate the issue of whether they were warriors or not.

Military records are available in the U.S. through a variety of sources such as the National Archives, books of lists of muster records, and online resources. Given these various resources, my first move was to sort through my family trees to develop a candidate list with men between the ages of fifteen and sixty-five for the Civil War and the Revolutionary War. Given that these wars occurred on U.S. soil, I assumed that it was "all hands on deck"; or in other words, every abled-bodied man (and many women) served in some capacity. This age range at least held most of the best candidates. Then the search began.

Sources of information range from free, such as books available from a library or a historical society, to "for pay," such as [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com). As you can imagine, the free sources require more work but can be effective. In addition, the U.S. National Archives are a great source of military re-



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cords. My personal favorite source is [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com). On their web site, I can search military records and have been able to identify seven possible ancestors who served in the American Civil War. To no surprise, given that Tennessee was viewed as a “border state,” most of my ancestors from the western part of the state were Confederate soldiers while those in the eastern part of the state were Union soldiers. It was literally true that the war divided families.

Men with common names are the hardest to prove; and when I looked up several of my ancestors, I found many soldiers with the same name. To solve one case when I found two likely candidates, I ordered the service records of each. To order, go to [www.archives.gov](http://www.archives.gov).



At the bottom of the home page, select “I want to: Get my military record.” This will take you to another page where you select “Older (pre-WWI) Service Records,” which is listed on the left side of the page. Then choose “How to order older military service or Pension Records” and you have the choice of ordering online or printing the form and mailing it. The cost of each of my requests was \$25. From the two soldiers who I checked, I was able to determine which one was my ancestor by where he enlisted. It was so interesting to see copies of the actual pay stubs and to follow him across the South. He was wounded and spent time in a hospital in Murfreesboro, Tennessee; then he was a prisoner of war and ended up in Baltimore, Maryland. It is fascinating.

Similar records exist for the U.S. Revolutionary War through books and the U.S. Archives. The records of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) are a fabulous resource and are searchable. Records from the DAR are especially useful because: 1) their requirements for proof are strong, hence the records tend to be reliable and 2) they include descendants of the soldier, so several gen-

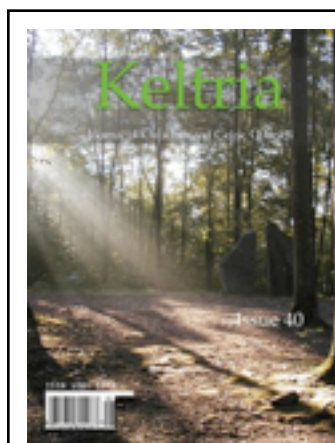
erations are listed. My grandmother, aunt, and cousin were members and they did the hard work to prove our ancestry. Through various searches, I have identified ten ancestors who served in the war and most of them have proven records in the DAR. Interestingly in one case, both husband and wife occur as veterans. The wife “furnished supplies.” This may seem trivial now but I am certain that it could have meant her imprisonment or death if caught. She must have had the Celtic warrior woman’s genes...

go Mórrígan! To date, all my ancestors who I have found were soldiers for the U.S. rather than the British.

These are but a few examples of military actions, which may have involved our ancestors. As mentioned earlier, my grandfather, father, and uncles were all

veterans, and I have their service records. Despite whether we are supportive of war or not, our ancestors made their choices and those choices are part of whom they are. As we seek to know them, it is also important to know if they were warriors. If this becomes a source of interest and pride, then there are organizations such as the DAR or Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) that you can join to pursue those interests. Keep up the quest.

*Ádh mór ort!*



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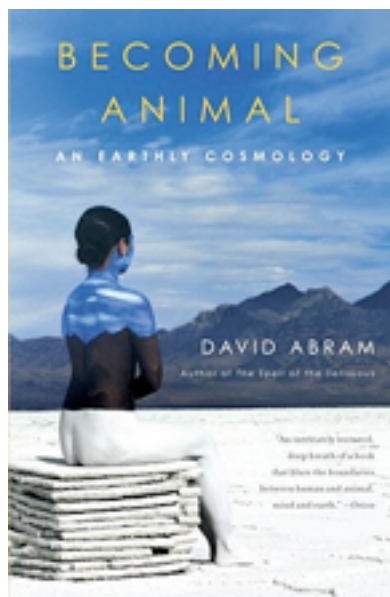
# book Review

## Becoming Animal - An Earthly Cosmology

by David Abram

Reviewed by Karl Schlotterbeck, MA, CAS, LP

This is the second book by this ecologist, anthropologist, and philosopher that I acquired and devoured at the recommendation of a friend. This was the first one I read - the second one he wrote. They each deserve a separate commentary, but this short review of [\*Becoming Animal: An Earthly Cosmology\*](#) will have to suffice for now.



Articulate and poetic, ideational and descriptive, he addresses how we have come to reduce intelligence to ever-narrowing confines and what has been lost as our culture has moved from an oral society to one dependent on the written word. He challenges the notion that consciousness is "an interior human trait" as well as our mistaken perception as being somehow separate from nature. Rather, intelli-

gence and awareness are found on both sides of the interaction with the world around us, and that nature is not something of which we are at the apex but that something in which we are embedded. Even our breath is intimately connected with the chemistry of grasses and trees and winds.

"But as soon as we recognize that our bodies are always intertwined with the broad flesh of the Earth, and that our conscious experience is sustained and steadily informed by that very involvement, then the need for a multitude of individual, immaterial minds drops away.... There is a profusion of individual bodies; there

is the enveloping sphere of the planet; and there is the ongoing, open relation between these. The fluid field of experience that we call 'mind' is simply the place of this open, improvisation relationship - experienced separately by each individual body, experienced all at once by the animate Earth itself."

He rejects the common notion that we are projecting anthropomorphic features onto the world, and asserts that that our brains are, in fact, an introjection of the Earth - a response to our perceptual field. Through our sensory perception, our separate nervous systems are bound into the encompassing ecosystem. Furthermore, this encompassing ecosystem is "an articulate landscape" which, as oral peoples have recognized, speaks if we have the awareness to listen to its voice. Part of our devolution from recognizing our inherent embeddedness within the natural world has resulted from the evolution of language and the printed word - words that have lost their connection to the surrounding world and only represent our own speech. Thus, the intelligence that used to be recognized as our relationship with the natural world - in the flight of birds, shifting of winds, call of animals, rustle of leaves, changes of season, to name a few - has been reduced to what is printed on pages. Our modern culture has tended to see the world as a collection of objects and facts rather than a living, intelligent, inscrutable organism of which we are a part. (His first book, [\*The Spell of the Sensuous: Perception and Language in a More-Than-Human World\*](#), goes into much greater depth about the transition from oral to written culture.)

Although [\*Becoming Animal\*](#) could have been a tedious and abstract tome, it is full of Abram's accounts of experiences as he traveled in various parts of the world, and encountered shamans and animals. In addition, his reflections on his own process of perception and how it



changes depending on where he is make this an engaging and illuminating joy to read.

In contrast to New Age, Greek and common religious notions of a "higher" or purer reality in which the ephemeral mind might yearn to dwell, he calls us to return to our senses.

"Our animal senses are neither deceptive nor untrustworthy; they are our access to the cosmos. Bodily perception provides our most intimate entry into a primary order of reality that can be disparaged or dismissed at our peril. Far from offering an untrustworthy account of things, our senses disclose an ever-shifting reality that is not amenable to any finished account, an enigmatic and encompassing field of relationships to which we can only apprentice ourselves."

To his credit, he does not dismiss the written word, but advises that we should remember that on which our knowledge is based and to renew our connection with larger intelligence of which we are still a part.

### Highly recommended

#### [Becoming Animal: An Earthly Cosmology](#)

Paperback: 336 pages

Publisher: Vintage (September 6, 2011)

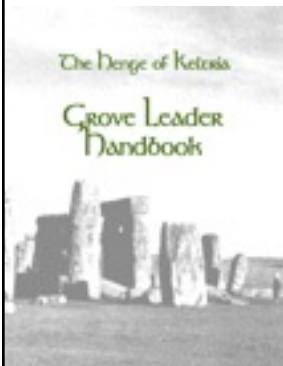
Language: English

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### The Henge of Keltria—Grove Leader's Handbook



Starting a Grove? Organizing a Study Group? The Grove Leader's Handbook is a useful resource.

Includes:

- \*Forming a Keltrian Study Group by Baisteadh
- \* Grove Purpose, Policy, By-laws, & Rules,
- \*Record Keeping
- \* Useful Information & Pitfalls
- \*Notes and Guidelines from the Council of Elders

**\$10.95 from Cafe Press**

## CREDITS

Cover Art - Imbolc Festival - Marsden is © by [GaryJS](#)™. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission via [Flickr](#).

Based on a 2000 year old Celtic festival, Imbolc marks the start of the powers of spring battling against those of winter. The finale was a giant Jack Frost doing battle against a Giant Green Man in which, you'll be glad to hear, the Green Man won (although, as with any new administration, don't expect changes overnight ;))

[Gary has] been privileged enough to be involved with the build up to this spectacular event, attending the workshops and chatting with the participants and organisers. They are a really friendly bunch and [he'd] recommend to anyone thinking of taking part next year, do it!

## Henge Happenings

Tony Taylor, Editor

E-mail: <http://www.keltria.org/E-Mail.htm>

All material published in Henge Happenings is  
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This publication is also:  
"Protected by the Berne Convention"



## Keltrian Druidism



is a spiritual path dedicated to revering the Nature Spirits, honoring the Ancestors, and celebrating the Gods and Goddesses of the ancient Irish.