

## Good Richard Said

*AEduardus fecit\*\**

*11/28/2016—2/9/2017*

*In the Year A.S. LI*

*....with great love for a brother gone before.....*

In Southern hills, by chance they met,  
And in an instant, love was fed.  
The die was cast, their hearts were set,  
“I’ll wed this lass”, young Richard said.

And so to South Downs came they both,  
That place of valor, noble stede,  
With courtly grace they joined their troth,  
“This feels like home”, good Richard said.

When chroniclers bestrode the land,  
And sought to ken medieval tread,  
He kept it simple, well in hand,  
“It’s loads of fun”, good Richard said.

On Southron plain, the people stood,  
To witness Squire with face turned red,  
The blow received, the Knighting, good,  
“I live to serve”, Sir Richard said.

And so to Welshman’s Mount they came,  
The RaeFen clan, their household led,  
They added joy to Madoc’s fame,  
“We’re one with you”, good Richard said.

At RaeFen stede, the folk did play,  
They danced and feasted, all well fed,  
Musicians burned like fresh-mown hay,  
“I like it loud”, sly Richard said.

On Field of Honour, all stood forth,  
All armed in glory, foot to head,  
At tourney’s end, great victor’s worth  
“Next, Disney”, bold Prince Richard said.

And in the High Hall, glorious day,  
When younger daughter there was wed,  
She danced with father, close to stay,  
“I love my life”, Sire Richard said.

Next, to the Crusades, answered call,  
To Holy Land, Crusaders sped,  
With Lee and Richard leading all,  
“My sword for God”, good Richard said.

And so, new Templar house arises,  
To RaeFen’s chief they look, as head,  
He knows their needs, their tasks, and sizes,  
“Our work continues”, Richard said.

On Field of Valor, warrior lass  
O’er vanquished foeman, forward sped.  
Her father’s skill, her father’s sass,  
“She is my blood”, Sir Richard said.

On muddy verges, both went forth  
Both father, daughter, challenge-fed,  
Twin Spartans, out to prove their worth,  
“We stand together”, Richard said.

In valley red, with rocks piled high,  
The two on horseback, forward led,  
Where twinned hearts raced ‘neath endless sky,  
“We ride as one”, fair Richard said.

In golden years, chivalric call  
Brings home both steed and rider’s tread,  
On Temple Mount, God’s Grace doth fall,  
“I am content”, good Richard said.

So, raise your glasses, banish strife,  
And cast aside all doubt and dread,  
To dance instead the Dance of Life,  
“It’s loads of fun”, good Richard said.

## Good Richard Said: Exposition

The genesis for “Good Richard Said” is one of my favorite memories of Rick Hatten, and a distilled moment that I believe spoke to the essence of the man. In the early/mid 1980s, there was a local news magazine program on WAGA-TV called (if I remember correctly) PM Atlanta. They would mix light infotainment with a couple of feature stories each edition covering some of the more interesting angles of life in Atlanta. One such program featured the local SCA, and the South Downs invited the camera crew to spend time at one of our full-garb gatherings, which they did, right down to the female correspondent going native in her attire with something borrowed from one of our folks. The feature ran on for seven minutes or so, giving an overview of the range of interests served, and was intercut with several local talking head SCA folk to give faces and names to the enterprise. In the wrap-up, they opted to go to Richard for the close, and his pithy pronouncement was the perfect closure for the piece, and my inspiration for this [see 3<sup>rd</sup> stanza].

Richard was known and loved by many. This poem is an attempt in snapshots from his life, to give a sense of the man who I knew as both friend and brother. Every verse has a story, thus, this annotation.

**Verse 1:** This, a recounting of the chance meeting of Rick and Karen that was impossible, and thus, meant to be.

**Verse 2:** Their discovery of the SCA and The South Downs, their first home in the Current Middle Ages.

**Verse 3:** The episode alluded to above rests here. The closing shot is of our off-camera correspondent asking Richard why he went to all this trouble. With a gleam in his eye, that grin well known to his friends, and that honeyed Southern drawl, he intoned, “It’s loads of fun!”

**Verse 4:** Richard’s knighting in south Georgia (at Veteran’s Memorial State Park) was memorable for many reasons, but my lasting image is of the left side of Richard’s face bearing the red hand mark of a vigorous buffet delivered during the ceremony.

**Verse 5:** This verse tells of the move to Bryn Madoc, the family’s home for many years.

**Verse 6:** House RaeFen was the scene of many raucous parties, including one in which the DJ cranked up *Mississippi Queen* so loud that the vibrations set one of the speakers on fire (loose wire), and a quick trip to town for replacement speakers was the solution.

**Verse 7:** This verse refers to Richard winning the Crown List at Hard Labor Creek State Park which he also autocratted. At the end of the final, the people of Madoc surged out onto the field and lifted Richard on their shoulders for an impromptu parade. As he was let down from on high, someone asked him, “Richard, you’ve just won Crown List. What’re you gonna do?” Once more with that RaeFen gleam, he said, “I’m goin’ to Disney World!”

**Verse 8:** A happy day for the family was daughter Pamela’s wedding, when father and bride danced to The Beatles’ *In My Life*.

**Verse 9:** Here, we celebrate Richard’s initial embrace of the era of the crusades in the SCA with his friend, Sir Lee Fribrand.

**Verse 10:** This verse celebrates Richard’s role in bringing the Templars in Meridies together, a house made strong by his leadership.

**Verse 11:** This verse tells of daughter Jessica joining her father on the SCA Field of Honour.

**Verse 12:** Richard’s Spartan challenge which he undertook with Pamela is honored here.

**Verse 13:** A recent trip to Monument Valley by Rick and Karen in which they shared substantial time in the saddle is the subject of this verse.

**Verse 14:** Rick and Karen’s work in creating Temple Mount Stables is the focus of this verse.

**Verse 15:** This final verse, an invitation to live life to the fullest. It was Rick’s credo. He believed it, he lived it, and as he noted elsewhere, “It’s loads of fun!”.