



REMEMBER!

email Communiqué

**Society of King Charles the Martyr
American Region**

29 May 2017

Restoration Day, 29 May 1660 (also called Oak Apple or Royal Oak Day)

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Leading up to the Restoration in 1660, Parliament had refused to recognise the Protectorate in May of 1649. This led to the resignation of Richard Cromwell who had been Lord Protector since his father's death in 1658.

Meanwhile, plans were underway to mount a large Royalist insurrection in the face of rising tensions between Colonel John Lambert's army and Parliament. George Monck, 1st Duke of Albemarle and military governor of Scotland, was approached to assist in the restoration of the monarchy but refused to commit himself and his resources to the cause. However, in October of 1659,

he sent a declaration demanding the return of Parliament after Lambert's troops had prevented them from sitting. After Lambert fails to organise any significant resistance, Monck's army arrives in London to provide stability, allowing the Long Parliament (originally called by Charles I in November 1640) to be restored in February of 1660. By April, the Convention Parliament is assembled and, having received Charles II's Declaration of Breda outlining his terms for the Restoration, declares that he had been lawful King since the execution of his father, and invited him to return.



On 25 May 1660, Charles II lands at Dover and four days later makes his triumphal entry into London, on his 30th birthday. His coronation took place at Westminster Abbey on S. George's Day, 1661. Thus, this day is observed as **Restoration Day**.

Also flowing from Charles II's triumphal return is another aspect, **Oak Apple Day** or **Royal Oak Day**. This observance was a formal public holiday formerly widely celebrated in England on 29 May to commemorate the restoration of the monarchy. In some parts of the country the day is still celebrated and has also been known as Shick Shack Day or Oak and Nettle. The oak became the symbol of Royalist sympathisers and, each year on this day it became customary for subjects to show support for their king by wearing a sprig of oak leaves or an oak apple. The day was full of celebrations, with villages and communities maintaining their own individual traditions. Tradition also dictated that those who didn't wear sprigs of oak on Oak Apple Day should be thrashed with stinging nettles for being anti-Royalist or Cromwellian. See the next page for *Olde English Traditions* on this day, with this information being courtesy of our members Dr Adrian Thomas of the UK and (the picture above) Daniel Nieciecki of New York City.

Olde English Traditions



OAK APPLE DAY

On founders day every year, members of the Royal Hospital in Chelsea wear sprigs of oak in their coats in remembrance of their founder, Charles II.

The oak sprigs symbolise the famous concealment of Charles II in the oak tree when he was hiding from the Roundheads. Oak Apple Day – May 29th – was the day when he made his triumphant entry into London after the Restoration in 1660.

Until the beginning of this century, everyone—young and old—wore oak leaves on this day and anyone appearing without these loyal emblems was pelted with eggs or beaten with nettles!

No. 1 in a series of eight.

Sadly, over the past 150 years, many of the traditional Oak Apple Day celebrations have disappeared. For example, this week, many will have no idea as to why The Royal Oak is the third most popular pub name or why multiple Royal Navy warships have been called Royal Oak. (Read more at the link <http://www.countrylife.co.uk/articles/bring-back-oak-apple-day-72535#c02wXcq0Dp7uEvue.99>).

Caroline observances upcoming: 10 June, White Rose Day ... 13 June, Marriage of King Charles I ... 18 June, Coronation of King Charles I at Holyrood.

In other news: **we're still searching for a new goods fulfillment coordinator!** The work is not onerous; other than during a few busy months, orders are fulfilled monthly, and the orders and payments are received by the Treasurer and forwarded in a spreadsheet for further action. **If you are interested in helping the Society in this manner**, please contact SKCM Vice President John R. Covert, OL, at covert@covert.org, at your earliest convenience. Thank you.

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