A snarky tweet about the seriousness of Molossia recently lead me to reflect on appearances and our dedication to sovereignty. To be sure, we have a sense of humor here in Molossia. We like to laugh and have fun and we like to poke fun, both at ourselves and at the giant nation surrounding around us. But make no mistake, we consider Molossia to be a sovereign nation, albeit a very small one. We have all of the trappings of nationhood, a government, stable population, defined borders and the ability to communicate with other nations. We are small and admittedly economically dependent on the United States, but we are otherwise sovereign within our borders. And to date, our sovereignty has yet to be challenged by the US, in spite of the fact they no doubt know we exist. They can't possibly not know, considering the amount of media attention we have received over the years. So yes, we may appear to some to be a joke, but that is deceiving - Molossia is a sovereign nation, tiny but strong!

Voyage to the Mysterious Island

On Sunday, 22 July 2018 XLI the Molossian Navy deployed to nearby Lake Tahoe, a favored spot for the Navy's many voyages of discovery. The target this time was at the north end of the lake near Tahoe City, a secluded beach area called Lake Forest. The Navy has never explored this area of Lake Tahoe before, so this voyage was to cover new ground - or water, rather. Arriving at about 11:00 AM MST, the Navy deployed immediately onto the lake, and quickly set as its destination a copse of semi-submerged willows not far off shore. Upon arriving at the bushy atoll it was discovered that the brush and trees hid a tiny island, a marshy islet reminiscent of a mangrove swamp in the American south. The President and Chief Constable went ashore to explore the mysterious islet, a brief foray considering the small size of the island. The duo then returned to the rest of the fleet and completed a circumnavigation of the islet before voyaging further afield in the vicinity. After navigating adjacent waters and practicing deeper water boarding, the Navy eventually returned to shore, mission complete. The fleet then returned to Molossia, another successful mission for the Mighty Molossian Navy!
Return to Farfalla

As noted before, the Republic of Molossia is a larger country than can be seen in our Home Territory located in Northern Nevada. Our nation also possesses two exclaves: Desert Homestead Province, located near Joshua Tree, California, and Farfalla Colony, located outside the Northern California town of Alturas. Farfalla consists of 7,965 Square Royal Nortons (2 hectares / 4.9 acres) of uninhabited land surrounded by rolling forested hills. It is split by a small creek named Deer Run, which is partially fed by Lion Spring. Farfalla is covered in juniper and piñon trees, wild flowers and grasses. In the absence of humans, there is substantial wildlife in Farfalla, including deer, coyotes, cottontail rabbits and the occasional house cat.

It was to Farfalla that His Excellency, the President and The First Lady journeyed on 8 July 2018 XLI. The First Couple spent several hours at Farfalla, raising the flag upon the flagpole that was one of only two man-made structures in the colony, the other being an aged wood bridge over Deer Run Creek. During this latest visit a new bridge was built over Lion Spring, to make access to the flagpole - and the geographic center of Farfalla - easier. Construction took about an hour and a half, much pre-construction cutting and drilling having been done before the First Couple's departure from the Home Territory. The bridge built, a screen tent was deployed next to the flagpole and the President and First Lady spent the rest of the day enjoying the far-flung colony.

This was the second annual visit to Farfalla, beginning last year and planned yearly from here on out. As before, plans were made to

Upcoming Tours Of Molossia

Tours of our nation are currently planned on the following dates only:

Saturday, 18 August 2018 XLI at 10:00 AM PST
Saturday, 22 September 2018 XLI at 10:00 AM PST
Saturday, 13 October 2018 XLI at 10:00 AM PST (last tour of the year)
Molossian National Symbols

**THE NATIONAL FLAG:** The National Flag of the Republic of Molossia, called the Grand Triune, is made up of three horizontal bars of blue, white and green. The blue bar symbolizes both strength and the desert sky. The white bar symbolizes both purity and the mountains that make up much of Molossia. The green bar symbolizes both prosperity and the Molossian landscape, green after a spring rain.

**THE NATIONAL ARMS:** The Greater National Arms of the Republic of Molossia consists of a shield, divided into three equal bars in the National Colors, blue, white and green. The shield is trimmed in blue and white, with a mustang, the State Animal, rampant, centered upon it. The shield is centered on a gold sunburst, symbolizing the setting sun, and the far west where Molossia is located. The sunburst is topped with a crown, hearkening to Molossia's origin as a kingdom, and three plumes in blue, white and green. A banner with the word "Molossia" is centered beneath the shield.

**National Bird:**
Valley Quail
(Lophortyx californica)

**National Animal:**
Mustang (Wild Horse)
(Equus caballus)

**National Tree:**
Common Juniper
(Juniperis communis)

**National Flower:**
Common Sagebrush
(Artemisia tridentata)
Stop the press, it’s August? That can’t be right! We can’t be past the halfway point to Christmas already? The time sure does fly! I don’t feel like time went as fast when I was a child. Days seemed to drag on with plenty of time to do whatever we wanted. Waiting a month or a year seemed unimaginable. As I got older, obligations began to take up hours and the remaining moments seem sparse and fleeting. Someone once said we all have the same 24 hours in a day, meaning that we are all capable of greatness. Under this way of thinking I tend to see my day in a different light. Find the positive, fun moments and focus on those. That’s where Molossia comes in. Time seems to stop while we are on tour in Molossia. All daily stresses and obligations go away and we are able to focus on fun. This is how I like to spend all of my time, and mostly, I do just that!

Thank you all and until next time,

Look at the clock and count the hours left, not the hours passed.

~Adrianne