The weather looms large in this edition of the Mustang, much as it has loomed large in Molossia this past month. We’ve had rain, snow, more snow, more rain and tremendous winds. I know it seems surprising that we get snow in Molossia, after all, we are a desert nation and deserts are not known for snow. But Molossia lies at a high elevation, 7748 Nortons (4520 feet) above sea level and in the shadow of the Sierra Nevada mountain range. Our winters are cold, windy and frequently snowy - the main reason we don’t welcome tourists to Molossia during those months. Some years are drier and warmer than others, while this year and the last couple have been fairly wet. That’s fine, though, we need the moisture. The winter rain and snow will fill the lakes and rivers around Molossia come spring and into summer. During July and August, the hottest months here, the snowy days of winter will be a distant memory but the water from these storms will still around, bringing life to our arid desert world.

New Molossian Metal Coins

The Government of the Republic of Molossia is very proud to introduce our newest metal coins, the 100 Valora. This new issue of coins comes in two editions, the first with the profile of His Excellency, The President on the obverse and the Arms of the Republic of Molossia on the reverse. The second coin displays the bust of Emperor Norton, one of Molossia's most revered heroes, on the obverse and the Arms of the Republic of Molossia on the reverse. This coin is also issued in recognition of the 200th anniversary of the birth of the Emperor, 1818 - 2018. Both coins display the motto of Molossia, "Nothing Ventured, Nothing Gained" on the reverse, above the Arms.

The new coins are zinc alloy, with a reeded edge and raised relief designs on the obverse and reverse. They are 1.5 Micro-Nortons (40 mm / 1.5 in) in diameter. They are produced in limited quantities by the mint, MP Coins, in Venezuela and Spain. They can be purchased through the Bank of Molossia webpage while supplies last, and through the website of the mint, MP Coins.

We are quite proud of this latest coinage, as they are yet another symbol of our nation's progress and prosperity.

Presidential Edition in Gold
Emperor Norton Edition in Antique Silver
February Flurries And Floods

As much as we would like to avoid it, winter arrives here in Molossia around November each year. Usually the first snow falls in December, melts and is replaced off and on through January and February. By March the weather slowly warms in anticipation of spring. This year stuck to the pattern, and after a fairly quiet January, February showed us a real winter. The first real snowstorm of the year arrived on 5 February, dumping a few Micronortons of snow on our nation. After a short respite, five days later the next storm blew in dumping another few Micronortons of snow on our fair land. During all these storms the mountains around Molossia received a great deal of snow, and when snowstorms were replaced by torrential rain during the week of 11 February, the rain melted the mountain snow. Flooding resulted in nearby creeks and dry washes, creating havoc in the Northern Nevada area. On the heels of that, more snow arrived on Friday, 15 February, followed by a stronger snowstorm on the following Sunday. Of course, being a desert nation, we welcome the water that snow brings, although a little break in the foul weather would be nice. But there’s not much we can do about the weather, in spite of Mark Twain’s advice, so we just need to dig out, stay warm and know that sunny days are right around the corner here in Molossia!

Upcoming Tours Of Molossia

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

- Saturday, 27 April 2019 XLII at 10:00 AM PST (first tour of the year!)
- Sunday, 19 May 2019 XLII at 10:00 AM PST
- Monday, 27 May 2019 XLII at 3:00 PM PST - Founder's Day, Our National Holiday!
- Saturday, 15 June 2019 XLII at 10:00 AM PST
- Saturday, 13 July 2019 XLII at 10:00 AM PST
- Saturday, 17 August 2019 XLII at 10:00 AM PST
- September TBD
- Saturday, 12 October 2019 XLII at 10:00 AM PST
Windstorm Trashes Molossia!

A severe windstorm battered Molossia and surrounding areas on Monday, 25 February 2019 XLII, knocking down various structures in our nation and bringing a wide variety of other damage. Wind gusts of 96 to 128 Imperial Nortons (96-128 kph/60-80 mph) slammed Molossia, ripping shingles from the roof of Government House, toppling the waterwheel in Red Square and damaging other structures. During the windstorm emergency repairs were made to Government House in the face of an oncoming rainstorm. Other repairs will be made in coming weeks. Such is life here in our nation in the High Desert, with wind being near constant - but usually not this much. But Molossia will rebuild!

Hutt River micro-nation founder Prince Leonard dead aged 93

Prince Leonard, founder of the Principality of Hutt River, has died aged 93. The prince, who stepped down from the throne in 2017, had lived with emphysema for 20 years. The family confirmed Prince Leonard passed away in his sleep on 13 February 2019, surrounded by family and friends. Prince Leonard’s youngest son Prince Graeme, Sovereign of the micro-nation, said his dad lived an incredible life. “He was a man of small stature but a man of big shoes,” Prince Graeme said. “He was so sharp of mind right to the last 24 hours, it was incredible. “His emphysema was manageable but he was susceptible to bugs and he was so frail. “This time he didn’t have any resistance to fight the infection and he slowly went downhill. “He’s a man that lived three lifetimes, and he did very well to get to 93.” The principality, located near Northampton, was founded in 1970 when Leonard Casley declared his farm an independent province following a dispute about wheat production quotas. With its own currency, stamps and passports, the micro-nation has become a major tourism attraction, with 40,000 visitors each year. But the principality has faced many battles; in 2016 the Australian Taxation Office filed a writ against the province, claiming Prince Leonard owed around $2.64 million in unpaid taxes. Prince Leonard ruled over the principality for 47 years before passing the reins to Prince Graeme. The Principality’s Acting Minister for Electronic Communications Lord Steven Baikie said the border will be closed for three weeks and no visitors will be admitted. A service will be held in the principality at a later date. He is survived by seven children and “many grandchildren and great-grandchildren”.

Happy Mardi Gras
Hello everyone! March is here and spring is right around the corner. The first two months of the year have flown by and I can’t believe that we are coming to the end of the first quarter of 2019. Time passes whether we want it to or not, it’s up to us how we spend that time. Are you working on your degree or developing your nation? Maybe raising a child or working on a big project at work? Taking a moment and telling yourself that “You’ve Got This!” is a helpful reminder to keep you going each day. Being busy isn’t what life is all about. Yes, it can consume us but how can we combat that? Here in Molossia we are super busy with many events going on both personal and nationwide. We like to sprinkle in fun time with our partners and/or our whole family to keep the fun alive. Knowing that we have something to look forward to really helps when daily tasks get too daunting. Taking a time out to pause and reflect really can help put things into perspective. How will you fill your time? What fun will you schedule in? It’s time to make a date with yourself, after all, you are your best asset!

Thank you all and until next time...

Face the sun and let it recharge you.

~ Adrianne