Well, autumn is here — starting with a bang actually, with rain and snow blowing in from the US the other day, marring our usually gorgeous Molossian weather. This month also marks the end of this year’s tourist season, and it was a remarkable one. We had 101 visitors this year, a record! Next year promises to be even better; it will be the 40th anniversary of our nation and we hope that many will trek to see us for that great event.

In the meantime, as the warmer months wind down, we look forward to the holiday season. This is usually kicked off the Nevada Day Parade, this year on 29 October in Carson City. The parade is followed quickly by Halloween, our Guy Fawkes celebration and then Laika Day, our fête of the canine citizens of Molossia. After that comes Thanksgiving and Christmas, both marked by gathering of the Molossian family. Busy times but always good times here in Molossia!

The Republic of Molossia is proud to have hosted our first outdoor concert. During the evening of 26 September 2016 XXXIX performers Kevin Schlereth and Chris Bernstorf performed under stars in Red Square. Playing his acoustic guitar in stocking feet and backed up by Jay, Kevin sang several eloquent songs before a rapt audience that included His Excellency, the President and The First Lady. Immediately following, Chris performed several epic and evocative poems; both the music and poetry were amazing, entertaining and inspiring. Kevin, Chris and their entourage travel the length and breadth of the US for a good portion of each year, sharing their art in an ongoing series of in-home concerts. This year their path took them near Molossia and, fortunately for us, they chose to visit our tiny nation and perform. This is the first concert ever held in Molossia, a dream of The President, who envisioned such events here when designing Red Square some years ago. It is hoped that this will not be the last such show to visit our nation; in the meantime, Chris, Kevin and company are off to perform in California and later parts east as they continue to bring amazing art to the distant corners of North America. We wish them well and hope that they will visit us again, someday soon!
2016 Dayton Valley Days Parade

On 17 September 2016 XXXIX, His Excellency, The President and First Lady of Molossia appeared in the Dayton Valley Days Parade, which is located in the town of Dayton, about 10 Imperial Nortons from Molossia. The parade is part of the annual Dayton Valley Days celebration, held each year in that town. His Excellency and The First Lady were accompanied by First Son Mark Baugh, driving his pickup truck, along with his lady Danielle. In addition, The First Couple was joined by Chief Constable Alexis and First Granddaughters Jade and Lyla. This is the seventh time Molossia has been represented in this parade, referred to as a "fixture" of Dayton Valley Days by the parade staff. The parade is attended annually by the President and First Lady as a part of their commitment to Dayton, the nearest community to Molossia; Molossia and the First Couple are very well-known in the area.

The parade began at 10:39 AM MST, near the courthouse in Dayton, and followed Main Street and then Pike Street. All along Main Street were vendor booths, set up for the celebration. In addition, there was a decent crowd of spectators, there to enjoy the parade. The crowd was very pleasant and friendly, smiling and waving to The President and First Lady. It was and always is an amazing, enjoyable experience. Shortly after the vendor booths ended along the route, so did the crowd, and shortly after that, so did the parade. By 11:10 AM MST, the event was over, a very short but pleasant parade. Nevertheless, the informality and brevity is always a welcome change from the much more formal and grandiose Nevada Day Parade, and the Molossian contingent was quite pleased. A fine time was had by all, and it is certain that the First Couple will repeat this entertaining event every year.

Meeting a Fan of Molossia.
The Kingdom of Tavolara is an enduring microstate claiming independence on Tavolara Island, off the northeast coast of Sardinia. Set up by the Bertoleoni family, it claims to be one of the smallest kingdoms in the world.

Giuseppe Bertoleoni was Tavolara’s first monarch. King Guiseppe claimed that during a hunting trip, Charles Albert, King of Sardinia, verbally appointed him "King of Tavolara" in 1836. According to Giuseppe Bertoleoni, Charles Albert also (verbally) sanctioned the use of the title "Prince" for the oldest male heir, and the titles "Lord of the Islands" (Signore delle Isole) and "Lady of the Sea" (Signora del Mare) for the younger children of the king. When he died in the 1840s, his eldest son became King Paolo I.

During the reign of King Paolo I, in 1861 the Italian government paid 12,000 lire for land at the northeast end of the island to build a lighthouse, which began operating in 1868.

After Paolo’s death in 1886, a number of newspapers published the report that according to his will, the island had become a republic. The New York Times described a government with president and council of six elected every six years by a vote of the people, male and female. Others reported on Tavolara’s alleged third presidential election in 1896. These reports, however, did not end the Bertoleoni Kingdom.

The third king of Tavolara was Carlo I, who was succeeded upon his death in 1928 by his son King Paolo II. Paolo went abroad, however, and left Carlo’s sister Mariangela as regent in his absence. Mariangela died in 1934, leaving the kingdom to Italy.

Her nephew Paolo II still claimed the kingdom until his death in 1962, a year that marked the installation of a NATO station on the island.

The present head of the Bertoleoni family is Tonino Bertoleoni, who runs "Da Tonino", a restaurant on the island. Politically, the interests of the micronation are represented in its external dealings by Ernesto Geremia of La Spezia, Italy, who has written a history of the island.

The tomb of Paolo I is in the graveyard on the island, surmounted by a crown.
Hello everyone! It's October woohoo! If you know me, then you know that October is my favorite month of all! Not just because of my birthday (but that helps!) but because I love fall! The cooling of the weather, the leaves changing colors, being snuggled up in a blanket or sweater, sitting by the fire with a book and a coffee, so many lovely things in the fall! When I see the leaves start to change I begin to think about how awesome it is to be able to adapt like that without losing its sense of self. Whichever color it may be, it is still a leaf! That leads me to think about what I want to change in my life. What can I improve or make different but still be me? A wise man recently told me that he is reducing his stress by listening to common sense. I like that. A very simple concept, but we humans tend to over complicate things. This fall I intend to bring some things back to basics and enjoy the calm. What fall changes do you have in store for yourself?

Thank you all and until next time...

Be easy like the breeze.

~Adrianne