



## A Few Words from the President

Well, here we are, a new year! Although I prefer to look ahead to the great future things we will accomplish here in Molossia, it's nice to reflect back a little at our past achievements. This last year was pretty amazing. We built a new Welcome Center, hosted MicroCon in Anaheim, hosted many tourists - including on Obscura Day in May, - were featured on CNN and Fox, visited by Jack Black, held the biennial Misfit Regatta, moved Neptune Deep and gave up Vesperia, and added two new citizens - including our first native-born! All this in addition to a naval voyage, eclipse watch, two flash floods, a major windstorm, a rattlesnake rescue, launch of the Great Panjandrum and the return to Farfalla Colony after a ten year break. Yes, it's been a rather busy year! But we don't rest on our laurels, so to speak. It's a new year and there's more to come. I could tell you a little of what we have planned, but instead, stay tuned...!



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## Our Newest Citizen

19 December 2015 XXXVIII

The Republic of Molossia is proud to welcome our first native-born citizen, Bradley Thomas William Harrison. Bradley is the first Molossian born since 1991 - when the nation was still named the Grand Republic of Vuldstein. He arrived on 18 December 2015 XXXVIII, at 3:43 PM MST, weighing 4 Fenwicks, 4.3 Bascombs (3.9 kg) and measuring 2.8 Nortons (50 cm). Bradley was born at Carson-Tahoe Hospital in Carson City, Nevada, USA, but it was arranged that a pouch of dirt be placed under the delivery bed, so that he could be born over Molossian soil. The child of Molossian Kaylin Harrison, Bradley is the first grandchild of The President and First Lady. Our nation's population was 28; the birth of the First Grandchild raised it to 29, small but mighty - and growing. And we are growing indeed, in April we will welcome yet another new Molossian to the world. Noah, the son of Molossians Jacques and Christina will join our burgeoning population, bringing us up to 30 proud citizens of our great nation!



Bradley, With Mom Kaylin



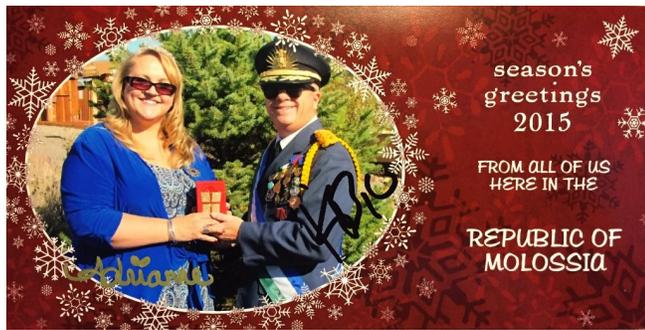
# Molossian Christmas

31 October 2015 XXXVIII

Christmas is a major holiday in Molossia and a time of great tradition as well as festivity. Christmas is one of the most important holidays in the Republic of Molossia, and is traditionally a three-day celebration. The holiday actually begins on December 24th with Christmas Eve activities, including watching movies, baking (and eating) cookies, drinking eggnog and playing board games as a family. Christmas Eve dinner is our traditional meal of lasagna, reflecting the Italian heritage of Molossia. The evening ends with the reading of the "Night Before Christmas", and with tracking the arrival of Santa Claus using NORAD's website. Christmas morning, December 25th, begins early, as the family descends upon the hoard of presents beneath the National Christmas Tree. Once the frenzy of present-opening ends, Christmas breakfast is made and served, and afterward everyone settles down to enjoy their gifts. Christmas dinner takes place in later afternoon, largely wrapping up a lazy, relaxing day. Christmas dinner consisted this year of turkey, ham, mashed potatoes, stuffing, and all the trimmings. Boxing Day is on December 26th, and is the last day of the Christmas holidays. While no special events take place, dinner on Boxing Day is traditionally Shepherd's Pie, in keeping with the British theme of the day. This wraps up the Christmas events for the year, with everyone eagerly looking forward to the distant arrival of next year's Christmas.



The National Christmas Tree



This Year's Christmas Card From The President and First Lady



The National Christmas Tree In Government House

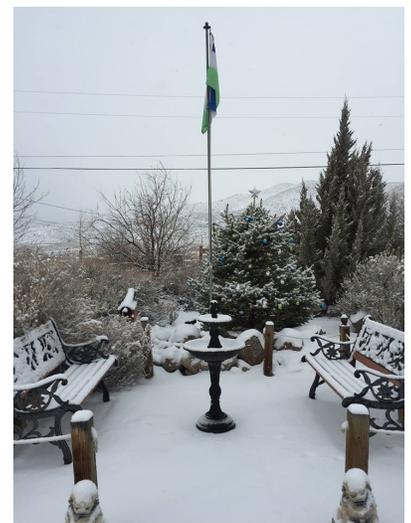
# Molossia Scenes

A Patriotic Work Of Art By Chief Constable Alexis Baugh



Molossia Snowman Created In The Aftermath Of The Christmas Eve Storm

Snowy Republic Square



## *The Molossaphone - Molossia's National Musical Instrument*

The National Musical Instrument of Molossia is the Molossaphone. The Molossaphone is a type of mirliton - a device which modifies the sound of a person's voice by way of a vibrating membrane. It is closely related to the kazoo - very closely related indeed. To play the Molossaphone, one "sings" into it (although the process is usually called humming); this adds a "buzzing" timbral quality to a player's voice, thus creating the unique sound. The ancestor of the Molossaphone, the kazoo, has been around for centuries, dating back to Africa, and was brought to North America in the 19th century. In various forms kazoos have played a part in Dixieland bands and they are quite popular with children as they are very easy to play.

The move to adopt the Molossaphone as our National Musical Instrument began in late 2007 XXX, when His Excellency, The President noted that our old National Musical Instrument, wind chimes, could not actually be played and had at any rate blown away in the direction of Utah. A replacement was in order, and the "kazoo", renamed the "Molossaphone", was selected. Now that we have a playable National Musical Instrument, one can expect to see the Molossaphone humming forth at every national event, and any other opportunity!



A dashing member of the Molossian Naval Infantry plays the Molossaphone.



Types of Molossaphones

## *Emperor Norton I - A Molossian Icon*

January 8th is Emperor Norton Day here in Molossia, and here is a little about this celebrated figure.

Norton I, Emperor of the United States and Protector of Mexico - Joshua Abraham Norton - was one of the most picturesque figures in California history. Norton was born in 1818 or 1819 in London, England, but was taken almost immediately to South Africa, where his parents had decided to move to seek their fortune. In 1849 Norton moved to San Francisco, one of the thousands who rushed there hoping to strike it rich.

Norton soon became a commodities merchant, and for several years achieved a large measure of financial success - enough to be invited to join the elite San Francisco Vigilance Committee. But in 1853 his failed effort to corner the local rice market put him into bankruptcy. And his bankruptcy, in turn, seems to have driven him insane. Six years later, in 1858, he announced that:

*At the peremptory request and desire of a large majority of the citizens of the United States, I, Joshua Norton, declare and proclaim myself Emperor of these United States.*

Over the next twenty-one years, Norton cut a striking figure as he roamed the city in a European-style military uniform with a plumed top hat and a sword at his side. Norton issued further edicts, inspected building sites, intervened in a lynching, gave speeches, ate free at restaurants and was clothed free at haberdashers - in both latter cases allowing the businesses to announce that they served by appointment of the Emperor. Mark Twain even based the character of the King in Huckleberry Finn on the eccentric Emperor. Emperor Norton was a well-known and popular fixture of a colorful town.

Finally on a rainy January 8th in 1880, Emperor Norton died on the streets of San Francisco; thirty thousand San Franciscans attended his funeral.

Here in Molossia we regard Emperor Norton very highly, as the first micronationalist - more or less. As a result he is on our money and stamps, has a park and cannon named for him and the basic unit of our measurement system is named the Norton.



## Republic of Molossia

Government of the Republic of Molossia  
226 Mary Lane  
Dayton, NV 89403  
USA

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## January Calendar

### Emperor Norton I Day - January 8th

In memory of Emperor Norton I, Emperor of the United States and protector of Mexico. The "patron saint" of unrecognized nations. This holiday is traditionally celebrated with a "Cookie Dough Fest"

### Molossaphone Day - 28 January

A day to laud our National Musical Instrument, the Molossaphone!

### 6 January - Mary Mercurio's Birthday

### 26 January - Tom Baugh's Birthday

## THIS MONTH'S WEATHER

Molossia's weather is always gorgeous, with plenty of sunshine and temperatures year-round of 22° Celsius (72° Fahrenheit). However, our little country is surrounded by the US and they are so close, their awful weather invades frequently! So the weather report reflects both our weather and theirs.

	Molossia	US
Maximum Temperature	22° C / 72° F	20° C / 68° F
Minimum Temperature	22° C / 72° F	-15° C / 5° F
Average Temperature	22° C / 72° F	.5° C / 33° F
Monthly Precipitation	0 mm	10.9 mm
Sunshine hours	Pretty much every day!	

## *The Last Word With The First Lady*

Hello friends! Here we are again, at the beginning of a new year! Did you hear? We have our own New Year Baby here in Molossia! Yes indeed! A bouncing baby boy, our grandson was born! I love having new people enter my life and this one is just a little extra special. Rather it's a new baby, or a new friend, we should always open our hearts and minds to letting new people in our life. Everyone has something to offer or teach us. People are much like seasons in our life, sometimes they stay for a little while and sometimes they stay longer, in both instances their presence has value and adds to our life. This new year see who you can meet. Introduce yourself to someone today! You never know, someone very special may be waiting to make your acquaintance.

Thank you all and until next time..

Share a smile, they're contagious.

~Adrienne

