



The Mudpuppy

The official newsletter of the
Barony of Settmour Swamp

A.S. LI (Year 51) of the SCA

February, 2017



11. Teresa

BIRKA 2017

Jonathan Miles
FOURTH in
Heavy fighting

Yehuda Ben
Moshe
FOURTH in
Fencing

<http://www.northernarmy.org/results/market-day-at-birka/market-day-at-birka-2017>

<http://www.northernarmy.org/results/market-day-at-birka/market-day-at-birka-2017-fencing>

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Officer Meeting February 8, 2017

Our next officer meeting will be at the home of **Lu An-Hua** in Edison, NJ on Wednesday, February 8.

Call Lu An-Hua at **908-472-5929** to request her home address.

Lu An-Hua granted permission to publish her phone number.



Food and Cooking A&S & Pennsic Planning

4 February, 2017 at 10am to 7pm

Montville Township First Aid Squad

137 Changebridge Road

Montville, NJ 07045

See map at <http://bit.ly/2kKV2tR>

Food and Cooking A&S Night : [facebook.com/events/1183716448391763](https://www.facebook.com/events/1183716448391763)

- Garb is not required, as both these activities are more workshop-oriented.
- The site is the town's EMS squad house. An active-duty EMS crew will be present in another part of the building and will be responding to (hopefully few!) 911 calls, so we will need to stay out of their way.
- Parking is available for 20+ cars on the right side of the building. If the lot fills up, please park on Old Changebridge Road behind the squad house. Enter at the door on the right. There will be signs to direct you.
- No fee is required, but we'll have a basket set out for donations to the first aid squad, and we encourage generosity.

Bread Baking with Lady Judith bas Rabbi Mendel

We will be learning how to make bread on Saturday. If you would like to be part of this project, it would help if you could bring two large bowls. One is for mixing; the other for letting the bread rise. Some dollar-store bowls will be provided but if you can bring your own that would be great.

Pennsic Planning and Beautification - Mistress Elizabeth and Lady Vika

The Pennsic Camp Moms (Elizabeth and Vika) will host two relevant workshops:

- 1)** We will hold an important Pennsic Camp planning meeting at 1:00 pm.
 - The agenda will update folks on projects discussed last Pennsic and begun in the fall.
 - This is the place to propose further ideas, projects, and upsets, resolve them, and recruit help.
- 2)** We will continue Phase 2 of the Pennsic camp decoration project, which is making large banners to decorate the mead hall. Elizabeth will have large banners constructed and drawn out for people to be doing basic painting. If others are more comfortable sewing than painting, one work station will be a large applique project, with instruction provided as we work.

We will sit down to lunch after the planning meeting. Please bring a potluck item to share. We will eat together as we have at past Solars, and all are encouraged to bring stories to share.

Join us! We will make Settmour Swamp's Pennsic camp shiny and welcoming to all!



Baroness & Baron Letter

As memories of the New Year wane, winter still holds us in his grip, while night endures across the Swamp. Yet bright times are foretold within our halls, around hearth fires and candle lights, for the wise know the Mud will thaw. Our heirs prepare to be invested, and we invite one and all to celebrate.

Word has come down from our Highnesses that our fair Barony will host our Kingdom's next **Crown Tournament**, which we have not so done in memory. Plans also for the **Black Gryphon Inn** and the **Ducal Challenge** are underway. Great projects will come to pass, and deeds of arms shall accompany the exceptional acts of service that our Barony performs. Take an active role and offer your services; we need you.

We will be travelling to **Bellringers**. Do come out and join us as we support our Kingdom and our neighbors. And if events are too infrequent for you, try our monthly A&S night, food and cooking workshops, weekly fighter and fencing practices. The Barony is proud to be hosting the second Food and Cooking day on February 4th, which **Magister Galefridus** has organized. **Lady Judith** shall be teaching a bread-making class, while a Pennsic planning and beautification workshop is being cohosted by Mistress Elizabeth and Lady Vika.

We hope to see you all soon

**Your Baron and Baroness, Erec
and Jehannine**





Meet the Baronial Heirs



Lady Teresa Ana Perez and Lord Jonathan Miles

We have a big year coming up. With **Mudthaw**, **Crown**, **BGI**, **Quest**, **Pennsic**, **Ducal Challenge**, and possibly another **Winterwolf** you can expect that your Barony will be hard at work. We'll be writing contracts, securing permits, signing huge checks, preparing insurance paperwork, moving gear, cooking feasts, and weaving in swamp stomps and Pennsic improvement meetings. With friends of ours stepping onto the thrones shortly, as a Barony, we can expect to be very relevant at the Kingdom level. As we prepare for this first year of our Baronial service, and specifically a very active one within the kingdom itself, we are thinking about who Settmour is and what its identity means.

2.

Settmour has always had an admirably independent self-image. While we participate in the kingdom when we are called, and host Mudthaw every year for their majesties' pleasure, it would seem easy to make the statement that the Barony is its own person. We have a wide variety of work for the enthusiastic, and a robust internal award system. We are well liked and frequently visited by our neighbors, and some of our practices and meetings are legendary places that forge kings, draw camera crews, and host guests from nearby kingdoms. Whether it was periods of active rebellion or merely isolationist, I could not even guess; but Settmour has always had the people and the activity levels to maintain its core identity across different Baronial caretakers. Each of our caretakers probably had different ideas about our relationship to the Kingdom.

As a Barony we have unique and accomplished factions within who all play the game a little differently, but whom contribute with zeal. Perhaps you've looked into the kitchen and seen the youthful smiles of our band of Celts, or maybe you've been to an one of the large crafting weekends held at a home within the Barony. Perhaps you've traded old faire stories with some of our veterans of Somerset. One cannot avoid acknowledging that we are many different parts, who play at different levels of The Game, and often this specifically relates to how someone interacts with the kingdom.

**Meet the Baronial Heirs (continued)**

This year we can expect to be more heavily involved at a kingdom level, if only because we are running at least one additional kingdom level event. This is not, however, a guarantee that every year we'll be as heavily involved. Settmour is a wealthy Barony across many of the kinds of resources on which Baronies are measured. We have experience running large events, which when run correctly can be profitable. This does not mean that we have money to burn. It expresses our ability to assume the right kinds of risk when we run an event. If an event rains out, and attendance falls well below the break even point, we can absorb the short fall. These factors mean that in some years, we can run an extra kingdom event or two, provided that our officers want to take on the additional burden. By the way, there are officer positions available! Join us at a monthly business meeting to learn how you can participate!

2. We want to say that our identity as a Barony is close to heart during all of this. As future caretakers of the Barony, it is our job to run the game-side and trust in our officers to handle the business side. Despite this, business side is important to us because it lends itself to the activity level we see in a given year. It helps to create opportunities for us to thank people. It allows us to highlight the people our populace can turn to for resources, artistic and scholarly pursuits, martial prowess, and warm socialization. When you voted for us you handed the Baronial game to a pair of fairly traditional people with a long history of participation. We acknowledge Settmour's strong independent streak, we want to maintain the game such that the Barony can always carry its own weight. On the occasion that we are called to do more, we should be able to, with our unique style and flare.

It is important to remember that the Baron and Baroness are elected by the people but serve at the pleasure of the King and Queen; that they typically observe the results of the vote is a courtesy that should not be taken for granted. So when we can afford to host the royals, we should. Our hospitality should be the stuff of legends, but we are never required to forget who we are or how we got here. Our independent nature, as defined by our ability to provide for ourselves in dry times and our strong sense of self and personality that we express at events like Quest, are all aspects that are important to the Settmour identity. The very fact that people leave the Barony to live elsewhere and make concerted attempts to retain their Settmour connections is something to be proud of, and something worth protecting.

Lord Jonathan and Lady Teresa



Seneschale Notes

We have been selected by their majesties and highnesses to host the **Spring Crown Tourney**—very exciting. We haven't done this event in a long time. But it also means that we are pulling off three (3) (III) major events in only a short space of time. That could be scary and daunting, but I have faith that the folks of our good barony will step up and help make **Mudthaw**, **Quest**, and **Crown Tourney** events we will all enjoy.



What do we need? An autocrat for Quest.

Someone to **cook the feast for Quest**. And someone to **plan “the Quest” itself**. From experience, I can attest that autocrating Quest is not as difficult as it sounds—much of the planning is done by other people who run the various championships and segments of the event. We have a lovely site (with water and a kitchen, and even some flush toilets) which makes things much simpler. Talk with our baron-to-be Jonathan about his experience of being co-autocrat last year. We have people willing to help people learn how to do this job—you wouldn't be doing it alone. Talk to me if you are interested in doing any of these three tasks, or even if you have a vague niggling feeling that maybe you might like to.

What else do we need? People to volunteer to help. **Treannah** and **Wulfgar** are co-autocrating Mudthaw. They have been sending out requests for help. Volunteer. We need help the day before setting up, early in the morning before Mudthaw starts, after it ends cleaning up, and a few things need willing hands during the event. **Galefridus**, the autocrat for Crown Tourney, will be looking for help with that event as the date gets closer.

Other news: We are looking into changing from using Yahoo Groups for our **group emails**. That method of communicating can be problematic, especially because it does not allow us to attach files. **Mabel Fortune** and **Jonathan Miles** have volunteered to work on this project. If you have advice or want to have input on this topic, talk with them. We are still looking for someone to be our **baronial webmaster**. **Ursula** will soon be warranted as the deputy webmaster and will update our website, but we need someone who knows how to redo our website to comply with society guidelines. Talk with me if you are interested in doing this job.

We have various practices and workshops going on regularly; descriptions of them can be found in this issue so I won't repeat the details here. We continue to be a very active barony it is a pleasure to be part of.

Yours in service, **Lady Judith bas Rabbi Mendel**



Mudthaw March 25, 2017

MUDTHAW

<http://www.eastkingdom.org/EventDetails.php?eid=3111>

As winter turns to spring, all are invited to attend the annual celebration of the Thawing of the Mud and celebrate with the Barony of Settmour Swamp as their Excellencies, Erec and Jehannine, Baron and Baroness of Settmour Swamp, retire and Lady Teresa Ana Perez and Lord Jonathan Miles are invested as their heirs.

Please join us on March 25th at the Ss Nicholas, Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church in Roseland, NJ, as we gather to enjoy much that our society has to offer. There will be tournaments of martial skill; the arts and sciences will be celebrated and demonstrated; we will gather for court where the Barony's new Baron and Baroness will be invested; and we shall conclude our day's celebrations with a sumptuous feast prepared by Yagyu no Kagetoki.

Our site is once again the Greek Orthodox Church, and they have kindly asked that we be respectful of their facility and beliefs. There will be absolutely no martial activities of any sort inside the building. We have also been asked not to have any open flames in the building. The sites main halls have wood "gym" floors; please do not wear foot-ware that could damage the floor. Please help us continue to build a good and long lasting relationship with this site by respecting their wishes.

The site is discretely damp. While alcohol is permitted, please try to use period containers.

The site is handicapped accessible.

Ss Nicholas, Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church

80 Laurel Avenue

Roseland, NJ 07068

Directions:

If you are using a GPS and are coming down 280 East, you need to make a LEFT onto Laurel ave at Exit 6. Some GPS systems tell you to make a right--don't trust it; you are being deceived.

Find your best route to New Jersey Route 280.

From RT 280 East, take Exit 6 Laurel Avenue

Make a LEFT onto Laurel Avenue. The site is less than a mile (0.2 mile) down Laurel Ave.



Mudthaw March 25, 2017

From RT 280 West

Take exit 6B Laurel Avenue; make a right onto Laurel Avenue. The site is less than a mile (0.2 mile) down Laurel Ave.

Site Opens: 10:00 AM

Site Closes: 09:30 PM

Registration:

Pre-registration closes on March 15, 2017

Adult Non-Members \$18.00

Adult Members (with Membership Discount) \$13.00

Minors (6-17 years of age) \$5

Minors (0-5 years of age) free

Feast: Feast will be \$10 per person in addition to the personal registration fee.

Merchants: \$5 fee in addition to the appropriate personal registration fee.

Merchant space is limited. There is outdoor space available in a paved covered area as well as very limited indoor space. Merchants must provide their own table. Due to space considerations they are limited to one table each and/or a maximum footprint of 6' wide x 4' deep.

The site requires that we provided them ahead of time with a list of all merchants with full contact information. If you have not provided that information to the Merchant Coordinator and paid the site fee and your personal registration fee by the pre-registration deadline, you will not be able to merchant.

All parties interested in merchanting should contact Baron Perote Campbell at mudthawmerchant@gmail.com. 973-417-9031 No calls after 10 pm.

Please remember that our site is a Greek Orthodox Church. We ask that you respect their religious beliefs when choosing what to display and sell this day.

Make Checks Payable to: SCA NJ Inc., Barony of Settmour Swamp



Mudthaw March 25, 2017

Contact Information

Event Stewards:

Miriam Berger, Baroness Theodora Bryennissa, called Treannah, PriestesM@aol.com, 908-406-6344

and Thomas Berger, Baron Wulfgar Silfraharr, Drklrdraven@aol.com, 732-789-5457

Please put Mudthaw in the subject line of emails. No calls or texts after 10pm please.

Send Reservations to:

Mudthaw

c/o Michael Iurilli

806 Benner St.

Highland Park, NJ 08904

miles.boweman@gmail.com

908-307-8672 (no calls after 9pm)

Other Contact Information:

Cook in Charge: Yagyu no Kagetoki (mka Chris Stanley) Samuraibartendar@gmail.com

Merchant Coordinator: Baron Perote Campbell at mudthawmerchant@gmail.com. 973-417-9031 No calls after 10 pm. Please review information for Merchants above.



BGI Black Gryphon Inn

April 22, 2017

Winter has past into memory, Spring has arrived, and the Canton of Gryphonwald is preparing to greet our new Baron and Baroness to the Canton! By order of the Seneschal Failenn Finn, the canton's meadhall is to be opened for the celebration. Aife Bean Mhiclomhair will be preparing a wonderful Norse feast for the occasion.

A tournament of Kubb will be held in honor of their Excellencies' visit, overseen by Jon Renwick of Bheither. If you are not familiar with this Norse game then come out and learn! Spectators and players are welcome!

Test your skills in the arenas of art and science by entering a piece of work in our populace vote A&S competition. It is beneficial to provide alongside your piece a short description of the work and its origin or inspiration.

Submit a sample of your favorite concoctions to our Brewer's competition. This competition shall be split into two categories consisting of beer and mead.

Lastly we are honored to host our Barony's Bardic competition! Come before our Canton of Gryphonwald, the Barony of Settmour Swamp, and our esteemed Baron and Baroness to compete in our Bardic competition and become the next Baronial Bardic Champion of Settmour Swamp! All who wish to participate please come with a small index card with brief documentation to be presented before the competition begins.

The site is wet so you are welcome to bring the libation of your choice. However the site has a strict policy that all alcoholic beverages be kept indoors.

Site Opens: 12:30pm

Site Closes: 7:30pm

Event Location

Kiddie Keep Well Camp (Schirber Dining Hall)

35 Roosevelt Drive

Edison, NJ 08837

Direction can be found at: <http://kiddiekeepwell.org/directions/>

Event Fees

Site :

Adults: \$11

Youth (age 3-17): \$5

Children (under age 3): Free

There is a \$5 discount for SCA members. Please provide proof of membership when checking in at the event.

Contact Information

Autocrat

Master Alexander MacGregor



BGI Black Gryphon Inn

April 22, 2017

Mka David DeVito

Ddevito17@comcast.net

Head cook.

Aife Bean Mhiclomhair

Mka Laura Rager

LNardomarino@gmail.com

Please send reservations to:

Lord Miles Boweman

c/o Michael Iurilli

806 Benner St.

Highland Park, NJ 08904

Please include the full mundane names and SCA names and reservation types with your reservation fees.

Make Checks Payable to:

SCA NJ Inc., Barony of Settmour Swamp

Spring Crown Tournament

May 6, 2017

<http://www.eastkingdom.org/EventDetails.php?eid=3153>

Hear ye, Hear ye!

Prince Ioannes and Princess Honig are pleased to announce that their Spring Crown Tournament will be held on 6 May 1st at South County Park Fairgrounds in the Barony of Settmour Swamp. This event listing will be updated as information becomes available.



BIRKA Photos—Selected by Jonathan



12. Brendan



Beatrix Kreiger showing her war face

Prince Ioannes Fencing as **Ciaran** marshals

**BIRKA Photos by
Brendan Crane**

[https://www.facebook.com/
media/set/?
set=oa.216913872048608&type
=1](https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=oa.216913872048608&type=1)



BIRKA Photos—Selected by Jonathan (continued)



13. Genevieve

**Mistress Catrin o'r
Rhyd For**

Tyger of the East

Video of ceremony:

[https://youtu.be/
MJWV3KgGJr4](https://youtu.be/MJWV3KgGJr4)



13.



14. Sarvuu

**Sir William McCrimmon and
Baron Rory McLellan**

Note: Jonathan interviewed Sir William
McCrimmon in the October 2015
Mudpuppy



BIRKA Photos—Taken by Ceara

I went to A Market Day At Birka in the Barony of Stone Marche for the first time this year. I'd wanted to go for a while, and when Galen asked me to help him merchant, I jumped at the chance. I didn't get to attend courts or meetings, because we were so busy.

Wow! The room was full of amazing things. Granted, there were some items that were more suited to a Ren faire (obviously non-period or fantasy garb, modern items), but there were some objects that just blew me away. There were skeins of hand-dyed and -spun yarns and roving, period wooden toys, beautifully made garb, musical instruments, gorgeous metal castings and woodwork... I'll be going back next year!

Ceara





Chamberlain Needed

Our current Chamberlain, **Lord Jonathan Miles**, is also our Baronial Heir Apparent.

Lord Jonathan needs to find a deputy Chamberlain to train and take over the office as soon as possible.

Please contact our Chamberlain, Lord Jonathan, at jonathanbayles@gmail.com

The office duties are as follows (from Lord Jonathan):

- Maintain a time line of swamp events where gear from the locker will be needed.
- Speak with the autocrats, martial-ate, and other activity organizers prior to the event to determine what they will need.
- Set the expectations of how the gear will be moved to and from the event in plain terms. If you are moving it, commit to that. If they are moving it, let them know where and when to show up, and what kind of vehicle to bring. There is no requirement to move the actual gear, and remember that moving things is easy; being a good and accountable facilitator is the key strategy.
- Either bring or facilitate the transport of the needed gear to the event in a timely fashion, and see the gear safely home at the conclusion of the event. Again, do not be afraid to ask for help, no one expects you to move all the gear by yourself.
- Inform the officers of the Barony when anything is not returned, lost, or damaged.
- Respond to the monthly report emails from the officers' list with anything relevant to the gear, its status, or needs for new gear.
- Attend monthly business meetings and offer your vote and experience to the Baronial processes.
- Graciously receive any donations to the Barony and place into storage, thank donors sincerely.
- The most important part of the job, to my mind, is to give everyone a sense of confidence that the gear will be onsite and on time.



Webmaster Needed

The Swamp needs a new **Web Master** to maintain our Baronial webpages.

Lord Dalec Bolotnikov has maintained the Swamp web pages for many years. It is time for another to take up the roll of Web Master.

Please contact our Seneschale, Lady Judith - mcmendelsohn@optimum.net

The East Kingdom has established an unofficial standard design, preferably in WordPress and offers some help pages and assistance. One possibility would be to redesign the Barony page in WordPress to comply with the Kingdom preferences.

<http://helpdesk.eastkingdom.org/>

Lord Dalek described the current Barony Webpage as follows:

The Barony of Settmour Swamp website (<http://settmourswamp.eastkingdom.org/>) does not completely comply with the East Kingdom suggested standard design. A step was taken to get there, but the standardization is not complete. For example, instead of hundreds of individual pages, there are things like header and footer pages, and arrays designed to hold some data.

Required Skills: proficiency with **html5**, novice understanding of **php**

Chronicler Notes

The February issue of the Mudpuppy is dedicated to the upcoming events and the History of Royal Room

I have offered to update the calendar on the Barony webpage. Awaiting a warrant as a deputy webminister.

Please note the need for new officers and consider volunteering to help organize and run our Barony.

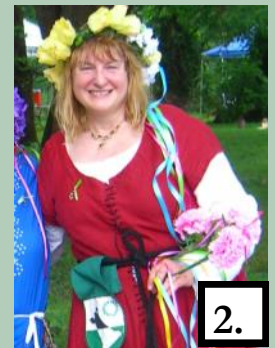
I am seeking a **deputy chronicler**. If you would like to learn how to be a snoopy reporter, a nitpicky editor, and develop skills with MS Publisher, this is your opportunity! Please let me know if you would like to help with any aspect of the Mudpuppy.

Feel free to contact me with ideas for an article. I am happy to help.

Baroness Ursula of North Woods,

Chronicler

I see the newsletter as capturing the history of the Barony of Settmour Swamp. By comparison, FaceBook is like a cocktail party where chaotic information floats rapidly by and can't be found a week later. We are after all a history group. **The newsletter captures the HISTORY of the HISTORY group.**



Note: all artwork, photos and creative articles are used with permission. Each item is marked with a number. The numbers refer to the list of contributors which is shown on the last page of this issue.



Royal Rooms in the Swamp—a History

Royal Rooms in the Swamp—a History By Baroness Ursula of North Woods

Most people never see the Royal Room

By definition, the royal room is a private area where the King, Queen, Prince, Princess, and their households can change clothes, relax, have private conversations and store their goods. Sometimes there are multiple royal rooms to accommodate visiting royalty, our own Baron and Baroness, or other special situations.

At the Shriners hall in Livingston, the royal room was typically the "clown room" which was decorated with hundreds of photos of clowns, clown trophies, and clown equipment, like little clown cars. There were also lots of mirrors. The primary goal of decorating this room was to cover the hundreds of clown photos that stared out with eager enthusiasm. One queen was particularly disturbed by clowns and we had to take special effort to hang the tapestries so that that little clown eyes did not peer menacingly over the top of the tapestries.



Early Royal Rooms (1980's)

Of course the royal room decorations did not start out with tapestries and pewter platters. The earliest royal room that I can recall was literally a coat closet. It was undecorated and poorly lit. No one was in charge of assisting the royals. Duchess Sedalia MacNare described this royal room in one of her memories of the early SCA (excerpted from the Mudpuppy, November, 2015, page 14).

"While there are many events that I recall from my second time as Princess of the East, there was one that took place shortly before Gavin and I succeeded to the throne. (1988) ...

*First, there was **no Royal Room** (which even back then was generally common at RP events). His Majesty Morghun really wanted a Royal Room, as a place where regalia could be left safely out of sight*



Royal Rooms in the Swamp—a History (continued)

during the day, and a place for scrolls and other items to be presented at Court that evening to be kept out of sight .

The lady Autocrat was particularly unpleasant, but finally gave in. She drew the curtains across a small alcove that was pretty much filled with folding tables, stacked up. There was no way to even put a chair in there the space was so tight. There was enough room for the male royals to change together, but Queen Rowan and I had to take turns – there is just so much you can smoosh two women changing into late 16th Century together in about a 4 x 5 space."

Yes, this was at a Swamp event.

High Table

Another aspect of the royal room is arranging the high table. The high table is not always organized by the same person as the royal room, but the tablecloths are from the same pile and the tableware and decorations are often temporarily stored in the royal room.

The early (1980's) high table decoration was a large 15 foot table cloth decorated with the Swamp arms. This image is from the 1983 Mudthaw.

Sadly over the years, the arms faded, the food-stains became persistent and holes developed. After all, this table cloth was washed and bleached after every event, in an attempt to remove the stains from spilled wine and smeared food.

The first time that I recall organizing high table, this tablecloth was handed to me, still unwashed from the previous event. Portions of the tablecloth were stuck together with food-bits. Some areas had developed mold. The tablecloth had sat in a corner after the previous event, forgotten and unloved.

Ursula takes responsibility for Royal Room

The first time I recall taking responsibility to organize the royal room, it was in a basement. I think it was a Mudthaw and I think Sedalia was Queen, perhaps her second reign (1988). It was dark and cheerless and looked like a basement. I had never done this before and had brought brightly colored fabric from my crafting supplies. I hung the purple and red and blue fabric from the unfinished ceiling-beams, to transform the basement to a cheery and welcoming temporary home for the royals. I put a Persian-design carpet on the floor and bright tablecloths over the dingy tables. The hangings, carpet and tablecloths transformed the dingy basement into a comfortable area.



**Royal Rooms in the Swamp—a History** (continued)

In 1993, we travelled to Leeds castle in Rochester, England. They had a wonderful display on the rooms of Catherine of Valois (wife of Henry V), including her portable bathing tub. The tour guide described the efforts of the hosting Baron(s) to make the royals comfortable as they travelled around the kingdom, visiting their various estates. The guide pointed out the small dowels that protruded from the walls near the ceilings. These were used to hang the many tapestries that were carried from estate to estate to transform the bare stone wall into something that looked like a royal residence.



The Queen received visitors in her bedroom. These were the only private rooms available in many castles. I found it amazing to think of visiting the Queen's bedroom to conduct business.

In 1997, we visited Dover castle. From the castle walls we looked out onto the English Channel and spied a hovercraft. We ran down to the port, hopped on the hovercraft and headed to Calais, France; but that is a different story,

One of the amazing aspects of the King's rooms, in Dover castle, was the private garderobe (toilet). The garderobe was a small room with a toilet that was really just a hole, through the castle wall, that emptied into the moat. A wooden board covered the exit hole, creating a seat. This royal garderobe made the beautiful, clean Port-a-John's at Pennsic look like a five star hotel. The exit hole through the castle wall was still stained dark, hundreds of years later and was probably just as unappealing as one might



imagine. The King's wardrobe was hung in the same tiny room. The ammonia, from the urine vapors, reportedly helped to kill the fleas and ticks which infested the clothes of everyone (except the King). Everyone else in the castle used a shared garderobe and the stench must have been stunning.



I learned a lot about the goals of creating an authentic royal room from these travels. I realized that as the King and Queen travelled around their kingdom, they travelled with their households of maids and servants and men at arms. They were given a space in each estate or castle that had been emptied to provide one or more rooms for the traveling household. The Royals may have travelled with their own tapestries and personal decorations to make the cold, bare, stone walls more comfortable. The local Baron or Earl may have spent a small fortune to entertain the visiting royals with feasts and hunting. Local castles may have housed hundreds



Royal Rooms in the Swamp—a History (continued)

of servants and/or soldiers who lived and slept on straw beds in the large rooms that we now think of as feast halls. These were working castles, with cooks and grooms and servants and soldiers all living within the stone walls and all using the larger public toilets that were again just a hole through the wall that emptied into the moat.

Ursula acquires tapestries and tablecloths

Following the event with the soiled tablecloth, I began to purchase items to decorate the Swamp's royal rooms. My first purchase was a dozen restaurant-quality white tablecloths. These were square and could be bleached into submission. It was a good thing that the tablecloths were square. The next event was a Mudthaw where the high table was up on a stage and was arranged in a square. The old, 15 foot long tablecloth was designed for a long, narrow high table and could not have easily covered a square table arrangement. Several of the new tablecloths worked great. This was the event where Serric carried a pizza into the feast to please Queen Roxane, who was not fond of period food. (Coronation 2003)



16.

Around this time, I made the high table drape with the Swamp arms in brilliant satin colors. This table drape has a long (5 feet), white section that drapes over the high table. Only the white portion is ever washed and it is carefully sponged clean. The Swamp arms are never washed and are therefore still as brilliantly colored as the day it was created, some 15 years ago.

Over the next few years I started collecting tapestries and pewter platters for use in the royal rooms. I found tapestries and platters on EBay. My linen closet filled with tapestries and tablecloths. The corners of my "SCA" room filled with poles to support the tapestries and platters.

After my experience of receiving the unwashed tablecloth, so many years ago, I decided to take personal responsibility to store and care for the many tapestries, tablecloths and platters that are often used in the royal rooms.



Royal Rooms in the Swamp—a History (continued)

Baroness Rhiannon provides gorgeous tableware for high table

While serving as our Baroness, Rhiannon used her amazing collection of pewter plates, glassware and brass candlesticks to adorn the Baronial high table. She brought boxes of carefully packed glassware and brass and pewter tableware. Mathias and I often worked together to set up the glorious high table.



Mathias makes goblets for high table

In 2014, Baron Mathias Feuerdrachen made a set of goblets, embellished with the arms of the Barony of Settmour Swamp, for use on the high table. (Mudpuppy, April 2014, page 11). These are a lovely addition to the high table. They are stored in the Swamp storage locker. A few years later, the officers approved the purchase of plates and silverware for use on the high table. These items can be cleaned at the event and are also stored in the Swamp storage locker.



Tablecloths for A&S Displays

Over time the tablecloths for the arts and crafts displays also came into the pursue of "royal room" only because the tablecloths were the same as those used for the high table.

Many Assistants

Over the years, I have had many assistants with the royal room. **Merlinia, Ceara, Judith, Galefridus, Jessa, Kasia, Jehannine, James, Awndreuis, Mathias, Rhiannon, Jean** and others I have forgotten, have all travelled at daybreak to reach the event hall in time to help set up the royal rooms. In particular, **Awndreuis** was my most reliable assistant in taking down royal room and packing everything into my car after the event. By the end of the event, we are all tired and yet everything has to be packed up and carried out to the car.



Royal Rooms in the Swamp—a History (continued)

One key feature of royal room is that we are making a temporary home for the royals and their household. This means we need to be like the house-elves described in the Harry Potter books. We are **invisible**. We set everything up and then disappear to make to make room for the Royal households. As the event progresses, we quietly monitor the royal rooms, refilling water pitchers, clearing plates and providing a bit of security for the piles of irreplaceable garments and regalia. After the fighting and after the feast and after the court and after the royals have finally changed clothes and packed up and left the event, we can finally return to the royal room to take down the tapestries, gather the platters, and empty the garbage. Half of the tablecloths and platters are smeared with food and need to be kept separate from the clean tapestries and clean tablecloths, as everything is packed into the car. I'd hate to get a huge stain on one of the expensive tapestries, just because it was tossed on top of a dirty platter.



One Mudthaw, perhaps 12 years ago, I was ill with some awful infection. I struggled though and got the clown room, at the Shriners decorated and the food set up, I was so tired I went home to rest. I came back to play my part in the theatrical production, which was the entertainment for that evenings feast. I was a witch and had my face covered with a long black wig and a dress of gold and glitter and long fingernails that helped create the image of magic as I cast my evil spell. After the play I was too tired to attend the feast and sat exhausted in the hallway. Baron Irik (God how I miss Baron Irik!) came by and asked if I were Ok. I explained that I was sick, but I had to take down royal room. I could not leave the event until it had all been packed up, and it could not be packed up until the royals vacated the royal room. Baron Irik kindly looked at me and said "go home, we'll take care of it". A few days later Baron Irik appeared at my front door and carried everything into the living room. I still had a mountain of laundry to do, but I had been able to leave the event and rest.



For the 2015 Mudthaw at Waterloo Village, Baroness Merlinia and Lord



Royal Rooms in the Swamp—a History (continued)

James helped to decorate the lovely huge room with wooden walls and large windows. Here the primary goal was to cover the many windows to provide privacy for the royals as they changed. Without these "decorations" the royals would have been on display as they changed clothes and attempted to conduct the business of the Kingdom.



One Twelfth Night was shut down by a snow storm. Terric and Paigan were Baron and Baroness and had created a whole set of Twelfth night games as entertainment during the feast. My favorite game was pin the tail on the Baron, that used a five foot picture of Terric as the "donkey". As the weather deteriorated, the decision was made to shut down the event and send everyone home, before the ice covered the roads.

I took down the royal room while the royals were still there, gathering platters and taking down tapestries as the snow piled higher and the ice threatened. I think they forgave this slight breach of etiquette, due to the extreme weather.



**Royal Rooms in the Swamp—a History** (continued)**TASKS**

So after all this rambling history, what exactly are the tasks and expectations of the royal room? First of all, I have never seen a royal room at another event. Strange but true. I do not know what other groups do. The following list is based on my years of organizing the royal room. Every royal room is different and will require flexibility to solve unexpected problems.

- 1) Contact the **Royal Liaison** and find out the preferences and needs of the royals. Is the King a caffeine addict and demands coffee? Is the Queen allergic to shellfish? Is the King on the Atkin's diet and eats only beef? Are the royal children attending the event and do they need a separate space? Are royals from other Kingdoms attending the event and do they need a separate space? All of these situations have come up over the years.
- 2) Negotiate with the event steward/autocrat on the **budget** and to set aside **space** for the Royals. We may not always be able to meet all the royal requests. For a few years at the Shriner's hall we needed three separate royal rooms, each of which needed to be decorated and provided with food and drink. Agree with the event steward as to who will make the **signs** for the royal room. The royals will arrive and have no idea where to go.
- 3) **Ask for volunteers.** This is a big job and requires at least two, preferably three or more people, for the few hours of set up and tear down. I usually organize one set of volunteers to help me set up and a different set of volunteers to help me tear down.
- 4) The **Day Before the Event**—Go shopping and purchase the food and drink for the royal rooms. Remember that there will be no refrigeration and the food will sit out for hours. The pewter platters provide a natural heat sink and help to keep food chilled. However avoid anything that may spoil or cause foodborne illness. Recommended items are cheese, sausages, baked goods, small fruits and vegetables such as carrots and grapes, and chocolates. Avoid anything with eggs, shrimp, or anything that requires refrigeration. Buy bottled water and fruit juices. Set up a coffee maker, if requested.
- 5) Load your car with all the tapestries, tablecloths, food and pewter platters. I allow at least an hour to get everything into my car. If possible load all the decorations into your car on Friday. Load the food and drinks into the car just before leaving on Saturday.
- 6) If possible, decorate the royal rooms on Friday during the **event set up**. For the past decade or so, we have been able to access to the event hall on the Friday before the event. This allows the hall and the kitchen and the battlefields to be set up and avoids having to do all this set up in a rush in the early hours of the event. If we do not have access to the site on Friday, then all the decoration of the royal room must be done on the early morning of the event. I tend to use the green tablecloths for the royal room and the gold tablecloths for the royal room food table.
- 7) Hang signs indicating which royal is to use which royal room. I use the images from the EK website to create signs with images of the royals.
- 8) Arts display tables - as soon as the arts display tables are set up, cover them with the square white

**Royal Rooms in the Swamp—a History** (continued)

table cloths. These tablecloths will usually stay clean and are also used later for the high table. If the arts dispatch involves food, use of the blue plastic cover sheets to protect the tablecloth.

- 9) **The day of the event** - If the royal room decorations have not been set up on Friday, then be sure to arrive at the site by 7am to allow an hour for decorating and an hour for food set up. If the decorations are set up on Friday, then you can probably arrive by 8am. Verify that the arts tables are covered with the white square tablecloths.
- 10) Set up the food platters. The pewter platters make a gorgeous presentation and are natural cooling devices to help keep cheese and sausages lightly chilled. Have a filtered water pitcher and cups. Provide small plates and napkins. Everything should be finger-food and pre-sliced.
- 11) Arrange the room for a large number of people with lots of stuff. If possible provide a screened off area for changing clothes (this is not always possible). Provide tables for the royal regalia.
- 12) **Calligraphers**—Set up a quiet table near an electrical outlet, out of the path of traffic for the calligraphers. The calligraphers make last minute scrolls and often use laptop computers to verify the correct spelling of names and correct titles for the heralds to use in court.
- 13) If requested, provide a separate table for the Swamp Baron and Baroness. Label the tables that are set aside for specific purposes.
- 14) Arrange the room to accommodate any special royal requests. For example, one Queen had recently given birth and requested a private area for nursing. Again, it is not always possible to accommodate all the royal requests, but we make a good effort.
- 15) **The royals will arrive around 9 am.** Based on past experience, the first of the royal household members will arrive around 9 am. The invisible house-elves must be finished with their tasks and leave the royal room by 9am. Once the royals arrive, they will be busy with changing clothes and discussing the court business and making last minute requests for scrolls. The calligraphers will be quietly creating their masterpieces in their corner.
- 16) From 9 to 11 am there will be a flurry of activity as the royals and their households arrive with their mountains of garb and regalia. Attempt to find the **royal liaison**, introduce yourself and offer any needed assistance. Stay out of their way. They have jobs to do and are in a rush to get changed, make decisions, finalize court, etc.
- 17) During the day monitor the royal room periodically. Refill the water pictures and remove empty platters. Rearrange the food for a pleasing presentation. Remove any food that looks in any way unsafe or unappetizing. The royal room will be empty for many hours during the day. Lurk nearby to monitor the room for security and to be available if anything is needed. For example, at one event the cheese had mold on it and Galefridus was sent on an emergency errand to purchase more cheese for the royal room. Chaos happens.
- 18) **A&S Tablecloths**— As the main room is set up for court, the tablecloths on the A&S tables are often tossed into a corner. The people taking down the displays don't know where to put the table cloths, so they end up in a pile in the corner. Every tablecloth has "Ursula" written on the



Royal Rooms in the Swamp—a History (continued)

corner. Every white tablecloth looks like every other white tablecloth.

- 19) **High Table** - During court, the high table is set up. Another volunteer may set up the high table, but will often need to contact the royal room volunteer to find the tablecloths and the glasses and the dishes, which may be stored under a table in the royal room.
- 20) Sometimes the pewter platters from the royal rooms are also used to serve food to the high table. These platters are heavy and difficult to pass from person to person. If you decide to use the pewter platters, use the smaller platters or arrange for a serving person to assist in offering the food to the high table.
- 21) **Royal Room Cleanup** - After the feast, the royals will change back into mundanes, gather their stuff, and vacate the royal room. This is often around 10pm. Take down the tapestries and fold them in a separate pile. Fold the clean tablecloths into a separate pile. Gather the dirty tablecloths, shake any crumbs into the garbage. Loosely fold the dirty tablecloths keeping any food stains on the inside, where they are less likely to smear onto the car or the clean fabric. Wipe down the platters and put them in a pile. Check the kitchen for any platters that were used for high table. Vacuum the room and wipe the tables.
- 22) **Empty the Garbage** - I failed to empty the garbage, in the royal room, at one event. The owner of the hall called the Barony to complain. Leave the room better than you found it.
- 23) Count the tablecloths and platters and tapestries. Look around the event site for piles of white and green table cloths and pewter platters. In the past, items used to decorate the royal room have been repurposed and are sitting in a corner of the hall.
- 24) Pile everything into your car.
- 25) Next day. Unload your car
- 26) **Laundry** Separate the clean tablecloths and tapestries. Wash and bleach the white tablecloths. Wash and non-chlorine bleach the green and gold tablecloths. I often have four to six loads of laundry. After removing the tablecloths from the dryer, I often spread the tablecloths around my living room to get them bone-dry before folding them up. This avoids having mildew grow on the cloths.
- 27) Put everything back into the linen closet, ready for the next event.

It really is a lot of fun. If I have failed to indicate how much fun it is then I have not communicated will. **It is FUN!!** I often feel most medieval as I am scurrying about attempting to fulfill a royal whim. For the past few years, I have been unable to organize the royal room. Fortunately, Judith has been a wonderful deputy and has stepped in to take charge. Galefridus is her trusty side-kick.

Baroness Ursula of North Woods

Frequent Organizer of the Royal Room for the Barony of Settmour Swamp





Royal Rooms in the Swamp—a History (continued)



2.

Coronation 2005-09

Mudthaw 2007



2.

Mudthaw 2008, multiple Royal Rooms



2.



2.



Did You Know:

By Ursula of North Woods

The East Kingdom Calendar

<http://www.eastkingdom.org/EventListing.html>

Scrolls by Jon Blaecstan (posted with permission)

https://www.facebook.com/michael.higgins.9081/media_set?set=a.1082663806454.11351.1822118785&type=3&pnref=story



Society for Creative Anachronism **Newcomer's Portal:**

<http://welcome.sca.org/>

A **Newcomer's Guide** to the SCA:

<http://www.sca.org/officers/chatelain/pdf/NewcomersGuidePages-low.pdf>



Ursula, Pete & Orlando Designed Settmour Swamp Tee-shirt

Interested in ordering a "BARONY OF SETTMOUR SWAMP" tee-shirt? Then just call the toll free number below to speak to a **CustomInk** Sales Associate to place your order: **800-293-4232**

Call CustomInk and reference the previous order number **7397591**. The sales associate will then place your order using your email account and preferred shipping address. CustomInk will require your credit card information as well as your billing address information to complete payment.

<http://www.customink.com>

Note: Two Designs are available: request either the "TREE" or the "TOWER" design. High resolution images of these designs are available in the April Mudpuppy.

http://settmourswamp.eastkingdom.org/mudpuppy/media/The_Mudpuppy_-_2016-04.pdf



Karin Jacobsdotter Designed a Settmour Swamp Mug



Karin Jacobsdotter designed a mug and a beer stein with Settmour Swamp logos. You may purchase one for yourself from **Zazzle**. Karin suggests you use a coupon code to reduce the price. Shipping costs can be reduced by ordering several at one time. All royalties will be donated to the Barony of Settmour Swamp.

<http://www.zazzle.com/mug-168521169520261667>



Tuesday Night Fighting & Rapier Practice & A&S

The **heavy weapon practice** and **rapier practice** meets most Tuesday nights.

We will also be hosting an **Arts & Science (A&S) gathering** to work on various projects for the Swamp. Or just come and watch, or bring a project of your own. All are welcome. There will be fencing and room for heavy weapons practice, if a marshal is available.

Contact [Orlando](#) with questions.

Location:

The Glen Gardner Youth Center
16 Hampton Rd
Glen Gardner, NJ, 08826

Time:

Tuesdays 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm

Recommended Donation is \$5 to help offset the cost of the practice site.



Caterina's Arts & Sciences (A&S) and Calligraphy

Mistress Caterina Giaocchini (Kasia) is hosting

Arts and Sciences (A&S) get together on THIRD Fridays, at 7:00 pm

Calligraphy and Illumination (C&I) workshop FIRST Sundays, at 7:00 pm

55 Hillcrest Ave, Morristown, NJ 07960

917-968-9321

Bring whatever you are working on and come **chat and hang out** with others doing their thing.

Caterina



Nutley Heavey Weapons Fight Practice (photo by Ioannes)

The **heavy weapon practice**, Nutley, NJ.

Contact **Ögurr Aðalbrandarson**

marshal@settmourswamp.eastkingdom.org

Location:

Franklin Reformed Church,
45 Hillside Crescent
Nutley, NJ 07110

Day/Time:

Wednesdays 7:30 pm to 10:30 pm

Donation are welcome

to help offset the cost of the practice



6.

Archery Practice (photos by Vivian De Dunbar)

Archery Practice is lead by Baron Thorlaeifr Hvitskegg each Sunday at the home of our Gracious Baroness Jehannine in Milford, NJ.

Contact Thorlaeifr with questions.

Location:

.

Archery is suspended for the winter.

Practices may be announced If there is particularly good weather.



5.Photo by Vivian De Dunbar



The Officers Of Settmour Swamp

Baron	Baron Erec L'Claire baron@settmourswamp.eastkingdom.org (908) 268-0725 (before 9pm)	Invested March 2013 Expires March 2017
Baroness	Baroness Jehannine de Flandres baroness@settmourswamp.eastkingdom.org 908-319-0765 (cell)	Invested March 2013 Expires March 2017
Seneschale	Lady Judith bas Rabbi Mendel seneschal@settmourswamp.eastkingdom.org (973) 214-5356	Elected November 2016 Expires November 2018
Sinking Tower Pursivant	Lady Ceara MacKieran herald@settmourswamp.eastkingdom.org	Elected November 2015 Expires November 2017
Knight Marshal	Ögurr Aðalbrandarson marshal@settmourswamp.eastkingdom.org	Elected March 2016 Expires March 2018
Exchequer	Lord Miles Boweman exchequer@settmourswamp.eastkingdom.org	Renewed November 2016 Expires November 2018
Chronicler	Baroness Ursula of North Woods chronicler@settmourswamp.eastkingdom.org	Renewed April 2016 Expires April 2018
Web Minister	VACANT webmaster@settmourswamp.eastkingdom.org	vacant
Mistress of A&S	Mistress Caterina Giaocchini moas@settmourswamp.eastkingdom.org.	Renewed December 2016 Expires December 2018
Mistress of The Lists (MoL)	Lady Lu An-Hua mol@settmourswamp.eastkingdom.org	Elected June 2015 Expires June 2017
Chatelaine	Lady Maerhild chatelaine@settmourswamp.eastkingdom.org	Elected March 2015 Expires March 2017
Marshal of Fence	Don Orlando Sforza fencing@settmourswamp.eastkingdom.org	Elected January 2016 Expires January 2018
Captain of Archers	Honorable Lord Thorlaeifr Hvitskegg archery@settmourswamp.eastkingdom.org (908) 406-0143 (No calls after 9pm)	Renewed December 2016 Expires December 2018
Chamberlain	Lord Jonathan Miles Chamberlain@settmourswamp.eastkingdom.org (908) 644 4599	Elected September 2015 Expires Baronial Investiture



The Officers Of Settmour Swamp (continued)		
Youth Combat	Vacant	Vacant
Chancellors Minor	Vacant	Vacant (organize activities for children and teenagers)
Thrown Weapons	Vacant	Vacant
Canton of Gryphonwald (Middlesex Cty, NJ): Seneschale	Failenn Finn gryphonwald@settmourswamp.eastkingdom.org	Renewed March 9, 2016 Expires March 9, 2020

Malta—View from the Castle Walls





Combat	Date/Time	Location	Contact	Notes
Fighter Practice	Wednesdays 7:30 pm - 10:30 pm	Nutley, NJ. Franklin Reformed Church, 45 Hillside Crescent Nutley, NJ 07110	Ögurr Aðalbrandarson marshal@settmourswamp.eas tkingdom.org	Other fight practices: Fighter Practice group at Yahoo!Groups; Donation are welcome to help offset the cost of the practice site.
Fighter Practice	Tuesday evenings 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm	Glen Gardner Youth Center 16 Hampton Rd Glen Gardner, NJ, 08826	Ögurr Aðalbrandarson marshal@settmourswamp.eas tkingdom.org	Also fencing and Arts& Science; suggested Donation are welcome to help offset the cost of the practice site.
Fencing Practice	Tuesday evenings 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm	Glen Gardner Youth Center 16 Hampton Rd Glen Gardner, NJ 08826	Orlando Sforza rapierdon@comcast.net (908) 850-8690 (No calls after 9pm)	Also heavy fighting and Arts& Science; Donation are welcome to help offset the cost of the practice site.
Archery Practice	Sundays 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Milford, NJ 310 Milford-Warren Glen Rd. (Rt. 519), Milford, NJ 08848 908-319-0765 (cell)	Jehannine de Flandres baroness@settmourswamp.ea stkingdom.org Phillip the Facetious	
Thrown Weapons Practice	Sundays 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Milford, NJ 310 Milford-Warren Glen Rd. (Rt. 519), Milford, NJ 08848 908-319-0765 (cell)	Jehannine de Flandres baroness@settmourswamp.ea stkingdom.org Phillip the Facetious	Please email for directions.



Pope's Summer
Residence in
Tarquinia, Italy



Art	Date/ Time	Location	Contact	Notes
Caterina (Kasia) A&S Thingy	THIRD Friday 7pm	55 Hillcrest Ave, Morristown, NJ 07960	Mistress Caterina (Kasia) mas@settmourswamp.eastkingdom.org 917-968-9321	Caterina announces meetings on the Swamp email list and on the Swamp Facebook page.
Caterina (Kasia) Calligraphy & Illumination	FIRST Sunday 7pm	55 Hillcrest Ave, Morristown, NJ 07960	Mistress Caterina (Kasia) mas@settmourswamp.eastkingdom.org 917-968-9321	Caterina announces meetings on the Swamp email list and on the Swamp Facebook page.
Archery	By Appointment	Pittstown, NJ	Elizabeth Hawkwood hawkwoode@gmail.com	Email Baroness Elizabeth Hawkwood for directions

An electronic listing of **activities and events** is available on the Barony website:

<http://settmourswamp.eastkingdom.org/events.html>

Courtesy copies are sent to:

chronicler@eastkingdom.org

historian@eastkingdom.org

king@eastkingdom.org

prince@eastkingdom.org

princess@eastkingdom.org

queen@eastkingdom.org

seneschal@eastkingdom.org

archivist@sca.org

Publication release forms:

<http://www.sca.org/docs/library.html>

<http://www.sca.org/docs/pdf/ReleaseFormsFAQsPRINT.pdf>

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[Settmour Swamp On Facebook](#)

[Settmour Rapier On Facebook](#)

[Canton of Gryphonwald](#)

[East Kingdom Website](#)

[SCA Membership](#)



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Tower Design on
the Floor of the
Cathedral in Sicily



2.

Cathedral
in Sicily



1.

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