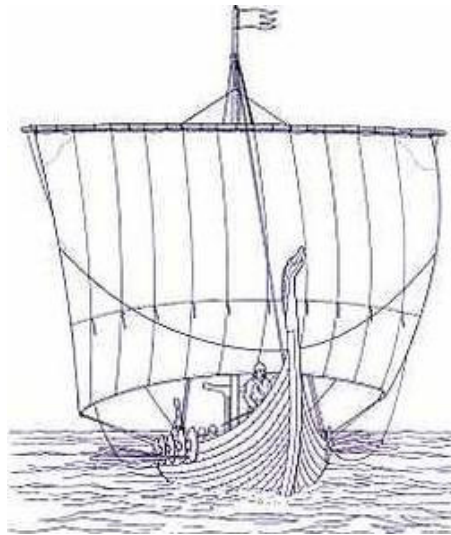


The Mudpuppy



January, 2005

A.S. 39

Calendar of Events

January 2005

- 8** East Kingdom Twelfth Night
(Barony of Dragonship Haven - Bridgeport, CT)
- 15** Bellringers: The Investiture
(Barony of Carillion - Jackson, NJ)
- 22** Al Hafla
(Barony of Bhakail - Clifton Heights, PA)

February 2005

- 5** Black Gryphon Inn: "Tavern of the Rus"
(Canton of Gryphonwald - Edison, NJ)
- 12** Valentine Dance Revel
(Barony of Bhakail - Philadelphia, PA)
- 12** Venetian Winter Games
(Canton of Forestgate - Hamilton, NJ)

March 2005

- 5** Mudthaw: L'Homme Arme
(Barony of Settmour Swamp – Livingston, NJ)
- 19** Celtic Silliness
(Crown Province of Ostgardr - Huntington, NY)

This is the January 2005 issue of *The Mudpuppy*, a publication of the **Barony of Settmour Swamp**, a branch of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. It is not a corporate publication of the SCA, Inc., and does not delineate SCA, Inc. policies. Subscriptions are available for \$12 per year. Make checks payable to "SCA, Inc. – Barony of Settmour Swamp."

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Practices and Activities

Archery Practices:

Sundays – 1:00pm in Pittstown (exit 15 off Route 78).

Arts & Sciences Activities:

1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 7:00pm, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 346 High Street (Rt 609), Hope, NJ. Contact the NW Canton Seneschal for information.

Monthly Business Meetings:

2nd Monday of the month, location changes. See the Mudpuppy or the Baronial website for location and directions.

Fencing Practices -

Wednesdays 7-10 pm, at St. George's Episcopal Church, 550 Ridgewood Rd, Maplewood A donation of \$3 to \$5 dollars is requested to cover the rental cost.

Thursdays 8 - 10:30 PM, at the North Stelton Fire Company, 70 Haines Avenue, Piscataway, NJ 08854.

Youth Fighter Practices:

2nd and 4th Sunday of the month, assuming that we do not have a conflict with a major holiday, church function, or local SCA event. Time is from 1:30 pm to 4:00 pm.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Rte. 31, Flemington

Calligraphy Workshop

1st Tuesday of the month at the home of our Baron and Baroness, 39 Claire Dr., Bridgewater, NJ 08807

Directions to Practices

Fighter Practices, Moose Lodge, Edison

From I-287 South take Exit #3 – New Durham/Metuchen. Turn RIGHT at light onto New Durham Road. At next light, make a RIGHT onto Talmadge Road. At next light turn LEFT onto Coolidge St. Go 0.2 miles; make a LEFT into Moose driveway/parking lot.

From I-287 North take Exit #2B – New Brunswick/Rte. 27 South. Turn traffic flows onto Rte. 27 South. At third traffic light turn RIGHT onto Talmadge Road (Sturgis Road). Go 1.8 miles to 3rd light; make a LEFT onto Coolidge St. Turn LEFT into Moose driveway.

Youth Fighter Practices, St. Paul's, Flemington

St Paul is located along Route 31 in Flemington, next door to the Hunterdon Medical Center, two miles north of the Flemington Circle
From Route 287

Go I-287 to US-202 (Exit 17)., go Southwest on US-202 to Flemington NJ

Make first right in circle to get on NJ-31 North Follow signs to Hospital Make first Left past Hospital onto Gaunt Place, church is on left.

From Route 78 in Pennsylvania

Go East on I-78 to NJ-31 (Exit 17) Then Go South on NJ-31.

Follow signs for Hospital.

Make right onto Gaunt Place church is on Left.

From New Jersey Turnpike south to I-78 WEST/NEW JERSEY TPKE EXT EAST RAMP towards EXITS 14 TO 14C/CARS-TRUCKS-BUSES.

Merge onto I-78 WEST RAMP, Merge onto I-78 W.

Take I-78 EXPRESS Lane W towards GARDEN STATE PARKWAY / CLINTON.

Merge onto I-78 EXPRESS Lane West. I-78 EXPRESS Lane West becomes I-78 W.

Take the I-287 exit, exit number 29, towards SOMERVILLE (US-202/206).

Merge onto I-287 SOUTH RAMP., Merge onto I-287 S.

Take the US-202 SOUTH/US-206 SOUTH exit, exit number 17, towards SOMERVILLE (US-22 W) / FLEMINGTON.

Stay straight to go onto US-202 S. until you reach Flemington Take first Right on circle to stay on NJ-31 North Follow signs to Hospital

Make first Left past Hospital onto Gaunt Place, church is on left.

From Garden State Parkway

Go North on GARDEN STATE PKWY (Portions toll) to I-195 (Exit 98).

Go West on I-195 to I-295.

Go North on I-295 to I-95 SOUTH.

Go South on I-95 SOUTH to NJ-31 (Exit 4).

Go Northwest on NJ-31 to Flemington

Take first right on circle to stay on NJ-31 North Follow signs to Hospital Make first Left past Hospital onto Gaunt Place, church is on left.

From Philadelphia

Go North on I-95 NORTH to New Jersey.

Go North on I-95 NORTH to NJ-31 (Exit 4).

Go Northwest on NJ-31 to Flemington

Go 1/2 way around circle to stay on NJ-31 North Follow signs to Hospital Make first Left past Hospital onto Gaunt Place, church is on left.

Black Gryphon Inn: "Tavern of the Rus"

Saturday, February 5th, 2005

Hosted by Canton of Gryphonwald - Edison, NJ

"The chapel is near, but the way is icy. The tavern is far. I will walk carefully."--Ukrainian proverb

The Canton of Gryphonwald once again invites the populace to its annual tavern event!!! It's 988 A. D. and Prince Vladimir of the Rus has just opened the trade routes from Kiev to Byzantium. Bold traders, trappers, dancers, musicians, fierce Cossacks, proud Poles, Kievians, Rus, and even Gypsies shall all converge on our tavern for a night to remember! A mighty feast will delight all throughout the evening, served in traditional buffet style.

DIVERSIONS currently being planned-Russian singing, courtesy of MOOL-Ukrainian folk dancing

COMPETITIONS:

-Elimination Chess tournament-

Brewing contest: categories are heavy- [mead], medium- [Beer] and lightweight [Kvass, Kumiss, etc.] (For more details, or to be on the judging panel, contact Lady Fionnghuala na Lamh-Ban (children_of_lir@yahoo.com.)-

A&S table for Slavic handicrafts

Bardic competition: theme is East European folklore

For the more violent-minded, a trappers' thrown weapons tourney, and heavy weapons challenge will be held outside.

Directions:

FROM THE NORTH:

Take your best route to NJ, I-287. Get off at Exit #3 - New Durham/Metuchen. At end of ramp make a RIGHT at traffic light onto New Durham Rd. Go 0.3 miles to traffic light, make a RIGHT onto Talmadge Road. Go 0.6 miles to traffic light. Make a LEFT onto Coolidge St. Go 0.2 miles, make a HARD LEFT at the Moose street sign-post, then RIGHT into Moose driveway/parking lot.

FROM THE SOUTH:

Take your best route to NJ, I-287. Get off at Exit #2B - New Brunswick/Rt.27 South. Ramp traffic flows onto Rt.27 South. Go 0.7 miles to third traffic light. Make a RIGHT onto Talmadge Road. Go 1.8 miles, again to third traffic light. Make a LEFT onto Coolidge St. Travel 0.2 miles, make a HARD LEFT at the Moose street sign-post, then turn RIGHT into Moose driveway/parking lot.

FROM THE GARDEN STATE PARKWAY:

Take the exit for Route 27 METUCHEN (131). Follow signs for Metuchen. Route 27 will go through North Edison, zigzag through Metuchen, then re-enter South Edison. Watch for the Pines Manor on the right hand side just past the Edison Post Office. At the traffic light where the Pines Manor is, turn right onto Talmadge Road (aka. Sturgis Rd.). Go 1.8 miles to the 3rd traffic light, and turn LEFT onto Coolidge St. Travel 0.2 miles, make a HARD LEFT at the Moose street sign-post, then turn RIGHT into Moose driveway/parking lot.

Event Website: www.geocities.com/gryphonwald

At-a-Glance Event Information

Site:

Edison Moose Lodge #1978
410 Talmadge Rd
(for mailing purposes only)
Edison, NJ 08817

Site Opens: 2 PM

Site Closes: 10 PM

Event Fees:

Site : This is an ONBOARD ONLY event limited to 100 gentles (sorry no outboards/offboards)! Cost is \$15 adult member, \$18 nonmember; \$7 ages 7-12, gratis for 6 and under.

Alcoholic beverages are available for purchase from the site's wet-bar ONLY.

The Moose kindly ask (well, actually they insist) that the populace ****DOES NOT**** bring alcohol with them, other than any entries into our brewing contest.

Feast: See above.

Send Reservations to:

Lord Ragnarr Dragonheart
(mka. Kim Piersanti)
7 Ten-Eyck Place
Edison, NJ 08820

Email: ragnarr1001@aol.com
Telephone# 732-549-7741
(weeknights after 9pm).

Autocrat:

Lord Eric The Wandering Horseman
(mka. Fred Henninger)
732-672-5345
Wanderhrse@aol.com

Make Checks Payable to: SCA. Inc.-The Barony of Settmour Swamp

In Memory of Baron Irik

During the month of December, the Swamp suffered a great loss; Baron Irik Rodbjorn passed away on the 20th, leaving many mourners behind. He was a kind man and a great leader in the Swamp for many years. As a tribute to him, I am including some of the thoughts written by people and sent to the Settmour Swamp mailing list. They have been edited for brevity's sake, but I think that the sentiment comes across loud and clear.

We can barely contain the grief we feel over the loss of Irik, there are no words to adequately describe how much this man meant to us and to so many in the Barony. His life touched us deeply and we are diminished without him. As keen an ache it is to know he has passed, we haven't even begun to know just how much we'll be missing him.

We know our sorrow and sympathies are shared with all of you, especially Merlinia, Lydia, the Finne family and the Bheithir household - may your grief be eased by all the good memories of a great red bear of a man who lived life to the fullest, but left too soon.

Teric and Paigan, Baron and Baroness of Settmour Swamp

Many is the night I remember, for years back, going to Irik and Merlynia's for officer meetings, for parties, or just to hang out.

Irik stepped in at the last minute at my wedding to be a reader, and always volunteered to be an Obstacle at Quest. The first one Alyce and I wrote, he was the keystone final obstacle - it was The Baron's New Clothes, after all. Then next year, for the Quest of the 4 Magical Items of the Tuatha de Danaan, he helped me design and make the ogham sticks and decoder block that were the key to the whole quest, again.

Irik never tired of talking about cooking with my late wife and I, and we often tried out recipes, equipment (like my camp oven), and such together. He cooked up a storm at every chance he got. Whenever I think of a great SCA event, I see him in my mind's eye, in that red tunic, big chef's knife in hand, tying up a whole loin of pork and stabbing it with the knife and stuffing in garlic cloves. Smiling and having a beer while he worked.

Galen

I was a lucky, lucky person. I lived with Irik and Merlynia for two and a half years. They made the offer a while back, and one day, I actually took them up on it.

I loved being with them. Such warm, welcoming, sweet, funny people are rarely found. And one could learn a lot about a good marriage just from watching and listening.

One of my very favorite memories is the very first time I ever laid eyes on Irik: at Gavin and Sedalia's Coronation. I hadn't joined the Swamp yet, and was attending my first event. Suddenly, the trumpet sounded (courtesy of Retep), and dancing girls came swirling in, followed by an honor guard of Celts, and a palanquin, on which was a chair holding Irik, who was throwing golden coins to the populace. Trust me, I knew then that I wanted to be a part of THAT group. ;)

Ceara

Brothers and Sisters of the Swamp,
The Deepest and most heartfelt sympathies of the Shire of Glenn Linn are with you.
Though I did not have the pleasure of meeting him, his legend will live on in the Great East. It's always a tragedy when one who is so loved departs, but let the halls of Valhalla echo with his laughter.
Sincerest Condolences,
Seamus Maguidhir,
Seneschal, Shire of Glenn Linn

Lady Izumi and I extend our heartfelt sympathies to our dear friend Baroness Merlynia, to Lady Lydia, and to everyone in Settmour and beyond to whom Baron Irik was dear. This must have come as a terrible shock, and we grieve with you.

I have fond memories of making ostrich balls for (yet another) incredible Swamp feast, among others. We are so very, very sorry to hear of his passing. Please know that our hearts are with you.

Hildemar the Alchemist

The first time I was formally introduced to him was when he was wearing a mermaid costume at Quest. "Hi, This is Manny, that's Moe, and I'm your Baron." And then he laughed hysterically.

-Elisabetta

He was never less than kind, friendly, and projected good humor all over the place. :) He's one of the reasons why the SCA is still so important to me- that people like him can still exist in this world. Irik was a wonderful man and we were lucky to know him.

Gwenhwyvar

It was my honor to serve Baron Irik as Herald as well as in other lesser offices. I truly enjoyed the sense of fun he considered mandatory. He will be missed and my wife and I are saddened that we have drifted so far that we had not seen them more recently. And Irik we lost before his time

Mithgiladan

Irik was my SCAdian dad; and in 1989 when my own father died, something I remember very clearly is that Christmas, later in the evening, Irik and I had a really long conversation about death and fathers; he'd been through it, and he helped me so much, to begin dealing with it. Like a "real" dad, he taught me many things - valuable, life things. I will always be grateful for having him as a friend and will always consider both Irik and Merlynia family.

Morgaine

Irik was there. Every joy, every challenge, even in every kitchen hovering at the brink of chaos, Irik was there. He was a beacon of calm reassurance and confidence in a crazy world. His humor and resourcefulness got us all through so many difficult times.

You could talk to Irik about anything. He understood how things worked, and why. He always respected the intelligence and creativity of others, but certainly had plenty of his own, as well as vast compassion. He helped us all.

If we had a photograph of each of the great moments in the history of our Barony, Irik would be in nearly all of them. In some, he would be right in front, leading us all to greatness. In others, he would be near the back, with his hands dirty, called away from some important but messy job. But he'd be smiling in every one.

Irik was there.

What I learned from Irik:

Look. See what you're facing, but draw it to scale, because it might not be as big as you think. Draw it in detail; because it might have parts you can deal with separately.

Listen. You aren't the only one with a clue.

Don't deal with problems. Deal with a fact base. Irik would look at his raw materials, and would find a way to do what he had to do with what he had.

Call for reinforcements. Your friends have a lot to offer, and you don't have to do it alone. Besides, their ideas might be better than yours.

Have beer. Have one yourself, if you drink, but offer it to your friends. A lot of problems can be settled when people look at each other over raised glasses.

Berelinde

He was and I can't believe I am saying past tense an amazing man. He was a born leader who was able to get people to eager work together to do wonderful things in the SCA. At any given weekend he and Merlinia would have people over for a myriad of projects. Merlinia would through on a large pot of beef barley soup and off we would go, out to the garage to make armour or signs for events or to the basement for brewing. In other words he was a very creative man. I can not remember a time when faced with a project, he didn't come up with a solution.

He and Merlynia were surrogate parents for many of us who started in the SCA at a young age. We knew we would have a great time, work a bit and learn something new. They kept us from getting in trouble and made sure we had crash space or got home safely.

Wilhelm

I had the privilege of serving Irik and Merlynia as one of their Court Herald and Seneschals. Irik was one of the people who introduced me to the East and was always a source of good council when I had a question or needed information about the "old days" of the Barony and the Kingdom.

Sheik Omar
Rook Pursuivant

I don't remember when I met Irik, but it was long before he became Baron. I can't imagine the Swamp without him. There are so many memories and not enough words. He was a mensch.

I know that many people want to find out how they can honor his memory. While we wait to hear the family's wishes, may I suggest one or more of the following?

1. Be kind to someone today - make them feel valued.
2. Smile, and make someone else smile. Tell a joke.
3. Give help without waiting to be asked.
4. Don't sweat the small stuff.
5. Don't take yourself too seriously.
6. Take time to enjoy the pleasures of life.

And, as someone else said, hug those you love. Life is too damn unpredictable.

Lady Brighid ni Chiarain
Barony of Settmour Swamp, East Kingdom

Thinking of my brother, I would like to add something to Brighid's list.

7. Give someone a beer.
--Lydia

These are wise words, and things he would have done. Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery. There are few people I have met that I want to be like. Irik is one of them

Erec L'Claire

That's all I'll include, seeing as my quest for brevity has been proved impossible. Everyone who wrote in with stories or condolences felt this loss, we will all miss Baron Irik dearly.

From the Canton of Marwick

Greetings all, from the Seneschal of the Canton of Marwick. It has come to pass that Lord Erec will be moving out of the canton and thus will no longer be able to serve our fair barony as the canton's seneschal. The deputy seneschal for the canton will be moving up to be the seneschal of the swamp itself, leaving no clear candidate for the position. For the canton to survive it is imperative that it have a seneschal. No previous experience is necessary though it is helpful. If you have even the slightest inkling please contact the current seneschal. This is a great opportunity to write a new chapter in the Canton of Marwick.

Canton of Marwick Officers

<http://www.marwick.eastkingdom.org>

Seneschal: Lord Erec L'Claire (Eric W. Erb) 732-926-0297
1621 Terrill Road, Scotch Plains, NJ 07076 lorderec@aol.com

Knight Marshal: Lord Simon Fitzgilbert (Scott Thomas) 908-259-9070
ScottT88@comcast.net

Exchequer: Frau Anna von Argenthal (Valerie Frank) 908-232-8111
256 Eton Place, Westfield, NJ 07090 argenthal@comcast.net

Mistress of A&S: Lady Ansitruda Helgastottir (Janet Thomas) 908-259-9070 ansitruda@comcast.net
(Archery Captain)

Canton of Gryphon Wald Officers

<http://www.geocities.com/gryphonwald/>

Seneschal: Lord Ragnarr Dragonheart (Kim Piersanti) 732-549-7741
7 Ten-Eyck Place, Edison, NJ 08820 ragnarr1001@aol.com
Herald: Lord Eric the Wandering Horseman (Fred Henninger) 609-921-0415
PO Box 10834, New Brunswick, NJ 08906 wanderhrse@aol.com
Minister of A&S: Gwynedd Pendragon of Golderfern (ShayMaria Silvestri)
20 N. 2nd Avenue, Highland Park, NJ 08904 732-219-5694
StreamDancer7@netscape.net

Northwest Canton Officers

<http://www.settmourswamp.eastkingdom.org/tirmynydd>

Seneschal: Lehoric Silverwater du Mer (Peter Butler) 973-219-5694
(leave message) dreamer81465@yahoo.com

Barony of Settmour Swamp Officers

(baronial e-mail addresses are @settmourswamp.eastkingdom.org)

<http://www.settmourswamp.eastkingdom.org>

Baron & Baroness: Sir Teric Gwynedd & Mistress Paigan Crawford
(Theo Stern & Leticia Running) 908-252-9964
39 Claire Dr., Bridgewater, NJ 08807 baron@... baroness@...

Seneschal: Lord Alexander MacGregor (David DeVito) 732-297-1721
307 Village Drive, Somerset, NJ 08873 seneschal@...

Sinking Tower Pursuivant: Mistress Alys Mackyntoich (Alissa Pyrich)
180 W. Hanover Ave., Morristown, NJ 07960 herald@ ... 973-267-4818

Knight Marshal: Lord Jeremiah of Brunswick 908-725-4356
(Jay Hitesman) marshal@...

Chancellor of the Exchequer: Master Griffyn ap Madoc (John L. Pyrich)
180 W. Hanover Ave., Morristown, NJ 07960 exchequer@... 973-267-4818

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MoAS@ ...

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163 Anderson Rd., Asbury, NJ 08802 MoL@...

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676 H Marshall Road, Hillsborough, NJ 08844 equestrian@...

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17 Dixon Lane, Belle Mead, NJ 08502, chatelaine@...

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99 South 21st Street, Manville, NJ 08835, fencing@...

Captain of Archers: Baroness Elizabeth Hawkwood (Beth Dobo)908-996-6315
71 Sky Manor Road, Pittstown, NJ 08867 archery@...

Chamberlain: Lady Berelinde Cynewulfohtor (Ruth Tannahill)
Phillipsburg, NJ chamberlain@...

Youth Combat: Lord Draguin atte Maeldun (Ken Kovacs) 908-782-7393 youth_combat@...