

# *The Mudpuppy*



*March, 2005*

*A.S. 39*

## Calendar of Events

March 2005

**5** Mudthaw: L'Homme Arme

**(Barony of Settmour Swamp – Livingston, NJ)**

**12** Games & Galliards XII - Wintering Over In The Castle

(Shire of Hartshorn-dale - Norristown, PA)

**19** Celtic Silliness

(Crown Province of Ostgardr - Huntington, NY)

April 2005

**2** Coronation of Kelson and Geneviere

(Shire of Rusted Woodlands – NY)

**9** Sir Steffen's All Ax Challenge

(Crown Province of Ostgardr - New York, NY)

**15 - 17** East Kingdom Southern Region Spring War Practice

(Shire of Owls Reste - York Haven, PA)

**30** Crown Tourney

(Shire of Iron Bog - Moorestown, NJ)

May 2005

**7** Sir Steffen's All Ax Challenge

*(Crown Province of Ostgardr - Fresh Meadows, NY)*

**27-30** Quest XXII That was Zen, This is Tao

***(Barony of Settmour Swamp - Neshanic Station, NJ)***

## 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:**

2<sup>nd</sup> 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

## Middle Eastern Dance Practice

The meetings of the Middle Eastern dance group will be at 7:30 p.m. Check the Baronial Site's Calendar for exact dates, times and places, as these things have not yet been firmed up and need to be discussed. We hope to have a rotating site for regular meetings.

Food and drinks are welcome, (BYO Leaded drinks) I'll have teas and coffee. Please don't bring anything with meat, or shellfish as my house is Kosher. This leaves fruit, cheese, crackery-things, veggies, sweets.

E-mail me at MESidhe@aol.com for directions.  
My house is located right between Routes 1 and 27.  
171 Nathan Drive, North Brunswick.

YIS,

Morgaine/Dima

## 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

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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.

## **From the Baron and Baroness**

Greetings from Baron Teric and Baroness Paigan,

We had a marvelous time, as always, at the Black Gryphon Inn this year – congratulations to everyone who contributed to making it a success, including Eric the Horseman as autocrat, Ragnar and Fionn as key staff, Shmooley and his crew for a wonderful feast, and everyone else who helped out, either with decorations, set up, clean up, or merrymaking!

Now that Spring is almost here, it'll soon be time to see if the Mud has Thawed... Mudthaw has become a premiere event of the Barony which attracts hundreds of attendees to share in the myriad activities offered, both martial and gentle. Putting on an event of this magnitude does not happen effortlessly, so we're hoping that each and every one of you will be helping out in some way, both at Mudthaw, and a couple months later at Quest – that way, the work goes faster and easier so we can all have a better time together! While we can't always thank everyone individually or notice everything that everyone does, we are proud of the generosity of the good folks of Settmour Swamp in always lending a hand, asked or unasked, and we appreciate it very much!

In addition to local events, there will also be several demos going on in our area – this is one of the ways that we can share our knowledge and interests with our communities, and in turn, garner a good reputation for the SCA which is a rewarding activity. Please help out by participating in the demos – they can be a lot of fun and the more the merrier!

Finally, we'd like to express our heartfelt appreciation to Alexander MacGregor, who has served us faithfully over the past three years as our Seneschal. It's not an easy job, but one which he handled with grace and wisdom. We welcome Owynn Greenwood as he steps up to the position of Seneschal and look forward to keeping the Barony moving forward, into the past.

Teric and Paigan

## From Our Outgoing Seneschal

Fellow Swampies,

I have had the honor of being the Seneschal of this great Barony now for the past three years. I can not express to you fully how proud I have been to represent this group.

In the last three years we have pulled together to put on some amazing events. I would like to thank every one who helped to make that happen. To everyone who stepped forward to be an officer, an autocrat, head cook thank you. To anyone who showed up early at an event to help setup, stayed late to help clean up, anyone who helped in the kitchen or helped in any other aspect at our events thank you, without all of you we never could have done what we did. Lastly to Baron Teric and Baroness Paigan thank you for all you efforts over the last three years. Your generosity with your time and energy have never ceased to amaze me, you both are truly inspiring to work with, thank you for everything.

I hope you all give Lord Owynn your full support as the new Seneschal of the barony.

Yours in service  
Alexander.

***Wanted: Land Agent/Camp Mommy for  
This Year's Pennsic War.***

Land agent requires attending Land Grab weekend and being present for the measuring out/staying on Settmour Swamp's camp site for week one of Pennsic (beginning August 5<sup>th</sup>).

Camp Mommy requires receiving camp reservations (Swamp only, not Cooper's Lake), creating the camp tent map, arranging for camp supplies, assigning camp jobs, and making sure they're carried out.

These positions can be filled by a single person.

Anyone interested should contact our Seneschal at [seneschal@settmourswamp.eastkingdom.org](mailto:seneschal@settmourswamp.eastkingdom.org).

## **From Our Incoming Seneschal**

For those of you that don't know, there is a new seneschal in town.

I would like to thank Baron Alexander for all his hard work over the years. He is a good man and a tough act to follow up.

My job will be made easier by the great team of officers we have running things. In a barony as large and diverse as ours, it takes a lot of effort to make things run as smoothly as they do, as shown this past weekend at Mudthaw. With that said, I would like to thank the barony for putting their trust in me.

Coming this Memorial Day weekend is Quest XXII: That was Zen, This is Tao. I look forward to seeing everyone there. I know Eric the Wandering Horseman and Galen are working hard to put together a great event and a quest sure to challenge all.

The March officer's meeting will take place on March 14th at 7:30pm at my home, 31 Mali Drive, North Plainfield. If you need directions, please feel free to drop me an e-mail.

In service,

Lord Owynn Greenwood

Seneschal of the Barony of Settmour Swamp

## **From the Minister of Arts & Sciences**

Greetings unto the barony!

I am endeavoring to locate or encourage people to write short articles about period Arts and Sciences -- just beginner's or basic stuff about any Art or Science that fits within the range of SCA period.



It occurs to me that, just as I would like to know more about certain things... so might others.

If you yourself have such information, or if you know of another gentle who has such information and might be willing to share it with our barony, please let me know. If the article is already somewhere on the 'Net, we can hotlink to it; if it is not, I am happy to help you put it into proper article format and Baroness Jessa d'Avondale and I will put it up on the 'Net. You yourself (or any other gentle) need not know any programming. I will gladly take information that is legible in almost any format (including easy-to-read handwriting). Of course, full credit will be given to any author, as will an mail of thanks including a hotlink to the resulting webpage (if it's one of ours).

Also, should you have a wish for information you are having trouble finding about any Art or Science that is SCA-period, let me know that, too, and I shall do my best to locate such information for you. Remember: If YOU can't find it and want it, then so do others!

Lastly, I am putting the call out for anybody who has information or documentation about 12th/13th century European banners or standards (the kind that would have been flown on battlefields). I had a short conversation with someone of our barony already, and thank him for his knowledge. I am looking for more. And, hopefully, some documentation. While I admit that I am personally interested in finding this, I must say that, given the lack of knowledge I've thus far found -- there must be others who might wish for this info besides me. Perhaps, once some documentation is dug up and made available, some of us might want to make some banners/standards. There's nothing quite so glorious-looking as the pageantry of beautiful (and well done) heraldry!

YIS,  
Richenda de Honneflo

## Choosing the Right Medieval Belt

by Dame Eleanor Cadfan

Here is a basic guide to help in choosing a belt that works with your particular outfit or persona. Belts were not only functional items, but also status symbols as well. This is probably more than most people care to know about belts, so I have broken it up into sections to make it easier to read the parts that interest you.

### What type of leather?

There are many different types of leather you can choose which will have differing characteristics. The main thing to keep in mind in choosing a leather is the functions of the belt. Decorative and mounted belts in period were often quite light and would only support the weight of a purse or other light object hung from it, without distorting. If you plan to hang a sword or large objects from your belt, you will want to choose a heavier leather with very little "give" to it. A sturdy latigo or veg tan should work well, but some chrome tan (modern) leathers have a very firm temper as well. In the SCA and some other re-creation groups it seems common to want to hang many, many things from the belt including drinking vessels, cell phones, and pouches that hold palm pilots, diapers, lunch etc... In period, belts were not intended to commonly carry as much weight as we tend to want from our belts. The more decorative the belt, the lighter they often were in this period, with the exception of sword belts and horse harness.

### How wide is it?

It is difficult to pinpoint exactly how wide or long medieval belts, (often called girdles) most commonly were. Most belt fittings are found without their leather or fabric straps still intact, and so we can only guess as to their intended purpose. The Museum of London categorizes its belt fittings by size. Anything larger than 60mm (just over 2") is considered to likely be for horses. Belts therefore, other than sword belts, are thought to have been narrower than this and most were much narrower. When I researched findings extensively to choose my larger and smaller belt sizes, I choose 3/4" and 1 1/4" as representative of the common range.

How long is it?

How long a belt was in period varied quite a bit as fashions changed. A belt would be longer or shorter depending on whether it was worn at the natural waist or slung low on the hips, but the main determiner of length was the "dangle". "Dangle" is what I call the part of the belt that hangs straight down the front, after the girdle has been buckled. Men usually have their belts hang shorter than women's, but usually not longer than the hem of their garments. Women have their belts hang anywhere from as short as 6 inches to as long as to their ankles. Long ornamented belts were costly and so the rich often wore their belts much longer than the poorer classes. In period, long continuous strips of leather were hard to come by, so leather belts were often made up to be whatever the length of leather strap they could find. It was not uncommon to find belts made from spliced pieces of leather to make the belt longer. Tablet woven silk belts were expensive, but could easily be woven to very long lengths as desired. References are made to labourers and farmers wearing linen girdles, implying that these were among the cheapest belts available.

### How many mounts?

I am often asked how many mounts medieval belts commonly had on them. In period, practice varies widely from as close to touching to as far apart as 5". The closer the mounts are to each other, the more expensive the belt, so for us, as it was for them, personal aesthetics and cost are the deciding factors. In rural areas, the availability of these mounts would have been more limited than it was for city folks, so country dwellers would be less likely to have metal adorned belts. Important fittings like buckles and strap ends were often removed at the end of a belt's life and transferred on to a new belt, so often low-end belts have mismatched fittings.

Examples of belt buckles and fittings can be found on the FC Pewters webpage at <http://www.fetteredcockpewters.com/> (see under "[Belts and Garters](#)" and "[Belt Mounts](#)")

## **Quest XXII That was Zen, This is Tao**

Friday, May 27th, 2005 to Monday, May 30th, 2005

Hosted by [Barony of Settmour Swamp](#) - Neshanic Station, NJ

The Barony of Settmour Swamp welcomes one and all to our 22nd Quest, a three-day camping event with something for everyone to enjoy.

On Saturday, we will engage in competitions for our Baronial Champions [all our welcome to compete]. For those who crave battle there will be competitions in heavy weapons, thrown weapons, fencing, and archery. A competition for youth fighters will also take place. For the craftsman we will have a A&S and brewing competition as well as a bardic circle by the campfire in the evening.

After all the afternoon events a grand feast will take place Saturday evening. The feast will have a medieval Japanese theme. The medieval Japanese theme will continue with our annual Quest. It promises to be quite challenging and will take place on Sunday afternoon. After the quest in the evening a Baronial court will take place where the Baronial champions will be announced from the weekends many challenging events.

The site is damp: you may bring beer, wine, and mead but no distilled alcohol. There will be no running water on site so we ask that you bring your own. There will be porta-castles onsite as well as a large dumpster. The county asks that you recycle all bottles, cans, and paper-please use the recycling bags provided or bring your empties home.

We ask that you keep an eye on your children onsite, a minor waiver must be signed for those under 18 by a parent or legal guardian. Pets are welcome but must be leashed and cleaned up after.

**Directions:**

From Route 206: [Route 206 can be reached from Routes 287 and 22 from the north, and from Routes 95, 295, and 195 from the south].

Take Route 206 to County road 514 [Amwell Road] in Hillsboro NJ. If you are coming from the north turn right onto Route 514. If you are coming from the south make a left.

From the New Brunswick/Franklin area: Take Hamilton street/Route 514 west from New Brunswick, it turns into Amwell road/Route 514. Continue across Route 206 and continue as above.

From Route 202 northbound [from Flemington area]: Turn right on Pleasant Run road. In about 2 1/2 miles, the road becomes River road. Make the next right onto Elm street, cross the white girder bridge, the site is just across the bridge, on the right.

From Route 202 southbound [from the Somerville Circle]: Turn left at the traffic light onto Old York road, then onto South Branch road [County Route 567]. At the T-intersection, turn left to continue on South Branch road. After about 4 miles, turn left onto Route 629/Pleasant Run road. [In about 1/2 mile, the road number will change back to Route 567]. Make the next right on Elm street, cross the white girder bridge, the site is just across the bridge, on the right.

Event Website: [www.settmourswamp.eastkingdom.org](http://www.settmourswamp.eastkingdom.org)

## **At-a-Glance Event Information**

### **Site:**

Neshanic Station Fire Dept. picnic grounds  
Corner of River Rd. and Elm St.  
Neshanic Station, NJ 08853

**Site Opens:** 4pm Friday May 27th,2005

**Site Closes:** 12 noon Monday May 30th,2005

### **Event Fees:**

**Site :** Adult full weekend: \$24.00 [Friday, Saturday, Sunday]

Adult day: \$9.00

Minus \$1.00 a day for under 18

Minus \$4.00 a day for under 13

Under 5 is free

Monday is free

A \$3.00 surcharge will be charged to all non-SCA members

**Feast:** Feast is reserved to 100 people and is \$7.00. Please send in reservations to reserve spot.

### **Send Reservations to:**

Baroness Elizabeth Hawkwood [Beth Dobo]

Mail to: 71 Sky Manor Road, Pittstown NJ. 08867

### **Autocrat:**

Lord Eric the Wandering Horseman [Fred Henninger Jr.] Cell phone: 732-672-5345 or E-mail

### **Other Contact Information:**

Merchants are welcome, there is no charge for space but you must supply your own tables.

**Make Checks Payable to:** SCA - Barony of Settmour Swamp

## **Canton of Marwick Officers**

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

**Seneschal:** Mistress Jessa d'Avondale (Marla Lecin) 732-563-1029  
362 Cherry Avenue, Bound Brook, NJ 08805 webmaster@...

**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 Ansitrua Helgastottir (Janet Thomas) 908-259-9070 ansitrua@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. 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

**Chronicler:** Lady Eleanor Callaghan (Tami Yaches) 908-230-8617  
 95 Irvington Ave. Somerset, NJ 08873 chronicler@...

**Webmistress:** Mistress Jessa d'Avondale (Marla Lecin) 732-563-1029  
 362 Cherry Avenue, Bound Brook, NJ 08805 webmaster@...

**Minister of A&S:** Richenda de Honneflo (Stephanie Blaine)  
 341 Higland Ave. Orange, NJ 07050 MoAS@ ...

**Mistress of Lists:** Lady Rhiannon de Licorne (Bev Altrath) 908-573-7495  
 163 Anderson Rd., Asbury, NJ 08802 MoL@...

**Equestrian:** Lady Tessa Boncheval (Theresa LoGullo) 908-359-7357  
 676 H Marshall Road, Hillsborough, NJ 08844 equestrian@...

**Chatelaine:** Lady Gabrielle Gealbhan an Ruadh (Gabrielle Rosen)908-431-1175  
 17 Dixon Lane, Belle Mead, NJ 08502, chatelaine@...

**Marshal of Fence:** Xavier Matejka (Steven Mateyka) 732-742-8882  
 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@...