



The Barony of Settmour Swamp

The Mudpuppy

June 2020
Edition
A.S.55

Contents

The Barony In Search of Excellencies - from the Seneschal	Pg. 1
List of Baronial Officers and Upcoming Events	Pg. 2
Seneschal Notes: Minutes of March 2020 Business Meeting	Pg. 3-4
Chronicler Notes	Pg. 4
A Note from Their Excellencies	Pg. 5
Swampic News	Pg. 6-7

The Barony in Search of Excellencies- from the Seneschal

During normal times, the baronial succession follows an established pattern. The current baron and baroness announce their plan to step down in a year at Mudthaw. We scour our populace for good folks to take their place. At Quest we announce the candidates, and over the next few months we have gatherings when the Swamp populace can meet them and ask questions. The polling takes place in the Fall, allowing all the members of the SCA living in the barony to advise the Crown about who they think would serve best. The Crown considers the polling and chooses the next baron and baroness. They are invested at Mudthaw the next year. We have done it this way many years.

But in a time of plague, the pattern has had to be changed. Mudthaw was cancelled, which meant the announcement could not be made by our well-loved current baron and baroness. We had to work out the details with the Kingdom. Look for a video from Baron Jonathan and Baroness Teresa to announce their decision and read their words in this issue of the Mudpuppy.

Now we are looking for gentles who would like to serve our barony as our leaders. One requirement is that the individuals live within the borders of the barony. If you have any questions about the process, please feel free to contact me directly at Seneschal@settmourswamp.eastkingdom.org.

Your first question may be, well, what does the job entail? Good question! The barony is run by a collection of officers who handle various business/organizational matters, such as chronicler (for the Mudpuppy and all things news), chamberlain (for managing the baronial stuff), and Webminister (for website maintenance). The officers meet once a month (in person or via videoconference) to discuss and vote upon business matters. Meetings are run by the seneschal, who handles administrative matters on a day-to-day basis. The baron and baroness are the heads of the group, interacting and encouraging the populace to participate, recommending officer position nominees, and representing the barony on a kingdom level. It is an important and rewarding role that is an excellent way to support your barony while getting to interact with neighboring groups and the Crown.

We truly encourage anyone with an interest to inquire!

**Deadline for letters of intent:
September 12, 2020**



Local Officers for the Barony of Settmour Swamp

Baron Baron Jonathan Miles
baron@settmourswamp.eastkingdom.org

Invested: March 20
Expires: March 2021

Baroness Baroness Teresa Ana Perez
baroness@settmourswamp.eastkingdom.org

Invested: March 2017
Expires: March 2021

Seneschal Natal'ia Bolotnikova
seneschal@settmourswamp.eastkingdom.org

Invested: October 2019
Expires: October 2021

Deputy Seneschal Judith bas Rabbi Mendel

Volunteered: October 2019

Exchequer Philippe le Vigneron
exchequer@settmourswamp.eastkingdom.org

Invested: April 2020
Expires: April 2022

Deputy Exchequer Charis Accipiter

Volunteered: April, 2020

Chamberlain Galefridus Peregrinus
chamberlain@settmourswamp.eastkingdom.org

Invested: April 2019
Expires: April 2021

Chatelaine Emeline la Chauciere
chatelaine@settmourswamp.eastkingdom.org

Invested: August 2018
Expires: August 2020

Social Media Officer Amitabh a' Bheithir
socialmedia@settmourswamp.eastkingdom.org

Invested: September 2019
Expires: September 2021

Sinking Tower Pursuivant
(Herald) Alexander MacGregor
herald@settmourswamp.eastkingdom.org

Invested: November 2018
Expires: November 2020

Deputy Herald (voice)
Ceara MacKieran of Arundel

Volunteered: February 2018

Deputy Herald Markus Farmaðr

Volunteered: April 2020

Minister of Arts & Sciences Elizabeth Galbot
moas@settmourswamp.eastkingdom.org

Invested: April 2020
Expires: April 2022

Deputy Minister of Arts & Sciences Raela a Bheithir

Volunteered: December 2018

Chronicle Raela a Bheithir
chronicle@settmourswamp.eastkingdom.org

Invested: October 2019
Expires: October 2021

Deputy Chronicle Judith bas Rabbi Mendel

Volunteered: October 2019

Webminister Dalek Bolotnikov iz Kabanov
webminister@settmourswamp.eastkingdom.org

Invested: October 2010
Expires: May 2021

Deputy Webminister Ursula of North Woods

Volunteered: March 2017

Knight Marshal Ögurr Adalbrandarson
marshal@settmourswamp.eastkingdom.org

Invested: March 2016
Expires: April 2020

Marshal of Fence Wulfgar Silfrhárr
rapier@settmourswamp.eastkingdom.org

Invested: June 2020
Expires: June 2022

Captain of the Archers Bahee Na hinsee
archery@settmourswamp.eastkingdom.org

Invested: June 2019
Expires: June 2021

Upcoming Events

BGI CANCELLED. We tried rescheduling it from the Spring to October 3, but the Canton decided that the virus would still make it unsafe to hold the event.

Hamlet Livestream Performance. July 12, 3:00 pm.

Baronial A&S Solar. July 12, 7-9 pm.

Order of the Silver Crescent Meeting. July 16, 7-8 pm.
meet.google.com/odm-hdof-ygv

Order of the Maunche Meeting. July 16, 8-9 pm.
meet.google.com/dvj-yzoo-nbs

EK Ethereal Court. July 19, 4:00pm.
<https://youtu.be/2Uj36qBGxQk>

Order of the Wygers Combatant Meeting. July 21, 7-8 pm.
meet.google.com/vot-hhds-gdx

Virtual Rapier Melee Exercise – taking place every other week

Virtual Pennsic University – They are looking for videos of classes to upload. More information is coming. Videos will be available for viewing July 28-August 8.

Baronial Virtual Pennsic Pity Party. Tentatively Aug 1st 6pm. Details forthcoming

Deadline for Letters of Intent to be candidates for baron/baroness. September 12

The Facebook page called "SCA Virtual Classroom and Artisan Display" lists many classes and recorded classes. A number of them are from other kingdoms. Also check out the East Kingdom Calendar of Online Activities at <https://www.eastkingdom.org/calendar-of-online-activities/> Try something new—look at the A&S Gry-athalon at <https://moas.eastkingdom.org/ek-tryathalon/>

The Officers of Canton of Gryphonwald

Seneschal Stephanie MacGregor
seneschal@gryphonwald.eastkingdom.org

Invested: June 2019

Exchequer Eleanor Callaghan
exchequer@gryphonwald.eastkingdom.org

Invested: January 2018

Minister of Arts & Sciences Dalek Bolotnikov iz Kabanov
moas@gryphonwald.eastkingdom.org

Invested: March 2008

Summary of Minutes of the Baronial Business Meeting

March 12, 2020

Via Video Conference

Present: Natal'ia (chairing), Jonathan, Teresa (taking notes), Queen Margarita, Daebh, Alexander, Amitabh, Bahee, Brennan, Charis, Ciaran, Dalek, Dyrfinna, Emeline, Galefridus, Judith, Dagdalena, Markus, Mitchell, Ogorr, Orvarg, Phelippe, Raela, Stephanie Danfre, Treannah, Vashni, Wulfgar.

DUDTHAW

Natal'ia began the meeting. She announced that officers voted via email and decided to cancel Mudthaw due to public health concerns.

Brennan asked if the Barony planned to reschedule the event. Jonathan answered that we want to have that conversation, but we have not had the opportunity for a detailed discussion at this time. If we put it on in the Fall, we could not expect the same attendance. A lot of other events will be rescheduled to take place then. There was a discussion about the public announcement and its timing. We will try to announce the decision tomorrow.

Additional items will be affected by the cancellation:

- ☑ Refunds - For those seeking a PayPal pre-registration refund, they will need to contact Charis directly. Daebh said to give that email now and that messaging will be put out. The officers voted to approve payment of full refunds, including the PayPal fees, and that the Barony will cover the cost of those fees.
- ☑ The Queen thanked the Baronial and Kingdom officers for communicating so well and working together.
- ☑ Judith is in discussions with Gerry regarding the Mudthaw site regarding cancellation and next year. Gerry was very reassuring understanding, and we are all on good terms. Judith will contact The Crossing Church where we park to let them know about the cancellation. The port-o-john company will refund us all our money.
- ☑ The Queen requested contact information for the vigil recipients so she could contact them.
- ☑ Baronial succession - Their Excellencies were supposed to announce at Mudthaw that they are stepping down in a year. We need to come up with a message and update the Barony.

BGI

No updates.

SWADP SWAP

In light of recent events, this event was also cancelled, and we are currently looking to reschedule. Raela has reached out to the site regarding possible June dates.

QUEST

- ☑ Markus reported everything is moving along. He has been able to lock down port-o-johns, dumpsters, wood, fire permit and insurance. Charis says Mark can be reimbursed now if he needs.
- ☑ He is working with the baronial champions on tournament write ups and descriptions. In another month or so he will start reaching out for volunteers.
- ☑ Bahee is working on putting together obstacles and putting together a team.
- ☑ Stephanie Danfre is presenting a bid for quest feast based on light, easy Mexican cuisine. A discussion ensued regarding the bidding process and potential ideas for the feast.

OFFICER REPORTS

Exchequer - Charis

- ☑ She has checks to be signed. Jonathan offered to pick them up.
- ☑ PayPal refunds for Mudthaw need to be worked out.

Fencing - Charis & Wulfgar (on behalf of Orlando)

- ☑ The plan is to poll the fencers to see if we should hold off on practice for a while. He will contact the church.

Chatelaine - Emeline

- ☑ They have moved to online reporting for chatelaines. She has submitted her report.
- ☑ We were originally scheduled to have a demo on May 16th. We are looking to reassess.

Webminister - Dalek

- ☑ Nothing new to report.





Summary of Minutes of the Baronial Business Meeting Continued

Archery - Bahee

- ☒ There was a great class on arrow-making held this past week.
- ☒ A new archery marshal is in training.
- ☒ Regarding starting up Spring practices, the initial spring contract is in process. In light of recent events, we would want to push to after Easter. We also have the opportunity to do thrown weapons at this site. The camp contract will be put in contact with Colin. There was a discussion as to budgeting for practices—the barony has been subsidizing the cost.
- ☒ She is also working with Aaron Arrowsmith to help run Archery at BGI.

Chamberlain - Galefridus

- ☒ From a cost-conscious perspective, should we reduce our items to have one locker and save money? Charis responded no, just that the officers should be aware what the storage units cost as we set prices for events.

Heraldry - Alexander

- ☒ Nothing new to report.

Mudpuppy - Raela

- ☒ The new issue will come out soon.

The officers decided to host virtual business meetings through April. The next meeting will be on April 15th at 7:30PM via Google Hangouts.

Minutes were summarized by the deputy chronicler.

Photos from our first East Kingdom Virtual Court held Saturday April 11th, 2020



Is there something you would like to see in our next issue of The Mudpuppy?

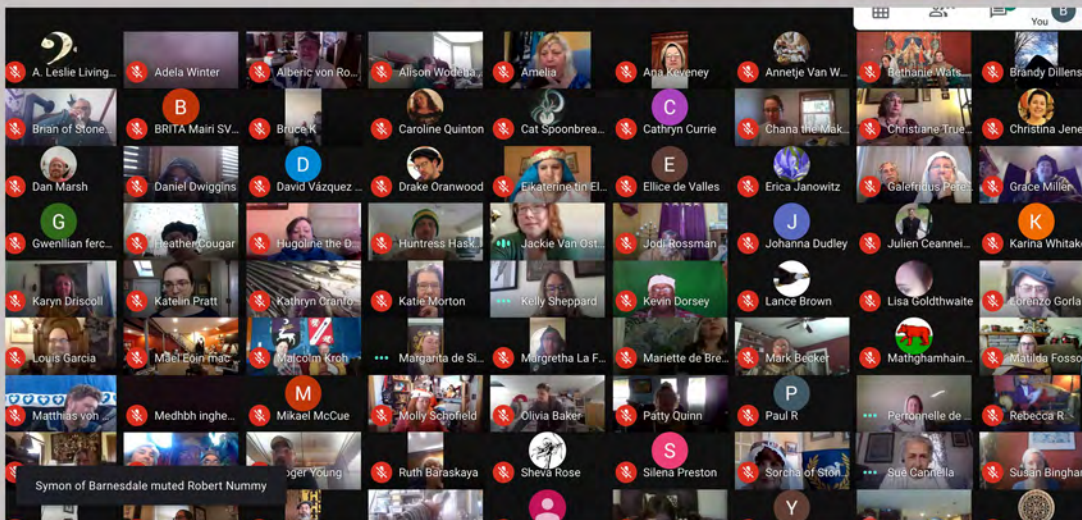
Please feel free to submit any recipes, A&S projects, fighting projects, or any
SCA-related content to:

chronicler@settmourswamp.eastkingdom.org

This is the June 2020 issue of The Mudpuppy, a publication of the Barony of Settmour Swamp of the Society for Creative Anachronism (SCA). It is not a corporate publication of SCA, Inc., and does not delineate SCA, Inc., policies. Copyright © 2020 Barony of Settmour Swamp, Society of Creative Anachronism, Inc.

This local newsletter follows the policies for the East Kingdom of the Society for Creative Anachronism. These policies include obtaining releases from contributors for the inclusion of their works.

For information on reprinting photographs, articles, or artwork from this publication, please contact the Chronicler, who will assist you in contacting the original creator of the piece. Please respect the legal rights of our contributors.



A Note from Their Excellencies about being Settmour's "Excellencies"

Dear Settmour:

About 4 years ago several groups of people within the Barony approached us. Teresa (she, her, hers) and Jonathan (he, him, his) about running for baron and baroness. At the time it was a shock: we did not feel ourselves to be invested in that level of the game. We took time to consider it as a couple, and the conclusion we came to was that it seemed like an adventure, an adventure that Oskar would share in. It seemed like a way to give back. It has been both of those things, and we are pleased with our choice and the resulting experiences.

While there are most assuredly certain traits or qualities that make a good baroness or baron, the measure of good is related to what you decide to focus on. Our baronial couple often appeared to be lopsided (especially in the beginning). Jonathan is the big ham and cheese and was encouraged early on for his theatrical nature, and Teresa is the hardcore egalitarian and was discouraged for not being as deeply engaged.

The truth is that Jonathan is a hot mess, and Teresa is highly organized. Teresa was key to scripting the early courts and events before we got our confidence. Once Teresa warmed to some of the theatrics and public speaking, she was able to easily improvise entire portions of events just as well as Jonathan. This has been a consistent theme with Royal couples too, where the one you think is not a strong enough actor, turns out to win in the end when confidence is gained. This is due to many things, a factor of which is the sincerity that is innate to the "non-actor." So there is room for both paradigms. This is also attributable to one of the things that makes baronial leadership unique: you get enough time to hit your stride and hold it. Conversely, a Royal couple is stepping down right about when they find their groove.

The baron and baroness are the difference between the group delineations of shire and barony. Our neighboring Shire of Rusted Woodlands runs events, big ones, fun ones. The only thing they cannot really do is create their own awards and give them out. There are some other rules that allow the baron and baroness to participate in managing the officer corps and they are expected to see to the comfort and productivity of the Royals when they visit. These are things that are either rarely used or easy to learn.

The Barony of Settmour Swamp is run by a quorum and consensus of its officers. In other words: "we vote." The baron and baroness get a vote each, and yes, their words are given deference and respect, so you should choose them well. You should not think you will be expected to figure all of this out on your own: you will get plenty of help from both the officers of the barony as well as the Kingdom.

The most important jobs of the baroness and baron involve hospitality, connecting people interested in things with people who know about things, and saying thank you to the volunteers as often and as heartfelt as you can. Being happy to see people you are already happy to see and letting them know is a core skill. Encouraging people to volunteer, helping people interface with the Baronial machine to get resources, supporting those running an event, and helping to find mentors for others are all important, but they come naturally. Your job is to encourage; your job is to connect; your job is to facilitate.

The investment of a baronial individual or couple is a somewhat arbitrary process: the details of it are in various rule-books. In summary, you need to be a paid member of the SCA throughout your term, and you need to live inside the Barony. After that, you need to make a commitment, with yourself and or your partner to the adventure that awaits you. This is really the most important thing.

What we want to communicate is that any of you can do this job, and all of you should. What we want more than anything is for you to look at the two of us and think, "Well if they can do it, I can," because that is exactly right. You can do this job, and you should do this job. Even running for the job is fun enough to be worth the effort.

In order to throw your names into the hat, there is a process by which you submit a letter of intent to run. It's a simple enough process, the details of which can be found in our Seneschal's statement. We hope you will consider how little effort it is to write a letter of intent and submit yours as soon as possible. The pandemic is not over yet, and it may still be some time before we see each other again. I firmly believe an acceptable but new normal awaits us, I remain optimistic about the return of events in the near future. What I am asking you to do is to borrow this optimism and visualize what it would be like for you to step up as the next baron or baroness of Settmour Swamp.

With Love,
Baroness Teresa and Baron Jonathan



During this time of quarantine it is difficult to keep up with everyone, and we miss the time to chat with each other at practices and events. For this issue of *The MudPuppy* I conducted a series of short interviews with a number of people, asking how they were doing and what (if anything) SCA-related they were up to. My thanks to everyone who participated. Some of us have been working from home; others had little or no work for at least part of the time; and some continued working as they had been before the shut down. One thing I learned was that about half of us are regularly watching *ethereal court*. These interviews took place the last week of June. -- Judith

Alexander MacGregor has been working on some heraldry research and also took part in the virtual Quest.

Ceara MacKieran of Arundel has been making jewelry and doing embroidery. She's relearning blackwork, making a figure of a plague doctor which she plans to frame.

Charis Accipiter has been able to work because she can go out in the field. It is easy to socially distance in the middle of a stream. She's been baking, making bagels, and has been sewing a new doublet for Orlando. They helped organize the virtual Quest. And they just bought a car.

Elizabeth Lovell is doing some arts and crafts, sewing mostly. She's been mending and catching up on items that were shoved to the back of the closet and projects that were on the back burner. Caleb painted the ramps on their trailer, dealing with the splintery wood. The kids were in school until recently and that took up a lot of their day.

Galefridus Peregrinus has been working from home, and has done a lot of yardwork recently as well as taking a lot of long walks and some hikes. He has done some food experiments. He taught a few classes and demoed some techniques online. He likes being a grandfather and finally got to see her.

Judith bas Rabbi Mendel finished all the paperwork for *Mudthaw* and helped get the refund checks out. She worked out the date for next year's *Mudthaw* with the site and the church next door where we park cars. She's done a few cooking experiments, making recipes from a recently translated medieval Hungarian cookbook. And is working on getting out this issue of *The MudPuppy* with Emeline's help. With Galefridus she has taught a couple classes online and participated in a number of other ones. Most importantly, she's been enjoying her granddaughter, born in May.

Markus Farmaðr has been working from home, starting before the shut down. His company plans to continue having him work remotely at least until after Labor Day, and maybe longer. He and Dyrfinna have had to work out how to make it possible for both of them to work from home successfully. Markus has managed to do a few

things: he crafted a new pell for training and painted his shield with his arms. (See picture.) Early on in the quarantine he did some brewing and is looking to do more. He is toying with the idea of getting some fabric, but asserts that he is the worst sewer.



Teresa Ana Perez said she hasn't been doing much SCA-related; she is swamped with life/work. She is managing to be creative by working on some scroll blanks. (See picture.)

Kyle has been on paternity leave. It got extended, but he'll be going back to work shortly. Having both a newborn and a toddler has meant their hands are full as they try to figure out the best way of dealing with things while sleep deprived.

Lydia FitzWaulter is trying to finish projects she has been neglecting. She has been knitting with two colors and made a little pouch in addition to some non-SCA knitting projects. She also finished a tunic. She plans to work on the second leg wrap for *Þhorfinnr*. She made the first one a while ago and started the second but lost steam. Lydia has also been growing all sorts of herbs like she does every year, but says now she is using them more in her cooking.

Natal'ia Bolotnikova has been working from home, putting in at least 50-60 hours a week. Usually her work lets up in June, but the dip in the economy has meant everything is delayed. She is planning a staycation for a week though. She says she has been mostly procrastinating about projects. Instead of making garb, she has been making catnip mice to give to friends with cats. She's managing to practice the harp occasionally. She began learning how to play last year when she took a class at Pennsic. She and Sofia take turns with their jointly owned harp.

Phelippe le Vigneron has been back at work for nearly a month. They are able to do online orders and curbside pickups. When not working, he has been doing a number of things, including taking guitar lessons. He hopes those skills will translate to citole work. In April he participated in an AOS Laurel's challenge with Master Natalia. He studied divination techniques in martial activities, discussing divinatory practices from various cultures with myriad weaponry. (for example, by the pattern of sparks from striking a sword against a rock some believed you could divine the will of the gods).

He and **Emeline** did a video for her school on Nine Men's Morris games, teaching how to create and play the game. The video was then used for an AOS challenge. The two of them have also been making garb. Phelippe made a cotehardie and some trim, while Emeline made a full Viking outfit and finished a hood project. They acquired another canvas pavilion and plan to decorate it. This one is a bit smaller so it will work better for taking to local events. In addition, Phelippe recently became the baronial exchequer, and has been working on our finances and reports.

Rosa Beanz bought a pair of roller skates when the quarantine started. Unfortunately the first time she tried them out, she broke her dominant hand, and it's still in a cast. That accident meant she could not do her work or her sewing project. Instead she has done some cooking and made cheesecake for the first time. She's been spending time outdoors in the sun by a pool.

Stephanie McGregor has been keeping in touch with folks, and has been working on how we can move forward safely as things reopen. They did a makeshift Quest: put up a tent in the backyard, wore garb, drank beer and got in their camping somehow.

Vivian de Dunbar decided to use this time to finish unfinished projects. The biggest one she is tackling comes from moving into their house three years ago when she was busy as Princess of Acre. One project she finished was Charis's cloak from her pelican elevation. She also has worked on organizing her stash of wool. She says however that she got sidelined making masks. She has also been taking classes online with Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT) and improving her sketching. She has been working from home and due to the trouble with the overseas supply chain, her job has been very busy.

