



# The Barony of Settmour Swamp

## The MudPuppy

Late Fall 2021 Edition  
A.S. 56

### List of Officers

Baron baron@settmourswamp.eastkingdom.org	Baron Orlando Sforza	Invested: March 2021 Expires: March 2025
Baroness baroness@settmourswamp.eastkingdom.org	Baroness Charis Accipiter	Invested: March 2021 Expires: March 2025
Seneschal seneschal@settmourswamp.eastkingdom.org	Markus Farmaðr	Invested: November 2021 Expires: November 2023
Deputy Seneschal	Judith bas Rabbi Mendel	Volunteered: October 2019
Exchequer exchequer@settmourswamp.eastkingdom.org	Phelippe le Vigneron	Invested: April 2020 Expires: April 2022
Deputy Exchequer	Vika Grigina z Prahy	Volunteered: December 2021
Chamberlain chamberlain@settmourswamp.eastkingdom.org	Gráinne MacCleud	Invested: December 2021 Expires: December 2023
Chatelaine chatelaine@settmourswamp.eastkingdom.org	Gwenhoivar of Lindley	Invested: September 2020 Expires: September 2022

Deputy Chatelaine	Emeline la Chauciere	Volunteered: September 2020
Social Media Officer <a href="mailto:socialmedia@settmourswamp.eastkingdom.org">socialmedia@settmourswamp.eastkingdom.org</a>	Hrefna Sigurðardóttir	Invested: November 2021 Expires: November 2023
Deputy Social Media Officer	Thóra Köttr	Volunteered: November 2021
Sinking Tower Pursuivant (Herald) herald@settmourswamp.eastkingdom.org	Alexander MacGregor	Invested: November 2018 Expires: November 2023

Deputy Herald (voice)	Ceara MacKeiran of Arundel	Volunteered: February 2018
Minister of Arts & Sciences moas@settmourswamp.eastkingdom.org	Elizabeth Talbot	Invested: April 2020 Expires: April 2022
Deputy Minister of Arts and Sciences	Raela a Bheithir	Volunteered: April 2018
Deputy Minister of Arts and Sciences	Dumnona	Volunteered January 2021
Chronicler chronicler@settmourswamp.eastkingdom.org	Lillian Hutchinson	Invested: October 2020 Expires: October 2022
Deputy Chronicler	Judith bas Rabbi Mendel Hrefna Sigurðardóttir	Volunteered: October 2019 Volunteered: March 2021
Webminister webminister@settmourseamp.eastkingdom.org	Dalek Bolotnikov is Kabanov	Invested: October 2010 Expires: May 2022
Deputy Webminister	Ursula of North Woods	Volunteered: March 2017
Knight Marshal marshal@settmourswamp.eastkingdom.org	Ögurr Aðalbrandarson	Invested: March 2016 Expires: April 2022
Captain of Archers	Silvanus Woodwose	Volunteered: January 2022
Marshal of Fence rapier@settmourswamp.eastkingdom.org	Wulfgar Silfraharr	Invested: June 2020 Expires: June 2022
<b>Gryphonwald</b>		
Seneschal seneschal@gryphonwald.eastkingdom.org	Stephanie MacGregor	Invested: July 2019
Exchequer exchequer@gryphonwald.eastkingdom.org	Eleanor Callaghan	Invested: January 2018
Minister of Arts& Sciences <a href="mailto:moas@gryphonwald.eastkingdom.org">moas@gryphonwald.eastkingdom.org</a>	Dalek Bolotnikov iz Kabanov	Invested: March 2008

# Minutes

## July

Held in-person at Jonathan and Teresa's and via webconference

Present: Natal'ia Bolotnikova (chairing), Teresa Ana Perez (taking notes), Charis Accipiter, Dalek Bolotnikov iz Kabanov, Gwenhoivar of Lindley, Hrefna Sigurðartóttir, Jonathan Miles, Markus Farmaðr, Dyrfinna Hildabrandsdottir, Ögurr Aðalbrandarson, Orlando Sforza, Oskar, Phelippe le Vigneron, Emeline la Chauciere, Silvanus Woodwose, Treannah, Wulfgar Silfrahárr, Lillian Hutchinson, Frankie

The June minutes will be available for review and approval at the August business meeting.

### Day of Champions

- Gwenhoivar has been in touch with heavy and fencing marshals, we have two volunteers for thrown weapons and are working on archery marshal. We are still looking for additional volunteers.
- We have 20 individuals pre-registered to date. Given the proposed schedule, it was agreed to push Court to later in the day. Tournament schedule begins an hour and a half after gate open with Court to begin by 4:30 pm. Treannah and Gwenhoivar will send a finalized schedule to officers list.
- Various items have been completed related to insurance and supplies. Phelippe and Natal'ia are coordinating payment of the site fee.

### Canal Day

- The officers voted to not participate in Canal Day this year due to the timing a week before fall Quest. Natal'ia will coordinate informing the contacts of this decision.

### Fall Quest

- Natal'ia confirmed the site has been reserved. Markus reported that five standard portable toilets with one ADA and two sinks have been rented. The fire permit will be sent this week. Elizabeth and Dumnona will run A&S tournament. One merchant has reached out to Dyrfinna thus far. The Quest is progressing nicely. Since Rusted Woodlands is not doing novice tourney, we will determine whether we want to run a novice tourney.
- We have 41 pre-reg (30 adults, 11 minors) to date, with some people pending. We are providing a "Feast time and seating" period and encouraging attendees bring their own food. There was a discussion to provide a printout of food options for delivery at Troll.
- There is time for the silent auction, however, it can only happen if someone volunteers. There was a discussion of donating the proceeds to Concordia due to

their storage unit fire, with whatever that isn't sold and is useful could be donated as well. Baron Orlando has spoken to them about what we could offer directly, including surplus kitchen items and extra fabric. We also suggested having a donations bucket at Troll for this purpose.

#### Officer Reports:

- Chatelaine: Gwenhoivar has continued to receive emails from interested people (approximately 3-4 newcomers interested). She has been in touch with them.
- Webminister: Dalek is working with a third-party developer to further improved the website. Heraldry: Markus said there are several names and device submissions in progress.
- Exchequer: Phelippe confirmed the Q2 2021 report is in and balanced. We have money. Chronicler: Lillian reported the Mudpuppy is in progress. She is planning to release the next issue after Day of Champions so we can include this information.
- Heavy: Ogurr said no official date for Nutley practice as the church is not open. Unofficially, Sheva in Colonia is running a practice at her house as a fill in as well as one at Jonathan and Teresa's on Wednesdays. There are official practices on Thursdays in Rusted Woodlands. There was a suggestion to use the Quail Hill site – Ciaran is running fencing practice every two weeks.
- Fencing: Wulfgar reported that fencing practices have officially begun again with the first fencing practice held in person in Morristown. Although there were few attendees, it was thoroughly enjoyed. There is onsite storage offered and a whole first floor that is available for use. There is a sign-up sheet offered for people to sign in to reserve their spot as there is a 14-person limit per room so there are opportunities to use the separate rooms for A&S if desired.

#### Miscellaneous

- As a housekeeping item, Natal'ia reminded the officers to please renew their memberships and keep them current.

Next meeting: In person with virtual option on August 18th at 7:30 pm

### *August*

Present: Natal'ia Bolotnikova (chairing, by zoom), Judith bas Rabbi Mendel (taking notes), Teresa Ana Perez (taking notes, by zoom), Alexander MacGregor (by zoom), Ceara MacKieran of Arundel (by zoom), Charis Accipiter, Ciaran Ua Meic Thire, Dyrfinna Hildabrandsdottir, Elizabeth Talbot of Meath, Emeline la Chauciere (by zoom), Galefridus Peregrinus, Gráinne MacLeod (by zoom), Gwenhoivar of Lindley (by zoom), Hrefna Sigurðartóttir, Jonathan Miles, Markus Farmaðr, Orlando Sforza, Phelippe le Vigneron, Rennwick of Gryphonwald (by zoom), Silvanus Woodwose, Stephanie McGregor (by zoom), Treannah (by zoom), Wulfgar Silfrahárr (by zoom)

The officers voted to approve the minutes and summary of the June and July baronial meetings.

#### Day of Champions

- The event went well. The report has been sent in to Kingdom. We lost close to \$200 on this event. Pre-registrating worked fine. 86 people pre-registered and paid. 68 adults came, 7 minors, including several new people. Lu An-Hua did a great job as MoL. More fighters came than expected, which caused them to change the fighting format, and she handled the change smoothly.

### **Quest**

- Markus reported that firewood, dumpster, fire permit, and portajohns have all been ordered. The quest is being worked on, and prizes need to be ordered. Vashni has passed on items for the auction. The schedule is set. They are working on getting marshals set. Ciaran will MoL. Right now we have 141 people signed up, and 21 children. The cost for members is \$30 for the entire weekend, and \$20 for a single day. We need more volunteers to help at the event, and a Google doc to sign up to help has been posted on the baronial Facebook page.
- Elizabeth spoke about the Quest A&S events, a competition for baronial champion and Artisans' Row. The prizes will cost the same amount as the prizes given at the Day of Champions (\$25). There will be two winners: the champion and the populace choice. The judges for the champion will be the baron, the baroness, the current champion (Judith), the baronial MOAS (Elizabeth), and her deputy (Dumnona).
- Stephanie described the auction. The officers voted that the proceeds go to support the Barony of Concordia, which has to replace a lot of their stuff that was destroyed in a fire at their storage unit. Stephanie and Rennwick will put on an improv show based on Antiques Roadshow. It will take place just before the Quest and be tied in.

### **Mudthaw**

- Judith has been trying to get information from the Greek Orthodox Church. They have us on their calendar but say the price has gone up. If we want to use the kitchen it will cost a lot more because they will be doing a thorough cleaning after the event. We need to know the cost with and without the use of the kitchen to make an informed decision. We expect that the attendance numbers will be lower. If we decide not to use the kitchen, we could have everyone bring their own food and picnic.

### **Black Gryphon Inn**

- Stephanie said BGI is scheduled for April 23rd at the Elks Lodge in Edison. BGI will have a Brazilian theme.

### **Officer Reports**

- Chatelaine: Gwenhoivar said she had nothing new to report. There is a general request for children's garb. She will post a request. Jonathan, Teresa, and Gwenhoivar will work on making sure there is more garb in smaller sizes in time for Quest. Jonathan has been trying to keep touch with the Rutgers group to keep up the connection.
- Heraldry: Alexander said he was going to set up a consultation table for help with heraldry at Quest, but there doesn't seem to be any interest in it. Galefridus offered to

help with the table. Alexander was working on a device. Alex has two submissions he's working on.

- Exchequer: Phelippe said we have money. Storage unit prices have gone up again. Phelippe asked that people use the electronic form when asking for reimbursements. It is on the baronial website.
- Heavy: Martial practices are taking place informally; there's nothing official yet. There is one informal practice at a home. A lot of Swamp folks are going to the practices up in Rusted Woodland. Both of these practices are good places for new people to go to. Many people get involved with the SCA because of the heavy fighting.
- Rapier: Wulfgar said that since July we've been having fencing practices in Morristown at the Masonic Center, but no one has come the last two weeks. The biggest drawback of this site is the lack of parking. People seem to be going to Hawthorne or Quail Hill. The Rusted Woodlands practice is on Tuesdays; ours is on Thursdays. Orlando will work on marketing it better, perhaps with a practice tournament. We can also offer A&S project nights in a different room. We could reach out to fencers and ask them why they aren't coming. We could also take a group photo of fencers outside the building to show what it looks like.
- MoL – Ciaran's term is ending. We need to post the position for a month before we can vote. Ciaran is willing to continue as MoL.
- A&S: Elizabeth has been setting up forms and getting everything set for A&S at Quest.
- Chamberlain: To be ready for Quest, we need to assemble the two new pop-ups currently in storage.

Next meeting: We moved the date because of the Jewish holidays. We will meet in person on Sunday, September 19th at Charis and Orlando's and combine the meeting with a potluck bbq, running from 2 pm – 5. We will make it possible for people to participate virtually as well.

Minutes submitted by Judith.

## September

Present: Natal'ia Bolotnikova (chairing), Judith bas Rabbi Mendel (taking notes), Alexander MacGregor, Charis Accipiter, Emeline la Chauchiere, Galefridus Peregrinus, Garrick Mapmaker, Orlando Sforza, Ögurr Aðalbrandarson, Phelippe le Vigneron, Wulfgar Silfrahárr, Treannah, Gwenhoivar of Lindley

The officers voted to approve the minutes and summary of the August baronial meeting.

### Quest

- Markus sent in a report: 235 people preregistered. 188 checked in with troll. We made about \$1,500 in profit. The auction raised over \$1,000 for Concordia of the Snows to help with replacing items lost when their storage unit burned.
- We need to make sure we enforce the mask policy. We've clarified that does not count if you take off a mask while holding a drink. You have to be actively eating or drinking, not just holding food or drink. We need to submit a safety plan to Kingdom Seneschal for every meeting, practice, or event. All our business meetings will be virtual for the rest of this year.

- It was recommended that we look into alternate sites. We had a few issues with the Elks this time. Natal'ia will talk to AI about these difficulties. The Kingdom Seneschal afterwards gave us an A- for the event.

### **Mudthaw**

- Judith reported: The Greek Orthodox Church has not been responding to emails or calls. We are considering using a different site for the 2022 Mudthaw because it will be a smaller event. We don't need space for 700 people. We don't have an autocrat yet for Mudthaw. We should put out a call and say in the announcement that we are scaling down. Charis will continue looking for alternative sites.
- Demos – Natal'ia went to a Jersey City Parks and Recreation meeting to ask about doing demos and practices. They are eager to have us.

### **Officer Reports**

- Seneschal: Natal'ia's term is ending in October. We need to put out the call for volunteers. She mentioned that someone is interested in the position.
- Exchequer: Phelippe corrected the report on the Day of Champions to include some minor financial changes. The barony has money. During the pandemic we have had expenses, but no income. Phelippe said before the pandemic we had about \$4,000 more. We are not in any financial difficulty.
- Chamberlain: Nothing has changed since last month; no upcoming requests in the near future.
- Heraldry: Alexander did not run a consultation table at Quest. He currently has two submissions to send in.
- Rapier: Wulfgar is looking for a new site that has parking. Currently attendance is low. He has been submitting safety plans weekly to Kingdom.
- Heavy: Ogurr said there are no official practices.
- Chatelaine: There has been a lot of conversation within the SCA recently about recruitment. We had about 30 newcomers at Quest! She raised a question about deputies and officer emails.

Next meeting: Will be virtual. It will be held October 13th at 7:30 pm.

Minutes submitted by Judith.

## **October**

Present: Natal'ia Bolotnikova (chairing), Markus Farmaðr (chairing), Judith bas Rabbi Mendel (taking notes), Alan G., Alexander MacGregor, Dalek Bolotnikov iz Kabanov, Elizabeth Talbot of Meath, Emeline la Chauciere, Galefridus Peregrinus, Hekja Hornabrájotr, Hrefna Sigurdardóttir, John C., Jonathan Miles, Orlando Sforza, Ögurr Aðalbrandarson, Phelippe le Vigneron, Teresa Ana Perez, Vika Grigina z Prahy, Wulfgar Silfrahárr

The officers did not vote on the minutes and summary of the September baronial meeting because too few had read them. We will vote on this next month.

## **Quest**

- Natal'ia has not been able to talk with Al yet about the issues with the event discussed at the September meeting. Phelippe delivered the payment check.

## **Mudthaw**

- Judith received two versions of the contract from the Greek Orthodox Church—with and without the use of the kitchen. The cost has gone up by \$200 for the contract without the kitchen. We agreed we should not cut ties with them until we have firm plans to use a different site.
- Natal'ia said she had not heard from anyone interested in autocrattin this event. It is difficult for us to even guess accurately what attendance will be. 100 Minutes War is coming up—there will be four peerages awarded. We noted that peerages often increase attendance. We will be paying attention to how many people go to 100 Minutes. That may give us something to base our planning on. We need at least 500-600 people to break even if we use the Greek Orthodox church. Galefridus volunteered to talk with the king about the size of events. We suspect there is a lot of pent-up desire to go to events, but also some caution. We agreed we should put a cap on attendance.
- Orlando said Charis (who wasn't able to attend tonight) has not reached the Somerset 4H. The baron and baroness would really like to hold Mudthaw this time.
- A small group (Galefridus, Charis, Teresa) will work on looking for alternative places. Another group will work on preparing a bid.

## **Demos in Jersey City**

- Natal'ia said they Jersey City Parks and Recreation folks wanted us to do something on October 9th, but we can't successfully pull that off. We will have to deal with a lot of bureaucracy with these folks, so we may want to hold off for now and think instead about doing something in the spring.

## **Vote for Office of Seneschal**

- Natal'ia expressed her heartfelt thanks for being given the opportunity to serve the barony as seneschal. She very much appreciated everyone's support. The opening has been posted for a month. Markus Farmaðr has volunteered to be the next seneschal. The officers voted in favor of having him serve as the next seneschal. Natal'ia will work on getting him the chain and key of office. He chaired the remainder of the meeting.

## **Officer Reports**

- Heraldry: Alexander said Heraldry is happening slowly. Someone gave him papers to submit, but he has to return them because the process has changed slightly, and they need to mail them in.
- Exchequer: Phelippe said we have money. He also has a deputy. There were some minor problems with paying the storage locker this month. (They send mail to Judith because she was seneschal when we signed the contract with them.) Neither Judith nor



Phelippe got the most recent invoices. He is working on straightening out these minor issues—all having to do with

- Compass' own paperwork. Phelippe would like to pay for several months at a time.
- Chamberlain: Galefridus commented that there is not much to say. Everything has been returned to the storage locker from Quest. There have been no requests to borrow or use stuff.
- Rapier: Wulfgar said that as of the 12th people coming to practices need proof of being fully vaccinated or a negative COVID test within the last 72 hours. This policy is being implemented. He is looking for a new site.
- Heavy: Ogurr said there are still no official practices in the barony. People have been going up to Rusted Woodlands on Wednesdays. A couple of people are looking for a place within the barony to hold practices. When we can finally do that, Ogurr would like to use the same paperwork Wulfgar has for signing people in.
- Chatelaine: Emeline said not a lot has been happening. She will check in with Gwenhoivar. They will be following up with new people who came to Quest.
- Webministry: Dalek said not much is going on. He has been getting suggestions about changes to the baronial website that would be nice.
- A&S: At Quest we chose a new A&S champion: Jonathan. He will be helping with next year's competition. People seem to have had a good experience with the competition and display.

Next meeting: Will be virtual. It will be held November 10th at 7:30 pm.

## November

Present: Markus Farmaðr (chairing), Judith bas Rabbi Mendel (taking notes), Teresa Ana Perez (taking notes), Alan G., Cuilean MacFhionnlaigh, Elizabeth Talbot of Meath, Emeline la Chauciere, Galefridus Peregrinus, Gráinne MacLeod, Hrefna Sigurdardóttir, Jessa d"Avondale, Jonathan Miles, Lillian Hutchinson, Orlando Sforza, Ögurr Aðalbrandarson, Phelippe le Vigneron, Sheva Rose, Vika Grigina z Prahy, Wulfgar Silfrahárr

The officers voted to approve the minutes and summaries of the September and October baronial meetings.

Markus commented that he has been reading the documents that describe what a seneschal should do, and has been asking for lots of clarification as he learns his new position.

### Officer Terms

- Galefridus' term as chamberlain is ending; two people have expressed interest in being chamberlain. The social media officer's term is also ending. This officer really needs a deputy because it is too much to expect one person to keep up with everything. The position has been posted online for the required 30 days. The officers voted, choosing Hrefna; Thora will be her deputy.

- Three more positions will be ending within five months: the Exchequer, MoAS, and Knight Marshal. Phelippe needs another deputy. According to new Kingdom rules, we have to have a drop-dead deputy for the exchequer. Markus asked that officers make sure their SCA memberships are kept current.

### **Troll in a Box**

- The Kingdom has posted online a number of documents that anyone running troll will need. The signs to post at troll, for example, have changed because of covid. The documents now include forms for contact tracing.

### **Mudthaw**

- We have two bids for autocrating Mudthaw: one from Jonathan Miles and Elizabeth Talbot; the other from Sheva. Jonathan and Elizabeth withdrew their bid, saying they did it to make sure the event could be put on. Sheva is proposing that we have a boxed feast for 200 at Mudthaw. A formal bid for us to consider will be sent by email and we can vote on it then.
- We discussed attendance. A cap of 300 or 500 was proposed. A number of larger events are being planned: Birka, Bhakhail Yule, 100 Minutes War, and Aedult Swim. We discussed sites.
- If we used SS. Nicholas, Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church in Roseland, we need the event fee to be high enough to cover the rental fee, it works out to 300 people at more than \$20. Markus would like the people looking at other locations to continue their search. He called four places. Galefridus has been talking with Vasa Park.

### **Other Swamp Events**

- Quest – Do we want to send out a request for bids now? We usually start planning six months out. Markus will ask Dalek to post it.
- Ducal Challenge – Will we do this event this year? We need to contact Brennan and Caoilfhionn. Black Gryphon Inn (BGI) – The hall is booked for April 23. Stephanie MacGregor is working on it.

### **Officer Reports**

- Rapier: Wulfgar said 8 fencers and 3 visitors came last week. He is reaching out to two places we've used before as possible sites. We should keep the practices on Thursdays.
- Exchequer: Phelippe needs a deputy quickly. We have money.
- Chamberlain: Galefridus said we have stuff.
- Heraldry: Three items are being worked on
- A&S: Elizabeth said not a whole lot is happening. She has a couple of new videos to upload. She asks that people fill in their wiki pages. We could do a solar to make garb if there is interest. Chronicler: Lillian says she has the next issue ready, but she needs help with layout.
- Heavy: People are fighting again and having fun (yeah!). Fighters are adhering to the rules about masking. The Nutley church is opening to us again.

- Next meeting: Will be virtual. It will be held December 8th at 7:30 pm.