


# The Barge

2024 Quarter 2



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# Calontir Calendar

## July

### Coronation

Saturday, July 13  
Barony of Mag Mor  
Sesostri Shrine Social Hall, 1050 Saltillo Rd Roca, NE 68430

### Masters of the Duel

Saturday, July 20  
Barony of Three Rivers  
Arlington United Methodist Church, 3770 McKelvey Rd, Bridgeton, MO 630446

### Feast of Eagles

Saturday, July 27  
Shire of Cum an Iolair  
St Thomas Episcopal Church, 12251 Antioch Rd, Overland Park, KS 66213

## August

### St. Augustine's Faire

Friday, August 16 - Sunday, August 18  
Shire of Heraldshill  
Grafton Community Center, 202 6th Avenue, Grafton, IA 50440

### Cattle Raids

Friday, August 23 - Sunday, August 25  
Barony of Mag Mor  
Saunders County Fairgrounds, 636 E 1st St, Wahoo, NE 68066

### Raid or Trade

Friday, August 30 - Sunday September, 2  
Barony of Coeur d'Ennuui  
8717 W 122nd St N, Mingo, IA 50168

## September

### Vertigo

Friday, September 6 - Sunday, September 8  
Shire of Lost Moor  
15609 Co Rd 344, Savannah, MO 64485

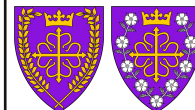
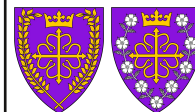
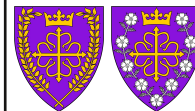
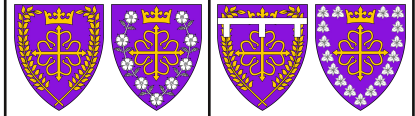
### King's Companie of Archers

Saturday, September 13 - Sunday, September 15

## Royal Progress

Majesties

Highnesses



## Calontir Virtual Arts & Sciences Classes

Did you know that RUSH is hosting online classes? Anyone can sign up to teach a class and add it to the schedule!

The calendar of classes and instructions can be found at [calontir.org/arts-sciences/virtual-classes/](http://calontir.org/arts-sciences/virtual-classes/)

# Proximal Midrealm Events

(Roughly 3 hours or less)

## September

### Baroness Wars & Tournament Arts

Friday, September 13 - Sunday, September 15

Shire of Swordcliff

Christian County Fair Grounds, 1716 W Spresser St, Taylorville, IL 62568

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## Local Non-SCA Events of Interest

### July

#### Music of the Spanish Renaissance

Friday, July 26, 6:00-7:30pm

St Louis Art Musuem

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## Kingdom Court Reports (Regarding Baronial Members)

### Valor

Berakha bat Mira v'Shlomo - Silver Hammer

Berakha bat Mira v'Shlomo - Winner of Valor Bardic Competition

### Lilies

Gillian of Three Rivers - AOA

Alys Knighton (Apple) - Pelican

Reinhardt Eichmann - Iren Hus

Gwynneth wraig Rhys - Pelican

Helenos ben Simon - Golden Calon Swan

Melchor Eichmann - Stile Fyrd

Skuli - Torse

Ravasz Janos - Queen's Endorsement of Distinction for Ideals of the Society

### Coronation

Melchor Eichmann - Boon Begged for Chivalry

Elisabetta di Tres Fumi - Court Baronage



# Event Running

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**R**unning an event is one of the most important acts of service that can be done within the SCA. Without someone stepping up to do it, our game would largely evaporate.

Various attempts have been made before to make running events more approachable, like providing mentors, or creating checklists and timelines. Yet many still feel that running an event is scary or inscrutable.

In response, *The Barge* is exploring how events are put together. In last quarter's issue we discussed how event ideas are formed. But no event can happen without having a site to host the event.

In the SCA, we've generally been able to maintain good relationships with the sites we use, ensuring that we're invited back. However, sites can close, change pricing to become unaffordable, or simply be booked for the dates we need. As such, we should constantly be keeping an eye out for new event venues.

Indeed, within the next year, Three Rivers will be hosting events at three sites that are either new or haven't been used in over 30 years. Had we not secured these sites, it's likely we would be unable to host these events.

So in this issue, we'll be discussing how to find, approach, and work with venues.

# Our Panel



**Comyn Hrothwyn af Guilden Acumen (Shadow)**  
Joined the SCA in 1979

**Slaine ni Chiarain**  
Joined the SCA in 1989



**Hrodwyn of Raven's Croft**  
Joined the SCA in 1983

**Ellien Chadaway**  
Joined the SCA in 1988



**Gwynneth wraig Rhys**  
Joined the SCA in 1993

**Listen to the Full Interviews**

A black speaker icon with three curved lines representing sound waves, indicating audio content.

# Where do you start when looking for a new site?



*I look in the greater metropolitan area of the group I'm in. For Three Rivers it can be Illinois and Missouri.*

*I'm always keeping my ears open, at least when I was more active. My husband Joseph's uncle used to be the principal of CBC [Christian Brothers College] and we went to a thing there and I'm like, "Oh ask your uncle if we could use this for SCA" [and] he's like, "No".*



*Look for neighborhoods that are safe. We've had events in places before that have just not been safe as far as cars parked on the streets.*

*Engrained as I move throughout the city and go places is evaluating: "Is this suitable for an SCA event?" I had a lovely church with a beautiful kitchen and enough parking near Forest Park and Washington University. It was nowhere near big enough to accommodate even the smallest of Three Rivers events.*

*So, churches, community centers, synagogues, and other halls. A VFW Hall an American Legion Hall... Places like that are good starters for what could accommodate us.*



*The one-day [events] we start looking at community centers and churches that have gyms. Or schools or things attached, that might be willing to rent for a day for an event. And for camping events, we start looking for places further out of town that might be able to accommodate a weekend - a full three-day Friday, Saturday, Sunday event.*

# *What do you look for in a new site?*



*I will look for a large fighting space that has clearance for spears.*

*I try to make sure there's space for children that's not right on top of the fighting, but not so far away that the parents feel isolated.*



*If they have rooms for the populace to gather so they're not in where the fighting is or where Court was. Spaces for classrooms.*

*I think we're almost always going to want to have fighting. We'll always need parking because we are all coming in vehicles from all over the state and that's important. We don't always need a kitchen. We need to accommodate activities other than fighting. The populace needs to assemble on a place other than the gym because all the fighters are taking up space and the lists are taking up space.*



*Do we know if we're going to have a fairly healthy Royal presence and they're going to need lots of privy chambers?*

*We have to know whether or not we're going to be able to have a equestrian events - if there's room for horses whether it's in paddocks, or if we're going to have to bring all of our own things and the horses are going to be on lines for that evening.*

# *How do you try to convince a site owner to let us do our thing?*



*In many cases, the first thing you must discuss is insurance. The SCA does allow us a certain level of insurance.*

*Bring ample pictures to show them what you're doing...Find videos... The more normal we appear and the more mainstream... then a venue will say "Yes, you can use this site."*

*Try to couch it in terms of chivalry. And use words [like] "Middle Ages" instead of "medieval" and things like that, to make us sound nicer.*



*Be kind [and] be very open about what you do, and make sure that they know that that you're normal people who just have a fascination with the Middle Ages.*

*We have people who can do that. Former Baroness Gwendolyn is in sales. And when I was seneschal, I would use Gwendolyn. So it's a conversation, but I also think it's not one you need to have, unless you're comfortable with it.*



*I really stress the educational aspect of what we do and the fact that we aren't here just to play a game. That a lot of what we're doing during an event is actually researched and documented recreation of things from the Middle Ages.*

*We try and stress the fact that we try and leave a site better than we found it and that we have people who take special care of other people's properties.*

# *How has finding an event site changed during your time in the SCA?*



*One of the biggest things was alcohol. Not all of our venues allow alcohol use. Not of all of our venues allow marijuana use. Both of which are legal in Missouri.*

*A lot of places have closed. A lot of spaces are no longer available to rent out. A lot of churches stopped letting people use their space.*



*Oh, it's gotten harder. Especially if you want to have a feast. A lot of venues these days have their own catering and they don't want you to be able to bring in any food. So that makes it more difficult. It's also a little harder because we have more people that come to events than we used to. So finding a venue that holds up to 400 people can be quite difficult.*



*In 30 years it's gotten a lot harder because of the legal aspects. People are more litigious. And so site owners are a lot more wary of renting to any kind of a organization like ours.*

*And a lot of schools and churches will not rent anymore to outside organizations. I do try and let them know that we do have both liability and special coverage insurance. And that we would make sure that they were completely covered for anything that may happen during the event and they would not be held liable for anything.*

# What are the hidden things that can go wrong with a site?



*Damages to the site. We are guests. Do not damage the crockery. Do not use it to fight with. Do not knock the handles off of the crockery. Do not throw it at your girlfriend because you're being cute.*

*Stairs all over the place. People can't get around. And then and then the elevator is broken or restricted.*



*One Chieftains that I ran at Francis de Sales, I set up everything and as I was leaving, I noticed that people came into the gym to play basketball and rearranged what I had done. That was not fun. So, you just have to be aware of what other groups are using it [and] how they're using it.*

*Things have been locked. Things that we expected to be open things that we didn't know were locked and we needed to make sure that we had a contact that we could call that day and not a nine to five Monday through Friday office number.*

*Snow removal was an issue one year that they had not planned to have the parking lot plowed on a Saturday. And we had a lot of snow on Saturday and I think it was a church and and they definitely had contracted to have the church plowed on Sunday.*



*We've had issues with either having porta-potties not show up or the facilities that are provided by the site owners can't handle the number of people that we would have on a site and toilets back up and become inoperable.*

*We occasionally have had site owners who have gone MIA and we haven't been able to get a hold of them to make sure that our contracts are either fulfilled or that the site is actually going to be available for the days that we've discussed having it.*

# Editor's Final Thoughts

Every person I interviewed for this article agreed: Finding event sites is getting harder.

One reason they gave is that site owners are increasingly concerned about liability - a fact which can hopefully be mitigated by informing them of the insurance the SCA carries for all events. But another reason many cited was that our events are getting bigger, requiring larger spaces. Simply put, many event sites we have used in times past are not big enough for us any longer.

The fact that sites have become harder to find means two things to me. First, we need to constantly be keeping an eye out for new sites. Second, we must be good guests when we find a site, working consciously to maintain a positive relationship. This was echoed by many of those that I interviewed, some even referring to sites at which we are no longer welcome.

I had hoped that those I interviewed might offer some trick for finding new sites, but their experience evidently matched my own: There is simply no good source for finding new sites. It's really a matter of consistently keeping your eyes open as we visit new spaces to see if they would be suitable for our

organization.

One thing that I would offer is that the website [hipcamp.com](http://hipcamp.com) is a potential source for sites for camping events (this is where I found the site we'll be using for our fall camping event this year). Outdoor wedding event venues (such as Skyway Farms) and wineries are potential locations as well.

As an event steward, it's more likely than not that we'll already have a site or two for you to consider with which we already have an established relationship. Since the Seneschal is the legal representative of the group, you should work with them to communicate with the site and establish a contract. If you're not comfortable with this, the Seneschal, or other experienced members of the Barony will happily be able to take over and secure the site.

Ultimately, there's many things to consider about a site, most of which were touched on in the interviews I conducted (for which I highly recommend listening to the full audio). But at the end of the day, the site is simply a container and the real magic is what we put into it.



# Book Review:

## *Weird Medieval Guys*

*Book by: Olivia M. Swarthout*

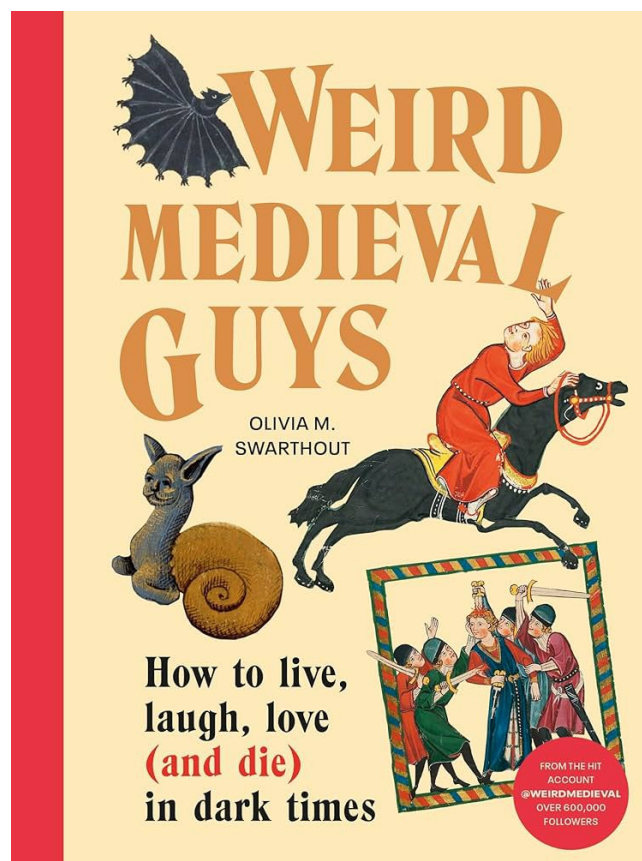
*Review by: Pádraigín an Einigh*

**W**hen Jon Chesey asked if I'd read (twist my arm) a book about the Medieval world and then provide a review, I said yes. When he handed me the book, and I initially thumbed through it, I immediately began scheming on how I could abscond with said book.

*Weird Medieval Guys* (WMG) by Olivia M. Swarthout is a hilarious and snarky glimpse into our medieval counterparts' lives. This is not your mother's history book (although it could be your father's, considering the surprising number of Dad Jokes and puns it contains) as WMG playfully unveils the humanity, humor, and horrors of people navigating life in the medieval world. If you were suddenly transported in time to the Middle Ages, this book could come in handy for the 24 hours you survived (is no one thinking about the number of germs you'd have to contend with, or even the language barrier?!).

Swarthout brings the medieval world to life with meticulous research and delightful illustrations. From picking a name (p. 13) to wondering exactly why there are so many aggressive snails and rabbits in marginalia, WMG has it.

Have you ever wondered what your occupation might be? Page 42 provides a quick quiz on your true calling (I'd make a



great innkeeper, with hermit as a second choice, because of my desire to burn things to the ground.) Looking to court that special someone? The flow chart on pages 59 to 60 provides wise counsel. Done with that special someone? Want to get rid of them? There's a flow chart (p. 69-70) for that too! Are you worried about your artistic ability? Have no fear; the Bestiary (101) will make you feel much better, as it's clear those drunken monks didn't know what the fu... er... heck they were doing either, and page 191 proves it. Although it's adorable, I think I have found my next tattoo.

Meanwhile, the recipe for a love potion on page 63 might be my next Kingdom A&S entry. Do you like maps? There are maps (p31). Curious about strange deaths (p. 77)? There are strange deaths. Want to know how to handle a civil dispute (p. 89)? Get your sharpest implement ready because, my friend, you might win your case! Need help figuring out how to lay siege to your pesky neighbor across the sea? WMG has you covered.

Of course, my absolute favorites are the Medieval Slang and Medieval Astrology sections, as they are liversoon for the soul (see what I did there?).

Swarthout's ability to blend scholarly research with a witty narrative style proves

people have mostly stayed the same, and we shouldn't take every aspect of history too seriously. She educates and entertains, making complex historical contexts accessible without sacrificing depth.

Moreover, *Weird Medieval Guys* provides a chuckle and a newfound appreciation for the weird figures who shaped our past, as it is not just a book about history; it's a celebration of life's absurdities and triumphs.

If you'll excuse me, I have to check on my love potion.

PS: Make sure you read the Acknowledgements. You'll be glad you did.



*Ms 107, Bréviaire de Renaud de Bar (1302-1304), fol.-89r-108r, Bibliothèque de Verdun.*



# The More They Stay the Same...

*A B3R fighter practice at the Mason's Lodge in Webster Groves, 2024.*

**U**nderstanding the history of our Society, Kingdom, and Barony is something that has interested me for quite some time. And thanks to some kind donations (or self-interested de-stashing) of hundreds of Kingdom newsletters, I have had the opportunity to review decades of our shared history.

In the last issue, I explored how things have changed since the founding of this kingdom. Here, I'll share some things that felt familiar about the articles I've found in these newsletters.

## The Board of Directors

**T**he Board of Directors (BoD) hasn't always existed in the SCA. It came about as a result of the growth of the Society when it became necessary to create an overarching set of rules that was standardized between kingdoms.

But as soon as bureaucracy is in place, someone is going to be upset. In recent years, we've seen complaints that the BoD is

not responding to the needs of the populace fast enough, or is making changes too fast, or that they simply made the wrong changes. As the saying goes, you can't please everyone all of the time.

And the same has been true all along as indicated by a submission in the January AS XXIV (1990) issue of the Mews, where Ted Fleming wrote about the rules becoming "so weight and unwieldy as to be difficult to understand." The result of which, he assured us, is that "the players will simply not play the game, or make their own game, with their own rules."

## A&S Competitions

**C**ompetition in martial disciplines is generally straightforward; one person gets hit and acknowledges defeat.

But judging a competition for Arts & Sciences is much harder. Entries are rarely in the same category, judges are only sometimes experienced in the specific discipline being judged, quality is extremely subjective...

The result is that competitions in A&S is certainly not going to be for everyone. An article in the December AS XXIV (1989) Mews by Barbary Elspeth Ham highlights this, giving her reasons for not entering Kingdom A&S. This included things like the categories being defined too-narrowly, overly critical judges, and other priorities (both within and outside of the SCA) taking too much time.

Perhaps the reason that will ring the most true is the feeling that her work was simply not good enough. She, like so many of us, deemed herself “somewhat of a perfectionist” who was reluctant to have her work judged.

And yet, she closes her article arguing that we cannot let this (or the previous reasons) become an excuse not to enter. She reminds us that entering enriches our Society. An A&S competition with few or no entries should be unthinkable as a Crown Tournament with no fighters. It is active participation that creates the magic.

Barbary would receive her Laurel a year and a half after writing that article, during the reign of Roderick of Mandrake Hill & Brayden Avenel Durrant.

## Interpersonal Conflicts

**N**o matter what organization we find ourselves in, not everyone is going to get along. Personalities can simply clash and we need to be able to deal with it.

This was the subject of a letter in the December XXII (1987) Mews by Isadora of

Orange Woode. There she discussed the steps that can be taken to try to resolve conflicts, specifically with a local officer.

Much of the advice there is identical to what it is today: Starting with the individual and working your way up the chain of command. Calontir has added some additional resources with the Advocate’s office to assist with this, but the fact that conflict happens and that there’s a best practice of addressing it remains true.

Note that the article does *not* recommend taking to social media to air grievances. This is certainly because social media did not exist, but the article also does not recommend using the in-person social networks of the day either.

## Dry Sites

**I**n recent years, Three Rivers has tried to use sites that allow alcohol of any type under the notion that “someone is going to break the rules and we’d rather not lose a site over it.” And this concern is historically warranted. A letter in the May AS XXI (1987) issue of the Mews tells about an event held at a Catholic seminary which was “moderately wet” (allowing beer and wine) but at which some individuals chose to try to get around the site rules by drinking distilled spirits in their car which was observed by individuals coming to evening mass. No word on the consequences.

However, a rule that we should prioritize wet sites has never truly existed. Reviewing flyers of old reveal that dry sites have been common throughout Calontir and Three Rivers’ history.

## Conclusion

It's funny to go back and look at old pictures in the SCA. They're full of armor that, while certainly reasonably protective, shows only the barest hint of attempting to be period. The SCA was certainly still developing competency as a recreation organization. My, how we've grown.

Yet, every old letter also shows concerns that are the same as they are today. There are always reminders to be kind and courteous. Admonitions to the Peers to understand the social power they are given and not abuse it. But underpinning them all is the same love for our Society.

The letter I cited above regarding the BoD cautions against making the SCA overly

complicated lest people leave and our Society fail... Yet here we are, 34 years later, still living the Dream.

~Jon Chesey

## Join the Conversation

How has the SCA remained the same since you started?

If you have insights you'd like to share, Email [chronicler@b3r.calontir.org](mailto:chronicler@b3r.calontir.org).

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## What's New (or Old)?

*Aka, things that are happening in the area that may be of interest to the St. Louis SCA-dian*

**The City Sewing Room** (located at 6700 Arsenal) is a local treasure, offering basic sewing classes, basic sewing machine-use classes, and more advanced classes of all kinds. BUT! The BEST part, they have a "Maker's Mart Shop" (open from 12PM to 8PM on Tuesday through Thursday, 12PM to 6PM on Friday, and 12PM to 4 PM on Saturday) where you can buy sewing notions, thread, and FABRIC FOR \$2.00 A POUND!!!!



Another Local treasure, **Perennial** (3762 S Broadway) offers makers spaces, use of tools and supplies, and provides classes in everything from using power tools and sewing machines, to paper making and bookbinding. There are an amazing assortment of classes offer. Fair warning: These classes fill up pretty quickly, so if you want to get in on one of them, sign up early!

~Fiondel Songspinner

# An Eye on the Stars



Corona Borealis from John Bayer's *Uranometria*, 1603 (1661 edition)

*In the autumn season of [1217], in the early evening, a wonderful sign was seen in a certain star in the west. This star was located a little west of south, in what astrologers call Ariadne's Crown [Corona Borealis]. As we ourselves have observed, it was originally a faint star that, for a time, shone with great light, and then returned to its original faintness. There was also a very bright ray reaching up the sky, like a large tall beam. This was seen for many days that autumn.*

*~Buchard, Ursberg Abbey (1217)*

**I**n the autumn of 1217, the monk Buchard wrote his chronicles - a record of notable events that had occurred. Among them, he recorded the appearance of a new star in the constellation of Corona Borealis.

Astronomers of the time held that the heavens were eternal and unchanging, but occasionally something unusual did appear. Comets were fairly common (and were generally assigned a negative portent) but new stars were far rarer (often viewed as positive portents as they were associated with the birth of Christ).

One new star appeared in 1054 in the constellation of Taurus. Today, astronomers have identified it as a supernova by detecting the remnant of that explosion (known as the Crab nebula) telescopically. However, no such glowing debris is to be found in the region of the sky described by Buchard indicating it was not a supernova. So what was it?

Supernovae can be triggered in multiple ways. The first is the death of a massive star at the end of its life. When it is no longer able to support fusion in the core, the mass of the star collapses triggering a massive explosion.

However, a second form of supernova occurs as a result of a pair of stars. In this scenario, a lower mass star has reached the end of its life cycle. It blows off its outer layers in a final sigh and leaves its core behind as a white dwarf. If this remnant is gravitationally bound to another star, it can siphon mass from the second star. If the mass of the white dwarf is just under a critical threshold, the accumulation of matter from the second star can cause a supernova as well.

But if the white dwarf isn't massive enough, the mass from the second star accumulates on the surface of the white dwarf until it reaches a critical mass and explodes as well - although not as spectacularly as a supernova. Whereas a supernova would cause the white dwarf to collapse into a neutron star or black hole, this lesser explosion (known as an ordinary nova) leaves both stars relatively intact. Astronomers suspect that Buchard's star was this sort of explosion.

Perhaps even more interestingly, because the system is left intact, the explosion can be recurrent on a fairly regular cycle.

In 1866, there was another nova recorded in the position described by Buchard... And then again in 1946. Astronomers combed historical records to see if there were other sightings (which is how they found

Buchard's account), and found another suspected sighting in 1787. The star seems to erupt approximately every 80 years.

During the 1946 eruption, the star (normally too faint to see with the naked eye) actually dimmed in the months just prior to its eruption. And in March and April of this year, it has dimmed again, indicating that its eruption is imminent. As such, astronomers expect that this star (now known as T CrB) will again erupt sometime this summer to as late as early 2025.

If you want to try to catch a glimpse of this star, you'll first need to find the constellation of Corona Borealis. This constellation is mostly composed of somewhat faint stars, so you'll need to get to a reasonably dark site to find it easily. The constellation is located between the bright star Acturus, and the somewhat brighter constellation of Hercules (which looks like a slightly misshapen box). Corona Borealis is a curve of ~7 stars that looks like a smile. T CrB is found on the lower left side of this curve.

However, when the star erupts, you'll need to be quick. If the 1946 eruption is any indication, it will brighten from too faint to be seen to as bright as the north star in a matter of hours to days, before fading back to obscurity in barely a week.

# Curia Baronis

**Baron:**

Giacomo dalla Fattoria dello Stato

**Baroness:**

Nadya Helming

**Seneschal:**

Yngvarr Bjarnakarl

**Chronicler:**

Jon Chesey

**Herald:**

Melchor Eichmann

**Quatermaster:**

Matthew Pedersen

**Knight's Marshal:**

Franco Suarez

**Archery Marshal:**

Emeline de Moulineux

**Exchequer:**

Bero von Wustenbrenner

**Chatelaine:**

Caspar von Gorlitz

**Demo Coordinator:**

Hirsch Eichmann

**Minister of Arts & Sciences:**

Caírech Damán

**Quest Coordinator:**

Caspar Von Gorlitz

**Gold Key:**

Zilia Silvani

**Webminister:**

Luna di Caterino Tofani

**Minister of Youth:**

Yseult de Michel

**Social Media Officer:**

Berakha bat Mira v'Shlomo

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- Gwynneth, taken by Dagny ingen Murchada (mka: Gabie Everett), Used with permission.

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- Jon, taken by Berakha bat Mira v'Shlomo, Used with permission.

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## Page 13

- B3R Fighter Practice, 2024, taken by Dagny ingen Murchada (mka: Gabie Everett), Used with permission.

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The Barony of Three Rivers meets weekly on Wednesday evenings, 6:30 to 9:00, at the Masonic Hall, 12 E. Lockwood, Webster Groves, MO 63119.

The Baronial website is at [b3r.calontir.org](http://b3r.calontir.org).