

THE READ TOWER

Barony of South Downs

southdowns.meridies.org



JULY MEETINGS

BUSINESS MTG

07/05/2023

Virtual, via Zoom

CLASS NIGHT

07/12/2023

History of Comedy

Virtual, via Zoom

RUM POST-MORTEM

07/19/2023

CW Bid Discussion

Virtual, via Zoom

DEIB NIGHT

07/26/2023

Quiet Spaces

Virtual, via Zoom



FROM THEIR EXCELLENCIES

Greetings, Barony of South Downs!

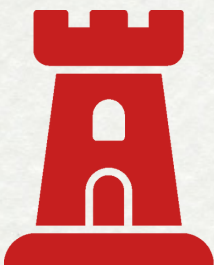
It has been a remarkable four and a half years. We began this journey with you in February of 2019, and we will end it this September. We can look back on our tenure with joy and thankfulness, and pride in the

way South Downs showed its colors through multiple unprecedented hardships, and we hope you can as well.

At Red Tower we will all welcome Ximon and Rhiannon as the tenth invested baronage of South Downs! We hope you are looking forward to their tenure as we are, and we know they will be good stewards and constant guardians upon the thrones. We'd like to thank Lorenzo and Myeong Su, and Mairghread and Piers for standing for the baronial polling. The mere act of offering to serve as baronage takes bravery, the selection process can be nerve-racking, and we salute you for undertaking it.

Thank you for a wonderful Royal University of Meridies! Special thanks to Myeong Su and her crew. You all kept the event running smoothly and effectively, and we all had a great time. We delighted in recognizing in Baronial court and seeing recognized in Kingdom Court the accomplishments of South Downs's citizens. Our congratulations go out to all. Have a wonderful August, whether you're traveling to Pennsic or relaxing in your own backyard (or air-conditioning). Stay safe and hydrated!

Yours in Service to the Barony,
-SUNNEVA AND WISTRIC



OFFICER REPORTS - JULY 2023

Seneschal, Lady Raven Helmsplitter

- We have a busy fall with RUM, Pennsic, Red Tower, Castle Wars coming up., so keep your calendar open to help volunteer.
- Discord server has been very active with lots of planning and activity. Join if you haven't!
- Officer positions are filling up, thanks to Baron Piers and Lord Eirikr for setting up emails and access.
- If you need access to emails, please contact Lady Raven via the Seneschal email: sen.southdowns@meridies.org

Herald, Lady Bú Feiyan

- Magister Lorenzo is covering tonight as deputy Herald.
- If you haven't registered a name or device, contact Magister Lorenzo and he will work with THLord Kurt for more information.

Knight Marshal, Lord Eirikr Palsson

- We have been having practices. It has been hot but people are still coming out.
- We have a Regional practice the day after RUM. Site has been reserved. Rapier and Heavy will be there along with YOUTH. Jon Montgomery is bringing some loaner gear for the kids to let new kids give it a try. If you have kids bring them or if you are authorized youth sparring please come out to give them someone to play with and learn from.
- I will be going to Pennsic for my first time and will be there both weeks this year so I will need a Marshal to fill in for practices. (Lady Mairghread Wilson has volunteered to help, thank you!)

Rapier Marshal, Captain Brendan de Hay

- Practices have been proceeding, weather and other events permitting. Sundays starting around noon (concurrent with armored practice). Schedule changes, cancellations, and any other relevant information is shared on the FaceBook group "[Atlanta SCA Fighting](#)," and sometimes other locations depending on circumstances.
- Shire of Owls' Nest is holding Tuesday evening rapier practices at Swift Cantrell Park in Kennesaw. Captain William posts on Atlanta SCA Fighting. [Athens School of Arms](#) is not technically SCA, but is chock full of SCA rapier & C&T folks.
- Special thanks to Maestro Ximon, Lady Ogata, and Baron Piers for filling gaps in my ability to attend practices.
 - Taking item 3 a little further. As my mundane schedule gets even crazier, we've started a chat including every rapier marshal who might step in to fill those gaps. Thanks to everyone for working together to keep practices happening. I wouldn't mind having a deputy step up who could take over from me in the not-too-distant future.
- We do currently have one more Rapier Marshal in Training. THL Pietro is on the track. Having more marshals means more rapier activity available for practices, demos, and events.
- Big shout-out to folks recently giving rapier a try. Looking forward to seeing more folks having fun!
- Big thank you to Captain Rodrigo from Bryn Madoc for coming out to Sunday practice recently and facilitated several new authorizations. More fighters means more people to have fun with!
- Shameless plug for RUM, and our big practice extravaganza the following day. South Downs fighter practice moves to Carrollton for that day.

OFFICER REPORTS - JULY 2023

Live Weapons Marshal, Master Mathias Blackett

- We are still searching for a new practice site.
 - May start looking at the eastern side of Atlanta for practice sites, but would prefer the west side to keep it a joint practice with Owl's Nest.
- Current practices are still being held at Master Mathias' house, focusing on thrown weapons right now until we can find a site that will accommodate archery.
- Thrown weapons practice in June was well-attended with 6 people.

Exchequer, La Magnifica Justina di Silvestri

- We have \$5,313.28 in our account.
- Troll for RUM is still looking for 2 volunteers, it's a super fun way to get to see everyone coming in to the event and If you have never worked check in, that is ok, I will train you and you won't be on your own.
- A reminder that if you have any event expenses, please keep all receipts and be mindful of your budget and bring any concerns to Myeong Su or me and we can discuss them with the Financial Committee. We can't guarantee you will be fully compensated if you go over budget and it also leads to delays in receiving your reimbursement.

Quartermaster, Maestra Isabetta de San Marco

- We have stuff!
- Getting a new storage unit is current priority, will probably kick in after Pennsic.
- Still looking for a deputy.

Chatelaine, Lady Ogata Mitsuko

- June has been interesting for the office of chatelaine, as we have at least two opportunities for demos.
- One of these would be through the Doraville Day Camp.
- I spoke to Crystal Dawson with Doraville Parks and Recreation and this is what we're looking at:
 - A demo at the Doraville Day Camp would involve 60 campers ages 5-12.
 - We have the option to do small group demos at an hour a time over several days or present to all 60 kids at once.
 - Crystal told me the kids this summer have been receptive to presentations on medieval crafts, arts and sciences, and camp life. Although I pitched combat sports and live weapons demonstrations as possibilities, Crystal turned these down.
 - I'm assuming fighting and live weapons could be a little PG-13 for this group, but that's okay.
 - I'm told they are a creative, diverse, energetic and overall excitable group, and that sounds good to me!
- Additionally, we have another demo opportunity at a festival in West Georgia.
 - Maestra Dori Coblentz, a local fencing instructor with the Decatur School of Arms, recently put me in touch with a festival organizer named Caron Connelly.
 - This demo is an order of magnitude larger (apparently around 11k participants). I currently know less about this but I'm getting in touch with Caron today and tomorrow to ask questions.
- This is a heads up to Frú Arnora and Lady Bu that I'll be cc-ing the both of you on these email chains.
- No dates for either of these demos yet.

OFFICER REPORTS - JULY 2023

Demo Deputy, Lady Bú Feiyan

- Nothing reported, but potential demos covered by Lady Ogata.

Arts & Sciences, Baroness Rhiannon verch Madyn

- This month the A&S focus is on RUM. Please take advantage of the wonderful classes being taught by excellent teachers.
- I'm looking for a deputy ASAP! Any interested parties please send me a Facebook message. Supporting the arts and sciences is a great way to see what everyone is doing. Plus our Kingdom quarterly reports are super easy to do.

Provost, Lord Ælfric Hort

- This past month we had two classes offered. 15 people came to our monthly class night – Intro to Inkle Weaving with Maestro Ximon and 8 attended our bonus class night – Feast Appreciation with Mistress Christianna.
- July's class night will be July 26 via Zoom. Master Mathias will be teaching History of Comedy.
- I currently have all Teaching spots filled for the remainder of the 2023 calendar year. We will need teachers for Red Tower and Castle Wars later in the fall, and of course I will need teachers again next year for A&S class goodness, so please get with me if you have any questions or want to discuss anything that you might want to teach in the future.

Social Media Officer, THLady Agnes Halydaye

- Nothing reported, but our Discord is active and growing!

Chronicler, Seong Myeong Su Daesaseong

- Settling into the Chronicler position, got access to the email, website login, and Kingdom Chronicler group. Will strive to post meeting minutes by the first Friday of the month to the website.
- Will be working on articles and content for The Read Tower, anything from articles to event recaps or photos and shout-outs!
- Send content to me at chron.southdowns@meridies.org to get included in the newsletter.
- Will set up a consent release form for content for the newsletter.
- Hoping to get a mailchimp or something similar out so people can sign-up for emails with the newsletter.
- Will get with officers to help kick off a Baronial Google Calendar to help keep track of all the things we've got going on.

DEIB Officer, Lady Lily of South Downs

- Amazing class last month for our first in-person DEIB class with Lady Mitsuko and La Magnifica Justina di Silvestri!
- I am working on the DEIB class for this month and I posted to the Discord to see if I can gather some panelists. If I can get at least a couple of people to participate, then we will have a class on "The subtle impact of quiet spaces" on the 12th. If I can't find anyone then we'll probably need a backup activity.
- I didn't see the info about the RUM post mortem, when I started planning things, so I thought the date would be for the 19th. That gives me a little less time to hunt for participants. Still, I will do my best to make this work. I've already reached out to my fellow Meridies DEIB folks, though I haven't heard back yet. I'll keep the barony informed of my progress with the class. Thanks again for all you do.

OFFICER REPORTS - JULY 2023

Webminister, Lord Eirikr Pálsson

- I have updated the Chronicler page to reflect the new officer and also given the “author” permissions to the site.
- Will update deputy Herald to Magister Lorenzo.
- Anyone needing updates to their profiles or pages please email me at web.southdowns@meridies.org
- Or use this form: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdo1pPChReIBZYxbvKZz7m8ib6LA3VoO2FNC6EFOX8kRKJpng/viewform>

Minister of Children, Lady Una Ulfrdottir

- Looking for a deputy as she has stepped down, but will stick around until we find a new officer.
- Plan is to have a joint effort at RUM for children’s activities.

Their Excellencies, Wistric and Sunneva

- If you’re not busy with RUM or Pennsic prep, please jump on storage unit sites and see how much 250 sq ft will cost near you.
- If you’re new and want to volunteer for a position or job, please feel free to jump in and go for it! The barony will support you!
- Actively looking for retainers for RUM to help with Carver since he will be at RUM. Anneliese will be posting a link soon once the schedule is set.
- This is the second to last court before they step down at Red Tower, so we hope that you can make it!



I'm proud of **South Downs Supper Club** for keeping the tradition alive. Shout-out to the cooks **Maryam, Lisa, and Luke** and our gracious hosts, **Alisandre and Pietro.** ~Lorenzo

Shout-out and many thanks to all of you who helped with **RUM** this month with the Barony! To **Dame Sibella, La Magnifica Justina, Lord Sumarliði, Lord Ælfric, Baroness Anna, Magister Lorenzo, Captain Brendan, Frú Arnora, Baron Piers, Genovefa, Jonesz, Lady Ogata, Lady Valentina, Maestro Ximon, Gerard,** and so many others: you rock and I couldn't be more proud of our group!
Thank you! ~Myeong Su

Enormous props to **Lady Ogata** for helping me with this leine every step of the way!! This literally wouldn't have happened without her help.
~Sumarliði

Many thanks to **Maestro Ximon** for teaching his class on inkle weaving in June and inspiring so many new weavers in the Barony!

THANK YOU!



MEET THE MEMBERS

BARONESS RHIANNON VERCH MADYN

PRONOUNS

She/Her

INTERESTS

Embroidery
Sewing
Weaving
Ecclesiastical Vestments

FAV. EVENT

Crown Tournaments

BEST PART OF THE SCA

The Society's caring and giving nature. Whether personal or Kingdom level crisis we are there for each other. We are chosen family. That and really cool historical stuff.



At Meridian 40th Year doing what I love

I'm Baroness Rhi. I've been playing for 23 years. The SCA has given me someplace I could call home. I'm a "Romanized Celt", being from the British Isles but living in the Byzantine Empire. This allows me a wide variety of things to study and garb to wear, although I love making and wearing all types of garb from just about any period.

My interests are varied. I love embroidery, sewing and weaving. If it's a textile art I've probably done it. I've become very passionate about clerical vestments, something that was born out of my love for embroidery.

I also enjoy research, illumination and jewelry making as well. I'd be happy to share any of my interests with you but I'd really love to learn about yours.

Advice from Baroness Rhiannon:

"FIND SOMETHING NO ONE ELSE AROUND YOU IS DOING AND DO IT. WHETHER SERVICE OR A&S, FINDING SOMETHING THAT NEEDS DOING OR LEARNING IS A GREAT THING."



Russian Goldwork

MEET THE MEMBERS

MAESTRO XIMON MARTILLO DE CORDOBA

My personae is a 1590's half Scottish, half Spanish caballero of the noble gentry who has spent too much time in other places than Córdoba in Spain. At the moment, I am getting ready to step into the role as Baron of South Downs in September.

I generally like chatting about things connected to Coffee (drinking, brewing, grading, and pairing with) Food (Making, tasting, culture behind the meal) swordplay (mostly rapier and side sword), Coffee, cigars and playing "What 3 people would you like to meet in History...and why?" I'm kinda all over the place in interests.



Chocolate and espresso beans, Yum!



One of my inkle woven pieces

Advice from Maestro Ximon:

"WE ARE A SOCIETY OF PEOPLE THAT CAN CRAFT ANYTHING AND EVERYTHING WE USE AND WANT FOR OUR GAME. OUR ONLY VALID CURRENCY BETWEEN US IS OUR EXPRESSION OF COURTESY AND GRATITUDE TO ONE ANOTHER."

PRONOUNS

He/Him

INTERESTS

Italian Historical Rapier
Swordplay

Basic Inkle Weaving
Woodworking

FAV. EVENT

Castle Wars

BEST PART OF THE SCA

When our pretend dress up becomes *actually* learning about history, while getting to have a good time with our friends.

BARONIAL NEWS



What's going on in South Downs?

SCA BUSINESS

Royal University of Meridies (RUM)

Seong Myeong Su Daesaseong, Event Steward

We're 10 days out from RUM! I'll be going to the storage unit sometime this weekend to pick up a few things, mostly toilet paper, check-in materials, and boards for the schedules.

Will pick up water coolers and cups for outdoor classes and regional FP on Sunday.

If you need anything from the storage unit, please let me know before this weekend.

Dame Sibella posted a draft of the schedule yesterday, and we're working on getting it in the database and changing the formats for large posters.

Always need volunteers for unloading teacher materials and help getting them into their classrooms.

Will work on scheduling the performance before court to start when court is scheduled to start.

Red Tower

Master Mathias Blackett, Event Steward

Thanks to everyone who volunteered, within four days we have all the staff positions filled for the event!

Fundraiser lunch in Southern Consortium, right of first refusal.

Mathias will try to do a site visit sometime soon.

Current questions are about site for parking and big field for use for archery/live weapons/martial activities.

Castle Wars

Lady Raven Helmsplitter, Seneschal

Bid in progress with Lady Hessa and THLady Ysabel.

Current bid is looking at using McIntosh as the site.

Hoping to get the bid in to review by July 19th.

Printify Shop

Seong Myeong Su Daesaseong

Printify shop profits have come in for April and May, we've made \$148.48! Myeong Su will get a check to La Magnifica Justina soon.

Will be working on more designs too, most likely after RUM.

Shop link here: [MedievalMerch.printify.me](https://www.printify.me)

WELCOME TO OUR NEWCOMERS

Genovefa and Jonesz
Dorian, István, and Valdemar
Gerard, Luke, and Camille
Thomas, Zoie, Claire and Farady
Leila, Ajax, Sybil, and Kiran
Alawyn, Ysabel, and Alejandro

BARONIAL NEWS



What's going on in South Downs?

SCA BUSINESS

Storage Unit

Current unit is 20x20, cost is over \$500 a month right now, we're still looking for a new unit.

It might be possible to pay a month ahead of time, or try to negotiate advertising or get someone to help us out as a non-profit.

Supper Club

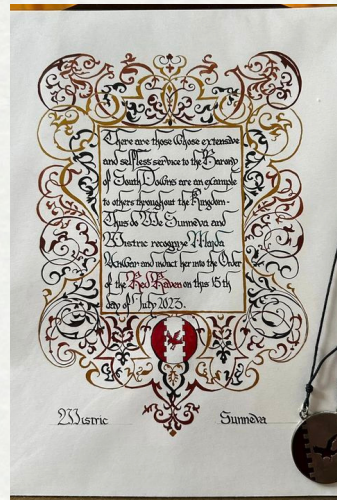
Lady Maryam al-Jawhariyya

Thanks to everyone who came out to Supper Club! We're going to try to make this a more regular thing

If you are interested in potential themes, let Maryam know! She's trying to get the next date together for the next session.

GENERAL BUSINESS

The High Museum has a Samurai Exhibit from June 23rd to Sept. 17th. Go check it out!



AWARDS

On July 15th, 2023, the Barony of South Downs hosted the Royal University of Meridies event at the University of West Georgia in Carrollton. Their Excellencies Wistric and Sunneva held a few popup courts during the day to recognize some members of our populace and Royal Court was held in the evening.

Here is a list of South Downs members who were recognized:

Baronial Court:

- Mistress Laurettia atte Blacksterre - *Kestrel's Talon*
- Lady Ogata Mitsuko - *Baronial Award of Excellence*
- THL Alisandre de la Chapelle - *Order of the Red Raven*
- THL Majda Anwar - *Order of the Red Raven*

Kingdom Court:

- Sumarliði - *Award of Arms*
- Valentina - *Award of Arms*
- Karimatu the Wanderer - *Award of Arms*
- Lady Ysabel Marguerite du Val - *Meridian Cross*
- Seong Myeong Su Daesaseong - *Court Barony*

★ AD ASTRA! ★

SOUTH DOWNS SNAPSHOTS

★ POPULACE SUBMISSIONS ★

Send in photos
or art to share!

chron.southdowns@meridies.org



Restarting South Downs Supper Club with style!



Maestro Ximon demonstrating how to warp a loom at the June Class Night



Inspired by Maestro Ximon's inkle weaving class, Magister Lorenzo has been working on his inkle loom pattern



Art comes to life in this shot: Posing as Caravaggio's *Judith (Justina) Beheading Holofernes (Una)* at Artsy Crown 2023



Lady Maryam learning how to cast pewter by casting some Baronial award medallions



Great food and conversation at Supper Club



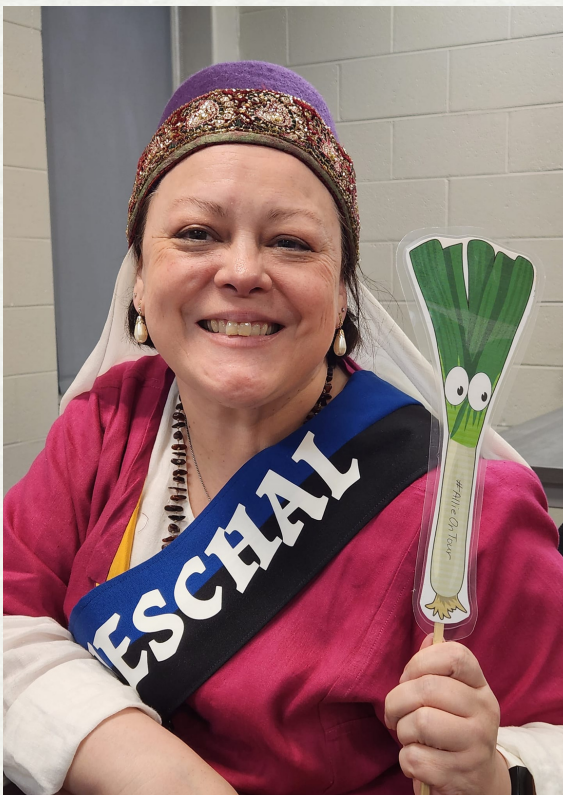
Some of the fighters at the Regional Fighter Practice in Carrollton the Sunday after RUM 2023



Some populace members recreating da Vinci's *The Last Supper* in South Downs camp at Artsy Crown 2023



Maestra Adela, Master Thomas, Acharya Margavati, and Baroness Sunneva look on as Maestra Emelina walks into court for her elevation to the Order of the Laurel at Artsy Crown 2023



Our fearless Seneschal Lady Raven and a green friend at RUM 2023





Dorian and Valdemar at Maestro Ximon's inkle weaving class

UPCOMING EVENTS



What's going on in the Kingdom?

AUG. 5, 2023 - WARDEN'S CHALLENGE - [WEBSITE](#)

**The Shire of Easaraigh Presents:
Warden's Challenge:
The Wayward Warden**

A Day of Archery, Live Weapons, Classes, and Fun!


Brigands, Poachers, & Thieves are at it once again on the Northern Plateau & our valiant Warden has gone missing! Can you help find him? Will there be demands for his safe return? Where in the Known World is our Warden?

The Warden's Challenge will be an archery & live weapons-oriented skills-building event for the populace to hone their accuracy and preparedness for driving off the ruffians. Rules, activities, classes/salons, and menus will be posted to the web as they are known.

Location: White County Fairgrounds Ag Building, 565 Hale Street, Sparta, TN 38583
Troll Opens at 8AM CST on 8/5/23. Activities Start at 9AM CST. Site closes at 7PM CST

	Member	Non-Member
Event Cost:	\$ 10	\$15
Under 17:	\$ 0	\$ 0
Feast:	\$ 10	\$10

Reservations: Lady Asa Koflrin
MKA: Sherry Anderson
155 Goodson Lane
Sparta, TN 38583
excheq.easaraigh@meridies.org
Make checks payable to:
SCA-TN, Inc/Shire of Easaraigh




Website: <https://easaraigh.meridies.org/wc/>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/easaraighorg/>

Directions: Take best route to the White County Fairgrounds in Sparta, TN. (<http://whitecountyagfair.com/>). From Interstate 40 (East from Nashville, West from Knoxville) take Exit #288 for Livingston/Sparta. Travel south on TN-111 for 12 miles. From all points south, take best route to TN-111 North to Sparta, TN. From TN-111, take exit for TN-289 S/N Spring Street. Turn East (Left if coming from North, Right if coming from South). Travel .9 miles, turn left onto Hale Street. The White County Fair Ag Building will be on the left. There will be SCA signs posted as you approach the site.

Steward: Lady Ceri Adain
email: ceriadain@gmail.com

Feasterat: Lady Asa Koflrin
email: asakoflrin@gmail.com

SEPT. 1-4, 2023 - VICES AND VIRTUES - [WEBSITE](#)



**The College of Phoenix Rising
presents
Vices and Virtues 2023
Gluttony vs Temperance
September 1st-4th**

**Opens 3:00pm Fri. Closes 11:00am Mon.
Etowah County Fairgrounds 31 Griffin Street
Atalla AL 35953**

Registration Cost: Non-Member Daytrip: \$15.00 Non-Member Weekend: \$30.00 Membership Discount: \$5.00 Children 17 and under FREE admittance	Event Stewards Albaruna Ana de Granada Karrissa Swearengin aneladg@gmail.com Helga of Phoenix Rising Gaia Thayer thayerga002@gmail.com	Reservations Mistress Ammalynne Linda Helm-Little Lindahelmlittle@gmail.com Merchants and RV: Lady Skylar Hayleigh Hazle HayleighHazle123@gmail.com Feast Steward (Sunday) Juliana of Empingham Linda Locklear scribal81@gmail.com
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Meal Plan per day:
Ages 15 and up: \$15
age 6-14: \$8 5 and under eat free

Make checks payable to: SCA, Inc. dba College of Phoenix Rising
Pre-registration via Paypal will be available Checks and cash only at the door



BARONIAL INFORMATION



THE BARONY OF SOUTH DOWNS

ATLANTA, GA

Part of the Kingdom of Meridies in
The Society for Creative Anachronism

southdowns.meridies.org / meridies.org / sca.org



Meetings on Wednesdays 7-9PM EST

In-person meetings:	Virtual meetings:
Doraville Civic Center	Via Zoom, links
3770 Central Avenue	posted on South Downs
Doraville, GA 30340	FB page and Discord

[Facebook Page](#)

Scan QR code for our
Facebook Page with
schedules and updates



Fighter Practice on Sundays 12-3PM EST

Liane Levetan at Brook Run Park
4770 N Peachtree Rd,
Dunwoody, GA, 30338

[Atlanta SCA Fighting Page](#)

Scan QR code for updates



Live Weapons Practice once a month

Current location:
51074 Sunny Field Lane,
Lawrenceville, GA 30043

[Live Weapons Practice Page](#)

Scan QR code for updates



Baron, Wistric Oftun

baron.southdowns@meridies.org

Baroness, Sunneva de Cleia

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Seneschal, Lady Raven Helmsplitter

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Arts & Sciences, Baroness Rhiannon verch Madyn

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Chatelaine, Lady Ogata Mitsuko

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Chronicler, Seong Myeong Su Daesaseong

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DEIB Officer, Lady Lily of South Downs

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Demo Deputy, Lady Bú Feiyan

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Exchequer, La Magnifica Justina di Silvestri

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Herald, Lady Bú Feiyan

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Knight Marshal, Lord Eirikr Palsson

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Live Weapons Marshal, Master Mathias Blackett

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Quartermaster, Maestra Isabetta de San Marco

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Rapier Marshal, Captain Brendan de Hay

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Social Media Officer, THLady Agnes Halydaye

smo.southdowns@meridies.org

Webminister, Lord Eirikr Palsson

web.southdowns@meridies.org

