

House Name Hermitage
House Type Vassal House

Coat of arms A bust of a unicorn on a green field
(*Vert, a unicorn to dexter sable*)

Words May our tree stand evermore

Seat Everwinter
Head Olivier Hermitage
Region: The Veldt
Titles

- Lord of Everwinter

Heir Kermit Hermitage
Founder Ester Hermitage

Miscellaneous Info

History

House Hermitage is not an ancient house by any means. Established after the conquest, they have always bent a knee to House Vameria out of respect and nothing more. Above all, House Hermitage has always emphasized peace and has a tendency to avoid any and all conflict. The House was said to be founded two centuries ago by one Ester Hermitage but as time has passed, the precise details about their existence have become muddled and vague. All that remains is a legend: that Ester Hermitage had run away as far as their legs could carry them and when they finally fell into the snow from exhaustion, the place they landed became Everwinter Keep.

What was Ester running away from?

Why did they choose the Veldt?

Did they have a choice?

Again, the details are vague but from their weary bones sprung Everwinter. The ancestral keep was built and the next generation was secured, providing the base for its present state. Content that their family would thrive in this home, the life of Ester Hermitage was snuffed out and when their body was laid to rest in the central courtyard, a great tree grew and grew and grew until it encompassed the entire castle. Along every surface the tree's roots spread until every square inch of the castle had been touched by the tree.

The generations afterward proceeded to interpret the presence of the tree as a symbol of the founder's presence, that they were never truly gone and anyone who was buried alongside them would receive the same treatment. Whether the legend was ever true, Hermitages throughout the generations have continued to take care of the tree and bury their dead underneath its roots. However, it is also believed that the tree stands as a sign of the family's longevity and success, whether it be in the sustainment of the family, its allegiance to the nation, or its continued dominance in the realm of academics and science.

Science has always been the speciality of the Hermitage family and many of its members have become either renowned scientists or experts in their chosen fields. But with recent generations of the family heirs

have become few and far inbetween and the house's notoriety has been slowly crumbling as its members break free from the confines of academia and set out on their own adventures.

Much like the founder who had run away from something unknown, following tradition has become something of the past and is no longer holding as much influence as it used to.

With the disappearance of the previous heir, the current head of the Hermitage family has become solemnly aware that the tradition is dying and House Hermitage may be no more once he has passed. Perhaps as a last hope, he has named one Kermit Hermitage as his heir out of desperation to cling onto the only family he has left.

Bloodline Key Features:

- Fluffy, white fur with black streaks
- Green eyes

Certain Traditions:

- At the end of every year, the Hermitages gather around the tree in the middle of their ancestral keep and assemble a great feast to celebrate the lives of those buried under the tree. Mementos of those who have passed are brought out from where they have been safely preserved and as the tree's roots symbolize their presence all around them, they ask the dead to protect & watch over them for another year.
 - They believe that by doing this annually, they will be blessed with good luck for the following year, especially in their studies.