

Free Content Friday - July 2020

# THE PRESERVATION SOCIETY

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## A Note From the Developers:

This month for Free Content Friday we wanted to showcase something entirely new for that can add a new dynamic to your games, and was first featured in our "Strain Series" supplements: *Faction Templates*. These templates will provide a general overview of the Faction, a rundown of their prevalence based on Outbreak Level, important locations associated with the Faction, notable member backgrounds, and a Gestalt Ability tied to the Faction.

The approach of design with these templates is a minimalist approach as it pertains to game mechanics, focusing more on the narrative potential of having these factions operating within your own setting. The example provided in this FCF release is designed to be generic enough that they can be easily adapted to any setting released by Hunters Entertainment or of your own creation. Feel free to use this format to design Factions of your own as well.

With that all out of the way, enjoy the new content!

### The Preservation Society

*The Preservation Society is a group that has become widespread in the late days of the outbreak. They adhere to their mission statement unwaveringly - the cultivation and preservation of human knowledge. There are many conflicting views as to the origins of the group, but generally it is believed that sometime after the foundations of civilization began to crumble a marginal band of survivors decided that they would take it upon themselves to carry this burden. Over time and periodic interactions with other groups over the coming days their numbers would grow. Associations within the Society are loose at best with no true central hub, rather consisting as a conglomeration of disparate groups which may or may not have good means of communicating with others who share their banner. It also means one group claiming membership to The Preservation Society may behave and interact with other survivors in very different ways leaving them spoken about like some disjointed myth that one might actually encounter. If someone could step up and begin working to unite these various sub-groups then they might well be able to start actually making some real headway into preserving human knowledge on a large scale.*

### Outbreak Level

- **OL1:** At this stage The Preservation Society does not yet exist.
- **OL2:** At this stage The Preservation Society does not yet exist.
- **OL3:** It will only be in the closing parts of Outbreak Level3 that will see the potential rise of individuals claiming to be members

of The Preservation Society, or stories begin told of such a group.

- **OL4:** This is the period in which The Preservation Society truly begins to flourish, though they lack the leadership to be any kind of truly meaningful organization in the long term. Should someone be able to draw these disparate groups together they could have a real chance of making something from this new world.

### Location

Since The Preservation Society is not a standing body, it has no established centralized structure and most of their membership is recruited from other survivor groups. Instead of standing bases, it has numerous makeshift Strongholds spread out with limited connection. Due to this lack of cohesion one could potentially find a Stronghold nearly anywhere of any possible size. There is no consistent type of location that one should expect to find members of the Society.

### Notable Members

Despite their fractured and disconnected nature there are some figures that have attained some semblance of recognition within the Society, allowing their names to be mentioned far and wide. They are all generally attributed with either forming the Society, with each representing a different ideological approach that disparate groups of the Society adhere to.

### Cpt. Alexander W. Matthison

A man with formidable physique and a stern expression, Cpt. Alexander W. Matthison joined the army at a young age. A veteran of Operation Desert Shield, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation Enduring Freedom, Cpt. Alexander W. Matthison is a highly decorated and respected leader who commands the respect of anyone he meets. Despite his imposing figure he is actually something of a bookworm, with a particular love for history. As the outbreak began to overwhelm the nation Cpt. Alexander W. Matthison would find himself activated by USAMRIID to assist with evacuation operations, and it is believed that it was during this time he made the decision to form The Preservation Society.

Starting as a small band of soldiers and doctors, the Society soon encountered others in their travels who they would take into their ranks. As time progressed, Cpt. Alexander W. Matthison realized that their numbers, specifically those without any real training, would soon make it impossible for them to carry on with their mission as they would be forced to protect the Stronghold at all times. He decided the only way for the Society to flourish was for it to become something less tangential, at least for the time being. At this point the unit split, along with the rest of the population, and set out again on their mission with the new intent of remaining more isolated from other survivors not already under the banner - intending to establish strongholds across the nation and grow from their existing populations.

### Dr. Renee Adams MD

After earning a degree in medicine in 1990, Dr. Renee Adams served for nearly twenty years as a specialist in infectious diseases in leading hospitals. Having led a number of research studies and grant-funded programs, as well as occasionally working for private foundations, they would become a Columbia University Professor and director of the Center for Infectious Disease Epidemiologic Research (CIDER) at Columbia Mailman School of Public Health. They are also the author of three best-selling books, two memoirs and a novel, which have won notable literary prizes including the 2008 Pulitzer Prize for General Non-fiction. It is unknown her direct involvement at the onset of the outbreak, but what is believed is that as the foundations began to rumble from the stress of the situation Dr. Adams quickly realized many valuable facets of society were at stake of being lost entirely.

With this realization in mind it is believed that she began The Preservation Society with the combined goal of preserving and utilizing the expanse of human knowledge in an effort to restore or remake the world post-outbreak. This would position the Society as something of a humanitarian organization focused on providing education and medical services to those in need. Over time, this resulted in something of a strange relationship between the Society and other survivors, one where the Society would establish a Stronghold within a region and suddenly smaller bands would form up in the area around them becoming reliant upon their services. Finding survivors with the appropriate knowledge to help with the cause is a difficult endeavor with many having perished in the throws of the outbreak, leaving the Society stretched thin in their efforts. It is said the Dr. Adams is still operating out of these various Strongholds, as they move from region to region in order to spread their desperately needed understanding of infectious disease.

### Jolene & Johan Alden

A brother and sister pairing who have lived their whole lives working on the family farm; repairing the equipment, growing a diverse selection of crops, and raising various livestock. As the contemporary age began to build they seemed to be getting left behind, the last of a dying breed of humans as we transitioned from the fields and into the office. While this did leave considerable gaps in their knowledge, Jolene and Johan couldn't imagine life any other way. In the days leading up to the outbreak they found themselves on hard times, struggling to keep the family farm alive as they both aged and struggled to build up the funds to properly move forward, becoming reliant upon family to help keep them afloat. During the first days of the outbreak they were nearly unaware of what was transpiring in the world around, lost to endless hours working the land and caring for their animals.

As the outbreak began to finally spiral out of control, and became impossible to ignore, it started becoming clear to siblings that if many were going to survive they would need people like them now more than ever. And it was in this moment that their lives truly changed for the first time since they had been alive beyond the loss of family over time, they began to transition into teachers. They were able to take in a number of survivors to help them manage the farm, and started to teach them how to do the work needed to keep themselves alive. The diverse set of skills that the siblings had developed in their days covered an astonishing amount of needs, and they were very accustomed to having to work in less than ideal circumstances. In time they would begin to call themselves The Preservation Society, with more and more farm communes beginning to spring up as some would split from the home cell in an effort to impart the knowledge they had gained.

### Gestalt Ability - The Preservation Society

As a wide reaching yet disparate group there is a distinct possibility that survivors in the later stages of the outbreak will have encountered or possibly even joined the ranks as a member.

- **No Affiliation:** The survivor will be treated as any outsider. Survivors who are generally courteous might be able to engage in some basic barter, Society members favoring *Loot-Information* increasing all such instances to a Value Multiplier of 2x.
- **Gestalt Level1:** The survivor is more than just passively aware of the Society, and has developed a basic understanding of their general operations over extended interactions. This will function as leverage approximately 10% of the time, irrespective of a survivor's own Empathy or Willpower. This can, at most, ask for minor favors or some information.
- **Gestalt Level3:** The survivor is personally acquainted with a member of the Society. A survivor can use this contact and appeal to them with any {Diplomacy%}. Additionally, the character may find that the Society will reach out to them directly for assistance in acquiring information that may otherwise be difficult for them to get alone or directly.
- **Gestalt Level5:** The survivor is either a member of The Preservation Society or extremely close to the local leadership. This will have the same effect as taking this at Gestalt Level3, except that it will grant a bonus 🍀 to any {Diplomacy%} the survivor makes. Additionally, the survivor will now be in a position to try and guide and direct the local faction in an effort to unite the faction and establish repositories of information.