

# ***The Book of the Highlanders***

*A brief written collection of the history and culture of the Five Clans of the Phoenix and their struggle with the Tyranny of Evendarr over the homeland and birthright of Volta.*

*October 29, 595 Y.R.*

*"Honor! Courage! And Loyalty! These are the standard you will measure by. The standards which you will honor or dishonor your clan by. "*

*-Lars Anson MacDoughal*

### ***A history of the Clans of the Phoenix (since 500)***

*"Clansmen, allies, and friend; we will not bow to Evendarr tyranny, we will not surrender, we will live as free men! Some of you view this march to the west as retreat, DON'T! We must regain our strength, we must grow again, and when we return Volta will be free again!"*

*-Vorden Dinson 510 before the march of the Phoenix Clans westward.*

*In June of 509 Argent the High Chief of the Bear Clans of Volta acknowledges King Hendrick of Evendarr as his liege and was made Duke of Volta. Bordering the Bear Clans along the north where the Clans of the Phoenix Nation. The Phoenix lived in the mountains and foothills of the Frostpeak mountains. They were proud of their home and the land they have built. But it was poor and often there was famine. After a bad harvest in the fall of 509 Blaine Dinson of Clan Dinson asks Duke Argent for grain to feed his clan and other clans of Phoenix. Duke Argent wanted gold for the grain, gold that the Phoenix clans did not have. So Blaine Dinson leads the Phoenix Clans against Duke Argent. Inconclusive battles were fought between Ducal and Dinsdale forces throughout the autumn. In the winter and spring of 510, King Hendrick sends crack Evendarr forces to aid Duke Argent. When the campaign season opens in the summer of 510 Voltan and Evendarr forces crush the forces of Blaine Dinson. Blaine Dinson himself falls in August of 510 at the siege of Caer Dinson. With the death of Blaine, Phoenix forces crumbled before the combined armies of Evendarr and Volta. Duke Argent used the remainder of 510 to consolidate his hold over the Phoenix Clans. Duke Argent begins construction of Castle Hadran on Crystal Lake to anchor the western frontier of Phoenix Clans.*

*"We of Clan Mowbray will not submit to tyranny to fight tyranny! "*

*- Norris Mowbry reply to Vorden Dinson 522*

*A distant cousin of Blaine Dinson, Vordan Dinson leads the remnants of Clan Dinson and their allies Clan Mowbry west to the River Hadran. Before leaving the Frostpeaks Vorden Dinson and all the other chiefs swore an oath on a Dinson Tartan that one day they would return and free Volta. This Tartan became known as the Blood Tartan. The Dinsons continued west into the Shimmerglen Forest and builds Glavorn. The Mowbrys moved north toward the River Teale and found Kendall. Other allied clans build Vestmar, Longold, and Sunbar. Vordan was acknowledged High Chief of the Kingdom of the Hadran in 515. The next years were hard ones and even the light rule of Vordan was resented. Much energy was expended in inter-clan bickering and cooperation was reluctantly given. With the defeat of the Bloody Fist Orcs in 521 the clans finally felt at peace. Release from the pressures of cooperation the Mowbrys of Kendall broke with Vordan and the Dinson clan in 523. With Mowbry's aid the clans in Longold and Sunbar declared independence. Faced with the combined forces of the three, High Chief Vordan declared the brief Kingdom of the Hadran dissolved and was proclaimed High Chief of Glavorn and Vestmar. Longold and Sunbar acknowledged Norris Mowbry as High Chief of Kendall but retained much of their independence.*

### ***The Migration of the Dinsdale Voltans 510 to 515***

*The peace brought by the defeat of the Bloody fist Orcs proved illusionary. By 530 both Kendall and Glavorn were again at war with the Orcs. By now the kingdoms were established enough to fend off the Orcs but at the cost being able to grow and expand. Too much of the Kingdom's energies were expended in war to warrant much exploration and clearing of new land.*

*"By the sword you came, By the sword you lived, By the sword you will die. "*  
*- Erevon replying for the Oaken Wood to Mark Dinson's plea for aid. 540.*

*Even with potential allies in the Oaken Woods and Ironfist Forge Glavorn could not prosper. The Dinsons with their touchy Highland pride had upset both the Oaken Woods and Ironfist Forge in various incidents. The actions of the Dinsons led to a Oaken Wood defeat at the hands of the orcs that the Oaken Wood never forgot or forgave. Even with all these*

problems, Vordan Dinson proved to be a military genius and was able to keep the orcs at bay. But Vordan died of battle wounds in 538 and his son Mark became High Chief of the Kingdom of Glavorn. Mark was not the leader his father was but held off the Orcs for two years.

Meanwhile High Chief Morris Mowbry of Kendall was forging an alliance with the Stonewood Dwarves. The Mowbrys traded the grain of Sunbar and Longold to Stonewood in exchange for the wondrous products of the Stonewood Dwarves. Kendall became the place where human and dwarves could meet and trade.

Then Orcs were united under a Lich named Mithradates and Glavorn forces suffered defeat after defeat at his hands. With aid not forthcoming from either Ironfist Forge or the Oaken Wood, Glavorn fell in 541 and Vestmar soon after in 542. The fall of Glavorn and Vestmar led to a mass exodus of the western clans east across the Hadran into Kendall. Mark Dinson's army was falling apart and soon the undead forces of Mithradates would be able to roam as they please.

The MacDoughals were the easternmost clan of Glavorn and Harris MacDoughal mustered the full force of his clan to rescue Mark Dinson. He led over a hundred MacDoughal men west and was never heard from again. Brigitta MacDoughal, Harris's wife, donned the armor of her husband and took charge of the clan. She issued a plea to Norris Mowbray for aid. While waiting she collected the few clansmen streaming east and rallied them under the MacDoughal banner. She abandoned Greyhawk the home of the MacDoughal and began raiding the forces of Mithradates. She proved to be a tactical genius and soon had Mithradates forces off balance.

This bought enough time for the remaining Glavorn clans and the MacDoughal to retreat across the Hadran. Norris Mowbray came and demanded her submission to the Mowbrays as thralls. Brigitta MacDoughal refused

*"We, MacDoughal, have nearly given our life blood for the defense of our land. By our actions we held off Mithradates so that our people can flee to safety and not be enslaved by Mithradates. Now you want to enslave my clansmen and this I refuse! You will accept us as equals in Kendall or you will have to fight us. Without us Kendall will be burned by Mithradate as was Glavorn. Choose Mowbray! Choose to accept us as equals or choose the death of your kingdom. "*

*-Brigitta MacDoughal reply to Norris Mowbray - the winter of 542-543*

*Norris Mowbray left angry and Brigitta MacDoughal led her people south into the Dwarfwatch mountains to winter. The spring of 543 Mithradates crossed the Hadran and struck at Longold. Clans of Kendall and the Stonewood dwarves met Mithradates in a fierce three day battle. On the third day, Mithradates forces charged and broke the clans army. All seemed lost when clan MacDoughal charged onto the field. Brigitta was riding in the front riding a white charger and was bathed in a white light. Her spear rent undead and orc alike. The charge of the MacDoughal scattered Mithradates forces and allowed the Dwarves and clansmen of Kendall to rally.*

*The combined army pursued Mithradates army across the Hadran and caught up with them at Kern. There under Brigitta leadership the army defeated Mithradate's army and scattered them. However Mithradates wasn't defeated and the army of Kendall withdrew back to the Hadran River. Norris agreed to accept the MacDoughals as equals and place the defense of the Hadran in their hands. Brigitta fortified the east bank of the River and made a strong defensive barrier against Mithradates and the Orcs.*

*Norris's son Theophilus and his son Norris II maintained the watch on the Hadran and were able to keep peace within the Kingdom. Trade with the Stonewood Dwarves continued and Kendall, Sunbar, and Longold survived, although they were never prosperous. Trouble came in the 570's. Duke Argent of Volta began to cast his eye west for the expansion of Volta. With the loss of Eastwyck to the new Duchy of Ravenholt in 570 and the Frostpeak mountains a barrier to the north. Duke Argent began to prepare to send expeditions west.*

*In 575 a young Major Rutherford Rawlings led the first expedition into the Icewood forest. Turning west and traveling down the Teale River Major Rawlings and his men encountered the Stonewood dwarves. They traded for some sample of their Stonewood wares and returned to Volta. The next year in 576 Major Rawlings led another expedition to Stonewood taking a more direct route to the River Hadran. They were captured by the Mowbray Voltans east of Sunbar. Before he could be executed Major Rawlings freed his men and were able to escape back east to Volta.*

### ***The Rawlings Expeditions 575-577***

*On Duke Argent's recommendation King Roderick prompted Major Rawlings to Brigadier. King Roderick and Duke Argent both agreed that a new base was needed west of Hadran and in 579 Brigadier Rawlings led the force the established New Castle Keep. By 584 New Castle Keep was finished and Volta was ready to renew exploration west.*

*In 583 High Chief Norris II Mowbray died in a hunting accident. Only 55 High Chief Norris had not settled the succession for the throne of Kendall. The throne was immediately claimed by his three children Arlissa Mowbray 21 years old, Jordan Mowbray, 19 years old, and Derrick Mowbray, 15 years old. Each had their supporters and in late 583 the three factions agreed to make Arlissa, High Lady of the Kingdom of Kendall. Jordan was made Lord of Longold, and Derrick Lord of Sunbar.*

*One of Jordan Mowbray's many lovers was Rhiannon Merrick. She was widely feared throughout Kendall for the fact her enemies seemed to disappear without any trace. Concerned about the arrival of the Evendarrs Jordan told her*

*"The Evendarrs are on are doorsteps again! Their duke is old and his death would buy us some time to prepare. An accident for him would be most fortunate. "*

*Rhiannon went east into Volta and over the winter of 583-584 was able to recruit five others to help her. During the winter she attended the court of Duke Argent and charmed him with her beauty and her bardic skills. She formed a liason with him and gave him many*

happy moments through the winter. With the death of King Roderick in 584 the old Duke attended the funeral and the coronation of King Richard.

On the return journey Duke Argent was eager to see Rhiannon and decided to spend a couple of days with her. He sent his son and heir, Adrick to the family castle of Three Spires and went to see Rhiannon. Two days later came the frantic report that the Duke had been kidnapped just outside Unity. Several days later, Argent Voltan's remains were found hanging at a crossroad halfway between Unity and Three Spires. The old Duke had been poisoned, and stabbed as well. Rhiannon and her associates attempted to flee but were captured in the Anymdin Mountain. All six were obliterated and Six heads were placed atop pikes hung upon the castle walls until they were consumed by the birds.

Ordered by Duke Adrick, Brigadier Rawlings formed a new expedition and marched west from New Castle into Kendall in 585. He took a sizable force and met the Voltans of Kendall east of Sunbar. There he was attacked and defeated by the combined forces of Jordan of Longold and Derrick of Sunbar. He was able to rally his troops and retreat back to New Castle where he gathered reinforcements to hold New Castle against the forces of Kendall.

Lady Arlissa received reports of the incidents and was very concerned at how easy it was for Brigadier Rawlings to gain reinforcements. Her brothers urged an immediate attack on western Volta. But Lady Arlissa restrained them and sent scouts east into Volta. They reported the fortifications at New Castle and the large population of Hadran and the Crystal Lakes environs, also the allegations that Rhiannon was sent by her to kill Duke Argent. She began investigating the past associations of Rhiannon and who had sent her to Volta. She also decided that it was time to try to begin negotiations with Evendarr to bring a final peace between their two people.

When Jordan heard this he decided to revolt against his sister. He convinced his brother they she was about to betray the clans and Derrick decided to join him. At the winter festival of 586 they slipped into their sister's room at night and seized her. They used formal magic to obliterate her and she took her final death. They claimed that it was the work of

*Evendarr spies and roused the populace. In the spring of 587 the two brothers led their combined forces west to the Crystal Lake intended to raid and take Hadran.*

*"Honored ones! If you march to Kendall you will not be aiding a ally but freeing a murderer!"*

*- Brigadier Rutherford Rawlings to the Dwarven Council of Stonewood -587*

*Brigadier Rawlings was warned by loyal retainers of the murdered Lady Arlissa that the brothers were leading the forces of Kendall west into Volta. And prepared a trap for them at Hawley. A force under the Baron of Dinsdale marched west from Hadran and a force under Brigadier Rawlings marched south from New Castle. In the Battle of Hawley the forces of Kendall were caught between the two armies and was decisively defeated. In the battle Derrick Mowbray took his final death. Jordan Mowbray led the remnants of the Kendall forces back west with Rawlings in pursuit. Jordan gathered what little reinforcements they could and retreated to Kendall. There Jordan prepared for a siege. Brigadier Rawlings established a base at Cauldrous, took Longold, and Sunbar and besieged Kendall in the late summer of 587. Jordan Mowbray sent pleas of help to the Stonewood Dwarves to come to his aid but Brigadier Rawlings, with the aid of Lady Arlissa's supporters, presented the evidence of Jordan's part in the murder of his sister Arlissa. The Stonewood Dwarves refused aid and Jordan Mowbray was alone. The siege lasted throughout the winter of 587. In the spring of 588 the starving garrison of Kendall surrendered to Brigadier Rawlings. Jordan Mowbray was taken to Evendarr City where he was found guilty of the murder of Lady Arlissa. He was sentenced by King Richard to die the final death and was obliterated. For his actions in defeating the Mowbrys, King Richard makes Brigadier Rawlings, Lord Lieutenant of the Western Marches.*

### ***The Conquest of Kendall 585-588***

*With the fall of Kendall the Orcs attacked the lands east of the Hadran in the summer of 588. Lord Lieutenant Rawlings defeated the Orcs and pushed them back west of the Hadran. Lord Lieutenant Rawlings began the construction of Dragonhart Keep as the lynchpin of the Hadran defenses. In 589 King Richard declared the building of a road west*

from Hadran to Dragonhart Keep and declared the Western Marches open for settlement. In 591 the Duchy of Elysia was created. In 593 Rutherford Rawlings was made Duke of Elysia.

The story of the clans does not end here. For the next five years an uneasy peace reigns between the clans and Elysia. The MacArdys and the Mowbrays that supported Jonathan refused to acknowledge any peace and continued raids against Elysia. The Mowbrays became known for their brutality against clansmen they feel to be traitors and were called the Blood Mowbrays. But the might of Elysia and Evendarr was recognized by many and by 594 many of MacArdys peacefully returned to their farmsteads and began to rebuild. Only the Blood Mowbrays and the core of the MacArdys continued the fight.

But in the spring of 595 the discovery of the son of Jonathan Mowbray changed all that. Angus MacArdy, the chief of the MacArdys, found out that Theresa MacDoughal, the wife of Jonathan, was pregnant when Jonathan sent her away before the siege of Kendall. She gave birth to a son, Alexander, and the MacDoughal decided to raise him as a MacDoughal in order to protect him from Evendarr.

When Angus MacArdy found out he organized a war party to take Alexander and proclaim as the Mowbray and the rightful High Chief of all the Clans. But the raid on the MacDoughal clanhouse where Alexander and his mother was staying went wrong and a fight ensued. Theresa was able to escape across the Hadran and flee to the Melorian Healer's Guild in Greymark. There sick with the fever she died leaving Alexander in the care of Lady Willissa.

Later the MacArdys came and attacked the Melorian Healer's Circle to take Alexander and were defeat. Angus MacArdy was taken, tortured and was killed. He took his final death and later that week his body was found half-eaten in the bottom of a ravine. The MacArdys were outraged at the desecration of Angus MacArdy and rose in revolt. Clan MacDoughal led by Darin MacDoughal arrived in Greymark and aided Lord Talorin Coreel in defeating the MacArdys.

*Throughout the spring of 595, Ducal forces battled the Blood Mowbrays and Clan MacArdy. But the two were no match for Duke's Rawlings' forces and started to take desperate measures. They started raiding and pillage farms of non-clan Elysians and killing everyone. In May of 595 Duke Rawlings retaliated against Clan MacArdy by ordering the burning MacArdy steadings. At one of the raids, a women named Theresa MacArdy was killed. She was betrothed to Frederick Merrick. When learning of her death, Frederick sworn to avenge her against Evendarr.*

*In July the leaders of the clans met with Ducal representatives in Stonewood to discuss the problems. The meeting was tense and at times heated. At the height of the meeting Frederick Merrick marched in with a united force of all the clans. During the confrontation Darin, the Tanist of the MacDoughals, revealed the Blood Tartan. Tensions rose but Baron Thermo of Meddlar was able to negotiate a truce with the clans.*

*Today in the fall of 595, the clans are deciding their future. With Jonathan's heir and the Blood Tartan found the clans are deciding where to go and how to get there.*

### ***The Clans***

*Today there are five clans remaining in Kendall. The MacArdys, the MacDoughals, the Mowbrays, the Merricks, and the Logans.*

#### ***The MacArdys***

*The MacArdys are known to be fierce warriors and proud defenders of freedom. They are not willing to sacrifice everything for freedom they believe in freedom with honor. Currently they are almost totally destroyed and they are few and far between. Their chief is currently Malcolm MacArdy.*

#### ***The Mowbrays***

*The Mowbrays are those who followed Arlissa Mowbray and believe that she was killed by her brothers. They view this as a stain on their clan's honor and has separated them from the Phoenix. They know the other clans will come into conflict with Evendarr and believe that they will be destroyed if they try to fight back. Pol Mowbray, the current Chief, believes*

*that by forging a lasting peace between the clans and Evendarr that the clans will begin to prosper and honor will be restored. But the discovery of Alexander, the son of Jonathan, has caused many in clan Mowbray to doubt what they were doing is right.*

#### *The Blood Mowbrays*

*The Blood Mowbrays are those who followed Jonathan and Derrick Mowbray and believe Arlissa was killed by Evendarr assassins. They view Pol Mowbray as a traitor to the clan and to the Phoenix. They will sacrifice everything and anything to destroy Evendarr and Pol Mowbray. Currently today they are all but gone after the rebellion. They attempted to attack Baron Herbannion's capital of Stonewood and were destroyed in the process. Their leader was captured and had the ritual of obliteration cast on him by Ducal decree.*

#### *The Merricks*

*The Merricks are currently the most prosperous of the clans. It is said that Thomas Merrick, their chief, has ears even in the Ducal court, and that enemies of Clan Merrick have a tendency to mysteriously disappear. Their honor is often questioned but questioners always seems to disappear so not much is done. Today their only rival for power among the clans is Clan MacDoughal. There are rumors that the whole rebellion was a plot by Clan Merrick to win concessions from Baron Thermo of Meddlar.*

#### *The Logans*

*Iain Logan, their chief is widely known to be a paragon of duty and honor. The Logans are known to always keep their word and pursue the honorable course. The Logans and the Merricks hate each other with a passion.*

#### *The MacDoughals*

*The MacDoughal are the leading clan. They have sworn oaths of friendship and loyalty to Lord Talorin Coreel and are now aiding him in resettling their lost steadings in Vindale. They possess the Blood Tartan, the symbol of the united clans of the Phoenix. Alexander Mowbray, heir to Kendall and clan Mowbray, is the ward of Robert MacDoughal. Clan MacDoughal has been known as an honorable clan. No stain or dishonor crosses their name. Many among the clans wonder what the MacDoughal will do with their leading role.*

## ***The War Poem of the Clan MacDoughal,***

*We are the Clan MacDoughal.  
Children of the Phoenix, we carry the honor of it's name  
on our shoulders as our ancestors did before us.  
The tales speaks to us of the evils that was done to us,  
the rites of the journey, and of the reason for rebirth.  
Volta is our destiny and our right.  
Strength and courage is our gift  
By the honor of our ancestors we must return  
Return and protect that which is unique among the lands  
Volta awaits us as it was foretold  
We are the last of the warriors, the sole hope for the land*

## ***Life among the Clans***

### *The Clan*

*The Clans is your family the one fact you have to remember above all else. As a clansmen somewhere you and your fellow clan member is related by blood and family. To betray a member of your clans is to betray one of your own blood.*

### *Honor*

*A clansman's word is his bond. A man's honor revolves around whether he keeps his word or not. To be called an oathbreaker is the worst insult a clansman can give. To be known as an oathbreaker is the worst fate a clansmen can know. If clansman give his word he better keep it or suffer dishonor. But this giving of oath and word is not like the ways of Evendarr. One does not assume that a clansman's word binds him in all cases. If a clansman swears to protects you for a day you can be sure that he will protect you, for that day. The next day will bring a different story. An oath forced, given in duress, or given to a liar is no oath at all. A clansmen is not expected to hold to his word under those circumstances. Don't*

*expect a clansman to uphold laws and perform duties he never agreed to or you will have a very unhappy clansman and probably a unhappy clan as well.*

### *The Tartan*

*A clansman wear his clan's plaid boldly and proudly. The plaid or tartan is usually a four to five yard long cloth that is 40 to 50 inches wide. He wraps it around his waist and ties it with his belt or rope. The rest is tossed on the clansman's shoulder. The kilt, the wrapped cloth is known, is fastened at the shoulder with a piece of leather or a brooch.*

### *Woad*

*Woad is the traditional war paint of the clans. Woad is a type of blue body paint. A clansman wearing woad means his off to do some serious fighting or on his way to an honor challenge. A clan in full woad is a fearsome sight and means serious business.*

### *The pipes and drums*

*Music is a part of clan life. From the haunting sounds of Amazing Grace to the quick tune of a Reel the lives of the clan is filled with Music.*

## ***The Professions***

### *The Warrior*

*Most clansmen are warriors, skilled in the arts of battle, and usually in some craft skill useful to the clan.*

### *The Scouts*

*Petty Thieves are hated by the clans who consider a thief dishonorable. Taking a man's possession and then lying to sell it or hide it is dishonorable. But Cattle-Raiding and the borrowing of large articles is considered great sport among the clans and often a source of great amusement. If caught the clansmen usually turns the cows over and acknowledges defeat. Alchemy is considered a high art among the clans and used often against their enemies. Often Scouts learn alchemy to give them an edge in battle*

### *The Cruachs*

*The Cruachs are the healers of the clans. They are well-respected for their wisdom and knowledge. Some Cruachs are scholarly while other learn the art of weaponcraft to aid on the battlefield. But all Cruachs carefully study the various mystical forces of the world to advise the clan in dealing with magical menaces.*

### *The Mystics*

*The Mystics are new to the clans. Many traditionalists look down upon the Mystic and their "new" magic. Since contact with Evendarr some clansmen have taken to the study of the celestial arts to combat their enemy. They hope to learn what Evendarr knows and use it to defeat them.*