
Barrier Hold

Creator Name: *Mercy Neumark; revised by Whitney Ware & Ron Swartzendruber; currently unowned*

Hold Contact: *Adoptable Lord Holdership (morgav@kadanzer.org)*

Current Holder: *Lord Caley*

Badge & Colors: *A golden mountain peak on a black field*

Minor Holds Beholden to Barrier Hold: *tba*

CLIMATE & ECONOMICS

Barrier Hold is just south of 50° with a climate similar to Bitra and Lemos. Very cool climate, bitterly cold winters with high elevations. There are some farming and hardwoods in the northern areas of the hold. Does not produce much grain, although it has some crops and herding. Not at all self-sufficient in food production, Barrier is still quite successful due to the income from its mines: Iron, copper, slate, and firestone (though Cathay hold outproduces them in this last category.) Some gold, silver, and gemstones are also found. The hold exports a wide variety of manufactured items as well.



GENERAL INFORMATION

The territory of Barrier Hold is located along the Barrier Range mountains; this is a rough territory, devoted more to small craftholds rather than agricultural-based cotholds. Agriculture is minimal: small communities practice terrace farming and have their own gardens to produce for their needs, but much of the foodstuffs required by the population are imported from other holdings. The ties between the Lord Holder of Barrier Hold and the mining and smith crafthalls are tight, and Barrier is the most industrial-minded Holding on the Southern Continent.

The main Hold is a huge, castle-style stone fortress located in a high mountain valley. The three-story hall is built of cut stone, and decorated inside with carved wooden furnishings, lovely tapestries and stained-glass windows. It is surrounded by towers that are even taller. Though it is designed to be beautiful, a veritable fairy-tale castle, it is also quite functional and defensible. Around it are a variety of cotholds and crafthalls, most delved into caves in the traditional manner.



SPECIAL ATTRACTIONS

Barrier Hold is particularly wealthy because of the rich metal deposits on its lands, and the shrewd management of Lord Caley. It exports both raw materials and finished products. The Southern Continent Minecrafthall is located at

Barrier, one valley over from the grand Lord Holder's fortress. That valley also contains a very large regional Smith Hall, which features a large new ore-smelting operation and an industrialized (at least as much as anything on Pern can be considered industrial) production center for flamethrowers. There is also a Smith Hall at Barrier hold itself, which features a glasscrafthall famed for its ornamental work, both in sculpture and stained glass. This hall also makes lenses for the southern Starcraft, whose main crafthall is located here as well. It has been the longstanding policy of the Lords of Barrier to support and encourage the crafts.



SPECIAL EVENTS

A autumn festival is held on the second restday of the fourth month, more to show off the crafts from the Smith and Glass crafthalls than to revel in a fine harvest, since agricultural harvest and lumber products are entirely consumed by the local population.



IMPORTANT PEOPLE

Lord Caley, wife Shante (deceased); Half-brother Lyraan, wife Marnali; Heir Elajan; second son Caled, four younger sons and two daughters TBD.

Lord Caley (KAY-ley)-- M, HT=5'10", H=black, kinky and thick, cut in a short afro. EY=dark brown. Dark brown skin, tall and medium built. Lord Caley is a keen but fair businessman, aged 46 at the start of 2858, who believes in treating people equally and politely. He believes in the value of tradition and protocol, and that in dealing with his holders it is better to use kindness than the stick. This does not mean that Caley is a pushover or weak; rather he is a very strong, opinionated man. Not afraid of the other Lord Holders and is often the first to point out (always politely) when the BS has been laid on too thick. He has a special antipathy for Lord Janol, whom he considers a vain, strutting rooster lacking all redeeming qualities. He hates bullies and can be counted on to side with the weak, though when a conflict is between equals, Caley is more apt to be neutral. He runs a tight, profitable Holding, and is quite conservative in matters of morality, especially when it comes to the role of women. Apathetic to the Weyr, Caley tithed before the return of Thread solely because of tradition; now he sees it as a straight business deal, payment for services rendered, and thus possibly open to renegotiation. He privately views the Weyrlands Compact as a worthless piece of paper not worth fighting over; unlike Morgav of Cibola, who is obsessed with getting legal title to his Hold, Caley is content with the current situation. However, should the Weyr insist on its ownership of his lands, Caley would instantly become an

implacable enemy. In his mind, no treaty of any sort can take precedence over the ancient right of Holders to their land. He has six sons and two daughters; his oldest two sons have administrative positions at the hold. One of his younger sons is in the Minecraft and has recently made journeyman; another is an apprentice in the Smithcraft. The other two sons are fostered out at other holds. Lord Caley was very much in love with his wife, Lady Shante, who died in the Thornblaze earthquake; he is not yet considering marrying again, though there are many offers. (Adoptable NPC)

Lyraan (li-RAHN)-- M, HT=6'0", H=black, thick and wavy. E=dark brown. Medium brown skin, taller and more handsome than his half-brother. Lyraan is nine years younger than Lord Caley and works for him as manager of trade and general right-hand-man. Had he been older when old Lord Ibram died he might have had a chance of inheriting. Would love the chance to Hold but likes his half-brother too much to ever plot against him. Married to Marnali, a daughter of Lord Morgav of Cibola, but it is solely a political match and he does not love her. Has a weakness for young women (some might say too young) which has gotten him into trouble once before and may again.

Elahjan (el-AH-jun)-- M, 22, HT=5'8", H=black, thick, and kinky like his father's. E=dark brown. Elahjan is Caley's eldest son and chosen heir, having been so named just after the Thornblaze quake when his father realized his own mortality. He is well-liked and will probably be as able a Lord as Caley when his turn comes. However, he does not like the Weyr and resents the idea of tithing.

Caled (kah-LEDD) -- M, HT=5'8", H=black, thick, and kinky... the family signature. E=dark brown. Caley's second son has no desire to hold, though he may well become his brother's steward when Lord Caley dies or retires.