
A History of the Pern of the Kadanzer Weyr

Modified by Ron Swartzendruber, from materials Lynne Brigrant, Anna Smith & Whitney Ware
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NOTE FOR NEW MEMBERS: Kadanzer Weyr is an Alternate Tenth Pass Weyr, independent of other club timelines. Our club history follows the books up to the end of All the Weyrs of Pern; AIVAS was discovered, and the project to destroy Thread was carried out, but was not successful. Instead, it only caused another Long Interval, in which time Pern reverted to its old ways.

Our current Turn is Turn 2858 (2003), meaning that it has been 2,858 Turns since Landing. Thread just started falling again in Turn 2850 (1995), after a 400-Turn Interval, the third long Interval in the history of Pern. (Note: in the Atlas of Pern and some of the later books, the Ninth Pass is stated to have begun in 2508, not 2400. We follow the old fandom canon that was developed before these books were published, so we use 2400 as our start date for the Ninth Pass.)

When our club was first founded eight years ago, much of our history was not defined; as such, some of the earliest-printed stories may contradict each other, or the club Handbook. Also, some of those stories contain elements that are no longer allowed. For instance, you may notice how the entire life of the Weyr seemed to revolve around a few individuals; we now have standards in place to ensure no one gets to create a character that dominates all the others, so everyone has a chance to participate.



Archivist Brillket eloquently described the days following the initial settlement of the Southern Continent as follows:

The events of history are often relegated to dusty hides and the fading memory of old Aunties and Uncles, dismissed as irrelevant to our day-to-day lives, but a wise Harper once said that if we fail to learn from our past, we are doomed to repeat history's mistakes. It is with this in mind that I wish to remind my readers of some of the significant events which have had a hand in shaping our lives, even though they be far removed and perhaps all but forgotten.

The Turn is 2440. The Ninth Pass of the Red Star is but ten Turns from its end, and weyrfolk and holders alike are filled with joy and wonder as they look forward to a Thread-free future. For nobody has reason to doubt that the great endeavor to adjust the path of the Red Star has succeeded in ridding our fair planet of this ancient scourge forever.

Settlement of the Southern Continent has been proceeding rapidly and many holds, major and minor, have been established. As they carved out new lives from an uninhabited, unknown land, these brave men and women endured hardships virtually unimaginable to those of us who live in a long-explored, settled and civilized continent. But even as they dealt with deprivation and a harsh struggle, this continent extracted further price. Natural disaster has ever been a frequent visitor to the South, and one of the worst was the tidal wave of 2440 which decimated the main holding of the vast Southern Hold, including the all but total destruction of Southern Weyr. The Hold's founder, Lord Toric, was killed in the catastrophe, along with many others, and in the political upheaval that ensued, the over-large holding split into normal sized Holds.

In payment for their centuries of dedicated service, the western half of the Southern Continent was deeded to the dragonriders to be theirs forever, while the rest of the South began forming Holds and Halls similar to the North. The weyrfolk still had the grim business of fighting Thread to occupy them, however, and numerous folk gladly accepted their offer of land, as tenants of the Weyr, in return for such goods and services as the weyrfolk could not provide for themselves. Over time, the Weyr's land was divided into Holds as well, but the Lords continue to Hold their land as tenants of the Weyr, although in practice the situation closely resembles the traditional tithing arrangement in place in the North and the rest of the Southern Continent.

It was anticipated that after the Pass, the population of weyrfolk would slowly decline to a much smaller number. A suitable location for a permanent Weyr large enough to house that number of dragons, riders and their support

workers, was found in the Southern Barrier Mountains. No large enough site had been found anywhere within the more temperate zones of the Weyr's holding, and in any case most of Pern's weyrfolk were used to mountainous homes and so did not mind the climate. Barrier Mountain Weyr was officially opened on 2440.01.01, Turn's Beginning, ten Turns before the end of Thread. Its original complement was rather small, as there were few holds in the area to protect, and the continent was entirely protected by the Thread-eating grubs.

The Starcraft calculated that 2450.07.26 was the last day Thread would fall on Pern. All the Weyrs met that 'Fall in a ceremonial occasion. When it was done, all the people of Pern united in celebration, cheering the dragonriders who had once again saved them from Thread, this time (so it was thought) forever.

The first leaders of Barrier Mountain Weyr were Weyrwoman Kadana and Weyrleader An'zer, and when they died, the Weyr was renamed Kadanzer in honor of that capable and beloved pair. Though respect for those the dragons heed grew dim and in many cases non-existent over the Long Interval that followed, those who came after Kadana and An'zer remained true to their centuries-old duty and rallied to fight our ancient enemy when it so unexpectedly returned.

And so I remind my readers to remember those who have gone before, and know that our lives are better because of the hardships they endured and the sacrifices they made.



A scholarly article by Archivist Ferilton tells of the tumultuous history of the Interval that was not supposed to be just an Interval.

One of the central ironies of our society is that, having grown over two millennia to combat the threat of Thread, it nearly destroyed itself in a mere four hundred Turns when Thread was thought to be forever removed. The causes of the crisis, as well as the salvation from it, were the dragonriders of Pern.

The original intention had been that all the dragonriders of Pern would move to the new Weyr and the Weyrlands of the South as soon as the expected decline in their numbers made this feasible. Many did not wish to leave the Weyrs they had lived in for all or most of their lives, and so soon after a Pass, the holders and crafters were still grateful and perfectly willing to continue to support them. The dragonriders' population did begin to lessen, and support continued to be provided from the local Halls and Holds for a time even when gratitude began to be forgotten.

One digression that may be of interest: despite the common belief that Weyrwoman Kadana and Weyrleader An'zer died dramatically in the last Threadfall of the ninth Pass, supposedly while saving the lives of two weyrlings, a recent re-reading of the oldest Records of Kadanzer Weyr has disproved that version of events. Though Records that old are difficult to read, it is obvious that many entries were written by Kadana herself several Turns after her supposed death, and they include several legible references to An'zer as still being alive. It can only be surmised that the heroic and sometimes rather florid songs of their heroic end were devised by harpers with more sense of melodrama than history.

In the century after the end of the Pass, Hold and Hall alike were wracked with turmoil as the technological improvements introduced by AIVAS began to fail. The people of Pern had been brought out of their agrarian culture before they were really ready for technology, and with the passing of AIVAS the Pernese were left to maintain all the improvements as best they could through rote learning. This did not prove sufficient to the task. As the technology began to fail, and many of the progressive leaders of the ninth Pass aged and died, the old conservative elements came to the fore. Most Pernese soon came to believe that technology, while it had indeed helped destroy Thread, was not necessary for normal life. The new technological crafts developed a bad name as they were unable to maintain even the services that people did want, and were eventually disbanded and their members rejoined the old crafts. The name and existence of AIVAS itself is essentially forgotten outside of our humble craft, other than vague references to an 'abomination' that once disrupted life on Pern.

This process was essentially complete by 2550. By this time, a slowly building resentment of the Weyrs became apparent in Hold and Hall. The populations of the holds had increased, and the return to old ways meant that not so much surplus food was available for dragonrider use. The number of dragonriders did not decline as fast as had been expected, and it proved impossible to house them all at Kadanzer Weyr. The weyrfolk tried to be completely

self-reliant, but the needs of their dragons barely left them any time left for learning crafts and producing food. Thus they still made a serious drain on the resources of Hold and Hall, and the phrase "Parasites of Pern," was heard more and more often in reference to dragons and riders.

Luckily, there were enough level-headed leaders on all sides to find a solution. Food grown in the burgeoning holds of the southern Weyrlands was transported to the north so that the tithe burden on the northern holds was lessened. The Weyrs also made more bargains with various holds and crafts to provide such services as passenger and freight transportation in return for food and craft goods; this had only been done on a small scale before 2550. These measures proved just enough to stem the resentment of the holders and crafters, though in many places it still smoldered beneath the surface.

The situation retained this tenuous equilibrium for some two hundred Turns. It was during this time that the Farmcraft noticed that the Thread-eating grubs were disappearing. Apparently they had fallen victim to a new strain of fungal blight; however, since Thread itself was thought to be gone forever, this was hardly noticed outside the craft. The population of the Southern Continent grew, though not as fast as it might have because of occasional epidemic diseases, and all of its territory was subdivided into holds. In practice, there was little difference between the holds in the Weyrlands and the holds in the rest of the south whose Lords actually held title to their land, though there was a subtle social distinction which many of the Weyrland Lords secretly resented.

It was also during this period that it was decided that each of the major crafts would establish a separate mastercrafthall in the South. Long-distance communication, problematic enough on a single continent, proved too cumbersome to maintain across the ocean. The heads of each craft in North and South still correspond with each other regularly, but each branch of the craft is autonomous. The only exception is the Dragonhealercraft, since it relates only to the Weyrs, for whom distances are a trifle; it has but one Mastercrafthall, located at Ista Weyr.

By 2750, resentment towards the Weyrs began to heat up once more. The Lords and mastercraftsmen had long realized that the dragonrider population was simply never going to decline enough that the northern Weyrs could be abandoned. In the midst of several Turns of poor crop yields, this was brought home to the common holders and crafters as well, and they agitated for change. The old agreements no longer seemed enough. The Weyrleaders of the time decided on a policy of withdrawal and austerity, in order not to provoke the rest of Pern's people. By 2800, dragonfolk only communicated with holders and crafters in the course of necessary trade, and each side had developed deep resentments towards the other. All that was needed for a total breakdown was a spark, and soon would come not just a spark, but a roaring flame.

In 2822, the Starcraft shocked all of Pern when it announced that the Red Star was coming back. The fragile peace between Weyr, Hold, and Hall shattered like so much fine glass. The holds were infuriated and disbelieving of the Starcraft, and accused its Master of taking a bribe from the Weyrs to perpetrate a hoax. The Weyrs, for their part, out and out refused to believe that their honored predecessors could have failed in their mission to eradicate Thread. They accused the Starcraft of acting at the behest of holders who wanted upheaval as an excuse to destroy the Weyrs. The other crafts vigorously defended the Starcraft, which was by far the smallest among them. The Harpercraft alone tried to be neutral and settle the matter peacefully, but was turned on by all sides and soon faded into the background. Relations deteriorated; crafts placed embargoes on certain holds, holds cut their food supplies to the Weyrs, and some dragonfolk resorted to raiding and outright thievery from both Hold and Hall.

The turmoil slackened before it could utterly disrupt society, but the peace remained uneasy. Few Pernese truly believed that Thread would return, but many had begun to at least doubt the old certainty of Thread's destruction. The Turns passed, and as the time neared for the start of the Pass that was never supposed to come, the Weyrs could not deny the growing, baleful light of the Red Star. The queen dragons in all the Weyrs began rising to mate much more frequently - first once, then soon twice per Turn instead of once every four or five Turns - and the clutches they laid were considerably larger. Since this had always been a sign of an approaching Pass, the Weyrs were forced to realize that a Pass was truly imminent. Even for those who still doubted, the duty of ages was not easily laid to rest. Old charts were collected; old combat patterns revived. Weyrling training became a preparation for a battle, an endless fight against a foe which would always return.

As the Red Star continued to wax, more and more Pernese began to believe. Some leaders on all sides put forth effort to prepare, and to heal the breaches among Weyr, Hold, and Hall. Some progress was made -- enough that the Weyrs wouldn't starve or freeze to death should Thread return. Attitudes were still hostile and resentful, but the Holds and Halls seemed aware that the Weyrs were preparing to do their best. About half the lord Holders

believed and prepared their lands, while some who did not were deposed in favor of those who did see the threat and would stop at nothing to get their people ready. Roofs were covered with slate, greenery was removed, and shelters were set up in many parts of the land, both north and south. The Turns of preparation, laden with doubt and hope, sped swiftly by. And Thread did indeed return, in early 2850.

Thus the irony turned full circle; having nearly destroyed itself, our society recovered only when its old enemy returned to unite it once more. Let all who wish for great changes beware, lest their wishes come true and the unintended consequences swallow them up.



Here follows a summarized version of the Records of Kadanzer Weyr since the return of Thread, prepared for new arrivals at the Weyr.

The first Threadfall of the Tenth Pass occurred on 2850.03.11 in the territory of Kadanzer Weyr. This event had been awaited with some trepidation, and the casualty level among the inexperienced dragonriders was high. Nonetheless they proved equal to their task, and the next months saw an increase of confidence as the dragonriders, as well as the holds and crafts, realized that Pern's defenders would succeed yet again in keeping Thread from engulfing her.

On 2850.09.12, Kadanzer Weyr fell victim to an attack of poison. Over the next three days, the majority of the Weyr died, including all of the queenriders save Weyrwoman-Third Tanara and her gold Renorath. The Weyrwoman Charayn, and her Weyrleader V'ron, both died during the senior queen's mating flight on 2850.09.15. Exhausted by the stress and tragedy of the Weyr, Charayn lost control of her queen, sending both Eliath and the Weyrleader's bronze Golteth between. Unable to live after the deaths of their dragons, the Weyrleaders followed them by suiciding. Tanara was left alone, with only two just-graduated bronzeriders and no Wingleaders or ranking support staffers left. The Weyr was devastated, with hardly two hundred people remaining alive. Only seventy-five were dragonriders, not all of whom had even graduated from weyrlinghood. No one knew who had done the deed.

Fortunately, the other Weyrs came to Kadanzer's assistance, particularly Telgar and Fort. They assigned temporary transfers of Wings to Kadanzer, each Wing to be sent home as more and more people transferred permanently to this Weyr. One of the Telgar riders was bronzerider K'rel, whose bronze Asheth won gold Renorath's first mating flight after the Poisoning. During K'rel's Weyrleadership, many more people came to Kadanzer's aid from Weyr, Hold, and Hall. No golds were allowed to transfer, however, since the Poisoner remained uncaught and the other Weyrs were not willing to risk any more queen dragons. Fortunately Renorath's first clutch produced a gold egg, and K'rel's sister Lauria Impressed the new queen Trinith. There was some tension between the survivors and the newcomers, but this did not become serious since everyone knew the task at hand was too important to jeopardize over personal feelings. In early 2852, someone committed two ghastly murders of young women near the Weyr, and a note was found revealing that the killer was obsessed with Weyrwoman Tanara. The killer, known as the Riverman, was not caught, even when he kidnapped and killed a daughter of Lord Morgav at Cibola Hold near the beginning of 2853.

Meanwhile, in late 2852, the identity of the Poisoner had been discovered; the horrific crime had been committed by a troubled and unstable young woman named Farah who had failed to Impress Turns before. Tragically, since the Poisoning, she had married brownrider D'zan, who remained unaware of her dark past. She committed suicide when discovered. This led the other Weyrs to allow goldriders to transfer in, and when Kira, rider of gold Nanyth, did so, she was made Weyrwoman-second to allow Lauria to concentrate on her weyrling training. However, this may have been too little too late, as Lauria and K'rel died in an easily avoidable accident on 2853.01.01 when visiting Telgar Weyr.

This left K'rel's Weyrsecond, brownrider D'zan, as acting Weyrleader. A strong traditionalist, he believed that the Weyrleadership was not the place of a brownrider, and concentrated on practical administrative concerns while making sure that capable Flightleaders led in Threadfall. His tenure came to an end seven months later when Renorath was flown by Dormiath, the bronze of Wingleader K'din, whose transfer to Kadanzer D'zan had personally brought about.

K'din proved capable, and the recovery of Kadanzer Weyr continued. New riders continued to transfer in to rebuild the Weyr's strength, including another goldrider, Valenne. At the end of 2853, however, two tragedies struck. First,

the Riverman managed to sneak into the Weyr and kill a greenrider and her baby before escaping again, leaving hints that it had been Tanara he was really after. Then, only a few days later, a great earthquake struck Thornblaze hold on the very day of its heir's wedding. Several lords, mastercraftsmen and dragonriders were killed; others lay buried in the rubble for days until rescued. The resulting political upheaval did not affect the Weyr very much, but the consequences would be felt in the holds for several Turns.

By early 2854, there were enough riders that a new Flight (FireFlight) could be formed, adding three more Wings to Kadanzer's force. At the beginning of 2855, K'din transferred back to High Reaches Weyr after losing the Weyrleadership to B'deras, rider of bronze Rath. Kadanzer Weyr was back to full strength. Life got back to normal, or at least as normal as possible for a Weyr during a Pass. Matters at the holds were not quite so settled; two Lords died under suspicious circumstances, and a new Lord had still not been chosen for Thornblaze, but all this was rectified in a conclave on 2855.08.28.

At the beginning of 2856, bronzerider Th'rin became the Weyrleader, and it was in his tenure that a new crisis struck. Like all mountaintop Weyrs, Kadanzer was located in the crater of a dormant volcano; however, in the first months of 2856, Kadanzer Mountain showed signs that its dormancy was coming to an end. Weyrwoman Tanara insisted that the Weyr relocate, and the site of the old Southern Weyr was chosen. A political deal with the lord holders ensured extra tithes and workers in return for reconsideration of the old Weyrlands Compact. The task was almost completed on 2856.04.15, when the mountain erupted in earnest, killing many riders who were there to move the last of the tithe stores and personal items. Two weyrling classes were immediately graduated to meet the shortage, and a third was hurried along; this resulted in many deaths, but the Weyr was able to pull through.

At the beginning of 2857, bronze Garath caught Renorath in her mating flight, making A'nar the new Weyrleader. He introduced some changes, resigning his Wingleadership in order to concentrate fully on the responsibilities of Weyrleadership. However, a tornado combined with a Threadfall on 2857.02.10 to kill many riders from StarFlight and SkyFlight, and A'nar was forced to disband StarFlight completely and distribute its riders into SkyFlight. Later that Turn, the Riverman struck again, and this time managed to kidnap Tanara, which caused the death of gold Renorath when she attempted to fly to the rescue of her rider with a broken wing. Tanara was rescued, but chose to follow her dragon into death. The Riverman escaped, and his identity remains unknown. This put the whole Weyr into a state of fear for months. Valenne was now the Weyrwoman; when her gold Nicareth rose two months later, she was caught by bronze Fordath, making the painfully young and inexperienced G'tin the new Weyrleader.

As of mid-2858, the Weyr is living in interesting times. The Riverman has not struck again, but the community is keenly aware that he is still at large. Some Lord Holders, particularly those of the faction led by Lord Morgav of Cibola, are agitating for the Weyr to fulfil its promise to renegotiate the Compact. Several hold-Weyr incidents have shown Weyrwoman Valenne to be less of a diplomat than her predecessor. The other Weyrs have recently insisted that Valenne exchange her young Weyrwoman-second Kielani for a more mature rider from Telgar, Lybelle. If history is any guide, the next Turn at Kadanzer will not be smooth and easy, but through 'Fall, fog, and fire, our dragonriders will not fail!



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