Noble Houses of Nomar

Brief History

This was an orc infested wilderness until 500 years ago when the Imperial Prince of the Restored Empire of Ghinor decided to carve out a new province. It took a hundred years before last major orc tribe was driven out. Nomar is noted for its organized feudalism as the Imperial Prince carefully divided the holdings among his vassals.

Two hundred years ago the Skandian Vikings rampaged throughout the Winedark Sea, Kalnala fell and the Restored Empire with it (see Tarantis). Unlike the other regions of the Restored Empire, Nomar had no tradition of independence. There were three Dukes and a dozen Barons with holdings in Nomar and they began to fight among themselves to become the ruling Prince. The only time they united was to fight against a Skandian raid or invasion. They would appoint a High Duke who would temporarily command the allied army.

This worked for nearly fifty years until several Barons and Dukes began to use Skandians as mercenaries. At first the Skandians were content to leave after their contract was up but then they began to stay and bring their families over. Within a generation the majority of the coastal population became Skandian. When the nobles of Nomar attempted to expel the Skandians, High Duke Vortius Thorne was defeated and the coast was lost to the Skandians.
In the ensuing decades the Skandians united into the Kingdom of Ossary and slowly moving inland conquering a village there and a town here. Finally fifty years ago, Ambrose Pendar united the nobles and was proclaimed as Prince of Nomar. He successfully checked the Skandians and halted their invasion. A decade later he died and his brother Uthan Pendar became Prince. Uthan's son Artos Pendar has been Prince of Nomar for over ten years. However at Yuletide he disappeared throwing the Principality into chaos.

Ten years later Draco-Lindus and William Enderil discover Prince Artos imprisoned in the Swamps of Acheron, the domain of the dragon god Set. The two defeated the Son of Set guarding the prison and helped Artos escaped. When Arto returned he found Nomar divided. The County of Heatherbrush had been lost to the Skandians and civil war threatened to tear apart the land.
With the aid of his loyal friend Duke Lancel Graham of Sykmet, Prince Artos was able to reunify Nomar and strike back at the Skandians. Artos was able to retake half of Heatherbrush. But since then the fight against the Skandian have stalled due to Prince Artos refusal to return the newly created Heathermarch over to the Mellings of Fireside.

The Domains

The North

These realms are the most Ghinorian of all the domains of Nomar. The main belt of settlement ran along the valley formed by the River Twiling.

Dorn

This is the heart of the Principality of Nomar and the seat of Prince Artos Pendar. Watered by the upper reaches of the River Twiling it possesses some of the more fertile farmland in the Principality. When Prince Artos is away it is administered by Chancellor Rankin Holt. Chancellor Holt managed to hold the duchy together after Artos kidnapping. The Prince continues to place complete trust in him.

Fireside

The Mellings of Fireside have long been the lords of the central Twiling valley. Since the Skandian invasion they have been on the frontline of the conflict. The tide of conquest after the fall of Heatherbrush threatened to wash over Fireside as well. But Duke Anarin Melling broke the siege and turned the near bank of the River Twiling into a formidable fortified line.

The return of Prince Artos brought great hope to the Mellings and they supplied both gold and men to Artos' army. But Artos refused to return their rightful land when he created the Heathermarch. Now they are among the prince's most bitter enemies.

Guilding
Shielded by the Cumbria Highlands to the east Guilding is the breadbasket and industrial center of Nomar. Count Alagon Graham is Prince Artos' best friend and a ardent supporter. Duke Alagon is also the Royal Marshal and has a seat on Artos' Privy Council. While not the overlord of the Cumbria baronies, the Grahams have been traditionally their allies both in the field and in court.

Heathermarch
The Heathermarch is Prince Artos most tangible achievement in the war against the Skandians. After reunifying the principality after his return he was able to retake the northern half of Heatherbrush away from the Skandians. He organized his conquest as the Heathermarch intending to use it as a base to retake the rest of Heatherbrush and threaten Ossary itself. But this angered the Mellings of Fireside and their withdrawal crippled Artos efforts for the last several campaign seasons. Currently Sir Kadric, Artos' foster brother, is Warden of the Heathermarch.

Hel
The Thornes of Hel have long been rivals of the Pendars of Dorn. They view Dorn and Principality as rightfully theirs. Prince Artos and many other nobles consider the Thornes lucky to have any domain at all they had been over thrown a century ago. Rumors of demonic pacts, and deals with Set have long swirled around the Thornes. Talsha Throne is currently the Count of Hel.

Oakenbridge
Oakenbridge occupies much of the Dumonia Hills and is an important bastion against the Skandian in northern Nomar. The Willards have been Counts of Oakenbridge since the foundation of Nomar. They nominally support Prince Artos in his efforts to unify Nomar but look to their own lands first. They will follow Artos only after they see the rest of the noble houses doing so. Their ultimate goal is to retake the northern coast from Sea Rune to Hrimglo. Mervanal Willard is the current Count of Oakenbridge

Pineshaw
The Farnhams were made Barons of Pineshaw a century ago after the Thornes were overthrown. Since then they been loyal to the Pendars and supported Prince Artos in the field and in court. Pineshaw is noted for its iron mines which supplies much of the ore used in Guilding and Dorn. Raedwa Farnham is the current Baron of Pineshaw.

Wormingford
Wormingford has fertile farmland along the valley formed by Archlin Stream and is noted for the quality wool gathered from the sheep herded on the Dumonia Hills. The County has been granted to the Oldhams 150 years ago when the Nomar was ruled by the Thornes. During the final battle that brought the Pendars to power the crucial moment was when the Oldhams switched sides. Since then they been little trusted or rewarded by the Pendars or the other nobles. Some say they have restored their old allegiance to the Thornes. Currently Caedmon Oldham is the Count of Wormingford.

The Highlands
Central Nomar is dominated by the Cumbria Highlands. Here the valleys and hollows have divided the Ghinorians into numerous clans that guard their territories jealously. The incessant conflict has made the highlanders among the fiercest warriors of the principality.

Cumber
The Barony of Cumber is the richest of the three highland baronies. The central region of the Cumbria Highlands has rich grazing grounds for sheep. The wool trade provides a good living for the highland clans. The Aldens have long intermarried with the native highland clans and little sets them apart. At court the Aldens are considered rustics despite their wealth. The current Baron of Cumber is Erim Alden.

Hamwell
Like Cumber to the north, the Baron of Hamwell gain much of his livelihood sheep and the wool trade. There have been tensions between the Crutchleys and the Hamwell clans. But two centuries of conflict with the Skandians have united them into one people. Every year dozens of enthusiastic warriors go raiding into Heatherbrush or Serpent Little. Little quarter is given in pitched battles between the Highlanders and the Vikings. Cynyr Crutchley is the current Baron.

Kirmer
The Barony of Kirmer is the smallest of the three highland baronies. After the fall of Heatherbrush the Holts of Kirmer found themselves on the front line. A timely alliance with the Mellings of Fireside allow the two realms to hold off the Skandians long enough to establish new defenses. The Holts currently are divided between those who are angered by Prince Artos' treatment of the Mellings, and those who uphold the old alliance with the Grahams of Guilding. It all that Baron Dair can do to keep the peace inside his hall.

The South
The southern domains are united under the Duke of Sykmet. This is was the last region to be settled by the Ghinorians and the Orcs persisted here the longest. The nobles here have long guarded the southern frontier. Scattered bands of Orcs can still be found in the Forest of Haleth and in the mountains of Ered Losthain. Many in the duchy resent the rule of the Hardings. Viewing them as usurpers installed by High Duke Vortius Thorne over a century ago.

Britis
Centered on the upper reaches of the Llobregather River, Britis has many acres of fertile farmland. It is noted for its many woodscrafters and the quality of timber that comes out of the Ossingham Forest to the northwest. The Counts of Britis strictly regulate the forest and the Rangers of Ossingham are widely known for their skill in catching poachers. The Mabbots have been Counts of Britis for over fifty years, having replaced the Sagars as a result of a failed rebellion against the Hardings. Halanis Mabbot is the current Count.

Blackbeck Watch
The Barony of Blackbeck has long guarded Nomar from orcs inhabiting Ered Losthain. For a brief time during the chaos that ensued after the death of Artos' father Uthan, the Leas of Blackbeck were overthrown in a coup engineered by the Thornes (see Hel). One of young Prince Artos first actions was lead a army comprised of Dorn and Guidling troops to restore Ailill Lea as the rightful Baron of Blackbeck. Since then Baron Ailill has been loyal to Prince Artos.

Shodan
The valleys of the Llobregather River and Vikram Stream dominate the couty. It is a rich farming region and supplies a major proportion of the grain eaten by Prince Artos forces. The Cromptons have been rulers of Shodan since the foundation of Nomar. They are noted for their dedication to duty and honor. The current Count is Salin Crompton. He has grown very concerned over the threat posed by Duke Divolic of Rhyl. He is currently building Abberset into a castle despite being refused a crenellation license by Duke Melan.

Sykmet
The heart of southern Nomar is in Sykmet. Here the Dukes of Sykmet guard the northern domains from the remaining orcs bands and the Duchy of Rhyl. Two centuries ago the Thorne High Dukes overthrew the Rudges and installed the Hardings. Only the chaos of the last century has prevent the Hardings from being removed. Currently Melan Harding is the Duke of Sykmet. Chancellor Rankin Holt is the current pretender to the Rudges claim.

Rudges
The Rudges were once the Dukes of Sykmet but High Duke Vitalis Thorne, Vortius' father, aided the Hardings in overthrowing the Rudges. The main line of the Rudges have died out and now the chief pretender to the Duchy is Rankin Holt, the chancellor of Nomar.

Crampton
The Crampton were once the Dukes of Kauran. The Duchy of Kauran one stretched from Kauran in the south to Sea Rune in the North and included Heatherbrush in the interior. The Imperial Prince of the Restored Ghinorian Empire appointed three dukes in Nomar, The Duke of Dorn, The Duke of Kauran, and the Duke of Sykmet. After the attack of the Skandians, the entire coast except for Heatherbrush was lost. The main line of the Cramptons was killed during the Skandian attacks but a cadet branch survived as the Counts of Heatherbrush. After Heatherbrush fell nearly two decades ago, Otis Crampton and his sisters were given refuge at Fireside. Anarin Melling's father granted them a manor and one of Otis's sister married Anarin. Otis is now age 52 and has only daughters. If he dies without a male heir Anarin Melling will emerge as the leading claimant for the Duchy of Kauran.

Caedmon Oldham, age 19, Symbol (Boar)
He has only been the Count of Wormingford for two years. He was noted for his drunken binges but to everybody surprise has been sober since he became count. He is noted for his ability to compose epics and poems. Also has a reputation as a whiner.

Marvanal Willard, age 25, Symbol (Porticullis)
Marvanal Willard is the Count of Oakenbridge. He is known for his desire to restore the northern coast to this family and willing to listen to any scheme that will further his ambitions. He also has a club foot. Despite his deformity, he very skilled at the lance and uses a modified saddle to ride on.

Anarin Melling, age 30, Symbol (Tower)
Anarin Melling is the Count of Fireside and is married to Freda Crompton one of the heiress to the Duchy of Kauran. He has a pox scarred face and known to be sensitive about this. He also has lung sickness and become bed ridden every late winter and early spring, rumors are that it is only grown worse. His heir is 6 years old. Many say that the his barons and knights will turn to his brother, Salaron, age 26. Currently he is angered at Prince Artos for not restoring the lands in the Heathermarch and only sends token forces to Artos' calls for men.

Artos Pendar, age 47, Symbol (Lion)
Artos Pender is the Prince of Nomar and Duke of Dorn. Prince Artos is widely known as a fair and just ruler. He is known for his genius on the battlefield. He has gathered some of the best knights throughout the Wilderlands into the Circle of the Lion. They are currently organized into two companies of heavy horse (40 men). Competition to join their ranks is fierce. His wife is Gwynifer of Blackbeck, and his best friend and most loyal ally is Alagon Graham, Count of Guilding. Unfortunately his only children were all stillborn or died shortly after his birth despite the best healing of the Church of Mitra. Now that Artos is aging everybody is worried about who is going to be his heir. Some say he should put aside Gwynifer.

Talsha Thorne, age 51, Symbol (Thistle)
Talsha Thorne is Artos main rival and does little as possible short of rebellion. Artos' half sister Morgas is married to Talsha. Their eldest son is Mordran, age 19. It widely known that Morgas believes that Uthan, Artos' father, raped her mother, Inge the Baroness of Airedown despite marrying her mother later. Because of this Morgas hates Artos.

Artos and Morgas have an older sister Magwine who is married to the Baron of Seastrand in Modron. Her eldest son, Alagon, was rumored to be the child of Count Alagon Graham and is now age 28.

Raedwa Farnham, age 54, Symbol (Hawk Bell)
The portly Baron of Pinshaw is widely known for the quality of his feasts and entertainment. One reason is the baron infectious jovial attitude. But people grimace when he give a broad smile due to his rotten teeth. Artisans and Musicians from all over Nomar congregate at his court. What even more impressive is his ability to do this on a limited budget.

Alagon Graham, age 47, Symbol (Swan)
The Count of Guilding is Prince Artos' best friend and most loyal ally. He is also the Principality best knight. He currently hold the office of the Marshal of Nomar, the commander of Artos's forces. His style of rule is very similar to that of Artos. He continues the Graham traditional role as advocates for the Highland Baronies, relying on the legal assistance of Baron Erim of Cumbria. Due to his frequent absence from home his wife Ewaine often acts in his stead and enjoys his complete trust.

Ailill Lea, age 65, Symbol (Two Axes crossed)
The Baron of Blackbeck Watch is fiercely loyal to Prince Artos. In one of the first acts of his reign, Prince Artos helped Baron Ailill win back Blackbeck Watch after a coup engineered by the Thorne deposed him. Later Baron Ailill's daughter Gwynifer was married to Prince Artos cementing the friendship. Ailill is noted for the dozen or so tattoos on his body, a legacy of a wild youth. Like Prince Artos and Count Alagon, he is noted for his fair and just rule.

Dair Holt, age 53, Symbol (Lion Rampant)
The Baron Kirmer is noted for his coolness in the midst of battle. This quality has allowed him to be victorious in several battle where he was outnumbered by the Skandians. He is also known to be ally of Anarin Melling of Fireside, whose father was his best friend. Although he doesn't share Count Anarin's animosity toward Prince Artos.

Erim Alden, age 55, Symbol (Falcon)
Erim Alden is one of Nomar's foremost legal experts. He also has a prominent harelip and despite the deformity causing a lisp, he is an effective advocate. He often works with Count Alagon of Guilding on legal issues effecting Nomar. He also famous for killing the Greenwell Beast, a basilisk, in his youth.

Cynyr Crutchley, age 69, Symbol (Hare)
Cynyr has been Baron of Hamwell for as long as anybody can remember. He has a dozen sons by three different wives and continually known for playing one of the other. His eldest son, Donal, age 48, has been banished is currently a member of Prince Artos' Circle of Lions. His current heir is his second eldest Beornwine, age 45. Cynyr is known for his keen sense of business and far flung enterprises based on the wealth of the wool trade.

Melan Harding, age 38, Symbol (Griffin)
The Duke of Sykmet has a reputation as a hard and ruthless man. He is openly disdainful of women having found out after his wife's death, a decade ago, that she was cheating on him.

Salin Crompton, age 37, Symbol (Stag Springing)
Salin Crompton is a gifted leader and inspires loyalty from his men. He continually warns of the threat poised by Duke Divolic and City-State. He also a devout member of the Church of Mitra and advocates on their behalf at Duck Melan's court despite his obvious disinterest.

Halanis Mabbot, age 73, Symbol (Broad Arrowhead)
The Count of Britis is all but retired and leads much of the running of the county to his son and heir Halwald, age 34. He known to be a lecher and the women of court stay away as far away as they can. It is said that Sir Halwald is more interested in being a Ranger than a Count that his sister Cyneburgh really runs the County.