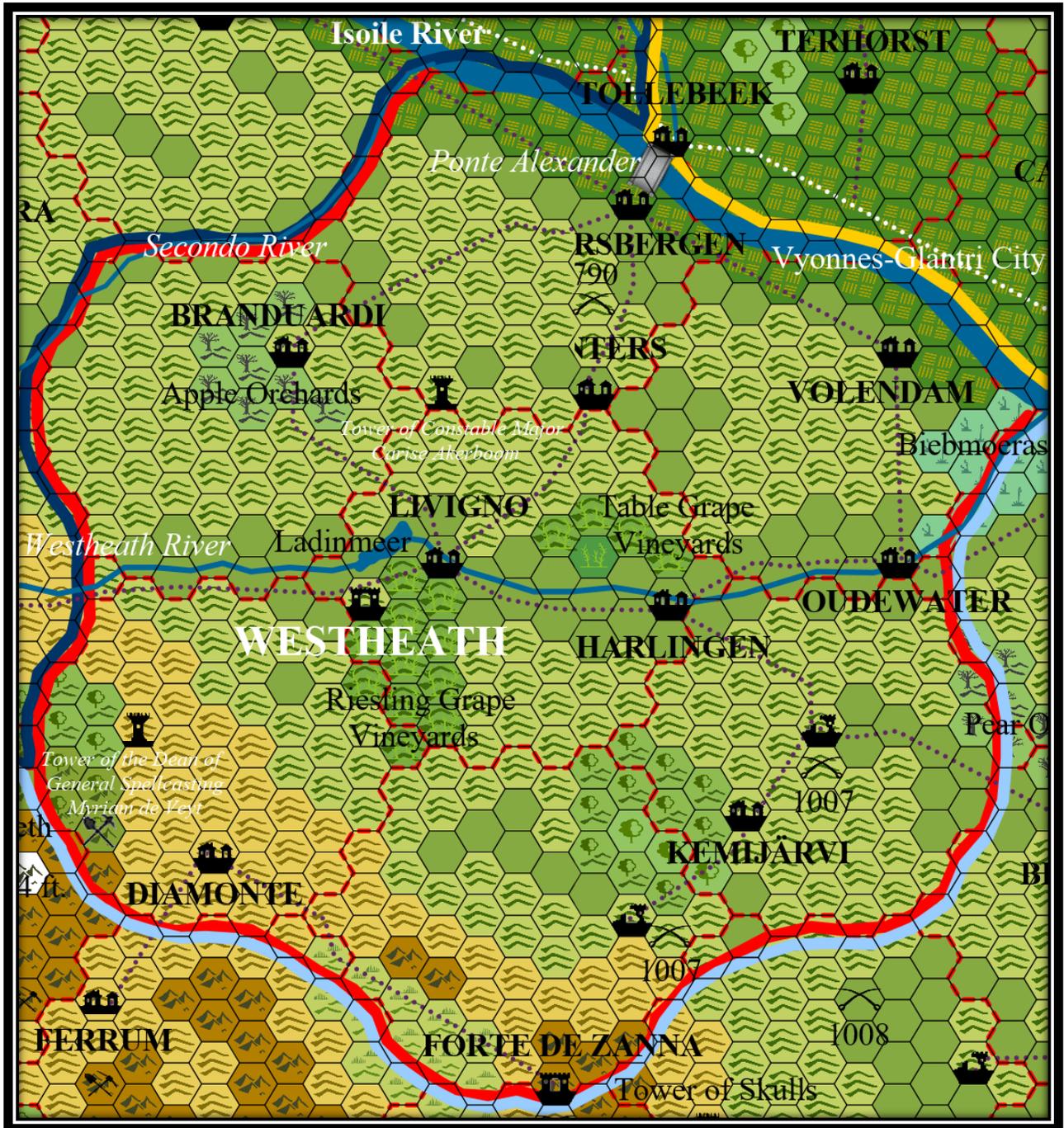


Westheath, Archduchy of

AC 1014



Area:
392 square miles

Population:

1000 AC - 2800

1014 AC - 2250

Villages: *(population values are given for 1000 AC and 1014 AC)*

Livigno (560/300): is the administrative center of the Archduchy.

Giersbergen (400/525) is a large farming settlement on the south bank of the Isoile River and the oldest settlement in Westheath

Diamonte (125/90) is a mining community in the foothills of the Glantrian Alps

Ethnic groups:

1000 AC - Thyatian 62%, Flaemish 30%, Averoignian 4%, Hattian 2%, Kerendian 1%, Other 1%

1014 AC - Thyatian 45%, Flaemish 41%, Averoignian 5%, Hattian 3%, Alpatian 3%, Fen 2%, Other 1%

Languages:

Thyatian Common, Flaemish

Ruler:

Archduchess Judith Beaumarys-Moorkroft (born 985, M11 3rd Circle Air Elementalist, AL-N)

House:

Singhabad (nominally) – The Archduchess tends to vote by her inner compass, not by the lead of House Singhabad, but is unwilling to leave the House that her father aligned with. The situation is well understood by Prince Jherek who understands the independence an Archduchess possesses politically but is appreciative of the subtlety Lady Judith possesses which is a welcome change from her father.

Military:

Westheath is often visited by patrols from Glantri City by the various banners that are stationed there. Westheath maintains a fulltime professional guard force, The Glantrian Guard; divided into 6 squads is mounted on riding horses (4 squads of F2 with chain, shield, spear; 2 squads of F1 leather, short bow) each led by a sergeant with a F5 lieutenant commanding Troops of 3 squads each. A F9 Captain commands the Glantrian Guard. One Troop is always stationed at Forte de Zanna and patrols the surrounding area for bandits in the depopulated and largely lawless surrounding De Glace Free Province to the south and east, as well as watching for wandering monsters from the Glantrian Alps to the southwest. The troops are rotated every 4 months and the squads not on duty at de Zanna are stationed at Castel Westheath.

Due the historically martial nature of the population of Westheath every settlement over 100 maintains a militia force which is highly experienced, and battle tested due to its defensive actions protecting Westheath during the invasion of Thar in 1007. The Archduchess has a personal guard of 30 F5 which guard her and her personal quarters at Westheath Castle. The Archduchy also employs 20 sheriffs who handle basic law and order within the Archduchy.

Food:

Surplus. Food is exported to Glantri City from there it is often sent to agriculturally poor mountainous regions.

Trails:

The Isoile River is navigable to river boats between Vyonnes and Glantri City and Giersbergen is a regular stop for riverboat traffic along the river. The massive stone Ponte Alexander which celebrates its 125th year in 1014 spans the Isoile River and connects Westheath to the Vyonnes-Glantri City Road.

Westheath has little traffic passing through it thus has no major travel routes within it thus poor-quality dirt trails connect the settlements of the Archduchy to each other and to settlements in the neighboring Hiboux and De Glace Free Provinces.

Economics:

In spite in its hilly nature Westheath is an agriculturally productive dominion due to its relatively good climate and longer growing seasons. Westheath produces many staple foods that grow well in the hilly terrain such as wheat, barley potatoes. The good climate also allows a large yield of grapes, both wine and table which are produced for local consumption with surpluses exported to Glantri City. Silver mines in the foothills of the Glantrian Alps in the southwest of Westheath provide a tidy additional income for the Archduchess and whose yields are exported to Glantri City or Vyonnes.

Westheath Monthly Financial Ledger (figures from AC 1000)

Main resources: 1 vegetable, 1 mineral
5 hexes: hills; rural; pop. 1400; tax 140 dc
2 hexes: hills, river; rural; pop. 840; tax 84 dc
Lavigno: village; pop. 560; tax 56 dc

Total population: 2800 villages/rural

Tax Income: 280 dc
Resource Income: 1120 dc
Standard Income: 2240 dc

As most trade west of Glantri City either moves on the Vyonnes-Glantri City Road or on the Isoile River the Archduchess collects a substantial amount of revenue on bridge tolls along with fees and duties on riverboat traffic docking at Giersbergen in addition caravans which cross the Isoile into Westheath. In addition, the Archduchess collects various fines assessed her subjects as well as collecting taxes on adventurers booty which is also substantial as many adventurers used Westheath as a base for adventures into the mountains of the Glantrian Alps to the west. As a result, the Archduchess collects an average of 2000 dc a month in extra income.

Council Tax: 1128 dc
Net Cash: 2272 dc
Overhead (45%): 1022.4 dc
Available Cash: 1249.6 dc

With 40,800 XP/year, in 6 years (1009-1014) the Archduchess would gain 244,800 XP rising from M10 to M11

Alternate (tax only): 3360 XP/year

Alternative (tax and extras only): 27,360 XP/year

History:

Archdukes of Westheath:

Alexander Glantri	829-835	b.788 d.835
Alexius Glantri	835-858	b.833 d.889
Wilhelm Muskerry	858-879	b.814 d.879
Bohemon Batril	879-901	b.820 d.901
Bernard Batril	901-944	b.862 d.944
Edelmiro Pieinants	944-967	b.887 d.967
Karl von Taafnen	967-970	b.914 d.970
Konstantin of Haaskinz	970-974	b.912 d.974
Harald of Haaskinz	974-1004	b.934
John Beaumarys-Moorkroft	1004-1008	b.946 d.1008
Judith Beaumarys-Moorkroft	1008-	b.985

The Westheath area of Glantri was for many years sparsely settled and was wilderness. The first Flaemish settlement, Giersbergen, was first settled in 475 by the first wave of Flaemish settlers arriving in the highlands at one of the narrowest points of the lower Isoile River and remained a frontier settlement for the next three hundred years even after a wooden bridge was built over the Isoile a couple of years after Giersbergen was settled connecting the village with Braejr to the east and the Duchy of Beraam to the north. Little changed in the area after the arrival of the Flaem until the beginning of the 40 Years War in the Highlands in 788.

In 790 the Alphatian general Halzunthram launched a major offensive against the Flaem and Braejr and moved northward up the west bank of the Vesubian River. The left wing of his two-pronged assault was aimed at Giersbergen and its strategically vital crossing of the Isoile River. A bloody bitter battle was in the hills southwest of the bridge, which was a decisive victory for Halzunthram. Giersbergen was captured and burned to the ground though Halzunthram was able to capture the bridge intact. After Halzunthram's defeat at the Battle of High Sonden in 791 and eventual retreat to the south of the Isoile the river divided Halzunthram's coalition forces to the south and the Flaemish forces to the north. The

area of today's Westheath became a front-line military encampment. Stalemate ensued for the five years until 796 when the Thyatians under Titus Glantri and the Kerendians under Matteo di Sfonti changed sides and joined the Flaem.

The lands of the Thyatians to the south were overrun by Halzunthram's Alphatian/Hattian forces in 800 and Castle Glantri raised to the ground. Many Thyatians fled north and settled into the hills around the ruins of Giersbergen. The area became a no man's land of sorts with no battles of consequence as fighting shifted to other parts of the Highlands in the years that followed as other groups joined the alliance against the Alphatians. With Halzunthram's capture in 828 the 40 Years War came to an end and the leader of the alliance against the Alphatians, Alexander Glantri, was rewarded with many titles and honors among them a new dominion in the hills around Giersbergen and the title of Archduke of Westheath its sobriquet being 'first among nobles of the Republic'.

With establishment of the Archduchy under the rule of the beloved Alexander Glantri many Thyatians, which had been scattered all over the Highlands during the 40 years of war, came to settle the new dominion and surrounding hills along with many Flaemish most being experienced veterans of the long civil war. The next several decades saw a rapid rise in prosperity in Westheath and the hill country surrounding it as lawlessness was replaced with law and order and monsters and bandits rapidly eradicated by the efficient troops of the Archduke along with the fighting abilities of many of the many ex-veterans now settlers. A large castle was built for Archduke Glantri and a stunning white marble bridge was built over 5 years at Giersbergen over the Isoile River and named in Archduke Glantri's honor. However, with the Light of Rad decision in 858 the reign of the Glantri family as Archduke of Westheath came to end as Alexander's heir was a non-wizard was replaced by a powerful Hattian noble.

The years after the Light of Rad decision passed peacefully in the Archduchy as several noble families attained the prestigious title, only one step short of being a Prince, only to have their noble lines end and were replaced by a Duke below them. The century and half of great prosperity ended however with the Great War between Glantri and Alphatia starting in 1005. Though the Alphatian Army never set foot in Glantri Westheath was beset with many summoned monsters and struggled to contain since many of its most capable men and women had been drafted into the rapidly expanded Glantrian Army. The greatest blow to Westheath however was the invasion of the Orc-King Thar who commanded over 50,000 humanoids. Though spared the fate of Blackhill and the lands directly to the south, Westheath suffered enormous losses as its militia forces helped the Grand Army hold against the waves of the left wing of the humanoid army moving north towards Glantri City. To add insult to injury for the people of Westheath a plague descended upon it and the rest of Glantri and killed many Westheathers. By the time the war ended in the last months of 1009 the population of Westheath had been reduced by almost 40%.

The years since the end of the Great War have seen a slow return to normal for Westheath as its population and economic production slowly recover to prewar levels. Many new settlers have been drawn to Westheath that were displaced from their homes to the south by Thar's invasion. Once Westheath's cultural and economic center Lavigno remains only its political center as Giersbergen has now become the largest settlement in the Archduchy and its economic and cultural heart. The once

pacified and peaceful hill country of Westheath is now considered dangerous as even years later after the war and the invasion, wandering monsters and other horrors originally summoned by the Alphatians are still to be found in the hills and mountains around Westheath.

Notable sites:

Castel Westheath is the seat of the Archduchy of Westheath. It was constructed to the specifications of Alexander Glantri himself and is octagonal with a 15 ft high curtain wall connecting 8 30 ft high towers protecting the central keep. The central keep is a 60-foot high 5 story building and has several ballistae and catapults on top. The castle, though the seat of power in the Archduchy, has not seen its ruling noble reside there in over forty years not since Karl von Taafnen as the Haaskinz and Beaumarys-Moorkroft have all chosen to live at the capital close to the real sources of power in Glantri, both political and magical.

Serving since 1010 the current resident of Castel Westheath and administrator of the Archduchy is Layton McSorley (Age – 49, M5, AL – N) who has been a member of the Spokesmen’s Guild since he was legally able to join at age 21. He was chosen by the new Archduchess to replace the old dominion administrator favored by her father John as she felt he was as shady and crooked as knew her father to have been. The dungeons of Westheath are notable not for any prisoners they hold, for they hold very few, but for the vast amount of stored non-perishable food goods they contain as Castel Westheath has been designated (secretly) by the Council of Princes as an assembly place for the Parliament in case of the loss of Glantri City to due natural, or unnatural, events. Until 1006 the Archduke/Duchess of Westheath was tasked by the Council of Princes for the minting and refurbishing of the common Glantrian coins, the gold Ducat, the silver Sovereigns, and copper Penny. While the Ministry of Coin now is responsible for it, the dungeons of Westheath still contains a large chamber full of tools, and die used to manufacture coins.

The village of Giersbergen sits upon the south bank of the Isoile River, at one of the narrowest points of the river south of Yvonne and is the largest and most important settlement in Westheath after the Great War. Giersbergen lays just across the river from the main road carrying caravans on the rich and vibrant trade routes between Glantri City and Nouvelle Averoine along with Sind and Wendar further to the west and north. The village is also a major stop for boat traffic between Glantri City and Yvonne. Many fine items can be found in the markets of the village and many visitors can be found in the village’s inns, taverns, and markets. Caravans plying the Yvonne-Glantri City road north of the river have been known to make slight detours into Giersbergen just to experience a crossing of the magnificent Ponte Alexander. While Livigno remains the administrative heart of the Archduchy Giersbergen has rapidly become its economic and cultural heart which was punctuated just last year with the construction of The Beaumarys Academy and the Pimms Theater, a beautiful brand-new theater to provide a grand venue for public entertainment like plays, operas, and musical performances which are regularly arranged by McSorley at the behest and with financial support of the Archduchess.

The Beaumarys Academy sits upon a large hill just outside Giersbergen and offers a quality education for the residents of the Archduchy. Any child of the Archduchy between the ages of 5 and 16 can attend the

Academy for free and receive a good basic education. The child can learn to read and write both Thyatian common and Flaemish, become proficient with basic math, and learn basic history. The Archduchess chose a close friend from her days at the Great School of Magic, Arnold Layne (age 31, M13. AL-L), to be the Headmaster of the Academy and he arranges for Shepherds of Rad in the local temples to teach the children. As recompense for the Shepherd's time the Archduchess has also sponsored substantial additions and improvements to the main Temples in Giersbergen and Livigno. Children found to have magical ability after testing but unable to afford training are educated here and after 6 consecutive years of intensive study during the 4 month a year Academy terms held from Eirmont to Vatermont (as most students help their families around the homes and farms planting and harvesting) become 1st level spellcasters.

The most notable site in Westheath today without any doubt is the tower of the Dean of General Spellcasting of the Great School of Magic Myriam de Veyt (M36). While the Mistress usually resides in her quarters at the Great School she can occasionally be found here during breaks from the school. What makes her tower so noteworthy is the swarm of bat-like creatures that continually swarm around his tower. The Mistress of the tower is thought to be linked to them for only the approach of anyone within 200 feet of his tower will break their pattern of circling the tower and will instead gather around the intruders. Then the voice of de Veyt, as loud as thunder will ask the business of the intruders and those with no business will be warned to turn and leave. What would happen if the warning were refused is unknown for no one is known to ignored her warning?



Coat of Arms:

Five white snowflakes on a field of blue

Useful Links:

The Economy of Glantri by Aleksei Andrievski

Judith Beaumarys-Moorkroft by Kit Narvaro

History of House Glantri by Harri Mäki

History of the Flaem and History of the Great War 1004-1009 by Michael Berry