

REPORT TO DAME CASSIA KARTHIS ON BREEZY CREEK

Centuries of exploitation have left Kazuhn economically battered with its limited infrastructure maintenance dedicated to keeping the few key canals and warehouses able to export the prefecture's flax, fruit, and grain to Oppara. In Taldor's heyday, Kazuhn was a patchwork of small, family-run farms. Increasingly, nobles have consolidated these farms into massive estates with tenant farmers. It's largely due to some aristocrats' competing interests and overlapping domains that some farming communities remain independent.

Such is the case for Breezy Creek, a nonintegrated community northeast of the small town of Piltshaven. For many generations the Avenlar family—most recently Viscount **Yemis Avenlar** has merged the farms under its jurisdiction, in the process often leveling diverse family plots to make room for intensive production of a few crops. The Avenlars have profited off this change, though the tenant farmers have struggled under the rigorous taxes imposed. Even with their right to move and seek work elsewhere, many field hands have gone into debt to the Avenlars to make ends meet, tying them to the land in practice if not in name. The respected Landgrave **Aldon Parcheau** had maintained the ranching lands and agricultural hamlets that speckle the surrounding territory, including the village of Breezy Creek; however, the landgrave and the local baron, Artirus Caesar, perished during the succession skirmishes breaking out across the country. With no heir, the landgrave's lands are unsupervised, and higher-ranked aristocrats are too absorbed in bigger schemes to appoint a replacement. To Viscount Avenlar, that's been an opportunity to begin poaching more territory.

The commoners of **Kazuhn** have tilled their own plots for centuries, growing dozens of different crops and raising a variety of animals. As the nobles have consolidated massive farms, those working the land have been ordered to sow only a handful of more lucrative crops to feed Oppara's growing appetites. Having been ruled with a light hand for so long, the peasants find this relatively new organization distasteful.

The people of Breezy Creek are some of the most noteworthy holdouts, and among the most vocal protesters are **Tramail** and **Edva**, the Kalbio's parents. The two took out a loan from the Avenlar family to pay for their son's apprenticeship and other aspirations, and they're in no position to leave until they pay off the debt. Tramail's especially distressed about the matter, for he knows that the viscount will demand he cut down his generations-old pear orchard.

The ennobled **Baron Kalbio Breezy Creek** is in place over, **Breezy Creek, Piltshaven**, and several other nearby towns are in need of leadership. With the support of our and Dame Elsa's agents, Avenlar has been reluctant to accept the Baron's formal authority in the area and has not even paid a proper visit to the Town Hall Kalbio is using as his current residence (as there is not yet money collected to build him a proper home).

If Avenlar can be brought to heel, most of the others will fall into line. Complicating this, the Baron of Breezy Creek is holding a title granted by a Grand Prince who tried to kill him and supported by a Grand Princess not fully acknowledged. Avenlar has thus far used legal inquiries to stall for time, as well as other more direct means. At least three farms we know of have been vandalized at night, with crops destroyed. It just so happens they are in debt to the Avenlars. While the people of Breezy Creek and the surrounding areas are happy to support Kalbio, who they call "Our Baron", the nobles are more reluctant.

Baron Kalbio needs an infusion of taxes, which right now, the nobles are not paying. Common landowners, like his parents just don't have it at the moment. In the two months since his arrival flanked by your agents, Kalbio has already made a splash. His direct work on helping locals in the region has earned him respect. Twice he has personally faced down against whipped up mobs. This has attracted a following of his own personal agents to support him, most important **Nobbly-Kobb**, **Captain (ret)**, **Kaius Meritious**, and **Zenia of Piltshaven**:

- **Nobbly-Kobb:**
 - **Gnome**
 - **Accountant**
 - **Description:** Was passing through and decided to settle when he saw Kalbio in action. His old home caught up in fighting.
- **Kaius Meritious:**
 - **Human**
 - **Chief of Staff**
 - **Description:** Retired Captain in the army who returned to his old family farm. Born a farmer, he joined the military and worked his way up. Retired to work with Brother and his wife. Over 70 no longer really in fighting condition due to a bad left leg.
- **Zenia of Piltshaven:**
 - **Human**
 - **Armswoman**
 - **Description:** Young woman with a bent for fighting. No formal training, but dangerous with a sword. Getting more formal training from the captain.

Humbly submitted,

Honor of Stachys
Asny Skjoldaughter