

Labarn Townhouse 1

Introduction

The Labarn clan townhouse, located in the Haldana district of Tashal, serves as the center for the Labarn Clan business in Tashal. The townhouse is located south of Haldan Square in the alley east of Chidena Street [see map in Contacts section].

The Labarn clan holds Labarn and Uvabek manors, situated about one half day's walk from Tashal. In addition, the lords of Suvist, Jafpot and Ilhar manor swear fealty to the Labarns. The clan business in Tashal consists mainly of selling produce from their manors, including fruits, vegetables, grains, cheeses, meats, ciders, wines, flax and wool, and sheepskin.

Labarn History

Lady Irla's deceased husband, Haral Labarn, was heir to the Labarn Manor when they married in 695, he was 25 and she 21. They had 2 sons, Parvin, now 24 and the current manor holder, and Varsin, who died in 714 at age 14. Haral's family includes his younger brother Ilval, age 36, and Ilval's son Korold, age 18, as well as several more distant relatives.

The Labarn clan's holdings date from the end of the Baron's Revolt, when Tarl Labarn was granted lands by the then Earl of Balim, Alessa Dariune. The townhouse is a more recent acquisition, bought by Haral's father, Charan Labarn, in 701. Charan decided to let Haral, then 31, to take over day to day management of the manors while he focused on advancing the clans' political interests and started making business contacts for the high quality goods produced by the manors.

After Charan Labarn died in 711, Haral and Irla split their time between the manor and the townhouse, taking over the political aspects of Charan's activities while hiring a factor to represent their business interests in town, and still managing the manors with the help of Ilval, Haral's younger brother, who is the Baliff of Uvabek.

Haral Labarn died in 717 at the age of 47, not long after Parvin's 21st birthday. Lady Irla moved into the townhouse 2 years ago, having spent the first year after Haral's death tutoring Parvin on the nuances of being manorholder and clanhead. Lady Irla is pleased to offer her son any advice he asks her for, and is confident that Ilval will offer good council also. Irla now performs the duties of factor for the clan in Tashal, and advances the Labarn clan's political goals in the capitol.

Townhouse

The townhouse is a two story stone building with a walk-in attic. Approximately one third of the first floor is used by the Labarn clan to store goods from the Labarn holdings, including an entry with double doors wide enough to accommodate a wagon. The remaining two thirds of the first floor is occupied by a family of five which rents the space from the Labarns.

The second floor is used as Lady Irla Labarn's primary residence. In the southern portion of the house is a large open room for entertaining, which is usually partitioned by curtains into a waiting area and a sitting room. Lady Irla's chamber occupies the southeastern corner of the townhouse.

The eastern section of the third floor has a nicely furnished guest bedroom, while the rest of the attic serves as a dormitory. The guest bedroom has a lock on the door and serves as long term storage of valuable goods when the room is not being used by visitors.

Credits

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First Floor

The first floor is occupied by the family of Pollarn of Rone, a journeyman weaver. Pollarn's wife, Selwene, works as Lady Irla Labarn's cook. They have a daughter, Jilasyne, and twin sons, Ignal and Tan.

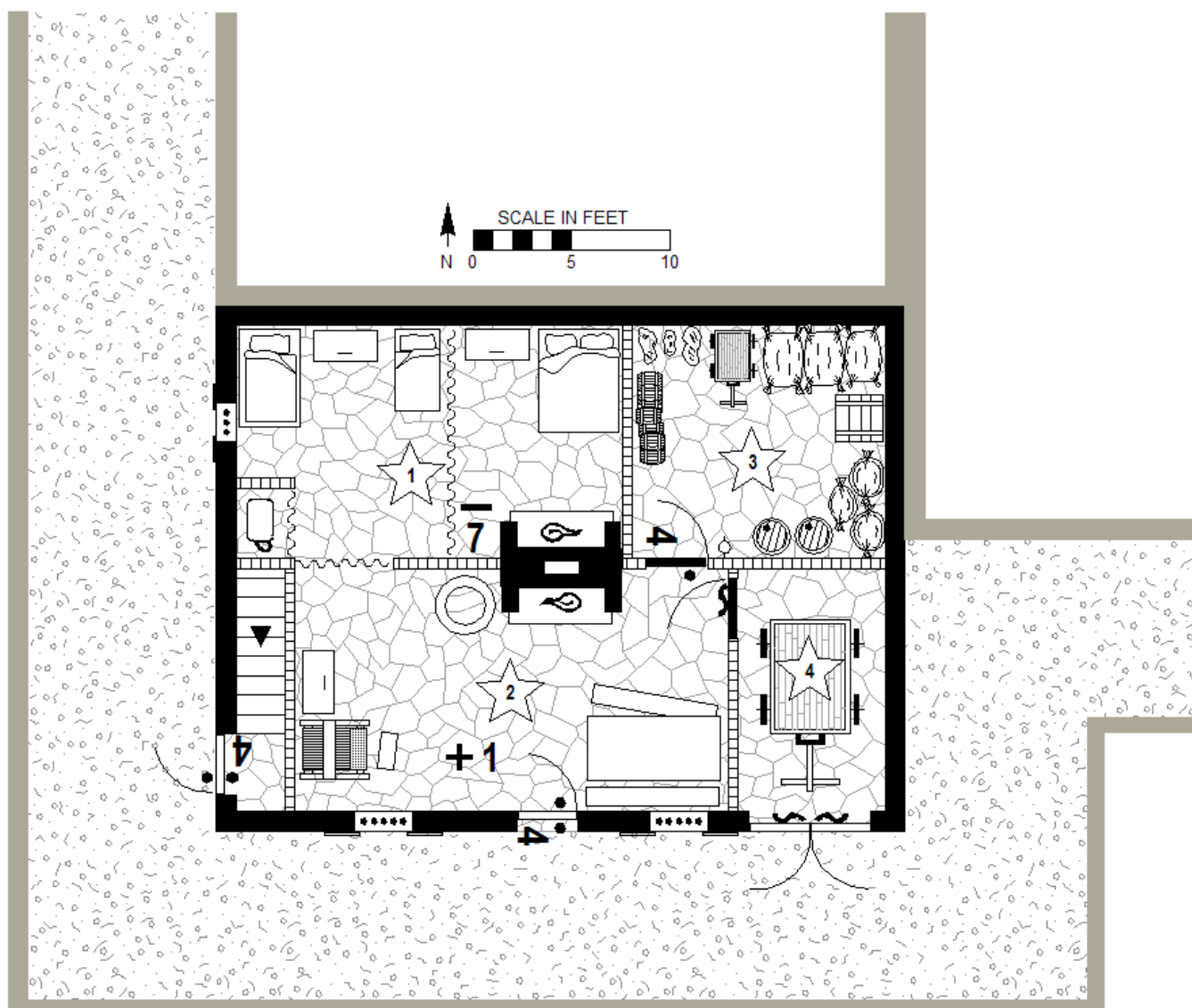
The family living space consists of a bedroom (1), where Pollarn and Selwene share a bed near the fireplace separated from the rest of the room by a curtain. Jilasyne sleeps on a small bed near the curtain while the twins sleep on a bunk bed.

Pollarn does much of his work in the front room (2) with a loom set up in the southwest corner and

a vat for dying near the fireplace. This room also serves as a kitchen and dining area for the family.

The back room (3) and the large entry (4) are used as storage for the Labarn clan. The back room (3) holds a variety of goods from the manors and a small wagon used by Ignal and Tan for local deliveries.

The entry (4) can hold a modest wagon from Labarn manor used to bring goods to Tashal or stable a couple of horses. When not otherwise in use, Ignal and Tan keep their wagon here along with the goods they will be delivering.



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Second Floor

The second floor is Lady Irla's residence. Guests initially enter the waiting room (5), where they remain until Lady Irla is ready to receive them. Guests arriving strictly on business rarely pass beyond the waiting room. The waiting area doubles as a dining room when Lady Irla entertains.

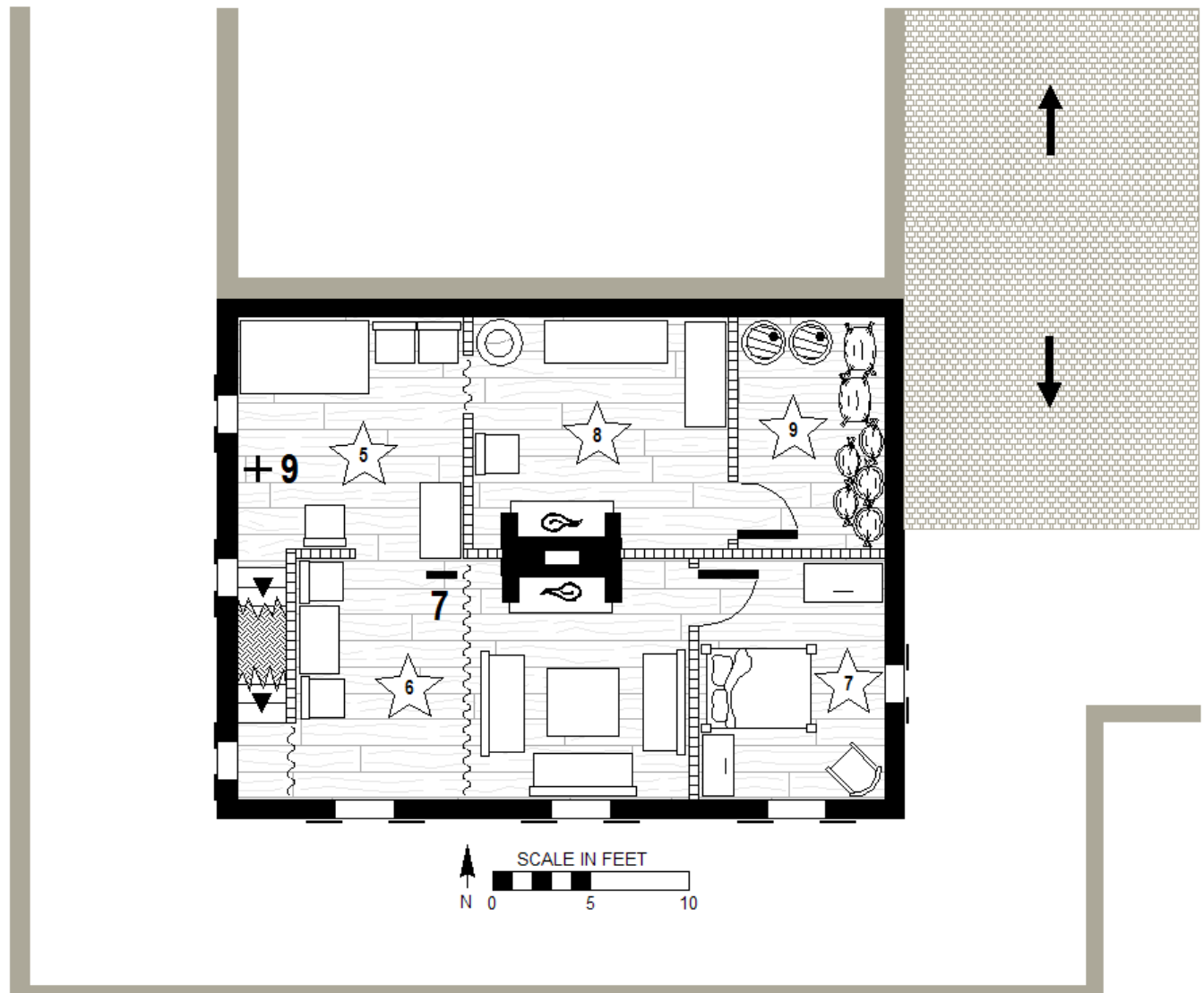
Lady Irla's papers are kept in a finely made secretariat desk in the waiting room along the kitchen wall, which is kept locked when not in use by Lady Irla.

Guests with higher stature will be brought into Lady Irla's sitting room (6). This comfortably

furnished room is kept open in the summer, but closed off with a curtain in the winter for warmth. The furniture in this room and the desk in the waiting room were made by master woodcrafter Ugerald Torlis (see Contacts).

Lady Irla's personal chamber (7) includes a comfortable bed with a feather mattress and two large trunks containing Lady Irla's personal possessions.

The second floor also includes a kitchen (8) and a storage area (9). The kitchen has a small water cistern, which is filled daily. The storage area normally holds household foodstuffs, but may also contain Labarn goods during the summer fair.



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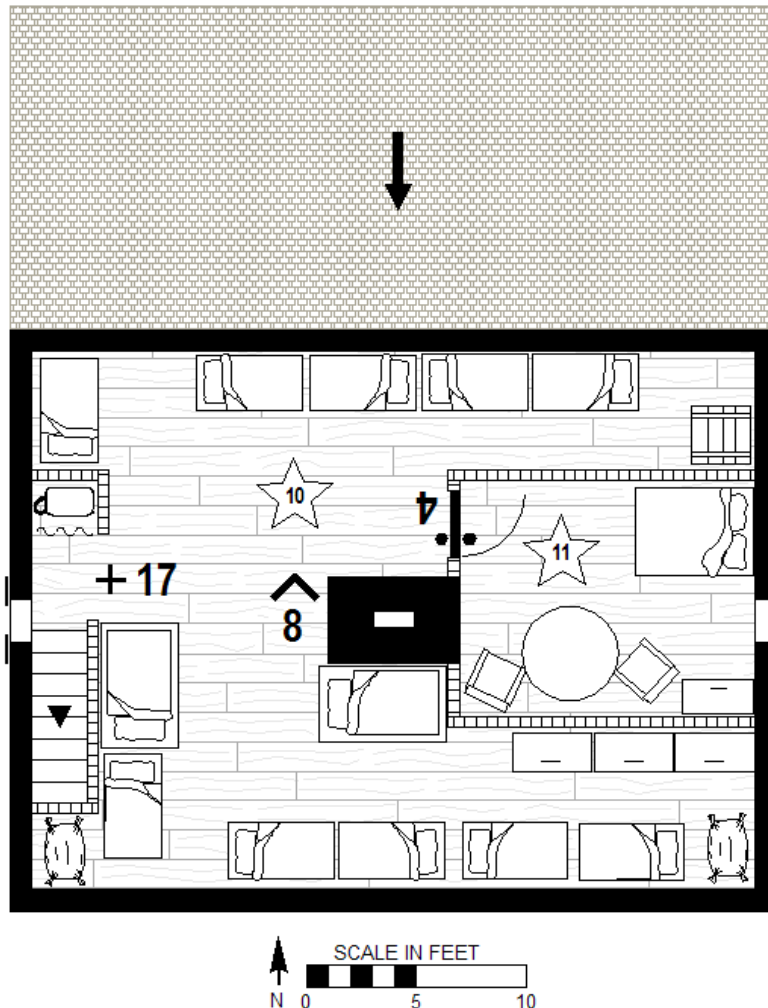
Third Floor

The dormitory (10) is used as the sleeping quarters for Parga of Dalwen, Lady Labarn's man-at-arms, and his daughter, Evadia. The dormitory is also used by other Labarn clan retainers, bonded masters or peasants when they are in town. Under the eaves are several chests and a crate for storage of household linens and items which are not used regularly.

At the top of the stairs is a small lavatory. The contents of the pot are typically emptied out the window at the top of the stairs.

The guest bedroom (11) is reserved for important guests and is most commonly used by Lady Irla's son, Lord Parvin, when he visits Tashal. The room has a lock on the door and serves as long term storage of valuable goods when the room is not being used by visitors. Lady Irla keeps the only key.

When Lord Parvin visits for the Tashal Winter Tournament he often brings expensive gifts, they are kept in this room until they are given to the intended recipients. The gifts are made by the bonded masters employed by the Labarn clan at Labarn manor, which include a jeweler, weapon smith and clothier.



Residents

Lady Irla Labarn acts as the factor for the Labarn clan in Tashal. Primarily, this entails arranging for sale of goods produced on the Labarn and Uvabek manors in town, buying goods needed on the manors, arranging participation in the Summer Fair and delivery of goods for the clan's feudal obligation. She is also the clan's political representative in Tashal.

Lady Irla Labarn is an intelligent, self-possessed, elegant, mature woman, with a keen sense of appropriateness and vast knowledge in the areas and circles in which she moves. She is adept at managing the projects and business interests entrusted to her by the Labarn clan. She is skillful at maneuvering the political currents in Tashal, always keeping a keen eye out for ways to further her clan's, and the Earl of Balim's, interests.

Irla takes an active part in managing the Labarn clan's business, acting as factor for the clan in Tashal, and advisor to her son Parvin (head of the Labarn clan). She also plans and arranges for several events the Labarn clan hosts each year including seasonal open houses for business and political connections in Tashal, the early summer joust and tournament at Labarn manor, and several smaller events year round.

Lady Labarn has a warm, outgoing personality, which belies a formidable inner strength. Her gracious attitude puts most at ease and makes many believe they will get the better of any negotiation conducted, but few find this to be true. Lady Labarn knows the value of the goods her clan produces and is determined to do her best to get their value. She does, however, know when it is best to give a little now to get more later, both in business and politics. Lady Labarn keeps notes on the preferences of her contacts to help her in negotiations and finding the best prices for her products.

Irla's personal friends find her genuinely warm, loyal, and, once earned, trusting. She always makes the effort to remember the things about

people which make the difference between an appropriate gift and the perfect gift. She is generous and supportive, going out of her way to help those in need.

While Irla Labarn is very active in the business of her clan, and somewhat chagrined by her son's lack of wife or fiancé, she is not an overshadowing, controlling mother. In fact, Irla made the decision to move to Tashal because she realizes her son, Parvin, is head of the Labarn clan and needs to be seen as holding that position on his own ability by his liege lord, peers and those who owe him fealty. Having a mother around who is known to be a strong individual might hamper the acceptance of him as the head of the Labarn clan.

The Labarn clan detractors have put forth the rumor that Parvin threw her out of the manor house because she would not let him act as clanhead for the first year after his father's death, and that Parvin is bound to fail after spending his life overshadowed by such a headstrong woman. So far their predictions have proven untrue.

Lady Irla's business activities and involvement in arranging the tournament have given her exposure to many of the larger and some of the better small businesses in Tashal. As such when the Labarn clan needs goods which it cannot produce on its own, she often knows where to obtain the item at the best price. Because she acts as the factor for her clan she can arrange the buying and selling of goods without having to pay for a middleman and therefore gets a slightly better price than clans which hire a factor to conduct business. This also means that Lady Labarn can give a slightly better price on her goods than the competition and still make more money. While the difference in prices is relatively small as a percentage of the total income for the manors, it does give rise to petty jealousies from competitors.

Lady Labarn is a wealthy widow and as such has attracted the attention of several men wishing to improve their standing by marrying her. So far she has not shown a preference for any of them, although she has taken care to discourage some

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from the field, particularly those whose political connections and ambitions are at odds with hers.

Pollarn of Rone, age 40, is a journeyman weaver in Tashal's clothiers guild. He has the good fortune of renting the first floor of the Labarn Clan townhouse for the past 5 years, for which he thanks Halea daily. Not only was he lucky enough to find living quarters in the Haldana District, but because Lady Labarn also now employs his wife and three children, it practically pays for itself. Lady Labarn seems to be a good employer and none of his family have any complaints about the work or treatment. In fact, the boys, Tan and Ignal, seem to revel in some of their jobs - especially the ones that involve running messages to Labarn manor and fetching the lady's horse, Snowfall, a white mare, from the manor.

Pollarn works for Haber of Sarlis [Tashal I9] weaving fine brocades for use in Haber's tailoring business as well as for export. Pollarn is an above average weaver who is reasonably compensated by Haber for his work, but wishes to become his own master. Unfortunately, Haber prefers to keep Pollarn at journeyman wages and has the political connections to make it difficult for Pollarn to become a master. In response, Pollarn has pinned his hopes of becoming a master on making connections in the Haldana District, including Kodar of Narad [Tashal H4], the Guildmaster of the Clothier's Guild.

Pollarn's sons (Tan and Ignal) are old enough to be apprenticed and Pollarn is considering the options carefully. Given their enthusiasm for the delivery of the manor's goods he is considering the Mercantylers' Guild, but worries they will end up in a location where their guild membership is not considered valuable. Additionally Pollarn will need to make connections within the Mercantylers' Guild in order to have his sons accepted.

Selwene of Rone, age 38, is a solid, matronly woman of middling intelligence who happens to be quite a good cook. Selwene especially enjoys preparing for Lady Labarn's parties, large and small, where she gets to be a bit more creative

than with everyday meals. Unfortunately, Selwene has a somewhat questionable memory, so some of her best creations are irreproducible. This has causes some dismay, especially when an important guest makes a request. In addition to cooking, Selwene oversees her daughter's employment in Lady Labarn's household as a maid.

Jilasyn of Rone, age 14, maid for Lady Labarn, daughter of Pollarn and Selewene of Rone. Jilasyn started working as Lady Irla's maid 2 years ago when Lady Irla moved to Tashal permanently. Lady Irla's previous maid, Elith of Arnen, trained Jilasyn prior to returning to her family at Labarn Manor. Jilasyn, much to her mother's disappointment, has not picked up Selwene's cooking skills.

While Jilasyn has no complaints about working for Lady Labarn, being a maid is not exactly what she wants to do. Unfortunately, like 14 year old girls everywhere, about the only thing that does interest Jilasyn right now is boys and she has not figured out a way to turn that into employment of which her parents would approve.

Jilasyn is currently interested in Terba of Charion, age 18. Terba is the grandson of Ugerald of Torlis, the Woodcrafter Guildmaster. Terba works in his grandfathers business and lives in the house across the street from Lady Irla's house. Jilasyn has not yet let Terba know she thinks he's cute.

Jilasyn envies the freedom afforded her brothers in their work for the Labarn household and would love to see more of the world than the areas of Tashal she has lived in.

Ignal and Tan of Rone, age 12, runners / delivery boys for Lady Labarn, twin sons of Pollarn and Selwene of Rone.

Ignal is a bit more outgoing and larger, while Tan is more intelligent and the dominant personality in the duo, though few realize this.

Ignal and Tan love their job for the Labarn clan, which has afforded them opportunities to see much of Tashal and surrounding towns, manors and countryside. It has also given them contact with some of the larger businesses and wealthier

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households in Tashal, albeit with the servants in said establishments. The twins are endearing and the maids and cooks rarely pass up an opportunity to feed them 'for their trouble'. Ignal and Tan are enterprising young men, using the handcart for more than deliveries for Lady Labarn, providing themselves extra income. Their job has given them a taste for wanderlust and adventure which may prove hazardous in their future.

Ignal and Tan are still young enough to be romantic about their career options and have decided that they would like to be adventurers, like they have heard about in the folk tales, maybe even going to the sea and sailing to distant lands. They are currently enamored with Lady Bresyn Risai, who they consider to be a nefarious spy from Thay. They spend every moment they can spare watching her and the comings and goings at her residence.

Parga of Dalwen, age 32, Lady Labarn's man-at-arms. Parga and his daughter, Evadia (age 8), sleep on the third floor of the townhouse. Parga is an even tempered, reliable man and while he is good with a sword his true skill lies with a spear. He is physically imposing and strives to keep in fighting condition by sparring with other soldiers in the city. He has made some connections with Rathbar's Raiders [Tashal G12] and several other bodyguards in Tashal to give himself opportunity to train. His job is to protect Lady Irla and he answers to Parvin for any perceived breaches in security. Parga is personally loyal to Lady Labarn because when his wife died in childbirth, Irla worked to ensure his daughter, Evadia, didn't die as well. Evadia lives with Parga in Tashal.

Parga is the most trusted of the men-at-arms employed by the Labarn Clan. While his daily function is bodyguard for Lady Irla he is well aware of the political situation and the potential for unrest at the death of King Miginath. Before being assigned to this position permanently, Parvin and Ilval Labarn had a long talk with Parga regarding appropriate actions to take in case of the king's death. Parga has a large sum of money entrusted to him for the purchase of three horses in case it becomes necessary to get Lady Labarn out

of Tashal in a hurry, or failing that, to send a messenger quickly to Labarn manor. Lady Labarn is aware that he has been entrusted with some cash for emergencies, but is unaware of how much.

Parga has started to build a network in Tashal to keep him informed about the happenings in several households he considers to be possible threats in the event of King Miginath's death. He has been using small amounts of the cash he has and some of the trade goods from the manors to help build that network. Parga plans to speak with Lord Parvin next time they are together regarding his budding network.

Lady Irla trusts Parga implicitly. She finds him to occasionally be overly concerned about her safety, and at such times as immovable as the earth itself, which she finds exasperating. But most times Parga's affable personality makes him endearing.

Evadia of Dalwen, age 8, daughter of Parga of Dalwen. Evadia is a bright and bouncy girl. Curious about the world she has made friends with many of the children in the alley, particularly Annesa of Naradas, daughter of Carad and Enlyn of Naradas. They spend as much time as possible in each other's company and at each other's houses.

Lady Irla took a personal interest in Evadia's well-being when her mother died shortly after childbirth. Irla almost considers Evadia to be her ward and as such treats her almost like her own daughter, teaching her the things a young Lady would need to know. Irla has been seeing to Evadia's education, and is teaching her to read and write and do arithmetic as well as embroidery and sewing. Evadia is in turn teaching her friend Annesa.

Parga, Evadia's father, is somewhat concerned about Lady Irla's teaching and mentoring his daughter. While he agrees that what Evadia is learning has value, he is unsure he will be able to find her a husband who wants a wife with "airs", who knows too much about books, and not enough about practical housewife skills, after all Evadia is not a nobleman's daughter.

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Social Calendar

Lady Labarn hosts several parties each year. Small parties are held at the townhouse, while larger affairs are held at Galopea's Feast [Tashal H15] when necessary. The parties include:

- 1) Spring and autumn parties held for sampling premium produce from the Labarn clan holdings;
- 2) A winter party to coincide with the Tashal Winter Tournament;
- 3) A party at the beginning of the Summer Fair for foreign traders; and,
- 4) Several smaller parties year round which, while they are more intimate, are still lavish. Lady Labarn arranges the winter party to coincide with Parvin Labarn's visit to Tashal. Parvin, Lady Labarn's son, is the current Labarn clanhead and holder of Labarn manor.

In addition to the parties, Lady Irla plans and organizes the Joust and Tournament held in the spring at the Labarn Manor. It is also within Lady Labarn's purview to invite guests to Labarn manor.

Contacts

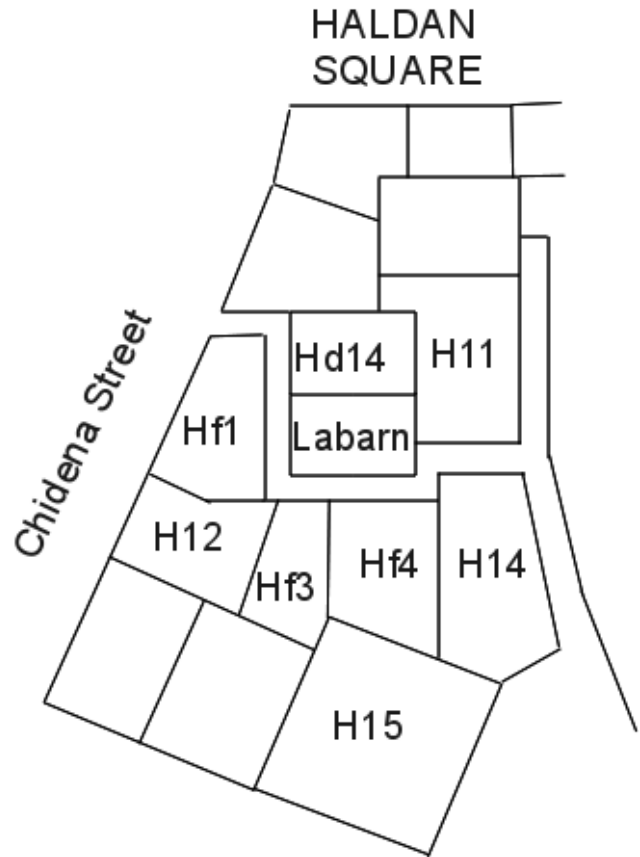
Neighbors

Satris of Meralen, [Tashal H11]

Satris, age 34, is a prominent sculptor in Tashal. He is aware the Labarn clan is building a new stone manor house and would like to get a commission for at least some of the finishing / decorative work involved. As such he is being very gallant toward Lady Labarn currently, but as he is generally gallant with woman it is hard to tell the difference between this and his normal behavior.

Lady Labarn has very little use for indiscreet men and as such spends as little time as possible in Satris' company. While she is not rude to him,

she is not friendly either. She considered suggesting to Parvin to use some of Satris' work in the new manor house under construction, but decided against it for fear of the trouble he could stir up while at the manor completing and installing any work.



Lady Bresyn Risai, [Tashal H14]

Lady Risai has been outgoing and friendly with Lady Labarn, trying to cultivate a friendship. Lady Labarn is cognizant of Lady Risai's questionable standing as a noble and that she is also an outsider. As such, Irla is polite, but not friendly with Lady Risai, who is invited to some of the larger events Lady Labarn hosts. Ignal and Tan spend as much time as possible watching Lady Bresyn's house – they are convinced she is a spy for Thay.

Marond and Brygyne Capel, [Haldana Section Hf4]

Marond, age 36, works as a clerk in the Chancery Court, his wife Brygyne, age 33, stays home with their children; son Ered, age 6, and daughter Alin,

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age 4. Of late Brygyne has been looking for work, either to take in or outside the house as the family has fallen into debt. To make up some of the short fall, Marond and Brygyne have rented the first floor of their house to their neighbors, Carad and Enlyn of Naradas [below]. Marond is the third son of Dea Capel, a knight who holds Ouzenul Manor near Yeged Keep in Meselyneshire.

Irla has socialized with Marond and Brygyne, inviting them to her townhouse and various parties, she and Brygyne get along well. Irla has noticed her friend has become distracted and worried, but is not privy to the details.

Carad and Enlyn of Naradas, Mercantylor, [Haldana Section Hf3]

Carad, age 37, is a wealthy merchant in Tashal, owns a business which employs 11 people. He and his wife, Enlyn, age 32, live with their three children (daughters Annesa, 8; Kalycia, 4; and 6 month old Derelin) and Carad's mother, Querina, age 69. Carad's business is run out of a warehouse in the Medrik District. He has been watching Ignal and Tan of Rone for the past year to see if they might make good apprentices, as they already have experience running errands for Lady Labarn. He is undecided about talking to their father about apprenticeships for them.

Carad is a business contact of Lady Labarn's. That relationship has been extended to friendship because their daughter, Annesa, and Evadia of Dalwen are good friends and can often be found at each others' houses. Lady Labarn is quite fond of Annesa and Kalycia.

Chantry of Arcane Lore, [Tashal H12]

Lady Labarn has no regular dealings with the Chantry of Arcane Lore. She respects their learning and is polite to them, occasionally inviting the masters to some of her larger events.

Ugerald and Cyrilea of Torlis, Woodcrafter Guildmaster [Haldana Section Hf1].

Ugerald, age 64, and Cyrilea, age 62, live in a large house facing Chidena Street and backing up to the alley. They share the house with their

oldest daughter (Keldyne, age 37), her husband (Amaem of Charion, age 38) and their children (son Terba, age 18, and daughter Darin, age 12). Ugerald is the Guildmaster of the Woodcrafters Guild and runs a large business specializing in fine furniture with his son-in-law's help. The business is housed in the first floor of the large house that Ugerald owns. He employs two journeymen and three apprentices in addition to Ugerald and Amaen (both masters). Ugerald is feeling his age and plans to pass the day to day operations solely to Amean in the next year.

Lady Labarn and Ugerald Torlis have had minor business dealings, Ugerald having made some of the furniture Irla has in her townhouse. Ugerald and Cyrilea are invited to some of the parties Lady Labarn holds, more for their status in the community than for any other reason.

Asharat and Falawn of Sabren, [Haldana Section Hd14], Jeweler

Asharat, age 46, and Falawn, age 33, have been married for less than 3 years, they have a 2 year old son, Krathal. Asharat's first wife and child died in childbirth 19 years previously. Asharat was so shaken by the tragedy he vowed he would never remarry or have children. Despite Asharat's plans, his mistress of several years, Falawn, became pregnant 3 years ago, resulting in his current family. While Asharat and Falawn did not pick each other with marriage compatibility in mind the marriage is going well, more because of Asharat's doting on his wife and child than anything else.

Asharat is a master jeweler who runs his business from a section of the first floor of his house. He employs a journeyman and an apprentice and Falawn helps out while Asharat spends some of each day at his own work bench. Lady Labarn has limited dealings with Asharat as the Labarn Clan employs its own jeweler at Labarn manor. Irla thinks Falawn married very well late in life, and suspects the child is the reason.

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Galopea's Feast, [Tashal H15], Inn, Proprietor: Mak of Ashel

Lady Labarn uses Galopea's Feast to host some of her larger parties, particularly the Summer Fair party where she showcases produce from the Labarn and Uvabek Manors (cured meats, cheeses, preserved fruits, ciders, wines and brandies) to foreign merchants, and the Winter Fair party when Parvin is in town. Part of her payment to Mak for using his facilities is high quality foodstuffs from the manors.

Lady Labarn rather likes Mak. She thinks he has done a marvelous job running his business and is a truly inspired cook; she is unaware of the more seedy aspects of Galopea's Feasts business. Selwene, Lady Labarn's cook, is jealous of what she sees as Mak's intrusion into her territory as Lady Labarn's cook during these occasions.

Political Connections

Lady Donesyn, [Tashal H2], Earl of Balim's sister, year round resident in Tashal.

Lady Donesyn's role is very similar to Lady Irla's role in Tashal. Since Lady Donesyn is acting on the behalf of the Earl of Balim, clan Labarn's liege lord, they often work toward the same or complimentary political goals. Over the past several years Lady Donesyn and Irla have learned to work well together and have become friends. Lady Irla invites Lady Donesyn to the parties she hosts. In addition, they share a meal several times a month just to chat.

Alden of Charion, [Tashal E3], Alderman of Eastside, Keeper of the Fair;

Kolyn of Armel, [Tashal I2], Alderman of Lyryn, Keeper of the Fair

Lady Labarn deals with Alden and Kolyn in their roles as Keeper of the Fair. As the stall for daily sales from Labarn and Uvabek Manors is at Heru Keep, she pays a premium during the Summer Fair for a stall near Mangai Square. As Lady Labarn only has infrequent dealings with these men, she has little personal opinion of them, but

finds them to be honest enough in their business dealings.

Sir Prehil Firith, [Tashal H7], Speaker for Nobility on the Assembly Council

Lady Labarn's political interests have led to interactions between her and Sir Prehil Firith, at times they have worked toward a common goal, at times against. She considers him to be both a worthy ally and opponent.

Lady Cheselyne Hosath, [Tashal H9], Niece of King Miginath

Lady Labarn's political interests, and her support of the Earl of Balim's interests have made her wary of Lady Cheselyne the Elder. Irla is aware of Lady Cheselyne's political ambitions and has worked to remain un beholden to Lady Cheselyne, and others, so the Labarn Clan will not become a pawn to any in the potential succession crisis.

Princess Meliem Elendsa, [Tashal A6] Niece of King Miginath, Lord High Chamberlain

Lady Labarn occasionally interacts with King Miginath's household and is occasionally invited to events at Caer Elend. While not a frequent visitor, she does her best to keep her clan's name in favor in the king's household, including sending gifts to the king and high officials on appropriate occasions. Irla is worried about the stress Princess Meliem's position puts her under and would like to find a way to befriend and help her, but is aware of the differences of social position and how such an offer could be interpreted.

Kytem Curo, [Tashal H10] Chamber Seneschal for Caer Elend

Because the Labarn lands are nearer to Tashal than to Kiban, the Earl of Balim has instructed the Labarn Clan to deliver their feudal obligation in goods directly to Caer Elend. Kytem Curo, in his role as Seneschal, is her contact for this transaction. Because of the current animosity between clans Dariune and Curo, Lady Labarn is careful to have the entire transaction well witnessed and documented so any questions can easily be answered.