

The Stronghold of Tor Brant

What does it mean?

PART I:

Well, for certain we have put considerable effort into this question, as we do for all things up here (like taxes, and forumming). As a result, we have discovered a couple meanings for these two words.

Merriam-Webster. I had a Webster dictionary when I was in school...

Tor: High Craggy Hill [Middle English, pre 12th Century].

Allwords. There was a link from one to the other.

Tor: high pointed hill, a rocky pinnacle

Brant: steep, high.

Ok. So what does this mean to you dear reader? Well, that means, by these definitions, that Tor Brant is a pointed hill that is very steep. Book stuff though.

Please bear with us as we pick the brains (for info, not literally) of our experienced members and our archives (we do too have some) as to the origin of this name.

PART II:

So, guess what? It is not Old English. It is in fact old French. Right from the paperwork sent in to register the name.

Taken from La Chanson de Roland:

Tor (turre): tower

Brant: blade of a sword

Ok. So now what? This would mean (to a non-French Speaker) a tower of swords. Pretty different from the old English.

On a side bar note, Tor Brant was almost named Dun Claidheamh, but was withdrawn by the group at Principality level in favour of Tor Brant.

Meaning?

Dun: tower [Scots Gaelic]

Claidheamh: Claymore sword [Scots Gaelic].

To me (a non-Scots Gaelic speaker) this also means a tower of swords (claymores anyways).

Stranger than fiction up here sometimes.

Part III:

Post Bonfield info here. I spoke to one of the original Dragons there. One Anastasia of Tor Brant. Turns out that the name was chosen to reflect the partnership between the group and Base Petawawa, then home to the Special Service Force, which used a winged dagger for its badge. Remember the swords?

About the Banner of Tor Brant. The Chief azure Platey refers to the sky with snow in it. A field argent to act as snow, because it snows a fair bit up here. A Dragon ermine to point out that we were (at the time) part of Middle Kingdom, but it was furry to keep warm. Blue Laurel leaves to keep reminding people that it gets darn cold up here when it wants to. And everything freezes.

Apparently the person behind Tor Brant as a whole now resides in New York State. Not the invention or idea itself, but the person who pushed through the paperwork.

