

Some more data to stick in the back of Dimdar's head.

Marcellus Gore married Camille DeLonghe in CA265. That was early in the history of the Five; they had only been together a year or so at that point and were adventuring close to home. Marius was born in CA268, Simon in CA271. From CA272 to CA280 Marcellus was missing, along with the rest of the Five, and presumed dead. Camille and the Gore sons lived during this time in her original home village of Tremont, which still exists (it's in the open plain area between Crossroads and the Tanglewood).

When Marcellus emerged from the ground with the rest of the Five, he took his family and established Gore's Cliff by building his castle there. His prestige drew others and the town took shape quickly. The castle was finished around CA282, as Simon and Marius were reaching maturity.

Being a bold, sword-swinging, in-your-face fighter type of guy, Marcellus strongly encouraged his sons to train in combat and join the Northern Alliance military, which at that time had an active presence in the Flats. Marius did, Simon didn't.

Camille Gore died in CA286 under shadowy circumstances. Depending on whom you ask or in what bar you hear the tale, one of the following happened:

- Despondent over her husband's increasingly withdrawn and moody disposition, she committed suicide by jumping off the roof of the castle into the sea.
- Angry over her failure to bear him another child, Marcellus threw her off the roof of the castle into the sea.
- In a fit of rage that hinted at the madness to come (more on this later), Marius Gore killed his mother. To protect Marius, Marcellus threw the body off the roof to make it look like a suicide.
- The Gore family curse took hold of Camille's mind and drove her to suicide. (More on the curse later, too.)

Tellers of all the above versions defend theirs as correct. As corroboration they all cite the fact that Bainard himself was called in to raise Camille from the dead and failed. Everyone knows you can't restore a soul who doesn't want to come back, so obviously Camille wanted to stay dead.

The official record, BTW, says accident: Camille was walking on the roof and a strong wind blew her off into the sea. That version is almost never repeated, though.

MARCELLUS Gore was the next to die. As you already know, he died in CA305 in his sleep. His will ordered that his body be cremated and scattered into the sea, and under no circumstances was there to be any attempt at resurrection. It was an unusual set of orders, especially given the knowledge that a person can't be resurrected against his will. This led credence to the murmurings of a family curse that was slowly driving the Gores insane.

MARIUS, the older son, entered the military in and took the oath of fealty to the Highland Throne in CA284. His unit patrolled the edges of the western mountains, keeping the goblinoids at bay. Marius had his father's talent and rose quickly through the ranks. By CA290 he was 5th level and leader of his own platoon. By CA295 he was a high-ranking captain with a reputation as a strong and noble leader. Being assigned to his unit was considered a privilege and meant the assignee was considered an elite soldier with leadership potential.

In CA310, Marius led a party in pursuit of a band of field trolls that had attacked a small village near Crossroads. The field trolls lured Marius's party into a trap and attacked with double the numbers expected. Marius was slain by a troll in the battle. He was raised, but according to record never fully recovered and died again a month later, this time permanently.

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That's the official story, anyway. A few years ago, though, Dimdar was having drinks in a rural dive near that village with a colleague, Rollo Del Verne. Rollo got horridly drunk and started spewing a different story.

According to Rollo, Marius recovered completely from the troll attack after he was raised, but his surviving men were angry about the tactical failure that caused many of them to die (and NOT get resurrected, clerical resources being scarce). One of his lieutenants, working behind Marius's back, began encouraging the troops to insubordination. When Marius cracked down on discipline, the lieutenant tried to kill him. Marius won the battle, but the lieutenant's allies accused him of murder. On their false testimony Marius was convicted and executed. His prominence in the area led the military to cover up the story and put out that he died from lingering effects of the troll attacks.

Marius is buried in a military graveyard southeast of Crossroads, near the village his men saved from the trolls. They still consider him and his men heroes and pooh-pooh Rollo's tale of infighting and betrayal.

SIMON never joined the military. Instead he studied business and invested money in several local firms with success. Using those proceeds he formed his own livestock business, raising cattle and pigs and sheep and selling them to butchers for slaughter. Did quite well, too.

In CA296 Simon married Veronica Clay, a local woman his age. The wedding was something of a celebrity event. Marius got leave to come home and be his best man. Bainard performed the ceremony. Tavor's arcane artisans crafted a mansion on Gore Land, paid for by Marcellus, which he gave to the couple as a wedding gift. Tiburon and Montagne attended as well, making it one of the few times the Five were seen together after their new homes were built.

All of Gore's Cliff watched Veronica, waiting for the signs of the next generation with all the anticipation of a royal coupling. They would have to wait a long time. It wasn't until CA308 that Veronica became pregnant for the first time.

In CA309 Veronica gave birth to Charlotte. There were complications in the birth and Veronica died. A cleric was summoned to perform a resurrection but failed, renewing speculation of a curse on the family.

THE GORE FAMILY CURSE is not so much a legend as a sort of nebulous, oft-murmured fear. The details of the curse vary almost with every speaker, but the most commonly accepted story is that Marcellus was cursed by shamans of the goblinoid tribes the Five had defeated so that his life in victory would be marred with sorrow. A Gore, the stories say, cannot be born or raised from the dead unless another Gore dies in the process. Others say the Gore blood is tainted with a slow, subtle curse that drives each of them slowly insane. (Some cautiously whisper a version of Rollo's tale in which Marius goes mad and slays his lieutenant out of paranoia.) A popular adjunct idea is that the goblinoid deities like to punish the family periodically for the actions of the Five. Of the Five only Marcellus had descendants, so all of the deities' wrath is visited upon the Gores. The family has never made any public statement confirming or denying a curse.

THEOPHILUS GORE, aka "Uncle Theo", would certainly frown on anyone suggesting that his family is cursed. In public, anyway.

Theo is the younger brother of Marcellus Gore. His actual date of birth is not precisely known, their home village having been destroyed in CA275, but he was a groomsman at Marcellus's wedding, suggesting at least mid teens as of CA265.

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Where Marcellus was a master of physical combat, Theo was an intellectual. He spent time whenever possible with Artemis Tavor, discussing gods-know-what until the wizard's patience wore thin. By CA270 he was regularly accompanying the Five on their forays against the goblinoids, providing supplemental offensive power with spells he'd learned from Tavor. He was present at the Battle of the Blood Hills in CA273 and narrowly avoided falling into the chasm with the Five.

From CA273 until the re-emergence of the Five in 280, Theo continued to use his spellcraft against the goblinoids and developed a reputation as an accomplished wizard. When the Five returned, though, he stopped adventuring and took to splitting his time between Gore's Cliff and the new city of Tavor. It is believed that he helped design the retirement homes of the Five, again working under his old mentor Tavor.

By the time the Five passed in CA305, most had forgotten that Theo had ever cast a spell. He had become the family historian and a noted scholar. After the deaths of the Five Theo withdrew into the vast libraries of Tavor where, some say, he searches for a way to lift the curse on his family.

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