



East Atkinos: Beyond the Gates

The Gates of Schulmericho appeared suddenly, forming a chain of steep hills along a fault line running from near the New Atkinos coast close to the Devonshire border. Scientists determined that the fault line was sufficiently stable to allow a settlement nearby. This was a good thing, since a group of colonists arrived and set up camp shortly after the seismic activity. They looked forward to rich volcanic soil and healing mineral springs. The mainland settlement fell under the jurisdiction of Fleet Captain Splunt, appointed colonial governor of the formerly uninhabited territory now assigned to the Grand Duchy of East Atkinos.

This was just one of several new towns forming in the newly-opened territory. Settlers from New Atkinos looking for economic expansion established a township across the channel from their island. Named for the mostly sunny sky they saw when they arrived, the new town of Blue Stratus now anchors the southeastern corner of civilized Schulmania.

Let's investigate the town formed along the Gates of Schulmericho and aptly named for said mountains.



New, rocky peaks jump out, jutting jaggedly and alliteratively from land just beyond the back patios of residents.



This would be a great place for a sled in winter. But, it does not snow here. I suppose a good place for a soap box derby?



Watch out for those teeth!



In town, busy markets sell local produce, which grows in abundance in the mineral-rich soil. The mineral water from small springs is also a big seller.



And, when it comes time for a great lunch, we all know where to head!



CK has the only billboard in town. Catchy, isn't it?

On the mainland, due east of the island of New Atkinos, proximate to the productive farmlands of the interior, sits the new town of Blue Stratus. It was named after the lovely blue sky with a few stratus clouds in it when the town was founded. Little did they know how ominous those clouds over the town would become. Scratch that. That sounds a bit downbeat. Accurate, but

downbeat. I mean, it was named for a weather formation. There's no foreshadowing here, honest. Well, maybe a little. Umm, perhaps a bit more than a little. Well, let's not ruin it for the poor, hapless townsfolk by letting them in on their impending doom. Well, that's not fair. Sometimes, fate call stall out and what looks like thick black clouds of doom may just be a storm headed elsewhere. Think these folks will be that lucky?



The local office of the Rodent Appreciation Society doubles as the town bakery. Interestingly enough, the cats seem to appreciate the rodents most when they are baked and topped with a cheesy sauce.



Small industries have set up to process agricultural products and there's a busy cottage industry in building defective machinery. It is hard to say if the defective machinery is meant as gag gifts or for deceiving the purchaser. But, any effort to dodge integrity will certainly be met with wrath from the Supreme Wirdle's subordinates.



The Blue Stratus Machinery Rotunda is having a blowout sale on all locally-produced defective equipment – buy one machine and get a box of sympathy cards FREE. Use the cards for the recipient of your gag gift or issue them to yourself when you try to use the equipment. The surrounding plaza is an oft-used site for playing dodge ‘em with matchbox cars.



Of course, all of this excitement inevitably leads to hunger.



Surprisingly, Blue Stratus is the first town in Schulmania to have two types of Chicken Kings!