

The Newsletter of the Trayn'd Bandes in North America

Vol. III, no. 1.  
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'Ever But in Times of Need At  
April 1995

Greetings again from the FDBBQ, internationally recognized as the finest Trained Bands newsletter in North America. This issue coming from the Westminster Regiment. As always, the Trayned Bands welcome any interested parties to get in touch with us.

Principle contacts are :

Jeff Morgan (Acting Quartermaster/Sergeant, Southwark Trayn'd Bands) 1633  
Stoney Creek Road, Charlottesville VA 22902  
(804) 984-0537

Jeffrey L. Singman (Acting Clerk)  
2244 St. Francis Drive Apt A107, Ann Arbor MI 48104  
(313) 677-1451  
Jeffrey\_L.\_Singman@um.cc.umich.edu

David Martinez (Westminster Trayn'd Bands)  
2001 Ploverville, Austin TX 78728  
(512) 990-1186  
Maureen\_Martinez@us.dell.com

Steve and Kathryn Budge (Village of Shapwick)  
222 Brunswick St., Stratford ONT N5A 3M4 CANADA  
(519) 271-7415.

Philip Collman (Tabard Inn Society)  
599 Delaware Ave, Toronto ONT M6H 2V3 CANADA  
(416) 539-0704.

Upcoming Events

13-14 May 1995: Shapwick Whitsun Muster and Ale, Ethel, Ontario. Contact: Jeffrey Singman.

20-21 May 1995: Spring Muster, Austin, TX. Contact: David Martinez.

August 1995: Fifth Annual Trained Bands Elizabethan encampment at Pennsic Wars, PA. Contact: Jeff Morgan.

?30 Sept. - 1 October 1995: Shapwick Michaelmas Muster and Fair, Ethel, Ontario. Contact: Jeffrey Singman.

?25-26 November 1995: Jamestown Fall Muster, Jamestown VA. Contact: Jeff Morgan

Shapwick weekends will resume in the spring, on the last weekend of every month. We are building a living history site--we now have the timber for the alehouse. Call Jeffrey Singman for details.

Word from England  
J. Singman

It appears that a number of our kin from Tower Hamlets Trained Bands will be coming over for the Naseby in the Shenandoah event at Staunton VA the weekend of 8-10 September 1995. Since they are coming this far to take part in an event over here, we are hoping to assemble a decent turnout--it will be the principal long-distance event for the northern contingent this fall. As many people as can attend are encouraged to participate.

A couple of noteworthy factors. Since this is an ECW event, we will be doing an ECW impression. Probably our best choice will be a provincial trained band unit, since for this purpose we can use much of our Elizabethan equipment.

For further information, see the Trained Bands--English Civil War Supplement document. Much of the equipment needed in our hobby can be had much more cheaply and easily in England than here, and there is a good chance that our guests may be willing to ferry things over for us. The deal would be to make an arrangement with the person involved whereby you would order the item, have it sent to them, and they could bring it with them. Shoes and military equipment are particularly good choices. If you are interested, you should get moving on this ASAP, since delivery of the item can take a while.

Also, since the weather at that time in the Shenandoah will be UNBEARABLY HOT, we will probably not be trying to do an elaborate living history setup--in the evenings we will probably just repair to the home of a nearby member and socialize.

For further information, contact Jeffrey Singman

Company Resources  
J. Singman

Over the years, we have been working to assemble a basic inventory of essential resources for reenactment, and at last we have reached the stage where we have several of them available. They are:

A Basic Guide to Elizabethan and Stuart Living History c1585-1645 (34 pp. illus.). This is our most basic living history document, including all the most basic information for participation at an event: general background, clothing patterns, further reading, etc. It also effectively lays out our basic

standards regarding equipment and conduct at events. Every member should own a copy of this text: it is included in the price of the initial membership.

The Elizabethan Trained Bands: An Introduction (16 pp. illus.). This is the equivalent for the Basic Guide as regards military activities, including background information on the Bands and required equipment. Every member who participates in military activities should own this.

Trayned Bandes-English Civil War Supplement (2 pp. illus.). This is intended as a supplement to the Elizabethan Trained Bands Introduction with the necessary information on participating in military activities at an ECW period event.

Trained Bands Charter. The STB has an official document stating its organizational structure; every member of the STB should have a copy. Similar documents may be available for the other groups covered by this newsletter.

Membership List. Since there are several groups served by this newsletter, there is not yet a single membership list, but there are membership lists for the participating groups.

Trained Band publicity flyer (2 pp. illus.).

Trained Band publicity poster (1 p. illus.).

The Tabard Inn Songbook and Tape. A collection of 30 rousing 16th-17th century songs. Price: US\$6, CDN\$8; postage \$4.

Elizabethan Coins. Halfpennies: US\$.15 ea., Pennies: \$.20.

Scheduled to appear in 1995:

Daily Life in Elizabethan England. This is a revised version of The Elizabethan Handbook, and will be highly useful to the reenactor. Hardbound price about US\$45.

The English Civil War Society of America Handbook. This is an in-depth handbook for re-enactment in the ECW period, and highly recommended.

Other resources we are working on:

Event Planner. Suggestions to assist in putting together a living history event.

Encampment Planner. Supplemental event ideas for camping events.

Trained Band Pennsic Encampment Document.

Demo Planner. Suggestions for public demos.

Workshop Planner. Suggestions for group workshops.

Commonplace Book. This would be a printed document of Elizabethan appearance, including information useful in an event context, such as songs, games rules, etc., for use when you can't remember the words to your favourite song, but don't want to pull out your spiral-bound Elizabethan Handbook or whatever.

With all of these resources, the more people involved the better they are likely to be. Please contact Jeffrey Singman with ideas regarding present or future documents. The idea at present is to produce new documents and revisions of old ones as needed at the beginning of each calendar year for the upcoming season.

Orders and inquiries may be directed to Jeffrey Singman. Note that prices listed are for members of the Bands and allied groups.

Activities of the Gardener's Company  
J. Morgan

Several of us went to James Fort in Jamestown, VA, for a weekend in September. The fort is a recreation of the original James Fort of 1610 -- 1614. We interpret the fort and the life of the times to the visitors. And we get to spend the night, all by ourselves, inside the fort. This event, we attended a period trial at Agecroft Hall in Richmond, VA, which recreated a minor civil court of the early 1600s.

Period evenings. Master Morgan opened his home to the other members of Gardener's for a couple of evenings of socializing this past fall. During these times, we spent several fun-filled hours honing such skills as dancing, singing (we need it), card playing (sharpening to some), playing bowls, shuttlecock and blind man's bluff, and nattering.

Projects: Most people have been working on their individual impressions, clothing, shoes, accessories, period tentage, etc. Through the past fall, we minted more coins than we care to think about and have happily passed the dies on to others. As with last year, our focus continues to be improving the camp. Projects for this spring include: putting roses on the Georges; making a flag for Gardener's; making wall banners for indoor events; enhancing our already magnificent cooking/bathing facility with tables, shelves, cupboards and tiled floor; creating new shuttlecock sets and bowls.

Activities of the Westminster Trayn'd Bands  
D. Martinez

Greetings one and all from the Westminster Liberty Trayn'd Bands. This is our first formal correspondence to acknowledge our participation in the Trained Bands Federation. We are delighted to join such a merry group of Englishmen and look forward to sharing our common interests.

The WLTB is currently based in Austin, Texas. Being so far from the east coast, our accessibility to historic landmarks and reenactment organizations is somewhat limited. All of our members' information, contact, our core group continues to grow, we are organizing activities both within and outside of the SCA structure. Currently, the SCA offers our largest source for new members and in most cases, a backdrop for our activities.

Our dark red cassocks we made for Pennsic last year came out rather well, and our ensign now bears a proud St. George. With the assistance of J. Singman and J. Morgan, we have identified the correct design and colors for the WLTB flag which we hope to have by this Pennsic. As for our pikes, we have had major setbacks in their completion, but they should be ready soon. By this summer we should display a fine military appearance.

Our other activities include evenings twice a month to practice our social skills. Elizabethan country dances have been the foremost topic, soon to be followed by singing, project sessions, and gaming nights. We plan to revolve the activities to accommodate more individual interests.

We will be hosting our first event as the Trayn'd Bands this May. A large rustic lodge in one of the local state parks will serve as the setting. If anyone has suggestions for day and evening activities, we are looking for more ideas to encourage more persona play. We are considering arranging a period trial. Maureen and I enjoyed the one we witnessed last year at Agecroft Hall. Not only did this court setting offer a glimpse of everyday life, it also allowed participation by everyone. This is a key element in good persona play.

Maureen and I will be attending Mousehole, Pennsic, and possibly the Naseby event this year. Next year we hope to travel to Canada. We will attempt to maintain regular communications with the rest of the groups and appreciate all the assistance we have received.

Trained Band Federation  
J. Singman

The TBF exists as a means to facilitate cooperation among a number of closely associated living history groups. Its principal activities are the sharing of information and resources, and coordinating activities. These are realized through the production of a newsletter and the keeping of a joint register of personas.

The following characteristics are requisite for member groups of the TBF:

**Common period and location.** Member groups have as one of their principal focal living history settings London in the period 1585-1645. This need not be the group's only setting, just one of the main ones.

**Civilian Focus.** Member groups are oriented towards civilian as well as military activities. For this reason, if the group is involved in military activities, a Trained Band impression should be one of its principal military focuses (again, it need not be the only one).

**Common Standards.** Member groups share certain general priorities and specific standards. As regards general priorities, member groups in the TBF take seriously their commitment to education, both of the public and their own members; to the best of their ability, they attempt to achieve an honest portrayal of the past. The standards of the TBF include minimum expectations regarding equipment and behavior; in essence, they are that a participant in a group event should not be equipped or behaved in such a way as to detract from the period setting. (Note that this implies that the groups are involved in first-person interpretation). Specific standards are included in the Basic Guide to Elizabethan and Stuart Living History.

**Education Officer.** All member groups have an officer responsible for the educational aspects of the group, including dissemination of information, supervision of standards, etc. This officer may hold another office as well.

**TBF Education Officer.** The TBF has a coordinating educational officer, to be chosen by the vote of the constituent groups (each group has one vote, to be cast by whatever mechanism the group chooses). **Newsletter Editor.** Each group is expected to produce one issue of the newsletter each year.

**Persona Register.** All members of participant groups are expected to register any persona they customarily use at events. Personas are first submitted to the group's education officer. These personas are approved by the group through whatever mechanism it chooses to establish. The education officer then submits the list to the newsletter. As each group's lists are published, the other groups approve those personas which they feel meet the TBF standards, or offer commentary on personas which they feel do not. The mechanism for approval can be decided by each group, but in all cases the group's education officer serves as the liaison.

On the first submission of a persona, all groups must approve it for it to be registered. If a group declines to approve a persona, it must inform the submitting education officer of the fact, offering its reasons, within a month of the publication of the persona (if the deadline passes without any action, the persona is registered). The persona may then resubmitted, with revisions if

the individual chooses. A resubmitted persona will be registered if all groups approve it, or if only one group declines to approve it. A persona which has been approved by all the groups is added to the official TBF register of personas.

Note that a persona need only consist of a name, a residence, and a vocation; additional information may be supplied, but is not required. The following are the principal criteria for deciding whether a persona is appropriate:

- \* Each part of the name should be an English name documentable to the period 1550-1650. This requirement may be waived if the name is the person's actual name, and is western European.

- \* The residence should be appropriate to the sorts of events at which the persona is used.

- \* The vocation should be appropriate to a character of the middle to lower class. TBF groups customarily allow lower classes of people to be bandsmen than was likely to have been the case, but the same latitude does not stretch upwards. A few personas of gentle status may be allowed, but this should only be in the case of experienced re-enactors with a history of quality work and service, who are known to be able to assemble the outfit and following appropriate to a person of gentle rank. As a rule of thumb, such characters should not exceed about 1/10 the membership of the group.

The idea of this system of personas is to achieve standards through example rather than legislation. For this reason, persona lists should always clearly indicate the registration status of the personas, giving readers an idea of which personas can confidently be emulated.

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(Author's Note: This is intended as a starting point for discussion--my idea was that we could talk it over at Mousehole and come up with a commonly agreed-upon revision.)

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Persona Register  
compiled by M. Martinez

Gardner's Company of the Southwark Trained Bands

Lewis Abbot [Kirk Gisiner], clerk of the Bands, is a dubious character. His childhood is shadowed, but he does admit to having a mother. Lacking occupational skills, he became a soldier at a very young age. He has several associates who are not of the highest character, so he does not

admit freely how he comes by his money, but it doesn't matter since his beautiful but stern wife Elenor has high social standards. Finally, Lewis has an odd obsession with guns, gun powder, and explosives, which tends to get him into numerous troubles.

Elaine Ashe (Cindy Daniel) is Geoffrey Gamble's young cousin who lived in Salisbury until last winter after the death of her father. Having no other family in the area to look after her interests (and her dowry), she moved to Southwark to live with her cousins and, to everyone's relief, began "assisting" Grace with some of her domestic responsibilities -- especially the cooking. Even though she's finally adjusting to life in the city, she still has a tendency to be a bit shy and naive and has been known to get lost on her own block.

Mistress Sarah Diana Ashlyn [Diana Mortensen], is a twice-widowed publisher who serves as social director for the Bands. Her first husband was a printer in Southwark who lamentably succumbed to the Ague. She continued running his business and eventually bought out the portions that went to his children by a previous wives. Her second husband, a member of the Trained Bands, was a publisher, and the joining of their two businesses proved extremely successful. He met an untimely end in a boating accident on the Thames barely a year ago. When not making profits, she busies herself trying to marry off her stepdaughter Matilda, who so far had found fault in every candidate, particularly as concerns their finances.

Master Gregory Bailey [Greg Glevve] is a master mapmaker by trade, and a pikeman within the Bands. He is also known for his love of cooking which he will happily demonstrate.

Andrew Bentley [Dave Stoyles] has recently arrived in Southwark from Bristol and is hoping that making contacts among the Bandsmen will increase his chance of finding gainful employment. Will Postle [Trish Postle] is a wastrel and rakehell with aesthetic pretensions.

Edwin Bilgewater [Craig Luziewecki], is Morvran's faithful manservant and has been with him since before his rise to social prominence (a fact Morvran would prefer to forget). Edwin has no assigned role within the Bands and usually just acts as Morvran's bodyguard. He is an evening social person and is famous for his accurate opinions of Southwark's "social" centers.

Geoffrey Cade [Jeffrey L. Singman], formerly a tapster at the Tabard Inn in Southwark, lately inherited a brokerage (a dealership in second-hand goods), a windfall which enabled him to wed his co-worker at the Tabard (and long-time sweetheart), Victoria. Cade remains a member of the Southwark Trained Bands, and is never too busy to put an upstart carter in his place.

Victoria Cade [Victoria Hadfield] was a serving maid at the Tabard Inn in Southwark until last year. There she met the tapster, Geoffrey Cade, whom she recently married. She is currently learning how to help him run his newly-inherited brokerage.

Morvran Corbet Esquire [Mike Dawson], the ensign, represents the honor of our company and is used to being treaded with extreme deference by the rest of the Bandsmen. Technically as the only officer present, he is 'in charge', however, he prefers to have the NCOs take care of such mundanities as training. Morvran holds an estate in Surrey, but he prefers to spend his time in London.

Adam Fleming [Aryk Nusbacher] is a 28-year old unmarried alumnus of St. Olave's Grammar School, Tooley Street. He is a clerk in the employ of the Bishop of Winchester, working in the Liberty of the Clink, that section of Southwark controlled by the Bishop. He also works as a part-time clerk in the Borough Compter court on market days. He tried to get a job working for the Secret Service, but his French was too poor. He lives in the Clink itself (but not in the notorious prison there), which is an easy walk from the drill ground at St. George's Fields, and he is trying to become a member of the Southwark Martial Yard.

Master Geoffrey Gamble (Jeff Morgan), is a builder's son from Leicester, a master instrument maker specializing in nautical equipment, a veteran of the wars in the Low Countries and of the Armada campaign (as he is only too eager to remind everyone), and a Sergeant in the Bands. He is married to Grace Gamble, and his somewhat disreputable brother-in-law, "Bohb".

Mistress Grace Gamble (Laura Morgan), is the daughter of Dutch refugees (her father being a silversmith), herself born in Bermondsey. She has been married to Geoffrey Gamble for two and a half years. She is also part of her husband's business, where she demonstrates her decorative skills.

Master Alan Gravesend [Alan Smith], is a gentleman volunteer associated with the STBs and a veteran of the wars in the Low Countries, currently looking for a military commission. While in the Low Countries, he served with some (unknown) distinction under Sir John 'Black Jack' Norris, now his employer in estate management.

Ignatius Green [Russell Decastogrene], is a pikeman within the Bands, though he normally is a grenadier at Musters, which has earned him the nickname Stumpy. He works part time for the City of London as a fire safety inspector, and is often credited with the codes which would serve the city for the next three generations.

Matilda Grille [Kim Dennis] is Diana's stepdaughter. Tilly works in an apothecary mixing elixirs and beautifying ointments. When time permits, she looks for a husband (much to her stepmother's relief), though it must

be said her economic criteria for an acceptable mate are much stricter than her stepmother's.

Aeron Hamilton (Sandy Toscano) is the daughter of political refugees from Scotland. Though only a very distant cousin of THE Hamiltons, it would be best not to discuss with her why her family had to leave Scotland. She is a seamstress by trade. Her brother Tom (who is a pikeman within the Bands) is generally to be found in her company; his greatest pride is that he has yet to acquire a profession.

James Hamilton [Jim Toscano], is a fencing master by trade, also a lancepresado of pike within the Bands, and a veteran of the Low Countries. James is known for his love of all things Italian and probably won't be too upset of called by an Italian name. He is best known for his unstoppable attack, which he teaches in his school for a few extra shillings. It is also rumored that he knows an unbeatable defense, but none has convinced him to disclose both techniques.

Julius [Kirk Gisiner] is a strong arm, thug, roustabout, rogue, footpad, varlet, ruffian, rascally and base, although he does try to keep society from knowing his "slight" short-comings. He is Lewis' head henchman. His living comes from the many jobs Lewis gives him. Julius is NO gentleman and like most vermin he likes to come out only at night. As a side line the honest Julius makes money by leaving and retrieving rats.

Ezekiel Bedediah Lincoln [Harvey Davis], is a lancepresado of shot with the Bands, and sometimes commands the archers. A seemingly simple fellow, many have make the mistake of trying to best him, particularly at dice.

Bryan Morgan [David Oxford] is a chandler in Southwark. He was until recently an journeyman, but his master vanished at sea, and the (as-yet unseen) will left the entire business to the now Master Morgan. Most evenings he can be found exhibiting his great love of dance, which he invites others to share. Now that he can support a household, he is about to take a wife.

Elena soon-to-be Morgan [Karen Oxford] is from the county where her father has holdings. Though trained as a midwife, she has spent almost all of her time lately planning her wedding, which will take place this spring at the Bands Special Muster.

Michael Snyder (Michael Hamm) was born in Bermondsey in 1569. Son of a Dutch architect, his father having too many apprentices, Michael was apprenticed to a master cartographer. He stayed with his master throughout his apprenticeship. Upon being released, he moved to Southwark and became a journeyman in the employ of Master Gregory. Michael is a pikeman with the Trained Bands and divides the rest of his time between his work and searching for a wife so he can set up a household.

Elizabeth Talbot (Sheila Talbott), a Londoner born and bred, is a midwife by profession, which well complements her husband's (Painless Robert's) business. She is available (at very reasonable rates) to provide home remedies for almost all ailments and counseling for young women of quality on their duties as wives and mothers.

Robert Talbot [Bob Talbott], a corporal of calivermen within the Bands, he swears he has never poached with his piece and that he won't tolerate such from his men. He works in Southwark as a barber-surgeon where he employs only the latest painless methods. He also works part-time as a constable and is fond of having his fellow Bandsmen over for a bit of venison and some cards.

Jack Thatcher [Jeremy Graham] is a long-term habitue of the Tabard Inn and the Beale Sauvage. Previously a journeyman carter, he is presently engaged on taking up portraits of the Queen for her Serjeant Painter. He wonders if this is the social profferment offered by membership in the Trayned Banded that Master Cade is always on about. He would be a veteran of the Low Countries, and it's not his bloody fault he turned left instead of right at Maidstone.

#### Westminster Trayned Bands

Nicholas Trent [David Martinez] was born in the shipbuilding town of Portsmouth, and like many lads his age, he quickly took to the sea. Through hard work and a knack for charts, he rose to the position of navigator aboard a merchant vessel, the Flying Fish. Nicholas returned to England a few years later and met Shelton Berwick, a fellow lover of adventure and ale. The two started a tavern, later called the Royal Swan. Nicholas is now the sergeant of the Westminster Trained Bands.

Jennifer Winslow [Maureen Martinez] is the daughter of a Londoner chandler. She grew up learning the skills of goodwife and alewife as well as the trade of candle maker. A few years ago, Jenny started working in a Westminster tavern where she met Nicholas Trent, sergeant in the Bands. It is rumored that she now runs the Royal Swan Tavern in his absence. Jenny's younger brother William (Liam) is a drummer with the WTBs.

Laurent Everett Fox [Richard Fox] is originally from Kensington, but now resides in London. His residency, being so close to Her Majesties Court, has allowed him to gain much recognition in pursuit of oil painting. During the warmer months he enjoys hunting, but his greatest pleasure is derived from furiously shopping the clothiers for the newest and most elaborate articles of clothing to adorn his body. His enrollment in the Trained Bands came about because it was the fashionable thing to do.

Christopher Dawson [KC Carroll] is the son of publisher Michael Dawson,

who upon reading the works of Her Majesties Surgeon, William Clowes, did apprentice his only son to the most virtuous service of the Barber Surgeons. Upon finishing his apprenticeship, Christopher was granted his first preferment of grace, or the position of Junior Surgeon. In order to continue his search of knowledge for the good of country and commonwealth, he was assigned the position of Ensign to the Westminster Trained Bands.

Henry Ames [T. Brian Smith] was born to Owen and Anna Ames. He was raised along with his 2 older brothers and 2 younger sister on a sheep farm just outside of town. At an early age, Henry sought an apprenticeship in ship yards as a carpenter, and worked in yards for 5 years before signing on as a carpenter's mate on the Merchant ship The Maid of Athens. After several years at sea he spent a short while in the Portsmouth shipyards. He then returned to sea as a carpenter aboard The Swift Martin, exploring the New World. He finally settled in London where he enjoys visiting the taverns and gambling on bear baiting. As any good Englishman, he has joined a local Trained Band, in fact he was the one of first members on its roster.

William Smith [Brian (Frederick) Smith] is the second son of a grocer. He received an education at Gray's Inn where he absorbed just enough knowledge to magnify his ignorance tenfold. A notorious westrel, he has managed to completely alienate his father and now lives in Westminster. Fortunately, William can still count on his mother to keep him from the horror of working for a living. He recently found a second source of income in the person of Christopher Dawson, the wealthy, but tragically naive son of a London publisher. It is rumored he is looking to further secure his income by finding a wife of some means.

Jeffrey Tailor [Ernesto Maldonado] is a Westminster tailor with an interest in fencing--he has in fact been trading clothing for lessons. Since his recent entrance into the Trained Bands, he has picked up a number of bad habits, most notably gambling with his fellow Bandsmen. Coincidentally, he has been recently named as Clerk in the WTB.

## Sources

M. Martinez

Here are a few books I have come across that weren't listed in the Elizabethan Handbook.

Mowl, Timothy, *Elizabethan & Jacobean Style*. (1993). A splendidly illustrated book showing the architecture and furnishings of Elizabethan (and Jacobean) houses and estates.

Grew, Francis and de Neergaard, Margrethe, *Shoes and Pattens: Medieval finds from excavations in London*. (1988). Patterns and examples of shoes from the 12th - 15th centuries taken from original footwear. A bit early, but has good descriptions of shoemaking techniques that carry into the 16th century.

Hiller, Geoffrey, ed., *Poems of the Elizabethan Age: an Anthology*. (1988). A nice selection of Sidney, Shakespeare, Raleigh, Marlowe, Johnson and many others.