

# The Fencer's, Dancer's, and Bearbaiter's Quarterly

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The Newsletter of the Trayn'd Bandes in North America

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'Ever But in Times of Need At Hand'

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

The FDBBQ is published quarterly in hardcopy and electronic formats, each issue by one of the TBL's constituent groups:

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1 January	TBL
1 April	WTB
1 July	TIS
1 October	Gardeners

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**Upcoming Events**

'Major' Events are the most important ones in the calendar, and everyone is strongly encouraged to try to make it to as many of these as they reasonably can. 'Regional' Events are smaller events which people are encouraged to attend if they are close enough to make it over a normal weekend (say, a 5-hour drive or less). 'Local' Events are very small events which people are encouraged to attend only if the journey would take less than an hour.

**<b>August 9-16, 1997</b>**. Summer Muster, Coopers Lake Camp ground (Pennsic 26), PA. This year Gardners Company will again host the annual Summer Muster. This is a week long activity which culminates in an Elizabethan day and Party Friday August 15th. The bands will march almost daily starting Monday the 11th when we present a class on trayn'd bands. A schedule of activities and information in general is available from Jeff Morgan.

**<b>September 5-7, 1997</b>**. Staunton, VA. Battle of Worchester. As with the Naseby event at the same time and place in 1995, this will be a huge English Civil War battle (by North American standards), attended by several hundred re-enactors from Great Britain as well as the fullest domestic attendance of any event in North America. If you want a chance to experience a pike-and-shot battle without going overseas, this is your best opportunity. Contact J. Singman.

**<b>October 3-5, 1997</b>**. Shapwick Michaelmas Fair and Muster. A harvest festival in the Oxfordshire village of Shapwick during the English Civil War. Major. Contact TIS  
The Tabard Inn Society holds its meetings bi-weekly in Toronto on the second and fourth Wednesday of every month. Contact TIS.

The Westminster Trayn'd Bandes hold a monthly meeting on the first Monday of each month.

M. Martinez

In April, we hosted the annual Raid on Mousehole, and this year the theme was rain. Fortunately we were prepared with lots of activities besides drill. Mistress Grace brought out her dye pots and gave us sampling of the range of colors one can get from brazilwood and madder. Many went home with beautiful samples of yarn.

In the afternoon, we held the first ever bear-baiting at Mousehole. The area under the barn provided a fine arena for the fighting, and there was even a galley for the patrons to sit and throw vegetables. (Who would bring vegetables to a bear-baiting?) The bears and dogs were arranged and handled by two fine Southwark handlers; Adrian and Kip. All went well, except for the sudden death of one old bear. Perhaps Adrian should retire the really Ancient ones!

In the afternoon, we did actually make it to the field for a bit of drill, despite the taunting of the local boys. There was also the conducting of business during the day, as some of the Pikemen decided to use the rain as an excuse to hawk their wares. There were items for sale ranging from hob-nails for your shoes, fine yellow garters, and even a bleeding if you were feeling low. The medicine show was most informative, and very amusing to all who watched. The evening followed the Mousehole tradition of wonderful food, good drink, plentiful song, and lots of gaming. And to cap the festivities of the day, Philip II was burned in a blaze of flames and fireworks.

A special thanks to Aeron Hamilton, and all her helpers in the kitchen. Despite the rain constantly trying to extinguish the cooking fires, they once again provided us with fine meals.

Gardeners also made a small camp at an SCA event, Emerald Joust. On Saturday, the group had a nice quiet period evening of sorts. Several games of boules were played along the street through camp, and the singers learned at least three new rounds. But little did the group know, they were located right by Mrs. Miggins' Pie Shop, and on Sunday morning, they were awakened by the sound of a bakery. Mrs. Miggins, herself, was there, along with her very skilled bakers, Bartholomew and Daniel, who were showing the patrons the fine arts of baking. (Such good boys.) After a breakfast at Mrs. Miggins', everyone knew why her shop is the talk of Southwark!

More recently, Gardeners conducted several work weekends. The first at Jeff and Laura Morgan's house to work on camp stuff for Pennsic. The most recent weekend was at Maureen and David Martinez's house to do leather work and wood work. It was very successful with many projects started -- several sword hangers, a couple of leather bottles, a wooden box, and two pairs of shoes. Hopefully all of these will be finished in time for Pennsic.

The next weekend will at Jeff and Laura's on the 4th of July. This time, the project is benches. They have drafted out several patterns, and will cut out as many as they can. The finish work will be left to the owner to complete. Finally, a casting workshop is planned for November.

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### **Activities of the Westminster Trayn'd Bands**

JB/Blayne/Will

This is an update to the past couple of meetings of the Westminster Trayn'd Bandes. Just to keep people up on what we're doing.

May 11 - Monthly Meeting. Very low turnout; about 5 people. No drill for want of people. Talked about last month's event and miscellaneous topics. Came up with some better ways to circulate money at the tavern and letting attendees know the prices without having to ask all the time. Suggested attending the Academy of the rapier in June.

Jun 8 - Monthly Meeting. Great turnout; about 12 people. Got some drill practice with Henry Ames as the sergeant. Sang a bunch of songs and a longer 'Jolly Broomman' than before; great new lines about 'fiery balls'. Talked over the Academy and without much input from the organizer we decided to stay home. Iolo is working on a way to make pike heads so we can return Mo and Dave's equipment eventually. Will and Samuel found some halberds for the sergeant to use. Iolo marched as a bowman.

Sat Jun 28 - Photos. We got trades photos of Samuel, Tom the Tapster, Tom Atkins, Avery (Collin), and Margaret (Gwenith). Hope they turn out. Also watched a great video Angelina brought back on the New Globe Theater in Bankside.

Calendar

Sun Jul 13 - Monthly Meeting. 3pm - 9pm, at JBnJenny's drill from ~4-5, songs and prep SCA coronation

SCA Coronation & Tourney - Jul 25 - 26 - 27. Our good friends, Kein & Alecia, have won crown tourney. The site is in Gonzales, TX. It will be a very full event with a rapier tourney Sat morning, meetings Sat afternoon, coronation & feast Sat evening, armored toruny Sun morning. The Trained Bandsman that aren't fighting or in meetings will have a static display on Sat. We've been invited to march with the SCA Sable Band as part of court. On Sunday morning we thought we'd try to do some drilling. Call JBnJenny for details.

Sun Aug ?? - Monthly Meeting. 3pm - 9pm, at JBnJenny's, drill from ~4-5, songs and prep for Pennsic, and ??.

Aug 9 - 16 - SCA Pennsic War in Pennsylvania. Always a big turn-out of Bandesman with our own camp area. Last year we had a block of 16+ pike, 8 muskets, as well as the ensign, sergeant, drum, and fife. Great fun. Lots of good suppliers and maybe even a class or two.

Mon Aug 11, Jeff Gambles has A&S class, can use any help.

Thur Aug 14, march during the day, Elizabethan night.

Fri Aug 15, march during the day, Elizabethan day, many other activities as time permits throughout the week.

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Geoffrey Cade impresses the crowd with the ensign, Shakespeare's Birthday, Stratford, Ontario

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### Activities of the Tabard Inn Society

N. Crozier and S. Diamant

Shakespeare's Birthday, April 19, 1997.

The TIS was pleased to again be invited to Stratford, Ontario to celebrate Shakespeare's Birthday. Unlike previous years the weather was perfect and encouraged many to come out. The day began with the pike escorting the town Reeves to the opening of the day's events at the riverside park where we set-up our display. Here the villagers recreated a market, cooking, pike drill, musketry and games as well as the usual 1st person

interactions. Spectators were encouraged to participate in the games and drill which many did with much enthusiasm.

The day was completed with an evening organized by Kate Mulford (Kathryn Budge) at the Masonic Hall. There was delicious food and a variety of entertainments provided by the Tabard Inn and various talented people from Stratford. A big thank you to Kathryn for all her work!

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The Hovel is finally raised by the villagers of Shapwick, Whitsun 1997.

Whitsun Muster & Ale, May 16-18, 1997

The Village of Shapwick celebrated its annual Whitsun Muster and Ale on May 16-18 in Ethel, Ontario. The high point of the event was the raising of the hovel! At print-time, we have a frame and the beginnings of wattle-and-daub walls. (It's hoped we'll have a completed structure for our fall Michaelmas event.)

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Charles Carter adds the Fir branch to the top of the Hovel.

Work on the hovel dominated the first full day of Whitsun, but Shapwick folk still found time for much singing, eating, drinking and revelling. Sunday morning saw Shapwick celebrate its customary Whitsun rituals: John Hawkins (Phil Collman) played the Shapwick Oss and led village maidens - clad in their shifts - a merry chase through the woods. Village women agreed that James Hamilton (Jim Toscano) was by far the greatest knave and he was accordingly clapped into the stocks. A maypole and Morris dancing followed the Robin Hood play, cast and directed by Geoffrey Cade (Jeffrey Singman), a.k.a. the Shakespeare of Shapwick.

Shapwick was pleased to welcome several friends from the United States this year, namely Maureen and David Martinez, Victoria Dye, Jim Toscano and Tom and Cheryl Fletcher.

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Alexander Mulford inspects the Wattling on the new Hovel.

### Some Camping Notes

Jeffrey L. Singman

As Pennsic approaches, many of us are starting to make plans for what is probably the TBL's most complex logistical undertaking of the year. There are two camping-related discoveries I have made over the years that seem especially worth passing on:

Earplugs. Never camp without these. I have found that the foam earplugs commonly available in drugstores can work wonders--even the thundering roar of the midnight doumbek subsides to something more like the gentle plashing of waves on a Caribbean beach. However, there is a *\*trick\** to getting them in correctly, and it does take some practice to do it with ease. They need to be rolled up good and tight, then inserted in a direction pointing slightly towards the back of the head; it helps if you pull the edge of your ear up and back with your other hand. The idea is to get the plug in so that only about 1/4 of it or less is still sticking out (be sure to leave something to remove it by!).

Also, once you get it in securely, it is advisable to pull it out gently when you want to remove it.

Keeping Food Cool. Of course, the best thing is to rely on foods that don't spoil quickly, cutting down on the need for refrigeration. But for those perishable delicacies we just can't do without, an absolutely ideal storage facility is an oak keg (\$35 to \$50 for the 5 to 15 gallon sizes from Track of the Wolf 1-612-424-2500, and often cheaper if you find them in a used-goods shop). They insulate *very* well--a bag of ice can last a day or more in them; they are self-draining (unless you soak them beforehand to make them watertight); and of course they are way Cooler than any of the alternatives (so to speak). And in the off-season they make great cocktail tables...

### Period Measures

Jeff Morgan

While most of us are familiar with exchange rates on coins and other basic units of measure, I thought it might be of interest to present some of the more obscure terminology used in the period.

Avoirdupois weight: 16 drachms/ounce, 16 ounces/pound, 28lb/.25 hundredweight, 112 lb/hundredweight, 20 hundredweight/tun.

Apothecaries weight: 20 grains/scruple, 3 scruples/drachm, 8 drachms/ounces, 12 ounces/pound.

Wool: 7lbs/clove, 2 cloves/stone, 2 stones/tod, 6.5 tod/wey, 2 weys/sack, 12 sacks/loft.

Hay: 56 lbs/truss, 36 trusses/load, 40 trusses/tun.

Cloth: 2.25"/nail, 4 nails/.25 yard (qr), 3 qr/Flemish ell, 5 qr/English Ell, 6 qr/French Ell.

Length: 3 Barley corns/inch, 4"/hand, 18"/cubit, 5' /geometrical pace, 6 feet/fathom, 5.5 yards/rod or pole, 40 poles/furlong (fur), 8 fur/mile, 3 miles/league, 20 league/degree.

Motion: 60 thirds/second, 60 seconds/minute, 60 minutes/degree, 15 degrees/hour, 30 degrees/sign, 12 signs/circle.

Dry Measure: 2 pints/quart, 2 quarts/pottle, 2 pottles/gallon, 2 gallons/peck, 4 pecks/bushel, 4 bushels/sack.

Liquid measure: 2 pints/quart, 2 quarts/pottle, 2 pottles/gallon, 63 gallons/hogshead, 4 hogshead/tun.

Beer: 9 gallons/firken, 2 firkens/kilderkern, 4 firkens/barrel.

Ale: 8 gallons/firken, 2 firkens/kilderkern, 4 firkens/barrel.

Wine: 10 gallons/anchor, 18 gallons/runlet, 42 gallons/tierce, 84 gallons/puncheon.

Neat weight refers to the weight of the commodity only.

Gross weight refers to the weight of the commodity plus its container.

Tare weight refers to the weight of the container only.

Tret weight refers to an allowance for waste and dust, 4 lb/100 lbs.

Shuttle weight refers to the gross weight minus all allowances.

### New Suppliers

Re-Enactment Eyeware, RR #4 Box 62, Williamsport PA 17701; (717) 322-9849. Carries 18-19c style glasses, & will do lenses for them too.

Sweetness & Light, Mary and Malcolm Fisher, 38 St Martin's View, Leeds LS7 3LB; phone/fax (0113) 262-1201. Makers of wax and tallow candles and other lighting accessories, as well as weaving tablets, bone and brass needles, wooden spectacles, and straw skeps.

Black Sheep Woolens, Hilde Benschneider Rte 1 Box 800, Dexter ME 04930. Makes excellent woolen socks frame-knitted on something fairly close to a 17c style; reasonable prices, especially on bulk orders.

Burnley & Trowbridge, 319 Oaktree Rd., Williamsburg VA; (804) 253-1644. Carries good and reasonably priced woolen, linen, and linsey-wolsey fabrics, as well as linen tape and other useful fabric supplies.

Bjarni's Boots, Mark Beabey, The Craft Court, Royal Armouries Museum, Armouries Drive, Leeds LS10 1LT; tel./fax (0113) 245-8824. Makes footwear from a range of periods, as well as all manner of leather accessories, including bottles, purses, belts, buffcoats, and tack.

Darkwood Armory; Scott Wilson, 5514 Frank Hough Rd., Panama City, FL 32404; (904) 872-1873; Osprey@panacom.com. <http://www.acm.jhu.edu/~darkwood/darkweb.html>. Rapiers (c\$175 with Schlager blade), Daggers, Fencing helms, Gorgets, and all sorts of other metalwork. Custom work also.