

# The Fencers, Dancers, and Bearbaiters Quarterly

## The Newsletter of the Traynd Bandes in North America

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'Ever But in Times of Need At Hand'

January 1998

Greetings from the Trayn'd Bandes of London, a federation of living history groups for the period 1585-1645, distinguished by their pursuit of both civilian and military activities, cultivation of first-person interpretation, and fanatical devotion to historically accurate mayhem.

The constituent groups are Gardener's Company (centered in Virginia-Maryland), the Tabard Inn Society (centered in Ontario-Michigan), and the Westminster Trayn'd Bandes (centered in Texas).

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

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

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If you have access to the World Wide Web,  
don't miss our splendid site at:

<http://www-personal.umich.edu/~jsingman/bandes.html>

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### Upcoming Events

[Major Events are the most important 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.]

March 7 1998: University of Toronto, Ontario. Annual Tabard Inn spring (?) event. Afternoon workshops, and an Elizabethan evening at the Inn afterwards, with light foods, fake ale and dancing. Regional. Contact TIS.

March 28, 1998: Buecher State Park, Smithville, TX. Spring Muster of the Westminster Trayn'd Bandes. Starting at 2pm. Come join us for an afternoon & evening of Elizabethan merriment! In the pine covered hills above Smithville there is a great hall with truly great potential. It has a solid roof, a dry floor, and plenty of windows. There's running water and a complete kitchen for our use. No matter the weather, the Hall will be comfortable. Don't let wind or rain keep you away. There will be food and space to spend the night, you'll just need to bring your own bedding.

The setting is a Tavern in the Westminster area full of local people. We will drill with pike and shot, play music, eat, sing, dance, play games, gamble, and more... We have new pikes, three new drums, and new helms. Bring something to share (food, drink, firewood, etc.) and the Tavern will pay you in Elizabethan coins. Then you can use those coins to buy drinks and dinner or gamble them all away. If that's not enough, bring something to sell or barter with the other folks. A woman's fine linen hat went for almost 5 shillings last time! Let's get the economy rolling. Major. Contact JBNjenny@io.com for more information.

April 3-5 1998: Martinsville, VA. The Raid on Mousehole. One of the TBL's largest annual events, Elizabethan setting, Major. Contact Gardener's.

May 15-18 1998: Ethel, Ontario. Shapwick Whitsun Muster and Ale. An authentic (and therefore inevitably raucous) festival in the remote Oxfordshire village of

Shapwick during the English Civil War. Major. Contact TIS.

August 1998: New Castle, PA. Eighth annual Trained Bands Elizabethan encampment at the Pennsic Wars. This year looks to be the best year yet with more drilling, more singing, more carousing -- you get the picture. Major. Contact Jeff Morgan.

?September 26-27 1998: 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 weekly meetings in Toronto on Wednesday evenings.

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### Activities of the Tabard Inn Society

Nancy Crozier

The Tabard Inn Society held its annual Christmas Dinner in early December at the hovel of Joan and Andrew Bentley. The food and drink was plentiful, the ale flowing, the company merry, and the gaming intense (notwithstanding the fact that we only played "Whee-Hee!"). [Ed.: What--you mean you don't know \*how\* to play Whee-Hee? It is perhaps the best card game known to man--simple (played in the 17th century by children and college students--I kid you not), and invariably raucous. Here is the description from c1665:

Att Whehee every one hath 3 cards dealth them all-to-gather. Whoever hath all his 3 cards of the same suite is said to be 'whehee', and the eldest that is whehee wins. If none of them has whehee dealt him, then they change cards, the eldest changing a card with the second, the second with the third, the third with the fourth, and so round till it comes to the dealer's turne to change with the eldest. If nobody be whehee when they have changed round, then they may change one with another without any order, and if they cannot make themselves whehee throw up the cards and deale againe. As many may play as the deck will hold out for.]

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### Activities of the Westminster Trayn'd Bands

James Barnes

This is an update on the Westminster Trayn'd Bandes--just to keep people up on what we're doing.

Almost no monthly meetings since Pennsic (last Aug), because of complications in JBNJenny's work schedule, the many SCA events, and the holidays. We did get the pikes out to a local SCA fighter practice and learned some new ways to practice from Simon (a fellow of great experience from the CA area). He split us into two groups, each with a sergeant calling out directions. Then we would try to flank the other group. Very entertaining and got two people up to speed on the commands very quickly. Lots of fun for the troops to watch the mistakes and do "exactly" what was commanded.

We also got a bunch together after Thanksgiving to make leather bottles and jacks. Turned out great with some long distance encouragement by Dave & Mo. Made about 8 bottles, 1 jack, and 1 barrel. Mostly by people who had never worked leather before.

There are now two medium drums in WTB. Both about 12 by 14 inches and made by Marcus Music in England. Not too expensive and they sound very good. One has an exposed wood rim (like a ECW drum) and sounds very crisp and sharp. The other has a small wood rim wrapped in the head and sounds very deep and booming (we're going to call it Lord Farrow). Same size, very different.

January activities went very well with more leather bottles along with a scabard and eye-patch. The return of our long lost cousins (Mo & Dave) to Austin is very welcome. We hope to make them proud of us. The new drums haven't marched yet (and Mo & Dave have brought another) but with an increase in interest, we should get them out soon. And interest is rising, people in our group are clamoring for more Trayn'd Bandes activities. Right thinking dogma is catching on!

Monthly meetings of the Westminster Trayn'd Bandes will be on the First\* Sunday of the month in the afternoon; from about 1pm (after lunch) to 6pm. Projects will vary depending on the desires of the group. We'll drill (weather permitting) and plan upcoming events. The site will vary and so will the costume requirements, so call JBNJenny for details.

\*Feb & Mar will be the second Sunday and then first Sundays in Apr, May, Jun, at least and probably more.

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### Current Events, 1598

Jeffrey L. Singman

As of the beginning of the year, England and the Dutch are still at war with Spain in alliance with France; the principal theatre of action is the Low Countries, with sporadic conflicts on the seas and periodic threats of Spanish invasion. There is a rebellion ongoing in Ireland, led by Hugh O'Neill, Earl of Tyrone. Parliament assembled in October.

Note that the number of the year changes on Lady Day (25 March).

#### January 1597/8

1. The Earl of Tyrone, leader of the Irish rebels, is reported to have agreed to a truce.
2. The French king is reported to have proposed a peace with Spain.
11. Parliament resumes its meetings.
13. The Queen gives notice to the German residents of the Steelyards in London to depart, along with other German merchants, in retaliation for the Emperor's actions against English merchants in the Empire.

#### February

9. Parliament is dissolved. Its acts have included statutes for the maintenance of tillage against

encroaching sheepraising, and act for relief of the poor, an act against rogues and sturdy beggars, an act to regulate worker's wages, and acts to suppress the activities of fake veteran soldiers and sailors and help integrate genuine veterans back into the society and economy.

10. Sir Robert Cecil, one of the more dovish members of the Privy Council, departs for Paris to negotiate with the King of France. Cecil is said to be reluctant to leave lest the Earl of Essex act against him during his absence.

12. Orders have been given that the Trained Bands are all to be mustered and drilled this spring, to the number of 45,800 men.

26. The usual orders against consumption of flesh in Lent are issued.

10. Marlowe's *Hero and Leander* and Shakespeare's *Henry IV* are printed.

### March

8. The Earl of Cumberland sets forth with a small fleet.

10. Shakespeare's *Love's Labours Lost* is printed.

16. The Dutch envoys urge the Queen not to treat with Spain.

29. The Earl of Ormond, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, continues to negotiate with Tyrone, but there is cause to doubt Tyrone's intent.

### April 1598

9. Certain letters from the Cardinal of Austria to the King of Spain have been captured, reportedly indicating that the King of France intends to conclude a peace with Spain regardless of the Dutch or England.

16. Negotiations with the King of France are broken off.

25. It is that the Earl of Essex has again been railing against making peace, whereupon Lord Treasurer Burleigh drew forth a psalm book, and silently pointed out to him the verse 'Men of blood shall not live out half their days'.

### May

1. Sir Robert Cecil has returned from France.

20. Barneveldt, the Dutch envoy, has been two days in conference with the Queen. It is said that she wants peace with Spain: the troubles in Ireland are a drain on her resources, and she sees the Dutch prospering while her trade suffers from the war.

25. An Englishman named Valentine Thomas has accused the Scottish king of designs against the Queen's life.

30. There is a fray between Trained Bandsmen in Oxford and students.

### June

8. Peace has been declared between the Kings of France and Spain on May 26.

10. There are reports of murders of English soldiers by Irish rebels in Wexford.

15. The Jesuits are said to have converted numerous persons by various deceits in Lancashire.

28. The truce with Tyrone has expired; he has sent forces to besiege the English garrison at Blackwater, and others to build his strength in Leinster.

### July

2. There has been an argument between the Queen and Essex, the Queen wishing to send the earl's kinsman Sir William Knollys to take charge in Ireland, and Essex arguing for Sir George Carew, not wishing his faction at court to be lessened. Essex, furious, impertinently turned his back on the Queen, who gave him a box on the ear. The earl laid a hand on his sword, but Lord Admiral Howard stepped between them. Essex swore he would not nor should not abide such an affront, and has left the court.

10. One John Barrose, a Burgundian fencer who came to London and challenged all the fencers of England, is hanged for killing an officer of the City who had arrested him for debt.

16. Additional troops are to be sent to Ireland to bolster the disordered forces stationed there.

25. The Privy Council calls on the Lord Mayor to proceed against the German merchants of the Steelyard.

### August

4. Sir William Cecil, Lord Burleigh, long one of the Queen's most trusted counsellors, died this morning at the age of 76.

22. A force of 3500 foot and 300 horse sent to relieve the fort at Blackwater in Ireland has met with a crushing defeat and the loss of 2000 men.

29. The Blackwater garrison has surrendered to Tyrone.

### September

5. Two great cracks of lightning in London have killed two men at the postern gate of the Tower, and another at the Bridgehouse in Southwark.

7. Essex has fallen ill, and the Queen, apparently wishing to improve relations, has sent him her physician.

15. Essex is now back at court and restored in the Queen's graces.

16. Ben Jonson's play *Every Man in His Humour* has premiered at the Curtain Theatre.

22. Jonson fights with the player Gabriel Spenser; Jonson is injured in the arm, but Spenser is wounded in the side and dies.

### October

2. The Earl of Cumberland returns from his expedition; he succeeded in capturing the town of Porto Rico, but his forces were afterwards struck by grave illness, and were forced to return home.

**November**

4. News arrives of the death of King Phillip of Spain.
5. There has been great flooding in the counties of Sussex, Surrey, Lincoln, Northampton and elsewhere.
6. The rebellion in Ireland has been gaining momentum, and there are reports of atrocities in Limerick, Kerry, Cork and elsewhere.
8. It is rumoured that the Earl of Essex is to be sent over next year as Lieutenant-General of Ireland.
9. One Edward Squire has been condemned to be hanged, drawn and quartered for involvement in a Jesuit plot against the Queen's life.
10. An attempt by Irish rebels to take Dublin castle by stealth has been narrowly averted.

**December**

18. The Thames has nearly frozen at the Bridge, but is now beginning to thaw.
  28. The Thames has frozen over again.
- Richard Burbage, after disputes with the landlord of the Theatre, has the structure pulled down, with the intent of building a new one in the Bankside.

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### New Suppliers

*Dances from the Inns of Court.* I have not seen this collection in person, but it is well spoken of, and the subject matter is excellent. 10 dances from English manuscripts written at the Inns of Court in the 16th and 17th centuries. The set includes a CD (\$10) and a booklet (\$2) containing reconstructions of each of the dances, a concordance of all the original instructions, and information about the sources and their historical context. Total cost with postage (in the US) is \$15. Checks should be made out to Janelle Durham, and mailed to 16217 NE 44th Ct, Redmond, WA 98052; e-mail: janelyn@email.msn.com.

It is rumoured that there is someone making hempen matchcord: check the ECWS bulletin board at <http://www.jpbooks.com/mboard/ECWS/thread.cgi?52,0>

Uriah Hemp. The Ropemaker. John C. Beard, Free Union VA; (804) 973-8107. A handcrafter of traditional hempen rope.

Robert deLisle, Blacksmith. Makes various hardware, specialising in 17c styles. His campfire blowpipe is \*highly\* recommended. 165 N. Main St., Florence MA 01060; (413) 585-8825.

Wooded Hamlet Designs. Historical furnishings. Mary Woodhams-Wagner & Kenneth Wagner. 4044 Coseytown Rd, Greencastle PA 17225; (717) 597-1782.

Gwen Nowrick is making a rather nice blackwork embroidery band, costing \$15-30 per yard. Look her

up at [www.historicenterprises.com](http://www.historicenterprises.com)., in the Men's Garment section, "The Poulet Gauche Shirt".

Here are some addresses for hats via Jeff Morgan:

Theatre House Inc, Covington KY, (606) 431-2414.

Display & Costume Supply, 11201 Roosevelt Way NE, Seattle, WA 98125, (206) 362-4810, FAX (206) 368-6870; free 80 page catalog, phone orders are \$50 minimum.

California Millinery Supply Co, 721 South Spring St., Los Angeles, CA 90014; (213) 622-8746; FAX (213) 622-0438.

Enhancements, PO Box 8604, Anaheim, CA 92812-0604; FAX (714) 638-4545; Contact: mary LaVenture.

The Hat/Cap Exchange, PO Box 377, Betterton MD 21610-0377; (410) 348-2244; Contact: Jnae Haentze. 100 different hats in stock, catalog \$5; mail and phone orders only; Mon - Fri 10:00 am to 5:00 pm (EST).

Hatcrafters, Inc, 20 N Springfield Rd., Clifton Heights, PA 19018; Phone/FAX (610) 623-2620; email: jscottjr@msn.com. Contact: Linda Haentz.

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### Publications News

The *Goodfellows Academie* is due out this year; look for this stunning collection of songs, dances, games, and other period activities (in a period format and binding) with its accompanying booklet of historical notes at your grocery-store checkout counter soon!

Also available to TBL members and their close personal friends is a draft version of the TBL publication on military music.

Another TBL exclusive: the Greenwich, Cheapside, and Charterhouse fonts (Italic, Roman, and Blackletter, respectively), all taken directly from typefaces of c1600.

A few notes on these fonts: Elizabethan printers used 2 forms of lower case s, a long version (represented in these fonts by ordinary s) used at the beginning or in the middle of a word so as to kern over the following letter, and a short s ( = option-s in the fonts) used at the end of a word. Where the long s was followed by a tall letter that would conflict with it (such as h, i, l, t), the printer used a ligature character that included the two letters conjoined (sh = option-h; si = option-b; ssi = option-9; sl = option-shift-l; ssl = option-shift-; st = option-t; ss = option-shift-s). Similar ligatures were used for combinations with f (ff = option-shift-f; fi = option-f; ffi = option-x, fl = option-l, ffl = option-v). Other special characters in these

fonts include ye ('the') = option-y; yt ('that') = option-shift-y; ct = option-c; oe = option-q; ~ (used over a vowel to stand for an m or n following) = option-i.

Contact Jeffrey L. Singman for more information on TBL publications.