

The Fencers, Dancers, and Bearbaiters Quarterly

The Newsletter of the Traynd Bandes in North America

Vol IX. No. 1 *"Ever But in Times of Need at Hand"* July 2001

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), and the Westminster Trayn'd Bandes (centered in Texas),

The FDBQ will be published bi-annually by Gardiner's Company.

Gardiner's Calendar and Points of Contact

August

Pennsic - 11-19 August 2001. This is the second week of Pennsic, when most people arrive. We are camping with Lochmere this year. Point of Contact is Sandy at (410) 515-9230 email is jjmandsandytoscano@home.com. MAJOR

September

Defender's Day at Fort McHenry -Friday, Saturday & Sunday, September 7,8 & 9. This annual program commemorates the bombardment of Fort McHenry and the writing of "The Star-Spangled Banner." This is an 1812 event, you must be appropriately attired to participate as a re-enactor.

<http://www.nps.gov/fomc/pphtml/newseventsdetail1057.html>. POC Greg Glewwe, (301) 698-1269 or glewweg@adelphia.net OTHER

Chair Building Workshop - 22-23 September 2001. At Chris and Cathy's. POC is Cathy at (919) 577-8169, e-mail is csnell@ieee.org WORKSHOP

October

Skirmishing - 20 October 2001. At Bob 'N Laura's place. Not as formal as Mousehole, and should be a lot of fun. More details to follow. POC Bob at elsworth@erols.com. (301) 617-0843. MAJOR

November

Military History Festival - 12 November 2001. Chesterfield, VA. I'm looking at this as a recruiting opportunity. Maybe gain some contacts in the re-enacting world. Greg is coordinating the military effort as pike drill always looks impressive. We need Pikemen! POC Sandy Toscano (410) 515-9230 jimandsandytoscano@home.com or Greg Glewwe (301) 698-1269 glewweg@adelphia.net MINOR

Foods & Feasts at Jamestown - November 22. Thanksgiving. POC Greg @ glewweg@adelphia.net MINOR

Still in the Planning Stage

Yule - December 2001 or January 2002. Looking for a site/host. Deadline for bids is 31 August 2001.

Helmet altering/padding, TBA, After the helmets come in, of course. More will be announced when known. POC is Jeff Morgan, (804) 984-0537 or jlmorgan@cstone.net.

Persona Workshops - we need several. Need Volunteers to coordinate time, place, etc, TBA. These should be opened up to the FOGs to start encouraging more participation and enhancing their impression. An ideal location would be a meeting room at a library or something along those lines.

**Need a new T-shirt? How about a Sweatshirt ?
Same t-shirt design as before on Gardiner's blue shirts and light gray sweatshirts. Information to be posted on the Companie list. Keep a look out for it!**

CONTACTS

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Well, as you can see we were welcomed at Jamestown with open arms. The volunteer event at Jamestown went very well. Everyone at the Fort was happy to see the group and we received several laudatory comments. I heard from two separate Fort people that we were the best group they have ever seen volunteer, and that we were welcome at anytime. Jim Dorsey offered to arrange any sort of class we would be interested in the next time we come down. The evening after the fort closed was fairly relaxed as it had been rather warm and humid during the day. Dinner was served and after a trip to view the ships in the setting sun, there was some singing in the tavern. It was a beautiful night.

Mousehole was a fantastic event hosted by Robert and Isobel at their new homestead. There was drill in the morning and skirmishing in the afternoon. Because of the new site, things were fairly low key. After dinner, there was singing in the tavern and a game of croquet out on the lawn. The weather held fair despite a few rumbles off to the east. It was a great time. The date for next years Mousehole is set for 18 May 2002. Mark your calendars now! I'm interested in establishing a theme for next year. We've done this in the past and it really helps to bring things together. Anybody getting married soon..... ? Kate? Percy?

We need workshops! I'm interested in seeing a persona workshop in July. I would like to see a couple of hours working on persona development, filling out the persona sheet and writing a summary for the web site. In the evening we could test drive the personas in a period evening/or tavern setting.

In September I would like to see a Stuff workshop. Several people have expressed an interest in either bench building or some other sort of stuff type of workshop. I'm willing to host a project weekend, involving sewing or some basic woodworking. I only have a few basic tools for woodworking, but I'm sure something could be accomplished. Boxes would be a good thing!

In October there may be another volunteer weekend at Jamestown. It may be either in October or, if folks are interested, in November and helping with Foods and Feasts over the Thanksgiving weekend.

I need to know about any weekend restrictions on those months. I need a host for the persona workshop in July. In the next couple of weeks, I'll post more information. I prefer volunteers, but if I haven't heard anything, I'm going to start volunteering people.

Sandy



London Bridge

by Diane Glewwe

Have you every wondered what the view from Southwark looked like? When one thinks of the London view I would have to say that The London Bridge is a landmark that was so common to ones view, as well as usage, we would have taken it for granted. Here is a brief history of The Bridge.

One of the original “London Bridges” was demolished around 1014 when accounts tell of Ethelred, King of England and his ally Olaf, King of Norway sailing up the Thames to attack the Danes who had occupied the city and built fortifications in Southwark.

The original version of a familiar rhyme by Norse poet Ottar Svarte tells the story:

*“London Bridge is broken down,
Gold is won and bright renown.
Shields resounding,
War horns sounding;
Hildur shouting in the din.
Arrows singing, Mail coats ringing;
Odin makes our Olaf win.”*

The First stone bridge was constructed in 1176. Taking thirty-three years to build it had nineteen small arches which restricted the flow of the Thames River and made the current so strong that it was dangerous to go through the arches.

Houses on the bridge were first mentioned in 1201. Eventually the Bridge also included shops and a chapel. At the Southwark end was a drawbridge and a large stone gate. For many years Frost Fairs were held on the ice of the frozen river since the restricted water flow caused the water to freeze completely over during the very cold London winters.

In the Edward Marston books his characters are always walking across the crowded bridge in order to do business or return to their homes in London after performing at the Queen’s Head Inn in Southwark. In The Nine Giants Marston creates a scene as characters approach the Bridge.

... Hans Kippel gulped when he saw the heads of executed traitors crudely exhibited on poles, but he did no check his stride. The barbarous custom had always upset and fascinated the boy.”

...As ever the Bridge was liberally over-populated. Housed and shops stretched every inch of its length and leaned over towards each other with such amiable curiosity that they could almost shake hands. The narrow road was made even narrower by the swirling crowds that moved along it in both directions and horse-drawn traffic had to carve its own rough passage through the human wall.

...There were almost forty shops selling their wares ... cutler, glover, a pouch-maker, a goldsmith, a pinner, and a painter, but many of the tiny establishments sold articles of apparel.

The only surviving copies of the earliest existing map of London date from the seventeenth century and it shows signs of revision. It is believed that it was originally based on an engraved map of 1553-9; two by six feet and printed from eight woodblocks. This map shows, on the left, the London Bridge with its many piers and built up houses.

In 1831, the Old London Bridge was demolished and replaced, a short distance up river, by a new bridge with five stone arches. This is the bridge which was sold in 1967 and re-erected at Lake Havasu, Arizona. Memories exist of the Old London Bridge in a watercolor painting attributed to C.T. Dodds.

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Maps in Tudor England; Copyright 1993; P.D.A. Harvey; The Public Record Office and The British Library; London.

Southwark: A History of Bankside, Bermondsey and The Borough; Copyright 1966; Robert Godley in collaboration with the Southwark Heritage Association; London.

Companie of the Brothers and Sisters of the Mysterie of St. George of the Armourers

By Rob Morganstern

The Armourers is the 22nd Livery Company of the city. It is not known just how early the Armourers Company existed. According to Pitt, the earliest minutes of the Company date to 1413. There are records of regulations on those who comprise the Armourers as early as 1321. In 1355, the Lord Mayor decreed all artificers and "people of mysteries" should choose their own mystery before next Candlemas and use no other.

Over time, the company expanded the occupations over which is regulated. The Company started with the haubergers, who made breastplates, haketons, and gambesons. In 1387, the Fourbers (those who refurbished armours) joined the Company. In the 15th century, the Heaumers were amalgamated into the Company. The Bladesmiths joined in 1515, and in 1708 the Company merged with the Brasiers.

The first royal charter was granted by King Henri VI in 1453. It provided the right to regulate apprentices, and all those interested in the manufacture of weapons, armour, and other allied products, as well as preventing workmen in the city from manufacturing these things if not associated with the Company. To employ a foreign artificer one had to pay the company a penny a week. In 1559, Elizabeth granted an Inspeximus, which revised and renewed the Company's charter, upon payment of a fine. In 1591, the Privy Council issued an order granting the encouragement of the London Gunmakers. In 1605, this was confirmed by Letters Patent. They did not receive search rights until 1631, when the Armourers and Gunmakers were granted these rights by a Commission under Letters Patent. The Gunmakers were chartered as a City Company in 1638.

During the xxj year of the reign of Edward II, the company was granted search rights by the Lord Mayor. The Company's Right of search was usually exercised in conjunction with the three principal fairs: St. Bartholomew, St. James, and the Fair of Our Lady (Southwark Fair). Members of Company had to appear at one of five locations to show they had the necessary permissions to work. Members paid a 2d fee when searched to cover costs. Items of faulty workmanship or items sold in

taverns or privy places were confiscated and a fine paid, half to the guild and possibly half to the informer. When the Bladesmiths joined the Company, they expanded the company's right of search to all edged tools.

The Armourer's Company provided social and religious interaction as well as providing regulation of the trade and quality control. It also acted as a charitable organization for sick, or infirm members.

The Company was run by a Master, wardens and Court of Assistants. In 1538, the company consisted of a Master, 2 Wardens, 7 Assistants, some 16 freeman and a considerable number of "men of the yeomanry". In total, around 70 people came under the jurisdiction of the Company. A Master usually served for 2 years. As part of the social interaction of the membership, there were yearly gatherings where the Master and Wardens celebrated with a banquet for the members and wives. Members with wives were expected to contribute 20d, while bachelors 16d. From this 2d a head went to cover the banquet with the Master making up the difference. The Company also held a Court to resolve disputes between members.

The company enforced a dress code for formal meetings. Members of the Company were required to wear a ruff with their Livery gown. They could be fined 12 d. for wearing a falling band to a guild meeting in 1638. The primary livery color was violet. Apprentices were prohibited from wearing ruffs or carrying a sword.

It was not one of the 12 Great Companies and hence did not regularly provide a Sheriff to the City. Only Great Companies could provide the Alderman from Tudor times. The role of Sheriff was an expensive position that cost some thousands a year in the mid 1500s.

Armourers tended to be located in the minorities and East Smithfield, near the Tower. The best workman could be found in the Royal workshop in Greenwich. Foreign workers not directly associated with the Royal workshops tended to congregate in Southwark. It should also be noted that during the two instances of the temporary relocation of the royal workshops, they shifted to Southwark..

The various guilds frequently squabbled over their rights to regulate trade. The Armourers feuded with the Cutlers Company which made the handles and Sheathers who made the sheaths when Armourers asserted

right to search all knives and edged tools. Eventually, it was agreed that each company would search their own members and jointly search foreigners. Note, foreigners are anyone not of the company, not necessarily people of foreign nationality. Records indicate occasional strife between industries in the countryside being regulated by London companies.

The Armourers also feuded with the Blacksmiths over the gun trade. In 1578 due to conflict with the Blacksmiths, it was proved before the Court of Alderman that the company had been granted the power to search, to inspect and to determine the efficiency of weapons in the time of Edward II.

Per a July 1589 ordinance, an armorer workman was paid L3 6s 8d/year with meat and drink (3s4d/wk or 8d/day), or 6s/wk without meals (13d/day). Freeman's wages could vary dramatically depending on their skill and success in acquiring contracted work. The Master of the Royal armoury made L31, 11s a year in 1544, and was probably one of the highest paid armourers in England at the time. The standard armourers earned 24s/month, and locksmiths made 20/- per month at the Royal armoury. An apprentice at the Royal armoury made 6d/day in 1544. For the Armourers, apprenticeship lasted 7 years. Per a 1438 ordinance, members had to be worth 10 marks or 5 pounds to open their own shop, so even after completing apprenticeship, one did not necessarily open up their own shop. Many members would hire themselves out to established freemen.

The Armourers' Hall is located on Coleman Street, on the corner of London wall. The property was leased since at 1346 and owned since 1428. Besides the Hall, the Company owned property at Trig Wharf (bequeathed by Eborard Frere in 1478), Thames Street (bequeathed by Gawen Helme in 1621), and Farringdon Street (bequeathed by John Richmond in 1559), and Bishopsgate Street (bequeathed by Roger Tyndall in 1581).

The Company was obliged to provide military personnel to the Bandes and the army. The Company was to provide two armed men for the military: 1 archer and 1 harquebutter for active service. In 1535, the Company was also to have 35 men in readiness of arms, that could be called up if needed.

By 1599, the company's mark of a crowned A is known to have existed for use as a proof mark. Also, each member was to have their own private maker's mark, so the origin of the piece could be traced, as well as to determine that the piece was made by one who was properly licensed.

Masters of the Company:

1589 John Brocklebank

...

1595 John Pasfield

1597 Humphrey Rosser

1599 Richard Loxson

1601 Richard Wood

1603 John Foster, Sr

1604 William Riggs

Heraldry: Azure, on a chevron sable, a gauntlet of the first between two pairs of swords in saltire of the last, hilts and pommels or; on a chief of the second, an oval shield of the field charged with a cross gules encircled with a carved shield of the third, between two peer's helmets proper garnished gold--Company of ARMOURERS, incorporated temp. HEN. VI.

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