
The Fencers, Dancers, and Bearbaiters Quarterly

The Newsletter of the Traynd Bandes in North America

Vol. XIII, No. 1

“Ever But In Times Of Need At Hand”

January 2005

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 Companie (centered in Virginia-Maryland), the Tabard Inn Society (centered in Ontario), and the Westminster Trayn’d Bandes (centered in Texas).

The FDBQ at present time is published bi-annually by Gardiner’s Companie.

CALENDAR

February 26, 2005 - Sewing Workshop; P.O.C. Carla Bauer; 410-569-7342; bauercarla@msn.com

March 19 & 20 - Military Through the Ages/Jamestown; POC Greg Glewwe; 301-698-1269; glewweg@adelphia.net

April 16 – Mousehole, Arvonnia, VA; POC needed.

May 14 – Landing Day/Jamestown

August – Pennsic; P.O.C. needed.

November 24 & 25 - Foods & Feasts/Jamestown; POC Greg Glewwe; 301-698-1269; glewweg@adelphia.net

Event Type Descriptions:

Major Events: These 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. They tend to be at our highest level of authenticity with a goodly amount of persona play.

Minor Events: These are smaller events which people are encouraged to attend if they wish. They still tend to be at a high level of authenticity, but there may not be quite as much persona play.

Mistress Katherine Sharpe
Diane Glewwe
1808 Noblewood Ct.
Frederick, MD 21702



SCA Events: These are standard SCA events that some of our members will attend. Our authenticity will often not be at a different level, but it does not set the standard for others around us. There tends to be very little persona play, except at Pennsic.

Other Events: These are events that tend to be outside our normal timeframe, have good shopping opportunities, or don't really fit into any other category but may be of interest to the group.

Workshop Events: These are events that are intended to accomplish a goal, always done in modern attire. These are intended for members first, and others if room/time permits.

More Notes on 1585

Compiled By Master Robert Bedingfield

1585

(Remember -- word of happenings on the Continent would have taken a month or so to reach England and become known to the populace.)

January 6 -- Raleigh is knighted. All is not skittles and beer, however. He makes Elizabeth mad by secretly marrying Bessie Throckmorton. The queen locked them in the Tower of London. They will be released by Christmas.

April 10 -- Pope Gregory XIII dies; is replaced by Pope Sixtus V on April 24th

Jul 13 -- A group of 108 English colonists, led by Sir Richard Grenville, reaches Roanoke Island, North Carolina. Roanoke Island near North Carolina became England's first foothold in the New World. Sir Walter Raleigh sends a detachment of 108 men to build a fort on the island. The detachment includes two scientists, Thomas Hariot, a surveyor, mathematician, astronomer and oceanographer, and Joachim Gans, a metallurgist. John White, English artist and surveyor, was part of the expedition. (1st settlement) (only lasts a year - warfare with Indians causes Raleigh to take all remaining colonists off the island in July of 1586.)

July 17 - Elizabethan secret service discover Anthony Babington's murder plot against Queen Elizabeth (He will not be arrested until 1586).

Treaty of Nonsuch -- Elizabeth sends the Earl of Leicester to assist the Dutch against Spain, with 5,000 to 6,000 troops and 1,000 horses. (beginning of the Eighty Years War)

Aug -- Antwerp sacked by the Duke of Parma, resulting in long-lasting loss of trade for that port.

The Counterfeit Crank

Review by Katherine Sharpe

Edward Marston did it again. The Counterfeit Crank is an easy, entertaining read. In this, the fourteenth book in the Elizabethan Theater Mystery featuring Nicholas Bracewell, trouble begins for Westfield's Men when their playwright falls ill and can not complete his next work. A series of unexpected events occur during the absence of their hated landlord – a temporary replacement landlord who likes the Company, missing costumes, and of all things Elizabethan, gambling! In the middle of it all some one ends up murdered!

The story is a bit predictable, but I found it surprising to see how all the pieces fit together. Worth the read. Published by St. Martin's Minotaur.

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The Great Fish Market – Jan Breugel, 1607



Nov. 23 -- Thomas Tallis dies

Shakespeare is believed to have joined a company of players as actor and playwright, but nobody knows who he is yet. His leaving Strafford may have something to do with the Feb 2nd birth of his twins, Hamnet and Judith. No plays he may have written during this time survive.

However, Thomas Kyd's "The Spanish Tragedy" premieres on the stage (no definitive information exists as to where or even when it first played).

First official shipments of cocoa beans begin arriving in Seville from Vera Cruz, Mexico.

Elizabeth extends her protection to The Netherlands against Spain to avenge the murder of William of Orange.

The War of the Three Henries [Henry III, Henry of Guise, and Henry of Navarre] begin when Henry of Navarre, a Huguenot, becomes heir to the French throne.

Parry Plot discovered. Sir William Parry executed on March 2.

Francis Drake attacks the Spanish ports of Vigo and Santo Domingo. English shipping in Spanish ports is confiscated as a virtual declaration of war by Spain.

The Dutch use the first time-bombs in floating mines actuated by clockwork at the siege of Antwerp

Bartholomew Newsam builds the earliest surviving English spring-driven clocks.

(And for those who care, Sep 9 -- Duc Armand Jean du Plessis de Richelieu born. More about him later (much later))



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Tragedy at the Cat's Perch Inn

(Southwark, Yule, 1604)

By Mistress Hamilton

Thanks to the efforts of Carla and Vic, Yule went very well. The murder mystery theme kept everyone talking about diverse subjects such as rats, cheese pie, rats, bees, rats, broken hearts, and well, rats.

Two Crown Special Investigators were called in to look into the death of Fanny, the alewife at the Cat's Perch. After much discussion (and dinner), the conclusion was suicide by one CSI and conspiracy by the other. Both were close.

It seems that several people had it in for Fanny, while Fanny was plotting to kill off her sister that no one knew existed. After Fanny killed her sister with a bee sting, several others stopped by the Cat's Perch to pay Fanny a final call. Fanny hid in a secret closet and discovered how many people were apparently planning their revenge. Unfortunately, the cheese pie from Mistresses Olivia and Eleanore only killed a rat, Orlando stabbed an already dead sister, and the paid assassin got paid for doing nothing, as the deed seemed already done. Only the Counties were able to steal their money back.

The whole scene was re-enacted for all to see prior to their own demise. Evidently Fanny had the last laugh.

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Should the FDBQ Go Electronic?

We now have software available to convert the newsletter into Adobe. Is there an interest in receiving the Fencers, Dancers, and Bear Baiters Quarterly (FDBQ) by e-mail?

Does the Company want to continue publishing FDBQ? Aside from one article there were no submissions received this month.

These issues will be discussed at the next few gatherings. Please e-mail any comments to Diane Glewwe, noblewood@adelphia.net; please cc: Robert.

The Tudor Group is an historical interpretation society concentrating on the later Tudor period (1560-1603). The Elizabethan era is one of change throughout virtually all aspects of life and The Tudor Group, through enthusiastic demonstrations and talks, attempt to illustrate some of the ordinary facets of life during this fascinating period.

Members have varying experience (between 1 and 25 years in historical interpretation) and The Tudor Group has a growing reputation for enthusiasm and historical accuracy. All of their presentations are supported by numerous years of historical research, in many areas re-evaluating primary evidence. Their presentations are especially suited for the National Curriculum (England).

Amongst many other initiatives, they have been closely involved with: Shakespeare's Globe Theatre since 1997, including for their presentation of Henry The Fifth - the first Elizabethan theatre production for almost 400 years. The education and training of guides for CADW and Shakespeare's Birthplace Trust. Practical research for The Mary Rose Trust on reconstructing the Galley and investigating how it may have been used.

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Resources and Events

Fort Frederick Market Fair

April 22-24, 2005; Ft. Frederick, Maryland.

This is the big annual merchant event. For more information, please check out:

<http://www.friendsoffortfrederick.org/marketfair.htm>

The Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival

May 7 & 8, 2005; Howard County Fairgrounds.

For more information, please visit their website at:

<http://www.sheepandwool.org>

mentions is a significant hinderance to drawing any confident conclusions.

- Various items are removed from the estate prior to the inventory being taken; notably kitchenware by the widow; and many bequeathed items (ie good clothes) to near family and friends; without the corresponding will you would have not idea that such things may have happened.
- There are many possible reasons for absence - typically items which are disproportionately absent (requiring careful interpretation):- coifs; forecloths; caps (ie Monmouths); farthingales (of any sort); shirts; smocks; underbreeches; shoes; ruffs(though terminology is extremely difficult in this area);body/face/hair cloths; knives; general gardening tools; horses (though saddles are); treen; earthenware (esp. cooking pots).
- Terminology is something which is (even to this day) subjective in the common people; a word taken out of context can easily be assumed to mean fact whereas it is only a word.

After looking at (studying would be a pretentious term) around 1,000 inventories of 1560 to 1620 predominantly from 5 midland counties - when trying to draw any conclusion you get the feeling you are on extremely thin ice. Absence in a single particular inventory proves little; typically only prescence proves something which can usefully be interpreted. Further, it is only when you understand the social context of inventory taking that you have any chance to interpret it in a meaningful way. Remember - interpretation is not fact.

Useful information

Local History & Records Societies may hold information of Diocese wills & inventories.

Local records offices usually have some wills (less often inventories); but it depends on the diocese. Reading them is sometimes difficult & always time-consuming; transcriptions are a good way to obtain a depth of familiarisation. Just remember the possibility of errors.

The easiest transcriptions to get hold of are : Banbury Wills & Inventories and Household & Farm Inventories in Oxfordshire.

Gardiners Companie Shirts

Place your orders now. Black T-shirts and sweatshirts with a White Ink Imprint are now available. An e-mail announcement will be made when there are enough shirts to place an order. At that time a deadline will be set.

Blue and Grey shirts and Grey sweatshirts with Black ink image will be printed if there is a minimum order of twelve shirts.

The front of the shirts have "Da Boys" on it and the back will have the Companie motto, "Ever but at times of need at hand". If the same manufacturer is available, they are 100% pre-shrunk cotton. Sweatshirt weight is lightweight.

T-shirts: S, M, L, XL = \$8; XXL = 10; XXXL = \$11

Sweatshirts: S, M, L, XL = \$18; XXL = 20; XXXL = \$22

The Companie does not front the production of shirts. Payment must be received with order. All profit goes to Gardiner's Companie. Shirts will be delivered at various Companie activities and events. Add postage cost if you would like your shirts sent US Priority mail.



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Sweatshirts: S, M, L, XL = \$18; XXL = 20; XXXL = \$22

Quantity	Size and Color	Price Each	Total

US Postal Service Priority Shipping add \$4.00 per shirt + _____

Grand total = _____

Please send check or money (made out to Diane Glewwe) to the following address:

Gardiners Company

c/o Diane Glewwe

1808 Noblewood Ct., Frederick, MD 21702

301-698-1269; noblewood@adelphia.net

Issues with Inventories

Written by Mark Goodman

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The minutiae of detail sometimes present in Probate inventories makes them a useful tool for helping to understand ordinary life. However the interpretation of such information is often imaginative and without due consideration of any limitations of that evidence. In this article I hope to raise awareness of some of the issues that treating inventories at face value cause.

A quote from "Household & Farm Inventories in Oxfordshire":

The probate inventory is a document which was required by ecclesiastical courts in connection with the granting of the probate of a will. Its object is to safeguard the deceased's executors from excessive claims upon the estate and to protect the next of kin from fraud.

Points to remember about inventories:

- They are taken after death; usually more than a week; often weeks; sometimes months after. So they are not from the stand point of the owner. A lot can happen in that time and you would be naive to assume that nothing has gone missing.
- They are usually drawn up by the deceased's neighbours (in theory by 4 of them); not necessarily all of whom can write, in fact on inventories where it is noted who could or could not write it is often only one person who can (though that does not assume the other takers cannot read & verify what has been written).
- Inventories were required where recourse was required to the Perogative Courts - that is where someone owns land in two or more diocese (typically in the poorer sort where they lived on the diocese boundary). Further those with estate worth less than £5 were not required to make a will (and hence an inventory was not necessary).
- Inventories typically only cover moveable assets of notable value. There are of course exceptions.
- They are subjective and must be interpreted in the context of the taker of the inventory; having multiple inventories taken by the same people helps to indicate trends in what was considered as "valued" and the priorities that people assumed while taking inventories.
- Individual items of clothing appear to become less important in inventories as time goes on; by the 1620s the lack of density of such