
The Fencers, Dancers, and Bearbaiters Quarterly

The Newsletter of the Traynd Bandes in North America

Vol. XIII, No. 2

"Ever But In Times of Need At Hand"

June, 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

August 5-21– Pennsic; No company camp this year, but members are attending. (*SCA Event*)

September 10, 2005 – Defender's Day, Ft. McHenry, Baltimore. Need Pikemen to cross over into the 19th century and support Bob Talbot by joining the Virginia Militia for the day or weekend. Ladies are welcome (Jane Austin era); Tea in the afternoon. POC Greg Glewwe; 301-698-1269; glewweg@adelphia.net (*Other Event*)

October 15 – Grand Militia Muster, St. Mary's City, MD; Sandy Toscano; 410-515-9230; jimandsandytoscano@comcast.net (*Other Event*)

November 24 & 25 - Foods & Feasts/Jamestown; Butchering and cooking demonstrations. POC Sandy Toscano; 410-515-9230; jimandsandytoscano@comcast.net (*Other Event*)

January 21, 2006 - YULE: The Barn in Abingdon; POC Carla Bauer; 410-569-7342; bauercarla@msn.com or Sandy Toscano; 410-515-9230; jimandsandytoscano@comcast.net (*Major Event*)

March 18 & 19 - Military Through the Ages/Jamestown; POC Greg Glewwe; 301-698-1269; glewweg@adelphia.net or Sandy Toscano; 410-515-9230; jimandsandytoscano@comcast.net (*Other Event*)

April – Mousehole, Arvonnia, VA; POC needed. (*Major Event*)

May 13 – Landing Day/Jamestown (*Other Event*)

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.

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.

Tragedy at the Cat's Perch Inn

(Southwark, Yule, 1604)

Photo's by Victoria Dye/Mistress Anna Collins

By Sandy Toscano /Mistress Hamilton

(Previously aired January 2005)



Pre-feast toast



The feast

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.



The Inspectors

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.



The End

A Tennis Ball

By Cathy Snell Mistress/Kate Maunsel

While reading about Haberdashers, I was surprised at the number of references to tennis balls. Archer mentions that in 1559-60, a study was conducted to understand the impact of imports related to haberdashery goods. In that year, the import of hats was valued at £7915, pins at £3297, paper at £3304 and tennis balls at £1699. This inspired some research into the history of the game of tennis and the construction of a reproduction tennis ball.



Students of Leyden University playing tennis (1610)

The origins of tennis are disputed, but it appears to have evolved from a form of handball to the game with a net and rackets with which we are familiar today. In the 16th century, it could be played with any variety of rules and may have resembled modern racquetball more than modern tennis. A net was commonly used, but it is the use of a racket which defined the game as tennis instead of merely handball (see Willughby for more details).

In England, it was a popular pastime with the upper and middle classes and several dedicated courts are known to have existed by the late 16th century. John Stow in the 1570s said, "the ball is used by noblemen and gentlemen in tennis courts, and by people of meaner sorts in the open fields and streets". One of the courts that Henry VIII played on can still be seen at Hampton Court Palace today. It was

popular enough that even Estienne Perlin when visiting England in 1558 saw fit to comment "...for here you may commonly see artisans, such as hatters or joiners, play at tennis for a crown, which is not often seen elsewhere, particularly on a working day..."

According to Waterer, the earliest play balls found in England "are those found lodged in the roof timbers of Elizabethan tennis-courts (such as Hampton Court) and of other places including the Byward Tower in the Tower of London. These were somewhat smaller than the modern lawn-tennis balls, made of white tawed goatskin and filled with hair." Waterer also mentions some small play balls (c. 1500 BC) found at Thebes which were made "of segments (six in this case) of equal shape and size sewn together". This construction is similar to that of footballs from the beginning of this century.

While a bit late, Willughby provides this description of a tennis ball: "The ball is made of taylors' shreds beaten by a hammer & shaped in a wooden mould; then it's hard tyed about with packthread. After this they sew white cotton about it or hersy."

Picture of the tennis ball to come...

The tennis ball on display here follows the description from Waterer. It is made of six equal segments of chrome-tanned pigskin, sewn with waxed linen thread and stuffed with wool scraps and hair. Pigskin leather was used to due to availability and cost, but the modern chrome tanning process produces a similar finish to the alum tawing process used in the 16th century.

The ball ended up a bit softer than may be practical for playing, so my second attempt will more closely follow Willughby's description of making a tennis ball.



Italian Boy with Racket. Master Painting (Cremona, 1570)

References:

- Archer, Ian W., *The History of the Haberdashers' Company*, Phillimore & Co. Ltd., Chichester, 1991.
- Baker, Oliver, *Black Jacks and Leather Bottells*, Ed. J. Burrow & Co., Ltd., Cheltenham Spa, London, 1921, reprinted by the Honourable Cordwiners' Company, VA, 1990.
- Sim, Alison, *Pleasures & Pastimes in Tudor England*, Sutton Publishing, United Kingdom, 1999.
- Waterer, John W., *Leather Craftmanship*, Frederick A. Praeger, New York, 1968.
- Willughby, Francis, *A Volume of Playes*, unpublished manuscript c. 1670. (This manuscript has recently been published with commentary as *Francis Willughby's Book of Games: A Seventeenth Century Treatise on Sports, Games, and Pastimes* by Francis Willughby, Jeffrey L Forgeng (Editor), Dorothy Johnston (Editor), David Cram (Editor), Clive L. Hardy)
- [The History of Tennis Website](#) - good pictures

Jamestown Building Update

Provided by Mistress Hamilton/Sandy Toscano

There are several new structures within Jamestown Fort. Cindy has posted some information regarding how to interpret these buildings when we volunteer. (Ed. Note: take notice of the fireplaces in the new buildings.) The following are extracts from her postings.

The Kitchen:

Kitchen structures were common within many 17th century fortifications and garrisons in Europe.

James Fort was an extension of European military practice, so it is possible that a kitchen may have been established here as well, although no structure that can be identified as a kitchen has yet been excavated



by Jamestown Rediscovery within the original fort site. There is a kitchen shown on the map of the Virginia Company's Popham colony, Fort St. George. It is doubtful that a kitchen would have served as a single place to prepare and cook every soldier's ration (not like a modern cafeteria) but probably more as a site to carry out bulk preparations, with some cooking as necessary.

The type and amount of food that a soldier was to receive was established by both military tradition and standards set forth by the Privy Council.

Of course, the exact make up and amounts allotted could vary

based on circumstance and availability. Generally, rations to soldiers were made up of any of the following items: meat (being either beef or pork, or if not available a suitable fish substituted), bread (either biscuit, or flour to be baked into bread or biscuit locally), oats or barley, peas or beans or rice, butter, cheese and finally beer.

The kitchen may have been the place to prepare the elements of the daily rations for issue.

Salted meats for example would have required washing and soaking to remove salt and to make such meat edible again. Daily allowances of flour (if available) may have been baked into bread. Local game received from the natives, fowl and birds shot by the English, or hogs would have required dressing and butchering before availability for issue. Items such as cheese and butter, oil, and alcohol would have been measured out for issuance. Once prepared then the rations would have been issued out to messes; while on Bermuda Strachey placed the mess at 6 men.

The Laws Divine, Moral and Martial established the positions of bakers and cooks and regulated their conduct in a like manner.

The duty of the bakers and the cooks was not only to bake, boil or dress company provisions entrusted to them, but also private provisions from individuals. The sole duty of the bakers and the cooks was the preparation of rations and provisions, being excused from all other duties and labor.

In supplying its men, the leadership of the Virginia Company had an expectation to obtain provisions from several sources:

- through the company supply shipments from England,
- from the efforts of the men in Virginia through their own agricultural production and animal husbandry, and
- through trade with the natives.

The Buttery (*Nancy Egluff, Aug. 2001*)

The Oxford English Dictionary defines the word “buttery” as “a room where provisions are laid up.” By the 18th and 19th centuries, butteries were used for the storage of dairy products, and this is the association many people have today. Originally, however, they were storerooms for alcohol and liquors. The word “buttery” comes from the Old French “boterie,” or a place for keeping bottles, casks or butts.

Ivor Noel Hume, former archaeologist for the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, wrote in a report on James Fort prepared in 1983, “in the 17th century, [buttery] meant a store for provisions of all kinds, having evolved from a store-room for liquor (Old French: “Bota” or “Butta,” meaning a cask or bottle).”

Many homes in England prior to the 17th century had rooms for the storage of alcohol and food provisions, specifically butteries and pantries. These service areas would have been at one end of the house, while the hall or parlour was at the other end. Some larger homes even had separate structures for these functions.



When colonists came to the New World, they brought with them vestiges of life at home, which included establishing a place to keep provisions and consumables within their settlement. Although no detailed plan of James Fort has survived, a map of St. George’s Fort in Maine does exist. St. George’s Fort was established in 1607 by the Virginia Company of Plymouth, Jamestown’s sister colony. Drawn by John Hunt, the map shows both a storehouse and a “Buttery General.”

We know that in the late Virginia Company period at Jamestown, food rations were doled out to mess groups. Every person in the group was to receive a pound of meal a day and slightly less than two quarts of cider. Every group of five was to receive, on a weekly basis, a pound and a half of butter, two pounds of cheese, two quarts of oatmeal, one pint of oil, and slightly less than one pint of vinegar. Because food items were so valuable, it is certain that these goods in particular would have been kept under close scrutiny, if not under lock and key, probably in a separate building from the other stored goods that were kept in the storehouse. The buttery, or “room where provisions are laid up,” would have been the logical place for food rations. Ivor Noel Hume wrote in his report on James Fort, “at the Popham plantation, and almost certainly at James Fort as well, the buttery contained both the Company’s liquor and the foodstuffs for its employees.”

The structure would contain storage barrels and tubs. A simple table and chair for use of the manager would be necessary, as well as a ledger for accounts, and a scale and weights. Butteries in English houses commonly had additional space above them. It is likely that a separate buttery building would have had a loft, but we do not know how it would have been used.

Cape Merchant's Office

Even as early as 1607, there was always a person in the position of Cape Merchant in James Fort. This person was one of the top ranking officials in the fort and would have a minimum of two clerks working for him. The Cape Merchant was responsible for keeping track of all goods that were imported to or exported from the colony of Virginia. James Fort was the legal port of entry for the colony of Virginia. All goods enter or leaving Virginia had to come through James Fort and the Cape Merchant. This was the only way the Virginia Company had of keeping track of its expenditures and profits in Virginia. The clerks



did most of the physical labor of record keeping. They would be the ones at the loading and unloading of ships, keeping careful records the goods and supplies. The Cape Merchant would oversee the work of the clerks. The surviving records are unclear if the Cape Merchant was responsible for trading with the Powhatan Indians. This probably changed as the leadership and the person in the position of Cape Merchant changed. Well-known examples of men who served as Cape Merchant for the London Company are John Smith and John Rolfe. John Smith did trade with the Powhatan Indians as part of his duties as Cape Merchant. By the time John Rolfe was appointed Cape Merchant, keeping track of tobacco exportation had become an overwhelming responsibility of the position.



The Cape Merchant probably did not live in the Cape Merchant's Office due to his status. His clerks may have lived in the office when needed due to population increases in James Fort. The current building does not have a loft, but a loft could have been present in the cape merchant's office inside James Fort in the early 17th century. Material culture for this building includes chests, ledgers, pens, inkwells, table or desk, etc.

Governor's House (Tom Davidson, 2002)

One of the structures that stood within the Ford during the martial law period was the Governor's House, that is, the official residence of the governor or lieutenant/deputy governor of Virginia. Until 1610 the authority of the Virginia Company within the Virginia colony was vested in a council with rotating leadership. This pattern of government proved unsuccessful, however, and beginning in early 1610 the company chose to rule Virginia through an appointed governor. When the governor was not resident in Virginia, which during the early years of the colony was most of the time, a lieutenant or deputy governor was appointed to act in his place. The lieutenant/deputy governor did not simply act for the governor; he was effectively the governor's vice-regent. That is, he was the visible symbol of the governor's authority in Virginia, and ultimately the symbol of both the Company and the King in the colony.



As such, the lieutenant/deputy governor was expected to live in a style that was more appropriate to a person of his importance. This was not a matter of personal preference. In Stuart England symbols meant a great deal. The incumbents in important offices were expected to uphold the honor of those offices by observing appropriate forms and rituals and by equipping themselves and their households with artifacts that marked their status. When George Percy was acting as governor in 1611, for

example, one of his concerns was that "the place which I hold in the colony cannot be defrayed with small expense, it standing on my reputation, being governor of James Town, to keep a continual table for gentlemen of fashion about me". (Brown, 1880, p.500) Although the son of an earl, Percy clearly felt he did not have the wherewithal to live up to the standard set by Governor West during that official's tenure in the colony.

We don't know what the governor's house built by Gates looked like. However, we can make some inferences about the building. It would have been larger and better built than an ordinary dwelling house



in James Fort. A 1619 reference notes that the house was one of the very few older buildings still standing at Jamestown, which suggests that it was better built and better maintained than most other houses. (McCartney, *ibid.*, p. 64) The Governor's House would likely have had architectural elements that were not found on other dwelling structures of the same time period. There probably would be at least one sizeable room in the house where meetings could be held. Finally, the furnishings within the house would be high quality imports and would be of a mixed domestic and official character.

Two of the elements that will be included in the governor's house that are not represented in the other domestic spaces in our reconstructed James Fort are a glass window and a cast iron fire back. Both of these items would be found in any English residence of the period that made any claim of high status. While there is no direct evidence for either of these kinds of artifacts from a martial law period Fort context, we do know from other Company Period sites in Virginia that both glass casement windows and cast iron fire backs had reached the colony by the 1620's. The presence of these elements in the governor's House, but nowhere else in the Fort, will underscore the important difference in status between the governor and literally everybody else who lived in Virginia.



Otherwise the governor's house itself will stand out mainly for the higher level of its interior finish. There will be more use of tiles as both decorative and functional elements, for example. The main status indicator of the governor's house, however, will be the furnishings. These will be better in both style and quality than those we normally include in a Fort building, and all will be interpreted as being of English rather than Virginia manufacture. The governor's house will offer an excellent opportunity to discuss status issues as well as the more obvious political issues, and will increase significantly the interpretive potential of our James Fort.

All Photos by Sandy Toscano, except for the Governor's House; Photo's of the Governor's House by Diane Glewwe



THE ARMORED HORSE IN EUROPE
1480-1620

The Metropolitan Museum of Art

The Armored Horse in Europe, 1480-1620

February 15, 2005-January 15, 2006

Arms and Armor Galleries, 1st floor, Arthur Ochs Sulzberger Gallery

The horse was an integral part of medieval and Renaissance culture, not only as a beast of burden but also as a sign of rank and status. For the nobility equitation was an essential skill, both socially and militarily. Horses played a pivotal role in warfare for several centuries and often wore armor as elaborate and expensive as that of their riders. Drawing exclusively from items in the reserve collection, many of them unpublished and rarely seen before, this exhibition examines various types of European horse armor in terms of style, construction, and decoration, from the peak period of its use ca. 1500 through its eventual obsolescence in the early 17th century. Accompanied by a catalogue

The Metropolitan Museum of Art: 1000 Fifth Avenue at 82nd Street, New York, New York 10028-0198;
General Information: 212-535-7710; <http://www.metmuseum.org/home.asp>

Gardiners Companie Shirts – LAST CALL!

Place your orders now. Deadline Oct. 31, 2005.

Shirt options are: Black T-shirts and sweatshirts with a White Ink Imprint. Blue and Grey T-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 is of lightweight material.

T-shirts: S, M, L, XL = \$10; XXL = 12; XXXL = \$13 Sweatshirts: S, M, L, XL = \$15; XXL = 17; XXXL = \$18

PLEASE NOTE: 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.

ORDER FORM

Name

Mailing Address

City, State, Zip

Phone No.

E-mail Address

T-shirts

Gardiner’s Blue or Grey (with black ink); Black (with white ink);

T-shirts: S, M, L, XL = \$10; XXL = 12; XXXL = \$13

Quantity	Size and Color	Price Each	Total

Sweatshirts

Grey (with black ink) or Black (with white ink)

Sweatshirts: S, M, L, XL = \$15; XXL = 17; XXXL = \$18

Quantity	Size and Color	Price Each	Total



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

Grand total = _____

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

Gardiners Company

c/o Diane Glewwe, 1808 Noblewood Ct., Frederick, MD 21702

Need info? 301-698-1269; noblewood@adelphia.net