

## "Who's Who" of Houston

"Don't rejoice in his defeat, you men. For though the world stood up and stopped the bastard, the bitch that bore him is in heat again." - - Bertolt Brecht

"Good breeding consists of concealing how much we think of ourselves and how little we think of the other person." - Mark Twain

Chris Kanute wrote:

>>Lies. All lies. Ghouls are extremely useful as guards and soldiers!!! The renegades were soundly defeated because of careful planning on the part of players!!!

Oh yeah. I'm a regular Wellington, and we privately refer to Clayton as "Little Shaka". Careful planning my left foot:

Player #1 (through snaggle teeth): "Hughhuh! We take sticks, we rush roll-building-thingie, we beat them all! They not move! Hughghh..."

Player #2 (drooling): "Nuuh-uh! Bombs! Make big bombs! Blow up! Huh huh huh..." (claps hands, adopts dreamy, absent expression)

Player #1 (scratches self): "Yuh! Yuh! Bombs good! Blow up things! Bombs, then sticks!"

Player #3 (picking through Player #1's hair for lice): "Mmmm... Food..." (smacks lips)

Player #4 (low, criminal brow & slanted forehead): "Hey! You getting all the crunchy ones! My turn now!" (strikes Player #3 with rancid bone)

Player #2 (still drooling): "Nice bombs... mmmm... bombs... Hey! Lice! Whoohuuhoohoo Hughghh!" (howls, beats chest)

(The situation swiftly disintegrates...)

BRT

**Archivist** Maintains Kindred records. Specifically, the Prince's Law, the ancestry of acknowledged Kindred in the city, the Prince's decrees, and whatever other formal documents the Prince considers essential (e.g., records kept by the previous Prince).

I suspect you'd only see Archivists in large cities, places where the status quo has gone on for a while and there is enough social organization to impel the Prince to behave at least a little bit according to precedent. Though it isn't hard to imagine the uses for "genealogical" records of Embraces for all the locals, you don't necessarily need a vampire to do it (I'd bet that many Princes probably just have a trusted mortal do this work).

**Castellan** Answerable to the prince or primogen. Tasked with organizing the pomp, pagentary, and security of official gatherings (e.g. court and primogen meetings).

**Consort** Amber Cash

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**Count**

**Duke**

**Envoy**

**Lictor** Prince's ceremonial hatchet-man, responsible for formally announcing Blood Hunts, and has First Right to hunt a convicted vampire.

My thought is that normally Lictor would be a very ceremonial job. After all, what would he be responsible for most of the time, aside from looking threatening at formal occasions? OTOH, if you were a vampire with diabolist tendencies, holding an office like Lictor would be a good cover for any... oddities that might show up in your aura. I'd imagine that two types of vampires would be attracted to it: those interested in holding a cool title (say, a young and clueless Toreador with a powerful Sire and a fondness for black masks and big axes), and those with Very Low Humanity...

**Magistrate** Leo Bjork

City level job. Gives a non-binding, "expert" judgement on the case at hand ranging from accusations of diabolorie to breaches of the Masquerade. Reviews the facts, reputations, pedigree, etc that surround the case. Appointed by the Prince and/or Primogen. Depending on the city or even the situation this individual's judgement is trusted and sought or recognized as nothing more than a rubber stamp of approval for the Prince's decision.

**Primogen**

- William Dobbs (supplied soldiers)
- Kenneth Vaughn (supplied soldiers)
- Howard Jacobs (security chief)
- Martin Verdoux (spy master)
- Simon Bradford (organized the war)
- Severo Morales (supplied spies and soldiers)
- Ventrue - Dmitri Meloft (supplied soldiers and political clout)

**Prince** Simon Bradford

**Protector of  
Elysium**

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**Scourge** Jeffrey Harper

**Sheriff** Glenn Tanner

**Tribune** Useful only when there is distance between the Primogen and the Prince. Appointed by the Primogen as their official representative to voice their concerns to the Prince.

### **Brujah**

#### ***William Dobbs***

**Titles:** Primogen

**Background:**

- American born, embraced because of his political associations. Fervent communist. Believed in the worker's paradise. Spent mortal years as a reporter, union organizer, and red.
- By 1950's William was utterly disillusioned by Communism. Redirected his drive toward championing underdog causes and persons within the Kindred community.
- Young, but politically savvy and well connected.

#### ***Jim Packard***

**Titles:**

**Sire:** same as William Dobbs

**Generation:** 8<sup>th</sup>

**Birth:** 1893

**RIP:** 1922

**Apparent Age:** 35

**Real Age:** 110

**Background:**

- Jim's background mirrors that of William, though he saw the violent and seedy side of those same events because he tended more toward bomb throwing. Jim is quite nostalgic for the good ol' days.
- Can be a fair, though crude, politician when required.

#### ***Glenn Tanner***

**Titles:** Sheriff

**Background:**

- Former British soldier.
- Tough, hide-bound, rarely frenzies, and a Jobsworth.
- Glenn asked for the Sheriff position.
- Believes the state is more important than the individual or the clans.
- Knows that the Scourge is inept but does not intrude upon his domain. Glenn expects the same consideration from the Scourge and has punished Jeffery in the past for failing to observe this.

**Visual:**

- "IMHO, the Sheriff is a Man Who Gets Things Done, albeit one with a reasonable perspective upon the political realities of the

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city. I think of him rather as a trained attack dog with a nagging sore tooth. He'll be very dangerous to people his master regards as enemies or unimportant, and only negligently dangerous to people his master can't totally ignore. At the least, he is fairly easy to understand." - Jack Rowell, Ventrue

- The Sheriff is sort of out to get us, but at least we can rely on him to be consistent - Clayton Burrel, Setite/Caitiff
- "I suppose I trust most of the major players in a sort of don't bug me and I won't rub you out sort of way. I get a little nervous around the sheriff... like he sees me as a constant sort of irritation but is afraid to do anything about it owing to my lineage. I wonder if he is trying to get me to piss off Galliard's associates so that they will do me in for him. At the same time I see him as reliable to do his job and not directly hunt another kindred." - Oliver Bradford, Toreador

### **Jon Galliard**

**Titles:** Fallen Patron of the Players

- Visual:**
- "If Jon Galliard is still alive, we should fear him. He's already faked his death once, knowingly leaving about two dozen ghouls to die miserably in the process. For all that he might be my long-lost patron, I'm not that eager to welcome him back with open arms..." - Jack Rowell, Ventrue
  - "If he feared for his life, then he may have left the ghouls there to see who would try to nab them and demand information. He may have other feelers out there. I mean, he may just think someone is gunning for him, went to ground thoroughly enough to see who would move in on his turf. What this means is that at some point, the PCs may get violent visitors demanding to know where he is." - Clayton Burrel, Setite/Caitiff

### **Rick "Sticks" Gioboa**

**Titles:**

**Sire:** William Dobbs

- Background:**
- Mobster affiliated with organized labor. Forced to pull up roots and move to Houston by sire.
  - Blood bound to sire.
  - Tends to be rude, boring, and likes his two piece jogging suits (Jersey style).
  - Owns the territory just west of the PC's. It contains a number of bars, pool halls, and hourly rate hotels. Rick is in the following rackets through his mortal henchmen: prostitution, drugs, protection, and loan sharking. He's looking to get into some more lucrative markets.

**Allies:** Reputed to have an "unseen" helper.

- Visual:**
- "Sticks we trust so far as we have an agreement" - Clayton Burrel, Setite/Caitiff

### **Alan "The Face" Fontain**

**Titles:**

**Sire:** Rick Gioboa

- Background:**
- Mob lawyer. Embraced for contacts within police, politics, and

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courts. Also responsible for laundering monies.

### **Michelle Palmer**

**Titles:**

**Sire:** William Dobbs

**Background:**

- Feminist writer and political activist
- Michelle hates William Dobbs and makes no secret of it.

### **Ricky "Sultan" Sanchez**

**Titles:**

**Background:**

- Middleweight boxer, world contender in 1978. Embraced in 1980 under revenge circumstances. A native of Eagle Pass, Ricky had returned home when his immediate family was killed by a seemingly random act of violence, probably a quick snack for a Sabbat pack moving north.
- Ricky lead the attack on one of the Sabbat pack lairs. Ricky likes killing Sabbat. Ricky likes boxing. Ricky's a scary guy.

### **Marigold**

**Titles:**

**Sire:** Glen Tanner

**Background:**

- Reportedly embraced by Glenn because she reminded him of one of his mortal daughters. There are other rumors about the nature of their relationship, which tend to provoke violent reactions from both of them.
- Marigold gets away with murder because of who her sire is.

### **Pam**

**Visual:** Veteran of the civil rights movement of 1960's.

### **"Nickels", AKA Tommy Walkinson AKA Thomas Bumbaclard**

**Background:**

- Nickels grew up on the tough streets of Washington D.C., where he picked up his nickname pushing \$5 bags of heroin.
- Recruited for all of the wrong reasons; he was a source of funds and brutality with an above average knack for doing them. He built a huge criminal empire in Washington D.C., which was gutted during the Reagan years and forced Nickels to rethink his ways.
- Nickels took part in the battles to retake Houston. In return, he got a new place to live and a new start. The battles absorbed most of his remaining resources (i.e. treasure and retainers), but gained him a fair amount of status within the Clan and Camarilla.
- Supposedly moving out of crime.

## **Gangrel**

### **Kenneth Vaughn**

**Titles:** Primogen

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- Sire:** Peter Burke
- Background:**
- Kenneth Vaughn is not your typical Gangrel. He loves his Kindred life, especially the seedy political and back alley murder side of it.
  - Kenneth is the Primogen because no one more important or tougher wants it. Most of Kenneth's power is through the backing of his all Gangrel coterie. Of course, it is a different story outside of the city, where Peter Burke's word is highly respected and city folk are ridiculed.
  - Kenneth understands that he doesn't wield as much power as the rest of the Primogen, but he knows his time will come if he can just hang on.
- Allies:** Gangrel Coterie
- Visual:**
- "Right now, I'm wondering just how much Majid was paying Kenneth to ignore his presence. I'm assuming that Kenneth had the power shut off as a way of warning Majid that bad stuff was inbound, and that he did this very deliberately. To me, this says that either:
    - Kenneth was on the take from Majid;
    - Kenneth was deeply afraid of Majid (specifically, of confronting Majid); or
    - Kenneth was \*friends\* with Majid.
  - Note: I suggest that 2/3 of these possibilities indicate that we should treat Kenneth with a certain amount of care (#1 and #3)."
  - - Jack Rowell, Ventrue
  - "The scourge and Kenneth I see as largely interested in only self preservation... as in they won't lift a finger to help a kindred unless they will reap an immediate gain." - Oliver Bradford, Toreador

### ***Peter Burke, AKA "Grandfather"***

- Background:**
- Peter has the respect of his fellow Gangrel in spades. He's brave, honest (at least amongst the Gangrel), and has his good works.

### ***Lucy Martinez AKA "City Girl"***

- Background:**
- Peter briefly tutored Lucy before she fled to the city and fell in with Kenneth Vaughn. She seems to have the attitude that the "the woods are bad" beyond the usual concept of getting lost, exposure, hunger, bugs, etc. Lucy hates the wilderness with a passion. It's creepy.
  - Lucy is smart and has disciplines unexpected in a young Gangrel (celerity and Obfuscate).

### ***Marty Wiscord AKA "Little Martin"***

- Background:**
- A big, fat ego.
  - He would have much-preferred embrace by a more socially oriented clan. It's hard to get recognition when you're running around in

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the woods. That's why Marty moved to the city and fell in with Kenneth. It's only by being in the city that Marty can obtain the accolades and rank he deserves. Marty is also slightly pissed that his mortal friends think he's dead. He would much prefer that circumstances allow him to rub their noses in his good fortune.

- Possibly the most murderous of the Kenneth coterie.

### *Chet Ferguson*

**Background:**

- Used to be a park ranger.
- Chet Ferguson is a prudent man. He was never a tough guy. He didn't take chances he didn't have too. He won't start a fight or become involved in one without a lot of thought.

## Malkavian

### *Howard Jacobs*

**Titles:** Primogen

**Background:**

- Who knows?

**Derangement:**

- Howard is paranoid. People are out to get him. Why? Because they're jealous of Howard. He's brilliant, charismatic, kind, etc... Howard likes to get rid of such individuals, if possible. Howard is walking a razor's edge, balancing his purges, plots, and threats with what the other elders will put up with. They'll need to go, too... eventually.
- Howard loves purging other Malkavians. They threaten his power base. Besides they're crazy and unpredictable.
- Howard relies heavily on the blood bound to keep his treacherous ghouls and childer in line.

### *Steve Escamilla*

**Background:**

- Steve Escamilla was a successful Latino businessman owning a multitude of restaurants, small business, and a trucking company. The late 1980's crash hit him hard financially.
- Steve has strong ties to the Latino community and is rumored to have a smuggling enterprise.

**Derangement:**

- manic/depressive

### *Paul Trenton a.k.a. "Flasher", a.k.a. "Pervert"*

**Background:**

- Paul Trenton is the original dirty old man. In his mortal days he got his kicks by exposing himself to women via the time honored trench coat.
- Trenton is rumored to be one of Jack Bradford's spies.

**Derangement:** Flashing related issues.

**Visual:**

- Kramer from Sienfield
- "Flashers in raincoats and random Tremere - we don't trust" - Clayton Burrel, Setite/Caitiff

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### Nosferatu

#### *Martin Verdoux*

**Titles:** Primogen  
**Sire:**  
**Generation:** 6<sup>th</sup>  
**Birth:** 1345  
**RIP:** 1380  
**Apparent Age:** too ugly to tell  
**Real Age:** 655 years  
**Background:**

- Martin Verdoux was a French noble who fled the revolution, where his aristocratic ways made him a target. He fled to England and later the United States.
- Martin is still quite the aristocrat. He dresses richly, especially when at court. He expects the courtesy and respect that is due his rank, and will forcibly demand it if needed. It is rumored that he extracts "tribute" from the lesser members of his clan in Houston.
- Martin also adheres to the belief that rank has its responsibilities, especially to his people.

#### *Angela AKA Angie*

**Sire:** Martin Verdoux  
**Background:**

- Little is know about Angela other than she acts as Martin's voice when he does not care enough to do something himself.

**Deformity:** Tends to dress in rags to hide her deformities which primarily feature cancerous growths on her body, along with disease-colored tissue.

#### *Spider*

**Background:**

- Spider appears to be a teenager acting out some sort of death worshipping, power trip. He really loves slasher flicks.

**Deformity:**

- A rather dwarfish like torso, head shaped like a watermelon, and long spider like limbs. Is capable of folding himself into all sorts of nooks and crannies.
- Spider is somewhat unhappy with his deformity, but man he looks cool and scary!

**Visual:**

- "Spider seems reasonable" - Clayton Burrel, Setite/Caitiff

#### *Sphinx AKA Poker Face*

**Titles:**  
**Background:**

- Sphinx's is constantly at court (the Prince's and Martin Verdoux). He is know to act as Martin's eyes and ears and is often called upon to advise Martin.

**Deformity:**

- Statue like features incapable of showing human emotion. Skin is tough, blotchy yellow with small spots of brown. His features are angular and appear to be carved from rock. His features never show emotion, pain, or anything other than the solid features of a statue. Repetitive motion or frenzied activity tends to produce small showers of skin that shot off. Many people have trouble

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trusting him because of his lack of readability.

### *Sally*

**Titles:**

**Sire:** Pet

**Background:**

- Sally was a cute, vibrant young lady who attracted the unwanted attention of a Nosferatu. She ain't cute no more.
- Sally is very unhappy. Mentally she is looking for some payback.

**Deformity:**

- Normal sorts of things: grey to green skin, lumps, uneven teeth, patchy hair, etc... As an added bonus Sally slowly but constantly bleeds from the eyes, nose, mouth, and ears. The reason for this is that every day her skin "grows" back over these areas, forcing her to cut the skin away in order to see, smell, talk, and hear. This is painful.

### **Toreador**

#### *Simon Bradford*

**Titles:** Prince

**Background:**

- Simon remained in England until he chose the wrong side in the war between the Roundheads and King Charles. King Charles was put to death in 1649, shortly before which Simon fled to the Americas.
- Simon settled first in Philadelphia and then later in Washington, D.C., where he staked out portions of the government. His power grew with the Federal Government, though he found himself sharing the government and the city with more Kindred as time passed. Eventually, Simon realized that the Princedom would never be his, so he started looking around until his eye fell on Houston.
- Simon is a product of his time standing at approximately 5'6". He is also a product of inbreeding and suffers from a weak chin and huge nose.
- Main mortal servant is Bob Ritchey.

#### *Jack Bradford*

**Titles:** Duke of Galveston

**Sire:** Simon Bradford

**Background:**

- Jack Bradford was born to plantation nobility. He never was much of an artist, but was a gifted architect. Plus, he cuts a rather dashing figure when properly attired.
- Embraced by Simon as part of the "keep it in the family" sort of mentality.
- Jack has a minor reputation as an Auspex oracle.
- Jack holds domain over Galveston as Duke. The domain absorbs most of his attention, followed closely by self induced "day dreams" from which he sometimes glimpses the future.

#### *Peter Dire*

**Background:**

- Peter Dire is a Shakespearean actor. He's good. He can even do special effects.

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**Visual:** Think of Master Thespian.

### ***Cody and Kate Flashman***

**Titles:** Keepers of Elysium

**Background:**

- Husband and wife.
- New Money describes Cody and Kate, whose fortune was earned as war profiteers during WWI. They tend to be garish and flashy, but they are definitely the type of Toreador know as sharks.
- In Toreador circles, the Flashman's are thought of as "the important" people because they are the Keepers of Elysium.

### ***Darren Rutheford***

**Background:**

- A writer of operas.
- Considered by most kindred to be insane, mainly due to his huge collection of mortals that act as his speech symphony. It also does not help that Darren has almost entirely withdrawn from kindred affairs, reportedly to work on his masterpiece.
- Definitely an elder but owns no title within Houston. He arrived after the city was retaken from the Sabbat and set up residence.

### ***Jan Fine***

**Background:**

- Adult film star who is actually capable of acting. Something of a social pariah amongst the "serious artists" of the Toreador clan.

### ***Sebastian Locke***

**Background:**

- An extraordinary surgeon with a huge amount of experience in plastic surgery and repairing sports injuries.
- Rumored to have the ability to reshape kindred features permanently without benefit of disciplines or blood magic.

**Visual:** Full of himself and his skills.

## **Tremere**

The Tremere of Houston are split into two camps. Severo Morales heads the stronger of the two camps (it appears to adhere closely to Tremere rules and hierarchy).

The second camp appears to be some sort of think tank as most of its members were scientists of some sort during their mortal days.

Both groups try to out do each other from time to time, but mostly they just try to pretend the other group doesn't exist.

### ***Severo Morales***

**Titles:** Primogen

### ***Kalista Truant, AKA "The Witch"***

**Background:**

- Rumored to have been a New England witch before her embrace. Also, has a reputation of having slept her way to the top.
- Currently the number two Tremere is Severo's chantry.

**Allies:**

- Holds a lot influence in the HPD.

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### **Malcolm Carter, AKA "Burnout", AKA "Shaky"**

- Background:**
- Malcolm was embraced for his research abilities in the library sciences area and the promising interest he showed in the occult. He has worked wonders at organizing the various occult libraries of his chantry.
  - Malcolm is clearly burned out from his adventures and the company he keeps. He's constantly afraid. As a result, Malcolm is a physical coward unless cornered like a rat. He might best be described as "broken".
- Visual:**
- "The Tremere coward seems harmless enough to trust" - Clayton Burrell, Setite/Caitiff

### **The Scientists**

#### **Elizabeth Griss**

**Titles:**

**Sire:** Marla Tiers

- Background:**
- Elizabeth is the head of the scientist Tremere. Her job appears to be that of administrator, keeping her fellow scientists well supplied, on track, and free of distractions.
  - Wants the Primogen seat occupied by Severo.

#### **Osamu Takado**

**Titles:**

**Sire:** Marla Tiers

- Background:**
- Another of Marla's brood, Osamu is an expert in computer-related skills and heavily interested in all things occult. Beyond these Osamu is the stereo-typically of the Japanese businessman: dresses well, concerned with station, works hard, etc...
  - Osamu is well known for weather manipulation and somewhat less well known for his rituals dealing with machines.

#### **Leo Bjork**

**Titles:** Magistrate

**Sire:** Elizabeth Griss

- Background:**
- Leo Bjork was a ME in his mortal life.
  - Leo has a well-earned reputation for being a servant of the truth. He will not lie except to protect the Masquerade. This has landed him in trouble a number of times. OTH, it is a trait that is admired, so Leo is a good front man for Elizabeth's faction. In fact, this trait landed him the office of Magistrate.
  - Socially, Leo is difficult to like because of lying problem.

### **Ventrue**

#### **Dmitri Meloft**

**Titles:** Primogen

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- Background:**
- Hungarian. He was one of the heroes who joined in the various adventures of the Eastern European nations to hold back the Turkish hordes. After a number of hard campaigns Dmitri returned to his homeland where he was embraced.
  - Rumored to have been an archon to one of the Ventrue Justicars.

### ***Amber Cash***

**Titles:**

**Sire:** Lester Thorn

- Background:**
- Rumored to have been a mere maid-in-waiting during her mortal days. More vicious rumors say she was an easy tumble and only gained her embrace via the lustfully attentions of a Ventrue.
  - Lived for a short time in Scotland, then moved to America where she met Simon Bradford. The two eventually fell in love. Their relationship has been strained at times but still persists to this day.
  - Amber spends her nights staying abreast of the latest Camarilla news and advising Simon Bradford

### ***Narda Cash***

**Titles:**

**Sire:** Amanda Cash

- Background:**
- Belgian by birth, Narda's first loyalty has always been to Imperial France.
  - Reported to be well traveled and widely known in kindred circles in America and Europe.
  - Her's is a great beauty that is only matched by her vapid behavior.

### ***Jeffrey Harper***

**Titles:** Scourge

**Pedigree:** Distant relative of Dmitri Meloft

- Background:**
- Jeffrey Harper is typical of the "new" Ventrue. He was embraced for his success by today's standards rather than for his noble blood. He is a black yuppie: young, in good shape, successful, and used to the finer things in life.
  - Wanted a fast track to power and got his sire's help in getting the office of scourge.
  - Scourge, the Office: Jeffrey Harper is the 6<sup>th</sup> individual to hold the office since Prince Simon came to power. He started in early 1997 and has learned many painful lessons since then, though most he has avoided the second time around. Currently, his greatest stumbling blocks are a lack of good intelligence and the inability to overpower or overawe his opponents.

The worst example of this occurred on Halloween night 1998. A large group of kindred besieged Jeffrey in his haven. They spent the night capering about in Halloween costumes, setting fires, and making half-hearted attempts to get inside. Jeffrey had no idea the group was in his area and was incapable of driving them away. Jeffrey barely avoided severe punishment from the Prince for this "failure".

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**Allies:**

**Visual:**

- Since then Jeffrey has worked hard to be more effective
- Almost any company or organization dealing with communications.
- "We vaguely trust the Scourge" - Clayton Burrel, Setite/Caitiff
- "The scourge and Kenneth I see as largely interested in only self preservation... as in they won't lift a finger to help a kindred unless they will reap an immediate gain." - Oliver Bradford, Toreador
- "Because he is either too selfish to help for fear some one will surpass him, or (maybe even and) he is too stupid to realize that being part of a solution will give him prestige that in turn will give him either more resources (ghouls, vamps, money, equipment, contacts, etc) or even better a less crappy job. I would think the scourge would be an extremely good stepping stone to a political career (assuming that you live through the process). On the other hand I would be willing to try dealing with him one more time." - Oliver Bradford, Toreador