



## **Pre-Generated Character Backgrounds**

The following character backgrounds are those that I pre-generated for my first Dark Continent game, the excellent Captives Of Abyssinia from the GM's guide. Feel free to use as your own although as always I'd be most grateful if you would retain the URL for this site on the sheets. As with the blank character sheets above I have produced these in Visio. Each has a brief description and then an outline of their personal motivations as well as a list of equipment which they possessed prior to outfitting the expedition.

### **Henry Winstanley – Missionary - British**

For three years Henry served as a British Army chaplain before leaving to spend time in the French Foreign Legion. There he ministered to the runaway souls who wanted little more than to lose themselves, or in some cases to get themselves killed, indeed for many the Legion was little more than assisted suicide. The Legion just wasn't hard enough for Henry so now he's gone to Africa to spread the good word to people who really need his help. Henry is always reluctant to talk about his military experiences; he would rather discuss the role of the Church in today's society.

Win over some converts for the Christian faith, save some souls. Minister to the needy and the dying. It is said that entry to the Kingdom of Heaven is not achieved by works alone, but if it were Henry would have plenty of space reserved for him by now. Totally loyal, completely committed, utterly dependable and oftentimes completely lacking in tact, that is Henry.

*Equipment; Explorer Kit (water bottle, mess kit, bedroll, mosquito net, notebook), Additional Clothing (standard), Additional Clothing (formal evening or dinnerware), Knife (hunting), Chassepot 11mm rifle (French Army issue), 50rnds Ammunition (rifle).*

### **Alexander Bartholomew – Adventurer - American**

Alexander was previously engaged to our patron, Lady Constance, who broke off their engagement seven days before the wedding almost breaking the young mans heart. Alex decided to take his fathers advice and "pull himself together" and "get over it" and chose to do so by seeking adventure in the new continent. Now it seems Constance needs his help. Somewhat rashly, without hearing what Constance needs Alex has sworn to help in any way he can – could this his chance to renew their relationship?

Prove your worth to Constance, show that you would do anything for her. Redeeming her love for you is all that matters. Oh yes that and becoming famous and making a fortune so you don't have to beg your father for any more money. That way the next time he tells you to "grow up", to "get over it" and "pull yourself together" you can tell him to stick his inheritance where the Zanzibar monkeys stick their nuts.

*Equipment; Explorer Kit (water bottle, mess kit, bedroll, mosquito net, notebook), Additional Clothing (standard), Additional Clothing (formal evening or dinnerware), Navigation Equipment, Martini Henry rifle (British Army issue), 50rnds Ammunition (rifle).*

### **Horace Albert Pocock – Trader - British**

Since coming to Zanzibar to "seek his fortune" Horace has been treated like minor royalty by all of the cities most influential people, all because they believe he is related to the Pocock brothers who accompanied Stanley in 1879. It would disappoint so many people to discover otherwise. Although Horace has never pretended to have family connections, he's never actually denied it either. Horace will be delighted when he can actually join a small expedition and get out of Zanzibar, being a famous Pocock is difficult especially as he hasn't a clue as to who they were or what they did.



## **A Resource For Dark Continent.**

How simple could it be – get out of Zanzibar and make some money, if you can make a name for yourself at the same time all well and good!

*Equipment; Explorer Kit (water bottle, mess kit, bedroll, mosquito net, notebook), Additional Clothing (standard), Additional Clothing (formal evening or dinnerware), Tropical Medical Kit, Pocket Colt revolver, 50rnds Ammunition (small bore pistol).*

### **Nathan Hogarth Masterson – Shootist - American**

If you need to get from A to B safely then you need a big gun and “Nate” is a big gun. Lions, Tigers, Elephants if it moves he’ll have it mounted and put on the wall of the study back home. Nate doesn’t mind embarking on small expeditions like this one, it will take him to new places and present him with new game to hunt as well as providing some manly company away from all these ghastly women.

Get out of the towns and into the open air, face danger like a man should. Not that you doubt that you’re a man – oh no. But then again it wouldn’t hurt to prove to yourself that you’re a real man, just once more. Bravery, guns, fighting, rescuing the weak, defeating evil these are the things that real men do. Oh yes and the good looking Mr Bartholemew has promised that anything you bring back is yours, none of this “share and share alike nonsense”.

*Equipment; Explorer Kit (water bottle, mess kit, bedroll, mosquito net, notebook), Additional Clothing (standard), Additional Clothing (formal evening or dinnerware), Knife (hunting), Purdey Express rifle (modified sights), Winchester repeating rifle ,50rnds Ammunition (rifle), Remington New Model Army revolver, 50rnds Ammunition (large bore pistol).*

### **James Donald Alastair Stewart McBlaine – Explorer - Scottish**

You have to admit that although in the last two years you have managed to lose yourself in the jungles and mountains, have discovered eleven previously unknown species of spider and have spent your entire family fortune you just haven’t managed to make a name for yourself. What on earth did Livingstone ever do that you haven’t? Any fool can get lost after all! Now you find yourself enlisting in smaller explorations for the money and possible prestige, it’s a temporary thing.

Work on this expedition is for two things only; firstly, make some money – there has to be something worth bringing back, animal, vegetable or mineral! Secondly, improve your social standing. As much as you dislike people like Masterson and Bartholemew they do have certain standing in the world of African exploration, it won’t hurt to be mentioned in the same reports.

*Equipment; Explorer Kit (water bottle, mess kit, bedroll, mosquito net, notebook), Additional Clothing (standard), Additional Clothing (formal evening or dinnerware), Small Cage & Collectors Kit, 2 x Pocket Colt revolvers, 50rnds Ammunition (small bore pistol).*

### **Assefa Wondweson – Wangwana Headman – African Native**

Assefa has made a moderately successful career out of working with European visitors on a number of small expeditions ever since he was forced to find a new way of life after his village and family were destroyed by one of Emperor Theodore’s war bands. He finds the Europeans and their way of life fascinating and seeks to imitate their style whenever he can. He loves to collect items of European bric-a-brac, his favourite being a black umbrella which he keeps with him at all times.

Assefa wishes to improve his reputation as an expedition head man, he has worked on many small expeditions with visiting ferenghi and believes that it is time to take a step up and start choosing which explorers and hunters he wants to work with. “Mr Alex”, Masterson and to some extent McBlaine can all help him in this by providing personal recommendations. Being associated with one of the Pocock family is also very good for his own reputation. He wants simply to ensure that the trip is a success.



## **A Resource For Dark Continent.**

Assefa also understands that in helping his woman “Mr Alex” is working against the Emperor Theodore, a man he holds responsible for destroying his family village. Although he is not foolish enough to want to take on Theodore directly, anything that might upset his plans is good to Assefa’s way of thinking.

*Equipment; Explorer Kit (water bottle, mess kit, bedroll, mosquito net, notebook), Additional Clothing (standard), Umbrella (black with bone handle), Machette, Martini Henry rifle (British Army issue), 50rnds Ammunition (rifle).*

### **Captain Giles Anthony Potherington – Military Officer - British**

You are a long standing friend of the Fairchild family and have known Lady Constance since you were a child. Although you know her well, there has never been any romantic entanglement; you are truly just great friends. Once you heard of Lake’s predicament, you immediately offered your service to “Connie” and began lobbying your military and political friends. You are aware that the War Office have instructed General Napier to begin preparing for a military operation of huge scale in which the safety of Lake and others like him will be of little consequence. You have “unofficially” been seconded by the War Office to lend Lady Constance whatever assistance she requires in trying to independently to free Lake before Napier is ready with his troops. You have travelled to Zanzibar with “Connie”; this is your first trip outside of Europe.

Your personal goal, to rescue Lake for “Connie”. Gather whatever intelligence you can that may assist Napier in his preparations. You have been given the name of a “Major Bartlett” with whom you are to make contact in Adulis. He will be able to give you the latest update on Napier’s preparations and the situation with Theodore as it stands.

*Equipment; Explorer Kit (water bottle, mess kit, bedroll, mosquito net, notebook), Additional Clothing (standard), Additional Clothing (formal evening or dinnerware), Martini Henry rifle (British Army issue - modified sights), 50rnds Ammunition (rifle), Remington New Model Army revolver, 50rnds Ammunition (large bore pistol).*