

Spring, 2015



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE BRIGADE OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION NORTHWEST DEPARTMENT

B.A.R. SHOT

Commander: Bob Cairns (330) 455-9722

B.A.R. SHOT Editor: Karen Kashary (330) 523-0629

NWD Commander's Corner

NWD Members;

I'm very pleased and excited about the schedule the NWD Board has arranged for our 2015 event season. We will open with the Civil War Show, one of the largest militaria shows in the country. We are returning to several historic sites, Ft. Niagara and Hannastown, where we have done things in the past, but it has been a while. We will be using a new site for our Firelock Match, The Log Cabin Shop, and the NWTa has accepted our invitation to attend our annual Ft. Laurens event, which should make it even larger than usual. We will again be in West Virginia for Ft. Randolph and Ft. Henry Days, and will close the season with our annual event at Brecksville, followed by our School, which will have some surprises as well. I hope you all will put these on your schedule, and attend as many events as possible. We always have a good time, but the more of us that are present increases the possibilities.

I am also pleased that Roy Najecki, 40th Ft., proprietor of Najecki's Reproductions and former B.A.R. National Inspector, has generously granted us permission to reproduce in this newsletter a pamphlet he put together some time ago on the proper fit, appearance and wearing of clothing and equipment. I hope you will study this information and save the pamphlet as a guide. Its use will help improve your impression, your unit's impression, and the NWD's impression.

I am also excited because, as I mentioned, we will be getting together with the NWTa at our Ft. Laurens event. For a number of years we got together annually, but circumstances got in the way and we just "dropped the ball". It is our hope that this year is the beginning of a renewed regular relationship with our NWTa friends. So, if you have a "sister unit" or friends in the NWTa, please make sure they put this event on their calendars.

The NWD Board has three primary criteria in developing events. First, we look for sites with historic connection to the Revolution. Secondly, we look for sites located throughout the NWD geographic area, so that everyone has at least one "local" event. Finally, we look for events that are new to our membership. Of course we also will do events that raise the profile of the NWD and are of interest to our members. Currently we are exploring events for 2016 and 2017 in NW Ohio, NE Indiana, and Western Pennsylvania. The NWD needs your input to find and develop event sites. All you need to do is contact an NWD Board member with your idea, and be willing to help work to get things going.

I would like to mention an article that appeared in the April/May 2015 B.A.R. Courier written by Brian Zarwodniak of Peter's Corps, Loyalist Rangers regarding dining/cooking flies in our camps. It has been widely known for many years that these are an anachronism, and would not have been found in 18th c. military camps. I am hoping that you can either do without, or find a way to alter your fly to appear to be a marquee with the sides down, or make a bower, or some other affectation to make our camps more authentic. See Brian's article for some ideas.

I hope to see you at the Mansfield Civil War Show, 2-3 May. You can find directions in this newsletter. I surely hope those of you within a 90 minute drive, and there are lots of you, will attend this event and support the NWD.

I'll see you at the first formation,

Bob Cairns

Commander, NWD

8th PA Regt., Ft. Laurens Detachment



Event Notice

The Ohio Civil War Show

May 2-3, 2015

You can read scores of illustrated books and visit dozens of museums, and you still will not get to see a fraction of the militaria on display at this NWD event, The Ohio Civil War Show, at the Richland County Fairgrounds in Mansfield, Ohio, 2-3 May, 2015. Collectors and dealers from all over the United States, North America and even Europe fill seven large exhibit halls with items for display and sale. Although the major focus is on items from the American Civil War, there is still plenty to see from the Revolutionary War period. The last few years the show has been expanded to include the period of the two World Wars. In addition there will be reenactors from a number of periods germane to the show demonstrating and teaching about their special areas of interest. Unlike museums, the artifacts are not behind glass, and in most cases are actually for sale. Most of the exhibitors will gladly explain, discuss and in many cases allow you to handle items on their tables. This show is one of the five largest of its type in the nation, and you get in free!!

All you need to do is show up at the Richland County Fairgrounds in your Revolutionary War kit, and participate in several half hour-long public demonstrations of drill/firing/music/clothing, and a closing each day. You will have ample time to visit all the show's display areas, and you will be supporting the NWD. This is one of those rare times in reenacting where we not only are entertaining and informing the public, but get to be entertained and informed.

The sponsor has asked if we can do some camp life scenarios this year. In the past we have not had a good place to set up a camp that is convenient and visible to the public. I ask that this year you bring a tent and have some sort of blanket display/talk/demo for the public. I also ask that units bring their colors and we can have these flying to attract attention.

Location

The Richland County Fairgrounds adjoins Ohio State Route 30, in Mansfield, Ohio. See the map on the next page.

Accommodations

As always, straw, firewood and potable water are provided, and modern restrooms and showers are available. Indoor sleeping is also available, and there is space for modern camping and campers. (There is a nominal fee for electric, water, and dumping hook-ups).

No meals are provided. There are several cafeterias and snack areas for breakfast and lunches, as well as food vending trailers. There are also many sit-down and fast-food restaurants within a few minutes of the fairgrounds. If you would like to cook 18th c., it is very welcomed.

For those of you driving some distance, please note that the show closes at 3:00 PM Sunday, allowing you to get a good start toward home before supper time. We would like you to try and be ready to go each day at 8:45 AM, so we can participate in the flag raisings.

I hope you will consider this show for your calendars. Even if you have attended in the past, the show is very different each year. In the past, I've gotten to handle an original 1803 Harpers Ferry rifle, examine, measure and trace original Revolutionary War hunting bags, and watch a Civil War horse artillery battery move, unlimber, fire, limber and dash off the field behind six-horse teams.

If you live within a 90 minute drive, PLEASE support the NWD's first event of 2015, even if you can only come for one day. For questions contact me, the event coordinator, at;

Bob Cairns
 1919 Yale Ave. NW
 Canton, Ohio 44709
 (330) 455-9722
robtcairns@cs.com

Go to the Ohio Civil War Show website for more information on the show: ohiocivilwarshow.com

EXHIBITOR ENTRANCE ONLY
 Use Either East or West Gate Friday Only
 Use North Gate Saturday and Sunday

**Richland County Fairgrounds
 CIVIL WAR SHOW**

**MAP OF
 GENERAL AREA
 MANSFIELD, OHIO**

Map No.	Motels	Phone
1	Comfort Inn	419 529-1000
2	Motel 6	419 529-2100
3	Holiday Inn	419 525-6000
4	Mansfield Inn	419 589-2200
5	Econo Lodge	419 589-3333
6	Travelodge S.	419 756-7600
7	Super 8	419 756-6875
8	Fairfield Inn	419 747-2200
9	Hampton Inn	419 747-5353
10	Best Western	419 756-6670
11	La Quinta	419 774-0005
12	42 Motel	419 884-1315
13	Country Inn & Suites	419 747-2227
14	Hampton Inn	419 774-1010
Ashland Area		
15	Surry Inn	419 289-7700
16	Super 8	419 281-0567
17	Day's Inn	419 289-0101
18	AmeriHost	419 281-8090
19	Holiday Inn Express	419 281-2900

EXHIBITOR TABLE INFORMATION
 8' - Buy/Sell.....\$80
 8' - Display Competition.....\$60
 Table Set-up, Friday, May 4, 2012, 1:00 to 7:00 p.m. and
 Saturday, May 5, 7:00 to 9:00 a.m. & Sunday, May 6, 8:00 to 9:00 a.m.
 Security Provided Both Friday and Saturday Nights.
 No Dealing from Comp. Display Tables. Provide your own Table Cover.
 For Artillery and Suttler's Row Information, write or call for Registration
 and Show Details.

**For Information & Tables
 Contact:**
 Wayne Williams
 2325 Stonewood Dr., Lexington, OH 44904
 419-884-2194
www.ohiocivilwarshow.com

From the Inspector

There are only a few weeks until the first NWD Event of 2015, the Civil War show in Mansfield, Ohio. This article is a reminder why we do some of the things we do as members of the BAR at our events.

At every one of our events the first thing we do as a group is to assemble in formation. During that formation the officers and/or the Non-Commissioned Officers, (NCO's) of every unit will arrange the enlisted men in the formation. Their first priority is to put the taller men in the rear rank. The second priority is to place the more experienced men in the locations where the sections end. This is so that they can help maintain order when the column is formed and again when it Wheels to change direction. This follows the manuals for 18th century armies. Once you are in place you should check to see who is on either side of you and in front of or behind you. Everyone should fall in the same place at every formation. Like real 18th Century soldiers there are times when people drop out or are not available for formation. The officers or NCO's will then make the necessary rearrangements, but the members of a unit that are in attendance should make every effort to be in the same place in the formation throughout the event.

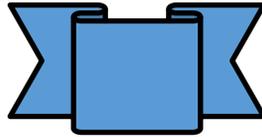
At some point during that formation everyone's firelock and equipment will be inspected. The purpose of this inspection is to assure that all of the firelocks and equipment are safe to use. During the safety inspection your firelock will be inspected for: cracks in the stock, missing pins or screws, loose lock parts, proper flash guard and hammerstall. One of the most important areas to check is the fit of the pan against the barrel. There should not be any gap between the lock and the barrel. If there is a gap it must be eliminated. The reason for this is that priming powder will fall through the gap and collect behind the lock. Should this powder ignite when the firelock is fired the pressure behind the lock could send the lock flying! The safety inspection will be conducted in accordance with the BAR Soldiers Manual, pages 12 and 13 of the Safety Section, dated 1989.

The Board of the NWD has worked diligently to prepare a quality schedule of events in 2015. I hope that you will try to attend as many as possible.

Joe Forte, NWD Inspector
8th PA Regt, Ft. Laurens Detachment



Lost from Our Ranks



Starley R. Smith 78, passed away peacefully on February 13, 2015 after a brief illness. He was a veteran of the US Air National Guard and the Ohio National Guard. He retired from Norfolk Southern RR with over 40 years service. He was Past Monarch and was currently secretary of Yusef Khan Grotto. He was an avid Historical Re-enactor of the Company A 5th Texas Infantry Regiment, Reilley's Battery, War of 1812, 8th Pennsylvania Revolutionary War and the French and Indian War. He is preceded in death by his parents, Mainerd and Ruth Smith; sister, May; and brother, Duane. He will be greatly missed by his wife of 50 years, Connie; daughters, Kim (Corey) Caster and Pam (Joe) Papparone; grandchildren, Cory Crimaldi and Kian Caster; brother, Ross; and a host of other relatives and special friends. Memorial service will be held on Saturday, February 21, 2015 at 12:00 noon. Grotto services will begin at 11:30am. Visitation will be from 10-12. Minister Richard Smith officiating. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Yusef Khan Grotto.

Starley's obituary was taken from the Newcomer Funeral and Cremation website.

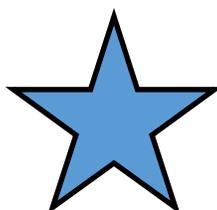
Arnold F. Thomas, Jr. passed away peacefully Monday morning, March 2, 2015 in his Bellville home at the age of 53.

He was born September 5, 1961 in Cleveland to Arnold F. Thomas, Sr. and Margaret (Piekarski) Whitley. After graduating high school, he furthered his education by earning a degree from the Cuyahoga County Police Academy. Proud to serve his country, Arnold was a member of the Coast Guard. He was a certified arborist and worked on the grounds crew at Mt. Vernon County Club for many years.

Arnold was an avid US history enthusiast—he enjoyed participating and organizing period correct reenactments. He was a skilled handyman, but above all he enjoyed spending time with his great-nieces and nephews and teaching them to love the outdoors.

He is survived by his daughter Samantha Thomas; two sisters Janet Kammer and Marsha Komorski; a close nephew Mark & Tina Kammer; a niece Kim Kammer; as well as numerous great-nieces and nephews. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a brother-in-law Tom Kammer and a great-nephew Peyton Kammer.

A memorial for family and friends will take place at his family cabin in Virginia to honor his life at a later date.



Adjutant's Freshest Advices

Spring has finally sprung! Our 2015 Schedule is locked down and your NWD Board is already working on the 2016 and beyond schedules.

NWD Board of Directors Election: The deadline for submissions of nominations from the floor has passed. There were no nominations from the floor. Thus, the Slate submitted by the Nominations Committee and approved by the NWD Board is elected by a vote of the Adjutant for the slate. Commander: Bob Cairns, Deputy Commander: Dave Miller, Inspector: Joe Forte, Adjutant: Bob Kashary, Paymaster: Bill Dibbern, Members at Large: John Conklin, Bernie Borowski, Cheryl Weidner, and Bill Lucas. These officers will serve a 2 year term.

The renewals and new members are registered for 2015. It is not too late for your Unit to register, although there will be an additional late registration fee. Remember that your 2015 BAR dues must be paid to participate in any Brigade Event in 2015 thru March 2016. We have a busy NWD Schedule for 2015. Please show your support for the NWD by attending as many events as possible. We will see you on the field.

YMHS,

Bob Kashary, NWD Adjutant

5th VA Regt



Department of the Geographer School of Instruction 2015 Report

The Department of the Geographer Unit had their 8th annual School of Instruction on March 6-8 2015. The School was held at Cacapon State Park in West Virginia as it has for the last 6 years.

Much like the School of the Soldier that speaks to the military mind, our subject matter leans towards the technical aspect of surveying and mapmaking in the Revolutionary War. The Department of the Geographer is an American unit formed in 2006. We started out years ago wanting to strengthen our unit members knowledge of surveying and cartography and found out there was an interest outside of the membership. With 50+ in attendance and from various states: Washington , South Carolina , Rhode Island , Colorado , and a Canadian from Ottawa, we assembled. We cater to reenactors and those that are not, so there`s always a varied interest.

The conference talks change from year to year and this year`s talks included: 1) Fred Rickey , USMA West Point , speaking about “Examples of Surveying from George Washington`s Cyphering Books”, 2) Kass Kassebaum on “Indian Trails and Colonial Roads” , 3) Paul Brennan PLS New York on “The Gunter`s Chain” , 4) Dale Loberger on “Mysteries of the Plain Table” , 5) Eric Pyle James Madison University on “The Construction and Principle Uses of the Gunter`s Scale and English Sector” 6) Dan Schoun on Hadley`s Quadrant and it`s Predecessors” 7) Todd Babcock Pennsylvania PLS on “ The Susquehanna Land Company and the Wild Yankee League`s Planned State of Westmoreland” and 8) Don Erickson from Colorado on “The Astronomical Instruments of the Corps of Topographical Engineers”.

As you can see we are intent on obtaining quality knowledge to therefore pass on to our fellow members, to the visiting public at our working office or the field demonstrations during Brigade events. With that said, please come find us at the events and let us tell you our story of General Washington`s Mapmakers.

For further interest check us out at www.armygeographer.org and on our FaceBook page.

Tony Holbrook

Department of the Geographer

Pattern for Regimentals

After some discussion and investigation by the NWD Board, it was found that the current B.A.R. pattern for regimental coats, first developed in the 1990`s by Henry Cooke (current Nat`l Inspector) and Todd Braisted (Nat`l Inspector at the time), has been updated with a more accurate pattern that includes the proper amount of selvage and instructions. Since the price for both copying and mailing our current pattern (the out-dated one) and buying a new, more accurate pattern directly from Henry Cooke would be virtually the same, the NWD Board recommends that if a member wants a regimental pattern, including the contract coat pattern, it be purchased directly from Henry Cooke. The price of this pattern is about \$20.00, postage paid. You can reach Henry at;

Historical Costume Services

721 South Main Street

Randolph, Ma. 02368

(781) 963-9645

Hcooke4@verizon.net

Event Notice

Fort Niagara

June 6-7, 2015

After an absence of more than 15 years, the NWD will again appear at Old Fort Niagara. For those who have been around for a long time, this was the old "King's Birthday" event. The new theme is Rebels and Redcoats.

The fort was originally built in 1678 by the French. It was rebuilt in 1687 and torn down the next year. In 1726 a trading post was built, now known as the French Castle. It was increased to its present size in 1755. The British took over the fort in 1759. During the Revolution, it was the base of operations for Butler's Rangers. The Americans did not gain control of the fort until 1796.

Today it is designated a National Historic Landmark and is part of the New York state Parks. It was the longest used fort from 1768 to 1963.

For this event, the British forces will camp inside the fort, American/Allied on the outside. The fort will provide a continental breakfast (coffee-tea and donuts) Saturday and Sunday. A dinner (beef stew?) will be provided Saturday night. Saturday evening Henry Cooke is the guest speaker. Bruce Egli will speak Sunday morning. Straw is not provided, so plan accordingly. Firewood will be available. Indoor toilets and Port-o Sans are available.

Saturday evening, the fort will host a tavern for jollification. (Donations help defer the costs.) As the site is a state park, alcohol is not allowed. If you feel a need to bring your own spirits, **remember** to take all evidence home. If caught, you will be asked to leave. The state really does enforce this law.

Tacticals and firing demos are planned. They recommend 50-60 rounds of blanks.

As more information becomes available, I will forward it to Unit commanders. I will need information on which NWD units are going with an approximation of men.

Dave Miller, Coordinator

Deputy Commander, NWD

5th VA Regt

david.miller2@cox .net

NWD Firelock Match 2015

June 27/28, 2015

NWD Firelock Match held at The Log Cabin Shop, 8010 Lafayette Rd. Lodi, Ohio 44254

This will be the first time the NWD has been to the Log Cabin Range for a friendly competition. All members of the BAR are welcome! Pre-Registration is a MUST!!! Registration closes June 24, 2015. Please contact Event Coordinator Bob Kashary at: K9Kash@roadrunner.com .

BAR Rules will apply: Foil wrapped live rounds for smooth bore. Paper cartridge, patch & ball for rifle. Clear lens safety glasses only! Hearing protection recommended. Range rods will not be permitted for loading, but may be used for cleaning. Range Officers will be Joe Forte and Bob Kashary. Safety is our primary concern! Range Officer's decisions are Final.

Schedule: Friday, June 26, 2015 Afternoon/Evening arrival permitted.

Saturday: 0900-1000hrs Individual Registration and shooters safety meeting.

1000hrs- Smooth-bore musket/fowler Individual Competition-

Minimum of 25 rounds plus tie breakers. Distances 15-50 yards

Rifle Individual Competition - After Smooth-bore

Minimum of 23 Rounds. Distances will be from 15-50 yards

Pistol Individual Competition - after Rifle Competition.

10 rounds 10-25 yards

Sunday: 0900hrs Team Registrations and shooter safety meeting

Smooth-bore musket/fowler Team Competition (3-person Teams) 9 rounds + stake
shoot

15-25yards. Least amount of rounds WINS.

Rifle Team Competition (if needed) 2-person Teams

Saturday and Sunday after Competitions-New Shooter Time! Special One on One Coaching!
Ranges will be open for shooting.

We should be done by 1200-1300hrs. Safe travels.

Amenities: Primitive camping only. We will have access to modern rest rooms 24/7 during our visit. Firewood provided. Meals are on your own. A list of local restaurants and hotels will be provided to those registered if they so desire.

Bob Kashary, Event Coordinator

Adjutant, NWD

5th VA Regt.

Event Notice

THE 237th ANNIVERSARY OF FORT LAURENS' CONSTRUCTION

"REVOLUTION ON THE TUSCARAWAS"

31st Annual NWD BAR Encampment

Fort Laurens State Memorial

Bolivar, Ohio

July 11-12, 2015

"In December 1778, a Continental Army of 1,200+ men, commanded by General Lachlan McIntosh, built a small log fortification, designed by Louis Antoine Jean Baptiste Chevalier de Cambray-Digny, a French engineer, and named for The President of The Continental Congress, Henry Laurens, near The Great Crossing, where The Great Trail crossed The Tuscarawas River. Initially commanded by Colonel John Gibson, of The 13th Virginia Regiment, Fort Laurens was abandoned in August 1779, after several attacks by British, Loyalist, and Indian forces, and was the region's major link to The American Revolution. More than 22 soldiers died in service at Fort Laurens. Both the 8th Pennsylvania and the 9th/13th Virginia Regiments served here."

DIRECTIONS - From north or south, follow Interstate 77 to Bolivar Exit #93 (Bolivar, Zoar, State Route 212), exit the highway, turn west, follow the signs to Fort Laurens State Memorial.

OFF SITE ACCOMODATIONS -

Sleep Inn	Ramada Inn
1155 St Rt. 212	509 S. Wooster Ave.
Bolivar, Ohio	Strasburg, Ohio
1-330-874-3435	1-330-878-1400

There is a large variety of motels and restaurants in the Dover-New Philadelphia area, 10-15 minutes south of Bolivar. There is also a large variety of motels and restaurants in the Canton/Belden Village area, 30 minutes north of Bolivar.

PROVIDED: Saturday lunch (sandwiches) and supper, Sunday lunch (sandwiches), firewood, straw, potable water, porta-johns (restrooms when the Museum is open), modern camping; cavalry and artillery "friendly".

18th C CAMPS: All troops and CCM are urged to bring their 18th C tentage as a large camp area will improve the public's "experience". Please include in your reservation the number and types of tents you will personally be bringing to Fort Laurens.

SATURDAY EVENING DINNER: Because of cost and prep time, the quantity of food prepared will be based upon the number of reservations received. When sending your Event Registration to Tom Pieper - by phone (330-494-6187) or by e-mail (tip@neo.rr.com) please indicate if you are not planning to eat Saturday dinner with us.

RESERVATIONS are due to Tom Pieper by July 4.

CCM: You are asked to bring children's games, clothing, and ideas for activities to help "engage" our younger visitors.

RESERVATIONS: When making your reservation with Tom Pieper be sure to include:

1. Your name
2. Your unit name
3. When you will be arriving and leaving
4. Number and type of tents you will bring
5. Number of soldiers and musicians you will bring
6. Number of adults and children to be fed

EVENT NOTICE: This is your event notice. There will be no event notice coming in the U.S. Mail.

FORT LAURENS SCHEDULE 2015

SCHEDULE

Friday, July 10 12:00 Noon - Units may arrive and set up

- * Public will be present and it is hoped that when you are asked about your/our activities, you will share with the public and explain our activities.

Saturday, July 11

9:30 Sutlers open (till 5:00 PM)

9:45 Officers' Call

- * Walking Tours of Fort Laurens and the camps will be held periodically, when the public number justify

10:30 Formation (Inspection, Orders, Schedule)

CCM activities begin and continue through the day

11:00 Division drill & unit drill

11:30 Lunch *** Please bring your own mess gear

12:30 Ceremony at The Tomb of the Unknown Patriot

1:00 Music & Songs of The Revolution

1:30 Military Weapons Demonstration:
to Artillery and infantry

3:00 Uniforms & Clothing of The Revolution

3:30 Troops assemble in respective camps

4:15 Tactical Weapons Demonstration ("Mock battle")

4:45 Closing Ceremony

5:00 18th C. Flea Market

5:30 Dinner

*** Please bring your own mess gear

NWD Membership Meeting will follow dinner

Movie in theater after Meeting

Sunday, July 12

9:30 Sutlers open (till 5:00 PM)

10:00 Officers' Call

* Walking Tours of Fort Laurens and the camps will be held periodically when the public number justify

10:30 Church Call (non-denominational)

10:45 Formation (Inspection, Orders, Schedule)

CCM activities begin and continue through the day

11:15 Division drill / unit drill

11:30 Lunch *** Please bring your own mess gear

12:30 Ceremony at The Tomb of the Unknown Patriot

1:00 Music & Songs of The Revolution

1:30 Military Weapons Demonstration:
to Artillery and infantry

3:00 Uniforms & Clothing of The Revolution

4:00 Troops assemble in respective camps

4:15 Tactical Weapons Demonstration ("Mock battle")

4:45 Closing Ceremony

Coordinators

CCM - Julie Watkins

julie.watkins@fbports.com or

Mary Jo Lucas

blmj@sbcglobal.net

Event - Tom Pieper, 2810 River Run Circle N.W., North Canton, Ohio 44720

(330)494-6187 or tip@neo.rr.com

Emergency Phone - Fort Laurens State Memorial - 800-283-8914& 330-874-2059

Tuscarawas County Sheriff & Bolivar Police - 330-874-2113



The Sew & So...

Where Did Your Research Lead You?

The item pictured below is a salamander. Consider it your 18th century crème brûlée torch. They came with or without legs, but having the legs makes it easier to torch your dish. You heat the round end in the fire until it is red hot and then hold it over a dish to brown a meringue, glaze sugar, etc. I was fortunate to use an original at the home of George Mason, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, while at a cooking workshop last May. He lived just up the river from George Washington. The picture below is of the one I had made by a knowledgeable blacksmith. You'll also see receipts (recipes) telling you to use a "hot shovel" for the same result.

Vine-Leaf Fritters

TAKE a quarter of a pint of brandy, a little white wine, some rapped lemon-peel and a spoonful of powdered sugar; mix these well together in a soup-plate, then take some small fresh vine-leaves, cut the stalks very close, and put the leaves into this mixture; mix up some white wine and flour [sic] into a moderate thick batter; put on a stew-pan, with a great deal of butter in it; when it is boiling hot drop in the fritters, take a leaf out of the brandy for every fritter; when they are a fine brown, strew them with sugar, and glaze them with a salamander; send them up hot.

Mason, Charlotte, *The Lady's Assistant for Regulating and Supplying Her Table...*, 3rd edition, Printed for J. Walter, London, 1777. Facsimile reprint Nabu Public Domain, 2010, pg. 357.

Karen Kashary

5th VA Regt



Proper Fit & Appearance of Clothing Equipment & Accoutrements

A Basic Guide for the Revolutionary War Soldier

Roy P. Najcecki
40th Regiment of Foot

This work is meant as a general guide to how your uniform and clothing should fit and appear. Equipment and accoutrements should also be worn in a particular way for authenticity and utility. As can be expected of any guide of this nature, many exceptions do exist, but these are often unit specific.

Cocked Hats



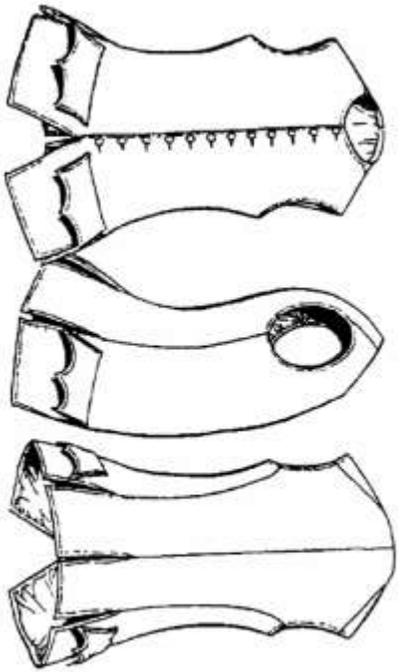
The typical British and French cocked hat was of black felt with a four inch tall crown and brims of 4 ½ inches¹. Taller crowns were in fashion earlier in the century. To help prevent hats from blowing off or moving, the use of two narrow tapes, sewn to the lining above the ears and secured by a small hook and eye under the hair was recommended.² American hats varied in brim width. For example, Virginia specified hats with brims of about three inches in breadth. When binding is sewn to the edge of the brim it is done in two steps: first the binding is sewn behind the brim with just enough binding material to hold, about ¼ inch works well. Second, the binding is pulled over and sewn to the outside of the brim so that about one inch of binding is visible.³

The cocked hat is worn in such a manner that it touches the right brow and the left brow is just uncovered. The front cock points over the outside corner of the left eye so the hat won't interfere with the musket when at "shoulder arms".⁴

A look at American deserter descriptions and manifests of British supply ships reveals a vast amount of "round hats" worn during this period. These hats had narrow brims of about three to four inches, and were turned up on the left side.

Shirt

Common private mens shirts were made of off-white or natural linen. The linen was slightly coarse, about 90 threads per inch. Finer, bleached linen would be used for Sergeants.

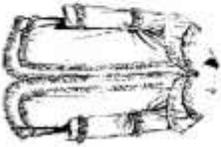


Waistcoat

Waistcoats fit tight to the body. Earlier in the century, they were longer in length but by the time of the Revolution they buttoned only as low as the waistband of the breeches/overalls. If the waistcoat has skirts they are about nine inches long. A point of reference is that the tips of the skirts extend to the bottom of the breeches/overalls placket. The rear seam extends to cover the lower part of the waistband. Depending upon the wearers height, the waistcoat will have between ten and twelve buttons.¹ Cuthbertson recommends the use of slash pockets whereas the Continentals describe pocket flaps. Under no circumstances should there be a gap at the waist so the shirt could be visible.

Rifle Frock

Also known as the Hunting Shirt, the rifle frock was a loose fitting garment of coarse linen. Its length ranged from hips to the knees. Rifle frocks could have one or two capes about the neck along with a collar. Period drawings show these garments with varying amounts of fringe on the capes and outer edges.



Regimental Coat

A coat should fit "snug but without constraint". Loose sleeves and chest are out of the question. Coat length varied considerably: Cuthbertson recommends the skirts be cut so only the two bottom buttons of the breeches show. Thomas Simes writes that the skirts be cut while the soldier is kneeling with the hem six inches from the ground for Grenadiers and Battalion, and nine inches from the ground for Light Infantry.² Continental Line coats were specified to extend to the top of the knee pan, per Massachusetts Line General Orders.

Lapel width also varied. Early portraits of George Washington at Princeton battle-field show quite narrow lapels as does the sketch of Jeremiah Alden of the 2nd Mass. Regulations did give a width: British coats were to have lapels 3 inches wide for their entire length.³ Massachusetts and New York in 1781 specified lapels 3 inches in width.

Spectacles

Folding (hinged) frames, ear loops for a ribbon, and large round lenses are all hallmarks of mid 18th Century spectacles. Oval lenses are very late 18th Century and octagon lenses are 19th Century.

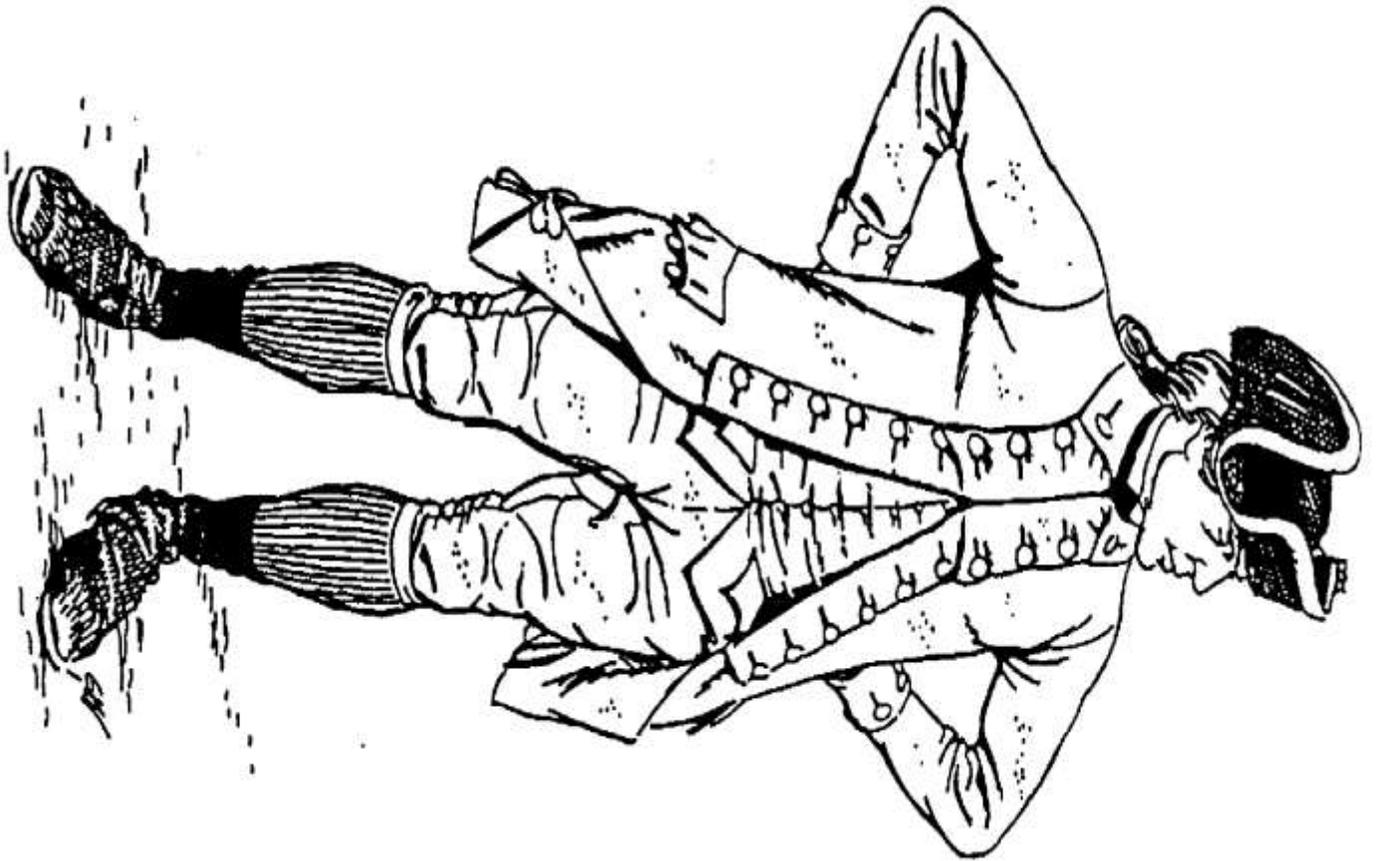
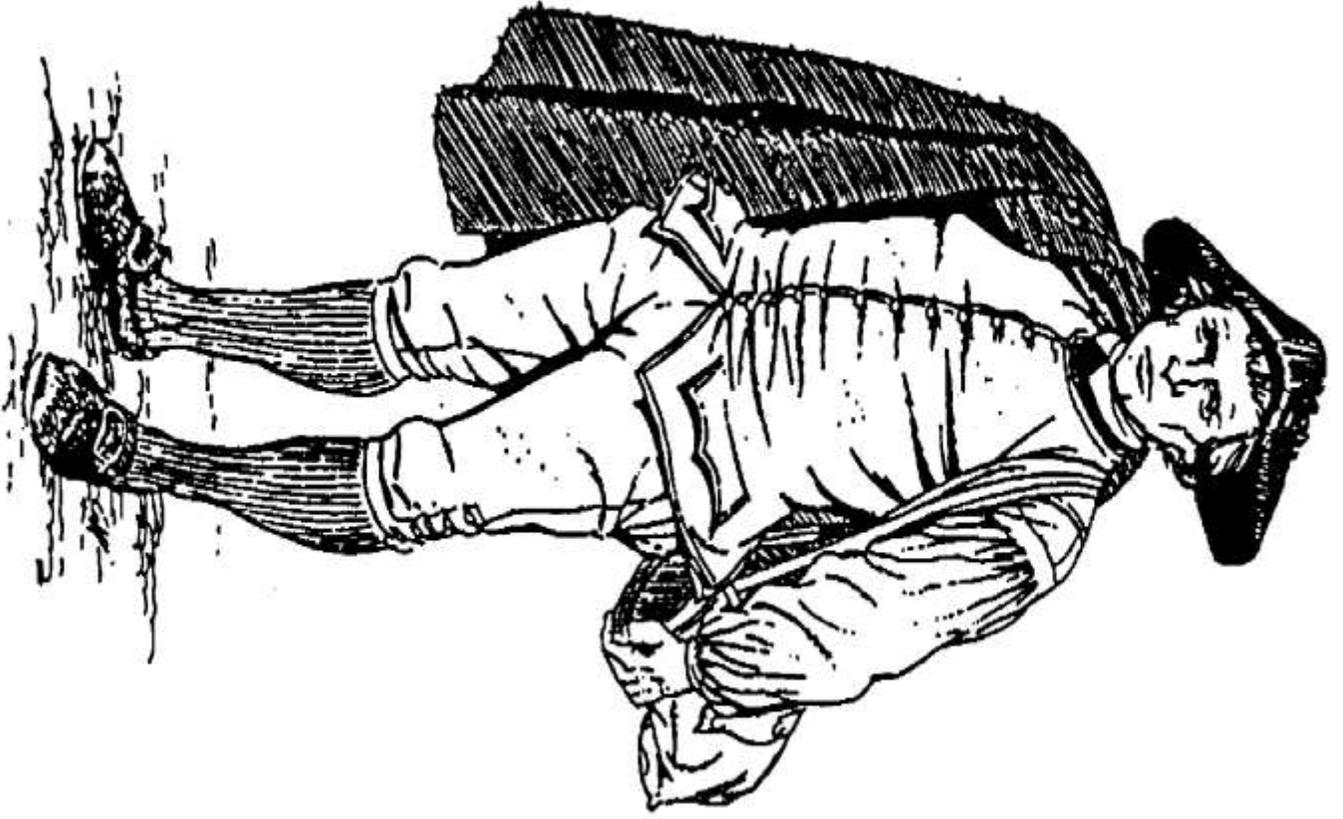


Musket

Several 19th Century terms have crept into our 18th Century vocabulary. The correct terms are: Hammer, *not* Frizzen. Hammer Stall, *not* Frizzen Cover.⁴ Hook, *not* Clip (as in scabbard clip). Chape, *not* tip (as is scabbard tip).

Lead should be used in the jaw to hold the flint, rather than leather.⁵ Likewise the musket should be stored with the cock down to avoid fatiguing the springs. Each soldier should practice firings with a wood flint to save wear on the flint and hammer.⁶

- ¹ Cuthbertson, Bennet System for the...Management...of a Battalion of Infantry, 1776, pg. 77 (Also printed in Hew Strachan's British Military Uniforms 1768-1796, 1975, pg. 143.)
- ² *ibid.*, pg. 78 (Strachan pg. 144)
- ³ His Majesty's Warrants of 19 December 1768 (Strachan pg. 175)
- ⁴ Cuthbertson, pp. 109-110. (Strachan pg. 163)
- ⁵ Cuthbertson pg. 73. (Strachan pg. 190)
- ⁶ Simes, Thomas A Military Course for the Government and Conduct of a Battalion, London 1777. (Strachan pg. 190)
- ⁷ Warrants of 1768 (Strachan, p. 174)
- ⁸ General Howe's Order for the Massachusetts Line Revolutionary Orders of General Washington, Order No. 118, p. 164. (See Military Collector & Historian, Summer 1962, pp. 35-41)
- ⁹ Cuthbertson, pg. 83 (Strachan pg. 147)
- ¹⁰ Cuthbertson, pp. 83-84 (Strachan pg. 147)
- ¹¹ Cuthbertson, pg. 85 (Strachan pg. 148)
- ¹² Cuthbertson, pg. 97 (Strachan pg. 155-156)
- ¹³ Cuthbertson, pg. 98 (Strachan pg. 156)
- ¹⁴ Cuthbertson, pg. 99 (Strachan pg. 157)
- ¹⁵ Cuthbertson, pg. 93 (Strachan pg. 153)
- ¹⁶ Cuthbertson, pg. 92 (Strachan pg. 153)
- ¹⁷ Cuthbertson, pg. 92 (Strachan pg. 153)



Spatterdashies

Made of stout linen canvas, spatterdashies were painted black and fitted tightly to the leg. Shankless buttons made of horn or metal were recommended. A leather strap slips under the shoe and helps prevent the spatterdash from rising.^v

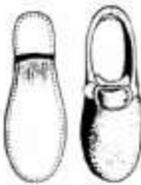
Shoes

Look for shoes with round toes and of strong leather with tight and neat stitching.



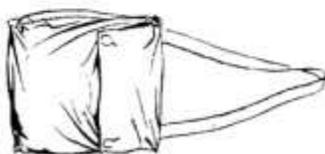
Haversack

This utilitarian item is made of strong, coarse, grey linen.^{vi} The use of white cotton duck (tent material) is not acceptable. It is worn high on the torso with the top of the haversack at elbow height.



Knapsack

Like the haversack, the knapsack is made of strong, coarse, grey linen. It is worn high on the back, not hanging down around the middle or small of the back. Knapsacks were often painted with a red-ochre on the outside flap for water repellency. The painting of unit designation or symbols is allowed only if documented.



Cartridge Pouch

There is a difference between a "cartridge box" and "cartridge pouch". The box was originally worn on the waist. It is the item we commonly call a belly box. The cartridge pouch had a greater capacity for ammunition and was worn on the right hip suspended from a shoulder belt.

The uppermost part of the pouch should be in line with the hip button of the Regimental coat. Another reference point is that when the arm is by the side, the upper corner of the pouch should touch the elbow.^{vii}

Bayonet Shoulder Belt

The frog/carriage is worn at the same height as the cartridge pouch, i.e. hip button and elbow. The bayonet is thrown back so it doesn't interfere with the musket.^{viii}

Buckles

Often made of brass or bronze. Though the use of copper or brass tongues was recommended by Cutbertson, few excavated brass buckles have a surviving tongue. This suggests the use of iron tongues. The tongues should point downwards on shoulder belts to prevent cuts.^{ix} The use of cut finishing nails for tongues gives a much more authentic appearance than cotter pins.

at the top; tapering to 2 3/10 inches at the bottom. The winged lapel would extend to a point 1 inch from the shoulder seam.^{viii}

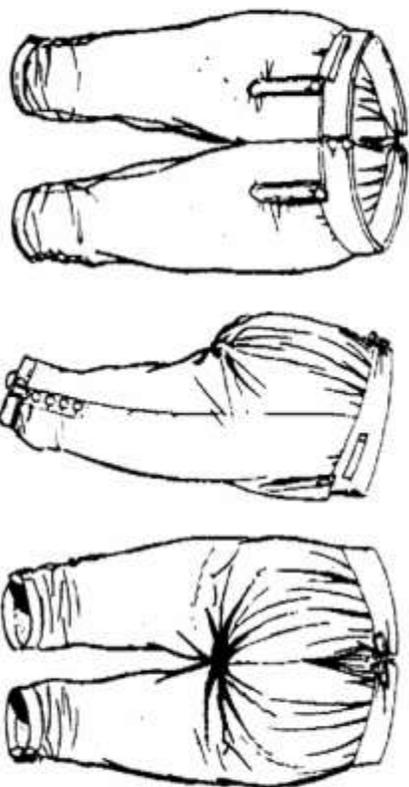
The sleeve should extend to the wrist joint and no further. To keep the coat closed two sets of hooks and eyes should be sewn inbetween the coat cloth and lining in a line with the first and fourth set of buttons. Sewing the hooks and eyes to the lining alone will soon result in the lining stretching out and making the hooks and eyes visible. The facings of the coat must touch, edge-to-edge, between the first and fourth buttons.

Cuffs were about 3 inches in width. Period paintings show the use of slit cuffs. Use of such cuffs allow the sleeve to be even tighter than possible with the standard band type cuff.

Civilian coats generally had larger buttons, over 1 inch diameter, and fewer buttons down the front.

Breeches

Breeches and Overalls (Gaitered Trousers) fit tightly in the crotch and leg. The only excess material is in the seat. For durability a twill woven linen or cloth works best. A cloth reinforcement between the thighs was recommended by Cutbertson to increase the life of this garment. The fall should only have two small buttons, one on each corner with the buttonhole cut and sewn at a 45 degree angle to the top and side of the fall. Three buttons are on the waistband. Waistband buttons should not button through the fall. The gaiter part of overalls should cover the shoe buckle and would have five or six buttons on the ankle.^{ix}



The NWD B.A.R. SHOT

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