

Friends of Washington Crossing Park

Reenactor Guidelines for Annual Crossing Reenactments

ENLISTED SOLDIERS

In general, participants should adhere to the guidelines laid out by their reenacting units. All participants for the Crossing are recreating the Main Continental Army under General George Washington in December 1776, thirty miles north of Philadelphia.

Those portraying soldiers are representing men coming from the states of New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia. The majority of these men had served in the army for at least one year and many of them for two at this point in the war. Given their duration of service, these men had become veteran and professional soldiers. All participants should conduct themselves as such. Participants should be familiar with the Manual of Arms as laid out in *The Manual Exercise as Ordered by His Majesty, 1764* and carry the air of professional soldiers, IE the appearance of their clothing and accouterments. *****No soldier or boat crewman is to have facial hair beyond 3 days of overall growth.***** There is overwhelming evidence to prove that beards and other facial hair was not a social custom for soldiers of Anglo-American descent, as well as for the vast majority of civilians in the colonies at the time of the war. To reflect the fact that this is an army on campaign, those participating in the event can have a few days' growth. Soldiers should also refrain from adorning their hats with things like colorful feathers or sprigs of holly or pine. Christmas adornments to one's uniform are not documented to this period.

Moreover, much of the army had been encamped in the area surrounding Newtown, Pennsylvania, for a few weeks prior to the Crossing. Many were relatively well supplied, rested, and fed. The severely sick and wounded had been moved away from the Main Army and to general military hospitals deeper in the Pennsylvania hinterland. The remainder of

the army arrived approximately one week before the Crossing and would have been resupplied with blankets and *some* clothing.

That said, the army was still actively campaigning in the winter, a time when armies of the 18th century traditionally hunkered down in winter quarters. A fair portion of the army was sleeping in brush-huts or “wigwams” and outbuildings, and performing frequent fatigue duties around the scattered encampment sites. Much of their clothing and equipment would have reflected a year’s worth of campaigning. So, while these soldiers should be considered professional, and many were being resupplied piecemeal with blankets and clothing, the army by and large was not composed of men who were fully-equipped or who were in top-fighting condition. The army at this point was composed of less than 5,000 men fit for duty.

The army had suffered serious and demoralizing defeats throughout the summer and fall of 1776 that deprived them of both critical manpower and supplies. The battles in New York in the summer had proven disastrous not only to the army’s numbers, but also their morale. Continentals had also faced serious losses in Canada in late 1775 and into 1776, compounding the troubles facing the new nation. The capture of Fort Washington was yet another crushing blow, with the loss of nearly 3,000 men who could not easily be replaced. A short time later, the capture of Fort Lee by the British deprived the Continentals of 50 cannon, 1,000 barrels of flour, as well as extensive stores of musket and artillery cartridges. The situation of the Continental army in the winter of 1776 was dire.

Participants will be actively representing the Friends of Washington Crossing Historic Park as volunteers. It is important for all participants to be kind and courteous to the public, and to be ready to talk to spectators about the events surrounding the Crossing. Not everyone needs to know every single detail, but if you are asked a question you do not know the answer to, be ready to direct a visitor to another reenactor or staff member who can help. Our overall goal is education! If you would like to learn more about the events of 1776, here are some wonderful sources that are highly recommended:

Washington’s Crossing, by David Hackett Fisher

The Indispensables: The Diverse Soldier-Mariners Who Shaped the Country, Formed the Navy, and Rowed Washington Across the Delaware, by Patrick K. O’Donnell

1776, by David McCoullough

The Battles of Trenton and Princeton, by William Stryker

The Journal of the American Revolution (JAR) is another wonderful and FREE source filled with peer-reviewed articles about the Ten Crucial Days and the war as a whole. It can be found at <https://allthingsliberty.com/>

Shirts

- **Best:** Hand-stitched shirts made of natural, bleached, white, or checked linen with narrow band cuffs made to accept sleeve links. Shirt collars should close with thread Dorset buttons at the throat.
- **Acceptable:** Machine sewn shirts, or with visible stitching done by hand, in the styles noted above. Cuffs may close with small pewter or bone buttons.
- **Not Aligned with Documented Evidence:** Cotton calico or plaid shirts, button down shirts.

Neckwear

- **Best:** Silk, linen, or cotton neckerchiefs; linen neck stocks, or linen rollers, well-tied around the neck.
- **Acceptable:** Military-styled neck stocks of horsehair or leather, with buckles.
- **Not Aligned with Documented Evidence:** No neckwear.

Hats and Caps

- **Best:** Hand-finished, round blocked, black wool felt round hats, or cocked hats of a military or civilian style.
- **Acceptable:** Knit wool Monmouth, oval blocked, and wool felt cocked or round hats.
- **Not Aligned with Documented Evidence** Gray or brown wool felt hats, cut down felt caps, slouch hats from unfinished blanks, straw hats.

Coats

Civilian coats, regimental coats, and hunting shirts are all equally good for a regular military impression.

- **Best:** Contract-made regimental short-coats/coattees, made with slanted vertical pockets, pointed or round cuffs, sewn-down or functional lapels of broadcloth or kersey, made half-lined in serge, bay, or flannel or unlined. Osnaburg/linen, split-front hunting shirts, with single short capes and fringe, hand-finished, well-fit. Wool broadcloth short or long civilian coats of drab, brown, red, or blue, or other muted colors, made either straight-bodied or cutaway.
- **Acceptable:** Long tailed regimental coats, made of wool, in various color combinations, of a similar description to the above.
- **Not Aligned with Documented Evidence:** Smocks, over-shirts, baggy coats, cotton or canvas hunting shirts, very long hunting shirts.

Jackets and Waistcoats

- **Best:** Hand-finished, well-fit, single or double breasted, skirted or square cut, waistcoats with or without sleeves, in drab, white, brown, green, red or blue, or other muted colors, out of broadcloth, kersey, serge, or linen.
- **Acceptable:** Well-fit, single or double breasted, skirted or square cut waistcoats of linsey-woolsey, cotton, Manchester (cotton) velvet, or wool plush in solid colors or simple patterns. Sleeved waistcoats are acceptable as the primary outer garment.
- **Not Aligned with Documented Evidence:** Upholstery fabric waistcoats, velvet or plush fabrics, long or baggy waistcoats of the 7 Years War period or earlier.

Breeches and Trousers

- **Best Trousers:** Hand-finished, well-fit, trousers. Can be made from natural, checked, or narrow-striped linen, or from linsey-woolsey, kersey, or broadcloth.
- **Best Breeches:** Hand-finished breeches with buckled knee-bands, in white, drab, blue, brown, or other muted colors. Can be made from linsey-woolsey, kersey, or broadcloth. Well-fit and hand-finished leather breeches as well.
- **Acceptable:** Well-fit, machine-sewn trousers or breeches in either wool or linen.

- **Not Aligned with Documented Evidence:** Baggy breeches that fall below the knees; gaitered trousers.

Leg wear

- **Best:** Wool stockings with a seam in the back, in white, gray, drab, brown, light blue, or other muted colors. Stockings can be, but do not have to be, worn with well-fit, hand-finished spatterdashes or half-gaiters of black, brown, gray, or drab wool, canvas or black-painted linen. For select units from PA and VA, well-fitted Indian leggings can be worn over stockings.
- **Acceptable:** Cotton stockings in colors noted above, wool stockings without a center-seam, machine-knit wool stockings. Well-fitted, machine-sewn spatterdashes or half-gaiters.
- **Not Aligned with Documented Evidence:** Horizontal striped stockings, visible elastic tops, stockings from polyester or athletic wear. Spatterdashes worn with trousers, military gaiters from different eras (I.E. Civil-War era white gaiters), baggy spatterdashes or half-gaiters.

Shoes

It is well-documented that shoes were in short supply, and largely worn out. Wearing well-worn shoes is strongly recommended, as is wrapping sturdy, period-appropriate cloth (linen, wool, kersey, etc) around shoes. *** ***N.B. Special care should be taken to ensure that the wearer's footing is stable and not subject to slipping.******

- **Best:** Hand-finished, short or long-quartered, round-toe, shoes with black waxed calf uppers, fitted for buckles. Half-boots or “high-lows”, with black waxed-calf uppers.
- **Acceptable:** Machine-made, black leather shoes with buckles or ties or high-lows. Modern black leather shoes are acceptable when covered with cloth rags or well-fit spatterdashes or half-gaiters.

- **Not Aligned with Documented Evidence:** Visible modern footwear including tan work boots and sneakers, modern moccasins, civil war bootees, or riding boots (except for field officers). Burlap covering for shoes.

Arms

- **Best:** Old pattern Dutch, French, British, commercial or American-made muskets made to accept a bayonet; Virginia or Pennsylvania styled long rifles, New England-style fowlers, Hudson Valley fowlers, English fowlers, either plain or modified for a bayonet (known as semi-military guns). Rifles should only be carried by Continental rifle units and Pennsylvania militiamen.
- **Acceptable:** Later French model muskets (1770s models), 2nd Model Brown Bess muskets.
- **Not Aligned with Documented Evidence:** Blunderbusses, coach guns, pistols carried in waist-belts or sashes, or Civil War weapons of any sort.

Cartridge Pouches

- **Best:** Soft cartridge pouches black or fair leather with approximately 19 – 24 round cartridge blocks, narrow black or buff leather straps, or linen webbing shoulder straps. For riflemen and militiamen: Small leather shot pouches and powder horns.
- **Acceptable:** Belly boxes or shoulder converted belly boxes
- **Not Aligned with Documented Evidence:** British 36 or 29-hole cartridge pouches, New Model American pouches, any Civil War cartridge pouches

Side Arms

- **Best:** Bayonet carried in a shoulder or waist belt, or no sidearm at all. For militia, sword, hatchet, or belt axe in place of a bayonet, carried in a shoulder or waist belt.
- **Acceptable:** Small sheathed axes carried in a knapsack/blanket roll, or no sidearm at all.
- **Not Aligned with Documented Evidence:** Horse pistols, naval pistols, fighting knives. *****N.B. Blades of any sort worn unsheathed are forbidden.*****

Knapsacks and Tumplines

- **Best:** Painted canvas Benjamin Warner or similar pattern knapsacks. Hand-finished, Single-envelope linen knapsacks, similar to the David Uhl pattern. No knapsack, as this was an army on the march to battle. Blanket rolls suspended from a tumpline or tied to a Uhl-style knapsack.
- **Acceptable:** New-Invented Knapsack/Haversack Combination, Machine-sewn single envelope knapsacks, drawstring canvas snapsacks, or hemp tumplines blanket rolls.
- **Not Aligned with Documented Evidence:** British painted or goatskin knapsacks.

Blankets

- **Best:** Hand-finished, 2-3 Point, checked, Dutch, or rose blankets with the blanket worn over clothing as protection from the weather, as well as coverlets and bed rugs. Or, no blanket.
- **Acceptable:** White-woolen blanket with machined edges, No blanket
- **Not Aligned with Documented Evidence:** Civil War gray or “US” blankets, “Candy Striped” Hudson Bay blankets, bright-colored, polyester or fleece blankets.

Canteens

- **Best:** Wood cheese box, or staved canteens of documented period pattern with narrow leather, linen webbing, or waxed hemp cord strap. Cheese box canteens should have narrow leather keepers or narrow iron staples to retain the strap.
- **Acceptable:** Tin or stainless steel canteens of kidney or half-moon shape. Gourd canteens.
- **Not Aligned with Documented Evidence:** Wool canteen covers, jacked leather canteens, covered glass bottles.

BOAT CREW

The majority of the men who rowed the boats across the Delaware were led by Colonel John Glover and his Marblehead Regiment. Many members of Moulder's Artillery were pressed into service as boat crew, since they were experienced rivermen themselves. Local civilian ferrymen and boatmen were also recruited to this task, as well as men from the Pennsylvania State Navy. As with other roles, there is no standard clothing that all boat crew should wear. *Ideally, many different impressions will be employed by boat crew members, reflecting the diversity of dress in December 1776.*

Clothing worn by members of the Glover's Marblehead Regiment should be in well-used or poor condition, reflecting the service from 1775 until December 1776, marching from Massachusetts to Pennsylvania.

Coat or Jacket

Marbleheaders could wear the round blue coat currently used, a hunting shirt or Contract coat in brown with red facings. Moulder's Artillery, of the Philadelphia Associators, also worked as crew on these boats. Brown contract coats are appropriate for this impression. Some civilians also worked as boat crew, as well as men from the Pennsylvania Navy, so civilian attire is also appropriate. Please see the Soldier section for more details.

- **Best:** Hand-finished Contract Coat or Blue short jacket with metal, cloth covered, bone, wood, or leather buttons. Hand-finished hunting shirt. Hand-finished civilian coats or jackets of varying styles and colors (see Soldier section).
- **Acceptable:** Townsend blue short jacket; hunting shirt; civilian attire
- **Not Aligned with Documented Evidence:** Any other period than Revolutionary War (War of 1812, Civil War or other Navy uniform coats), extra long hunting shirts from canvas.

Trousers or Breeches

Trousers or breeches as detailed in Soldier description

- **Best:** See the Soldier Section.
- **Not Aligned with Documented Evidence:** Any slops worn.

Waistcoat

See details in the Soldier description

Shirt

See details in the Soldier description

Shoes

See details in the Soldier description

Stockings

See details in the Soldier description

Headwear

See details in the Soldier description. There is little, if any, documentation for a tar covered canvas hat in the 18th century, even on board ships. The use of a knit “Liberty” cap has been documented in the symbolism of 18th century revolutions, both American and French. Paul Revere used a Liberty cap in his engravings and designs, likely inspired by William Hogarth. The style depicted varied over time: a round cap, peaked cap or the “Phrygian” cap, with the long, flipped over tip, were all used in images. However, the cap is always depicted on the end of a staff. Don Troiani depicts the use of red knit caps of various styles in his painting “Bunker Hill.” The word “Liberty” is omitted from the hats.

- **Best:** Cocked or round hat or knit cap, either Monmouth (round, with brim) or knit Dutch caps, thrum caps.
- **Acceptable:** Any color wool knit cap in the style above.
- **Not Aligned with Documented Evidence:** Linen work caps, or no headwear. Red hats with “Liberty” sewn on the front were unlikely to have been used in December 1776. Pompom or anything else attached to the top of hat Red “Voyager” caps or other long stocking caps.

A Note on Winter Clothing for Soldiers and Boat Crews.

For those who wish to add winter clothing/accessories to their impression, here are some pointers toward documented ways soldiers in the field would have taken some extra steps to stay warmer.

An extra neckerchief can be worn around the neck, or around a cocked hat and over one’s ears, almost like a babushka. Neckerchiefs can also be worn over the

nose, mouth, and chin. Scraps of linen, wool, or other period-correct fabric can also be worn in these ways, acting in the place of a scarf. Knitted scarves are not well-documented in 1776.

Knitted wool, or broadcloth mittens can be worn. Fingerless gloves are generally thought to be unsupported by documentation, however, for those in the boat crews, there is an understanding that they provide a good balance between warmth and dexterity, which mittens will not allow. Fingerless gloves should only be utilized by those in boat crews.

Scraps of wool, linen, or other period-correct fabric can be tied around shoes or stuffed in shoes. Burlap needs to be avoided. As noted above, care must be taken that these will not inhibit movement or constantly be coming undone. *****N.B. Soldiers should refrain from wearing “bloody bandages” around their shoes. The fact is, most people tend to overdo these and they end up looking hokey.*****

Soldiers could have also worn blankets, coverlets, or plundered civilian clothing as an outermost layer, and then slung their accouterments over all.

COMMISSIONED OFFICERS AND NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS (NCO's)

For the purposes of this event, please do not field as an officer or NCO unless asked to do so by event organizers and/or the reenactor command staff.

All field/staff officers (Colonels, Lieutenant Colonels, and Majors) are to be armed with swords only. All company-level officers (Lieutenants and Captains) are expected to be equipped with the following: Either a fusee and sword, OR a musket, bayonet, and sword. No espontoons or other pole arms are to be carried by company-level officers. Non-commissioned officers are to be equipped with a musket and bayonet.

All officers should wear a proper cockade in accordance with Washington's orders of July 23, 1775. Colonels, Lieutenant Colonels, and Majors are to wear either

a red or pink cockade. Captains are to wear a yellow, buff, or white cockade. Lieutenants and Ensigns are to wear a green cockade. Epaulettes: field officers should wear one on each shoulder. Captains should wear one on their right shoulder. Lieutenants and Ensigns should wear one on their left shoulder.

Sergeants and Corporals are to wear either a standard black cockade or no cockade in their hats. Sergeants should wear a simple red cloth epaulette on their right shoulder, and Corporals should wear a simple green cloth epaulette on their right shoulder.

CAMP FOLLOWERS

What did women followers of the Continental forces look like? When examining this demographic, one must look into contextual primary accounts such as Joseph Plumb Martin's; "Our baggage happening to be quite in the rear, while we were waiting we had an opportunity to see the baggage of the army pass. When that of the middle states passed us, it was truly amusing to see the number of habiliments of those attending it; of all specimens and human beings, this group capped the whole. A caravan of wild beasts could bear no comparison with it. There was "Tag, Rag and Bobtail"; "some in rags and some in jags," but none "in velvet gowns." Some with two eyes, some with one, and some, I believe, with none at all. They "beggared all description"; their dialect, too, was as confused as their bodily appearance was odd and disgusting. There was the Irish and Scotch brogue, murdered English, flat insipid Dutch and some lingoies which would puzzle a philosopher to tell whether they belong to this world or some "undiscovered country."¹

The vast majority of women who chose to stay with their husbands or male family members were of low class. During this period, the army provided occupations, safety, shelter, and food at a time when many women may not be able to secure these necessities on their own. Although Washington tolerated these women, they were not officially part of the "army". Followers were allowed to travel with the baggage wagon, collect rations, and stay in winter encampments so long as they belonged to someone enlisted. In addition, they must provide a service to the army. Most of the employment women acquired fulfilled the domestic duties they

would have been tasked to do at home. While the women belonging to the Continental forces were not categorized as “military”, there are accounts of the supervising officers resolving deficiencies in clothing and provisions.

Some insight into how camp followers replace worn-out clothing may be useful. Several attempts were made by the government or army to procure clothing for the women. In autumn 1778 the U.S. Board of War recommended that when a shipment of new clothes was issued, the soldiers’ old clothing be collected and a part given to ‘the followers of the Army.’ This plan was never realized as George Washington decided to “let the matter drop” when he learned the troops ‘looked upon it as an unjustifiable attempt to deprive them of what they warned by their years service...’² As we build our impression, one must keep in mind that followers would look ragged and rough in appearance. Clothing was not something that was easily accessible, therefore it was patched and reworked many times to maintain its structure.

1 (Martin, Joseph Plumb, *A Narrative of Some of the Adventures, Dangers and Sufferings of a Revolutionary Soldier, Interspersed with Anecdotes of Incidents That Occurred Within His Own Observation*, 1830) pg. 143.

2 (Rees, John U., *Some in Rags, and some in Jags, but none ‘in velvet gowns.’ Insights on Clothing Worn by Female Followers of the Armies During the American War for Independence*, 1990) pg. 9.

The following runaway ads provide insight into the clothing found on lower class servants and the enslaved in the Philadelphia region during the year 1776:

Pennsylvania Gazette, January 10, 1776- “Run away from the subscriber, living in Franconia township, Philadelphia county, an English servant maid, named Mary Stuart, has light brown hair, grey eyes, and is about 5 feet two inches high; had on, when she went away, a dark brown gown, a black, white and red calicoe short gown, three striped lincey petticoats, two of them black and white, a black bonnet, old linen apron, two tow aprons, a dark striped silk handkerchief, and a white flowered lawn ditto, old blue stockings, footed with black, good strong new shoes, with white metal buckles. Whoever secures said servant, so as her master may have her again, shall have Forty Shillings reward, and reasonable charges, paid by George Chrisman.”³

Pennsylvania Packet, January 15, 1776- “Eight Dollars Reward. Ran away last night from the subscriber, living on the corner of Water and Walnut Streets, a Dutch servant woman named Clara Ingerbloed; she appears to be about 40 years of age, a short chunky woman, very talkative; had on and took with her, a dark purple and white cotton long gown, a half worn blue quilted petticoat, a striped lincey jacket, three striped lincey petticoats, one scarlet halfthick ditto, two pair of white yarn, and one pair of blue worsted stockings with white clocks, a pair of half worn shoes, and a pair of pumps almost new, two good check aprons, one good white ditto, a coarser white ditto, and an oznabrigs one quite new, three shifts with open sleeves and

loose sleeves to pin on, two bonnets of black peeling, and a dove coloured fine camblet long cloak faced down before with tammy nearly the same colour. "Tis supposed she is gone off with a servant man (named Fredrick Dickmire) belonging to Nicholas Rittenhouse, Miller, near Germantown. Whoever takes up and secures said servant woman, so that her master may her again, shall receive the above Reward, and reasonable charges, paid by William Forbes." 4

Pennsylvania Gazette, February 14, 1776- "Four Dollars Reward. Ran away from the subscriber, living in Salisbury township, Lancaster County, on the second day of second month, 1776, a servant woman, named Margaret Collands, about 30 years of age, of a dark complexion, has black hair, is about 5 feet high, she stole and took with her two shifts and some caps, a red, white and yellow striped cotton and worsted gown, a half worn blue and brown petticoat, a reddish coloured worsted bonnet, a blue handkerchief with white spots, a lincey checked apron, high heeled shoes, and blue stockings with white feet and tops. Whoever takes up the said servant, and secured her, so that her master may have her again, shall have the above reward, and reasonable charges, paid by William Chamberlain, or by Robert Wood Parchment maker, in Fifth street, Philadelphia." 5

3 (Hagist, Don, *Wives, Slaves, and Servant Girls; Advertisements for Female Runaways in American Newspapers 1770- 1783*, 2016) pg. 85.

4 Ibid, pg. 85-86.

5 Ibid, pg. 86.

Shifts

- **Best:** Completely hand-sewn shift with a fitted neckline (no drawstrings), sleeves should end in a narrow wristband, and can be either plain or ruffled. The closures at the wristbands should have sleeve buttons or ½ inch silk ribbon. Sleeves can be made of finer linen than the shift body. Suggested fabric for poor to middling sort should use 4.5-ounce fine oznabrig linen or 5.5 ounce off white linen shirting. For middling to gentry impressions suggested fabric is 5.5 ounce off white linen shirting or 3.7 ounce white linen.
- **Acceptable:** Machined sewn long seams with hand-sewn finishing. The shift should still have stitched wristbands that utilize sleeve buttons or silk ribbons at the closure. The fabric should also be the same as "best".
- **Not Aligned with Documented Evidence:** Anything synthetic, printed, or colored. Something predominately machine sewn or with drawstrings at the neck and wrist.

Stays

- **Best:** Completely hand-sewn, full or partially boned stays that have front or back lacing. Most common stays were made of unbleached, brown, cinnamon, and blue heavy linen. Worsted wool in satin weave yellow, blue, green, lavender, white, and eggplant with green and white were also common. The lining should be light to medium-weight linen (about 3.7 ounces), and commonly oatmeal and off-white were used. Leather stays were usually worn by very poor women. Stays should be bound with ½ inch wide leather or ¾ inch wide linen tape. Boning should be cane, split hardwood, or steel. Busks can be placed in front for added support and to ensure the front portion of the stays doesn't break. ¼ inch linen stay cord and a bodkin for lacing.
- **Acceptable:** Mostly machine-sewn, full or partially boned stays with hand-sewn finishing. Fabric, style, boning, and lacing should be the same as "best". Jumps that are completely hand-sewn or mostly machine-sewn with hand finishing can be used for manual labor or "undress".
- **Not Aligned with Documented Evidence:** Bodices, modern support or sports bras, synthetic fabrics or no supportive undergarments. (Stays can be one of the hardest garments to make given their need to be custom fitted to your unique shape. Stays should be a priority when building a kit because almost every outer garment is tailored around stays.

Stockings

- **Best:** Hand-knit wool stockings with a common heel, or hand-sewn linen stockings. Natural white was the most common color, but grey, black, and blue are also acceptable choices. Stockings should be able to go above the knee.
- **Acceptable:** Machine knit wool or linen stockings with a common heel.
- **Not Aligned with Documented Evidence:** Synthetic material, modern socks that sit below the knee or around the ankle, horizontal striped stockings, and pantyhose.

Garters

- **Best:** Hand loomed, Dutch linen and twill woolen tapes.

- **Acceptable:** Leather garters that have brass buckles. These were commonly used by males, and never seen being used by female followers. That being said, if this is all you have until you can acquire tapes then that's satisfactory as they will not be seen under your petticoats.

Pockets

- **Best:** Completely hand sewn with a channel at the top so it can hang underneath the petticoat by linen tape. Pockets can be single or one on each side of the hips, they can also be bound or unbound. Material can vary from printed cotton, quilted, wool, linsey Woolsey, some also have embroidered patterns in natural threads. Sizes and shapes also vary.
- **Acceptable:** Mostly machine-sewn with hand-sewn finishing. Material, size, and shape should be the same at "best".
- **Not Aligned with Documented Evidence:** Completely machine-sewn pockets made of synthetic fabric, or undocumented cotton and prints. Wearing pockets on the outside of the petticoat or outer garment.

Handkerchief

- **Best:** Lightweight cotton, linen, wool, or silk square piece of fabric that can be folded into a triangle. White was the most common color; but black, check, and patterned handkerchiefs are documented. They should completely cover your chest for modesty.
- **Not Aligned with Documented Evidence:** Synthetic fabric, modern prints, heavy-weight material, or no handkerchief.

Outer Garments

- **Best:** A completely hand-sewn round gown or an English gown, either closed front (center front closing with pins), or open front (stomacher and pinned under robings) in linen, printed cotton or chintz, medium weight or worsted wool. Jacket, short gown or bed gown (bed gowns are a great first choice for newcomers as they do not require stays) in linen, cotton print or lightweight wool are also acceptable and documented in runaway ads. Lightweight linen

is used for lining most outer garments and linen buckram interfacing is needed for jackets. Outerwear should be held together by straight pins, and some designs also require a ribbon. Styles vary from region, class, and time frame within the war.

- **Acceptable:** Machine-sewn long seams with hand-finished gown (round or stomacher/robings), jacket, bed gown, or short gown. Fabric and styles should still be within the “best” guidelines.
- **Not Aligned with Documented Evidence:** Undocumented prints, unnatural colors such as pastels and neon, and synthetic fabric. Buying outer garments off the rack without using inquiry to ensure they utilize primary resources to make their garments. Riding habits, silk gowns, bum rolls, hip pads, or other garments that do not fit within the lower to middling class impression. Upper garments without sleeves, with sleeves that tie on, or the garment described as an ‘English’ or ‘French’ bodice. This may sometimes be sold as a ‘waistcoat’. While women’s waistcoats existed, they were worn for warmth under a gown, jacket, etc. We have no documentation for an outer garment without sleeves.

Petticoat

- **Best:** Completely hand-sewn straight petticoat in worsted or flannel wool, linen (some stripes and checkered patterns are documented), taffeta, striped hemp or quilted. Printed cotton fabrics were only worn in petticoats when there was a gown in the same fabric. Fabric weight can vary depending on the season. Lower to middling working-class impressions should have their petticoat between the mid-ankle and just above the ankle. Petticoats should have pocket slits, a center box pleat with knife pleats to the pocket slit, waistbands can be with self-fabric and held by tape or just linen tape.
- **Acceptable:** Machine-sewn long seams with hand finishing. Fabric and style should be the same as “best”.
- **Not Aligned with Documented Evidence:** Undocumented prints, synthetic fabrics, and unnatural colors such as neon or pastel. Petticoats that are bound by modern equipment such as hem tape, or that have no pleating and pocket slits.

Aprons

- **Best:** Completely hand-sewn check, striped, and solid color linen, or worsted wool apron. Aprons should have stroke gatherings, be bound by linen tape that sits at the waistline, and ties in the front or back.

- **Acceptable:** A mostly machine-sewn apron with hand finishing. Fabric, color, and waistline should be the same as “best”.
- **Not Aligned with Documented Evidence:** Cotton, printed, or synthetic fabric. Pinner aprons.

Caps

- **Best:** Completely hand-sewn white lightweight linen. Caps should be fitted to the nape of your neck. Most often this is done by a narrow tape threaded and gathered through a channel at the base of the cap. Occasionally the fit is accomplished by the cap’s construction. Styles vary and some are dressed with a ribbon.
- **Acceptable:** Machine-sewn caps with hand finishing around the face. Off-the-rack caps from reliable sutlers (always ask before you buy).
- **Not Aligned with Documented Evidence:** Printed, colored, or synthetic fabrics. The circle of fabric gathered with a drawstring or elastic called a ‘mob’ or ‘mobcap’ that resembles a modern shower cap.

Hats

- **Best:** Silk bonnets were the most common hat seen in runaway ads, although linen is mentioned especially in the more southern colonies. The majority of bonnets were black; but blue, green, brown, and checkered are documented. They can be lined with white linen or silk. Styles can vary and be trimmed with ribbons. Flat Chip or Straw hat, worn with a basic hat pin. Straw hats can be covered with silk taffeta or satin. Occasionally just the underside was lined with a chintz print. Chip or Straw hats should be placed at the high point of the head.
- **Not Aligned with Documented Evidence:** Synthetic trims or fabrics, ties on either side of the bonnet, or straw hats that go under the chin. Rounded/Domed and large crown straw hats.

Hair

- **Best:** Hair should be kept neatly pulled back and supported in a bun that sits near the crown or nape of the head depending on the style of cap or length of the hair. Basic chignon (u-shaped) pins in brass or steel are the closest in authenticity to putting the hair up.

- **Not Aligned with Documented Evidence:** Wigs (synthetic or human hair, unless you wear a wig for medical reasons. Any wigs should be styled simply and covered by your cap), high hair that sits on top of the head with the remaining hair under a cap, bouffant or beehive styles. Lower-class women did not have these styles for several reasons, mostly for modesty and hygiene. Documentation shows several wigmakers purchasing hair from servant girls (human hair wigs were the most expensive to purchase), and advising these servants to keep their hair pest-free before removal. Bouffants were only worn on special occasions by very wealthy classes, due to their extensive and expensive process in creating the style.

Shoes

- **Best:** Handmade low leather-based heel, pointed toe with smooth or rough-out leather. Shoes can have buckles (it's suggested to wear the shoes for a long period of time before you fasten buckles. Leather stretches over time and the holes for the buckles can become too large), or be tied at the latchet with ribbon. Buckles should be basic in style and made of brass or silver. Men's shoes are documented to be worn by women in runaway ads.
- **Acceptable:** Leather mules with a pointed toe. These were generally worn as a slipper around the house but are acceptable as a secondary pair. Bare feet with unpainted toenails.
- **Not Aligned with Documented Evidence:** Modern shoes, rubber soles, boots.

Jewelry

- **Best:** Silk ribbon that ties around the neck, small brass or silver pendants like crosses.
- **Acceptable:** Small brass or silver wedding bands.
- **Not Aligned with Documented Evidence:** Costume jewelry, modern jewelry, gems, bracelets, wide or large earrings. If you have stretched earlobes, please purchase closed flesh-colored plugs to hide the hole. Titanium or post-backed earrings. No jewelry in secondary (or more) ear piercings.

Reference Photo Guide

The photos below are meant to serve as a visual guide and a good representation of what our standards look like in the field. Take notice of details like the fit of clothing articles, colors, patterns, etc.

Enlisted Soldiers



Photo of enlisted soldier with a uniform more appropriate for summertime, but with a blanket draped over his shoulders and accouterments as protection from the cold.



Photo of enlisted soldiers in a mix of military and civilian clothing. Note how the soldiers carry their accouterments, especially the knapsack and blanket on the soldier on the right.



Photo of enlisted soldier in a mixture of military and civilian clothing trying to combat the cold by wrapping worn shoes and stockings, and with scrap wool tied around his ears.

Commissioned Officers



Three commissioned officers, company level. Note the placement of their cockades and epaulettes, as well as the fact these men are armed with firelocks and swords.



Two commissioned officers, field or staff level. Again note the cockades, epaulettes, and the fact that field officers are armed with swords only.

Boat Crews



Soldier/Sailor of the 14th Continental Regiment, "Glover's Marbleheaders". Note the use of an extra neckerchief, Monmouth cap, and a waistbelt to help secure accouterments so as not to impede movement on a Durham Boat. This crewmember is wearing the traditional blue round-a-bout jacket. Other colors and variations of this jacket, as well as civilian coats, would also work for this impression.

Camp Followers





Camp followers with different styles of dress. Notice the bonnets, straw hats, placement of kerchiefs, petticoats, and aprons, and the tied shoes on the woman in the second picture, left side.