

INTRODUCTION

The goal of the Lexington Minute Men is to accurately portray Captain John Parker's Company, as well as the women of the town, as they appeared between April 18, 1775, and October 18, 1775. As a result, every member of the Lexington Minute Men is required to accurately portray a Massachusetts militiaman or civilian to the extent permitted by current scholarship.

To honor the men of the era we portray and minimize costly mistakes, all members shall wear period-correct (i.e., historically accurate) clothing and accouterments. There are two prerequisites to this rule:

First, the following practices are strictly forbidden:

- Wearing clothing made of any modern materials not in use during the period we portray,
- Adding plastic or modern buttons to correct 18th-century clothing otherwise,
- Wearing incomplete clothing, i.e., appearing in public without a coat or jacket.
- Wearing 18th-century clothing not found in the Massachusetts Bay Colony during the period we portray.

Second,

- All clothing shall be produced from natural sources, such as linen, wool, silk, hemp, or leather.
- Clothing must fit the wearer in the proper 18th-century manner. Fit in the "proper 18th-century manner" is defined as clothing worn on the body tight yet not constricted.
- All clothing and equipment must be supported and justified by at least two (2) primary and documentable sources. Primary sources include prints, paintings, letters, diaries, depositions, court records, Provincial Congress minutes, petitions, journals, newspaper advertisements, estate inventories, and town resolutions.
- Anachronisms are prohibited, such as facial hair, modern glasses, wristwatches, "fit bits," and modern jewelry (except wedding bands).

A member will be deemed authentic if an experienced reenactor (who can identify what

is or is not period correct) from any distance cannot:

- Identify items that are not reproductions of 18th-century articles of clothing, weapons, or equipment (i.e., watches, modern glasses, modern shoes, etc.)
- Identify any article of clothing that is not cut and fit in the proper 18th-century manner. “Cut in the proper 18th-century manner” is defined as clothing that is produced, cut, and sewn so that it is identical or nearly identical to 18th-century clothing patterns and surviving articles of clothing.

If your clothing and equipment do not comply with the Company's authenticity standards, you will not be allowed to participate in an event with The Lexington Minute Men.

A NOTE ON 18TH-CENTURY WEATHER AND FABRIC

According to historian William R. Baron's research paper, "*Eighteenth-Century New England Climate Variation and Its Suggested Impact on Society*," Eighteenth-century Massachusetts colonists were forced to consider potential weather extremes when making everyday clothing decisions. In short, due to varying weather patterns, men and women had to decide what clothing was best suited for the day's activities while conforming to 18th-century societal norms. Thus, wool clothing was generally worn in late fall, winter, and early spring, while "summer weight wool" and linen were usually worn in the summer months and late spring and early fall.

For example, an August 1783 runaway advertisement that appeared in the *Connecticut Courant* described a runaway servant as wearing a "brown linen short coat," with "tow linen breeches," while an early September 1773 advertisement in the *Providence Gazette* described a runaway servant as wearing a "homespun Kersey linen coat and jacket... [and] linen chk'd trousers." By comparison, an April 1762 runaway advertisement describes a male wearing an "all wool brown coat, a blue and white double striped jacket ... [and] a pair of grey home-made cloth breeches." Finally, a December 1762 runaway advertisement described the servant as wearing "a thick all wool coat, a blue broad cloth [wool] jacket and woolen trousers."

Given the above, and to be mindful of the continually changing weather patterns of New England, members should wear the following fabrics during the year:

1. January through April: Clothing made out of wool.
2. May through September: Clothing from wool, summer-weight wool, or linen.
3. October through December: Clothing made out of wool.

If you have a question about whether the fabric of your clothing is historically accurate for the season, please speak with your mentor, the Company Historian, the First Sergeant, or the First Lieutenant.

CLOTHING STANDARDS - MEN

All visible stitching should be sewn by hand. This does not mean all stitching must be done by hand...only visible stitching. If you are unsure of the accuracy and appropriateness of any items, please inquire with the Company Historian before you acquire them.

Please note that the Company acknowledges that its clothing and equipment standards are always subject to review and reinterpretation as new evidence and information become available. Therefore, what is acceptable to wear or carry today might not be historically accurate two years from now. Members should be prepared to update or adjust their clothing or gear to reflect the current scholarship accurately.

The following applies to those portraying male militiamen.

Hats: Hats must be round, blocked, and constructed of wool or fur felt. Acceptable styles include 1770s-style cocked hats or round hats. Hats must be black.³

Caps: Caps must conform to period examples. Acceptable styles include Monmouth and Dutch caps. They must be made of wool or linen and be of appropriate colors (striped Monmouth caps are permitted).⁴ **Highland bonnets and voyageur caps are prohibited.**

Body Shirt: Shirts must be in accordance with mid-18th-century patterns. Acceptable materials for shirts include tow, linen, flannel, or lightweight wool in white, natural, or checked colors. Buttons must be made of natural or bleached linen thread or bone. Wrists must be no more than 1" in length and may be closed with thread or bone buttons or with sleeve buttons.⁵

Neckcloth/Rollers: Should be made of linen, linen/cotton blend, or silk and be cut triangular or square. Solid, checked, spotted, or striped colors are acceptable. They must be tied and knotted around the neck. White pleated linen neck stocks with buttons, metal buckles, or clasps are also acceptable. Leather neck stocks are prohibited.

Waistcoat: Must be made out of wool. Must conform to 1760s and 1770s examples. The 1760s style must extend at most to the top of the thigh, with 8 to 10 buttons down the front. Functional or false welt pockets should be located at waist level and be covered by flaps with or without buttons and buttonholes. The 1770s style should extend below the waist to the

³ Most commercially available hats/hat blanks are oval blocked. See list of suppliers for makers of period correct hats.

⁴ James P. McGuane, *Heart of Oak: A Sailor's Life in Nelson's Navy*, (New York: W. W. Norton and Co., 2002), 87.

⁵Paul V. Dickfoss, "'white Flannel Shirt,' 'striped Linen Shirt,' 'tow cloth Shirt:' Shirts of Runaways Advertised in Rhode Island," *The Brigade Dispatch: The Journal of the Brigade Of The American Revolution* 34, No. 2, (Summer, 2004).

hip and have ten buttons down the front. “Roundabout” or straight-cut waistcoats are also permitted. Pockets may be either functional, false-welt, or flap-covered. Waistcoats can be made of materials of a contrasting color and texture to the coat and breeches. Buttons should be pewter, brass, horn, or cloth/thread covered.⁶ **Waistcoats made of cotton canvas or upholstery fabric are prohibited. Linen waistcoats are acceptable for summer events.**

Under Jackets: Under jackets or sleeved waistcoats should fit close to the body and in the sleeves. They may be made of wool, linen, and linsey-woolsey. Solid and striped colors are acceptable. Buttons may be pewter, brass, horn, or cloth-covered.⁷ Under jackets should not be worn alone when outside and not performing field work or camp duties.

Farmer’s/Waggoner’s Smock: A smock is designed to protect clothing worn underneath while working in the field or on fatigue duty. It should only be worn while performing manual labor. **Work Shirts are not to be used in place of a coat or jacket.**

A smock should be slightly larger than a body shirt and made of medium-weight linen or lightweight wool. These can be worn over a body shirt and waistcoat or as an extra work shirt. The length of the smock should reach at least the knee. Thigh and waist-length smocks are mid- to late-war styles and are prohibited. The button arrangement should be the same as for work shirts. Natural, striped, solid, or checked colors are acceptable.⁸

Frock Coats: Frock coats are the most common outer garment for men, regardless of class. They should be made of wool. Linen is a suitable choice for a summer coat. The frock coat was always worn over a waistcoat and could be the same color and fabric as the waistcoat or, more commonly, made of different materials and colors. Frock coats may be lined or unlined. They may also have a falling or no collar and round or slashed cuffs. Acceptable colors include blue, brown, red, black, green, cloth, drab, and other period-correct solid colors. Buttons should be pewter, horn, wood, copper, or cloth-covered.⁹

Bounty Coat: A bounty would have been issued to Lexington men serving at the Siege of Boston with Captain John Wood’s Company, Colonel Baldwin’s Regiment, in the fall of 1775. The coat was a tobacco or fawn-colored laborer’s jacket, cut much like a sleeved waistcoat with a collar and cuffs. The buttons, stamped with the regimental number “38,” would generally be larger than 5/8 inch in diameter and spaced further apart. The bounty coat would have pockets and pocket flaps without buttons on the flaps. The acceptable material is wool.¹⁰ **Bounty coats cannot be worn at events recreating a historical engagement before**

⁶ Dickfoss, “...striped Flannel Jacket . . .blue coarse jacket Kersey wove . . .an old brown Broadcloth jacket.” “Jackets of Runaways Advertised in Rhode Island.”

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Cain, “A Frock and Trowsers, Spade and Hoe, Will Do For My Remaining Days: An Analysis of the Use of Farmer’s Smocks by Massachusetts Militia on April 19, 1775”, *New England Rev War Campaigners*, 2008.

⁹ Henry M. Cooke IV, “Unlined Frock Coat”, Historical Costume Services, 1999.

¹⁰ Cooke, “The Massachusetts Bounty Coat of 1775”, Historical Costume Services, 1992.

October 1, 1775 (for example, the Battle of Bunker Hill) unless the “38” buttons are removed and replaced with civilian buttons.

Jackets: Jackets, or workman’s coats, should extend no lower than mid-thigh. Double-breasted jackets are permitted. All jackets should be close-fitting in the sleeves. They should have round or slashed cuffs and rolled or fallen-down collars. Pockets are optional, but if included, they should be either a flap or welt style. Jackets should be made from wool. Acceptable colors include blue, brown, red, and striped. Buttons should be pewter, brass, horn, or cloth-covered. Linen, linsey-woolsey, or similar material may be used for summer-weight coats.¹¹

Great Coats: Greatcoats must be made of wool and feature a collar and at least one circular shoulder cape sewn into the coat. The coats should have buttons down the front. Pockets are optional, but if included, they should be flap-covered and without buttons. Buttons can be silver, steel, pewter, brass, horn, wooden, or cloth-covered. Suitable colors include blue, shades of brown, tan, natural, drab, shades of gray, red, and more black.¹²

Hunting Shirts: Hunting shirts must conform to the “Hurst Pattern.” A hunting shirt shall be lightweight grey linen, have a single short cape attached to the collar, and split (open) down the front. All edges of the hunting shirt shall have a single or double row of fringe. **Hunting shirts shall only be worn at events where the Company is portraying Captain Edmund Munro’s Company, 15th Massachusetts Regiment, Glover’s Brigade (1777 through 1780).**

Breeches: Breeches must conform to period examples. They must be fall front style and should fit closely about the legs. They should be made out of leather or wool. Linen is acceptable for “summer” clothing. Cotton or cotton canvas is prohibited. White cotton canvas breeches are not permitted. The most common colors for wool breeches were blue, black, brown, and “light.” Other colors are also acceptable. Ties, buckles, or buttons may secure the knee bands. Acceptable buttons include pewter, brass, horn, wooden, or cloth-covered.¹³

Trousers: Must be fall front style, end just above the ankle in length, fit relatively close above the knee, have a baggy rear seat, and have adjustable ties in the rear. Trousers may be solid, striped, or checked in pattern and color. Fabrics may include wool, linen,

¹¹ Dickfoss, “striped Flannel Jacket,” “blue coarse jacket Kersey wove,” “an old brown Broadcloth jacket”; “Jackets of Runaways Advertised in Rhode Island,” *The Brigade Dispatch: The Journal of the Brigade Of The American Revolution* 32, No. 2, (Summer, 2002). Also see Cooke, “*The Massachusetts Bounty Coat of 1775*,” Historical Costume Services, 1992.

¹² Dickfoss, “Greatcoats of Runaways Advertised in Rhode Island and Pennsylvania,” *The Brigade Dispatch: The Journal of the Brigade Of The American Revolution* 33, No. 2, (Summer, 2003). Also see Cooke, “Keeping Out the Cold: Men’s & Women’s Outerwear in America, 1750-1800,” Historical Costume Services, 2010.

¹³ Dickfoss, “„dirty buckskin breeches,” „blue broadcloth breeches,” „black knit Breeches:” Breeches of Runaways Advertised in Rhode Island,” *The Brigade Dispatch: The Journal of the Brigade Of The American Revolution* 35, No. 4, (Winter, 2005).

linsey-woolsey, or hemp canvas. Cotton or cotton canvas is prohibited. Buttons should be pewter, brass, horn, wooden, or cloth-covered.

Overalls: Overalls shall be made of hemp, Russian drilling, or linen. They must fit tightly on the entire leg and extend to the top of the foot to cover a soldier's shoes. **Overalls shall only be worn at events where the Company is portraying Captain Edmund Munro's Company, 15th Massachusetts Regiment, Glover's Brigade (1777 through 1780).**

Stockings: Stockings must cover the knee and be made of wool, although linen and cotton are also acceptable. They must have a center seam running up the back of the leg. Colors may be white, cream, natural, blue, brown, gray, or black only. Horizontal striped stockings are prohibited. Tube or athletic socks are not permitted. Stockings should be held up by worsted wool tape worn below the knee and under the breeches.¹⁴

Gaiters or Half/Farmer's Boot: These should be made from linen canvas or black or brown wool. They should close with pewter or horn buttons and extend about eight inches above the ankle bone. Gaiters should be tight-fitting and not sag. They must cover the laces or buckles of your shoes. Military-style high (full) gaiters or Indian leggings are inappropriate for a civilian militia impression.

Shoes: Shoes should be hand-finished, short or long quartered, round-toe with black waxed calf uppers, and fitted for buckles. However, machine-made, black leather shoes with buckles or ties are also acceptable. **Hi-lows are not acceptable at this time.** Do NOT purchase shoes from JAS Townsend. Avoid square-toed shoes, as these are typically late 17th- to early 18th-century styles.

Wigs and Queues: Wigs and queues should conform to proper mid-18th-century hairstyles. Wigs and queues should also be of the appropriate length and braided in a historically accurate style and fashion.

Eyeglasses: While glasses were certainly available during this period, they were uncommon among the middle and lower classes due to their high cost. It is preferred that no one wear glasses, but if you must, invest in period-appropriate frames. Please consult the 18th Century Material Culture website for additional information and guidance.

¹⁴ Dickfoss, "grey worsted," "mixt blue Yarn," "White ribb'd worsted"; "Stockings of Runaways Advertised in Rhode Island," *The Brigade Dispatch: The Journal of the Brigade Of The American Revolution* 31, No. 3, (Autumn, 2001).

EQUIPMENT STANDARDS

Firelocks: A wide variety of firelocks may be carried while portraying a Massachusetts militiaman. However, they must have been available in Massachusetts before 1775. The following is a list of preferred choices for firelocks:

1. First Choice: Civilian musket, including English fowlers, French fusils, French fowlers, and American fowlers
2. Second Choice: French Pattern 1728 Infantry Musket, Committee of Safety Muskets
3. Third Choice: Long Land Pattern Muskets up to Pattern 1741, pre-1760 Spanish infantry muskets, Pre-1760 Dutch infantry muskets
4. Fourth Choice: Short Land Pattern Muskets, French Pattern 1763 Musket, French Pattern 1766 Musket
5. Prohibited: Rifles, blunderbusses, and “Indian trade muskets.”

All firelocks must be fitted with a flash guard and period-correct hammer cap. **Firelocks made in India, Pakistan, or Belgium are prohibited.**

Bayonets: Bayonets were not widely owned by most colonists before the Revolution. However, the selectmen of Lexington actively sought to obtain and arm its militia with bayonets on the eve of April 19, 1775. As a result, at least ⅓ to ½ of Lexington men carried this item at the Battle of Lexington. British, Dutch, older French, and American (produced in the colonies) style bayonets are acceptable. They must be a socket or turn-key style only. **Plug bayonets are not acceptable as they fell out of use by 1710.** Scabbards must be constructed of leather and follow extant period examples.¹⁵

Bayonet Carriages: May be over-the-shoulder or waist belt style. They should be constructed of leather or linen/hemp webbing with leather frogs and must conform to surviving period examples.¹⁶

Cartridge Pouch: Extant 1770s militia pouches follow similar design and construction techniques. Reproduction pouches should be constructed according to the “D” pouch pattern, made of leather, and carry a block drilled for 19-21 holes. They should be suspended by a leather or linen strap with or without buckles. The straps must be stitched or nailed to the pouch. Civilian “belly” boxes with 12-18 rounds are also acceptable. Designs on pouches are permitted, but should be confined to geometric shapes or hearts.¹⁷

¹⁵ George C. Neumann, *Swords & Blades of the American Revolution*, (Harrisburg: Stackpole Books, 1973), 22-31, 36-50. Also see Cain, “Warm Steel: The Lack of Bayonets within Massachusetts Militia Companies,” *New England Rev War Campaigners*, 2008 and Goldstein and Mowbray, 16.

¹⁶ Neumann, 30. See also Don Troiani and James L. Kochan, *Don Troiani’s Soldiers of the American Revolution*, (Mechanicsburg: Stackpole Books, 2007): 111, 132.

¹⁷ George C. Neumann and Frank J. Kravic, *Collector’s Illustrated Encyclopedia of the American Revolution*, (Texarkana: Rebel Publishing Co., Inc., 1989), 66-80. Also see Troiani and Kochan, 102, 132.

Shot Bags: Shot bags may be used as a substitute for a cartridge pouch. They must be made of leather or hemp linen and conform to period examples.¹⁸ **Please note hemp linen shot bags are NOT allowed at NPS events.**

Powder Horns: A powder horn should be carried if the member uses a shot pouch. They should be constructed of cow horns with wooden plugs on both ends and a leather, hemp, twine, or linen sling. Engravings of maps, names, dates, or period slogans are permitted.¹⁹

Belt Axes/Hatchets: Belt axes and hatchets should be forged and conform to extant period examples. If the axe/hatchet is carried, it must have a correctly made leather cover over the blade.²⁰

Sword/Cutlass: Appropriate sword styles include colonial hangers, hunting swords, and cutlasses. British army hangers should be avoided.²¹

Sword Carriages: May be either over-the-shoulder or waist-belt style. They should be made of leather and must be consistent with period examples.²²

Canteens: A limited style of canteens was available to civilians. Acceptable styles include cheesebox or staved canteens. Cheesebox and staved canteens should have less than 1" leather or 1" iron keepers. They should be suspended with a thin hemp cord, hemp or woven strap, or leather sling. The first choice should be a cheesebox canteen for our impression.²³ **Tin canteens are not permissible because there is no evidence that Massachusetts militia men or Continental soldiers were issued the item.**

Knapsacks: These should be constructed using hemp canvas or heavy-weight linen and conform to the Captain David Uhl pattern knapsack only. They should be a single bag with a flap closure and two shoulder straps made of hemp webbing or of the same material as used for the bag. The flap may cover a third or the whole bag and should be closed with three buttons and buttonholes. Royal Isaac House pattern knapsacks, Warner pattern knapsacks, snapsacks, and "New Invented" packs are all prohibited.²⁴

Tumplines: A tumpline strap should be made out of hemp webbing or leather.²⁵

¹⁸ Mullins, 43-44

¹⁹ Neumann and Kravic, 149-155 and Mullins, 45-47.

²⁰ Ibid., 24-26.

²¹ Neumann, *Swords & Blades of the American Revolution*, 84-89, 94, 99-103, 182-186.

²² Neumann and Kravic, 38-39. See also Troiani and Kochan, 142.

²³ Neumann and Kravic, 59-64.

²⁴ Cooke, "Knapsacks, Snapsacks, Tumplines: Systems for Carrying Food and Clothing Used by Citizens and Soldiers in 1775," *Historical Costume Services*, 1998.

²⁵ Ibid. See also John U. Rees, "The Use of Tumplines or Blanket Slings by Light Troops," *The Continental Soldier* 8, No. 2 (Summer 1995): 27-29.

Blankets: Should be wool, linen, or linsey-woolsey. Blankets may be either “imported” (a solid piece of material) or “colonial” (a seam down the middle where the two halves were joined). Appropriate blanket patterns include striped, checked, plaid, 2 or 3 points, rose, Dutch, and solid.²⁶

Market Wallet: This is used to carry personal food items and belongings. It should be made of linen or hemp canvas and may be carried on the tumpline, inside a rolled blanket, or over the shoulder.²⁷

Camp Kettles: Must conform to period-correct pattern and material. A kettle should be carried in a period-correct linen kettle bag.

Mess Kit: Mess kits carried by 18th-century soldiers appear to have been relatively simple in design. At the most basic, it should consist of a tin cup, wood, horn, or pewter spoon, and a folding knife. A wooden bowl is also appropriate. Forks were far less common and rarely appeared in excavations of 18th-century military camps. If a fork is included, it should be of the two-tined variety.²⁸

²⁶ Rees, “‘White Wollen,’ ‘Striped Indian Blankets,’ ‘Rugs and Coverlids.’ The Variety of Continental Army Blankets,” *The Brigade Dispatch: The Journal of the Brigade Of The American Revolution* 30, No. 2 (Summer 2000): 11-14.

²⁷ Cooke, “Knapsacks, Snapsacks, Tumplines: Systems for Carrying Food and Clothing Used by Citizens and Soldiers in 1775.”

²⁸ Neumann and Kravic, 108-109, 173-175.

CLOTHING STANDARDS - WOMEN

To properly honor and represent the women of 1775 Lexington who made significant political, societal and economic contributions to the town and risked their own lives to assist children, new mothers, the elderly, the sick, and the infirm escape to safety on April 19, 1775, the Lexington Minute Men has formally adopted Minute Man National Historical Park's "Authenticity Standard for Adult Women," as well as the Park's guidelines for "Boys" and "Girls."

[The standards may be accessed by clicking here.](#)

CLOTHING STANDARDS - MUSICIANS

To properly honor and represent the men of 1775, Lexington, who made significant contributions to the common cause of liberty and independence, members who wish to portray military musicians, whether as part of Captain John Parker's Lexington Company or Captain Edmund Munro, 15th Massachusetts Regiment, MUST adhere to male clothing standards listed in the above section.

EQUIPMENT STANDARDS FOR MUSICIANS

Musician Sword/Cutlass: Appropriate sword styles include colonial hangers, hunting swords, and cutlasses. British army hangers should be avoided.²⁹

Sword Carriages: May be either over-the-shoulder or waist-belt style. They should be made of leather and must be consistent with period examples.³⁰

Canteens: A limited style of canteens was available to civilians. Acceptable styles include cheese box or staved canteens. Cheesebox and staved canteens should have a less than 1" leather or 1" iron keepers. They should be suspended with a thin hemp cord, hemp or woven strap, or leather sling. The first choice should be a cheesebox canteen for our impression.³¹ **Tin canteens are not permissible because there is no evidence that Massachusetts militia men or Continental soldiers were issued the item.**

Knapsacks: These should be constructed using hemp canvas or heavy-weight linen and conform to the Captain David Uhl pattern knapsack only. They should be a single bag with a flap closure and two shoulder straps made of hemp webbing or of the same material as used for the bag. The flap may cover a third or the whole bag and should be closed with three buttons and buttonholes. Royal Isaac House pattern knapsacks, Warner pattern knapsacks, snapsacks, and "New Invented" packs are all prohibited.³²

Tumplines: A tumpline strap should be made out of hemp webbing or leather.³³

Blankets: Should be wool, linen, or linsey-woolsey. Blankets may be either "imported" (a solid piece of material) or "colonial" (a seam down the middle where the two halves were joined). Appropriate blanket patterns include striped, checked, plaid, 2 or 3 points, rose, Dutch, and solid.³⁴

Market Wallet: This is used to carry personal food items and belongings. It should be made of linen or hemp canvas and may be carried on the tumpline, inside a rolled blanket, or over the shoulder.³⁵

²⁹ Neumann, *Swords & Blades of the American Revolution*, 84-89, 94, 99-103, 182-186.

³⁰ Neumann and Kravic, 38-39. See also Troiani and Kochan, 142.

³¹ Neumann and Kravic, 59-64.

³² Cooke, "Knapsacks, Snapsacks, Tumplines: Systems for Carrying Food and Clothing Used by Citizens and Soldiers in 1775," *Historical Costume Services*, 1998.

³³ Ibid. See also John U. Rees, "The Use of Tumplines or Blanket Slings by Light Troops," *The Continental Soldier* 8, No. 2 (Summer 1995): 27-29.

³⁴ Rees, "'White Wollen,' 'Striped Indian Blankets,' 'Rugs and Coverlids: The Variety of Continental Army Blankets,'" *The Brigade Dispatch: The Journal of the Brigade Of The American Revolution* 30, No. 2 (Summer 2000): 11-14.

³⁵ Cooke, "Knapsacks, Snapsacks, Tumplines: Systems for Carrying Food and Clothing Used by Citizens and Soldiers in 1775."

Camp Kettles: Must conform to period-correct pattern and material. A kettle should be carried in a period-correct linen kettle bag.

Mess Kit: Mess kits carried by 18th-century soldiers appear to have been relatively simple in design. At the most basic, it should consist of a tin cup, wood, horn, or pewter spoon, and folding knife. A wooden bowl is also appropriate. Forks were far less common and rarely appeared in excavations of 18th-century military camps. If a fork is included, it should be of the two-tined variety.³⁶

Drum: Drums must be constructed using historically accurate materials and adhere to documented 18th-century designs. Period-style artwork painted directly on the drum shell is allowed. Modern drums are not permitted. Drumsticks must be wooden, and drum ropes should be made from hemp cord.

Preferred Standard: A plain wooden rope-tension drum featuring hoops painted in a documented 18th-century color, calfskin heads, gut snares, hemp cord, no modern strainer, and leather tensioning tabs.

Acceptable Alternative: A wooden rope-tension drum with a historically inspired design, calfskin heads, synthetic snares, natural fiber cord, and leather tabs.

Unacceptable: Drums that are modern in construction or design; any drum featuring artwork or patterns developed after 1783; synthetic drumheads; metal snares; Civil War-era drums; bass or brass drums; drums with French or German stylistic elements; and any drum equipped with a modern strainer mechanism.³⁷

Drum Carriage: Must be made out of black, buff, or white leather, have drum stick loops, and leather ties to mount the drum. Modern drum carriages are prohibited.

Fife: One-piece fifes must be built in a historically accurate manner, crafted from wood and tuned to the key of B \flat at A=440 Hz. Acceptable models should feature brass ferrules and may be made from a variety of period-appropriate woods. Metal fifes, two-piece fifes, fifes with keys, or plastic fifes are all prohibited.³⁸

Fife Case: Fife cases are discouraged as there is little evidence of their use by American forces during the Revolutionary War. However, if used, the case should be made out of tin, painted or unpainted, and slung with hemp rope.³⁹

³⁶ Neumann and Kravic, 108-109, 173-175.

³⁷ Fort Ticonderoga, *Musical Instruments of the American Revolution* (Ticonderoga, NY: Fort Ticonderoga, 2019), <https://www.fortticonderoga.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Instruments.pdf>.

³⁸ Ibid.

³⁹ Ibid.

Appendix A
The Cut and Fit of Clothing
An Interview with Henry Cooke IV⁴⁰

Many of the company members know Henry Cooke. However, for those who do not, Henry is a professional tailor and consultant specializing in historical clothing. He is the former commander of the 10th Massachusetts Regiment, which he helped establish over 36 years ago. He served as the Inspector for the Brigade of the American Revolution and consulted on clothing for many historical sites, museums, and documentaries.

Q: How should clothes look when recreating the citizen-soldier of 1775, compared to how we wear clothing today?

A: Compared to today's clothing, the clothing of the citizen-soldier of 1775 was cut more closely to the body. In particular, the fit of sleeved upper-body garments such as coats and jackets, as well as sleeved waistcoats, fits close “but without constraint” in the chest, shoulders, and across and down the back. The armscye (the armhole opening in a garment) was fitted very high by modern standards, close up against the armpit rather than an inch below. This allowed the wearer to raise and lower their arms while minimizing discomfort to the rest of the coat. Waistcoats were fit much like coats, except for a slightly deeper armscye. Breeches were fitted close about the leg from the thigh to the knee, with a strap and buckle or button closure. The rear seat should be sufficiently ample to permit sitting or squatting. The waistband of the breeches, in most cases, will ride so that the bottom of the band is on the wearer’s hips.

Q: What are some common errors that you see with many reenactors?

A: Number one is the bucket gaiter - you know, the one with the vast opening at the top, and often for much of their length - seems a miracle that they stay on at all. After that, big, blousy breeches with gathers at the knee bands. Next, there are the waistcoats that don't reach the waist

Q: Do you have any suggestions for people who are shopping off the rack from merchants? What should they look for in shirts, breeches, waistcoats, and jackets/coats?

A: First, on all items, they should be well constructed, with no gaps in the stitching, no loose threads, and if machine stitched, all the stitching should be of even length.

- Shirts - good fit about the neck, not too loose, sleeves full and long enough, body length to mid-thigh or knee. The shoulders of the shirt should extend about 4 inches beyond the natural shoulder.
- Breeches - look for good basic construction, with no puckers or gathers at the knee, a knee band that accommodates either buckles or button closure, and fullness in the seat.

⁴⁰ Interview conducted by Sean Kelleher. Edited by John C. R. Welch, 2011.

- Waistcoats – The lowermost button should cover the waistband of the breeches. Pocket flaps should have a backward rake that parallels the front edge of the skirt, and the top of the flaps should be level with the lowermost button and the side and rear vent slits.
- Coat/Jacket - Close fit in the sleeve and armscye; buttons should be well-attached. buttonholes not too far from the edge of the coat (a reasonable distance is about 3/8" from the front edge). The same matters for the height of the pocket flaps relative to the lowermost buttonhole and the top of the side vents. Hip buttons are placed at the top of the vents, with no button at the center back. Overall fit should be as described above.

Q: How can members be good customers to tailors like yourself?

A: Know what you want, be patient. If you are having a uniform made of the unit you belong to, get any special materials, shell and facing woolens, buttons, lace, etc., and deliver sufficient quantities to get the job done. Additionally, good, clear photographs of the front, side, and back of the uniform, as well as the coat on and off, help determine the cut and finished appearance. When being measured, stand up straight, but stand in a natural posture - that's the way it will be worn most of the time, and don't look down to try to read the tape on waist measures or overall length measures, as it can throw the accuracy of a measure by one inch or more.

Q: If you had one suggestion for members to improve their clothing, what would it be?

A: Get them properly fitted - this will improve the fit of a mediocre garment to a level of respectability. It will also wear better if it fits better. For those in the militia, well-fitted clothing helps ensure that your equipment will fit better (provided it is properly made and fitted) and be less likely to swing around and work against you.

Appendix B

Facial Hair & Shaving Practices⁴¹

Q: Is it true that "nobody had facial hair in the 1770s?" Were there exceptions?

A: As is often the case with such dogmatic statements, it's not quite true.

For one, in some parts of the world, beards or at least mustaches and goatees had some limited popularity - for example in parts of central and far-northern Europe and in parts of Asia. Even in Britain and France, and their colonies, some facial hair was worn earlier in the 18th Century.

Even if we put our focus strictly on Britain and her colonies in the ~1760-1780s window, there still are numerous striking examples of folks with full beards in period art. The problem is all of those people generally fall into one of a very few select categories, generally lumped so:

The indigent, infirm, or insane: those who either physically or mentally were incapable or uninterested in routine shaving and traditional sanitary practices.

Certain religious sects such as Jews or Muslims, both of whom were readily identifiable minorities in larger metropolitan areas of England and Europe, and Jesuit Catholic monks or Quakers who may occasionally be seen in parts of the colonies.

Other than that, the number of visibly full-bearded people rapidly approaches a number statistically damn close to zero. By beards here, I mean ones of notable length as a modern person would call it today, though even just two or three weeks of growth would likely have stood out strikingly in the 1770s as indicated by the few notable accounts that exist.

One can look at literally hundreds or even thousands of illustrations from the period, especially focusing on the common people (those most like soldiers, sailors, workmen of various sorts, etc), and see no examples of actual full beards as we think of them today. And of the very few examples where we see facial hair, they simply don't approach what we'd normally call a "beard" today - and, even then they may more represent an editorial bias on the part of the illustrator (more on this in a moment!)

Of course, realistically, there were likely extreme conditions under which the common practice of keeping a regularly clean-shaved face wasn't strictly adhered to. However, even when these

⁴¹ Thanks to Dr. Niels Hobbs of His Majesty's 40th Regiment of Foot and Captain David Brown's Company of Minute Men for taking the time to answer these questions. Edited only for format by Alexander R. Cain, 2020.

events are depicted in art or described in accounts, the rare exceptions to the strenuous societal norms are so vocally highlighted as to underscore them as the proverbial exceptions that prove the rule. British Sergeant Roger Lamb, a POW escapee from Yorktown, describes that he didn't shave for three weeks as he hid out from his captors - given that he was on the run with barely the clothes on his back, it makes sense he'd have no recourse to shave. Likewise, here, and in other accounts from after the war, such as Joseph Plumb Martin's, there is rarely any mention of shaving—except when shaving isn't possible—further underscoring the very banal and commonplace nature of this societal norm under all but the most extreme conditions.

Q: How often was a British soldier required to shave? Were they expected to shave while on the march from Point A to Point B? Was the Continental Army held to the same standard?

A: There are few good records in either the British or Continental Army of when soldiers shaved or clearly stated prescriptions about shaving. Some evidence suggests this was twice a week, say on Wednesday and Sunday - but it's rare to ever find such clear mention in treatises or orderly books. However, I see this as further underscoring the generally accepted practice as being so second-nature as not to warrant substantial mention; much the same as it isn't mentioned when soldiers were expected to use the latrine or even cook, or engage in any other myriad daily or routine camp practices they were constantly involved in. On occasion, treatises or orderly books make mention of routine bathing and clothes-washing, and it seems likely that this is when shaving was expected.

Regardless, again, when we combine the vast amount of illustrations of soldiers (and sailors and workmen, etc, etc) who are all clean-shaven with the scarce few illustrations to the contrary or even rarer accounts to the contrary, it becomes quite clear that they did shave regularly and routinely, despite (or maybe because of) the seeming lack of necessity to order them to do so.

Q: But there is that ONE image of a Grenadier from the 1740s with what could be a beard. Isn't that enough to suggest British Soldiers did have facial hair?

A: This is a great and important example of a potential exception - and I'll even add to it and suggest that it looks to me as if one or two of those grenadiers look like they've got substantial facial hair. However, while there is some degree of subjectivity here, NONE of them look like what we'd normally call much of a beard these days -- the fellow in the middle with the most prominent growth still only has hair not notably longer than his chin-line. It looks like a dense growth of maybe a week or so and a little longer. I went to high school with a kid who could grow a "beard" that was dark and dense in literally three or four days! We all know folks whose 5 o'clock shadow is a sight to behold. But, even at its worst, this beard isn't likely to be much longer than a weeks-growth on a densely hairy fellow - and, most important, a fellow amid a

strenuous campaign where the artist, Morier, is trying to convey to the viewer a clear editorial message about the conditions of this campaign. So, even if it is a dense growth, it could simply be because the fellow's beard hair grows fast or because he missed his last shave in favor of cleaning his musket before taking on the Jacobites... but, above all, it's NOT a beard by any means like you'd see on a member of ZZ-Top or, surely, any random participant at a black powder Rendezvous.

It should be mentioned here that the precise practice of shaving appears to be so commonplace that there's little mention of even who would have done the shaving, whether it was the practice of the individual soldier or a barber, and a few accounts indicate both may have been practiced in some circumstances. We have only scant indication from art (see the 1784 Bunbury illustration, "A Camp Scene," which depicts a pioneer shaving a fellow soldier) and illustration, so any hard rules are hard to create. It is worth noting, albeit for speculative purposes, that few soldiers' inventories mention shaving kits, which suggests a smaller number of them were shared among a group of soldiers. This supports the notion that selected members of a mess or company may have been more tasked with the barbering duties. The contrary hypothesis, that few shaving kits mean soldiers didn't shave much, is strongly and simply disproven by the dramatic paucity of evidence for bearded soldiers.

Q: I recreate an individual on the American frontier. I can get away with having a beard, right?

A: See above.

It's possible, and even reasonable to consider, that folks far away from civilization shaved less - but, again, the few examples we see of such folks in illustrations or read about in accounts were all relatively clean-shaven, or at least un-bearded by modern standards (i.e. anything more than a week or two of growth, roughly speaking). And, again, the very few exceptions to this simply serve to prove the rule -- especially those few accounts that talk about, with horror, how folks who'd been *unwillingly* separated too long from civilization were forced to go without such customary hygiene and upkeep. So, while the soldiers on Arnold's march to Quebec experienced nearly unimaginable hardships for weeks and likely simply couldn't adhere to common shaving practices, such a thing would have only been a few weeks' growths and would have quickly been corrected at the first chance -- otherwise, accounts to the contrary should survive. Soldiers under such rare and extreme conditions, or sailors marooned for months, certainly looked different from societal norms. Still, upon returning to civilization, they would have returned to proper hygiene practices, putting their hardships behind them as much as possible.

Despite some important and clear references to beards showing up on soldiers and sailors put to extremes, there remains NO evidence for such beards being exhibited otherwise. Even in cases

where we can suppose the possibility of beards unless you're actually portraying a marooned sailor or a soldier in-the-middle-of-nowhere-Maine-in-the-dead-of-winter, the overwhelming evidence we have drives us to one parsimonious conclusion: the widely and nearly completely adhered-to practice of being beardless (if not outright clean-shaven).

Q: Does the term "beard" differ today from it did in the 18th century?

A: Thomas Sheridan's 1780 *General Dictionary of the English Language* defines a Beard as "the hair that grows on the lips and chin" - a definition shared by at least six other period dictionaries in my possession. With this in mind, it's also worth noting that it's fairly common to see the "beard" mentioned in runaway descriptions, especially when the beard color is different from the color of the hair on top of the runaway's head. Again, rather than mean that these runaways had beards by modern standards, it indicates that some stubble could be present enough to be a useful descriptor. Were these "beards" to be any longer, we'd see an awful lot more beards on depictions of the working class in the period -- and such depictions are nearly universally lacking outside of the important exceptions I stated earlier.

Similarly, finally, let's reiterate the evidence provided by art - especially by crucial examples of low-art and caricatures from the Revolutionary War. Military artists and caricaturists depict soldier after soldier and sailor after sailor as being beardless, even while on fairly strenuous campaigns. Richard St. George, a lieutenant in a British light infantry company was a notoriously famous caricaturist who made fun of all sorts of hardships in North America, from a near-complete lack of gear for officers on a campaign to increasingly baggy over-worn trousers and overall scruffy and worn-out troops, and yet he never depicted soldiers, British or roguish American, with anything approaching a beard during the entirety of the active campaign around Philadelphia. James Hunter's crude Verite paintings of British soldiers in the wooded wilds approaching Ticonderoga in 1777 show everyone clearly beardless. James Murray's depiction of Queen's Ranger on campaign in the south in 1780 is likewise beardless. While some contingency should be given for artistic license, the sheer volume of illustrations not showing beards of any sort, and even the very few tempered exceptions to the rule, speaks more than volumes.

So, as reenactors and living historians, we should be asking ourselves what we wish to be interpreting for ourselves and the public: rare and nearly unseen extremes or the vastly more commonplace experiences of the soldier, sailor, or civilian during the war. Beards, at least as we know them today, parsimoniously weren't prevalent enough on typical Britons or Americans, or nearly anyone of any stature in greater Britain or North America in the second half of the 18th Century to excuse their appearance on the faces of well-meaning reenactors and living historians wishing to simply and accurately depict those types of peoples.

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MEMBER ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I hereby acknowledge that I have received, read, and fully understand the contents of the *Official Clothing and Equipment Guidelines of the Lexington Minute Men*.

I understand that these Guidelines are intended to uphold the historical accuracy, authenticity, and integrity of our unit's appearance and interpretation. I agree to comply with the standards outlined in the document and to maintain the highest level of authenticity in my clothing, equipment, and portrayal at all Company events.

Furthermore, I acknowledge and accept the following:

- I will adhere strictly to the approved list of vendors as established by the Lexington Minute Men for the purchase or acquisition of clothing and equipment.
- I will not purchase any uniform or equipment items from vendors identified as prohibited by the Company.
- I understand that any clothing or equipment acquired from a prohibited vendor will not be permitted for use at any Company event unless explicitly approved by the Standards Committee.
- I recognize that failure to comply with these standards may result in the exclusion of non-compliant items from Company functions or other corrective actions as deemed appropriate by the Standards Committee.

By signing below, I affirm my commitment to uphold the authenticity standards of the Lexington Minute Men and to support the shared mission of preserving and presenting our collective historical legacy with accuracy and respect.

Member Name (Printed): _____

Member Signature: _____

Date: _____