

Kentucky Society

Sons of the American Revolution

Color Guard Uniform Manual



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How To Get Started

All this may seem overwhelming so please don't let this discourage you from joining your chapter's color guard. You don't have to get everything all at once. Start with the basics. A Pair of black or brown shoes, hunting shirt or a weskit and a military style plain cotton shirt (Period correct), hat, brown or khaki pants will work fine.



Where Do
I
Start ???

Turn The Page

Introduction

Welcome to the Kentucky Society Color Guard Uniform Manual. In this manual you will find a list of items that we hope will help you get started in the color guard. Within this manual you will find clothing as well as various accoutrements. We will also post various sites along with pictures where you can see what these items look like and purchase them. We do not endorse any particular sites or sutlers, these are just a few that we have purchased from in the past.

Please keep in mind that if you are going to fire a musket or rifle,

NO POLYESTER or POLYBLEND.

These can catch fire. **Only** natural fiber and leather clothing are allowed when firing a flintlock musket.

We will list items worn by the Militia and Continental soldiers. If you don't want to purchase a uniform but still want to participate in the color guard we will have something for you as well.

We hope this manual will help you answer any questions you may have. Remember, if you are not sure what to purchase, please don't be afraid to ask a fellow Compatriot. It is better to ask before you spend your money on something that is not period correct or needed.

We have received permission from each of the vendors to use pictures of their items in this manual

18th Century Work and Dress Shirts



Pictures Courtesy of Townsends



Pictures Courtesy of Townsends



18th Century Work shirt. This style was used for over 100 years. Authentic cut Made of cotton osnaburg. Worn by the working class folk has a homespun look.

18th Century checked work shirt. This style with has the same pattern as the cotton osnaburg shirt above. It is a lighter weight cotton worn by the working class.

This costume dress shirt can be used for many different occasions with a vest or under a uniform.

Typical period shirts were long sleeves, with a collar. Longer length shirts were also worn as nightshirts and are more period correct. They were tucked into their pants. Standard colors were white, or solid colors and also patterns of plaid. Materials include cotton, linen, silk, fustian or buckskin leather.

18th Century Work and Dress Shirts continued



Picture Courtesy of Townsends



Picture Courtesy of Townsends



Picture Courtesy of Townsends

A white cotton shirt is a typical 18th century style shirt. It can be worn with a waistcoat or as an undershirt when wearing A long hunter shirt.

Ruffled white linen shirt. Pullover colonial style shirt with underarm gusset and mother of pearl buttons.

Common shirts were made from rough linen, muslin & cotton . Patterned fabric was also used.

Military Style plain cotton or linen shirt. Perfect for Civilian Militia Worn under a hunting shirt or with a weskit. Also worn With regimental attire.

Weskits (Waistcoats)



Picture Courtesy of Townsends



Picture Courtesy of Townsends



Mid-thigh length was worn during the French and Indian War era. 1750's. Laces in the center of the back to adjust fit. With pewter buttons and working pockets.

Typical style from 1760's to 1800. Fully lined with pewter buttons and working pockets. Plain back (no lacing or buckle).

A waistcoat was an everyday clothing item for a man during the American Revolution. This cut hits the wearer at the waist and the vents in the back and sides are both fashionable and

Weskits or Waistcoats came in two styles, long and short. The short one was worn in the time of the revolution. They were made from Linen, Cotton Canvas, Silk and Wool.

Breeches



Fall Front Breeches in Linen

Picture Courtesy of Townsends



Fall Front Knee Breeches

Picture Courtesy of Townsends



Sailor Slops

Picture Courtesy of Townsends

Fall front breeches were the common style in the 1750s to the 1790s. They were even worn into the 1800s. They were typically made of linen, canvas, wool and silk. Militia typically wore knee breeches. Trousers were often worn by regular soldiers in both armies during the Rev. War.

They were longer pants that typically had a gusset that covered the top of the shoe.

Coats



Regimental War Coat



Musicians Coat



Men's Costume Civilian Coat



Great Coat



Hunting Frock in Canvas

Coats were quite the style in the 18th century. From the very wealthy to the poor. The most common Outfit in the 18th century included breeches, a waistcoat, and a longer coat or jacket. Men on the frontier often wore a hunting frock coat, also called a longhunters frock. The fringe on the hunting frocks was not just for fashion, it helped wick away water from the coat. Regimental coats were worn by the Continental military. The bright colors not only signified what army, regiment or rank, but so that on the battlefield the combatants could see friend from foe.

Hats



Fur Felt Civilian Tricorn - Tall BLACK



Fur Felt Military Tricorn - Black



Brown Standard Wool Felt Hat Blank



Machine-Knit Voyageur's Cap



Highland Bonnet

During the colonial period, hats were worn by most men. Mostly worn was the cocked hat or the tricorne hat. It is folded or cocked to form a type of triangle. Also worn was the round hat called a longhunter hat or sometimes referred to as a rifleman's hat. Both hats were usually made of wool felt.

Shoes



Riding Boots



Buckled Shoes



Buckled Shoes



Men's Moccasin Kit and Finished

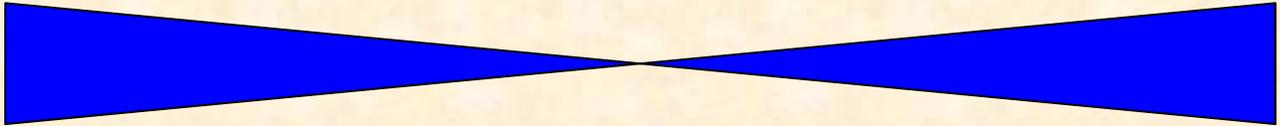


Vamps and soles were made from soft hide, and were easy to sew in the shape of an individual foot. Moccasins were ideal for walking in the northeastern woodlands. Early on, cordwainers and cobblers traveled from town to town, exchanging shoe repair for room and board, and circulating news and gossip.

Other Shoe Options & Stockings



If you are just starting out, you can take a standard black shoe and lace a buckle into the shoe laces which can give the appearance of shoe worn during this time period.



Stocking Colors



Cotton Stockings



Ribbed Stockings



Leather Garter

When wearing knee breeches, stockings are a must. If you are wearing trousers, any socks will do as they will not be seen. Stockings can be made of cotton, light weight, heavy weight, silk wool, white, colored, striped, just about any style can be worn. Leather garters will help hold stockings up.

Accoutrements

Different Types of Canteens



Wood Canteen



Tin Canteen



Gourd Canteen



Powder Horn



Tomahawk



Knife

There are many accessories for Continental and Militia uniforms. They include powder horns, leather shooting bags (possible bags) , haversacks, canteens, cartridge boxes, knives, tomahawks and an assortment of black powder items (flash guards, flints, tools...) the list goes on. Our list on the Merchants on Page 19 will sell everything you might want.

Uniform Accessories

Holding Things Together



Leather Belt

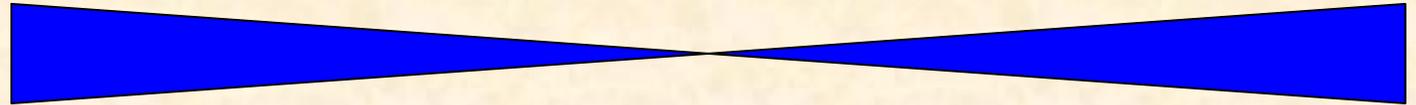


Woven Sash



Woven Garters

While the woven sashes can be decorative coming in many colors, the leather belt is better for holding knives, hatchets and pouches that soldiers carried



Neck Cravats



Hand-rolled and hand-stitched seams. Made of natural silk thread, approximately 13" x 69". Perfect for men's outfits from the 17th to 19th century. These cravats can be used for civilian dress as well as under military uniforms.

Haversacks and other pouches



Cotton Canvas Haversack



Leather Riflemen's Bag



Leather Belt Bag



Deluxe Knapsack



Smaller leather pouch



Linen Knapsack lined

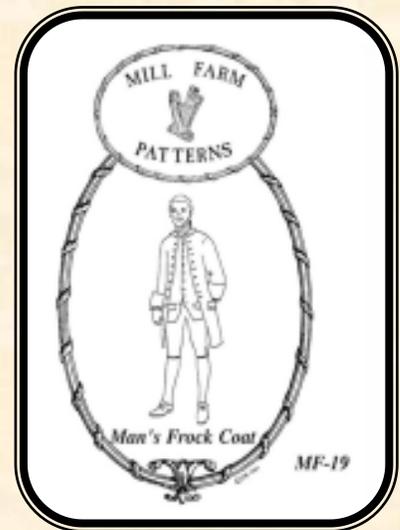
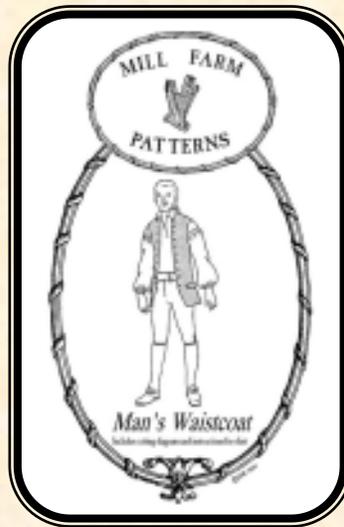
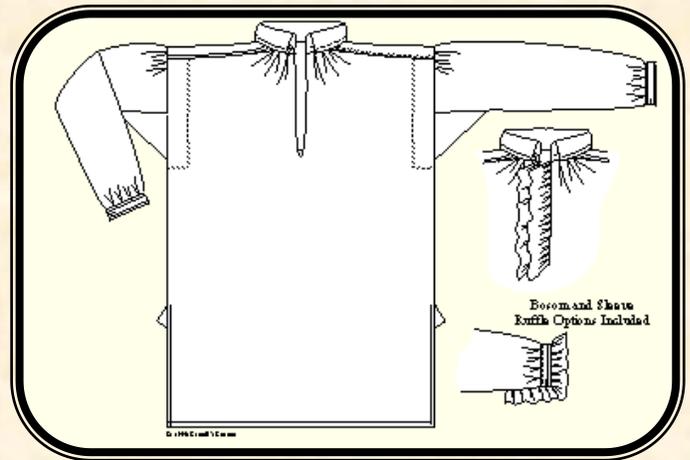
Whether you choose a full Continental uniform or Militia Back Woodsman uniform, a haversack was a necessity then as it is now. A soldier carries everything on his back or his side. Haversacks, pouches and knapsacks can be a major part of your uniform. The cotton canvas haversacks are less expensive and widely used on all uniforms

Making Your Uniforms

Many members like to make their own clothing. If you feel the need to be adventurous, we have provided information on some companies that make period patterns.

Fabrics :

Cotton is acceptable, but if you want to go for a more period correct look you should go for linen, wool, or silk.



Kannik's Korner

Patterns of time

JP Ryan or Mills Farm

Some on-line vendors, there are many more. 

Building Your Uniform

Militia

Basic		
Hat (Tricorn or flat)		\$40.00+
Hunting shirt		\$50.00+
Knee Breeches		\$70.00+
Shoes (non-period)		\$30.00+
Leather belt		\$40.00+
Stockings		\$13.00+
Advanced		
Weskit		\$60.00+
Solid color or checked shirt		\$40.00+
Hunting Frock Coat		\$100.00+
Gentelmans Frock Coat		\$200.00+
Leggings (Gaiters)		\$40.00+
Haversack		\$20.00+
Skilled		
Powder Horn		\$35.00+
Leather Shooting Bag (Possibles bag)		\$50.00+
Canteen (wood, tin or gourd)		\$34.00+
Footware (buckle shoes or trekker boots)		\$100.00+
Flintlock rifle or musket		\$600.00+



The above list takes you through your Basic, Advanced and Skilled levels of building a Militia uniform. The prices are estimates and will vary from vendor to vendor. You can also make a number of these items that will help cut the cost.

Building Your Uniform

Continental Soldier

Basic		
Tricorn Hat (cocked)		\$40.00+
Military style shirt (plain white)		\$100.00+
Knee Breeches (white or buff)		\$70.00+
Weskit (white or buff)		\$60.00+
Scarf (white or black)		\$40.00+
Trousers (white or buff)		\$100.00+
Regimental coat		\$300.00+
Stockings		\$13.00+
Advanced		
Period correct buckle shoes		\$100.00+
Haversack		\$20.00+
Canteen (wood or tin)		\$35.00+
Gaiters or Spatterdashes (leggings)		\$40.00+
Skilled		
Flintlock Rifle or Musket		\$600.00+
Bayonet		\$65.00+
Cartridge box		\$65.00+



The above list takes you through your Basic, Advanced and Skilled levels of building a Continental uniform. The prices are estimates and will vary from vendor to vendor.

You can also make a number of these items that will help cut the cost.

Choosing Your Musket

The Flintlock musket can be the most important and expensive item you decide to purchase as part of your uniform. While not required to be in the color guard, can add a lot of fun to your experience. Most will purchase actual working muskets that require education and care while using not to mention natural fiber clothing needed as mention in the Introduction. You can also choose to purchase a less expensive replica musket that would not fire and carried with the color guard flag detail.



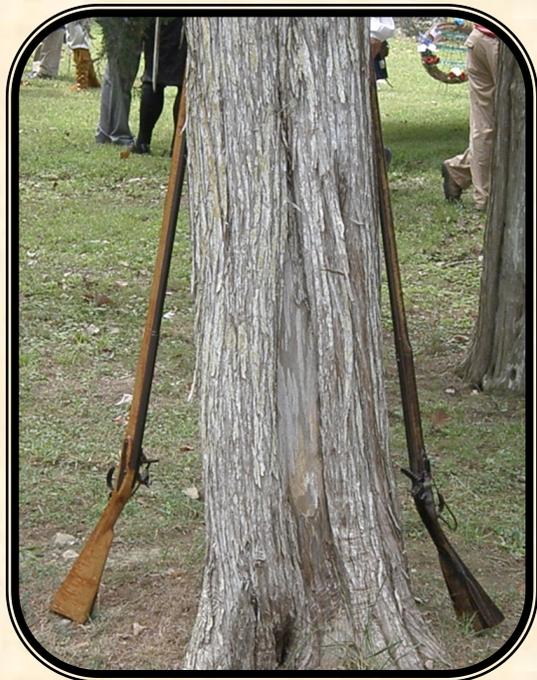
Shoulder Arms!



Make Ready!



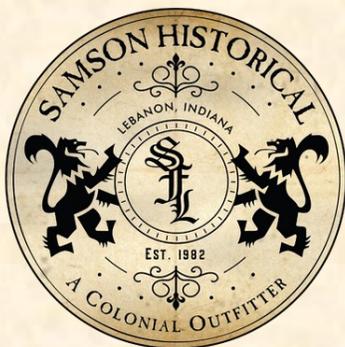
Fire!



View of the Flintlock used during the Revolutionary War. Also below are a number of but not all musket designs used during this time.

- ◆ 1801. Baker Rifle (Baker Infantry Rifle) ...
- ◆ 1720. Blunderbuss. ...
- ◆ 1722. British Land Pattern Musket (Brown Bess) ...
- ◆ 1750. British Sea Service Pistol. ...
- ◆ 1717. Charleville Musket. ...
- ◆ 1765. Duval Model 1765. ...

Time To Start Your Search



COBB CREEK MERCHANTS
18th Century Fine Clothing & Accessories



Townsend's



 *The Quartermaster General*



Smoke & Fire
Company

Track of the Wolf, Inc.

This guide is just a sample of what is available to put your uniform together. Every supplier is different and carries different styles as you move from one to the other. We have listed some of the websites above that carry much of what you have seen. Best of luck in your search for your perfect Revolutionary uniform.

Non-Period Color Guard Uniform

If you want to be a part of the color guard and do not wish to dress in period attire don't despair. You can still participate. The preferred attire is: Blue Blazer (cool weather) Khaki pants Red, White, or Blue Polo Shirt, SAR hat (optional).



Now You Are Ready!

You should now have a pretty good idea of what kind of a uniform you want. Start collecting your items and add some space in your closet as it can become addicting sometimes but it is a lot of fun. The following are some pictures of our Kentucky Color Guard members in action. Go and be a part of them!!



