

Clothing Guideline Standards for Men-at-Arms of the 11th Pennsylvania

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As the base of knowledge has improved over the past ten years as to the clothing and accoutrements used by the Men-at-Arms who saw service during the American Revolution, it is incumbent upon the unit to ensure the membership, incoming as well as existing, to be made aware of these developments and offer them the opportunity to adapt a historically accurate uniform impression in light of this new information. These guidelines are used in conjunction with documents previously approved and accepted by the unit, *Documented Uniforms of the 11th Pennsylvania Regiment* and *Uniform Paper of the "Old" 11th Pennsylvania*, as an authenticity-based tool to be used for recreating a historically accurate uniform for the Man at Arms of the 11th Pennsylvania Regiment.

The identification of specific clothing standards for members of the 11th Pennsylvania Regiment allows significant advantage in research time and personal expense, not only to new members seeking direction in their first clothing choices, but also for established members seeking to improve their kit.

This document identifies three Guideline Standards, of clothing options:
Unacceptable, Acceptable, and Ideal.

Each level of standardization is designed to allow the New Recruit or the Established Veteran to present an impression representative not only of the time period, but also historically accurate to the original "Old" 11th Pennsylvania Regiment. This approach allows us to meet our unit directive of aiding in the *"preservation of history and the accurate interpretation of the military and civilian roles of men, women and children in 18th Century America for the education of the general public."*

The Acceptable and Ideal standards as described are appropriate exclusively to the 11th Pennsylvania Regiment and/or Militia impression, and are not representative of the specific standards established for participation in the Regiment de Gatinois impression.

Guideline Standard - Unacceptable

As stated in the Policies and Procedures of the 11th PA Regiment:

Unacceptable clothing has been defined as that which is not period correct or has been constructed of man-made fibers, or having modern closures (zippers, elastic, Velcro, &c.). Clothing constructed of man-made fibers have proven capable of providing serious burn injury when exposed to fire or high heat causing severe burns, and include, but are not limited to, products made from Elastic, Rubber, Nylon, Polyester, Lycra, Spandex, etc.

Individuals who may arrive at an event attired in this standard will not be permitted to participate with the unit at camp or event activities. As also defined in the *Policies and Procedures*, those individuals not in period clothing will not be allowed to stay under the Unit dining fly or in the Unit camp during events.

The minimum requirement for period-correct clothing is described further in the "Acceptable" standard.

Guideline Standard - Acceptable

The Acceptable Standard offers a number of choices to create an authentic, documentable, uniform representative of the "Old" 11th Pennsylvania Regiment that is appropriate from the new Recruit's earliest participation with the unit. This standard denotes a basic recommendation for the Recruit, and choices available represent the easiest available, and least expensive, items to the Recruit.

Smallclothes - Essential:

Color choices within the essential Smallclothes are noted as white or natural due to the ease of availability, however, a variety of colors are available, especially for those pursuing a Militia impression. It is recommended that the Recruit consult with an existing member for selection if they are unfamiliar with the historical accuracy of a particular item.

1. **Shirts:** linen, fustian, or cotton; common work/military shirt; checked pattern optional for a Civilian impression.
2. **Breeches:** Linen, wool or cotton canvas; French fly or drop front with buttons
3. **Stockings:** recommend white or sky blue cotton, or wool
4. **Waistcoat:** recommend white or sky blue, linen or lightweight wool, sleeveless, 1770's cut & length; (buttons optional if a Sleeved Waistcoat is worn as Outer Wear/Coat)

Footwear options:

1. **Authentic reproduction shoes:** black, smooth or rough out, buckle or tie (leather or ribbon) closure
2. **Modern Shoes with Gaiters:** Black shoes or black/brown boots - not too obviously modern, hidden under well fitted half or full gaiters. Care should be taken to avoid heavy soled shoes or boots.
3. **Gaiters:** can be Commercial or homemade using black linen or painted cotton canvas, or white linen or wool, can be half or full length well fitted gaiters with horn, pewter, or cloth covered buttons.
4. **Moccasins:** must be a center seam moccasin made from an appropriate pattern of the period and devoid of any beading

Hat options:

1. **Flopped hat:** Black Felt and can be a trimmed brim hat blank
2. **Cocked hat:** Black Military cocked hat (point over left eye) with or without white or black trim tape, (this is NOT fancy: silk cockades, feathers, bucktails, pins, etc.)
3. **Round hat:** Black short brim, cocked up left side) not fancy, black or white tape optional
4. **Knit cap:** Monmouth cap - knit cap that conforms to the skull or Toque – longer half-football shaped knit cap
5. **Tricorn hat:** Black Felt

Guideline Standard – Acceptable – continued

Haberdashery options:

1. **Neckstock/ Kerchief – Essential:** Neckstock of black linen or cotton, black horsehair, or broad thick leather, with black linen tape ties or buckle clasp; Kerchief of linen, cotton or silk, solid color
2. **Garters – Essential:** black leather with brass buckles; cotton or woven tape
3. **Waist belt:** natural or black leather 1.5 to 2.75 inch with brass double D buckle. Avoid huge iron buckle and 3 inch plus belt types (essential with hunting frock/hunting shirt)
4. **Workman’s cap:** natural linen workman’s cap
5. **Glasses:** Contact’s or squinting is most appropriate however inexpensive period spectacle glasses/frames are available. Round lenses are correct for our period
6. **Hair Style:** Almost any non punk modern style/color is acceptable
7. **Mustaches and beards:** Clean shaven (three days growth) was the order of the day in the Continental Army, and is the ranges we would like to see, however we do not have an official policy on facial hair.

Outer Wear/Coat - Essential - choose one (or more) of the below options:

Outer Wear options available for the 11th Pennsylvania Man at Arms have been defined by the unit based upon the specific impression to be pursued. Note that this document establishes that the Outer Wear garment that had been used by an existing member, prior to the acceptance of this document, shall be “grandfathered” under the Guidelines until such time as the established member shall end membership in the unit. It is also presumed that if that existing member acquires or creates new clothing, that article would need to fall into accordance with this guideline

1. **Hunting Frock:** recommend white or natural heavy linen or cotton-canvas, open front, baggy fit, one or two capes, and fringed; solid color, no contrasting colors in fringe. This can vary from just edges to more elaborate decoration
2. **Sleeved Waistcoat:** Linen or lightweight wool, recommend white or sky blue, 1770’s cut & length, with buttons
3. **Common Coat:** Wool Broadcloth or linen, coat in blue, brown or light brown. Can also be a Common man’s plain frock coat, with pewter buttons, with or without cuffs, collar, pocket flaps - needs to be 1770’s style and can have moderately full skirts, lined or unlined, from mid thigh to knee length
4. **Regimental Coat:** Several options are available, however it is recommended the Recruit consult with an existing member for selection of a Regimental. The standard for this item is significantly higher than the other Outer Wear options, and the description may be found in the ***Ideal*** Standard below.
5. **Farmer’s Smock:** Pullover, knee to mid-calf in length, linen or light-weight cotton, fustian, or wool; recommend white or natural color.

Guideline Standard - Ideal

This Ideal Standard recreated uniform would be the one that achieves the highest degree of historical accuracy. This standard uses the "Progressive" philosophy to obtain the highest authenticity in the type, design, and construction of the clothing in question while fostering discussion, debate & consensus on clothing types, styles, fabric and suitability to improve the overall impression of the 11th Pennsylvania Regiment.

Pursuit and acceptance of the Ideal standard demands that the recreated uniform is created using the best available documentation, with recognition that this knowledge base may change as new information is learned. The uniform is developed using historically accurate materials, patterns, and construction techniques reflective of 18th century methods.

This choice of impression and level of authenticity should not be entered into lightly, and can be significant in cost. Experience, study, learning and discussion are necessary for the successful development of this standard. Just getting the uniform correct is not the only facet of this choice - elements both physical and mental also come into play. This choice necessarily includes Ideal Arms and Accoutrements, all with the same rigorously high standards. Similarly it would be essential to be a master of the various drills and manual of arms. A strong knowledge of the Unit in particular and the Revolution in general would be necessary as would a deep understanding of the day to day lives of the original men at arms. Finally this choice requires that the possessor be prepared to defend his impression in inquiry from the public, fellow members, and interested reenactors.

Smallclothes Essentials:

While color choices within the essential Smallclothes for the Acceptable standard noted specific colors due to the ease of availability, they are also more historically accurate. The Man-at-Arms pursuing the Ideal standard, including a Militia impression, must be certain of the historical accuracy of the particular item.

1. **Shirts:** linen, fustian work/military shirt in white or natural. Check optional for Militia impressions. Thread buttons or metal cufflinks at sleeves.
2. **Breeches:** linen or wool in white or natural, narrow fall front or French-fly, buttons of wood, fabric covered or plain pewter for the knees and fall.
3. **Waistcoat, sleeveless:** white or sky blue, made using linen or lightweight wool, worn as smallclothes (under or outer) 1770's cut& length, using fabric covered or plain pewter buttons
4. **Stockings:** white or sky blue cotton for Regimental kit; white or natural wool, linen, silk, Lindsey-Woolsey, in appropriate period colors, vertical stripes optional

Smallclothes, options:

The Man-at-Arms pursuing the Ideal standard will consider a number of color choices for his impression, but must be certain of the historical accuracy of the color of a particular item when selecting optional Smallclothes.

1. **Waistcoat, sleeved:** white or sky blue, linen or lightweight wool, worn as smallclothes (under or outer) 1770's cut & length, buttons of plain pewter, brass or fabric covered buttons, pockets optional
2. **Jacket:** white or sky blue, linen or lightweight wool, 1770's jacket cut & length, buttons of plain pewter, brass, or fabric covered buttons; pockets optional.

Guideline Standard – Ideal - continued

Leg Wear, options

1. **Trousers:** Linen, wool, or hemp; white, natural or “light colored”, narrow fall front, not overly baggy or long, and legs not close fitted (i.e. trousers should be moderately fitted) with plain pewter, wood or fabric covered buttons
2. **Overalls/Coveralls:** Linen, wool, or hemp; white, natural or “light colored”, narrow fall front, well fitted to the leg, foot flap to cover shoe buckle, leather instep strap, 4 or 5 buttons at ankle, buttons of plain pewter, wood, horn, or fabric covered buttons.
3. **Leggings:** Leather, buckskin, or wool, natural colored over the knee Indian style, small or no side flap, no decoration. If worn with breeches button hole to match top knee button.

Footwear, options

While footwear is good to have, remember, many soldiers did without such “luxury” during their service.

1. **Authentic reproduction shoes:** From a reputable vendor, black, smooth or rough out, buckle or tie (leather or ribbon) closure. Comfort and support paramount.
2. **Gaiter:** Commercial or homemade black linen or painted cotton canvas, or white linen or wool half or full length well fitted gaiters with horn, pewter, or cloth covered buttons.
3. **Hi-lo shoes:** black, brown rough in or out, comfort and support paramount.
4. **Moccasins:** must be a center seam moccasin made from an appropriate pattern of the period and devoid of any beading

Hat, options

As with Footwear, many soldiers did without such “luxury” during portions of their service,

1. **Flopped hat:** Wool-felt or Fur-felt trimmed brim hat blank.
2. **Cocked hat:** Wool-felt or Fur-felt Black Military cocked hat (point over left eye) with or without white or black trim tape; Cockade – simple black linen or felt, rectangular in shape. NOT fancy - **avoid** fancy cockades, feathers, bucktails etc.
3. **Round hat:** Wool-felt or Fur-felt short brim (2.5” around 3.5” on cocked up left side) not fancy, black or white tape optional. NOT fancy - avoid fancy cockades, feathers, bucktails etc.
4. **Cut down hat caps:** short or long brim, front and back brim with, minimal or no adornment. The front piece made from remnants of hat material.
5. **Fur hat:** period appropriate fur hat. Not coonskin, or faced.
6. **Tricorn hat:** Wool-felt or Fur-felt, Black

Guideline Standard – Ideal - continued

Haberdashery options:

1. **Neckstock/ Kerchief – Essential:** Neckstock of black linen, black horsehair, or broad thick leather, with black linen tape ties or buckle clasp; Kerchief of linen or silk, solid color
2. **Garters – Essential:** black leather with brass buckles; cotton or woven tape
3. **Waist belt:** recommend natural or black leather 1.5 to 2.75 inch with brass double D buckle. Avoid huge iron buckle and 3 plus inch belt types.
4. **Workman’s cap:** natural linen workman’s cap
5. **Glasses:** Contact’s or squinting is most appropriate however inexpensive period spectacle glasses/frames are available. Round lenses are correct for our period
6. **Hair Style:** Almost any non punk modern style/color is acceptable
7. **Mustaches and beards:** Clean shaven (three days growth) was the order of the day in the Continental Army.

Outerwear, options:

1. **Regimental Coat:** broadcloth regimental coat with lapels, cuffs, and collar. Well tailored to the body “tight without constraint”, full skirts to mid thigh to top of knee length skirts, generally worn hooked back with hook and eyes. Body and sleeves lined in white linen, skirts in white wool serge, stiffening fabric in the breast. Lapels 3 inches wide, non-tapered, ending at the waist. Lapel may be winged or not and designed to button over and generally worn hooked back with two or three sets of hooks and eyes. Collar to 3 inches at the front to near 5 inch center rear. Cuffs 3 or 3.5 inch round (no slash opening) Coat body, lapels, cuffs, pocket flaps and collar raw edged. 8 to 10 plain pewter button front(x 2), 4 button pocket flap, 3-4 button cuffs.

11th PA Regt – Nov 1776-July 1778 era events - Primary impression of the unit
 - a. Green Regimental coat, faced White
 - b. Blue Regimental coat, faced Red, with Red collars and Cuffs
 - c. Short Blue Regimental coat, faced Blue, with Red collars and Cuffs (Light Infantry)
2. **Hunting Frock:** Made of white linen, slightly closer cut, mid thigh length, without collar or cuffs, single cape fringed on edges only.
3. **Common Coat:** Linen, Lindsey –Woolsey, or Wool Broadcloth coat; recommend in blue, brown or light brown. Common man’s plain frock coat, with plain pewter or rough out, buckle or without (or any combo thereof) cuffs, collar, pocket flaps(functional or homemade black linen or unlined, from mid thigh to knee length.
4. **Blanket Coat:** Traditional military blanket or “box” coat, cut and constructed similarly to the hunting frock (i.e. untailed body or sleeves) of white or natural colored wool blanket, hooded with ties not button closure. Note: not Canadian Capote or fur trade type of garment.
5. **Watch coat:** pattern made with a white or natural colored wool blanket. Tailored to fit over the overcoat with one or two capes, large cuffs, full skirts, fabric covered, metal, or horn buttons.

In Conclusion

The knowledge gained of the clothing used by Men-at-Arms during the American Revolution has grown dramatically in the nearly 35 years since the celebration of our nation's Bicentennial. Each passing year scholars and historians, both professional and amateur, expand our understanding of eighteenth century life, uncovering bits of history - each piece impacting upon others known, and yet to be rediscovered.

It is crucial that the membership remains aware of these developments and that we offer them the opportunity to develop a historically accurate uniform impression in the light of new information. These guidelines allow the New Recruit or the Established Veteran the opportunity to present an impression representative not only of the time period, but also historically accurate to the original "Old" 11th Pennsylvania Regiment.

Sources of materials

A large number of Clothing, Equipment and Material suppliers, or Sutlers, are available to both the New Recruit and Experienced Veteran in the recreation of their uniforms for the 11th Pennsylvania Regiment. The below noted sutlers are those from whom the unit has found success in the creation of their own uniforms, and while by no means restricted to their exclusive use, great care and discussion should be held prior to consideration of sources other than those noted.

96th District Storehouse
April Thomas - Clothing Items
Avalon Forge - Camp Items
Burnley & Trowbridge
C&D Jarnagin
Carrie Efinger - Regimental Coats
Dixie Gun Works - Black Powder Items
Druids Oak - Clothing Items
Discriminating General – Black Powder Items
Flying Canoe Traders
Fox River Traders
Fugawee - Shoes
G. Gedney Godwin
Historic Seams
Historic Delights – Jewelry
Kochan-Phillips Historic Textiles – Wool, Linen cloths
Liberty Linens
Loyalist Arms – Black Powder Items
Middlesex Village Trading Co. - Black Powder Items
Najecki Reproductions
Rancocas Merchant
Smiling Fox Forge
Smoke & Fire Co.
Jas. Townsend