

**FORT DOBBS
FRENCH AND INDIAN WAR PERIOD
LIVING HISTORY GUIDELINES**

I. Fort Dobbs Mission and Vision

A. Fort Dobbs Mission

The mission of Fort Dobbs State Historic Site is to preserve the site of Fort Dobbs and interpret North Carolina's role in the French and Indian War.

B. Fort Dobbs Living History Vision

The Fort Dobbs living history program strives to educate the public about the daily lives of the men, women and children who lived on the colonial frontier, to connect the fort and its heritage to those in the surrounding community, and to place the fort and its activities in the context of events in the colonies during the French and Indian War through accurate re-creations of period clothing, equipment, and activities.

II. Living History Policy

Participation in most living history events at Fort Dobbs is by invitation only. Interested parties may apply to site staff for information on how to get involved. All participants must receive official approval that their portrayal of a settler, soldier, or American Indian at the time of the French and Indian War in North Carolina meets the site's expectations of authenticity and helps fulfill the site's goal of portraying the people and events of the past as accurately as possible.

III. Mandatory Guidelines for Fort Dobbs Events

The following guidelines are basic authenticity rules that must be observed by all participants:

A. Set-up and Vehicles: Camp set-up times are established for each event. For most Saturday events, set-up may begin at 4:00pm Friday. At that time vehicles are allowed in the camp but will be prohibited in the program area from 8:00 am Saturday until 4:00 pm Saturday.

B. Authenticity: For programs representing the French and Indian War, all items used or sold at the event will be authentic to 1754-1763. This includes clothing, furnishings, guns, knives, **shoes, eyewear, jewelry, no use of cosmetics**, hats, baggage, eating utensils, cooking utensils, trunks, etc.

Participants must remain in period clothing during an event.

C. Tobacco: No cigarettes are allowed at any time; clay pipes or hand rolled cigars only. Visible tobacco use of any kind during field trip

or “school day” programs is prohibited. Tobacco use inside Fort Dobbs is prohibited during public hours.

- D. Hair:** Facial hair is inappropriate for most British subjects in the 18th century and is *highly* discouraged. There will be absolutely no facial hair for those men portraying provincial or regular soldiers or for those portraying native men. Dyed hair is prohibited, and modern haircuts should be avoided or at least covered by an appropriate hat/cap for men and women.
- E. Children’s Clothing:** Accurately clothing children is always a concern as they grow quickly. Colonial children, boys and girls, should generally follow the style of garment worn by their elders **after** the age of five. Children younger than this should be clothed in a linen shift, cap, and a linen or woolen gown, no matter their sex. For native portrayals, very small children should have a basic trade shirt or shift/chemise. Cotton is acceptable in this case, as children grow out of expensive clothing quickly. A diaper is acceptable underneath the shirt for modern sanitary purposes. Children may wear center seam moccasins or go barefoot in lieu of appropriate shoes, though plain black shoes with the appearance of leather are allowed for children. Native boys do not have to shave their heads, but should either cover their heads, slick back their hair, or keep a ponytail. Children shall be properly attired for their age in the 18th century, including footwear when applicable, at all times.
- F. Shelters:** Accepted shelters include simple lean-tos, marquee, wedge, or wall tents, or just a blanket under the stars, depending on the portrayal. The use of linen tentage is preferred, but cotton is acceptable.
- G. Food and Drink:** All food or drink is to be consumed in 18th century period vessels. Cooking ware shall be of an 18th century design. Participants are encouraged to consume only period appropriate foods during an event.
- H. Modern Items:** ALL non-eighteenth century items must be kept out of sight at all times. This includes packaging and containers for food and cooking items. Put them in a proper container.
- I. Alcohol:** Alcoholic beverages are not to be consumed at all during public hours. After hours, period appropriate beverages may be enjoyed in moderation and must be in a period container. **The consumption of alcoholic beverages by persons under 21 years of age is prohibited by NC State Law.** Fort Dobbs staff reserves the right to revoke any participant’s right to consume alcohol at any time.
- J. Furniture:** Camp furniture must be appropriate to the period. NO slatted buck skinning or Adirondack style chairs. Participants are strongly encouraged to keep camp furniture to a minimum.
- J. Pets and Horses:** Pets are not allowed, except horses and similar pack animals. If a participant requires the use of a horse, he or she must contact Fort Dobbs State

Historic Site two weeks prior to the event as there are special equine regulations that must be followed.

- L. Minors:** Minor children (under 18) are the sole responsibility of their parents. Children are not permitted to run around unattended or play around fires, tools, weapons or animals at any time. Young children need to be supervised by parents at all times.
- M. Firearms:** All firearms brought on site must be inspected by a certified safety officer, whether they are to be fired or not. No firearms can be carried outside of the historic area and are allowed in period camps only. Firearms cannot be carried by minors at any time. Only adults can handle edged weapons or tools. Fort Dobbs safety officers will oversee all activities related to firearms demonstration and inspections and will adhere to the HS-1 guidelines established by the State of North Carolina, Division of State Historic Sites.

IV. Colonial Impression Guidelines

A. Provincial Soldier Guidelines

1. Shirts

Best: Hand-stitched checked, white, or natural colored linen shirt with narrow band cuffs (less than 1” wide) closed with thread buttons or made for sleeve buttons (cuff links).

Acceptable: Machine stitched checked, striped, or white linen or wool shirts.

Unacceptable: Cotton calico or plaid shirts.

2. Neckwear

Best: Silk, linen, or cotton handkerchiefs; black or white linen neck stocks, or linen rollers, well-tied around the neck. Hand-hemmed.

Acceptable: Machine hemmed neckerchiefs or rollers.

Unacceptable: Horsehair, leather, or velvet neck stocks.

3. Hats and Caps

Best: Hand-finished, round blocked, black wool or beaver felt hats. Cocked or round brim. Cut to a manner appropriate to the 1750’s.

Acceptable: Knit wool caps such as Monmouth or Dutch mutts. Linen cap constructed as a tube and gathered on one end.

Discouraged: White laced military hats with black cockade.

Unacceptable: Grey or brown wool felt hats and oval blocked hats. Straw hats. Slouch hats from unfinished blanks, fur caps, F& I style “ranger” hats. Hats decorated with animal parts. Linen “workman’s caps” constructed of multiple panels.

4. Coats

Best: Hand-finished, well-fit, British royal blue K&P wool broadcloth regimental coats with K&P madder red broadcloth facings and madder red bay half lining.

Flat, domed, or gas back brass buttons. Civilian coats or jackets of broadcloth or linen are allowed until a regimental coat is acquired.

Acceptable: Similar to the above with minimal visible machine stitching.

Regimental coats with pewter buttons.

Unacceptable: hunting shirts, smocks, over-shirts, baggy coats, coats and jackets made of cotton canvas or damask upholstery fabric.

5. **Jackets and Waistcoats**

Best: Hand-finished, well-fit, single breasted, straight-cut skirts, sleeveless, of broadcloth, kersey, serge, plain or stripe linen or linsey-woolsey.

Acceptable: Well-fit, single or double breasted, straight-cut skirts, of linen, linsey-woolsey, cotton velvet, or wool plush, in solid colors or stripes with minor visible machine stitching. Sleeved waistcoats/jackets are also acceptable.

Unacceptable: Laced waistcoats, cotton canvas, upholstery fabric waistcoats, extremely long or baggy waistcoats. Short skirted or round cut waistcoats.

6. **Breeches**

Best: Hand-finished, well-fit with buckled knee bands in blue broadcloth with brass buttons.

Acceptable: Breeches of kersey, linsey-woolsey, serge, broadcloth, leather or linen. Well-fit breeches with minor visible machine stitching. Trousers instead of breeches made of striped, checked, or plain linen, hemp, or ticking.

Unacceptable: Baggy breeches. Breeches made of other materials than listed above. Gaitered trousers.

7. **Socks and Stockings**

Best: White or grey wool yarn or worsted stockings or socks seamed with back seams.

Acceptable: White, grey, black, brown, blue, or green stockings or socks of wool yarn, worsted, or linen.

Unacceptable: Red, yellow, striped, cotton or polyester stockings.

8. **Shoes**

Best: Hand-finished, short or long quartered, round toe shoes with black waxed calf uppers fitted for buckles or ties.

Acceptable: Machine made, black leather shoes with buckles or ties.

Unacceptable: Shoe boots/half-boots/high-lows, modern footwear, moccasins, civil war bootees, or riding boots.

9. **Leg Wear**

Best: No leg wear, or wool stocking leggings.

Acceptable: Undecorated Indian leggings green wool tied with blue wool strips for certain events.

Unacceptable: Military gaiters or buckskin leggings, short half gaiters.

10. **Accoutrements.**

Best: 9 or 12 round government issue cartridge box, without GR cypher, black painted dull red, worn on a 1" wide black belt with iron buckle and two piece

riveted black bayonet frog. Bayonet scabbard should be of black leather with brass keeper and finial, following the style of British ordnance bayonet scabbards. Linen shot bag patterned after the Forbes campaign bag, with powder horn, following the style of the 1750's, for certain events.

Acceptable: Black painted cartridge boxes of 9 or 12 round capacity with or without GR cypher. Small leather, or fur hide shot bag on a simple leather strap, used with a plain powder horn, following the style of the 1750's.

Unacceptable: Any shoulder mounted cartridge pouch. 19th century "possible" bags. Complex construction bags with rings or other 19th century fittings.

11. Canteen

Best: Staved wooden canteens of oak or pine with hemp or leather strap.

Acceptable: Half-moon or kidney shaped tin canteen with hemp cord.

Unacceptable: Cloth covered or painted tin canteens. Gourd canteens.

12. Haversacks

Best: No haversack.

Acceptable: Linen "market" wallet.

Discouraged: Linen haversack copy of the Nanos Collection example, with linen, webbing, or leather strap.

Unacceptable: Cotton or upholstery material as well as painted or oiled, British Army marked haversacks.

13. Knapsacks

Best: Market wallet rolled into a blanket roll carried on a hemp strap.

Discouraged: Fur-on cowhide "tube" knapsacks based on those in art by Morier and Sandby. Linen "tube" knapsacks. Unpainted two-strap "Uhl" packs.

Unacceptable: Painted or oiled packs. Fur-on packs with two shoulder straps.

14. Musket and Sling

Best: Pre-1741 Dutch musket with brass furniture and mounted with appropriate bayonet. Black tanned sling with brass buckle.

Acceptable: 1728, 1742, or 1756 Pattern Long Land musket mounted with appropriate bayonet. English, PA, or VA style fowlers or trade gun of the 1750's for late war portrayal.

Unacceptable: Post-1756 Pattern English or Dutch arms, French arms, or carbines.

15. Cutlass

Best: Iron guard "sea service" English naval cutlass with smooth handle, in a black scabbard with either brass or no furniture, worn on a black 1.75-2" single frog waistbelt with brass buckle for 1755-1757 portrayal.

Acceptable: No cutlass.

Unacceptable: Any civilian, French, or brass guard English sword.

16. Blanket

Best: White Hand woven: Dutch or "von Reck" pattern blanket with blue and or red stripes, check or stripe civilian blankets, points blankets, rose blankets.

Acceptable: Plain white blankets. British military pattern blankets

Unacceptable: Coverlets, Civil War, Hudson Bay, or Whitney blankets.

B. Militia/Male Colonist Guidelines

1. Shirts

Best: Hand-stitched checked, white, or natural colored linen shirt with narrow band cuffs (less than 1” wide) closed with thread buttons or made for sleeve buttons (cuff links).

Acceptable: Machine stitched checked, striped, or white linen or wool shirts.

Unacceptable: Cotton calico or plaid shirts.

2. Neckwear

Best: Silk, linen, or cotton neckerchiefs; linen neck stocks, or linen rollers, well-tied around the neck

Acceptable: Machine hemmed neckerchiefs or linen rollers.

Unacceptable: Horsehair, leather, or any other military style neck stocks.

3. Hats and Caps

Best: Hand-finished, round blocked, black wool or beaver felt hats. Cut and cocked to a manner appropriate to the 1750’s.

Acceptable: Knit wool caps such as Monmouth or Dutch mutts. Linen cap constructed as a tube and gathered on one end.

Discouraged: Oval blocked hats. Straw hats.

Unacceptable: Grey or brown wool felt hats. Slouch hats from unfinished blanks, fur caps, F& I style “ranger” hats. Hats decorated with animal parts. Linen “workman’s caps” constructed of multiple panels.

4. Coats

Best: Hand-finished, well-fit, linen or wool broadcloth coats cut straight bodied. Broadcloth coats or sailor’s jackets with short skirts and mariner’s cuffs in the same colors.

Acceptable: Similar to the above with minimal visible machine stitching.

Unacceptable: Regimental coats, hunting shirts, smocks, over-shirts, baggy coats, coats and jackets made of cotton canvas or damask upholstery fabric.

5. Jackets and Waistcoats

Best: Hand-finished, well-fit, single or double breasted, straight-cut skirts, with or without sleeves of broadcloth, kersey, serge, plain or stripe linen or linsey-woolsey.

Acceptable: Well-fit, single or double breasted, straight-cut skirts, of linen, linsey-woolsey, cotton, cotton velvet, wool plush or silk, in solid colors or stripes with minor visible machine stitching. Sleeved waistcoats/jackets are acceptable as the primary outer garment.

Unacceptable: Regimental waistcoats, cotton canvas, upholstery fabric waistcoats, extremely long or baggy waistcoats.

6. Breeches

Best: Hand-finished, well-fit with buckled knee bands in kersey, linsey-woolsey, broadcloth, leather or linen.

Acceptable: Well-fit breeches with minor visible machine stitching. Trousers instead of breeches.

Unacceptable: Military breeches, baggy breeches. Breeches made of other materials than listed above.

7. Trousers

Best: Hand-finished trousers of striped, checked or plain linen, hemp, or ticking.

Acceptable: Well-fit trousers with minor visible machine stitching. Breeches instead of trousers.

Discouraged: Trousers made of other materials.

Unacceptable: Military gaitered trousers.

8. Socks and Stockings

Best: White, grey, blue, or brown wool yarn or worsted stockings or socks seamed with back seams.

Acceptable: White, grey, black, brown, blue, or green stockings or socks of wool yarn, worsted, linen or cotton.

Unacceptable: Red, yellow, striped, or polyester stockings.

9. Shoes

Best: Hand-finished, short or long quartered, round toe shoes with black waxed calf uppers fitted for buckles or ties.

Acceptable: Machine made, black leather, shoes with buckles or ties, high-lows.

Unacceptable: Modern Footwear, moccasins, civil war bootees, or riding boots.

10. Leg Wear

Best: No leg wear, stocking leggings, or civilian style spatterdashes of wool.

Acceptable: Undecorated Indian leggings of blue, red, or green wool.

Unacceptable: Military gaiters, heavily decorated wool Indian leggings, buckskin leggings.

11. Greatcoat

Best: Well-fitted, hand finished dark blue or drab colored heavy broadcloth, kersey, bearskin, or fear-naught wool. Single small cape not to extend past the shoulder seam.

Acceptable: Similar, with some exposed machine stitching. Red or green greatcoats.

Unacceptable: Greatcoats with large capes reaching beyond the shoulder seam, multiple capes. Greatcoats made of oil cloth, canvas or any other fabric.

12. Cartridge Pouches

Best: Small, simple leather hunting pouch with narrow shoulder strap and simple powder horn with leather or wool tape strap. Same, but worn on a waist belt. If carrying a Dutch musket, then as detailed for Provincial use above.

Acceptable: Civilian or British military patterned belly boxes.
Unacceptable: Indian style bags or horn straps, hunting bags made of brocade, or with metal rings. British military shoulder slung cartridge pouches, bullet boards.

13. Guns

Best: English or Pennsylvania style fowler, Carolina Gun, .50 to .80 cal. Rifle, or Dutch musket with British Army accoutrements.

Acceptable: 1728 – 1756 Pattern Long Land Pattern British Ordnance Musket.

Unacceptable: Southern Mountain Rifles, Hawkins Rifles, Post 1760-style rifles and fowlers, pistols.

14. Side Arms

Best: No side arms. Civilian pattern hunting swords or hangers with non-military pattern carriages. Hatchets carried in packs. English pattern trade/butcher knives worn on a belt, Dutch pattern bayonet if carrying a Dutch musket.

Acceptable: Civilian pattern bayonet fitted to fowler and carried in American style bayonet carriage with leather or linen web strap.

Unacceptable: Axes carried in military pattern belts of frogs, axes without leather cover. Military swords, neck knives, trade knives with quill or bead decorated sheaths, “patch knives.” Pistols.

15. Belts

Best: No belt.

Acceptable: Narrow belt of brown or black tanned leather with brass or small, square iron buckle.

Unacceptable: Wide mountain man or pirate style belts, round iron buckles, Indian finger woven or inkle woven sashes.

16. Knapsacks

Best: Hemp webbing blanket strap or tumpline blanket roll. Blanket worn “horse collar” style over shoulder. Linen market wallet. Unpainted “Uhl” pattern knapsack of osnaburg or Russia sheeting.

Acceptable: Painted “Uhl” pattern knapsack.

Unacceptable: Military pattern knapsacks of any pattern

17. Haversacks

Best: No haversacks

Acceptable: Market wallet.

Unacceptable: Haversacks.

18. Canteen

Best: Wood staved canteen with hemp or leather strap.

Discouraged: Tin military pattern canteen, earthen ware canteen, wood cheese box pattern canteen or gourd.

Unacceptable: Brass, copper, or wool covered canteen. No canteen.

19. Blankets

Best: White Hand woven: Dutch or “von Reck” pattern blanket with blue and or red stripes, check or stripe civilian blankets, points blankets, rose blankets.

Acceptable: Plain white blankets. British military pattern blankets

Unacceptable: Coverlets, Civil War, Hudson Bay, or Whitney blankets.

C. Female Colonist Guidelines

1. Shift

Best: A completely hand sewn shift made of 3-5oz weight linen. Sleeves should have wristbands with stitching (closures should be with sleeve buttons or ties.) Wrist bands should have stitching and can be plain or ruffled. The neck should be fitted without a drawstring. Very poor women sometimes made their shift bodies out of unbleached (gray) linen with white sleeves.

Acceptable: Same as the above, excepting that the shift could be hand finished with machined long seams.

Unacceptable: A completely machine sewn shift. A shift made of fabric other than linen. A shift with deep ruffles and drawstrings at the wrist bands and neckline. A colored or printed shift. No wristbands.

2. Stockings

Best: Shaped, handmade wool or thread over the knee stockings with a stitched back seam and common heel in a color commonly found in the 18th century. This includes “clouded,” blue, red, pink, green, gray, brown, white, off-white, black.

Acceptable: Machine made back seamed stockings in wool, linen or cotton in the aforementioned colors.

Unacceptable: Machine made synthetic stockings, tube stockings or socks, knee socks, “knee-his” or panty hose, striped stockings.

3. Stocking Tapes/Garters

Best: Irish Stitch shaped garters (these are shaped like tapes), twill woolen tape, Dutch linen tape, hand loomed tapes, worn preferably above the knee although below the knee is acceptable.

Unacceptable: Leather Garters with Buckles. These are a male clothing accessory and should not be worn by female followers.

4. Shoes

Best: Handmade bespoke turned shoes in leather or fabric with a forward squash heel. Handmade bespoke men’s shoes; these will work with a low class or tattered impression. Shoes should be fastened with a buckle or with the straps folded and tied with a ribbon or strings. Shoes without any fastening are also shown in period images.

Acceptable: Same as the above, but also allowed are partially machine-made women’s shoes, preferably of straight last construction.

Unacceptable: Laced shoes, ankle boots, rubber soles, modern looking shoes, loafers and ballet flats.

5. Stays

Best: Hand sewn fully boned or partially boned stays with an exterior fabric of wool or linen (green, brown, blue are most common) boned in baleen, wood cane or German boning, leather stays. Stays may be front and back lacing or back lacing. Hand sewn jumps for undress or doing manual labor is encouraged.

Acceptable: Machine sewn fully boned or partially boned stays with hand finishing with an exterior fabric of wool or linen (green, brown, blue are most common) boned in baleen, wood cane or German boning. Stays may be front and back lacing or back lacing. Jumps that are machine sewn with hand finishing for undress or doing manual labor is encouraged.

Discouraged: No stays (unless part of a unique documentable impression), bras, no supportive undergarments

Unacceptable: Laced English or French Bodices.

6. Pockets

Best: Hand sewn pockets. Pockets maybe made of document print cotton, dimity, diaper, quilted, wool, linsey woolsey, embroidered in natural threads (either wool or silk) on a linen ground or pieced in a pattern. They may be bound or unbound. Pockets should be suspended on a linen or woolen tape (single or one on both hips). Extant pockets vary in size and should be fairly large as they held your small items. These should be worn over your stays under your outer garments. They are accessed via the pocket slits in your gown and petticoats.

Acceptable: Machine sewn hand finished pockets. Pockets maybe made of document print cotton, dimity, diaper, quilted, wool, linsey woolsey, embroidered in natural threads (either wool or silk) on a linen ground or pieced in a pattern. They may be bound or unbound. Pockets should be suspended on a linen or woolen tape (single or one on both hips). Extant pockets vary in size and should be fairly large as they held your small items. These should be worn over your stays under your outer garments. They are accessed via the pocket slits in your gown and petticoats.

Unacceptable: Machine sewn pockets, pockets made of upholstery fabric, synthetic fabric or undocumented cotton. Pockets worn as an outer garment outside of skirts.

7. Outer Garments

Best: A completely hand sewn gown (preferably with stomacher and robings, but round gowns and center front closing gowns are acceptable) or bedgown in an appropriate worsted wool, document cotton print, linsey woolsey, or linen. Hand sewn jacket in one of the above-mentioned fibers if you are of an appropriate age for the garment (under the age 25 as research is pointing to this being a garment worn primarily by younger women).

Acceptable: A hand finished gown with machine sewn long seams (preferably with stomacher and robings but round gowns and front-closing gowns are acceptable) or bedgown in an appropriate worsted wool, document cotton print, linsey woolsey or linen. Hand finished jacket (with machined long seams) in one of the above-mentioned fibers if you are of an appropriate age for the garment

(under the age 25 as research is pointing to this being a garment worn primarily by younger women).

Unacceptable: Completely machine sewn gown, bedgown or jacket in a synthetic fiber or undocumented print. Gowns made without back pleating.

Short gowns (except on German Followers), hand sewn or otherwise, as they can't be documented to British settlers during the period, English or French bodices, riding habits.

8. Petticoats

Best: Completely hand sewn petticoats in an appropriate worsted wool, linsey woolsey, linen, flannel, Marcella/Marseilles, hand quilted flannel, worsted wool or quilted silk. Document cotton print petticoats maybe worn with a gown of the same print. Petticoat length should range from top of the foot to 2" above the ankle. German followers may have shorter petticoat lengths—from lower up to mid-calf is appropriate. Petticoats may have a plain or ferreted (Bound in tape or strip of fabric) hem.

Acceptable: Hand finished petticoats with machined long seams in an appropriate worsted wool, linsey woolsey or linen. Machine quilted silk petticoats if the silk is taffeta that is slub free. Documented cotton print petticoats maybe worn with a gown of the same print. Petticoat length should range from top of the foot to 2" above the ankle. German followers may have shorter petticoat lengths—from lower up to mid-calf is appropriate.

Unacceptable: Entirely machine sewn petticoats. Petticoats made of synthetic fibers, undocumented cotton prints. Machine quilted petticoats in silk dupioni.

9. Aprons

Best: Hand sewn linen apron in checks, stripes, or solids. Worsted aprons are also documented to the period; they follow the same form as linen aprons. They should fasten with narrow linen or handloomed tapes around the waist.

Acceptable: Hand finished linen or worsted apron with internal machine sewing in checks, stripes or solids.

Unacceptable: Machine made aprons, cotton aprons, printed aprons, silk aprons, pinner aprons on adults.

* Women doing an impression as a merchant/laundress/ petty sutler, etc. may produce a pocketed apron that is made in the shape of a large rectangle folded in half then sewn down the middle to make two pockets as seen in some prints. This allows easy and fast money exchange.

10. Headwear

Hair and Caps:

Best: Hair should be your own and styled in a neat and confined manner. Hair should be confined under a cap. The bulk of the hair height is at the front of the head. The bun should rest at the crown and lay flat to the head. Caps should be completely hand sewn and made of white linen, cotton organdy or silk organdy. They may be worn with or without a ribbon. They should be winged/ with lappets tied under the chin /pleated with the bag height at the crown.

Acceptable: Wigs on the lower classes while on campaign would be a rarity (that's being generous). If you have to wear a wig, please be sure it is human hair and simply styled in an informal way.

Unacceptable: Acrylic, high style or heavily powdered wigs. "Mob caps", printed or colored caps. Very large caps found in satirical prints of the period. Machine sewn caps. Caps trimmed in florals.

Hats and Bonnets:

Best: Chip or straw flat hat. This hat may be covered in silk or uncovered. Chip and straw hats may be curled at the front or both the front and back. Hats may be wool felt, demi caster (fur but not beaver) or beaver flat hats if they have a round crown. A man's round hat (cast off) with a round crown in felt, demi caster (fur but not beaver) or beaver.

All trims should be applied with hand sewing. Silk Bonnets: most were Black (70% or more that were mentioned in runaway ads were black) but were popular in blue and shades of white. Bonnets can be worn in many colors such as green, red or yellow and, in the Carolinas, checked.

Unacceptable: Wearing a flat hat with the brim pinned to the crown in the back (this looks like a turkey displaying) or with ties to make a tunnel. Floral decorations on hats. Elaborately decorated high style hats. Hats with trims applied with a sewing machine. Synthetic ribbons or trim.

11. Accessories

Handkerchiefs:

Best: Narrowly hand hemmed (either with a running stitch, whip stitch or rolled hem. It appears that running stitch was most common.) Square (folded into a triangle) or triangular piece of cotton, linen or china silk. The linen or cotton should be very fine if white. Linen handkerchiefs were also woven into checks usually in two colors. Colored resist dyed cotton handkerchiefs were common as well and worn primarily with solidly colored gowns. White handkerchiefs do seem to be the most common in the period. They may be tucked into the neckline of the gown/jacket/bedgown bodice or outside of the gown and pinned in a triangle to that waist for more modesty. See Ruth Hodges's latest research on the tucking of the backs of handkerchiefs.

Unacceptable: No handkerchief, synthetic fabric, undocumented prints, modern prints, modern paisley prints, heavy weight material. Floral breast knots unless you are dressed for a special occasion.

Jewelry:

Best: If you must wear one, simple wedding bands made of silver or brass. It appears that most women of the upper classes did not wear wedding rings, and one can surmise that this would also be the case for the lower to middling classes. Posey rings and trade rings are acceptable. A choker made of a silk ribbon. Simple jewelry of period design that fits the station you portray. No jewelry is perfectly appropriate as well.

Unacceptable: Modern jewelry, miniature portraits, jewelry with gemstones, formal jewelry, and large earrings, necklaces, brooches and bracelets.

12. Miscellaneous:

Carrying Personal Items:

If using a basket, make sure it is a period form and material. No modern baskets. Market wallets are an excellent option. A bolster is also handy and documented for carrying your items.

Personal Care and Kitchen Towels:

Towels and small linens come in handy. They may be reproduced in linen: plain, check, or diaper. These are easily reproduced and can be done in camp.

Purses:

A miser's purse does come in handy but is not required.

Mitts:

Hand sewn formed in worsted, leather, white linen, silk, or knitted in wool using an appropriate pattern.

Blankets:

Best: White Hand woven: Dutch or "von Reck" pattern blanket with blue and or red stripes, check or stripe civilian blankets, points blankets, rose blankets.

Acceptable: Plain white blankets. British military pattern blankets

Unacceptable: Coverlets, Civil War, Hudson Bay, or Whitney blankets.

13. Cold Weather Wear

Quilted Waist Coat:

Best: A hand quilted women's waist coat to be worn under your gown adds warmth. This should be made preferably in wool or silk based on extant examples. White flannel waistcoats are also appropriate.

Acceptable: A machine made Marcella/Marseilles fabric with hand sewn or machined long seams that is hand finished based on extant examples.

Unacceptable: Synthetic or silk dupioni quilting. A completely machine sewn quilted waist coat. Undocumented fabric. An English or French Bodice not based on an extant example.

Stocking Mitts:

Stocking mitts are long and made from repurposed stockings. These mitts fit up to the shoulder over sleeves of a gown for added warmth. These should be made of hand knit or frame knit woolen stockings.

Cloaks:

Best: Completely hand sewn cloak in wool broad cloth or superfine. The hood maybe lined in silk, wool or linen. The edges may be faced in wool plush or silk. Period appropriate gimp may be used. Closures should be made of period correct hook and eyes or ties. Cloaks most commonly appeared in red and blue, but also may be cream, gray, or black.

Acceptable: Hand finished Cloak with Machine sewn long seams in wool broad cloth or superfine. The hood may be lined in silk, wool or linen. The edges may be faced in wool plush or silk. Period appropriate gimp may be used. Closures should be made of period correct hook and eyes or ties.

Unacceptable: Completely machine sewn cloak. Acrylic blend woolen. Synthetic fabric. Modern cloaks. Modern clasps or undocumented brooch closures.

VI. Native American Impression Guidelines

A. Caveat

The basic requirements for an accurate portrayal of a mid-18th century southeastern native man and woman are listed below. In these guidelines, the "common, every-day, and plain" look is recommended. This does not mean that decorative (or decorated) or unusual items are not acceptable. It means that a convoluted excuse or rationale for using an object, including "spoils of war" should be avoided. Finery was typically reserved for special occasions such as formal treaties and parlays. Further information about certain trade items made be found in the appendices.

All re-enactors who represent Native Americans of the 1750's at Fort Dobbs must be an enrolled member of either a Federally recognized tribe, or one of the eight tribes recognized by the State of North Carolina. The only exception would be an individual whose portrayal is specifically sanctioned by the specific nation being represented.

B. Native Male Guidelines

1. Shirts

Best: Hand-stitched checked, white, or natural colored linen shirt with narrow band cuffs (less than 1" wide) closed with thread buttons or made for sleeve buttons (cuff links).

Acceptable: Machine stitched checked, striped, or white linen or wool shirts. White linen shirt with ruffles.

Unacceptable: Cotton calico or plaid shirts

2. Matchcoat

Best: Dark blue broadcloth, or corded list stroud measuring 65" to 72" long and 54" to 60" wide.

Acceptable: Same with hand sewn green, yellow, and or red silk ribbon. Red matchcoat of same dimensions.

Unacceptable: Black, yellow, green, or other color matchcoats. Matchcoat with machine sewn ribbon.

3. Breechcloths

Best: Undecorated dark blue broadcloth or corded list stroud measuring 10" to 12" wide and 54" long.

Acceptable: The same but decorated with silk, wool lace and/or beads, or made of other colors of wool.

Unacceptable: Breechcloths made of any other materials.

4. Sashes or Belts

Best: No sash or belt.

Acceptable: Oblique pattern finger woven wool sash with beads woven in. Leather belt with a brass or small iron buckle.

Discouraged: Sashes woven in diamond, chevron, flame, or arrowhead patterns as evidence suggests they post-date this period.

Unacceptable: Heddle or card woven, or quilled. Mountain man belts with large, round iron buckles.

5. Leggings

Best: Dark blue broadcloth or corded list stroud, undecorated, side-seam leggings with a 3” to 4” wide flap.

Acceptable: Same with hand sewn green, yellow, or red silk ribbon trim. Red or green wool leggings. Leather leggings

Unacceptable: Other color leggings, other style (center-seam) leggings.

6. Leg Ties

Best: Red twill wool tape garters.

Acceptable: Oblique finger woven garters, heddle woven bead garters, strips of wool, other colors of twill wool tape.

Discouraged: Other forms of finger woven garters (diagonal, chevron, etc...), heddle or card woven, quilled garters.

7. Moccasins

Best: Southeastern style center-seam, pucker-toe made of brain tanned deer with no decoration. The flap should be seamed up the rear and worn upright, wrapped around the ankle.

Acceptable: Similar, made of either commercial brain tanned deer, or German tanned deer. Elk or buffalo moccasins.

Discouraged: Winter, northeastern vamp style moccasins.

Unacceptable: Any other style of moccasin.

8. Hair

Best: A documented haircut with the majority of the head shaved, leaving only a scalp lock at the crown of the head. Decorated with finger woven or heddle woven hair garters, red deer hair roach, ribbon tied in the hair, silver or brass hair pipes, etc.

Acceptable: Hair covered by either a handkerchief, or a hat

Unacceptable: Plains style porcupine and deer hair roaches, other colors of deer hair roaches, animal parts, uncovered modern hair styles.

9. Jewelry:

Best: Sterling silver reproduction ball and cone earrings and nose rings, No jewelry

Discouraged: Other jewelry.

10. Hunting Pouch

Best: Otter hide pouch with the tail as a flap.

Acceptable: Simple, unadorned, leather bag similar to 1761 Cherokee Commission Document.

Unacceptable: Other styles of bags, such as twined or quilled bags. Mountain man style “possibles bags”, military cartridge boxes and pouches.

11. Powder Horn

Best: Cow or buffalo horn, suspended by wool twill tape, brain tan thong, oblique finger woven strap.

Discouraged: Giftshop type horns, horns suspended by other types of straps.

12. Gun

Best: A “Carolina gun” English pattern trade gun with a light 46+” barrel, or a French fusil de chasse or fin with a 44+” barrel.

Acceptable: Military firelocks of the 1750’s period, civilian fowling guns, or short 1750’s period rifles.

Unacceptable: Pedersoli “trade guns”, canoe guns, blunderbusses, pistols, long rifles, cap lock guns.

13. Knives

Best: English trade knife in either carried in either a European style leather sheath or a brain tanned deer hide sheath either worn around the neck or worn at the waist. Folding knife.

Acceptable: French pattern trade knives in similar sheaths.

Unacceptable: Quilled knife sheaths.

14. Warclubs

Best: Ball headed clubs.

Acceptable: “Cricket bat” style, or no warclub.

C. Native Female Guidelines

1. Shirts

Best: Hand-stitched checked, white, or natural colored linen shirt with narrow band cuffs (less than 1” wide) closed with thread buttons or made for sleeve buttons (cuff links). White or natural linen shift.

Acceptable: The same but with minor machine stitching visible.

Unacceptable: Printed cotton calico or plaid shirts

2. Matchcoat

Best: Dark blue broadcloth, or corded list stroud measuring 65” to 72” long and 54” to 60” wide. With or without hand sewn green, yellow, and or red silk ribbon.

Acceptable: Red or green matchcoat of same dimensions.

Unacceptable: Black, yellow, or other color matchcoats. Matchcoat with machine sewn ribbon.

3. Wrap Skirt

Best: Similar to a matchcoat, but of smaller dimensions to wrap around the waist, and reach to the knees. Blue or red wool broadcloth or wormed stroud with hand sewn green, yellow, blue, or red silk ribbon trim, and/or white beads.

Acceptable: Linen skirt.

Unacceptable: Black, yellow, or other color wrap skirts.

4. Leggings

Best: Dark blue broadcloth or corded list stroud, undecorated, side-seam leggings with a 3” to 4” wide flap.

Acceptable: Same with hand sewn green, yellow, or red silk ribbon trim. Red or green wool leggings. Leather leggings or natural, white, grey, or blue wool stockings.

Unacceptable: Other color leggings, other style (center-seam) leggings.

5. Belts and Finger Woven Sashes

Best: No belt or finger woven sash over the shirt.

6. Leg Ties

Best: Red twill wool tape garters.

Acceptable: Oblique finger woven garters, heddle woven bead garters, strips of wool, other colors of twill wool tape.

Discouraged: Other forms of finger woven garters (diagonal, chevron, etc.) heddle or card woven, quilled garters.

7. Moccasins

Best: Southeastern style center-seam, pucker-toe made of brain tanned deer with no decoration. The flap should be seamed up the rear and worn upright, wrapped around the ankle.

Acceptable: Similar, made of either commercial brain tanned deer, or German tanned deer. Elk or buffalo moccasins.

Discouraged: Winter, northeastern vamp style moccasins.

Unacceptable: Any other style of moccasin.

8. Bed Gowns

Best: Hand sewn check or natural colored linen, printed cotton. No bedgown in summer months.

Acceptable: Same, but with minor visible machine stitching.

9. Hair

Best: Long hair, worn in either a bun at the base of the neck, or clubbed braid. Braid may be wrapped in silk ribbon.

Acceptable: Sterling silver hair plates, hair covered by either a handkerchief, or a hat.

Unacceptable: Plains style porcupine and deer hair roaches, other colors of deer hair roaches, animal parts, uncovered modern hair styles.

10. Decorations

A. Ear Decoration:

Best: Earrings of the closed-bottom ball and cone type. Shorter is better. Sterling silver or brass cut triangle earrings.

Discouraged: Open-bottom ball and cone earrings.

Unacceptable: Ear wheels, modern ear jewelry,

B. Necklaces:

Acceptable: Any style bead documented to the Southeast in the 1750's.

Unacceptable: Beads that pre- or post-date the mid-18th century, including chevrons, Russian blues, etc....

C. Bracelets:

Best: Brass rod, or sterling silver.

Unacceptable: Brass or Copper wrist plates.

D. Rings:

Best: Brass rings, silver rings, brass-mounted stone rings and silver-mounted stone rings.

Acceptable: No rings.

E. Nose Rings

Unacceptable: Nose Rings of any style.

F. Paint:

Best: Red paint along the part of the hair and forehead.

Unacceptable: Fully painted face.

Appendices

A. The Provincial Soldier

The full-time soldiers who constructed and garrisoned Fort Dobbs voluntarily enlisted to serve their province. As was often the case in the regular army, provincials generally came from the lower order of society; men who joined the service more through economic hardship than from a sense of patriotism. Each spring, the North Carolina assembly, following a request from the governor, would vote a certain amount of money to raise and maintain a certain number of soldiers; however, many were felt to be necessary for that year's campaign. Companies would be filled and sent to their posts in the spring, with the enlistments of most men expiring by winter.

During the war, NC provincials were not only guarding forts on their own colony's western and eastern borders, but also serving in campaigns as far afield as Virginia, Pennsylvania, and New York. Often underpaid and poorly supplied, the provincials were not considered to be the best soldiers, yet the service of thousands of such men made possible England's victory in North America.

B. The Militia/Male Colonists

Part 1: Historical Background

The militia of North Carolina was in a very poor state at the beginning of the war in 1754. This was one of the reasons the colony raised provincial soldiers. Matthew Rowan, as acting governor, admitted, "Our militia had been very much neglected." In fact, the most current militia law was from 1746. The most exposed counties were Rowan, Anson, Orange in the West. Matthew Rowan praised the populations of those counties as, "brave Industrious people[.] Their Militia amounts to upwards of three thousand Men and [is] increasing fast." However, the effective numbers were considerably less. When the militia was counted, it amounted to fewer than 1000 men.

Additionally, the men were poorly equipped. Governor Dobbs reported to his superiors that, “There is not half of the Militia armed.” Even in the middle of the war, an officer from Granville County related how members, “of the Company Appear’d without any Arms....” Eventually he was able to make “them Appear, as well Arm’d as the Poverty of the Country will Admit off.” Poverty seems to have been a major obstacle to men equipping themselves for militia service. Rowan admitted that he would need “£1,000 to buy arms and ammunition for the poorer Inhabitants of Rowan & Anson Countys.”

As the war continued, militia men seem to be better equipped. Dobbs received a shipment of 1000 Dutch made muskets, bayonets, cartridge boxes, scabbards, frogs and belts in 1755. He “sent 150 to the western Frontier to arm the militia of two counties there,” but admitted that after that he would need at least 2000 more muskets to fully supply the militia.

The militia law ordered each man to appear with, “a Gun, fit for service, a Cartouch Box, and a Sword, Cutlass, or Hanger, and at least Twelve Charges of Powder and Ball or Swan Shot, and Six Spare Flints.” With this the citizens of the colony would be prepared, in theory, to repel an invasion or attack. They were required to muster by companies a couple times a year to train, learn the manual of arms and practice military drill. One such drill is disparagingly described by a Moravian in Bethabara in 1754:

On the morning of Oct. 30th Col. Schmidt rode through our yard, and without permission held Muster in our meadow, for his five companies. ... Capt. Guest was very considerate, he stopped and spoke to us only in passing, for fear others would follow him in, and gave orders to his company to stay out of our yard, but nearly all the rest rode right through. The noise and shooting frightened our horses badly, and the four new horses broke away into the woods. ... In general the people behaved better than is usual on such occasions, though this does not apply to Capt. Hampy and his men. During dinner they passed through our yard and we asked that the beating of the drums cease because it frightened our horses and made them tear around the wagons, etc. They not only refused our request, but began shooting in addition. Capt. Hampy did not know the road through our farm, and when we offered to show it to him replied that he would ride where he pleased and make a way through our fences. After the Muster the men were so full of whiskey that they fought each other until they were covered with blood. However, through all the tumult, we safely continued our work. We hope the soldiers will hereafter find another place for Muster, and not use our land.

This shows the rowdy nature of most militia musters and also indicates that the militia of North Carolina used drums to beat for commands, like most military formations.

The militia’s service was consistent if not glorious. With news of the defeat of General Edward Braddock’s army in Pennsylvania, the frontier from Virginia to North Carolina braced for possible attacks. Dobbs “gave directions to put the frontier in the best State of Defense against the Indian incursions, by having 100 select men in Readiness to joyn our Frontier Company.” These select 100 were from Anson and Rowan counties and were “piquet to be chosen out of the most active men of the Militia...with a chosen officer at their head of fifty men each.” These select militia men were given, “a central place of rendezvous to be fixed for each to the northward and southward of our Frontier Company, to be under Captain Waddell’s command, to join him when necessary or for him to march to

assist them in case of any incursion.” Captain Waddell was stationed at the site of what would become Fort Dobbs.

Militia troops continued to act in this capacity and were even sent out to attack a band of thieves at one point. During the Cherokee War they acted under the command of provincial officers like Waddell and scouted their territory when news of Indian movements or attacks surfaced. Indian raiding parties struck the backcountry settlements and occasionally the militia was able to fight them. One account tells that a, “gang of Cherokees killed several of the settlers on the Catawba River,” and added that a party of militia engaged, killed and scalped the Cherokee and recovered several white scalps.

War seems to have taken its toll on the backcountry and by 1761 it was reported that, “The Country is greatly exhausted, and most of the Back Settlements deserted, which a Peace will soon resettle.” The militia of North Carolina served its communities admirably, however they refused to serve anywhere but in their area. The service of the militia is an important part of the French and Indian War in North Carolina

Part 2: Material Culture

Militia members wore their civilian clothing and therefore a wide variety of garb was seen in a militia company. Generally, the clothing of the laboring class is a good road to follow when developing a militia impression. There are a few descriptions of civilians from the French and Indian War period that give some details of dress worn by the people living in this part of North Carolina.

August 29, 1754

RUN away on the third of May last, from Capt. Robert Harris, of Rocky river, in Anson county, North Carolina, two Dutch servants, viz: a man and his wife; the man named Hermanus Haggen, about 30 years of age, of a low stature, with black hair: Had on, an old hat, blue coat, brown jacket, with brass buttons, and square toed shoes; and had a bag on his back, of a large bulk. The woman named Catherina, in a Dutch dress, with a damask petticoat, and a brown one, can speak some English, and have a little white dog with them.

In addition, there are some descriptions of men who left North Carolina, but still speak to common clothing elements:

Philadelphia, Nov. 26, 1760.

LAST Night, about Twelve o'Clock, was stolen from the Subscriber, out of the Stable of Leonard Melchior, of this City, Innholder, an Iron Roan Stallion, about fifteen Hands high, branded on the near Buttock I H, about 8 Years old. The Fellow who stole him is a German, and calls himself Francis, pretends to speak twelve Languages, and says he was obliged to leave his Habitation in North Carolina on Account of the Indian War, He is about 20 Years of Age, a short fat well set Fellow, and is flush of Money. Had on a brown Cloth Coat, pretty much worn, a Pair of Boots, Leather Breeches, and an old Hat. He also stole from the Subscriber, a whitish Great coat, Horse whip, and a Pocket book, with about Five Pounds in Money in it.

Some things that frequently come up in working class clothing are jackets and trousers. Short length jackets were practical working wear for a man in the 18th century and imagery showing men working in such garments is common, particularly those in agricultural and nautical occupations. In addition, the leg wear of choice for working men seem to be leather breeches and trousers. Leather is an obvious choice because it wears well, and trousers cover breeches and protect the garments while allowing a full range of motion for the legs. Trousers seem to have been common in this part of North Carolina.

Clothing that was fitted and made for the wearer would have been common in 1750's North Carolina. Rowan County had ten tailors working in 1759, making almost exclusively clothing for men. The Moravians had tailors and they made clothing for outsiders and those within the United Brethren. Clothing was not difficult to find in Western North Carolina. Cloth was imported from Europe and sold in Salisbury and fabric was made in the county.

Part 3. Weapons

The weapons used by militia men were many and varied. Militia law stated that a man should have a serviceable gun, but it was clear that many did not. Militia men may have used weapons from previous military engagements and by 1755, a number of Dutch military muskets and bayonets were issued by the crown. In addition, men may have carried civilian fowling pieces and rifles. Edged weapons were likely carried as the militia law required swords, hangers, or cutlasses. Descriptions of scalping by militia soldiers likely indicate the use of knives as well.

By 1756, Rowan County contained roughly 1160 men by the Governor's estimate. By 1759, the county had only three gunsmiths. With this being said, it appears that those who had weapons owned older models. Militia men generally were not issued top shelf arms (as indicated by 1730's Dutch muskets issued,) so when choosing a weapon, older is better. Keep in mind that many North Carolinians emigrated from Pennsylvania, so military weapons would likely have been from early in the century and rifles would have been of an early variety, produced by Pennsylvania gunsmiths, and bearing more Germanic features than the later "long rifle."

The militia law specified that militia men must carry a cartridge box. The type of box likely varied depending on what the soldiers had available. It is very likely that militia men also carried ammunition in the typical shot bag and powder horn. The type of knapsacks, haversacks, etc. that a militia man carried is unknown. Militia men were called to muster only a few times a year and then only for the day. They probably did not carry these items regularly. As the war progressed, militia men may have carried blankets and food.

C. Female Colonists

While the primary focus of interpretation at Fort Dobbs State Historic Site is the fort and the soldiers who garrisoned it, the role of civilians in the area is an integral part of the story of North Carolina's experience in the French and Indian War. These guidelines are intended to aid female living historians in developing an accurate portrayal to use at the historic site.

Women were present at Fort Dobbs in one of three main capacities during the 1750's. First, they were visible as vendors coming to the fort to sell goods to the troops, such as butter, eggs, and seasonal produce. Second, they were visible as refugees seeking shelter from Indian raids. Finally, they were visible as wives of garrison members. It should be noted that most women in these circumstances belonged to the middling or lower classes.

The local women bartering goods or seeking shelter were predominately Scots-Irish Presbyterians or to a lesser extent, German Lutherans. Their homes were likely within thirty miles of the fort itself and were part of the scattered settlements that followed the tributaries of the Catawba and Yadkin Rivers. Most families in the region were farmers, although there were shop, tavern keepers, and tradesmen, such as tailors and millers, in the area.

It is unknown if the soldiers at Fort Dobbs had their wives with them, although it was a common practice in the British military as a whole. A surviving return of one company of North Carolinians serving in Pennsylvania in 1758 does show one woman on the strength. Depending on circumstances, there could be from one to eight women attached to a company of soldiers in the regular army. As most of the provincials were raised on the coast of the colony, it is likely that any wives were from the same region, perhaps living in such towns as Beaufort, Wilmington, Brunswick, Edenton, or New Bern.

Women living with the garrison were required to be married to a garrison member and had to answer at roll calls. They also typically received one-half a man's ration of food for being part of the unit. The most important function the women served was laundering, and they received pay from the garrison for their services. Although camp followers are often portrayed in a less-than-flattering light, prostitution would be VERY unlikely at a small post like Fort Dobbs.

D. Native Americans

The primary tribes involved in the French and Indian War in western North Carolina included the Catawbas and Cherokees. Both groups were allies of England early in the war (though traditional enemies of each other) and sent their warriors through the Yadkin Valley on several occasions while on their way to fight in Virginia or Pennsylvania. By 1759, relations between the Cherokees and the English broke down and eventually led to open warfare, with Fort Dobbs being attacked at least once in 1760. During the war, Mohawks, Tuscaroras, Creeks, Chickasaws, Seneca, and Shawnees also fought in the Carolinas and Virginia. Any of these portrayals are appropriate for events at Fort Dobbs, but Catawba and Cherokee impressions are highly encouraged.

Woolens:

Among the Cherokee, Catawba, Chickasaw, Creek and others, blue cloth was preferred. Each warrior should have a blue matchcoat measuring approximately 65"x 54", a pair of blue, side-seam leggings, and a blue breechcloth. The cloth can be either plain blue broadcloth, or blue saved-list stroud.

Matchcoats, leggings, and breechcloths may be decorated with white beads and silk ribbon. Green and yellow silk were the most commonly available colors in the southeast.

*Memorandum of Goods Delivered to the Catawba Nov. 1756 (GW Papers, Library of Congress)
8 blue strouds*

3 red ditto
2 matchcoats
6 blankets
6 pair white leggons [leggings]
5 pair blew ditto
9 red britch clouts...

A List of Goods Proper to be sent from England to Charleston South Carolina to be given as Presents from His Majesty to the Indians in the Southern District for the Service of the Year 1757 (Huntington Library, LO 2514(B))

*Strouds 1/5 Red 4/5 Blue with a worm and stars on each side. Mr. Boswicke in London to be consulted whether the Indians still prefer that stripe
Frock coats of cheap blue cloth (except 10 of Complet) with scarlet close cuffs and collars (without lace). 1/2 yellow and 1/2 white buttons – not scanty.*

Reward proposed to be provided at any time by the Government of Virginia & promised by his Majesty's Agent & Superintendent of Indian Affairs in the Southern District... Virginia, October 1759. (Amherst Papers, P 74-76)

At their Return from War:

100 blue Strowd Cloth Match Coats

*1 yd 3/4 & 2 Inches [65 inches] or 12 in a piece (if Lond. O Strowds near 13 in a piece) is 8 p.r
Strowds 1/3*

To the Captains, supposing 1 to 25 men

2 Blue Strowd Matchcoats to be promised to Each...

Shirts:

Shirts were a common trade item as well. In the Southeast, check shirts seem to have been the most popular. Therefore, shirts should be made of check linen, or white or natural colored linen. White linen shirts may have ruffles at the breast and wrists.

Account of goods bought in Charlestown South Carolina & Augusta in Georgia, by Edmond Atkins Esq. his Majesty's Agent for & Superintendent of Indian Affairs in the Southern District... (Amherst Papers, P108)

Bot of Macartan & Campbell

8 doz Check Shirts....

4 doz White ditto....

Sashes and Belts:

Leather belts with period buckles were traded to native people. Native women wove sashes from wool yarn, using an oblique weave and often two colors of wool, with white beads to create patterns. Finger woven sashes are acceptable. No other weave style (Inkle, card, etc.) is documentable to native wear in the SE in the 1750's and therefore should be avoided.

"... sometimes wrought in garters, sashes, necklaces, and in strings around their wrists... (Adair, 201)"

Garters/Leg Ties:

Like sashes, these can vary from a simple strip of wool cloth, wool tape, finger woven, and heddle woven beads. Wampum and beaded leather garters were not common in the South. No other weave style (Inkle, card, etc.) is documentable to native wear in the SE and therefore should be avoided.

Footwear:

Center seam pucker-toe deerskin moccasins are most appropriate, though shoes appear on gift and trade lists. Barefoot is also completely appropriate year-round, especially in the summer when it's comfortable. Brain tanned deer hide is a first choice, but commercially tanned (especially German tan) deer can make excellent moccasins. If using shoes, purchase a mid-18th c. shoe and either use buckles or lace them up.

Hair:

Hair style varies by cultural group and age. Period accounts suggest that young men had very specific hairstyles that were shaved on the sides, leaving a scalp lock or hair on just the top of the head. Older men may have worn their hair longer. There are also accounts of "bowl-cuts." Not all modern lifestyles allow for correct hair. Some alternatives include slicking the hair back to darken it and make it look more period, or the whole head may be shaved for the use of a prosthetic (glue-on) scalplock. Hair decoration may consist of feathers tied in the hair, tubes made of river cane slipped on a lock of hair, finger woven hair fobs, and other feather/fur decorative items. Long porcupine and deer-hair Plains-style roaches and war bonnets are not documented in the South in this period and are not acceptable.

Likewise, small deer and porcupine hair roaches are not documentable to the mid-18th century and should not be worn. If a roach is worn, it should be of red deer hair only.

The hair of the head is shaved, tho' many of the old people have it plucked out by the roots, except a patch on the hinder part of the head about twice the bigness of a crown-piece, which is ornamented with beads, feathers, wampum, stained deers hair, and such like baubles. (Timberlake, 24)

Headwear:

Many early to mid-century accounts state that native people went bareheaded all the time, but by the mid-18th century, native people in the SE started wearing some sort of cloth on their heads similar to a turban. It is not clear when this began or became widespread.

Therefore, the use of a headwrap is acceptable. Headwraps made of a solid or patterned silk, linen, or cotton handkerchief. Also appearing on some trade and gift lists on occasion are hats. It appears these were worn as traded, sometimes cocked and laced in silver or gold, or simply cut round. Fewer of these uncommon items are better.

Jewelry:

Ear Decoration: Ear splitting is probably not a good solution for most people, but earrings of the closed-bottom ball and cone type are very common in 18th century archaeological sites. Many early examples are shorter and wider than modern reproductions. The "wheel" type earring is a late century item and should not be worn for this time period.

Necklaces: Strands of beads, documentable to the period, are common for dress wear.

"Pound" beads (approx..6/0 or 8/0) in white, dark blue, light blue, red, and black were common, though other colors show up as well. Also mentioned on period trade lists are "barleycorn" beads (red, blue, black, and white) and wampum. Strands of beads are inexpensive additions to an outfit although it should be remembered that they would not

likely wear many on a day-to day basis (or in a war scenario).

Bracelets: Brass welding rods bent into wrist bracelets are a very cheap method of dressing up. Round silver ring brooches are inexpensive, and 15 were often used as "change" in trades.

Rings: Another item that appears regularly on period trade lists are rings. The lists regularly include brass rings, silver rings, brass-mounted stone rings and silver-mounted stone rings

Miscellaneous Jewelry: Other silver items such as gorgets, pins, arm and wrist bands, etc. are high-cost items that should be carefully researched and generally only worn for "formal" occasions.

Paint:

Like other eastern native groups, the colors most often used for body paint by the Cherokee were red and black. Colors such as green, yellow, and blue are also occasionally noted.

The head, neck, and breast, are painted with vermillion, and some of the warriors have the skin of the breast, and muscular parts of the body, very curiously inscribed, or adorned with hieroglyphick scroles, flowers, figures, of animals, stars, crescents, and the sun in the centre of the breast... (Bartram, 122)

A note about quillwork: Porcupines had been absent since from the southeast since about 1000 A.D. Art, artifacts, and period descriptions bear out that quillwork was quite rare in the southeastern region. Where they do appear to have been used was in the decoration of calumets, diadems or crowns, and occasionally moccasins.

The stem is about three feet long, finely adorned with porcupine-quills, dyed feathers, deers hair, and such like gaudy trifles. (Timberlake)

Shot Pouches:

The Cherokee seem to have favored otter skin pouches. Evidence suggests these were suspended over the shoulder and were made from the back portion of the animal, with its tail acting as a flap.

... I took the foot of a guinea-deer out of his shot-pouch – and another from my own partner, which they had very safely sewed in the corner of each of their otter-skin-pouches, ... (Adair, 257)

Powder Horns:

Cow or buffalo horns were quite common, suspended from fingerwoven or heddle woven belts, wool tape, or leather thongs.

Guns:

The most commonly available weapon to the Cherokee is known as a "Carolina gun." These feature a 46 to 47" barrel, and weight approximately 5 ½ lbs. They are light and trim, .60 cal guns with front and rear sights. Often, they were painted red, blue, yellow, or even spotted.

Spears, Knives, and Warclubs:

Natives in the southeast were known to carry all these weapons for hand-to-hand combat. Spears were tipped with iron points and relatively short. Knives were commonly either large clasp knives carried in shot pouches, or "scalping knives" carried in plain or painted sheaths at the waist or around the neck. Warclubs were of the "cricket bat" type.