

18th Century Material Culture

Military Hygiene, Grooming & Laundry



Fit For Service

During the American War for Independence, a soldier was expected to keep himself in good military order. Whether he was on duty or off, a well disciplined soldier was a reliable soldier, and one that could be depended upon when taking the field of battle.

Regardless if he was serving His Majesty, King George the Third, or the Continental Congress, a soldier during the American Revolution was personally held responsible for keeping himself clean and maintaining the arms, accoutrements, and clothing he was issued. While Regimental tailors were often available for fitting and sometimes repairing a soldier's clothing, it was up to each individual man and non-commissioned officer he served under to see that it was fit for service. Regardless if conditions or supplies dictated that the clothes on his back were threadbare, an enlisted man was always expected to present himself in the most disciplined and soldierly manner possible. This included keeping his body and clothing as clean as possible and his hair groomed to the standards of his Regiment. Not only did this promote greater health, but cleaner garments ensured longer lasting garments. Although this ideal was not always met, it was a goal that was always striven for.

Fit For Service

During the American War for Independence, a soldier was issued soap to wash his body and launder his clothing. Soap was also occasionally available through Regimental sutlers. Under ideal circumstances, a soldier was required to bathe two or three times a week. He was to keep his clothing as clean as possible, either washing it himself or by paying Regimental laundresses who provided their services for a fee. These “industrious” women were often the wives of soldiers who belonged to a Regiment. As they drew rations for their services, in addition to pay, their services were strictly regulated by the army they served.

Although he did not wash his hair as often as he did his body, a soldier was responsible for keeping it dressed. Dictated by the time and orders of his Regiment, he wore his hair either plaited (braided and tied with a ribbon - then tucked up under his hat), queued (tied with a ribbon), or clubbed (tucked under then tied with a ribbon). On those occasions when his hair was too short to conform to the regulations set forth by his Regiment, he often compensated for his shortcoming with a false hairpiece. At other times, a soldier was actually ordered to cut his hair short. It was often felt that short hair was more hygienic than longer hair and allowed for more uniformity within a Regiment.

Bennet Cuthbertson

“System For The Complete Interior Management and Oeconomy of a Battalion of Infantry”

1776

CHAP. XIV.

Of the Dress of a Regiment, with Rules for constantly preserving Neatness and Uniformity.

III.

“The oftener Soldiers come under the inspection of their Officers, the sooner will they acquire the method of dressing to advantage; it is therefore, necessary, that every morning at Troop-beating, the Companies should be drawn up in Squads, and when the rolls are called, that the Serjeants and Corporals strictly examine the Men of the their Squads, one by one, observing in a particular manner, that their Hats are well cocked, brushed, and worn; their Hair combed out, and the stocks put on smoothly; that their Shirts are of a proper cleanness, and in good condition; their Coats, Waistcoats and Breeches free from rips or spots, or wanting Buttons; the Lace and Lining in proper order, and the whole well brushed; that their Stockings are perfectly clean, drawn up tight, and without holes; their shoes well blackened and buckled straight; their stock-clasps, buckles, and Cloaths buttons extremely bright; their Beards close shaved; their Hands and Faces well washed; their side Arms properly put on; and that every particular about them, be in the most exact order”

Regulations for the Order and Discipline of the Troops of the United States

Baron Friedrich Wilhelm August Heinrich Ferdinand von Steuben

1779

CHAP. XX.

Of the Inspection of the Men, their Dress, Necessaries, Arms, Accoutrements and Ammunition

“The oftener the soldiers are under the inspection of their officers, the better; for which reason every morning at troop beating, they must inspect into the dress of their men; see that their clothes are whole, and put on properly: their hands and faces washed clean; their hair combed; their accoutrements properly fixed , and every article about them in the greatest order. Those who are guilty of repeated neglects in these particulars, are to be confined and punished --- The field officers must pay attention to this object, taking proper notice of those companies where a visible neglect appears, and publickly applauding those who are remarkable for their good appearance.”

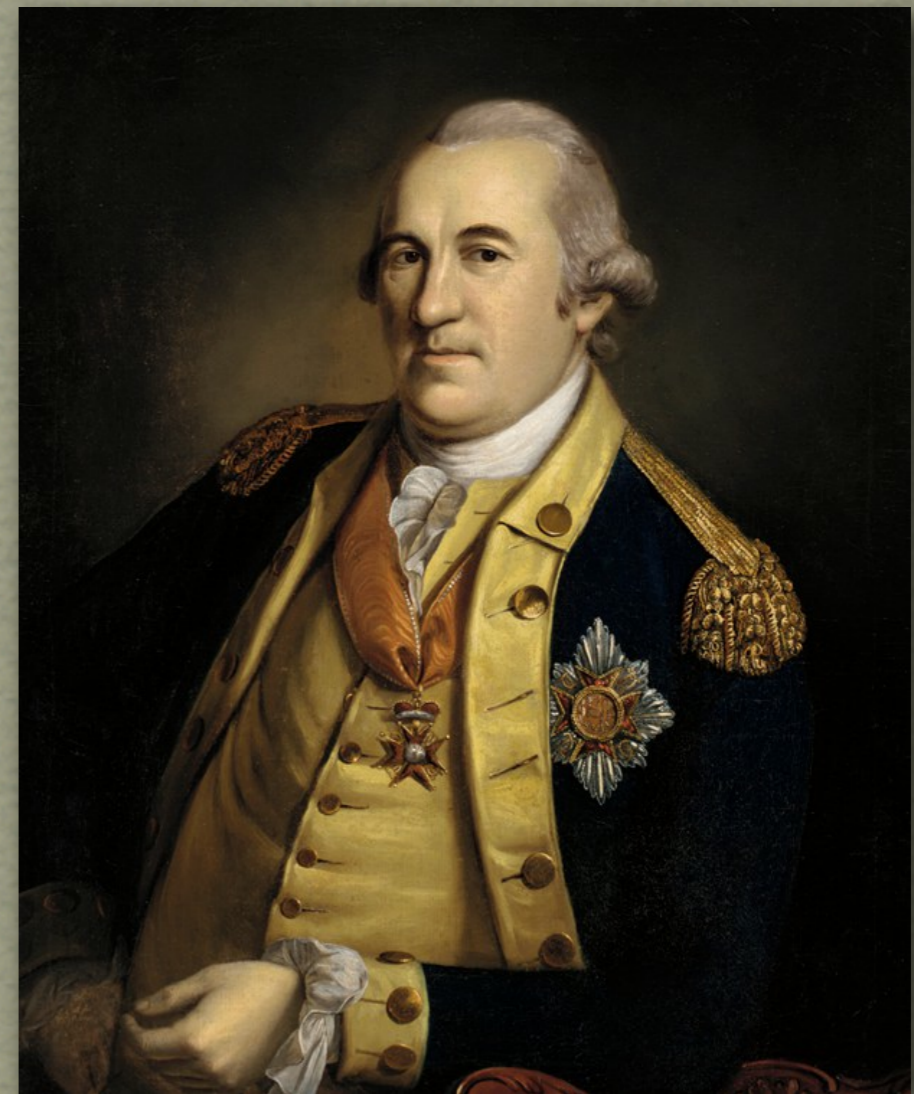
Regulations for the Order and Discipline of the Troops of the United States

Baron Friedrich Wilhelm August Heinrich Ferdinand von Steuben

1779

Instructions for the Private Soldier.

“The recruit having received his necessaries should in the first place learn to dress himself with a soldier-like air; to place his effects properly in his knapsack, so as to carry them with ease and convenience; how to salute his officers when he meets them; to clean his arms, wash his linen, and cook his provisions. He should early accustom himself to dress in the night; and for that purpose always have his effects in his knapsack, and placed where he can put his hand to it in a moment, that in case of alarm he may repair with the greatest alertness to the parade.”



Baron Frederick Wilhelm von Steuben
by Charles Wilson Peale 1780
(Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts)

Regulations for the Order and Discipline of the Troops of the United States

Baron Friedrich Wilhelm August Heinrich Ferdinand von Steuben

1779

Instructions for Sergeants and Corporals.

“Each serjeant and corporal will be in a particular manner answerable for the squad committed to his care. He must pay particular attention to their conduct in every respect; that they keep themselves and their arms always clean; that they have their effects always ready, and put where they can get them immediately, even in the dark, without confusion, and on every fine day he must oblige them to air their effects...

They should teach the soldiers of the squad how to dress with a soldier-like air, how to clean their arms, accoutrements, &c. and how to mount and dismount the firelocks for which purpose each non-commissioned officer should always be provided with a turn-screw, and suffer no soldier to take his arms to pieces without his permission.”

Diary & Orderly Book
Sergeant Jonathan Burton of Wilton, New Hampshire
While in Service in the Army on Winter Hill

*“Head Quarters Jan 3 1776
Parrole Woodford, Countersign Norfolk*

... there are many Practices in Regular Service highly worthy of Immitation but non more essential than this and Keeping Soldiers clean and neat, the first is Absolutely Nessary for Self Prcsavation, the other for health and apperance for if a Solder cannot be Induet to take Pride in his Person he Soon Be-comes a Sloven and Indifferent to every thing else whilst we have men therefore who in Every Respect are Superior to Merserny Troops that are Fighting for Two or three Pence a Day onely why cannot we in apperance be Equal to them when we fight for Life Liberty Property and our country”

Diary & Orderly Book
Sergeant Jonathan Burton of Wilton, New Hampshire
While in Service in the Army on Winter Hill

*“Head Quarters Jany 9 1776
Parole Knolten Countersign Charlstown;*

The Quartermaster is again Desired to See that Each com-pany are properly in their Barraks and Huts and Make a Return to me as Soon as it is Done the adj' is ordered to appoint a Subaltern Every Day Whose Busnise it is to visit the Barraks and Gard House and See that they are Kept clean and that the Solders Cook their Victuals Prop-erly and Keep themselves clean no Solder in this Rigt is to Persume to appear on the Perade for Gard with Durty hands or face

Pr James Reed Co'”

The Orderly Book of Colonel Anthony Wayne

Camp at Cadwell's,
On Long Island, near New York.

April 13, 1776

"The Weekly Officer will see that the men at Roll calling in the Morning have their Hair Tied - Hands and Face Washed & in every respect appear in a Soldierly Manner."



Views of the Narrows between Long Island and Staten Island with British Fleet

by Archibald Robertson 1776

(Spencer Collection, New York Public Library)

The Orderly Book of Colonel Anthony Wayne

Albany, New York

May 16, 1776

"The three companies belonging to his Battn now here, to appear clean and shaved on the Parade tomorrow morning precisely at 10 o'clock without their arms. From thence to proceed to the place of worship with Drums and fifes, it being the day which the Hon. Congress have ordered observed and kept in Fasting and Prayer."



**The Recreated 4th Pennsylvania Battalion
(Fort Ticonderoga)**

The Orderly Book of Colonel Anthony Wayne

Camp at Isle aux Noix
June 12, 1776



“Plan of the Isle aux Noix, in the River Richelieu, and Province of Canada”
by Thomas Walker 1760
(Library of Congress)

"The men to be under arms at 9 O'clock ... in order to be inspected. ... Every non-commissioned soldier who shall come to the Parade dirty, with a long beard or his Breeches knees open shall be mulcted a days Provision for each offence, and do a double tour of duty, for the Col. lays it down for a (torn page) that that soldier who neglects to appear as decent as the nature of his situation will admitt, is unfit for gentlemen's Compy and a coward."

The Orderly Book of Colonel Anthony Wayne

At Fort Ticonderoga
July 18, 1776

“the disagreeable necessity of repeating orders with respect to keeping the men clean. He hopes in future the officers will think it their duty to see that the men...always appear washed, shaved, their hair plaited and powdered, when they come on parade.... A barber for each company that lately arrived, to be immediately appointed....”



The Recreated 4th Pennsylvania Battalion at Ticonderoga
(Fort Ticonderoga)

The Orderly Book of Colonel Anthony Wayne

Regimental Orders
August 25, 1776

“The fourth Battn is to be under arms at three oclock this afternoon well powdered fresh shav'd & clean linnen - all must turn out.”



The Recreated 4th Pennsylvania Battalion at Ticonderoga
(Fort Ticonderoga)

Orderly Book of the Royal Regiment of Artillery in Canada

May 8, 1776 - June 29, 1777

(Lloyd W. Smith Collection, Morristown National Historical Park)

Regimental Orders by Major Williams
June 20, Longueuil

“The Noncommissiond Officers are to pay great Attention to the Mens Body Clean that they Shave, Wash, Comb their hair, &c. and if they have an opportunity Wash their Feet”

Regimental Orders by Major Williams St. Charles
June 22

“...the Officers and Non Commissiond Offrs. To Pay great Attention to the Dressing of the Men Viz. That they Shave, Wash, Comb their Hair, &c. No man is to be Allow'd to lay in his Cloths nor lay out in the Sun.”



Orderly Book of Brigadier General John Peter Gabriel Muhlenberg March 26 - December 20, 1777

Brigade Orders
May 28, 1777

"As nothing is more conducive to the health of the troops than cleanliness the Officers in general belonging to the brigade are requested to pay the strictest attention to the conduct of their men & see that not only the Camp is kept clean, but that the Soldiers appear on the parade as clean as circumstances will admit of..."



The Pistols of Brigadier General John Peter Gabriel Muhlenberg
(The Museum of the American Revolution)

Orderly Book of Moses Little's Massachusetts Regiment

April 4, 1776

"Providence 4th April

Genl Greens Orders Colo Hitchcocks & Colo Littles Regt to turn out tomorrow Morning to Escort His Excellency into town to parade at Eight OClock both officers & men to be drest in uniform And None to turn out Except those who are drest uniform And those of the Non Commissd Officer & soldiers that turn out to be Wash'd both face & hands Cleane their Beards shaved of(f) their hair Combd & Powdered & there arms Cleansd..."

Orderly Book of the 2nd Pennsylvania Regiment

*"B.O. (Brigade Orders) Oct. 23d 1778
This day the men are excused Manoeuvring,
They are to Employ it in washing and Geting
themselves Clean and in order, to appear
Decent on the Parade tomorrow Morning at
the Hour appointed for Exercise, Every man
to appear in his lining overhalls, they must be
clean washed, their (hair) well powdered and
beard well shaved, an officer of each
Company will Strictly Examine the men
belonging thereto and See that none Come to
the Parade who are not dressed in the Most
Soldierly Manner circumstances will admit -
Walter Stewart Col.-"*



Colonel Walter Stewart
2nd Pennsylvania Regiment of the Continental Line
by Charles Wilson Peale c. 1781
(Yale Center for British Art)

Orderly Book of the 3rd Troop, 2nd Regiment Light Dragoons November 30, 1782

“North Street Nov 30, 1782

The orderly sergeants of troops and companies will be very particular that their men for duty come on parade in as neat order as their circumstances will admit they must be clean shirted, hair combed the facings of their coats buttoned back and the folds hooked up – it is expected that no man in the regiment be guilty of so unsoldier like behavior as to appear on parade with dirty hands and face”



Detail - 2nd Continental Light Dragoon
by James Peale (In His Portrait of General George Washington) c. 1782
(Metropolitan Museum of Art)

Cleanliness
&
Bathing

Orderly Book Sir William Howe 1775 - 1776



“Camp on the Heights of Charlestown, Monday 26th June 1775 at 4 in the Morning.

As it will be Salutary and may be an Essential means of preserving health among the Troops it is strongly recommended the Commanding Officers would Cause their Men to Bathe in the Salt Water Mornings and Evenings when the Tide admitts. Attention must be had the Men do not Continue long in the Water (nor those who are unacquainted with Swimming) risk any Accident happening by going beyond their Depth.”

General, “The HON.ble S.r W.m HOWE”
(The Ann S.K. Brown Collection)

Orderly Book Sir William Howe 1775 - 1776



*“Camp on the Heights of Charlestown.
Tuesday June 27th 1775*

*The Detachd Guards (already mentioned
in former Orders) and Centrys for the
Genl Officers to be furnish d this Evening
by the 43d and to morrow Evening by the
52d Regt. The Order of yesterday
Directing the Men to Bathe Mornings and
Evenings only & not to continue long in
the Water, is not properly attended to, they
are altogether to deferr this Exercise
when the Tide only admits of it in the
Heat of the Day.”*

General, “The HON.ble S.r W.m HOWE”
(Library & Archives Canada)

Bennet Cuthbertson

“System For The Complete Interior Management and Oeconomy of a Battalion of Infantry”

1776

CHAP IX.

Of the necessity of regularity in quartering Soldiers on a Town, or in a Barracks; and of distributing them properly to Tents, during a Campaign, with other useful rules

XVIII.

“It will contribute very much to the cleanliness of the Soldiers, if the Commanding-officers of Companies will order towels to be fixed on rollers, behind the door of every Barrack-room, to prevent them from wiping their hands in the sheets, upon the beds, which otherwise will most certainly be the case; and as a couple of these towels are sufficient for each Room, and the expense extremely trifling, it surely must be doing right, to abolish so filthy a custom.”

Lieutenant James M. Hayden's Journal & Orderly Books

Royal Regiment of Artillery

1776 - 1777



General Orders, Vercherres
June 17th, 1776

“The Men are to clean and oil their Feet and Shoes, and take every means to refresh, and be prepared for long Marches. Should any of the Men be left behind, they are to be sent for up to night to Varennes.”

General Orders, Chamblee
June 28th. 1776

“The Men of each Regiment who are willing to bathe (in which practice they should be encouraged as highly beneficial to health) are to be assembled at a certain hour every Morning and Evening, under the inspection of a Commissioned or a Non-Commissioned Officer, and not allowed more than half an hour for that purpose, and no Man to bathe at any other time of the Day.”

Lieutenant James M. Hayden's Journal & Orderly Books

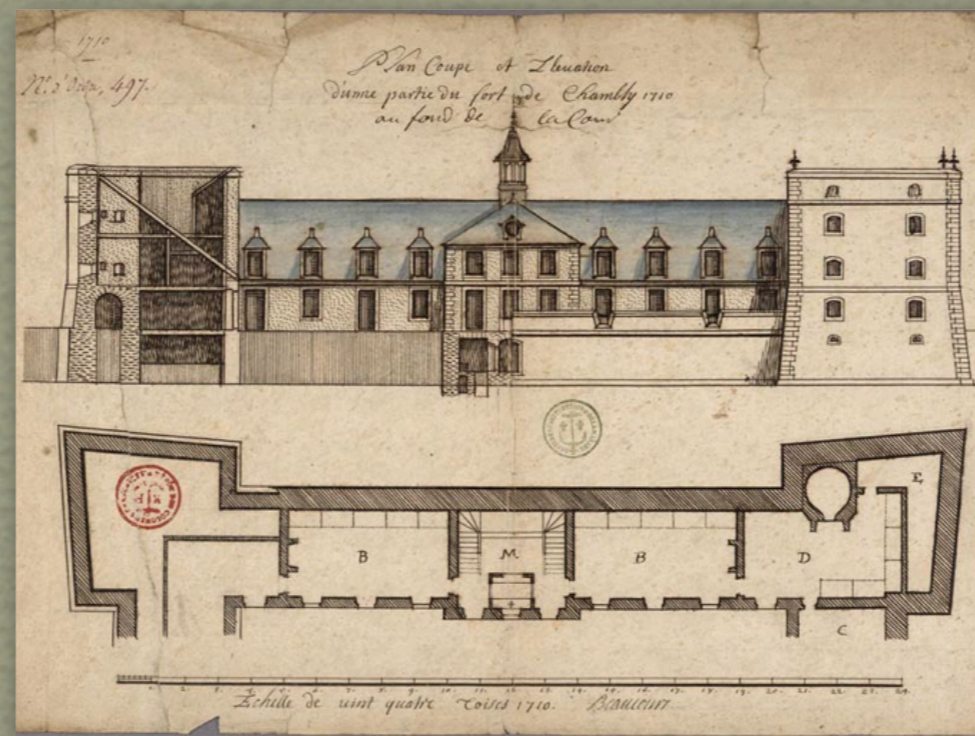
Royal Regiment of Artillery

1776 - 1777

“G. O. Chamblie, 2StA June, 1776.

Parole—St. Paul. C. S.—Newport.

The causes of the deficiency of a Market, as alleged by the People of the Country are, that the Articles which they would have been in-clined to bring to public Sale, have been taken from them in their Houses: that Women in Canoes have been insulted, and discountenanced by Men bathing, with other irregularities which have discouraged this useful Plan”



The Orderly Book of Colonel Anthony Wayne



Major - General Anthony Wayne
by James Peale (Painted Post - War)
(Smithsonian)

At Fort Ticonderoga
July 22, 1776

“The Commissary will deliver all the soap he has got in store in the following proportions to each regiment...Waynes 709 ozs...The Chief Engineer Colonel Baldwin will order that the soap deliv'd to the artificers be divided properly between them. The three brigades commanded by General Arnold, Colonel Reed, & Colonel Stark, will encamp as soon as possible upon the ground allotted them upon the Heights.”

4th British Grenadier Battalion Order Book
Kept by Adjutant and Lieutenant John Peebles, Grenadier Company
H.M. 42nd or Royal Highland Regiment of Foot
August 1 to October 17, 1776

Captain John Peebles
H.M. 42nd Regiment of Foot
c. 1778



“ Mornng. Battn. Orders 25th. Augt. 1776

The Commanding Officer of Companys will take particular care that the Non Commissioned Officers of Squads or Messes see the Men comb their hair & clean themselves before they come to the Parade –

Head Qrs. New York Island 19th. Septr. 1776 Thursday

B:O:) By the Number of Sick men that have lately been sent to the Hospital & those that daily complain, the Commanding Officer has great reason to fear that the Battalion in a few weeks will be incapable of doing duty, to prevent which disgrace falling upon a Corps of Grenadrs. it is the Majors orders that a NonCommissioned Officer per Company see that the Men bath or wash their feet thrice a Week. The Commanding Officers of Compys. to be answerable that this order is comply'd with –”

Orderly Book of the Pennsylvania State Regiment of Foot

General Orders

July 9, 1777

“For the future the Commissaries are to issue five ounces of Soap for each man per week, and if it shall ever happen that they have not Soap to issue, they are by no means to give money in lieu of the Soap not drawn, but to reimburse the commanding officers of regiments and Corps such sums as they shall have expended for that article for the use of their Regiments and Corps when not to be had at the Commissary’s Store—but in such cases the officers will confine themselves to the above allowance, and no soldier shall on any pretence be permitted to sell his soap, and if detected in doing so, he shall be severely punished. This ample allowance of Soap being made, the commanding officers of Regiments and Corps will be answerable, that hence forward their men appear decent and clean.”

Daniel Brodhead to Tench Tilghman

“December 30, 1777, Quarters

At the Request of his Excellency the Commander in chief I take the Liberty of addressing you with a few Remarks, which have occurred to me, relative to the Minutia of our Army: and some which in my Opinion may, by able Hands be improved, into Useful Regulations....

I conceive that if proper Persons were appointed to gather the dirty Tallow of the Beef Cattle slaughtered for our Army, which at present is carelessly thrown away, & of the Ashes which might be collected from the Hutts, and furnished with large Kettles for Boiling Soft Soap, that the noncommissioned officers & Privates of the whole Army might, soon be supplied with a sufficient Quantity to wash their Linnen, and a great quantity of Salt which must be used for making Hard Soap saved to the United States.”

Orderly Book Kept by Captain Abraham Dodge of Ipswich May 18, 1778 (Essex Institute Historical Collections)



Major General Nathanael Greene
by Charles Wilson Peale 1783
(National Portrait Gallery)

General Orders by Nathanael Greene

"Complaints have been made by the inhabitants situated near the Mill Pond that some of the soldiers come there to go swimming in the open view of the women and that they come out of the water and run to the houses naked with a design to insult and wound the modesty of female decency, 'tis with concern that the general finds himself under the disagreeable necessity of expressing his disapprobation of such beastly conduct."

Orderly Book

H.M. 4th Grenadier Battalion

1776

*“Head Qrs. New York Island 19th. Septr.
1776
Thursday Parole Orange Cr. Sn.
Namus...B:O:)”*

By the Number of Sick men that have lately been sent to the Hospital & those that daily complain, the Commanding Officer has great reason to fear that the Battalion in a few weeks will be incapable of doing duty, to prevent which disgrace falling upon a Corps of Grenaders. it is the Majors orders that a NonCommissioned Officer per Company see that the Men bath or wash their feet thrice a Week. The Commanding Officers of Compys. to be answerable that this order is comply'd with –”



British Grenadier Bearskin Cap
(Don Troiani)

Orderly Book

H.M. 40th Regiment of Foot



Brigade After Orders

1:00 A.M., June 2, 1777

"Lt Col Mawhood begs Leave to recommend to the several Commanding Offrs of the 4th Brigade that the men may be perfectly kept clean during (the warm?) weather that they may change their linnen three times a week and that such men as choose to Bath, be conductc'd under the care of an Offr early in the Morning, or in the Evening to some part of the River between the Ferry oposite south Amboy and the Church and that the men are forbid to Bath at any other time of the day or at any other place

ARO (After Regimental Orders)

Non Commissd Offrs and men of the right wing to parade to morrow Morning at Revailee Beating in order to Bath, if the Weather permitts, The Offrs of the Day will march to and from the Bathing place"

Arland's Grenadier Battalion Orderly Book

June - July, 1777

(New York Historical Society)



After Brigade Orders, Camp at River Bouquet
June 15th. 1777

*“The Order given out last Campaign against.
Soldiers Bathing in the middle of the Day to
be strictly adhered to, and none to permitted
to go into the River between the Hours of ten
in the Mornng. & 5 in ye. Afternoon.”*

River Bouquet
New York

John Chaloner to Buchanan

January 4, 1778

Valley Forge

“Another burden that the troops labor under is the want of Soap and Candles the inconveniences arising from this is beyond description--and will as the troops are got into hutts their Officers will expect them to appear on parade more cleanly than heretofore Mr Kenedys plea for the want of men is inexcusable and I fear shall not be indulged with their leave of absence for those persons he solicits--”



The Writings of General George Washington

Head Quarters, Moores House
Thursday, August 5, 1779.

“There is to be no bathing between the hours of 8 and 5, and the custom of remaining long in the water is to be discontinued, as it is too relaxing and injurious to health. It is also expected that the soldiers in this kind of recreation will observe more decency than they usually practise. These orders to be read to and impres'd upon them by their officers.”



General George Washington
by Charles Wilson Peale

Dressing The Hair

-

Military Hairstyles

Military Hairstyles

During the American War for Independence, a soldier dressed his hair according to the rules and regulations set forth by the army he served. Depending on whether these regulations changed during the course of the conflict, his hairstyle changed according to the orders of the day.

Analysis of period accounts reveal that a soldier's hair could be worn either short or long in length. These styles were a carry over from civilian styles of the day and military styles of the years leading up to the war.

Longer hair was considered fashionable at the outbreak of the American Revolution. It was either simply pulled back and tied with a ribbon or leather bow, Braided or "Plaited" and tied with a ribbon or leather bow, Braided or "Plaited" and tied with a ribbon or leather bow then turned up and tucked under his hat, "Queued" - wrapped with a ribbon or leather wrapper (with or without braiding), or "Clubbed" - turned back upon itself once or twice and tied with a ribbon or leather wrapper.

Short hair, cut within a few inches in length, was often considered to be more hygienic. It was easier for a soldier to maintain, it dried faster, and it was less apt to harbor dirt and lice. This opinion dated back to the writings of Maurice de Saxe in 1759.

"Reveries, Or, Memoirs concerning the Art of War.
By Maurice Count de Saxe, Marshal-General of the Armies of France."
Printed for Alexander Donaldson. Edinburgh. 1759



"I would have a soldier wear his hair short, and be furnished with a small wig, either grey or black, made of Spanish lamb-skin, which he should put on in bad weather. This wig will resemble the natural head of hair so well, as to render it almost impossible to distinguish the difference; will sit extremely well, when properly made; cost but about twenty pence, and last during his whole life: it will be also very warm; prevent colds and fluxes; and give quite a good air."

Maurice de Saxe
c. 1750 - 1760
(Gemäldegalerie Alte Meister)

"Reveries, Or, Memoirs concerning the Art of War.
By Maurice Count de Saxe, Marshal-General of the Armies of France."
Printed for Alexander Donaldson. Edinburgh. 1759

"Of Clothing Troops.

Our dress is not only very expensive, but most inconvenient; the soldier is neither shod nor clad. The love of appearance prevails over the regard due to health, which is one of the grand points demanding our attention.

In the field, the hair is a filthy ornament for a soldier; and after once the rainy season is set in, his head can hardly be ever dry.

His cloaths don't cover his body; and in regard to his feet, they, with stockings and shoes, rot in a manner together, because he has not wherewithal to change them; and though he has, it can be of little signification, because, presently afterwards, he must be in the same condition again. Thus, as may be naturally supposed, the poor soldier is soon sent to the hospital. White gaiters are only fit for a review, and spoil in washing; they are also very inconvenient, hurtful, of no real use, and very expensive. - The hat soon loses its agreeable shape; is not strong enough to resist the rains and hard usage of a campaign, but presently wears out; and as soon as a man, overpowered perhaps by fatigue, lies down, it falls off his head; and if he sleep with his head uncovered, and exposed to dews, or bad weather, he is the day following in a fever.

Military Hairstyles

As a general rule, a soldier's hair was cut short on the top and sides of his head irregardless if he wore it short or long in length. Although some officers wore one or two side curls or "Buckles" above their ears, a common soldier rarely followed this practice.

"Runners" (commonly known as Sideburns with the coming of the American Civil War) can be found in period accounts. They also appear in many portraits of British and Continental troops of the period.

A soldier was often ordered to powder and dress his hair when he was to fall out for duty or dress for parade. Although he occasionally used a scented lard based ointment known as pomatum and hair powder for this purpose, he often used nothing more than the common flour that was issued to him for cooking.

If the rules and regulations of the day dictated that a soldier wear his hair long and his own hair did not meet those regulations, he often wore a false queue that tied to his head to offset his insufficiency. Wigs were very uncommon for the common soldier, although many officers found them quite servicable.

Orderly Book
H.M. 4th Grenadier Battalion
1776

“ Mornng. Battn. Orders 25th. Augt. 1776

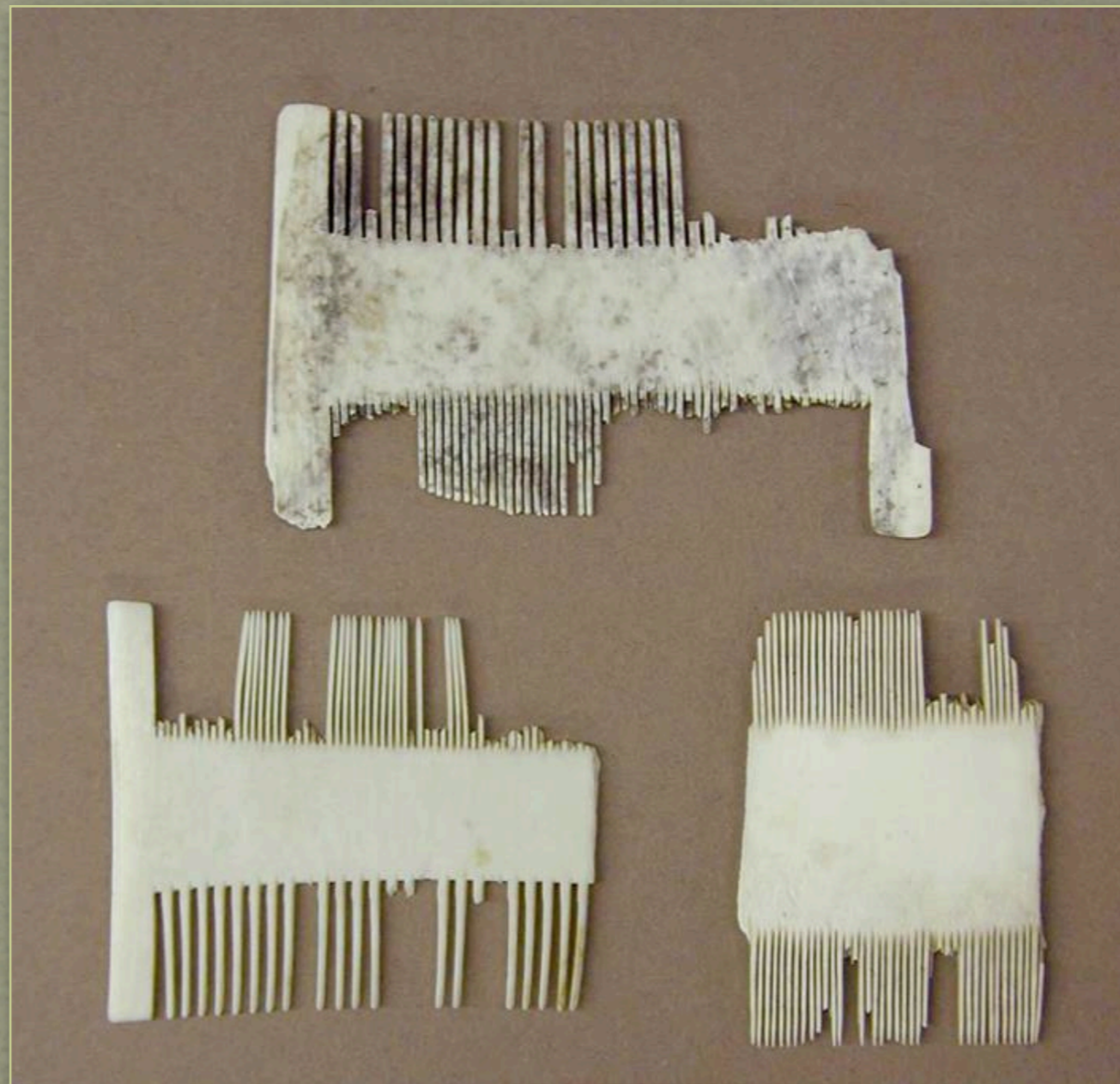
*The Commanding Officer of Companys will take particular care that **the Non Commissioned Officers of Squads or Messes see the Men comb their hair & clean themselves before they come to the Parade –**”*

“25th June 1781

RO

The Accoutrements to be made as Clean as possible no Colouring to be put on the Belts till such time as a Quantity can be procured for the whole.”

Bone Combs
Recovered in the Ruins of Fort Ticonderoga
c. 1758 - 1777



(Fort Ticonderoga)

Initialed Comb

Recovered from the 1785 Wreck of the General Carleton



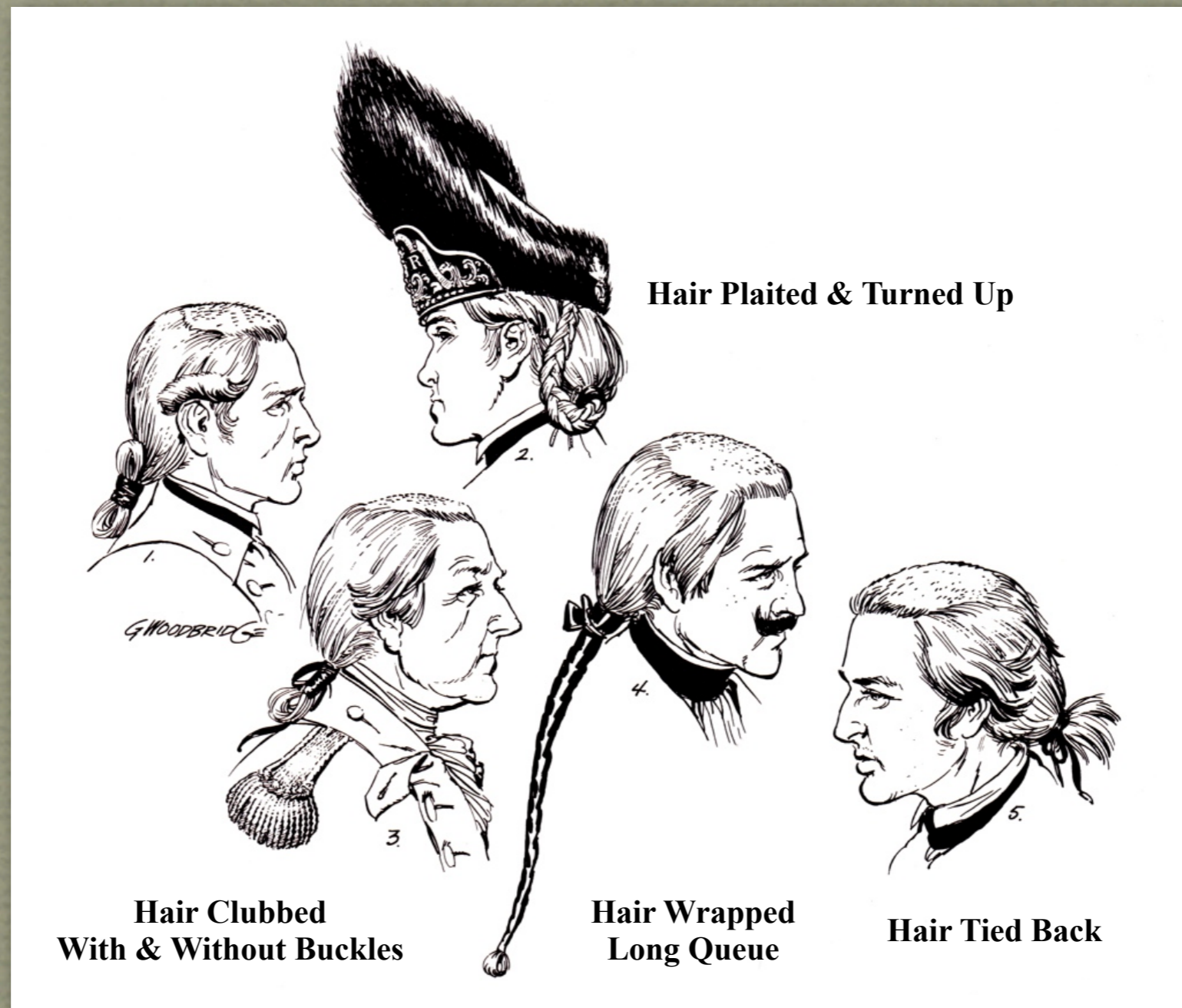
(Polish Maritime Museum)

London Trade Card

William Bonner, Comb Maker



Military Hairstyles



Hair Plaited & Turned Up

Hair Clubbed
With & Without Buckles

Hair Wrapped
Long Queue

Hair Tied Back

Common Military Hairstyles Worn During the American War for Independence
From: "Collector's Encyclopedia of the American Revolution" by George C. Neuman and Frank Kravic

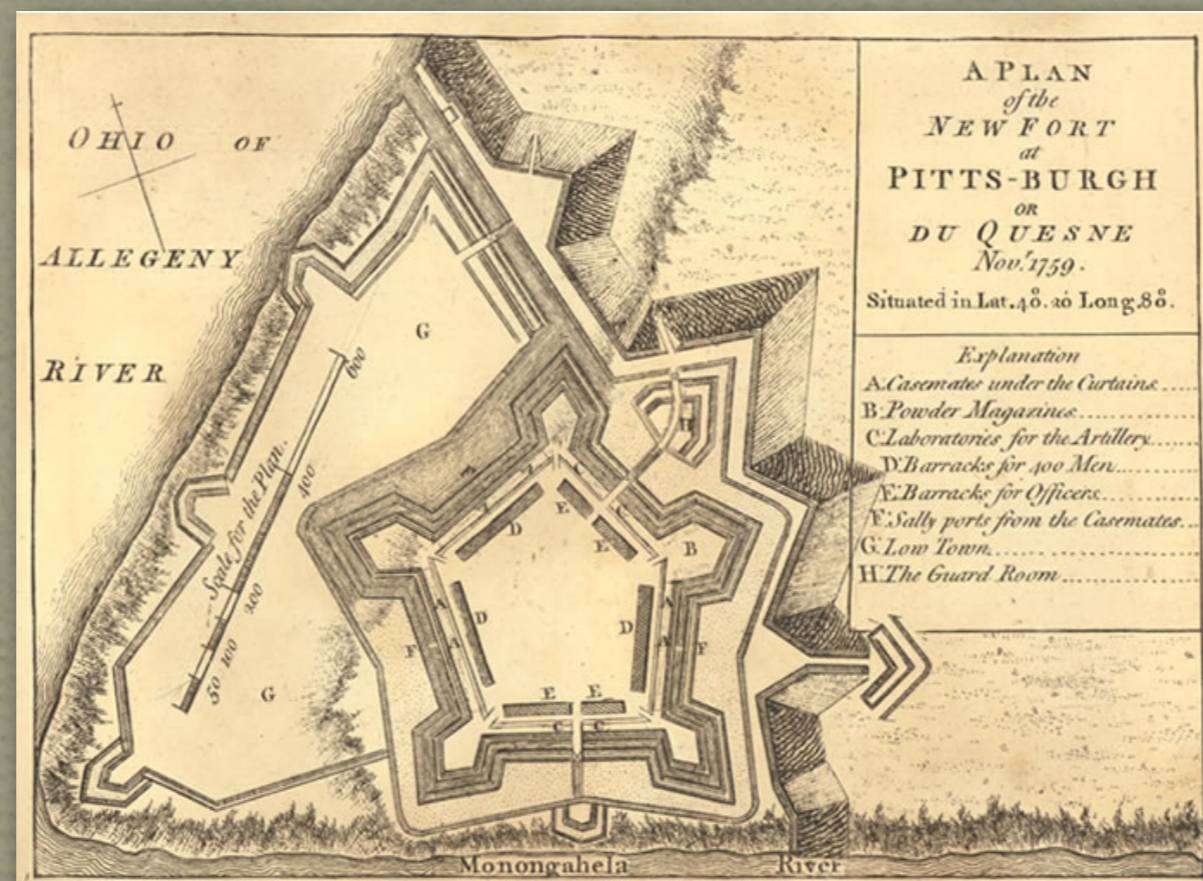
Hair Cut Short



The Pennsylvania Gazette

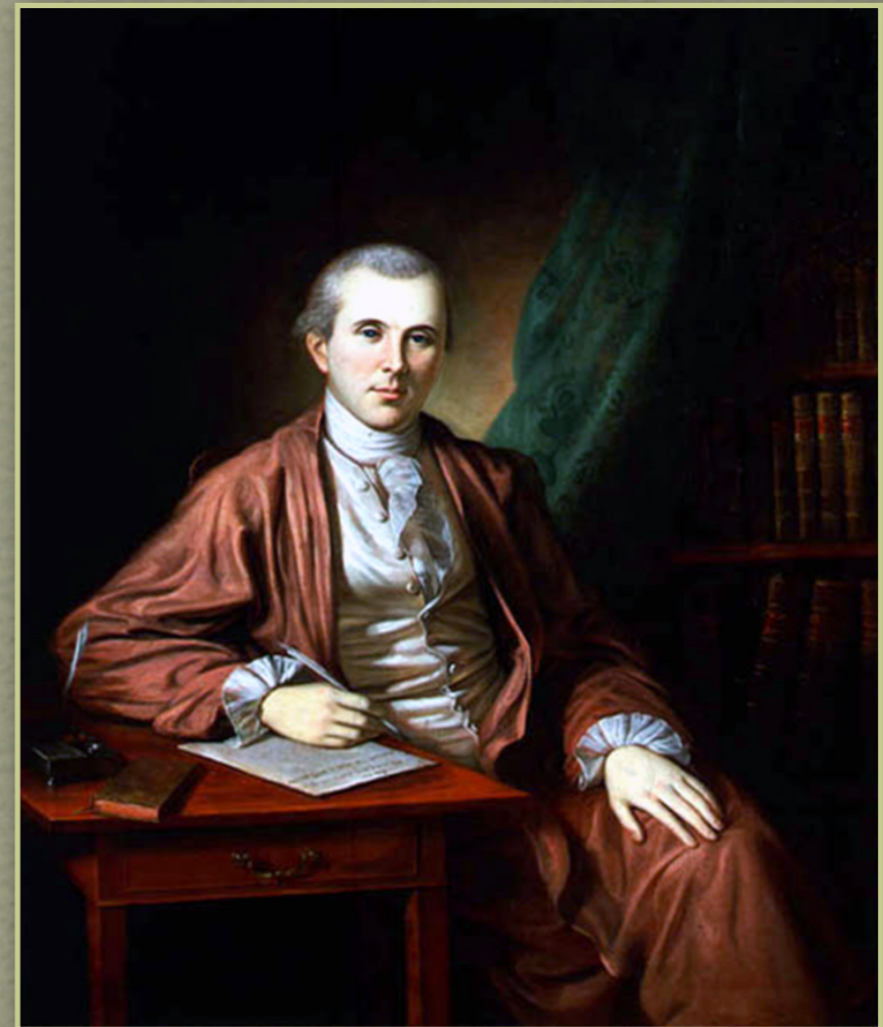
July 7th, 1768

“Deserted, on their march to Fort Pitt, from his Majesty’s 18th, or Royal Regiment of Foot in Ireland, and Captain Lord’s company, Thomas Maguire, aged 26 years, 5 feet 6 1/2 inches high, born in Ireland, has **short curled hair**, a smooth face, and fresh complexion, is well made, and has been a servant to several gentlemen in Ireland”



Dr. Benjamin Rush to Colonel Anthony Wayne 4th Pennsylvania Battalion September 1776

"I have seen this day a prisoner belonging to the 23rd Regiment taken by our people near New York. I was much pleased with the fashion of his hair. It was cut short all round by General Howe's orders. Count Saxe recommended this fashion in his Memoirs. It saves time and trouble and prevents lice. It moreover prevents a soldier from suffering from rain, which often keeps the hair wet for hours afterwards. Suppose you introduce it in your regiment? If you begin with yourself, every private as well as officer must follow your example"



Dr. Benjamin Rush
by Charles Wilson Peale 1783
(Winterthur)

Orderly Book of the Pennsylvania State Regiment of Foot

Brigade Orders
July 7, 1777

“It is strongly recommended to the soldiery of General Weedon’s Brigade to have all their hair cut short by trimming it close before thinning and cutting it behind to leave it in a short curl or bob; it prevents vermin, keeps their heads cool, and is much more convenient in rainy weather; it is also dressed with each and looks more soldierlike.”



Colonel Walter Stewart
2nd Pennsylvania Regiment of the Continental Line
by Charles Wilson Peale c. 1781
(Yale Center for British Art)

Orderly Book

Of that Portion of the American Army Stationed at or Near Williamsburg Under the Command of General Andrew Lewis 1776

April 3, 1776

*“It is recommended to the Colonels to make their men appear as uniform as possible in their Dress, that their Hatts shall be cut, all cocked in Fassion, that **their Hair be likewise cut exactly the same length**. When the Regiments are under Arms, the Officers to appear in their Hunting shirts; the Officer’s as well as men to die their shirts in a uniform manner. These attentions may appear Trivial, but they are in fact of considerable importance, as they tend to give what is called Espirt de Corps without which Regiments never grow in Reputation.”*

April 19, 1776

“R.O. An Officer of the different Companyes is every day to see the men of their Companyes, warnd for guard, Paraded and marched to the General parade by a Serjant by good time, at the same time he is to examine their arms & accutremments & see they are in good order; Likewise to see that the mens heads are combed, their hatts Cock'd agreeable to former orders, their Bairds shaved Close, their shoes Cleaned, in every respect as neat as their sircumstance will allow.”

“A New System of Military Discipline, Founded upon Principle, by a General Officer”
Attributed to Richard Lambert, 6th Earl of Cavan
R. Aitken, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 1776

“... The Dress of the Hair is another very essential article in point of convenience and cleanliness, of which we seem altogether unmindful; having at present no other form, but either the Tuck, the Cue, or the Club. The time of adjusting either is evidently so very tedious and troublesome, of which the men themselves are so sensible, that in order to avoid that inconvenience, and to have more time for other purposes, they frequently let the hair remain in one or other of those forms for some days together, giving it occasionally, without opening and combing it, a sort of outward slight dressing, by way of concealing their neglect from their officers; the ill consequences of which is, that the man by not combing his head, the skin contracts, in a small space of time, not only accumulated humours, which break out into scabs and ulcers, but an accumulated mixture of filth, dirt, and vermin, which proves as pernicious to the man himself, as it becomes infectious to others.

To prevent on one hand so great an inconvenience, and on the other to guard against the bad consequences attending to it, I would have the hair cut short and tapering, and to come no lower than the upper edge of the Stock, by which means the head will be easily be kept clean and cool, and the inconvenience of a tedious dress will be as much avoided.”

Colonel Christopher Greene, 1st Rhode Island Regiment (Ann S.K. Brown Collection, Brown University)



Natural Short Hair with Long Side “Runners”

The New York Gazette or Weekly Post - Boy September 10th, 1770

*“Deserted from the 29th Regiment of Foot, William Simpson, Fifer, aged 19 years, 5 Feet 8 Inches high, born in the Regiment, straight and well made, fair Complexion, thin Face, long Visage, large Nose, large Limbs, **short brown hair blue Eyes...**”*



“Myself conversing with Rebel Prisoners according to the Rules of Chivalry”
Richard St. George Mansergh During the Philadelphia Campaign of 1777



Short & Shoulder Length Hair

“A VIEW IN AMERICA IN 1778”
by M. Darly 1778



Short & Shoulder Length Hair

Hair Tied Back With Ribbon



The Pennsylvania Gazette

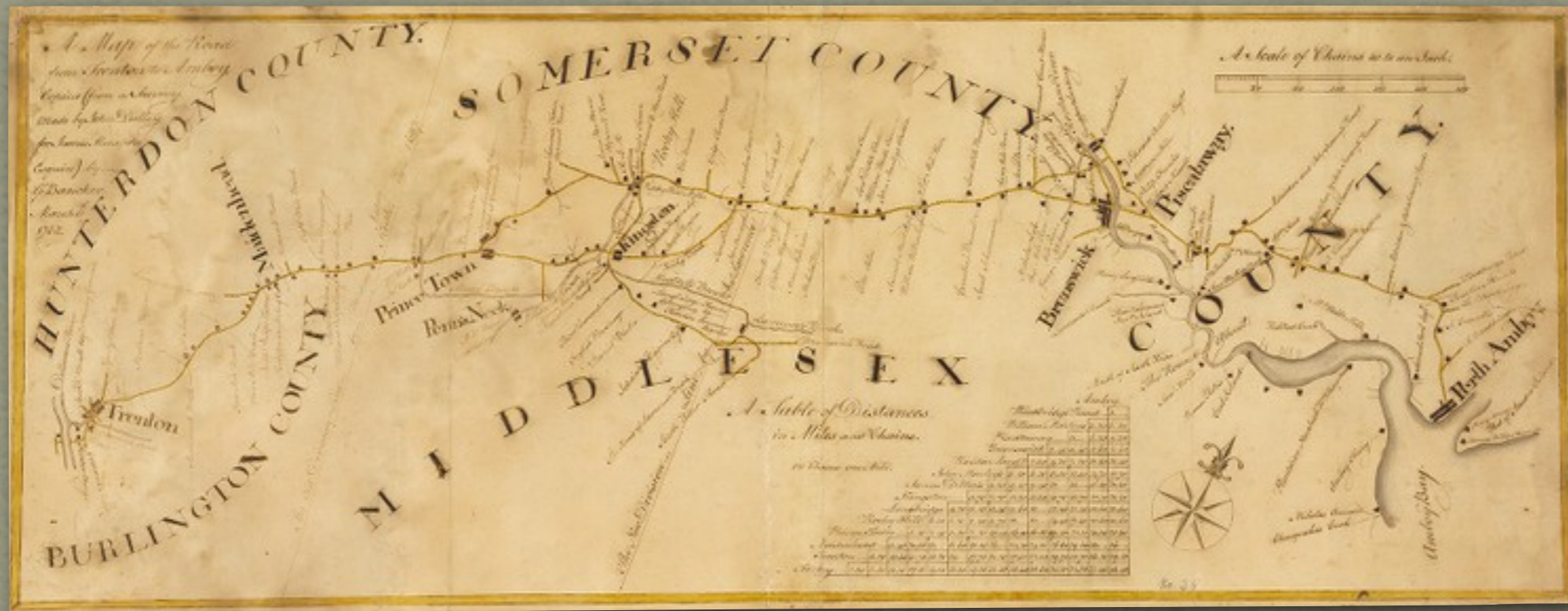
July 23rd, 1777

“West Caln, Chester County, July 15, 1777.

*The following articles were last night stolen from the subscriber, viz. a brown regimental coat, faced with yellow; two jackets, one white, the other striped with red and white; a pair of buckskin breeches, almost new; a pair of shoes; a beaver hat, bound with silk ferret; a silver hatband, and a silver watch. The thief is a deserter from the English army, named Henry Mitchell, near 5 feet 10 inches high, about 25 years of age, much pitted with the smallpox, and **short black hair tied behind**; he had on him a Regular coat of the Tenth regiment, faced with yellow. Whoever secures said clothes and thief, shall have Eight Pounds reward, or in proportion for any of the clothes. Patrick Shields”*

Orderly Book of H.M. 40th Regiment of Foot
At Amboy, New Jersey, June 2nd, 1777
(George Washington Papers, Library of Congress)

“Black tape to be provided immediately to tie the Mens Hair. NB. It is to be had in Amboy. The Mens Hair that is not properly Cut, to be done this Day”



"A Map of the Road from Trenton to Amboy Copied (from a Survey Made by John Dalley for James Alexander Esquire) by G. Bancker"
by John Dalley 1762
(Princeton University Library)

To Queue the Hair



Standing Orders

H.M. 37th Regiment of Foot

c. 1775

*“Regulations for the Officers... Upon all duties with arms. **The hair to be queued, dressed with side curls, but upon a march turned or twisted up**”*



Other Ranks Button - H.M. 37th Regiment of Foot
(Don Troiani)

Colonel John Biddulph of H.M. 3rd Regiment of Foot
by Anthony Poggi after Thomas Watson 1770
(The British Museum)



Natural Hair Cut Long on Top
Long Side “Runners” with Hair Tufts along the Sides which Cover Half the Ear
Hair Likely Queued from Behind and Tied with a Black Ribbon

Lt. J. Elphinstone
H.M. 71st Regiment of Foot



Powdered Natural Hair
Short Side “Runners” with Long Hair Tufts along the Sides which Cover Half the Ear
Hair Queued from Behind and Tied with a Black Ribbon

British Artillery Other Ranks (Ann S.K. Brown Library)



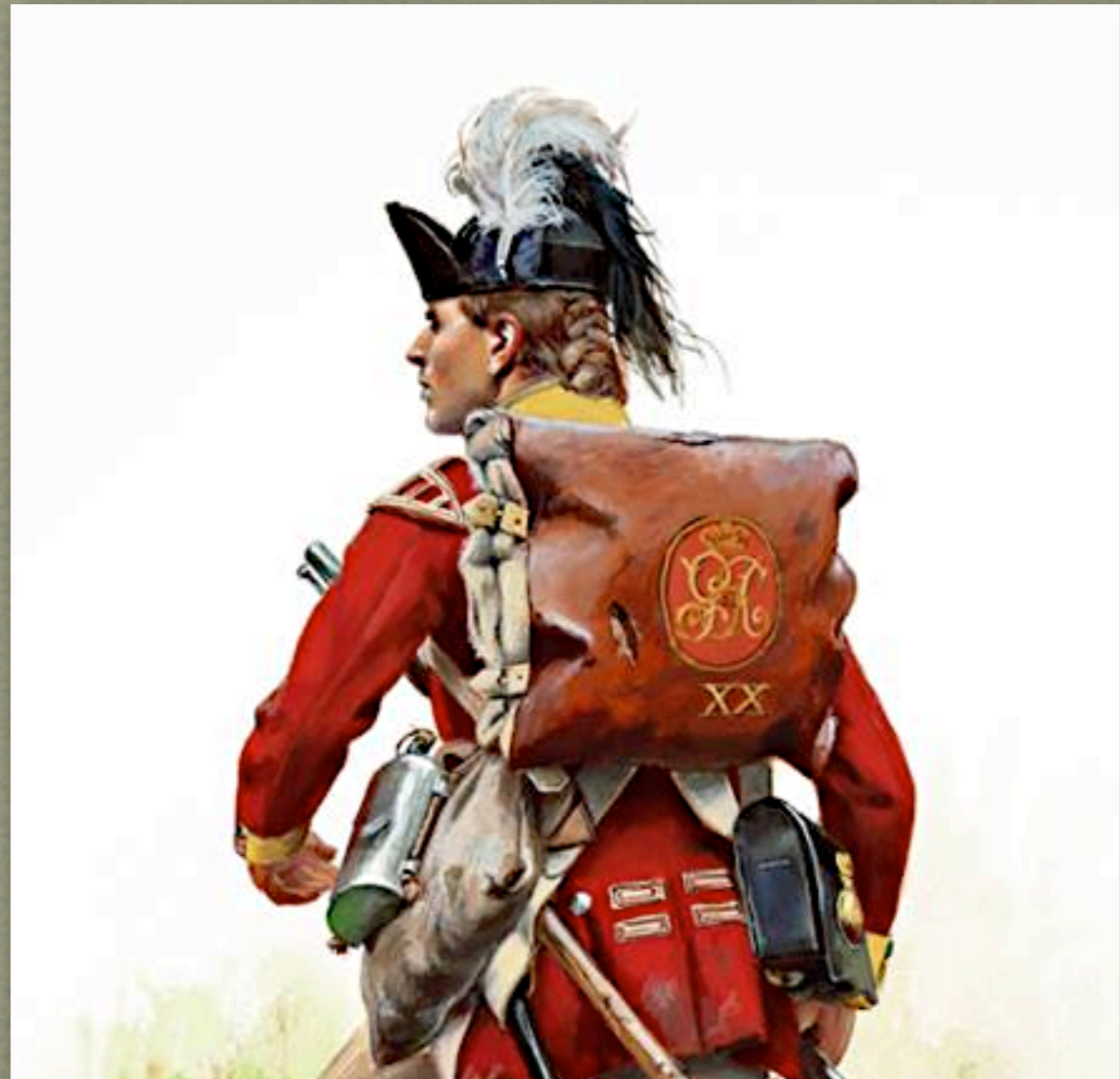
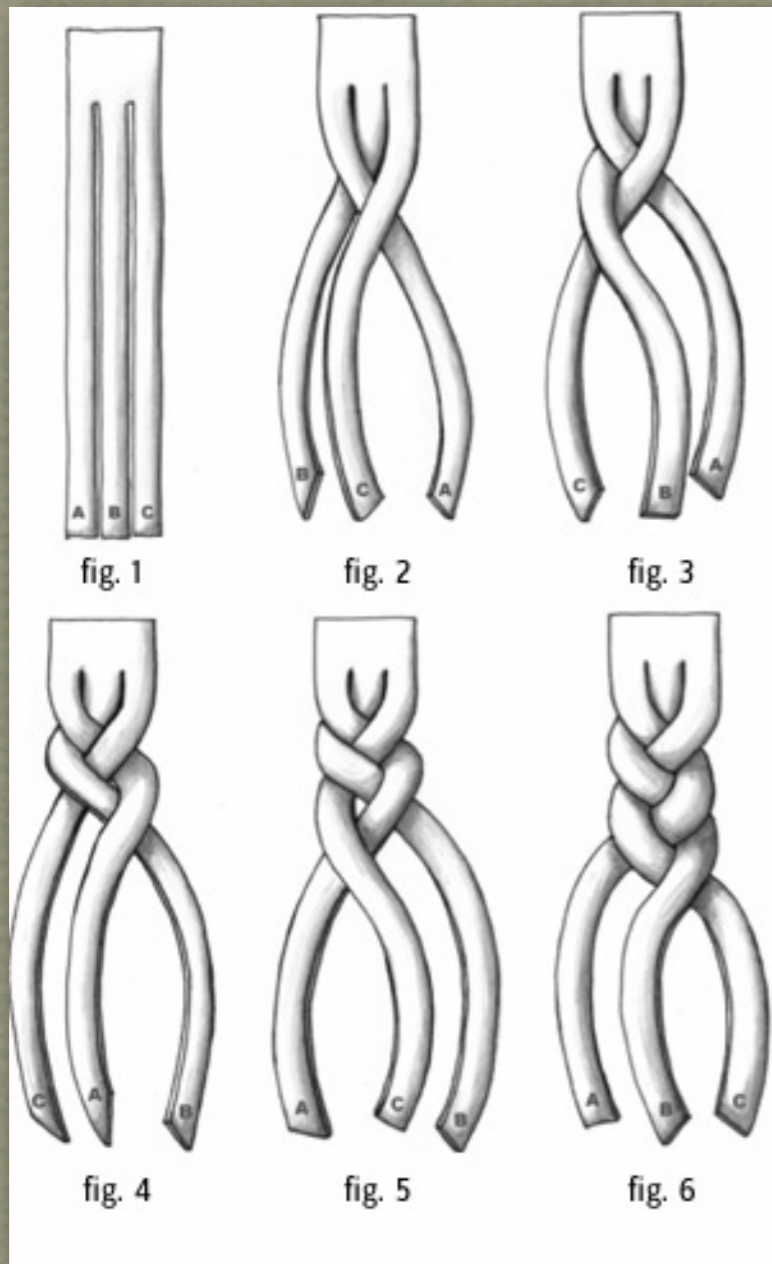
Hair Powdered, Queued and Tied with a Black Ribbon

General George Washington

Hair, Unbleached Hair Bag Linen Lining & Black Silk Queue Ribbon
(Mount Vernon)



To Plait the Hair



Hair Plaited & Turned Up: Grenadier, H.M. 20th Regiment of Foot During the Saratoga Campaign - 1777
(Don Troiani)

Bennet Cuthbertson

“System For The Complete Interior Management and Oeconomy of a Battalion of Infantry”

1776

CHAP. XIV.

Of the Dress of a Regiment, with Rules for constantly preserving Neatness and Uniformity.

IX.

*“The hair of the Non-commission-officers, Drummers, and private Men, look tightest, when turned up behind on a comb, and loosely * platted, with a black ribband or tape (three quarters long) in a bow knot at the tye, which must never be permitted to be made too close to the head, as such a practice cuts the hair, which should be encouraged, by every means, to be as thick and full as possible, in order to enlarge the appearance of the plat, which thereby looks more ornamental: to promote that end, no fore-top must be allowed, and only as much short hair at the sides, as will make a little turn back, of about an inch and a half in length; when all these aids are not sufficient, from the natural thinness of the hair, a false plat must be added, which, if properly fixt on, can never be discovered: this method is also to be pursued, when a Soldier’s hair is but barely long enough to tye, as it will contribute much to the uniform appearance of a Battalion, particularly after having received any number of Recruits.”*

* A Queue greases the back of the coat, besides being an expense to the Soldier, of above double the quantity of ribband or tape required for the plat

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XI.

“As nothing promotes the growth of hair, more than frequent combing, the Soldiers should be enjoined to accustom themselves to do so, both morning and night, by which they will be under the necessity of undoing their plats, before they go to bed, and thereby prevent the hair from getting thin, which nothing sooner effect, than a neglect of this precaution: but as Soldiers are not to be depended on in anything, let it be ever so much for their advantage, the Serjeants and Corporals must often examine into this particular, and insist on a compliance; and it will also be of infinite consequence to the improvement of their hair, to permit them, when not for duty, to appear at morning roll calling, with their hair only tied, and hanging down the back; by which the Officers will be certain of their being combed in the proper manner, at least once a day, which cannot be the case if the hair be platted up”

Regimental Orders

H.M. 23rd Regiment of Foot

Regimental Orders
April 20th, 1770

“Hair to be plaited and turned up behind with a black ribbon or tape, three quarters of a yard long, in a bow knot at the tye. Those men who have their hair so short that it will not plait are to be provided as soon as possible with a false plait”



Light Infantry Soldier c. 1775
by Lieutenant Richard Williams, H.M. 23rd Regiment of Foot
(Colonial Williamsburg Foundation)

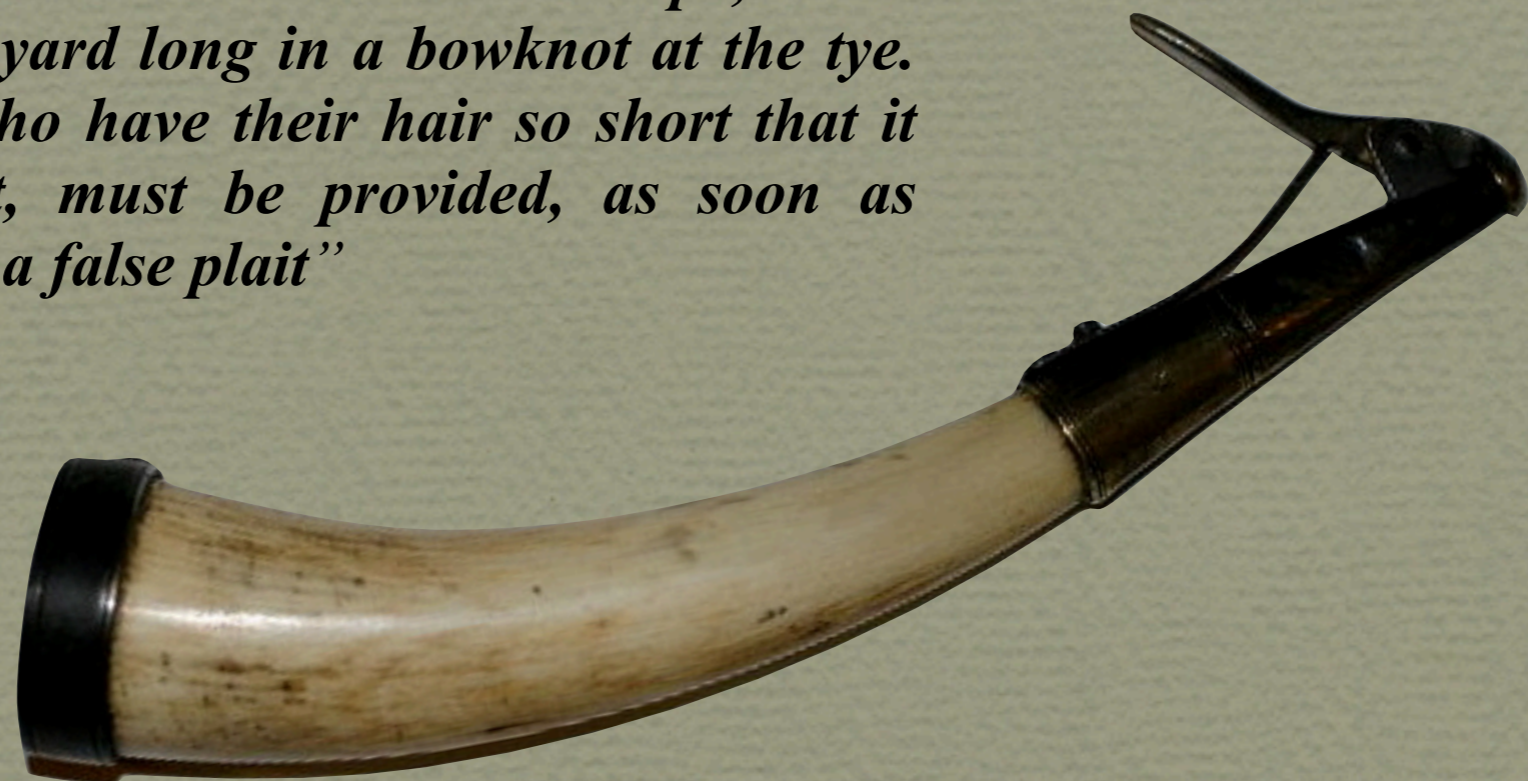
British Light Infantry
by Philippe Jacques de Loutherbourg 1778
(Ann S.K. Brown Collection, Brown University)



Garrison Orders of Major - General Williamson H.M. Royal Artillery

Regimental Orders
April 26th, 1770

“The Non-Commissioned Officers, Gunners and Private Men’s Hair is to be plaited, and turned up behind with a black ribbon or tape, three quarters of a yard long in a bowknot at the tye. Those men who have their hair so short that it will not plait, must be provided, as soon as possible, with a false plait”



“The Military Guide for Young Officers”
by Thomas Simes
London, 1772

“An Officer, when dressed for Guard, should have his hair queued... The Officers (on field days), should have their hair queued. The Non-Commissioned Officers and private men must plat and tuck up their hair...”

No Serjeants, Corporals, Drummers, Fifers, or Private soldiers are to appear in the barrack-yard, or street, without their hair being well platted, stockings clean, black garters, black stocks, buckles bright, and clothes in thorough repair”

Detail: H.M. 29th Regiment of Foot
“The Bloody Massacre on King Street...”
by Paul Revere 1770



Hair “*plaited and turned up...*”

Detail: The Death of Major Pierson on the Isle of Jersey off France

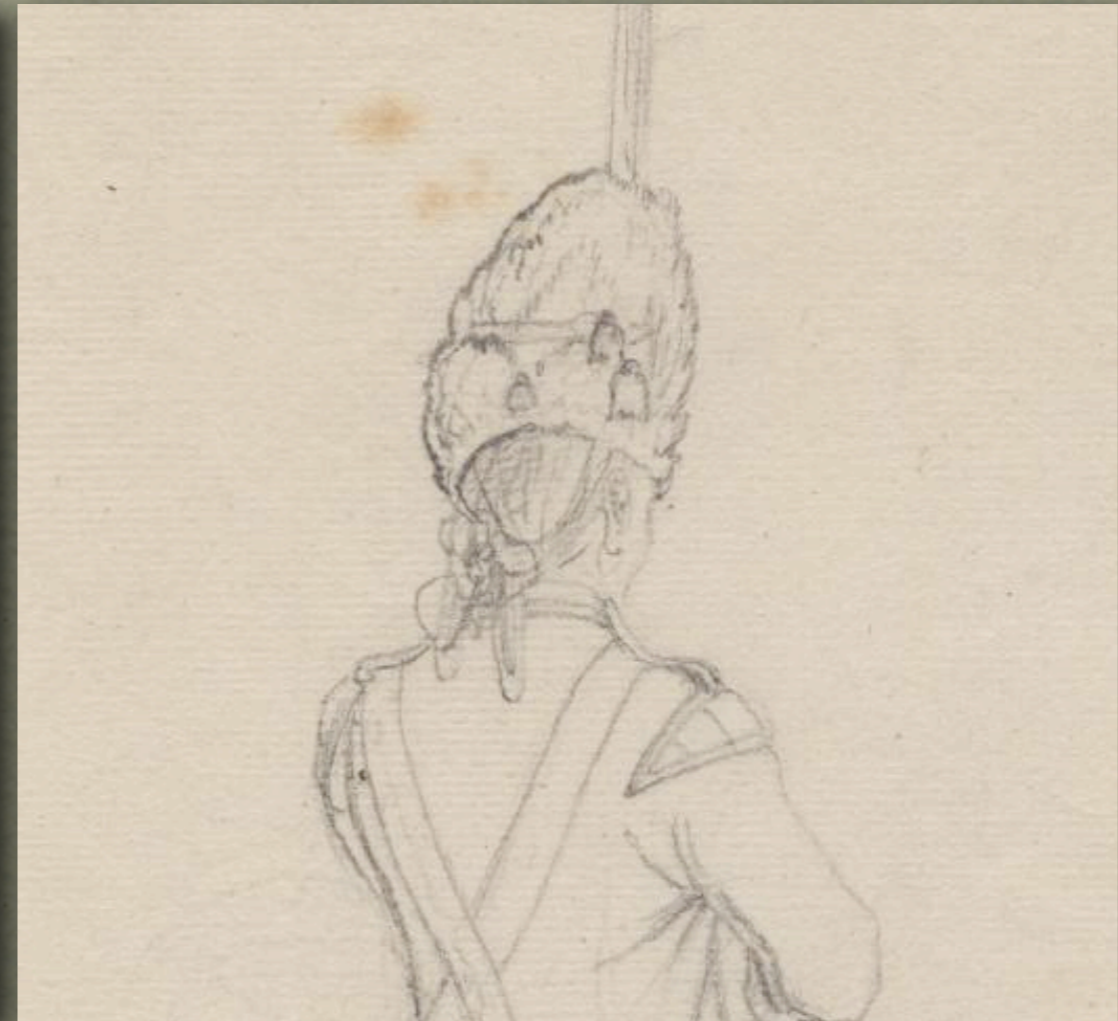
January 6, 1781

By John Singleton Copley



Hair “*plaited and turned up...*”

H.M. 6th Regiment of Foot
by Philippe Jacques de Loutherbourg 1778
(Ann S.K. Brown Collection, Brown University)



“Hair to be plaited and turned up...”

To Club the Hair with Buckles



Recreated British Officers of H.M. 63rd & 52nd Regiments of Foot after the Capture of Fort Montgomery & Clinton - 1777
(Greg Hurley & Sean Dermond)

War Office
July 27th, 1776
Adjutant - General to Lord George Lennox

“...The King has lately expressed his intentions that the hair of all the infantry should be tied behind in one uniform manner, and that the mode which is commonly called clubbed should be observed. I take the liberty of mentioning this to your Lordship, as what His Majesty wishes, though no order has, as yet, been given out”



Grenadier & Battalion Co. Man of H.M. 25th Regiment of Foot with Clubbed Hair & Runners
by Philippe Jacques de Louthembourg 1778
(Ann S.K.Brown Collection, Brown University)

British Light Infantry
by Philippe Jacques de Loutherbourg 1778
(Ann S.K. Brown Collection, Brown University)



Orders by Colonel Cleveland 4th Battalion Royal Artillery

May 28, 1772

*“The 4th Battalion to be under arms tomorrow. The men to be in white breeches, white stockings, black half spatter-dashes, and **their hair clubbed**”*



Priming Horn - 4th Battalion Royal Artillery
(Sean Phillips)



An Officer of Artillery (Left) with His Hair Clubbed
by Mathew Darly 1780
(The British Museum)

Brigade Orders

Brigadier General James Patterson, Royal Artillery Brigade

January 10th, 1778

“The non-Commissioned Officers and Men are at all time, on or off duty, to wear their Hair tied up and Clubb’d. it is the Generals positive orders that such of the men whose hair is now too Short to tie up, do let it grow from this time forward. Anyone who shall presume to cut it Short behind in disobedience of this order may depend upon being severely punished”



Detail: The Review at Warley Camp
Phillipe Jacques de Loucherbourg 1780

General Charles Earl Cornwallis
by Hugh Douglas Hamilton

c. 1770



Natural Hair Cut Short on Top and Powdered
Short Side “Runners” (Sideburns) with Single Side Buckles which are Worn Slightly Over and Behind the Ear
Hair Clubbed from Behind and Tied with a Black Ribbon

“Major Andre”
by George Engleheart c. 1771 - 1780
(Yale Center for British Art)



Natural Hair Cut Short on Top and Powdered
No Side “Runners”, with Long Single Side Buckles Worn Slightly Over and Behind the Ear
Hair Queued from Behind and Tied with a Black Ribbon

Col. Lord Edward Ligoner of H.M. 9th Regiment of Foot
by Samuel Cotes c. 1772



Natural Hair Cut Short on Top and Powdered
Short Side “Runners” with Double Side Buckles Worn Half Way Over and Behind the Ear
Hair Queued from Behind and Tied with a Black Ribbon

Captain Thomas Hewitt of H.M. 10th Regiment of Foot
Light Infantry Company
by William Tate c. 1781
(National Army Museum)



Natural Hair Cut Short on Top and Powdered
Very Short Side “Runners” with Hair Tufts on the Sides which are Worn Above and Slightly Over the Ears
Hair Clubbed from Behind and Tied with a Black Ribbon

Major William Blakeney of H.M. 23rd Regiment of Foot
by Thomas Hill 1778
(Colonial Williamsburg Foundation)



Natural Hair Cut Short on Top and Powdered
Short Side “Runners” and Hair Cut Short on the Sides that is Worn Very Slightly Over the Ear
Hair Queued or Clubbed from Behind and Tied with a Black Ribbon

Major William Blakeney of H.M. 23rd Regiment of Foot
by Thomas Hill 1778
(Colonial Williamsburg Foundation)



Natural Hair

Long Side “Runners” and Hair Cut Short on the Sides that is Worn Above the Ear
Hair Clubbed from Behind and Tied with a Black Ribbon

General Enoch Poor
by Thaddeus Kosciusko
(New Hampshire Historical Society)

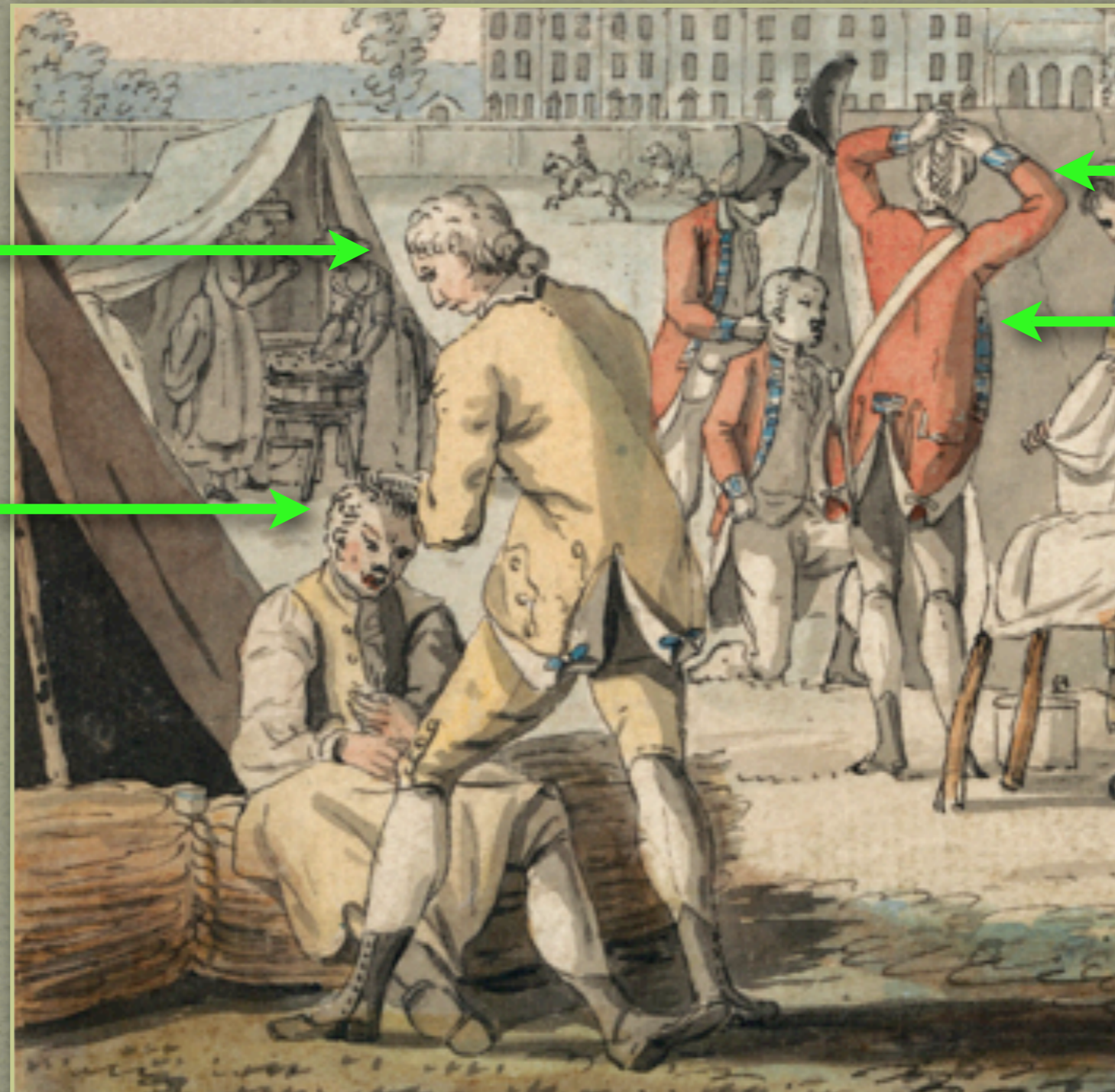


Natural Hair with Long Side “Runners”
Hair Clubbed from Behind and Tied with a Black Ribbon

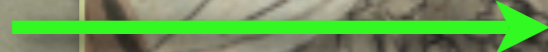
A Military Encampment in Hyde Park, London
by James Malton after Paul Sandby c.1780
(Yale Center for British Art)



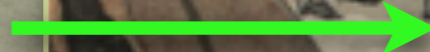
A Military Encampment in Hyde Park, London
by James Malton after Paul Sandby c.1780
(Yale Center for British Art)



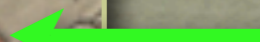
Hair Clubbed



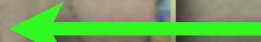
Soldier Having
His Hair Combed Out



Hair Plaited
&
Turned Up



Soldier Having
His Hair Dressed



Powdering the Hair



Dressing the Hair with Pomatum & Powder
Pomatum is a Scented Lard Based Ointment for the Hair or Face

Bennet Cuthbertson

“System For The Complete Interior Management and Oeconomy of a Battalion of Infantry”

1776

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XII.

*“Pains must be taken to introduce a method of powdering the mens hair to an advantage, that the powder may not be in cakes, on one part more than another, but rather have the appearance of being equally frosted over; for which purpose, it will be right for each Company to appoint a Soldier, who seems to have a taste for it, not only to powder all the men of the Company whenever necessary, but likewise to keep the hair well cut at the sides, and their plats properly done up; for which, and to furnish powder (and shave if required) he should be allowed a * halfpenny per week, from each Non-commission-officer, Drummer, and private Man, with some little exemptions in point of duty: this will be a certain means of ensuring uniformity in the management of the hair of a Battalion, and will not be a greater expence to the Soldiers, than if they had furnished powder for themselves.”*

Corporal of the South Fencibles

1778

(Drumranlig Castle)



Powdered Hair “Equally Frosted Over”

Wigs

Bennet Cuthbertson

“System For The Complete Interior Management and Oeconomy of a Battalion of Infantry”

1776

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Of the Dress of a Regiment, with Rules for constantly preserving Neatness and Uniformity.

X.

“A Soldier must never be allowed to wear a wig, if it can possibly be avoided; but when there is an absolute necessity for so doing, it should be made to imitate the regimental form of dressing the hair, as much as can be: and it should be a rule, to take off the wigs from recruits, whenever the season of the year will admit it, although their hair be ever so short, as even that will look more military than a peasant’s wig.”

The Pennsylvania Gazette

November 7th, 1771



“Deserted from Captain David Hay’s Company of the Royal Regiment of Artillery, viz. Thomas Seal, Matross, aged Twenty seven Years, 5 Feet 9 Inches high, born in the West of England, he pretends to be a Coachman, has a fresh Complexion, dark brown Hair, and wore a false Tail, when he went away; we cannot describe his Clothes, as he left his Regimentals. Whoever secures the above Deserter, shall have Two Guineas Reward, from Captain David Hay, of the above Regiment

N.B. He has his Wife along with him, she is a tick short Woman, sandy Hair, fresh Complexion, aged about 32 Years, born in Ireland, and has served some Years in Philadelphia as a Nurse”

Shaving

Orderly Book of the 2nd Virginia Regiment November 5, 1775

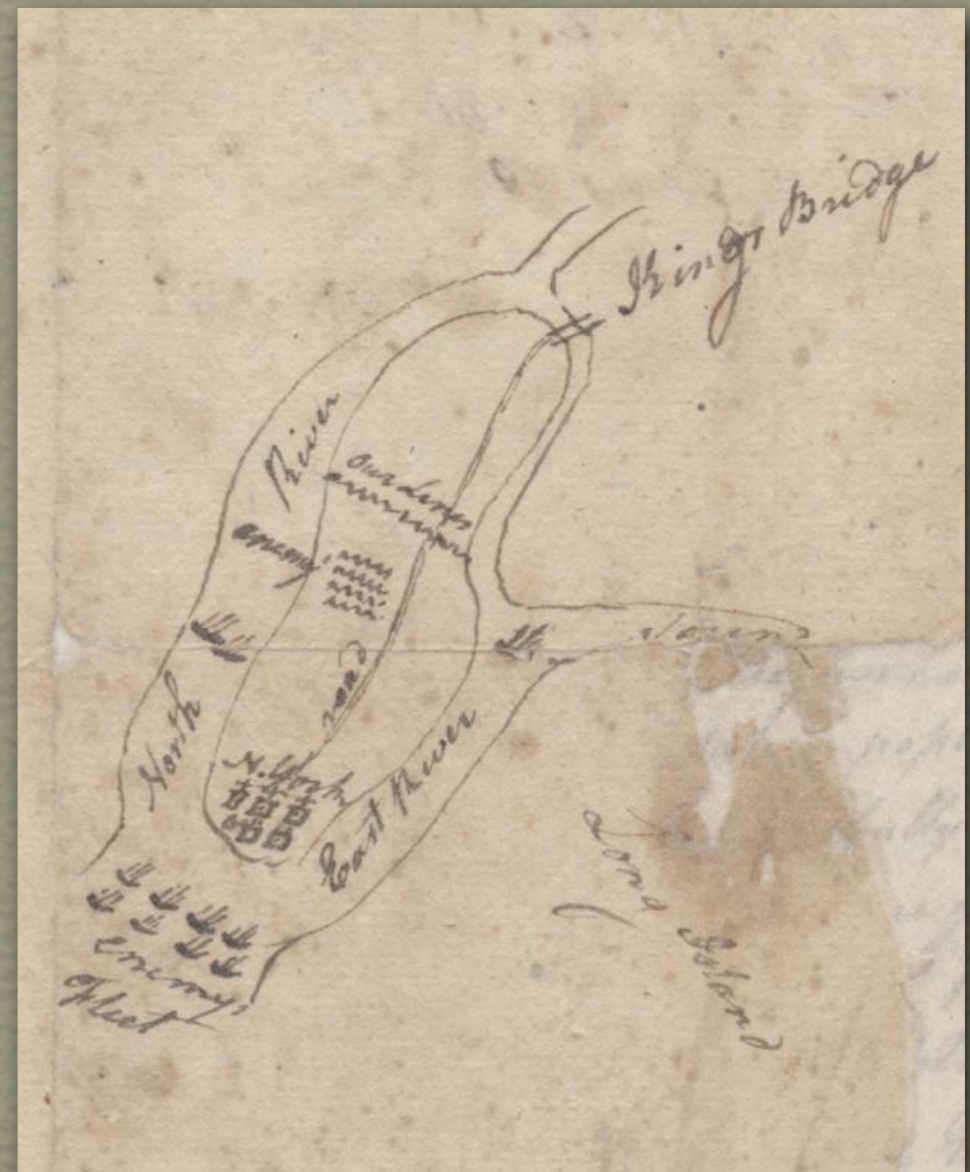
"All the men off Duty with & without Arms are to be shaved and Cleaned to Attend Service when the Drum beats at 11 O'Clock. The Reverend the Chaplain will give a sermound, it is Expected that every Officer of the Regiment off Duty will attend"



Picquet, 2nd Virginia Regt. (Recreated)
November, 1775

The Diary of John Chilton, 3rd Virginia Regiment July 26, 1777 (Keith Family Papers, Virginia Historical Society)

"26th. (July 1777) Before we Marched Capt. Wallace Capt. Powel myself, Lt. Mercer Lieut. Tibbs, Lieut. Baynham & Ensn. Peyton were denied our Posts in Battalion, for this reason, there was a Genl. Order for every Officer to attend Roll call at Retreat - I had not seen my chest for near a week. I was consequently very dirty with a long beard. I had embraced this oppority. of shaving & shifting and was about 1/2 shaved at the beat. I said the Men turn out and also said Mr. Black go to hear the Roll call, for this I was arrested ..."



Map of the Battle of Harlem Heights
Drawn by Captain John Chilton, 3rd Virginia Regiment
Letter dated September 17, 1776
(Virginia Historical Society)

Diary of Lieutenant James McMichael of the Pennsylvania Line (The Pennsylvania Magazine)

August 8, 1777

Near Germantown, Pennsylvania.

"We received orders to hold ourselves in readiness to pass a grand review at 10 A.M., upon which we all got into uniform, with our hair dressed and powdered."



SEAT OF WAR IN THE ENVIRONS OF PHILADELPHIA
By Thos. Kitchin, Senr. Hydrographer to his Majesty
For the London Magazine 1777

Journal and Orderly Book of Captain Robert Kirkwood of the Delaware Regiment of the Continental Line

"Brigade Orders June 9th (1777)

... every Soldier for guard to be dress'd neat and Clean & head powdered ..."

Brigade Orders, August 13, 1777, " ... Officers will attend to and Direct their Men to Shave and Shift twice A Week ..."

"Wilmington 3d Septr 1777

Division Orders

... The whole Division to be paraded in the front of the encampment at 4 o'clock precisely, the Officers commanding regts to See their Men Clean, their hair powder'd & green boughs in their hats, the Whole to be Counted of[f] in Divisions properly Officer'd."



Journal and Orderly Book of Captain Robert Kirkwood of the Delaware Regiment of the Continental Line

"Wilmington 3d Sepr 1777

Division Orders

... The whole Division to be paraded in the front of the encampment at 4 o'clock precisely, the Officers commanding regts to See their Men Clean, their hair powder'd & green boughs in their hats, the Whole to be Counted of[f] in Divisions properly Officer'd."

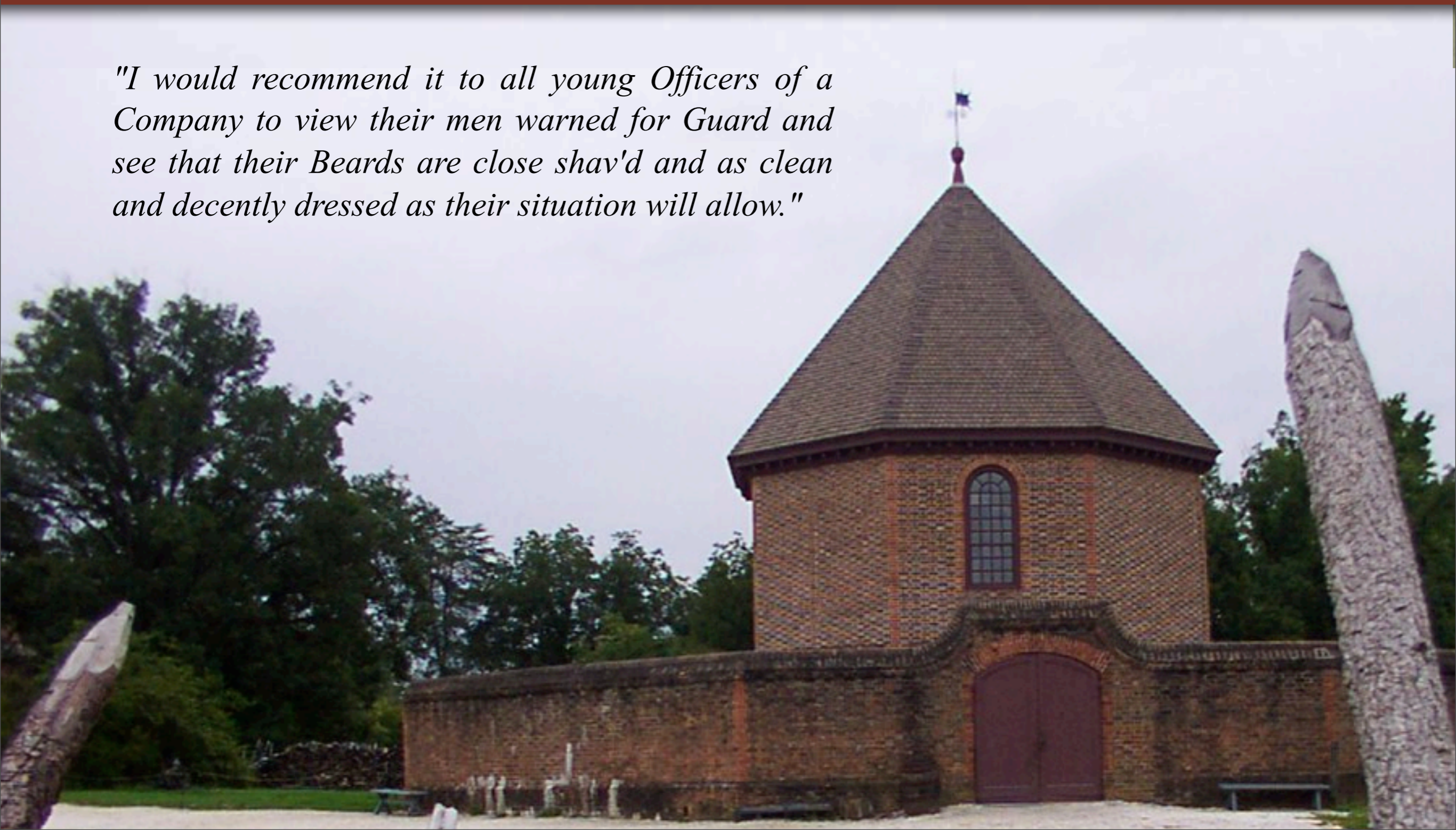
"Camp Near Newport Sepr 6th 1777. Regimental Orders

The Commanding officers of Companies are Requested to have their men Clean & hair powder'd to morrow at 2 OClock with their Arms & Accoutrements in good order, fit to bear Inspection by the Commander in Chief ..."



Orderly Book
Of that Portion of the American Army Stationed at or Near Williamsburg
Under the Command of General Andrew Lewis 1776

"I would recommend it to all young Officers of a Company to view their men warned for Guard and see that their Beards are close shav'd and as clean and decently dressed as their situation will allow."



Orderly Book

Possibly Belonging to Lieutenant Colonel William Smith Jackson's Additional Regiment

"Boston Oct 4. 1777

*The Regiment to hold themselves in readiness to embark on Board the Flat bottom Boats to morrow morning at 6. oClock, it is expected that every Non Commissioned Officer & Soldier, will have his Cloathing & Necessaries put up in their Knapsacks this afternoon, together with two days provisions Cook'd, likewise that **every soldier shaves himself this afternoon that when he embarks to morrow mornng he may appear neat, Clean well powder'd & in a soldier like manner.**"*



Memorandum on Soldier's Dress

The Marquis de Lafayette



Major General Marquis De Lafayette
by Charles Willson Peale c. 1779 - 1780
(Independence Hall National Historic Park)

December 28, 1777

"The men should comb their hair every day after washing it, cut their beard twice a week and always when they are upon parade for guards, and take baths when they will have an opportunity to it"

The Orderly Book of the First Pennsylvania Regiment

Colonel James Chambers

"Division Orders. Poramus, December 4th, A.D. 1778.

The Troops To parade to-Morrow Morning at 10 o'Clock, fresh shaved & well Powdered, arms & accoutrements in the Best Order possible, to appear in the most Soldierly Manner... in Order to Manouveir."

"Regimental Orders. Poramus, December 8th, A.D. 1778.

Agreeable to Division orders, the Regts to Parade at three o'Clock this afternoon, in the most Soldierly manner Possible, their arms and a Coutrements in the Best order. The Quartermaster will draw flour for the men to Clean their Jacoots & Breches and to Powder their hair."

The Orderly Book of the First Pennsylvania Regiment Colonel James Chambers



"Division Orders. Newark, Decr 11th, A.D. 1778. The men are all to wash their Stockings & Clean their arms this evening, & the whole to Parade to-Morrow Morning, Precisely at 9 O'Clock, fresh shaved & well Powdered. Any Soldier that appears in a slovenly manner will be Punished. Previous to the Line of March, which will be at 10 O'Clock..."

American Lead Glazed Earthenware Barber Bowl from Pennsylvania

"Shave me beautiful and fine that I will please the beloved one of mine."

1769

(Metropolitan Museum of Art)

Diary of Lieutenant Jabez Fitch, Jr. of Connecticut January 1776

"I arose a little after 3 o'clock, attended the alarm post as usual. I then went to Capt. Ripleys barber and got shaved and at 8 o'clock went to the main guard ... We marched down to the main guard house where we relieved the old guard."



Straight Razor

by John Shepherd with Crown & Wolf c.1770 - 1785
(Private Collection)

Diary

H.M. 42nd Regiment of Foot Upon Leaving for Halifax in 1783

*“Them among us who have grown hair upon the face of our countenance some very much and others a little bit, have been told to get it shaved off good and well for the review which we are preparing for now. Ensign Campbell says that **runners will be overlooked but no full-haired faced will be passed. Top lips to be shaved to and all.**”*



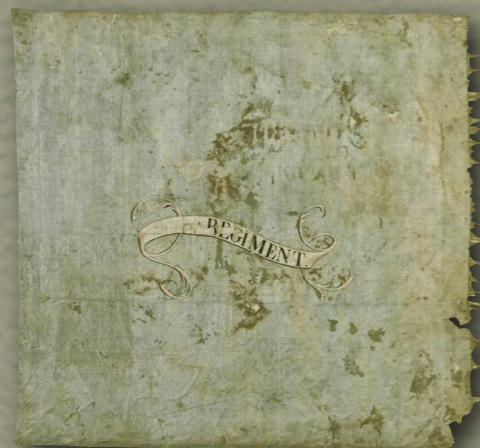
Brass Sword or Bayonet Belt Tip
H.M. 42nd Regiment of Foot
(Don Troiani)

Diary of Captain John Chilton of the 3rd Virginia Regiment

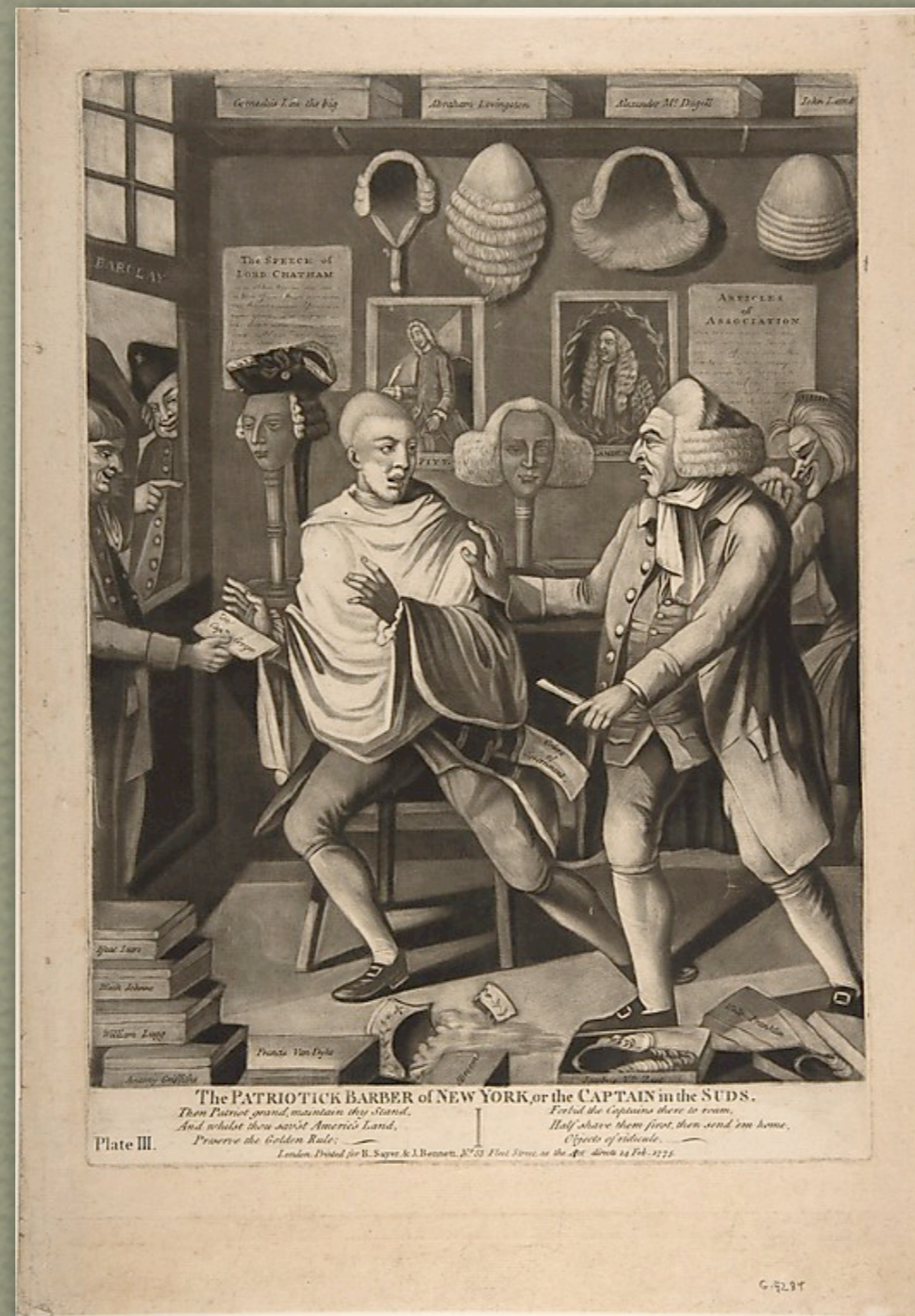
July 26, 1777

(Virginia Historical Society)

"Before we Marched, Capt. Wallace, Capt. Powel, myself, Lt. Mercer, Lieut. Tebbs, Lieut. Baynham & Ensn. Payton were denied our Posts in Battalion, for this reason there was a Genl. Order for every Officer to attend Roll Call at Retreat. I had not seen my chest for near a week. I was consequently very dirty with a long beard. I had embraced this opportunity of Shaving & shifting and was about ½ shaved at beat. I saw the Men turn out and also saw Mr. Blackwell go to hear the Roll call. for this I was arrested the other Gent. no doubt had their reasons or at least ought to have had, tho to say truth this order has been too much neglected but to bring in those who had not neglected their duty indiscriminately with those who had, argues a New raised officer grasping a superiority and power."



“The PATRIOTIC BARBER of NEW YORK or the CAPTAIN in the SUDS”
by Sayer & Bennett February 12, 1775
(Colonial Williamsburg)



“The PATRIOTIC BARBER of NEW YORK or the CAPTAIN in the SUDS”
by Sayer & Bennett February 12, 1775
(Colonial Williamsburg)



Razor Blades Excavated at the British Camp at
Dyckman Farm, Washington Heights, Manhattan



“The Female Barber”

John Dixon, Published by Carrington Bowles 1770
(The British Museum)



“A CAMP SCENE”

by Charles White after Henry William Bunbury June 25, 1784
(The British Museum)



W. M. Bunbury del.

C. White sculp.

A. CAMP. SCENE.

Published June the 25th 1784 by C. White, Stafford Row, Pall Mall.

Self Portrait - March, 1775
Lieutenant Gabriel Bray, H.M. Royal Navy
(National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, London)



Laundry

Bennet Cuthbertson

“System For The Complete Interior Management and Oeconomy of a Battalion of Infantry”

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Of the Dress of a Regiment, with Rules for constantly preserving Neatness and Uniformity.

XIII.

“Soldiers must be obliged to put on clean linen, twice a week for certain, viz. Sunday and Wednesday, on the first of which days, they should be powdered, and dressed in the best of whatever cloathing belongs to them, with thread stockings: besides these two days, it must also be insisted on, that they never parade for duty, without clean shirts, their hair well powdered, gaiters highly polished, and compleatly dressed in every particular; for which reason, the Serjeants and Corporals should minutely inspect the men of their respective squads, half an hour before they are to be reviewed by an Officer of a Company, which must not be neglected (let the number of men for duty, be ever so small) at least half an hour before the time, for marching them to the general parade: if any man, at the the inspection made by the Non-commision-officers, is found improperly dressed, he is to be sent immediately to the black-hole, on bread and water for two days, and replaced by another;

Bennet Cuthbertson

“System For The Complete Interior Management and Oeconomy of a Battalion of Infantry”

1776

for which purpose, every Company must have an extra-ordinary man in waiting, dressed for duty; but should it so happen, that a Serjeant or Corporal has been negligent, or idle enough, to pass by, or connive at the improper dress of a man belonging to his squad, and suffers him to appear before the Officer, as fit for duty, he should be imprisoned for the same number of days he ought to have confined the Soldier, who for this time should escape the punishment he so well deserved; if a repetition of such omissions appear in the same persons, a Court-martial will be necessary: a steady adherence to this system, will soon reduce the private men to the utmost attention in their dress, and muse effectually rouze the Non-commision-officers, to exert themselves with a becoming spirit for the honor of the corps.”

Orderly Book of H.M. 43rd Regiment of Foot
May 23 - August 25, 1781
(The British Museum, London - Translated by Gilbert V. Riddle)

“RO23rd June 1781

It is strongly recommended to the Commanding Officers of Companies to pay more attention to them, and in particular that they keep their Accoutrements and Trowzers more clean, they being most shamefully dirty during the March. The Commanding Officers of Companies will be answerable this Order is complied with.”



Orderly Book of H.M. 43rd Regiment of Foot

May 23 - August 25, 1781

(The British Museum, London - Translated by Gilbert V. Riddle)



Belt Plate

H.M. 43rd Regiment of Foot
(Don Troiani)

“Morning Orders 16th June

An Hour will be appointed every Day for the Men to wash their Trowzers and Shirts under the charge of Two Serjeants and Two Corporals who are to march them from Camp and return with them, any Man absent from Camp upon any pretence without a written pass from the Officer Commanding his Company will be immediately punished by Drum head Court Ma”

General Orders
America
January 27, 1775



(Fort Ticonderoga)

“Six women, wives of men belonging to the detach-ment may be sent there (Marshfield, Massachusetts) at the same time the necessaries go, who will be employed in washing for the men, that they may be kept clean”

Bennet Cuthbertson

“System For The Complete Interior Management and Oeconomy of a Battalion of Infantry”

1776

CHAP. VII

Of the Stoppages necessary to be made in a Regiment.

VII.

“As it often happens, that the women who wash for the Soldiers are not punctually paid, by which means, they are unable to provide that quantity of soap the linen must require, and thereby sooner rub it out, the Pay-Serjeants should be directed to stop for washing, from those, who are so idle to neglect a punctual Payment, and every week clear off the Women, who, by this method, can have no excuse for not doing justice to the linen.”

General, Sir William Howe's Orders Staten Island April 13, 1776



“The Commanding Officers to be answerable that proper People are sent on Shore at Dartmouth to Superintend the Women and others that may be left there to Wash, or for any other Purpose, who are to be accountable for all Depredations that may be Committed on the houses or Estates of the Inhabit-ants.”

General, “The HON.ble S.r W.m HOWE”
(The Ann S.K. Brown Collection)

General, Sir William Howe's Orders Staten Island July 2, 1777



(Cadina Meadus Doedens Photograph)

“Commanding Officers of Corps are not to suffer their Women, on any account, to Wash in the Streams near the Watering Places.”



General, Sir William Howe's Orders Staten Island July 2, 1777

“Commanding Officers of Corps are not to suffer their Women, on any account, to Wash in the Streams near the Watering Places.”



Orderly Book of Sir John Johnson During the Campaign of 1776 - 1777

“ - 15th July, 1777. Buck’s (Carleton’s Island)... The duty of the Provost Marshal. Sergeant Killigrew of the 34th. appointed on the day before at 2 s. 6d. a day. The care of all prisoners taken in battle, spies and deserters is Intrusted to them forthwith; he will have a guard strong in proportion to their number; all disorders in the camp fall under his cognizance; he is to have control of all the settlers and traders selling Liquor, and have authority for Impressing such as he finds disobedient to General orders; he is to regulate all markets that may be formed in the Camp, an appoint proper places for them, and likewise protect with his authority and guard all persons coming with provisions to the troops; he is from time to time to send out patrols from his guard and when necessary to take prisoners all marauders and stragglers; all his reports are to be made to the D. Quartermaster General - only for the Information of the Commander-in-Chief cases relative to the economy of the Comp, and to the D. A. General all extraordinary matters; as spies, deserters, &c. &c. In cases of Executions he is to the martial law what the Sheriff of a County is to the Civil; he is to be provided with an Executioner when this he Requests and when a more honourable death by fire arms is granted he will give the word of command; his guard is to be near headquarters.

*G. O. Commanding officers if the diff’rent Corps will direct that the mens tents are are struck and the rear turned up every fine day at 10 o’clock and remain so four hours at least to air them perfectly; their streets must be swept every morning; **no washing**, cleaning of arms or accoutrements or doing anything in them that may render them filthy and Consequently unwholesome must be suffered.”*

Orderly Book 4th Pennsylvania Regiment December 10, 1776

"Headquarters, Ticonderoga, Dec 10, 1776

Any Woman belonging to the Regt who shall refuse to wash for the Men, shall be immediately drumm'd out of the Regt, as they are not found in Victuals to distress and render the Men unfit for Duty, but to keep them clean and decent.."



Orderly Book of the Pennsylvania State Regiment of Foot

"Regimental Orders, July 30, 1777.

As we have now a good opportunity for washing the dirty clothes belonging to the Regiment, the Colonel expects no time will be lost in doing the same, as an examination of the arms and men will be made with great strictness tomorrow morning at Troop Beating.

The Regiment is to be paraded this afternoon at 5 o'clock to attend Divine service. The men will be careful not [torn] the heat of the day, as it is productive of Fever and Ague, but defer it until Sun- down.

Walter Stewart, Colonel."



Colonel Walter Stewart
2nd Pennsylvania Regiment of the Continental Line
by Charles Wilson Peale c. 1781
(Yale Center for British Art)

Orderly Book, 2nd Pennsylvania Regiment

Regimental Orders

October 7, 1778

“ - the following Regulations to take place to Washing and to be Strictly Obeyed, etc - Agreeable to Col Stewarts Orders, the officers met and agreed to the following prices - - the Women to find Soap for Washing a Shirt Six pence, one pair of stockings two pence one pair of Breeches five pence a Hunting Shirt five pence a linen vest and stock five pence, in all two Shilling; - the men to find soap; for Washing one Shirt four pence, one pair of stockings one penny, one pair of breeches or Overalls, three pence, Hunting Shirt four pence vest and stock three pence, in all One Shilling and three pence; a Soldiers pay per Week is Eleven Shill, and Eight pence; a soldiers pay for washing per week (providing he has the above articles washed) two per week, four Shillings - NB. if the women find Soap by the Above calculation, supposing a woman to wash for ten men Soldiers brings her 20 shillings per week and leaves her sufficient time to Earn twice as much more, for the officers washing; This Regulation to Respect the Non Commissioned officers and Soldiers only The Commissioned officers to agree for their washing any way they chuse -

Orderly Book, 2nd Pennsylvania Regiment

Regimental Orders

October 7, 1778

“Captain Patterson president

Should any woman refuse to wash for soldiers at the above rate he must make complaint to the officer comdg the co to which he belongs, who on finding it proceeds from laziness or any other improper cause he is immed to dismiss her from the Regt viz if she attempts to remain afterwards he must have her drummd out as the col is determined that no woman shall draw rations from the Continent in his regt unless they make use of their endeavors to keep their men clean.”



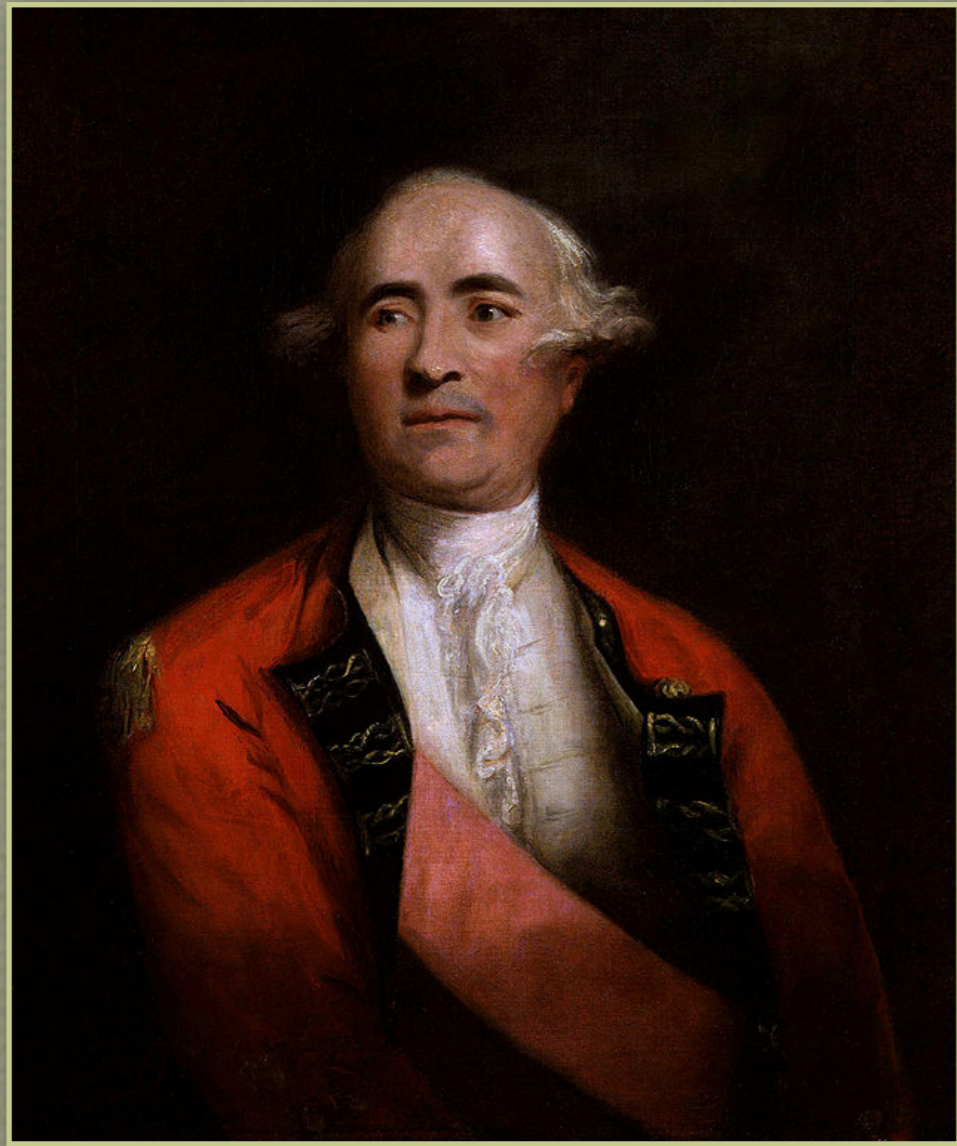
Orderly Book
Marine Garrison at Halifax
Undated



“The Commanding Officer having observed some women washing in the Bar-racks, which must be prejudicial both to the Rooms & the mens health therefore it is his positive order that the women find some other place to do that Dirty work in, the Commanding Officer being Determined to Drum out of the Corps such as are Guilty of so shameful a practice.”

Unknown Marine Officer
by the Circle of John Dowman c. 1770s
(Bonham's)

Letter of Frederick Haldimand, Governor of the Province of Quebec to Lieutenant Jeremiah French July 14, 1780



Sir Frederick Haldimand
by Sir Joshua Reynolds
(National Portrait Gallery)

*“The loyalist women receiving rations
are to wash for the non-commissioned
officers and men of the volunteers at four
coppers a shirt and in proportion for
other things.*”



The Coat of Lieutenant J. French
King's Royal Regt. of New York
c. 1780
(Canadian War Museum)

A Military Encampment in Hyde Park, London
by James Malton after Paul Sandby c.1780
(Yale Center for British Art)



A Military Encampment in Hyde Park, London
by James Malton after Paul Sandby c.1780
(Yale Center for British Art)



Wood Banded Wash Tub with Tin Kettle

Wood Banded Wash Tub with Tin Kettle

A Military Encampment in Hyde Park, London
by James Malton after Paul Sandby c.1780
(Yale Center for British Art)



Wood Banded Wash Tub with Tin Kettle

Deposition of Sarah Mathews Osborn of Albany, New York For the Pension of Her Husband, Aaron Osborn, Commissary Guard On Her Activity at the Siege of Yorktown, 1781

"took her stand just back of the American tents, about a mile from the town, and busied herself washing, mending, and cooking for the soldiers, in which she was assisted by the other females; some men washed their own clothing"



United States Troops at Yorktown
by Jean - Baptiste de Verger 1781
(Ann S.K. Brown Collection, Brown University)

“The Laundress”
by Paul Sandby 1780
(The British Museum)



“The Laundress”
by Paul Sandby 1780
(The British Museum)



The Laundress

A distant View of Lord Petres House &c from Hyde Park 1780
Published as the Act directs by P Sandby S^t Georges Row

“The Jolly Landlady in Hyde Park 1780”
by Paul Sandby
(The Royal Collection)



“The Jolly Landlady in Hyde Park 1780”
by Paul Sandby
(The Royal Collection)



“The Jolly Landlady in Hyde Park 1780”
by Paul Sandby
(The Royal Collection)



The Jolly Landlady in Hyde Park 1780

"Military Encampment in the Green Park"
by Edward Eyre c. 1780
(Ann S.K. Brown Collection / Brown University)



"Military Encampment in the Green Park"
by Edward Eyre c. 1780
(Ann S.K. Brown Collection / Brown University)



"Military Encampment in the Green Park"
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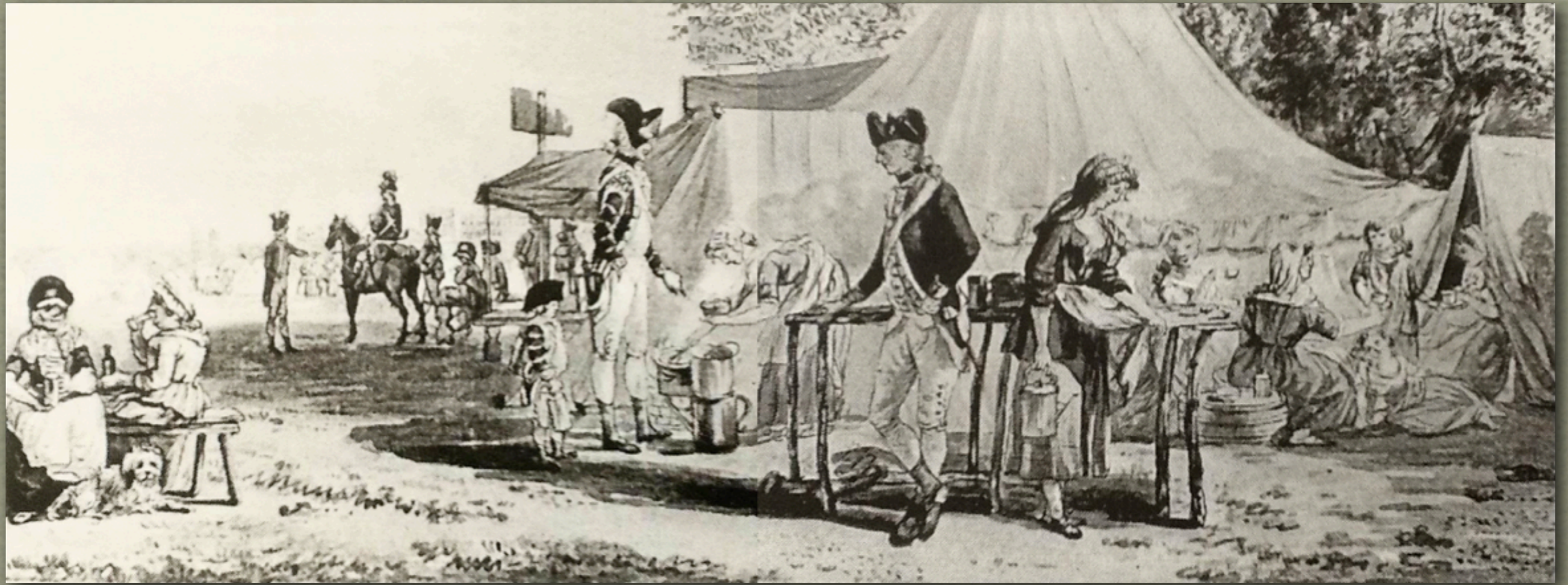
"Military Encampment in the Green Park"
by Edward Eyre c. 1780
(Ann S.K. Brown Collection / Brown University)



Private, H.M. 16th Light Dragoons
by Paul Sandby c. 1780
(John Nicholson)

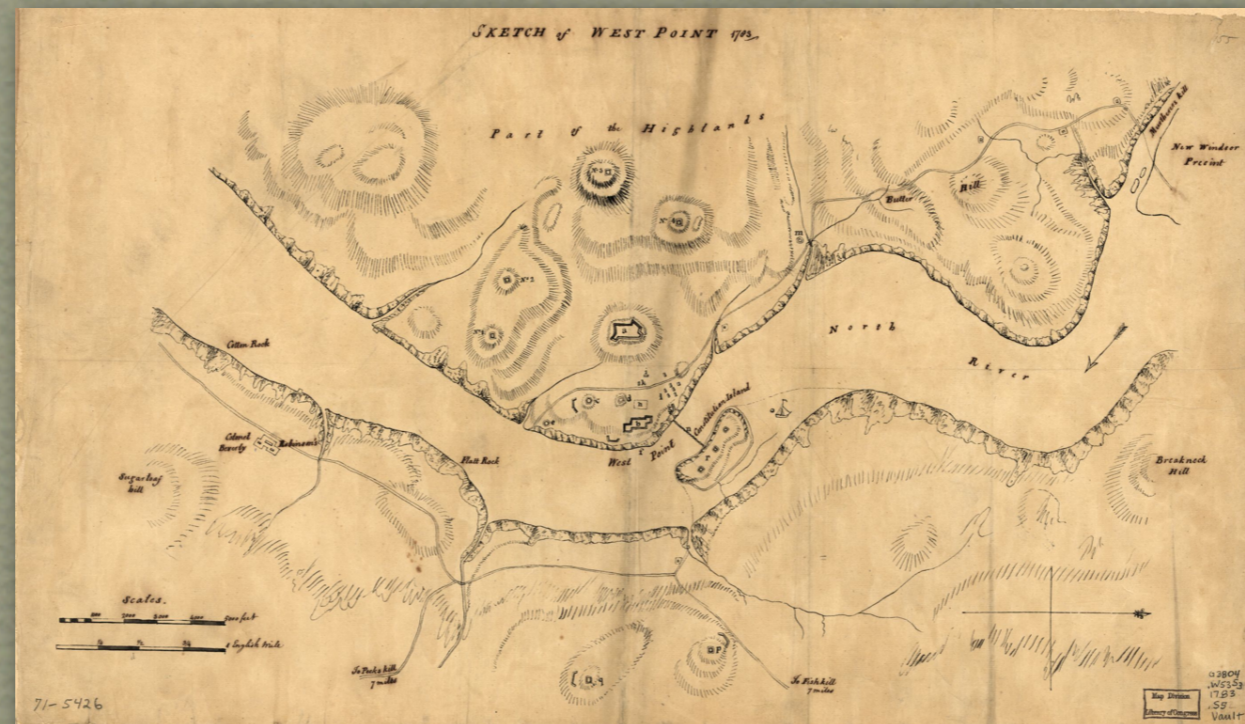


A Sutler Booth & Laundresses
by Paul Sandby c. 1780
(The Royal Collection)



General Orders West Point 1780

"the following Prices be paid for Washing; to the Women, who draw provisions, with their respective Companies; For a Shirt two Shillings; Woolen Breeches, Vest and Overalls, two Shillings, each; Linen Vest, and Breeches, one Shilling, each; Linen Overalls, one Shilling and Six Pence each; Stock, Stockings and Handkerchief, Six Pence each; the Women who wash for the Companies, will observe these regulations."



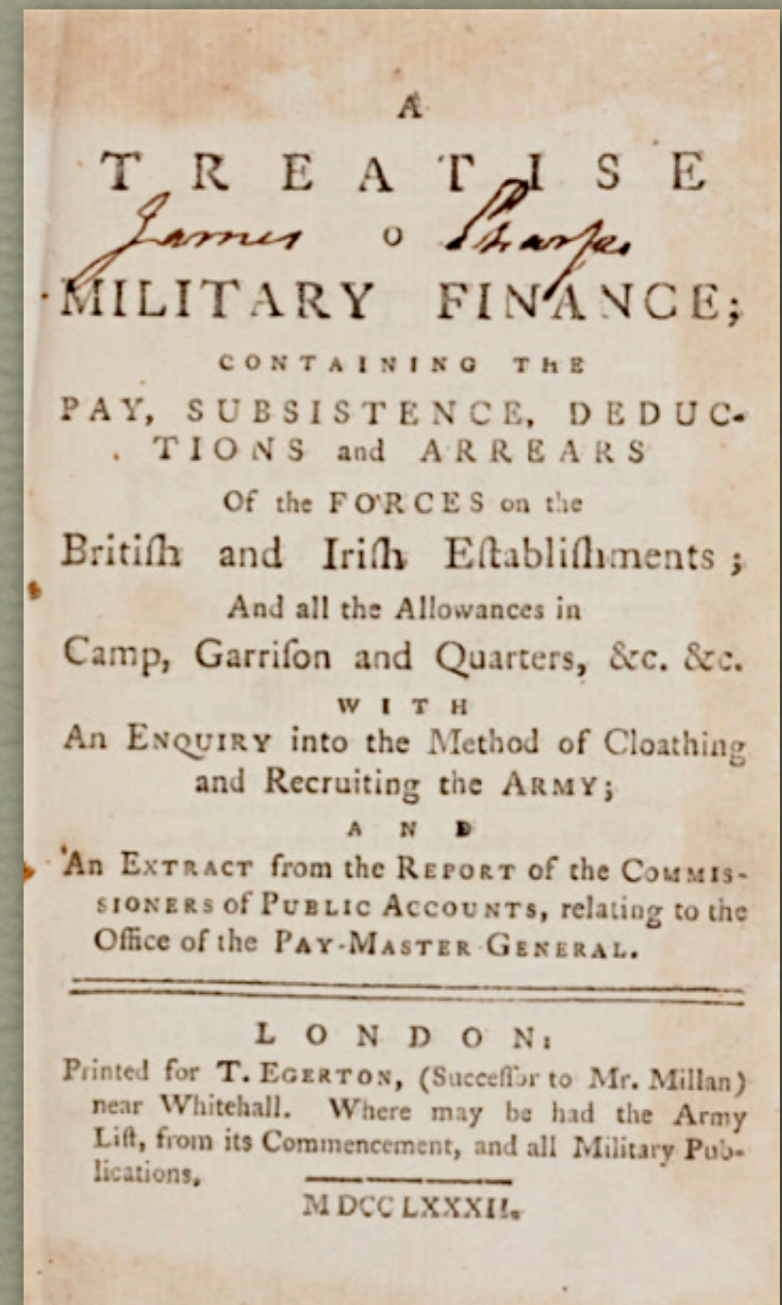
"Sketch of West Point 1783"
(Library of Congress)

“The CAMP Laundry”
Published by Sayer & Bennett, London 1782
(The British Museum)



John Williamson
“A Treatise on Military Finance”
London, 1782

“Straw is to be allowed at the rate of one truss to each paliass for two men, and to be changed every thirty-two days. Two trusses per company are to be allowed for Batmen, or servants not soldiers; and three trusses per company or troop, for the three washerwomen, to be changed every fifteen days, they not having paliasses”



Deposition of Maria Cronkite

Wife of Patrick Cronkite, Fifer, 1st New York Regiment

1777 - 1783



"accompanied her husband... in the service... and continued in said service in the capacity of washerwoman for the officers untill the close of the war where her husband was duly discharged. That she had while in said service several children..."



Standard Carried by the 1st New York Regiment
(Schenectady Historical Society)

Encampment of the Loyalists at Johnston,
A New Settlement on the Banks of the River St. Lawrence in Canada
June 6 1784



*Encampment of the Loyalists at Johnston, a New Settlement, on the Banks of the River St. Lawrence in Canada, taken June 6th 1784.
taken from a plan marked in the Plan*

Encampment of the Loyalists at Johnston,
A New Settlement on the Banks of the River St. Lawrence in Canada
June 6 1784



Encampment of the Loyalists at Johnston, a New Settlement on the Banks of the River St. Lawrence in Canada

“The Laundress”
by James Malton after Paul Sandby 1785
(The British Museum)



Captain Johann von Ewald

"A Treatise upon the Duties of Light Troops;..."

1803

"During the American war, the detachments and detached corps were for a whole campaign without women, and for whole months with only the shirt they had upon their backs. The English soldiers used to wash their shirts themselves, dried them expeditiously, and put them on again; the German soldiers saw it, and followed the example. We were soon persuaded, that our linen could be washed without women, and many of our soldiers continued the same practice afterwards, when they found that it saved their purse."



"The Diary of Thomas Vernon"

Loyalist, Banished from Newport by the Rhode Island General Assembly in 1776."
(Sidney S. Rider. Providence, Rhode Island. 1881)

"Friday, June 28, 1776... Arose half after five; fine, clear, pleasant morning, which has been spent in chatting and cleaning ourselves, and delivering our foul linen to the house for washing."

"Friday, July 26, 1776... Delivered a shirt or two to the house for washing..."

"Wednesday, July 31, 1776... walked down the the river. Delivered our foul linen to S. Keach's wife to be washed."

"Saturday, August 3, 1776... We tarried in the house till after tea, when we went to the river at Sil Keach's for our clean linen. The people are poor, with many children, and the woman is thankful for this job."

"Monday, August 5, 1776... Mr. Beale, Mr. Lechmere and I took a walk down to the river and gave Mrs. Keach what foul linen we had to wash."

"Saturday, August 10, 1776... We drank tea, and afterwards a walk to the river for our linen."

"Saturday, August 17, 1776... We kept the house all the afternoon till after four o'clock, when we all took a walk to the river for our clean linen. The washerwoman roasted us some ears of corn, for which we paid her."

"Wednesday, August 21, 1776... Breakfast, coffee. After which we all walked to the river, and delivered our dirty linen to Mrs. Keach."

"Thursday, August 22, 1776... We shirted and shaved, and delivered each of us a shirt to the house to be washed... We diverted ourselves in the house in the best manner we could till tea time, and afterwards walked to the river to get our linen."

Statement in Support of Jane Collins Asserting that She "...washed for the officers"

"State of Virginia City of Richmond Ss.

On this 31st day of July 1844 personally appeared before me the subscriber Mrs Jane Hargrove a resident of the County of Henrico, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on her oath state, that she was well acquainted with John Collins who it was computed and beleaved intermarried with Jane Harn; that the said John Collins and his wife Jane were members of the Baptist church and that the said John was in the habit of praying and exorting in publick and that she well recollects of seeing them together, the said John & Jane as man and wife at publick meeting's immediately after the close of the Revolutionary war, and before this affiant was married. She also declares that she allways understood and beleaves that the said John Collins entered the service in the war of the revolution as a soldier and during his service the said Jane Collins was with her husband the said John Collins some time and washed for the officers."

Pension Application of Frederick Wilhelm Ellmore (Ilmer)

Anna Martha Ellmore PA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

"State of Pennsylvania } Ss.

County of Philadelphia }

On the tenth of December 1841 Personally appeared before me Charlton Potts one of the Aldermen in and for the County afores'd duly Commissioned and acting as such. Anna Martha Ellmore, widow of Frederick Wilhelm Ellmore (dec'd) who being duly sworn according to Law Doth on her oath declare; That she was married to Frederick Wilhelm Ellmore at the commencement of the war of the Revolution. That he Enlisted in the County of Philadelphia in the army of the U. States and marched to the Delaware above Trenton, under Gen'l Washington, and after crossing, assisted in taking the Hessions [sic: Hessians] at Trenton in December 1776. I marched with him and assisted in Cooking & washing for the Troops. After some time (I cannot say how long) the detachment to which he belonged, marched to the South went through Maryland into Virginia, where we took vessels, and arrived at Savannah in the State of Georgia: after being here a short time, the Enemy came and attack our men [29 Dec 1778]. in the meantime we women were placed in an old out house or cellar, untill we retreated and went to Charleston in South Carrolina. my husband was wounded in the leg, near the knee. I after assisted in dressing the wounded. I remember one poor man, by name of John Lugley, a Seargent; who died immediately after we dressed his wound. Here my self & husband met with good friends – a Mr. Kisselman and Lady gave us often victuals. by and through the hand of a woman who lived with them we were often fed. She understanding Dutch. my memory has become so poor, I cannot but remember as a dream. I know my husband was in a number of battles, and was discharged at the close of the war. I can remember a few of the officers names. Captains Gray Capt. Johnson, Ensign Humphreys and Collonel White. I think he was from the jerseys. I washed for a number, but cannot tell at this late day. I am not able to tell my age, but believe I am past 90. I have gone through great hardships for which I now solicit such assistance as have granted to the widows of Soldiers, who faithfully served their Country. Anna Martha herXmark Ellmore"

"State of Pennsylvania }

County of Philadelphia }

On this Twenty third day of May AD 1838 personally appeared before me an Alderman and Justice of the peace in and for the said County and State aforesaid Ann Nice Aged Eighty two years Resident of the County, who being first duly affirmed according to law, doth declare and say, that she was personally acquainted with Anna Martha Elmore, before she was Married to Frederick Wilhelm Elmore, they both lived in the City and County, and were in the habit of visiting each other; a few days after the Marriage of Anna Martha, she left her Father's house, and went with her husband the said Frederick Wilhelm Elmore into the Army. She Declarant, was in the Service and saw Anna Martha Elmore at Morristown at the time they were Encamped together during the winter of seventeen hundred and seventy nine in a place called Jockey Hollow, and they washed together while there; and believes to the best of her knowledge it was just before the Battle of Stony Point [16 Jul 1779], that Serjeant Frederick Wilhelm Elmore was transfered to another Company and marched for the South; and then it was that she affirmant lost sight of them, and did not see them again until the Troops were discharged and returned from the Southward. Ann herXmark Nice"

Wooden Hanger of Phineas Jakeways of Canaan, Connecticut
“PJ September 23 1768”
(Fort Ticonderoga)

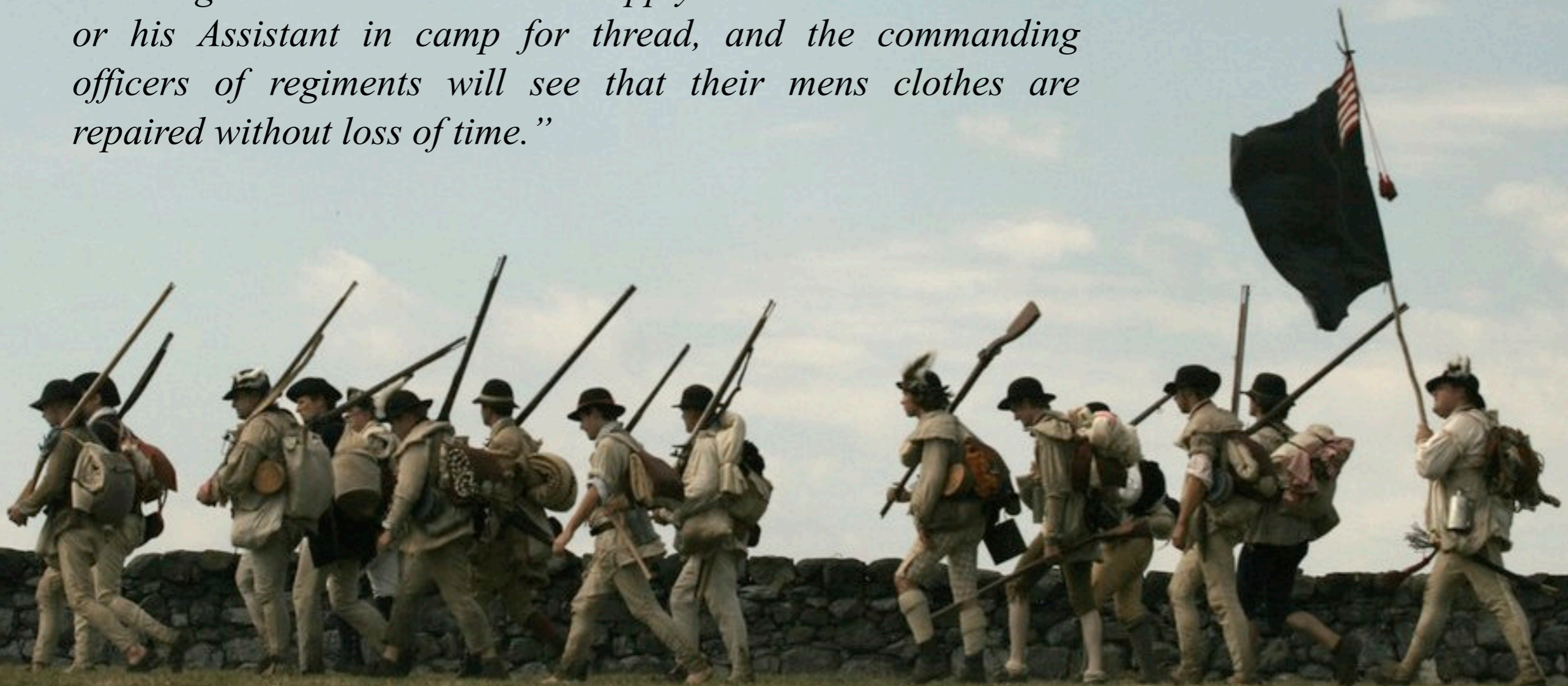


Clothing Repair

General Orders

April 17, 1779

“The regimental Clothiers are to apply to the Clothier General or his Assistant in camp for thread, and the commanding officers of regiments will see that their mens clothes are repaired without loss of time.”



General George Washington
To Pennsylvania Brigadier General William Irvine
December 23, 1779



General George Washington
by Charles Wilson Peale

“The state of the 4th. and 11th. Regiments of Pennsylvania in respect to Cloathing is represented tome as being so deplorable, that I must request you to endeavour to accommodate them immediately with the ready made Cloathing that came from Philada. or at least as much of it as will cover those who are naked; this will make no odds in the end, and I doubt not but the Officers of those Regiments will cheerfully lend their Taylors to assist in making up the Cloathing for the others. There seems an absolute necessity for measures of this kind, as I am informed that every day takes down more or less of the Men.”

Accountrelement Care

Orderly Book of H.M. 43rd Regiment of Foot
May 23 - August 25, 1781
(The British Museum, London - Translated by Gilbert V. Riddle)

“Head Quarters Richmond 18th June 1781

RO

Officers Command(in)g Companies to give directions that the Belts of the Mens Pouches and Bayonets are washed as Clean as possible immediately. Horses to be made in front of each Company for the Arms”

“25th June 1781

RO

The Accoutrements to be made as Clean as possible no Colouring to be put on the Belts till such time as a Quantity can be procured for the whole.”

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