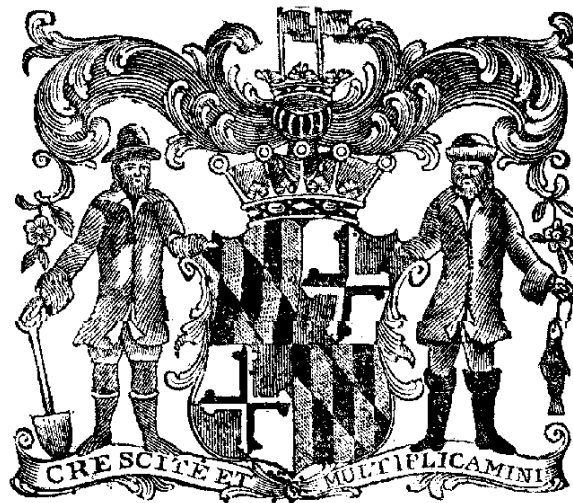


**Militiaman and Civilian  
Male  
Material Culture  
Standards and Guidelines for  
portraying a member of the  
Frederick county Militia  
1756-1764**



**By a Gentlemen Officer  
At Fort Frederick**

## *Maryland Militia and Fort Frederick*

Since the founding of Maryland the colony has had a militia. In 1715 the Assembly passed a “*An Act for the ordering and regulating the Militia of this Province for the better Defence and Security thereof.*” This militia law would carry the colony for better or worse through to the American Revolution. “*the Militia of this Province shall be mustered Trained and Exercized According to these directions and Instructions*”. All men age 16 to 60 were subject to militia service. The militia could be called out for duty for defense against enemies foreign and domestic. The law stated the men would be paid during their service and would be paid in tobacco or tobacco notes. A private received 300lbs of tobacco a month. The men were required to “*bring with him one Good Serviceable Gunn fixt with Six Charges of Gunpowder.*” Men who failed to report for militia service were to be fined in tobacco. Supplies were to be taken out of the county magazine but if the situation warranted it supplies could be pressed from the population. In times of conflict soldiers were allowed to enjoy the spoils of war taken from the enemy. The bill was to be renewed every three years and was for a while but by 1745 had not been renewed and this caused much fighting between the assembly and the governor as to whether or not the law was still valid.

When the French and Indian War broke out Governor Sharpe was faced with trying to use this not outdated militia law to defend the colony. He was frustrated at every turn. He was constantly fighting with the lower house of the colonial assembly for funding, as they both felt that defense should be paid for from different pots of money. The eastern residence of Maryland did not feel the war was so much an issue for them and they only needed to defend Maryland’s small western border. In some cases they did not want to defend the colony west of Frederick. They also were concerned with sending troops west as they thought the French may invade by the ocean or Chesapeake Bay. Then there was the militia themselves. The eastern militias were not very rapid at deploying to help defend Fort Frederick, sometimes they just refused to muster at all. County Lieutenants and sheriffs would not enforce the militia law when the men did not turn out.

Eventually militia from all over the colony would serve around Fort Frederick, but the garrison militia and those serving at the local forts were from the eastern counties not Frederick County. The Frederick County Militia was allowed to stay at home to be called out in case of alarm or to work in conjunction with the eastern troops.

The dress of the Frederick County Militia companies especially those from the Conococheague west might differ from the eastern types. Some of the Frederick County companies were known as good woodsmen. But overall the militia would come to serve in the clothing they wore everyday and style and quality would vary by station. Weapons would also vary with the militia and would range from militia to civilian arms. Also, Governor Sharpe noted that near one third of his 16,500 man militia did not have arms. That is about 5,500 men who do not own guns, then to top it off many of the remainder did not have serviceable guns.

The militia served with mixed results but their duty was admirable as they helped fill a deficiency garrisoning small forts and patrolling the country side in conjunction with and at times in lieu of the Maryland Provincial forces.

**Jacket or Coat:** Short jackets were very common. They need to be of mid-century cut, straight front, not cut away, often full forearms, and fuller skirts than later coats. Here are some civilian style coat descriptions from Maryland Provincial deserters; Brown Cloth, Tartan (this is not modern clan tartan), white broadcloth with velvet cape (this is probably an overcoat), blue coat with metal buttons, old blue, white coarse cloth (wool), dark cloth (wool) trimmed with brass buttons, White Flannel, cotton, made from a Dutch blanket (overcoat), country cloth waist coat.

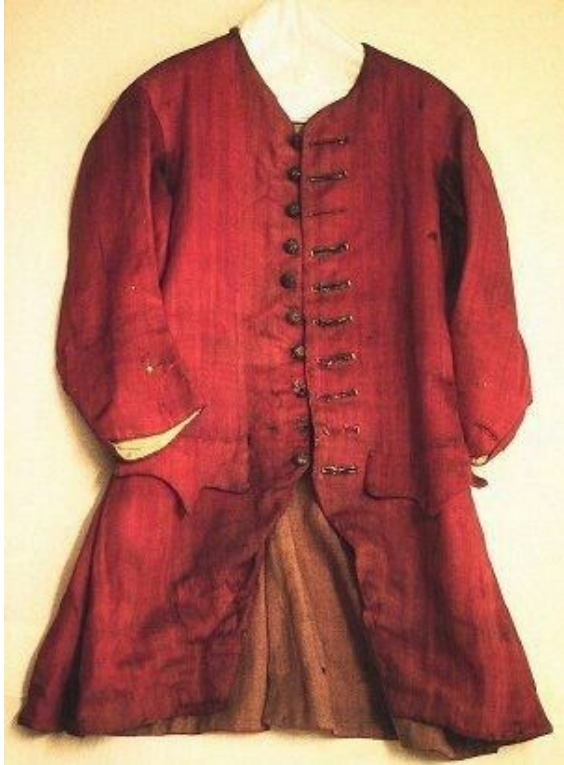


**Above: A Recreated Frock Coat**

**Top Right: 1750's Fustian Frock Coat**

**Right: 1750's Wool Frock Coat**

# A Jacket



**Waistcoat:** Many images show men working without waistcoats, and in the heat of a Maryland summer it makes sense. Mid-century waistcoats would have been straight cut in front, and could be as short as crotch length, or almost down to the knees. In the deserter descriptions only two waist coats of a sleeveless variety appear one is a Blue Vest, and the other is Linen no sleeves. Some waist coats had detachable sleeves as seen on the man on the left in the image below.



**Shirts:** Based on the deserter descriptions that mention shirts there is a common theme. The shirts are primarily white. These shirts would also be made of linen. One soldier is said to be wearing a checked shirt so that is one instance in seven, so these types of shirts should not be seen in large quantities. There are a number of cuff links in the parks archeological collection, so some shirts should have them verses buttons on the cuffs. Shirts are to be in the standard 18<sup>th</sup> century style in white or unbleached linen, checks or stripes.



**Breeches/Trousers:** Breeches should have a fly front, though fall fronts are acceptable, and should close at the knee with buckles. Trousers should be fly front but fall front with a narrow flap is acceptable. Breeches/trousers were made of wool, linen or leather. Colors may vary but should typically be of muted tones.



**Red Wool**



**Natural or tan linen**



**Leather**



**Well patched original Linen trousers**



**Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, reproduction**

**Stockings:** Stockings listed in the deserter descriptions are all wool. They are primarily listed as white and one pair gray. Stocking must be made of woolen or “thread” linen. Heavy cotton or linsey-woolsey stockings are acceptable in lieu of linen. Off white or grey colors are best. Second best are blue or black stockings.

**Hats:** There were hundreds of styles of hats, most common of which seems to be a simple round hat, with a brim cut round, and bent up to the owners taste. Linen caps were also common. Also, a mix of round and cocked hats in the ranks is quite acceptable. Hats can be of wool felt or Fur felt in black and grey, with grey the dominating color





**Shoes and buckles:** There are seven fragments of shoe buckles in the Fort Frederick collection. Most striking is that they all have a design, and none are plain. Based on deserter descriptions one cannot gather much but this, they had good shoes. Acceptable reproduction shoes will be those closed with buckles. "Hi-Lo" laced shoes will be acceptable, as well as center seam moccasins. No other type of moccasins will be allowed.



**Shoes recovered from the HMS Invincible 1759**

**Neckerchiefs:** Neckerchiefs are large rectangles or squares made out of white linen or silk and are tied around the collar of shirt. White or black linen stocks are also acceptable, as per Morier images of stock buckles on the back neck of some paintings, but they should be in limited quantities for middle class men.



**Smock:** Also know as an over shirt, work shirt, box frock, etc. “A **smock-frock** or **smock** is an outer garment traditionally worn by rural workers, especially shepherds and Waggoner's, in parts of England and Wales from throughout the 18th century. Today, the word smock refers to a loose over garment worn to protect one's clothing, for instance by a painter. The traditional smock-frock is made of heavy linen or wool and varies from thigh-length to mid-calf length.” Although Smocks do not show up in the Maryland deserter records and were not an issue item, they are a very common and important garment. We have two deserters who were wearing “ammunition shirts” which has been theorized that they were smocks, possibly of wool. All working class men would have a smock for protecting their clothing when doing any type of dirty task.



**Leggings and Gaiters:** Most militiamen who came to Fort Frederick were from the more settled parts of the colony, where the need for leggings might not be as great. However once on the frontier there would be a need for them. Militiamen on patrol should be seen primarily in wool side seam leggings similar to what the Indians wore. Civilian button up leggings should be long and reach the knee or go above it. They should be made of wool, hemp, or leather. They should be a natural shade light tan/off-white. No one should be wearing spadderdashes and they do not become common for another 20 years.



**Clockwise from top left:**  
**Green broadcloth side seam leggings, blue broad cloth side seam leggings, Wool civilian leggings, Hemp "officers" leggings ft. Ligonier, Leather civilian leggings, and original American Indian side seam leggings with silk ribbon**



# *You must see that every man takes with him a Blanket & Cloaths enough for a Month*

**Knapsacks, snapsacks, tumpline's and bedrolls:** We know in Maryland "...sundry persons [were paid] for clothing of all sorts, bedding, and haversacks for the soldiers." It can be inferred that knapsacks may have been made domestically, which means if the militia was carrying a knapsack or snapsack they were more than likely being made at home, or locally. The Maryland Assembly used the term knapsacks and not snapsacks, which does not seem like much but there is a difference. Period inventories written by the same man list snapsacks and knapsacks on the same list, so the terms are not interchangeable. A domestically produced knapsack would be a bag similar to a haversack with two shoulder straps. Knapsacks/snapsacks should be made of linen typically but could be made with cow hide, but not goat hide. A snapsack of the period are made of fur on cowhide, linen, or hemp and resemble a tube with a gusseted bottom and a drawstring top, with a shoulder strap. These will follow the style of those in paintings and drawings by Morier, Sandby, and Penny.



Knapsack of Captain David Uhl, of the Dutchess County Militia c. 1775 - 1780 (Washington's Headquarters State Historic Site, Newburgh, New York)



**Market Wallet:** another great way for a militiaman or civilian to carry there sundry items is the Market wallet. The market wallet is a simple bag with a slit in the middle. Items are stored in either end its twisted in the middle and the weight distributed over the shoulder as seen below in this period image. It can be use by itself or in conjunction with other accoutrements



*NOTE: Market Wallet's, snapsacks, and knapsacks should be used in lieu of Haversacks as there is no documentation to support a civilian haversack.*

**Blankets:** Blankets should be made with 100% wool only. White with blue or red end stripes were common, as well as with stripes running the width of the entire blanket. Blue is acceptable, as is red and various “natural” white or grey shades. All patterns should conform to documentable period styles. Solid colors are appropriate as well as various styles of check blankets. Compass and rose blankets are a good choice as well. Stripped blankets should typically be white with blue or red stripes on the ends. Dutch blankets may have wide stripes on the end or through out.



**Canteens:** There is one canteen in the archeological record at Fort Frederick and it is a banded wooden canteen found in the well in the 1930's. We cannot say for certain when the canteen went in the well; was it 1757, 1763, 1778, or 1862? Canteens were not even listed as items issued by the colony to the provincial troops or militia. All that said it is of the proper period design for all three periods and the only canteen we have associated with Fort Frederick. An interesting record related to canteens is that in July 1755 Lt. Stoddert was issued eight canteens for his men. This is interesting as the Lt. had at least 15 enlisted men under his command, so that leads one to believe only half would have them or they were used when part of the force was on patrol. Today it is required that everyone have a canteen, so there are three choices in no particular order. 1. Wooden, wooden banded canteen like the one found at Fort Frederick as well as those found at Ligonier 2. A tin kidney canteen based on those found at Fort Ligonier 3. A tin crescent canteen based on those found at Fort Ligonier. 4. A Gourd canteen, but not a canteen gourd. 5. A wooden Cheese box canteen. 6. Roundels 7. Leather costrel and glass leather covered costrels will be acceptable. Note: Wooden staved canteen and roundels must be wood banded, iron banded canteen are not acceptable as they do not appear until at least the 1770's



**Ft. Ligonier**







**Cartridge Box:** Assembly records indicate that Maryland was issued stands of arms consisting of muskets, bayonets, slings, scabbards, frogs, waist belts and cartridge boxes. We have no idea how many cartridges these boxes held be it 9, 12, or 18. Government issued boxes survive that hold 9 and 18 rounds do. Nine or 18 hole boxes are acceptable. The records all say “cartouch box” and “stands of arms” which means that Maryland soldier wore the “belly box” and waist strap verses the shoulder box. A plain belly box is just as preferable to a GR Cipher one. Also, a bad cipher is way worse than no cipher at all. *Note:* Even the weapons and equipment in Annapolis before the war included “old cartouch boxes” which again indicates waist worn boxes. However 1750’s period shoulder boxes are considered acceptable for militia impressions. Powder Horn and shot bags are encouraged as well, and will be covered later.

**Waist Belt:** The proper waist belt for the government issued set of accoutrements will be a 1” wide tanned blackened belt with a 1” iron buckle. This is based off that in Don Troiani’s collection pictured below.



Plain flap nine hole box

**Shot Pouches/Bags & Powder Horns:** In 1763 it is reported that Col. Dagworthy returned 8 hair pouches and powder horns to the armorer. All men should carry a shot bag to carry their musket tools, etc. Pouches with hair on them are preferred but a plain shot bag of a 1750's style is appropriate about 7 to 8 inches wide. These are the only references to either item in the Maryland Records. Any civilian with a firelock, not all had them, would have a shot bag and powder horn. There are many variations for each and cannot be covered here, but the images and information provided should give you a good starting point.



**Colonial Williamsburg Foundation  
(CWF)**



**CWF**



**Wallace Gusler Collection**



**The Supposed Fort Frederick Map Horn**



**Fort Pit Horn circa 1763**

**Jewelry:** There is some jewelry in the Parks collection including a few gems, cuff links and rings. The gems are more likely to have come from cuff links. Jewelry worn should be simple or none wore at all. Wedding bands are acceptable. Men portraying and 18th century English civilian or militiaman should not be wearing earrings, gauges or visible body piercing.



*“The Militia of this Colony are near 16500, One third of whom at least are entirely destitute of Arms & many of the Guns that are the property of the Rest are very bad & scarcely fit for use.”*—Gov. Horatio Sharpe

**Fire arms & Bayonets:** The above quote attests to the fact that most Marylanders do not have firearms and if they do they are no good. So many militiamen in Maryland would need military arms provided by the colony.

The weapons at Fort Frederick were a mixed bag of types, calibers, and lengths. Although our archeological collection is small it attests to the fact a variety of weapons were used at Fort Frederick. We have some parts that appear to be from the 1730 to 1742 Long Land muskets. We have a butt plate that is either from a Queen Ann’s period musket, an American made musket, or a carbine. We have a hammer that appears to be from a 1738/1746 “Land and Sea Service” musket.

In 1754, 1756 Maryland soldiers received stands of arms of the model 1742 long land pattern musket with wooden rammers. Some may have carried Dutch muskets.

August 12, 1756 the Maryland Gazette posted an ad for two deserters from Fort Frederick one “carried off with him a gun that appeared on the outside of the barrel like a rifle, but was smooth bored.” The second soldier “Carried off with him a carbine and Rifle.” This is the only reference to a rifle this writer has found, and rifles should rarely if ever be seen in the ranks.

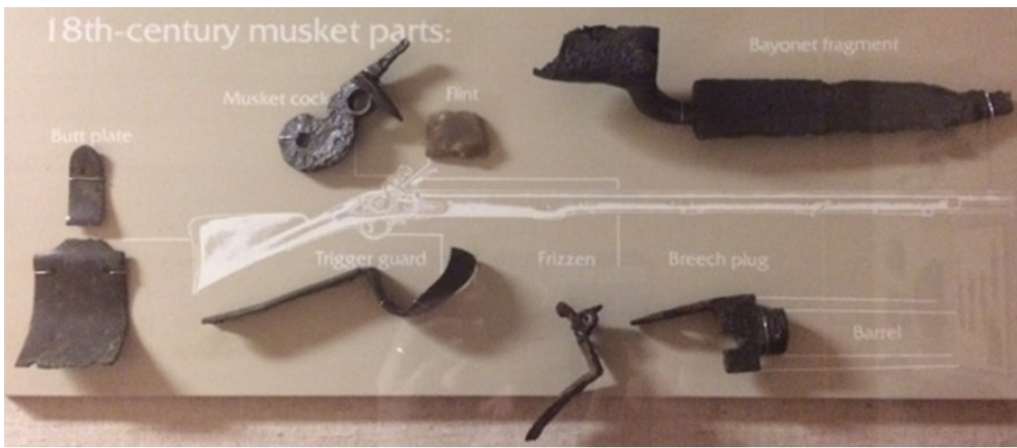
September 1756 Fort Frederick Receives

- 19 new firelocks, bayonets, cartridge boxes and slings (1742 Long Lands)
- 15 new carbines, 5 old carbines, 12 carbine bayonets and 9 carbine slings (42 inch barrel)
- 30 new muskets, buff slings, and cartridge boxes (1742 Long Lands)
- 10 old long muskets, bayonets and cartridge boxes (1730 Long lands or something else)

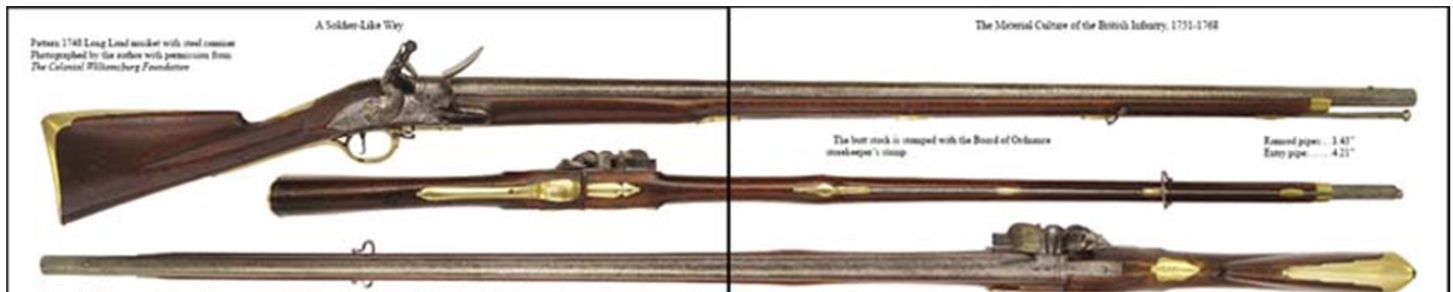
April 13, 1762 a report was given on the inventory of arms in Annapolis. There are 500 muskets with bayonets, slings, cartridge boxes, and bullet molds. Col. Dagworthy returned 86 firelocks, short muskets, and carbines.

Since there is no reference to bayonet scabbards it is safe to assume they were counted as part of the bayonet, as well as the frog. They were all considered part of a stand of arms. There is a record from the 1754 arms inventory, that there were 330 bayonet scabbards in Annapolis, but they are not counted on any future inventories. The frog provided with the government set was a very simple two piece riveted and sewn affair. Plug bayonet are also acceptable for those portraying militia bring their own firelocks.

The primary arm to be carried by the militia is the model 1742 British long land pattern musket with wooden rammer, and buff leather sling. However short land pattern muskets will be acceptable as they resemble the 42 inch barreled carbines that were used in large numbers by the Maryland troops. Also, civilian muskets, fowlers, and even the occasional large caliber rifle are acceptable weapons to be carried by the militia.



**Musket parts and bayonets in the fort Frederick Archeological collection**



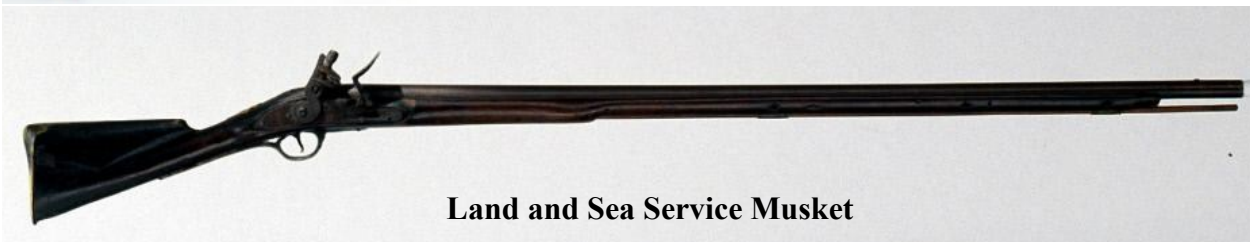
**Top: 1742 Long Land Pattern musket with iron rammer  
Middle: Sea service musket  
Bottom: early 18th century dog lock musket**



**Dutch Musket 1730's**



**Marine and Militia Musket**



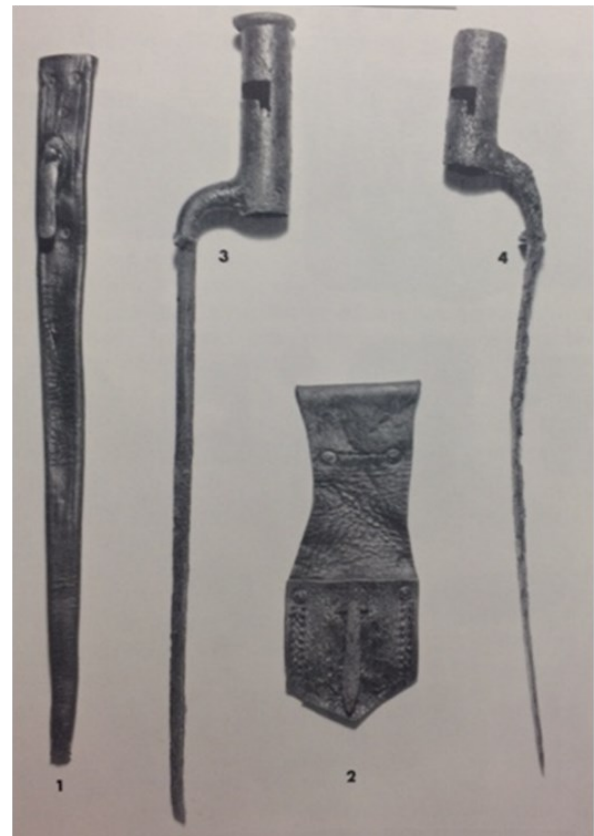
**Land and Sea Service Musket**



Bayonet fragment



**Bayonet fragments Fort Frederick Collection**



**Bayonets, scabbard, and from Fort Ligonier**



**Top: Dutch Fowler  
Bottom: American Fowler**



**Plug Bayonets**





**Spoons:** The Park has several spoons in its collection and they all conform to the period but spoons of this style can be seen up to the Civil War. Spoons should be pewter, followed by smaller portions of wood, and horn. Proportions of materials other than pewter should be 2 out of 10.



**Table Knives:** There are two currently in the parks collection and it appears that there are three more at the State Archeological Lab. These should have a wooden or horn handle.

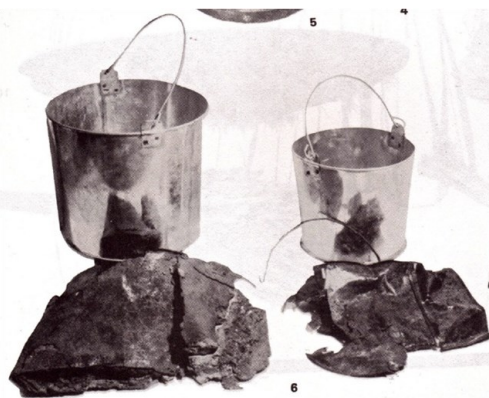


Iron bone handle table knife Ft. Ticonderoga

**Bowls:** The archeological lab and the park collection have many ceramic shards that are parts of bowls. So, while the soldiers were in garrison they would have used ceramic, but in the field it should be wood or tin. Platters, plates, and trenchers would also be ceramic in the fort and would be salt glaze earthen ware of various pattern and styles common to Maryland domestically in the 1740s-1750's period.



**Kettles:** All we know for sure is the Assembly said they would buy kettles, and based on the September 1756 expenditure, "...sundry persons [were paid], for...kitchen utensils." We also know from the same record Dr. David Ross was paid for buying food, so its safe to assume the soldier had kettles to cook in. We can also infer that Dagworthy's men had cooking utensils in 1755 as Col. Cresap was purchasing food for them. We also know from the archeological record that fragments of cast iron kettles were found on site, so in garrison they are a good choice. However a Maryland militiaman would be hard pressed to carry a cast iron kettle in the field, so they would have had tin kettles as well. This can be seen as Gov. Sharpe bought "Camp Kettles" for Capt. Shelby's Volunteers in 1758. Tin kettles should be based on those found at Fort Ligonier a place where the Maryland Troops spent about three months.



*Small - Medium - Large Hot-dipped Tin Kettles*

**Eating Forks:** This is another item not mentioned in the records as issued by the colony however we have a half dozen in the parks collection. Again we cannot say for sure when they are from but they all conform to the period; but forks of this style can be seen up to the Civil War.

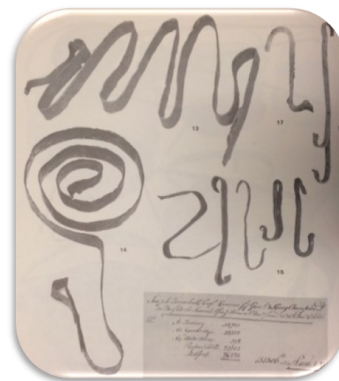


**Cooking utensils:** The Fort Frederick collection has an iron flesh fork, and we know "...sundry persons [were paid], for...kitchen utensils." in September 1756. We do not know what all those utensils are but should be confined to those items we know were at Fort Frederick or Henry Bouquet's list of what should be in a barracks room.

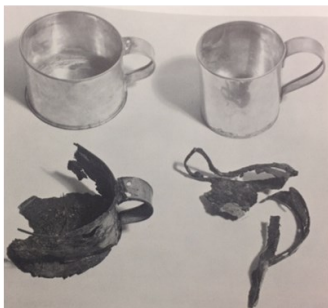
These items are:

- 1 Pot
- 1 Frying pan
- 1 Ladle
- 1 Flesh Fork
- 1 Trivet or Pot hook
- 2 Platters
- 2 Bowls
- 12 Trenchers
- 2 Pitchers
- 2 Mugs
- 1 Hatchet

*\*\*Check indicates items found in Maryland Records or the Fort's archeological record. Dots indicate not found in the record*



**Mugs:** The Archeological Lab and the park collection have many ceramic shards that are parts of mugs. So, while the soldiers were in garrison they would have used ceramic, but in the field it should be tin. Mugs used in the fort should either be locally sourced stoneware or Grey/blue salt glaze, i.e. Westerwald. Tin cups should be of a style from the archeological records at Fort Ligonier.



Yorktown, VA 1720-1740

Ft. Ligonier

**Bottles:** There are many bottle fragments found at the fort and many are on display, they all conform to the style of Mallet bottles of the period. Some case bottles were found but the largest and most common are the mallet style.

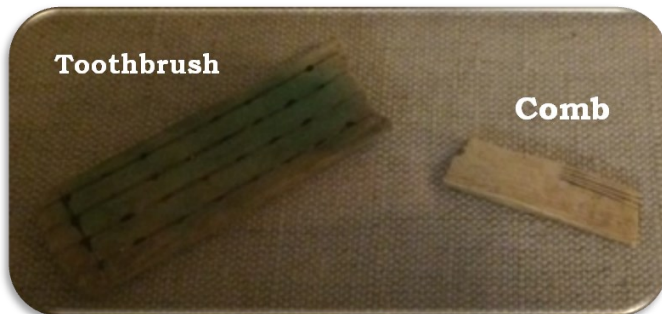


**Pipes:** There are lots of fragments of pipe reeds and bowls in the parks collection, and 21 fragments listed in the Archeological Lab. If you must smoke; smoke a pipe.



**Tooth Brush:** There are several tooth brushes in the forts archeological collection. This item would have been a private purchase and not overly common, but should be interpreted. The handles are made of bone but wood is acceptable.

**Comb:** There are a few combs in the Parks archeological collection. It seems there should be more of them as they were an issue item for British forces, so it is possible they were not issued to Maryland Troops. Everyone should have a comb in their kit, unless you do not have hair. They should typically be made of bone or horn, wood is acceptable



**Thomas Jefferson's Tooth Brush Colonial Williamsburg**



**Ticonderoga collection**

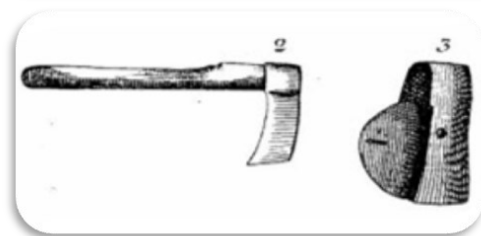


**Unknown possible 19<sup>th</sup> C.**

**Hatchet:** The Fort has one 18<sup>th</sup> century hatchet/belt axe in its collection. It is quite possible it is from the 1780's, but soldiers needed them and Bouquet says each barracks room is supposed to have them, so we need them. Civilians and militia have more leeway on the type they want to have but need to make sure they are a 1750's documentable style. Militia and civilians may use tomahawks.



**British Axe 1755 Braddock RD**



**Beds:** According to the October 1756 Assembly estimate they called for the troops to be issued 13 beds or bed sacks. We know beds were made domestically before September, 1756 when "...sundry persons [were paid] for...bedding...for the soldiers." We do not know how many were made. The number 13 leads this writer to infer that the beds were for the Lieutenants (2), Ensign (1), Sergeants (4), Corporals (4), and Drummers (2) for a total of 13. That said the park interprets beds for all soldiers, and those volunteers staying in the barracks should use a straw filled tick on the bunks or at a minimum a foam filled period style linen bed sack.



*Militiamen and Civilians of Fort Frederick*





# Summary

When portraying a Maryland militiaman or civilian at Fort Frederick you will typically wear single breasted jacket or coat made of linen or wool, white linen 18th century shirt, fly front or fall front breeches or trousers of linen or wool, natural colored wool stockings, black period shoes based on the style found at Fort Ligonier, hi-los, or moccasins. Men will wear a black, or gray hat either round cut or cocked in a mid 18th century style. The man needs neckwear either a neck cloth or neck stock of various styles.

The militiaman will carry a tin, wooden or leather canteen, linen knapsack, snapsack, or wallet as applicable.

The militiaman will carry a military musket, fowler, or rifle documented to the 1750's. He will wear a waist mounted cartridge box, shot bag/horn, or shoulder box. He may or may not carry a bayonet.

There are variations that can be made but the idea of plain everyday and common should be



ADVANCE THREE STEPS BACKWARDS. (After a drawing by Sir John Bull.)  
OR THE MILITIA HEROES.

