

NWTA Courier

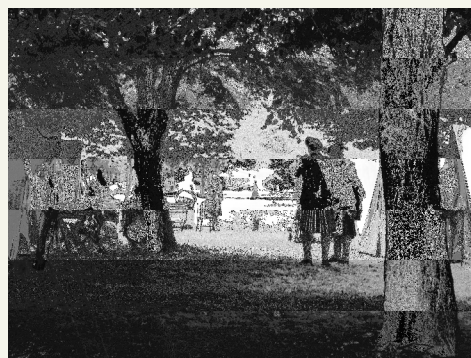
P U B L I C A T I O N O F
T H E N O R T H W E S T T E R R I T O R Y A L L I A N C E

SHELBYVILLE A MUST-ATTEND EVENT MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!

Dear Alliance members,

Many of the Alliance who attended the first Shelbyville event have not returned for the following events because of the heat we experienced in that flat open space without trees. I have missed only one year at Shelbyville, the second year. Since the encampment and battle areas have been moved above the arid plain of the first encampment, I have continuously commented at board meetings and other places about how comfortable the current site is—how treed the campsites are and how caring the sponsors continue to be to those of us lucky enough to attend. As a way of illustrating the camps as they now are, I have included photos I took in 2006 of the 42nd camp at the edge of a clearing, and of the shaded Continental Marine's camp. I again urge all of you to reconsider a truly great site if you have not been back to Shelbyville. The broadleaf and pine trees now shade you at the backs of your camps. You will not be disappointed.

Thank you, David Jahntz, 2nd Va. Regt.



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BUTTON, BUTTON, WHERE DO I USE THIS BUTTON?

Brian VandePolder, Second Pennsylvania

In trying to update the GIRF for the Second Pennsylvania Regiment, I got caught up in the age old question that has been bugging re-enactors for years: What buttons are used on the shirts and breeches? In the Fall, 2000 Courier, Don Hagist, Stephen Gilbert and Todd Braisted tried to answer the question "Breeches button—Numbered or No?" As most of the uniform regulations and documenta-

tion are for the British Regiments, they primarily concentrated on the British, applying what they learned to the Continentals. They came to no conclusion for the British or Continentals.

In 1998 Bill Burke and Linnea Bass gave us a vast amount of documentation. Examples are from the Patternmasters page on the NWTA Web Site.

Continued on page 10

NOTES FROM THE MARCH BOARD MEETING BY-LAW AMENDMENTS

INTRODUCTION

At the November 2007 meeting, David Jahntz and I volunteered to undertake a comprehensive revision of the NWTa By-Laws. Unfortunately, we came up with so many suggestions for change that they can't all be thoughtfully considered at the upcoming meeting. Therefore, we chose four of the most critical issues to resolve at the March Board Meeting.

Linnea Bass, 14 Feb. 2008

The issues, solutions and resulting amendments are as follows. Only the revised amendments are printed here; for a "marked up" version of the pertinent previously used By-Laws showing where deletions and revisions were made, please contact the Editor.

PROBLEM 1: THE LAST POST

Explanation

The current guidelines for inclusion in the Last Post allow only those who have been a paid member of the NWTa during the year before their death. This eliminates people like Founders and past NWTa Commanders from the list.

Eventually the length of the Last Post will make it impossible to read the entire list at a public formation at each event.

The reading of the Last Post has no meaning to the public and they lose interest.

Solution:

To broaden the criteria for inclusion in the Last Post and to give the Board the right to add people who do not technically meet the criteria.

To eliminate the practice of reading it at each Sunday morning formation, but to retain the funeral salute, etc. accompanied by the statement that it is dedicated to the memory of all of our deceased members.

Amendment: NWTa Bylaws Regulation #01-06, The Last Post, amended as follows

- 1) To be eligible for inclusion in the Last Post, an individual must have been a paid member of the NWTa at some time during the year before the individual's death, a past Commander, or a Founding Member.
- 2) The Board of Directors may add to the Last Post,

the names of past members who do not meet the criteria, but who deserve inclusion.

- 3) The Last Post may be read at an optional formation at any event. The Last Post in its entirety will be read following the Sunday morning formation at Vincennes each year. It will also be read at each Grand Encampment, accompanied by a memorial salute at a formation.
- 4) The death of any past member of the NWTa may be announced at the Sunday morning formation for the next three events following the death.

PROBLEM 2: FULL MEMBERSHIP RIGHTS FOR CIVILIANS

Explanation: The current wording of the Bylaws makes it difficult for non-military groups to fulfill the conditions for Full Unit Membership in the NWTa. Individuals who are not members of Full Member Units do not have a voting representative on the Board of Directors.

Note: The NWTa is organized as a confederation or union of separate entities called "units." Full membership rights, particularly the right to vote on the Board of Directors, are granted only to those units which fulfill the requirements for becoming a Full Member Unit of the NWTa. The NWTa is organized much like the United States where a group of people in a geographic area must fulfill Federal requirements in order to become a state and be represented as such in Congress.

Solution: To amend the Bylaws in order to make it easier for non-military groups to gain Full Member Unit status.

Amendments:

1. NWTa Bylaws, Reg. #00-01:2), amended as follows:

- 2) APPLYING FOR FULL UNIT MEMBERSHIP: Organizations wishing to become Full Member Units shall conform to the following regulations for two (2) stages of membership:
 - A. The applicant organization shall select a military unit that participated in the American Revolution or a non-military organization or group of individuals which existed in North America during the time period 1775-1783. The applicant shall pattern itself on that unit or group, adopt its name if applicable, and submit research to the Inspector General. Upon payment of any required fees and approval of submitted research by the Inspector General, the Board will consider making the organization a Probationary Member Unit. Its commander or leader is an ex-officio member of the Board of Directors.

2. NWTa Bylaws, Reg. #01-02: Documentation of Clothing and Accouterments, amended as follows:

- 1) DOCUMENTATION: The following must be filed with the Inspector General's Department:
 - A. One General Inspection Reference Form (GIRF) per unit.
 - 1) A military unit is limited to the portrayal of a time period of no more than 30 days in a particular location.
 - 2) Non-military units are limited to a time period and location of their designation within the time frame of the NWTa, and must submit a GIRF which describes the organization or group which they are portraying.
 - 3) A unit may portray an alternate impression if a GIRF and required documentation is filed with and approved by the Inspector General's Department.
 - B. One Individual Inspection Form (IIF) per individual.
 - C. Unit history.
 - D. Bibliography of the sources used in preparation of GIRF and unit history.
 - E. Copies of research materials not readily available to the Inspector General's Department.
 - F. If applicable, letter from a senior unit giving a junior unit of the same type and name permission to join the NWTa (By-Laws 00-1:4).

PROBLEM 3: INSPECTOR GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT REGULATIONS

Explanation: The current Bylaws make it extremely difficult for the Inspector General to perform his duties. They deny him the right to appoint Inspectors and other staff members without asking for approval from the Board of Directors. In addition, they limit the IG's ability to tailor the inspection process to meet the current needs of the NWTa and the IG Department.

Solution: To grant the Inspector General the power to appoint staff members, and to remove unnecessary specificity from the regulations governing the Inspection Process.

Amendments

1. NWTa Bylaws, Reg. #00-03: 2) A. Staff Elected by the Board of Directors, amended as follows:

1. INSPECTOR GENERAL: The Inspector General shall be elected by the Board Directors at the November Board meeting, and shall serve for a term office (5) years, at which time it shall

automatically expire. An individual serving as Inspector General may succeed himself or herself. The Inspector General has the right to appoint individuals to serve as Inspectors under his authority. The Board of Directors, for cause, may vote to remove the Inspector General or members of his staff from office. The Inspector General shall be in charge of the authenticity of clothing and accouterments of NWTa members.

2. NWTa Bylaws, Reg. #01-05, Advisory Committee to the Office of the Inspector General, amended as follows:

1. The Inspector General shall appoint a committee consisting of five NWTa members to act as an Advisory Committee. The members of the Advisory Committee must be approved by the Board of Directors.
2. The purpose of the Advisory Committee is to share their expertise with the Inspector General, to help create department policies, and to assist in determining whether the documentation provided is acceptable in the case of a dispute. Members of the Advisory Committee may also serve as Inspectors.

3. NWTa Bylaws, Reg. #01-03, Inspection of Clothing and Accouterments, amended as follows:

1. FREQUENCY OF INSPECTION: Each unit shall stand inspection on a regular basis (as decided by the Board of Directors) or at the discretion of the Inspector General.
2. BASIS OF INSPECTION:
 - A. Each uniformed person shall be inspected against the unit's research and GIRF. All items not covered in the GIRF must be individually documented.
 - B. Each non-uniformed person shall be inspected on the basis of his or her IIF and 18th century biography and the research that supports it.
3. RESPONSIBILITY FOR INSPECTION: Each unit/unit member bears responsibility for being inspected on schedule. If a unit or unit member fails to stand a scheduled inspection or fails to arrange for an inspection after having been notified of the need to do so, the Inspector General may bring the unit before the Board of Directors for disciplinary action. The Board of Directors has the right to reduce the unit or unit member to Probationary Status, and to take additional action if necessary.
4. PROCESS OF INSPECTION:
 - A. A mutually acceptable person(s) will be assigned as Inspector.

- B. At a time and place specified by the unit and acceptable to the Inspector General or his designee, the Inspector(s) shall record comments regarding the authenticity or appropriateness of the inspectee's clothing and accouterments and of the documentation provided.
 - C. Articles previously inspected shall be reinspected at the discretion of the Inspector General or his designee.
 - D. After the inspection the Inspector General or his designee and the Unit Commander or Leader shall agree upon necessary changes in clothing and accouterments, the time period in which they should be accomplished, and any necessary reinspection dates
5. REINSPECTION
- A. The Inspector General or his designee may return to individuals who have been inspected to request documentation for items added after the completion of the inspection.
6. DISPUTES: See Regulation 01-2:4.

PROBLEM 4: MEDALS OF MERIT

Explanation: We have authorized 7, 14, 21, and 28 year medals of merit, trying to make each one distinctive in some fashion. This is both difficult to accomplish and potentially expensive, since we will eventually need medals recognizing 35, 42, 49, etc. years of service.

Solution: That all Medals of Merit be made of the same metal and have the same design, except for the years of service, which would be indicated by adding the appropriate numerals (7, 14, 21, etc.) to the medal.

Amendment:

1. N W T A Bylaws, Reg. #01-07: The Order of Merit, amended as follows:

- 1) GENERAL:
 - A. The "Order of Merit" is a unit-level fraternity for members of good service. It was used in all armies during, and previous to, the American Revolution. Though the award has lost much of its meaning, it persists in the American military today as the "Good Conduct" medal. No fraternity is now involved.
 - B. The "Badge" or "Decoration" for this "Order" should not be confused with the federal "Badge of Military Merit" issued for "unusual gallantry" and "extraordinary fidelity."
 - C. Membership in the Order of Merit must be carefully controlled so as to maintain the

value of the Order.

- D. No N W T A member unit shall be required to participate in the Order of Merit program. No eligible individual unit member shall be required to obtain membership in the Order. No eligible individual shall be required to wear the Distinction of the Order.

(MOVED FROM #4)

2) DISTINCTION WORN BY THE MEMBERS:

- A. A badge, measuring a half-crown (Cuthbertson) or two inches in diameter (Neumann and Kravic, p.98); the medal is engraved on the "obverse" side, "Reward of Merit," the year the unit is reenacting, and the major unit commander's name - for example: "1779" and "Col." and "G. R. Clark." The decoration is worn suspended from a proper ribbon. The distinction is worn by passing the ribbon through a button-hole of the coat, by fixing it to the left breast of the hunting-frock or sleeved waistcoat, or in what ever fashion the unit may prescribe.

[References: Cuthbertson, Bennett, esq., "A System for the Complete Interior Management and Oeconomy of a Battalion of Infantry," 2nd ed., 1775, London chap. XVI, article XXXIV and chap. XXVI, article I through V; and Neumann, George C. and Kravic, Frank J., "Collector's Illustrated Encyclopedia of the American Revolution," ill. by Woodbridge, George C., 1975, Secaucus, NJ, p.98, fig. 2, obverse.]

- B. That the numeral (7, 14, 21, etc) be included on the medal to denote the number of years of service being recognized.
- C. Those who were members in 1974 and who meet all other requirements for membership in the Order -- may wear a silver medal in lieu of the medal described above.

3) CRITERIA:

- A. The individual must have been an active member-in-good-standing of the N W T A for a minimum of seven (7) years, to qualify for a Seven Year Medal. Subsequent awards may be issued at seven (7) year intervals.
- B. The individual must meet all other requirements which may be prescribed by his or her unit. The Unit Commander or Leader must verify in writing that the individual is eligible for Membership in the Order of Merit.

KLASH ON THE KANKAKEE

MAY 3RD AND MAY 4TH 2008

BOURBONNAIS TOWNSHIP PARKS DEPARTMENT ~ PERRY FARM

Please register by April 1st!

Unit Name _____ Crown _____ Congressional _____
 Contact Name _____ Contact Number _____
 Tents _____ Dining Flys _____ Marquees _____ Straw _____
 Space Requirements _____
 Adults _____ Children _____

Unit Registration is Requested

HOSTED BY BOWMAN'S COMPANY

Mail Registration to:

Bart T. Durbin

645 South McKinley Avenue

Kankakee, IL 60901

Phone: (815) 936-9169

Email: IM4FNI@aol.com

EMERGENCY CONTACT: BOURBONNAIS POLICE (815) 937-3577

DIRECTIONS

From Interstate 57 South: Take exit 315 (Hwy 50). Go south past Lowe's to North Street. Turn right, go until road T's, and turn left. Perry Farm is on your right.

From Interstate 57 North: Take exit 312 (Hwy 17). Go west to Kennedy Avenue (Hwy 45) and turn right (before the river). Go right (north) and go past the KFC. Perry Farm is on your left.

From Interstate 55, North or South: Take Exit 217 (Hwy 17) east about 33 miles to Kankakee. Cross the Kankakee River to Kennedy Avenue (Hwy 45) turn left (north). Go past the KFC. Perry Farm is on your left.

2008 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

MAY 3-4	KLASH ON THE KANKAKEE—BOURBONNAIS, IL
MAY 24-25	SPIRIT OF VINCENNES RENDEVOUS—VINCENNES, IN
JUNE 21-22	MUSKET AND DRUMS MUSTER—SHELBYVILLE, IL
AUGUST 16-17	BATTLE ON THE RIDGE—HIGHLAND, IN
AUGUST 30-31	PIONEER VILLAGE—SAUKVILLE, WI
SEPTEMBER 13-14	CANTIGNY—WHEATON, IL **CORRECTED DATE**
SEPTEMBER 27-28	FEAST OF THE HUNTER'S MOON—LAFAYETTE, IN
OCTOBER 4-5	NAGA WAUKEE PARK—DELAFIELD, WI
OCTOBER 25-26	MARKET DAYS AT LOCUST GROVE—LOUISVILLE, KY
NOVEMBER 1	NWTA BOARD MEETING—CHELA'S RESTAURANT—HIGHLAND IN 9 AM

Notions, Goods, Wares & Furniture for the Colonial Home



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Members NWT A - Baldwin's Reg't

Directions:
from I-94 exit Hwy. C,
#285, proceed 1/2 mile north
25 miles west of Milwaukee
90 miles from Chicago

The Spirit of Vincennes Rendezvous

Vincennes, Indiana

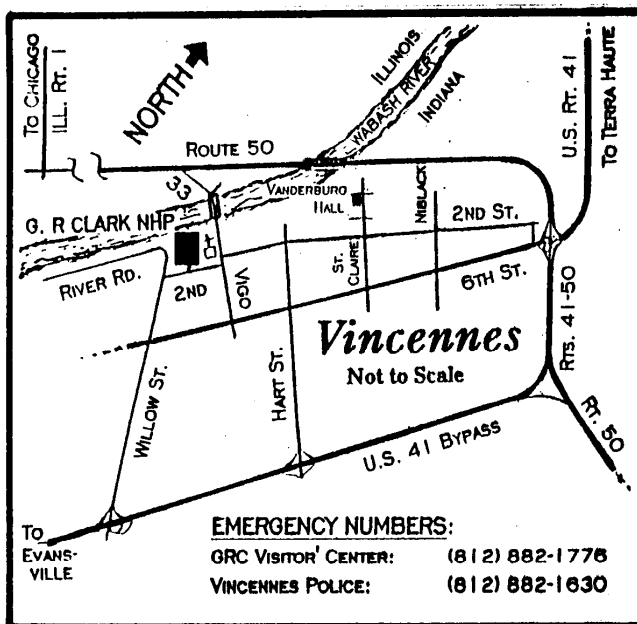
Memorial Day Weekend, May 24-25, 2008

George Rogers Clark National Historic Park, 401 South Second Street

EXPANDED SATURDAY NIGHT TURKEY DINNER with additional fixings. CATERED!

Please note:
Script has been discontinued to
help defray the additional costs.

- 👑 Nearby Showers.
- 👑 Honours to Veterans and NWTAs Dead.
- 👑 Saturday Evening candlelight tour of historic buildings.
- 👑 NWTAs candlelight walk on Sunday night.
- 👑 OK to camp over Sunday night.



For Additional Info & Updates
Please monitor www.nwta.com
and www.spiritofvincennes.org

ROOMS

Vincennes University Dorm Rooms Info
and the Room Registration Form--go to:

spiritofvincennes.org, then click on
"Experience the Rev War" box, then
"participant registration" in sidebar, then
on the Rooms at Vincennes University
Registration Form cue.

[Please don't wait 'til the last minute]

Make sure your unit commander includes you in his or her registration

Event Registration

Commanders--Please register your unit

DEADLINE MAY 18

UNIT NAME _____

Name _____ Phone _____

Est. WEDGE TENTS _____ MARQUEES _____

FLIES _____ Other tentage _____

STRAW BALES _____

MODERN CAMPERS? _____ TYPE _____

Bringing ARTILLERY? _____ Shoot or Display? _____

EST. NO. ADULTS _____ CHILDREN _____

TO: Bill Potter platrine@msn.com

8811 W. 102nd St.

Palos Hills, IL 60465

(708) 598-5552

[E-MAIL REGISTRATION
IS PREFERRED]

Puzzled about NPS rules/inspection?--contact B. Potter: latrine@msn.com; use "nps BP inspection" as subject line.

Note: PLEASE make all your cartridges prior to the event--no bulk powder in camp!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NWTA Directories

Directories will be published again this year. Attention unit commanders: Please have all corrections and additions to the NWTA Adjutant, Robin Klepfer, by May 1. Everyone can pick up their directories at Vincennes in the 42nd camp.

Lost and Found

Found:

A knife in sheath

A small black kettle lid

These were all lost some time ago, the lid as far back as three Cantignies ago!

Lost:

A pewter mug in nice shape

A pewter spoon

A lady's traveling set of utensils (looks like a child-size set of spoon and knife and fork together)

Please contact Marilyn Hess with any information
608-868-7855

Publication Schedule

You are all invited to contribute to the Courier! Articles are always welcome, but anything you would like to share, from photos to recipes to short anecdotes, helps to fill the Courier with real voices of the NWTA. Please use the publication schedule below to contribute time-sensitive pieces. I will publish other pieces on a rolling basis. Thanks to all who have and will contribute!

Issue	Deadline for Submissions
Jan/Feb	December 31
March/April	February 28
May/June	April 30
July/August	June 30
Sept/Oct	August 30
Nov/Dec	October 31

NWTA National Officers' Contact Information

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Scribe: Kayte Ossler	285 Churchill Street Aurora, IL 60504	Phone: (630) 851-8378 Email: kayteossler@netzero.net

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BUTTONS, CONTINUED

On this site are copies of the Royal Warrants of 1768, Uniform Specification #201 – British Royal warrant/Early American (1775-1778), which are the British Uniform Specifications from the Royal Warrants and other period sources, and Uniform Specifications #202 – Late American, which are the Continental Uniform Specifications after 1779. With these documents, researching what buttons were used on the military shirts and trousers (including breeches and overalls) should be easy. Not so!

Before going to any other source, let's see what the Royal Clothing Warrant of 1768 says about buttons. Under the section Uniform of Officers the Warrant states "The number of each regiment to be on the buttons of the uniforms of the Officers and men." The next mention of buttons relates to Private Men's Coats which are "To have white buttons." The Royal Warrants mentions buttons one other time – "... black linen gaiters, with black buttons ..." A literal interpretation of the Royal Clothing Warrant is that Officers and enlisted are to have white buttons, with the regimental number on them, on ALL uniform articles of clothing. The problem with this is that shirts and breeches/overalls are not mentioned in the Warrant.

In "Uniform Specifications #201" Bill Burke and Linnea Bass reference the Royal Warrants and Simes [both as reprinted in Strachan] and Cuthbertson. The statement concerning buttons at the very beginning of the Specifications is "All buttons were white metal with the number of the regiment on the button." Simes is the source for the size of the buttons; regimentals are to have large buttons [7/8"] and weskits are to have small buttons [5/8"]. In "Uniform Specifications #201" the breeches are stated to have 15 buttons, however, the size is not given. In the same source, shirt buttons are not mentioned. HM 33rd Regiment of Foot, out of California, has about the best documented general reference document that I have seen. Regarding breeches/overall buttons, they present their case for plain buttons as follows:

We believe plain pewter buttons were used on British enlisted men's breeches. We infer this from a number of advertisements appearing in newspapers in British occupied New York. These advertisements, aimed at military men, were for regimental coat and waistcoat buttons, apparently manufactured by local artisans. The buttons are always described as being for either coats or waistcoats, but not for breeches. We think this means that breeches buttons were plain.

I have another interpretation of the advertisements for regimental and weskit buttons. First, why are plain buttons not advertised? It could be because they are a common button and easily acquired. However, I believe that the advertisements are not only for regimental and weskit buttons, but also are descriptive of the size of the buttons needed for the uniforms. Cuthbertson states that two large buttons be used to fasten the fall of the breeches to the waistband. The assumption is that smaller (weskit size) buttons are used to close the waistband and at the knees. If my interpretation of the needs expressed in the advertisements is correct, then the two large buttons would be regimental buttons and the smaller buttons would be weskit buttons. More research on this follows later.

What buttons are used on the shirts? Cuthbertson states that the collar "should be strong of buttons." However how many buttons and what kind are not stated. In other resources that I have read, it is suggested that two buttons be on the collar and one on each shirt cuff. Again, the type and size of the button is not given. In their documentation, the 33rd Regiment states that Dorset buttons were used on the shirts, however, they do not give a cite for this information.

During the early part of the war (prior to 1780) the Continental Army followed the British Warrants, and uniform regulations were sparse. Most of the documentation comes from deserter descriptions in news media of the period. However, most of the deserter descriptions do not mention buttons. Being a Continental soldier re-enactor, I have not researched British deserter descriptions, however, Hagist, Gilbert and Braisted did for their article and mentioned that there were very few deserter descriptions for the British army. In their article for the Courier they cite a deserter description for a Continental soldier wearing a British uniform that had been confiscated from a British ship captured on its way to the colonies. The following is taken from this article:

Eight Dollars Reward.

Deserted from Capt. John Burrowes \$B!G (Bs company, in Col. David Forman \$B!G (Bs regiment, now stationed at Freehold, a certain William Davison, a native of America, aged about twenty-eight years, five feet eight inches high, has sandy hair, blue eyes, sharp nose, red face, a large scar on one of his legs, is much given to drink; had on when he deserted, a red coat with buff coloured facings, white woolen jacket, buff breeches, (the buttons of his coat and breeches numbered thirty one) and a wool hat cocked up. Whoever apprehends said deserter and brings him to his company, or confines him in any goal so that he may be had again, shall receive the above Reward and all reasonable charges. John Burrowes, Captain.

[The Pennsylvania Packet, August 26th, 1777]

The first impression is that this passage looks like the long-awaited PROOF of numbered breeches buttons on British soldiers, but on closer examination, this might not be too solid a proof.

The arguments that they use for not accepting this deserter description as proof of having "numbered" buttons on the breeches are very compelling. I do agree with them that this may be evidence but it is not conclusive proof.

Again, Bill Burke and Linnea Bass give some assistance in their "Uniform Specifications – Late American #202. The first thing in this treatise is "TAILORING: Uniforms were tailored to fit the individual (BW p. 38)." Cuthbertson also states that the British uniforms were tailored to fit the individual. This is important as what is tailored to fit the individual includes the regimental coat, weskit and breeches/overalls. Burke and Bass also has a section "BUTTONS: Buttons were white metal . . .

Infantry and cavalry clothing buttons were marked USA (BW, FM p 38).” The further describe the buttons for the uniform parts as follows:

Breeches: There were 15 small [5/8"] buttons; 4 on each leg, 1 on each knee band, 3 on the waist band, and 1 on each corner of the fall.

Waistcoat: The officers in Massachusetts were ordered to have 12 small [5/8"] buttons down the fronts of their waistcoats, and pocket flaps with closed worked button holes and 4 buttons beneath (ML). In the period, waistcoats were generally closed with 10, 11, or 12 buttons, spaced evenly (Simes).

Coat: Except for artillery, all buttons were marked USA. Unless otherwise specified, all buttons were large [7/8"].

Shirt: Shirts were to have two buttons on the collar and one on each cuff (BW).

Cocked Hat: The left side had a black cockade and a small button with the initials of the state rather than USA (FM p 40, ML, BW).

Using the logic that I have seen in some documents, because only the regimental coat specifically states the buttons to be USA, and the other clothing items only indicate the size of the button used, they would have had plain buttons. Going back to the Royal Warrants, they state that “The number of each regiment to be on the buttons of the uniforms of the Officers and men.” My interpretation is that includes the breeches/overalls. The uniform specifications of 1779 for the Continental army states that “Infantry and cavalry clothing buttons were marked USA.” This is a little more black-and-white as the clothing are includes breeches/overalls.

The First New Hampshire Regiment furnishes support for this in their documentation. The following was from the Board of War on March 16, 1778; Source: Zlatich (Vol 1) Pg 37

“Exeter, March 16th 1778 - Sr by the Bearer have sent to you the Following Articles for Clothing which is wanted immediately to be made up
12 Ps Green Serge for Coats & Breeches
2 3/4 allow'd for Coats & 1 1/4 for breeches - 37 1/2 yds fine plain for facing Coat & 3/8 yd to each Coat
6 Ps Druggett for Coat Lining 1 1/2 yd each
2 Ps Coating for Waistcoats 3/4 yd each
9 Ps Linen & 44 yd fine tent cloth for Breeches Lining 1 1/2 yd each
12 1/2 lbs thread 2 oz to a suit
11 1/2 yd Duck for Coat Lining & Staying for Waistcoats 1 3/4 yd each
200 Hooks & Eyes for Coat 2 Pr. Each
abt 290 doz Buttons for Coat 2 3/4 doz each
175 doz Ditto for Breeches & Waistcoat
10 Buttons each & 2 Larger for Breeches

The following is taken from a letter to France from the Board of War dated June 11, 1779 (in the New Hampshire documentation): June 1, 1779 – “All buttons on coats, vests and

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breeches must be well fixed with strong leather thongs which will go from button to button inside. All the coat collars must be able to button with the hi' lapel button, but made in such a way that the soldier can button or hook it up around his neck in cold or stormy weather.” According to the NH documentation the “French uniforms being made had USA buttons on the Uniforms. Breeches were being made with 5 buttons on each leg, including the knee band.” In addition to the buttons on the uniforms “150 dozen white metal buttons marked NH were also ordered for use on the hats of the NH troops.”

Hagist, Gilbert and Braisted asked the question in the title of their article “Breeches Buttons-Numbered or No?” I believe that the evidence from the documentation presented supports that the breeches buttons were numbered, although this still is not conclusive. As to what buttons were used on the military shirt, two sources have indicated something other than military buttons were used. For the British shirts, the 33rd Regiment suggests Dorset (cloth) buttons. In the book “The Revolutionary Soldier 1775-1783” page 15, Wilbur suggests that the soldiers of the Continental Army used bone buttons and that the officers used French made wooden buttons. Both of these sources lack period sources as support for their suggestions. More research is warranted.

**PUBLICATION OF
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**FINAL EDIT –
YOUR MAILBOX IS SAFE!**

*In response to the concern expressed
by some recipients of a mailing sent
late this winter:*

It seems there has been some concern lately that the powers-that-be in Colonial Williamsburg had somehow gotten a hold of our NWTa directory and were using it for commercial purposes. Do not fret! Although I was honored to think that my feeble attempts at layout and design had been of any quality to be confused with something sent by the highly esteemed folks at Williamsburg, that fact is that any literature received by a small portion of our membership in the mail recently from 2beourguest.com was mailed by me. I regret that Bart Durbin had to spend any time or energy fielding calls from concerned members and apologize for any inconvenience caused to him.

It occurred to me while sitting in my basement during the long, cold nights after New Year's that folks in our membership might appreciate the information I had for them, but that it would be of more use to them if they had it before the March/April issue of the newsletter would arrive. So, out went the mailings. Rest assured that, in the future, you can look for information from me in the pages of the Courier instead of in your mailbox. Most importantly, however, know that my copy of the membership directory is safe and sound, on the bookshelf in my basement, not in the hands of some evil, corporate advertising firm.

Most Humbly,
Tara Lanzerotti

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