

# 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

## A BIG THANK YOU

Bill and I wish to thank everyone for coming to Cantigny only to have it cancelled. We have never had to cancel on a Saturday morning in my 30 years of reenacting.

The suttlers went to the trouble of setting up and did not even get to open up shop. You were all wonderful in keeping off the grass and being in no hurry to be the first one out. I think we were all so wet we couldn't hurry.

Cantigny would like to have a one-day event, perhaps in early November. Please let me know if you are interested.

Thanks again,

*Bill and Marilyn Hess*

## 2009 BUDGET ALLOCATION REQUESTS

The NWTA Board will vote on its 2009 budget at the November Board meeting. In order to present a proposed budget that accurately reflects expected income and expenditures, it would be helpful if projected 2009 income, expense and allocation requests be forwarded by the relevant persons to the paymaster by October 18, 2008. I can be reached most easily at [andreastudzinski@sbcglobal.net](mailto:andreastudzinski@sbcglobal.net). Thank you to everyone in advance for helping with this year's budget process. YMH&OS,

Paymaster Andrea Studzinski

## 2008 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

<i>May 3-4</i>	<i>Klash on the Kankakee—Bourbonnais, IL</i>
<i>May 24-25</i>	<i>Spirit of Vincennes Rendevous—Vincennes, IN</i>
<i>June 21-22</i>	<i>Musket and Drums Muster—Shelbyville, IL</i>
<i>August 16-17</i>	<i>Battle on the Ridge—Highland, IN</i>
<i>August 30-31</i>	<i>Pioneer Village—Saukville, WI</i>
<i>September 13-14</i>	<i>Cantigny—Wheaton, IL **Corrected Date**</i>
<i>September 27-28</i>	<i>Feast of the Hunter's Moon—Lafayette, IN</i>
<i>October 4-5</i>	<i>Naga Waukee Park—Delafield, WI</i>
<i>October 25-26</i>	<i>Market Days at Locust Grove—Louisville, KY</i>
<i>November 1</i>	<i>NWTA Board Meeting—Chela's Restaurant Highland IN 9 AM</i>

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## *Delafield Colonial Days*

Join us on October 4 & 5  
at Naga-Waukee Park,  
901 State Hwy 83, Delafield, WI

### *Special Events Include:*

Men's & Women's competitions,  
Evening Dance  
and Children's Events.

Register by emailing to  
[pkiblerervin@wi.m.com](mailto:pkiblerervin@wi.m.com)

or mailing to  
Pam Kibler-Ervin  
7902 Kasper Pkwy  
Waterford, WI 53185

Unit Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# of Attendants \_\_\_\_\_

# of Tents \_\_\_\_\_ # of Flys \_\_\_\_\_

# of Marquee \_\_\_\_\_ # of Straw needed \_\_\_\_\_

Rope Line Yes/No    Any Modern Camping? Yes/No

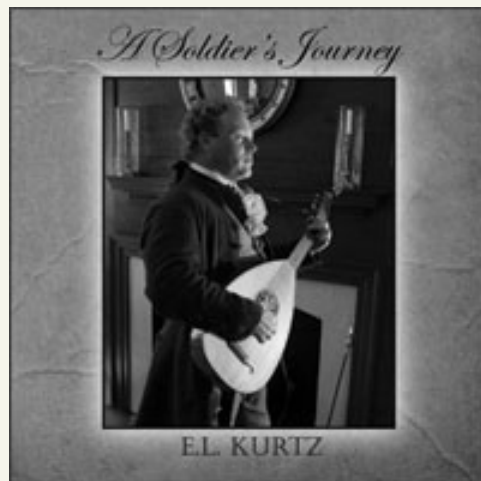
Hosted by Braunschweig Regiment & 4th Mass

## CD A MUSICAL JOURNEY

I want to inform you of a recent project released by international recording artist E. L. Kurtz entitled *A Soldier's Journey* on Blue Stream Records ([www.bluestreamrecords.com](http://www.bluestreamrecords.com)). This epic CD contains seventeen authentic colonial American songs that weave the tale of an 18th century musician (bard) who joins the military to fight for family, country and freedom. It's been described as "Timeless, Emotional, Passionate and Masterfully Authentic ." After one listen I'd have to agree, that this CD is all of these and more and I highly recommend NWTa members check it out and see for yourselves. Everything heard on this recording is real... muskets firing live rounds, British and French voice actors, 18th century tavern sounds, lutes, cellos, violins, rope-tensioned drums. The story is written on parchment with ink and quill and over 30,000 photographs were taken by Steve Berger ([www.stevebergerphotographic.com](http://www.stevebergerphotographic.com)) across the United States and Canada to tell the compelling story of a British colonial lad who dreams of glory. Going to [www.elkurtz.com](http://www.elkurtz.com) and listening to the story takes you back to the time of our founding fathers and really covers what the CD is all about... a true audio reenactment created by reenactors for reenactors. I highly recommend it! CD is available at G. Gedney Godwin (<http://www.gggodwin.com/>) and digital downloads at iTunes, iTunes UK, Rhapsody, Napster, CD Baby and at museums and historical sites throughout the United States and the world.

We have been amazed here at BSR with the response to this project, especially digital downloads sales throughout Europe, Canada and Australia. It truly has gone international!

Your humble servant,  
Robert Murphy



*"...you can carry a measure  
of the Revolution around  
town with you. I'm telling  
you--it's good for the spirit."*

- REVIEW AS QUOTED ON  
ELKURTZ.COM, FROM  
RILEY'S FARM, OAK GLEN, CA

## NWTA National Officers' Contact Information

Commander: Bart Durbin	645 S. McKinley Avenue Kankakee, IL 60901	Phone: (815) 936-9169 Email: <a href="mailto:Iam4FnI@aol.com">Iam4FnI@aol.com</a>
Deputy Commander: Tim Hess	247 Juniper Court Streamwood, IL 60107	Phone: (630) 483-0450 Email: <a href="mailto:grex111@core.net">grex111@core.net</a>
Adjutant: Angela Potter	8811 West 102nd Street Palos Hills, IL 60465	Phone: (708) 598-5552 Email: <a href="mailto:nwtadj@msn.com">nwtadj@msn.com</a>
Paymaster: Andrea Studzinski	309 N. Park Boulevard Glen Ellyn, IL 60137	Phone: (630) 942-0670 Email: <a href="mailto:andreastudzinski@sbcglobal.net">andreastudzinski@sbcglobal.net</a>
Scribe: Kayte Ossler	285 Churchill Street Aurora, IL 60504	Phone: (630) 851-8378 Email: <a href="mailto:kayteossler@netzero.net">kayteossler@netzero.net</a>

## EIGHTEENTH CENTURY MARKET FAIR HISTORIC LOCUST GROVE OCTOBER 25 & 26, 2008



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In its fourth year, the Market Fair promises  
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For more information, directions, and  
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[www.locustgrovefair.org](http://www.locustgrovefair.org)



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## CAPTAIN JACOB ASHMEAD HAS A VERY BAD YEAR 1779

Submitted by Brian VandePolder, 2nd Penna Rgt.

Every unit that participated in the American Revolution has a side story, and maybe a scandal. The Second Pennsylvania Regiment is no exception. This little story, involving Captain Jacob Ashmead of the Second Pennsylvania Regiment is actually a side-bar to the Battle of Stony Point.

After the Continental Congress authorized the raising of troops, to fight the British, in November 1775, a Germantown resident, Jacob Ashmead, enlisted, as a private, in a company of the First Pennsylvania Battalion, under the command of Captain William Jenkins. Ashmead (whose father was a judge and also served in the Pennsylvania State Assembly) was later commissioned a First Lieutenant. (Ashmead, 1988)

Like all of the Companies of the First Pennsylvania Battalion, Captain Jenkins Company was sent to Canada to join Colonel Benedict Arnold in the Canadian Campaign. While at Fort Ticonderoga, Captain Jenkins took leave on August 5, 1776. He did not return to the Battalion and finally resigned his commission on September 6, 1776, where-upon Lt. Jacob Ashmead was promoted to Captain and took command of the Company, where he served with distinction until 1779. (Trussell, 1977)

During the winter encampment of 1778-1779, Captain Ashmead wintered at home, in Germantown. During his absence, he was transferred to another Company which had been commanded by Captain John Marshall, who had resigned his commission. When Captain Ashmead returned to, what was now the Second Regiment of the Pennsylvania Line, (after the reorganization of January 1777) on March 11, 1779, he took command of the Company and was tasked, by Colonel Walter Stewart, with recruiting the "finest soldiers" from all of the companies and forming a light infantry company. (Ashmead, 1988; Trussell, 1977)

On June 12, 1779, General Washington put out a call for the Pennsylvania, Connecticut and Virginia regiments to furnish light infantry companies for a light infantry corps. By then, Ashmead had a well trained light infantry company. In January General Anthony Wayne had been appointed to command the corps, however, he did not actually take command until late June. General Irvin and Colonel Francis Johnston were each appointed to command a brigade. By July 3, 1779, Wayne had only half of the eight battalions promised him, for a total of 1,300 men. Most of these troops were Pennsylvanians and Virginians. This included the light infantry com-

pany from the 2nd Pennsylvania Regiment, commanded by Captain Ashmead, which had been assigned to a regiment commanded by Colonel Richard Butler, another Pennsylvanian. (Stille, 1893; Tucker, 1973)

For the attack on Stony Point, General Wayne split the Light Infantry Corps into three divisions. Two divisions were the actual attack force and were armed with muskets and bayonets only (no powder, shot or cartridges). The third division was a diversionary group, fully armed with cartridges, and would faint an attack on the main entrance to the fort. Each of the attack divisions was further split into three groups: (1) foragers to clear the abates on the water sides of the fort so that the main force could get through; (2) a small advance force to silence the sentry's and (3) the main attack force. Capt. Jacob Ashmead commanded the advance force for the left side of the assault; Colonel Butler commanded the main force. The two attack forces were under orders of total silence during the attack. (Stille, 1893; Tucker, 1973) Ashmead was known as an aggressive, fearless and tough combatant (Ashmead, 1988). This may have been the cause of the troubles that befell him after the battle.

"As Jacob Ashmead led his men up the incline in silence, a British sentry spied them and started firing. Jacob, forgetting his orders of silence, cried, 'Fire, give them hell!' (Ashmead, 1988, p. 363)" After the battle, Colonel Richard Butler initiated charges against Ashmead for "being drunk in the time of the assault on Stony Point . . . behaving ridiculously and unbecoming an officer, . . . and disobeying the General's order by frequently huzzaing during the approach to the enemy's works . . . (Ashmead, 1988, p. 365)"; ordered Ashmead be taken under guard to West point, assumed complete command of Ashmead's company and had him transferred back to the Second Pennsylvania Regiment. Ashmead tried to appeal to General Wayne, however, Butler refused the request. At his court marshal Ashmead was found not guilty of the charge of being drunk, but was found guilty of disobedience of a direct order. The court sentenced Ashmead to be reprimanded by the General Officer. It is presumed that this light sentence is the result of the court learning the Colonel Butler had also barked orders during the attack. (Anonymous, 1911; Fitzpatrick, 1933) This is just the beginning of Captain Ashmead's troubles.

After Captain Jacob Ashmead's court marshal, having received only a reprimand, and not being relieved of command by the court or General Washington, Colonel Walter Stewart, Commander of the Second Pennsylvania Regiment, ordered Capt Ashmead to return to the Light Infantry Corps and re-



take command of his company. Colonel Richard Butler, enraged by the results of the court marshal, refused to let Ashmead take command of his company. Being under orders of "his Colonel" Ashmead assumed command anyway. Butler, unable to get the sergeants of the company to refuse following the commands of Ashmead, again had Capt Ashmead taken under guard, and in irons, to be taken to West Point for court marshal. Charges were disobedience of a direct order. The court, made up of officers from the Light Infantry Corps, acquitted Capt Ashmead. Jacob Ashmead, feeling he been done wrong, initiated charges of "instituting mutiny, and treating Ashmead in an unpresidentially and unofficer like manner," against Colonel Butler. Butler, having "lost" in both of Ashmead's court marshals, seated with officers of the Light Infantry Corp, requested that his court marshal be conducted by officers of the main army; request was granted. (Fitzpatrick, 1933) The following is from Captain Robert Gamble's (Aid to General Washington) Orderly Book (1892):

L. I. O. NEAR FORT MONTGOMERY,  
Sept. 20th, '79.

At a Gen'l Court martial whereof Col. Putnam was President Cob. Butler was Tried on the following Charge, First, for Endeavouring to Excite the soldiers of Capt. Ashmead's.<sup>33</sup> Company to meeting by ordering the Non-Commissioned officers Not to obey any order of his Capt. Ashmead; Secondly for treating Capt. Ashmead in an unpresidentially & on-officer like manner by Refusing him Liberty to wait on Gen. Wayne to Complain of Ill Treatment and Seek Redress & sending him under Guard from the L. Infantry Camp to west Point after having Receiv'd Colo. Stewart's<sup>34</sup> order to go to the Infantry & take the Command of his Capt. Ashmead's Company. The Court are of Opinion that Cob. Butler is Not Guilty of the first charge, they do acquit him of Refusing Capt. Ashmead Liberty to wait on Gen'l Wayne to Complain of Ill treatment & Seek Redress, they are of Opinion that Cob. Butler was Not Justifiable in Sending Capt. Ashmead under Guard from the Lt. Infantry to west Point being a breach of the] first article & Eighteenth section of the articles of War & do Sentence him to be Repremanded by the Commanding officer of the Corps of Light Infantry. The Commander-in-Chief approves the Sentence & Directs it to be Carried into Execution, at the same time he thinks Cob. Butler's Conduct Blamible in not Permitting Capt. Ashmead to see Gen'l Wayne unless he would Ingage to Comply with a Condition which Cob. Butler had no Right to anex, Nor was there any mode of such Condition as there was all Ways Proper meends of Enforcing disipling of Capt. Ashmead after applying to Gen'l Wayne Persistent in a Refractory behaviour. to Prevent any misunderstanding in futer the Gen'l Directs that the Nomination of all Capts. & sub'r to Releave others of Nesisary or full Vacancies in the Light Corps while it Remains together to be Reported to adjutant Gen'l & Receive the approbation of the Gen'l before they be sent to take

Command. for this Purpos the officers Commanding Reg'ts of L. Infantry will Report to the adjutant Gen'l the Vacanceys that hapen, who will Give Notices that Officers may be appointed from the Line to fill them, be nominated by the officers Commanding the Reg'ts from which they are taken. as Gen'l Wayne Cannot Repremand Cob. Butler for any Part of his Conduct Respecting Capt. Ashmead Without Violating his own Judgment & feelings he orders Cob. Butler Immediately out of arrest & to take Charge of his Command in the Light Infantry.

After Colonel Butlers court marshal, feeling betrayed by both General Washington and, his friend, General Wayne, Captain Jacob Ashmead returned home at German Town, never to return to the Army. He submitted his resignation May 16, 1780. It should be noted that Jacob Ashmead remained loyal to the continental cause and his country. (Ashmead, 1988; Trussell, 1977)

## REFERENCES

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Ashmead, H.D. Ph.D. (1988). Chapter 7: Jacob Ashmead 1743-1814. In *Search of a Rainbow: A History of the Ashmead Family*. R.R. Donnelley and Sons Company. pp. 279-390.

Fitzpatrick, John C., ed. (1933). *The Writings of George Washington from the original Manuscript Sources*, Vol. 9. Washington, D.C. Government Printing Office. ASI Ashmead.

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Stille, Charles J. (1893). *Major General Anthony Wayne and the Pennsylvania Line in the Continental Army*. Philadelphia. J.B. Lippincott, pp. 182-210.

Trussell, John B. B., Jr. (1977). *The Pennsylvania Line-Regimental Organization and Operations, 1776-1783*. Harrisburg, PA. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, pp. 39-51, 238-241.

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## IN THE BEGINNING: THE N W T A ' S O R I G I N S

**The North West Territory Alliance will celebrate the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding in 2009. As we look forward to enjoying our celebration at the Grand Encampment next June, we can also look back and remember how we began.**

*Originally printed in 1994:* On September 29, 1974 at 7 pm, a group of Revolutionary War re-enactors met in the Schowalter Room of the Racine Historical museum. At this meeting, they formally organized a Revolutionary War re-enacting group called the North West Territory Alliance. They defined their geographical region of this new organization as Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Iowa.

Some of those in attendance included: Don Davis and Bill Burke of Frear's Regiment; Stanley and Stephen Rayner and Bob Gramberg of the 8th of Foot; Paul Peterson and Mike Buday of the 4th Continental Artillery Band of Music; Vic Mejias and Bill Sullivan of the 2nd Virginia Regiment; Greg Novak and George Kwain of Willings' Marines; Lowell "Doc" Luedke of the Feldjaeger Corp; and Paul Block and Gary Reber of Proctors Artillery. At this meeting, the Alliance's first officers were elected and were as follows: Commander - Paul Block, Treasurer - Gary Reber, and Adjutant - Bill Burke.

The founding units of the N W T A are those that were present at that meeting on September 29, 1974, and include:

- Proctors Continental Artillery Regiment, Trunbull's Company
- Feldjaeger Corps, Hesse-Kassel, Ewald's Company
- 2nd Virginia Regiment, Continental Line
- 8th (King's) Regiment of Foot, Colonel's Company
- Frear's Regiment of Dutchess County Militia (now known as 3rd New York Regiment, 4th Company)
- 4th Continental Artillery Band of Music (now known as 3rd Connecticut Regiment, Band of Music)
- Willings Independent Company of Marines

Charter units of the N W T A are those regiments that joined the Alliance after that first meeting, but within the first year of the Alliance include:

- 42nd Regiment of Foot (Royal Highland Regiment), Grenadier Company
- 1st Regiment of Foot Guards, Grenadier Company
- Butler Rangers
- 23rd Regiment of Foot (Royal Welsh Fusiliers)
- Chicago Historical Society Fife and Drum Corps
- 5th Virginia Regiment

(submitted by Kathy Rasch, 3rd New York Regiment, 4th Company)  
[Originally published in the N W T A Courier, March 1994, page 3]



## Save the Date!

NWTA GRAND ENCAMPMENT  
Perry Farm Park, Bourbonnais, Illinois  
June 13-14, 2009

Mark your calendar now for the NWT A's  
35th Anniversary Grand Encampment

to be held at Perry Farm Park  
459 No. Kennedy Drive, Bourbonnais, Illinois  
(located about 60 miles south of Chicago near the intersection of Routes 57 and 50)

This will be a joint event with the BAR's North West Department, so  
plan to invite your sister units and friends from "out East," to join our  
celebration.

The Steering Committee, comprised of Bart Durbin, Bill and Marilyn  
Hess, and Linnea Bass, have begun planning, and festivities include:

- NWT A Member Census
- Feu de Joie and Grand Volley
- Catered Dinner Saturday Evening
- 18<sup>th</sup> Century Music and Dancing
- NWT A "Museum"
- Salute to Past Commanders
- Group Photo



### NWTA Women's Costume Symposium

April 4/5, 2009 both classes run 9 am - 5 pm

College of Dupage

425 Fawell Blvd., Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

Registration 8.30 am

**STAYS:** Make a pair of authentic stays that really fit correctly!

Two days of instruction by Hallie Larkin. **12 students max.** Power point presentation, stays in various sizes to try on, and originals from Hallie's collection on display. Stays kit is \$100 contains everything you will need to complete your stays and includes 1½ yds brown (unbleached) linen canvas, patterns, 1 yd linen lining, European Reed boning, leather binding, hand spun linen thread and is preferred for the best results. Please come prepared to put on your shift for proper fitting of stays. Bring your sewing kit.



**GOWN:** Get expert help in fitting your gown using your pattern, with Mike Dollinger, tailor. **25 students max.** Bring a muslin of the gown bodice sewn together, your fabric, pattern, scissors, pins, needles and sewing machine, if possible, we can share. Wear shift, stays and shoes for best fit. Mike will bring gowns in various stages of construction and a display of sewing tools.

**Both classes run concurrently.**

Questions to Hazel [fdickfoss@wi.rr.com](mailto:fdickfoss@wi.rr.com) or 262-886-9133

Don't sew? Allowances made for those who need to bring a seamstress.

**FREE SPECIAL OFER:** For those not able to take a weekend class, join us on Friday for a 7 pm presentation at the Comfort Inn Motel(address below)

Register soon! \$25 fee payable to Hazel immediately to hold your place and non-refundable after March 1<sup>st</sup>, the closing deadline for NWTA members. Any spaces that remain after March 1<sup>st</sup> will be offered at greater cost to non-members. Send to Hazel Dickfoss, 2115 Ramada Drive, Racine, WI. 53406

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Check choice Stays \_\_\_\_\_ Gown \_\_\_\_\_

Tel. \_\_\_\_\_ Friday night presentation Yes/No Friday night only \_\_\_\_\_

Recommended motel:

Comfort Inn 3010 Finley Road, Downers Grove, IL, US, 60515-1118

Phone: (630) 515-1500 Fax: (630) 515-1595, Conference price \$69 per night, be sure to mention when making your reservation that you are attending a conference at COD.

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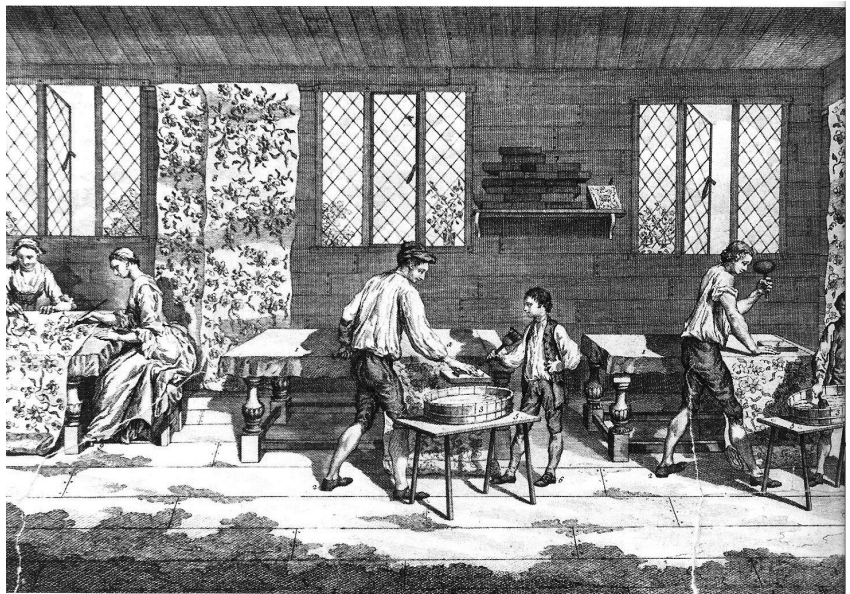
ROWENNA HAMPER, EDITOR  
1385 WEST ALLEN STREET A4  
BLOOMINGTON, IN 47403  
E-MAIL: NWTACOURIER@YAHOO.COM

Mailing Address Line 1  
Mailing Address Line 2  
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## PRINTS IN PRINT

Submitted by Hazel Dickfoss

The man on the right in using a small mallet to pound the block which puts the pattern on the fabric, his assistant prepares his brush for the next application. A similar operation takes place in the center. The women on the left are handpainting in the details which might be indigo blue or the black lines seen on many prints. What else can we learn from this engraving? Young boys were employed as assistants and may be apprentices. The boys keep their waistcoats on while the men have removed theirs. The men appear to be wearing head coverings but the boys are bareheaded. The women are obviously wearing stays looking at their posture and both are wearing caps and handkerchiefs. It appears that one may have removed her gown but it's difficult to tell for sure.



Engraving, "Facing Calico-printing," plate XII, engraved for the supplement to *The Gentleman's Magazine*, London, 1749. Collection of the Museum of American Textile History. *The American Quilt, A history of Cloth and Comfort 1750-1950* page 16.