

# ***Recommended Books and Websites for Clothing Research: The Era of the American Revolution North West Territory Alliance***

Compiled by Linnea M. Bass and Kathleen Ward Rhoden, Department of the Inspector General

## **How to Get Copies of Books**

- *Interlibrary Loan*—if your local library doesn't have the book you want, they may be able to borrow it for you from another library. If this service is available, try to provide the staff with as much information as possible about the book you want. The ISBN number is particularly helpful.
- *18<sup>th</sup> Century Merchants and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Bookstores*—for items that are "in print."
- *Used Book Sellers*—<http://www.abebooks.com> for items that are "out of print."
- *Beg and Borrow*—from other Revolutionary War reenactors.
- *Googlebooks*—<https://books.google.com> for downloadable copies of many books that are out of copyright, including newspapers, magazines, and books published in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

## **Note**

This list is intended to provide guidance for those in search of information on clothing during the era of the American Revolution. It is not intended to be an all-inclusive list of every available resource, but does contain information on some sources that our members have found to be helpful.

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## **A. ORIGINAL 18<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY GARMENTS**

*18thC Notebook* <http://www.larsdatter.com/18c/>

Internet links to photos of original 18<sup>th</sup> century garments in museum collections. Arranged by garment.

Arnold, Janet. *Patterns of Fashion 1: Englishwomen's Dresses and their Construction, c. 1660-1860*. NY: Drama Book Publishers, 1972. There is also a 1977 edition. Softcover. US ISBN 0-89676-026-X; UK ISBN 0-333-13606-3.

Grid patterns and drawings of original garments from museums.

Baumgarten, Linda and John Watson. *Costume Close-up: Clothing Construction and Pattern, 1750-1790*. Williamsburg, VA: Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, in association with Quite Specific Media Group, NY, 1999. Softcover ISBN 0-87935-188-8

Williamsburg's costume curator describes garments in the collection and provides detailed photos of the items from inside and out, scale diagrams of the pattern pieces, notes on construction and fabric, and information on who wore them.

- Baumgarten, Linda. *Eighteenth Century Clothing at Williamsburg*. Williamsburg, VA: Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, 1986. Softcover ISBN 0-87935-109-8.
- Baumgarten, Linda. *What Clothes Reveal: The Language of Clothing in Colonial and Federal America*. Williamsburg, VA: Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, in association with Yale University Press, 2002. Softcover ISBN 0-87935-216-7. Hardcover ISBN 0-300-09580-5.  
Uses 18<sup>th</sup> century written descriptions and garments to analyze what Americans considered fashionable and why. She discusses the meaning of a person's choice of style and fabric, clothing myths, how and why garments were altered, and clothing over a person's lifecycle.
- Bradfield, Nancy. *Costume in Detail: Women's Dress 1730-1930*. New Edition. Boston: Plays, Inc, 1983. ISBN 0-8238-0260-4. Reprint edition. New York: Costume & Fashion Press, 1997.  
Drawings of garments in the Wade Collection at Snowhill Manor in England with details about fabric and construction.
- Burnston, Sharon A. *Fitting and Proper: 18th Century Clothing from the Collection of the Chester County Historical Society*. Texarkana, TX: Scurlock Publishing Co., 2000.  
Hardcover ISBN 1-880655-08-X. Also available in softcover.  
Describes original garments in the Chester County (PA) Historical Society, with photographs and 1 inch scale graphed patterns.
- Burnston, Sharon Ann. "The Cognitive Shift, or 18th century SHIFTS WHAT I KNOW AND HOW I LEARNED IT." © 2005, 2010, 2012. <http://sharonburnston.com/shifts.html>
- Dickfoss, Paul. "What are Brown Linen Shifts?" *The Brigade Dispatch*, Vol. XXXVI, No. 1 (Spring 2006), p. 1-4.
- Gehret, Ellen J. *Rural Pennsylvania Clothing*. York, PA: Liberty Cap Books, 1976. ISBN 0-87-37387-064-6  
Includes working class garments, although some are after the Revolutionary War time period.
- Mactaggart, P. and R. A. Mactaggart. "Some Aspects of the Use of Non-Fashionable Stays." *Strata of Society*, Costume Society Conference, 1973.  
Discusses the difference in cut between upper class stays and those of working women.
- Ribiero, Aileen. *Dress in Eighteenth-Century Europe 1715-1789*. NY: Holmes & Meier, 1985.  
ISBN 0-300-09151-6 for 2002 revised edition.  
Discusses what clothes meant in terms of social definition and identity. Also looks at retailing and distribution, etiquette, the evolution of ready-made clothes, and fantasy wear.
- Ribiero, Aileen. *The Art of Dress: Fashion in England and France, 1750-1820*. New Haven CT: Yale University Press, 1995. ISBN 0-300-06287-7  
Includes a survey of fashion in our period, an introduction on "The Meaning of Dress in Art," and a chapter on "Image and Reality in Fancy Dress in England."
- Styles, John. *The Dress of the People: Everyday Fashion in Eighteenth-Century England*. New Haven, CT: Yale Univ. Press, 2007. Hardcover ISBN 978—0-300-12119-3

## **B. FABRICS**

- Crill, Rosemary. *Chintz: Indian Textiles for the West*. London: V&A Publishing, 2008.  
ISBN 978 -1-851-77532-3  
Examples of Chintz prints, as opposed to Toile.
- 18th Century Textiles: the Anders Berch Collection at the Nordiska Museet*. Edited by Elisabeth Stevenow-Hidemark. Stockholm: Nordiska Museet, 1990.
- Hefford, Wendy. *The Victoria and Albert Museum's Textile Collection: Design for Printed Textile in England from 1750-1850*. NY: Canopy Books, a division of Abbeville Press, 1992.  
ISBN 1-55859-435-3

*A Lady of Fashion: Barbara Johnson's Album of Styles and Fabrics*. Edited by Natalie Rothstein. Trustees of the Victoria and Albert Museum. London: Thames and Hudson, 1987. ISBN 0-500-01419-1

18<sup>th</sup> century fabric samples with notes on the garments made from them by an English lady.

Larkin, Hallie. *Swatches: A Guide to Choosing 21<sup>st</sup> Century Fabrics for 18<sup>th</sup> Century Clothing*. Hallie Larkin and South Coast Historical, 2004.

Montgomery, Florence. *Printed Textiles: English and American Cottons and Linens 1700-1850*. A Winterthur Book. New York: Viking Press, 1970. ISBN 670-29754-6

Montgomery, Florence. *Textiles in America: 1650-1870*. A Winterthur Book. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, Inc., 1984. ISBN 0-393-01703-6

The standard source, containing color reproduction of scrapbooks with sample swatches of 18<sup>th</sup> century fabric, along with commentary and a dictionary of fabric terms.

Riffel, Melanie and Sophie Rouart. *Toile de Jouy: Printed Textiles in the Classic French Style*.

Published in association with the Musee de la Toile de Jouy, Jouy-en-Josas, France. London: Thames and Hudson, 2003. ISBN 0-500-51149-7

Styles, John. *Threads of Feeling: The London Foundling Hospital's Textile Tokens, 1740-1770*.

London: The Foundling Museum, 2010. ISBN 978-0-955180-85-9

Textile Sample Book, 1771. Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. Accession #156.4 T31

<http://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/212227> Retrieved Feb 15, 2017.

Contains swatches of fabric made by the Manchester manufacturing firm of Benjamin and John Bower, and was used for marketing the firm's products.

### C. DESCRIPTIONS OF RUNAWAY SERVANTS AND SLAVES

*18th Century Runaway Ad Resources* <http://larsdatter.com/18c/runaways.html>

Links to online collections of runaway descriptions.

Hagist, Don N. *Wenches, Wives and Servant Girls: A Selection of Advertisements for Female Runaways in American Newspapers 1770-1783*. Baraboo, WI: Ballindalloch Press, 2008. ISBN 978-1893832176

The page numbers are different than in Hagist's *Wives, Slaves and Servant Girls*, but the entry numbers and text are the same.

Hagist, Don N. *Wives, Slaves, and Servant Girls: Advertisements for Female Runaways in American Newspapers, 1770-1783*. Westholme Publishing, 2016. ISBN 978-1594162527

The page numbers are different than in Hagist's *Wenches, Wives and Servant Girls*, but the entry numbers and text are the same.

### D. ONLINE MUSEUM COLLECTIONS

Search for original 18th century garments and personal accouterments using the collection's search function. Make sure to record the accession or museum number for all items of interest, as this is the simplest way to find them again.

*Colonial Williamsburg's Online Collections* <http://emuseum.history.org>

Use "advanced search," which allows limiting by time period, etc. Make sure you get the accession number of all items of interest, since the URL associated with the item will lead you back to the main site rather than the specific item.

*Metropolitan Museum of Art Collection*, New York <http://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search>

*Museum of Fine Arts, Boston* [http://www.mfa.org/collections/search?search\\_api\\_views\\_fulltext=](http://www.mfa.org/collections/search?search_api_views_fulltext=)

*National Trust (Britain) Online Collections* <http://www.nationaltrustcollections.org.uk>  
Of particular interest is the large 18<sup>th</sup> century costume collection of Charles Wade at Snowhill Manor (some of which are illustrated in Bradfield above under Original 18<sup>th</sup> Century Garments).  
*Victoria and Albert Museum (London) Online Collections* <http://collections.vam.ac.uk>  
Search 1,167,880 objects and 561,628 images from the V&A's collections.

## **E. OTHER INTERNET SOURCES**

*The 18<sup>th</sup> Century Material Culture Resource Center* <http://materialculture18t.wixsite.com/18thcmrc>  
Virtual encyclopedia reference library for the study of everyday objects, primarily those used by the inhabitants of North America and England. Under "Slideshows" are photos of original items of clothing, equipment, etc., organized by topic. Under "Resources" are listed primary source writings and secondary source papers by respected Revolutionary War researchers.

*At the Sign of the Golden Scissors Blog* <http://thegoldenscissors.blogspot.com>  
Blog by Hallie Larkin and Stephanie Smith. Includes photos of original garments, tutorials on sewing techniques, and 18<sup>th</sup> century illustrations showing common styles of caps, neck handkerchiefs, etc.

*London Lives 1690-1800: Crime, Poverty and Social Policy in the Metropolis*  
<http://www.londonlives.org/index.jsp>

A fully searchable edition of 240,000 manuscripts from eight archives and fifteen datasets.

*Marquise Costume Site* <http://www.marquise.de/en/1700/index.shtml>  
Large database of paintings illustrating costume, period patterns, plates from Diderot's Encyclopedia, and articles on dressmaking, costume, and using art for costume research.

*Pinterest* <https://www.pinterest.com>  
Save research on Pinterest Boards, share pins with other reenactors, and "Follow" other 18<sup>th</sup> century boards on the site. Enter a phrase into the search, such as "18<sup>th</sup> Century Gown," or something more specific, such as "18<sup>th</sup> Century Pink Open Robe Gown." Once you find something, click on the pin to go back and check the original source from which the image was pinned. Hopefully this will be a museum collection or verified auction house. Be sure to get full information such as location, date, accession number, and the URL.

*Probing the Past: Virginia and Maryland Probate Inventories, 1740-1810.*  
<http://chnm.gmu.edu/probateinventory/>

Searchable database of estate inventories that lists what items were owned by the deceased, sometimes including the number of shifts, gowns, jackets, etc.

*Proceedings of the Old Bailey, 1674-1913* <http://www.oldbaileyonline.org/index.jsp>  
Searchable index of trials. Allows you to find 18<sup>th</sup> century written references to clothing and accessories mentioned in trials for theft, etc.

*Wm Booth, Draper at the Sign of the Unicorn.* Facebook Page retrieved March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017.  
<https://www.facebook.com/wm.booth.draper/>

Paul Dickfoss posts period artwork that illustrates how garments were worn, along with his commentary.

## **F. SEWING, MENDING & ALTERING**

Baumgarten, Linda. "Altered Historical Clothing." *Dress: The Annual Journal of the Costume Society of America*, Vol. 25 (1998), p. 42-57.

Burnley and Trowbridge, *Historic Fashion Tutorial Series*  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCySy8zO2XCnsSM1STJc0r6A/videos>

Videos on some of the stitches used in 18<sup>th</sup> century sewing.

Kidwell, Claudia Brush. "Short Gowns." *Dress: The Annual Journal of the Costume Society of America*, Vol. 4 (1978), pp. 30-65.

Includes a study of what color thread was used and the type of fabric used for patches.

Kannik, Kathleen. *The Lady's Guide to Plain Sewing, by A Lady, Book I*. ISBN 0-9640161-0-9.

*The Lady's Guide to Plain Sewing, Book II, by A Lady*. ISBN 0-9640161-2-5.

*The Workwoman's Guide, by a Lady*. ISBN 0-940983001.

Instructions and diagrams for 18<sup>th</sup> century hand stitches.

Lazaro, David E. "Fashion and Frugality: English Patterned Silks in Connecticut River Valley Women's Dress, 1660-1800." *Dress: The Annual Journal of the Costume Society of America*, Vol 33 (2006), p. 57-77.

Describes how gowns of expensive English silk were significantly altered over time to reuse the fabric, but keep the style up-to-date.

*Women's Dress During the American Revolution: An Interpretive Guide*. Brigade of the American Revolution, 2004. ISBN 0-9708965-8-1

Includes information about basic women's garments, and instructions for making some of them.

## G. PERIOD ARTWORK AND HOW TO USE IT

Kidwell, Claudia Brush. "Are Those Clothes Real: Transforming the Way Eighteenth-Century Portraits are Studied." *Dress* [the Journal of the Costume Society of America], Vol. 24 (1997), p. 3-15.

*Lewis Walpole Library Digital Image Collection* <http://images.library.yale.edu/walpoleweb/>

Art collection, including satirical prints, from the late 17<sup>th</sup> century through the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century.

Ribeiro, Aileen. "'The Whole Art of Dress': Costume in the Work of John Singleton Copley," in *John Singleton Copley in America*. Metropolitan Museum of Art, exhibit catalog. NY: Harry Abrams, 1995. Pages 103-115. ISBN 0-87099-745-9 (paperback). ISBN 0-87099-744-0 (hardcover).

Tarrant, Naomi. "The Portrait, the Artist and the Costume Historian." *Dress: the Annual Journal of the Costume Society of America*, Vol. 22 (1995), p. 69-77.

## H. PERSONA DEVELOPMENT

*A Diderot Pictorial Encyclopedia of Trades and Industry: 485 Plates Selected from L'Encyclopedie of Denis Diderot*. Volumes I and II. NY: Dover Pictorial Archives Series, 1959, 1987. Softcover ISBN 0-486-27428-4 and 0-486-27429-2

18<sup>th</sup> century collection of prints about manufacturing and how things work.

Johnson, Cathy. *Who Was I: Creating a Living History Persona; a Modest Guide to the Hows and Whys*. Excelsior Springs, MO: Graphics/Fine Arts Press, 1995. ISBN 0-9638158-1-4

Neumann, George C. and Frank J. Kravic. *Collector's Illustrated Encyclopedia of the American Revolution*. Secaucus, NJ: Castle Books, 1975.

A standard source, showing photos of original military equipment, but also personal accouterments such as pocket watches, eating utensils, camp equipment, etc.

## I. FEMALE FOLLOWERS OF THE ARMIES

Hagist, Don N. *The Women of the British Army in America* ©1994, 1995, 2002

<http://revwar75.com/library/hagist/britwomen.htm>

Rees, John U. "The multitude of women..." *An Examination of the Numbers of Female Camp Followers With the Continental Army* ©1992, 1993, 1996, 2002

<http://www.revwar75.com/library/rees/wnumb1.htm>

Rees, John U. "The proportion of Women which ought to be allowed..." *An Overview of Continental Army Female Camp Followers* ©1995, 2002

<http://www.revwar75.com/library/rees/proportion.htm>

Rees, John U. *"The number of rations issued to the women in camp." New Material Concerning Female Followers With Continental Regiments* © 1998, 2002

<http://www.revwar75.com/library/rees/wnumb2.htm>

Rees, John U. *"Some in rags and some in jags,' but none 'in velvet gowns.'" Insights on Clothing Worn by Female Followers of the Armies During the American War for Independence* © 1990, 2002

<http://revwar75.com/library/rees/wcloth.htm>

## **J. SOURCES TO AVOID**

These were once standard research sources for NWTAs members. Current research now shows that they contain a lot of errors and "misinterpretations," and therefore should not be used for clothing research.

- Klinger, Robert. *Distaff Sketchbook*.
- Klinger, Robert. *Sketchbook '76*.
- Oakes, Alma & Margot Hill. *Rural Costume: Its Origin and Development in Western Europe...*
- NWTAs Ethnic Clothing Guide by Bill Burke