

# **Fletcher's Scouting Company, Inc.**

## **Kit Requirements**

Overall General Impression:

In developing your impression it will be helpful to keep in mind who and what you are portraying as a historical interpreter. As a member of Fletcher's Scouting Company in 1755 you have been enlisted to serve as a provincial scout providing protection for the local communities. You are likely from the local community or perhaps from away being drawn from the garrison of Fort Saint George.

Regardless of your place of origin you are not wealthy and the quality and style of your possessions should reflect this. Based on documentation it is known the men of Fletcher's Scouting Company received an issue of green jackets, stockings and caps. The overall impression of the unit should reflect civilians enlisted into service wearing varying elements of the issued clothing. While some equipment and weapons may have been drawn from the fort, much of what you carry should be of civilian origin.

Being on the move you are conscious of comfort and durability. Because you are often out on patrol for several days at a time you must carry with you all you will need while not over burdening yourself with weight. Your essential gear will consist of food, water, the clothes on your back, a blanket, a means of carrying your food & personal affects, a canteen, the means to eat and prepare simple meals. The other critical components of your kit are your weapons and ammunition.

Your musket may be a personal fowler or a weapon drawn from the fort's arsenal. Regardless of the weapon's origin it is probable it is of an older design. Your ammunition would likely be issued to you in paper cartridges and stored in a cartouche box either carried on a shoulder strap or on a belt around your waist. You may also carry loose powder in a powder horn or an early powder flask with loose musket balls carried in your pocket or pouch. In addition to your musket you likely also carried an edged weapon such as a belt axe. While swords and bayonets met the edged weapon requirements of the militia, they would prove cumbersome, unwieldy and impractical for service when scouting the Maine woods.

Fletcher's Scouting Company Kit Requirements:

**These guidelines list specific items of your kit. Please consult with veteran members to determine the best sources for obtaining these items.**

All kit items and clothing need to be appropriate and documented to 1755 or moderately earlier. No kit items post dating this period will be acceptable for Fletcher's Scouting Company. Please bear in mind with documentation you must consider the relative commonality of an object and the cultural context in which it was found. The colonists of Northern New England considered the Native Americans as savages and were loath to adopt items representative of their culture. While moccasins and "Indian stockings" are permissible items, no native jewelry, beaded sashes or other Native American clothing or accessories shall be worn by members of Fletcher's Scouting Company.

## **CLOTHING:**

- **Shirts**

Preferred: Linen; natural, white, checked. Some images of striped shirts do exist

Acceptable: Cotton; natural, white, checked. Some images of striped shirts do exist

Unacceptable: Ruffled shirts; little evidence of solid colored shirts exists

- **Breeches**

Preferred: Fly front wool or linen breeches; leather breeches

Acceptable: Drop front wool or linen breeches. Fusian drop/fall front breeches

Unacceptable: Cotton canvas breeches and sailor slops

- **Stockings**

Preferred: Hand knit wool or sewn cloth

Acceptable: Machine knit wool

Unacceptable: Machine knit cotton; any style striped stockings

- **Shoes**

Preferred: Rough side out straight last 18<sup>th</sup> century shoes, tied or with buckles

Acceptable: Smooth side out straight or crooked last 18<sup>th</sup> century shoes, tied or with buckles, center seam moccasins

Unacceptable: Modern shoes or moccasins

- **Hats**

Preferred: Fletcher's Scouting Company cap, round blocked round hat with brim of various sizes, fantail hat, civilian cocked hat, monmouth cap

Acceptable: Oval blocked round hat with brim of various sizes, fantail hat, civilian cocked hat

Unacceptable: Toque, rifleman's hat, jockey cap, tied bandana, 19<sup>th</sup> century straw hat

- **Neck Treatment**

Preferred: Linen, cotton or silk roller; cotton or linen cravat

Acceptable: Linen or cotton neck stock

Unacceptable: Leather military style neck stock

- **Waistcoat (worm under an outer garment)**

Preferred: Linen or wool, solid colored or striped

Acceptable: Some cottons were available but were more expensive than linen and wool

Unacceptable: Sleeveless waistcoats should not be worn without a sleeved garment in most cases

- **Outer Garment**

Preferred: Green Fletcher's Scouting Company jacket

Acceptable: Sleeved waistcoat, frock coat, laborer's coat, work shirt

Unacceptable: Oil cloth "raincoat", Capote, hunting shirt or frock

## **EQUIPMENT:**

- **Blanket**

Preferred: Cream colored wool with blue stripe at bottom, plain cream colored wool blanket

Acceptable: Wool blanket of brown or gray

Unacceptable: Hudson Bay blanket

- **Cartouche (cartridge) Box / Powder Horn**

Preferred: Shoulder carried or belly cartridge box – simple is better; powder horn

Acceptable: Military style shoulder carried cartridge box

Unacceptable: Powder horn with finial on butt plug. Powder horn made of Buffalo or Water Buffalo horn. Horn with brass powder measure built in

- **Means of carrying personal items**

Preferred: Non military style haversack, snapsack, blanket roll

Acceptable: Morier style knapsack

Unacceptable: Military style knapsack, 19<sup>th</sup> century knapsack

- **Edged Weapon**

Preferred: Belt axe, tomahawk

Acceptable: Bayonet

Unacceptable: Pipe tomahawk, pierced tomahawk

- **Canteen**

Preferred: Gourd, redware jug or flask, rundlet, leather covered period bottle, early wooden stave canteen

Acceptable: Kidney shaped canteen covered with wool

Unacceptable: 19<sup>th</sup> century metal canteen

- **Musket**

Preferred: Civilian muskets predating 1750

Acceptable: Military muskets predating 1750

Unacceptable: Rifles, late (post 1750) Long Land muskets, 2<sup>nd</sup> model land pattern muskets, Charleville muskets, cut down Brown Bess or barrel shorter than 39 inches, pistols

- **Mess kit**

Preferred: Wooden bowl, tin cup, two tined fork, table knife, clasp knife, wood or bone spoon

Acceptable: Pewter bowl, spoon or plate. Cup - redware, stoneware or delft

Unacceptable: Corn boiler / 19<sup>th</sup> century mucket, squirrel cooker, folding handle fry pan