

# Brush's Independent Company, Ohio Militia, 1812

## Clothing & Equipment Guide

Since all members of our recreation of Brush's Company must first be members of the 8<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Regiment, Fort Laurens Detachment (B.A.R. unit #50), you are familiar with the clothing guide of the 8<sup>th</sup>. This guide is arranged in the same way, but is, in many instances, more restrictive. This may at first thought seem odd, that a militia unit would have more restrictive dress and equipment requirements than a regular military unit, but there is a simple explanation. While the 8<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania existed 1776-1781, with numerous sources and issues of clothing and equipment, Brush's Company served for only six months. They volunteered, chose their officers and uniforms, acquired the fabric and had the uniforms made all on the same day, so they have a single source and time of supply. It is probable that the fabric for their frocks and trousers came off the same bolt(s), and this would lend to a very uniform appearance. We are fortunate that unit member Samuel Williams wrote a very detailed description of their dress and equipment, and also explained that they mustered one day, chose their uniforms, and marched off the next day, dressed and equipped. Williams wrote;

*“Every one, officers and men, were alike dressed in unbleached, tow-linen Hunting shirts, and trowsers of the same material, with low-crown hats, on the left side of which were worn black cockades about two inches in diameter, on the center of which were displayed a small silver eagle about the size of a silver quarter-dollar. Around the waist of each was a stout leather girdle: in a leather pocket attached to this was slung behind a good sized tomahawk, and in a leather sheath, also attached to the girdle, hung a medium sized butcher knife. On the right hip, attached to a broad leather strap, thrown over the left shoulder hung the cartridge box, filled with ball-cartridges. On the left side, in a leather sheath, suspended to another broad leather strap, thrown over the right shoulder, hung the bayonet. On the same side hung a tin canteen, holding about a quart, suspended to a small leather strap over the right shoulder. The fire-arm was a United States musket, with bayonet, and a leather strap by which to sling the musket over the shoulder, for more convenient carrying when on a march. The knapsack was a heavy, linen sack, painted and varnished, about sixteen inches wide, and of the same depth, with a flap on the under side, thrown over the mouth, and tied by strings. To the upper and lower corner on each side was a strap through which to pass the arms. The knapsack was the repository of the changes of clothing, and such articles of necessity or convenience as each might choose to take along. On the top was lashed the blanket, and over this a piece of oil-cloth to protect all from the rain. The knapsack was slung on the back, and the straps through which the arms passed were tied by another strap across the breast. The arms and accoutrements including the knapsack, weighed about thirty or thirty-five pounds”*

( Samuel Williams, ed. , “Two Western Campaigns In the War of 1812-13”, in OHIO VALLEY HIST. SERIES, Cincinnati 1870, originally written in 1854 for the LADIE'S REPOSITORY).

### **Hunting Frock**

Unbleached tow linen. You may buy this garment finished, or the fabric and pattern to make your own, from Smoke and Fire. Make sure you mention “Bob Cairns” and “Brush’s Company” to Donlyn Myers there, so she has a point of reference. At the time of this writing, Smoke and Fire is the only source for this item, or the necessary fabric and pattern to make your own. This garment is cut very differently than a Revolutionary War hunting shirt. It is tailored and longer, and **Revolutionary War hunting frocks are NOT acceptable.**

### **Trousers**

Unbleached tow linen. The source information is the same as the hunting frock. Revolutionary War trousers are NOT acceptable. 1812 period trousers are very high-waisted, and you will need a pair of braces (suspenders). These will be available from the unit, or from any Amish harness maker, since they still wear 18<sup>th</sup> c. style leather braces. (The leather from them, however, might be chrome-tanned, and not correct for us). NO ELASTIC suspenders.

### **Shirt**

Any late 18<sup>th</sup> c. or early 19<sup>th</sup> c. shirt in linen or cotton (very appropriate for 1812) is appropriate. Your Revolutionary War shirts are proper and acceptable. Bone, horn, thread or cloth-covered wooden buttons of your choice. Stamped, two-piece metal buttons were also available in the 1812 period. Wearing your Revolutionary War shirt(s) is appropriate and economical.

### **Stockings/Socks**

Your Revolutionary War stockings will be fine, and you may also choose to wear shorter socks of wool, cotton, or silk.

### **Shoes**

Your Revolutionary War shoes are highly appropriate, but shoe buckles had gone out of fashion by 1812. Just remove your buckles and replace them with ribbon or leather laces. (Don’t use modern leather laces, since they are not the correct leather). Moccasins are NOT appropriate.

### **Half-gaiters- OPTIONAL**

You may wear half gaiters over your shoes and under your trousers. (A good option for someone with foot problems who needs to wear modern shoes). These gaiters, if worn, should be made of canvas painted black with black horn buttons. (Cast metal buttons are acceptable, but are heavy and also easily snag on things).

### **Neck stock**

A neck stock is required, but it is your choice of style and material. They may tie or buckle, and you may wear;

- your Revolutionary War stock
- a leather 1812 Ohio Militia stock, available from Dave Canan of our regiment. (It has an embossed eagle and checkering design, and is quite handsome).
- A neck cloth or scarf, of linen, cotton, or silk in a plain solid appropriate color.  
No printed pattern neck cloths.

### **Waistcoat – OPTIONAL**

Waistcoats are optional. I would recommend one if you would like to remove your frock during the day, and preserve your 1812-era modesty. These waistcoats must be of 1812 pattern, and should NOT be military. These should be wool, linen, cotton, or silk, solid color or print, with civilian buttons. I do not believe a man would wear his best, fanciest waistcoat if he signed up to do the work, (herding cattle and supplies), for which Brush's men enlisted. So, a fine, fancy waistcoat may be correct for the period, and the person, but not for the task.

Complete 1812 waistcoats are available from a variety of sources, including, but not limited to;

- Smoke and Fire (completed garment, patterns, & fabric)
- Jas. Townsend and Son (completed garment, pattern, & fabric)
- C & D Jarnigan (completed garment)
- Burnley and Trowbridge (a great fabric source)

### **Hat**

Low-crowned (about 4"- 4 ½") narrow brim, flat-topped black felt. This hat, either finished ( \$80.00), or unfinished (\$50.00) is available from Matt Brenckle who works on the U.S.S. Constitution. Finishing this hat is very simple. The leather cockade is available from unit member Dave Canan, and once you have your hat, contact Bob Cairns who will send you the silver eagle for the center of the cockade, along with instructions for its placement. I have priced hats from other sources, and this one is not only the most economical, but also the most correct. If you already have one of the "Coachman's hats" Townsend used to sell, they are alright, but do not buy the hat Townsend now sells.

### **Long Arm**

You may carry the long arm you now use with the 8<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania. No one need buy a special weapon for this impression. Here is the rank order of preferred weapons;

1<sup>st</sup> – Any Springfield or Harper's Ferry musket of the 1795-1812 period (no one has one of these).

2<sup>nd</sup> - French muskets of the 1763 & 1766 pattern (commonly called "Charlevilles")

3<sup>rd</sup> - British 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> model, short land muskets.

4<sup>th</sup> - 1803 Harpers Ferry rifle

5<sup>th</sup> - 1807 Contract rifle

6<sup>th</sup> - any flintlock musket correct for the Revolutionary War. Just remember, that 1<sup>st</sup> model, Long land British muskets, and French muskets pre-1763 would be at least 70 years old in 1812, and not desirable for their weight or reliability, so they would have been rare on the parade field.

If you have a choice between a French "Charleville" and a British musket, choose the French musket.

For a nice, concise explanation of long arms available to the U. S. forces during the War of 1812, see either of the fine books written by Rene' Chartrand. They are:

Uniforms and Equipment of the United States Forces in the War of 1812 (out of print and very expensive these days), or the newly released A Most Warlike Appearance: Uniforms, Flags and Equipment of the United States in the War of 1812 .

Black leather slings for your muskets will be available from the unit by summer 2011, for the price of materials. These black harness leather slings are fine for the Revolutionary War, and you won't need to switch them for each impression.

### **Cartridge Box**

You may use your Revolutionary War cartridge pouch, especially if it is the "Congressional Box" sold in kit form by the unit. Any black leather Revolutionary War box will work, if the carriage strap can be removed and replaced by a black harness leather strap, again for the price of materials.

If you want to have an 1808 cartridge box, Dixie Gun Works sells a good copy for about \$45.00, but they call it "Revolutionary War Cartridge Pouch", pg. 237 in their 2011 catalog. If you buy one of these, you can also purchase the carriage strap from them, but the one from the unit will be less expensive.

No belly boxes will be used.

### **Bayonet Carriage**

The proper carriage is the 1808 pattern, of black harness leather with a cast brass plate. These will be available from the unit for the cost of materials, but you can buy one from C&D Jarnigan if you like, for about \$110.00. The socket of the bayonet scabbard is turned in toward the body, so you will need to pierce your carriage for the bayonet scabbard locket, since we will be using a variety of bayonets in our unit.

**NOTE** You will be able to use the bayonet scabbard you currently use for the 8<sup>th</sup> Pa., but since the throat of the bayonet is in toward your body in the 1812 configuration, you will need to pierce your carriage in the appropriate place for your bayonet scabbard lug. If you are not absolutely clear on this, don't pierce your 1808 frog, just bring it to an event and we'll help you get your bayonet in the correct position. Ask someone BEFORE you cut the slot).

### **Waistbelt**

Black harness leather, with a "double D" buckle, 1 ¾ " wide. These will be available from the unit for the cost of materials. You will need to have your own knife sheath and tomahawk pouch made, because we all will be carrying knives and tomahawks of our own choosing. Wayne Neilsen of the Royal Naval Landing Party does a very nice job on knife sheaths and tomahawk pockets, and I recommend him.

### **Canteen and Leather Carriage**

Round tin canteens, painted medium blue with a white "U.S.", on a black harness leather strap with an iron buckle. These will be available from the unit for the price of materials, and the unit is the ONLY source for these.

### **Backpack**

Heavy linen canvas, painted red and varnished. The unit cadre is currently working on a pattern and these will be available by summer 2011, for the cost of materials. The unit will be the ONLY source for these. You will need this since the original unit did not have haversacks.

### **Knife**

A simple wood handled kitchen butcher knife is your best choice. You can find these at flea markets and junk stores very reasonably. Look for knives with tapered

shanks and iron rivet(s) in the handle. A worn, unmarked blade is great. A big, fancy knife is NOT appropriate. Again, look for an old, plain kitchen butcher knife, like your grandmother used.

### **Tomahawk**

Your choice, but remember this is a TOOL, not a status symbol, so “fancy” is not appropriate. (Carpenters choose hammers based on utility, not appearance). Also, remember you have to carry it, and bigger is also heavier.

### **Source List**

Following are some sources for 1812 clothing and equipment, as well as some prices for items offered. (These prices are correct as of April, 2011, and do not include postage or handling costs).

#### **Bob Cairns**

1919 Yale Ave. NW  
Canton, Ohio 44709  
(330) 455-9722  
[robtcairns@cs.com](mailto:robtcairns@cs.com)

#### **Matt Brenckle**

24 Puritan Rd.  
Somerville, Ma. 02145  
(617) 426-1812 work  
(617) 718-2806 hm.  
[gonfalon@hotmail.com](mailto:gonfalon@hotmail.com)

#### **Dave Canan**

813 N. Court St.  
Circleville, Ohio 48130  
(740) 474-5023  
[abcdanan@gmail.com](mailto:abcdanan@gmail.com)

cartridge box carriage  
bayonet carriage  
waistbelt  
tin canteen & carriage  
musket sling  
backpack  
cockade eagle

hat

embossed leather neck stock  
embossed leather hat cockade

#### **Smoke and Fire (Donlyn Meyers)**

27 N. River Rd.  
Waterville, Ohio 43566  
(800) 766-5334  
[www.smoke-fire.com](http://www.smoke-fire.com)

#### **Jas. Townsend & Son**

133 North First St.  
P.O. Box 415  
Pierceton, In. 46562  
[jas-townsend.com](http://jas-townsend.com)

#### **Dixie Gun Works**

1412 W. Reelfoot Ave.  
Union City, Tn. 38261  
(800) 238-6785  
[www.dixiegunworks.com](http://www.dixiegunworks.com)

hunting frock  
trousers  
frock & trousers pattern & linen  
waistcoat

waistcoat (early 19<sup>th</sup> c.)

1808 cartridge box  
1808 cartridge box carriage

C & D Jarnagin  
P.O. Box 1860  
103 Franklin St.  
Corinth, Ms. 38835  
(662) 287-6033  
[www.cjarnaginco.com](http://www.cjarnaginco.com)

G. Gedney Godwin  
2139 Welsh Valley Rd.  
Valley Forge, Pa. 19481  
(610) 783-0670  
[sales@gggodwin.com](mailto:sales@gggodwin.com)

S & S Arms  
74-11 Myrtle Ave.  
Glendale, N.Y. 11385  
(718) 497-1100  
[www.ssfirearms.com](http://www.ssfirearms.com)

1808 cartridge box carriage  
1808 cartridge box  
1808 bayonet carriage  
1808 bayonet scabbard  
musket sling  
waistbelt  
waistcoat

1808 cartridge box carriage  
1808 cartridge box  
musket sling  
bayonet scabbard

1808 cartridge box carriage  
1808 cartridge box

**Price List** (as of April 2011)

| <u>Item</u>            | <u>Jarnagin</u> | <u>S &amp; S</u> | <u>Godwin</u>         | <u>Townsend</u> | <u>Smoke &amp; Fire</u> | <u>Dixie</u>                         |
|------------------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Cartridge Box          | \$217.00        | \$72.00          | \$126.00              |                 |                         | \$45.00                              |
| Cartridge Box carriage | \$45.00         | \$18.00          | \$29.00               |                 |                         | \$13.00                              |
| Bayonet Carriage       | \$110.00        |                  |                       |                 |                         |                                      |
| Bayonet Scabbard       | \$56.00         |                  | \$24.00 (French only) |                 |                         |                                      |
| Musket Sling           | \$40.00         |                  | \$26.25               |                 |                         | \$55.00 (French)<br>\$22.00(English) |
| Waistcoat              | \$150.00        |                  |                       | \$90.00         | \$65.00                 |                                      |
| Waistbelt              | \$45.00         |                  |                       |                 |                         |                                      |

The unit will be selling a complete package of the following;

- Waist belt w/ brass buckle (included buckle was \$11.00 from Roy Najecki)
- Bayonet Carriage w/ brass plate (brass plate was \$20.00 from Jarnagin)
- Tin Canteen w/ carriage (canteen \$21.00 from Old Sturbridge Village, iron buckle \$4.00 from Najecki)
- Cartridge box carriage
- Musket sling

We have 11 of these sets, and they will sell for \$95.00. You only be paying for the materials, not the labor to cut out, sew, and dye these items. The only way to purchase on of these sets is to send a check or money order to Bob Cairns, made out to "Doug Angeloni" for \$95.00. Please only buy one of these sets if you are absolutely going to do this impression, since they involve a lot of work, and I don't want to think of them hanging in a closet.

## **Drummers**

The unit will have available black leather drum carriages for a very reasonable price, and they will have the same brass plate as the bayonet carriages.

---

**For *any* questions regarding this impress, please contact me, Bob Cairns. Just as in the Revolutionary Period, it is twice as expensive to “do it wrong”, since you’ll have to re-do it.**