



1778-1781

BURNING OF THE VALLEYS Military Association

AUTHENTICITY GUIDELINES

*** Note from the Education Committee and BVMA Board of Directors: while we realize that the BVMA(according to our mission statement) can not dictate standards to the member units, the Board does hereby encourage and request member units to adopt the BVMA authenticity standards. We feel that by setting uniform authenticity guidelines members will be better equipped to represent the BVMA and reenforce our mission and goals in a more accurate manner.

-Each member should dress and equip in the manner that best reflects the specific military unit, nationality, age, occupation and social class of the persona being re created. Care is to be taken in choosing clothing and accoutrements appropriate to the region (Mohawk, Schoharie and upper Hudson valleys) for the period of the American War for Independence (Revolutionary War) 1775-1781. **Proper documentation is important.**

-In the interest of safety and authenticity, clothing must be constructed of natural fibers (linen, wool, cotton,silk,hemp) taking care to use documented colors, weaves, weights . Any visible stitching should be handsewn. Details, details, details.

-Obvious anachronisms should be eliminated. This includes but is not limited to : modern wrist watches, sneakers, makeup, nail polish, modern jewelry. Efforts to limit the use of plastic frame glasses are encouraged when possible and feasible, the use of a plain black sneaker or modern shoe is acceptable when health issues make the wearing of period footwear detrimental or not possible. (Please try to disguise these exceptions if at all possible)

-Facial hair was not the norm during this period, men were clean shaven, if this is not possible, consider trimming to a "stubble" stage.

-Every member is requested to dress in the manner of the period. Basic clothing for men: shirt, breeches/trousers, waistcoat and frock coat, jacket, box frock or other sleeved garment, stockings, footwear, neckcloth and hat. This should be worn when ever in public or out of doors. Basic clothing for women: shift, 2 petticoats, stays/jumps, neck handkerchief, fitted jacket or gown (bedgown/shortgown) apron, cap,stockings, footwear plus a straw, wool felt or silk bonnet when out of doors. *****If you currently wear a "sleeveless bodice, english bodice, french bodice or vest" please consider replacing it with a