

bed gown or shortgown which can be worn without stays or jumps. ( These garments are not to be worn as an outer garment. There is no documentation that this item was ever worn in the colonies during this period) **PLEASE DO NOT PURCHASE OR MAKE a sleeveless bodice unless you are able to provide documentation to prove that this garment was worn by the person you are portraying.** (Unfortunately they are still being sold by some sutlers or merchants.)

-A sleeved outer garment and head coverings are to be worn in public, this is in keeping with the social proprieties of the period (this applies to men and women). An exception to this rule would be while performing "heavy" or dirty physical chores ( wood chopping, plowing, shoveling, laundry etc.) the outer garment should be donned after finishing the task.

-Children's attire should be as accurate for the time period as possible. Toddlers of both sexes wore caps and gowns,( often called coats for boys) over a shift, normally leading strings were attached to the shoulders and tied to the caregiver's apron strings, to keep them close and out of harm's way. (Hence the " cut the apron strings" adage) After a male child was "breached" (at 4-6 years of age) he wore breeches, shirt, waistcoat, jacket, stockings, shoes and hat/cap . Girls wore the back lacing gown until "puberty" . When she came of age she would dress as an adult woman. We realize that it may be challenging to provide proper clothing and shoes for growing children. Often one can procure hand me downs . Allowances will be made for children with physical limitations, at the discretion of the parent.

-Participants are expected to refrain from smoking cigarettes while dressed in period clothing especially during public hours. A clay pipe is a period alternative used by both men and women.

-Camps are to be kept as authentic as possible, modern items will always be kept out of sight. Iron ware, tents, flies, and camp "furniture" should be limited to that which would have been available to the militia/army on the march (think "light"). \*\*\*\* Please keep tents with your modern amenities tied closed during public hours.

-Conversation in public areas should be period appropriate.

There are many people in the BVMA organization who are willing to offer assistance in reaching the level of authenticity we are expecting. Resources are available to research , construct or purchase appropriate clothing and equipment. **(YOU JUST HAVE TO ASK )** There are Sutlers/Merchants within the BVMA who sell/manufacture correct documented items. **DOCUMENTATION IS IMPORTANT TO OUR HOBBY.**

We hope that individual Units will adopt and enforce clothing and equipment guidelines of their own. New members should be informed of the standards (before purchasing items which are known to be incorrect). Experienced members should make themselves available to share research and assist new members building their impression and "wardrobe".

Thank you all in advance for your attention to these guidelines. The details **are** important and help to give character and credibility to your impression.