

On the Frontier

Newsletter of the Frontier Living History Group

Date – June 2009

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Important information

Victorian Police's – Re-enactors Guide Booklet
http://www.police.vic.gov.au/retrievemedia.asp?media_id=36984&status=active

UP COMING EVENTS



In 2009

September

Southern Cross Free Trappers Camp at Beaver Creek

19th /20th thru to 26th /27th Sept

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What did things cost?

North America 18th century: (These North American prices are likely price in official colonial shilling which are inflated over the British silver shilling price by 30 to 100%, depending on the year and location.)

1 quart Mug - 1 Shilling -1780's North Carolina

Potter Teapot - 1.5 Shillings -1780's North Carolina

1 China Plate - 20 Shillings -1749 Boston

Cream Colored plate - .5 Shilling -1777 Boston

Leather Breaches - 18 Shillings -1738 Boston

India Chints (calico) - 8 Shillings/yard - 1743 Boston

Felt Hat from Scotland - 8.5 Shillings - 1739 Boston

Paper of Tooth Powder - .5 Shilling - 1712 Boston

Sugar - 3 Shillings per Lbs -1724 Boston

Green Tea - 20 Shillings per lbs -1736 Boston

Milk - 2 Shillings per quart -1748 Boston (wow, imagine spending half a days wages on a quart of milk)

Eggs - 5 Shillings per Dozen -1748 Boston (Yikes!, I am buying some chickens)

Charcoal - 3 Shillings per Bushel -1748 Boston

Lisbon Lemons 12 Shillings per Dozen - 1768 Boston

Mug of Rum - 1 Shilling -1750 Boston - Listed as "Old Tenor" being undervalued older paper currency

British Coins value

Gold Guinea = 21 Silver Shillings

Silver Crown = 5 Silver Shillings

Silver Shilling = 12 Pence (early pence were silver while later versions were copper)

1 Pence = 2 copper Half-pennies or 4 copper Farthings

How much were people paid?

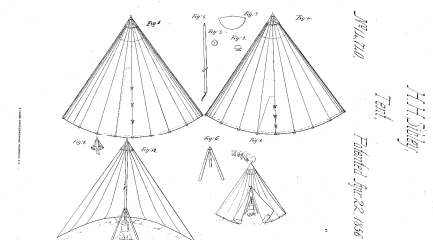
A quick look at some references can give us a little idea about wages for typical laborers. London, 1765, unskilled laborer might be paid 10 shillings a week (equiv, Approximately 2 silver dollars, I mean silver dollars

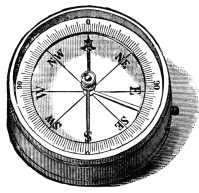
made of silver not today's dollar coins which have not been made of silver since the 1960's). Wages in the 18th century America are cited as being 30 to 100% higher. Here are two examples one from North Carolina, 1784: a older apprentice to the potter was paid 15 Shillings (3 silver dollars) a week and a teacher in Virginia, 1759, was paid 24 Shillings (about 5 silver dollars) a week. I do have one question when I look at these numbers, what were these workers in the colonies getting paid in? If they are being paid in goods or bills of credit that were discounted 50%, then maybe their pay was not that much higher. There is also 1760 reference of using soldiers as laborers and paying about 5 Shillings (about one dollar) a week specifically in New York currency. I wonder how many takers they had at that rate. JP Martin in "Private Yankee Doodle" (Rev war) speaks of being paid only once during the war and then in specie, that being borrowed from a French officer.

From Jas. Townsend and Son, Compendium in Progress
<http://www.jastown.com/blog/?cat=2>

The Sibley Tent History

The Sibley tent was invented by Henry Hopkins Sibley, who had studied the tipi during the expeditions he carried out in the Old West. He patented his tent design in 1856. In accordance in an agreement with the Department of War in 1858, he would have received five dollars for every tent they made. However, Sibley joined the Confederate States Army after the outbreak of the American Civil War and did not receive the royalty. The Federal Army had used almost 44,000 Sibley tents during the war. After Sibley's death, his relatives attempted unsuccessfully to collect the royalties





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A Colonial Women's Clothing: A Glossary of Terms

Brunswick

A three-quarter length jacket worn with a petticoat, the Brunswick was an informal gown or a traveling gown. It had a high neck, unstiffened bodice that buttoned, long sleeves, and frequently had a sack back (loose pleats) and a hood.

Cap

The cap was worn by women and girls to dress their heads. It was a practical piece that allowed the head to be dressed without styling the hair. At the same time it protected the hair from everyday dust and dirt so that the hair need not be washed as frequently. A hat was tied on top of the cap when going out. The cap could be made of linen, cotton, or even all lace. Lace and ruffles could be added to the cap. The style of fashionable cap changed frequently.

Cape

A protective outer garment that was shaped to the neck, covered the shoulders, fastened at the center front and was usually shorter than a cloak. Made of either heavy or light fabrics of wool, cotton, or silk.

Caraco

A jacket of many different styles worn in the second half of the 18th century. It was worn with a petticoat and was considered day wear at home or for informal activities. It was always considered "undress."

Cloak

A long, loose, unfitted, protective outer garment that fell from the neck and the shoulders and was usually secured at the center front neck. Sometimes hooded, and usually made of a heavy woolen fabric.

Dress

Dress in the 18th century referred to the overall fashion for everyone and not a single garment. It was the total look from head to toe. Full dress would refer to the most formal, fashionable look. Today the military's most formal uniform is referred to as the full-dress uniform.

Fashionable Undress

In the 18th century this referred to the less formal clothing for everyone, but still in the best of fashion. Usually worn during the day.

Gown

Throughout the 18th century a woman's dress usually consisted of a gown and petticoat. The gown consisted of the bodice and skirt joined together, with the skirt open in the front to reveal the separate petticoat, which was an essential part of the dress and not an undergarment.

Hat

Worn for fashion and for protection against the sun, a lady out of doors almost always wore a hat. A fashionable hat usually had a very shallow, flat crown and a wide brim. Hats of chips or straw were the most popular from the 1730s to the 1770s. There were many ways for them to be trimmed and trims would change with the fashions. A straw hat might even be entirely covered with fabric. Ladies' riding hats were often of felt and might be cocked like a gentleman's.

Jesuit

Similar to the Brunswick, but the skirt of the gown was full length.

Mitts or Mittens

In the 18th century mitts were elbow-length, fingerless gloves. Although there was a thumb, it was open and the fingers were left free. They were usually cut with peaked flaps over the knuckles. Embroidered floral motifs and fancy arm openings were popular adornments. Heavy mitts gave warmth in winter and light weight ones protected the arms from the sun in summer. In the winter the hands could be kept warm with a muff.

Muffs

Tube-like accessories used for keeping the hands warm, muffs were of various sizes as dictated by fashion. They could be covered with fur, cloth, or feathers, and were usually padded.

Mob Cap

A mob was undress headwear; becoming popular in the 1730s and worn in some form into the next century. It had a puffed crown placed high on the back of the head, a deep flat border surrounding the face, and side pieces carried down like short lappets, which could be left loose, pinned, or tied under the chin. The flat border usually was frilled or had lace.

Pattens

Pattens were overshoes consisting of a raised sole standing on an iron ring, with an adjustable strap used to secure them. Designed to lift the wearer's shoes off the ground so as to protect them from soiling or damage when there was wetness, mud, or muck. Pattens were worn by both men and women into the early 20th century.

Petticoat

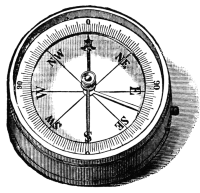
A woman's skirt-like garment worn with a gown or jacket. Most gowns were open-fronted robes needing the addition of the petticoat to fill the gap. Quilted ones could be worn for both warmth and fashion. Underpetticoats of linen, wool, or cotton were added for warmth.

Riding Habit

A riding habit consisted of a petticoat, jacket, and waistcoat, or waistcoat fronts attached to the jacket. The jacket followed the lines of men's coats until the 1780s, except that it had a waist seam and bust darts. Habits were suitable for traveling and fashionable undress.

Shift

The shift was the undermost garment worn by children and women. It served the same purpose as the man's shirt. Made from various qualities of white linen, it had either a drawstring or plain neck, as well as drawstrings or cuffs at the elbows. It could be plain or lace trimmed.



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Shoes

Shoes were made of silk fabrics, worsteds, or leathers. Depending on current fashions, they may or may not have had elevated heels. They would fasten by buckles, clasps or, if very utilitarian they might have ties.

Short Gown

Loose T-shaped garments cut to the length of the hip or thigh. Made to wrap or Bed Gown over in front and held together by pinning or held closed with the apron. Made of utilitarian fabrics to be worn by the laboring sort and made of better fabric for the middling sort and worn as undress.

Sleeve Ruffles

Ruffles were attached to the edge of the gown sleeves to cover the elbows. Either plain or lace trimmed ruffles, the degree of decoration and the number of ruffles varied with fashion.

Stomacher

A triangular shaped piece of fabric used in the front of the gown to hold the gown together. Sometimes soft, but might be stiffened, it would be attached to the bodice lining by pins and tabs, hooks and eyes, or lacing. It might be plain or highly trimmed. It could be made of the same fabric of the gown, or of contrasting fabric and therefore might be worn with different gowns.

Tucker

A plain or lace ruffle stitched around the neck of a gown.

Undress

Undress in the 18th century referred to the everyday, utilitarian working clothes.

Stays

Stays were the essential foundation garment of the 18th century. They developed from the "boned bodies" of the 17th century, and in the 19th century were to become corsets. But just as the names of these garments changed, so did the shape and effect upon the body. The fashionable 17th century torso was an elongated tubular trunk, with little taper and encased the bosom. Through the 18th century stays covered the body

with their conical form, lifting and supporting the bosom. In the 19th century corsets created a curvilinear body, minimizing the waist and accentuating the bosom. The stays of the 18th century, therefore, did much more to support the body and remind one of good posture than they did to cinch the waist. Women of the gentry and middling sorts wore stays most of the time. Children of these classes also wore stays to learn proper carriage. While fashionable ladies' stays were wanted for a good shape, working women needed them for good support. All women were admonished by their contemporaries to not tightly lace or "straight" lace their stays out of concern for possible injury. Those who did so out of vanity were mocked by the satirical print to the right, entitled, "Tight Lacing or Fashion before Ease." The extent to which stays were worn by slaves is unclear. Plantation records do not indicate the use of stays in the yearly allotment to field slaves. That some slaves, particularly house slaves, did wear stays is proven by the many descriptions in runaway ads. As the sorts of women who wore stays varied greatly, so did the types and quality of the garments themselves. Frequently constructed in layers of linen with narrow strips of boning inserted within, stays could vary from perfectly rigid to very pliable. Boning was either baleen, metal, wood, pasteboard, or pack thread. Their exteriors could be covered in fine silks, utilitarian worsteds, or plain linens. Perhaps the lowest sort of stays were those given by church charity, generally made in a single layer of thick leather.

From Colonial Williamsburg
<http://www.history.org/history/clothing/women/wglossary.cfm>



Did You Know -The strawberry

The strawberry as we know it did not exist until early 18th century when a French officer imported woodland strawberries from North America to France where they were crossed with *Fragaria chiloensis* from Chile. In other words, the famous strawberry is a hybrid.

One of the first to taste the strawberry was the famous and admired Madame de Pompadour. She cultivated them in one of her gardens among with other expensive and rare fruits and berries.

US States That Were Dissolved

State of Muskogee 1799 - 1803.

Capital: Mikasuke. Native American state located in Florida populated with Creeks and Seminoles.

The Republic of West Florida 1810.

Capital: St. Francisville, LA. Covered parts of Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi.

The Republic of Indian Stream 1832 - 1835. Capital: Pittsburg, NH. A country-state located within New Hampshire, founded under a land grant from a Native American Chief known as King Philip.

Republic of the Rio Grande 1840.

Covered parts of Mexico and Texas, Having its capital in Texas, Mexico, and Texas again.

California Republic 1823 - 1846.

Capital: Sonoma

A notice in a 1753 Boston newspaper

Notice is hereby given, That for the future none will be admitted to see the new manufactory at Germantown [Braintree], unless they pay at least one shilling lawfull money; and they are desired not to ask above three or four questions, and not to be offended if they have not a satisfactory answer to all or any of them.