

# On the Frontier

Newsletter of the Frontier Living History Group

Date – Oct 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](http://www.police.vic.gov.au/retrievemedia.asp?media_id=36984&status=active)

### MAKING BEESWAX POLISH:

This is equally good for wood or leather. ( and very water proof )

#### You will need

1. an old or cheap coarse cheese grater,
2. a wide mouth jar or tin that seals well,
3. pure beeswax,
4. pure turpentine (not mineral, it should smell like pine trees)
5. and raw linseed oil.

#### Method:

Grate the beeswax into the container until it's almost full.

Pour in enough turpentine to come halfway up the wax and allow it to dissolve.

Pour in linseed oil to make up one part in 3 and stir with a stick.

It's now ready to use. Apply with a soft smooth linen rag. Allow to dry and buff up with a fresh clean rag. If applying to raw wood or leather it will soak it up quickly. Reapply as necessary until the surface is sealed and protected.

**Ref: Andrea Willett's** – Fitting and making Period Turnshoes workshop notes from the 15<sup>th</sup> Historical conference 2009

## GEORGE WASHINGTON'S CAMP STOOL



Date: about 1776

Catalog #: 79371M

Accession #: 319870

Credit: Division of Military History and Diplomacy, National Museum of American History

#### *Dimensions / Weight*

Dimensions: 17" H x 26" W x 15" D

#### *Physical Description*

Folding camp stool with wooden frame and leather seat.

#### *Specific History*

George Washington's camp stool used during the Revolutionary War. Made by Plunkett Fleeson

#### *General History*

When Washington encamped with his army, the troops carried tents, a collapsible bed, folding tables, camp stools, and bags and trunks filled with equipment. Two sets of camp chests were purchased by Washington on 3 May 1776. Another set was captured from a British ship and sent to Washington in October 1778.

By 1782, Washington's camp equipment was so extensive that he requested from Quartermaster Timothy Pickering two horses just to carry the load.

#### **Ref: The Price of Freedom**

<http://americanhistory.si.edu/militaryhistory/collection/object.asp?ID=711&back=1>

**See camp stool plans on page 4**

## GEORGE WASHINGTON'S CAMP EQUIPMENT MADE BY PLUNKETT FLEESON

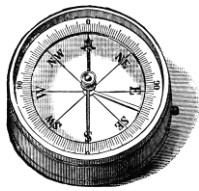
During the Spring of 1776 an order was placed with Plunkett Fleeson, a merchant located on Third Street in Philadelphia, for three tents and tent equipage. The tents were to be made under the direction of Captain Moulder of the artillery, and were to be delivered to General Washington.

The Sleeping tent --was rectangular in shape with an A-frame roof extended at each end and by semicircles, having a roof of a semiconical shape. It was 16' long by 10' wide. The inner chamber had a wooden floor and was rectangular, with a smaller rectangular section at one end that housed the General's cot or his four-poster bed. Washington also had this sleeping tent modified by adding a second entrance on the side opposite the original entrance.

The Dining tent -was the largest of the tents ordered, measuring 18' by 20'. This tent was sometimes referred to as a banquet tent since it could hold 40 to 50 men under its roof.

The Baggage tent- was the third tent listed on the original order placed by Washington, but it seems to have disappeared, leaving historians baffled as to its whereabouts and questioning whether it was ever completed and delivered.

The marquees were made of heavy linen, all hand sewn in Fleeson's shop, and they had an inner lining to further protect the General from the elements. Washington also purchased eighteen camp stools from Fleeson, along with camp tables, a good camp bed, dish ware, pots, cutlery and other items that were all transported by the army baggage wagons.



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**Ref: Tredyffrin Easttown Historical Society** - *History Quarterly* Digital Archives - October 1998 Volume 36 Number 4, Pages 105–112  
<http://www.tehistory.org/hqda/html/v36/v36n4p105.html>

## BEAVER CREEK CAMP 2009

While this was our 3 year at attending Beaver Creek – it was our 1<sup>st</sup> as The Frontiers Living History Group.



The 1<sup>st</sup> Official Photo of the Frontiers Living History Group – Gary, Jenny, Don & Mappo

Having only starting the group in May we had worked hard to prepare and make as much as possible for our 1<sup>st</sup> camp as the new group.

Don and Gary had made the pieced Tin Lanterns which gave our tents real warm atmosphere at night and they really looked great.



Jenny had worked her fingers to the bone hand sewing the outfits. Making fringed hunting frocks, drop front breeches, weskits, shirts and gaiters - for Gary, Mappo, Don and herself.

Gary had made a new slate bed which being well off the ground turned out to be a god sent when Jenny woke one night to find that the rain water run off was running thru the tent



Gary had also made hunting bags, and powder horns and the water bottles



All in all - I think we have made a great start as the Frontiers

The Southern Cross Free Trappers once again made us feel very welcomed and hosted a great camp, were you could take part in the shooting or camp activities.

Jenny took part in the cup shot - getting a 2<sup>nd</sup> place to Peter Hawkin And also took part in Walk thru shoot.

Mappo. Don and Gary were happy just to take part in the camp activities. Much talking and relaxing was done.

Unfortunately Don & Gary had to return to work and could only do the weekend. But Mappo stayed on till Wednesday and Jenny stayed on for the whole week – with Gary returning for her the next weekend.

The Trappers had quiet a few people turn up over the camp's time. It was nice to see some Ladies in the camp with Louise, Anthea and Lyn and Robyn & Myrtle

The weather was changeable – giving us sunshine, winds, rain and hail. Making Bojo's Tippee a welcome haven at times for socializing in.

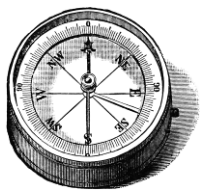
Trapper Ron showed much mountain man inventiveness with his Lazy Trapper Seat & Storage box, which had wheels.

Some great shared meals where had – with apple crumble, pancakes, American tea pudding , cakes, biscuits, Venison stew , vegetable curry.

Which is just as well, as Trappers John & Tom did not have much luck hunting in the near by hills with very little sighting of any game about.

On behalf of the Frontiers We thank the Southern Cross Free Trappers for inviting and having us attend their camp at Beaver Creek and we look forward to next year's Beaver Creek camp.





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## BEAVER CREEK CAMP 2009 PHOTOS



There's dealing been done  
– Ian & Mappo



Don a gentlemen hunter



A cold Chook & Jimmy



Murray setting beaver traps



Jenny playing the Mountain Dulcimer



Dick & Peter leaving camp



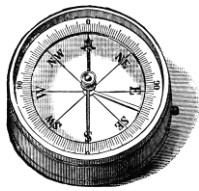
A Women's work is never done –  
Louise chopping wood



Justin watching Louise  
chopping the wood



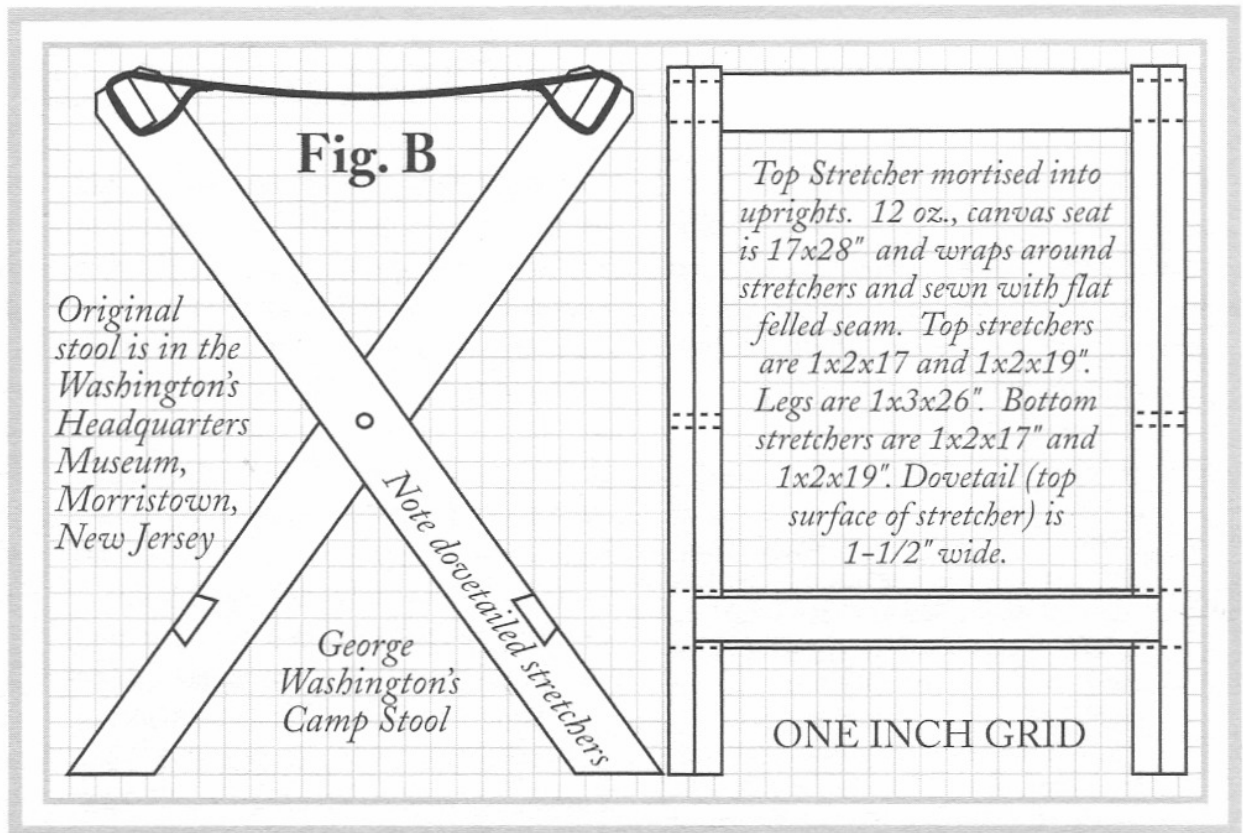
The ground turned white from hail



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*Above: One of several different folding camp stools said to have belonged to George Washington. Washington also owned a set of three slightly larger stools that locked together into a camp cot by adding side rails and a headboard.*

