

## Clothing Guide 2026

### Shirts

#### **Standard:**

- Machine-stitched.
- Linen, cotton, or wool.
- Center front slit (with or without embroidered heart).
- Body length to lower thigh and full.
- Collar closer with thread buttons. Non-thread buttons of bone or horn are also acceptable.
- Cuff closer using side-by-side cuff links or a button and buttonhole

#### **Exceeds Standard:**

- Hand-stitched in white, natural, or checked linen with full sleeves gathered into finished ½ inch cuffs.
- Center front slit is deep and may be kept closed with a shirt buckle (usually round or heart-shaped).
- Body length to lower thigh and full.
- Collar closes with two or three thread buttons. For most impressions, collar is pulled up high and worn snugly closed around neck.
- Cuff closer using “cuff links”.

#### **Unacceptable:**

- Synthetic fabrics.
- Modern shirts.

### Neckwear

#### **Standard:**

- Machine-hemmed or hand hemmed.
- 30”-36" square, or a long narrow rectangle.
- Linen, cotton, or silk.
- Colored and patterned handkerchiefs done by block-print, yarn-dye, or resist-dye.

#### **Exceeds Standard:**

- Hand-hemmed
- 30”-36" square, or a long narrow rectangle.
- Linen, cotton, or silk.
- Colored and patterned handkerchiefs done by block-print, yarn-dye, or resist-dye.

#### **Unacceptable:**

- Handkerchiefs with modern pattern motifs.
- Paisleys.
- Jabots.
- Ruffled stocks.
- Military horsehair.
- Synthetic fabrics.

## Waistcoat

### (Sleeveless or Sleeved)

#### Standard:

- Machine-stitched or hand-stitched.
- Cotton, linen, or wool.
- Well-fitted (snug).
- 1750's and 1770's waistcoats are acceptable and should be based on age of individual wearing the garment.
- The waistcoat neckline should be small and well-fitted around the base of the collar.
- 1770's waistcoat should be hip-length and front should cover the breeches buttons before cutting away.
- Sleeved waistcoats are styled as waistcoats but with sleeves.

#### Exceeds Standard:

- Hand-stitched or hand-finished.
- Linen or wool.
- Well-fitted (snug).
- 1750's and 1770's waistcoats are acceptable and should be based on age of individual wearing the garment.
- The waistcoat neckline should be small and well-fitted around the base of the collar.
- 1770's waistcoat should be hip-length and front should cover the breeches buttons before cutting away.
- Sleeved waistcoats are styled as waistcoats but with sleeves.

#### Unacceptable:

- Baggy or extremely long waistcoats.
- Waistcoats made from cotton canvas, damask upholstery fabric or any synthetic fabric.

## Breeches/Trousers

#### Standard:

- Machine-stitched or hand stitched.
- Cotton, linen, or wool.
- Well-fitted. Snug fit for breeches and trousers, except the baggy seat (to allow ease of movement). Knee band fitted snugly just below the knee to hold up the stockings.
- Breeches of undyed buckskin leather.
- **Buckled knee bands** were most common as they held up the stockings well.
- **Tied knee bands** were common on leather breeches, or for cheaper breeches for the lower sort.
- **Button and buttonhole on knee bands** are also appropriate but less common.

#### Exceeds Standard:

- Hand-stitched or hand-finished.
- Cotton, linen, or wool.
- Well-fitted. Snug fit for breeches and trousers, except the baggy seat (to allow ease of movement). Knee band fitted snugly just below the knee to hold up the stockings.

- Breeches of undyed buckskin leather.
- **Buckled knee bands** were most common as they held up the stockings well.
- **Tied knee bands** were common on leather breeches, or for cheaper breeches for the lower sort.
- **Button and buttonhole on knee** bands are also appropriate but less common.

**Unacceptable:**

- Synthetic fabrics.
- Breeches made from cotton canvas.
- Baggy, poorly fitting breeches.
- Calf-length breeches.
- Fringed suede frontier-style trousers.
- Modern pants (modified or not).

**Stockings**

**Standard:**

- Machine-made or hand-made stockings that fit above the knee.
- Linen, cotton, or wool.
- Stocking length is above the knee.

**Exceeds Standard:**

- Densely knit stockings of linen, cotton, or wool.
- Stocking length is above the knee.
- Clocked stockings (choose with caution and match stockings to your impression. Be aware many modern reproductions are not accurate).
- Stockings should be held up by the knee band of the breeches.

**Unacceptable:**

- Synthetic stockings.
- Athletic socks.
- Elaborate knit patterns such as cables and textures.
- Diced (Highland) hose.

**Leggings/Gaiters**

**Standard:**

- Machine-stitched or hand-stitched.
- Linen/cotton canvas, wool, leather.
- Well-fitted.

**Exceeds Standard:**

- Hand-stitched,
- Linen/cotton canvas, wool, leather.
- Well-fitted.

**Unacceptable:**

- Synthetic material.
- Baggy or droopy leggings/gaiters.
- Commercially tanned leather.
- Fringed leather leggings.
- Western plains style leggings (Extending past the knee and onto the mid-thigh).

**Shoes****Standard:**

- Machine-stitched or hand-stitched.
- Appropriately styled shoes with period-style buckles and black leather uppers.
- Appropriately styled shoes with ties (one hole only on each latchet), for a lower sort impression.
- Knee-high leather boots are acceptable for horse-riders only.
- High-low boots are acceptable in small quantities but are less common on the frontier than appropriately styled buckle shoes.
- Moccasins (Pucker toe or center seam. Brain tan or naturally tanned leather.).

**Exceeds Standard:**

- Hand-constructed.
- Appropriately styled shoes with period-style buckles and black leather uppers.

**Unacceptable:**

- Shoes with no distinct heel.
- Fake buckles.
- Modern shoes (including but not limited to hiking boots, sneakers, lug soles, etc.).
- Shoes that visibly lace up with more than one hole on each side.
- Leather knee high fringed mountain man style moccasins.

**Hair****Standard:**

- Natural shoulder-length hair or long hair tied back in a queue with a ribbon or leather whang.
- Natural hair extension or false queue.
- Natural hair wig dressed in a period style.
- Short-cropped hair in a modest, current style, covered with a hat or cap.

**Exceeds Standard:**

- Natural shoulder-length hair or long hair tied back in a queue with a ribbon or leather whang.
- Natural hair wig dressed in a period style.

**Unacceptable:**

- Synthetic wigs.
- Hair dyed in a color that is not a natural hair color.

## **Facial Hair**

### **Standard:**

- Clean shaven.
- 3-day stubble.
- Short trimmed beard.

### **Exceeds Standard:**

- Clean shaven.
- 3-day stubble.

### **Unacceptable:**

- Moustaches
- Goatees
- Soul patches

## **Eyeglasses**

### **Standard:**

- Period-appropriate frames with round or oval lenses.  
\*\*\*If you have a medical condition that requires tinted lenses, please contact CRVE at [charles.jones@dcr.virginia.gov](mailto:charles.jones@dcr.virginia.gov) \*\*\*

### **Exceeds Standard:**

- Period-correct glasses with round lenses.

### **Unacceptable:**

- Modern-framed glasses.
- 19th century oval frames.
- Tinted sunglasses.

## **Jewelry**

### **Standard:**

- No body jewelry.
- Period-appropriate original or reproduction pocket watch (but only for those who could afford them) kept in breeches fob (small pocket set into breeches waistband).
- Period-appropriate shirt buckle to close bosom slit on shirt.
- Simple wedding bands.

### **Exceeds Standard:**

- Same as above

### **Unacceptable:**

- Any jewelry or visible body modifications (piercings, gauges, non-period tattoos, etc.).

## **Hats**

### **Standard:**

- Machine- finished round-blocked or oval blocked hats made of black wool or beaver felt, cut round, left plain or cocked in appropriate non-military styles.
- Machine-knit or hand-knit wool “Monmouth” or Dutch sailor’s caps with small brim, commonly with some height and slouch to them, in solid natural wool colors or striped.

### **Exceeds Standard:**

- Hand-finished, round-blocked hats made of black wool or beaver felt, cut round, lined with linen, and left plain or cocked in appropriate non-military styles.

### **Unacceptable:**

- Not wearing a hat or cap outdoors.
- Synthetic hats or caps of any kind.
- Brown or gray felt hats.
- Colored felt hats.
- Unfinished (unshaped and unstyled) wool felt hat blank.
- Hats with pipes, money, animal fur, and other trinkets tucked into them.
- Stocking caps.
- Sheepskin hats.
- Modern knitted winter caps.
- Modern hats or caps of any kind (Civil War, ball, cowboy, etc.)