

Starting Needs for the Man-at-Arms 5th Connecticut Regiment

The most common questions heard from prospective members all revolve around: *“How much time and money needs to be allocated to this activity?”*

Honestly there isn't any answer that would survive your first event. From the moment they 'take the field', the vast majority of new members immediately begin stretching both their time and money with little encouragement or prodding from us.

However, the formal answer:

Cost:

Event activities are heavily subsidized by the regiment. Beyond the annual membership fee of \$40 [\$45 ~ \$0 for families] there is little expense incurred when attending shows.

Nearly all costs are associated with equipping yourself with clothing and weaponry. However, the regiment offers substantial loaner opportunities, keeping the cost to get on the field for your first event quite modest. Initial purchases can be limited to just those personal items which cannot practically be loaned out.
\$200 ~ \$250 if one is careful

Time:

The regiment asks that each member attend at least one PAID shows per year. Otherwise, members may select from the schedule only those events they wish to attend. The full schedule is on the website. After you apply you will be added to the 5CR email message string and will hear more specifics on events as they draw near.

Other Requirements:

Full details concerning FIELD ORDER & DISCIPLINE will be provided upon membership. These essentially are our by-laws.

The key contribution WE DO ASK of all members is something not related at all to *Cost* or *Time*. Members must dedicate themselves to providing an accurate portrayal of the Revolutionary War period

derived from a continuing effort to learn more and thus become the best possible teacher of our period in history.

Safety. Any new man-at-arms **MUST** learn the evolutions of the Von Steuben drill. Though essential that all 18th C soldiers move only by defined motions, the Von Steuben manual also covers the basics of **SAFETY**. Our muskets are working firearms and thus the safety precautions found in the Von Steuben and amending rules, are rigorously applied. Before taking the field with the regiment, new men at arms must take private time as well as an hour+ with our training Sergeant to learn the proper **FIRINGS** and **DRILL**.

A quick list of minimum needs:

I recently checked three good sources. Please peruse those websites as a start.

www.jas-townsend.com [JAS]

www.smoke-fire.com [S&F]

www.gggodwin.com [GGG]

Those are only starters. Visiting the many sutlers who attend large events is also a great resource.

HAT:

Eventually you'll need a military tricorne. But a simple felt hat cinched up in any period fashion will do. See JAS \$20. S&F \$35.

SHIRT:

Simple linen is preferred over cotton. \$72 S&F. A fabric called OSNABERG is popular as it is less expensive than linen looking like and having coarse linen feel. \$35 JAS

NECKSTOCK:

Black cotton collar worn bout the neck. \$ 7.50 JAS

BREECHES:

Multiple choices. Linen [\$95 JAS \$98.50 GGG] is better than canvas [\$65~\$70 JAS]. Color is optional. Green is theoretically the color worn by the 5th Conn but not confirmed to a point where more than

10% of our members have that harder to come by color. Natural, off white and tan are most common. Be sure they are FALL FRONT not FLY which are French & Indian period.

SOCKS:

Cotton is OK. No elastic. Any color. [\$ 8 JAS]

GARTERS:

To hold up the aforementioned non-elastic socks. \$ 5

SPATTERDASHES:

Spats in 20th C terminology. Short black canvas coverings which go from the shoe tops up to the calf. Rev War soldiers would wear to keep off burrs and other annoyances and to keep shoes as dry as practicable. For modern members they cover up enough of the feet so that you may wear modern simple round toed laced black leather shoes.

[GGG \$32.50 but I am sure they can be obtained for less at an event Sutlery]

CANTEEN:

Most events are in summer. Put on your winter wool coat on a 90 degree day in August and run around the back yard with a hot 9 lbs pipe in your hand for 4 hours. You'll want water.

Wood [\$42~\$45 JAS] or Metal. Tin [\$ 40 JAS] is best but like wood they, as they did in the 18th C, fail after a few years. Stainless is OK [\$76 JAS] if covered by sewn felt.

WAISTCOAT {optional but recommended}

Linen [\$100 JAS, \$71.50 GGG] is better than canvas. Wool is ok [\$72 SF] but, if it is the only one you have, is tough to wear in summer.

Green again is the theoretical accurate color, but like breeches, no more than 1 in 10 of us have that color.

Off the rack choices and maybe better prices at Sutleries.

HUNTING FROCK [optional but recommended]

Try to find a canvas or linen NEW ENGLAND design. Not the heavily fringed one for the southern colonies. I saw the correct one on SF for \$82. JAS had others at \$ 50~\$100.

To get on the field the regiment will loan out

Frock and Waistcoat if you don't have one. But this is catch as catch can as they will have to come from members who have spares...5th does not have inventory

Musket, Cartridge Box, Bayonet and Sling.

Eating Utensils as available; wooden bowl, 18th Spoon, Cup. Not very expensive to obtain one's own.

Once you are trained and ready to field with the Regiment, you will need to buy some Gunpowder and roll your own cartridges for the battle. We will show you how. The powder is inventoried by the regiment and is currently \$15 per can. That lasts about 3 large events. Every member earns one free can per year once they attend their minimum PAID show.

All the above will get you well beyond Phase I. After that you can move forward as you are compelled.