

Minimum Basic Clothing and Equipment Requirements **for Le milice de Ste. Anne de Beaupre**

----- Required Clothing and Equipment for first year in the unit.

- Breechclout -lined in cotton advisable but not required
- Leggings -a common color of wool is to be purchased from the unit
- Moccasins - pucker-toe pattern
- soulier de boeuf - hard leather shoes are another option
- White cotton French Shirt
- Sash -cut wool strip or woven wool in one or two color, (not fancy multi- colored “voyageur” sash)
- Toque -red wool knit cap without tassels!
- Wood or bone spoon
- Wool Blanket

----- Necessary for second year in the unit.

- Tomahawk
- Boucheron knife -basic 6-8” French style blade
- Powder Horn -simple, non engraved horn, (kept empty!! at events)
- Fusil -hunting or trade musket of the era
- Hunting bag with cartridge holder -simple leather bag, holds 25 -30 rounds

Ask before purchasing items not documented by the unit’s guidelines. Historical accuracy and unit continuity makes for an outstanding living history portrayal. We should strive for nothing less.

The recommended vendors in these guidelines are some of the best artisans in the hobby. Less expensive options might be available, but these are the folks that I trust to “do it right.”

Key to research notation:

(P) - Primary source documentation

(S) - Secondary source documentation

Breechcloth and Leggings: Woodland-style, red wool *One yard will make a pair of leggings, breechclout and sash.*

The unit currently has a supply of wool that can be bought from Jeff Pavlik at \$9.00 a yard. This is the color that members should use for consistency in the unit. This company has a good selection of period wools at good prices.

<http://www.burnleyandtrowbridge.com/>

Jo-ann Fabrics often times has comparable broadcloth type wool available in the fall at certain stores. Generally it is \$18.00 a yard, but you can use a 50% coupon in their circular.

(P)- "1 breechcloth, 1 pair of leggings"

List of supplies issued to Canadian militia by Bourlamaque. [National Archives of Canada, MG-18, K-9, Papiers Bourlamaque, Volume 6, 2e partie \(1756-1760\)](#)

(P)- "1 pair of wool leggings, 1 breechcloth"

Bougainville, Antoine [The American Journals of Louis Antoine de Bougainville](#)

Sash: Simple wool strip, or woven wool in one or two colors (black, red, blue most common)

Susan Wallace- yarns@bellsouth.net

-hand woven, 3 1/2" x 60", once around the body, naturally hand-dyed madder red wool - \$75.00

Less expensive sashes are offered by other sutlers- generally in the \$40 range.

The least expensive and still very appropriate option is to use a strip of scrap wool.

(P)- "Usually three knives; one hanging about the neck, one in the sash and one along the leg, outside, in the garter."

Jolicoeur Charles Bonin [Voyage au Canada fait depuis l'an 1751 jusqu'en l'an 1761](#)

(S)- "Most of these sashes were simply cut from a piece of cloth."

Back, Francis "The Dress of the First Voyageurs, 1650-1715" MFTQ Summer, 2000

Hat: Red wool tuque,

Properly hand knit by Michigander Sandy Rooney. \$25.00.

rooney.terrence@att.net

(P) "These toques were single or double night caps: the double night caps were knitted wool tubes closing gradually towards each end, and then one end of the knitted tube was stuffed into the other."

Peter Kalm, Canada, 1749 (Gousse, 47) (P) "All Canadians speak the same French we do. Except for some typical words,...they have forged some such as tuque or fourole to name a cap of red wool."

Jean-Baptiste d'Alcyrac, Canada, 1755-60 (Gousse, 35) (P)“ worn by such of the Canadians... a large, red, milled worsted cap.” Alexander Henry (Elder), Lake Huron, 1761 (Henry, 35)

(P)- Mention of an order of 8,000 *bonnets drapes* for Canadian militia.

Lettre d'Abraham Gradis, 11 octobre 1757 as cited in Delisle, Steve. The Equipment of the New France Militia 1740-1760 pg 10

(P)- “Most of them wear red woolen caps at home and sometimes on their journey.”

Kalm, P. Voyage de Pehr Kalm au Canada en 1749 pg. 511

Shirts: French *chemise d'homme*, cotton

Michigander Miz Gabi aka Liz Shopp at wngshopp@chartermi.net machine sewed around \$45.00, hand sewn shirt around \$65.00

French and Indian War shirts (cotton)- \$50.00 + 10.00 shipping

<http://www.flyingcanoetraders.com/content/Catalogue.asp?ID=2&Epoque=4&Prod=9>

(P)- “2 cotton shirts”

List of supplies issued to Canadian militia by Bourlamaque. National Archives of Canada, MG-18, K-9, Papiers Bourlamaque, Volume 6, 2e partie (1756-1760)

(P)- “The six canadiens receive the following...6 cotton shirts”

Supplies for the expedition led by the Chevalier de Niverville, 1747. Archives des colonies, series C11A, volume 117.

Footwear, summer: moccasins, pucker toe, moose/deer hide

Use the pattern provided by the unit for historically correct moccasins.

Brain tanned deerskin is the best option but can be expensive.

German tanned buckskin is best approximation to brain tanned leather. Buy 10 square feet and you will make your moccasins and other leather needs for about \$50.00 for the 2nd quality

http://www.crazycrow.com/Merchant2/merchant.mvc?Screen=CTGY&Category_Code=545-000-000

(P) “the French in Canada, in many respects, follow the customs of the Indians, with whom they converse everyday. They make use of the tobacco pipes, shoes, garters, and girdles of the Indians.” – Peter Kalm, 1749

(P)-“From the skins of these animals [deer] the natives as well as the French in Canada make their shoes which they use on their journeys...”

–Peter Kalm, 1749

(P)“They are more pleasant to wear than English shoes; in summer they are cooler to the

feet. And in winter, from being made roomy, they will admit a thick sock, to prevent the excessive cold from penetrating.” -John Long, Montreal, 1768-1788

(S)- “A breechcloth, mitasses and moccasins completed the basic clothing.”

Delisle, Steve. The Equipment of the New France Militia 1740-1760 pg. 9

Footwear, *Soulier de boeuf* (oxhide shoe)

Mike Tharpe is an excellent craftsman for these shoes. mditmurier@yahoo.com

They cost about \$60 a pair, you will need to contact him about measurements.

(P)-“The six *canadiens* receive the following...6 pairs of oxhide shoes.”

Supplies for the expedition led by the Chevalier de Niverville, 1747. Archives des colonies, series C11A, volume 117.

(P)- “1 pair of tanned shoes per month”

List of supplies issued to Canadian militia by Bourlamaque. National Archives of Canada, MG-18, K-9, Papiers Bourlamaque, Volume 6, 2e partie (1756-1760)

(P)- “Beef shoes are made in a completely different manner than the French leather shoes, they have a sole as thin as the top which envelops all the foot at the height of the quarters; then, on this piece of leather, one sews a smaller piece of leather covering the top of the foot...” Jean Baptiste d’ Aleyrac, 1755, Montreal/Canada

Sheath Knife: French butcher knife (“boucheron”)

Ken Hamilton makes documented museum reproductions with proper handles and touch marks. Prices range from \$45-\$75 dollars each. Pawaganinini@aol.com

Smitty makes high quality French bouchérons with either 5 1/2" or 6 1/2" blades. toryranger@wi.rr.com

(P)-“1 boucheron knife”

List of supplies issued to Canadian militia by Bourlamaque. National Archives of Canada, MG-18, K-9, Papiers Bourlamaque, Volume 6, 2e partie (1756-1760)

(P)- “one boucheron knife”

Bougainville, Antoine The American Journals of Louis Antoine de Bougainville

(P)- “Usually three knives; one hanging about the neck, one in the sash and one along the leg, outside, in the garter.”

Jolicoeur Charles Bonin Voyage au Canada fait depuis l’an 1751 jusqu’en l’an 1761

Tomahawk: French style “casse-tete”, straight handle

For proper look of French tomahawks look at the book *Equipment of New France Militia*.

(P)- “1 tomahawk”

List of supplies issued to Canadian militia by Broulmaque. National Archives of Canada, MG-18, K-9, Papiers Broulmaque, Volume 6, 2e partie (1756-1760)

(P)- “one tomahawk”

Bougainville, Antoine The American Journals of Louis Antoine de Bougainville

Blanket: one color (preferably white) wool 50” x 70” or slightly larger

Military surplus stores and sites are good places to find British white wool hospital blankets for under \$20.00 or buy them from :

<http://www.turkeyfootllc.com/blankets.html> - \$30.00

<http://www.crazycrow.com> - \$24.00