

Continental Army Impressions

Continental Army battalions, detachments, and independent companies at Bemus Heights/Saratoga in 1777 were drawn from Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Virginia, and Pennsylvania Continental Lines, with additional personnel hailing from Connecticut, Vermont, Maryland, Canada, and France. These units were authorized by the Continental Congress and raised, recruited, and organized by their states of origin (Congress managed some more directly). Clothing, arms, accoutrements, appointments, and equipment were supplied at nearly every level of authority: Congress, states, towns, and individuals themselves. The supply process was less complex than it was chaotic, overlapping, and catch-as-catch-can. Most Continental Army officers and soldiers fielded with uniform elements from all sources simultaneously.

Documenting a full accounting of clothing, arms, accoutrements, and equipment for any Continental Army unit present at Bemus Heights/Saratoga in 1777 is challenging. Significant information does exist, most of which is found in unpublished sources such as journals, letters, commissariat inventories, orders, and accounts. These provide fascinating, albeit incomplete, insights into the disparate situations facing each corps. While it's well known that the Continental Army in 1777 had little uniformity between regiments even from the same state, what is usually overlooked is the varied conditions of regiments between states. For example, at Bemus Heights/Saratoga in 1777, it is not true that the clothing of Continental Army regiments was uniformly ragged and wanting, such as it was at other points in the war. Instead, states clothed their regiments very unequally—New Hampshire, for example, did not supply its regiments with uniforms in 1777, and those regiments were not properly uniformed until shortly after Burgoyne's surrender. Conversely, Massachusetts clothed most of its regiments in uniforms (of different colors) and were thereby more easily able to maintain a uniform military appearance.

We recommend that each living history unit participating in Saratoga 250th events use clothing, arms, accoutrements, and equipment appropriate to what the unit would have used in 1777, if documented. The Saratoga 250th welcomes Continental Army living history units which were historically not present at Bemus Heights/Saratoga in 1777 but might not be able to perform their usual impression, nor does the Saratoga 250th demand that all units' dress as they would have appeared in 1777. For example, if a 4th New York living history organization participated in a Saratoga NHP event dressed in their 1778 uniforms (white coats faced in scarlet, black caps, etc.), this would be allowed. However, being uniformed in accordance with what was worn at Bemus Heights/Saratoga in 1777 provides legitimate discussion points with visitors and thus opens the door for more relevant interpretive opportunities.

Context is king: the armies present at Bemus Heights/Saratoga inhabited stationary encampments for multiple weeks with their baggage at hand. If one can document specific examples that occurred elsewhere which break a rule (for example, men having beards following a lengthy ranging expedition in which they didn't shave because they couldn't), these do not contextually fit the situation at Bemus Heights/Saratoga in 1777 and therefore do not apply. Nevertheless, there would have been exceptional examples of many things worn or used outside the norm. For example, of the over 7,000 Continental Army personnel who were deployed against Burgoyne at Saratoga by October 1777, it's possible that someone wore white leather shoes. This guide regulates what was normal—in living history, we seek to portray the common, the usual, and the standard, instead of playing up the exceptions.

Everything worn or carried by a living history participant at Bemus Heights/Saratoga should reflect

one's rank and social class. As a rule, commissioned officers wore and used better, finer quality clothing, arms, and accoutrements. Their appearance was sometimes enhanced with appointments such as epaulets and leather gloves. Such documented representations are encouraged (see "Officer Appointments").

Each subject (such as "shirts") is subdivided into standard, exceeds standard, and unacceptable categories. The standard defines the basic terms required for any living history impression at Saratoga 250th events. While not required, elements listed under "exceeds standard" are encouraged, particularly as these offer the most legitimate interpretive value to our visitors. Anything listed under the unacceptable category is completely disallowed. The standards outlined are valid for the duration of the entire event.

Nevertheless, these standards cannot anticipate or cover every contingency; if you have any questions or concerns about any of the following standards, or questions regarding anything not addressed in these standards (such as light dragoon or general officer interpretations), please reach out to Dave Bernier (3rdmass@gmail.com). Thank you.



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Clothing: Shirts; Neckwear; Head Coverings; Coats, Jackets, and Rifle/Hunting Shirts; Waistcoats/Vests; Breeches and Trousers; Stockings, Socks, and Garters. Spatterdashes/Half Gaiters, Country Boots, and Leggings; Shoes and Buckles; Commissioned Officer Appointments.

Arms: Firelocks/Guns and Rifles; Bayonets; Swords; Hatchets/Tomahawks.

Accoutrements: Cartridge Pouches/Boxes, Shot Bags, and Bullet Bags; Powder and Priming Horns.

Camp Necessaries: Canteens; Knapsacks and Haversacks; Blankets and Tumplines.

Hygiene and Personal Effects: Hair; Glasses/Spectacles; Artistic Objects, Jewelry, and Watches; Smoking.

Camp: Tentage/Housing; Furniture; Food/Cooking and Cookware.

Appendix: Inspection of Continental Infantry, Sept. 1777

CLOTHING

Shirts

- **Standard:** Hand or Machine-stitched lightweight white or natural linen, wool flannel or cotton. Any pattern fabrics (check, crossbar, or striped) and colors must conform to period examples. The body is long (to lower thigh) and full. Center front slit, with or without ruffling. Collar closed with thread "Dorset" buttons or ties. Wrist bands (cuffs) closed with side-by-side sleeve links (cuff links) or a thread "Dorset" button and buttonhole. Use of non-thread buttons (bone, horn, or metal) are acceptable (because not visible) but discouraged.
- **Exceeds Standard:** Hand-stitched and constructed after a pattern taken from an extant garment with relevant provenance. Linen or wool flannel as detailed above. Threat "Dorset" buttons and/or sleeve links. The center front slit may be closed with a metal shirt buckle (usually round or heart-shaped). For most impressions, collar is pulled up high and worn snugly closed around the neck.
- **Unacceptable:** Synthetic fabrics. Shirts with inappropriate patterns. Modern shirts.

Neckwear

- **Standard:** Black or white linen, cotton, silk, hand or machine-hemmed handkerchiefs (30-36" square) or rollers (long narrow rectangle). Colored and patterned handkerchiefs (block-printed, yarn-dyed, resist-dyed) were popularly worn by commoners. Black military neck stocks (black leather or velvet); officers may have white linen or silk military neck stocks. Handkerchiefs and rollers were usually fit snugly over the collar which should be pulled straight up, with collar completely hidden or collar points extending neatly over the top of the neckwear.
- **Exceeds Standard:** Hand-hemmed and constructed after a pattern taken from an extant garment with relevant provenance. otherwise as detailed above.
- **Unacceptable:** Having no neckwear is unacceptable. Synthetic fabrics. Bright, unnatural colors. Handkerchiefs with modern pattern motifs. Paisleys. Jabots.

Head Coverings

- **Standard:** Black wool or fur felt hats, cut round, and left plain or shaped or cocked on one, two, or three sides in appropriate 1770's British/Irish American styles. Use of cockades should be limited (officers excepted; see below). Felt or leather caps cut and trimmed in accord with contextually appropriate examples or descriptions. Machine or hand-knit wool "Monmouth" or Dutch sailor caps with small brims in solid natural wool colors or striped. Blue Scottish or French knit caps. Unmodified

British hats, hat caps, or caps representative of those captured from the *Mellish* in 1776 may be worn only if documentable to your unit and if conformable with British uniform standards (which see). Note: officers should wear colored cockades to differentiate ranks (green for subalterns, yellow or buff for captains, red or pink for field officers) per the commander-in-chief's general order of July 23, 1775.

- **Exceeds Standard:** Hand-finished and trimmed, round-blocked wool, beaver felt, or leather hats or caps, lined with linen or silk.
- **Unacceptable:** having no head covering when outdoors is unacceptable. Unfinished (unshaped and un-styled) hat blank. Stocking "Santa" caps. Synthetic knit caps. "Coonskin," mountain man, rendezvous, trapper, or "Daniel Boone" inspired animal pelt caps. Cockades in colors other than black (officers excepted, which see), including white "French alliance" cockades. Handkerchiefs or other fabrics worn wrapped around the head in lieu of a hat (some riflemen excepted). Money or other papers stuffed in the head covering.

Coats, Jackets, and Rifle/Hunting Shirts

- **Standard:** Hand or machine-stitched, well-fitted.
 - Continental Army-issue coats must be made of wool broadcloths and should conform to descriptions, styles, and color combinations used during the war. Plain metal buttons. Round or slash cuffs. Functional or nonfunctional facings. Coats should be lined in serge or unlined (other linings are acceptable but discouraged). Blatant post 1777 wartime cuts and stylistic features (such as 1778-issue French-made "Lottery coats," or late-war lappets) do not preclude participation at Saratoga NHP living history events but are discouraged. Unmodified British coats or jackets representative of those captured from the *Mellish* in 1776 may be worn only if documentable to your unit and if conformable with British uniform standards (which see). Any turnback devices, such as hearts, must be small (no larger than 1 ½-inches in diameter) and made of cloth (no metal).
 - Continental Army-issue rifle/hunting shirts made of linen with at least one cape with fitted, pleated forearms. Open fronts which can be closed by ties or leather or woven belts. Fringe may be applied separately or stripped from the linen directly. Fabric patterns and colors must conform to period examples. Despite their name, these garments were widely used by Northern Army Continental soldiers in lieu of coats or jackets. Rifle shirts may not be worn by artillerymen. Note: pullover smocks are different than rifle shirts and are not acceptable substitutes.

- Civilian coats or jackets made of linen or wool (or blends thereof, including cotton or silk), or cotton velvet or corduroy. Fabric patterns and colors must conform to period examples. Coats may be straight-bodied (older fashion) or in a cutaway style. Coats were approximately knee-length; Jackets were generally a hip-length version of a coat with shorter, pleated skirts, cuffs, and collar. Buttoned jackets do not require a waistcoat. Most coats and jackets were single-breasted; double-breasted garments should be faced in the same material as the body.
- Noncommissioned officer rank distinctions should conform to general orders: “The Serjeants may be distinguished by an Epaulette, or stripe of red Cloth, sewed upon the right shoulder; the Corporals by one of green” (July 23, 1775).
- **Exceeds Standard:** Hand-stitched and constructed after a pattern taken from descriptions and derived from an extant garment with relevant provenance.
- **Unacceptable:** Having no coat, jacket, or rifle shirt is unacceptable. Cotton canvas. Horizontal striped fabric. Smocks/overshirts (unless worn while resting or laboring in camp, never when under arms). Coats or jackets with standing or rise-and-fall collars.

Waistcoats/Vests

- **Standard:** Hand or machine-stitched waistcoat, well-fitted (snug), made of linen or wool (or blends thereof, including cotton or silk), or cotton velvet or corduroy, or leather. Fabric patterns and colors must conform to period examples. May be short skirted or cut round (with or without belting). The waistcoat neckline should be small and well-fitted around the base of the collar. Unmodified British waistcoats representative of those captured from the *Mellish* in 1776 may be worn only if documentable to your unit and if conformable with British uniform standards (which see). Note: sleeved waistcoats were styled as waistcoats but with sleeves, including stocking sleeves, and worn under another outer garment.
- **Exceeds Standard:** Hand-stitched and constructed after a pattern taken from an extant garment with relevant provenance.
- **Unacceptable:** Baggy or extremely long skirted waistcoats. Cotton canvas or silk. Horizontal stripes. Waistcoats that close with large coat buttons. Collared waistcoats.

Breeches and Trousers

- **Standard:** Hand or machine-stitched, well-fitted breeches or straight-legged trousers made of linen or wool (or blends thereof, including cotton or silk), or cotton velvet or corduroy. Leather breeches. Fabric patterns and colors must conform to period examples. White or gray linen gaitered trousers. Breeches may close with buckles, buttons, or ties at the knees. Fly-front breeches (optional, but rare). Unmodified British breeches representative of those captured from the *Mellish* in 1776 may be worn only if documentable to your unit and if conformable with British uniform standards (which see).
- **Exceeds Standard:** Hand-stitched and constructed after a pattern taken from an extant garment with relevant provenance.
- **Unacceptable:** Cotton canvas. Synthetic fabrics. Horizontal striped fabric. Kilts. Leather trousers. Breeches with legs that extend to the mid-calf.

Stockings, Socks, and Garters:

- **Standard:** Hand or machine-made stockings that fit above the knee, made of densely knit wool, linen, silk, or cotton. Patterns and colors must conform to period examples. Buckled leather garters (optional, but rare). Note: if clothe, linen tape, or buckled leather garters to keep stocking up (instead of using the breeches knee bands themselves), these should be hidden under the breeches.
- **Exceeds Standard:** Frame-knit stockings (or socks for trousers) knit flat to shape and stitched up the center back to form a visible seam. Hand-knit stockings or socks knit in the round to shape with a faux seam of purl stitches up the center back. Stockings are cut and sewn from knit fabric yardage using an accurate pattern. Gore clocks (embellishment on both sides of the ankle) are subtle and the same color. Stockings should be held up by the breeches knee band.
- **Unacceptable:** Commercially available striped or clocked stockings (neither are legitimate replicas). Diced (Highland) hose.

Spatterdashes/Half-gaiters, Country Boots, and Leggings:

- **Standard:** Hand or machine-stitched, well-fitted single-color wool or linen spatterdashes or country boots made to button or tie closed. Black leather spatterdashes or gaiter boots. Wool leggings, well fit, closed with buttons or ties. Note: any of these must be worn over modern shoes (see "Shoes") if beginners do not otherwise have appropriately styled replica footwear. Otherwise, these are not required.

- **Exceeds Standard:** Hand-stitched and constructed after a pattern taken from an extant garment with relevant provenance.
- **Unacceptable:** Baggy spatterdashes. Chaps. Leather “Indian” or “Mountain man” leggings. Leggings with overwide “flairs”. Fringed leggings. Long military gaiters.

Shoes and Buckles

- **Standard:** Black shoes, constructed in a style consistent with 1770’s British/Irish-American men’s fashion, closed with replica buckles or tape ties (one or two holes per latchet). Black leather tied half-boots. Appropriately styled knee-high leather boots are acceptable for horse-riders only. Modern black leather shoes with a distinct heel and a smooth toe may be worn but must be covered by well-fitted spatterdashes (see “Spatterdashes”). Leather moccasins. French pumps. Note: footwear is recommended but not required.
- **Exceeds Standard:** Hand-stitched and constructed after a pattern taken from an extant garment with relevant provenance. Small original or replica buckles.
- **Unacceptable:** Shoes with no distinct heel. Modern shoes without spatterdashes. Obviously modern footwear such as hiking boots, sneakers, lug soles, etc. Wingtips. Fake buckles.

Commissioned Officer Appointments

- **Standard:** Buff/tan/brown or white kid leather gloves (optional). Shirt ruffling at the breast and wrist bands (optional). Metallic laced or embroidered epaulets (optional, and not used to distinguish rank until the commander-in-chief’s general orders dated June 18, 1780). Woven silk sashes (optional, but rare). Note: see reference for commissioned officer cockades under “Head Coverings.”
- **Exceeds Standard:** Replicas custom crafted according to extant examples with relevant provenance.
- **Unacceptable:** Gorgets. White (or any other color) cotton gloves. Fabric sashes. Black gloves. Modern leather gloves. Shoulder knots.

ARMS

Note—All firearms must pass National Park Service safety officer inspection at each event. Visitors may only touch firearms when unloaded, and only when the volunteer maintains physical control of the arm, i.e. while holding it. No loading occurs except within firing

demonstration areas. Visitors are not allowed to touch bladed or pointed weapons (such as bayonets, knives, tomahawks / hatchets, or swords), at any time.

Firelocks/Guns and Rifles

- **Standard:** Replica British/Irish (pre 1777 short land pattern) or French (models 1728, 1763, 1766, or 1769-1774 variants) military arms. Civilian “New England” or “Hudson Valley” fowlers. English or American-made fuzees or trade guns. 1775-77 colony/state-procured “committee of safety” guns. Leather slings are allowed but were uncommon (French muskets were delivered without slings). American-made “Pennsylvania” or “Virginia” rifles (only if portraying a soldier of Morgan’s Detached Rifle Battalion).
- **Exceeds Standard:** Custom built from extant examples with relevant provenance.
- **Unacceptable:** Antique (original) guns. Pistols. Blunderbusses. Hand mortars. Match locks. Wheel locks. Dog locks (unless it also has a functioning internal half-cock). Rifles, or British/Irish or French muskets other than the types stipulated above. Military arms from European nations other than Britain/Ireland and France. Percussion-cap locks. Note: all firearms must pass National Park Service safety officer inspection at each event.

Bayonets

- **Standard:** the bayonet must be compatible with the associated gun. Bayonets must have scabbard secured in waist or shoulder belts. Note: Bayonets are not required for fowlers nor are they required for every Continental Army soldier (see appendix).
- **Exceeds Standard:** same as above.
- **Unacceptable:** Bayonets without fitted scabbards.

Swords

- **Standard:** Officers may field with hunting swords, smallswords, hangers, spadroons, or short sabers. Artillerymen may field with hangers (if documented). Cavalrymen should be armed with broadswords, sabers, or cutlasses. All swords must be carried via waist or shoulder belt. All swords should broadly reflect English, Irish, or American craftsmanship from the first three quarters of the 18th century.
- **Exceeds Standard:** Custom-built or original sword secured in a scabbard and belting constructed from extant examples with relevant provenance.
- **Unacceptable:** swords without fitted scabbards. Scottish Broadswords.

Hatchets/Tomahawks

- **Standard:** Replica hatchets or tomahawks carried via waist or shoulder belt. Heads or cutting edges must be tightly secured in leather sheathings. Note: hatchets are not required.
- **Exceeds Standard:** Hand forged heads with hand-drawn hafts constructed from extant examples with relevant provenance.
- **Unacceptable:** Hatchets or tomahawks without sheathing.

ACCOUTREMENTS

Cartridge Pouches/Boxes, Shot Bags, and Bullet Bags

- **Standard:** “New England” or “New York” style soft leather cartridge pouches in black or fair leather housing a wooden box (block) drilled with 15-19-21 holes, suspended by a narrow (about 2-inch wide) leather (tanned, buff, or white-painted tanned) or linen webbing shoulder belt. Cartridge box worn around the waist, suspected by a waistbelt. Riflemen may wear bullet or shot bags with powder or priming horns (which see), but bullet or shot bags cannot be used to house cartridges at any time.
- **Exceeds Standard:** Hand-stitched and constructed after a pattern taken from an extant example with relevant provenance.
- **Unacceptable:** European style hard leather pouches (these were new even by British standards). New Model (29-hole) Continental Army pouches. Tin cartridge boxes.

Powder and Priming Horns

- **Standard:** Powder or priming horn with narrow leather or woven strap or cord. Powder or priming horns are not required at Saratoga 250th events. Horns cannot contain black powder at any time – unused cat litter can be used to achieve the desired weight effect.
- **Exceeds Standard:** Constructed from an extant example with relevant provenance.
- **Unacceptable:** Horns containing any black powder. Horns made or decorated in ways that do not conform to 18th century British/Irish American styles.

Camp Necessaries

Canteens

- **Standard:** “Cheesebox” or staved wooden canteen. Note: British tin scoured Stainless-steel canteens are acceptable but discouraged.
- **Exceeds Standard:** Staved wooden canteens with interlocking wooden hoops (not metal strappings). Wooden canteens should have narrow 1" wide leather keepers, slung with a narrow cord, narrow woven hemp strap, or narrow leather strap. Period-correct wooden rundlet.
- **Unacceptable:** Fabric covered canteens. Gourds. Modern flasks. Glass or ceramic bottles or jugs.

Knapsacks and Haversacks

- **Standard:** Hand or machine sewn conformable to the “David Uhl,” “Benjamin Warner,” or “Elisha Gross” knapsacks. Made of linen (painted or unpainted) or animal skin (such as calf, bear, or goat) with two shoulder straps. Knapsacks are not required at Saratoga NHP events, but they must conform to these standards if worn on a march or displayed in camp. Note: haversacks were rarely issued to the regiments present with the Northern Army in 1777; if used, haversacks must be made in accord with pattern British Army haversacks (without the King’s Mark).
- **Exceeds Standard:** All hand-sewn, otherwise detailed as above.
- **Unacceptable:** Cotton canvas. European military knapsacks (such as the “Isaac Royall” knapsack). The Maryland “New Invented Knapsack and haversack.”

Blankets and Tumplines

- **Standard:** Hand or machine-woven wool or linsey-woolsey, preferably plain white, check, stripped, or plaid, closely resembling extant examples. 2 or 3-point blankets, rose blankets, or Dutch blankets are all appropriate. Blankets can be tied to a pack or carried in a roll via leather or woven tumpline. Blankets are not required at Saratoga 250th events, but they must conform to these standards if carried on a march or displayed in camp.
- **Exceeds Standard:** Handloomed. Blankets may be either “imported” (a solid piece of material) or “colonial” (a seam down the middle where the two halves are joined).
- **Unacceptable:** Civil War gray blankets. Blankets that are made of synthetic materials (such as polar fleece). Hudson Bay blankets.

HYGIENE and PERSONAL EFFECTS

Hair

- **Standard:** Face must be clean, shaven, or up to a maximum of 4-days even stubble. Runners (ear-length sideburns) on younger fashion-oriented men are acceptable.
Note: military protocols show that the men of a regiment typically shaved and washed on the same days twice per week. It was important to have personnel operating under the same shaving regimen to maintain a uniform appearance and system of subordination. Long hair must be clubbed or queued (or loose, if shoulder length).
- **Exceeds Standard:** Same as described above.
- **Unacceptable:** Anything else. Hair dyed with any unnatural color. Ponytails. Long loose hair.

Glasses/Spectacles

- **Standard:** Reproduction period-appropriate metal frames with circular lenses.
- **Exceeds Standard:** Original spectacles made prior to c.1790, i.e., with both circular lenses and temple pieces.
- **Unacceptable:** Modern-framed glasses.

Artistic Objects, Jewelry, and Watches:

- **Standard:** Watches worn in fobs (the little waistband pocket). Any facial piercings must be replaced with small clear retainers/hiders. Plain metal wedding bands.
- **Exceeds Standard:** Same as above.
- **Unacceptable:** Artistic objects or insignias, medals, pins, patches, or badges (including SAR and DAR civic organization badges). Exposed St. Barbara medals. Medals, badges, or patches copied from 18th century artifacts (such as the Badge of Merit). Modern jewelry (plain metal wedding bands excepted). Wrist watches. Watch chains worn across waistcoats (any exposed watch chain must be attached to a watch housed in a fob). Plastic proxy wedding bands.

Smoking

- **Standard:** Tobacco smoked from a clay pipe (allowed in camp after visitor hours only).
- **Exceeds Standard:** Same as above, using heritage tobacco.
- **Unacceptable:** Use of cigarettes, cigars, or vaping in camp. All smoking is prohibited near historical buildings, at any time when high fire danger warnings are in effect, when under arms, or while in the possession of black powder cartridges.

Appendix:

Inspection of Continental Infantry, Sept. 1777

In his position as Deputy Muster Master General for the Continental Army's Northern Department, Lieutenant Colonel Richard Varick was entrusted with mustering Continental Army troops operating within. In doing so, he was also tasked with paying "particular attention...to the clothes, arms, accoutrements and pay of the troops" and submit "a report...to the Commanding Officer of the Department of neglect or deficiency."

The following is a transcript of Varick's official inspection written little more than a week before September 19, 1777, Battle of Freeman's Farm. This report provides a solid, basic vision of the state of Continental infantry regiments on the verge of the Battles of Saratoga (New-York Historical Society, Horatio Gates Papers, 5:557):

Van Schaicks Island

Sept. 10 1777

Sir

In Obedience to the Resolutions of the Hon^{ble} the Continental Congress of the 4th April, I am to inform you that on the 1st inst^t, I took the Musters of Colo^s Shepherds, Wigglesworths, & Vose's & part of Colo: Bigelows Battalions, in General Grovers Brigade, & that on the second instant, I also took the Musters of Colonels Greatons, Putnams, Aldens & Nixon's Battalions in Genl Nixon's Brigade; that I found those Battalions pretty well clothed, & well-armed, except the want of a few Bayonets; that their arms were clean & in such order as does Honor to the officers commanding those Battalions.—

On the fourth instant I proceeded to the Musters of Colo. Brewers, Francis's Marshalls & Bradfords Battalions in Gen^l Pattersons Brigade & on the fifth instant those of Colo^s Cilleys, Hales, & Scammells, Cortlands, & Henry B. Livingstons Battalions in Gen^l Poors Brigade; that I found their arms clean & in good order, But that many of them want Bayonets & most of the noncommissioned officers & privates stand greatly in need of Clothing.—

On the seventh instant, I proceeded to the Musters of Colo's Bailey's, Wessons, Jacksons & James Livingstons Battalions in Gen^l Learned's Brigade, and found them well armed, their Arms in very good order, but deficient in Bayonets, their Clothing is ~~pretty~~ tolerably good.

To ~~the~~ most of the Battalions above ment^d the public is between three & four months pay in arrears & to some of them more.—

I conceive It my Duty also, to mention to you that many of the non commd officers & privates in those Battalions, are not furnished with Bayonet Slings, which is very probably the Cause of a ~~great loss very~~ Considerable Loss of ~~Bayonets not [illegible]~~ Bay^{ts}.

Most of the Muster Rolls ~~ef~~ still remain unfinished, which I shall direct the officers to Compleat as fast as the movements of the army will admit.

The Militia Regiments remain unmustered occasioned by want of time & the troops belonging to those Regiments, not having as yet all joined; as soon as the Rolls of the last Continental Regiments already mustered are compleated and the Situation of the Army will admit my Deputies will be directed to take the musters of all the Militia now in Service.

I am Sir with Respect
Your most Obed
humble servt
R.V.

To the Hon^o M. Gen^l Gates

Standards for the Battles Of Saratoga Living History Reenactment October 7-11, 2027 v.3 PN