

Conococheague Institute Historical Interpretation Resources

Purpose:

The purpose of the document is to assist historical interpreters at the Conococheague Institute (CI) build accurate and engaging historical impressions. This is a living document that will be updated as resources come and go and new documentation becomes available.

This document includes resources related to the material culture and lives of those that will be interpreted at CI. As the breadth of information available is vast, we invite submissions of resources not included on this document.

As the quality and accuracy of historic items, textiles, patterns, accoutrements, etc. varies greatly, we strongly encourage contacting us regarding any questionable items before purchasing.

Please note that many of the resources mentioned may be available in the CI Library.

General Information Resources:

18th Century Material Resource Center: <https://materialculture18t.wixsite.com/18thcmrc>

- Includes slideshows on many aspects of the material culture of 18th century life
- Includes clothing, household items, games, food, bedding, personal items, etc.

Linkspages at Larsdatter: <http://www.larsdatter.com/18c/index.html>

- Includes links on many aspects of the material culture of 18th century life
- Includes links to many primary source documents related to topics, such as recipes

Clothing Documentation and Resources:

The Age of Homespun: Objects and Stories in the Creation of an American Myth by Laurel Thatcher Ulrich.

An in-depth look at American textiles and the social implications of the material culture of the time.

Costume Close Up by Linda Baumgarten

Includes patterns and analysis of several garments in the collections of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. Includes intricate details of garment construction, stitching, materials, etc.

Corsets and Crinolines by Nora Waugh

Women's underpinnings from 1600-1925

Costume in Detail by Nancy Bradfield

A look at assembled garments of women from 1730-1930. This book displays what all the assembled pieces of a clothing look together.

The Cut of Men's Clothes: 1600-1900 by Norah Waugh

Provides context and process of how men's clothing was constructed in the 18th century. Includes several patterns of extant garments.

The Cut of Women's Clothing: 1630-1930 by Norah Waugh

Provides context and process of how women's clothing was constructed in the 18th century. Includes several patterns of extant garments.

The Dress of the People: Everyday Fashion in Eighteenth-Century England by John Styles

Great look of textiles and clothing of the poor and lower types in 18th century England. This book is focused on the English poor, but it most likely has bearing on material culture of the poor in the colonies.

Fitting and Proper by Sharon Ann Burnston

Study and patterns of clothing from Chester County, PA. This books focuses primarily on American garments from normal citizens.

Patterns of Fashion 5: The Content, Cut, Construction and Context of Bodies, Stays, Hoops and Rumps c. 1595-1795

This is the quintessential guide to 18th century stays. It includes materials, patterns, methodologies, and scientific studies of extant garments.

The Politics of Fashion in Eighteenth-Century America (Gender and American Culture) by Kate Haulman

This is a study of the politicization of fashion in early America. The author discusses how the upper class of the period used fashion to their advantage and turned it into a weapon against their enemies.

Threads of Feeling by John Styles

A look focusing on the textiles of women and children. This book is highly recommended for its information on textiles and the Foundling Hospital in London.

What Clothes Reveal: The Language of Clothing in Colonial and Federal America by Linda Baumgarten

In depth look at various articles of clothing in the Colonial Williamsburg collection. Includes well written descriptions and photographs.

Whatever Shall I Wear? A Guide to Assembling a Woman's Basic 18th C. Wardrobe by Mara Riley

A great guide on getting started and developing your impression.

18th Century Life:

The Diary of Hannah Callender Sansom: Sense and Sensibility in the Age of the American Revolution edited by Susan E. Klepp and Karin A. Wulf

Diary kept by a Quaker woman of Philadelphia from 1758-1788.

Face Value: The Consumer Revolution and the Colonizing of America by Cary Carson

A look at how the industrial revolution changed the consumerism of the colonies in the mid-18th century and how that led to the transformation of American society

Foul Bodies: Cleanliness in Early America (Society and the Sexes in the Modern World) by Kathleen M Brown

Great look at cleanliness and hygiene in 18th century society and the various social and moral implications of it.

Good Wives, Nasty Wenches, and Anxious Patriarchs: Gender, Race, and Power in Colonial Virginia by Kathleen M Brown

This is a look at racism and slavery in VA and the social implications it had on gender relations and masculinity.

One Colonial Woman's World: The Life and Writings of Mehetabel Chandler Coit by Michelle Marchetti

Possibly the earliest surviving diary by and American woman. Mehetabel Chandler Coit (1673-1758) was a MA native who later moved to RI. This diary covers most of her life.

Radicalism of the American Revolution by Gordon S. Wood

This book provides the quintessential analysis and exploration of the social, economic, political, and cultural aspects of the American colonies.

Clothing Patterns:

As research into 18th century clothing is occurring and realtime but pattern publication does not follow that timeline and certain garments may not be appropriate for your specific impression, the CI strongly suggests working with us when selecting clothing patterns.

For base clothing items (shifts and shirts), we suggest the Larkin and Smith Guides to Shift and Shirt making.

Textile Resources:

Burnley and Trowbridge:

Online vendor providing historic textiles and notions for to create clothing for all persons. The largest provider of reproduction handkerchiefs.

William Booth, Draper

Online vendor providing historic textiles and notions for to create clothing for all persons. Most extensive selection of shoe buckles.

Najecki

Roy Najecki is the US vendor carrying K&P Fabrics, which are the most historically accurate reproduction wool products for recreating 18th century mens clothing. Though the fabric is pricy, it is second to none

Fabrics Store

Online vendor for discount linen fabrics. Please note that not all fabric is of appropriate design, color, and weave with historic textiles. The 10 oz canvas is good for interfacing.

Grey Line Linens

Provider of linen fabrics. Though they have a website, they are mostly a brick and mortar store and do not offer their entire inventory online

Needle and Thread, Gettysburg, PA

Although their main focus is Civil War and Quilting fabrics, this store has a trove of fabric applicable to 18th century uses.

Shippensburg Factory Outlet