

DRESS LIKE A PILGRIM

A Procurement Guide



SEPEMBER 1, 2021 THE MAYFLOWER GUARD General Society of Mayflower Descendants

Dress Like a Pilgrim A Procurement Guide By Mayflower Guard



As James Baker, noted Pilgrim historian, points out in his recent article in the *Mayflower Journal*¹ there is a major image problem associated with what clothing and apparel Pilgrims wore. The image of black clothing, buckles and blunderbusses persist in the public mind. To overcome this misperception and to assist in this effort to change public perceptions, the donning of appropriate garments representing what the Pilgrims actually wore should be a major objective for the commemoration of the 400th anniversary of the arrival of the *Mayflower*. We the *Mayflower* descendants need to Dress Like a Pilgrim and wear Pilgrim Appropriate Apparel (PAA).

¹ Baker, James W., Pilgrim Images III, Mayflower Journal Vol. 2, No. 1 [2017], pp 7-19

So, what did Pilgrim men and women wear?

Fabrics

In 17th Century England and in the Netherlands, there were two basic fabrics that were used for clothing, wool and linen. Silk was also available and used for fancy wear. Light leather was used for men's clothing in doublets and jerkins but was not used in women's wear. There was combination of wool and linen know has fustian that was also used, however finding this fabric today is almost impossible. A type brushed cotton moleskin is available in some fabric stores online. A cotton canvas is also offered by vendors. Cotton while available was very rare and very expensive in the early 17th century.

Colors

We know that the Pilgrims wore a variety of colors in their clothing from probate records where the color of various clothing items were mentioned including the colors violet, blue, green.^{1,2} The color red was also listed. However, the reds that were used in the early 17th century were more of a brick red and a madder red which is a little more orange in nature than modern reds. What was considered black in the early 17th century was a little different than what we think of black today. Very dark greys, greens, and blues might count as poor versions of black and natural black sheep's wool was also available. The deep rich black was broadly expensive and was the opposite of demonstrating piety in the early 17th century. Thus, a true black would not have worn by our Pilgrim ancestors.

² (<u>http://mayflowerhistory.com/clothing</u>)

Men's Apparel

The basic apparel for pilgrim men would have consisted 1) a shirt which also served as underwear, 2) breeches or slops, 3) stockings, 4) latchet shoes, and 5) a hat (brimmed, flat, or a monmouth cap). Slops were commonly used in addition to breeches in the 1620's. Slops were full, with lots of gathered fabric around the waist and legs and ended just above the knee. Both breaches and slops were worn high and your waist size should be measured at the bellybutton. The seam of the doublet (not including the skirting) should sit at the bellybutton.



Pilgrim Male Clothing

The basic clothing for men would be:

- Shirt
- Doublet
- Breeches
- Stockings
- Lachet shoes
- Hat either broad brimmed or flat hat

Women's Apparel

The basic apparel for pilgrim women would have consisted of 1) a smock which like a man's shirt served as underwear (today the smock is often referred as a shift or sometimes as a chemise), 2) petticoat or shirt, 3) waistcoat (some vendors today refer to the waistcoat as a bodice), 4) stockings, 5) latchet shoes, and 6) coif or cap. Women also wore brimmed hats the same as men.



Pilgrim Clothing - Female

The basic clothing for women would be:

- Coif headwear
- Smock or Shift
- Waistcoat
- Apron
- Petticoat also called a skirt
- Latchet shoes

Make Your Own Appeal

Patterns

There are historically accurate patterns available for individuals who like to sew and make their own period appropriate appeal.

1. *The Tudor Tailor* is considered by many as a leading source for patterns for pilgrim apocopate attire. They have patterns for men, women and children. These patterns can be ordered online from Etsy's.

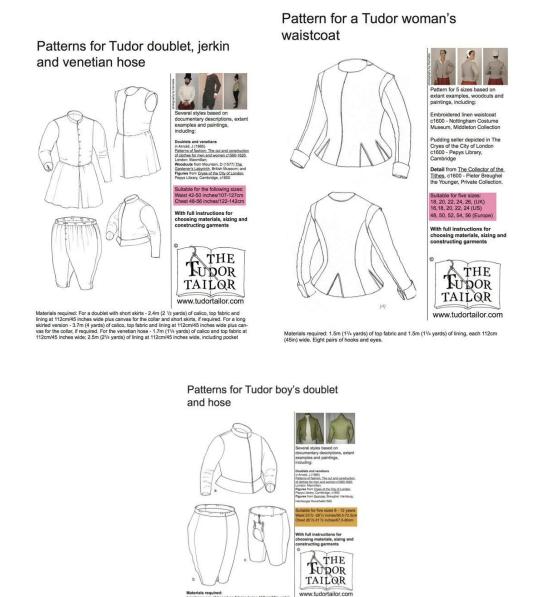
https://www.etsy.com/shop/TheTudorTailor

1)Pattern for Men's Tudor Doublet, Jerkin and Venetian Hose - Large Sizes (\$27.03) <u>https://www.etsy.com/listing/112982522/pattern-for-mens-tudor-doublet-jerkin?ref=shop_home_active_64</u>

2) Pattern for Women's Tudor or Elizabethan Waistcoat - Large Sizes (\$27.03) <u>https://www.etsy.com/listing/111956496/pattern-for-womens-tudor-or-</u> <u>elizabethan?ref=shop_home_active_53</u>

3) Tudor Boy's Doublet and Hose (\$23.73)

https://www.etsy.com/listing/112977440/pattern-for-tudor-boys-doublet-andhose?ref=shop_home_active_56.



2. *Reconstructing History* has patters for both men and women. These patterns can be ordered at: <u>http://store.reconstructinghistory.com</u> It should be noted however that there have been reports that making clothes from these patterns is hard and these patterns can lead to frustration. On the other hand, some vendors claim that they use these patterns exclusively for the items that they sell.

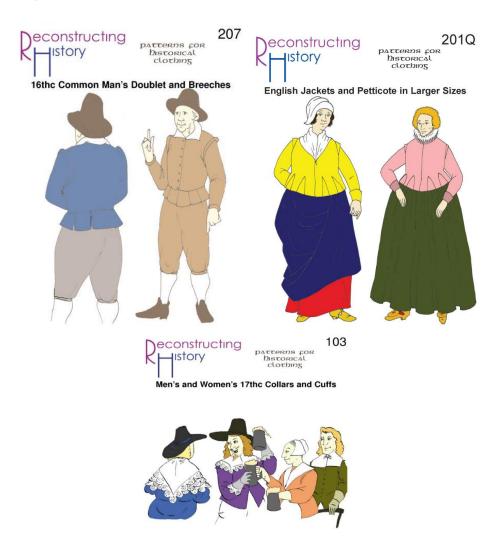
-1.05m (1½ yg) of calico, top fabric and lining plus 18cm (7in) canvas and akirts and for the lacing strip.
ose (b) - 1.15m (1½ yd) of calico and top fabric. 1.40m (1½ yd) lining (e) 95cm (1yd) top fabric and lining; 15cm (6in) of calico and canvas for

g plus 18cm (7in) ca

1)16th century Common Man's Doublet and Breeches pattern # 207 would be the choice for men.

2) Women's English Jackets and Petticote pattern #201 would be the choice for women.

3) 17th Century Collars and Cuff #103 is also useful.



Fabric Sources

There are several sources for fabrics which can be considered pilgrim appropriate material for appeal.

Note: Avoid patterns (both woven and printed), including but not limed to stripes, checks, paisley, brocades, and floral designs.

- Burnley & Trowbridge of Williamsburg, VA is one of the leading suppliers of colonial era fabrics. They carry wools, linens, hemps, and silks that are appropriate for the 17th century. www.burnleyandtrowgridge.com
- 2. *WM Booth Draper* of Wisconsin also carries wools, linens, hemps, and silks that are appropriate for the 17th century. http://www.wmboothdraper.com/
- 3. *The Tudor Tailor* in the UK has many fabrics the are perfect for the 17th century and their shipping is reasonable and fast. Tudor Tailor fabrics as well as their patterns can be ordered online from Etsy's. <u>https://www.etsy.com/shop/TheTudorTailor</u>
- 4. *Townsends* is one of the leading providers of colonial era appeal for reenactors. The offer a variety of fabrics in wool, linen, and cotton canvas for those wishing to make their own pilgrim appropriate appeal. http://www.townsends.us/

Readymade

For those that do not sew or know someone who does, there are vendors provide readymade or made to order pilgrim appropriate apparel. After a good deal of research and interaction with reenactor groups such as the New Plimmoth Gard, the Mayflower Guard has identified a few vendors where you can purchase pilgrim appropriate apparel at reasonable prices; each of these vendors have been used by GSMD members to purchase apparel.

The listing of these vendors should not be considered as an endorsement but rather as information that might be useful for individual members and Partner Societies wishing to have their members dress like a pilgrim. The GSMD has no financial association with any of these vendors. It is the goal of the General Society of

Mayflower Descendants to have as many members as possible dress like Pilgrims, as part of our efforts for 2020.

Men's Apparel Vendors

Doublets & Breeches/Venetians

There are sources that have been used for men's doubles and breeches. It should be noted that 17th century breeches were also known as venetians.

1. Sally Green Historical Costumes is the U.K.'s largest supplier of what they refer to as "off the peg" costumes for seventeenth century re-enactment. They stock significant amounts of many items in most sizes, except where specified. They have both men's and women's clothing that are mostly made of wool. When measuring the waist, it should be done at the belly button as the breeches were worn high. It is highly recommended that you call and place your order by phone and discuss the order with an actual person at Sally Green. 1) Doublet Plain (£79.00) 2) Doublet Trimmed (£110) 3) Breeches (£65 (44"plus from £70) 3) collarless shirt (£25.00), 4), Casaque is a cloak which buttons to the front in its first mode, then unbuttons and re-buttons into a sleeved coat men's outer coat from: (£129)





*Note that the prices quoted for this vendor are in GBP British Pounds. Given the variation in exchange rate which can change almost daily no price is listed in US Dollars'



(The man and the women in this picture are wearing outfits from Sally Green) Sally Green Historical Costumes 1 Lyng Lane North Lopham Norfolk IP22 2HR UK Phone: 011- 44 1953 681 676 Website: http:// www.sallygreen.co.uk/sg-contact.php 2. *Sykes Sutlering* "Purveyors of Fine Fifteenth, Sixteenth and Seventeenth Century Goods" Sykes Sutlering is a Virginia based company that provides a variety of period appropriate apparel that ideal for pilgrims. Their Light Weight Wool & Linen Venetians/breeches are in standard sizes (\$85) pockets can be added for an additional (\$25) They also offer what they refer to as Dutch Slops (\$85) and Baggy Breeches (\$85). Their doublets for men and bodices for women are made to measure but other items available in standard sizes.

Sykes Sutlering P.O. Box 335 Claremont, VA 23899 Phone: (757) 866-8819 Email: sykesutler@wildblue.net Website: <u>www.sykesutler.com</u>

3. *The Blue Box Sutlery* offers a variety of 17th century clothing items. They feature hand finishing of all top stitching, and their button holes are done by hand. They use Reconstructing History patterns for their clothing. All items are custom made to

order, therefore to start an order a down payment of half the order total is needed. Most orders take between 2 to 6 weeks. 1) #4 1600's Britches-Wool-All Hand finished (\$160.00), 2) #11 1600's Linen Common Mans Work Coat (\$170.00), 3) 17th century doublet with cloth covered ball buttons (\$295.00) 4) 16th century Common man's Doublet Wool with linen lining with cloth ball buttons all hand finished (\$280.00),





The Blue Box Sutlery 9 White Street Acushnet, Ma. 02743 Phone: 508-998-9018 Website: <u>http://www.theblueboxsutlery.com</u>

4. Bethlehem Trading Post in New Hampshire offer 17th century breeches and Sailor's Slops. 17th Century Fustian or Heavy Linen Breeches (\$90) wool (\$100). Sailor's Slops - Fustian or Heavy Linen (\$90)
Bethlehem Trading Post
PO Box 66
Bethlehem, NH 03574
Phone: 603-869-2133
Email: bethlehemtradingpost@hotmail.com
Website: http://bethlehemtradingpost.com/

5. Barbara Silverten does custom Pilgrim men's wear. All items are made to order. Barbara has done a good deal of the costumes for the Pilgrims Progress in Plymouth. If you have participated in the Pilgrim's Progress at Congress you may have worn a garment done by Barbara Silverten. barbarasinteriordesign@gmail.com

6. *The 1642 Tailor* is a company based in the UK offers 17th century clothes. They offer breeches and doublets. Prices are not listed on the website, but quotes can be obtained via email requests. <u>https://the1642tailor.com/the-shop/</u>

7. *Medieval Design* is an Italian based company that does high quality doublets and breeches. They offer a 1585-1605 outfit - - Late 16th century buttoned doublet (untrimmed) (\notin 259,00), and Venetians (\notin 129,00)

*Note that the prices quoted for this vendor are in Euros. Given the variation in exchange rate which can change almost daily no price is listed in US Dollars' Medieval Designs Via Arezzo 87/b - 63040 - Folignano (Ascoli Piceno) ITALY tel/fax ++39.0736.491984 Email: info@medievaldesign.com Website: <u>Bhttp://www.medievaldesign.com/english.asp</u>

Shirts and Falling Bands

Men's shirts in the 17th century were large and long serving as underwear. Collarless shirts were worn if a separate falling band was used. Collared shits had collars of between 2 and four inches, both plain and with lace. Falling Bands were a large, flat collar, usually trimmed with lace, worn by men in the 17th century. The falling band was worn on the outside of the doublet and was a separate garment.



Falling band worn over doublet

Falling Band

1. *Sally Green Historic Costumes* offers Falling Band collars (\pounds 15.00). They offer both collarless and collared shits (\pounds 25.00). <u>www.sallygreen.co.uk/sg-contact.php</u>

2. *Sykes Sutlering* has 1) Elizabethan Lace Collar shirt (\$45.00) 2) 4" Falling Band Collar Shirt (\$45.00), and 3) 2" Standing Collar Shirt (\$45.00) www.sykesutler.com

3. *The Blue Box Sutlery* offers # 8 17th century shirt 100% linen ties or buttons (\$90.00). <u>http://www.theblueboxsutlery.com</u>

4. *Townsends* has a colonial work shirt - Cotton SH-124 (\$60.00) Banded Collar Shirt cotton (appropriate with a separate falling band) - SH-182 (\$55.) http://www.townsends.us/

5. *Bethlehem Trading Post* offers what they refer to as an English Shirt in linen (\$70) <u>http://bethlehemtradingpost.com/</u>

6. *Historic Enterprises* in California offers what they refer to as a Hilliard shirt made in linen (\$109). <u>https://historicenterprises.com/</u>

Socks

1. *Sykes Sutlering* carries cotton socks in a variety of colors (\$12) <u>www.sykesutler.com</u>

2. Townsend has Heavy Cotton Stockings in a variety of colors SP-757 (\$13) <u>http://</u> www.townsends.us/

3. **Bethlehem Trading Post** offers knit stocking in heavy and light weight wool (\$35) and (\$30) in a limited number of colors. <u>http://bethlehemtradingpost.com/</u>

Shoes

Latchet shoes were what was commonly worn by both men and women in the 17th century. There are vendors that have been used for purchasing latchet shoes. The common colors were black and brown. Availability can be problematic for some vendors depending on size and color.

Another option is to convert chukka or desert boots into latchet shoes. The picture below is a pair of commercial shoes on the left and converted chukka boots on the right.



1. **Boots by Bohemond** from Albuquerque, New Mexico does handmade leather boots, shoes and footwear for use in the SCA, Renaissance fairs, living history, theater and screen, and historical reenactment groups from the middle ages. Their Mary Rose Tudor Shoe is an excellent choice for pilgrim latchet shoes (\$80). They come in both men and women's sizes. You can also add an Anti-Slip sole or a Crepe Sole for an additional \$25.

https://boots-by-bohemond.myshopify.com/

- 2. **Burnley & Trowbride Co.** Williamsburg, VA (\$115) Limited availably www.burnleyandtrowgridge.com
- 3. Grab the World (\$85) www.garbtheworld.com/items/periodshoes.shtml
- 4. Viking Leathercraft (\$59.99) www.vikingleathercrafts.com
- 5. *Loyalist Arms* in Canada 16th 17th C. Shoes (Pikemen's Shoes) (\$135) http://www.loyalistarms.ca/mainpage.php

Hats

There were three types of men's hats that were worn by the pilgrims:

- The brimmed felt hat or open crown hat
- The wool flat hat.
- The Monmouth cap. This is a wool knitted cap which makes an excellent helmet liner.

Any or all these types of hats are appropriate.

Brimmed Hats



Open Crown Hat

Pilgrim Hat from Dirty Billy Hats

Most brimmed hats come in three basic colors, black, brown and grey. The preferred colors are grey and brown. The modern version of the brimmed is known as the open crown hat. The open crown hat is available from numerous western wear vendors and manufacturers including Stetson, Resistol, and Twister which vary in price from over \$349 to \$65. Dirty Billy Hats in Gettysburg is a custom hat maker making reproduction hats of various era. They can custom make a tall 7^{1/2}-inch crown Pilgrim hat. Top Hats.com offers two versions of a pilgrim appropriate brimmed hat, the Charles #261 and the Plymouth #264 are both high crown hats. There are a variety of vendors for open crown felt hat including:

- 1. *Plimoth Plantation Museum Shop* (hats in black and grey) (\$62.99 www.plimoth.com/collections/historical-clothing-accessories).
- 2. *Shepler's* Twister 2X Select Wool Men's Open Crown Hat (hats in black brown and light grew) (\$52.00) <u>https://www.sheplers.com/brands/twister/twister-hats</u>
- 3. *Townsend* has Black Standard Wool-Felt Hat Blank (Lined) HL-902 Black and Brown Standard Wool Felt Hat Blank (Lined) HL-803 (\$60.00) <u>http://www.townsends.us/</u>
- Dirty Billy Hats C31 1620s Men's Pilgrim Hat in Nutria (\$185) in Beaver (\$270) 20 Baltimore St. Gettysburg, PA 17325 <u>http://www.dirtybillyshats.com</u>
- 5. *Top Hats.Com* The hats from Top Hats.com are custom made to order. When ordering it is good to specify no hat band to avoid getting a buckled hat band which was not appropriate for the time-period of the pilgrims. The two hats are 1) the Charles #261 for \$180 and 2) the Plymouth for \$72. https: //www.top-hats.com/Departments/Costume.aspx?sortorder=1&page=1

Bands for Brimmed Hats

The big buckle hat band that is common in art was not what the Pilgrims used for hat band. A buckled hat band is in a real no-no to be accurate in the portal of our pilgrim ancestors. A cloth hat band was the most common. It is easy to make your own custom hat band by braiding three different color 3-inch strips of cloth together. You can choose colors that complement your doublet or bodice and your breeches or skirt. The standard width of most fabric is 42 inches which is enough to make a hat band.



Flat Hats



For the wool flat hat, the best source is Sykes Sutlering. These flat hats come in a variety of colors (\$15). <u>www.sykesutler.com</u>



Monmouth Caps



Brimmed Monmouth Cap

- 1. *Skyes Sutlering* has Monmouth Caps in natural wool colors. (\$42) <u>www.sykesutler.com</u>
- 2. *Townsends* which offers a variety of colors, so it is possible to order a cap in the color of your doublet or breaches. Solid Color Monmouth Cap MC-216 (\$32) <u>http://www.townsends.us/</u>
- 3. *Bethlehem Trading Post* offers knit monmouth cap that is quite nice but should be in plain not striped (\$30). <u>http://bethlehemtradingpost.com/</u>
- 4. *Sally Pointer & Gareth Riseborough in* the UK offers excellent knit caps and stockings. Their brimmed monmouth cap is a very nice winter cap with a bit of a difference and their regular monmouth caps are also very nice. Broad Brimmed Monmouth (£45.00) Monmouth Cap (£36.00) https://www.sallypointer.com/shop

Women's Apparel Vendors

1. Sally Green Historical Costumes also carries full line of women's clothing appropriate for pilgrim women. The bodice and skirts from Sally Green are in wool. It is highly recommended that you call and place your order by phone and discuss the order with an actual person at Sally Green. 1) Bodice (\pounds 60) 2) Skirt (\pounds 45.00) 3) Shifts, drawstring (\pounds 29.00) 4) Coifs (\pounds 10.00) 5) Collar Plain (\pounds 10) 6) Collar, Lace (\pounds 25), 7) Cloak, Hooded (\pounds 99)

*Note that the prices quoted for this vendor are in GBP British Pounds. Given the variation in exchange rate which can change almost daily no price is listed in US Dollars.





Sally Green Historical Costumes 1 Lyng Lane North Lopham Norfolk IP22 2HR UK Phone: +44 1953 681 676 Website: http://www.sallygreen.co.uk/sg-contact.php





Townsend carries a few woman's clothing items that appropriate for the pilgrim woman. 1) Ladies' Woolen Petticoat L-2505 (\$95) 2) Drawstring Skirt - Linen LC-144 (\$75.00) 3) Drawstring Skirt - Solid Cotton PC-144 (\$40) 4) Chemise - Plain Cotton White SH-122 (\$40) 5) Chemise - Linen LH-122 (\$135.00) 6) Ladies'

Colonial Cap - White Cotton CP-911 (\$18.00) 7) Ladies' Colonial Cap - White Linen LP-911 (\$24.00) Townsend P.O. Box 415 133 North First Street Pierceton, IN 46562 Phone: 800-338-1665 http://www.townsends.us/

3. *1642 Tailor* also offers women skirts/petticoats, waistcoats, and smocks. Prices are not listed on the website, but quotes can be obtained via email requests. <u>https://the1642tailor.com/the-shop/</u>

4. Smoke & Fire Company provides goods for living history re-enactors They offer a Plain Muslin Chemise or Shift tock #:cl-101a Main undergarment worn under a robe-style dress, bodice or stays. Also worn alone as a nightgown. Made of 100% white bleached muslin. With underarm gussets, drawstring neck and 3/4 length sleeve. Sizes 3X and Larger add \$5.00. (\$38.00)



Smoke & Fire Company 27 North River Road Waterville, Ohio 43566 USA Phone: 419 878-8535 800-Smoke-Fi (766-5334) www.smoke-fire.com 6. **Barbara Silverten** does custom Pilgrim women's wear. All items are made to order. Barbara has done a good deal of the costumes for the Pilgrims Progress in Plymouth. If you have participated in the Pilgrim's Progress at Congress you may have worn a garment done by Barbara Silverten. barbarasinteriordesign@gmail.com

Shoes

The same vendors that make latchet shoes for men carry woman's shoes.

- 1. *Boots by Bohemond* from Albuquerque, New Mexico (\$80) <u>https://boots-by-</u>bohemond.myshopify.com/
- 2. **Burnley & Trowbride Co**. Williamsburg, VA (\$115) Limited availably www.burnleyandtrowgridge.com
- 3. Grab the World (\$85) www.garbtheworld.com/items/periodshoes.shtml
- 4. Viking Leathercraft (\$59.99) www.vikingleathercrafts.com

Note : As with men, there are chukka boots for women which can be converted to latchet shoes that can be considered pilgrim appropriate foot wear.

Hats

Women also wore the broad brimmed felt hats that were similar to those worn by men. The same vendors listed for men's brimmed hats are appropriate for women.

- Plimoth Plantation Museum Shop (brimmed hats in black and grey) (\$62.99). They also carry coifs (\$16) <u>www.plimoth.com/collections/historicalclothing-accessories</u>
- Shepler's Twister 2X Select Wool Men's Open Crown Hat (hats in black brown and light grew) (\$52.00) https://www.sheplers.com/brands/twister/twister-hats
- 3. *Townsend* has Black Standard Wool-Felt Hat Blank (Lined) HL-902 Black and Brown Standard Wool Felt Hat Blank (Lined) HL-803 (\$60.00) <u>http://www.townsends.us/</u>
- Dirty Billy Hats C31 1620s Men's Pilgrim Hat in Nutria (\$185) in Beaver (\$270) 20 Baltimore St. Gettysburg, PA 17325 <u>http://www.dirtybillyshats.com</u>
- 5. Top Hats.Com The hats from Top Hats.com are custom made to order. When ordering it is good to specify no hat band to avoid getting a buckled hat band which was not appropriate for the time-period of the pilgrims. The two hats are 1) the Charles #261 for \$180 and 2) the Plymouth for \$72. https://www.top-hats.com/Departments/Costume.aspx?sortorder=1&page=1

6. <u>http://www.townsends.us/</u>