



BRIGADE NEWS

?(name)? Newsletter

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Brigade Newsletter

The purpose of a newsletter is to provide specialized information to a targeted audience. Newsletters can be a great way to share our skills and events. WE are an active Brigade and continuing to grow and this publication should reflect that.

As you see above we need a name for the publication. Some are already submitted, but not yours ! Send me one today.
Charlie 'Two Fires" Chalk



I ate no butcher's meat, lived chiefly on fruits, vegetables, and fish, and never drank a glass of spirits or wine until my wedding day. To this I attribute my continual good health, endurance, and an iron constitution.

John James Audubon



Fish Camp 2015



Submitted by : Steve Foster #1250

Barrens Party of the Appalachian Brigade

In the month of June for the past 18 years , a group of ol' long shirt tailed boys have linked up on the banks of the upper Barren River, just below Long Hungry Creek, in Allen Co. Kentucky to fish, hunt, and have general fellowship. Friday morning Steve Foster, Mike Atkinson, Steve Cheek, and Robert Robertson met on the banks and made camp. We set out lines and did some pole fishing. Later that evening Thomas Dowdy and Travis McQuady joined us with Travis and his cur dog, Belle, paddling up from a ford farther down river. The river looked great and fishing was fair. Fri. night was clear as a bell and we had a total of 32 lines set out between us.

Sat. morn broke cool and clear with a slight fog on the river. Coffee was made and lines were run to produced two nice cats and a 42 inch Gar. Steve Cheek and Mike took to dressing out the cats and I gave a little demo on dressing out a Garfish. They yielded a nice pan of meat and were set to soak while we did a little more fishing. Joining us in camp that day were Joe McCubbins, Jerry Dyer, and Keith Syers, with his Cur dog, tink-er. The River produced no more big fish that day but some good bait fish. Travis shot a nice big fox squirrel and fleshed out the hide.

Sat. night Steve Cheek was good enough to produce a bag of bones and we dined on marrow for an appetizer. The fish were fried up with fried green tomatoes and corn. We all supped till we were full and sat around the camp smoking and telling stories of old friends and old times.

After another great night under the stars we awoke Sun. morn and retrieved our lines to find a huge carp on one of Steve and Mikes lines. Later that day we said our farewells and saw Travis off and made our way back to the "Real" world



Warfare raged across North America in the mid-18th century, helping to give birth to a new and truly American fashion; the hunting shirt. This shirt was split up the front and sometimes belted closed, capped around the shoulders and festooned with fringe on all its edges. Several questions remain unanswered about hunting shirts, including details of their origin and construction.

The reason for the use of fringe may be unanswerable, lost to history, but how it was constructed and what textiles were used for fringing may be gleaned from the few surviving original examples. When John Ferdinand Smyth completed his tour through the newly formed United States in 1784, he remarked on the use of fringe on hunting shirts worn by inhabitants of the backcountry. Smyth noted that “the whole dress is very singular, being a hunting shirt, somewhat resembling a wagoner’s frock, ornamented with a great many fringes.

Hunting shirts were limited to the backcountry settlements stretching from Pennsylvania to the Carolinas until the American colonies found themselves plunged into warfare with England. After a recommendation from General George Washington, the Grand Congress in Philadelphia adopted these “cheap and convenient” shirts in 1776 and their use became widespread. The presence or absence of fringe on these shirts or trousers often became a descriptor when looking for runaways or military deserters. In July 1775 Alexander Crage ran away in Pennsylvania wearing “a brown hunting shirt with a large cape and long fringe.” Another man from Pennsylvania deserted in October 1776 from Captain Matthew Smith’s company wearing a “brown hunting shirt and trousers, without fringe.”

Currently there are three known surviving hunting shirts made from woven textiles. The only extant shirt from the Revolutionary period survives at Washington’s Headquarters, Newburgh, New York. The wearer, Captain Abraham Duryea of the Dutchess county Militia allegedly wore this hunting shirt at the Battle of White Plains. This shirt has not only an exorbitant amount of fringe running down all edges, and including a zig-zag pattern at the hem, but also rosette tufts and intertwining hearts of fringe on the cape. Another hunting shirt from the Green County Historical Society in Waynesburg, Pennsylvania is more conservative in its fringing. Michael Crow, a resident of Green County, supposedly wore this shirt during the Revolution, however, he was born in 1769. And was probably too young for military service. The shirt exhibits a shawl collar, which is more indicative of the late 18th century or early 19th century.

Both the Duryea and the Crow hunting shirt use the technique of taking lengths of “cabbage” or scrap from the garment that are cut on the straight of grain, folded and pressed in half, stitched onto the edges of the shirt, and then by pulling out the threads from raw edge, creating the fringe. Joseph Doddridge comments hunting shirts and this technique of fringing in his book “The Notes on the Settlements and Indian Wars of the Western Parts of Virginia and Pennsylvania: The hunting shirt was universally worn. This was a kind of loose frock, reaching half way down the thighs, with large sleeves, open before, and so wide as to lap over a foot or more when belted. The cape was large, and sometimes handsomely fringed with a raveled

piece of cloth from that of the However, a has recently auction and is the City of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, has a woolen shirt to its edges made from the the garment. on the City of shirt is made Hampshire wore this particular in the winter at living with the trousers or style that may early 19th century. The Revolution. this garment



of a different color hunting shirt itself. hunting shirt that surfaced at public currently owned by Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. fringe applied instead of fringe same material as The woven fringe Harrisburg hunting shirt is made from linen. A New man purportedly wore this particular hunting shirt at Valley Forge. The shirt is a pair of pantaloons of a date the shirt to the late 18th century and not from the early 19th century. The existence of this garment begs the question

of how frequently woven fringe was applied to Revolutionary era civilian or military hunting shirts.

The hunting shirt enjoys a legacy of being a distinctive American garment, which fell out of fashion almost as soon as it appeared. The distinctive feature of fringe certainly makes it stand out from any other garment being worn at the close of the 18th and beginning of the 19th centuries.

Source: Fringe on American Hunting Shirts Ca. 1775-1815 Neal Thomas Hurst Originally published in *Military Collector and Historian* Vol. 62, (Fall 2010).





To the Appalachian Brigade,

We now have our road into camp cleared up and rocked. We can drive in even if it rains.

The rainy weather throughout the winter and spring has prevented getting work done on the cabin and road, such as when Buford Blanton drove over from East Tennessee to work on the chimney last month, and he and Larry were shut down by the rain. Looks like this weekend, the weather tried to do the same but the brothers prevailed and worked in and through it. Last week, the rain held off long enough for Ron Robinson to oversee and work with Ray Duggin on the clearing of the road into camp, and Ray took care of getting the gravel down, so we can now drive up the hill into the field even if it does rain. Progress!!

Even though the bad weather repeated itself and this past weekend camp was small in numbers, everyone took advantage of gathering on our property and we got work done. Wendell Green, David Menser, Keith Syers, Ray Duggin, Travis McQuady, Larry Mayes and I came in on Friday, worked through the intermittent rain on Friday and Saturday. On Friday night, it came one heck of an all night rain but the cabin didn't leak and those of us who slept in it stayed dry. I had to leave Saturday morning but the rest stayed through the weekend and much was accomplished.

Even with the rain shutting down any steady work, we got another run of stone cut and laid in the chimney and the upper fourth or so of the new road bed was cleaned up of debris, seeded and strawed.

Attached are a few pictures of the cabin work. I didn't get any of the road crew because we were at the cabin all day and the rain prevented cameras being used with any regularity. Between rains, a few shots were taken. With the rain and the humidity, I can say that everyone was wet throughout the weekend but as always, AMM camaraderie was in strong evidence.

David