

DRESS LIKE A PILGRIM

A Procurement Guide



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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

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

400th anniversary of the arrival of the *Mayflower*. We the *Mayflower* descendants need to Dress Like a Pilgrim and wear Pilgrim Appropriate Apparel (PAA).

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. There was combination of wool and linen know has fustian corduroy that was also used, however finding this fabric today is almost impossible. 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 matter red which is a little more orange in nature than modern reds. Thus, bright red, scarlet or crimson should be avoided. Black was a difficult color to obtain in the early 17th century and was very expensive and thus would not have worn by our Pilgrim ancestors.

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

Men's Apparel

The basic apparel for pilgrim men would have consisted of a doublet, breeches, shirt, stockings, latchet shoes, and a hat (brimmed, flat, or a Monmouth cap).



Pilgrim Male Clothing

The basic clothing for men would be:

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

Women's Apparel

The basic apparel for pilgrim women would have consisted of a shift or chemise, a bodice/waistcoat/jacket, petticoat or shirt, stockings, latchet shoes, and coif or cap. Women also wore brimmed hats the same as men.



Pilgrim Clothing - Female

The basic clothing for women would be:

- Coif headwear
- Shift also known as Chemise
- Waistcoat sometimes referred to as a Bodice
- Petticoat also called skirt
- Latchet shoes

Make Your Own

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

Reconstructing History has patters for both men and women. These patterns can be ordered at: <http://store.reconstructinghistory.com>

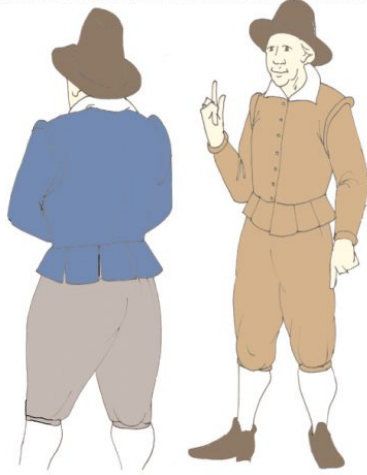
- 1) 16th century Common Man's Doublet and Breeches pattern # 207 would be the choice for men
- 2) Women's English Jackets and Petticote pattern #201 would be the choice for women.
- 3) 17th Century Collars and Cuff #103 is also useful.

Reconstructing
History

PATTERNS FOR
HISTORICAL
CLOTHING

207

16thc Common Man's Doublet and Breeches



Reconstructing
History

PATTERNS FOR
HISTORICAL
CLOTHING

201Q

English Jackets and Petticote in Larger Sizes



Reconstructing
History

PATTERNS FOR
HISTORICAL
CLOTHING

103

Men's and Women's 17thc Collars and Cuffs



The Tudor Tailor is another source for patterns for Pilgrim appropriate attire. They have patterns for men, women and children. These patterns can be ordered from Etsy's

1) Pattern for Men's Tudor Doublet, Jerkin and Venetian Hose - Large Sizes (\$27.03)

https://www.etsy.com/listing/112982522/pattern-for-mens-tudor-doublet-jerkin?ref=shop_home_active_64

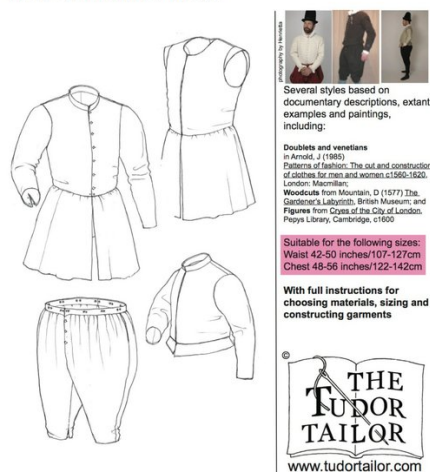
2) Pattern for Women's Tudor or Elizabethan Waistcoat - Large Sizes (\$27.03)

https://www.etsy.com/listing/111956496/pattern-for-womens-tudor-or-elizabethan?ref=shop_home_active_53

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

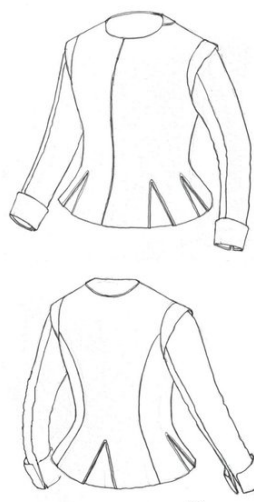
https://www.etsy.com/listing/112977440/pattern-for-tudor-boys-doublet-and-hose?ref=shop_home_active_56.

Patterns for Tudor doublet, jerkin and venetian hose



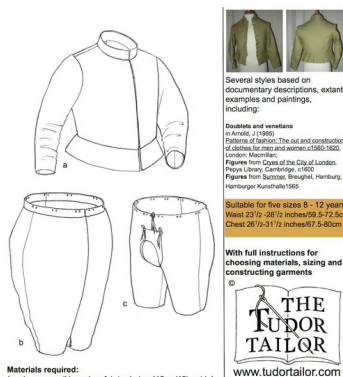
Materials required: For a doublet with short skirts - 2.4m (2 1/2 yards) of calico, top fabric and lining at 112cm/45 inches wide plus canvas for the collar and short skirts, if required. For a long skirted version - 3.7m (4 yards) of calico, top fabric and lining at 112cm/45 inches wide plus canvas for the collar, if required. For the venetian hose - 1.7m (1 1/4 yards) of calico and top fabric at 112cm/45 inches wide; 2.5m (2 1/4 yards) of lining at 112cm/45 inches wide, including pocket

Pattern for a Tudor woman's waistcoat



Materials required: 1.5m (1 1/4 yards) of top fabric and 1.5m (1 1/4 yards) of lining, each 112cm (45in) wide. Eight pairs of hooks and eyes.

Patterns for Tudor boy's doublet and hose



Materials required: (ventrigles are all based on fabrics being 112cm/45in wide) For the doublet (a) - 1.25m (1 1/4 yd) of calico, top fabric and lining plus 18cm (7in) canvas for interlining the collar and skirts and for the lacing strip. For the venetian hose (b) - 1.15m (1 1/4 yd) of calico and top fabric. 1.40m (1 1/2 yd) lining (including pockets). For the fitted hose (c) 95cm (1yd) top fabric and lining; 15cm (6in) of calico and canvas for interlining.

Purchase

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)





Buttoned to show
both styles of wear

|- Cloak / Cape -|- Coat -|

**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 USD US Dollars'*

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](http://www.sallygreen.co.uk/sg-contact.php)

2. ***Saint Augustine Textiles*** specializes in clothing for reenactors of a variety of periods. They do carry 17th century clothing that is appropriate for the 1620 period for both men and women. Their men's 16th century doublet is most appropriate for 1620. Their 17th century doublet would also be acceptable. They offer their appeal in cotton, linen and wool in a variety of period appropriate colors. The price varies based on the material chosen. 1) Doublet cotton canvas (\$120), linen (\$150), wool (\$200). 2) Breeches/Venetians cotton canvas (\$75), linen (\$85), wool (\$140).



Jon & Gidget Williams
 58 St. George St.
 St. Augustine, Florida
 Phone: (904) 315-0610
 Fax : (904) 794-1613

E-Mail sarjuan@aol.com . Website: <http://staugustinetextiles.com/>

3. **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 additions (\$25) . 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: www.sykesutler.com

4. **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: <http://www.theblueboxsutlery.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

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 shirts 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 (£15.00). They offer both collarless and collared shirts (£25.00). www.sallygreen.co.uk/sg-contact.php
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. **Saint Augustine Textiles** offers a 4-inch falling band 17th century shirt in linen (\$80) <http://staugustinetextiles.com/>
4. **The Blue Box Sutlery** offers # 8 17th century shirt 100% linen ties or buttons (\$90.00). <http://www.theblueboxsutlery.com>
5. **Townsend's** 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.townsend.us/>

Socks

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

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

3. **St Augustine Textiles** carries socks in a variety of colors 1) stock cotton (\$6.00) 2) heavy cotton (\$8.00) and 3) wool (\$8.00) <http://staugustinetextiles.com/>

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. **Burnley & Trowbride Co.** Williamsburg, VA (\$115) Limited availability
www.burnleyandtrowgridge.com
2. **St Augustine Textiles** (called tutor Shoes) (\$63)
<http://staugustinetextiles.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)
www.plimoth.com/collections/historical-clothing-accessories (\$62.99).
2. **Shepler's** Twister 2X Select Wool Men's Open Crown Hat (hats in black brown and light grey) (\$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)
<http://www.townsend.us/>

4. ***Dirty Billy Hats*** C31 1620s Men's Pilgrim Hat in Nutria (\$185) in Beaver (\$270) 20 Baltimore St. Gettysburg, PA 17325 <http://www.dirtybillyshats.com>
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). www.sykesutler.com

Monmouth Caps



1. ***Skyes Sutlering*** has Monmouth Caps in natural wool colors. (\$42) www.sykesutler.com
2. ***Townsend's*** 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) <http://www.townsend.us/>

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 (£60) 2) Skirt (£45.00) 3) Shifts, drawstring (£29.00) 4) Coifs (£10.00) 5) Collar Plain (£10) 6) Collar, Lace (£25), 7) Cloak, Hooded (£99)

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North Lopham

Norfolk IP22 2HR

UK

Phone: +44 1953 681 676

Website: [http:// www.sallygreen.co.uk/sg-contact.php](http://www.sallygreen.co.uk/sg-contact.php)

2. **Saint Augustine Textiles** has 17th century women clothing that is appropriate for a pilgrim woman. They offer their apparel in cotton, linen and wool in a variety of period appropriate colors. The price varies based on the material chosen. 1) Bodice in cotton canvas (\$90), linen (\$110), wool (\$140). 2) Skirt in cotton canvas

(\$60), linen (\$85), wool (\$120). 3) Chemise in cotton (\$80) in Linen (\$100) Coif (\$25) Ladies Handkerchief Modesty/collar cotton (\$25) Linen (\$30)



Jon & Gidget Williams
58 St. George St.

St. Augustine, Florida

Phone: (904) 315-0610

Fax : (904) 794-1613

E-Mail sarjuan@aol.com . Website: <http://staugustinetextiles.com/>

3. **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.townsend.us/>

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

5. **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. **Burnley & Trowbride Co.** Williamsburg, VA (\$115) Limited availability
www.burnleyandtrowgridge.com
2. **St Augustine Textiles** (called Tutor Shoes) (\$63) <http://staugustinetextiles.com/>
3. **Grab the World** (\$85) www.garbtheworld.com/items/periodshoes.shtml
4. **Viking Leathercraft** (\$59.99) www.vikingleathercrafts.com

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.

1. **Plimoth Plantation Museum Shop** (hats in black and grey)
www.plimoth.com/collections/historical-clothing-accessories (\$62.99).
2. **Shepler's** Twister 2X Select Wool Men's Open Crown Hat (hats in black brown and light grey) (\$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)
<http://www.townsend.us/>
4. **Dirty Billy Hats** C31 1620s Men's Pilgrim Hat in Nutria (\$185) in Beaver (\$270) 20 Baltimore St. Gettysburg, PA 17325 <http://www.dirtybillyshats.com>
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<https://www.top-hats.com/Departments/Costume.aspx?sortorder=1&page=1>
6. <http://www.townsend.us/>