

## Fletcher's Company Uniform Stockings

A period description of Fletcher's Scouting Company says: "He and all his men were dressed in green jackets and stockings and green caps..." We have decided that these are what were commonly called "indian stockings," "indian leggings" or "leggings." We are basing ours on the description in Captain John Knox's journal from 1759. We compared this with period illustrations and actual leggings to help us figure out details of construction and fit.

Captain John Knox's journal entry: (See "Captain Job Winslow's Company of Colonel Jedediah Preble's Regiment" on the Fort Ticonderoga website.)

Leggers, Leggins, or Indian spatterdashes, are usually made of frize, or other coarse woolen cloth: they should be at least three quarters of a yard in length: each Leggin about three quarters wide (which is three by three) then double it, and a sew it together from end to end, within four, five, or six inches of the outside selvages, fitting this long, narrow bag to the shape of the leg; the flaps to be on the outside. Which serve to wrap over the shin, or fore-part of the leg, tied round under the knee and above the ankle with garters of the same colour; by which the legs are preserved from many fatal accidents, that may happen by briars, stumps of trees, or under-wood, &c. in marching through a close, woody country. The army have made an ingenious addition to them, by putting a tounge, or sloped piece before, as there is in the lower part of a spatterdash; and a strap fixed to it under the heart of the foot, which fastens under the outside ankle with a button. By these improvements they cover part of the instep below the shoe-buckles, and the quarters all round; the Indians generally ornament the flaps with beads of various colours, as they do their moggosan, or slipper; for my part, I think them clumsy, and not at all military; yet I confess they are highly necessary in North America; never-theless, if they were made with the flap, and to button on the outside of the leg, in like manner as a spatterdash, they would answer full as well: but this is a matter of opinion.

Period sketches and paintings of leggings are fairly common, but actual artifacts are not. However, there is an artifact with a period painting of the owner wearing it shown in Muzzleloader Magazine, September/ October 1998. Sir John Caldwell's leggings are 27 ½ inches long, with a "curving seam down outer leg, with seam allowance to the outside. Unseamed at lower leg, with 3 sets of metal hook and eye closures. Single tie of red cloth attached at top of each legging and remnants of foot loop at base. Sewing with cotton thread." The side seams "tightly follow the leg's contour and the flaps measure about 1 ¾ inches at the top... 2 ½ inches at the knee... 1 ¾ at mid-calf... 3 inches just above the ankle. The last 8 ½ inches (from mid-calf to heel) are not sewn but are fastened with three sets of hooks and eyes for ease in slipping the foot through to take them off and on." Caldwell served at Detroit in 1777 and 1778 with the King's 8<sup>th</sup> Regiment as a mediator and interpreter to the Ojibwa. He returned to England in 1782, and had his portrait painted in 1783. The leggings are now in the collections of the Ottawa Canadian Museum of Civilization. See "Recreating Sir John Caldwell's Leggings" Muzzleloader Magazine, September/ October 1998.

## Fletcher's Company "Stockings" aka Indian Leggings

"He and all his men were dressed in green jackets and stockings and green caps..."

### Materials Needed:

- 1 yard of 54 inch wide wool. This can be any of the green wools that the Company's jackets are made of. It does not necessarily match your own jacket.
- 2 horn buttons, approx 5/8 inch
- 2 leather straps for underneath the feet, approx 3/4 to 1 inch wide by 10 or 12 inches long
- 6 hook and eye closures, size 3 (optional)

[Note: These directions waste a lot of cloth. If you know the finished size of the leggings, you can begin by cutting trapezoids rather than rectangles. In the eighteenth century, wool fabric came in a standard width of "three-quarters wide" so they would not have been wasting fabric.]

Cut a square 27 inches long by 27 inches wide. (If you are very tall you may wish to make them a bit longer.) Wrap this around your leg- you should be wearing the breeches, stockings and shoes you will wear with it- with the edges to the outside of your leg, and lined up nicely. Pin it to fit closely to the shape of your leg- safety pins are easiest. At the front and center, cut a slit for your foot to fit through about 5 to 7 inches long to match the tongue piece. Mark where the foot loop will be attached to hold the legging tightly to your shoe, and measure how long the loop needs to be.

Take off your shoe. Take off the legging and sew the seam that you pinned. If you cannot take off the legging while it is pinned all the way to the bottom, unpin it as much as necessary, up to 8 1/2 inches. Do not sew this part closed, instead place 3 hook and eye closures to give it the same shape.

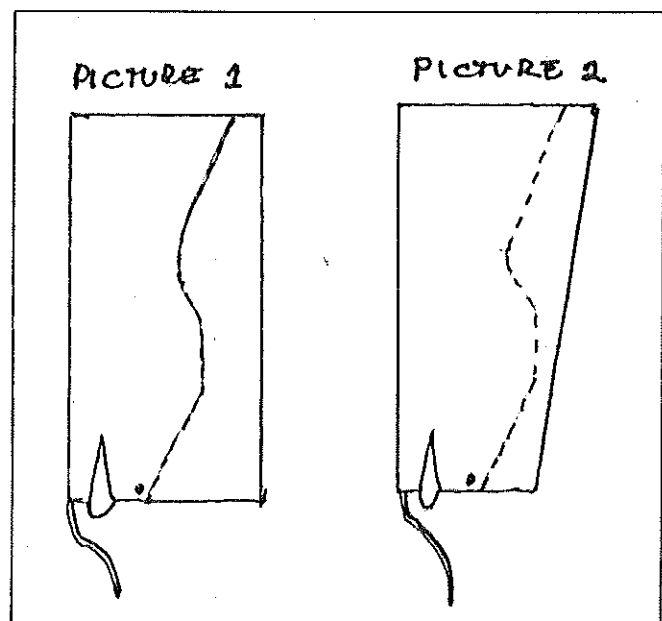
Cut and sew in the tongue piece, tapering the seam allowance at the slit from about 1/4 inch at the bottom to almost nothing at the top. Topstitch this seam if you wish to strengthen it.

Hem or bind the bottom edge if you wish to strengthen it.

Sew a button to the outside of the legging, to button to the foot loop. Cut a button-hole about 1/2 inch from one end of the foot strap. Sew the other end to the legging to make the foot strap the correct length.

Your legging now looks something like picture 1. If you wish, you can cut down the flap. Original leggings were usually (always?) a trapezoid shape rather than a rectangle, with the flaps 1 3/4 to 3 inches or wider. Your legging will look like picture 2.

Make another legging for your other leg.



From the remaining fabric, cut strips about 1 to 1 ½ inches wide for:

- Straps that will run from the top of your leggings to your belt. Sew one end to the legging and either sew a loop on the other end to slip your belt through, or leave it long enough to tie around your belt. You may instead use a leather strap or string this way, or make a button-hole in the leggings to match the top knee buttons on your breeches.
- Garters to tie below your knees. Keeping the legging flaps turned toward the back means you will get less stuff stuck in them when going through the woods.
- Garters to tie around your foot and ankle. Try it this way: put the center of the strap under your foot, then cross the ends over the top of your foot and bring them around behind the ankle, then to the front and tie them front and center.

Now go play outside.

# INDIAN LEGGING

TONGUE

$\frac{1}{2}$ " seam allowance

3/20/13  
5 1/2"  
6"  
6 1/2"  
7"

grain line  
CUTTING LINE FOR SIZE X-SMALL

cut out in legging

5 1/2" X-SMALL ≈ SZ 7  
6" SMALL ≈  
6 1/2" MEDIUM ≈  
7" LARGE ≈

