



MAYFLOWER GUARD

Arms and Armor Procurement Guide



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THE MAYFLOWER GUARD
General Society of Mayflower Descendant

Mayflower Guard

Arms and Armor Procurement Guide



This guide has been prepared for those individuals who are considering joining the Mayflower Guard and becoming part of a living history program of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants. The information in this guide is based on research and interaction with reenactor group such as the New Plimmoth Gard. We have identified vendors where you can purchase period appropriate gear at reasonable prices. Each of these vendors have been used to purchase arms and armor. It is important to remember is that the period for the Mayflower Guard is 1620/1621 therefore the arms, and armor for members of the guard shall be approporate for that period.

Arms and Armor

When the Pilgrims landed the records of their early expeditions ashore indicate that all men had armor, swords, and muskets. The standard set of armor of the day was known as a corselet which was worn by pikemen. The most common helmet used by early English settlers both in Jamestown and Plymouth known as a Cabaset. The swords that were carried were of two types, the thrusting rapier and the two-edged cutting sword. Examples of each are to be found in Pilgrim Hall Museum, Miles Standish's rapier, and Governor John Carver's sword. The most common musket was the

matchlock. The ammunition for the matchlock was carried by a bandelier worn over the shoulder where 12 vessels containing powder are attached.

Corselet or Pikeman's Armor



Corselet/Pikeman's Armor

Jacob de Gheyn 's Pikeman Illustration

Marshal Historical, a Spanish company, has developed a corselet which they refer to as pikeman's armor based on the illustrations in Jacob de Gheyn 's 1607, *Exercice of Arms*. Based on that book Marshal Historical has made a set of pikeman's armor that is the type of armor that would have been used by our Pilgrim ancestors.

Three reliable sources for Corselet/Pikeman's armor have been identified.

1. **Medieval Collectibles** in Princeton, Indiana carries the Marshal Historical pikeman's armor which they list as Pikeman's Cuirass item # MH-A0798. It includes the back and breastplates with removable tassets. (\$253.00). Medieval Collectables, 401 North Richland Creek Drive, Princeton, IN 47670 phone (877) 637-9673 email: <https://www.medievalcollectibles.com/p-42188-pikeman-cuirass.aspx#top>
2. **Re-Enactment Supplies** in the United Kingdom also carries the pikeman's armor. The item is listed as 17th Century Back & Breastplate with Removable Tassets. (£209.99) * Re-Enactment Supplies also carries many other items that can be purchased as well such as shoes, bandelier and apostles, and swords. www.re-enactmemntssupplises.co.uk.

**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'*

3. **Marshal Historical** is the manufacturer of the pikeman's armor. The armor can be ordered from them directly, but the prices are in euros (€237.20) and the shipping is from Spain. Marshal Historical Sequia de Calvera, 41, C.P.: 46910, Sedavi (Valencia) Spain

<http://www.thetimeseller.com/product/3022/0/0/1/2/Pikemen-breastplate-1607.htm>

**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 USD US Dollars'*

Cabasset Helmet



Cabasset Helmet

India Overseas Trading has a Cabaset Armor Helmet (IOA-IR80608) (\$28.13) This item is the least expensive cabasset helmet. The helmet may run large and you may want a helmet liner which is sold separately. It can be from it can be order from www.Opentip.com.

Note: in the 17th century armor and helmets were normally blackened or blued. Instructions on blackening your armor can found on YouTube on the Maryland Mayflower Channel.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gz0Psb0EPgk>

Arming Caps

Swords

While Miles Standish carried a rapier, most the Pilgrims used cutting type swords which were more practical for the American wilderness. There were three type of swords that would have been used.

1. The half basket hanger or tuck sword was used as a backup weapon by pikemen and musketeers during the 17th century. The hanger/tuck sword's compact size meant it was easy to wear and would not get in the way when using a musket or pike and an excellent choice especially when wearing armor. This sword is listed as either the English Half Basket Hanger Sword or the English Civil War Tuck Sword.
2. The English half basket sword was a full length cutting sword that was widely used. It would have been used with or without armor. It is often listed by vendors as the Mortuary Half Basket Sword.
3. The town guard sword was popular by militia companies in Europe including the Netherlands. This sword is often listed as the Munich Town Guard Sword or simply as the Town Guard Sword. The Practical Mortuary Sword is very similar to the Town Guard Sword

There are several sources for swords that have been used with satisfactory results. The prices vary depending on your choice of sword.

1. ***Kult of Athena*** in Illinois, 1) The English Half-Basket Hanger (\$100.95 excellent choice especially when wearing armor. 2) Their full-length mortuary half basket sword is an appropriate choice for those wanting a full-length sword. (\$238.00) www.kultofathena.com.



English Half-Basket Hanger/Tuck Sword



Full Length Mortuary Half Basket Sword

2. ***Southern Swords*** of the UK offers English Civil War Tuck - Short Sword
Product Code: S5781 for £95.00. <https://southernswords.co.uk/english-civil-war-tuck-short-sword.html>
3. ***Medieval Weaponry*** of the UK also offers an English Civil War Tuck Sword
Product Code: S5781 for £98.95 <https://www.medieval-weaponry.co.uk/acatalog/john-barnett-english-civil-war-tuck-sword.html>
4. ***Therion Arms*** in Del Valle, TX, has 1) Munich Town Guard Sword (\$260) 2) the Practical Mortuary Sword (\$250) that are period appropriate. www.therioarms.com



Practical Mortuary Sword

5. ***Medieval Collectibles*** in Princeton, Indiana carries a variety of swords as well. 1) Mortuary Half Basket Sword #501512 (\$265) 2) Munich Sword #501144 (\$265)
Medieval Collectables, 401 North Richland Creek Drive, Princeton, IN 47670
phone (877) 637-9673 email: <https://www.medievalcollectibles.com>

6. **Reliks** functional swords offers a variety of swords including the Munich Sword (\$264) and the Mortuary Half Basket Hilt Sword (\$264.99)

Reliks 840 Dulaney Dr. London, ON

Order Line: 1-888-473-5457

www.reliks.com

Sword Belts and Baldric

Swords were carried either with the over the shoulder baldric or with a narrow sword belt worn around the waist with a frog to hold the sword.



Baldric



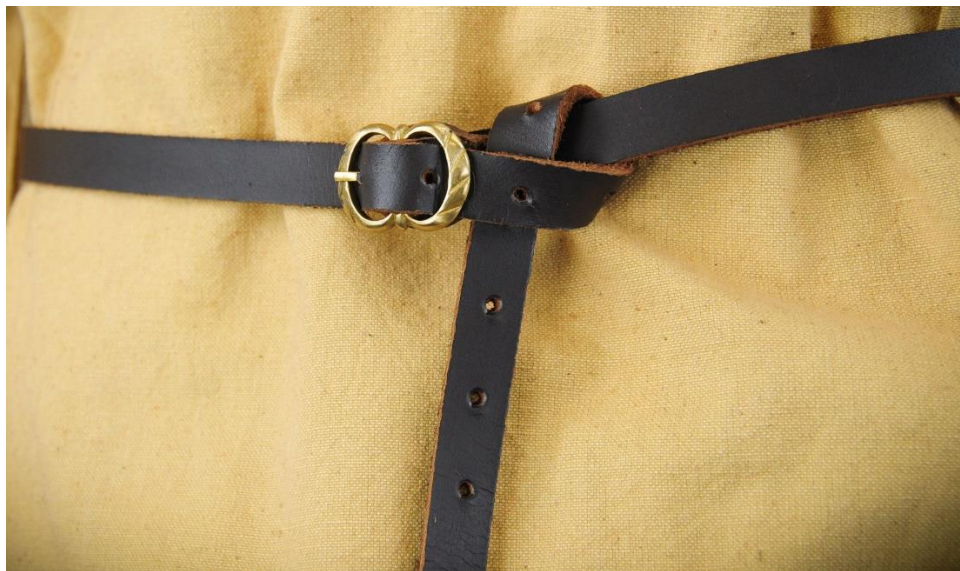
Thin Sword Belt

If one is wearing Pikeman's armor, the belt on the armor can serve as the sword belt with adding only what is known as a frog to hold the sword. If one chooses such a frog, it should be one where the sword is carried at an angle.



The Sword Belt and frog can be purchased from St Augustine Textiles Sword Belt (\$150) Frog (\$40)

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/>



One may also choose a belt if one is also wearing a bandelier and apostles. Both Kult of Athena and Armor Venue have a wide selection of belts baldric and frogs.

www.kultofathena.com, www.armorvenue.com.

Musket

The most common musket used by the Pilgrims was the Matchlock Musket. There are many sources for Matchlock Muskets. The Mayflower Guard will be using non-firing muskets.



Matchlock Musket from Access Heritage

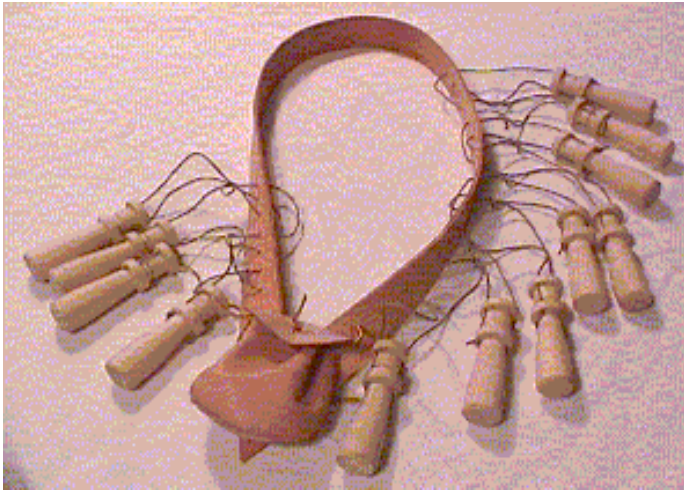
1. ***Access Heritage, Inc.*** in Ottawa, Canada has least expense (\$549) non-firing matchlock musket. www.militaryheritage.com

2. ***Skye's Sutlering*** in Claremont, VA. is another source for matchlock muskets. The matchlock muskets offered by Skye's are custom made by a gunsmith in Virginia and are shorter in length than that of others which makes them easier to transport when traveling by air thus can be an advantage. www.sykessutler.com



Matchlock Musket from Skye's Sutlering

Banelier & Apostle



Bandoliers & Apostles Skye's Sutlering



Bandoliers & Apostles Loyalist Arms

There are multiple sources for bandoliers & apostles at all approximately the same price (\$150)

1. **Skye's Sutlering** in Claremont, VA. www.sykessutler.com
2. **Loyalist Arms** from Harriotfield Nova Scotia, Canada
<http://www.loyalistarms.ca/mainpage.php>
3. **Re-Enactment Supplies** www.re-enactmemntssupplises.co.uk

Transporting Arms and Armor

To be able to participate in some GSMD events such as Congress and Boards of Assistant Meetings, Guardsman may need to travel by air. Consideration therefore must be given to having muskets carried in FAA approved gun carrying cases. Because of the size of a matchlock musket, a 62-inch carrying case may be required. Such cases are available. If one has a shorter musket a 53-inch gun case may work nicely.

1. **The T.Z. Case International** T'ZM0062 B 62 x 16 x 6-Inch Ultra-62 Tactical Case with Wheels, Black Finish (\$214.47) is available through Amazon.com. It will accommodate 2 muskets or one musket and a sword.
2. **The TMS** 53" Long Aluminum Locking Rifle Gun Case Shotgun Storage Box Carry Case w/Keys (\$60) is available from Amzon.com



T.Z. Case International TZM0062 B 62 x 16 x 6-Inch Ultra-62 Tactical Case



TMS 53" Long Aluminum Locking Rifle Gun Case

Armor can be easily packed in a large 30-inch roller suitcase. Suitable suitcases can be purchase locally or order on-line from a variety of vendors for approximately \$90. Laundry bags are useful to protect the armor and can be purchase on-line.



30-inch Roller Suitcase

Contact Information

Please address any questions about the items in this procurement guide to

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