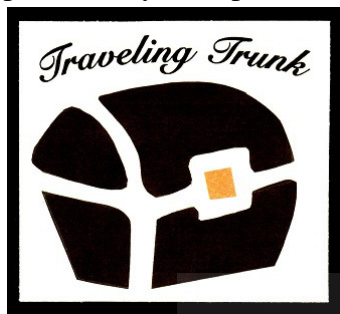


In 2011, the Georgia SAR Education Committee initiated an effort to allow each of its local chapters to own a Traveling Trunk - a trunk filled with replicas of American colonial era home, school, and military artifacts for use in living history displays and lectures. Georgia SAR members had tested the use of two traveling trunks in 2009 and 2010 and found that the programs were very popular with members and contributed greatly to the chapters' educational outreach programs. The group estimated the cost of a "basic" traveling trunk to be about \$250, with half of the amount to be provided by a chapter and half from donations from the Georgia Fellows Fund.



The final value of a trunk and its contents was actually closer to \$400. Georgia SAR was able to take advantage of several volume discounts and to utilize the talents of several SAR and DAR members in making some of the items or obtaining donations of items.

Subsequently, some Georgia SAR chapters not yet participating in the program and SAR members across the country have asked for information about the program in order to create their own individual traveling trunk programs. Following are some guidelines the Georgia SAR Education Committee recommended in implementing programs spreading the success of the traveling trunk initiative.

## Set-Up

Members have some suggestions for setting up the display. At times, members have had to work directly out of the trunk to pull items for discussion. However, a very professional look may be achieved by the following means. First, ensure in advance that presenters will have at least one 6-foot or 8-foot table available for use. Presenting members will likely quickly grow to using two or three tables. Include a brown velour-type table cover that does not wrinkle during storage that will cover an 8-foot table (a brown color might give the ambiance of an animal skin covering). This and a variety of other suitable materials can be purchased at Jo Ann Fabrics or another similar store.

Secondly, traveling trunk presenters can use the trunk itself on top of the table as an accent decoration to highlight the themes. Depending upon the space available and the size to which the trunk collection may grow, members can also accent the display by placing medium-sized boxes at a few places on the table to create tiers on which to display selected items. Some of the storage containers in which the items are stored may also be used to display pieces. Sometimes there are boxes or books at the site that can be used to create these accent tiers.

Thirdly, SAR members and presenters may use a few accent pieces that might not be discussed directly as part of the display, adding visual appeal. For example, a deer antler, a framed map or battle scene, or a black candle lantern in the style of old fashioned lanterns can be added to supplement the layout.

## Suggested Additions to Your Collection

Presenters and educators will likely find the traveling trunk concept so addictive that he or she will want to add more pieces. A few sources for additional pieces are listed below.

- **Jas. Townsend & Son, Inc.:** Visit this catalog supplier of colonial era replica items and clothing at <http://www.jas-townsend.com> or call (800) 338-1665 to receive the company's 98-page catalog. This was the Georgia SAR's primary source of items in the basic trunk. For budgeting purposes, members will find that some items in the trunk are examples rather than full sets that are available from Townsend & Son. For instance, Georgia SAR members included a few playing cards in each trunk to show how monarchs could be jokingly portrayed and that numbers were not printed on cards. Thus, they avoided the cost of a full deck of cards for each basic trunk. Similarly, a set of metal toy soldiers is available from Townsend in sets of ten for the infantry but only two or three were included for discussion purposes.
- **National Military Parks:** The gift shops at Revolutionary War era battle sites tend to carry wooden toys, powder horns, mob caps, quills, musket balls, and similar replica items. Vendors on special holidays or historic site celebrations may visit these sites and have unique items to include in the traveling trunk display.
- **Museum Replicas Limited (A Division of Atlanta Cutlery):** Just east of Atlanta in Conyers, Georgia (located at 2147 Gees Mill Road) is a firm specializing in period knives. Museum Replicas Limited also carries powder horns and period shirts and occasionally other miscellaneous Revolutionary War items. The Georgia SAR has found replicas of colonial era coins, lanterns, padlocks, pistols, and tin ware on this company's bargain table. Further details about Museum Replicas Limited can be found online at <http://www.museumreplicas.com>.
- **SAR Members:** SAR members, DAR members, and other historical reenactment groups can be a great resource for additional military outfits and colonial era items to include in the presentation. If a member is unable to participate, perhaps he or she may allow an outfit to be used in lieu of participation.

## Leverage Your Involvement and Activity Levels

Remember to use the opportunity of presenting the traveling trunk to promote other local SAR chapter-sponsored programs and to use it to accomplish other chapter goals, such as Flag Certificates presentations. Relationships with local DAR and CAR chapters can be greatly improved by offering to showcase a program or by including these groups in planned programs.

## Suggestions for Your Presentation

Enclosed in this correspondence is a list of items included in the basic traveling trunk with a brief description of each item. The Georgia SAR has attempted to add some interesting aspect of the item that members may have found particularly impressive during presentations. As a presenter continues to use the trunk, he or she will gather new information from personal research, other presenters, fellow SAR members, or the audience that can be added to future discussions.

One of the reasons that this approach to teaching Revolutionary War history is so successful and trusted is that the traveling truck project can be altered in countless ways. Most importantly, no script is required. SAR members don't have to feel stranded at a podium or locked into a malfunctioning media presentation. Presenters can sweep their eyes across the table as they discuss one item in order to plan which item they will pick up next without any break in the presentation flow.

One display method that may prove useful is to group the trunk's items into discussion categories, including toys, military accessories, household items, Native American artifacts, female accessories, etc. Depending upon the intended audience, members and presenters will want to highlight some items more than others in the allotted time frame.

While wearing a military uniform or period outfit certainly adds to the traveling trunk presentation, it also adds to the cost of giving such programs and many members have no interest in outfitting a uniform. This is yet another great aspect of the traveling trunk because the member does not have to wear a uniform to make a great presentation. In fact, if presenters do not wear a uniform, he or she might consider talking to those who have been using uniforms to see if they have any worn out items that would be of use to adding to the trunk.

Interested presenters may also visit other SAR chapters that are giving the program to learn their best practices. Chapter members will be flattered that they were chosen and presenters will benefit greatly in improving his or her traveling trunk program.

Traveling trunk presenters can also gain experience and insight by volunteering to help at a local SAR or historical function or event.



## Thanks and Appreciation

In closing, I would like to thank a few members of the SAR and the DAR who were so helpful in compiling our creation of eleven traveling trunks. Mr. Bruce Maney, Georgia SAR State Historian and active education outreach lecturer, assisted in finding unique, economical sources of several items such as the ox horns, colonial maps of Georgia, and yellow root and in serving as a traveling companion in the search for many items. Ms. Leslie Watkins, Vice Regent of the William Day Chapter NSDAR, consulted on women's items and making corn husk dolls. Ms. Ginny Manning of the Philadelphia Winn Chapter NSDAR was of special help, making the table cloths, adult mop caps, and pockets using fabric sales to cut costs. She compiled the button display cards and assisted in finding discounted trunks on sale. The Georgia Fellows Fund made the gracious offer to obtain the initial trunks.

## The Three Most Important Things to Remember

Have fun! Have fun!! Have fun!!!



## Traveling Trunk Item Descriptions

To assist in traveling trunk presentations using colonial era replica items, the following information is provided. The information is separated into the following categories: Male Accessories, Female Attire, Toys and Games, Fire Making Material, Kitchen Items, and Other Household Items.

Descriptions are provided for items found in the “basic” Traveling Trunk that was created in May 2011 for 11 of our chapters as well as for items that you might add yourself (these additional items are followed by an asterisk).

### Male Accessories

**Haversack (\*)** – This cloth or leather pouch was used to carry a variety of items with a hunter or soldier such as food and small clothing items. Pockets were not in popular use.

**Wooden Canteen (\*)** – Some canteens were made from metal. Others were made from wood such as pine. These were less expensive but had to be replaced every three to six months. It was usually carried by a strap on the left side.

**Ox or Buffalo Horn** – A horn in its initial rough state may be shown to highlight the beautiful, hidden powder horn hiding within and to note the necessity of our ancestors to use every part of a plant or animal that could be conceivably used.



**Powder Horns** – Larger powder horns carried black gun powder for use in muskets and rifles to project musket balls. Smaller horns (\*) carried the finer gun powder used to prime a gun. Wooden plugs were placed at both ends. Maps, designs, family information, or other information was often carved on the exterior of a horn.

**Bullet Bag (\*)** – A small leather pouch used to carry spare musket balls.

**Musket Ball** – Typically a ball was made of molten lead about the size of a large marble. A soldier would often carry pre-made cartridges containing a ball and gun powder to speed up his firing time with his musket. A “good” soldier could reload his musket every fifteen seconds. Gun battles during the Revolutionary War were often of short duration as participants ran out of “prepared” paper bullets and the flints in the guns wore down, forcing bayonet charges at that point. Pieces of flint attached to pistols and other guns were used to create a spark to ignite the gun powder in a gun. A piece of flint was usually replaced after fifteen shots.

**Pistol Ball & Flint (\*)** – This ball was about the size of a marble and used in English pistols.

**“USA” Continental Button (\*)** – This is the most common type of soldier’s button and was used between 1775 and 1783. The regulation Continental Line military coat had about forty-four large buttons like this on it. The vest used a smaller button. When out of musket balls, these buttons could be melted down and poured into bullet molds to create more bullets. Buttons on coat sleeves were first used by British midshipmen to stop them from the bad habit of wiping their nose on their sleeve!

**Signal Whistle (\*)** – Made of wood or horn, such whistles could be used to signal commands in battle.

**Stockings** – An extra pair of dry stockings was important to the soldier or man out hunting. Long stockings were worn rather than long trousers since it was easier to clean stockings than trousers and less costly to replace one or two worn stockings.

**Neck Stock (Black) (\*)** – Black or white neck stock was worn like a tie is worn today around a man’s collar outside the shirt.

**Clay Pipe (\*)** – Clay pipes were used to smoke tobacco. The stem on the pipe would typically be about six inches long. As the end of a pipe became broken or plugged, it would be broken off until all that was left was the bowl of the pipe. Even then, a hollow reed or stick might be used to replace the clay stem. A tavern pipe might have a stem that was twice as long and broken off with succeeding customers. A variety of designs might be found on the bowl of a pipe.

**Ostrich Feather (Black) (\*)** – Feathers were popular for decorating the hats of men and women. The type of feather on a man’s hat might indicate with which military unit he was serving.

**Map of Colonial Georgia** – This map shows the outline of colonial Georgia in comparison to current boundaries and is helpful in showing the Native American lands and the small size of Georgia at the time of the American Revolution.

### Female Attire

**Mob Cap** – This simple white cloth cap was worn by women and young girls to keep their long (and sometimes dirty) hair in place. As a safety measure it kept hair away from open fires used in the kitchen.

**Bonnet Cap (\*)** – A white bonnet cap might be worn on special occasions and would include some fancy lacework on it.

**Straw Hat (\*)** – This would be worn over top of the mob cap and with a wide brim would be used to block sunshine from reaching the face when working outdoors. Ribbon was usually used to hold the hat in place on the head. The custom eventually spread to using straw hats on special occasions, decorated with a variety of ribbon, lace, beads, feathers, or other finery.



**Brisé Fan** – Fans were popular fashion accessories for ladies and gentlemen. The brisé style fan is wooden sticks held together with ribbon or string. Sandalwood was a popular source and an ingredient in many perfumes. The fan was often used to hide bad teeth or smallpox marks on the face. Such scars were often also covered by small leather patches, often in “fashionable” designs such as stars and half moons, which, of course, portrait artists did not include in portraits. A book describing fan “language” was published in 1797 suggesting the silent means of using a fan to flirt with the opposite sex.

**Pockets** – Women’s skirts or petticoats did not have pockets in them but they had slits to allow reaching inside the skirt. Under the skirt, a woman would wear pockets on a belt made of similar material and tied around the waist. The pockets would hold common household items used throughout the day.

## **Toys & Games**

**Cup & Ball** – This simple pastime required one to use dexterity and hand-eye coordination to toss the ball at the end of a string to land in the cup. Usually carved simply in wood, wealthy homes might have jewel encrusted varieties.

**Nine Pins** – Bowling games have been popular since 5,000 B.C. This small version was used to play on the floor or on a table top. Larger versions were often played in taverns on a long narrow table. In 1841, Connecticut outlawed the game because of the heavy gambling that became associated with it. To avoid such laws, a tenth pin was added and called Ten Pins. Ten Pin bowling evolved into today’s modern bowling. The head pin or “king” pin that we refer to today came about when colonials painted the front pin red to depict King George in a red jacket, enabling them to take out their frustrations by knocking down the king pin.

**Clothespin Doll (\*)** – An inexpensive small doll could be made with a clothespin and small pieces of cloth. Dolls were also sometimes used to display examples of clothing that could be ordered from Europe rather than using printed catalogs.

**Toy Soldiers** – Toy soldiers were made individually for hundreds of years, but not until the mid-1700s were small tin soldiers made in large numbers and sold to the general public. This example is made from lead-free pewter.

**Slate Boards (\*)** – Slate boards were generally used in classrooms rather than expensive paper.

**Jacob’s Ladder** – A colonial version of today’s “Slinky”!

## **Fire Making Material**

**Tinder Box Candle Holder (\*)** – This type of candle holder held both a candle and the means to start a fire. Inside the base of the holder would be tinder (dried plant material that caught fire easily), a piece of flint, and a steel striker to create a spark. Both soldiers and civilians used tinder boxes.

**Candle Mold (\*)** – Candles were made from tallow (rendered animal fat), beeswax, bayberry (wax from bayberry bushes found along the New England coast), or spermaceti (from the heads of sperm whales). Candle molds were a more efficient way of creating candles than dipping wicks. Molds typically formed more than one at a time and varied in height. A typical beeswax candle is included in the basic trunk.

**Lantern (\*)** – Lanterns come in a variety of shapes, sizes, and materials. Lanterns were particularly useful outdoors to protect a burning candle from rain and wind. Glass sides were probably expensive. Metal sides with numerous small holes punched in them were often more popular when glass was not available.

**Fire Making Kit (\*)** – The booklet *Making Fire with Flint and Steel* by James Townsend and Joe Lee provides details on starting a fire from scratch. The four elements essential to a kit are flints, a striker, char cloth, and tinder (all included in the kit). Char cloth is used to catch and hold sparks made by striking a steel striker against the edge of a piece of flint stone. The sparks are used to catch fire to tinder such as cedar bark, straw, old rope, or dry plant material which has been placed in a circle around the char cloth. The small fire is then used to start a bigger fire or to light a candle or pipe. Such a kit would be carried in one’s haversack. A striker and flint and a few strands of jute are included in the basic trunk. The sparks created by the flint and striker are popular with the kids.

## **Kitchen Items**

**Tin Plate** – Tin was a common material for tableware especially in less affluent homes. China dinnerware might crack, chip, or break. Tin was more durable.

**Horn Spoon** – Knives, forks, and spoons might be made from metal or wood. If made from metal, spoon handles might be made from wood, antlers, or bones. An entire spoon could also be made of horn.

**Soldier’s Fork** – A soldier’s fork could be created by twisting a long piece of metal wire into shape and sharpening the ends.

**Sugar Cone** – Sugar came in solid cones. It might come wrapped in paper with a wax seal on it proving that the proper tax had been paid. Sugar was so valuable during colonial times that it might be kept under lock and key.

**Brick of Tea** – Unlike today, tea often came in solid bricks. This made it easier to transport on ships and generated a greater profit. A company logo could be impressed on the exterior. Tease the audience first by suggesting that it might be a bar of chocolate, then ask them what was thrown in the bay at Boston.

**Tea Infuser** – Once flakes of tea were shaved from a brick of tea, they were used to make tea. They might be put in a tea infuser to hold the flakes like we use a tea bag today. In colonial times, a tea infuser might be made of bamboo in the shape of a small basket or of metal.

**Cast Iron Utensils (\*)** – Large spoons and forks used for cooking were often made of cast iron just like the pots and pans that were in use. These held up well in hot cooking fires.

**Yellow Root** – The small branches from this plant were cut into about 1-inch pieces and brewed in water to provide a homemade medicine used for a variety of illnesses. It has not been found to be particularly useful under modern research. An example can be used to highlight the impact of Native American culture on European settlers.

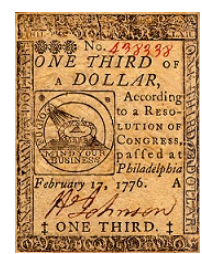
## Other Household Items

**Bone Comb** – Bone was a popular item from which to carve a hair comb. No part of an animal left unused!

**Toothbrush** – This bone handled brush in the shape of a toothbrush used an interesting source for the brush: boar's bristles. An alternative to using a tooth brush was to use the end of a stick of sassafras to clean one's teeth.

**Playing Cards** – Cards have long been a popular game. The Jack, Queen, and King were relevant to the royalty of Europe. Cards were often annotated or drawn to make fun of royalty. To prevent this, the King of England placed a heavy tax on each deck of cards. A seal was placed on the deck to prove that the tax was paid. Even today many decks of cards have a seal placed on the box to show that the cards have not been opened. Also note that printed numbers were not placed on the cards since most American colonists could not read.

**Pieces of Eight** – A coin called the Spanish Milled Dollar was often used around the world in trade. It was used in the American colonies because of the lack of English coins available. Not having other coins with which to make change, the Spanish Milled Dollar was often cut into eight pieces to make change. Thus it was also called a Piece of Eight. Each 1/8<sup>th</sup>



piece was called a bit. Thus two bits were one-fourth of a dollar or a quarter of a dollar which is why a quarter today is still referred to as 2 bits, as in the phrase, "Two bits, four bits, six bits, a dollar."

**Continental Currency (\*)** – From 1775 to 1779, the continental Congress issued \$241 million worth of Continental currency in twenty-three denominations. Each denomination had its own unique emblem on the front. The back was decorated with nature prints of leaves. Beginning on May 20, 1777, some of the words were changed from "United Colonies" to "United States." Each denomination included a Latin phrase.

**Homemade Soap** – Soap was made in an iron kettle over an open fire by boiling rendered animal or cooking waste fats with wood ash lye from six to eight hours until it formed a thick frothy mass. Colonists rendered fats by cooking them with water in a two-step process to remove any impurities like leftover meat and tissues. Wood ash lye was created by pouring water over wood ashes creating an oozing brownish liquid. This procedure resulted in a soft (liquid) soap typically used by colonists that was stored in a wooden barrel and ladled out with a wooden dipper when needed. "Hard" soap could be created by adding common salt at the end of the boiling and letting it cool into a hard texture, but salt was considered expensive and not to be wasted on this process. Hard soap when created by vendors was formed in large wooden frames and sold in that size or by the pound rather than into bars as we think of soap today. A vendor might add scented oils. The specific recipe was very much trial and error and often involved several attempts to obtain a usable batch of soap.

**Sewing Kit** – In lieu of a full sewing kit that might include scissors; a spool of sinew; a wooden needle case with pins and needles; wooden, bone, horn, and pewter buttons; a wooden thimble; and heavy cotton thread in a roll-up, canvas bag, the basic traveling trunk includes scissors, an example of sinew (the stringy part of an animal's muscle, i.e. the tendon, such as from the front leg of a deer) used as thread or string, and two each of the button types on a display card. The expense of metal buttons can be compared to homemade buttons. Sinew comes in lengths related to the size of the animal and must be spliced together to create longer lengths and artificial sinew comes in long lengths like a ball of string. Sinew was used like string to tie arrowheads onto arrow shafts, for sewing, and similar uses.

**Stoneware Inkwell and Quill** – A quill pen and ink container were used for writing.

**Scales (\*)** – A set can be used to show how gold dust could be weighed or pieces of eight might be weighed to ensure that none of the cut edges had been shaved down by unscrupulous traders.

**Dunlap Broadside (\*)** – The Dunlap Broadside is the first two hundred copies of the Declaration of Independence, printed on the night of July 4, 1776, by John Dunlap of Philadelphia. By 1989, only twenty-four were known to remain in existence. In 1989, a twenty-fifth copy was found behind a painting bought at a flea market for \$4. It was sold for \$8.14 million.

**Redware Grease Lamp** – This type of lamp burns a jute wick using vegetable oil or animal grease such as bacon grease and was an alternative to more costly and harder to make candles.

**Rabbit Fur** – The impact of the fur trade can be highlighted with this sample fur.

**Sassafras** – The sassafras is a medium size tree (up to seventy feet tall). Sassafras leaves are eaten by deer, bear, and other woodland animals. Rabbits love to chew the bark in winter. Colonists would boil the roots and bark to make a tea. They would also use a piece of the root, about the size of the finger and perhaps several inches long, to cleanse their teeth. This was useful to those who could not afford to buy a boar bristle toothbrush. The sassafras oil also left a minty smell in the mouth, thus freshening breath.



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*Revised May 25, 2011*