

Basic Detail Report



Title Man's Shirt

Date about 1781

Primary Maker Colonel William Ledyard

Medium Hand-stitched linen

Basic Detail Report

Description Man's shirt of fine linen. It is extremely finely stitched, and has

whipped ruffles at the center front opening and on the cuffs. There is a 3 1/2-

inch high collar, with a closure of three thread buttons (one button is missing).

The shirt is cut from one long length of linen, folded at the shoulderline, and slit

for fitting the collar. Gussets at the neck edge along the shoulderline provide

proper fitting for the collar. The shirt body is gathered around the neckline into

the collar. The shoulderline is reinforced with a 1 1/4-inch wide strip of linen.

The center front of the shirt below the opening has been replaced, or was pieced

in the period, with a very slightly heavier weight linen. The sleeves are full, being

gathered into the shoulder and into the cuff with very fine gathers. 11 1/2-inch

long slits at the sides of the shirt body are reinforced and widened at the top

with the addition of piece of linen. Worked in fine cross stitches in blue thread at

the top of the proper left slit is "W L / 2". This shirt was worn by Colonel William

Ledyard at the time he was killed by a British officer at the taking of Fort

Griswold on 6 September 1781. The shirt has an L-shaped cut on the back panel

below the proper left sleeve, and a horizontal cut below and to the back of the

right sleeve, corresponding in size and placement to the cuts on Ledyard's

waistcoat (#1841.5.0), if the shirt were slightly twisted, as it would be if Ledyard

was actively defending himself against the attack.

Dimensions Primary Dimensions (center front length x width across shoulders):

42 1/2 x 21 1/2in. (108 x 54.6cm)