

Basic Detail Report



Title Waistcoat

Date about 1781

Primary Maker Colonel William Ledyard

Basic Detail Report

Medium Hand-stitched linen, with buttons made of wooden (probably) discs

covered with linen

Description Waistcoat of white linen, woven with stripes created by alternating reversing twilled stripes. Eleven-button closure at center front. The buttons are made of linen-covered wooden (probably) discs. The waistcoat skirt is cut to slope away in front below the hips. There is a pocket covered by a flap on each side of the front at hip level. The back of the waistcoat is plain-woven linen, pieced at the proper right shoulder. The waistcoat is lined with a finer plain-woven linen, and the buttonholes are faced with linen matching the back. The center back seam has a five-inch long vent. This waistcoat was worn by Colonel William Ledyard when he was killed by a British officer during the taking of Fort Griswold on 6 September 1781. A 1 1/2-inch horizontal cut indicating the piercing of the sword is evident on the proper left side; there is a smaller cut on the proper right side, suggesting that Colonel Ledyard was run through from the side. The proper right shoulder is cut through, possibly done to remove the waistcoat from the stricken soldier. The shirt worn by Colonel Ledyard (#1844.48.0) shows sword cuts on either side of its back panel, which correspond to the size and area of the sword cuts on the waistcoat. For the holes to match up, the shirt would have been slightly twisted around Ledyard's body, as he actively defended himself at the time he was stabbed.

Dimensions Primary Dimensions (length from shoulder to hem x width across chest): 29 x 18 1/2in. (73.7 x 47cm)