

Marks of An Officer

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When on duty they [officers] are to wear Sashes and Regimental Gorgets, the strings of the Gorget to be red ribband with small roses, the Gorget to hang over the Cape of the Coat, and at the upper button of the Coat, so that it may not be more than two inches from the Collar (Hamtramck 1802).

- The gorget is a metal crescent of white metal for infantry officers and yellow metal for artillery officers, and is a vestige of the armour of the knights. The gorget originally protected the throat between the breastplate and helmet of the knight.
- The infantry officer's ...when on duty they are to wear Sashes on the left side (Hamtramck 1801).
- Garrison Orders of 1801 for Fort Johnson, NC (Artillery) An officer is to be in compleat uniform, his sword on a white belt over his shoulder, a crimson sash round his waist...(Finke, 1952)
- The officer's sashes are variously described as red, scarlet or crimson and are usually of worsted silk.
- The epaulette is a descendant of the shoulder strap and was silver for infantry officers and gold for artillery officers. All the field Officers to have two Silver Epaulets, the Captains one on the right Shoulder...with a blue strap Silver laced on the opposite Shoulder (Hamtramck 1801).
- A white metal breast plate was worn by Infantry officers on the sword belt. Artillery officers wore a yellow metal (brass) breast plate on their sword belt.
- Sashes, Regimental Gorgets and Breast plates – may be procured by application to Colonel Hamtramck (Hamtramck 1802).



All company grade officers carried a spontoon as a symbol of authority and as a combat weapon. Officers would carry the Spontoon rather than a firelock since it was felt that no officer could properly command his troops while loading his firelock.