

**The Illinois Regiment on the March to Vincennes,  
February 1779**

By Greg Hudson



The nine figures represent a mix of the forces marching on foot to Vincennes.

The left-hand five figures are Illinois Regiment Regulars, with an officer in the foreground followed immediately by a sergeant. Three Illinois Regiment privates follow the sergeant.

The four figures on the right are representative of the French volunteers from Cahokia and Kaskaskia.

The Illinois Regiment regulars are wearing Spanish black cocked hats edged in white with black cockades.

The Illinois Regiment officer wears a gorget as a mark of his rank.

The sergeant has a red epaulet on his right shoulder.

Their coats are single-breasted. The officer's coat has gilt buttons. The enlisted men's coats have white metal buttons. The coat base color is a shade of blue, which is somewhat lighter than navy blue. The coat has a white collar and white cuffs. The coats have turnbacks, which in this picture are let down to add protection from the cold. The pocket

shape and button arrangements on the coats are partially visible on the sergeant and the second private.

The sergeant wears white knee breeches, woolen stockings and shoes. The officer and two of the privates wear leggings over their breeches and stockings. (None of their white weskits are visible in this picture.)

The officer wears a blanket coat over his uniform.

The first private is wrapped in a blanket and the second private wears a 'frontier surtout' or modified, waterproofed shirt over his uniform.

The sergeant carries a Brown Bess, and the first and second privates carry Spanish Fuseses. Also in evidence are Spanish belly boxes on two of the privates.

The four French volunteers wear a mixture of French civilian style hats, coats and capotes. The cocked hats are decorated with the white Bourbon cockade. The first Frenchman wears woolen socks pulled up and over his breeches.

The first Frenchman (perhaps a veteran of the Seven Years' War) carries a marine cartouche box.

The first and third Frenchmen carry the Fusee du Chasse. The second Frenchman carries a Charleville.