**[silas thatcher](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/10423-silas-thatcher/" \o "Go to silas thatcher's profile)**

* Notorious Pyrate
* 
* 
* Member
* 774 posts
* Location:st. louis, mo.
* Interests:probably too many interests :) old vw's, sailing, photography, home improvements, and lots more ;)

[Posted February 10, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16526-foul-weather-gear-fabric/&do=findComment&comment=379527) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16526-foul-weather-gear-fabric/&do=reportComment&comment=379527)

capt. sterling, what kind of fabric constitutes "foul weather gear" fabric ?? a certain wool, oiled canvas, what was used ??

tia

[**callenish gunner**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1944-callenish-gunner/)

* Scourge o' the 7 Seas
* 
* 
* Member
* 2,138 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Pennsylvania mountains north of Clarion
* Interests:The Callenish gunner has just hoved into view looking for safe anchorage in these waters... purveyor of bladed and flintlock weaponry also leather accessories ..........painter of portraits and period scenes by avocation I'm getting my armoury business underway and will be doing as many festivals as I can ...right now along the east coast or great lakes

[Posted February 10, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16526-foul-weather-gear-fabric/&do=findComment&comment=379528) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16526-foul-weather-gear-fabric/&do=reportComment&comment=379528)

**Silas, this is one source for oilcloth that makes a decent rain coat/watch shirt** [**Scarlet Scareb oilcloth**](http://www.scarletscarab.com/oilcloth.htm)

[**michaelsbagley**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/3724-michaelsbagley/)

* Smells Like Wet Sheep
* 
* 
* Moderator
* 2,548 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Columbus, Ohio
* Interests:Mostly into GAoP, but starting to develop more Buccaneer era stuff for re-enacting as well. Generally I do re-enact both piratical/nautical and other impressions from the period. I am focusing on more "common" impressions from the period (i.e. average sailor/pirate, rank and file Red Coat, early Colonial huntsman, etc.)

[Posted February 10, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16526-foul-weather-gear-fabric/&do=findComment&comment=379529) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16526-foul-weather-gear-fabric/&do=reportComment&comment=379529)

Well, I might not be Sterling... But if you look at the capotes (hooded justacorps) of the time, they were made from heavy wools. Also going through the Admirality Contracts of the time, most of the heavy cooler weather wear was also constructed from heavy wools. Modern melton wool doesn't really compare with what they used in period, but is often the best one can get for re-enactment purposes.

My warmest garments are made from heavy wool outer, with lighter weight wool linings. While I haven't been out in my gear in complete winter conditions, the cooler late autumn events I have been to in that gear has shown my wool lined with wool garments to be more than good enough.

[**Silkie McDonough**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/2754-silkie-mcdonough/)

* Proprietress of the Sealkies Hide
* 
* 
* Moderator
* 5,695 posts
* Gender:Female
* Location:I have been a Virginian for 2 months now. LOVING it.
* Interests:Music, vocalizing, Irish balads. I love to draw, I do pencile portraits/detail drawings for barter and sale. The link in in my signature. Ireland, its history and culture. Sewing garb, mostly for myself. The arm of a strong gentleman round my waist.

Unfortunately, I don't do nearly enough of any of a these.

[Posted February 10, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16526-foul-weather-gear-fabric/&do=findComment&comment=379532) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16526-foul-weather-gear-fabric/&do=reportComment&comment=379532)

I too, am not the captain, I can tell you that we are using a melton wool from B.Black & Sons for the capotes

<http://www.bblackandsons.com/fabrics-wool-coating-fabric-c-68_74.html?zenid=5e136b2619b08e0679d93f3c5b846c98>

[**callenish gunner**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1944-callenish-gunner/)

* Scourge o' the 7 Seas
* 
* 
* Member
* 2,138 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Pennsylvania mountains north of Clarion
* Interests:The Callenish gunner has just hoved into view looking for safe anchorage in these waters... purveyor of bladed and flintlock weaponry also leather accessories ..........painter of portraits and period scenes by avocation I'm getting my armoury business underway and will be doing as many festivals as I can ...right now along the east coast or great lakes

[Posted February 10, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16526-foul-weather-gear-fabric/&do=findComment&comment=379537) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16526-foul-weather-gear-fabric/&do=reportComment&comment=379537)

**When I responded with the oilcloth info is because most frequently the term foul infers rain or inclement weather.** 

[**michaelsbagley**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/3724-michaelsbagley/)

* Smells Like Wet Sheep
* 
* 
* Moderator
* 2,548 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Columbus, Ohio
* Interests:Mostly into GAoP, but starting to develop more Buccaneer era stuff for re-enacting as well. Generally I do re-enact both piratical/nautical and other impressions from the period. I am focusing on more "common" impressions from the period (i.e. average sailor/pirate, rank and file Red Coat, early Colonial huntsman, etc.)

[Posted February 10, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16526-foul-weather-gear-fabric/&do=findComment&comment=379539) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16526-foul-weather-gear-fabric/&do=reportComment&comment=379539)

 On 2/10/2010 at 2:28 PM, callenish gunner said:

**When I responded with the oilcloth info is because most frequently the term foul infers rain or inclement weather.** 

Good point Callenish, Silas would you clarify whether you are talking rainy stormy bad weather or cold wintery weather, that will make a big difference on the best answer!

[**silas thatcher**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/10423-silas-thatcher/)

* Notorious Pyrate
* 
* 
* Member
* 774 posts
* Location:st. louis, mo.
* Interests:probably too many interests :) old vw's, sailing, photography, home improvements, and lots more ;)

[Posted February 10, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16526-foul-weather-gear-fabric/&do=findComment&comment=379541) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16526-foul-weather-gear-fabric/&do=reportComment&comment=379541)

yeah, i have a pattern for a great coat and kinduv undecided whether i want it for cold or for cold and rain... since i really don't wanna camp any where in the snow, i'm leaning towards rainy conditions...

in the fall at fort de chartres, we got extremely lucky with beautiful weather... almost sweated at one point... regulars there stated that some years were cool and rainy...

but still undecided !!

oh ---- thanks for the answers and links !!

**Edited February 10, 2010 by silas thatcher**

[**michaelsbagley**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/3724-michaelsbagley/)

* Smells Like Wet Sheep
* 
* 
* Moderator
* 2,548 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Columbus, Ohio
* Interests:Mostly into GAoP, but starting to develop more Buccaneer era stuff for re-enacting as well. Generally I do re-enact both piratical/nautical and other impressions from the period. I am focusing on more "common" impressions from the period (i.e. average sailor/pirate, rank and file Red Coat, early Colonial huntsman, etc.)

[Posted February 10, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16526-foul-weather-gear-fabric/&do=findComment&comment=379543) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16526-foul-weather-gear-fabric/&do=reportComment&comment=379543)

 On 2/10/2010 at 2:37 PM, silas thatcher said:

yeah, i have a pattern for a great coat and kinduv undecided whether i want it for cold or for cold and rain... since i really don't wanna camp any where in the snow, i'm leaning towards rainy conditions...

in the fall at fort de chartres, we got extremely lucky with beautiful weather... almost sweated at one point... regulars there stated that some years were cool and rainy...

but still undecided !!

oh ---- thanks for the answers and links !!

If it is for a great coat, I would probably go with Callenish's suggestion for oil cloth/canvas. I just think the great coat just lends itself to being more of a raincoat than a cold weather coat... But that is just my silly take on the matter, and has nothing to do with real history. 

Another source for oil cloth is [Period Fabrics.com](http://www.periodfabric.com/OilCloth.htm) (a sub-company of [Hamilton Dry Goods](http://www.hamiltondrygoods.com/))... They usually have great prices and good quality stuff (I have bought other stuff from them numerous times). However, if you decide to check out this company, call them first. I read recently than Mr. Hamilton passed on, so calling them will ensure that things are moving again after his passing.

[**silas thatcher**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/10423-silas-thatcher/)

* Notorious Pyrate
* 
* 
* Member
* 774 posts
* Location:st. louis, mo.
* Interests:probably too many interests :) old vw's, sailing, photography, home improvements, and lots more ;)

[Posted February 10, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16526-foul-weather-gear-fabric/&do=findComment&comment=379547) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16526-foul-weather-gear-fabric/&do=reportComment&comment=379547)

maybe i'll just make one of each and solve my stupid dilemma

[**callenish gunner**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1944-callenish-gunner/)

* Scourge o' the 7 Seas
* 
* 
* Member
* 2,138 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Pennsylvania mountains north of Clarion
* Interests:The Callenish gunner has just hoved into view looking for safe anchorage in these waters... purveyor of bladed and flintlock weaponry also leather accessories ..........painter of portraits and period scenes by avocation I'm getting my armoury business underway and will be doing as many festivals as I can ...right now along the east coast or great lakes

[Posted February 10, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16526-foul-weather-gear-fabric/&do=findComment&comment=379553) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16526-foul-weather-gear-fabric/&do=reportComment&comment=379553)

**Great coats were actually made most often made from wool (usually worn by officers) which could be waxed on the over-cape like a heavyweight duster particularly for officers; watch-shirts were the type of garments worn by crewmen, over short jackets & waistcoats.**

[**Daniel**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/352-daniel/)

* Pyrate Captain
* 
* 
* Member
* 652 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:McLean, VA
* Interests:History, pirates, fiction, writing, writing historical fiction about pirates, jokes, games, law.

[Posted February 10, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16526-foul-weather-gear-fabric/&do=findComment&comment=379568) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16526-foul-weather-gear-fabric/&do=reportComment&comment=379568)

I vaguely recall seal skin being used for rain gear by sailors, but can't remember the date; it might have been after GAoP. I guess it would have been pretty expensive.

[**capn'rob**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/10470-capnrob/)

* Pyrate Captain
* 
* 
* Member
* 535 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Morehead City, NC
* Interests:Cruising, power or sail. Music and Maritime History. Pilaging, Plundering and General Mayhem!

[Posted February 10, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16526-foul-weather-gear-fabric/&do=findComment&comment=379569) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16526-foul-weather-gear-fabric/&do=reportComment&comment=379569)

When did they develop Pilot Cloth (P Cloth)? I believe it's a wool that, unlike a Melton, is tighter and when wet gets even tighter. Another Tuppence from Dutch "X" his mark.

[**Matty Bottles**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/949-matty-bottles/)

* Notorious Pyrate
* 
* 
* Member
* 891 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Milwaukee, WI
* Interests:Writing, Art, Spending exorbinant amounts of money on action figures, rum, murder.

[Posted February 10, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16526-foul-weather-gear-fabric/&do=findComment&comment=379575) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16526-foul-weather-gear-fabric/&do=reportComment&comment=379575)

 On 2/10/2010 at 3:55 PM, callenish gunner said:

**Great coats were actually made most often made from wool (usually worn by officers) which could be waxed on the over-cape like a heavyweight duster particularly for officers; watch-shirts were the type of garments worn by crewmen, over short jackets & waistcoats.**

Is that the 'frock' they talk about in many inventories? Perhaps a tarred garment similar to a farmer's frock?

This image is a little late for us but the garment itself is essentially unchanged.

[**M.A.d'Dogge**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/4373-maddogge/)

* Second to None
* 
* 
* Member
* 1,534 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:the Port of the Great Inland Sea, Detroit originally from the great inland corn seas of Illinois
* Interests:pyratin, story-tellin, historyin, suba divin, drynkin, skirt chassin, eatin, campin, photographin, cavin, rockclimbin, ghost huntin, talkin, sword fightin, canonin, black powder pistolin, travelin and pretty much anythin that could be included in ADVENTURIN!!!

[Posted February 11, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16526-foul-weather-gear-fabric/&do=findComment&comment=379612) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16526-foul-weather-gear-fabric/&do=reportComment&comment=379612)

 On 2/10/2010 at 6:23 PM, Matty Bottles said:

 On 2/10/2010 at 3:55 PM, callenish gunner said:

**Great coats were actually made most often made from wool (usually worn by officers) which could be waxed on the over-cape like a heavyweight duster particularly for officers; watch-shirts were the type of garments worn by crewmen, over short jackets & waistcoats.**

Is that the 'frock' they talk about in many inventories? Perhaps a tarred garment similar to a farmer's frock?

This image is a little late for us but the garment itself is essentially unchanged.

yes...thats a good pic foor the watch shirt look...just tarr the hell out of it...and throw it over top your coat and what not

[**M.A.d'Dogge**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/4373-maddogge/)

* Second to None
* 
* 
* Member
* 1,534 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:the Port of the Great Inland Sea, Detroit originally from the great inland corn seas of Illinois
* Interests:pyratin, story-tellin, historyin, suba divin, drynkin, skirt chassin, eatin, campin, photographin, cavin, rockclimbin, ghost huntin, talkin, sword fightin, canonin, black powder pistolin, travelin and pretty much anythin that could be included in ADVENTURIN!!!

[Posted February 11, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16526-foul-weather-gear-fabric/&do=findComment&comment=379613) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16526-foul-weather-gear-fabric/&do=reportComment&comment=379613)

i agree...most i have read or seen about...have been a tight weave heavy wool...lined in wool....which does well enough for most rain...but if it does soak thru will still keep ya warm as too the properties of wool...with the added tarred (or oiled) cape...will do for most foul weather

[**callenish gunner**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1944-callenish-gunner/)

* Scourge o' the 7 Seas
* 
* 
* Member
* 2,138 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Pennsylvania mountains north of Clarion
* Interests:The Callenish gunner has just hoved into view looking for safe anchorage in these waters... purveyor of bladed and flintlock weaponry also leather accessories ..........painter of portraits and period scenes by avocation I'm getting my armoury business underway and will be doing as many festivals as I can ...right now along the east coast or great lakes

[Posted February 11, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16526-foul-weather-gear-fabric/&do=findComment&comment=379614) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16526-foul-weather-gear-fabric/&do=reportComment&comment=379614)

**The "tar" was thinned down pine tar and linseed oil so it was waterproof and flexible; thus the name oilcloth. These thin, usually linen, shirts would keep you fairly dry and packed down rather small so they could be stowed away when not needed.**

[**M.A.d'Dogge**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/4373-maddogge/)

* Second to None
* 
* 
* Member
* 1,534 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:the Port of the Great Inland Sea, Detroit originally from the great inland corn seas of Illinois
* Interests:pyratin, story-tellin, historyin, suba divin, drynkin, skirt chassin, eatin, campin, photographin, cavin, rockclimbin, ghost huntin, talkin, sword fightin, canonin, black powder pistolin, travelin and pretty much anythin that could be included in ADVENTURIN!!!

[Posted February 11, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16526-foul-weather-gear-fabric/&do=findComment&comment=379616) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16526-foul-weather-gear-fabric/&do=reportComment&comment=379616)

 On 2/11/2010 at 11:13 AM, callenish gunner said:

**The "tar" was thinned down pine tar and linseed oil so it was waterproof and flexible; thus the name oilcloth. These thin, usually linen, shirts would keep you fairly dry and packed down rather small so they could be stowed away when not needed.**

tho i have seen these get brittle and crack...where a reapplication from time to time is required....

just wondering....i wonder how much these watch shirts would have been a throw away item...versus make one keep it forever type of garment? would it have been easier to up keep? or just make another fresh one as required?

[**callenish gunner**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1944-callenish-gunner/)

* Scourge o' the 7 Seas
* 
* 
* Member
* 2,138 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Pennsylvania mountains north of Clarion
* Interests:The Callenish gunner has just hoved into view looking for safe anchorage in these waters... purveyor of bladed and flintlock weaponry also leather accessories ..........painter of portraits and period scenes by avocation I'm getting my armoury business underway and will be doing as many festivals as I can ...right now along the east coast or great lakes

[Posted February 11, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16526-foul-weather-gear-fabric/&do=findComment&comment=379618) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16526-foul-weather-gear-fabric/&do=reportComment&comment=379618)

**The throw away culture is a more concept I believe ...most of what I've seen was a sense of wear it until it's "toast"**

[**Matty Bottles**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/949-matty-bottles/)

* Notorious Pyrate
* 
* 
* Member
* 891 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Milwaukee, WI
* Interests:Writing, Art, Spending exorbinant amounts of money on action figures, rum, murder.

[Posted February 11, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16526-foul-weather-gear-fabric/&do=findComment&comment=379619) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16526-foul-weather-gear-fabric/&do=reportComment&comment=379619)

I'm pretty sure that *Two Years Before the Mast* references making foul weather gear (though it doesn't specificy what kind) when they're off watch. Dana is very good at outlining the busy work they would have to do to keep them from being idle and mutinous: making twine from old rope, cleaning anchor chains of rust, making clothes, etc. Although it is more than a hundred years late for us, I think it can be useful.

So I believe that it's entirely possible they would have found a way to repurpose a shirt once it was too brittle to be effective, and just made a new one to replace it.

**Edited February 11, 2010 by Matty Bottles**

[**hardtack**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/11232-hardtack/)

* Bilge Rat
* 
* 
* Member
* 1 post
* Gender:Male
* Location:Boston, MA

[Posted March 16, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16526-foul-weather-gear-fabric/&do=findComment&comment=381353) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16526-foul-weather-gear-fabric/&do=reportComment&comment=381353)

Would this watch cloak on Jas Townsend be appropriate for your everyday sailor?

[http://jas-townsend....products\_id=223](http://jas-townsend.com/product_info.php?cPath=8&products_id=223)

If this cloak isn't fine, is there a place to buy a wool greatcoat cheap? I'm new here and I also lack all sewing talent aside from sewing on buttons. I'm pretty focused on this topic now after this rainy weekend.

[**Dutchman**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/6150-dutchman/)

* Has anyone seen my cousin?
* 
* 
* Admin
* 1,773 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:tidewater virginia

[Posted December 15, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16526-foul-weather-gear-fabric/&do=findComment&comment=392546) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16526-foul-weather-gear-fabric/&do=reportComment&comment=392546)

aha! i knew this was a topic somewhere...

hey folks, i ran across some prints that were done by a french artist named Du Monceau i think around 1730-40, maybe a bit later. Take a look at the two drawings below. While not cold weather gear per se, these are novascotian fishermen who know a hell of a lot about it.



Lets look at the fellow in the middle. Other than what looks like wooden shoes or square toed leather- is he wearing leg coverings of some sort?



Now here is the one i'm drooling over.

First, yes they are standing in barrels. According to the accompanied text to keep them clean and allows them to keep their balance onboard. OK,OK, on to the clothing....

the guy in the middle obviously has an apron over his clothing so we lose a lot of detail. How about his hat though- the beginnings of the gloucester fisherman's hat? Does anyone have any info on the history of them. I have a hat blank just waiting for a revelation. Onto the fellow on the right... a solid front and permanent hooded capote of some sort?

[**Cascabel**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/30-cascabel/)

* Evil Drooling Henchman
* 
* 
* Moderator
* 848 posts
* Gender:Male

[Posted December 16, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16526-foul-weather-gear-fabric/&do=findComment&comment=392566) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16526-foul-weather-gear-fabric/&do=reportComment&comment=392566)

 On 12/15/2010 at 10:15 PM, Dutchman said:

aha! i knew this was a topic somewhere...

hey folks, i ran across some prints that were done by a french artist named Du Monceau i think around 1730-40, maybe a bit later. Take a look at the two drawings below. While not cold weather gear per se, these are novascotian fishermen who know a hell of a lot about it.



Lets look at the fellow in the middle. Other than what looks like wooden shoes or square toed leather- is he wearing leg coverings of some sort?



Now here is the one i'm drooling over.

First, yes they are standing in barrels. According to the accompanied text to keep them clean and allows them to keep their balance onboard. OK,OK, on to the clothing....

the guy in the middle obviously has an apron over his clothing so we lose a lot of detail. How about his hat though- the beginnings of the gloucester fisherman's hat? Does anyone have any info on the history of them. I have a hat blank just waiting for a revelation. Onto the fellow on the right... a solid front and permanent hooded capote of some sort?

It appears that the barrels, or half-barrels are securely tied down also. A good idea when both hands are occupied on a rocking ship !!!

>>>> Cascabel

[**Fox**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1019-fox/)

* Old Twillian
* 
* 
* Moderator
* 2,564 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Beautiful lush Devon, England
* Interests:Nautical history of the 16-18th centuries and living history based thereon.

Shooting pirates.

[Posted December 16, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16526-foul-weather-gear-fabric/&do=findComment&comment=392568) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16526-foul-weather-gear-fabric/&do=reportComment&comment=392568)

 On 12/16/2010 at 10:48 AM, Cascabel said:

It appears that the barrels, or half-barrels are securely tied down also. A good idea when both hands are occupied on a rocking ship !!!

Occupied with sharp knives no less!

There is an earlier woodcut of some Newfoundland fishing types, which has been posted on here somewhere, in which one of them at least is definitely wearing a garment similar to, if not actually, a capote.

[**Bos'n Cross**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/11032-bosn-cross/)

* Pyrate Captain
* 
* 
* Member
* 536 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Portsmouth
* Interests:many things.......

[Posted December 16, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16526-foul-weather-gear-fabric/&do=findComment&comment=392582) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16526-foul-weather-gear-fabric/&do=reportComment&comment=392582)

Might the chap in the(bottom) middle be wearing a broad brimmed high crowned monmouth (otherwise knows as the "peter the great hat")?...it does look quite similar in shape to the gloucester caps though........

The fellow it the top engraving for sure seems to have some sort of leg covering, but i wonder why (or at least it doesnt seem) the others arent wearing any similar covering..........though they all seem to be wearing wooden shoes, which iv come across before....i dont think iv ever seen a reenactor wearing them though...lol great find dutch!

[**capn'rob**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/10470-capnrob/)

* Pyrate Captain
* 
* 
* Member
* 535 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Morehead City, NC
* Interests:Cruising, power or sail. Music and Maritime History. Pilaging, Plundering and General Mayhem!

[Posted December 18, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16526-foul-weather-gear-fabric/&do=findComment&comment=392706) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16526-foul-weather-gear-fabric/&do=reportComment&comment=392706)

Just a few observations and experiences. The foul weather hats reffered to are Sou'westers. I believe what is seen in the drawing is an early developement of the classic best performing hat, ever. At the Museum in Gloucester they sell oiled canvas Sou'westers. I have used, for many years, a foul weather jacket and captain's coat without hood with my sou'wester. With glasses they are particularly effective. Mine is an Old, Black Diamond, close to 35 years old.

I would imagine the secured barrels with the aprons would keep the gurry away from their footing. Particularly with those "sharpe knives". The wide squared knives are specialy used for "splitting" Cod Fish. They would next be salted to preserve then sold at a growing market as the fish would stay palatable for long periods of time. I don't see any thing in use for collecting the Cod Livers unless this was something not yet in use at this time. I'd ask the Surgeon about that one. In my short career of Draggerman, Cleaning Cod was one of my jobs. Although iced now for the Fresh Market, they are still slit, gutted and the livers saved.

An elder on Block Island told me that the wool mittens made by the Island women were made long so the men could cut off the excess and add extra pad to the palma. He then told me that first thing they'd do in the use of the mittens was to plunge thier hands into the almost frozen seawater. The wool would shrink and the heat of their hands would be kept in and stay in!

As for the leg coverings, but for the strange looking (wooden?) shoe parts, they look like modern "hip boots" used in the industry today. It was the pratice of getting your hip boots larger than needed so you could get them off quickly. Over the side they would become anchors really fast!! The Aprons are still in use today. They remind me of the "Bait Girls" in Galillee, RI. Jeans, Hip Boots, Bikini Top and Aprons. Stringing bait for the Lobstermen to buy.

That's what I got. Dutch

[**Grymm**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/10793-grymm/)

* First Mate
* 
* 
* Member
* 281 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Chilterns UK
* Interests:Stuff

[Posted December 18, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16526-foul-weather-gear-fabric/&do=findComment&comment=392712) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16526-foul-weather-gear-fabric/&do=reportComment&comment=392712)

Frenchie habit that, wearing wooden shoes. British 'clogs' are wood sole leather upper, in fact I've got refs to later (7yrs War)British naval contractors getting a bollocking for supplying wooden soled shoes rather than the leather soles specified.

I've made a linen oiled coat. made the coat first, dunked it in boiled linseed oil until it was all well soaked through then hung it up in an airy shed to dry. it was a good summer(By UK standards anyway) and it took about a month to 'cure', kept the rain off a treat.....stank though. Finally died after 8yrs of good service being patched and repaired but like an eejit I forgot about the linseed oil cloth thing and didn't open it out after reproofing but left it folded (I think I got distracted) for a day or so and it caught fire.... Fresh linseed oil'll do that to cloth if you ball it up too much, it's an oxidizer see, heigh ho never got round to making another.

[**Slopmaker Cripps**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1522-slopmaker-cripps/)

* Ship's Master
* 
* 
* Member
* 137 posts
* Interests:Maritime Living History<br>Slopmaking<br>Tailoring

[Posted December 19, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16526-foul-weather-gear-fabric/&do=findComment&comment=392732) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16526-foul-weather-gear-fabric/&do=reportComment&comment=392732)

 On 12/18/2010 at 4:52 PM, Grymm said:

British 'clogs' are wood sole leather upper, in fact I've got refs to later (7yrs War)British naval contractors getting a bollocking for supplying wooden soled shoes rather than the leather soles specified.

Grymm,

I'd be interested in seeing those references if you can email me at provincialnavy@yahoo.com . A pair of british style clogs has been on my project list for awhile (but not for naval stuff). Seeing the references might inspire me to bump them up my project list a bit.

-Adam C.

[**Dutchman**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/6150-dutchman/)

* Has anyone seen my cousin?
* 
* 
* Admin
* 1,773 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:tidewater virginia

[Posted December 19, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16526-foul-weather-gear-fabric/&do=findComment&comment=392740) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16526-foul-weather-gear-fabric/&do=reportComment&comment=392740)

The legging picture looses some detail here, but it looks like the leggings are separated from the socks. I'm really interested in the hat though. I've had one here for years, just replaced it last year for the Chesapeake schooner race this past oct, but it lasted through years of crab and oyster season and more sailboat races that i can shake a stick at.

@doubledutch- which museum in Gloucester did your hat up at?

[**bo'sun Carl**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/11280-bosun-carl/)

* Deck Hand
* 
* 
* Member
* 61 posts

[Posted December 19, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16526-foul-weather-gear-fabric/&do=findComment&comment=392762) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16526-foul-weather-gear-fabric/&do=reportComment&comment=392762)

I bought a finished oilcloth watch coat from tent smiths along time ago. If memory serves they offered two types one was open fronted and the other was a pull over. As a testimonial I can tell you that I have used mine for a long time and have just put on the first patch this year. My equipment gets VERY HARD USE, the only change I had to make was the addition of a deep hood because turkey season can be wet. The sleeves are also large enough to stuff the butt end of my fusil passed the lock inside the sleeve should the weather be foul enough to warrent it.

[**Dread Pyrate Greyhound**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/11490-dread-pyrate-greyhound/)

* Plunderer
* 
* 
* Member
* 451 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Ohio
* Interests:Golden Age of Pyracy, Age of Sailing ships (spacifically 1600-1730) Vintage pirate Legos, weaponry in usage during the Age of Pyrates, Fuedal Japan

[Posted December 19, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16526-foul-weather-gear-fabric/&do=findComment&comment=392771) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16526-foul-weather-gear-fabric/&do=reportComment&comment=392771)

possibly wool, maybe tarred or oil treated canvas. There's actually a website that sells a very nice boatcloak, I may add it to the list of things I hope to purchase but I can't seem to find it.

[**Jas. Hook**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/11157-jas-hook/)

* Scourge o' the 7 Seas
* 
* 
* Member
* 1,650 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Long Island NY
* Interests:Fishing & Piracy

[Posted December 19, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16526-foul-weather-gear-fabric/&do=findComment&comment=392772) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16526-foul-weather-gear-fabric/&do=reportComment&comment=392772)

 On 12/19/2010 at 7:56 PM, Commodore Greyhound said:

possibly wool, maybe tarred or oil treated canvas. There's actually a website that sells a very nice boatcloak, I may add it to the list of things I hope to purchase but I can't seem to find it.

Grayhound -

How about the Jas. Townsend link in hardtack's earlier post????????

Jas Hook

[**Brit.Privateer**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/3204-britprivateer/)

* Old Twillian
* 
* 
* Member
* 246 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:North Carolina
* Interests:Atlantic World Maritime History during the Colonial Era. I specialize in early provincial era (1680-1740) and do quite a bit with pirate history.

[Posted December 27, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16526-foul-weather-gear-fabric/&do=findComment&comment=412694) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16526-foul-weather-gear-fabric/&do=reportComment&comment=412694)

 On 12/15/2010 at 10:15 PM, Dutchman said:

aha! i knew this was a topic somewhere...

hey folks, i ran across some prints that were done by a french artist named Du Monceau i think around 1730-40, maybe a bit later. Take a look at the two drawings below. While not cold weather gear per se, these are novascotian fishermen who know a hell of a lot about it.



Lets look at the fellow in the middle. Other than what looks like wooden shoes or square toed leather- is he wearing leg coverings of some sort?



Now here is the one i'm drooling over.

First, yes they are standing in barrels. According to the accompanied text to keep them clean and allows them to keep their balance onboard. OK,OK, on to the clothing....

the guy in the middle obviously has an apron over his clothing so we lose a lot of detail. How about his hat though- the beginnings of the gloucester fisherman's hat? Does anyone have any info on the history of them. I have a hat blank just waiting for a revelation. Onto the fellow on the right... a solid front and permanent hooded capote of some sort?

I was doing some clothing research and I finally figured out where these pics came from, H.-L. Duhamel du Monceau's, *Traité général des pesches*, 1772.

<http://www.civilization.ca/cmc/exhibitions/hist/lifelines/liroh07e.shtml>

www.civilization.ca/cmc/exhibitions/hist/lifelines/licog18e.shtml

Unfortunately not GAOP, but still cool stuff.