Swords of the George C. Neumann Collection

Valley Forge National Historical Park
During the American Revolution swords were used in a variety of ways. They were used in military service and as a status symbol. Prior to the revolution many armies throughout the world stopped issuing swords to common infantry. Instead, they only issued them to sergeants, grenadiers, horsemen, and occasionally fifers and drummers. Many civilians carried swords as a display of honor and status. These swords were too small for combat and were usually under twenty-six inches. They were often passed down to the heir of the family or presented as an award for gallantry in battle.
Military Hanger

The military hanger is a short (approximately 25 inches) single-edged cutting sword. The bayonet gained popularity and as a result, the hanger was virtually eliminated from service by France in 1764, by England in 1768, and by the United States in 1783.
French Hanger, c. 1710-1740

Blade: 25” x 1 ¼”
Length: 29 ¼”

George C. Neumann Collection. Valley Forge National Historical Park, VAFO 272
French Hanger, c. 1710-1740
Blade: 25” x 1 ¼”
Length: 29 ¼”

George C. Neumann Collection. Valley Forge National Historical Park, VAFO 272
French Hanger, c. 1710-1740
Blade: 25” x 1 ¼”
Length: 29 ¼”

George C. Neumann Collection. Valley Forge National Historical Park, VAFO 272
English Hanger, Model 1742
Blade: 23 ¼”
Length: 29”

George C. Neumann Collection. Valley Forge National Historical Park, VAFO 218
English Hanger, Model 1742
Blade: 23 ¼”
Length: 29”

George C. Neumann Collection. Valley Forge National Historical Park, VAFO 218
English Hanger, Model 1751
Blade: 23 ¼”
Length: 29”

George C. Neumann Collection. Valley Forge National Historical Park, VAFO 220
English Hanger, Model 1751
Blade: 23 ¼”
Length: 29”

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Broadsword

The broadsword was used in warfare for several centuries. It is, by definition, a double edged blade used for cutting rather than thrusting. During the American Revolution, the basket-hilted broadsword was the traditional arm of British Highland regiments.
Scottish Broadsword
Blade: 34 ¾”
Length: 41 ¼”

George C. Neumann Collection. Valley Forge National Historical Park, VAFO 421
Scottish Broadsword
Blade: 34 ¾”
Length: 41 ¼”

George C. Neumann Collection. Valley Forge National Historical Park, VAFO 421
Scottish Broadsword
Blade: 34 ¾”
Length: 41 ¼”

George C. Neumann Collection. Valley Forge National Historical Park, VAFO 421
English Broadsword
Blade: 35 ½”
Length: 41 9/16”

George C. Neumann Collection. Valley Forge National Historical Park, VAFO 327
English Broadsword
Blade: 35 ½”
Length: 41 9/16”

George C. Neumann Collection. Valley Forge National Historical Park, VAFO 327
Dutch Broadsword
Blade: 33 3/16”
Length: 38 ½”

George C. Neumann Collection. Valley Forge National Historical Park, VAFO 367
Dutch Broadsword
Blade: 33 3/16”
Length: 38 ½”

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Short sabers were generally used by officers. The blade, which could be straight or curved, was usually about 30 inches long and was used to cut and to thrust.
American Short Saber, c. 1775-1783
Blade: 26” x 1 ¼”
Length: 30 ¾”

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American Short Saber, c. 1775-1783
Blade: 26” x 1 ¼”
Length: 30 ¾”

George C. Neumann Collection. Valley Forge National Historical Park, VAFO 383
English Short Saber
Blade: 23 ⅜”
Length: 29 ½”

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English Short Saber
Blade: 23 5/8”
Length: 29 1/2”

*George C. Neumann Collection. Valley Forge National Historical Park, VAFO 346*
English Short Saber
Blade: 23 ⁵⁄₈”
Length: 29 ½”

George C. Neumann Collection. Valley Forge National Historical Park, VAFO 346
German Short Saber
Blade: 31 ¼”
Length: 37 ⅞”

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Hunting Sword

A civilian arm generally used by soldiers who could not afford a military issued piece. Hunting swords had either a straight or curved blade, usually less than 24 inches.
English Hunting Sword (Cuttoe), c. 1740-1760
Blade: 26” x 1 1/16”
Length: 31 ¾”

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English Hunting Sword (Cuttoe), c. 1740-1760
Blade: 26” x 1 1/16”
Length: 31 3/4”

George C. Neumann Collection. Valley Forge National Historical Park, VAFO 311
European Hunting Sword
Blade: 17 ¼”
Length: 22 ½”

George C. Neumann Collection. Valley Forge National Historical Park, VAFO 289
European Hunting Sword
Blade: 17 ¼”
Length: 22 ½”

George C. Neumann Collection. Valley Forge National Historical Park, VAFO 289
European Hunting Sword
Blade: 17 ¼”
Length: 22 ½”

George C. Neumann Collection. Valley Forge National Historical Park, VAFO 289
European Hunting Sword
Blade: 21 ⅜”
Length: 26 ½”

George C. Neumann Collection. Valley Forge National Historical Park, VAFO 293
European Hunting Sword
Blade: 21 ⅜”
Length: 26 ½”

George C. Neumann Collection. Valley Forge National Historical Park, VAFO 293
European Hunting Sword
Blade: 21 ⅜”
Length: 26 ½”

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Small Sword

The small sword was a popular civilian weapon during the late 18th century. The narrow blade was designed for thrusting. The small sword was the most common type of sword used by American officers during the Revolutionary War.

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European Small Sword, c. 1740-1750
Blade: 30 ¼” x 13/16”
Length: 37 ¼”

*George C. Neumann Collection.* Valley Forge National Historical Park, VAFO 401
European Small Sword, c. 1740-1750
Blade: 30 ¼” x 13/16”
Length: 37 ¼”

George C. Neumann Collection. Valley Forge National Historical Park, VAFO 401
European Small Sword, c. 1740-1750
Blade: 30 ¼” x 13/16”
Length: 37 ¼”

George C. Neumann Collection. Valley Forge National Historical Park, VAFO 401
American Small Sword
Blade: 30 15/16”
Length: 36 ¾”

George C. Neumann Collection. Valley Forge National Historical Park, VAFO 409
For More Information

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