

Packing – Trunks, Bags, etc

Depending on the type of event you may need to pack everything you need in period appropriate boxes or luggage or you will be able to unpack your things from modern containers which remain in the car. For period containers and luggage consider these options:

Bags – There are a number of bags available for use. Some can be purchased while others need to be made by hand.

Travel bags – Marna Jean Shooting Star offers a free online class for making a travel bag. The bag is a nice size for packing a set of underpinnings or items you may need on a day journey such as a shawl, books, needlework, etc.



Carpet bags – Carpetbags were both manufactured and homemade as they are in reenacting today. The Carpetbagger and Heirloom Weavers both make authentic reproductions with reproduction carpeting. Tapestry and some carpeting is available to make a homemade bag following period illustrations or mimicking an extant bag. Depending on the size of your bag, you can pack a day's or a weekend's goods and clothing.



Valises – Valises are similar in size and shape to many manufactured carpet bags, but they are made from leather.



Trunks – Trunks vary in size and shape. Original pre-war trunks should be reproduced for use as most originals are delicate and valuable. Trunks are good for transporting most materials and give some protection against moisture. Large or heavy trunks can be difficult to transport.

Wooden packing Boxes – small to medium size reproduced boxes can be good for packing a variety of items and can protect against moisture. Depending on the wood and what is packed inside they can be heavy and difficult to carry. Construction should use period techniques.



Cloth Sacks – Simple sacks or even pillowcases can be an easy way to carry soft goods. These are especially appropriate for a poorer impression

Baskets – A wide range of baskets were made for different, sometimes specific purposes. Those with strong handles can be nice for carrying items into an event and storing them. They should not be used as a daily purse though.



Further Reading:

“A Study of Trunks” by Anna Worden (*Citizen's Companion* Dec. 2006)

Traveling Tips for Ladies” by Virginia Mescher