The Battle of Perryville

Rules and Regulations for Confederate Artillery

Military Reenactor Information and Guidelines
The following information will guide you through the impression and guidelines for Perryville Battlefield’s Living History Program. Please read the following information thoroughly as it will answer most of the questions you may have about participating as a reenactor participant. If you have further questions, email Bryan.Bush@ky.gov or call 859-332-8631.

Primary Impression
The primary impression will be that of an artillery battery in the Army of Mississippi in the fall of 1862 during the Kentucky Campaign.

FULL SCALE ARTILLERY ONLY – NO EXCEPTIONS!

Military Living History Participant Guidelines
The following guidelines were designed to insure the appropriate and typical impression of an artilleryman in the Army of the Mississippi during the Kentucky Campaign of 1862.

Confederate Artillery Impression
In general, a Confederate artillery impression will represent a private soldier in the artillery of the Army of Mississippi during the Kentucky Campaign of 1862. Unless there is a specific interpretative purpose that is preplanned, impressions from earlier or later in the war, from some other theater of the war, or some sort of other soldier impression are inappropriate and will not be allowed. These guidelines are minimum standards; nothing less is acceptable.

The use of any modern or inappropriate material (including cigarettes, modern eyeglasses and watches, modern food containers, plastic, soda cans, sleeping bags, coolers, etc. absolutely no Cell Phones are to be visible at any time) by Living History participants in view of the visitors will not be acceptable at any time. Impressions are subject to inspection by park staff and their representatives at all times. All Kentucky state park rules and regulations must be followed.

These guidelines suggest the most appropriate types of equipment and material for Living History use. As Living Historians, we must always be striving to improve our impression so as to better educate our visitors and honor the soldiers and civilians we strive to portray. These guidelines are based on continuing extensive research and documentation.

The following guidelines are a minimum set of standards to participate in the Battle of Perryville. The items that are listed under each heading are acceptable. If it is not listed, then it is not acceptable.

Individual reenactment organizations are encouraged to tailor their impressions to fit the particular battery they wish to portray.
The Battle of Perryville

**Jackets:**
- State issue/commutation
- Single breasted military frock coats of jean, cassimere, and satinette of proper construction only.
- Civilian pattern sack or frock coats acceptable constructed of jean, cassimere, or satinette of proper construction only.
- Federal Uniforms

The Columbus Depot jacket is very popular among Western Theater reenactors; however, there is no evidence of these jackets during the Kentucky Campaign. The men who marched north from Chattanooga had little access to these jackets. Although, the Columbus Depot began manufacturing clothing in the summer of 1862 there is no documentation for these jackets during the Kentucky Campaign.

**Buttons:** flat brass disc or “coin”, wooden, block A, and some Union coat buttons. State button use should be limited. CSA buttons are not documented with the Army of Mississippi and should not be worn.

**Suspenders:** Suspenders of civilian pattern, cotton webbing, canvas, or ticking with either button holes or leather tips with tin or brass buckles (no nickel plated metal).

**Trousers:**
- Military issue style plain
- Civilian
- Federal issue sky blue

Suspenders of civilian pattern, cotton webbing, canvas, or ticking with either button holes or leather tips with tin or brass buckles (no nickel plated metal).

**Drawers:** Military issue or civilian style in cotton or wool flannel if worn

**Shirts:** Documented civilian or military pattern in wool or cotton, flannel, woven checks or strips, prints (very limited), or muslin

**Footwear:**
- Brogan pattern shoes
- Short military boots – just above the ankle

Wool or cotton knit socks in white, a basic color, or natural color; hand knit are best

**Headgear:**
- Wide brimmed, generally dark wool felt slouch hat
- Cap, jean weave material; artillery trim acceptable
- Forage cap
- Straw/plant fiber, period style

Hats should have as appropriate the proper sweatband, lining, ribbon, and stitching. Trim and insignia should be limited. No dead animal parts.
NO cowboy hat conversions or shapeless hillbilly hat blanks and no animal parts. Hat brass should be kept at a minimum.

**Overcoats:**
- *Civilian*
- *CS patterns made of jean, kersey, satinet or cassimere.*
- *Federal issue greatcoats as a number of these were captured at Big Hill.*

**Blankets:**
- *Civilian style, 100% wool, woven blankets in natural or earth tone colors*
- *Union issue blanket*
- *Blanket made from period pattern wool carpeting*

**Eyewear and Glasses:**
Spectacles (what we call glasses today) were not a common item amongst Civil War soldiers or even civilians of that era. Hence, try to get by without glasses if you can while doing Living History or wear contact lenses. If you must wear glasses, visit antique stores and purchase a 19th century pair and have the lenses replaced with one of your prescription, preferably with safety lenses. No modern glasses may be worn at anytime as part of a Living History program.

**Civilian attire:**
Individual items of civilian attire are acceptable as identified above. The presence, though, of a recent recruit in the ranks entirely in civilian attire would certainly be possible in recently recruited artillerymen. Most new men were uniformed in about a month after joining the unit, but in a period of active campaigning, some time could pass before the usual military clothing could be issued.

**Use of Federal items:**
Only Federal-style canteens, blankets, knapsacks, haversacks, gum blankets, accouterments and weapons should be used. Federal sky-blue enlisted man’s foot trousers would have been evident among Cleburne’s and Preston Smith’s men who were able to draw upon the stores of captured Federal goods that were stored at Camp Breckenridge. Other Federal Issue items (mostly accouterments) would have been available after the Confederate capture of Munfordville, Kentucky. Jefferson brogan pattern shoes would be acceptable.

Artillery Pieces will only be full-scale guns of the type used at the Battle of Perryville. Mortars, volley guns, and Gatling guns are prohibited. Artillery pieces will be equipped with limbers. Guns served only with limber chests should be placed outside the direct view of and at a distance from the spectators, if possible. Artillery should function under the National Park Service rules for operation. The only exception is the interval between rounds, which may be increased to one round per minute from time of discharge to placing the next round in muzzle.
Artillery NCO Participants are permitted to carry one sidearm and a saber of the proper type.

Artillery Enlisted Participants will not carry any weapons unless they are acting as drivers. **There are no side arms allowed on gun crews!** For safety reasons, the full attention of all gun crewmembers should be on the cannon.

Cartridges must be made of aluminum foil, double wrapped, and contain only black powder. All unattended limbers must be locked! Loads may not exceed one-half pound for bore diameters up to 3.67 inches. Loads may not exceed one pound for bore diameters 4.65 inches or larger. Only friction primers may be used as the ignition device.

All ammunition must be kept in accurately reproduced cartridge boxes, packages, and crates. It will be stored in a safe manner away from open flames and other heat sources. All cartridges should be made prior to the event. **Cartridge making and any other dangerous exposure to loose gunpowder are not allowed.**

There is to be no discharging of cannon in camp. All discharging other than in the scripted battle shall take place on an established firing line after notifying and receiving approval through the Chain of Command.

No member of a cannon crew shall be allowed on his piece if he has been drinking alcoholic beverages during the 24 hours preceding the commencement of firing and/or he appears to be intoxicated. This will be grounds for immediate arrest. Alcoholic beverages are not allowed on park property.

The maximum rate of fire for any one cannon will not exceed one round per sixty seconds, from time of discharge to placing next cartridge into muzzle. Guns shall fire at least fifteen (15) rounds per battle scenario. Battery Commanders are responsible for controlling the rate of fire. No battery will be overrun unless scripted and planned in advance. If such an action is planned, then batteries shall only be assaulted at a pre-arranged signal. The signal to opposing infantry or cavalry shall always be the furling of the battery guidon (flag) indicating all guns are clear and safe for assault.

While on the field the ammunition chest shall be placed at least 35 feet to the rear of the trail. All rounds shall be kept in ammunition chests, except for rounds being delivered to the pieces. The lid of a chest shall remain closed and the chest locked at all times except when rounds are being removed, during inspections, or while work is being performed inside the chest. **No smoking around artillery chests.** This is ground for immediate expulsion from the event.

150-foot minimum safe firing distance shall be maintained between the muzzle and any person, animal, or vehicle in its front at all times. At 150 feet, the crew shall load only “light cartridges.” A “light cartridge” is defined as no more than 3 oz of black powder per inch of bore with NO COMPRESSION FILLER. No cannon shall discharge or be loaded with person, animal, or vehicle within 100 feet of the muzzle. Be conservative. If “light
cartridges” were not prepared beforehand, then firing will cease at the 150-foot minimum.

The Chief of Artillery in advance of the opening fire for the given scenario must approve any deviation from these Artillery Regulations. It is our intent to have a safe, enjoyable and historical event. The Chain of Command is in place to provide support. If you forget an implement, break a lanyard, are short a cannoneer, or have other deficiencies, please request assistance through your chain of command before the field inspections. We can probably help you meet the requirements that will be enforced.

**Ordnance Inspection and Requirements**

Only full-scale War Between the States Artillery field pieces will be allowed. No mortars allowed. Mountain Howitzers are allowed as they were documented at the battle; however, they must be used in an appropriate manner and be full scale reproductions of Civil War Period Howitzers.

All reproduction artillery tubes will be equipped with a steel safety liner or sleeve. Original tubes will be inspected for serviceability on an individual basis. All carriages will be inspected for general condition and determined serviceable on an individual basis per inspection checklist.

Only friction primers or percussion primers shall be used to discharge the piece. Blank artillery cartridges shall be made up of Black Powder only, not to exceed 4 oz. per inch of largest bore diameter. Cartridges must have a minimum of three wraps of heavy-duty aluminum foil and be packed to a firm consistency. Cartridges will be subject to random selection for inspection.

Only cannon grade, 1F, or 2Fg black powder will be used. Powder grades cannot be mixed. No artillery cartridges shall be constructed at the event site. Artillery cartridges will be stored in the ammunition chests at all times. All rounds will be individually stored in a sealed cardboard container within the ammunition chest. The bore of the cannon shall be thoroughly sponged with water and wormed after each cartridge is discharged. Wet / dry sponging is a matter of unit preference.

Each piece shall be equipped with the following implements in good working condition:

- **Worm** - Shall be of a size capable of dislodging all foreign objects in the bore.
- **Sponge Bucket**
- **Thumb stall or glove** for thumbing the vent.
- **Priming Wire**
- **Gunner’s Haversack**
- **Friction Primer Tube Pouch**
- **Gimlet or Vent Punch**
- **Vent Brush**

Two pairs leather gauntlets or gloves for Nos. 1 & 2 Model 1848 Ammunition Chest (period) – Limber recommended.

i. **Capable of being locked**
ii. **No loose powder in chest**
Failure of inspection - All pieces will remain off the field until the Chief of Artillery is satisfied and has given full inspection approval. It is the responsibility of the Chief of Piece, the gunner or the Battery Commander to notify the Chief of Artillery when the piece is ready for re-inspection.

Gunner’s tools (All required):
Thumb stall or glove for thumbing the vent.
Priming Wire
Gunner’s Haversack
Friction Primer Tube Pouch
Gimlet or Vent Punch
Vent Brush
Two pairs leather gauntlets or gloves for Nos. 1 & 2

Artillery Flags: Only flags documented to be in the Kentucky Campaign of 1862 will be allowed and documentation must be shown to the park staff of the flag that you plan to use. Staff has right to refuse any flag. The park does have some artillery flags used by artillery batteries at the battle of Perryville that the unit can borrow. For example, Turner’s Mississippi battery.

Horse Drawn Artillery

Horse Drawn Artillery General Operation Rules
Horse-drawn artillery will operate no faster than a slow-trot, except when traveling up-hill at a canter.

Horse Requirements
No appaloosas, paints, or pintos, unless they can visually pass for a breed commonly in use by the armies during that time period. No stallions or ponies. Do not tie horses to loose or unsecured items!

Health Requirements
A current EIA Test (Coggins) is required for each animal within 1 year of the date of the event. Out of state horses will need a health certificate within 30 days of the date of the event. In state horses will need a health certificate within 1 year of the event. Health papers are required for transport within state lines. Current flu, rhino, tetanus vaccinations are highly recommended for each horse. If said paperwork is not in order, or if the veterinarian deems the animal to be unhealthy, the participant’s animal will not be allowed access to the site(s). A veterinarian will be on-site or on call for the entire event weekend.

Horses must be supervised and maintained at all times.

Horse Equipment for the Horse Drawn Guns - all horse drawn gun harness and equipment must be period correct in construction and material. Absolutely no chrome, bright steel, nylon or overly decorated harness is allowed. If you have a question about your harness, please contact the park.
Horse Miscellaneous – Forage will be provided for all horses. Water troughs will be situated near all encampments. All horse trailers will have designated parking areas. Said parking areas will be patrolled by the Kentucky Department of Parks. **Camping out of trailers will not be allowed.**

Tentage and Camps  
The living history program was developed to allow the visiting public to understand the workings of a fixed military encampment. Tents are encouraged and allowed. However, only A-Frames or Sibley tents are acceptable for enlisted men.

If you are going to construct a she-bang – Federal “rubber blankets” or “gum blankets” Shelter halves do not appear in the Western Theater until the end of December 1862.

All participants will remain in period attire with no modern items in view of the public.

Military Structure and Responsibility- Participants will not portray officers above the rank of captain without specific appointment from the park appointed overall military commanders. Battery Commanders and Non-Commissioned Officers will be responsible for enforcing these standards within their chain of command. Chief of the Piece and/or the Gunner is responsible for the discipline of the detachment, safe operation of the piece, and carrying out of orders of the elected and appointed Chain of Command.

Minimum Age to Participate – The minimum age to participate with the artillery is 16 years old. No Exceptions!

If these standards for participation are acceptable then you are welcome to register for the Battle of Perryville.