Rules and Regulations for Confederate Infantry

Military Reenactor Information and Guidelines
The following information will guide you through the impression and guidelines to participate in 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 military 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 a Confederate private during the Kentucky Campaign of 1862.

Military Living History Participant Guidelines
The following guidelines were designed to insure the appropriate and typical impression of a private in the Kentucky Campaign of 1862. The men of the Army of Mississippi were typically young men from rural communities and in general they represented the typical western infantrymen of the American Civil War.

Confederate Infantry Impression
In general, a Confederate infantry impression will represent a private soldier 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 reenactors 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 outline the most appropriate types of equipment and material for reenactors 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. Some of the sources consulted are reflected in the bibliography.

C.S. Uniforms
A Word about CS Uniforms
This is a very brief overview of C.S. uniforms in the Kentucky Campaign and in no way claims to be a comprehensive study of all uniforms present on the battlefield at Perryville. This brief overview illustrates several infantrymen serving in the Tennessee
Regiments. Although one can find other examples of uniforms present in the campaign, the purpose of this is to illustrate the common soldier’s uniform.

There are several documented style jackets during the campaign. It appears that many of the soldiers in Maney’s Brigade (1st, 27th, 9th, 6th, 16th, 38th, 15th TN and 41st GA) wore enlisted men’s frock coats. These coats appear to contain two variations: A medium gray, 100% wool frock coat with blue collars signifying infantry and 100% wool frock with gray collar, both with either 8 to 10 buttons. A good example of the “first issue” frock can be seen on Private Henry Howe Cook, 1st TN, Company D “Williamson Grays.” The second issue frock is clearly illustrated on the image of Private George S. Nichols also enlisted in the “Williamson Grays.”

![Henry Howe Co D](image1.jpg)  ![George Nichols Co D](image2.jpg)

Uniforms were obtained from various sources and were often provided through the commutation system. The private soldier was to provide their own clothing, for which they would be reimbursed at the rate of $50.00 per year. This system had been in place since the War of 1812 and was adopted by the Confederate Government at the beginning of hostilities. Ironically, on October 8, 1862 the commutation system was officially ended as depots throughout the south cranked out uniforms.

A “commutation jacket” does not refer to a particular style of jacket, rather to any number of jackets and clothing - ranging from uniforms provided by states as well as clothing made at home and then sent to the soldiers in the army. A basic “Commutation” jacket is a plain “roundabout jacket”- a simple shell jacket with a six-piece body and one- or two-piece sleeves and a short standing collar.

Civilian clothing would be present within the ranks. There is considerable documentation that the private soldier in the Army of Mississippi was constantly in need of clothing and their letters home often mention specific items of clothing they requested.
The Columbus Depot jacket is very popular among Western Theater reenactors, but 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.

**The following guidelines are a minimum set of standards to participant 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 regiment they wish to portray. Abundant research is available upon the various units and we encourage participants to work with park staff to achieve their impression goals.

**Jackets:**
- Enlisted men’s frock coat with blue collar and cuffs
- Basic enlisted men frock coat with grey collars and cuffs.
- Commutation Jacket
- Civilian Coats

No early-war period C.S. Issue sack coats are documented. Hence, at this time, their use is discouraged. Columbus Depot coats are not documented to the Kentucky Campaign and their use is also discouraged.

**Buttons:** flat brass disc or “coin”, wooden, block I, 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.

**Trousers:**
- Military issue with blue stripe constructed from the same material as frock coat
- Military issue style plain
- Civilian
- Federal issue sky blue (very appropriate for Cleburne’s or Smith’s Brigades)

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).

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

**Drawers:**
Military issue or civilian style in cotton or wool flannel if worn
Headgear:
* Wide brimmed, generally dark wool felt slouch hat b. cap, jean weave material; infantry trim acceptable (grey to dark blue)
* 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.

Footwear:
* Jefferson brogan pattern shoes b. English imported shoes c. other military pattern shoes
* Military or civilian pattern boots
Wool or cotton knit socks in white, a basic color, or natural color; hand knit

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 the infantry and very common in the cavalry recruited in Kentucky. 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.

Appearance:
In addition to having the appropriate Living History equipment and material, it must be used and worn correctly. Pants and waist belts were worn at the real waist (i.e. the naval) and not at the hips; clothes were not form fitting; haversack and canteen straps and cartridge box belts were adjusted so that those items did not slap the soldier on the back of the legs or buttocks on the march; haversacks carried food and individual mess equipment (including the tin cup if there was room) and not personal items; personal items were carried in pockets and knapsacks; hats and coats were worn whenever in public; pants were rarely tucked in the socks. By adopting the appropriate 19th century use and appearance, the Living History impression is remarkably improved.

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 (including “after hours.”) It is the responsibility for all military participants who camp in the mixed camp to attend the required drill and be aware of the military schedule. Wall tents will be allowed in this area.

ORDNANCE AND ORDNANCE STORES
* M1853 .577 (.58) Caliber Enfield 3-Band Rifle-Musket.
* M1816 Conversion or M1842 .69 Caliber Smoothbore.
* M1855 or M1861 “Springfield” pattern .58 Caliber Rifle-Musket.
* Austrian, Prussian, or other foreign imported Muskets.
* M1841 Mississippi .54 Caliber (2-band)
* M1855 .58 Caliber (2-band)
* M1858 Enfield .577 Caliber (Repros are .58 Caliber)

Appropriate bayonet for weapon carried.

Side arms only for officers and approved cavalry impressions.
Original weapons are only allowed if they are to be used in non-firing demonstrations.

Accouterments:
Cartridge box and cartridge box belt
* M1855/61 box and tins
* Documented Confederate manufactured pattern box of leather or painted canvas and tins
* Enfield box and tins
* Box for .69 caliber weapons and tins

Cap box
* M1845/50 pattern b. Documented Confederate manufactured pattern of leather or painted canvas
* Enfield style

Waist belt and waist belt plate
Rectangular CSA, clipped corner CS, and frame buckles were most common. Snake buckles, roller buckles, and even oval CS are also acceptable. Some state, militia, and civilian buckles can also be used in limited numbers. All waist belt plates are to have proper period construction. Use of an upside down US should be very limited. Waist belt should be black, russet or buff leather or painted canvas and appropriate to the buckle.

Bayonet Scabbard
Appropriate for the weapon and bayonet being carried.

Knapsacks:
* Mexican War pattern b. British pattern--Issac & Campbell/A. Ross
* Double bag pattern
* Federal double bag pattern
* Other common period pattern
Numerous primary resources site that knapsacks were dropped before entering battle. It would be reasonable to see several soldiers without knapsacks, but a good number should retain their knapsacks.

**Canteens:**
* Tin drum
* Wooden drum (Gardner pattern), usually of cedar
* Federal pattern--smooth side
* Other common period pattern
Straps should be cotton, cotton webbing, or leather sewn together or with a buckle or button. As few as two-thirds or one-half of the men need to carry canteens

**Haversacks:**
* White cotton duck unpainted
* Black painted
* Cotton jean weave unpainted
* Federal pattern
As few as two-thirds or one-half of the men need to carry haversacks.

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

**Gum blankets/ground cloth:**
Oil cloth, painted canvas, or captured Federal issue gum blanket

**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.

**Flags:**
One flag per battalion. The park owns flags for most C.S. Regiments that fought at Perryville and will issue the appropriate flag to be carried on the field. Only First National, Polk’s Corps, or Hardee Corps flags will be used depending on scenario reenacted.

**Noncommissioned officers:**
Noncommissioned officers were important to the functioning of the line of battle in combat. The ratio of sergeants to privates was about one to seven or eight and the ratio for corporals was about one to nine. Living History companies should manifest about the same ratio. Noncommissioned officers should be equipped the same as privates. Chevrons are not necessary and their use should be limited. The stripes should be hand sewn directly to the jacket with no backing. Noncommissioned officers should know the drill and duties expected of them.

Officers:
The general ratio of commissioned officers to noncommissioned officers and enlisted men in the campaign averaged one to ten. Companies typically had three, sometimes two, of their four authorized officers. Therefore, if there are ten or more soldiers, it would be appropriate to have an officer represented, probably a second lieutenant. With twenty or more soldiers, there should be one or two officers, a first or second lieutenant. Thirty to forty soldiers should have a captain and two lieutenants.

By 1863, an officer's promotion was only confirmed after passage of an extensive examination. A Living Historian portraying an officer should not only look the part but should also know the part (i.e., duties, tactics, and drill) Officers had to purchase their own uniforms and equipment. Not until 1864 did the Confederate government allow officers to purchase uniform items from the quartermaster. An officer's uniform should be built around a grey jean or kersey frock coat, civilian or tailored military trousers, probably a vest, and better civilian or military pattern shoes or boots. An appropriate sword and possibly a side arm should be carried as well as a canteen and haversack. Officers' baggage was to be carried in the regimental baggage wagons, but a knapsack-or blanket roll would be appropriate.

Command Structure and Company
Park staff will designate an overall command structure who will portray field grade officers. Other field grade officers will be acceptable if the minimum amount of participants is reached to constitute a battalion.

In order to adequately represent the Confederate Army in the field – battalions must consist of at least 3 companies.

Individuals and unattached messes are welcome and invited to participate. We will work with you to find you an appropriate regiment/battalion.

Minimum Age to Participate – To carry a weapon at the Battle of Perryville you must be at least 16 years old. No exceptions!

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