Rules and Regulations for US Infantry

Military Living History Participant Information and Guidelines
The following information will guide you through the impression and guidelines for Perryville Battlefield’s Living History Programs. Please read the following information thoroughly as it will answer most of the questions you may have about participating as a military living history participant. If you have further questions, email Bryan.Bush@ky.gov or call 859-332-863.

Primary Impression
Primary impression will be that of an infantry private in the Army of the Ohio 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 Army of the Ohio in late 1862. The men who engaged at Perryville were typically young men from rural communities and in general they represented the typical western infantrymen of the American Civil War.

Federal Infantry Impression
In general, a Federal infantry impression will represent a private soldier in the Army of Ohio in the fall of 1862. Unless there is a specific interpretative purpose preplanned, impressions from earlier or later in the war, from some other theater of the war, or some other soldier impressions 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 personnel 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 represent 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. Some of the sources consulted are reflected in the bibliography.

Federal Uniforms Jackets in the Kentucky Campaign
This is a brief overview of Federal coats in the Kentucky Campaign. Although one can find other examples of jackets present in the campaign, the purpose of this is to illustrate the common soldier’s uniform in Kentucky during the fall of 1862.

The enlisted men’s frock coat appears to be heavily issued during the campaign. Frock coats were constructed from dark blue woolen cloth. The frock was generally constructed with a six-piece body and 4 skirt panels. These coats appear to have light blue trim. There are numerous documented photos of men in Terrill’s and Starkweather’s Brigades wearing these coats.

![Private Christian Wienman](image)

Private Christian Wienman
21st Wisconsin Infantry
KIA Perryville, KY

State issue jackets are also found within the ranks of the men present at Perryville. Private William Howard Co. K 105th Ohio was photographed in what seems to be a short jacket that might be an Ohio State Jacket. His breast plate is the Ohio State Seal and his belt buckle is OVM. It appears that regiments from Ohio, Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin were issued state coats and accouterments. There are two images of Henry and Rueben Hunter of the 42nd Indiana Infantry made just before Perryville and both men are wearing short jackets with epaulets and stand up collars.

Federal fatigue blouses are also an accepted impression. Federal Issue sack coats are constructed of wool flannel (lose woven fabric with a twill weave.) These coats were issued both lined and unlined. The lining consisted of a linen or cotton and wool mixture.
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 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
* State Issue Jackets (Ohio, Illinois)
* Federal issue fatigue blouse

**Buttons:**
* Federal issue eagle
* State buttons

**Trousers:**
* Federal issue sky blue
* Federal issue dark 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).

**Shirts:**
* Federal Issue – domet – flannel shirt
* Civilian woven checks or strips, period prints – EXTREMELY LIMITED

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

**Headgear:**
* Forage cap
* Hardee
* Slouch hat

Hats should have as appropriate the proper sweatband, lining, ribbon, and stitching. Trim and insignia should be limited. No dead animal parts.

**Footwear:**
* Brogan pattern shoes
* Military or civilian pattern boot
Wool or cotton knit socks in white, a basic color, or natural color; hand knit are best.

**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:**
*Civilian attire should be extremely limited.* Some civilian attire would be present such as shirts and certainly under clothing as in any volunteer military organization, but the majority of all clothing and accouterments would be military issue as they seemed to be in abundance.

**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.

**Flags:**
One flag per regiment/battalion. The park owns a good many reproduction flags and will issue the correct flags to be carried upon the field.

**ORDNANCE AND ORDNANCE STORES**
* M1855 or M1861 “Springfield” pattern .58 Caliber Rifle-Musket.
* M1853, Type III, .577 (.58) Caliber Enfield 3-Band Rifle-Musket.

Side arms only for officers and approved cavalry impressions.

**Accouterments:**
Cartridge box and cartridge box belt
* M1855/61 box and tins
* Enfield box and tins
* M1842 box and tins

**Cap box**
* M1845/50 pattern
* Enfield style

**Waist belt and waist belt plate**
* State Buckles
* US
Waist belt should be of appropriate Federal Issue and appropriate to the buckle.

**Bayonet and Scabbard**
Appropriate for the weapon and bayonet being carried.

**Knapsacks**
* Double bag pattern
* Other common period patterns
Numerous primary resources site that knapsacks were dropped by many Union regiments before entering the Battle of Perryville. It would be reasonable to see several soldiers without knapsacks. An accurate impression would be to leave knapsacks in camp under guard before assembling for the battle.

**Canteens:**
* Federal pattern--smooth side
* Other common period pattern
“Bullseye canteens are post Perryville and not appropriate for the impression.
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:**
Appropriate Black Federal pattern

**Blankets:**
* Union issue blanket
* Blanket made from period pattern wool

**Gum blankets/ground cloth:**
Any appropriate Federal issue gum blanket

**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. 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.

**Command Structure and Company Size**
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 Union Army in the field – organizations portraying a company must contain a minimum of 25 men. 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.