The Battle of Perryville

Rules and Regulations for Union Cavalry

Military Reenactor 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 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 cavalry trooper in the Union 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 trooper 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 cavalry trooper of the American Civil War.

Union Cavalry Impression
In general, a Union cavalry impression will represent a trooper in Army of the Ohio during the Kentucky Campaign. 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 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 are organized in such a way as to 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 Cavalry at Perryville
These cavalry regiments were present at Perryville; among them are veteran and newly recruited regiments. **Escort**: The Anderson Troop, Pennsylvania Cavalry, 4th U.S. Cavalry Co. B, C, D, G, I, K. **1st Corps**: unattached 2nd KY Cavalry (6 companies). **2nd Corps**: 2nd KY Cavalry (4 companies) 1st Cavalry Brigade, Col. Edward D. McCook: 2nd IN Cavalry, 1st KY Cavalry, 3rd KY Cavalry, 7th Pennsylvania Cavalry, unattached: 1st Ohio Cavalry (4 companies) 3rd Ohio Cavalry (4 companies). **3rd Corps**: 36th Ill Cavalry

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.

Material and Construction: Union Cavalry uniforms were basically constructed of wool broad-cloth or kersey wool. Mounted services jackets were made of dark blue, fine woolen material. They were generally lined with coarse wool lining of brown, grey or green. They were piped with yellow worsted wool tape. Fatigue blouses (sacks) were constructed of rougher kersey that had an apparent weave in the material. These coats could either be lined or unlined.

Jackets:
* Mounted services jacket with correct trim of worsted wool
* 4-button fatigue coat
* State issue jacket

Buttons:
* Federal issue eagle
* State buttons

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:
* Sky blue mounted services pattern
* Sky blue footmans pattern
* Dark blue mounted pattern

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

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

Footwear:
Brogan pattern shoes or military issue boots, below the knee
Wool or cotton knit socks in white, a basic color, or natural color; hand knit are best
**Headgear:**
* Forage cap
* Period slouch hat (sewn on silk edge binding, fine wool or felt
* Hardee hat

**NO cowboy hat conversions or shapeless hillbilly hat blanks and no animal parts.**
*No stampede strings or hat cords for enlisted men.* Hat brass should be kept at a minimum.

**Overcoats:**
* Mounted pattern sky blue kersey, double breasted
* Foot pattern blue wool kersey, single breasted

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

**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 cavalry. 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.

**Personal effects:**
Not every soldier has to have every possible personal effect. However, having at least a few of these little items helps complete and enrich the impression. In choosing personal effects, remember that you will have to carry them.
Common items were combs, toothbrush, pocketknife, housewife, handkerchief (bandannas/railroad scarves are not acceptable; they should particularly not be worn as attire or adornment) vests, civilian or military pattern wallet, writing paper pen and ink, pencil, mirror, playing cards, various game pieces’, books or newspapers.

**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. 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.

**ORDNANCE**

**Long arms:** Carbine (Sharps, Burnside, Spencer, Smith) or Rifle (Henry and Colt Revolving Rifle)

Archaeological evidence of Henry and Colt Revolving Rifles has been discovered at Perryville.

**Pistols:** period correct cap and ball pistol in holster. Limit pistols – one per trooper.

**ACCOUTERMENTS**

**Saber Belt:**
M1858 Issue belt of black leather, two pieces with appropriate belt plate, shoulder and saber straps

**Cap pouch** – US Issue black leather

**Pistol Cartridge Box** – US Issue black leather

**Holster** – US Issue black leather
Holstered pistols should be worn butt forward on the right side.

**Carbine Cartridge Box**
M1860 or appropriate model for long arm with tins

**Carbine Sling:**
Black leather with iron roller buckle and snap

**Sabers:**
M1840 or M1860 cavalry saber

**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

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

**HORSES**
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 Mounted Service
U.S. Military Regulations “Article 151. A complete set of horse equipments for mounted troops consists of 1 bridle, 1 watering bridle, 1 halter, 1 saddle, 1 pair saddle bags, 1 saddle blanket, 1 surcingle, 1 pair spurs, 1 currycomb, 1 horse brush, 1 picket pin, and 1 lariat; 1 link and 1 nose bag when specially required.”

Saddle – M1859 McClellan with appropriate quarter straps, iron hardware with hooded wooden stirrups. Officers’ saddles must be honest reproductions.
Breast Strap and Martingale – These are not issued items and should appear to be private purchases
Saddlebags – Black leather with iron buckles
Cruppers – US Issue black leather
Bridle - Black leather, 3 or 6 buckle, US issue iron bit and enlisted sewn reins. NO MODERN BRIDLES or chrome hardware of any type.
Halter - U.S. M1859 issue of black leather and iron hardware.
Saddle Blanket - U.S. issued blue wool with orange stripe
Carbine Socket - U.S. issue of black leather with iron hardware
Picket Pin – Eye spliced iron with hemp rope
Absolutely no nylon rope or halters are allowed in living history area.

Horse Grooming Items – proper period type and construction

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 are acceptable for troopers.

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 - The rank you wear must be commensurate with the number of troops you put in the field. To serve as a distinct company you must be able to field at least 20 mounted troopers. Commanders are responsible for safety inspections as well as
insuring that the event standards are adhered to. No one may serve above the rank of
captain without a specific appointment from the overall command staff.

**Miscellaneous** – Feed hay 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.**

**Dismounted Cavalry**
Cavalry impression requires participants to be mounted. Basically if you don’t have a
horse you will be treated as infantry and you should refer to infantry participant
guidelines.

**Individuals are welcome and invited to participate. We will work with you to find
you an appropriate organization to fall in with.**

**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.**