

The American Eagle Society,
Minimum Authenticity Standards and Uniform
Guidelines.

Version 2.0 – December 2020



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1. Introduction

The American Eagle Society (AES) is a Living History Society dedicated to portraying common soldiers of the American Civil War as accurately as possible. It is expected that members of the AES (and guests) endeavour to develop their impression to be as authentic as possible based on historical research, and to conduct themselves appropriately.

These standards and guidelines have been created to achieve and maintain a high level of authenticity, and to provide a more accurate impression of the soldiers portrayed by the AES. The guidelines should provide clear expectations, and ensure consistency within the society.

Improvement to member's impression should be an on-going process. Members are highly encouraged to upgrade their clothing and equipment as promptly as their circumstances allow. However, please note that it is always possible to borrow the necessary items for an event, if you are still in the process of developing your own impression.

2. Purpose of Document

This document outlines the standards of dress and material expected from AES members (and guests). It is intended to guide members when preparing for upcoming events, and considering future uniform and equipment purchases.

This document focuses on a military impression for the common soldier. Members portraying Civilians or Officers should consult with existing members in those roles to determine what is most appropriate.

3. Document Context

The AES represents a range of different scenarios of the American Civil War and, as such, requires its members to have access to a range of clothing and equipment.

As a general principle, the Society will organise events around four core mid-war scenarios (mid 1862 – mid 1864). These are Eastern Theatre Union, Western Theatre Union, Eastern Theatre Confederate and Western Theatre Confederate. However, there may be times when events deviate from this general principle, and in these circumstances specific guidance will be circulated prior to the event.

Each event will have a focus which will require a specific set of clothing and equipment. The focus is called the "Scenario", which in turn will set the "Impression" for the event. The "Impression" then dictates what clothing and equipment will be needed, and this will be communicated to members in the event specific "Uniform Guidelines".

The "Scenario" will state details about the event, such as which force is being portrayed (Union or Confederate), the theatre of war (Eastern or Western, etc...), the regiment (55th Virginia, 8th Wisconsin etc...), and possibly even the company being portrayed (Company A, G etc.). The "Scenario" will also state the period of the war (1862, 1864 etc...) and even specific dates within the chosen year. There may also be a historical link to details such as a particular battle, campaign or event.

All these details will be set by the event organisers and will all be based on historical research. The specific "Scenario" will dictate the "Impression". The "Impression" is largely made up of the correct clothing and equipment, but also will include details of what the soldiers had been experiencing, their deportment and background. The main part of the "Impression" is the "Uniform Guidelines". This is a list of what clothing and equipment is needed to portray a soldier of the set "impression". Again, this list will be based on historical research and as such will require different items depending on when and where the "Scenario" is set.

Below is a list of the clothing and equipment that members, over time, will be encouraged to acquire. It should be noted that there is no expectation for new members to acquire all these items immediately, and that there is a wide range of clothing and equipment available to borrow within the society, if needed. However, it is expected that over time, members will endeavour to develop their own impressions as fully as possible.

4. Elements of a Good Impression

A quality historical impression will concentrate on more than just uniforms, and even the casual reader of these standards will notice the attention paid to non-material items, including:

- "Material Culture" refers to all the physical items that are part of the re-enactor's impression: weapons, uniforms, equipment, food, personal items, etc. The importance of high standards in this area is fairly obvious, since its elements can be seen at all times.
- "Methods" answer the question, "How were things done?" By showing how the material culture was actually used. Drill is probably the best example, but there are many other methods that deserve consideration: how the soldiers cooked their meals, how they made their camp, how they cleaned their weapons, issued their rations, and passed the time.
- Attention to the "Man" element is a hallmark of the highest-quality re-enactors. "Man" relates to the person in the uniform: his thought patterns, speech, mannerisms, and physical condition. The activity known as "first person impression" is an example of attempts to round out the historical presentation by creating a 19th-century social environment.

It is the AES's philosophy that each of the above-mentioned "facets of authenticity" is equally important, and our members and guests should be prepared for a certain level of expectations in each category.

5. General Notes on the Construction, and Wearing of Uniforms and Accoutrements

Beneath are some general notes on the construction, and wearing of uniforms and accoutrements

- Uniforms should be appropriately sewn, made of the proper materials, and constructed in the correct "cut". Proper stitching is encouraged, as are hand-sewn buttonholes. This applies for uniform jackets, pants, vests, shirts, and drawers.
- Civil War uniforms were provided in a limited number of sizes, so **STICK TO THESE REGULATION SIZES**. Avoid the "cookie-cutter soldier" appearance provided by a tailored uniform. Instead, we want to preserve the "unaltered-just-as-issued" look that was typical of soldiers in the field.
- Do not be afraid to cuff your trousers or blouse, or to wear "high-water" trousers. If the issue-size clothing does not fit you perfectly, then it is probably correct. This is important.
- All accoutrements should be worn at the proper height. The waist-belt shall be worn about the centre of the stomach (over the navel). Cartridge Box slings came in only one length, and when this sling is used, you will want to adjust the billets so that the top of the box rides just below the bottom edge of the waist-belt. Haversack and canteen straps shall be the proper lengths, so that the top of the haversack and canteen are approximately equal with the elbow. If necessary, straps shall be shortened for the haversack (cut and sewn shorter), and canteen (knotted up or cut-and-sewn). If a knapsack is used, it is recommended that the canteen strap be over the knapsack straps to facilitate both drinking and refilling the canteen while on the march.

6. General Notes on Weapons

- No two-band rifles shall be carried at any time.
- All original muskets must look new and be in safe and proper working order. Proper modifications of reproduction weapons must include removal of all anachronistic workings, bur-nishing of questionable parts, replacement of barrel bands, and stamping of correct mark-ings. Weapon type should be appropriate for impression.
- All soldiers should possess a bayonet appropriate for the musket or rifle they are carrying. Bayonets shall have an appropriate scabbard in order for it to be carried.
- All rifle-muskets in the ranks of the Company shall have a functioning half cock and shall be capable of bearing the full weight of the musket when supported only by the trigger.
- All muskets shall be cleaned after firing. A weapons inspection shall be held prior to each firing demonstration and/or battle re-enactment. Unsafe and/or excessively unclean weap-ons shall not be allowed in the ranks due to the safety hazard they represent.
- Long knives shall never be carried at any time.
- Only officers may carry pistols.

7. Eastern Theatre Impressions (Mid-War)

All members should prioritise developing a convincing Federal and Confederate mid-war, Eastern theatre impression. It is expected that members will be able to develop these impressions within the first two years of joining the society, however this may vary depending on individual circumstances. In all situations, new members are encouraged to consult with existing members on which items to prioritise acquiring.

The Eastern theatre impressions are intended to be a generic representation of soldiers from the Union Army of the Potomac, and the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia. The guidelines beneath should be adhered to in order to achieve this.

Note that where more than one option is provided (such as with shirts), then these are listed in order of preference.

7.1. Federal: Army of the Potomac

Jacket / Coat

- 1) Fatigue Blouse ("Sack Coat") for Enlisted Men and Non-commissioned Officers: Required field-wear is the standard, New York or Schuylkill Depot-issue Federal four-button fatigue blouse. All jackets should be of indigo (dark blue) wool flannel material. Wool flannel shall exhibit a visible "wale" in the fabric and shall be a shade between a medium and dark blue colour; the colour shall not be a blackish, "navy" blue that fades to an even more-unacceptable purple colour. Lined or unlined blouses are acceptable. Unlined blouses must have all seams flat-felled. Lining can be lightweight brown flannel, linen, or jean in the body, and cotton muslin or linen shirting in the sleeves. Fatigue blouses shall have standard, medium-sized U.S. infantry buttons.
- 2) U.S. Uniform Coat ("Frock Coat") for Enlisted Men and Non-commissioned Officers: The federal infantry coat is acceptable for field wear as dictated by the scenario. Frock coats shall be of dark blue wool broadcloth material; refer to "Fatigue Blouses" above for requirements on fabric colour. Frock coats should be lined with a mixture of alpaca, tow or some similar material as chest padding, polished cotton, and muslin or osnaburg in the sleeves. Frock coat trim shall be light blue piping or cording; "tape-trim" is not allowed. Frock coats shall have standard U.S. infantry buttons. Original frock coats were made with pocket in the skirts only; there should not be a factory-made pocket in the breast. Note – all members should own a Fatigue Blouse (sack coat) before procuring a Uniform Coat (Frock Coat).

Trousers

- 1) U.S. Army Infantry issue: Light blue kersey wool with a visible "wale" to the fabric. Pants shall not be pleated and shall have a watch pocket. For the veteran-soldier "as issued" look, wear one of the four issue sizes, unaltered. The cut is very important: many reproduction trousers ride like modern pants, with the waistband on top of the hipbones. The proper Civil War cut is much higher: the waistband should be just under the lower ribs. Federal trousers also were characterised by a straight out seam (actually an outdated cut by the fashion standards of 1860), which gives the trouser legs a period-correct "loose" appearance. Buttons shall be paper-backed tin. Pants should

have a yoke or insert at the back to raise the waistband approximately 2 to 3 inches above the front of the pants. Fly shall be of kersey (not of white cotton). Preferred pants are Schuylkill Arsenal or J.T. Martin (period contractor from New York City) manufacture.

Headwear

- 1) All members should acquire a U.S. Army Forage Cap. The specific variety may vary, as a multitude of private contractors produced these, each with subtle differences. However the variety chosen must have a mid-war provenance. Hats may be worn with or without insignia, depending on the event scenario.
- 2) Civilian Slouch hats are also acceptable in smaller numbers, particularly for later war impressions. These should be black, brown, or grey. Edge of brim as well as hatband should be bound with silk ribbon, hand or machine sewn on.

Shirt

- 1) Federal Issue Shirts: It is preferred that all members have at least one grey or domet flannel Federal-issue shirt, as this was the shirt worn by the majority of Federal soldiers. Federal-issue shirts may be either depot-made or contractor-made. Domet flannel shirts will have three ½" diameter tin-plated buttons; one at the neck and one at each cuff; the fabric shall be a cotton warp and wool weft in an off-white colour. Please note that these shirts were originally supplied in only one size (no kidding). Resist the temptation to wear an inauthentic 'custom-size' issue shirt! The typical grey wool shirt will have 4 or 5 buttons, with two or three on a placket front and one on each cuff.
- 2) Civilian Shirts: Fabrics must be woven of 100-percent natural fibre. Only period-correct prints (such as checked prints; note that paisley, no matter how historically correct, is strongly discouraged) may be worn. [EOG/US page 126] Fabric may be 100 percent cotton muslin or flannel. Shirts must have wood, bone, mother-of-pearl, glass, porcelain, or paper-backed tin buttons. Bone, glass, and porcelain were more common than wood buttons. Buttons are a conspicuous problem with inaccurate clothing. Antique or properly made reproduction buttons can be purchased from good sutlers.

Drawers

- 1) U.S. Issue drawers should be canton flannel material (plain cotton is also acceptable, although canton flannel was most common). Issue drawers can be of the Schuylkill Arsenal or New York Depot pattern. Issue drawers should have two or three-piece tin-plated buttons. Ties would be visible at the cuffs, unless they have been removed. Soldiers also cut the legs off their issue drawers in warm weather.
- 2) Christian Commission drawers.
- 3) Civilian drawers may have bone, wood, mother-of-pearl, or paper backed tin buttons.

Socks

- 1) Woolen Issue socks. Issue socks were very commonly machine knit and, to a lesser extent (which decreased as the war progressed) hand-knit in one of the following solid colours: off-white, grey, greyish blue, brown, or blue.
- 2) Civilian socks (again, no modern synthetic fibres).

Shoes

- 1) U.S. Military-Issue Bootee: Leather bootee per period specifications. Do not use modern, golden-coloured, oil-tanned "rawhide" bootlaces; black leather laces are the best bet. Bootees should have a slightly squared toe and have either pegged or stitched soles. Preference should be given to stitched-sole bootees, as it appears that the majority of shoes issued through the Schuylkill depot were of stitched-sole construction. The smooth side of the leather shall be towards the inside of the shoe. The rough side should be sheered and polished, giving the bootee a smooth appearance. Avoid shoes with a heavy, suede-like nap. While metal heel plates were not an issue item, they are recommended in order to prolong the life of reproduction shoes. Toe plates and hobnailed are acceptable as long as they are of a period pattern. Note that evidence suggests that "brogans" was not a period term.

Rifles / Muskets

- 1) M-1855/1861 Springfield Rifle Musket.
- 2) P-1853 Enfield Rifle Musket.

Cartridge Box (note that complete accoutrement sets can be procured from most vendors, including cartridge box, sling, cap pouch, belt, buckle and bayonet scabbard)

- 1) Black leather M1861 cartridge box for 0.58 calibre muzzle loading rifles, with leather sling. Cartridge box must be equipped with tins. Sling must have a brass eagle breastplate, and be made in the regulation length of 55 inches with two narrow 5 ½" long billets. The most common method of factory attaching the breastplate to the strap was to bend the loops over on the inside, without use of ties, wedges, etc. The cartridge box should have a brass plate reading "US" (state designations, such as "SNY" or "OVM", are not acceptable for brass plates) commonly attached with a leather "wedge" in the visual centre of the box flap.

Cap Pouch

- 1) Cap Pouch. Black leather cap pouch, M1855, with inner flap, cone pick loop and sheepskin liner.

Belt and Buckle

- 1) Federal-issue black-dyed (not painted) leather waist belt with standing leather loop keeper is preferred. The brass keeper is acceptable but not preferred. (Note: brass keepers were not the rule before the end of 1863 or early 1864; the standing loop belt is far more common until 1864). Minimum width of waist-belt shall be 1-7/8 inches; maximum width shall be 2 inches.
- 2) Brass belt plate should read "US" (not, "SNY" or "OVM") and preferably be lead-filled (not resin-filled). "Snake head" hooks (now called "arrow hooks") to attach the plate to the belt were introduced relatively late in the war. Up to the beginning of 1863, the "puppy paw" or "mushroom head" studs were typical.

Bayonet Scabbard

- 1) Either an M1859 2 rivet leather scabbard, or an M1863 7 rivet leather scabbard, with brass tip.

Haversack

- 1) Preferred U.S. Issue Haversack: Painted (black) canvas with buckle and inner canvas bag. Closure buckle shall be japanned, painted black steel, or unfinished iron; nickel-plated and stainless steel buckles are not allowed. The leather fixtures can be held onto the haversack with rivets or linen stitching. Maximum size of the haversack shall be 12 inches by 12 inches. Straps on period haversacks were generally approximately 42 inches in length.

Canteen

- 1) U.S. Issue Model 1858 (Smooth-side), New York or Schuylkill Depot pattern: Tin-plated sheet iron oblate spheroid canteen with three strap keepers. One keeper may have a punched hole (to hold the cork attachment) per New York Depot canteen specifications; only canteens issued by the New York Depot had this hole. Corrugated canteen bodies (i.e. "bulls-eye" canteens) were issued only by the Schuylkill Depot and after mid-1862. Cover: Canteens shall have a grey or brown coloured cover of jean or satinette. Although original canteens exist with kersey covers, they were uncommon and are therefore grossly over-represented in today's re-enacting world; they are therefore strongly discouraged.

Blanket

- 1) U.S. Issue blankets of either brown or grey wool/shoddy or mixed cotton and wool with end-stripes are preferred. Issue blankets should have the letters "US" sewn into the centre of the blanket in a period-correct pattern.
- 2) Federal Issue Rubber Blanket: Gum blankets should have small (3/8-inch diameter) grommets. Gum blankets should be made of a rubber-coated drill or muslin material with an uneven pattern of grommets; along one long edge, the grommets were usually placed in a spacing that was supposed to be used for tying the blanket over the soldiers' shoulders. Use of ponchos is discouraged because ponchos are over-represented in the ranks of infantry re-enactors.

Knapsack

- 1) Federal Issue Double Bag Knapsack: Painted (black) canvas or drilling with black-dyed (not painted) leather straps, mid-war pattern. Closure buckles shall be japanned, painted black steel, or unfinished iron; nickel-plated and stainless steel buckles are not allowed. Hooks shall be brass.

Shelter Half (Tent)

- 1) Federal-issue Shelter Half: Should not have brass grommets (instead, shelter halves should have two 3/8-inch diameter hand-sewn holes at the corners), and should be 8 oz. /yard cotton drilling or fine tabby-weave linen. The preferred shelter half is the three-panel model with single or double-side reinforcement preferably with bone buttons. Shelter tents for 1864 scenarios should preferably be of two-panel construction with paper-backed tin buttons. Late-war shelter halves may be constructed of "blue line"-type drilling or linen and should have a third set of grommet holes at the bottom of the third seam.

Great Coat

- 1) U.S. "Foot" pattern: Light blue kersey wool, with white cotton or osnaburg lining in the sleeves and flannel or wool lining in the body (removal of the lining is acceptable), brass buttons (5-button front, 9-button cape), and preferably with hand-sewn buttonholes. Overcoats shall have standard U.S. infantry buttons.

7.2. Confederate: Army of Northern Virginia

Jacket / Coat

- 1) Richmond Depot style jacket "Type II" (spring '63 through summer '64) made of Jeans, or Cassimere.
- 2) Frock Coats may be used in appropriate circumstances. NCO's may use plain untrimmed frock coats at any time but discretion should be used to ensure that the frock coat would be appropriate for the specific time, place, and unit.
- 3) Civilian Sack Coat made of appropriate material.

Trousers

- 1) Military Issue Richmond Depot style with mule ear pockets, no yoke. Back belt with buckle. Made from jeans or cassimere for time period of spring '62 through winter '64.
- 2) Civilian Jean based on original patterns in grey, blue, brown or black. Hand topstitching, with hand-sewn buttonholes. Buttons of bone, composition or stamped tin.

Headwear

- 1) Civilian Slouch Hat which should be black, brown, or grey. Edge of brim as well as hatband should be bound with silk ribbon, hand or machine sewn on. Leather or Cotton Duck sweatband should be hand sewn in. Cloth lining is highly recommended but not required.
- 2) CS issue hat of black wool felt with hand-stitched leather sweatband, label in crown, double stitched on brim.
- 3) Kepi or Cap made in grey jeanwool with tarred canvas or leather bill, leather or painted cloth sweatband.

Shirt

- 1) Confederate issue shirts made of cotton osnaburg are preferred.
- 2) Civilian Shirts must be woven of 100% natural fibre's, i.e. cotton or wool. Plaids and checks should be woven. Basic assembly may be machine sewn, but ideally exterior details and buttonholes shall be hand sewn. Buttons shall be of appropriate size and made of glass, bone agate or wood.

Drawers

- 1) Government issue drawers made of cotton osnaburg.
- 2) Civilian drawers made from cotton Osnaburg or muslin, cotton or wool flannel. Bone, glass or wood buttons with hand sewn button holes.

Socks

- 1) Confederate issue white cotton socks.
- 2) Wool socks. Please avoid outlandish colours and patterns.

Shoes

- 1) English boots or shoes - Military or Civilian Styles
- 2) Identified Civilian boots or shoes - Boots and shoes of a civilian pattern, which have been identified, are permitted. For impressions after winter 1862, boots had generally limited use in most infantry units.
- 3) Federal Issue Shoe - Generally limited Confederate use.

Waistcoat (optional)

- 1) Civilian Made - Period civilian or military styles. Made from correct wool, jean, cassimere or satinette. Wool kersey and linsey-woolsey, or cotton. Fully lined, hand topstitched, with hand-sewn buttonholes.

Rifles / Muskets

- 1) P-1853 Enfield Rifle Musket.
- 2) M-1855/1861 Springfield Rifle Musket.

Cartridge Box (note that complete accoutrement sets can be procured from most vendors, including cartridge box, sling, cap pouch, belt, buckle and bayonet scabbard)

- 1) Any domestically made, Confederate issue cartridge boxes with provenance to the Army of Northern Virginia.
- 2) Imported British cartridge boxes.
- 3) Captured Federal issue 1855 .58 calibre Cartridge Box - Early versions, general use. Later war issue, limited use. Model 1842 .69 cal. boxes and follows on variants for either belt or sling carriage.

Cap Pouch

- 1) Any domestically made, Confederate issue cap pouch with provenance to the Army of Northern Virginia, typically of black leather.
- 2) Federal Issue. Black Leather - Shield front or other common type.

Belt and Buckle

- 1) Belts to be made with leather, black or russet
- 2) Any Army of Northern Virginia identified plate or buckle.
- 3) CS "Forked - Tongue" buckle or "Georgia Frame" buckle.

Bayonet Scabbard

- 1) Bayonets shall have an appropriate scabbard in order for it to be carried. Scabbards shall have a proper metal tip.
- 2) Any identified ANV frog and scabbard.
- 3) Imported English frog and scabbard.
- 4) U.S. non-regulation 7 or 8 rivet pattern. Limited use.

Haversack

- 1) CS Issue haversack of identified CS pattern. Either cotton or tarred, with button or buckle enclosure.
- 2) U.S. Issue haversack. Tarred type with buckle and inner bag with hand sewn button hole(s).

Canteen

- 1) Tin drum canteens on plain webbing, sewn cotton, or leather slings.
- 2) U.S. Issue - Smooth side type - used throughout the war but more prevalent '61 - '63. Bulls Eye Type used after spring '63. With or without jean cloth or wool cover. Strap may be cotton, linen or leather or a properly documented style. Leather straps must have proper hardware
- 3) Wooden Style - Made of cedar/cypress/cherry/etc. Various styles. Confederate and British manufacture.

Blanket

- 1) Civilian. 100% Wool or Jean (no synthetic blends). Should be muted earth tones. Browns, greys, and blue are acceptable colours. Bindings should be hand sewn.
- 2) North Carolina Issue or other Confederate State Issue blankets
- 3) Quilts/ Coverlets - "Homespun" i.e. all hand made with natural fibres. No "bright" or otherwise modern colours. No modern patterns. Size variable from 40"x72" to 50"x80".
- 4) U.S. Issue blankets of either grey or brown
- 5) Gum Blankets / Ground Cloths.

Knapsack (optional)

- 1) Imported English - S. Isaac & Campbell Co. or Ross & Co.
- 2) Confederate Issue - Manufacture of any above style.
- 3) Federal Issue Double Bag - Limited Confederate use

Tentage

- 1) Confederate "issue" rain fly - Cotton canvas grommets of appropriate size and material. Dimensions should generally be no more than 8 ft. x 12 ft.
- 2) Appropriately cut down sections from other canvas tenting, such as an 'A Frame'.

8. Western Theatre Impressions (Mid-War)

Once members have fully established their Eastern theatre impressions, they should then expand upon this to develop a Western theatre Federal and Confederate impression.

The Western theatre impressions are intended to be a generic representation of soldiers from the Union Army of the Tennessee (named after the river), and the Confederate Army of Tennessee (named after the state). The guidelines beneath should be adhered to in order to achieve this.

Many of the items required for the Eastern theatre impressions can also be incorporated into a generic Western theatre impression, and as such only the specific items that differ for a Western impression are listed here. If guidance for a specific item is not provided beneath, then it should be assumed that the corresponding item from the Eastern theatre should be used. In this way, it is possible for members to quickly, and relatively economically, expand upon an Eastern theatre impression to develop a Western theatre impression.

As before, please note that where more than one option is provided, then these are listed in order of preference.

8.1. Federal: Army of the Tennessee

Jacket / Coat

- 1) As in section 7.1.

Trousers

- 1) As in section 7.1.

Headwear

- 1) M1858 "Hardee" Dress Hat.
- 2) Civilian Slouch hats are also acceptable in smaller numbers, particularly for later war impressions. These should be black, brown, or grey. Edge of brim as well as hatband should be bound with silk ribbon, hand or machine sewn on.
- 3) U.S. Army Forage Cap. The specific variety may vary, as a multitude of private contractors produced these, each with subtle differences. However the variety chosen must have a mid-war provenance. Hats may be worn with or without insignia, depending on the event scenario.

Shirt

- 1) As in section 7.1.

Drawers

- 1) As in section 7.1.

Socks

- 1) As in section 7.1.

Shoes

- 1) As in section 7.1.

Rifles / Muskets

- 1) As in section 7.1.

Cartridge Box (note that complete accoutrement sets can be procured from most vendors, including cartridge box, sling, cap pouch, belt, buckle and bayonet scabbard)

- 1) As in section 7.1.

Cap Pouch

- 1) As in section 7.1.

Belt and Buckle

- 1) As in section 7.1.

Bayonet Scabbard

- 1) As in section 7.1.

Haversack

- 1) As in section 7.1.

Canteen

- 1) As in section 7.1.

Blanket

- 1) As in section 7.1.

Knapsack

- 1) As in section 7.1.

Shelter Half (Tent)

- 1) As in section 7.1.

Great Coat

- 1) As in section 7.1.

8.2. Confederate: Army of Tennessee

Jacket / Coat

- 1) Columbus Depot. These jackets are the most widely documented western issue jackets. They saw use from autumn 1862 through to at least winter 1864 in the Army of Tennessee. This style of jacket was made in a variety of depots, not just in Columbus, GA, but also in most Mississippi depots. The main cloth should be of light grey to light tan wool jean (machine loomed with few slubs or inclusions). Collar and cuff facings (exterior only) in medium to dark blue kersey, and cotton osnaburg lining. By far the most common number of buttons for this jacket is 6 though a very small number with either 5 or 6 are acceptable. Buttons should be either US Enlisted, MS State 'I' Two-piece, script 'I' two-piece British import or block 'I' cast one piece. Columbus pattern jackets with an external pocket are slightly more common than those without, either a straight left breast pocket, which is positioned level with the third buttonhole from the top or a slanting left breast pocket, which is positioned level with the fourth button from the top. However, a 'plain' jacket is equally as acceptable. Generic mid-war Columbus Depot jackets should have curved lower front margins. The backs may be either cut straight across or have a mild "tail" in the back, the straight cut being less in evidence. The most popular stitching style was a standard single topstitch done with dark colour thread, medium brown being a common choice. However, Mississippi variants have topstitching as well as the setting of the lining and interior pocket(s) done by machine at a fairly long stitch length (7-9 per inch). Buttonholes should be closely stitched, rounded, and sometimes corded.
- 2) Frock Coats may be used in appropriate circumstances. NCO's may use plain untrimmed frock coats at any time but discretion should be used to ensure that the frock coat would be appropriate for the specific time, place, and unit.
- 3) Civilian Frock Coats / Sack Coats should look like poor farmers' coats of civilian style with turndown collar. Only correct period styles and materials shall be used. Hand topstitching and hand-sewn buttonholes are required. Authentic fabrics are required, with no modern synthetic blends or 100% woollen materials dyed with modern synthetic dyes. Linings may be osnaburg or Silesia (polished cotton), or patterned materials. Buttons may be brass coin buttons, cloth-covered buttons or 2-piece brass dome buttons ('Zouave Buttons').

Trousers

- 1) Confederate military trousers based on those produced by depots proven to supply the Army of Tennessee.
- 2) Civilian Jean based on original patterns in grey, blue, brown or black. Hand topstitching, with hand-sewn buttonholes. Buttons of bone, composition or stamped tin.

Headwear

- 1) As in section 7.2.

Shirt

- 1) As in section 7.2.

Drawers

- 1) As in section 7.2.

Socks

- 1) As in section 7.2.

Shoes

- 1) As in section 7.2.

Waistcoat (optional)

- 1) As in section 7.2.

Rifles / Muskets

- 1) As in section 7.2.

Cartridge Box

- 1) Any domestically made, Confederate issue cartridge boxes with provenance to the Army of Tennessee.
- 2) Imported British cartridge boxes.
- 3) Captured Federal issue 1855 .58 calibre Cartridge Box - Early versions, general use. Later war issue, limited use. Model 1842 .69 cal. boxes and follows on variants for either belt or sling carriage.

Cap Pouch

- 1) Any domestically made, Confederate issue cap pouch with provenance to the Army of Tennessee, typically of black leather.
- 2) Federal Issue. Black Leather with shield front or other common type.

Belt and buckle

- 1) Belts to be made with leather, black or russet
- 2) Any Army of Tennessee identified plate or buckle.
- 3) CS "Forked - Tongue" buckle or "Georgia Frame" buckle.

Haversack

- 1) As in section 7.2.

Canteen

- 1) As in section 7.2.

Blanket

- 1) As in section 7.2.

Knapsack (optional)

- 1) As in section 7.2.

Tentage

- 1) As in section 7.2.

9. Miscellaneous and Personal Items

Along with the items listed above, members may also need to acquire the following items which are pertinent to soldiers on both sides of the conflict.

Eyewear

- 1) Eyewear: If corrective lenses are required, contact lenses are preferred. If glasses are worn, they shall be period correct. In no event shall eyeglass lenses be larger than one inch in diameter. Temple-pieces ("bows") should not loop around the ears (this was a post-war style). Nose-rest pads on eyewear are not allowed. Sunglasses are not allowed. No modern eyewear will be allowed at any time.

Suspenders / braces (optional)

- 1) Civilian: Any type of period civilian model: all-cloth "poor boys", or adjustable with tin, brass, or japanned steel buckles. No buckles of nickel-plated metal.
- 2) Canvas, drill, tapestry, embroidered, crocheted, woven, or ticking suspenders are acceptable.
- 3) Leather-ends on suspenders must be 100 percent natural leather; synthetic substitutes are not allowed.
- 4) Period-correct suspenders incorporating elastic components are allowed.

Cutlery / Mess equipment

- 1) Knife, Fork, Spoon.
- 2) Tin plate / canteen half.
- 3) Tin cup.
- 4) Boiler / cooler / skillet.

Pokesacks

- 1) Handsewn from cotton or muslin material with a string tie top.

Smoking

- 1) Those who use tobacco are strongly encouraged to smoke a pipe or use chewing tobacco in lieu of cigarettes. Simple clay pipes (full clay or clay bowls with reed stems) or handmade wooden pipes were the most prevalent among enlisted men. Matches shall be used. Period-correct tobacco (twists, plugs, etc.), in appropriate packaging, should be used.
- 2) Hand rolled cigarettes and cigars are also permitted but were much less common among the rank and file soldier. Ideally, cigarettes should not be rolled on-site but should be rolled and properly packaged before the event.
- 3) Modern cigarettes / electronic vapes are prohibited. Modern lighters are also prohibited.