

160th Gettysburg June 29 - July 2 **Impression Guidelines**

Reenacting is a hobby, but it is a hobby that comes with the responsibility to honor the men and women who struggled during the American Civil War. That is a responsibility that can not be taken lightly. Very few reenactors can be perfectly authentic all the time, and at the Daniel Lady Farm we strive to balance comfort and enjoyment with authenticity. As Reenactors, we should take pride in the ability to say to the public, ‘everything you see here is what it would have looked like’ and then take that opportunity to educate the public.

The following guidelines are meant as a tool to help you improve your impression. The three-tiered format of Preferred, Acceptable, and Improper are meant to show two different levels of authenticity as well as the items that you should stay away from. We at the Daniel Lady Farm understand the time and expense that goes into an authentic impression, and also greatly appreciate each of you for the effort put into building your impression and remaining 1863 during public hours. We are not asking perfection; we are asking that you make a solid effort. Take a moment to review your kit and ask yourself, “Is this authentic for 1863?”

Thank you in advance and we look forward to seeing you soon!

YOS,
C.D. Jones
Military Department Head
GBPA

The Federal Soldier at Gettysburg

Headgear - Enlisted

Preferred:

- Forage Cap
- Hardee Hat - trimmings are optional (fully dressed hats may be worn for Friday’s battle “July 1st” if your unit is selected as portraying the Iron Brigade)

Acceptable:

- Kepi
- Civilian Slouch Hat: blocked, lined, sweat band, brim binding

Improper:

- Modern Cowboy Hats of ANY kind
- Tall Top Hats of any kind

Headgear - Officer**Preferred:**

- Kepi - with or without rank braiding
- Hardee Hat - trimmings are optional (fully dressed hats may be worn for Friday's battle "July 1st" if your unit is selected as portraying the Iron Brigade)

Acceptable:

- Forage Cap
- Civilian Slouch Hat: blocked, lined, sweat band, brim binding

Improper:

- Modern Cowboy Hats of ANY kind
- Tall Top Hats of ANY kind

Notes on Hats:

- *J.B. Stetson did not start manufacturing hats until 1865 and even then, they did not look like the modern cowboy hat of today.*
- *While hat brass was worn at this time, it has become standard in reenacting to amalgamate companies to provide proper field strength, so we ask that if you have a hat without your company designation on it, please bring that.*
- *Try to stay away from slouch hats that have the brim sewn over on itself, these are not authentic.*

Coat/ Jacket/ Blouse - Enlisted**Preferred:**

- Infantry:
 - Standard US Issue Four Button Sack Coat or Fatigue Blouse -
(There are original photos from this time and extant examples of "field-altered" coats that have an exterior pocket, extra buttons, or a shortened waist. These are perfectly authentic for 1863)
 - Standard US Issue Frock Coat/ Dress Coat, Nine button front, piping on collar and cuffs in sky blue
- Cavalry:
 - Mounted Shell Jacket - properly trimmed in yellow worsted wool taping on cuffs, collar and piping on back seams with "pillows"
- Artillery:

-Mounted Shell Jacket - properly trimmed in red worsted wool taping on cuffs, collar and piping on back seams with “pillows”

Acceptable:

- Infantry:
 - Shell Jacket
- Cavalry:
 - Standard US Issue Four Button Sack Coat/ Fatigue Blouse
 - Shell Jacket
- Artillery:
 - Standard US Issue Four Button Sack Coat/ Fatigue Blouse
 - Shell Jacket

Improper:

- Navy Peacoat
- Polyester, Rayon, or any other type of material that is not wool or wool flannel. (This is for your comfort as much as for authenticity)
- Any type of modern wool winter coat that has been “retro fitted” for Civil War use.

Coat/ Jacket/ Blouse- Officer

Preferred:

- Junior or Senior Officer Frock Coat with correct number of buttons for your rank
- Junior or Senior Officer Shell Jacket with correct number of buttons for your rank
- Private Purchase Sack Coat/ Fatigue Blouse

Acceptable:

- Standard US Issue Four Button Sack Coat with Rank Shoulder Boards sewn on - Did it happen, yes. More commonly seen with Lieutenants and Captains. Please don't make it a thing.

Improper:

- Costume Clothing
- Anything not listed above

Trousers- Enlisted

Preferred:

- All Branches: Sky Blue Kersey or Wool
(Corporals - 1/2” taping of worsted wool on the leg in Branch of Service color
Sergeants - 1 1/2” taping of worsted wool on the leg in Branch of Service color)

Acceptable:

- All Branches: Sky Blue Wool

Improper:

- Anything that is not listed above, ie: Blue Jeans

Trousers- Officer**Preferred:**

- Dark Blue Wool for Junior or Senior Officers with proper Branch of Service piping on the leg
Infantry - Sky Blue
Cavalry - Yellow
Artillery - Red
General and General's Staff - Gold

Acceptable:

- Sky Blue Wool with or without piping
- Dark Blue Wool without piping

Improper:

- Anything that is not listed above ie: Blue Jeans

Notes on Trousers:

- *Civil War Era Trousers were designed to be worn at the natural waist, which means the top button of the closure should be at your navel*
- *This event is an entire day longer than you are used to. Leave the gym shorts at home; silky gym shorts do not breath like the cotton drawers of the period. This will cause excess moisture and very uncomfortable chaffing*

Shirts- Enlisted & Officer**Preferred and Acceptable**

- Period Correct Civilian Styles and Patterns
- White Cotton or Muslin
- Federal Issue Gray Flannel

Unacceptable:

- T- shirts
- Modern Flannel Shirts
- Modern Dress Shirts

Notes on Shirts:

- *Do yourself (and the Medical Staff) a favor and do not wear a t-shirt under your Civil War shirt. Proper cotton Civil War shirts are made of fibers that breath naturally and when you add a modern shirt underneath that is not made from natural fibers you are essentially trapping body heat in, whereas the cotton Civil War shirt and wool coat will allow heat to escape.*

Footwear- Enlisted

Preferred:

- Standard Issue US Brogans

Acceptable:

- Private Purchase Brogans or Boots

Improper:

- Work Boots
- Dress Shoes

Footwear- Officer

Preferred:

- Standard Issue US Brogans
- Standard Issue US Boots

Acceptable:

- Private Purchase Boots or Brogans

Improper:

- Work Boots
- Dress Shoes

Notes on Footwear:

- *Due to insurance and for the safety of your own person, you cannot be barefoot on the field*

Accoutrements- Enlisted

Preferred:

- Standard Issue US Leathers
- 1858 Pattern Cartridge Box w/ sling
- Cap Box
- Bayonet Scabbard (MUST have tin, pewter, or brass tip securely in place)
- Waist Belt of leather w/ State Seal, US, or Eagle (for NCO)

- Smooth Side (New York Issue) or Bullseye (Philadelphia Issue) Canteen with wool cover of gray or brown jean cloth, and leather or canvas strap
- Tarred Haversack with buckle closure
- Standard US Issue Double Bag Knapsack (a number of units entered the Battle of Gettysburg - especially on July 1st and 2nd - directly from the column of march and were documented as still wearing their knapsacks)

OR

- Blanket Roll

Acceptable:

- Cartridge Box w/out sling
- Waist Belt with Roller Buckle
- Canvas or Linen Haversack with buckle or button closure
- Wood Canteen
- Tin Drum Canteen

Improper:

- Rope Belt
- Using a Haversack as a Cartridge Box (this is for safety)
- Kidney Style Canteen

Accoutrements- Officer

Preferred:

- Saber Belt of leather with strap hangers, drag hook, and Sam Brown strap
- Holster (MUST have leather plug at the bottom and a flap or strap closure/securing device)
- Pistol Cartridge Box
- Cap Box
- Officer Style Haversack
- Standard Issue US Double Bag Knapsack

OR

- Blanket Roll
- Canteen - See "Accouterments- Enlisted" above

Acceptable:

- NCO or Enlisted waist belt with slide on belt loops to attach saber
- Tarred or Canvas Haversack

Improper:

- Rope Belt

Notes on Accoutrements:

- Belts are to be worn at the natural waist, which means it should cross your naval (if your belt rides below your navel, tighten it up)
- Haversacks and Canteens were worn high and not slapping your legs. (If the top of your haversack or canteen are below your belt while being worn at the natural waist, shorten the strap. This can be done by tying a knot in a canvas strap, folding it over and securing with a few stitches, or by punching new holes in a leather strap to shorten the adjustment)

Weapons- Enlisted

- Infantry
 - 1853 Enfield
 - 1861 Springfield
 - 1863 Springfield
 - 1842 Springfield (rifle or musket)
- Cavalry
- Sidearms
 - 1851 Colt Navy
 - 1860 Colt Army
 - 1862 Colt Police
 - 1858 Remington New Army
- Carbines
 - Sharps
 - Burnside
 - Spencer (in small quantities)

Weapons - Officer

- 1851 Colt Navy
- 1860 Colt Army
- 1862 Colt Police
- 1858 Remington New Army

Notes on Weapons:

- Any weapon that fails inspection will not be permitted on the field until it has been repaired and re-inspected by the respective Battalion's Safety Officer/ Sergeant Major.
- Infantry long arms are to be three band rifles or muskets ONLY. No two band rifles, muskets, musketoons, carbines, (this includes, Mississippi, Zouave, Henry) etc. will be allowed on the

field in Infantry ranks. ***NO EXCEPTIONS!*** (We know that historically speaking some Two Band Rifles and Muskets were used at Gettysburg, however, due to insurance and safety protocols these will not be permitted)

- Sidearms are for Cavalrymen and Artillery/ Infantry Officers ***ONLY***. No enlisted men are permitted to carry a revolver/ pistol on the field in Infantry ranks or around a working Artillery piece. ***NO EXCEPTIONS!***
- For added guidance, please refer to the June 30, 1863 Quarterly Summary Statement of Ordnance and Ordnance Stores of the Army of the Potomac

Final Note on Federal Impressions:

- There are to be ***NO*** dead animal parts, pieces, or portions attached to uniform, gear, or weapons (PA Bucktail impressions are the ***ONLY*** exception)
- Corps Badges are perfectly acceptable on hats or coats. (Designations will be assigned and disseminated down the chain by overall Federal Command prior to the event)
- When selecting your impression for the weekend, please use your best judgement, ask a pard, and do your research (watching Civil War movies is not research)
- No modern sunglasses
- Chances are if you have to ask if it is acceptable, you should just leave it at home.

*The Commanding General and their respective Chief of Staff has ***final*** say on whether an item rates as authentic to be worn/ carried on the field

The Confederate Soldier at Gettysburg

Headgear - Enlisted

Preferred:

- Slouch Hat - properly lined, blocked, sweat band, and brim binding
- Kepi or Forage Cap of (various shades) gray or brown jean cloth

Acceptable:

- Kepi or Forage Cap of (various shades) gray or brown wool

Improper:

- Modern Cowboy Hats of ANY kind
- Tall Top Hats of any kind

Headgear - Officer

Preferred:

- Slouch Hat - properly lined, blocked, sweat band, and brim binding (Officer Cords optional)
- Kepi of (various shades) gray or brown jean cloth or wool

Acceptable:

- Forage Cap of (various shades) gray or brown jean cloth or wool

Improper:

- Modern Cowboy Hats of ANY kind
- Tall Top Hats of ANY kind

Notes on Hats:

- *J.B. Stetson did not start manufacturing hats until 1865 and even then, they did not look like the modern cowboy hat of today*
- *Please no hat brass. By this stage of the war it was, at most, a bare minimum in the Confederate ranks*
- *Try to stay away from slouch hats that have the brim sewn over on itself, these are not authentic*

Coat/ Jacket/ Blouse- Enlisted

Preferred:

- Richmond Depot II - 6 or 9 button front with shoulder epaulettes, made of wool or jean cloth
- Frock Coat - 6 or 9 button front, wool or jean cloth (without cuff and collar facings)

Acceptable:

- Commutation Jacket
- NC Depot Shell Jacket
- Richmond Depot I (if it is the ONLY coat you have)
- Richmond Depot III
- Sack Coat

Improper:

- Columbus Depot
- Peter Tait

- Navy Peacoat
- Polyester, Rayon, or any other type of material that is not wool, wool flannel, or wool twill (this is for your comfort as much as authenticity)
- Any type of modern wool winter coat that has been “retro fitted” for Civil War use.

Coat/ Jacket/ Blouse- Officer

Preferred:

- Frock Coat - 6 or 9 button front, wool or jean cloth
- Shell Jacket - 6 or 9 button front, wool or. jean cloth

Acceptable:

- Commutation
- Richmond Depot II
- Private Purchase Sack Coat

Improper:

- Costume clothing
- Anything not listed above

Notes on Coats:

- *Until 1864 the Confederate Officer Corps had to buy their own uniforms, so we see a wide variation of Officer uniform styles and designs.*
- *Keep in mind that in 1862 the Confederate Congress changed the uniform regulations for officers and it no longer included the gold braid on caps and jackets. Yes, some officers still vied for the gold braid on their uniforms but many did not.*
- *There certainly was a percentage of officers who placed their rank on Enlisted Coats, but it was not the majority.*
- *We could spend days researching Army of Northern Virginia uniforms and still not have a comprehensive list of all the types of jackets that were worn into battle July 1-3, 1863. (Use common sense, and do your research)*

Trousers- Enlisted

Preferred:

- Richmond Depot Style with “Mule Ear Pockets”
- Civilian Style (please no wild colors or patterns without proper documentation for the unit you are portraying)

Acceptable:

- Various shades of Gray or Brown wool/ jean cloth with side seam pockets

- US Sky Blue (this has been very overrepresented in the hobby over the years and should not be worn unless it is all you have)

Improper:

- Modern Blue Jeans

Trousers- Officer

Preferred:

- Private Purchase
- Civilian Style (please, no wild colors or patterns without proper documentation for the unit you are portraying)

Acceptable:

- Richmond Depot
- US Sky Blue (this has been very overrepresented in the hobby over the years and should not be worn unless it is all you have)
- US Dark Blue

Improper:

- Modern Blue Jeans

Notes on Trousers:

- *By 1863 the Richmond Clothing Bureau was no longer making pants with taping or piping on the legs. (Piping should only be worn by Officers with private purchase trousers)*
- *Civil War Era Trousers were designed to be worn at the natural waist, which means the top button of the closure should be at your navel*
- *Wearing trousers below the belly at the modern waist (where most people wear their blue jeans) is not authentic and it looks sloppy*
- *This event is an entire day longer than you are used to. Leave the gym shorts at home; silky gym shorts do not breath like the cotton drawers of the period. This will cause excess moisture and very uncomfortable chaffing.*

Shirts- Enlisted & Officer

Preferred and Acceptable

- Period Correct Civilian Styles and Patterns
- White Cotton or Muslin

Improper:

- T- shirts
- Modern Flannel Shirts

- Modern Dress Shirts

Notes on Shirts:

- *Do yourself (and the Medical Staff) a favor and do not wear a t-shirt under your Civil War shirt. Proper cotton Civil War shirts are made of fibers that breath naturally and when you add a modern shirt underneath that is not made from natural fibers you are essentially trapping body heat in, whereas the cotton Civil War shirt and wool coat will allow heat to escape.*

Footwear- Enlisted & Officer

Preferred:

- Private Purchase Brogans or for Officers, Boots
- Richmond Clothing Bureau Brogans

Acceptable:

- Standard Issue US Brogans

Improper:

- Work Boots
- Dress Shoes

Notes on Footwear:

- *Due to insurance and for your own safety, you cannot be barefoot on the field (yes, we know it is authentic for there to be some barefoot Confederates in 1863, but safety must take precedence)*

Accoutrements- Enlisted

Preferred:

- 1861 Pattern Richmond Arsenal Cartridge Box
- 1859 Pattern British Enfield Cartridge Box
- Other Confederate Manufactured Cartridge Box
- Cap Box (of Southern or English Manufacture)
- Bayonet Scabbard (MUST have tin, pewter, or brass tip securely in place)
- Waist Belt of leather w/ buckle: Georgia Frame, Forked Tongue, Roller, Billeted, Snake, State Seal, CS
- Smooth Side or Bullseye Canteen with cover of gray or brown jean cloth, and leather or canvas strap
- Wood Canteen
- Tin Drum Canteen
- Tarred Haversack with buckle or button closure

- Canvas or Linen Haversack with buckle or button closure
 - Knapsack - Mexican War, Kibler, Isaac & Campbell, US Issue
- OR
- Blanket Roll (this was the preferred method used by Confederates)

Acceptable:

- 1858 Pattern US Cartridge Box (with or without sling)
- CSA buckle (if that is all you have)
- CS embossed Canteen

Improper:

- Upside down US belt plate
- Rope Belt
- Using a Haversack as a Cartridge Box (for safety reasons)
- Kidney Style Canteen

Accoutrements- Officer

Preferred:

- Saber Belt of leather with strap hangers, drag hook, and Sam Brown strap
 - Holster (MUST have leather plug at the bottom and a flap or strap closure/securing device)
 - Pistol Cartridge Box
 - Cap Box
 - Officer Style Haversack
 - Knapsack
- OR
- Blanket Roll
- OR
- Blanket Roll Sling
 - Canteen - See "Accouterments- Enlisted" above

Acceptable:

- NCO or Enlisted waist belt with slide on belt loops to attach saber
- Tarred or Canvas Haversack

Improper:

- Rope Belt

Notes on Accoutrements:

- *Belts are to be worn at the natural waist, which means it should cross your naval (if your belts rides below your navel, tighten it up)*

- *Haversacks and Canteens were worn high and not slapping your legs. (If the top of your haversack or canteen are below your belt while being worn at the natural waist, shorten the strap. This can be done by tying a knot in a canvas strap, folding it over and securing with a few stitches, or by punching new holes in a leather strap to shorten the adjustment)*

Weapons- Enlisted

- Infantry
 - 1853 Enfield
 - 1861 Springfield
 - 1863 Springfield
 - 1842 Springfield (rifle or smoothbore)
 - 1854 Lorenz
 - 1857 Whitworth
- Cavalry
 - 1860 Colt Army
 - 1858 Remington Army
 - 1851 Colt Navy
 - 1858 /1863 Starr
 - 1862 Dance & Brothers
- Cavalry Longarms
 - Shotgun (Single or Double Barrel)
 - 1 or 2 band musket (musketoons)
 - Carbines (in low numbers - **NO HENRY RIFLES**)

Weapons - Officer

- 1851 Colt Navy
- 1860 Colt Army
- 1862 Colt Police
- 1858 Remington New Army
- 1858 /1863 Starr
- 1862 Dance & Brothers

Notes on Weapons:

- *Any weapon that fails inspection will not be permitted on the field until it has been repaired and re-inspected by the respective Battalion's Safety Officer/ Regimental Commander*
- *Infantry long arms are to be three band rifles or muskets **ONLY**. No two band rifles, muskets, musketoons, carbines, (this includes, Mississippi, Zouave, Henry etc.) will be allowed on the field in Infantry ranks. **NO EXCEPTIONS!** We know that historically speaking some 2*

Band Rifles and Muskets were used at Gettysburg, however, due to insurance and safety protocols these will not be permitted

- *Sidearms are for Cavalry and Artillery/ Infantry Officers ONLY. No enlisted men are permitted to carry a revolver/ pistol on the field in Infantry ranks or around a working Artillery Piece.*
NO EXCEPTIONS!

Final Notes on Confederate Impressions:

- *It is difficult to list all of the acceptable minutia on Confederate Impressions, please use your best judgement, ask a pard, and do your research (watching Civil War movies is not research)*
- *There are to be NO dead animal parts, pieces, or portions attached to uniform, gear, or weapons.*
- *No modern sunglasses*
- *Chances are if you have to ask if it is acceptable, you should just leave it at home.*
- **The Commanding General and their respective Chief of Staff has **final** say on whether an item rates as authentic to be worn/ carried on the field*

The 1863 Civilian Lady

Preferred:

- Work Dress (camp dress)
- Day Dress
- Walking Dress
- Boots or Shoes of brown or black / lace up or slip on style
- Head Coverings (a woman's head was always covered when outdoors)
 - Bonnet
 - Hat of Straw or Wool
 - Ribbons with attached hairnet
 - Day Cap

Acceptable:

- Garibaldi and Skirt (In 1863 the Garibaldi and Skirt were a fashionable city trend worn by teenagers and were almost always worn under a Swiss Waist or Bolero type jacket)
- Tea Dress (with dickey)
- Snoods

Improper:

- Zippers on dresses or shoes
- Nylon, Rayon, and Polyester Materials (this is for your comfort and safety as much as for authenticity)

Notes on Ladies Impressions:

- *Do yourself a favor and do not wear nylon hoops. These do not breath like cotton hoops of the period and will cause excessive moisture build up leading to uncomfortable chaffing and overheating. They will also melt to your skin if they catch fire.*
- *If your impression is that of a working-class woman, then a corded petticoat is a smaller and historically accurate substitute to hoops. This garment creates the Victorian silhouette and keeps skirts away from legs (reducing tripping hazards and aiding in air circulation) but doesn't add the same generous volume of a standard hoop skirt.*
- *A petticoat should always be worn over a boned hoop if the hoop is not flounced. The boning in your hoops should never show through your skirt.*
- *Extreme caution should always be used while wearing dresses and being near a campfire.*
- *Ball Gowns were only worn in the evening, never during the day. We encourage you to wear your gown to the Ball on Saturday evening.*
- *Hair should be parted in the middle and pulled back into a bun or braid during the day (Hair was not worn down and loose except by young children)*
- *Period Correct Foundation Garments should be worn (corset, drawers, petticoats, hoops/corded petticoat, etc) These are necessary to create the correct shape and style of the Victorian Woman. Even woman who worked laborious tasks wore a "working corset"*

Note to people wanting to become reenactors:

The best option is to attend the event and talk to reenactors. There are many different types/ levels of units, impressions, expectations, etc. Find a unit that is a good fit for you.
(Reenactors are normally very gracious in sharing their knowledge and experience)

Impression Guidelines may be modified, without notice,
as deemed necessary by GBPA Staff

If you have any questions, contact us:

info@GBPA.org