



MINIMUM AUTHENTICITY
2001



Part 9 of NAReS General Code of Practice states that
*'Member Societies will undertake to portray their chosen
 period of history as authentically as is reasonably possible.'*

Whatever **American Civil War** impression you choose to
 portray, your clothing and equipment must be appropriate
 and correct to the unit you represent.

This document aims to set out what **SOSKAN** considers to
 be the minimum level of authenticity expected of its
 members.

The period chosen by the Society to re-enact is 1863. Any
 impression should therefore be representative of the issue of
 equipment and clothing available at that time.

9 - No radios, tape recorders, CD players or other modern day electrical items should be seen or heard on the Authentic Camp. Cameras may be used discreetly. Mobile telephones should only be used when expecting an emergency call, at all other times they must be turned off.

10 - Modern prams, pushchairs, modern invalid scooters or wheelchairs are also not appropriate when a member is in period costume and should be avoided where possible within the authentic camp.

11 - Families using the Living History Camp must be in period clothing during the time that the public is around.

12 - At no time should you be seen eating or drinking modern day refreshments in the Authentic Camp ie drinks from site vendors in plastic cups, Cola bottles, take-away food etc.

13 - No vehicles to be left on the Authentic Camps

- ✿ All vehicles should be parked in the appropriate designated car park as detailed by the projects officer.
- ✿ No vehicle should be returned to the Authentic Camp before the stated end of the event unless in a case of emergency and approved by an EC member or an Army Commander.
- ✿ Members who attend the event on a daily basis should take their vehicle directly to the designated parking area.
- ✿ The only authorised vehicles that will be allowed on any part of the Authentic Camp are the Powder Wagon and vehicles belonging to the emergency services.

14 - The drill manuals of the Society are as follows:

Confederate Infantry. Hardee's Infantry Tactics, 1861
Union Infantry. Casey's Infantry Tactics, 1861
Society Cavalry. Cooke's Cavalry Tactics, 1861
Society Artillery. Field Artillery Tactics, 1864

Please note; this list is by no means extensive but meant as a guide to the MINIMUM impression we expect. Any member persistently failing to reach these standards will be made responsible to their Unit, Army and ultimately the Executive Committee.

Southern Skirmish Association. 2nd December 2001



THE AUTHENTIC CAMPS

The Authentic Camp is our representation of the camps used by the soldiers and civilians during the war, whether the impression is one of a winter style camp or one of an army on campaign. Do not spoil the impression by being obviously unauthentic. The only people in the Authentic Camp in modern day clothing during an event should be members of the public visiting the camp.

Remember; you represent your Society, your Unit and your piece of history. Please honour the men and women of 1863 that you represent.



1 - Tents are to be of canvas and of a style appropriate to the War. Tents should only be left open during the day that display items correct for the period. A blanket or similar covering should cover any modern items. Modern groundsheets where used should not be visible from outside the tent.

2 - All tent lines should be of the correct military spacing where space is available. There should, however, be one pace between tents (2 feet) and all streets should be five paces wide (15 feet).

3 - Fires are to be situated in the fire line at the top of the street, there may be up to 3 fires per street, depending on the size of each street. Fire pits should only be dug where allowed by the sponsor, at other times raised fires of an acceptable style should be used. Potbelly style fires may be allowed (*at the Officer's discretion*) for cooking periods only. This type of fire must be removed from the fire lines during Living History periods when the public are present.

4 - There must be water filled white canvas fire buckets, a minimum of one per four tents to be checked by an executive committee member.

5 - Camps will be guarded during public hours on a show-by-show basis by pickets. At battle/display times, this is the responsibility of the Provost Marshal.

6 - Muskets should be correctly stacked in the Colour Line during the day and with a guard. They must still be guarded when moved inside tents because of rain.

7 - Lanterns, stools, tables, wood boxes and trunks for gear must be acceptable for the period and kept to a minimum when used in the street. Camp furniture should be kept to a minimum and only acceptable repro-style (*no 'directors' chairs etc*). The street must be kept clear of any obstructions.

8 - Water containers that are in view should be made of wood or pottery. Plastic containers covered in canvas, wine demijohns and any other non-authentic containers should be put away when the public are present.

AUTHENTIC IMPRESSION

When in the **Authentic Camp, Members and Guests** of the Society, should not be in modern civilian clothing at any time during the event except when unloading at the beginning or loading at the end of the event.

One major point on uniforms, we are not a 'make do' organisation. Please ask about items of equipment and clothing from your own experienced Company members before buying to ensure you purchase what is correct for your units, impression. The obtaining of correct kit was once a difficult task, now, however, things are easier with suppliers in both the UK and America within easy reach. As with all hobbies kit costs money and whilst you may be able to purchase the whole shebang at once, we fully appreciate that most of our members are on a tight budget.

To achieve a realistic impression of either a soldier or civilian during the period of 1863 is not an easy or simple task. As you can appreciate, not only must the correct clothing, equipment and armament be obtained, but also a 19th century attitude and manners be developed, especially for the **100% living history events**. Whilst everyone is only too willing to help and advise you, some of these aspects will rely on your own research and interpretation. As they say - "**The more you put in the more you get out.**"

What follows are the **MINIMUM** standards required, set out in an order of purchasing preference.

Please make sure that when buying your equipment that:

- ✱ **In addition to the Minimum Standards, you are fulfilling your unit's own regulations and criteria.**
- ✱ **That you seek advice from an experienced and knowledgeable member.**





UNION ARMY

Below are the **MINIMUM** uniform standards required for Union Army enlisted/volunteer men, set out in order of preference.

Uniform

1) **JACKET** - This will depend on the individual unit in question, however, all the below are available.

Fatigue Jacket - This is the four-button '*sack coat*' which was the mainstay of all service branches during the War. Generally speaking, it should be of lightweight dark blue

wool, preferably lined, with an inside left hand breast pocket, and ideally made to the Schuylkill Arsenal pattern, which is perhaps the more common jacket.

Shell Jacket - The old style shell jacket or '*roundabout*' retained some popularity with volunteer troops and especially western troops throughout the war. In its most common style, it would be nine-button front jacket with one inside breast pocket and an option of two button cuffs. In some cases it was as simple as a cut down frock coat.

Frock Coat - The regulation issue for all infantry. Frock coats should be of 12oz. dark blue wool, half lined in polished cotton with light blue regulation piping. Nine brass eagle buttons down the front, two at the waist in back, and two on each cuff

2) **TROUSERS** - Army Trousers, Foot Pattern After mid 1862, the sky blue trouser became much more prevalent. These trousers have suspender buttons of stamped metal affixed. They have a back adjustment by cloth tape or strap and buckle and the one-inch split on the outer cuff. These trousers may be obtained in any of three pocket styles:

The side seam pocket (*preferred*).

The mule-ear pocket.

The regulation single/side top entry pocket.

They all have the wide and high waistband.

3) **SHIRT** - The 1851 issue shirt was a four-button pullover shirt with yoke in the back. One-button cuffs and gussets in the armpits. During the war, a white calico shirt of the same pattern was very much in evidence, and civilian production provided coloured and print shirts of similar cut. It is worth noting that during the 19th century, it was considered '*un-gentlemanly*' to be seen without a jacket whilst in the presence of ladies.

4) **FORAGE CAP/SLOUCH HAT** - During the War, literally all enlisted men were issued a regulation forage cap of dark blue, a square shaped visor of leather, a leather chinstrap with a brass slide, and two general service brass buttons. Some units require Hardee or civilian hats; generally these are of a dark colour.



Underwear - Army Pattern. The soldiers of the 1860's were issued undergarments of heavy cotton '*Canton*' flannel. The undershirt was mainly used, except during the coldest weather, as a regular shirt worn around camp. Drawers seem to have seen universal widespread service, worn long as issued during the cold weather and being cut off above the knee in warm weather. Buttons should be of wood or bone.

Vests (waistcoats) - Military or civilian types are accepted so long as the type of material and buttons are correct for the period.

Cooking Utensils - If you buy any, black cast iron or tin cookware are correct for the period. Coffee pots should be tin. Do not use enamelled items, as they were not in common use until the 1880's.

Acceptable List

Glasses - Were usually wire rimmed with flat lenses. Flat lenses are not required. Glasses with bone, pearl, and wood nose pieces are acceptable, no plastics. The metal used to make the frames were brass, silver, gold and bronze. Styles were small oval and rectangular. Tints should be avoided. Sometimes old frames can be bought at car boot sales, flea markets and antique fairs.

Acceptable Period Materials - Cotton, Jean Cloth, Cassimere, Linen, Muslin and Wool.

Accepted Buttons - Wood, Shell, Bone, Glass, Mother-of-Pearl, Metal, Pewter, Brass, Tin, Copper and Bronze.

General Rule - **MUST** be natural materials. **NO** plastics, be natural fibre materials, not man-made.

Closures - Button closures. Hand-sewn buttonholes are correct. It is possible to over-sew the original buttonholes of an article hiding the fact they are machine stitched. Having said all this, it is worth noting that good hand stitched buttonholes sometimes look machine stitched anyhow. Hook and Eye - there are two types, modern and period, the latter of course are more authentic. Other closures are tie and lace up. **NO ZIPS OR VELCRO.**

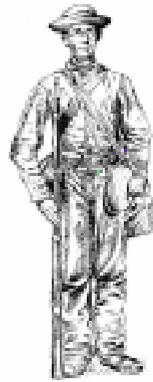
Women in the Ranks - Any women fighting in the ranks must be convincing. We would recommend that the '*Ten Yard*' rule be adopted for those units that accept women into their ranks. Any, womanly attributes should be disguised, no make up to be worn other than that used in obtaining a male impression, hair to be kept short or hidden. Remember, convincing female soldiers are probably some of the best re-enactors out there, certainly more convincing than a supposed starved Confederate weighing in at over 15 stone.

Hair - It is also worth noting here that the hair length of men during the War was normally only worn as long as the collar - no longer.

Facial Jewellery - For obvious reasons, no facial jewellery must be worn.



COMMON TO BOTH



12) BAYONET AND SCABBARD - Both Enfield and Springfield bayonets are usually purchased with the appropriate scabbard as a set. There are differences between the two so make sure you get the right bayonet and scabbard for your musket. The frog is attached to the scabbard to keep it on the waist belt. Springfield bayonet scabbards have the frogs attached to them when purchased. The Enfield Frog must be purchased separately. Make sure you get the 'privates' Enfield frog and not the non-commissioned officers frog (*unless rank dictates of course*). **'Bayonets must be securely fastened in their scabbards'** (*SOSKAN Rules & Regulations, 6.7*).

13) MUSKET - The three-band British Enfield or three-band American Springfield muskets were more commonly used. Both of these muskets were the backbone of both the Southern and Northern armies during the War and therefore accepted by all infantry units. It is acceptable to have a few other correct period weapons within Confederate units, remember though this is 1863. The leather sling is recommended for Union use, whilst a leather and canvas sling may be used for Confederate use.

14) GLASSES - If you need to wear glasses, period frames must be used (*see Acceptable List*).

15) EATING UTENSILS - All the plates, bowls and cups should resemble tin. **No enamel or aluminium.** Knives, forks and spoons should be of period design.

16) BLANKETS - The blankets you use should be either wool or wool and cotton blends. Period plaids are acceptable along with period style quilts. US troops should have dark grey with a black stripe.

17) RAINWEAR - The poncho (*as originally issued to the cavalry*) is worn to protect you from the rain and doubles as a groundsheet. A Civil War type is black rubberised canvas with a slit in the middle and brass grommets around the edges. The black painted canvas style is also acceptable for the Confederate infantrymen and is worn as a cape. Other period overcoats may also be acceptable.

Optional Items for Both Sides

Knapsack - Used by the various regiments.

Overcoat - Foot Pattern (*Great coats*) of Federal Sky Blue. These heavy wool overcoats were prized by their users during the War, as they are by their owners today. Foot overcoats have the roll pleated stand up collar, are single breasted, have the elbow length cape and back belt, and are lined. Sleeves are made with the cuff, which can be rolled down to serve as a mitten.

5) BOOTS - Jefferson Brogans (*Booties*) 1860 is the accepted issue military shoe although any period correct boot may be considered as acceptable. *'Desert Boots'* dyed black, with the eyelets removed, and leather or rawhide laces will be acceptable for a maximum of one year, especially in the case of the growing young men or boys.

6) SOCKS - Grey or off-white wool or knotted cotton socks are worn. Other colours are accepted.

Accoutrements

7) CARTRIDGE BOX - The Cartridge Box holds your black powder charges. They are a safety item and must be worn with the tins. They were issued with black leather shoulder belt and eagle, but can be worn on the belt

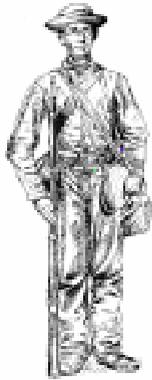
8) CAP BOX - The Cap Box holds the caps used for the musket. It must be black leather only. The Union type is most available and recommended.

9) WAIST BELT - The Waist Belt goes around the waist (*obviously*) and holds the rest of your leather gear in place on the uniform. It must be black only. A brass US keeper or a leather loop is optional. A US enlisted man's brass oval plate is recommended.

10) HAVERSACK - The Haversack was traditionally meant only for food. Other items were meant to go in your haversack, blanket roll or pockets. The US tarred type in black is the best because of being waterproof. If you wish to letter it with your name, regiment and company, it should be done by hand only, in white paint.

11) CANTEEN - The Canteen carries your drinking water - Only. Recommend any US type, with blue, brown or grey jean wool covers.





CONFEDERATE ARMY

Below are the **MINIMUM** uniform standards required for Confederate Army enlisted/volunteer men, set out in order of preference.

Uniform

1) **JACKET** - This will depend on the individual unit in question:

Depot 2 Richmond jacket for an **Army of Northern Virginia (ANV)** impression.

Columbus Depot jacket for an **Army Of Tennessee (AOT)** impression. Both in jean-cloth, cassimere, satinette or Lindsey-woolsey, **NOT wool.**

It may be possible to mix in a North Carolina jacket into any unit, both **ANV** and **AOT**.

A small amount of frock coats (*mainly in butternut colour*) may still have been in use during 1863. It is also permissible for a few civilian style sack coats of the period to be observed in Western regiments. By this time though, the regiments would have had several issues of new clothing and these would have been of the, shell' type listed above

2) **TROUSERS** - Army Trousers, Foot Pattern Military or civilian pattern and cuts. These trousers have suspender buttons of stamped metal or wood affixed. They usually have a back adjustment tie string of leather and the one-inch split on the outer cuff. These trousers may be obtained in any of three pocket styles:

The regulation single/side top entry pocket.

The mule-ear pocket.

The side seam pocket.

They all have the wide and high waistband. Very few Union captured trousers should be seen.

3) **SHIRT** - The basic shirt was a four-button pullover shirt with yoke in the back. One-button cuffs and gussets in the armpits. During the war, a white muslin shirt of the same pattern was very much in evidence, and civilian production provided coloured and print shirts of similar cut. It is worth noting that during the 19th century, it was considered '*un-gentlemanly*' to be seen without a jacket whilst in the presence of ladies.

4) **FORAGE CAP/SLOUCH HAT** - During the war, some enlisted men were issued a forage cap of grey, jean cloth or wool, a crescent shaped visor of leather, a leather chinstrap with a brass slide and two general service buttons. However, civilian slouch hats were found to be more comfortable and practical keeping out the rain and shielding the hot southern sun.



5) **BOOTS** - Jefferson Brogans (*Booties*) 1860 is the accepted issue military shoe although any period correct boot may be considered as acceptable. '*Desert Boots*' dyed black, with the eyelets removed, and leather or rawhide laces will be acceptable for a maximum of one year, especially in the case of the growing young men or boys.

6) **SOCKS** - Grey or off-white wool or knitted cotton socks are worn; other colours are accepted.

Accoutrements

7) **CARTRIDGE BOX** - The Cartridge Box holds your black powder charges. They are a safety item and must be worn with the tins. They were issued with or without a leather shoulder belt, but can be worn on the belt. It is not uncommon to find these also in brown or tan.

8) **CAP BOX** - The Cap Box holds the caps used for the musket. It may be black or brown leather, or canvas and leather. The Union type is most available and recommended.

9) **WAIST BELT** - The Waist Belt goes around the waist and holds the rest of your leather gear in place on the uniform. It may be black or brown leather only. A brass Georgia frame is the most common.

10) **HAVERSACK** - The Haversack was traditionally meant only for food. Other items were meant to go in your haversack, blanket roll or pockets. Various white linen, canvas, or coloured Confederate types are available. The US tarred type in black is the best because of being waterproof. .

11) **CANTEEN** - The Canteen carries your drinking water - Only. Recommend any good Gardner pattern in cedar, tin drum in number of varieties as well as the US smooth sided and bulls eye type, with or without brown or grey jean wool covers.

