

UNIFORM AND EQUIPMENT STANDARDS, FORT MONROE, LIVING HISTORY, SEPTEMBER 11-13, 2009.

Introduction

Even a casual look at photos of the troops garrisoning permanent fortifications during the Civil War will show a standard of dress and uniformity that is markedly different from troops in the field. For that reason, the standards for the living history at Fort Monroe will be somewhat different than those for other events.

Rather than use terms like “museum quality” I have listed vendor names after each item. This will give everyone an idea of the quality we expect.

Uniform

Forage Cap: US Army issue pattern or commercial variety. Dark “indigo” blue wool with polished cotton liner and leather sweatband, painted visor and chinstrap. Anderson, Billy, Starbuck, or similar quality.

A note on caps: Please come with your cap “stripped” of insignia. Cross cannons and company letter will be supplied by the organizers.

Coat Required: US issue fatigue blouse. Of dark “indigo” blue wool flannel in correct weight with either body lining of wool flannel or jean & sleeve lining of cotton muslin, or totally unlined with flat felled seams. Hand sewn buttonholes. Daily, Nolan, Wambaugh, or similar quality.

Coat Optional: US issue frock coat piped in red. Of “dark “indigo” blue wool broadcloth, lined and padded in the chest, sleeves lined in muslin. Hand sewn buttonholes. Daily, Sekela, Nolan, or similar quality.

Shoulder Scales: Required for wear with frock coat.

A note on coats: A heavy artillery frock coat is not an item normally found in a living historians closet. As a result, we are not requiring them for this event. If you have one and would like to wear it please do. However, *please be sure to bring your sack coat also, since there will be some duties that you will not want to wear a frock coat for.*

Trousers: US issue foot pattern either Schuykill Arsenal or contact pattern. Paper backed tin button, hand sewn buttonholes, and correct cuff finishing details. Daley, Sekela, Wambaugh or similar quality.

Shirt: US issue wool or Dommet flannel with paper back tin buttons, or civilian pattern with glass or china buttons. Hand sewn buttonholes, hand finishing where appropriate. Daley, Sekela, Wambaugh or similar quality.

Drawers: Canton flannel US issue pattern with paper back tin buttons, or cotton drill civilian pattern with glass buttons. Daley, Skela, Wambaugh or similar quality.

Socks: Cream color army surplus wool/cotton mix or hand knitted ones in natural colors. Ribbing should only be found on the top 2" of the socks.

Footware: US issue Jefferson bootees. To be in good repair and well blackened. Land, Mattimore, Missouri Boot or similar quality.

Period jewelry, fraternal insignia, etc: The US army regulations of 1861 prohibit the display of these items on the outside of the uniform.

Weapons

US model 1855, 1861, 1863 Type I or II, or 1853 Enfield. Your musket must have a bayonet properly fitted to it. Muskets are expected to be clean and free of rust, as well as in sound mechanical condition.

Equipment

Cartridge Box: Pattern 1861 with tins and box plate. Duvall, Thomas, Jarnigain or similar quality.

Cartridge Box Belt: One piece construction of US regulation pattern, 2.25" wide. In buff, waxed, or grained leather. Duvall, Thomas, Jarnigain or similar quality.

Cap Box: US regulation 1850 pattern. Duvall, Thomas, Jarnigain or similar quality.

Bayonet Scabbard: US regulation pattern with two, seven, or eight rivets. Duvall, Thomas, Jarnigain or similar quality.

Waistbelt: US Regulation with brass or leather keeper, in buff, waxed, or grained leather. Duvall, Thomas, Jarnigain or similar quality.

Musket sling: US regulation pattern of oiled natural leather. Duvall, Thomas, Jarnigain or similar quality.

Haversack: US regulation pattern, black painted cotton or linen with liner bag. Owens, Sekela, Thomas or similar quality.

Canteen: US issue pattern 1858 or 1862, with leather, cloth, or webbing sling appropriate to that model. Orchard Hill, Sheads, Thomas or similar quality.

Mess gear: Tin cup or plate, knife, fork, and spoon on period style. No stainless steel items or enameled items.

Knapsack: US issue soft pack of black painted cotton or linen with black leather straps. Missouri Boot, Owens, Sekela or similar quality.

Blankets: US issue gray or tan with dark stripe. County Cloth, Family Heirloom, Abe Thomas, Waterside Woolens or similar quality.

Camping

Since we do not have access to a period building for this program, we will be camped on the Fort parade ground. This camp will represent how troops would have camped in a permanent base when housing was not available. *This does not mean that our camp will look like the typical mainstream camp at a large reenactment.* The following guidelines will help keep our camp to the high standards of the rest of our impression.

Tents

All enlisted tents will be the Common or 'A' frame as described in GO #60, with unpainted wooden poles and wooden tent stakes. *Expect to share an 'A' tent with at least two other people.*

There will be limited tentage available through the organizers. If you have any 'A' tent and can bring, please note that on your registration form.

A note on tents: If anyone wishes to purchase a common tent for this event, the products of Yakima Tent & Awning are recommended. Their common tent is within a few inches of the size specified in GO #60. Made of untreated canvass, they can make modifications to their tent i. e. adding a sod cloth and tabbing, to conform to GO #60. Ask for "modifications made for James Owens". They will leave out brass grommets if requested but will not do hand worked ones. Yakima can be reached at www.yakimatent.com.

Camp Furniture

Folding chairs or stools: Of wood with canvas or carpet seat, of a period design. No "Slat Chairs" as commonly seen at large events.

Bed sacks: Single size, plain or striped fabric made to standards listed below:

"A call has been made to the loyal ladies of Frankfort...necessary supplies for sick and wounded soldiers in the hospital.

BEDDING

Bed Sacking. 7 feet long, 3 feet wide. Leave end open and sew on four tape springs."

Reprinted in the Camp Chase Gazette, July 2003.

Note on bed sacks: You will need to provide your own straw for filling them.

A note on bedding: All participants will need to have period bedding that does not need to be hidden during public hours. You will be too far from your vehicle to easily carry modern bedding back and forth.

Lighting Devices

Lanterns: One candle lantern per tent. To be of pierced tin or tin & glass combination of a period pattern. No wooden lanterns.

Traveling Candlesticks: To be of metal in a documented period style.

Do not leave a candle burning unattended inside a tent!