

Introduction

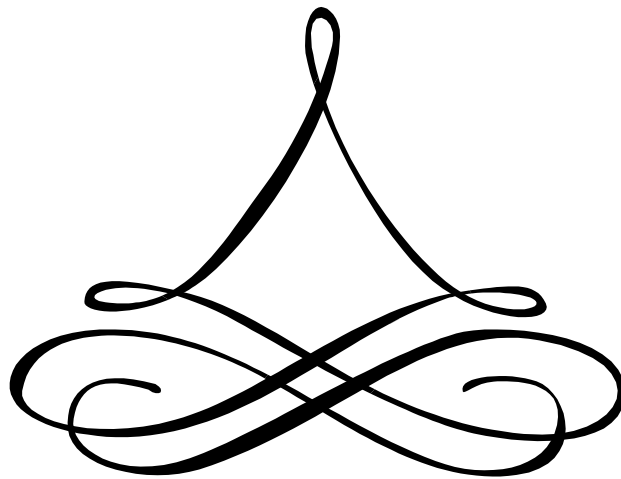
Welcome to the Texas Rifles Living History and Reenacting Group! We are very pleased that you wish to join us.

The Texas Rifles are committed to achieving realistic and historically accurate representations of the Civil War through battle reenactments and living history impressions by our military and civilian members and participation in a wide range of other events related to Civil War history in our local communities.

The Texas Rifles was formed in 1987. The military impression is that of an infantry unit specializing in mid-to-late war confederate. During our history, the Texas Rifles have participated in events throughout Texas and the United States. At the 1998 Gettysburg reenactment, for example, nearly 30,000 participants and 170,000 spectators were on hand to witness the largest Civil War reenactment ever held in America. Our company has served in several events since then that have had over 10,000 participants.

The Texas Rifles' civilian contingent authentically portrays the noncombatant men, women, and children of Texas between 1861 and 1865. We strive to educate others and ourselves about the lives of regular Texas citizens caught up in a pivotal moment of our nation's history. The lives of these everyday people are rich in details to share. Our goal is to look and act like people from mid-19th century Texas.

This booklet will provide you with some basic information about the Texas Rifles, getting started in the hobby, resources, and authenticity guidelines. We hope you will find this information helpful. If you ever have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact your sponsor or the civilian coordinator.



Texas Rifles Membership

Becoming a Member

According to the Bylaws of the Texas Rifles (included in the appendix), all prospective members must go through a probationary period. During this time, he/she must have a sponsor who is already an active member in good standing. The sponsor may be someone you already know who is active with the Texas Rifles or the civilian coordinator may ask another civilian reenactor to be your sponsor. The sponsor helps get the recruit to events, assists in acquiring the proper clothing and gear, and helps the recruit meet and feel comfortable among other members.

Recruits must attend two Texas Rifles maximum effort events within 12 months before they can stand for election into the unit, which takes a 2/3-majority vote. A maximum effort event is an event the group has elected to support through our full attendance. A listing of events for the year, including maximum effort events, is in the appendix.

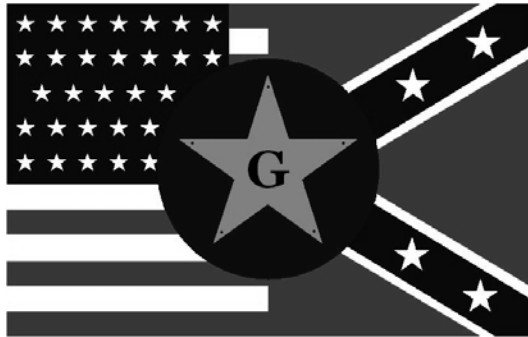
A recruit is first eligible to be put forward for election to full membership during the first business meeting held once a recruit attends his/her second maximum effort event. Until that time, no dues are assessed and the recruit is not allowed to vote. Military and civilian members of the Texas Rifles have equal voting rights in the organization. Business meetings generally take place at events, provided a quorum is present, and each January.

Texas Rifles Website

The website of the Texas Rifles is at www.texasrifles.org. Here you will find information about upcoming events, a member roster, contact information, photos of past events, and our newsletter "The Tyrants' Foe".

Texas Rifles Listserv

The Texas Rifles also has a Yahoo! group at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/TexasRifles/>. This is used as the primary communication between members regarding Texas Rifle activities.



Civilian Activities

TR Civilians Listserv

The Texas Rifles Civilians also have their own Yahoo! group at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/TRCivilians>. Like the main Texas Rifles listserv, this group is used as the primary communication between civilian members regarding civilian participation at events and civilian specific activities.

Impressions

Developing a specific impression and first person interaction is not required by the Texas Rifles. However, as a civilian, a specific impression, whether in first or third person, can make it easier to explain your presence at events, provides a road map for further research, creates a background for activities at events, and acts as a springboard for interacting with the public. The appendix includes a list of possible impressions appropriate for events and information about developing a first person impression. Don't feel you have to limit yourself to just those impressions listed. If there is an impression you would like to try, contact the civilian coordinator for assistance in coordinating it with the rest of the group's impressions. Keep in mind that even though you may have developed a specific impression, the guidelines and scenarios of the events you attend may dictate a change in your impression.

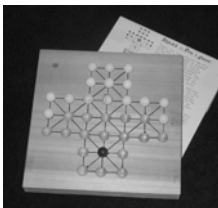
Events

Activities at events will vary depending on the type of event and your impression. At most events you will have an opportunity to interact with the public and visit the sutlers (merchants that specialize in providing necessary goods to reenactors). A word of caution: you may wish to have your sponsor with you the first few times visiting the sutlers to be sure the items you are purchasing meet our authenticity standards and are of good quality.

Women should consider bringing a sewing or knitting project. Men should consider the types of activities that would be associated with their impression; for instance, a newspaper reporter talking to the soldiers or sketching scenes, a photographer taking pictures, a woodworker building furniture or coffins, a politician talking with the public, a doctor seeing to the wounded or an undertaker seeing to his business.

Children

Children are welcome to participate with the Texas Rifles Civilians and are an asset to the impression of families caught up in the war. All participants under the age of 18 must either have a parent or guardian present or an adult participant must be designated as responsible for the child, with the approval of said parent or guardian. Children under 12 must be supervised at all times. Please do not expect anyone else to watch your children without first asking.



The Texas Rifles has a small collection of period toys and games for children; however, parents should consider purchasing other period toys and games for younger children. Modern toys must be kept and played with in a closed tent. Video and electronic games with sound effects must be silenced.



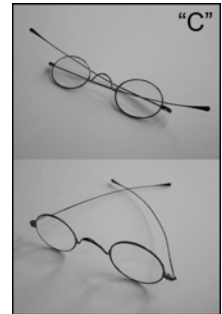
Authenticity Guidelines

We take a progressive stance on appropriate clothing and necessary gear, and encourage all members to research independently. The following provides basic information to begin developing an accurate civilian impression. We do not expect new civilian participants to be fully equipped or to have a fully developed impression at the beginning. We know that creating an accurate and authentic impression is an ongoing process and takes time and research. Our members are eager to assist new recruits by sharing their research, directing them to suppliers and loaning items as available. If you have any questions as to an item's suitability, wait to use it until the questions have been satisfied. The appendix is full of excellent sources for material impression items, patterns, and other help; your sponsor and the civilian coordinator can also help you with authenticity questions.

General Notes

Eyewear

Modern eyeglasses are strongly discouraged at Civil War reenactments. Oval wire frame glasses are permissible, but the best solutions include contact lenses, antique frames fitted with your prescription, or going without. Modern sunglasses are to be avoided. While you are still "trying out" the hobby, you may wear whatever prescription glasses you now have, but please make the adjustment as soon as possible. Period frames can be found through sutlers as well as on Ebay. Before purchasing period frames, you may want to research 1860s eyeglasses or ask the civilian coordinator or your sponsor for assistance to ensure you purchase frames correct for the period.



Toiletries and Medicine

Modern toiletries and medicines are allowed, especially if hidden in a small antique appearing wooden or metal box, or a drawstring bag. Please **do not** attempt to participate in an event without your medication or any necessary medical device. Reproduction combs, mirrors, toothbrushes, perfume bottles, etc., are available from many sutlers. An extra roll of toilet paper is also a good idea. The best period hand towels are made of white cotton huckabuck. Castile soap may still be bought at most large grocery stores.

Smoking

Modern cigarette usage by a person in historic clothing is not allowed in plain view in a Texas Rifles civilian camp. Modern cigarette use is allowed only in your own closed tent or away from the historic impression area. The use of tobacco by women was limited to lower class and some rural middle class women in the South; primarily through the use of clay or corncob pipes, possibly cigars (although not as likely), and chewing or dipping tobacco. Men are allowed more freedom in the use of tobacco, provided the method is of the 1860s such as cigars, pipes, dip, chew, or hand rolled cigarettes. Please be considerate of others and check with your companions to see if tobacco smoke would bother them. Also, please dispose of any cigarette packaging and butts safely and appropriately.

Appearance

For your first few reenactments, while you are still deciding whether or not this hobby is right for you, only the basic clothing items are required. You may even be able to borrow enough of the clothing basics to get by for your first few events. Your sponsor or the civilian coordinator can tell you about the availability of clothing items for loan. Once you have decided to become involved in Civil War reenacting, you can begin to put together your own wardrobe. Your Texas Rifle sponsor and/or the civilian coordinator can help you decide what type of clothing you will need and help you find patterns and appropriate fabric. Prices of most items will vary greatly, depending upon whether you buy them ready made or you sew them yourself. The appendix includes a listing of patterns and recommended suppliers.

A few things to keep in mind:

- All fibers should be 100% natural fibers (wool, silk, cotton, or linen), and the clothing should be suited to your impression. Use accurate historic patterns and processes for all garments. A list of approved suppliers is in the appendix.
- Visible details should be finished appropriately to the era; in many cases, this means some handwork. If you're new to historic clothing, we're happy to help you learn the hand sewing you'll need, as well as other clothing construction techniques.
- Use only buttons or hooks and eyes for closures (never zippers, velcro, or snaps), and minimal if any trim.
- Machine sewing is fine for all seams that do not show.
- Buttonholes should be hand sewn.

Prohibited

- Zippers
- Velcro
- Wristwatches
- John Wayne-type bandannas
- Painted fingernails
- Obvious synthetic fabrics
- Obvious modern makeup
- Visible body jewelry that would not have been appropriate for the 1860s
- Visible tattoos that would not have been appropriate for the 1860s

WOMEN

The Basics: What you should get as soon as possible

Undergarments



Proper undergarments, including a corset, chemise, drawers, petticoat, and stockings, are very important, and should be among the second level of clothing purchased or sewn. However, for the first few reenactments, you can make do with a minimum or in some cases without.

One of the first pieces of undergarments you will need is a **petticoat**. This garment is necessary to give the proper fullness to your dress especially if you do not choose to wear a hoop. No matter your impression or the style of your wardrobe, a petticoat will always be used. They are very simply constructed from panels of fabric (muslin will do) gathered into a waistband. There are patterns and instructions for constructing corded petticoats that give you a little more fullness.

A **chemise** may not be necessary for the first few events, but is one of the first undergarments you should consider. The chemise protects your outer garment and, when wearing a corset, serves as a buffer between your skin and the corset. Simple instructions for making a chemise are available on Elizabeth Stewart Clark's web site at <http://www.elizabethstewartclark.com/GAMC/FP/index.htm>

Drawers are also one of the first items of underwear you want to consider. Civil War era women wore knee length drawers that had no crotch seam; because of the skirts and petticoats you will be wearing, you will find that authentically constructed drawers are much more convenient than modern underwear. Elizabeth Stewart Clark's web site also includes instructions for drawer construction.

Stockings may be white cotton knee socks (buy two pair, one for Saturday and one for Sunday), and you can buy the round type garters at first from any sutler. We emphasize cotton, because it breathes.

Dress

The first suggested outer garment is a simple everyday dress or work dress. These dresses are easier and less costly to construct and you probably will find more use for this style of dress. A fancier day dress and/or ball gown can be quite an investment of time and money; you should be sure the hobby is for you before you decide to invest in one of these. The dress pictured here is an original and belongs to Vicki Betts. You can find out more about the dress at

http://www.uttyl.edu/vbetts/furr_homespun_dress.htm



Current research would indicate that a cotton work dress is more likely to have a gathered bodice, while a silk or wool day dress would be more likely to have a fitted bodice. The simplest, most correct fabric to use would be a striped or woven plaid cotton (summer) or wool (winter) fabric in darker and/or "natural dye" colors such as browns, brown-blacks, blacks, indigo blues, madder (the plant used to make the dye) red/browns, off-whites (natural color wool or cotton), or combinations of these. Cloth of this type is often referred to as "homespun" in fabric stores. Prints were also worn; however, not every print produced today would be appropriate for a Civil War impression. If you would like to make a print dress, check with the civilian coordinator or your sponsor for fabric swatches of appropriate designs.

Shoes

Shoes are a major but very important investment. Until you decide that you want to continue in reenacting, purchase a pair of "granny" or ankle boots from any shoe store. They should be black leather, square or rounded toe, lace up the side or front, flat heeled, as smooth soled as possible (avoid the tire tread look), and without any extra trim. Be sure to try them on with your socks/stockings, because you will want them to be comfortable. As soon as you can afford it, order a pair of good period boots.



Filling Out Your Wardrobe

Corset



A corset may sound restrictive and you may feel that it is not really necessary; however, a corset will give you the proper silhouette for a woman of the 1860s. They are not as confining or as uncomfortable as you might think. Constructing a corset costs just as much, and sometimes less than purchasing a foundation garment from a department store. There are several easy to follow patterns for different styles of corsets available. Some patterns include large sizes as well. You can also have a corset made for you. Once your basics are put together, this is something you want to think about getting.

Hoops

There will be occasions when wearing hoops will be appropriate; however, hoops are not something you must have. Corded petticoats or even petticoats alone are acceptable at a majority of events. If you decide to wear hoops, rather than purchasing a bridal store hoop skirt, consider constructing a cage crinoline. The crinoline is more authentic, more comfortable, and will cost about the same as a modern hoop skirt. Patterns, supplies, and kits are available from a variety of sources.



Apron

An apron is very handy for a reenactress. It protects the dress and usually has good pockets to stash things in. A pattern is not needed--just a gathered piece of fabric to cover the front (hip to hip and almost skirt length), apron strings, pockets, and a bib (if desired) without shoulder straps. The fabric should be sturdy cotton, and the color can be light, dark, a small plaid, or a small reproduction print. Pin the bib to the bodice of your dress with straight pins.



Headwear

A sunbonnet protects you from the sun and keeps the wind off of your ears, although it can be warm. Sunbonnets can be plain, corded, or slat, but should be made out of cotton fabric. Civil War era sunbonnets tended to have a "skirt" that came down to below the shoulder line. If you are portraying someone who is middle-class, you might consider a day cap, which is a little head covering trimmed in lace and/or ribbons (most typical of older ladies) or a bonnet. Hats are appropriate only for young women (ages 14-20).



Shawl

A shawl of some description is desirable for spring, summer, or fall events when the evenings might be cool. Any handwoven-appearing cotton or wool fabric, in either a square or a rectangle, in natural colors, would be appropriate. You can even ravel out the cut ends to make a fringe.

Cold weather outerwear

Occasionally, you may attend an event that has cold weather. For these few events you may wish to have a mantle or paletot. The Kinsdale Cloak pattern from Folkwear is **not** acceptable for our time period. A paletot pattern is available through Originals By Kay.



Mantle



Paletot

Poncho

No matter what the sponsors do, it will rain on at least half of all reenactments. A gum poncho (dark gray India rubber on one side, cloth on the other, with a slit in the middle for

your head) is a good investment. It does not have a hood. It can also double for a ground cloth under your bedding.

Other Considerations



Hairstyles

The adage is "Part in the center--Pull it back--Plaster it down." Center parts are required. Bangs should be blended in with the hair on the side of the face and pinned or hair sprayed down if necessary.

Buns, rolls, or braids at the back neckline are appropriate.

If your hair is relatively short, you should consider wearing fake hairpieces. Women should avoid the snoods that are sold on-line and at sutlers. The period appropriate term is "hairnet", and the snoods sold by sutlers are generally bright colors, artificial fibers, and made with elastic. Hairnets like those sold at many drugstores for less than a dollar are appropriate. On younger women, these were often combined with a ribbon.



Makeup

If you really must wear makeup, it should be as natural as possible, with a minimum of base, no eyeliner, no eye shadow, a little clear lip balm to protect the lips, and only a very little (if any) mascara. You really might as well only wear a sunscreen and lip balm.



Jewelry

A work dress really requires no jewelry, but if you choose to wear something, it should be limited at most to a belt buckle, a simple brooch, a pocket watch, and perhaps a pair of earrings (hook



back or loop). You may add a bracelet or rings if you are wearing a better dress. Never wear

a wristwatch, antique jewelry that would devastate you if you lost it, a high school or college ring, or a modern solitaire engagement ring. Simple gold bands are excellent for married women.

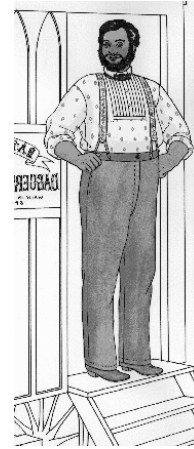


MEN

The Basics: What you should get as soon as possible

Trousers

1860s' trousers are constructed a little differently than modern slacks; pockets are positioned differently, the seat is baggier, waists are higher, flies are buttoned and they were worn with suspenders. Trousers can be made from cotton drill or twill weave, wool or linen. Solid colors range from blacks and browns to off-whites. Plaids and stripes were also popular with certain sets. If you wish to use plaid, contact your sponsor or the civilian coordinator with help choosing the correct patterns and colors. Patterns for civilian pants are available with fairly easy to follow instructions and in multiple sizes, including larger sizes. There are also several suppliers who make trousers ready made for civilians.



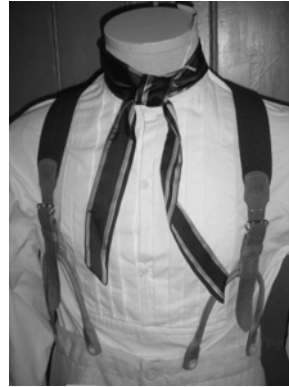
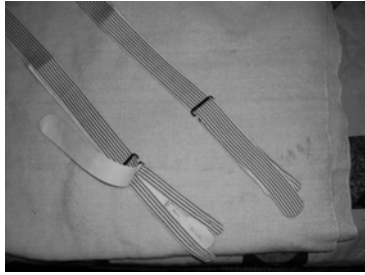
Shirt

The simplest, most correct fabric to use would be a solid, striped, or woven plaid cotton (summer) fabric in darker and/or "natural dye" colors such as browns, brown-blacks, blacks, indigo blues, madder red/browns, off-whites (natural color wool or cotton), or combinations of these, very much like the fabric used in a woman's everyday dress. Cloth of this type is often referred to as "homespun" in fabric stores. Prints were also worn; however, not every print produced today would be appropriate for a Civil War impression. Nor would the prints used in women's dresses necessarily be appropriate for a man's shirt. If you would like to make a print shirt, check with your sponsor or the civilian coordinator for fabric swatches of appropriate designs. Patterns are available for shirts or you can purchase them ready-made from several sources.



Suspenders

The most popular version consisted of two straps of leather, cloth or knitted material with buttonholes at one end and either buttonholes or straps and buckles for adjustment.



Shoes

Shoes are a major but very important investment. Until you decide that you want to continue in reenacting, boots (calf or ankle) will do. They should be black leather, square or rounded toe, flat heeled, as smooth soled as possible (avoid the tire tread look), not too thick of a sole and without any extra trim. As soon as you can afford it, order a pair of good period boots or shoes.

Hat

Most men wore some type of hat in public. You may be able to do without for your first few event, but you should get one as soon as possible. There are several different styles to choose from and many suppliers.



Filling Out Your Wardrobe

Vest

If you are portraying a laborer or a person of the lower classes, a vest may not be necessary; however, if you are portraying a man of any means at all, a vest is a necessary piece of clothing. Vests may be of cotton, wool or silk. There are several different patterns and suppliers of ready-made garments.



Sack Coat or Frock Coat



Frock Coat

Just like the vest, a coat is a necessary garment; although, you may do without if you are portraying a laborer or a person of the lower classes. The sack coat is less formal than the frock coat but both styles were worn on a daily basis and by all ages of men. Coats could be made of wool, cotton, or silk (frock only), and did not necessarily have to match the trousers. Keep in mind that a civilian frock coat is similar but not the same as a military frock coat; so when looking for patterns or ready made, you want to be sure it is a *civilian* frock coat you are looking at. Also keep in mind that if you wear a frock coat you

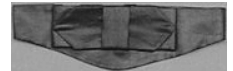


Sack Coat

will need a shirt with a full collar rather than a simple band collar.

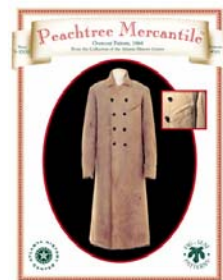
Cravat

Cravats, or ties, ranged in width and style, from the basic thin strip to frilly cravats with decorative prints and wide cut black. If you wear a frock coat, you almost always will need a cravat. Patterns and ready-made items are available.



Cold weather outerwear

Occasionally, you may attend an event that has cold weather. For these few events you may wish to have an overcoat in addition to your frock or sack coat. An overcoat pattern is available through the Atlanta History Center through their Peachtree Mercantile pattern line <http://198.104.158.72/imgdtl.cfm?imageid=322&cid=555>. You may also call the museum at 404-814-4075.



Poncho

No matter what the sponsors do, it will rain on at least half of all reenactments. A gum poncho (dark gray India rubber on one side, cloth on the other, with a slit in the middle for your head) is a good investment. It can also double for a ground cloth under your bedding.

Other Considerations

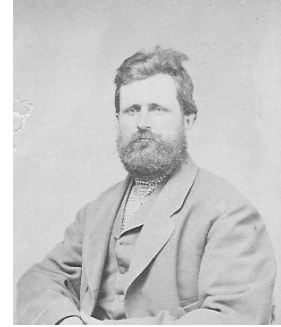
Jewelry

Jewelry should be limited to a pocket watch, and perhaps a ring or two. Never wear a wristwatch, antique jewelry that would devastate you if you lost it, a high school or college ring. Wedding bands for men were not universal; however, a simple gold band will suffice if you choose to wear one.



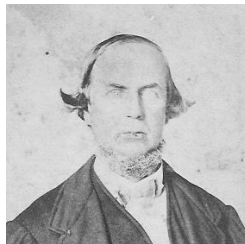
Hair Styles

Men's hair of the Civil War period tended to be longer, particularly on the sides and front portions of the head. While photos of shorter hair do exist, the amount is fractional when compared to other styles. With the intent to represent an average person with an average hairstyle, short hair should be avoided. The practice of growing long hair (past the jaw line) had gone out of style by the outbreak of the Civil War. The only individuals who would still exhibit long hair would be the very elderly men who had worn it long when it had been fashionable (Edwin Ruffin being a classic example).



Facial Hair

For men who choose to wear facial hair, there are several different styles from full beards to mustaches and goatees. In a study of Civil War soldiers, Daniel Morgan found the majority wore a full beard, followed by clean-shaven, then partial beards. If you wish to wear facial hair it should be of a period style.



CHILDREN



Children grow fast and investing in clothes that may not fit even before they are completed is not the most practical thing to do. Members of the Texas Rifles may have children's clothes available to lend out; ask your sponsor or the civilian coordinator about loan availability.

Basic guidelines

While we would love to see all the children dressed appropriately, we understand it can be difficult to dress children in period correct clothes; therefore we do not expect the same level of authenticity in children's appearance that we do with adults. There are a few basic guidelines, however, that should be followed:

- Children's clothing should be of equal economic level to their parents.
- Children should be dressed to their age, rather than their physical development.
- Children's clothing should be of appropriate period fabric such as wool, cotton, linen or silk.
- While children's clothing may show a military influence, complete child-sized uniforms and accoutrements are not allowed.

Girls

Dress

Girls' dresses should fasten in the back until approximately age 12 and should be the appropriate length for their age (see the diagram in the appendix). Fabrics appropriate for a woman's dress would be appropriate for a girl's dress.



Undergarments



Petticoats, a corded petticoat, or petticoats and a child's hoop should be worn underneath to give the proper silhouette. The child's hoop should only be worn with a better dress. A chemise and drawers would also be worn by girls. Elizabeth Stewart Clark makes patterns for these items.

Shoes

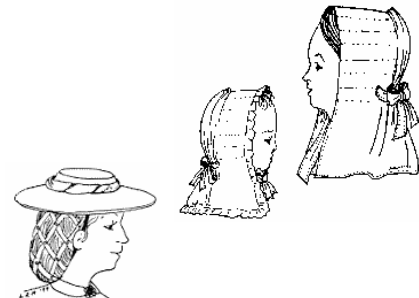
Ankle high boots or Mary Janes are appropriate. These will most likely be replaced often, so synthetic materials are fine. They will show, so have the speed laces snipped from the boots.

Stockings

White cotton knee socks will work best.

Headwear

Slat bonnet, corded sunbonnets, and low brim straw hats are best for girls



Boys

Boys should wear dresses or skirts until about age three. These dresses look very similar to girls' dresses.



Trousers

Sturdy trousers made of cotton drill, duck, twill, or wool. Boy's trousers will button either on the front or the side. For boys 2-6, a button suit, which consists of trousers and shirt buttoned together, is your best option.

Shirt

For boys 2-6 a French blouse or button suit would be appropriate. For older boys, a period shirt worn with trousers is best.



Vest or Sack Coat

For older boys, a shirt, trousers and sack coat made of the same fabrics as trousers, similar to men's wear, is appropriate. Our group has several to loan in various sizes.



Headgear

Slouch hat, mechanic's cap, etc., there are several styles available.



Shoes

Ankle high boots similar to those for a girl. Synthetic materials are acceptable, just clip the speed laces.

Infants

Gown

All infants, regardless of sex wore a gown and petticoats. Elizabeth Stewart Clark has great patterns for these garments.

Bonnet

Keeps the sun, wind, rain and cold away.

Civilian Camping and Event Participation

Camping at events is not a requirement of the Texas Rifles civilians, although it does offer camaraderie and some informal socialization in the evenings. The civilian camp is separate from the military camp; we may be close by depending on the accommodations of the event but we are never part of the military camp. The civilian camp is generally a “camp of convenience”, meaning we use tents because there are no other suitable structures at the event for us to occupy and in which to sleep. Our overall impression does not include interpreting our tents as houses and are generally used only for sleeping and storage of non-period necessities; therefore, tents should remain closed to the public. If your impression would include the use of tents, such as Westward migration or a tent revival, please work with the civilian coordinator to ensure the impression is appropriate for the event and that the other civilian impressions coordinate.

The Texas Rifles Civilians as a group own a tent fly, six campstools and a folding table. The fly provides a common area for the civilians to gather and provides shade. The table is also available for use by the group. Occasionally both these items may be used for group impressions such as a religious or political meeting. The stools are for our members to use until they acquire their own seating. Since we have only a few available stools it is highly encouraged for members to acquire their own seating as soon as possible.

In order to put forth the most period correct impression that we can, we ask that all civilian participants follow certain guidelines while at an event.

Equipment

We suggest keeping the amount of “stuff” you bring to an event to a minimum; consider bringing only what you need for basic comfort, health and your impression.

Tents

Only period correct tents are allowed in the civilian camp. If you wish to camp, contact the civilian coordinator or your sponsor; there may be tent space or tents that can be borrowed until you are able to acquire your own. Tents can be purchased from several different suppliers, see the resource list in the appendix for recommendations. When looking for a tent to purchase, please keep in mind what you are able to put up yourself with a minimum of help. We are all willing to help, but may not be available when you are setting up camp. Also keep in mind that you may be putting up your tent in the dark, the simpler the better.



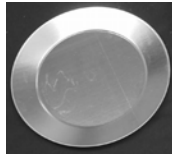


Bedding

Twentieth century cots, sleeping bags, and air mattress are permissible if you have a period looking quilt, blanket, or sheet to put over them to disguise them. If you are sleeping on the ground, you may want a gum blanket, poncho, or a piece of plastic (tucked under) to put down first.

Eating Utensils

Knives, forks, and spoons can be purchased from a number of sources, including sutlers, flea markets, and national park gift shops. Wooden handled forks generally had three tines and all metal (silver) forks had four. In general, the simpler, the better.



Dinnerware should be pottery, china, tin, pewter, or wood. Simple white is good, but you may also choose blue willow or other historic appearing transfer ware. Avoid enamelware of any color and do not take any valuable antique with you that could be lost or broken.

Glasses may be clear, simple and straight, or with octagonal sides and base that have an arched top design. A tin cup without a brass or crimped bottom is also good, but if you plan to use it with acidic drinks (colas, coffee, lemonade, etc.) make sure you do not have lead soldering.



Baskets or Boxes

A basket with a handle is useful as a place to stash a camera and a purse, to be covered with a hand towel or other piece of cloth, when you go shopping or watch a battle. A large laundry type basket is a good way to carry your things into camp from a parking area. Simple natural willow, wicker, or split white oak is fine. Wooden boxes without modern advertising are also acceptable, but heavier. You will need to plan on being able to physically carry all of your own gear, as with pitching your tent, help may not be available when you are unloading your things.



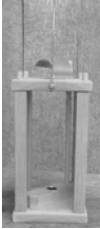


Chair or Stool

An antique-looking wooden folding or ladder-back chair can come in handy while sitting about camp or attending a talk or tea. You may also purchase a cloth covered wooden folding stool--just replace the red or green seat with either off-white canvas or a tapestry-like fabric.



DO NOT purchase the two-piece slatted wooden chairs so often seen at reenactments.



Lighting

Even though it is not period, consider bringing a very small flashlight to use for the midnight trips to the portajohn or to locate that extra blanket in the middle of the night. For your first few reenactments, you may not need a candle lantern or candlestick if you are tenting with someone who is fully equipped and willing to share.

Food and Food Storage

Preparing meals and cleaning up afterward is very time consuming at events, so for most events, we like to bring food that requires no preparation and cooking. This allows us more time for other activities and relaxation. However, if you enjoy campfire cooking, you are more than welcome to do so. We suggest bringing foods that will not spoil easily nor attract many ants. This may include fruit, cookies, uncut bread, or cheese wrapped in paper. A list of period foods that do not require refrigeration is included in the appendix. Please keep the food either in period looking containers, muslin bags, or plain paper wrapping, or have plastic containers hidden within the tent. If you bring a cooler, make provisions to keep it hidden in a wooden box or under a quilt or other fabric covering. Beverages should be drunk only from period looking cups, mugs, or glasses while you are in period clothing.

Water

Summer reenactments can be very hot, and you may not always be near good water, particularly when waiting for a battle to start. Bring a water gourd, historic looking bottle or jug (cork or porcelain stopper), or a Civil War reproduction canteen. Most sites provide water in large moveable tanks called water buffaloes. If you have any susceptibility to water-borne infections, you may want to bring your water container full of water from home, and bring an extra jug that can be hidden in the tent or car.



Other Considerations

- We ask that, at least while the camp is open to the public, Texas Rifles civilians appear in period dress. We are a progressive group and strive for period dress at all times during the event. See the Clothing section for appropriate attire for events.
- Modern items including soda cans, cigarettes, plastic, coolers, etc. must be hidden away in a tent closed to the public.
- Please, no hairdressing in public. Hairdressing was privately done.
- If event rules allow the presence of alcohol, please drink responsibly, and ensure that nobody under legal drinking age has access to alcohol.
- **No** illegal drug use will be tolerated, period.