
1st NEBRASKA INFANTRY VOLUNTEERS

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The following Soldiers handbook is designed to acquaint newcomers to our Unit with the purpose, practices, and procedures of the 1st Nebraska.

PURPOSE

The main purpose of the 1st Nebraska is the reenacting of Civil War History. The men of 1861 enlisted to fight because of patriotism, beliefs, or the likelihood of adventure. By the war's end they had seen the horrors of battle, suffered hardships, and developed close bonds of friendship with their comrades in arms. Honor, patriotism, loyalties to flag and friends were all important to them. Before the war's end many of them paid the ultimate price for the "Cause".

We look back to this unique time in our country's past and as much as possible we try to bring history to life through our reenacting. With our uniforms, weapons, and accouterments we strive to be as close to the original as possible. Through typical camp life and reenacted battles we become part of the past. Remember it is a HOBBY, and for enjoyment!

BASIC UNION UNIFORM

To the new recruit interested in "getting out in the field" usually the concerns are about the proper uniform. "What do I need ? -- Where do I get it ? --How much ? -- etc. etc."

There was a lot of diversity in uniforms during the war and this gives today's reenactor many options in uniforms. Most of the diversity though was in differences between Units, with most soldiers in an individual Unit uniformed the same. Accordingly the First Nebraska has adopted a typical uniform for the time, one which allows us to fit into about any war impression. To do this it is imperative that your first acquisitions be the regulation uniform and accouterments that will enable us to present a well-uniformed company in Union dress. Later you may add to your impression and even portray citizens in civilian dress.

Complete your basic impression as quickly as is feasible. We have sources from which some of these things maybe borrowed while you are obtaining your own, but keep in mind, that as we continue to grow the "loaners" must be passed on to the newer recruits. The "loaners", Unit or personal, should all go through the quartermaster the day of the event and can be loaned generally a maximum of 3 events so they can be passed on to the new recruits.

In correctly outfitting ourselves as reenactors there are two basic concepts we need to keep in mind. Authenticity to the "Unit" and authenticity to the "Event" we are portraying. For example, you would not want to go to a reenactment of the "Battle of Franklin" dressed as a 20th Maine Volunteer with the dark blue trousers. This distinguished Unit was stationed in the east, not in Tennessee. However, it would be appropriate when reenacting many of the battles fought by the Army of the Potomac.

At most large reenactments, the 1st Nebraska falls in with the Muddy River Battalion and in order to look like a legitimate Unit we should dress similarly. Therefore a more "generic" impression is advisable and the parts of that uniform are listed below. At smaller events the 1st Nebraska will be a Unit unto itself and again we should be uniformed similarly. On special occasions when we are

definitely representing the original "1st Nebraska" we should be dressed with frock coats and Hardee hats. Again the generic impression is the best to start with on your Union uniform.

Another point to keep in mind is that the real Civil War Armies were always on the move during a campaign and, therefore, when you start purchasing your equipment, go "Campaign Style". Campaign style means packing light, very light. If you are not willing to walk a mile or more with it on your back, don't buy it. At many of the larger events, due to traffic congestion, you will have to carry your equipment in or out, or even both ways from your vehicle. So leave the camp chairs, lanterns, hat brass and haversack stuffers behind. Buy used equipment if you can because it is both less expensive and since it has a worn look to it, other soldiers will think you are a veteran.

MUSKET: 3 Band Enfield or Springfield. If you chose the Enfield, Armi Sport makes a more authentic looking Enfield than Euroarms, but is not as good in workmanship. If you chose the Springfield, Euroarms makes a very good musket but the model '1861' is preferred over the '1863' model. The '1861' model is correct for all reenactments from 1861 to 1865. The '1863' model, of course is only correct from 1863 to 1865 and even then it was primarily used in the eastern theater. Many different sutlers sell the 1861 or 1863 Springfield.

If you have the money, you may want to consider the 69 caliber '1816' Springfield by Dixie Gun Works (www.dixiegunworks.com). Early in the Civil War about any musket that was available was issued to the troops and a lot of these were smoothbores, like the 1816 Springfield. We believe that only Dixie Gun Works sells this model.

Another musket is the 69 cal. '1842' Springfield by Armi Sport (www.armisport.com). This excellent reproduction comes as a smoothbore (which is easier to clean) or as a rifled musket. Either one is appropriate and the original 1st Nebraska was armed with the both versions of this musket. Not until 1863 or 1864 did most of the soldiers carry rifled muskets like the 1861 Springfield or Enfield. Many different sutlers sell the 1842 Springfield.

BAYONET & SCABBARD: Three sided socket bayonet and Springfield scabbard. After you buy your musket, then purchase a bayonet that fits your particular gun. This is more of a problem if your musket is the 1842 Springfield and you may have to move the lug in order for the bayonet to fit. On the scabbard buy the Springfield style that hangs diagonally down from the belt. The Enfield style hangs straight down and has an additional piece called the "frog".

SHOES: Jefferson Brogans. Original Federal issue shoes had the flesh side out so it could take a polish and therefore had a smooth appearance. Some reproduction shoes look like they have a suede nap on the outside and these are not really correct. Buy shoes with the smooth outsides. Also, add metal heel plates to extend the life of your shoes. Shoe trees also prevent the shoes from curling when they are not being worn and are recommended to extend the life of your shoes.

STOCKINGS (SOCKS): Wool, solid color (prefer white or off-white), no trim. Wool hunting socks with the red tops are not authentic to the civil war period.

TROUSERS: Kersey wool, sky blue in color with side seams but no trim, pockets preferred. The waistband is fairly narrow around 1.5 inches wide and the trousers have a back yoke so the trousers are actual higher in the back than the front. The buttons on the trousers should be made of tin.

SUSPENDERS: White cotton/linen, pillow ticking, no elastic or bright colors.

BLOUSE (SHIRT): Pullover with or without collar made of cotton, muslin, or wool. Solid color such as white, blue or even red is appropriate, as is a pattern shirt. Wool shirts were issued to the troops by the Army but many of the soldiers found them uncomfortable so they bought shirts from the sutlers or used homespun shirts. Therefore, a wide variety of pattern or color shirt is probably okay for the reenactor.

JACKET: Sack or Frock Coat dark blue in color. The Sack coat, with or without a liner, has four buttons and is cooler for summer reenactments than the Frock coat. The Frock coat is appropriate for all events, reenactments, parades, and special occasions because it is considered the dress uniform, but was also worn in the field. The Frock coat has a standup collar about two inches wide and piping sky blue in color for the infantry. We know for a fact that the original 1st Nebraska was outfitted with Frock coats when they went off to war in 1861. Most likely they were also issued the Sack coat later in the war, but we don't know this for sure. After you have been in the 'hobby' for a while, most likely you will purchase both coats. Some reproduction Sack coats have higher collars than the originals, so look for one that is about an inch high and has rounded corners. One final note on color concerns the dark blue-black wool used by Jarnigan's of Corinth MS and some other merchants. This wool is darker than the regulation blue and therefore not really appropriate.

HEADGEAR: Forage cap (bummer) or Hardee Hat. The Forage cap was used primarily by soldiers in the eastern theater while soldiers in the west preferred the Hardee hat (which after much use became the 'Slouch hat'). For the reenactor the Forage cap probably should be purchased first, but you can pick up a black Slouch hat for little money.

LEATHERS:

- US M1855 (early) Cartridge box and belt (black). Get a cartridge box that matches the caliber of your gun. For example, if you purchase a 69 caliber musket then get the larger cartridge box that would hold these larger cartridges. The 58 caliber cartridge box is slightly smaller.
- US M1850 cap pouch and belt (black). The 1850 model was used earlier in the war and would be appropriate for all time periods of the civil war. The shield type of cap pouch came out in late 1862 to early 1863.
- Springfield or Enfield bayonet scabbard (black). Slight preference for the Springfield scabbard that hangs diagonally down from your belt
- Musket sling, brown or russet for Springfield, black for Enfield. A sling is recommended, but not required. In original photographs you will see many muskets without slings and some reenactors find that the sling just gets in the way.

PLATES: Three plates in all. US belt plate, cartridge box plate, and "eagle" breast plate. Some of the new plates on the market have the back side filled with light gray epoxy or pewter. These just don't look or feel quite right, so if at all possible buy ones filled with lead. If you have to get epoxy or pewter, go with the pewter, at least it is closer to the correct weight.

CAMP EQUIPMENT: - Tin plate and Cup. In a pinch an aluminum pie plate can be used in place of the tin plate. Mucket, canteen half, and large tin cup (with flat bottom) are also good to eat out of and can also be used to cook with, especially the mucket. Most sutlers carry tin cups but beware of lead solder found in some of them so it's always good to ask before you buy.

- Period Utensils. A wide variety will do, but most forks and knives had wood handles. Antique stores

are a good place to look or ask your fellow reenactors for a good source. Generally the fork should have three tines but I have seen some with four. Some sutlers also offer a folding combination set that looks like a multi-tool folding knife, except it has a spoon and fork.

HAVERSACK: Tanned and black in color. Used by the soldier to carry rations, tin plate, cup and utensils. You may have to shorten the strap since most sutlers make them too long. Today we tend to wear book bags etc. on our hip while in the 1860's they wore them at the "true" waist. To shorten the strap just fold it over to where the haversack rides near your waist and sew it with black thread.

CANTEEN: US Regulation "Smoothside" canteen with sky blue, dark blue or brown wool cover. The sky blue wool cover was probably most often used in the war, but the brown wool was also used especially in the western theater. Some sutlers offer the canteen in stainless steel and even though the tin canteen is more authentic, the stainless steel canteen is preferred by many since it doesn't rust and no lead solder is used. Also under the wool cover it is almost impossible to tell the difference between the two by just looking at it. The canteen strap on most reproductions today is also too long. Like the haversack the canteen should ride near the "true" waist but in this case sew the strap with white or "natural" color thread.

GUM-BLANKET (PONCHO): Black rubberized cloth. The gum blanket was originally issued to the infantry and the poncho was for the cavalry. This was used by the soldier as rain gear and also as a ground cloth for sleeping. You will want to purchase yours before you go to that 'rainy' reenactment. These sell like 'hot cakes' at such an event and the sutlers maybe sold out. Also look for a gum blanket or poncho that has the small grommets since this is more authentic.

TENT (SHELTER-HALVES): Two shelter halves that buttoned together formed a tent (also called a dog tent) that was used by two soldiers during the war. This was especially true later in the war, and this is the tent you will need for going "Campaign Style". Early in the war, and when the soldiers were in winter quarters, the wedge tent (also called the A frame) was used. Reenactors tend to use the wedge tent primarily because of the extra room, but in the summer the dog tent is cooler and more appropriate when the Armies really would have been on Campaign.

BLANKET: Wool blanket, light brown or gray in color. Two basic patterns of wool blankets were used by the Union Army during the war. Early in the war was the "Emergency Issue" since blankets were scarce. This was light brown to tan with dark brown strips approximately 3 inches wide, woven near each end. The second pattern is the "Regulation Issue" which was gray with black strips (also about 3 inches wide) at each end. This blanket also had the initials US (about 4 inches high) stitched in the middle. Both blankets were about 7 feet in length.

BASIC CONFEDERATE UNIFORM

The 1st Nebraska is primarily a "Union" Unit, but on occasion we also do a "Confederate" impression. Once you have your Union uniform about all you need to do a Confederate impression is a Shell Jacket. During the Civil War the Confederates essentially outfitted their soldiers with Union equipment captured on the battlefield. This was especially true as the war went on, so you would be authentic with just a Shell Jacket.

At some reenactments you can always tell the Confederates that have galvanized to the Union by their hohge-pohge of equipment. This hohge-pohge of equipment is correct for a Confederate impression, but not for Union. Therefore, you can see that for the reenactor on a tight budget, it is best to equip yourself first as a "Union" man.

REFERENCES

Some excellent references on uniforms, muskets, accouterments, etc. are listed below.

- 1). Lord's "Civil War Collector's Encyclopedia" comes in five volumes.
- 2). Time-Life "Echoes of Glory: Arms and Equipment of the Union"
- 3). Time-Life "Echoes of Glory: Arms and Equipment of the Confederacy "

RECOMMENDED SUTLERS OR MERCHANTS

This is not a complete list of all the different sutlers on the market today, but it is meant to provide the new reenactor with a source of equipment that is both authentic and in a reasonable price range. Before any major purchase it is a good idea to ask a member of the Authenticity Committee to check if it is appropriate for the Unit. Just because a Sutler has it for sale, doesn't mean it is an authentic reproduction! For example, at a recent national event one sutler was selling blue and white spotted enamel coffee pots, cups and plates. They looked great and I almost bought one of the coffee pots. I later learned that this style of cook wear didn't really appear in the United States until the 1870's.

County Cloth (Charlie Childs) http://www.crchilds.com	Expensive but excellent quality uniforms, uniform kits, wool and other cloth.
Dirty Billy's Hats http://www.dirtybillyshats.com	Expensive hats, but probably the best on the market today. Many styles of hats are available.
Fall Creek Suttler http://www.fcsutler.com	One of the Big Sutlers, Carry almost everything.
James County Mercantile (Del Warren) http://www.jamescountry.com	Patterns and materials to make your own uniform and clothing, muskets, pistols, and ready made uniforms.
C&D Jarnagin Company http://www.jarnaginco.com	One of the Big Sutlers, Carry almost everything. (Blue wool a little too black)
Past Patterns http://www.pastpatterns.com	Authentic Patterns to make your own uniforms and other clothing.
The Regimental Quartermaster http://www.regqtm.com	One of the Big Sutlers, Carry almost everything.
The Blockade Runner http://www.blockaderunner.com	Primary focus on Confederate uniforms, but also tents, muskets, etc.

Lodgewood Manufacturing http://www.lodgewood.com	Musket Parts. Very wide selection of parts to fix your musket or pistol. This sutler goes to many of the larger reenactments.
Missouri Boot & Shoe http://missouribootandshoe.tripod.com	Shoes, cartridge boxes, knapsacks. Some of the best shoes on the market today.
Village Tinsmith http://www.csa-dixie.com/villagetinsmith.htm	All sorts of tinware, such as cups, plates, cooking gear, etc.
Dell's Leather Works http://www.dellsleatherworks.com	Leather gear, such as, cartridge boxes, knapsacks, belts, buckles,

Sutlers change over time, so visit our website (www.firstnebraskainfantry.org) to keep up to date.

MILITARY LIFESTYLE IN THE 1860'S

Learning infantry drill from the time of the Civil War can be a bit confusing for a number of reasons. In the simplest explanation, today's First Nebraska uses Casey's (Hardee's) manual of arms for the rifle, both for Union and Confederate impressions. There were several instruction manuals used during the Civil War, but our Unit choice this one since it is the most widely used by today's reenacting Union infantry. For a more detailed discussion of the different army manuals, read on.

The accepted manual in the late 1850's was written by William Hardee. Infantry regiments were composed of 10 companies, of which 8 companies were armed with muskets (generally smoothbore muskets) and the other 2 companies (one on each end of the regiment) were armed with rifles since these 'light companies' were to be deployed as skirmishers. Muskets could fire 3 rounds a minute, while rifles could only fire 1 or 2 rounds a minute. Consequently, the drill manual also had two 'manual of arms', one for the musket and one for the rifle.

The invention of the Minnie Ball changed all that. This newly designed bullet allowed rifles to be fired three rounds a minute, just like muskets, but with the improved accuracy the rifle soon became the weapon of choice. At the start of the Civil War the infantry drill manuals had not yet caught up the new Minnie Ball technology so Hardee's drill manual still contained two separate 'manual of arms'. To add further complication, William Hardee followed his State and therefore became a Confederate. Now the Union could have a drill manual written by the enemy, so Silas Casey (authorized by Simon Cameron the Secretary of War), wrote the Union drill manual, which is only slightly different than Hardee's, but still maintains the two different 'manual of arms'.

To add another layer of complication, if you are portraying a soldier in the Union Army you will be using Casey's manual of arms for the rifle, but if accurately portraying a Confederate soldier you should be using Hardee's manual of arms for the musket. Both Casey's and Hardee's manuals were still not all inclusive and there are a few manual of arms that are used at parades and funerals included in other manuals. Don't worry about these since they are rarely used. As we have mentioned before, today's First Nebraska, even when we portray a Confederate Unit, we still use the manual of arms for the rifle to keep things a little simpler.

There are available reproduction copies of the original drill book, as well as several very good simplified books, but most instruction should take place in the field and at musters with veteran reenactors. Don't get discouraged if it seems hard at first, back then it took quite a while to turn civilians into soldiers. We will work with you to learn the manual of arms as well as how to march, etc.

Much like the pre-war militia we are 'playing at soldier', looking forward not only to the social

gaiety or martial life, but also looking forward to taking the field. Naturally we are much more fortunate than our predecessors, if we don't like the 'game' we can go home. Nevertheless as long as we continue to be reenactors we must do so in a manner that honors and perpetuates the traditions they so nobly established. Therefore, as we lightly touched upon in the Introduction to the 1st Nebraska the typical social and military amenities will be observed.

Since we will be interacting in two different settings, two different standards of behavior are necessary. For the most part our General meetings are social gatherings at which we become better acquainted, discuss the rights and wrongs of reenacting in general, any safety issues, and the regiment in specifics, such as upcoming reenactments and other events. It is at this meeting that objective criticisms are voiced and remedial measures, if appropriate, are adopted. This meeting is a positive instrument for furthering our common goals. This time will also be used to increase our awareness of areas that need collective improvement and probably a portion of each meeting will be devoted to correcting any deficiencies.

The other setting is that of the 'field', readily defined as all times that we are gathered in uniform. This will encompass all areas such as parades, reenactments, musters, recruiting meetings, etc. At these functions it is imperative that all military customs and courtesies be observed. Since we are portraying a veteran military Unit of the times we must willingly adopt their standards as our own. We need to remember that other Units will be watching. We want to be a dependable, respectable Unit welcomed to all events. And, we can only attain this by presenting a unified public appearance of the "old soldier" and revel in accepting the role they have voluntarily elected to fulfill.

As an example, let us consider the First Sergeant. In the Civil War company there were normally 4 sergeants... and THE FIRST SERGEANT! The 2nd through the 5th sergeant, any soldier could walk up to and call Sarge for Sergeant, or maybe get by with a first name. But not the First Sergeant. This gentleman, also known as the Orderly Sergeant, held the comforts and misery of each company non-com and enlisted man in the proverbial palm of his hand. He was also the one who could make the company staff look sharp or questionable. For these reasons alone he was treated with the utmost respect and courtesies by ALL men in the company. It was always "Yes, First Sergeant" never "Yes, Sergeant". That is the 19th century way.

Since the majority of new members are also new to the world of reenacting, they need to be familiarized with the basics of military drill beginning with the "School of the Soldier".

OUR HERITAGE - THE FIRST NEBRASKA

After the firing on Ft. Sumter the call for loyal men to serve their country went out. Though Nebraska was just a territory, and really only sparsely populated, the call was still heard and responded to. Such patriotic men as Robert Livingston of Plattsmouth helped raise companies of volunteers. Ten companies in all were raised. Company A came from Plattsmouth and was sworn in at Omaha (next to the Herndon House) on June 11, 1861 and reviewed by Gov. Saunders. Company B was made up primarily of Germans, most being from Omaha, but included a group from St. Joe MO. Company C came from Brownsville, originally called "Brownsville Union Rifles". Company D was from Nebraska City and was sworn in June 15, 1861. Company E was originally called "Nebraska Rangers" and contained some Indian fighters. Company F had a lot of men from Page County, Iowa. Company G was sworn in on June 30 and companies H, I, and K there sworn in during July.

On the 30th of July 1861, under Colonel J. M. Thayer, the 1st Battalion embarked from Omaha to St. Joseph, MO. From there they went on to Pilot Knob, via St. Louis, where they were met by the remainder of the regiment. The regiment then went on to Syracuse, Missouri and stayed until October

21st. They continued on to Georgetown for winter quarters on the 16th of November. From December 8th to the 15th they were engaged in scouting for 'Bushwhackers'. On the 15th the Regiment marched to Warrensburg to join in an exposition under General Pope.

On the 27th of December they marched toward Milford, Missouri on the Blackwater. They participated in skirmishing and hard marches which resulted in the capture of about 1300 rebel soldiers who were on their way to join Confederate General Price.

The regiment then returned to Georgetown where they remained until February 2, 1862. Then they started for Tennessee and upon arriving in St. Louis they immediately embarked on the steamer "White Cloud" for Fort Henry, Tennessee where they arrived on February 11th. The command received orders to go up the Cumberland river to Fort Donelson, at which place they arrived and disembarked on the night of the 13th.

On the morning of the 14th the Regiment was ordered to the battlefield. Companies "B" and "H" were thrown out in advance as skirmishers with Captain Baumer in command. After getting about a mile in advance of the Regiment he was ordered back. After a brief fight on February 16th the enemy ran up the white flag and surrendered unconditionally to General Grant. The Regiment then marched into the town of Dover, Tennessee.

On the 17th the Regiment marched to Ft. Henry. They then made their way to Crump's Landing where they remained until the 6th of April when they marched for Pittsburg Landing.

Through the mistake of a guide the Regiment did not reach the battlefield of Shiloh until the first day of fighting was over. They formed in line of battle on the right wing of General Grant's army in Colonel Thayer's Brigade, Lew Wallace's Division. At daybreak on April 7th they engaged the enemy and had hard fighting all day. Time and time again the enemy charged up to close quarters but the well directed volleys of the Brigade caused them to waver and fall back, until finally by a sudden charge of the 1st Nebraska they were driven from the field.

After the battle Colonel Thayer remarked on the Regiment in his Battle Report:

"Nobly did the First Nebraska sustain its reputation, well earned on the field of Donelson. Its progress was onward during the whole day, in the face of a galling fire of the enemy, moving on without flinching, at one time being an hour and a half in front of their battery, receiving and returning its fire, its conduct was most excellent. Lieutenant-Colonel McCord and Major Livingston, of this Regiment, were constantly in the thickest of the fight, executing every order with utmost promptness and alacrity. They are deserving the highest commendation for their gallantry."

Honorable mention is also given to Wm McClelland, Acting Surgeon of the 1st Nebraska for his invaluable services during the days of the battle.

After Shiloh the 1st Nebraska was on the march to Corinth, Miss. Then the 1st was transferred to Helena, Arkansas and would spend the rest of their infantry service marching across Missouri and Arkansas chasing rebel guerrillas and some larger forces. They marched through such areas as Pilot Knob, Ironton (Mo), Milliken's Bend, and Cape Girardeau. On one expedition they even captured a steamboat the 'Fairplay'. They would tangle with rebels under Generals Price and Marmaduke. On Oct. 11, 1863 they were mounted as cavalry and designated the 1st Nebraska Cavalry. As the 1st Neb Cavalry they would still fight many small but still fierce fights. In 1864 they would be transferred back to Nebraska and until early 1866 would spend the remaining time patrolling and fighting the plains Indians.

As reenactors, the Unit was formed in the late 1980's as the "Irish Battalion" in Lincoln and Omaha, Nebraska. As the Irish Battalion we portrayed both Union and Confederate troops at many

events. We saw service in the reenactments of Shiloh, Prairie Grove, Butler, Westport, and the biggest of them all - Gettysburg. Additionally we have been at numerous local events and parades. Some members have been extras in Civil War movies, such as "Glory", "Dances with Wolves" and "Gettysburg". To share our interest in history we have put on demonstrations in schools and other events.

The "Irish Battalion" served us well as a name, it reflected Irish Units that fought for both the Blue and the Gray. In 1990 we voted to change the name to "1st Nebraska Infantry" (Irish Battalion). We wanted to tie into the rich (but almost forgotten) history of our area. So we voted to represent the Nebraska Territory of 1861. To appease our members of Southern leanings we also do an alternate impression of Confederate soldiers. Our Confederate impression is more generic. We portray a western rebel Unit, some times as an Irish Unit. We have selected a specific Southern Unit to portray, the 6th Arkansas, which has a very rich history in the western theater.

STRUCTURE OF TODAY'S FIRST NEBRASKA

MEMBERSHIP

- Must be 16 years old or older to carry a musket.
- Must pay yearly dues.
- Any further qualifications that may be voted by the Unit.
- Only 1st Nebraska members may vote on proposed items of business.
- Any changes to stated structure must be proposed during one month's regular meeting and voted on the following month's regular meeting.
- The organization meets monthly in Omaha on the 2nd Wednesday of the month, 7:00 pm at a site announced to all and placed on our website. Other detachments as arranged.
- Annual meeting: Held during the January meeting at which time the election of officers is conducted. To vote at the Annual Meeting you must have paid your dues by Jan. 1, have attended 4 events or meetings in the prior year (unless you are a newer member then the 4 events can be waived by a vote of the members). Voting members may request an absentee ballot if they are not able to attend the Annual Meeting. The absentee ballot must be requested from any member of the Executive Committee by December 15th and returned to the treasurer, with payment of dues, by Jan. 1st. The absentee ballot will serve as the first ballot at the Annual Meeting.
- Minutes: presently the Unit sends out minutes from the monthly meetings to keep members informed of upcoming events and other related business. The minutes are to be mailed or emailed prior to the next monthly meeting to all members.
- The Unit also maintains a website at www.firstnebraskainfantry.org and also has a Facebook page.

OFFICERS

The 1st Nebraska shall be divided between an organizational (business) structure and a system of command (field) to conduct the 1st Nebraska in the field. A member may serve as a business officer and as a field officer at the same time.

Section One: Business Officers

The business officers of the 1st Nebraska shall be President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Regimental Unit Historian, and the Regimental Quartermaster. These six officers shall make up the Executive Committee.

The President shall preside at all the business meetings of the 1st Nebraska. The President shall represent or delegate representation of the 1st Nebraska and shall organize, or delegate others to organize, Unit activities.

The Vice-President shall preside in the event of the President's inability to serve.

The Secretary shall keep accurate minutes of all business meetings of the 1st Nebraska in a volume provided by the 1st Nebraska, which shall be preserved permanently in its archives. The Secretary is also responsible to mail the minutes from the monthly meetings to all members of the Unit.

The Treasurer shall keep the books of account of the 1st Nebraska receiving and dispersing funds on proper orders.

The Company Quartermaster shall be responsible for upkeep and use of 1st Nebraska equipment and supplies.

The Unit Historian shall have the responsibility of gathering information and press releases for a Unit scrapbook and putting together and maintaining that scrapbook.

- The business officers shall be voting members of the 1st Nebraska.
- One-half of the business officers shall be elected by the voting membership at the Annual Meeting of the 1st Nebraska and shall serve for two years.
- No business officer shall hold more than one business office at a time, nor shall be eligible to serve more than two (2) consecutive terms in the same office.
- All business officers shall be elected by the voting members at the Annual Meeting of the 1st Nebraska and shall serve two years. In even calendar years, the Vice-President, Secretary, and Quartermaster will be elected. In odd calendar years, the President, Treasurer and Historian will be elected.

Section Two: Field Officers

The field officers of the 1st Nebraska shall be Captain, First Lieutenant, First Sergeant, Second Sergeant, First Corporal, Second Corporal and Third Corporal. At some events these officers may receive field promotion, such as Captain promoted to Major.

The field officers and non-commissioned officers of the First Nebraska shall share certain responsibilities. They are as follows:

- The safety of all reenactors and spectators.
- The conduct of all soldiers under their command including members of other Units who fall in with the First Nebraska.
- To present an accurate historical representation of Civil War military life.
- Public relations with other Units and media interviews when requested.
- The training of all soldiers in as authentic Civil War military decorum as possible and practical.

In addition to these shared duties, each rank has specific responsibilities as follows:

Corporal will lead work details and assume duties of sergeant when needed.

Second Sergeant will assign work details, be the left guide of company and assume duties of 1st Sergeant when needed.

First Sergeant will prepare daily reports for the commander, form company for all drills and parades,

supervise work details, assign work details, act as right guide of the company and assume Unit command when necessary.

Lieutenant will be Platoon leader, attend officers meeting and enforce the rules and tactics agreed upon, maneuver platoons when detached with proper tactics or according to preset scenarios and assume command of the company when necessary.

Captain will assign duties to maintain a well run camp, attend officer meetings and enforce the rules and tactics established at these meetings, maneuver troops in battle with proper tactics or according to preset scenario.

Major will assume command of a multi-Unit battalion, assign duties to company commanders, attend officer meetings and enforce the rules and tactics agreed upon, maneuver troops in battle on a battalion level with proper tactics or according to a preset scenario, be prepared to assume command of all forces on a Corps or on an Army level.

- The field officers shall be voting members of the 1st Nebraska.
- All field officers shall be elected by the voting members at the Annual Meeting of the 1st Nebraska and shall serve for two years. In even calendar years, the Captain, 1st Sgt. and 1st Cpl. will be elected. In odd calendar years, 1st Lt., 2nd Sgt., 2nd Cpl. and 3rd Cpl. (if necessary) will be elected.
- No field officer shall hold more than one field office at a time.

The following Field Staffing Table is established to maintain reasonably accurate number of non-commissioned officers and company officers while presenting public demonstrations.

Number of Men	Corporal(s)	Sergeant(s)	Lieutenant(s)	Captain(s)	Major
1-4	1				
5-8		1			
9-12		1		1	
12-18	1	1		1	
18-24	2	1		1	
24-30	2	2		1	
30-35	3	2	1	1	
36-40	4	2	1	1	
40-44	4	3	1	1	
45-51	5	3	1	1	
52-58	5	3	2	1	
59-65	5	4	2	2	1
66-84	6	4	2	2	1
84-92	6	6	2	2	1

92-100	8	6	2	2	1
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Section Three: Standing Committees

The Executive and Authenticity Committees are the two current Standing Committees of 1st Nebraska, but other committees may be formed as the need arises. The Executive Committee is composed of the six elected business officers of the Unit. The Authenticity Committee is composed of four voting members of 1st Nebraska elected at the Annual meeting and shall serve a one year term. These members may be elected as often and as consecutively as the membership chooses.

UNIT PRACTICES

The following practices and additional information are noted here to help the beginner.

Cartridges:

It is the practice of the First Nebraska to issue caps and cartridges to its members for events. We do this to ease the individuals expense and also to give one less thing to forget at home. The members of the Unit all pitch in and prepare the cartridges. We have cartridge rolling parties to do this, so if you like to shoot, please help prepare the ammo. At events where caps and powder are issued, members turn them into the company and this helps to supply us year round.

Periodically the company will 'pay' the members in period money, script, or stamps. We are exploring possible uses of this pay (other than gambling or frivolous spending sprees). A table of monthly pay for 1861 was:

Privates	\$13.00
Corporals	\$13.00
Sergeants	\$17.00
2 nd Sergeants	\$19.00
1 st Sergeants	\$21.00
2 nd Lieutenants	\$25.00
1 st Lieutenants	\$31.00
Captains	\$39.00
Majors	\$55.00

Uniform Items on Loan:

The company has some uniform items to loan. Contact the Quartermaster or his assistant. The quartermaster will record the items in his book and collect them after the event. Any persons wishing to loan excess items out may deposit them with the Quartermaster to record and loan. We loan items to help newcomers to participate. Please take care of the items and return them in good shape.

If you have any questions please look up the roster or website and call or email !!! We want to help you get started and we all have been where you are now.

LIABILITY

Part of your dues go toward the purchase of liability insurance for the Unit. This is necessary due to today's legal climate for the safety of spectators, reenactors and event sponsors. Each individual shall be responsible for insurance for themselves and their equipment. This Unit is voluntary, and all are expected to act responsibly. Neither the First Nebraska, nor any of its elected or designated leadership, nor members or agents shall be held liable for any accident, injury, loss, or damage to any person or entity activities, constituting negligence or intentional omissions of acts or transgressions of the law or mortality during travel/reenactments/activities.

We stress safety so that all may enjoy the hobby with minimum worry and headaches. We have never had a problem in this area, but if any shall arise the Unit will address them. The Unit may require a form including liability, waiver, any pertinent medical information, etc.

FAMILY PARTICIPATION

Presently the regiment allows and encourages family participation. Most events have activities or opportunities for the ladies and children. They may organize as they choose and coordinate with the First Nebraska Infantry.

At events period dress is stressed. They can camp at either modern or period civilian camping areas. Children can also be dressed for the period, though parents should closely supervise them at events for safety reasons.

The First Nebraska welcomes family participation as it can be a unique outing for all. At events Unit activities are priority for the men but "down time" is available to be shared with their family.

!!!WELCOME!!!

These are general guidelines. For specifics ask the Unit President for an updated copy of the bylaws.