



Handbook for Civilians

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Welcome to the Civilians of Company K, 3rd U.S. Regular Infantry Re-enactors!

Co. K, 3rd US Regular Infantry is a Civil War living history organization devoted to an accurate portrayal of the life of a regular army soldier during the Civil War. As civilians our goal is to support the military mission of the unit by developing civilian impressions appropriate for our presence in a regular military encampment and by actively contributing to the unit's overall presence at events. We seek to educate the public on the life of civilians in camp life, home life, while traveling, and while visiting family members with the regular army. Civilian members with children are expected to develop period-appropriate activities for their children. Children and adults alike are encouraged to practice 19th century etiquette during events. Our clothing and equipment are reproductions patterned as closely as possible to the originals. Authenticity is closely supervised and we strive for a high standard in our civilian impression, while at the same time maintaining an atmosphere of learning, fun, and collaboration. All of us have more to learn.

The civilian organization of the 3rd US Regular Infantry is loosely structured and encourages the active participation and input of all members. A Civilian Coordinator is elected by the civilian membership each year at the Annual Meeting of the 3rd US Regular Infantry. A Civilian Corner Editor is also elected to write and/or edit the Civilian Corner column in the monthly newsletter. Ad hoc committees may be formed to organize special projects. Civilians may also participate in various civil war period projects or fund-raising activities. All projects will be proposed in advance and then presented to the civilians at a meeting for discussion and a vote. Previous activities have included quilting bees, museum tours, dances, and classes on various topics such as fitting a bodice or making a bonnet.

We encourage all civilian members to share their opinions, research, and ideas while respecting the opinions and re-enacting goals of others in the group. Members wishing to write an article for the Civilian Corner column should contact the Civilian Corner Editor, who welcomes any such contributions. Re-enacting can be a life-long learning process and it is our goal to raise awareness while supporting each other.

The 3rd US Regular Infantry participates in a number of living history and re-enactment events each year. Types of events range from living history demonstrations and encampments to small recruiting events to large battle re-enactments. A schedule of upcoming events is published in the monthly newsletter of the 3rd US Regular Infantry, *The Old Guard*. Headcounts for members attending events are collected by corporals for military members and by the Civilian Coordinator for civilian members.

Civilian members are invited to participate in all events as they choose and to camp in the area designated for civilians. A Civil War impression must be maintained while you are in the camps, both civilian and military. In theory, any time a female was present in a military camp she was escorted, and although a constant escort may be difficult to manage at many events, all civilians should be aware that in the 3rd U.S. Regular Infantry, women and children are not permitted on the company street. Civilians are expected to follow the rules for each event as set by event organizers. Rules are usually posted on the event website, and may be put into the newsletter as space permits; more information can be requested from the Civilian Coordinator if desired.

Guests may attend certain events, as a reenactor, and may be required to pay a guest registration fee in addition to the event fee. Guests are expected to adhere to unit authenticity standards in regard to etiquette and appearance (clothing, hair, make-up) throughout the event. It is the responsibility of the sponsoring member to ensure the guest is dressed appropriately for the event and understands the unit authenticity standards. Each guest must remain in accurate civil war clothing and hairstyle throughout the time they are participating.

Commissary: There is a charge for commissary. Currently the 1st Sgt. serves as Commissary Director, coordinating all meals for the unit, including the transportation of equipment, purchase the food, and the preparation of the meals throughout the weekend. Unless other instructions are received from the Military leadership, the meals provided at a typical weekend event will be breakfast, lunch and dinner on Saturday, and breakfast and lunch on Sunday. Meal times are set by our commanding officer based on when the men are needed for drill, demonstrations and/or battles.

Commissary counts are collected along with the headcount for each event, and an accurate count is essential so that costs can be kept down while ensuring that there is enough food for everyone. Commissary plans and purchases are made as early as two weeks prior to an event therefore the commissary fee is not refundable less than 14 days prior to an event.

Commissary charge for each event is \$10 per person (subject to change if the event requires more meals). We like to say that the first bite is \$10, the rest of the meals are free; if you want to purchase one meal for the weekend, that meal will cost \$10. Please don't elect out of commissary but then ask if you can have a bite of fruit or a couple of carrots. If you choose not to participate in the commissary you are responsible for your own meals.

A Company Mess arrangement will be established and all members who take their meals with the commissary will be assigned to a work detail during the weekend to help with set-up, cooking, clean-up, or other tasks associated with providing meals. Teamwork is essential to ensure the tasks are done and are shared by everyone instead of just a few.

Please let your Civilian Coordinator and the Commissary Director know if you have any health concerns. Remember to drink plenty of fluids and eat light meals during hot events. If you don't feel well, let someone know right away. Re-enacting can be physically stressful, so please be aware of and respect your physical limitations.

Some basic rules of safety and re-enacting etiquette follow:

Members are to maintain decorum in camp and follow the protocol of the Civil War period military camp. At most events, there will be two company streets – one for military and one for civilian. Women and children are not permitted on the Military company street at any time.

One company fire is maintained near the commissary which is established at the head of the Military Company Street. It may be used by any member of the unit for warmth or heating hot water, etc., however the commissary has priority. The commissary is part of the military establishment and the Commissary Director has authority to determine whether and when it is appropriate for company members to be in the commissary area. No company member should get in the way of those preparing meals.

Fire safety is of the utmost importance. If you dig a fire, you are responsible for it. No fire should even be left burning unattended. At night all fires must be put completely out or a fire watch must be set. No unsupervised children should ever be around the fire. Children are never to touch or play with the fire implements or the fire itself.

No one is ever to put any cartridges or cartridge papers into the fire.

Children are never to touch or play with cartridges or black powder.

If you do not bring your own chair or camp stool, be prepared to sit on the ground. Members who bring their own chairs may use their own discretion in allowing others to use them or reserving them for personal use. Members who bring their own chairs are encouraged to mark them.

A civilian member who has developed a specific impression such as laundress, governess, seamstress, nurse, etc. may occasionally ask other members to fill in for her in her absence. If you have not been asked to fill in, do not attempt to do so. Some impressions include use of expensive equipment which may be damaged or cause injury if used incorrectly, and it is better to ask spectators to return at a later time than to give out misinformation regarding another's impression. However, if you are interested in learning from another member more about her impression or joining her in presenting it, please don't hesitate to make your interest known.

Company members are expected to maintain a courteous attitude and respect for the property and personal space of other members, particularly in or in front of members' own tents. Be aware that space in camp is often crowded. All company members should be sensitive to the requests of those needing privacy or quiet time between activities. Company members should never use or borrow company equipment or another member's personal equipment without first obtaining permission.

If at any time company members (military, adult civilians, or children) are observed to be doing something which will harm themselves, harm someone else, damage someone else's property, or bring disrepute upon the unit, other company members should take action to stop/prevent such activity and remind the erring member(s) of appropriate company policies governing members' behavior. All company members should assist in maintaining a safe and authentic camp environment.

Any member who commits to attending an event will be held accountable for all applicable registration and commissary fees for that event, even if that member ends up not going. Event

registration fees are not refundable. Commissary fees may be refunded if notice* is given more than 14 days prior to an event; *to be refunded commissary fees notice must be given in the following form: the member must contact all, and receive confirmation of cancellation notice from at least one, of the following members: Commissary Director, Co K. Commander, 1st SGT, and Civilian Coordinator. All Commissary fees are paid at the event Friday evening. If members present at an event have not paid their fees by the time of the pre-battle inspection, they may not take the field or participate in similar activities.

If you would like to receive a copy of the unit by-laws, please contact your Civilian Coordinator and request a copy.

If you need any help gathering ideas or materials for your impression, please feel free to call on others in the organization. Many of us have extra outfits and will be glad to loan you a dress so you can participate as you collect your own garments. We can provide information on vendors from whom you can obtain good quality garments and accessories. If you can sew and would prefer to make your own clothing, we can help you select historically accurate patterns and fabrics and will be happy to work with you on your clothing. The Sewing Academy website and forum can be of infinite help in constructing your own clothes: <http://www.thesewingacademy.org/>

Members are not required to develop a first-person impression, but some may wish to do so. Some helpful hints and a worksheet are included with this handbook and more reference materials on first-person re-enacting are available for those who are interested.

Some basic information on civilian clothing follows, along with a list of resources including books, websites, and recommended sutlers. Good reference materials are also available from your local library or bookstore. Many libraries have women's magazines from the Civil War years on microfiche. These articles can offer many tips on how to accessorize your impression. Many of us have books which you may borrow. When in doubt please ask. We are always willing to help!

We try very hard to make our time together fun for you and your family. Please read your copy of our newsletter, The Old Guard, to find out information on upcoming events. If you have any question or concerns, please contact your Civilian Coordinator.

We look forward to seeing you at the next event!

- ? Cartridges only to those in correct period uniforms - # from non-members.
- ? DRINKING ISSUE. - not PARTICIPATING in scheduled events.
- ? No weapons on person in camp - NO CONCEALED WEAPONS EVER.

Shoes for growing teens maybe hightop
BLACK- tennis shoes

? LIMIT # of guest visits per year