

## Federal Cavalry Standards

The guiding impression for this event will be 8<sup>th</sup> NY, Company D. Company D was recruited from Rochester, Clyde and Phelps counties and were mustered into Federal Service, November 23, 1861. The regiment had a wide and varied tour of service with the AoP, being mustered out of the service June 27, 1865.

### Uniform Standards:

#### Headgear:

M1858 Forage Cap. Cap should be made of finely woven dark blue wool. Cap should have a painted leather visor and chin strap with stamped brass buckle and 2 small US general service buttons.

No Kepi's or civilian slouch hats. Hats should not be purple, fuzzy or made from overly heavy wool. One of the first things to ruin an impression is a bad hat.

#### Jackets:

Mounted Service Jacket. Jacket should be made of finely woven wool broadcloth with yellow worsted wool trim. Jackets should have "belt pillows" and 2 button cuffs. Jackets will be lined and the lining should be quilted and padded. All button holes need to be hand sewn. Fuzzy purple coats of obvious poor quality will not be allowed.

Fatigue Blouse: Blouse should be made of light weight wool flannel with an obvious wale (diagonal pattern to the weave) to the material. Coat should have a short collar and faced cuffs with a scalloped shape. Blouses should be lined in wool flannel or jean. Unlined versions should have flat felled interior seams. Fuzzy, purple or black coats of heavy blanket weight wool will not be allowed. Button holes will be hand sewn.

#### Trousers:

Mounted Pattern: Sky blue kersey weave wool. Waistband should taper and slope front to back, with the back higher than the front and the front at the wearer's navel. They should have a yoke in the back and have either a eyelets or a belted back. Trousers need to have 2 side seam pockets and a right side watch pocket. Side seam pockets can be modified into a "mule ear" style. Trousers should have seat reinforcement and vented cuffs. Button holes will be hand sewn.

Foot Pattern: Same specifications as the Mounted Pattern without the seat reinforcement.

#### Shirt:

Issue Pattern: Made of domet flannel, and sewn with flat felled seams and have three small paper backed tin buttons, one at the neck and each cuff.

Civilian Pattern: Made of solid or striped material. Can be machine or hand sewn of appropriate pattern and construction. Buttons should be small glass, tin, or bone. Wooden buttons should be avoided on shirts.

#### Drawers:

Issue Pattern: Made of Canton flannel and hand sewn with flat felled seams. Should have tape ties at both cuffs and at the rear vent and a 2 tin button closure.

Civilian Pattern: Made of Canton or wool flannel or linen. Based on period style and can have button fly closure. Can be hand or machine sewn.

Footwear:

Boots:

Federal Issue "Artillery" pattern: Made from rough side out leather with single piece vamp. Leather heel and can have either pegged or stitched soles. Should have a 12 inch height.

Civilian Pattern: Can be rough or smooth leather. Must have one piece vamp. Can be stove pipe or have knee flaps. No rubber soles or heels. Soles can be stitched or pegged.

Overcoat:

Mounted Pattern: Made of sky blue kersey weave wool. 5 or 6 button double breasted design with a wool flannel or jean cloth lining. Cape should extend to the cuffs and have 12 buttons. Collar should be of rise and fall design with hook and eye closure. Cape and bottom edge of coat should be left raw. All button holes should be hand sewn.

Gloves:

Woolen: Should be knit of solid color. Rag wool not acceptable.

Leather: Should be made of deer, elk or goatskin. No elastic or adjustment cord on back of hand. Any modern tags must be removed.

## Equipment Standards

All leather gear is to be black dyed leather on one side only.

Saber Belt: M1858 Pattern. Made of blackened buff or waxed flesh. Bridle leather acceptable. Belt should be free of rivets. Buckle should be solid brass with applied silver wreath. Saber straps should be of proper length so the when mounted, the saber hangs vertically. This is a major safety concern.

Carbine Cartridge Box:

Sharps pattern: Box should have tins and inner flap with an implement pouch. A proper Sharps box has an outward appearance very close to the '61 pattern infantry box. Box should be free of a box plate and have no oval US stampings. Box should have a sewn closure tab without copper rivet.

Cap Box:

Shield front: Box should have sewn and un-riveted closure tab, with pick keeper and wool sewn into the inside. Belt loops can be sewn and riveted or simply sewn.

M1858 box: Same general construction details as the Shield front box

without the sewn closure tab.

Holster:

M1858 Holster, worn right side, butt forward. Should have toe plug and sewn, un-riveted closure tab. Should be size appropriate for your revolver. No oval US stampings on the flap.

Carbine Sling:

Made from blackened buff, waxed flesh or bridle leather. Brass two tongued buckle sewn onto the end with brass "batwing" on the other. Belt should have iron roller snap swivel. Make sure snap functions keeping the carbine captured at all times.

Canteen:

M1858 smooth side canteens only. Should have undyed leather sling. Web slings acceptable. Stoppers should be attached with jute cord unless marked from New York Arsenal. Only NY marked canteens had jack chains. Canteens can be covered or bare. Must be worn on one's person

Haversack:

US issue tarred black cloth with roller buckle closure and "rice" bag attached with 3 buttons. Closure strap and tab should be stitched to bag. Strap should be no longer than 46 inches end to end.

Spurs:

Cast brass spurs with steel rowels. Should be plain, no eagle head designs.

Spur Straps:

Blackened bridle leather straps, no wider than 5/8 and no longer than 25 inches. Secured with roller or brass horseshoe buckles, stitched on the strap.

Shelter Half:

Made of cotton drill, 2 panel design. Can be hand or machine sewn. Should have bone buttons and 2 ground loops. All button holes and grommets to be hand stitched. Each man should carry one half and no end sheets permitted. No larger than 66"x58".

Gum Blanket/Poncho:

Made of rubberized cotton cloth on one side only. Must have 3/8" brass grommets.

Blanket:

Grey, Brown or Tan with solid end stripes. Hand stitched US, 4 inches high sewn in the center of the blanket. Blanket to be 84"x66" and weigh no more than 5 pounds.

## Weapons

### Carbine:

'59 Sharps: Breach loading percussion only. Can have patch box. Should have functioning Lawrence pellet primer and be devoid of modern markings.

### Revolver:

Colt Revolver: Either M1860 Army or M1851 Navy pattern. Should be blued with no modern markings and have a case hardened steel frame.

### Saber:

M1840 Heavy or M1860 Light cavalry saber: Proper leather and wire wrapped grip. No brass back straps permitted. Sabers must fit correctly into the scabbard. Sabers with saw tooth edges and nuts on the pommel will not be permitted.

## Horse Equipments

### Saddle:

M1859 McClellan: Tree must be in the rawhide. No leather covered trees. All leather to be dyed black on grain side only. All hardware to be blackened iron or steel. All stitching should be hand sewn with un-spaded dee rings. Coat straps should have stoppers with iron center bar buckles. Stirrups to be wood with 3 inch tread, covered with hoods. Toe straps optional and should have a field installed look. Fenders optional.

Girth: Made of 4.5 inch wide indigo blue wool webbing or of leather, with blackened steel buckles and hardware. Should be hand sewn.

Surcingle: Made of 3.5 inch indigo blue wool webbing with leather, with blackened steel hardware.

Saddle Bags: Made of smooth or pebble grained blackened leather. 2 bags with one seat. Bags to be closed with single bar buckle closure. Bags should be of two pocket design with rawhide lace closing the inner bag.

Saddle Blanket: Indigo blue with orange stripes. 84"x66" folded into 6 layers. Orange US hand stitched into the center.

Halter: Black bridle leather with blackened iron or steel buckle. Should be hand stitched and have one ring and halter bolt. Should have a standing loop sewn on each cheek piece for watering bit.

Lead Strap: Black bridle leather, 7 feet long with blackened iron buckle.

Bridle: 3 buckle pattern. 6 buckle allowed if needed. Black bridle leather with blackened iron or steel bar buckles. No rosettes on bridle.

Bit: M1859 bit. Made of blackened or blued steel with appropriate port for horse's mouth. Bit should be without US bosses. Steel or iron curb chain with leather curb safe.

Reins: Black bridle leather sewn together and onto the bit.

Link Strap: Black bridle leather, with iron bar buckle or iron horse shoe buckle and wire snap hook 19 inches overall in length.

Carbine Socket: Black bridle leather with hourglass shape and single  $\frac{3}{4}$ " strap stitched and riveted to socket. Strap buckle to be blackened center bar buckle.

Nosebag: Flax or linen bag body with round leather bottom. Bag to be stitched and riveted to bottom and have 3 inch slit opening. 1" leather strap with blackened roller buckle.

Lariat: 4 strand left laid line,  $\frac{3}{8}$ "x30'. Eye spliced in one end with the other end whipped.

One will note that there are no standards for the following items; pistol cartridge boxes or picket pins. This is because Company D did not have them at this time. 75% of the men had spurs and saddle blankets.

### Ammunition

Carbine: All carbine ammunition to be packed in arsenal packets, 10 rounds to the box with 12 caps and with correct label. Rounds to contain no more than 60 grains of powder. No staples or tape on the individual cartridges. Bring 60 rounds

Revolver: All revolver ammunition should be in arsenal packets, a pasteboard box or wooden block, wrapped in correct label containing 6 rounds. Labels should be appropriate to the revolver. Bring 3 packets.