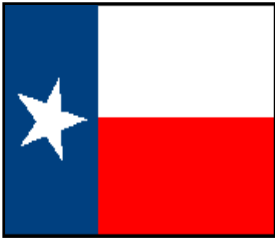


# *Fourth Texas Infantry Company B*

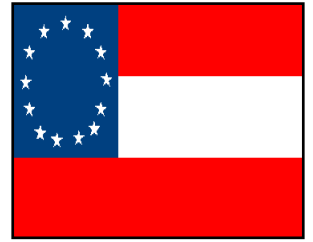


## *Civilian Recruit's Guide*

*(January 2008 Edition)*



# Company B, Fourth Texas Infantry



## *``The Tom Green Rifles''*

Hello and welcome to Company B, Fourth Texas Infantry, CSA. Your inquiry about our hobby is greatly appreciated and most of your questions should be answered in the following pages.

Company B, Fourth Texas Infantry is a Civil War reenactor group based in the Mid-Atlantic region of the United States. It is a member unit of the First Battalion, Army of Northern Virginia.

The purpose of our group is fivefold:

- to uphold the memory of those Texas soldiers and their families;
- to portray accurately and authentically the Southern soldier and civilian;
- to educate the public about the life and ideals of the common Civil War soldier;
- to promote battlefield preservation; and
- to have a good time doing it!

So you think you are ready to be a reenactor. Here are some tips to get you started:

1. We can understand that you may be anxious to get started in the hobby and to buy your own appropriate period-correct accoutrements. But please, please, please. **DON'T PURCHASE ANYTHING WITHOUT THE HELP OF AN EXPERIENCED MEMBER OF THE 4<sup>TH</sup> TEXAS.**
2. If you are not sure that this hobby is for you (and even if you are) that's ok. Fall in with us for a weekend or for just a day and be our guest. See if the life of a Civil War civilian and the 4<sup>th</sup> Texas are for you before you make a financial commitment. We have plenty of clothing and accessories to loan you for the day or weekend.
3. **DON'T PURCHASE ANYTHING WITHOUT THE HELP OF AN EXPERIENCED MEMBER OF THE 4<sup>TH</sup> TEXAS.** We can't stress that point enough.
4. The first step to becoming a member is to subscribe to our monthly newsletter. The newsletter will keep you informed of upcoming events and news about the unit and general info about the reenacting hobby. Please see the company clerk to be added to the mailing list.

## General Information about Company B, Fourth Texas Infantry

### *Who can be a member of Company B, Fourth Texas Infantry?*

Company B is a family organization. We have an active contingent of military and civilian reenactors, including wives and children. Military service is limited to men but women, men and children are appreciated and most welcome in camp.

Civilians are appreciated in camp and are responsible to keep the company street looking military and free of ANACHRONISMS. It is the RESPONSIBILITY of the parents to ensure that their children are supervised at all times.

### *How can I join Company B, Fourth Texas Infantry?*

The best way to join is to contact our Recruiting Committee. Annual dues are \$69.00, which includes a \$5 membership fee, \$40 for event registration fees, \$15 for our monthly newsletter, \$9.00 for liability and accident insurance. Event registration fees are carried over to the next year if they are not exhausted in one season.

### *How soon do I have to get my impression together? How much will it cost?*

Reenacting isn't cheap. At today's prices, the basic outfit (*i.e.*, work dress, shoes, underpinnings, bonnet, shawl) costs about \$550. For most of us, getting our clothes together requires time to let our bank accounts recover. We understand that it may take the average civilian recruit several seasons to complete her/his basic outfit. PLEASE BEFORE YOU BUY ANYTHING, CHECK WITH ONE OF THE VETERAN MEMBERS OF THE UNIT. We will all be glad to help you get the right gear. Most sutlers (Civil War Merchants) carry a lot of junk, so be careful. In the interim, loaner gear can be obtained either from veteran members or from the unit Quartermaster. Loaner gear must be returned at the end of an event.

### *What type of camping does Company B, Fourth Texas do?*

For most events, we establish a garrison camp consisting of one or two streets of A-frame and dog tents. This is the general camping style adopted by the First Battalion, ANV. However, there is a sizeable contingent within our ranks that prefers campaign-style camping (*i.e.*, blanket, gum blanket, etc.), and our unit occasionally designates a couple of events a year as "campaign-style" events.

### *To what umbrella organization does Company B, Fourth Texas belong?*

Company B, Fourth Texas Infantry is a member of the First Battalion, ANV, founded in 1983 by Don Johnson. At large events the First Battalion allies itself with the First Division of the ANV.



# Camping Tips for the New Recruit

## What to bring and what not to bring when you camp

**GUIDING PRINCIPALS:** Everything visible in camp, day or night, spectators or no, must be correct for the period. Always remember the following:

- The camp is a military camp, not a refugee center or semi permanent city
- Apply the KISS (keep it simple, stupid!) method whenever possible.

**DON'T OVERDO IT;** two common disorders, which appear once the basic kit has been acquired, are 'more-is-better' and neat-shititis' (similar but not identical maladies). Best advice - keep your kit and camp gear simple. Be careful what (and how much of it) you pack and what you pack it in. Whatever you bring should fit in your tent. Make every effort to pack gear, especially 20<sup>th</sup> century items, in period containers. Here are a few general suggestions on how to maintain a quality camp impression:

**COOLERS** needn't be large if you plan well. Build a wooden camp box around it or at least keep it under cover of a blanket in your tent. Freeze quart plastic bottles of water rather than using cubed ice; you can use it for drinks as it melts. Keep only one evening worth of beverages cool at a time. Minimize cooler use by planning a menu that doesn't require much cooling. Eggs do not require cooling for a weekend, put them in a small basket and get rid of the carton. Use smoked or summer sausage instead of bacon. Use small cans of condensed milk (popular in the 1860's) instead of cartons. Freeze chicken (or other meats) beforehand. ALL meats should be taken from the tray and wrapped in leak-proof brown butcher paper & tied with string. Cheese should also be rewrapped appropriately.

**SEAL-a-MEAL** stews, chili etc. are a convenient option. Bring them frozen but remember to open it and put the contents in your pot while out of sight in your tent. Likewise, if you use a modern can opener, do it in private.

**CANNED GOODS** are acceptable with proper period labels or no labels at all (scratch on the bottom the contents).

**DRY FOODS.** There is no excuse for sliced white bread in camp. Bake hardtack or bring bakery rolls or whole loaves of bread in paper bags. Coffee, sugar, spices, dried fruit, peanuts and veggies should be kept in cloth drawstring bags (make them yourself) or lunch size plain brown paper bags. Liquids such as cooking oil, whiskey, etc should be placed in period bottles.

**BEVERAGES** should be brought in cans. Cans leave no bottle caps to police and crush nicely to fit into the trash bag you'll keep IN your tent. Open the cans in the tent and

pour the contents into a period container before you emerge.

**WATER;** an absolute must! Stoneware jugs are best. Spring water in plastic gallons is OK but can't leave the tent and must be covered even then. **POWDERED** Gatorade is strongly recommended, mix it as needed to prevent cramping and it's very compact.

**MUNCHIES;** home baked cookies, hard large pretzels and peanuts are great. Forgo the cheese doodles, nachos, etc.

**MEAL TIPS;** stay simple at first. Avoid meals requiring too many condiments or too much preparation. On average you'll need to plan for 2 breakfasts, 2 lunches and 1 dinner. Suggested easy meals:

**BREAKFAST;** precooked hardboiled eggs, eggs & sausage, instant oatmeal (do all prep in tent) or as a last resort, cold cereal (granola, not Cap'n Crunch) with canned condensed milk.

**LUNCH;** is a very hectic time, the schedules can't be relied upon and you will often need to eat from your haversack. Keep to foods that need no preparation or cooling like; fruit, hard or processed cheese, smoked or summer sausage, hardtack or bakery rolls.

**DINNER;** One pot meals are best especially if prepared in advance like; canned or Seal-a-Meal stew, chili, hearty soup etc.

**COOK GEAR;** Aluminum and agate enamel are incorrect and forbidden. Cast iron is best limited to a Dutch oven for large stews, it was simply too heavy for the active campaigner. Incidentally, modern cast iron Dutch Ovens with flat "ears" for the handles rounded top lids and steel handles are incorrect. "Ears" should be "bent elbow" shaped, handles iron and lids flat with a lip. **FRYING PAN** should be stamped sheet steel with a flat forged handle (no "cold handles").

**PLATES** should be tin or a canteen half. Wood bowls are OK but bulky.

**TIN CUP or BOILER** (tin cup with a wire bail) is a must-have. As with all tin ware, buy the heaviest gauge available. Stainless steel cups are now available, don't worry they will tarnish in the fire but won't change the taste of beverages like tin does. Utensils are best purchased from someone in the unit.

**OTHER CAMP TIPS; SMOKING,** filtered cigarettes didn't exist, period! Even self-rolled ones were very

uncommon at this time. Try pipes or cigars. Better yet, quit! If you find it IMPOSSIBLE to alter your addiction for two days than at least "field dress" your butts. Pinch off the filter, pocket it for later disposal in your trash bag and scatter the remaining tobacco on the ground. DON'T throw your butts into the campfire; its kind of like men who take a leak with the seat down, you miss all too often. Non-smokers find those unburned butts in the cook fire positively disgusting AND it's a lot of effort to police.

**LANTERNS;** should enclose the flame in glass. Wood and tin lanterns are best. Oil lamps are too great a fire hazard. Railroad lanterns are forbidden! The use of bayonets as a candleholder is discouraged.

**PERIOD CONTAINERS** serve to get your stuff into camp in "disguise" and keep it that way. Consider these; cotton, burlap or mattress ticking stuff sacks or a wooded camp box.

**MODERN CLOTHES** do not belong in camp and are best left in the car.

**SLEEPING GEAR;** if you bring a sleeping bag keep it covered with an authentic wool blanket. You should eventually have at least 2 good blankets to provide camouflage.

Just keeping non-period stuff in your tent is not enough. If it can be seen when you open the flap to get in or out, then its not sufficiently hidden. During the warm months you'll want to leave the flaps open, so develop good habits early! All this takes a little extra effort and thought but it goes a long way to making us all look a lot better.

**KEEPING CAMP CORRECT** (authenticity tips for a quality camp)

Strict authenticity of our personal kit and proficiency in drill are essential elements of a quality 19th century impression. Camp is another matter. We live in the 1860's roughly one weekend per month between April and October. We don't have the luxury of time to acclimate to year-round outdoor life like the boys of '61 did. By the way, thousands upon thousands died failing in the attempt. We all must return to our 20th century lives reasonably healthy come Monday morning. Taking this into consideration, we "cheat" somewhat in camp yielding to the concerns of health and comfort. Lets begin by getting things into proper perspective. The following quotes will give you an accurate idea of what a Reb camp was really like.

*Their (-confederate) equipments were light as compared to those of our men. They consisted of a thin woolen blanket, coiled up and slung from the shoulder in the form of a sash, a haversack swung from the opposite shoulder and a cartridge box." When this observer asked a passing Reb why there were no tents, the reply given was, "I jus wouldn't tote one!"*

*An agent of the US Sanitary Commission, York Pa, June 1863*

*"The camp chest soon vanished . . . one skillet and a couple of frying pans, a bag of flour or cornmeal, another bag for salt, sugar and coffee divided by a knot and tied between served the purpose as well. The skillet was passed from mess to mess. Each mess (4-10 men) generally owned a frying pan but often one served a company. Tents were RARELY seen. All the poetry of the tented field died. Two men slept together each having a blanket and an oilcloth (poncho). One oilcloth went next to the ground. The two laid on this, covered themselves with two blankets, protected from the rain by the second oil cloth on top and slept comfortably (?) through rain snow or hail as it might be."*

*McCarthy, Minutia of Soldier Life in the ANV*



*"The primary cause of sickness (disease was the largest killer, causing 2/3 of all deaths, principally from dysentery & diarrhea) was lack of good, well cooked food, regularly changed and diversified. For months the common bread was 'fritters or slapjacks', nothing more than a thin mixture of flour and water fried in a sea of bacon grease. The men were issued flour or cornmeal (the primary Reb ration was course cornmeal and salt pork) in bulk. There were no pots or pans. The men cooked their dough in the ashes of their fires or on a stick (or ramrod)." Also keep in mind that " the soldiers scorned latrines- refusing to be 'housebroken and how it affected the quality of drinking water!"*



THE CAMP-FIRE SHOWS THE REB'S MESS

By now you realize that no one has a truly authentic camp (the occasional 'stag' tactical excepted) nor desires such a degree of unhealthy realism. When we tell our friends and spectators about 'roughing-it' Civil War style, we're comparatively living in the lap of luxury.

## 4<sup>th</sup> Texas Accoutrement Requirements

The following list is the requirements for the basic outfit for our unit. **ALL NEW MEMBERS SHOULD REMEMBER NOT TO BUY ANYTHING WITHOUT HELP.** There is a lot of crap on the Sutler Market. Please stick to the Approved sutlers list when purchasing your items.

The accoutrement items are listed in the order that they should be obtained. You should try to acquire the items which are the most difficult to borrow first.

**AGAIN, ALL NEW MEMBERS SHOULD NEVER BUY ANYTHING WITHOUT THE HELP OF AN “EXPERIENCED” MEMBER.**

### Basic Civilian Requirements – listed by order of importance

- Eye Glasses** – if needed very important. Modern eyeglasses are not acceptable. If possible please wear contact lenses since most soldiers could not afford eyeglasses. If you prefer to get eyeglasses, the frames (repro or originals) can be found at events and your prescription can be added by an eye care professional. Please see attached article regarding authentic eyewear.
- Work Dress** – Should be made of washable 100% cotton. Period correct reproduction fabrics are available at most fabric stores. A work dress should be simple, with long cuffed sleeves which can be rolled up for doing dirty work.
- Corded Petticoat** – Easier to wear than a hoop and safer for cooking around a camp fire. Valuable for keeping your skirts and petticoats from tangling around your legs when walking.
- Corset** – Necessary to create the appropriate shape under your dress. Should be an early purchase. Be sure to use a sutler who will assist with the fitting.
- Chemise** – To be worn under a corset. Use 100% cotton so your skin can breathe.
- Drawers** – An absolute must if wearing a hoop. Valuable for adding authenticity to your impression. Use 100% cotton to help with absorption of sweat.
- Apron** – Own at least one. Protects the dress and a “pinner” can be used to conceal the absence of a corset if one is yet to be purchased. Both “pinner” aprons and half aprons are appropriate.
- Sun Bonnet** – There are a lot of options for women’s headgear available but the basic working class impression the 4<sup>th</sup> Texas civilians are striving to maintain mean that a basic sunbonnet is most appropriate. Straw hats are not period-correct for adult women. Fancy bonnets are appropriate for wear with a day dress and a hoop at some events.
- Socks** – Wool or cotton. Use only 100% natural fiber socks. White, black or striped is acceptable.
- Boots/Shoes** – Black/brown lace-up ankle boots. While modern versions can pass for a season or two, at some point a period-correct pair should be purchased. Almost no one has spares and they are not a popular item to loan.
- Petticoat(s)** – For creating fullness and a smooth silhouette to your skirts and for concealing the boning in a hoop. One should also be worn under a hoop for modesty.
- Shawl** – A valuable layer for cool mornings and evenings. Should be of woven wool in a large square or rectangle sufficient to cover the shoulders and arms and hang down the back and front.
- Collar/Kerchief** - Important to achieve the appropriate impression. The collar or kerchief on a dress protects the dress from dirty skin and is easily removed for washing and bleaching. Should be of white cotton if a collar or washable cotton if a kerchief. Collars on day dresses can be of crocheted lace but are considered too fancy for a work dress.
- Cuffs** – As with a collar, protects the wrists of the dress from dirt and sweat and can be easily removed to wash and bleach. Valuable for an appropriate working class impression.

## 4<sup>th</sup> Texas Approved Sutlers

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### Approved Sutlers: Eye Glasses

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**Re-enactment Eyewear (Don Griffin)**  
1738 E. Third St. #346  
Williamsport, PA 17701  
(570) 322-9849  
e-mail: reeyewear@aol.com  
website: [www.reenactmenteyewear.com](http://www.reenactmenteyewear.com)

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### Approved Sutlers: Shoes

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#### **Fugawee**

website: [fugawee.com](http://fugawee.com)

*Fugawee sells the most reasonably priced women's Civil War shoes.*

**Robert Land**  
82 Grange St  
Guleph, Ontario, Canada, N1E 2V2  
(519) 836-6868

*Land makes quality shoes, but it is advisable to buy them through Confederate Yankee at events.*

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### Approved Sutlers: Socks

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*Modern socks are permissible as long as they are 100% cotton. When you are ready to buy repro quality socks can usually be found at most events. Women's socks can be a simple white or black but can also be striped in two colors. Some approved vendors are:*

**Abraham's Lady**  
25 Steinwehr Ave.  
Gettysburg, PA 17325  
(717)338-1798

Website: <http://abrahamslady.com>

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### Approved Sutlers: Pottery

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**Eldreth Pottery**  
902 Hart Read                      246 N Decatur St.  
Oxford, PA 19363    OR    Strasburg, PA 17579  
717-529-6241                      717-687-8445  
888-811-4313  
Website: [www.eldrethpottery.com](http://www.eldrethpottery.com)

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### Approved Sutlers: Bonnets

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**Lynnette Miller**  
PO Box 8077  
Lancaster, PA 17604  
(717) 285-3373  
(717)285-3629 fax  
[www.bonnets.com](http://www.bonnets.com)

*Lynn sells beautiful bonnets of all styles but even better she sells patterns of her bonnets so you can make your own at a fraction of the cost. Lyn also sells bonnet frames and supplies.*

#### **Dirty Billy's Hats (Bill Wickham)**

##### **Mail Orders:**

7574 Middleburg Rd  
Detour, MD 21757  
(410) 775-1865

##### **Shop:**

430 A Baltimore St  
Gettysburg, PA  
(717) 334-3200

website: [www.dirtybillyshats.com](http://www.dirtybillyshats.com)

*Dirty Billy makes beautiful bonnets but his prices make purchasing one beyond most budgets..*

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### Approved Sutlers: Dresses

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**Approved Sutlers: Corsets**

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*Abraham's Lady*  
25 Steinwehr Ave.  
Gettysburg, PA 17325  
(717)338-1798

Website: <http://abrahamslady.com>

*Donna Abraham sells nice corsets and will assist you in getting the right fit.*

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**Approved Sutlers: Corded Petticoats**

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*Abraham's Lady*  
25 Steinwehr Ave.  
Gettysburg, PA 17325  
(717)338-1798

Website: <http://abrahamslady.com>

*Donna Abraham sells chemises and drawers (both closed and split-crotch) and will assist you in finding the correct size and style for your needs.*

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**Approved Sutlers: Blankets**

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*Family Heirloom Weavers (Pat Kline)*  
125 O'San Lane  
Red Lion, Pa 17356  
(717)246-5797

e-mail: [pdk62@mailstation.com](mailto:pdk62@mailstation.com)

website: <http://www.familyheirloomweavers.com/>

*Pat is now making a Federal Infantry Blanket. Give him a call to check if they are available.*

*County Cloth (Charlie Childs)*  
13797-C Georgetown St. NE  
Paris, Ohio 44669  
(330) 862-3307  
e-mail: [crchilds@bright.net](mailto:crchilds@bright.net)  
Website: [www.bright.net/~crchilds/](http://www.bright.net/~crchilds/)

*Charlie sells the best blanket on the market. It has black end stripes and a ``US" stitched in the middle.*

*The Confederate Yankee (Dennis Semerau)*  
P.O. Box 192  
Guilford, CT 06437  
(203) 453-9900

*C.Y. sells an excellent quality Federal-issue blanket, also with end stripes and ``US" in the middle, at a lower price than County Cloth. We recommend that these blankets be bought at events, as C.Y. attends nearly everything we do.*

**CIVILIAN COVERLETS**

*Family Heirloom Weavers (Pat Kline)*

*Pat reproduces killer civilian coverlets.*

*Flea markets and antique stores are loaded with original coverlets, so you might be able to find a good deal. These coverlets were usually woven with a wool weft and a cotton or linen warp. Prices vary. We've seen them for as little as \$25, but some range upwards of \$500, so look around.*

**OTHER BLANKETS**

*The use of oddball blankets is permitted, provided that they are woven of 100% wool, not a wool-polyester blend. Avoid oddball blankets that have been machine sewn at the ends. In addition, we strongly discourage the use of quilts on the field, unless it is a documented design that existed prior to or during the war.*



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### Approved Sutlers: Tents

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#### *A-frame Tents*

***Yakima Tent and Awning Company***  
***P.O. Box 391***  
***Yakima, WA 98907***  
***(509) 457-6169***

*Yakima has good quality A-frame tents for those who wish to camp garrison style.*

#### *Shelter Halves*

***Haversack Depot (Phil Cavanaugh)***  
***1236 River Acres Dr***  
***New Braunfels, TX 78130***  
***(210) 620-5192***

*Both of these sutlers make high quality shelter halves for those who like campaign-style camping. Each half comes complete with inspector's stamps and hand-sewn buttonholes.*

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### Approved Sutlers: Tin ware Items

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***Village Tinsmithing Works***  
***P.O. Box 539***  
***Hamptonville, SC 27020***  
***(336) 468-1190***

***website: [\*\*\*\[dixie.com/villagetinmith.htm\]\(http://dixie.com/villagetinmith.htm\)\*\*\*](http://www.csa-</a></i></b></p></div><div data-bbox=)***

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### Suggested Reading for Reenactors

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***Who Wore What*** by Juanita Leisch

***Dressed for the Photographer*** by Joan Severa,  
The Kent State University Press 1995

***American Victorian Costume in Early Photographs*** by Priscilla Harris Dalrymple

# First Battalion Authenticity Tips

## Camp Equipage

Not an authenticity tip, but ask to make sure tin-wear suppliers use lead-free solder to cut lead intake for safety. Wal-Mart sells a home lead testing kit to check tin wear you already have.

Not all stoneware sold today uses mid 19th Century shapes or decorative motifs. Avoid cows and windmills, for example. Check examples in local museums and books before buying.

Original shelter halves had all hand-sewn buttonholes and grommet holes. Brass grommet holes are incorrect. Originals were also of thinner duck than modern repros.

Oil lamps were not commonly used and certainly would have been quite rare in camp. Leave them back at Tara.

Blue and white or gray and white spackle wear pots, pans, plates, and cups were not in use. Stick to plain tinned or wrought or cast iron cooking equipage.

On furniture look for obviously stainless steel or aluminum fittings. Avoid having Phillips screws or replace them with regular screws when you get the piece.

## Camp Layout

The military camp will be laid out according to the 1863 Regulations for the Army of the Confederate States. The lay out may be modified to suit the land available for the camp. There will be a fire pit at each end of the military company streets. Any and all non-military tentage will be placed behind the fires at the end of the company streets. The cook tent, at the head of the company street, will be allowed one small table for food preparation. There will be no other camp furniture on the company streets, or around the fires. Camp stools are acceptable, but must be kept in the tents when not in use. All anachronisms must be kept out of sight at all times. When not in use, these items should be hidden in the tents, so as not to be easily visible to spectators, who may look into the tents. The goal is to present a Confederate unit in Garrison, not a group of Gypsies!

## Personal items

Period eyeglasses did not have over-the-ear curving temples, as do most replicated or antique glasses seen today. The 18th Century versions offered by G. Gedney Godwin, Sutler of Mt. Misery, Box 100, Valley Forge PA, (610) 783-0670, are likely the only decent period replicas we have seen offered today.

Use a pocket watch if you must know the time: no wristwatches.

Smoking – though we view things differently in modern life, in the 1860's women who smoked were considered vulgar. Please strive for a period-correct impression.

## Extras

Hoop skirts are not to be worn in camp unless called for in the day's activities. Hoops are dangerous when used around a camp fire and are awkward and cumbersome for basic camp life. Get a good corded petticoat instead.

Jewelry appropriate for a working-class impression can include earrings and a simple broach, perhaps with the addition of a wedding ring. A pocket watch on a long necklace or fastened at the waist is also acceptable.

Projects are useful to accompany your impression and also give you something to do when sitting around camp waiting for the next meal! Good projects include hand sewing, knitting, crocheting, quilting, embroidery, and cooking. This is also a good time to teach the next generation some of these arts.

## Civil War Eyeglasses - Focus on Authenticity

Reprinted with permission of the editor, Dick Tibbals, from the *Sacker State Straggler*, newsletter of the 46<sup>th</sup> Illinois Infantry, N-SSA

Your uniform is finally perfect, from the do-dads in your haversack to the well used slouch hat to the odor of the shell jacket. No elastic suspenders here! But there could be a big problem right in front of your eyes.

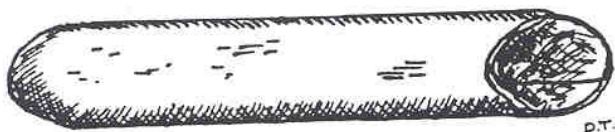
Those tortoise shell, Christian Dior specials from Pearle Vision just don't make it with a Civil War uniform. Face it your making a spectacle of yourself. You might as well wear a Sony Walkman.

By all means, modern shooting glasses should be worn while firing live ammunition. But for parades, camp, and living history events, those needing corrective lenses have two options.

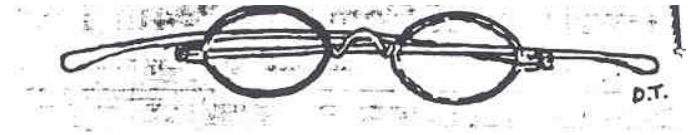
The first option is to invest in some contact lenses. Easy, huh? True, no relic contact lenses have been unearthed in Civil War campsites or battlefields. But hey, who's gonna tell? Most soldiers who needed glasses did without them anyway. Your second choice is to buy some 1860 spectacles and have prescription lenses fitted for them. But just where do you find them and what do you look for?

Your best bet is to forage through local antique shops and flea markets. They're not that hard to find. A good price for a pair of cheaters is \$10 to \$15. \$20 is a bit steep – try to talk 'em down. If possible try to hold out for a pair still in the original tin case – a little harder to find, but worth it.

Now then, what do you look for? Check out the sketches in the next column. But keep in mind on point that's VERY IMPORTANT: make sure the rims holding the lenses are closed with SCREWS, NOT RIVETS! The cheaper riveted frames are un-re-closable. Don't waste your money on them. But if you want to look like an authentic, albeit four-eyed soldier, get yourself some specs!

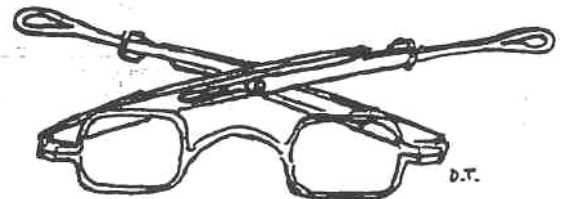


### SLIDE-IN PRESED PAPER CASE



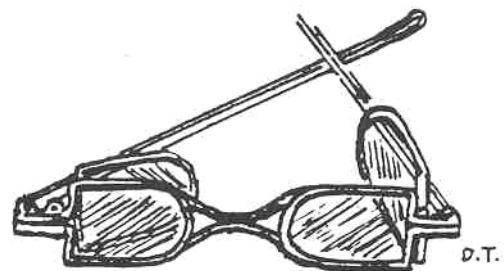
### MOST COMMON STYLE

Used 1860's through 1890's. Silver or gold frames. Note straight temples. Curved, spring-metal temples that contour to the ear are POST-Civil War.



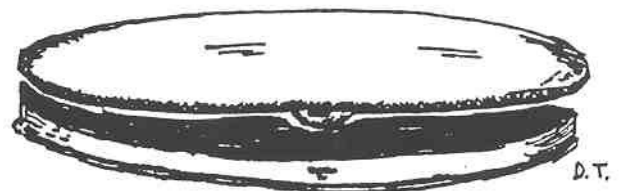
### ADJUSTABLE SLIDING TEMPLES

Scarcer. Often made of brass. Nice!  
Loops on temples for string.



### SUNGLASSES

Lenses and folding binders are dark cobalt blue, like a bromo bottle. Frames are iron.

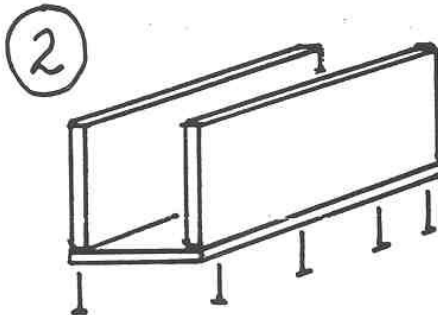
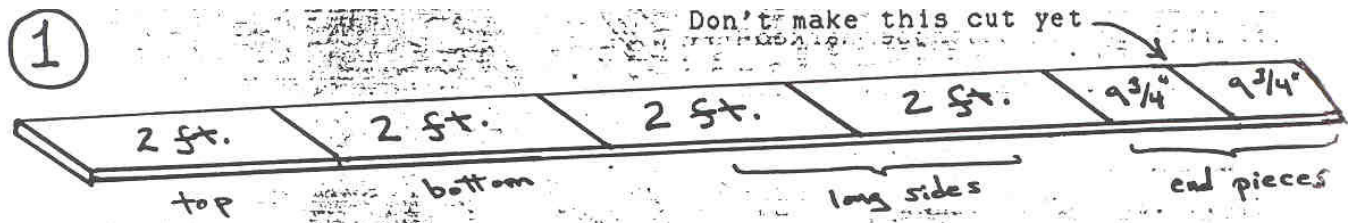


### HINGED TIN CASE

Sometimes with patent date and velvet lining

## Camp Box Plan

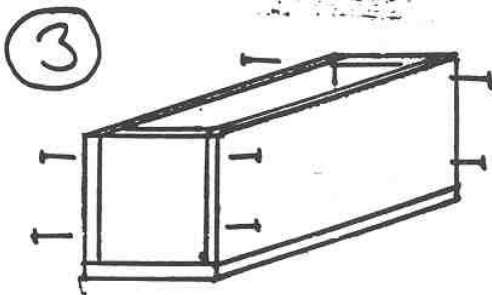
A simple "box from home" can be made from a 10 ft length of 1 x 2 cut so:



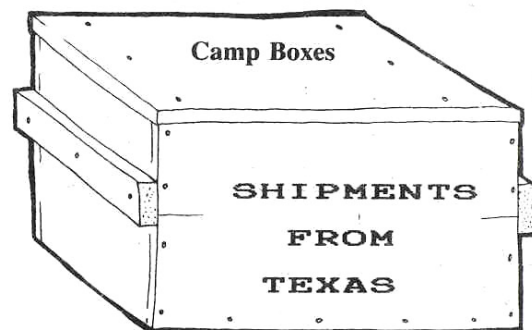
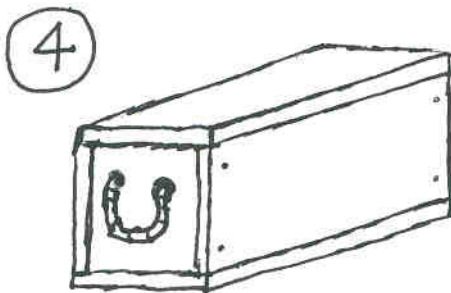
Finished box with lid, holes drilled in ends for rope handles. Scrap molding nailed inside lid will keep it from sliding off.

Box will hold all of your accouterments (including a bayonet in it's scabbard) and a six-pack hidden in an insulated corner compartment.

Nail through bottom into long sides. For authenticity use CUT nails, not WIRE nails.



Measure (approx 9 3/4" wide), cut and nail end pieces inside.



If you wish to paint your address on your camp box, as if you had received the box from the folks at home, there are several addresses you can use:

The Texas Depot  
15<sup>th</sup> St. between Main & Carey  
(above Bradcliff's)  
Richmond, Virginia

In care of Rev. Nicholas Davis  
at the Texas Hospital  
St. Frances de Salas  
Richmond, VA

You can also use one of the many camps and winter quarters occupied by the unit: Camp Hood, Camp Texas, etc., or simply put "Texas Brigade, Longstreet's Corp, Army of Northern Virginia". Be sure to include your name, company, and regiment.