

Third Maine Regiment Volunteer Infantry, Inc.

Authenticity Standards
Adopted: February 2005

Mission Statement:

“To provide a quality living history experience for the public, honor the memories of the men and women we strive to portray, and to encourage other reenactors to do the same.”

These standards strive to set the base authenticity requirements for our unit. It is recognized that every individual brings his or her own talents, knowledge and interests to our mutual hobby. However, we must understand that to accomplish our mission as living historians, certain basic standards should be set and followed on an ongoing basis. Most of the following have been a part of our unwritten standards for many years, but due to the growth of our unit over the past few years, it has become increasingly difficult to consistently pass on this information person to person. We hope that these written standards will help to improve our overall impression and avoid misunderstandings in the future. Note: The unit's By-Laws and policies are in effect at all times. These standards in no way replace or modify the By-Laws or established safety procedures.

Respectfully Submitted By
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Civilian Coordinator Carolyn Lawson

Tents

- Military members are encouraged to own both shelter-half and wedge tents, to improve our camp impression depending on the situation and the requirements of particular living history scenarios (early war vs. late war, etc.)
- Wall tents and tent flies are never allowed on the company street, except for the officers. Those wishing to set up wall tents and/or wedge tents with flies must do so in another area, and should contact the event coordinator in advance to insure that there is sufficient room.
- As a general rule, civilians will camp in an adjacent, but separate area from the military street. Regimental impressions (chaplain, surgeon) will likewise camp in a separate, but nearby area. If civilians are camped on the military street (for example, a family camping together with the military member), all efforts should be made to disguise or remove obviously feminine and/or non-military items (period and non-period) during public hours.
- Unit members with wedge or wall tents should take care that tent poles are period or appear period in appearance. Unpainted 2x4s used for uprights are not acceptable.
- When camp is open to the public, interiors of tents will present a period appearance. All non-period items should be hidden or disguised. Unit members are encouraged to acquire and display various period items such as newspapers, books, games, photos in and around their tent. It is expected that all tents will be “open” for public inspection during public touring hours.

Camp

- No modern (or period) trash should be seen at anytime during the encampment. Wrappers, bottles, containers, etc. should be disposed of immediately after use.
- No trash of any kind should be put into the fire pit. Fire pit is for wood.
- Fire pit will always be carefully turned in at the conclusion of the encampment.
- Fire extinguishers will be hidden near the fire pit.

- Modern beverages are allowed in camp, but must be drunk from period cups or dippers. Pouring drinks into the period cups should be done out of sight of the public.
- During public hours, no modern food should be prepared and/or consumed in the camp. Members wishing to eat non-period foods should leave the camp, and return after eating. Members are encouraged to prepare/cook period foods in camp, to enhance both their experience and improve the impression we put forth to the public. (See Appendix A for period food suggestions)
- Camp stools and furniture should be of period design. Canvas stools or period style chairs and tables are acceptable.
- Flash lights are permitted in camp, but should be used only sparingly. Period candle holders and lanterns should be the lighting of choice.
- Children must be supervised at all times and must be dressed in age-appropriate period civilian attire. No modern toys are allowed. (See Appendix B for period toy suggestions)
- If you must smoke cigarettes, you should do so well outside the living history area. Period tobacco use (cigars, pipes, chewing) is permissible in public if appropriate to your impression.

Personal Appearance

- Members are expected to be in period attire for the entire duration of the encampment, even during non-public hours, starting at the opening time of the encampment (usually Saturday morning). (See Appendix C for military & civilian attire)
- Period eyewear (or contact lenses) is required. (unit members can switch to non-period eyewear during non-public hours if required).
- No wristwatches, modern makeup, obviously modern footwear or modern jewelry are permitted.
- Military impressions should be aware of the nature of the living history display (late war vs. early war, etc.) and make their best effort to appear correct for the encampment portrayal.
- Infantry members should use only period gun cleaning equipment and supplies during public hours. After hours use of modern cleaning equipment is allowed, but members are encouraged to keep such equipment to the minimum necessary for field cleaning purposes. (See Appendix D for period cleaning suggestions)

Impressions

- Members should strive to portray actions and attitudes consistent with their impressions during public hours. Military members should respect military protocols and the chain of command within the context of portraying volunteer Maine soldiers. Civilian members are expected to exhibit behavior and attitudes prevalent in the Victorian era.
- First person impressions are not required. However, discussions between members and between members and the public (during public hours) should not focus on current topics unless it is required to answer a question from the public or make a point related to the Civil War.

Elected unit leadership (corporate officers, military and civilian command structure) are responsible for upholding these standards. Unit members are encouraged to help each other improve their impressions in a positive, cordial fashion.