

BENTONVILLE BATTLEFIELD



Preserve - Educate - Explore

160th Anniversary Confederate Uniform Guidelines

Welcome

The confederate scenarios for the 160th Bentonville Reenactment focus almost exclusively on the Army of Tennessee. We thank you in advance for the time effort spent in ensuring your look and appearance mirror those men of 1865. Please keep in mind these are suggestions, best used as a guide when building or enhancing your Bentonville impression. We look forward to seeing you all in March!

Historical Background

Following the Atlanta Campaign the Army of Tennessee, cut off from the depot in Columbus, relied upon the Augusta depot for supplies in the fall of 1864. However, it is important to note that issued quartermaster quantities do not always correlate to delivered supplies. Issued supplies take time to reach soldiers. Lt. Goodloe of the 35th Alabama wrote:

“Barefooted and ragged were not a few of our best warriors in the winter winds and snows, and they must go out of line to hunt up clothing and shoes, which the quartermaster had not to give them...”

Uniforms for Bentonville should replicate this dual supply of uniforms, comprised of both depots and homespun clothing. From July - January 1865, nearly all the AoT quartermaster issues came from three main depots: Columbus, Atlanta, Augusta. That said, men still relied upon foraging parties and shipments from home to meet their needs. Lt. Edwin Rennods of the 5th Tenn. scribed the following on the “uniforms” of his men:

“We reached Corinth, Miss., on our retreat from Tennessee January 2, 1865. We found Lieut. J. L. Lemonds awaiting us with wagon loads of clothing, etc. which he had collected in Henry County for us. As the boxes were opened and the names of the fortunate ones were called out, many of us were made happy by the sight of warm clothing, so sadly needed.”

Also of importance, after the disastrous battles of Franklin and Nashville portions of the AoT were furloughed. Gen. Johnston began concentrating the scattered men of the AoT to North Carolina, some of whom returned wearing civilian clothes. Lastly, keep in mind that while Bentonville is on the east coast, the AoT is a “western theatre” army. That being so, its men and supplies are flowing from the west, not Virginia and not in large numbers from North Carolina.

Jackets

- Best Option – Columbus/Augusta/Atlanta depot, Civilian sack
- Better Option – Late war shell/commutation, late war NC depot (*in limited numbers*)
- Discouraged – Richmond depots, NC Frock
 - ❖ Jackets should be undressed – no pins or medals, minimal additional trim

Shirts

- Civilian plain, plaid, or period printed cotton
- CS military issue cotton

Pants

- Confederate jeans trousers
- Civilian jeans trousers

Headwear

- Civilian slouch
- Confederate issued jeans kepi
 - ❖ Has should be undressed – limited regimental/company pins

Canteens

- CS round drum canteen
- US smooth side

Haversack

- Plain cotton duck or heavy cotton haversack
- Painted cloth or oil cloth haversack

Waistbelts

- Georgia frame or forked/double tongue
- CSA rectangular/oval plate
- Roller buckle

Knapsacks

- Best Option – Blanket rolls/slings
- Better Option – Single & double bag softback
- Discouraged – Hardpacks

Leathers

- Cartridge box **MUST HAVE TINS**
- Bayonet scabbard **MUST HAVE TIP**
 - ❖ Per NC Historic Sites Policy – these two items are REQUIRED to pass inspection.



Columbus-Atlanta jacket worn by
James S. Wise, Co. G,
41st Georgia Infantry.

Firearms

- 3 band musket – rifled or smoothbore
- Austrian Lorenz

Blankets

- Best Option – Civilian wool blanket/coverlet
- Discouraged – US issued blankets

Canvas

- Best Option – no canvas/blanket roll
- Better Option – shelter half
- Strongly Discouraged - A-Frames

Uniform questions or comments should be directed to:

Colby Stevens

Site Manager

Bentonville Battlefield State Historic Site

Phone: (910) 594-0789

colby.stevens@dncr.nc.gov