

Since its inception, the Georgia Volunteer Battalion has never had uniform regulations, or even guidelines. While this has maximized participation, it is my belief that it has left our battalion materially lagging behind other units who don't have the drill ability, or quality in men that we have. I don't think that regulations or guidelines are the answer, but I think that every responsible commander, NCO, and private should make the conscious choice that we need to get closer to history in our impressions.

Myth 1: Authentic equipment is too expensive.

Fact: While some authentic gear is more expensive than incorrect gear, it generally lasts longer, thus giving you better service, and a better value over time. In addition, most good gear isn't as expensive as you would think. I paid less for a pair of high quality, authentic brogans, than I would for a pair of Fugawees, which are made out of a modern type of leather. In addition, you get the satisfaction of having an impression your ancestor could walk by without batting an eye.

Myth 2: Authentic gear takes too long to get, I can't buy it at an event.

Fact: While a lot of good gear is custom made, and requires some planning on your part to ensure you have it for an event, many vendors have available stock. In addition, a lot of good gear is becoming available through some of the vendors you've always dealt with. For example, Obediah Prophet usually has a great assortment of better quality shirts, leather goods, uniforms, and kepis. Brigade Sutler has begun carrying some well made COlumbus Depot jackets as well. In addition, Regimental Quartermaster has a link on their website, www.regmqm.com "The campaigner" which has excellent quality canteens, blankets, accoutrements, socks, etc.

Myth 3: "My pards in my unit will begin to make fun of me as a "hardcore" if I upgrade my impression.

Fact: If your pards have a hard time with you bettering yourself, or trying to become closer to history, maybe you need better pards.

If you want to improve your impression, take slow steps. I will try to start a weekly segment posting some tips that I and others have learned over the years, usually after making expensive mistakes, or by researching something we've read about. I hope folks will take the advice people post as it's intended, to help everyone involved in reenacting, from us, the other participants, and especially the spectators, to have a better historical experience.