



“Preserving History through Living History”

Ladies Guidelines for the FGC

I. Dresses

A. Women

1. Dresses should be made of a patterned cotton, light weight wool, sheer cotton, or silk.
2. Dresses should be made of a patterned cotton, light weight wool, sheer cotton, or silk.
3. Polyester and nylon are neither period nor appropriate for Civil War events.
4. No cotton skirt/"garibaldi" outfit combinations. A sheer white waist and light weight wool, or silk may be worn by fashionable young ladies.
5. Low bodices and short sleeves may be worn for evening events, like dinners and dances.
6. Proper underpinnings should be worn underneath. Yes, this includes the corset.
7. Boots should be worn with cotton or wool socks that go above the knee.

B. Girls

1. Girl's dresses should fall to the appropriate length for their age.
2. Dresses should be made of natural fibers, like their mother's.
3. Girls may wear short sleeves and open necklines during the day.
4. Girls also should wear proper underpinnings, a stay or working corset should be worn to help keep petticoats and dresses in place.

C. Hair

1. Hair should be parted in the center and confined at the nape of the neck.
2. Thin hairnets may be worn to hold the hair in place, and may have some small decoration.

3. Snoods should not ever be worn. The actual word did not come about until the mid 1940s, and the polyester colored "snood" found in many sutlers is not appropriate.

D. Makeup

1. Makeup of the period was mostly worn in theaters or for fancy balls.
2. If makeup must be worn, it should be a very natural look.
3. Bright colored lipstick and eye shadow should not be worn when the public is around.
4. Heavy eyeliner is not appropriate
5. Bronzer or self tanner should not be worn. It was considered to be "lower class" if you were tan in the face.

E. Your Impression

1. Whether your tagging along, with your husband, or you decide to take on the persona of a real woman (i.e a spy or nurse), you need to do it right.
2. If you decide to be a laundress, you should not show up to events with a silk dress and a larger scale hoop. If you decide to be a prominent general's wife, don't show up in a work dress and apron.
3. You need to research your impression, and do it as accurately as possible. If you're going to speak at events, make sure you know your persona.
4. Don't take on a persona, if you can't afford to back it up with the proper attire.
5. Present yourself in a manner, as the women would have back then. To better get an idea, read some etiquette books or diaries.

F. Final Recommendations

1. Research
2. Research
3. Research
4. Don't be afraid to ask questions
5. Have fun. This is a hobby, and can be really fun