

1862 Clothing Guidelines for Working Class Women -Town of Norfolk, Missouri (Belmont, 2019)

In 1862, the area around Belmont, Missouri , is sparsely settled farming country. Norfolk was a farming community in Missouri, with mixed Confederate and Unionist influence. All clothing must be made according to period construction techniques, patterns, and materials.

All participants are expected to wear period attire at **all times** while outside their tents from the point the Town goes live until it closes on Sunday after the battle. This includes trips to the portalet in the night. Towns will begin to go live on Thursday as participants complete setup .

1. Female Civilians are required to wear a period correct dress made of cotton, silk, wool or linen. Please keep in mind age appropriate styles, no blouse/skirt/ jacket combinations may be worn in this setting. White collars and cuffs or neckerchiefs need to be worn.
2. Sheer dresses are acceptable but not encouraged for this event—the weather is very changeable in Southern Illinois in early April. Silk is not encouraged due to rough ground. Sacque and Petticoat combinations may be worn if appropriate to the status and impression portrayed. Wrappers are encouraged for early morning and late evening wear, but should not be used in place of a dress unless the wearer is pregnant or an invalid.
3. Underclothing correct to the period including a corset or stays is required. This includes chemise, petticoats, work hoop or corded petticoat, and, depending on age, drawers. Stockings may be wool or cotton. Keep in mind that drawers were not worn by some women depending on age, and social standing.
4. Aprons of a period correct fabric and period construction are highly encouraged. An apron is a key element in a working impression.
5. Shoes or boots of a period style are required. Tingley or other period appropriate rubber overshoes are highly recommended.
6. Head covers such as slat bonnets, straw bonnets, corded bonnets, knitted or quilted bonnets are required . Be sure to pick a style that is appropriate to your age and social economic status. Absolutely NO MEN'S HATS.
7. Hair must be worn in a period correct style. Generally it is to be center parted with no visible bangs.
8. Eyewear must be correct to the time period or to an earlier period. Contact lenses are permitted. No modern eye wear is allowed.
9. Outerwear must be made with correct construction and patterns to the time period. Outerwear includes but is not limited to jackets, shawls, mantels, and paletots.
10. Accessories such as jewelry should be limited and simplistic in style appropriate to economic status of your persona. No modern wristwatches or cell phones should be visible—or hearable.